

Potential impact of Proposed Mandatory Kindergarten

Briefing Presentation by Class Size Matters
to New York City Council
May 24, 2012

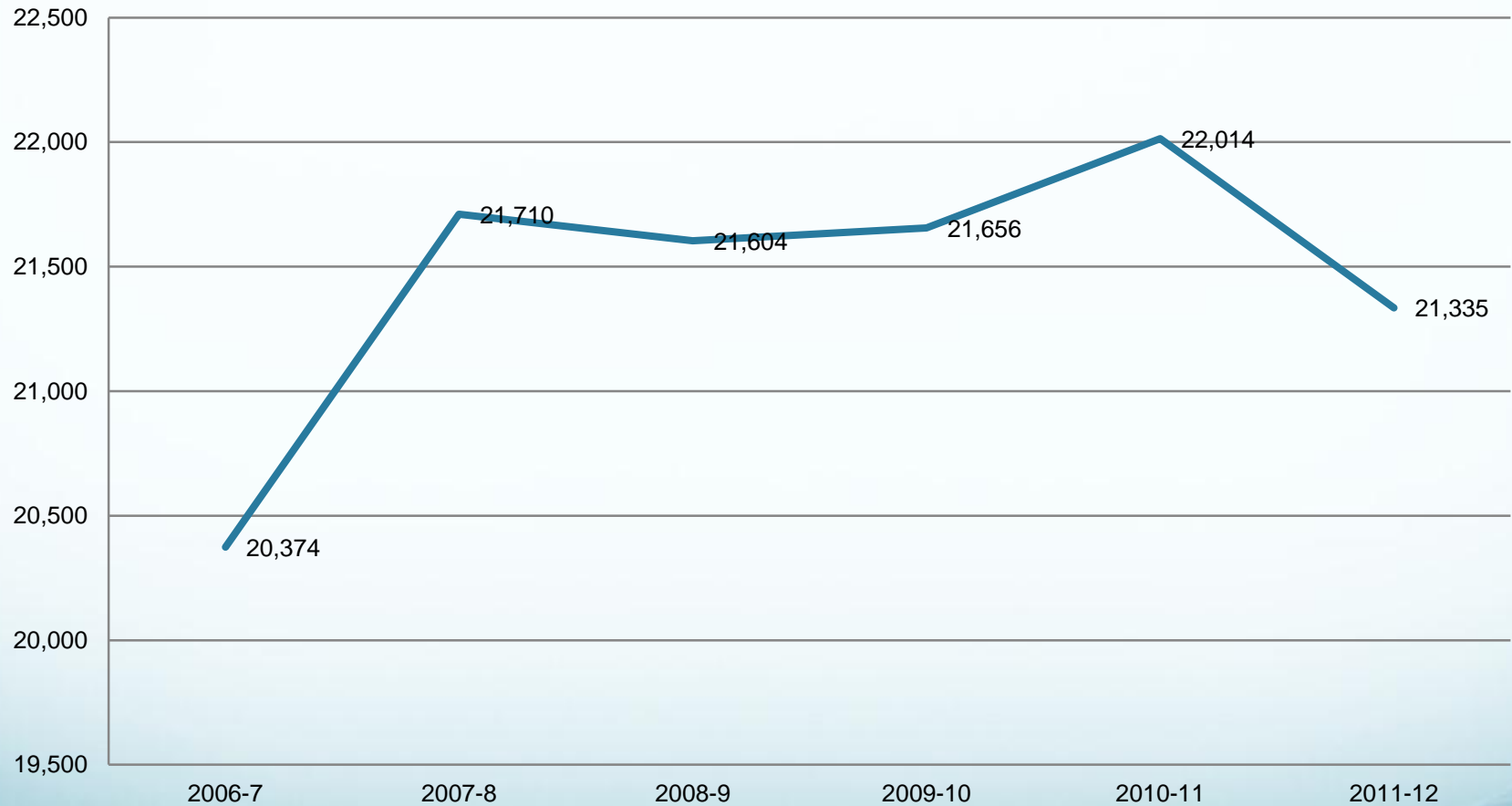
General Implications of Proposal

- Mandatory Kindergarten would lead to an estimated addition of 3,000-6,000 students in the NYC public schools (NYT, 3/21/12);
- When DOE closed ACS daycare centers in 2010, 3,000 more Kindergarten students entered the system;
- IBO cites this development as a major contribution to large increases in Kindergarten class sizes;
- Share of Kindergarten students in classes over the contractual limit of 25 increased from 6.6% to 7.9%, mainly driven by schools in areas where daycare centers were closed.

Implications for Existing Pre-K Seats

- Space crunch induced by influx of additional Kindergarten students could produce an increased loss of Pre-K seats
- This occurs during a time of rising demand for Pre-K: 28,815 applications in 2011 v. 25,487 in 2010
- In 2011, only 68% applicants were admitted to Pre-K, a drop from 72%; over 9,000 children rejected
- This year the number of Pre-K seats in DOE buildings dropped to lowest level since 2006

