monarch
HOUSING ASSOCIATES

NJ
2014
Counts!

Essex County's 2014 Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless

January 28, 2014

Table of Contents

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

I. Introduction

NJ Counts 2014

NJ Counts 2014, New Jersey's annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Count of the Homeless, provides a statewide snapshot of homeless households in our communities; where they find shelter, what their needs are, and what factors contribute to making them homeless. The 2014 Count reveals important demographic and other information about families and individuals who were homeless on the night of Tuesday, January 28th, 2014, and was carried out with the help of government agencies, community-based organizations, and local volunteers.

In New Jersey, each County's count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally, and the information gathered enables each community to better allocate housing resources and services in order to prevent and end homelessness. The PIT Count is the only opportunity throughout the year for most communities to take a comprehensive look at the total homeless population, and is especially crucial in assessing the needs of the unsheltered homeless.

Acknowledgements

Monarch would like to thank all Point-In-Time Coordinators, homeless service providers, agencies, and volunteers who participated in NJ Counts 2014. Monarch would also like to specifically thank Bergen County for providing both Spanish and Korean translations of the 2014 paper survey tool.

Finally, a special acknowledgement is given to all the respondents who were willing to share personal information about themselves and their households' experiences in order to help our communities better understand and assist the homeless.

Funding for coordinating New Jersey's 2014 Point-In-Time and producing this report was provided by New Jersey's Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA).

This Report

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

1. Total homeless population;
2. Those experiencing chronic homelessness (families and individuals that have been homeless for a year or longer, or who have experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years, and have a disabled head of household); and
3. Unsheltered families and individuals;

The structure of this report is intended to provide not only an overall snapshot of the homeless population counted in the Point-In-Time, but also to focus attention on the homeless subpopulations that are the most in need, and those that represent federal funding priorities set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In addition to the main findings presented in the body of this report, Appendix A includes charts illustrating the responses to all survey questions that were part of the 2014 Point-In-Time Count.

II. Data Collection and Methodology

Requirements for the Count

As part of its Continuum of Care (CoC) application for homelessness funding, HUD requires that jurisdictions across the nation conduct a statistically reliable and unduplicated count of the homeless for one overnight period during the last 10 days of January. New Jersey's Continuums of Care (regional networks of organizations, agencies, and community stakeholders that plan local efforts to help the homeless) conduct an annual count of sheltered homeless persons (i.e. persons in emergency shelter, transitional housing for the homeless, and Safe Haven programs) and at least a biennial count of unsheltered homeless persons. 2014 was not a HUD-required full count year.

In their Point-In-Time Count, CoCs must count and report all individuals and families who meet the criteria in paragraph (1)(i) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 91.5 of HUD's Homeless Definition Rule on the night designated for the count. This includes individuals and families who are:

- **Sheltered**, or "living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals)," or

- **Unsheltered**, "with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground."

Because this report focuses on those respondents who meet HUD's definition of homeless, it does not include information about those who may be at risk of homelessness, precariously housed, or considered homeless under other federal statutes. Persons who, on the night of the count, were living doubled up with another household, living in illegal or

overcrowded units, being discharged from a jail or health facility with no subsequent residence, scheduled to be evicted, or paying for its own motel unit were not considered homeless. All survey information collected for respondents who were at risk of homelessness or precariously housed was preserved and shared with each community for local planning purposes, but is not included in this report unless otherwise noted.

Data Collection Methods

Monarch Housing Associates provided each of New Jersey's 21 counties with in-person training, online video and print training guides, a practice online survey tool, and technical assistance to aid in the data collection process for New Jersey's 2014 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.

This year marked the beginning of a new process for collecting survey data for New Jersey's PIT Count. The count of homeless persons who were sheltered on the night of January 28th, 2014 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 revised 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 2014 PIT Survey tool was updated to more closely mirror information collected in HMIS so that the data was comparable for important factors such as household characteristics, income, services needed, and factors contributing to homelessness. Agencies updated all HMIS data to accurately reflect the night of the count, and those with programs that were non HMIS-participating submitted information from interviews utilizing the Paper Survey tool through SurveyMonkey.

Limitations

1. HUD requires a count of sheltered homeless persons and families annually, but only a biennial count of those who are unsheltered. Even though New Jersey conducts both a sheltered and unsheltered count each year, the comprehensiveness of the unsheltered count may be influenced by the fact that it is not a HUD-required full count year. This report includes comparison data from 2010 to 2014. 2010, 2012, and 2014 were not HUD required full reporting years while 2011 and 2013 were.

2. The winter of 2013 to 2014 was particularly cold, setting record low temperatures in parts of New Jersey. The night of the count, January 28, 2014, was cold enough to warrant a 'Code Blue' in many communities, which mandates that emergency warming stations or shelters be set-up for the unsheltered. While this means that many more people are able to sleep in a warm place, it may skew Point-In-Time data to show fewer unsheltered households than are actually present in communities on a regular basis.

3. 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, the numbers and percentages reported may not equal the total number of homeless respondents due to missing data. All numbers, percentages, and figures contained in this report are calculated based on the total number of actual responses, and do not represent null or missing values unless otherwise noted.

4. Because the Point-In-Time Count represents only one night during the last ten days of January, it is widely accepted that the PIT will undercount the overall homeless population. Undercounting may occur due to difficulty finding those living on the street, incomplete information for people who do not agree to complete the survey, a shortage of volunteers to cover a geographic area, or homeless persons choosing not to seek housing services on the night of the count. This data should not be viewed as a comprehensive measurement of all families and individuals who experience homelessness throughout the year, but rather as a minimum number of persons who experience homelessness in New Jersey on a given night.

De-duplication

Monarch Housing Associates collected and merged all HMIS and SurveyMonkey Point-In-Time data from each community into its combined database. Monarch generated two unique identifiers, one more general and one more in-depth, based on the identifying information for each individual record. Using a formula, these unique identifiers were compared to all identifiers for other records in the database to identify potential duplicates.

All duplicates detected through comparison of unique identifiers were then de-duplicated by the following process:
1. Multiple HMIS records where all fields match – a single record was preserved, and all duplicates were removed;
2. Multiple SurveyMonkey records where all fields match – a single record was preserved, and all duplicates were removed;
3. Comparing HMIS to SurveyMonkey records where unique identifiers, disabilities, income sources, household size, and location on the night of the count all match – the HMIS record was preserved and the SurveyMonkey duplicates were removed.

Following this de-duplication of the data, communities were given preliminary data to review all identified duplicates and records with missing data. Communities were then able to update records with missing information and/or request any additional de-duplication they determined prudent. Monarch then updated and removed additional records based on community feedback prior to completing its final analysis and report.

III. Findings for Total Homeless Population

Key Findings

- On the night of January 28th, 2014 a total of 1,276 households, including 1,655 persons, were experiencing homelessness in Essex County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 174 adult individuals were identified as chronically homeless.
- 213 adult-only households, with 223 persons were unsheltered on the night of the count.

Total Homeless Population

On the night of January 28th, 2014, a total of 1,655 persons, in 1,276 households, were experiencing homelessness in Essex County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 9 persons (0.5%) and 126 households (11%) from 2013. Essex County had 12% of New Jersey's statewide homeless population in 2014.

Fig. 1. 5-Year Comparison of Total Homeless Population by Housing Situation
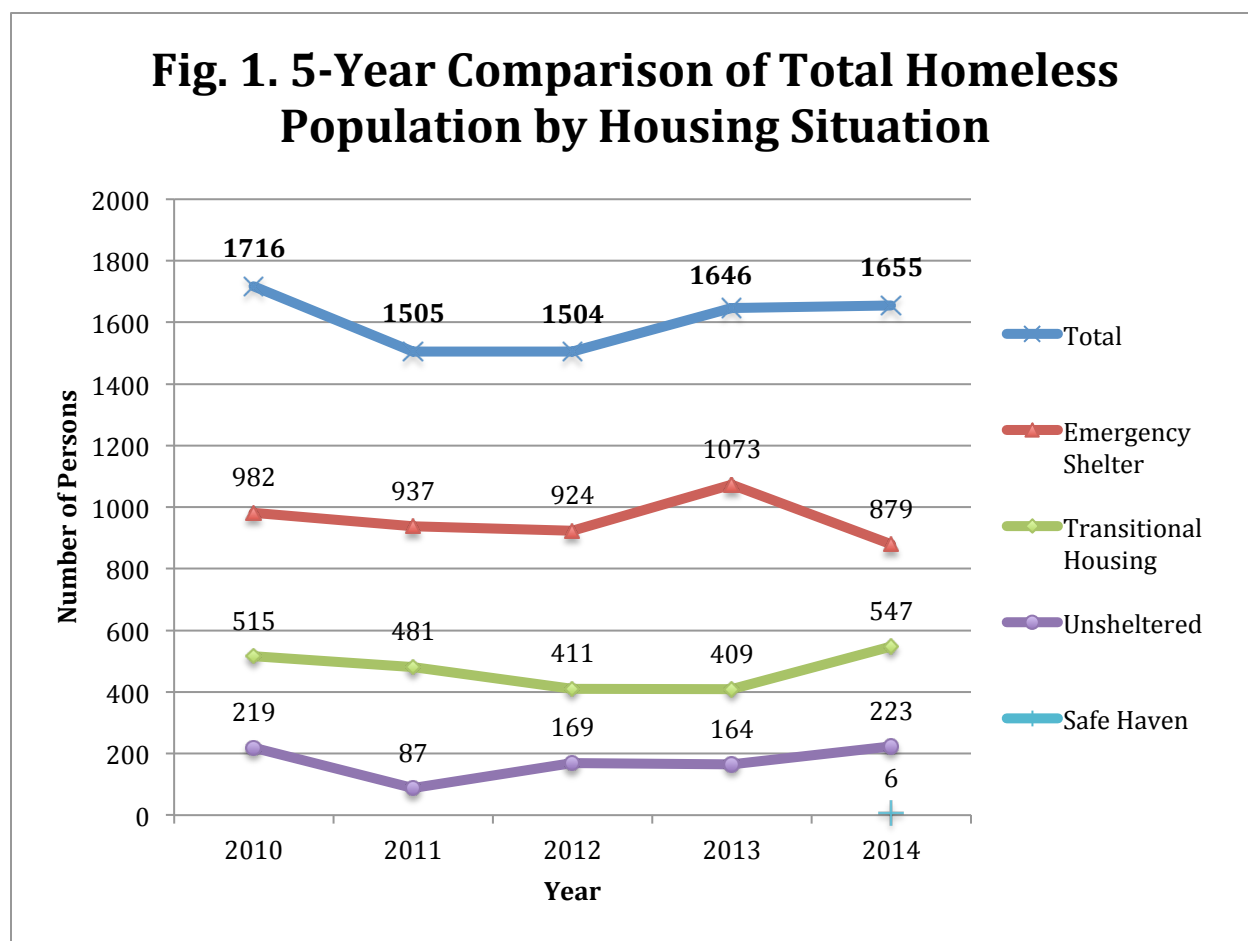
Figure 1 shows that, in 2014, 879 homeless persons stayed in emergency shelters, 547 stayed in transitional housing, 223 were living unsheltered, and 6 were in safe havens on the night of the count. The number of those in emergency shelters fell by 194 persons (18.1%). The totals for transitional housing and unsheltered both show an increase from 2013, with 59 (36%) more unsheltered persons, and 138 more persons in transitional housing, a 34% increase.

Figure 1 also shows that, over the past five years, the total number of homeless persons has been fluctuating in Essex County, with the highest count in 2010 (1,716). As Figure 2 shows, 17% of the homeless respondents in Essex County in 2014 reported that their last permanent address prior to becoming homeless was outside of the county.

Fig. 2. Percentage of Households by County of Last Permanent Address

During the five-year period from 2010 to 2014, the overall number of homeless persons in Essex County is down by 61 persons (3.5%). However, the number of homeless persons had been trending upward since 2012 (151 more persons, 10%).
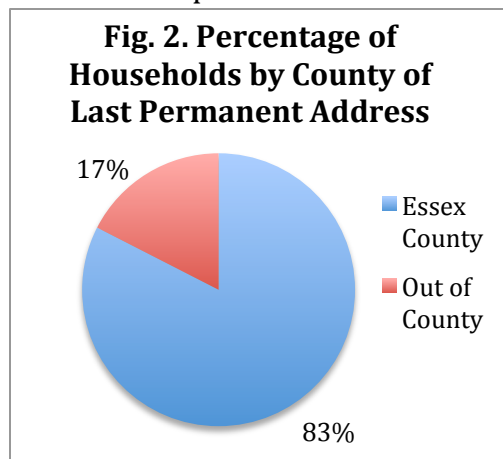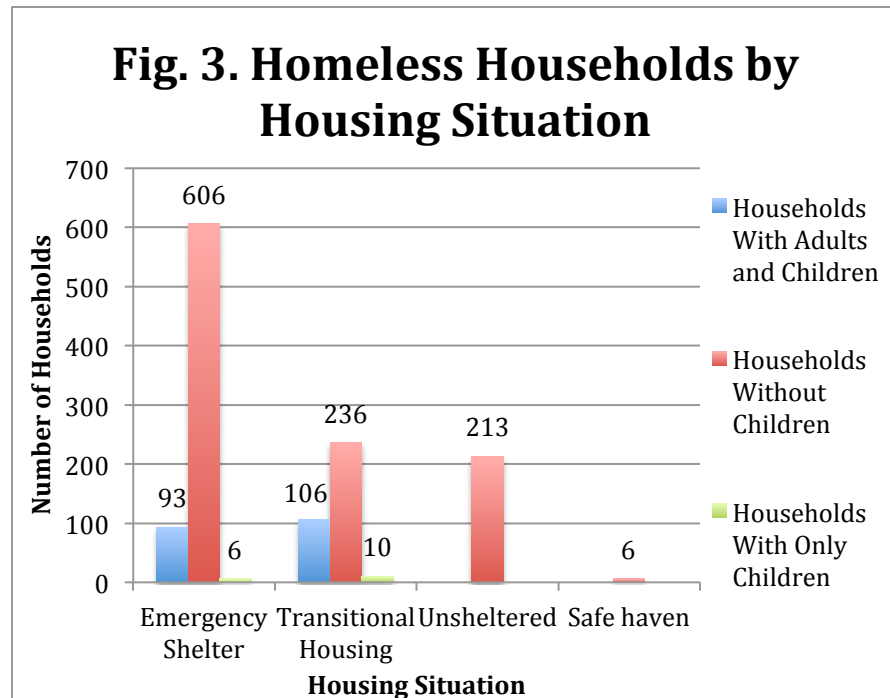
Homeless Families and Individuals

When reading the data regarding different types of homeless households, it is important for the reader to remember that, in this report, 'household' means "any group of persons who, if they were able to attain permanent housing, would choose to live together; and, shared the same sleeping arrangements on the night of the count." Three different types of households are discussed below: households with adults and children under 18 ('families'), households without children ('individuals'), and households with only children under 18 ('unaccompanied youth').

