

# **Somerset County Annual Homeless Assessment Report**

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

### **I. Introduction**

The following report provides Somerset 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:**

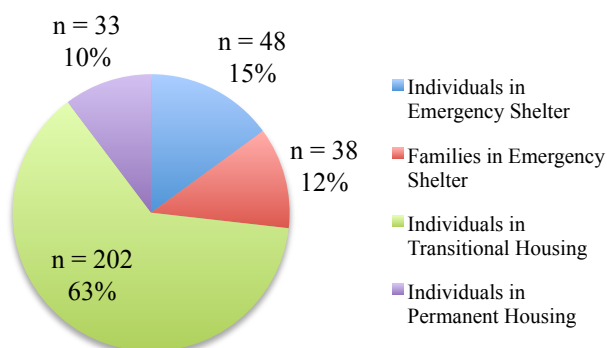
- A total of 321 households were served in HMIS participating emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing programs during the January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012 report period
- A total of 62 individuals were identified as chronically homeless
- 51% of the total population including children and adults either served as individuals or families identified having a disability
- 44% of the total population served was between the ages of 50 and 65
- Among children served as part of a family, 55% were under the age of six
- 82% of the head of households served had obtained their high school diploma/GED or higher education
- 42% of individuals and 65% of families moved on to permanent housing upon discharge

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

	<b>Somerset County</b>	<b>Central New Jersey</b>	<b>New Jersey</b>
<b>Total Persons Served</b>	402	6,623	25,870
<b>Emergency Shelter</b>	167	4,099	17,776
Individuals	48	2,491	12,163
Families	119	1,608	5,613
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	202	1,587	4,837
Individuals	202	807	2,072
Families	0	780	2,765
<b>Permanent Housing</b>	33	937	3,257
Individuals	33	582	2,217
Families	0	355	1,040

A total of 321 households involving 402 persons were housed in Somerset County. This represents 7% of all 4,867 households as well as 6% of all 6,623 persons who were homeless throughout Central New Jersey. Different from Central New Jersey, in which emergency shelter served the most households, 63% of households served in Somerset were part of a transitional housing program.

## Total Households Served

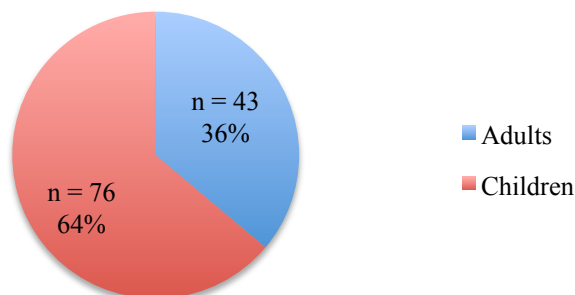


## PIT Count 2009 - 2013

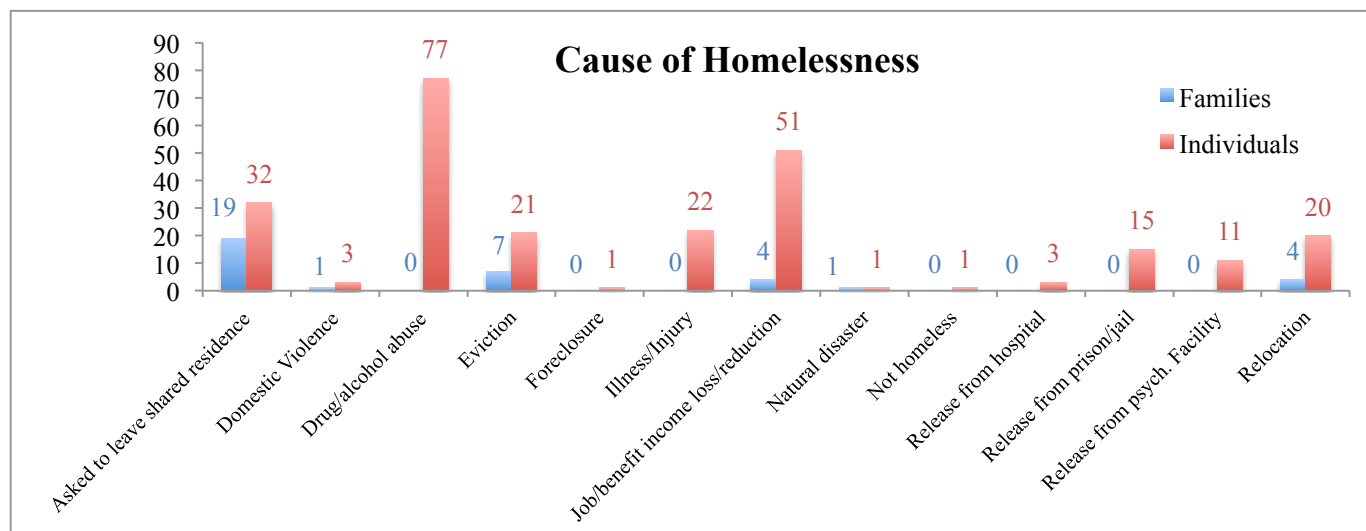


**Adults vs. Children in Families.** The average size of a homeless family in Somerset County is 3 persons. The average age for children in families is 5 years old.

