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

# New Jersey 2018 Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless

January 23, 2018

## Acknowledgements

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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.

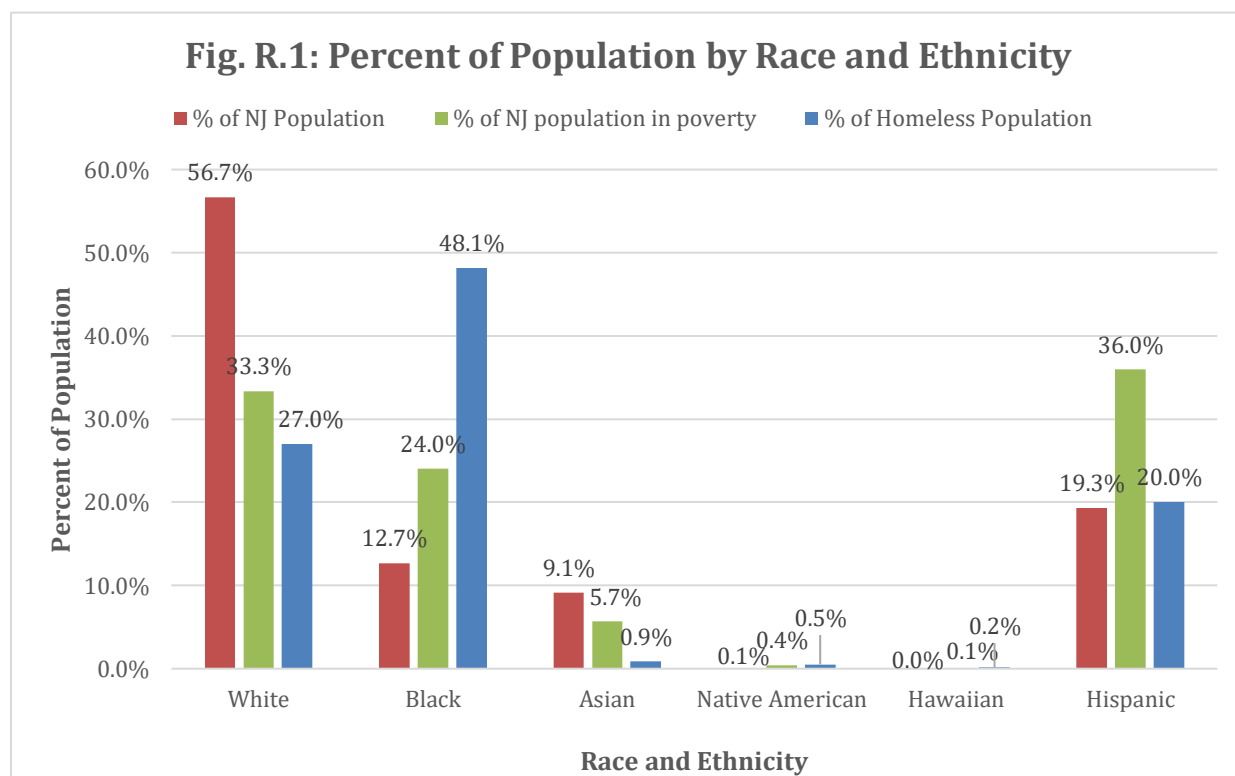
When reviewing data included in this report, it is important to keep in mind that the Point-in-Time data includes a census of all persons in sheltering programs (emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe haven programs) as well as the unsheltered population identified on the night of the count. 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 9,303 persons experiencing homelessness on a single night in the State of New Jersey. Figure R.1 illustrates the racial and ethnic breakdown of the total population in New Jersey, those living below the poverty line, and those experiencing homelessness.



In looking at the racial and ethnic breakdown of those experiencing homelessness in relation to the racial and ethnic 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 8,915,456 people live in the state of New Jersey, and 10.9% (949,341 persons) of New Jersey residents are living below the poverty line. There is a strong correlation between poverty and homelessness, however, the racial disparities evident in the counted homeless 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 and living below the poverty level. While 12.7% of the general population, persons identifying as Black or African American are 24% of the population in poverty and 48.1% of the population counted as homeless.
- Persons identifying as Asian have the lowest rates of homelessness making up 9.1% of the state population, 5.7% of the population living below the poverty level, and 0.9% of those counted as homeless.
- Persons identifying as Black or African American represent 50.2% of the sheltered population (staying in emergency shelter, transitional housing or safe havens) and 47.8% of the unsheltered population. Persons identifying as White and not Hispanic or Latino represent 26.8% of the sheltered population and 33.2% of the unsheltered population. Persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino represent 21.3% of the sheltered population and 18% of the unsheltered population.

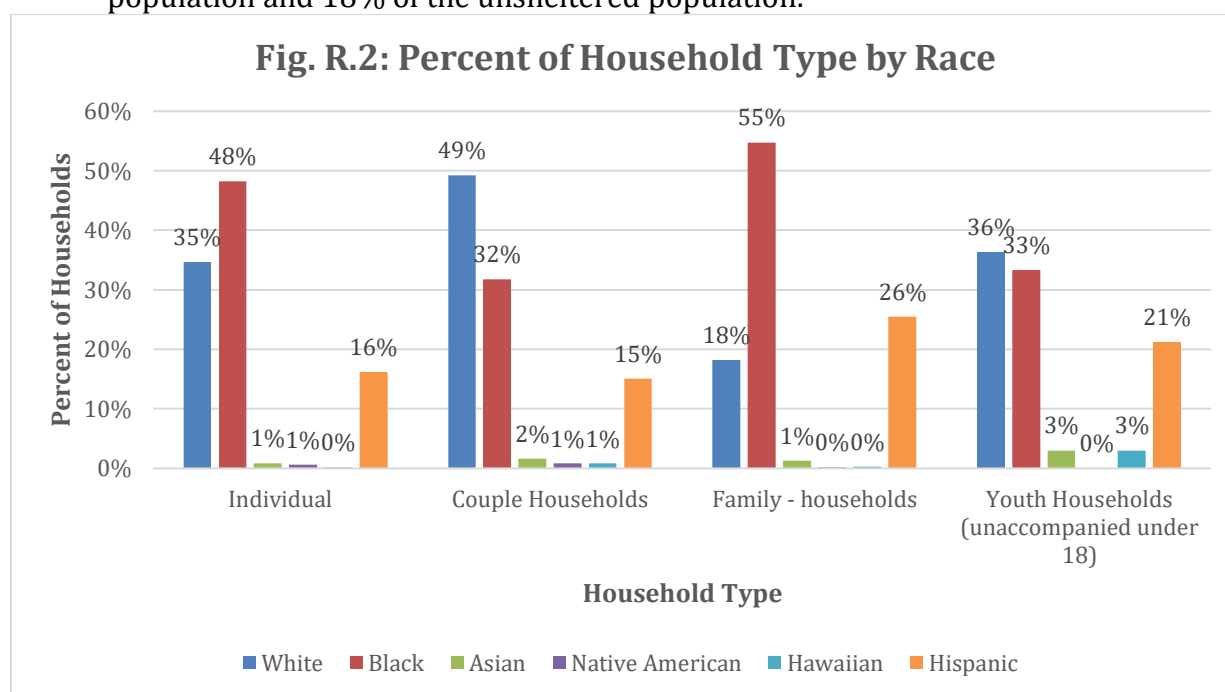


Figure R.2 illustrates the racial and ethnic breakdown within each household type for those counted as experiencing homelessness.

- While persons identifying as White make up 27% of those counted as experiencing homelessness, they make up 49% of adult only households with more than one adult,

and 36% of youth households made up of unaccompanied minors under the age of 18.

- Persons identifying as Black or African American make up 48% of those counted as homeless, and 55% of counted homeless households with at least one adult and one child under the age of 18.

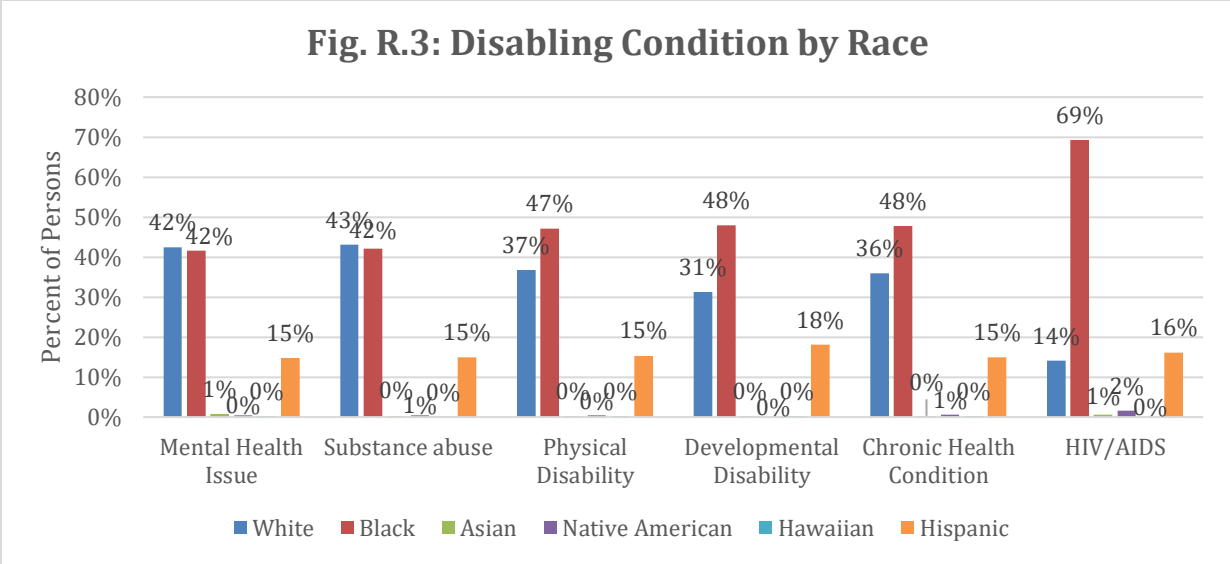
Disparities along racial and ethnic lines in the population experiencing homelessness are seen in a number of other areas including the following:

- Blacks or African Americans represent 62% of the population counted as homeless between the agencies of 18 – 24
- When asked to identify their residence prior to their current homeless situation, permanent housing was the top reported prior residence by persons identifying as White (14%), Asian (27%), and Hispanic/Latino (21%), living with friends and family was the top reported prior residence by persons identifying as Black or African American (21%) and emergency shelter was the top reported prior residence by persons identifying as Native American/Alaska Native (26%) and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (40%)
- When asked to identify their primary cause of homelessness, being asked to leave a shared residence was the top cause reported by persons identifying as Black or African American (23%), Hispanic/Latino (19%) and White (11%), domestic violence was the top cause reported by persons identifying as Asian (31%), eviction was the top reported cause by persons identifying as Native American/Alaska Native (20%) and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (27%)
- 70% of persons identifying as White indicated a disabling condition as compared to 36%, 40% and 44% of person identifying as Asian, Hispanic/Latino, and Black or African American and respectively.

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

- The majority of persons identifying a substance abuse issue were White.
- The majority of persons identifying a physical disability, developmental disability, chronic health condition or HIV/AIDS were Black or African American.





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 6,982 households, including 9,303 persons, were experiencing homelessness in New Jersey, according to the 2018 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 1,288 persons, in 1,211 households, were identified as chronically homeless.
- 1,545 households, with 1,623 persons were unsheltered on the night of the count.

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

County	Total Homeless Persons	% of Total Homeless Persons	Chronic Homeless Persons	% of Chronic Homeless Persons	Unsheltered Homeless Persons	% of Unsheltered Homeless Persons
Atlantic	437	5%	105	8%	131	8%
Bergen	354	4%	11	1%	23	1%
Burlington	840	9%	81	6%	56	3%
Camden	577	6%	100	8%	84	5%
Cape May	103	1%	13	1%	8	0%
Cumberland	156	2%	25	2%	35	2%
Essex	2,229	24%	250	19%	396	24%
Gloucester	144	2%	8	1%	18	1%
Hudson	860	9%	226	17%	243	15%
Hunterdon	169	2%	12	1%	21	1%
Mercer	479	5%	46	4%	63	4%
Middlesex	596	6%	87	7%	130	8%
Monmouth	335	4%	40	3%	72	4%
Morris	398	4%	65	5%	35	2%
Ocean	311	3%	52	4%	102	6%
Passaic	434	5%	95	7%	112	7%
Salem	47	1%	5	0%	5	0%
Somerset	206	2%	6	1%	7	0%
Sussex	113	1%	7	1%	28	2%
Union	459	5%	43	3%	41	3%
Warren	56	1%	11	1%	13	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,303</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1288</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1623</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Total Homeless Population

On the night of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, a total of 9,303 persons, in 6,982 households, were experiencing homelessness in New Jersey, according to the 2018 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 771 persons (9%) and 642 households (10%) from the number counted in 2017.

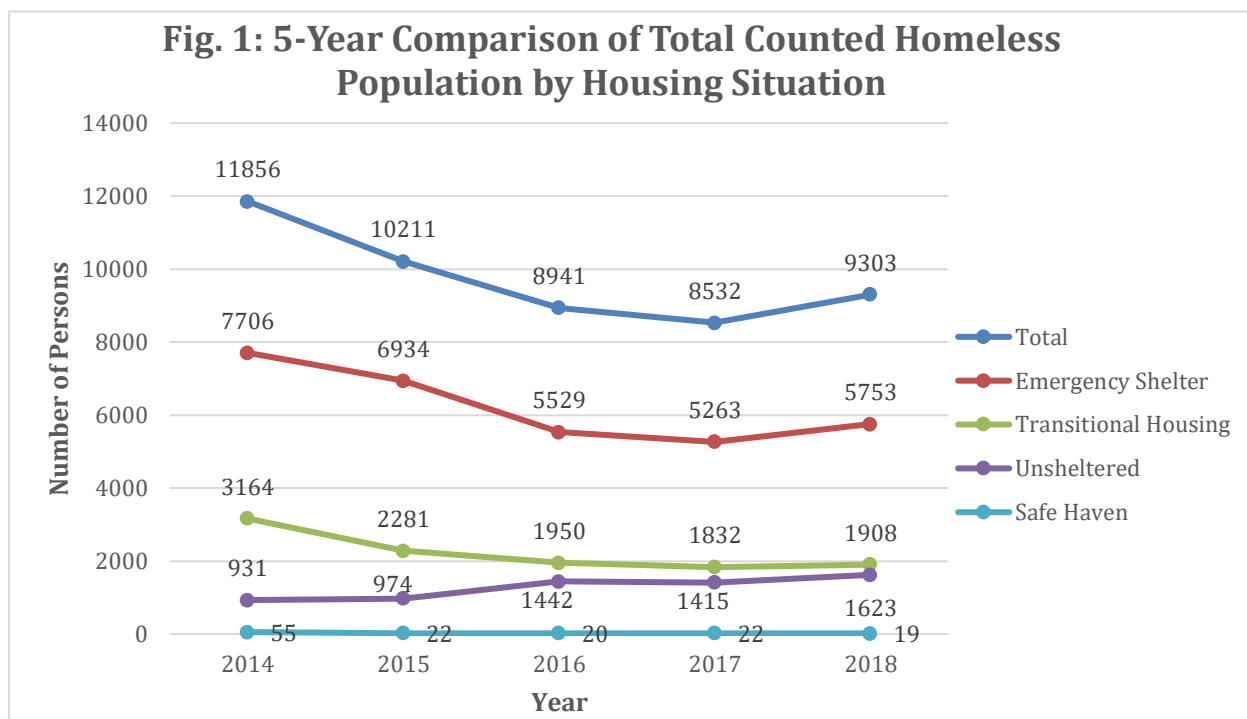
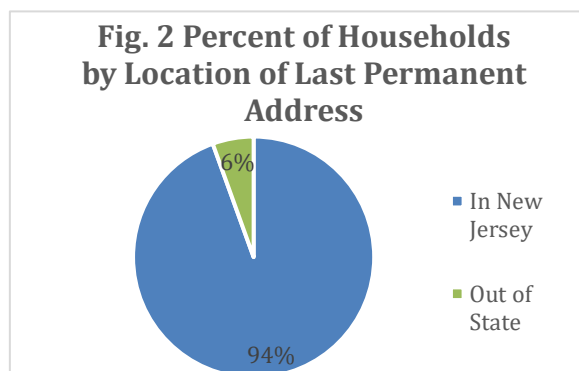


Figure 1 shows that, in 2018, 5,753 homeless persons stayed in emergency shelters, 1,908 stayed in transitional housing, 19 were in safe havens, and 1,623 were living unsheltered on the night of the count. When comparing to 2017, increases are seen in the number of homeless respondents staying in emergency shelter (490 persons, 9%), transitional housing (76 persons, 4%), and those identified as unsheltered (208 persons, 15%). There was a decrease in the number of persons in safe havens counted in 2018 when compared to 2017 (3 persons, 14%).

