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NJ
2016
Counts!

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

January 26, 2016

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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 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 26th, 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 26th, 2016 a total of 33 households, including 40 persons, were experiencing homelessness in Warren County, according to the 2016 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 5 households, with 5 persons, were identified as chronically homeless.
- 6 unsheltered homeless persons were counted.

Total Homeless Population

On the night of January 26th, 2016, a total of 40 persons, in 33 households, were experiencing homelessness in Warren County, according to the 2016 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 9 households (21.4%) and 18 persons (31%) from 2015. Warren County had 0.4% of New Jersey's statewide homeless population in 2016.

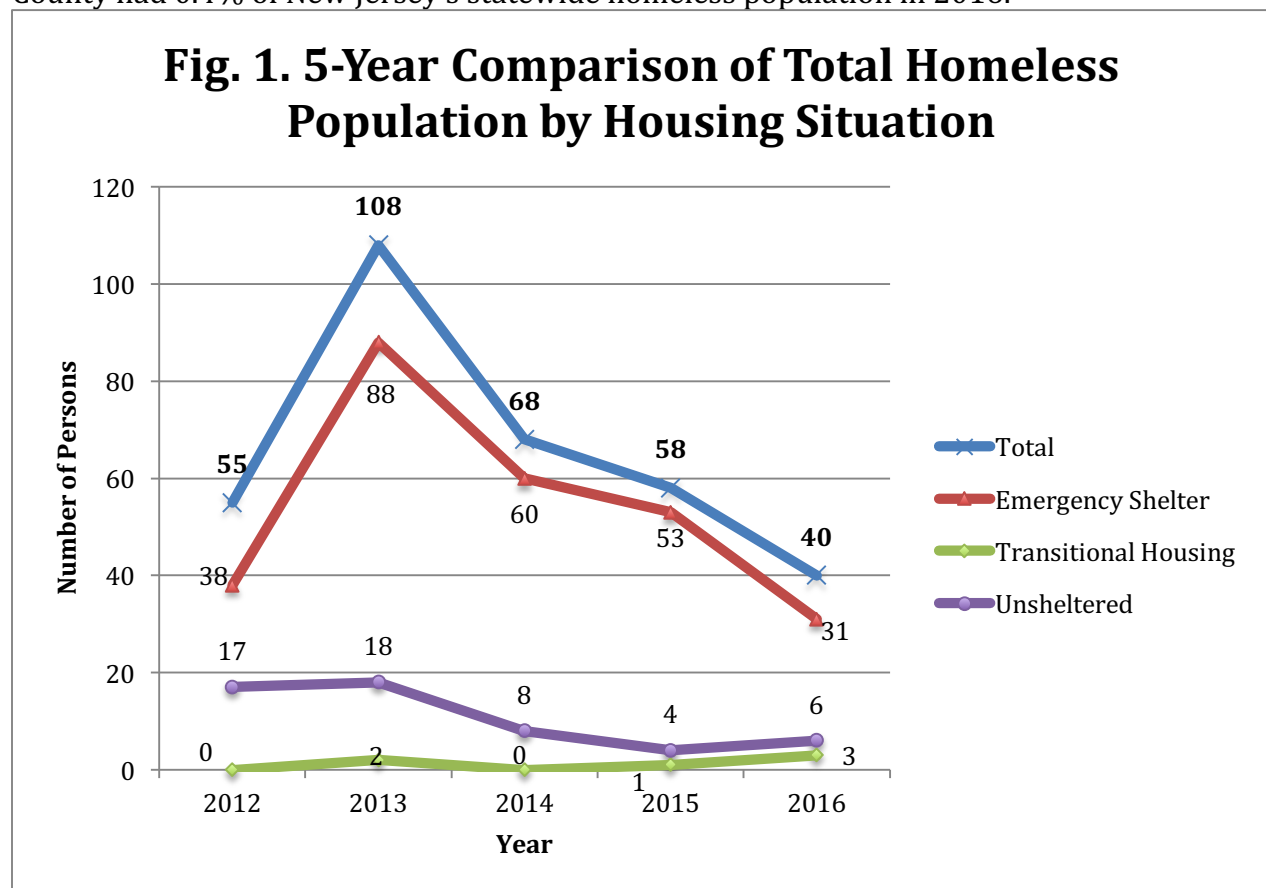
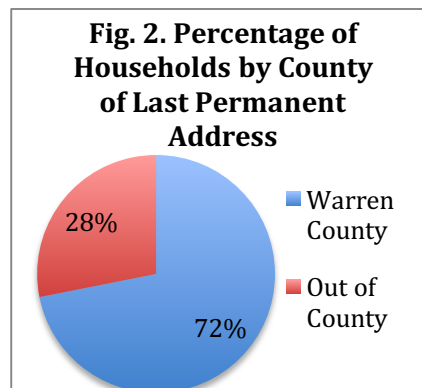


Figure 1 shows that, in 2016, 31 homeless persons were staying in emergency shelters, 3 were staying in transitional housing, and 6 were living unsheltered on the night of the count. There was an increase of 2 persons (50%) in the unsheltered population and an increase of 2 persons (200%) in the transitional housing population as compared to 2015.

The emergency shelter population saw a decrease of 22 persons (41.5%) as compared to 2015.

Figure 1 also shows that, over the past five years, the total number of homeless households has been fluctuating in Warren County, with the highest count in 2013 (108 persons). Overall, there has been a decrease of 27.3% (15 persons) from 2012 to 2016. The number of unsheltered households had been decreasing consistently until 2016, showing an overall reduction of 11 persons during the 5-year period (64.7%).

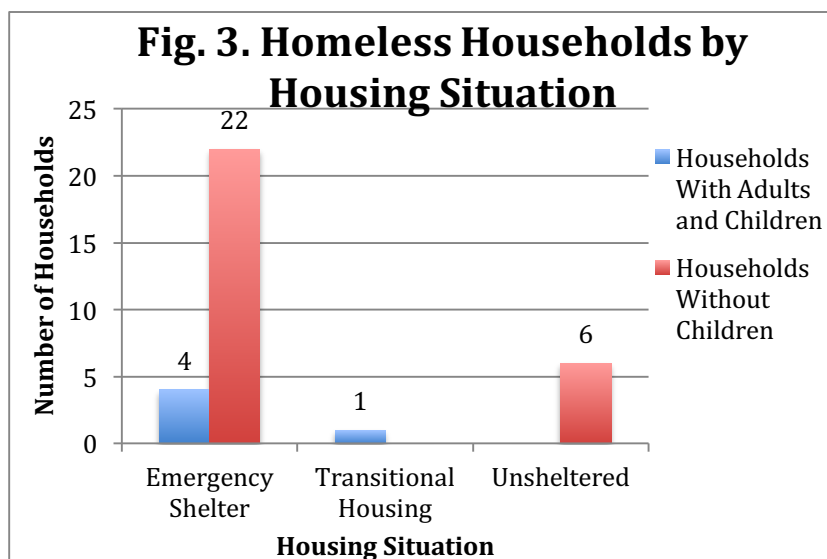
As Figure 2 shows, 28% of homeless households in Warren County reported that their last permanent address prior to becoming homeless was outside the county.



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 33 homeless households counted in Warren County in 2016, 5 (15.2%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult, a decrease of 2 families from 2015. These families included 12 persons, 7 children under age 18, and 5 adults. The average family size was 3.1 persons. Figure 3 shows that 4 families were staying in emergency shelters on the night of the count, while 1 was in transitional housing.

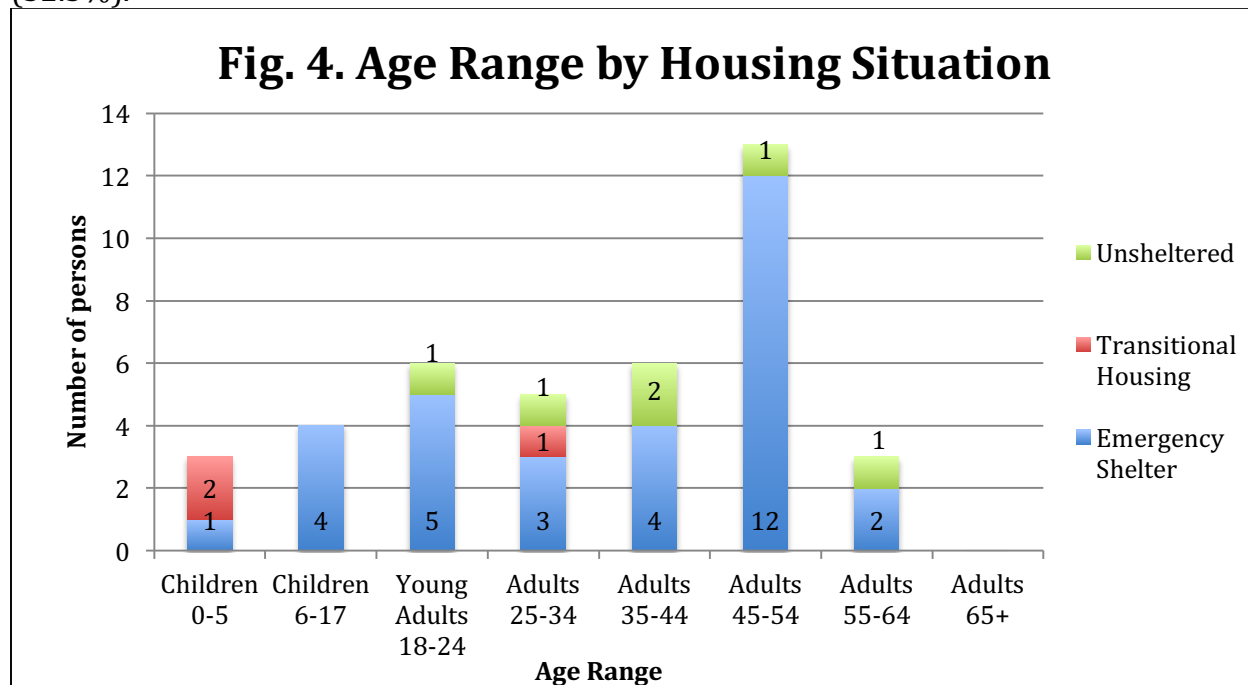


84.8% of the homeless households (28) counted in Warren County were households without children under 18, and they were composed of 28 persons. 6 of the individual adult households were unsheltered on the night of the count, and the remaining 22 were in emergency shelters.

Similar to 2015, there were 0 youth only households counted in 2016.

Demographics

The majority (27 persons, 67.5%) of those experiencing homelessness in Warren County on the night of the count were adults over age 24. There were a total of 6 (15%) homeless young adults between 18 and 24 years old, and 7 (17.5%) children under 18 years old as well. Figure 4 shows that the age range that was most represented was 45 to 54 years old (32.5%).

