

# CRISIS IN SCHOOL OVERCROWDING : WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

*INCLUDING CITYWIDE CLASS SIZE AND OVERCROWDING DATA*

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Parent Action Conference 2015

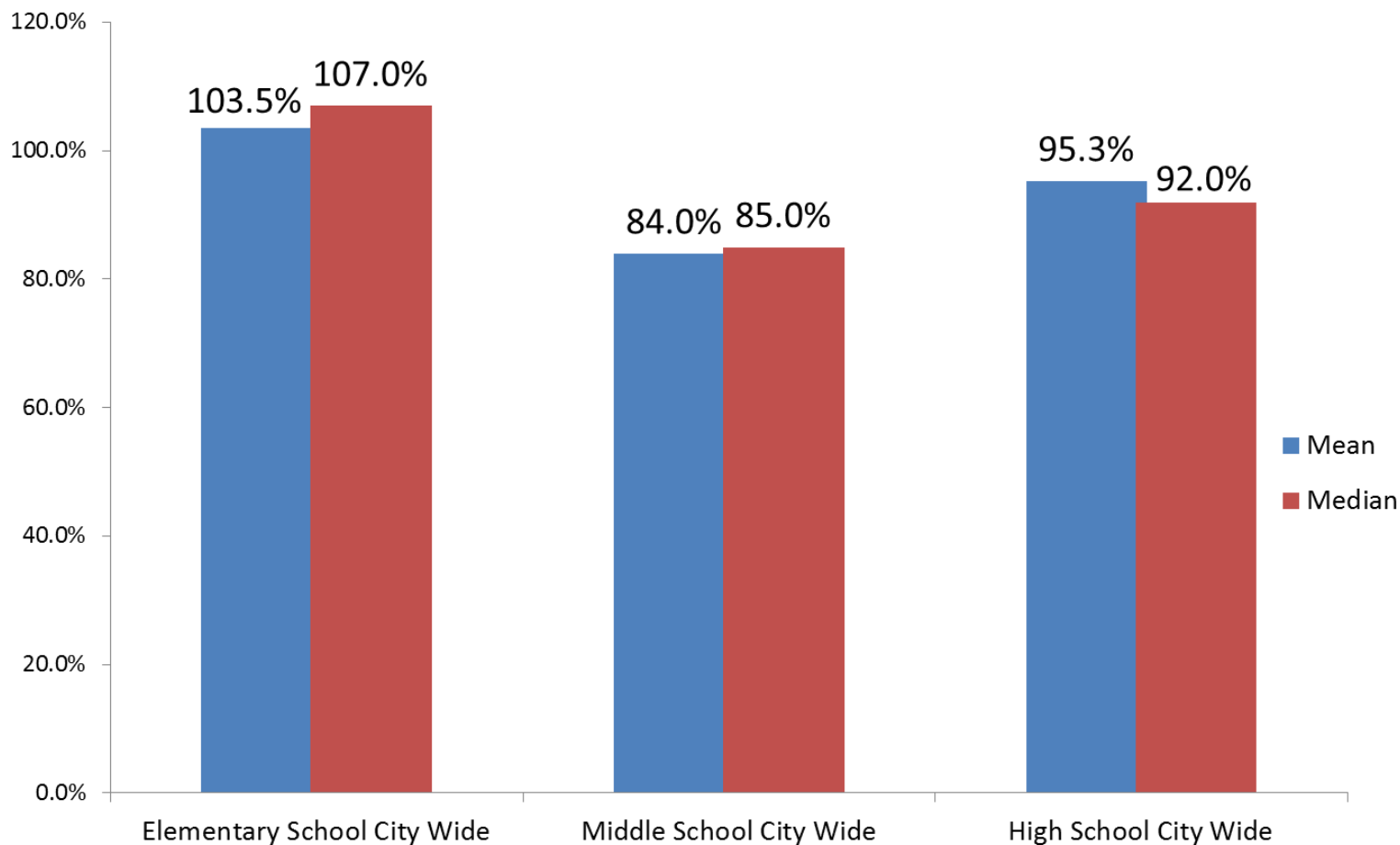
Leonie Haimson, Class Size Matters

November 7, 2015

# School Utilization Rates at critical levels

- Citywide, schools have become more overcrowded over last six years.
- According to latest Blue Book (2014-2015), about 557,000 students citywide are in over-utilized buildings (above 100%) – more than half of all students.
- Elementary schools average at 103.5%
- Middle schools average 84%
- High schools at 95.3%

