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**NJ**  
**2016**  
**Counts!**

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# Gloucester County's 2016 Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless

January 26, 2016

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## Table of Contents

<b>I. Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
NJ Counts 2016.....	3
Acknowledgements.....	3
This Report .....	3
<b>II. Data Collection and Methodology</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Requirements for the Count.....	4
Data Collection Methods.....	5
Limitations .....	5
De-duplication .....	6
<b>III. Findings for Total Homeless Population</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Key Findings .....	7
Total Homeless Population .....	7
Homeless Families and Individuals .....	8
Demographics .....	9
Disabilities .....	9
Victims of Domestic Violence.....	10
Veterans.....	11
Income and Benefits .....	12
Length of Homelessness .....	12
Cause of Homelessness .....	13
<b>IV. Findings for the Chronically Homeless</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Total Chronically Homeless Population.....	14
Families and Individuals .....	15
Demographics .....	15
Disabilities .....	16
Subpopulations.....	16
Income and Benefits .....	16
Length of Homelessness .....	17
Cause of Homelessness .....	17
<b>V. Findings for the Unsheltered Homeless</b> .....	<b>18</b>
Total Unsheltered Homeless Population .....	18
Families and Individuals .....	18
Demographics .....	19
Disabilities .....	19
Subpopulations.....	19
Income and Benefits .....	19
Length of Homelessness .....	20
Cause of Homelessness .....	21
<b>VI. Appendix</b> .....	<b>22</b>

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



## I. Introduction

### NJ Counts 2016

*NJ Counts 2016*, 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 2016 Count reveals important demographic and other information about families and individuals who were homeless on the night of Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 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 2016. Monarch would also like to specifically thank Bergen County for providing a Spanish translation of the 2016 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 2016 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 in which the episodes equal at least 12 months, 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 2016 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.

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 2016 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 third 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 2016 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 2012 to 2016. 2012, 2014 and 2016 were not HUD required full reporting years while 2013 and 2015 were.
2. 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.
3. 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 a total of 61 households, including 112 persons, were experiencing homelessness in Gloucester County, according to the 2016 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 6 households, with 9 persons, were identified as chronically homeless.
- 6 unsheltered households, composed of 7 persons, were counted.

#### Total Homeless Population

On the night of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016, a total of 112 persons, in 61 households, were experiencing homelessness in Gloucester County, according to the 2016 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 8 persons (6.7%) and 7 households (10.3%) from 2015. Gloucester County had 1.3% of New Jersey’s statewide homeless population in 2016.

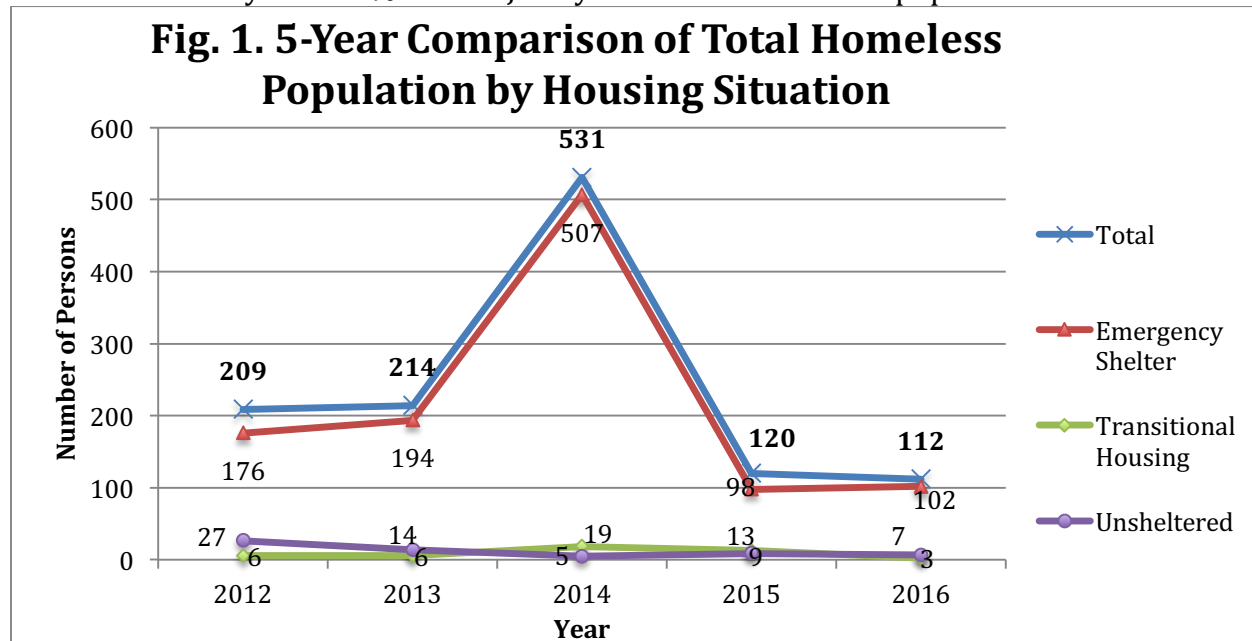
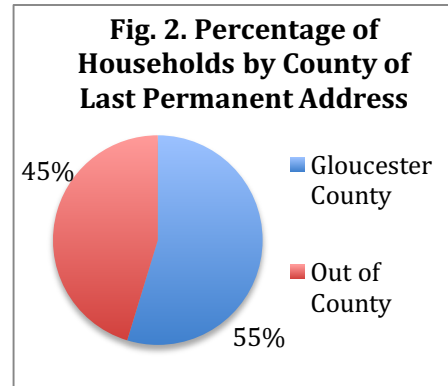


Figure 1 shows that, in 2016, 102 homeless persons stayed in emergency shelters, 3 stayed in transitional housing, and 7 were living unsheltered on the night of the count. The number of those in emergency shelters rose by 4 (4.1%) in the past year. The number of those in transitional housing on the night of the count fell by 10 (76.9%), and the totals of those living unsheltered decreased by 2 persons (22.2%).

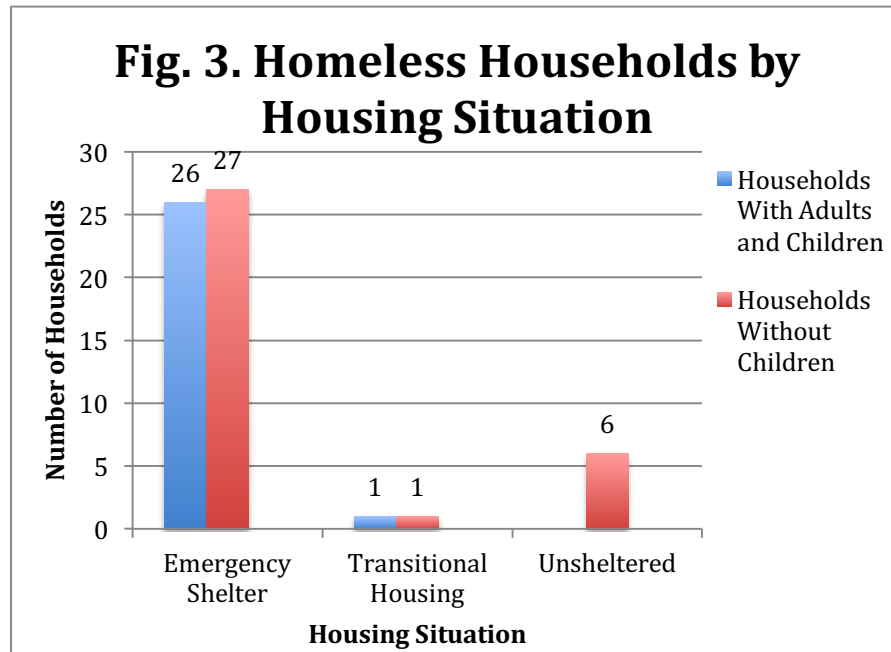
Though the total has fluctuated, Gloucester County has seen a decrease in the overall number of homeless persons during the past five years (97 persons, 46.4%). During the same five-year period, the number of persons in emergency shelter on the night of the count decreased by 42% and the number of unsheltered persons fell by 74%.

As Figure 2 shows, in 2016 45% of homeless households in Gloucester County reported that their household's 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').



Of the 61 homeless households counted in Gloucester County in 2016, 27 (44.3%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. These families included 75 persons, 42 children under age 18, and 33 adults. The average family size was 2.7 persons. Figure 3 shows that 26 of the families were staying in emergency shelter (96.3%), and 1 was in transitional housing

programs for the homeless (3.7%). There were no unsheltered families counted. Gloucester County counted 1 more homeless family in 2016 than in 2015.

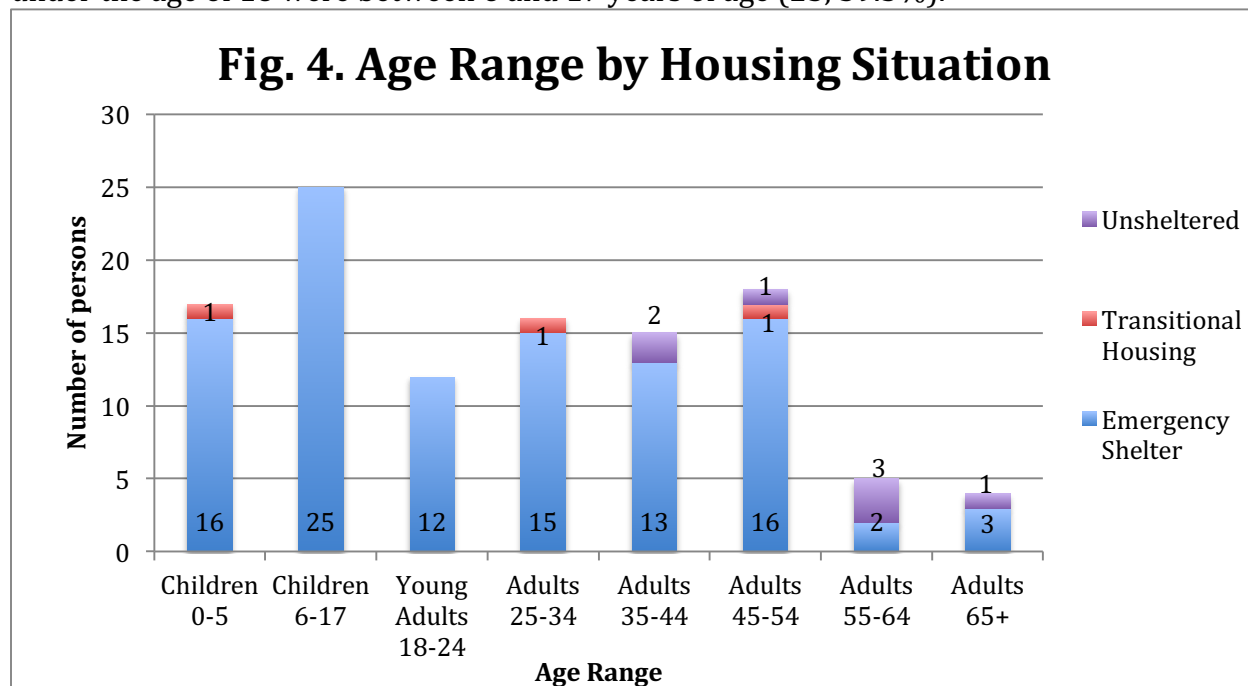
55.7% (34) of the homeless households in Gloucester County were households without children under 18, and they were composed of 31 individual adults and 3 couples. 27 (79.4%) of these adult-only households were staying in emergency shelters, 1 (2.9%) was in transitional housing, and 6 (17.6%) were unsheltered. Gloucester County has seen the number of adult-only households decrease by 8 (20%) since 2015.

As Figure 3 indicates, similar to 2015, there were no households with only children under 18 years old reported in 2016.



## Demographics

There were a total of 12 (10.7%) homeless adults between 18 and 24 years old, 58 (51.8%) adults over age 24, and 42 (37.5%) children under 18 years old experiencing homelessness on the night of the count. Figure 4 shows that the majority of homeless children who were under the age of 18 were between 6 and 17 years of age (25, 59.5%).