Of the 1,276 homeless households counted in Essex County in 2014, 199 (15.6%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. These families included 560 persons, 333 children under age 18, and 227 adults. The average family size was 2.9 persons. Figure 3 shows that 93 families were staying in emergency shelter (46.7%), and 106 were in transitional housing programs for the homeless (53.3%). There were no unsheltered families with adults and children. In 2014, Essex County counted 63 fewer homeless families than in 2013, a decrease of 24%. Compared to 2010, the number of homeless families is down 32.6%.

83.1% (1061) of the homeless households in Essex County were households without children under 18, and they were composed of 1079 adult individuals. 606 (57.1%) of these adult-only households were staying in emergency shelters, 236 (22.2%) were in transitional housing, 6 (0.6%) were in safe havens, and 213 (20%) were unsheltered. Essex County has seen the number of adult-only homeless households increase by 180 (20.4%) since 2013, and by 219 (26%) over the past five years.

As Figure 3 indicates, 16 (1.5%) households with only children under 18 years old were reported in 2014. This is an increase of 9 (128.6%) youth households from 2013. All of these were one-child households. 6 (37.5%) unaccompanied youth were staying in emergency shelter, and 10 (62.5%) were in transitional housing on the night of the count.

Fig. 3. Homeless Households by Housing Situation

Y-axis: Number of Households (0 to 700)
X-axis: Housing Situation

Legend:
- Households With Adults and Children
- Households Without Children
- Households With Only Children

Values:
- Emergency Shelter: 93, 606, 6
- Transitional Housing: 106, 236, 10
- Unsheltered: 213
- Safe haven: 6

Demographics

Fig. 4. Age Range by Housing Situation

Y-axis: Number of persons (0 to 450)
X-axis: Age Range

Legend:
- Safe Haven
- Unsheltered
- Transitional Housing
- Emergency Shelter

Values:
- Children (0-5): Emergency Shelter 84, Transitional Housing 106
- Children (6-17): Emergency Shelter 79, Transitional Housing 80
- Young Adults (18-24): Emergency Shelter 126, Transitional Housing 82, Unsheltered 8
- Adults (25-34): Emergency Shelter 117, Transitional Housing 80, Unsheltered 25, Safe Haven 2
- Adults (35-44): Emergency Shelter 138, Transitional Housing 61, Unsheltered 53
- Adults (45-54): Emergency Shelter 213, Transitional Housing 95, Unsheltered 87, Safe Haven 3
- Adults (55-64): Emergency Shelter 111, Transitional Housing 34, Unsheltered 40
- Adults 65+: Emergency Shelter 11, Transitional Housing 9, Unsheltered 10, Safe Haven 1

There were a total of 216 (13%) homeless adults between 18 and 24 years old, 1090 (65.9%) adults over age 24, and 349 (21.1%) children under 18 years old experiencing homelessness on the night of the count. Figure 4 shows that the majority of homeless children who were under the age of 18 were between 0 and 5 years of age (190, 31.2%). The age range most represented is adults between 45 and 54 (398 persons, 24%).

44.5% (734 persons) of homeless respondents were female, and 55.4% (913) were male, and 1 (0.06%) identified as transgender.

78.5% of respondents identified their race as Black or African-American, making that the largest racial subgroup of homeless persons reported. The next largest subgroup self-identified as White (19%), followed by those identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native (1.1%), Multi-Racial (0.3%), and Asian (0.3%). With regard to ethnicity, 13.5% of respondents identified themselves as Hispanic.

Disabilities

Figure 5 illustrates that 40% of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. 50% of adults 18 or older reported some type of disability compared to 4.3% of children. Figure 6 shows the number of the homeless persons that identified as having various disabilities. The most common disabilities included Mental Health Issues and Substance Abuse Disorders.

Fig. 5. Percentage of Population with a Disability

Among disabled adults, 49.1% reported mental health issues making this the most prevalent disability (25% of all homeless adults). More disabled homeless children reported mental health issues (47%) than any other disability as well.

Fig. 6. Number of Persons by Disability Type
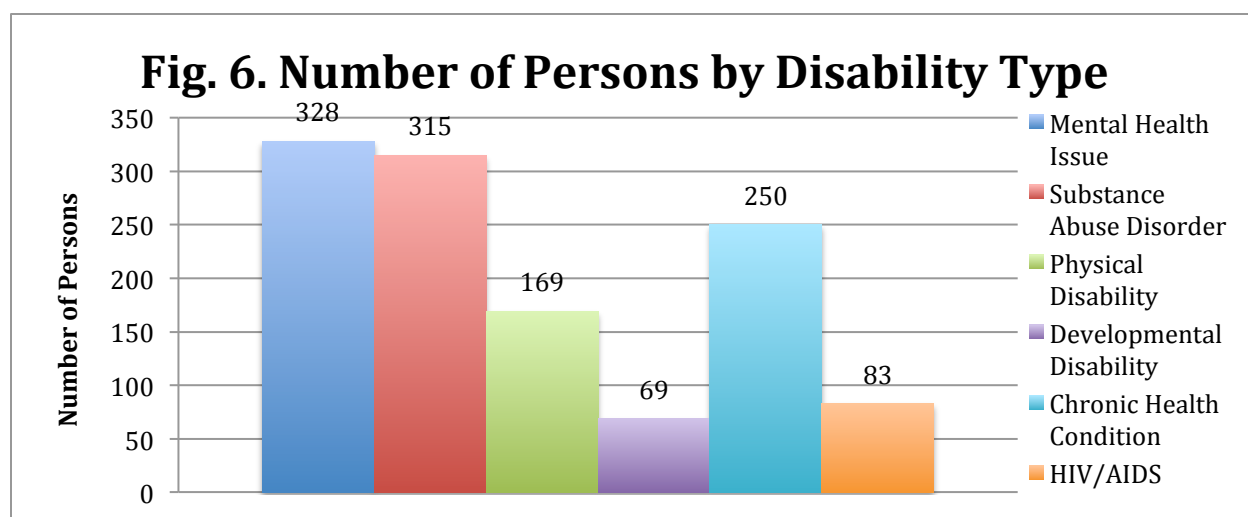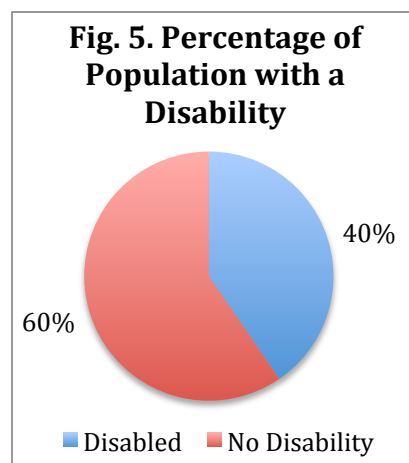
Victims of Domestic Violence

On the night of the count, in Essex County, 98 homeless households (9.2% of all households) reported having a victim of domestic violence. This means that a total of 131 homeless persons who were members of those households were impacted (See Figure 7).

The majority (80.6%) of these households were adult-only households. 2 victims were youth in transitional housing, while 17 of the victim households were families with at least 1 adult and 1 child. 14 (82.3%) of the victim families were in transitional housing.

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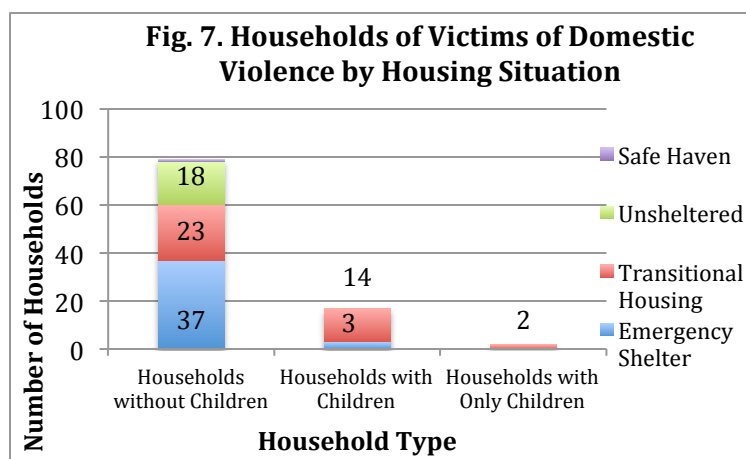
Veterans

In its plan, *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has prioritized ending homelessness among veterans by 2015. Many communities in New Jersey have also been working hard to end homelessness among our country's servicemen and women.

Fig. 8. Number of Veterans by Housing Situation

54 homeless veterans were counted on the night of the count, 13 fewer (19.4%) than in 2013. 51 (84.2%) were individuals, and 3 (5.5%) were part of families with at least one adult and one child. The largest contingent of homeless veterans was found to be staying in Emergency Shelter (40.7%). In addition, 19 veterans were unsheltered (35.2%), and 13 were in transitional housing (24.1%).

Veterans experiencing homelessness in Essex County were predominantly male (87%), and the most common racial background identified among them (41 veterans, 76%) was Black or African American; 11 (20.4%) identified as White. Figure 9 Illustrates the percentage of homeless veterans by age range.

Fig. 9. Percentage of Veterans by Age Range

6 veterans reported being victims of domestic violence. 35 of the 54 veterans, 65%, reported having some kind of disability. The two most common disabilities among these were mental health issues and substance abuse disorders, both of which affected 20 veterans
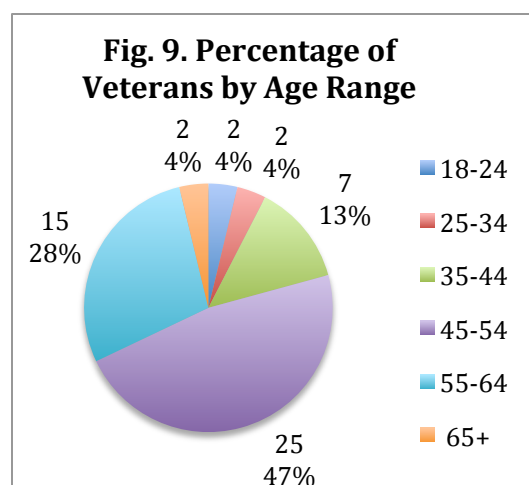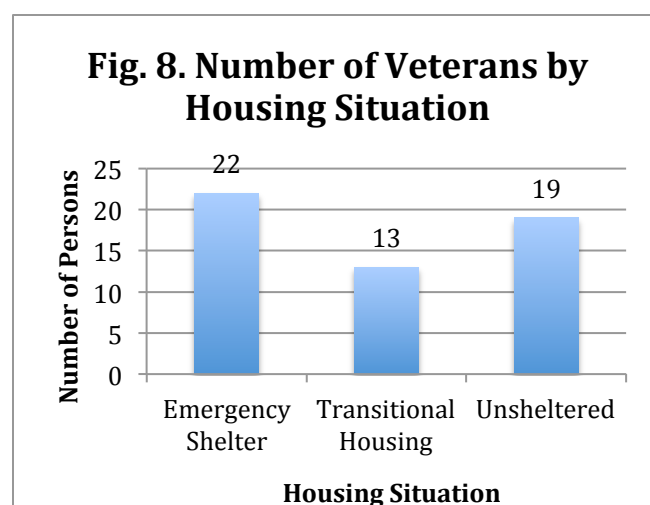
(37%). 14 veterans (26%) said they had a physical disability, 11 (20.4%) reported chronic health conditions, 7 (13%) reported having a developmental disability, and 4 (7.4%) had HIV/AIDS. The three types of services that homeless veterans sought the most were emergency shelter (67%), housing (35.2%), and financial assistance for housing (20.4%).

Income and Benefits

**Fig. 10. Number of Households by Income Type**
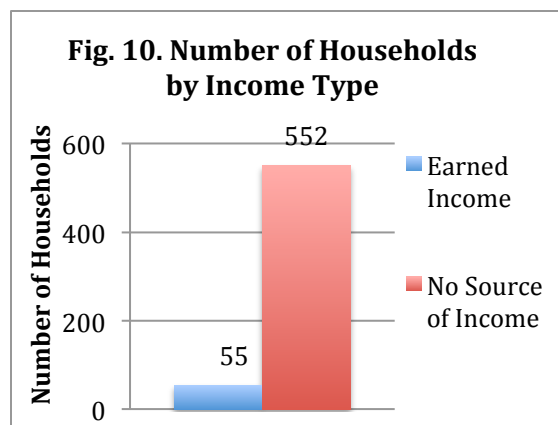
Among all homeless households on the night of the count, 43.3% had no source of income, and 4.3% reported receiving earned cash income. The three most common sources of income among respondent households were General Assistance (GA), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and SSI with 17.8%, 13.7%, and 13% receiving each, respectively. Figure 11 shows the average monthly income for all homeless households by housing situation.

