

Monarch Housing Associates

29 Alden Street, Suite 1B
Cranford, NJ 07016

908.272.5363

www.monarchhousing.org



NJ
2014
Counts!

Passaic 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
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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 249 households, including 376 persons, were experiencing homelessness in Passaic County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 15 households, with 15 persons, were identified as chronically homeless.
- 4 unsheltered homeless persons were counted.

Total Homeless Population

On the night of January 28th, 2014, a total of 376 persons, in 249 households, were experiencing homelessness in Passaic County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 64 persons (14.5%) and 32 households (11.4%) from 2013. Passaic County had 3% of New Jersey's statewide homeless population in 2014.

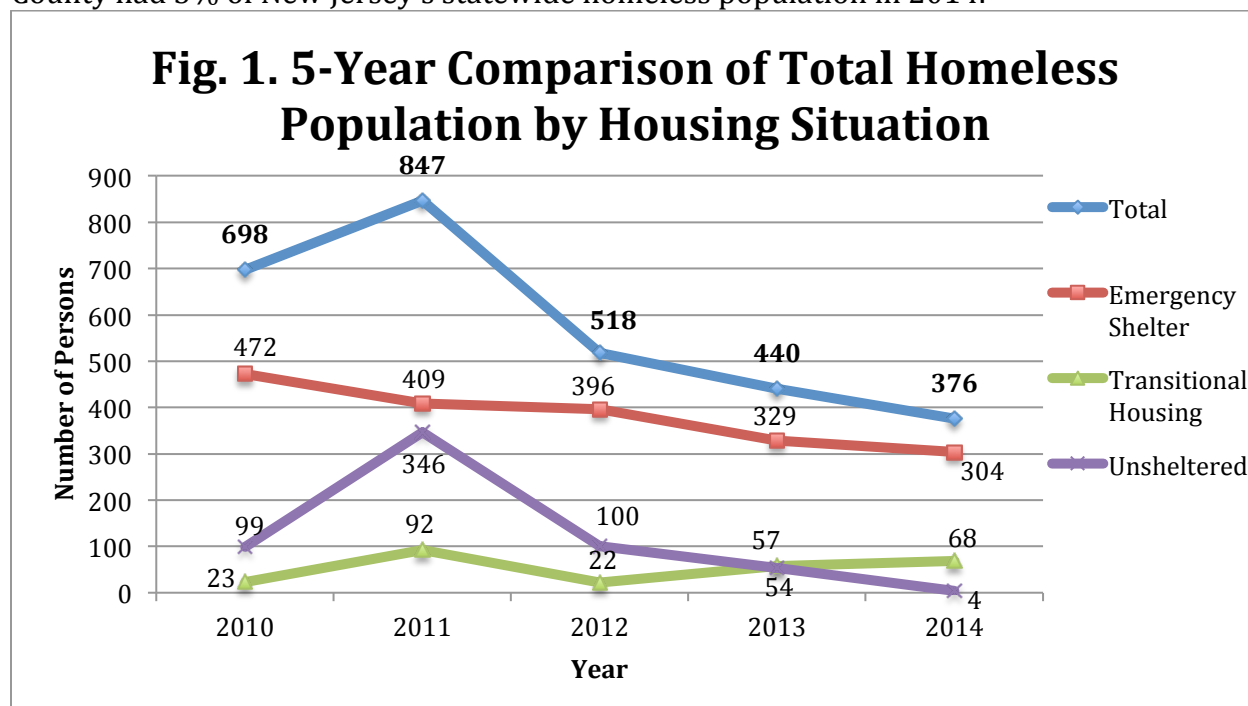


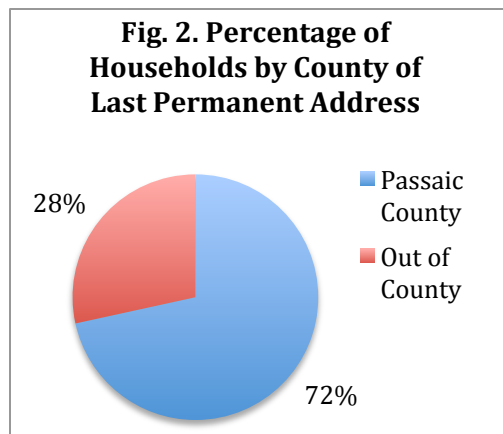
Figure 1 shows that, in 2014, 304 homeless persons stayed in emergency shelters, 68 stayed in transitional housing, and 4 were unsheltered on the night of the count. The emergency shelter and unsheltered totals show reductions from 2013, falling by 25 persons (7.6%) and 50 persons (92.6%), respectively.

Figure 1 also shows that, over the past four years, the total number of homeless persons has been falling in Passaic County. Since 2010, the number of persons in emergency shelter on the night of the count dropped by 168 persons (35.6%), while the number of

unsheltered persons dropped by 95 (96%). Transitional housing however, has fluctuated and has risen by 45 persons (196%) over 5 years.

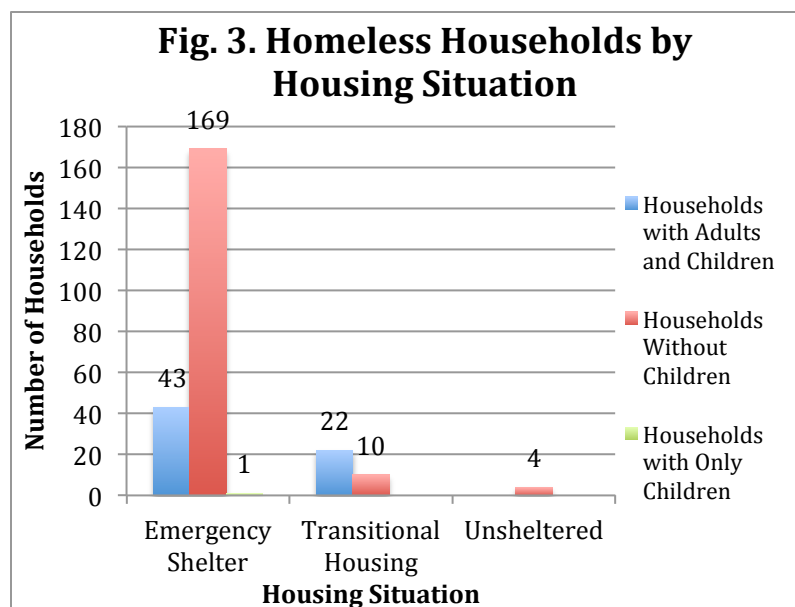
As Figure 2 shows, 28% of homeless households in Passaic County reported that their last permanent address prior to becoming homeless was outside of the county.

While there were a total of 249 households, composed of 376 persons reported on for the night of the Point in Time Count, there was overall low submission of full and completed information for these households in this year's Point in Time Count. For this reason, and in an attempt to present as accurate data as possible, all of the following sections percentages and totals will be based on the number of respondents to that particular section/question instead of being based out of the total households or persons counted.



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 249 respondent households counted in Passaic County in 2014, 65 (26.1%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. These families included 189 persons, including 121 children under age 18. The average family size was 2.7 persons. Figure 3 shows that 43 respondent families were staying in emergency shelter (66.2%), and 22 were in transitional housing programs for the homeless (33.8%). There were

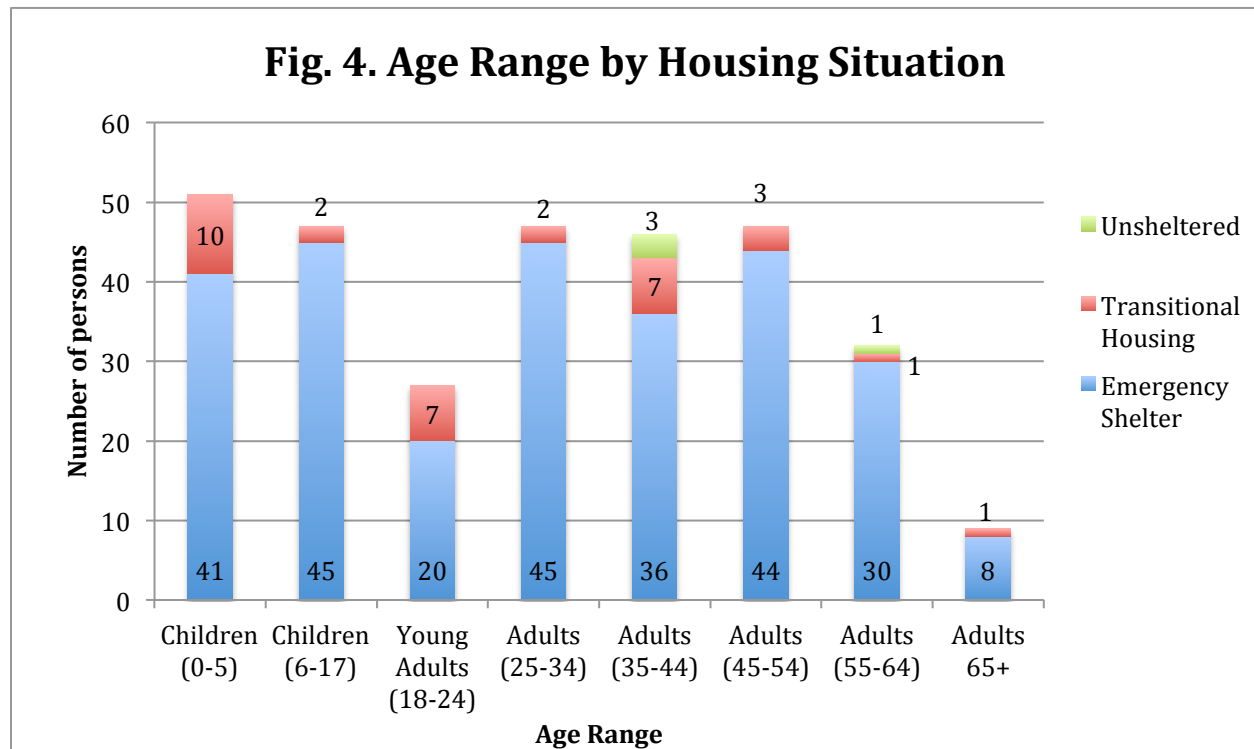
no unsheltered families with adults and children in 2014.

73.5% (183) of the homeless households in Passaic County were households without children under 18, and they were composed of 186 adult individuals. 169 (92.3%) of these adult-only households were staying in emergency shelters, 10 (5.5%) were in transitional housing, and 4 (2.2%) were unsheltered.

As Figure 3 indicates, 1 (0.4%) household with only children under 18 years old was reported in 2014. This represents an increase of 1 household from 2013. This household had only one child who was staying in emergency shelter on the night of the count.

Demographics

27 (8.8%) homeless respondents were adults between 18 and 24 years old, 181 (51.4%) were adults over age 24, and 98 (32.3%) were 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 (51, 52%). Children 0 to 5 years old were also the age range most represented. Among adult respondents, more were between 45 and 54 than any other age range (47 persons, 15.4%).

