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A large, stylized graphic of the state of New Jersey in white, set against a blue background with a pattern of small white numbers. Overlaid on the map is the text "NJ" in a large, bold, brown serif font. Below "NJ" is the year "2018" in a smaller, bold, black sans-serif font. At the bottom of the graphic is the word "Counts!" in a large, bold, brown serif font, with an exclamation mark.

NJ
2018
Counts!

Ocean 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 23rd, 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

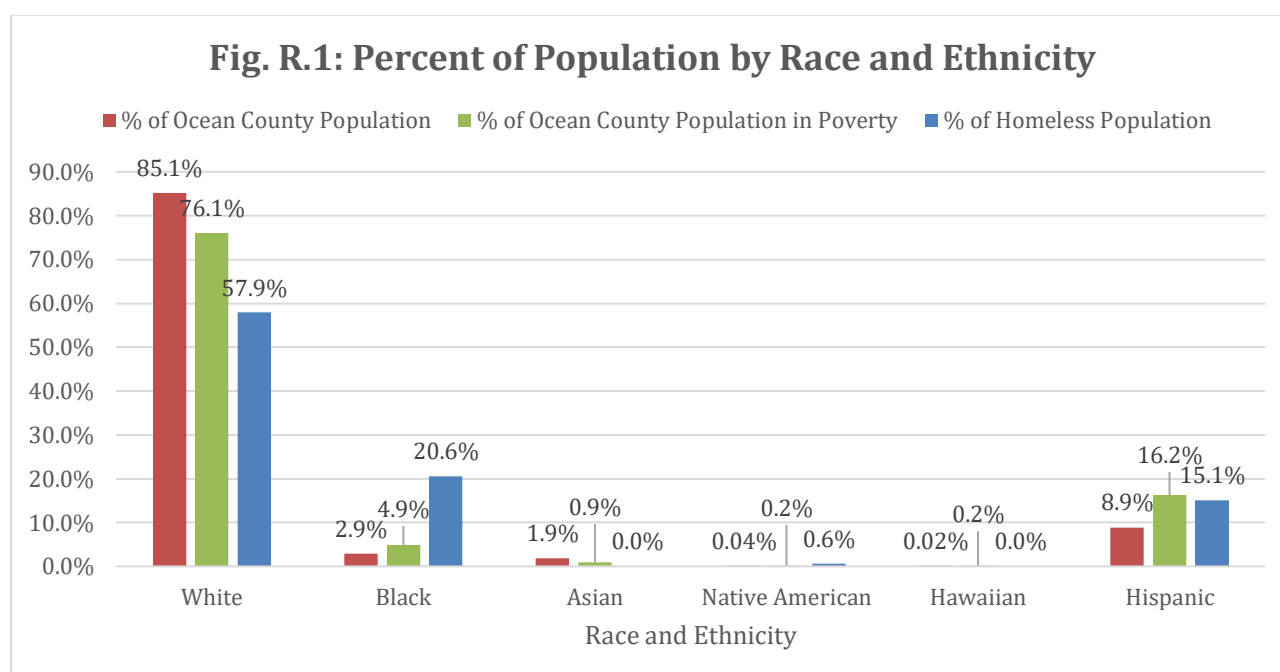
For 2018, a number of factors contributed to significant changes in the counted population experiencing homelessness. The factors impacting the count vary from community to community and are best described locally. One such factor significantly impacting the count statewide is a recent State law which 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 311 persons experiencing homelessness on a single night in Ocean County. Figure R.1 illustrates the racial breakdown of the total population in Ocean 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 586,166 people live in Ocean County, and 11% (64,770 persons) of Ocean 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 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 and Hispanic/Latino are overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness. While 2.9% of the general population, persons identifying as Black or African American are 4.9% of the population in poverty and 20.6% of the population identified as experiencing homelessness. Persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino are 8.9% of the total population, 16.2% of the population in poverty and 15.1% of those counted as homelessness.
- Persons identifying as Asian have the lowest rates of homelessness making up 1.9% of the county population respectively, .9% of the population living below the poverty level, and 0% of the identified population experiencing homelessness.
- Persons identifying as White non-Hispanic represent 60% of the sheltered population (staying in emergency shelter, transitional housing or safe havens) and 64.3% of the counted unsheltered population. Persons identifying as Black or African American represent 22.1% of the sheltered population and 21.4% of the counted unsheltered population. Persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino represent 17.4% of the sheltered population and 13.3% of the counted unsheltered population.

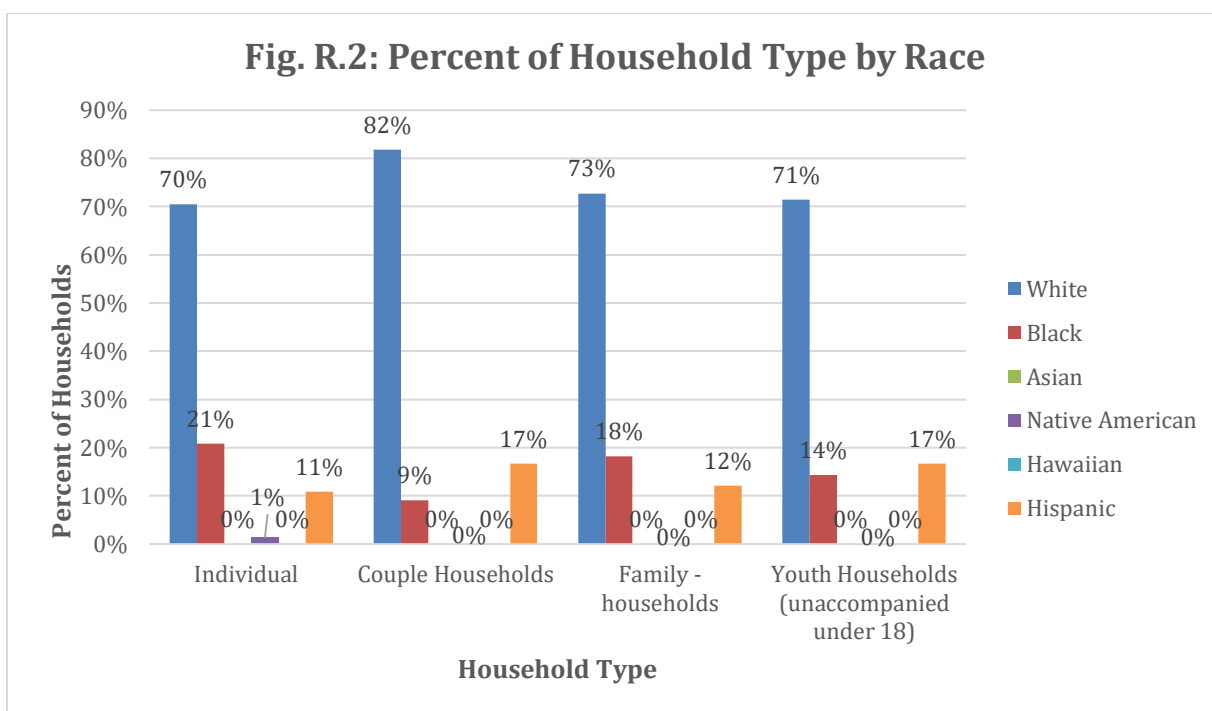


Figure R.2 illustrates the racial breakdown within each household type for those identified as experiencing homelessness.

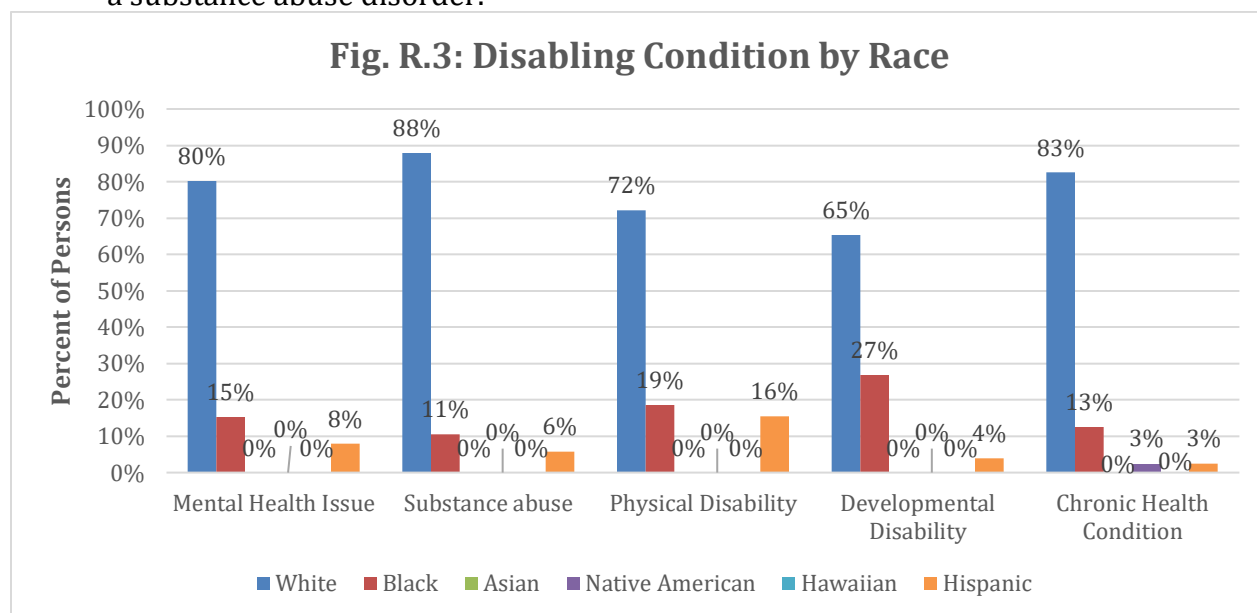
- Persons identifying as White make up the majority of all identified household types.
- 73% of persons identifying as White, 79% of persons identifying as Black or African American, and 71% of persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino were members of adult-only individual households.

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

- 43% of persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino were under the age of 18 as compared to 36% of persons identifying as Black or African American and 17% of persons identifying as White.
- For persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino the majority of person identified were female (60%) as compared to persons identifying as White and Black or African American where the majority of people were male (53% and 56%, respectively).
- 72% of persons identifying as White indicated a disabling condition as compared to 32%, 45%, and 50% of person identifying as Hispanic/Latino, Black or African American, and Native American respectively.

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

- Persons identifying as White were the majority for all disabilities identified.
- 49% of persons identifying as White, 27% of persons identifying as Black or African American and 19% of persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino had a mental health issue.
- 29% of persons identifying as White as compared to 11% of persons identifying as Black or African American and 9% of persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino reported a substance abuse disorder.



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 23rd, 2018, a total of 217 households, including 311 persons, were experiencing homelessness in Ocean County, according to the 2018 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 52 persons in 45 households were identified as chronically homeless.
- 102 persons in 95 households were unsheltered on the night of the count.

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

Municipality	Total Homeless Persons	% of Total Homeless Persons	Sheltered Homeless Persons	% of Sheltered Homeless Persons	Unsheltered Homeless Persons	% of Unsheltered Homeless Persons
Beachwood	10	3.5%	10	5.4%	0	0.0%
Berkeley	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	1.0%
Brick	6	2.1%	0	0.0%	6	6.0%
Jackson	2	0.7%	0	0.0%	2	2.0%
Lacey	7	2.4%	1	0.5%	6	6.0%
Lakewood	32	11.2%	1	0.5%	31	31.0%
Manchester	2	0.7%	0	0.0%	2	2.0%
Mantoloking	2	0.7%	0	0.0%	2	2.0%
Ocean	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	1.0%
Point Pleasant	1	0.3%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%
Point Pleasant Beach	1	0.3%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%
Seaside Heights	77	26.9%	76	40.9%	1	1.0%
Seaside Park	19	6.6%	19	10.2%	0	0.0%
Stafford	7	2.4%	5	2.7%	2	2.0%
Toms River	117	40.9%	72	38.7%	45	45.0%
Barnegat	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	1.0%
Total	286	100%	186	100%	100	100%

Total Homeless Population

On the night of January 23rd, 2018, a total of 311 persons, in 217 households, were experiencing homelessness in Ocean County, according to the 2018 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 87 persons (39%) and 69 households (47%) from 2017.

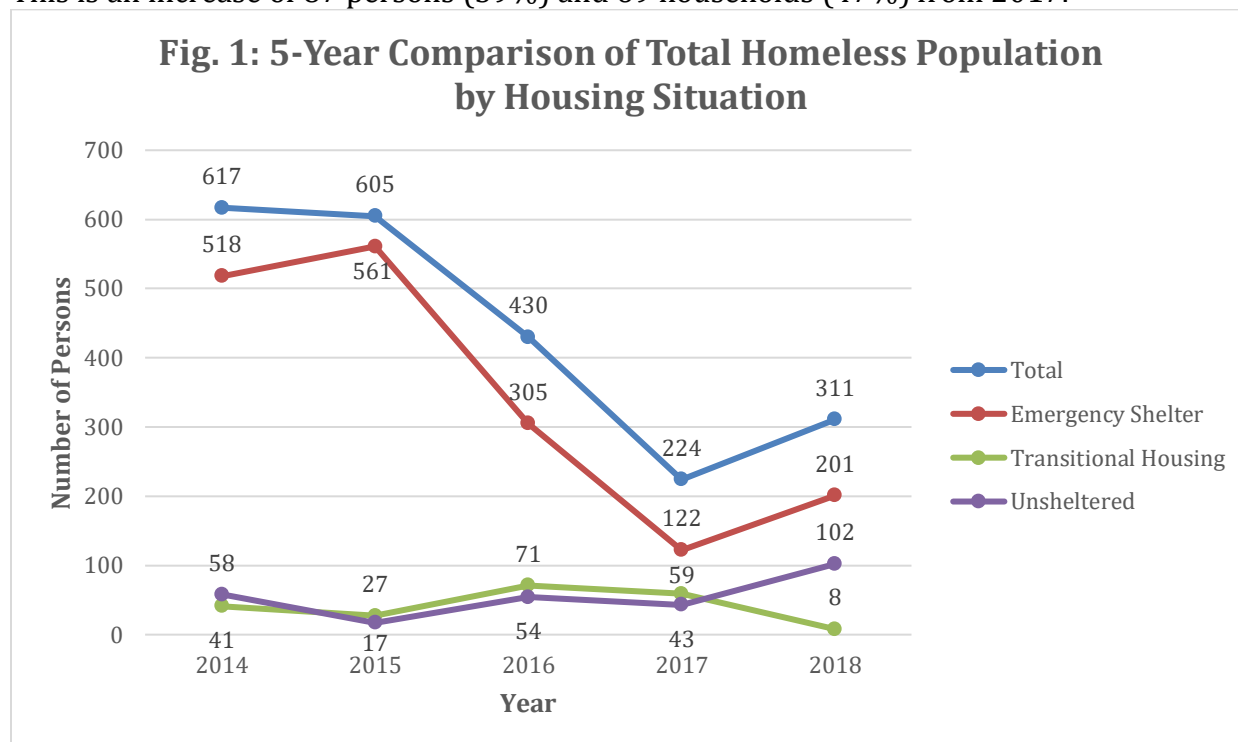
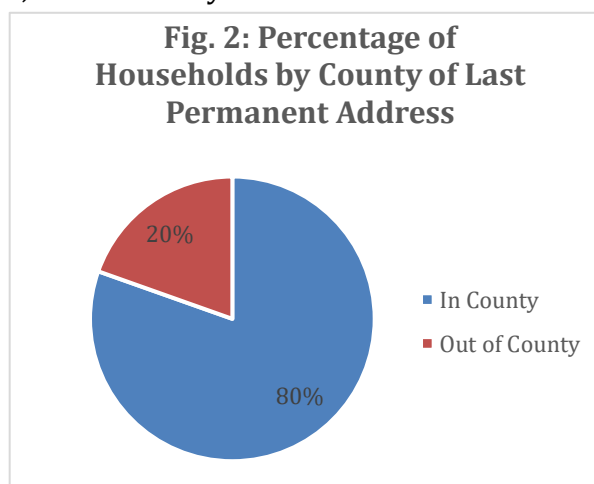


Figure 1 shows that, in 2018, 201 homeless persons stayed in emergency shelters, 8 stayed in transitional housing, and 102 were living unsheltered on the night of the count. When comparing to 2017, increases are seen in the number of homeless persons staying in emergency shelter (79 persons, 65%), and those identified as unsheltered (59 persons, 137%). There was a decrease in the number of persons in transitional housing counted in 2018 when compared to 2017 (51 persons, 86%).

