NJHMFA
HOUSING & MORTGAGE FINANCE AGENCY

NJ
COUNTS

MORRIS COUNTY
January 23, 2024

monarch
HOUSING ASSOCIATES

Acknowledgements

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I. Introduction

NJ Counts 2024

NJ Counts 2024, 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 2024 Count reveals important spatial, demographic and other information about families and individuals experiencing homelessness on the night of Tuesday, January 23, 2024. 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 2024 Point-In-Time Count. Appendix A contains information on data collection and methodology.

Definition of Terms

Chronically Homeless Households – 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.

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.

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 distinct 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').

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.

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.

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

Veteran – any person at or above the age of 18 who has served in any branch of the Armed Forces. For 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 United States Department of Veteran Affairs.

Victim of Domestic Violence – any household that is leaving a situation involving 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.

Youth – 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 legal guardians of one or more children.

Changes Affecting the 2024 Point-in-Time Count

The 2024 Count indicates a 19% increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness compared to 2023. In 2023, this figure had already surpassed 10,000 for the first time since 2015. The cumulative number now exceeds 12,000. These statistics underscore a convergence of various systemic changes.

- The COVID-19 eviction moratorium was lifted on January 1, 2022. As the court system clears through the backlog of pending cases, the resulting uptick in evictions is translating into an increase in eviction-displaced persons and families becoming homeless. This development partly explains the rise in homelessness observed in 2023 and 2024.
- 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's median income or less. The National Low Income Housing Coalition's Report[1] found that within New Jersey, there are only 30 units available for every 100 families looking for a place to call home. This means there is a shortage of 214,475 homes for extremely low-income households across the state.
- In much of the state, rent increases have exceeded national averages. According to the Rent Report for March 2024, prepared by rent.com[2], New Jersey rents increased by 6.2% year over year.

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[1] https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/new-jersey
[2] https://www.rent.com/research/average-rent-price-report/

Since the fall of 2022, Monarch Housing Associates has collaborated with the Statewide Advisory Board of Persons with Lived Experience of Homelessness (Advisory Board) to restructure the Point-in-Time Count with a focus on dignity. This initiative has offered invaluable insights and reshaped the survey to collect relevant data while honoring the humanity of all respondents. Furthermore, the Advisory Board provided motivational interviewing training to all interviewers. Communities reported that the Advisory Board's involvement enhanced data collection efforts and prioritized the experiences of individuals experiencing homelessness.
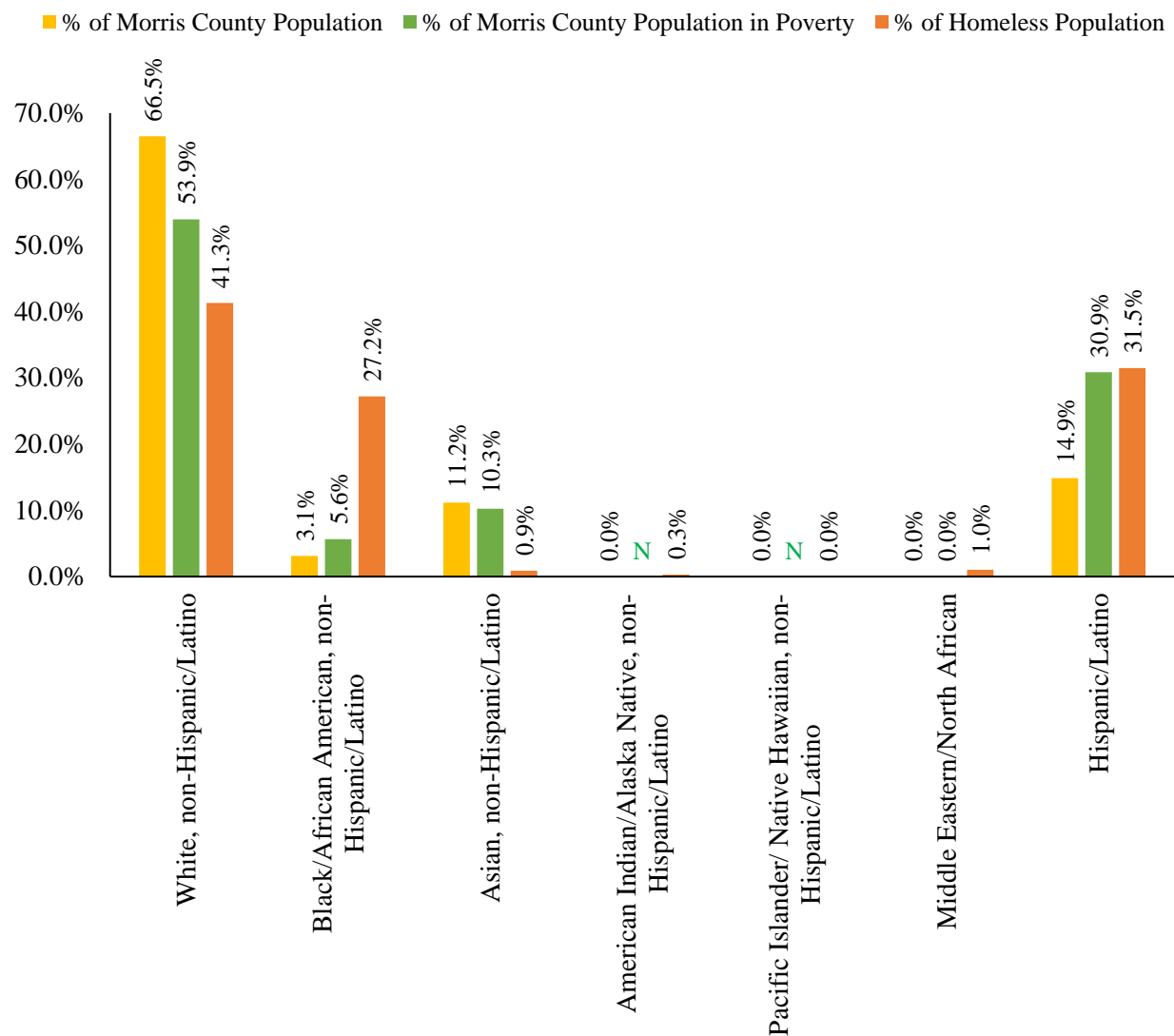
When reviewing data included in this report, it is important to keep in mind that the Point-in-Time data includes a census of all persons in sheltering programs (emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe haven programs) as well as the unsheltered population identified on the night of the count. 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, and unsheltered individuals are often harder to locate, particularly in extreme weather conditions. As a result, 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 2024 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, such as redlining, zoning and education disparities, on those experiencing homelessness is key to developing an effective system responsive to the community and strengthening cultural understanding and awareness.

On January 23, 2024, there were 680 persons experiencing homelessness on a single night in Morris County. Fig. R.1 illustrates the racial breakdown of the total population in Morris County, those living below the poverty line, and those experiencing homelessness.[3]

Fig. R.1: Percent of Population by Race and Ethnicity

Legend:
- % of Morris County Population
- % of Morris County Population in Poverty
- % of Homeless Population

Race/Ethnicity	% of Morris County Population	% of Morris County Population in Poverty	% of Homeless Population
White, non-Hispanic/Latino	66.5%	53.9%	41.3%
Black/African American, non-Hispanic/Latino	3.1%	5.6%	27.2%
Asian, non-Hispanic/Latino	11.2%	10.3%	0.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic/Latino	0.0%	N	0.3%
Pacific Islander/ Native Hawaiian, non-Hispanic/Latino	0.0%	N	0.0%
Middle Eastern/North African	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Hispanic/Latino	14.9%	30.9%	31.5%

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[3] For all racial and ethnic groups except MENA population in Fig R.1, 2022 ACS 1-yr estimate was used. For MENA only homeless population is populated as Census Bureau doesn't capture poverty and county population for this category. N typically means that the data is not available or not applicable for that particular category due to small sample size or data suppression

In comparing the racial composition of those experiencing homelessness to the racial composition of the general population and those living in poverty, disparate impacts along racial lines are evident. According to the American Community Survey 2022 annual estimates prepared by the Census Bureau, approximately 511,151 people live in Morris County and 4.1% (20,727 persons) of Morris 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.
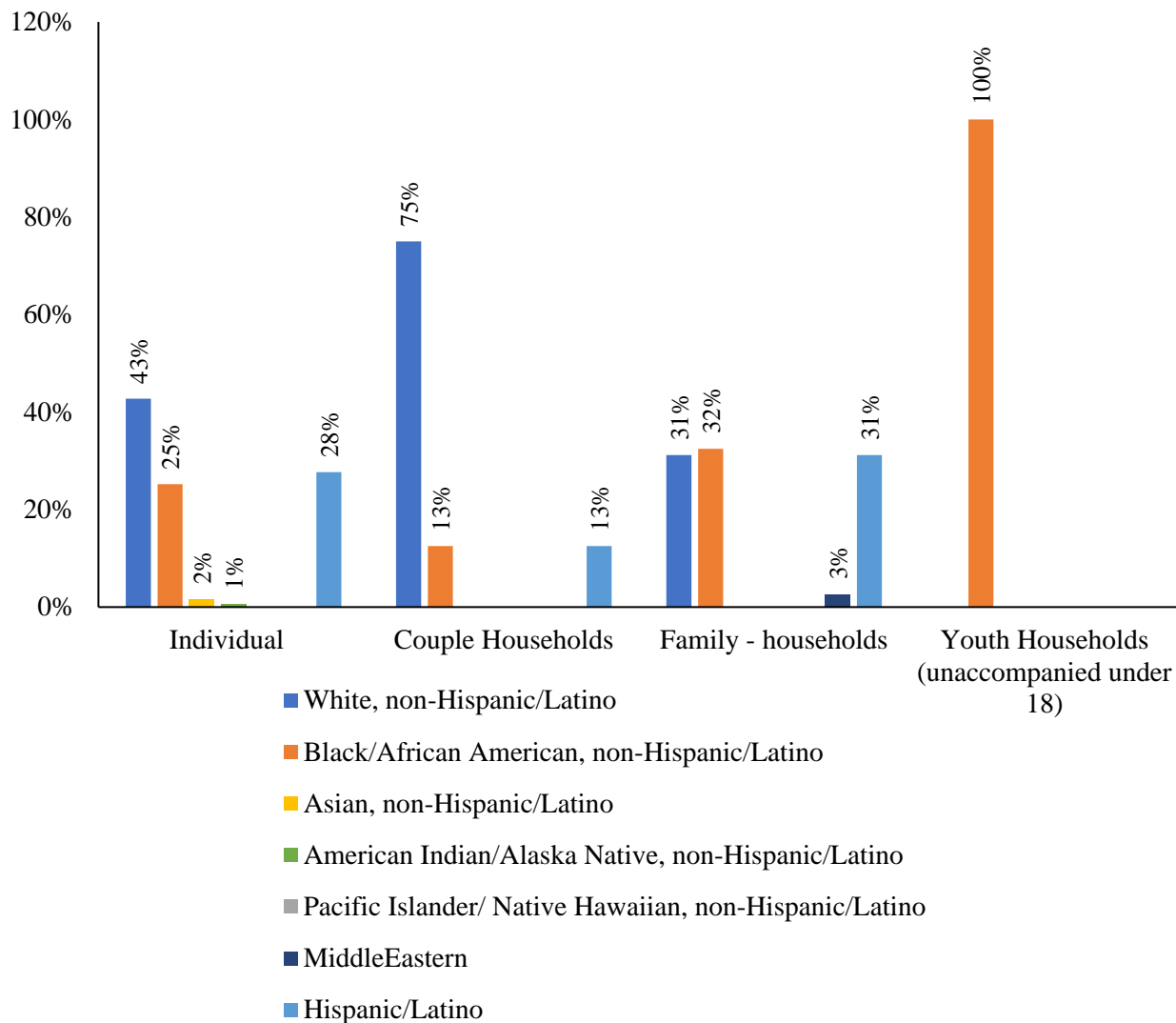
The data from Figure R.1 indicates the following:
- Persons identifying as Black or African American, non-Hispanic/Latino are significantly overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness. While 3.1% of the general population, persons identifying as Black or African American are 5.6% of the population in poverty and 27.2% of the population identified as experiencing homelessness.
- Persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino are overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness. While 14.9% of the general population, persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino are 30.9% of the population in poverty and 31.5% of the population identified as experiencing homelessness.
- Persons identifying as Black or African American, non-Hispanic/Latino represent 31% of the sheltered population (staying in emergency shelter or transitional housing) and 7.9% of the identified unsheltered population. Persons identifying as White non-Hispanic/Latino represent 43.4% of the sheltered population and 36% of the identified unsheltered population. Persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino represent 23.2% of the sheltered population and 55.1% of the unsheltered population.
- White individuals, while making up a majority of the Morris County population (66.5%), are underrepresented in the homeless population 41.3%). However, they still constitute a substantial portion of both the population in poverty and the homeless population.