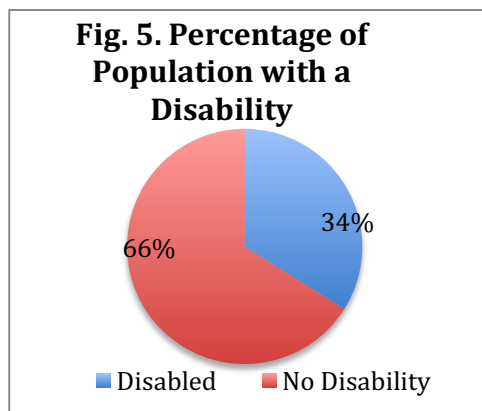
Children under 18 years old, was also the age range most represented among the homeless population. Among adults, more were between 45 and 54 years old than any other age range (25.7% of adults over 18).

67% (75) of homeless persons identified were female, and 33% (37) were male.

52.7% of homeless persons identified their race as Black or African-American, making that the largest racial subgroup of homeless persons reported. The next largest group self-identified as White (47.3%), followed by those identifying as Multi-Racial (2.7%). With regard to ethnicity, 13.4% of homeless persons identified themselves as Hispanic, or Latino.

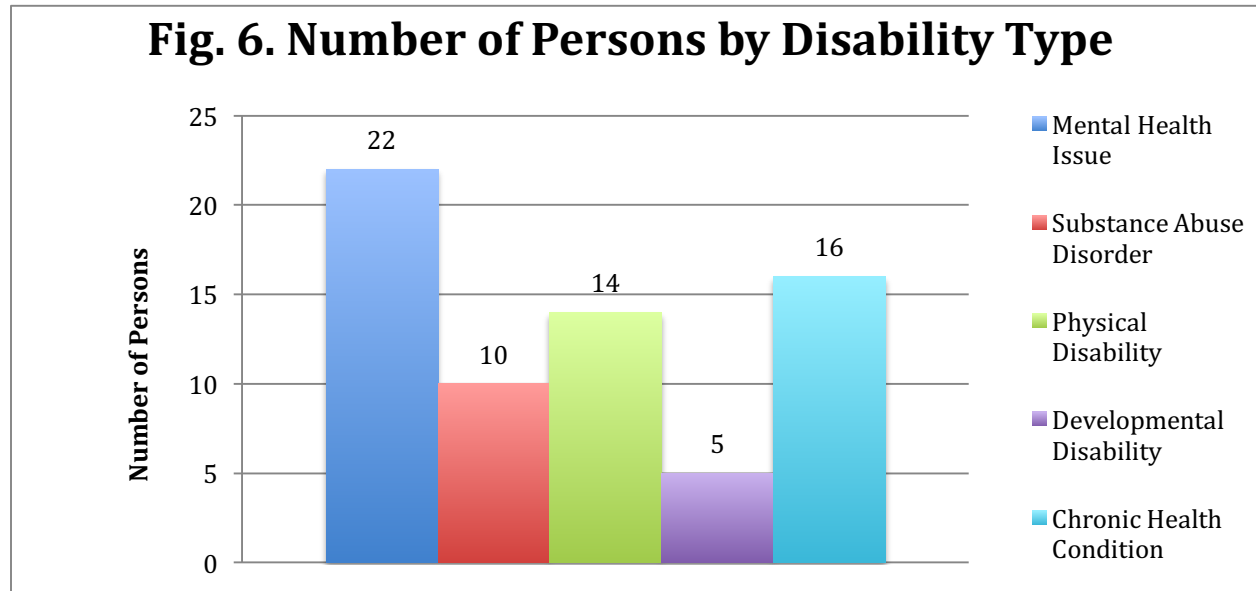
## Disabilities

Figure 5 illustrates that 34% of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. 51.4% of adults reported some type of disability compared to 4.8% of children. Figure 6 shows the number of the homeless persons that identified as having various disabilities. The most common disabilities



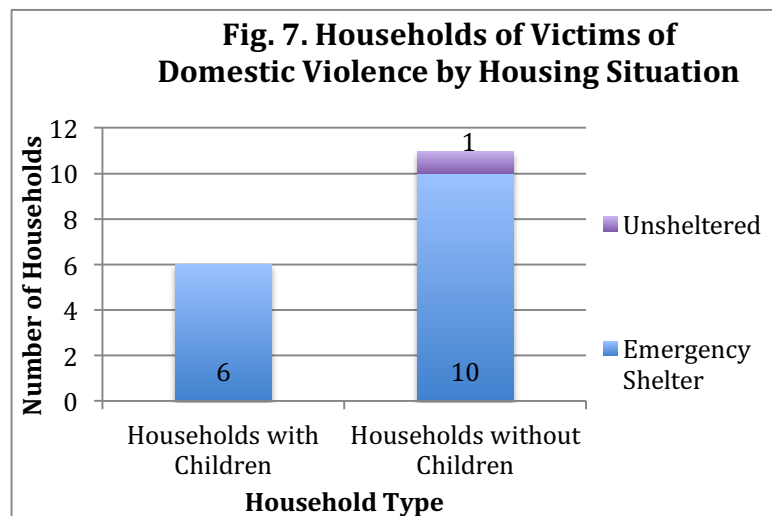
identified include mental health issues and chronic health conditions.

Among disabled adults, 58.3% reported mental health issues making this the most prevalent disability (30% of total adult population). The next most prevalent disability identified among disabled adults was chronic health conditions (44.4%). Those reporting chronic health conditions represent 22.9% of the total homeless adult population. 50% of disabled homeless children reported a developmental disability, and another 50% reported a mental health issue.



### Victims of Domestic Violence

On the night of the count, in Gloucester County, 17 homeless households (27.9%) identified as a victims of domestic violence (See Figure 7). This represents a 21.4% increase in the number of households identifying as victims of domestic violence as compared to 2015 (14 households). The majority of the households identified in 2016 (64.7%) were households without children under the age of 18. 10 of these households (90.9%) were staying in an emergency shelter and 1 (9.1%) was unsheltered. All of the family households with at least one adult and one child under 18 were staying in emergency shelter.

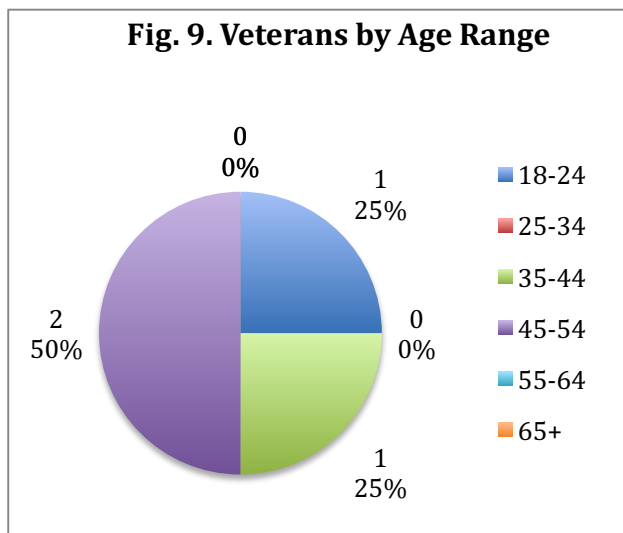
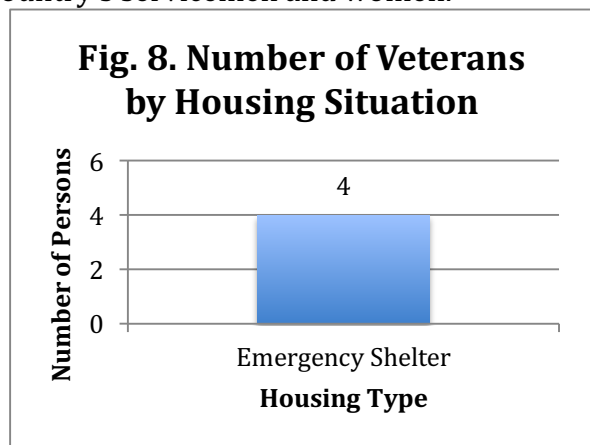


## Veterans

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.

There were 4 homeless veteran households counted in Gloucester County on the night of the count, an increase from the 0 counted in 2015. 2 were individual veterans, while 2 were family households composed of 4 persons, making the total number of persons in veteran households 6.

50% of veterans experiencing homelessness in Gloucester County were male, and 50% were female. In regards to racial background, 75% of veterans identified as Black or African American and 25% identified as White. Figure 9 illustrates the percentage of homeless veterans by age range. 75% of the veterans identified were between the ages of 35 and 54.



No individual homeless veterans reported being victims of domestic violence and 1 of the 4, 25%, veterans reported having some kind of disability. The disability cited was a mental health issue. 50% of veteran households were receiving Veteran's Disability, and none were receiving Veteran's Pension as a form of income. The average income for veteran households was \$944. Among veteran households, 1 was connected to VA Medical Benefits. The types of service that homeless veteran households sought most were housing (100%), financial assistance for housing (75%) and financial assistance for utilities (75%). 50% of veteran households indicated they sought veteran services.

## Income and Benefits

Among all households experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, 16.4% reported no source of income, and 6.6% reported receiving some kind of earned cash income. The two most common sources of income among homeless households were Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and General Assistance (GA), received by 21.3%, respectively.

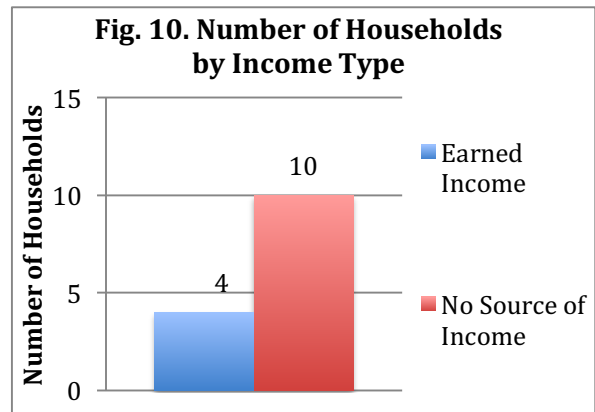


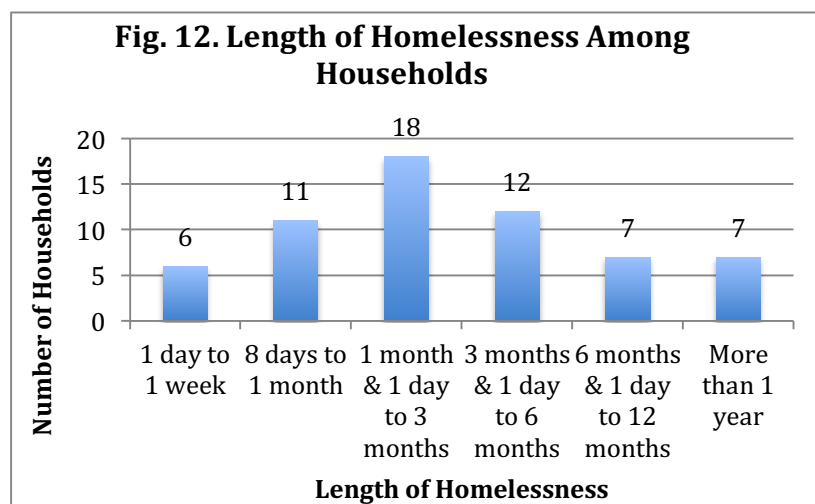
Figure 11, below, shows the average monthly income for all homeless households.

<b>Figure 11. Average Monthly Income For Households by Housing Situation</b>			
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered
Average for All Households	\$519.48	\$756.00	\$1,055.20

14.8% of homeless households reported receiving no kind of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) was the top reported non-cash benefit, and was received by 55.7% of respondents. 54.1% of households were receiving Medicaid.