Figure 11. Average Monthly Income For Households by Housing Situation				
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Safe Haven	Unsheltered
Average for All Households	$279.50	$388.08	$587.50	$202.57

36.6% of respondent households reported receiving no kind of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), was the top reported non-cash benefit, and was received by 46.2% of households. 31.1% were receiving Medicaid, and 9.2% were receiving Medicare.

Length of Homelessness

As Figure 12 shows, 321 (25.2%) of the homeless households reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted from 3 months and 1 day to 6 months, while 268 (21%) said they had been homeless between 8 days and 1

Fig. 12. Length of Homelessness Among Households

month. 17.1% of households had been homeless more than 1 year.
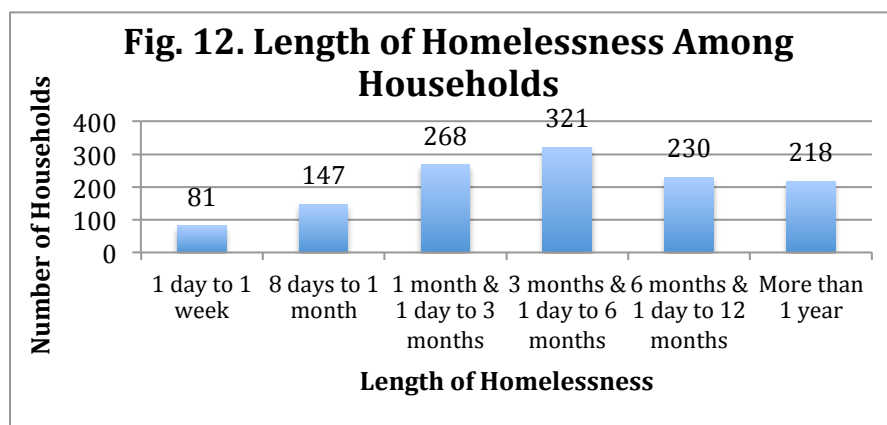
Cause of Homelessness

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 (271 persons, 21.2%) than any other cause. As Figure 13 shows, the next most common factor reported was eviction (16.3%) followed by loss or reduction of job income or benefits (14.7%).

When households were asked 'what was your residence prior to your current living situation?' more said they were staying or living with friends or family (35.3%) than any other type of residence. 18% reported residing in emergency shelter prior to their current living situation.

Fig. 13. Cause of Homelessness by Households
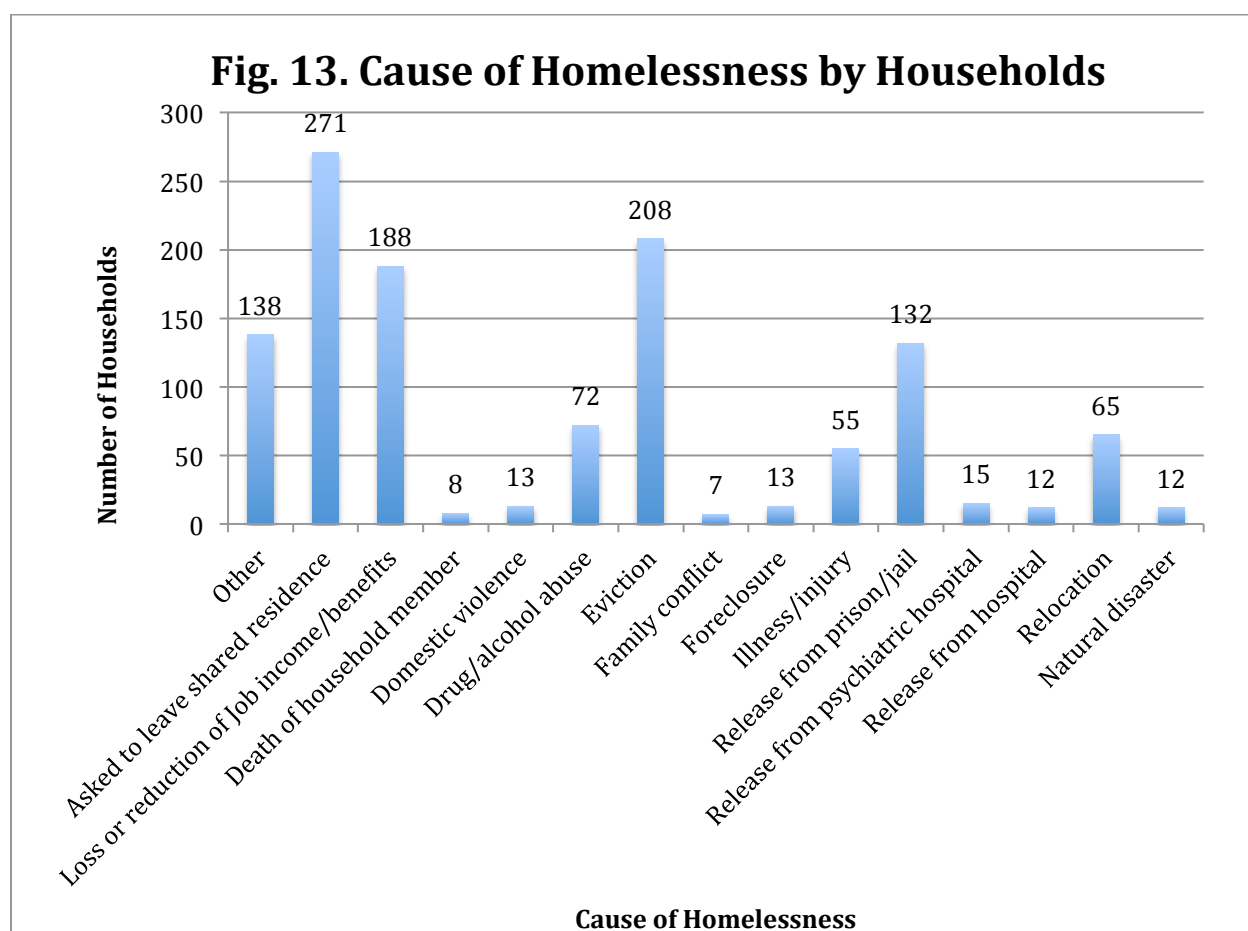
IV. Findings for the Chronically Homeless

Someone with a long-term disabling condition, who has been continually homeless for a year or more, or at least four times in the past three years, meets HUD's definition of chronically homeless. Any family with one adult that meets this definition is considered a chronically homeless family.

In 2010, USICH established the goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2015. This goal reflects the urgency of helping to house those persons who have not been able to remain stably housed over the course of an extended period of time. Chronically Homeless persons are among the most vulnerable homeless groups, and providing effective supportive services and case management may be required in order to help some stay in the housing they need. Prioritization of new Continuum of Care funding opportunities has recently been giving some communities in New Jersey new resources for housing this subgroup.

Total Chronically Homeless Population

174 households, made up of 174 adult individuals, were chronically homeless in Essex County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 33 persons (15.9%) from 2013. The rate of chronic homelessness as a percentage of overall homelessness decreased from 12.6% to 10.5%.

Fig. 14. 5-Year Comparison of Chronic Homeless Population by Housing Situation

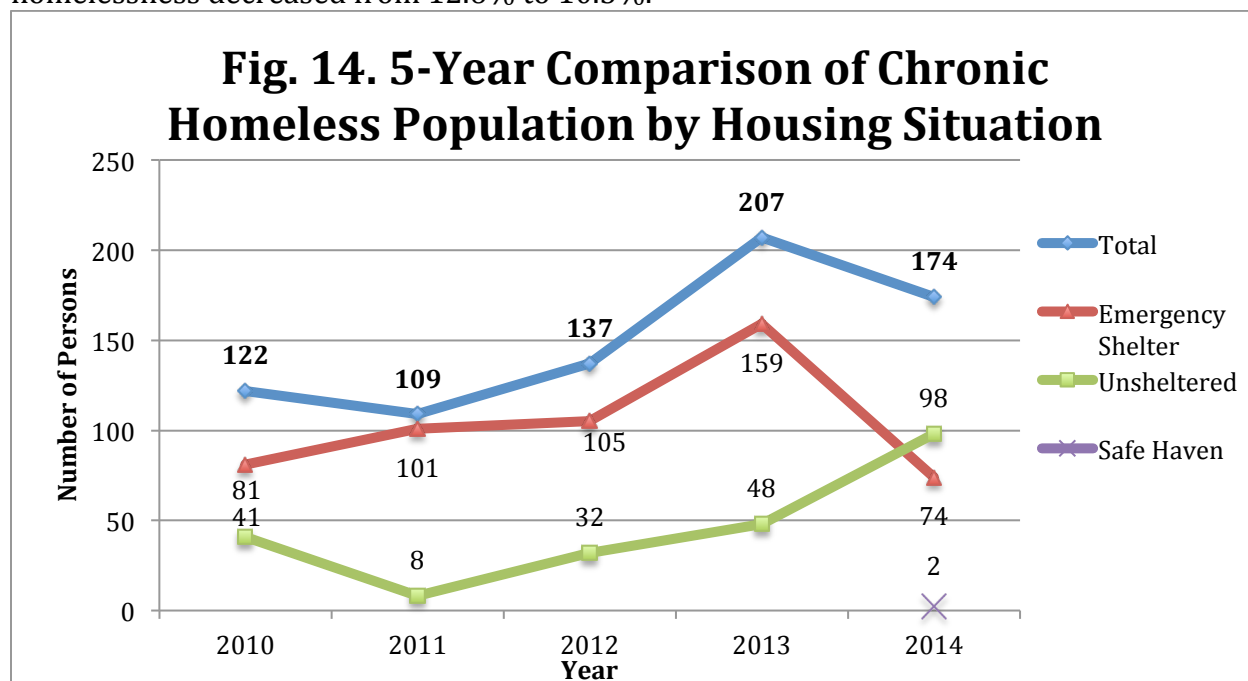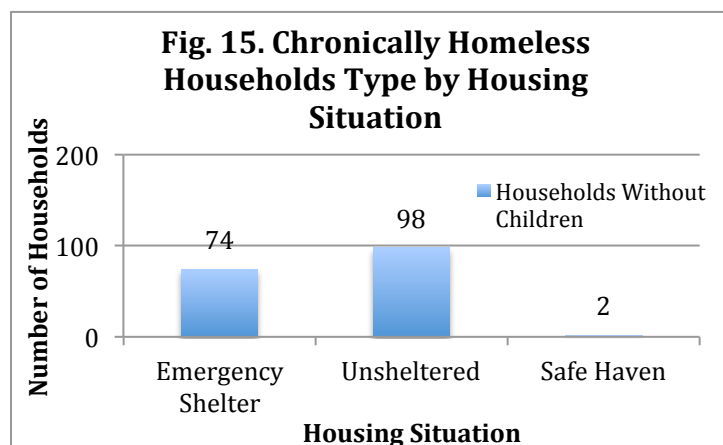Figure 14 shows the number of chronically homeless respondents who were in emergency shelters or living unsheltered in Essex County from 2010 to 2014. Over the past five years, while the numbers have fluctuated, the total of chronically homeless persons has risen overall (by 52 persons, 42.6%). Since 2013, the number of unsheltered chronically homeless persons has increased 108.5%, from 47 to 98 persons.
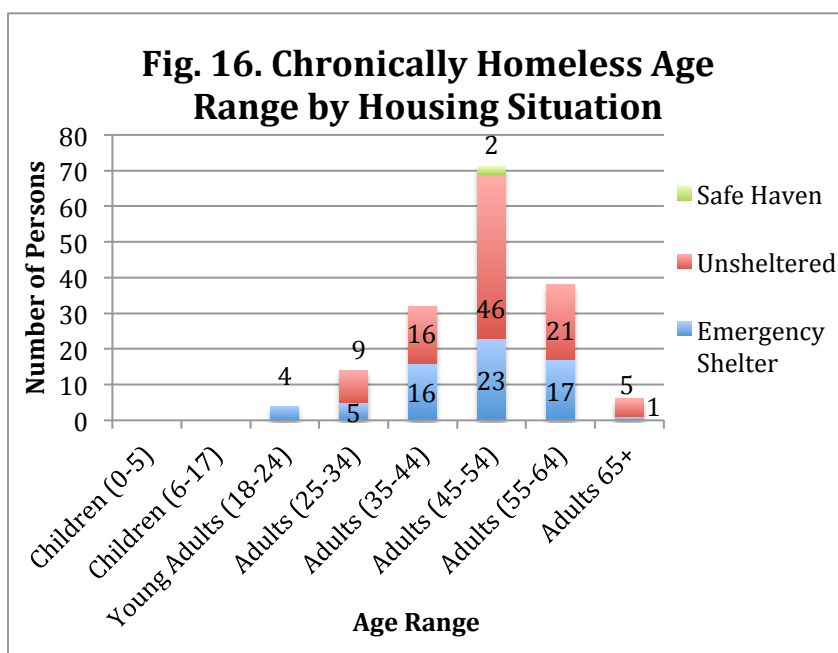
Families and Individuals

In the interest of giving an accurate comparison, the total number of chronically homeless households and persons in the previous section reflects all the information required for submission to HUD for this subpopulation, including the total number of chronically homeless adult individuals and the total number of persons in chronically homeless families. However, this number excludes any adults who were part of an adult-only couple with a chronically homeless individual and any youth in youth-only households. Therefore, the analysis below also includes data for 1 adult individual who was part of an adult-only couple, bringing the total number of chronically homeless households to 175 but keeping the number of chronically homeless households at 174.

Fig. 15. Chronically Homeless Households Type by Housing Situation

Number of Households

- Emergency Shelter: 74
- Unsheltered: 98
- Safe Haven: 2

Households Without Children

Housing Situation

Of the 174 chronically homeless households counted in 2014, all were adult-only households with no children. There were 98 (56.3%) of these households living unsheltered, an increase from 48 in 2013 (104.2% increase). 74 (42.5%) chronically homeless individuals were in emergency shelters on the night of the count, a reduction of 115% from 2013.

