

# **Mercer County Annual Homeless Assessment Report**

## **January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012**

### **I. Introduction**

The following report provides Mercer County Continuum of Care with a look at the HMIS data that was used for the 2012 Central New Jersey Regional Homeless Assessment Report. This report includes the same categories and population breakdowns that were presented in the Regional Report and can be used for individual comparison.

Identical to the Regional Report, this report is based on unduplicated numbers in which a family is a household with at least one child age 17 or younger and at least one adult age 18 or older. Adult couples were also considered families for this report. All others were considered homeless individuals. Again identical to the Central Regional Report, a person was considered a youth if they were between the ages of 18 – 24 and were identified as the head of household.

All percentages are based on the total number of actual responses, an answer of “don’t know” or missing data were not represented or calculated in this report.

In order for a HMIS program to be included in this report they needed to be designated in HMIS as a “homeless only” program and have a program category of emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing.

### **III. Findings for Total Population Served**

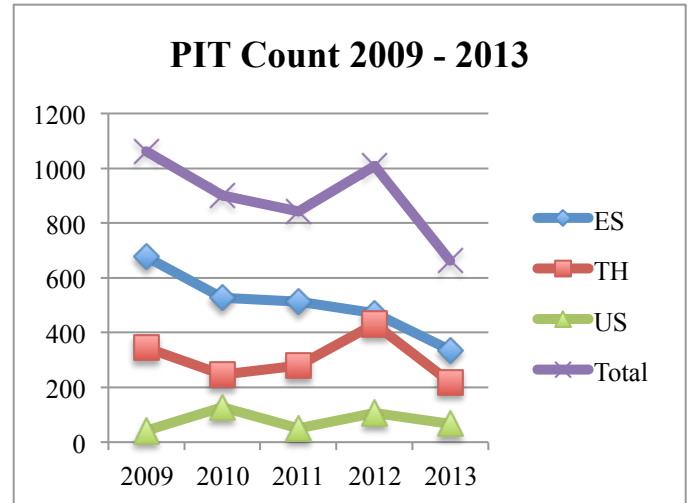
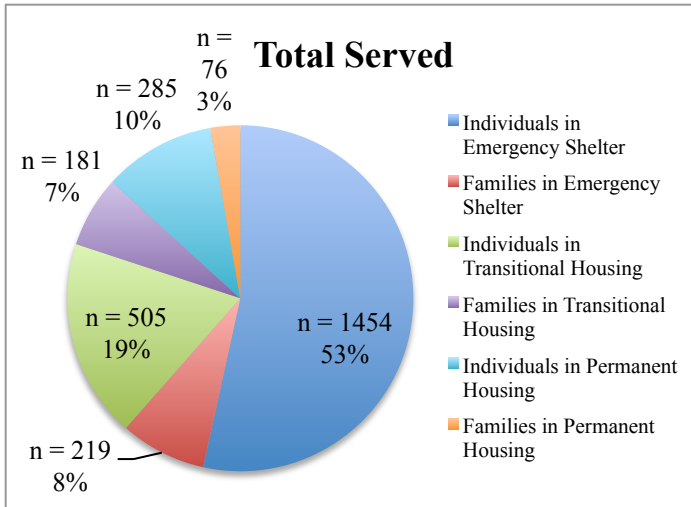
#### **Key Findings:**

- A total of 2,720 households were served in HMIS participating emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing programs during the January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012 report period
- A total of 495 individuals were identified as chronically homeless
- 37% of the total population including children and adults either served as individuals or families identified having a disability
- 23% of the total population served was between the ages of 50 and 65
- 62% of the head of households served had obtained their high school diploma/GED or higher education
- 12% of individuals and 66% of families moved on to permanent housing upon discharge

#### **Total Homeless Population.**

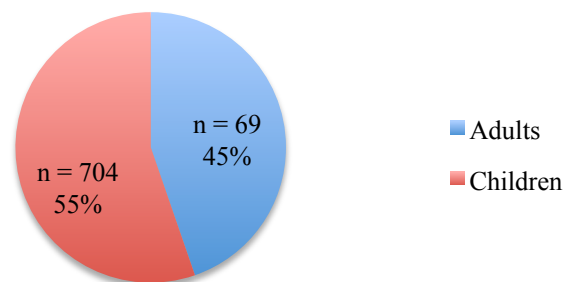
	<b>Mercer County</b>	<b>Central New Jersey</b>	<b>New Jersey</b>
<b>Total Persons Served</b>	3,517	6,623	25,870
<b>Emergency Shelter</b>	2,015	4,099	17,776
Individuals	1,454	2,491	12,163
Families	561	1,608	5,613
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	1,005	1,587	4,837
Individuals	505	807	2,072
Families	500	780	2,765
<b>Permanent Housing</b>	497	937	3,257
Individuals	285	582	2,217
Families	212	355	1,040

A total of 2,720 households involving 3,517 persons were housed in Mercer County. This represents 56% of all 4,867 households as well as 53% of all 6,623 persons who were homeless throughout Central New Jersey.

