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Warren 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

NI 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 Warren 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 deduplication 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 183 households, including 332 persons, were experiencing homelessness in Warren County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 16 households, with 18 persons, were identified as chronically homeless.
- 8 unsheltered homeless persons were counted, 7 adults and 1 youth.

Total Homeless Population

On the night of January 28th, 2014, a total of 332 persons, in 183 households, were experiencing homelessness in Warren County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 204 persons (159%) and 100 households (120%) from 2013. Warren County had 2% of New Jersey's statewide homeless population in 2014.

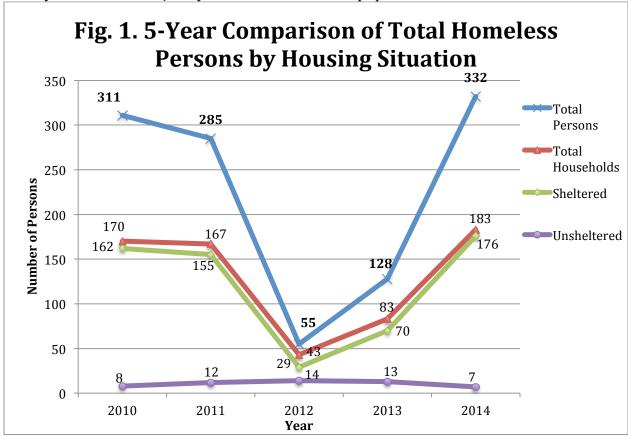


Figure 1 shows that, in 2014, 176 homeless households were sheltered and 7 were living unsheltered on the night of the count. The total number of those counted as sheltered was an increase of 106 persons (151%) from 2013. However, there were 6 (46%) fewer living unsheltered.

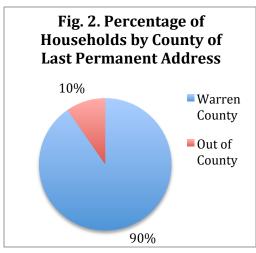


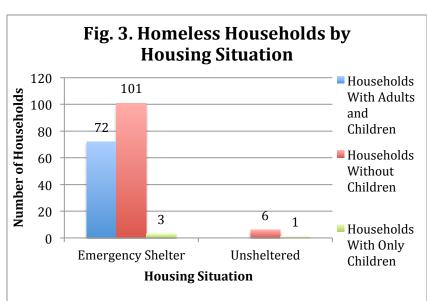
Figure 1 also shows that, over the past five years, the total number of homeless persons has been fluctuating in Warren County, with the highest count in 2014 (332). One major factor contributing to 2014's high count is a change in methodology for this year's point-in-time count, which counts temporary rental assistance from the Board of Social Services as emergency shelter as opposed to past counts where it was not included. As Figure 2 shows, 10% of homeless households in Warren County reported that their last permanent address prior to becoming homeless was outside the county.

Over the five-year period from 2010 to 2014, the number of homeless persons plunged downward until 2012, and went back up in 2013 and 2014, with a net increase of 6.7% over five years. The number of persons who were unsheltered trended inversely, up from 2010 to 2012, and back down in 2013 and 2014, with a net decrease of 12.5%. The number of sheltered homeless persons followed the overall population trend over 5 years; up 7.6%.

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 183 homeless households counted in Warren County in 2014, 72 (39.3%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. These families included 202 117 children persons. under age 18, and 85 adults. The average family size was 2.8 persons. Figure 3 shows that all 72 families were staving emergency in shelters on the night of the count.

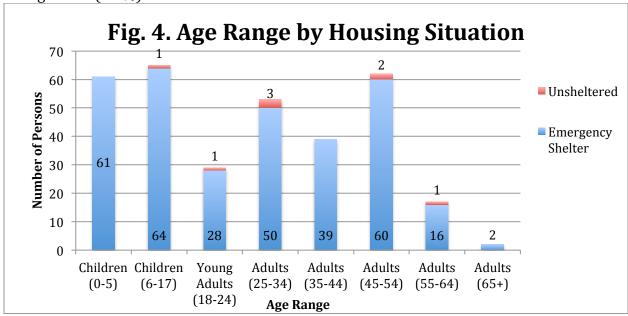


58.5% (107) of the homeless households counted in Warren County were households without children under 18, and they were composed of 118 adult individuals. 101 (94.4%) of these adult-only households were staying in emergency shelters and 6 (5.6%) were unsheltered.

As Figure 3 indicates, there were 4 youth only households reported in 2014. 2 of these households were one-child households, and 2 were multi-child households, totaling 12 unaccompanied youth. 3 youth-only households were staying in emergency shelters, and 1 was unsheltered on the night of the count.

Demographics

The majority (173 persons, 52.1%) of those experiencing homelessness in Warren County on the night of the count were adults over age 24. There were a total of 29 (8.7%) homeless young adults between 18 and 24 years old, and 126 (38%) children under 18 years old as well. Figure 4 shows that the small majority of homeless children who were under the age of 18 were between 6 and 17 years of age (65, 51.6%). This is also the age range most represented, with 19.6% of the total homeless population. There were only 2 persons over the age of 65 (0.6%).