# Citywide average utilizations for ES, MS and HS 2014-2015



\*IS/PS Schools are counted as Elementary Schools, and Secondary Schools are counted as Middle Schools

Source: 2014-2015 DOE Blue Book

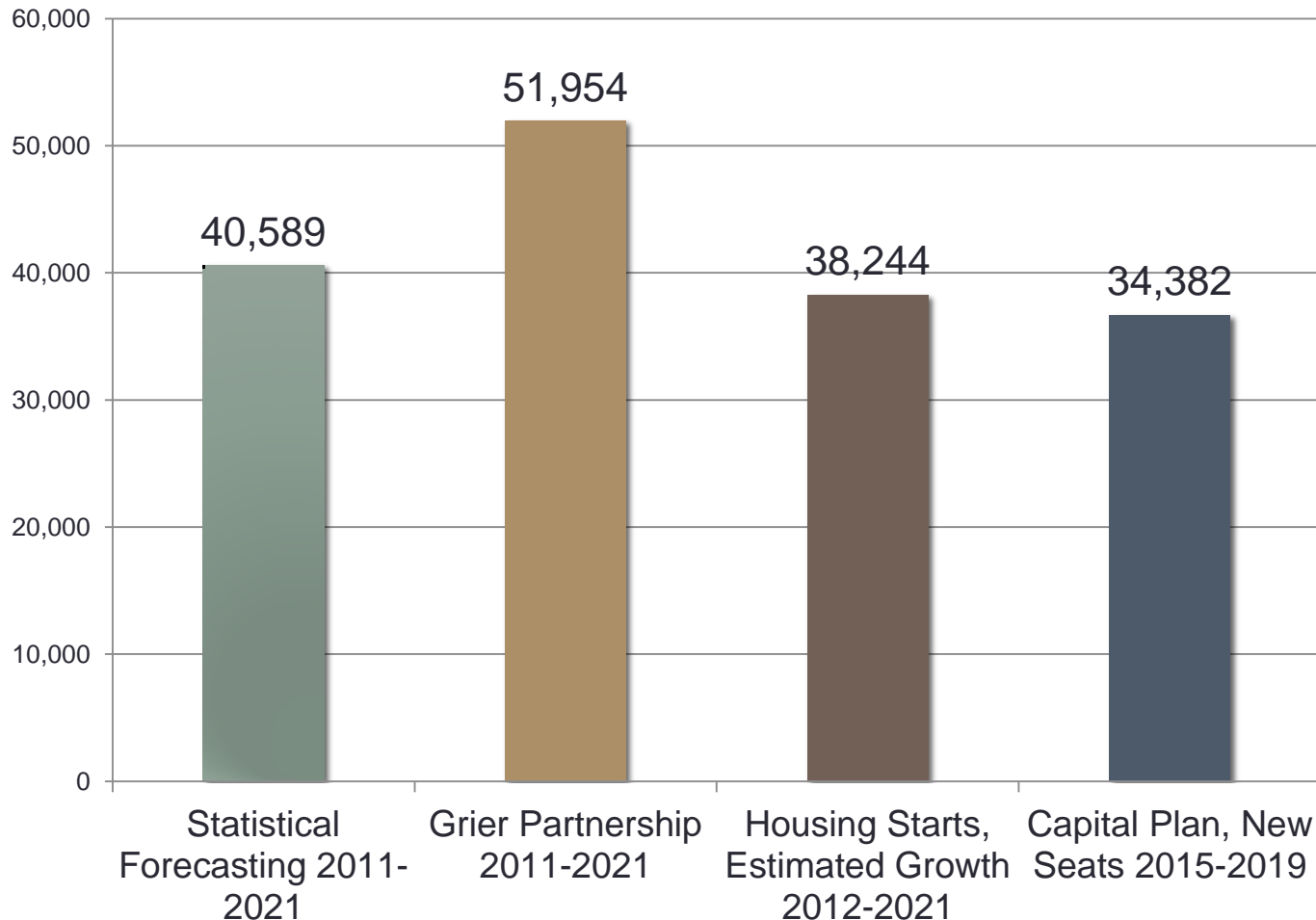
# DOE capital plan vs. needs for seats

- 2015-2019 capital plan has (at most) 36,723 seats for K12.
- 32,629 new K12 seats, with 806 of these design only.
- 4,900 seats for class size reduction, as yet unsited as to borough or grade level.
- Plan admits real need of 49,245 seats (though doesn't explain how this figure was derived).
- DOE's consultants project 60,000-70,000 additional students by 2021
- At least 30,000 seats are needed to alleviate current overcrowding for districts that **average** above 100%.
- Conclusion: real need for seats *at least* 100,000.

## Proposed capital plan vs. needs for seats part II

- These figures do not capture overcrowding at neighborhood level;
- Schools with K waiting lists,
- Expansion of pre-K, or
- Reduced class size.
- Does not capture need to replace trailers with capacity of about 10,000 seats.
- Does not address potential enrollment growth from Mayor's plan to create 150,000 more market rate housing units and 200,000 affordable units

