



## Bloomberg by the Numbers

Alleen Brown April 18, 2013

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New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg at the U.S. Conference of Mayors 81st winter meeting in Washington, Friday, Jan. 18, 2013. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

Mayor Michael Bloomberg's [final State of the City address](#), delivered February 14, 2013, was filled with sparkling statistics that only told half the story. He touted record low welfare rolls but declined to mention a poverty rate that's as high as ever. New schools opened, but old ones unceremoniously closed. Housing units were built but not ones affordable enough to keep the ranks of the homeless from growing larger than at any time since the Great Depression.

Here are a few numbers he left out:

**Inequality widened:** Richest 1 percent earned 39 percent of total city income in 2012; 27 percent in 2002.

Source: [Fiscal Policy Institute](#)

**The poor stayed poor:** 21 percent in poverty 2011; 20 percent 2001. Source: [Fiscal Policy Institute](#) [PDF]

**Bloomberg got richer:** Worth \$27 billion today; \$5 billion in 2005. Source: [Forbes](#)

**Businesses got more breaks:** City tax breaks for businesses nearly tripled since 2001. Source: [Fiscal Policy Institute](#)

**Funding for human services dried up:** down 8 percent when adjusted for inflation, between 2008 and 2013.

Source: [Fiscal Policy Institute](#)

**Rents rose:** by 25 percent between 2005 and 2011. Source: [Community Service Society](#) [PDF]

**Real median wages fell:** by 8 percent between 2008 and 2011. Source: [Fiscal Policy Institute](#)

**The homeless population exploded:** by 61 percent under Bloomberg, to 50,000 men, women and children in shelters each night. Source: [Coalition for the Homeless](#)

**"Affordable" housing stayed unaffordable:** 2/3 of 124,000 "affordable" new housing units require occupants to earn more than the median income of their neighborhood. Source: [Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development](#) [PDF]

**The rich paid less than their share:** The top one percent earned one third of all income and paid about a quarter of all city taxes in 2010. Source: [Fiscal Policy Institute](#)

**Every major public union contract expired:** 152 bargaining units without a contract. Source: [Wall Street Journal](#)

**Publicly elected school boards disappeared:** 32 community school boards replaced by 1 mayor. Source: [New York Times](#)

**An unprecedented number of schools closed:** 164 schools closed or approved for phase-out since 2002. Source: [NYC Department of Education](#)

**Stopped and frisked by police:** 5 million stops. Source: [New York Civil Liberties Union](#)

**A job didn't mean prosperity:** 400,000 workers did not earn enough to stay out of poverty in 2011. Source: [Fiscal Policy Institute](#)

On the other hand, as Bloomberg pointed out:

**Biking became easier:** 440 miles of bike lanes built under Bloomberg. Source: [Michael Bloomberg](#)

**Greenhouse gasses cleared:** Emissions down 15 percent since 2005. Source: [Michael Bloomberg](#)

**Emergency response time hit new low:** 6 minutes, 30 second on average in 2012. Source: [Michael Bloomberg](#)

**Homicide rates dropped:** 419 in 2012; 714 in 2001. Source: [Michael Bloomberg](#)

**Roads, sewers and a Third Water Tunnel were constructed:** \$88 billion spent on capital infrastructure projects since 2002. Source: [Michael Bloomberg](#)

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**Mary Carroll**

Bloomberg's New York City is CLEARLY a better place for Mayor Bloomberg and his fellow billionaires, and it's almost certainly a better place for "poor kids" aka millionaires. But it doesn't seem to be very good for people with five-figure incomes, does it?