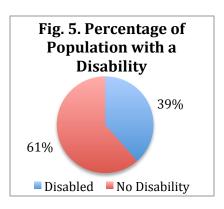


56% (183) of homeless respondents were female, 43.7% (186) were male, and 0.3% were transgendered.

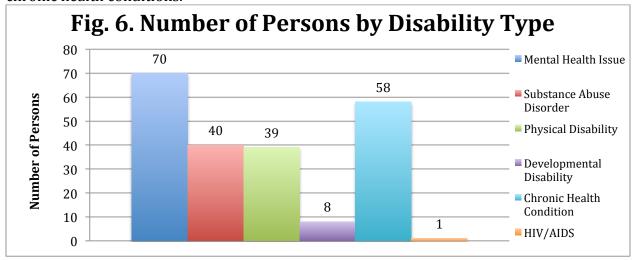
79.2% of respondents identified their race as White, making that the largest racial subgroup of homeless persons reported. The second largest group self-identified as Black or African American (16.6%), followed by those identifying as Multi-Racial (2.7%). With regard to ethnicity, 12.4% of respondents identified themselves as Hispanic.

Disabilities

Figure 5 illustrates that 39% of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. 58.9% of adults 18 or older reported some type of disability compared to 7.1% of children. Figure 6 shows the number of the homeless persons that identified as having various disabilities. The most prevalent disabilities were mental health issues and chronic health conditions.

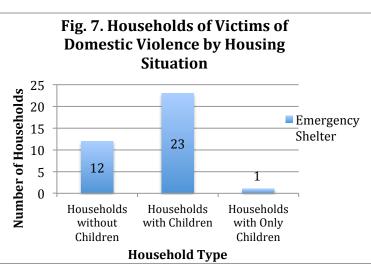


Among disabled adults, 51.5% reported mental health issues making this the most prevalent disability; representing 32.7% of the total adult homeless population. 42.2% of disabled adults reported a chronic health condition. Among disabled homeless children, 44.4% reported each of the following: developmental disabilities, mental health issues, and chronic health conditions.



Victims of Domestic Violence

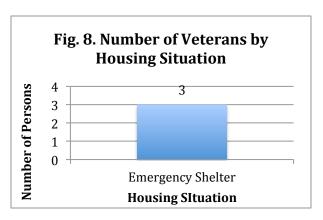
On the night of the count, in Warren County, 36 homeless households reported having a victim of domestic violence. Figure 7 shows that the majority (63.9%) of these households were families with at least 1 adult and 1 child under the age of 18. 12 (33.3%) adult-only, individual households were counted. 1 unaccompanied homeless youth household also

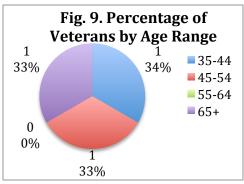


reported as a victim. 6 adult individuals and 1 family were in domestic violence shelters, while 78.7% of all victim households were in other emergency shelters.

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.





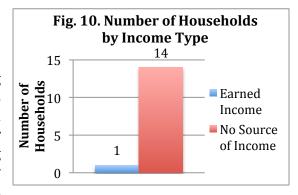
3 homeless veterans were counted on the night of the count. All were single adult individuals and all were in emergency shelters.

Veterans experiencing homelessness in Warren County were all male, and all of them identified their race as White. Figure 9 Illustrates the percentage of homeless veterans by age range.

1 veteran (33.3%) reported having disabilities. Cited among these were chronic health conditions physical disabilities, and mental health issues. The services that homeless veterans sought most were emergency shelter (33.3%), financial assistance for housing (33.3%), financial assistance for utilities (33.3%), and employment assistance (33.3%).

Income and Benefits

Among all households experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, 7.6% had no source of income, and 0.5% reported receiving some earned cash income. The four most common sources of cash income among homeless respondents were Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)(42%),



General Assistance (GA)(33.3%), and SSI (8.7%). Figure 11 shows the average monthly income for all households.

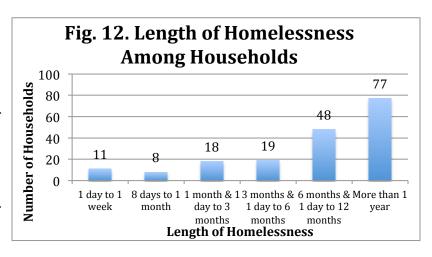
Figure 11. Average Monthly Income For Households by Housing Situation			
	Emergency Shelter	Unsheltered	
Average for All Households	\$344.01	\$335.00	

6% of respondents reported that their household was 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 86.3% of households. 84.1% were receiving Medicaid, and 43.7% were receiving temporary rental assistance.

