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HOUSING ASSOCIATES

NJ
2015
Counts!

Tri-County CoC'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 195 households, including 255 persons, were experiencing homelessness within the geographic area of the Tri-County CoC, according to the 2015 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 29 households, with 38 persons, were identified as chronically homeless.
- 6 unsheltered homeless persons were counted.

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, 2014, a total of 255 persons, in 195 households, were experiencing homelessness in the Tri-County CoC, which in composed of Warren, Hunterdon and Sussex Counties, according to the 2015 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 24 persons (8.6%) and 29 households (12.9%) from 2014. The Tri-County CoC had 2.6% of New Jersey's statewide homeless population in 2015.

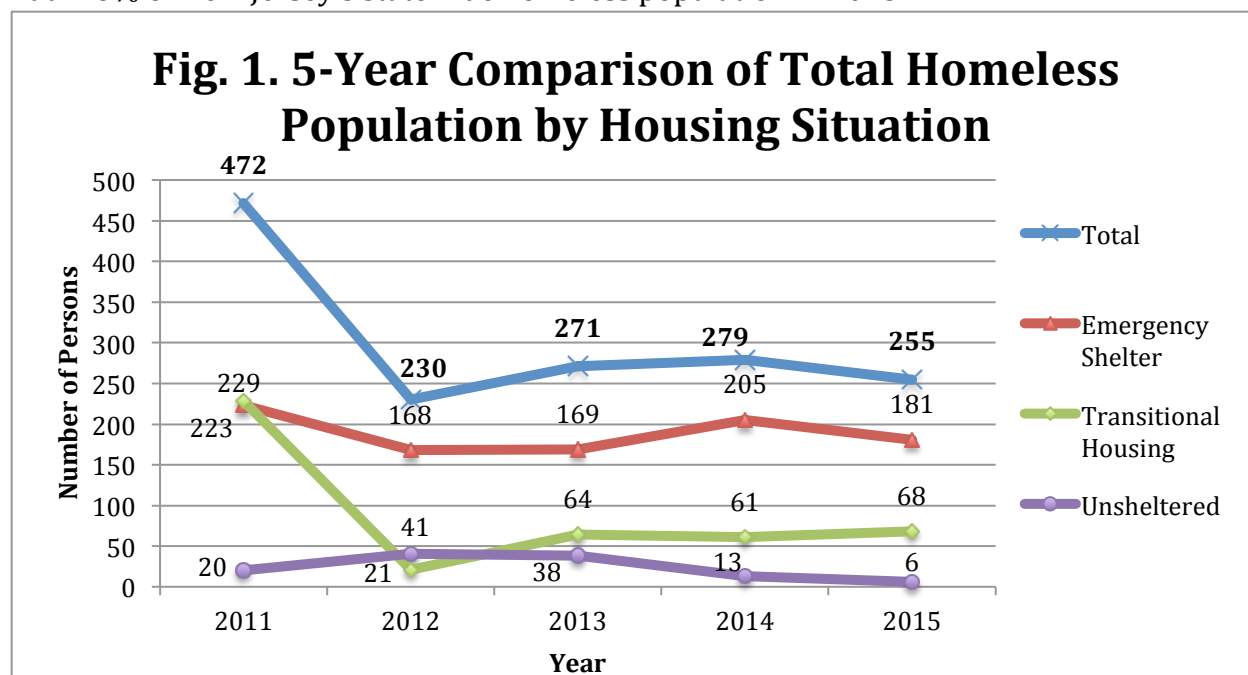Fig. 1. 5-Year Comparison of Total Homeless Population by Housing Situation

Figure 1 shows that, in 2015, 181 homeless persons stayed in emergency shelters, 68 stayed in transitional housing, and 6 were living unsheltered on the night of the count. The total number of those counted in emergency shelters was a decrease of 24 persons

(11.7%). The number of unsheltered persons counted dropped by 7, or 53.8%. However, the number of persons in transitional housing programs rose by 7 (11.5%).

Fig. 2. Percentage of Households by County of Last Permanent Address
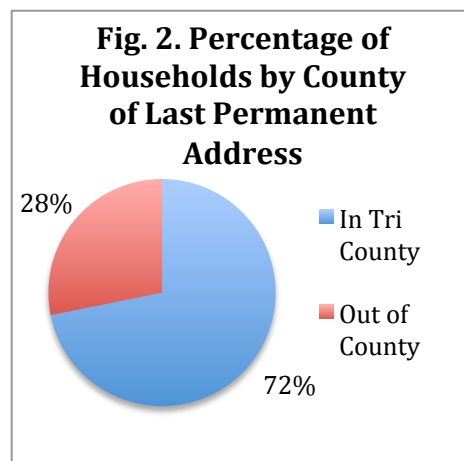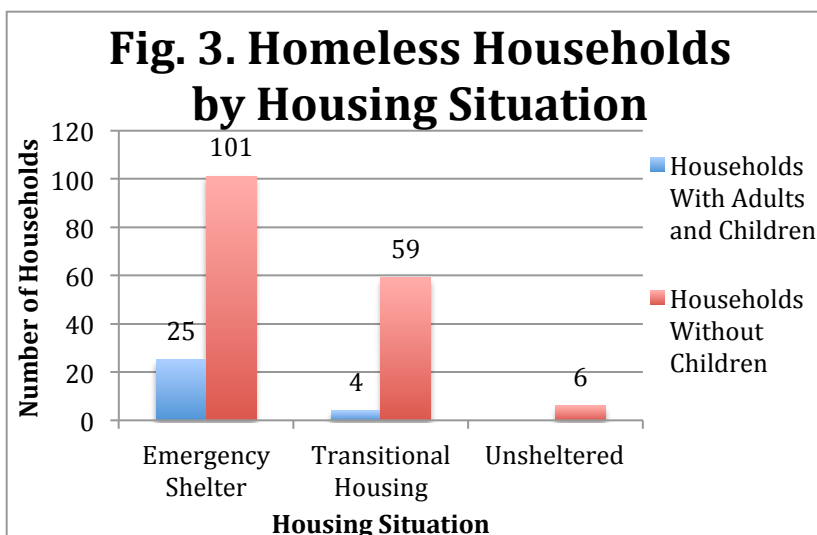
- In Tri County — 72%
- Out of County — 28%

Figure 1 also shows that, over the past five years, the total number of homeless persons has been fluctuating in the Tri-County, with the highest count in 2011. From 2011 to 2015, the total number of homeless persons went down 46%. The number of persons in all three housing situations, emergency shelter, unsheltered, and transitional housing, have all gone down overall during this time period.

As Figure 2 shows, 26% of homeless households reported their last permanent address prior to becoming homeless was outside of the Tri-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').

Of the 195 homeless households counted in the Tri-County CoC in 2015, 29 (14.9%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. This represents 2 (7.4%) more homeless families than in 2014. These families included 84 persons, 49 children under 18, and 35 adults. The average family size was 3.0 persons. Figure 3 shows that 4 families (13.8%) were staying in transitional housing and 25 (86.2%) in emergency shelter on the night of the count. No families were unsheltered.

Fig. 3. Homeless Households by Housing Situation

Number of Households (y-axis)
Housing Situation (x-axis)

- Households With Adults and Children
- Households Without Children

| Housing Situation	With Adults and Children	Without Children
Emergency Shelter	25	101
Transitional Housing	4	59
Unsheltered		6

85.1% (166) of the homeless households counted in the Tri-County CoC were households without children under 18, and they were composed of 171 adult individuals. 101 (60.8%)

of these adult-only households were staying in emergency shelters, 59 (35.5%) were in transitional housing, and 6 (3.6%) were unsheltered. The Tri-County CoC has seen the number of adult-only households decrease by 30 (15.3%) since 2014.

As Figure 3 indicates, there were no youth only households reported in 2015, down from 1 in 2013.

Demographics

The majority (181 persons, 71%) of those experiencing homelessness in the Tri-County CoC on the night of the count were adults over age 24. There were a total of 25 (9.8%) homeless young adults between 18 and 24 years old, and 49 (19.2%) children under 18 years old as well. Figure 4 shows that the majority of homeless children who were under the age of 18 were between 0 and 5 years of age (29, 59.2%). The age range most represented, with 53 persons and 20.8% of the total homeless population, was adults between 55 and 64. Just fewer than 40% of the homeless persons (101 persons, 39.6%) were between 45 and 44 years old.

Fig. 4. Age Range by Housing Situation
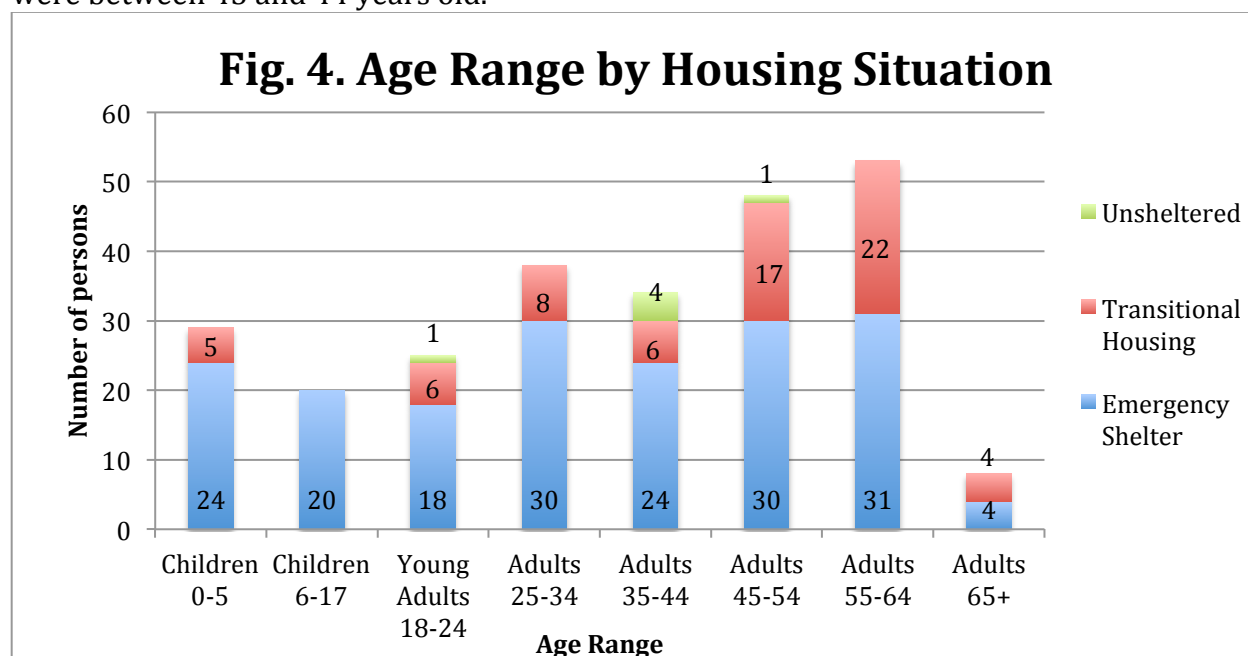
42.7% (109) of homeless respondents were female, 57.3% (146) were male.

71% 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 (25.1%), followed by those identifying as Pacific Islander or Hawaiian Native (1.6%), American Indian/Alaska Native (0.4%), and Asian (0.4%).