## Length of Homelessness

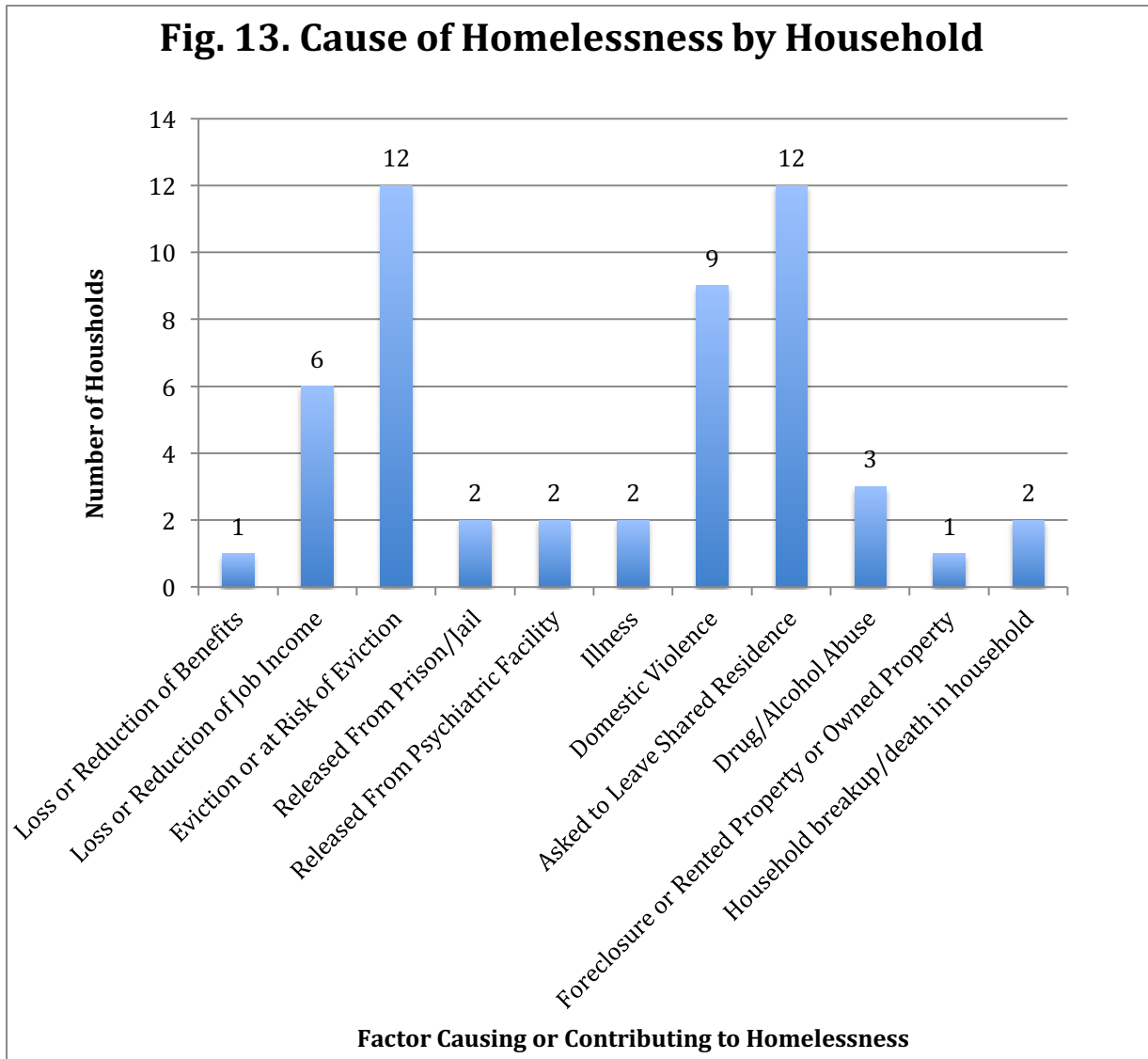
As Figure 12 shows, 18 (29.5%) of the homeless households reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted from 1 month and 1 day to 3 months. About 50% of homeless households indicated their most recent continuous episode of homelessness lasted from 1 – 6 months. 6 households (9.8%) reported that they had been homeless between 8 days and 1 month, while 7 households, or 11.5% of all homeless households in Gloucester County had been experiencing homelessness for more than 1 year on the night of the count.





## Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households attributed their homelessness to eviction (19.7%) or being asked to leave a shared residence (19.7%) than any other cause. As Figure 13 shows, the next most common factor reported was domestic violence (14.8%).



When households were asked ‘what was your residence prior to your current living situation?’ more said they were residing in permanent housing than any other type of residence (39.3%). 29.5% reported staying or living with friends or family, 11.5% said they were in emergency shelter, and 6.6% said they were staying in a hotel or motel without a voucher prior to their current living situation.

## 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. This definition has been updated since the 2015 point in time, in such that in order for a household to meet the episodic definition of chronically homeless, the 4 episodes must equal at least 12 months, which may lead to a decrease in the number of households that qualify as chronically homeless.

HUD currently has 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

6 households, made up of 9 persons, were chronically homeless in Gloucester County, according to the 2016 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 7 persons (350%) from 2015. The rate of chronic homelessness as a percentage of the overall homeless population increased from 1.7% in 2015, to 8% in 2016.

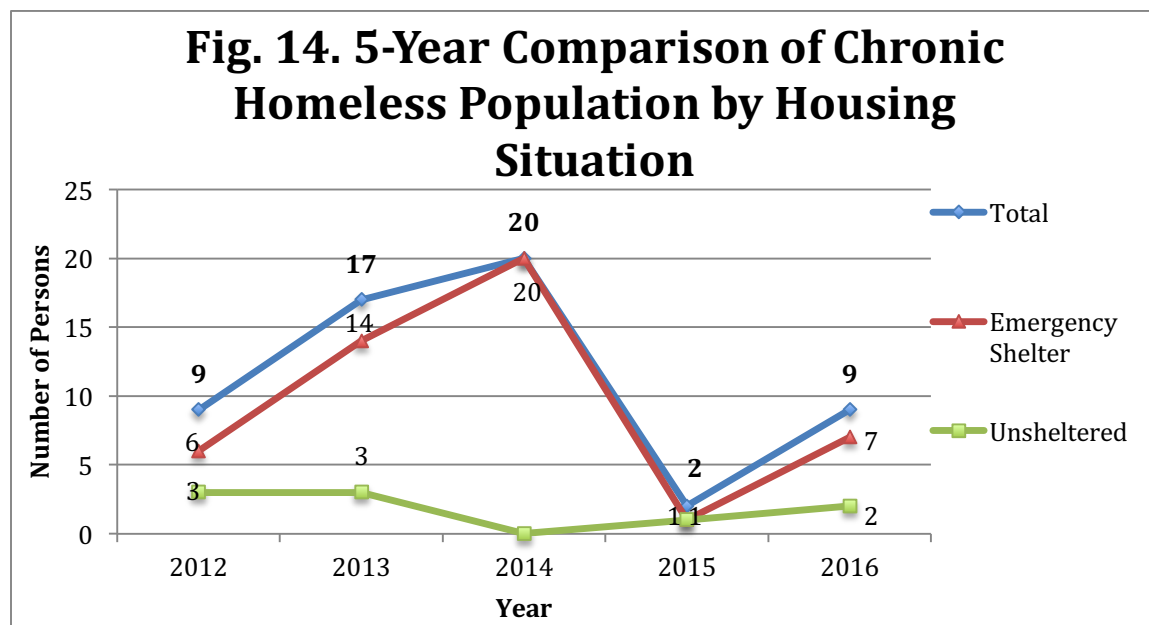
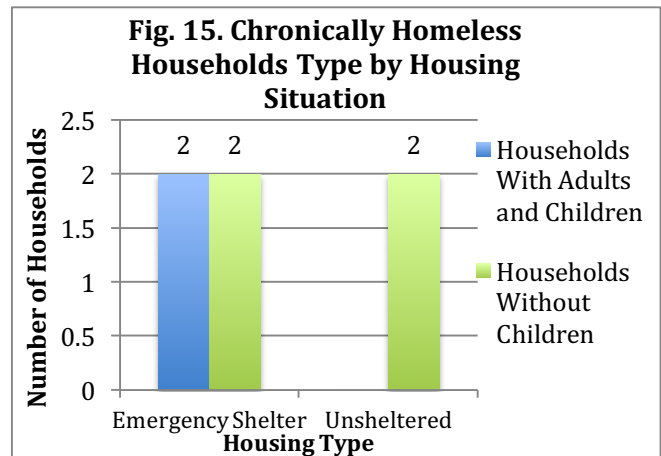


Figure 14 shows the number of chronically homeless persons who were in emergency shelters or living unsheltered in Gloucester County from 2012 to 2016. The total of chronically homeless persons counted has fluctuated over the past five years, with the highest number counted in 2014 (20 persons) and the lowest number of 2 persons counted in 2015. The number of unsheltered chronically homeless persons has decreased by 1 person since 2012.

### Families and Individuals

Of the 6 chronically homeless households counted in 2016, 2 households (33.3%) were families with at least 1 adult and 1 child under the age of 18, an increase from the 0 chronically homeless families counted in 2015. These families were sheltered in emergency shelter. The remaining 4 households (66.7%) were composed of individual adults, a 100% increase from the 2 adults counted the previous year. 2 of these adult households were staying in emergency shelter, and 2 were unsheltered on the night of the count.

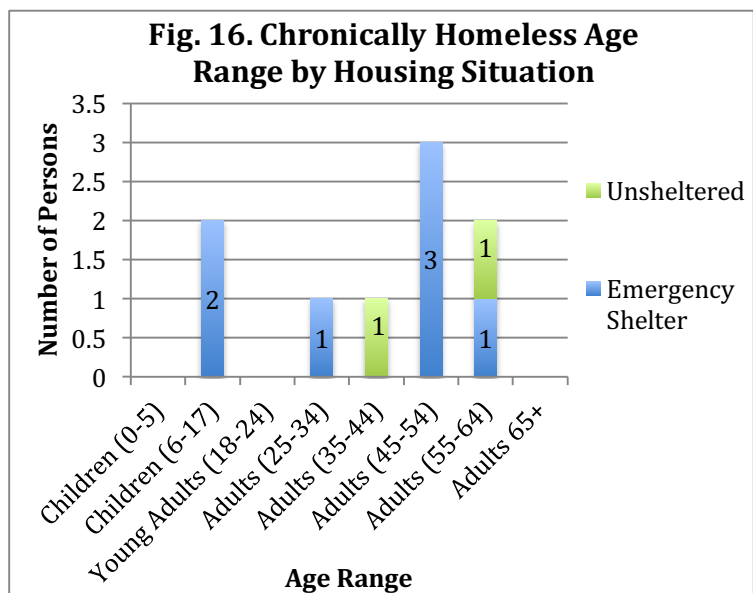


### Demographics

Of the 9 chronically homeless persons, 2 (22.2%) were under the age of 18. The remaining 7 (77.8%) were over the age of 25.

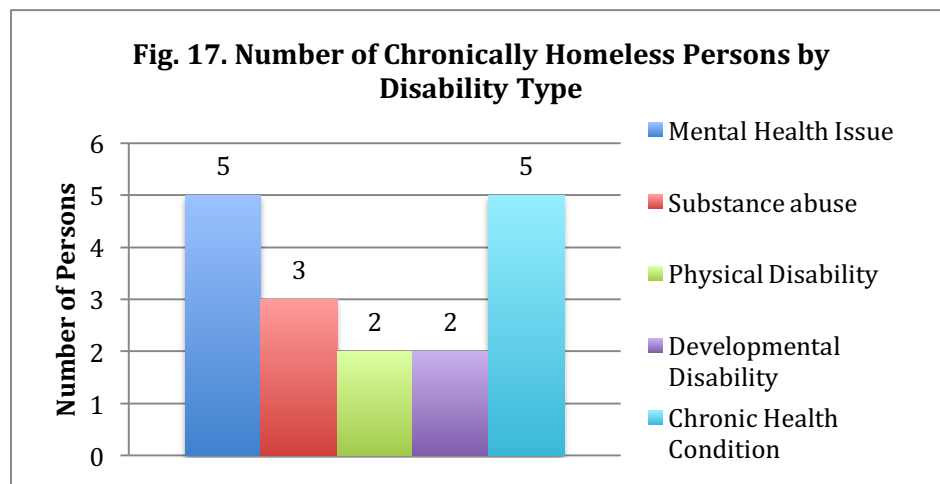
55.6% of those counted as chronically homeless were female, and 44.4% were male.