Demographics

Of the 175 total chronically homeless persons, 4 (2.3%) were between 18 and 24 years old, and none were children 17 or younger. The largest number of chronically homeless persons (71, 40.8%) in a single category fell between the ages of 45 and 54 years of age. Figure 16 shows that more than half (60.2%) of chronically homeless persons over age 25 were unsheltered.

Fig. 16. Chronically Homeless Age Range by Housing Situation

Number of Persons

Legend:
- Safe Haven
- Unsheltered
- Emergency Shelter

Data:
- Children (0-5): —
- Children (6-17): —
- Young Adults (18-24): Emergency Shelter 4
- Adults (25-34): Emergency Shelter 5, Unsheltered 9
- Adults (35-44): Emergency Shelter 16, Unsheltered 16
- Adults (45-54): Emergency Shelter 23, Unsheltered 46, Safe Haven 2
- Adults (55-64): Emergency Shelter 17, Unsheltered 21
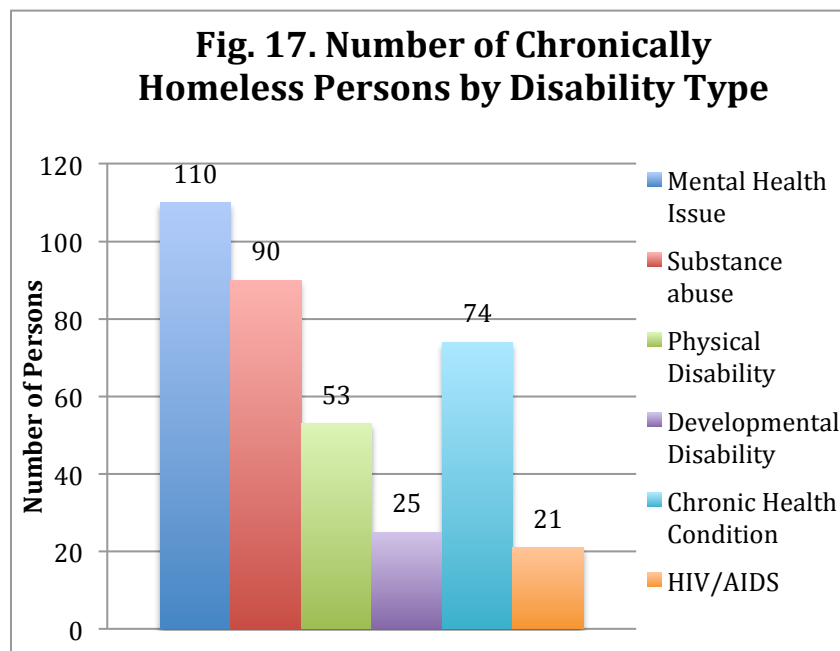- Adults 65+: Emergency Shelter 1, Unsheltered 5

Age Range

71.3% of chronically homeless respondents were male, 28.1% were female, and 0.6% were transgendered.

The largest racial subgroup of homeless persons reported their race as Black or African-American (78.3%). The next largest group self-identified as White (21.1%), followed by persons identifying as Asian (0.6%). With regard to ethnicity, 6.1% of chronically homeless persons identified themselves as Hispanic.

Disabilities

In order to meet the definition of chronically homeless, at least one adult in each household must have some kind of disability. The disabilities most commonly identified were mental health issues (62.9%) and substance abuse disorders (51.4%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the chronically homeless can be seen in Figure 17.

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

Number of Persons

- 110 — Mental Health Issue
- 90 — Substance abuse
- 53 — Physical Disability
- 25 — Developmental Disability
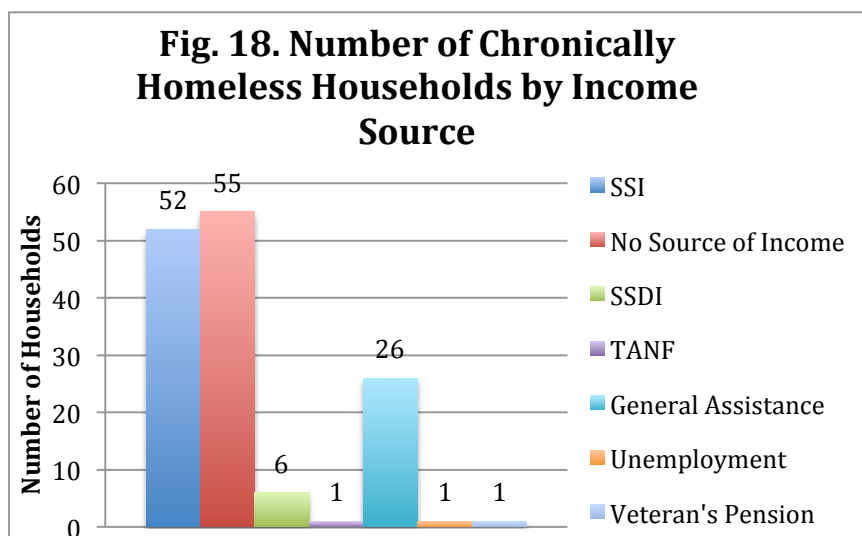- 74 — Chronic Health Condition
- 21 — HIV/AIDS

Subpopulations

On the night of the count, 18 chronically homeless persons in Essex County reported being victims of domestic violence (10.3%). 3 (16.7%) of these victims were staying in emergency shelters, including domestic violence shelters, and 15 (83.3%) were unsheltered.

There were 7 veteran individuals identified as chronically homeless on the night of the count (4.2%).

Income and Benefits

Among all the chronically homeless respondents on the night of the count, 31.6% reported receiving no type of cash income. Figure 18 shows the sources of income received. The most common source of cash income among all

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

Number of Households

- 52 — SSI
- 55 — No Source of Income
- 6 — SSDI
- 1 — TANF
- 26 — General Assistance
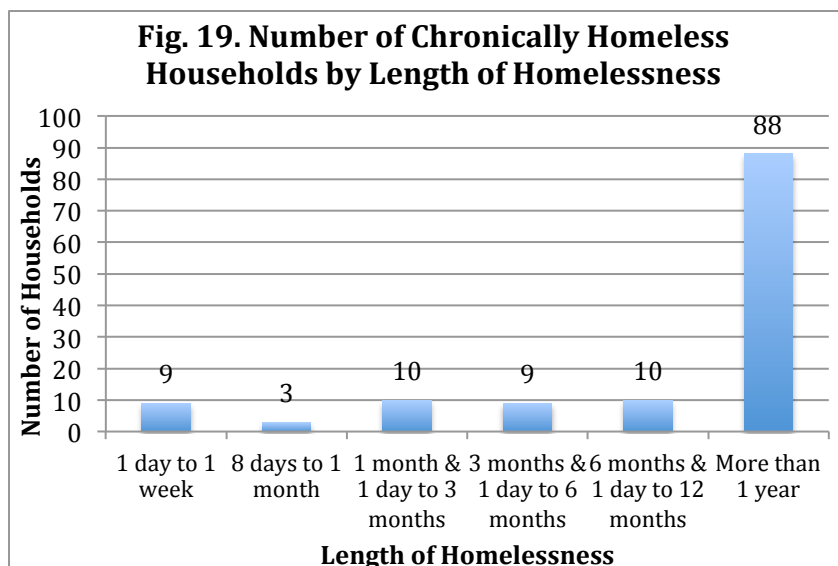- 1 — Unemployment
- 1 — Veteran's Pension

chronically homeless respondents was SSI, which was received by 30%. None reported any earned income.
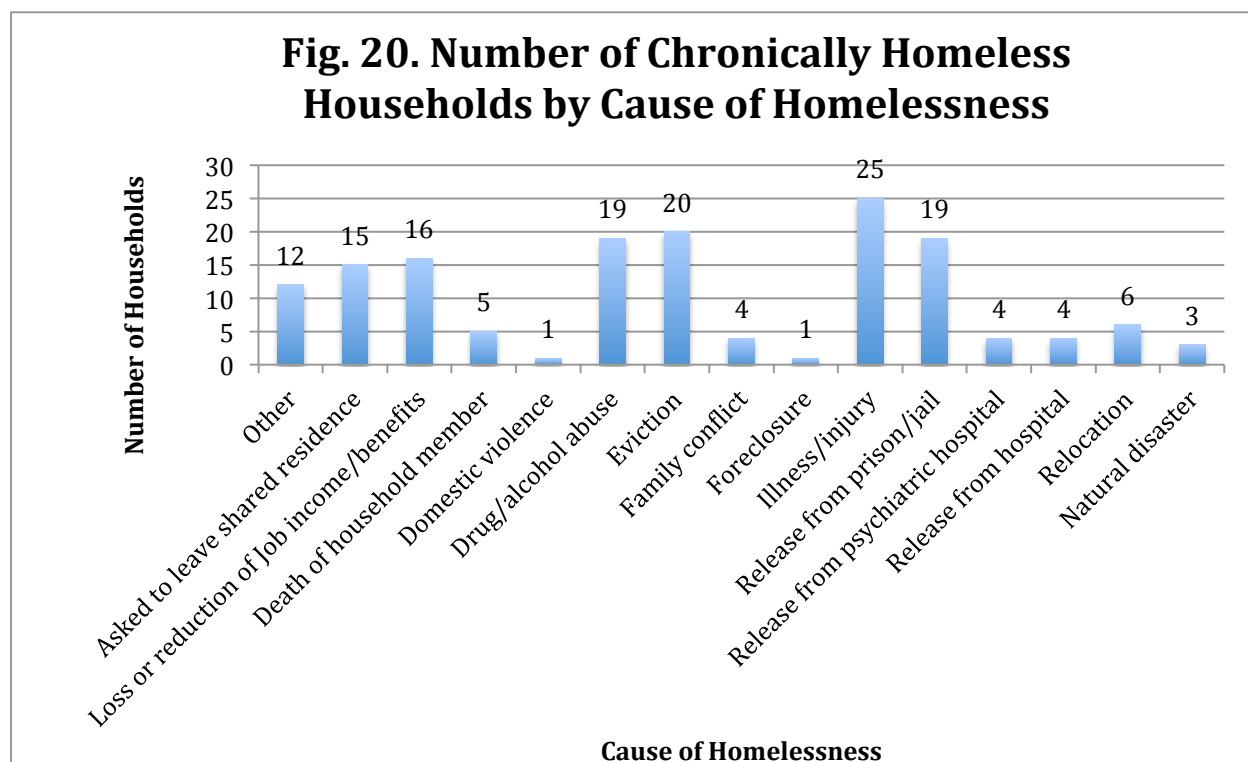
31% of chronically homeless persons reported they were not receiving any type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps (SNAP) and Medicaid were the top reported non-cash benefits among this population, with 27% reporting receiving each.

Length of Homelessness

Figure 19 shows that 88 chronically homeless households (50.5%) reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted for more than 1 year. This was the most common answer followed by 5.7% reporting being homeless between 6 months and 1 year, and 5.7% between 1 month and 3 months.

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

Cause of Homelessness

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

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more chronically homeless respondents cited illness or injury (14.3%) than any other. As Figure 20 shows, other common factors reported included eviction (11.5%), drug or alcohol abuse (10.9%), and release from prison or jail (10.9%).

V. Findings for the Unsheltered Homeless

HUD's definition of "unsheltered homeless" applies to any individual or family "with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground."

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

Total Unsheltered Homeless Population

213 households, made up of 223 adult individuals, were living unsheltered in Essex County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 69 households (42%) and 59 persons (36%) from 2013.

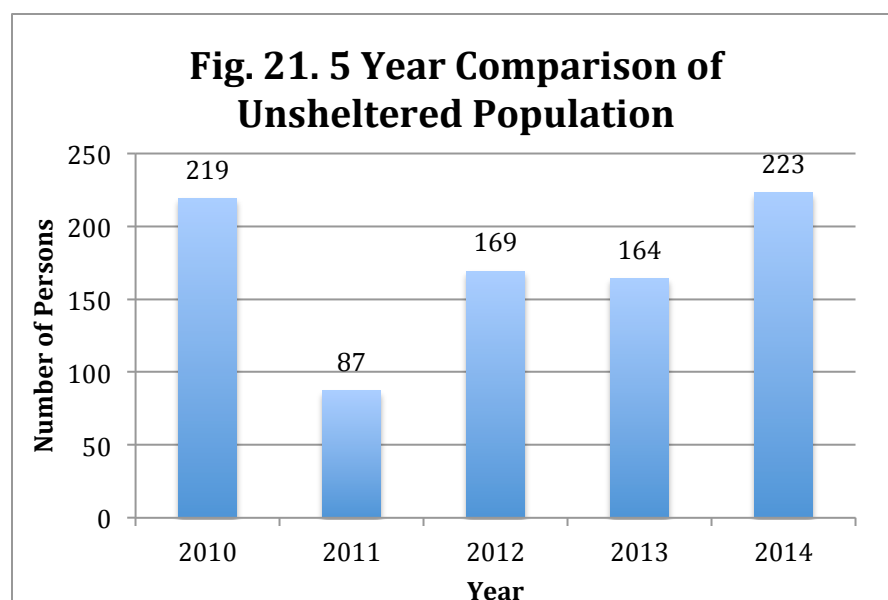Fig. 21. 5 Year Comparison of Unsheltered Population

Figure 21 shows the number of unsheltered respondents from 2010 to 2014. Over the past five years, while the numbers have fluctuated, the total number of unsheltered persons has been increased overall. Since 2010, the number of unsheltered homeless persons has gone up 1.8%.

Families and Individuals

All of the 213 unsheltered households counted in 2014 were households with only adult individuals. There were no families or children counted as unsheltered on the night of the count.

Demographics

The largest portion of the 223 unsheltered persons counted in 2014, 39%, was between 45 and 54 years old. 8 unsheltered persons were between 18 and 25 (3.6%). 4.5% were 65 or older.