Length of Homelessness

Figure 12 shows the range lengths of homeless episodes experienced on the night of the count by respondents in Warren County. households (42.1%) reported that their most recent. continuous episode of homelessness had lasted more than 1 year. 26.2% (48)

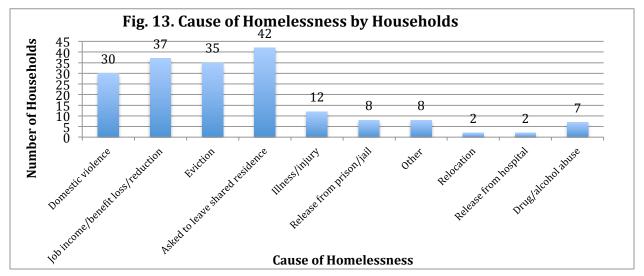


had been homeless between 6 and 12 months. This means that 68.3% of all homeless households in Warren County reported that they had been homeless for more than 6 months.

Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households identified being asked to leave a shared residence (42 households, 23%) than any other cause. As Figure 13 shows, other common factors were loss or reduction of job income or benefits (20.2%), eviction (19.1%), and domestic violence (16.4%).

When homeless respondents were asked 'what was your residence prior to your current living situation?' more said they were in permanent housing than any other type of residence (37.7%). Another 25.7% reported staying or living with friends or family.



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

16 households, made up of 18 total persons, were chronically homeless in Warren County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 7 persons (63.6%) from 2013. The rate of chronic homelessness as a percentage of overall homelessness was down to 5.4% from 8.6% in 2013.

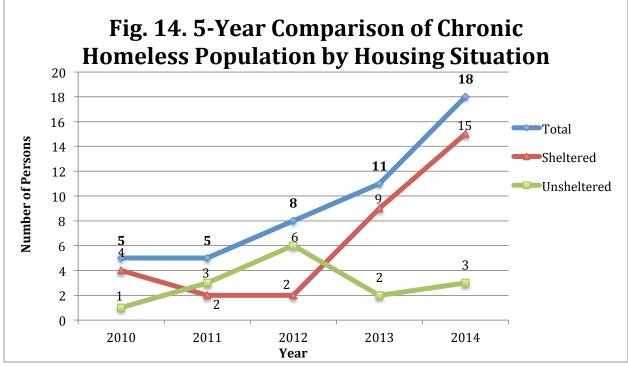
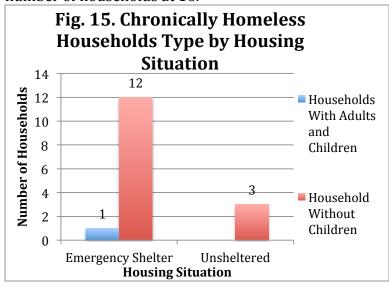


Figure 14 shows the number of chronically homeless respondents who were in emergency shelter or living unsheltered in Warren County from 2010 to 2014. Over the past five years, the overall number of chronically homeless persons has risen by 13 persons, or 160%. The number of unsheltered chronically homeless has gone down by 2 (200%).

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, or any youth in youth-only households. Therefore, the analysis below includes 1 additional individual who was part of an adult-only couple, bringing the total number of chronically homeless persons to 19, but keeping the total number of households at 16.



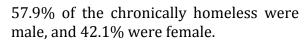
Of the 16 chronically homeless households counted in 2014, only 1 (6.3%) was a family with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. This family included 3 persons, making the average family size 3. This chronically homeless family stayed in an emergency shelter on the night of the count.

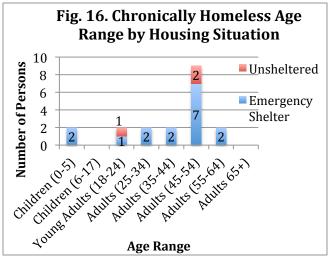
There were 16 chronically homeless persons in 15 households with no children 17 or younger counted in Warren

County, making up 84.2% of the chronically homeless population. There were 13 (68.4%) of these individuals in emergency shelters. 3 (31.6%) of these chronically homeless individuals were unsheltered on the night of the count.

Demographics

Of the 19 total chronically homeless persons, 2 (10.5%) were between 18 and 24 years old, and 2 (10.5%) were children under 5 years old. As shown in Figure 16, the age range with the highest concentration of chronically homeless persons was adults between 45 and 54 years old, which had 9 persons (47.4%).

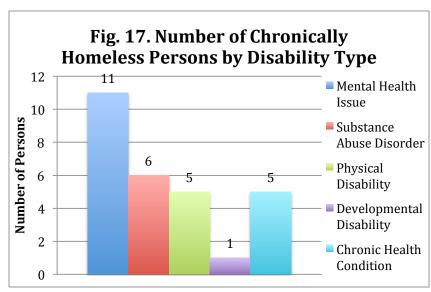




The largest racial subgroup of homeless persons reported their race as White (89.5%).

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 (57.9%) and substance abuse disorders (31.6%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the chronically



homeless can be seen in Figure 17.

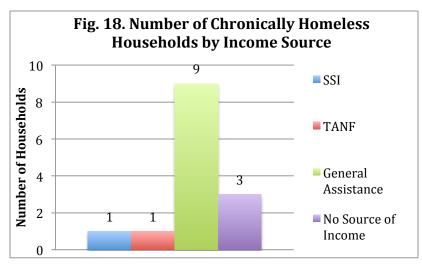
Subpopulations

On the night of the count, no chronically homeless persons in Warren County reported being victims of domestic violence.

