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A large, light beige outline of the state of New Jersey is positioned on the right side of the page. Overlaid on the upper portion of this outline is the text "NJ" in a very large, bold, brown serif font. Below the "NJ" is the year "2018" in a smaller, bold, brown sans-serif font. At the bottom of the "NJ" text is the word "Counts!" in a large, bold, brown serif font.

**NJ**  
**2018**  
**Counts!**

# Essex County 2018 Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless

January 23, 2018

## Acknowledgements

Monarch would like to thank all Point-In-Time Coordinators, homeless service providers, agencies, and volunteers who participated in NJ Counts 2018. Monarch would also like to specifically thank Bergen County for providing a Spanish translation of the 2018 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.

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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 2018

*NJ Counts 2018*, New Jersey's annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Count of the Homeless, provides a statewide snapshot of households experiencing homelessness in our communities; where they find shelter, what their needs are, and what factors contribute to making them homeless. The 2018 Count reveals important demographic and other information about families and individuals experiencing homelessness on the night of Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. These findings help to understand how to better allocate housing resources and services in order to prevent and end homelessness.

### This Report

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).

The findings in this report are presented in the following sections:

1. Racial Disparities among the Total Homeless Population;
2. Total homeless population;
3. Subpopulations
  - a. Unsheltered
  - b. Chronically Homeless
  - c. Veterans
  - d. Victims of Domestic Violence
  - e. Youth

In addition to the main findings presented in the body of this report, Appendix B includes charts illustrating the responses to all survey questions that were part of the 2018 Point-In-Time Count. Appendix A contains information on data collection and methodology.

### Definition of Terms

Household - 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').

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.

Emergency Shelter - any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements.

Transitional Housing - a project that is designed to provide housing and appropriate supportive services to homeless persons to facilitate movement to independent living within 24 months.

Safe Haven - a form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who come primarily from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services. Safe Haven programs offer low barriers to program entry and low-demand services and referrals in a 24-hour residential setting to no more than 25 persons.

#### Changes affecting the 2018 Point-in-Time Count

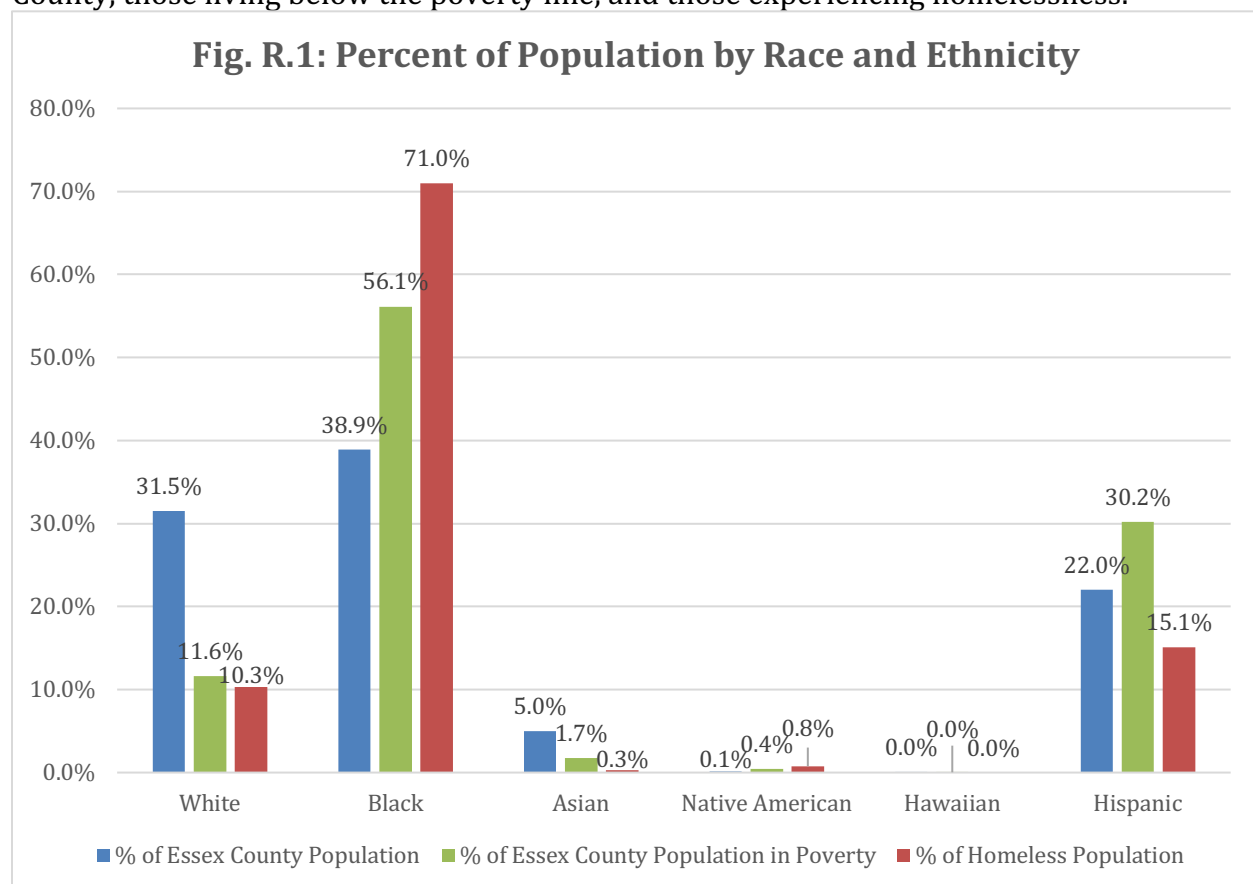
For 2018, a number of factors contributed to significant changes in the counted population experiencing homelessness. The factors impacting the count vary from community to community and are best described locally. One such factor significantly impacting the count statewide is a recent State law which now requires all counties to organize, in conjunction with local municipalities, emergency warming centers to shelter homeless persons during severe cold-weather “Code Blue” events. For 2018, this brought more persons experiencing homelessness into the Count that may have previously gone uncounted. It is important to note that while there was an overall increase in counted homeless persons from 2017 to 2018 statewide, the actual rate of change varies from county to county and also includes variation in the sheltered versus unsheltered counted population experiencing homelessness with some communities identifying a decrease while other communities identified an increase.

When reviewing data included in this report, it is important to keep in mind that the Point-in-Time data includes a census of all persons in sheltering programs (emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe haven programs) as well as the unsheltered population identified on the night of the count. While there is uniformity and complete coverage in data collection for those utilizing the sheltering system within communities, each county develops a local methodology to identify and engage unsheltered persons within the community. As such, the strength of the unsheltered count varies from community to community. In addition, it is generally accepted that while communities work to identify and engage all persons living unsheltered within their geographic region, the count of persons unsheltered in the community may not reflect the full population experiencing homelessness.

## II. Racial Disparities in Total Homeless Population

NJ Counts 2018 provides a snapshot of the population experiencing homelessness in the state of New Jersey on a single night. The results of this report are intended to assist communities in understanding the characteristics and needs of those experiencing homelessness to improve service delivery and resource targeting to effectively end homelessness. As communities work to expand their understanding of the root causes of homelessness it is important recognize the structural forces impacting trajectories into and out of homelessness. Disparities in who experiences homelessness highlight the impact of a pervasive structural force: Systemic Racism. Acknowledging and understanding the impact of systemic racism on those experiencing homelessness is key to developing an effective system responsive to the community and strengthened in cultural understanding and awareness.

On January 23, 2018 there were 2,229 persons experiencing homelessness on a single night in Essex County. Figure R.1 illustrates the racial breakdown of the total population in Essex County, those living below the poverty line, and those experiencing homelessness.

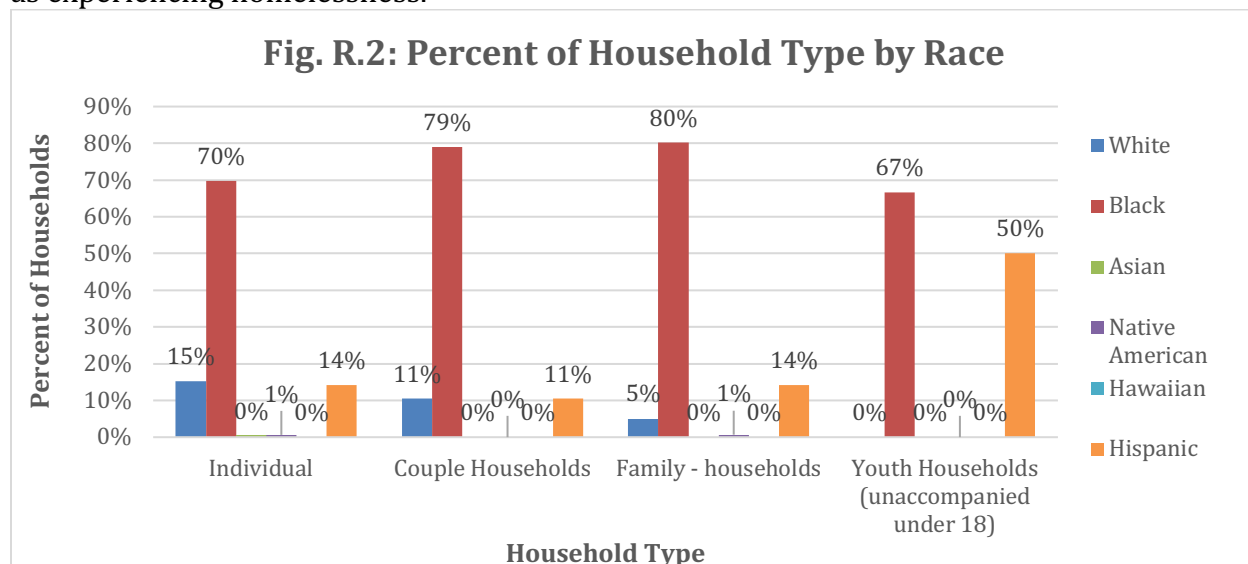


In looking at the racial breakdown of those experiencing homelessness in relation to the racial breakdown in the general population and those living in poverty, disparate impacts along racial lines become evident. According to the American Community Survey 2016 annual estimates prepared by the Census Bureau, about 792,586 people live in Essex County, and 16.8% (132,940 persons) of Essex County residents are living below the poverty line.

There is a strong correlation between poverty and homelessness, however, the racial disparities evident in the counted population indicate that poverty alone does not determine who will experience homelessness. Given the disparities present in the data, it is evident that systemic racism plays a significant role in factors contributing to homelessness. The data from Figure R.1 indicates the following:

- Persons identifying as Black or African American are overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness. While 38.9% of the general population, persons identifying as Black or African American are 56.1% of the population in poverty and 71% of the population identified as experiencing homelessness.
- Persons identifying as Asian have the lowest rates of homelessness making up 5% county population, 1.7% of the population living below the poverty level, and .3% of the identified population experiencing homelessness.
- While persons identifying as Black or African American and Hispanic/Latino represent the majority of persons living below the poverty line (56.1% and 30.2% respectively), they represent differing rates of the population identified as homelessness – 71% are persons identifying as Black or African American, and 15.1% are persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino.
- Persons identifying as Black or African American represent 72.5% of the sheltered population (staying in emergency shelter, transitional housing or safe havens) and 74.4% of the unsheltered population. Persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino represent 15.9% of the sheltered population and 13.5% of the unsheltered population. Persons identifying as White non-Hispanic/Latino represent 10.5% of the sheltered population and 11.1% of the unsheltered population.

Figure R.2 illustrates the racial breakdown within each household type for those identified as experiencing homelessness.



- Persons identifying as Black or African American make up the majority of all household types.
- Among Black or African Americans identified as experiencing homelessness, 21% are family households. Among Hispanics identified as experiencing homelessness 18%

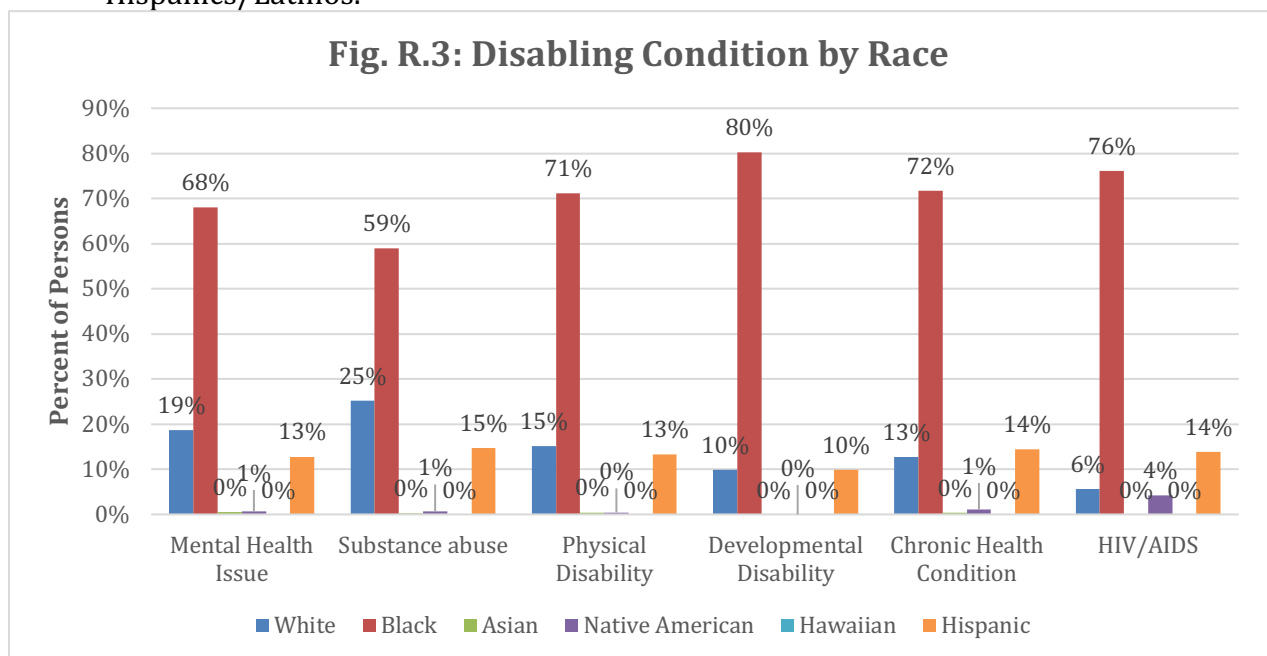
are family households. Among Whites identified as experiencing homelessness, 7% are family households.

Disparities along racial and ethnic lines in the population experiencing homelessness are seen in a number of other areas including the following:

- Among persons identifying as Black or African American, 25% are children under the age of 18. Among persons identifying as Hispanic, 30% are children under the age of 18. In contrast, 6% of persons identifying as White are children under the age of 18.
- Among youth ages 18 – 24, 83% identified as Black or African American.
- 60% of persons identifying as White indicated a disabling condition as compared to 34% of Blacks or African Americans and 35% of Hispanics.

Figure R.3 illustrates the racial breakdown within each disabling condition reported.

- Among persons identifying as Black or African American, 19% reported a mental health issue making this the most prevalent disability within the racial group. Similarly, mental health issues were the most prevalent disability reported by 33% of persons identifying as Asian.
- Among persons identifying as White, 45% reported a substance abuse disorder making this the most prevalent disability within the racial group. Similarly, substance abuse disorders were the most prevalent disability reported by 18% of Hispanics/Latinos.



Disparities were seen in a number of other questions included in the PIT survey in addition to the ones reported here. Given this information, it is clear that more research is needed to fully understand the causes, correlations and impacts as it relates to racial disparities. In addition, this information highlights the need for homeless service systems to make deliberate efforts to understand and address racial disparities in order to better serve those experiencing homelessness and effectively end their homelessness.

### III. Findings for Total Homeless Population

#### Key Findings

- On the night of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, a total of 1,654 households, including 2,229 persons, were experiencing homelessness in Essex County, according to the 2018 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 250 persons, in 248 households, were identified as chronically homeless.
- 389 households, with 396 persons were unsheltered on the night of the count.

**Figure i. Number of Homeless Persons by Municipality and Percentage of County Total**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Total Homeless Persons</b>	<b>% of Total Homeless Persons</b>	<b>Sheltered Homeless Persons</b>	<b>% of Sheltered Homeless Persons</b>	<b>Unsheltered Homeless Persons</b>	<b>% of Unsheltered Homeless Persons</b>
Belleville	2	0%	0	0%	2	1%
Bloomfield	8	0%	0	0%	8	2%
City of Orange	18	1%	12	1%	6	2%
East Orange	95	4%	71	4%	24	6%
Fairfield	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%
Irvington	65	3%	53	3%	12	3%
Montclair	70	3%	54	3%	16	4%
Newark	1928	88%	1608	89%	320	81%
North Caldwell	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%
South Orange	14	1%	12	1%	2	1%
West Orange	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2203</b>		<b>1810</b>		<b>393</b>	

## Total Homeless Population

On the night of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, a total of 2,229 persons, in 1,654 households, were experiencing homelessness in Essex County, according to the 2018 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 181 persons (9%) and 147 households (10%) from 2017.