# City-wide Enrollment Projections K-8 vs. New Seats in Capital Plan

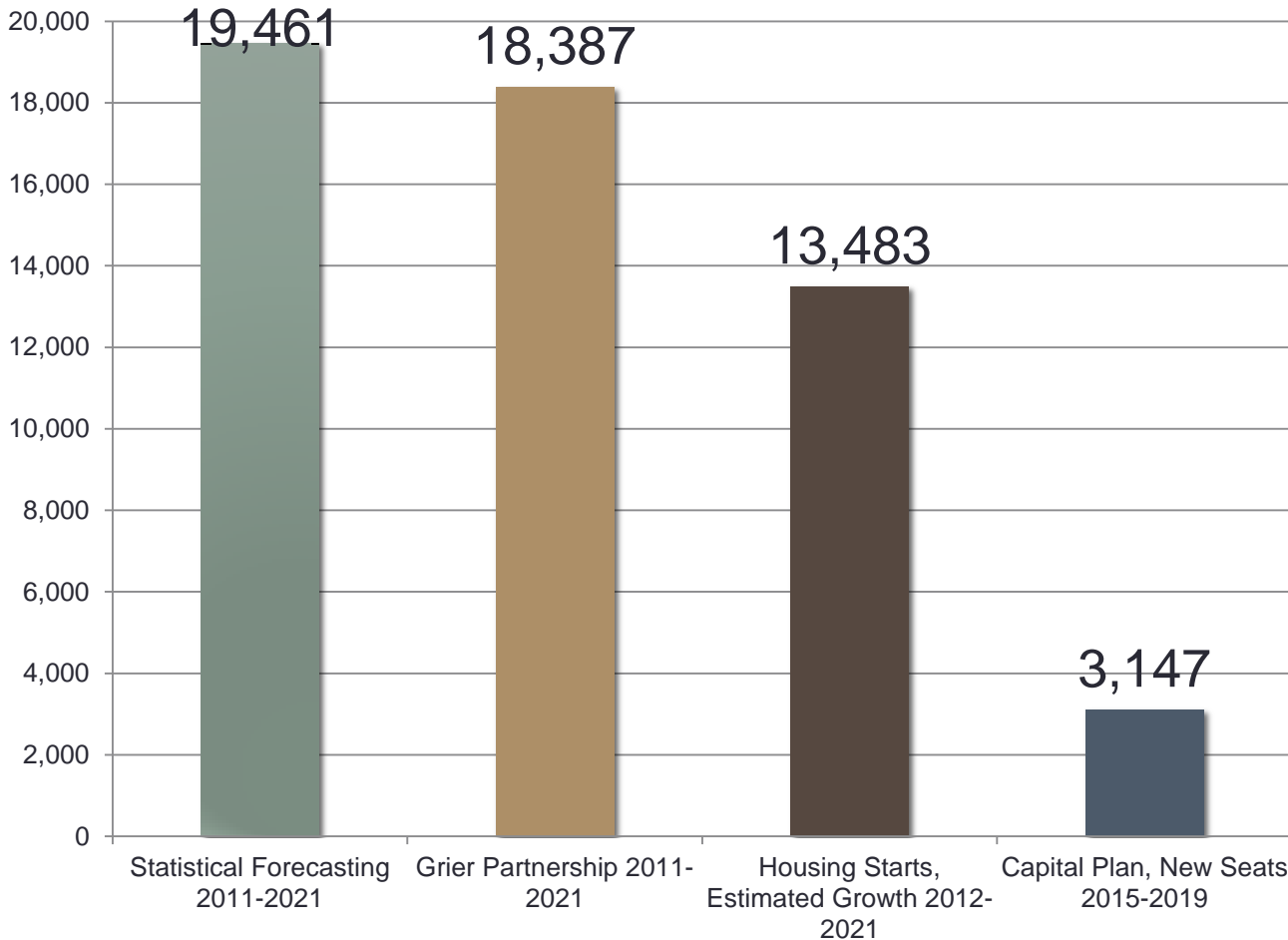


\*Statistical Forecasting does not include D75 students; K-8 Seats in Capital Plan are categorized as Small PS and PS/IS and includes 4,900 seats for class size reduction.

Source for Housing Starts: NYSCA Projected New Housing Starts 2012-2021, <http://www.nycsca.org/Community/CapitalPlanManagementReportsData/Housing/2012-21HousingWebChart.pdf>; Projected public school ratio, <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Education/Projected-Public-School-Ratio/n7ta-pz8k>

# City-wide Enrollment Projections HS vs. New Seats in Capital Plan

\*Statistical Forecasting does not include D75 students; HS Seats in Capital Plan are categorized as IS/HS and does not include seats for class size reduction



