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A large, light blue map of the state of New Jersey serves as the background for the entire page. Overlaid on the upper right portion of the map is the text 'NJ 2017 Counts!' in a large, bold, brown serif font. The 'NJ' is particularly large, with '2017' and 'Counts!' stacked to its right.

NJ
2017
Counts!

Gloucester County's 2017 Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless

January 24, 2017

Table of Contents

I. Introduction.....	3
NJ Counts 2017.....	3
Acknowledgements.....	3
This Report	3
II. Data Collection and Methodology	4
Requirements for the Count.....	4
Data Collection Methods.....	5
Limitations	5
De-duplication	6
III. Findings for Total Homeless Population.....	7
Key Findings	7
Total Homeless Population	7
Homeless Families and Individuals	8
Demographics	9
Disabilities	10
Victims of Domestic Violence.....	10
Veterans.....	11
Income and Benefits	11
Length of Homelessness	12
Cause of Homelessness	12
IV. Findings for the Chronically Homeless	13
Total Chronically Homeless Population.....	14
Families and Individuals	14
Demographics	15
Disabilities	15
Subpopulations.....	15
Income and Benefits	16
Length of Homelessness	16
Cause of Homelessness	16
V. Findings for the Unsheltered Homeless.....	17
Total Unsheltered Homeless Population.....	17
Families and Individuals	17
Demographics	17
Disabilities	18
Subpopulations.....	18
Income and Benefits	18
Length of Homelessness	19
Cause of Homelessness	19
VI. Appendix	20

This report was prepared for
The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency
by
Monarch Housing Associates

I. Introduction

NJ Counts 2017

NJ Counts 2017, 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 2017 Count reveals important demographic and other information about families and individuals who were homeless on the night of Tuesday, January 24th, 2017 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 primary 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 2017. Monarch would also like to specifically thank Bergen County for providing a Spanish translation of the 2017 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 2017 Point-In-Time Count 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 totaling 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 2017 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 2017 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 fourth 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 2017 PIT Survey tool closely mirrors information collected in HMIS so that the data was comparable for important factors such as duration and episodes of homelessness, 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 2013 to 2017. 2014 and 2016 were not HUD required full reporting years while 2013, 2015, and 2017 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 24th, 2017 a total of 63 households, including 128 persons, were experiencing homelessness in Gloucester County, according to the 2017 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 3 households, with 3 persons, were identified as chronically homeless.
- 4 unsheltered households, composed of 4 persons, were counted.

Total Homeless Population

On the night of January 24th, 2017, a total of 128 persons, in 63 households, were experiencing homelessness in Gloucester County, according to the 2017 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 16 persons (14.3%) and 2 households (3.3%) from 2016. Gloucester County had 1.5% of New Jersey's statewide homeless population in 2017.

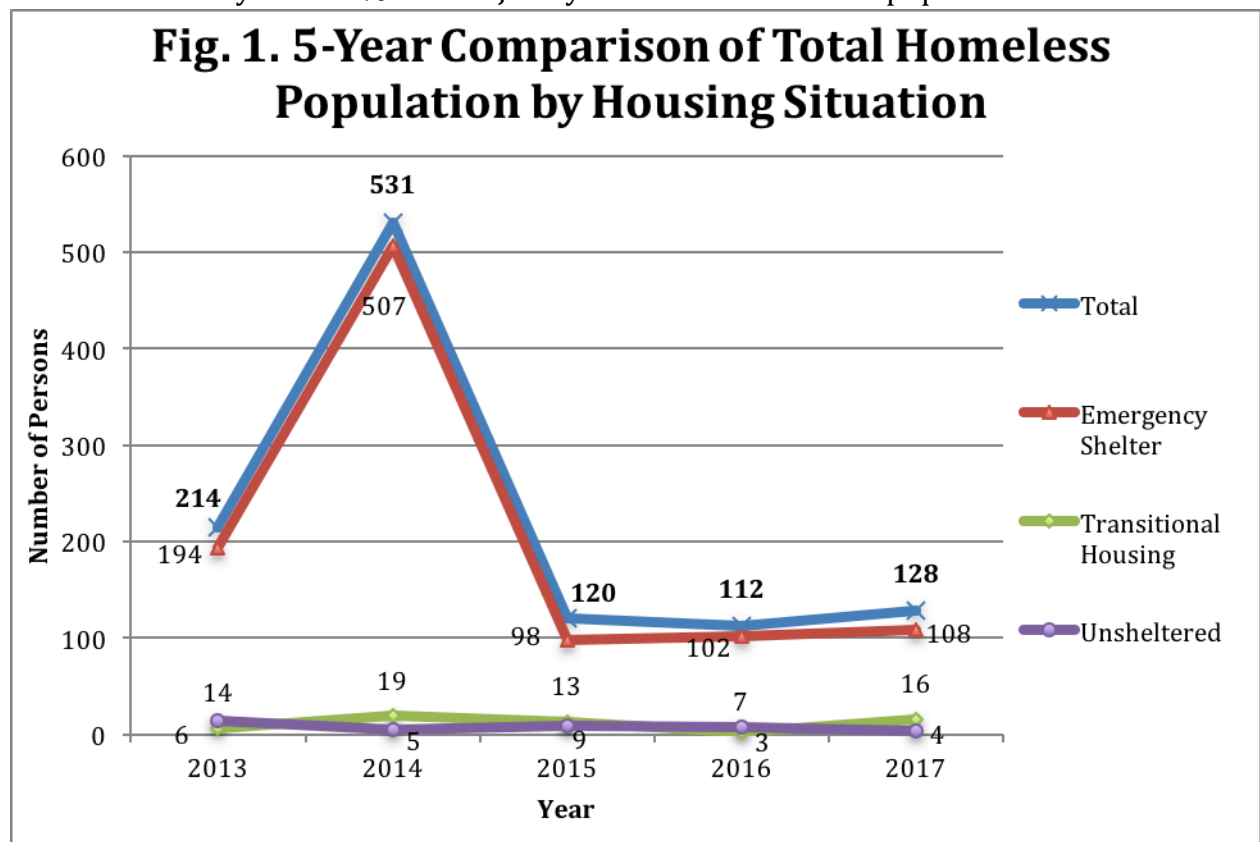


Figure 1 shows that, in 2017, 108 homeless persons stayed in emergency shelters, 16 stayed in transitional housing, and 4 were living unsheltered on the night of the count. The number of those in emergency shelters rose by 6 (5.9%) in the past year. The number of those in transitional housing on the night of the count rose by 13, but the number of those living unsheltered decreased by 3 persons (42.9%).

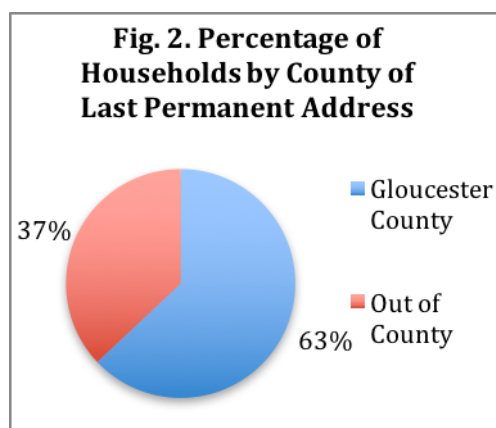


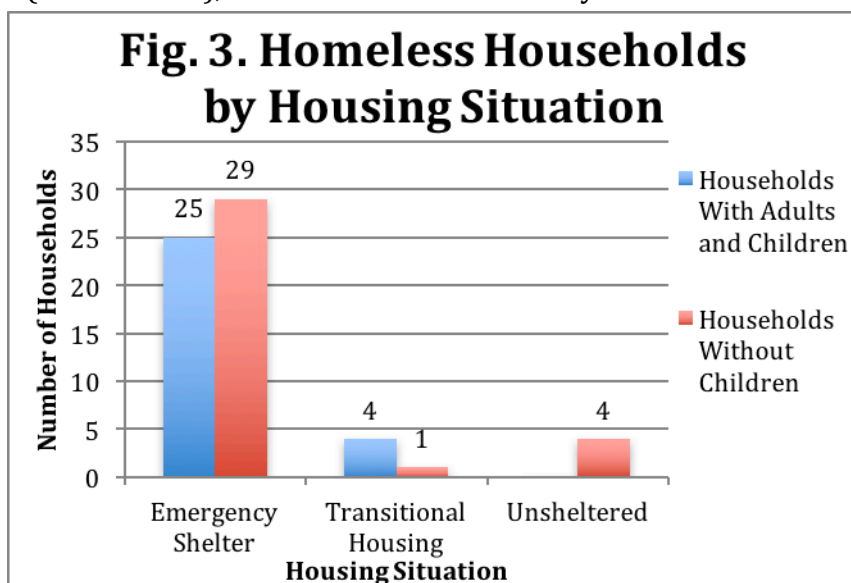
Figure 1 also shows that while the total number of homeless persons in Gloucester County has fluctuated, there has been an overall decrease of 86 persons (40.2%) from 2013. During the same five-year period, the number of persons in emergency shelter on the night of the count decreased by 44.3% and the number of unsheltered persons fell by 71.4%.

As Figure 2 shows, 37% of homeless respondents in Gloucester County reported that their household's last permanent address prior to becoming homeless was outside of 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 63 homeless households counted in Gloucester County in 2017, 29 (46%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. These families included 93 persons, 57 children under age 18, and 36 adults. The average family size was 3 persons. Figure 3 shows that 25 of the families were staying in emergency shelter (86.2%), and 4 were in transitional housing programs (13.8%). There were no unsheltered families counted, matching what was seen in 2016. Gloucester County counted 2 (7.4%) more homeless families in 2017 than in 2016.