The graph below titled "Fig. R.2: Percent of Household Type by Race" displays the distribution of different household types across various racial and ethnic groups.

- Persons identifying as White, non-Hispanic/Latino represent the largest racial percentage of individual (43%), couple (75%) households, while persons identifying as Black or African American, non-Hispanic/Latino represent the largest racial percentage of family (34%) and youth households (100%).
- A disproportionate amount of children experiencing homelessness identify as Black or African American or Hispanic/Latino. 46% of persons identifying as Black or African American, non-Hispanic/Latino and 41% 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 26% of persons identifying as White, non-Hispanic/Latino.
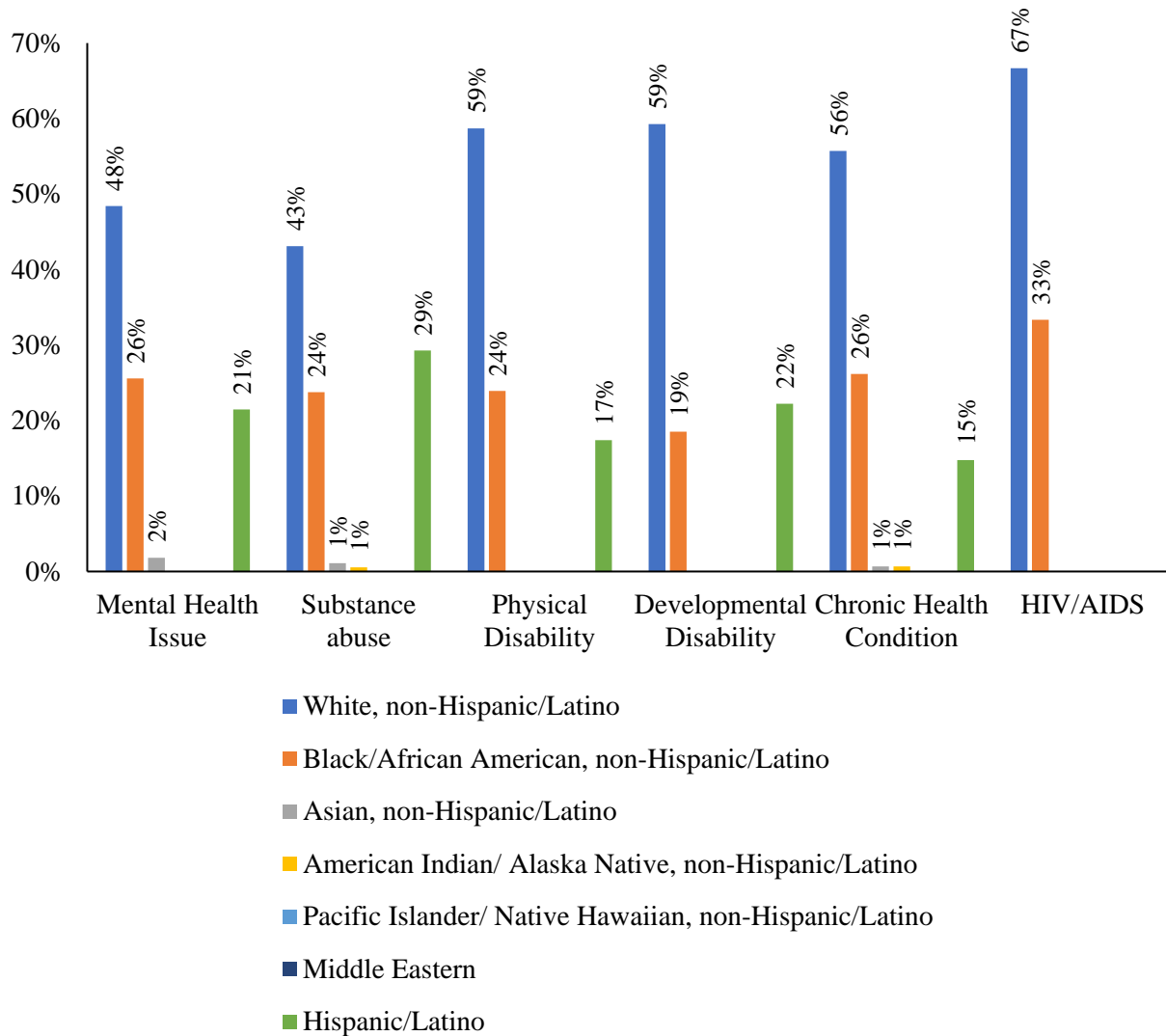
Fig. R.2: Percent of Household Type by Race

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

- 31% of persons identifying as Black or African American, non-Hispanic/Latino and 25% of persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino were children under the age of 18, as compared to 15% of persons identifying as White, non-Hispanic/Latino.
- 26% of persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino reported receiving no government benefits, compared to 1% of persons identifying at White, non-Hispanic/Latino and 2% of person identifying as Black, African American, non-Hispanic/Latino.
- 59% of persons identifying as White, non-Hispanic/Latino reported having a disability compared to 55% of persons identifying as Black or African American, non-Hispanic/Latino and 49% of persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino.

The graph below titled "Fig. R.3: Disabling Condition by Race" illustrates the prevalence of various disabling conditions among different racial and ethnic groups.

- Persons identifying as White, non-Hispanic/Latino represented the largest racial percentage persons identifying a mental health issue, substance abuse disorder, physical disability, developmental disability, chronic health condition, and HIV/AIDS.

Fig. R.3: Disabling Condition by Race

Legend:
- White, non-Hispanic/Latino
- Black/African American, non-Hispanic/Latino
- Asian, non-Hispanic/Latino
- American Indian/ Alaska Native, non-Hispanic/Latino
- Pacific Islander/ Native Hawaiian, non-Hispanic/Latino
- Middle Eastern
- Hispanic/Latino

As detailed above, disparities were evident in a number of responses included in the PIT survey. Given this data, it is clear that more research is needed to fully understand the causes, correlations and impacts of racial disparities in those who experience homelessness and how they experience and navigate systems of service, specifically for households who identify as Black or African American or Latino/Hispanic. 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 Homelessness Population

Key Findings
- On the night of January 23, 2024, a total of 475 households, including 680 persons, were experiencing homelessness in Morris County, according to the 2024 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 90 persons were identified as chronically homeless.
- 91 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). 66.0% of data collected for this report was generated through HMIS and 34.0% was generated through client-level interviews from SM.

Municipality	Total Homeless Persons	% of Total Homeless Persons	Sheltered Homeless Persons	% of Sheltered Homeless Persons	Unsheltered Homeless Persons	% of Unsheltered Homeless Persons
Boonton	3	0.6%	3	0.8%	0	0.0%
Butler	1	0.2%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%
Chatham	1	0.2%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%
Chester Twp.	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	1	1.1%
Dover	38	8.2%	16	4.3%	22	24.4%
East Hanover	2	0.4%	1	0.3%	1	1.1%
Florham Park	1	0.2%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%
Hanover	35	7.6%	34	9.1%	1	1.1%
Jefferson Twp.	4	0.9%	4	1.1%	0	0.0%
Mendham	2	0.4%	2	0.5%	0	0.0%
Mine Hill	1	0.2%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%
Montville	3	0.6%	3	0.8%	0	0.0%
Morris Plains	60	13.0%	57	15.3%	3	3.3%
Morris Twp.	6	1.3%	5	1.3%	1	1.1%
Morristown	247	53.5%	206	55.4%	41	45.6%
Mount Olive Twp.	7	1.5%	6	1.6%	1	1.1%
Netcong	2	0.4%	2	0.5%	0	0.0%
Parsippany-Troy Hills	11	2.4%	3	0.8%	8	8.9%
Randolph	1	0.2%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%
Rockaway Boro	10	2.2%	8	2.2%	2	2.2%
Rockaway Twp	9	1.9%	3	0.8%	6	6.7%
Roxbury Twp.	7	1.5%	6	1.6%	1	1.1%
Victory Gardens	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	1	1.1%
Wharton	9	1.9%	8	2.2%	1	1.1%
Total	**462***		**372**		**90**	

*Does not reflect total homeless persons counted as some survey responses may not have included municipality.

Total Homeless Population

On the night of January 23, 2024, a total of 680 persons in 475 households were experiencing homelessness in Morris County.

Figure 1 shows that in 2024, 477 homeless persons stayed in emergency shelters, 112 stayed in transitional housing, and 91 were identified as unsheltered on the night of the count. When compared to 2023, increases are seen in the number of homeless respondents staying in emergency shelter (145 persons, 44%), those identified as unsheltered (62 persons, 214%), and transitional housing (8 persons, 8%).

Figure 1 also shows that Morris County has seen an overall increase of 326 identified persons (92.1%) from 2020 to 2024. Over this 5-year period, there was a 134% increase in persons staying in emergency shelter, a 1% increase in persons staying in transitional housing and a 214% increase in identified unsheltered persons between 2020 and 2024.

