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NJ 2017 Counts!

New Jersey's 2017 Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless

January 24, 2017

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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 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 6,340 households, including 8,532 persons, were experiencing homelessness in New Jersey, according to the 2017 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 1,092 persons, in 992 households, were identified as chronically homeless.
- 1,357 households, with 1,415 persons were unsheltered on the night of the count.

County	Total Homeless Persons	% of Total Homeless Persons	Chronic Homeless Persons	% of Chronic Homeless Persons	Unsheltered Homeless Persons	% of Unsheltered Homeless Persons
Figure i. Number of Homeless Persons by County and Percentage of State Total						
Atlantic	422	4.9%	105	9.6%	109	7.7%
Bergen	302	3.5%	3	0.3%	5	0.4%
Burlington	604	7.1%	113	10.3%	44	3.1%
Camden	540	6.3%	56	5.1%	78	5.5%
Cape May	119	1.4%	13	1.2%	6	0.4%
Cumberland	151	1.8%	15	1.4%	39	2.8%
Essex	2,048	24.0%	182	16.7%	428	30.2%
Gloucester	128	1.5%	3	0.3%	4	0.3%
Hudson	822	9.6%	176	16.1%	184	13.0%
Hunterdon	130	1.5%	17	1.6%	17	1.2%
Mercer	478	5.6%	71	6.5%	84	5.9%
Middlesex	546	6.4%	71	6.5%	125	8.8%
Monmouth	299	3.5%	49	4.5%	44	3.1%
Morris	378	4.4%	73	6.7%	27	1.9%
Ocean	224	2.6%	24	2.2%	43	3.0%
Passaic	449	5.3%	58	5.3%	89	6.3%
Salem	17	0.2%	0	0%	4	0.3%
Somerset	244	2.9%	3	0.3%	5	0.4%
Sussex	99	1.2%	10	0.9%	12	0.8%
Union	475	5.6%	43	3.9%	55	3.9%
Warren	57	0.7%	7	0.6%	13	0.9%
Total	8,532	100%	1,092	100%	1,415	100%

Total Homeless Population

On the night of January 24th, 2017, a total of 8,532 persons, in 6,340 households, were experiencing homelessness in New Jersey, according to the 2017 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 409 persons (4.6%) and 219 households (3.3%) from 2016.

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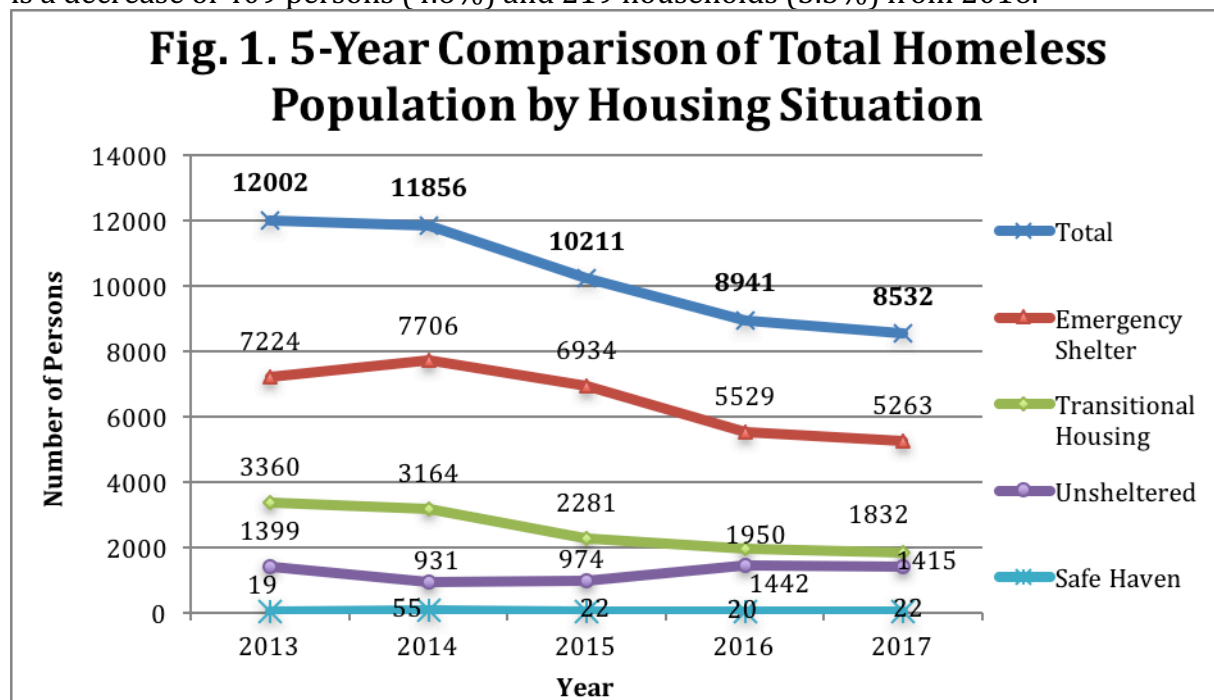

Figure 1 shows that, in 2017, 5,263 homeless persons stayed in emergency shelters, 1,832 stayed in transitional housing, 22 were in safe havens, and 1,415 were living unsheltered on the night of the count. When comparing to 2016, decreases are seen in the number of homeless persons staying in emergency shelter (266 persons, 4.8%), transitional housing (118 persons, 6.1%), and those unsheltered (27 persons, 1.9%). While this is true, there was a slight increase in the number of persons in safe havens counted in 2017 when compared to 2016 (2 persons, 10%).

Figure 1 also shows that, over the past five years, the total number of homeless persons has been consistently declining. New Jersey has seen an overall decrease of 3,470 persons, or 28.9% from 2013 to 2017. Over this 5-year period, there was a 27.1% decrease in persons staying in emergency shelter and a 45.5% decrease in persons staying in transitional housing. There was a slight increase of 1.1% for persons living unsheltered, and an increase of 15.8% for persons staying in safe haven programs between 2013 and 2017. Between 2013 and 2017, the homeless population has decreased at an average rate of 8% annually.

As Figure 2 shows, 1% of the homeless households in New Jersey in 2017 reported that their last permanent

Fig. 2. Percentage of Households by County of Last Permanent Address
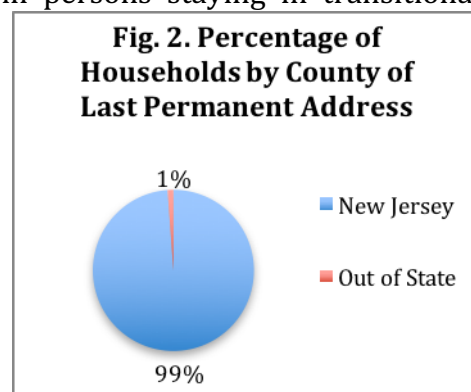
address prior to becoming homeless was outside of the state.

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').

Fig. 3. Homeless Households by Housing Situation
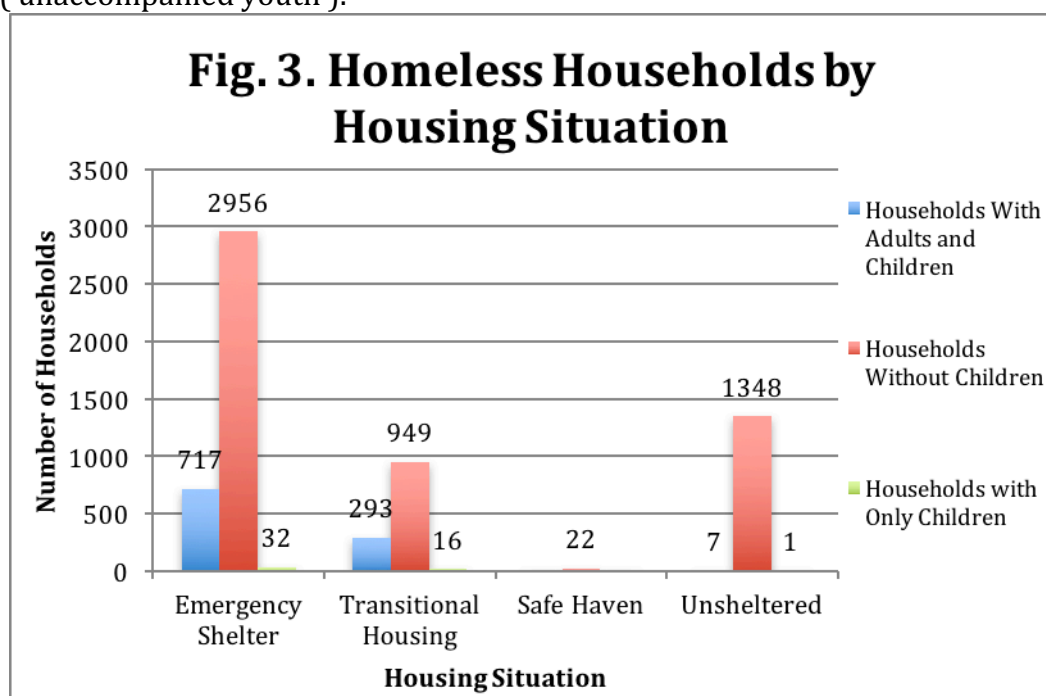
Of the 6,340 homeless households counted in New Jersey in 2017, 1,017 (16%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. This is a decrease of about 10.9% from 2016. These families included 3,096 persons, including 1,886 children under age 18 and 1,210 adults. The average family size was 3 persons. Figure 3 shows that 717 families (70.5%) were staying in emergency shelters. There were 7 unsheltered families with adults and children, including 19 persons. This is a decrease of 19 unsheltered families (73.1%) from 2016.

5,275 (83.2%) of the homeless households in New Jersey were households without children under 18, and they were composed of 5,382 adults. This is a decrease of 2% from the number of adult only households in 2016. The majority of adult only households (56%) were staying in emergency shelters on the night of the count. 1,348 adult only households were unsheltered in 2017, an increase of 47 households (3.6%) from 2016.

As Figure 3 indicates, 49 households with only children under 18 years old were reported in 2017, an increase of 15 households from 2016. 65.3% of these unaccompanied youth households were staying in emergency shelters. Unlike 2016, where there were no unsheltered youth, there was 1 unsheltered youth household in 2017.

