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NJ
2015
Counts!

Ocean County's 2015 Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless

February 3, 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 February 3rd, 2015 a total of 362 households, including 605 persons, were experiencing homelessness in Ocean County, according to the 2015 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 122 households, with 172 persons, were identified as chronically homeless.
- 17 unsheltered homeless persons were counted.

Total Homeless Population

On the night of February 3rd, 2015, a total of 605 persons, in 362 households, were experiencing homelessness in Ocean County, according to the 2015 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 12 persons (1.9%) and 43 households (10.6%) from 2014. Ocean County had 5.9% of New Jersey's statewide homeless population in the 2015 PIT.

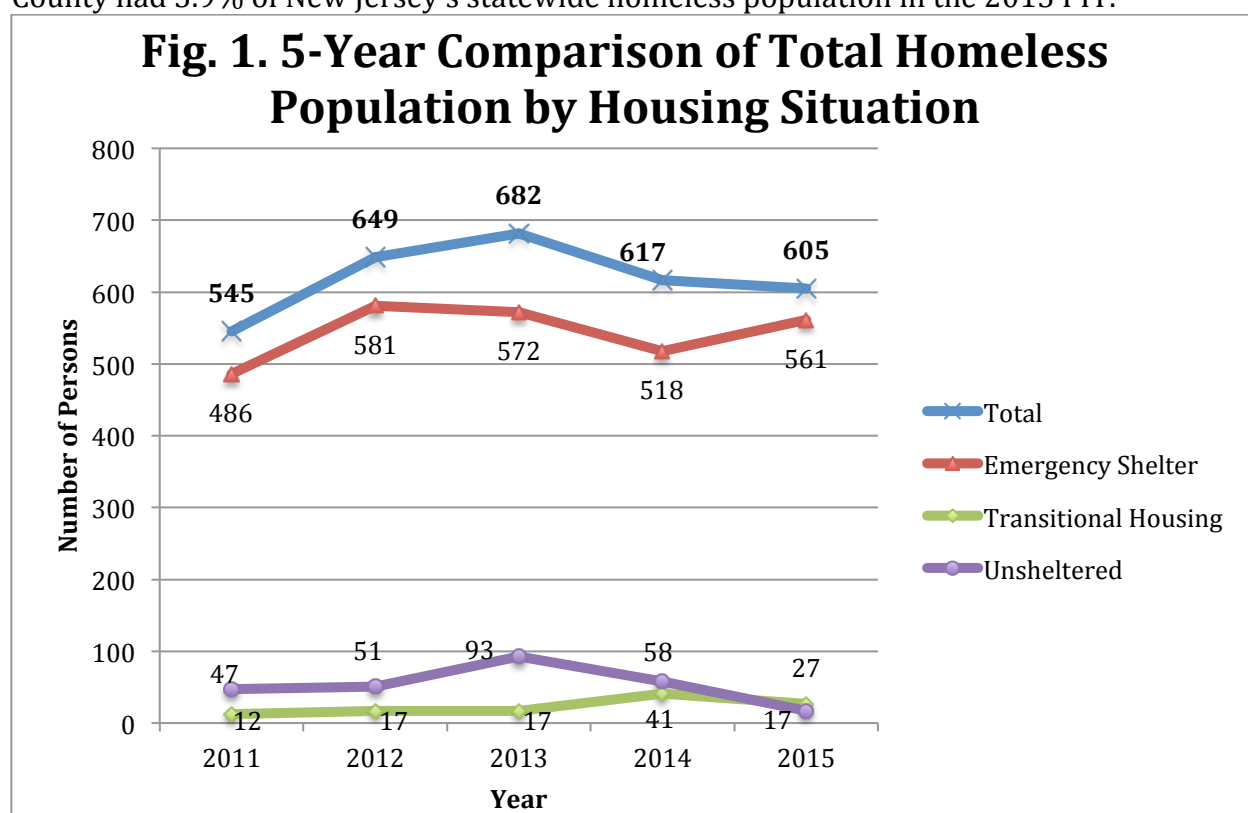Fig. 1. 5-Year Comparison of Total Homeless Population by Housing Situation

Figure 1 shows that in 2015, 561 homeless persons stayed in emergency shelters, 27 stayed in transitional housing, and 17 were unsheltered on the night of the count. There has been an overall decrease in the homeless population identified in Ocean County since the count in 2013. The 2013 PIT Count peak was a direct result of Superstorm Sandy as Ocean County was severely impacted by the storm. Since 2013, Ocean County has seen an 11.2% decrease in the overall homeless population. Despite the decrease in the overall

homeless population in the last 3 – 4 years, the overall homeless population in 2015 is 11% (60 persons) higher than the population identified in 2011.

Figure 1 also shows that there has been a significant decrease in the unsheltered population over the last 5-years with an overall decrease of 42.5% between 2011 and 2015.

As Figure 2 shows, 9% of homeless households in Ocean County reported that their last permanent address prior to becoming homeless was outside of the county. This represents a 4% reduction in the out of county residents identified in 2014.

Fig. 2. Percentage of Households by County of Last Permanent Address
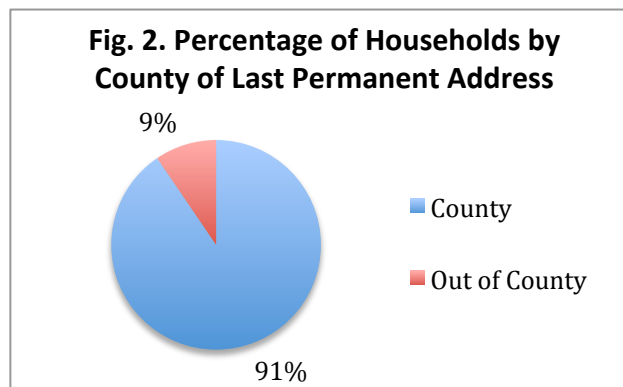
Homeless Families and Individuals

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 362 homeless households counted in Ocean County in 2015, 120 (33.1%) were families with at least one adult and one child under the age of 18.   These families included 359 persons, 220 children under age 18, and 139 adults. The average family size was 3 persons. Figure 3 shows that 117

Fig. 3. Homeless Households by Housing Situation
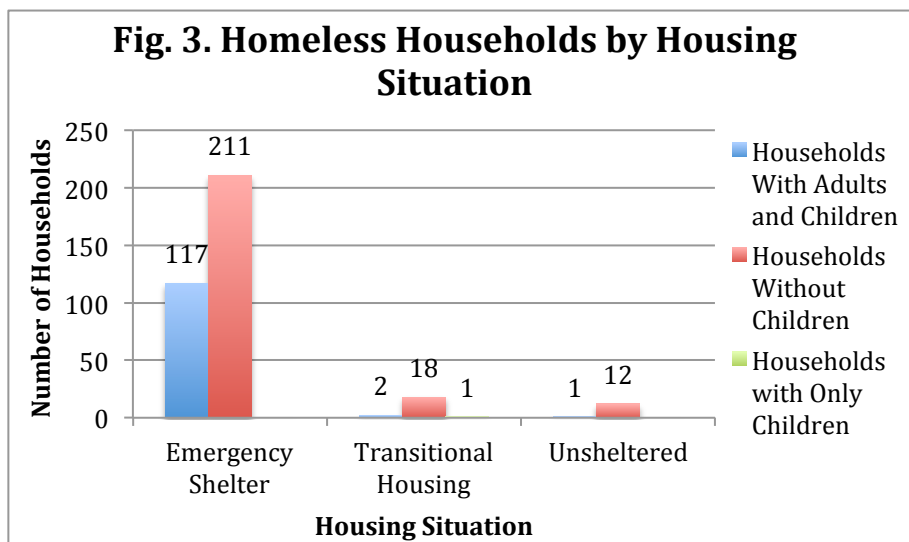
families (97.5%) were staying in emergency shelters on the night of the count, 2 families (1.6%) were staying in transitional housing, and 1 family (.8%) was unsheltered on the night of the count. There was an overall increase of 23 homeless families (23.7%) between

the 2014 and 2015 PIT count. As compared to 2014, there was a significant drop in the number of homeless families in transitional housing (81.8%, 9 families) and a significant increase in the number of families in emergency shelter (36%, 31 families). There was a 100% increase in the number of unsheltered families identified in 2015 as compared to 2014.

66.5% (241) of the homeless households counted in Ocean County were households without children under 18, and were predominately composed of individual adults (237). The remaining 4 households were adult only households composed of 8 adults. 211 (87.5%) of these adult-only households were staying in emergency shelters, 18 (7.4%) were in transitional housing, and 12 (4.9%) were unsheltered. The number of adult-only households decreased by 19.1% (570 households) from the number counted in 2014.

There was one household with only children under 18 years old reported on the night of the count in Ocean County in 2015. This youth household was served in transitional housing by a youth program.

Demographics

There was a total of 58 (9.5%) homeless adults between 18 and 24 years old, 326 (53.8%) adults over age 24, and 221 (36.5%) children under 18 years old experiencing homelessness on the night of the count. The age range by housing situation as shown in Figure 4 shows a similar distribution as identified in 2014. As compared to 2014, there

Fig. 4. Age Range by Housing Situation
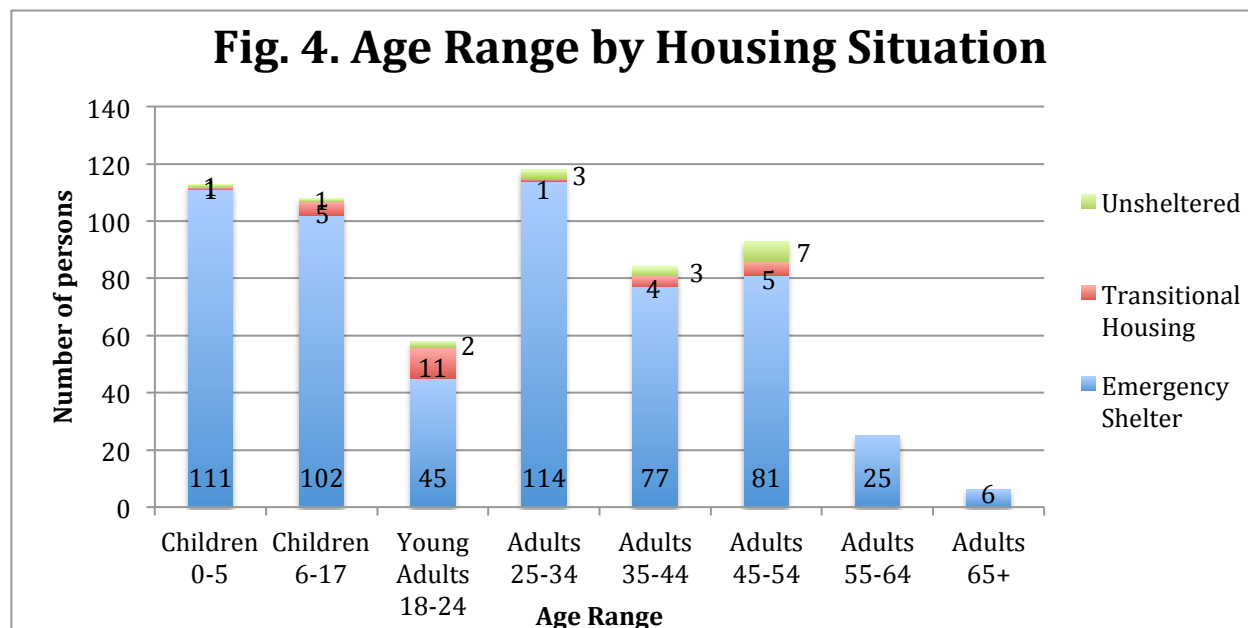
was an increase of 21.4% (39 persons) in homeless children under the age of 18. There was a decrease of 50.9% (26 persons) in the homeless population between the ages of 55 and 64.
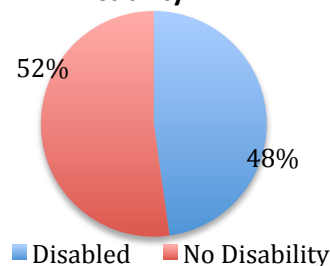
46.6% (282) of homeless persons were male, 53% (321) were female and 2 individuals (.3%) were transgender.