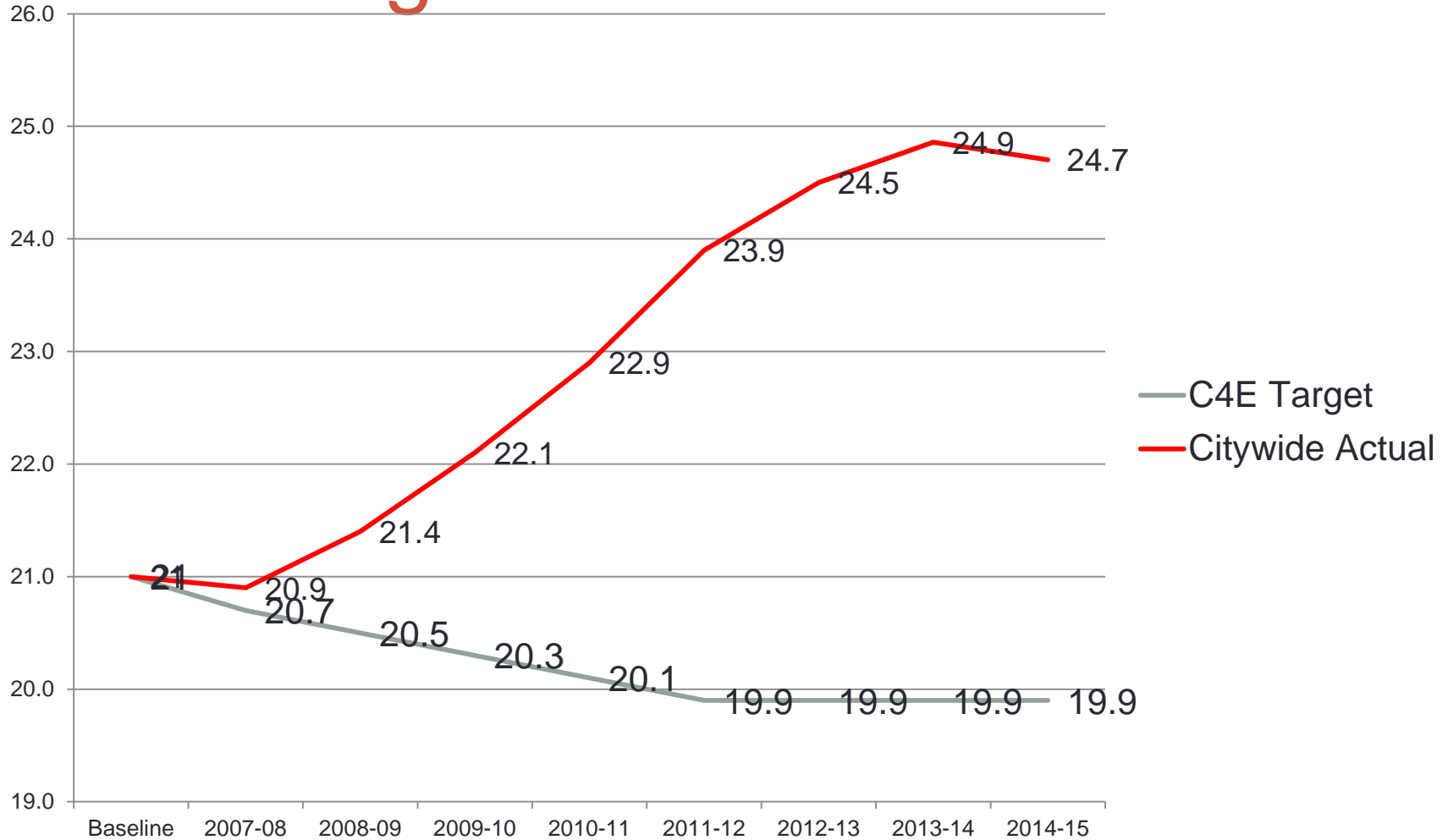
Source for Housing Starts: NYSCA Projected New Housing Starts 2012-2021, <http://www.nycsca.org/Community/CapitalPlanManagementReportsData/Housing/2012-21HousingWebChart.pdf>; Projected public school ratio, <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Education/Projected-Public-School-Ratio/n7ta-pz8k>

# Class sizes have steadily increased

- Despite provisions in 2007 state law requiring NYC reduce class sizes, classes in have increased steadily since then.
- Averages do NOT tell the whole story – as more than 350,000 students were in classes of 30 or more in 2014-2015.
- There were 45,442 K-3 students in classes of 30 or more in 2014-2015 – an increase of more than 29% compared to two years before.

