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HOUSING ASSOCIATES

NJ
2014
Counts!

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

January 28, 2014

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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 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 811 households, including 1,405 persons, were experiencing homelessness in Middlesex County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 70 households, with 105 persons, were identified as chronically homeless.
- 96 households, with 102 unsheltered homeless persons were counted; 1 family with adults and children and 95 adult-only households.

Total Homeless Population

On the night of January 28th, 2014, a total of 1,405 persons, in 811 households, were experiencing homelessness in Middlesex County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 374 persons (36.2%) and 174 households (27.3%) from 2013. Middlesex County had 10% of New Jersey's statewide homeless population in 2014.

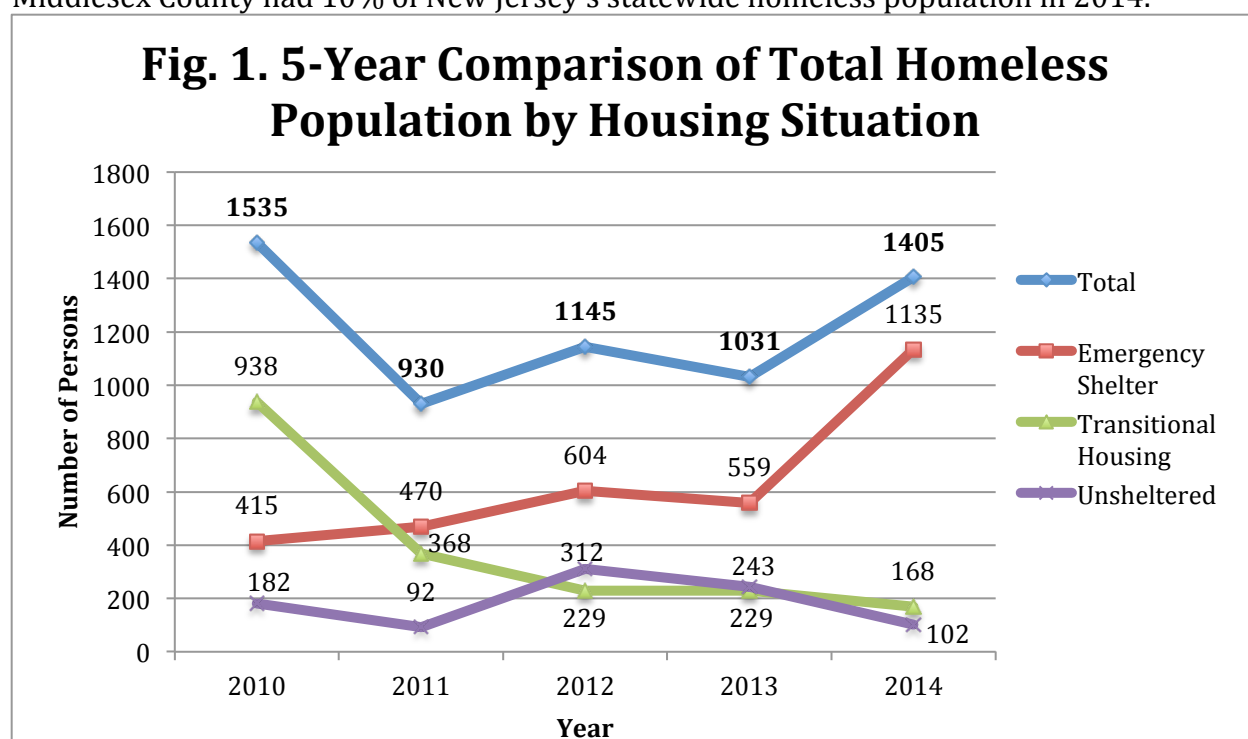Fig. 1. 5-Year Comparison of Total Homeless Population by Housing Situation

Figure 1 shows that, in 2014, 1,135 homeless persons stayed in emergency shelters, 168 stayed in transitional housing, and 102 were living unsheltered on the night of the count. The totals of those staying in transitional housing and unsheltered both show a reduction from 2013, dropping by 61 (26.6%) and 141 persons (58%), respectively. The number of those in emergency shelters, however, jumped up by 576 (103%) in the past year. A large portion of this increase can be attributed to the counting of 604 recipients of Temporary Rental Assistance (TRA) through the Middlesex County Board of Social Services. TRA recipients were not included in the emergency shelter count in previous years.

Figure 1 also shows that, over the past five years, the total number of homeless persons has been fluctuating in Middlesex County, with th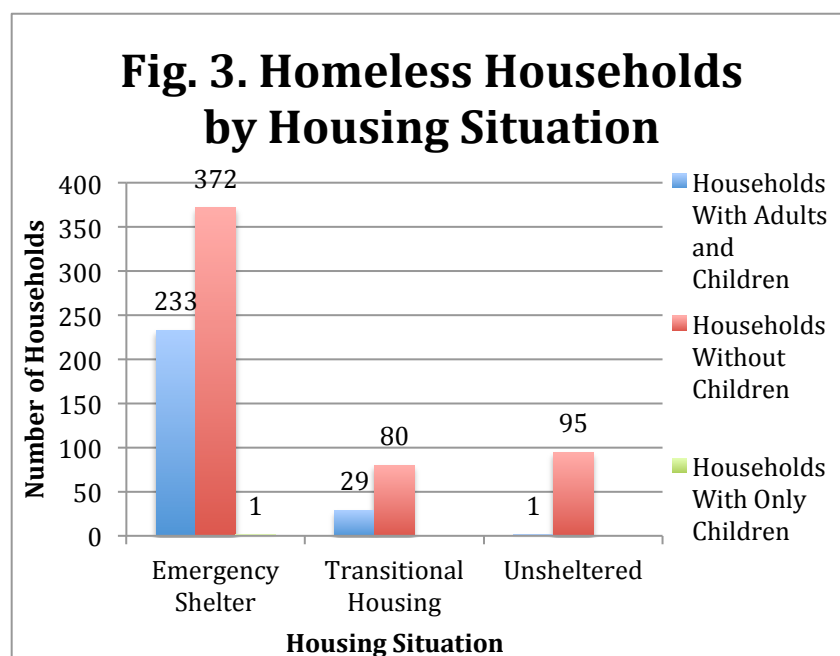e highest count in 2010 (1,535). As Figure 2 shows, in 2014 13% of homeless households in Middlesex County reported that their last permanent address prior to becoming homeless was outside of the county.
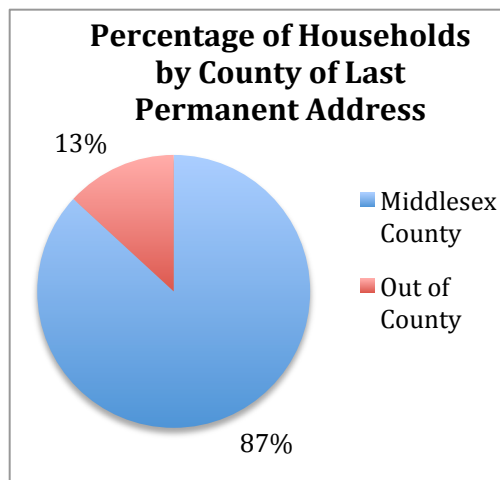
While Middlesex County saw an increase in the overall number of homeless persons in 2014 the five-year trend shows a drop in homelessness since 2010 (130 persons, 8.5%). During the same five-year period, the number of persons in emergency shelter on the night of the count saw an increase of 720 persons (173%), while the number of unsheltered persons dropped by 80 persons (44%).

Percentage of Households by County of Last Permanent Address

- 13%
- Middlesex County
- Out of County
- 87%

Homeless Families and Individuals

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

Fig. 3. Homeless Households by Housing Situation

Number of Households vs. Housing Situation

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

Housing Situation	With Adults and Children	Without Children	With Only Children
Emergency Shelter	233	372	1
Transitional Housing	29	80	
Unsheltered	1	95	

Of the 811 homeless households counted in Middlesex County in 2014, 263 (32.4%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. These families included 834 persons, 528 children under age 18, and 306 adults. The average family size was 3.2 persons. Figure 3 shows that 233 of the families were staying in emergency shelter (88.5%), and 29 were in transitional housing programs for the homeless (11%). There was 1 unsheltered family (0.4%) with 2 adults and 2 children. In 2014, Middlesex County counted 78 more homeless

families than in 2013, an increase of 42.1%. Since 2010, however, the total number of homeless families has also gone down 19.1%.

67.4% (547) of the homeless households in Middlesex County were households without children under 18, and they were composed of 570 adult individuals. 372 (68%) of these adult-only households were staying in emergency shelters, 80 (14.6%) were in transitional housing, and 95 (17.4%) were unsheltered. Middlesex County has seen the number of adult-only households increase by 97 (21.5%) since 2013, although the number has gone down by 44 (7.4%) compared to five years ago.

As Figure 3 indicates, 1 (0.1%) household with only children under 18 years old was reported in 2014. This represents a decrease of 1 (50%) household from 2013. This household had only 1 child. This unaccompanied youth was staying in an emergency shelter on the night of the count.

Demographics

There were a total of 98 (7%) homeless adults between 18 and 24 years old, 773 (55%) adults over age 24, and 526 (37.4%) children under 18 years old experiencing

Fig. 4. Age Range by Housing Situation
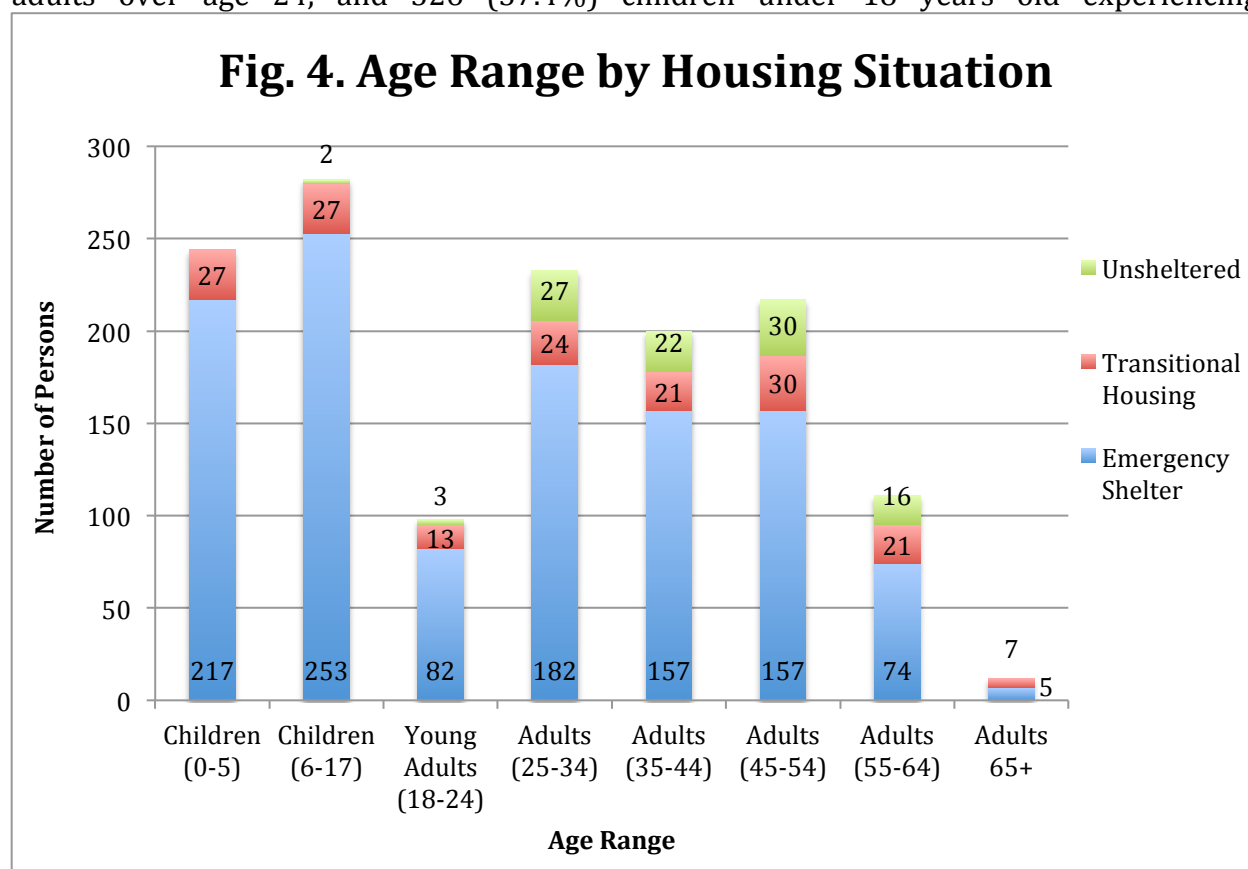
homelessness on the night of the count. Figure 4 shows that the majority of homeless children who were under the age of 18 were between 6 and 17 years of age (282, 20.1%). Children 0 to 5 years old, and children 6 to 17 years old, are also the two age ranges most