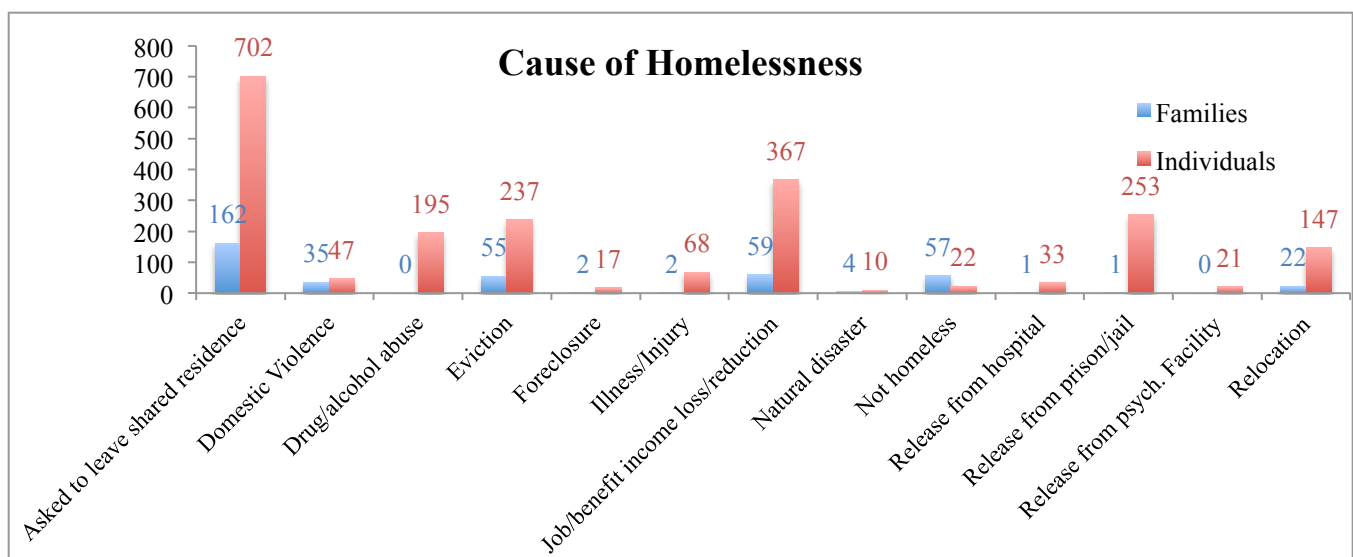


**Adults vs. Children in Families.** The average size of a homeless family in Mercer County is 3 persons for all three program categories. The average age for children in families in emergency shelter is 4, transitional housing is 6, and permanent housing is 8 years old.

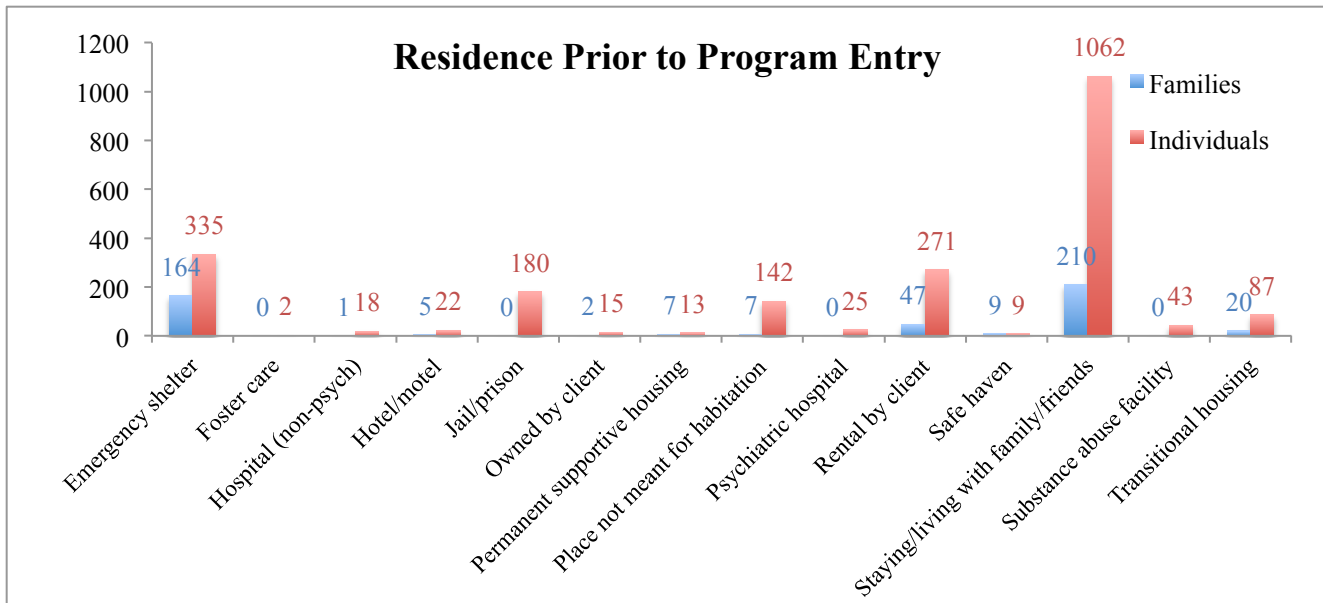
## Adults vs. Children in Families



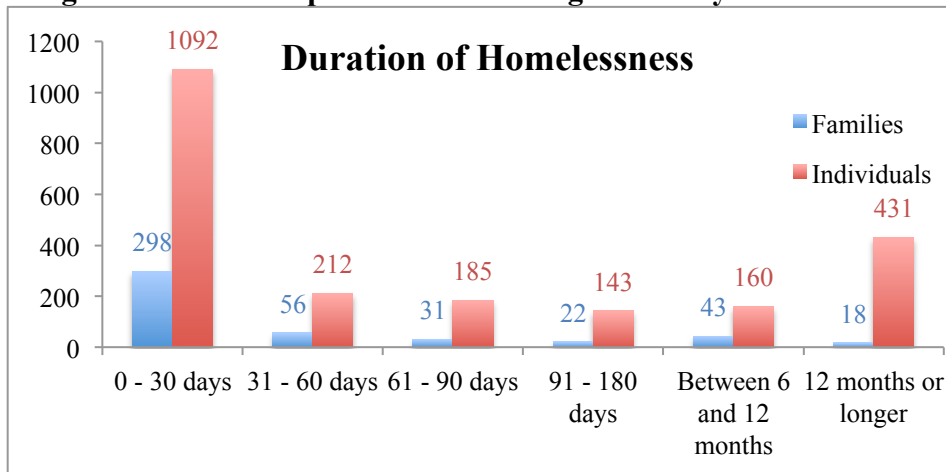
## Cause of Homelessness.



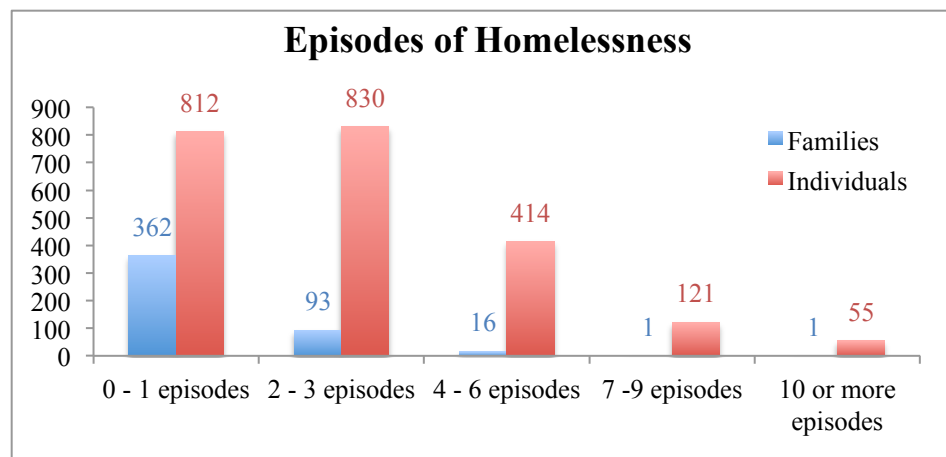
## Residence Prior to Program Entry.