With regard to ethnicity, 16.1% of respondents identified themselves as Hispanic.
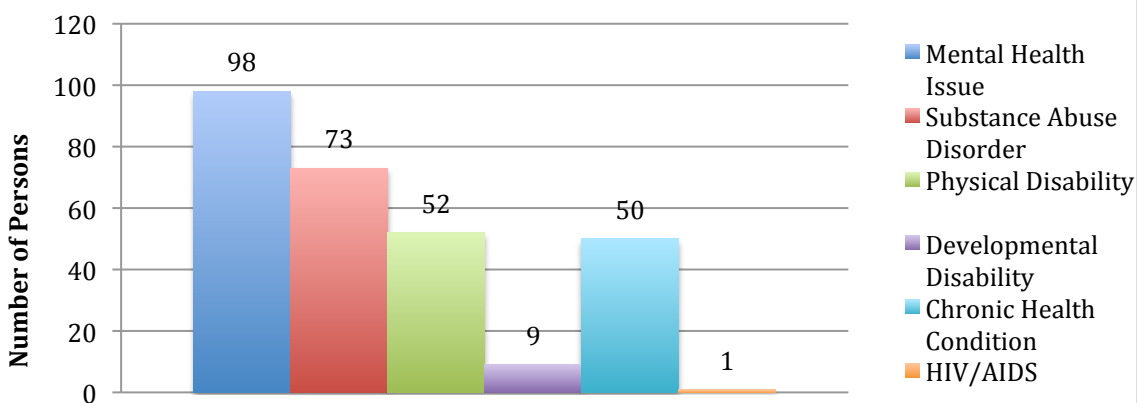
Disabilities

Figure 5 illustrates that 57% of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. 69.4% of adults 18 or older reported some type of disability compared to 6.1% of children. Figure 6 shows the number of the homeless persons that identified as having various disabilities. The most prevalent disabilities were mental health issues, chronic health conditions, and physical disabilities.

Fig. 5. Percentage of Population with a Disability

43%

57%

■ Disabled ■ No Disability
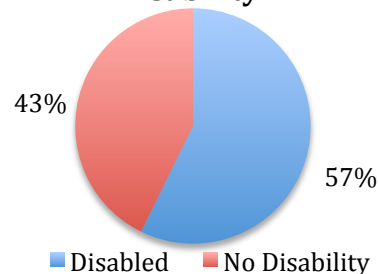
Among disabled adults, 67.8% reported mental health issues making this the most prevalent disability; representing 47.1% of the total adult homeless population. Among disabled homeless children, 100% reported a developmental disability (6.1% of all homeless children), and 33.3% reported a mental health issue.
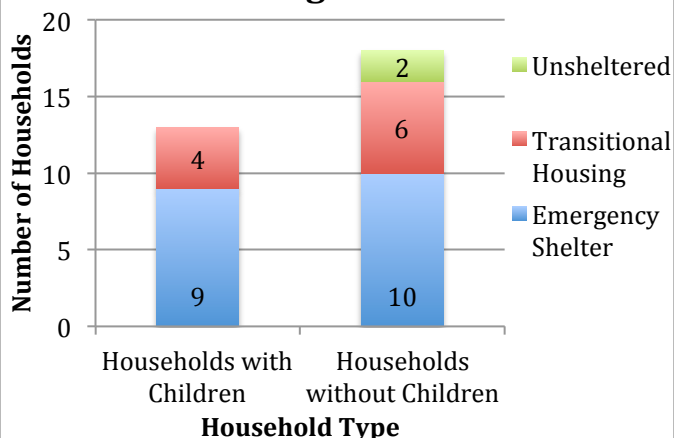
Fig. 6. Number of Persons by Disability Type

Number of Persons

- 98 — Mental Health Issue
- 73 — Substance Abuse Disorder
- 52 — Physical Disability
- 9 — Developmental Disability
- 50 — Chronic Health Condition
- 1 — HIV/AIDS

Victims of Domestic Violence

On the night of the count, in Tri-County CoC, 31 homeless households reported having a victim of domestic violence. Figure 7 shows that the majority (58.1%) of these households were adult-only households. 41.9% of victims (13) were in families with at least 1 adult and 1 child under the age of 18. 9 households, with 27 persons, were in domestic violence shelters, 10 victim households were in other emergency shelters.

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

Number of Households

Households with Children: Emergency Shelter 9, Transitional Housing 4

Households without Children: Emergency Shelter 10, Transitional Housing 6, Unsheltered 2

Household Type

■ Unsheltered ■ Transitional Housing ■ Emergency Shelter

Veterans

In its plan, *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has 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
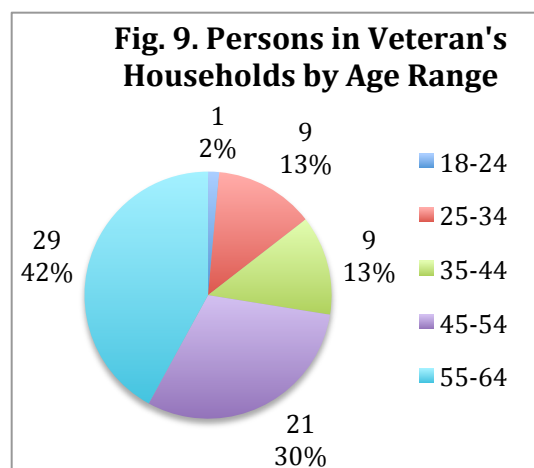
75 homeless veterans were counted on the night of the count, 14 more (23%) than 2014. All 75 were members of adult-only individual households. The largest contingent of homeless veterans was staying in transitional housing (58.7%). In addition, 31 were in emergency shelter (41.3%).

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

Of the veterans experiencing homelessness within the Tri-County CoC, 67 (89.3%) were male, and 8 (10.7%) were female. The most common racial background identified among them (42 veterans, 57.5%) was White, while 30 (41.1%) identified as Black or African-American. Figure 9 Illustrates the percentage of homeless veterans by age range.

7 homeless veterans also reported being victims of domestic violence. 67 of the 75 (89.3%) reported having some kind of disability. The most common disabilities cited among the disabled were mental health issues (64.2%), substance abuse disorders (56.7%), physical disabilities (33.3%), and chronic health conditions (33.3%). The three types of service that homeless veterans sought most were emergency shelter (86.7%), financial assistance for housing (54.7%), and mental health care (62.7%).

Income and Benefits

Among all households experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, 32.3% had no source of income, and 10.2% reported receiving some form of earned cash income. The other most common sources of cash income among homeless respondents were General Assistance (GA) (24.6%), SSI (9.2%), and Veteran's Disability (6.7%).
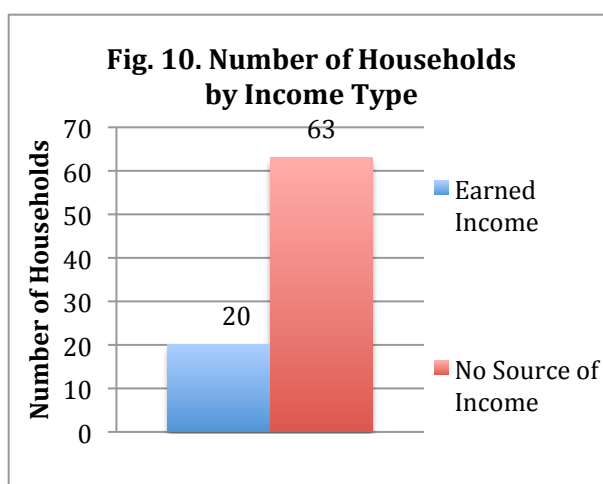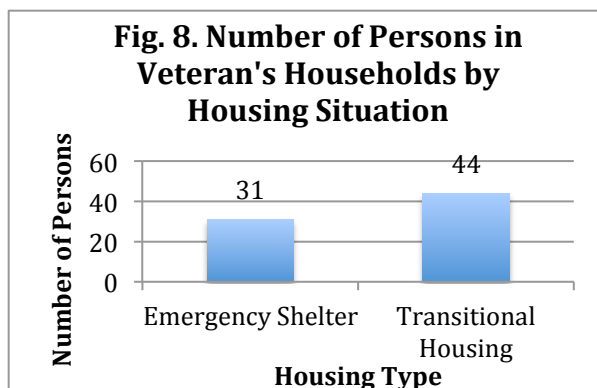
Fig. 10. Number of Households by Income Type

| Figure 11. Average Monthly Income For Households by Housing Situation			
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered
Average for All Households	$437.55	$843.53	$400.00

Figure 11 shows the average monthly income for all homeless households.

9.7% of respondents reported that their household was 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 46.7% of households. 42.5% were receiving Food Stamps, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and 34.9% were receiving VA Benefits.

Length of Homelessness

Figure 12 shows the range of lengths of homeless episodes experienced on the night of the count by households in the Tri-County CoC. 28 households (14.3%) reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted more than 1 year. 15.4% (30)

**Fig. 12. Length of Homelessness Among Households**

of all homeless households in the Tri-County CoC reported that they had been homeless between 6 months and 1 year.   In total, just fewer than 30% of all homeless households had been homeless more than 6 months on the night of the count. The largest number of households had been homeless between 1 month and 1 day and 3 months: 53 households, or 27%.
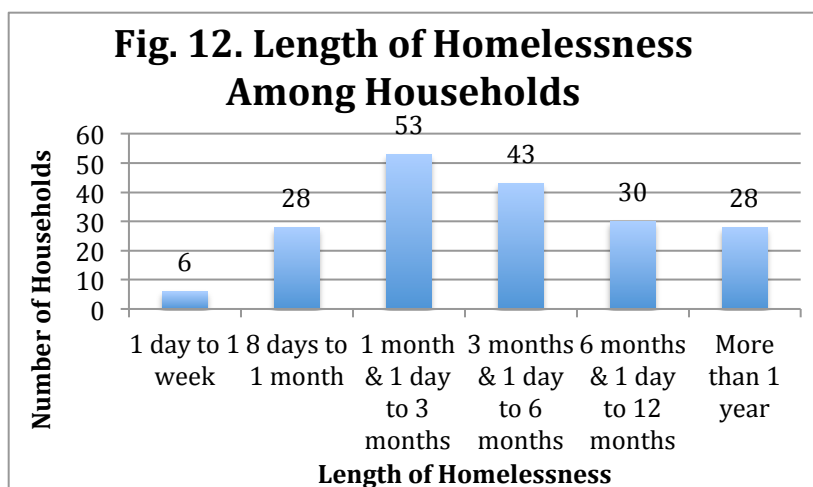
Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more respondents attributed their homelessness to being asked to leave a shared residence (34 households, 17.4%) than any other cause. As Figure 13 shows, the other common factors reported were a loss or reduction of job income or benefits (16.9%), drug or alcohol abuse (14.9%) and eviction (12.8%).

When homeless respondents were asked 'what was your residence prior to your current living situation?' more said they were residing in staying or living with friends or family (33.3%) than any other type of residence. 15.4% reported staying in emergency shelter, and 15.7% reported staying in permanent housing prior to their current living situation.

Fig. 13. Cause of Homelessness by Household
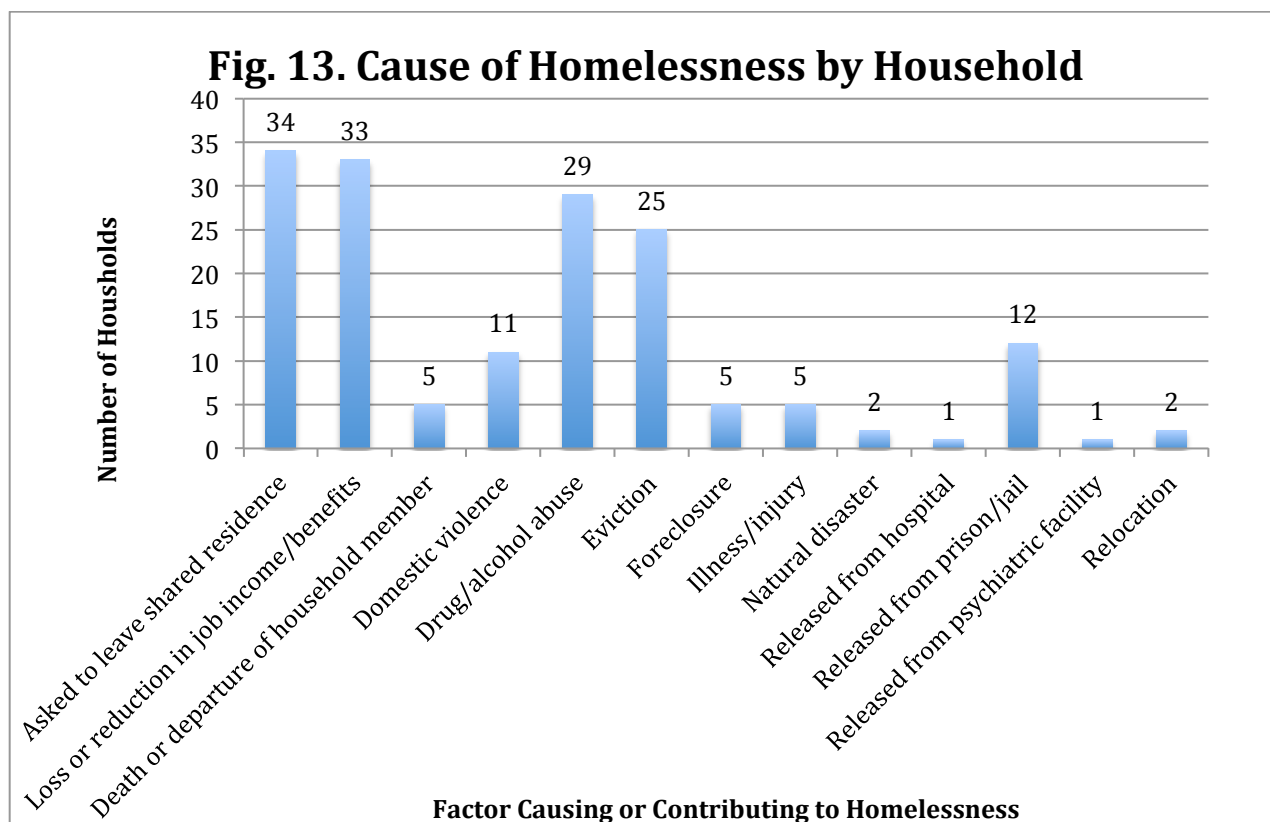
IV. Findings for the Chronically Homeless

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.