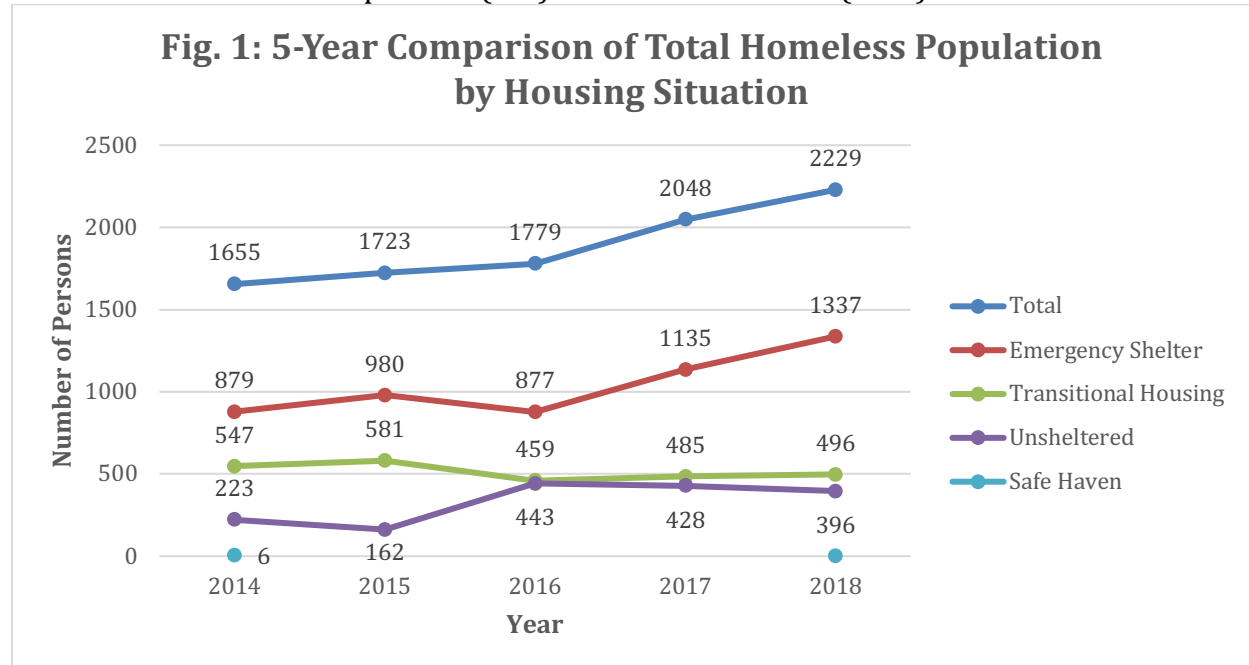
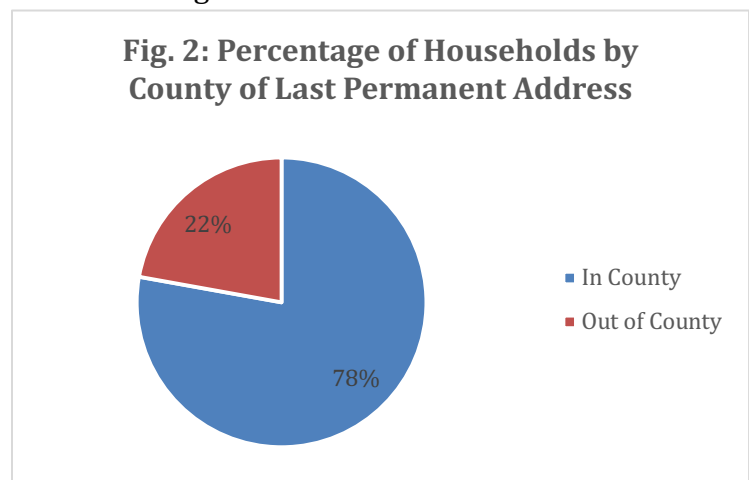


Figure 1 shows that, in 2018, 1,337 homeless persons stayed in emergency shelters, 496 stayed in transitional housing, and 396 were living unsheltered on the night of the count. When comparing to 2017, increases are seen in the number of homeless persons staying in emergency shelter (202 persons, 18%) and those in transitional housing (11 persons, 2%). There was a decrease in the number of persons counted as unsheltered counted in 2018 when compared to 2017 (32 persons, 7%).

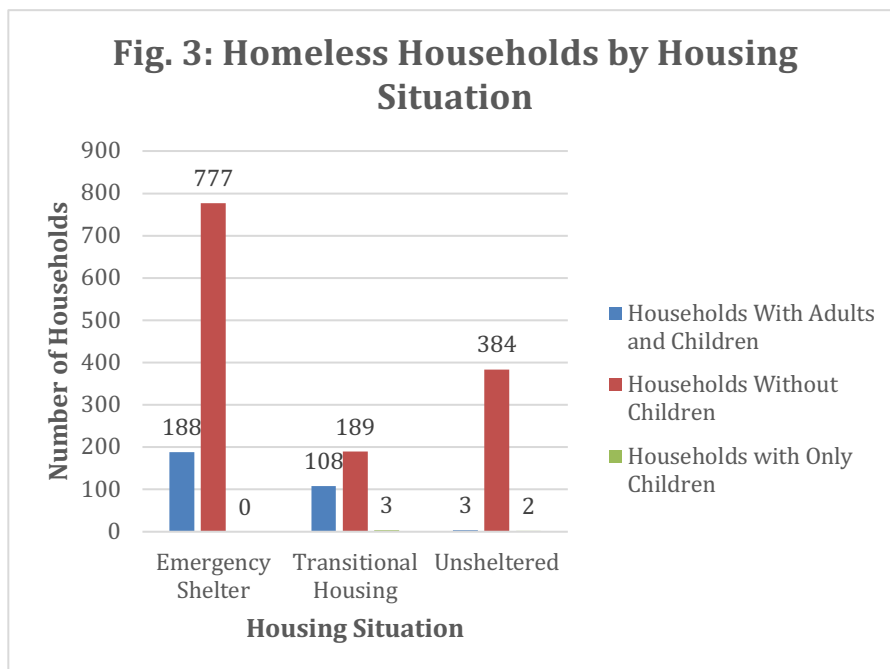
Figure 1 also shows that, over the past five years, Essex County has seen an overall increase of 574 counted persons, or 35% from 2014 to 2018. Over this 5-year period, there was a 9% decrease in persons staying in transitional housing. There was a 78% increase in identified unsheltered persons between 2014 and 2018 and a 52% increase in those staying in emergency shelters.

As Figure 2 shows, 22% of the homeless households respondents in Essex County in 2018 reported that their 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."



Of the 1,654 homeless households counted in Essex County in 2018, 299 (18%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. This is an increase of about 10% from the number counted in 2017. These families included 861 persons, with 517 children under 18 and 344 adults. The average family size was 2.88 persons. Figure 3 shows that 188 families (63%) were staying in emergency shelters, 108

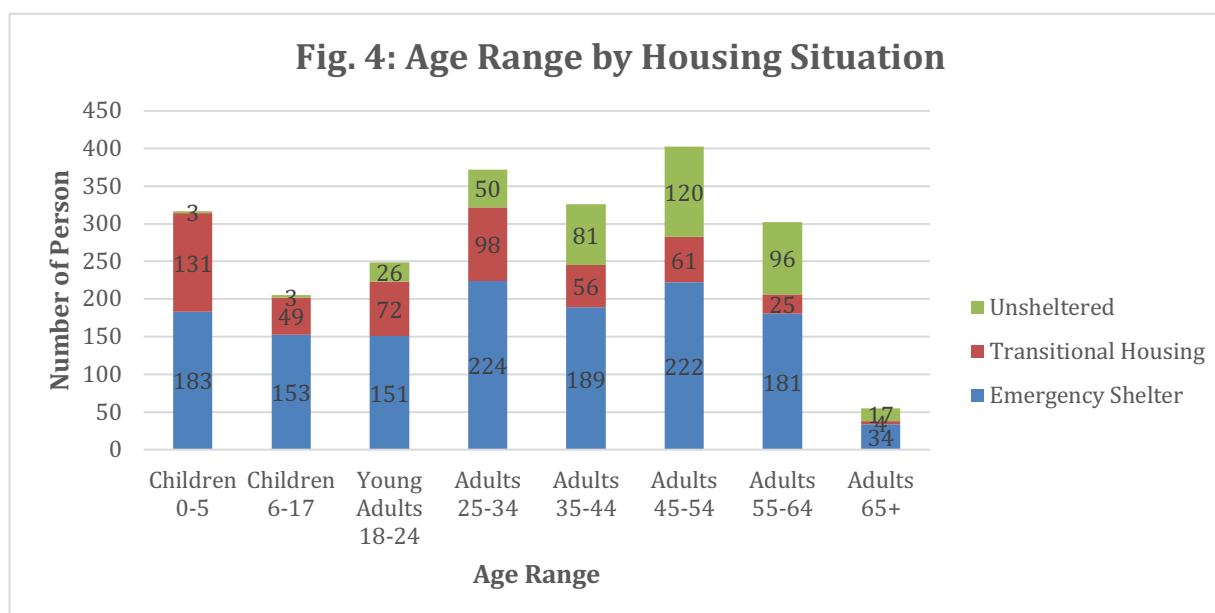
families (36%) were in transitional housing, and 3 families (1%) were unsheltered.

1,350 (82%) of the identified homeless households in Essex County were households without children under 18, and they were composed of 1,363 adults. This is an increase of 10% from the number of adult only households identified in 2017. The majority of adult only households (58%) were staying in emergency shelters on the night of the count. 384 adult only households were counted as unsheltered in 2018, a decrease of 32 households (8%) from the number identified in 2017.

As Figure 3 indicates, 5 households with only children under 18 years old were reported in 2018, a decrease of 5 households (50%) from the number counted in 2017. 60% of these unaccompanied youth households were staying in transitional housing. In 2018 2 unsheltered unaccompanied youth were identified as compared to the 0 unsheltered unaccompanied youth households identified in 2017.

## Demographics

There were a total of 249 (11%) identified homeless adults between 18 and 24 years old, 1,458 (65%) adults over age 24, and 522 (23%) children under 18 years old experiencing homelessness on the night of the count. Figure 4 shows that the age range most represented is Adults between 45 and 54 (403 persons, 18%).

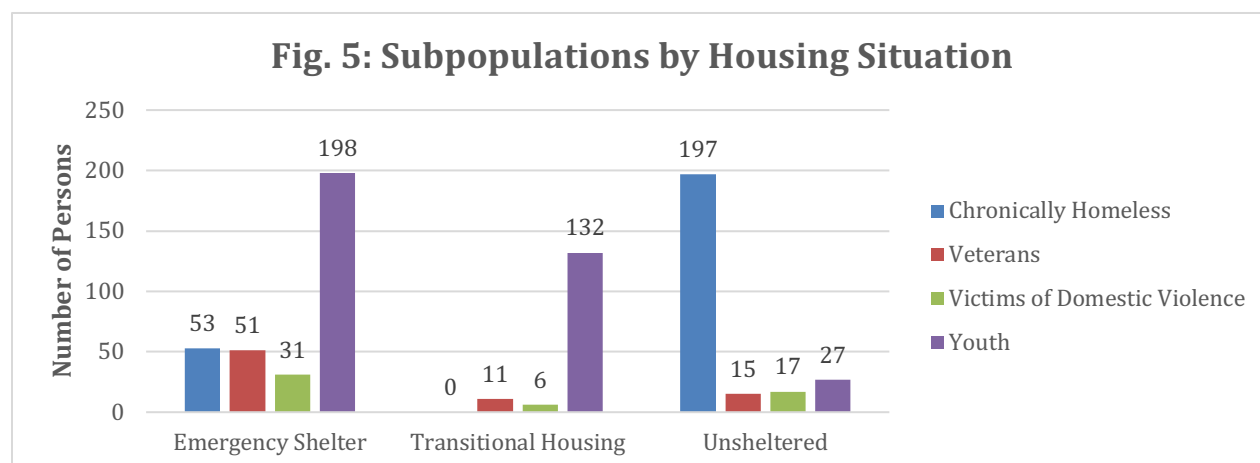


55.4% (1220) of homeless persons were male, 44% (970) were female and 13 (0.6%) were transgender.

71% (1,582) 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 (10.3%, 230 persons), followed by those identifying as American Indian/ Alaska Native (.8%, 17 persons). With regard to ethnicity, 15.5% of persons identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

### Subpopulations

On the night of January 23, 2018 out of the 2,229 persons identified as homeless, there were a total of 250 Chronically Homeless persons, representing 11.2% of the counted homeless population. There were 77 homeless veterans representing 4.5% of the counted adult homeless population. 54 Victims of Domestic Violence were identified representing 2.4% of the total identified homeless population. Homeless Youth (individuals and families with

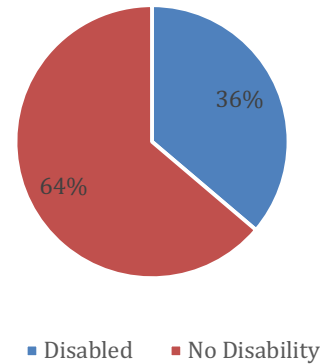


heads of households 24 years old or younger) represented 16% of the counted homeless population with 357 persons identified. Figure 5 illustrates the break-down of each subpopulation identified by housing type. As illustrated in Figure 5 the majority of Chronically Homeless persons identified were unsheltered on the night of the count whereas the majority of Veterans, Victims of Domestic Violence and Youth were in emergency shelter programs.

## Disabilities

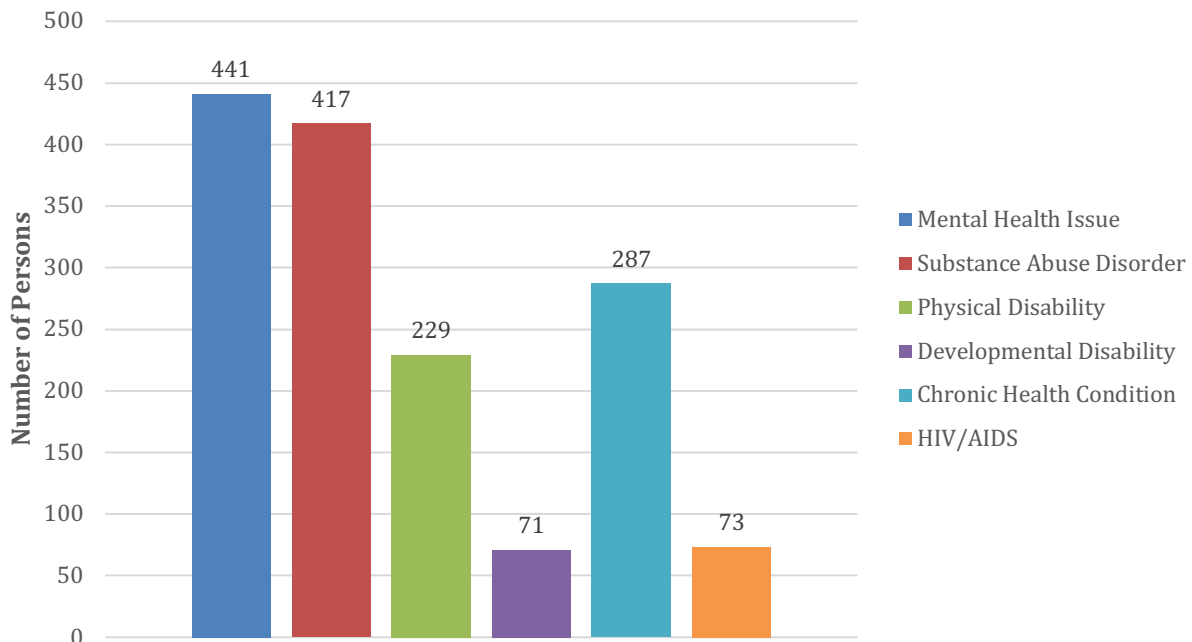
Figure 6 illustrates that 36.2% of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. 45.8% of adults 18 or older reported some type of disability compared to 4.8% of children. Figure 7 shows the number of counted homeless persons that identified as having various disabilities. The most common disabilities included mental health issues and substance abuse disorders.

**Fig. 6: Percent of Population with a Disability**



Among disabled persons, 54.6% reported mental health issues making this the most prevalent disability; representing 55.5% of the identified disabled adult homeless population and 19.8% of the total population counted as experiencing homelessness. 52.9% of disabled adults reported a substance abuse disorder. Among disabled homeless children, 32% reported a developmental disability and another 56% reported a chronic health condition.

**Fig. 7: Number of Persons by Disability Type**



## Income and Benefits

Among all households experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, 53.1% had no source of income, and 7.7% reported having earned income. The most common sources of income among homeless households were SSI (14.7%) and TANF (12.1%) followed by General Assistance (6.2%). Figure 8 shows the income sources reported by respondents in relation to their housing situation on the night of the count.

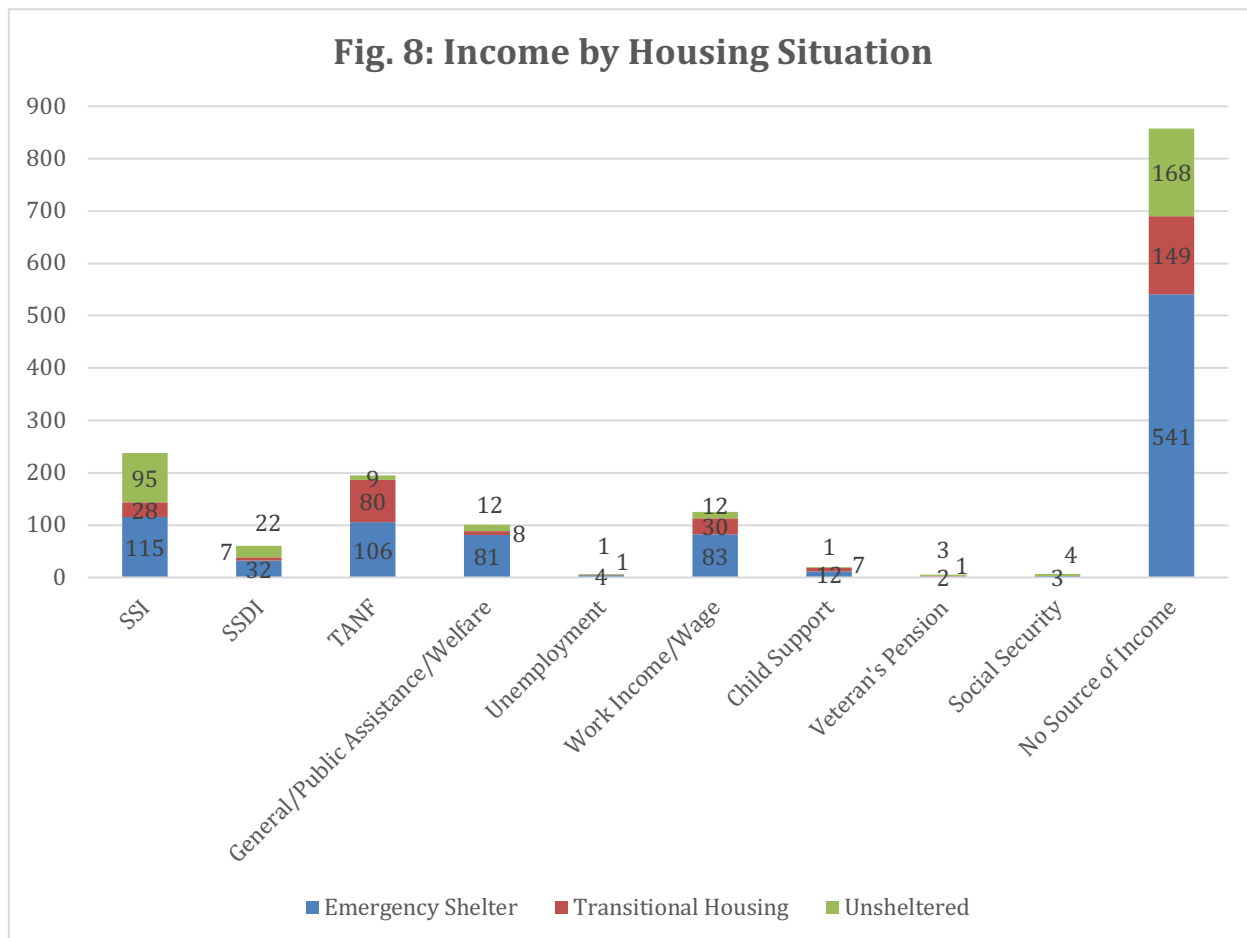


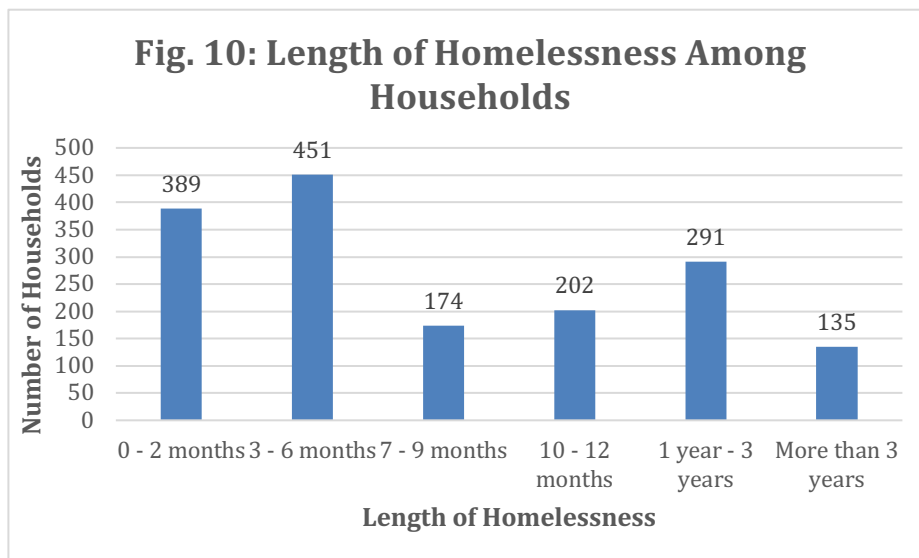
Figure 9 show the average monthly income among households in each housing situation.