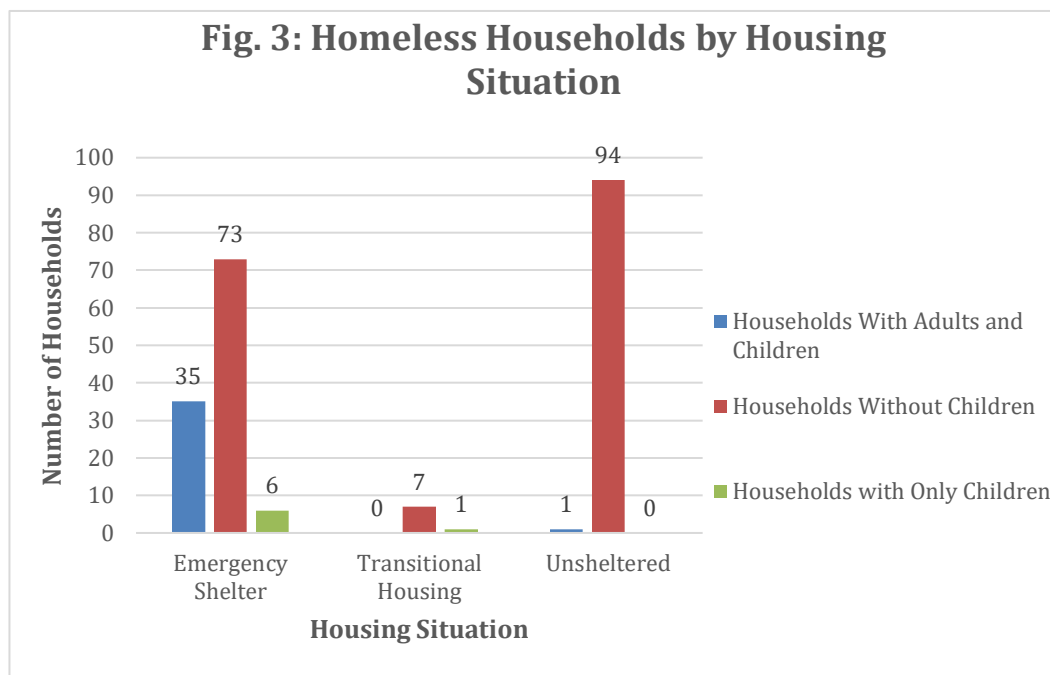
Figure 1 also shows that, over the past five years, Ocean County has seen an overall decrease of 316 counted persons, or 50% from 2014 to 2018. Over this 5-year period, there was a 61% decrease in persons staying in emergency shelter and an 80% decrease in persons staying in transitional housing. There was a 76% increase in identified unsheltered persons between 2014 and 2018.

As Figure 2 shows, 20% of the homeless household respondents in Ocean 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 217 homeless households counted in Ocean County in 2018, 36 (17%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. This is an increase of about 6% from the number

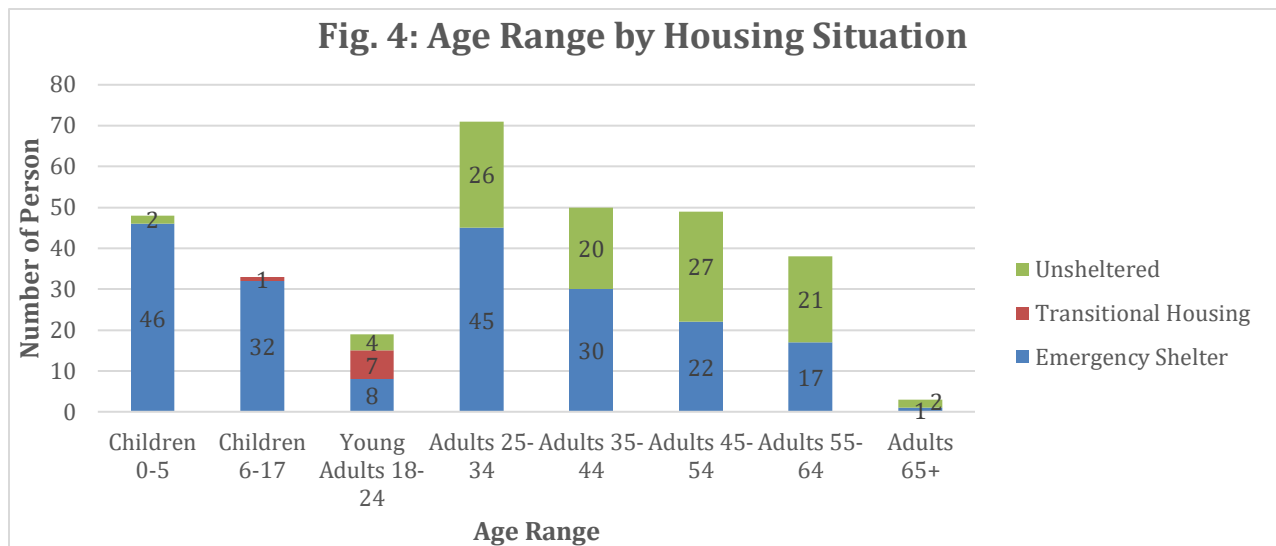
counted in 2017. These families included 118 persons, including 74 children under age 18 and 44 adults. The average family size was 3.27 persons. Figure 3 shows that 35 families (97%) were staying in emergency shelters and 1 family (3%) was unsheltered.

174 (80%) of the homeless households in Ocean County were households without children under 18, and they were composed of 186 adults. This is an increase of 20% from the number of adult only households identified in 2017. The majority of adult only households (54%) were unsheltered on the night of the count. 94 adult only households were unsheltered in 2018, an increase of 52 households (124%) from the number counted in 2017.

As Figure 3 indicates, 7 households with only children under 18 years old were reported in 2018, a decrease of 36% (4 households) from 2017. 86% of unaccompanied youth were staying in emergency shelter and 14% were staying in transitional housing. There were no unsheltered households with only children under 18 identified in the 2018 count.

Demographics

There were a total of 18 (6%) identified homeless adults between 18 and 24 years old, 202 (65%) adults over age 24, and 73 (24%) 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 25 and 34 (65 persons, 21%).

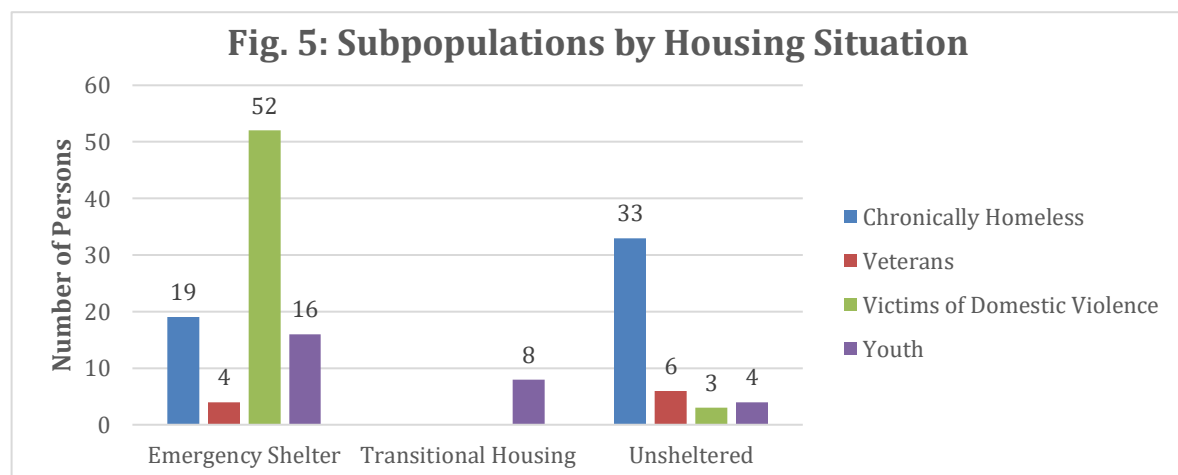


50% (155) of homeless persons were male, 44% (135) were female, 2 (0.7%) persons identified as transgender, and 1 person (0.3%) identified as gender non-conforming.

57.9% (180) of persons identified their race as White non-Hispanic, making this the largest racial subgroup of homeless persons counted. The next largest group self-identified as Black or African-American (20.6%, 64 persons), followed by those identifying as Native American (0.6%, 2 persons). With regard to ethnicity, 15.1% of persons identified themselves as Hispanic.

Subpopulations

On the night of January 23, 2018 out of the 311 persons identified as homeless, there were a total of 52 Chronically Homeless persons, representing 16.7% of the counted homeless population. There were 10 homeless veterans representing 4.3% of the adult homeless population counted. 55 Victims of Domestic Violence were identified representing 17.7% of the total counted homeless population. Homeless Youth (individuals and families with heads of households 24 years old or younger) represented 9% of the counted homeless population



with 28 persons identified. Figure 5 illustrates the break-down of each subpopulation identified by housing type.

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

Disabilities

Figure 6 illustrates that 57% of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. 70% of adults 18 or older reported some type of disability compared to 19.8% 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.

Fig. 6: Percent of Population with a Disability

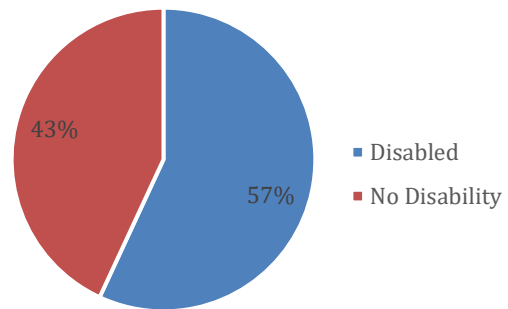
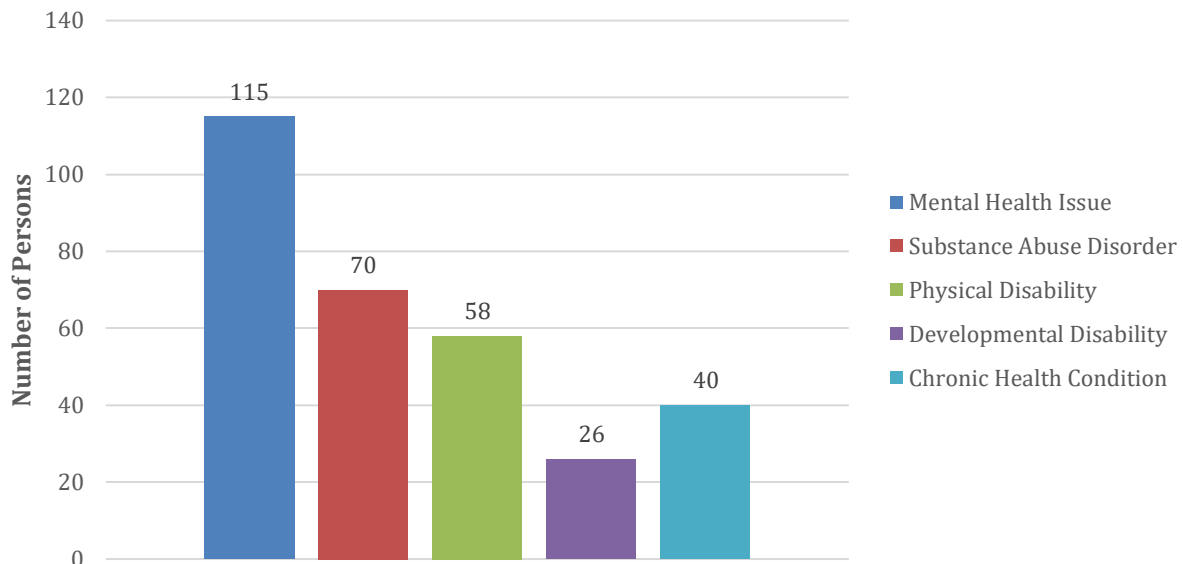


Fig. 7: Number of Persons by Disability Type



Among disabled persons, 65% reported mental health issues making this the most prevalent disability; representing 65.8% of the identified disabled adult homeless population and 37% of the total counted population experiencing homelessness. 41.6% of disabled adults reported a substance abuse disorder. Among disabled homeless children, 56.3% reported mental health issues.

Income and Benefits

Among all households experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, 30.3% had no source of income, and 8.1% reported having earned income. The most common sources of income among homeless households were General Assistance (GA, 23.2%), SSI (14.6%) and TANF (13%). Figure 8 shows the income sources reported by respondents in relation to their housing situation on the night of the count.

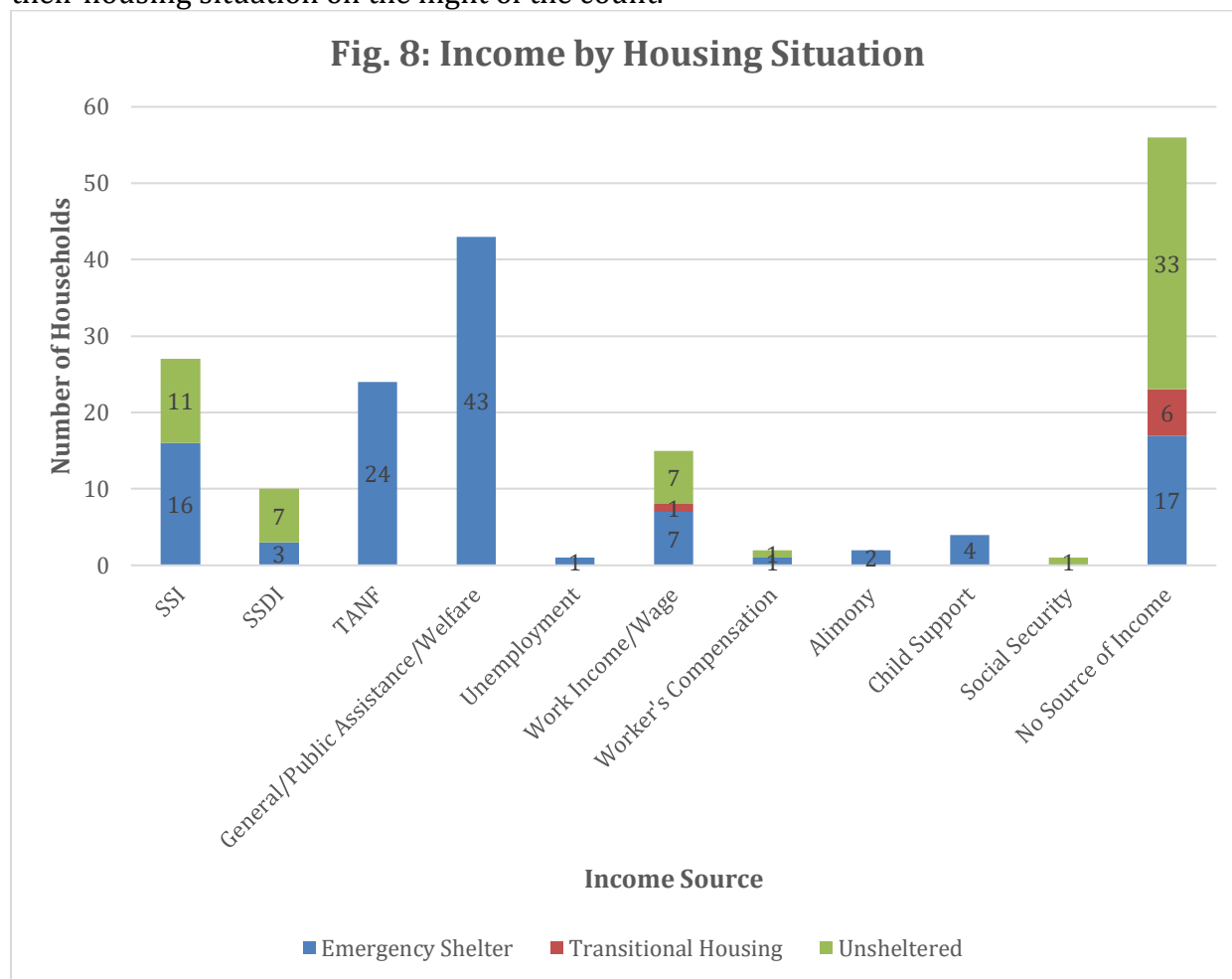


Figure 9 show the average monthly income among households in each housing situation.

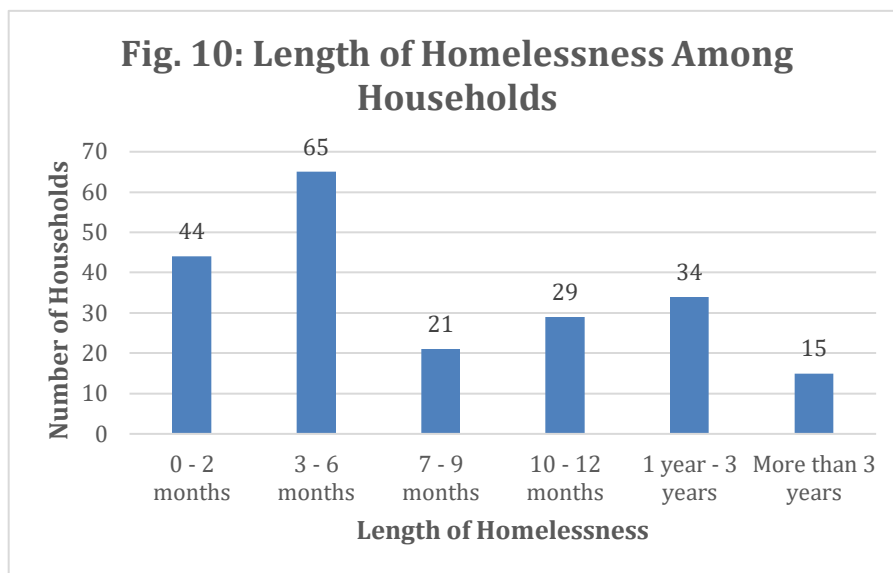
Figure 9. Average Monthly Income For Households by Housing Situation			
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered
Average for All Households	\$510.92	\$110.00	\$256.94

13.4% of counted homeless households reported receiving no kind of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps (SNAP) was the top reported non-cash benefit, received by 46.5% of homeless households. Medicaid, was the second most reported non-cash benefit received by 43.8% of homeless households.

