NJHMFA
HOUSING & MORTGAGE FINANCE AGENCY

NJ
COUNTS

OCEAN COUNTY
Point-in-Time Count of the Homeless
January 24, 2023

monarch
HOUSING ASSOCIATES

Acknowledgements

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I. Introduction

NJ Counts 2023

NJ Counts 2023, New Jersey's annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Count of the Homeless, provides a statewide snapshot of households experiencing homelessness in our communities; where they find shelter, what their needs are, and what factors contribute to making them homeless. The 2023 Count reveals important demographic and other information about families and individuals experiencing homelessness on the night of Tuesday, January 24, 2023. These findings help stakeholders understand how to better allocate housing resources and services in order to prevent and end homelessness.

This Report

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

The findings in this report are presented in the following sections:
1. Racial Disparities among the Total Homeless Population;
2. Total Homeless Population;
3. Subpopulations
   a. Unsheltered
   b. Chronically Homeless
   c. Veterans
   d. Victims of Domestic Violence
   e. Youth

In addition to the main findings presented in the body of this report, Appendix B includes charts illustrating the responses to all survey questions that were part of the 2023 Point-In-Time Count. Appendix A contains information on data collection and methodology.

Definition of Terms

Household – "any group of persons who, if they were able to attain permanent housing, would choose to live together; and, shared the same sleeping arrangements on the night of the count." Three different types of households are discussed below: households with adults and children under 18 ('families'), households without children ('individuals'), and households with only children under 18 ('unaccompanied youth').

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

Emergency Shelter - any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements.

Transitional Housing - a project that is designed to provide housing and appropriate supportive services to homeless persons to facilitate movement to independent living within 24 months.

Safe Haven - a form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who come primarily from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services. Safe Haven programs offer low barriers to program entry and low-demand services and referrals in a 24-hour residential setting to no more than 25 persons.

Changes affecting the 2023 Point-in-Time Count

The 2023 Count represents the first time the identified population experiencing homelessness has been over 10,000 people since 2015. This increase represents a convergence of many system changes.

- The COVID-19 pandemic eviction moratorium was lifted on January 1, 2022. As the court system works its way through the backlog, we are now starting to see those who could not maintain their homes enter the homeless service system.
- New Jersey, like the rest of the nation, is in the midst of a housing crisis. There are not enough homes affordable to those making 30% of the area median income or less. The National Low Income Housing Coalition's Gap Report has identified that within NJ for every 100 households looking for a place to call home, there are only 31 units available to them creating a shortage of 224,531 homes for extremely low-income households.
- The St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank – Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED) highlights that in 2022 NJ had a vacancy rate of 3.7% for rental units, a significant drop from an 11.2% vacancy rate in 2012.

In Fall 2022, Monarch Housing Associates engaged the Statewide Advisory Board of Persons with Lived Experience of Homelessness to restructure the Point-In-Time Count to be dignity-centered. This provided invaluable insight and reshaped the survey to gather the appropriate data while recognizing the humanity of all respondents. Additionally, the Advisory Board provided a motivational interviewing training to all interviewers. The involvement of the Advisory Board improved data collection and centered the experience of persons who are homeless.

When reviewing data included in this report, it is important to keep in mind that the Point-in-Time data includes a census of all persons in sheltering programs (emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe haven programs) as well as the unsheltered population identified on the night of the count. While there is uniformity and complete coverage in data collection for those utilizing the sheltering system within communities, each county develops a local methodology to identify and engage unsheltered persons within the

community. As such, the strength of the unsheltered count varies from community to community. In addition, it is generally accepted that while communities work to identify and engage all persons living unsheltered within their geographic region, the count of persons unsheltered in the community may not reflect the full population experiencing homelessness.

II. Racial Disparities in Total Homeless Population

NJ Counts 2023 provides a snapshot of the population experiencing homelessness in the State of New Jersey on a single night. The results of this report are intended to assist communities in understanding the characteristics and needs of those experiencing homelessness to improve service delivery and resource targeting to effectively end homelessness. As communities work to expand their understanding of the root causes of homelessness it is important to recognize the structural forces impacting trajectories into and out of homelessness. Disparities in who experiences homelessness highlight the impact of a pervasive structural force: systemic racism. Acknowledging and understanding the impact of systemic racism on those experiencing homelessness is key to developing an effective system responsive to the community and strengthening cultural understanding and awareness.

On January 24, 2023, there were 434 persons experiencing homelessness on a single night in Ocean County. Figure R.1 illustrates the racial breakdown of the total population in Ocean County, those living below the poverty line, and those experiencing homelessness.

Fig. R.1: Percent of Population by Race and Ethnicity
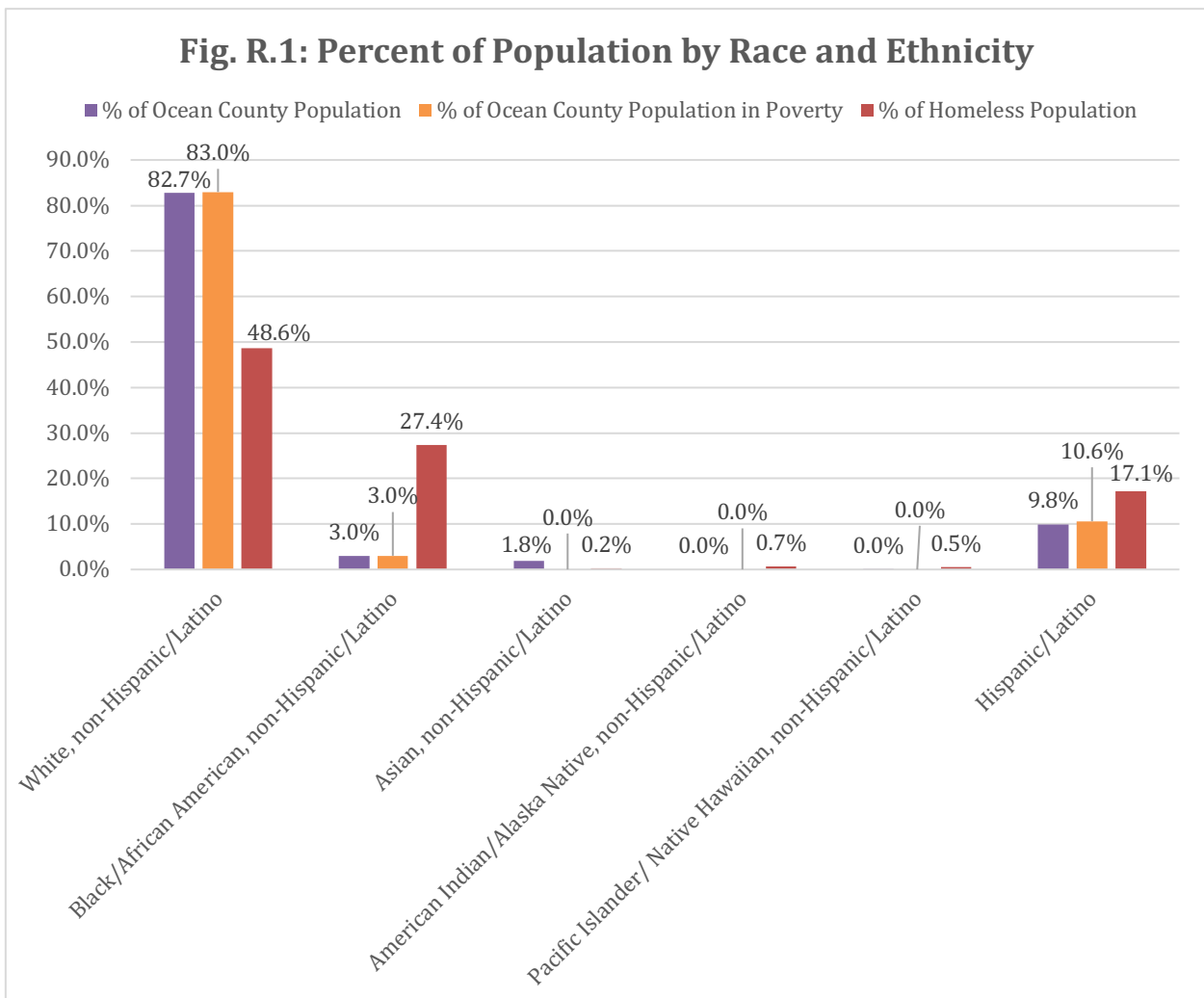
In comparing the racial breakdown of those experiencing homelessness to the racial breakdown in the general population and those living in poverty, disparate impacts along racial lines are evident. According to the American Community Survey 2021 annual estimates prepared by the Census Bureau, about 648,998 people live in Ocean County, and 12% (78,521 persons) of Ocean County residents are living below the poverty line. There is a strong correlation between poverty and homelessness, however, the racial disparities evident in the counted population indicate that poverty alone does not determine who will experience homelessness.

The disparity in representation within the population experiencing homelessness as compared to the population experiencing poverty by race point to poverty being an inconclusive indicator of who will experience homelessness. The chart above highlights that race rather than poverty appears to be a more predictive indicator of who will experience homelessness. Further analysis is necessary to understand the full scope of risk factors and protective factors for communities experiencing homelessness as they relate to race as an indicator. Within this context it is important to explore the impact of systemic racism on experiences of homelessness, both in terms of who is likely to become homeless, and how systems of care work to end homelessness.

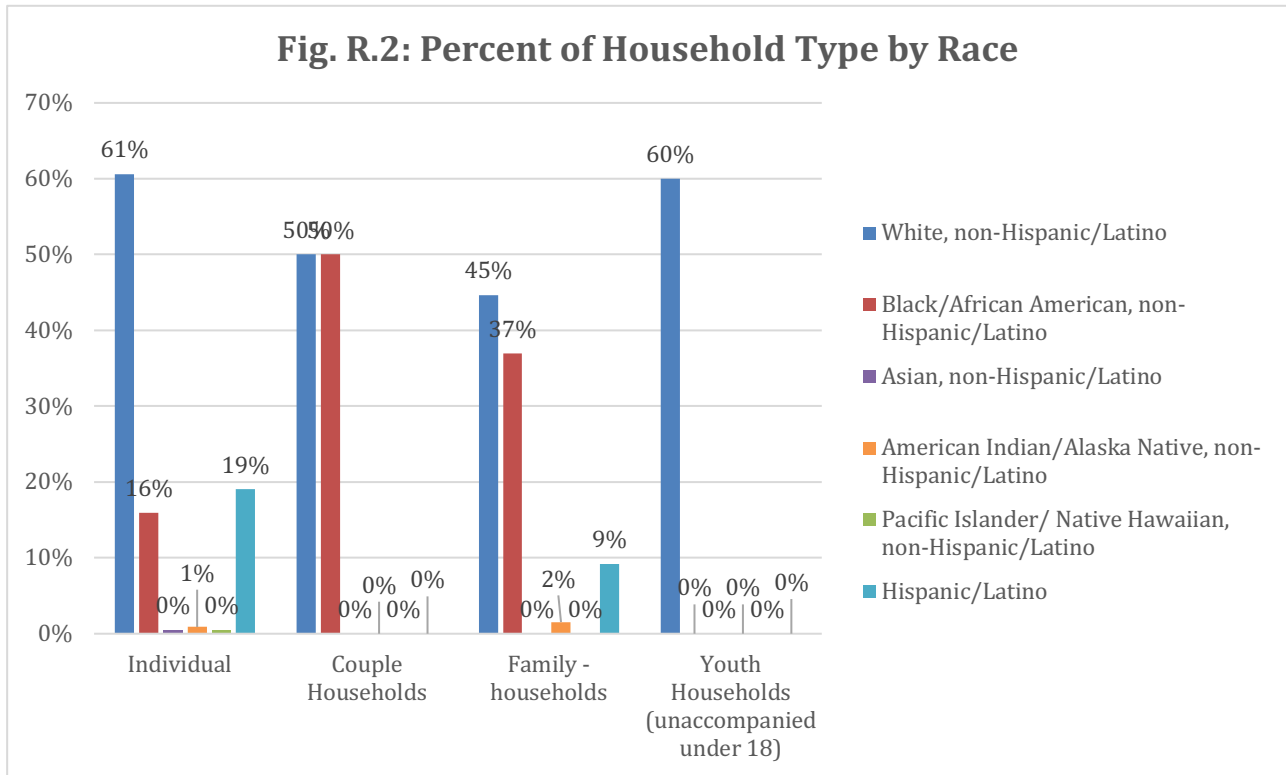The data from Figure R.1 indicates the following:
- Persons identifying as Black or African American non-Hispanic/Latino are overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness. While 3% of the general population, persons identifying as Black or African American are 3% of the population in poverty and 27.4% of the population identified as experiencing homelessness.
- Persons identifying as Asian, non-Hispanic/Latino have the lowest rates of homelessness, making up 1.8% of the Ocean County population, 0% of the population living below the poverty level, and 0.2% of the counted population experiencing homelessness.
- Persons identifying as Black or African American non-Hispanic/Latino represent 32% of the sheltered population (staying in emergency shelter, or transitional housing) and 15% of the identified unsheltered population. Persons identifying as White non-Hispanic/Latino represent 53% of the sheltered population and 60% of the identified unsheltered population.

Figure R.2 illustrates the racial breakdown within each household type for those identified as experiencing homelessness.
- Persons identifying as White non-Hispanic/Latino make up the majority of individual (61%), family (45%) and unaccompanied youth (60%) household types, whereas persons identifying as White, non-Hispanic/Latino and Black, non-Hispanic Latino make up (50%, respectively) of couple households.
- 64% of persons identifying as Black or African American non-Hispanic/Latino and 30% of persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino were in family households with at

least one adult and one child under the age of 18, as compared to 32% of persons identifying as White non-Hispanic/Latino.

Fig. R.2: Percent of Household Type by Race

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

- 44% of persons identifying as Black or African American were children under the age of 18, as compared to 18%, respectively of persons identifying as White non-Hispanic/Latino and Hispanic/Latino.
- 1% of persons identifying as White non-Hispanic/Latino and reported receiving no governmental benefits, as compared to 2% of persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino and 0% of persons identifying as Black or African American, non-Hispanic.
- The top reported barrier for persons identifying as White non-Hispanic/Latino and Black or African American non-Hispanic/Latino was Lack of Transportation (37% and 25%, respectively), whereas for persons identifying as Hispanic Latino, the top reported barrier was No ID/Documents and Lack of Transportation (18%, respectively).
- 64% of persons identifying as White non-Hispanic/Latino indicated a disabling condition, as compared to 31% of persons identifying as Black or African American and 38% of persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino.

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

Fig. R.3: Disabling Condition by Race
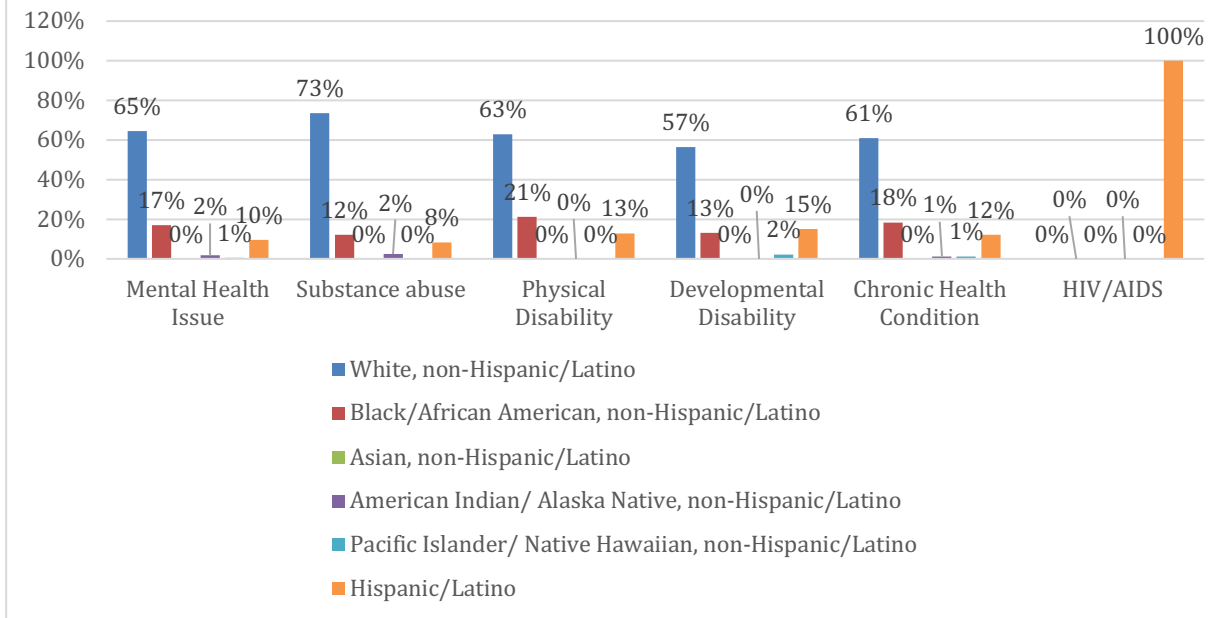
- Of persons identifying as White non-Hispanic/Latino, 29% reported a substance abuse disorder as compared to 8% and 11% of persons identifying as Black or African American and Hispanic/Latino, respectively.
- 1 homeless persons reported having HIV/AIDS in Ocean County and identified as Hispanic/Latino.
- Persons identifying as White represented the majority of persons identifying a mental health issue, substance abuse disorder, physical disability, developmental disability, and chronic health condition.

Disparities emerged in response to a number of other questions included in the PIT survey in addition to the ones reported here. Given this information, it is clear that more research is needed to fully understand the causes, correlations and impacts of racial disparities in who experiences homelessness and how they experience and navigate the systems of service. In addition, this information highlights the need for homeless service systems to make deliberate efforts to understand and address racial disparities in order to better serve those experiencing homelessness and effectively end their homelessness.

III. Findings for Total Homeless Population

Key Findings

- On the night of January 24, 2023, a total of 302 households, including 434 persons, were experiencing homelessness in Ocean County according to the 2023 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 104 persons were identified as chronically homeless.
- 35 persons were unsheltered on the night of the count.
- Data contained within this report was collected from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) as well as from client-level interviews entered into SurveyMonkey (SM). About 19% of data collected for this report was generated through HMIS while 81% was generated through client-level interviews from SM.

Figure i. Number of Homeless Persons by Municipality and Percentage of County Total						
Municipality	Total Homeless Persons	% of Total Homeless Persons	Sheltered Homeless Persons	% of Sheltered Homeless Persons	Unsheltered Homeless Persons	% of Unsheltered Homeless Persons
Absecon	7	2.8%	7	3.2%	0	0.0%
Egg Harbor City	30	11.9%	30	13.8%	0	0.0%
Pemberton	2	0.8%	2	0.9%	0	0.0%
Farmingdale	1	0.4%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%
Berkeley	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	1	2.9%
Brick	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	1	2.9%
Jackson	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	1	2.9%
Lakehurst	7	2.8%	6	2.8%	1	2.9%
Lakewood	38	15.1%	30	13.8%	8	22.9%
Little Egg Harbor	9	3.6%	0	0.0%	9	25.7%
Seaside Heights	30	11.9%	28	12.9%	2	5.7%
Stafford	4	1.6%	4	1.8%	0	0.0%
Toms River	121	48%	109	50.2%	12	34.3%
Total	252		217		35	

Total Homeless Population

On the night of January 24, 2023, a total of 434 persons, in 308 households, were experiencing homelessness in Ocean County.