Demographics

There were a total of 761 (8.9%) homeless adults between 18 and 24 years old, 5,828 (68.3%) adults over age 24, and 1,939 (22.7%) children under 18 years old experiencing homelessness on the night of the count. Figure 4 shows that similar to 2016, the age range most represented is Adults between 45 and 54 (1,628 persons, 19.1%).

Fig. 4. Age Range by Housing Situation
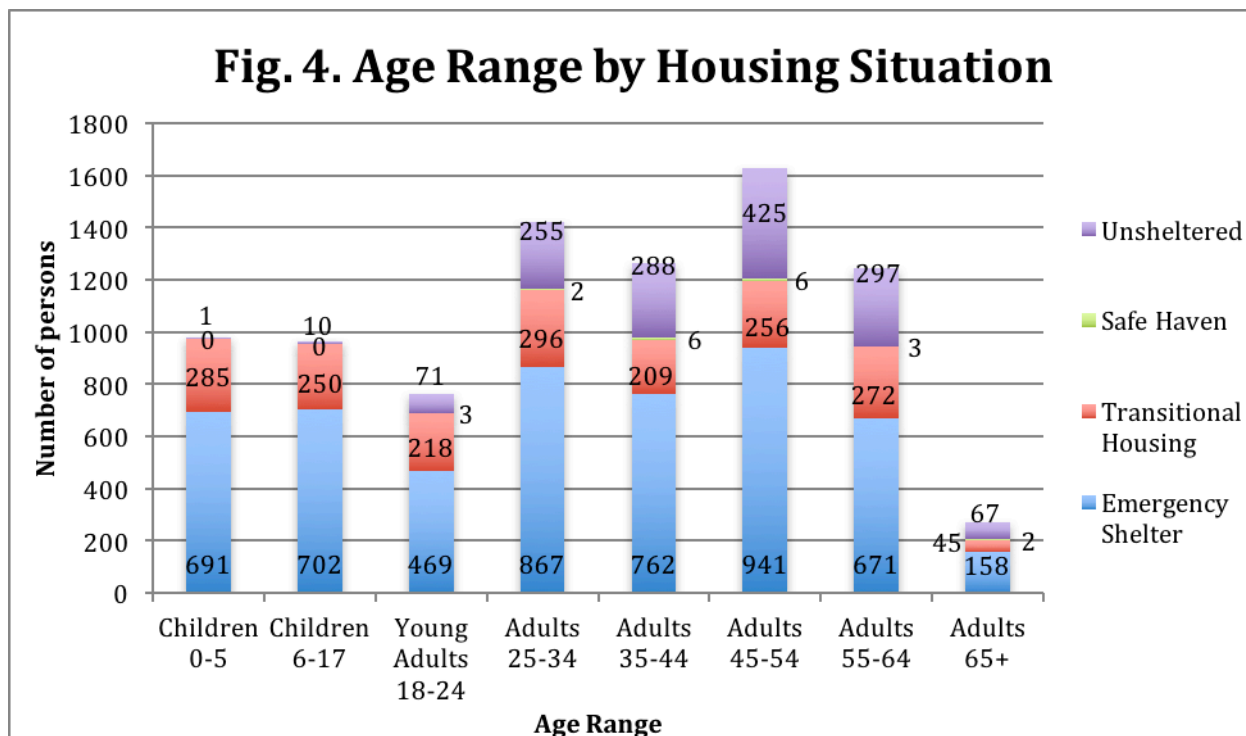
59.3% (5,060) of homeless persons were male, 40.3% (3,435) were female, and 17 (0.2%) were transgender.

49.9% (4,260) of persons identified their race as Black or African-American, making this the largest racial subgroup of homeless persons counted. The next largest group self-identified as White (39.7%, 3,384 persons), followed by those identifying as Multi-Racial (1.7%, 148 persons). With regard to ethnicity, 19.7% of persons identified themselves as Hispanic.

Disabilities

Figure 5 illustrates that 46.2% of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. 57.3% of adults 18 or older reported some type of disability compared to 8.4% of children. Figure 6 shows the number of the homeless persons that identified as having various disabilities.   The most common disabilities included mental health issues and substance abuse disorders.

Fig. 5. Percentage of Population with a Disability
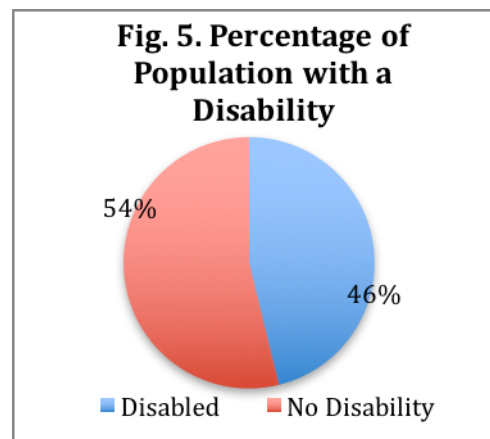
Among disabled adults, 56.8% reported mental health issues making this the most prevalent disability; representing 32.6% of the total adult homeless population. 47.7% of disabled adults reported a substance abuse disorder. Among disabled homeless children, 46% reported a developmental disability.

Fig. 6. Number of Persons by Disability Type

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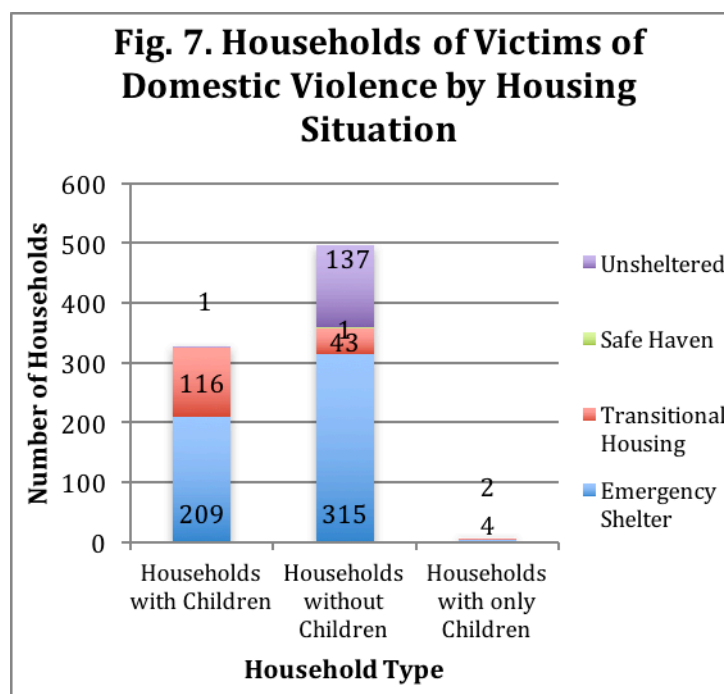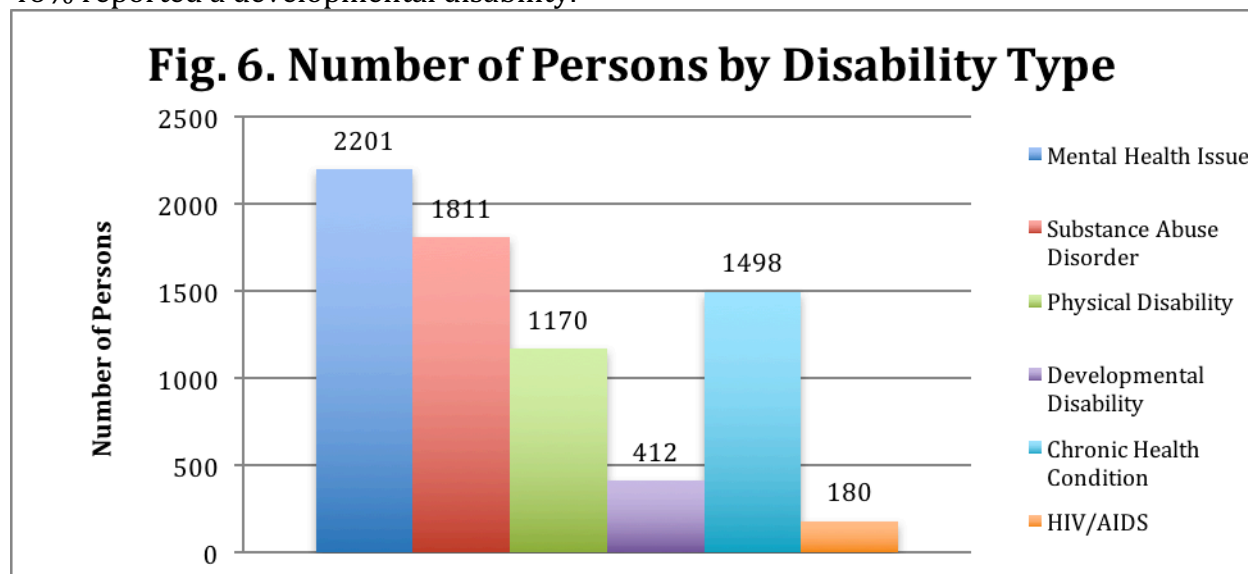
Victims of Domestic Violence

On the night of the count, in New Jersey, 828 homeless households (13.1% of all households) reported having a victim of domestic violence, this is an increase of 3 households from 2016. The majority of these households (59.9%) were adult-only households. 326 (39.4%) of the victim households were families with at least 1 adult and 1 child and there were 6 youth only households that reported being a victim of domestic violence. 17% of domestic violence households were unsheltered on the night of the count.

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.