165 of the 223 unsheltered persons were male (74%), 57 (25.6%) were female, and 1 person (0.4%) was transgendered. 168 (75.3%) identified their race as Black or African-American and 53 (23.8%) identified as White. 16.6% of respondents identified as Hispanic.

Fig. 22. Age Range of Unsheltered Homeless
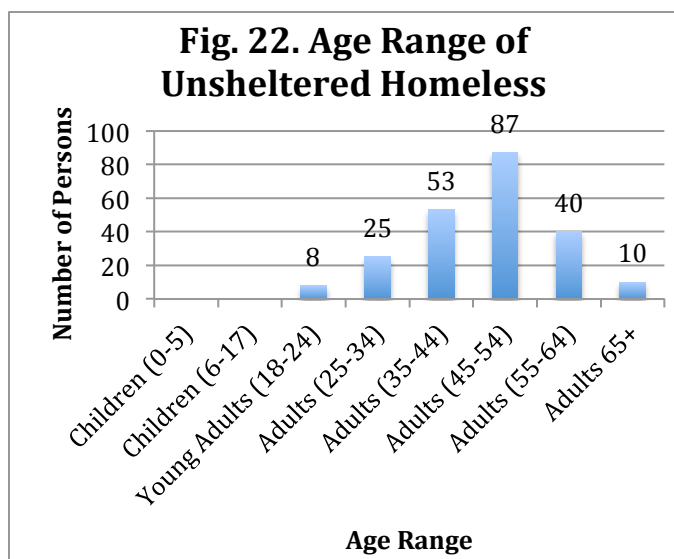
Disabilities

146 of the 223 unsheltered persons (65.5%) reported having some disability. The disabilities most commonly identified were mental health issues (40%) and substance abuse disorders (31.8%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the unsheltered can be seen in Figure 23.

**Fig. 23. Number of Unsheltered Persons by Disability Type**
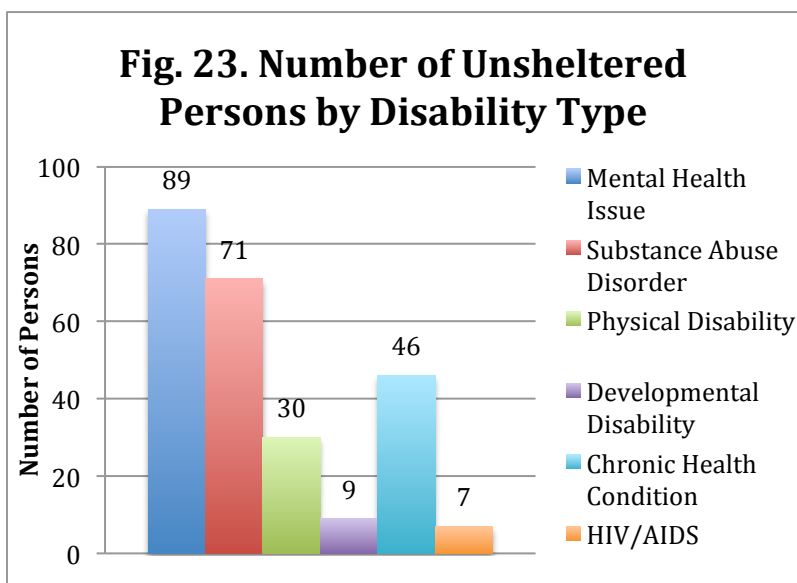
Subpopulations

On the night of the count, 18 unsheltered homeless persons in Essex County reported being victims of domestic violence. 16 of these were single adults, while 2 were part of an adult-only couple.

There were 18 unsheltered veterans identified on the night of the count.

Income and Benefits

Among all the unsheltered respondents on the night of the count, 105 (49.3%) reported having no source of cash income. The average monthly income among unsheltered households was approximately $202. 18.3% of unsheltered households received SSI, making it the most common source of income. Figure 24 shows the sources of income received.

Fig. 24. Number of Unsheltered Households by Income Source
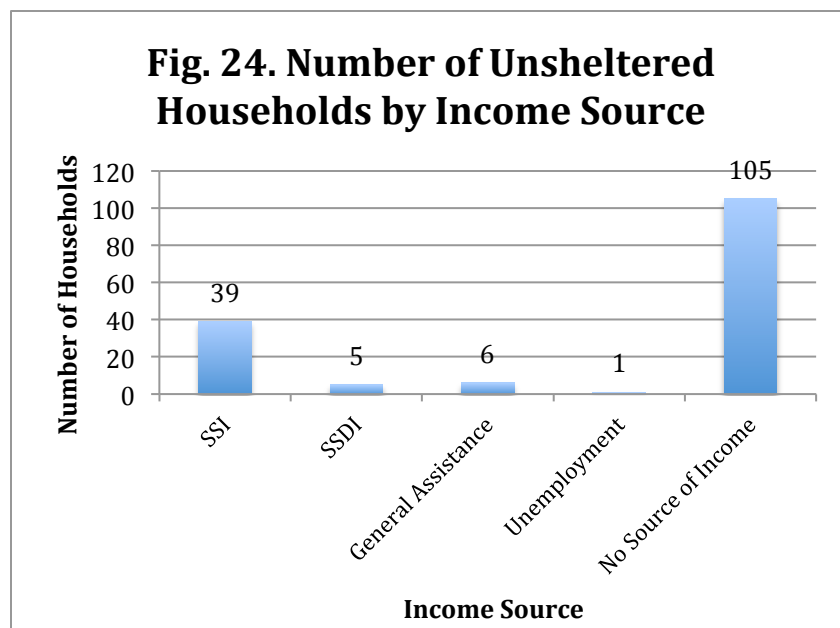
102 unsheltered households (47.9%) reported they were not receiving any type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Medicaid and Food Stamps (SNAP) were the top reported non-cash benefit among this group, with 13.1% and 9.9% receiving each of these benefits, respectively. In addition, 3.3% reported receiving Medicare.
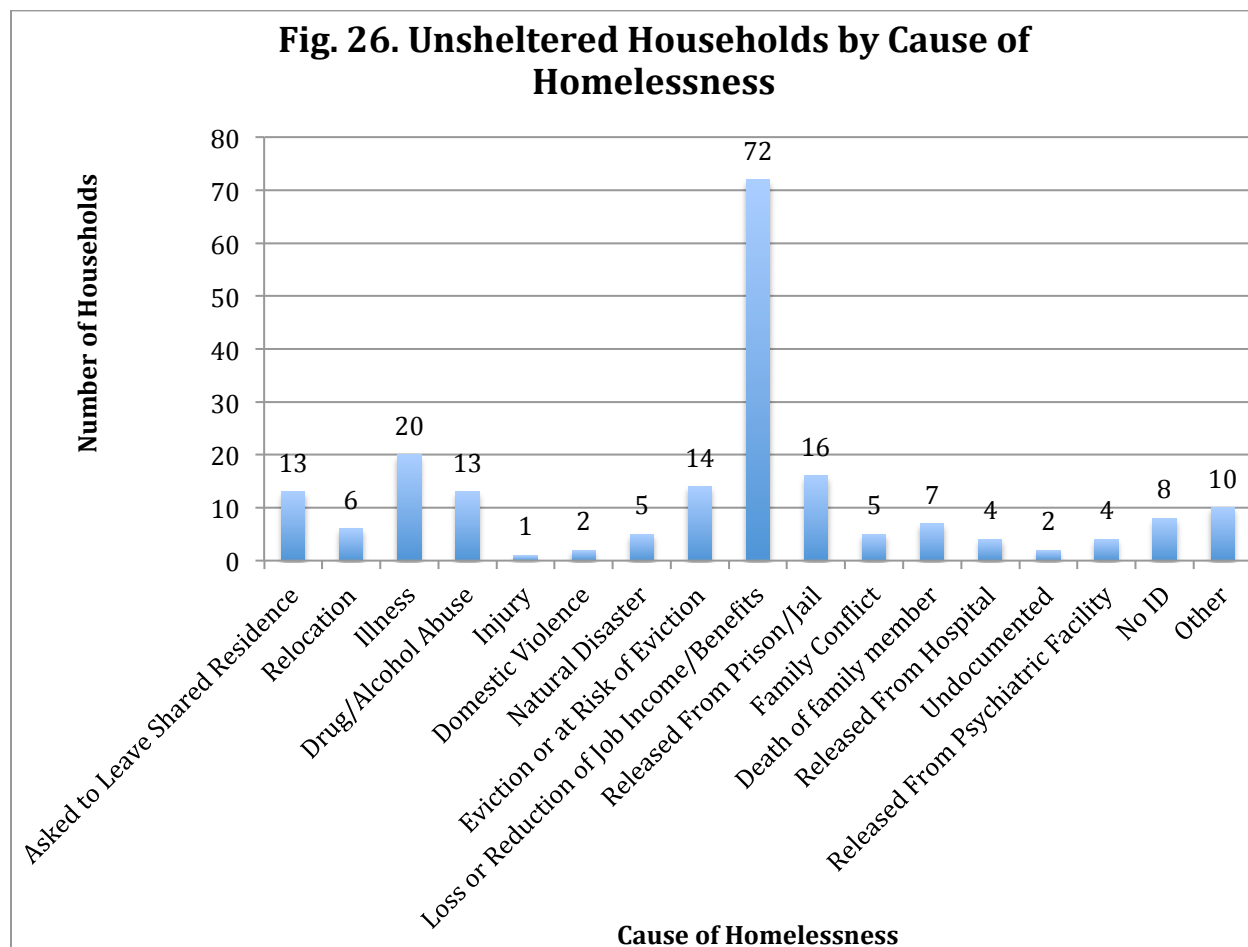
Length of Homelessness

As shown in Figure 25, more unsheltered homeless respondents reported that their households' most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted for over a year than any other length of time (42.7%). 18.3% of households reported they had been homeless between 6 months and 1 year. This means that 61% of unsheltered households had been homeless for more than 6 months.
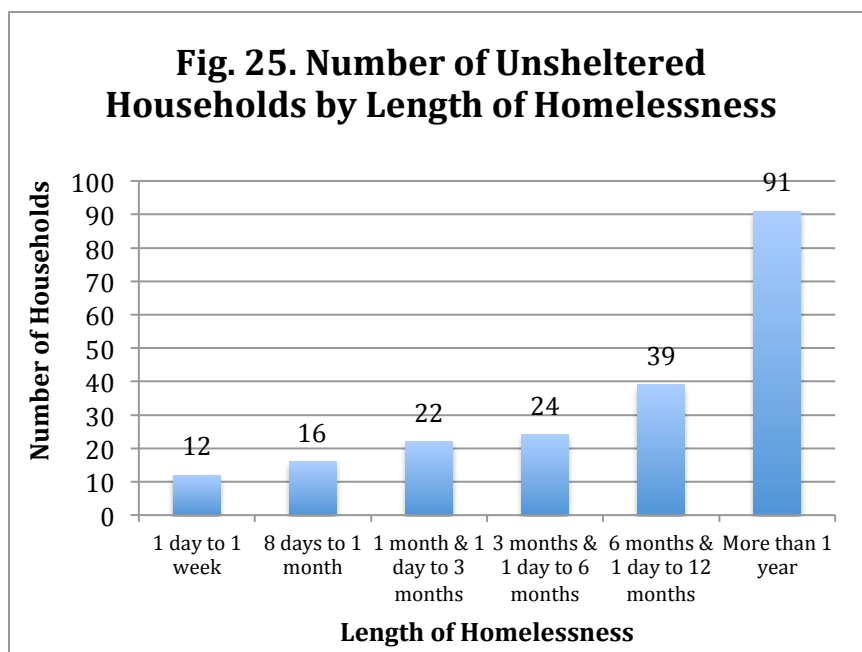
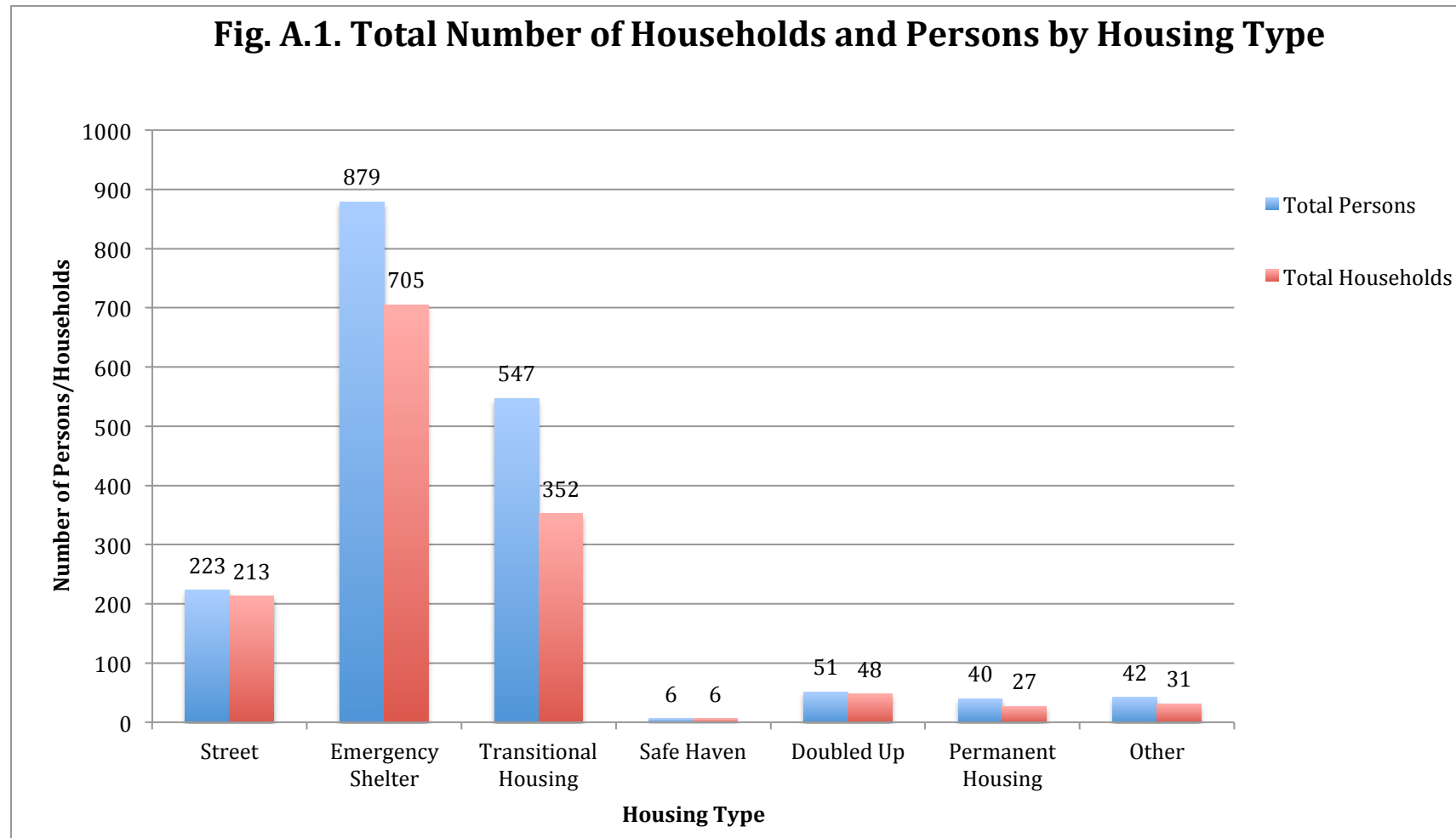**Fig. 25. Number of Unsheltered Households by Length of Homelessness**

Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more unsheltered respondents said loss or reduction of job income or benefits (33.8%) than any other factor. As Figure 26 shows, other common factors reported included illness or injury and release from prison or jail.