In 2010, USICH established the goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2015. 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

29 households, made up of 38 total persons, were chronically homeless in the Tri-County CoC, according to the 2015 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 13 persons (25.5%) from 2014. With the decrease, the rate of chronic homelessness as a percentage of overall homelessness dropped from 18.2% to 14.9%.

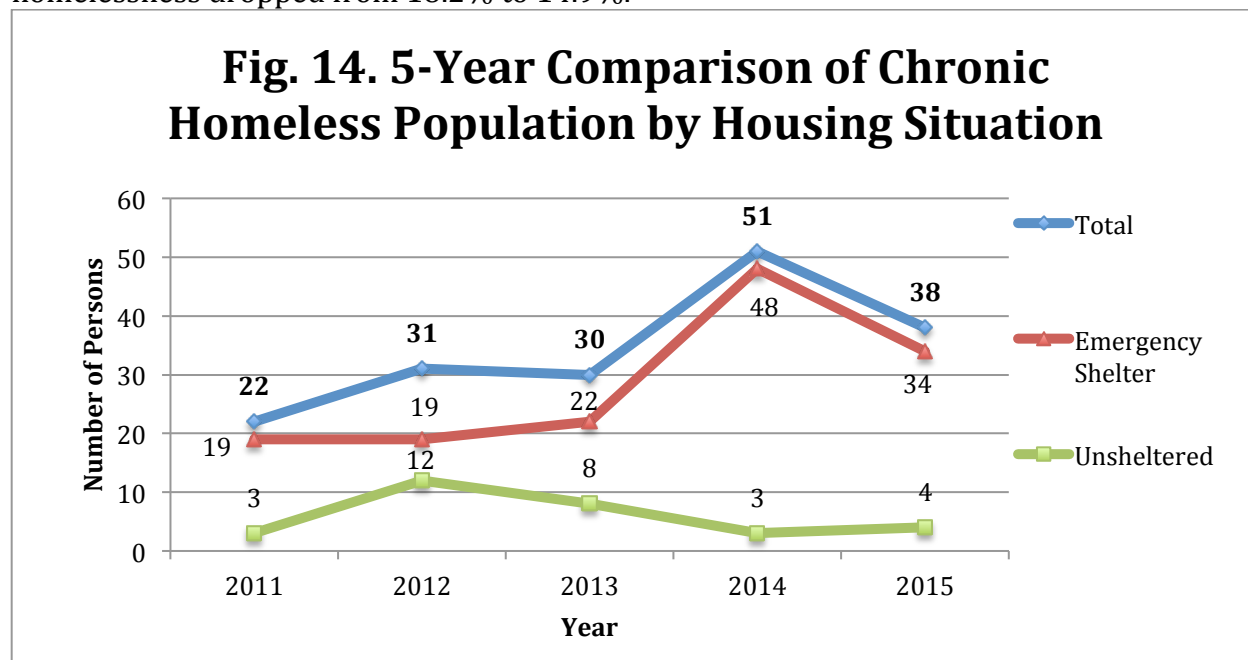**Fig. 14. 5-Year Comparison of Chronic Homeless Population by Housing Situation**

Figure 14 shows the number of chronically homeless respondents who were in emergency shelter or living unsheltered in the Tri-County CoC from 2011 to 2015. Over the past five years, the overall number of chronically homeless persons counted has increased by 72.7%. The numbers of unsheltered chronically homeless persons have fluctuated during this period, but in 2015 was only up by 1 person (33.3%) from 2014.

Families and Individuals

Of the 29 chronically homeless households counted in 2015, 3 (10.3%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. The average family size was 3.0 persons, and there were 9 total persons in families that all stayed in an emergency shelter on the night of the count.

**Fig. 15. Chronically Homeless Households Type by Housing Situation**
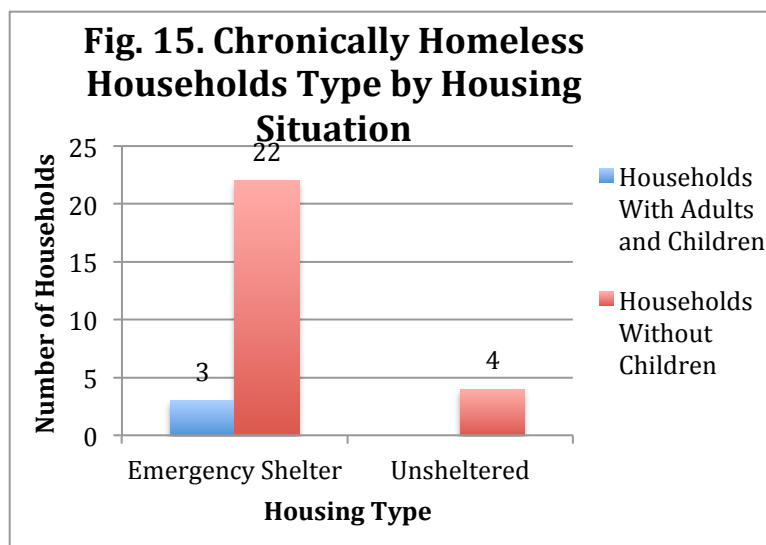
There were 29 chronically homeless persons in 26 households with no children 17 or younger counted in the Tri-County CoC, making up 68.4% of the chronically homeless population. There were 22 (84.6%) of these households in emergency shelters, and 4 (15.4%) were unsheltered on the night of the count.

Demographics

Of the 38 total chronically homeless persons, 6 (15.8%) were children 17 or younger. The age range with the highest concentration of chronically homeless persons was adults between 45 and 54 years old, which had 11 persons (28.9%). Figure 16 shows all the numbers of unsheltered chronically homeless persons by age range.

Fig. 16. Chronically Homeless Age Range by Housing Situation

Legend: Unsheltered, Emergency Shelter

Data (Number of Persons by Age Range):
- Children (0-5): 1 (Emergency Shelter)
- Children (6-17): 5 (Emergency Shelter)
- Young Adults: 1 (Unsheltered)
- Adults (25-34): 5 (Emergency Shelter)
- Adults (35-44): 5 (Emergency Shelter), 2 (Unsheltered)
- Adults (45-54): 10 (Emergency Shelter), 1 (Unsheltered)
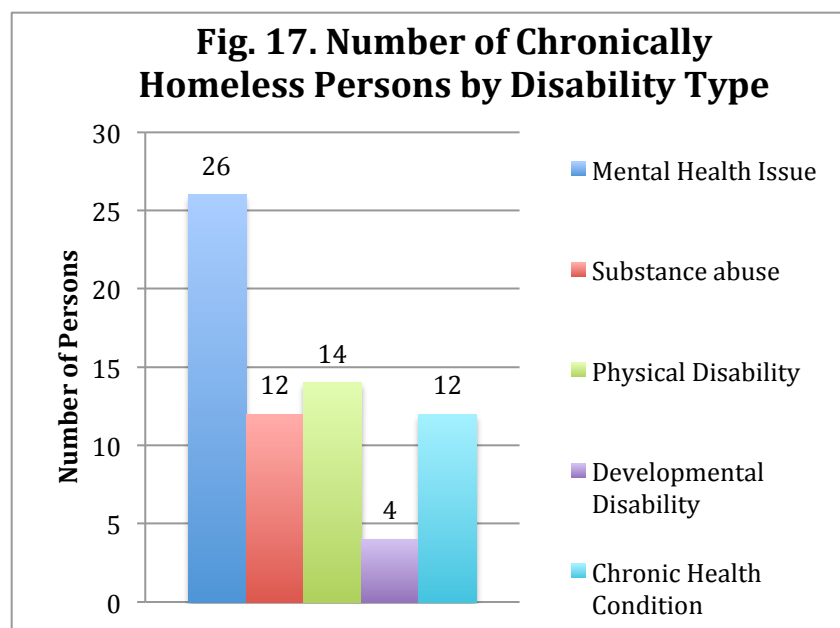- Adults (55-64): 8 (Emergency Shelter)
- Adults 65+: 0

55.3% of those counted as chronically homeless were male, and 44.7% were female.

The largest racial subgroup of homeless persons reported their race as White (81.6%), and the next largest group self-identified as Black or African-American (15.8%). 7.9% identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.
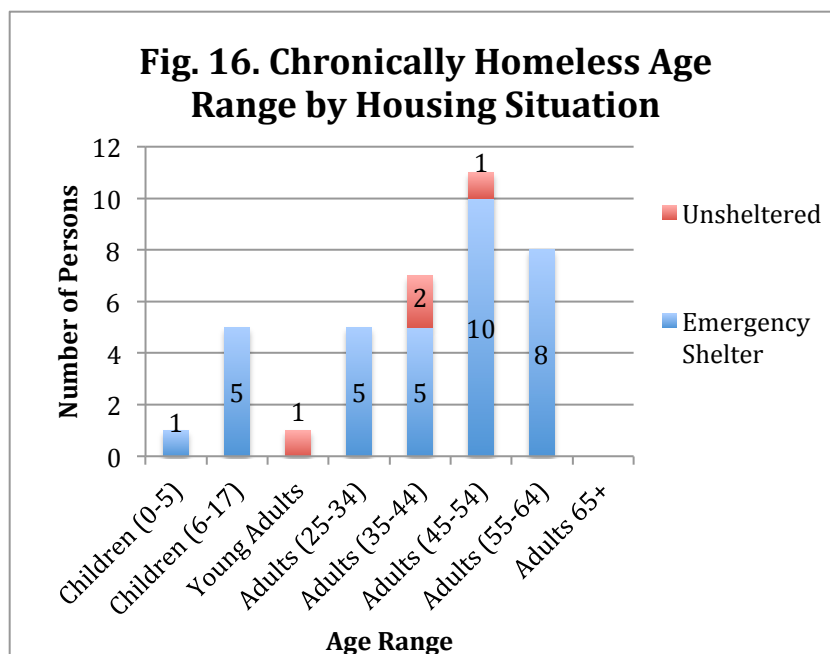
Disabilities

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 (68.4%) and physical disabilities (36.8%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities can be seen in Figure 17.

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

Data (Number of Persons):
- Mental Health Issue: 26
- Substance abuse: 12
- Physical Disability: 14
- Developmental Disability: 4
- Chronic Health Condition: 12

Subpopulations

On the night of the count, 7 chronically homeless households in the Tri-County CoC reported being victims of domestic violence (26.9%). 4 were adult-only households, 2 were staying in emergency shelters and 2 were unsheltered. 3 chronically homeless victim households were families with nine total persons.

There were 3 chronically homeless veterans identified on the night of the count. All of these were single, adult individuals who were staying in emergency shelters.

Income and Benefits

Among all the chronically homeless households on the night of the count, 13.7% reported receiving no type of cash income. Figure 18 shows the sources of income received. The most common source of cash income among chronically homeless respondents was General Assistance, which was received by 37.9%. No households reported any earned income.

