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HOUSING ASSOCIATES

NJ
2015
Counts!

Middlesex County's 2015 Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless

January 27, 2015

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This report was prepared for
The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency
by
Monarch Housing Associates

I. Introduction

NJ Counts 2015

NJ Counts 2015, New Jersey's annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Count of the Homeless, provides a statewide snapshot of homeless households in our communities; where they find shelter, what their needs are, and what factors contribute to making them homeless. The 2015 Count reveals important demographic and other information about families and individuals who were homeless on the night of Tuesday, January 27th, 2015 or Tuesday, February 3rd, 2015 (depending on the community, see limitations below), and was carried out with the help of government agencies, community-based organizations, and local volunteers.

In New Jersey, each County's count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally, and the information gathered enables each community to better allocate housing resources and services in order to prevent and end homelessness. The PIT Count is the only opportunity throughout the year for most communities to take a comprehensive look at the total homeless population, and is especially crucial in assessing the needs of the unsheltered homeless.

Acknowledgements

Monarch would like to thank all Point-In-Time Coordinators, homeless service providers, agencies, and volunteers who participated in NJ Counts 2015. Monarch would also like to specifically thank Bergen County for providing a Spanish translation of the 2015 paper survey tool.

Finally, a special acknowledgement is given to all the respondents who were willing to share personal information about themselves and their households' experiences in order to help our communities better understand and assist the homeless.

Funding for coordinating New Jersey's 2015 Point-In-Time and producing this report was provided by New Jersey's Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA).

This Report

The findings in this report are presented in the following sections:

1. Total homeless population;
2. Those experiencing chronic homelessness (families and individuals that have been homeless for a year or longer, or who have experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years, and have a disabled head of household); and

3. Unsheltered families and individuals;

The structure of this report is intended to provide not only an overall snapshot of the homeless population counted in the Point-In-Time, but also to focus attention on the homeless subpopulations that are the most in need, and those that represent federal funding priorities set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In addition to the main findings presented in the body of this report, Appendix A includes charts illustrating the responses to all survey questions that were part of the 2015 Point-In-Time Count.

II. Data Collection and Methodology

Requirements for the Count

As part of its Continuum of Care (CoC) application for homelessness funding, HUD requires that jurisdictions across the nation conduct a statistically reliable and unduplicated count of the homeless for one overnight period during the last 10 days of January. New Jersey's Continuums of Care (regional networks of organizations, agencies, and community stakeholders that plan local efforts to help the homeless) conduct an annual count of sheltered homeless persons (i.e. persons in emergency shelter, transitional housing for the homeless, and Safe Haven programs) and at least a biennial count of unsheltered homeless persons. 2015 was a HUD-required full count year.

In their Point-In-Time Count, CoCs must count and report all individuals and families who meet the criteria in paragraph (1)(i) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 91.5 of HUD's Homeless Definition Rule on the night designated for the count. This includes individuals and families who are:

- **Sheltered**, or "living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals)," or

- **Unsheltered**, "with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground."

Because this report focuses on those respondents who meet HUD's definition of homeless, it does not include information about those who may be at risk of homelessness, precariously housed, or considered homeless under other federal statutes. Persons who, on the night of the count, were living doubled up with another household, living in illegal or overcrowded units, being discharged from a jail or health facility with no subsequent

residence, scheduled to be evicted, or paying for its own motel unit were not considered homeless. All survey information collected for respondents who were at risk of homelessness or precariously housed was preserved and shared with each community for local planning purposes, but is not included in this report unless otherwise noted.

Data Collection Methods

Monarch Housing Associates provided each of New Jersey's 21 counties with in-person training, online video and print training guides, a practice online survey tool, and technical assistance to aid in the data collection process for New Jersey's 2015 Point-In-Time Count. Point-In-Time Coordinators in each county disseminated PIT training materials and helped facilitate local planning around implementation of the PIT count in their communities.

For the second year, the count of homeless persons who were sheltered on the night of the point in time was primarily taken from New Jersey's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), while the count for the unsheltered and those sheltered by non-HMIS programs was conducted using a Paper Survey tool, personal interviews, and agency client records. This strategy was designed in accordance with HUD guidance regarding conducting both sheltered and unsheltered Point-In-Time Counts.

The 2015 PIT Survey tool closely mirrors information collected in HMIS so that the data was comparable for important factors such as household characteristics, income, services needed, and factors contributing to homelessness. Agencies updated all HMIS data to accurately reflect the night of the count, and those with programs that were non HMIS-participating submitted information from interviews utilizing the Paper Survey tool through SurveyMonkey.

Limitations

1. HUD requires a count of sheltered homeless persons and families annually, but only a biennial count of those who are unsheltered. Even though New Jersey conducts both a sheltered and unsheltered count each year, the comprehensiveness of the unsheltered count may be influenced during the non-HUD required full count years. This report includes comparison data from 2011 to 2015. 2012 and 2014 were not HUD required full reporting years while 2011, 2013 and 2015 were.

2. The winter of 2014 to 2015 was particularly cold, with parts of New Jersey seeing significant snow accumulation. NJ Counts 2015 was originally scheduled to take place Tuesday, January 27th, 2015. Unfortunately, there was a blizzard predicted for the night of the PIT, which led to about half of the Counties in the State postponing the PIT activities to the following week, Tuesday, February 3rd, 2015. This weather led to half the communities counting the households that were homeless on the night of January 27th and the other half counting those that were homeless on the night of February 3rd. Besides leaving the date of the count inconsistent, this winter weather forced many

communities to set up emergency warming stations or shelters for the unsheltered. While this means that many more people are able to sleep in a warm place, it may skew Point-In-Time data to show fewer unsheltered households than are actually present in communities on a regular basis.

3. The information presented in this report is based on survey interviews and agency HMIS records. In some cases, survey respondents did not answer every question completely, and homeless provider agencies did not report all client information on the night of the count. For this reason, all charts presented in this report will be based on the responses received, while all percentages will be based on the total households or individuals served and may not equal 100% in each category due to possible missing data.

4. Because the Point-In-Time Count represents only one night during the last ten days of January, it is widely accepted that the PIT will undercount the overall homeless population. Undercounting may occur due to difficulty finding those living on the street, incomplete information for people who do not agree to complete the survey, a shortage of volunteers to cover a geographic area, or homeless persons choosing not to seek housing services on the night of the count. This data should not be viewed as a comprehensive measurement of all families and individuals who experience homelessness throughout the year, but rather as a minimum number of persons who experience homelessness in New Jersey on a given night.

De-duplication

Monarch Housing Associates collected and merged all HMIS and SurveyMonkey Point-In-Time data from each community into its combined database. Monarch generated two unique identifiers, one more general and one more in-depth, based on the identifying information for each individual record. Using a formula, these unique identifiers were compared to all identifiers for other records in the database to identify potential duplicates.

All duplicates detected through comparison of unique identifiers were then de-duplicated by the following process:
1. Multiple HMIS records where all fields match – a single record was preserved, and all duplicates were removed;
2. Multiple SurveyMonkey records where all fields match – a single record was preserved, and all duplicates were removed;
3. Comparing HMIS to SurveyMonkey records where unique identifiers, disabilities, income sources, household size, and location on the night of the count all match – the HMIS record was preserved and the SurveyMonkey duplicates were removed.

Following this de-duplication of the data, communities were given preliminary data to review all identified duplicates and records with missing data. Communities were then able to update records with missing information and/or request any additional de-duplication they determined prudent. Monarch then updated and removed additional records based on community feedback prior to completing its final analysis and report.

III. Findings for Total Homeless Population

Key Findings

- On the night of January 27th, 2015 a total of 429 households, including 604 persons, were experiencing homelessness in Middlesex County, according to the 2015 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 73 households, with 87 persons, were identified as chronically homeless.
- 72 households, with 76 unsheltered homeless persons were counted; 2 families with adult at least one adult and 1 child and 70 adult-only households.

Total Homeless Population

As a note, due to the refinement of HUD's definition of homeless, updates were made to some of the emergency shelter data that was released in the 2014 report. The 2015 report compares 2015 data to the updated data that was submitted to HUD for 2014. While the comparisons in this report are accurate, the numbers listed for 2014 may not match the report that was released last year for this reason.

On the night of January 27th, 2015, a total of 604 persons, in 429 households, were experiencing homelessness in Middlesex County, according to the 2015 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 198 persons (24.7%) and 78 households (15.4%) from 2014. Middlesex County had 5.9% of New Jersey's statewide homeless population in 2015.

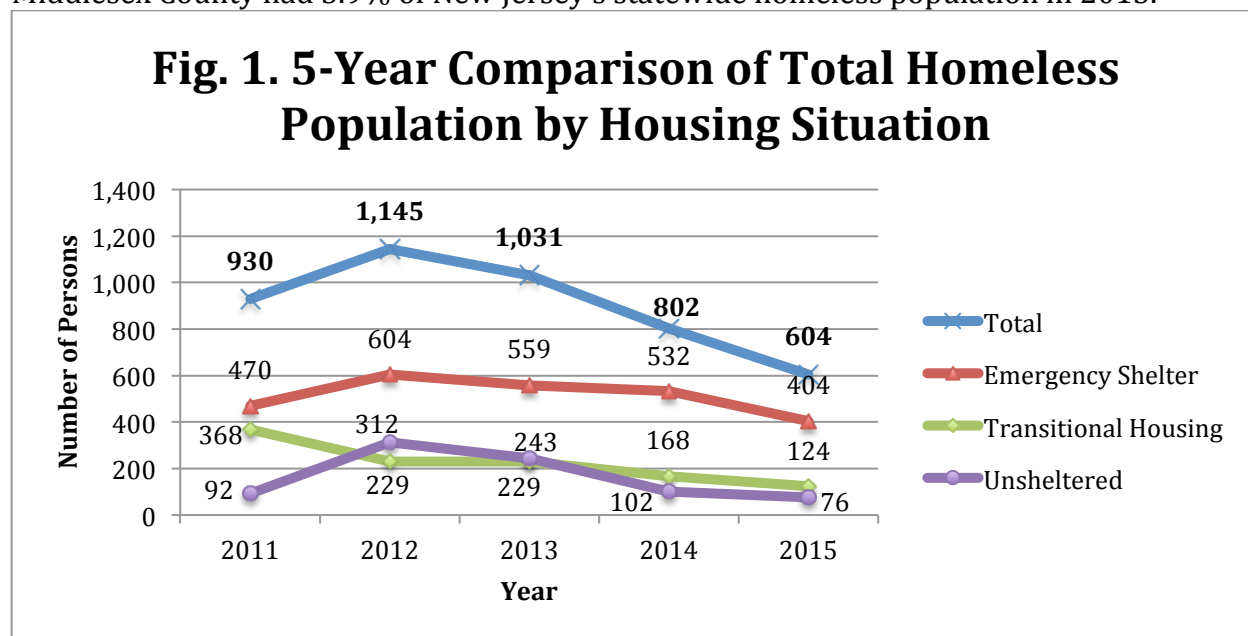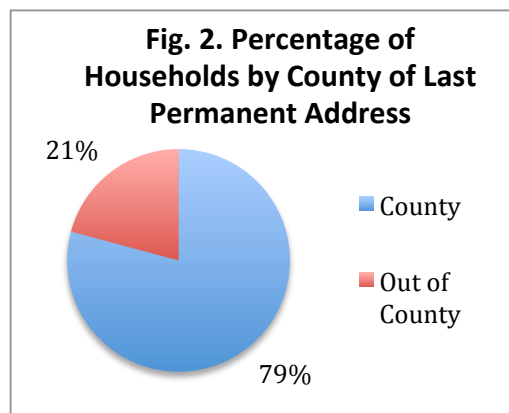Fig. 1. 5-Year Comparison of Total Homeless Population by Housing Situation

Figure 1 shows that, in 2015, 404 homeless persons stayed in emergency shelters, 124 stayed in transitional housing, and 76 were living unsheltered on the night of the count. The totals of those staying in emergency shelter, transitional housing and in unsheltered situations all show a reduction from 2014, dropping by 128 persons (24%), 44 persons (26.2%), and 26 persons (25.5%), respectively.

Figure 1 also shows that, over the past four years, the total number of homeless persons counted has been decreasing in Middlesex County, since the high count of 2012 (1,145). While Middlesex County saw a decrease in the overall number of homeless persons since 2014, the five-year trend also shows a drop in homelessness since 2011 (326 persons, 35%). During the same five-year period, the number of persons in emergency shelter on the night of the count saw a decrease of 244 persons (66.3%), while the number of unsheltered persons dropped by 16 persons (17.4%)

Fig. 2. Percentage of Households by County of Last Permanent Address

- County
- Out of County

21%

79%

As Figure 2 shows, in 2015 21% of homeless households in Middlesex County reported that their last permanent address prior to becoming homeless was outside of the county.

Homeless Families and Individuals

When reading the data regarding different types of homeless households, it is important for the reader to remember that, in this report, 'household' means "any group of persons who, if they were able to attain permanent housing, would choose to live together; and, shared the same sleeping arrangements on the night of the count." Three different types of households are discussed below: households with adults and children under 18 ('families'), households without children ('individuals'), and households with only children under 18 ('unaccompanied youth').