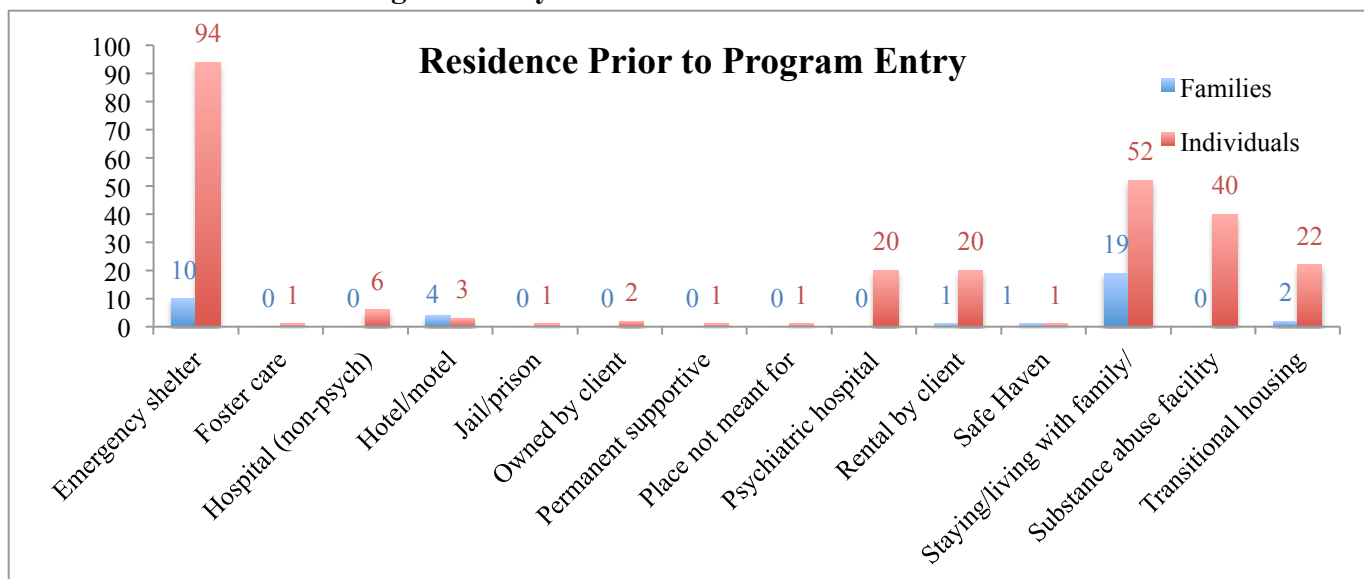
## Adults vs. Children in Families



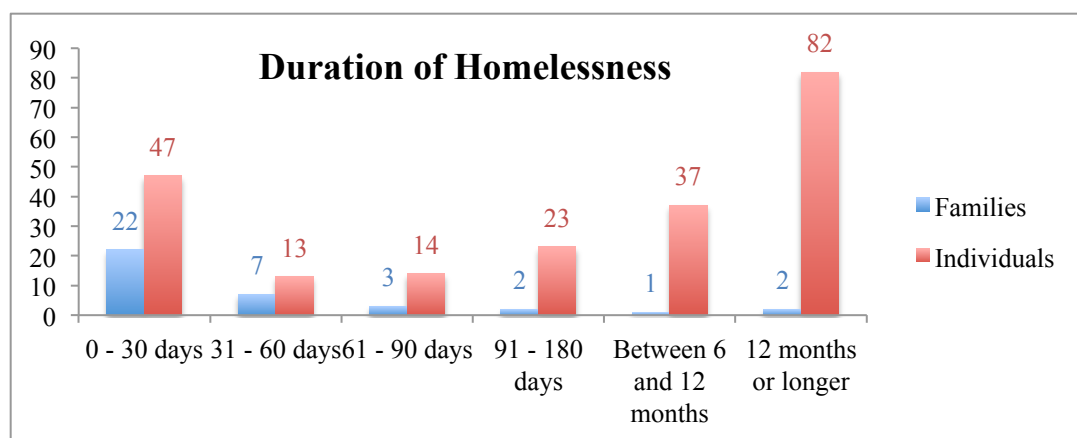
## Cause of Homelessness.



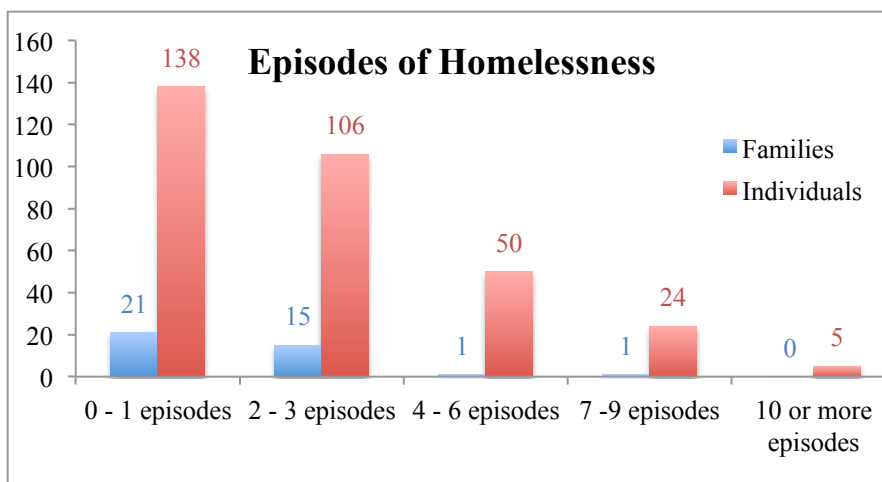
## Residence Prior to Program Entry.



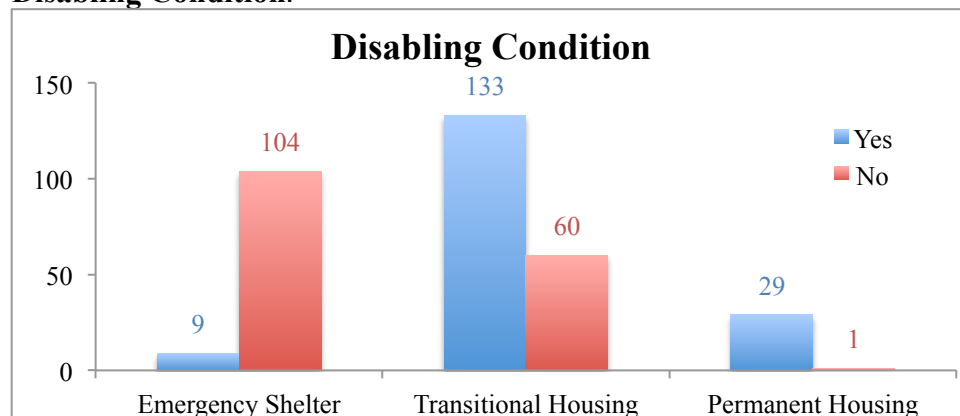
## Length of Homeless Episode Prior to Program Entry.