Fig. 1: 5-Year Comparison of Total Homeless Population by Housing Situation
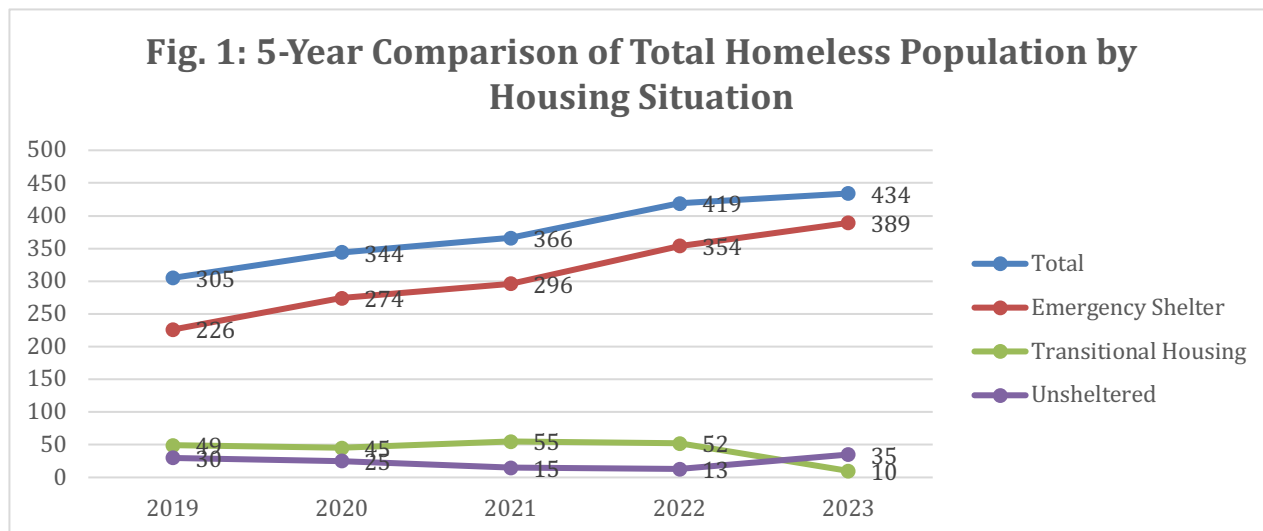
Figure 1 shows that in 2023, 389 homeless persons stayed in emergency shelters, 10 stayed in transitional housing, and 35 were identified as unsheltered on the night of the count. When comparing to 2022, increases are seen in the number of homeless respondents staying in emergency shelter (35 persons), and those identified as unsheltered (22 persons). The number of persons in transitional housing decreased between 2022 and 2023 (42 persons).

Figure 1 also shows that, over the past five years, Ocean County has seen an overall increase of 129 identified persons from 2019 to 2023. Over this 5-year period, there was a 72% increase in persons staying in emergency shelter and a 17% increase in those staying in an unsheltered location. There was an 80% decrease in persons staying in transitional housing.

As Figure 2 shows, 14% of the homeless household respondents in Ocean County in 2023 reported that their last permanent address prior to becoming homeless was out of county.

Fig. 2: Percentage of Households by County of Last Permanent Address
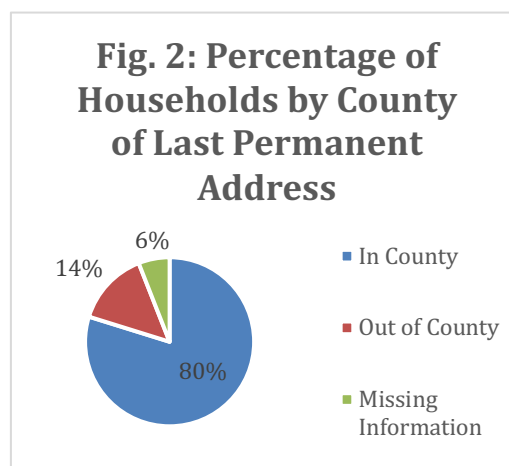
Homeless Families and Individuals

In this report, 'household' means "any group of persons who, if they were able to attain permanent housing, would choose to live together; and shared the same sleeping arrangements on the night of the count."

Of the 302 homeless households counted in Ocean County in 2023, 65 (22%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. These families included 191 persons, including 121 children under age 18 and 70 adults. Figure 3 shows that 65 families 64 (98%) were staying in emergency shelters, 0 were in transitional housing, and 1 (2%) was identified as unsheltered.

### Fig. 3: Homeless Households by Housing Situation
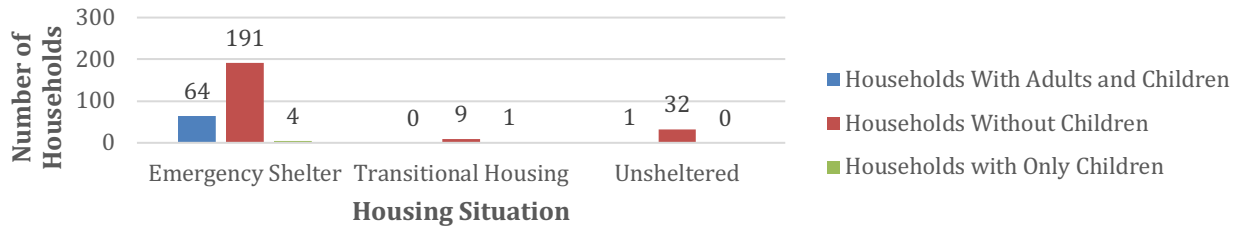
232 (77%) of the homeless households identified in Ocean County were households without children under 18, and they were composed of 238 adults. The majority of adult-only households (82%) were staying in emergency shelters on the night of the count. 32 adult-only households were identified as unsheltered in 2023.

As Figure 3 indicates, there were 5 unaccompanied youth households with 5 persons identified in 2023. The majority of unaccompanied youth households (80%) were in emergency shelters on the night of the count.

Demographics

There were 35 (8%) identified homeless adults between 18 and 24 years old, 272 (63%) adults over age 24, and 126 (29%) children under 18 years old experiencing homelessness on the night of the count. Figure 4 shows that the age range most represented is Adults between 35 and 44 (77 persons, 18 %).

### Fig. 4: Age Range by Housing Situation
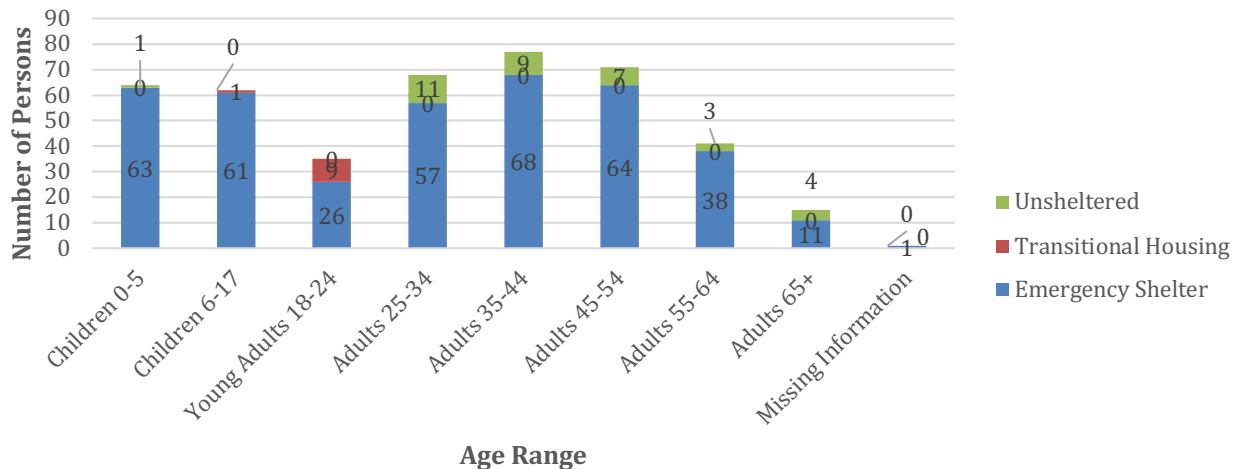
45.4% (197) of homeless persons were male, 53.9% (234) were female and 1 homeless person (0.2%) identified as transgender.

48% (211) of persons identified their race as White, non-Hispanic, making this the largest racial/ethnic subgroup of homeless persons counted. The second largest group identified as Black, African American, non-Hispanic (27%, 119 counted persons). Those identifying as Hispanic/Latino accounted for 14% of the homeless population composed of 61 persons. 8.5% of homeless persons counted did not report their race or ethnicity. It is important to note that the 2023 Point-In-Time Count combined Race and Ethnicity into one question.

Subpopulations

On the night of January 24, 2023, out of the 434 persons identified as homeless, there were a total of 104 Chronically Homeless persons, representing 24% of the counted homeless population. There were 11 homeless veterans representing 3.6% of the counted adult homeless population. 212 Victims of Domestic Violence were identified representing 48.8% of the total identified homeless population. Homeless Youth (individuals and families with heads of households 24 years old or younger) represented 9.9% of the counted homeless population with 43 persons identified. Figure 5 illustrates the break-down of each subpopulation identified by housing type.

As illustrated in Figure 5 the majority of counted Chronically Homeless (92 persons), Victims of Domestic Violence (209 persons), and Youth (33 persons) were in emergency shelters on the night of the count. The majority of Veterans (11 persons) were staying in transitional housing.

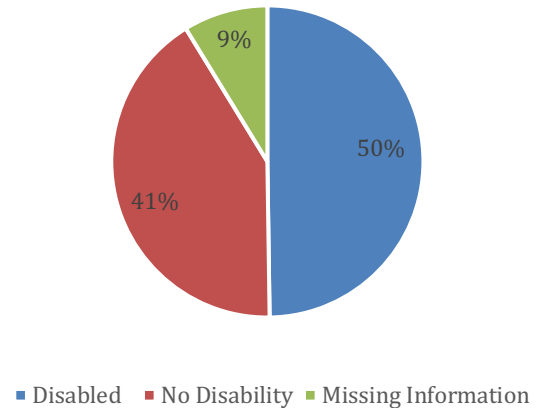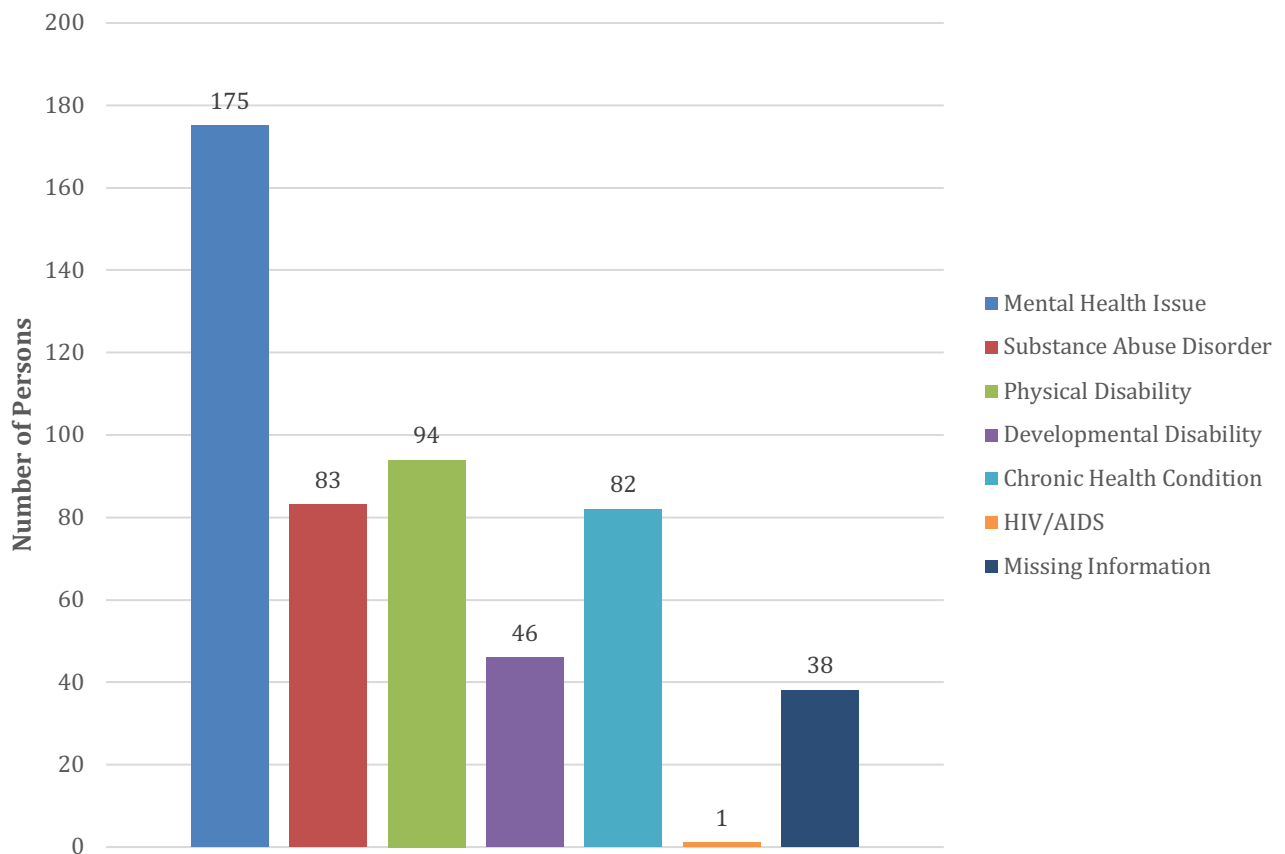Fig. 5: Subpopulations by Housing Situation
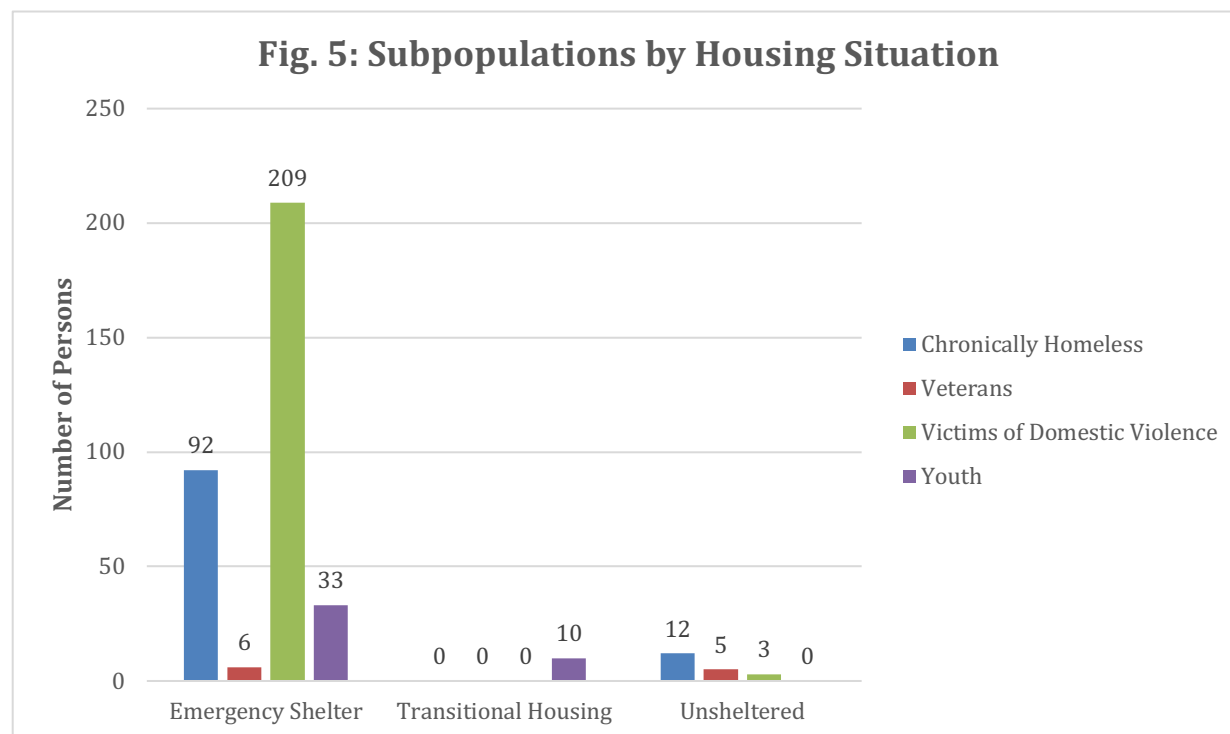
Disabilities

Figure 6 illustrates that 50% of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. 63.8% of adults 18 or older reported some type of disability compared to 15.9% of children. Figure 7 shows the number of the counted homeless persons that identified as having various disabilities. The most common disabilities included mental health issues and physical disabilities.

Among persons identifying a disability, 81% reported mental health issues; this accounts for 40.3% of the total identified population experiencing homelessness. An additional 40.8% of disabled adults reported a substance abuse disorder.

Fig. 6: Percent of Population with a Disability

- Disabled
- No Disability
- Missing Information

Fig. 7: Number of Persons by Disability Type

Legend:
- Mental Health Issue
- Substance Abuse Disorder
- Physical Disability
- Developmental Disability
- Chronic Health Condition
- HIV/AIDS
- Missing Information

Income and Benefits

Among all households experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, 22.8% had no source of income; 16.9% reported having earned income. The most common sources of income among homeless households were SSI (17.9%) and General Assistance (21.4%) followed by Work Income (16.9%). Figure 8 shows the income sources reported by respondents in relation to their housing situation on the night of the count.