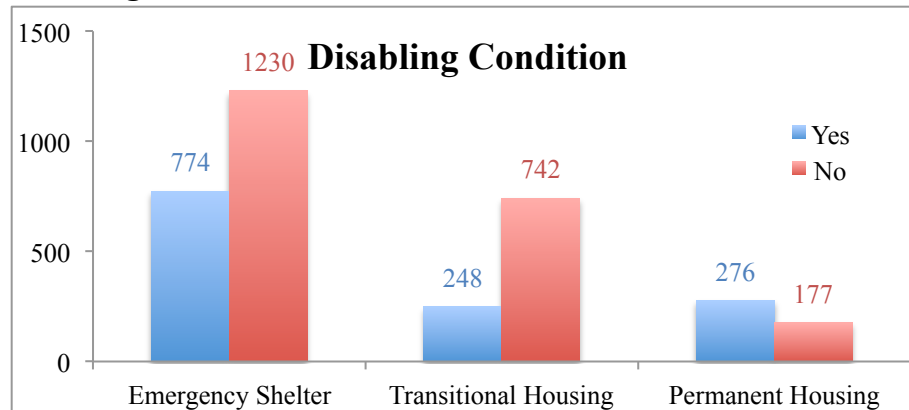
## Length of Homeless Episode Prior to Program Entry.



**Episodes of Homelessness and Chronic Homelessness.** Out of all individuals served, a total of 495 or 22% were identified as chronically homeless.



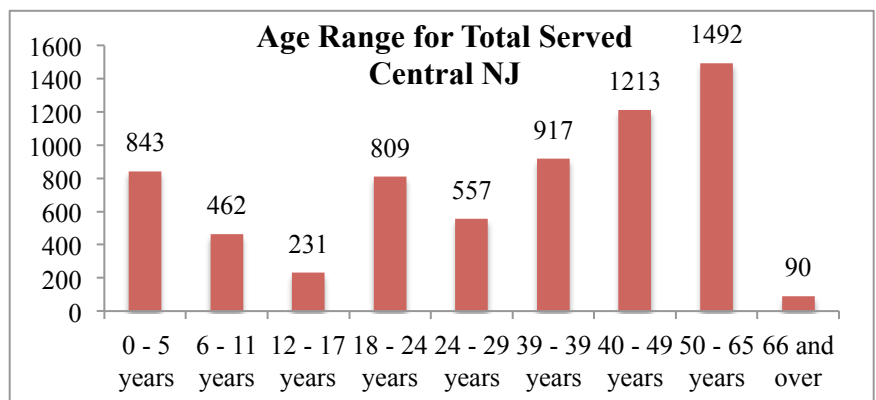
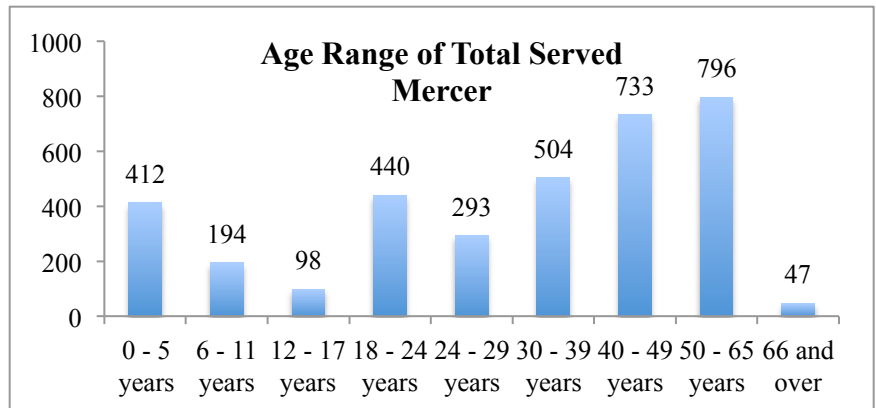
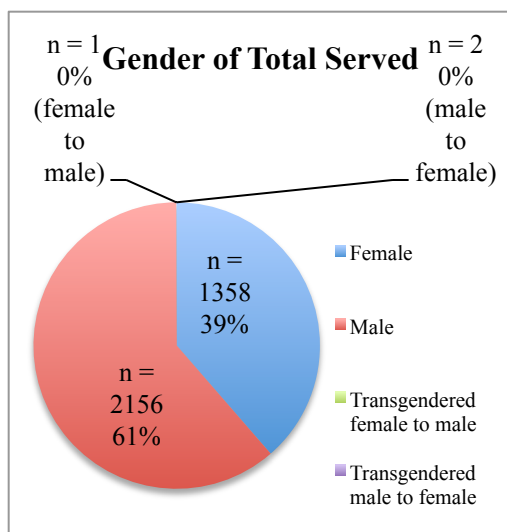
## Disabling Condition.



For those whom indicated a disabling condition, the breakdown is as follows:

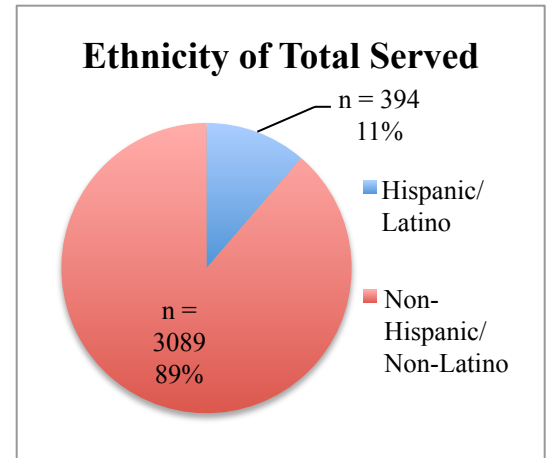
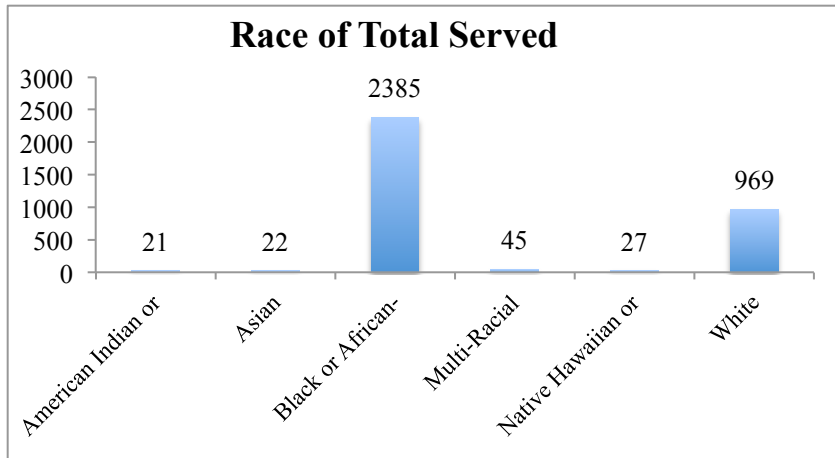
Disabling Condition	Individuals	%	Families	%
Yes	197	18%	144	83%
Yes – Chronic physical illness or disability	229	20%	10	6%
Yes – Developmental disability	12	1%	4	2%
Yes – Diagnosable substance use disorder	285	25%	2	1%
Yes – Dually diagnosed	82	7%	3	2%
Yes – Serious mental illness	319	28%	11	6%
Total	1124	100%	174	100%

## Gender and Age Range.

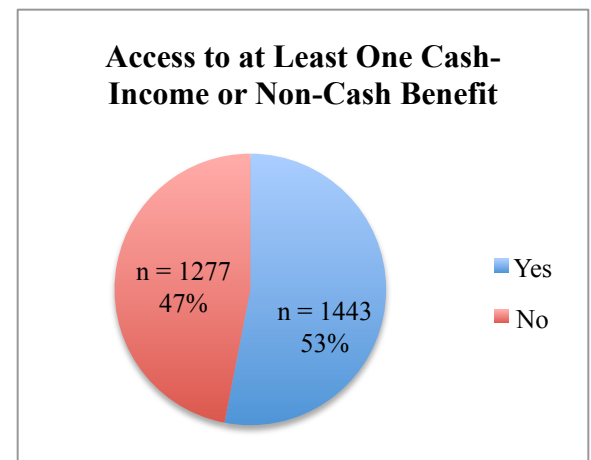
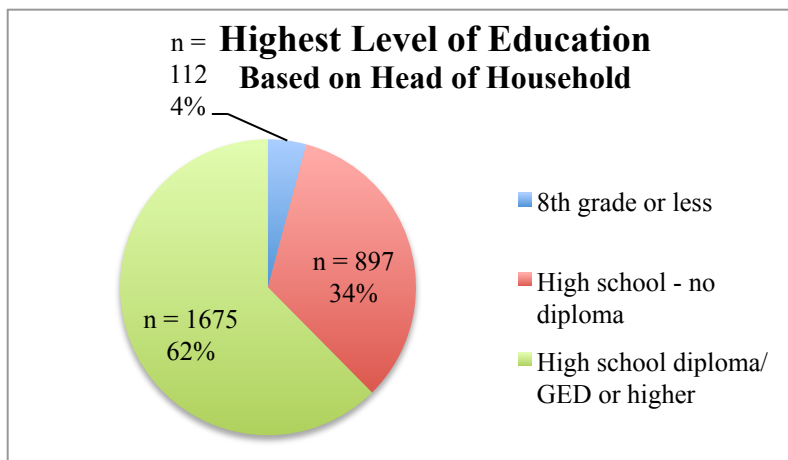


**Veteran Status.** A total of 183 veterans were served in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing programs. This accounted for 7% of all adults served.

## Race and Ethnicity.



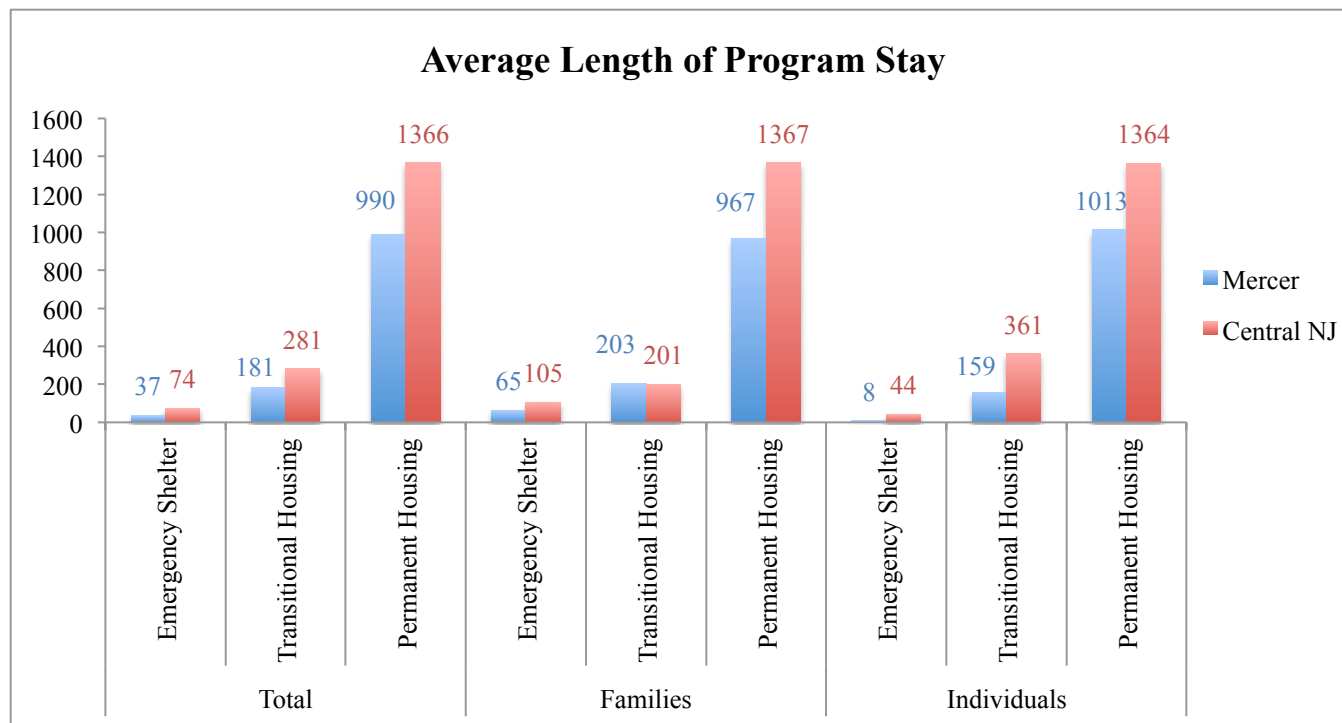
## Level of Education and Access to Cash-Income/Non-Cash Benefits.