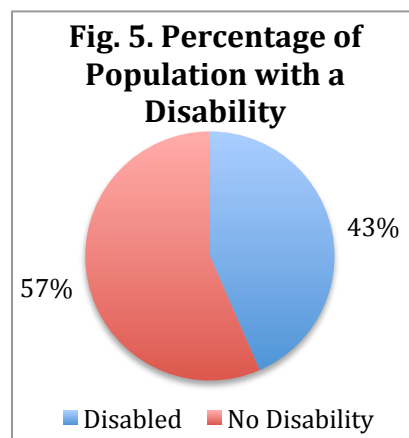


55.6% of homeless respondents were female, and 44.4% were male.

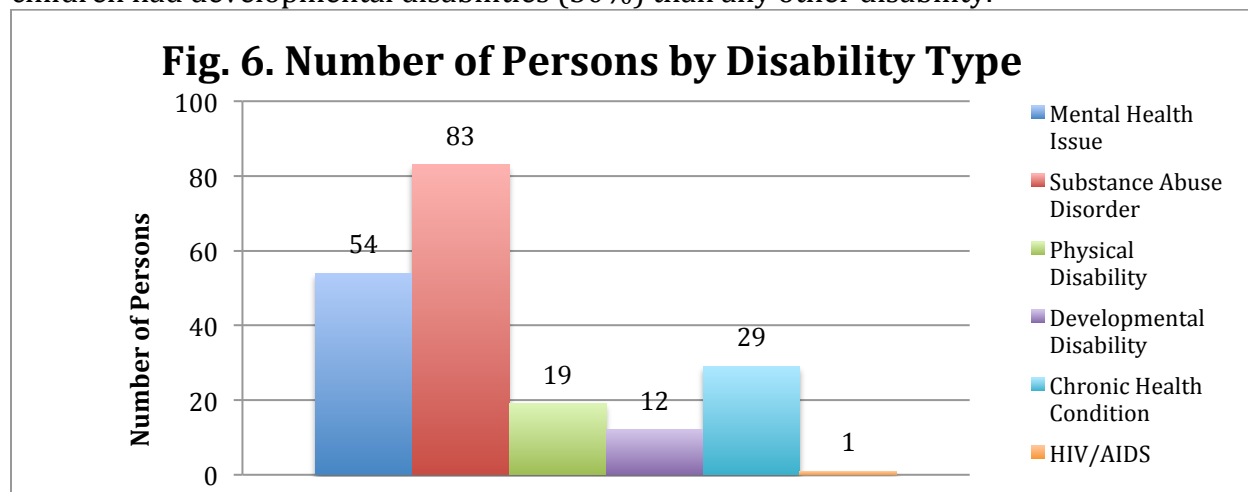
51% of respondents identified their race as White, making that the largest racial subgroup of homeless persons reported. The next largest group self-identified as Black or African-American (45.4%) followed by those identifying as American Indian/Alaska Native (2.3%), and Asian (0.6%). With regard to ethnicity, 28.7% of respondents identified themselves as Hispanic, or Latino.

Disabilities

Figure 5 illustrates that 43% of homeless respondents reported having some type of disability. 58.1% of adults reported some type of disability compared to 12.2% of children. Figure 6 shows the number of the homeless persons that identified as having various disabilities. The most common disabilities identified include substance abuse disorders and mental health issues.

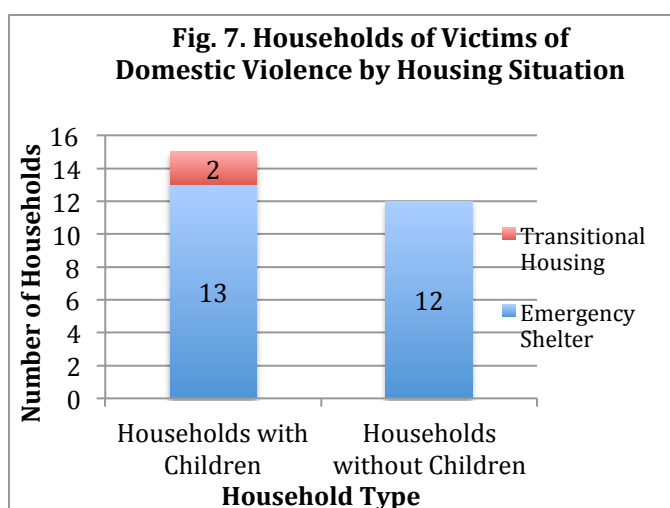


Among disabled adult respondents, 68.6% reported substance abuse disorders making this the most prevalent disability (39.3% of all adult respondents). More disabled homeless children had developmental disabilities (50%) than any other disability.



Victims of Domestic Violence

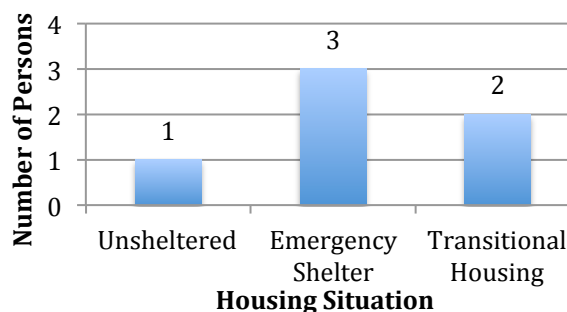
On the night of the count, in Passaic County, 27 homeless respondent households reported having a victim of domestic violence. This means that a total of 58 homeless persons who were members of those households were impacted. The majority (55.6%) of these households were families with at least one adult and one child under the age of 18, two of whom were in transitional housing (13.3%). All other respondent households were in emergency shelters, including the 12 adult-only households (44.4%)



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.

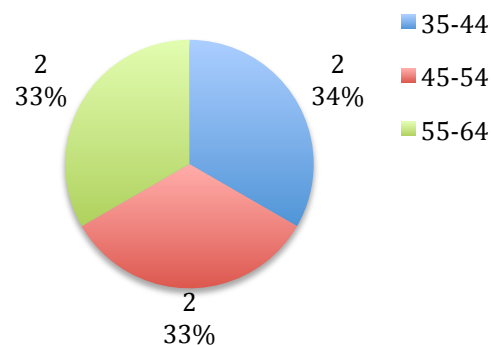
Fig. 8. Number of Veterans by Housing Situation



6 homeless respondents identified as veterans on the night of the count, 3 fewer (33.3%) than in 2013. All were single, adult individuals. The largest contingent of homeless veterans was found to be staying in emergency shelter (50%). In addition, 1 veteran was unsheltered (16.7%), and 2 were in transitional housing (33.3%).

All of the veteran respondents experiencing homelessness in Passaic County were male, and the most common racial background identified among them was White (3 veterans, 50%). Figure 9 illustrates the percentage of homeless veterans by age range.

Fig. 9. Percentage of Veterans by Age Range



2 of the 6 veterans, 33.3%, reported having some kind of disability. The most common disability among respondents was substance abuse disorders, affecting 2 veterans (33.3%). 1 veteran (16.7%) said they had each of the following disabilities: chronic health condition, mental health issues, and physical disability. The type of service that homeless veterans sought the most was emergency shelter (66.7%).

Income and Benefits

Among respondent households experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, 60.5% had no source of income, and 2.4% reported receiving earned cash income. The two most common sources of income among respondents were General Assistance (GA), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) with 16.6% and 12.2% receiving each, respectively. Figure 11 shows the average monthly income for all respondent households.

Fig. 10. Number of Households by Income Type

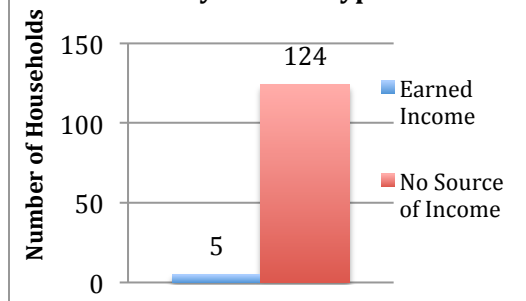
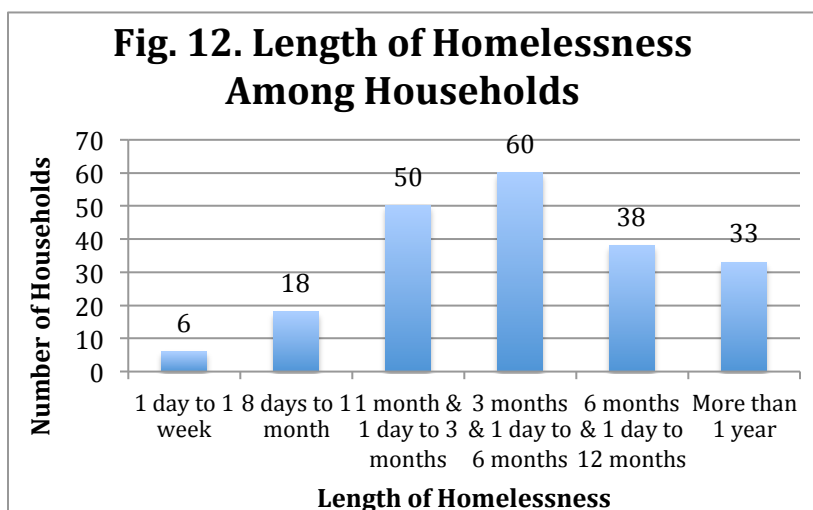


Figure 11. Average Monthly Income For Households by Housing Situation			
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered
Average for All Households	\$194.74	\$310.29	\$185.50

51.2% 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 49.8% of respondents. 30.7% were receiving Medicaid, and 4.9% were receiving TANF Child Care services.

Length of Homelessness

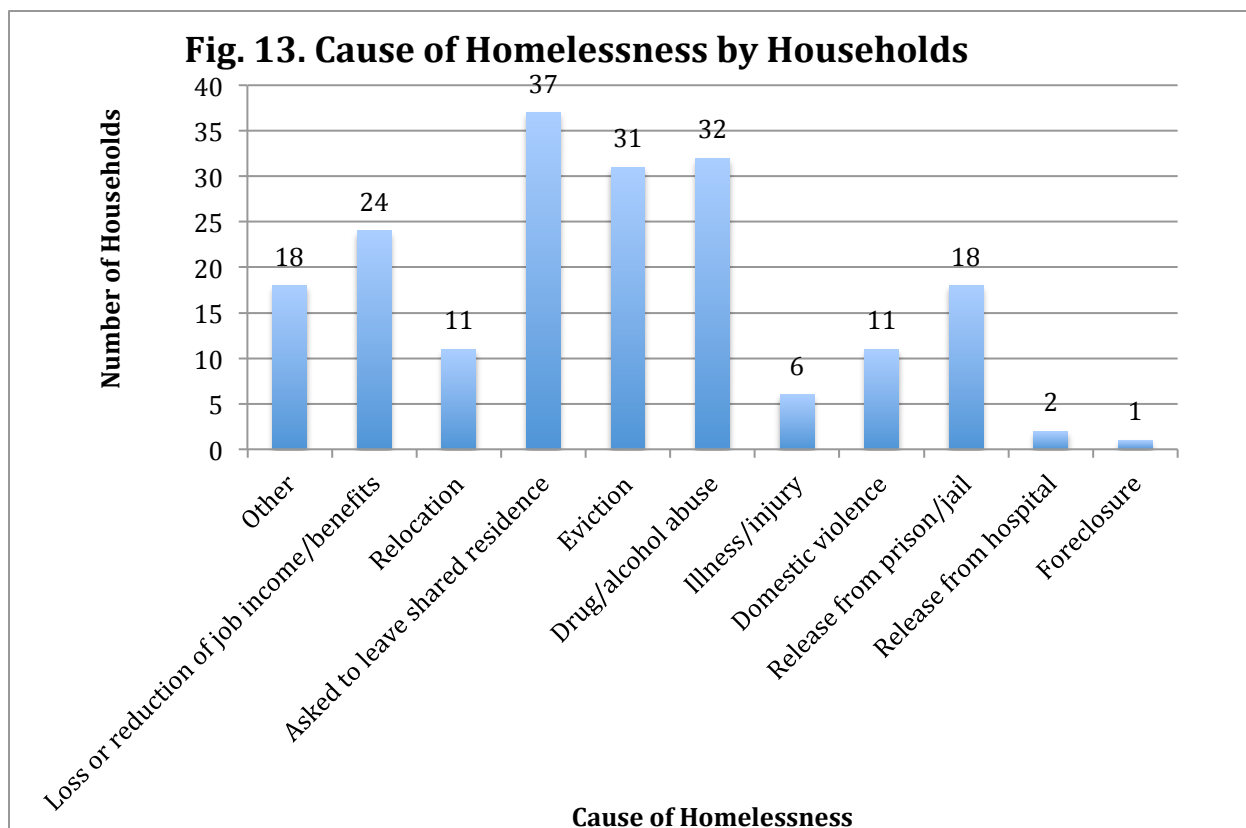
As Figure 12 shows, 60 respondent households reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted between 3 months and 1 day and 6 months while 50 reported that they had been homeless for more than 1 month but less than 3. These two most common responses account for 53.7% of all respondent households. 16.1% of all homeless households in Passaic County had been experiencing homelessness for more than 1 year on the night of the count.



Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more respondents attributed their household's homelessness to being asked to leave a shared residence (37 respondents, 19.4%) than any other cause. As Figure 13 shows, the next most common factor reported was drug or alcohol abuse (16.2%).

When respondents 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. 20.7% reported residing in permanent housing prior to their current living situation.



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

15 households, made up of 15 total persons, were counted as chronically homeless in Passaic County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 27 persons from 2013. The rate of chronic homelessness declined as a percentage of the overall homeless population from 9.5% to 4.9%.

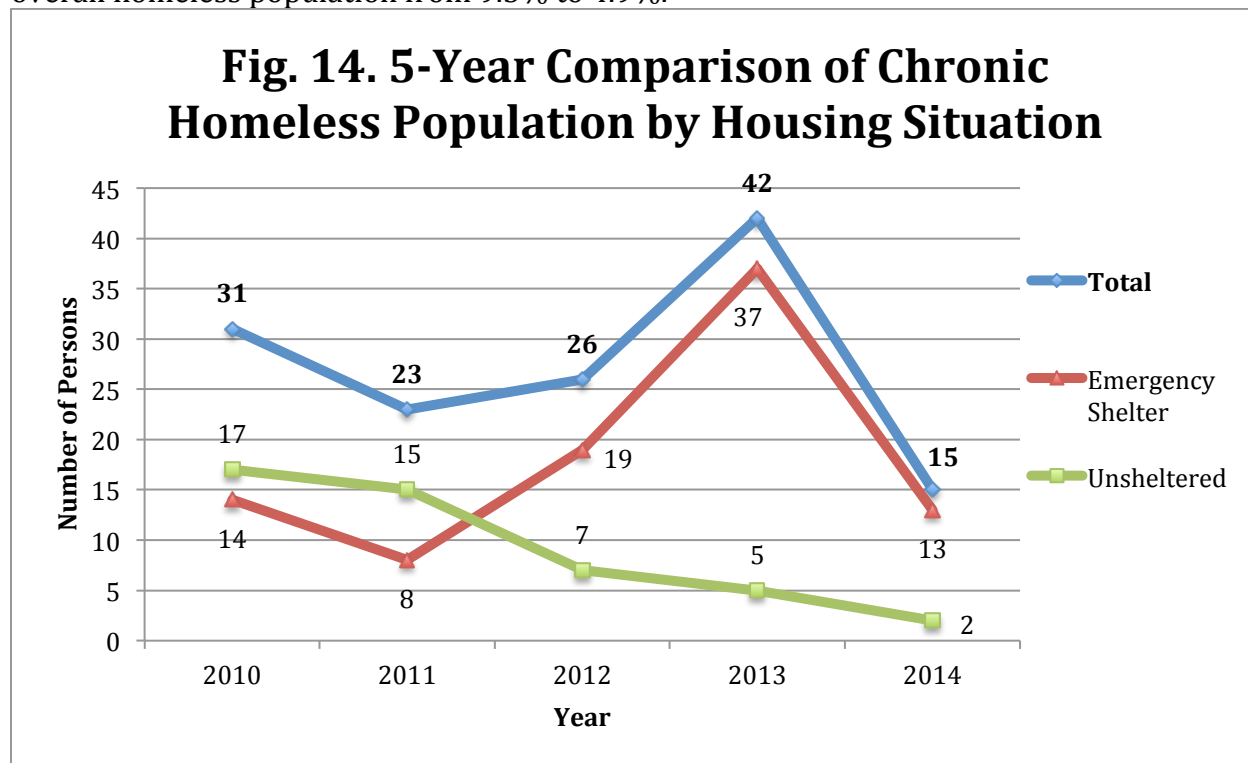
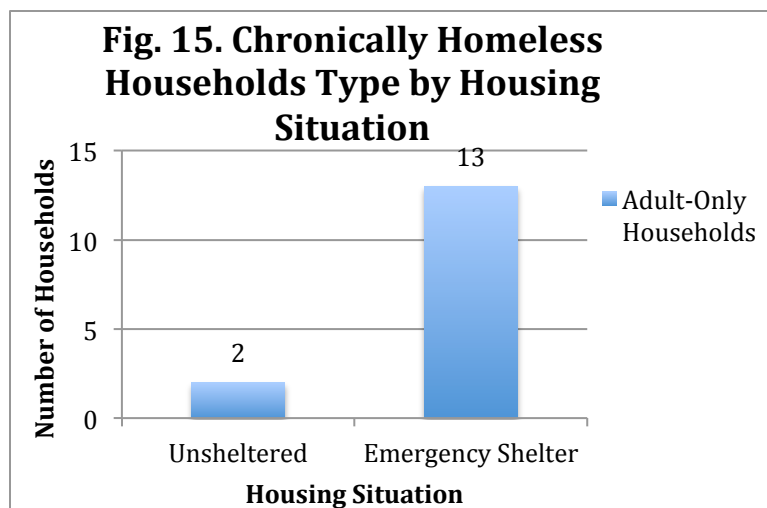


Figure 14 shows the number of chronically homeless respondents who were in emergency shelters or living unsheltered in Passaic County from 2010 to 2014. Over the past five years, while the numbers have fluctuated, the total of chronically homeless persons, and those in shelters, has trended downward overall; down by more than half overall. Since 2010, the number of unsheltered chronically homeless persons has dropped 88.2%, from 17 persons to 2.

Families and Individuals

Of the 15 chronically homeless respondent households counted in Passaic County in 2014, all were households with no children 17 or younger. 13 of these individuals were in emergency shelters (86.7%), and 2 (13.3%) were unsheltered on the night of the count.

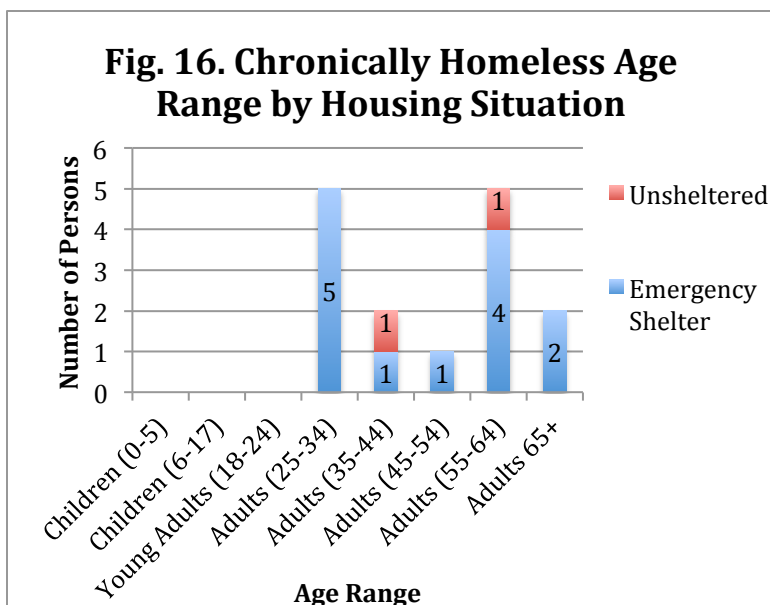


Demographics

Of the 15 total chronically homeless respondents, 0 were under 25 years old. The largest number of chronically homeless respondents (5, 33.3%) in a single category fell between both the ages of 25 and 34, and 55 and 64 years of age.

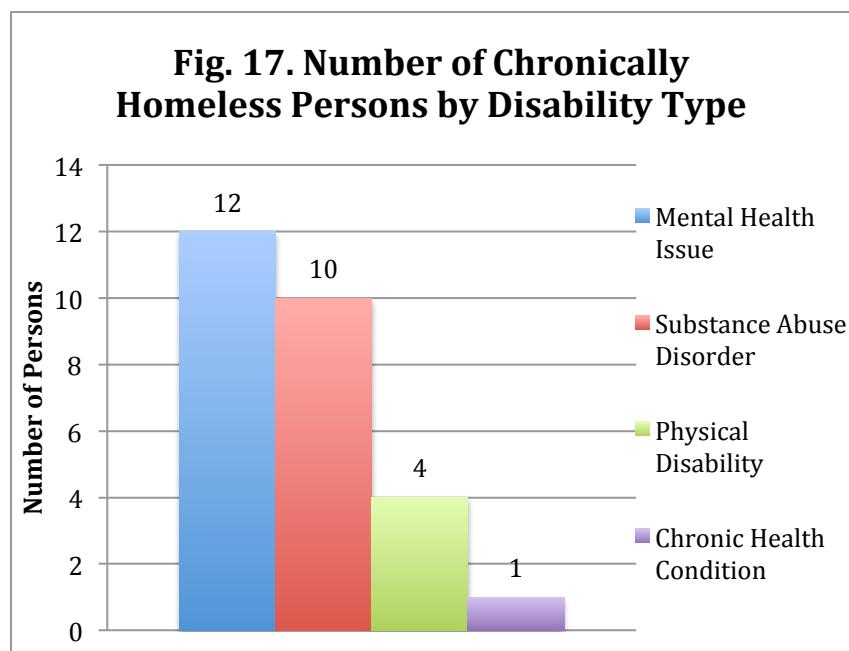
46.7% of those counted as chronically homeless were male, and 53.3% were female.

The largest racial subgroup of chronically homeless persons reported their race as White (53.3%). The next largest group self-identified as Black or African-American (40%). With regard to ethnicity, 28.5% of respondents identified themselves as Hispanic, or Latino.



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 among respondents were mental health issues (80%) and substance abuse disorders (66.7%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the chronically homeless can be seen in Figure 17.