Fig. 1: 5-Year Comparison of Total Homeless Population by Housing Situation
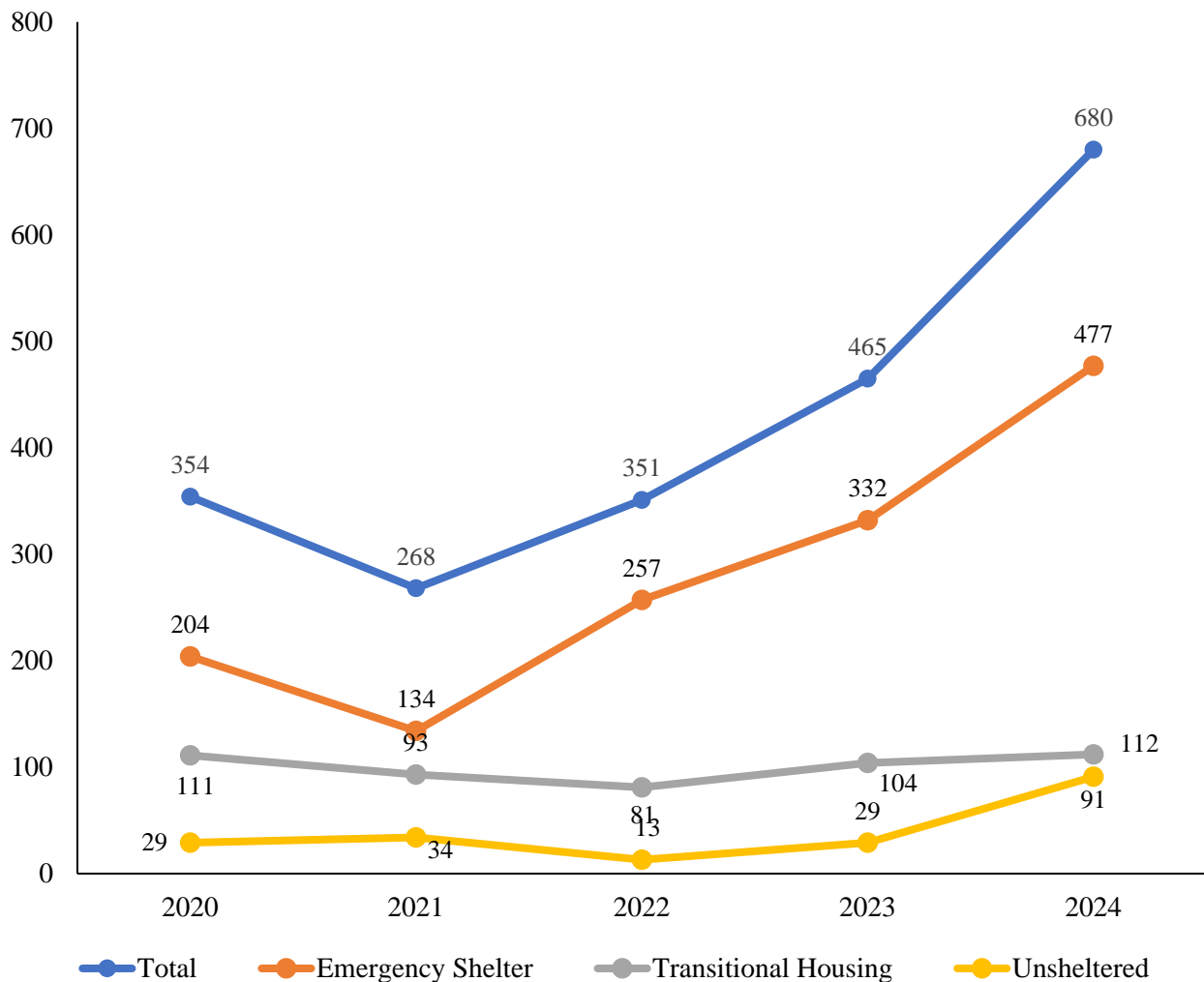
Fig. 2 depicts the distribution of households based on their last permanent address. As it shows, 9% of the homeless household respondents in Morris County in 2024 reported that their last permanent address prior to becoming homeless was out of the county.

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

- In County
- Out of County
- Missing Information
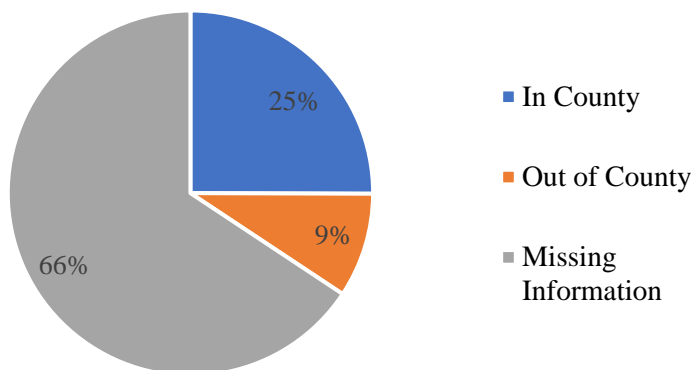
Homeless Families and Individuals

Of the 475 homeless households counted in Morris County in 2024, 77 (16.2%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. These families included 247 persons, including 154 children under age 18 and 93 adults. The average family size was 3.2 persons.

Figure 3 shows that 58 families (75.3%) were staying in emergency shelters, and 19 (24.7%) were in transitional housing. 397 (83.6%) of the homeless households identified in Morris County were households without children under 18, and they were composed of 432 adults. The majority of adult-only households (66%) were staying in emergency shelters on the night of the count. 86 adult-only households were identified as unsheltered in 2024.

There was also 1 unaccompanied youth household, with 1 person identified, staying in transitional housing in 2024.

Fig. 3: Homeless Households by Housing Situation
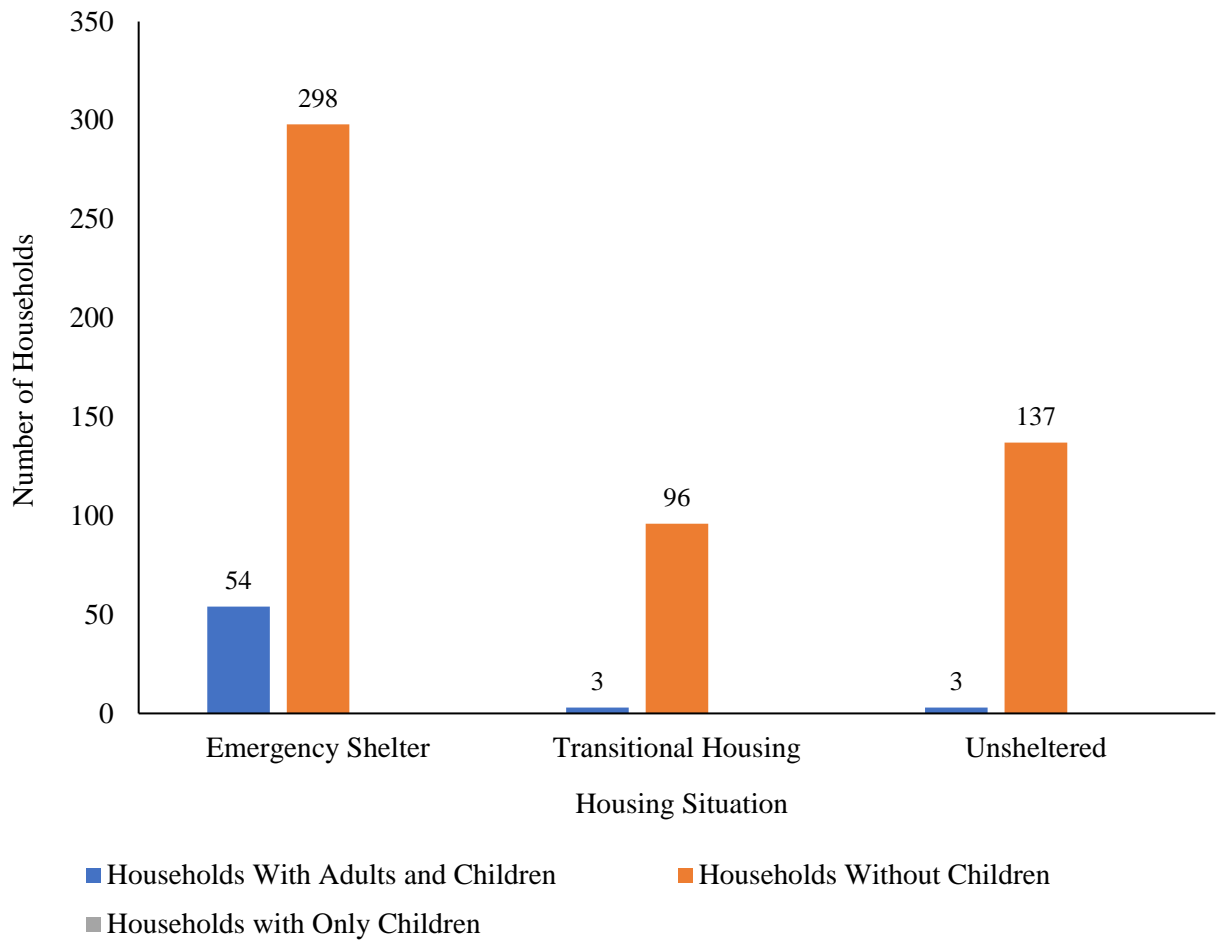
Demographics

There were 41 (6.0%) identified homeless adults between 18 and 24 years old, 479 (70.4%) adults over age 24, and 155 (22.8%) 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 (134 persons, 20%).

**Fig. 4: Age Range by Housing Situation**

Number of Persons (y-axis), Age Range (x-axis)

Age Range	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered
Children 0-5	43	12	
Children 6-17	69	31	
Young Adults 18-24	30		11
Adults 25-34	71	19	16
Adults 35-44	90	22	22
Adults 45-54	71	12	22
Adults 55-64	73	13	13
Adults 65+	27		35
Missing Information	3		2

Legend: ■ Emergency Shelter ■ Transitional Housing ■ Unsheltered
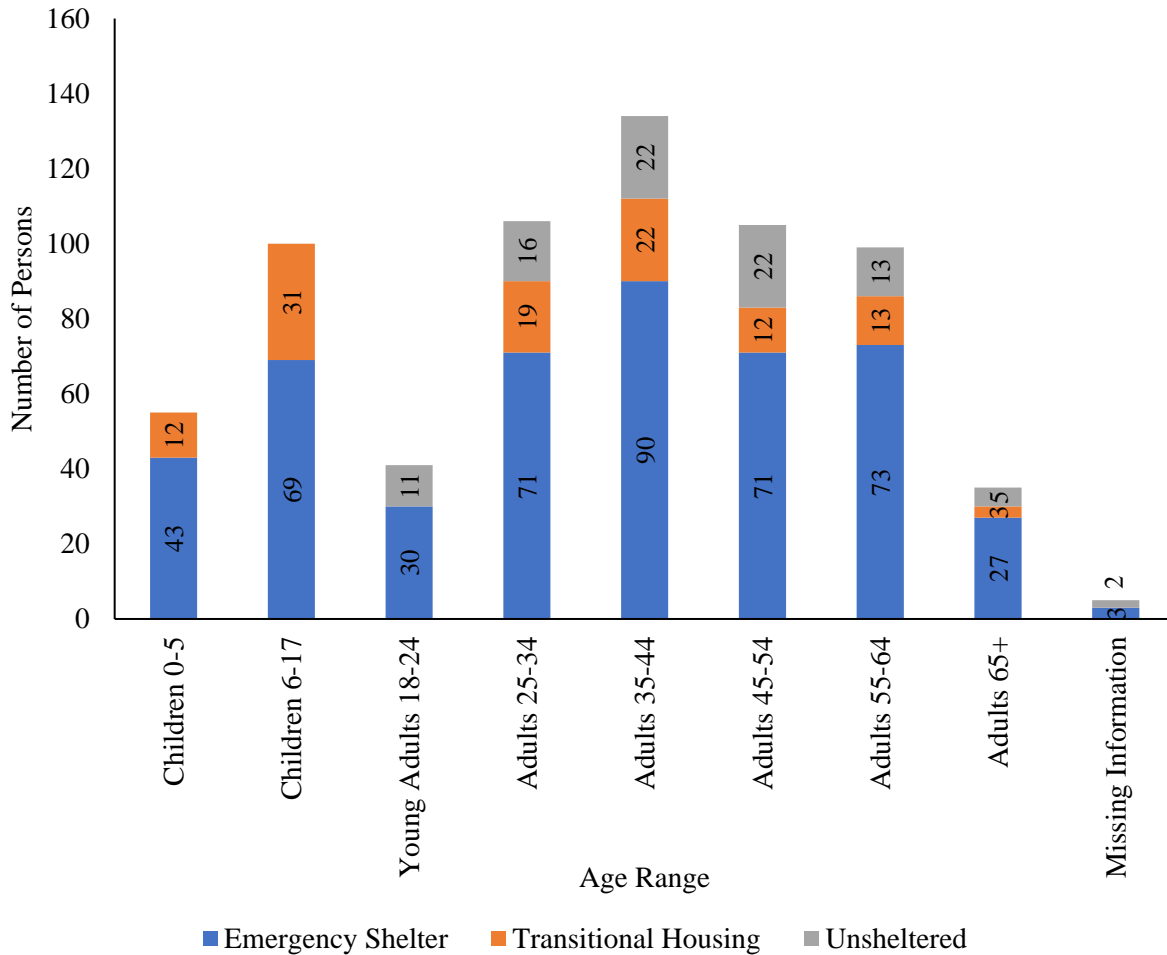
Additionally, 60.9% (414) of homeless persons identified as Men (Boy if child), 38.2% (260) identified as Women (Girl if child), 0.3% (2) identified as non-binary, 0.3% (2) homeless persons identified as Multiple genders, and 0.1% (1) identified as transgender.