**Fig. 8: Income by Housing Situation**
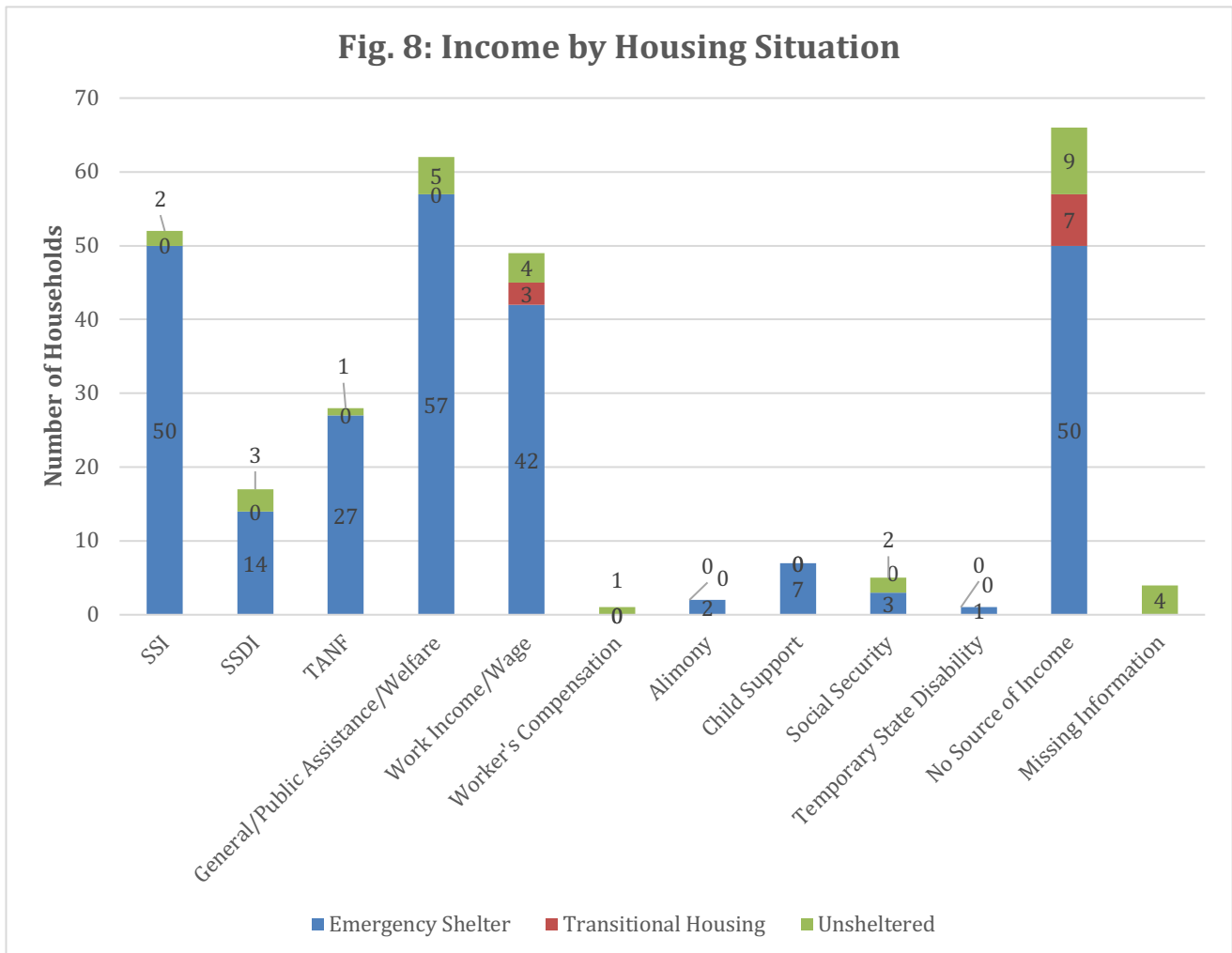
0.7% of counted homeless households reported receiving no non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps (SNAP) was the top reported non-cash benefit, received by 50% of homeless households. Medicaid was the second most reported non-cash benefit received by 40.7% of homeless households.
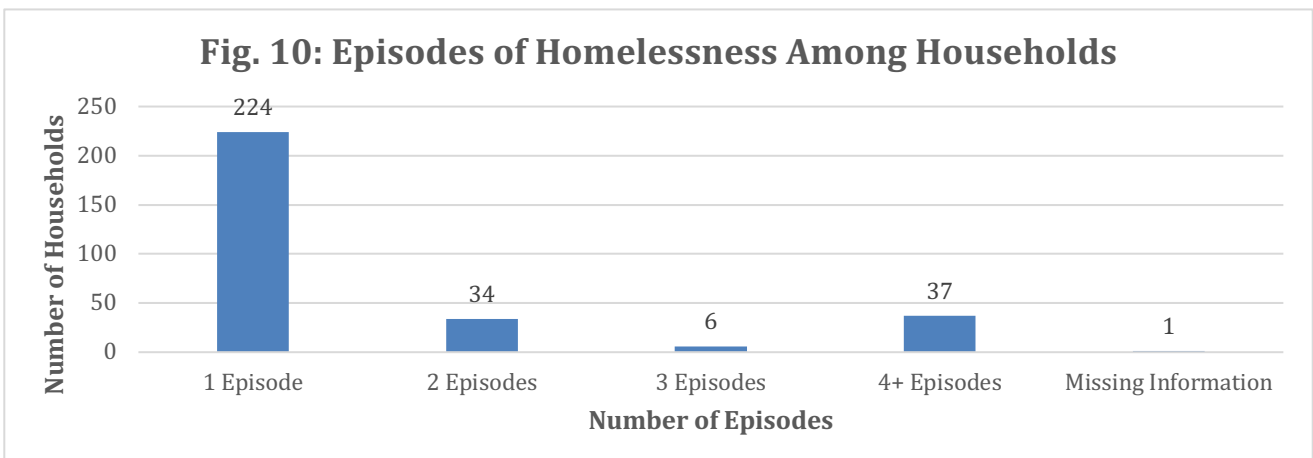
Length of Homelessness

Figure 9 illustrates the total amount of time identified households have reported being homeless. This includes continuous episodes of homelessness as well as the total duration of various episodes of homelessness over the past 3 years. As seen in Figure 9, 43% of identified homeless households reported their total length of homelessness was between 0 and 6 months. Within this group, 18.2% were homeless from 0 – 2 months and 24.8% were homeless between 3 and 6 months. For those with longer periods of homelessness, 29.5% of homeless households reported that their total length of homelessness was more than 1 year. Among households that had lengths of homelessness exceeding one year, 77 households (25.5%) were homeless between 1 and 3 years while 12 households (4%) reported their total length of homelessness exceeded 3 years.
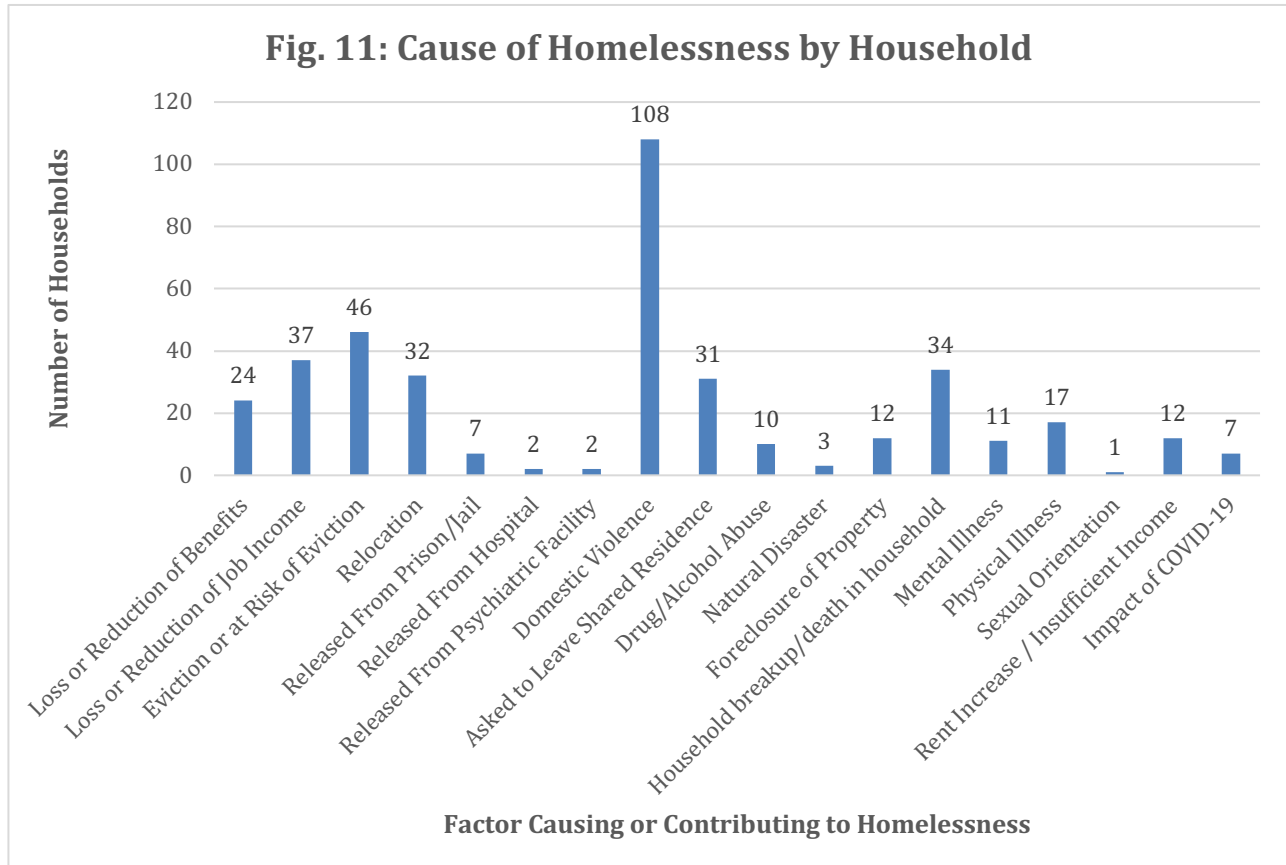

Fig. 9: Length of Homelessness Among Households
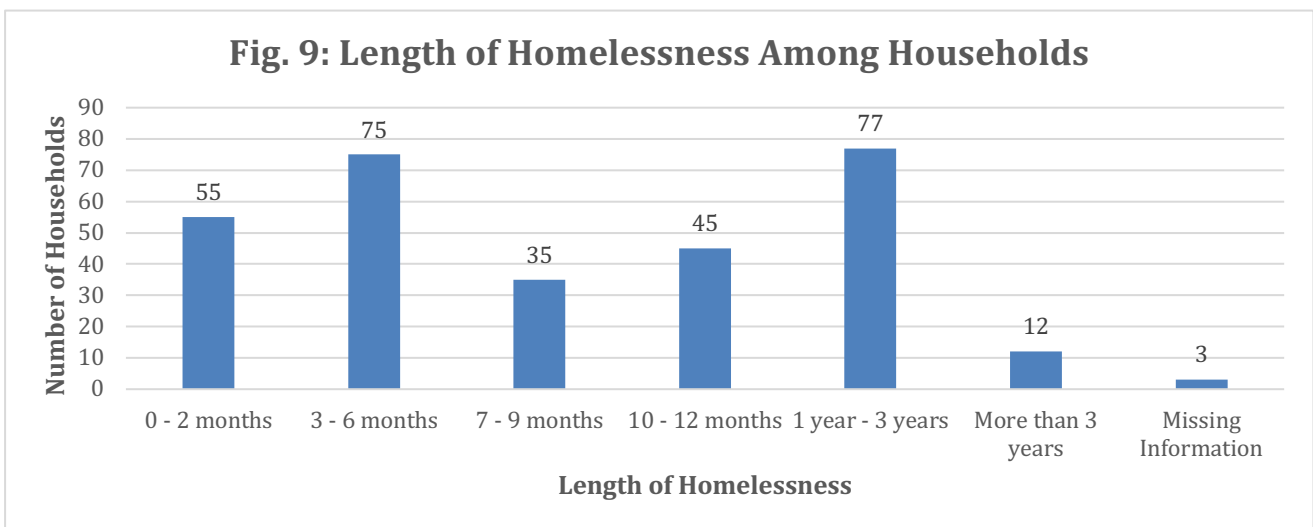
Episodes of Homelessness

A total of 224 households (74.2%) reported experiencing one episode of homelessness. Figure 10 illustrates the total number of episodes of homelessness reported by households experiencing homelessness.

Fig. 10: Episodes of Homelessness Among Households

Cause of Homelessness and Barriers to Services

When asked to share the factors that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households attributed their homelessness to domestic violence (108 households, 27.3%) than any other cause. As Figure 11 shows, the next most common factor reported was eviction or risk of eviction (11.6%) followed by loss or reduction of job income (9.3%).
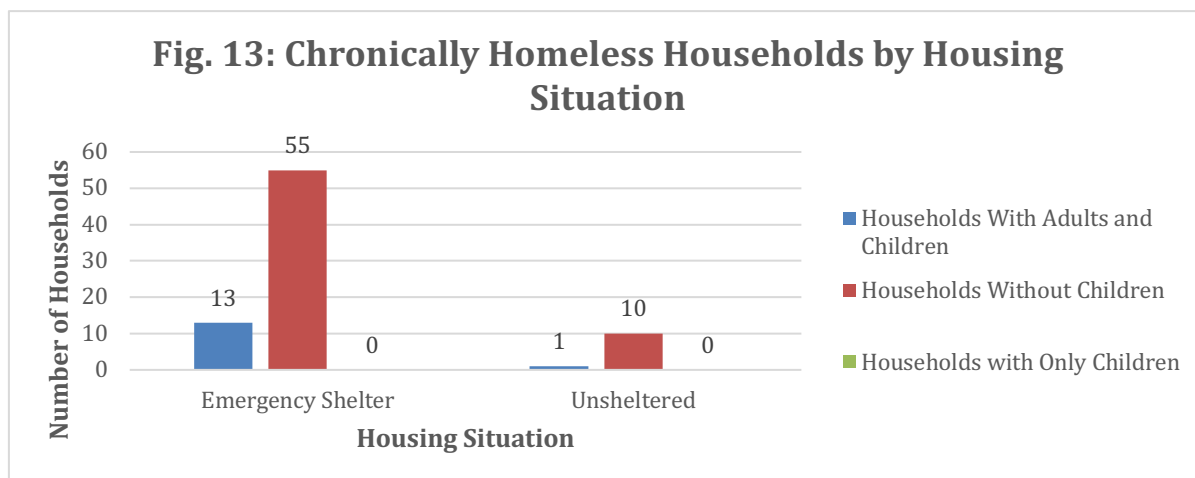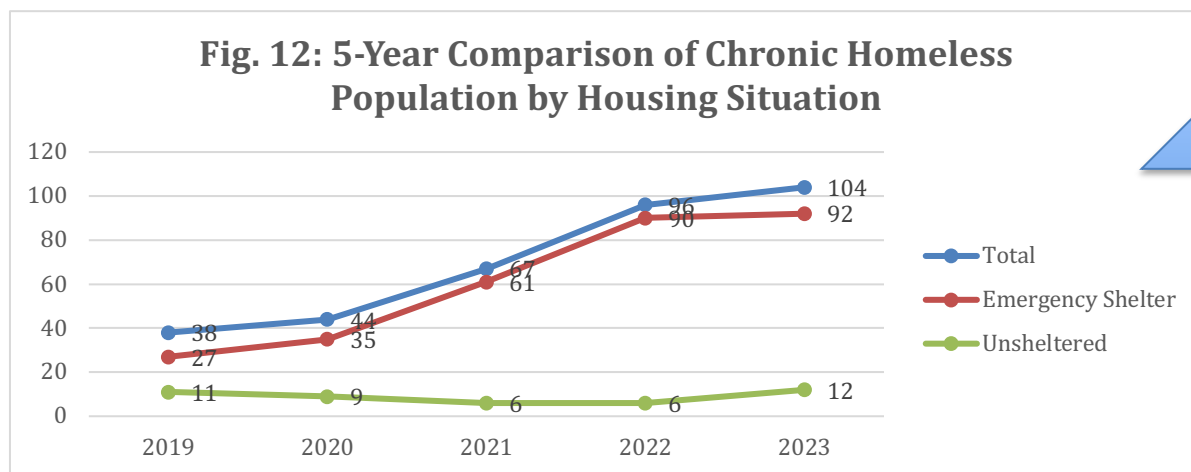
Fig. 11: Cause of Homelessness by Household

Number of Households (y-axis)
Factor Causing or Contributing to Homelessness (x-axis)

Factor	Number of Households
Loss or Reduction of Benefits	24
Loss or Reduction of Job Income	37
Eviction or at Risk of Eviction	46
Relocation	32
Released From Prison/Jail	7
Released From Hospital	2
Released From Psychiatric Facility	2
Domestic Violence	108
Asked to Leave Shared Residence	31
Drug/Alcohol Abuse	10
Natural Disaster	3
Foreclosure of Property	12
Household breakup/death in household	34
Mental Illness	11
Physical Illness	17
Sexual Orientation	1
Rent Increase / Insufficient Income	12
Impact of COVID-19	7

When households were asked 'what issues have you encountered when trying to get access to services?' more said lack of transportation than any other type of barrier (94 households). Among households in emergency shelter, the top reported barriers were lack of transportation (82 households), followed by being placed on a waitlist (66 households). The top reported barriers for those residing in unsheltered locations were having been placed on the waitlist (15 households), lack of transportation (12 households), and didn't qualify for specific services (10 households).
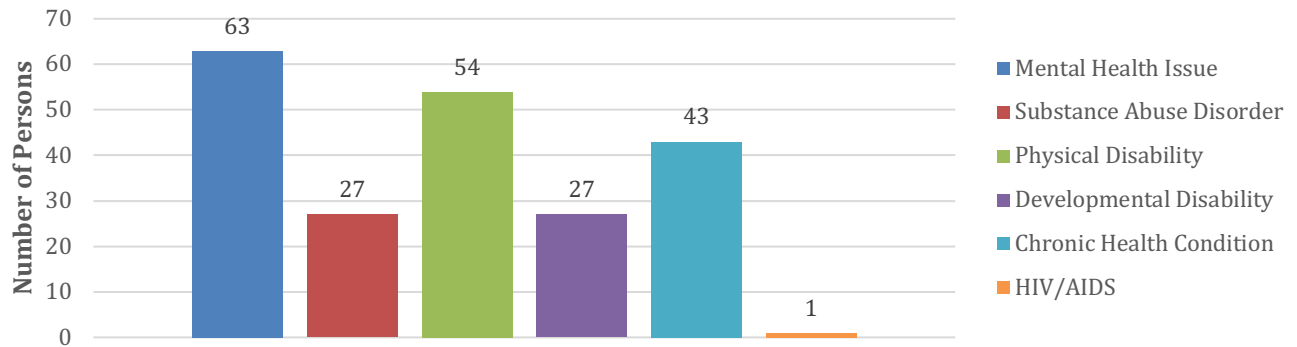
IV. Findings for the Chronically Homeless

Chronically Homeless households, as defined by HUD, are persons with a long-term disabling condition who have been continually homeless for a year or more, or at least four times in the past three years where the length of time in those episodes add up to a year or more. Any family with a head of household that meets this definition is considered a chronically homeless family.