<b>Figure 9. Average Monthly Income For Households by Housing Situation</b>			
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered
Average for All Households	\$609.58	\$747.38	\$335.17

6.2% of counted 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 48.4% of homeless households. Food Stamps (SNAP), was the second most reported non-cash benefit received by 33.1% of homeless households.

## Length of Homelessness

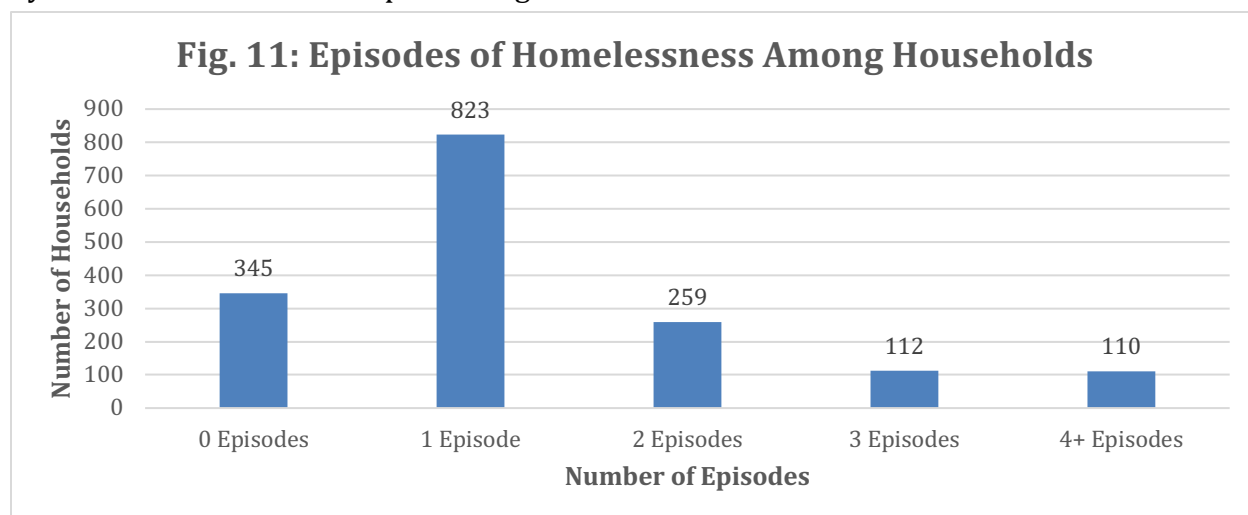
Figure 10 illustrates the total amount of time identified households have reported being homeless. This includes continuous episodes of homelessness as well as the total time from various episodes of homelessness over the past 3 years. As seen in Figure 10, 51.2% of identified homeless households



reported their total length of homelessness was between 0 and 6 months. Within this group, 23.7% were homeless from 0 – 2 months and 27.5% were homeless between 3 and 6 months. For those with longer periods of homelessness, 25.9% of homeless households reported that their total length of homelessness was more than 1 year. In looking at those households that had lengths of homelessness exceeding one year, 291 households (17.7%) were homeless between 1 and 3 years while 135 households (8.2%) reported their total length of homelessness exceeded 3 years.

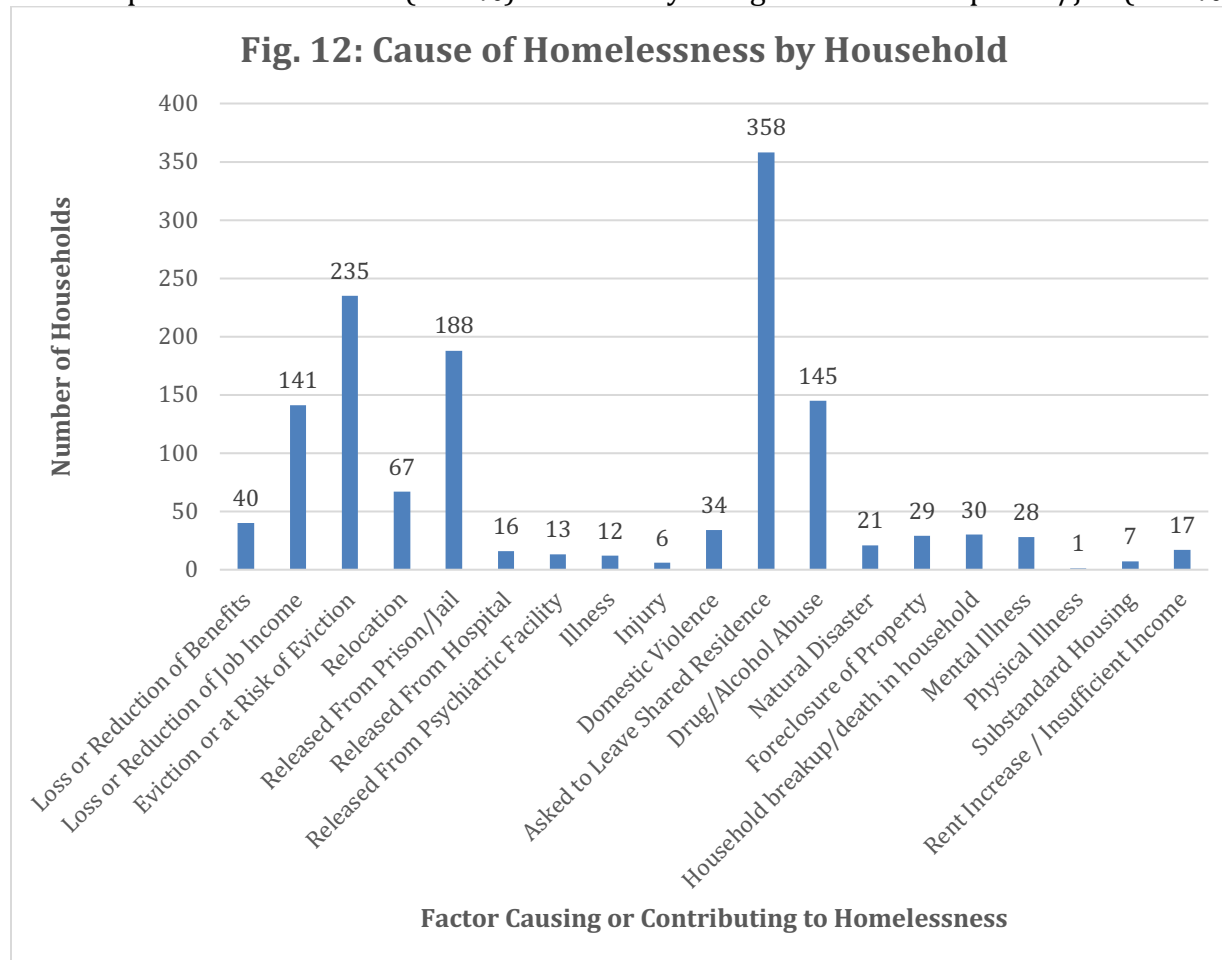
## Episodes of Homelessness

There were a total of 823 households (49.9%) that reported experiencing one episode of homelessness. Figure 11 illustrates the total number of episodes of homelessness reported by identified households experiencing homelessness.



## 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 (358 households, 25.8%) than any other cause. As Figure 12 shows, the next most common factor reported was eviction (16.9%) followed by being released from prison/jail (13.5%).

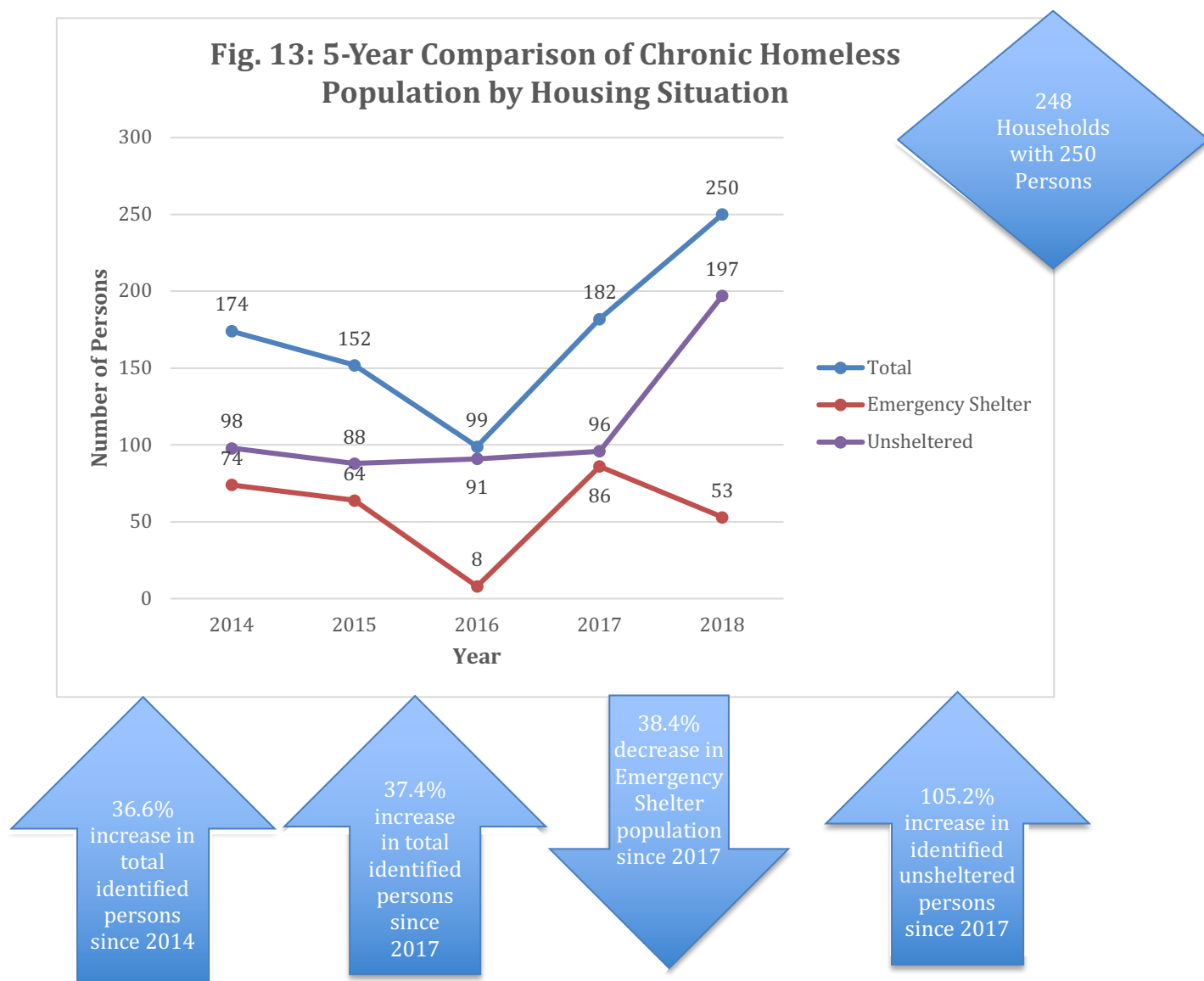


When households were asked ‘what was your residence prior to your current living situation?’ more said they were in Living with Family/friends (25.8%) than any other type of residence. 21.8% reported residing in an emergency shelter and 13.2% reported residing in permanent housing prior to their current living situation.

## IV. Findings for the Chronically Homeless

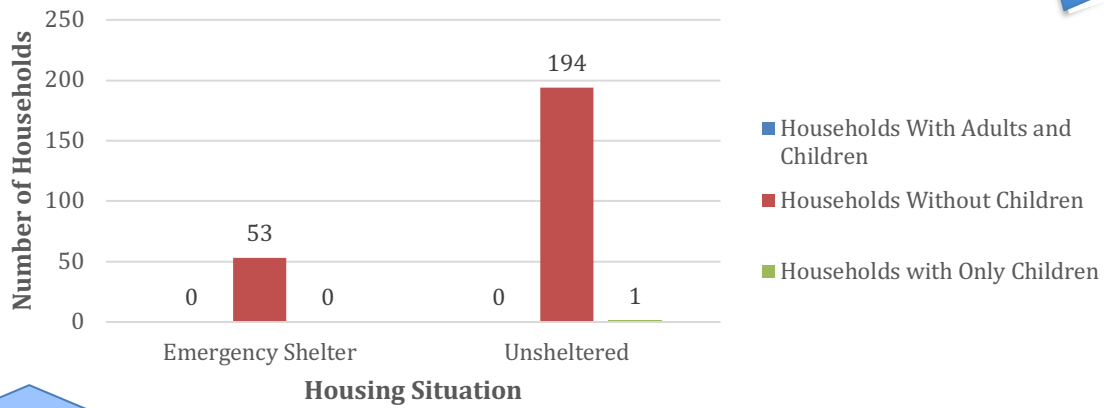
Chronically Homeless households, as defined by HUD, are persons with a long-term disabling condition, who have been continually homeless for a year or more, or at least four times in the past three years where the length of time in those episodes add up to a year or more. Any family with a head of household that meets this definition is considered a chronically homeless family.

Chronically Homeless households are one of the priority populations identified by HUD. This status as a priority population 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.



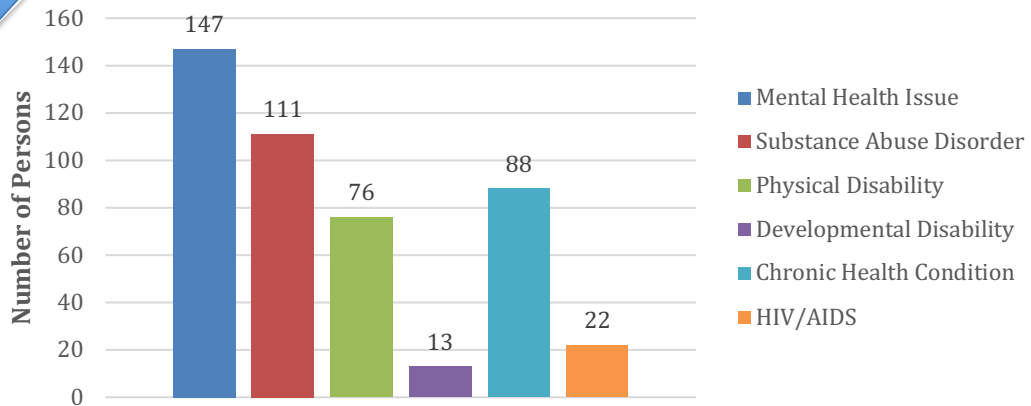
99.6%  
Adult  
Individuals

**Fig. 14: Chronically Homeless Households by Housing Situation**

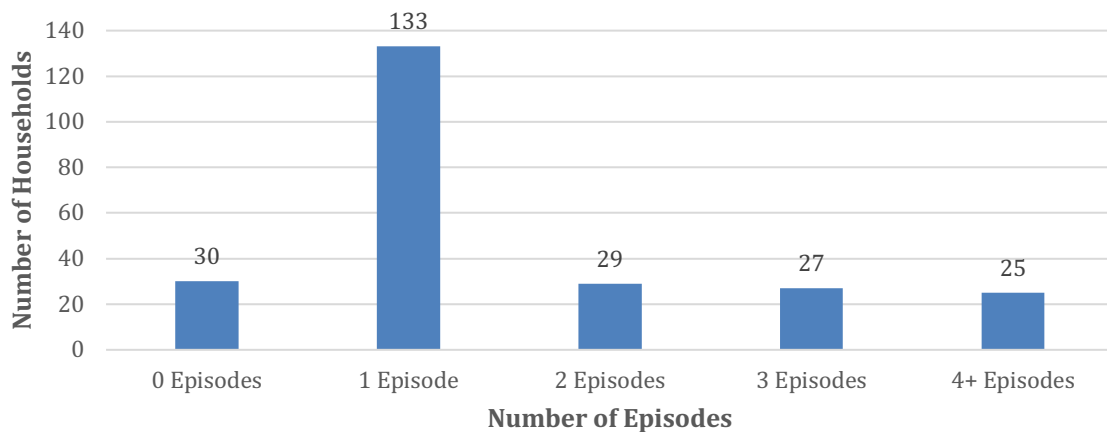


61.1% identified  
multiple  
disabilities

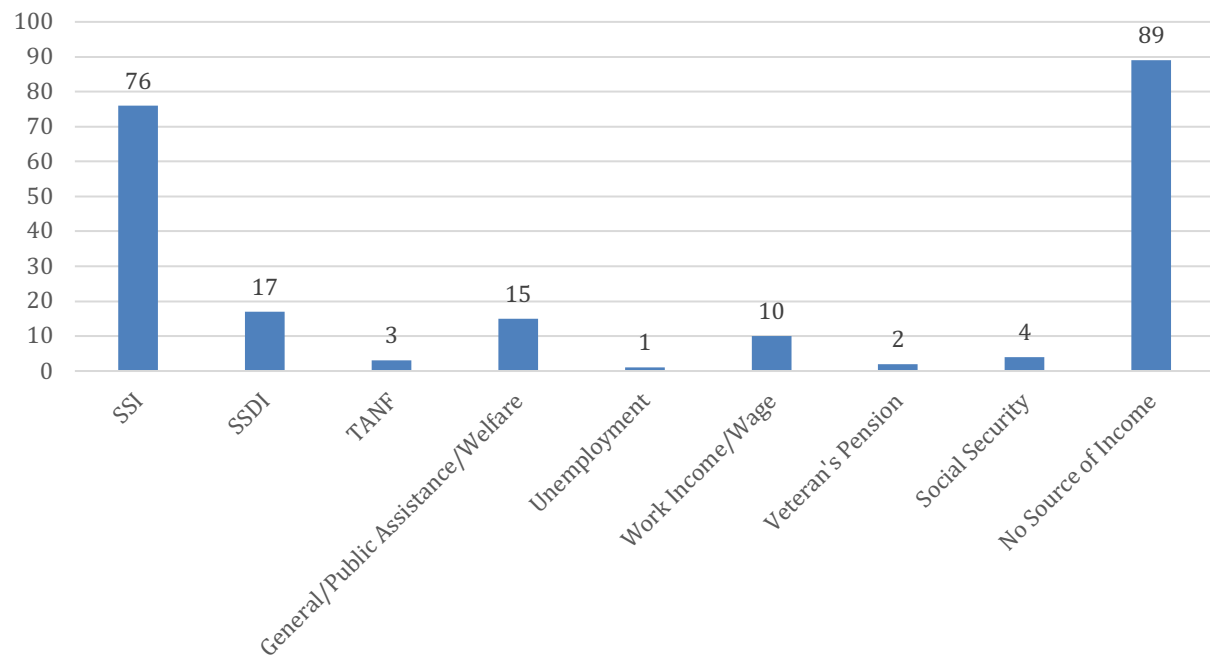
**Fig. 15: Number of Chronically Homeless Persons by Disability Type**



