

Union County Annual Homeless Assessment Report

January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012

I. Introduction

The following report provides Union County Continuum of Care with a look at the HMIS data that was used for the 2012 Northern 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 Northern 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

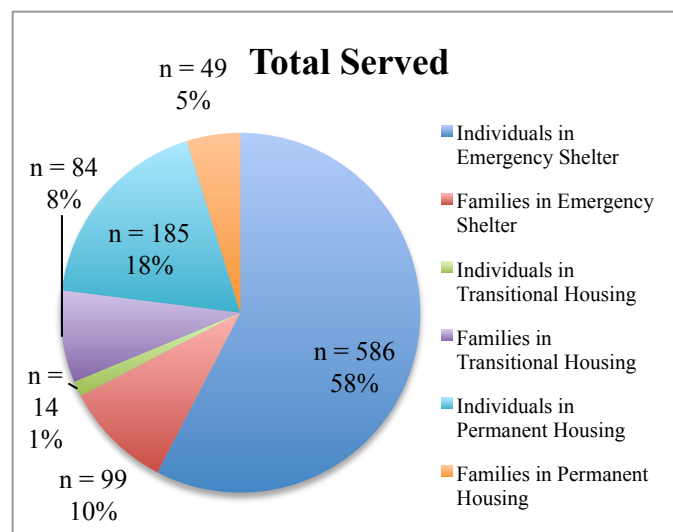
Key Findings:

- A total of 1,017 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 40 individuals were identified as chronically homeless
- 46% 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
- Among children served as part of a family, 52% were under the age of six
- 64% of the head of households served had obtained their high school diploma/GED or higher education
- 28% of individuals and 45% of families moved on to permanent housing upon discharge

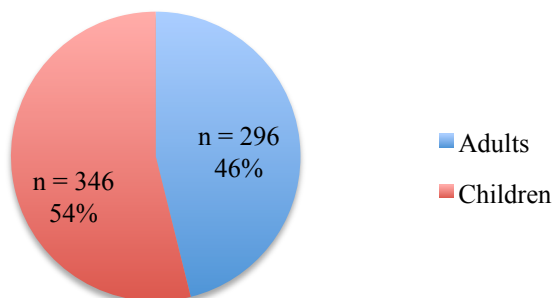
Total Homeless Population.

| | Union County | Northern New Jersey | New Jersey |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Persons Served | 1,427 | 13,631 | 25,870 |
| Emergency Shelter | 836 | 9,122 | 17,776 |
| Individuals | 586 | 6,520 | 12,163 |
| Families | 250 | 2,602 | 5,613 |
| Transitional Housing | 279 | 2,510 | 4,837 |
| Individuals | 14 | 746 | 2,072 |
| Families | 265 | 1,764 | 2,765 |
| Permanent Housing | 312 | 1,999 | 3,257 |
| Individuals | 185 | 1,410 | 2,217 |
| Families | 127 | 589 | 1,040 |

A total of 1,017 households involving 1,427 persons were housed in Union County. This represents 10% of all 10,513 households as well as 10% of all 13,631 persons who were homeless throughout Northern New Jersey.