67.7% of homeless persons identified their race as White, making that the largest racial subgroup. The next largest group identified themselves as Black or African American (30.2%), followed by those identifying as Asian (0.3%). About 0.3% of homeless persons identified themselves as multiracial. With regard to ethnicity, 12.3% of persons identified themselves as Hispanic.
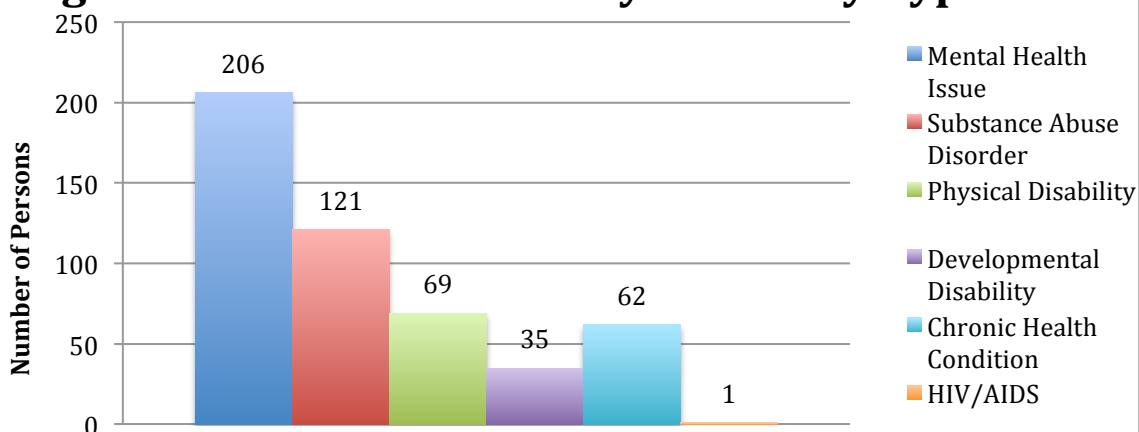
Disabilities

Figure 5 illustrates that 48% of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. 67.7% of adults 18 or older reported some type of disability compared to 13.1% 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 and substance abuse disorders.

Fig. 5. Percentage of Population with a Disability

52%

48%

◾ Disabled ◾ No Disability

Fig. 6. Number of Persons by Disability Type

- Mental Health Issue
- Substance Abuse Disorder
- Physical Disability
- Developmental Disability
- Chronic Health Condition
- HIV/AIDS

Among disabled adults, 73.8% reported a mental health issue, making this the most prevalent disability; representing 50% of the total adult homeless population. 44.6% of disabled adults also reported a mental health issue, representing 30.2% of the total adult homeless population. Among disabled homeless children, 58% reported a developmental disability, representing 7.6% of the total homeless child population.

Victims of Domestic Violence

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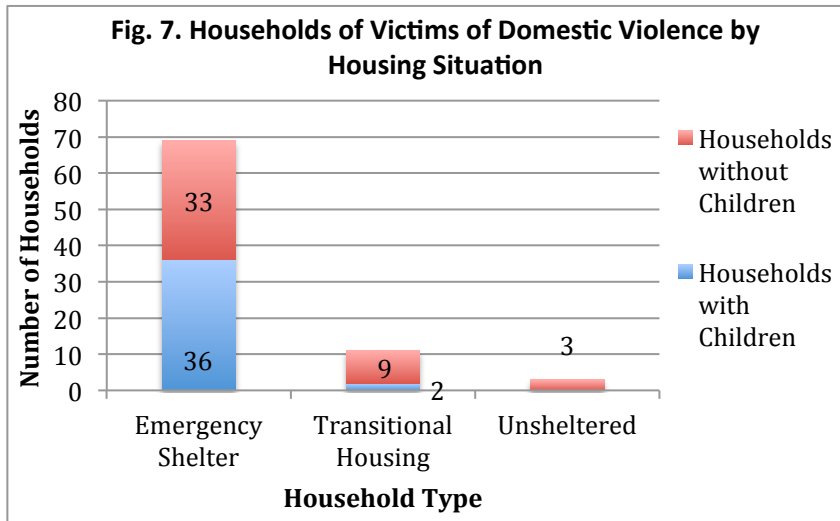

On the night of the count, in Ocean County, 83 homeless households identified as a victim of domestic violence. Figure 7 shows that 45.7% of these households were families with children under the age of 18. The remaining 45 households (54.2%), were adult only households. 83.1% of all victim households were counted in emergency shelters.

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

7 veteran households were counted in the 2015 Point in Time. This represents a 16.6% (1 veteran household) increase over the number of veteran households identified in 2014. The majority of the veteran households (85.7%) were adult-only household residing in emergency shelter, while 1 household (14.3%) was a veteran family household with children under the age of 18 that was unsheltered.

Fig. 9. Persons in Veteran's Households by Age Range
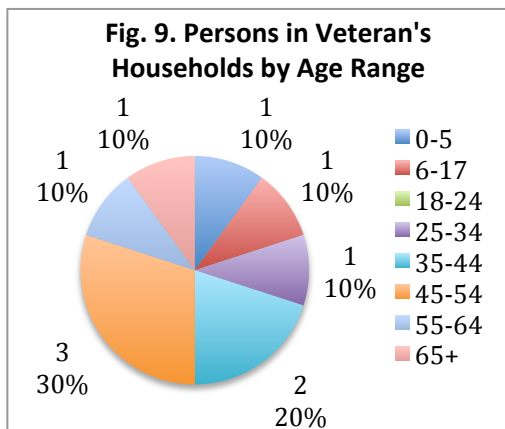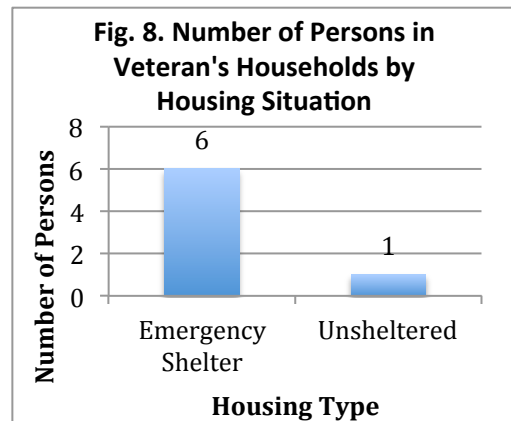
The majority of homeless veterans were male (85.7%). While only 14.3% of the veterans identified in 2015 were female (1 veteran), this represented a 100% increase in the number of female veterans as compared to the 2014 count. The majority of veterans identified their racial background as White (85.7%), and the remaining veterans identified as Black or African American (14.3%). Figure 9 illustrates the age range of persons in veteran households. In contrast to 2014 results where the majority of veterans were between the ages of 25 – 34, in 2015 the majority of veterans identified were between the ages of 45-54.

Among those identifying as veterans, no veterans indicated they were victims of domestic violence. 4 veterans reported having a disability. The most common disabilities cited were mental health issues (57.1%) and substance abuse disorders (28.5%). With regards to income, only 14.3% (1 veteran) of veteran households were connected to VA pension or disability and 14.3% (1 veteran) were connected to VA healthcare benefits. 14.3% were not receiving any non-cash mainstream benefits.

Income and Benefits

Among all households experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, 7.1% had no source of income, while 5.8% reported receiving earned cash income. The three most common sources of income among homeless households were General Assistance (35.9%), TANF (28.1%) and SSI (15.7%).

4.1% of homeless households reported that their household was receiving no kind of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. The top reported non-cash benefit received by homeless households was Food Stamps (77%) followed by Medicaid (53.8%).

Fig. 10. Number of Households by Income Type
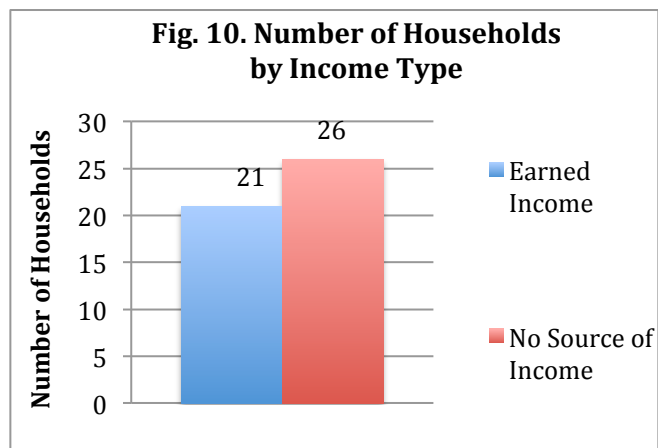
Figure 11 shows the average monthly income for all homeless households.

Figure 11. Average Monthly Income For Households by Housing Situation			
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered
Average for All Households	$368.80	$1,405.36	$338.38

Length of Homelessness

Figure 12 shows that almost 34.8% of homeless households (126) reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted more than 1 year, making this the most common response. Another 22.4% of households reported being homeless for 6 – 12 months. In Ocean County 57.4% of homeless households have been homeless for 6 months or longer with the majority being homeless for over a year.
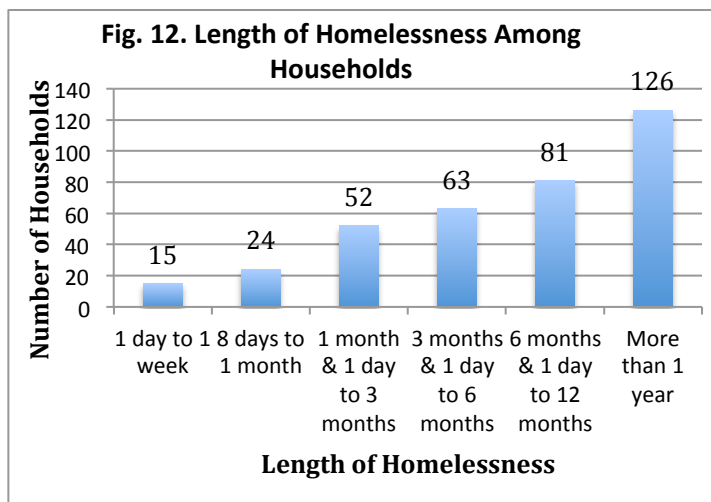
Fig. 12. Length of Homelessness Among Households

Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households attributed their homelessness to being asked to leave a shared residence (107 households, 29.5%) than any other cause. As Figure 13 shows, the next most common factor reported was domestic violence (13.5%) followed by eviction or risk of eviction (12.9%).

When respondents were asked 'what was your residence prior to your current living situation?' more said they were staying or living with friends or family (54.6%) than any other type of residence. 20.1% reported residing in permanent housing prior to their current living situation.