583 homeless veterans were counted on the night of the 2017 count, an increase of 24 persons (4.3%) from 2016. 559 veterans (95.9%) were individual adults, 9 veterans (1.4%) were in adult only households, and 15 veterans (2.6%) were in families with children under the age of 18. The largest contingent of homeless veterans was found to be staying in transitional housing (56.6%). There were 89 unsheltered veterans, in 2017. This is an increase of 16

Fig. 8. Number of Veterans by Housing Situation
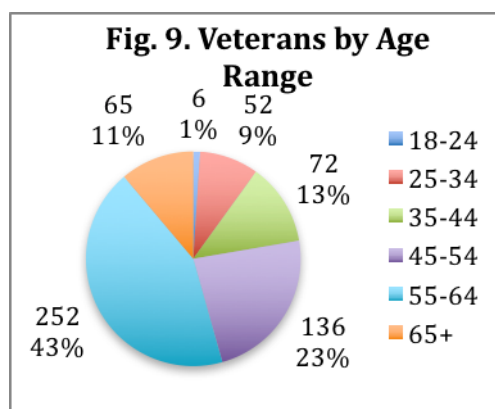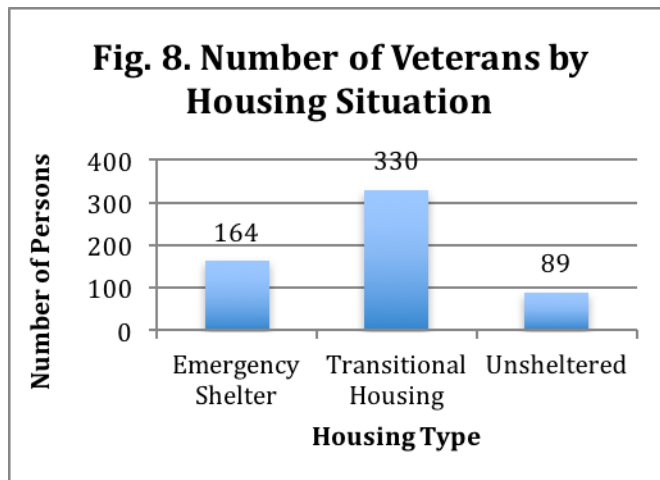
unsheltered veterans from 2016.

The large majority of veterans were male (92.5%). The most common racial background identified among homeless veterans was White (47.7%). Another 47.5% identified as Black or African American. Figure 9 Illustrates the percentage of veterans by age range.

Fig. 9. Veterans by Age Range

24 veterans reported being victims of domestic violence with the largest contingent (13 veteran victims, 54.2%) staying in emergency shelters on the night of the count. 462 homeless veterans (79.2%) reported having some kind of disability. The most common disabilities reported were mental health issues (65.6%), substance abuse disorders (57.6%) and chronic health conditions (54.5%).

34.7% of veteran households reported no source of cash income. 13.9% of homeless veterans reported earned income while 4.1% reported receiving VA Pension income and 14.3% reported receiving VA Disability income. In regards to non-cash benefits, 11.7% of homeless veterans reported no connection to non-cash benefits, and 57.7% of veteran households said they were connected to VA Medical Benefits. 5.3% of homeless veteran households indicated they would like to receive assistance with Veteran Services.

Income and Benefits

Among all households experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, 38.7% had no source of income, and 11.8% reported having earned income. The most common sources of income among homeless households were SSI (21.1%) and General Assistance (13.3%).

Fig. 10. Number of Households by Income Type
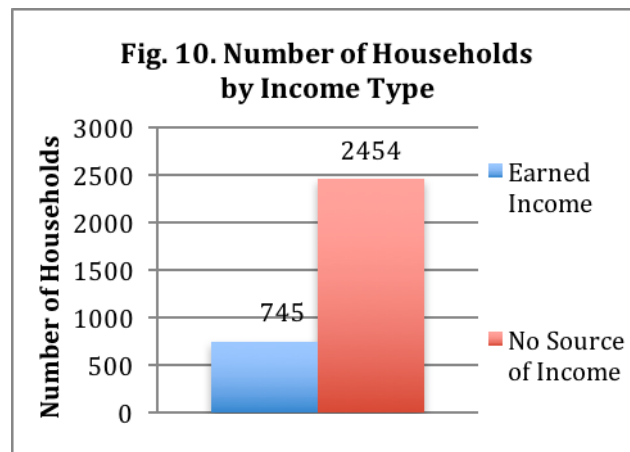
Figure 11 show the average monthly income among households in each housing situation.

Figure 11. Average Monthly Income For Households by Housing Situation				
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Safe Haven	Unsheltered
Average for All Households	$493.51	$618.02	$719.88	$387.66

18.9% of homeless households reported receiving no kind of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Medicaid was the top reported non-cash benefit, received by 50.9% of homeless households. Food Stamps (SNAP), was the second most reported non-cash benefit received by 41.4% of homeless households.

Length of Homelessness

As seen in Figure 12, 20% of homeless households reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness was more than 1 year. This was the most common response

Fig. 12. Length of Homelessness Among Households
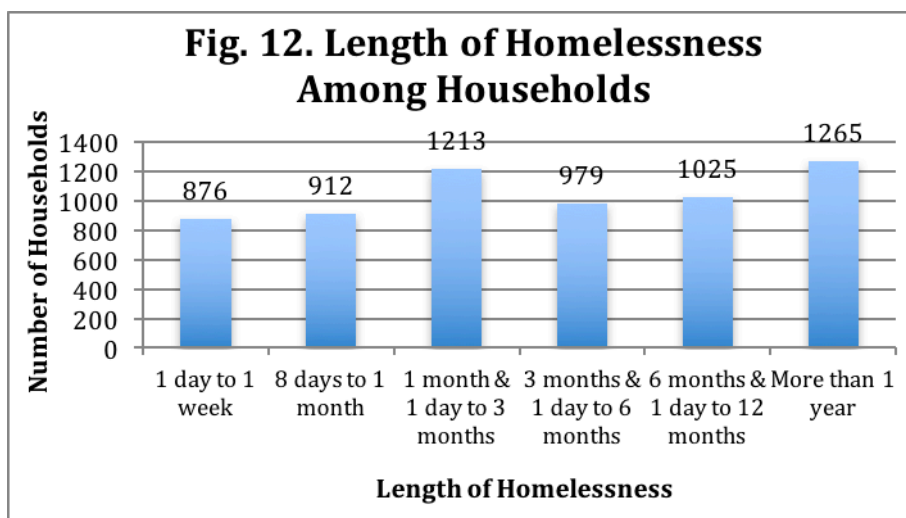
among households, followed by those who had been homeless 1 to 3 months (19.1%). In looking at those households that had lengths of homelessness exceeding one year, 458 households (36.2%) were homeless between 2 and 5 years, while 17.2%, (218 households) reported their homeless exceeded 5 years.

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 (1,304 households, 20.6%) than any other cause. As Figure 13 shows, the next most common factor reported was eviction (13.8%) followed by a loss or reduction of job income (12.8%).

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 (17.9%) than any other type of residence. 17.2% reported residing in permanent housing and 13.9% reported residing in an emergency shelter prior to their current living situation.

Fig. 13. Cause of Homelessness by Household

Figure shows a bar chart. X-axis: "Factor Causing or Contributing to Homelessness". Y-axis: "Number of Housholds".

Factor	Number of Households
Loss or Reduction of Benefits	190
Loss or Reduction of Job Income	814
Eviction or at Risk of Eviction	873
Relocation	259
Released From Prison/Jail	575
Released From Hospital	74
Released From Psychiatric Facility	53
Illness	56
Injury	45
Domestic Violence	375
Asked to Leave Shared Residence	1304
Drug/Alcohol Abuse	493
Natural Disaster	43
Foreclosure or Rented Property or Owned Property	98
Household breakup/death in household	183
Increase in Rent	3
Criminal Activity/background	1
Mental Illness	164
Physical Illness	62
Release from Institution	16
Substandard Housing	6
DCP&P activity	2
change in household	1
insufficient income	1
left shared residence	2
Victim of Criminal Activity	5
Immigration Status	7

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

992 households, made up of 1,092 persons, were chronically homeless in New Jersey, according to the 2017 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 259 households (35.3%), and 256 persons (30.6%) from 2016. The rate of chronic homelessness as a percentage of overall homelessness in New Jersey increased from 9.4% in 2016 to 12.8% in 2017.

Fig. 14. 5-Year Comparison of Chronic Homeless Population by Housing Situation
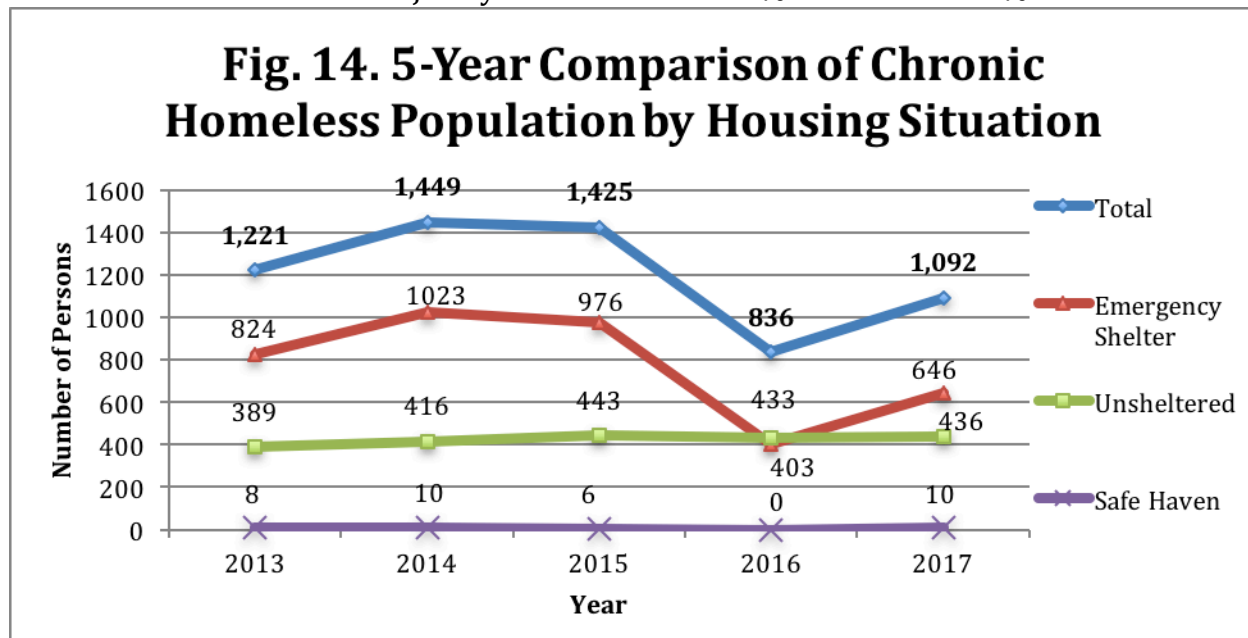
Figure 14 shows the number of chronically homeless persons who were in emergency shelters, safe havens or living unsheltered in New Jersey from 2013 to 2017. Over this 5-year period, there was a decrease in the chronically homeless population in emergency shelters (21.6%), but an increase of 25% for safe havens, and 12.1% of chronically homeless living unsheltered. While there was an increase in the number of chronically homeless from 2016, Figure 14 shows a 23.4% decrease from the peak of chronic homelessness in 2015, to 2017.