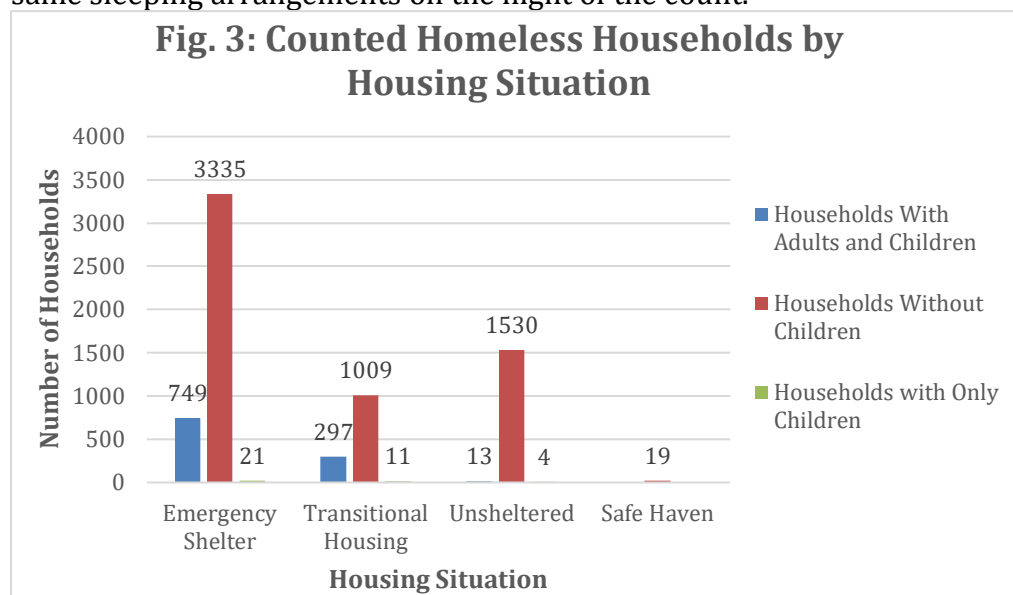
Figure 1 also shows that, over the past five years, New Jersey has seen an overall decrease of 4,597 counted persons, or 33% from 2014 to 2018. Over this 5-year period, there was a 25% decrease in persons staying in emergency shelter, a 40% decrease in persons staying in transitional housing, and a 65% decrease in persons staying in safe havens. There was a 74% increase in identified unsheltered persons between 2014 and 2018.



As Figure 2 shows, 6% of the homeless household respondents in New Jersey in 2018 reported that their last permanent 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."



Of the 6,982 homeless households counted in New Jersey in 2018, 1,059 (15%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. This is an increase of about 4% from the number

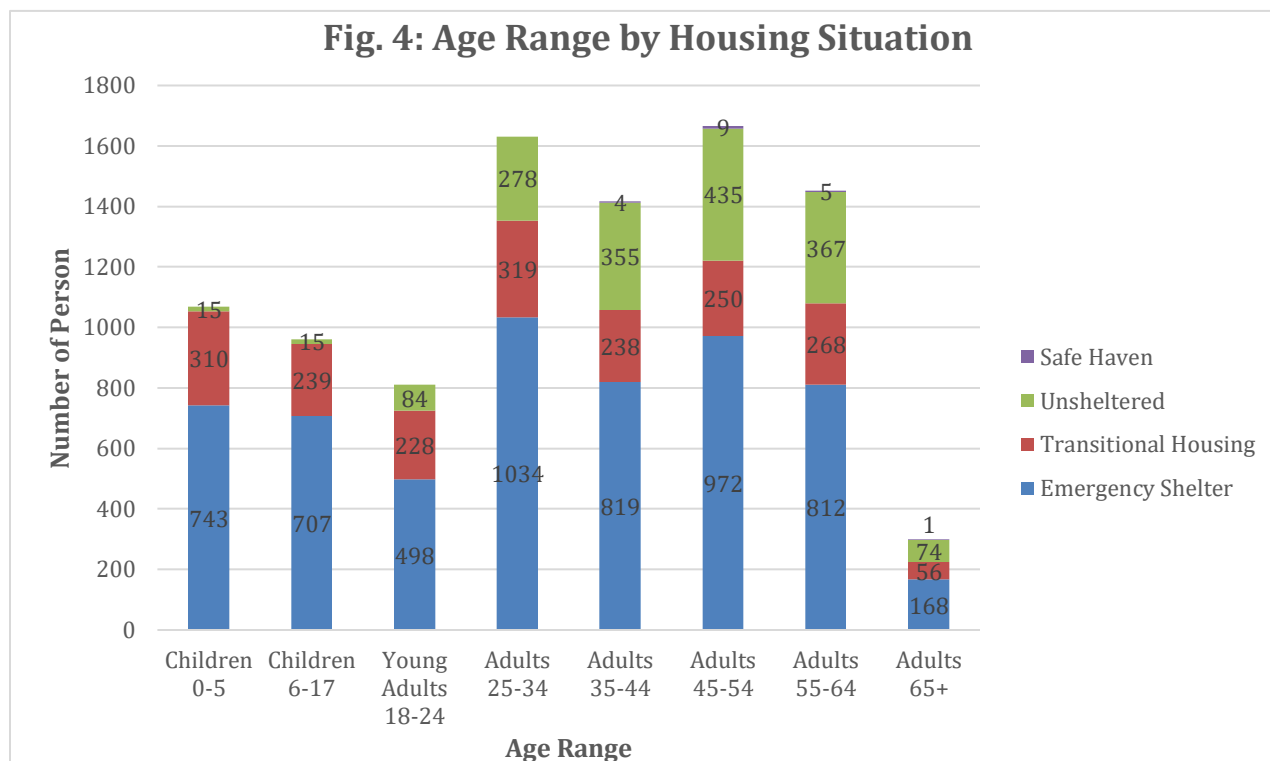
counted in 2017. These families included 3,241 persons, including 1,994 children under age 18 and 1,247 adults. The average family size was 3.06 persons. Figure 3 shows that 749 families (71%) were staying in emergency shelters. There were 13 unsheltered families with children under the age of 18 comprised of 45 persons. This is an increase of 6 counted unsheltered families (86%) from 2017.

5,893 (84%) of the identified homeless households in New Jersey were households without children under 18, and they were composed of 6,027 adults. This is an increase of 12% from the number of adult only households identified in 2017. The majority of adult only households (57%) were staying in emergency shelters on the night of the count. 1,530 adult only households were unsheltered in 2018, an increase of 182 households (14%) from the number counted in 2017.

As Figure 3 indicates, 35 households with only children under 18 years old were reported in 2018, a decrease of 14 households (28.6%) from 2017. 60% of these unaccompanied youth households were staying in emergency shelters. In 2018 three unsheltered unaccompanied youth were identified as compared to the one unsheltered unaccompanied youth household identified in 2017.

## Demographics

There were a total of 810 (8.7%) identified homeless adults between 18 and 24 years old, 6,464 (69.5%) adults over age 24, and 2,029 (21.8%) 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 (1,666 persons, 18%).



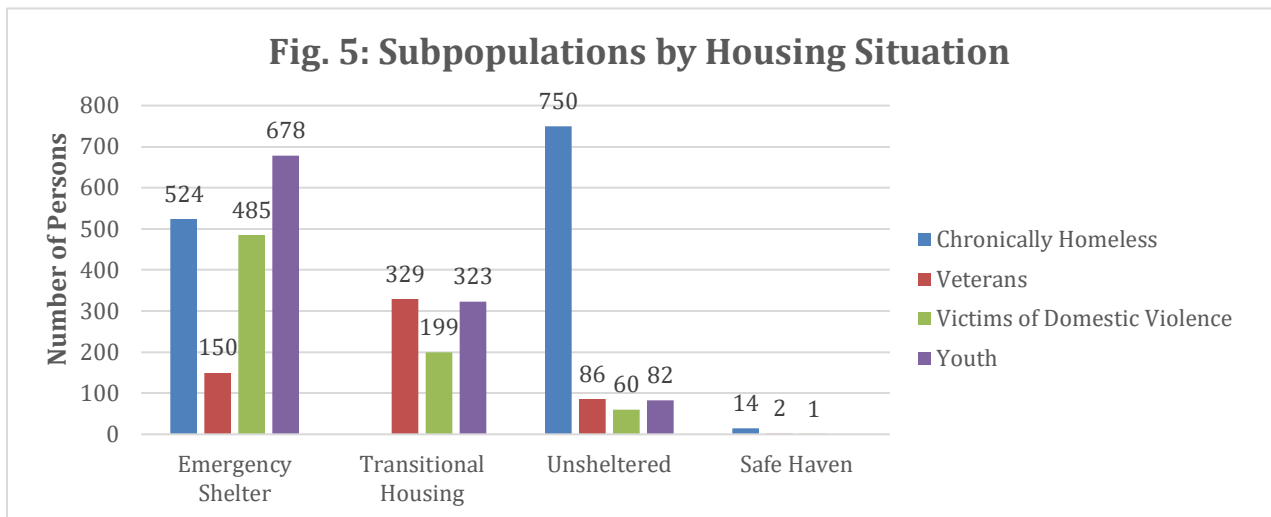
58.3% (5,396) of homeless persons were male, 41.4% (3,830) were female, 24 (0.3%) were transgender, and 4 persons (>0.1%) were gender non-conforming.

48.1% (4,478) 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 non-Hispanic (27%, 2,510 persons), followed by those identifying as Multi-Racial (1.4%, 132 persons). With regard to ethnicity, 20.5% of persons identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

## Subpopulations

On the night of January 23, 2018 out of the 9,303 persons identified as homeless, there were a total of 1,288 Chronically Homeless persons, representing 13.8% of the counted homeless population. There were 567 homeless veterans representing 7.8% of the adult counted homeless population. 745 Victims of Domestic Violence were identified representing 8% of the total counted homeless population. Homeless Youth (individuals and families with heads of households 24 years old or younger) represented 11.6% of the counted homeless population with 1,083 persons identified. Figure 5 illustrates the break-down of each subpopulation identified by housing type.

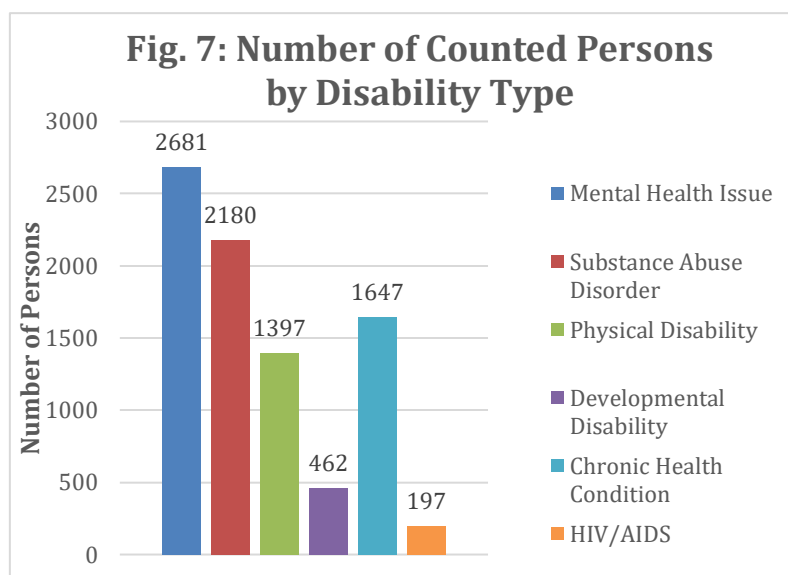
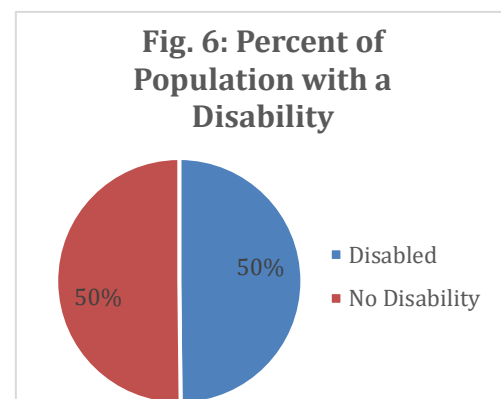




As illustrated in Figure 5 the majority of Chronically Homeless persons were unsheltered on the night of the count whereas the majority of Victims of Domestic Violence and Youth were in emergency shelter and the majority of Veterans were in transitional housing programs.

## Disabilities

Figure 6 illustrates that 50% of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. 60.6% of adults 18 or older reported some type of disability compared to 11% of children. Figure 7 shows the number of the counted homeless persons that identified as having various disabilities. The most common disabilities included mental health issues and substance abuse disorders.



Among disabled persons, 57.9% reported mental health issues making this the most prevalent disability; representing 59% of the identified disabled adult homeless population and 28.8% of the total identified population experiencing homelessness. 49.1% of disabled adults reported a substance abuse disorder. Among disabled homeless children, 45.1% reported a developmental disability and another 34.4% reported mental health issues.

## Income and Benefits

Among all households experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, 42.1% had no source of income, and 12.6% reported having earned income. The most common sources of income among homeless households were SSI (14%) and Earned Income (12.6%) followed by General Assistance (11.5%). Figure 8 shows the income sources reported by respondents in relation to their housing situation on the night of the count.

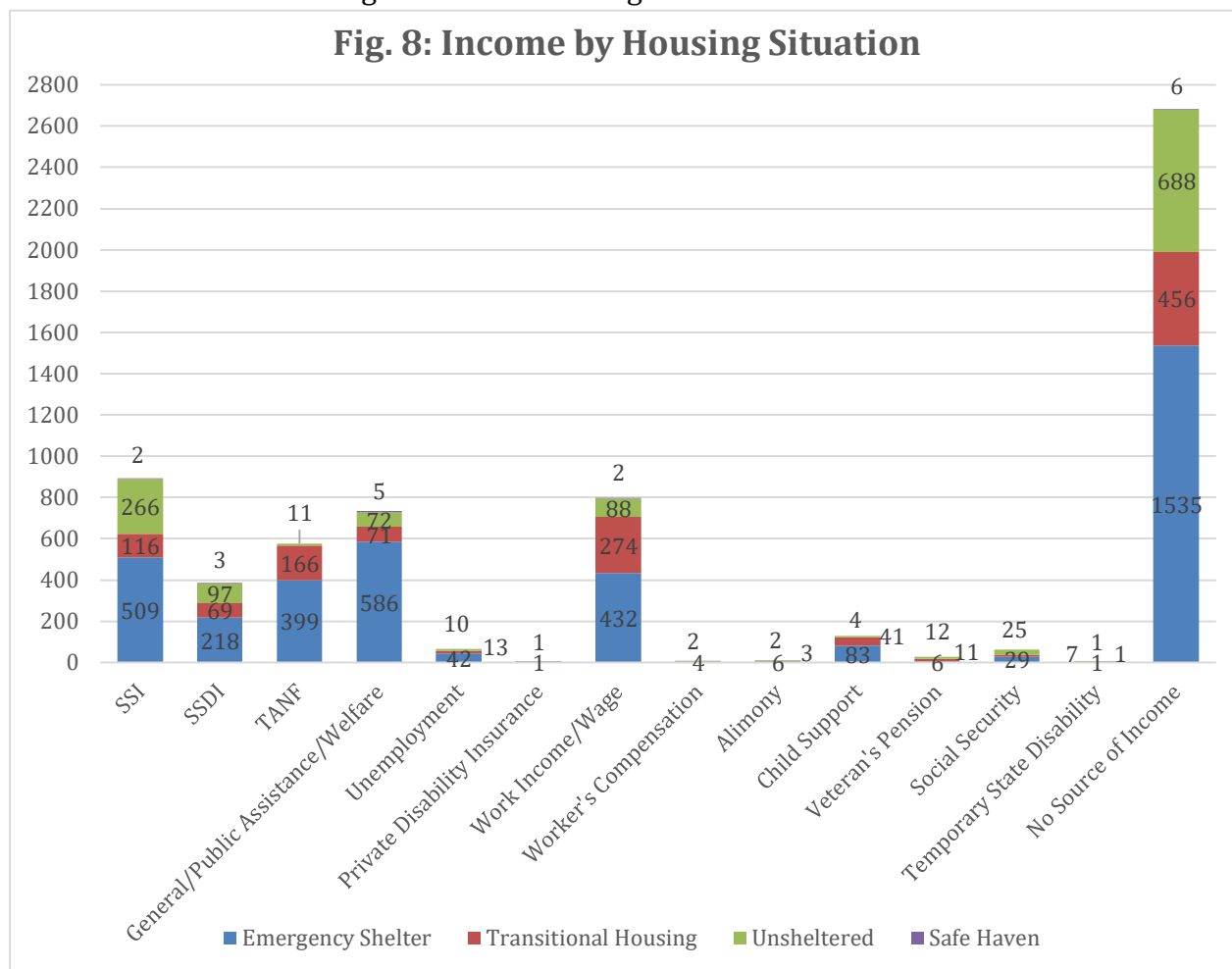


Figure 9 show the average monthly income among households in each housing situation.

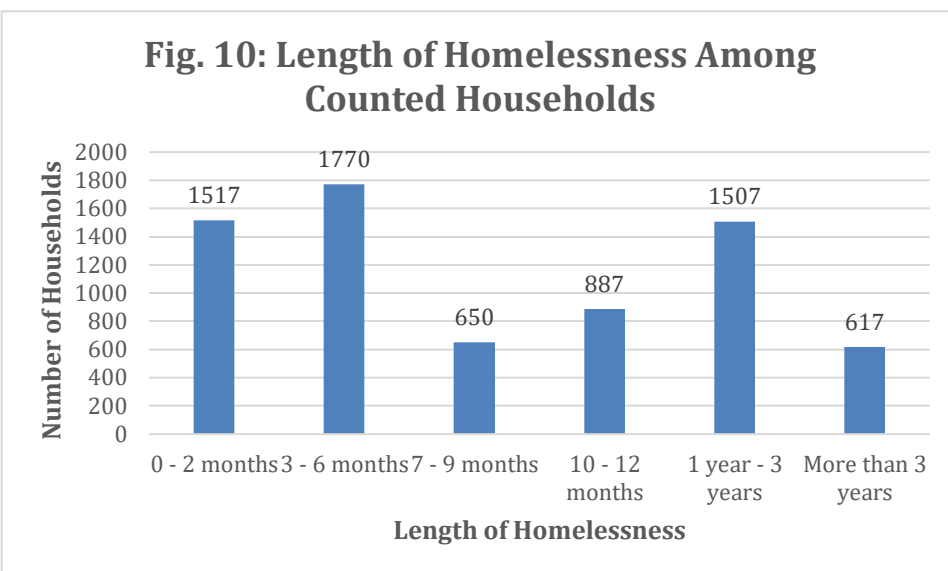
<b>Figure 9. Average Monthly Income For Households by Housing Situation</b>				
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Safe Haven	Unsheltered
Average for All Households	\$640.52	\$961.46	\$841.23	\$322.79

8.4% 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 47.3% of homeless households. Food Stamps (SNAP), was the second most reported non-cash benefit received by 36.2% of these households.