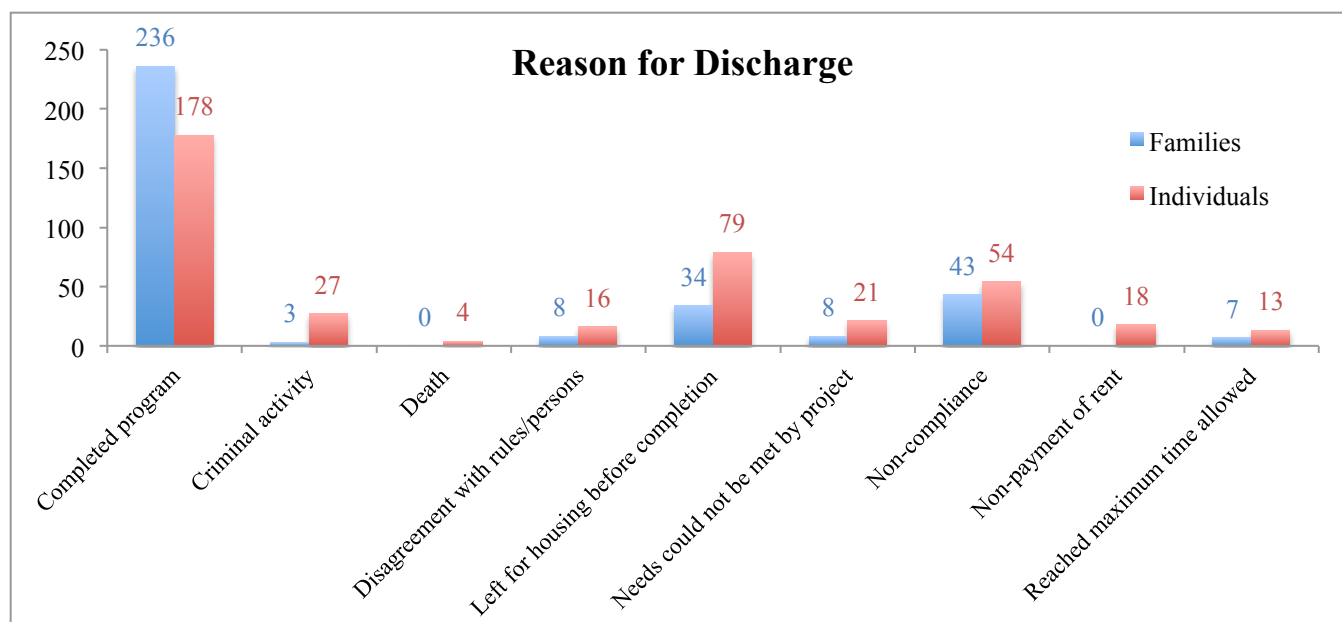
General Public Assistance was the most reported cash-income with a total of 20% of all households served receiving GA.

The most reported non-cash benefit for all households was Food Stamps with 39% of households receiving this benefit.

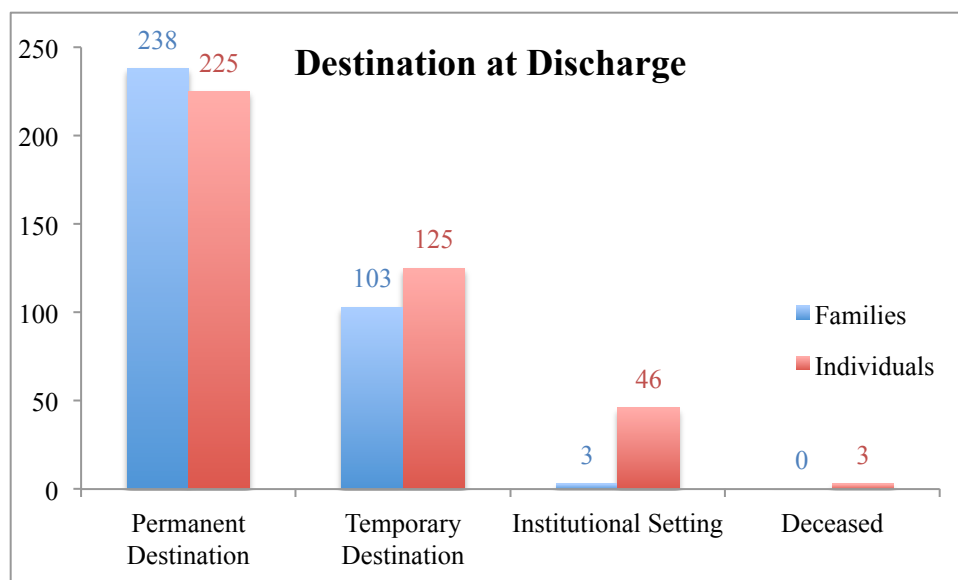
## Average Length of Program Stay.



## Reason and Destination at Discharge.



A total of 2222 households were discharged during the 2012 reporting period. A permanent housing destination includes a unit owned or rented by a client, permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless person, or living with a family member or friend permanently. The most common permanent housing response was rental by client with 16% of total households moving into a rental. This rental could be with or without a subsidy. A temporary discharge destination includes an emergency shelter, hotel or motel, place not meant for habitation, staying with a family member or friend temporarily, or transitional housing for homeless persons. The most common form of temporary housing as a destination was staying with family/friend temporarily, which involved 6% of the total population. An institutional destination includes hospital (psychiatric or non-psychiatric), jail or prison, or a substance abuse treatment facility. The most common institutional destination reported was jail or prison with 1% of the total discharges.