There were no chronically homeless veterans identified on the night of the count.

Income and Benefits

Among all the chronically homeless households on the night of the count, 18.7% reported receiving no type of cash income. Figure 18 shows the sources of income received. The most common source of cash income among chronically homeless respondents was General Assistance. which was

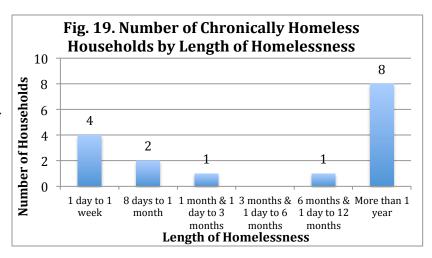


received by 56.3%. No households reported any earned income.

18.7% of chronically homeless households 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 the chronically homeless, with 68.7% of households receiving each benefit.

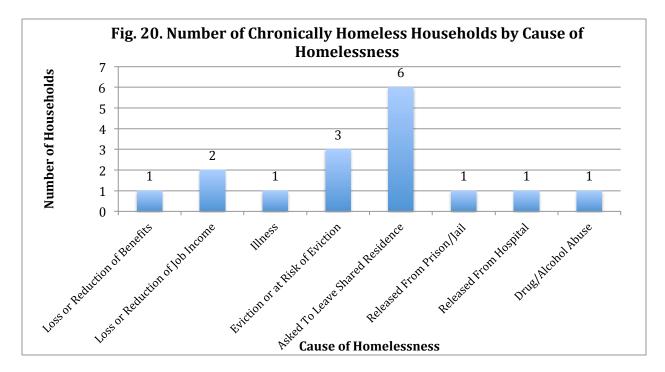
Length of Homelessness

Figure 19 shows that the largest number of chronically homeless households (50%) reported their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted for less than 1 year. 4 households (25%) reported being homeless between 1 day and 1 week.



Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, the largest number (37.5%) of chronically homeless households cited being asked to leave a shared residence.



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

7 households, made up of 8 persons, were living unsheltered in Warren County, according to the 2014 Point-In-Time Count. This is a decrease of 6 households (46.1%) from 2013.

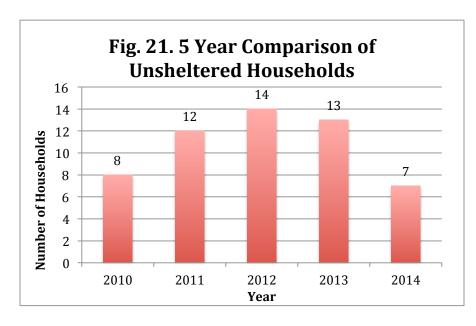


Figure 21 shows the number of unsheltered households from 2010 to 2014. Over the past three years the number of unsheltered households has been decreasing each year. Since 2010, the number of households has dropped 12.5% overall in Warren County.

Families and Individuals

There were no unsheltered families with at least 1 adult and 1 child counted in 2014.

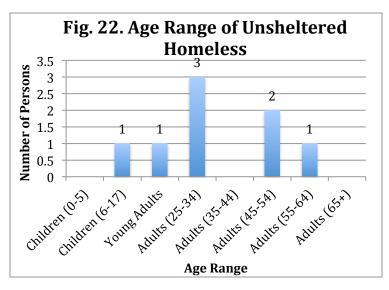
5 of the 8 unsheltered persons counted were part of households with just 1 adult individual. 2 of the 8 comprised 1 adult only household.

1 unsheltered youth-only household was counted, with one unaccompanied youth.

Demographics

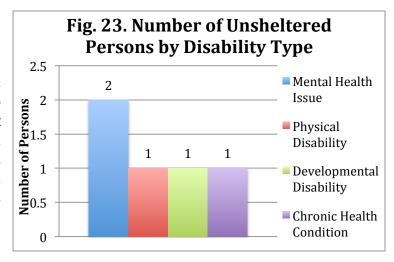
The largest portion of the 8 unsheltered persons counted in 2014, 37.5%, was between 25 and 34 years old. 25% were between 45 and 54. Only 1 (12.5%) was a child under the age of 18.

7 of the 8 unsheltered persons were male (87.5%). 7 (87.5%) also identified their race as White and 1 (12.5%) identified as Black or African-American. All 8 of the unsheltered respondents identified as Non-Hispanic.



Disabilities

3 of 8 unsheltered persons (37.5%) reported having some disability. The disability most commonly identified was mental health issues (2 persons, 25%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the unsheltered can be seen in Figure 23.



Subpopulations

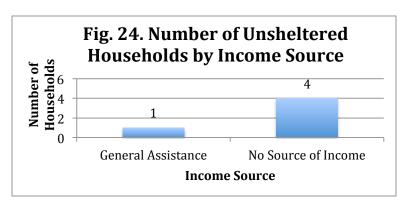
On the night of the count, 0 unsheltered homeless persons in Warren County reported being victims of domestic violence

There were no unsheltered veterans on the night of the count.