Length of Homelessness

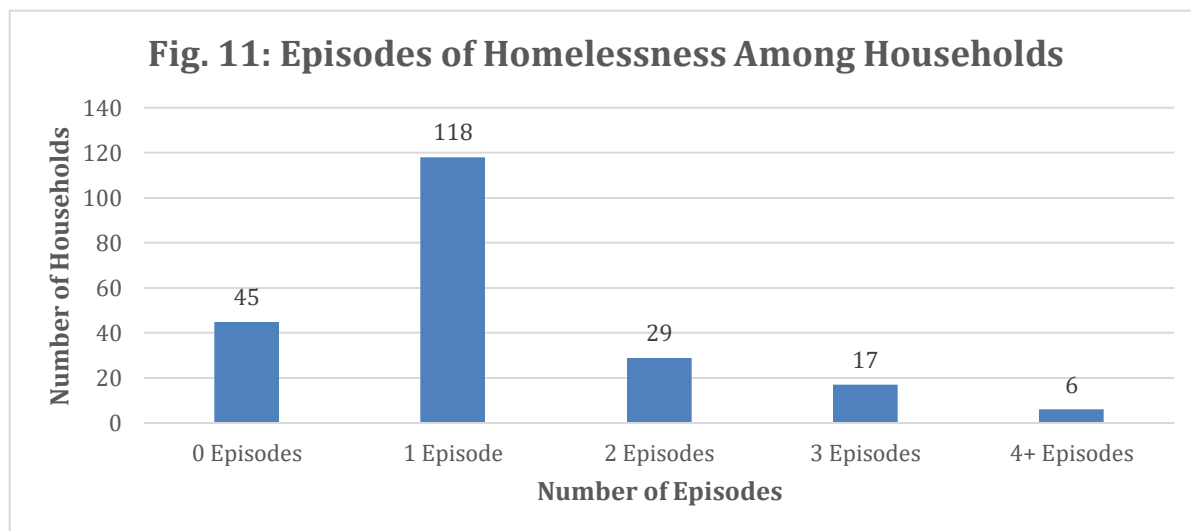
Figure 10 illustrates the total amount of time identified households have reported being homeless. This includes continuous episodes of homelessness as well as the total time from various episodes of homelessness over the past 3 years. As seen in Figure 10, 52.4% of identified homeless

households reported their total length of homelessness was between 0 and 6 months. Within this group, 21.2% were homeless from 0 – 2 months and 31.3% were homeless between 3 and 6 months. For those with longer periods of homelessness, 23.6% of homeless households reported that their total length of homelessness was more than 1 year. In looking at those identified households that had lengths of homelessness exceeding one year, 34 households (16.3%) were homeless between 1 and 3 years while 15 households (7.2%) reported their total length of homelessness exceeded 3 years.



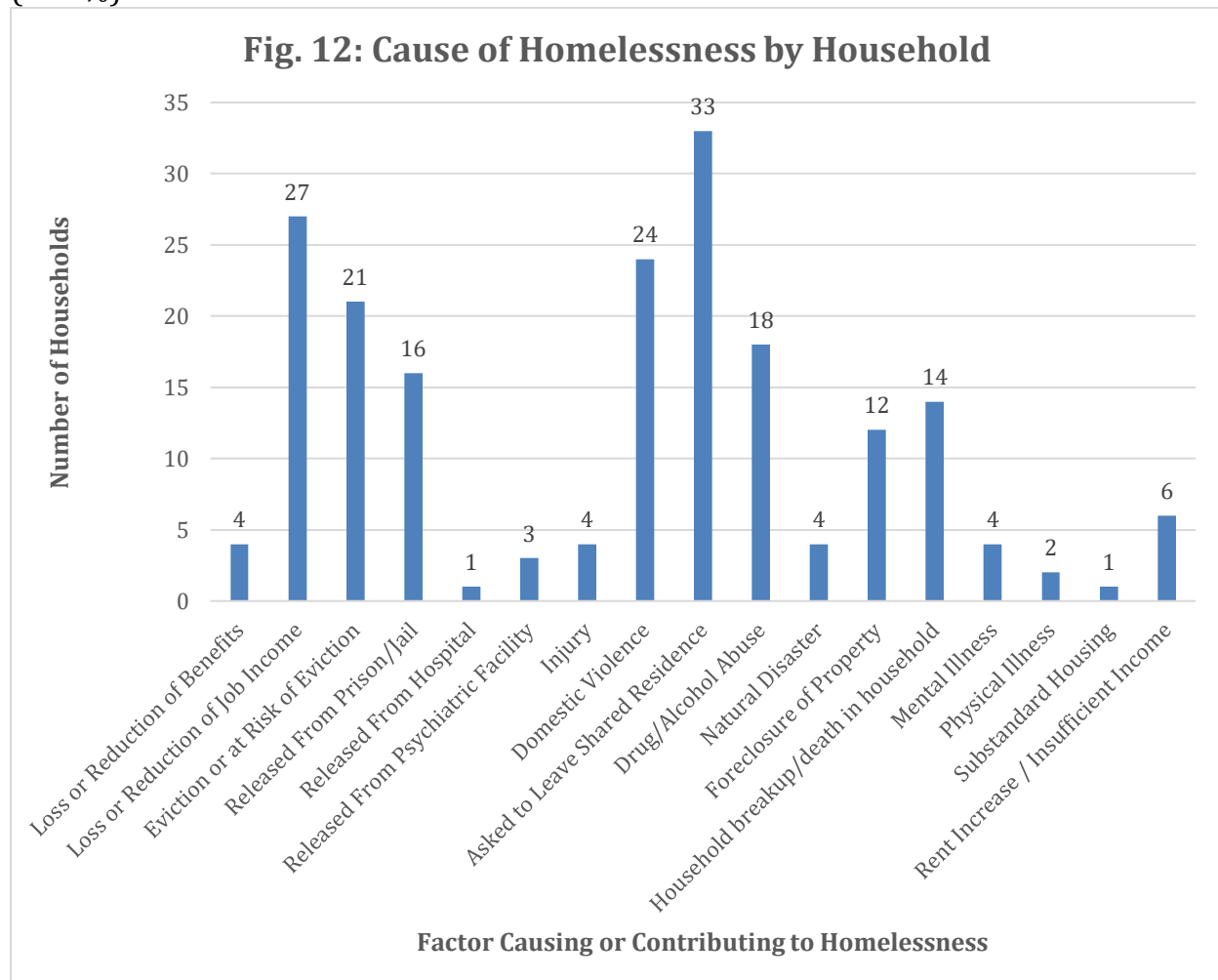
Episodes of Homelessness

There were a total of 118 households (54.9%) 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 (33 households, 17%) than any other cause. As Figure 12 shows, the next most common factor reported was loss or reduction of job income (13.9%) followed by domestic violence (12.4%).



When households were asked ‘what was your residence prior to your current living situation?’ more said they were in permanent housing (45.6%) than any other type of residence. 16.8% reported residing in a place not meant for human habitation and 8.1% reported being in jail, prison or a juvenile detention facility 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.

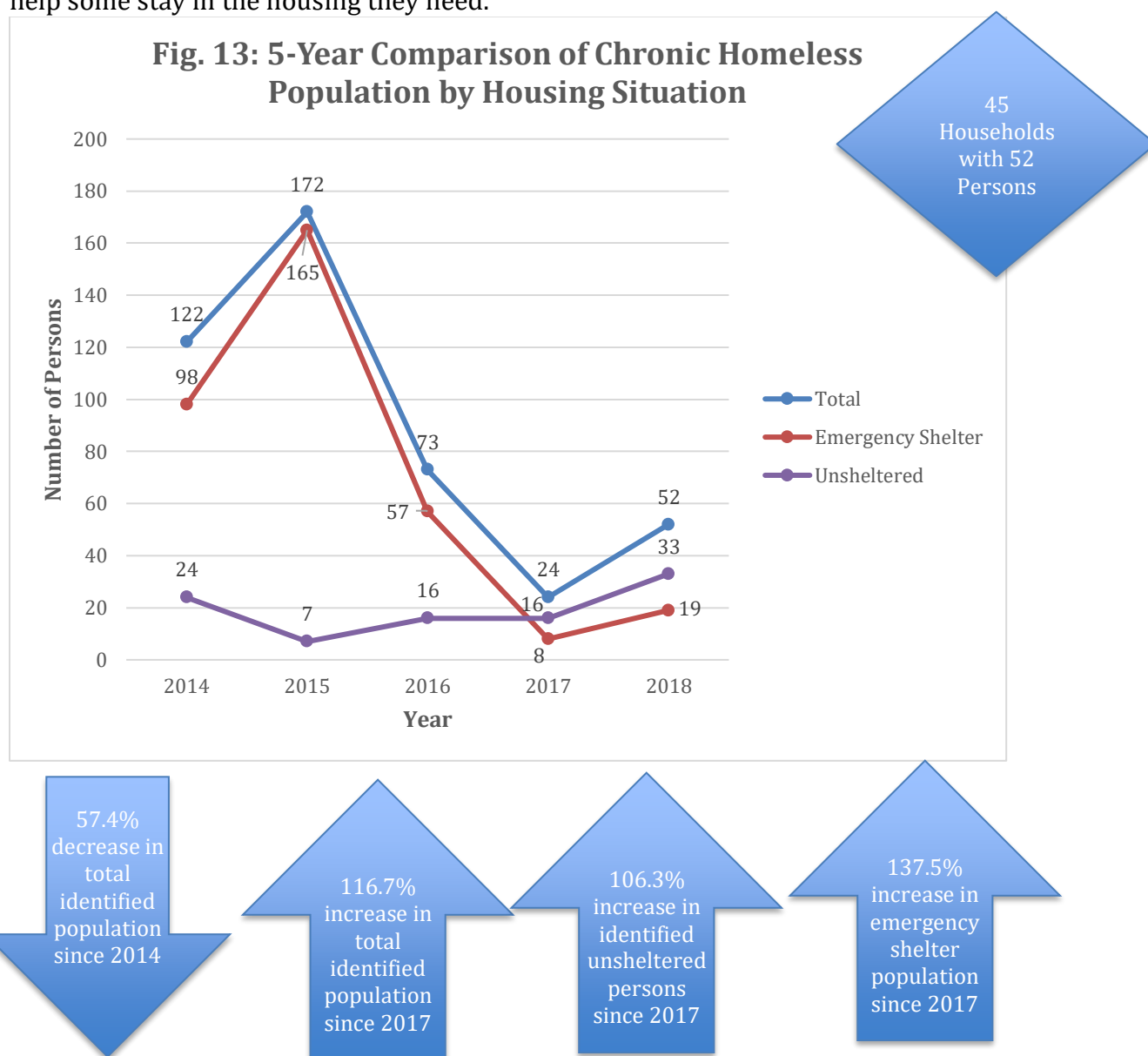
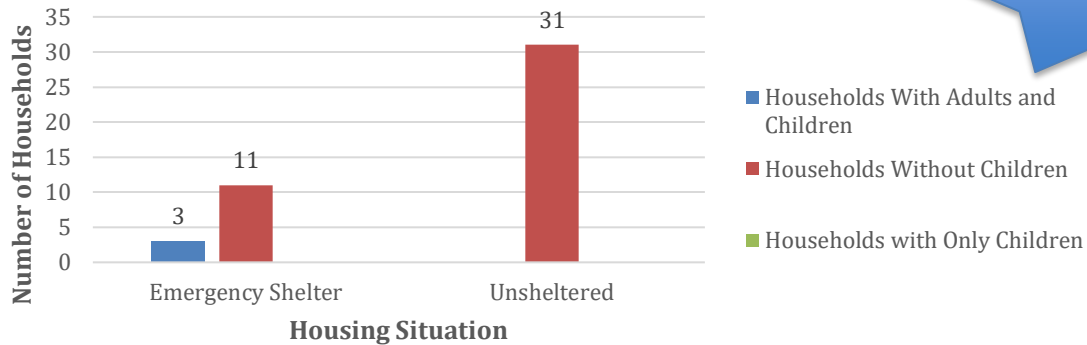


Fig. 14: Chronically Homeless Households by Housing Situation



78.6%
Adult
Individuals

66.7 % identified
multiple
disabilities

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

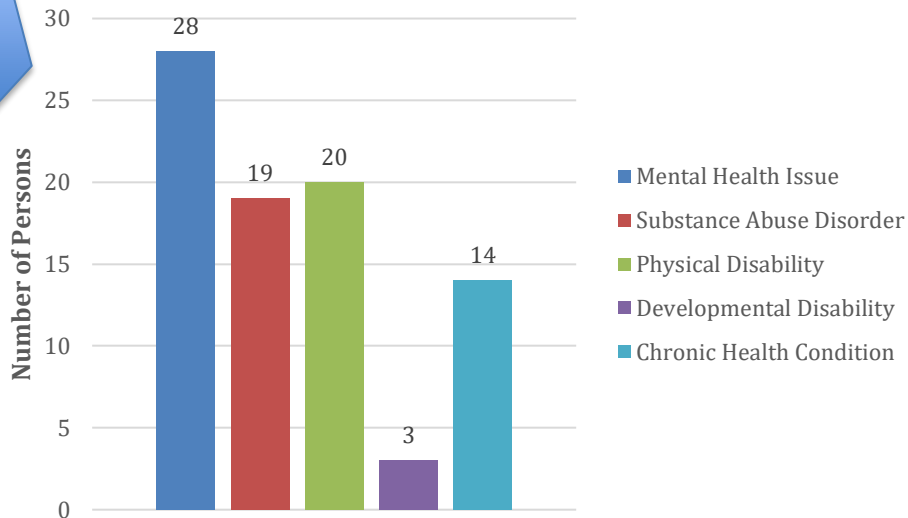


Fig. 16: Episodes of Homelessness Among Chronically Homeless Households

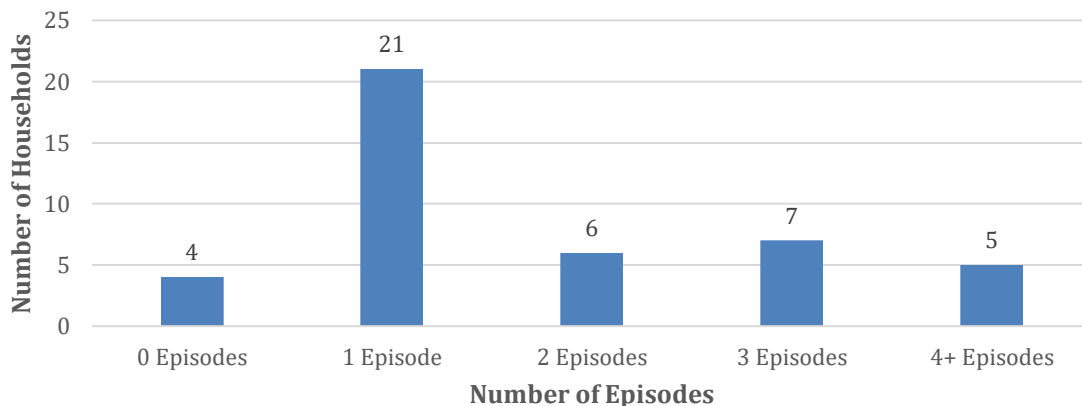
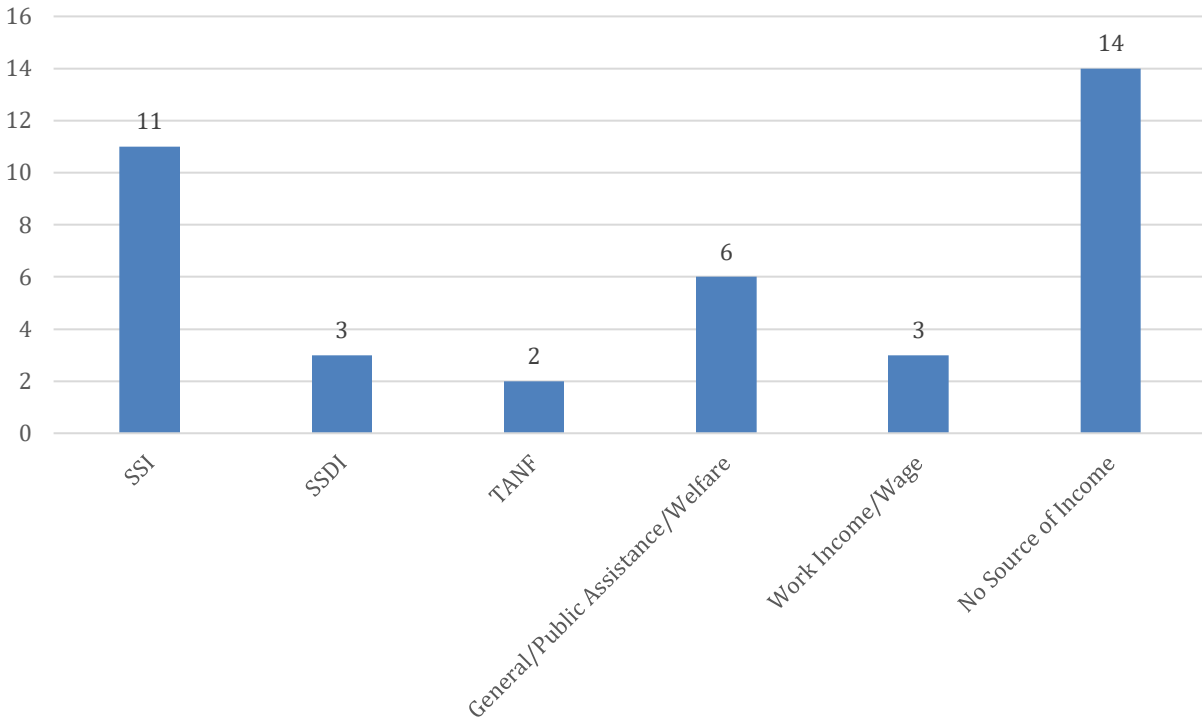