Fig. 3. Homeless Households by Housing Situation

Number of Households

- Households With Adults and Children
- Households Without Children
- Households with Only Children

Housing Situation
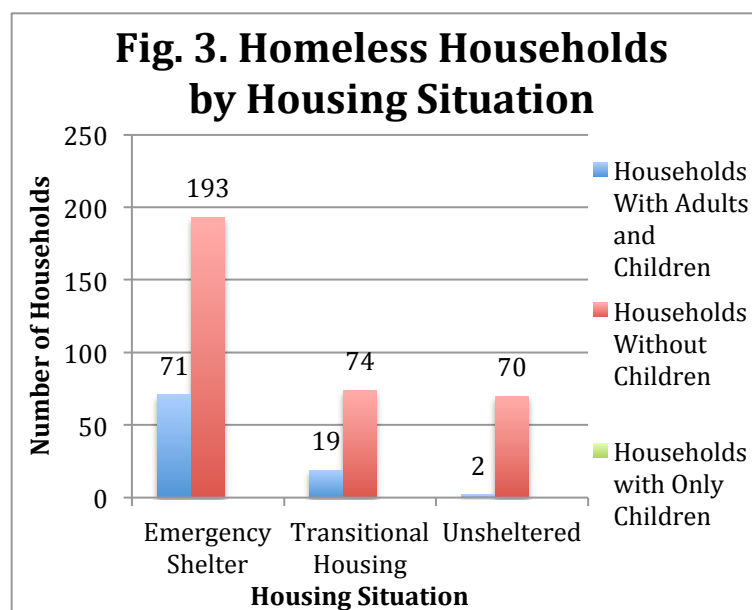
Of the 429 homeless households counted in Middlesex County in 2015, 92 (21.4%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. These families included 261 persons, 150 children under age 18, and 111 adults. The average family size was 3.1 persons. Figure 3 shows that 71 of the families were staying in emergency shelter (77.2%), and 19 were in transitional housing programs for the homeless (20.6%). There were 2 unsheltered families (2.2%) with 3 adults and 2 children. In 2015, Middlesex County counted 32 fewer homeless families than in 2014, a decrease of 25.8%. Since 2011, the total number of homeless families has also gone down 53.5%.

78.6% (337) of the homeless households in Middlesex County were households without children under 18, and they were composed of 343 adult individuals. 193 (57.3%) of these adult-only households were staying in emergency shelters, 74 (22%) were in transitional housing, and 70 (20.7%) were unsheltered. Middlesex County has seen the number of adult-only households decrease by 46 (12%) since 2014, and the number has gone down by 36 (9.6%) compared to five years ago.

As Figure 3 indicates, similar to 2014, there were no households with only children under 18 years old reported in 2015.

Demographics

There were a total of 48 (8%) homeless adults between 18 and 24 years old, 406 (67.2%) adults over age 24, and 150 (24.8%) children under 18 years old experiencing


Fig. 4. Age Range by Housing Situation
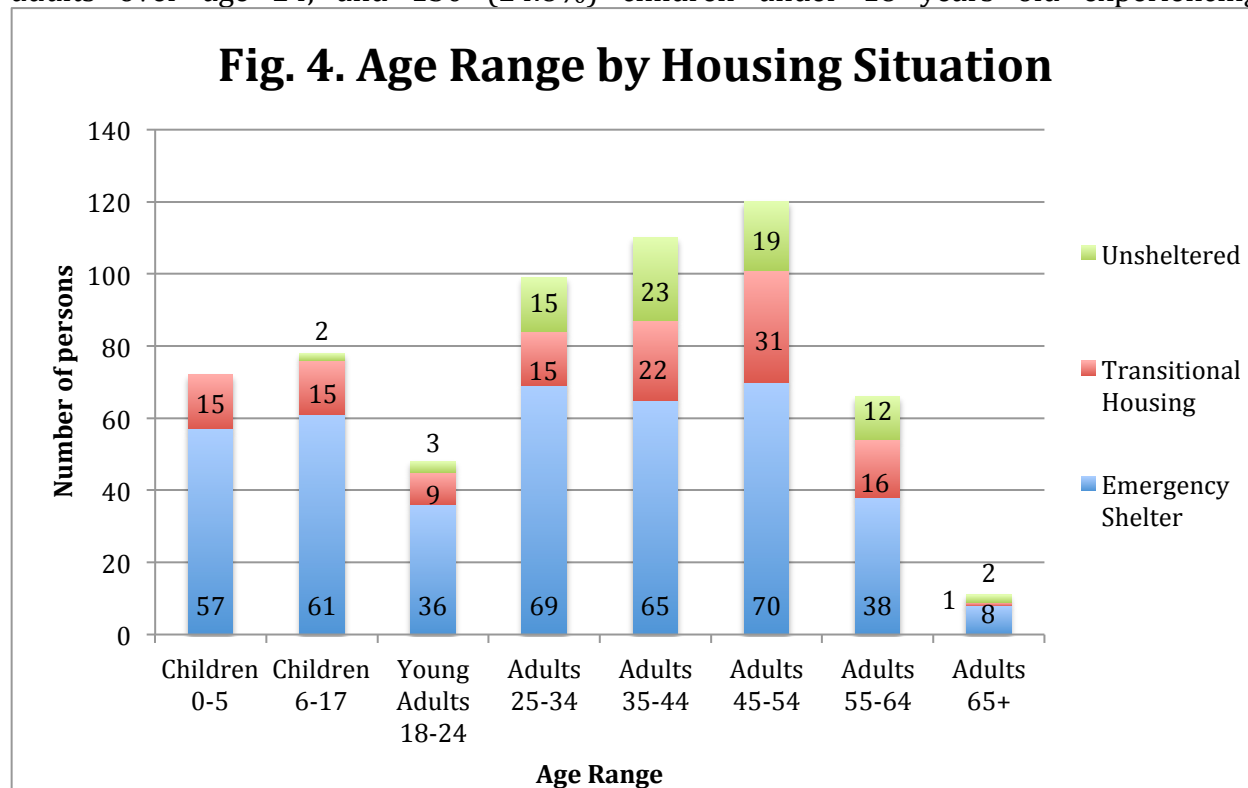
homelessness on the night of the count in Middlesex County. Figure 4 shows that the majority of homeless children who were under the age of 18 were between 6 and 17 years of age (78, 12.9%). Among adults, more were between 45 and 54 years old than any other age range (19.9% of all homeless persons, 26.4% of adults); this was also the most represented age range overall. Only 11 persons (1.8%) were over the age of 65.

38.7% (234) of homeless respondents were female, 61.1% (369) were male, and 0.2% (1) was transgender.
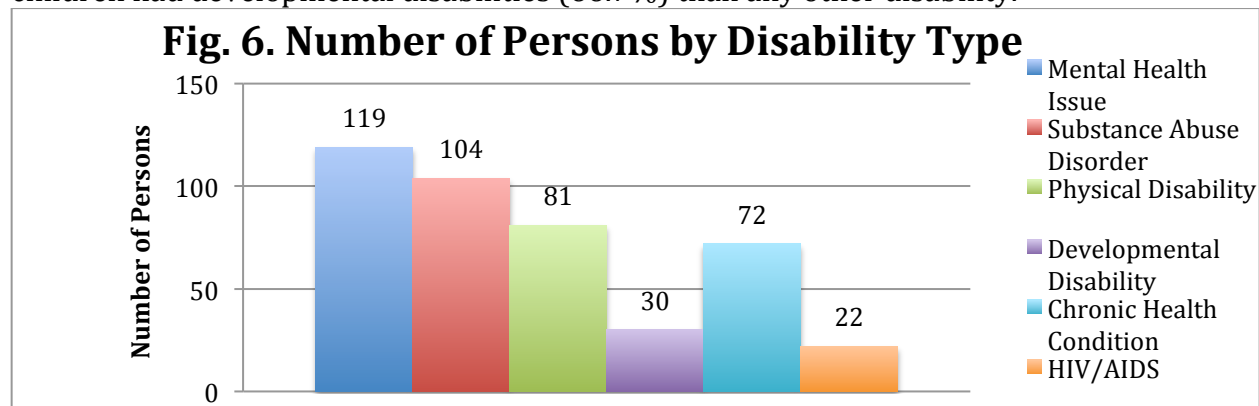
53.6% of respondents identified their race as White, making that the largest racial subgroup of homeless persons reported. The next largest group self-identified as Black or African-American (43.8%), followed by those identifying as Multi-Racial (3.3%) and Asian (1.2%). With regard to ethnicity, 31.8% of respondents identified themselves as Hispanic, or Latino.

Disabilities

Figure 5 illustrates that 42% of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. 52.4% of adults reported some type of disability compared to 10% of children. Figure 6 shows the number of the homeless persons that identified as having various disabilities. The most common disabilities identified include mental health issues (19.7%) and substance abuse disorders (17.2%).

Fig. 5. Percentage of Population with a Disability

58%

42%
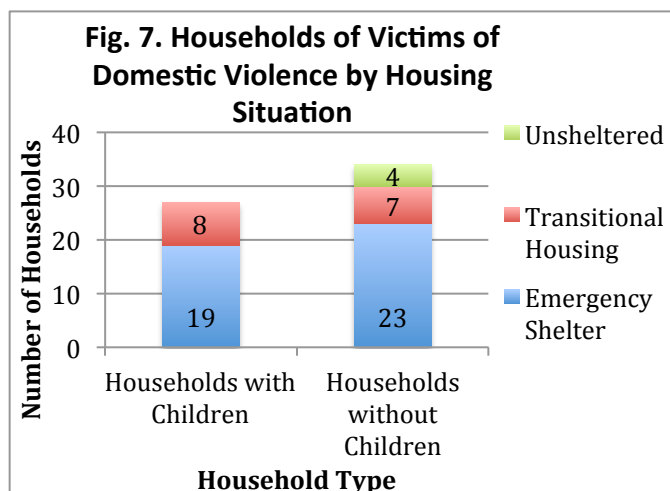
■ Disabled   ■ No Disability
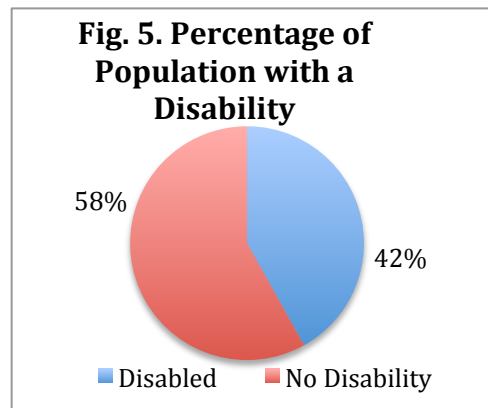
Among disabled adults, 48.3% reported mental health issues making this the most prevalent disability (25.3% of total homeless adult population). More disabled homeless children had developmental disabilities (66.7%) than any other disability.

Fig. 6. Number of Persons by Disability Type

- Mental Health Issue
- Substance Abuse Disorder
- Physical Disability
- Developmental Disability
- Chronic Health Condition
- HIV/AIDS

119   104   81   30   72   22

Number of Persons

Victims of Domestic Violence

On the night of the count, in Middlesex County, 61 homeless households identified as victims of domestic violence (See Figure 7). The majority of these households (34 households, 55.7%) were households without children. 4 (11.7%) of the adult-only victim households were unsheltered. 27 families with at least 1 adult and 1 child

Fig. 7. Households of Victims of Domestic Violence by Housing Situation

- Unsheltered
- Transitional Housing
- Emergency Shelter

Number of Households

Households with Children: 19, 8
Households without Children: 23, 7, 4

Household Type

reported being victims of domestic violence on the night of the count, 70.3% (19) of whom were staying in emergency shelters.

Veterans

In its plan, *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) prioritized ending homelessness among veterans by 2015. Many communities in New Jersey have also been working hard to end homelessness among our country's servicemen and women.

Fig. 8. Number of Persons in Veteran's Households by Housing Situation

22 homeless veteran households were counted on the night of the count, 10 (31.2%) fewer than in 2014. 21 (95.5%) were individuals and 1 (4.5%) was part of a family with one adult and two children. Figure 8 shows the number of persons in households with homeless veterans by their housing location on the night of the count. The largest contingent of homeless persons in veteran households was found to be staying in emergency shelter (58.3%). In addition, 1 veteran was unsheltered (4.5%), and 9 persons in veteran households were in transitional housing (37.5%).

Homeless persons in veteran households in Middlesex County were predominantly male (87.5%), and the most common racial background identified among them was White (17 persons, 70.8%), followed by 7 (29.2%) identifying as Black or African-American. Figure 9 Illustrates the percentage of homeless persons in veteran households by age range.

Fig. 9. Persons in Veteran's Households by Age Range

14 of the 24 persons in veteran households, 58.3%, reported having some kind of disability. The most common disabilities among these were physical disabilities, which affected 8 persons (33.3%). 6 persons (25%) said they had substance abuse disorders, and 6 (25%) reported mental health issues. 5 (20.8%) reported chronic health conditions. The four types of services that homeless veteran households sought the most were housing (90.9%), dental care (45.4%), employment assistance (45.4%), and financial assistance for housing (45.4%). Among the veteran households identified, only 18% (4 households) were connected with VA healthcare benefits. None of the veteran households were connected with VA pension or disability benefits, and 36.4% of the homeless veteran households reported that they had no source of income.