**Episodes of Homelessness and Chronic Homelessness.** Out of all individuals served, a total of 62 or 22% were identified as chronically homeless.



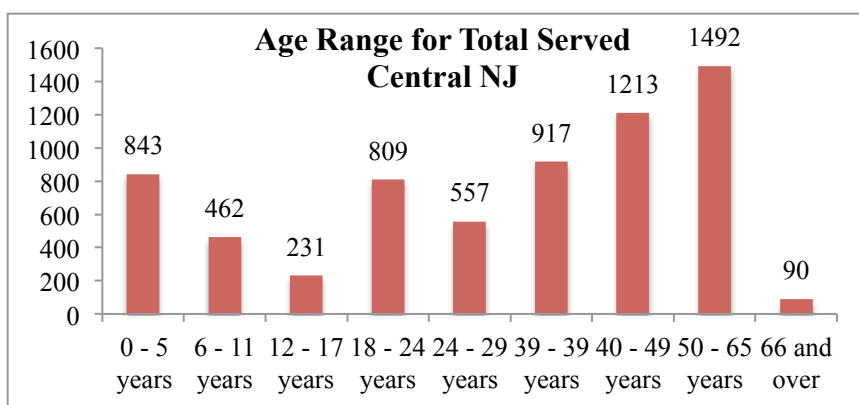
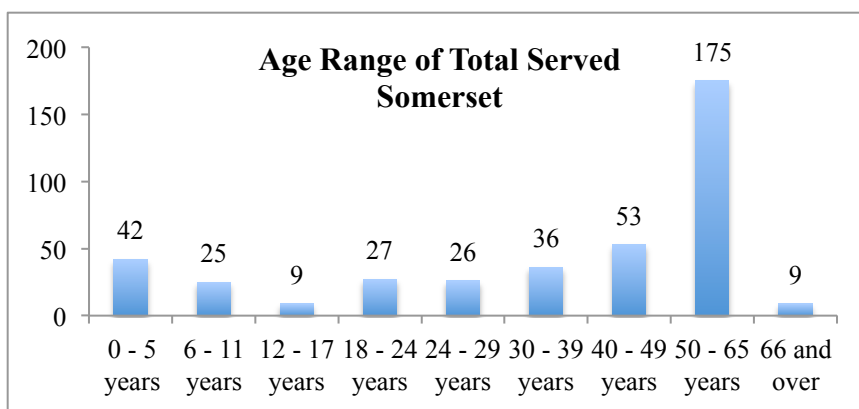
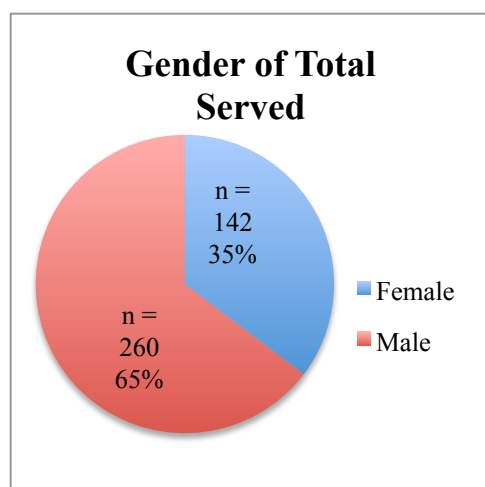
## Disabling Condition.



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

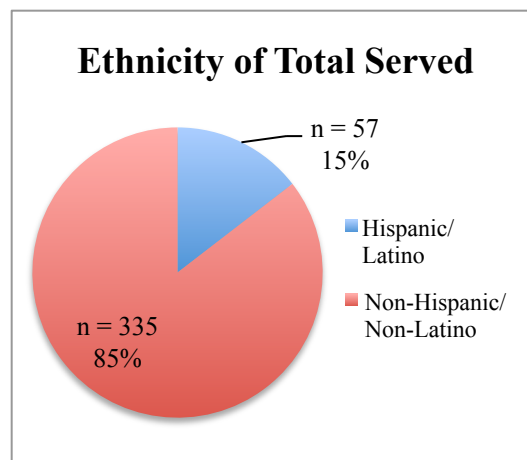
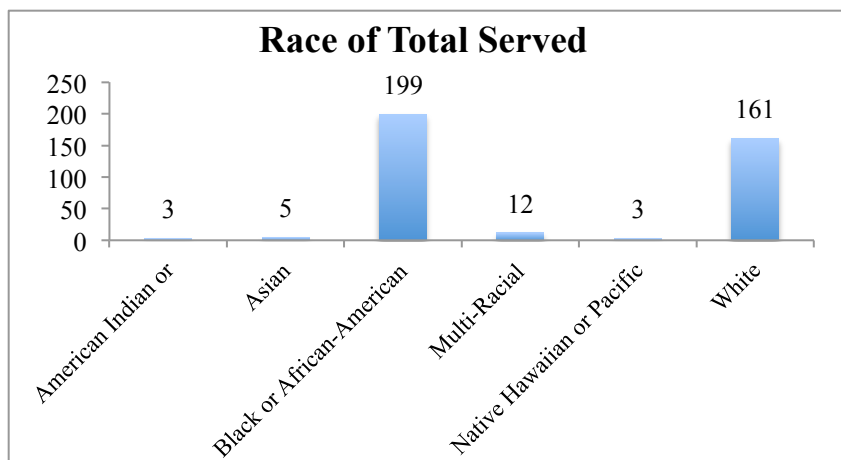
Disabling Condition	Individuals	%	Families	%
Yes	17	10%	1	33%
Yes – Chronic physical illness or disability	31	18%	1	33%
Yes – Developmental disability	2	1%	0	0%
Yes – Diagnosable substance use disorder	27	16%	1	33%
Yes – Dually diagnosed	36	21%	0	0%
Yes – Serious mental illness	55	33%	0	0%
Total	168	100%	3	100%