Pre-K Seats in DOE Buildings, 2006-2011

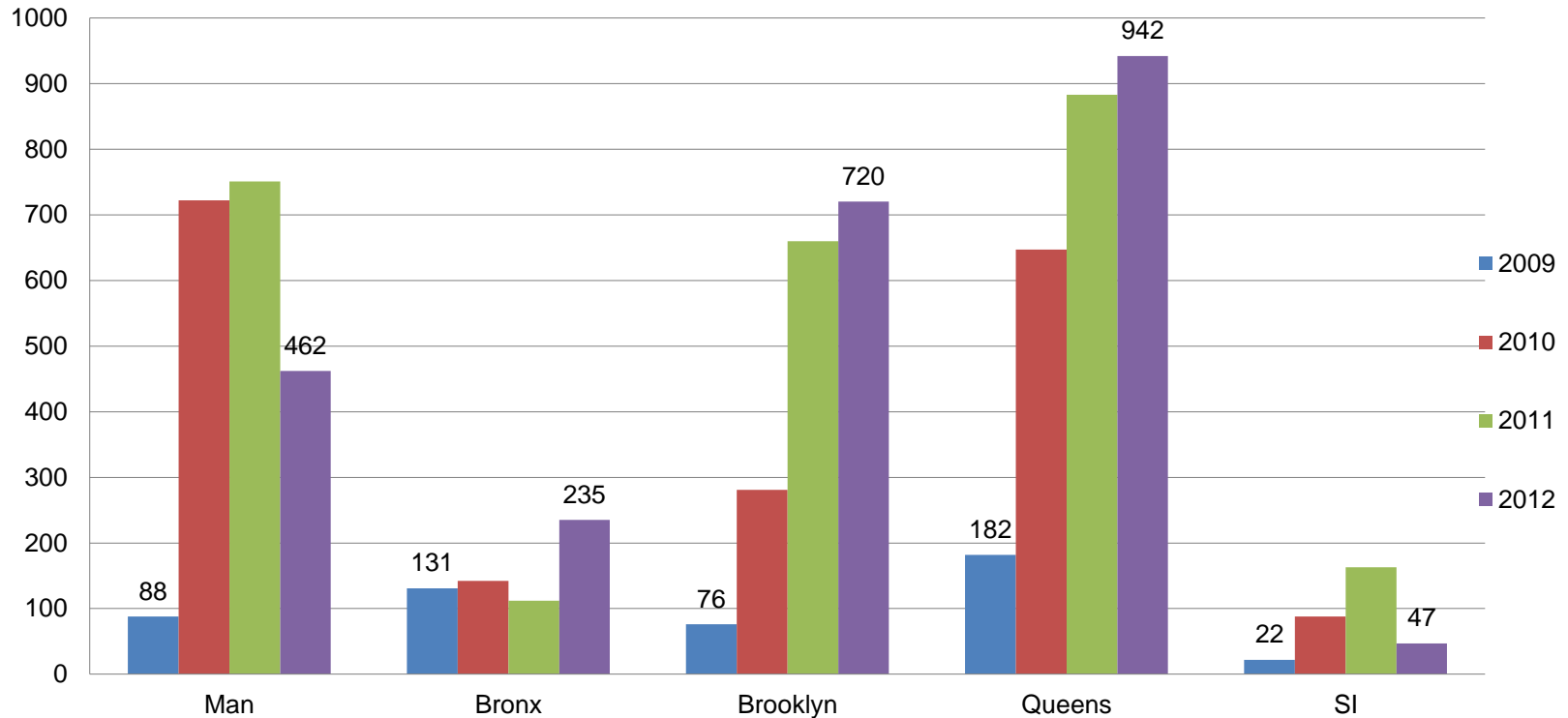


Kindergarten Seats Currently Inadequate

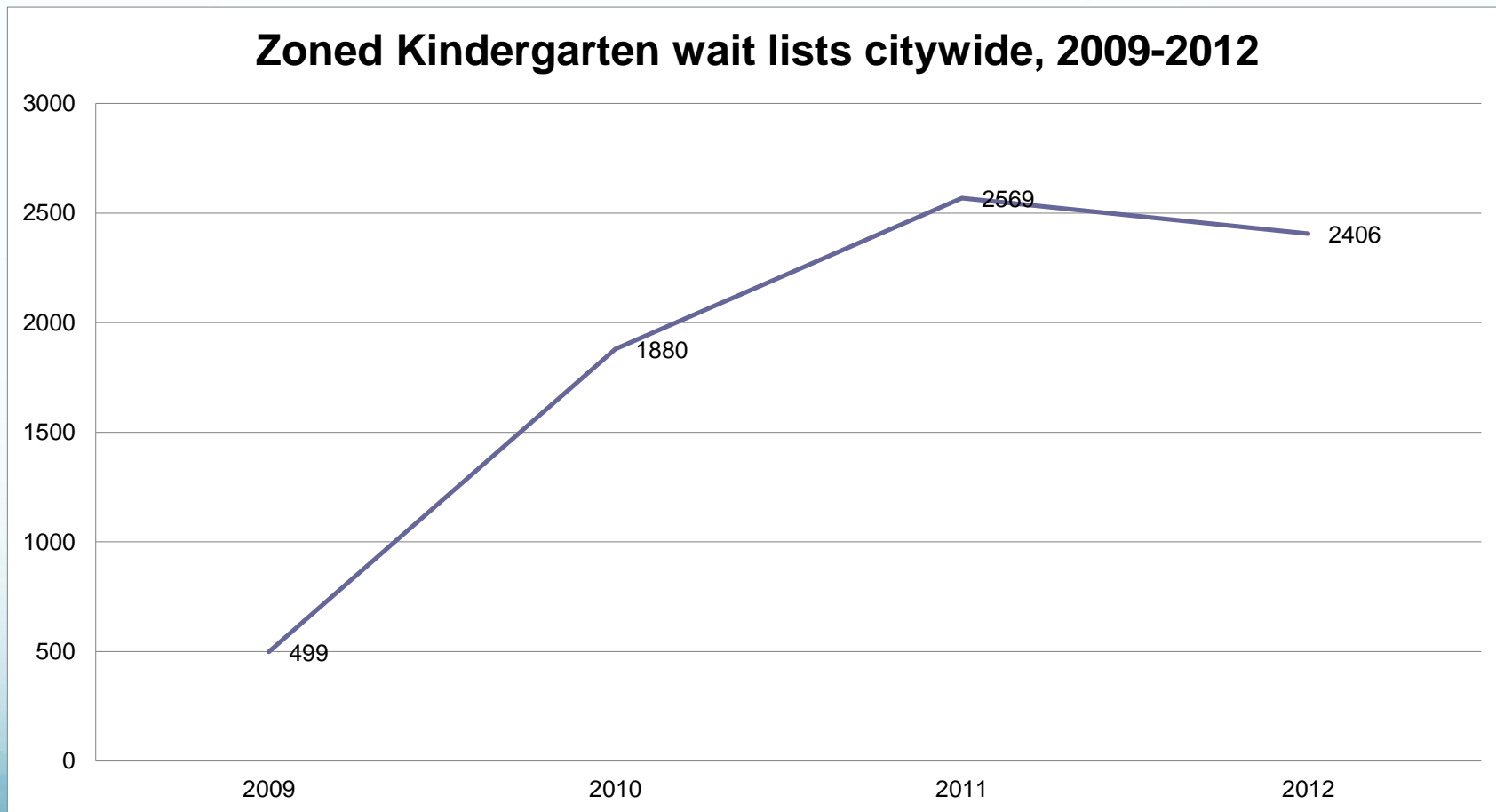
- Even without mandatory Kindergarten, there are not enough seats for zoned Kindergarten students
- This has led to Kindergarten waitlists in all boroughs & in nearly one fifth of elementary schools
- Additionally, class sizes in K & early grades are highest in 13 years, though lower class size one of few reforms proven to narrow achievement gap and lead to more learning for all students
- This is an ongoing crisis which cannot be ignored