Fig. 10. Number of Households by Income Type

Number of Households

- Earned Income
- No Source of Income

88, 117

Income and Benefits

Among all those households experiencing homelessness in the county on the night of the count, 27.3% had no source of income, and 20.5% reported earned income or wages from a job. Earned income was the most common source of income among respondents, followed by Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and General Assistance (GA), with 14.9% and 14.7% received respectively. Figure 11 shows the average monthly income for all homeless households.

Figure 11. Average Monthly Income For Households by Housing Situation

	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered
Average for All Households	$399.84	$767.25	$217.44

14% of homeless households reported receiving no kind of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Medicaid was the top reported non-cash benefit, and was received by 51% of respondents. 50.1% reported receiving Food Stamps (SNAP).

Length of Homelessness

As Figure 12 shows, 114 (26.6%) homeless households reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted from 1 month and 1 day to 3 months, while 92 (21.4%) reported that they had been homeless for between 3 months and 1 day and 6 months. These two most common responses account for 48% of all respondent households. This means that

Fig. 12. Length of Homelessness Among Households

Number of Households

Length of Homelessness

23, 52, 114, 92, 61, 87

48% of all homeless households in Middlesex County had been experiencing homelessness for more between 1 and 6 months. 87 households (20.3%) reported being homeless for more than 1 year.
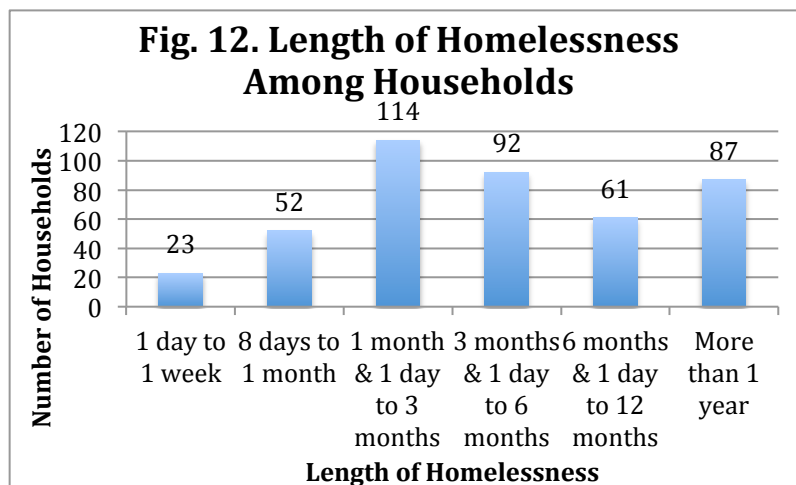
Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households attributed their homelessness to a loss or reduction of job income or benefits (132 households, 30.7%) than any other cause. As Figure 13 shows, the next most common factor reported was being released from prison or jail (9.8%).

When households were asked 'what was your residence prior to your current living situation?' more said they were staying or living with friends or family (137 households, 31.9%) than any other type of residence. 26.6% reported residing in permanent housing prior to their current living situation.

Fig. 13. Cause of Homelessness by Household

Factor Causing or Contributing to Homelessness
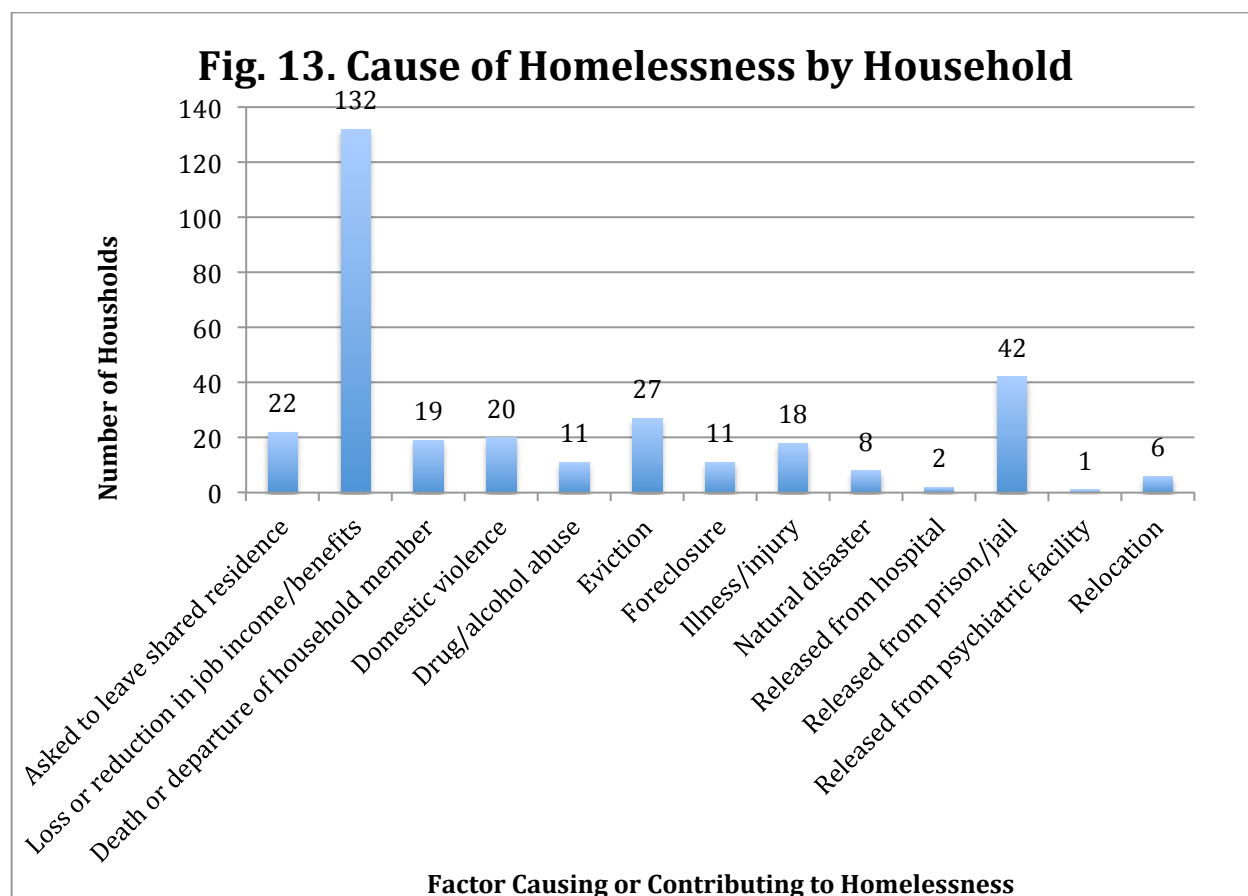
IV. Findings for the Chronically Homeless

Someone with a long-term disabling condition, who has been continually homeless for a year or more, or at least four times in the past three years, meets HUD's definition of chronically homeless. Any family with one adult that meets this definition is considered a chronically homeless family.

HUD has established a goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2017. This goal reflects the urgency of helping to house those persons who have not been able to remain stably housed over the course of an extended period of time. Chronically Homeless persons are among the most vulnerable homeless groups, and providing effective supportive services and case management may be required in order to help some stay in the housing they need. Prioritization of new Continuum of Care funding opportunities has recently been giving some communities in New Jersey new resources for housing this subgroup.

Total Chronically Homeless Population

73 households, made up of 87 total persons, were chronically homeless in Middlesex County, according to the 2015 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 18 persons (17.1%) from 2013. This decrease, in conjunction with the larger decrease in homelessness in the county overall, caused the rate of chronic homelessness to increase as a percentage of the overall homeless population from 13% to 14.4%.

Fig. 14. 5-Year Comparison of Chronic Homeless Population by Housing Situation
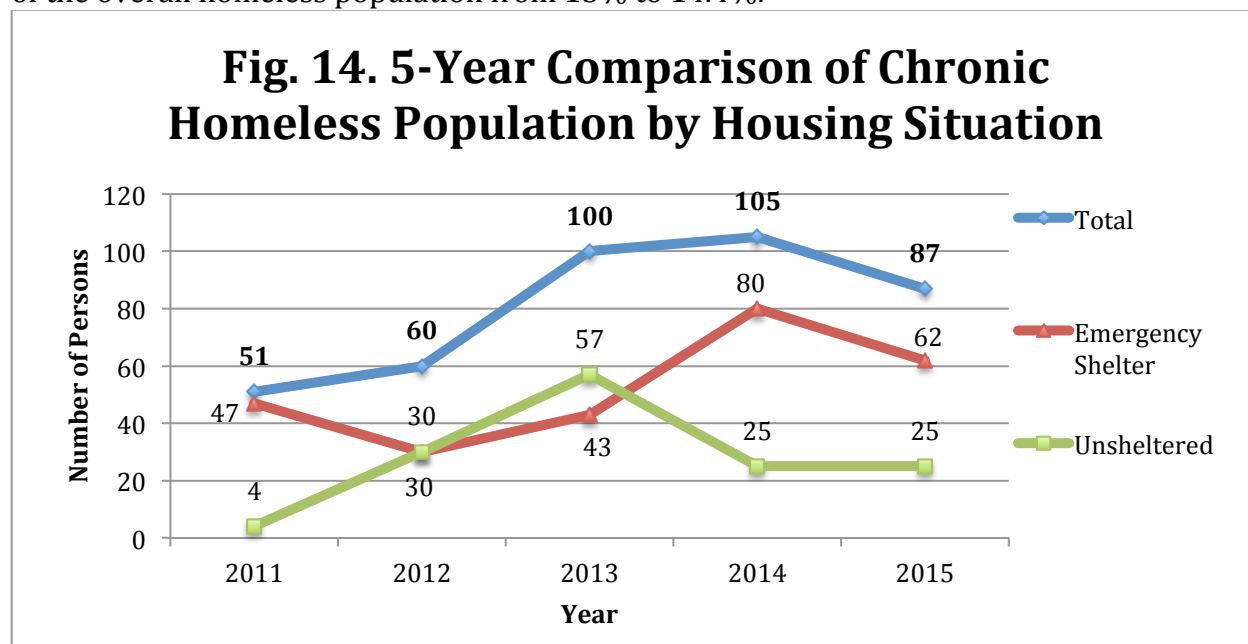
Figure 14 shows the number of chronically homeless respondents who were in emergency shelters or living unsheltered in Middlesex County from 2011 to 2015. Over the past five years the total of chronically homeless persons counted has grown by 36 persons (70.6%). During this same period, the numbers of chronically homeless persons in emergency shelters and living unsheltered have fluctuated, but risen overall. Since 2013, though, the

number of unsheltered chronically homeless persons has dropped 128%, from 57 persons to 25, and the number of chronically homeless persons dropped by 13%.

Families and Individuals

Of the 73 chronically homeless households counted in 2015, 8 (11%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. These families included 22 persons (122.7% fewer than 2014), and the average family size was 2.8 persons. All chronically homeless families stayed in emergency shelters on the night of the count.

Fig. 15. Chronically Homeless Households Type by Housing Situation
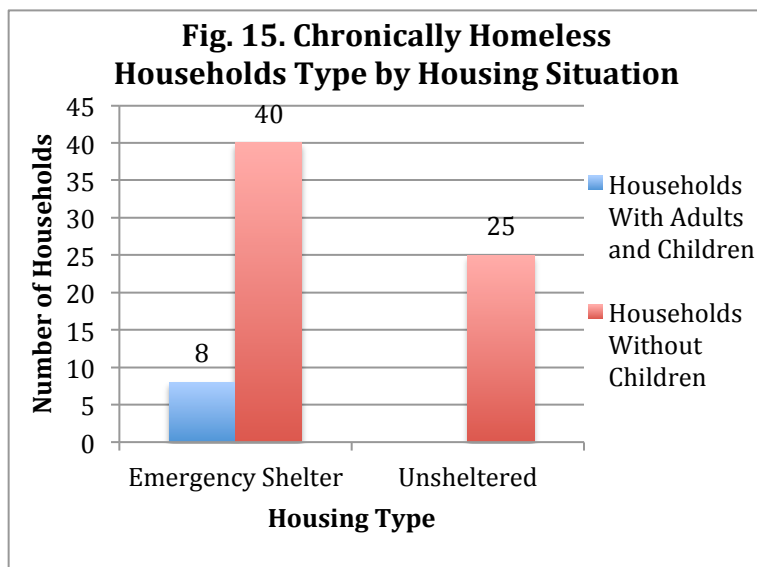

There were 65 chronically homeless persons in 65 households with no children 17 or younger counted in Middlesex County, making up 74.7% of the chronically homeless population. There were 40 (61.5%) of these individuals sheltered in emergency shelters, an increase from 31 in 2014 (29%). 25 (38.5%) of these adult households were unsheltered on the night of the count, the same number as in 2014.

Demographics

Of the 87 total chronically homeless persons, 6 (6.9%) were between 18 and 24 years old, and 14 (16.1%) were children 17 or younger. As shown in Figure 16, the largest number of chronically homeless persons (22, 25.3%) in a single category fell between the ages of 45 and 54 years of age; with 19 persons (21.8%) between 35 and 44 years old.

64.4% of those counted as chronically homeless were male, and 35.6% were female.