Chronically Homeless households are one of the priority populations identified by HUD. Priority population status reflects the urgency of helping to house those persons who have not been able to remain stably housed over an extended period of time. Chronically Homeless persons are among the most vulnerable homeless groups and effective supportive services and case management may be required in order to help some stay in the housing they need.
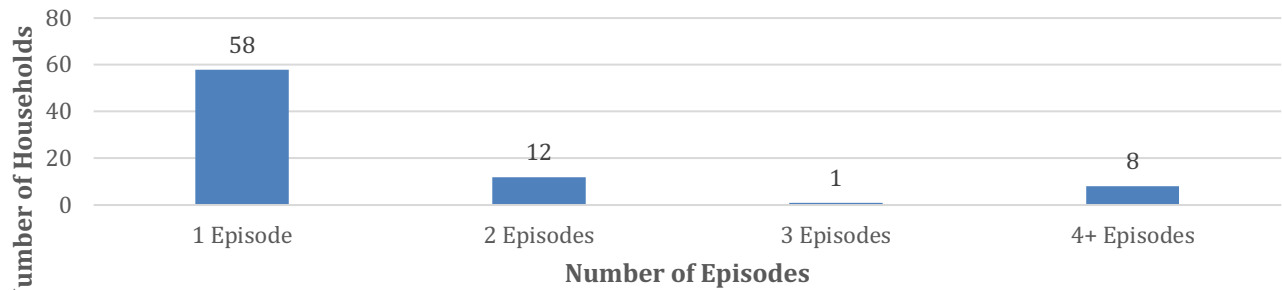
Fig. 12: 5-Year Comparison of Chronic Homeless Population by Housing Situation

174% increase since 2019

Fig. 13: Chronically Homeless Households by Housing Situation

22% identified as Black/African American

Fig. 14: Number of Chronically Homeless Persons by Disability Type*

Number of Persons

- Mental Health Issue: 63
- Substance Abuse Disorder: 27
- Physical Disability: 54
- Developmental Disability: 27
- Chronic Health Condition: 43
- HIV/AIDS: 1

Legend:
- Mental Health Issue
- Substance Abuse Disorder
- Physical Disability
- Developmental Disability
- Chronic Health Condition
- HIV/AIDS

Fig. 15: Episodes of Homelessness Among Chronically Homeless Households

Number of Households

Number of Episodes	Value
1 Episode	58
2 Episodes	12
3 Episodes	1
4+ Episodes	8

Fig. 16: Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Income Source*
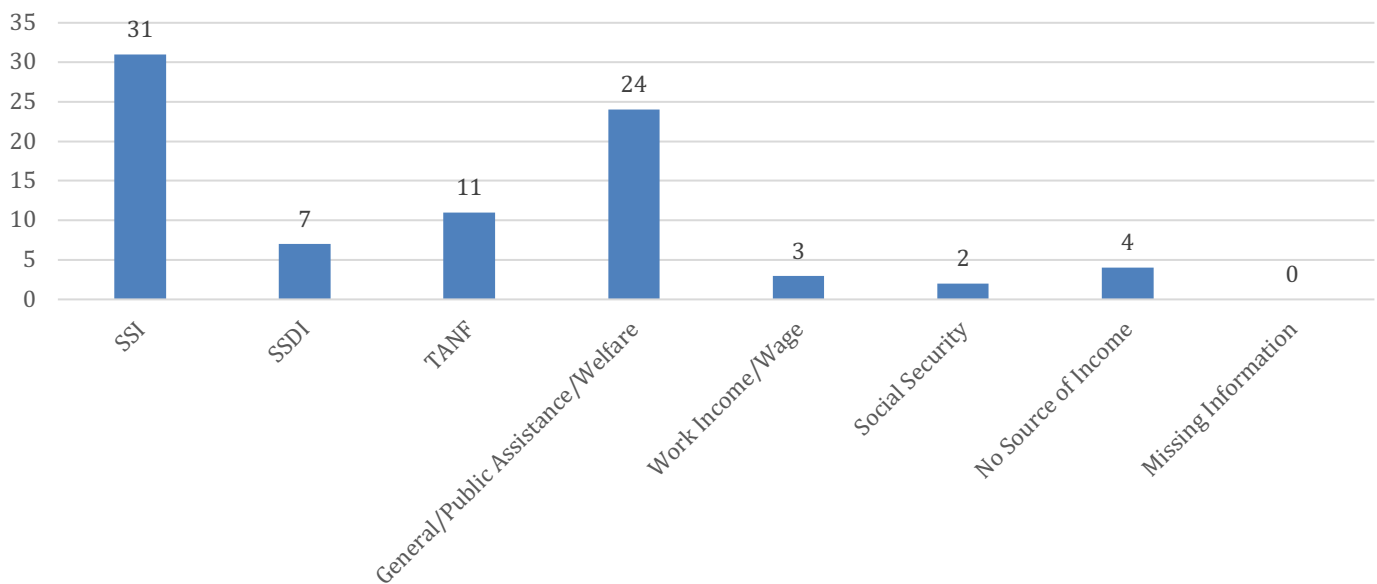
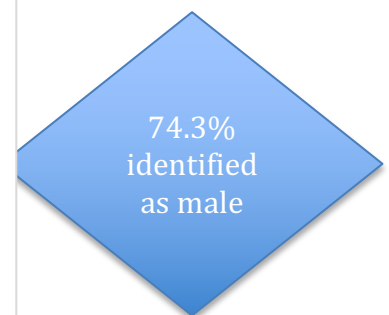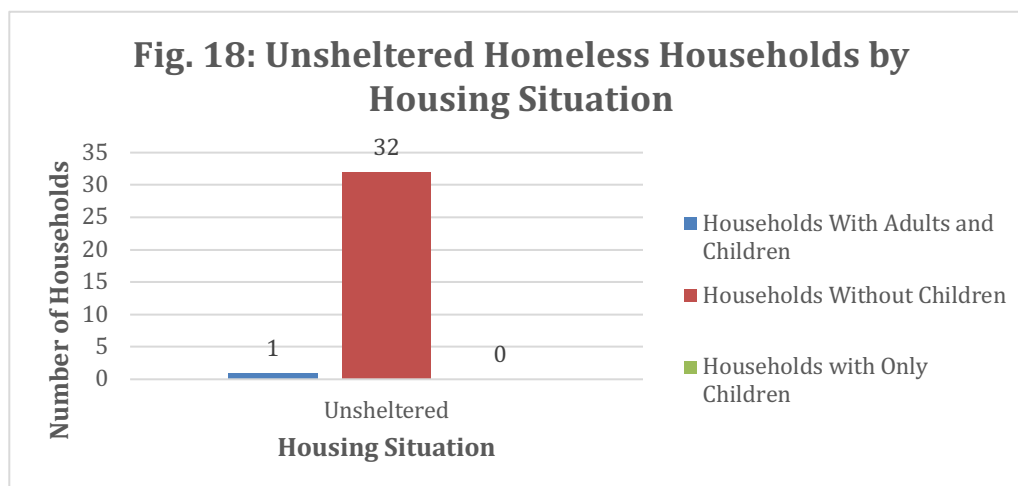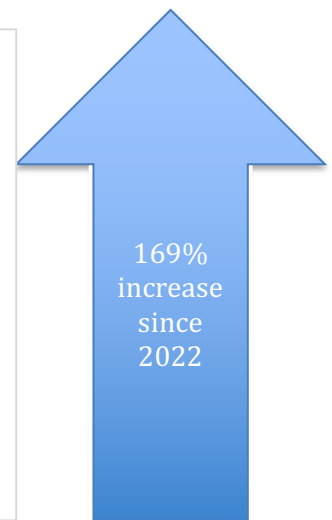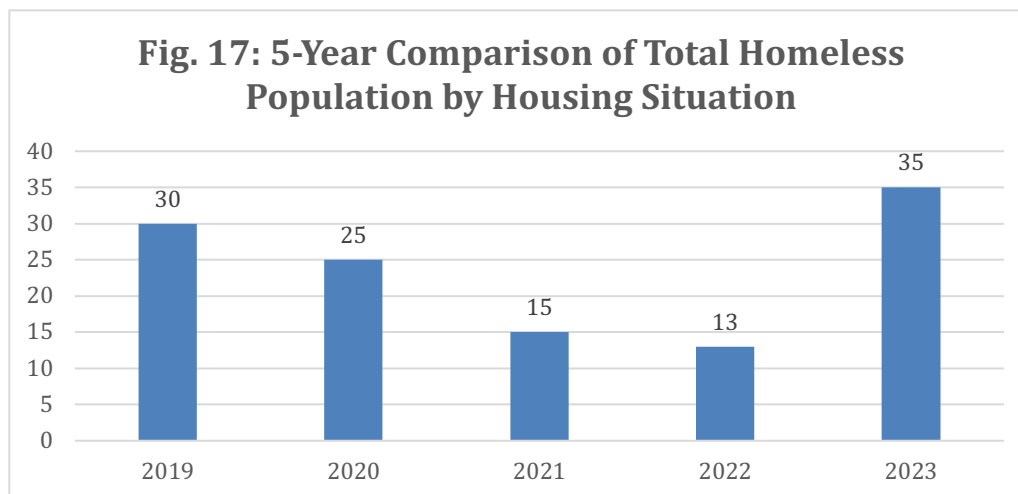| Income Source	Value
SSI	31
SSDI	7
TANF	11
General/Public Assistance/Welfare	24
Work Income/Wage	3
Social Security	2
No Source of Income	4
Missing Information	0

*Please note categories are not mutually exclusive as respondents may have selected multiple options

V. Findings for the Unsheltered Homeless

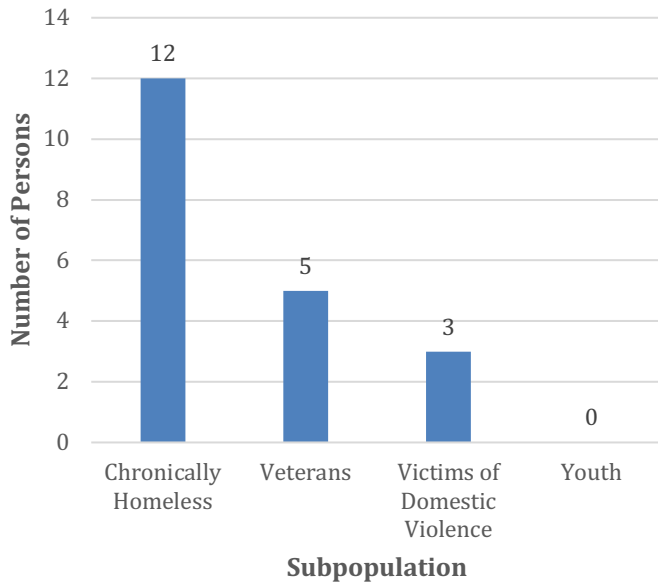HUD's definition of "unsheltered homeless" applies to any individual or family "with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, 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.
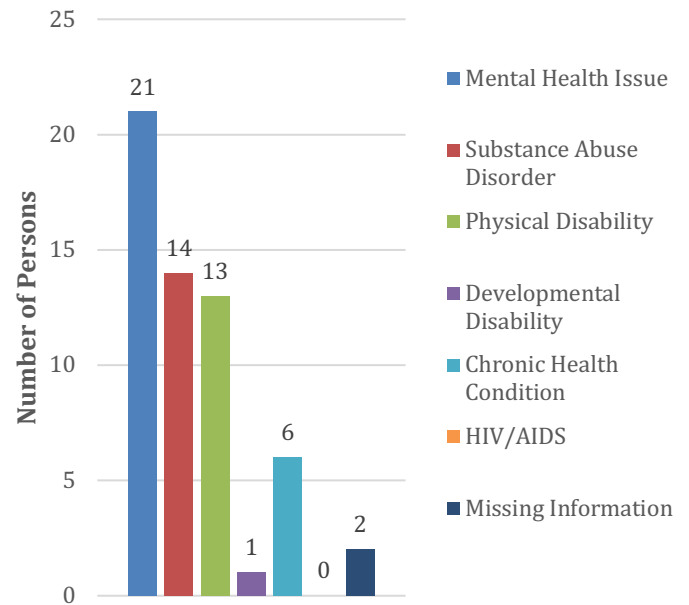
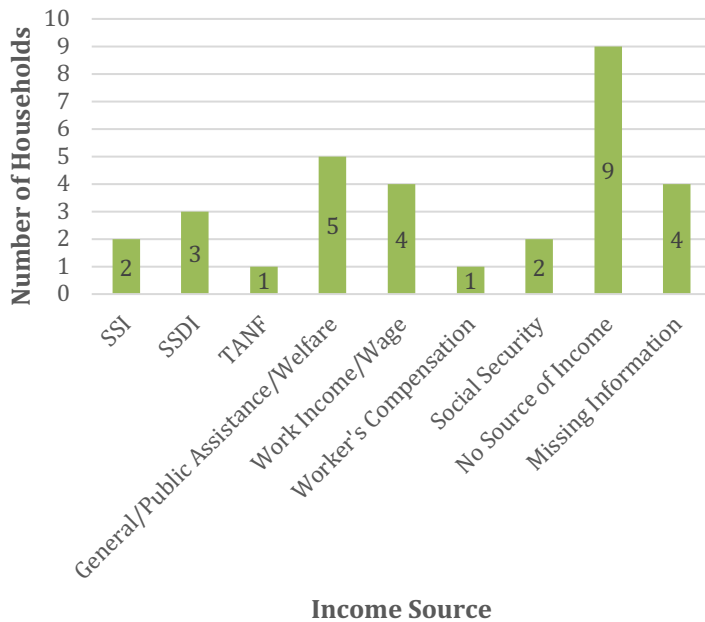### Fig. 17: 5-Year Comparison of Total Homeless Population by Housing Situation

Year	Value
2019	30
2020	25
2021	15
2022	13
2023	35

169% increase since 2022

Fig. 18: Unsheltered Homeless Households by Housing Situation

Number of Households

- Households With Adults and Children: 1
- Households Without Children: 32
- Households with Only Children: 0

Unsheltered — **Housing Situation**

74.3% identified as male

70% reported a disability

Fig. 19: Unsheltered Persons by Subpopulation

Fig. 20: Number of Unsheltered Persons by Disability Type*

Legend:
- Mental Health Issue
- Substance Abuse Disorder
- Physical Disability
- Developmental Disability
- Chronic Health Condition
- HIV/AIDS
- Missing Information

Fig. 21: Income Source of Unsheltered Households by Housing Situation*

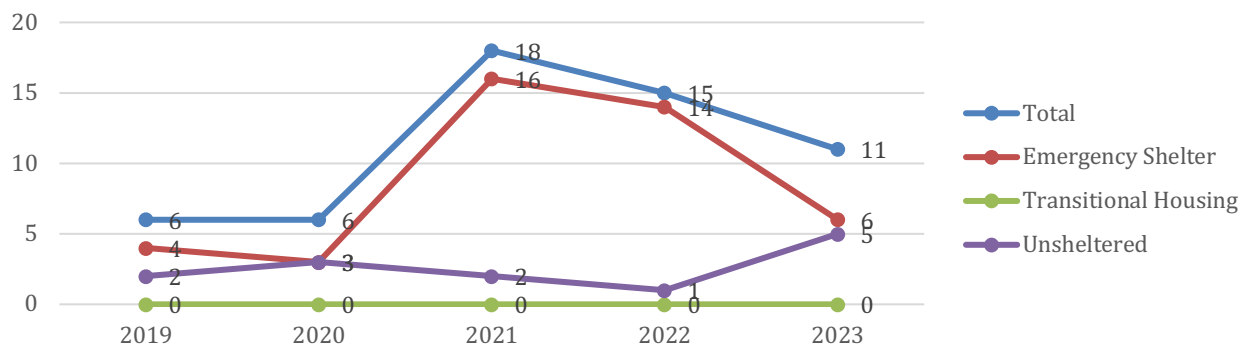### Fig. 22: Length of Homelessness Among Unsheltered Households
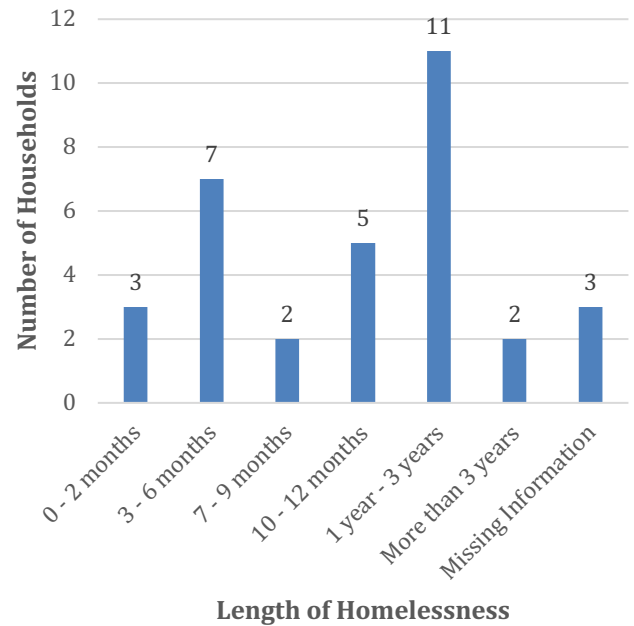
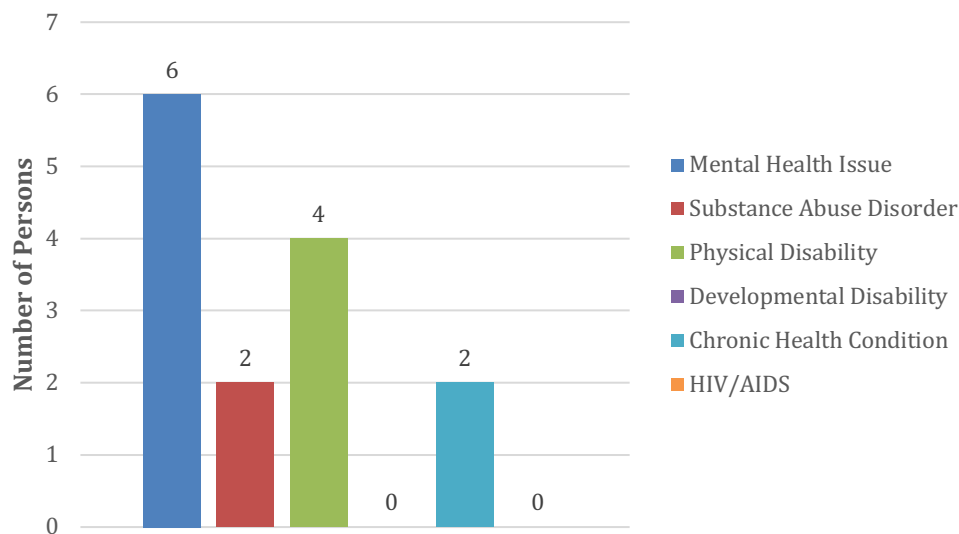*Please note categories are not mutually exclusive as respondents may have selected multiple options

VI. Findings for Homeless Veterans

Veterans are defined as any person at or above the age of 18 who has served in any branch of the Armed Forces. For the purposes of the Point-in-Time Count, the veteran definition covers any person who has served including those who may not be eligible for veteran services through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In its plan, *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has prioritized ending homelessness among veterans. Many communities in New Jersey have also been working hard to end homelessness among our country's servicemen and women.