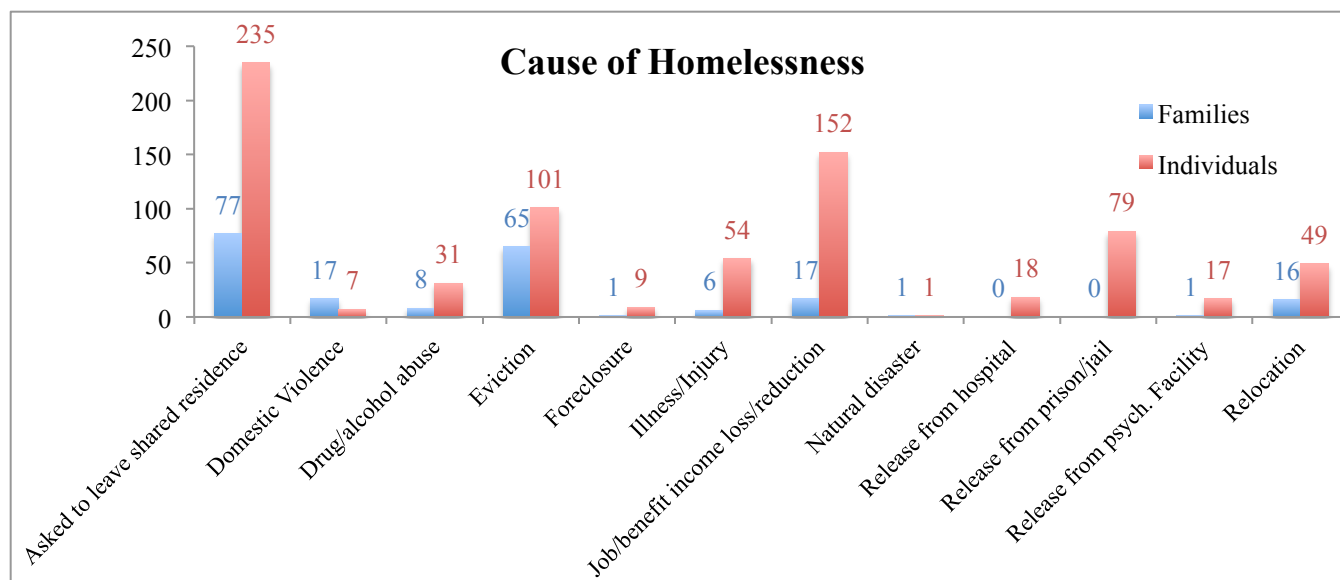


Adults vs. Children in Families

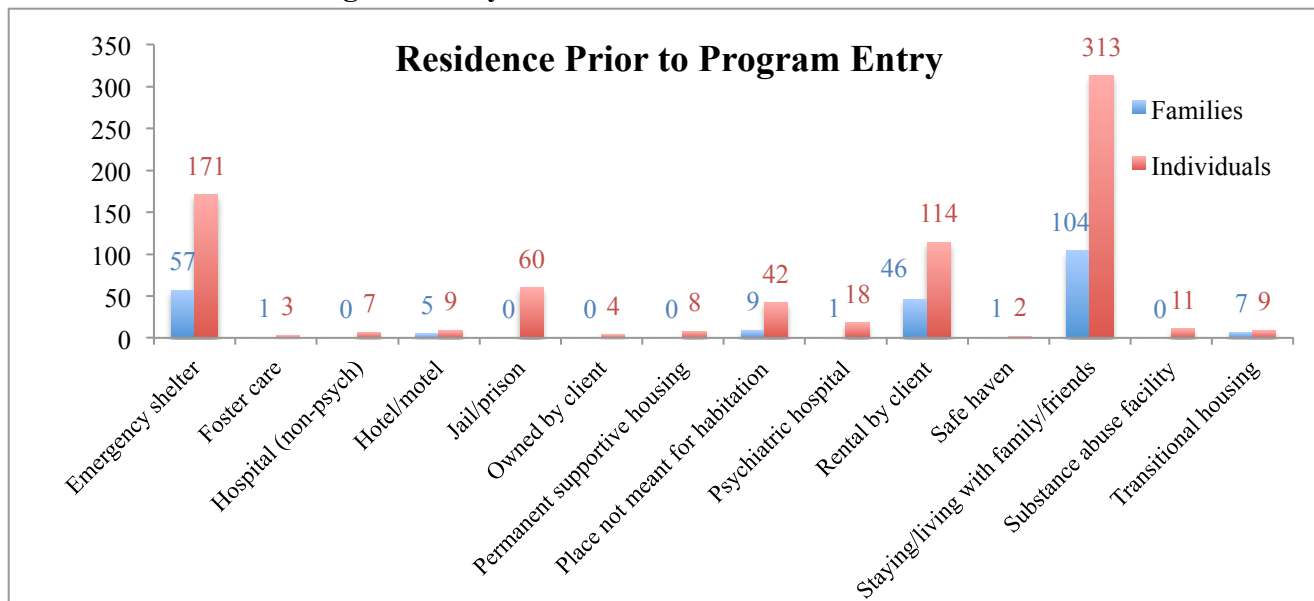


Adults vs. Children in Families. The average size of a homeless family in Union County is 3 persons for all three program categories. The average age for children in families in emergency shelter is 5, transitional housing is 7, and permanent housing is 9 years old.

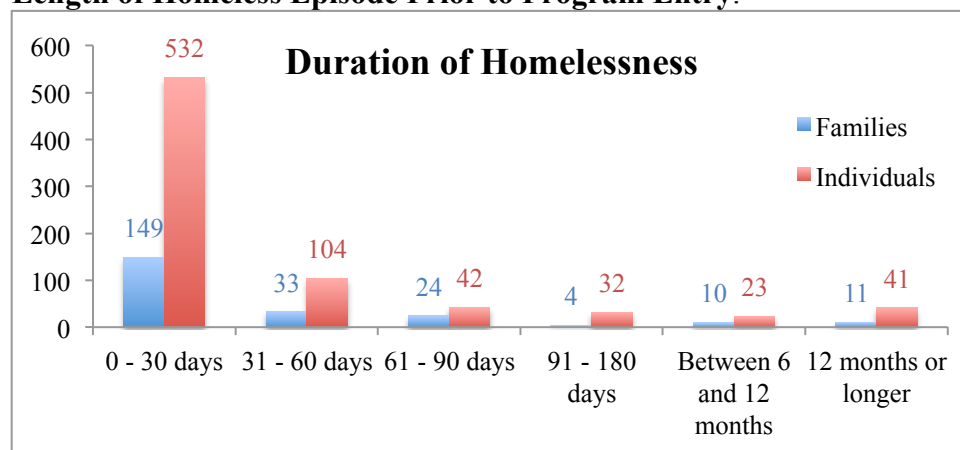
Cause of Homelessness.



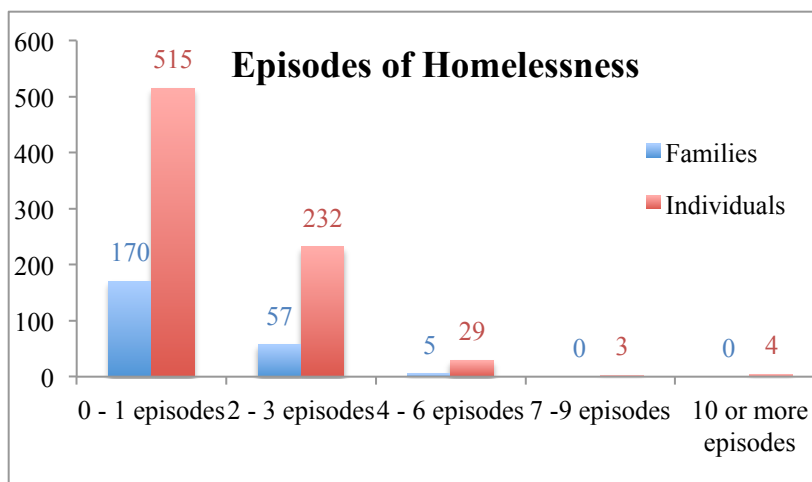
Residence Prior to Program Entry.