Families and Individuals

Of the 992 chronically homeless households counted in 2017, 37 (3.7%) were households with at least 1 adult and 1 child; 4 (9.8%) less than 2016. 2 unsheltered chronically homeless families were identified in 2017, 2 less than was counted in 2016.

954 chronically homeless households (96.2%) were adult-

Fig. 15. Chronically Homeless Households Type by Housing Situation
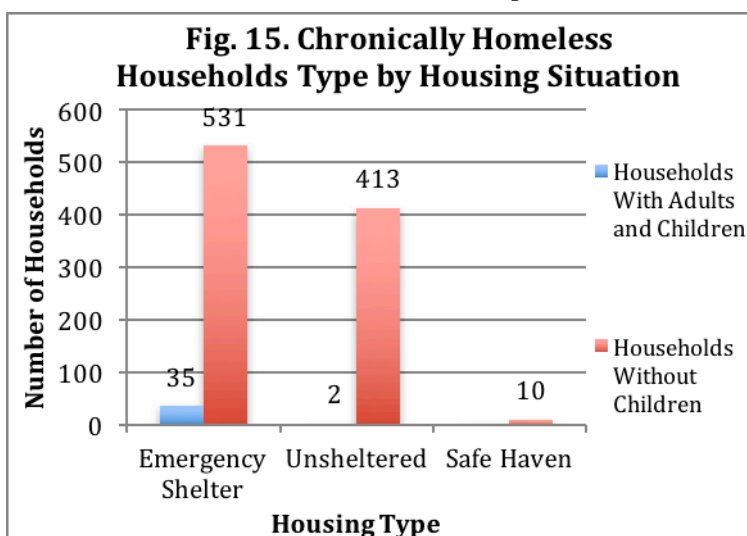
only households, composed of 977 persons. The majority of adult-only chronically homeless households (55.7%) were in emergency shelter, while 43.3% were unsheltered on the night of the count.

There was 1 youth only household, a household only composed of an individual under the age of 18, counted as chronically homeless on the night of the count. This individual youth was being served in an emergency shelter program.

Demographics

Of the 1,092 total chronically homeless persons, the age range with the highest concentration of chronically homeless persons was adults between 45 and 54 years old (322 persons, 29.5%). The age range distribution shown in Figure 16 shows a similar pattern as to what was found in 2016.

67.2% of chronically homeless persons were male, 32.2% were female and 2 were transgender.

Fig. 16. Chronically Homeless Age Range by Housing Situation

The largest racial subgroup of chronically homeless persons reported their race as White (48.1%). The next largest group self-identified as Black or African-American (45.6%), followed by persons identifying as Multi-Racial (1.8%). With regard to ethnicity, 16.8% of chronically homeless persons identified themselves as Hispanic.

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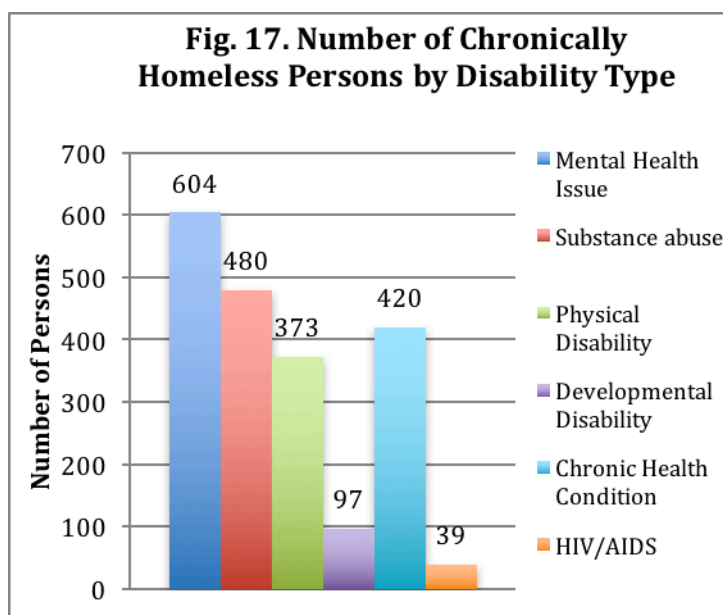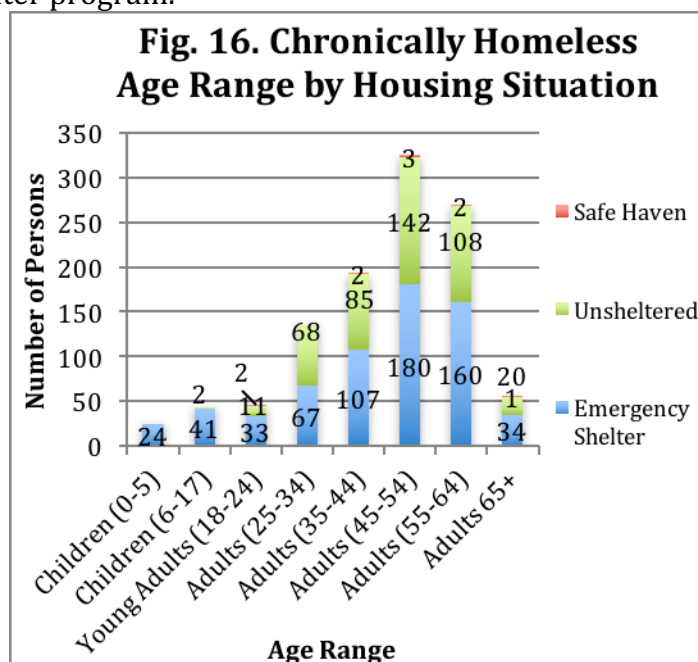
Disabilities

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 (55.3%) and substance abuse disorders (44%). The chronically homeless population with mental health issues represent 16% of the homeless adult disabled population and 28.1% of the homeless adult disabled population with mental health issues.

Subpopulations

On the night of the count, 130 chronically homeless households in New Jersey reported being a victim of domestic violence (11.9%). The majority of these households (70, 53.8%) were in emergency shelter programs while the remaining 59 (45.4%) were unsheltered.

There were 68 veterans identified as chronically homeless on the night of the count (6.9%). This represents an increase of 28 chronically homeless veterans (70%) as compared to 2016. Among the chronically homeless veterans identified in 2017, 37 (54.4%) were in emergency shelters, and 31 (45.6%) were unsheltered.

Income and Benefits

Among all the chronically homeless households on the night of the count, 37.9% reported receiving no type of cash income. Figure 18 shows the sources of income received. The most common source of cash income among all chronically homeless households was

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

Legend: SSI, SSDI, TANF, General Assistance, Unemployment, Work Income/Wage, Alimony, Child Support, Veteran's Pension, Veteran's Disability, Pension From Former Job, Social Security, Temporary State Disability, No Source of Income

Values: 291, 99, 32, 167, 3, 39, 3, 4, 6, 4, 5, 20, 1, 376
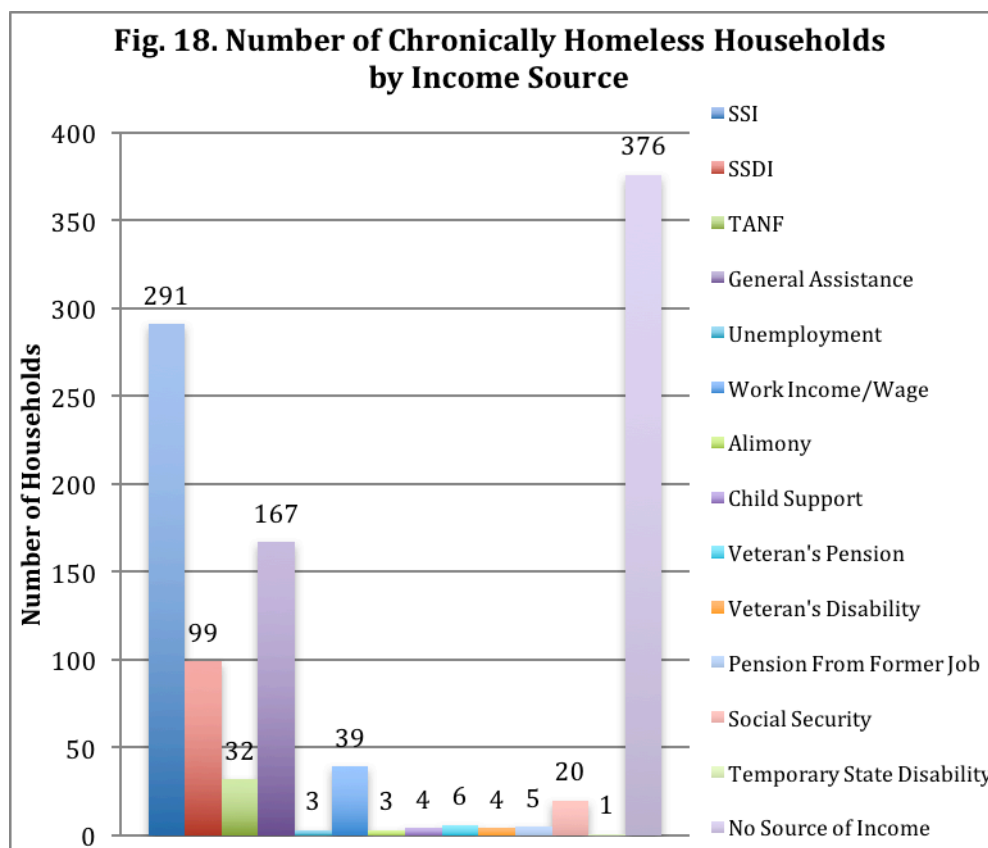
SSI, which was received by 29.3%, followed by General Assistance (16.8%). 3.9% of chronically homeless households reported having earned income.

14.5% of chronically homeless households reported they were not receiving any type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Medicaid was the top reported non-cash benefit among this population, with 49.4% reporting receiving this benefit. 42.5% of households also reported being connected to Food Stamps (SNAP).