Fig. 26. Unsheltered Households by Cause of Homelessness

VI. Appendix

Where did you spend the night of Tuesday, January 28, 2014?

Fig. A.1. Total Number of Households and Persons by Housing Type

Y-axis: Number of Persons/Households (0 to 1000)
X-axis: Housing Type

Legend:
- ■ Total Persons
- ■ Total Households

Data values:
- Street: 223, 213
- Emergency Shelter: 879, 705
- Transitional Housing: 547, 352
- Safe Haven: 6, 6
- Doubled Up: 51, 48
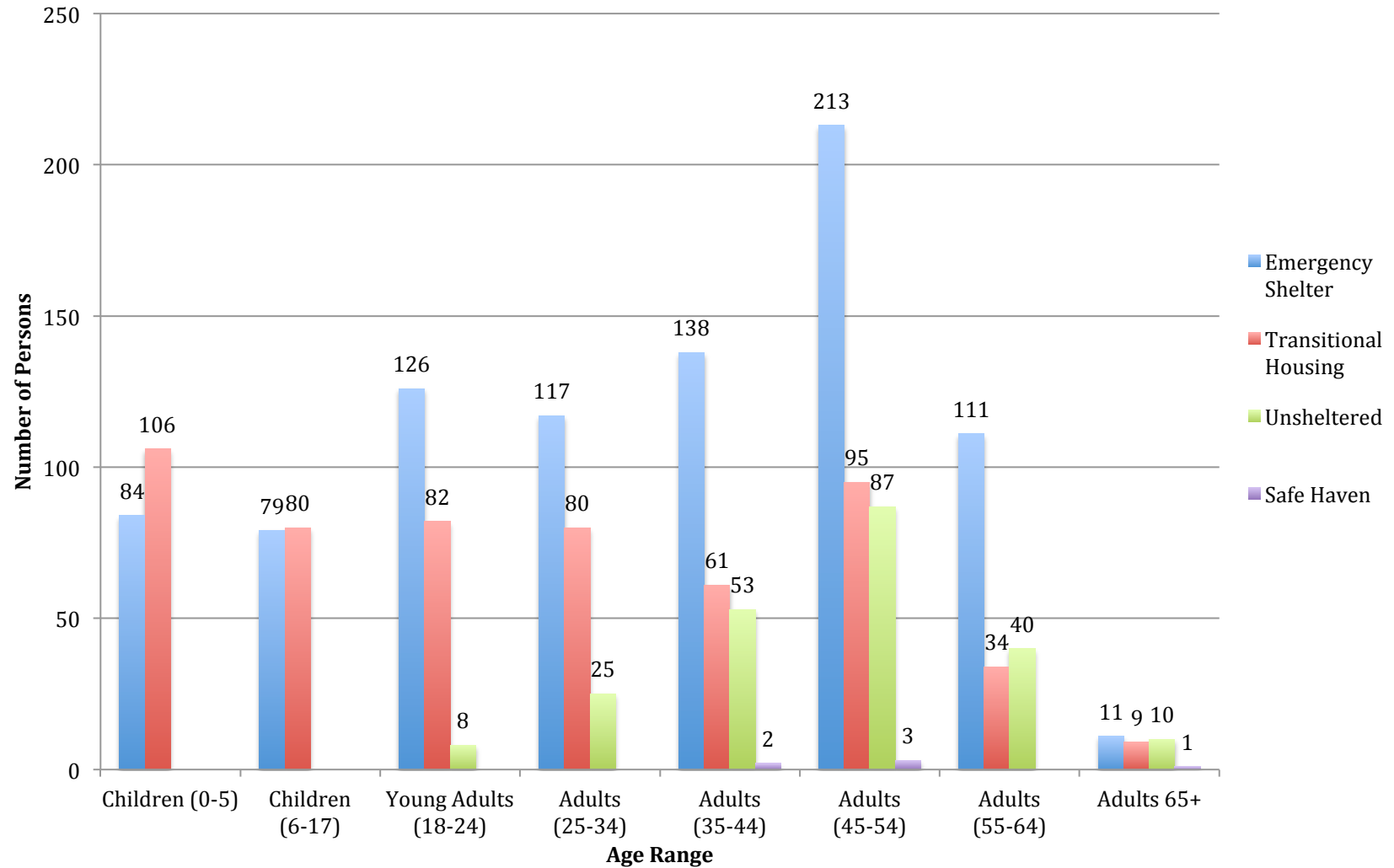- Permanent Housing: 40, 27
- Other: 42, 31

How long have you been in your current living situation?

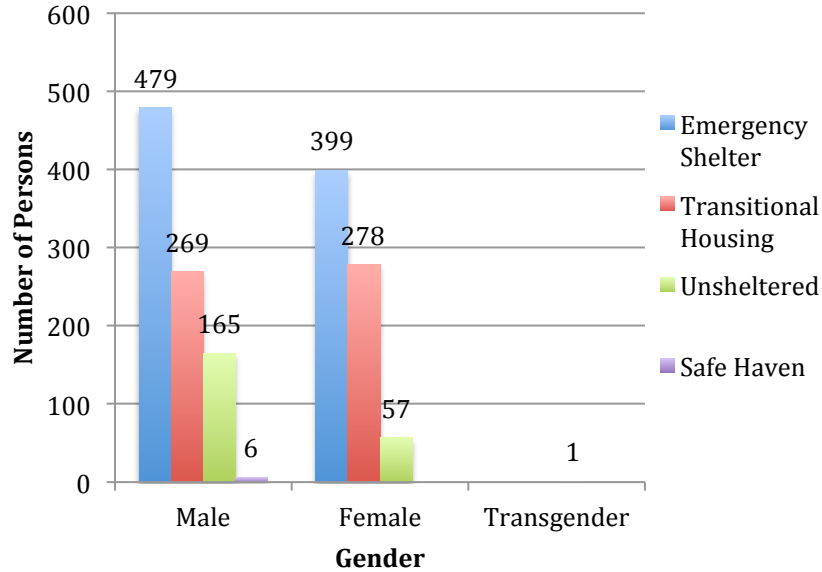Fig. A.2. Homeless Housholds by Length of Homelessness and Housing Type
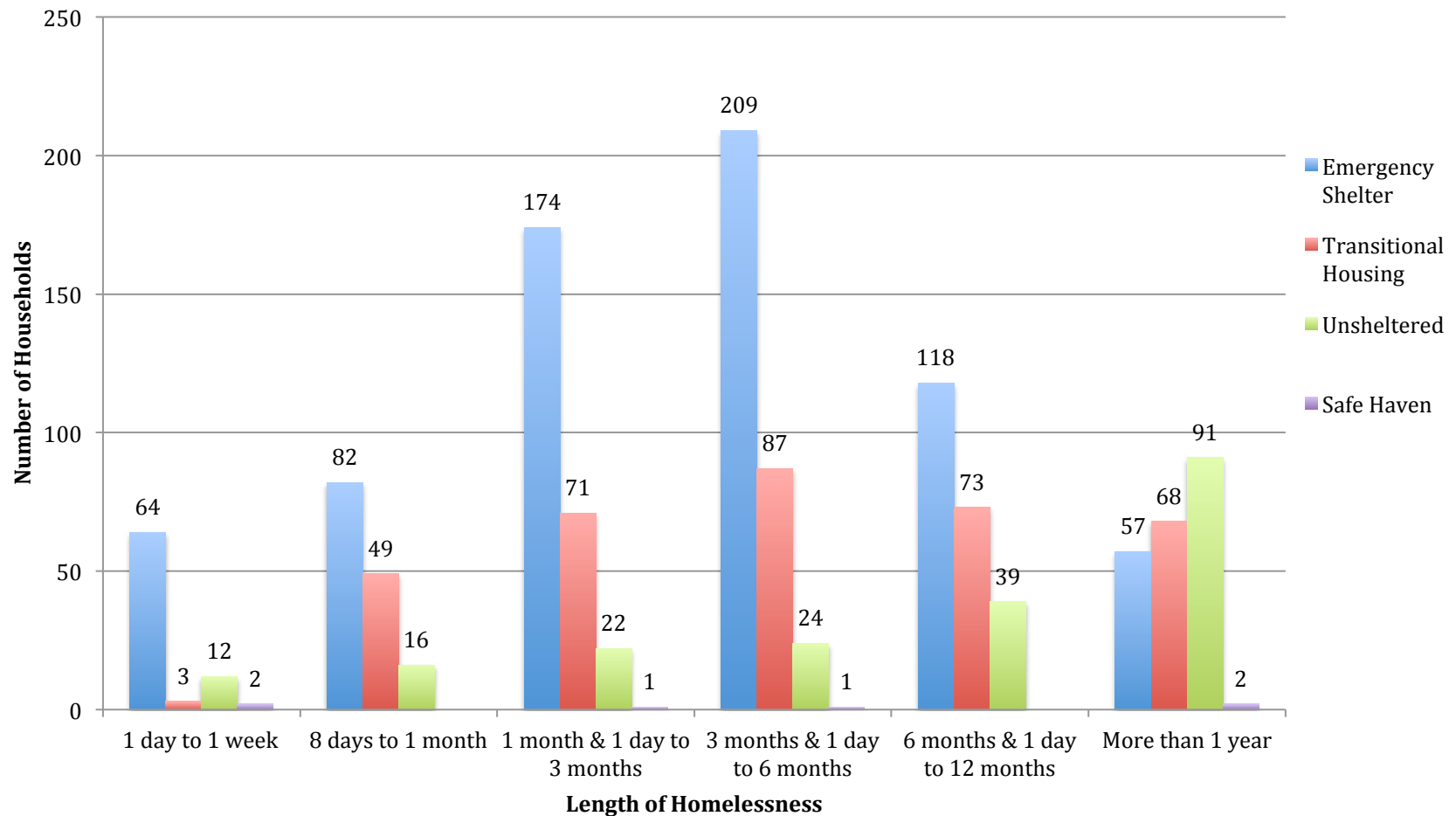
Who was homeless with you on the night of January 28th?