## Length of Homelessness

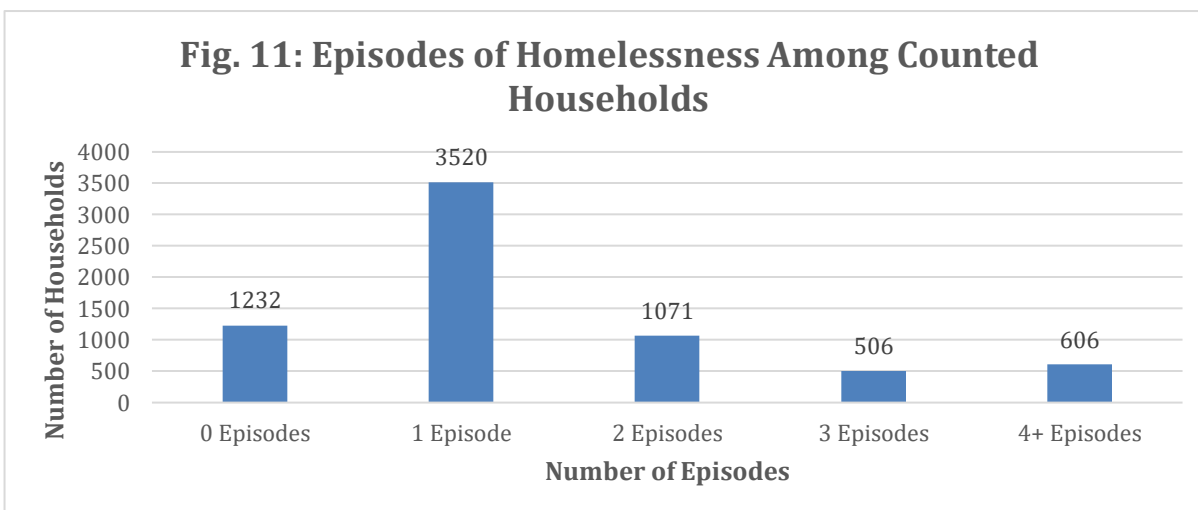
Figure 10 illustrates the total amount of time identified households have reported being homeless. This includes continuous episodes of homelessness as well as the total time from various episodes of homelessness over the past 3 years. As seen in Figure 10, 47.3% of identified

homeless households reported their total length of homelessness was between 0 and 6 months. Within this group, 21.8% were homeless from 0 – 2 months and 25.5% were homeless between 3 and 6 months. For those with longer periods of homelessness, 30.6% of 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, 1,507 households (21.7%) were homeless between 1 and 3 years while 617 households (8.9%) reported their total length of homelessness exceeded 3 years.



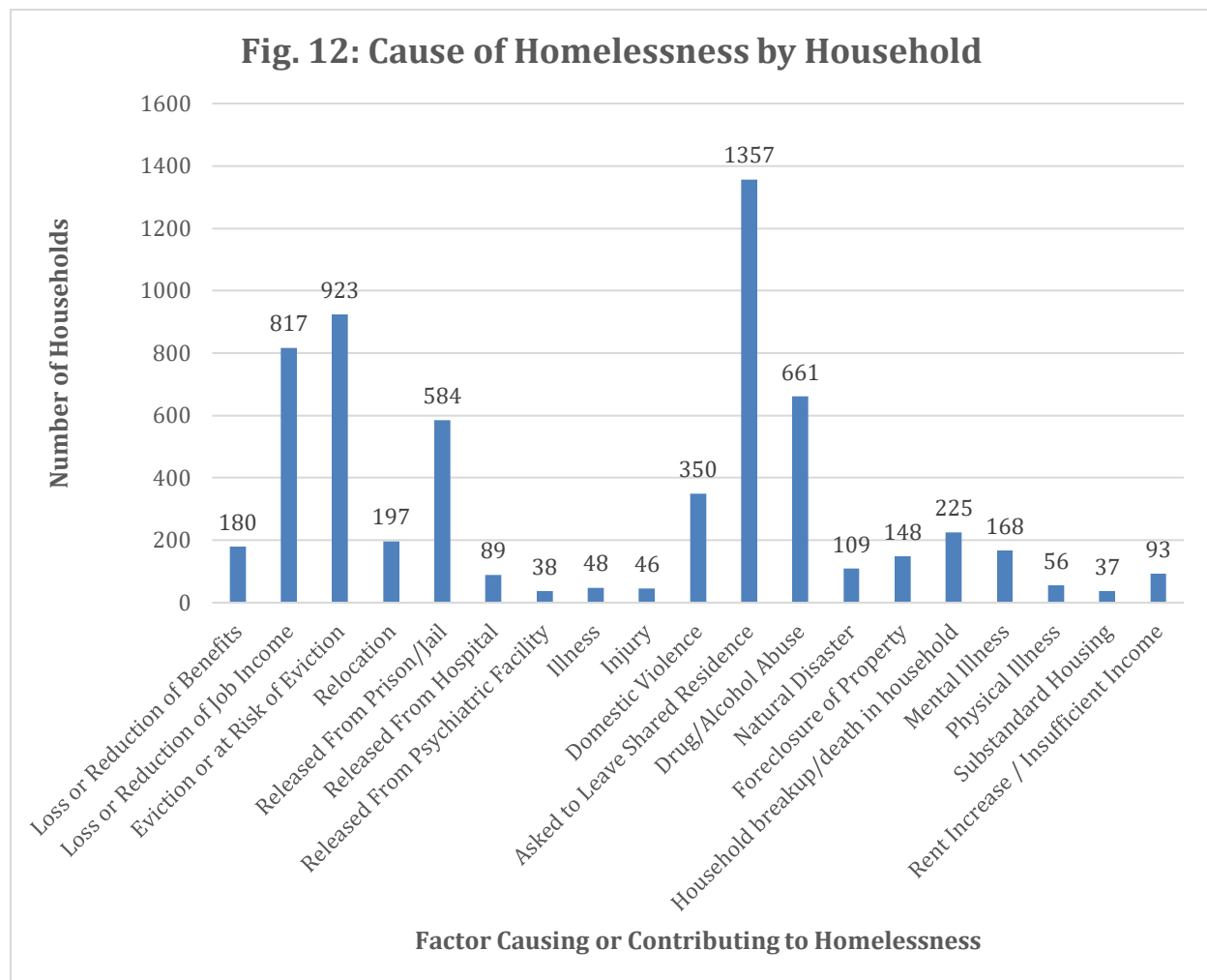
## Episodes of Homelessness

There were a total of 3,520 households (50.8%) 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 (1,357 households, 22.1%) than any other cause. As Figure 12 shows, the next most common factor reported was eviction (15.1%) followed by a loss or reduction of job income (13.3%).

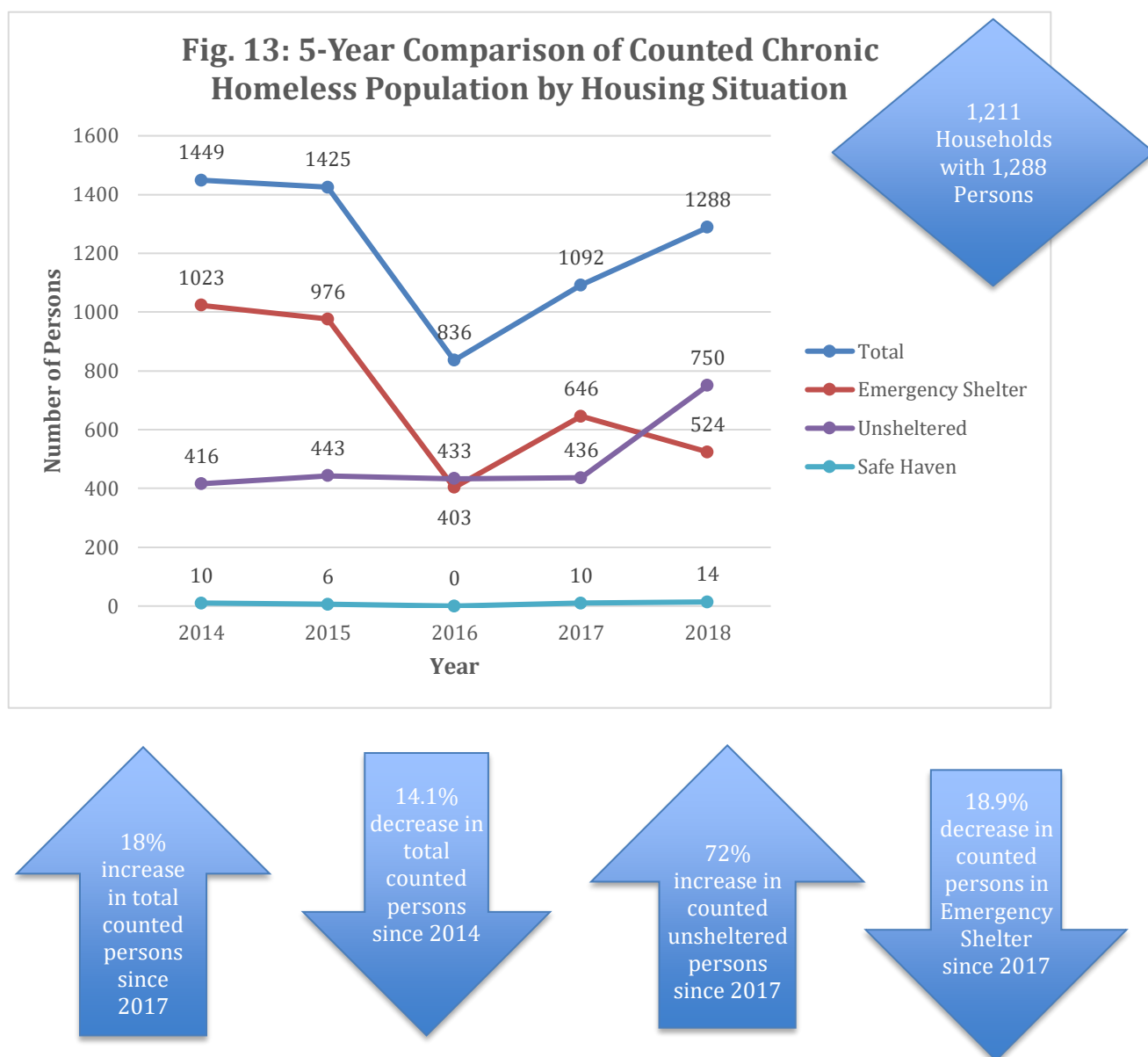


When households were asked ‘what was your residence prior to your current living situation?’ more said they were in Emergency Shelter (22.5%) than any other type of residence. 19.3% reported residing in permanent housing and 19.1% reported staying with friends or family prior to their current living situation.

## IV. Findings for the Chronically Homeless

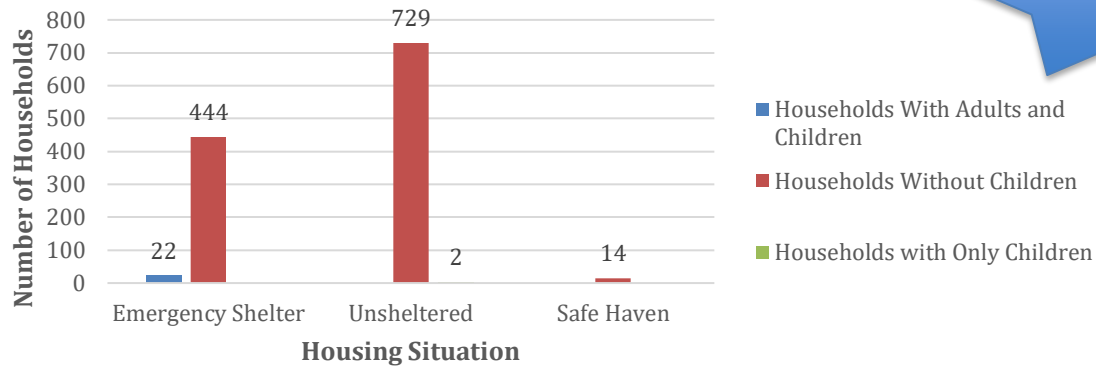
Chronically Homeless households, as defined by HUD, are persons with a long-term disabling condition, who have been continually homeless for a year or more, or at least four times in the past three years where the length of time in those episodes add up to a year or more. Any family with a head of household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





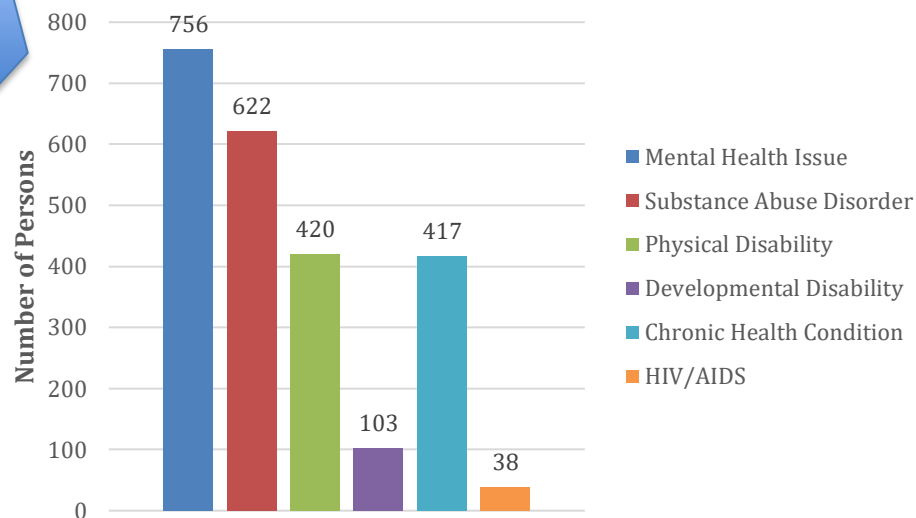
**Fig. 14: Chronically Homeless Counted Households by Housing Situation**



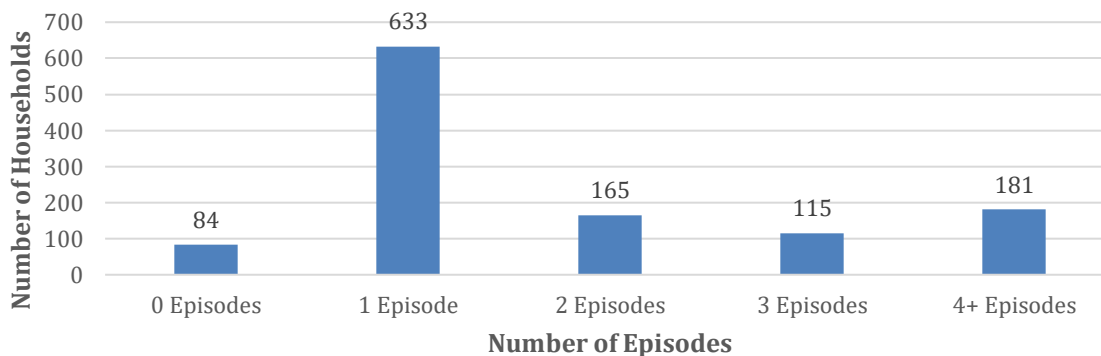
95.3%  
Adult  
Individuals

64.5% identified  
multiple  
disabilities

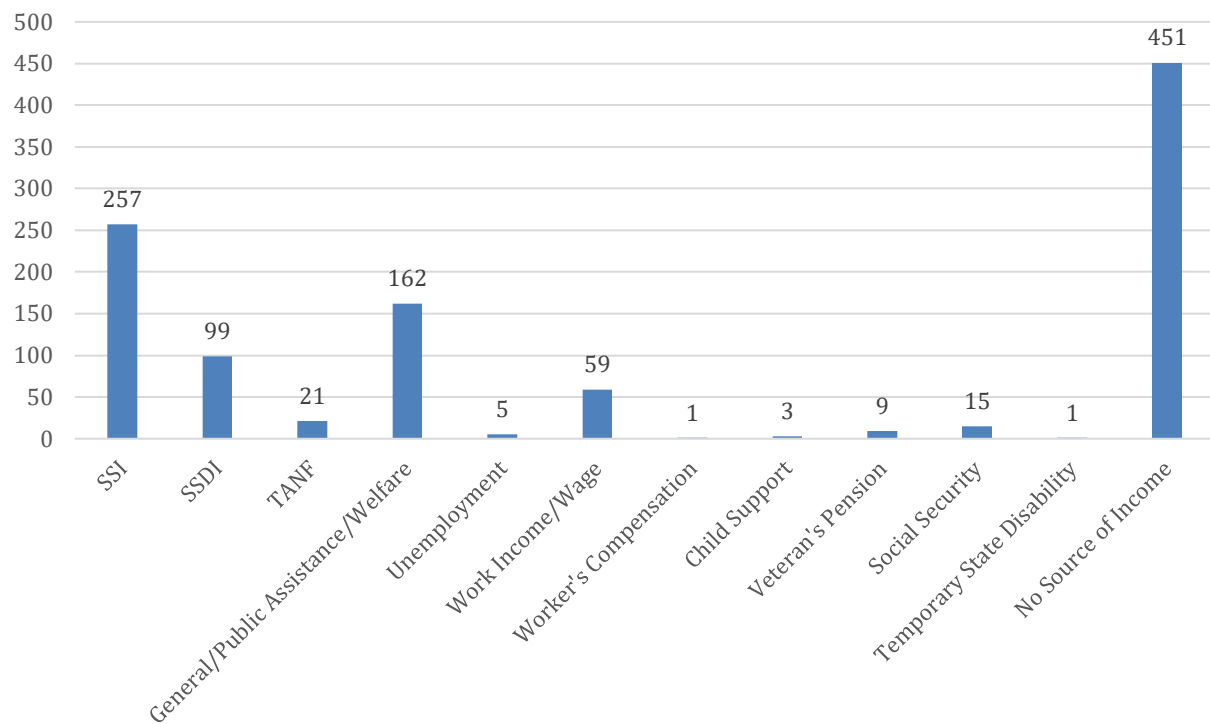
**Fig. 15: Number of Counted Chronically Homeless Persons by Disability Type**