Income and Benefits

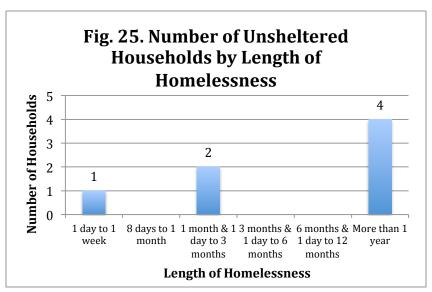
Among all the unsheltered respondent households on the night of the count, 4 (57.1%) reported having no source of cash income. The average monthly income reported among unsheltered households was approximately \$335. 14.2% of unsheltered households received General Assistance (GA), making it the most common source of cash income. Figure 24 shows the sources of income reported.

4 unsheltered households (57.1%) reported they were not receiving any type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps (SNAP) and was the top reported non-cash benefits among this group, with 28.6% receiving this benefit. In addition, 14.3% were receiving Medicaid.



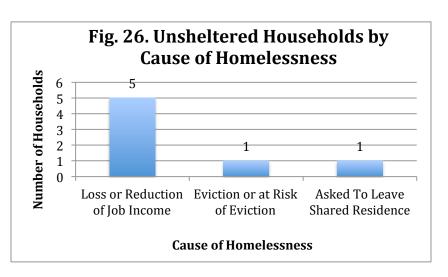
Length of Homelessness

As shown in Figure 25, more unsheltered homeless respondents (4, 57.1%) reported their households' most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted more than 1 year than any other length of time. 28.6% of households reported being homeless between 1 month and 1 day and 3 months.



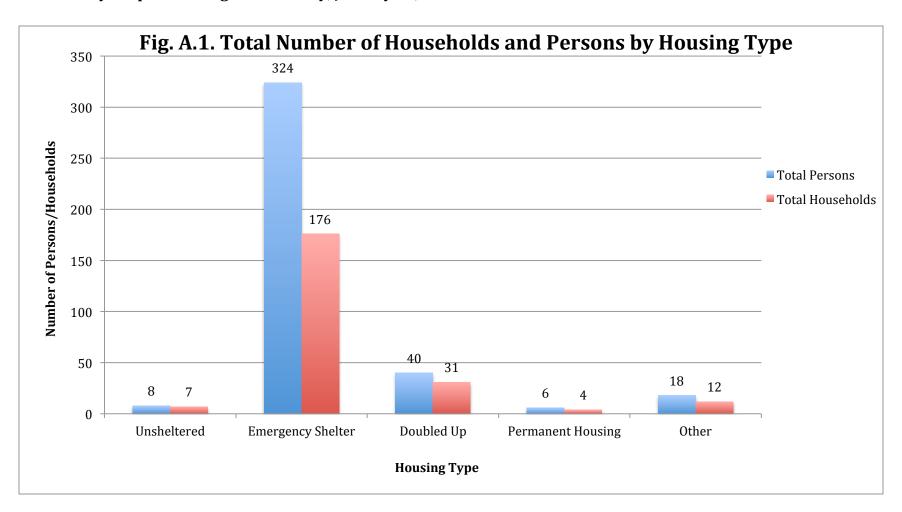
Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more unsheltered households said loss or reduction of job income (71.4%) than any other factor. Figure 26 shows the other factors cited were eviction and being asked to leave a shared residence.