The largest racial subgroup of homeless persons reported their race as White (56.3%). The next largest group self-identified as Black or African- American (41.4%), followed by persons identifying as Asian (3.4%). With regard to ethnicity, 27.6% of respondents identified themselves as Hispanic, or Latino.

Fig. 16. Chronically Homeless Age Range by Housing Situation
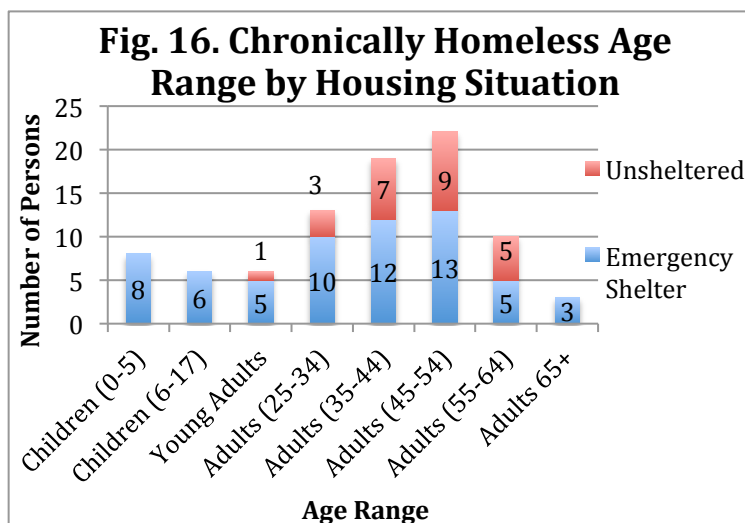
Disabilities

In order to meet the definition of chronically homeless, at least one adult in each household must have some kind of disability. The disabilities most commonly identified were mental health issues (46%) and substance abuse disorders (38%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the chronically homeless can be seen in Figure 17.

**Fig. 17. Number of Chronically Homeless Persons by Disability Type**
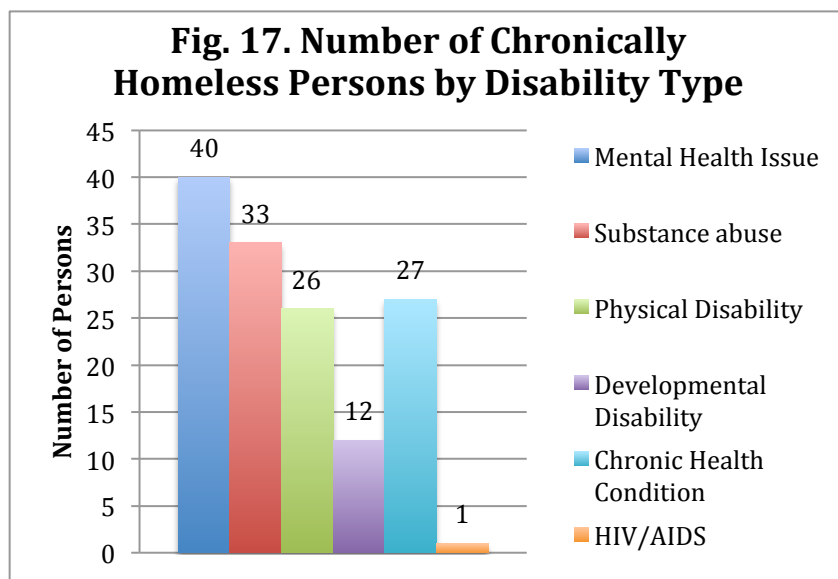
Subpopulations

On the night of the count, 13 chronically homeless persons in Middlesex County reported being victims of domestic violence (14.9%). This includes 2 persons in a family with children under the age of 18. 11 victims and their households were staying in emergency shelters, and 2 were unsheltered on the night of the count.

There were 6 veterans identified as chronically homeless on the night of the count (6.9%). All were single individuals, 5 of whom were staying in emergency shelters, and 1 who was unsheltered.

Income and Benefits

Among all the chronically homeless households on the night of the count, 28.7% reported receiving no form of cash income, and 2 reported having earned income (2.7%). Figure 18 shows the sources of income received. The most common source of cash income among all

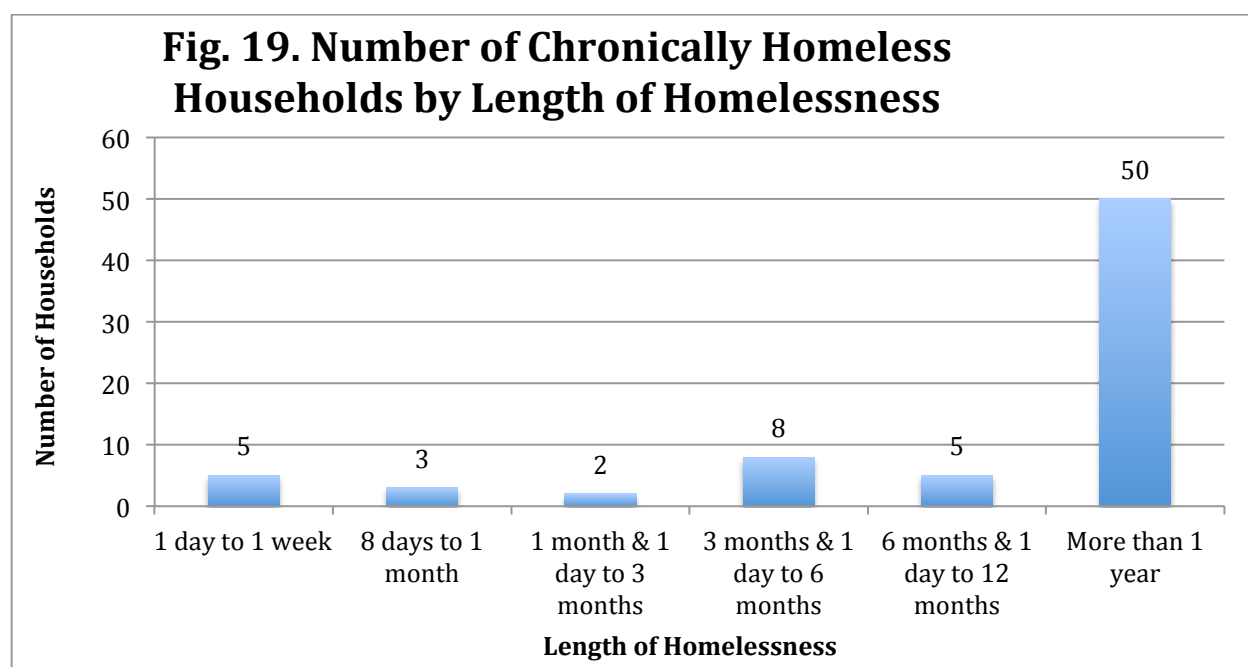**Fig. 18. Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Income Source**
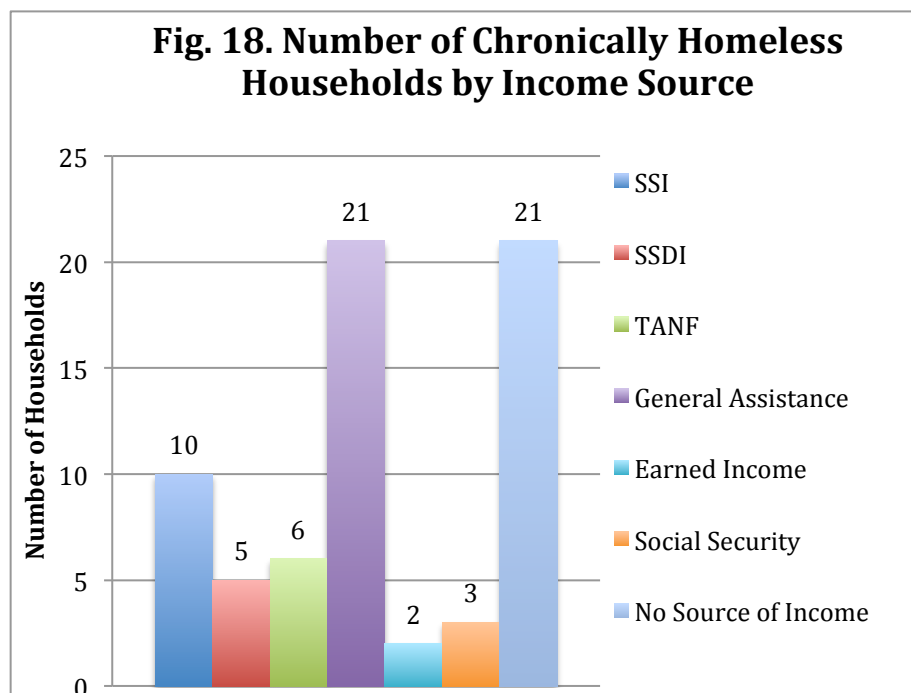
households was General Assistance, which was received by 28.7% of respondent households.

27.4% of chronically homeless households reported they were not receiving any type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Medicaid was the top reported non-cash benefit among this population, with 49.3% receiving this benefit. A significant percentage also reported receiving Food Stamps (SNAP) (46.6%).

Length of Homelessness

Figure 19 shows that 50 of the 73 chronically homeless households (68.5%) reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted for more than 1 year. This was the most common answer followed by 11% reporting being homeless between 3 and 6 months.

Fig. 19. Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Length of Homelessness

Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more chronically homeless households cited a loss or reduction of job income or benefits (37%) than any other. As Figure 20 shows, another common factor reported was being asked to leave a shared residence (13.7%).

Fig. 20. Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Cause of Homelessness
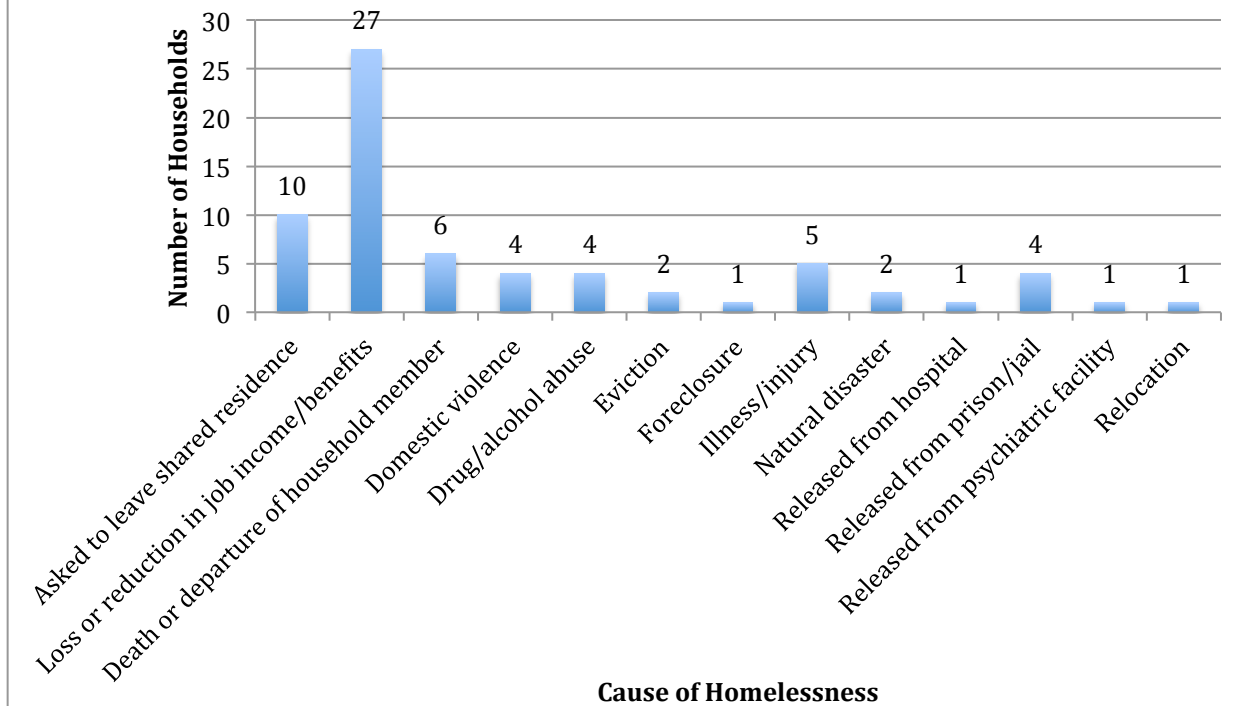
V. Findings for the Unsheltered Homeless

HUD's definition of "unsheltered homeless" applies to any individual or family "with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground."

Unsheltered homeless individuals and families are among those with the most critical housing needs in a community. The unsheltered are especially vulnerable in the cold weather and the elements, which are in evidence at the end of January when the Count takes place. The Point-In-Time survey can play an important role in helping communities understand why some of the homeless remain unsheltered, and who is included in this group.

Total Unsheltered Homeless Population

72 households, made up of 76 persons, were living unsheltered in Middlesex County, according to the 2015 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 24 (25%) households, and 26 persons (25.5%) from 2014.