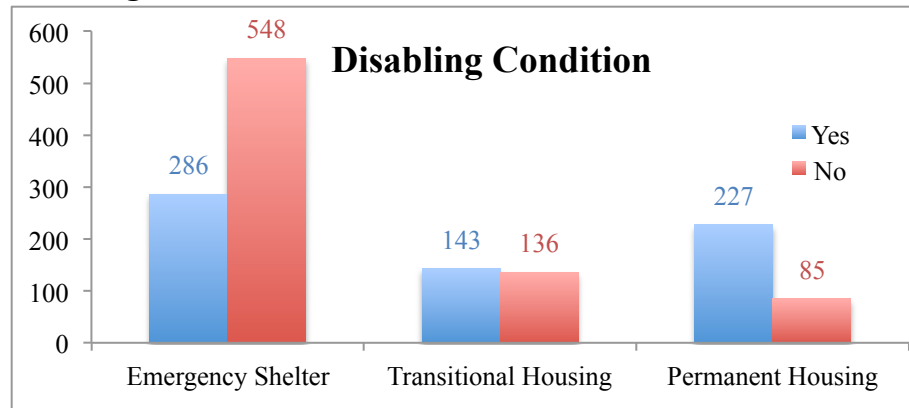
Length of Homeless Episode Prior to Program Entry.



Episodes of Homelessness and Chronic Homelessness. Out of all individuals served, a total of 40 or 5% were identified as chronically homeless.



Disabling Condition.

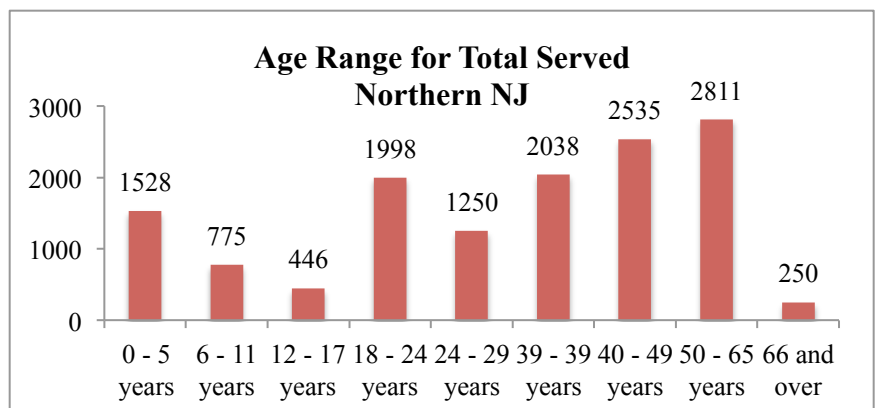
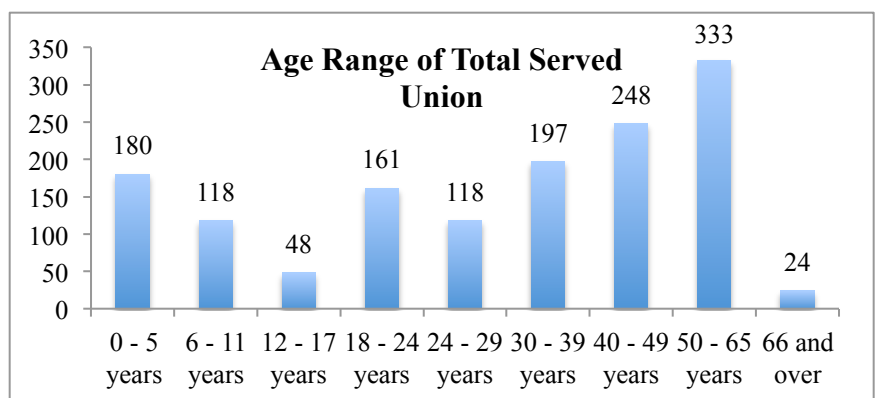
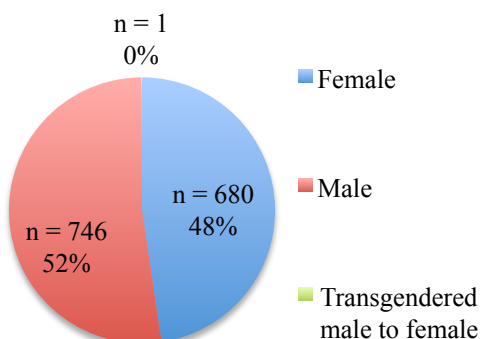


For those whom indicated a disabling condition, the breakdown is as follows:

| Disabling Condition | Individuals | % | Families | % |
|--|-------------|------|----------|------|
| Yes | 190 | 51% | 257 | 90% |
| Yes – Chronic physical illness or disability | 19 | 5% | 10 | 3% |
| Yes – Developmental disability | 41 | 11% | 1 | 0% |
| Yes – Diagnosable substance use disorder | 4 | 1% | 0 | 0% |
| Yes – Dually diagnosed | 10 | 3% | 1 | 0% |
| Yes – Serious mental illness | 105 | 28% | 18 | 6% |
| Total | 369 | 100% | 287 | 100% |

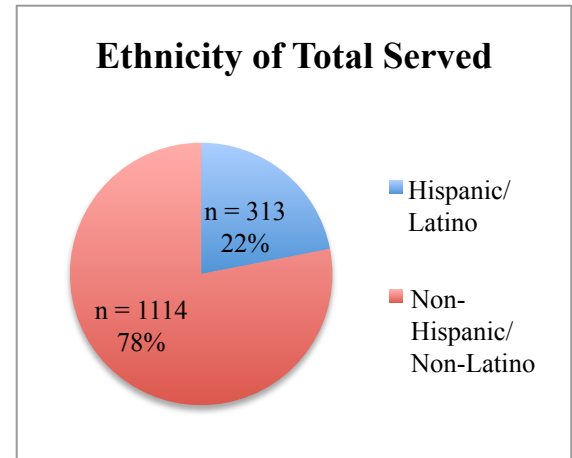
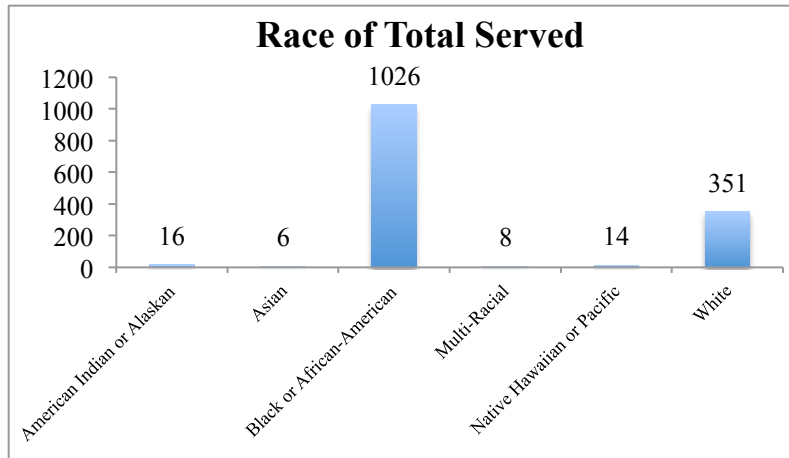
Gender and Age Range.