Wait lists worse in 3 out of 5 boroughs this year

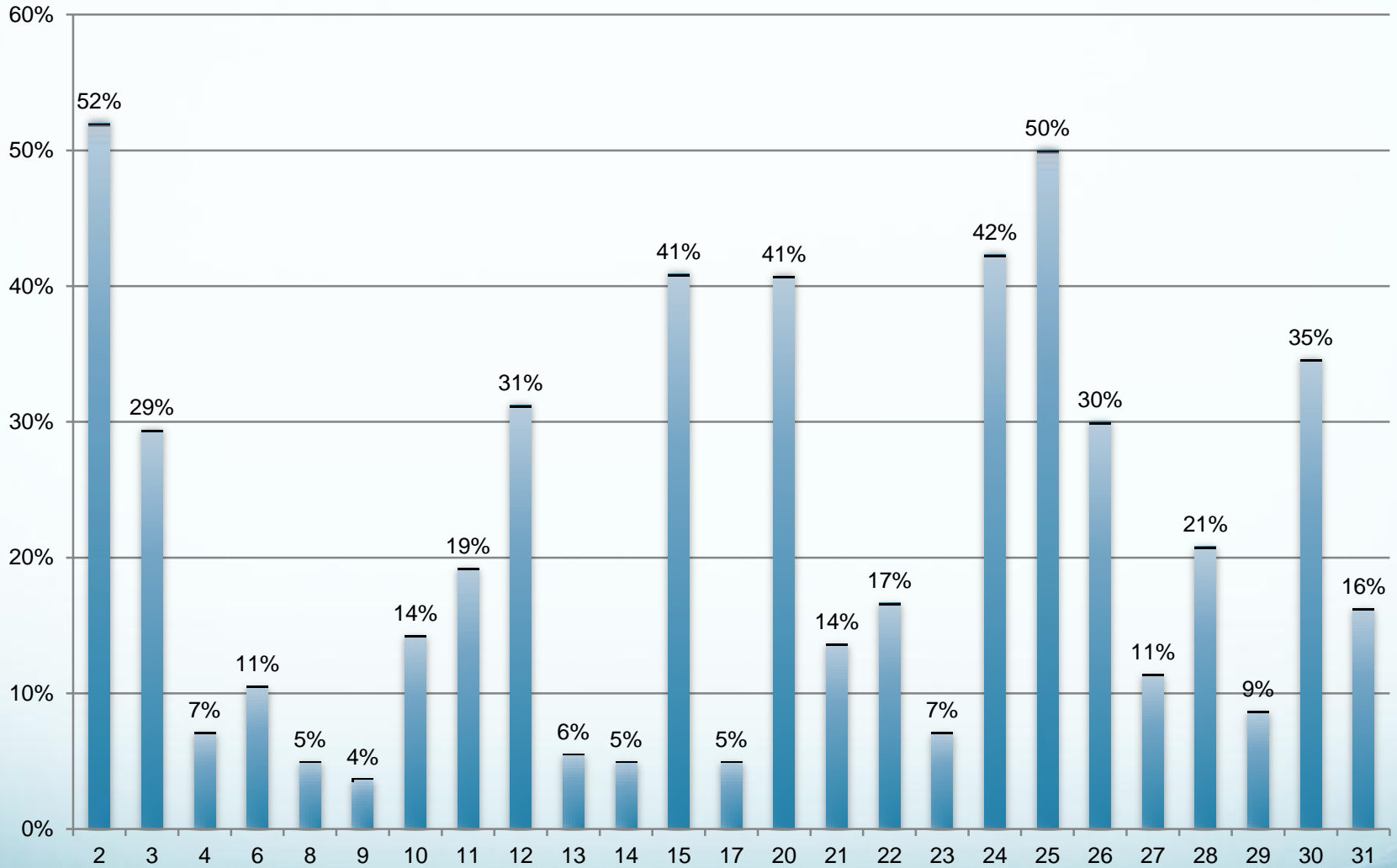
No. of K students on wait lists for zoned neighborhood schools
2009-2012