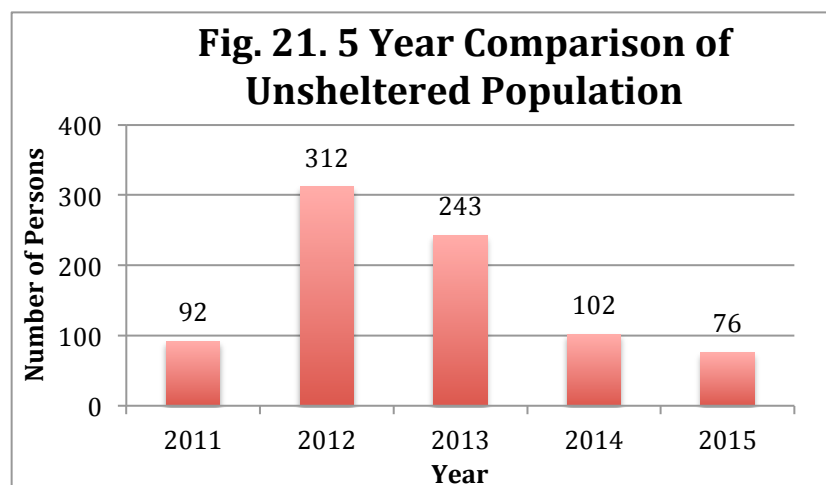**Fig. 21. 5 Year Comparison of Unsheltered Population**

Figure 21 shows the number of unsheltered respondents from 2011 to 2015. Over the past five years, while the numbers have fluctuated, the total number of unsheltered persons has been reduced overall. Since 2012, the number of unsheltered homeless persons has dropped 310.5%, and by 17.4% since 2011.

Families and Individuals

2 of the 72 unsheltered households counted in 2015 were unsheltered families with 3 adults and 2 children under age 18 in total.

The remaining 70 households were adult-only households made up of 71 adult persons.

Demographics

Of the 76 unsheltered persons counted, 3 (3.9%) were between 18 and 24 years old. 23 (30.3%) of those living unsheltered were between the ages of 35 and 44. 2 (2.6%) were older than 65.

62 of the 76 unsheltered persons were male (81.6%). 68.4% identified their race as White and 26.3% identified as Black or African-American. 57.9% of the respondents identified as Hispanic.

Fig. 22. Age Range of Unsheltered Homeless
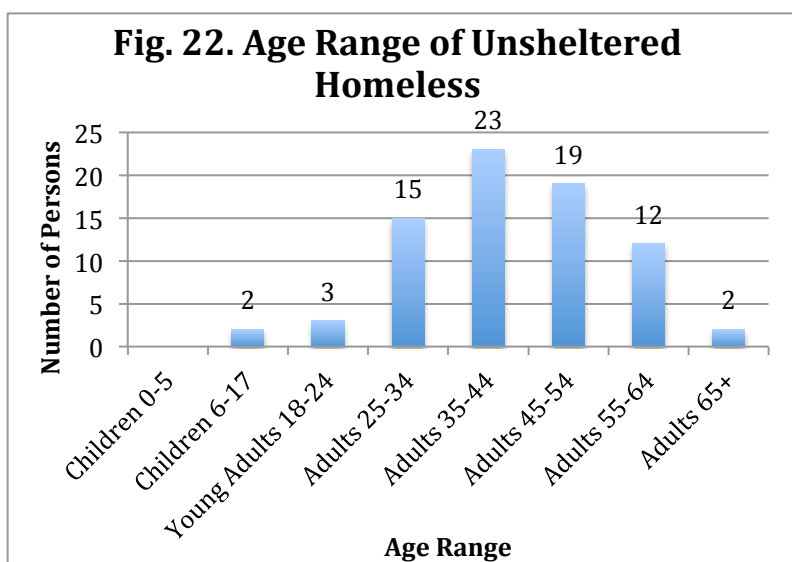
Disabilities

52.6% of unsheltered persons reported having some disability. The disabilities most commonly identified were substance abuse disorders (27.6%) and mental health issues (25%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the unsheltered can be seen in Figure 23.

Subpopulations

**Fig. 23. Number of Unsheltered Persons by Disability Type**

On the night of the count, 4 of the unsheltered homeless persons in Middlesex County reported being victims of domestic violence. All were adult individuals.

There was 1 unsheltered single veteran on the night of the count.

Income and Benefits

Among all unsheltered respondents on the night of the count, 35 (48.6%) reported having no source of income. The average monthly income among unsheltered households was approximately $217. Figure 24 shows the sources of income received. SSI was received by the most: 12.5% of households.

Fig. 24. Number of Unsheltered Households by Income Source

37 of the 72 unsheltered households (51.4%) reported they were not receiving any type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Medicaid was the top reported non-cash benefit among this population, with 16.6% receiving this benefit, while 15.3% were receiving Food Stamps (SNAP) and 4.2% were receiving Medicare.
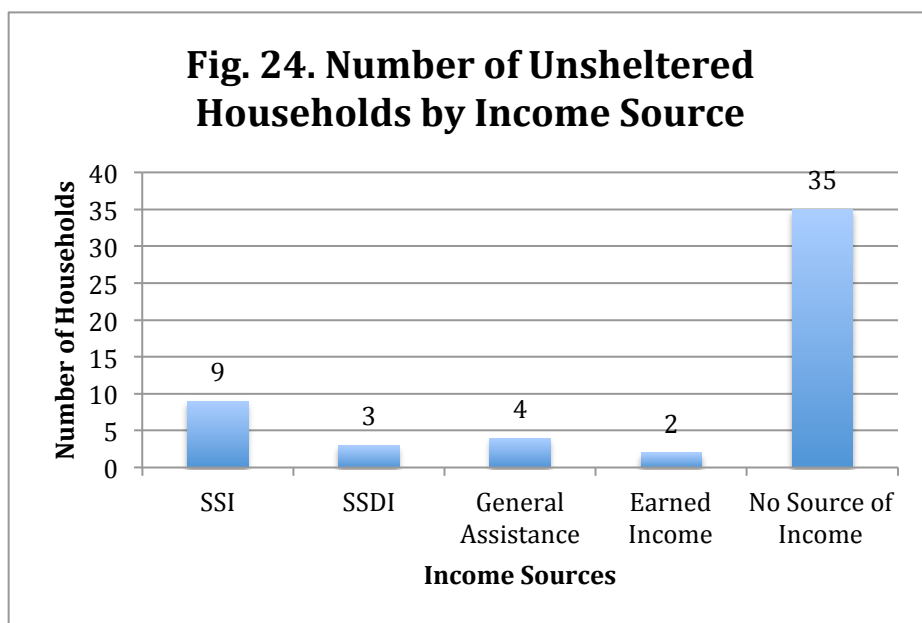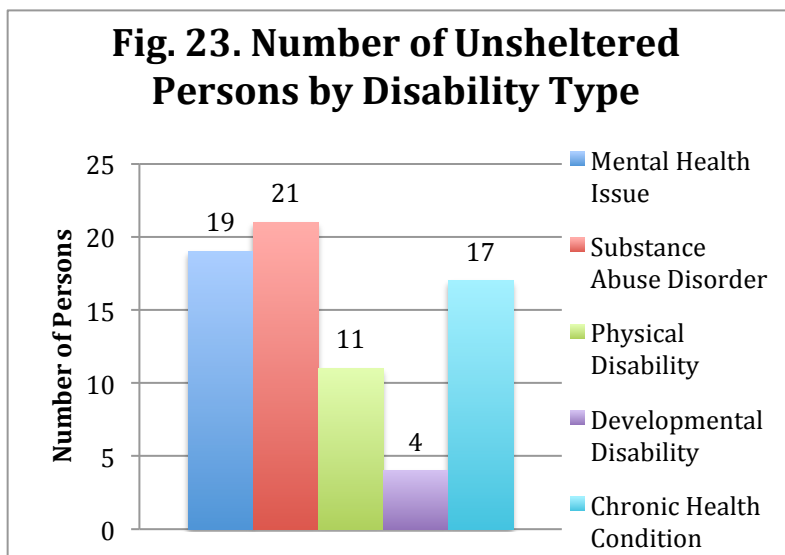
Length of Homelessness

As shown in Figure 25, more unsheltered homeless households (44.4%) reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted more than 1 year than any other length of time. 16 (22.2%) reported they had been homeless between 6 month and one day, and 12 months.
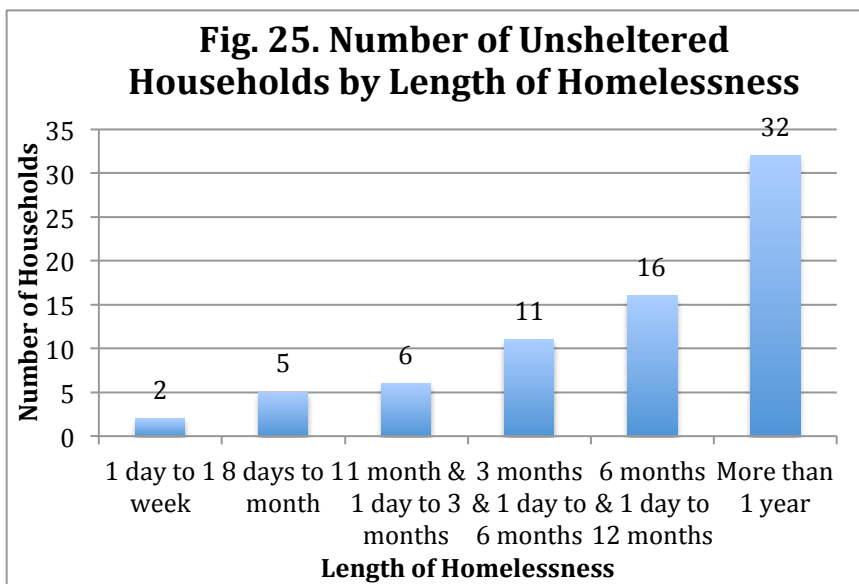
Fig. 25. Number of Unsheltered Households by Length of Homelessness
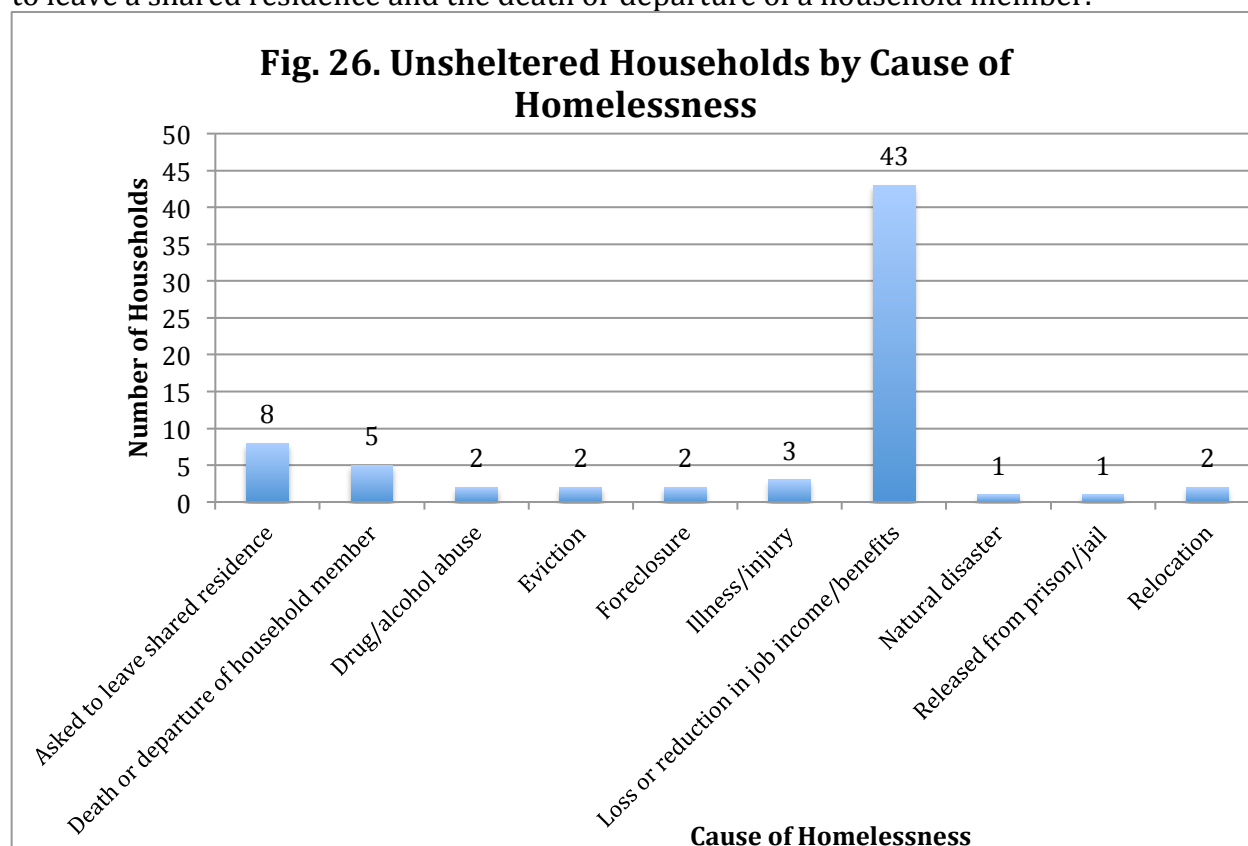
A bar chart with "Number of Households" on the y-axis (0 to 35) and "Length of Homelessness" on the x-axis with the following values:
- 1 day to 1 week: 2
- 8 days to 1 month: 5
- 1 month & 1 day to 3 months: 6
- 3 months & 1 day to 6 months: 11
- 6 months & 1 day to 12 months: 16
- More than 1 year: 32

Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more unsheltered households said loss or reduction of job income or benefits (59.7%) than any other factor. As Figure 26 shows, other common factors reported included being asked to leave a shared residence and the death or departure of a household member.