Gender of Total Served

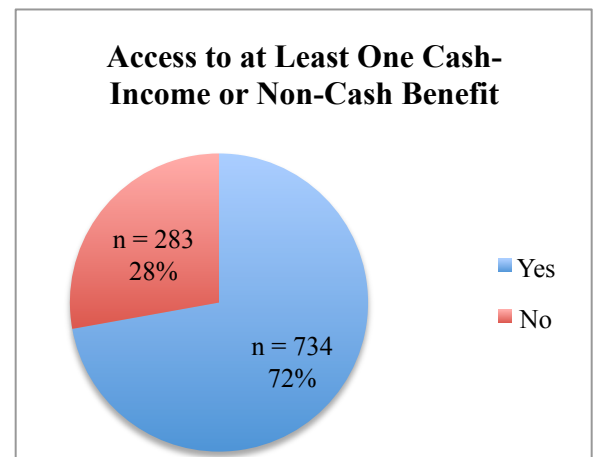
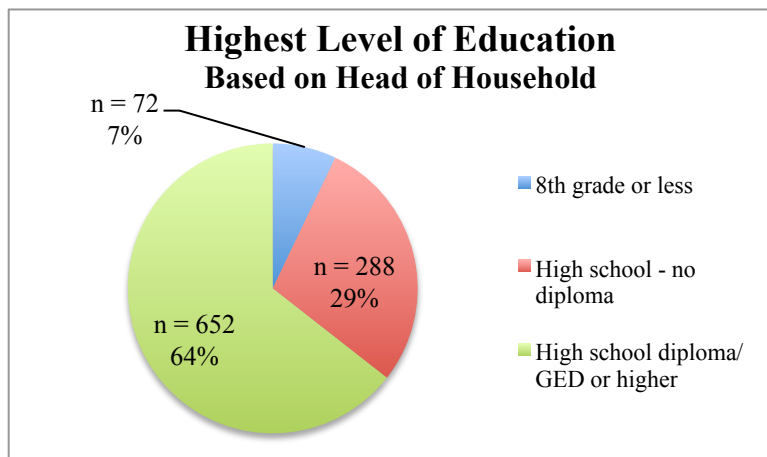


Veteran Status. A total of 51 veterans were served in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing programs. This accounted for 5% of all adults served.

Race and Ethnicity.



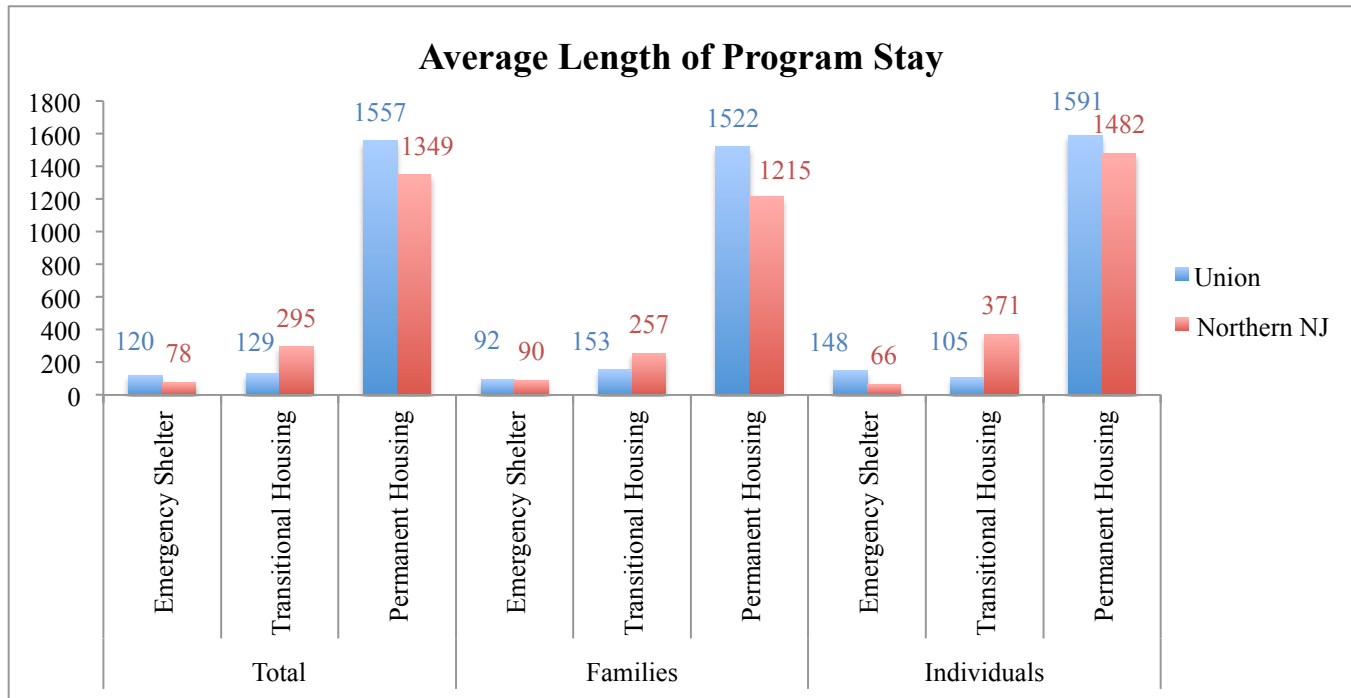
Level of Education and Access to Cash-Income/Non-Cash Benefits.