**Fig. 16: Episodes of Homelessness Among Chronically Homeless Households**



**Fig. 17: Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Income Source**

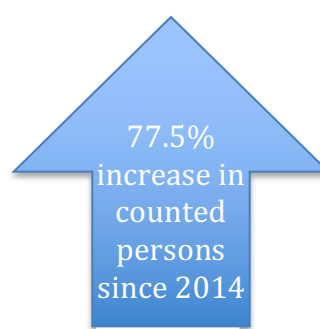
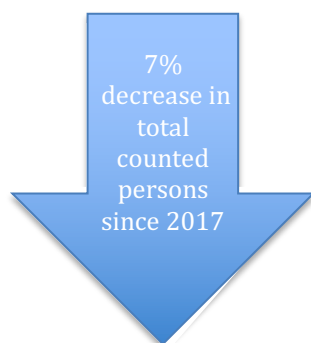
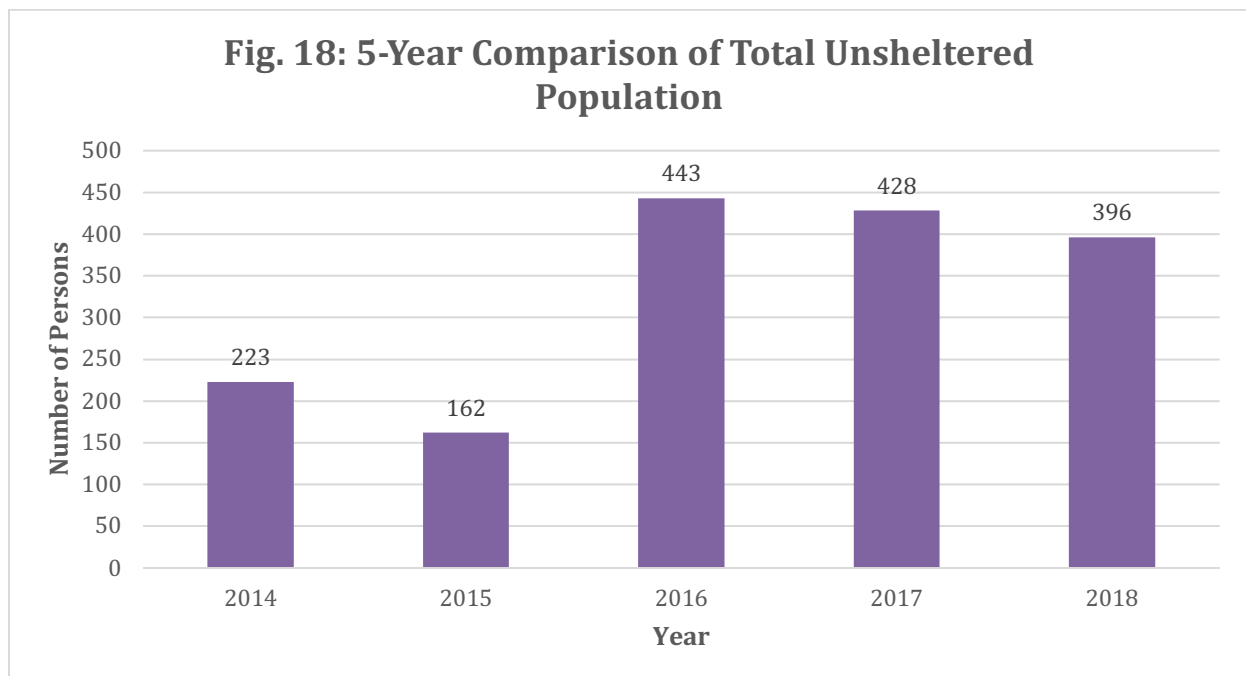


Average income for chronically homeless households is \$423.71

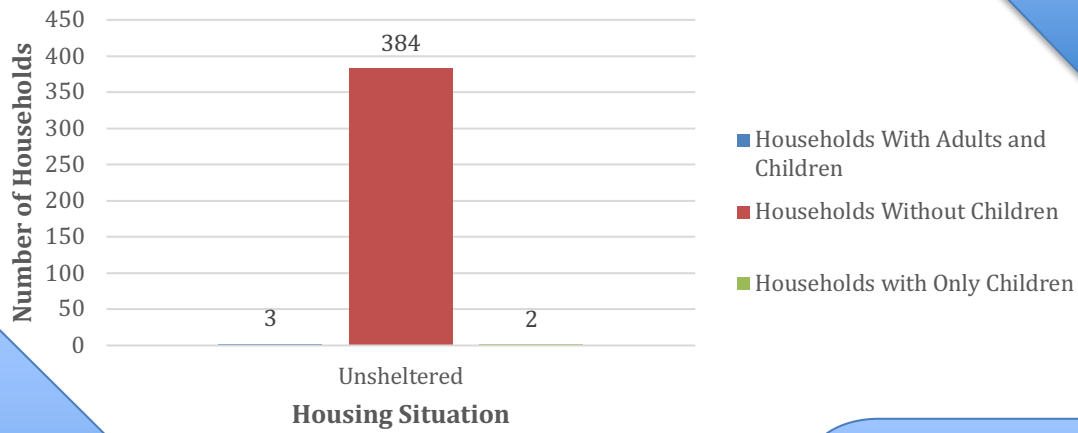
## V. Findings for the Unsheltered Homeless

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.



**Fig. 19: Unsheltered Homeless Households by Household Type**

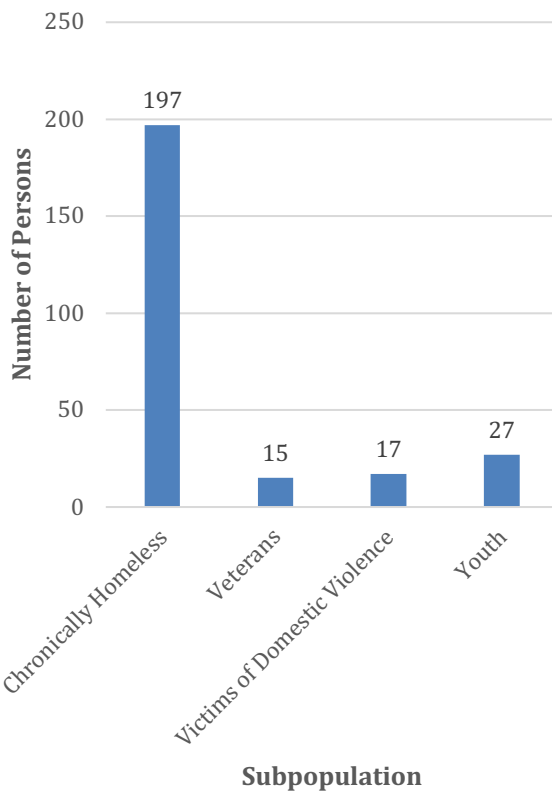


98.7%  
individuals

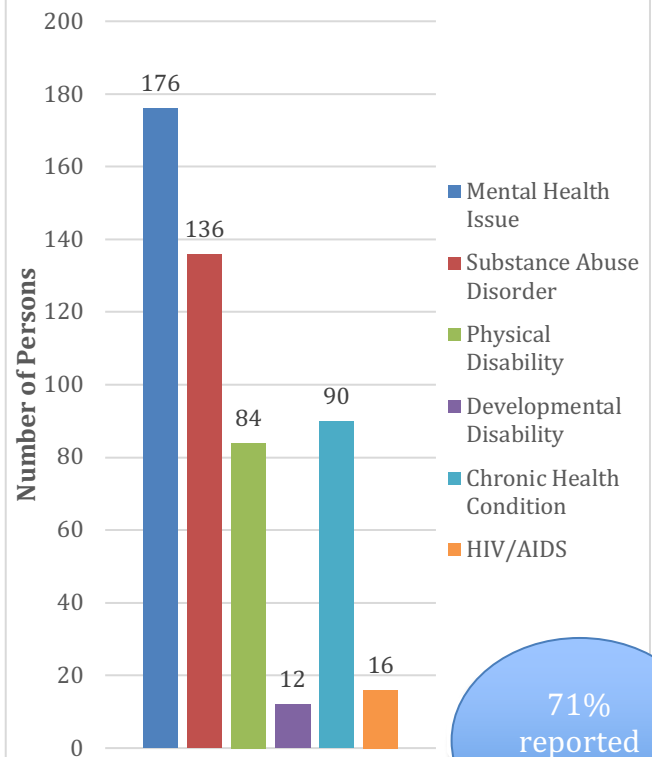
70.3%  
male

78% African American

**Fig. 20: Unsheltered Persons by Subpopulation**

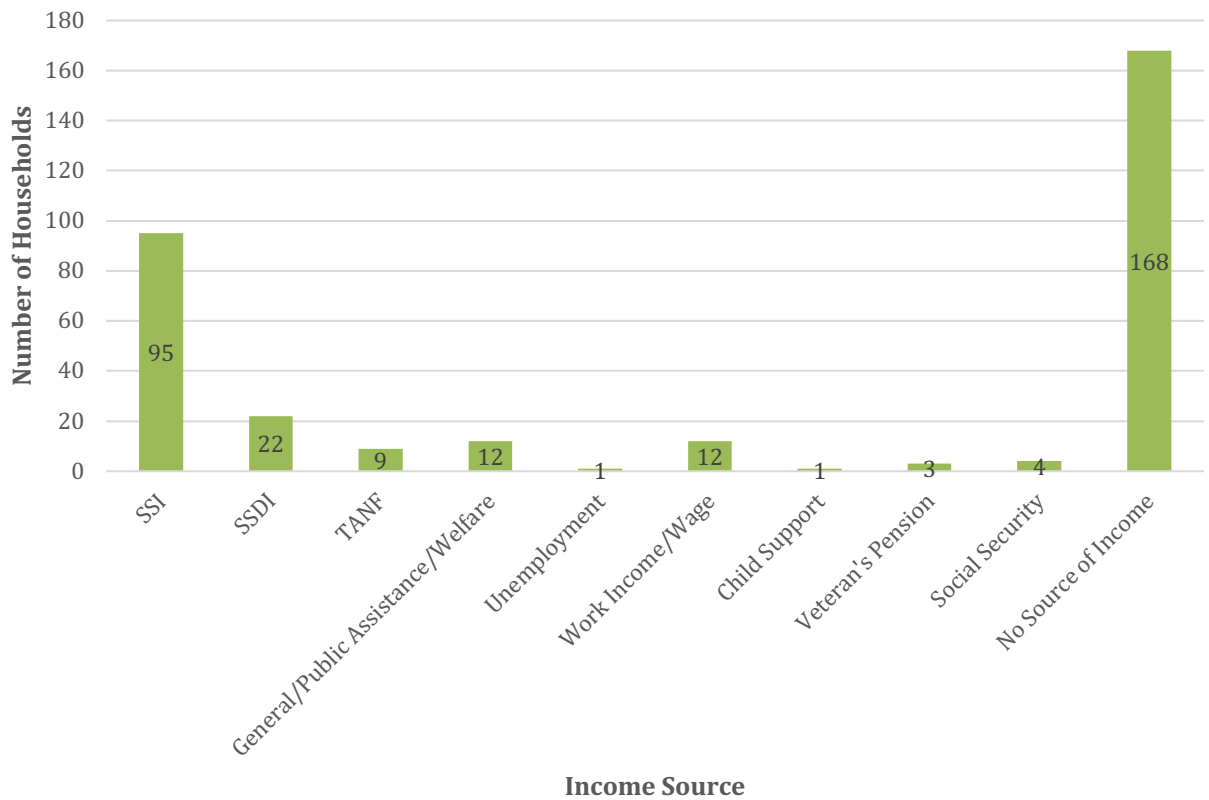


**Fig. 21: Number of Unsheltered Persons by Disability Type**



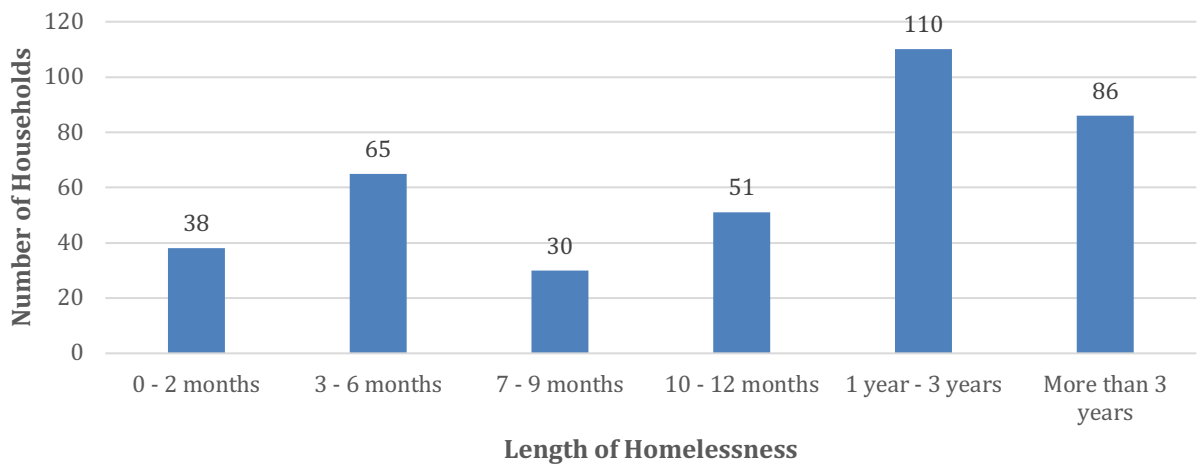
71%  
reported  
disability

**Fig. 22: Income Source of Unsheltered Households**



Average Monthly Income is \$335.17

**Fig. 23: Length of Homelessness Among Unsheltered Households**

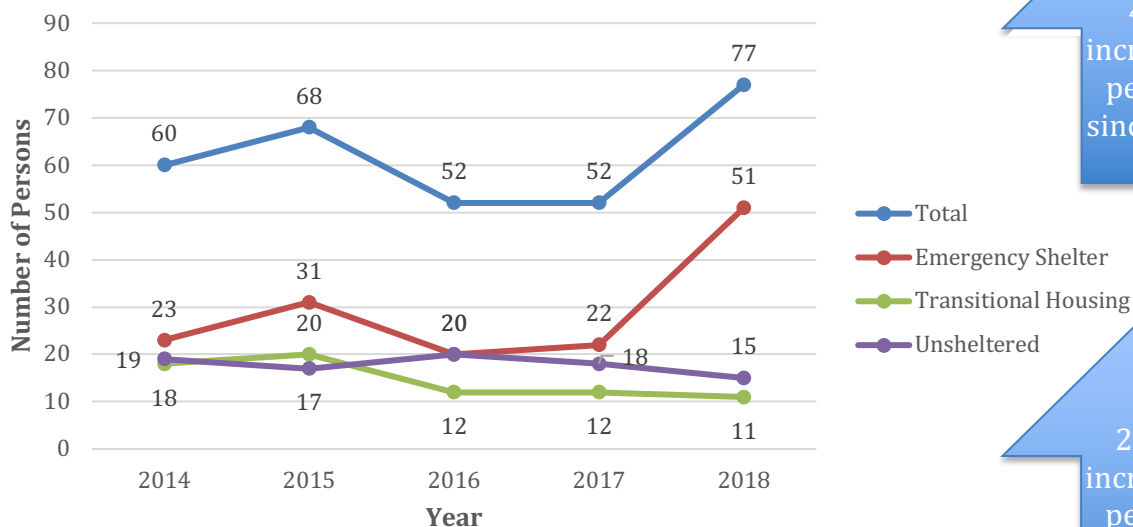


51.6% have been homeless for more than 1 year

## VI. Findings for Homeless Veterans

Veterans are defined as any person of the age of 18 who has served in any branch of the Armed Forces. For the purposes of the Point-in-Time Count, the veteran definition covers any person who has served including those who may not be eligible for veteran services through the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs. 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. Many communities in New Jersey have also been working hard to end homelessness among our country's servicemen and women.