Fig. 17: Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Income Source

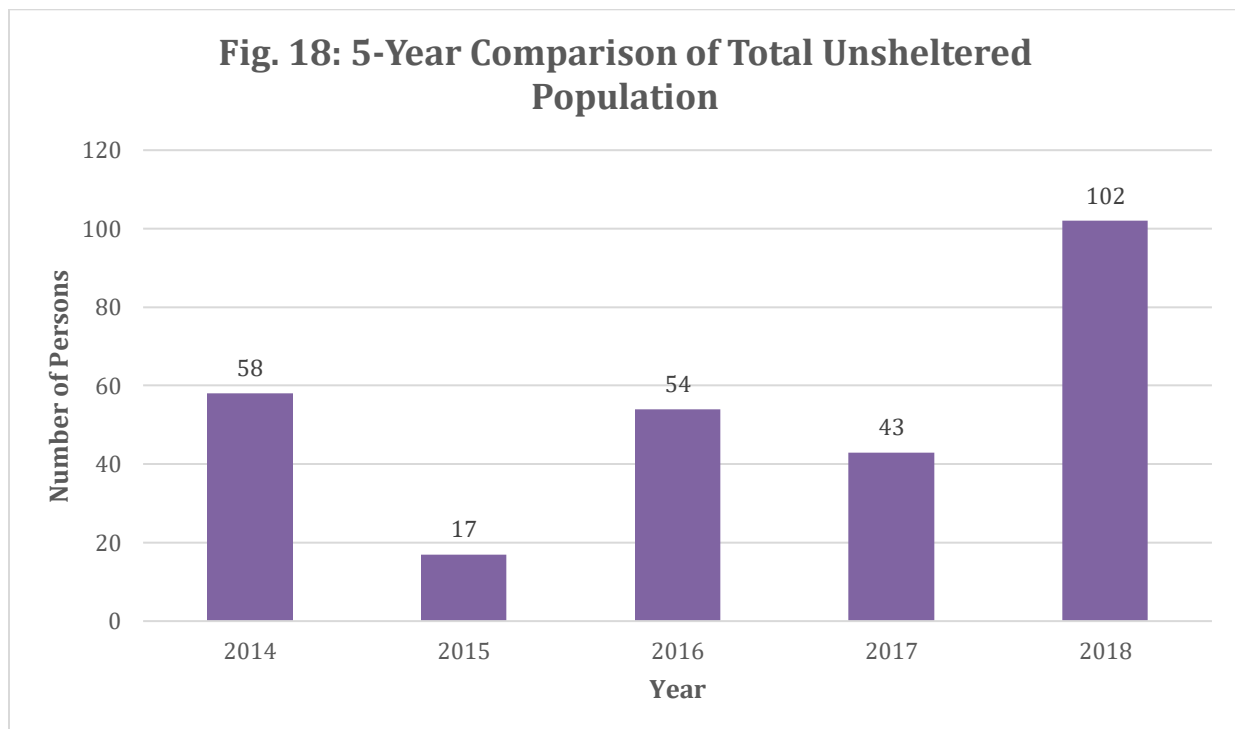


Average income for chronically homeless households is \$312.92

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.”

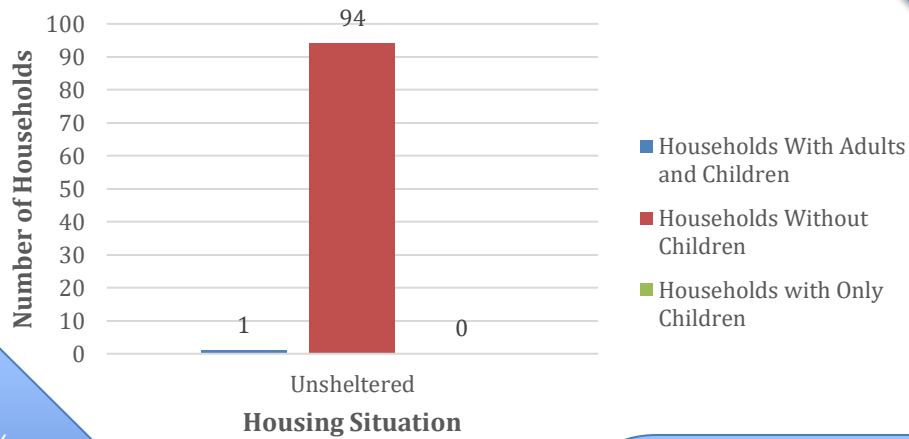
Unsheltered homeless individuals and families are among those with the most critical housing needs in a community. The unsheltered are especially vulnerable in the cold weather and the elements, which are in evidence at the end of January when the Count takes place. The Point-In-Time survey can play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



137%
increase in
identified
persons
since 2017

75.9%
increase in
identified
persons
since 2014

Fig. 19: Unsheltered Homeless Households by Household Type



98.9%
individuals

76.8%
male

73.9% White

Fig. 20: Unsheltered Persons by Subpopulation

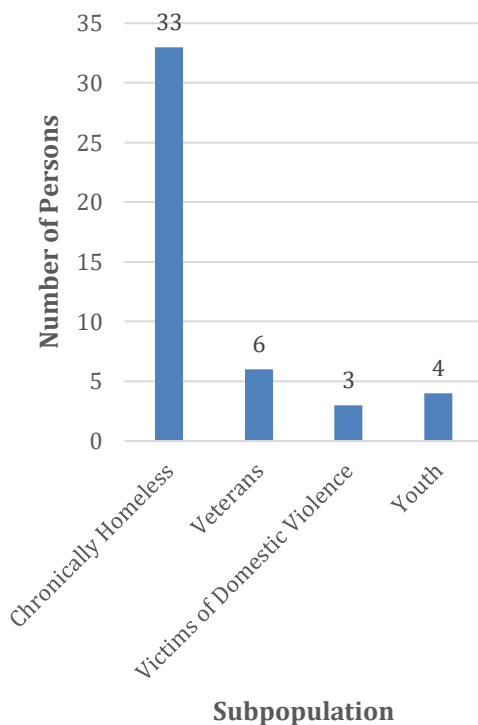
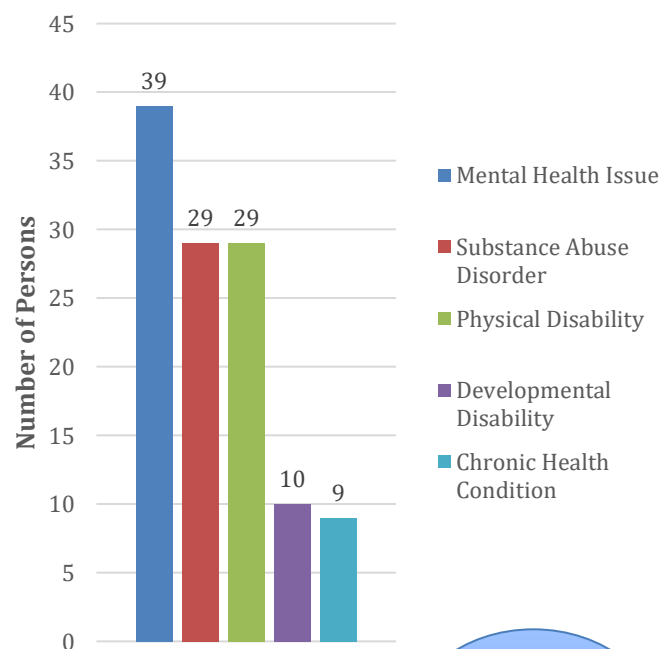
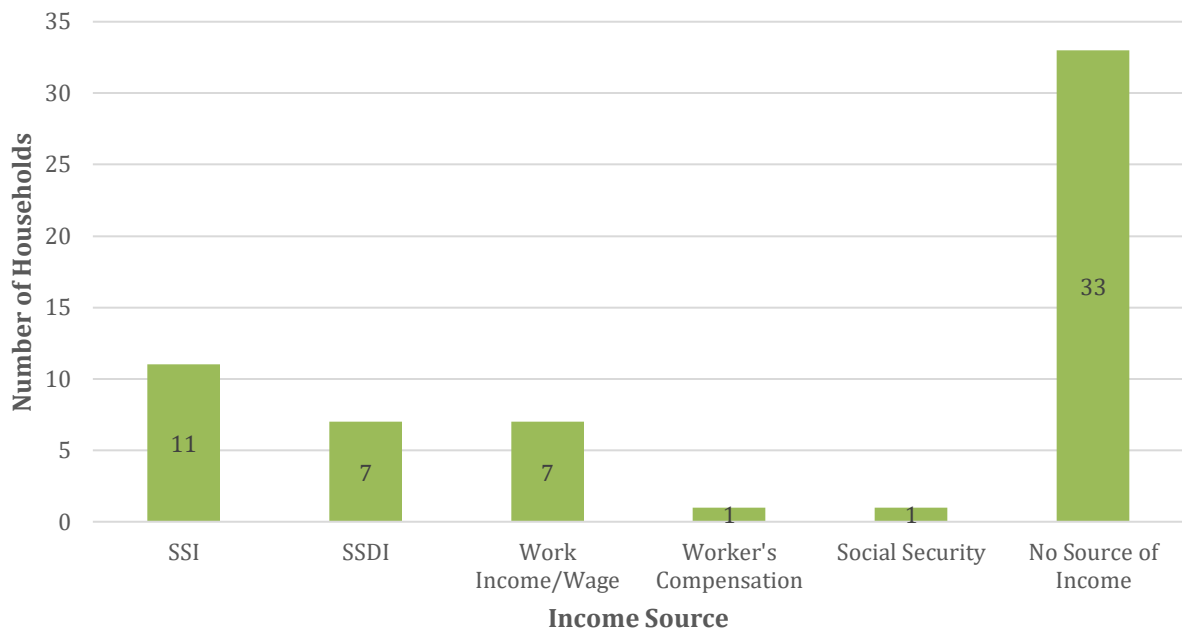


Fig. 21: Number of Unsheltered Persons by Disability Type



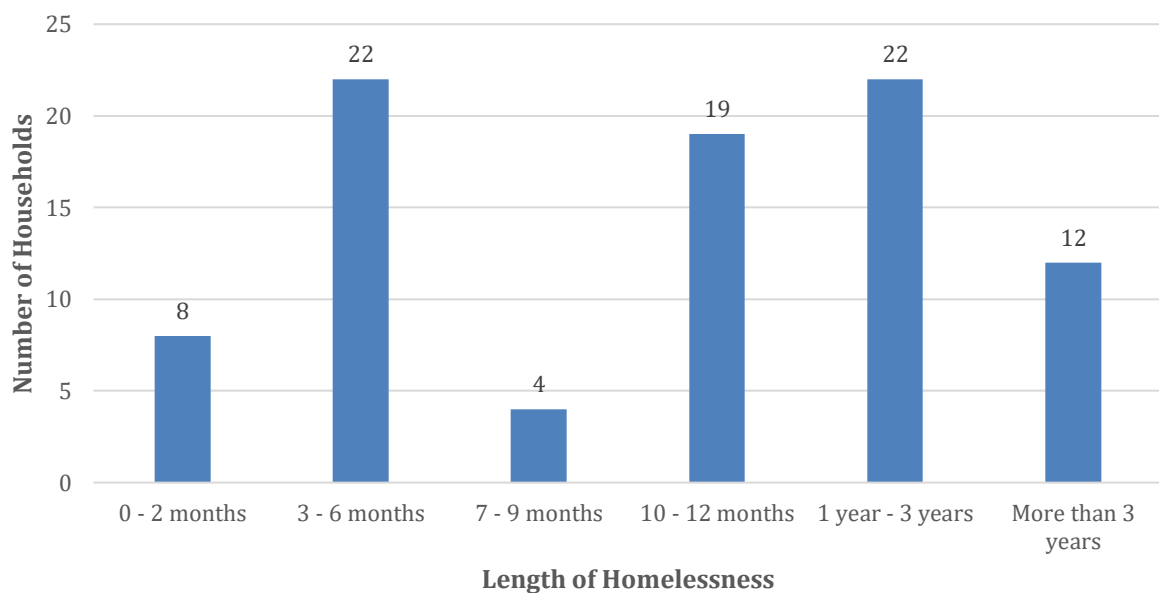
69.6%
reported
disability

Fig. 22: Income Sources of Unsheltered Households



Average Monthly Income is \$256.94

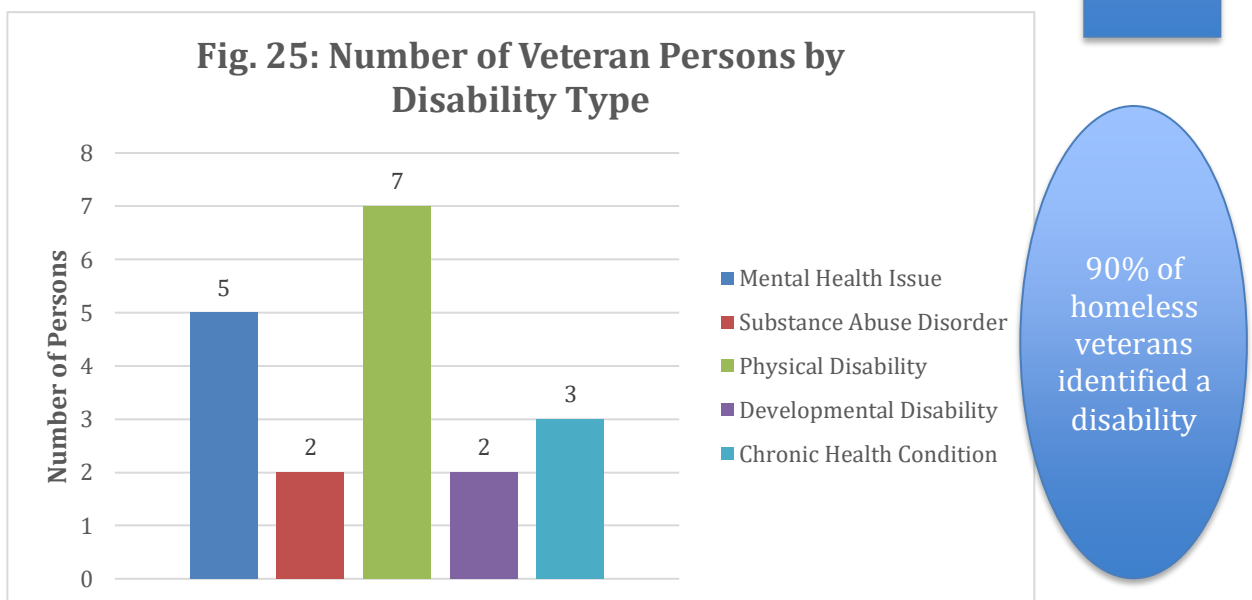
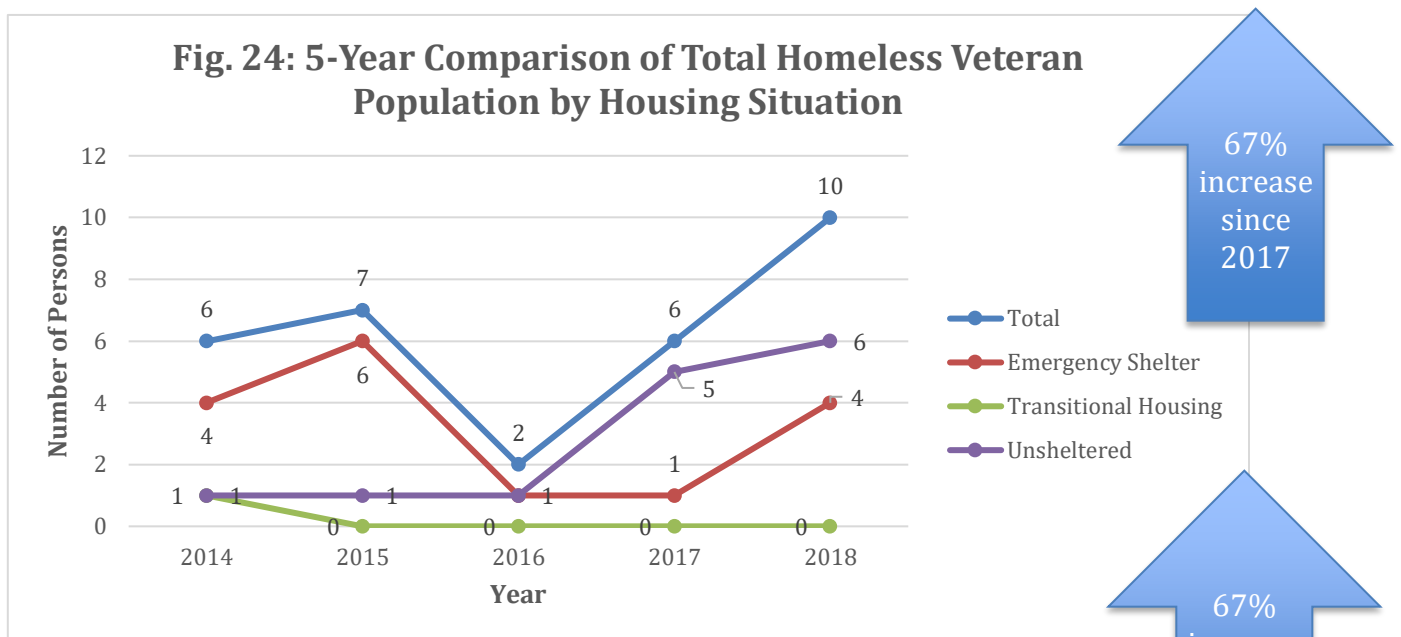
Fig. 23: Length of Homelessness Among Unsheltered Households



39.1% 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.