Fig. 23: 5-Year Comparison of Total Homeless Veteran Population by Housing Situation

Year	Total	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered
2019	6	4	0	2
2020	6	3	0	3
2021	18	16	0	2
2022	15	14	0	1
2023	11	6	0	5

Fig. 24: Number of Veteran Persons by Disability Type*

Number of Persons

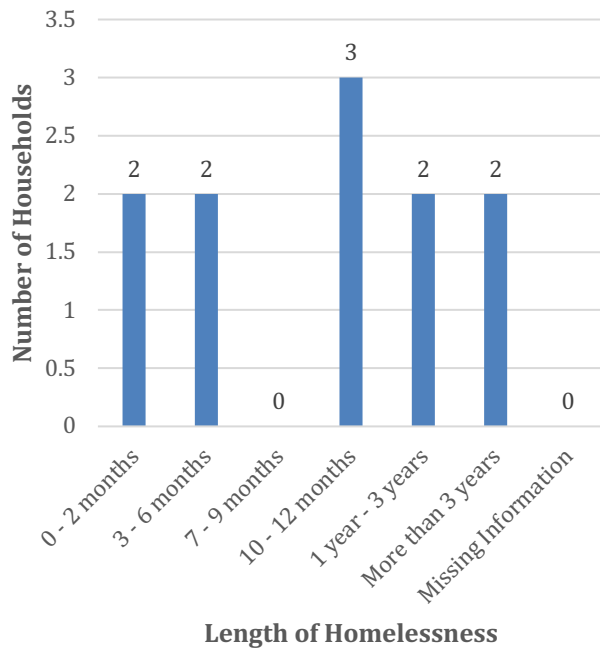| Disability Type	Number of Persons
Mental Health Issue	6
Substance Abuse Disorder	2
Physical Disability	4
Developmental Disability	0
Chronic Health Condition	2
HIV/AIDS	0

64% of homeless veterans identified a disability

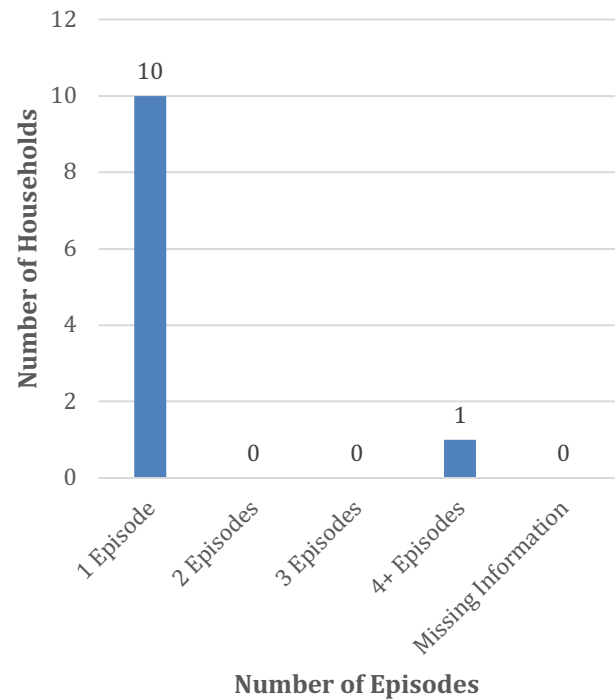## Fig. 25: Income by Housing Situation for Veteran Households*
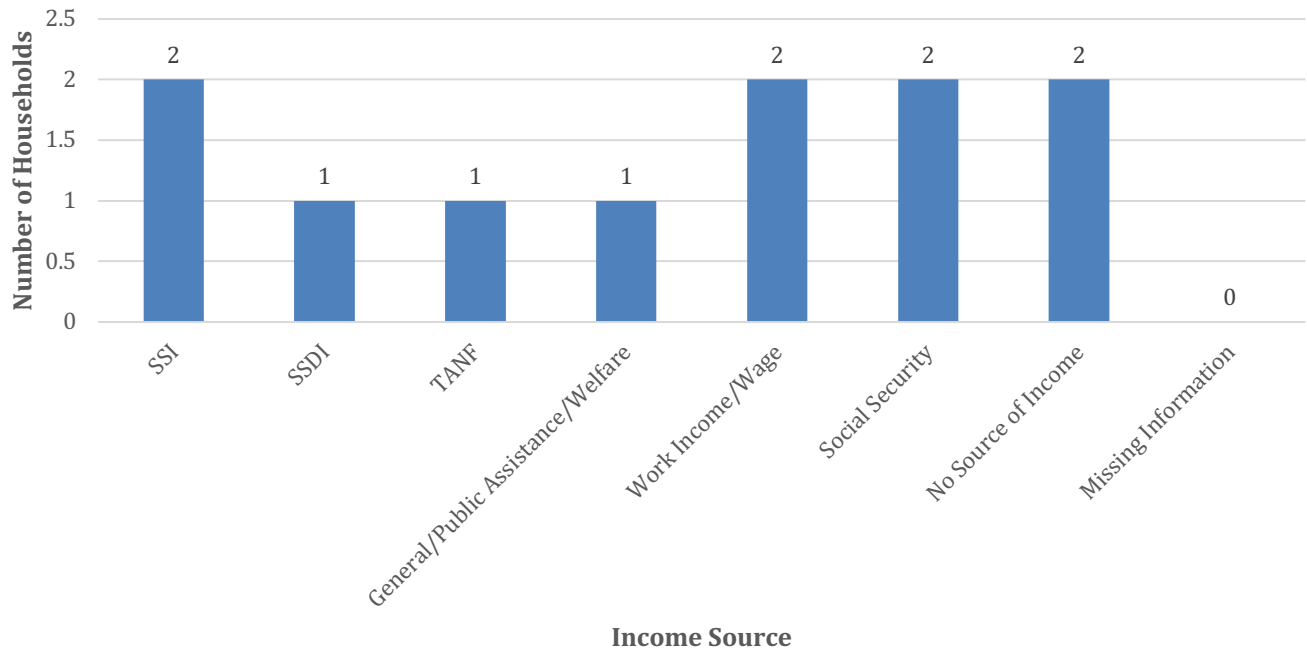
Fig. 26: Length of Homelessness Among Veteran Households

36% of veterans have been homeless for more than 1 year

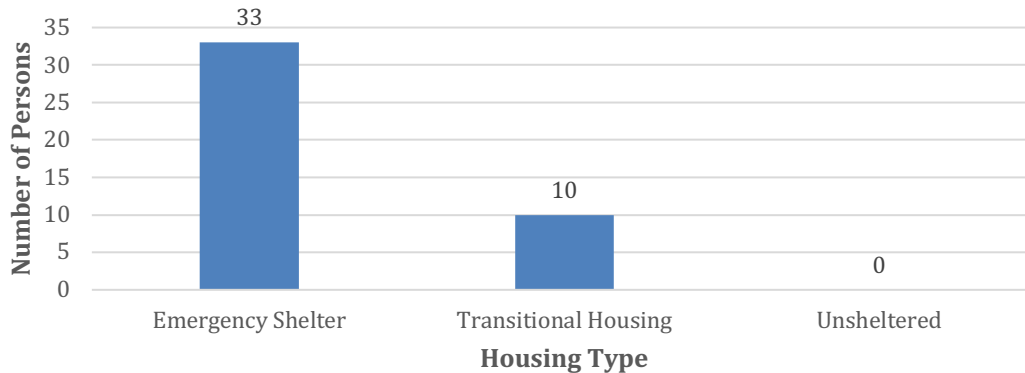## Fig. 27: Episodes of Homelessness Among Veteran Households

*Please note categories are not mutually exclusive as respondents may have selected multiple options
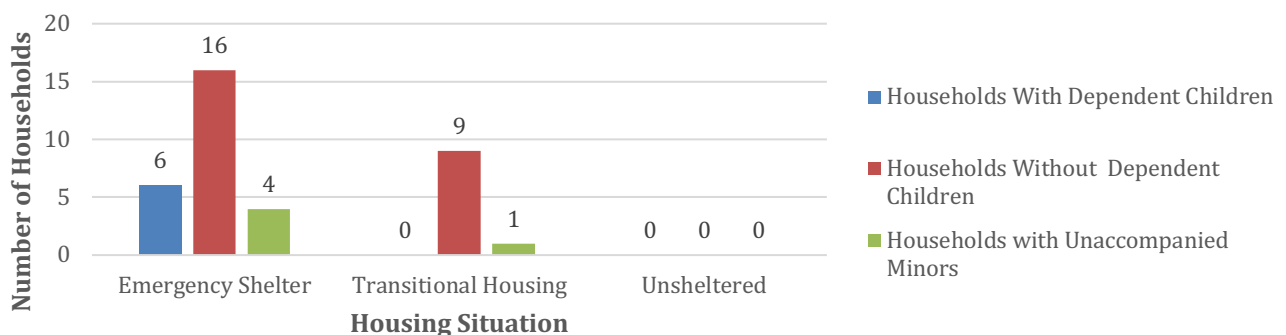
VII. Finding for Homeless Youth

Youth are defined as persons under the age of 25 who are not accompanied by a parent or guardian. This can include individual youth (18-24 years old), unaccompanied minors (17 or younger), households of 2 or more youth presenting together as a household, and pregnant or parenting youth who are the legal guardians of one or more children. The United States Interagency Council has identified homeless youth as one of the priority populations of focus in *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. Many communities across New Jersey are working to better understand the scope and needs of the Youth population experiencing homelessness and are working with community partners to end youth homelessness.

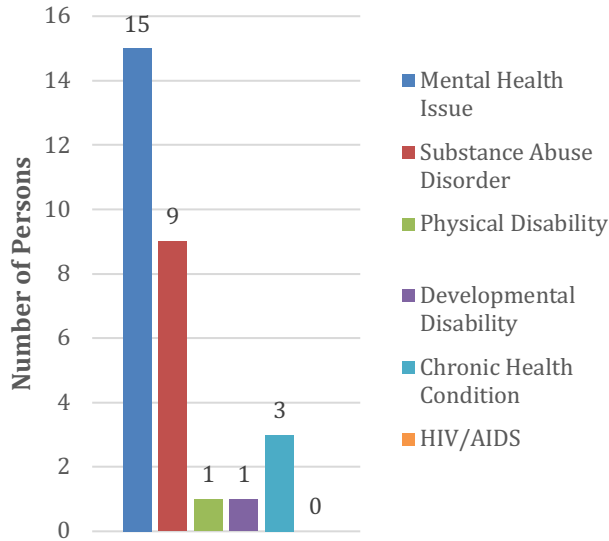**Fig. 28: Number of Homeless Youth by Housing Situation**

54% identified as female

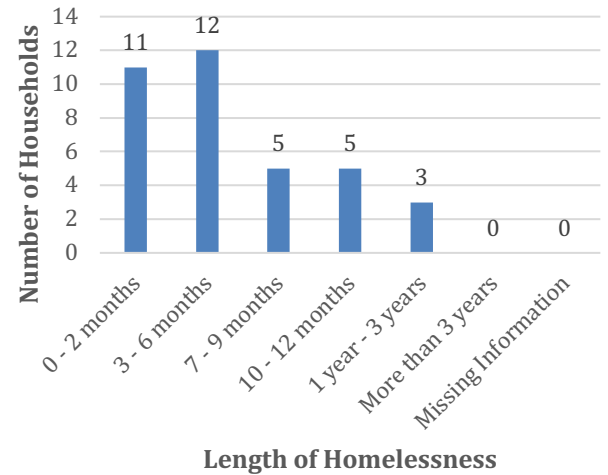**Fig. 29: Homeless Youth Households by Housing Situation**

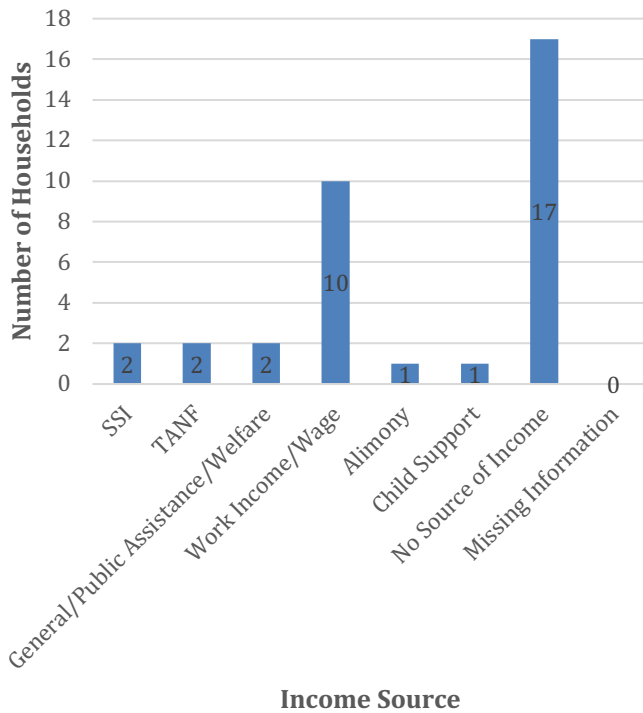14% identified as Black/African American
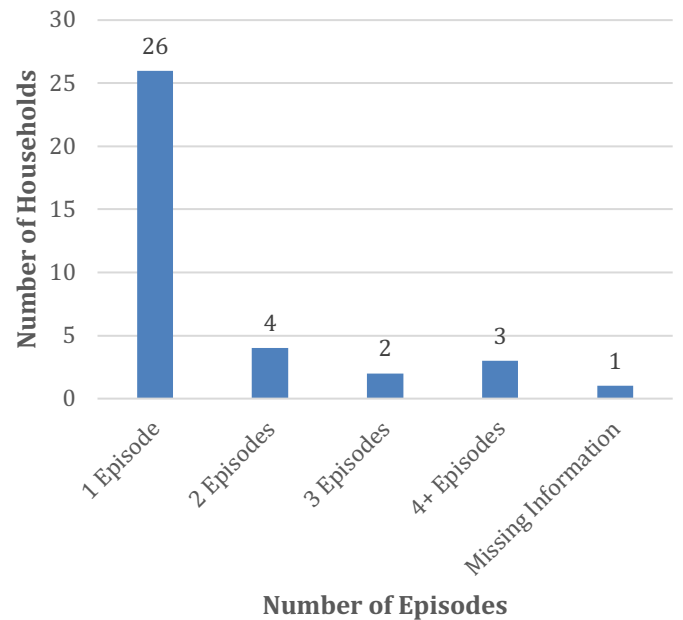
Fig. 30: Number of Youth by Disability Type*

Number of Persons

- Mental Health Issue: 15
- Substance Abuse Disorder: 9
- Physical Disability: 1
- Developmental Disability: 1
- Chronic Health Condition: 3
- HIV/AIDS: 0

Fig. 32: Length of Homelessness Among Youth Households

Number of Households / Length of Homelessness

- 0 - 2 months: 11
- 3 - 6 months: 12
- 7 - 9 months: 5
- 10 - 12 months: 5
- 1 year - 3 years: 3
- More than 3 years: 0
- Missing Information: 0

Fig. 31: Income Sources for Youth Households*

Number of Households / Income Source

- SSI: 2
- TANF: 2
- General/Public Assistance/Welfare: 2
- Work Income/Wage: 10
- Alimony: 1
- Child Support: 1
- No Source of Income: 17
- Missing Information: 0

Fig. 33: Episodes of Homelessness Among Youth Households

Number of Households / Number of Episodes

- 1 Episode: 26
- 2 Episodes: 4
- 3 Episodes: 2
- 4+ Episodes: 3
- Missing Information: 1

*Please note categories are not mutually exclusive as respondents may have selected multiple options
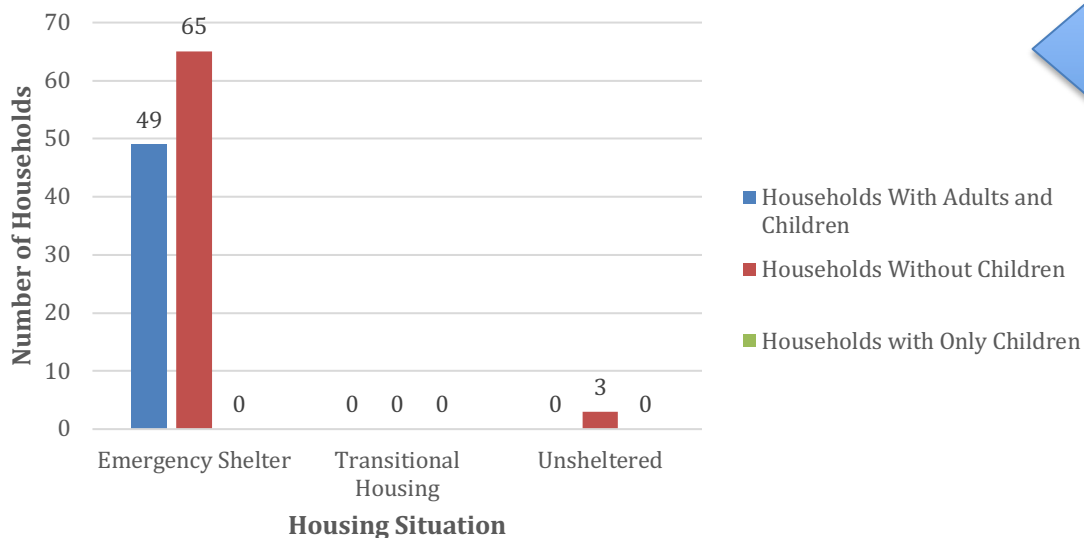
VIII. Findings for Victims of Domestic Violence

The 2023 Point-in-Time Count captured information for individuals and families "Fleeing" Domestic Violence. For the purposes of the Point-In-Time Count, Domestic Violence is defined as any household that is fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has taken place in their home, or has created a situation in which the individual or family is afraid to return to their home.