represented, making up 37.4% of the total homeless population (526 persons). Among adults, more were between 25 and 34 years old than any other age range (26.6% of adults). Only 12 persons (0.8%) were over the age of 65.
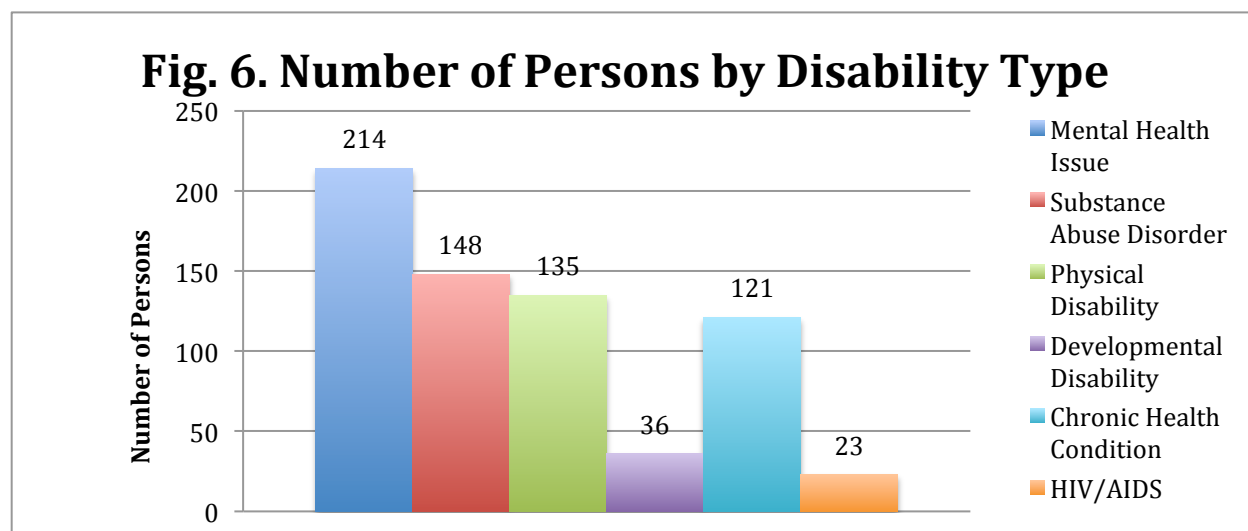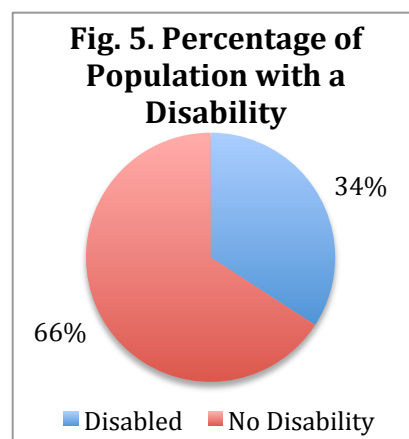
48.5% (681) of homeless respondents were female, and 51.2% (720) were male.

53.1% of respondents identified their race as White, making that the largest racial subgroup of homeless persons reported. The next largest group self-identified as Black or African-American (37.9%), followed by those identifying as Multi-Racial (3.7%) and Asian (1.3%). With regard to ethnicity, 32.6% of respondents identified themselves as Hispanic, or Latino.
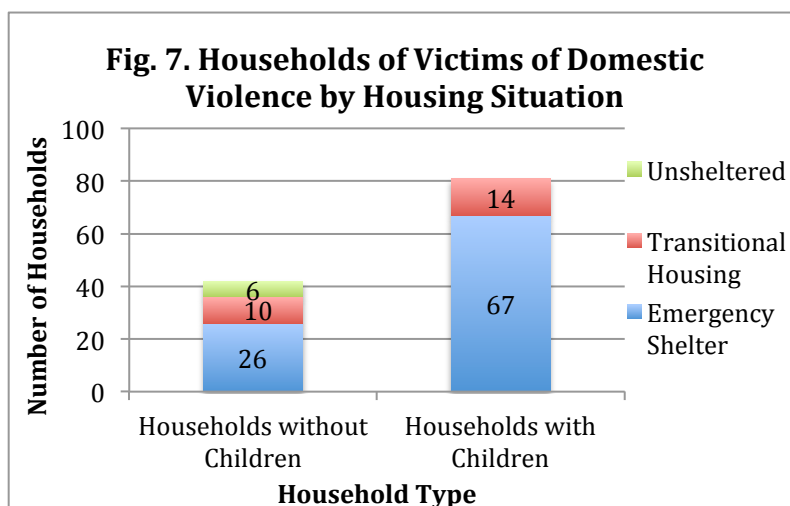
Disabilities

Figure 5 illustrates that 34% of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. 55.1% of adults reported some type of disability compared to 7.2% of children. Figure 6 shows the number of the homeless persons that identified as having various disabilities. The most common disabilities identified include mental health issues and substance abuse disorders.

Among disabled adults, 44.6% reported mental health issues making this the most prevalent disability (24.6% of total adult population). More disabled homeless children had developmental disabilities (50%) than any other disability.

Fig. 5. Percentage of Population with a Disability

- 34% Disabled
- 66% No Disability

Fig. 6. Number of Persons by Disability Type

- Mental Health Issue: 214
- Substance Abuse Disorder: 148
- Physical Disability: 135
- Developmental Disability: 36
- Chronic Health Condition: 121
- HIV/AIDS: 23

Victims of Domestic Violence

On the night of the count, in Middlesex County, 123 homeless households reported having a victim of domestic violence (See Figure 7). The majority of these households (65.8%) were families with at least one adult and one child under the age of 18. 6 of the adult-only victim households were unsheltered. 7 of the families and 1 individual reported staying in a domestic violence shelter; all other households in emergency shelter were in standard shelters.

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

Household Type (Households without Children / Households with Children)
- Emergency Shelter: 26 / 67
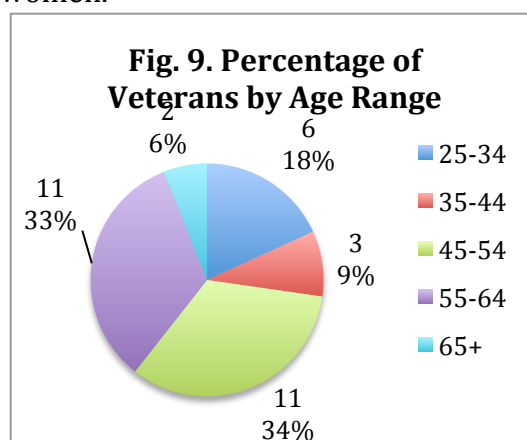- Transitional Housing: 10 / 14
- Unsheltered: 6

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

- Emergency Shelter: 9
- Transitional Housing: 15
- Unsheltered: 9
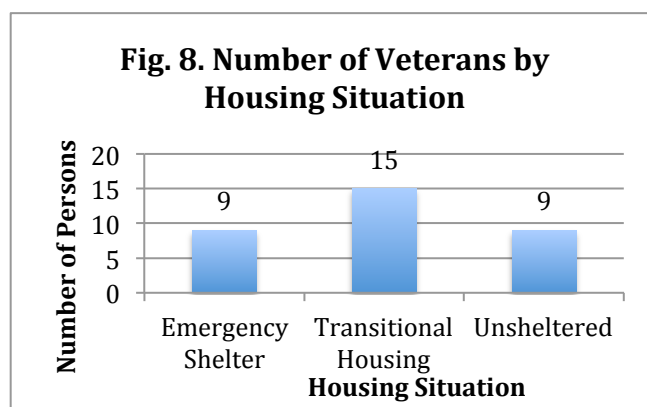
33 homeless veterans were counted on the night of the count, 11 (25%) fewer than in 2013. 30 (90.9%) were individuals and 3 (9.1%) were part of a family with at least one adult and one child. The largest contingent of homeless veterans was found to be staying in transitional housing (45.4%). In addition, 9 veterans were unsheltered (27.3%), and 9 were in transitional housing (27.3%).

Fig. 9. Percentage of Veterans by Age Range

- 25-34: 6, 18%
- 35-44: 3, 9%
- 45-54: 11, 34%
- 55-64: 11, 33%
- 65+: 2, 6%

Veterans experiencing homelessness in Middlesex County were predominantly male (93.9%), and the most common racial background identified among them was White (16 veterans, 48.5%), followed by 13 veterans (39.4%) identifying as Black or African-American. Figure 9 Illustrates the percentage of homeless veterans by age range.

13 of the 33 veterans, 39.4%, reported having some kind of disability. The most common disabilities among these were chronic health conditions, which affected 7 veterans (21.2%). 6 veterans (18.2%) said they had a physical disability, while 4 (12.1%) reported mental health issues and 4 (12.1%) reported substance abuse disorders. The three types of services that homeless veterans sought the most were housing (33.3%), emergency shelter (27.2%), and financial assistance for housing (21.2%).

Fig. 10. Number of Households by Income Type
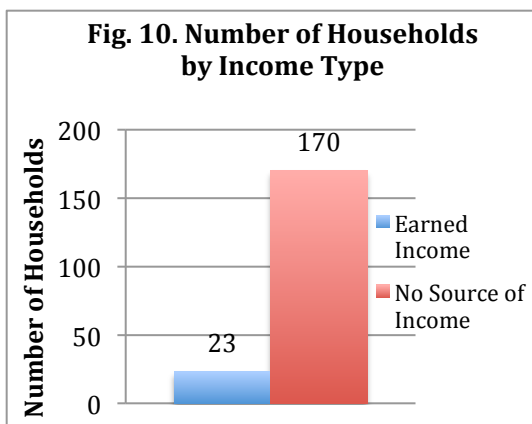
Income and Benefits

Among all those experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, 21% had no source of income, and 2.8% reported receiving some kind of earned income. The two most common sources of income among respondents were General Assistance (GA) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), with 27.6% and 21.8% receiving each, respectively. Figure 11 shows the average monthly income for all homeless households.

Figure 11. Average Monthly Income For Households by Housing Situation			
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered
Average for All Households	$366.20	$526.93	$218.83

18% of homeless 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 60% of respondents. 49% were receiving temporary rental assistance, and 34.2% were receiving Medicaid.