Fig. 18. Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Income Source
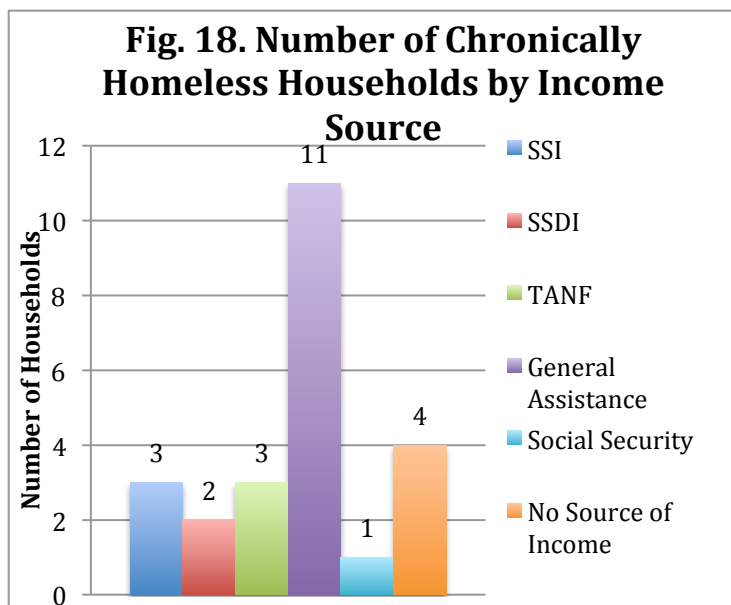
3.4% of chronically homeless households reported they were not receiving any type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps (SNAP) was the top reported non-cash benefit among the chronically homeless, with 82.7% receiving this benefit. 75.8% were receiving Medicaid.

Length of Homelessness

Figure 19 shows that 41.4% of chronically homeless households reported the length of their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had been homeless more than 1 year, which was the most reported length.
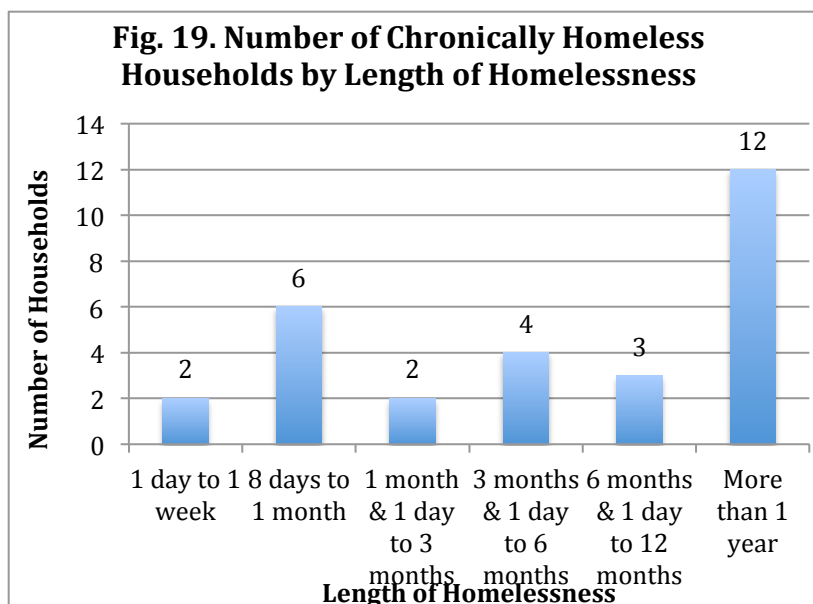
Fig. 19. Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Length of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more (20.6%) of chronically homeless households cited being asked to leave a shared residence than any other.

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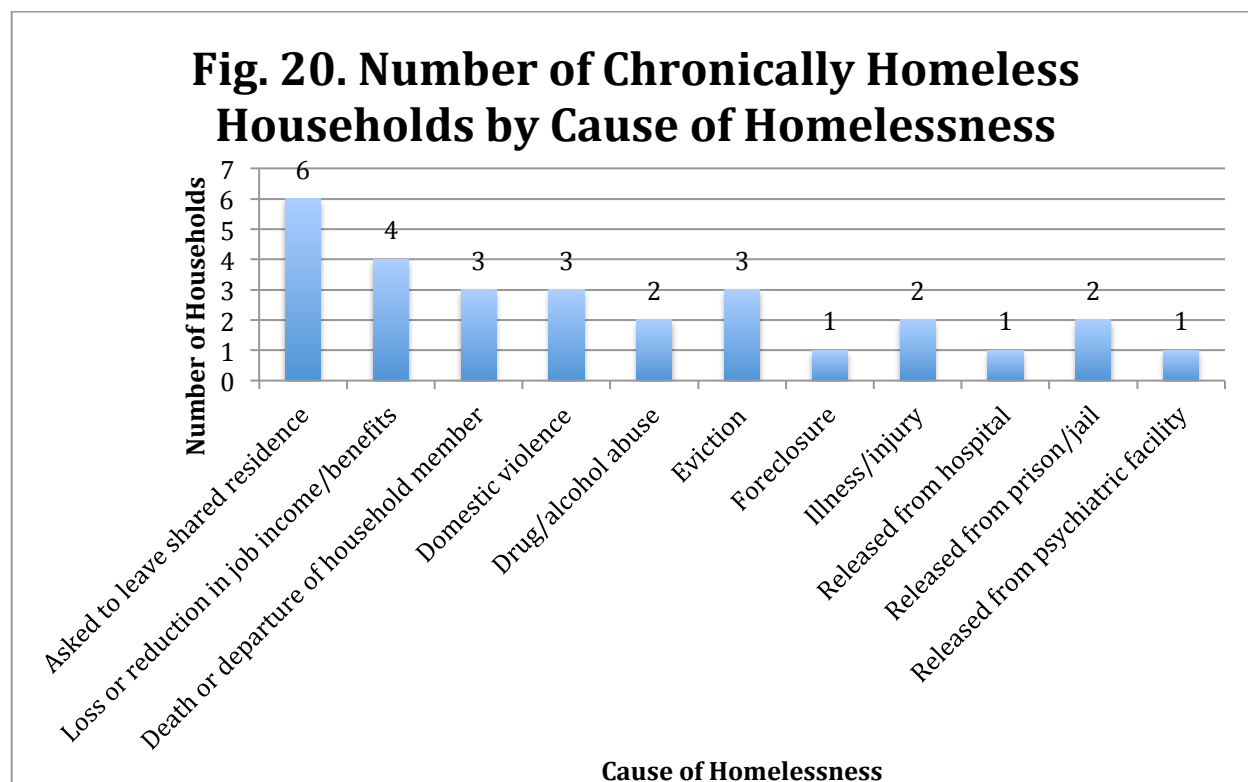
V. Findings for the Unsheltered Homeless

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

6 households, made up of 6 persons, were living unsheltered in the Tri-County CoC, according to the 2015 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 6 households (50%), and 7 persons (53.8%) from 2015.

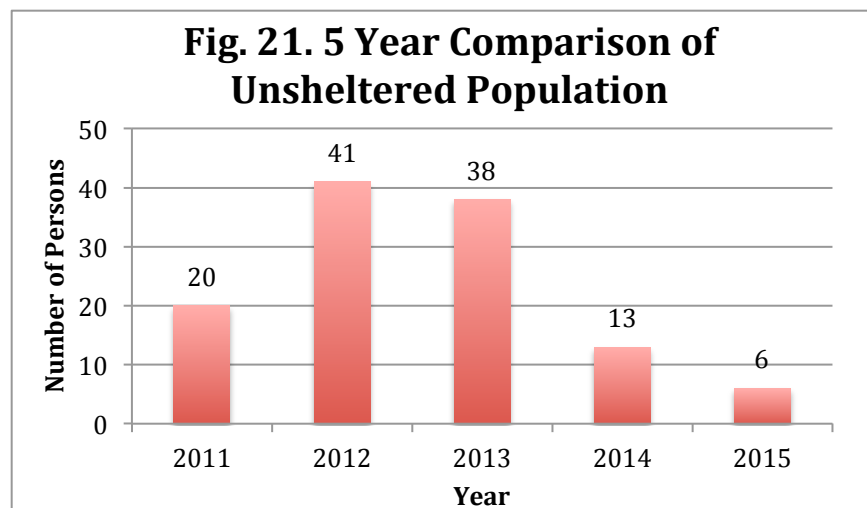### Fig. 21. 5 Year Comparison of Unsheltered Population

Figure 21 shows the number of unsheltered persons from 2011 to 2015. Despite the fluctuations over the past five years, the numbers have gone down overall. Since 2011, the number of unsheltered homeless persons has dropped by 14 persons (70%) in the Tri-County CoC.

Families and Individuals

There were 0 unsheltered families with at least 1 adult and 1 child, counted in 2015.

All 6 of the unsheltered households counted had only adults (50% fewer than 2014).

Demographics

The largest portion of the 6 unsheltered persons counted in 2016, 66.6%, was between 35 and 44 years old. 16.7% were between 45 and 54. 1 (16.7%) was a youth under the age of 24 but over 18.

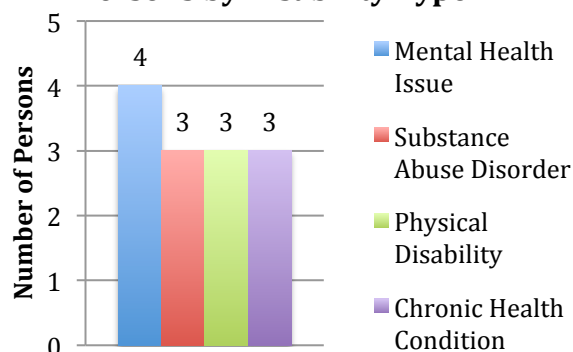5 of the 6 unsheltered persons were male (83.3%). Half identified their race as White and 2 (33.3%) identified as

Fig. 22. Age Range of Unsheltered Homeless

Black or African-American. 2 (33.3%) of unsheltered respondents identified as Hispanic.
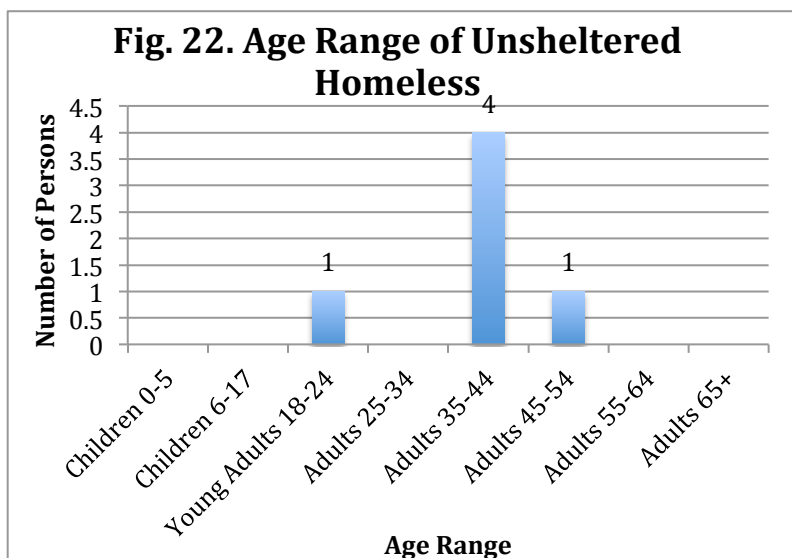
Disabilities

4 of the 6 unsheltered persons (66.7%) reported having some disability. The disability most commonly identified was mental health issues (4 persons, 66.7%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the unsheltered can be seen in Figure 23.

Fig. 23. Number of Unsheltered Persons by Disability Type

Legend: Mental Health Issue, Substance Abuse Disorder, Physical Disability, Chronic Health Condition

Values: Mental Health Issue = 4, Substance Abuse Disorder = 3, Physical Disability = 3, Chronic Health Condition = 3

Subpopulations

On the night of the count, 2 unsheltered homeless persons 33.3%) within the Tri-County CoC reported being a victim of domestic violence. These were single, adult individuals.

There were 0 unsheltered veterans identified on the night of the count.