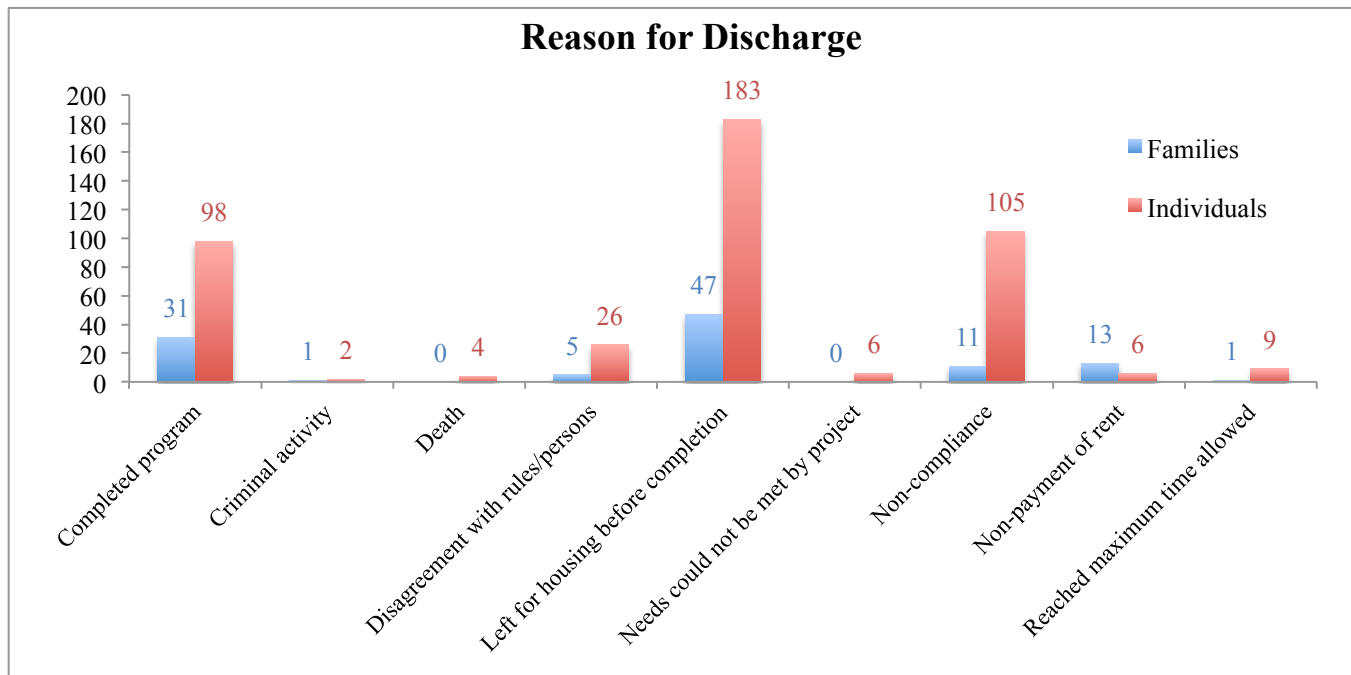
General Public Assistance was the most reported cash-income with a total of 20% of all households served receiving GA.

The most reported non-cash benefit for all households was Food Stamps with 48% of households receiving this benefit.

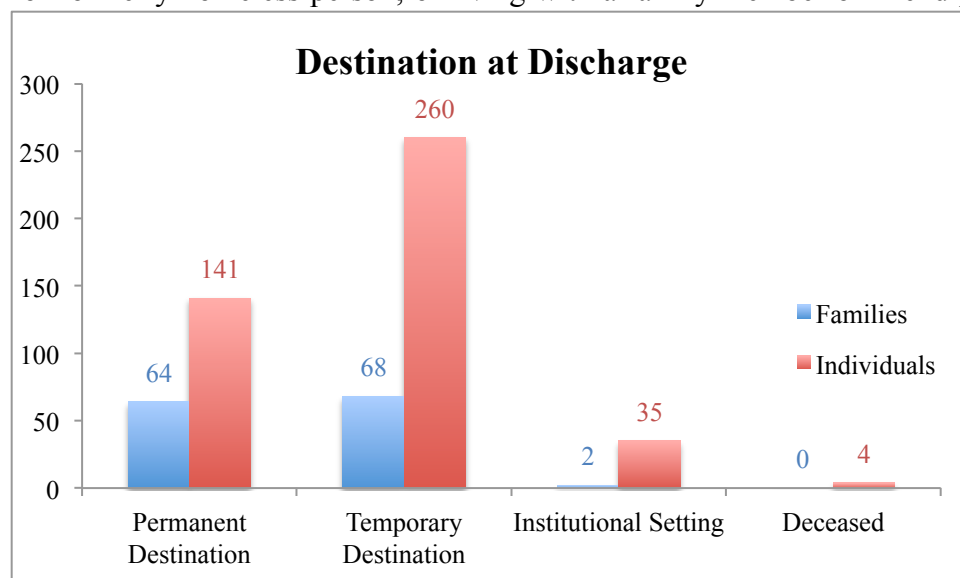
Average Length of Program Stay.



Reason and Destination at Discharge.