## Gender and Age Range.

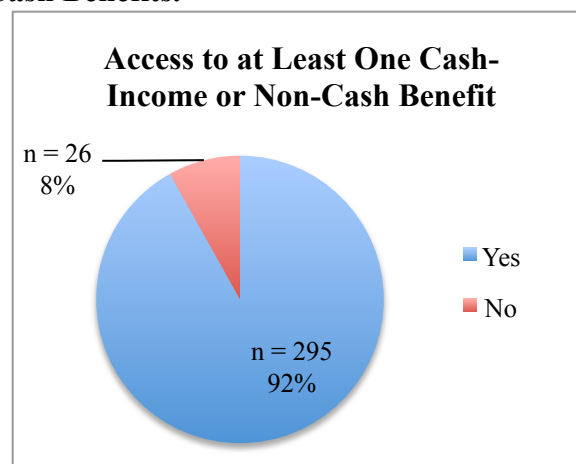
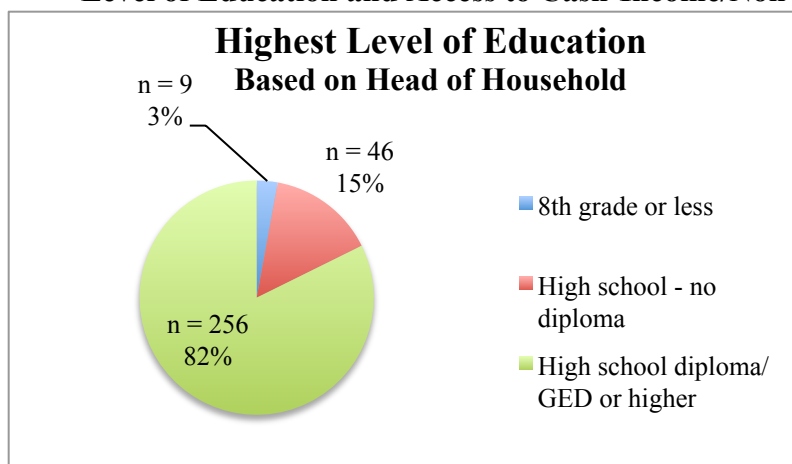


**Veteran Status.** A total of 206 individual veterans were served in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing programs. This accounted for 63% of all adults served.

### Race and Ethnicity.



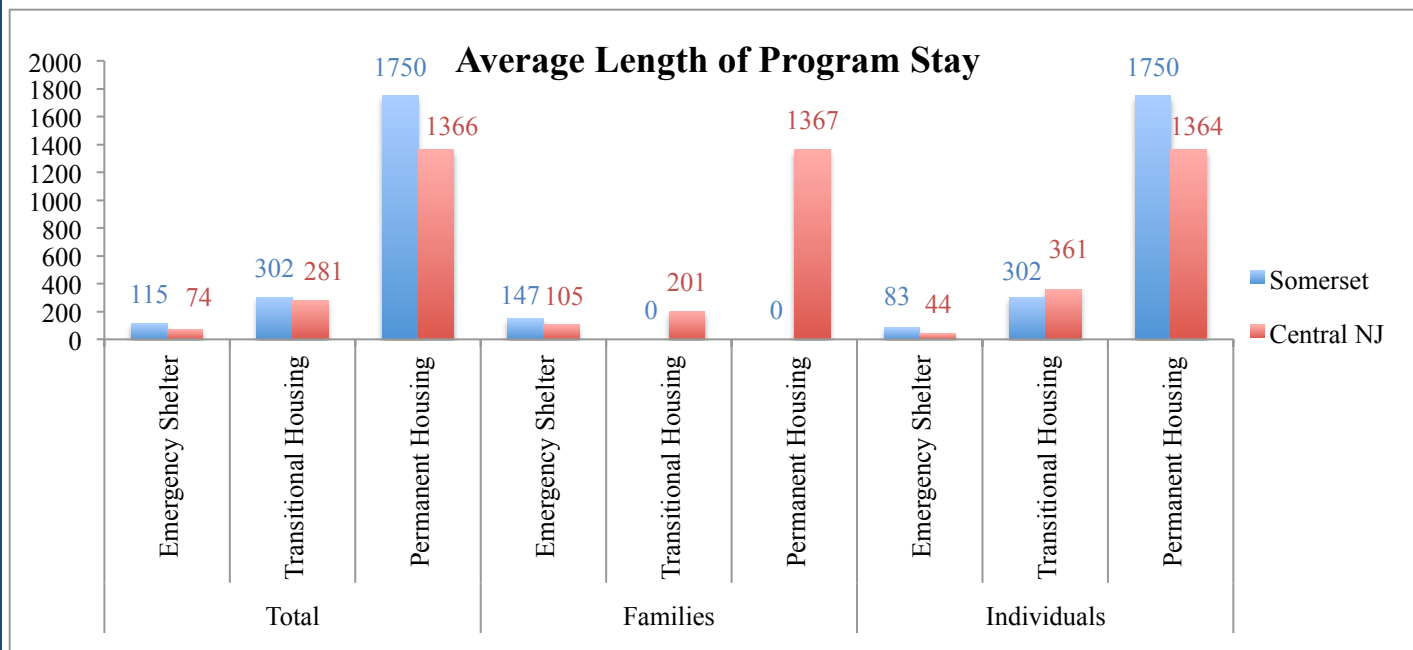
### Level of Education and Access to Cash-Income/Non-Cash Benefits.