Income and Benefits

Among all the unsheltered households on the night of the count, 1 (16.7%) reported having no source of cash income, while a number also did not answer questions about income. The average monthly income reported among unsheltered households was approximately $400. 16.7% of unsheltered households received General Assistance (GA), making it the most common source of cash income. Figure 24 shows all the sources of income reported.

Fig. 24. Number of Unsheltered Households by Income Source

General Assistance = 1, No Source of Income = 1
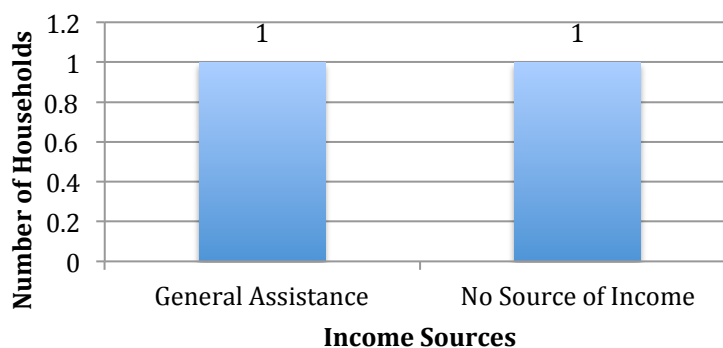
1 unsheltered household (16.7%) reported they were not receiving any type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps (SNAP) and was the top reported non-cash benefits among this group, with 83.3% receiving this benefit. In addition, 66.7% were receiving Medicaid and 16.7% were receiving Medicare.
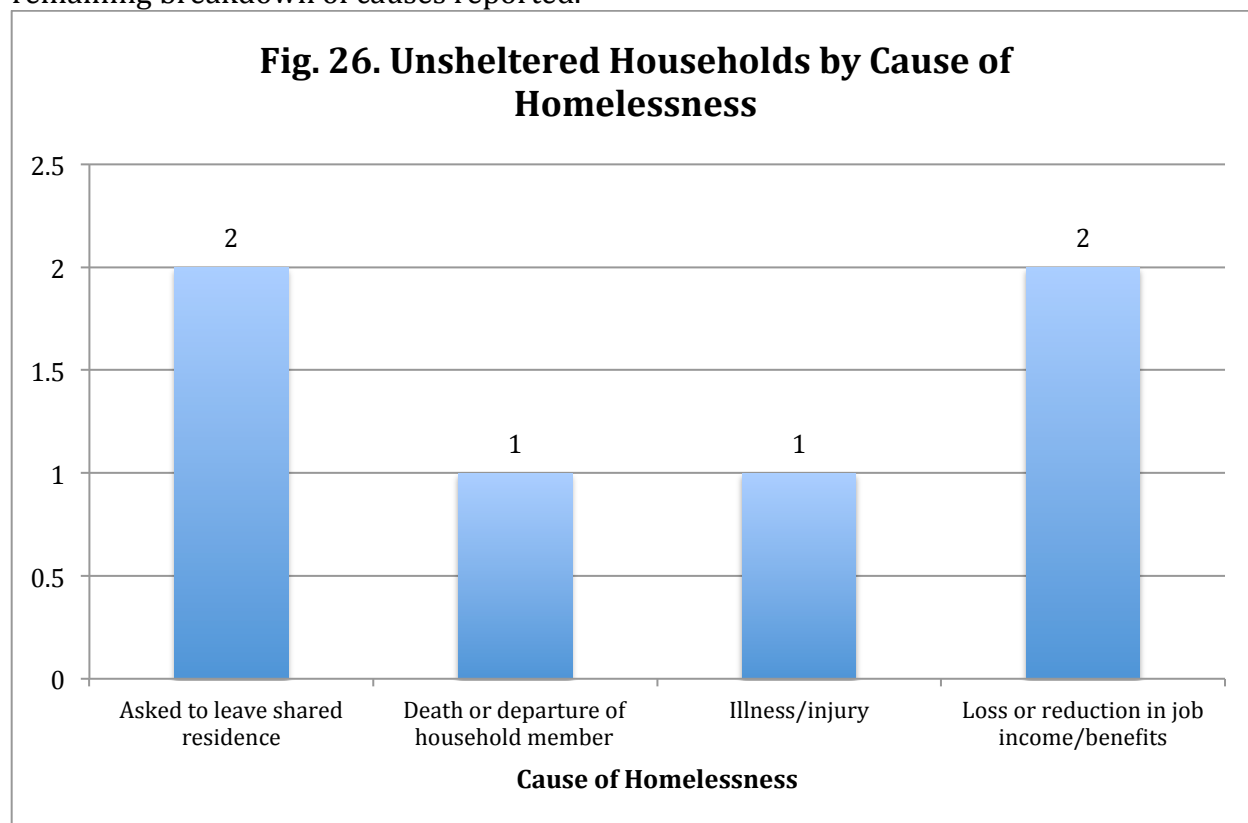
Length of Homelessness

As shown in Figure 25, more 3 unsheltered homeless households (33.3%) reported their households' most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted more than 1 year. The lengths of homelessness reported by all households may be found in Figure 25.
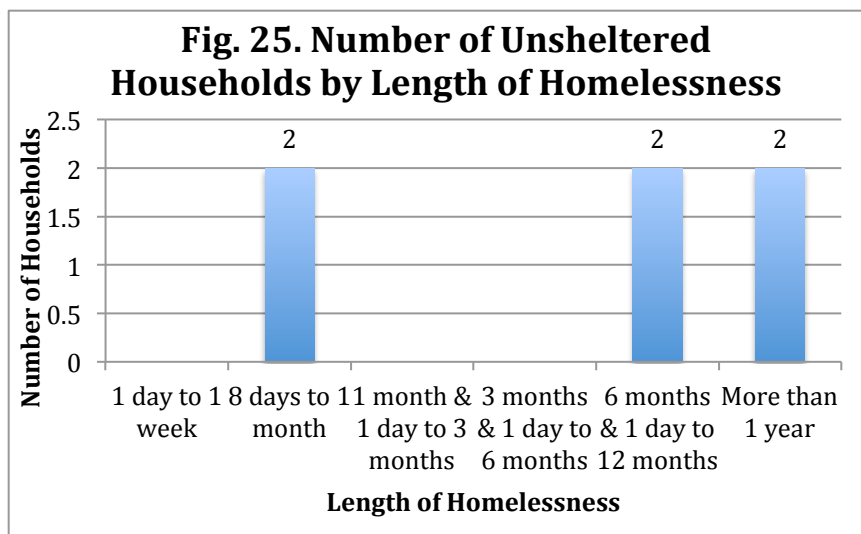
Fig. 25. Number of Unsheltered Households by Length of Homelessness