Fig. 26. Unsheltered Households by Cause of Homelessness

A bar chart with "Number of Households" on the y-axis (0 to 50) and "Cause of Homelessness" on the x-axis with the following values:
- Asked to leave shared residence: 8
- Death or departure of household member: 5
- Drug/alcohol abuse: 2
- Eviction: 2
- Foreclosure: 2
- Illness/injury: 3
- Loss or reduction in job income/benefits: 43
- Natural disaster: 1
- Released from prison/jail: 1
- Relocation: 2

VI. Appendix

Where did you spend the night of Tuesday, January 27, 2015?

Fig. A.1. Total Number of Homeless Households and Persons by Housing Type
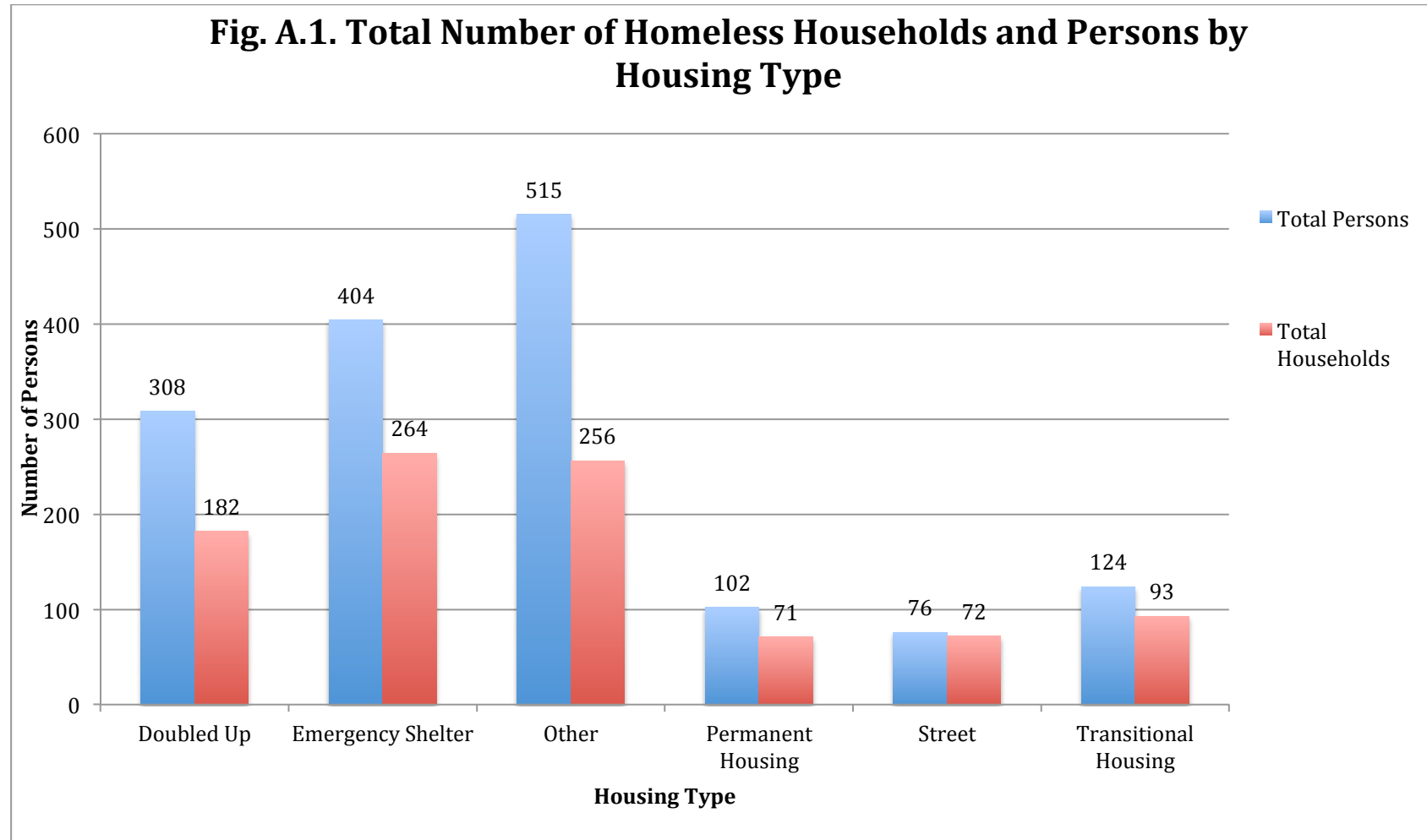
How long have you been in your current living situation?

Fig. A.2. Homeless Housholds by Length of Homelessness and Housing Type
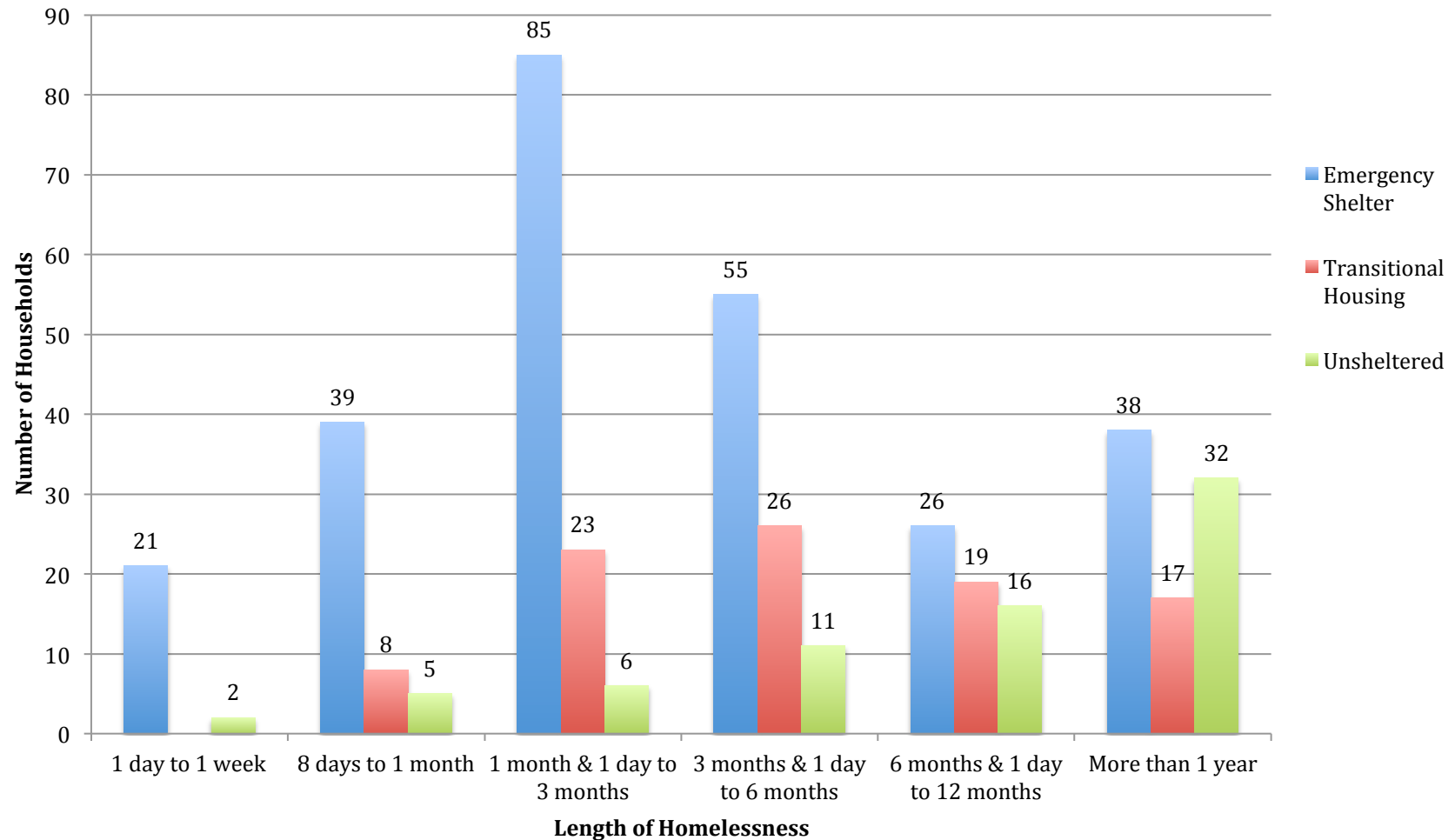
Who was homeless with you on the night of January 27th?

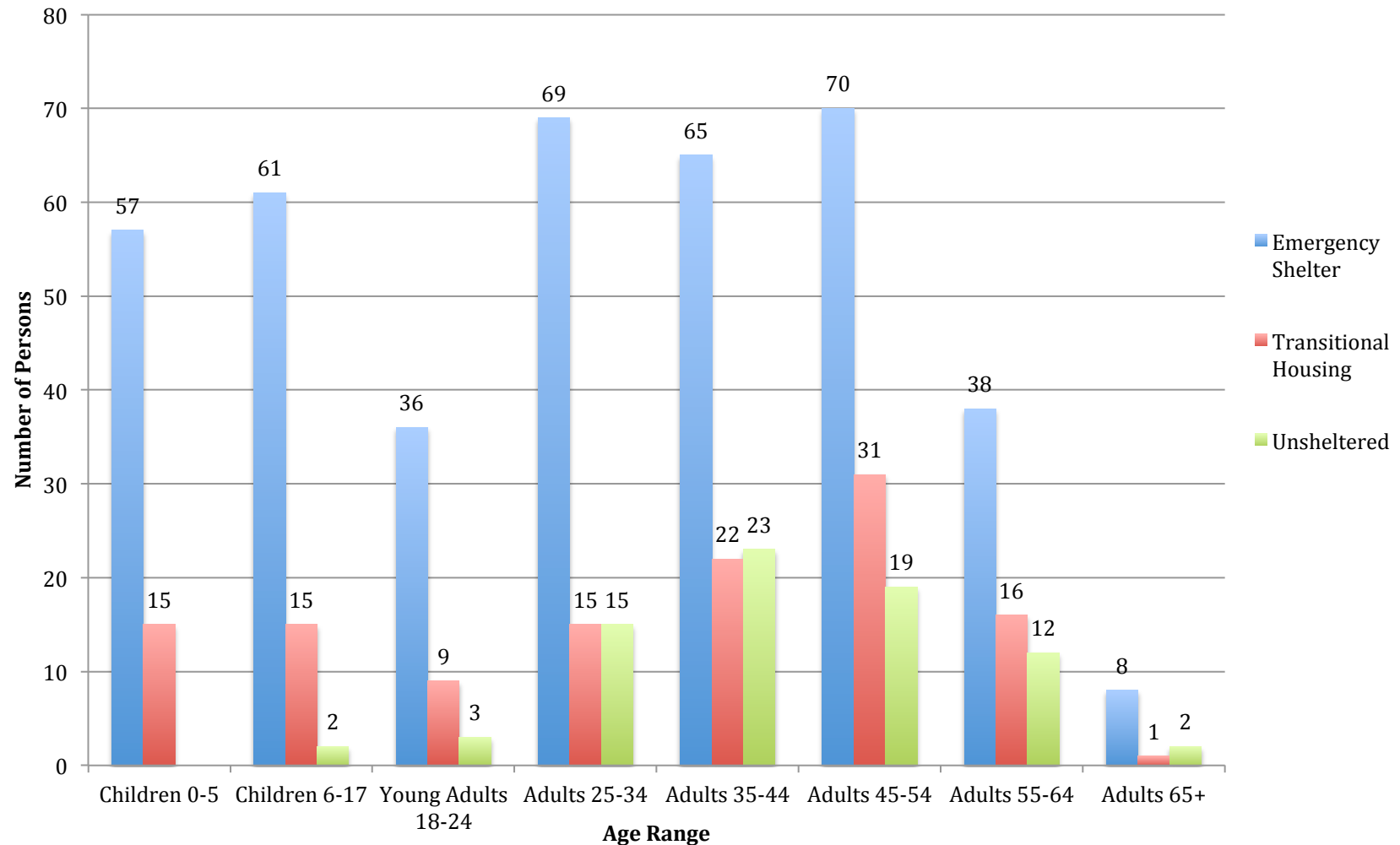Fig. A.3. Number of Homeless Persons by Age Range and Housing Type

Fig. A.4. Number of Homeless Persons by Gender and Housing Situation

Number of Persons

Male: Emergency Shelter 236, Transitional Housing 71, Unsheltered 62
Female: Emergency Shelter 168, Transitional Housing 52, Unsheltered 14
Transgender: 1