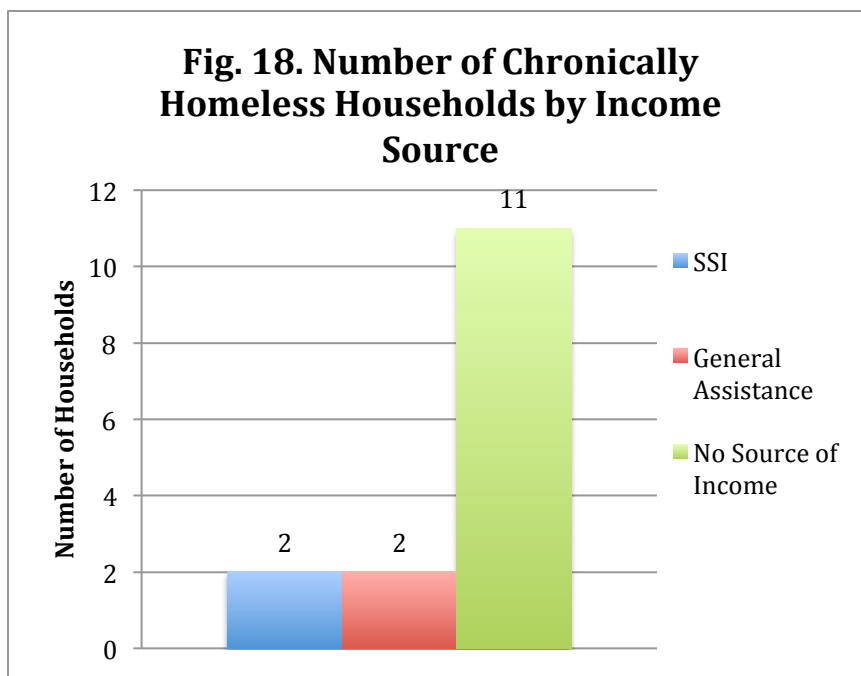
Subpopulations

On the night of the count, 2 chronically homeless respondents in Passaic County reported being victims of domestic violence (13.3%). Both were staying in emergency shelters.

There were 0 veterans identified as chronically homeless on the night of the count.

Income and Benefits

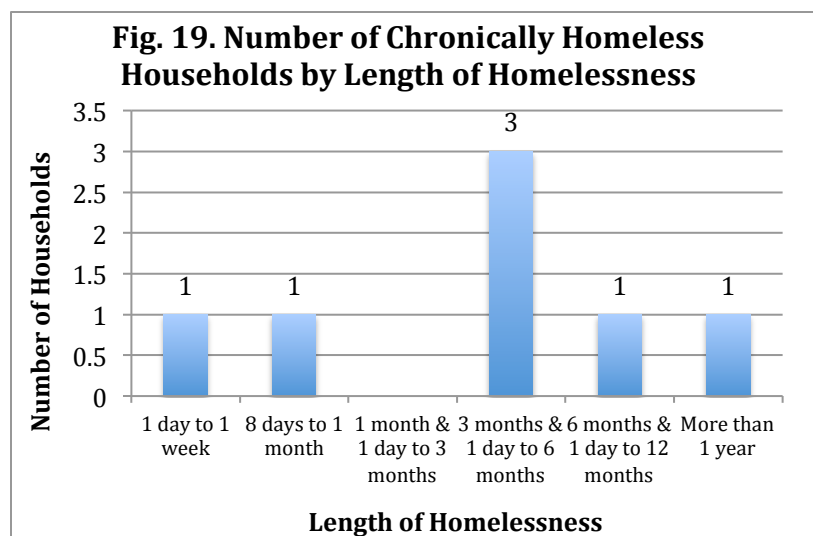
Among all the chronically homeless households on the night of the count, 73.3% reported receiving no form of cash income, and none reported any earned income. Figure 18 shows the sources of income received. The most common sources of cash income among all respondents were General Assistance and SSI, which were both received by 13.3% of respondent households.



40% 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 respondents, with 53.3% receiving this benefit. A significant percentage, 20%, also reported receiving Medicaid.

Length of Homelessness

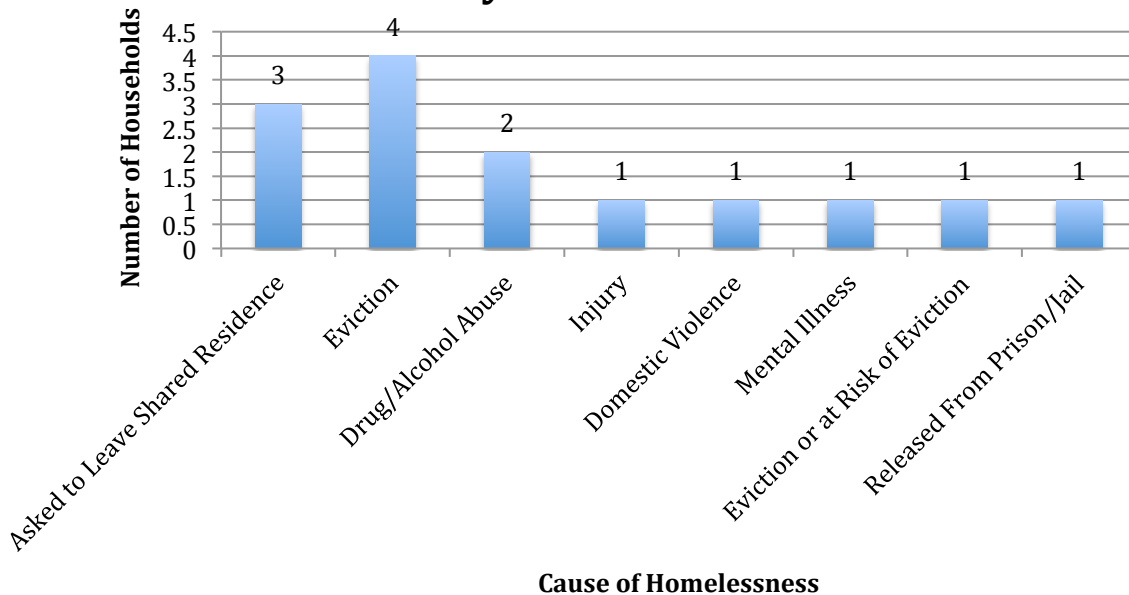
Figure 19 shows that 3 chronically homeless respondents (20%) reported that their household's most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted between 3 and 6 months. This was the most common answer among those reporting.



Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more chronically homeless respondents cited eviction (26.7%) than any other. As Figure 20 shows, other common factors reported included being asked to leave a shared residence (20%) and drug or alcohol abuse (13.3%).

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



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

4 households, made up of 4 adult persons, were living unsheltered in Passaic County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 44 households, and 50 persons (92.6%) compared to 2013's count.

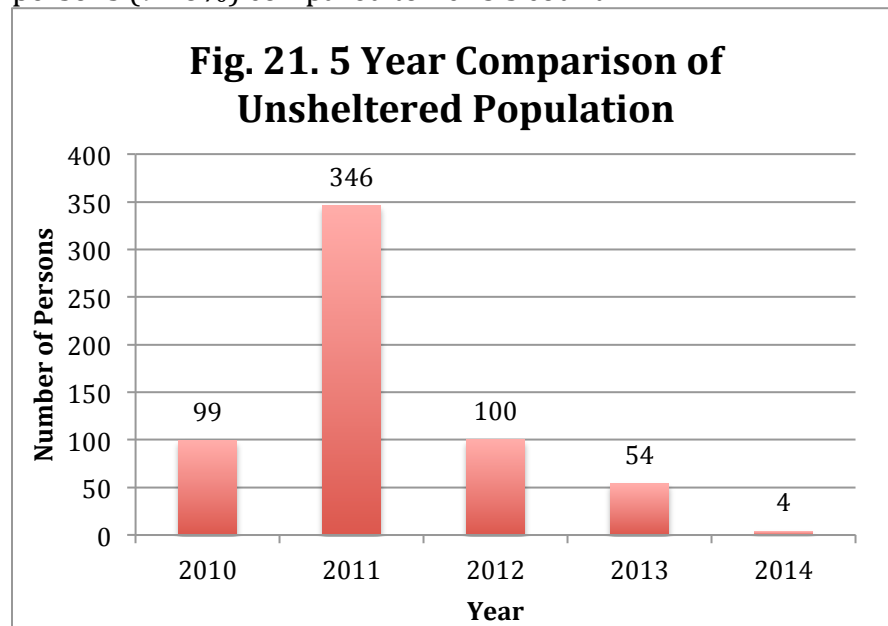


Figure 21 shows the number of unsheltered respondents from 2010 to 2014. Over the past five years, while the numbers have fluctuated, the total number of unsheltered persons has been reduced overall by 96%. Since 2011, the number of unsheltered homeless persons has dropped each year.

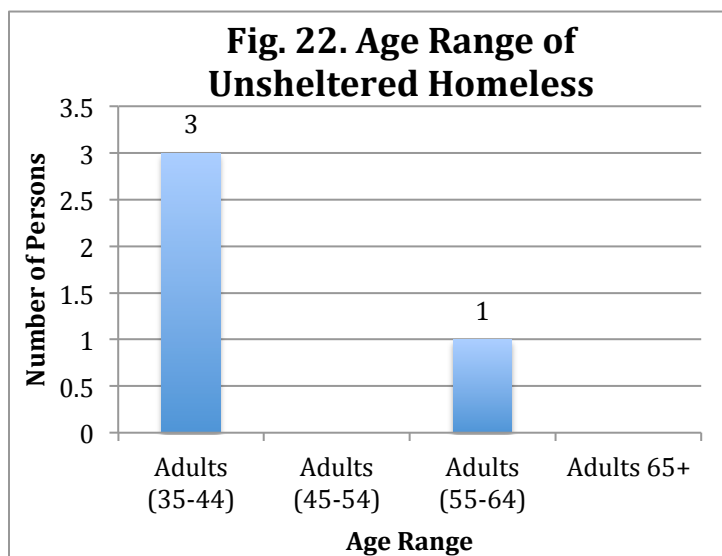
Families and Individuals

All of the 4 unsheltered households counted in 2014 were adult-only households, meaning that there were no unsheltered families or children. Each of the unsheltered households was made up of only one individual.

Demographics

Of the 4 unsheltered persons counted, 3 were between 35 and 44 years old (75%). 25% of all those living unsheltered were between the ages of 55 and 64. None were younger than 35 or older than 64.

All of the unsheltered persons were male and 3 (75%) identified their race as Black or African-American and 1 (25%) identified as White. Half of the respondents identified as Hispanic.



Disabilities

75% of unsheltered persons reported having some disability. The disabilities identified were substance abuse disorders and mental health issues as can be seen in Figure 23.

Subpopulations

On the night of the count, none of the unsheltered homeless persons in Passaic County reported being victims of domestic violence.

There was 1 unsheltered veteran identified on the night of the count.