Length of Homelessness

Figure 19 shows that similar to 2016, the majority of chronically homeless households (48.1%) reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted for more than 1 year. Of these households, 23.7% (113), reported their homelessness lasting longer than 5 years.
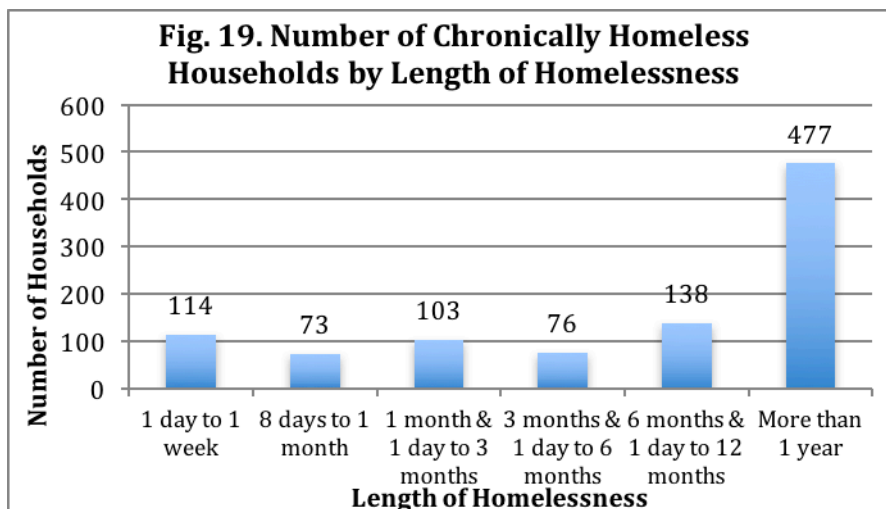
Fig. 19. Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Length of Homelessness

Length of Homelessness (Number of Households):
- 1 day to 1 week: 114
- 8 days to 1 month: 73
- 1 month & 1 day to 3 months: 103
- 3 months & 1 day to 6 months: 76
- 6 months & 1 day to 12 months: 138
- More than 1 year: 477

Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more chronically homeless households cited being asked to leave a shared residence (15.8%) than any other. As Figure 20 shows, the next most common factors were a loss or reduction in job income (12.8%) and eviction (10.7%).

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

Cause of Homelessness (Number of Households):
- Loss or Reduction of Benefits: 50
- Loss or Reduction of Job Income: 127
- Eviction or at Risk of Eviction: 106
- Relocation: 34
- Released From Prison/Jail: 90
- Released From Hospital: 20
- Released From Psychiatric Facility: 12
- Illness: 18
- Injury: 14
- Domestic Violence: 27
- Asked to Leave Shared Residence: 157
- Drug/Alcohol Abuse: 87
- Natural Disaster: 8
- Foreclosure or Rented Property or Owned Property: 19
- Household breakup/death in household: 61
- Increase in Rent: 2
- Mental Illness: 65
- Physical Illness: 25
- Substandard Housing: 1
- left shared residence: 1
- Immigration Status: 1

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

1,357 households, made up of 1,415 persons, were living unsheltered in New Jersey on the night of the 2017 Point-in-Time Count. This is an increase of 30 households (2.3%), but a decrease of 27 persons (1.9%) from 2016. These 1,415 unsheltered persons made up 16.6% of New Jersey's total 2017 homeless population.

Fig. 21. 5 Year Comparison of Unsheltered Population

Year	Number of Persons
2013	1399
2014	931
2015	974
2016	1442
2017	1415
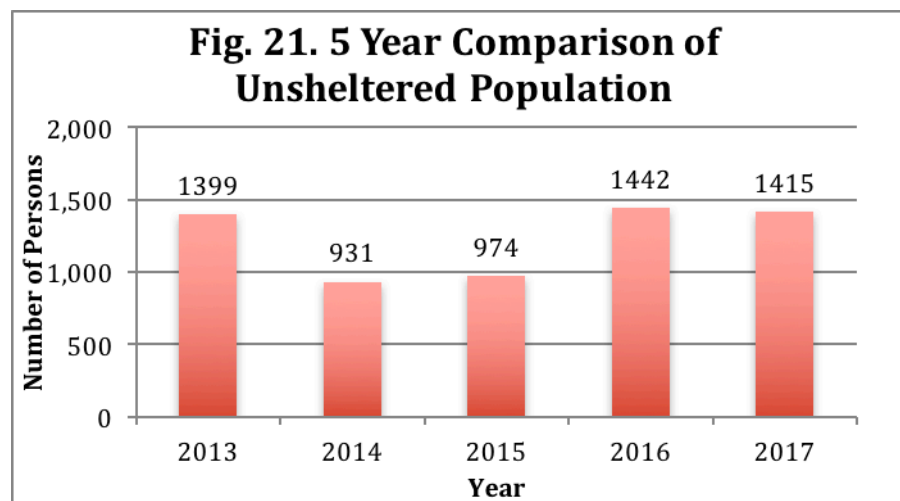
Figure 21 shows the number of unsheltered persons from 2013 to 2017. Between 2013 and 2015 the unsheltered population decreased by 30.4%, however, since 2015 the unsheltered population has increased by 45.3%.

Families and Individuals

Of the 1,357 unsheltered households counted in 2017, 7 (0.5%) were families with at least 1 adult and 1 child, composed of 19 persons. This is a decrease of 19 families (73.1%) from 2016.

The major portion of the unsheltered population (1,348 households, 99.3%) were adult-only households, composed of 1,394 persons. This is an increase of 47 adult-only households from 2016.

There was 1 unsheltered youth only household in New Jersey in 2017.

Demographics

Similar to 2016, the largest portion of the 1,415 unsheltered persons counted in 2017, 30%, was between 45 and 54 years old as Figure 22 illustrates.

Most unsheltered persons were male (75.3%), while 23.8% were female, and 0.2% (3 persons) were transgender. 38.6% of unsheltered persons identified their race as Black or African-American and 38.2% identified as White. With regards to ethnicity, 19.7% of unsheltered persons identified as Hispanic.

Fig. 22. Age Range of Unsheltered Homeless

Number of Persons by Age Range:
- Children 0-5: 1
- Children 6-17: 10
- Young Adults 18-24: 71
- Adults 25-34: 255
- Adults 35-44: 288
- Adults 45-54: 425
- Adults 55-64: 297
- Adults 65+: 67
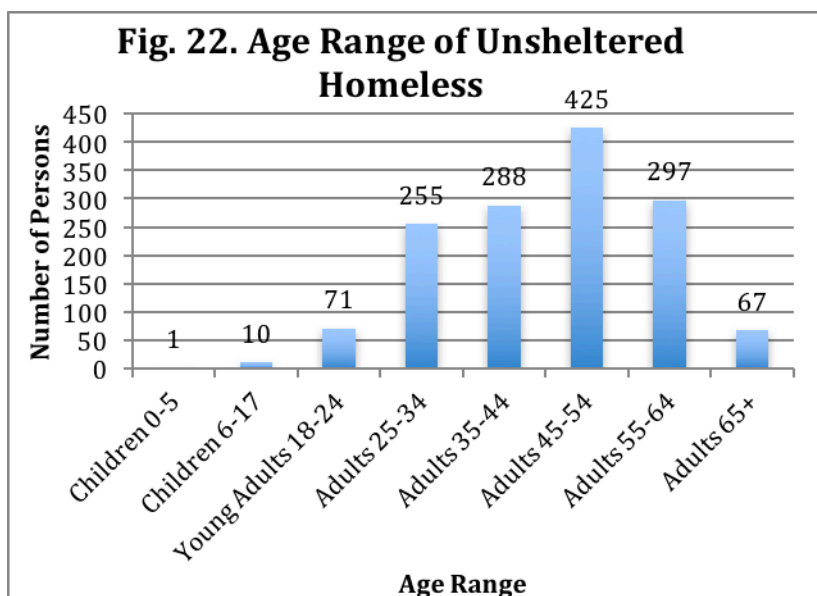
Disabilities

858 of the 1,415 unsheltered persons (60.6%) reported having some kind of disability. The disabilities most commonly identified were ment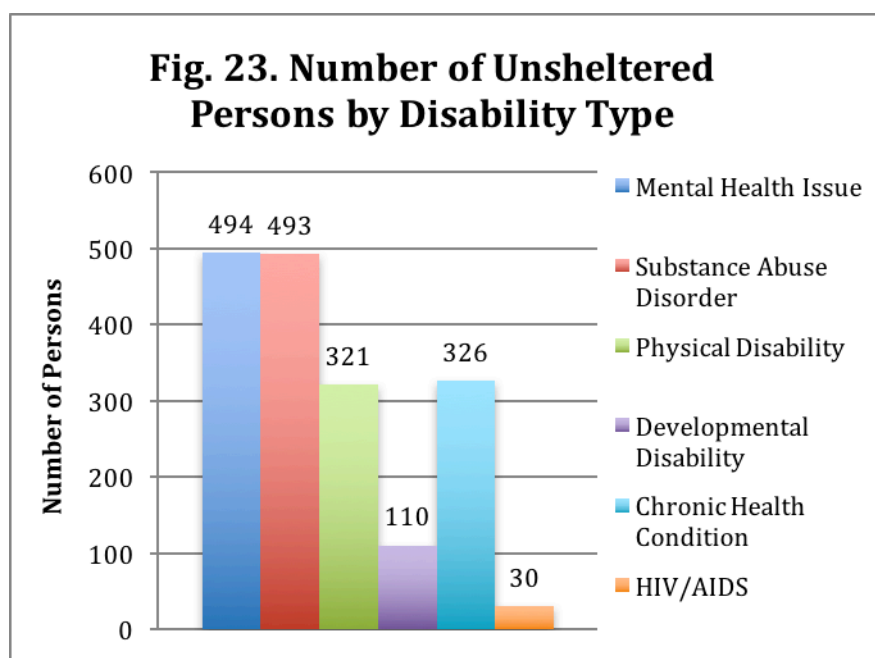al health issues (57.6%) and substance abuse disorders (57.6%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the unsheltered can be seen in Figure 23.

Fig. 23. Number of Unsheltered Persons by Disability Type

- Mental Health Issue: 494
- Substance Abuse Disorder: 493
- Physical Disability: 321
- Developmental Disability: 110
- Chronic Health Condition: 326
- HIV/AIDS: 30

Subpopulations

On the night of the count, 142 unsheltered persons in New Jersey reported being a victim of domestic violence (10%), an increase of 8 from 2016.

There were 89 unsheltered veteran households identified on the nights of the count, 16 more than 2016, representing 6.3% of the unsheltered adult population.