41.3% (281) of persons identified their race as White, making this the largest racial/ethnic category of homeless persons counted. The next largest group identified as Black or African American (27.2%, 185 counted persons). In terms of ethnicity those identifying as Hispanic/Latino were 26.2% of the population (182 counted persons); 2.5% of homeless persons counted did not report their race or ethnicity.

Subpopulations
On the night of January 23, 2024, out of the 680 persons identified as homeless, there were a total of 90 chronically homeless persons, representing 13.2% of the counted homeless population. There were 14 homeless veterans representing 2.7% of the counted homeless adult population. 112 victims of domestic violence were identified representing 16.5% of the total identified homeless population. Homeless youth (individuals and families with heads of households 24 years old or younger) represented 6.0% of the counted homeless population with 41 persons identified. Figure 5 illustrates the break-down of each subpopulation identified by housing type.

As illustrated in Figure 5 the majority of chronically homeless people counted (57 persons), victims of domestic violence (59 persons), veterans (11 persons), and youth (29 persons) were in emergency shelters on the night of the count.

Fig. 5: Subpopulations by Housing Situation
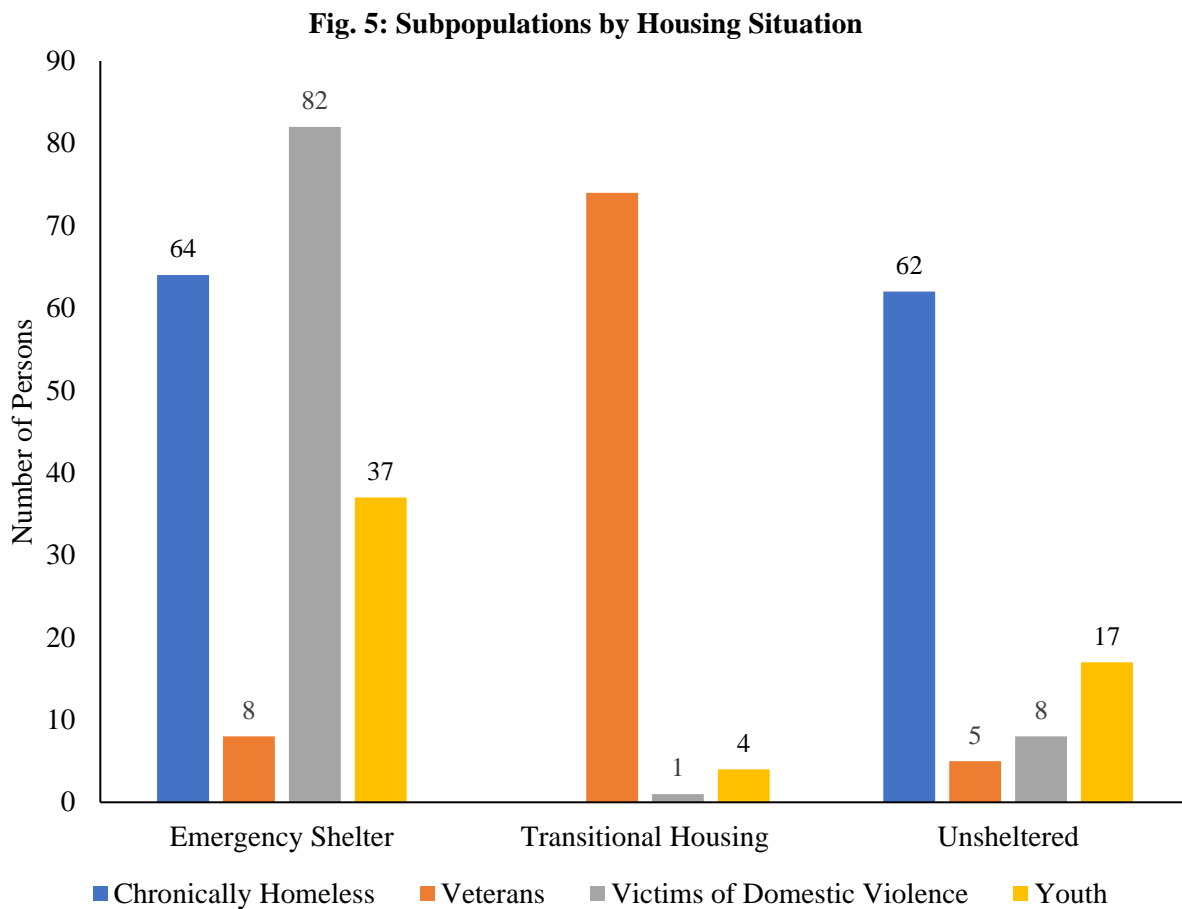
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Disabilities

Figure 6 illustrates that 55.0% (374) of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. 70.4% of adults 18 or older reported some type of disability compared to 4.5% of children. Figure 7 shows the number of the counted homeless persons who identified as having various disabilities. The most common disabilities included mental health issues and substance abuse disorder.

Fig. 6: Percent of Population with a Disability

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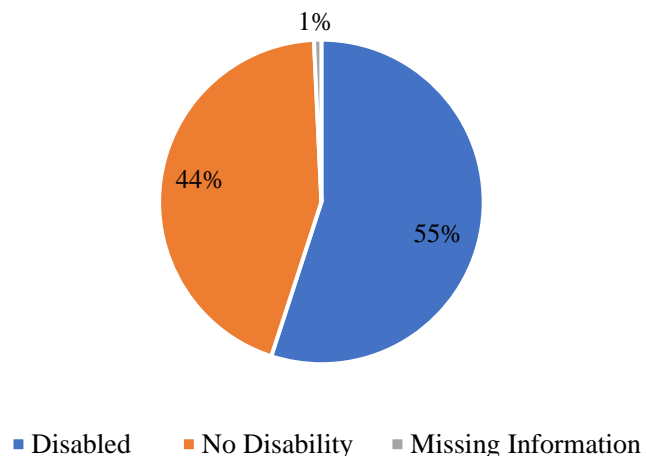
4 Please note categories are not mutually exclusive as respondents may have selected multiple options

Among persons identifying a disability, 58.6% reported mental health issues; this accounts for 32.2% of the total identified population experiencing homelessness. An additional 49.2% of disabled adults reported a substance abuse disorder.

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
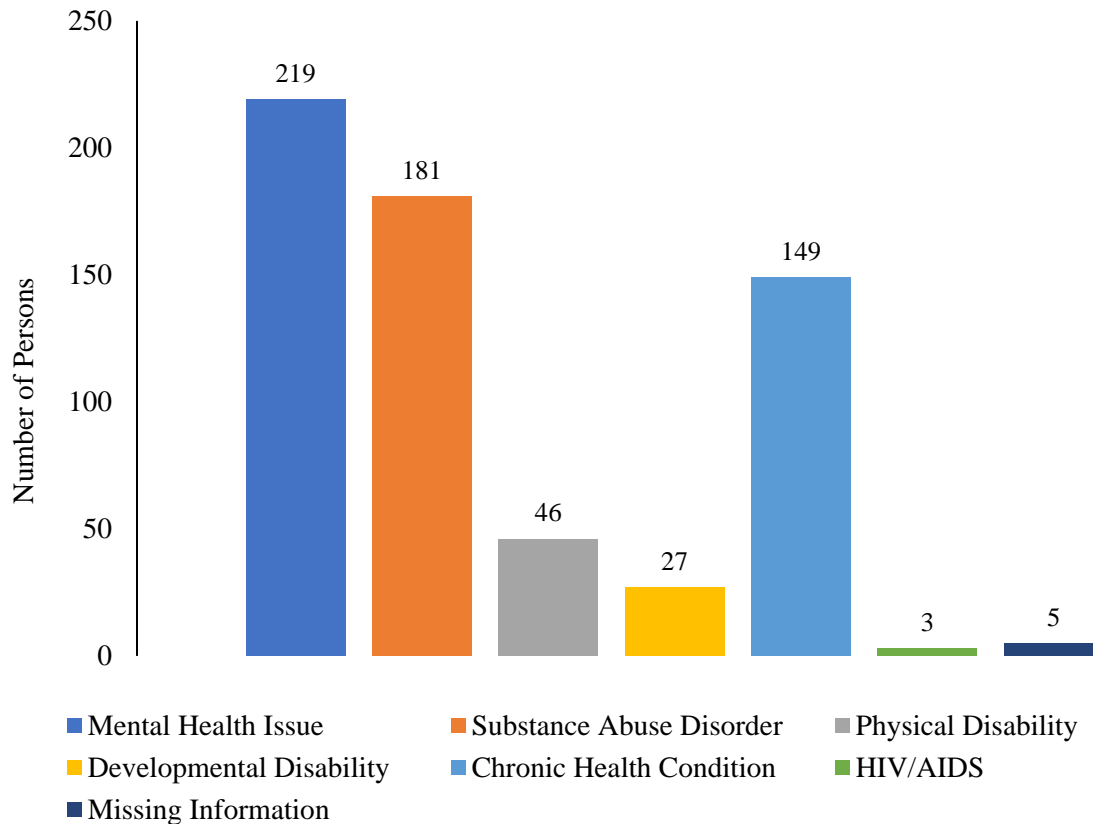
[5]

Income and Benefits

Among all households experiencing homelessness on the night of the count, 51.8% had no source of income; 15.1% reported having earned income. The most common sources of income among homeless households were work income (15.1%), SSI (9.7%), and SSDI (7.8%). Figure 8 shows the income sources reported by respondents in relation to their housing situation on the night of the count.