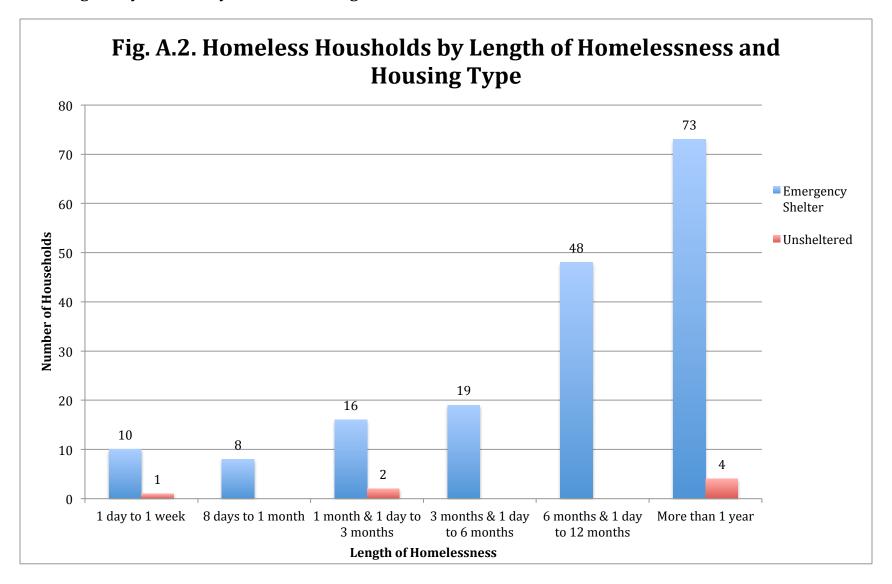


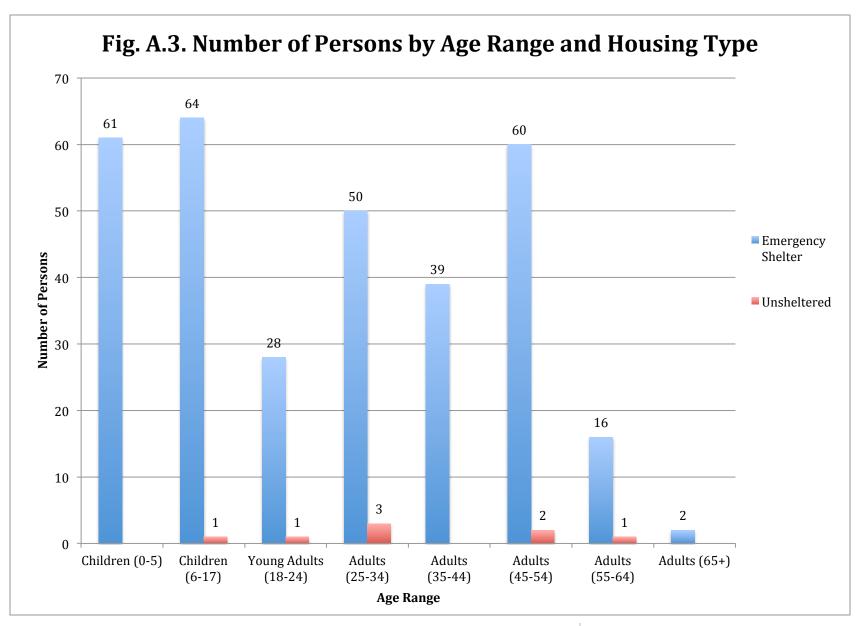
VI. Appendix

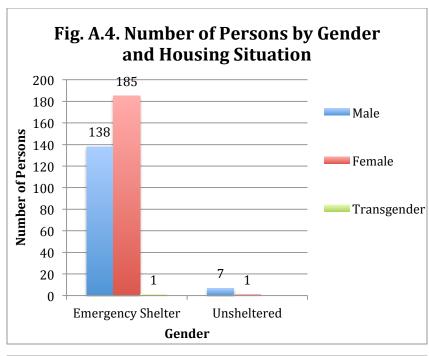
Where did you spend the night of Tuesday, January 28, 2014?

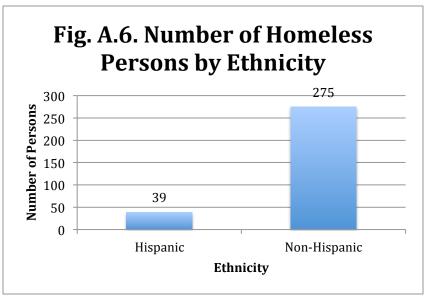


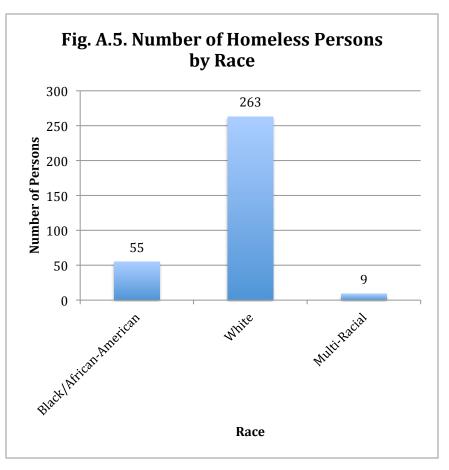
How long have you been in your current living situation?