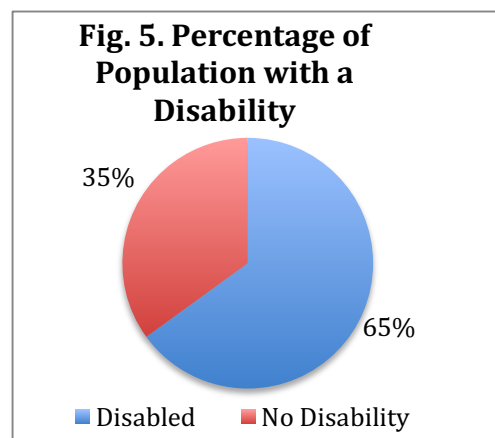


57.5% of homeless persons were female, 42.5% were male.

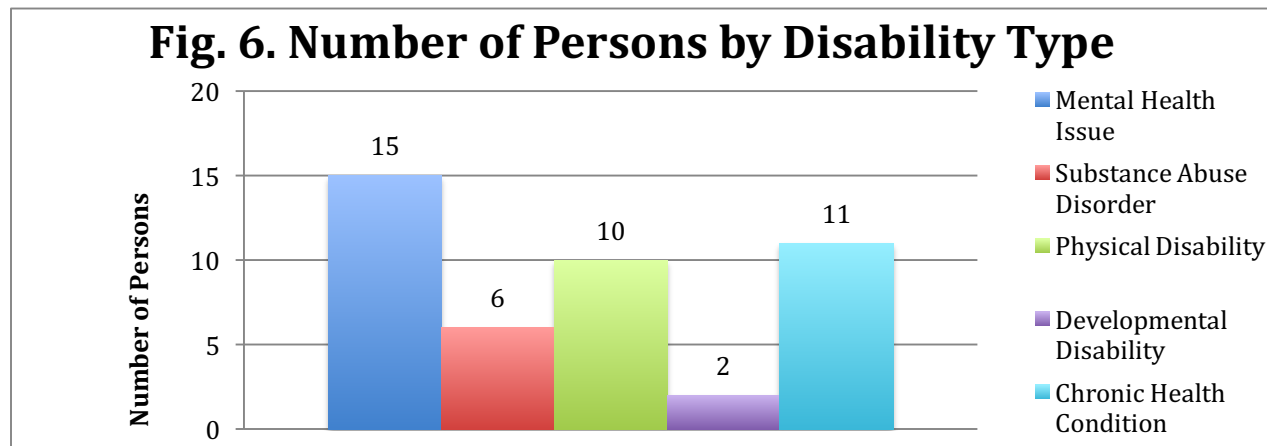
80% of persons identified their race as White, making that the largest racial subgroup of homeless persons reported. The second largest group self-identified as Black or African American (12.5%). With regard to ethnicity, 10% of persons identified themselves as Hispanic.

Disabilities

Figure 5 illustrates that 65% of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. 25 of the 26 disabled persons were adults. 75.8% of homeless adults identified a disability as compared to 14.3% of homeless children identifying a disability. Figure 6 shows the number of the homeless persons that identified as having various disabilities. The most prevalent disabilities were mental health issues and chronic health conditions.

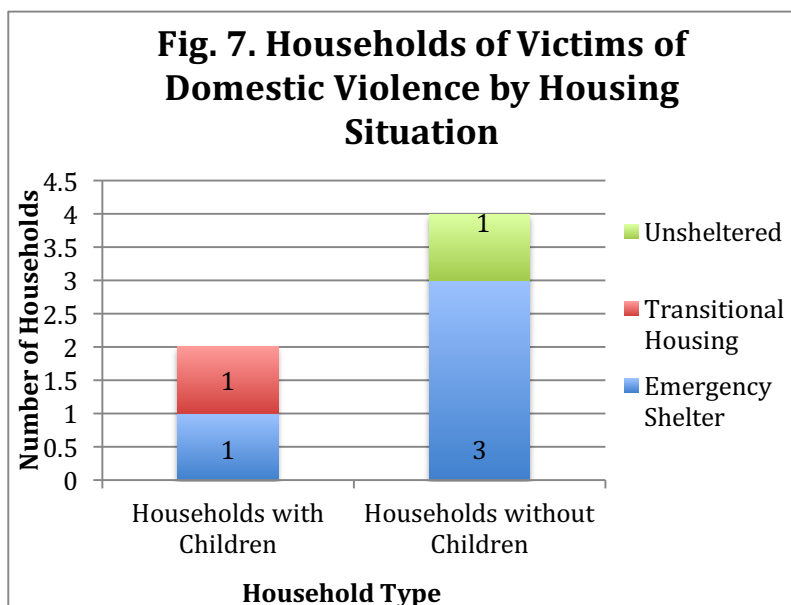


Among disabled adults, 56% reported mental health issues making this the most prevalent disability; representing 42.4% of the total adult homeless population. 44% of disabled adults reported a chronic health condition. The one child reporting a disabling condition identified a mental health issue.



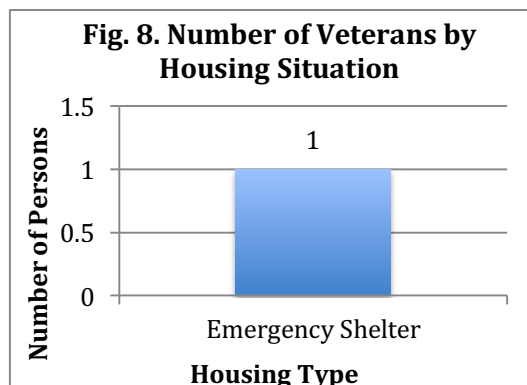
Victims of Domestic Violence

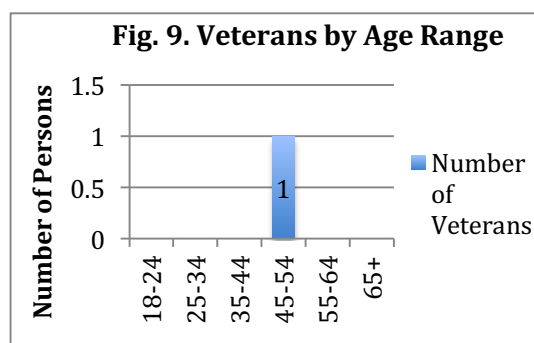
On the night of the count, in Warren County, 6 homeless households reported having a victim of domestic violence. As shown in Figure 7, 2 (33.3%) of these households were families composed of 5 persons. The other 4 (66.7%) households were adult only households composed of 4 individuals; 3 were staying in emergency shelter and 1 was unsheltered.



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.





1 homeless veteran household was counted in Warren County on the night of the count, an increase of 1 from 2015. The veteran counted was an individual male who identified as White. The veteran identified his age as between 45 and 54.

The veteran individual did not report being a victim of domestic violence, but reported having a substance abuse disorder, physical disability, and chronic health condition. He received SSDI as income, and was not connected to any VA benefits. He was seeking emergency shelter and housing.

Income and Benefits

Among all homeless households 12.1% had no source of income, and 6.1% reported having earned income. The most common source of cash income among homeless households was General Assistance, which was reported by 51.5% of households.

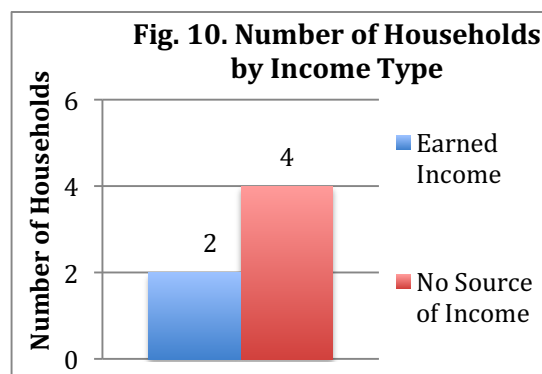


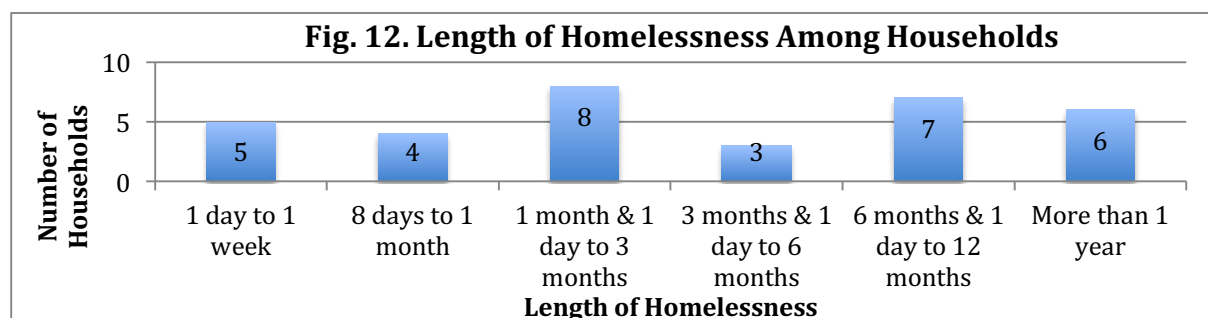
Figure 10 shows the average monthly income for all households.

Figure 11. Average Monthly Income For Households by Housing Situation			
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered
Average for All Households	\$297.91	\$500.00	\$344.50

3% of households reported that their household was 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, which was reported by 75.8% of households. Medicaid was reported by 63.6% of households.