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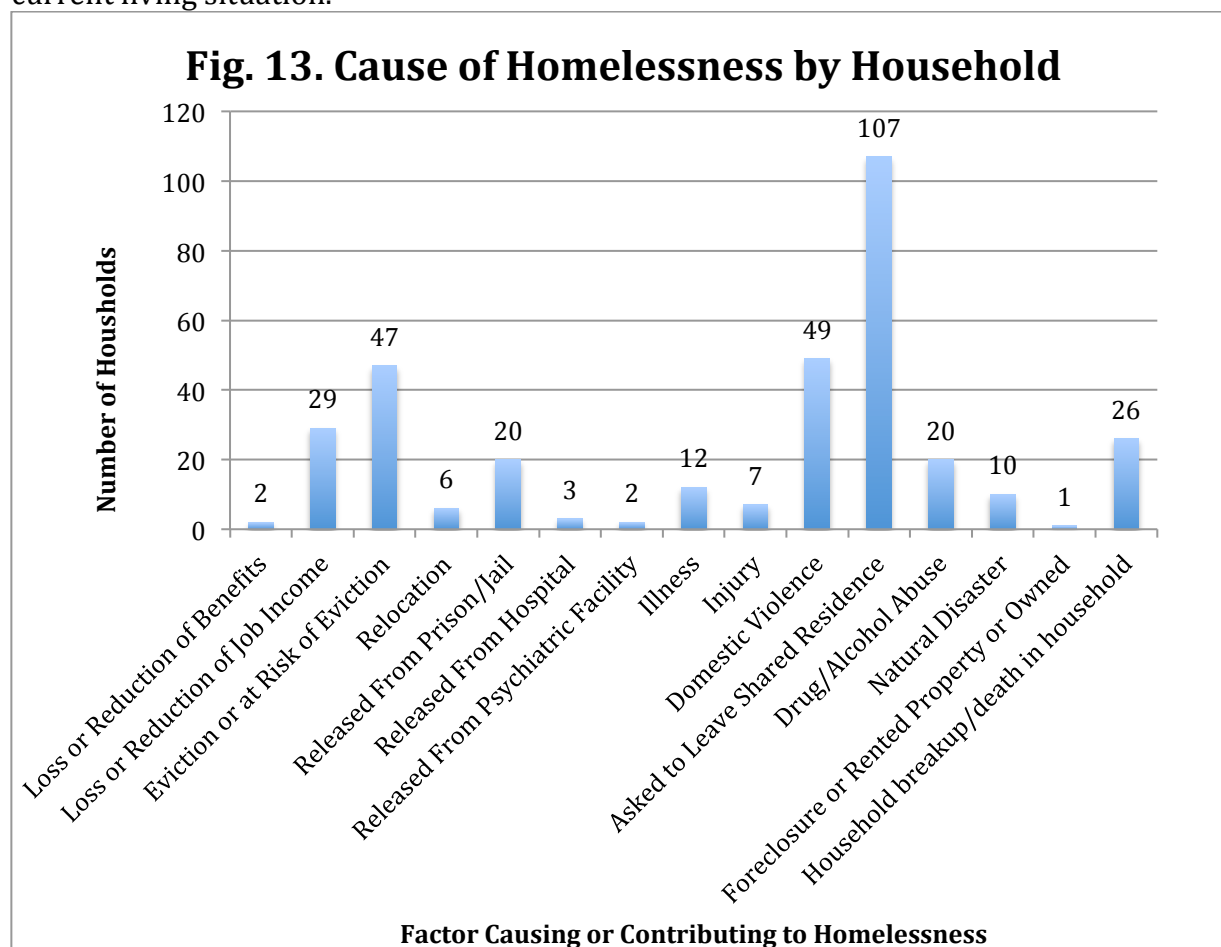
IV. Findings for the Chronically Homeless

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.

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

122 households, made up of 172 persons, were chronically homeless in Ocean County, according to the 2015 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 50 persons (40.9%) and 24 households (24.5%) from 2014. The rate of chronic homelessness as a percentage of overall homelessness is 28.4%; which is an increase from the 19.5% in 2014.

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

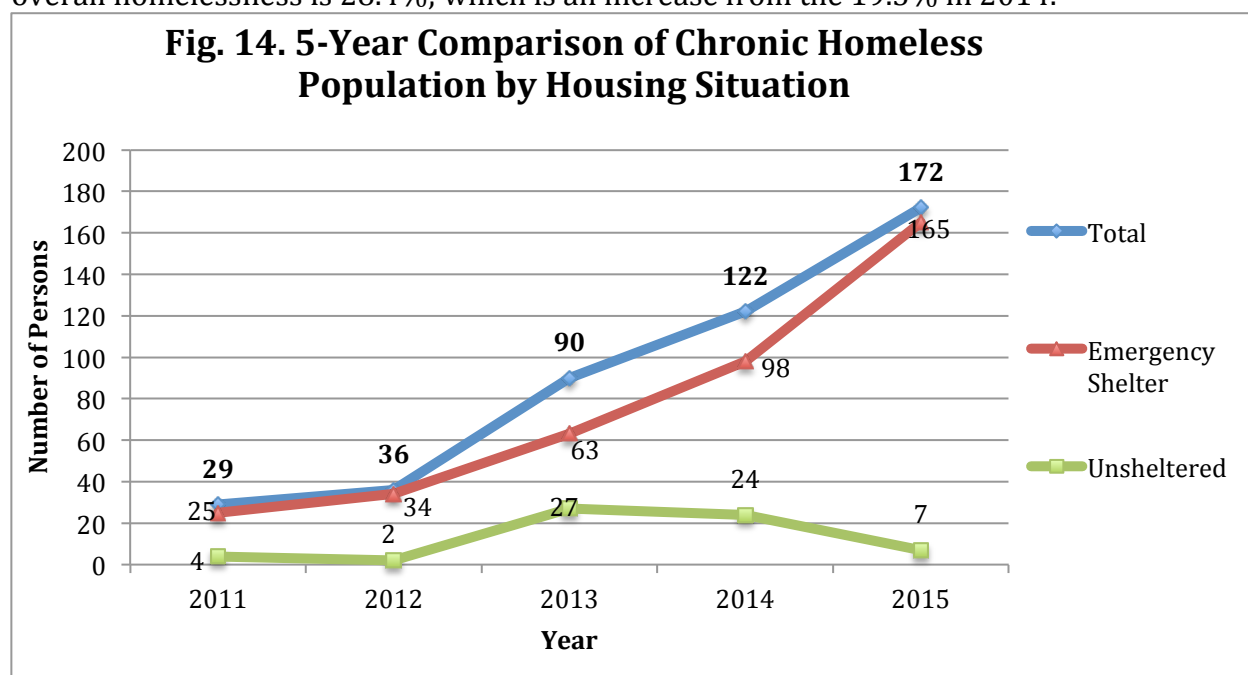Figure 14 shows the number of chronically homeless respondents who were in shelter or living unsheltered in Ocean County from 2011 to 2015. Over the past five years, the overall number of chronically homeless persons has steadily increased. While there has been a drop in the unsheltered chronically homeless population (70% since 2014), the overall unsheltered chronically homeless population is about 175% higher than the population

identified in 2011 and 2012. The chronically homeless population in emergency shelters has significantly increased over the last 5 years with an overall increase of 143 chronically homeless households. Between 2012 and 2015, the number of chronically homeless households in emergency shelter has increased at an average rate of 61% each year.
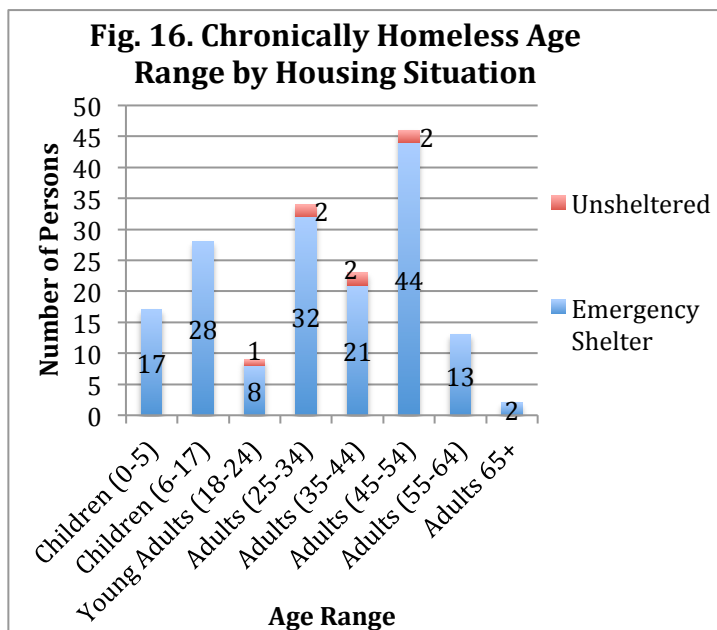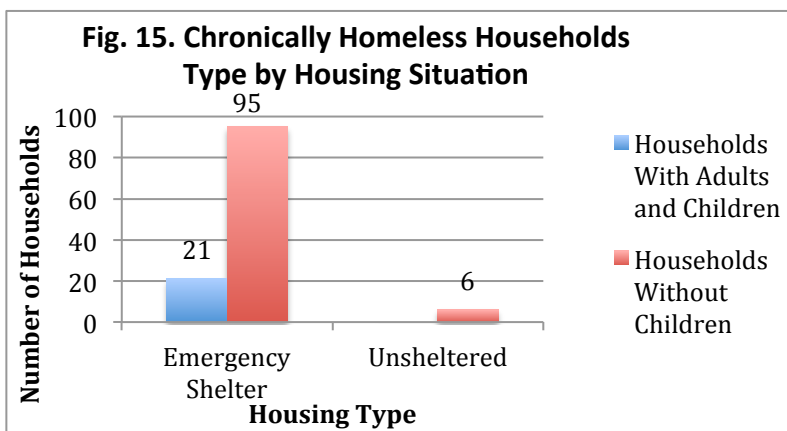
Families and Individuals

The total number of chronically homeless households and persons identified in the 2015 point in time count reflects households with at least 1 adult and 1 child under the age of 18, individual adults and adult only households with 2 or more adults.

Fig. 15. Chronically Homeless Households Type by Housing Situation

(Bar chart: Number of Households vs Housing Type)
- Emergency Shelter: Households With Adults and Children = 21; Households Without Children = 95
- Unsheltered: Households Without Children = 6

Legend:
- Households With Adults and Children (blue)
- Households Without Children (red)

Of the 122 chronically homeless households counted in 2015, 21 (17.2%) were households with at least 1 adult and 1 child. These households were composed of 70 persons, all of which were served in emergency shelters. There was 1 (0.8%) unsheltered adult only household composed of 2 persons. The remaining 100 households were individual adults; 95% of which were served in emergency shelter, and 5% of which were unsheltered.

95% of chronically homeless households were living in emergency shelter while the remaining 5% were unsheltered. There was a 90% increase in chronically homeless families and a 50% increase in chronically homeless adult only households. Although there were significant increases in the chronically homeless population in emergency shelters, there was a 75% decrease in the number of unsheltered chronically homeless households.

Demographics

Of the 172 total chronically homeless persons, 7 (4%) were between 18 and 24 years old, and 45 (26.1%) were children 17 or younger. The largest number of chronically homeless persons (46, 26.7%) in a single category fell between the ages of 45 and 54 years of age. This is similar to the age

Fig. 16. Chronically Homeless Age Range by Housing Situation

(Bar chart: Number of Persons vs Age Range)
- Children (0-5): Emergency Shelter = 17
- Children (6-17): Emergency Shelter = 28
- Young Adults (18-24): Emergency Shelter = 8, Unsheltered = 1
- Adults (25-34): Emergency Shelter = 32, Unsheltered = 2
- Adults (35-44): Emergency Shelter = 21, Unsheltered = 2
- Adults (45-54): Emergency Shelter = 44, Unsheltered = 2
- Adults (55-64): Emergency Shelter = 13
- Adults 65+: Emergency Shelter = 2

Legend:
- Unsheltered (red)
- Emergency Shelter (blue)

distribution among chronically homeless persons identified in the 2014 PIT count. The greatest increase (21 persons, 300%) was seen among chronically homeless children between the ages of 6 – 17.

58.7% of chronically homeless persons were male, 40.6% were female, and 0.5% were transgender.

The largest racial subgroup of chronically homeless persons reported their race as White (83.7%). The second largest group of chronically homeless persons self-identified as Black or African American (14.5%), and 0.5% identified as Asian. With regard to ethnicity, 8.1% of chronically homeless persons identified themselves as Hispanic.

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 (59.3%) and substance abuse disorders (36%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the chronically homeless can be seen in Figure 17.