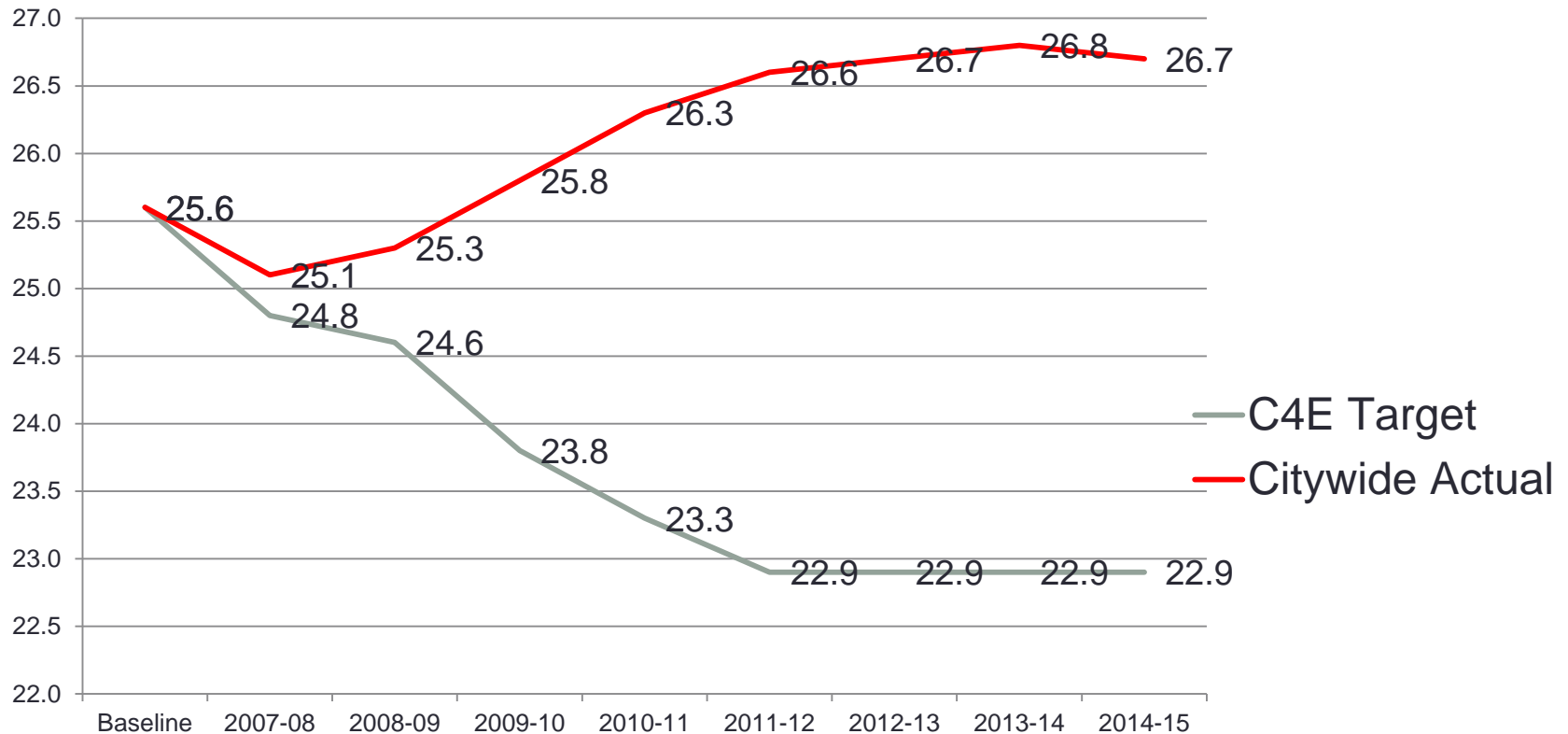


# K-3 average class sizes since 2006



*Data source: DOE November class size reports*

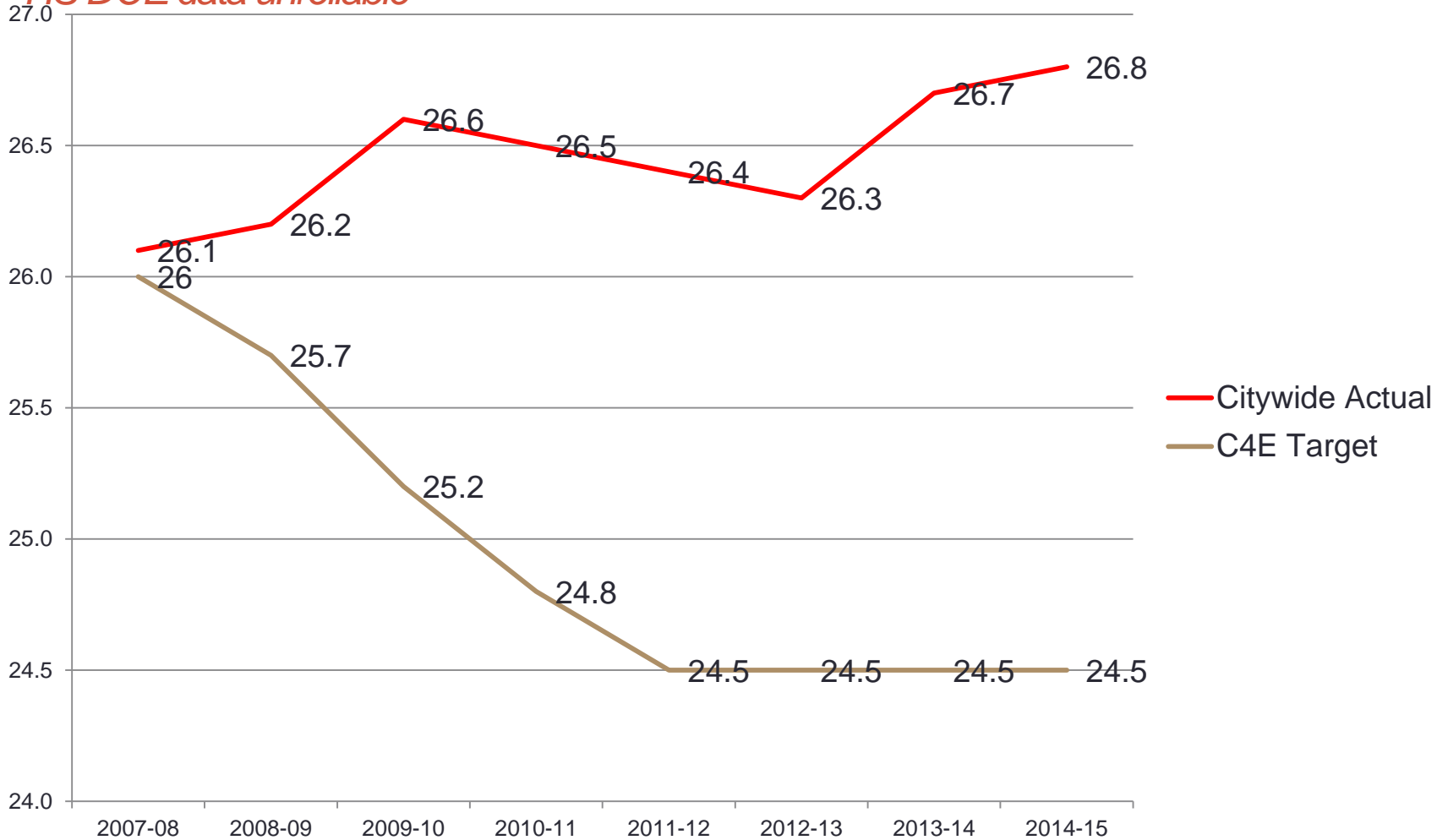
# 4-8 average class sizes since 2006



*Data source: DOE November class size reports*

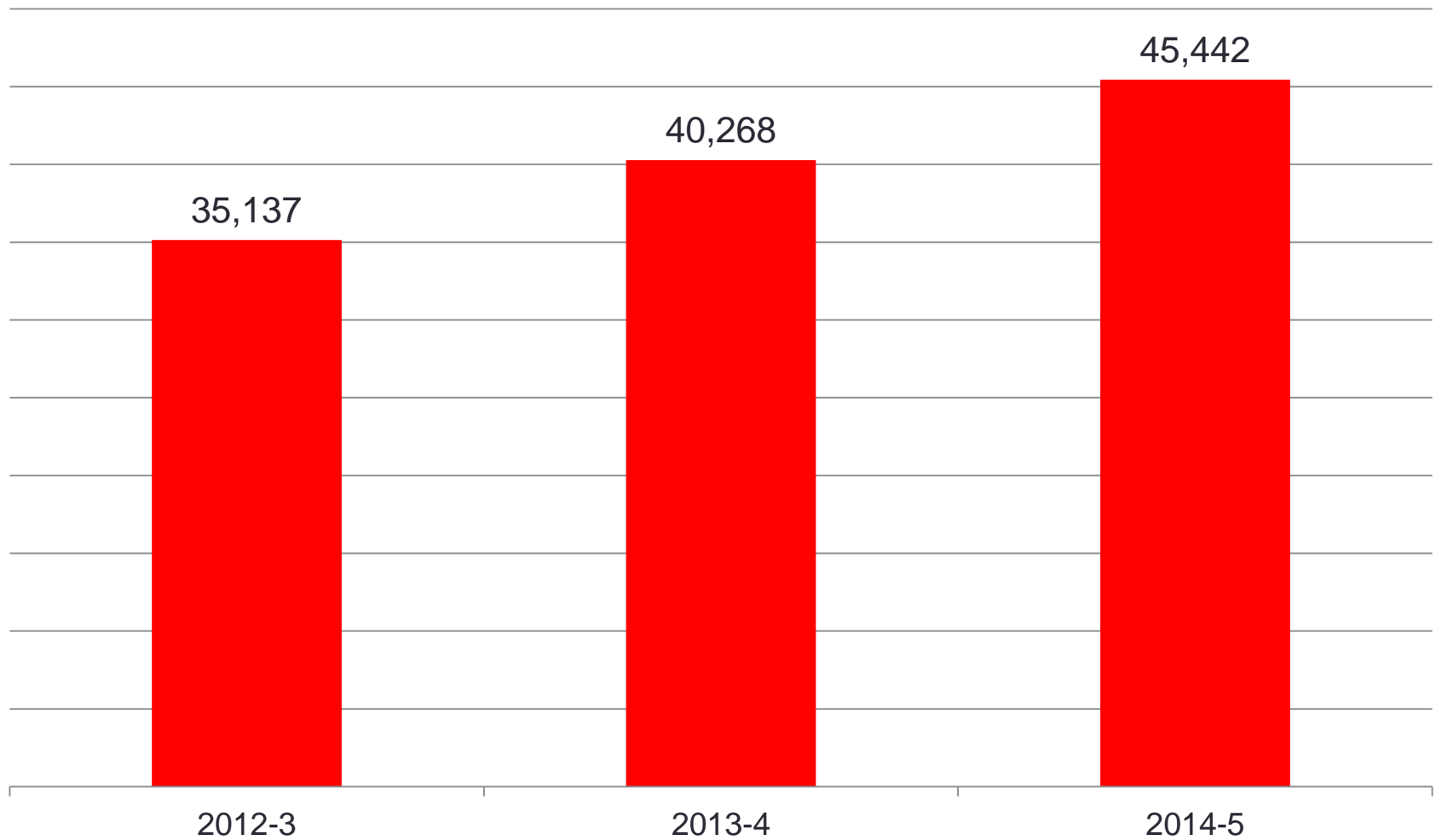
# HS average class sizes since 2006

*\*HS DOE data unreliable*



*Data source: DOE November class size reports*

# K-3 students in classes of 30 or more



# What Needs to be Done

- DOE's OWN figures show that at least 100,000 seats needed just to address existing overcrowding & expected enrollment growth