More than 2400 Kindergarten students on wait lists in April for zoned schools



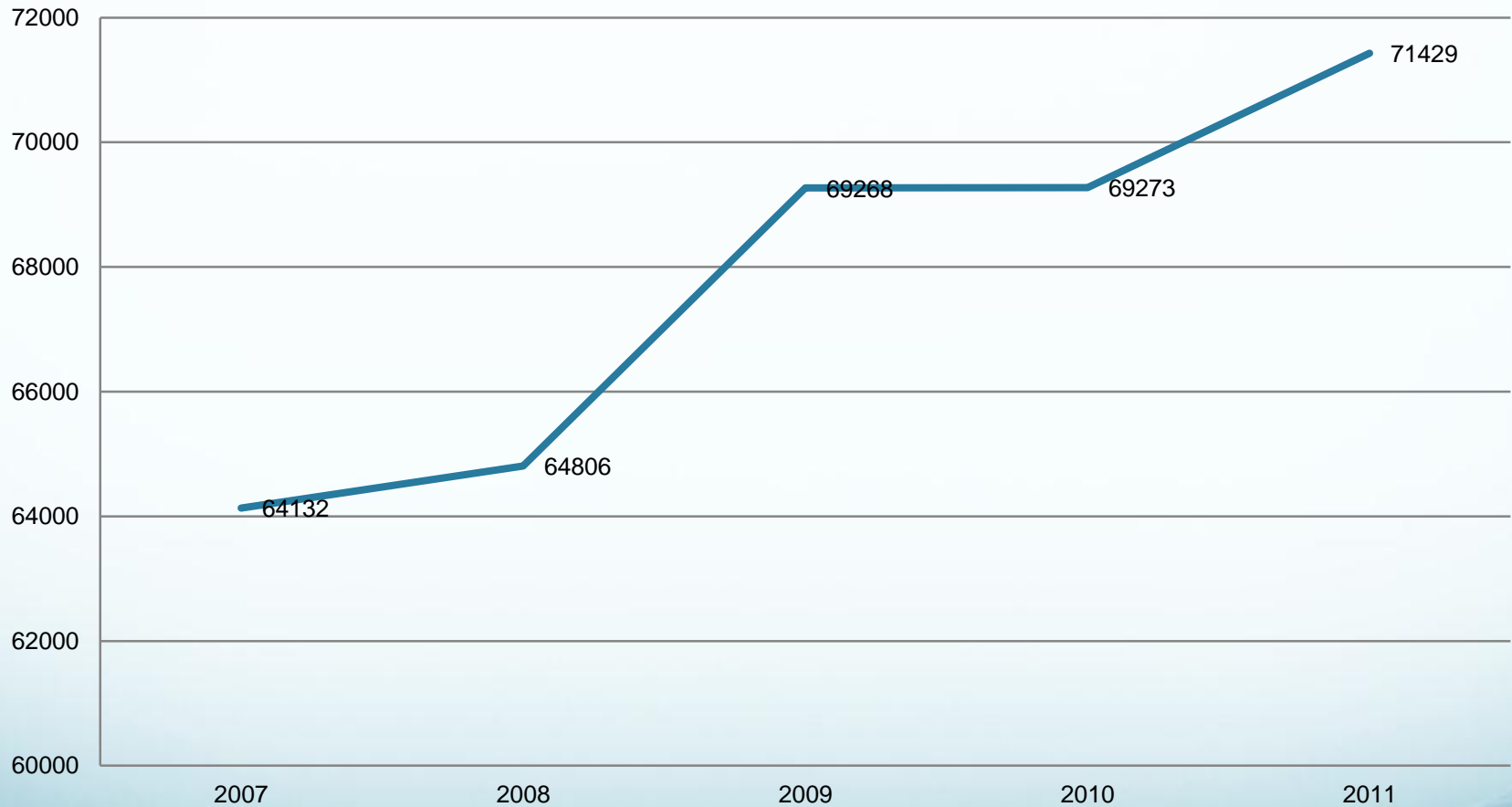
% Elementary Schools with waitlists by district



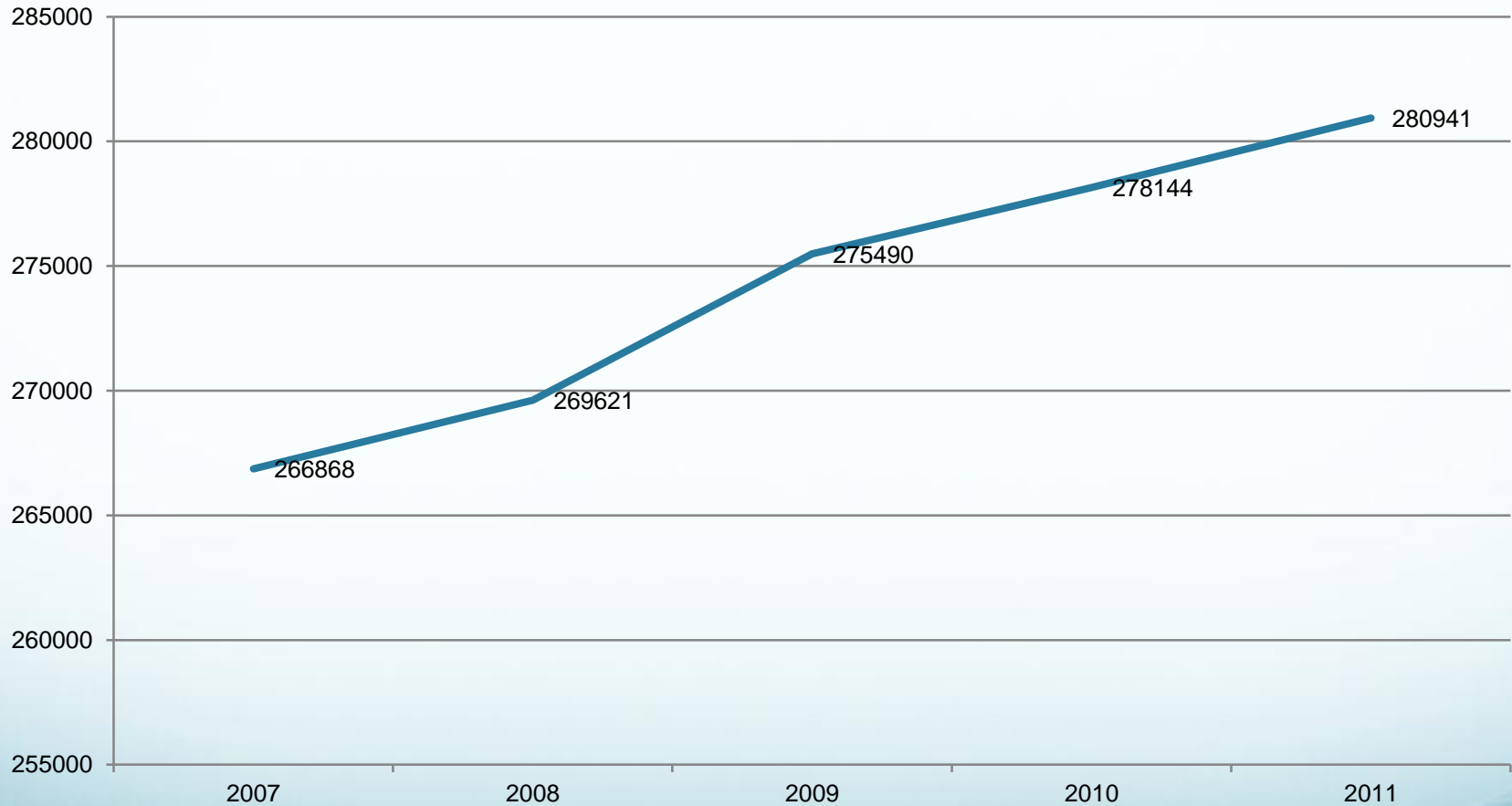
Kindergarten Wait Lists

- Though some children will drop off wait lists over time, numbers show extreme pressures on schools to sacrifice cluster rooms and further increase class size – not just in K, but in all grades as students move upwards
- Furthermore, substantial Kindergarten wait lists exist in some districts with no funded seats in Capital Plan
- Especially large wait lists in District 12 in Bronx and District 21 in Brooklyn where there are NO funded seats in Capital plan