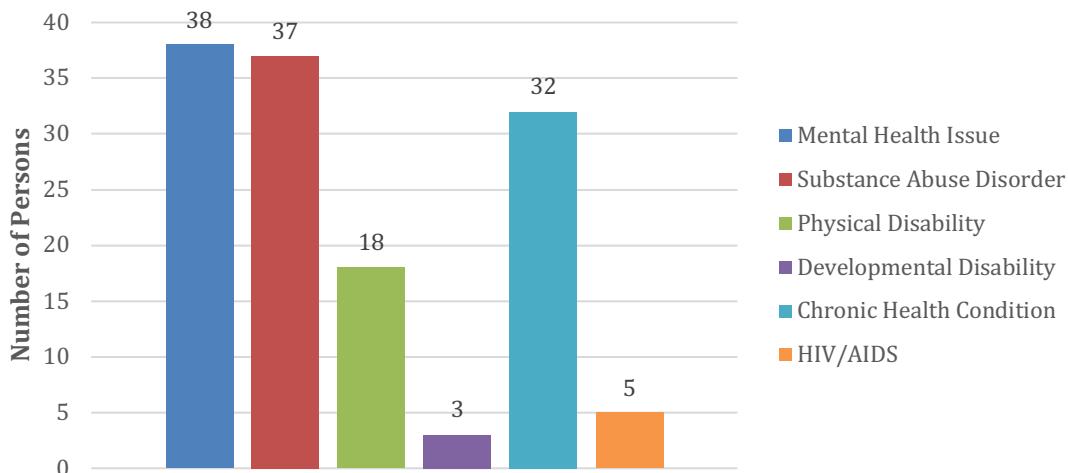
**Fig. 24: 5-Year Comparison of Total Homeless Veteran Population by Housing Situation**



48%  
increase in  
persons  
since 2017

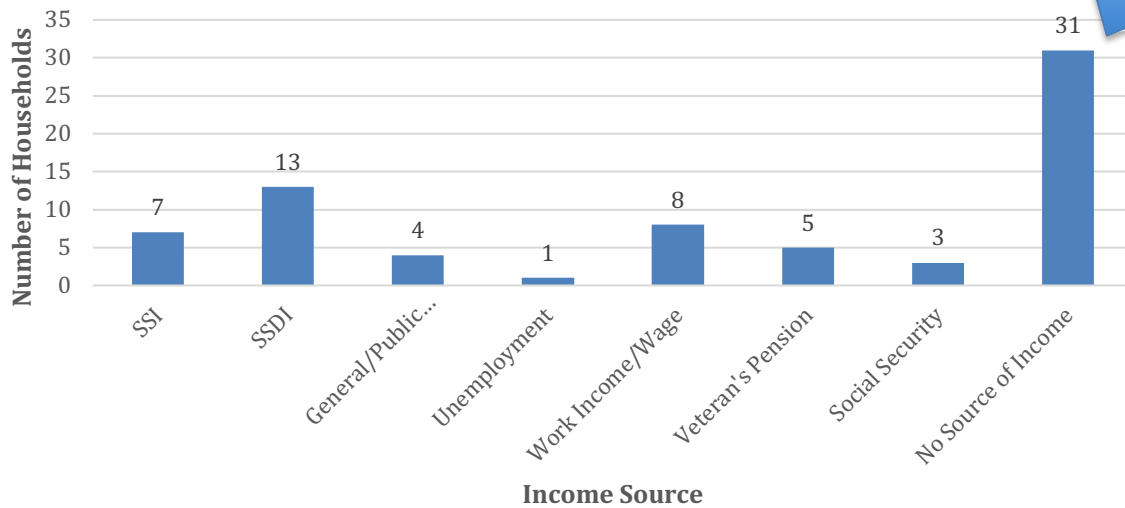
28.3%  
increase in  
persons  
since 2014

**Fig. 25: Number of Veteran Persons by Disability Type**



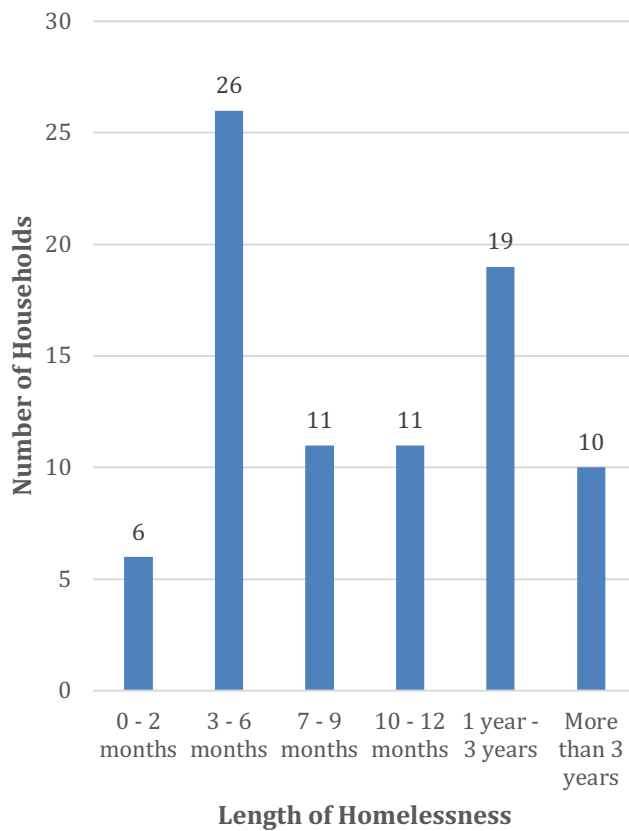
71.4% of  
homeless  
veterans  
identified a  
disability

**Fig. 26: Income by Housing Situation for Veteran Households**

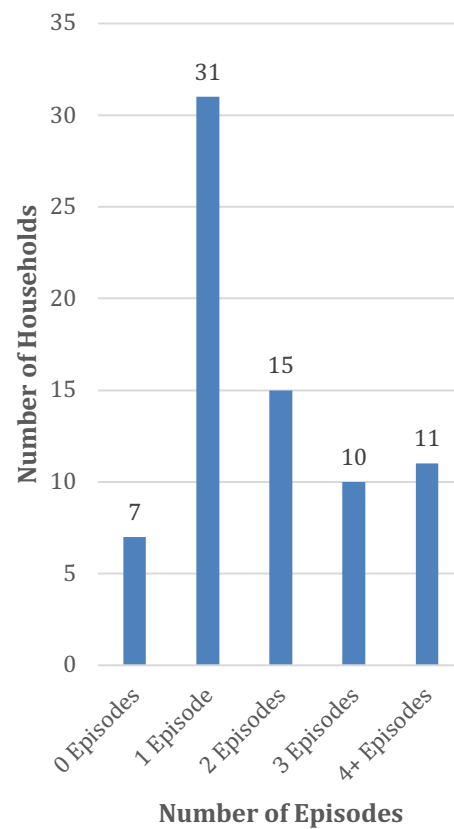


Average  
monthly  
income is  
\$940.83

**Fig. 27: Length of Homelessness Among Veteran Households**



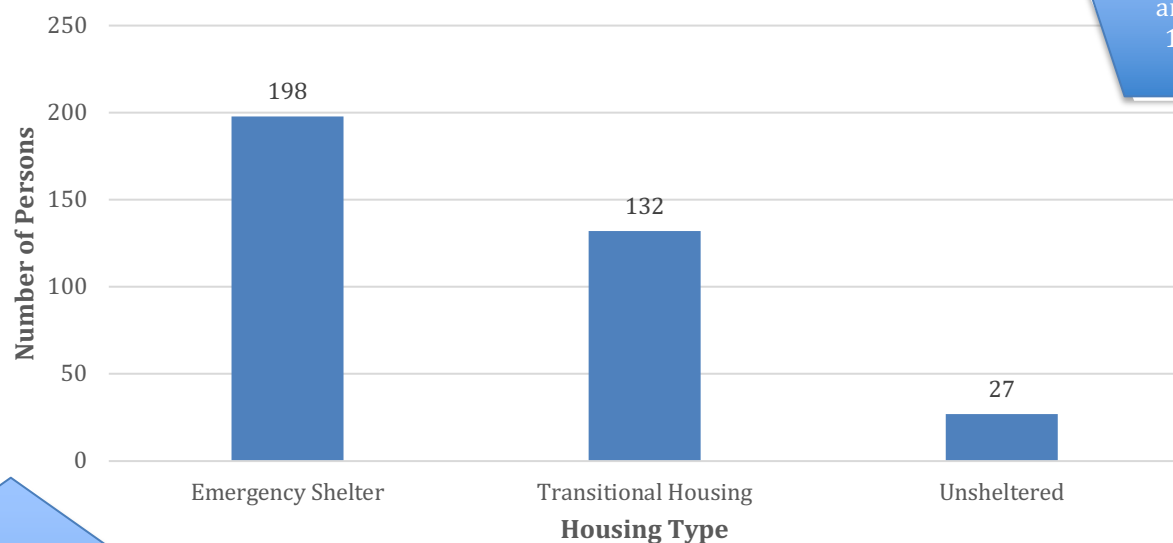
**Fig. 28: Episodes of Homelessness Among Veteran Households**



## VII. Finding for Homeless Youth

Youth are defined as persons under the age of 25 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian. This can include individual unaccompanied youth, youth only households of 2 or more youth presenting together as a household, and pregnant or parenting youth who are the legal guardians of one or more children. The United States Interagency Council has identified homeless youth as one of the priority population of focus in *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. Many communities across New Jersey are working to better understand the scope and needs of the Youth population experiencing homelessness and are working with community partners to end youth homelessness.

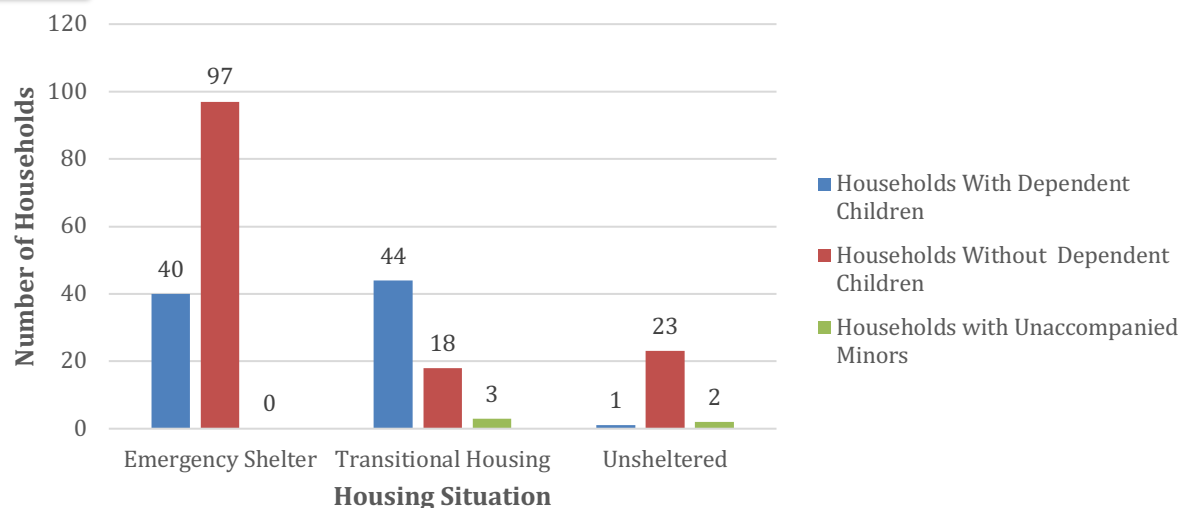
**Fig. 29: Number of Homeless Youth by Housing Situation**



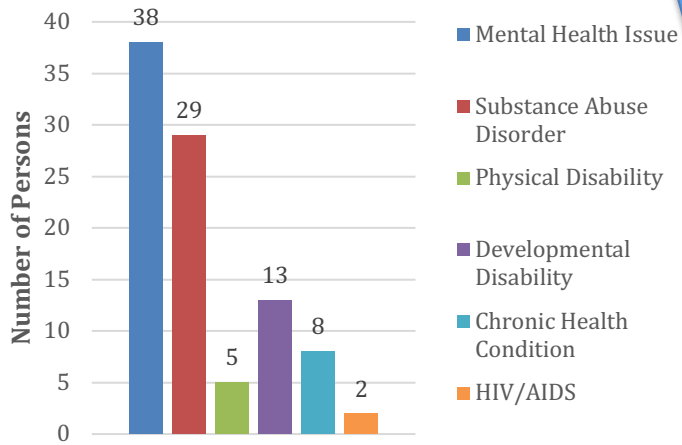
65% of persons are over 18 yrs. old

57.1% are female

**Fig. 30: Homeless Youth Households by Housing Situation**

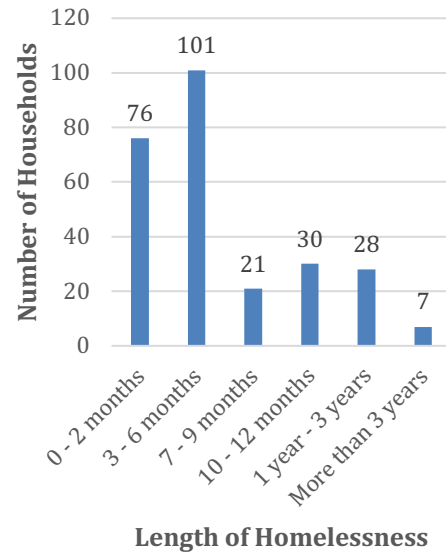


**Fig. 31: Number of Youth by Disability Type**

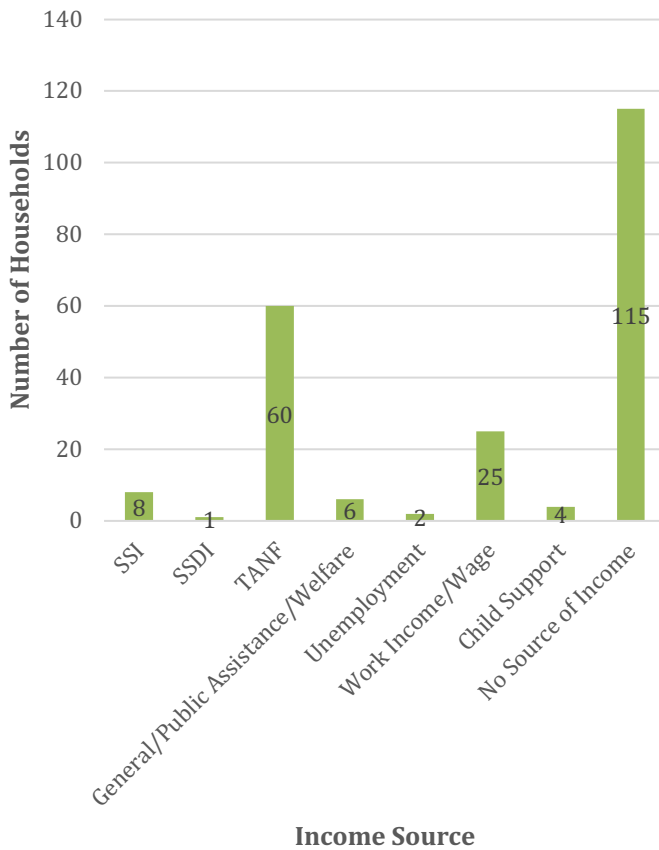


17.6% of youth respondents identified a disability

**Fig. 33: Length of Homelessness Among Youth Households**

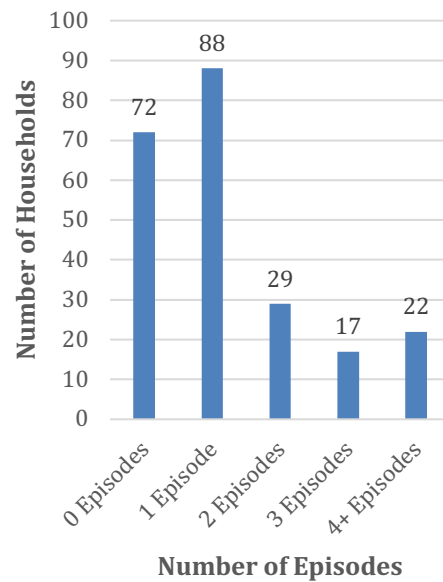


**Fig. 32: Income Sources for Youth Households**



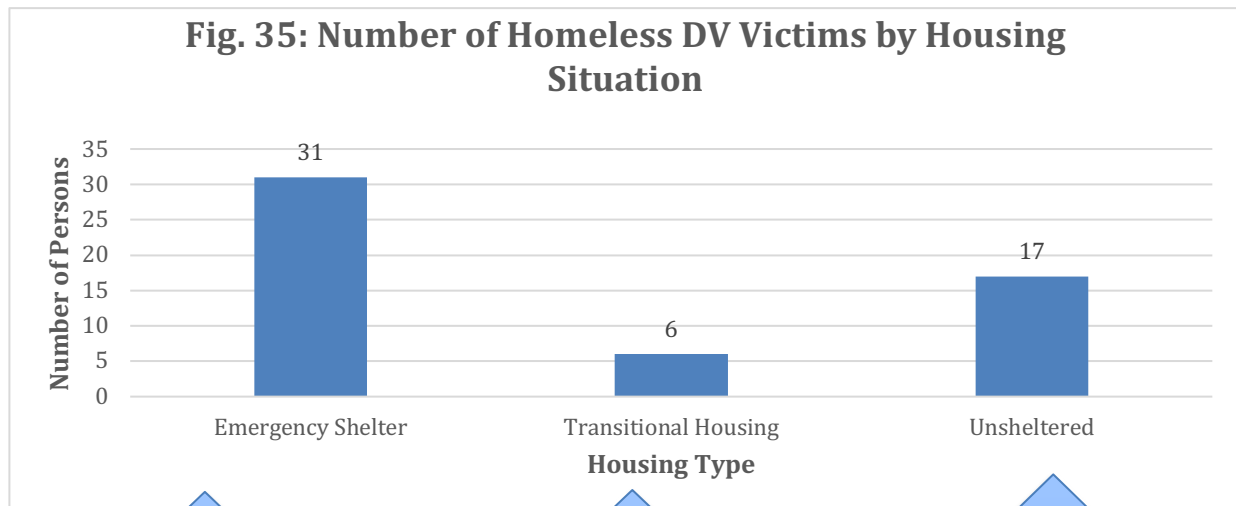
Average Monthly Income is \$486.49

**Fig. 34: Episodes of Homelessness Among Youth Households**



## VIII. Findings for Victims of Domestic Violence

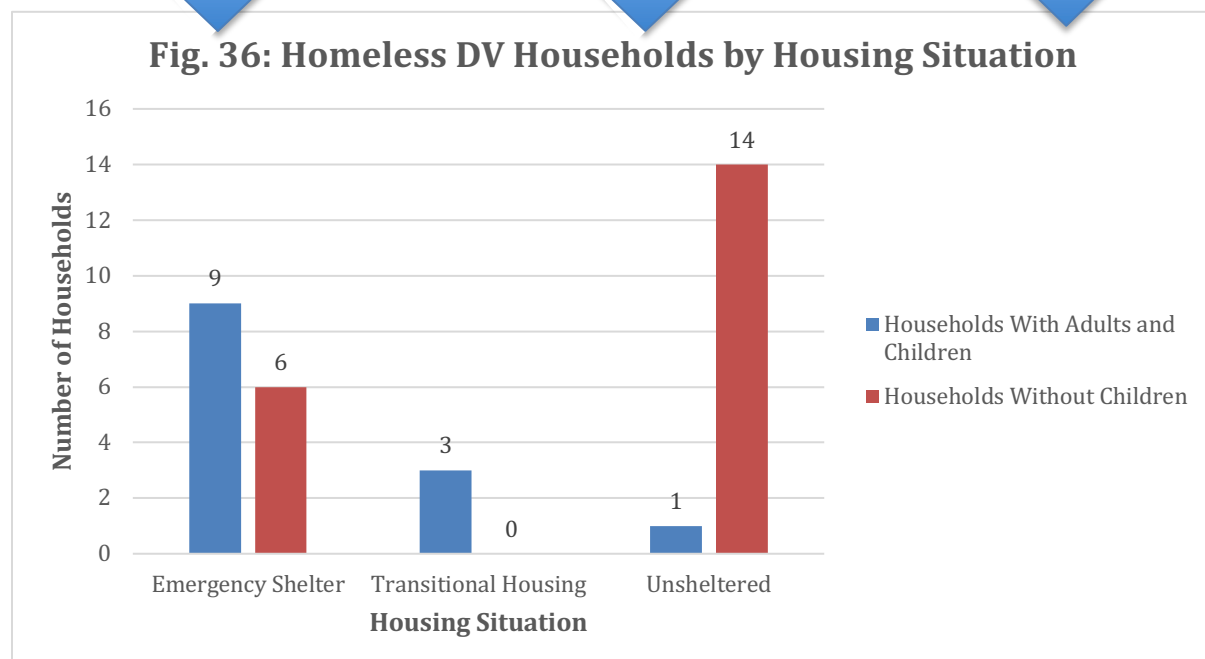
The 2018 Point in Time Count captured information for individuals and families “Fleeing” Domestic Violence. For the purposes of the Point-In-Time Count, Domestic Violence is defined as any household that is fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has taken place in their home, or has created a situation in which the individual or family is afraid to return to their home.