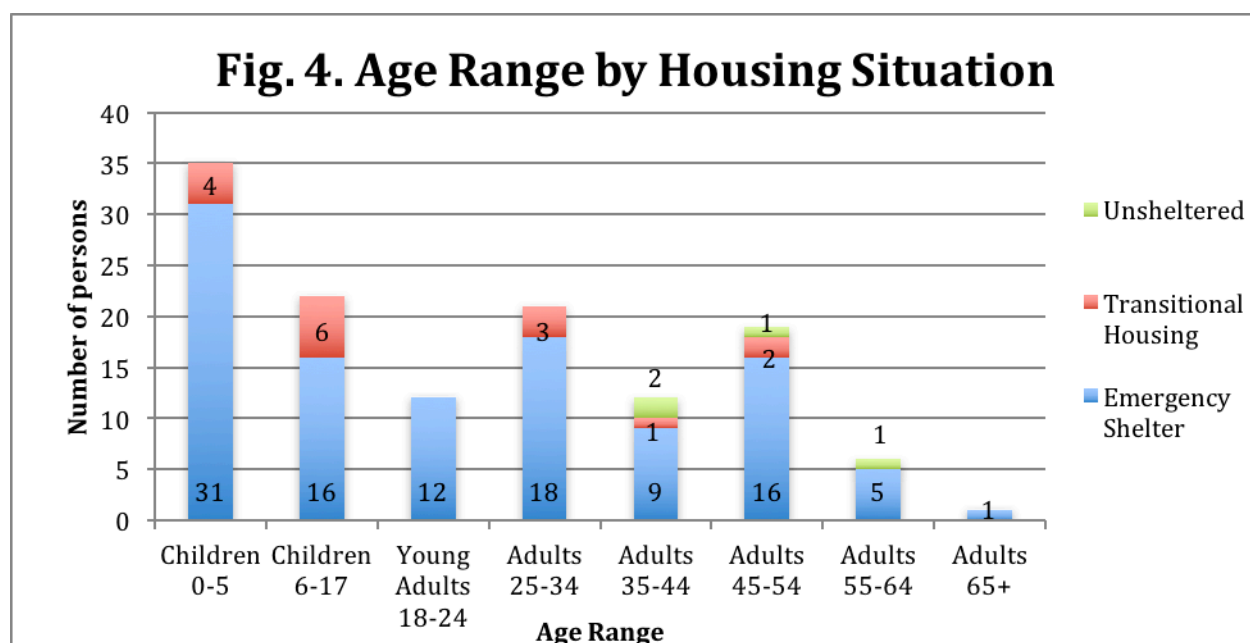
54% (34) of the homeless households in Gloucester County were adult-only households, and were composed of 35 adults. 29 (85.3%) of these adult-only households were staying in emergency shelters, 1 (2.9%) was in transitional housing, and 4 (11.8%) were

unsheltered. While the total number of adult-only households counted has not changed since 2016, the number of unsheltered adult-only households decreased by 2 (33.3%) from 2016.

Similar to 2016, there were no households with only children under 18 years old reported in 2017.

Demographics

There were a total of 12 (9.4%) homeless adults between 18 and 24 years old, 59 (46.1%) adults over age 24, and 57 (44.5%) children under 18 years old experiencing homelessness on the night of the count. Figure 4 shows that the majority of homeless children who were under the age of 18 were between 0 and 5 years of age (35, 61.4%). This was also the age range most represented among the homeless population (27.3%). Among adults, more were between 25 and 34 years old than any other age range (29.6% of adults over 18).

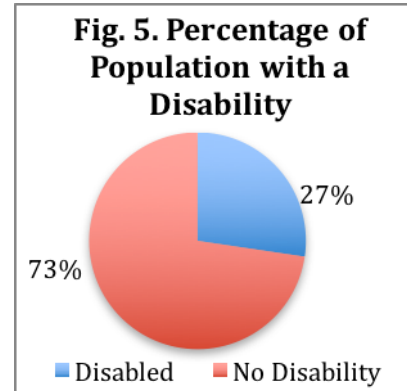


60.2% (77) of homeless persons were female, and 39.8% (51) were male.

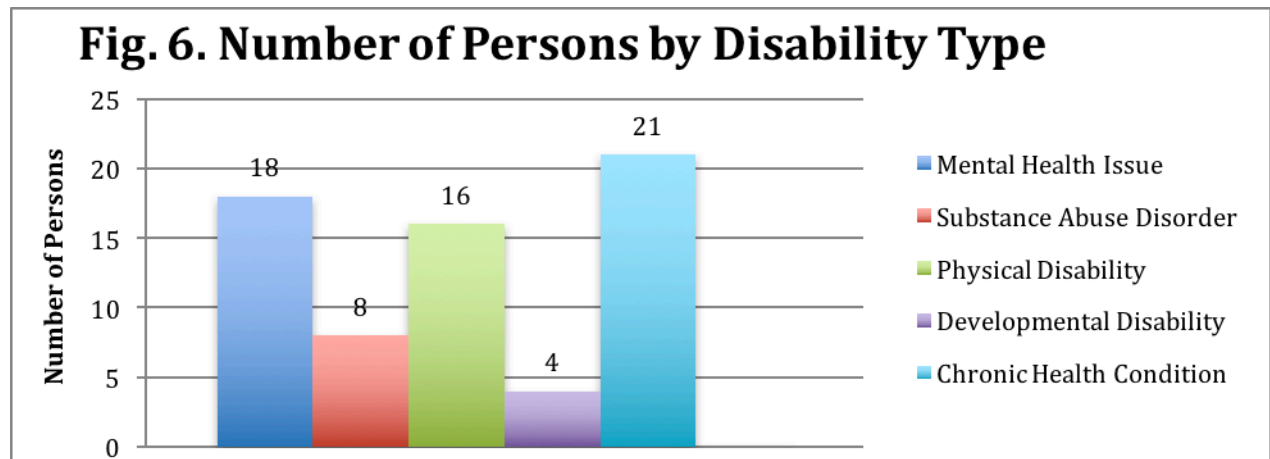
46.9% of persons identified their race as White, making that the largest racial subgroup of homeless persons counted. The next largest self-identified as Black/African American (41.4%), followed by those identifying as Multi-Racial (7%). With regard to ethnicity, 9.4% of respondents identified themselves as Hispanic, or Latino.

Disabilities

Figure 5 illustrates that 27.3% of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. 43.7% of adults reported some type of disability compared to 7% of children. Figure 6 shows the number of the homeless persons that identified as having various disabilities. The most common disabilities identified include chronic health conditions and mental health issues.

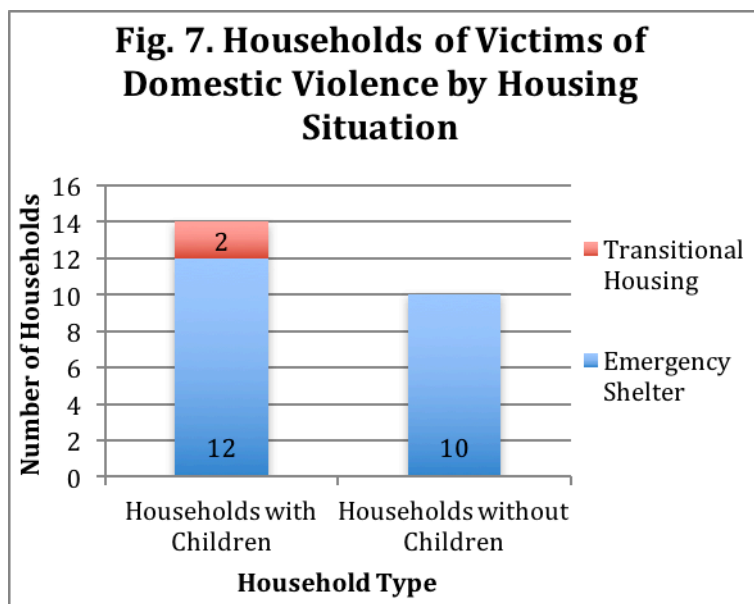


Among disabled adults, 58.1% reported mental health issues and chronic health conditions making them the most prevalent disabilities (25.4% each of total adult population). 75% of disabled homeless children reported a chronic health condition, while another 50% reported a developmental disability.



Victims of Domestic Violence

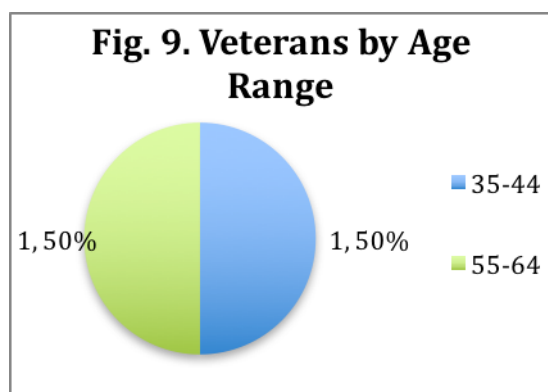
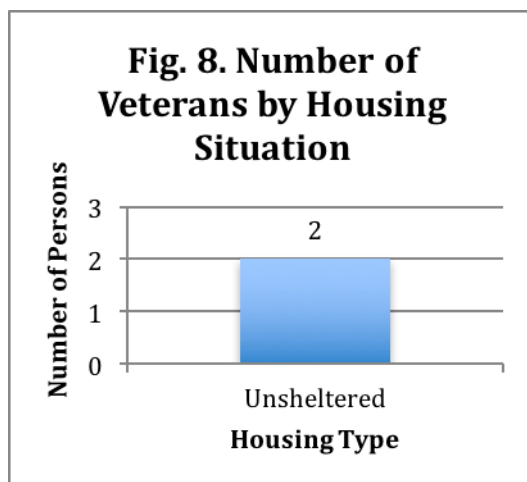
On the night of the count, in Gloucester County, 24 homeless households (38.1%) identified as victims of domestic violence, an increase of 7 domestic violence households from 2016. The majority (58.3%) were households with children under the age of 18. 91.7% of domestic violence households were staying in emergency shelters on the night of the count, while the remaining 2 (8.3%) were in transitional housing.



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.

There were 2 homeless veterans counted in Gloucester County on the night of the count, a 50% decrease from the 4 counted in 2016. Both of these veterans were individual adults.



Both veterans experiencing homelessness in Gloucester County were male. With regard to racial background, 1 of the veterans identified as Black or African American and the other identified as White. Figure 9 illustrates the percentage of homeless veterans by age range.

No homeless veterans reported being victims of domestic violence, but both veterans reported having some kind of disability. Among the 2 disabled veterans, 1 mental health issue, 1 substance abuse issue, and 1 physical disability were reported. Neither of the veteran households reported receiving Veteran's Disability or Veteran's Pension as a form of income, nor were connected to VA Medical Benefits.

Income and Benefits

Among all households experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, 25.4% reported no source of income, while 9.5% reported having earned income. The most common sources of income among households were TANF and General Assistance (GA), received by 27% and 22.2% of homeless households, respectively.

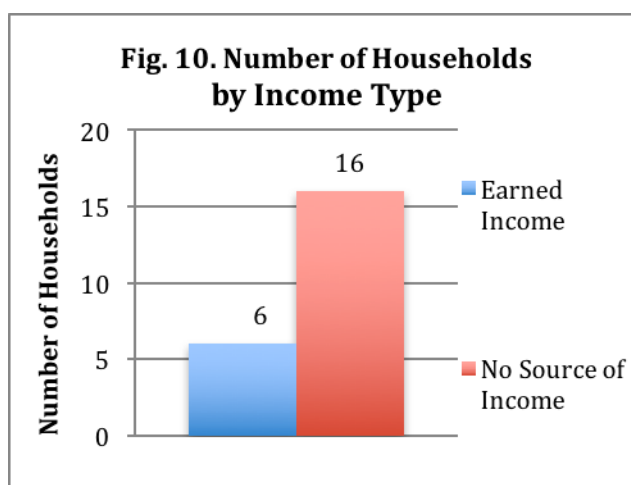


Figure 11, below, shows the average monthly income for all homeless households.