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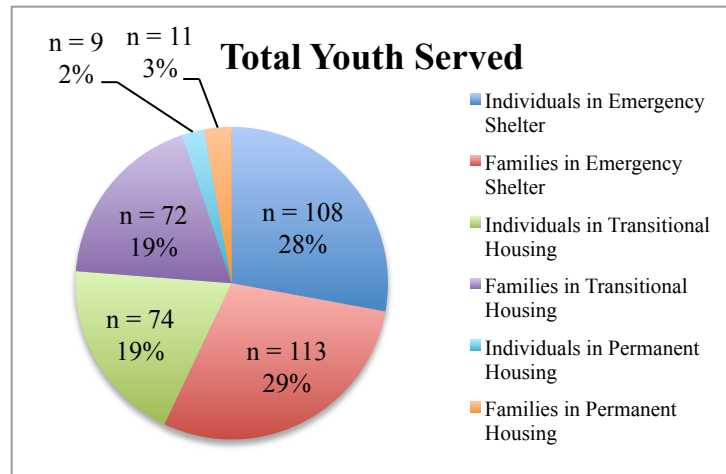
staying with a family member or friend temporarily, or transitional housing for homeless persons. The most common form of temporary housing as a destination was staying with family/friend temporarily, which involved 6% of the total population. An institutional destination includes hospital (psychiatric or non-psychiatric), jail or prison, or a substance abuse treatment facility. The most common institutional destination reported was jail or prison with 1% of the total discharges.

#### IV. Findings for Youth Population

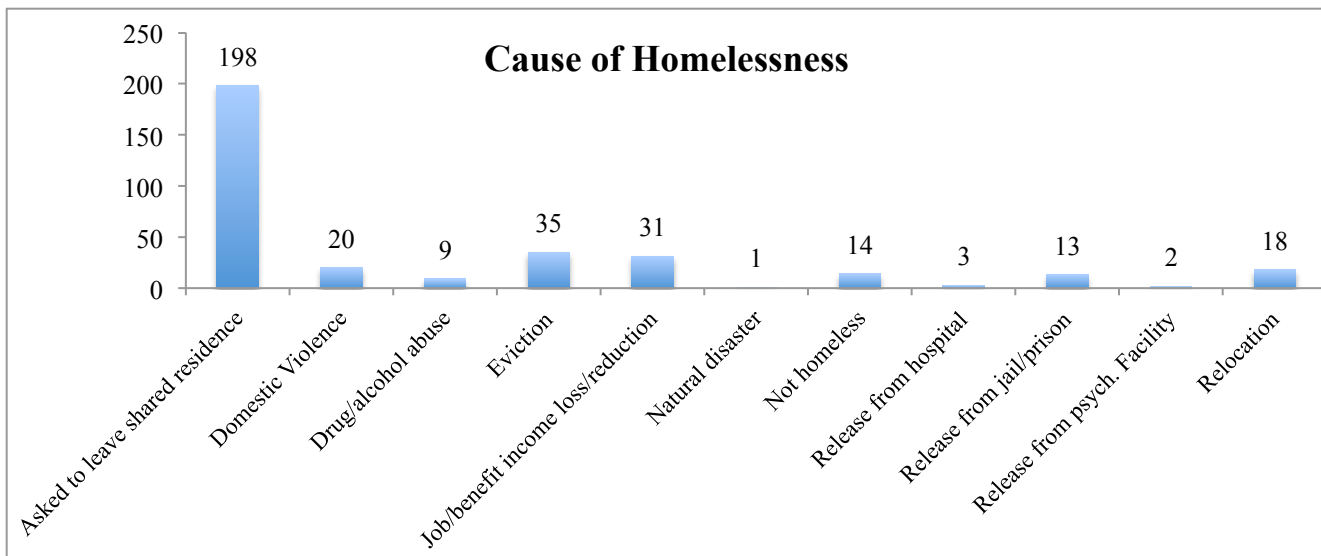
##### Key Findings

- A total of 387 homeless youth were served in HMIS participating emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing during the January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012 report period
- Youth households represented 13% of those served in emergency shelter, 21% of those served in transitional housing, and 6% of those served in permanent housing
- 66% of youth served were female which differed from the total population in which 61% were male
- Youth had shorter program stays in both transitional housing and permanent housing while they had similar length of stays for emergency shelter when compared to the total population
- 42% of youth were discharged into permanent destinations upon exiting the program

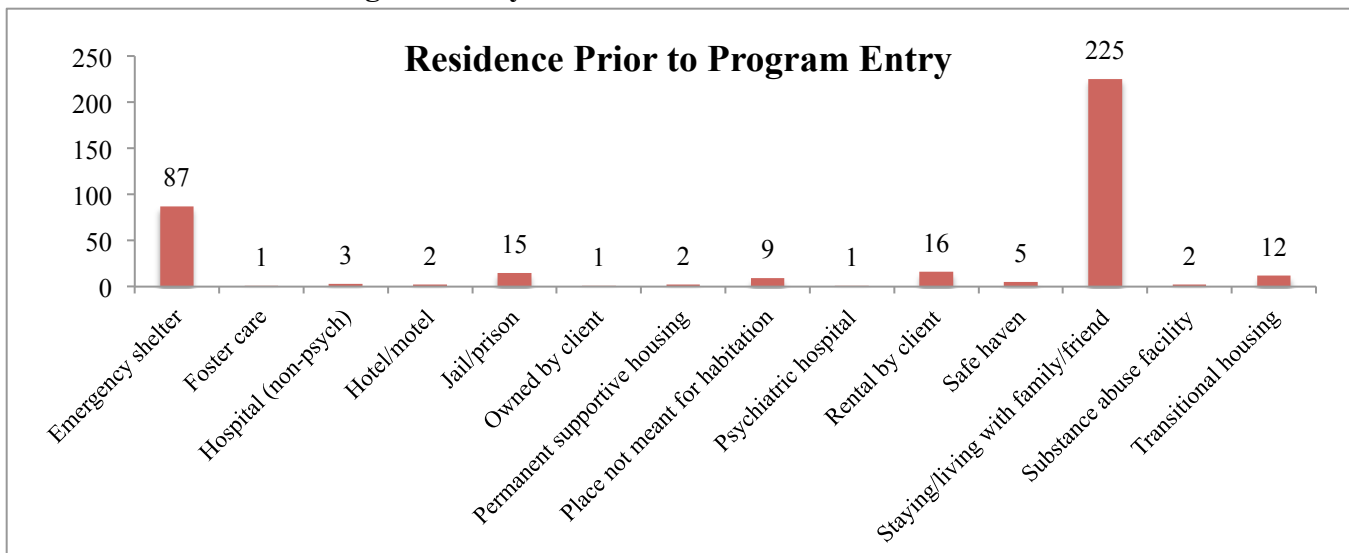
**Total Served.** A total of 387 youth were served as a head of household in Mercer County during the January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012 reporting period. Youth households represent 13% (221) of households served in emergency shelters, 21% (146) served in transitional housing, and 6% (20) served in permanent housing. The average age of youth served was 21 for both emergency shelter and transitional housing and 22 for permanent housing.