Among all the unsheltered households on the night of the count, 541 (39.9%) reported having no source of cash income. The average monthly income among unsheltered households was

Fig. 24. Number of Unsheltered Households by Income Source
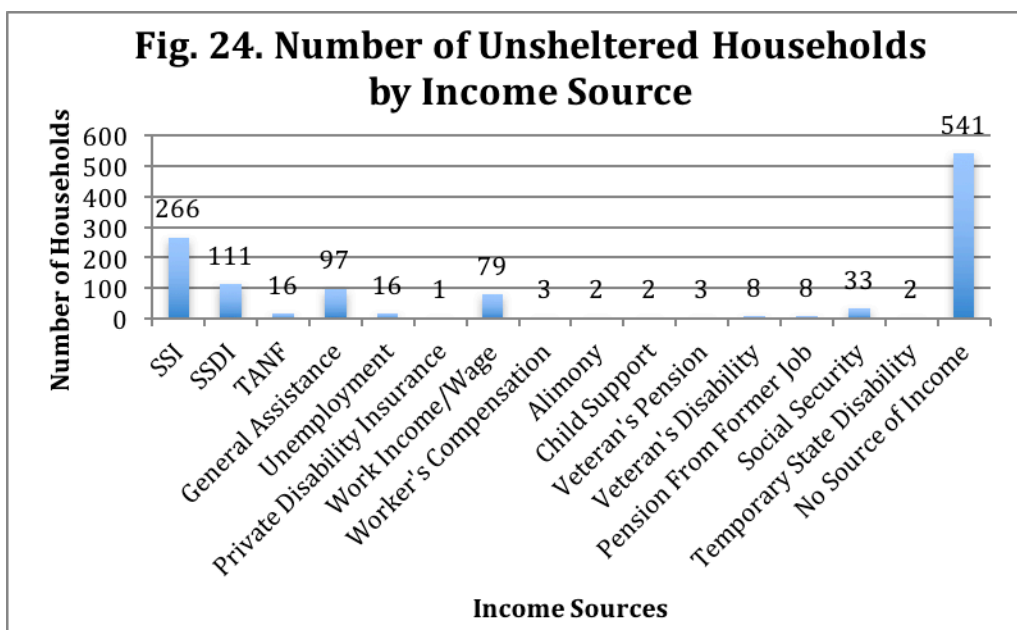
approximately $388, an increase of $65 from the average income reported in 2016. 19.6% of unsheltered households received SSI, making it the most common source of income. Figure 24 shows all of the sources of income received.

229 unsheltered households (16.9%) 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 26.8% and 25.4% receiving each of these benefits, respectively.

Fig. 25. Number of Unsheltered Households by Length of Homelessness
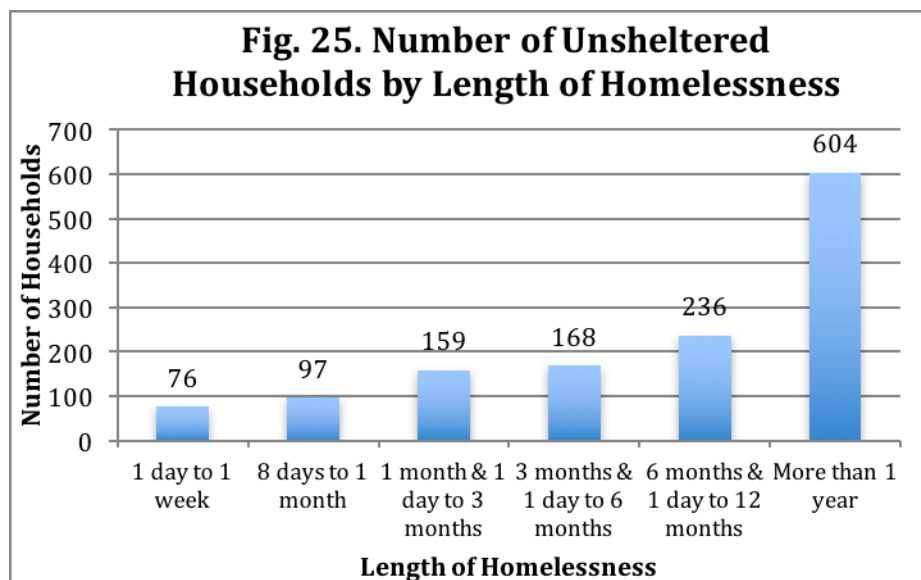
Length of Homelessness

As shown in Figure 25, similar to 2016, more unsheltered homeless households reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted for over a year than any other length of time (44.5%). Another 17.4% of households reported they had been homeless between 6 months and 1 year. This means that 61.9% of unsheltered households had been living on the streets for more than 6

months. Of those households reporting a length of homelessness that exceeded 1 year, 169 households (28%), reported their length of homelessness lasted longer than 5 years.

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 (19.5%) than any other factor. Figure 26 give the full list of responses provided by unsheltered households.

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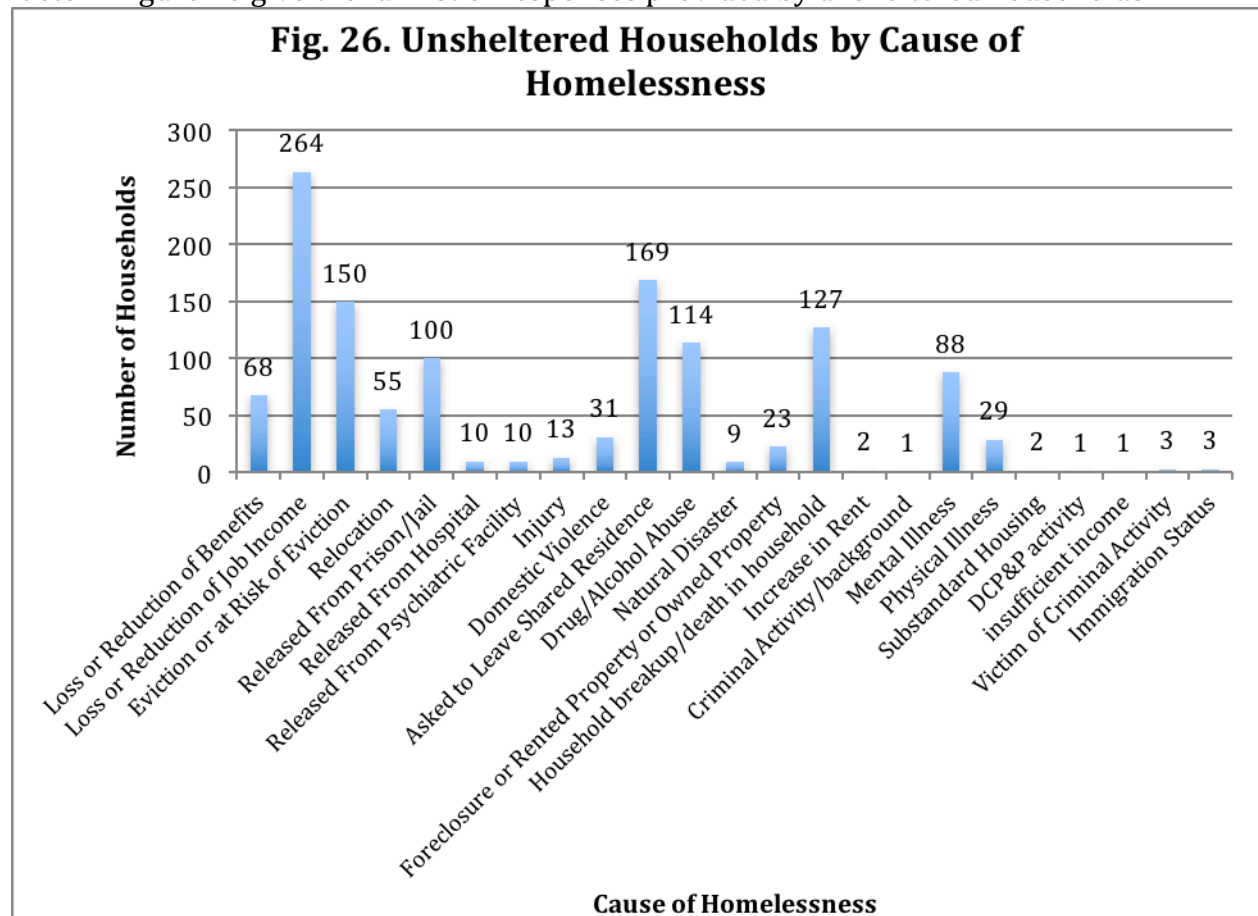
VI. Appendix

Where did you spend the night of January 24th 2017?