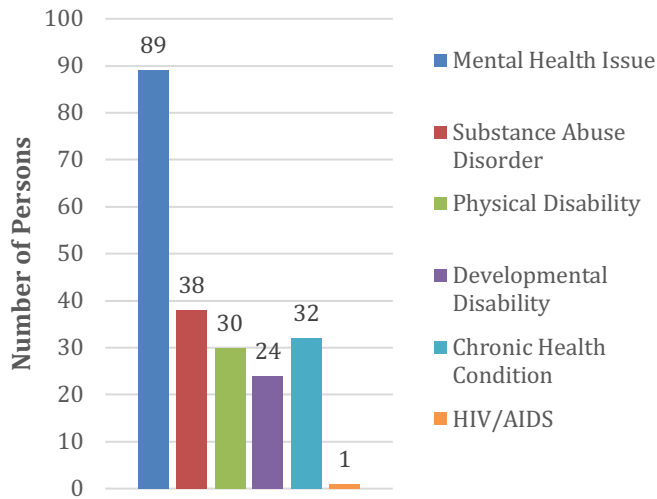**Fig. 34: Number of Homeless DV Victims by Housing Situation**

58% were households without children

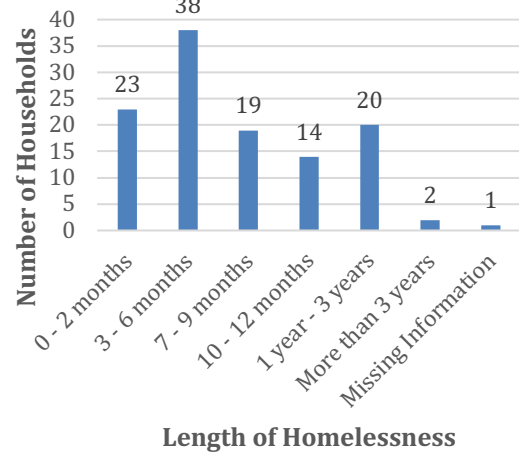**Fig. 35: Homeless DV Households by Housing Situation**

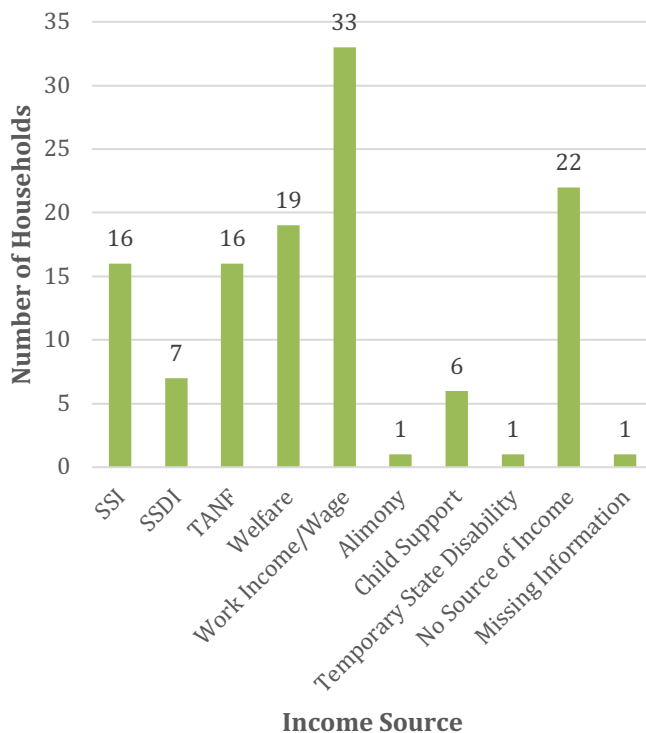31.6% identified as Black/African American

Fig. 36: Number of DV Victims by Disability Type*
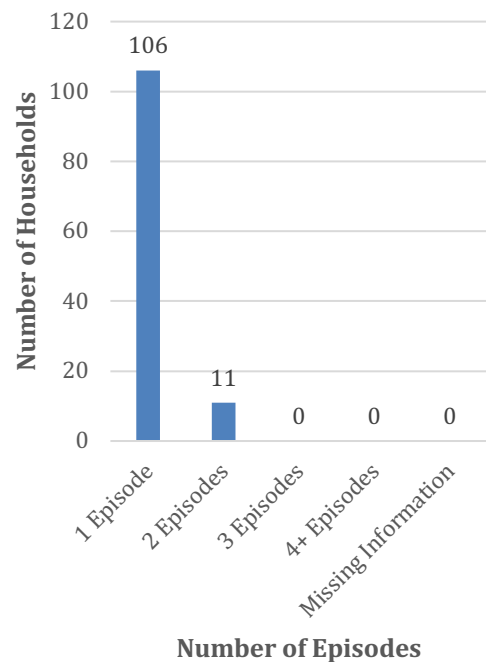

Number of Persons (y-axis, 0–100)

- Mental Health Issue: 89
- Substance Abuse Disorder: 38
- Physical Disability: 30
- Developmental Disability: 24
- Chronic Health Condition: 32
- HIV/AIDS: 1

Fig. 38: Length of Homelessness Among DV Victim Households

Number of Households (y-axis, 0–40)

- 0 - 2 months: 23
- 3 - 6 months: 38
- 7 - 9 months: 19
- 10 - 12 months: 14
- 1 year - 3 years: 20
- More than 3 years: 2
- Missing Information: 1

Length of Homelessness

Fig. 37: Income Source for DV Victim Households*

Number of Households (y-axis, 0–35)

- SSI: 16
- SSDI: 7
- TANF: 16
- Welfare: 19
- Work Income/Wage: 33
- Alimony: 1
- Child Support: 6
- Temporary State Disability: 1
- No Source of Income: 22
- Missing Information: 1

Income Source

Fig. 39: Episodes of Homelessness Among DV Victim Households

Number of Households (y-axis, 0–120)

- 1 Episode: 106
- 2 Episodes: 11
- 3 Episodes: 0
- 4+ Episodes: 0
- Missing Information: 0

Number of Episodes

18.2% of victims of domestic violence reported no source of income

*Please note categories are not mutually exclusive as respondents may have selected multiple options

IX. Appendix A: Data Collection and Methodology

Requirements for the Count

As part of its Continuum of Care (CoC) application for homelessness funding, HUD requires that jurisdictions across the nation conduct a statistically reliable and unduplicated count of the homeless for one overnight period during the last 10 days of January. New Jersey's Continuums of Care (regional networks of organizations, agencies, and community stakeholders that plan local efforts to help the homeless) conduct an annual count of sheltered homeless persons (i.e., persons in emergency shelter, transitional housing for the homeless, and Safe Haven programs) and at least a biennial count of unsheltered homeless persons.

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

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

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

Because this report focuses on those respondents who meet HUD's definition of homeless, it does not include information about those who may be at risk of homelessness, precariously housed, or considered homeless under other federal statutes. Persons who, on the night of the count, were living doubled up with another household, living in illegal or overcrowded units, being discharged from a jail or health facility with no subsequent residence, scheduled to be evicted, or paying for their own motel unit were not considered homeless. All survey information collected for respondents who were at risk of homelessness or precariously housed was preserved and shared with each community for local planning purposes but is not included in this report unless otherwise noted.

Data Collection Methods

Monarch Housing Associates provided each of New Jersey's 21 counties with live remote 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 2023 Point-In-Time Count. Point-In-Time Coordinators in each county disseminated PIT training materials and helped facilitate local planning around implementation of the PIT count in their communities.

The count of homeless persons who were sheltered on the night of the Point-in-Time was primarily taken from New Jersey's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), while the count for the unsheltered and those sheltered by non-HMIS programs was conducted using a Paper Survey tool, personal interviews, and agency client records. This strategy was designed in accordance with HUD guidance regarding conducting both sheltered and unsheltered Point-In-Time Counts. About 19% of the records for households experiencing homelessness were generated through HMIS.

The 2023 PIT Survey tool closely mirrors information collected in HMIS so that the data was comparable for important factors such as duration and episodes of homelessness, household characteristics, income, services needed, and factors contributing to homelessness. Agencies updated all HMIS data to accurately reflect household information the night of the count, and those with programs that were non HMIS-participating submitted information from interviews utilizing the Paper Survey tool through SurveyMonkey. About 81% of the records for households experiencing homelessness were generated 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 impacted during the non-HUD required full count years. 2023 was a HUD mandated year to conduct an unsheltered count; the unsheltered count in 2021 was not required due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Factors affecting the unsheltered count include, but are not limited to: lack of volunteers, reliance solely on homeless service provider staff of which many were understaffed, and inability to host in person events or service fairs for persons experiencing homelessness.

2. The information presented in this report is based on survey interviews and agency HMIS records. In some cases, survey respondents did not answer every question completely, and homeless provider agencies did not report all client information on the night of the count. For this reason, all charts presented in this report are based on the responses received, but all percentages are based on the total households or individuals served and thus may not total 100% in each category due to possible missing data.

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

4. The Point-in-Time Count represents an attempt by communities across the State of New Jersey to capture a complete census of all persons experiencing homelessness both in

shelters and on the street during a single night. While the count is coordinated as a single statewide event, each county across the state develops locally appropriate methodologies for conducting the count of unsheltered persons in the community. As such, there is variation of the scope and depth of the unsheltered count from community to community. However, the sheltered count is conducted in a uniform manner across the state and each community maintains a consistent process for completing the sheltered and unsheltered count from year to year.

5. Given the nature of the Point-in-Time Count as a one-day count of the population experiencing homelessness, data collected on the racial and ethnic breakdown from the PIT is not fully comparable to U.S. Census Bureau data on the racial and ethnic population for the State of New Jersey. While there are limitations on comparing the PIT data, for purposes of examining racial and ethnic disparities, as a result of the single day count, a review of the sheltered population in the State of New Jersey over the course of a full year demonstrates similar trends as seen in the PIT data in which persons identifying as African American or Black, Native American and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander are overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness.

De-duplication

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

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

Following this de-duplication of the data, communities were given preliminary data to review all identified duplicates and records with missing data. Communities were then able to update records with missing information and/or request any additional de-duplication they determined prudent. Monarch then updated and removed additional records based on community feedback prior to completing its final analysis and report.
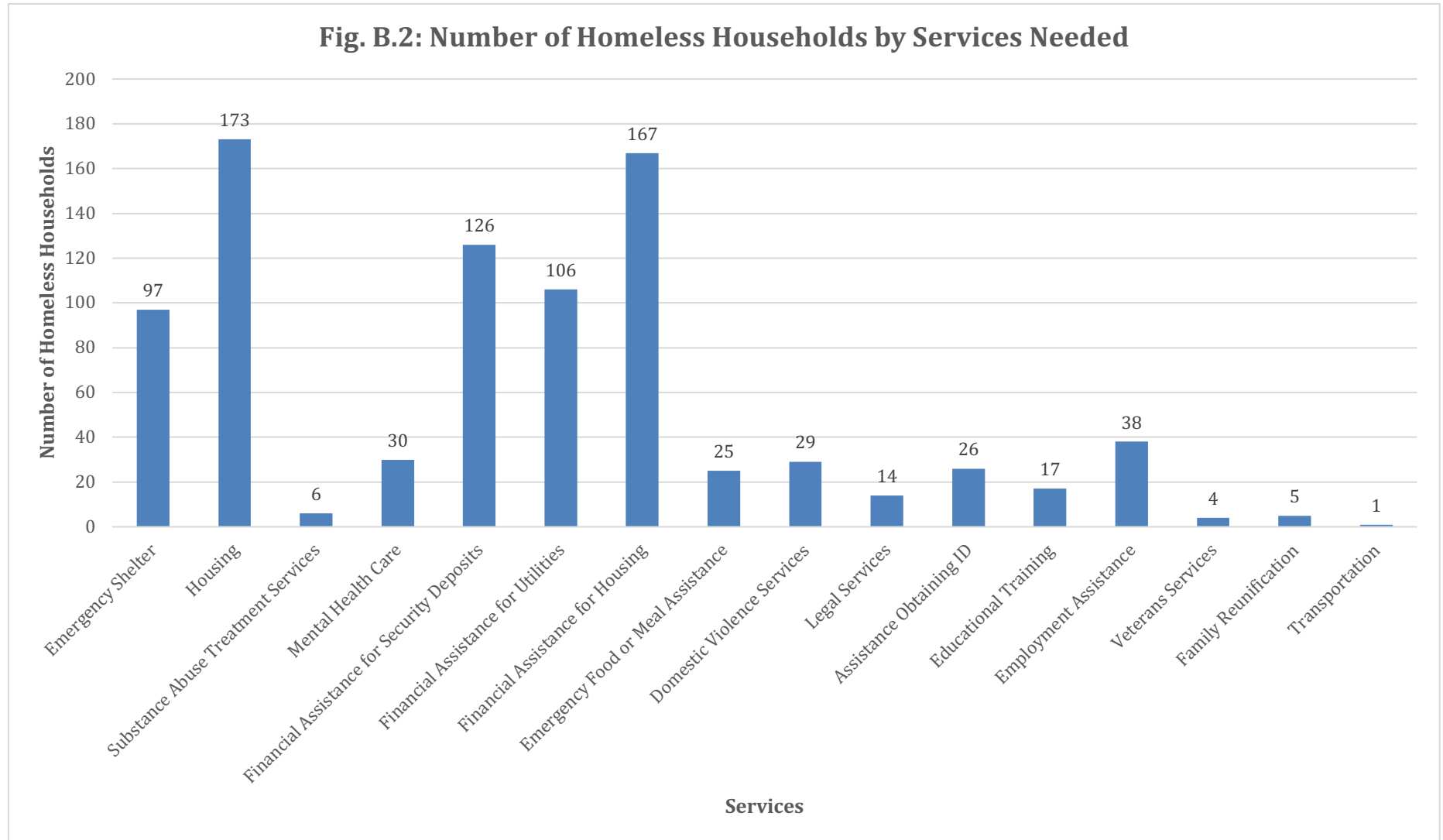
X. Appendix B: 10-Year Look Back and Survey Responses

10-Year Comparison of Homeless Population (2014-2023)

Fig. B.1: 10-Year Comparison of Homeless Population by Housing Type
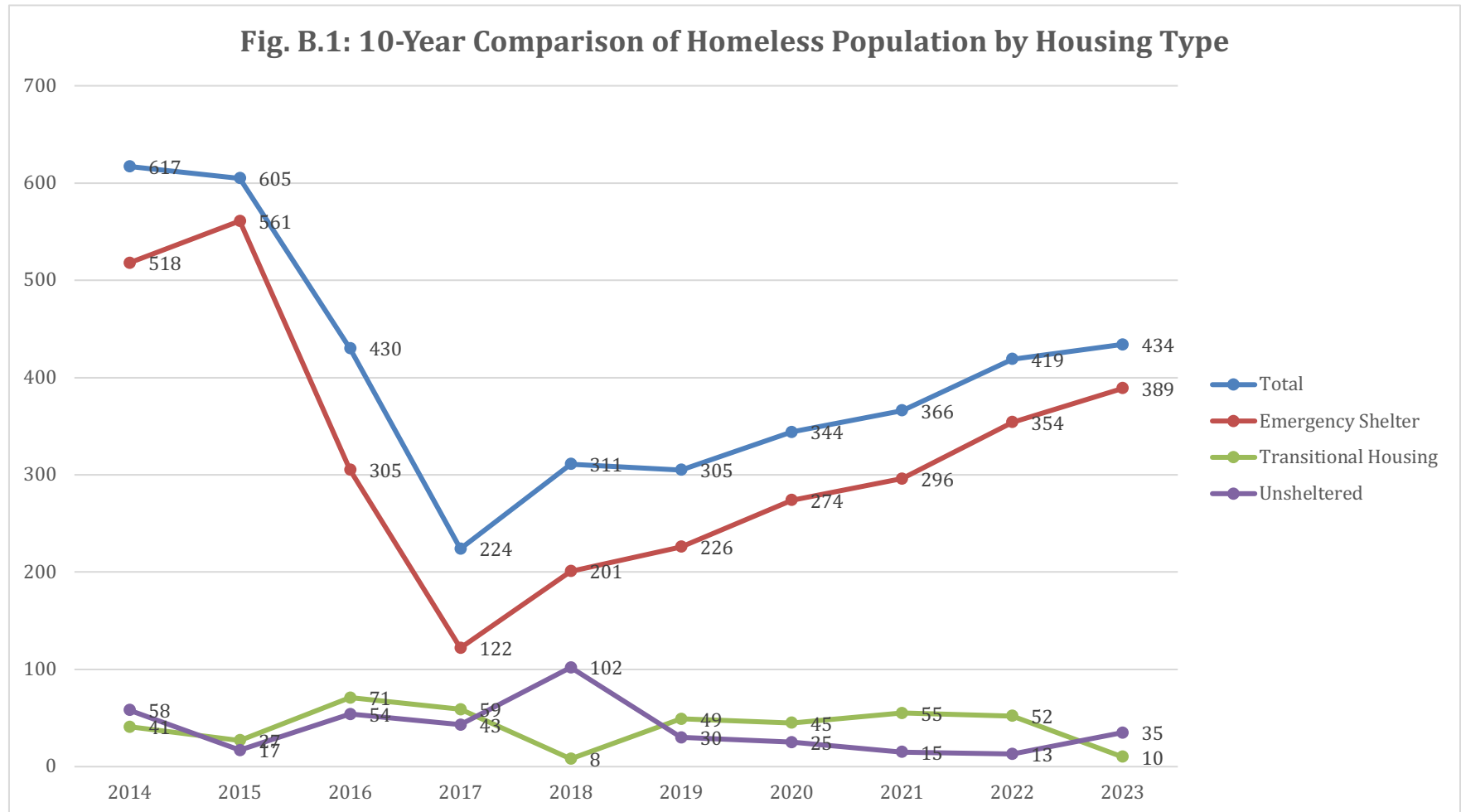
Would you, or anyone in your household like to receive any of the following services? Check all that apply to each person

Fig. B.2: Number of Homeless Households by Services Needed

Please note categories are not mutually exclusive as respondents may have selected multiple options

What issues have you encountered when trying to get access to services? Check all that apply to each person

Fig. B3: Number of Homeless Households by Barriers to Services
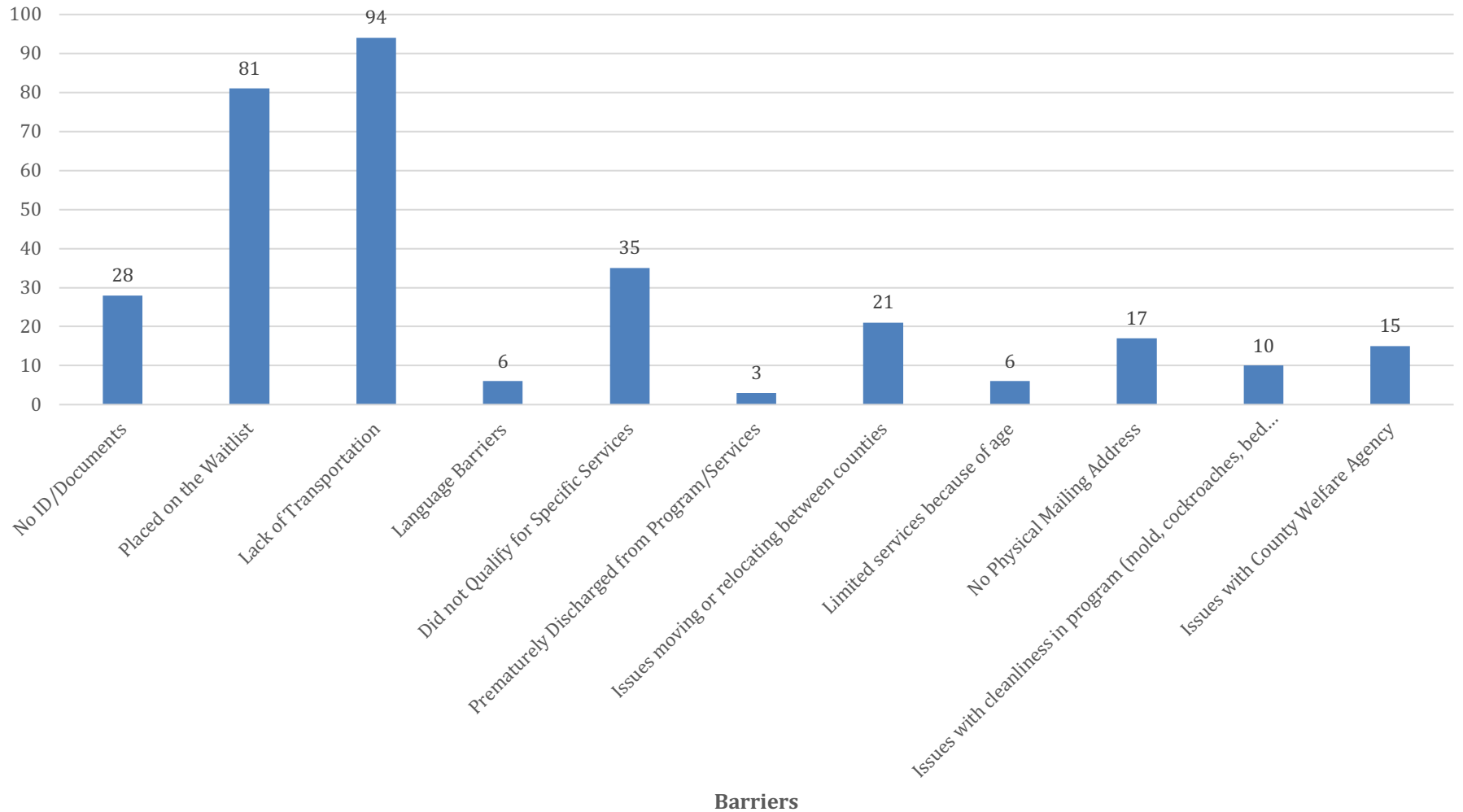
Please note categories are not mutually exclusive as respondents may have selected multiple options

Where did you spend the night of January 24, 2023?