## Cause of Homelessness.



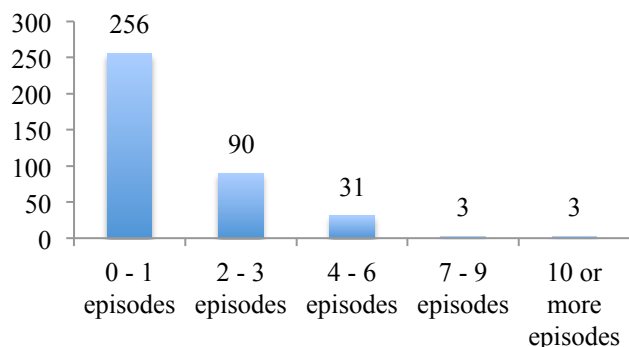
## Residence Prior to Program Entry.



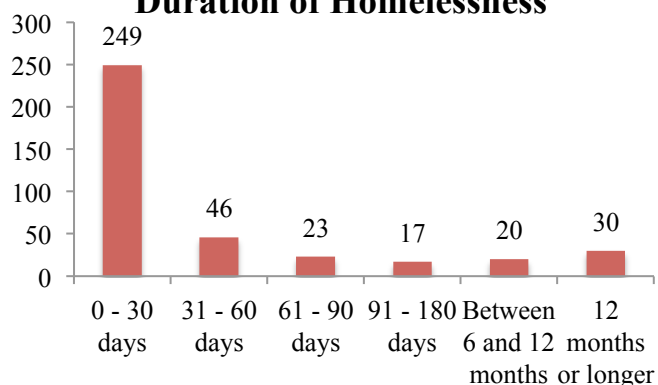


**Episodes and Duration of Homelessness and Chronic Homelessness.** A total of 19 homeless youth were identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period. This accounts for 4% of the total individuals identified as chronically homeless.

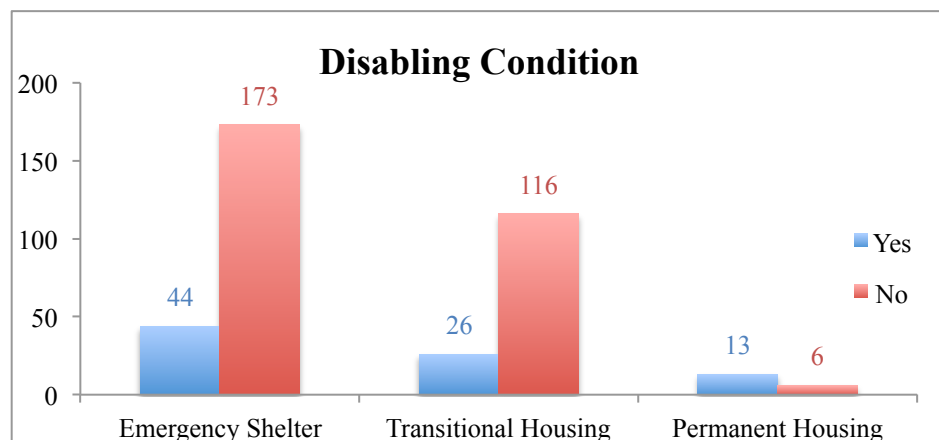
**Episodes of Homelessness**



**Duration of Homelessness**



## Disabling Condition.

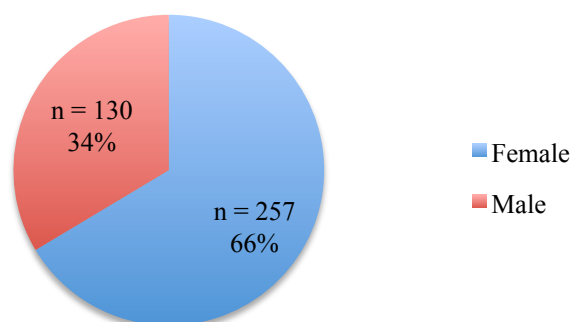


For those indicating a disabling condition, the breakdown is as follows:

Disabling Condition	Youth	%
Yes	33	40%
Yes – Chronic physical illness or disability	13	16%
Yes – Developmental disability	1	1%
Yes – Diagnosable substance use disorder	15	18%
Yes – Dually diagnosed	0	0%
Yes – Serious mental illness	21	25%
Total	83	100%

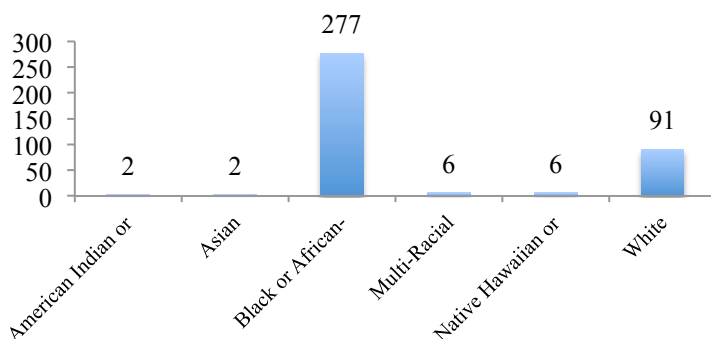
**Gender and Veterans Served.** A total of 3 youth served throughout Mercer County identified themselves as a veteran. This accounts for 2% of total veterans served.