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



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

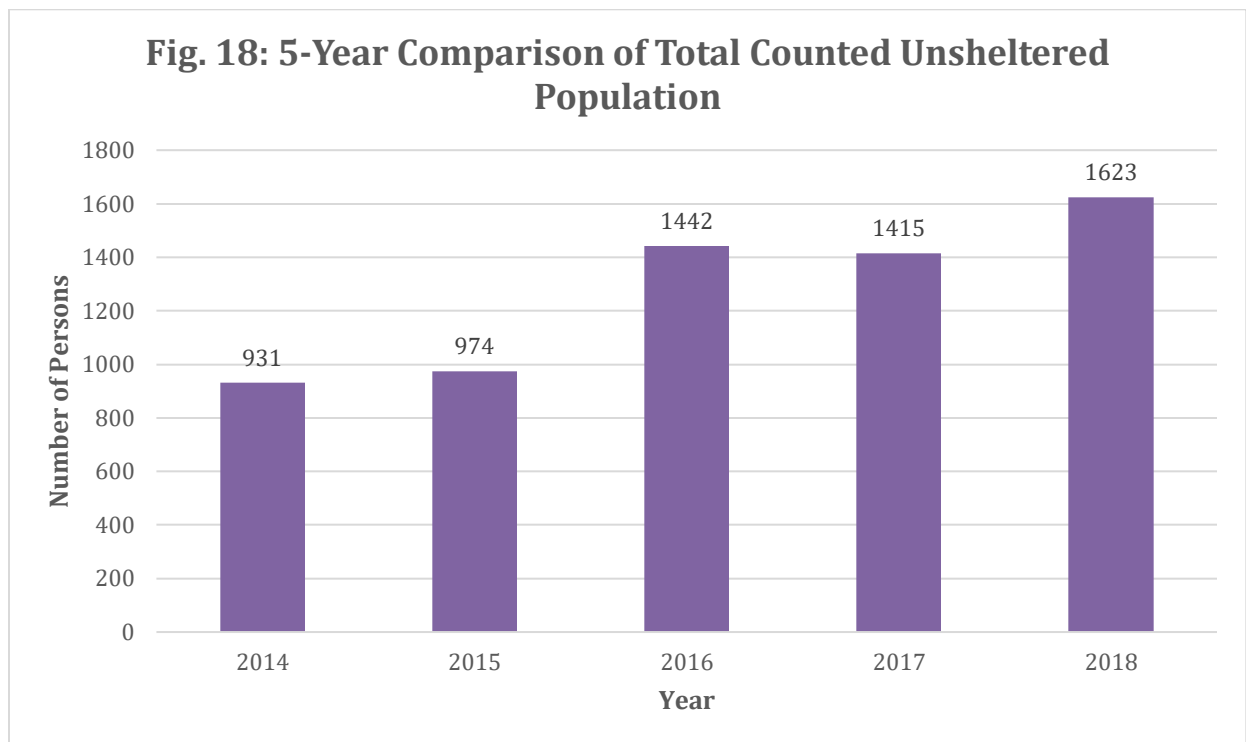


Average income for counted chronically homeless households is \$402.01

## 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.”

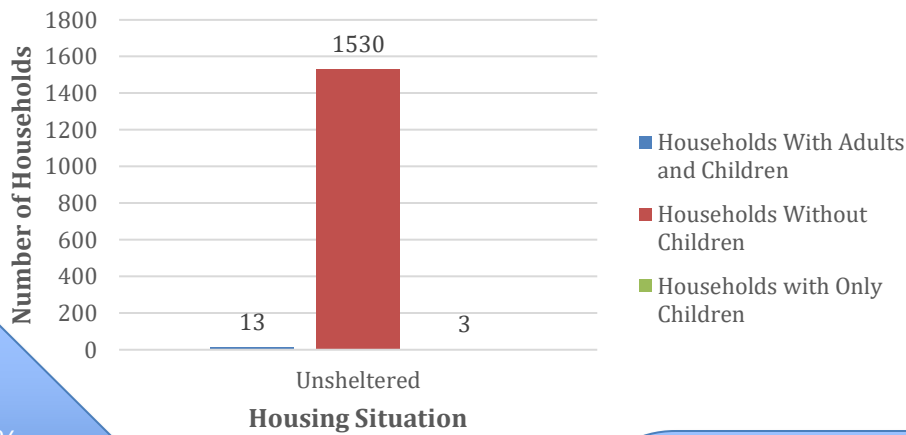
Unsheltered homeless individuals and families are among those with the most critical housing needs in a community. The unsheltered are especially vulnerable in the cold weather and the elements, which are in evidence at the end of January when the Count takes place. The Point-In-Time survey can play an important role in helping communities understand why some of the homeless remain unsheltered, and who is included in this group.