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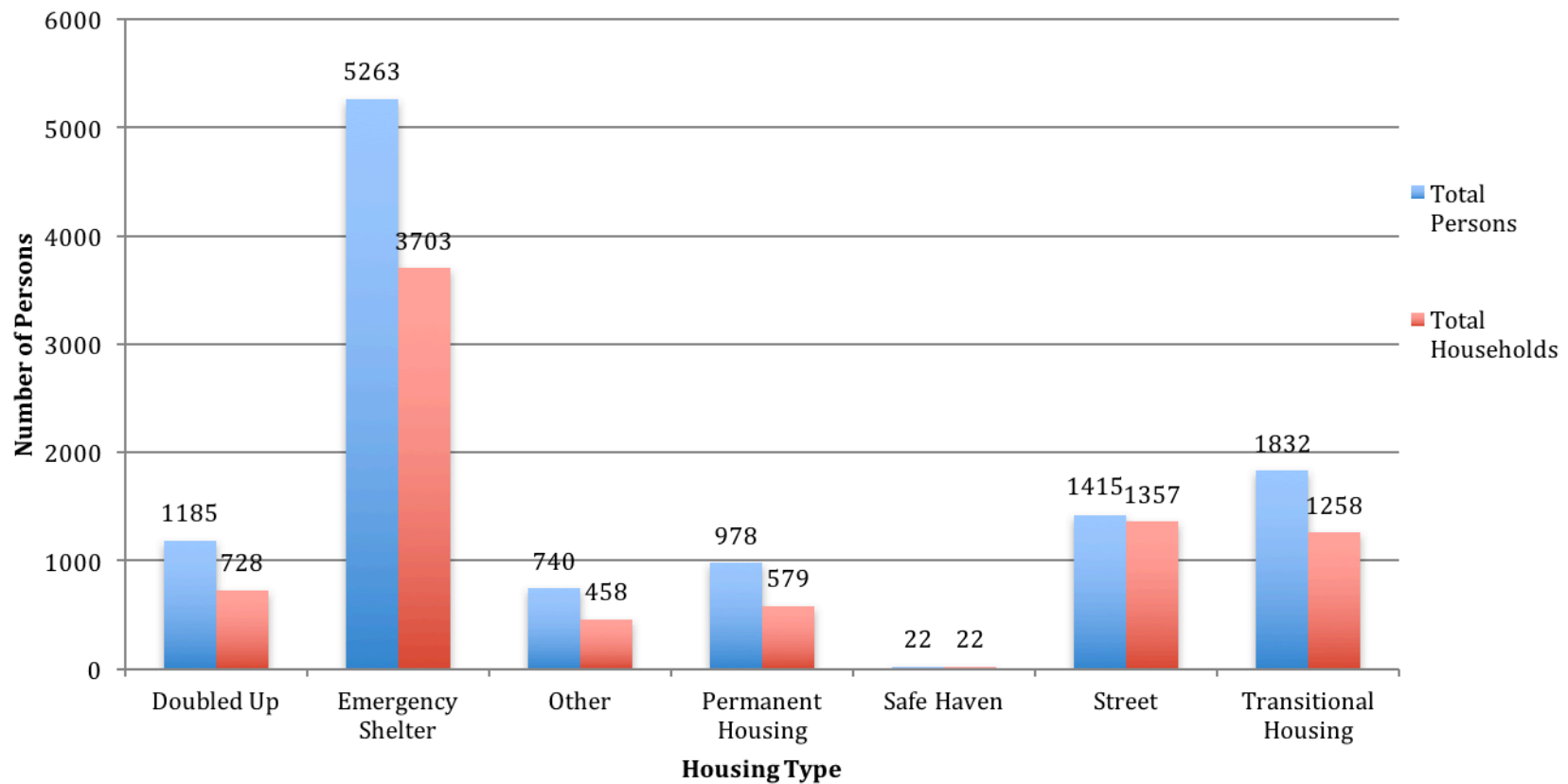
How long have you been in your current living situation?

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

Number of Households

Legend:
- Emergency Shelter (blue)
- Transitional Housing (red)
- Safe Haven (green)
- Unsheltered (purple)

Length of Homelessness	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Safe Haven	Unsheltered
1 day to 1 week	750	49	1	76
8 days to 1 month	693	121	1	97
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	819	229	6	159
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	579	224	8	168
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	469	316	4	236
More than 1 year	368	291	2	604

Length of Homelessness

Who was homeless with you on the night of the Point in Time count?

Fig. A.3. Number of Persons by Age Range and Housing Type
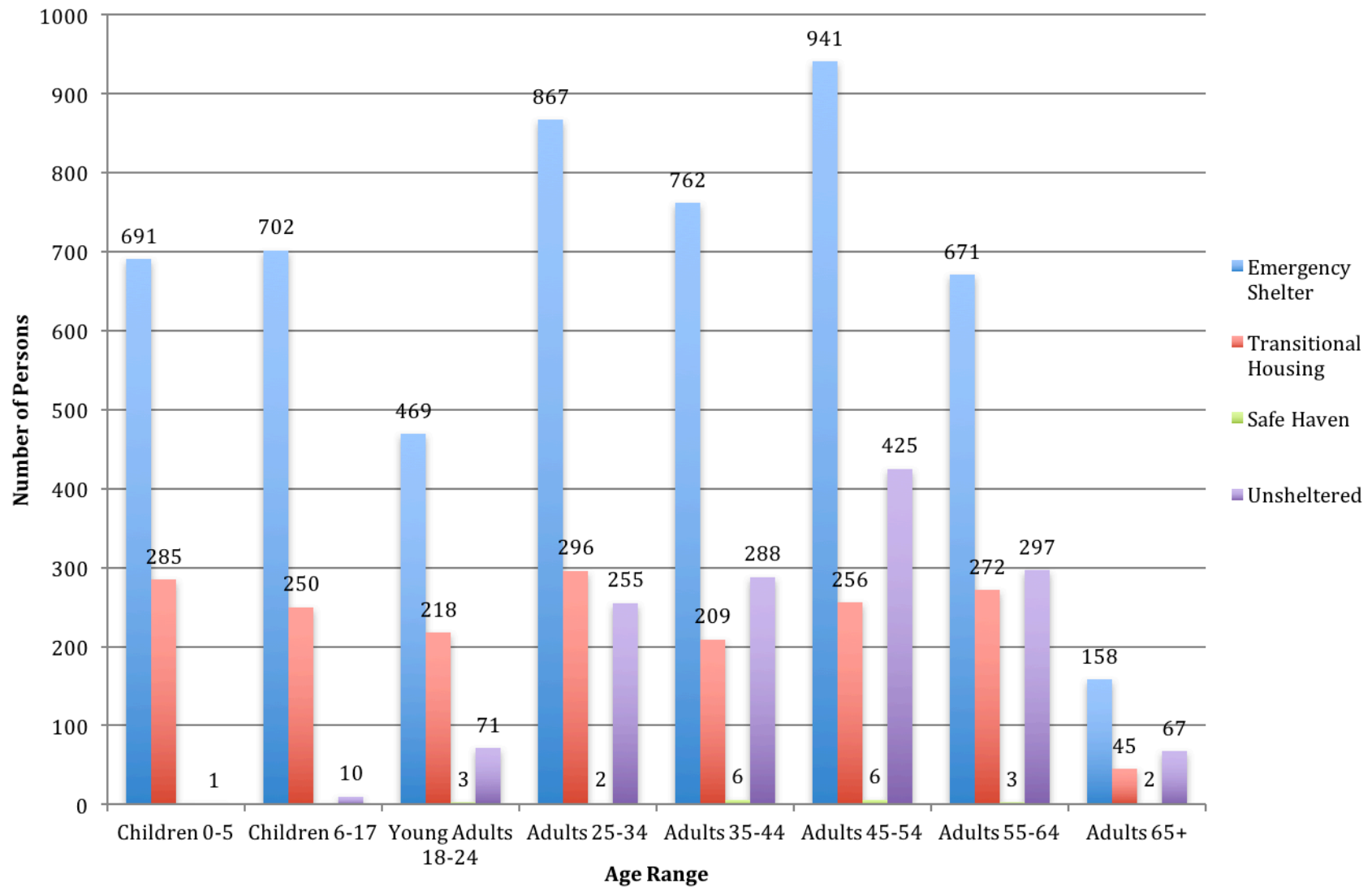
Household Characteristics – check all that apply to each person

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

Number of Persons (Y-axis: 0 to 3500)

- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Safe Haven
- Unsheltered

Male: 2930, 1048, 16, 1066
Female: 2315, 777, 6, 337
Transgender: 10, 4, 3

Gender

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

Number of Persons (Y-axis: 0 to 4500)

- American Indian/Alaska Native: 87
- Black/African-American: 4260
- Asian: 72
- Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian: 36
- White: 3384
- Multi-Racial: 148

Race

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

Number of Persons (Y-axis: 0 to 8000)

- Hispanic: 1683
- Non-Hispanic: 6513

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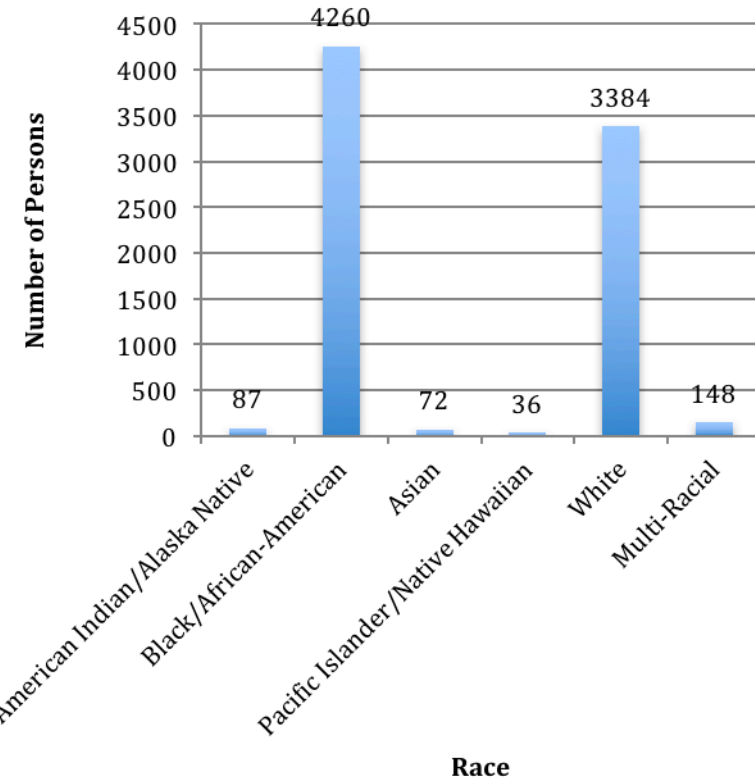
Fig. A.7. Number of Homeless Persons by Victims of Domestic Violence, Veteran Status, and Disability
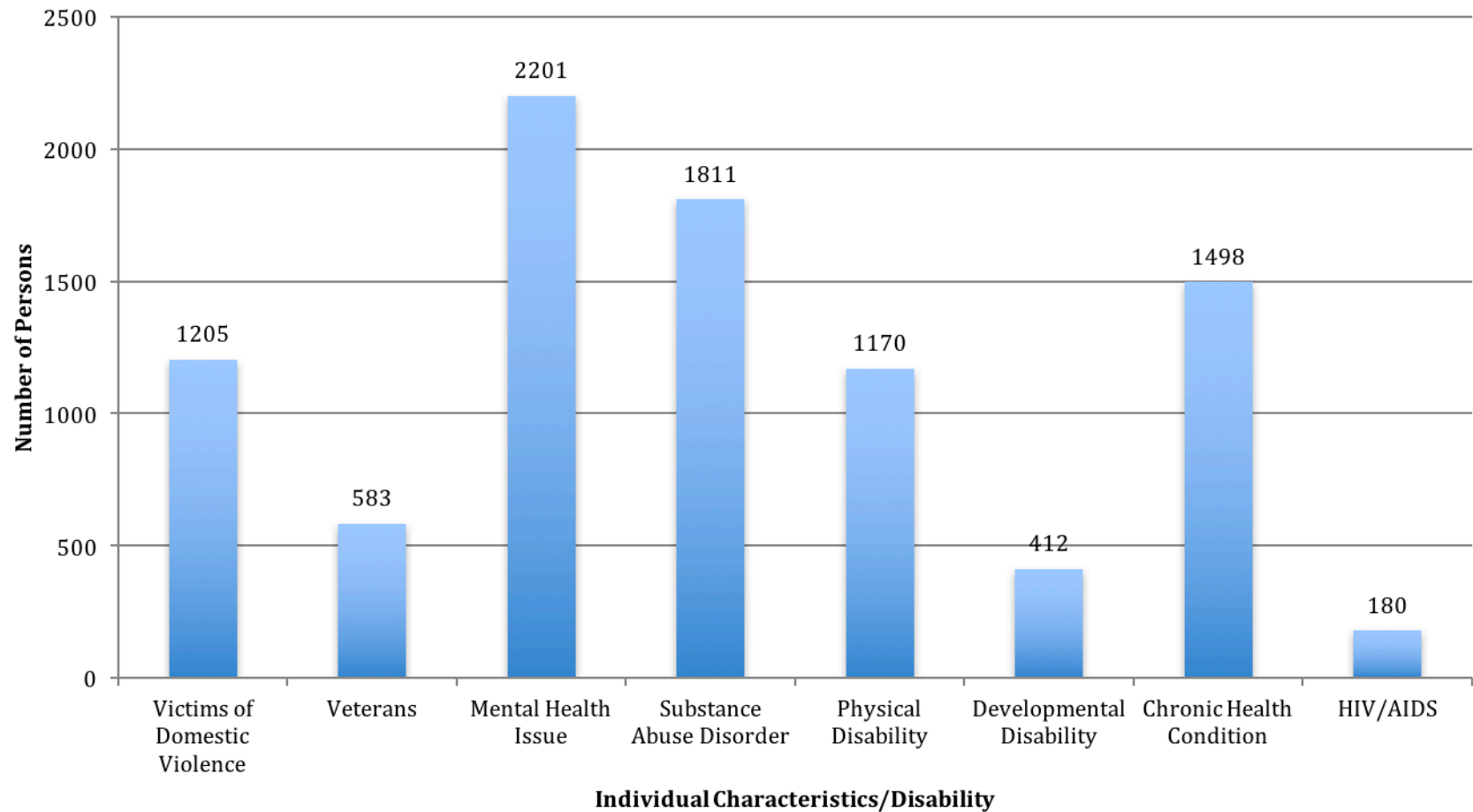
Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?