Average monthly income is \$659.20

Fig. 26: Income by Housing Situation for Veteran Households

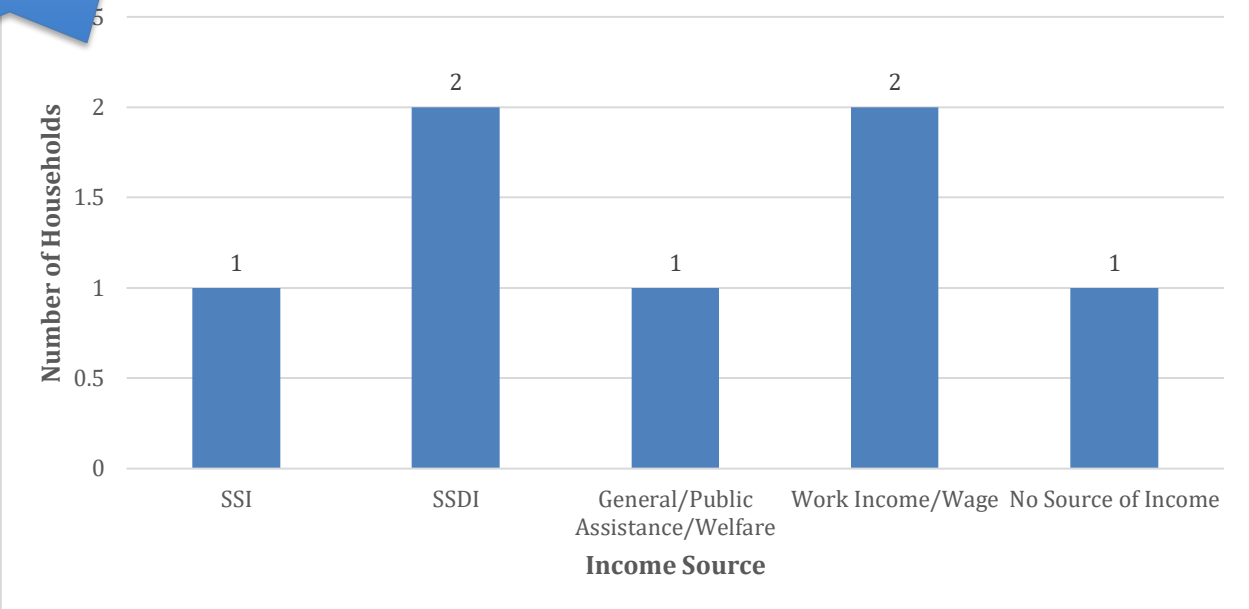


Fig. 27: Length of Homelessness Among Veteran Households

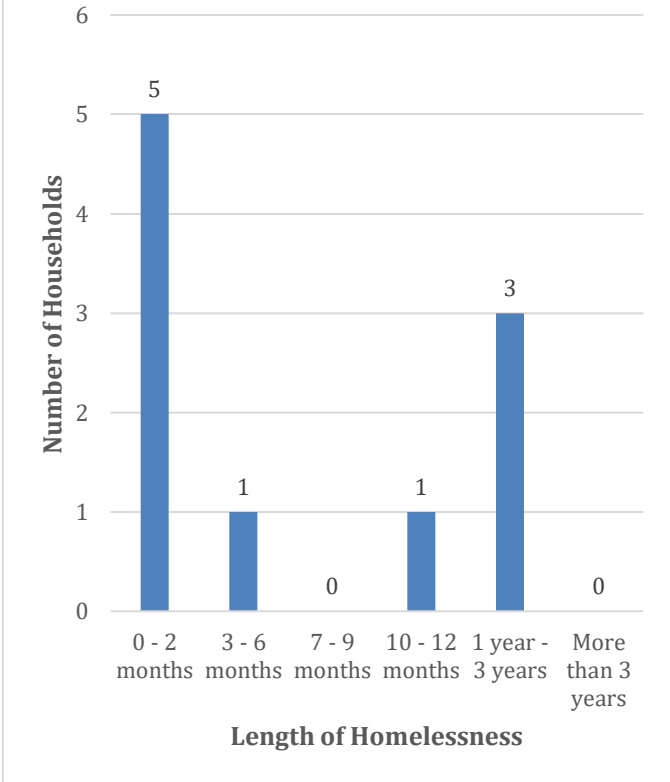
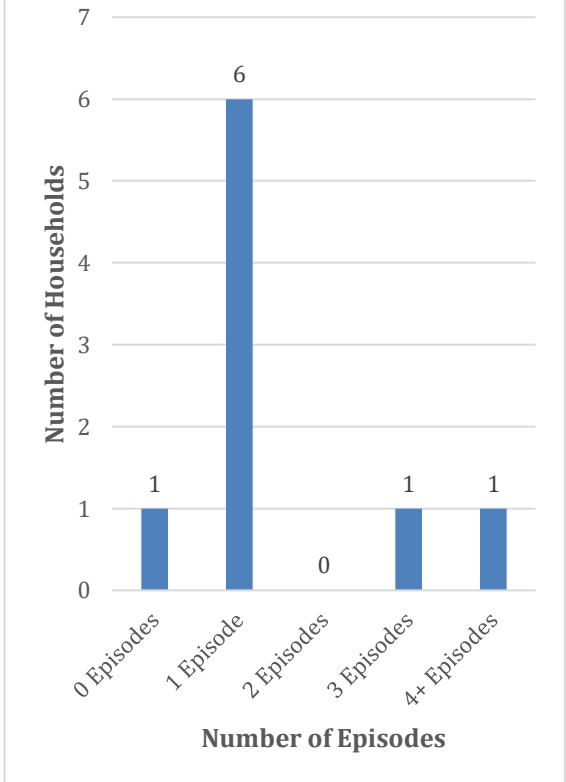


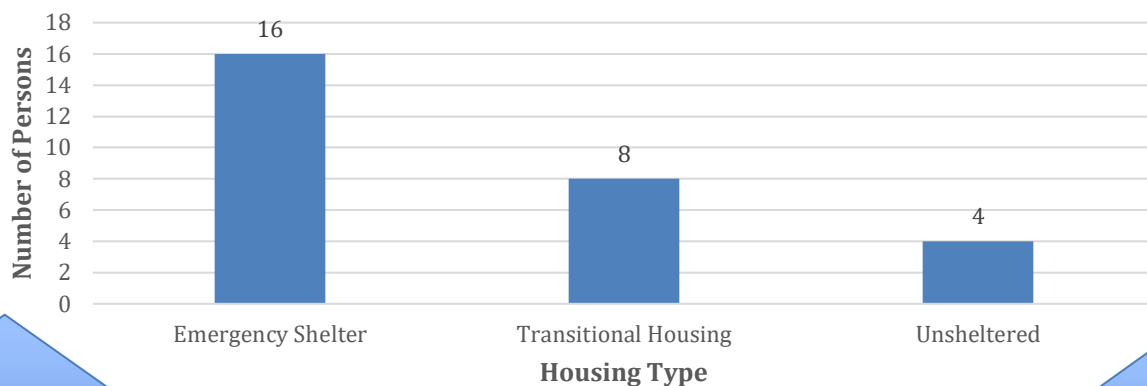
Fig. 28: Episodes of Homelessness Among Veteran Households



VII. Finding for Homeless Youth

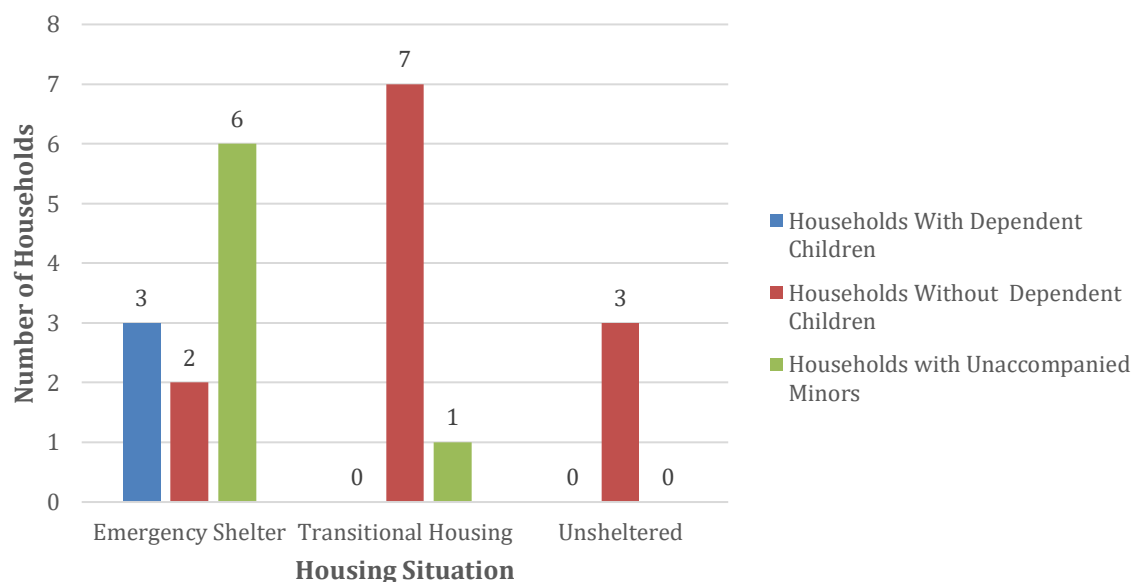
Youth are defined as persons under the age of 25 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian. This can include individual unaccompanied youth, youth only households of 2 or more youth presenting together as a household, and pregnant or parenting youth who are the legal guardians of one or more children.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



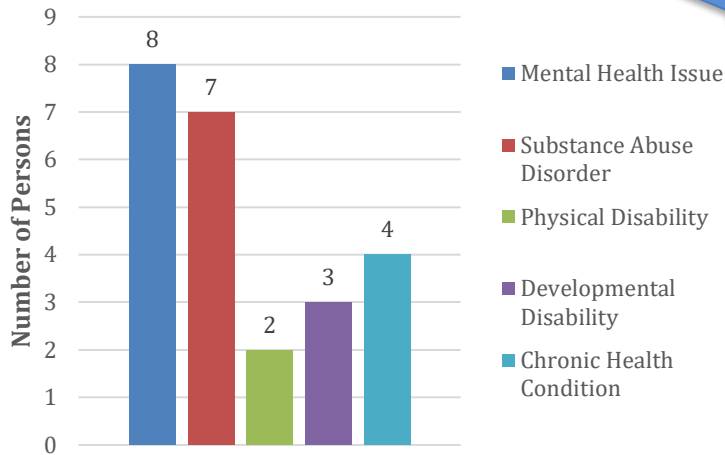
50%
are
male

Fig. 30: Homeless Youth Households by Housing Situation



57% of
persons
are over
18 yrs.
old

Fig. 31: Number of Youth by Disability Type



50% of youth respondents identified a disability

Fig. 33: Length of Homelessness Among Youth Households

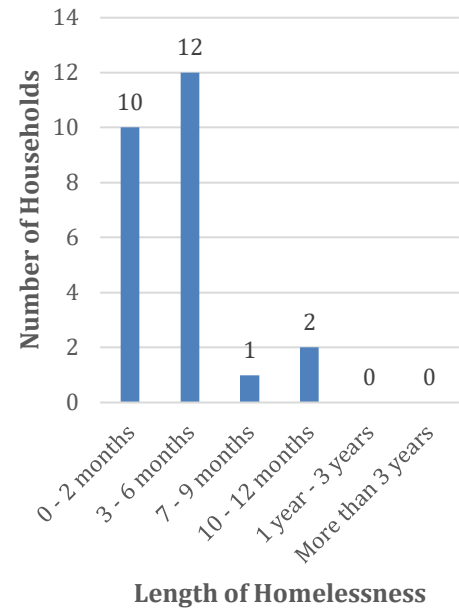
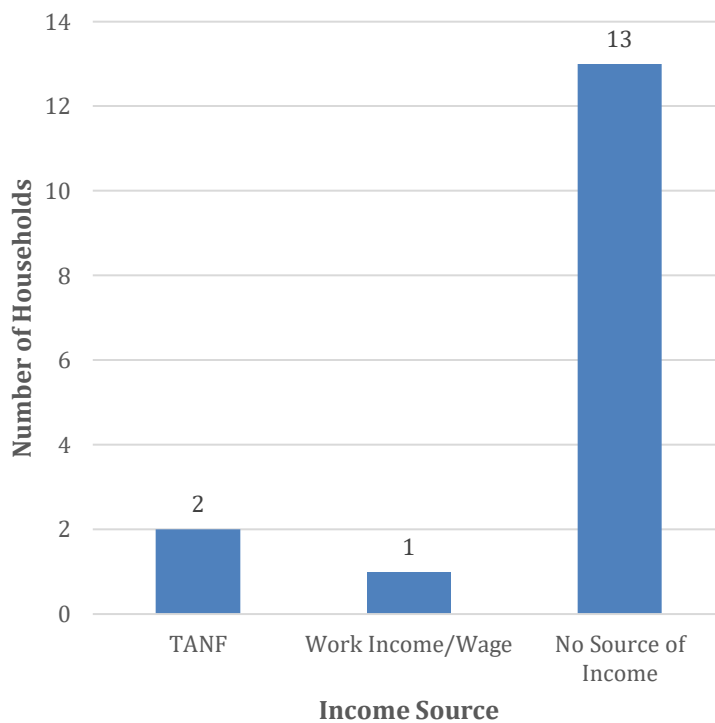
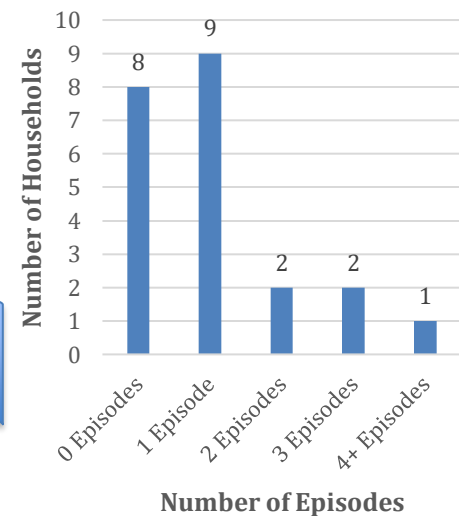


Fig. 32: Income Sources for Youth Households



Average Monthly Income is \$188.80

Fig. 34: Episodes of Homelessness Among Youth Households



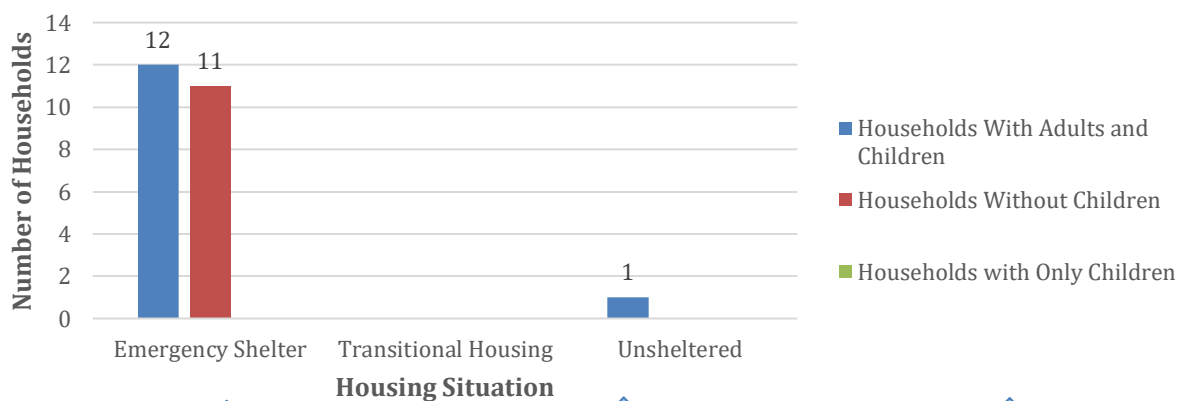
VIII. Findings for Victims of Domestic Violence

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.