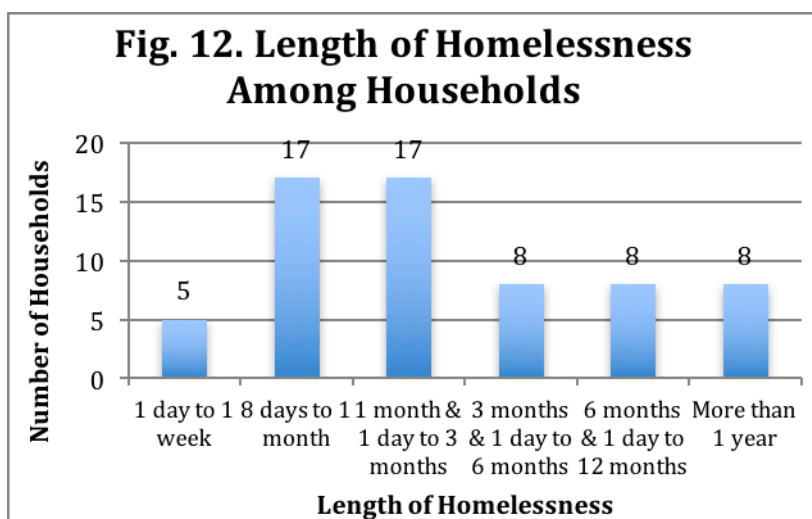
Figure 11. Average Monthly Income For Households by Housing Situation			
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered
Average for All Households	\$407.51	\$451.20	\$696.75

Only 1 homeless households reported receiving no kind of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid were the top reported non-cash benefit, and was received by 61.9% of respondents each.

Length of Homelessness

As Figure 12 shows, 17 (27%) of the homeless households reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted either between 8 day and 1 month, or 1 to 3 months. 8 households, or 12.7% of all homeless households in Gloucester County had been experiencing homelessness for more than 1

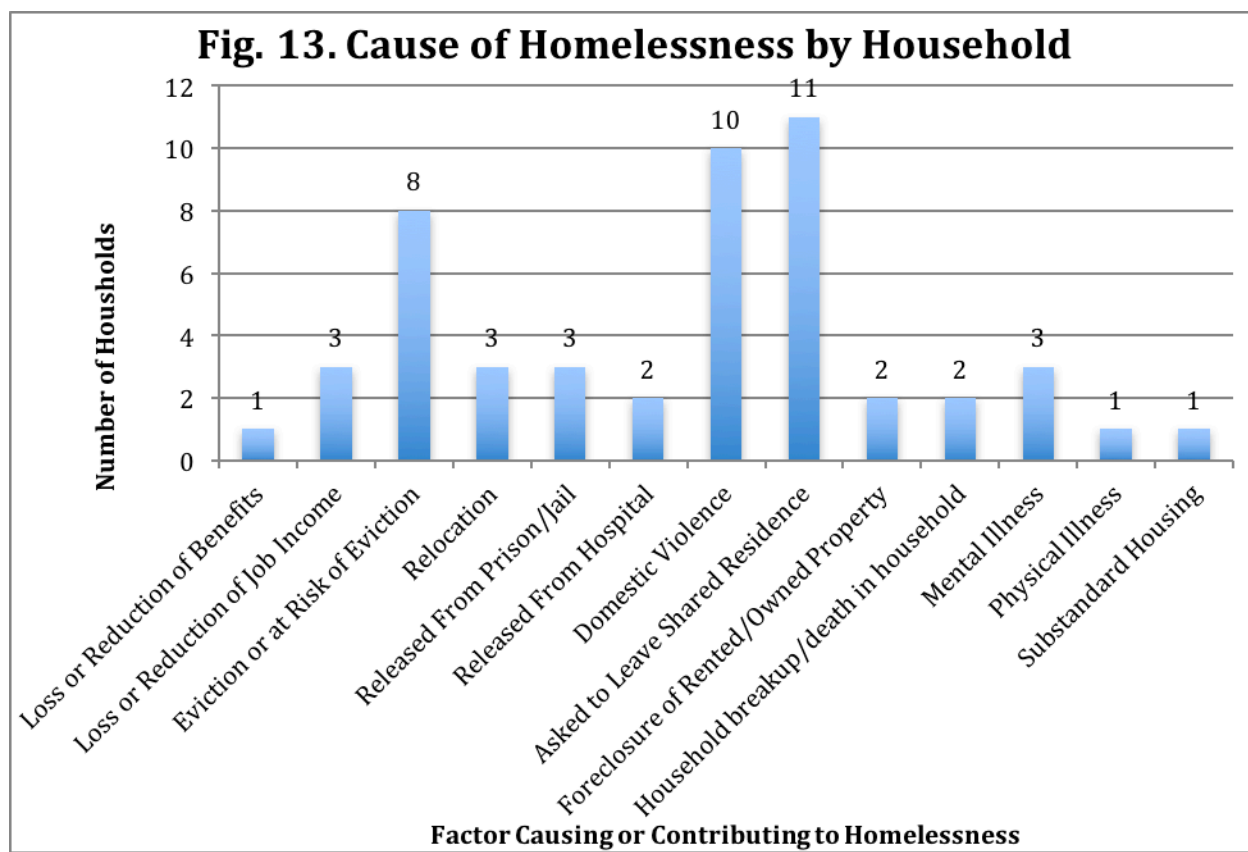
year on the night of the count. Of those 8 households, 3 (37.5%) reported their homelessness had lasted between 2 and 5 years.



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 (17.5%) than any other cause. As Figure 13 shows, the next most common factor reported was domestic violence (15.9%), followed by eviction (12.7%).

When households were asked ‘what was your residence prior to your current living situation?’ more said they were staying or living with friends or family (28.6%) than any other type of residence. 11 (17.5%) reported permanent housing and 9.5% said they were in an emergency shelter prior to their current living situation.



IV. Findings for the Chronically Homeless

HUD issued its final rule on the definition of chronic homelessness in 2015. Under this definition, 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 where the length of time in those episodes add up to a year or more, meets HUD's definition of chronically homeless. Any family with a head of household that meets this definition is considered a chronically homeless family.

HUD has established 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

3 households, made up of 3 persons, were chronically homeless in Gloucester County, according to the 2017 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 6 persons (66.7%) from 2016. The rate of chronic homelessness as a percentage of the overall homeless population decreased from 8% in 2016, to 2.3% in 2017.

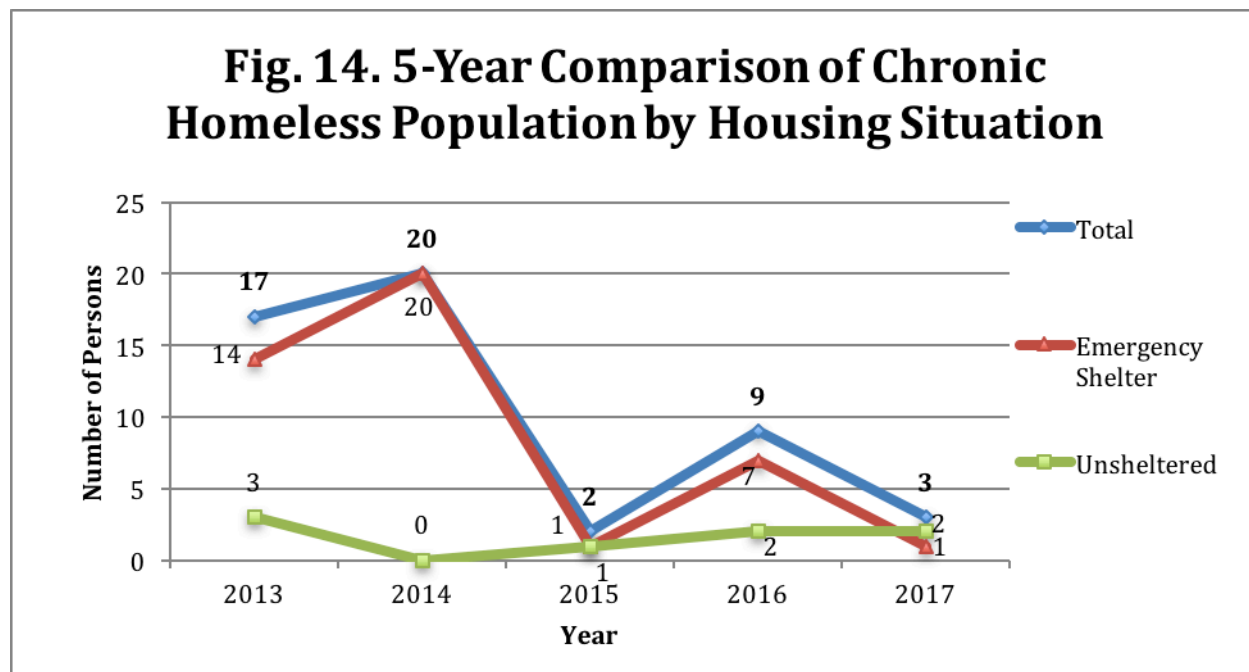
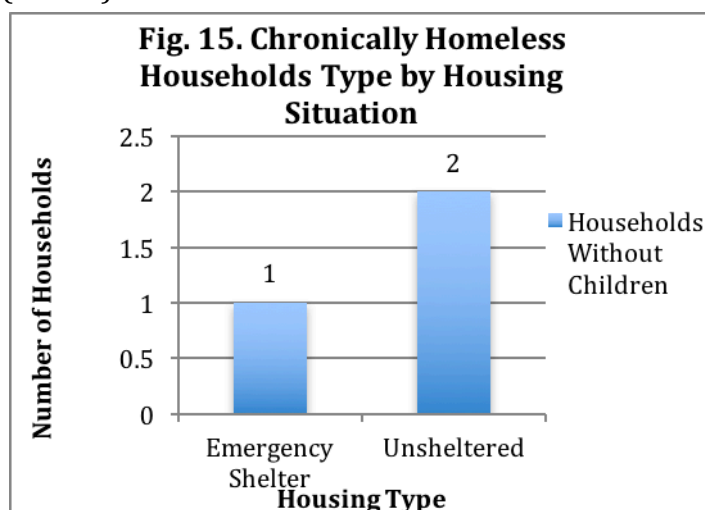
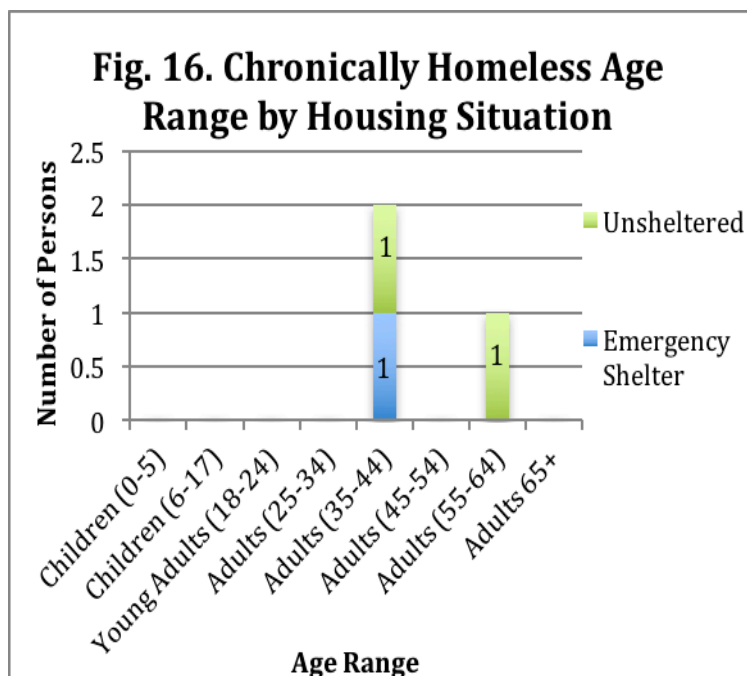


Figure 14 shows the number of chronically homeless respondents who were in emergency shelters or living unsheltered in Gloucester County from 2013 to 2017. The total of chronically homeless persons counted has fluctuated over the past five years, with the highest number counted in 2014 (20 persons) and the lowest number of 2 persons counted in 2015. Overall, the number of chronically homeless persons has decreased by 14 persons (82.4%) since 2013.