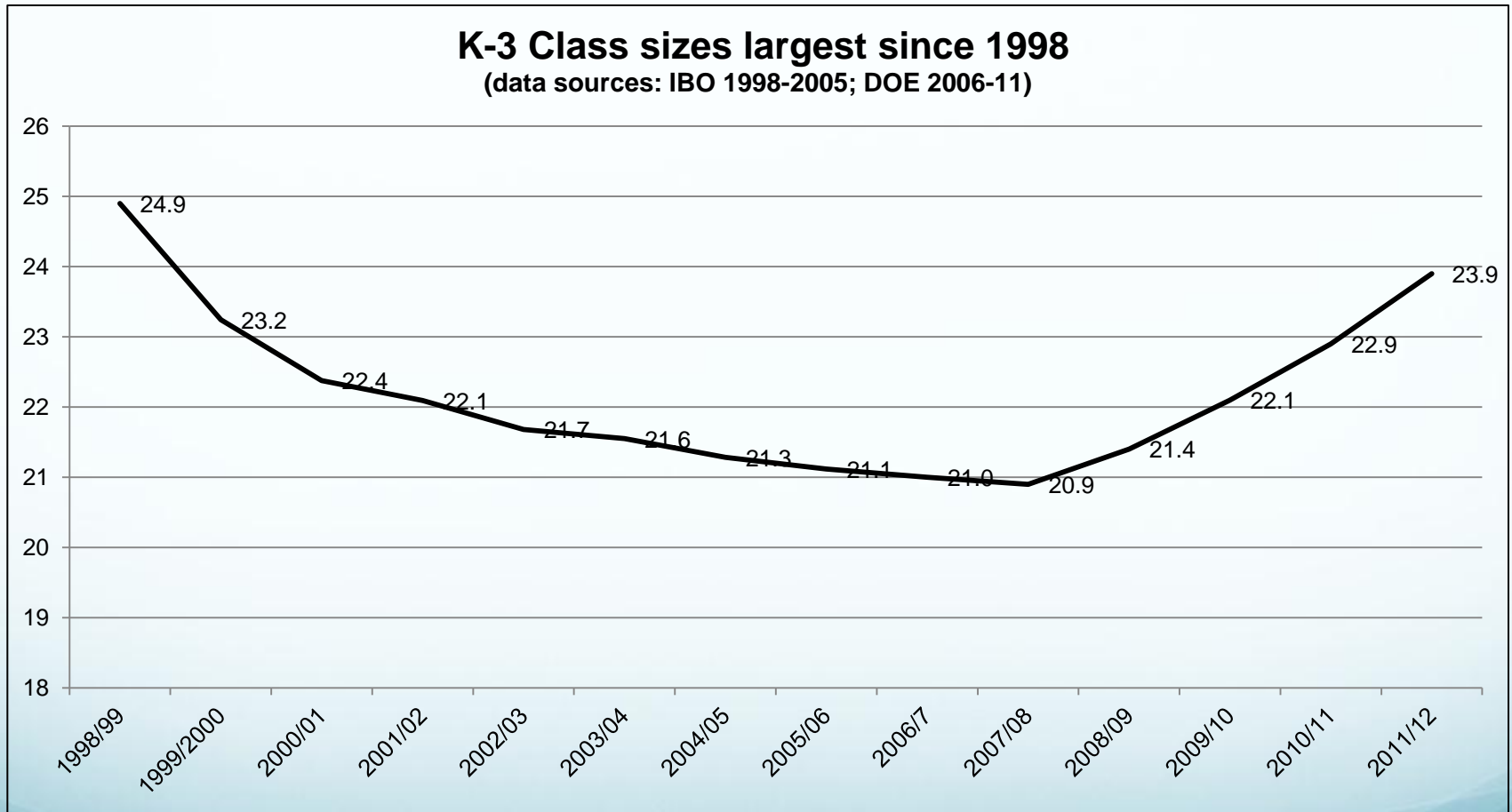
Currently, K enrollment is still growing (gened & CTT)



K-3 total enrollment also growing (gened + CTT)