15%  
increase in  
counted  
persons  
since 2017

74.3%  
increase in  
counted  
persons  
since 2014

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

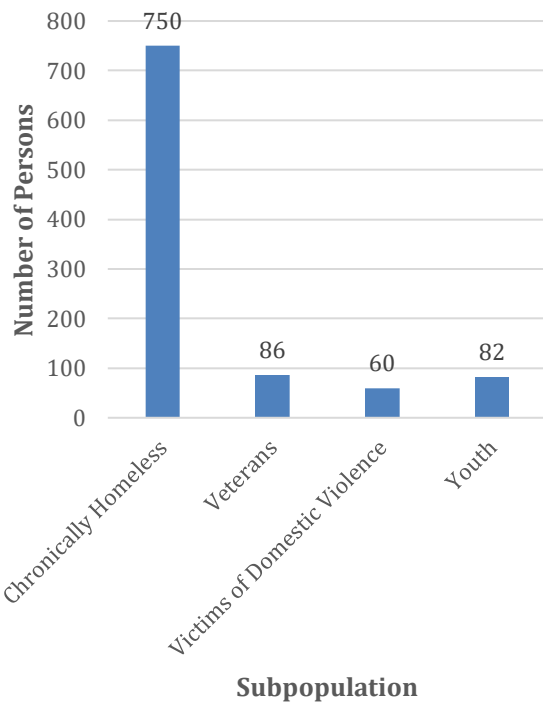


99% Adult Individuals

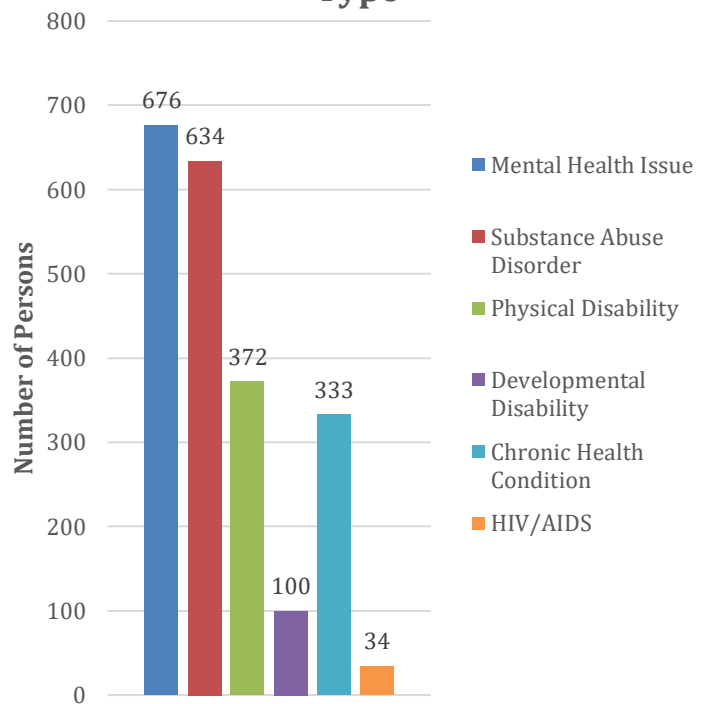
75% male

52.2% African American

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

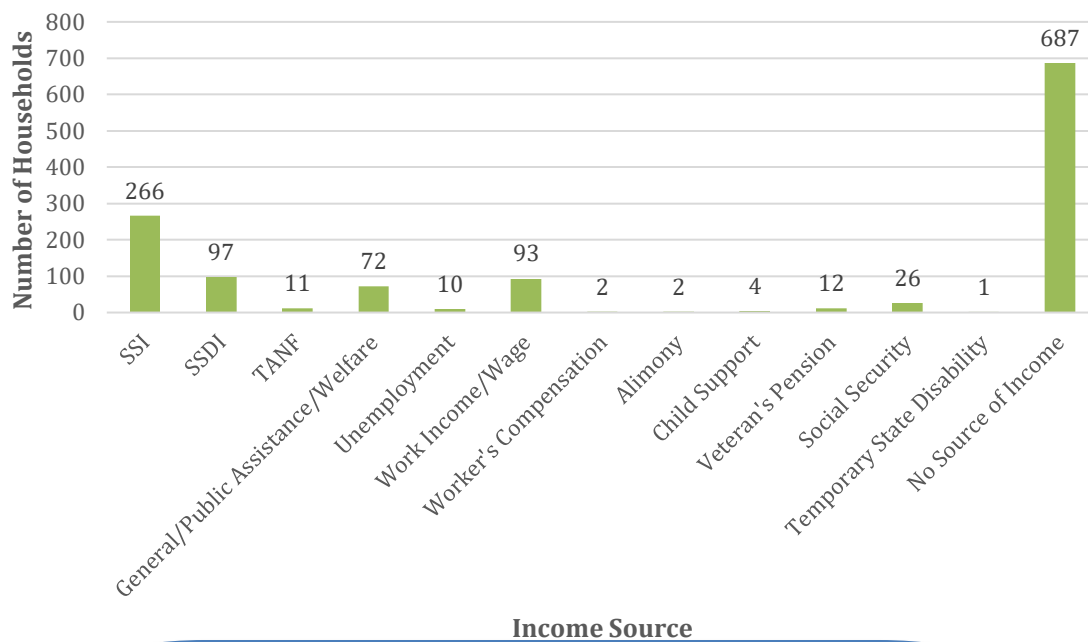


**Fig. 21: Number of Counted Unsheltered Persons by Disability Type**



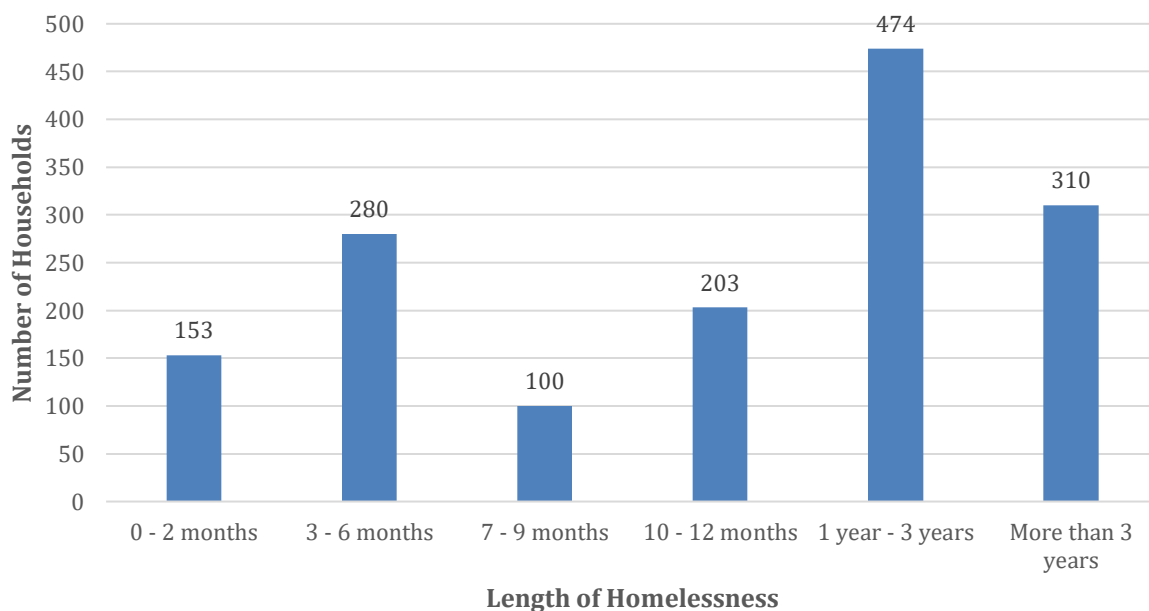
72% reported a disability

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



Average Monthly Income is \$322.79

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

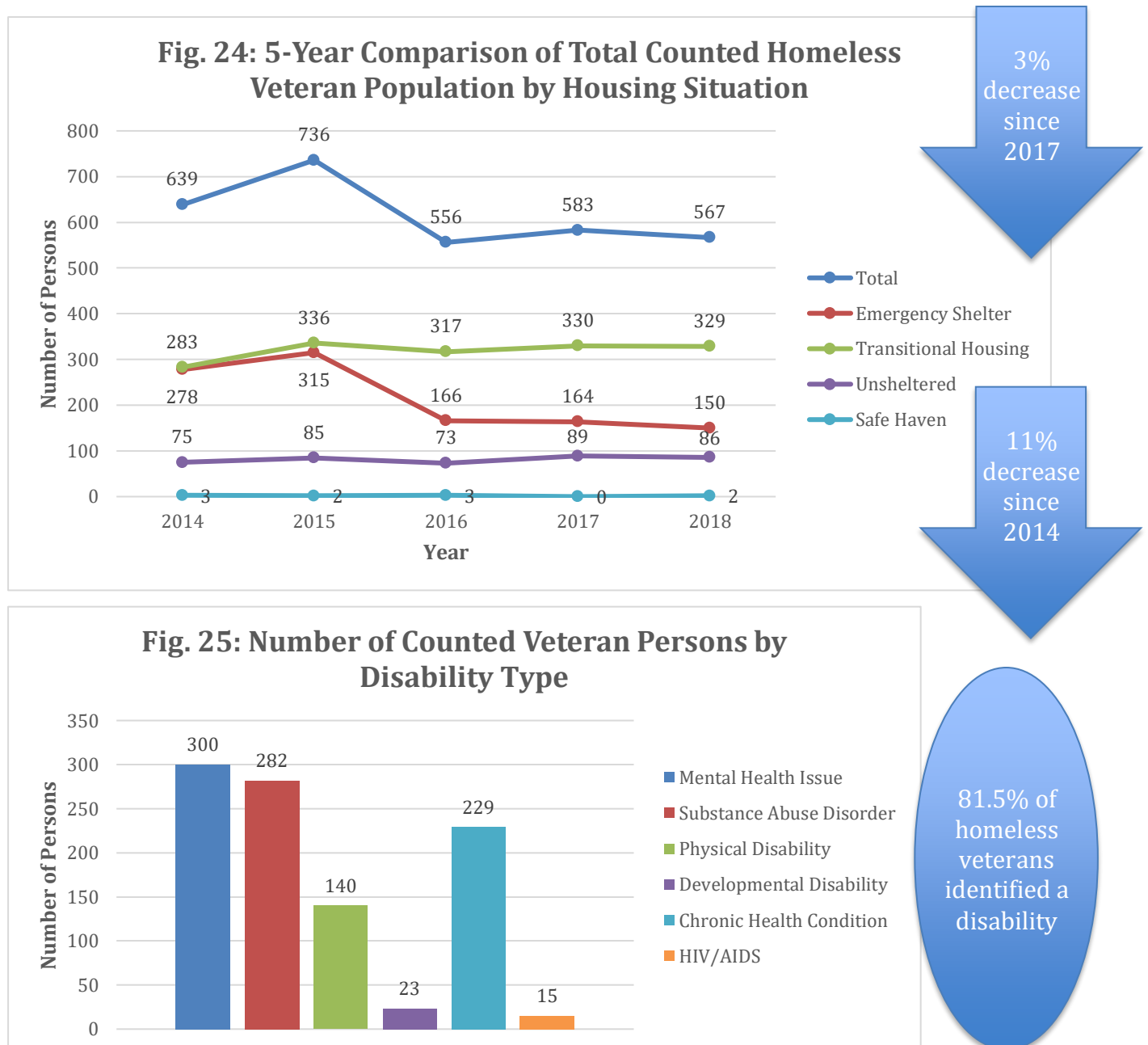


51.6% have been homeless for more than 1 year



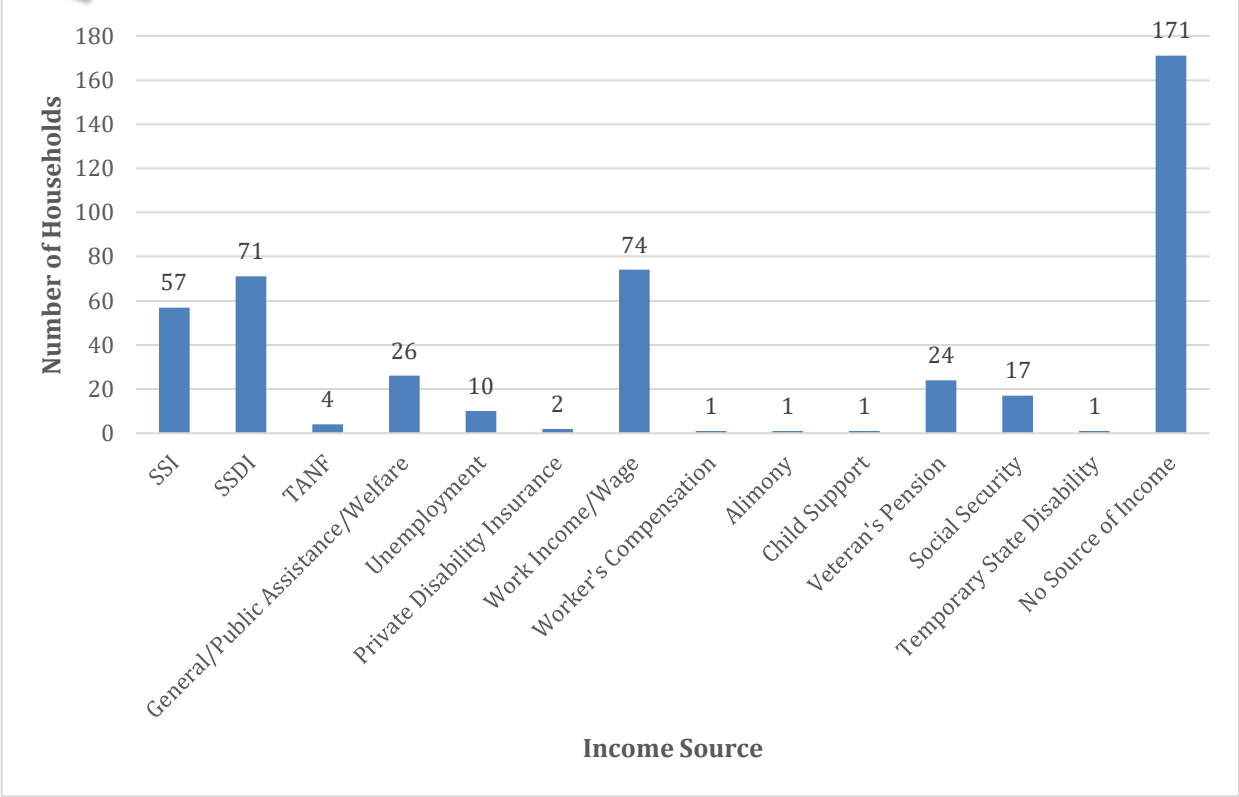
## VI. Findings for Homeless Veterans

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 Veterans 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.



Average monthly income is \$1,111.90

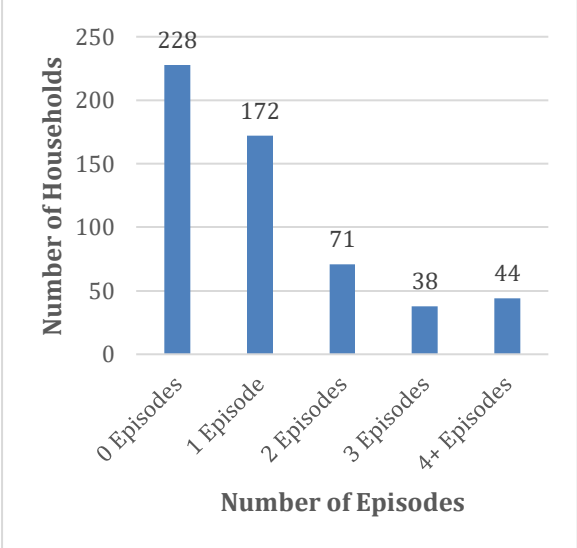
**Fig. 26: Income by Housing Situation for Counted Veteran Households**



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



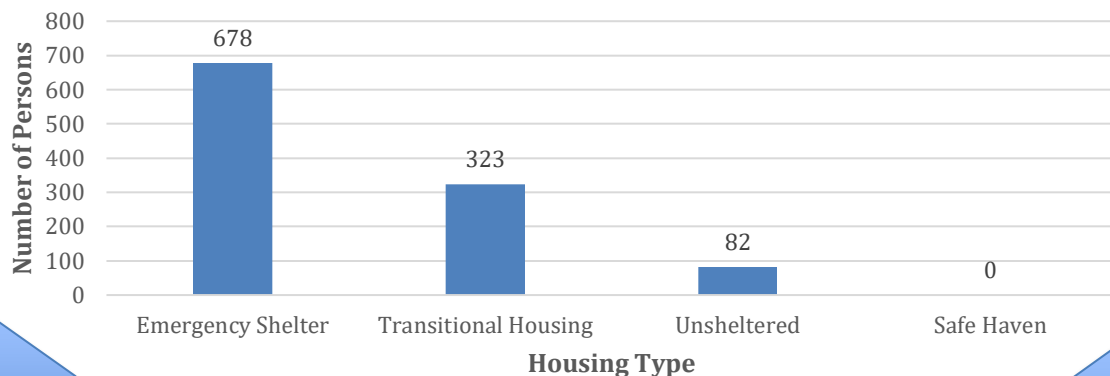
**Fig. 28: Episodes of Homelessness Among Counted Veteran Households**



## VII. Finding for Homeless Youth

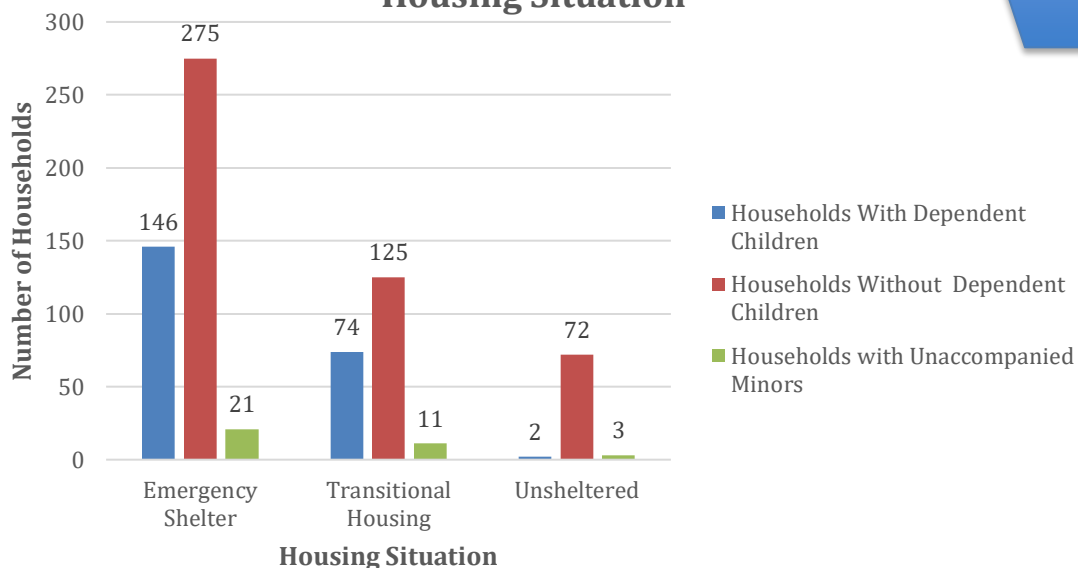
Youth are defined as persons under the age of 25 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian. This can include individual unaccompanied youth, youth only households of 2 or more youth presenting together as a household, and pregnant or parenting youth who are the legal guardians of one or more children. 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 Counted Homeless Youth by Housing Situation**



56%  
are  
female

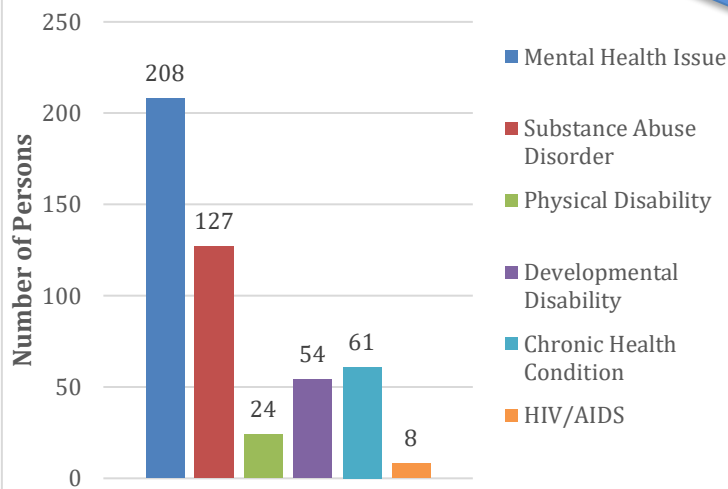
**Fig. 30: Counted Homeless Youth Households by Housing Situation**



66.1% of  
persons  
are over  
18 yrs.  
old

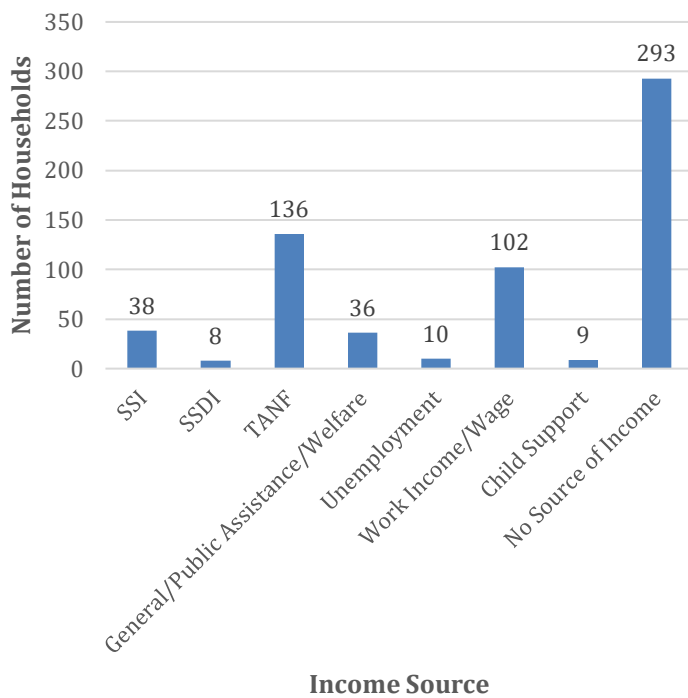
68.6% are African American

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



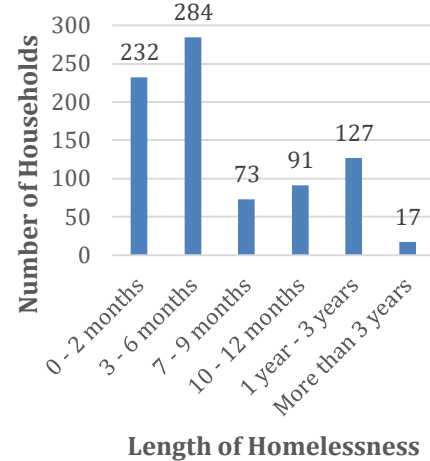
28.4% of youth respondents identified a disability

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

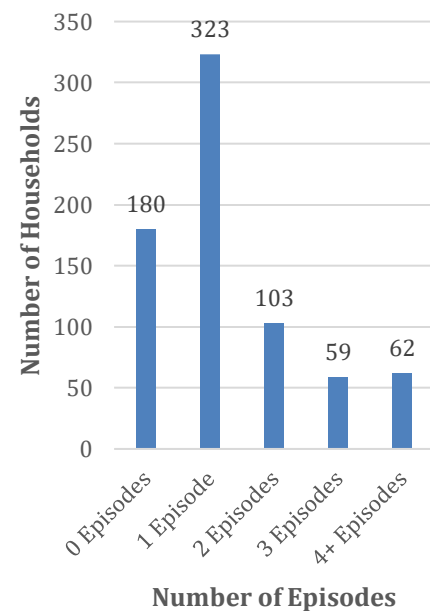


Average Monthly Income is \$476.98

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



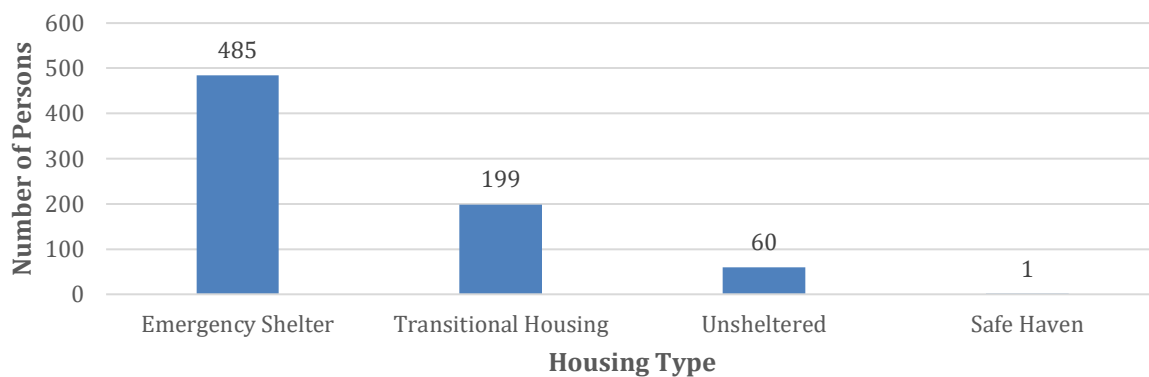
**Fig. 34: Episodes of Homelessness Among Counted Youth Households**



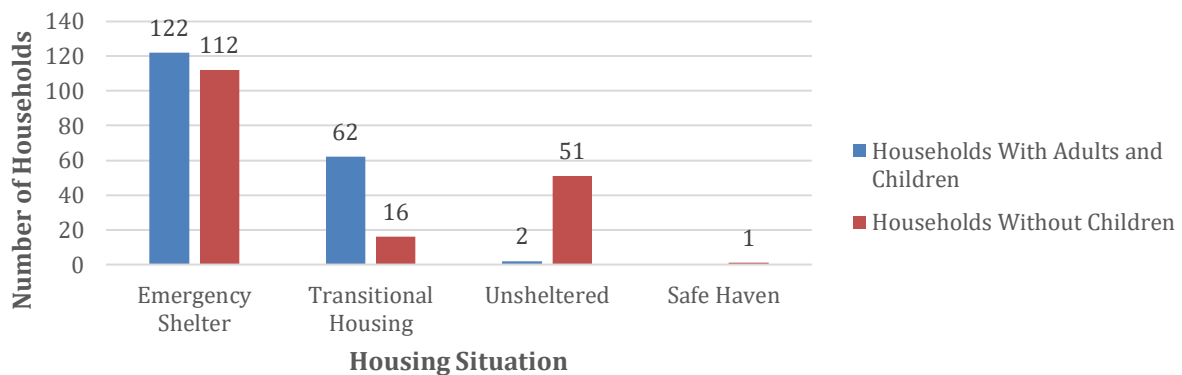
## VIII. Findings for Victims of Domestic Violence

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.