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

Fig. 8: Income by Housing Situation

Emergency Shelter ■ Transitional Housing ■ Unsheltered
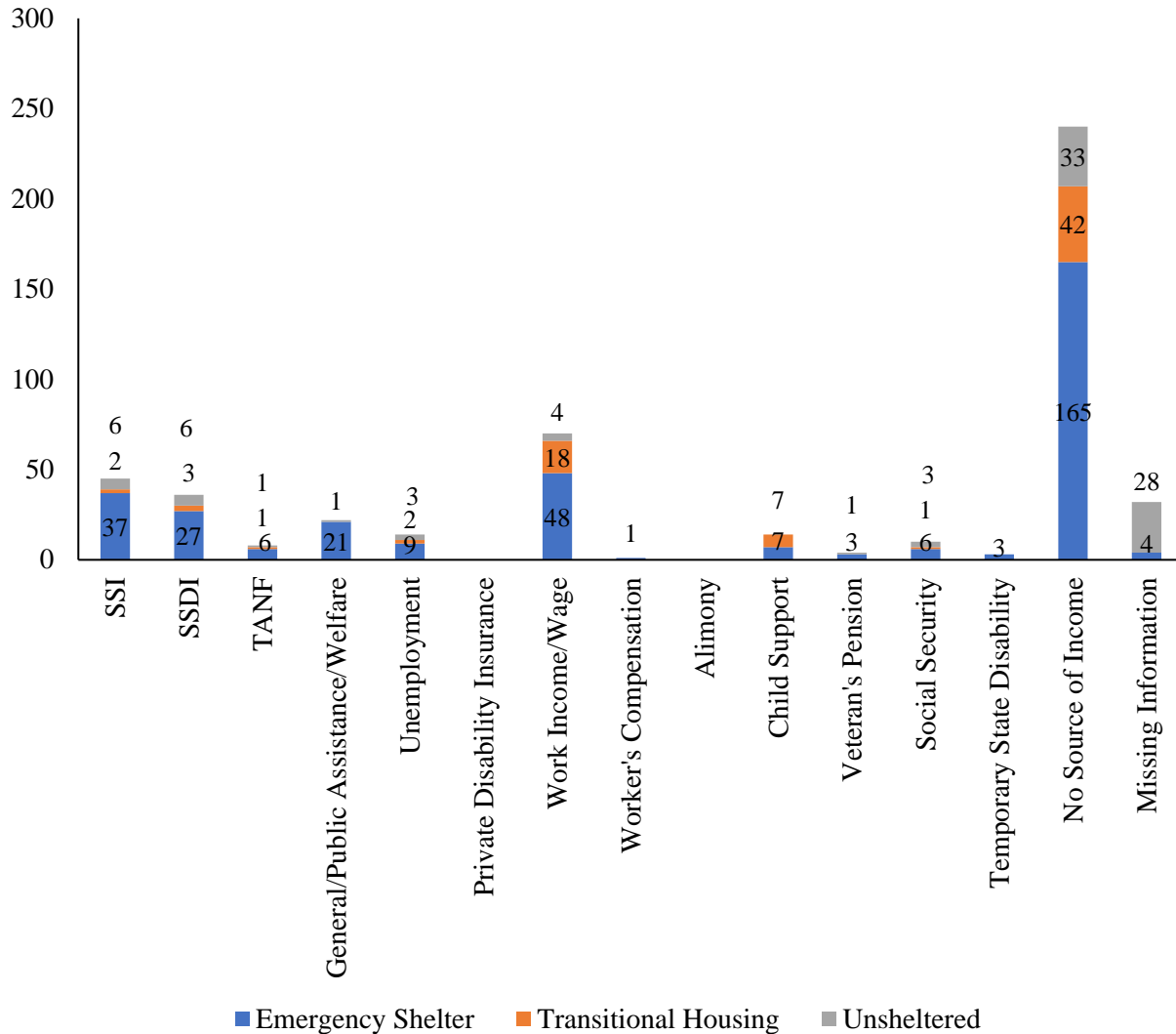
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Additionally, 8.8% of counted homeless households reported receiving no non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Medicaid was the top reported non-cash benefit, received by 59.8% of homeless households. Food Stamps (SNAP) was the second most reported non-cash benefit received by 35.8% of homeless households.

Length of Homelessness

Figure 9 illustrates the total amount of time identified households 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, 47.8% of identified homeless households reported their total length of homelessness was between 0 and 6 months. Within this group, 27.6% were homeless from 0 – 2 months and 20.2% were homeless between 3 and 6 months. For those with longer periods of homelessness, 24.6% 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, 80 households (16.8%) were homeless between 1 and 3 years while 37 households (7.8%) reported a total length of homelessness exceeding 3 years.

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

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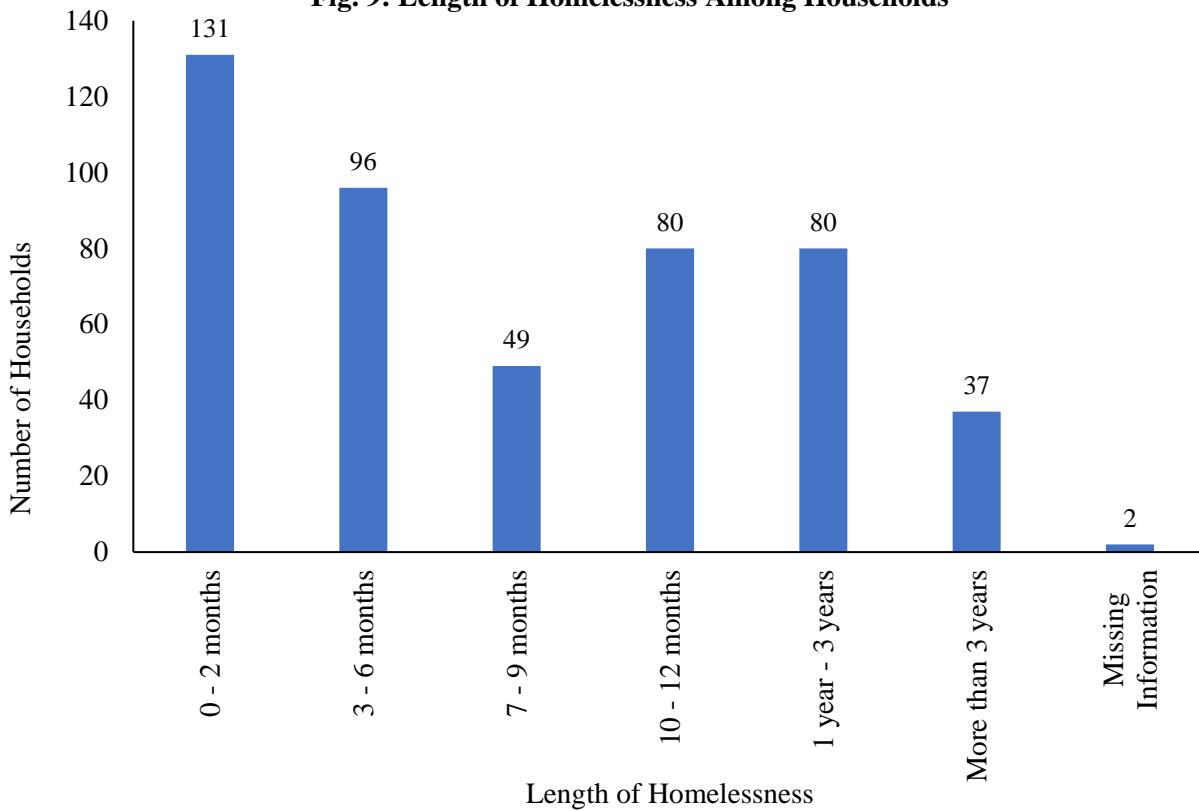
Episodes of Homelessness

A total of 358 households (75.4%) experienced one episode of homelessness. Figure 10 illustrates the total number of episodes of homelessness reported by households.

Fig. 10: Episodes of Homelessness Among Households
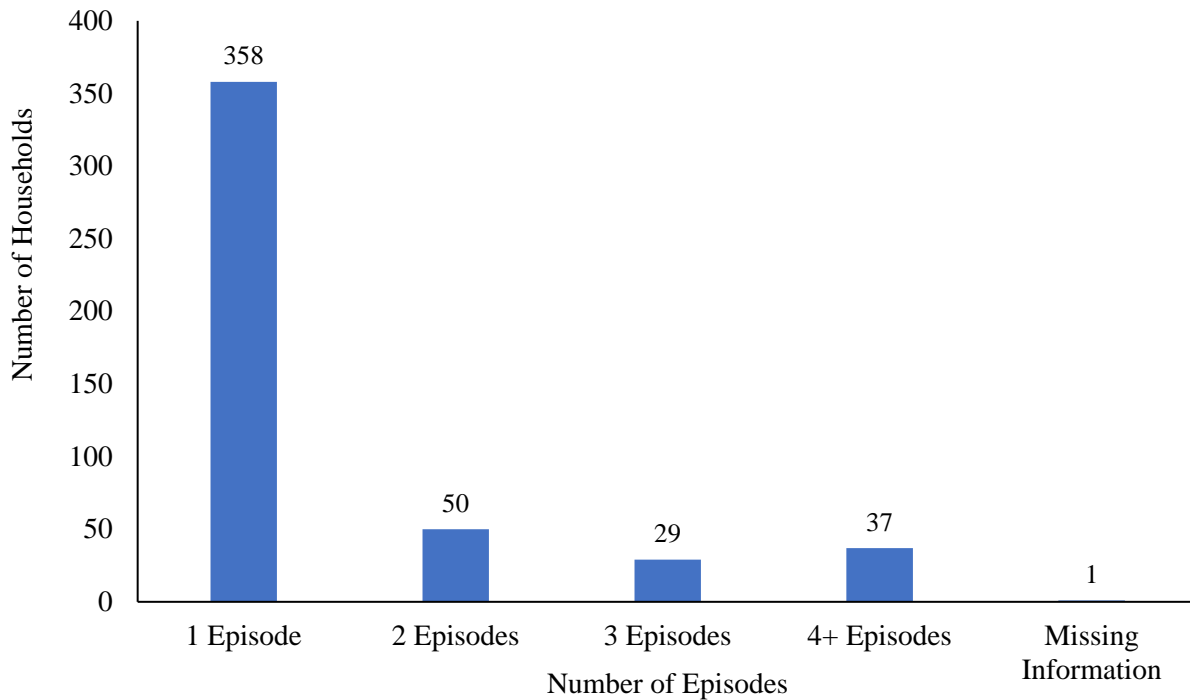
Cause of Homelessness and Barriers to Services

When asked to share the factors that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households attributed their homelessness to loss or reduction of job income (193 households, 37.2%) than any other cause. As Figure 11 shows, the next most common factor reported was domestic violence (9.1%) followed by drug/alcohol abuse and eviction or at risk of eviction (8.9% each).

Fig. 11: Cause of Homelessness by Household
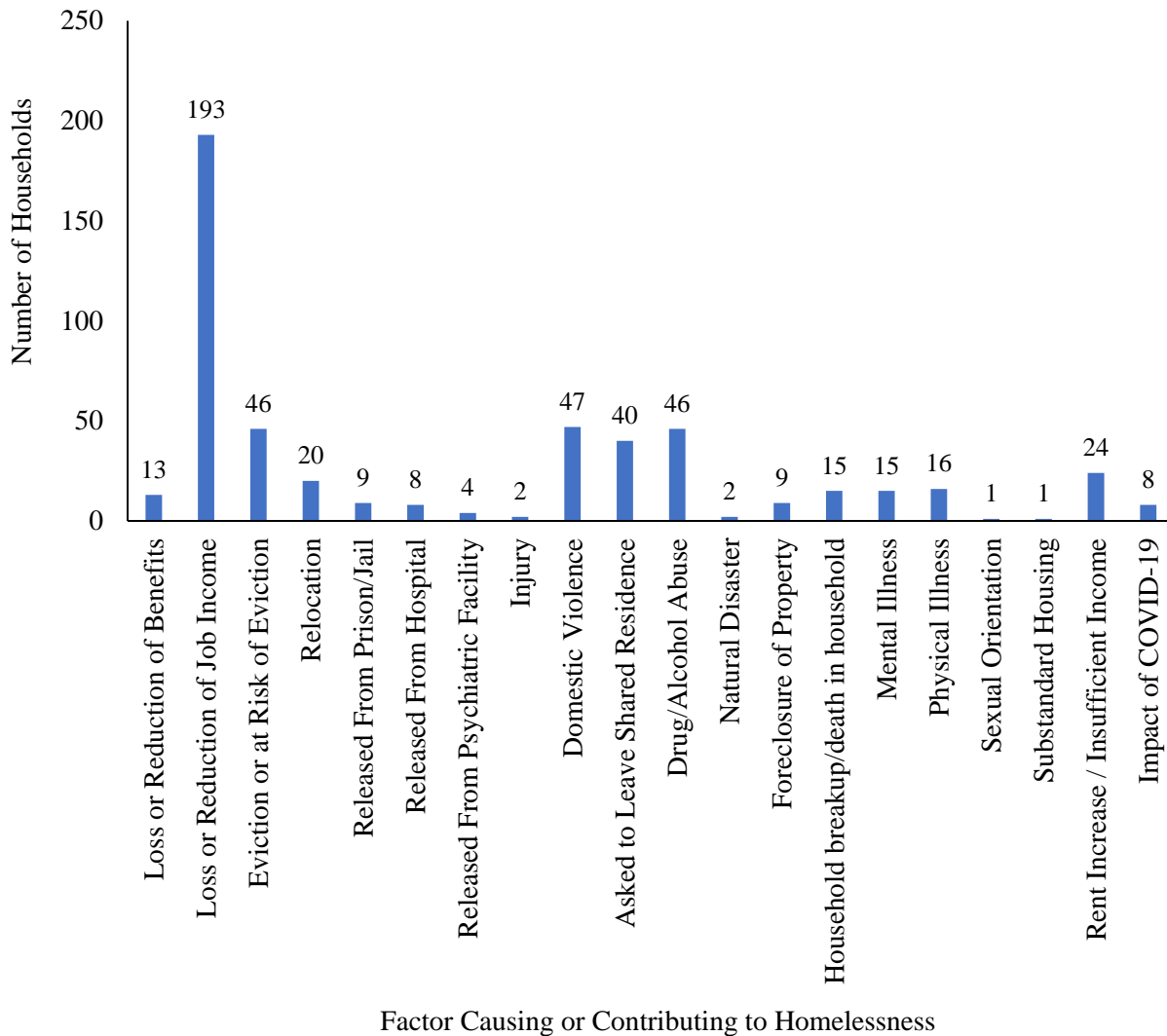
7