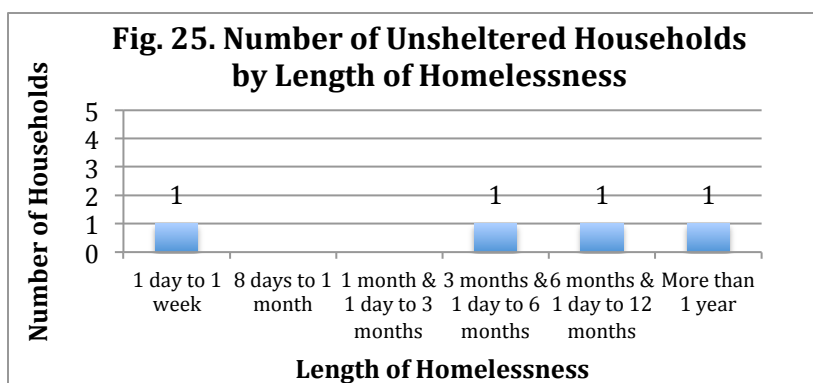
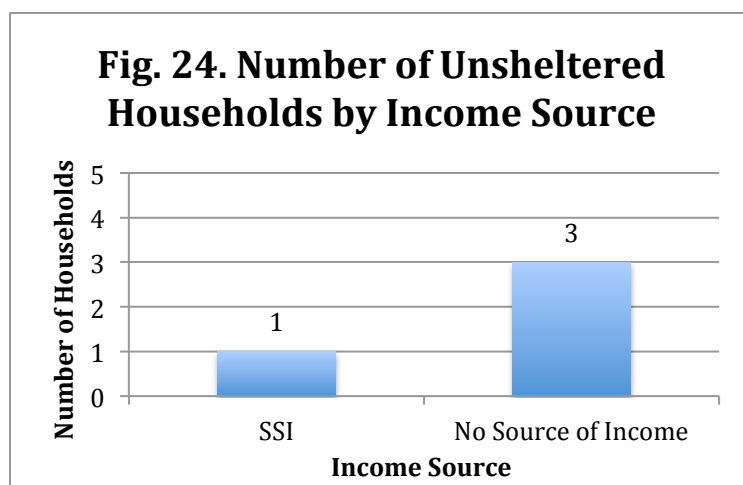
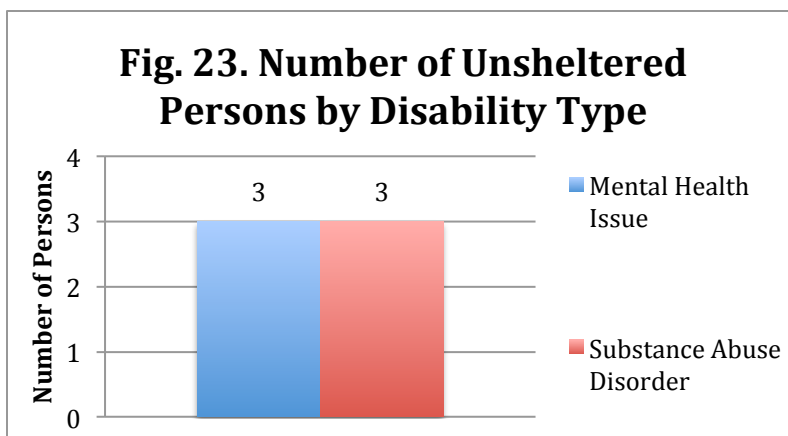
Income and Benefits

Among all the unsheltered respondents on the night of the count, 3 (75%) reported having no source of cash income. The average monthly income among unsheltered households was approximately \$185. Figure 24 shows that SSI was received by 25% of respondents.

None of the unsheltered person reported that they were not receiving any non-cash benefits on the night of the count. Food Stamps (SNAP) was the top reported non-cash benefit among this population along with Medicaid, with 50% receiving each of these benefits.

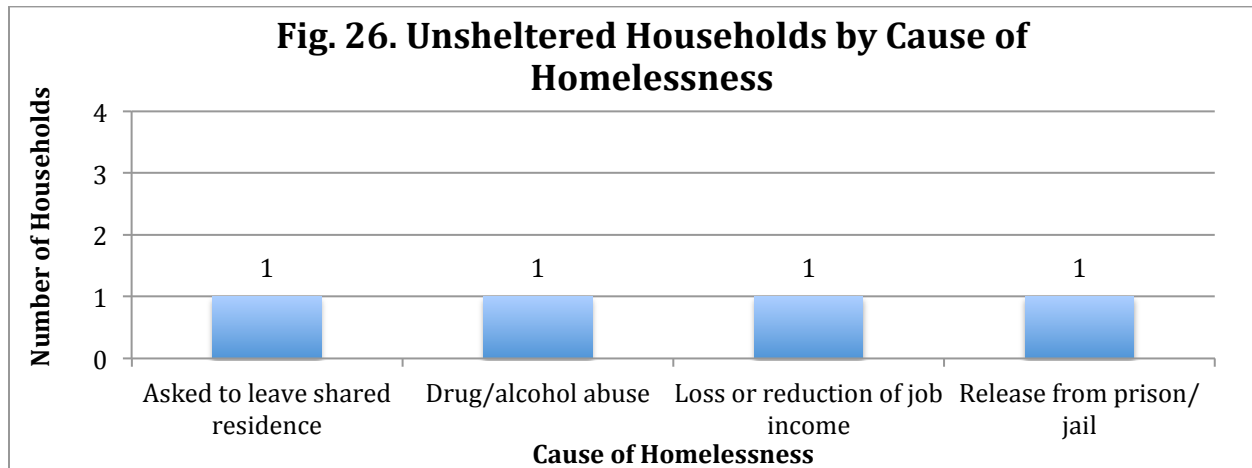
Length of Homelessness

All unsheltered homeless households reported that their most recent, continuous homeless episode had lasted a different length of time as seen in Figure 25.



Cause of Homelessness

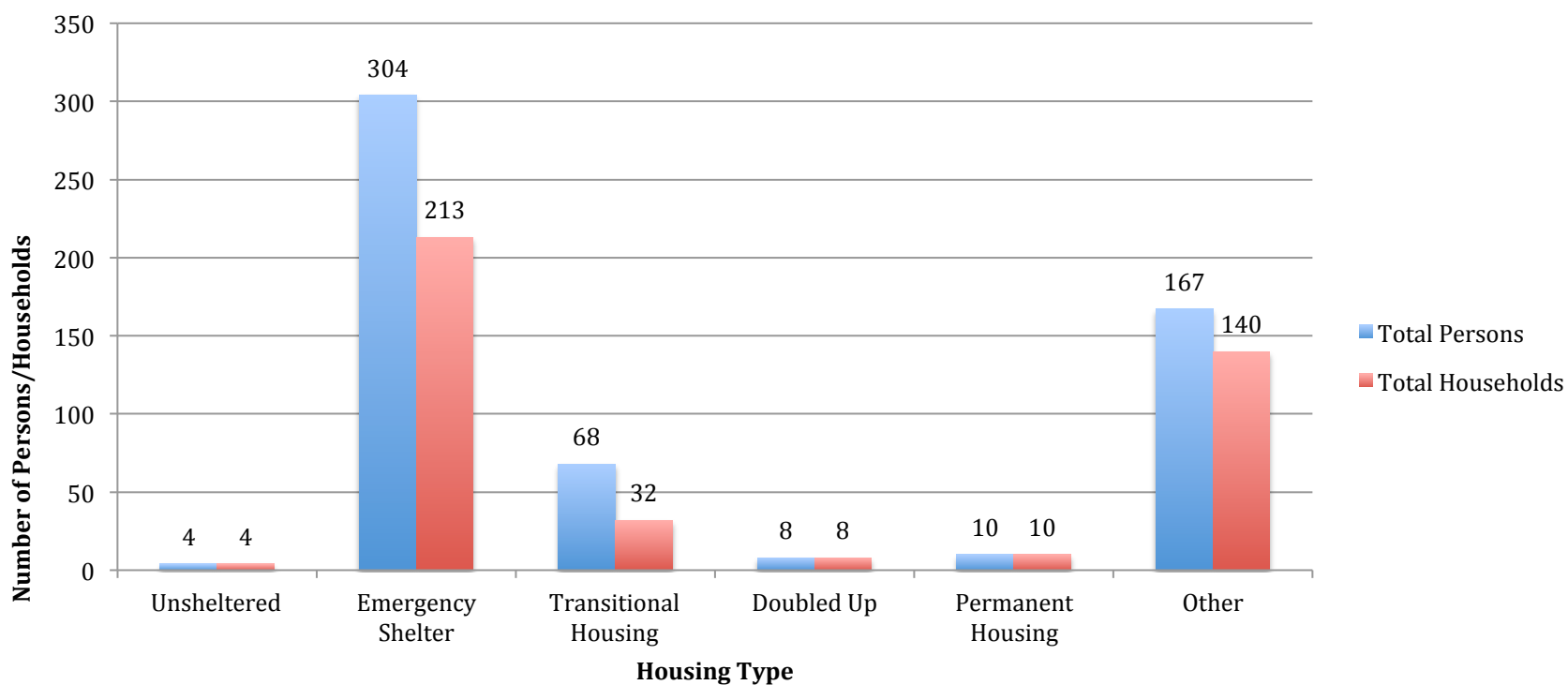
When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, all unsheltered households cited a different factor. As Figure 26 shows, these included being released from prison or jail, being asked to leave a shared residence, drug or alcohol abuse, and a loss or reduction in job income.



VI. Appendix

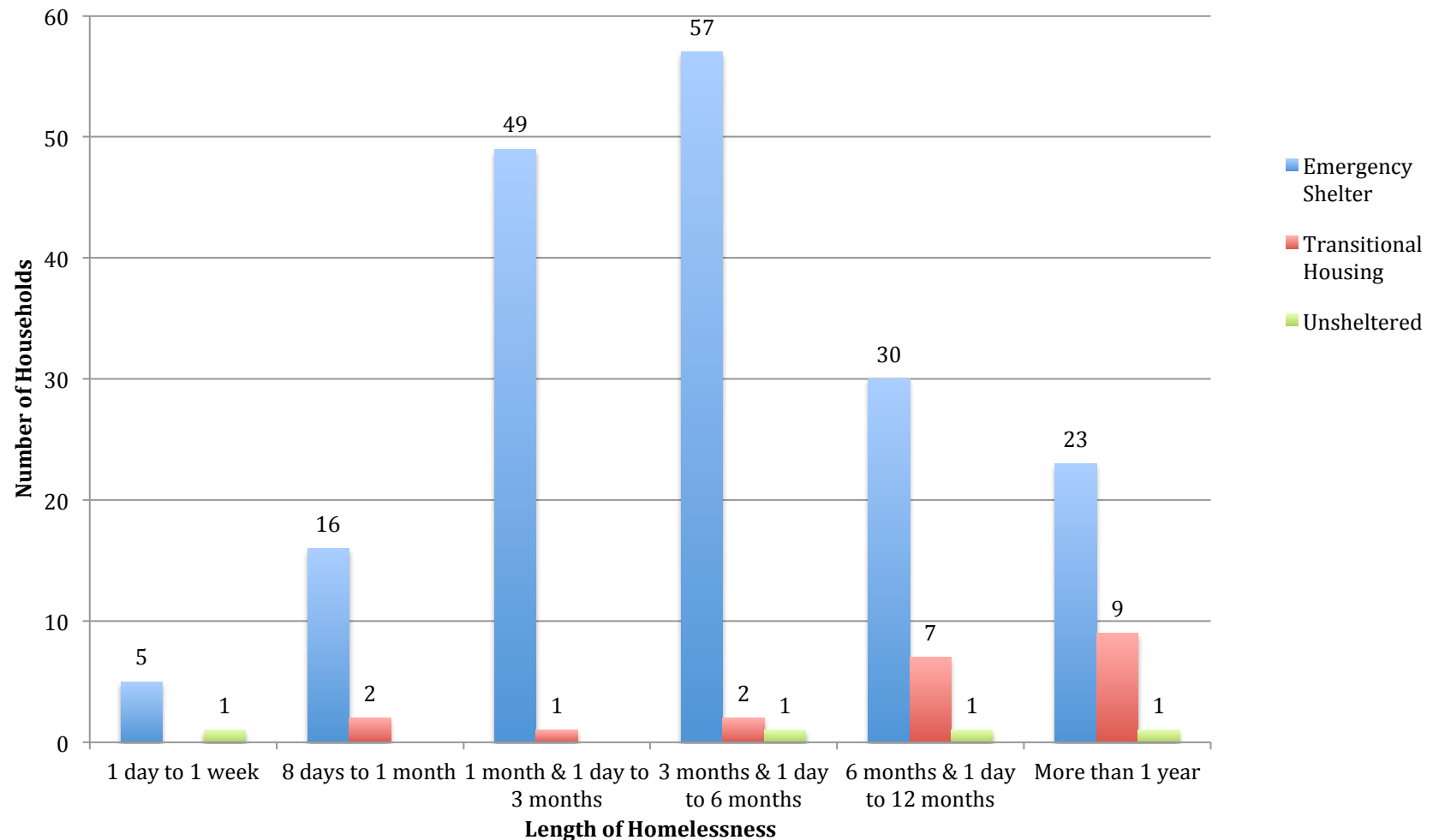
Where did you spend the night of Tuesday, January 28, 2014?