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



Fig. 36: Homeless DV Households by Housing Situation



54% are households with children

67.3% are females

61.7% are White

41.8%
were
disabled

Fig. 37: Number of DV Victims by Disability Type

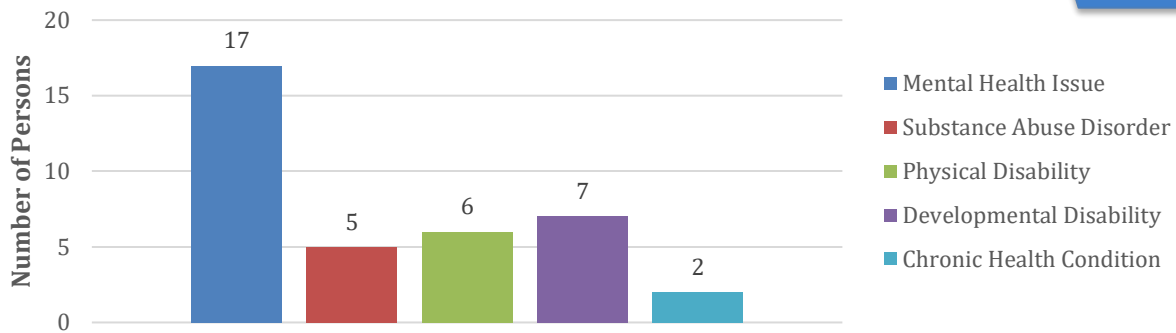
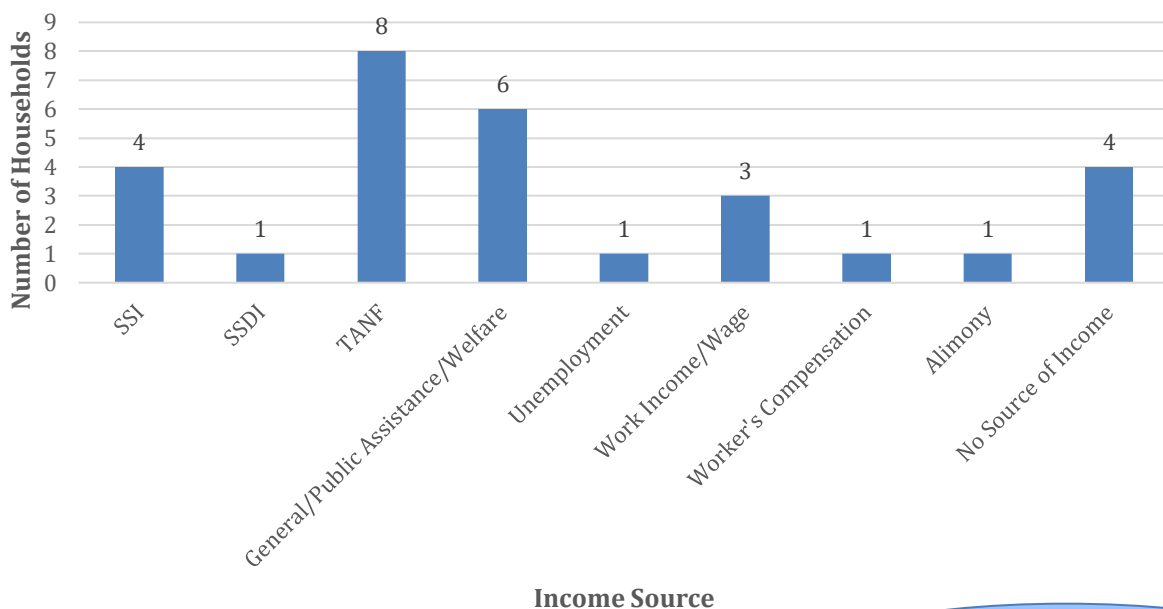


Fig. 38: Income Source for DV Victim Households



Average Monthly Income is
\$954.54

Fig. 39: Length of Homelessness Among DV Victim Households

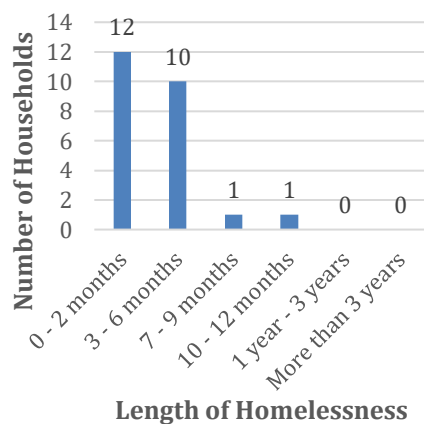
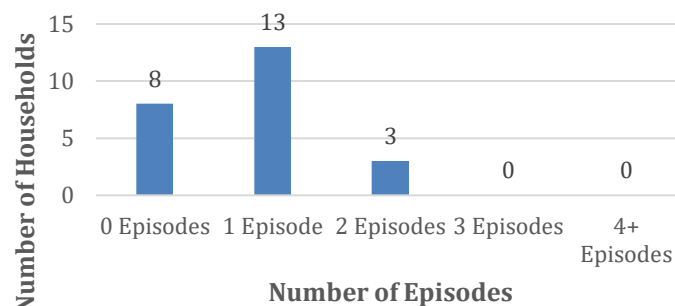


Fig. 40: Episodes of Homelessness Among DV Victim Households



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.

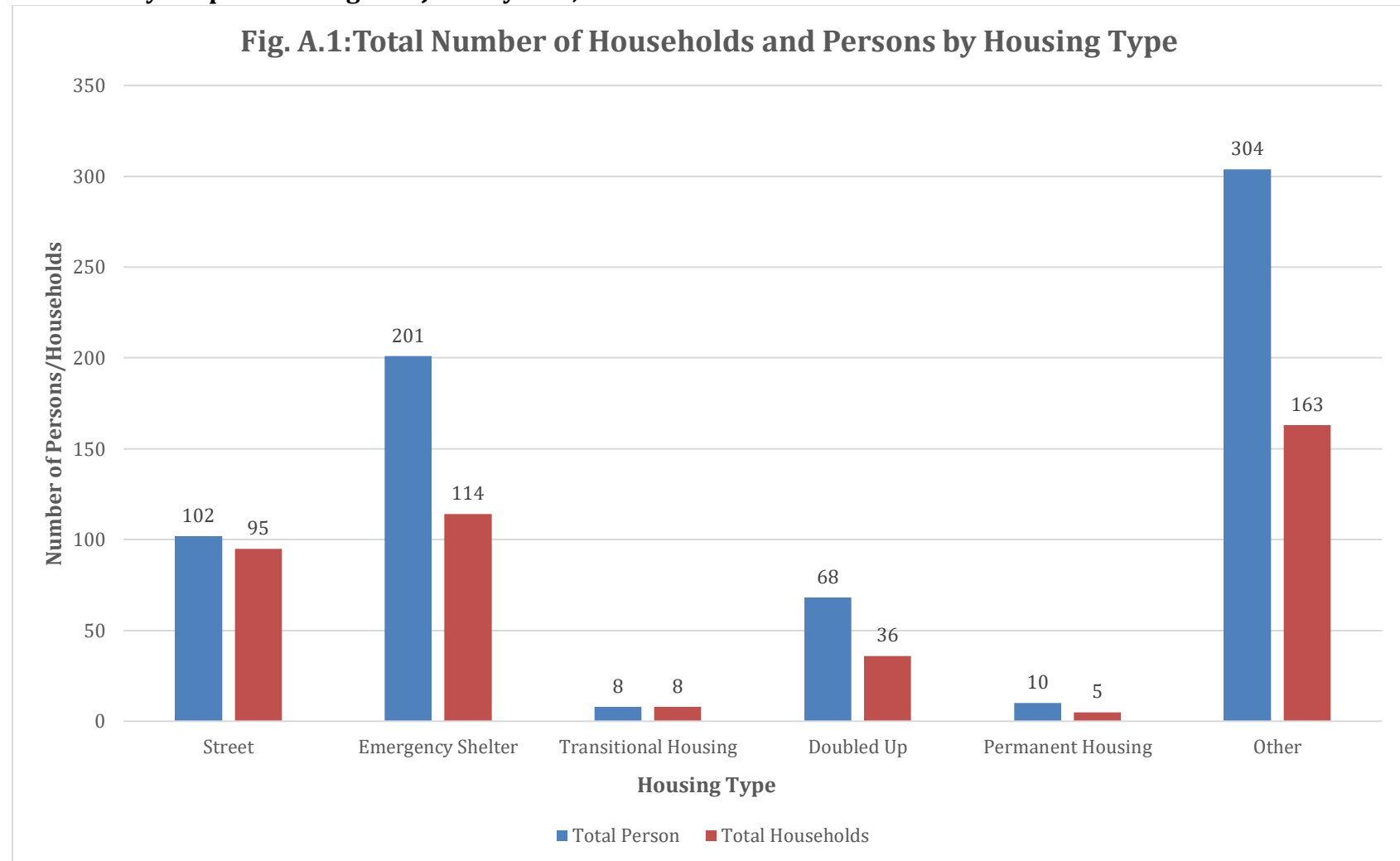
All duplicates detected through comparison of unique identifiers were then de-duplicated by the following process:

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 23rd, 2018?

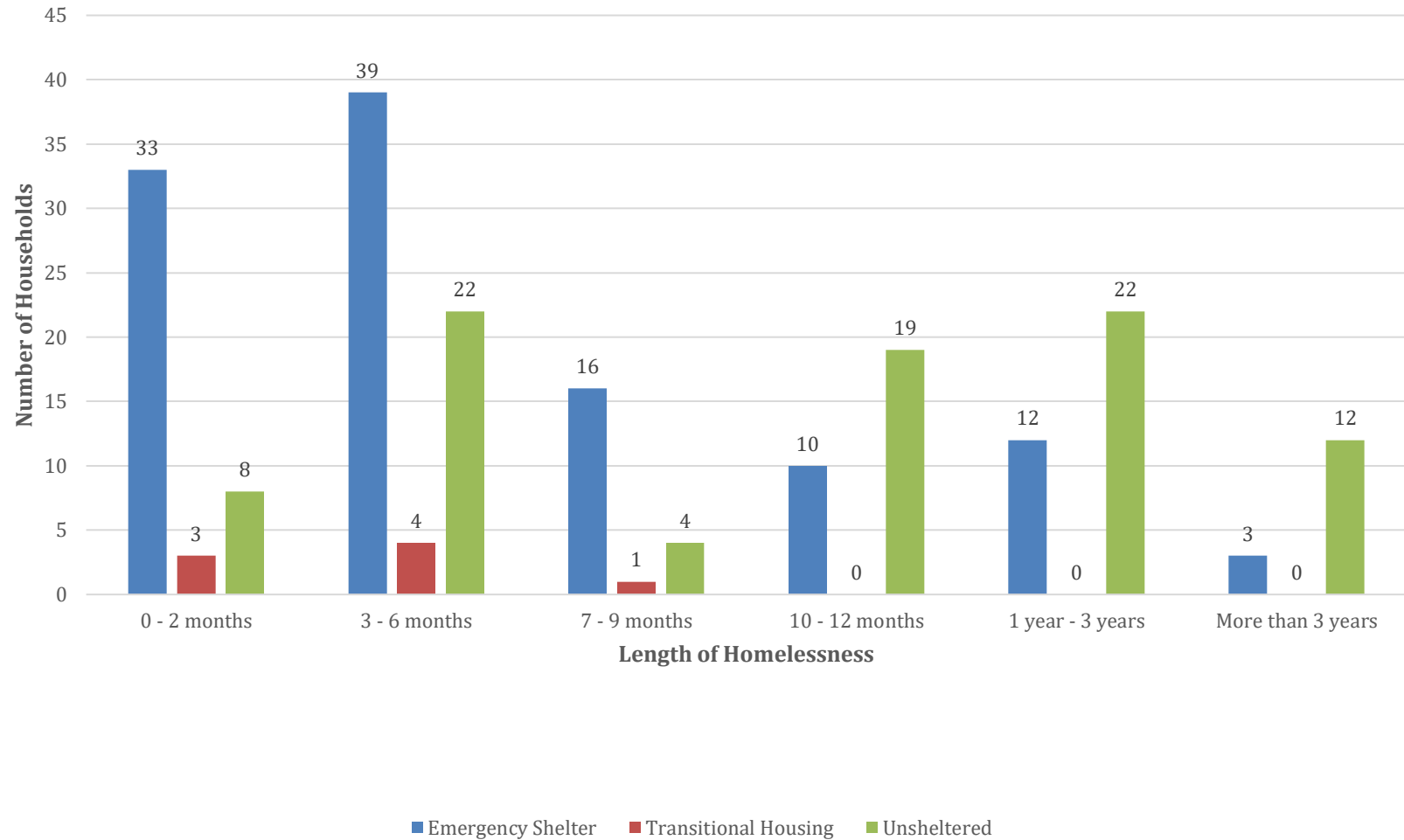


What was your location the night of the count?

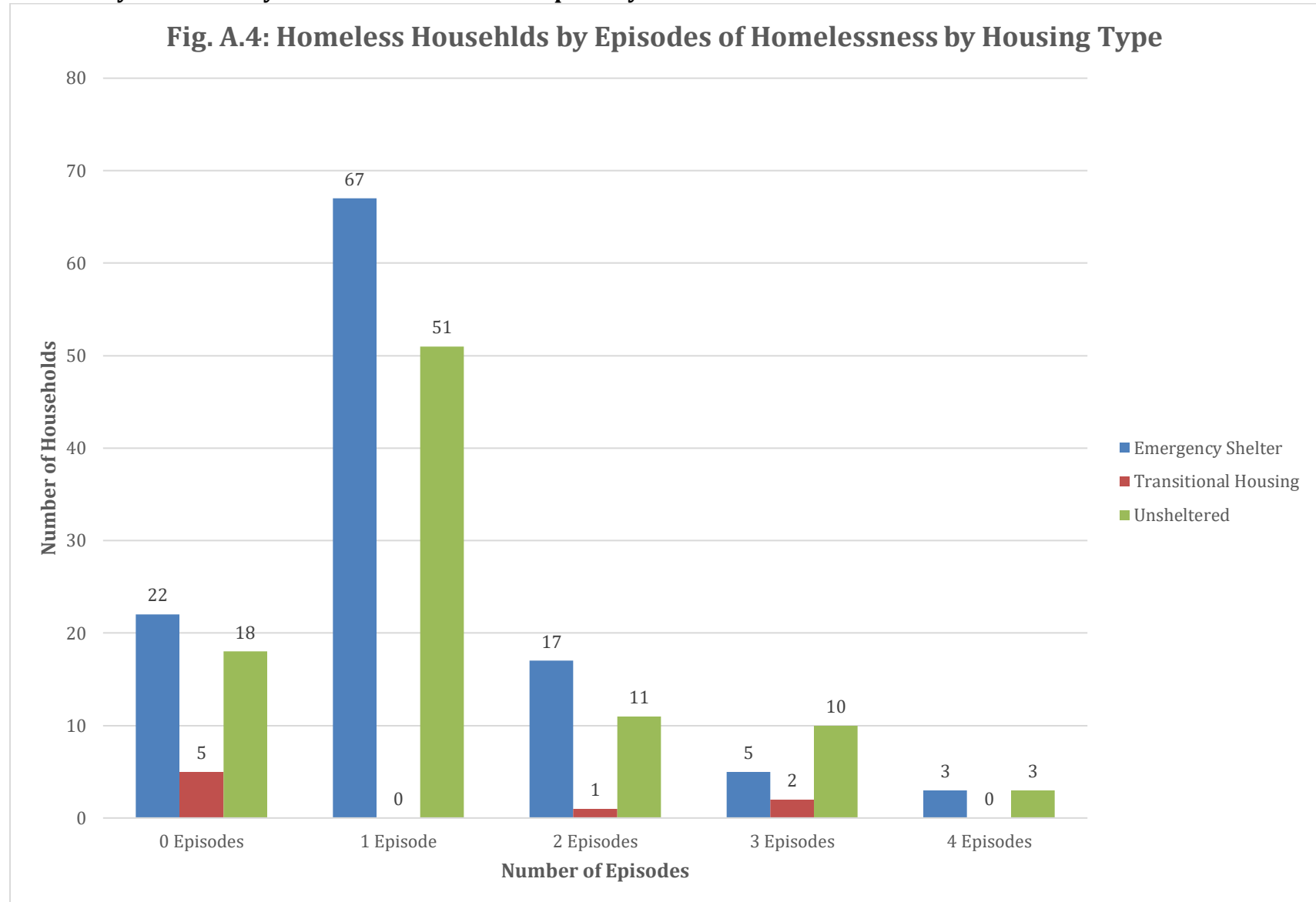
Fig. A.2: Number of Homeless Households by Municipality on the Night of the Count	
Location Night of Count – Municipality	Number of Households
Beachwood	10
Berkeley	1
Brick	6
Jackson	2
Lacey	7
Lakewood	32
Manchester	2
Mantoloking	2
Ocean	1
Point Pleasant	1
Point Pleasant Beach	1
Seaside Heights	77
Seaside Park	19
Stafford	7
Toms River	117
Barnegat	1

What is your total length of homelessness?