Length of Homelessness

As Figure 12 shows, 198 (24%) homeless households reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted from 6 months and 1 day to 1 year, while 194 (23.9%) reported that they had been homeless f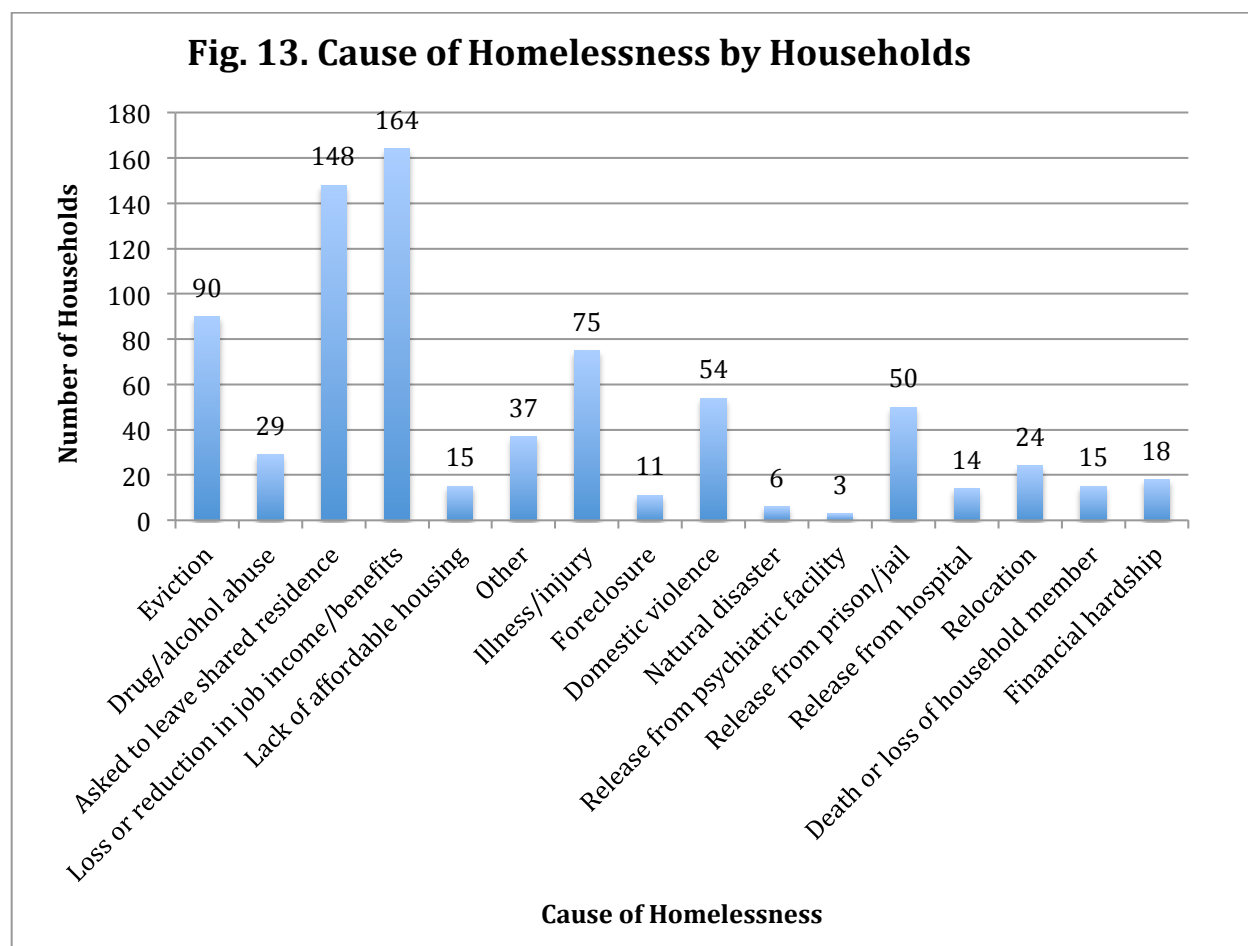or more than 1 year. These two most common responses account for 48.3% of all respondent households. This means that 48.3% of all homeless households in Middlesex County had been experiencing homelessness for more than 6 months on the night of the count.
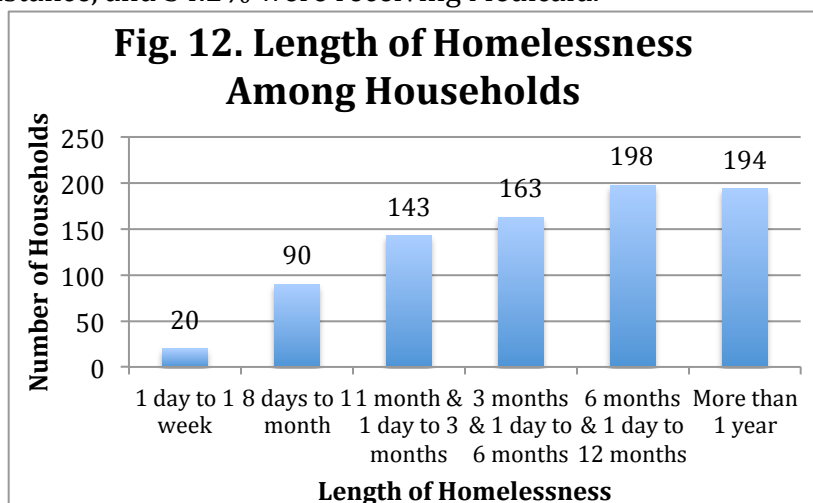
Fig. 12. Length of Homelessness Among Households

Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households attributed their homelessness to a loss or reduction of job income or benefits (164 households, 20.2%) than any other cause. As Figure 13 shows, the next most common factor reported was being asked to leave a shared residence (18.2%).

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 (30%) than any other type of residence. 28.6% reported residing in permanent housing prior to their current living situation.

Fig. 13. Cause of Homelessness by Households

Number of Households (y-axis)

Cause	Households
Eviction	90
Drug/alcohol abuse	29
Asked to leave shared residence	148
Loss or reduction in job income/benefits	164
Lack of affordable housing	15
Other	37
Illness/injury	75
Foreclosure	11
Domestic violence	54
Natural disaster	6
Release from psychiatric facility	3
Release from prison/jail	50
Release from hospital	14
Relocation	24
Death or loss of household member	15
Financial hardship	18

Cause of Homelessness (x-axis)

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

70 households, made up of 105 total persons, were chronically homeless in Middlesex County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 5 persons (5%) from 2013. This small increase, in conjunction with higher homelessness in the County overall, caused the rate of chronic homelessness to shrink as a percentage of the overall homeless population from 9.7% to 7.5%.

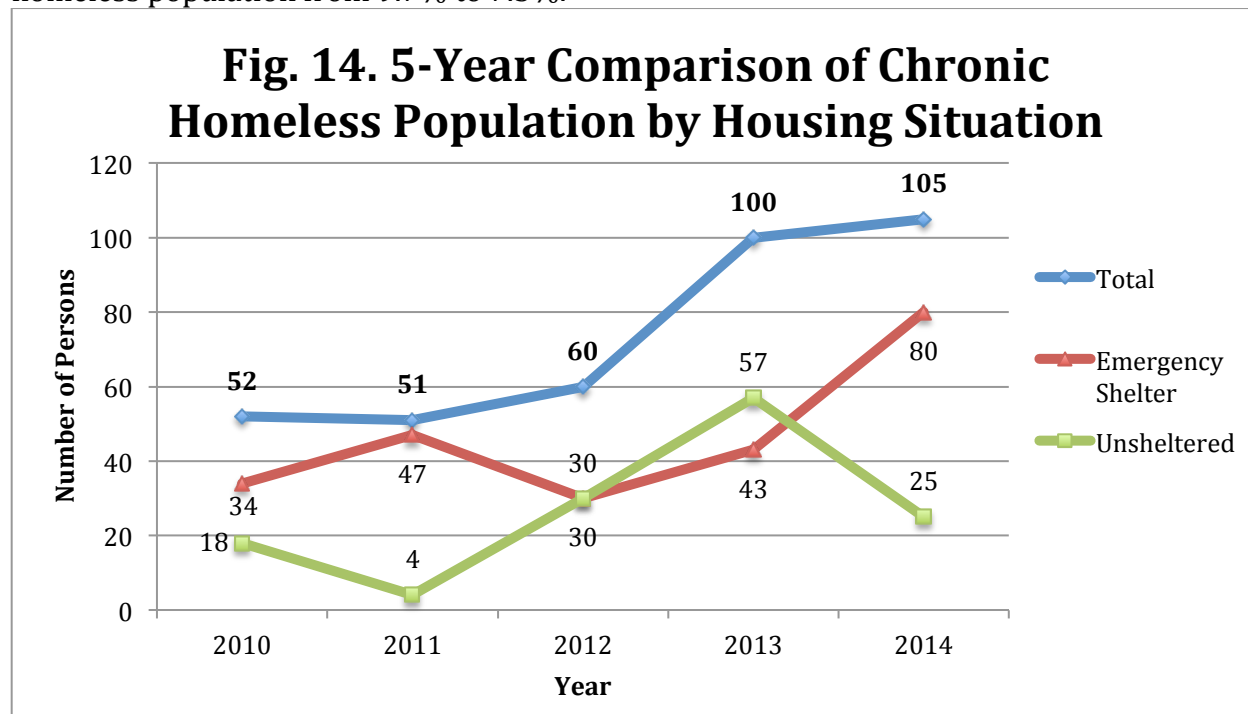Fig. 14. 5-Year Comparison of Chronic Homeless Population by Housing Situation

Figure 14 shows the number of chronically homeless respondents who were in emergency shelters or living unsheltered in Middlesex County from 2010 to 2014. Over the past five years the total of chronically homeless persons counted has doubled. During this same
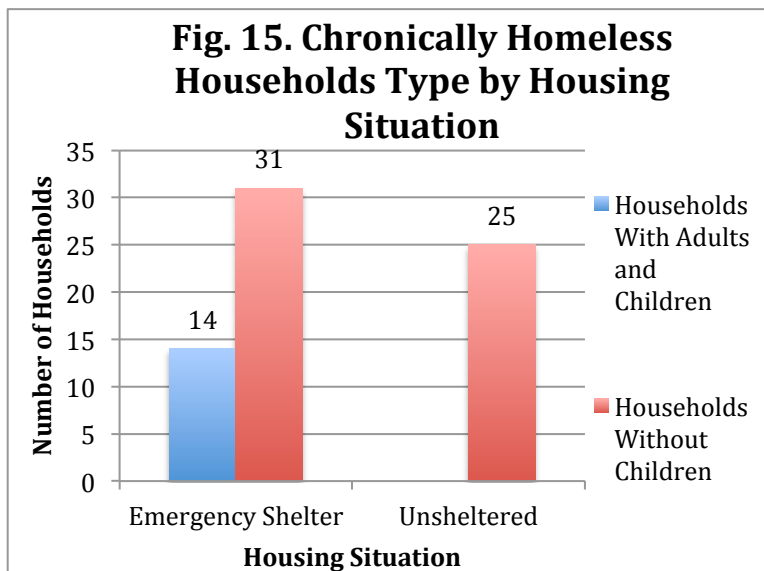
period, the numbers of chronically homeless persons in emergency shelters and living unsheltered have risen by 135% and 38.9%, respectively. Since 2013, though, the number of unsheltered chronically homeless persons has dropped 56.1%, from 57 persons to 25.

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 adult-only couple, keeping the total number of chronically homeless households at 70, but bringing the total number of chronically homeless persons to 106.

Of the 70 chronically homeless households counted in 2014, 14 (20%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. These families included 49 persons (32% more than 2013), and the average family size was 3.5 persons. All chronically homeless families stayed in emergency shelters on the night of the count.

Fig. 15. Chronically Homeless Households Type by Housing Situation

There were 56 chronically homeless persons in 56 households with no children 17 or younger counted in Middlesex County, making up 80% of the chronically homeless population. There were 31 (55.4%) of these individuals sheltered in emergency shelters, an increase from 9 in 2013 (244%%). 25 (44.6%) of these adult households were unsheltered on the night of the count, a decrease from 54 (53.7% reduction) in 2013.

Demographics

Of the 106 total chronically homeless persons, 5 (4.7%) were between 18 and 24 years old, and 29 (27.4%) were children 17 or younger. As shown in Figure 16, the largest number of chronically homeless persons (22, 20.7%) in a single category fell between the ages of 45 and 54 years of age; with 21 persons (19.8%) between 25 and 34 years old.

60% of those counted as chronically homeless were male, and 40% were female.

The largest racial subgroup of homeless persons reported their race as Black or African- American (49.5%). The next largest group self-identified as White (42.8%), followed by persons identifying as Multi-Racial (3.8%). With regard to ethnicity, 21.6% of respondents identified themselves as Hispanic, or Latino.