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

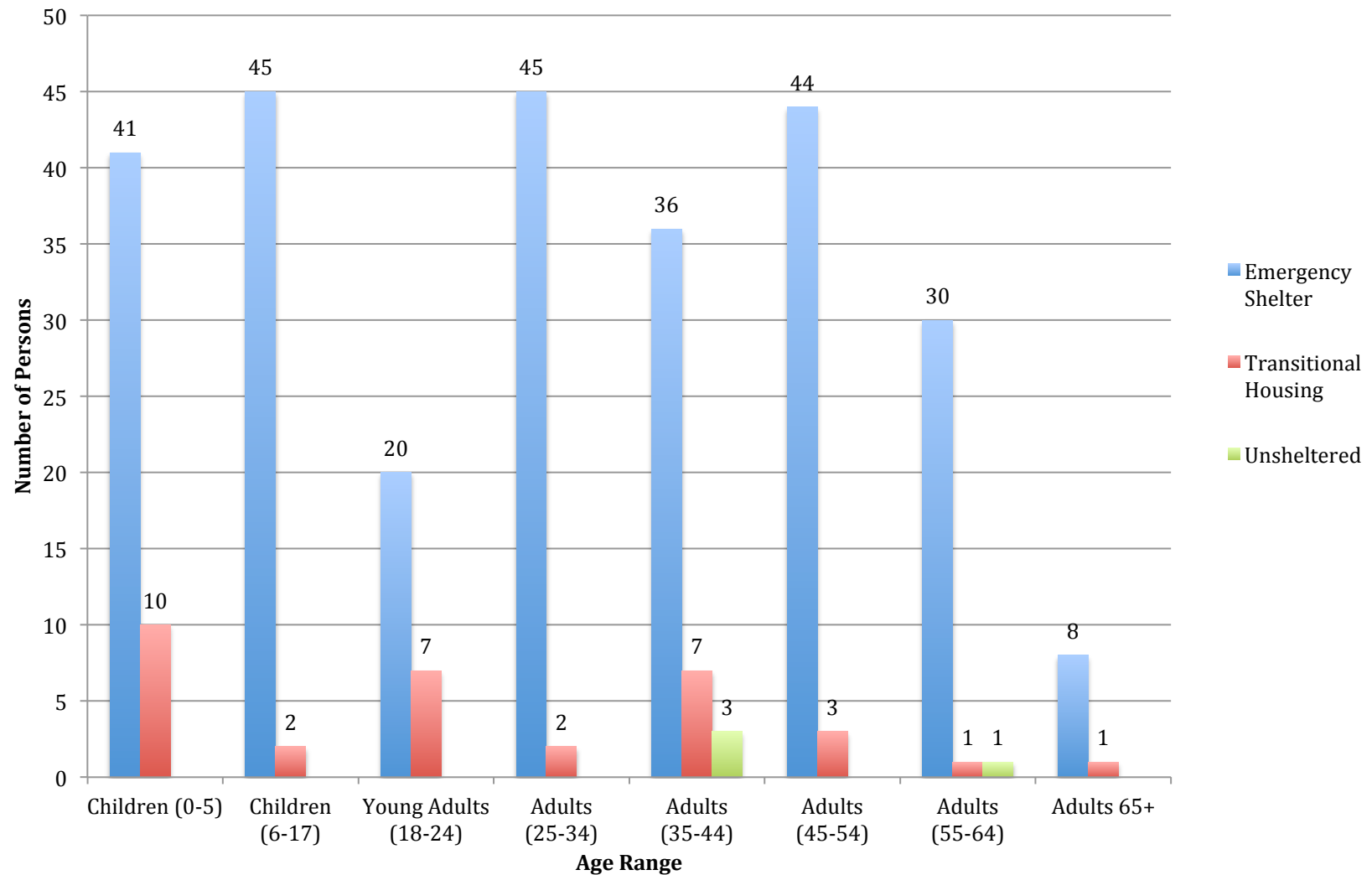


Fig. A.4. Number of Persons by Gender and Housing Situation

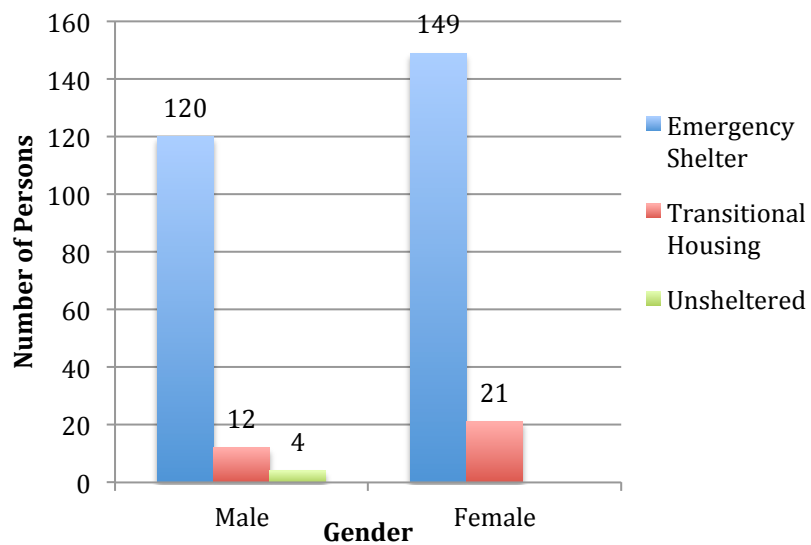


Fig. A.5. Number of Homeless Persons by Race

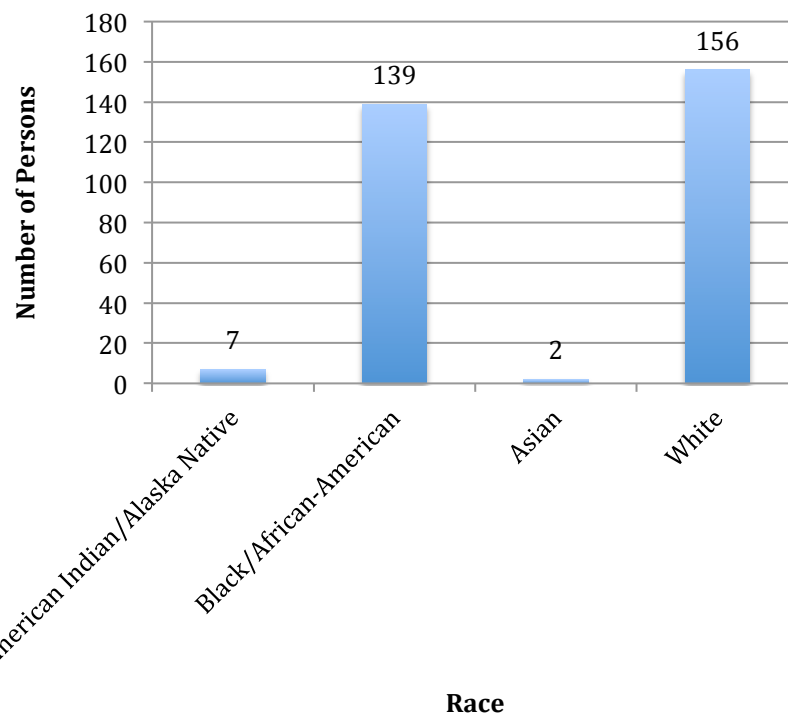
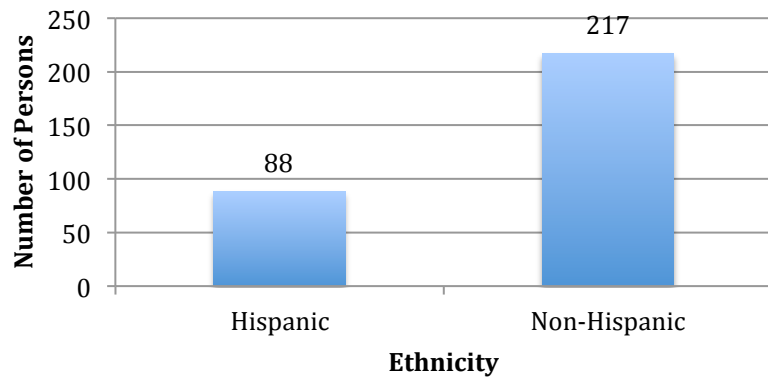
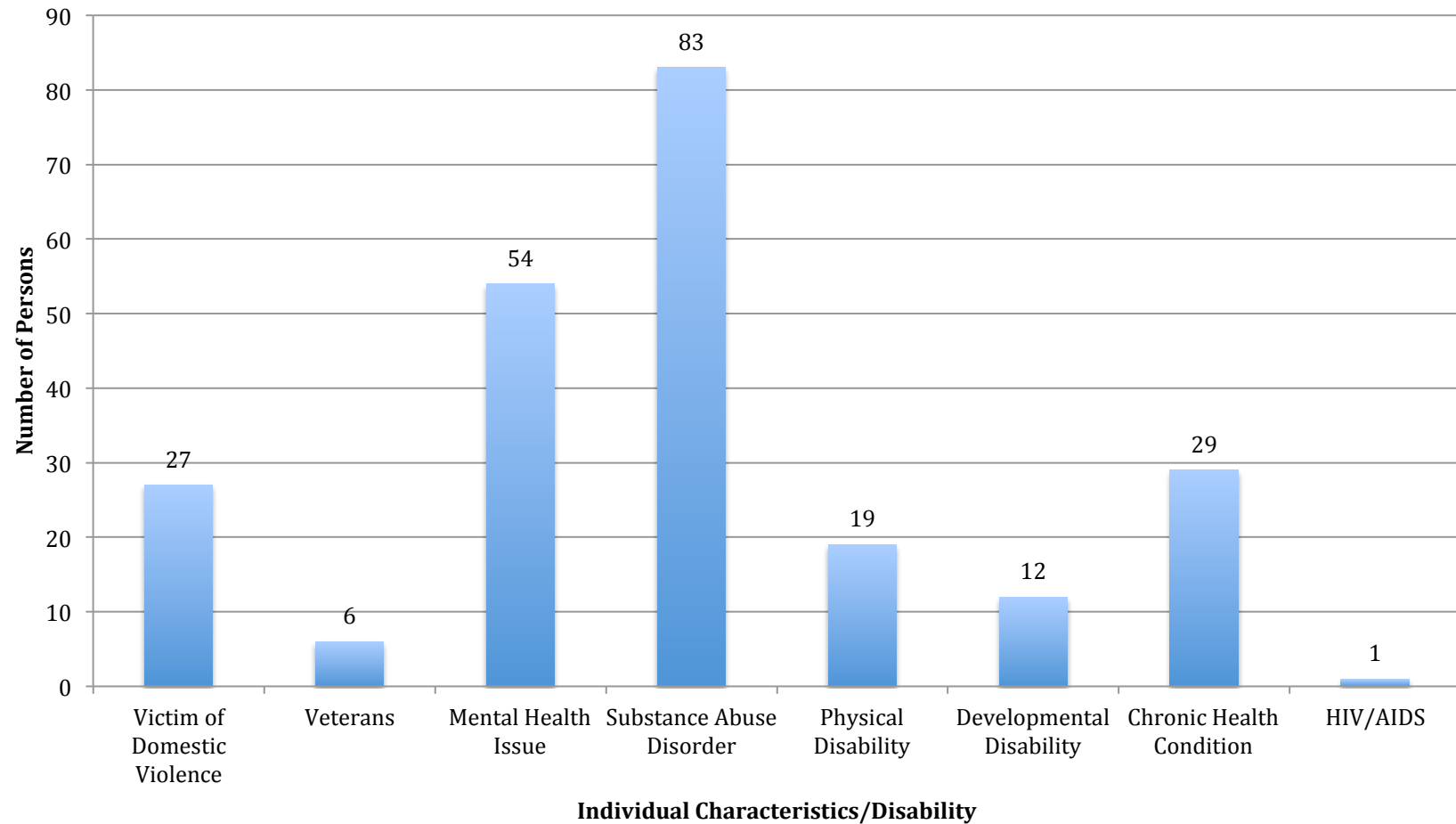