The racial subgroups of chronically homeless persons included White (77.8%) and Black or African-American (33.3%). With regard to ethnicity, 11% of chronically homeless persons identified themselves 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 (55.6%) and chronic health conditions (55.5%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the chronically homeless can be seen in Figure 17.

## Subpopulations

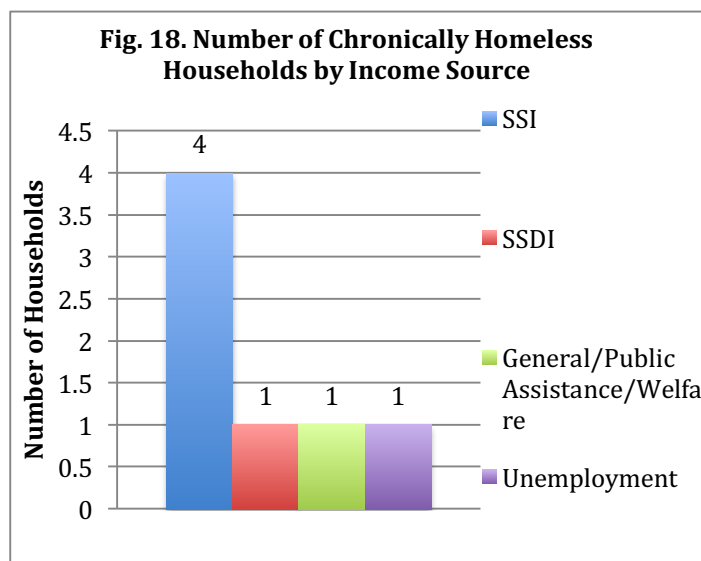
On the night of the count, 2 chronically homeless persons in Gloucester County reported being a victim of domestic violence (22.2%). Both persons were in emergency shelter.

There were 0 veterans identified as chronically homeless on the night of the count.

## Income and Benefits

With regard to income, none of the chronically homeless household reported receiving earned income. that The top reported source of income was SSI, received by 66.7% of chronically homeless households. Figure 18 shows complete sources of income cited.

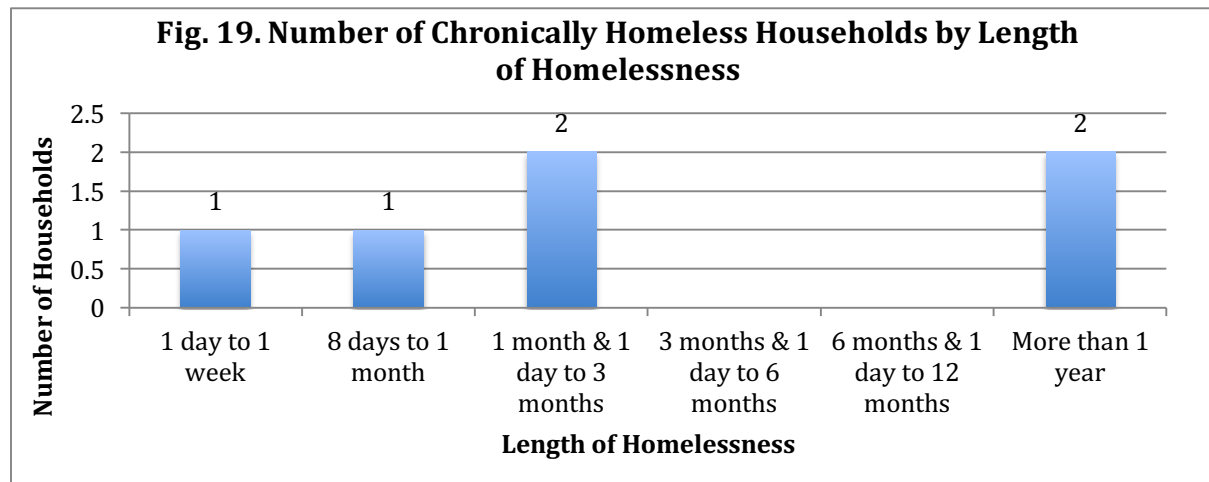
Food Stamps (SNAP) and Medicaid were each received by 50% of the chronically homeless population. No other mainstream benefits were reported among chronically homeless households.





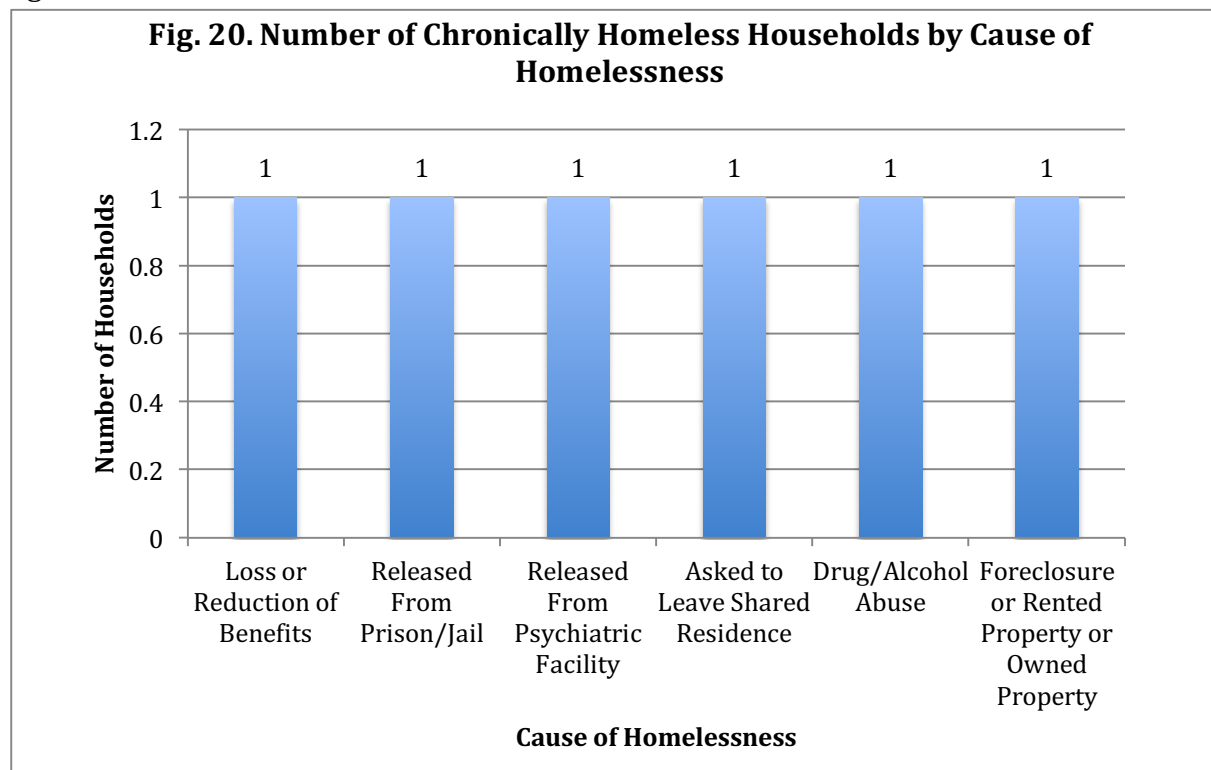
## Length of Homelessness

Figure 19 shows that the majority of chronically homeless households (66.7%) reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted for less than 3 months. 2 chronically homeless households (33.3%) reported their most recent episode of homelessness as lasting more than 1 year.



## Cause of Homelessness

Each chronically homeless household cited a different reason, when asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness. Responses can be seen in Figure 20.



## 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 7 persons, were living unsheltered in Gloucester County, according to the 2016 Point-In-Time Count. This is the same number of households counted in 2015, and a decrease of 2 persons (22.2%).

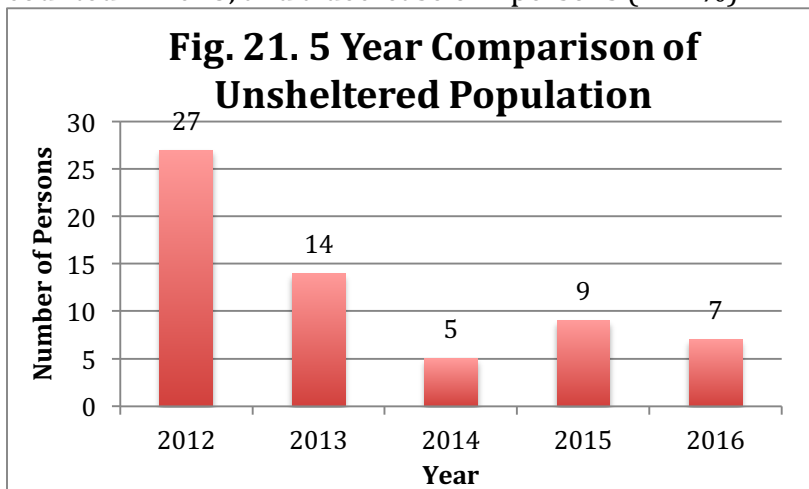


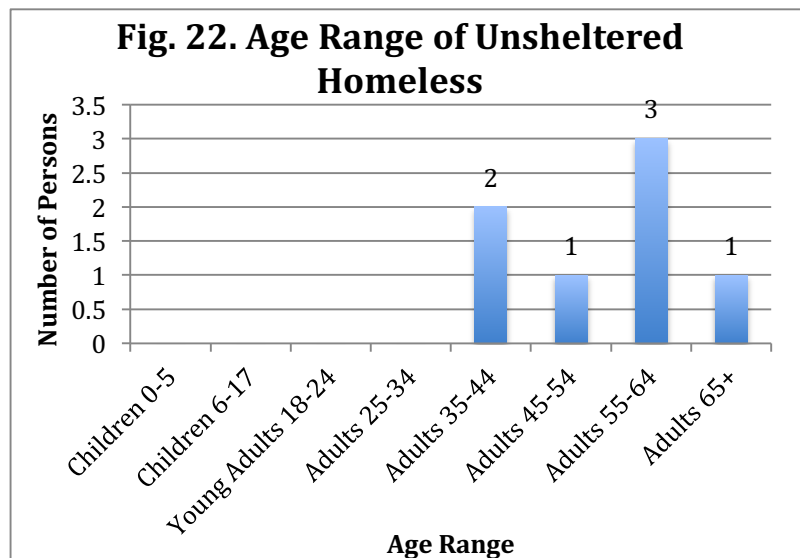
Figure 21 shows the number of unsheltered persons from 2012 to 2016. Over the past five years, the total number of unsheltered persons has trended downward, an overall decrease of 74%. Between 2012 and 2014 there was an 81.5% decrease in the unsheltered population. Between 2014 and 2016, there was a 40% increase in

the unsheltered population.

### Families and Individuals

There was 1 adult only couple household identified as unsheltered on the night of the count. The remaining 5 households were adult-only households made up of 5 single adult persons.

## Demographics

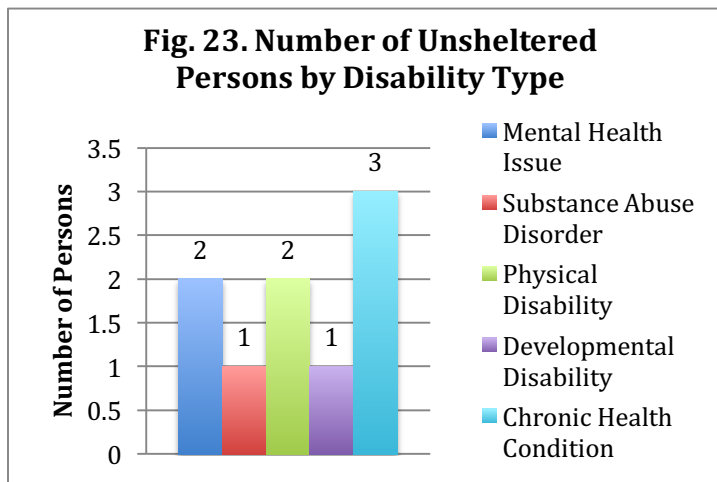


All of the 7 unsheltered persons counted were over the age of 34. The largest portion (42.9%) were between the ages of 55 and 64.