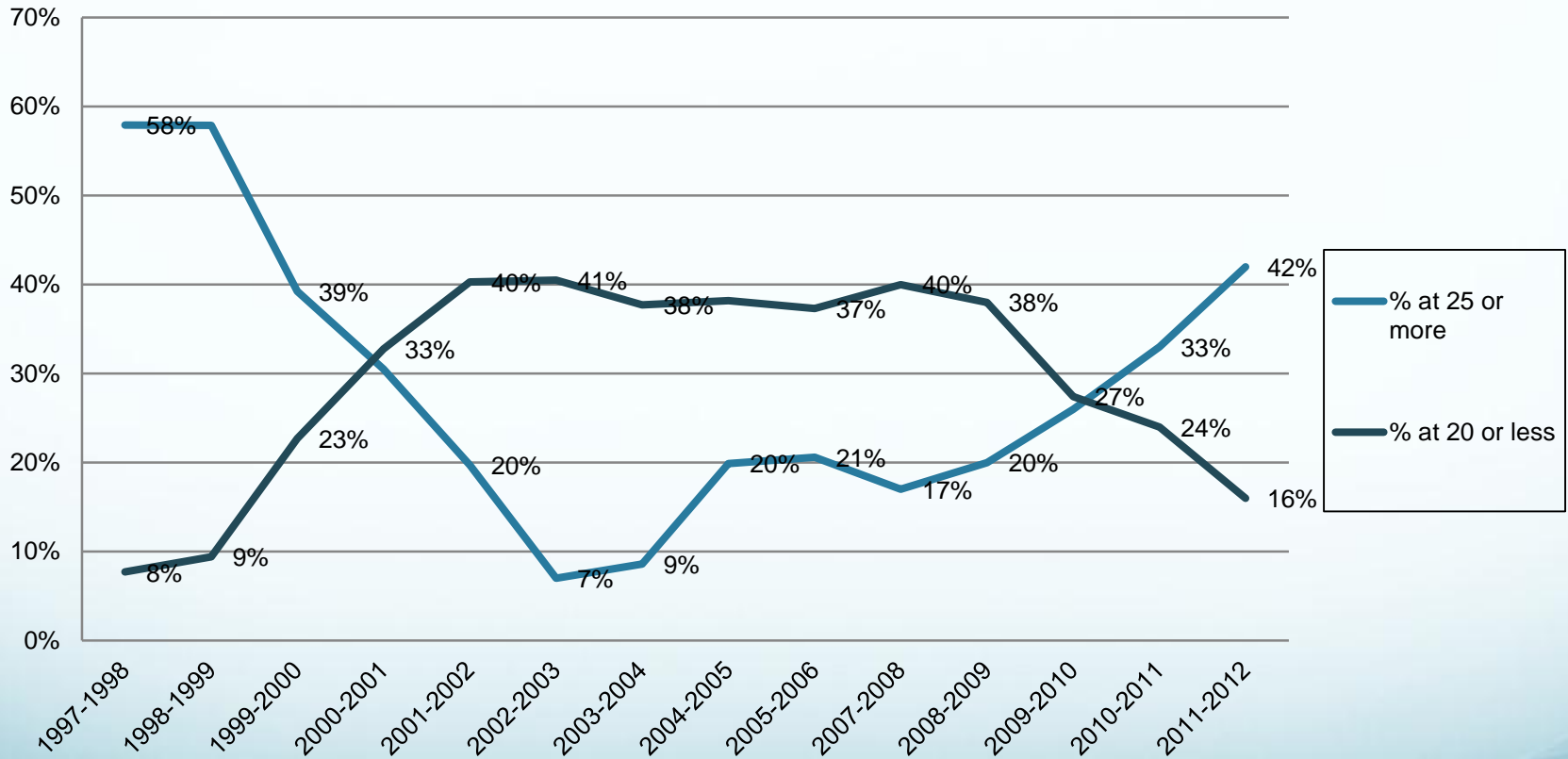


K-3 Class Sizes Largest in 13 years

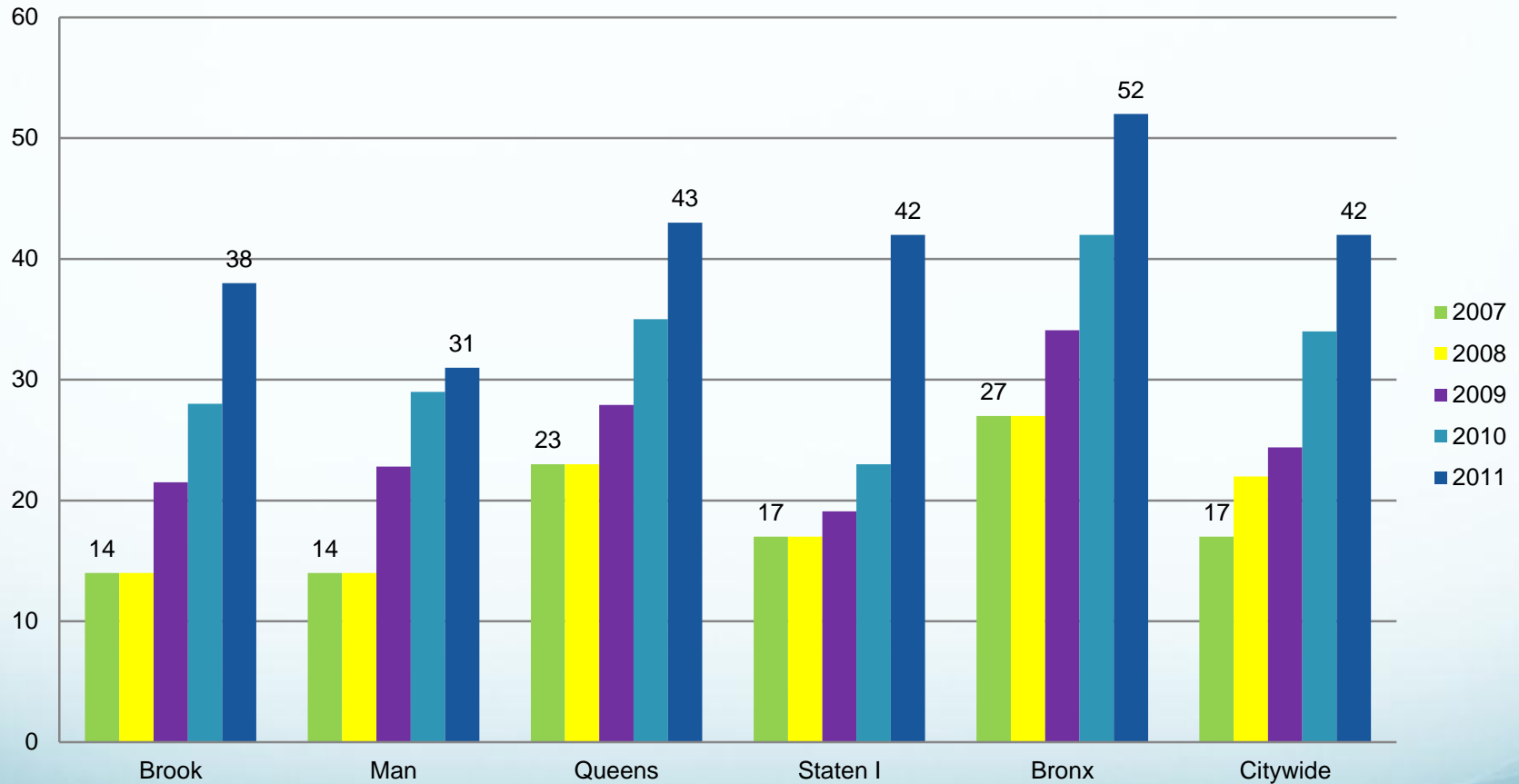


42% of Kindergarteners in classes of 25 or more

2010 first year since 1998 that more K students in classes of 25 or more than 20 or less since 1999



% of Kindergarten students in classes of 25 or more (by Borough)



Background on Capital Plan Promises

- When Mayor Bloomberg introduced his first Capital Plan in 2005, he said it would achieve the following goals:
 - Alleviate overcrowding
 - Provide space for classes of 20 or less in grades K-3 in all schools
 - Eliminate the need for trailers
- NONE of these goals have been achieved, and overcrowding in elementary schools and k-3 class sizes now WORSE than in 2005