**Fig. 35: Number of Counted Homeless DV Victims by Housing Situation**



**Fig. 36: Counted Homeless DV Households by Housing Situation**



62% are households with children

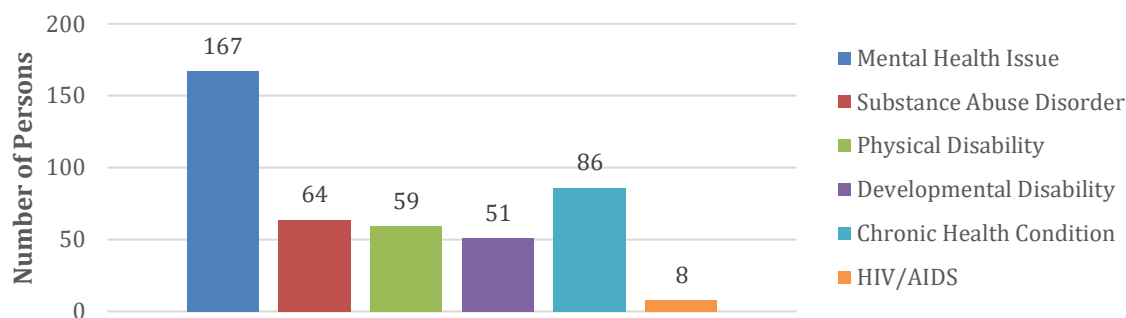
71.2% are females

46% are White

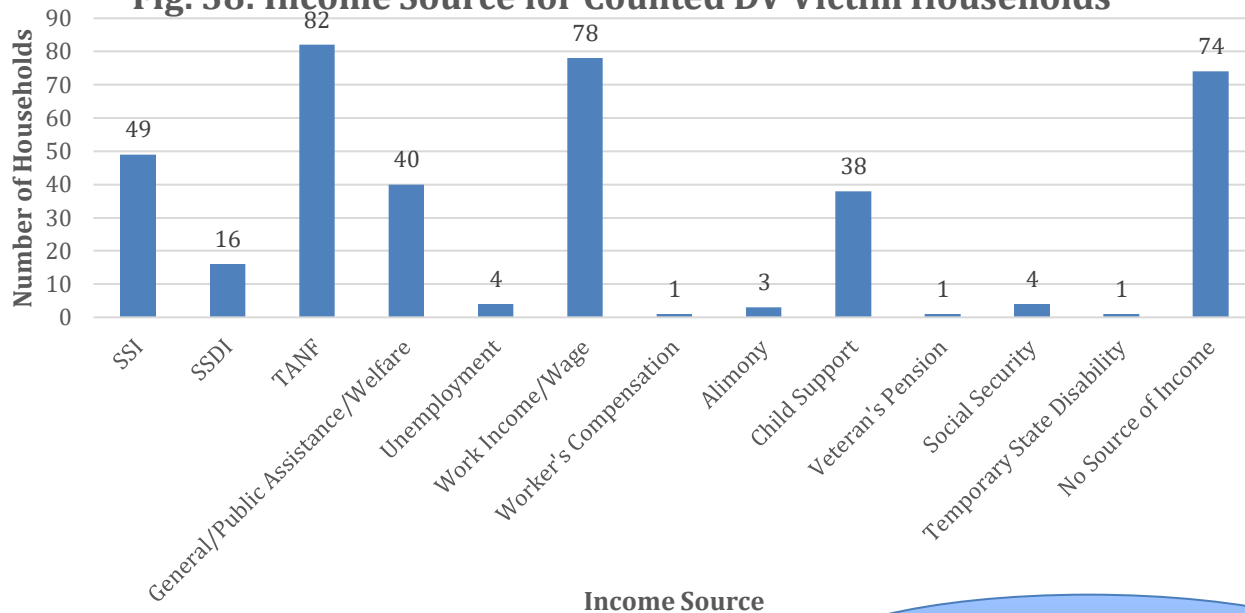


33.7%  
were  
disabled

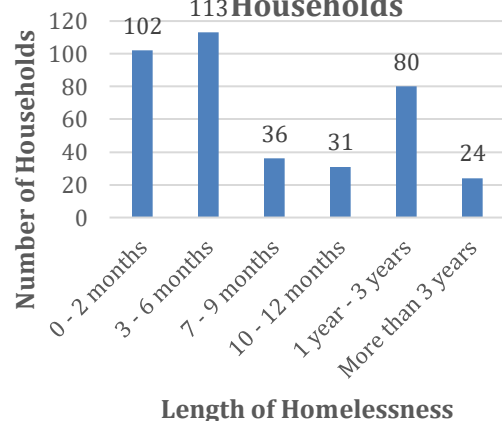
**Fig. 37: Number of Counted DV Victims by Disability Type**



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

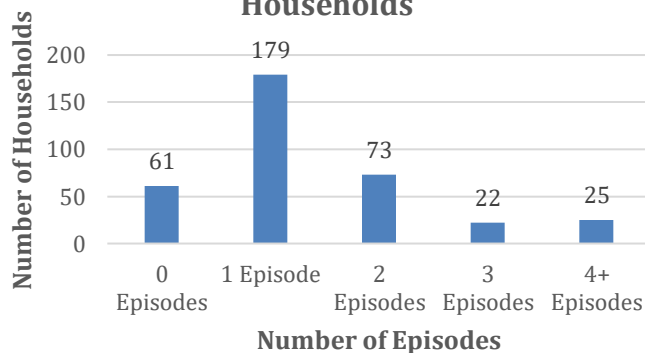


**Fig. 39: Length of Homelessness Among Counted DV Victim Households**



Average Monthly Income is  
\$705.21

**Fig. 40: Episodes of Homelessness Among Counted 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.

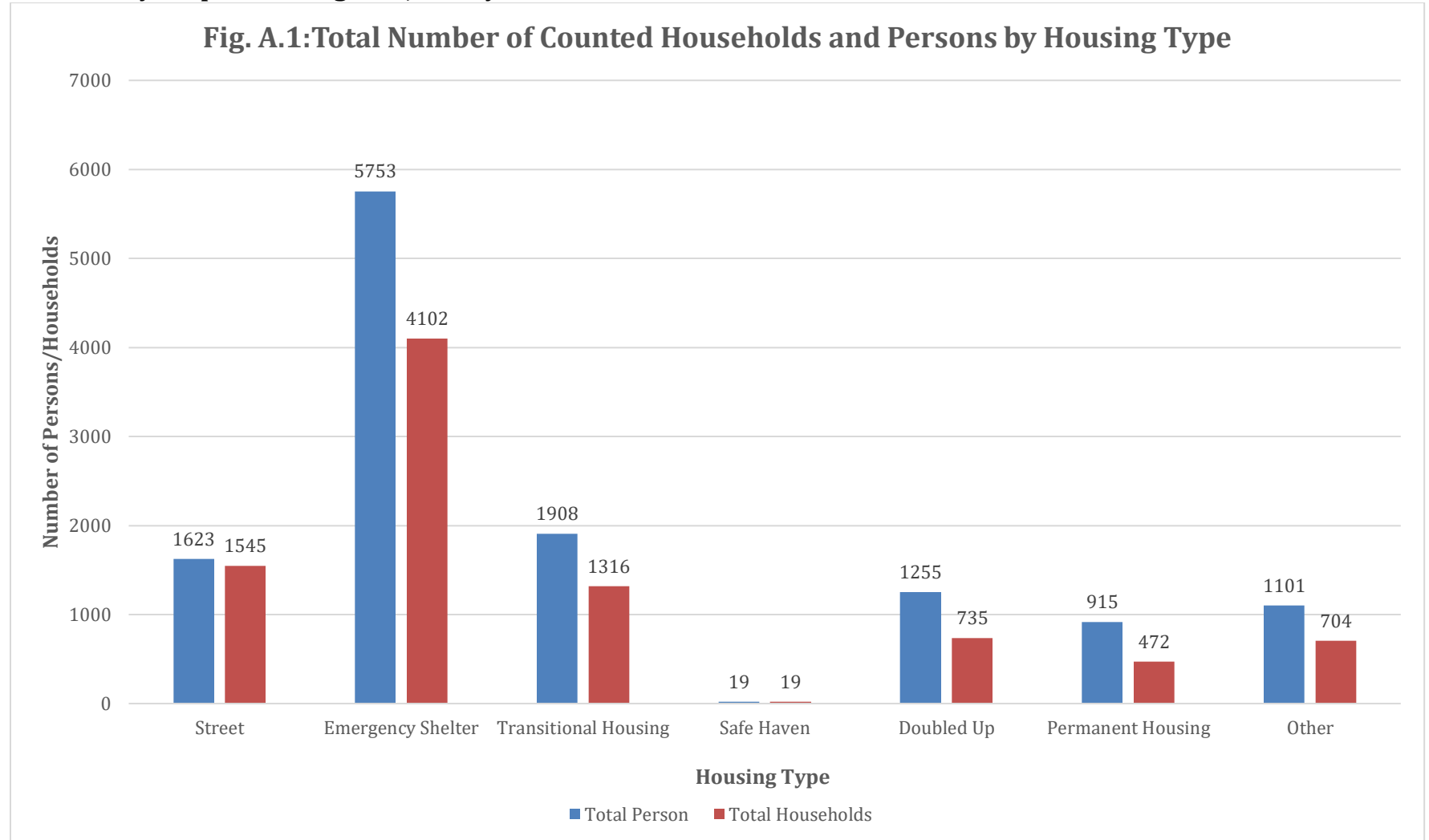
All duplicates detected through comparison of unique identifiers were then de-duplicated by the following process:

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?

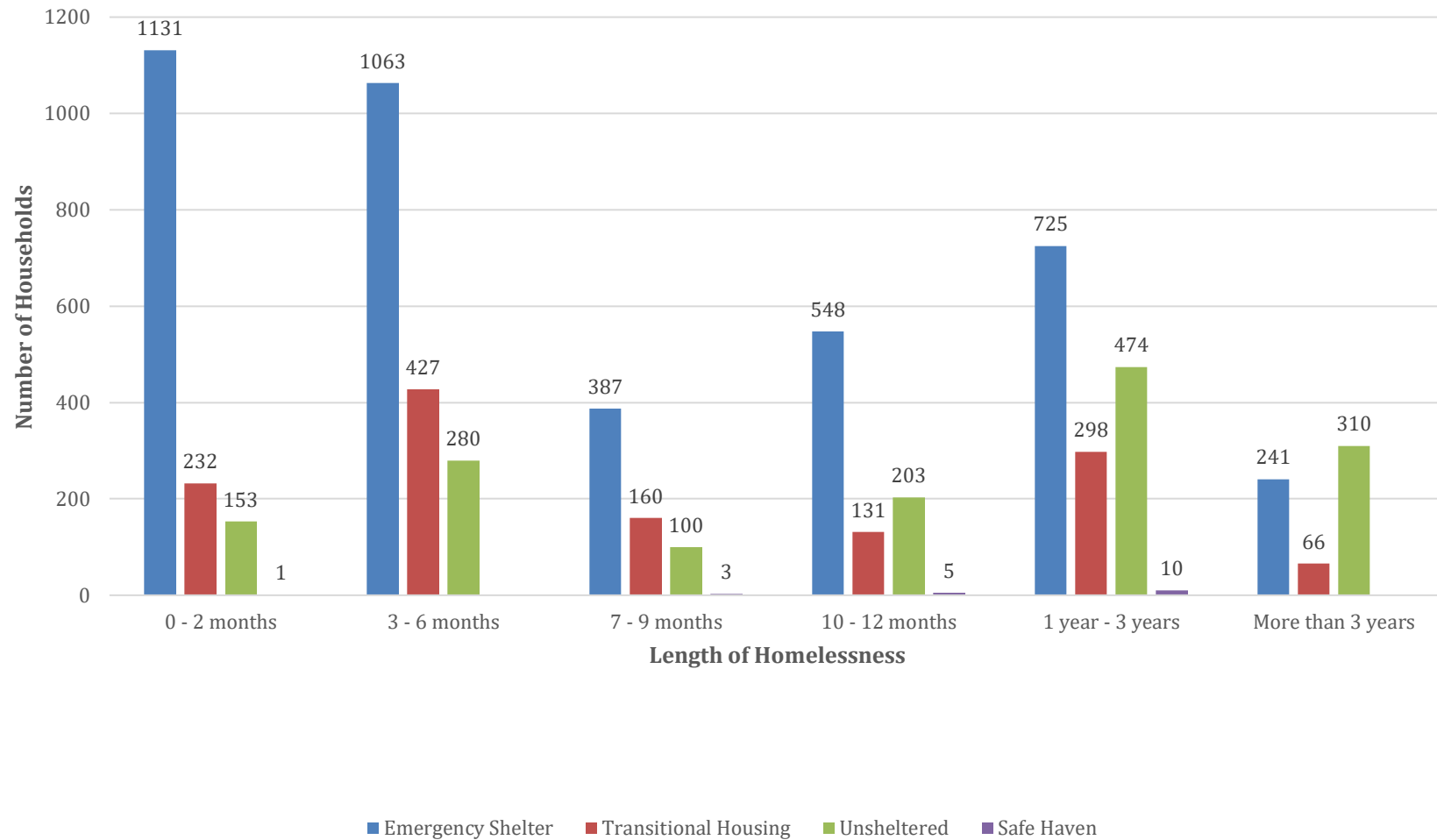


What was your location the night of the count?

<b>Fig. A.2: Number of Counted Homeless Households by County on the Night of the Count</b>	
<b>Location Night of Count – County</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>
Atlantic	437
Bergen	354
Burlington	840
Camden	577
Cape May	103
Cumberland	156
Essex	2,229
Gloucester	144
Hudson	860
Hunterdon	169
Mercer	479
Middlesex	596
Monmouth	335
Morris	398
Ocean	311
Passaic	434
Salem	47
Somerset	206
Sussex	113
Union	459
Warren	56

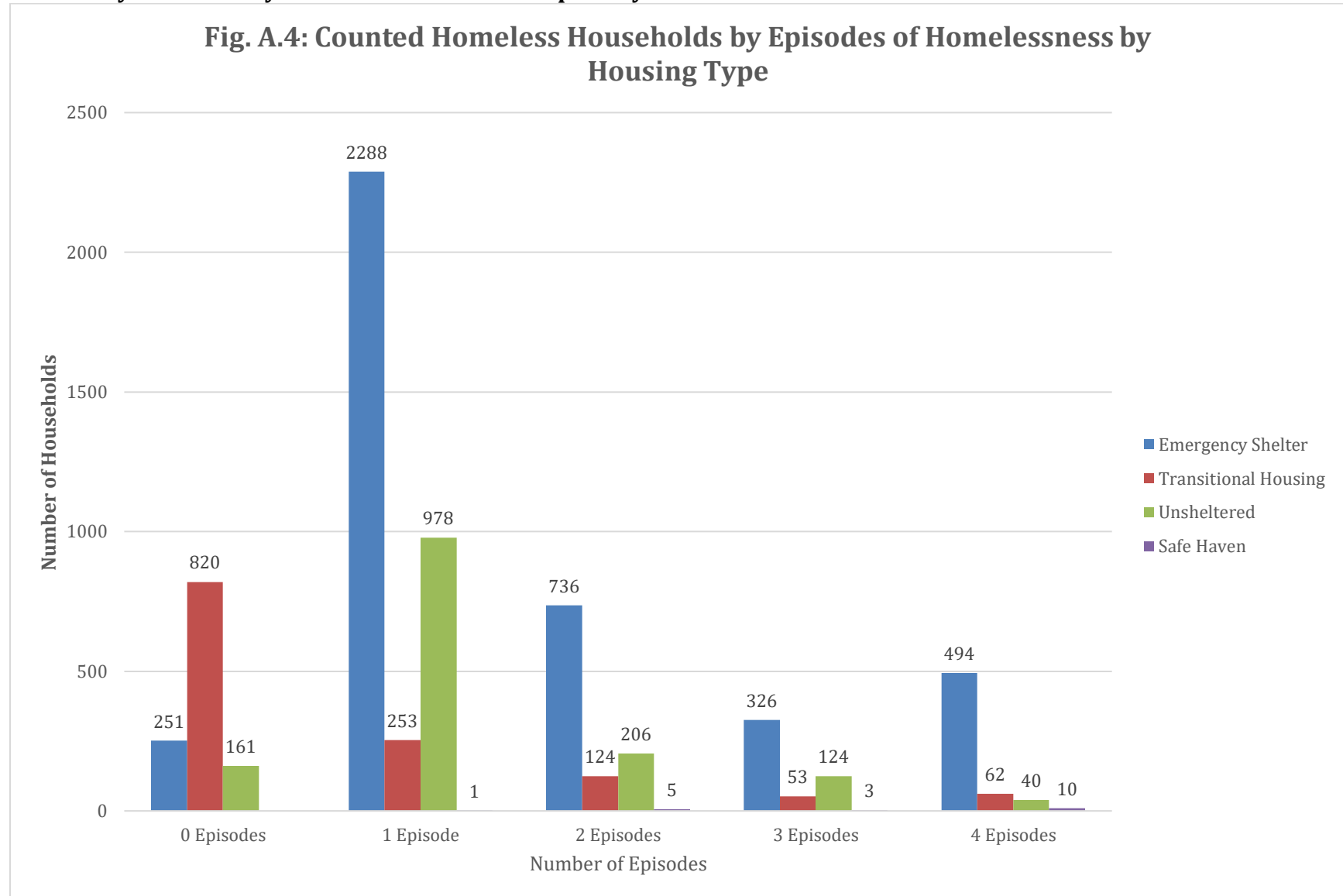
## What is your total length of homelessness?