Families and Individuals

Of the 3 chronically homeless households counted in 2017, all were single adult individuals. This is a decrease of 2 chronically homeless families, and 1 chronically homeless adult-only household from 2016.



Demographics

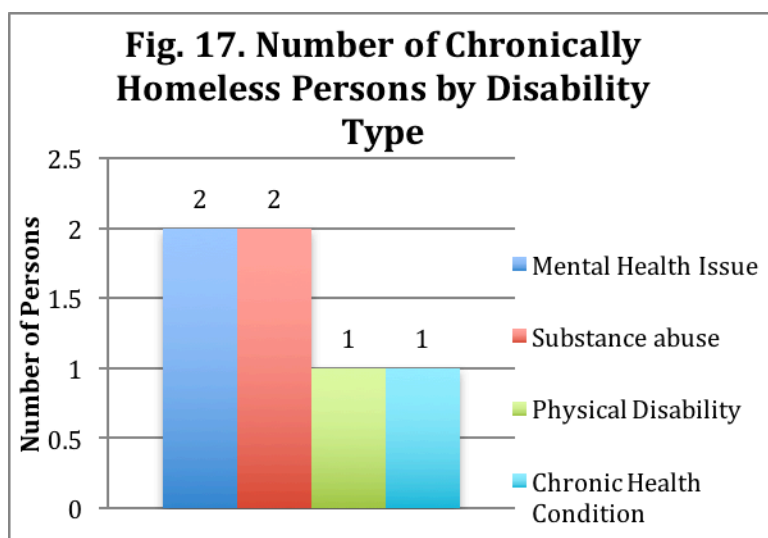
Of the 3 chronically homeless persons, none were under the age of 18 or over the age of 64. 2 (66.7%) were between the ages of 35 and 44.

66.7% of those counted as chronically homeless were male, and 33.3% were female.

The racial subgroups of chronically homeless persons included Black or African-American (66.7%) and White (33.3%). With regard to ethnicity, 0 persons identified themselves as Hispanic, or Latino.

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 (66.7%) and chronic health conditions (66.7%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the chronically homeless can be seen in Figure 17.



Subpopulations

On the night of the count, 0 chronically homeless persons in Gloucester County reported being a victim of domestic violence.

There were 2 veterans identified as chronically homeless on the night of the count, an increase of 2 from 2016.

Income and Benefits

With regard to income, 2 of the chronically homeless households reported receiving no source of income (66.7%). The only reported source of income was SSDI, received by 33.3% of respondents.

1 chronically homeless household reported not being connected to any non-cash benefits on the night of the count. Food Stamps (SNAP) and Medicaid were each received by 33.3% of the chronically homeless population.

Fig. 18. Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Income Source

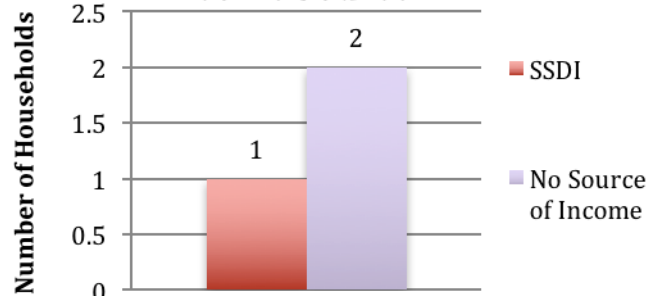
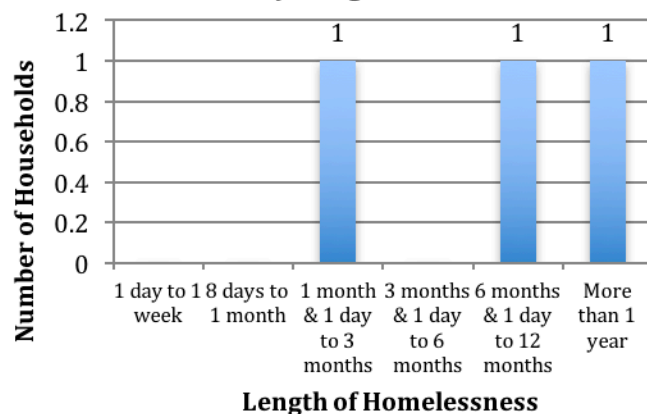


Fig. 19. Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Length of Homelessness



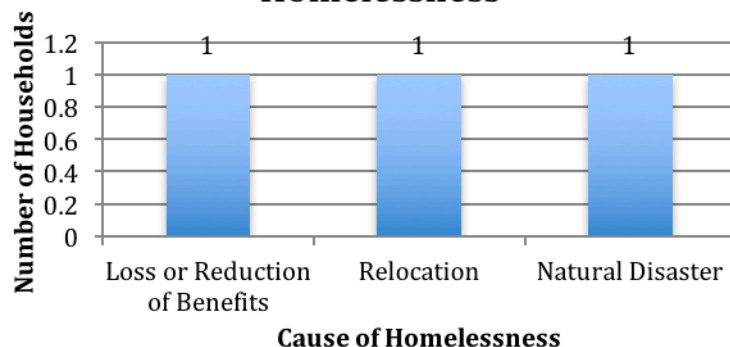
Length of Homelessness

Figure 19 shows that 1 of chronically homeless households (33.3%) reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted for more than a year. This household reported that their length of homelessness had lasted between 2 and 5 years.

Cause of Homelessness

Each chronically homeless household cited a different reason, when asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness. Responses can be seen in Figure 20.

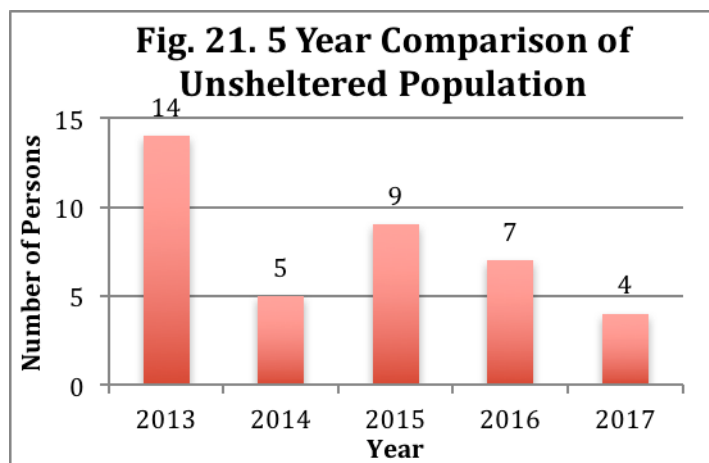
Fig. 20. Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Cause of Homelessness



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

4 households, made up of 4 persons, were living unsheltered in Gloucester County, according to the 2017 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 2 households (33.3%), 3 persons (42.9%) from 2016.

Figure 21 shows the number of unsheltered persons from 2013 to 2017. Over the past five years, the total number of unsheltered persons has trended downward, with an overall decrease of 71.4% (10 persons) from 2013.

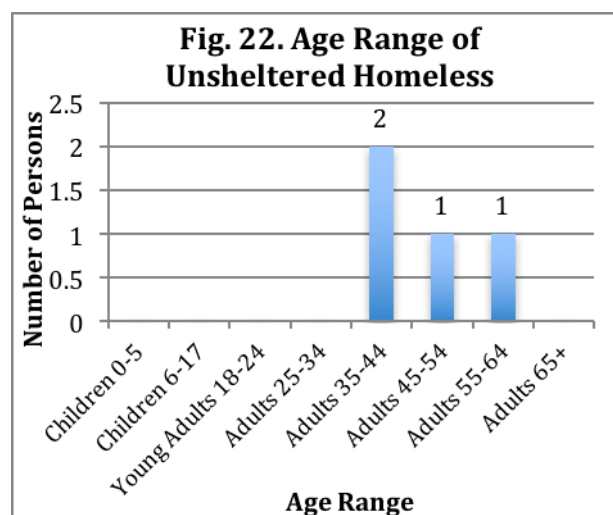
Families and Individuals

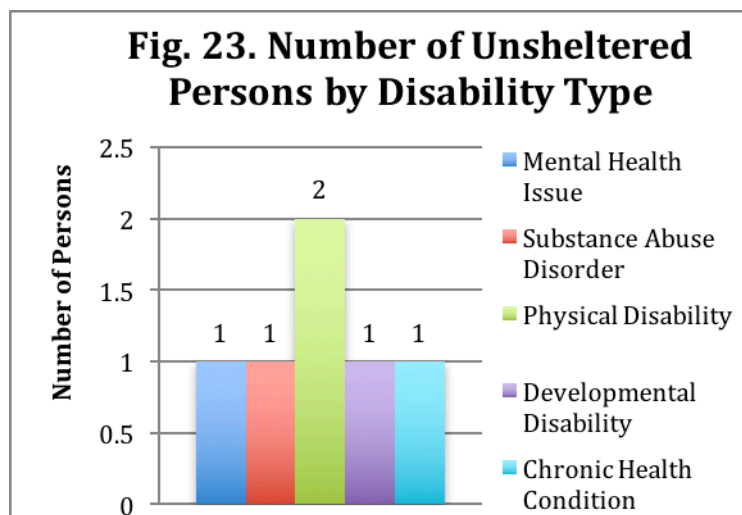
All 4 unsheltered households were individual adult households.

Demographics

All 4 unsheltered persons counted were over the age of 34. The largest portion (50%) were between the ages of 35 and 44.

3 of the 4 unsheltered persons were male (75%) and 1 was female. 2 (50%) unsheltered persons identified their race as Black or African American, and 1 identified as White. 0 identified their ethnicity as Hispanic.





Disabilities

All 4 unsheltered persons reported having a disability. The most prevalent disability identified among unsheltered households was physical disabilities (50%). Figure 23 shows the full list of disabilities reported by unsheltered persons.