A total of 638 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 26% 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

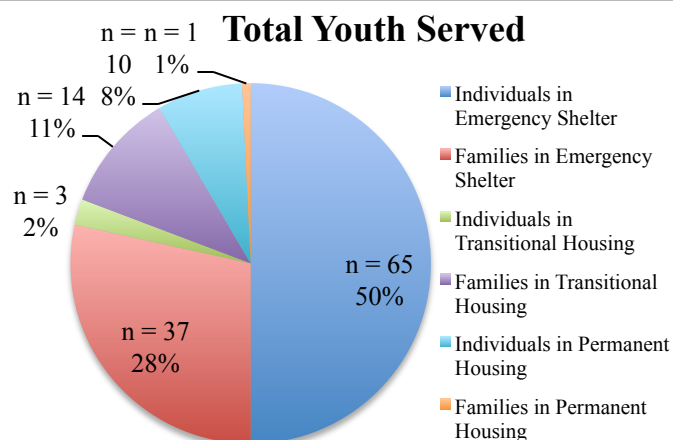
with a family member or friend temporarily, or transitional housing for homeless persons. The most common form of temporary housing as a destination was emergency shelter, which involved 34% of the total population. An institutional destination includes hospital (psychiatric or non-psychiatric), jail or prison, or a substance abuse treatment facility. The most common institutional destination reported was hospital (non-psychiatric) and jail/prison with 2% of the total discharges each.

IV. Findings for Youth Population

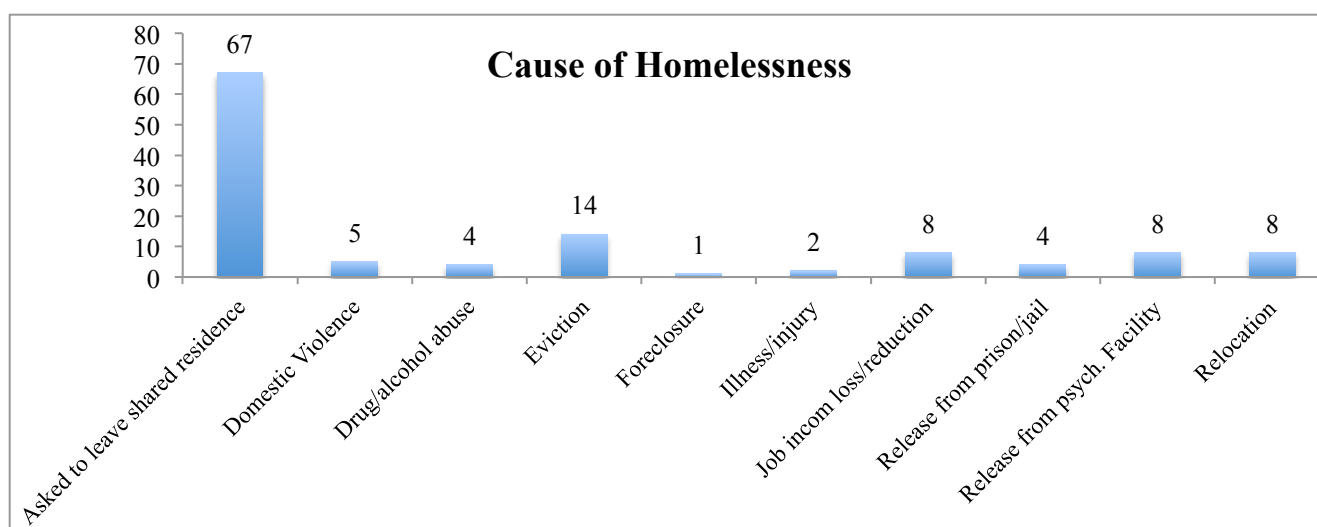
Key Findings

- A total of 130 homeless youth were served in HMIS participating emergency shelters, transitional housing, or permanent housing programs during the January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012 report period
- Youth households represented 15% of those served in emergency shelter, 17% of those served in transitional housing, and 5% of those served in permanent housing
- 65% of youth served were female which differed from the total population in which 52% were male
- Youth had shorter program stays in both emergency shelter and permanent housing but had longer program stays on average in transitional housing when compared to the total population
- 24% of youth were discharged into permanent destinations upon exiting the program

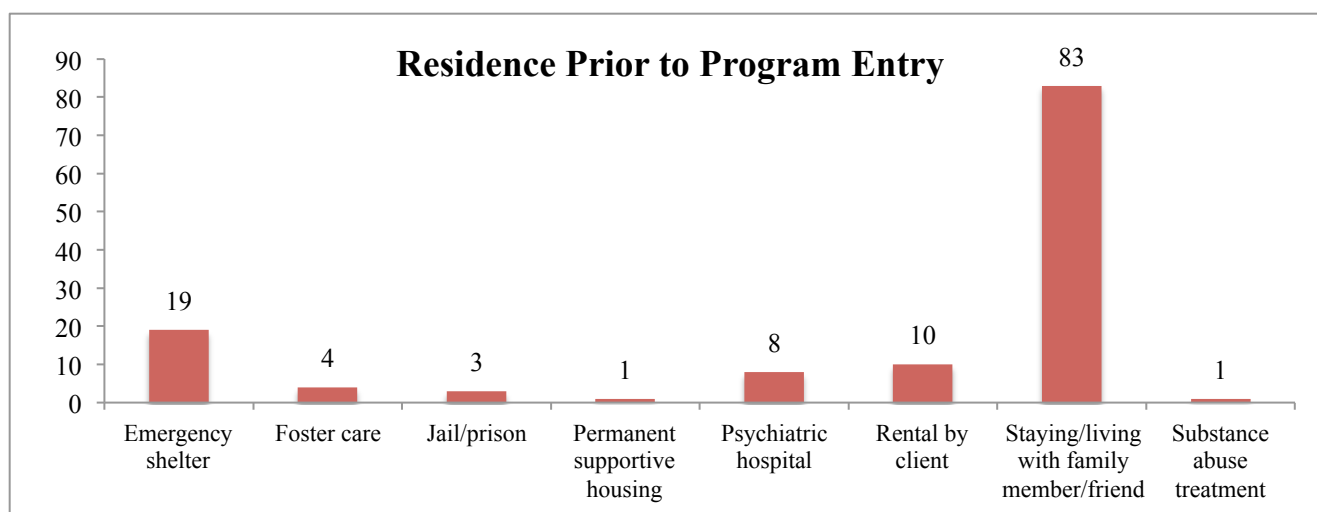
Total Served. A total of 130 youth were served as a head of household in Union County during the January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012 reporting period. Youth households represent 15% (102) of households served in emergency shelters, 17% (17) of households served in transitional housing, and 5% (11) of households served in permanent housing. The average age of youth served was 21 for emergency shelter and 22 for both transitional and permanent housing.