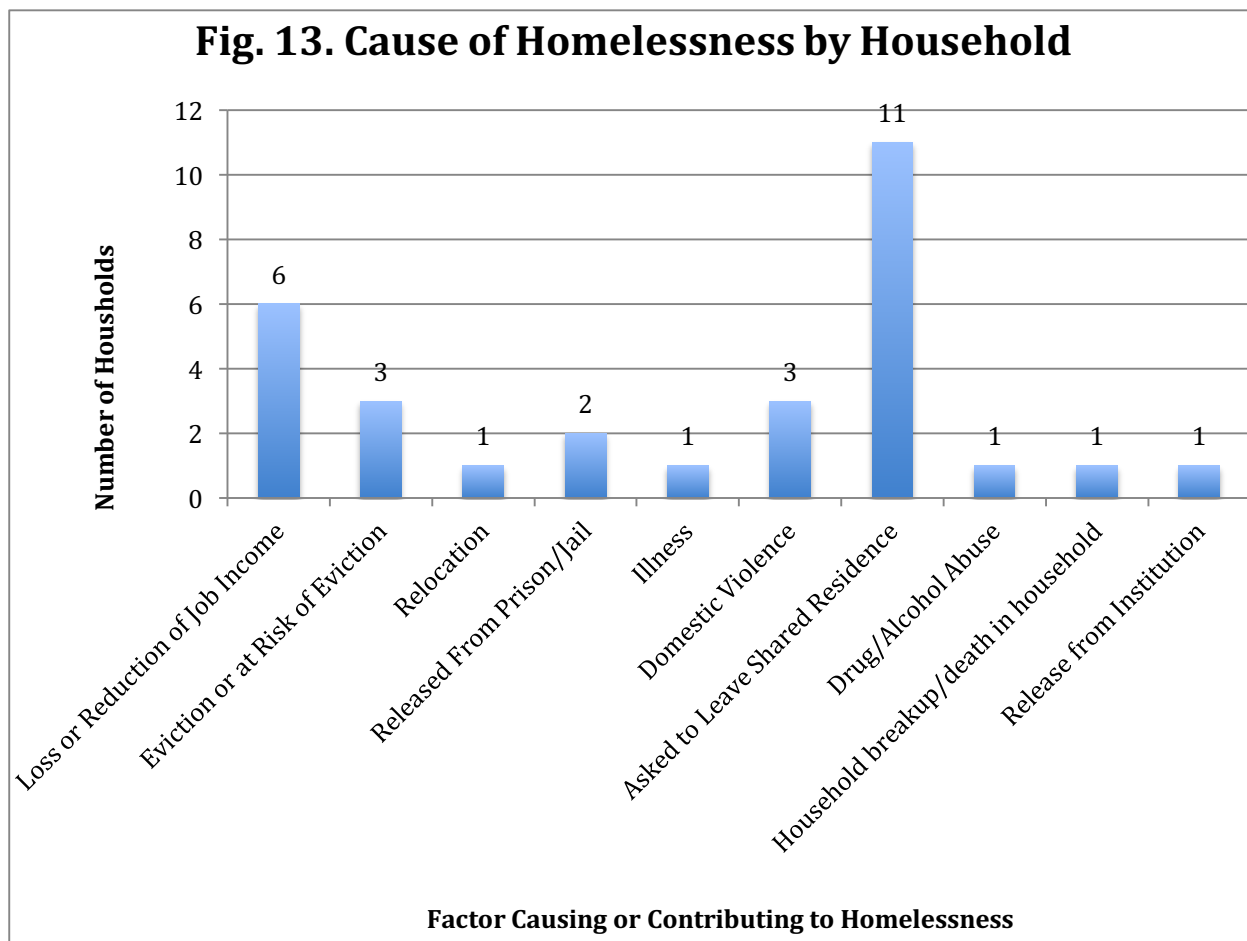
Length of Homelessness

Figure 12 shows that the largest percent of households (8, 24.2%) reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted from 1 month to 3 months. 6 households reported being homeless for more than a year, a 50% decrease from 2015.



Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households identified being asked to leave a shared residence (11 households, 33.3%) than any other cause. Figure 13 has the full list of causes reported.



When homeless households were asked ‘what was your residence prior to your current living situation?’ more said they were staying or living with family or friends (63.6%) than any other type of residence.

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

5 households, made up of 5 total persons, were chronically homeless in Warren County, according to the 2016 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 9 households (64.3%) and 10 persons (66.7%) from 2015. The rate of chronic homelessness as a percentage of overall homelessness was 12.5% in 2016, a decrease from the 25.9% in 2015.

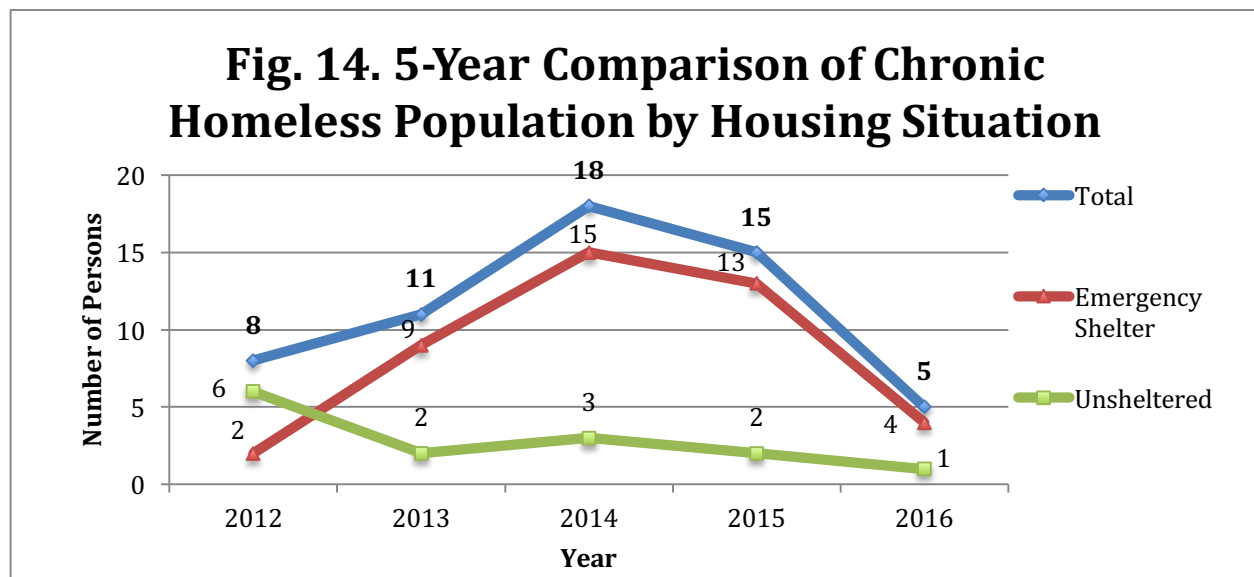
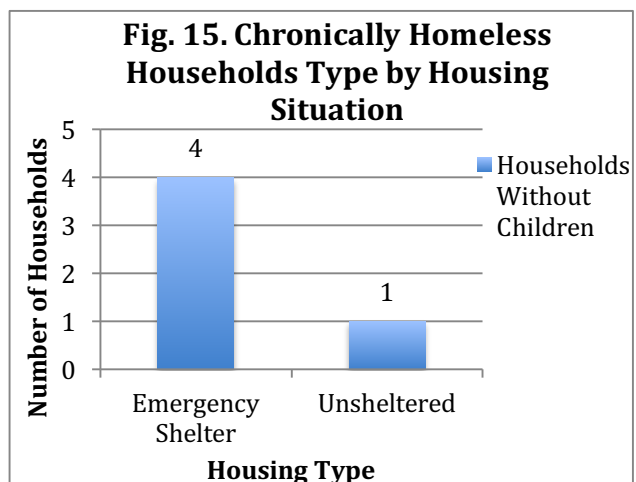


Figure 14 shows the number of chronically homeless persons who were in emergency shelter or living unsheltered in Warren County from 2012 to 2016. Though the number of chronically homeless has fluctuated over the past five years, Warren County has seen an overall decrease of 3 persons or 37.5% from 2012.

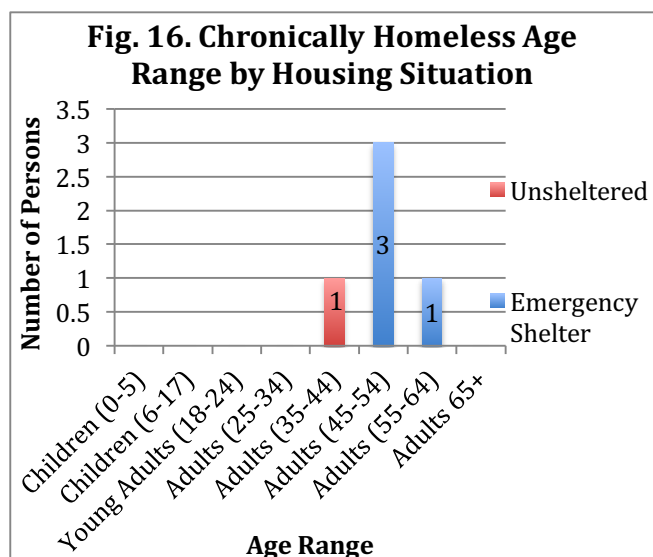
Families and Individuals

Similar to 2015, there were 0 chronically homeless families with children counted in Warren County.

All 5 chronically homeless households were adult only households, composed of 5 individuals. 4 individuals were staying in emergency shelter, and 1 was unsheltered on the night of the count.



Demographics



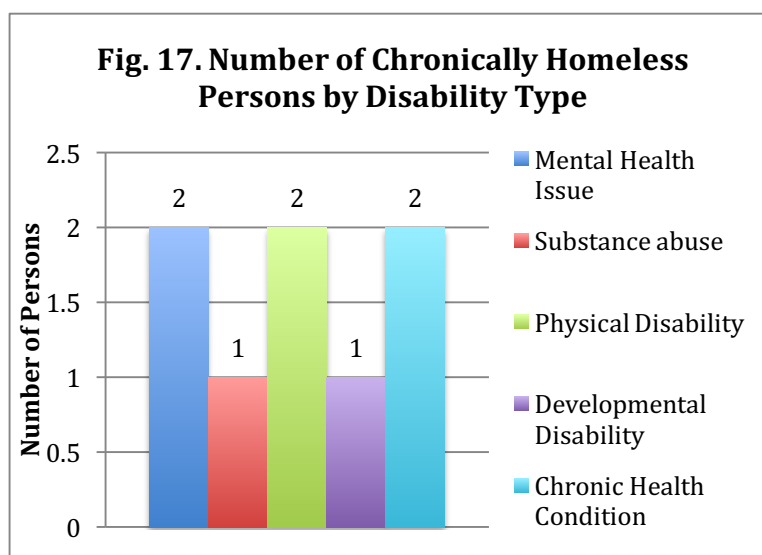
Of the 5 total chronically homeless persons, 3 (60%) were between 45 and 54 years old, while 1 (20%) was between the ages of 35 and 44 and 1 (20%) was between 55 and 64.

80% of the chronically homeless were male, and 20% were female.

All chronically homeless persons identified their race as White or Caucasian.

Disabilities

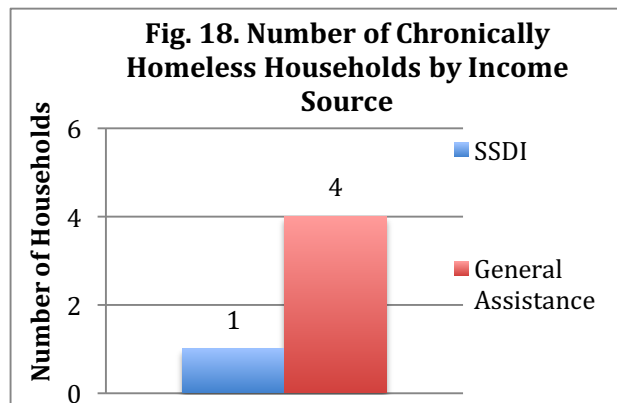
In order to meet the definition of chronically homeless, at least one adult in each household must have some kind of disability. The disabilities most commonly identified were mental health issues (40%), physical disabilities (40%), and chronic health conditions (40%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the chronically homeless can be seen in Figure 17.



Subpopulations

On the night of the count, 1 unsheltered chronically homeless person identified as a victim of domestic violence.

There were no chronically homeless veterans identified on the night of the count.