Subpopulations

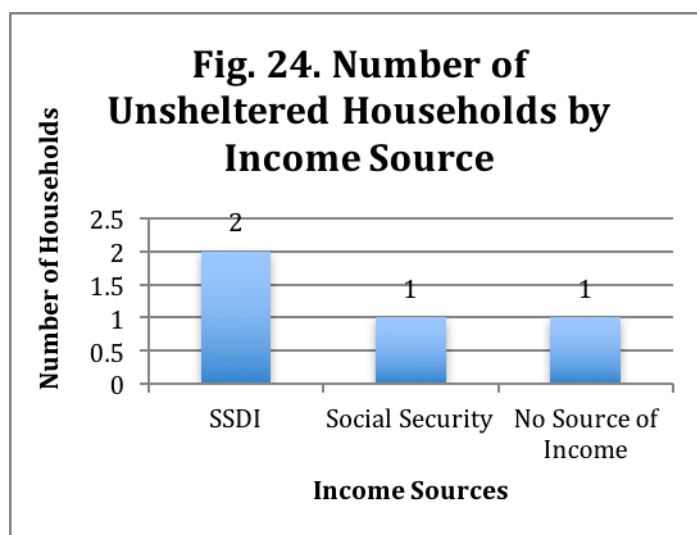
On the night of the count, 0 unsheltered individuals in Gloucester County identified as a victim of domestic violence.

There were 2 unsheltered veterans identified on the night of the count, an increase of 2 from the 0 unsheltered veterans reported in 2016.

Income and Benefits

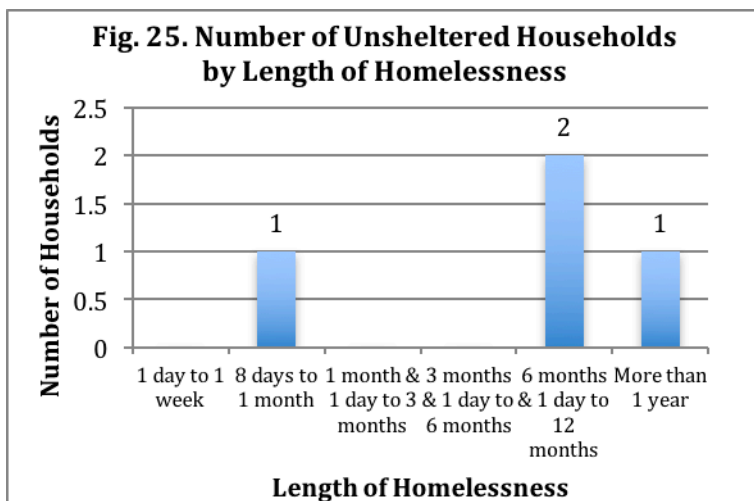
Among all the unsheltered households on the night of the count, 1 (25%) reported having no source of income. 2 households (50%) reported receiving SSDI. The average monthly income among unsheltered households was \$696.75.

1 unsheltered household (25%) reported not receiving any type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps was the only reported non-cash benefit, and was reportedly received by 25% of unsheltered households.



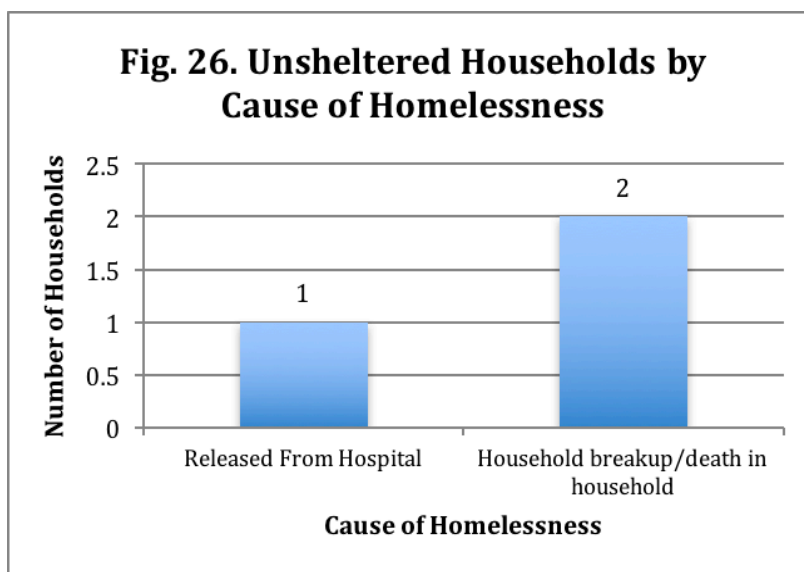
Length of Homelessness

As shown in Figure 25, 2 unsheltered homeless households (50%) reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted between 6 months and 1 year. Figure 25 also shows that 25% unsheltered homeless households had been homeless for more than a year. This person identified that their homelessness had lasted between 2 and 5 years.



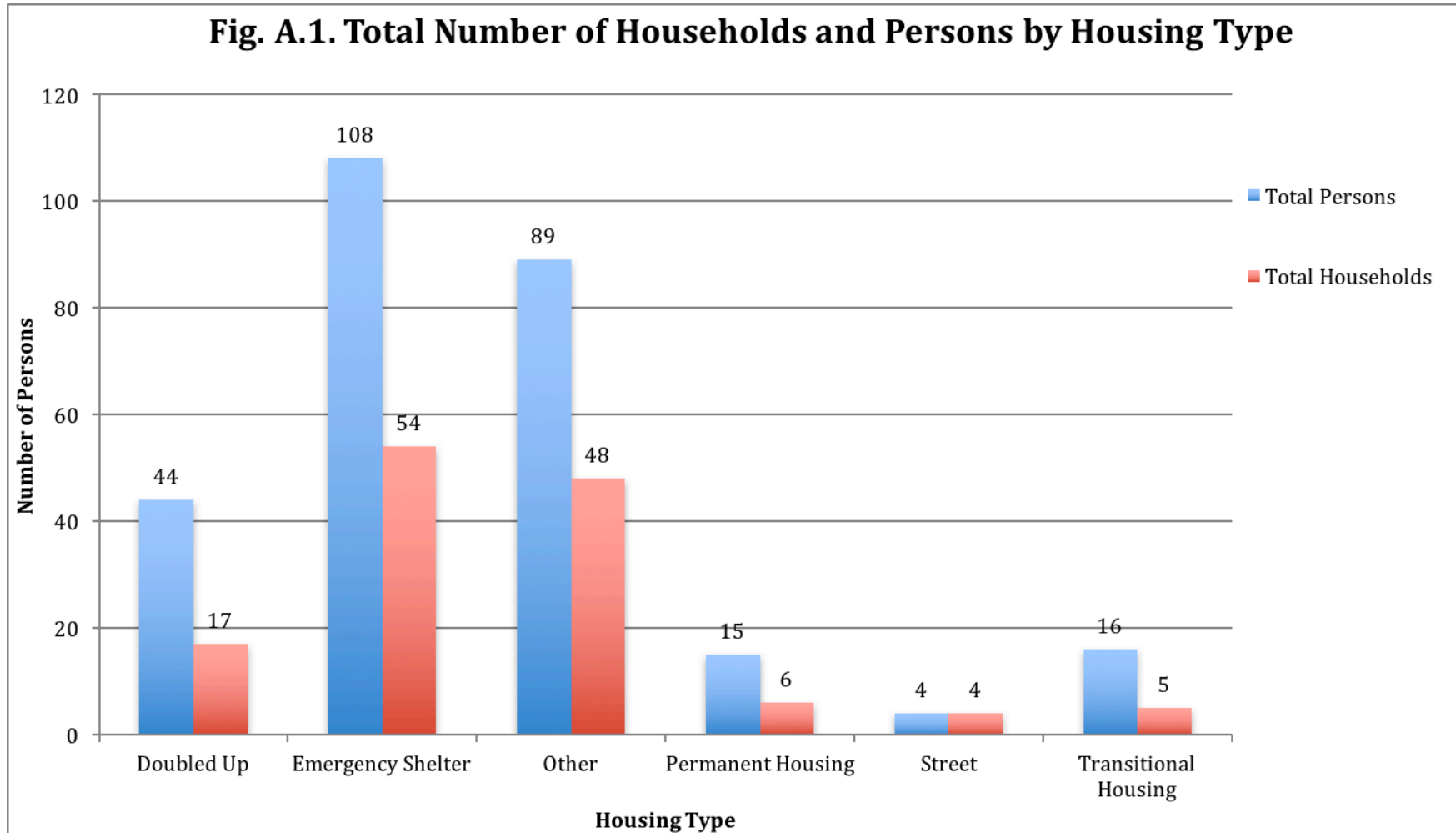
Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more unsheltered households cited a household breakup or death in the household (50%) than any other cause. Other reasons cited can be seen in Figure 26.



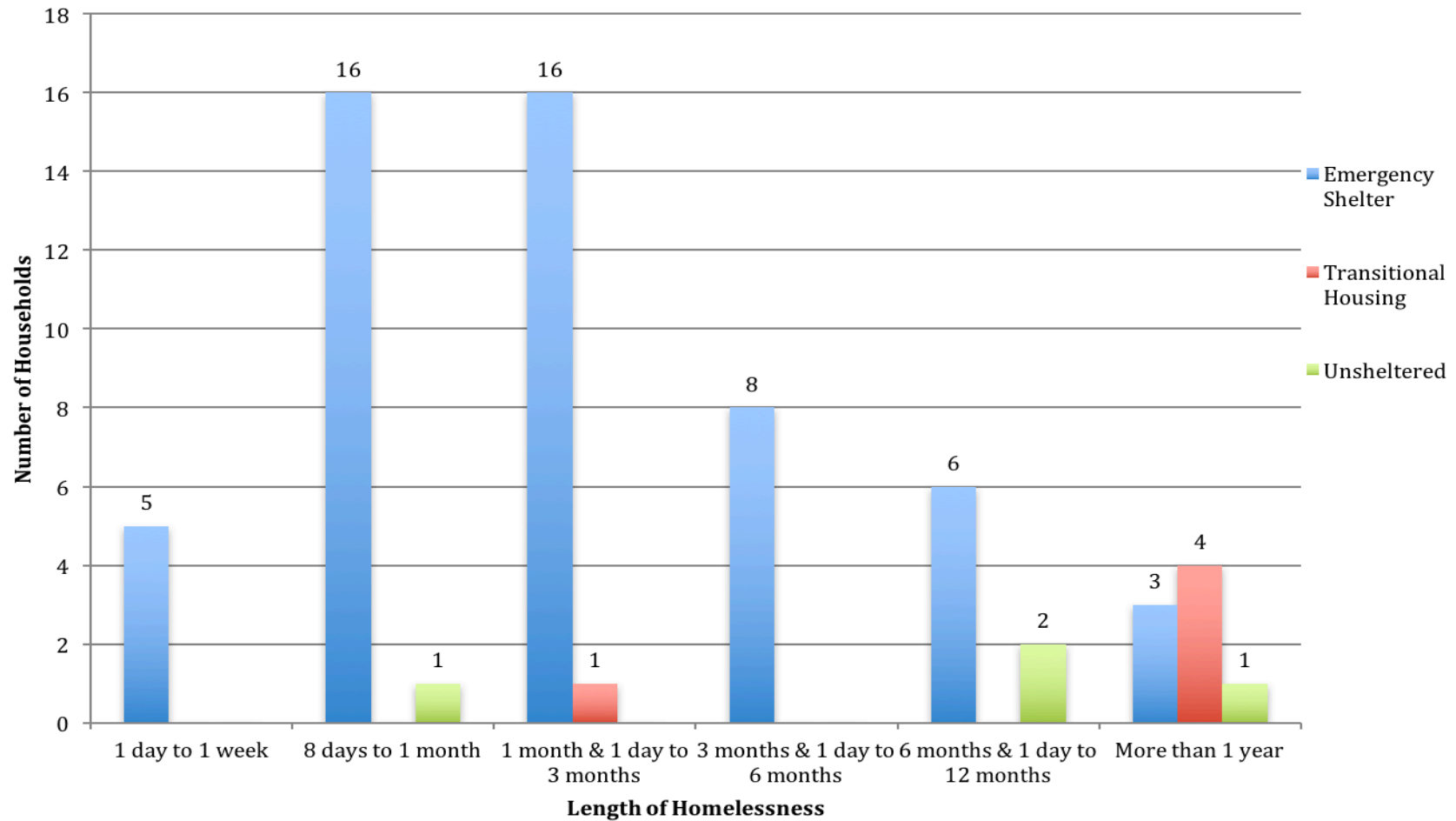
VI. Appendix

Where did you spend the night of Tuesday, January 24, 2017?