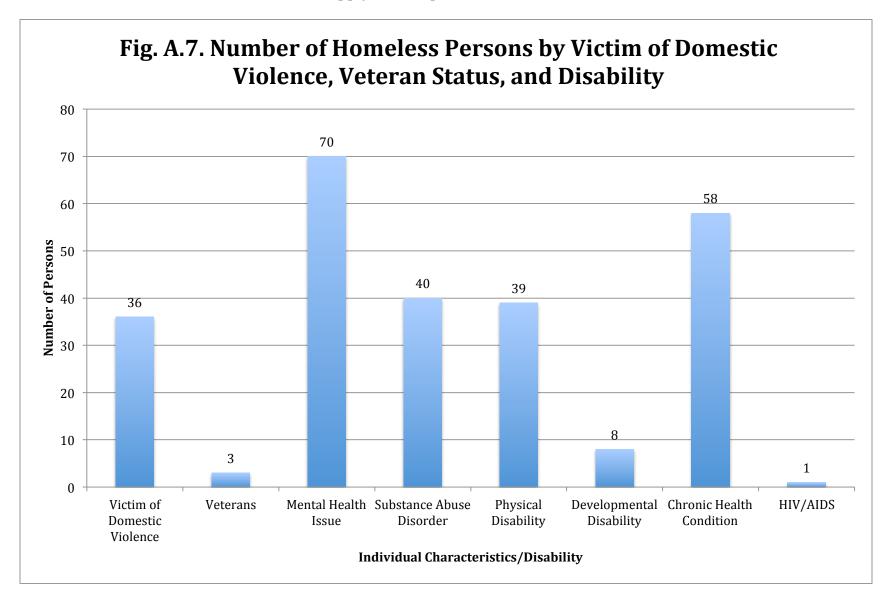








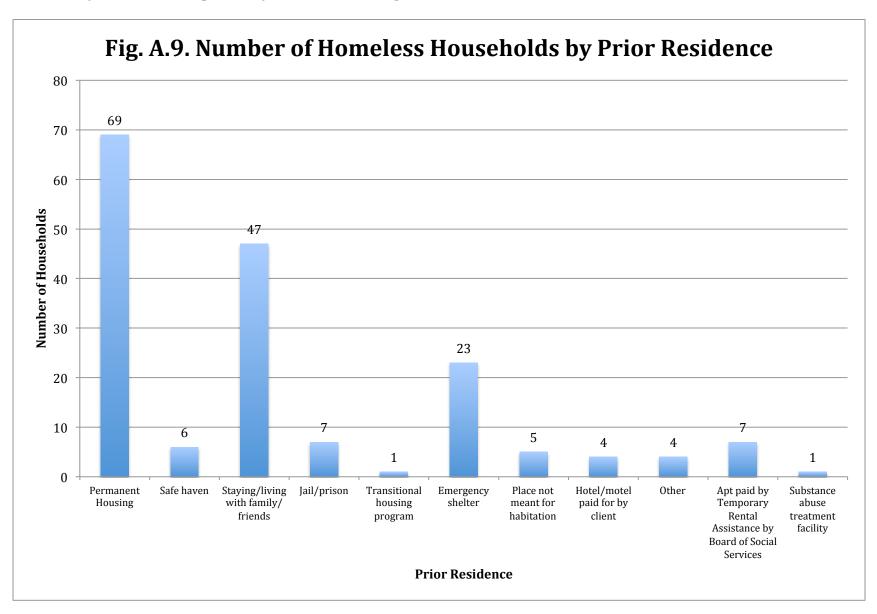




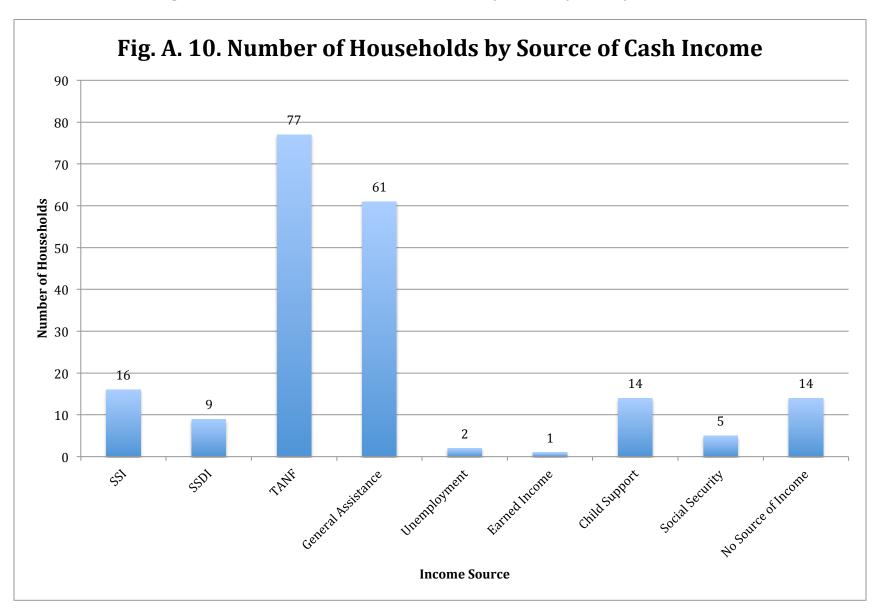
Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?