39% are households with children

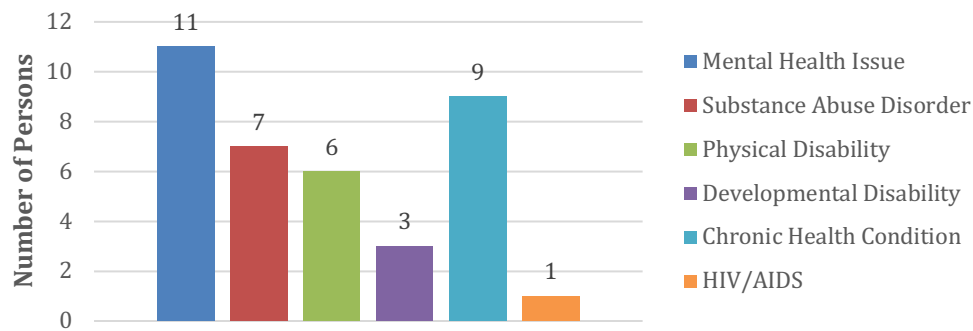
79% are females

83% are African American

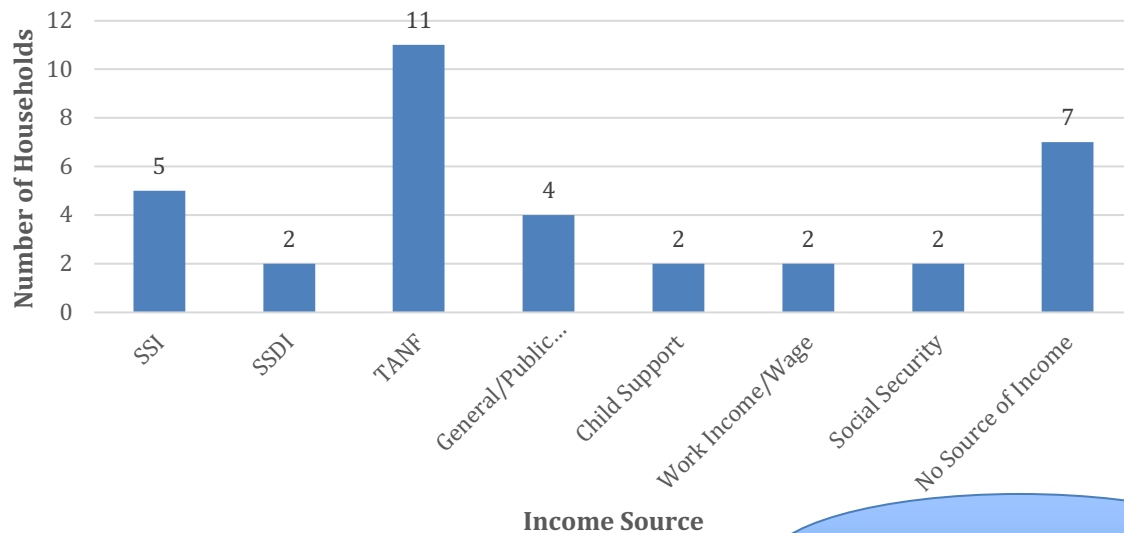


38.9%  
were  
disabled

**Fig. 37: Number of DV Victims by Disability Type**

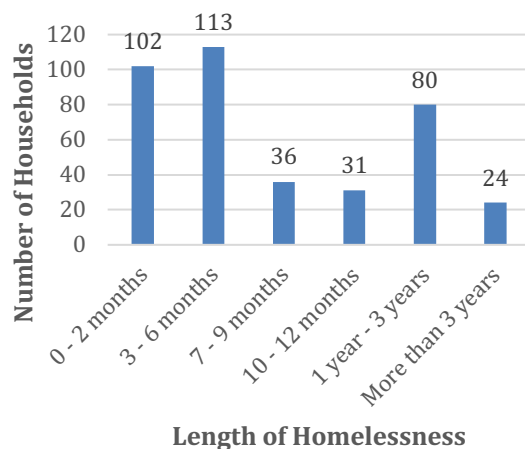


**Fig. 38: Income Source for DV Victim Households**

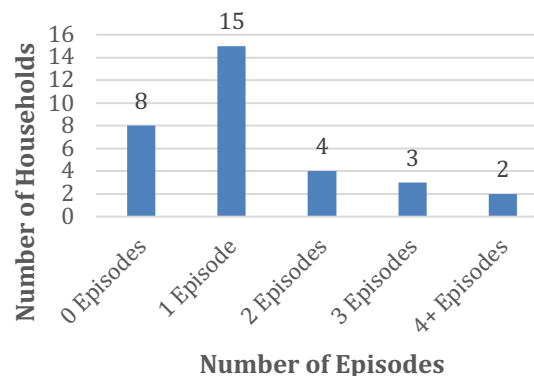


Average Monthly  
Income is \$376.15

**Fig. 39: Length of Homelessness Among DV Victim Households**



**Fig. 40: Episodes of Homelessness Among DV Victim Households**



## IX. Appendix A: 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 their 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 2018 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.

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 2018 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 household information 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 2014 to 2018. 2014, 2016 and 2018 were not HUD required full reporting years while 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 are based on the responses received, while all percentages are 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.
4. The Point in Time Count represents an attempt by communities across the state of New Jersey to capture a complete census of all persons experiencing homelessness both in

shelters and on the street during a single night. While the count is coordinated as a single statewide event, each county across the state develops locally appropriate methodologies for conducting the count of unsheltered persons in the community. As such, there is variation of the scope and depth of the unsheltered count from community to community. However, the sheltered count is conducted in a uniform manner across the state and each community maintains a consistent process for completing the sheltered and unsheltered count from year to year.

5. Given the nature of the Point in Time Count as a one day count of the population experiencing homelessness, data collected on the racial and ethnic breakdown from the PIT is not fully comparable to U.S. Census Bureau data on the racial and ethnic population for the state of New Jersey. While there are limitations on comparing the PIT data, for purposes of examining racial and ethnic disparities, as a result of the single day count, a review of the sheltered population in the State of New Jersey over the course of a full year demonstrates similar trends as seen in the PIT data in which persons identifying as African American or Black, Native American and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander are over represented in the population experiencing homelessness.

## 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.

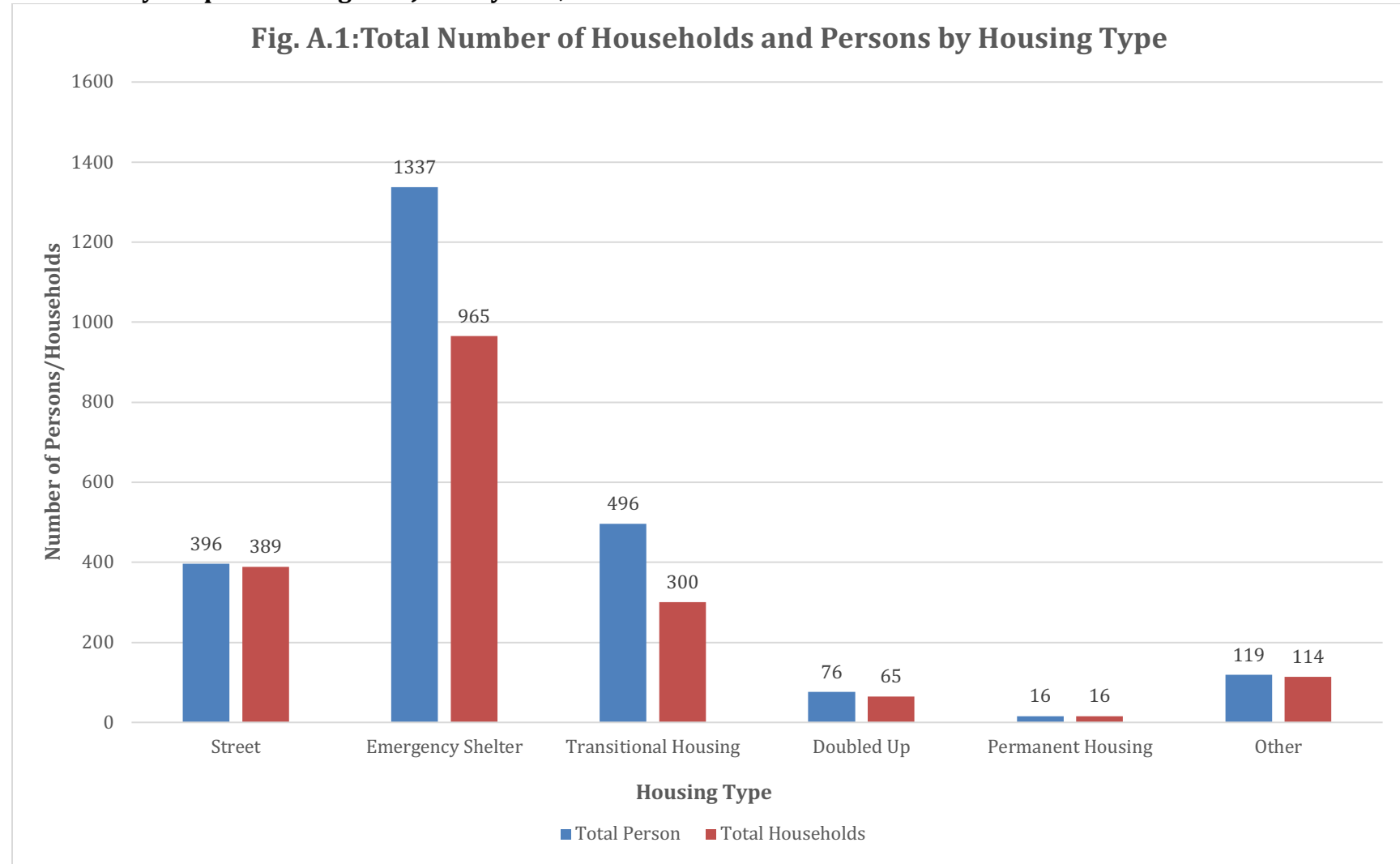
All duplicates detected through comparison of unique identifiers were then de-duplicated by the following process:

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.

## X. Appendix B: Survey Responses

Where did you spend the night of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018?

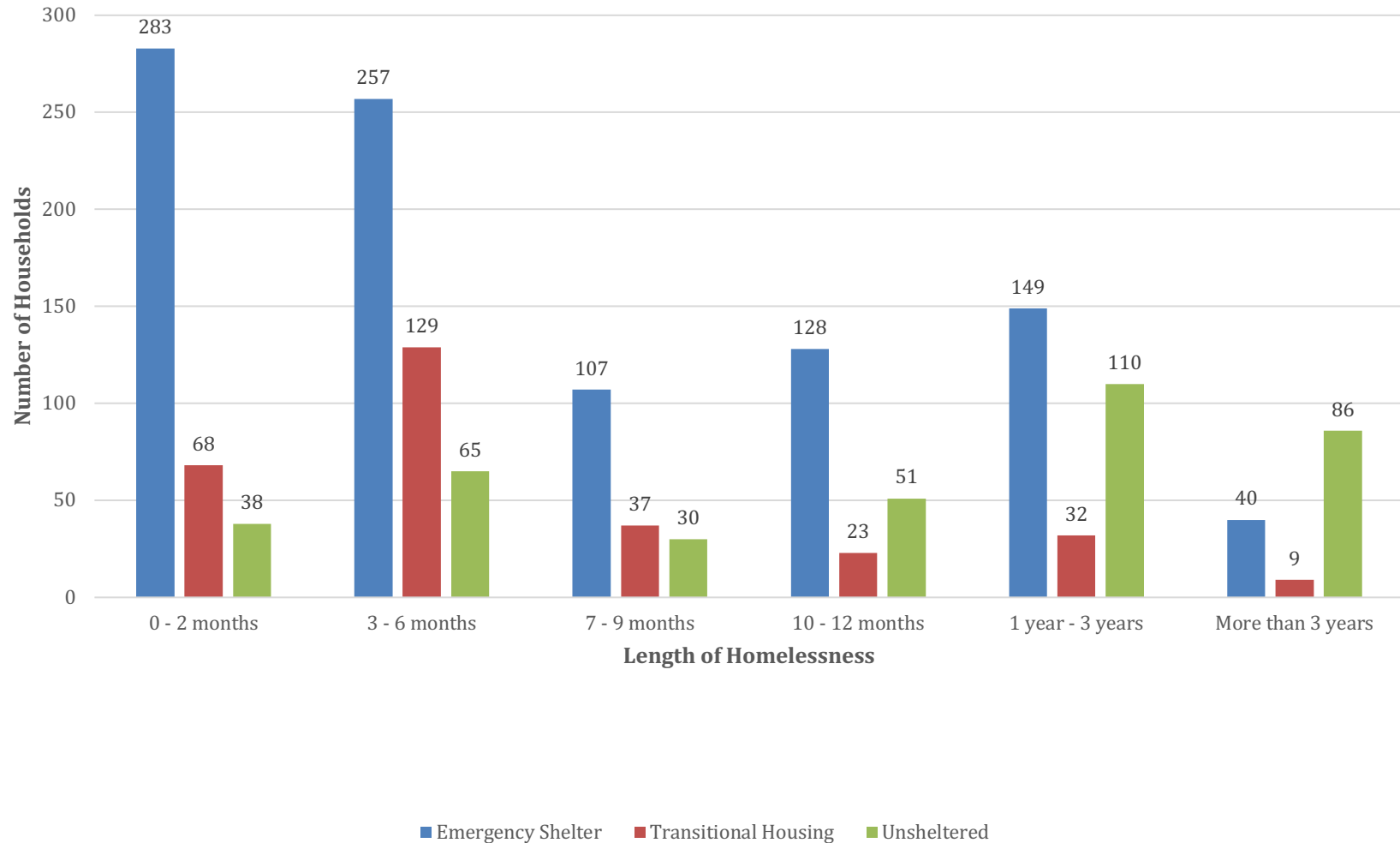


What was your location the night of the count?

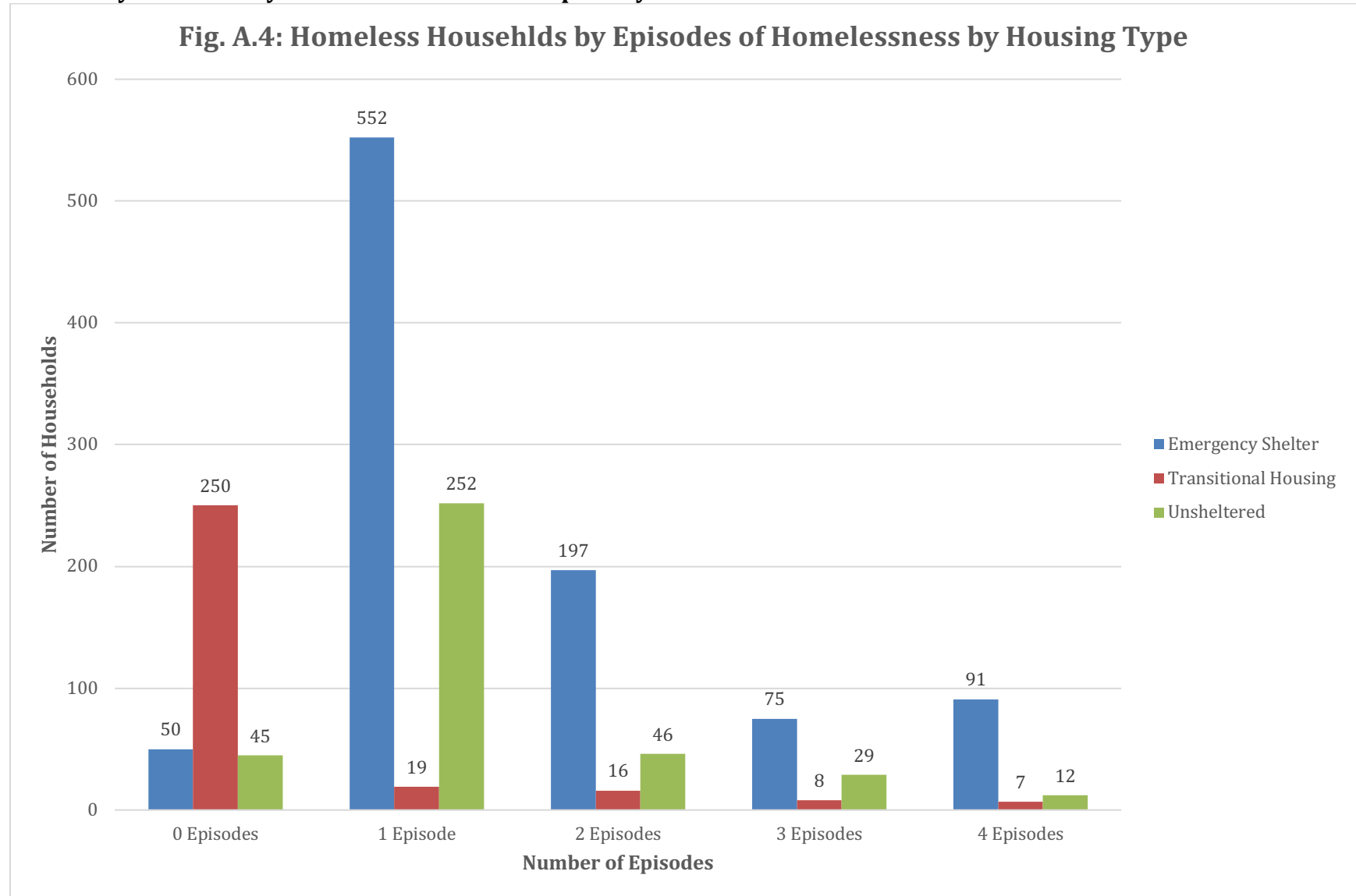
<b>Fig. A.2: Number of Homeless Households by Municipality on the Night of the Count</b>	
<b>Location Night of Count – Municipality</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>
Belleville	2
Bloomfield	8
City of Orange	18
East Orange	95
Fairfield	1
Irvington	65
Montclair	70
Newark	1928
North Caldwell	1
South Orange	14
West Orange	1