Fig. A.6. Number of Homeless Persons by Ethnicity



Household Characteristics – check all that apply to each person

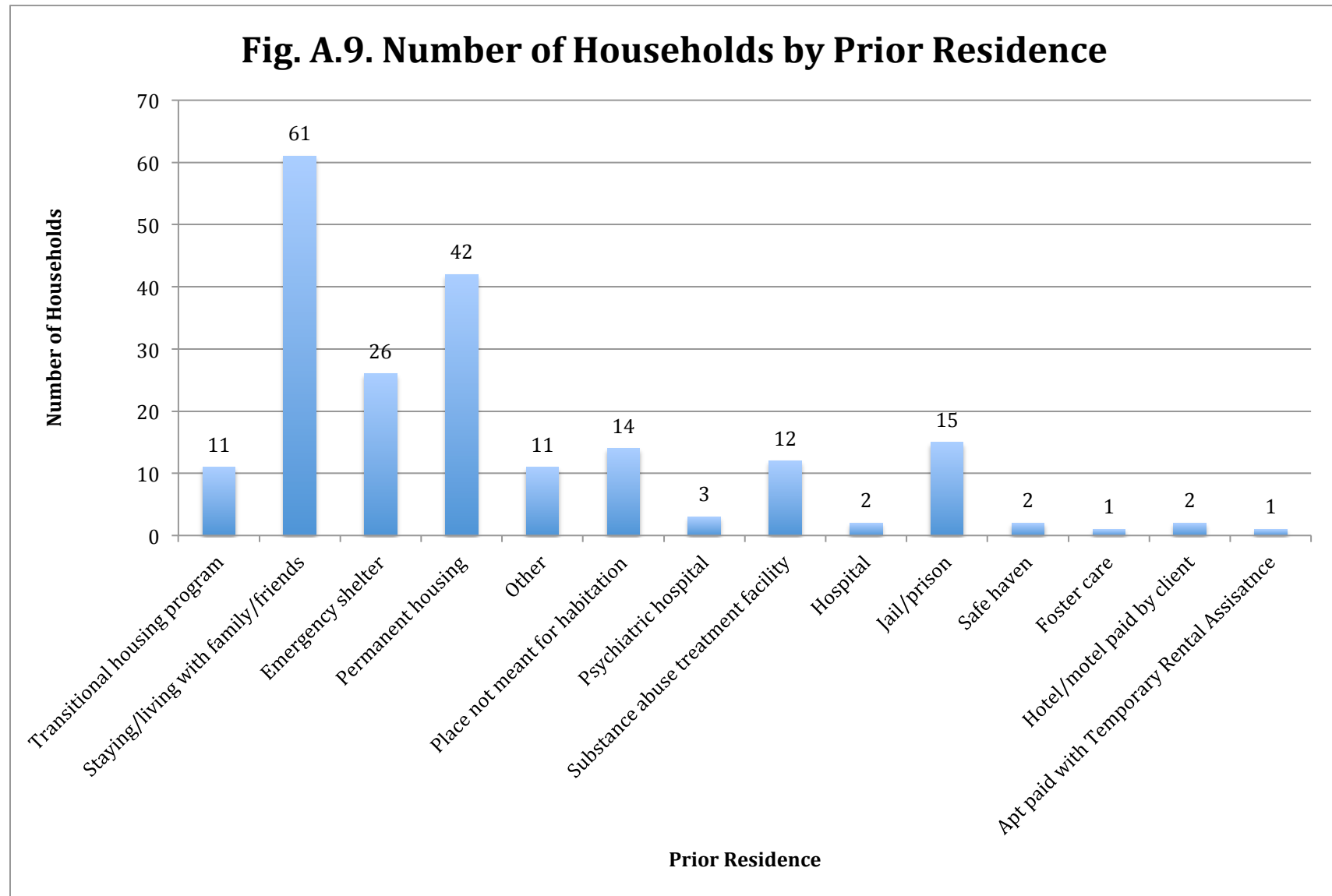
Fig. A.7. Number of Homeless Persons by Victim of Domestic Violence, Veteran Status, and Disability



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
Atlantic County	1
Bergen County	17
Cumberland County	1
Essex County	3
Hudson County	3
Hunterdon County	1
Middlesex County	17
Monmouth County	3
Morris County	4
Passaic County	146
Somerset County	1
Sussex County	2
Union County	3
Warren County	2

What was your residence prior to your current living situation?