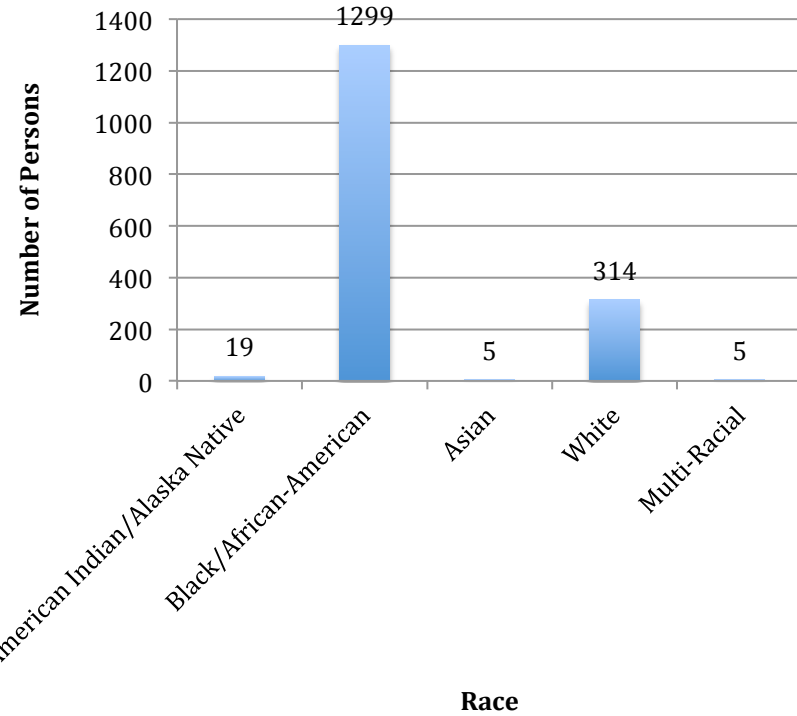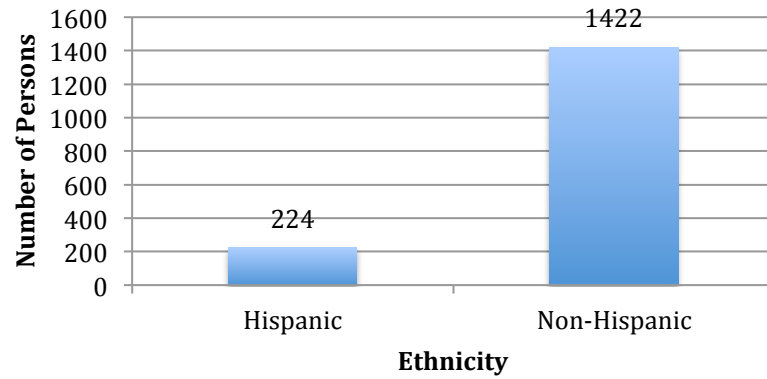Fig. A.3. Number of Persons by Age Range and Housing Type

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

Number of Persons (y-axis): 0 to 600

- Male: Emergency Shelter 479, Transitional Housing 269, Unsheltered 165, Safe Haven 6
- Female: Emergency Shelter 399, Transitional Housing 278, Unsheltered 57
- Transgender: 1

Legend:
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Unsheltered
- Safe Haven

Gender (x-axis): Male, Female, Transgender

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

Number of Persons (y-axis): 0 to 1400

- American Indian/Alaska Native: 19
- Black/African-American: 1299
- Asian: 5
- White: 314
- Multi-Racial: 5

Race (x-axis)

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

Number of Persons (y-axis): 0 to 1600

- Hispanic: 224
- Non-Hispanic: 1422

Ethnicity (x-axis)

Household Characteristics – check all that apply to each person

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

Bar chart — Number of Persons (y-axis, 0 to 350) by Individual Characteristics/Disability (x-axis):

- Victims of Domestic Violence: 98
- Veterans: 54
- Mental Health Issue: 328
- Substance Abuse Disorder: 315
- Physical Disability: 169
- Developmental Disability: 69
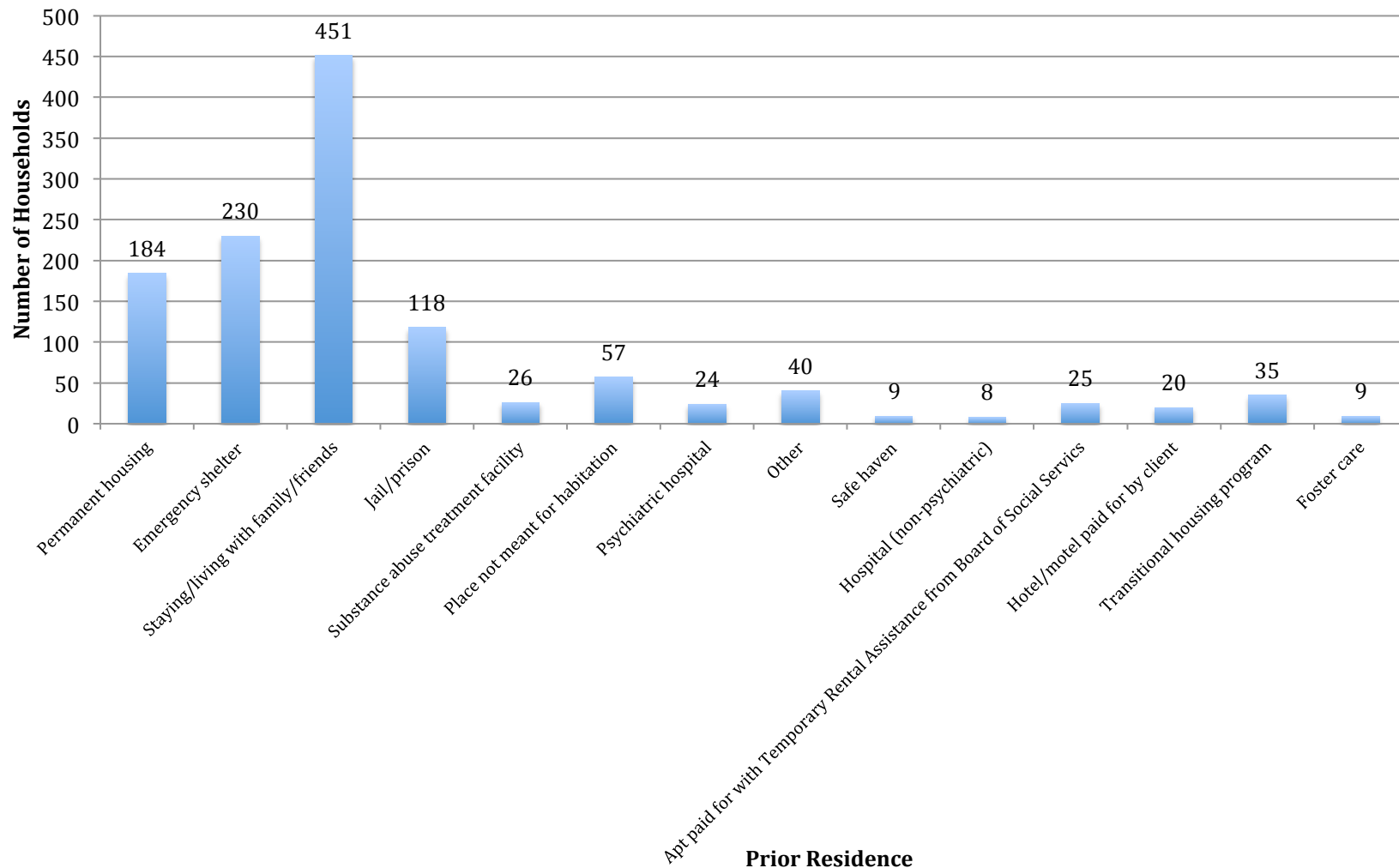- Chronic Health Condition: 250
- HIV/AIDS: 83
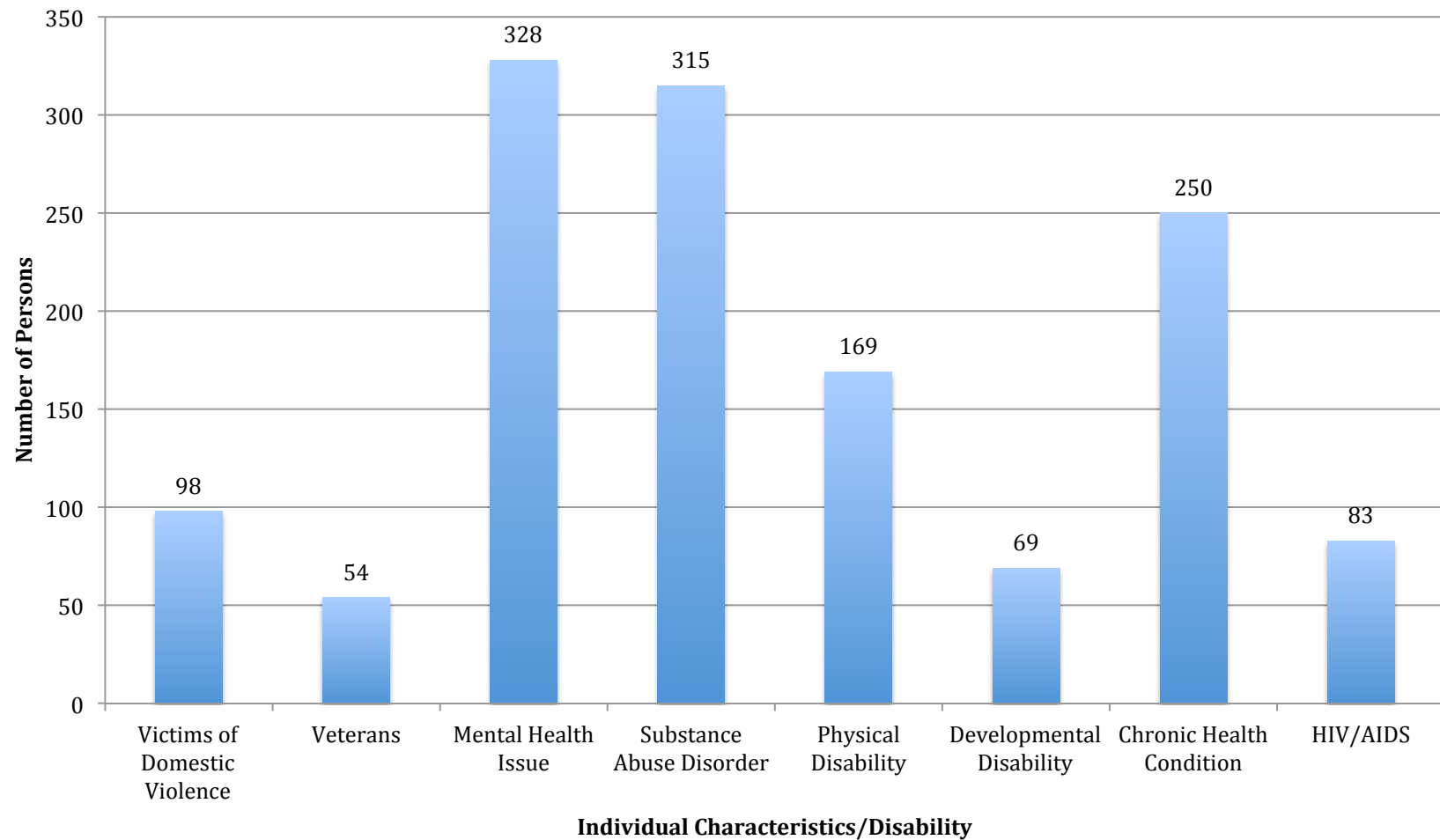
Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?

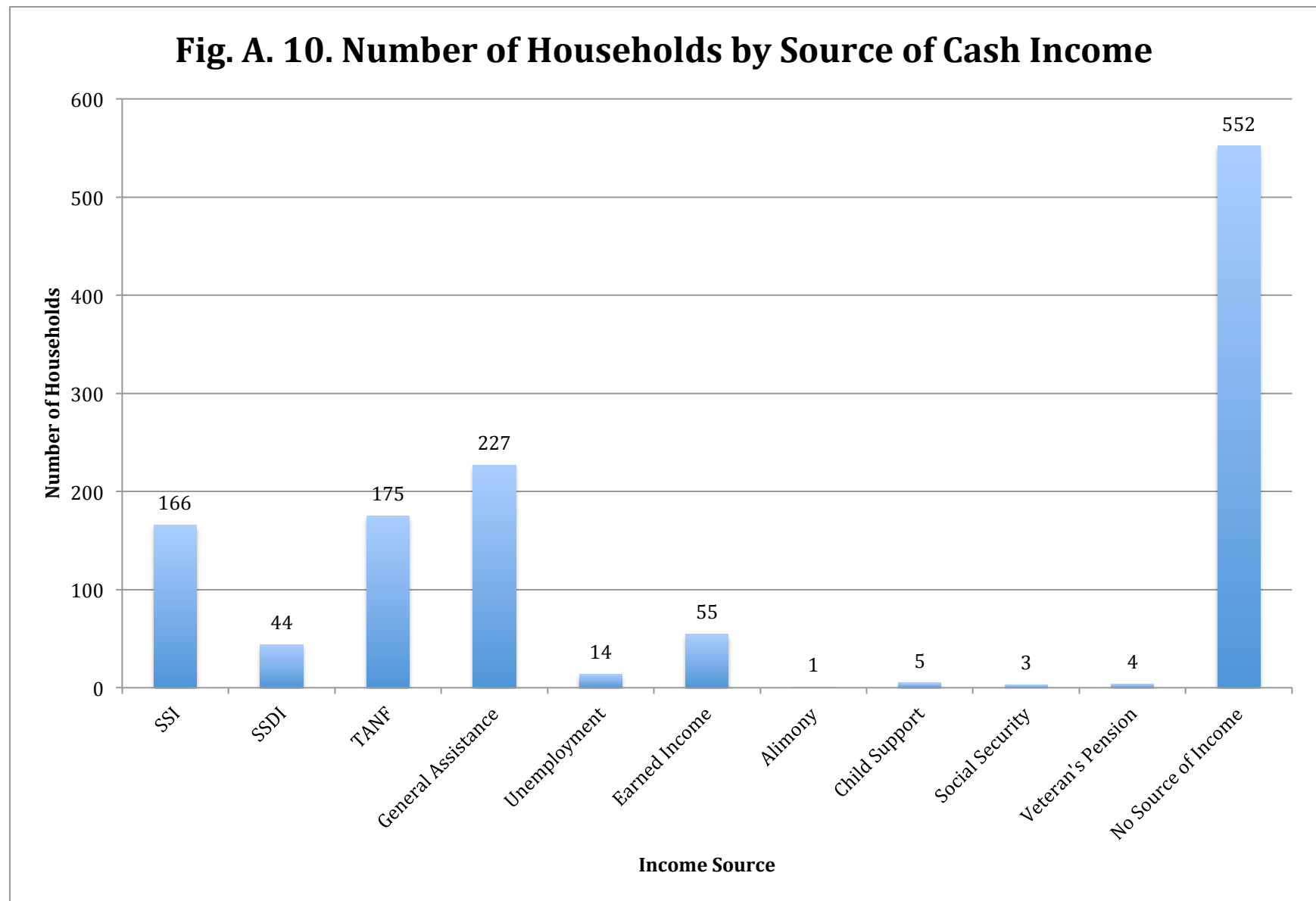| Fig. A.8. Number of Homeless Households by County or State of Last Permanent Address	
Last Permanent Address – County/State	**Number of Households**
Atlantic County	4
Bergen County	14
Burlington County	3
Cape May County	1
Cumberland County	3
Essex County	1030
Florida	2
Georgia	1
Gloucester County	2
Hudson County	23
Hunterdon County	4
Indiana	1
Louisiana	1
Massachusetts	1
Mercer County	1
Mexico	2
Middlesex County	32
Monmouth County	7
Morris County	3
New Hampshire	1
New York	5
North Carolina	3
Ocean County	8
Passaic County	22
Pennsylvania	2
Salem County	1
Somerset County	4
South Africa	1
Sussex County	3
Union County	61
Virginia	1
Warren County	1

What was your residence prior to your current living situation?