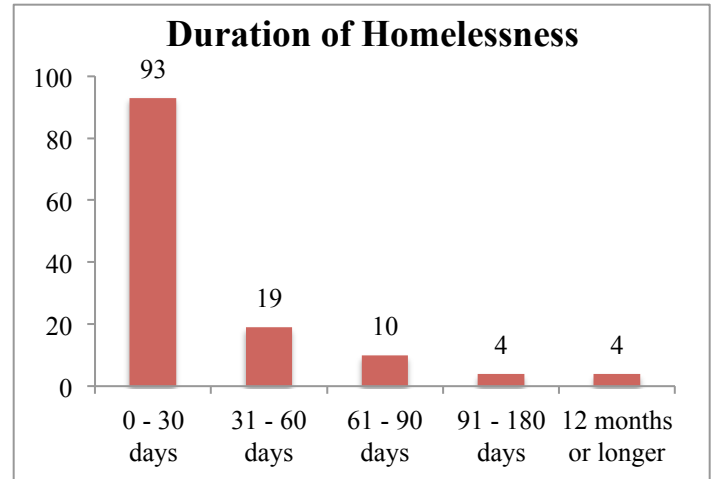
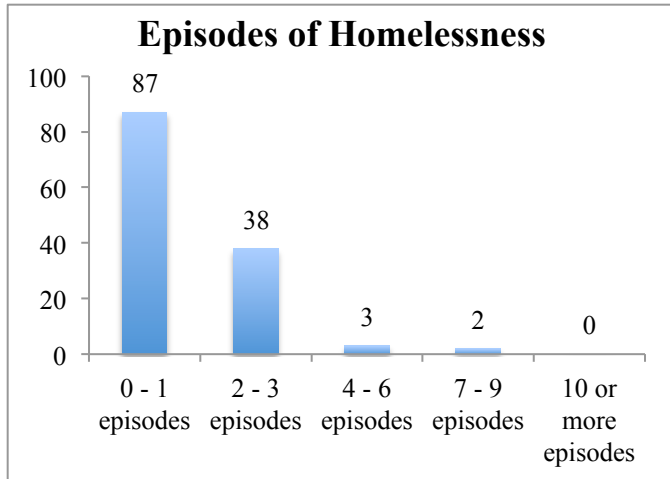
Cause of Homelessness.



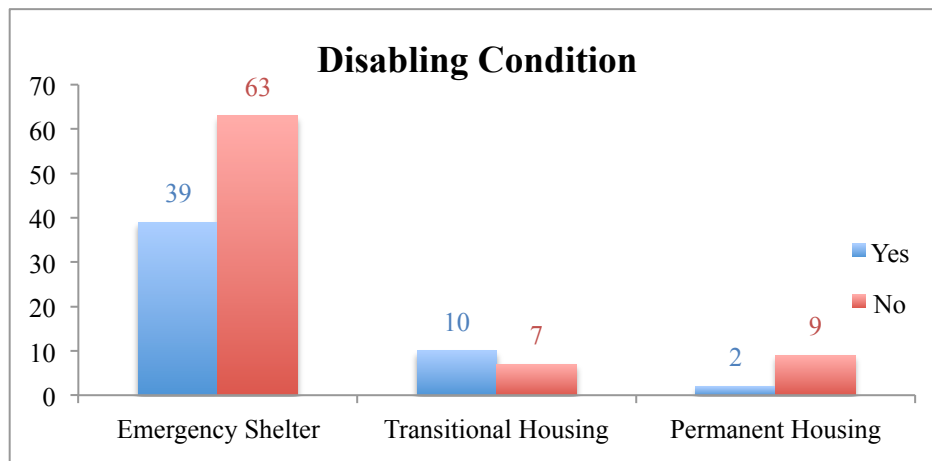
Residence Prior to Program Entry.



Episodes and Duration of Homelessness and Chronic Homelessness. A total of 2 homeless youth were identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period. This number represents 5% of the total number of individuals identified as chronically homeless.



Disabling Condition.

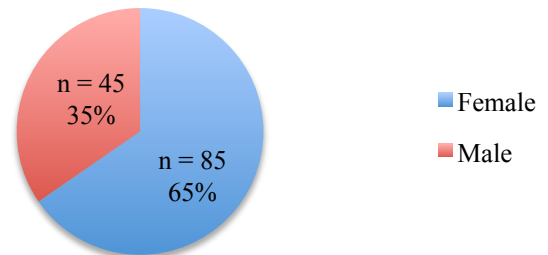


For those indicating a disabling condition, the breakdown is as follows:

| Disabling Condition | Youth | % |
|--|-------|------|
| Yes | 38 | 75% |
| Yes – Chronic physical illness or disability | 1 | 2% |
| Yes – Developmental disability | 12 | 24% |
| Yes – Diagnosable substance use disorder | 0 | 0% |
| Yes – Dually diagnosed | 0 | 0% |
| Yes – Serious mental illness | 0 | 0% |
| Total | 51 | 100% |

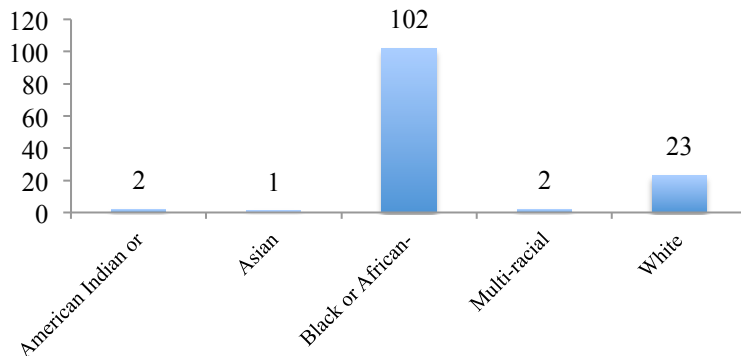
Gender and Veterans Served. There were no youth served throughout Union County that identified themselves as veterans.