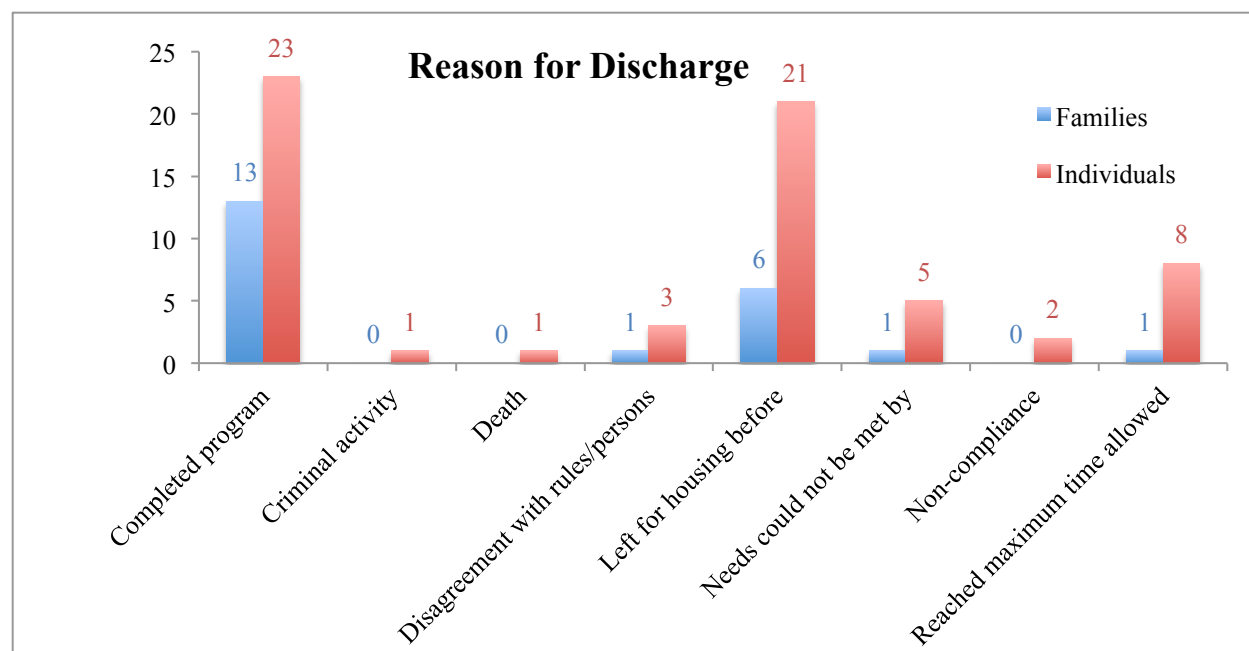
Earned income was the most reported cash-income with a total of 18% of all households served receiving earned income.

The most reported non-cash benefit for all households was Veteran's Administration Medical Services with 60% of households receiving this benefit.

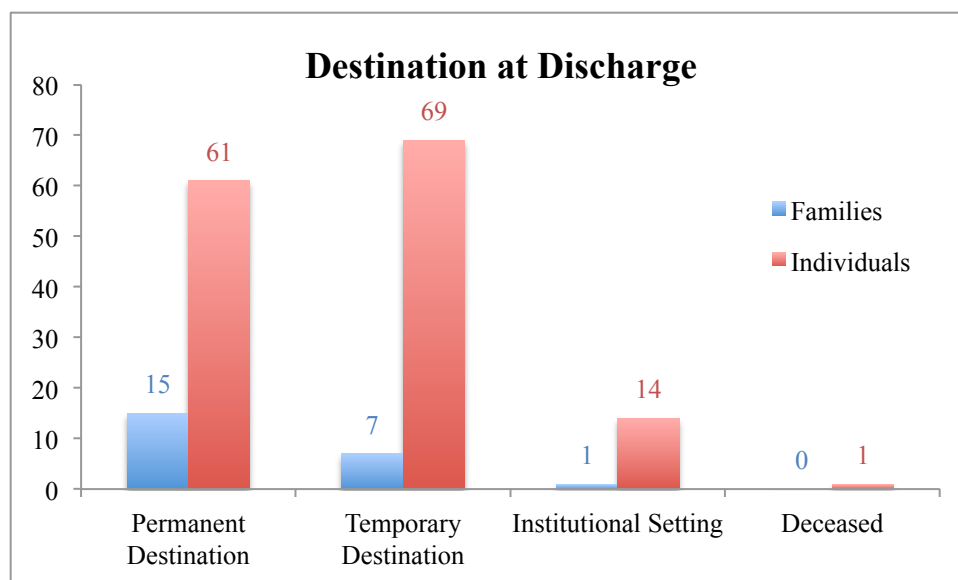
### Average Length of Program Stay.



### Reason and Destination at Discharge.



A total of 202 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 32% 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 a family member or friend temporarily, which involved 23% 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 hospital both psychiatric and non-psychiatric with 2% of the total discharges to each destination.



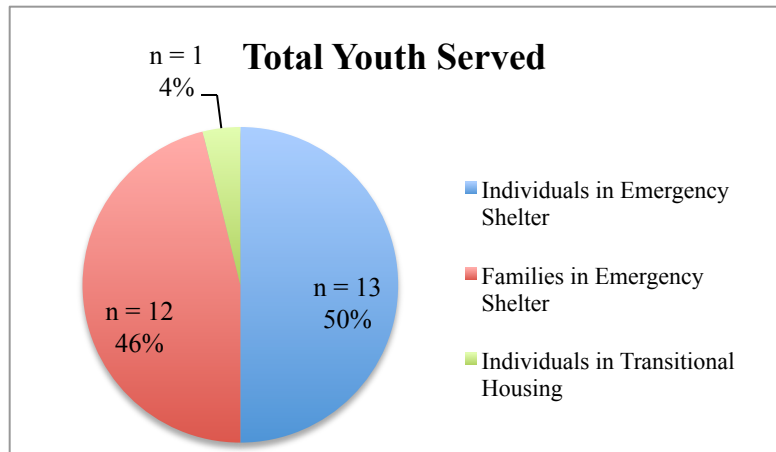
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#### IV. Findings for Youth Population