Legend:
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Unsheltered

Gender
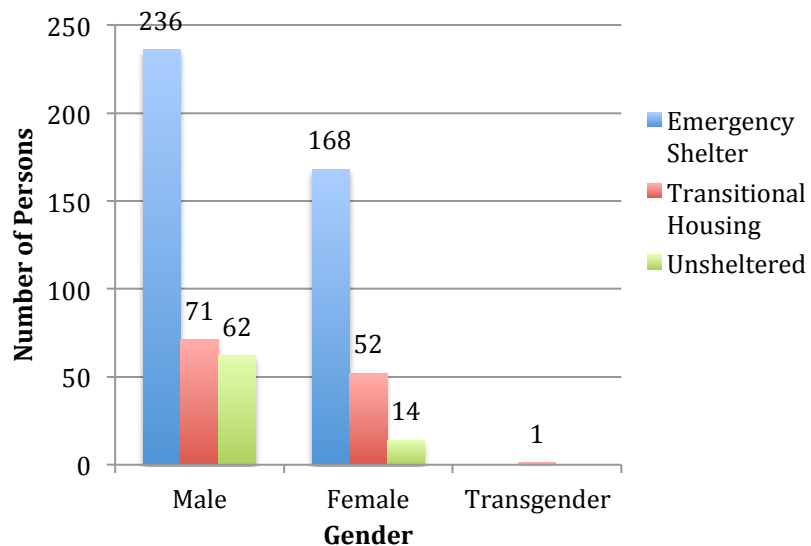
Fig. A.5. Number of Homeless Persons by Race

Number of Persons

American Indian/Alaska Native: 3
Black/African-American: 265
Asian: 7
Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian: 3
White: 324
Multi-Racial: 20

Race
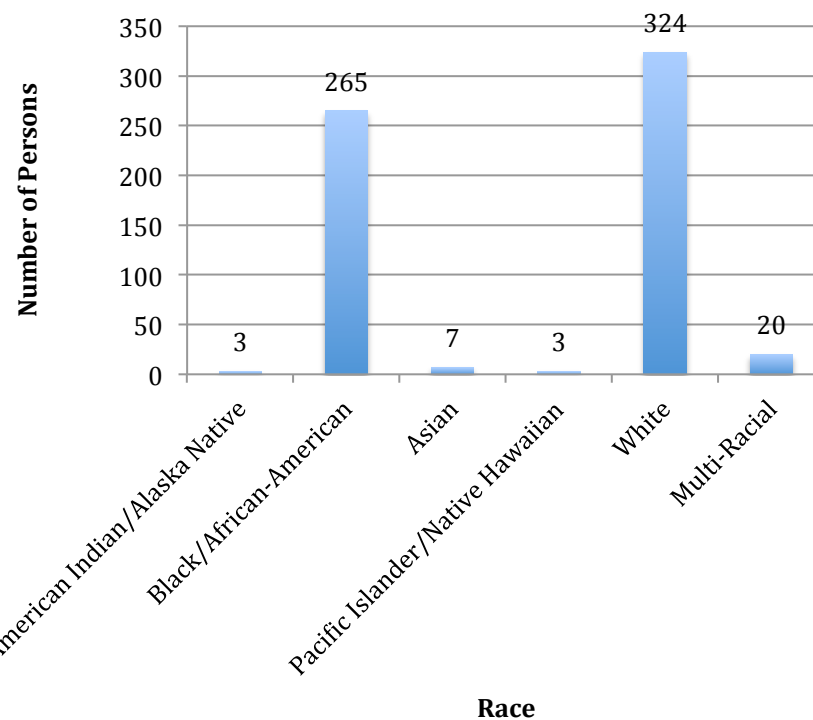
Fig. A.6. Number of Homeless Persons by Ethnicity

Number of Persons

Hispanic: 192
Non-Hispanic: 410

Ethnicity
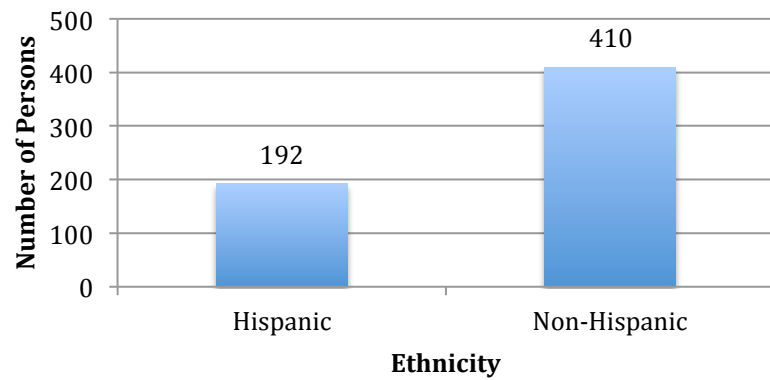
Household Characteristics – check all that apply to each person

Fig. A.7. Number of Homeless Persons by Victims of Domestic Violence, Veteran Status, and Disability
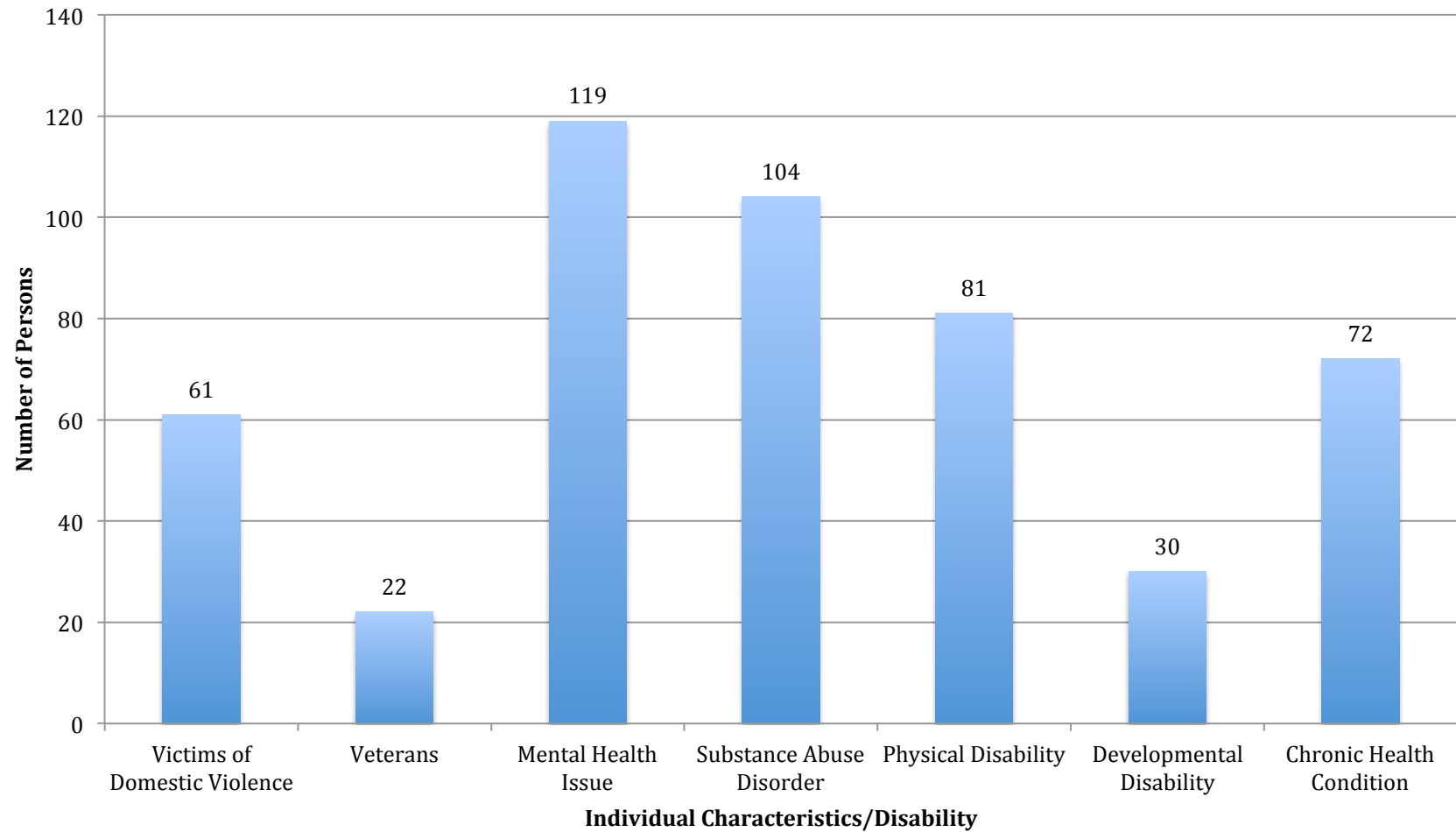
Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?

Fig. A.8. Number of Homeless Households by County or State of Last Permanent Address	
Last Permanent Address – County/State	**Number of Households**
Atlantic County	2
Bergen County	1
Burlington County	3
California	1
Camden County	1
Cumberland County	1
Essex County	9
Florida	1
Hudson County	1
Hunterdon County	1
Maryland	2
Mercer County	10
Middlesex County	**323**
Monmouth County	12
New York	8
Ohio	1
Oregon	1
Passaic County	3
Somerset County	12
Union County	15
Virginia	2
Warren County	1
Wisconsin	1

What was your residence prior to your current living situation?

Fig. A.9. Number of Homeless Households by Prior Residence

Bar chart — Number of Households by Prior Residence:

Prior Residence	Number of Households
Permanent housing	114
Emergency shelter	42
Foster care	1
Hospital	2
Hotel/motel paid by client	11
Jail/prison	19
Permanent supportive housing program	1
Apt paid with Temporary Rental Assistance by Board of Social Services	2
Place not meant for habitation	42
Psychiatric facility	4
Staying/living with friends/family	137
Substance abuse treatment facility	5
Transitional housing program	30
Rooming House	12

Which of the following sources of income or non-cash benefits do you, or anyone in your household, receive?

Fig. A. 10. Number of Homeless Households by Source of Cash Income

Bar chart — X-axis: Income Sources; Y-axis: Number of Households (0–140)