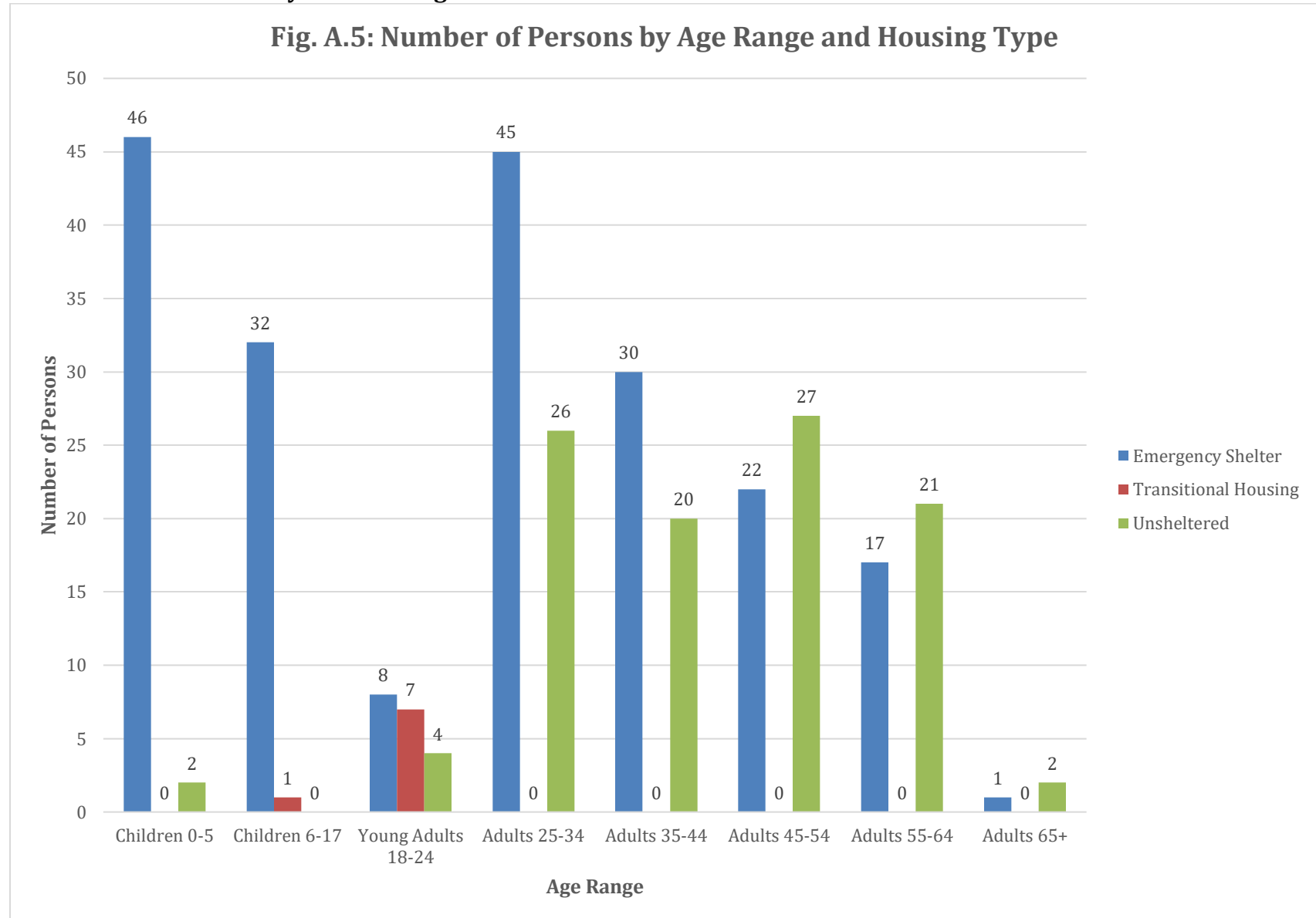
Fig. A.3: Homeless Households by Length of Homelessness and Housing Type



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

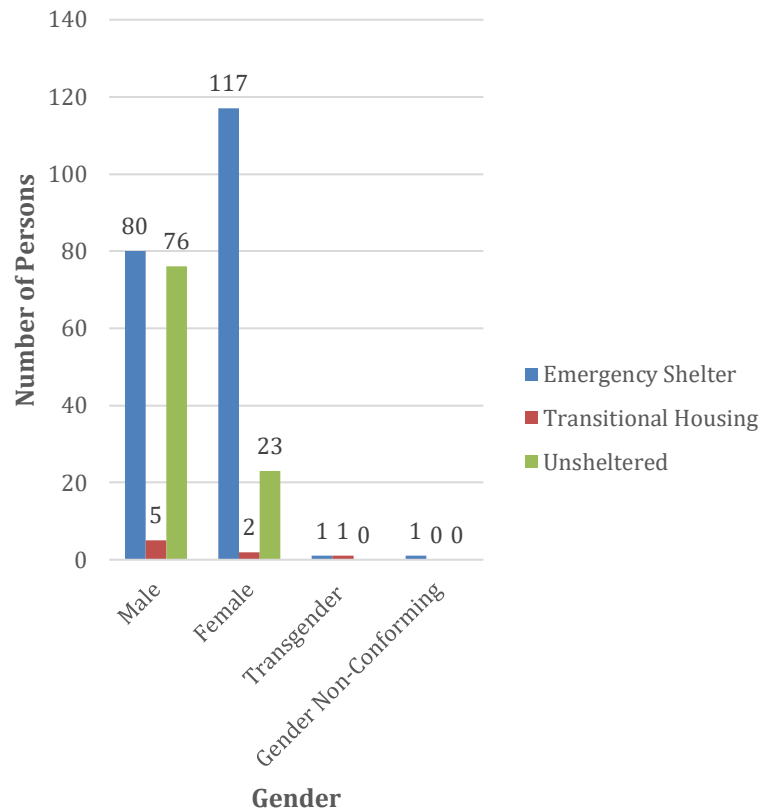


Fig. A.7: Number of Persons by Race

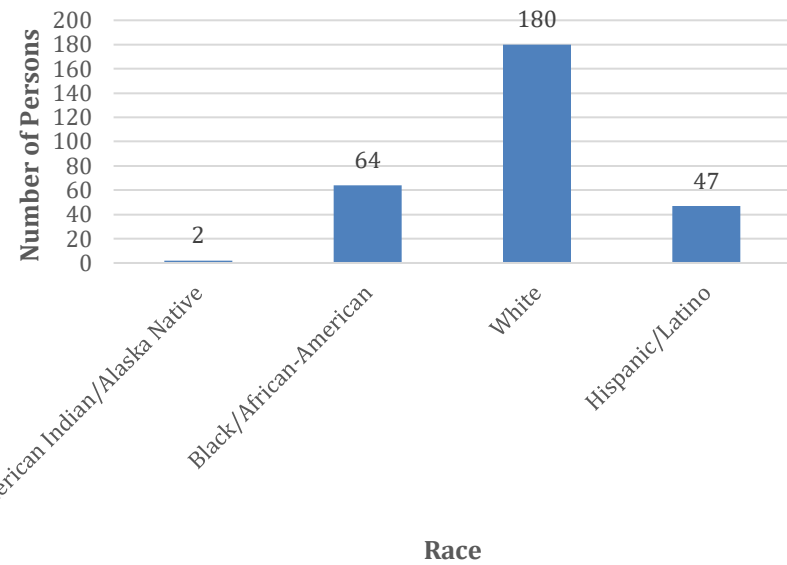
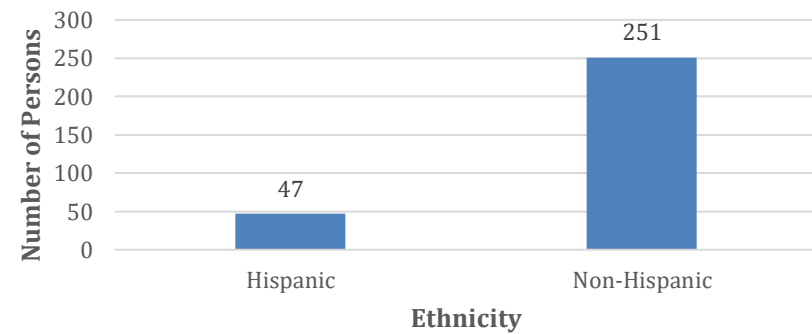
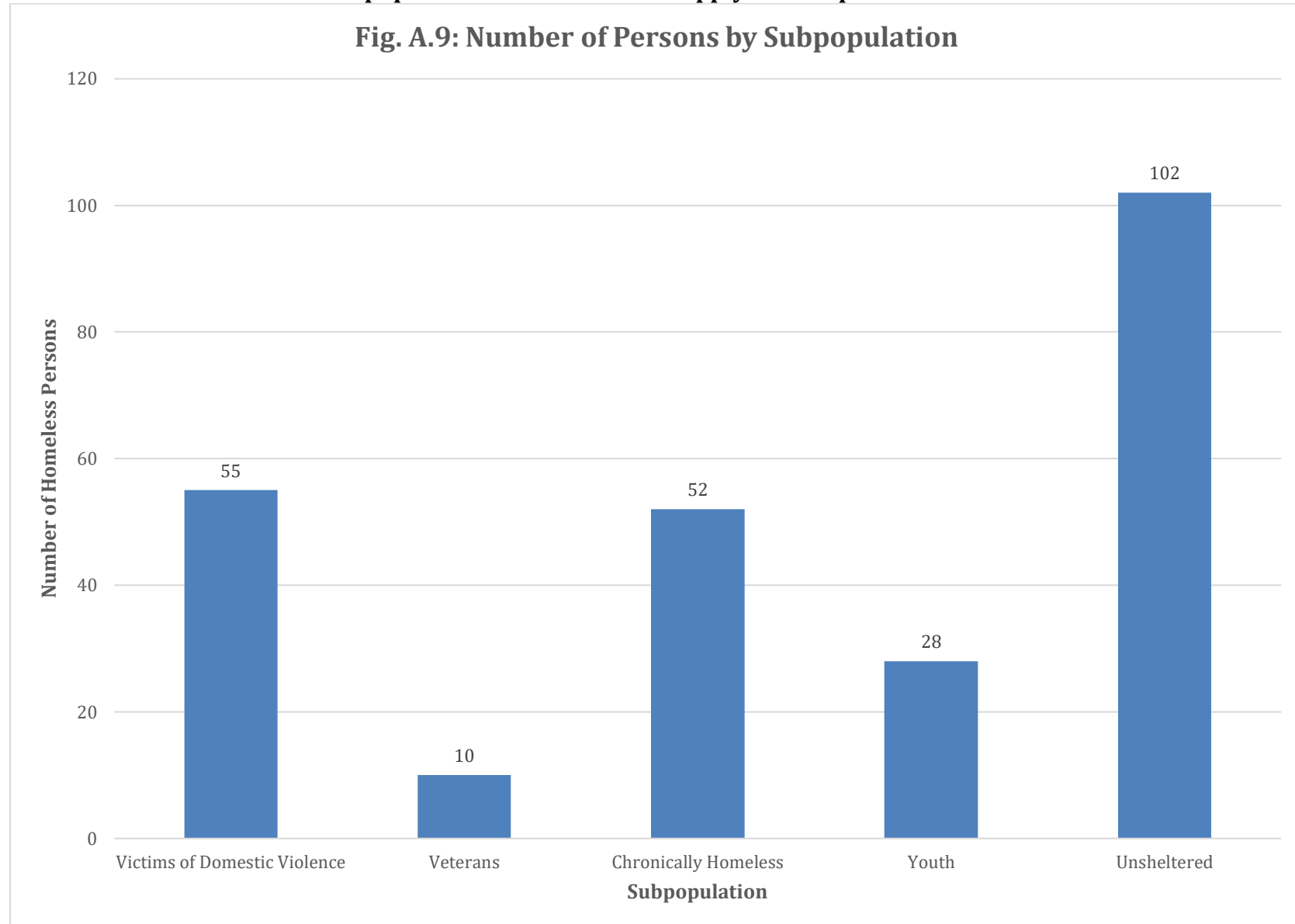


Fig. A.8: Number of Persons by Ethnicity

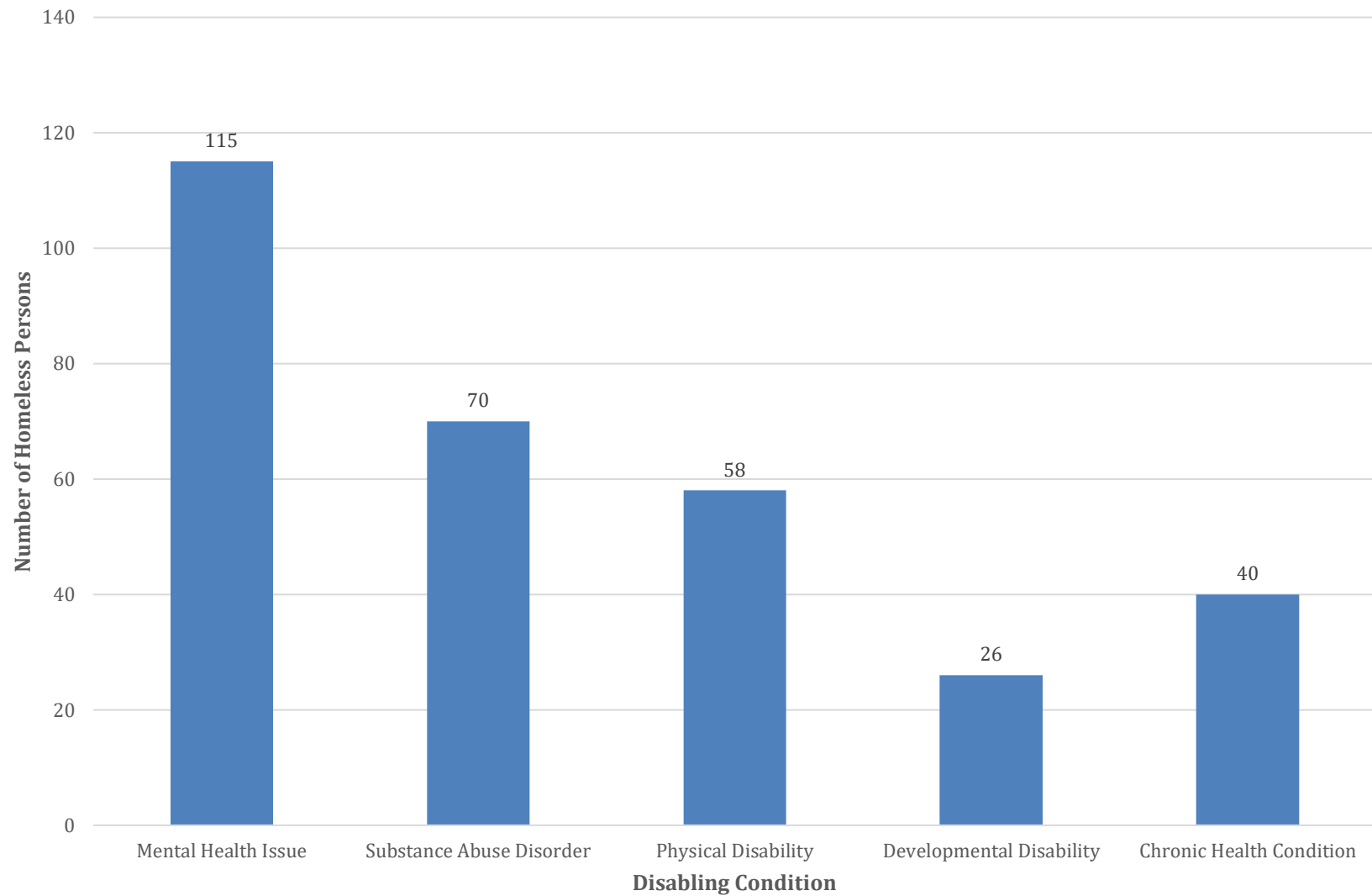


Household Characteristics: Subpopulations – check all that apply to each person



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

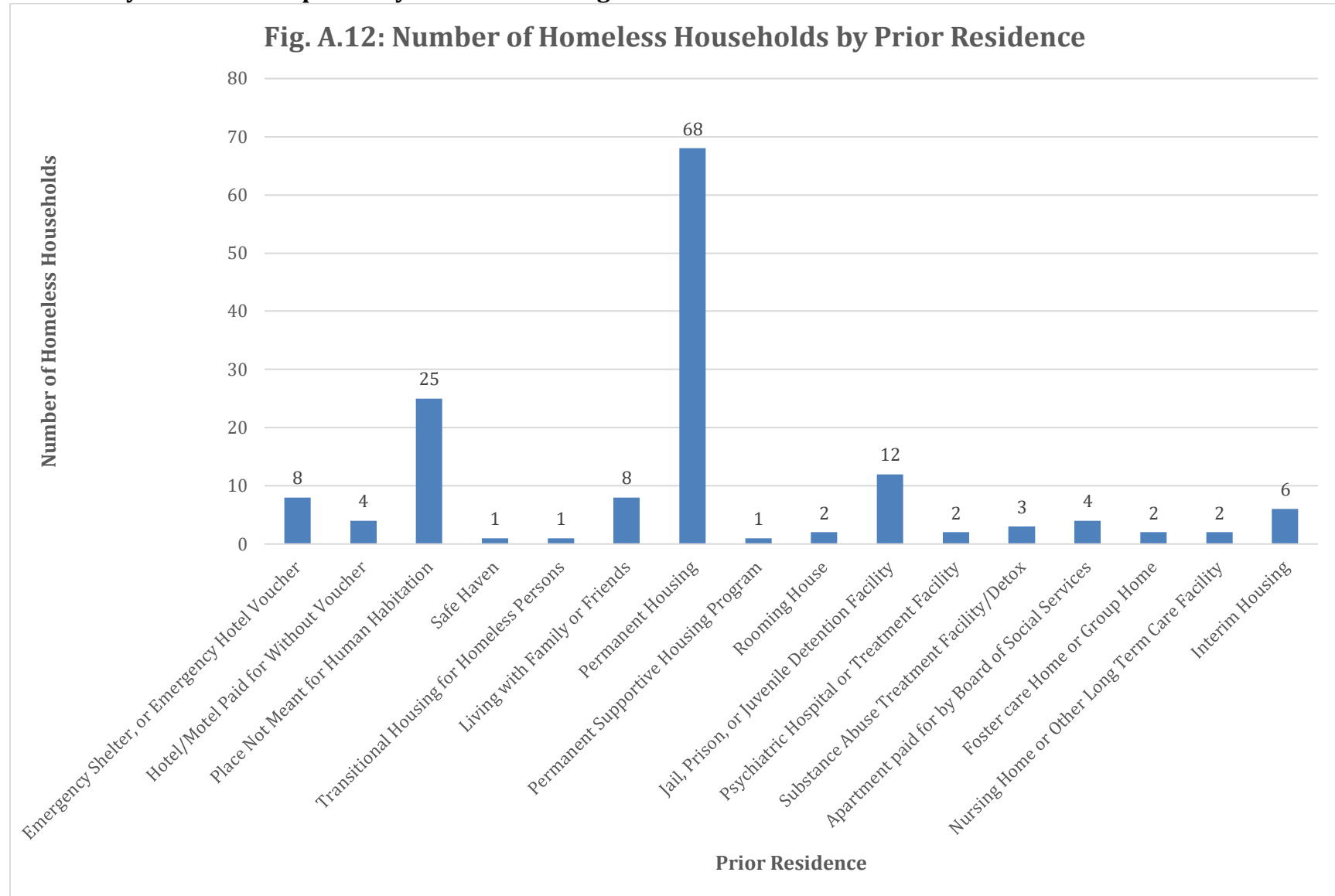
Fig. A.10: Number of Persons by Disabling Condition



Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?