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 24th?

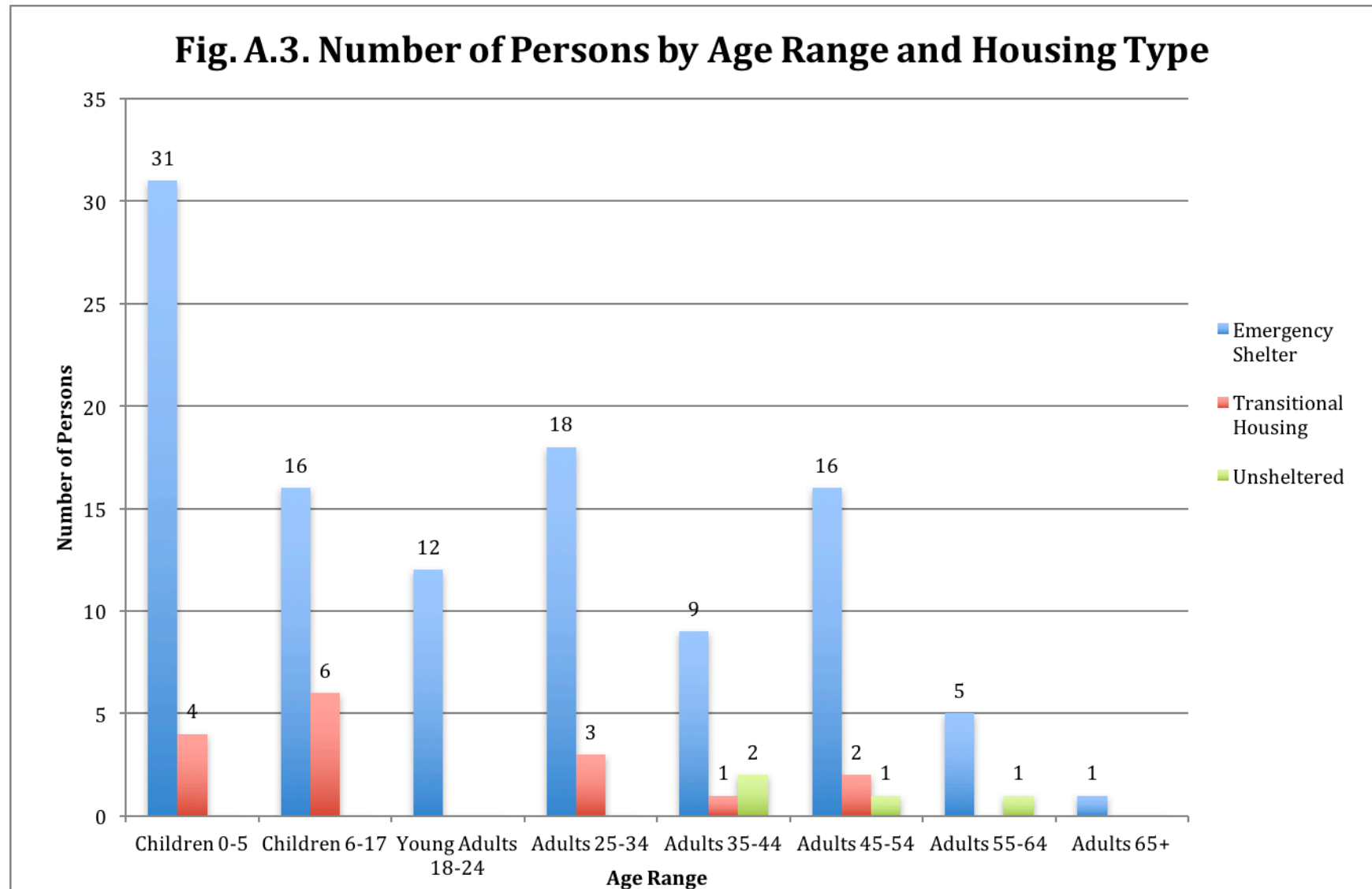


Fig. A.4. Number of Persons by Gender and Housing Situation

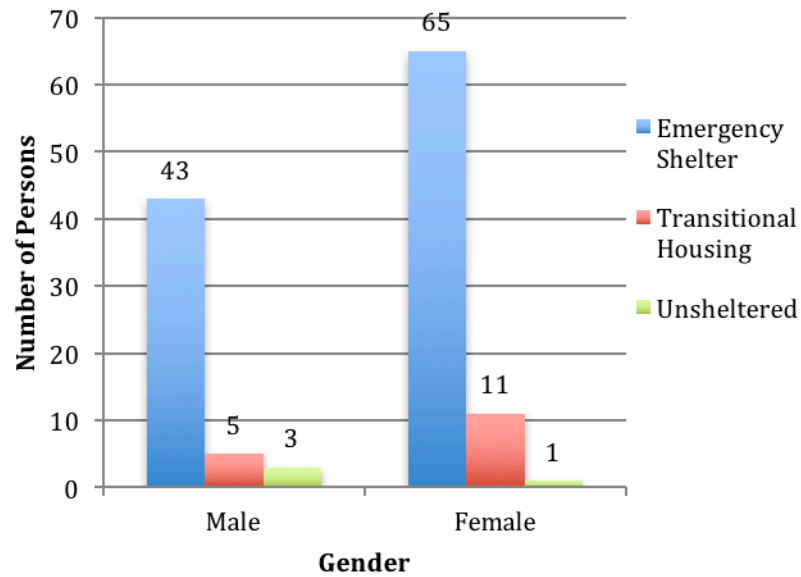


Fig. A.6. Number of Homeless Persons by Ethnicity

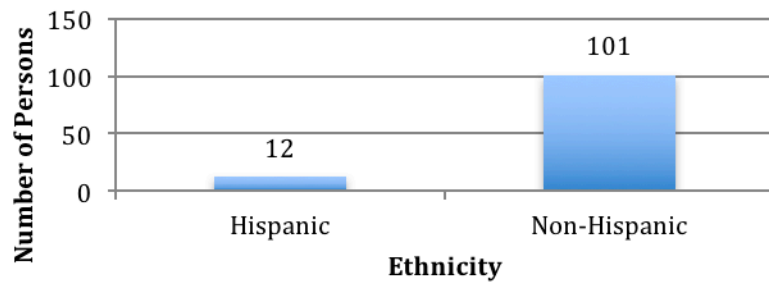
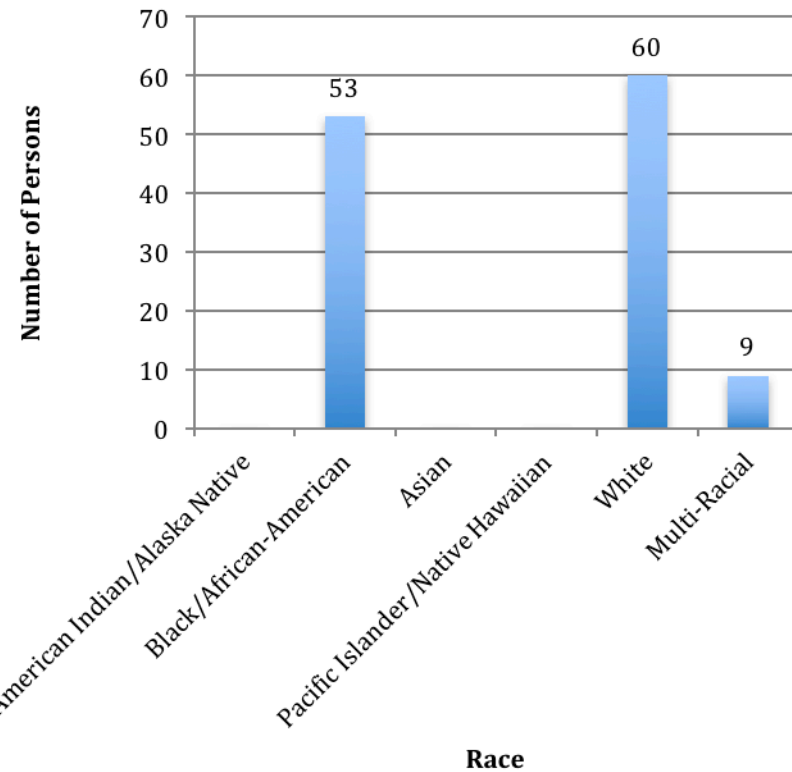
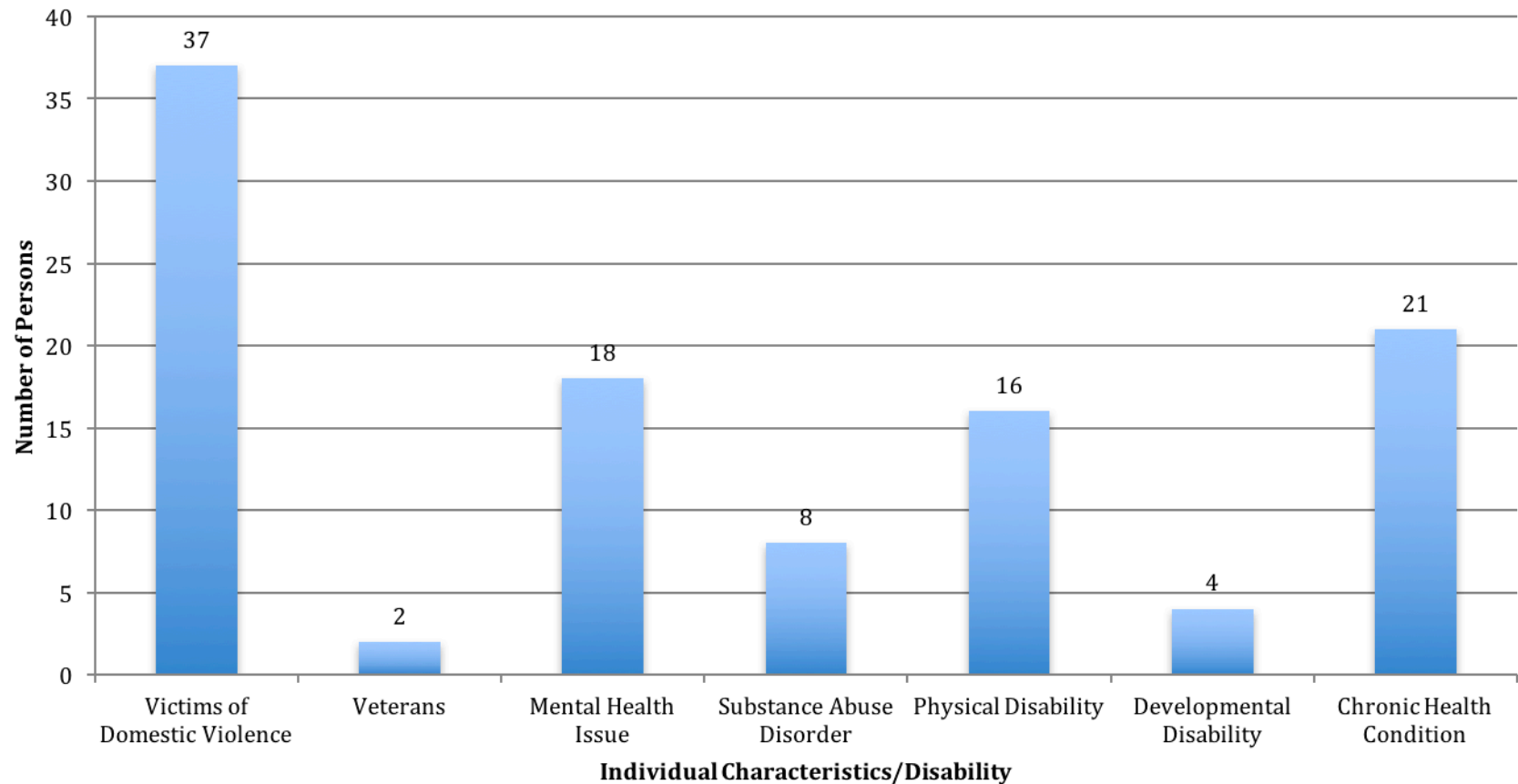


