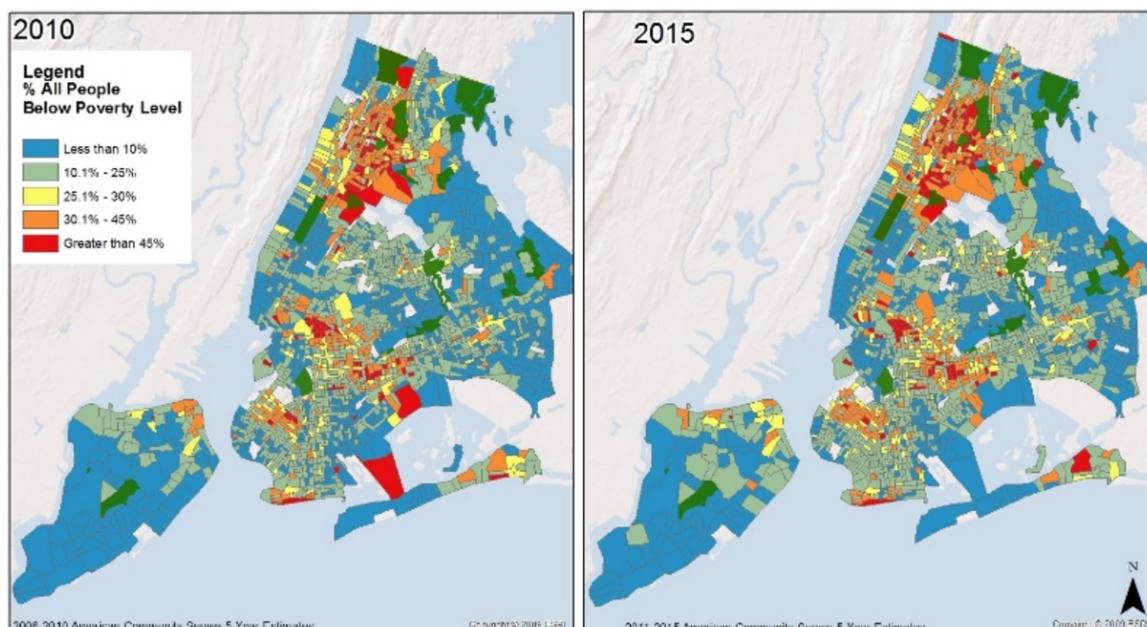


This graphic is from UNHP's [Affordable Water for Affordable Housing Report](#). As a community-based organization, UNHP researched the impact of rising water and sewer rates on Bronx affordable housing properties. The Bronx building (on left) pays 10% of the average annual per apartment rent towards water, while the Manhattan building pays 2% of the average annual per apartment rent towards water. Both buildings need the same infrastructure to have water and sewer service. The contrast is clear and illustrates the inequity of current water rate charges. UNHP was able to use their experience and research to advocate for changes to water and sewer rates for affordable housing projects.

Right now, the Bronx is grappling with growing [concentrations of poverty](#) in certain neighborhoods. Because real estate costs are the lowest in the city, the Bronx has seen an influx of people who have been displaced from other boroughs, and it is home to a [disproportionate number of the city's homeless shelters and cluster sites](#). CBOs are in a unique position to advocate for policy changes that limit concentrated poverty, such as more equitable distribution of shelter sites around the city and stronger measures to keep people in their homes and out of the shelter system altogether.

Percentage of Families & People Below Poverty Level



Using information from the American Community Survey 5- year estimates, these maps demonstrate that the Bronx is home to the highest percentage of people living below the poverty level.

City and state leaders must seek to understand the impacts any proposed policy will have on each affected neighborhood and its residents. Involving CBOs in the process is an essential way to bring on-the-ground experience and perspective to decisions that can have major effects on people's lives. The Bronx is rapidly changing; local needs and priorities must be understood in order to continue the critical work of lifting up residents, keeping longtime community members in their homes, and ensuring the stability of NYC's diverse neighborhoods.