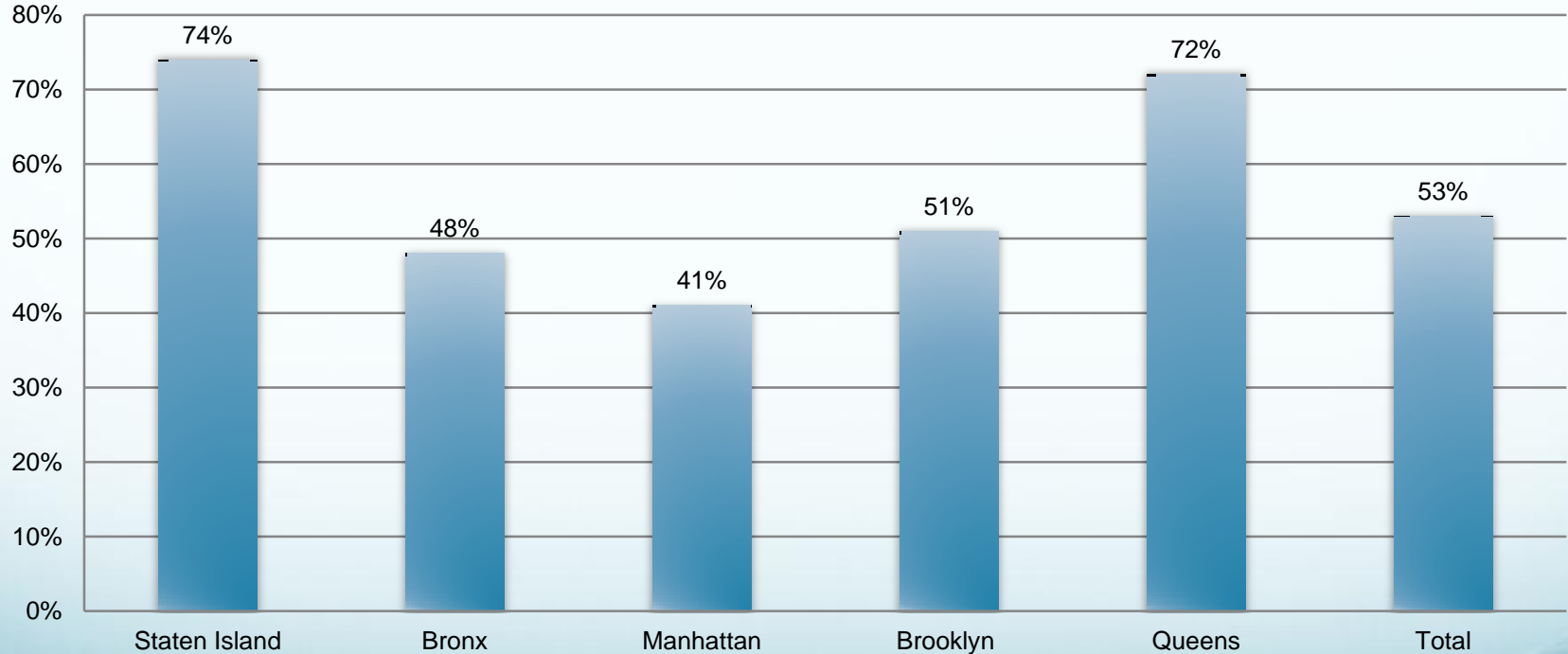
Elementary Schools More Overcrowded than in 2006

- According to the “historic” Formula in the “Blue Book” more elementary school buildings are overcrowded & 50,000 more ES students are in overcrowded buildings than in 2006.

Utilization Rate (Historic)	2006-2007	2010-2011
# buildings 100% or over	257	306
# students	118156	167673
% students	24%	33%
% of buildings	28%	32%

According to “target” formula, 53% of all elementary school students are in overcrowded buildings