Furthermore, when households were asked 'what issues have you encountered when trying to get access to services?' more households reported lack of transportation more than any other type of barrier (71 households). Among households in emergency shelter, the top reported barriers were lack of transportation (37 households), followed by no ID/documents (23 households). The top reported barriers for those residing in unsheltered locations were lack of transportation (29 households), no ID/Documents (25 households), and no physical mailing address (21 households).

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

IV. Findings for the Chronically Homeless

Households experiencing chronic homelessness are one of the priority populations HUD identified. 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. Effective supportive services and case management may be required in order to help Chronically Homeless households stay in the housing they need.

Fig. 12: 5-Year Comparison of Chronic Homeless Population by Housing Situation

14% decrease since 2023

77% increase since 2020

Fig. 13: Chronically Homeless Households by Housing Situation

41% identify as White as Chronically Homeless
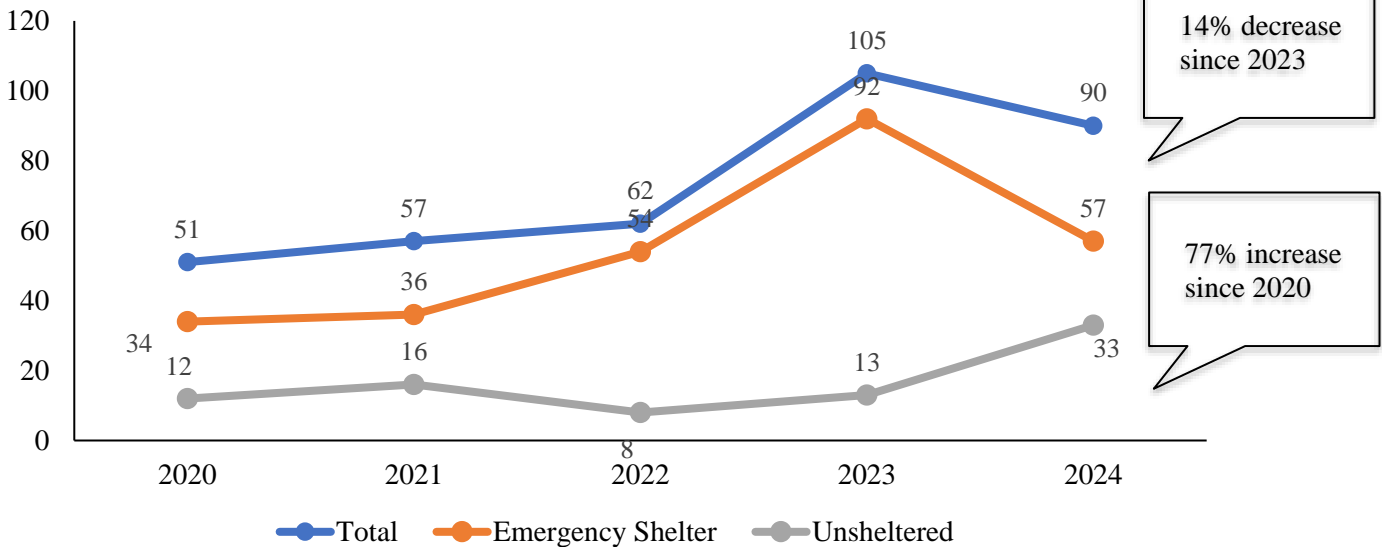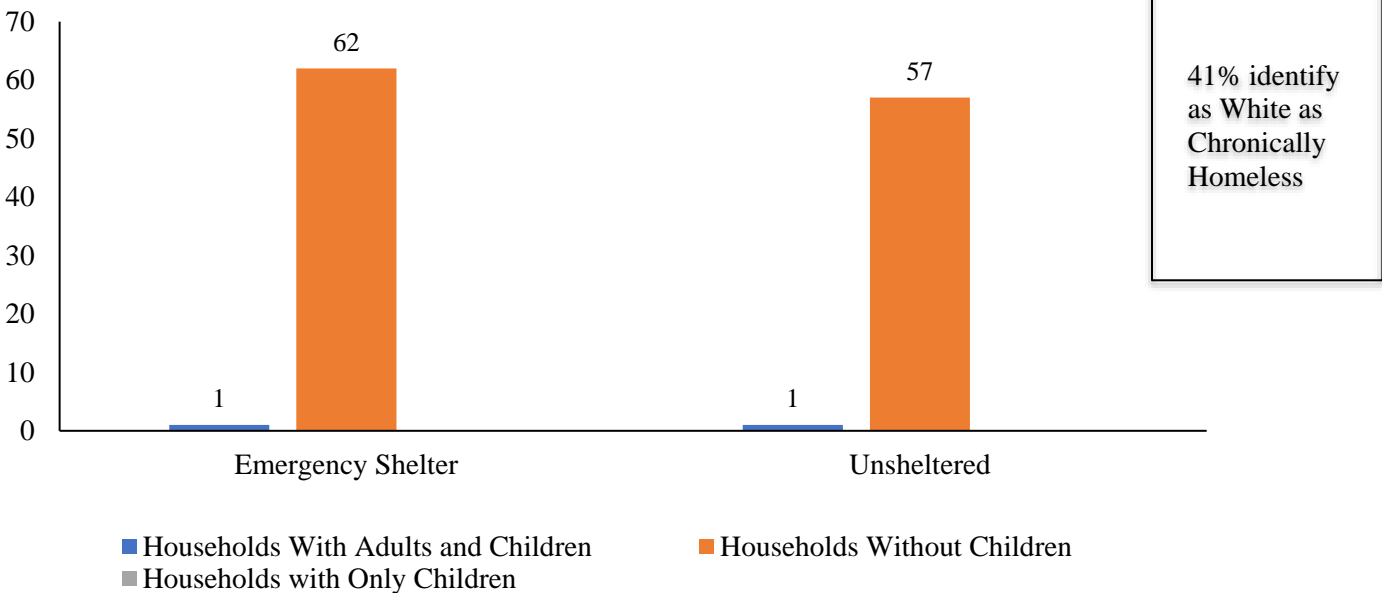
Fig. 14: Number of Chronically Homeless Persons by Disability Type

62% identify with multiple disabilities

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

Number of Persons

48
40
15
11
31
2
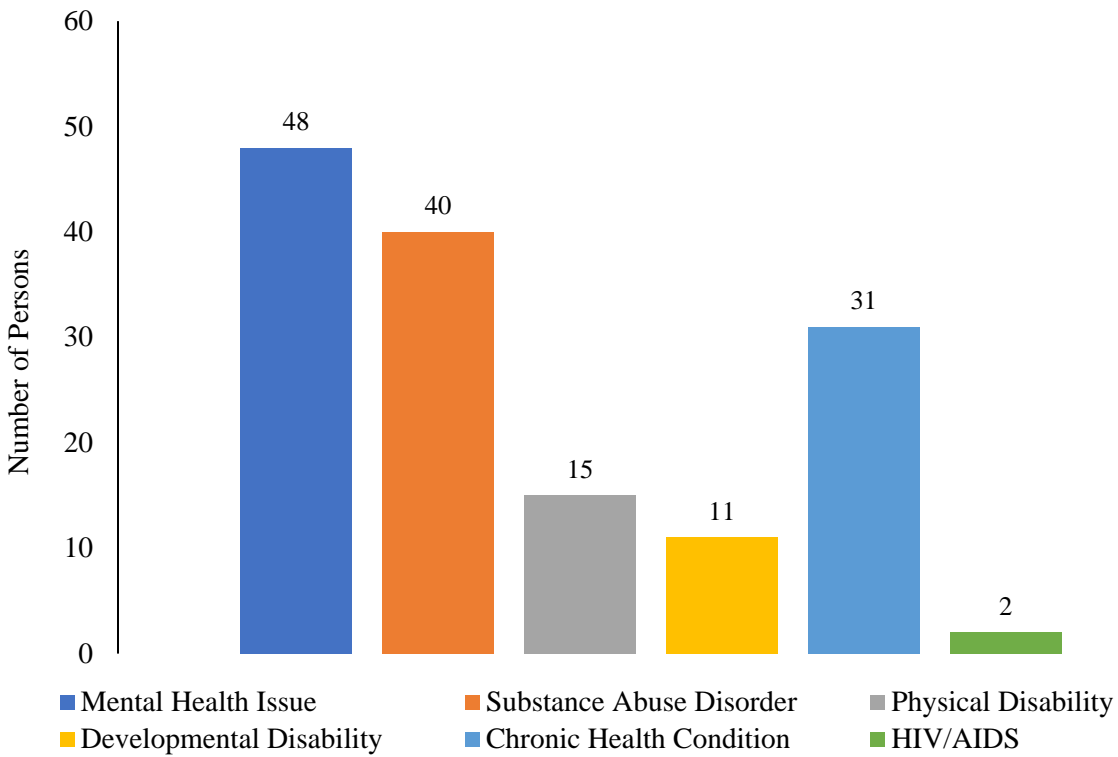
Fig. 15: Episodes of Homelessness Among Chronically Homeless Households