5 of the 7 unsheltered persons were male (71.4%). 5 (71.4%) unsheltered persons identified their race as White, and 3 (42.9%) identified as Black or African American. None of the unsheltered persons identified as Hispanic.

## Disabilities

5 unsheltered persons (71.4%) reported a disability. The most prevalent disabilities identified among unsheltered households were chronic health conditions, (60%), mental health issues (40%) and physical disabilities (40%).



## Subpopulations

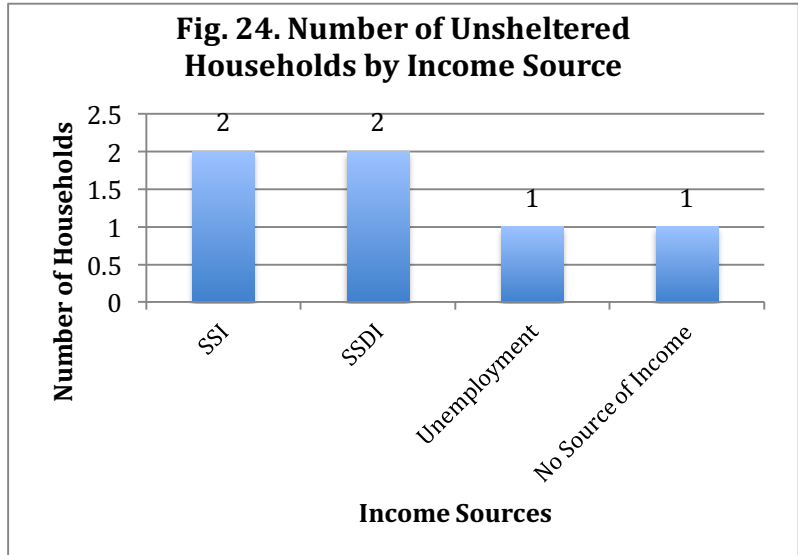
On the night of the count, 1 unsheltered individual in Gloucester County identified as a victim of domestic violence.

There were no unsheltered veterans identified on the night of the count.

## Income and Benefits

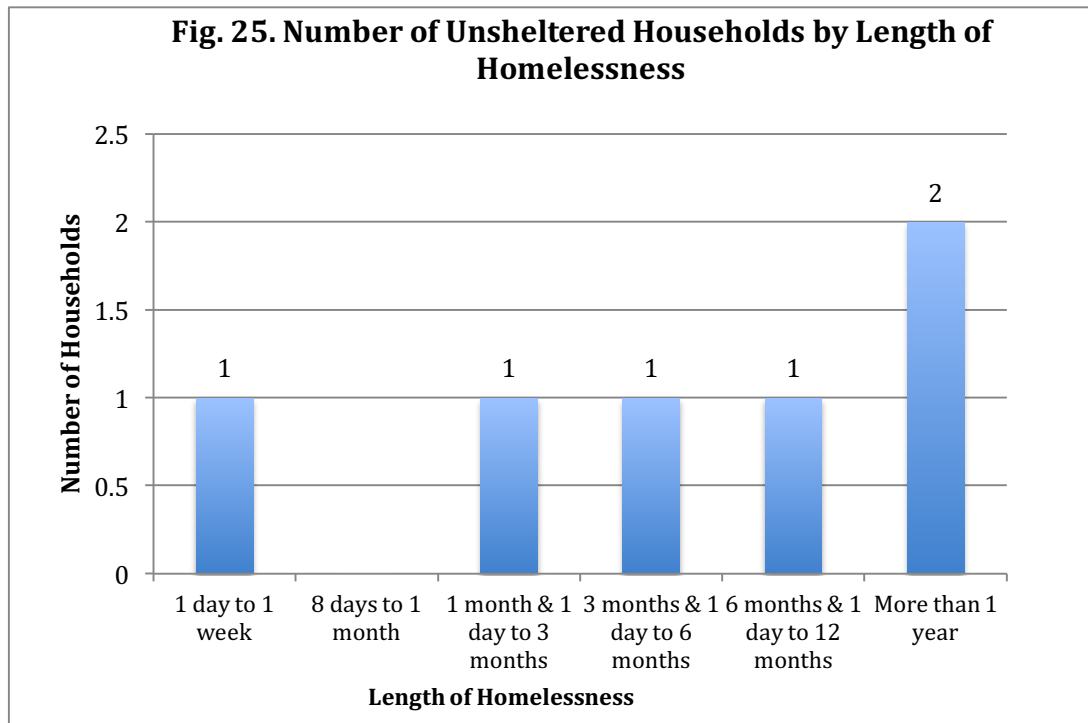
Among all the unsheltered households on the night of the count, 1 (16.7%) reported having no source of cash income. 2 households (33.3%) reported receiving SSI and 2 (33.3%) reported receiving SSDI. The average monthly income among unsheltered households was approximately \$1,055.

1 unsheltered household (16.7%) reported that they were not receiving any type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Medicaid and Medicare were equally the top reported non-cash benefits among this population, each received by 33.3% of the population.



### Length of Homelessness

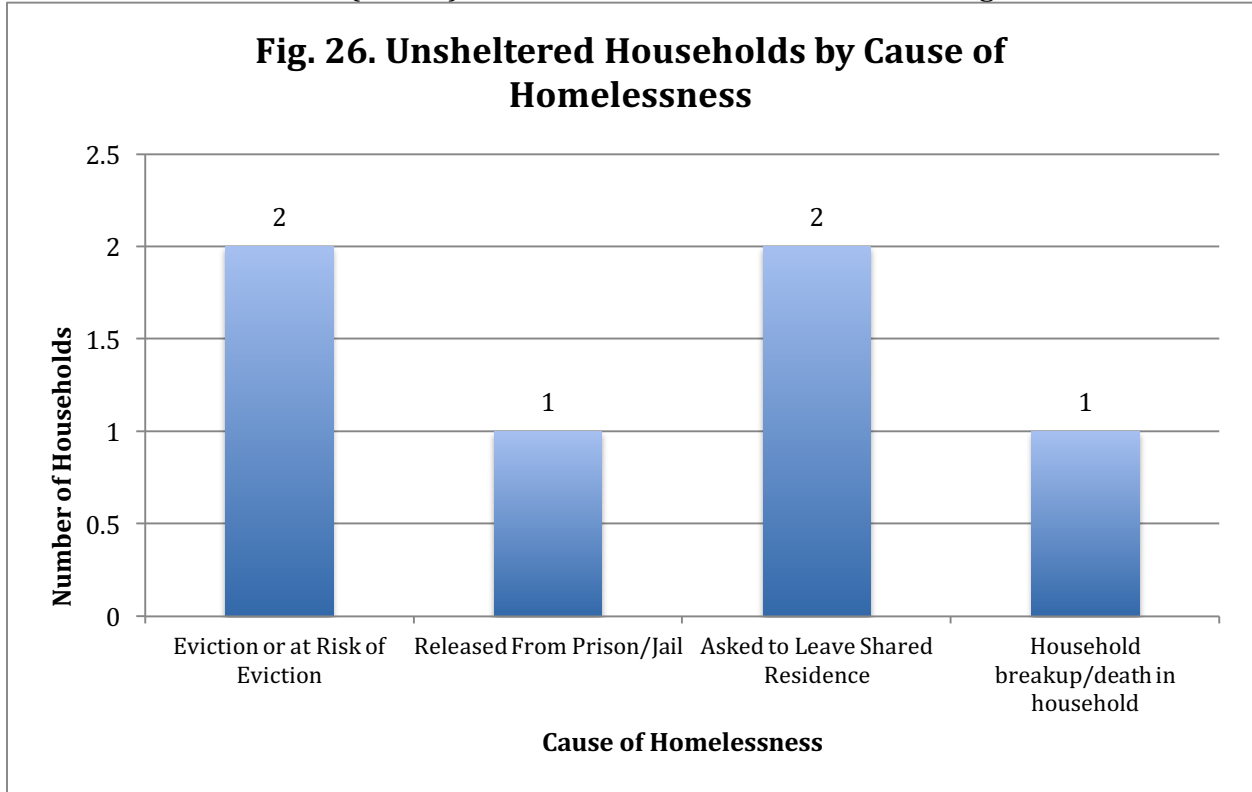
As shown in Figure 25, 2 unsheltered homeless households (33.3%) reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted for more than 1 year. Figure 25 also shows that the majority of unsheltered homeless households have been homeless for more than 3 months.





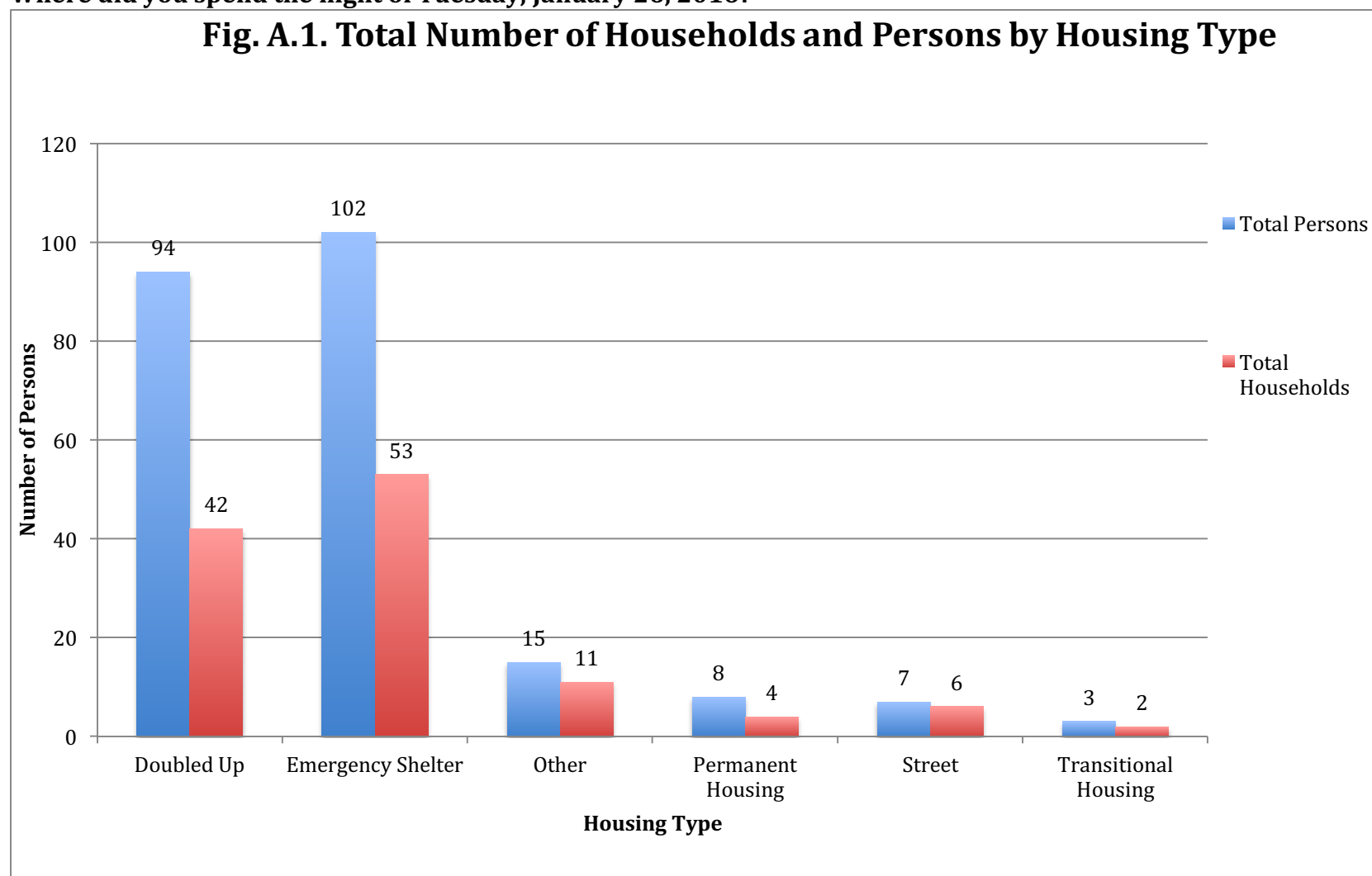
## Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more unsheltered households said they had been evicted (33.3%) or had been asked to leave a shared residence (33.3%). Other reasons cited can be seen in Figure 26.