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

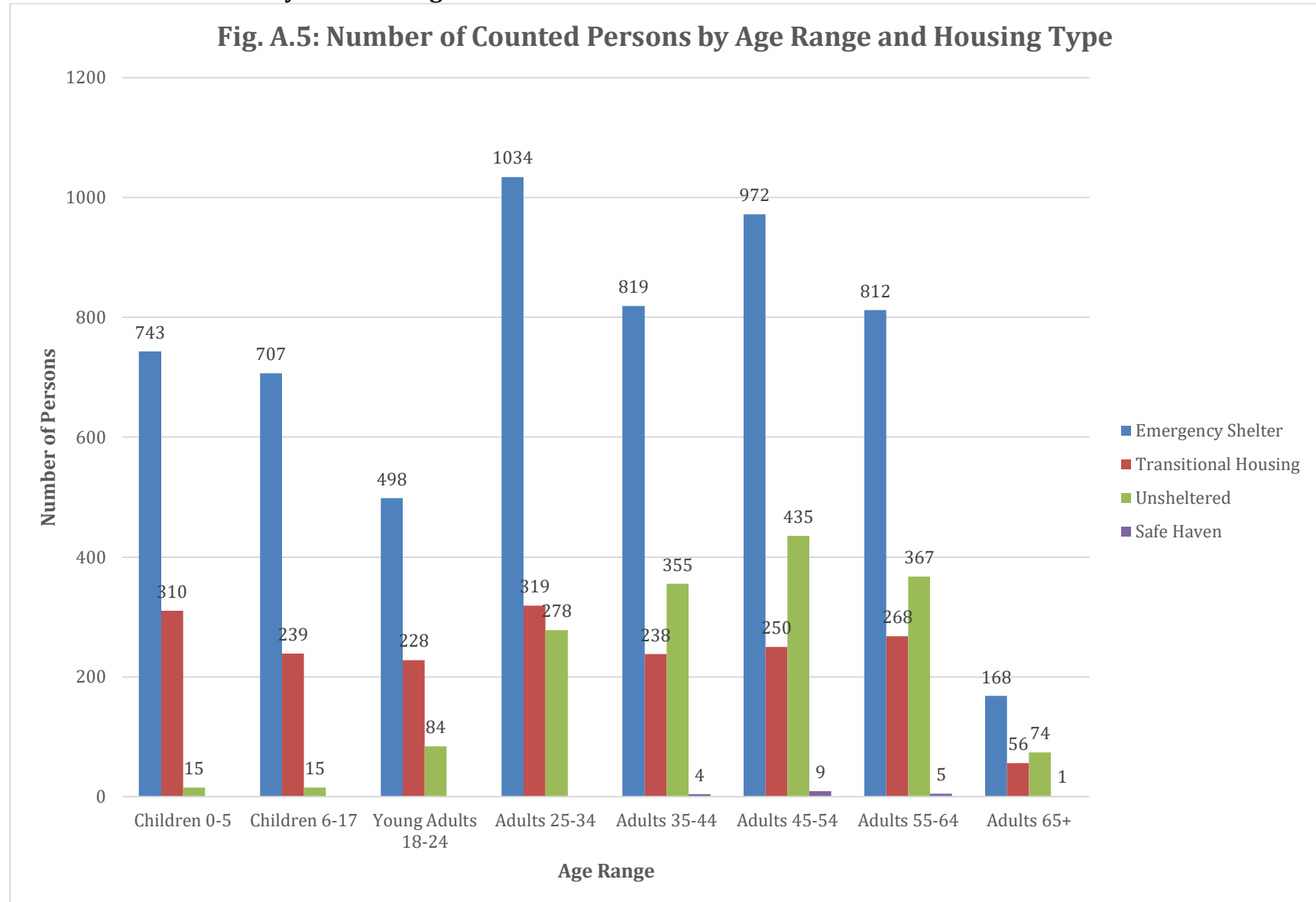




**How many times have you been homeless in the past 3 years?**

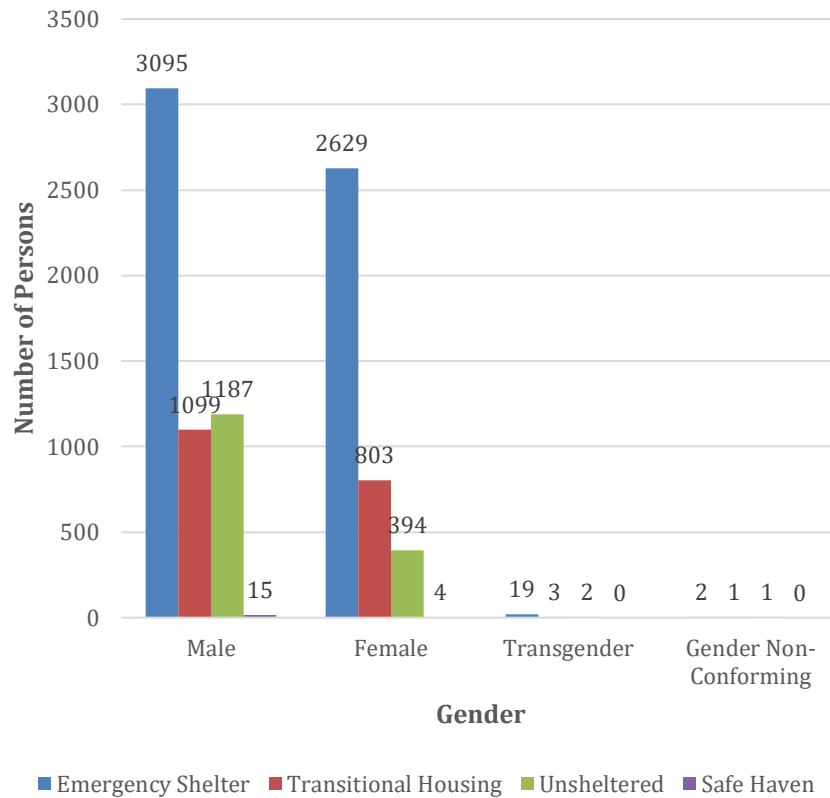


**Who was homeless with you on the night of the Point in Time count?**

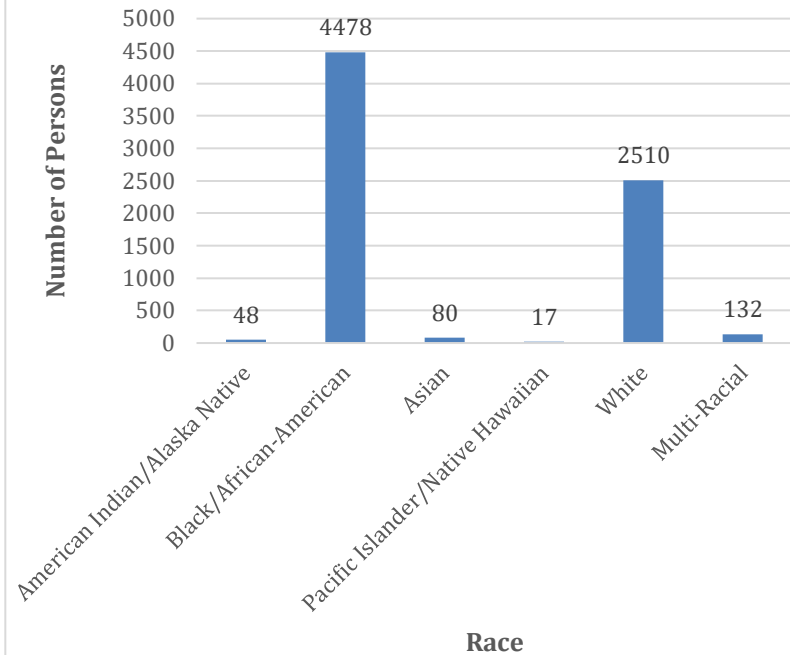


**Household Characteristics: Demographic Data – check all that apply to each person**

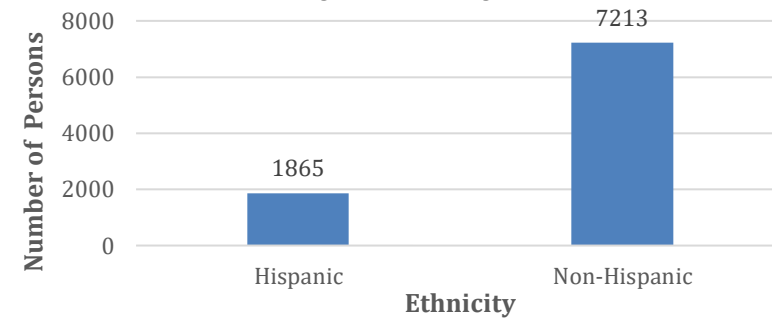
**Fig. A.6: Number of Counted Persons by Gender and Housing Type**



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

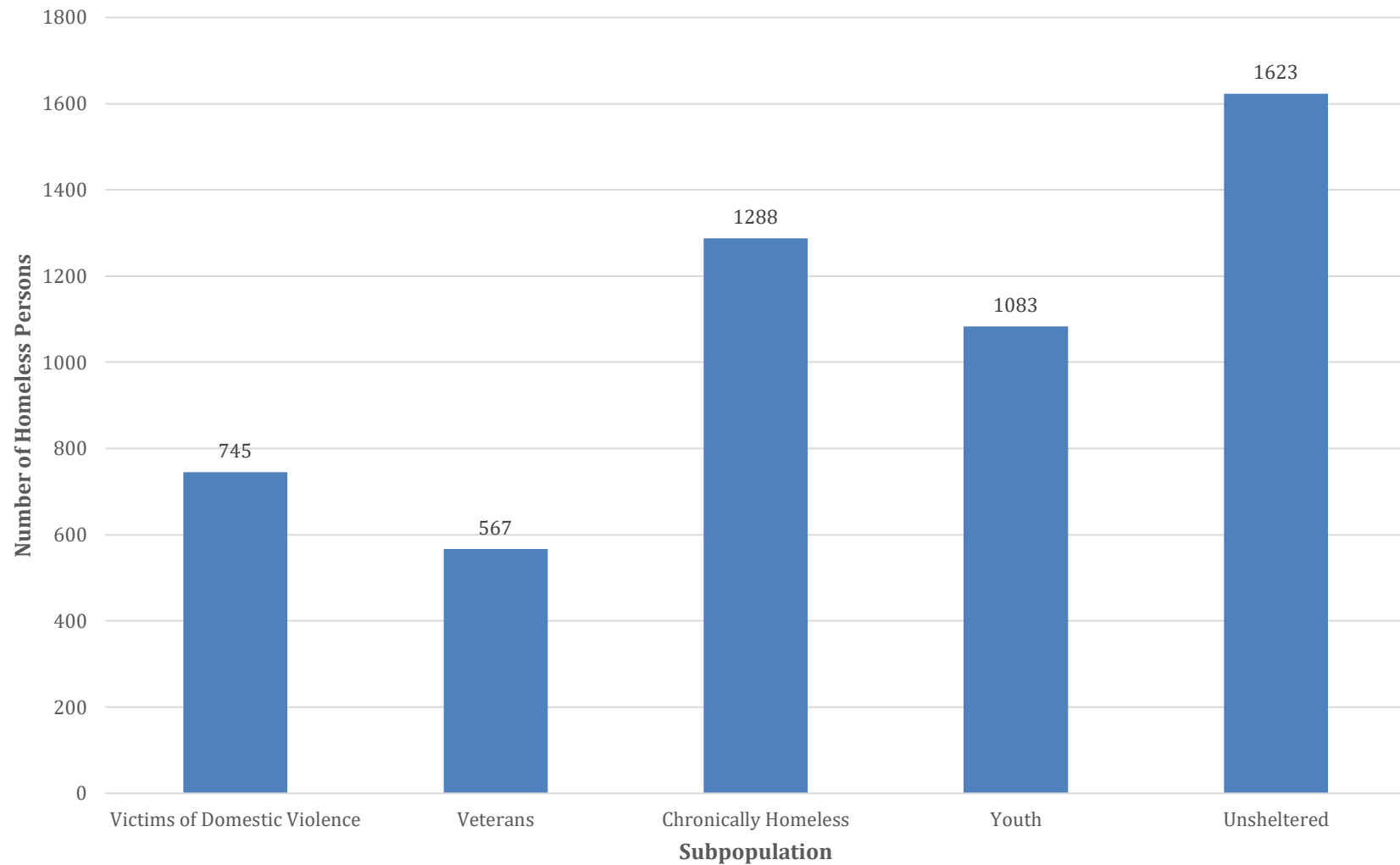


**Fig. A.8: Number of Counted Persons by Ethnicity**

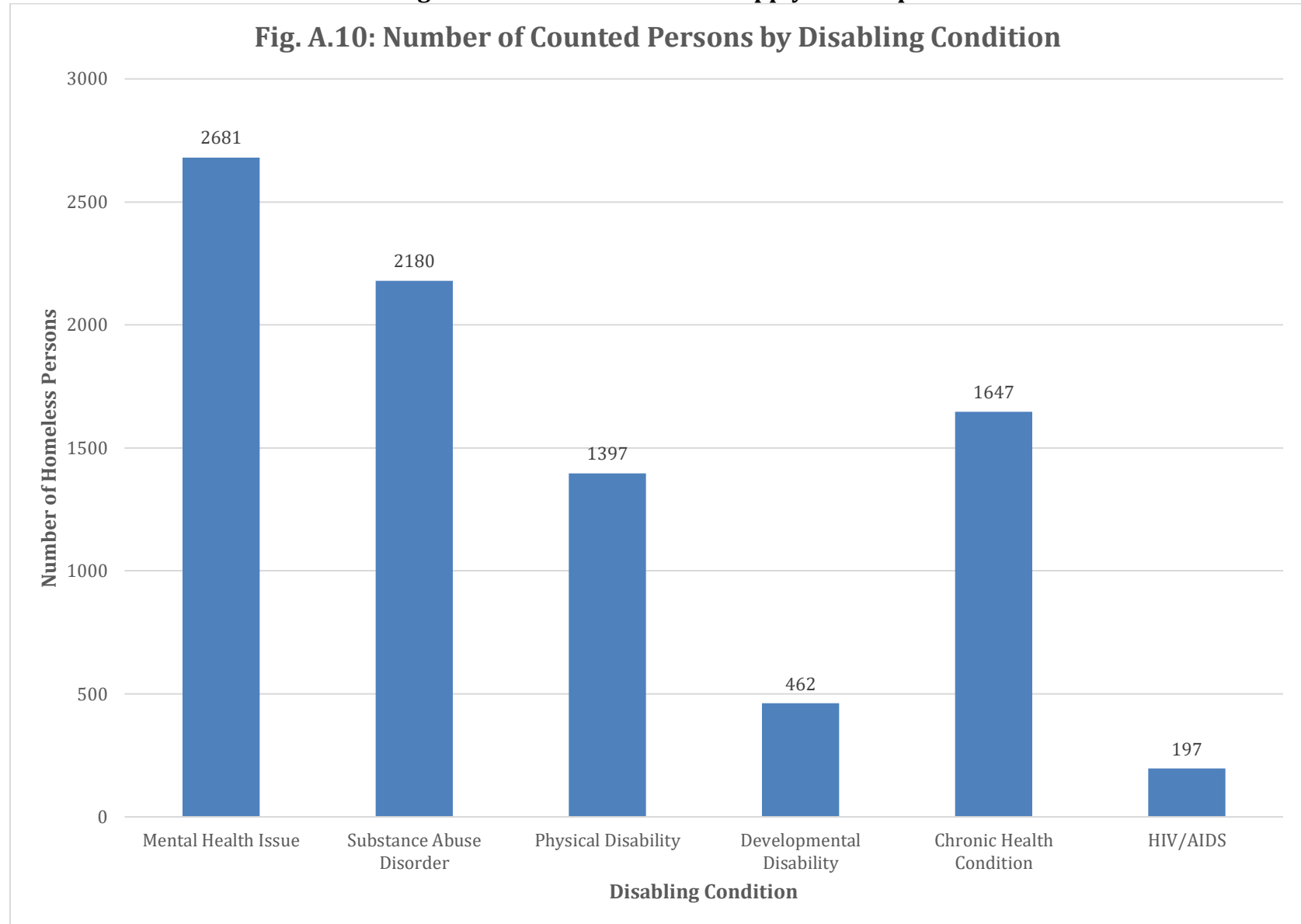


**Household Characteristics: Subpopulations – check all that apply to each person**

**Fig. A.9: Number of Counted Persons by Subpopulation**



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



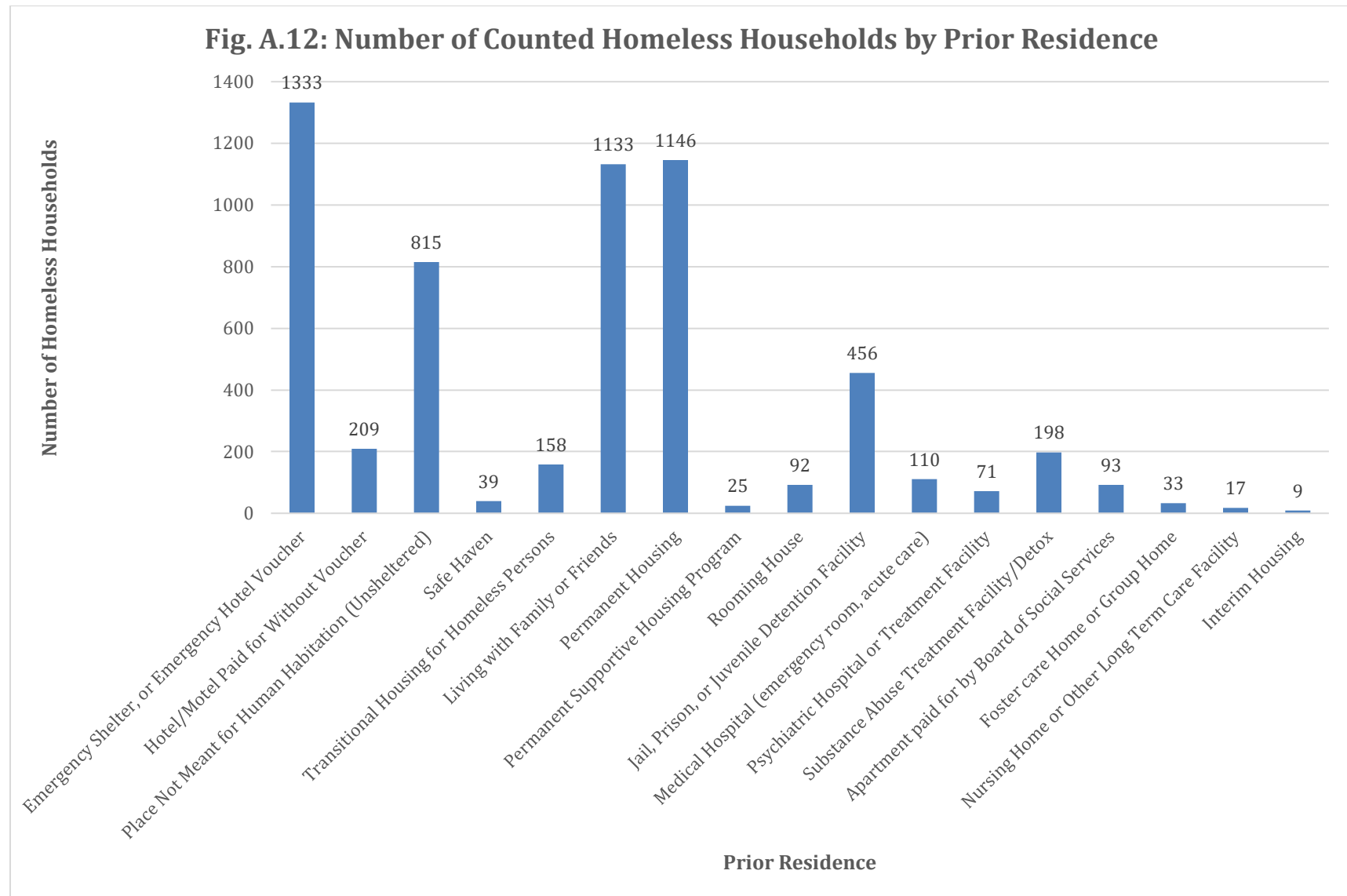
**Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?**