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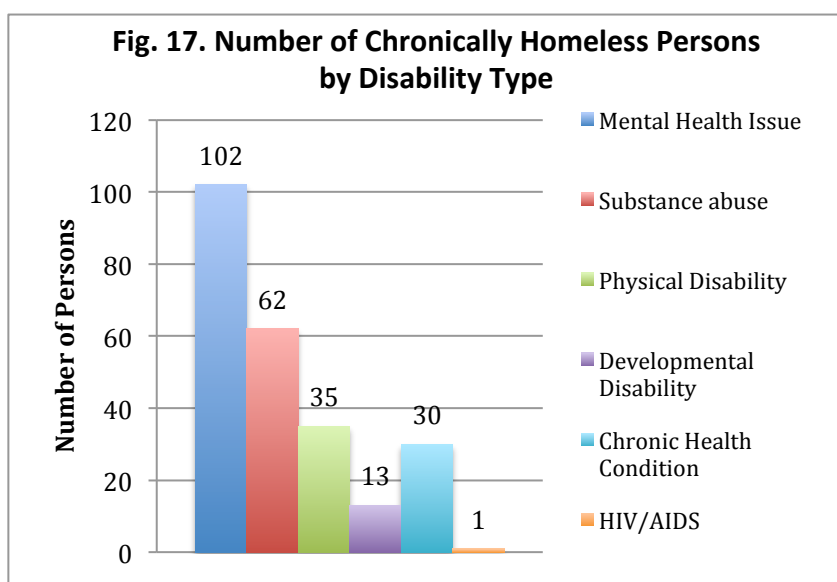
Subpopulations

On the night of the count, 20 chronically homeless households in Ocean County reported being a victim of domestic violence (16.3%). Of those chronically homeless households identifying as victims of domestic violence, 85% were staying in emergency shelter and 15% were unsheltered. The majority of households were individual adult only households (80%), while 4 households composed of 9 persons, were households with at least 1 adult and 1 child under the age of 18.

There were 3 veteran individuals identified as chronically homeless on the night of the count (2.4%). All of the chronically homeless veterans identified were staying in emergency shelter.

Income and Benefits

Among all the chronically homeless households on the night of the count, 1.6% 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 households was General Assistance, which was received by 50.8%.

Fig. 18. Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Income Source
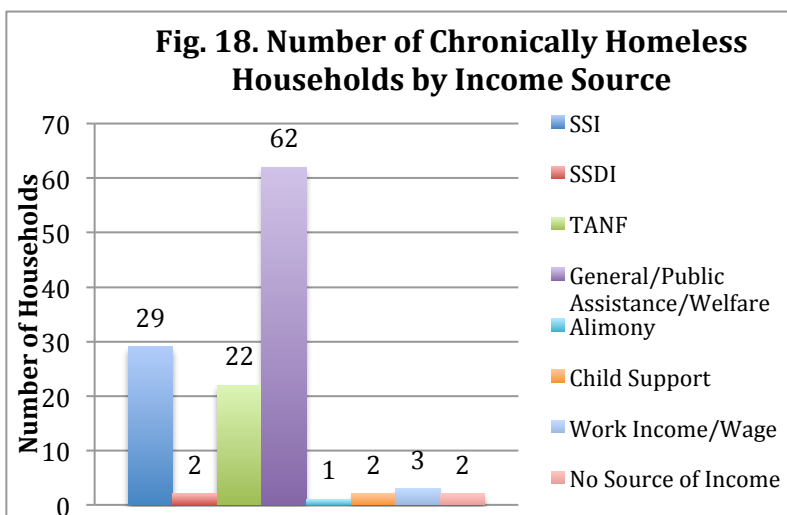
2.3% of chronically homeless households reported they were not receiving any type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps (SNAP) and Medicaid were the top reported benefits among the chronically homeless, with 77.8% and 54.9% receiving each, respectively.
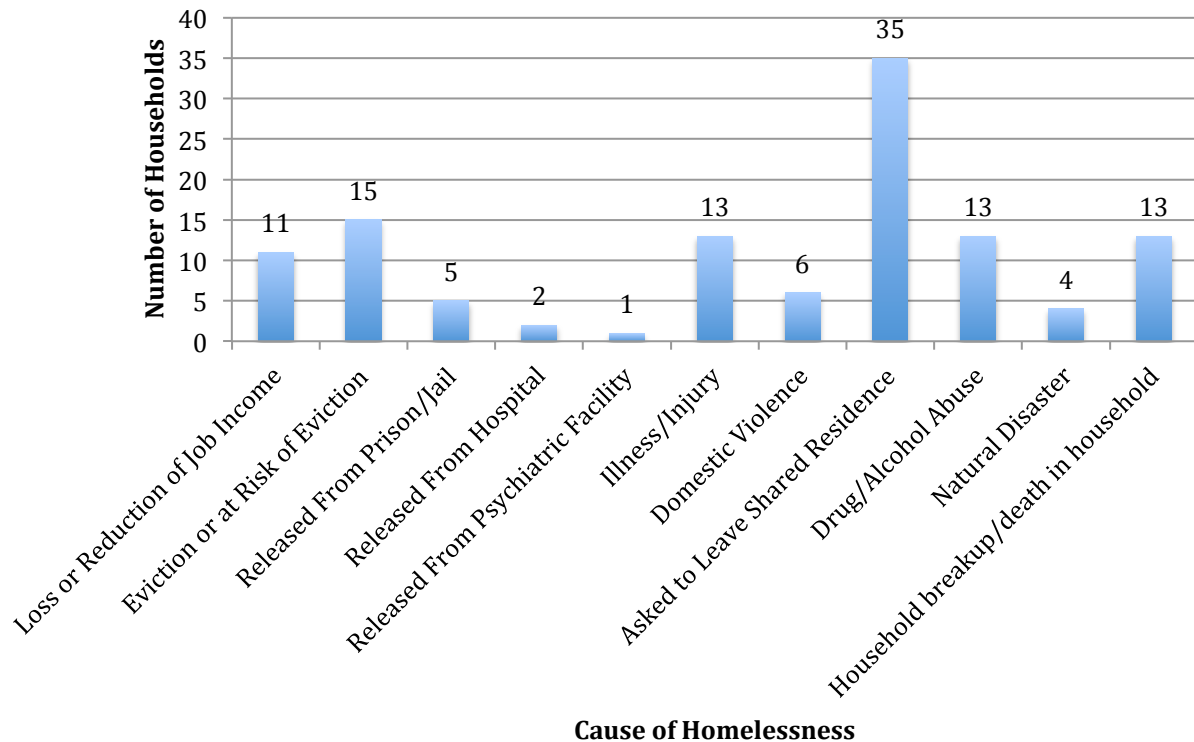
Length of Homelessness

Figure 19 shows that 99 chronically homeless households (81.1%) reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted for more than 1 year. This trend is similar to length of homelessness reported in 2014 where 68 out of 98 (69.3%) chronically homeless households were homeless for more than 1 year.
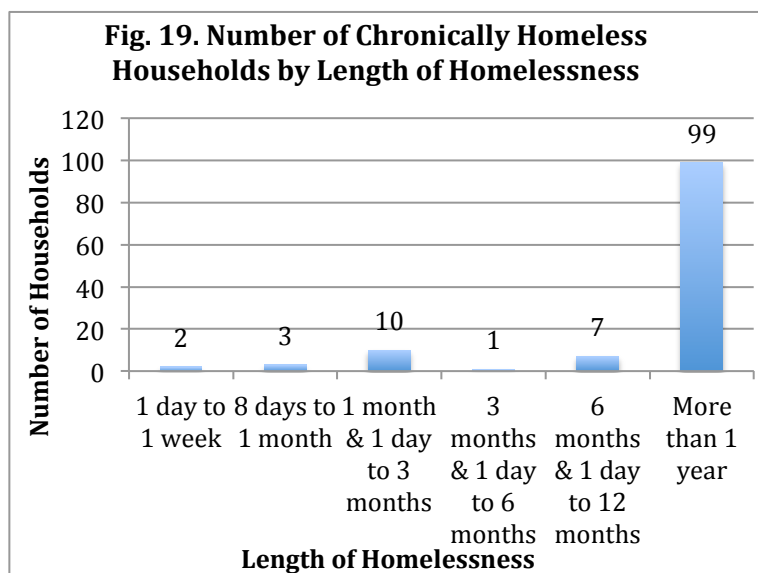
Fig. 19. Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Length of Homelessness

Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more chronically homeless respondents indicated that they were asked to leave a shared residence (28.6%) more than any other factor. As Figure 20 shows, other common factors reported included eviction or risk of eviction (12.2%) and illness or injury (12.2%).

Fig. 20. Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Cause of Homelessness

Number of Households (y-axis)

Cause	Number
Loss or Reduction of Job Income	11
Eviction or at Risk of Eviction	15
Released From Prison/Jail	5
Released From Hospital	2
Released From Psychiatric Facility	1
Illness/Injury	13
Domestic Violence	6
Asked to Leave Shared Residence	35
Drug/Alcohol Abuse	13
Natural Disaster	4
Household breakup/death in household	13

Cause of Homelessness (x-axis)
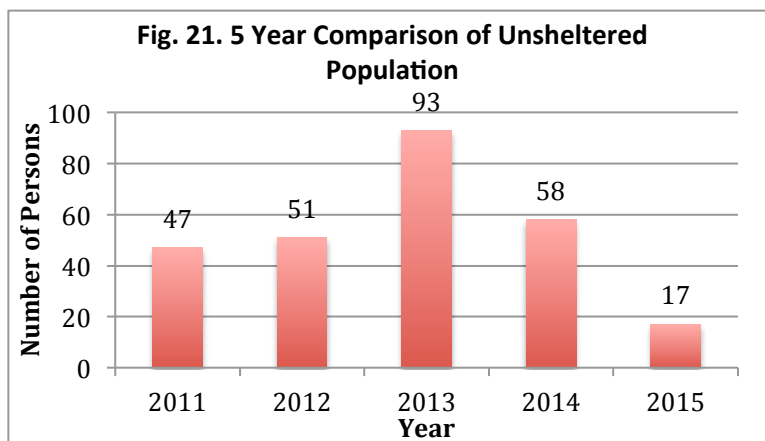
V. Findings for the Unsheltered Homeless

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

13 households, made up of 17 persons, were living unsheltered in Ocean County, according to the 2015 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 31 households (64.5%) and 41 persons (70.6%), from 2014.

Figure 21 shows the number of unsheltered persons from 2011 to 2015. In 2013 there was a spike in the unsheltered population. However, overall there has been a decrease in the total unsheltered population. Since 2011 Ocean County has seen a 63.8% decrease in the unsheltered population.

Fig. 21. 5 Year Comparison of Unsheltered Population

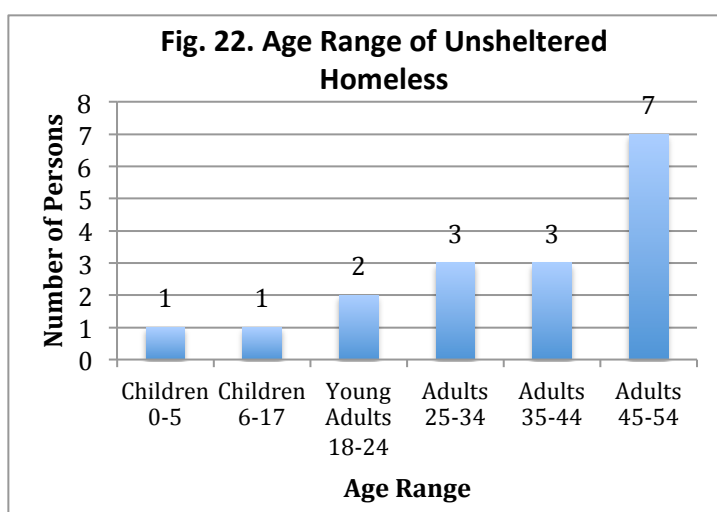| Year	Number of Persons
2011	47
2012	51
2013	93
2014	58
2015	17

Families and Individuals

The majority of the unsheltered households counted in 2015 were households with only adult individuals (84.6%). There was 1 adult only household consisting of 2 people and 1 household with at least one adult and one child consisting of 4 people. As compared to the 2014 count, there was a 100% increase in unsheltered families identified in 2015.
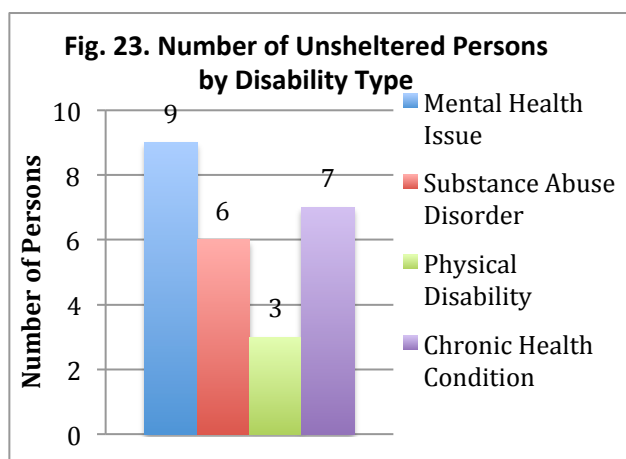
Demographics

The largest portion of the unsheltered population counted in 2015 was between the ages of 45 and 54 years old (41.2%). Figure 22 shows the age range of the unsheltered persons counted in 2015.