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

Bar chart with y-axis labeled "Number of Households" (0 to 500) and x-axis labeled "Prior Residence":

- Permanent housing: 184
- Emergency shelter: 230
- Staying/living with family/friends: 451
- Jail/prison: 118
- Substance abuse treatment facility: 26
- Place not meant for habitation: 57
- Psychiatric hospital: 24
- Other: 40
- Safe haven: 9
- Hospital (non-psychiatric): 8
- Apt paid for with Temporary Rental Assistance from Board of Social Servics: 25
- Hotel/motel paid for by client: 20
- Transitional housing program: 35
- Foster care: 9

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

Fig. A. 10. Number of Households by Source of Cash Income

Bar chart showing Number of Households (y-axis) by Income Source (x-axis):
- SSI: 166
- SSDI: 44
- TANF: 175
- General Assistance: 227
- Unemployment: 14
- Earned Income: 55
- Alimony: 1
- Child Support: 5
- Social Security: 3
- Veteran's Pension: 4
- No Source of Income: 552

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

Chart data:

Source of Benefit	Number of Households
Food Stamps	590
Medicaid	397
Medicare	118
State CHIP	7
VA Benefits	3
WIC	9
TANF Child Care	6
TANF Transportation	2
Temporary Rental Assistance	7
No Benefits	467
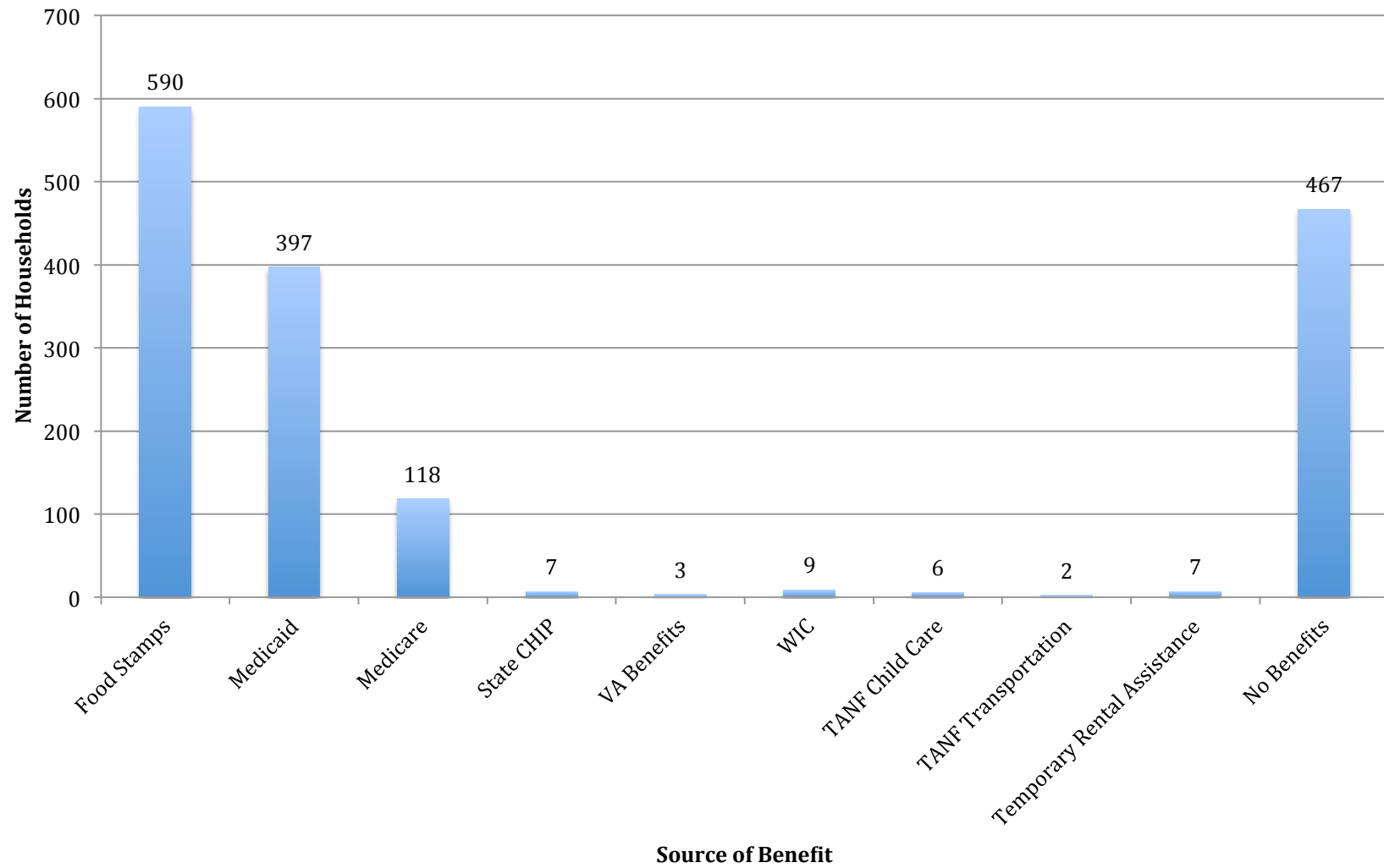
What is your monthly household income?

Fig. A.12. Number of Homeless Households by Monthly Income Range
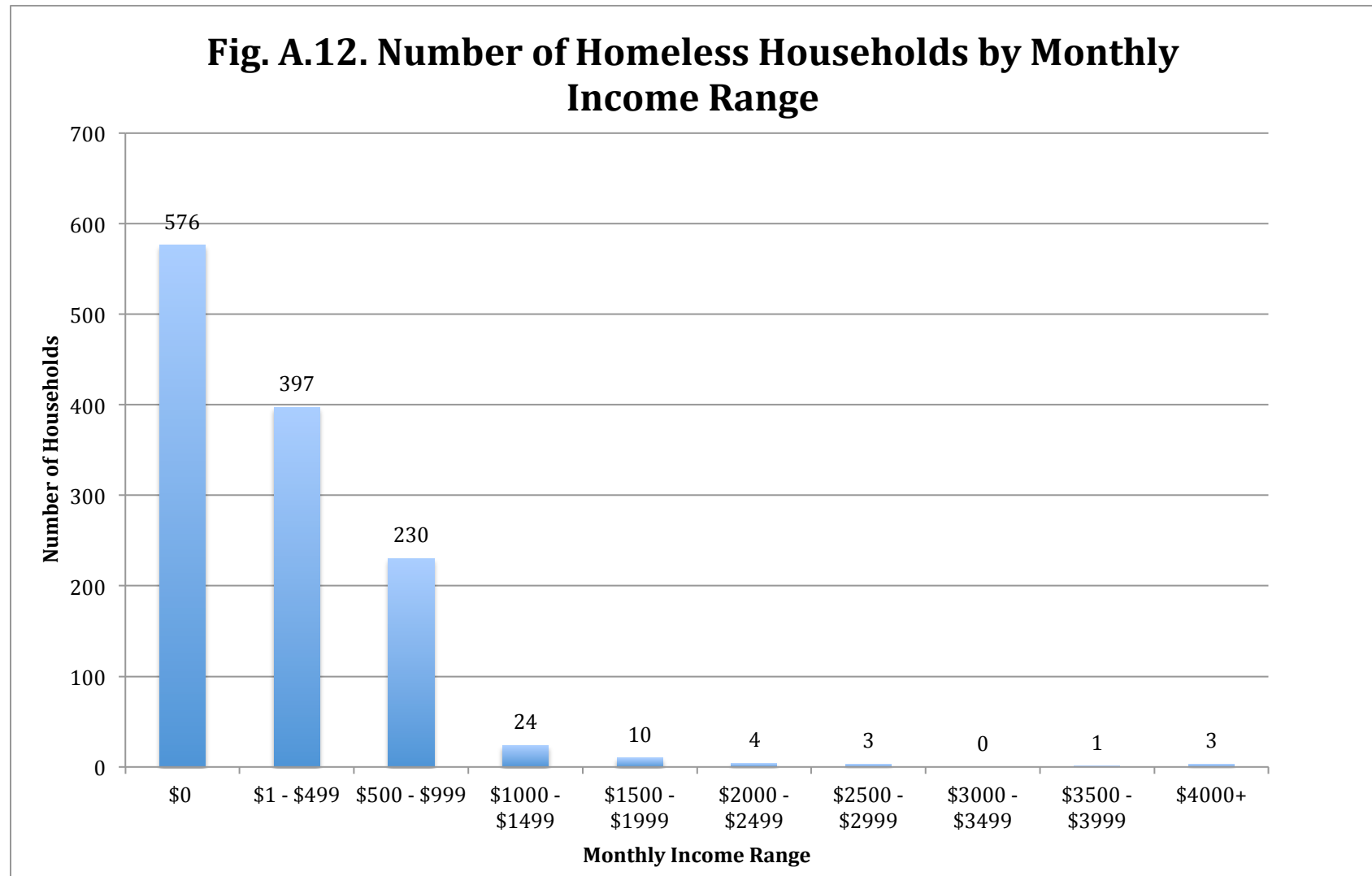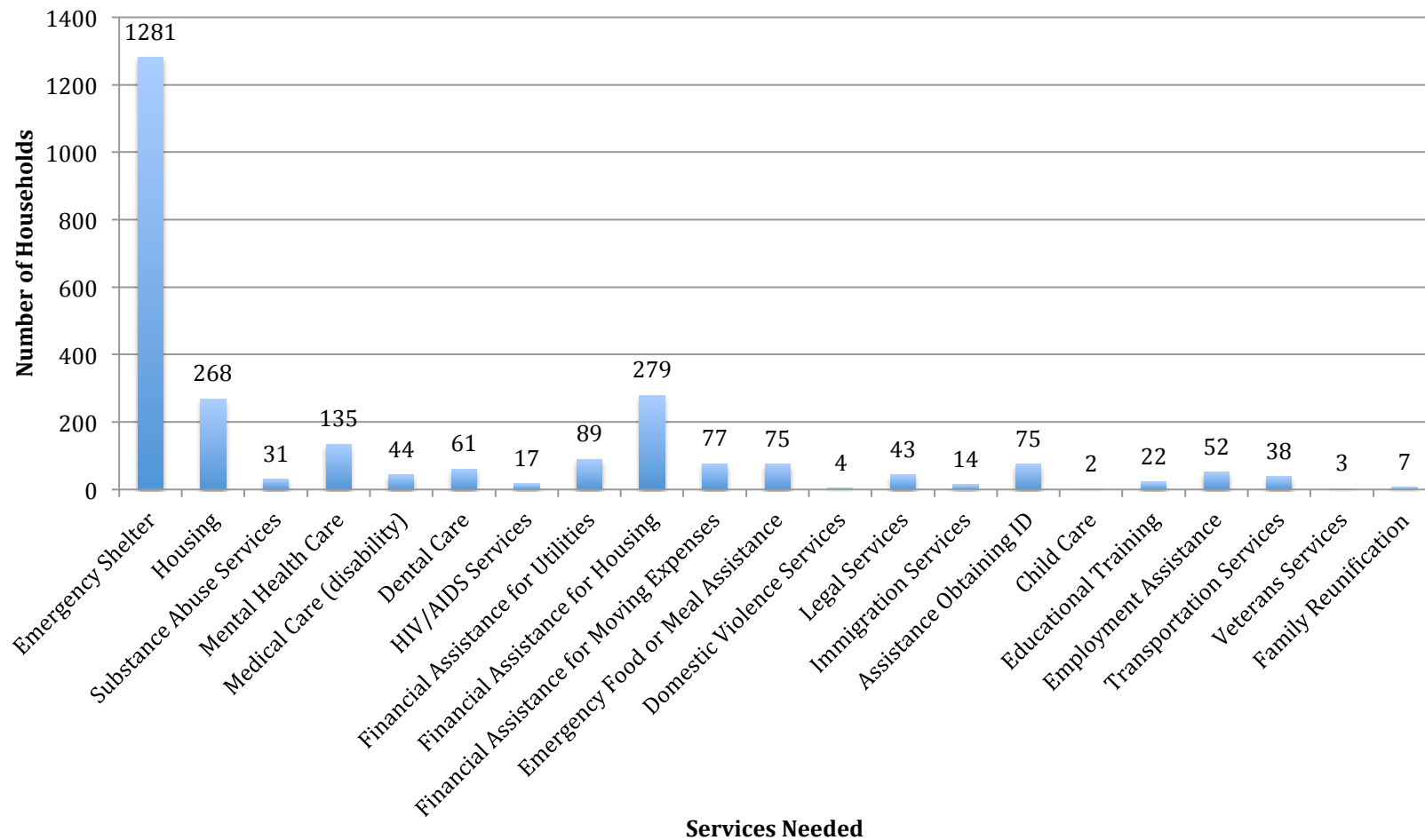
Would you, or anyone in your household, like to receive any of the following services?

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

A bar chart showing Number of Households (y-axis, 0 to 1400) by Services Needed (x-axis):

- Emergency Shelter: 1281
- Housing: 268
- Substance Abuse Services: 31
- Mental Health Care: 135
- Medical Care (disability): 44
- Dental Care: 61
- HIV/AIDS Services: 17
- Financial Assistance for Utilities: 89
- Financial Assistance for Housing: 279
- Emergency Food or Moving Expenses: 77
- Meal Assistance: 75
- Domestic Violence Services: 4
- Legal Services: 43
- Immigration Services: 14
- Assistance Obtaining ID: 75
- Child Care: 2
- Educational Training: 22
- Employment Assistance: 52
- Transportation Services: 38
- Veterans Services: 3
- Family Reunification: 7

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

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