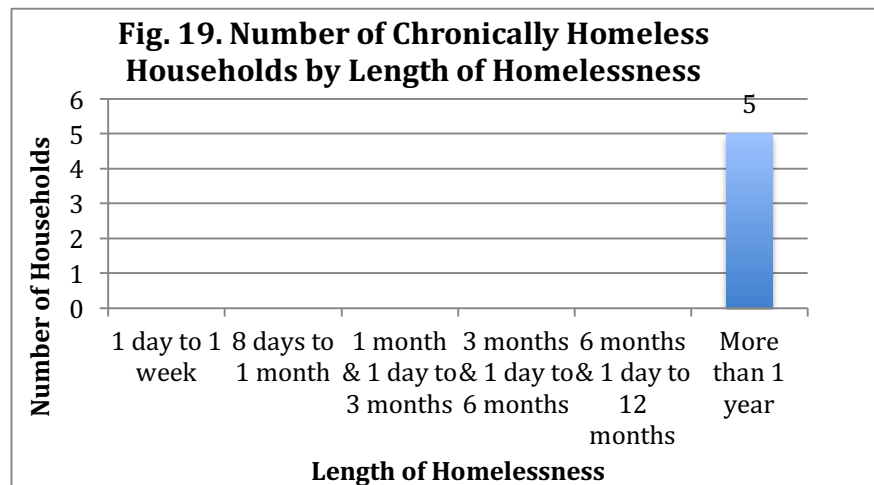
Income and Benefits

4 chronically homeless households on the night of the count reported receiving General Assistance as income and 1 household reported receiving SSDI.

Each chronically homeless household reported receiving some type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. All 5 households were receiving Food Stamps (SNAP), and 4 (80%) were receiving Medicaid.

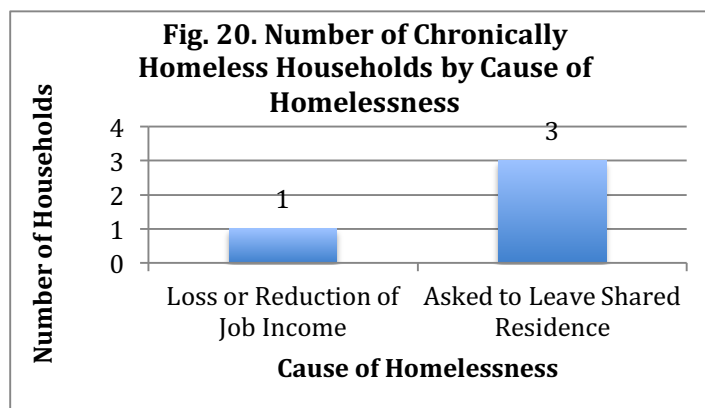
Length of Homelessness

All 5 chronically homeless households reported their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted for more than 1 year.



Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, 3 (60%) of the chronically homeless households reported being asked to leave a shared residence, 1 (20%) cited a loss or reduction of job income, and 1 (20%) household gave no response.



V. Findings for the Unsheltered Homeless

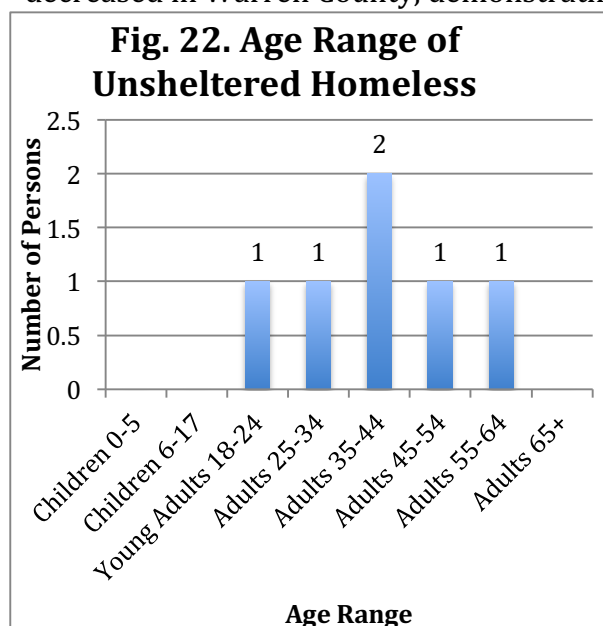
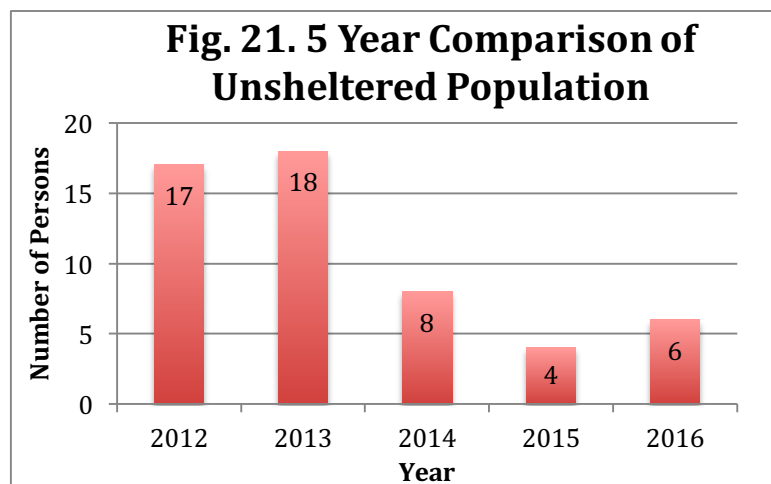
HUD's definition of "unsheltered homeless" applies to any individual or family "with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, 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 6 persons, were living unsheltered in Warren County, according to the 2016 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 2 households (50%) and 2 persons (50%) from 2015.

Figure 21 shows the number of unsheltered persons from 2012 to 2016. Overall the number of unsheltered persons has decreased in Warren County, demonstrating a decrease of 11 persons (64.7%) from 2012.



Families and Individuals

All 6 unsheltered households counted in Warren County in 2016 were composed of individual adults, none were families.

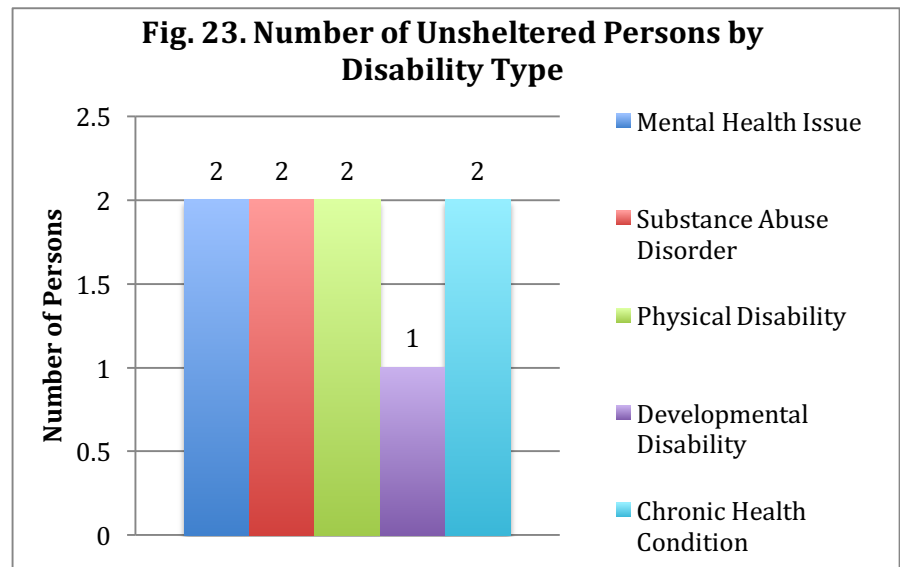
Demographics

There were no children under the age of 18, or adults over the age of 64, unsheltered on the night of the count. The largest number 2 (33.3%) were between 34 and 44 years old. Full numbers for the ages of the unsheltered homeless population can be seen in Figure 22.

All of the unsheltered persons were male. 83.3% identified their race as White and 16.7% identified as Black or African American. None reported their ethnicity as Hispanic.

Disabilities

5 of the 6 unsheltered persons (83.3%) reported having some type of disability. All of the reported disabilities can be seen in Figure 23.

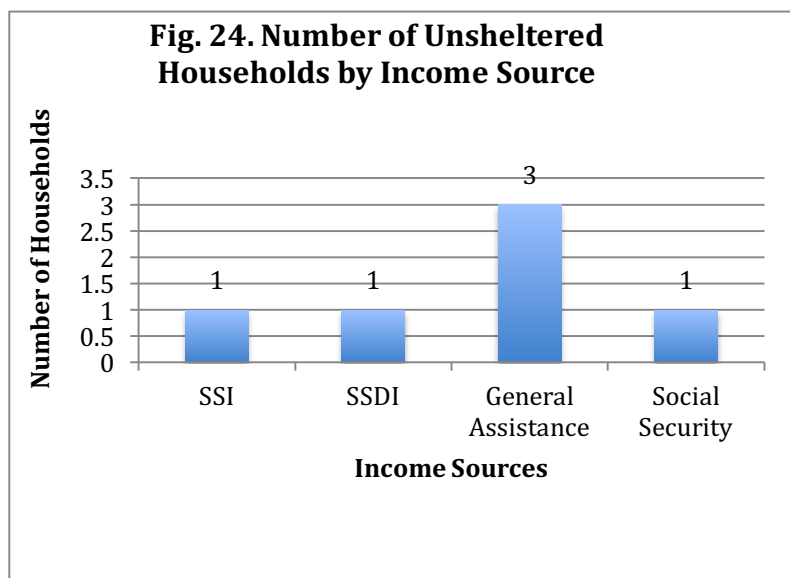


Subpopulations

On the night of the count, 1 unsheltered homeless individual in Warren County reported being a victim of domestic violence.

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

Income and Benefits

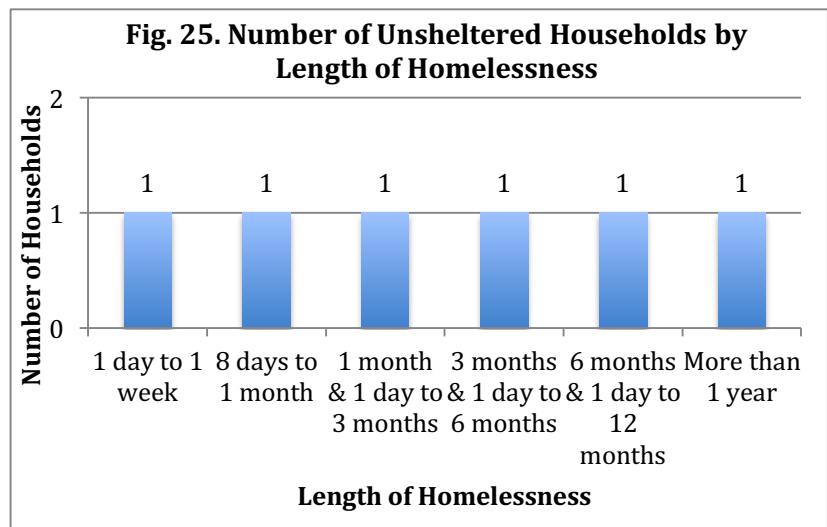


The largest portion (50%) of unsheltered households reported receiving General Assistance. 16.7% each reported receiving SSI, SSDI, and Social Security.