64.7% of unsheltered persons were male and 35.3% were female. 94.1% of unsheltered persons identified their race as White. An additional 5.8% identified their race as Black or African American. None of the unsheltered population identified their ethnicity as Hispanic.

Fig. 22. Age Range of Unsheltered Homeless

Age Range	Number of Persons
Children 0-5	1
Children 6-17	1
Young Adults 18-24	2
Adults 25-34	3
Adults 35-44	3
Adults 45-54	7

Disabilities

Fig. 23. Number of Unsheltered Persons by Disability Type

12 of the 17 unsheltered persons (70.6%) reported having some disability. Among the unsheltered population reporting a disability, the disabilities most commonly identified were mental health issues (75%) and chronic health conditions (58.3%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the unsheltered can be seen in Figure 23.

Subpopulations

On the night of the count, 3 unsheltered homeless individuals (23.1% of unsheltered households) in Ocean County reported being a victim of domestic violence.

There was 1 unsheltered veteran household on the night of the count consisting of 2 children and 2 adults.

Income and Benefits

Among all the unsheltered households on the night of the count, there were no households indicating they had no source of income. The average monthly income reported among all unsheltered households was approximately $338.38, however the average incomes for families with children ($2,327) and adult couples ($500) were much higher than the average for adult individuals ($142.91). 15.4% of unsheltered households received General Assistance. Figure 24 shows the sources of income received by the unsheltered population.
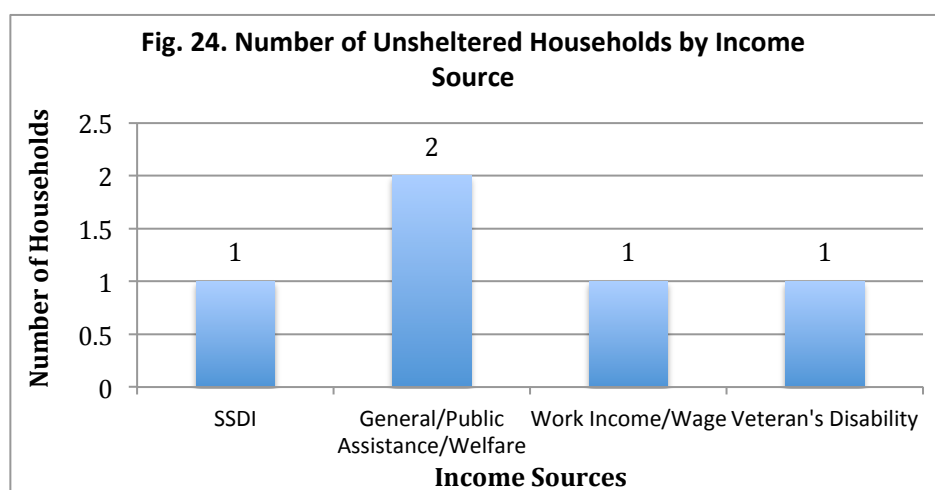
7 unsheltered households (53.8%) reported they were not receiving any type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps (SNAP) and Medicaid were the top reported non-cash benefits among this group, with 15.4% receiving each of these benefits, respectively.

**Fig. 24. Number of Unsheltered Households by Income Source**

Length of Homelessness

As shown in Figure 25, an equal number of unsheltered homeless households reported that their households' most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted between 1 – 3 months and more than 1 year (30.7%).
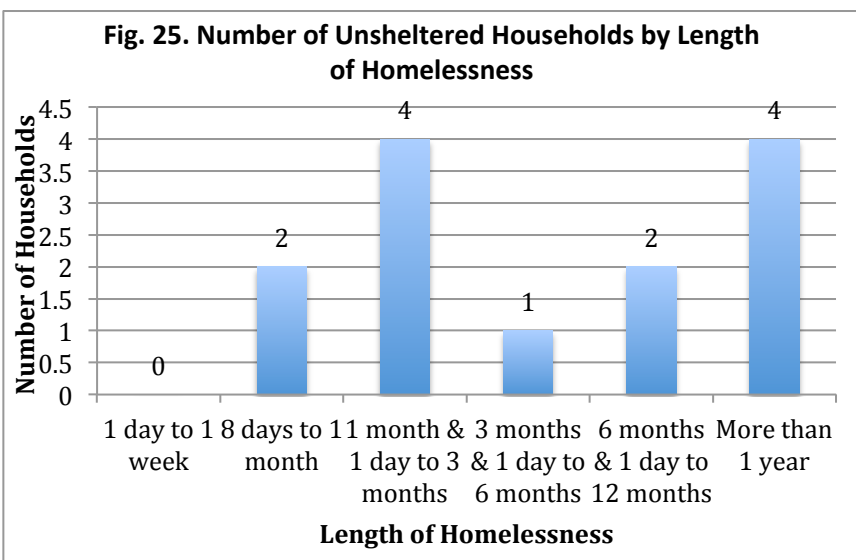
**Fig. 25. Number of Unsheltered Households by Length of Homelessness**

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 (30.7%) than any other factor. Figure 26 shows the full scope of reported factors that contributed to or caused their homelessness.

Fig. 26. Unsheltered Households by Cause of Homelessness
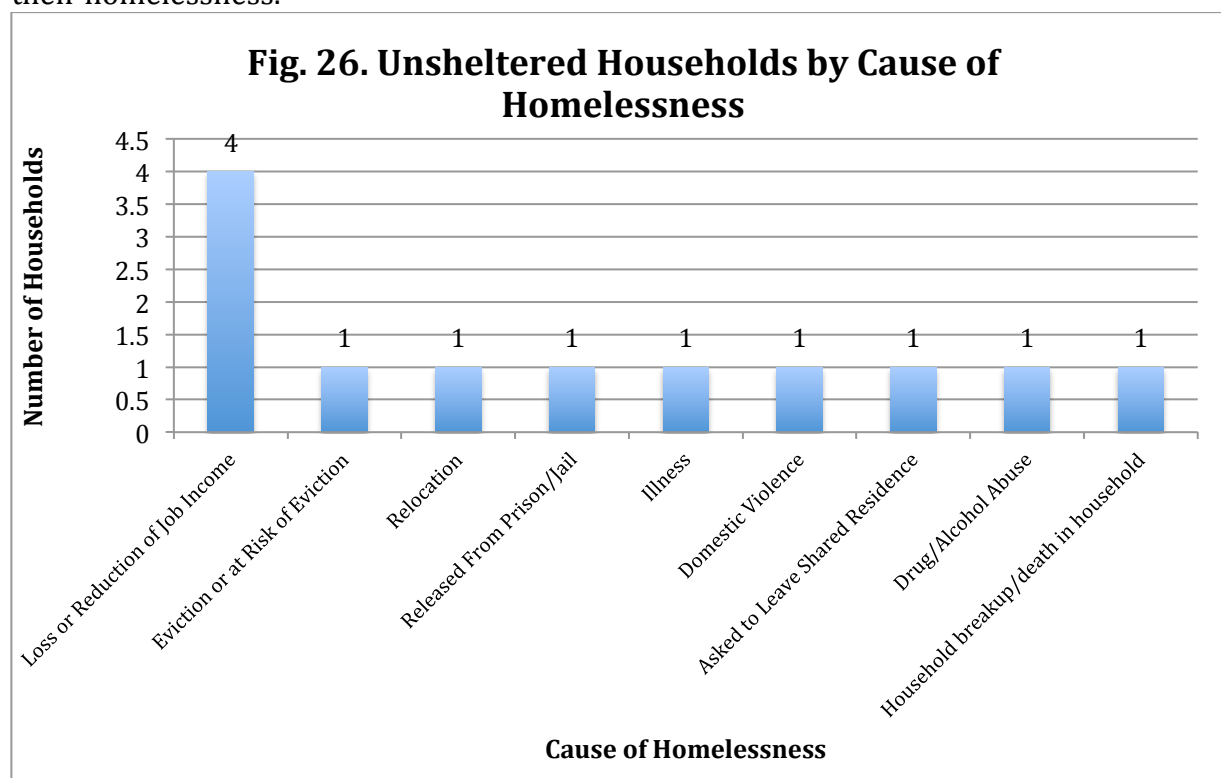
VI. Appendix

Where did you spend the night of Tuesday, February 3, 2015?