Number of Households

40
8
8
14

1 Episode
2 Episodes
3 Episodes
4+ Episodes

Number of Episodes
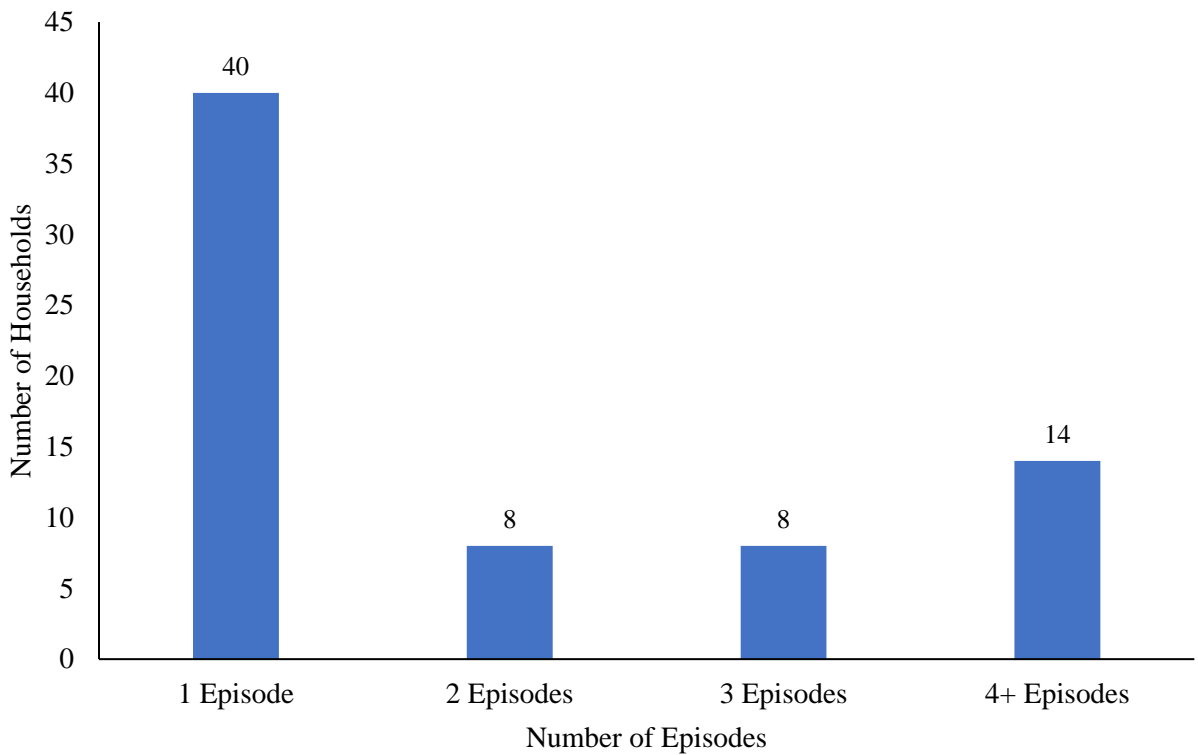
Fig. 16: Number of Chronically Homeless Households by Income Source
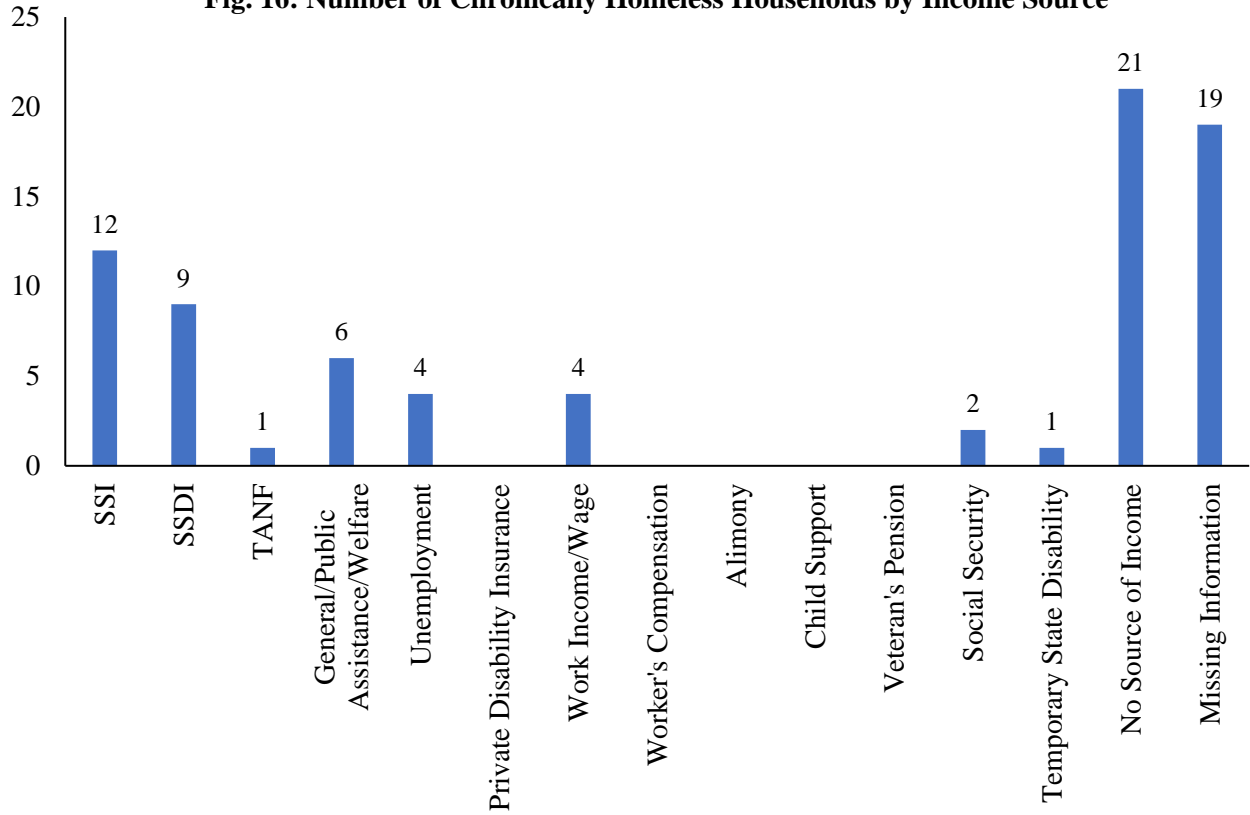
8

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

V. Findings for the Unsheltered Homeless

Unsheltered homeless individuals and families are among those with the most critical housing needs in a community. The unsheltered are especially vulnerable to 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

214% increase since 2023

214% increase since 2020

Year	Value
2020	29
2021	34
2022	13
2023	29
2024	91
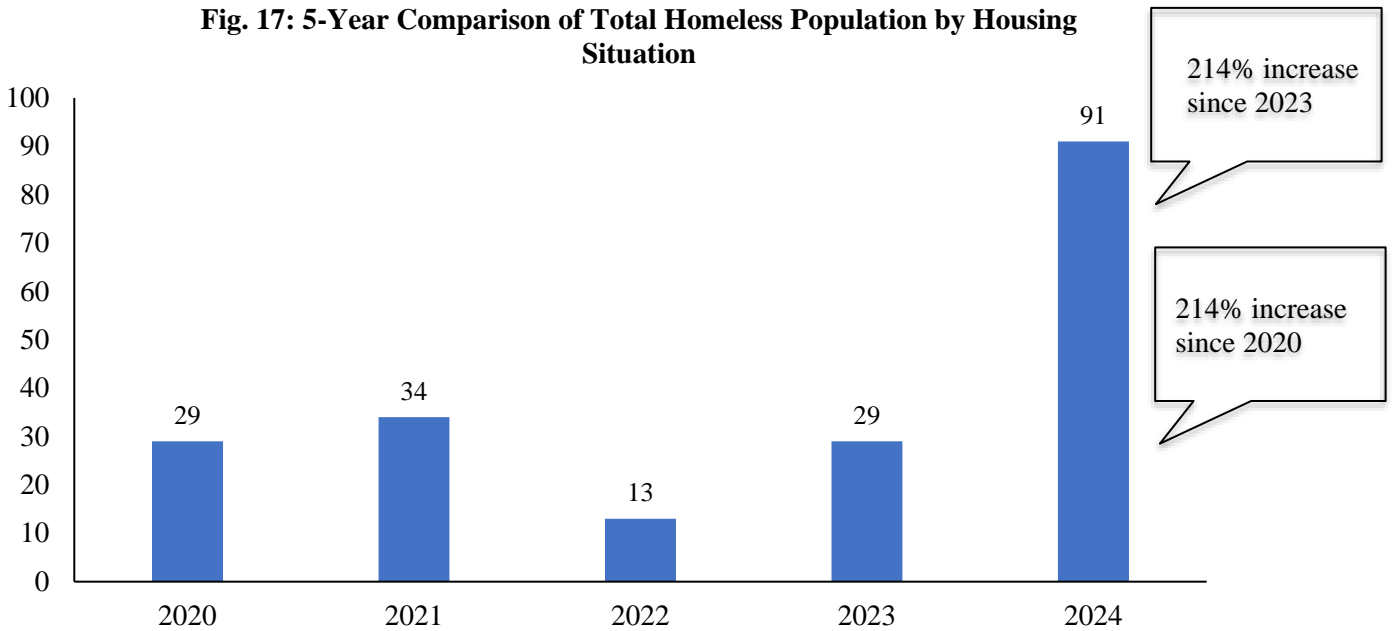
Fig. 18: Unsheltered Homeless Households by Housing Situation

79% identify as Man (Boy if child)