- Current capital plan will meet less than one half of the need according to the DOE's current data on overcrowding and enrollment projections.
- New census data shows that NYC is the fastest growing large city in the U.S.
- The Mayor's plan for additional 160,000 market-rate housing units and 200,000 affordable units will require even more seats in schools
- We need to double the number of new seats in the capital plan – costing approximately \$125 million in city spending per year, as state provides matching funds.

## Also Commission to Strengthen Planning Process

- The Council should form an independent Commission to improve the planning process and efficiency of siting new schools.
- How to improve zoning/land use process to ensure that school capacity keeps up with residential development and enrollment growth.
- Environmental Impact Statements should consider enrollment projections & policy goals, such as class size reduction.
- EIS's now include unreasonably high thresholds for mitigation, and no EIS's needed for construction of housing "as of right."
- CEQR Formula used to estimate the impact of a new construction on student enrollment based on 1990-2000 birth rate data, now outdated.

# Other issues for Commission to consider

- Enrollment projections should be released each fall as part of the capital planning process, before DOE's annual amendment to the capital plan.
- DOE inefficiency in siting new schools – though has power of eminent domain
- Examples: Sunset Park school in cap plan for ten years still not sited
- 4900 seats added to capital plan Feb. 2014 for “class size reduction” – still not decided what grade level or borough
- Impact fees: Over half of all states including all large states other than NY enable impact fees from developers to pay for infrastructure improvements like schools etc.
- 60% of large cities require these impact fees; why not NYC?