Fig. A.1. Total Number of Households and Persons by Housing Type
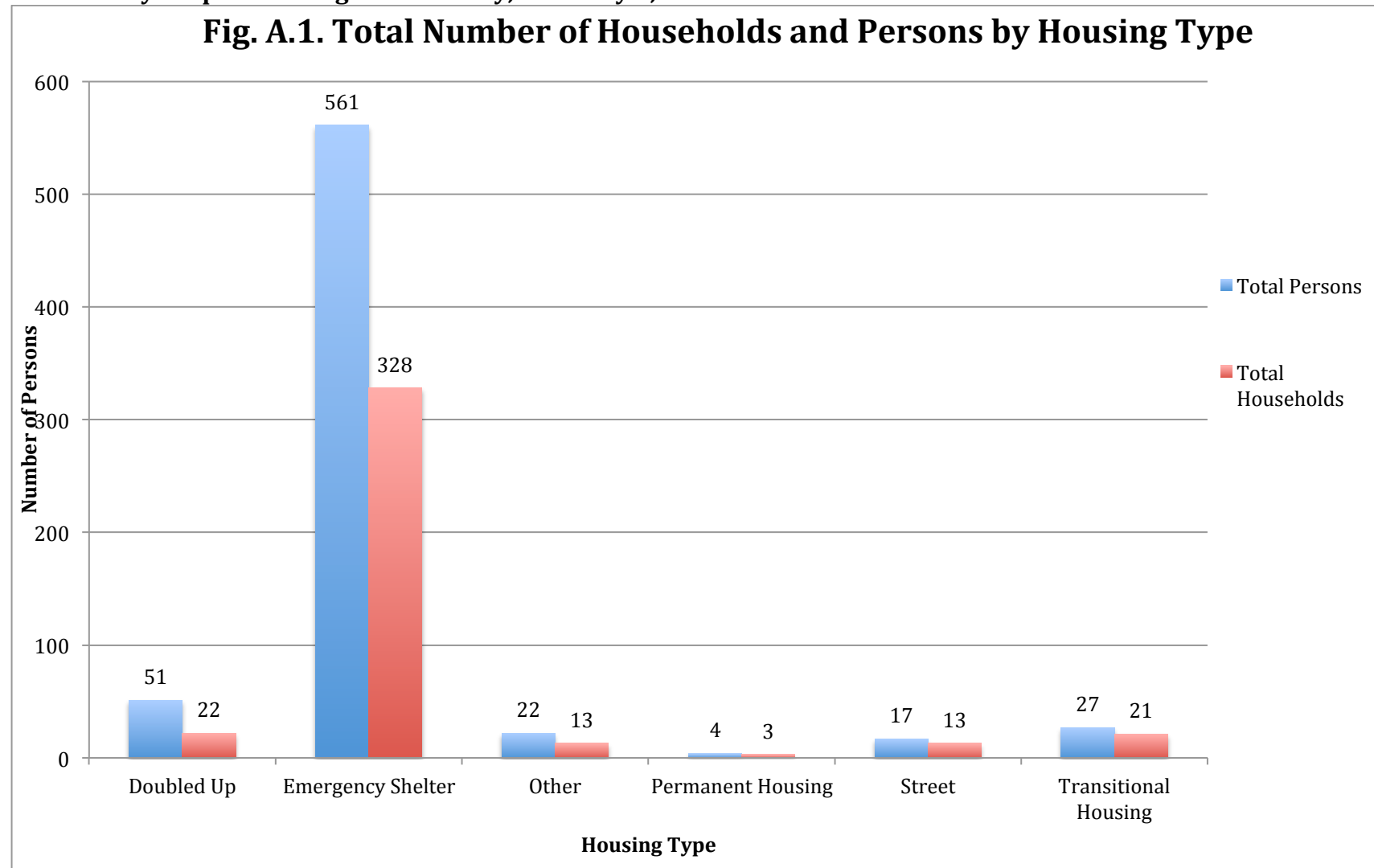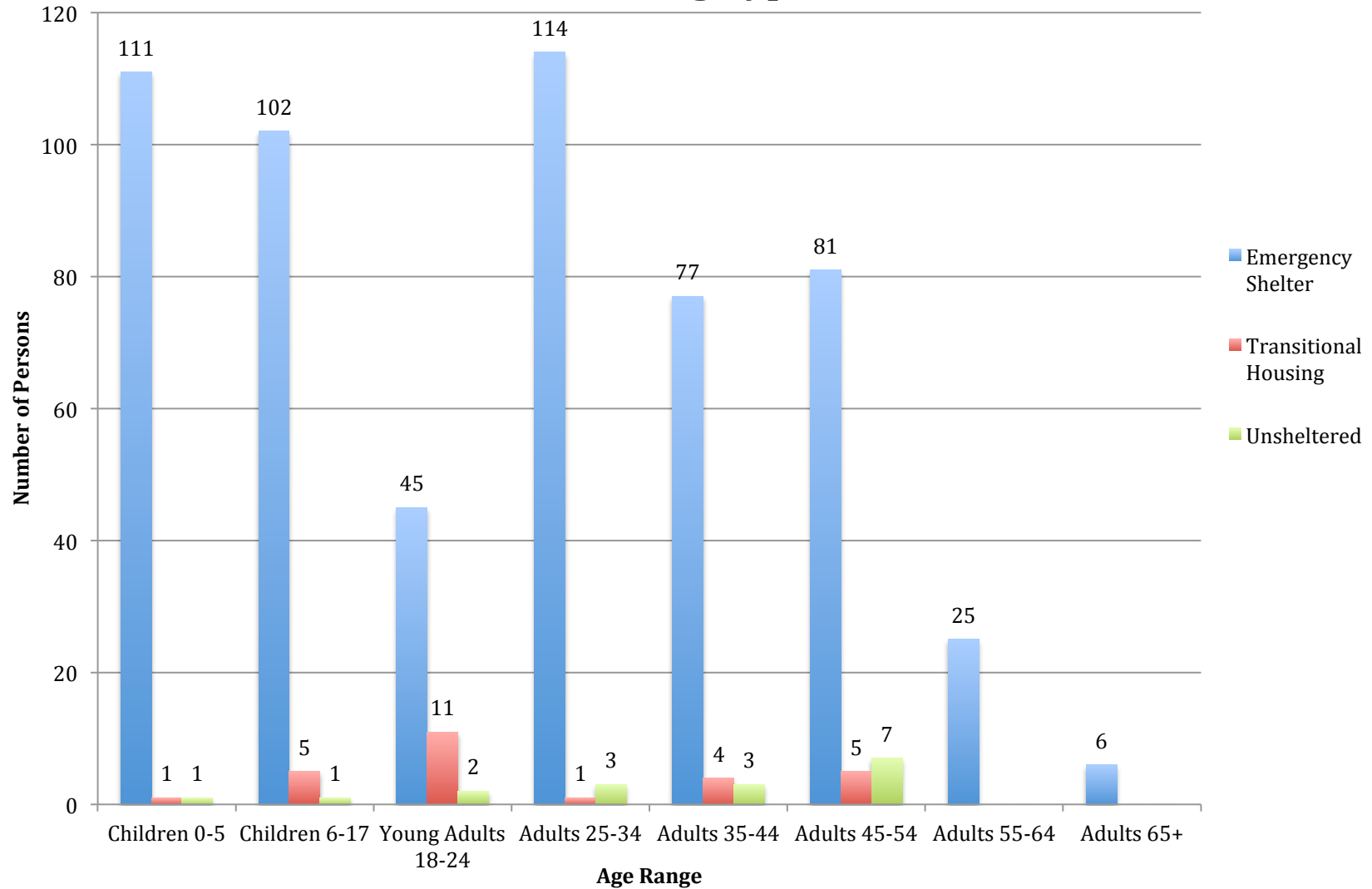
How long have you been in your current living situation?

Fig. A.2. Homeless Housholds by Length of Homelessness and Housing Type
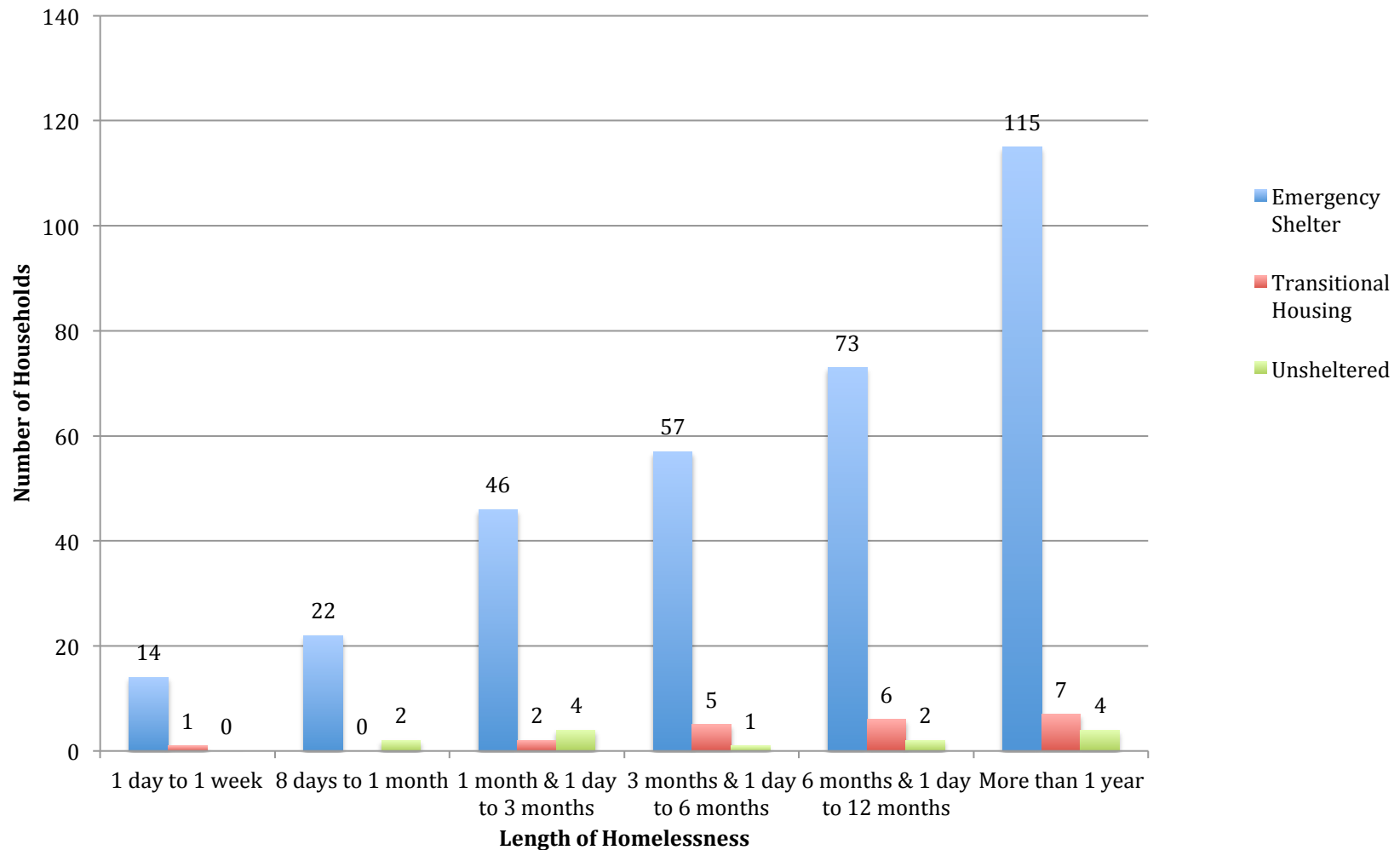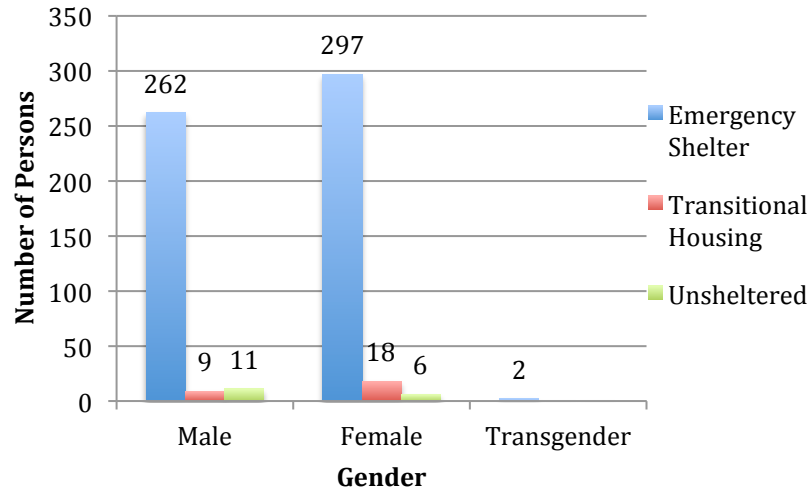
Who was homeless with you on the night of February 3rd?