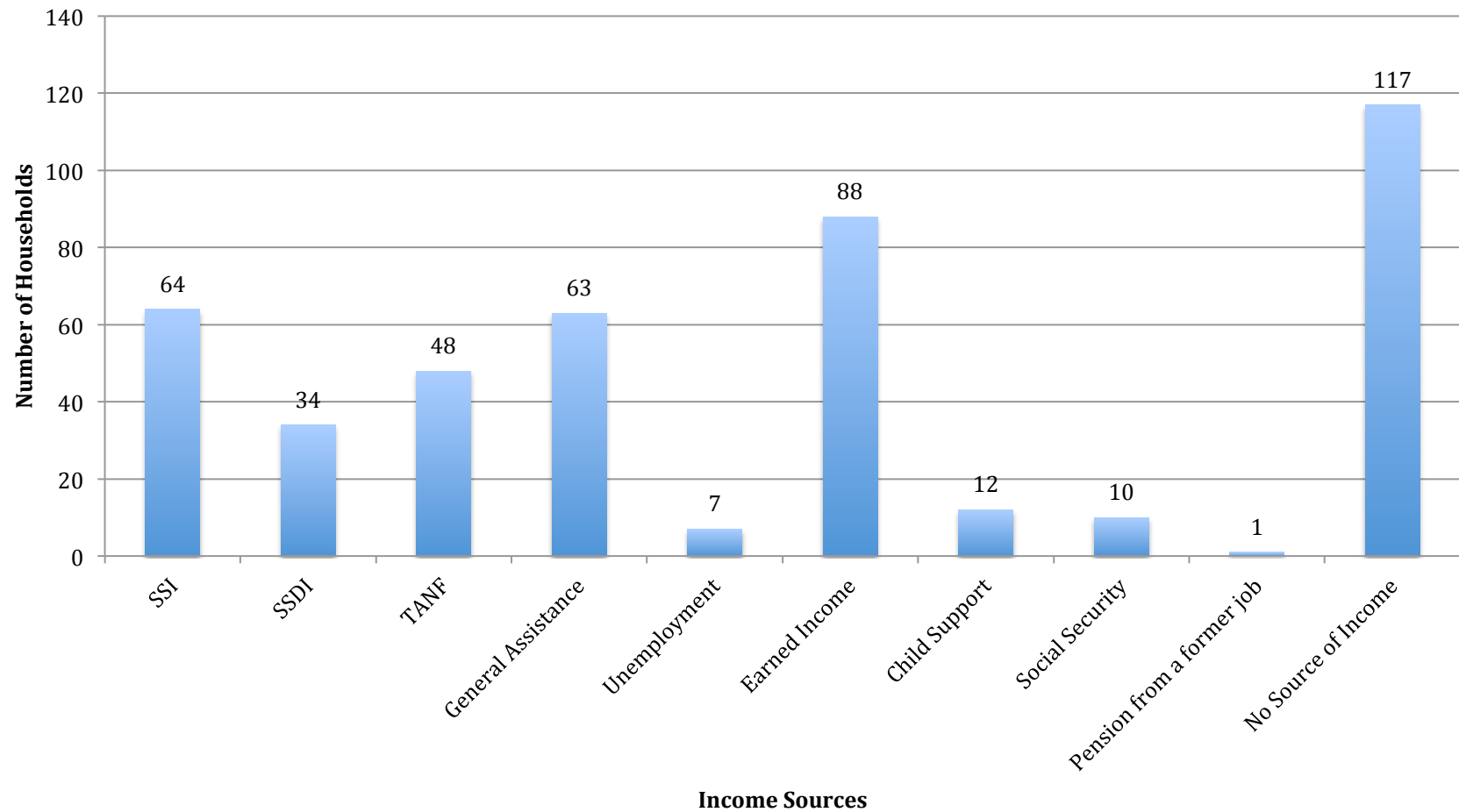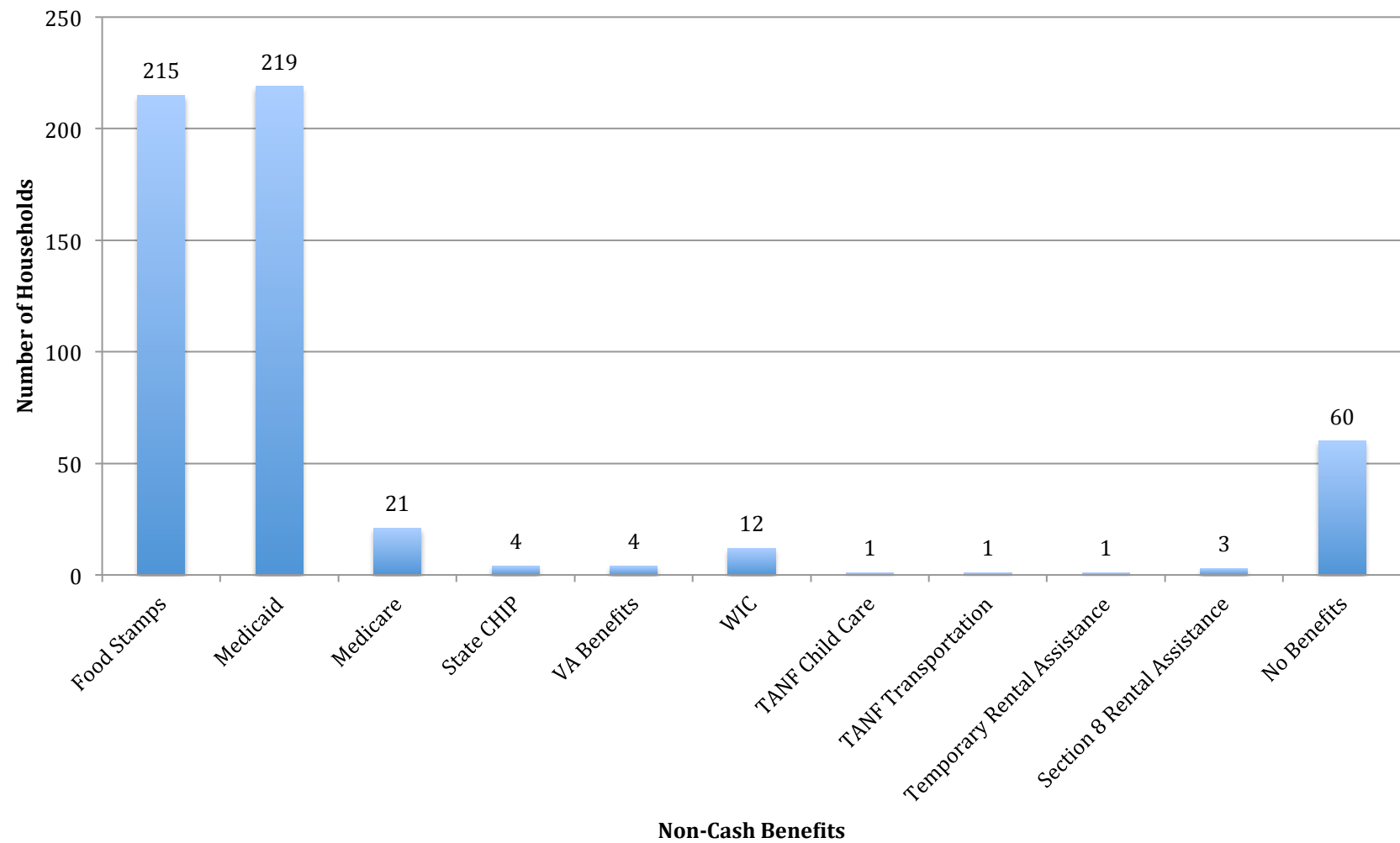| Income Source	Number of Households
SSI	64
SSDI	34
TANF	48
General Assistance	63
Unemployment	7
Earned Income	88
Child Support	12
Social Security	10
Pension from a former job	1
No Source of Income	117

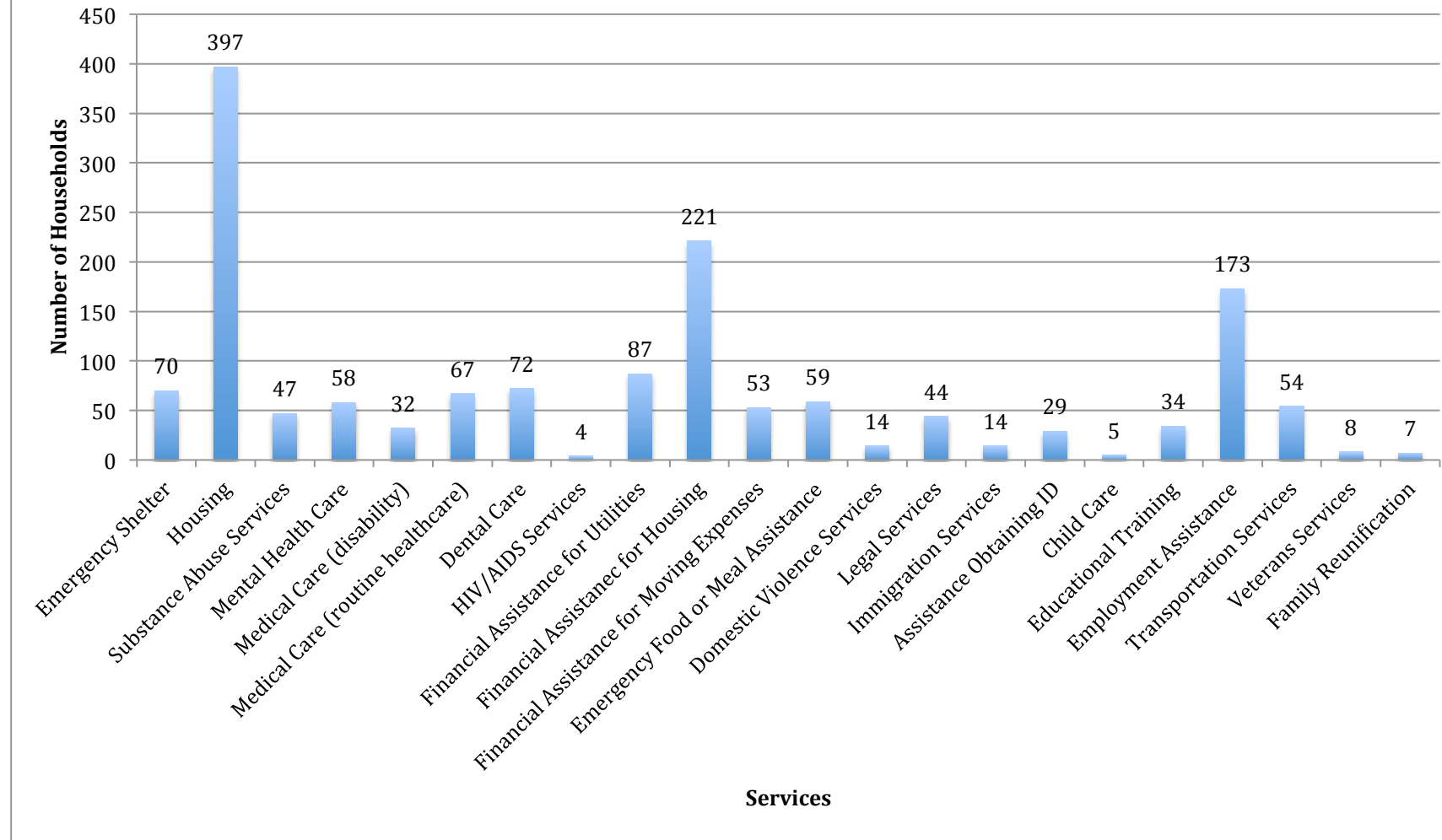# Fig. A. 11. Number of Homeless Households by Sources of Non-Cash Benefits

What is your monthly household income?

Fig. A.12. Number of Homeless Households by Monthly Income Range
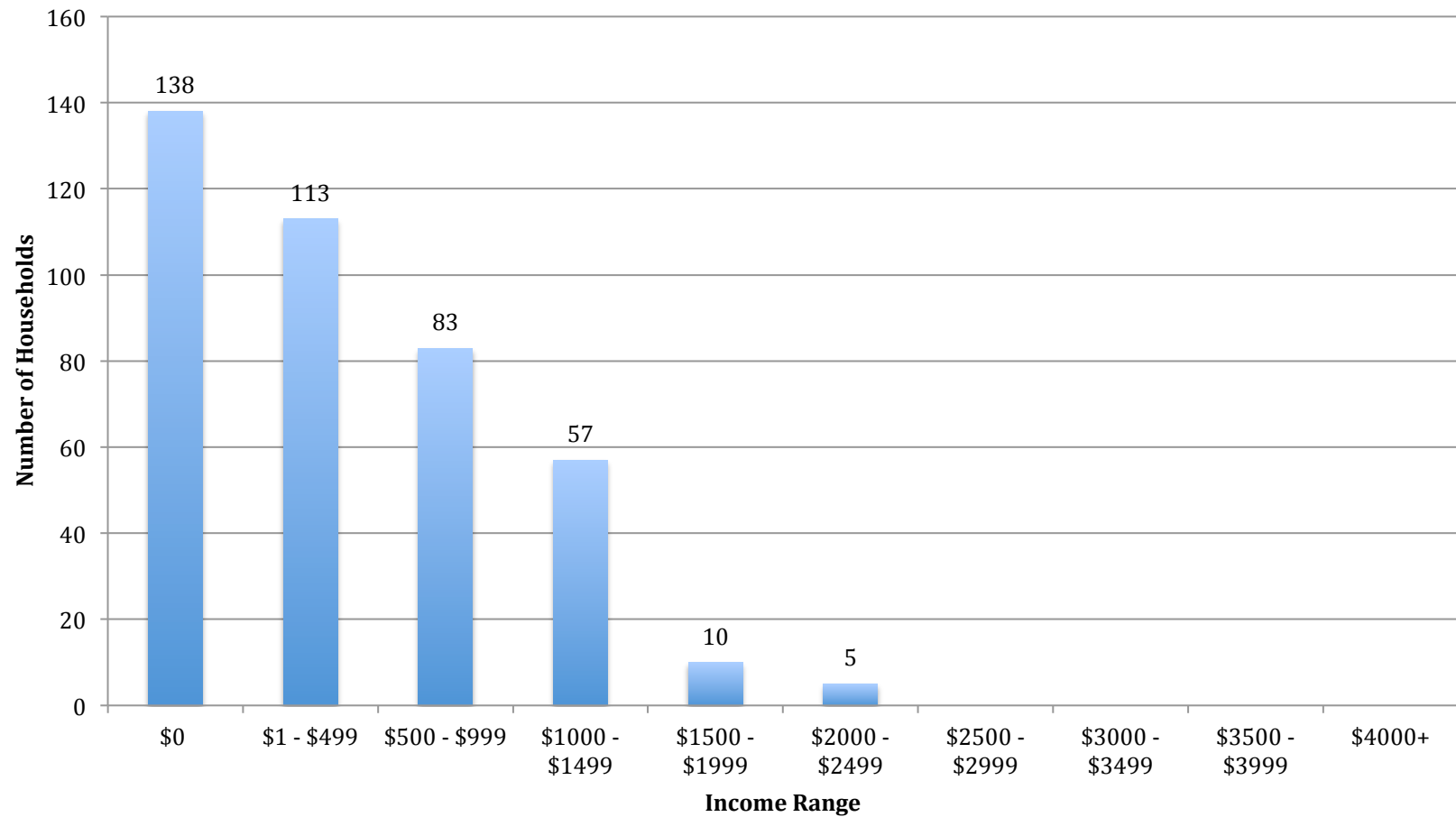
Would you, or anyone in your household, like to receive any of the following services?

Fig. A.13. Number of Homeless Households by Services Needed

What was the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, your current living situation?

Fig. A.14. Number of Homeless Households by Cause of Homelessness

Bar chart showing Number of Households (y-axis, 0 to 140) by Cause of Homelessness (x-axis):

- Asked to leave shared residence: 22
- Loss or reduction in job income/benefits: 132
- Death or departure of household member: 19
- Domestic violence: 20
- Drug/alcohol abuse: 11
- Eviction: 27
- Foreclosure: 11
- Illness/injury: 18
- Natural disaster: 8
- Released from hospital: 2
- Released from prison/jail: 42
- Released from psychiatric facility: 1
- Relocation: 6