Fig. A.5. Number of Homeless Persons by Race



Household Characteristics – check all that apply to each person

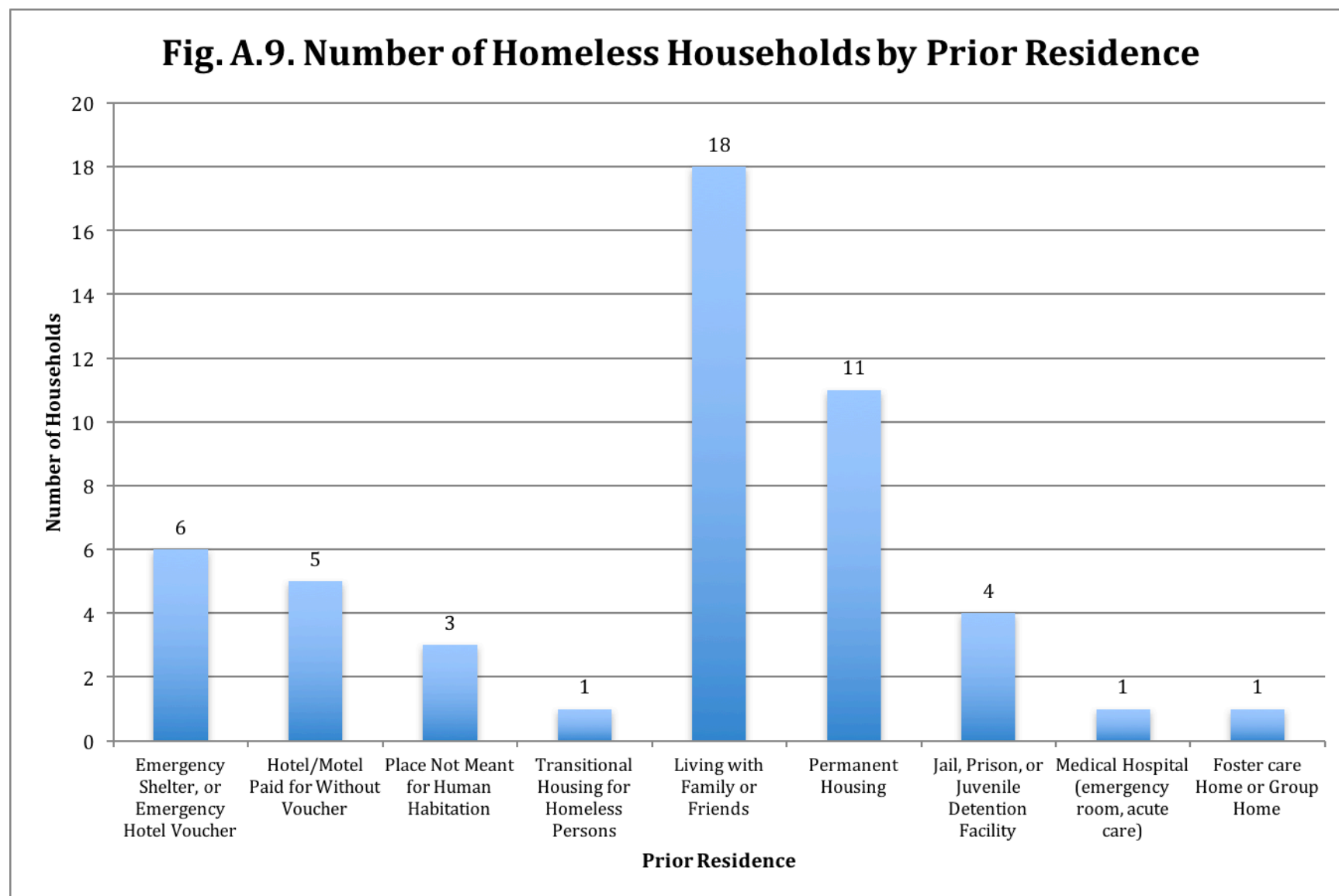
Fig. A.7. Number of Homeless Persons by Victims of Domestic Violence, Veteran Status, and Disability



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 – State	Number of Households
Camden County	15
Cumberland County	1
Gloucester County	34
Mercer County	1
Salem County	1
Delaware	1
Puerto Rico	1

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?