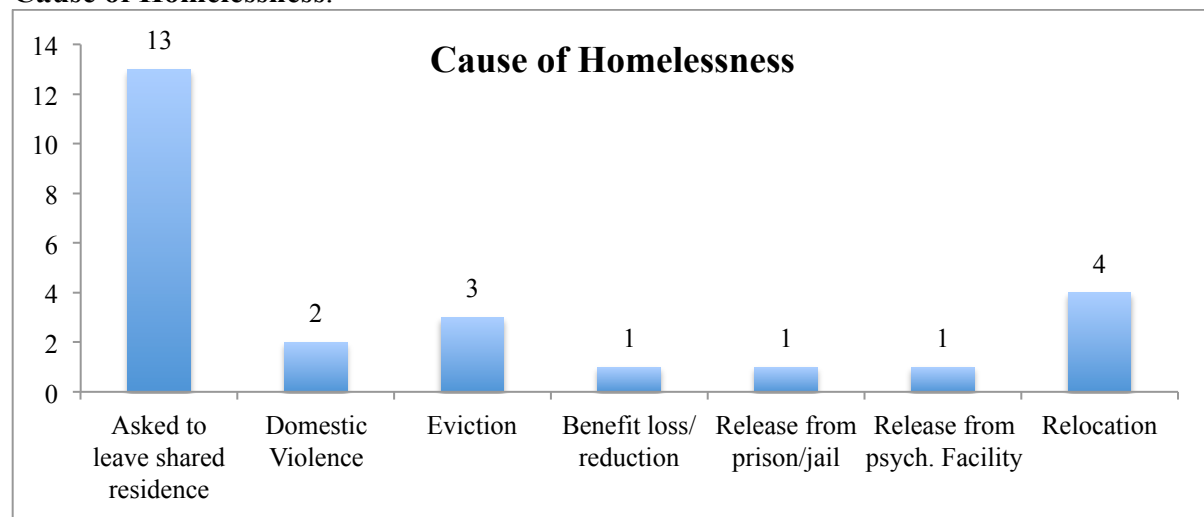
##### Key Findings

- A total of 26 homeless youth were served in HMIS participating emergency shelters or transitional housing during the January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012 report period
- Youth households represented 29% of those served in emergency shelter and less than 1% of those served in transitional housing
- 96% of youth served were female which differed from the total population in which 65% were male
- Youth had shorter program stays in both emergency shelter and transitional housing when compared to the total population
- 40% of youth were discharged into permanent destinations while 53% were discharged to a temporary destination upon exiting the program

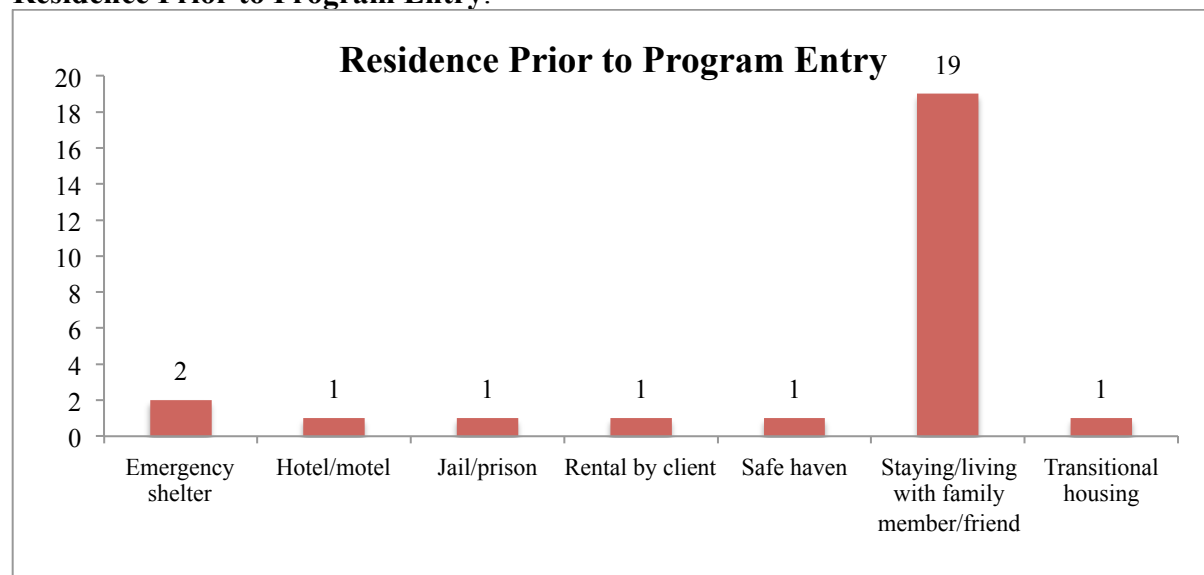
**Total Served.** A total of 26 youth were served as a head of household in Somerset County during the January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012 reporting period. Youth households represent 29% (25) of households served in emergency shelters and less than 1% (1) served in transitional housing. The average age of youth served was 22 for emergency shelter and 23 for transitional housing



## Cause of Homelessness.

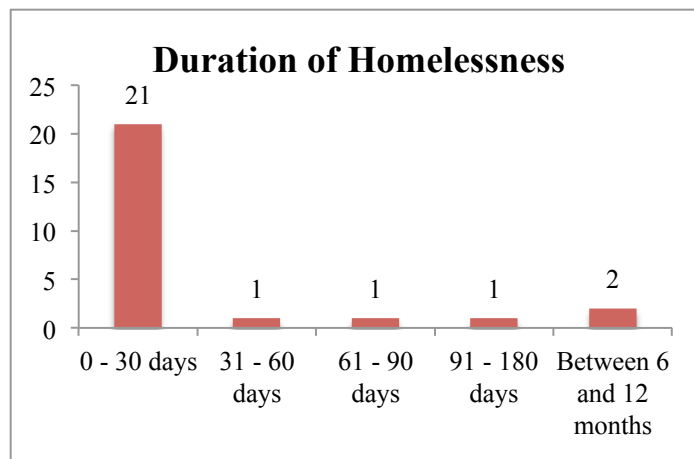
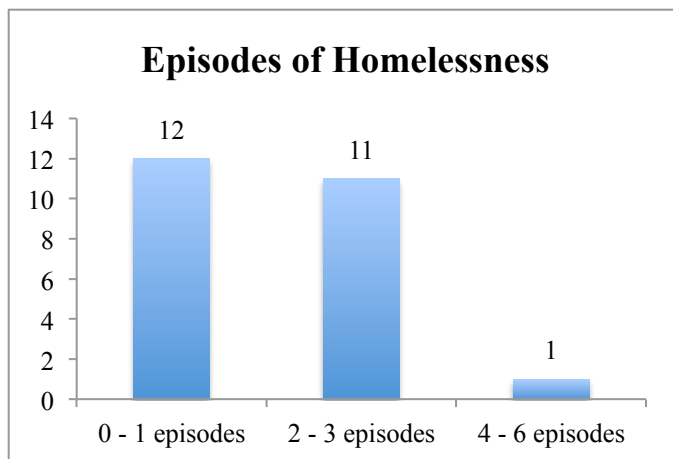