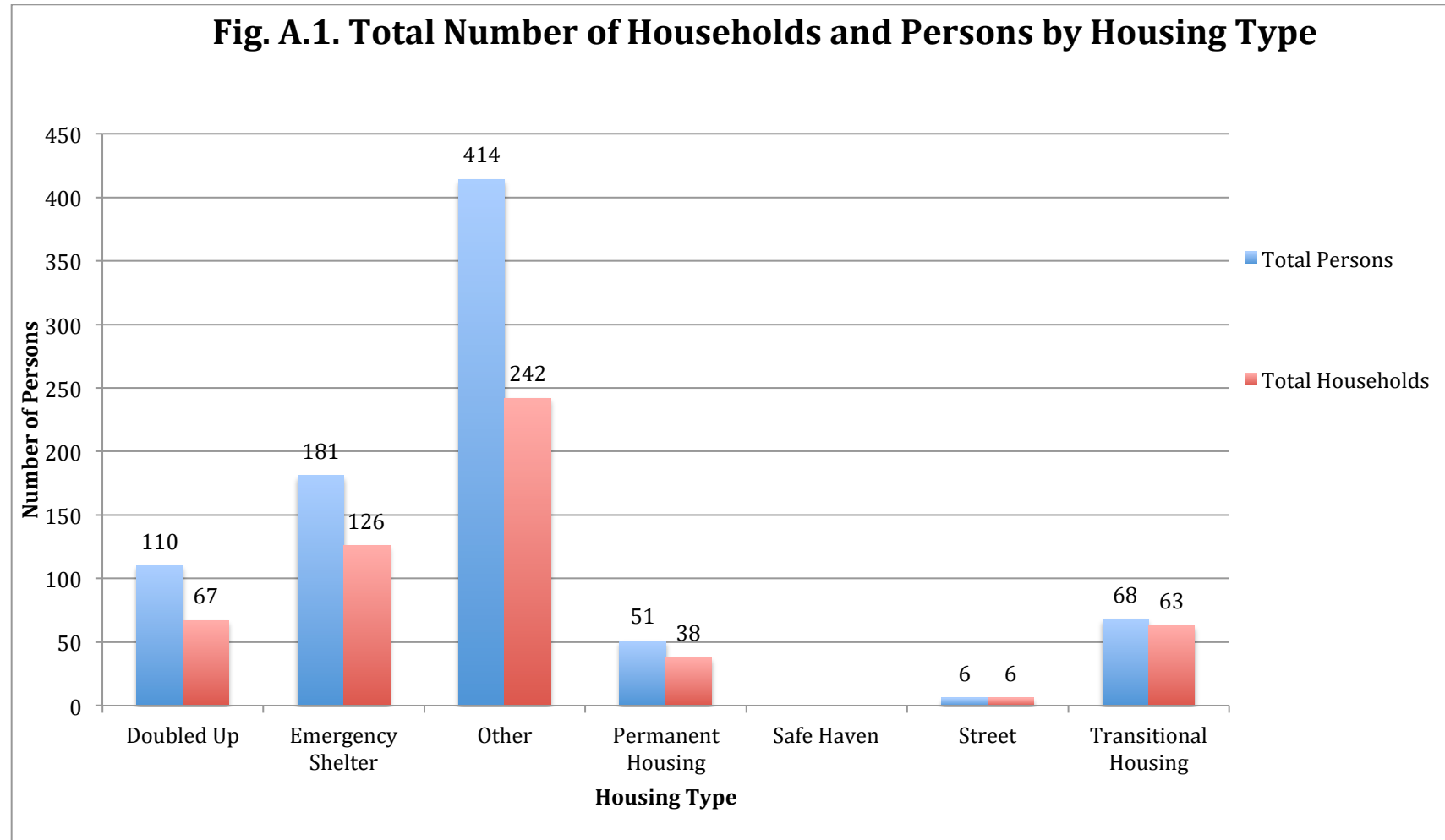## Cause of Homelessness

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 (33.3%) and being asked to leave a shared residence than any other factors. Below, Figure 26 shows the remaining breakdown of causes reported.
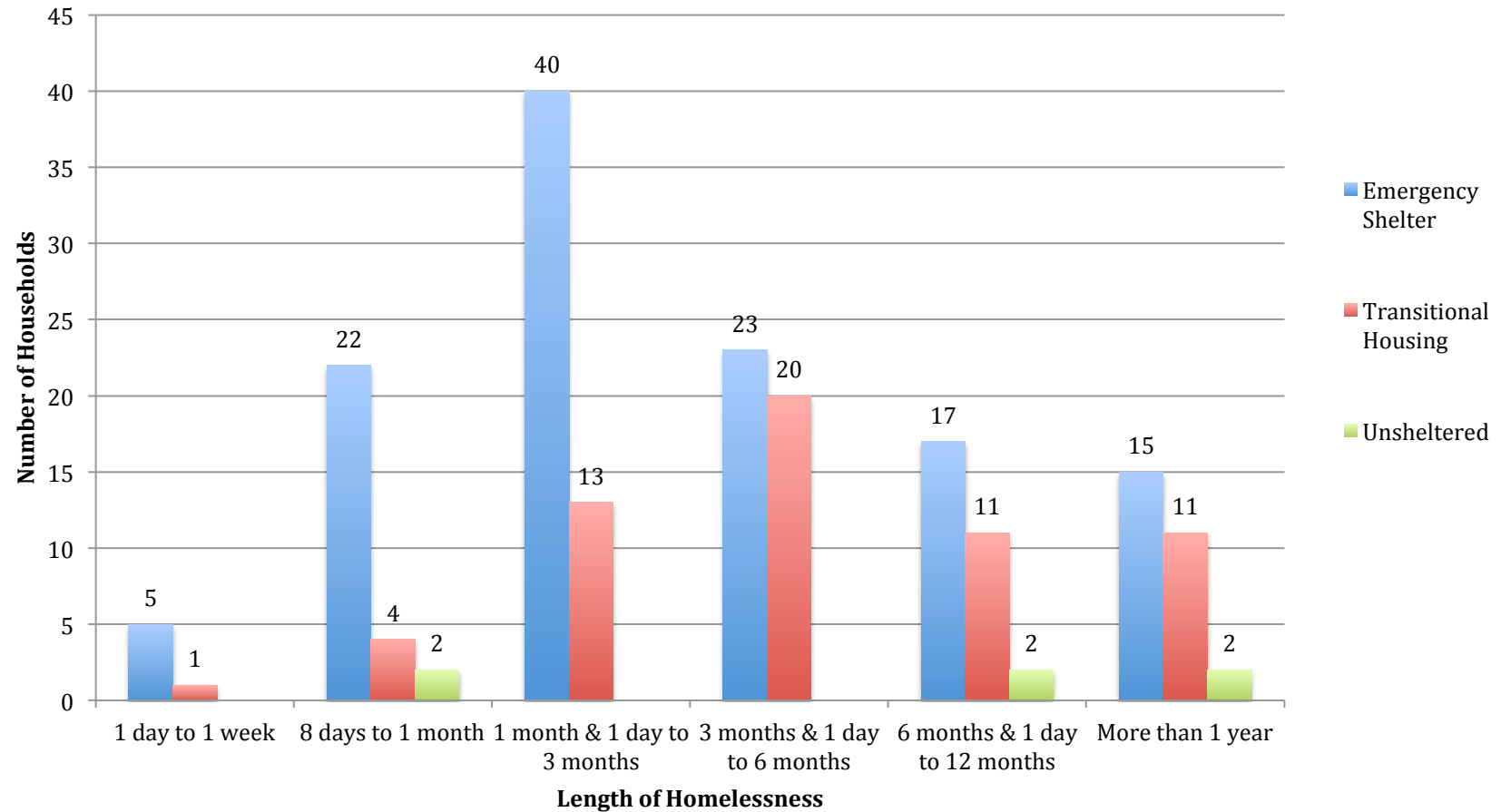
Fig. 26. Unsheltered Households by Cause of Homelessness

VI. Appendix

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

Fig. A.1. Total Number of 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

Number of Households (Y-axis, scale 0 to 45)

Length of Homelessness (X-axis)

Length of Homelessness	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered
1 day to 1 week	5	1	
8 days to 1 month	22	4	2
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	40	13	
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	23	20	
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	17	11	2
More than 1 year	15	11	2

Who was homeless with you on the night of January 27th?

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

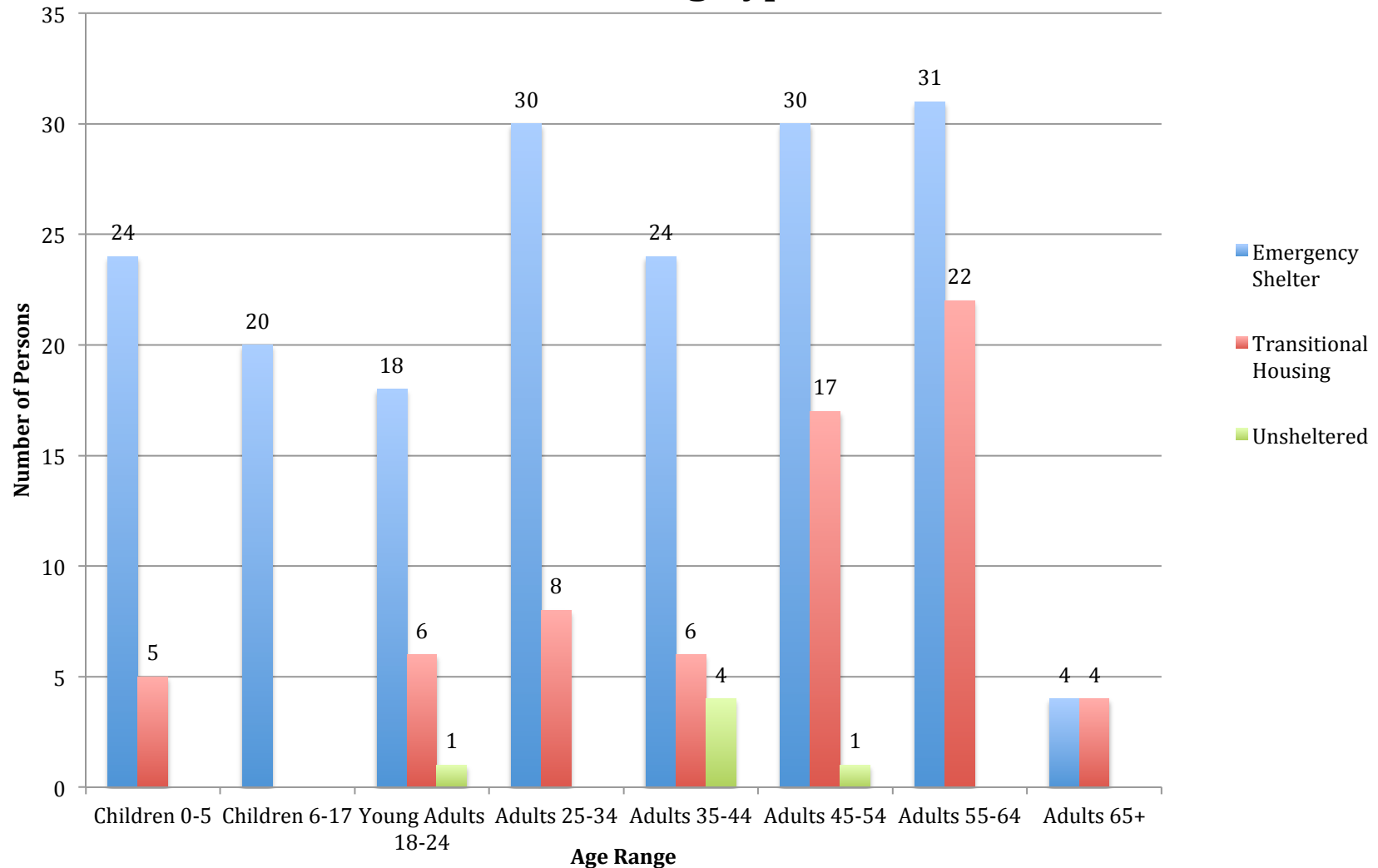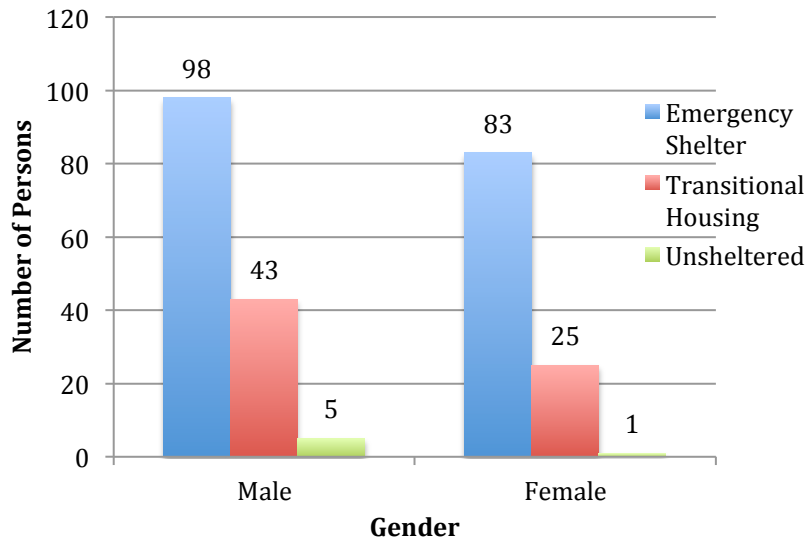## Fig. A.4. Number of Homeless Persons by Gender and Housing Situation

Number of Persons

- 98 (Male, Emergency Shelter)
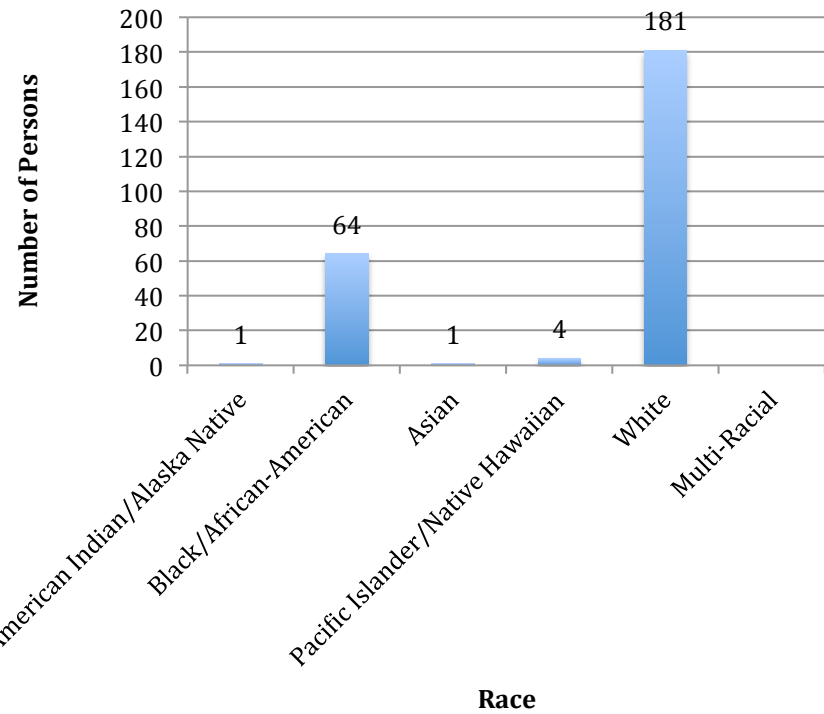- 43 (Male, Transitional Housing)
- 5 (Male, Unsheltered)
- 83 (Female, Emergency Shelter)
- 25 (Female, Transitional Housing)
- 1 (Female, Unsheltered)

Legend:
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Unsheltered

Gender

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

Number of Persons

- American Indian/Alaska Native: 1
- Black/African-American: 64
- Asian: 1
- Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian: 4
- White: 181
- Multi-Racial

Race

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

Number of Persons

- Hispanic: 41
- Non-Hispanic: 213

Ethnicity
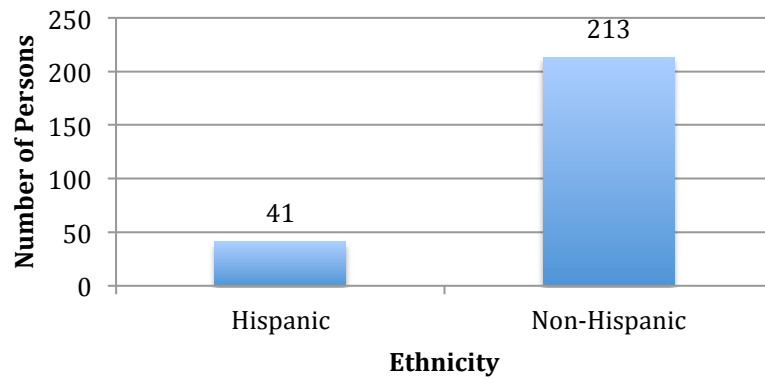
Household Characteristics – check all that apply to each person

Fig. A.7. Number of Homeless Persons by Victims of Domestic Violence, Veteran Status, and Disability

Bar chart. Y-axis: Number of Persons (0 to 120). X-axis: Individual Characteristics/Disability.