1 of the 6 unsheltered households (16.7%) reported not receiving any non-cash benefits. 4 households (66.7%) reported receiving Food Stamps (SNAP), and 1 (16.7%) reported connection to Medicaid.

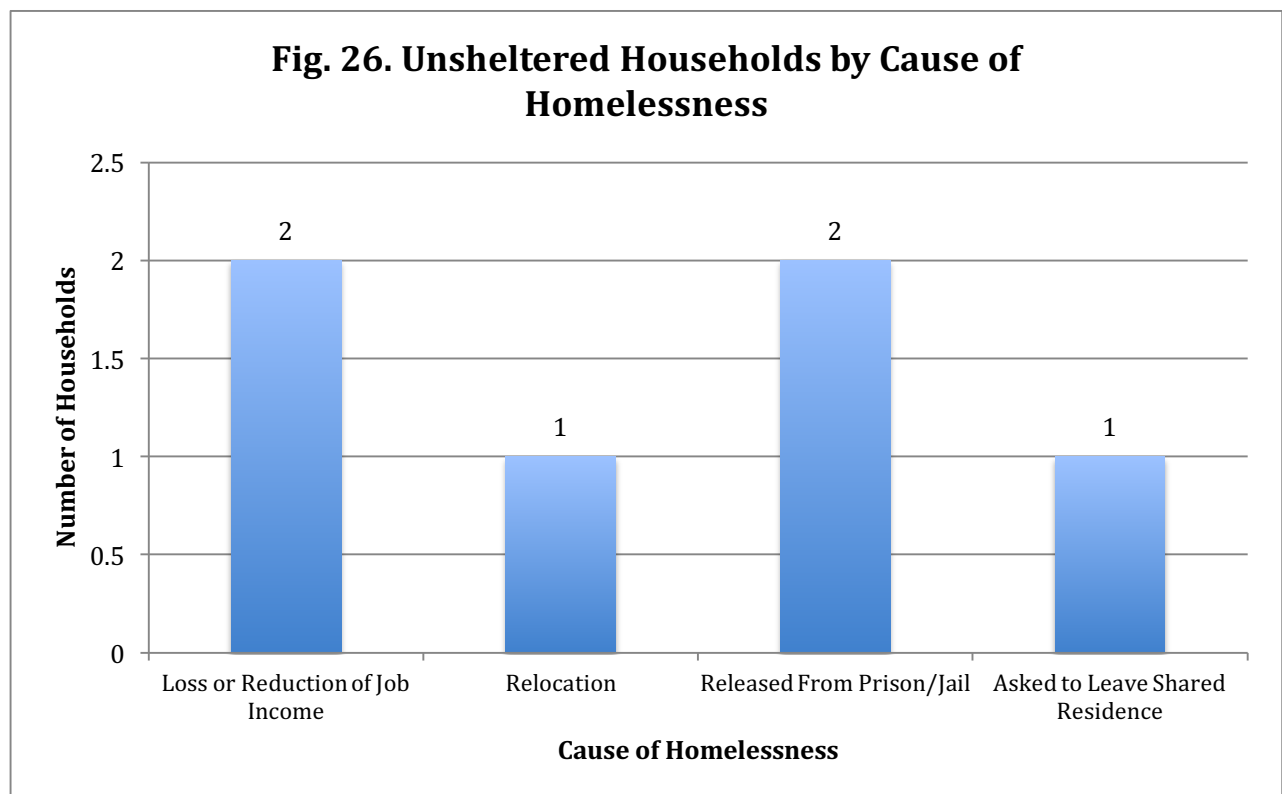
Length of Homelessness

As shown in Figure 25, the lengths of homelessness experienced by those who were unsheltered were very varied. 1 (16.7%) unsheltered household reported their most recent length of homelessness had lasted for more than 1 year.



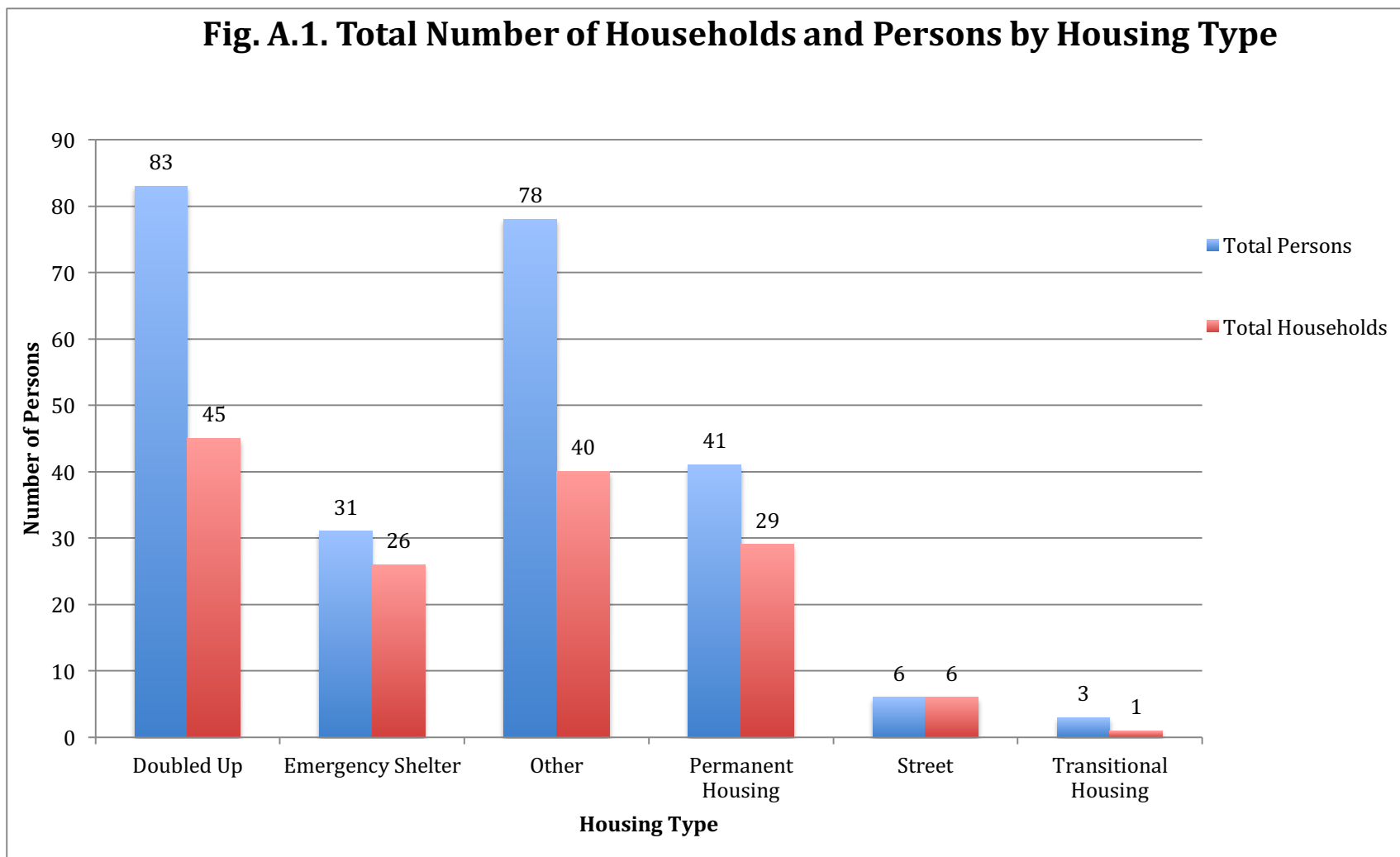
Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, the greatest number of unsheltered households (2 households, 33.3%) cited either release from prison or jail or a loss or reduction of job income as causing their homelessness. The full list of responses can be seen in Figure 26.



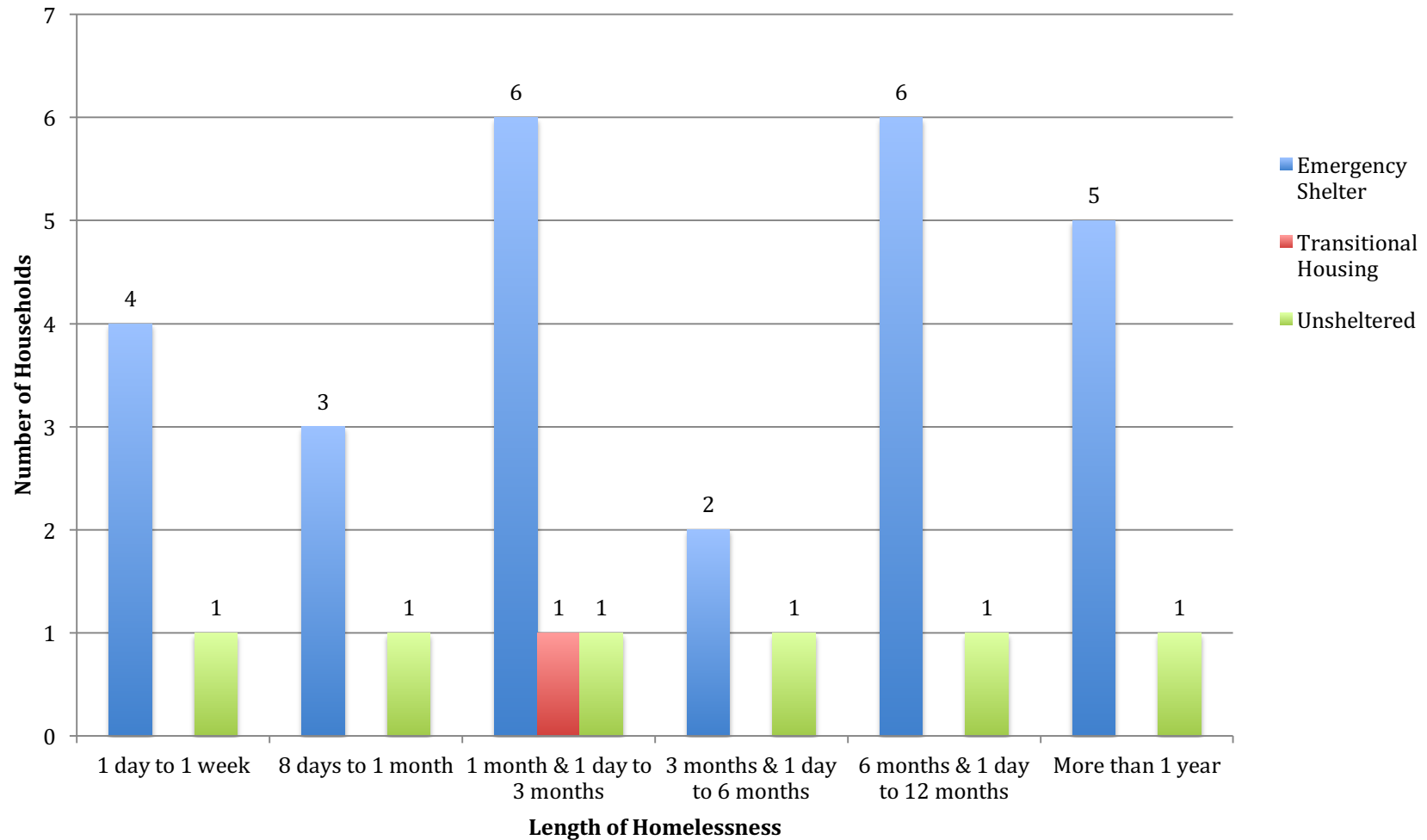
VI. Appendix

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



How long have you been in your current living situation?