Fig. B.4: Total Number of Households and Persons by Housing Type
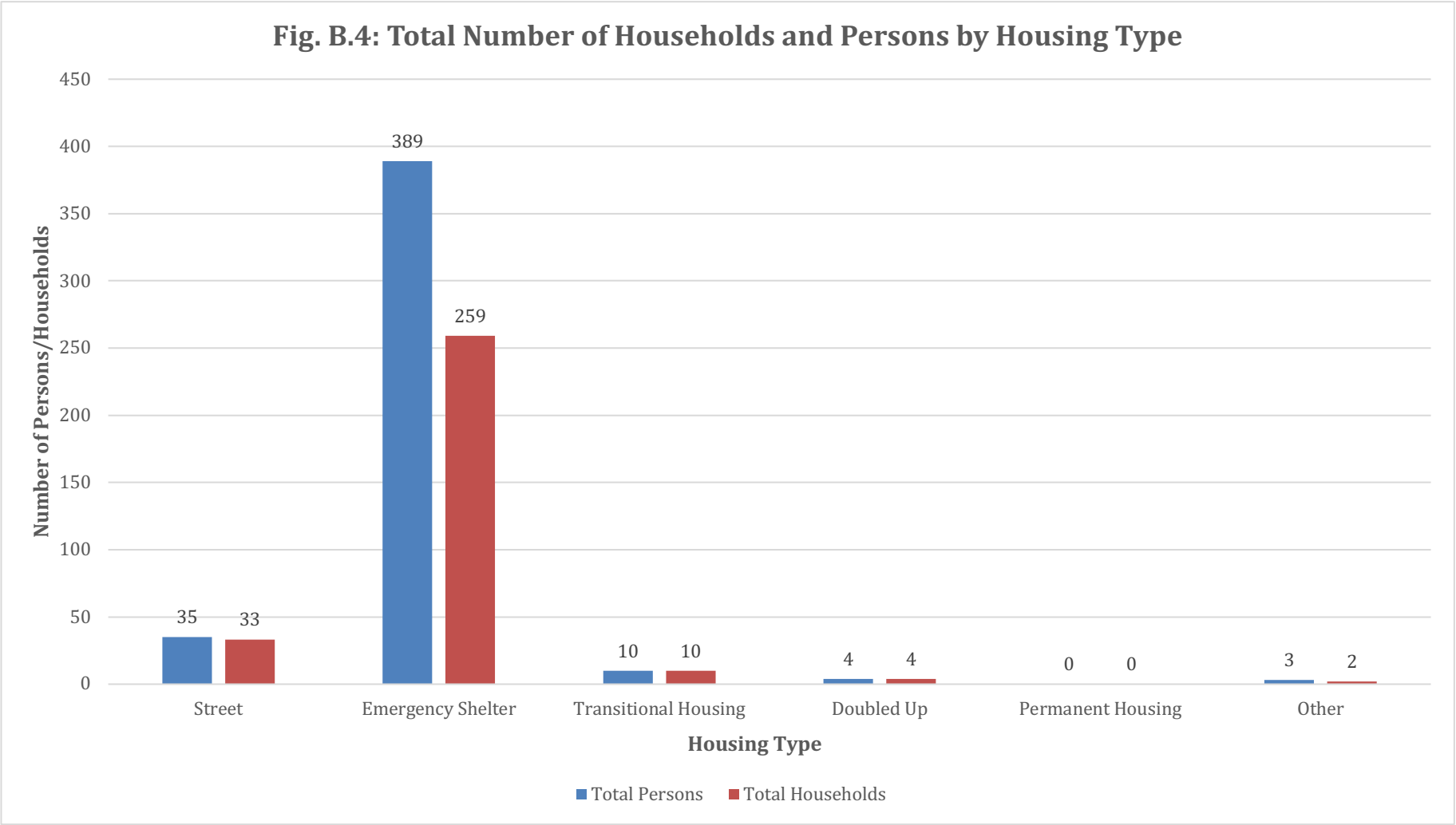
What was your location the night of the count?

Fig. B.5: Number of Homeless Persons by Municipality on the Night of the Count	
Location Night of Count – Municipality	Number of Persons
Absecon	7
Egg Harbor City	30
Pemberton township	2
Farmingdale	1
Berkeley	1
Brick	1
Jackson	1
Lakehurst	7
Lakewood	38
Little Egg Harbor	9
Seaside Heights	30
Stafford	4
Toms River	121

What is your total length of homelessness?

Fig. B.6: Homeless Households by Length of Homelessness and Housing Type
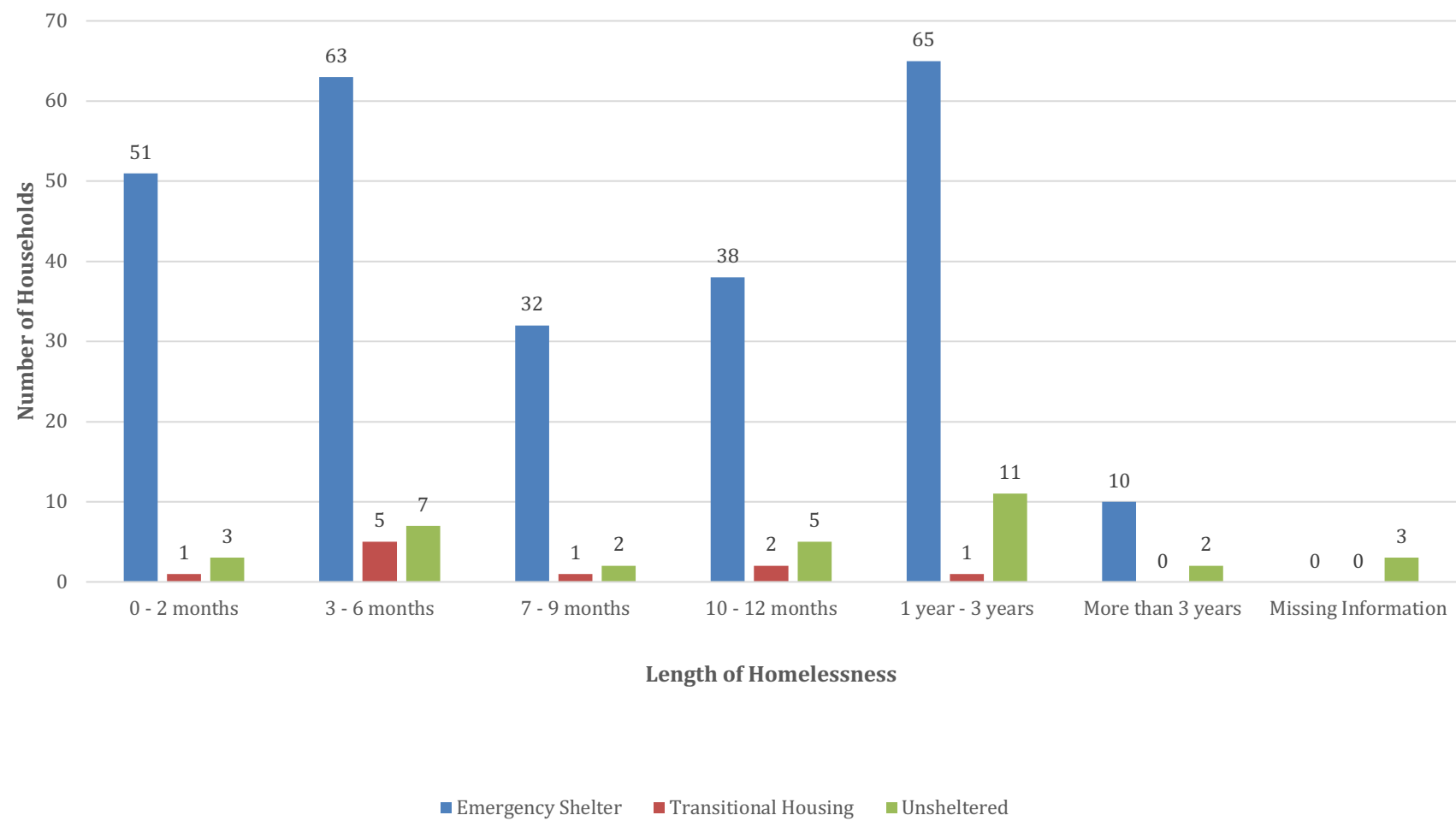
How many times have you been homeless in the past 3 years?

Fig. B.7: Homeless Households by Episodes of Homelessness by Housing Type
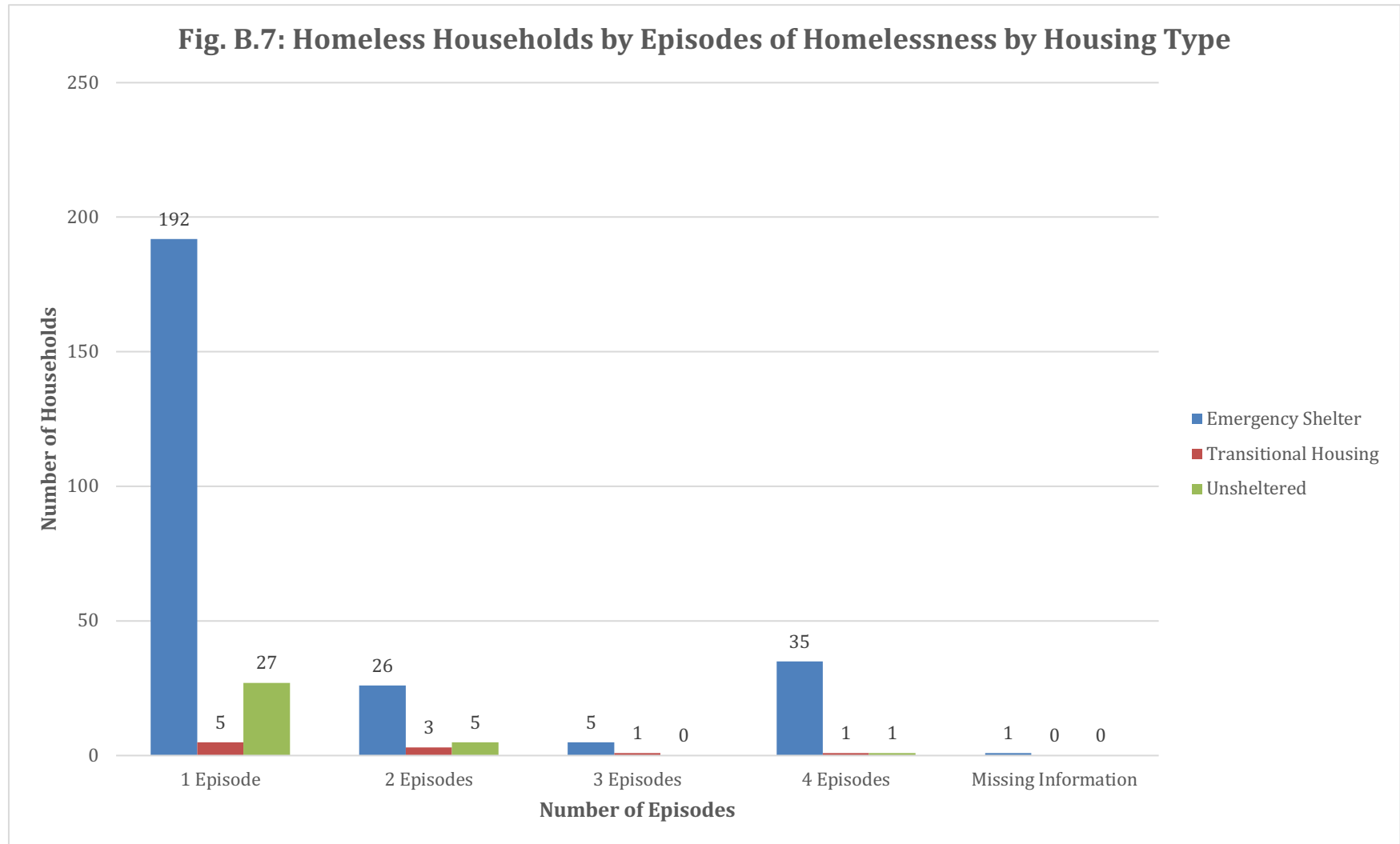
Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?

Fig. B.8. Number of Homeless Households by State or Country of Last Permanent Address	
Last Permanent Address – County/State	**Number of Households**
Atlantic County	3
Burlington County	5
Camden County	1
Cumberland County	1
Essex County	1
Gloucester County	1
Hunterdon County	1
Mercer County	2
Middlesex County	2
Monmouth County	11
Ocean County	241
Passaic County	2
Somerset County	1
Union County	1
California	1
Florida	1
Missouri	1
New York	2
North Carolina	1
Rhode Island	4
Vermont	1

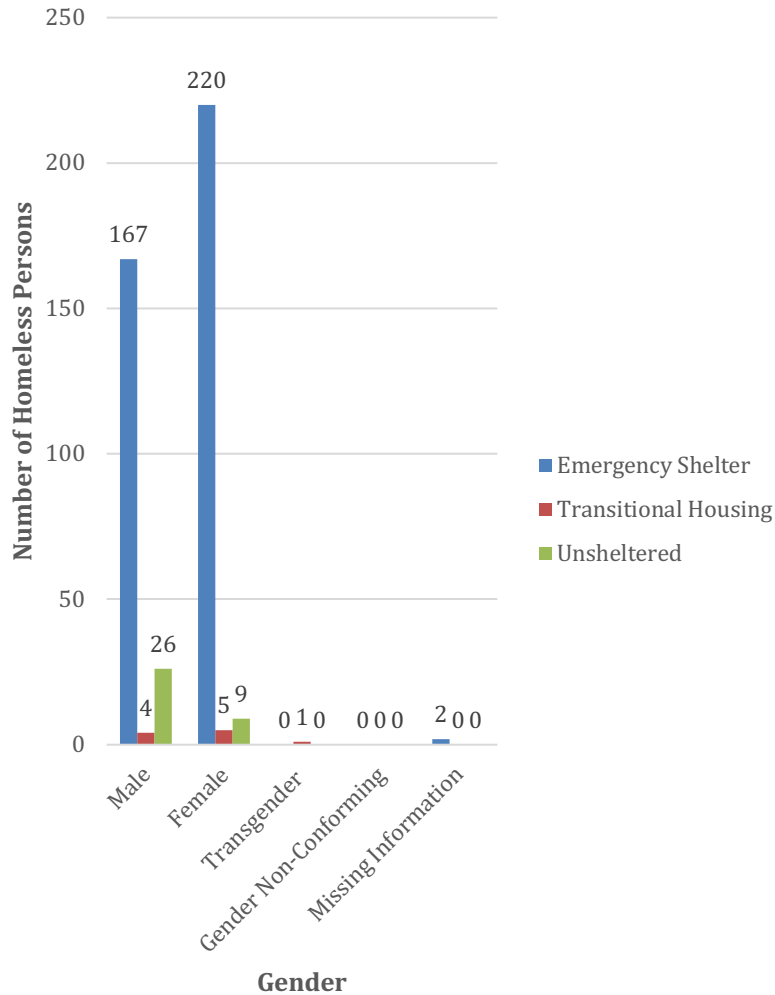**Who was homeless with you on the night of the Point-in-Time count?**