Fig. 16. Chronically Homeless Age Range by Housing Situation
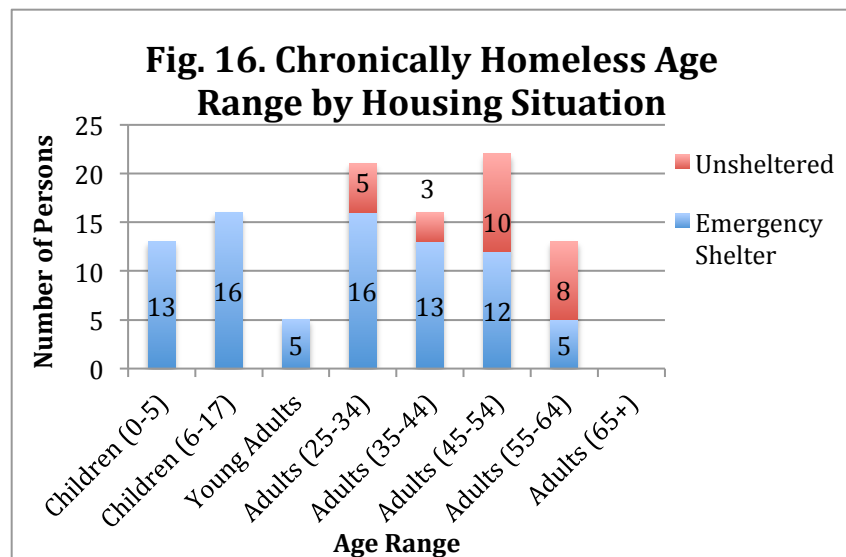
Disabilities

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 (34.9%) and substance abuse disorders (34.9%). 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**
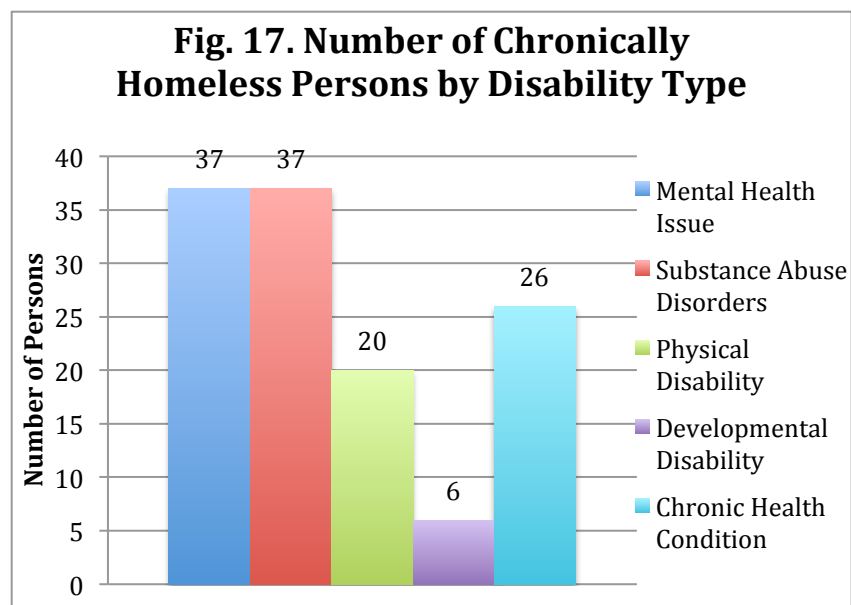
Subpopulations

On the night of the count, 9 chronically homeless persons in Middlesex County reported being victims of domestic violence (8.5%). This includes 3 persons in families with children under the age of 18. 7 victims and their households were staying in emergency shelters, and 2 were unsheltered on the night of the count.

There were 7 veterans identified as chronically homeless on the night of the count (6.6%). All were single individuals, 2 of whom were staying in emergency shelters, and 5 who were unsheltered.

Income and Benefits

Among all the chronically homeless households on the night of the count, 30% reported receiving no form of cash income, and none reported any earned income. Figure 18 shows the sources of income received. The most common source of cash income among all households was General Assistance, which was received by 25.7% of respondent households.

Fig. 18. Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Income Source
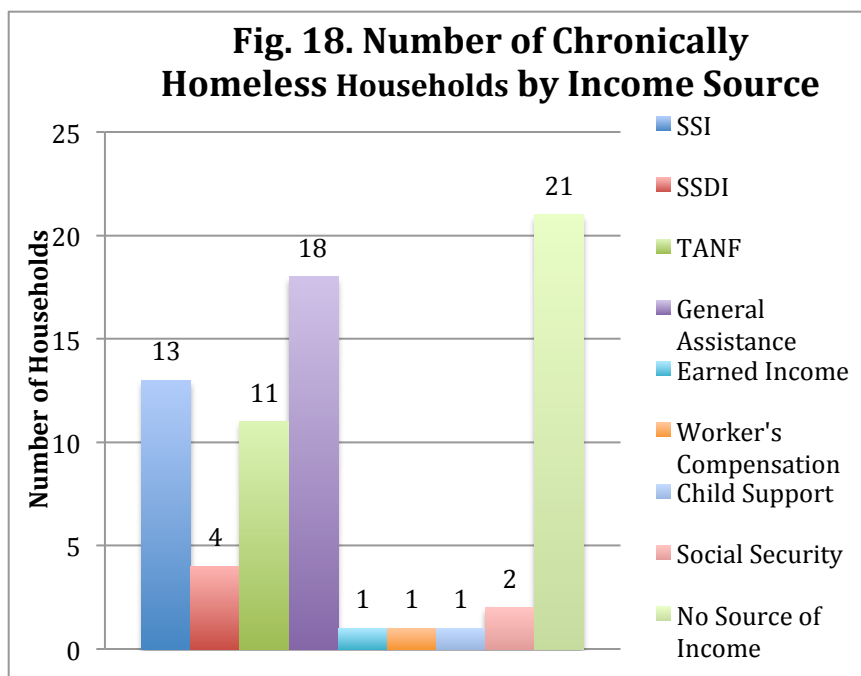
22.8% of chronically homeless households reported they were not receiving any type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps (SNAP) was the top reported non-cash benefit among this population, with 60% receiving this benefit. A significant percentage also reported receiving Medicaid (45.7%) and temporary rental assistance (42.8%).
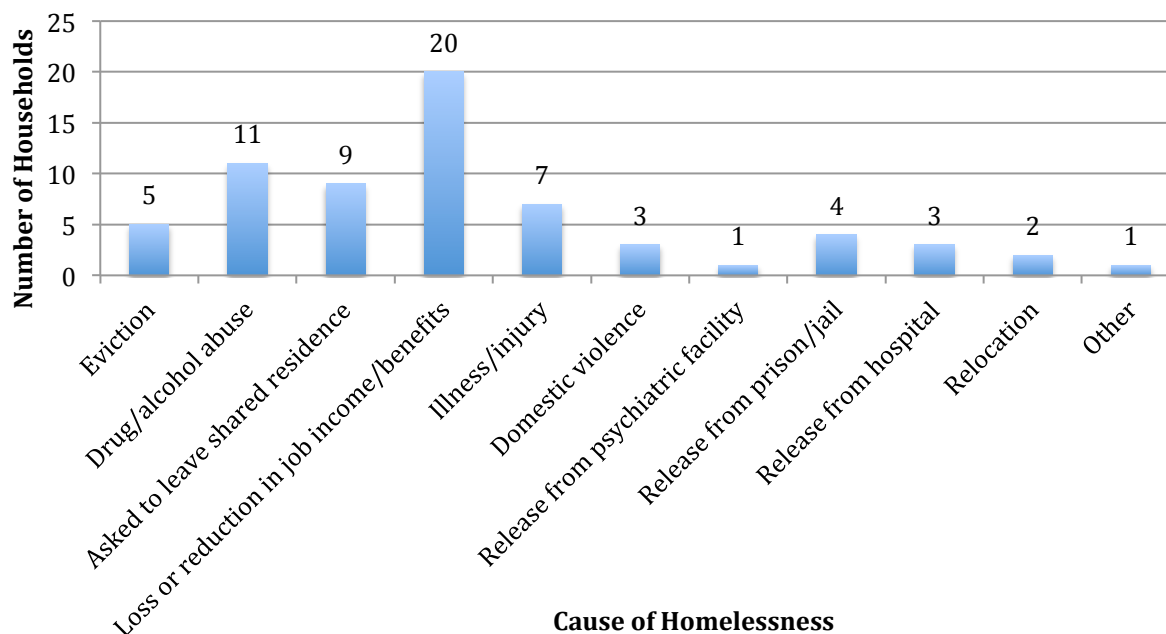
Length of Homelessness

Figure 19 shows that 26 chronically homeless households (37.1%) reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted for more than 1 year. This was the most common answer followed by 34.3% reporting being homeless between 6 months and 1 year.
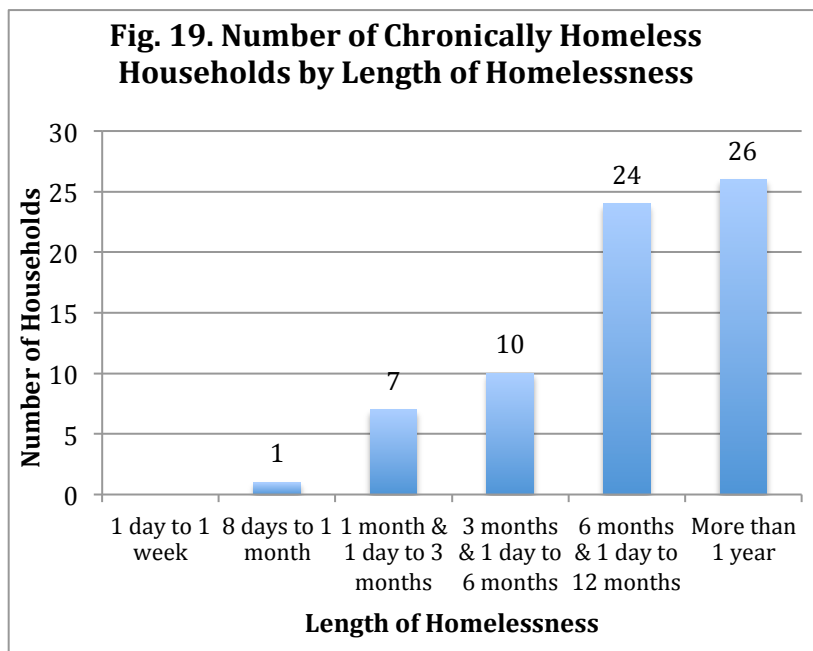
Fig. 19. Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Length of Homelessness

Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more chronically homeless households cited a loss or reduction of job income or benefits (28.6%) than any other. As Figure 20 shows, other common factors reported included substance abuse (15.7%) and being asked to leave a shared residence (12.8%).

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

Number of Households (y-axis): 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25

Cause of Homelessness (x-axis):
- Eviction: 5
- Drug/alcohol abuse: 11
- Asked to leave shared residence: 9
- Loss or reduction in job income/benefits: 20
- Illness/injury: 7
- Domestic violence: 3
- Release from psychiatric facility: 1
- Release from prison/jail: 4
- Release from hospital: 3
- Relocation: 2
- Other: 1

V. Findings for the Unsheltered Homeless

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

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

Total Unsheltered Homeless Population

96 households, made up of 102 persons, were living unsheltered in Middlesex County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 106 (52.5%) households, and 141 persons (58%) from 2013.

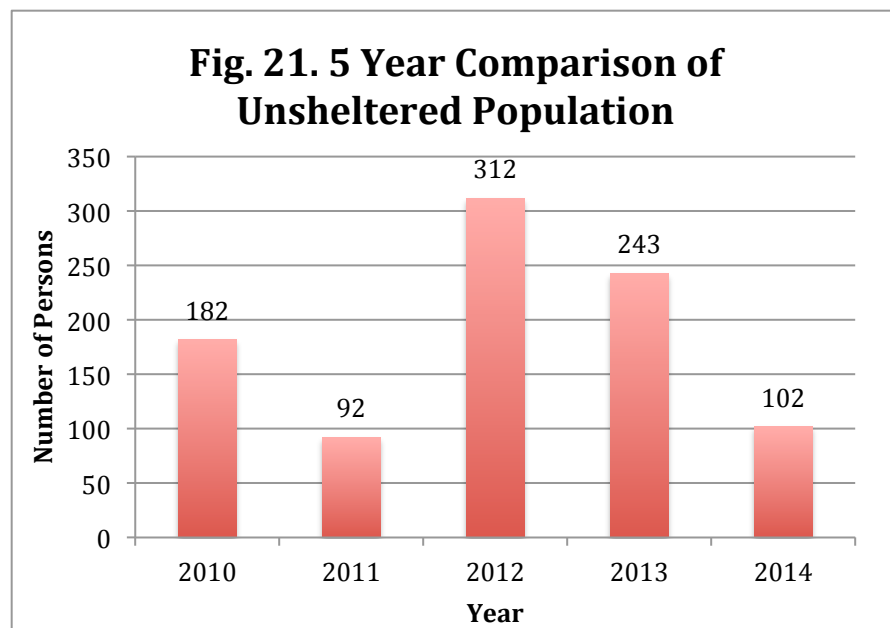**Fig. 21. 5 Year Comparison of Unsheltered Population**

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 reduced overall. Since 2012, the number of unsheltered homeless persons has dropped 67.3%, and by 44% since 2010.

Families and Individuals

1 of the 96 unsheltered households counted in 2014 was an unsheltered family with 2 adults and 2 children under age 18.

The remaining 95 households were adult-only households made up of 98 adult persons.

Demographics

Of the 102 unsheltered persons counted, 3 (2.9%) were between 18 and 24 years old. 30 (29.4%) of those living unsheltered were between the ages of 45 and 54. None were older than 65.