Fig. A.2. Homeless Housholds by Length of Homelessness and Housing Type



Who was homeless with you on the night of January 26th?

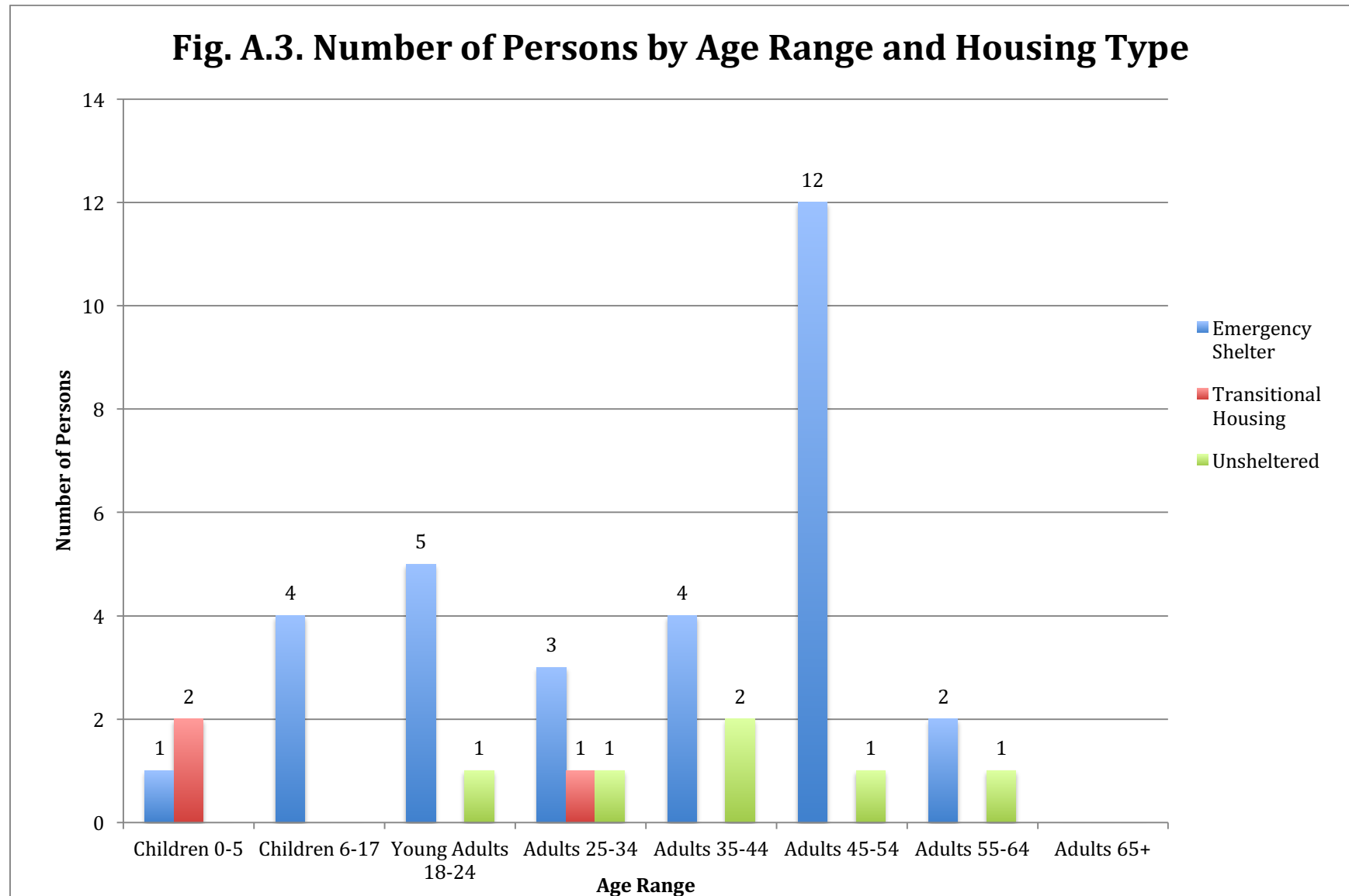


Fig. A.4. Number of Persons by Gender and Housing Situation

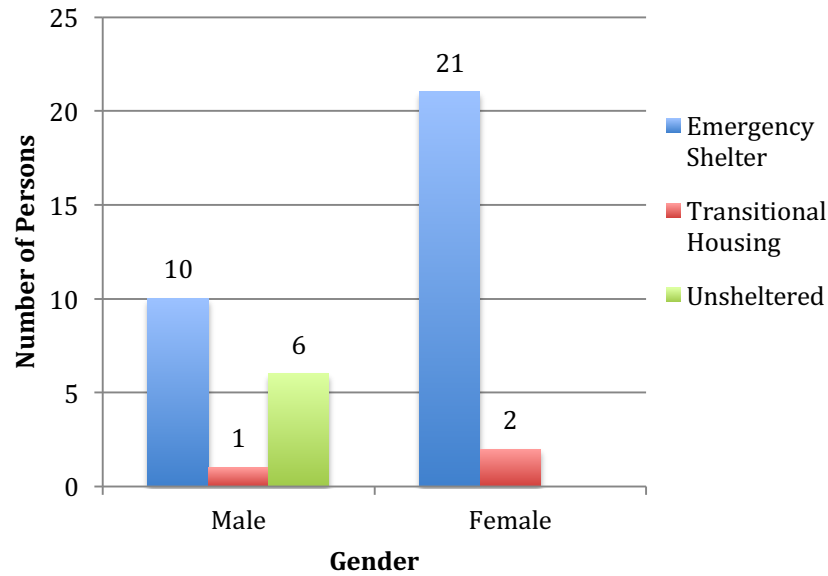


Fig. A.5. Number of Homeless Persons by Race

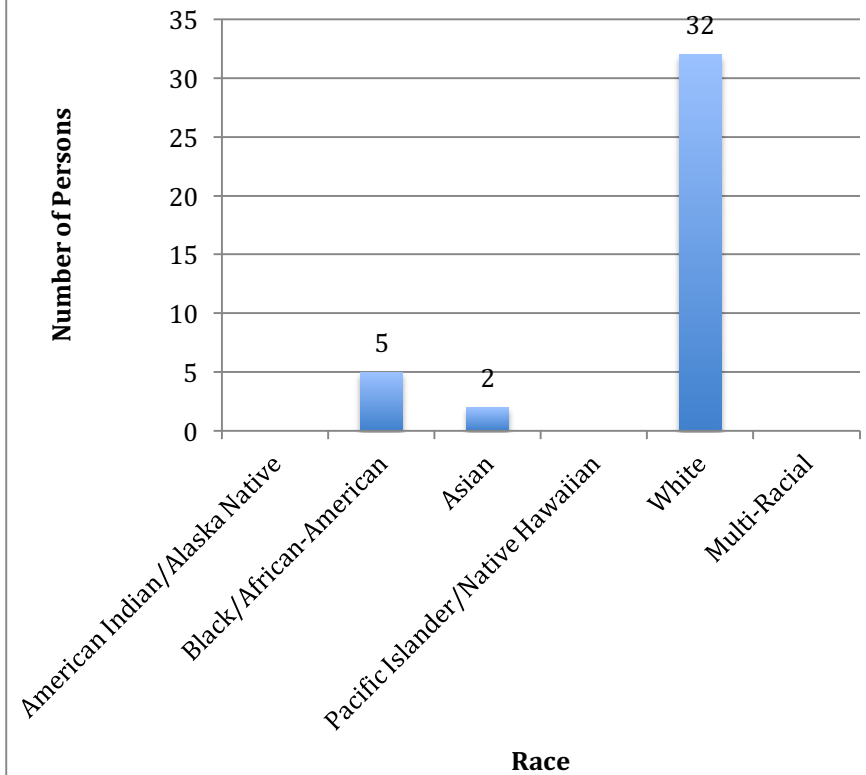
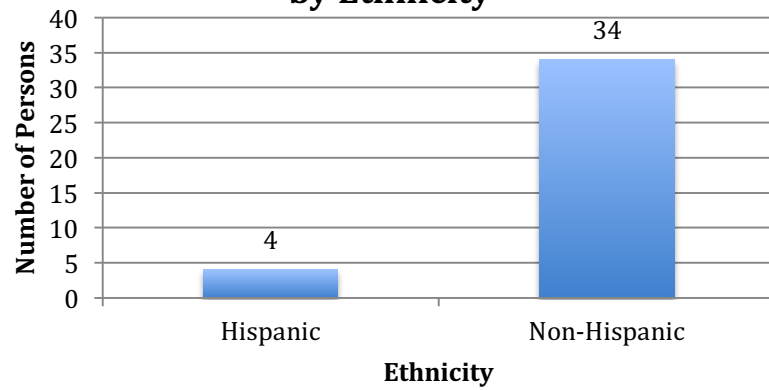
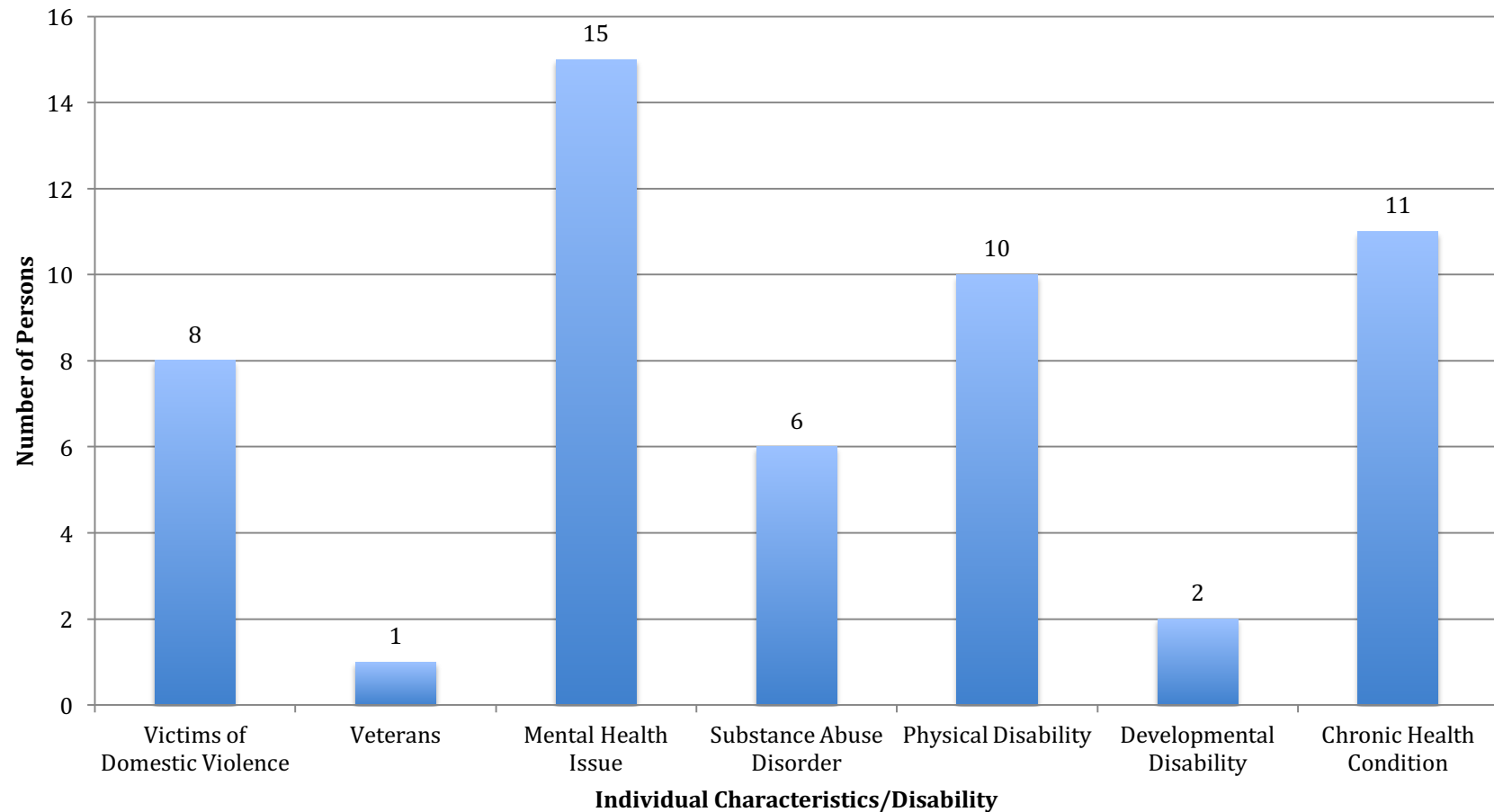