## Residence Prior to Program Entry.

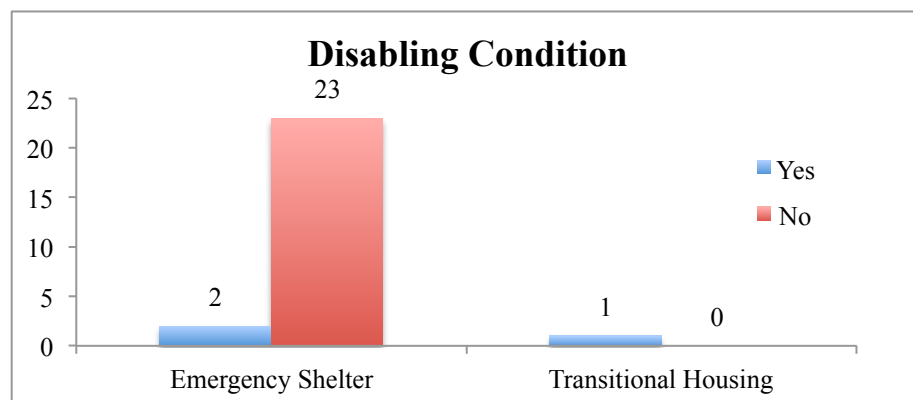




**Episodes and Duration of Homelessness and Chronic Homelessness.** Only 1 homeless youth was identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period. This number represents only 2% of the total number of individuals identified as chronically homeless.



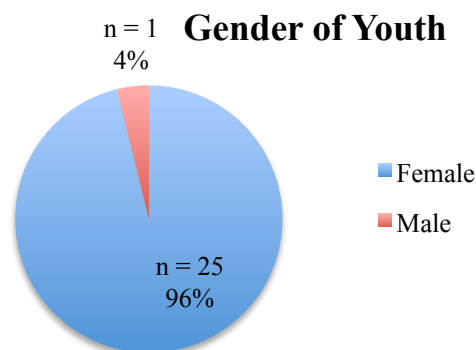
### Disabling Condition.



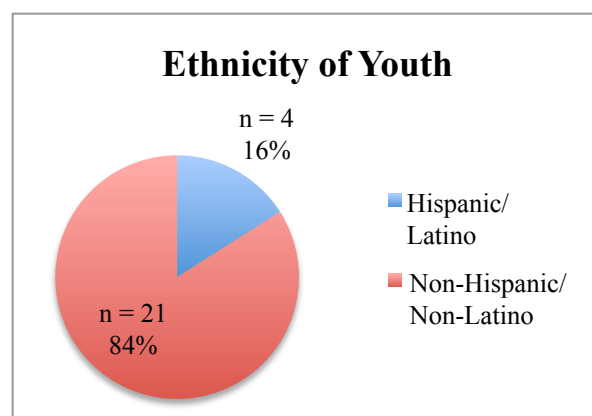
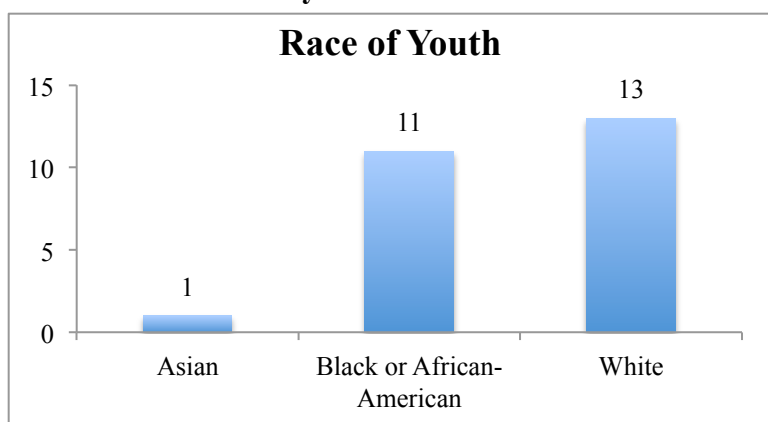
For those indicating a disabling condition, the breakdown is as follows:

Disabling Condition	Youth	%
Yes	0	0%
Yes – Chronic physical illness or disability	0	0%
Yes – Developmental disability	0	0%
Yes – Diagnosable substance use disorder	1	33%
Yes – Dually diagnosed	0	0%
Yes – Serious mental illness	2	66%
Total	3	100%

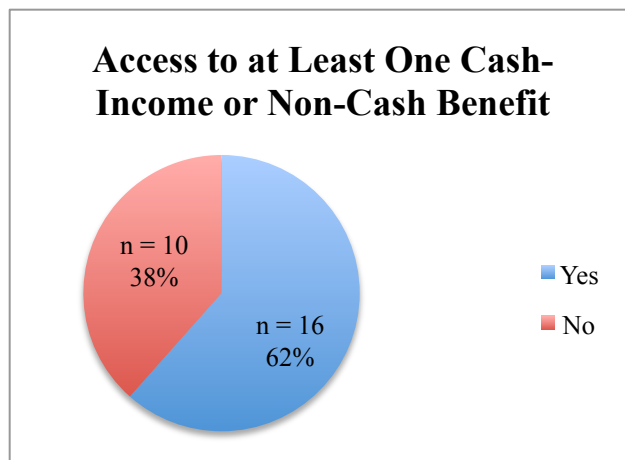
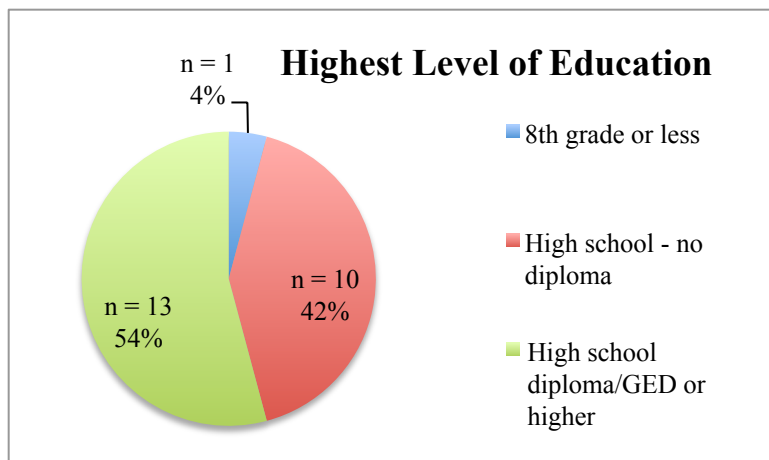
**Gender and Veterans Served.** Only 1 youth served throughout Somerset County identified themselves as a veteran. This accounts for less than 1% of the total veterans served.