87 of the 102 unsheltered persons were male (85.3%). 57.8% identified their race as White and 33.3% identified as Black or African-American. 48% of the respondents identified as Hispanic.

Fig. 22. Age Range of Unsheltered Homeless
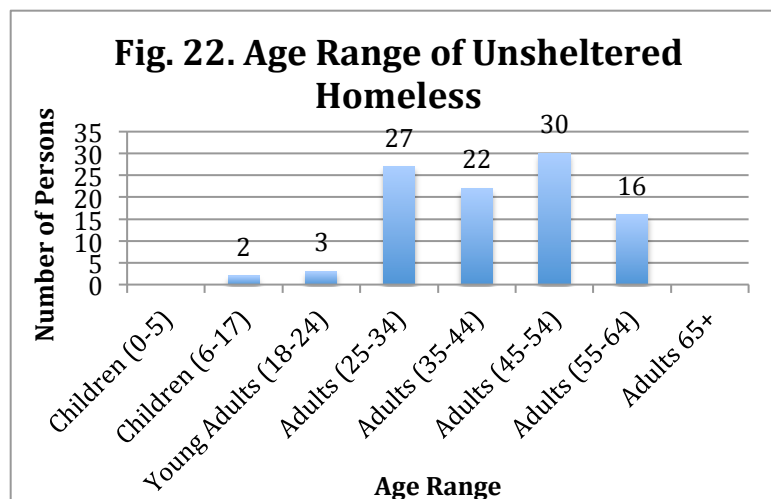
Disabilities

60.2% of unsheltered persons reported having some disability. The disabilities most commonly identified were substance abuse disorders and mental health issues. The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the unsheltered can be seen in Figure 23.

Subpopulations

Fig. 23. Number of Unsheltered Persons by Disability Type

Number of Persons

- Mental Health Issue — 30
- Substance Abuse Disorder — 32
- Physical Disability — 24
- Developmental Disability — 8
- Chronic Health Condition — 23
- HIV/AIDS — 1

On the night of the count, 6 of the unsheltered homeless persons in Middlesex County reported being victims of domestic violence. All were adult individuals.

There were 9 unsheltered veterans on the night of the count. All were single adult individuals.

Income and Benefits

Among all the unsheltered respondents on the night of the count, 44 (45.8%) reported having no source of cash income. The average monthly income among unsheltered households was approximately $220. Figure 24 shows the sources of income received. SSI was received by the most: 9.4% of households.

Fig. 24. Number of Unsheltered Households by Income Source

Number of Households — Income Source

- SSI — 9
- SSDI — 5
- TANF — 3
- General Assistance — 2
- Unemployment — 1
- Worker's Compensation — 1
- Social Security — 1
- No Source of Income — 44

21 unsheltered persons (21.9%) reported they were not receiving any type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps (SNAP) was the top reported non-cash benefit among this population, with 13.5% receiving this benefit, while 10.4% were receiving Medicaid and 5.2% were receiving Medicare.
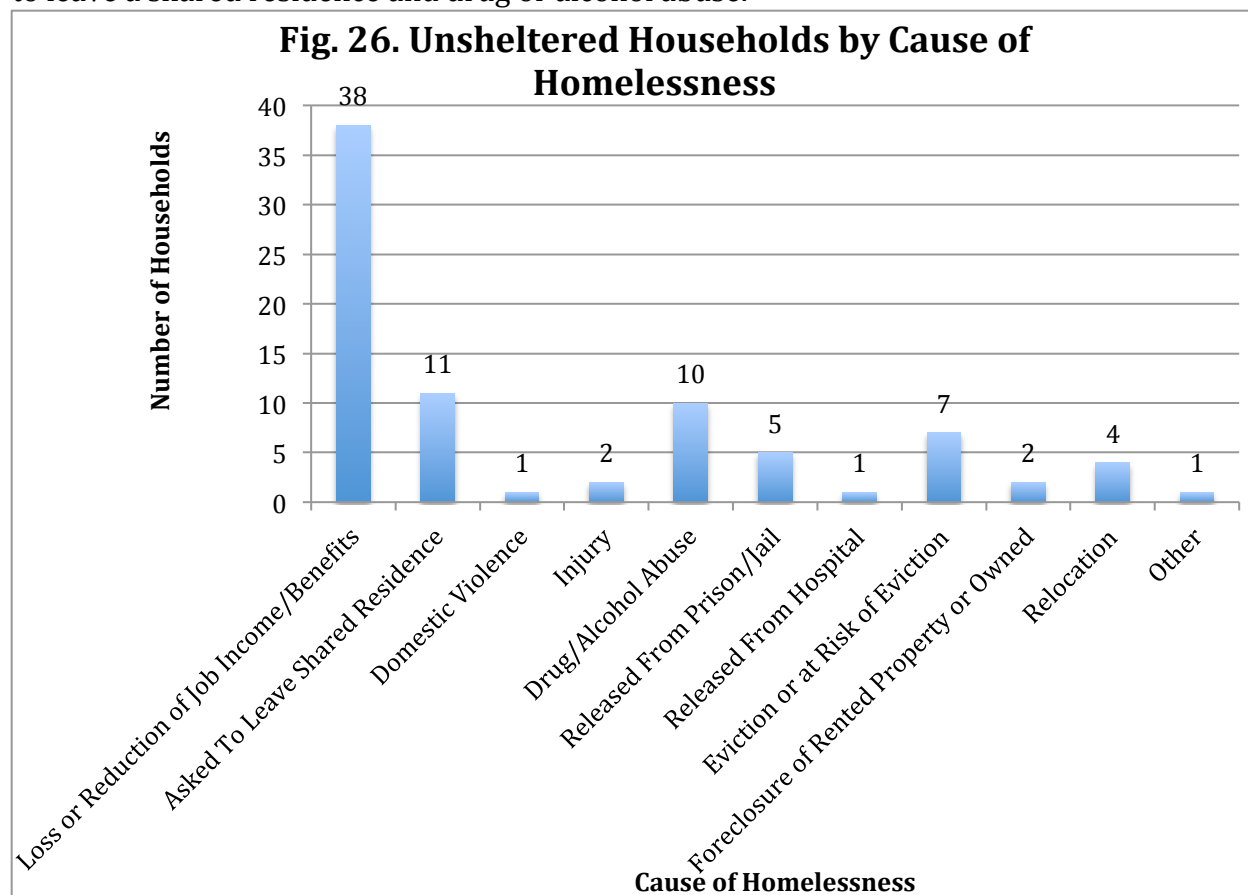
Length of Homelessness

As shown in Figure 25, more unsheltered homeless households (29.1%) reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted between 6 months and 1 day and 12 months than any other length of time. 21 (21.9%) reported they had been homeless between 1 month and one day, and 6 months.
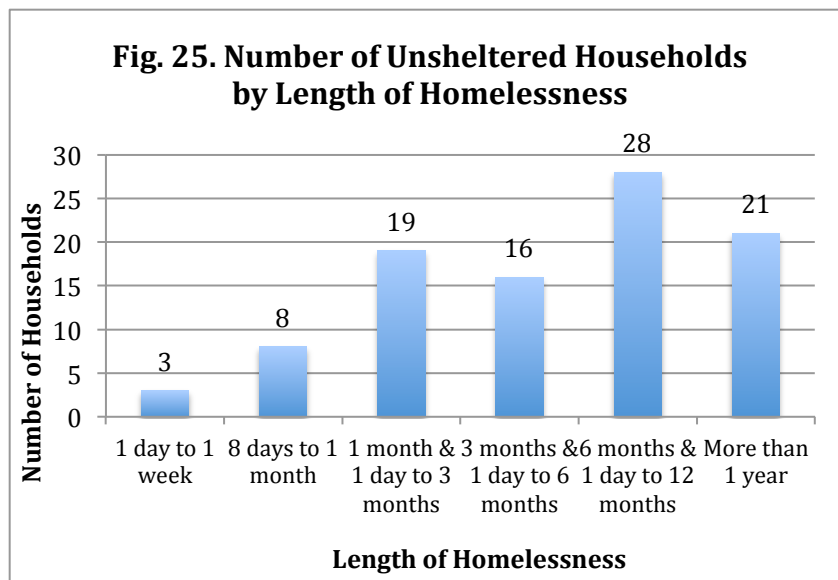
Fig. 25. Number of Unsheltered Households by Length of Homelessness
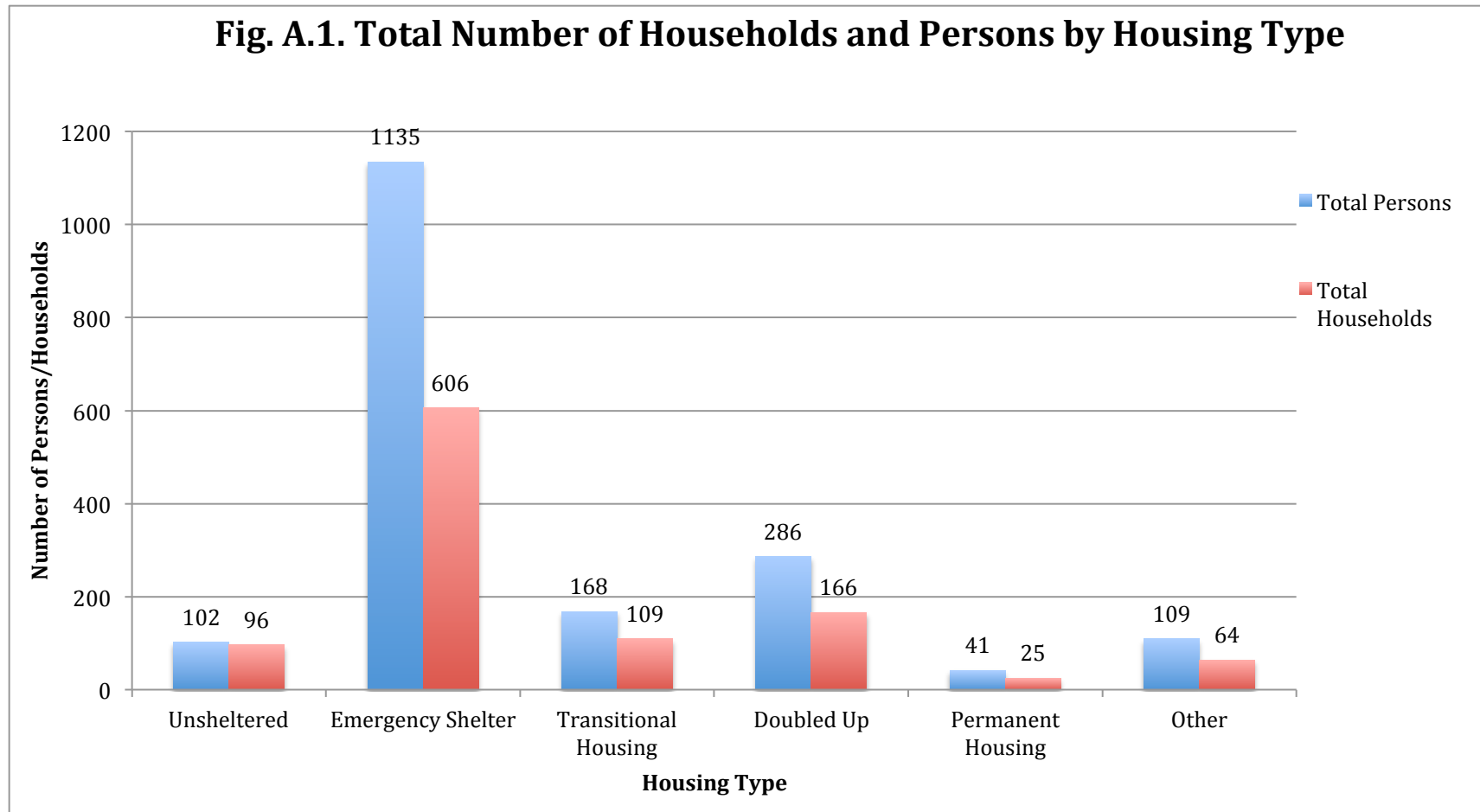

Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more unsheltered households said loss or reduction of job income or benefits (39.6%) than any other factor. As Figure 26 shows, other common factors reported included being asked to leave a shared residence and drug or alcohol abuse.
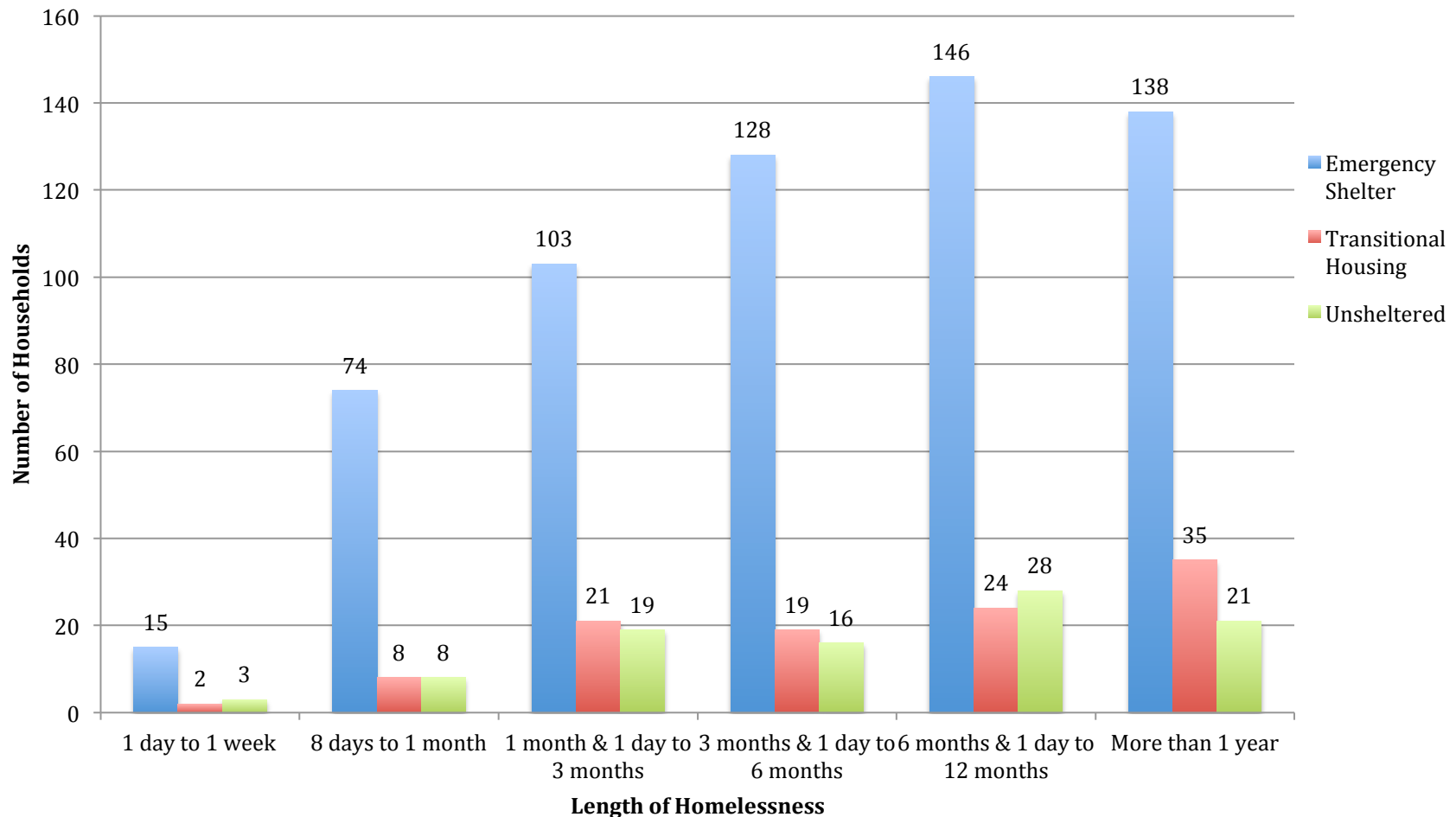
Fig. 26. Unsheltered Households by Cause of Homelessness

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

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?

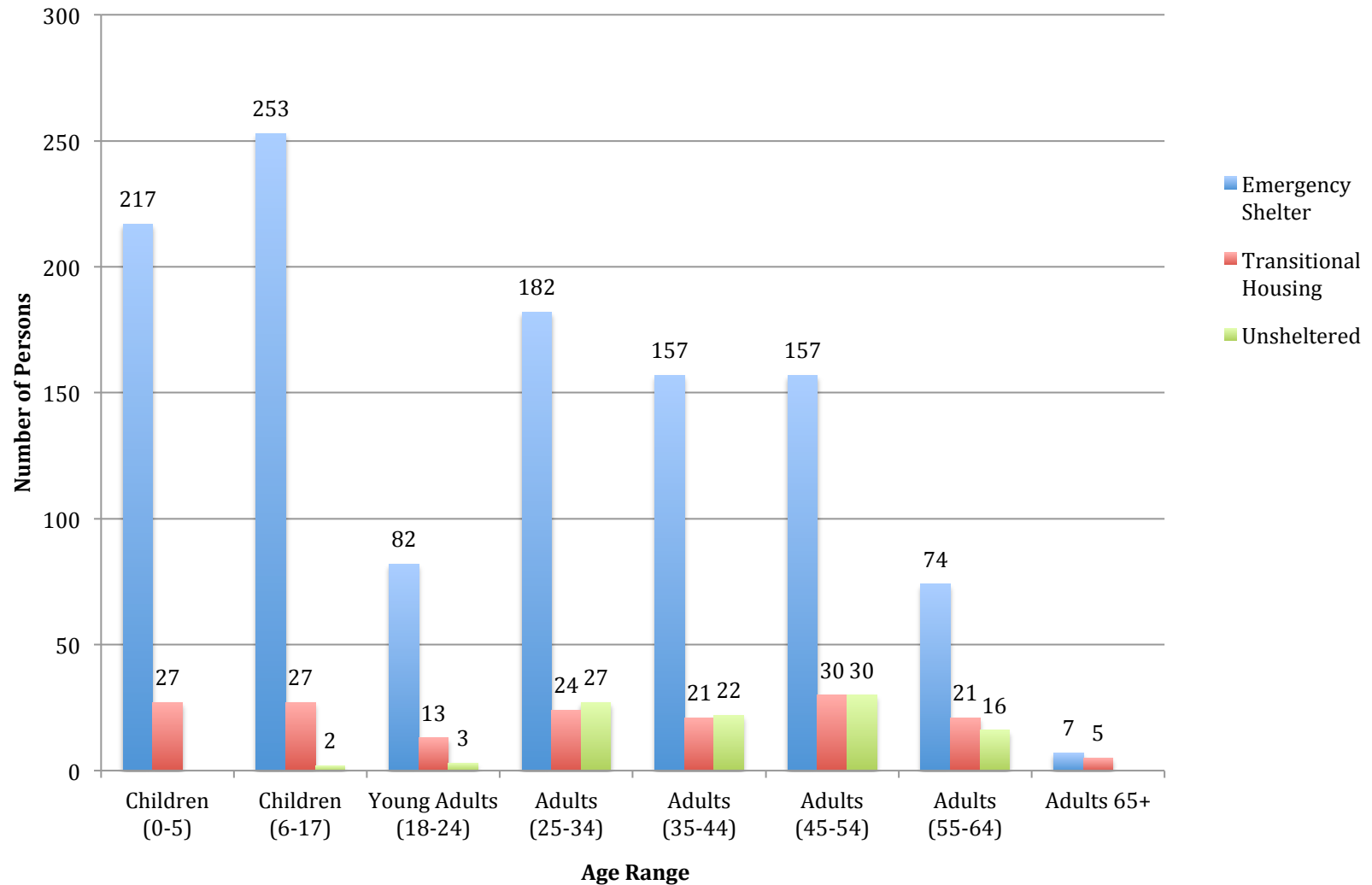## Fig. A.3. Number of Persons by Age Range and Housing Type

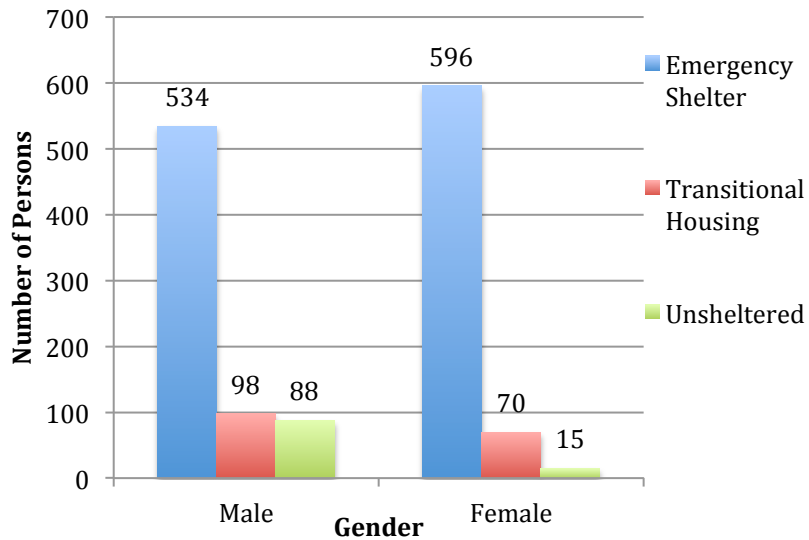## Fig. A.4. Number of Persons by Gender and Housing Situation

Number of Persons (y-axis)
Gender (x-axis)

- Male: Emergency Shelter 534, Transitional Housing 98, Unsheltered 88
- Female: Emergency Shelter 596, Transitional Housing 70, Unsheltered 15

Legend:
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Unsheltered

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

Number of Persons (y-axis)
Race (x-axis)

- American Indian/Alaska Native: 3
- Black/African-American: 533
- Asian: 18
- Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian: 2
- White: 746
- Multi-Racial: 52
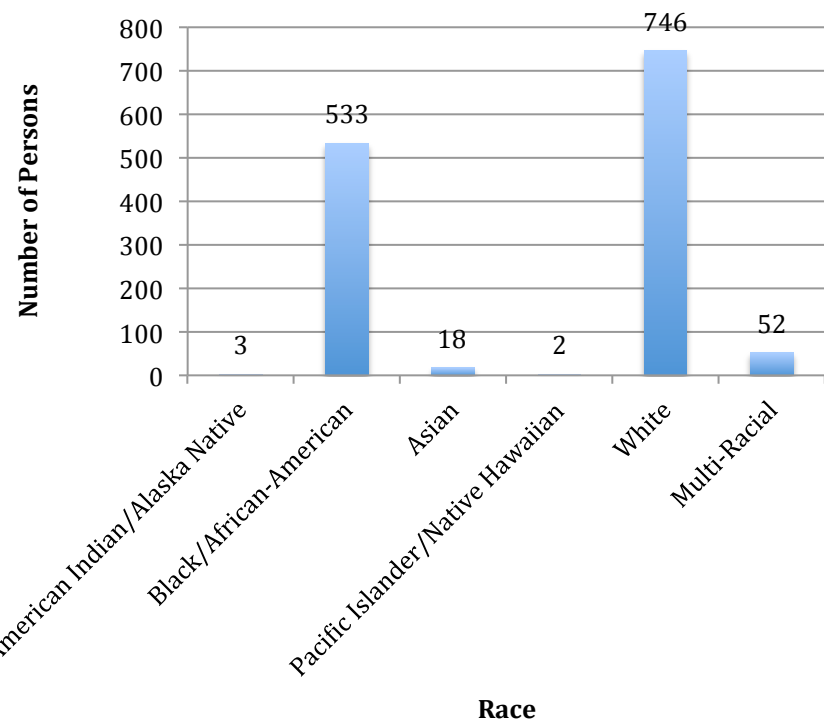
Fig. A.6. Number of Homeless Persons by Ethnicity

Number of Persons (y-axis)
Ethnicity (x-axis)

- Hispanic: 449
- Non-Hispanic: 836
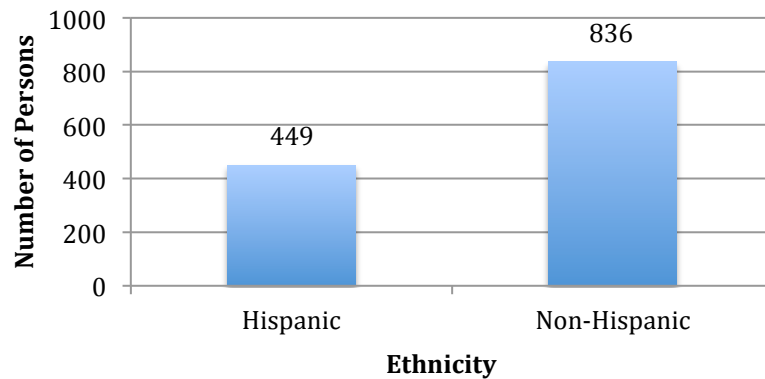
Household Characteristics – check all that apply to each person