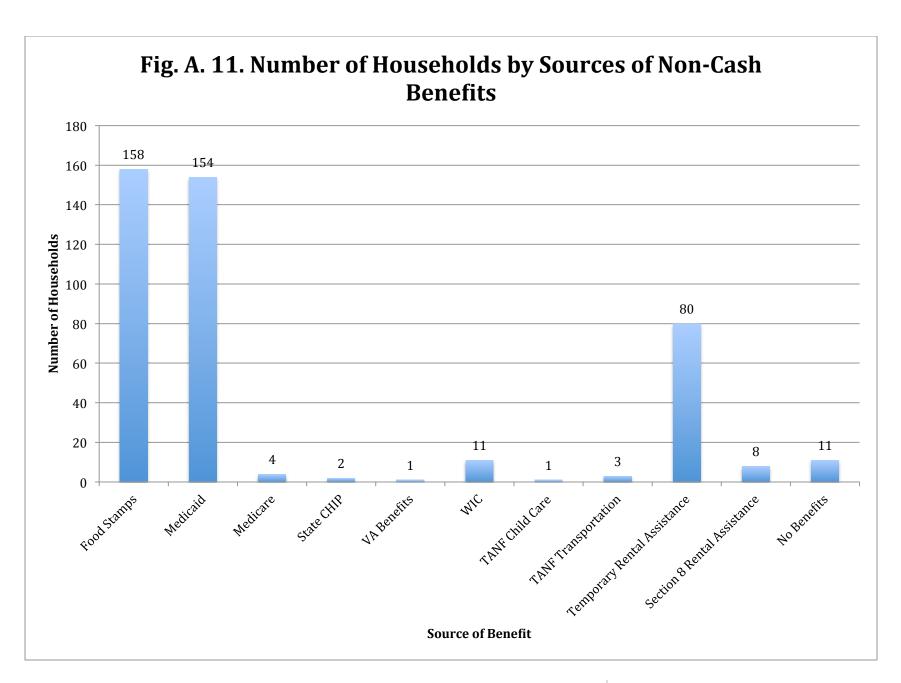
Fig. A.8. Number of Households by County or State of Last Permanent Address		
Last Permanent Address -	Number of Households	
County/State		
Hudson County	1	
Hunterdon County	4	
Mercer County	1	
Nevada	1	
New York	1	
Oklahoma	1	
Passaic County	2	
Pennsylvania	5	
Union County	1	
Warren County	159	

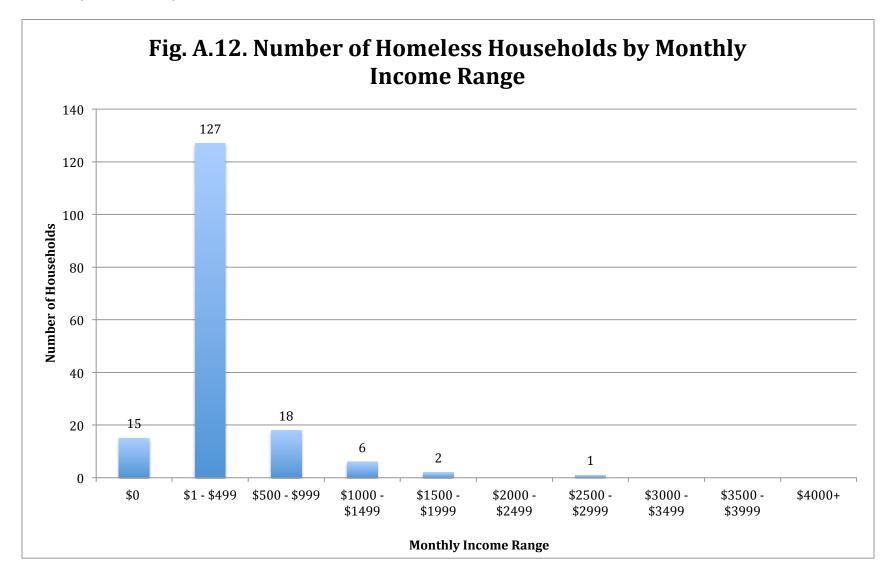
What was your residence prior to your current living situation?



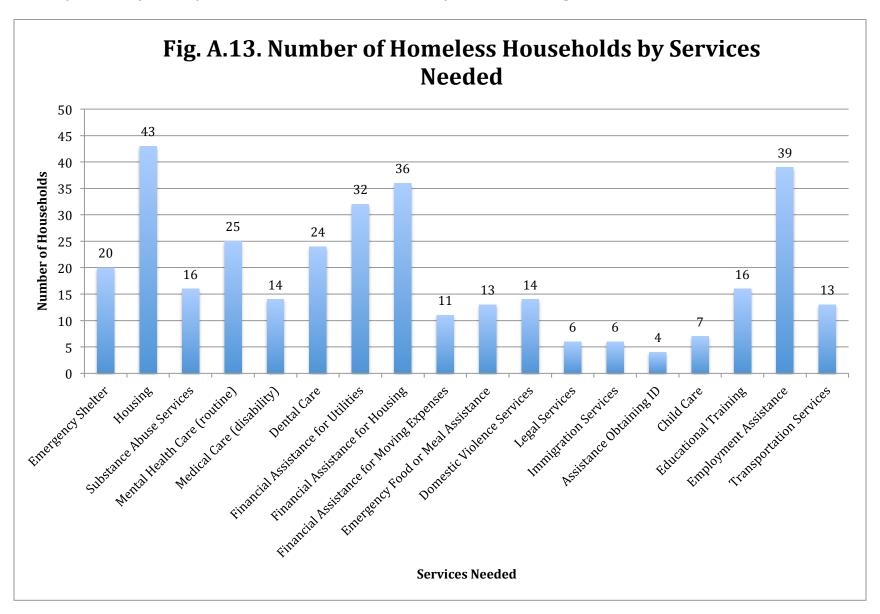
Which of the following sources of income or non-cash benefits do you, or anyone in your household, receive?







Would you, or anyone in your household, like to receive any of the following services?



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