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

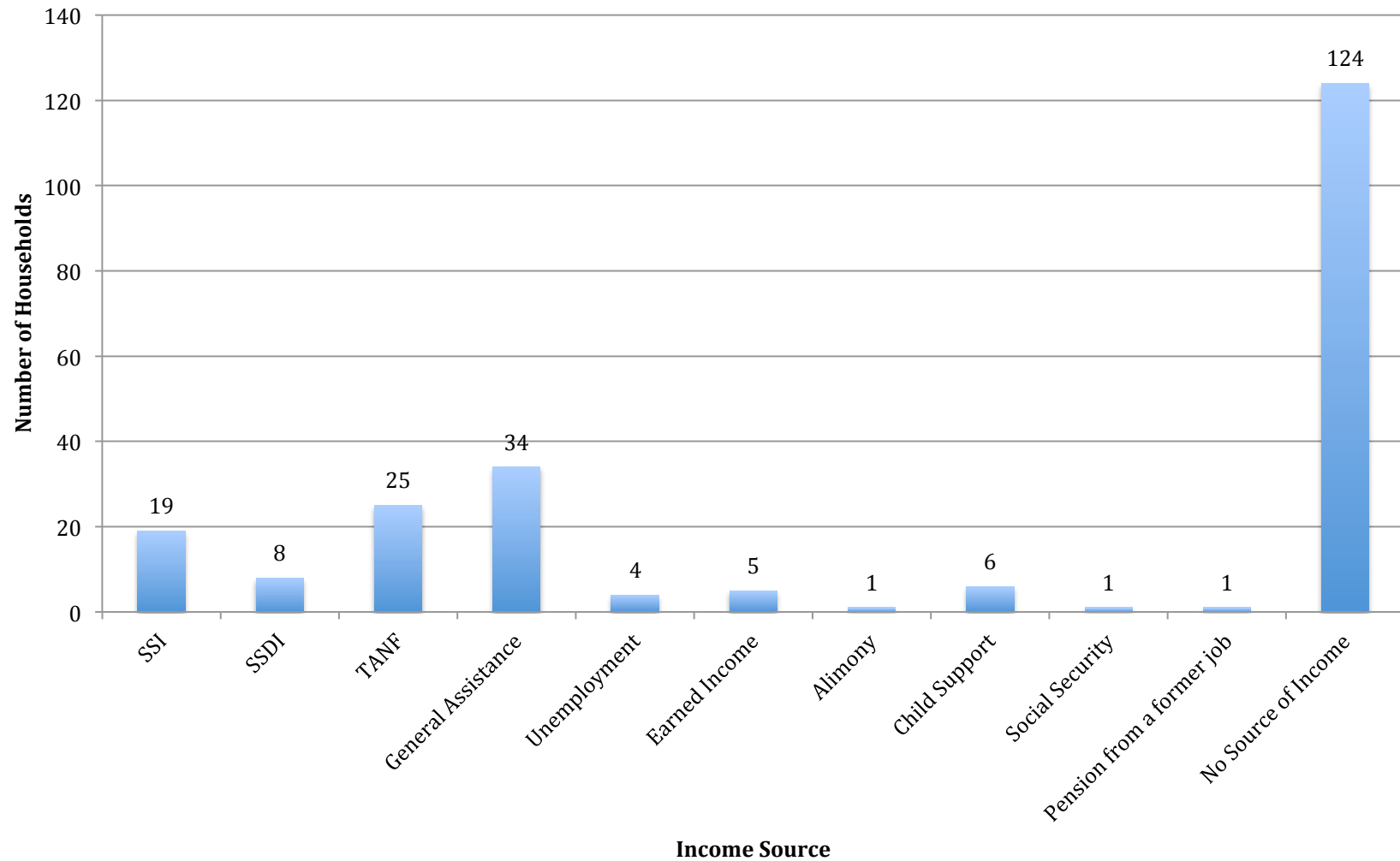
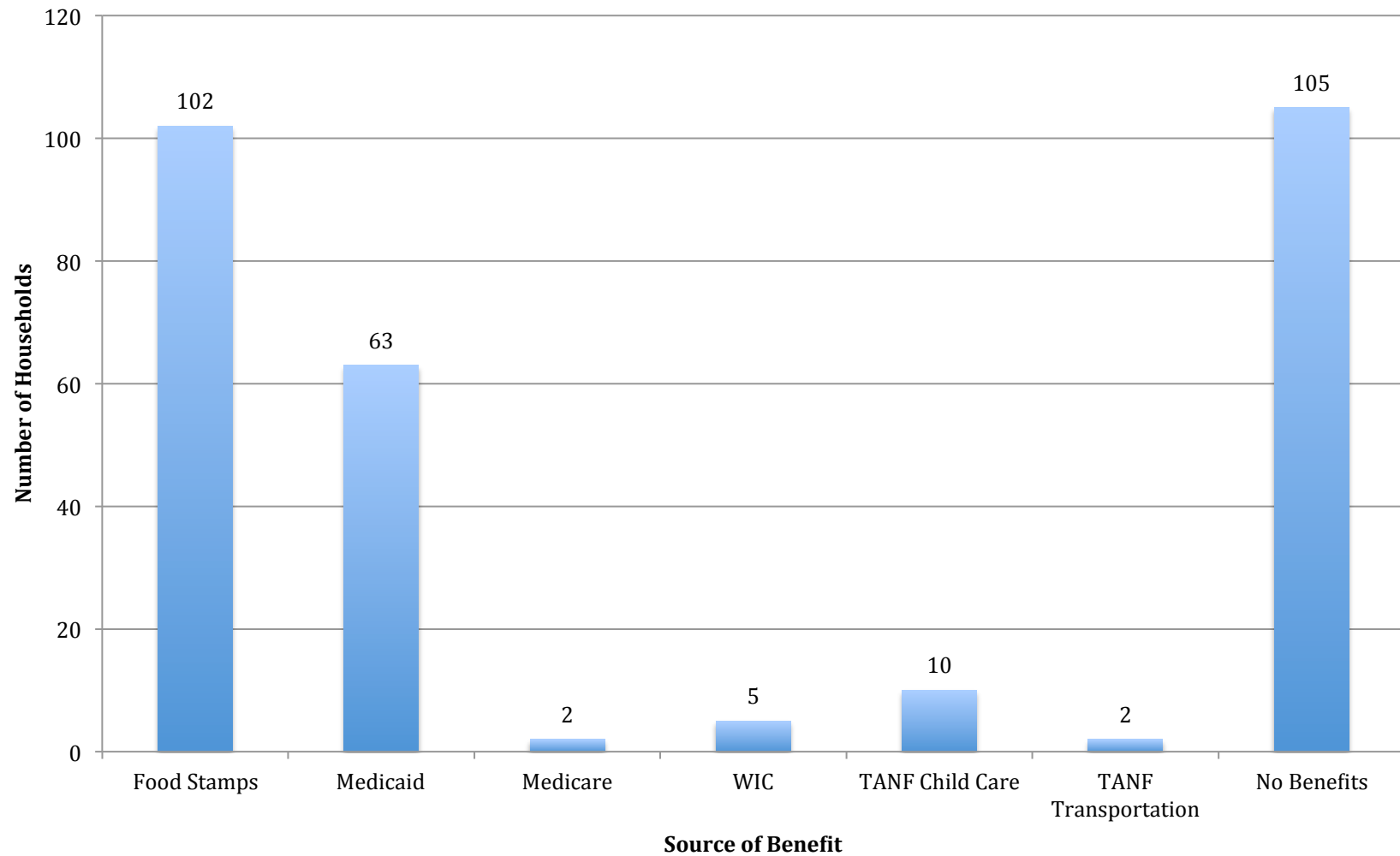
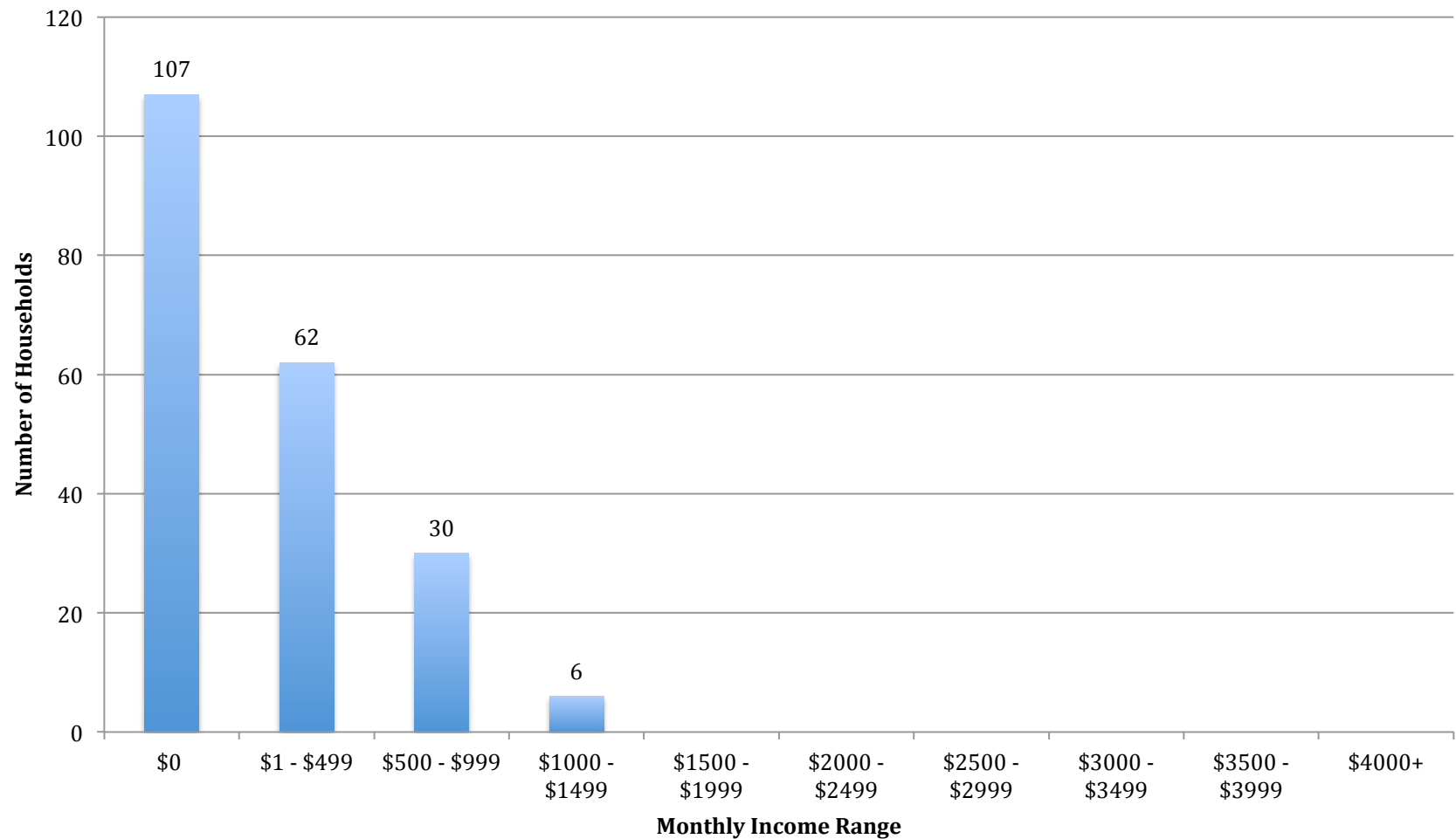


Fig. A. 11. Number of Households by Sources of Non-Cash Benefits



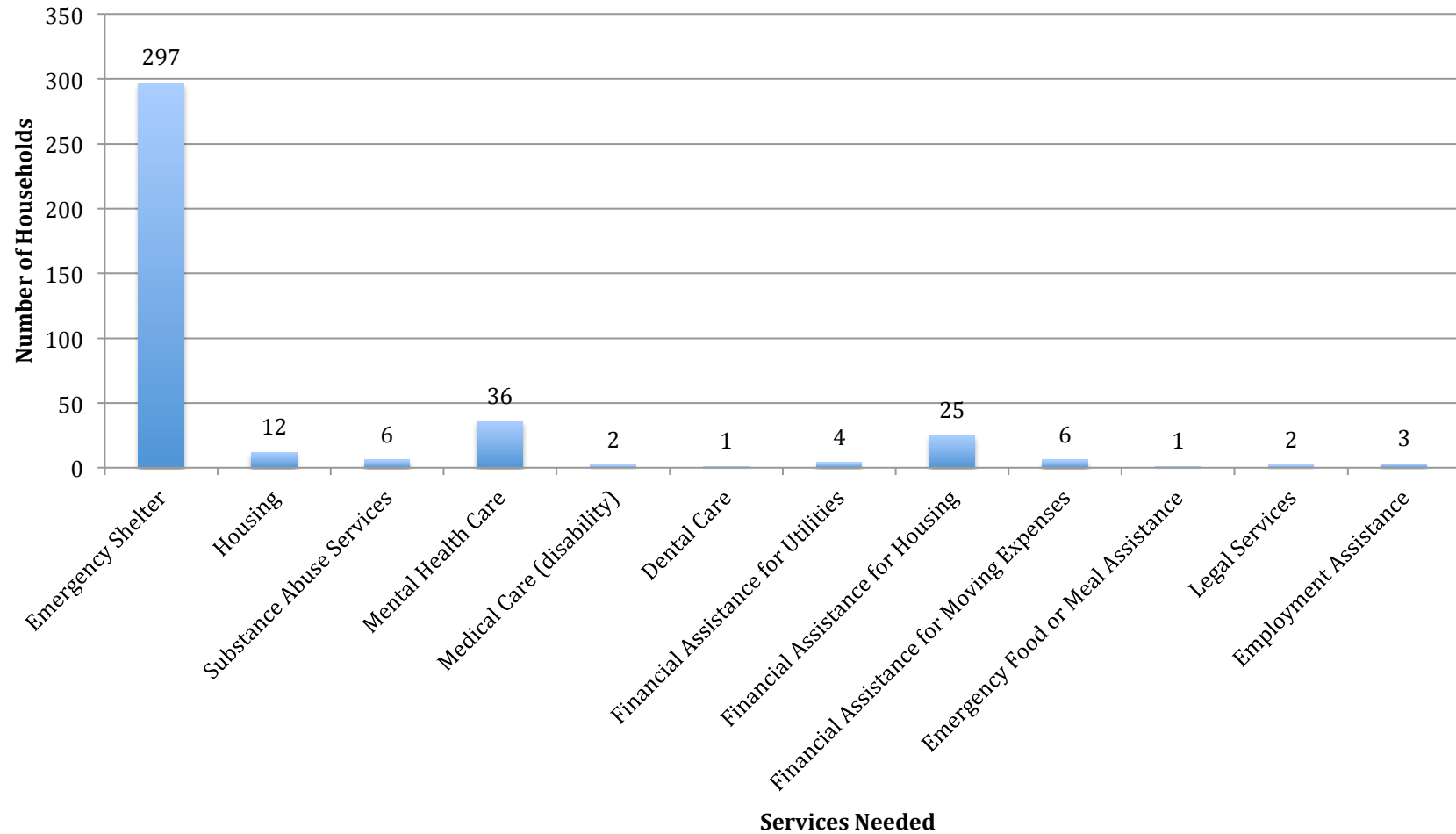
What is your monthly household income?

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



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?