Gender of Youth

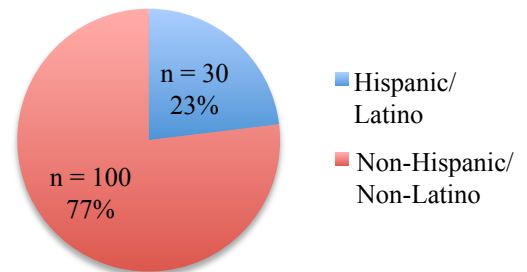


Race and Ethnicity.

Race of Youth

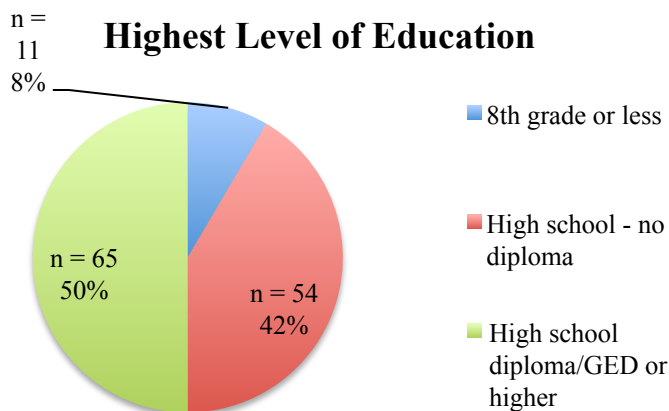


Ethnicity of Youth

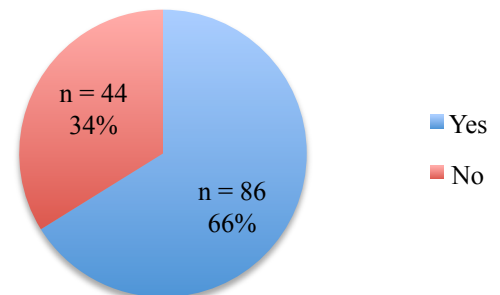


Level of Education and Cash-Income Sources/Non-Cash Benefits.

Highest Level of Education



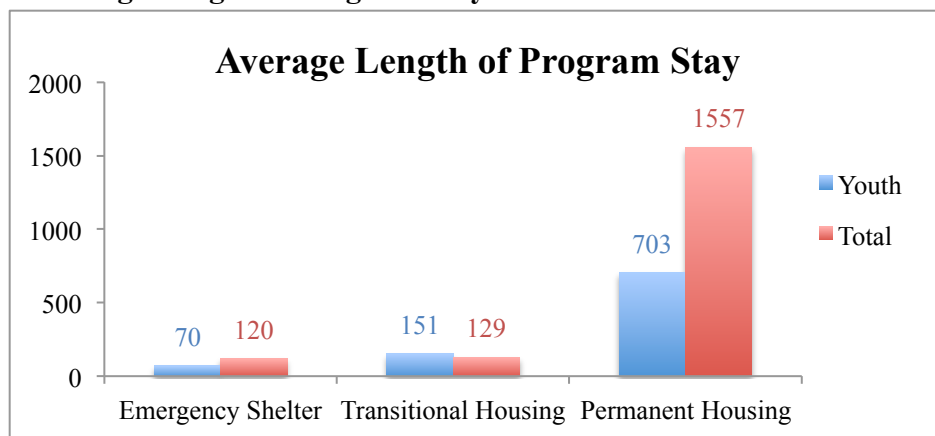
Access to at Least One Cash-Income or Non-Cash Benefit



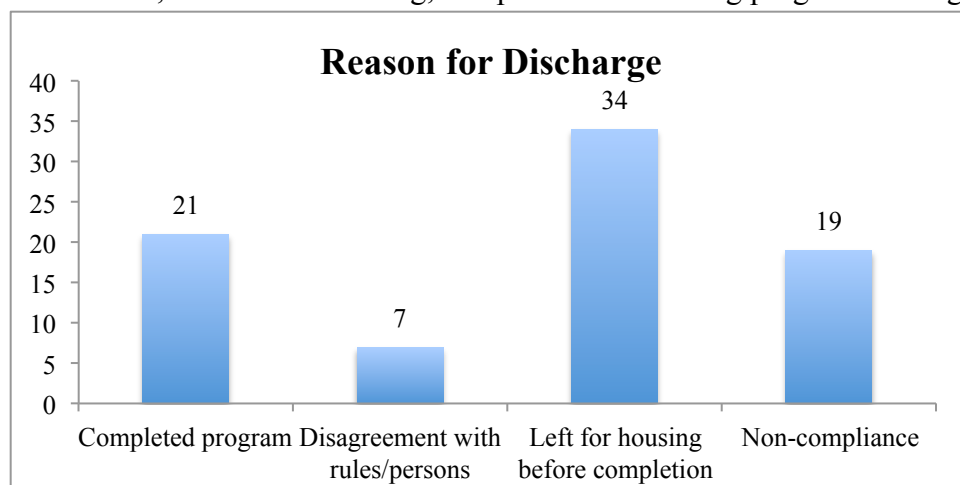
The most commonly reported cash-income for youth was TANF with 26% of the youth served receiving TANF.

The most commonly reported non-cash benefit by youth was MEDICAID with 53% of the youth population receiving this benefit.

Average Length of Program Stay.



Reason and Destination at Discharge. A total of 103 youth were discharged from emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent 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 17% 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 emergency shelter which accounted for 28% 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 hospital with 3% of the total discharges.