## Gender of Youth

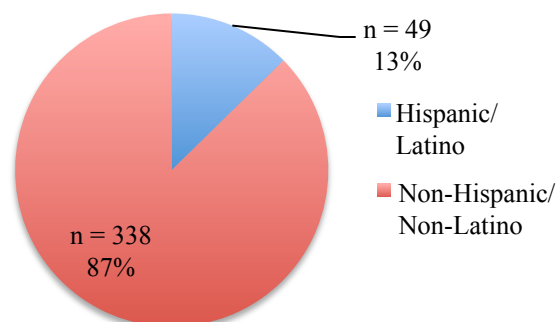


## Race and Ethnicity.

### Race of Youth

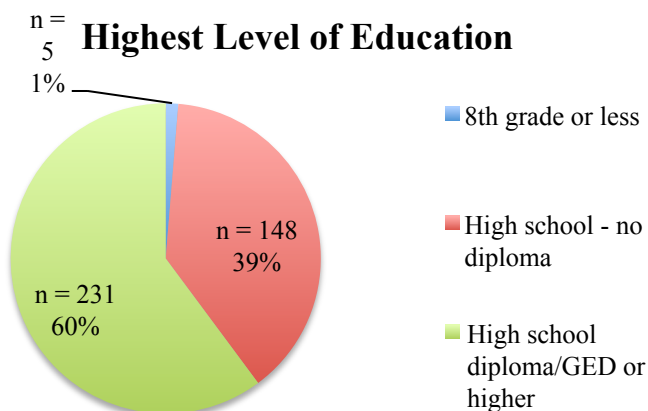


### Ethnicity of Youth

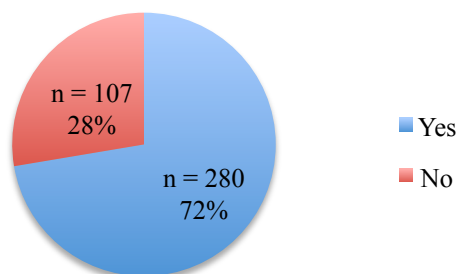


## Level of Education and Cash-Income Sources/Non-Cash Benefits.

### Highest Level of Education



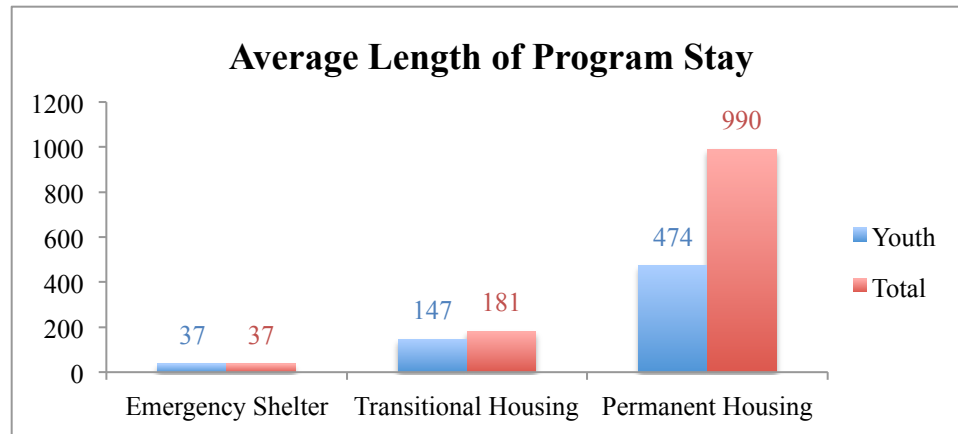
### Access of at Least One Cash-Income or Non-Cash Benefit



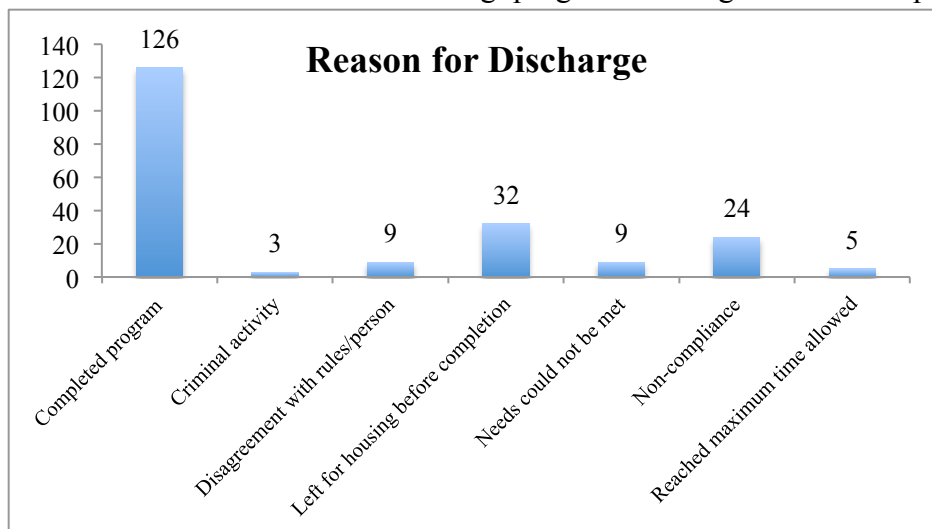
The most commonly reported cash-income for youth was TANF with 35% of the youth served receiving TANF.

The most commonly reported non-cash benefit by youth was Food Stamps with 57% of the youth population receiving this benefit.

## Average Length of Program Stay.



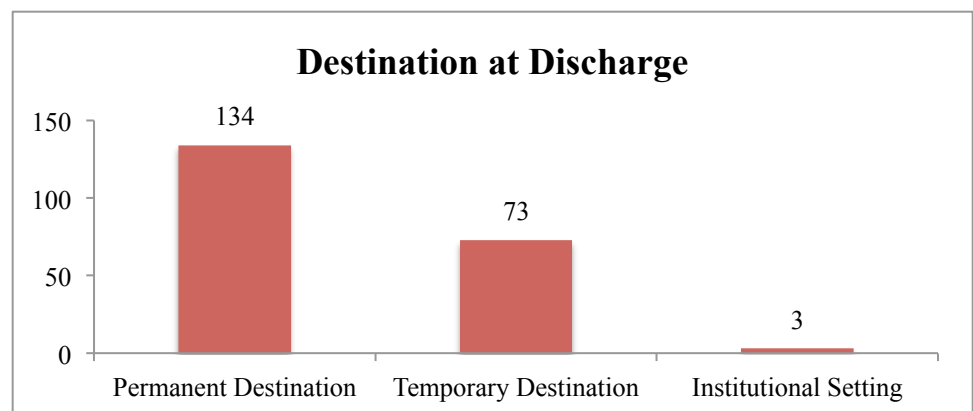
**Reason and Destination at Discharge.** A total of 316 youth were discharged from emergency shelters and transitional housing programs during the 2012 reporting period. A permanent housing destination includes a unit owned or rented by a client, permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless, or living with a family member or friend permanently. The most common permanent destination at discharge was a rental by client which accounted for 33% of the total responses. A temporary discharge destination includes an



emergency shelter, hotel or motel, place not meant for habitation, staying with a family member or friend temporarily, or transitional housing for the homeless. The most common temporary destination was staying with family/friends temporarily which accounted for 16% of the responses. An institutional destination includes hospital (psychiatric or non-psychiatric), jail or prison, or a substance abuse treatment facility. The most commonly reported institutional destination was psychiatric facility with 1% of the total discharges.

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