Fig. A.6. Number of Homeless Persons by Ethnicity



Household Characteristics – check all that apply to each person

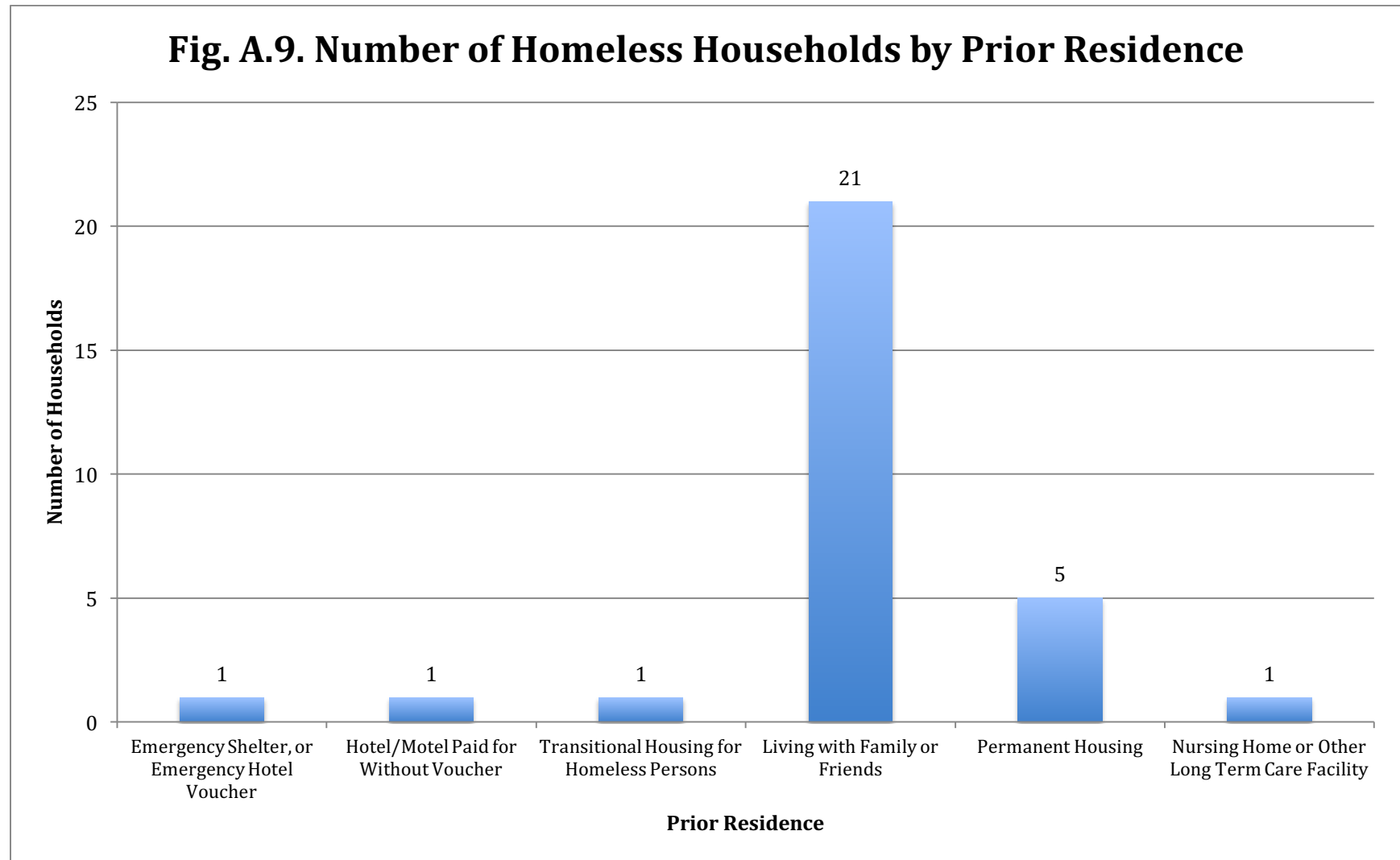
Fig. A.7. Number of Homeless Persons by Victims of Domestic Violence, Veteran Status, and Disability



Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?

Fig. A.8. Number of Homeless Households by County, State or Country of Last Permanent Address	
Last Permanent Address – County/State	Number of Households
Florida	1
Hunterdon County	3
Middlesex County	1
Morris County	1
Pennsylvania	2
Sussex County	1
Warren County	23

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. 10. Number of Households by Source of Cash Income