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

Household Characteristics – check all that apply to each person

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

Legend:
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Unsheltered

Male: 262, 9, 11
Female: 297, 18, 6
Transgender: 2

Y-axis: Number of Persons
X-axis: Gender

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

Black/African-American: 183
Asian: 2
White: 410
Multi-Racial: 2

Y-axis: Number of Persons
X-axis: Race
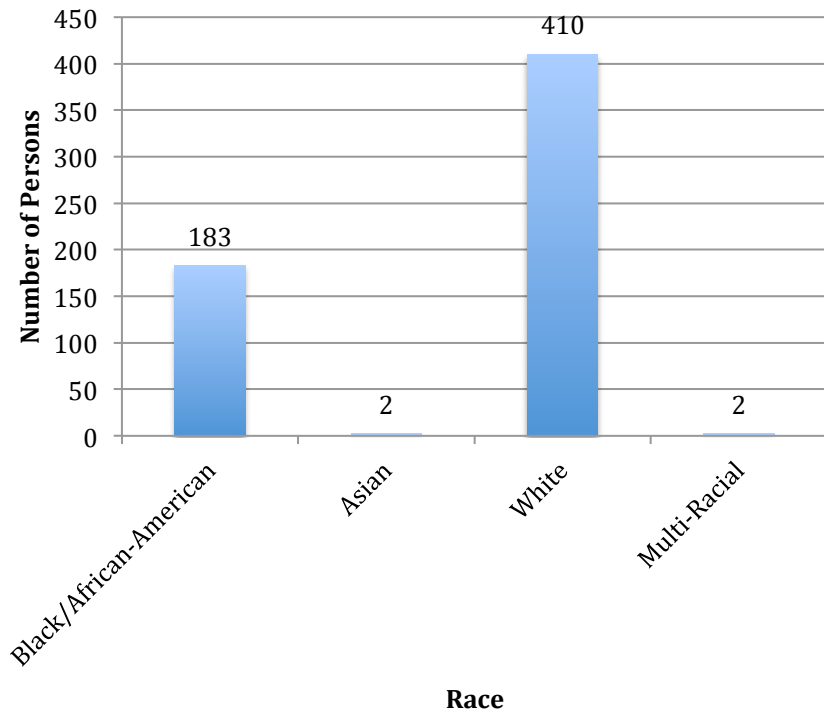
Fig. A.6. Number of Homeless Persons by Ethnicity

Hispanic: 75
Non-Hispanic: 524

Y-axis: Number of Persons
X-axis: Ethnicity
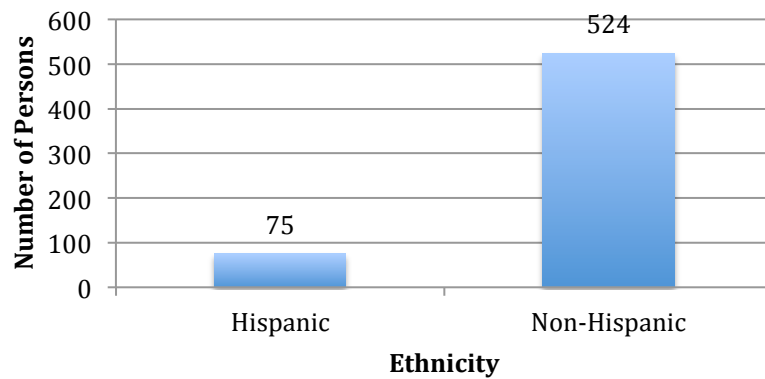
Fig. A.7. Number of Homeless Persons by Victims of Domestic Violence, Veteran Status, and Disability
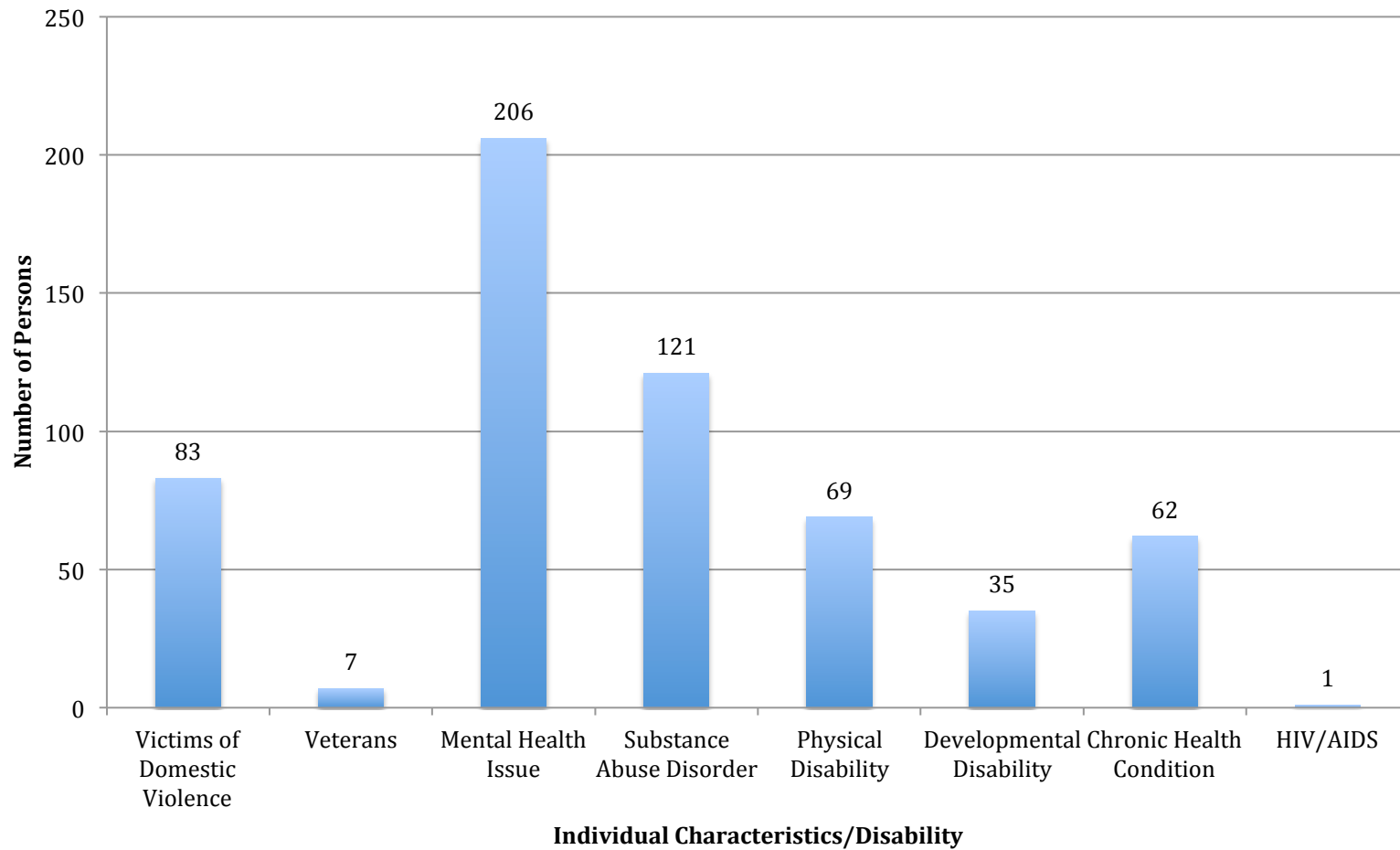
Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?

Fig. A.8. Number of Homeless Households by County, State or Country of Last Permanent Address	
Last Permanent Address – County/State/Country	**Number of Households**
Atlantic County	0
Bergen County	0
Burlington County	2
Camden County	4
Cape May County	1
Cumberland County	1
Essex County	3
Gloucester County	0
Hudson County	1
Hunterdon County	0
Mercer County	2
Middlesex County	0
Monmouth County	11
Morris County	0
Ocean County	**324**
Passaic County	1
Salem County	0
Somerset County	0
Sussex County	0
Union county	1
Warren County	0
New York	2
Pennsylvania	1
North Carolina	1
Florida	1
Illinois	1
Missouri	1

What was your residence prior to your current living situation?

Fig. A.9. Number of Homeless Households by Prior Residence

Figure showing Number of Households (y-axis, 0 to 250) by Prior Residence (x-axis):

- Emergency Shelter, or Emergency Hotel Voucher: 15
- Hotel/Motel Paid for Without Voucher: 12
- Place Not Meant for Human Habitation: 12
- Safe Haven: 5
- Transitional Housing for Homeless Persons: 2
- Living with Family or Friends: 198
- Permanent Housing: 73
- Permanent Supportive Housing Program: 5
- Rooming House: 2
- Jail, Prison, or Juvenile Detention Facility: 15
- Psychiatric Hospital or Treatment Facility: 1
- Substance Abuse Treatment Facility/Detox: 4
- Apt paid with Temporary Rental Assistance from Board of: 10
- Foster care Home or Group Home: 3
- Other: 1