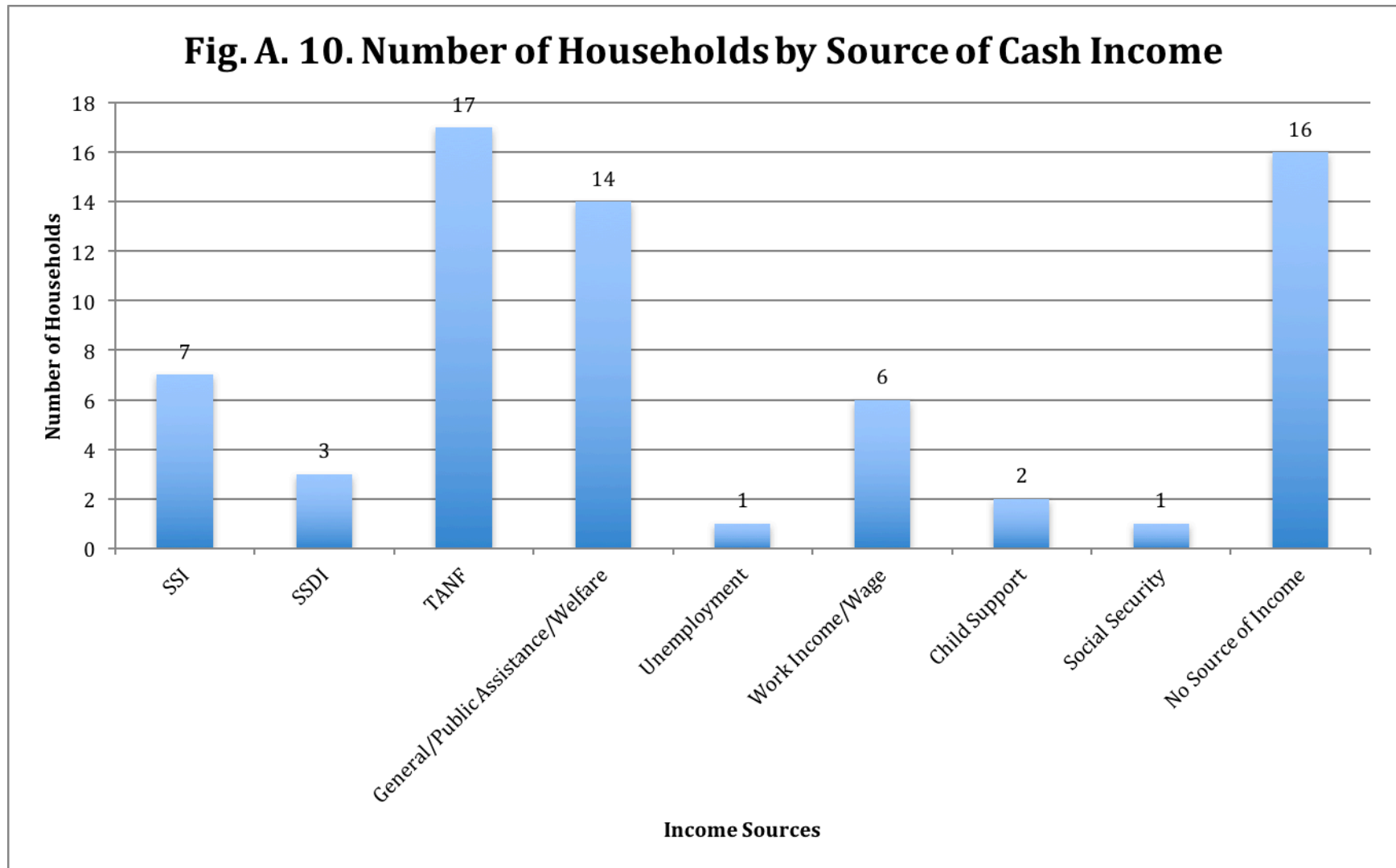
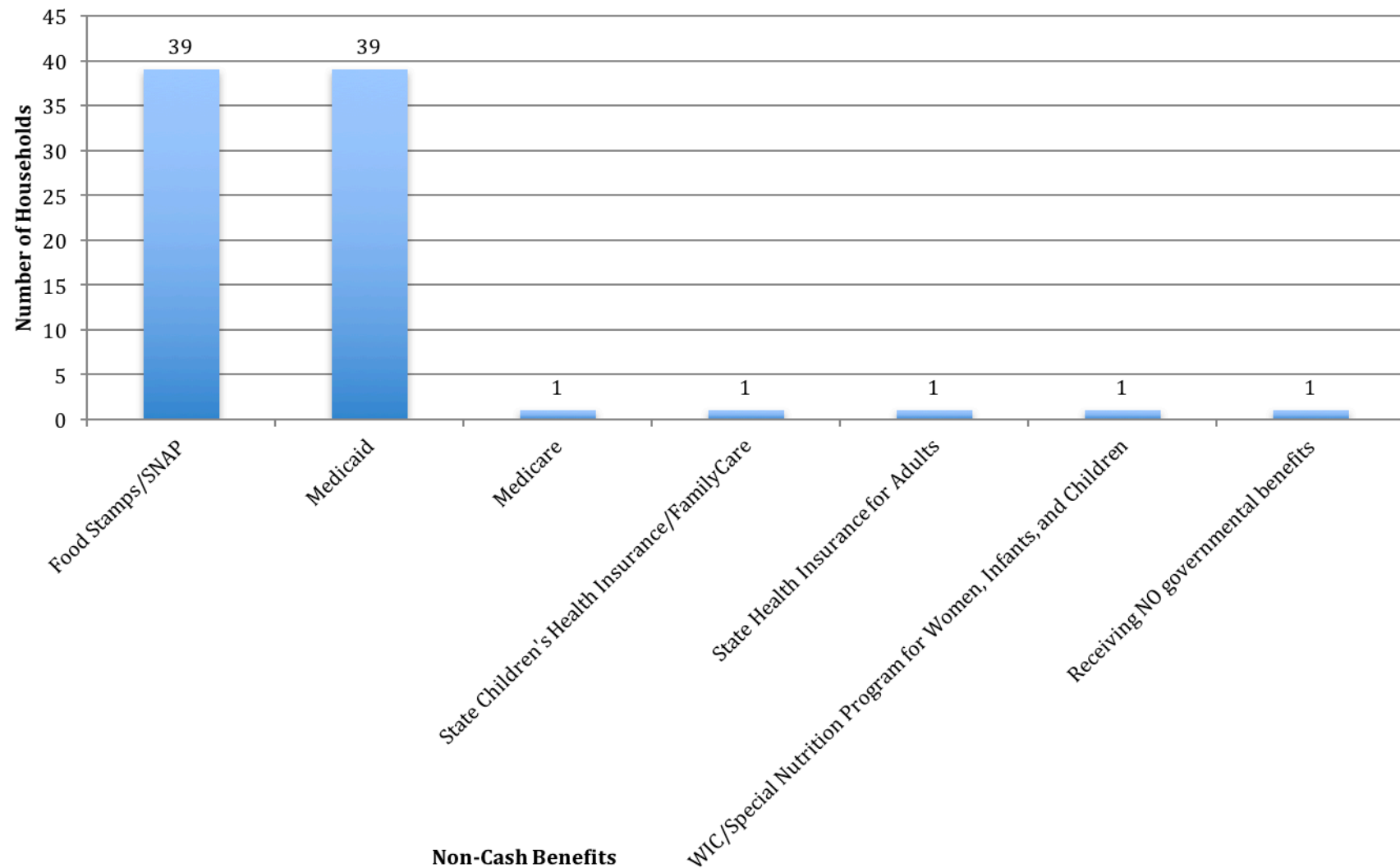
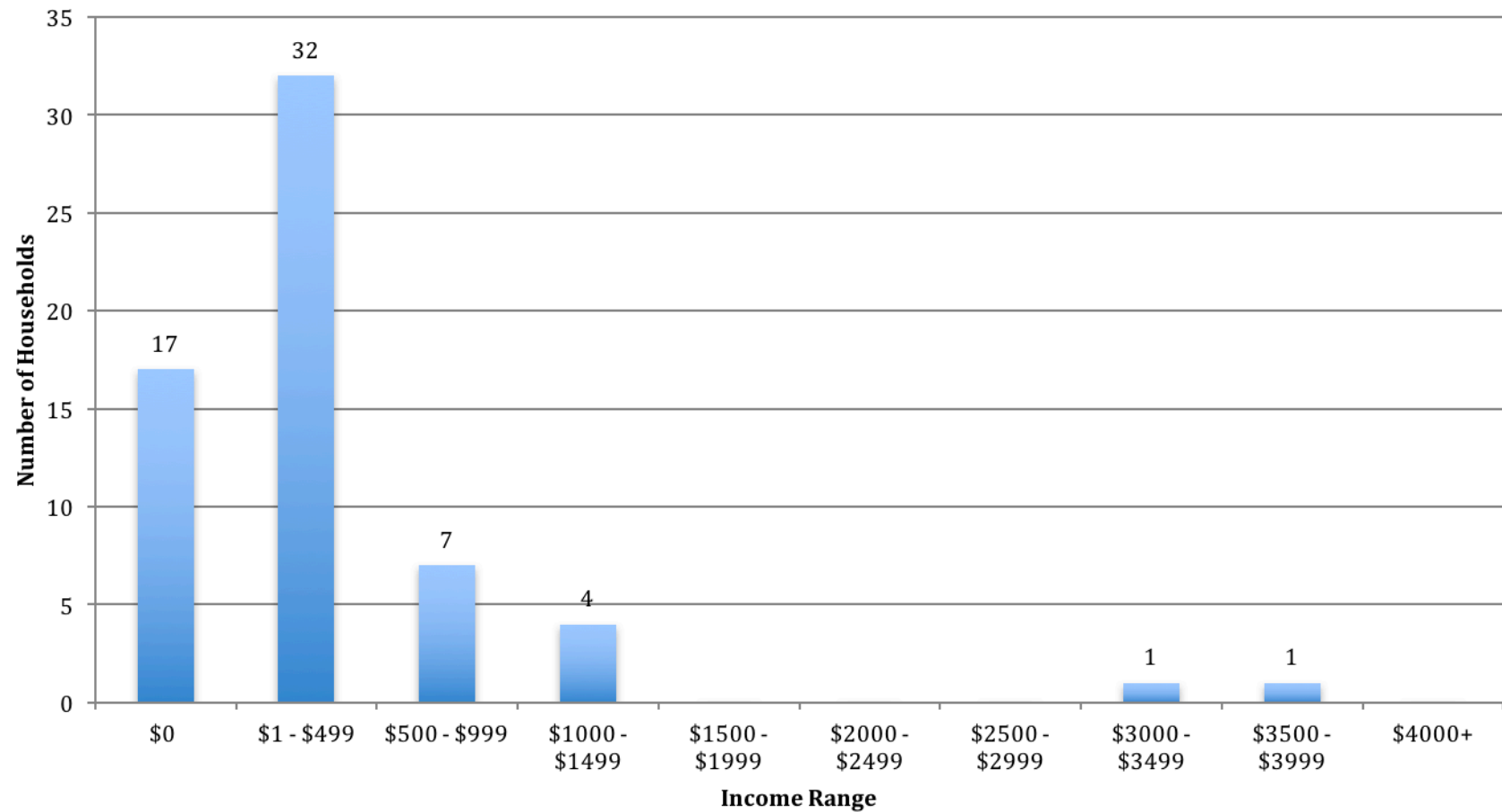


Fig. A. 11. Number of Households by Sources of Non-Cash Benefits



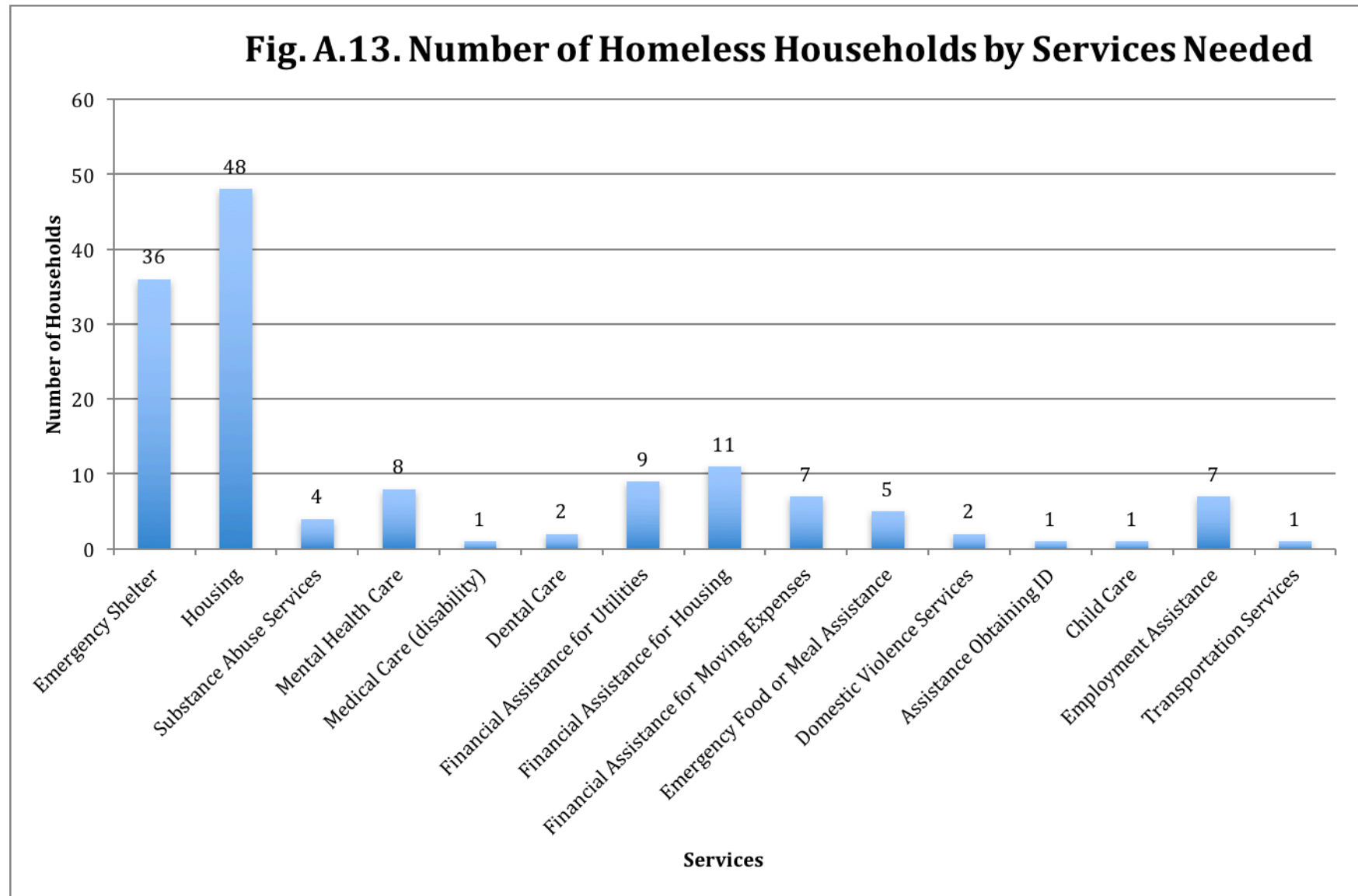
What is your monthly household income?

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?