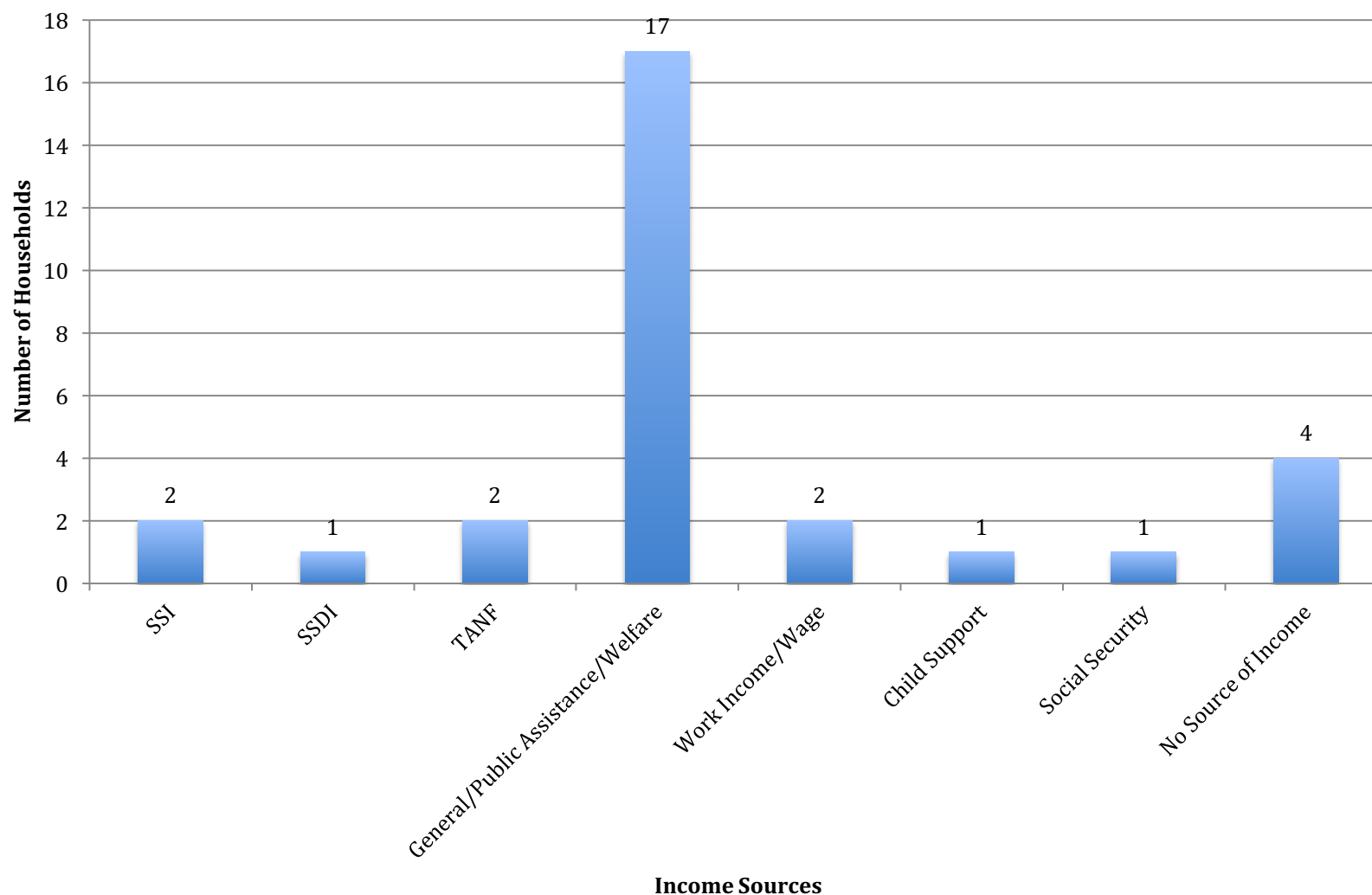
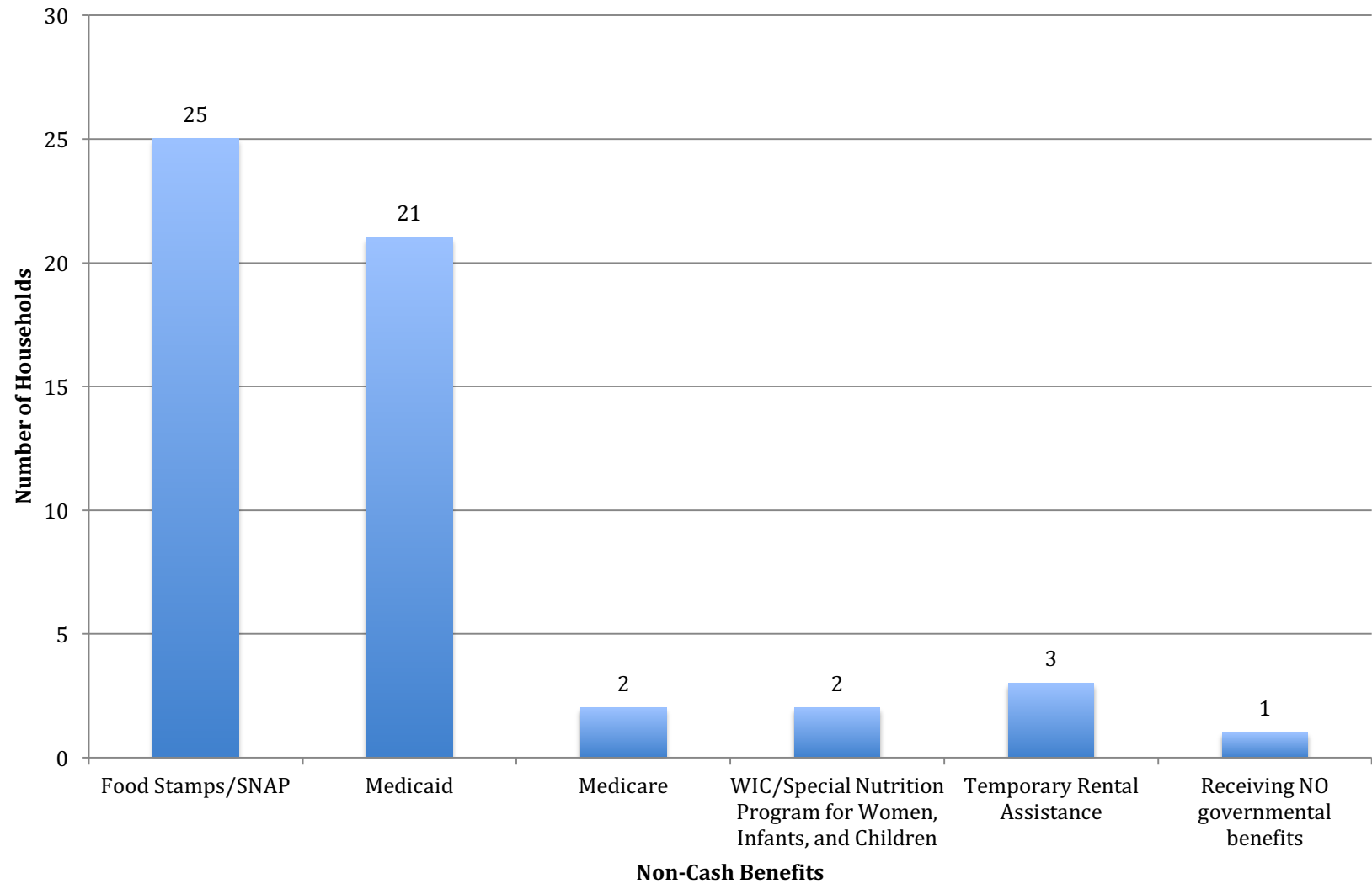
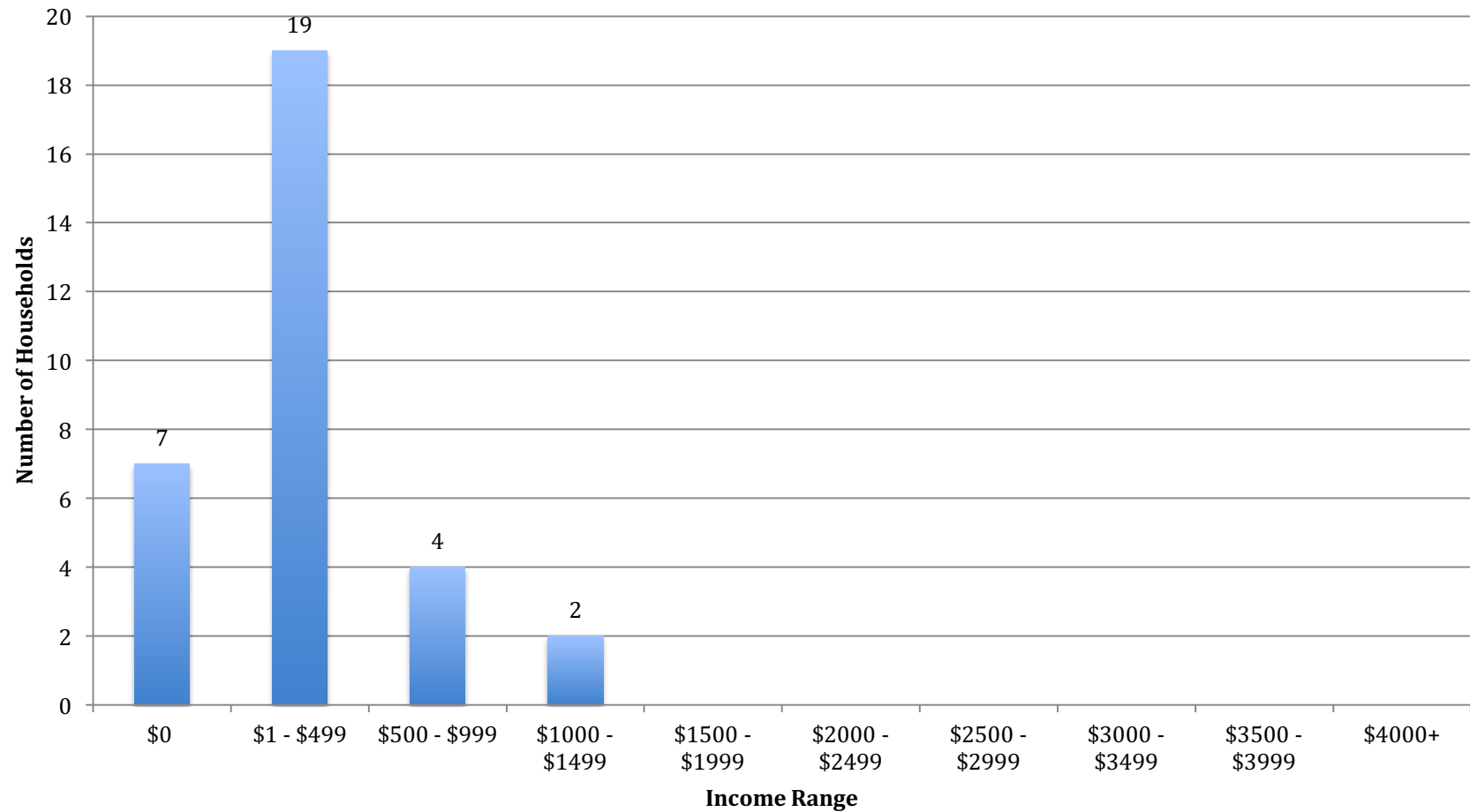


Fig. A. 11. Number of Households by Sources of Non-Cash Benefits



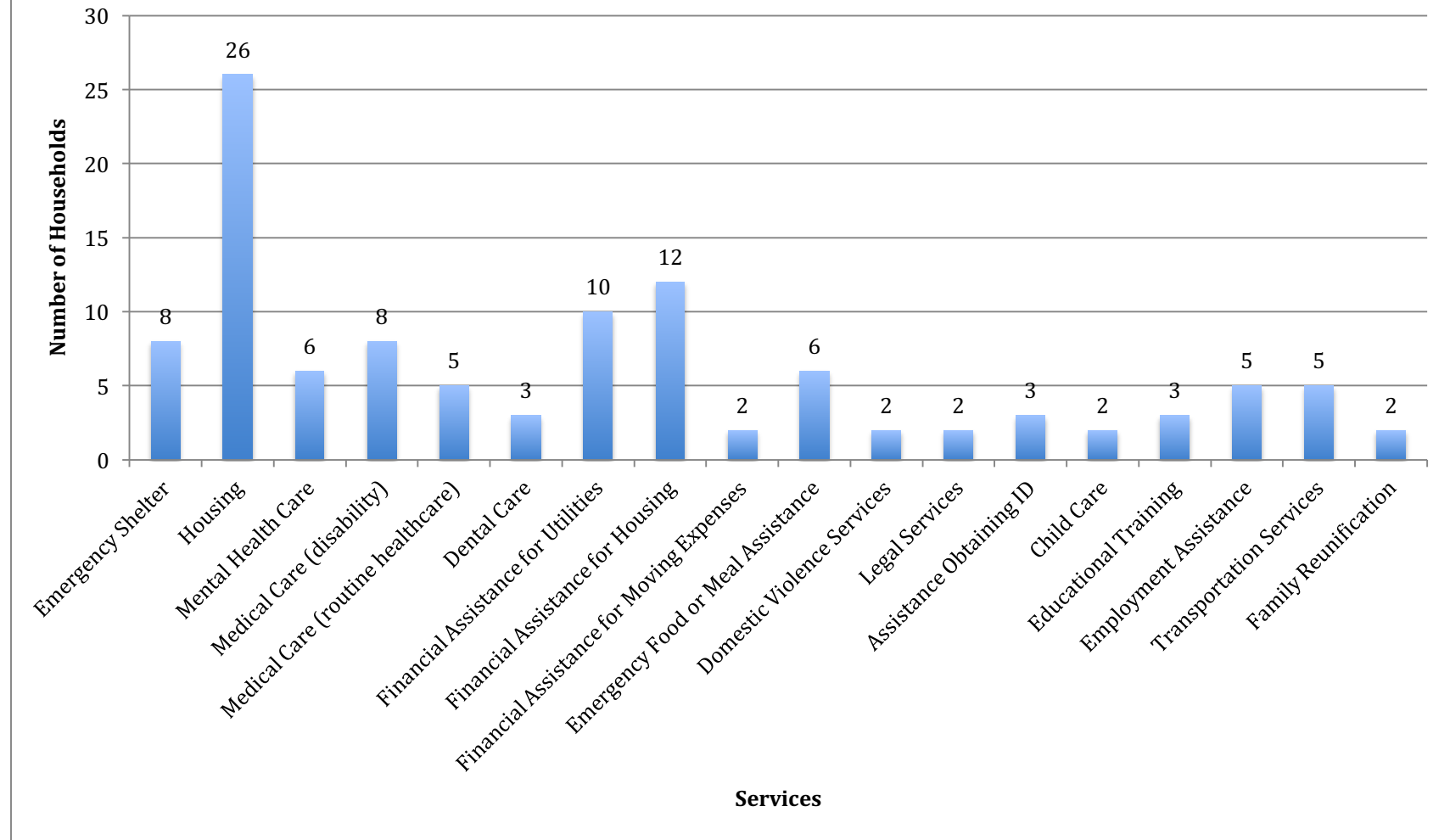
What is your monthly household income?

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?

Fig. A.14. Number of Households by Cause of Homelessness