<b>Fig. A.11. Number of Counted Homeless Households by State, or County of Last Permanent Address</b>	
<b>Last Permanent Address - State/County</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>
Atlantic County	289
Bergen County	220
Burlington County	530
Camden County	275
Cape May County	73
Cumberland County	158
Essex County	1,176
Gloucester County	81
Hudson County	625
Hunterdon County	60
Mercer County	287
Middlesex County	368
Monmouth County	234
Morris County	198
Ocean County	197
Passaic County	300
Salem County	27
Somerset County	66
Sussex County	52
Union County	308
Warren County	48
Alabama	4
Alaska	1
Arizona	2
Arkansas	1
California	3
Colorado	3
Connecticut	4
Delaware	6
Florida	42
Georgia	9
Illinois	2
Louisiana	2
Maine	1
Maryland	9
Massachusetts	5
Michigan	3
Minnesota	2

Missouri	1
Montana	1
Nevada	1
New York	87
North Carolina	10
Ohio	8
Oklahoma	1
Oregon	1
Pennsylvania	68
South Carolina	9
Tennessee	2
Texas	9
Vermont	1
Virginia	1
Washington	3
West Virginia	3
Wisconsin	1
Puerto Rico	20

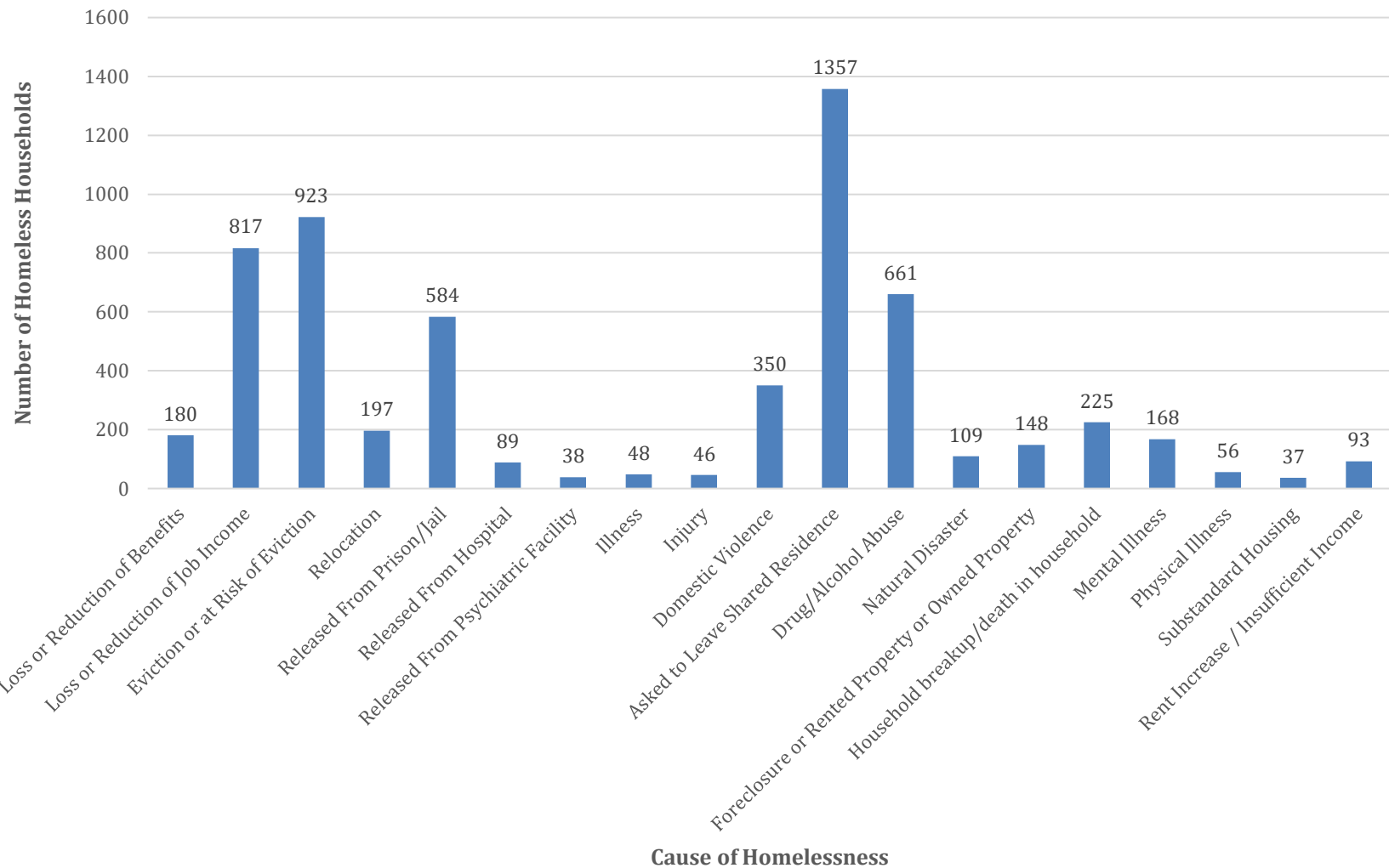


## What was your residence prior to your current living situation?

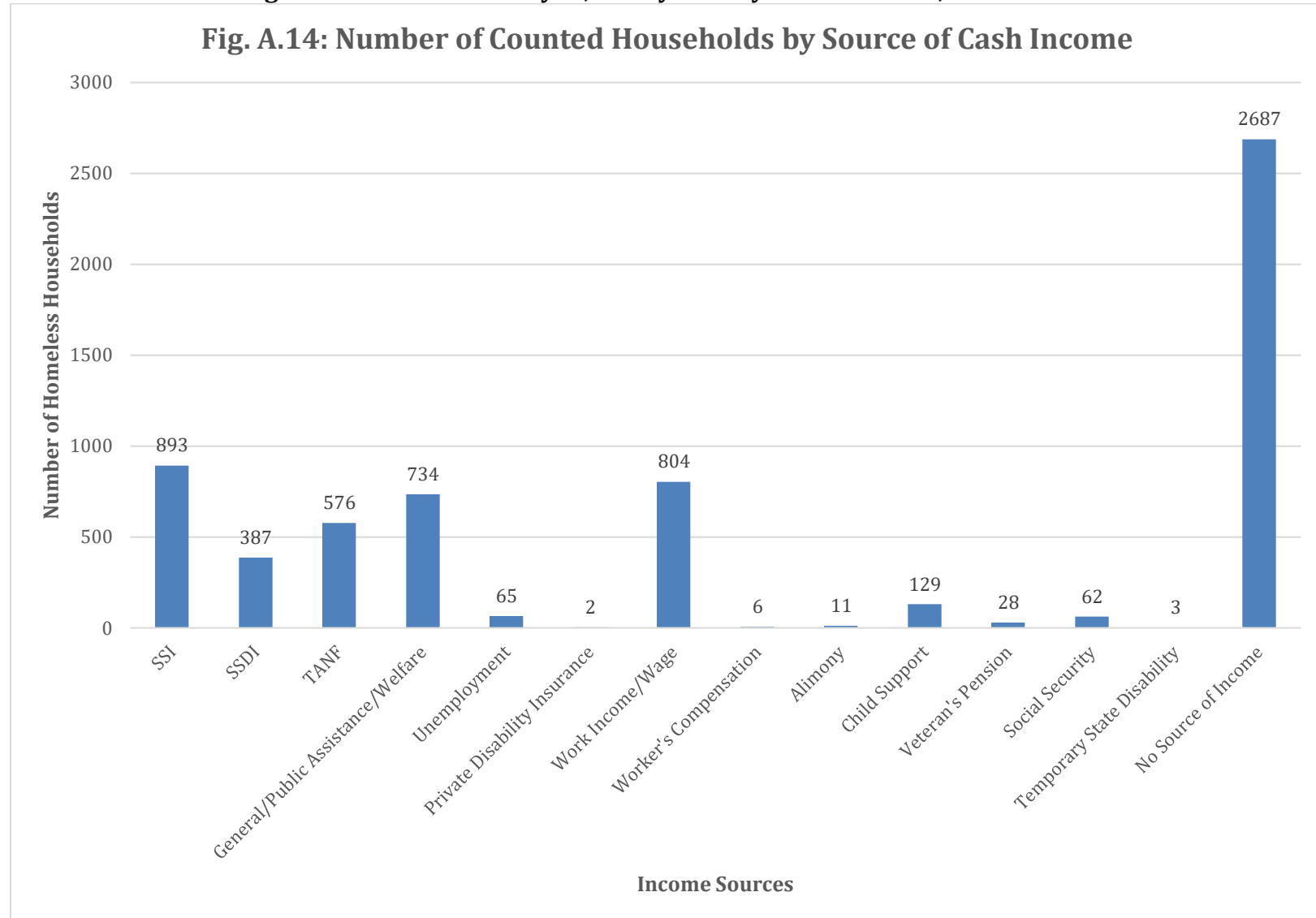


What was the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, your current living situation?

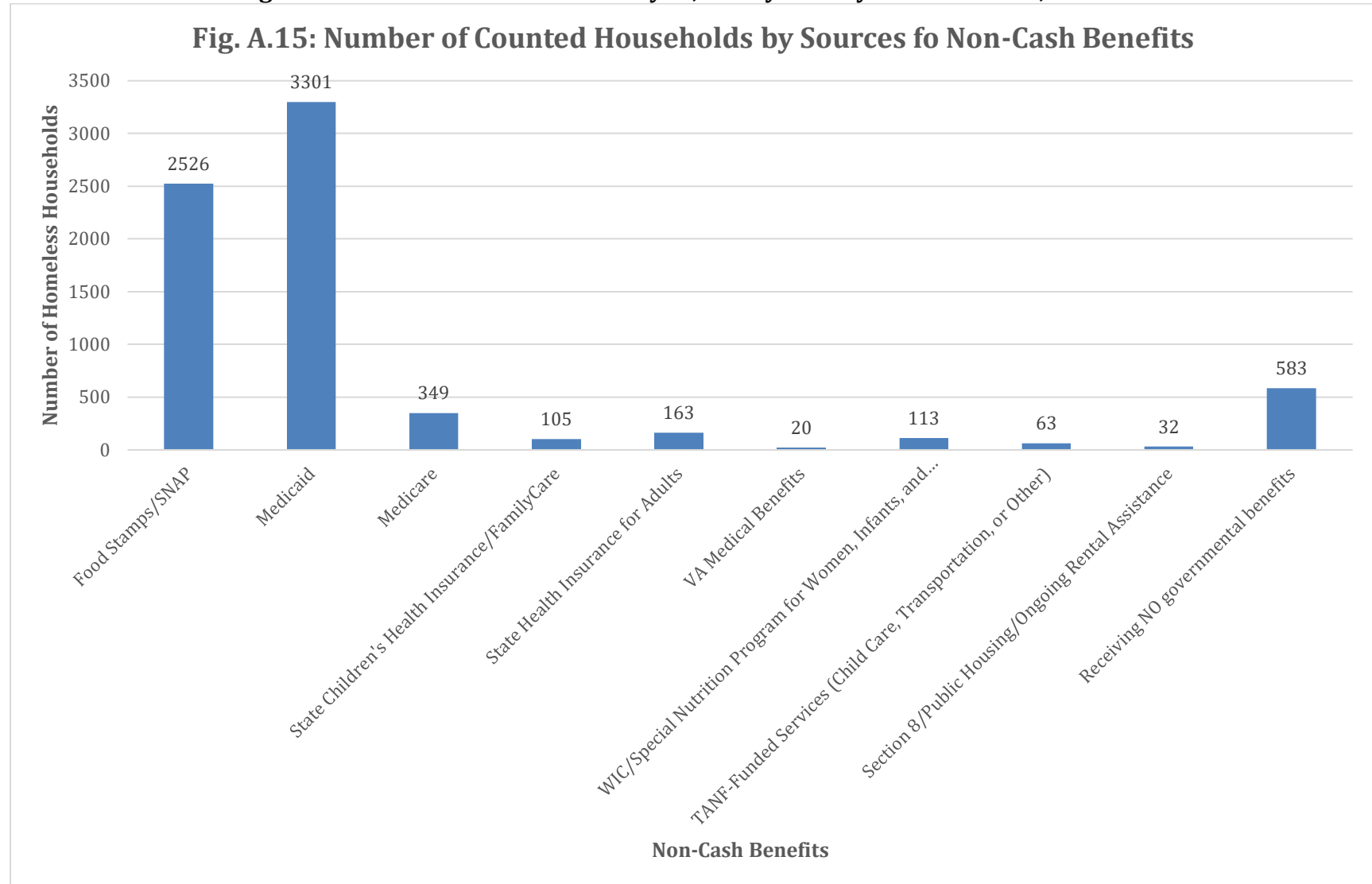
**Fig. A.13: Number of Counted Households by Cause of Homelessness**



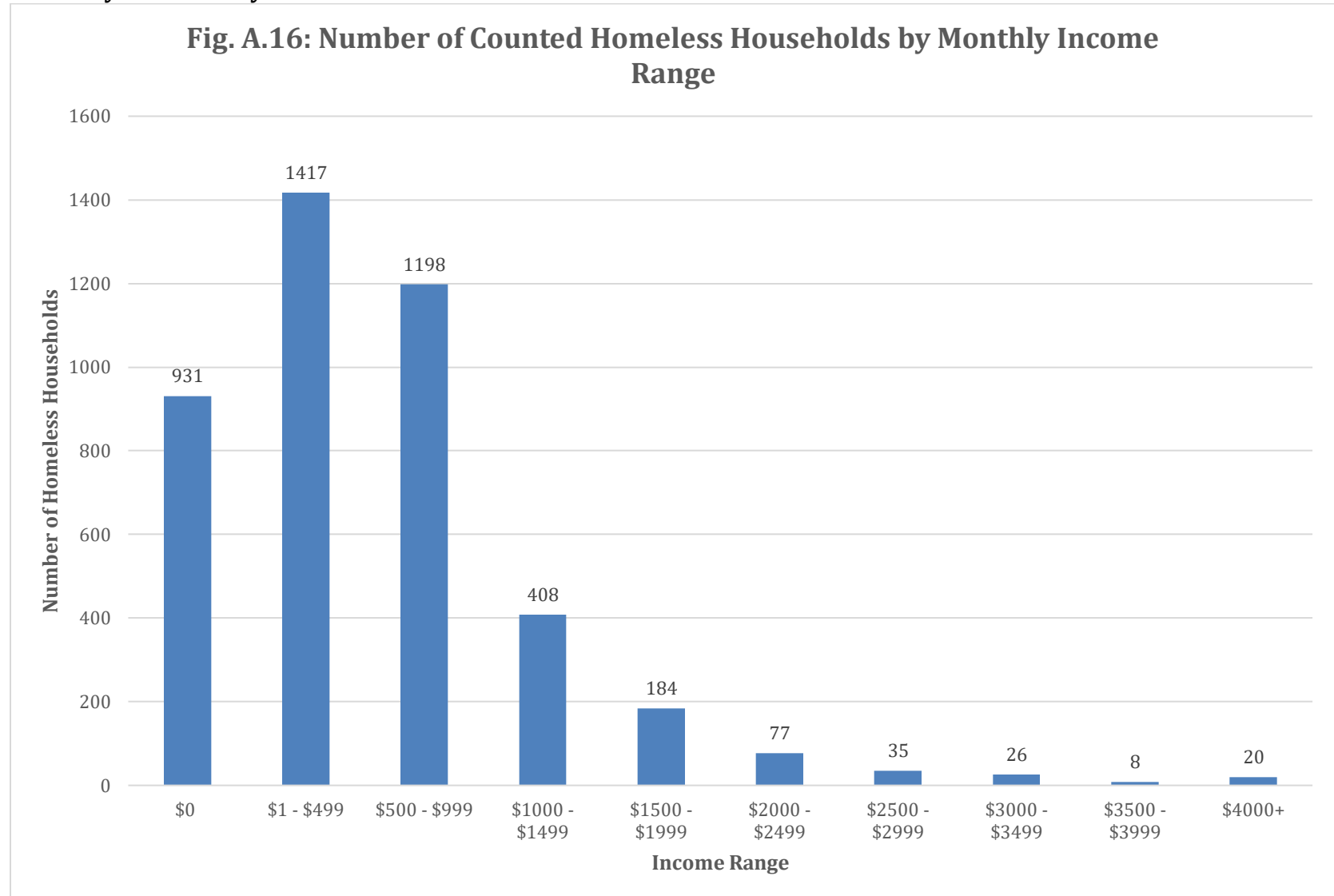
Which of the following sources of income do you, or anyone in your household, receive?



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?