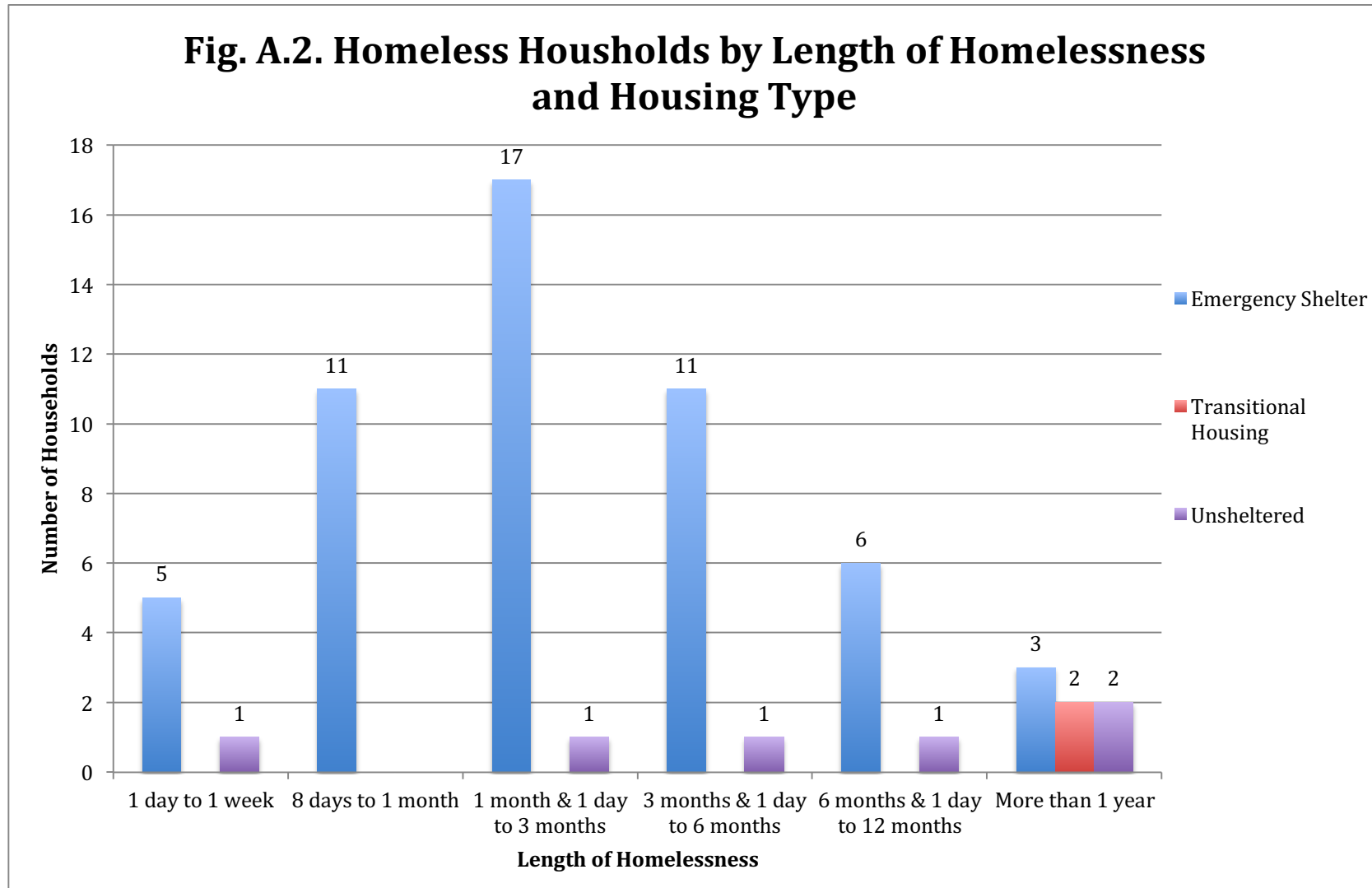


## VI. Appendix

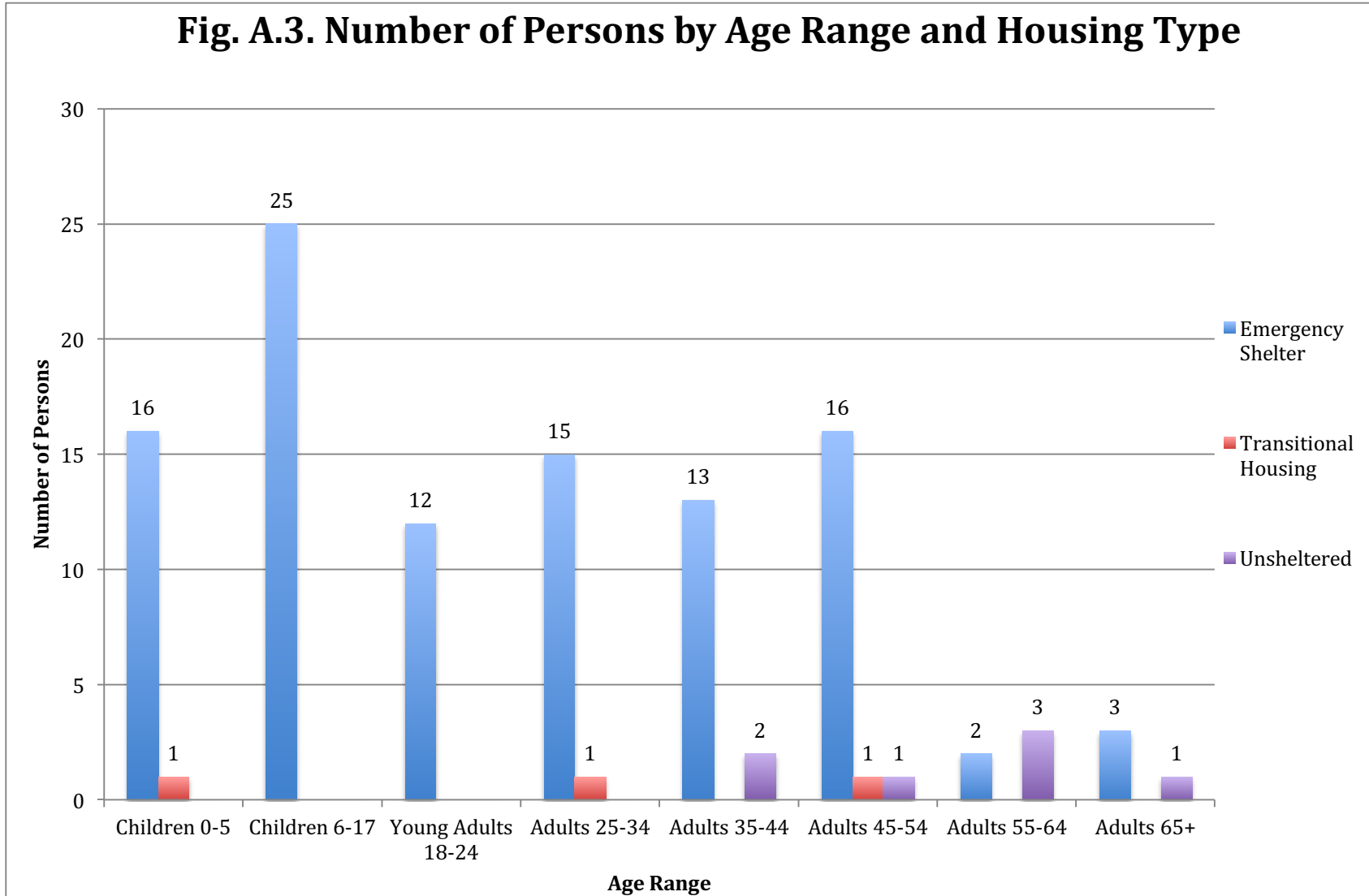
Where did you spend the night of Tuesday, January 26, 2016?



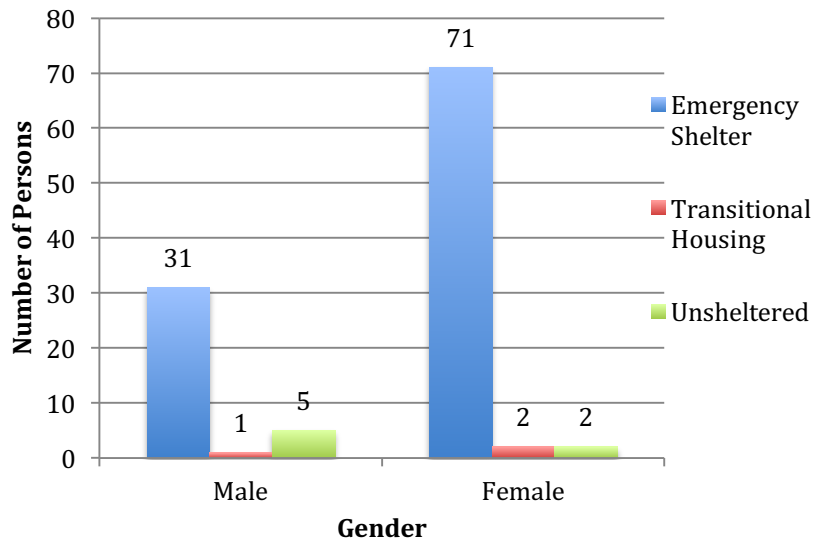
How long have you been in your current living situation?



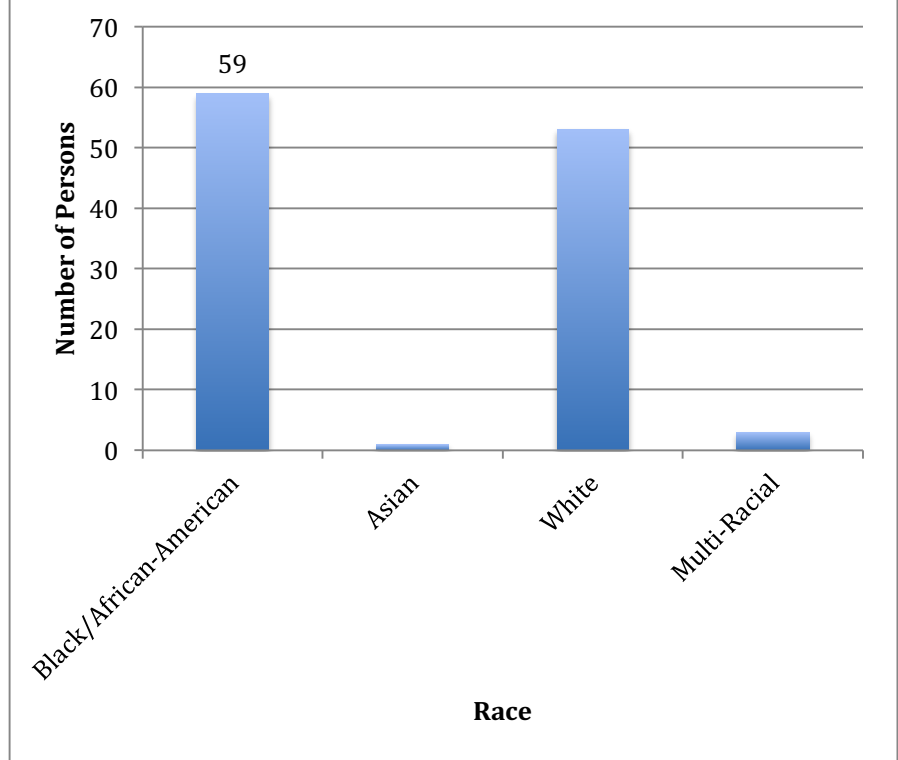
Who was homeless with you on the night of January 26<sup>th</sup>?