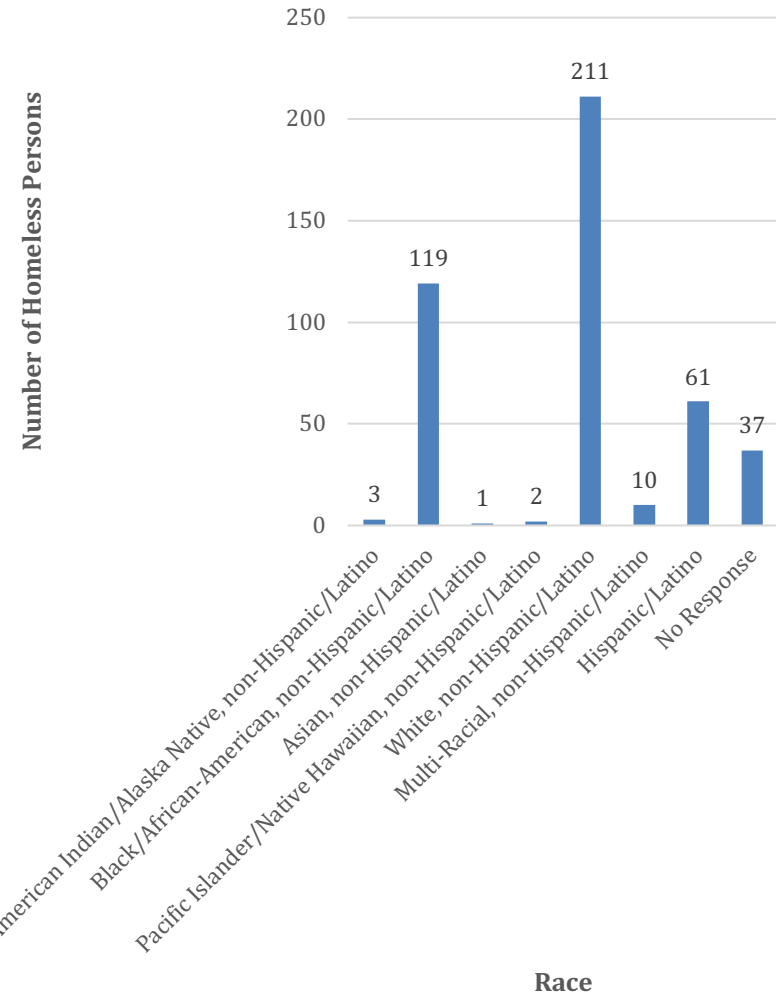Fig. B.9: Number of Persons by Age Range and Housing Type
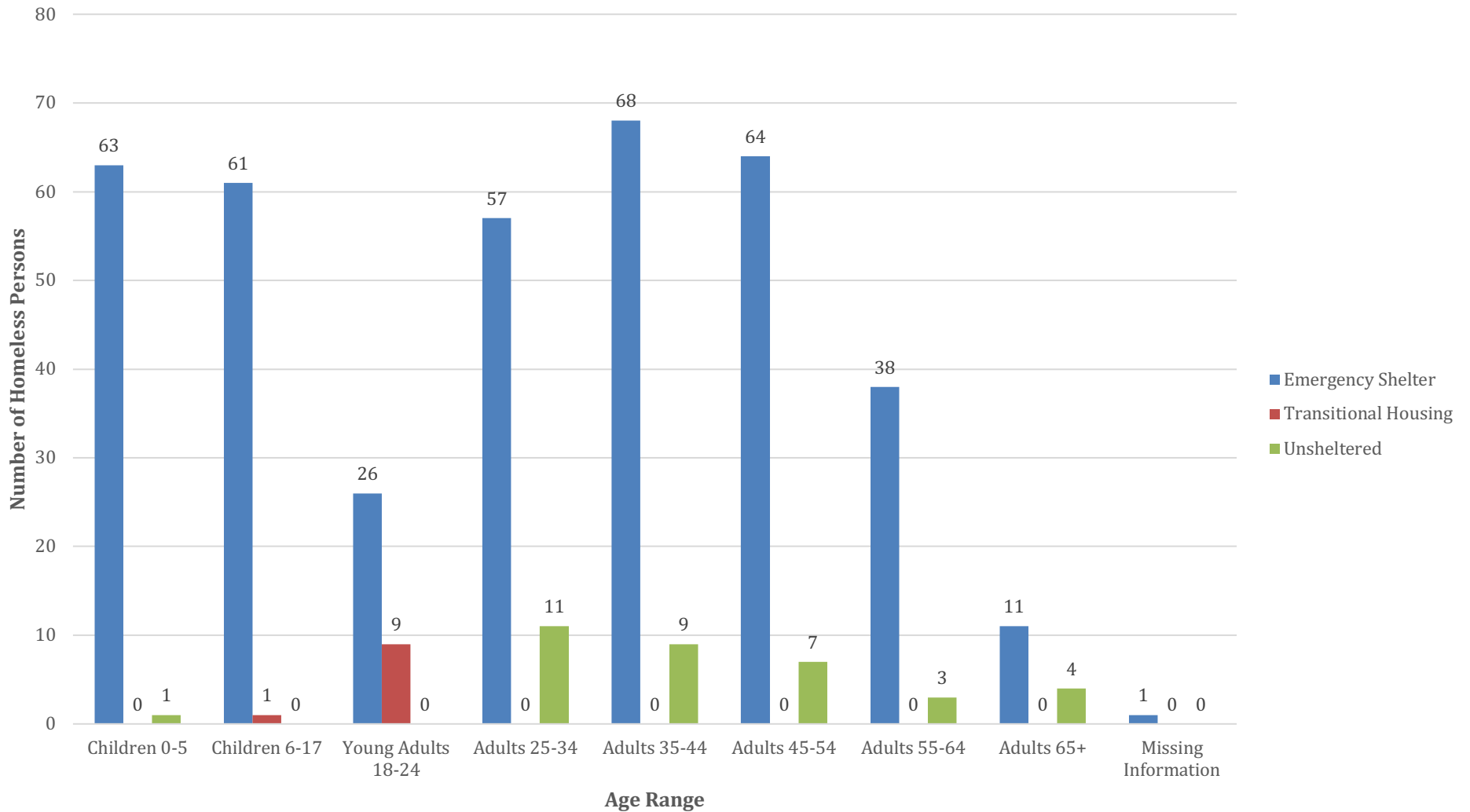
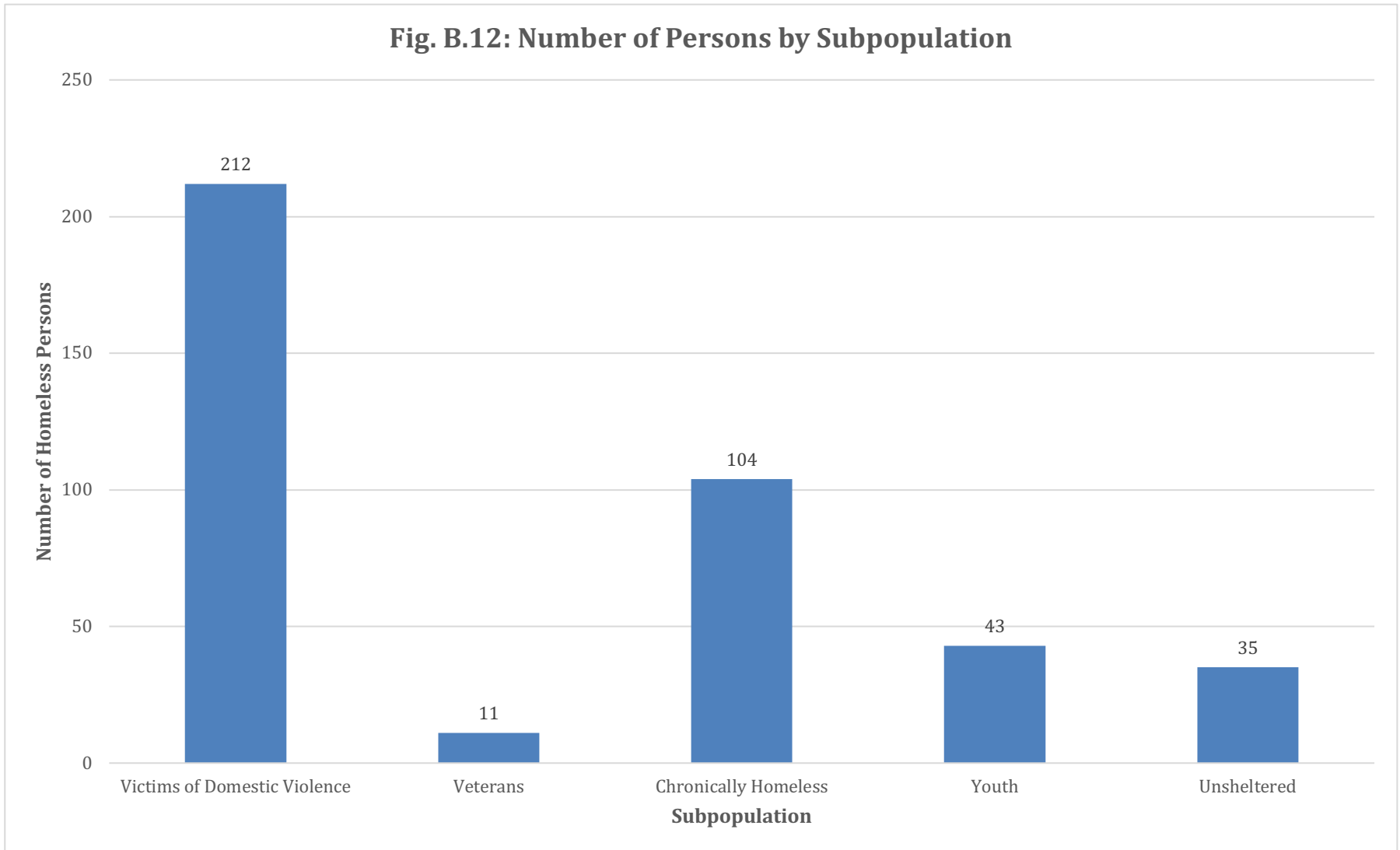**Household Characteristics: Demographic Data – check all that apply to each person**

Fig. B.10: Number of Persons by Gender and Housing Type



Fig. B.11: Number of Persons by Race and Housing Type

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

Fig. B.12: Number of Persons by Subpopulation

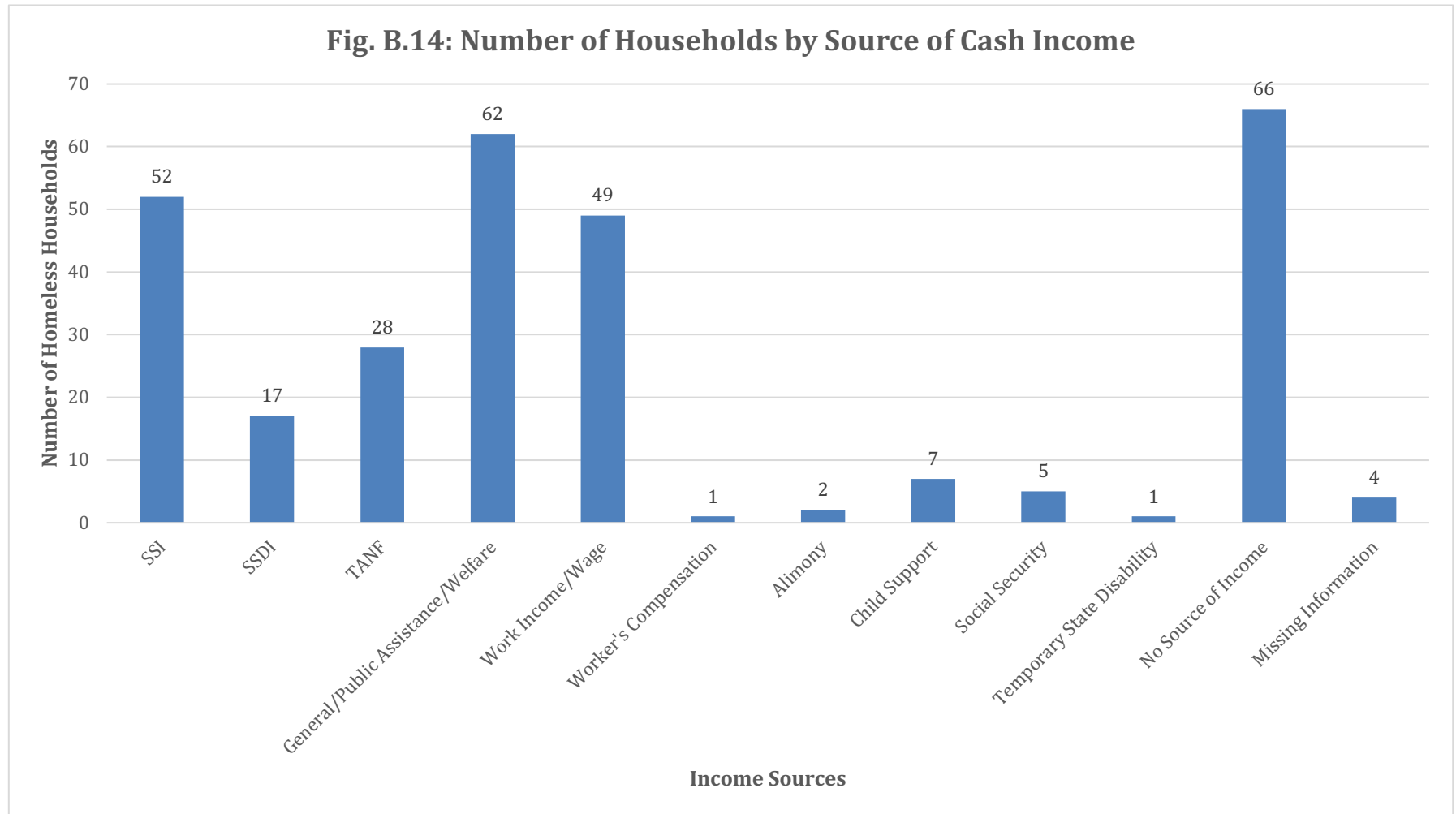*Please note categories are not mutually exclusive as respondents may have selected multiple options

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

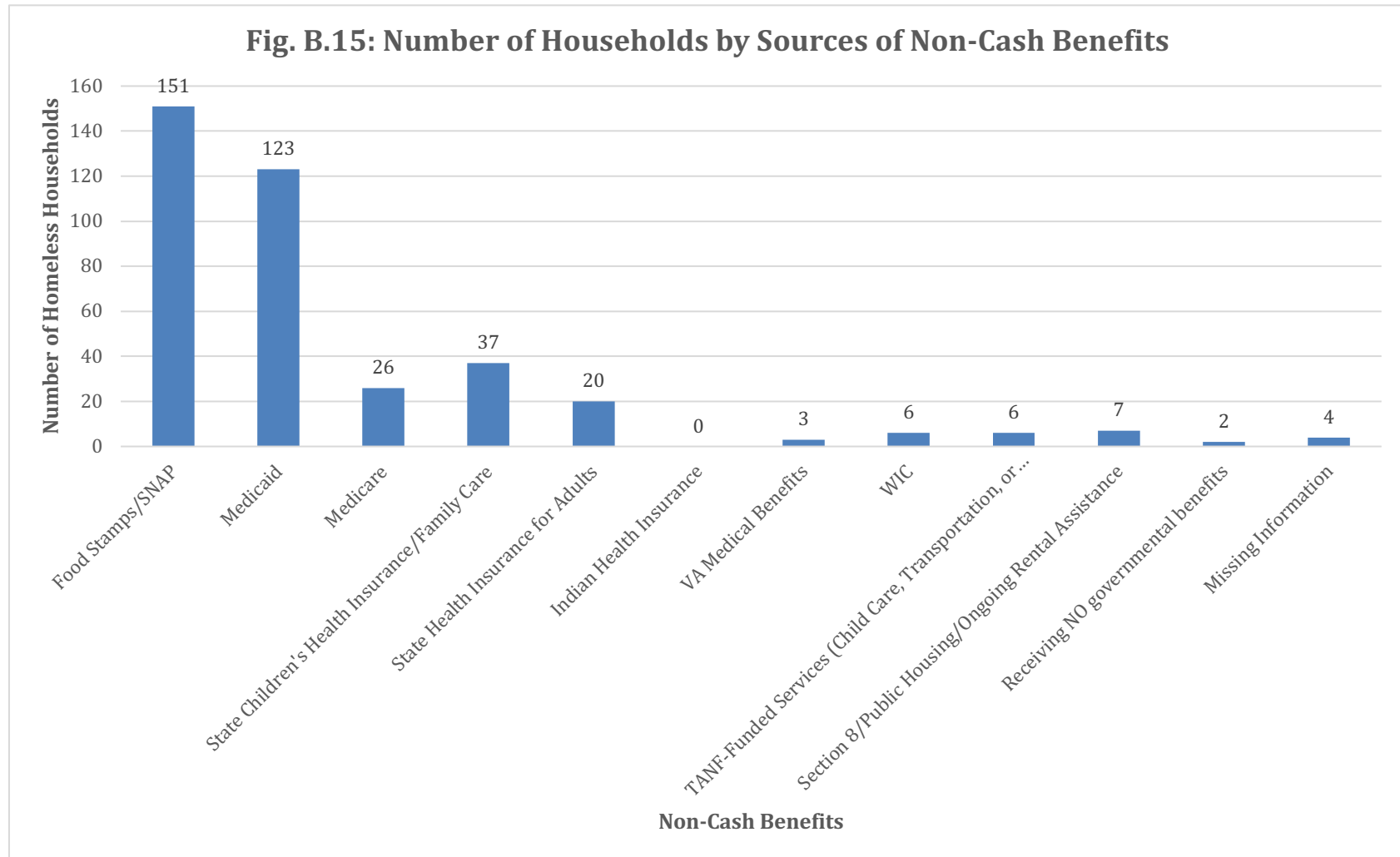Fig. B.13: Number of Persons by Disabling Condition
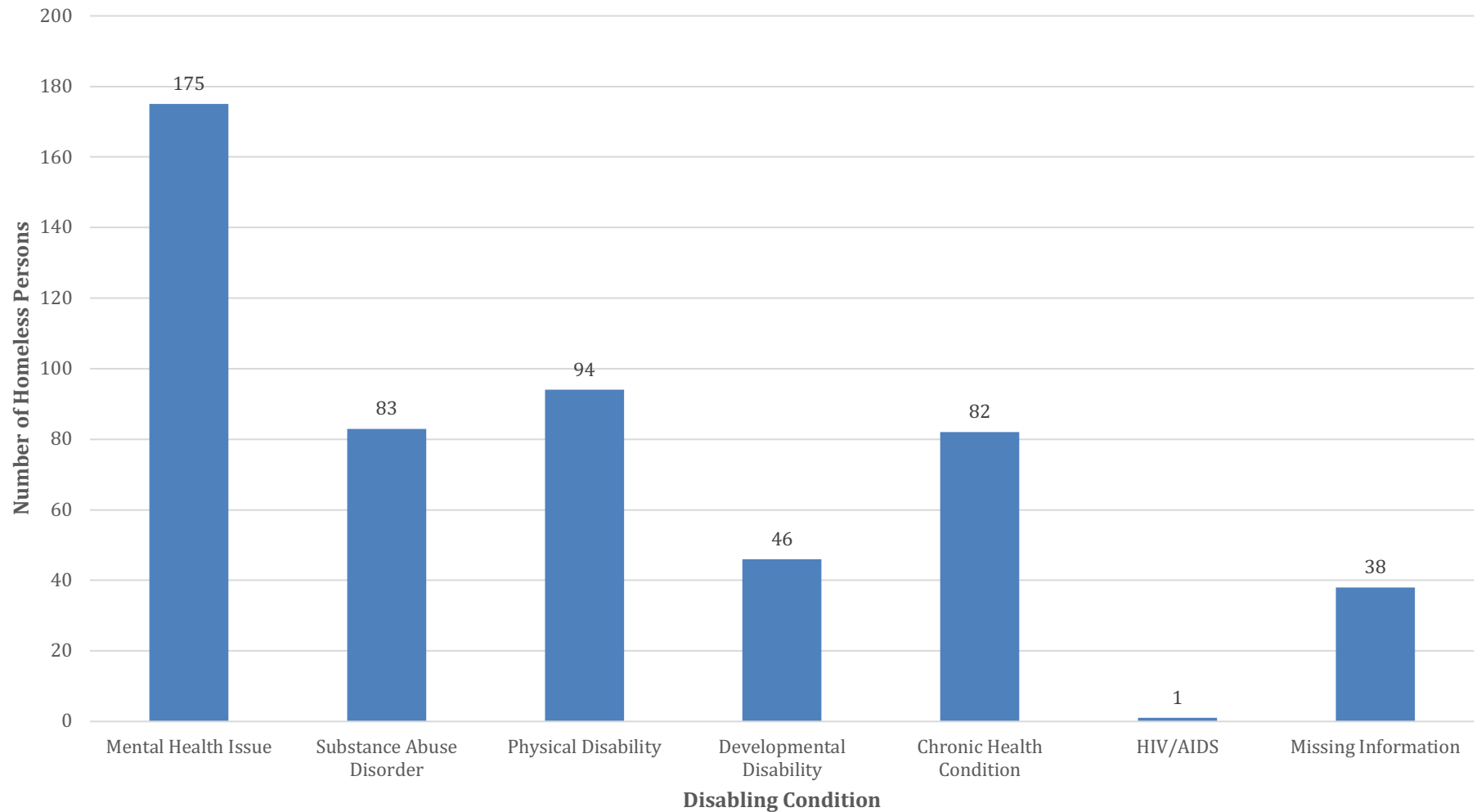
*Please note categories are not mutually exclusive as respondents may have selected multiple options

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

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

*Please note categories are not mutually exclusive as respondents may have selected multiple options

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

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

*Please note categories are not mutually exclusive as respondents may have selected multiple options

What were the primary factors that contributed to, or caused, your current living situation?

Fig. B.16: Number of Households by Cause of Homelessness

*Please note categories are not mutually exclusive as respondents may have selected multiple options