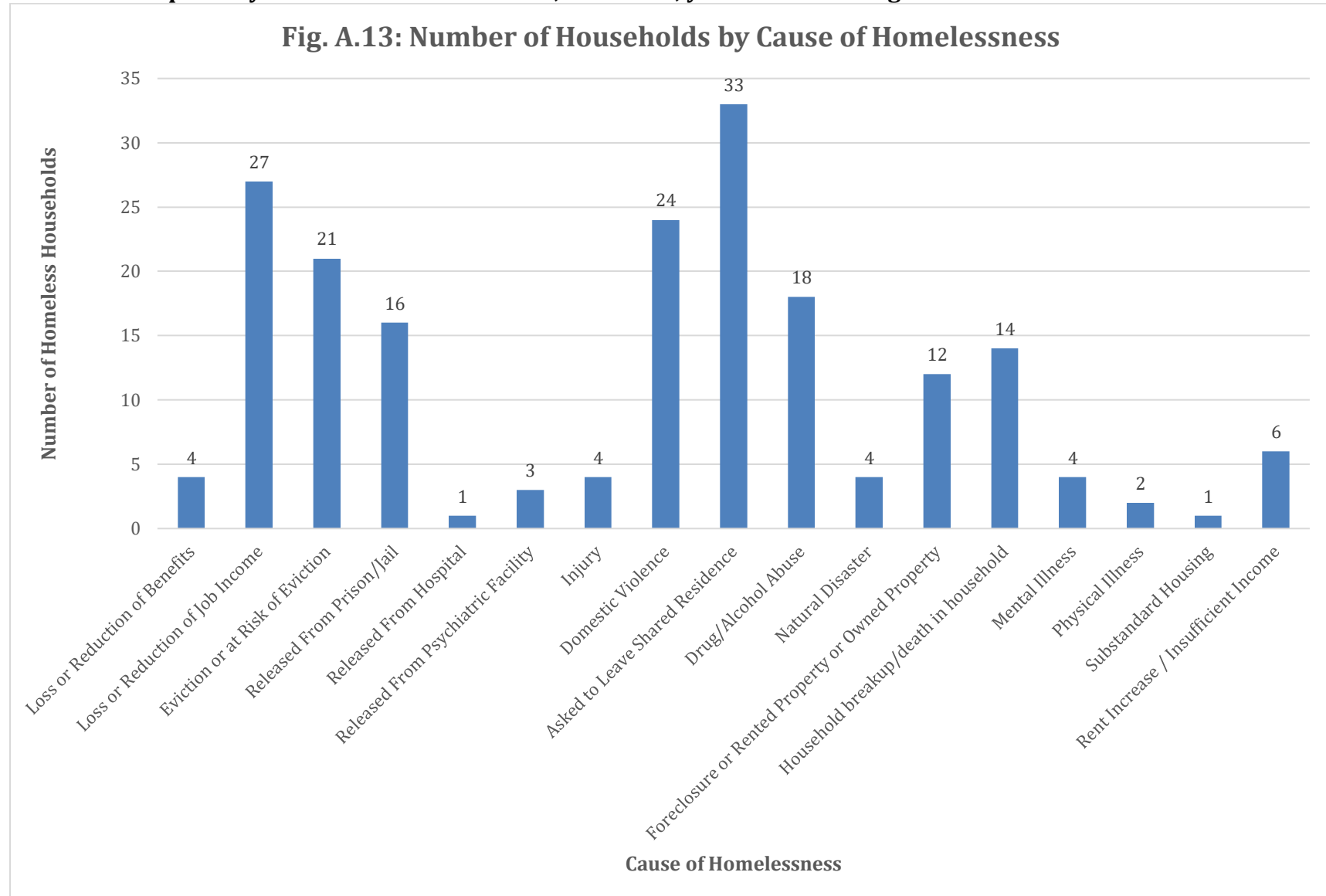
Fig. A.11. Number of Homeless Households by County or State of Last Permanent Address	
Last Permanent Address – County/State	Number of Households
Burlington County	2
Camden County	1
Cape May County	1
Cumberland County	3
Monmouth County	12
Morris County	1
Ocean County	152
Passaic County	3
Union county	2
Delaware	1
Florida	2
Georgia	2
Maryland	1
Missouri	1
Oklahoma	1
Pennsylvania	2
Puerto Rico	2

What was your residence prior to your current living situation?



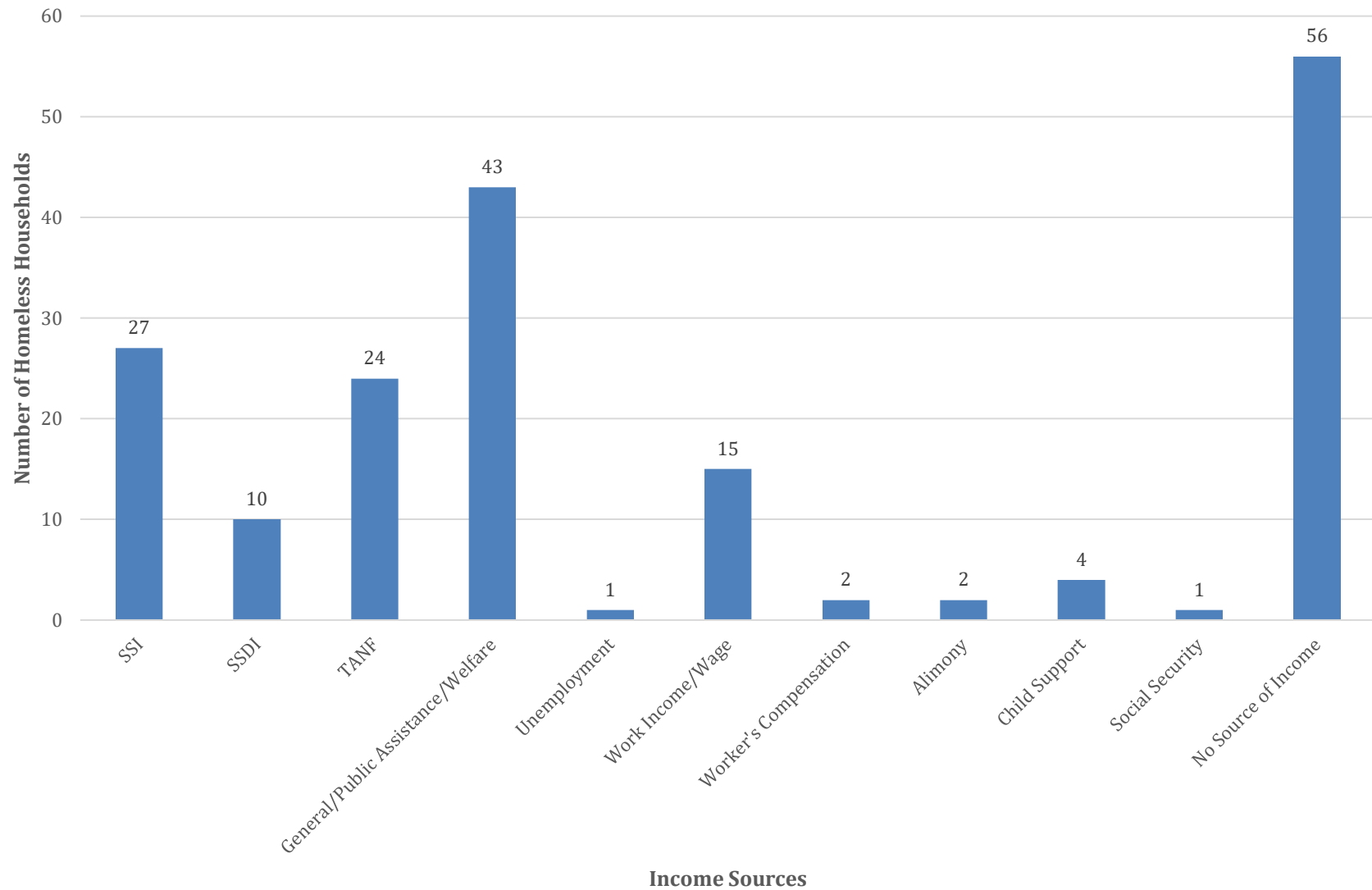
What was the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, your current living situation?

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



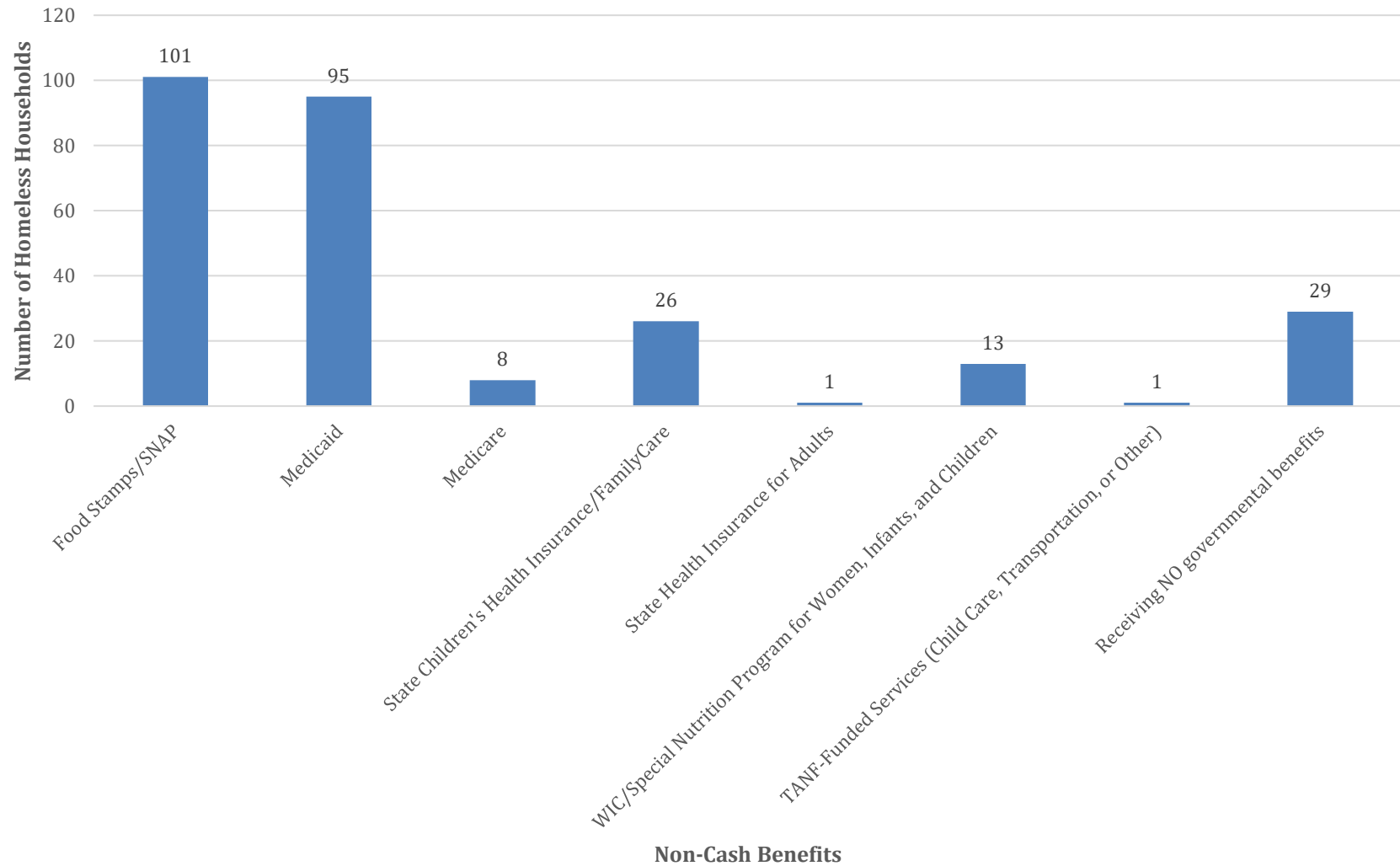
Which of the following sources of income do you, or anyone in your household, receive?

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

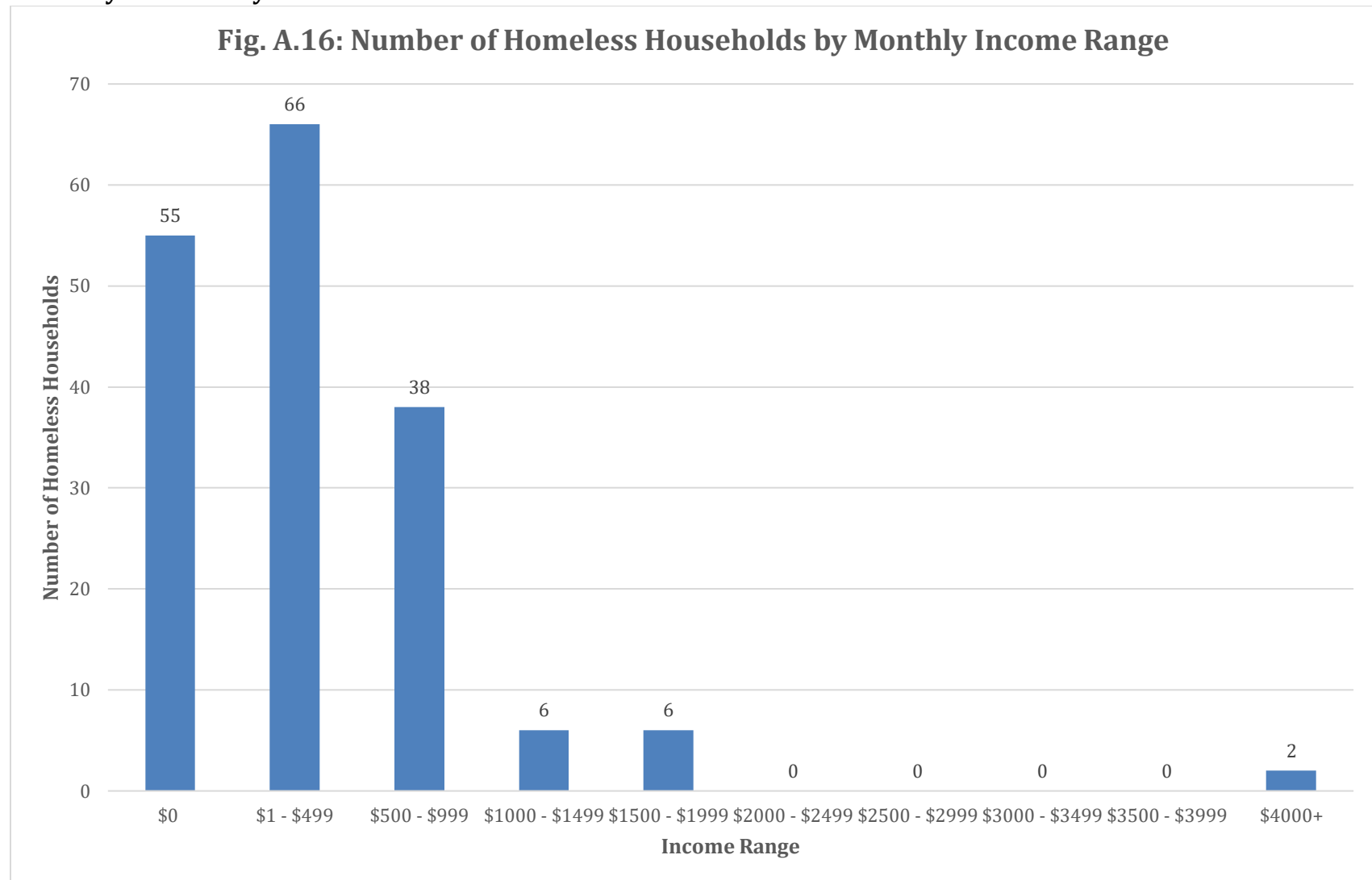


Which of the following sources of non-cash benefits do you, or anyone in your household, receive?

Fig. A.15: Number of Households by Sources fo Non-Cash Benefits



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