## Race and Ethnicity.

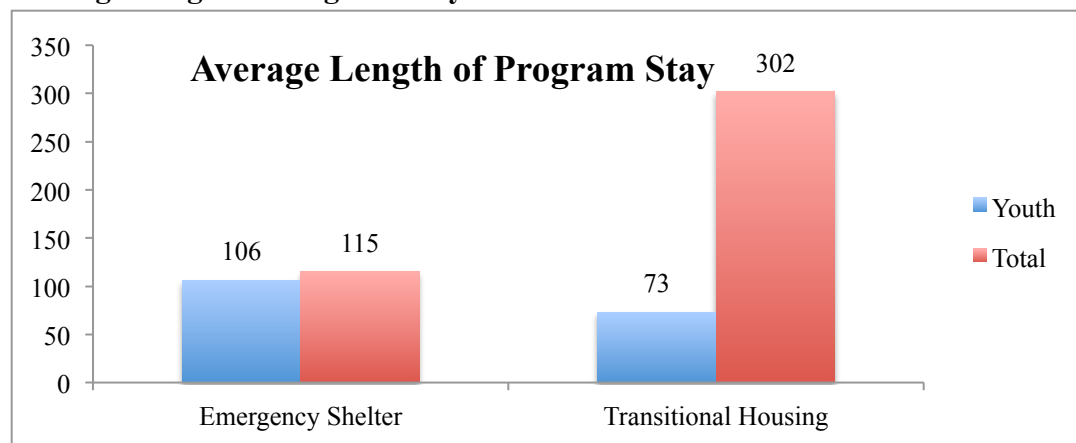


## Level of Education and Cash-Income Sources/Non-Cash Benefits.

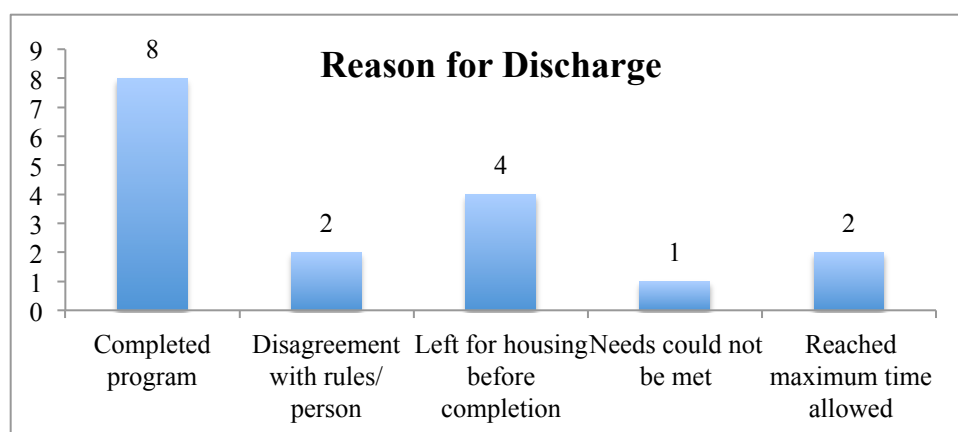


The most commonly reported cash-income for youth was TANF with 27% of the youth served receiving TANF.

The most commonly reported non-cash benefit by youth was Food Stamps with 46% of the youth population receiving Food Stamps.

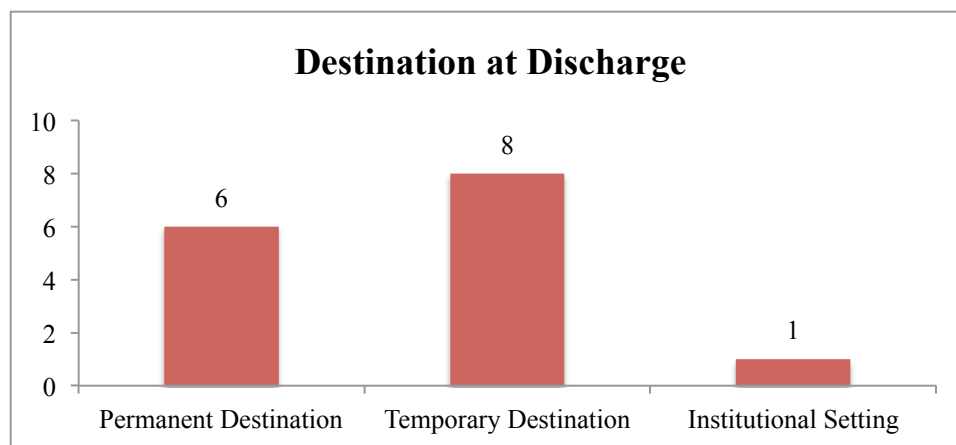
**Average Length of Program Stay.**

**Reason and Destination at Discharge.** A total of 25 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 16% 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 either emergency shelter or transitional housing which both accounted for 12% of the responses. An institutional destination includes hospital (psychiatric or non-psychiatric), jail or prison, or a substance abuse treatment facility. The only reported institutional destination was jail or prison with 4% of the total discharges.

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