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

Number of Persons (y-axis): 0, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250

- Victim of Domestic Violence: 123
- Veterans: 33
- Mental Health Issue: 214
- Substance Abuse Disorder: 148
- Physical Disability: 135
- Developmental Disability: 36
- Chronic Health Condition: 121
- HIV/AIDS: 23

Individual Characteristics/Disability
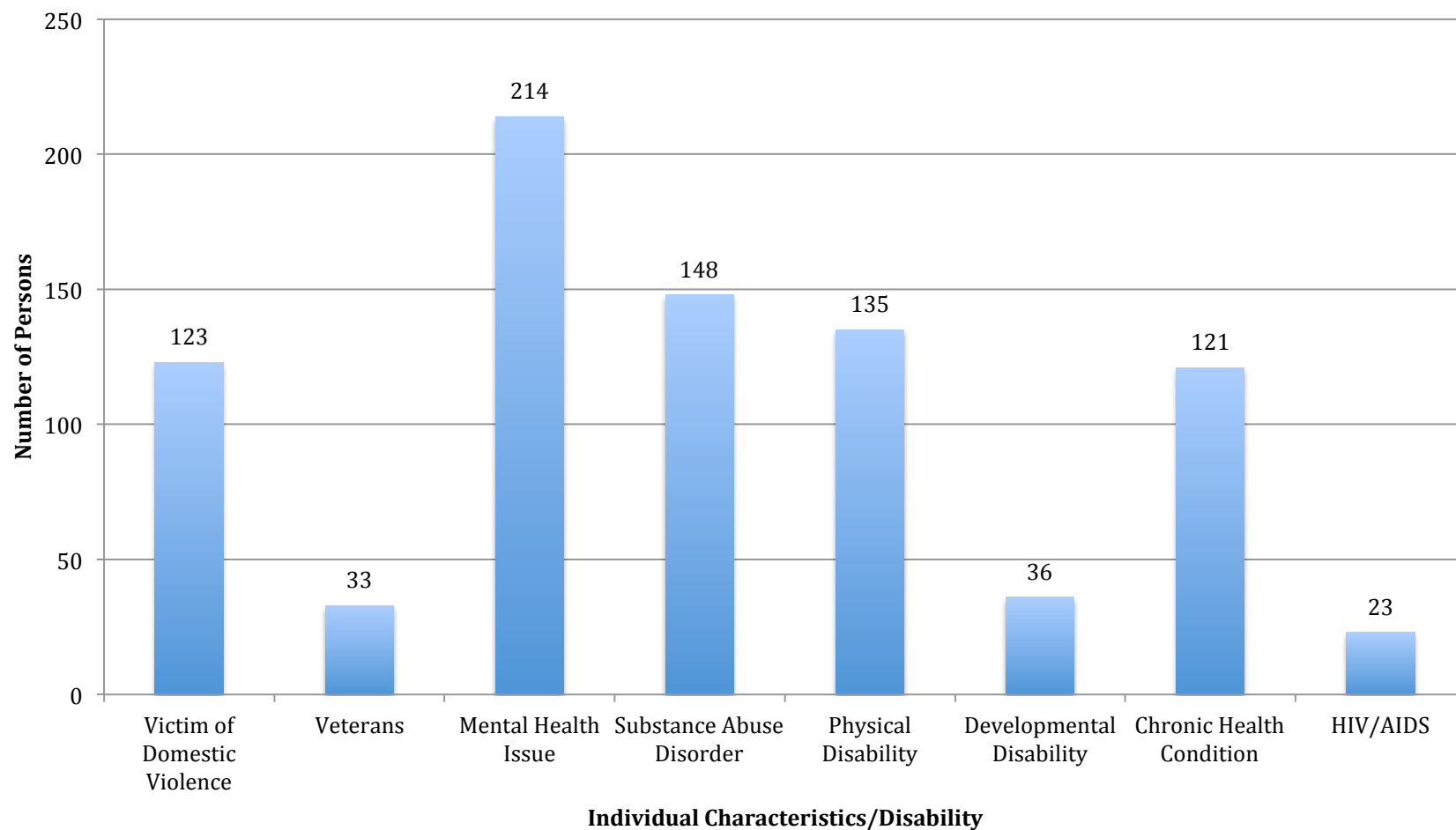
Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?

Fig. A.8. Number of Households by County or State of Last Permanent Address	
Last Permanent Address – County/State	**Number of Households**
Alaska	1
Atlantic County	2
Bergen County	1
Burlington County	1
Cumberland County	2
Essex County	15
Florida	4
Georgia	1
Gloucester County	1
Hudson County	1
Hunterdon County	1
Maryland	2
Mercer County	4
Michigan	1
Middlesex County	**621**
Monmouth County	11
Morris County	2
New York	5
North Carolina	5
Ocean County	2
Oklahoma	2
Pennsylvania	4
Philippines	2
Puerto Rico	2
Salem County	1
Somerset County	16
Union County	14
Virginia	1
Warren County	1

What was your residence prior to your current living situation?

Fig. A.9. Number of Households by Prior Residence
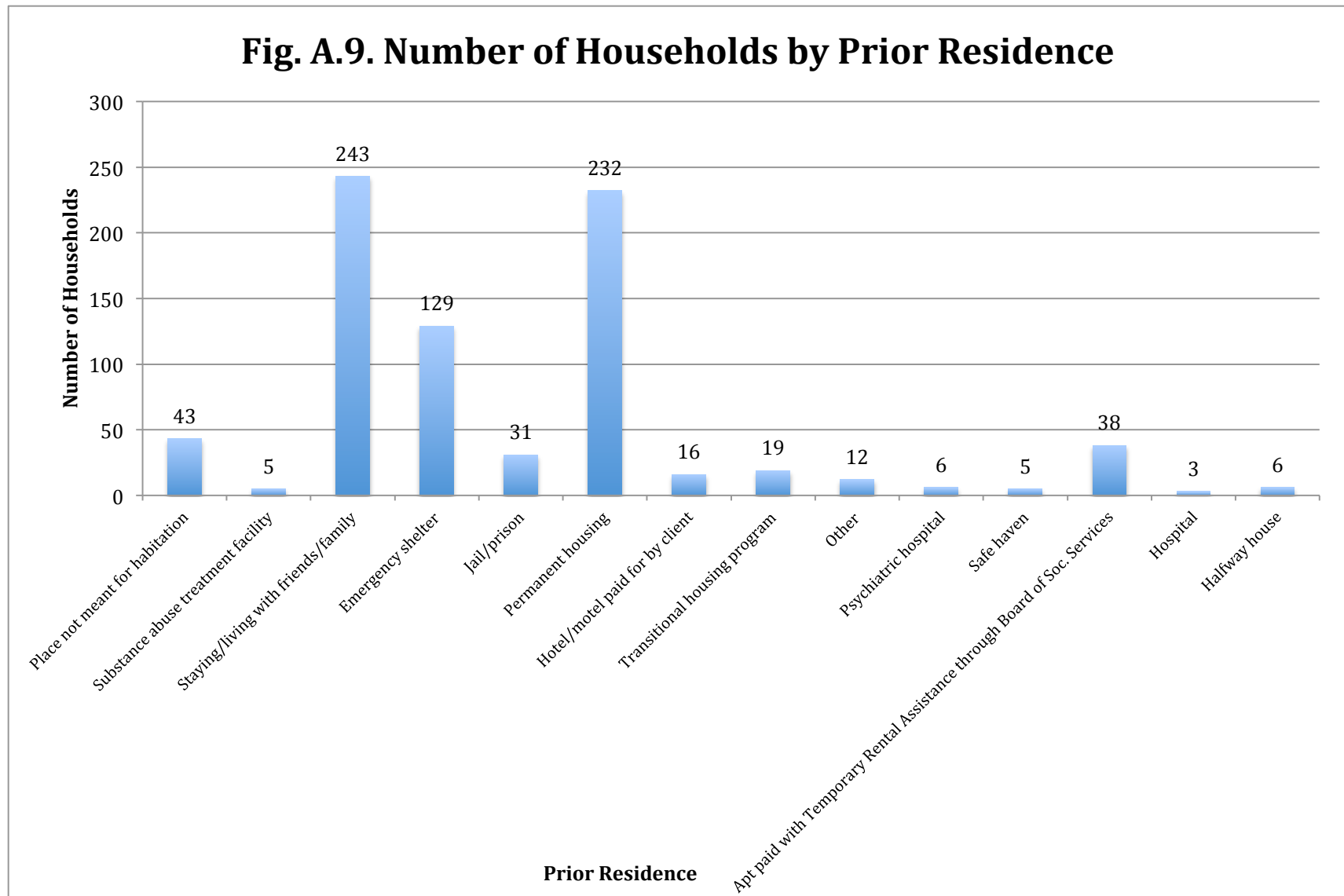
Which of the following sources of income or non-cash benefits do you, or anyone in your household, receive?

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

Bar chart — Number of Households (y-axis, 0 to 250) by Income Source (x-axis):