## What is your total length of homelessness?

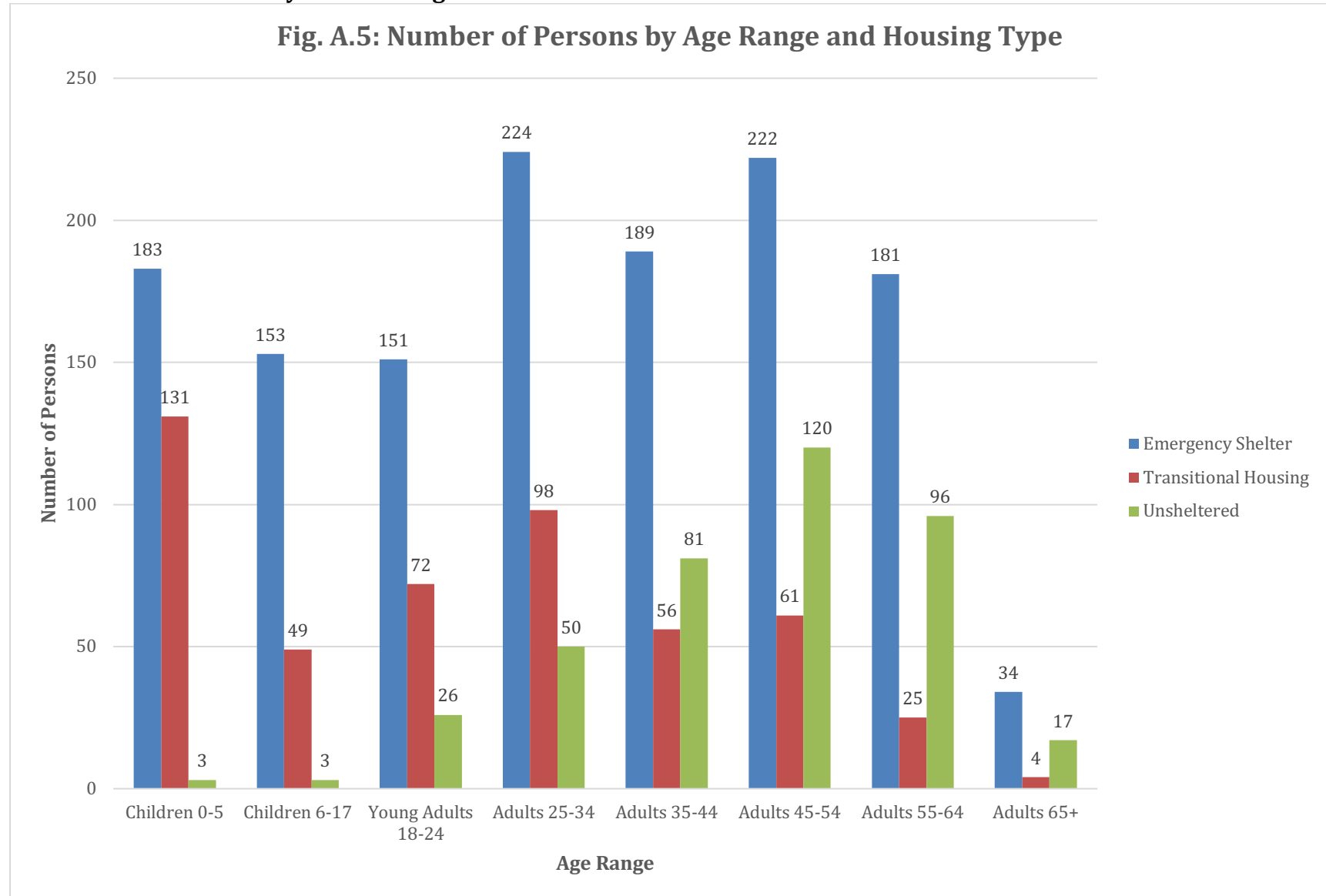
**Fig. A.3: Homeless Households by Length of Homelessness and Housing Type**



**How many times have you been homeless in the past 3 years?**

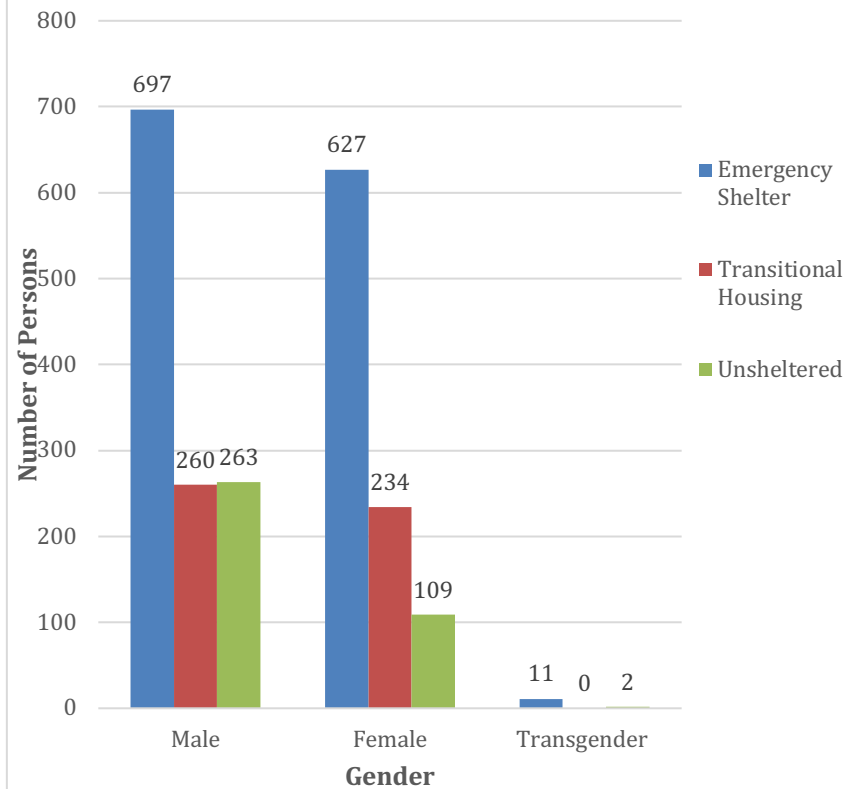


**Who was homeless with you on the night of the Point in Time count?**

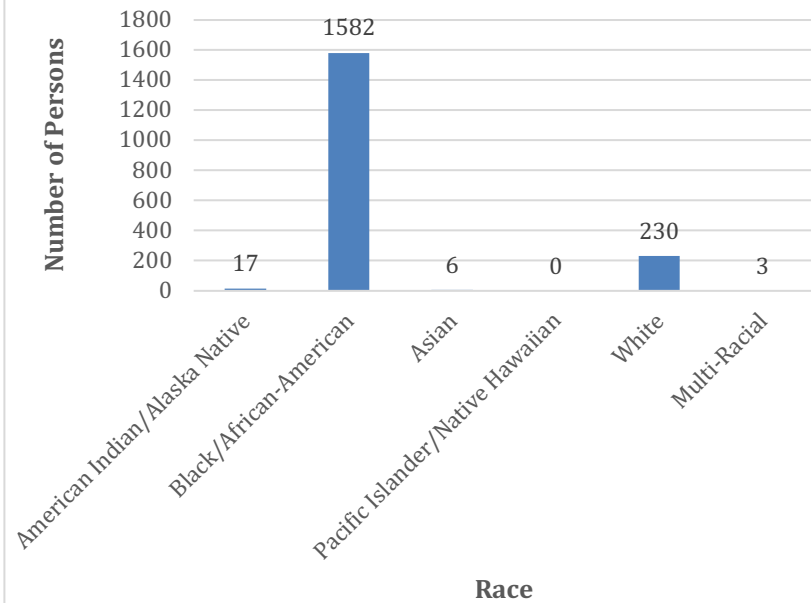


**Household Characteristics: Demographic Data – check all that apply to each person**

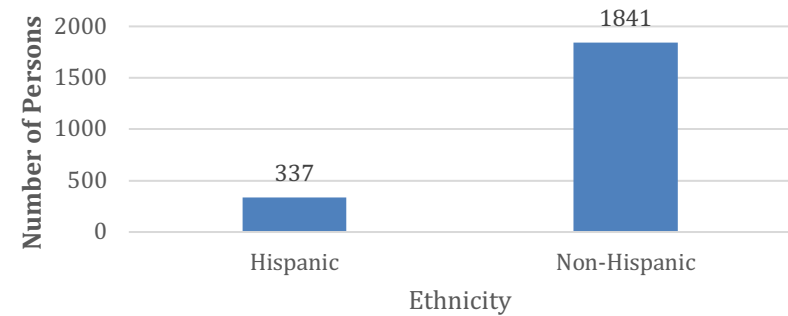
**Fig. A.6: Number of Persons by Gender and Housing Type**



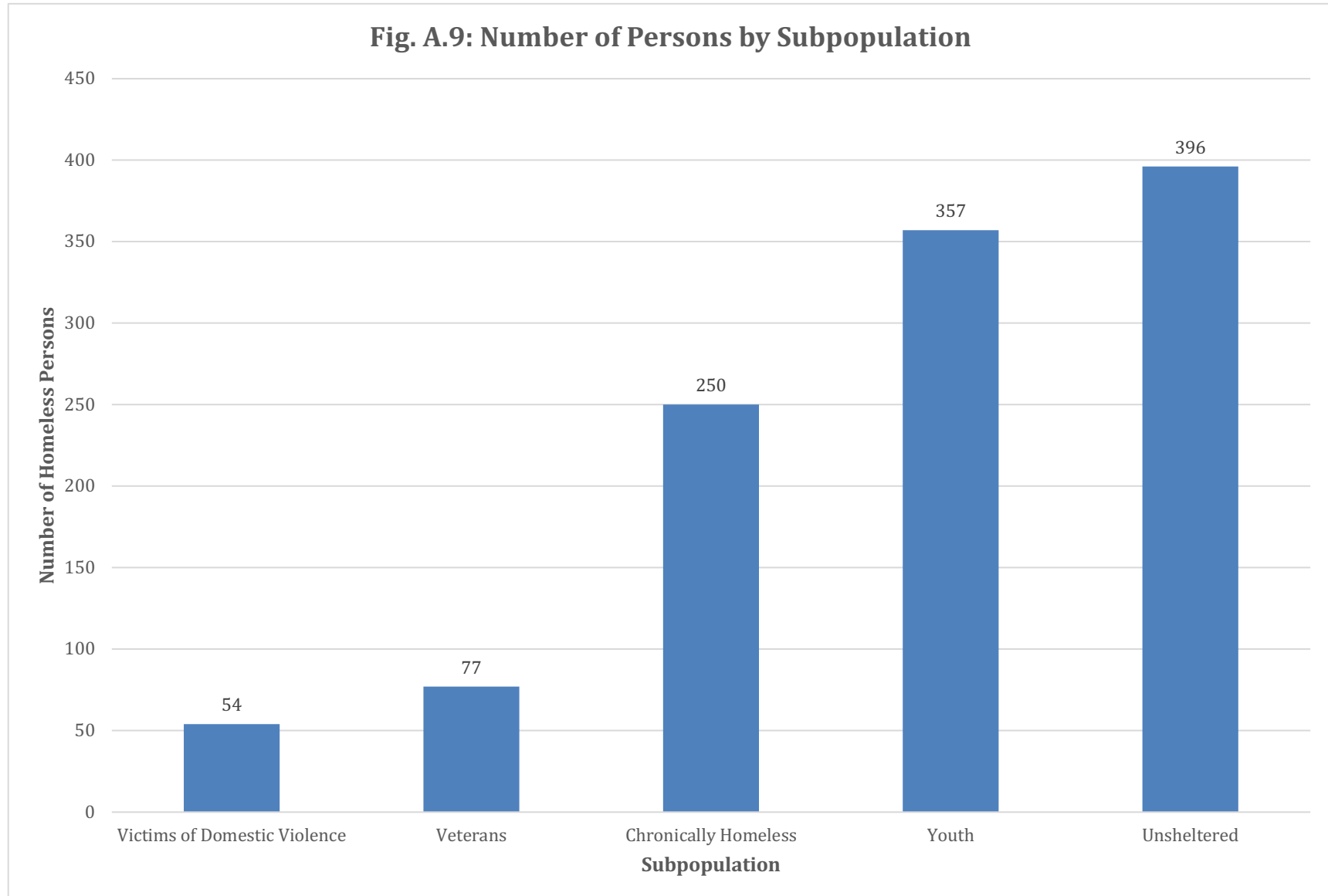
**Fig. A.7: Number of Persons by Race**



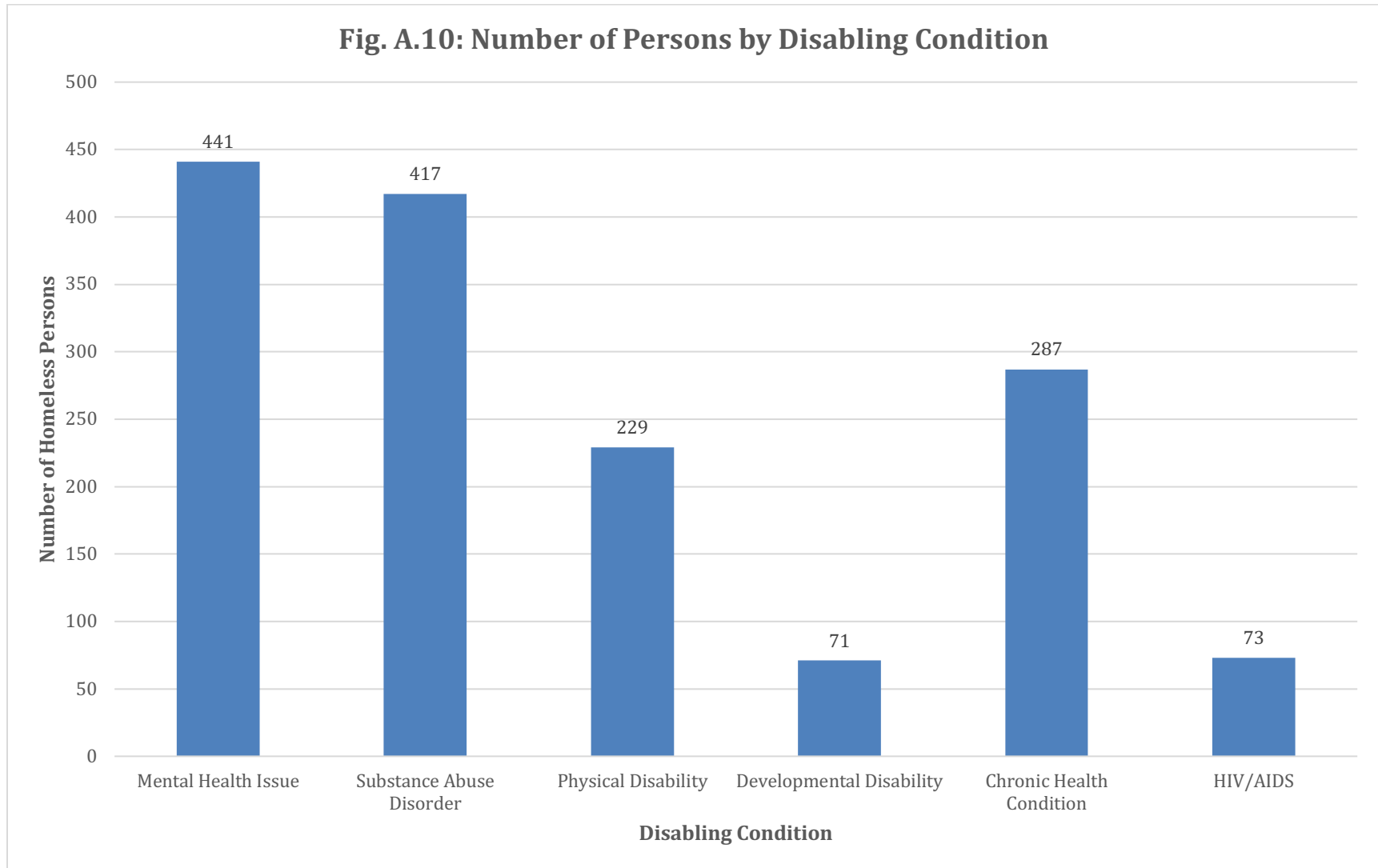
**Fig. A.8: Number of Persons by Ethnicity**