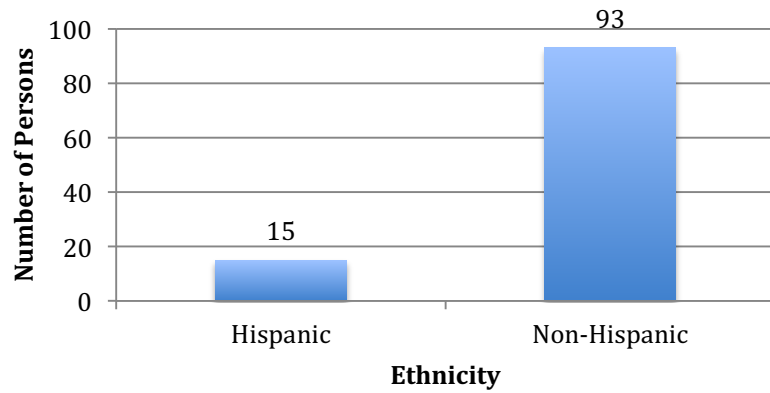
**Fig. A.4. Number of Persons by Gender and Housing Situation**



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

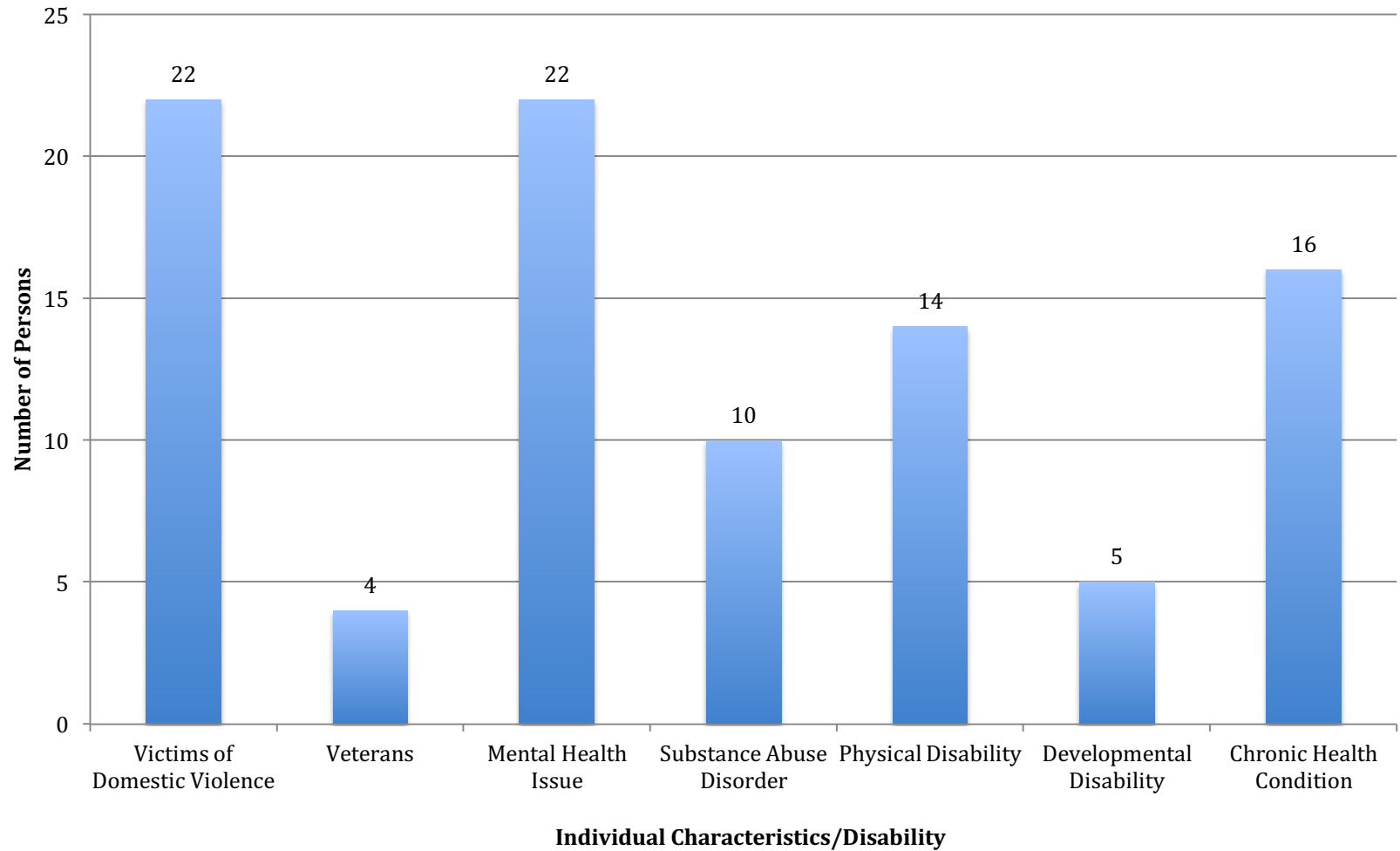


**Fig. A.6. Number of Homeless Persons by Ethnicity**



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**



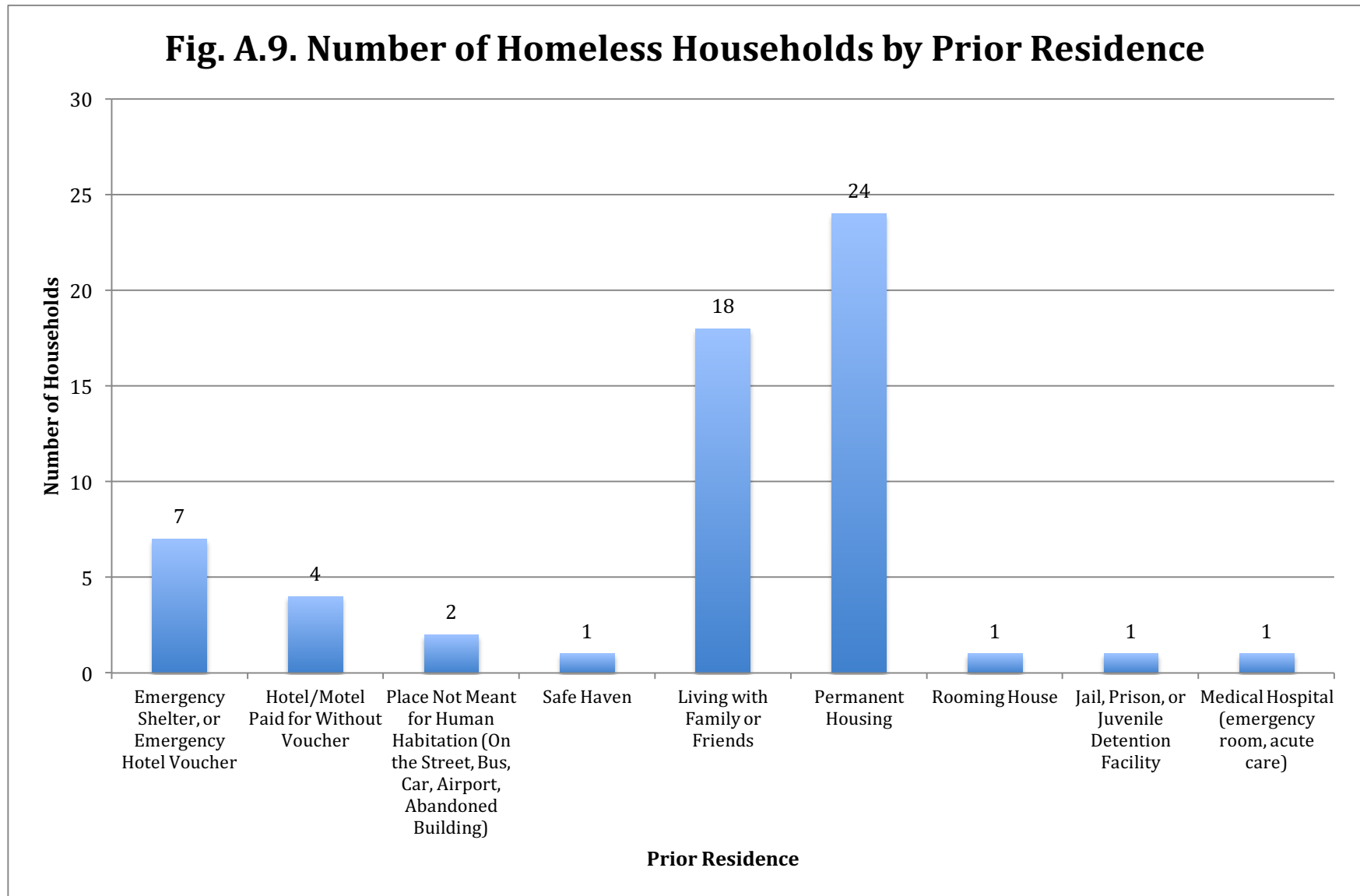


**Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?**

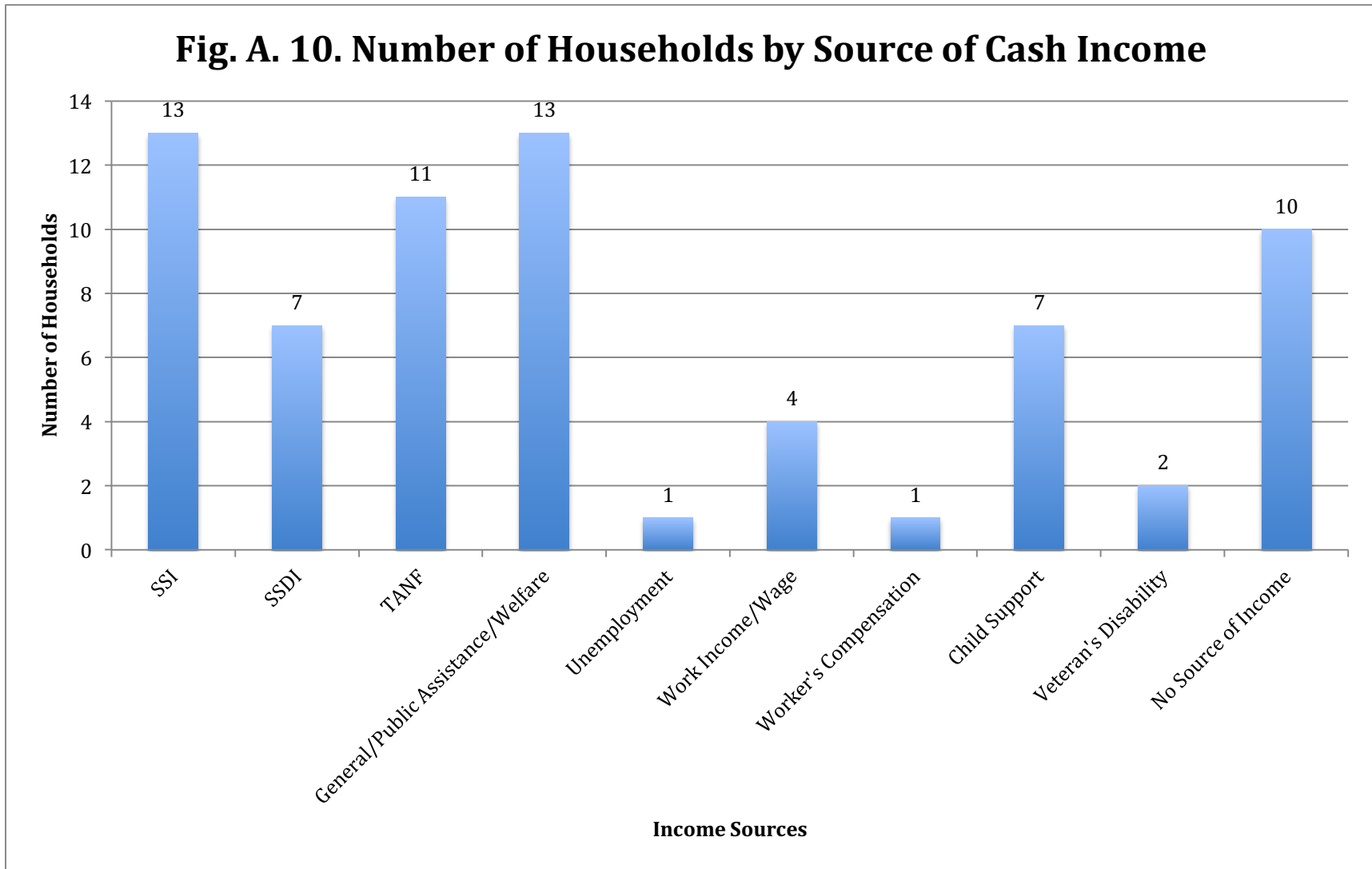
**Fig. A.8. Number of Households by County or State of Last Permanent Address**