**% PS Students in Buildings 100% or over in 2010 -2011
(Target)**

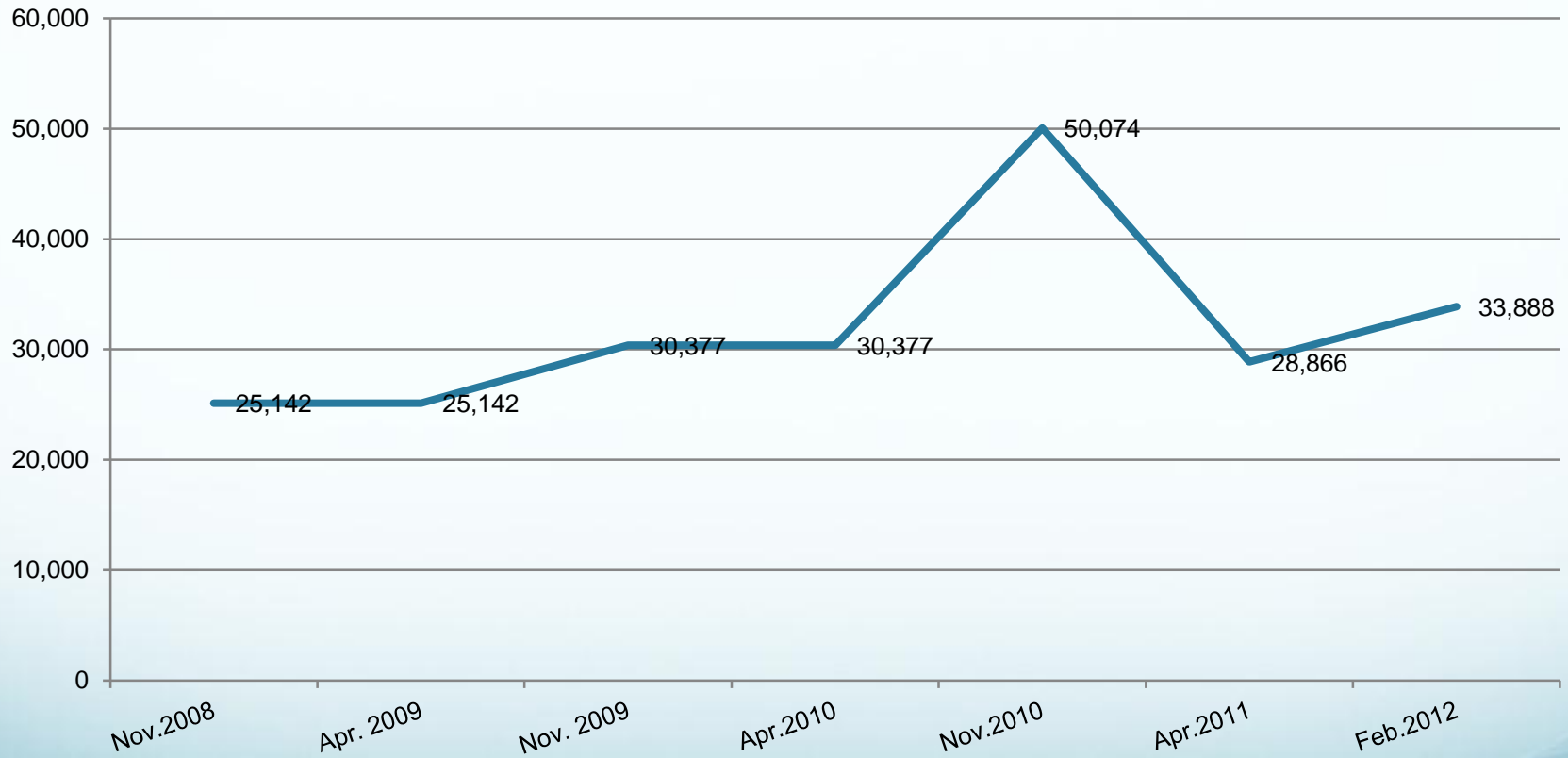


Actual need for new seats

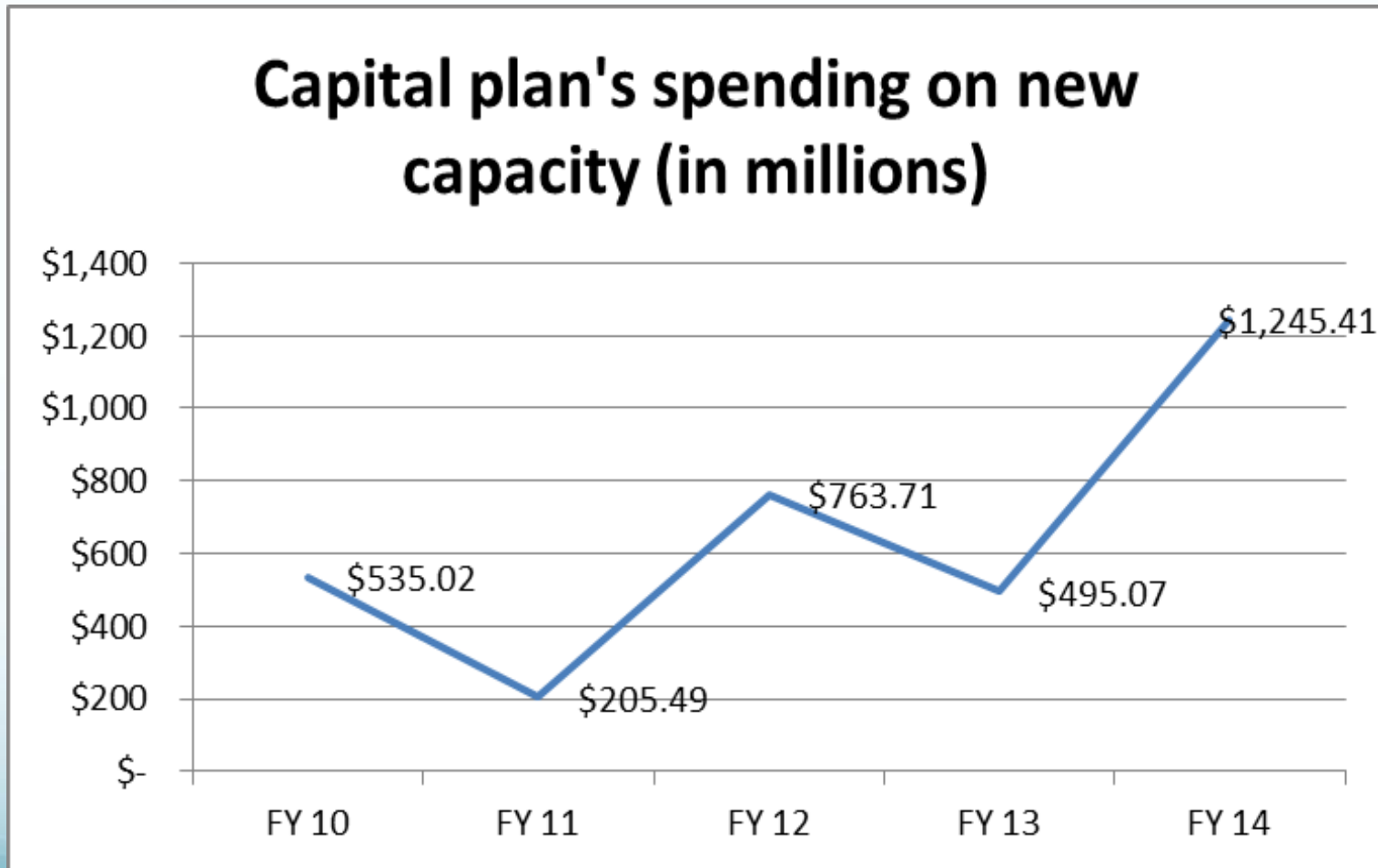
- DOE has explicitly admitted that their estimates show a need for about 50,000 seats, with **16,186** unfunded;
- Our estimates of need from building starts alone, using City Planning multiplier, is more than 78,000 seats , which is likely to be underestimate;
- Doesn't count need to alleviate existing overcrowding or to reduce class size;
- Doesn't count need to regain lost cluster and specialty rooms, or eliminate trailers;
- Doesn't count need for more pre-K seats.

DOE sharply cut back on capital plan after Nov. 2010

New Seats in capital plan



Spending on capacity back loaded to FY 14



Recommendations

- Though proposal to make Kindergarten mandatory is laudable, this would add thousands of students to an already overcrowded and underfunded system, and would undercut expected gains;
- CSM recommends that funding for school capacity projects be accelerated and moved from FY 14 to next year;
- Comptroller's office points out that this would add no costs to taxpayers, but would produce 15K additional jobs, potentially save millions in the long term by taking advantage of low interest rates and construction costs, and create more school seats.

(NYC Capital Acceleration Plan: Creating Jobs Today by Improving Tomorrow's Infrastructure, May 2012)

Public school parents calling for more school construction in 1950's at Brooklyn Borough Hall