Which of the following sources of income or non-cash benefits do you, or anyone in your household, receive?
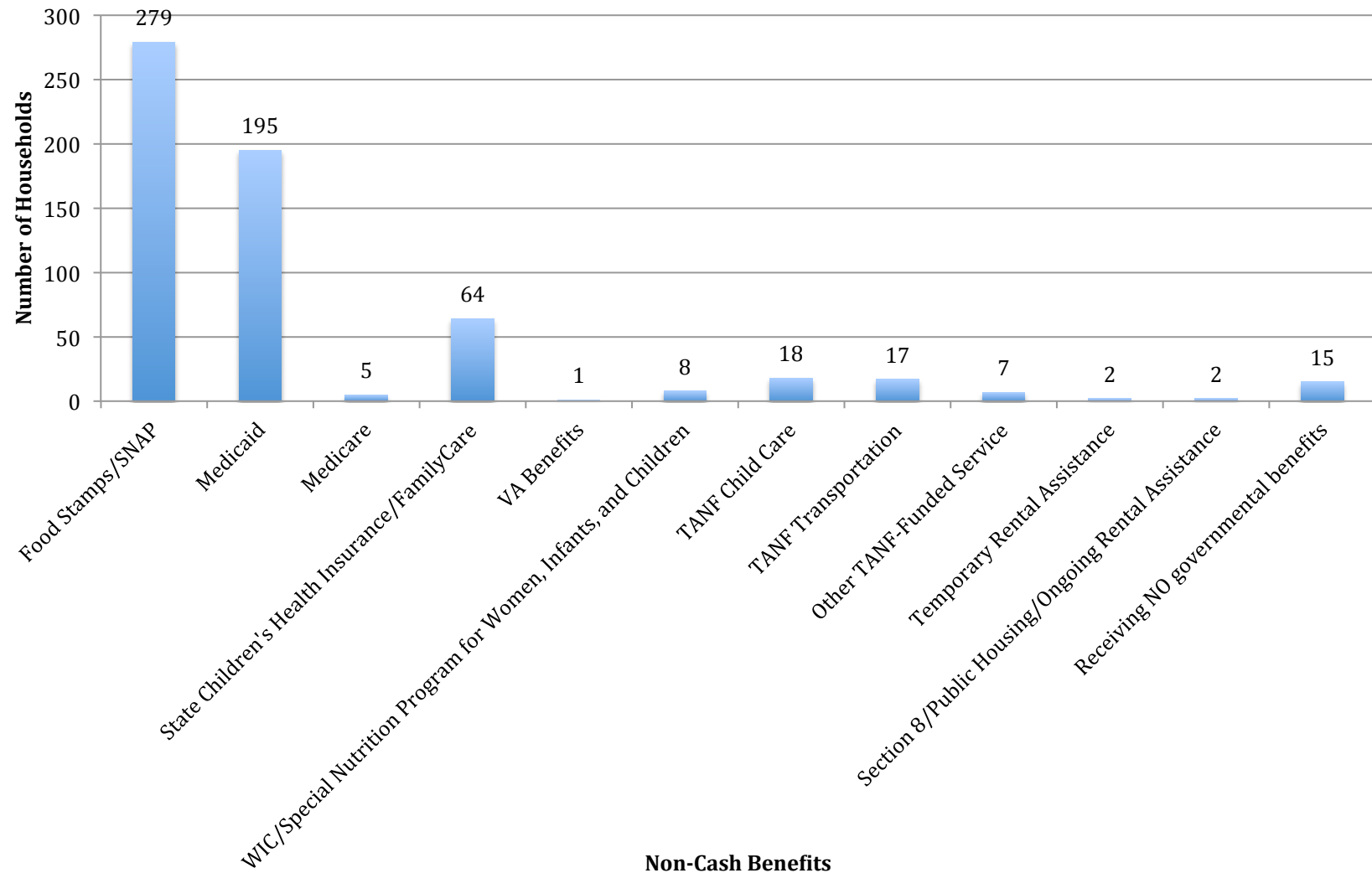
Fig. A. 10. Number of Homeless Households by Source of Cash Income
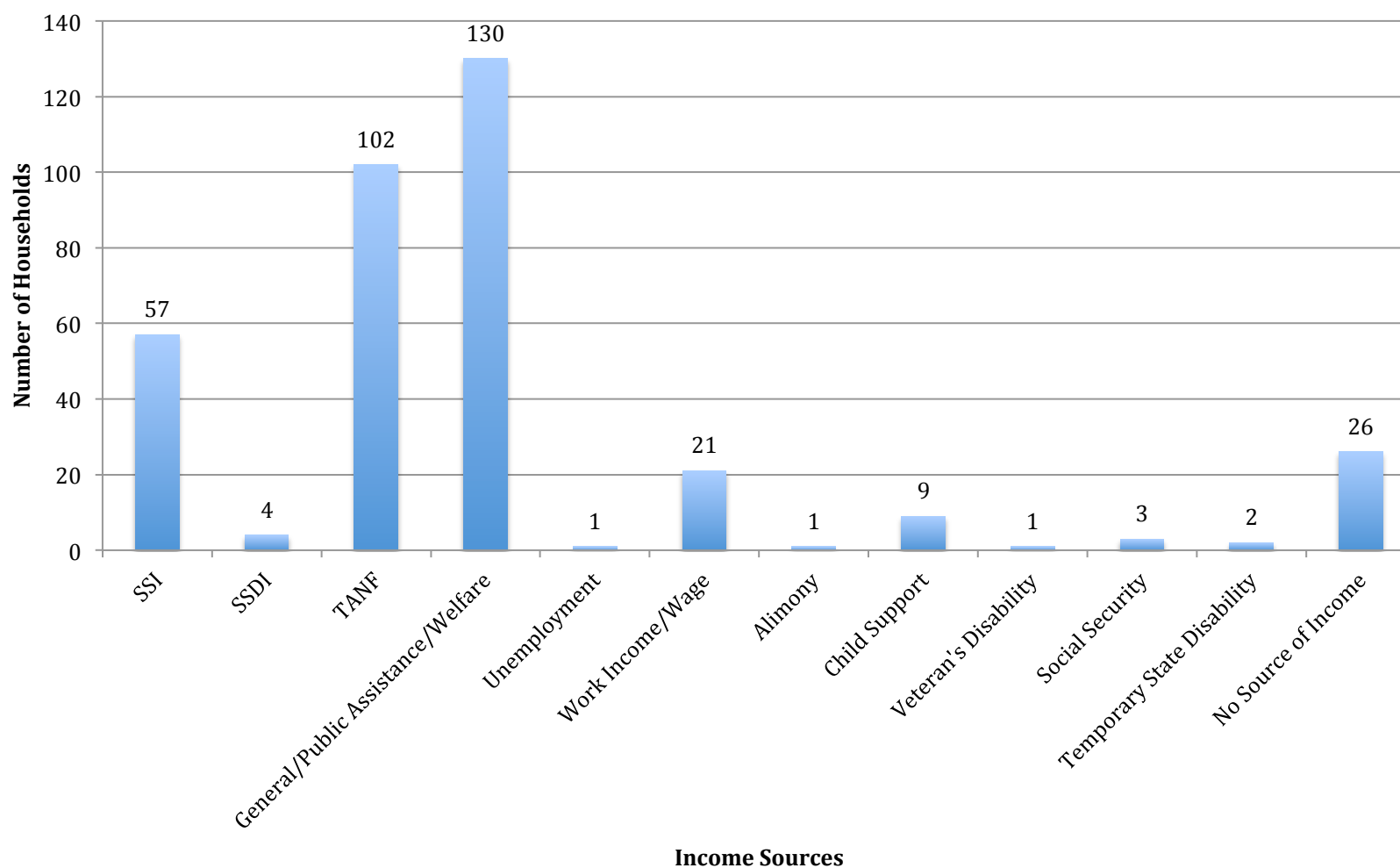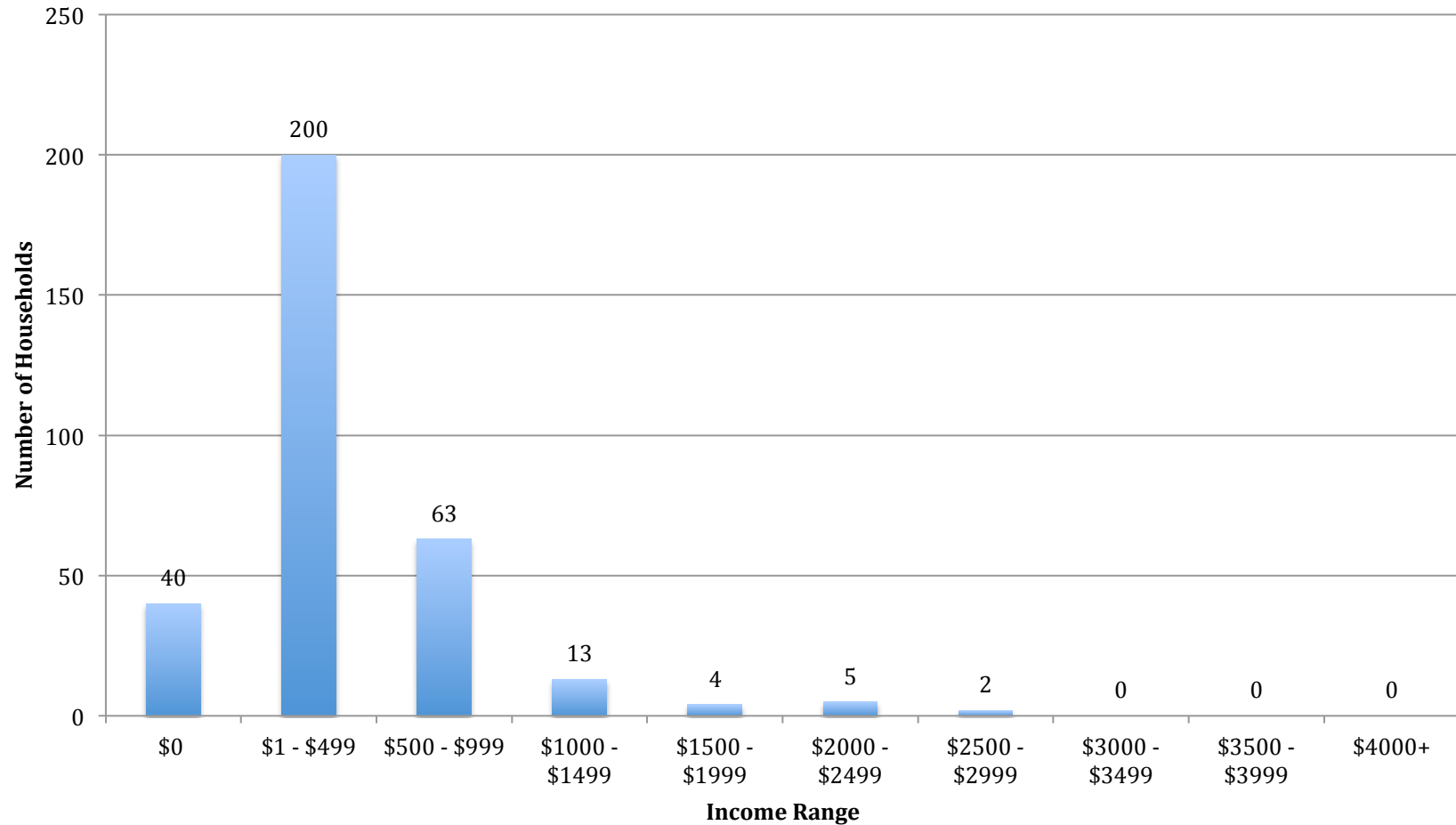
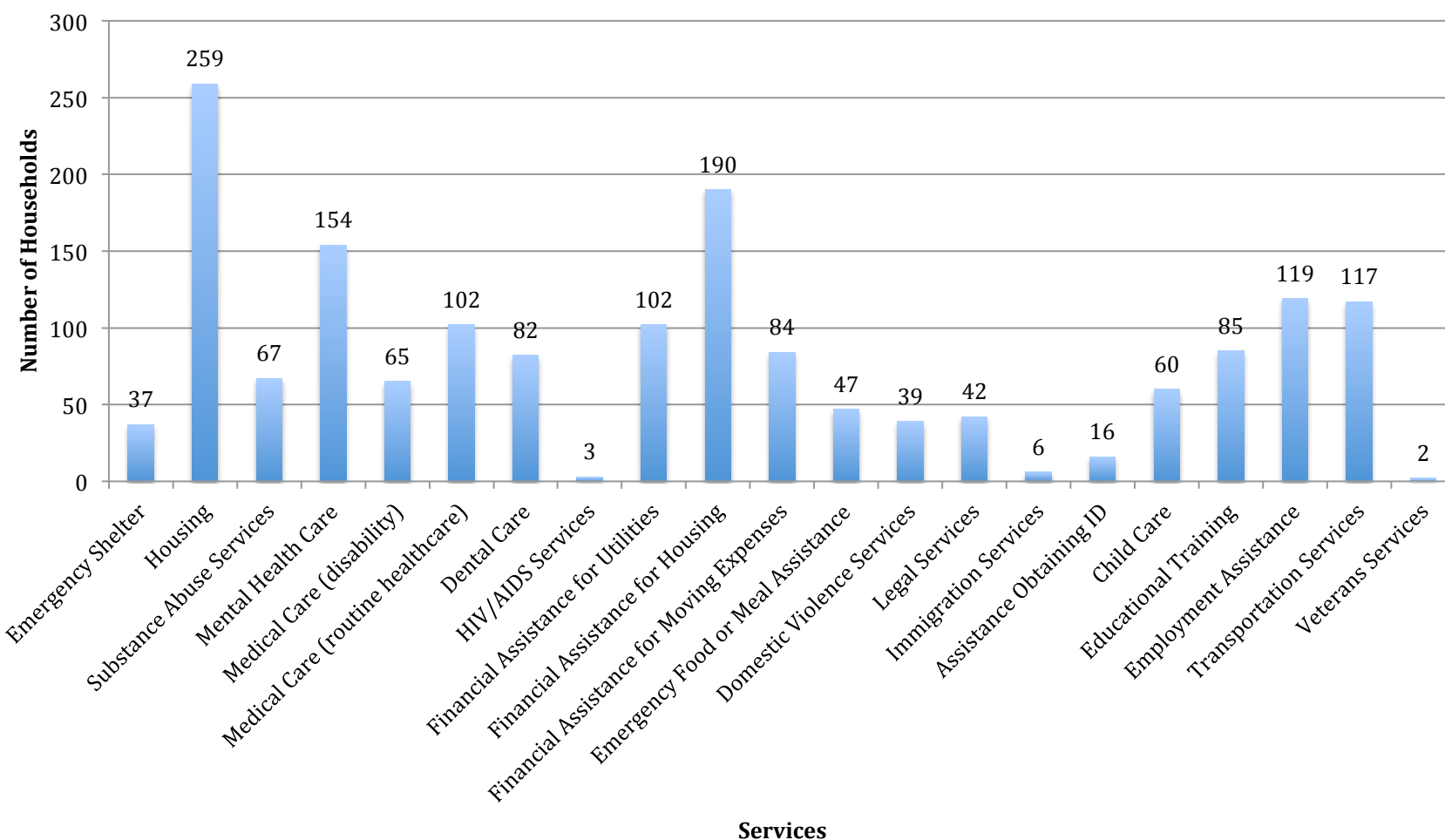Fig. A. 11. Number of Homeless Households by Sources of Non-Cash Benefits

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

Chart data (Number of Households by Service):

Service	Number of Households
Emergency Shelter	37
Housing	259
Substance Abuse Services	67
Mental Health Care	154
Medical Care (disability)	65
Medical Care (routine healthcare)	102
Dental Care	82
HIV/AIDS Services	3
Financial Assistance for Utilities	102
Financial Assistance for Housing	190
Emergency Food or Meal Assistance	84
Financial Assistance for Moving Expenses	47
Domestic Violence Services	39
Legal Services	42
Immigration Services	6
Assistance Obtaining ID	16
Child Care	60
Educational Training	85
Employment Assistance	119
Transportation Services	117
Veterans Services	2

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