- SSI: 90
- SSDI: 33
- TANF: 177
- General Assistance: 224
- Unemployment: 15
- Earned Income: 23
- Worker's Compensation: 2
- Alimony: 2
- Child Support: 10
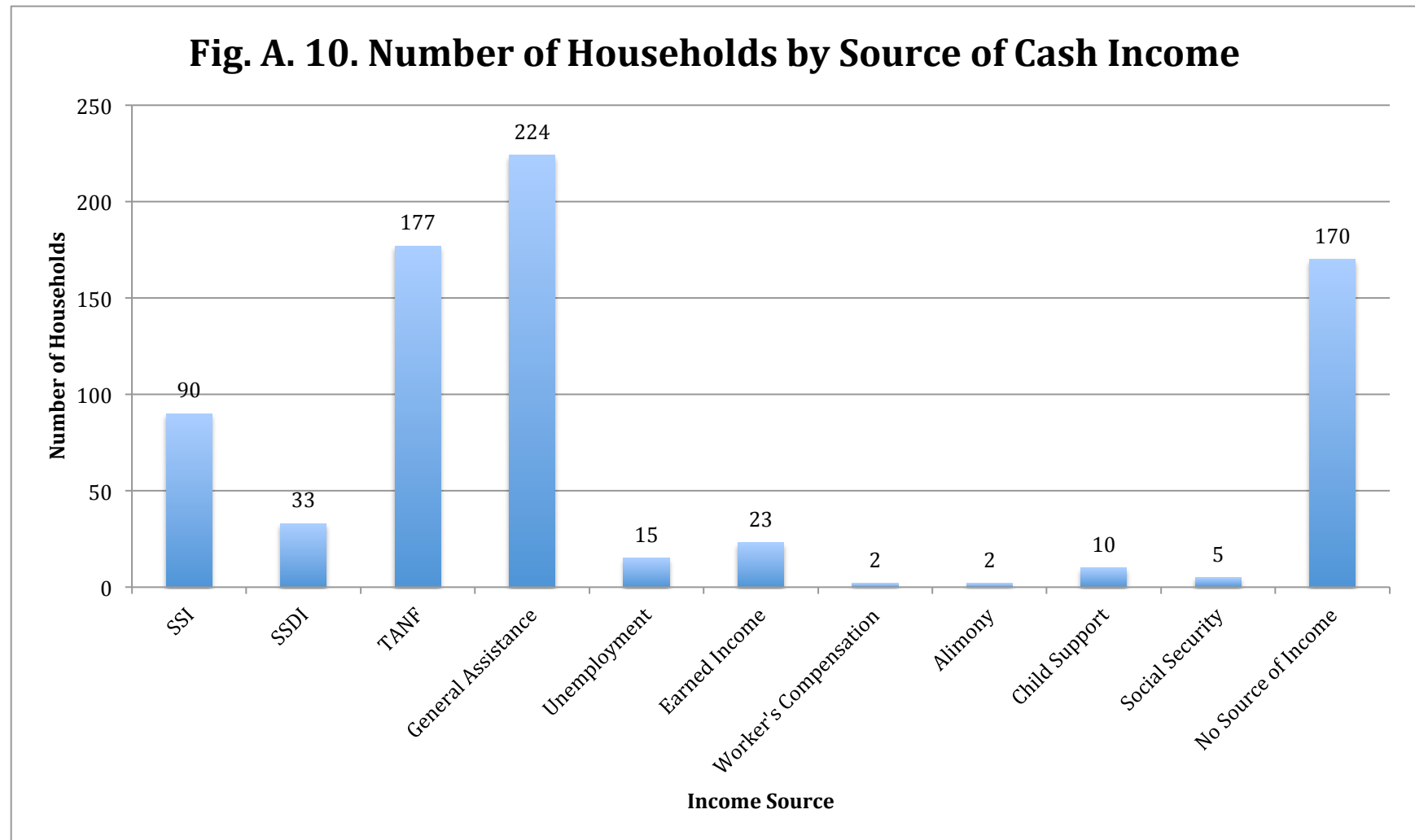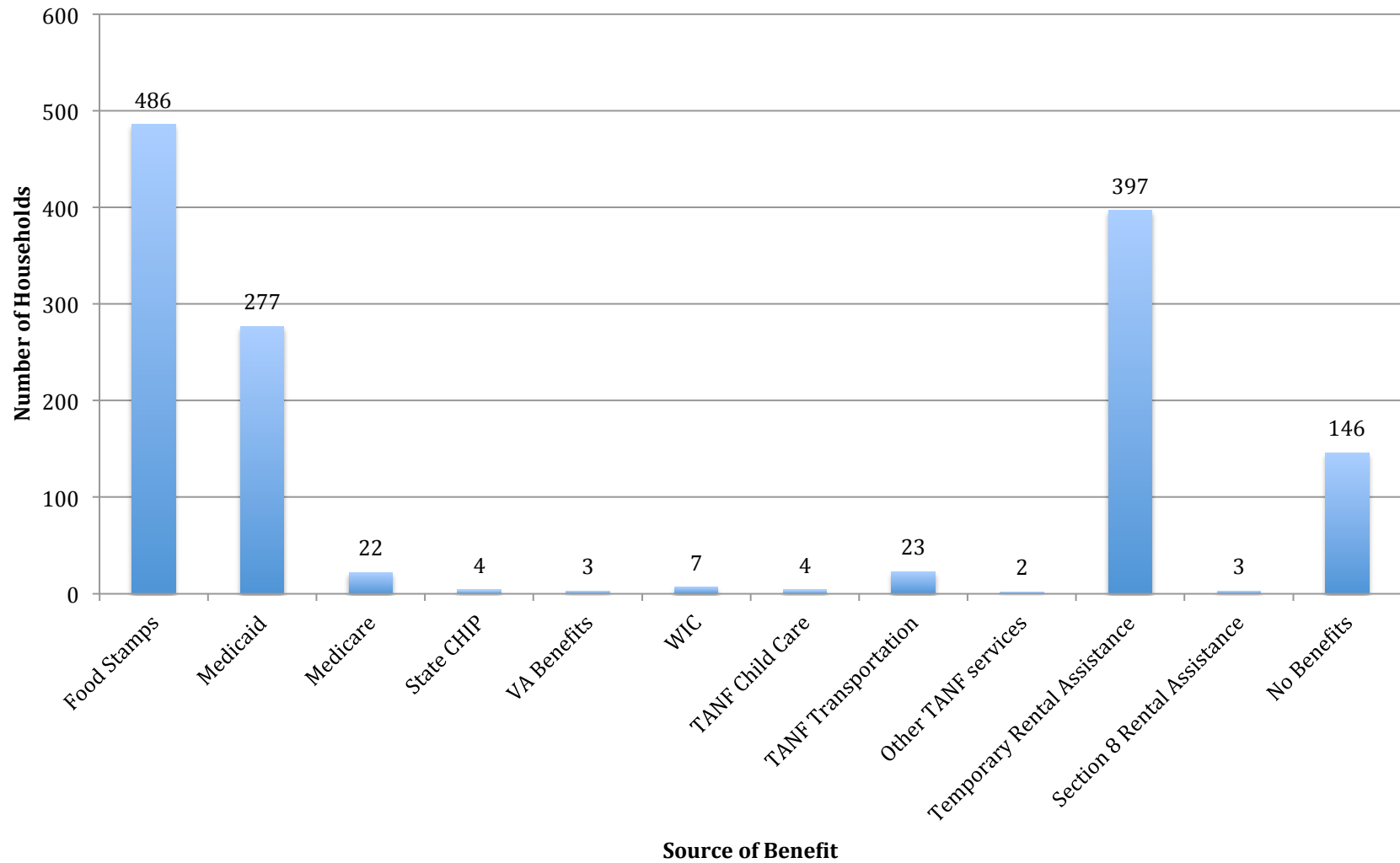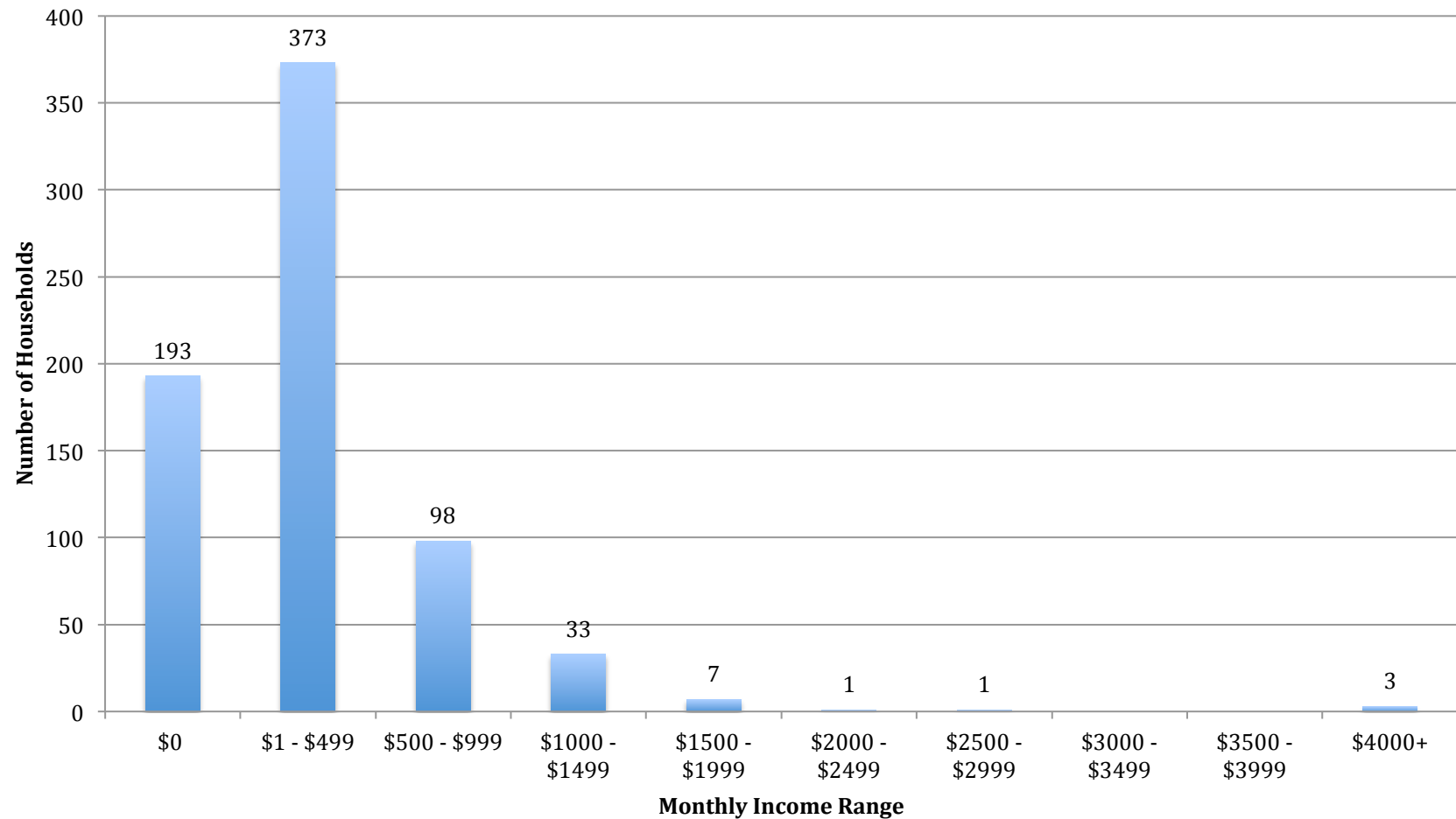- Social Security: 5
- No Source of Income: 170

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

What is your monthly household income?

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

Bar chart — Y-axis: "Number of Households" (0 to 400). X-axis: "Monthly Income Range".

Monthly Income Range	Number of Households
$0	193
$1 - $499	373
$500 - $999	98
$1000 - $1499	33
$1500 - $1999	7
$2000 - $2499	1
$2500 - $2999	1
$3000 - $3499	
$3500 - $3999	
$4000+	3

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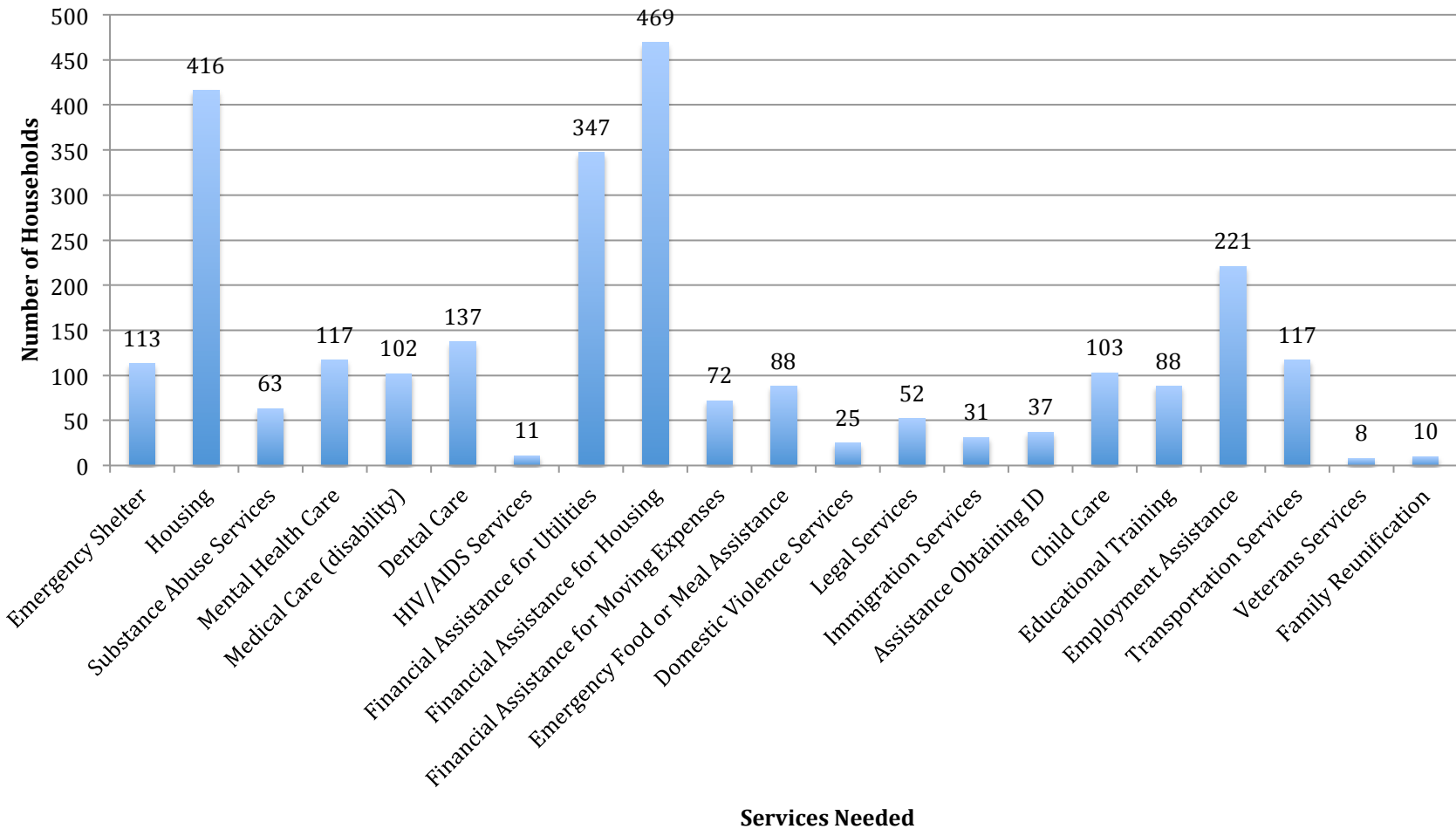
What was the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, your current living situation?

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