<b>Last Permanent Address – County/State</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>
Burlington County	1
Camden County	16
Cumberland County	4
<b>Gloucester County</b>	<b>29</b>
Pennsylvania	3

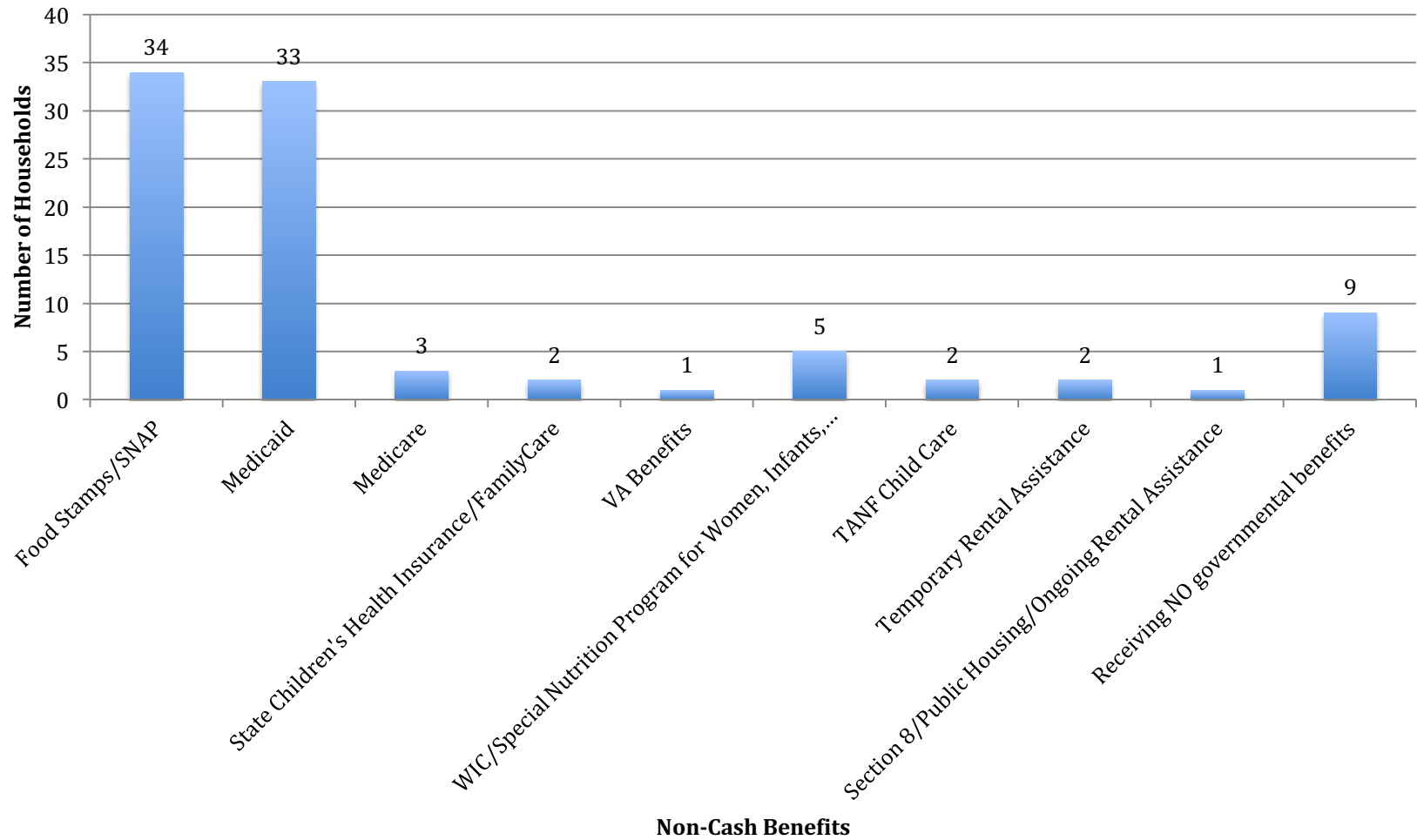
What was your residence prior to your current living situation?



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

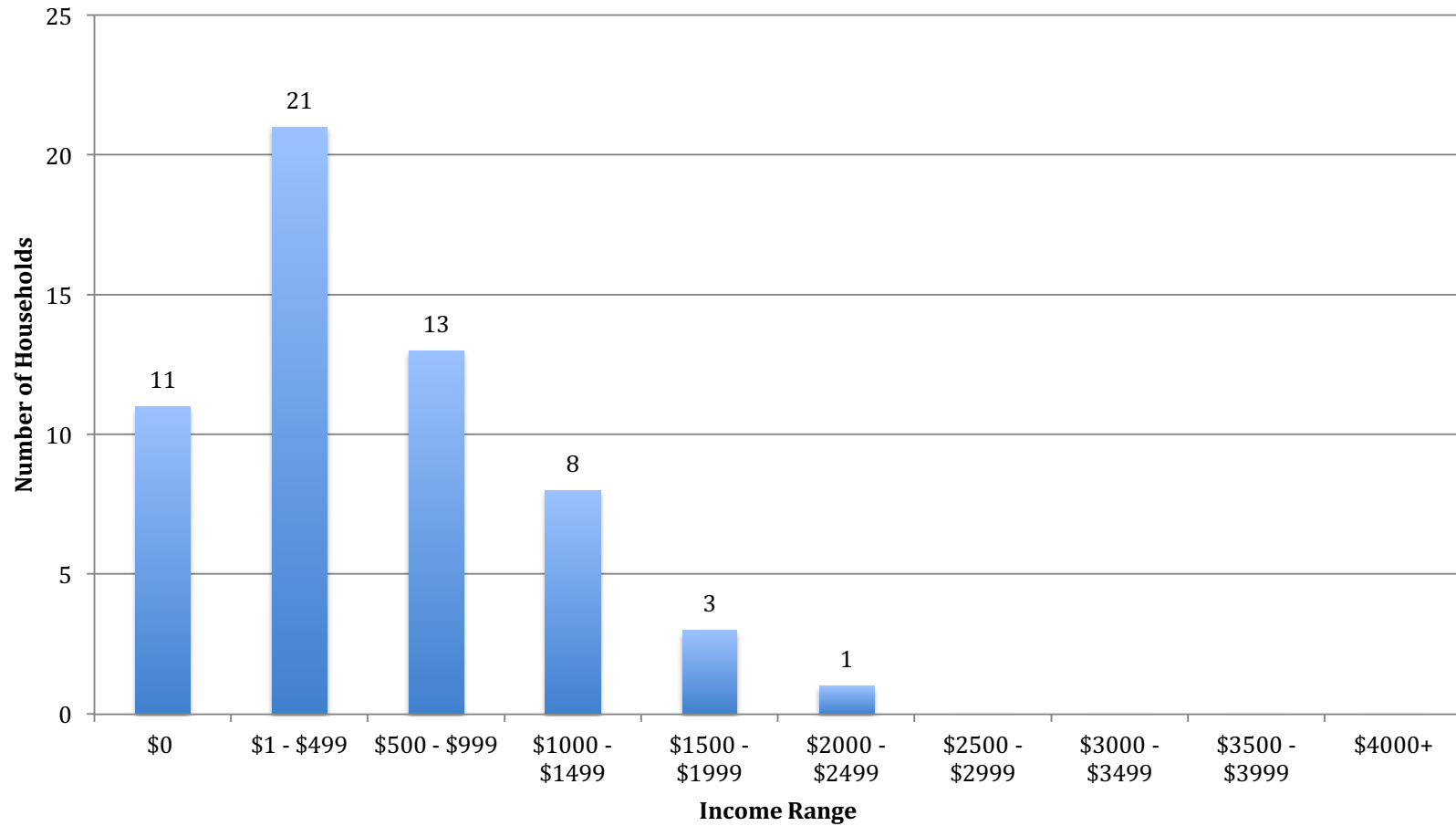


**Fig. A. 11. Number of Households by Sources of Non-Cash Benefits**



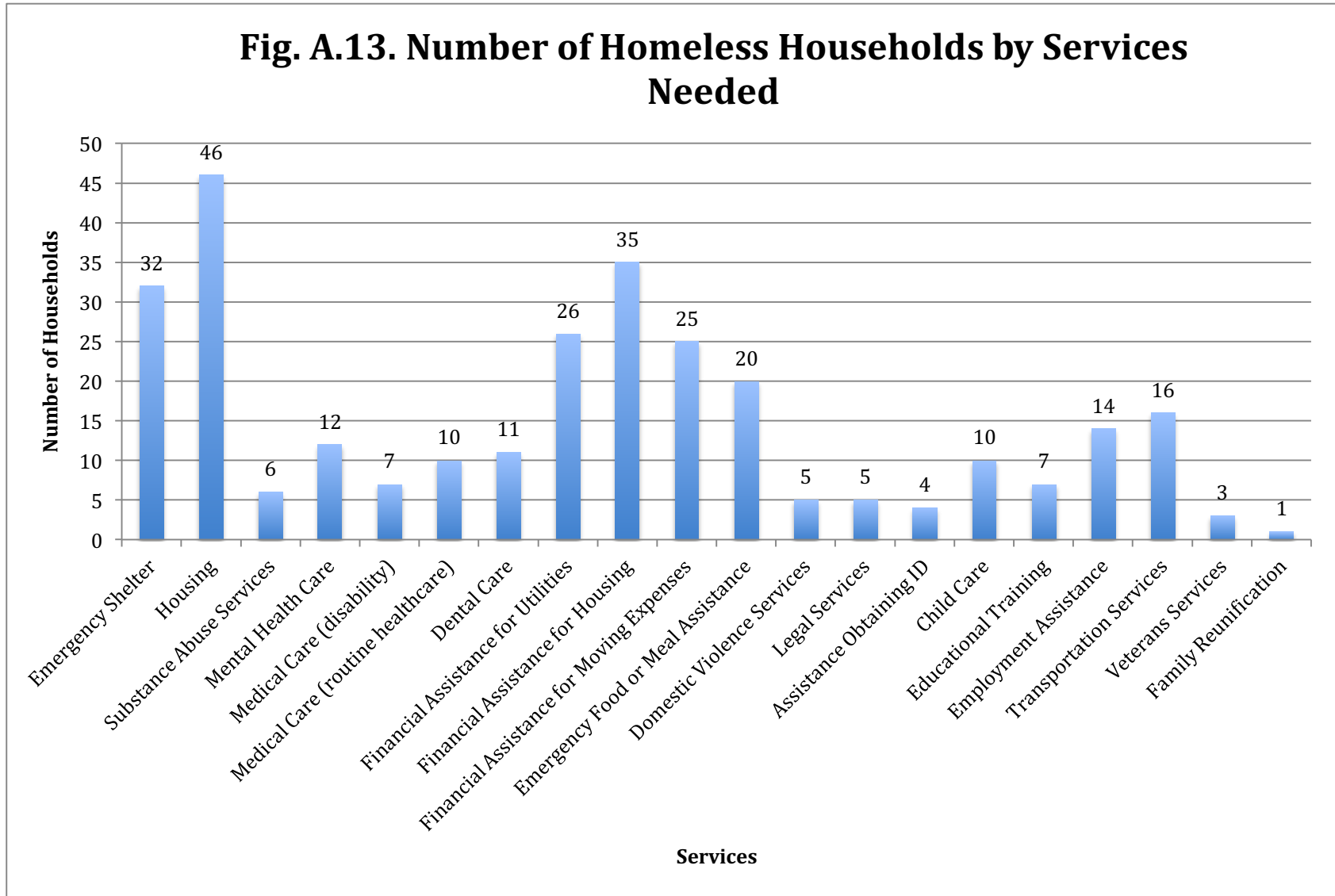
**What is your monthly household income?**

**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?