**Household Characteristics: Subpopulations – check all that apply to each person**



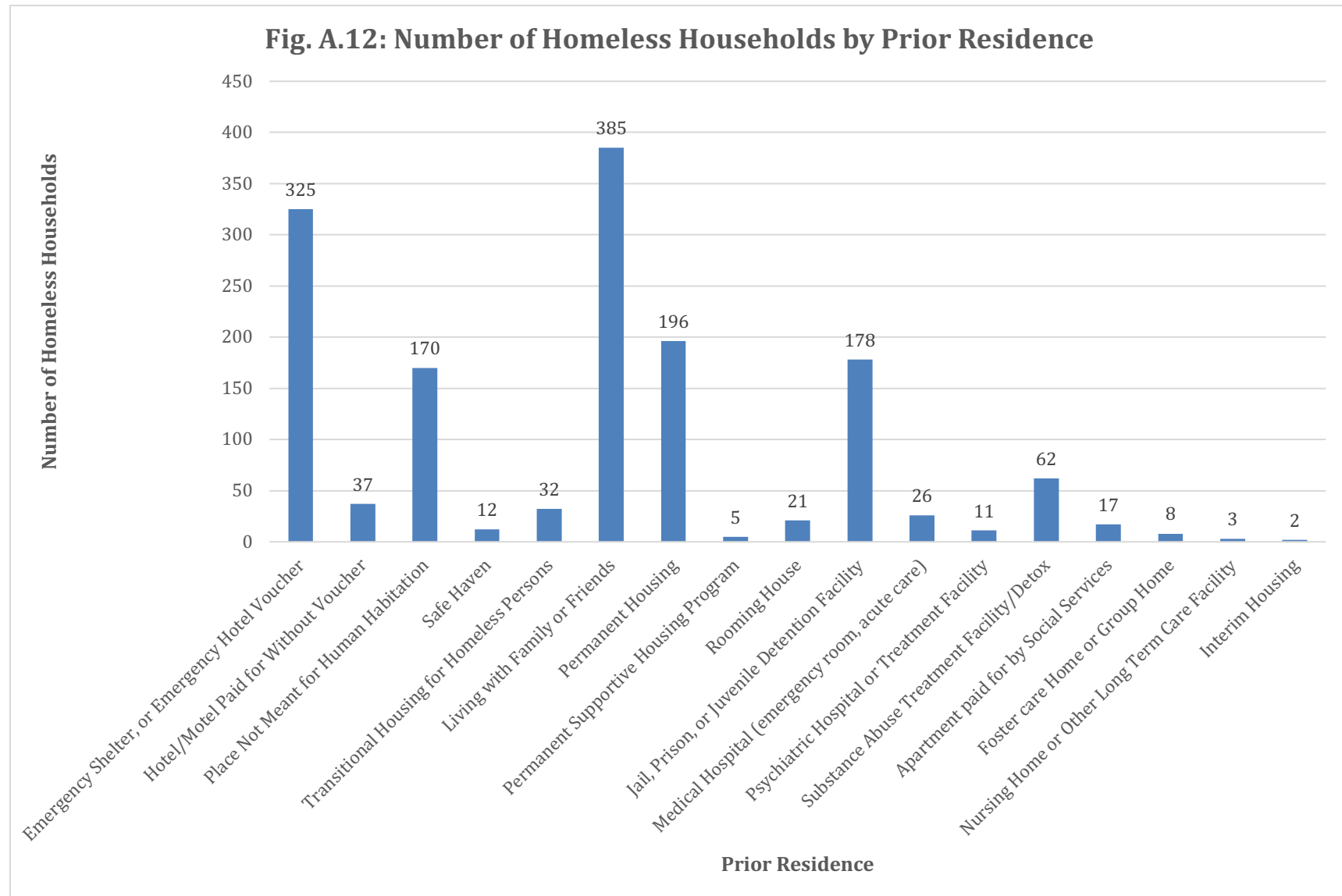
**Household Characteristics: Disabling Conditions – check all that apply to each person**



**Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?**

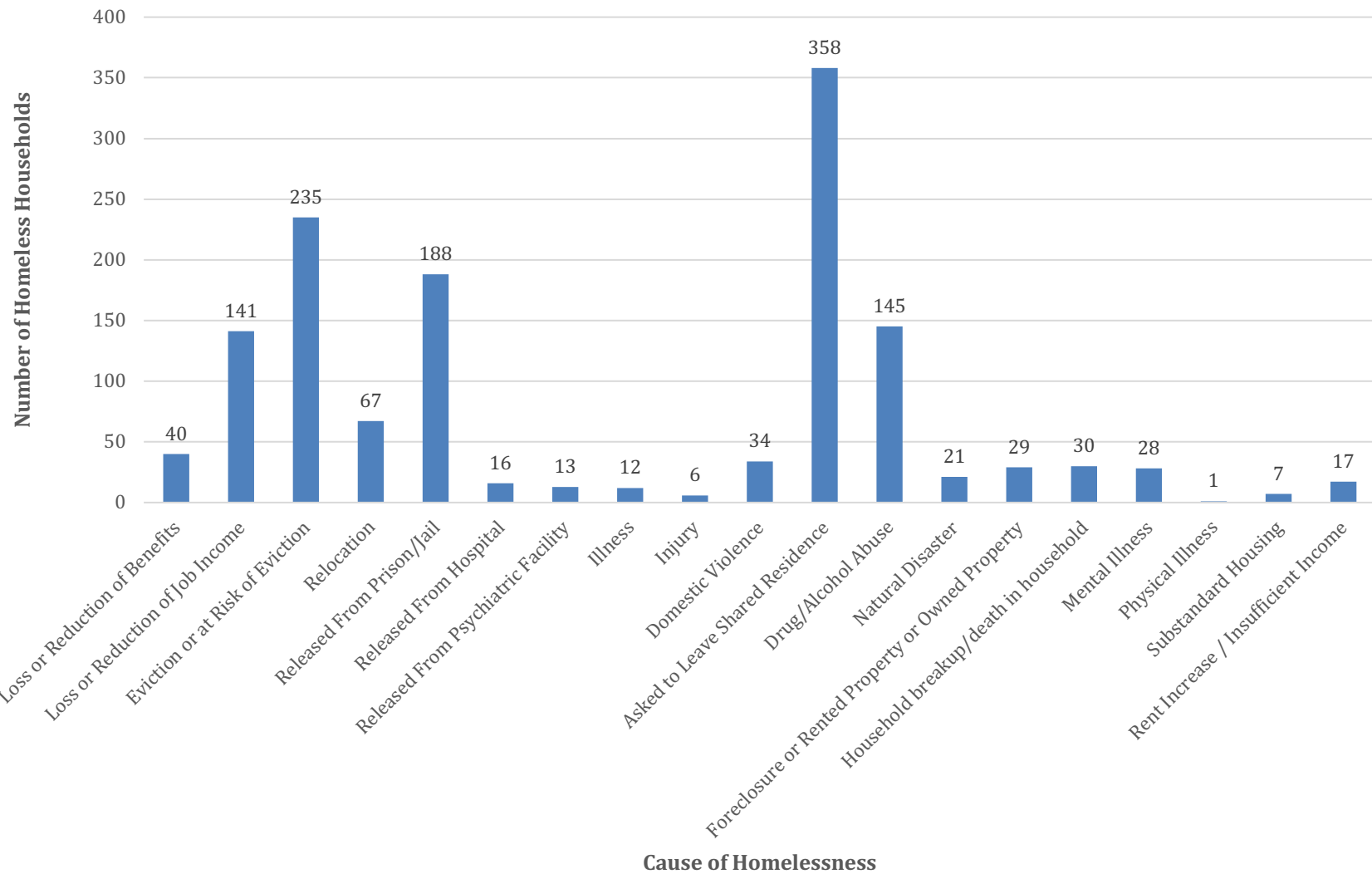
<b>Fig. A.11. Number of Homeless Households by County or State of Last Permanent Address</b>	
<b>Last Permanent Address – County/State</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>
Atlantic County	3
Bergen County	10
Burlington County	3
Camden County	3
Cape May County	1
Cumberland County	5
<b>Essex County</b>	<b>1074</b>
Gloucester County	1
Hudson County	57
Hunterdon County	3
Mercer County	12
Middlesex County	13
Monmouth County	7
Morris County	7
Ocean County	4
Passaic County	33
Somerset County	5
Sussex County	8
Union county	59
Warren County	2
Alabama	2
Arizona	1
Delaware	1
Florida	12
Georgia	4
Illinois	1
Louisiana	1
Maine	1
Maryland	3
Massachusetts	1
Michigan	1
Montana	1
New York	24
North Carolina	3
Ohio	1
Pennsylvania	10
Texas	1
Washington	1
West Virginia	1

## What was your residence prior to your current living situation?



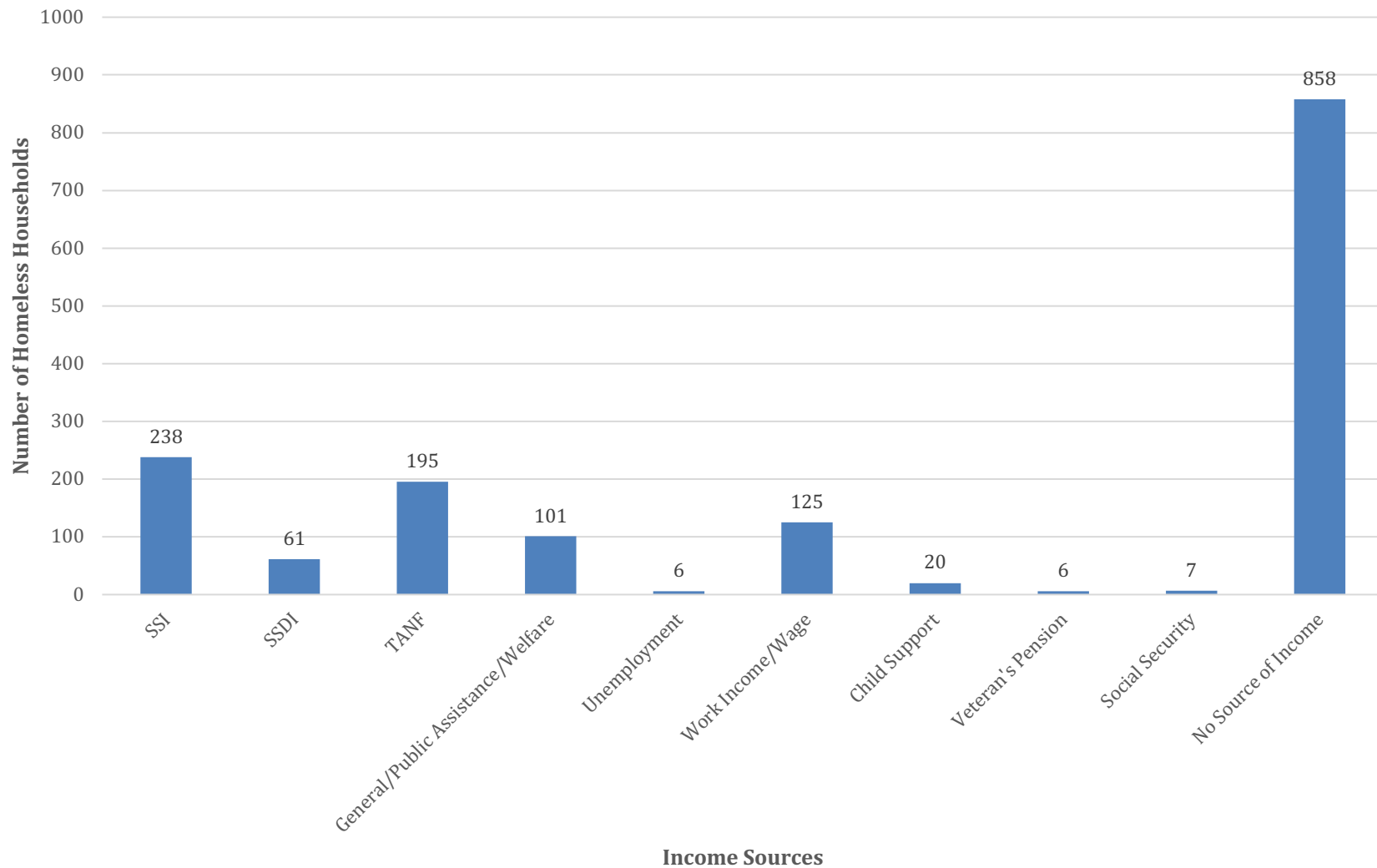
What was the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, your current living situation?

**Fig. A.13: Number of Households by Cause of Homelessness**

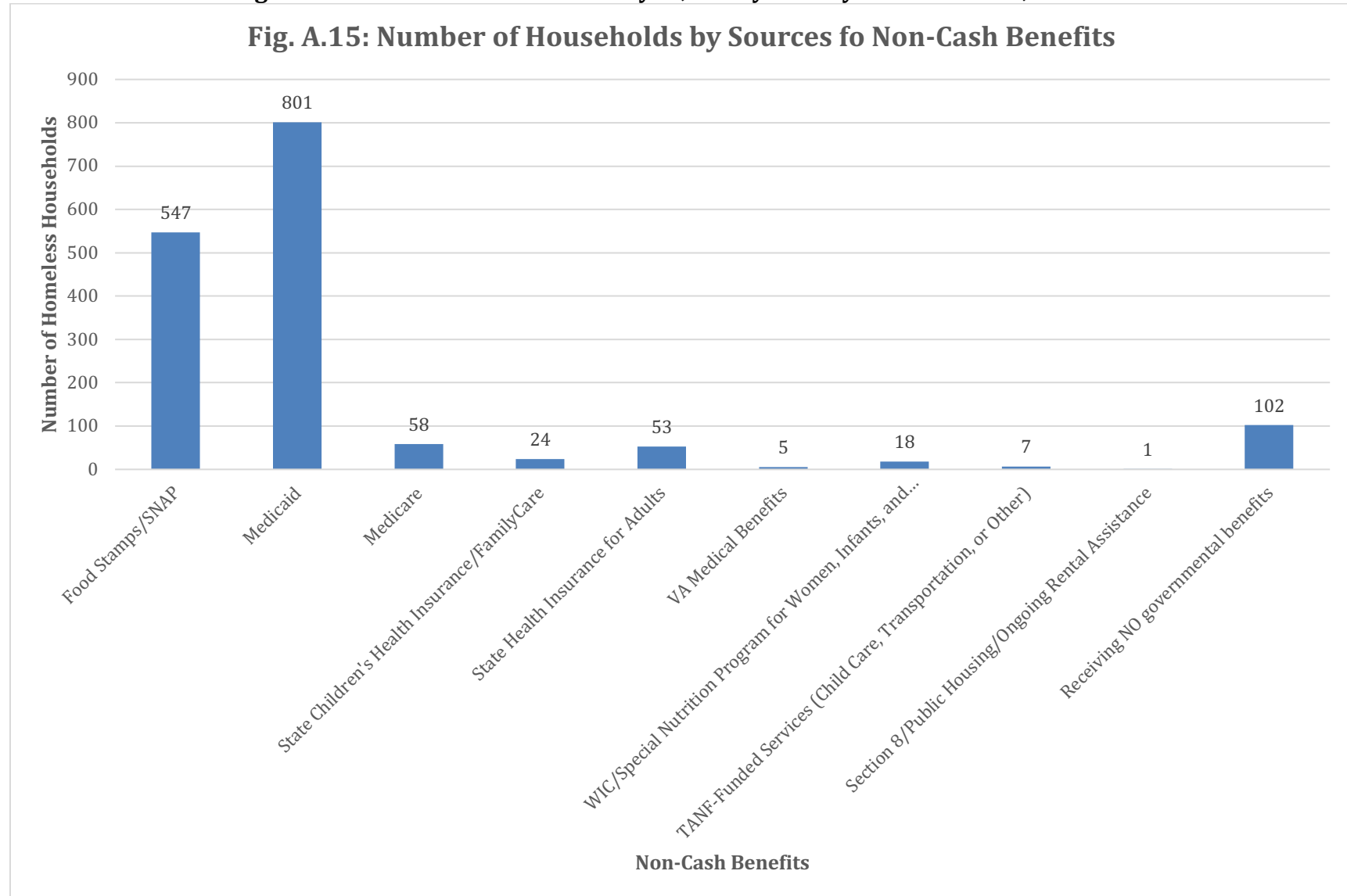


Which of the following sources of income do you, or anyone in your household, receive?

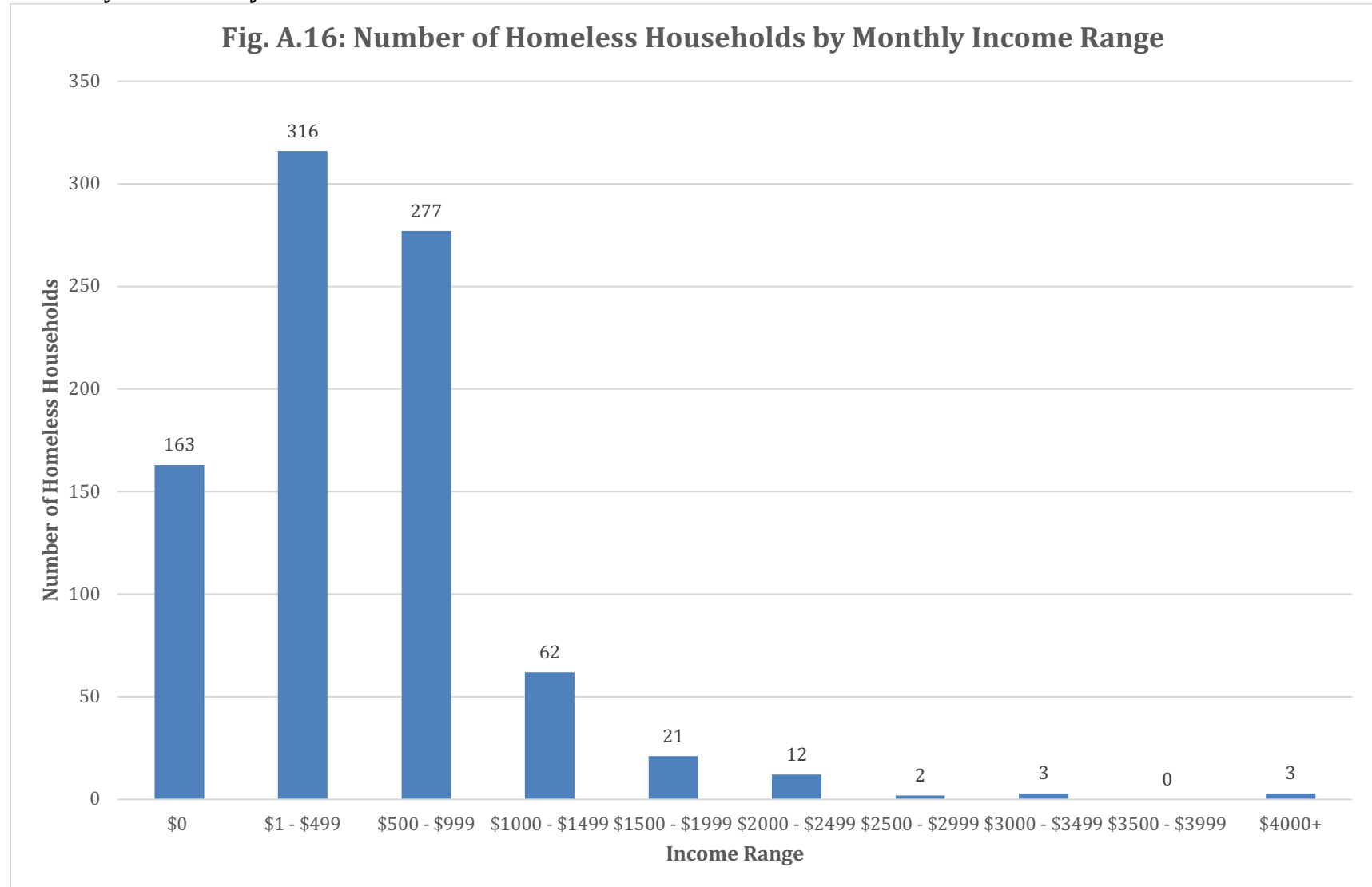
**Fig. A.14: Number of Households by Source of Cash Income**



Which of the following sources of non-cash benefits do you, or anyone in your household, receive?



**What is your monthly household income?**



Would you, or anyone in your household, like to receive any of the following services?

**Fig. A.17: Number of Homeless Households by Services Needed**