Fig. A.8. Number of Homeless Households by State or Country of Last Permanent Address	
Last Permanent Address – State/Country	**Number of Households**
Arizona	1
California	6
Colorado	3
Connecticut	7
Delaware	5
Florida	32
Georgia	6
Kentucky	1
Louisiana	1
Maine	2
Maryland	5
Massachusetts	3
Michigan	1
Minnesota	2
Mississippi	1
Nevada	1
New Jersey	**5,131**
New York	62
North Carolina	16
Ohio	4
Pennsylvania	73
South Carolina	6
Tennessee	1
Texas	7
Virginia	10
Denmark	1
Dominican Republic	1
India	1
Puerto Rico	6

What was your residence prior to your current living situation?

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

Bar chart showing Number of Households (y-axis) by Prior Residence (x-axis):

- Emergency Shelter, or Emergency Hotel Voucher: 881
- Hotel/Motel Paid for Without Voucher: 163
- Place Not Meant for Human Habitation (On the Street, Bus,…): 811
- Safe Haven: 40
- Transitional Housing for Homeless Persons: 115
- Living with Family or Friends: 1132
- Permanent Housing: 1093
- Permanent Supportive Housing Program: 29
- Rooming House: 86
- Jail, Prison, or Juvenile Detention Facility: 418
- Medical Hospital (emergency room, acute care): 101
- Psychiatric Hospital or Treatment Facility: 90
- Substance Abuse Treatment Facility/Detox: 155
- Apartment paid for with Temporary Rental Assistance from…: 98
- Foster care Home or Group Home: 35
- Nursing Home or Other Long Term Care Facility: 14
- Other: 3

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

Bar chart. Y-axis: Number of Households (0 to 3000). X-axis: Income Sources.

Income Source	Number of Households
SSI	1336
SSDI	360
TANF	612
General/Public Assistance/Welfare	846
Unemployment	67
Private Disability Insurance	2
Work Income/Wage	745
Worker's Compensation	7
Alimony	10
Child Support	111
Veteran's Pension	25
Veteran's Disability	85
Pension From Former Job	36
Social Security	96
Temporary State Disability	4
No Source of Income	2454

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

Bar chart showing Number of Households (y-axis, 0 to 3500) by Non-Cash Benefits (x-axis):

- Food Stamps/SNAP: 2626
- Medicaid: 3227
- Medicare: 377
- State Children's Health Insurance/FamilyCare: 134
- State Health Insurance for Adults: 200
- Indian Health Insurance: 1
- VA Medical Benefits: 341
- WIC/Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and...: 31
- TANF-Funded Services: 75
- Section 8/Public Housing/Ongoing Rental Assistance: 19
- Receiving NO governmental benefits: 1196

What is your monthly household income?

Fig. A.12. Number of Homeless Households by Monthly Income Range

Bar chart showing Number of Households (y-axis, 0 to 3000) by Income Range (x-axis):

- $0: 2442
- $1 - $499: 1515
- $500 - $999: 1153
- $1000 - $1499: 402
- $1500 - $1999: 144
- $2000 - $2499: 75
- $2500 - $2999: 46
- $3000 - $3499: 20
- $3500 - $3999: 12
- $4000+: 21
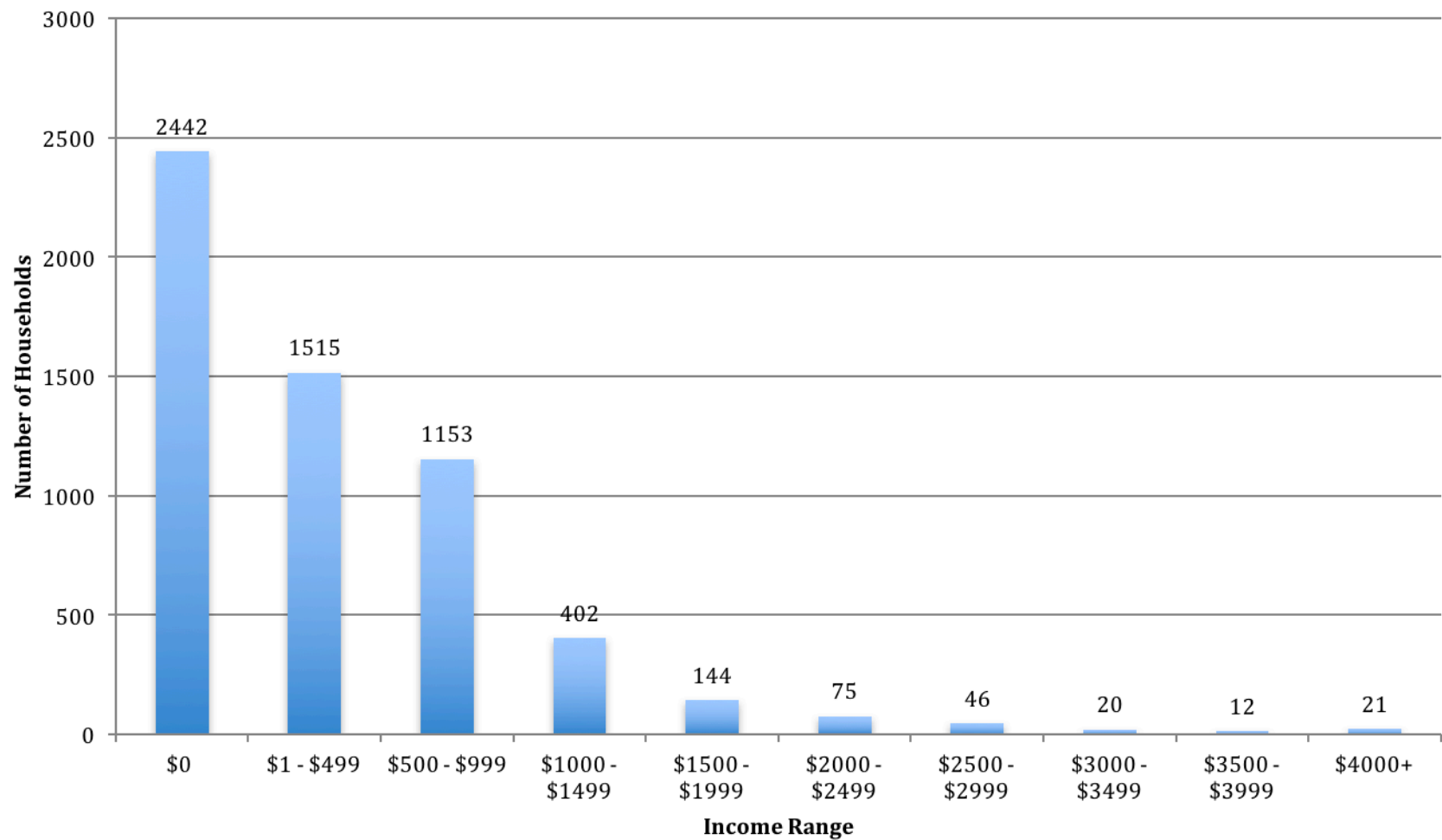
Would you, or anyone in your household, like to receive any of the following services?

Fig. A.13. Number of Homeless Households by Services Needed

A bar chart with the y-axis labeled "Number of Households" (0 to 6000) and the x-axis labeled "Services". Values by service:

- Emergency Shelter: 4318
- Housing: 5572
- Substance Abuse Services: 838
- Mental Health Care: 1055
- Medical Care (disability): 761
- Medical Care (routine healthcare): 946
- Dental Care: 572
- HIV/AIDS Services: 67
- Financial Assistance for Utilities: 905
- Financial Assistance for Housing: 1610
- Financial Assistance for Moving Expenses: 585
- Emergency Food or Meal Assistance: 671
- Domestic Violence Services: 177
- Legal Services: 430
- Immigration Services: 133
- Assistance Obtaining ID: 351
- Child Care: 136
- Educational Training: 371
- Employment Assistance: 767
- Transportation Services: 607
- Veterans Services: 52
- Family Reunification: 143

What was the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, your current living situation?

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