- Victims of Domestic Violence: 54
- Veterans: 75
- Mental Health Issue: 98
- Substance Abuse Disorder: 73
- Physical Disability: 52
- Developmental Disability: 9
- Chronic Health Condition: 50
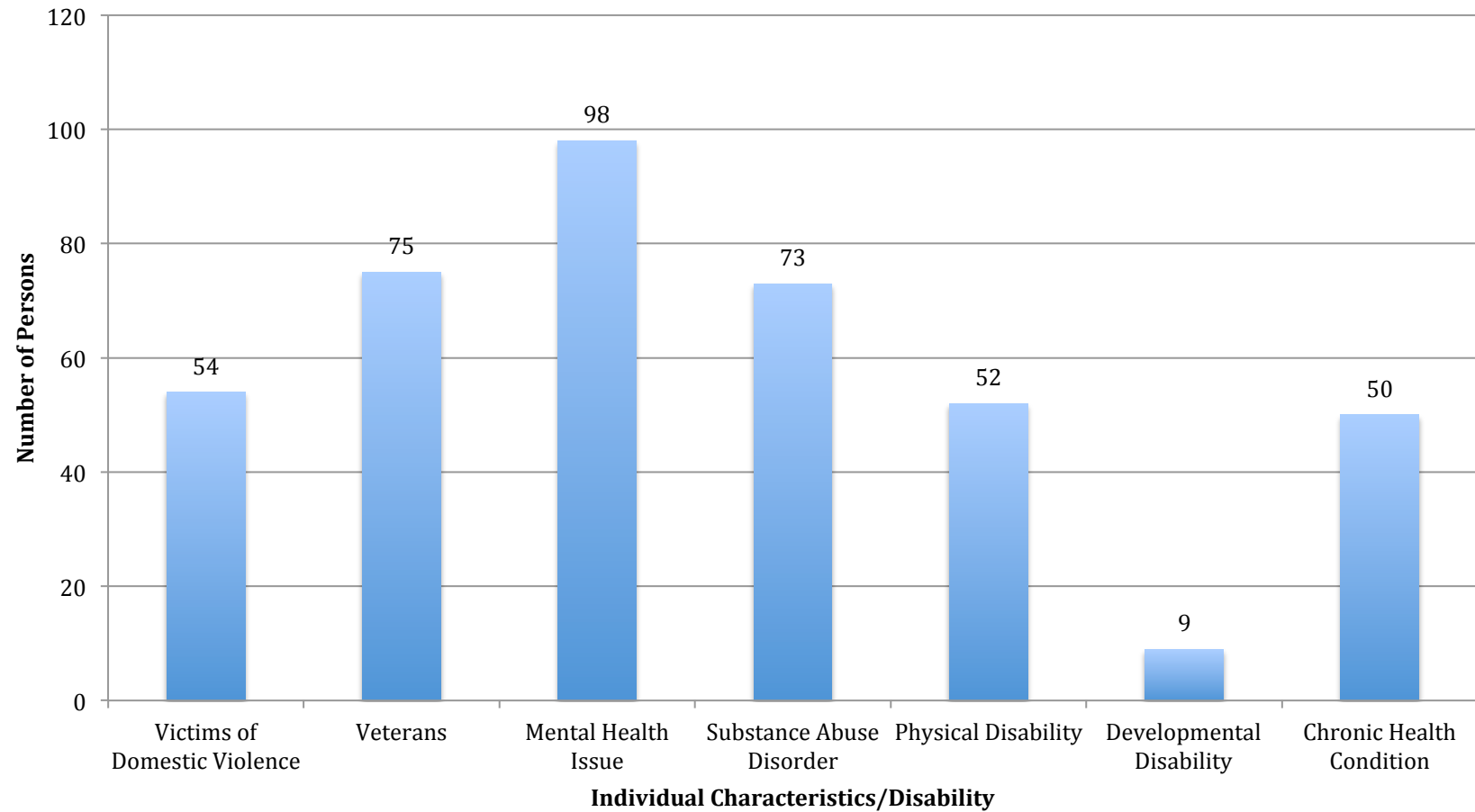
Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?

Fig. A.8. Number of Homeless Households by County or State of Last Permanent Address	
Last Permanent Address – County/State	Number of Households
Essex County	9
Hudson County	3
Hunterdon County	**40**
Mercer	1
Middlesex County	3
Monmouth County	2
Morris County	2
New York	2
Ocean County	3
Passaic County	2
Pennsylvania	1
Somerset County	6
Sussex County	**26**
Union County	2
Warren County	**41**

What was your residence prior to your current living situation?

Fig. A.9. Number of Homeless Households by Prior Residence
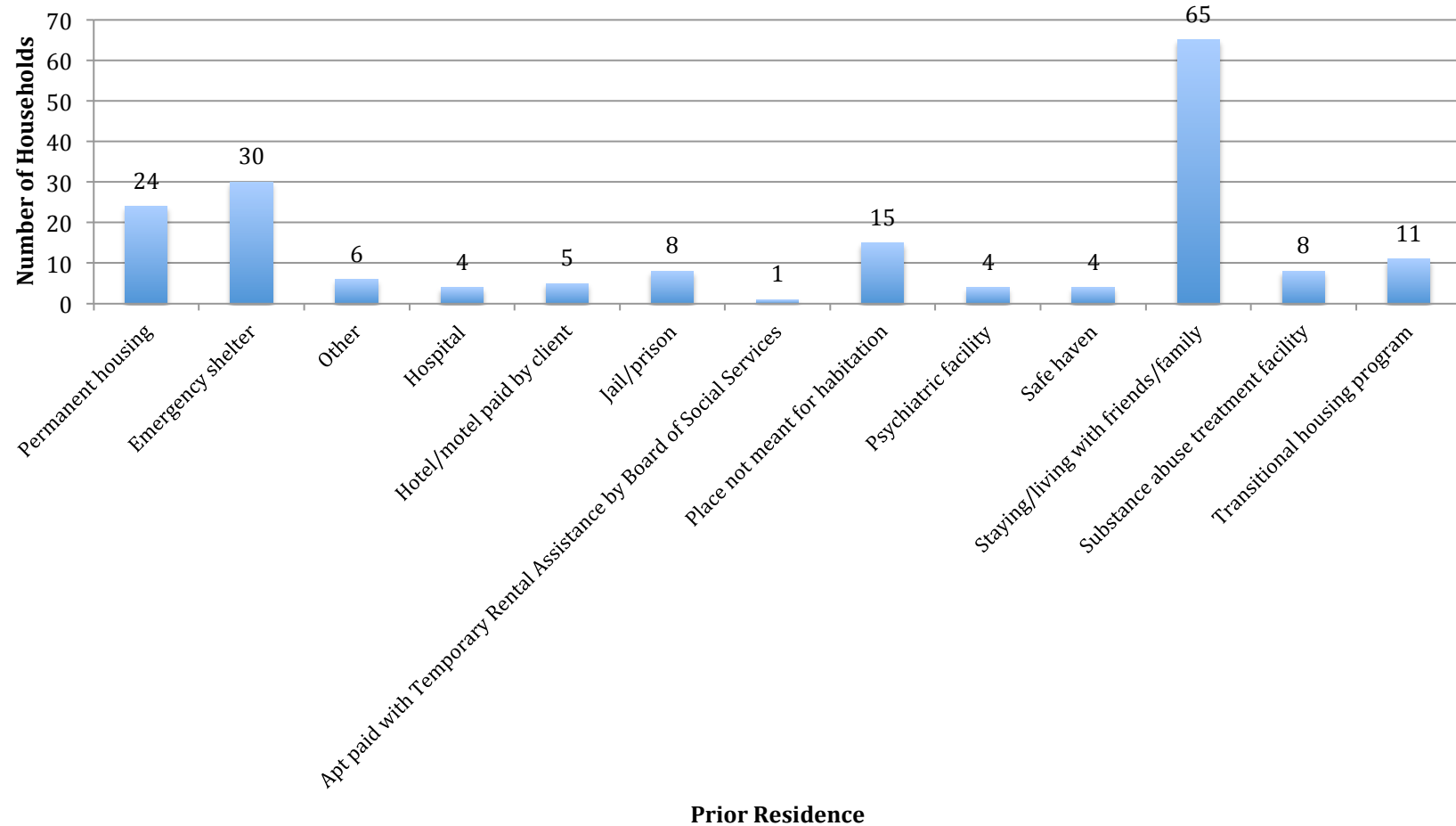
Which of the following sources of income or non-cash benefits do you, or anyone in your household, receive?

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

Bar chart showing Number of Households (y-axis, 0–70) by Income Sources (x-axis):

- SSI: 18
- SSDI: 11
- TANF: 11
- General Assistance: 48
- Unemployment: 3
- Earned Income: 20
- Child Support: 1
- Social Security: 4
- Veteran's Disability: 13
- Pension from a former job: 2
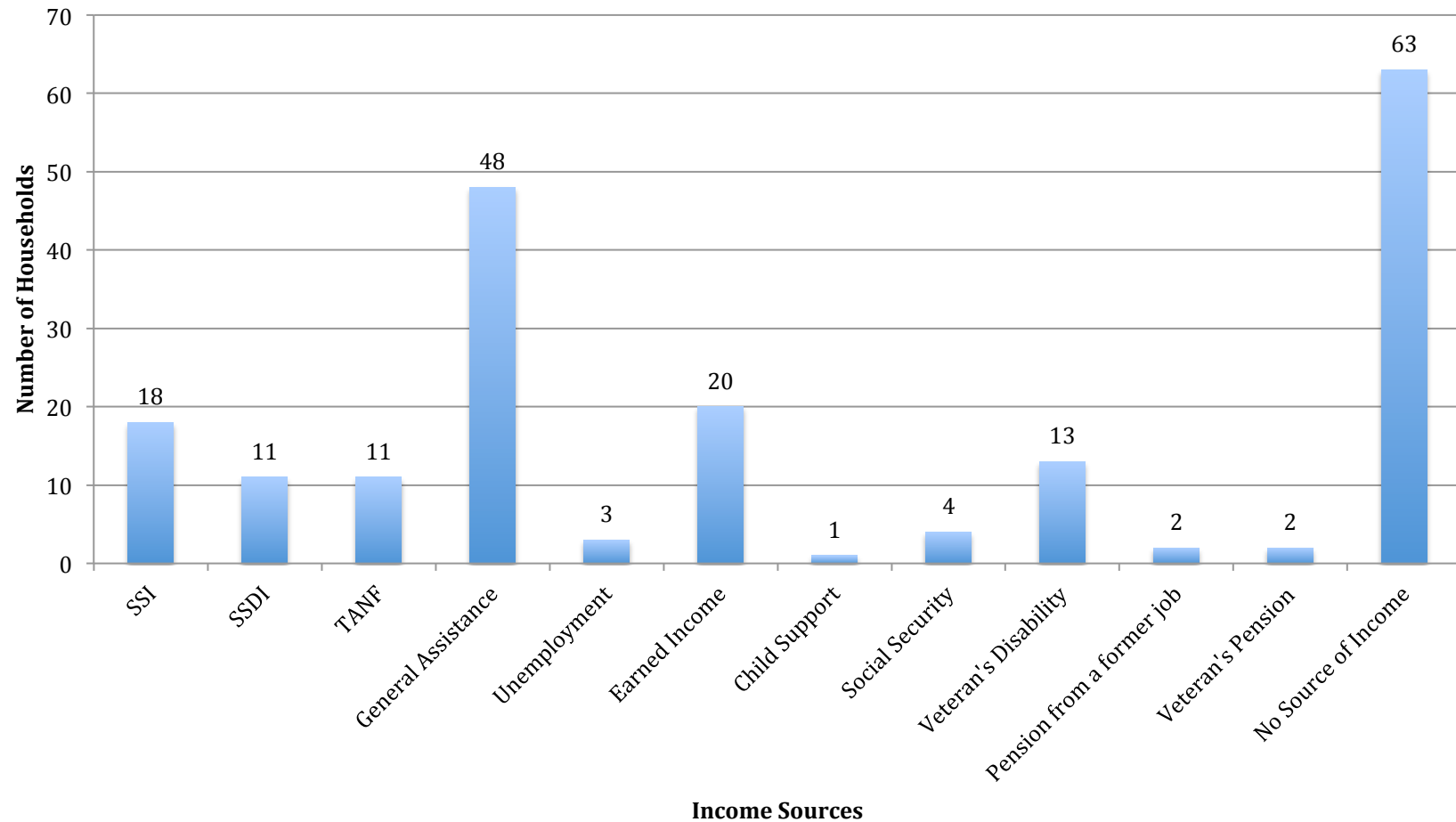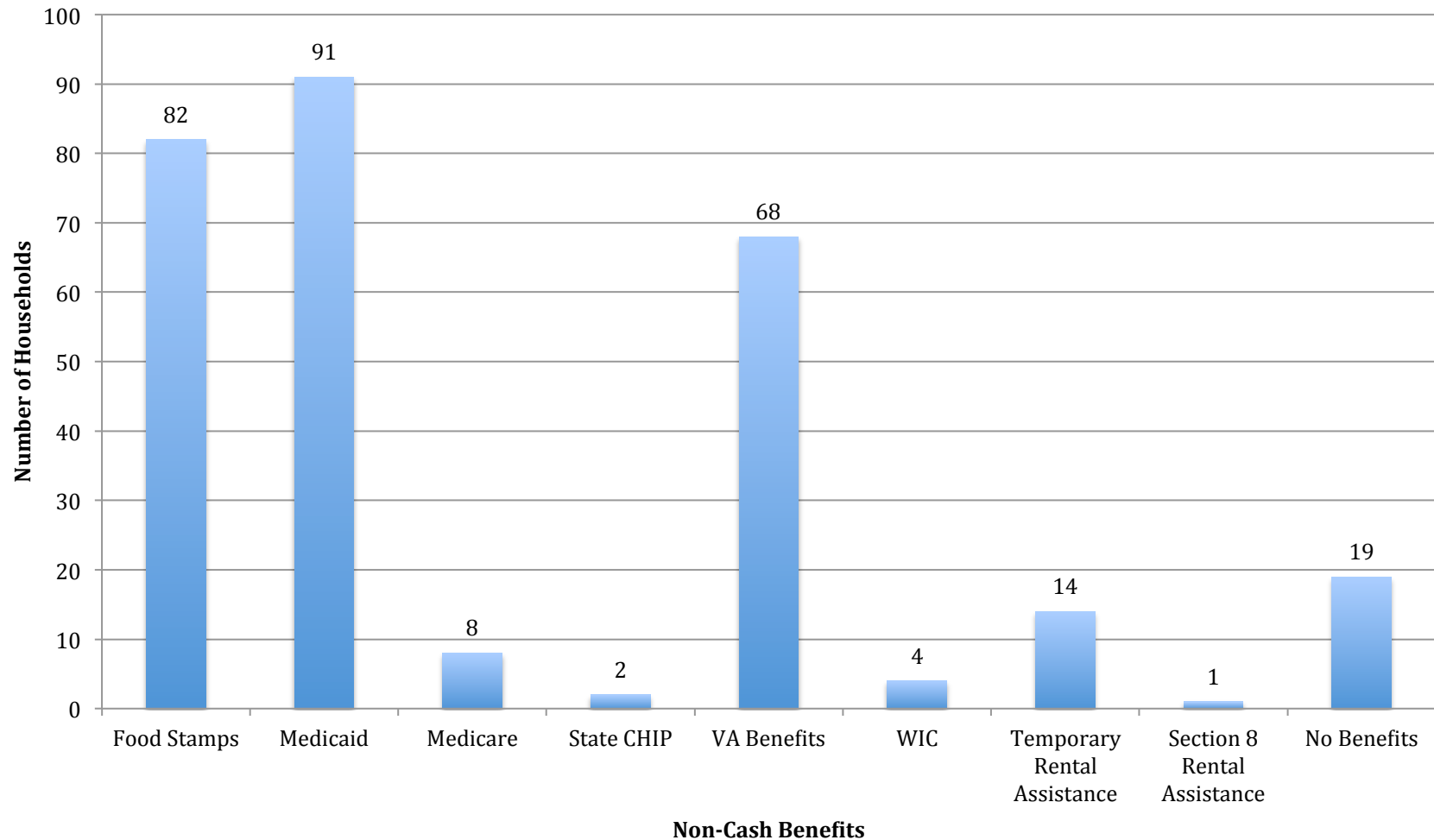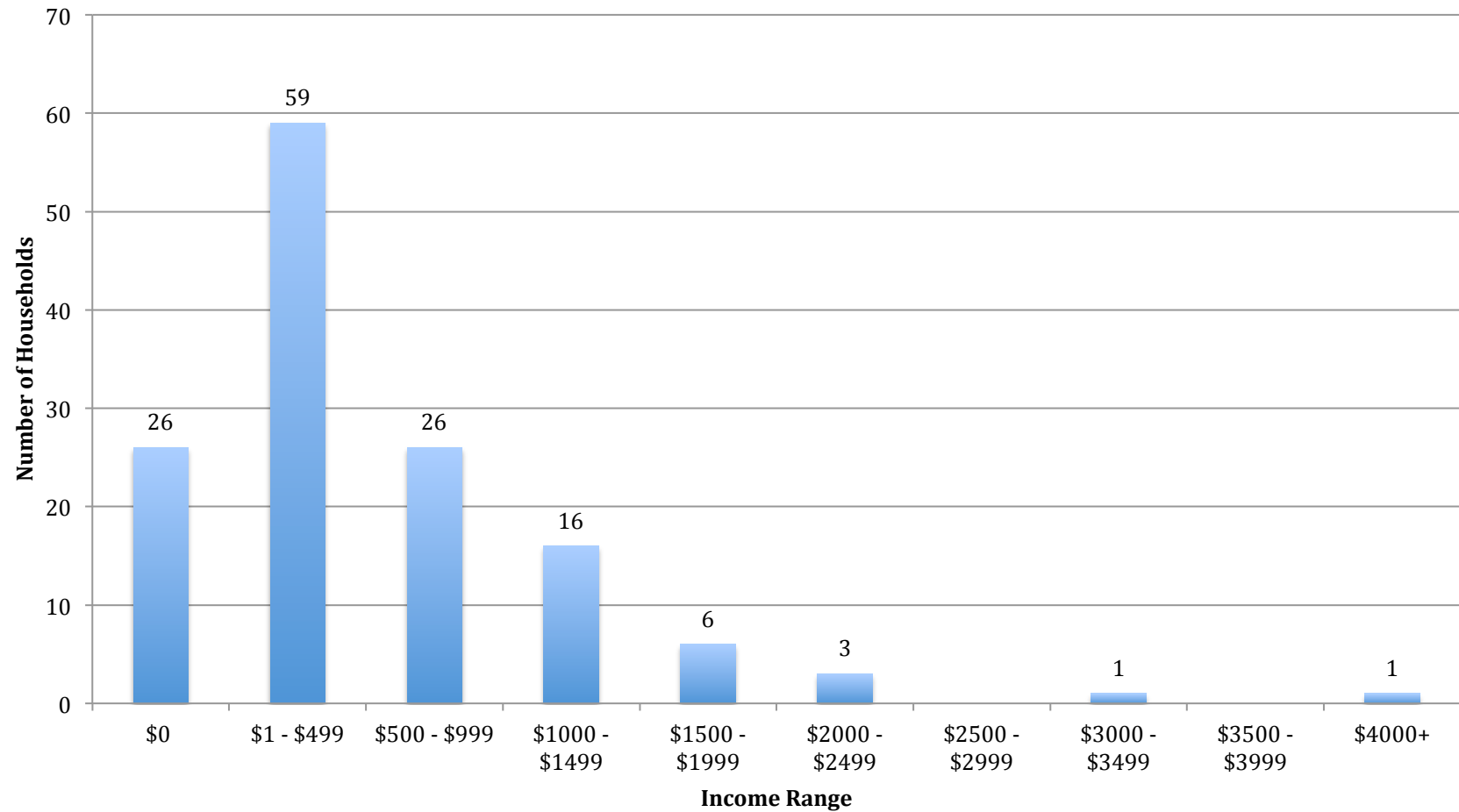- Veteran's Pension: 2
- No Source of Income: 63

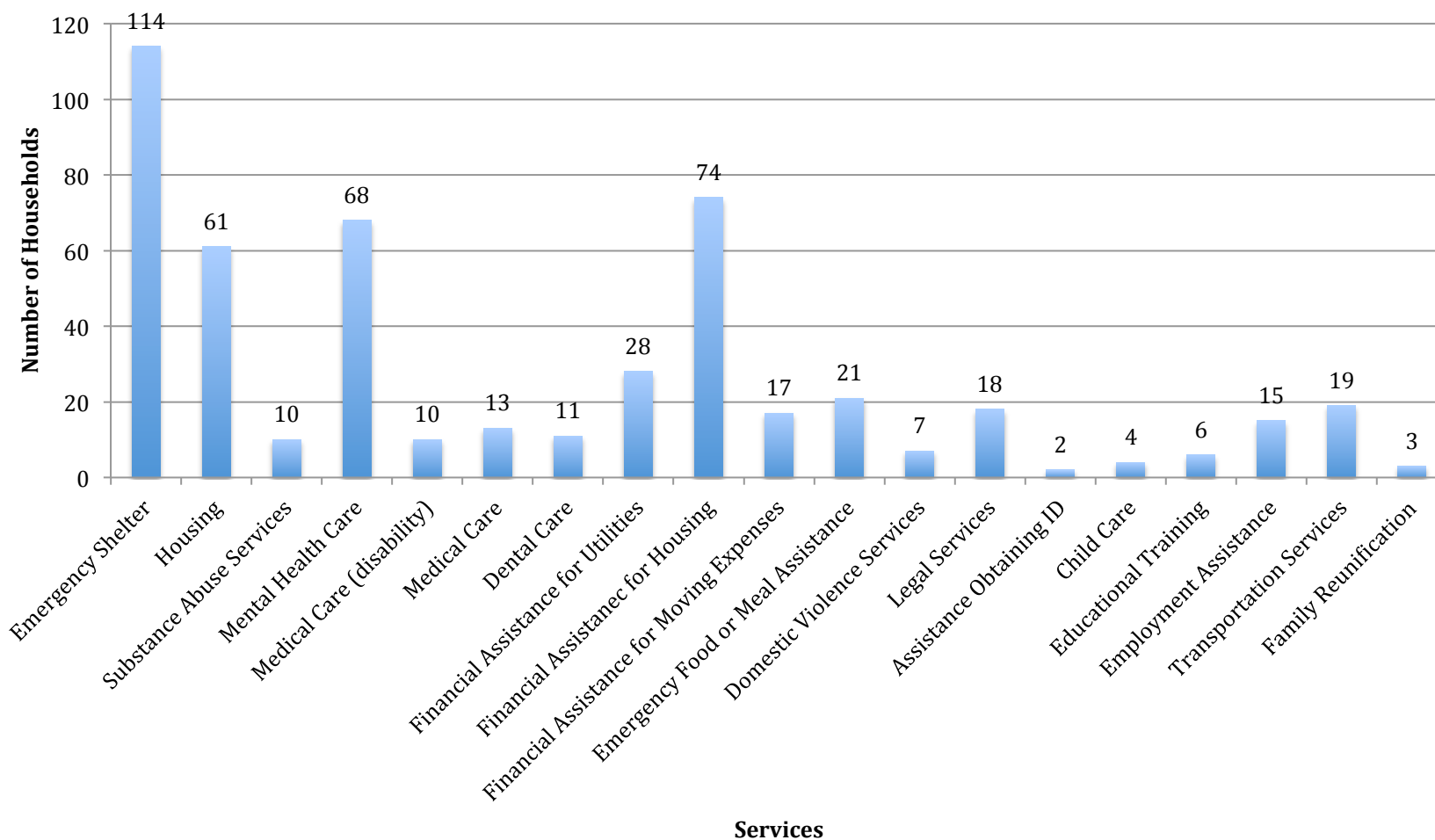# Fig. A. 11. Number of Homeless Households by Sources of Non-Cash Benefits

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

Number of Households (y-axis, 0 to 40)

- Asked to leave shared residence: 34
- Loss or reduction in job income/benefits: 33
- Death or departure of household member: 5
- Domestic violence: 11
- Drug/alcohol abuse: 29
- Eviction: 25
- Foreclosure: 5
- Illness/injury: 5
- Natural disaster: 2
- Released from hospital: 1
- Released from prison/jail: 12
- Released from psychiatric facility: 1
- Relocation: 2

Cause of Homelessness (x-axis)