Number of Households — Unsheltered Housing Situation: 86

■ Households With Adults and Children   ■ Households Without Children
■ Households with Only Children
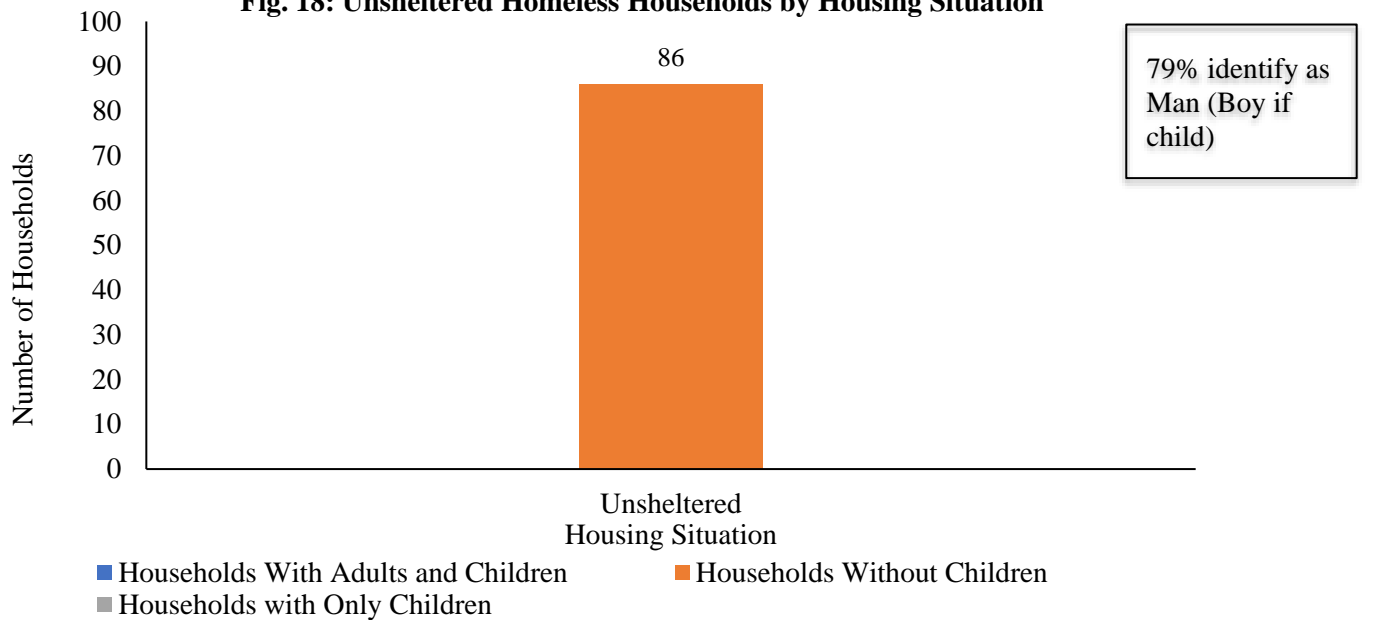
Fig. 19: Unsheltered Persons by Subpopulation
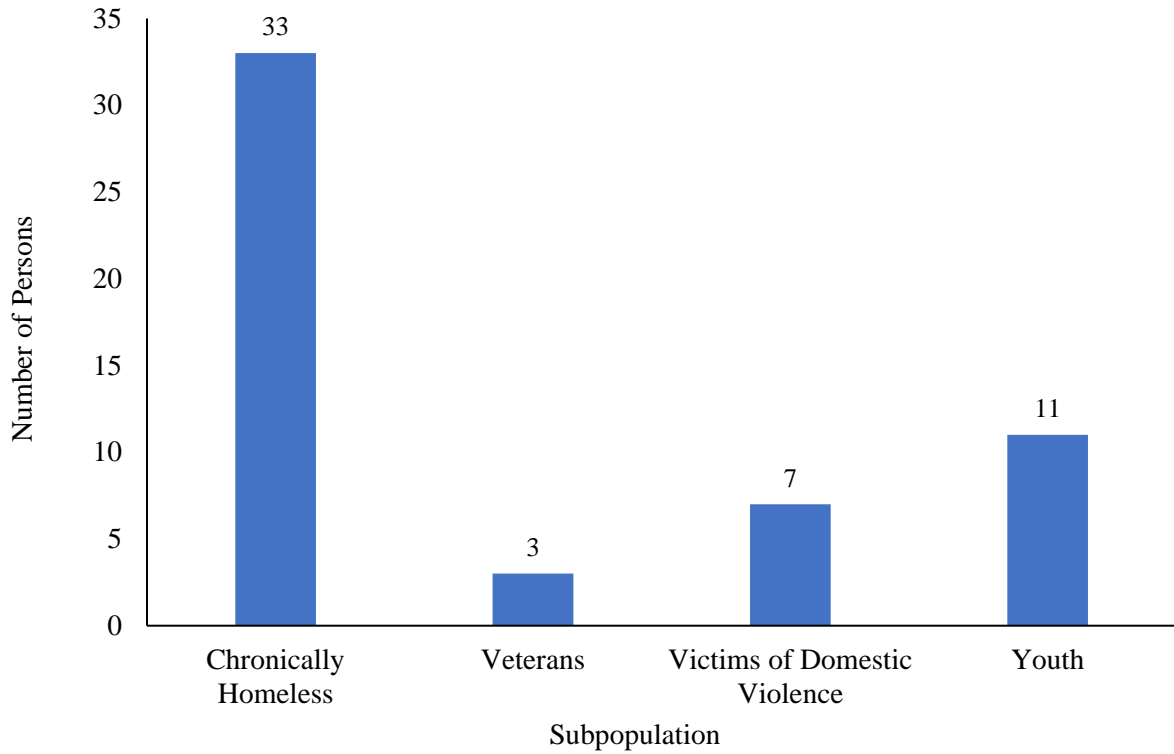
Fig. 20: Number of Unsheltered Persons by Disability Type
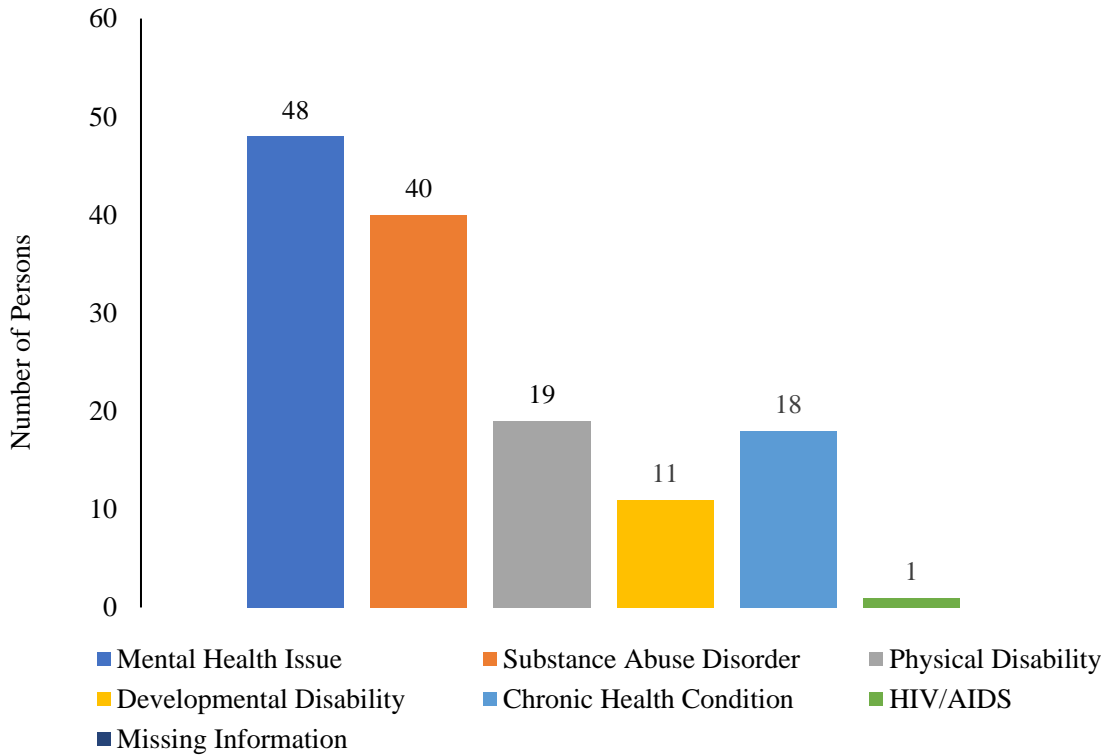
Fig. 21: Income Source of Unsheltered Households by Housing Situation
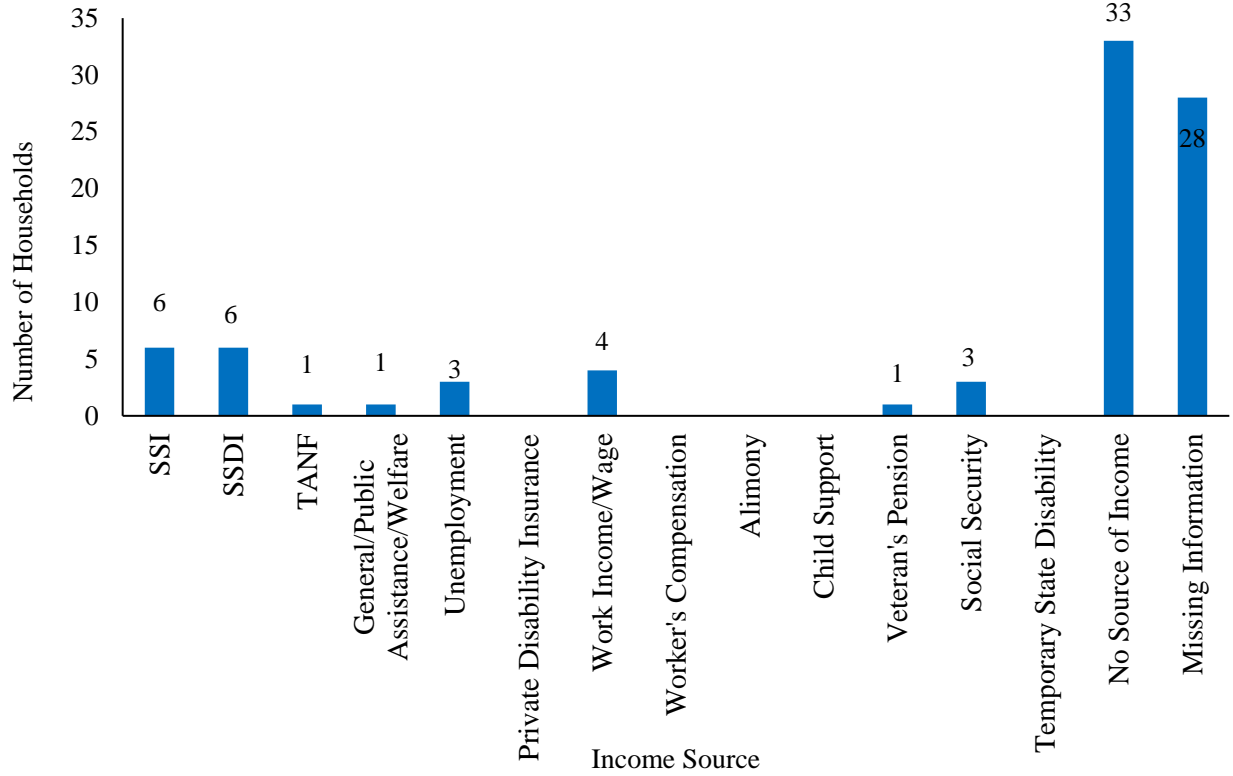
Fig. 22: Length of Homelessness Among Unsheltered Households

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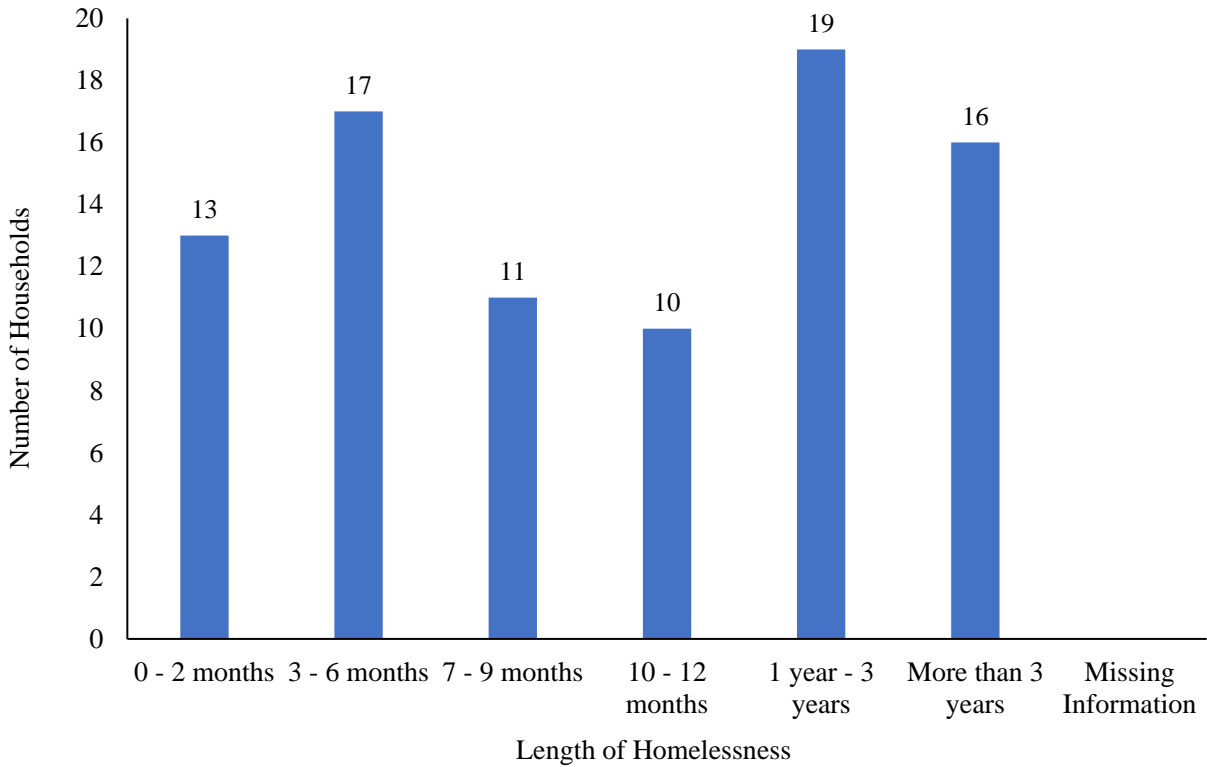
[9] Please note categories are not mutually exclusive as respondents may have selected multiple options

VI. Findings for Homeless 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. Many communities in New Jersey are also striving to end homelessness among our country's servicemen and women.

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

250% increase since 2023

133% increase since 2020

Legend: Total — Emergency Shelter — Transitional Housing — Unsheltered
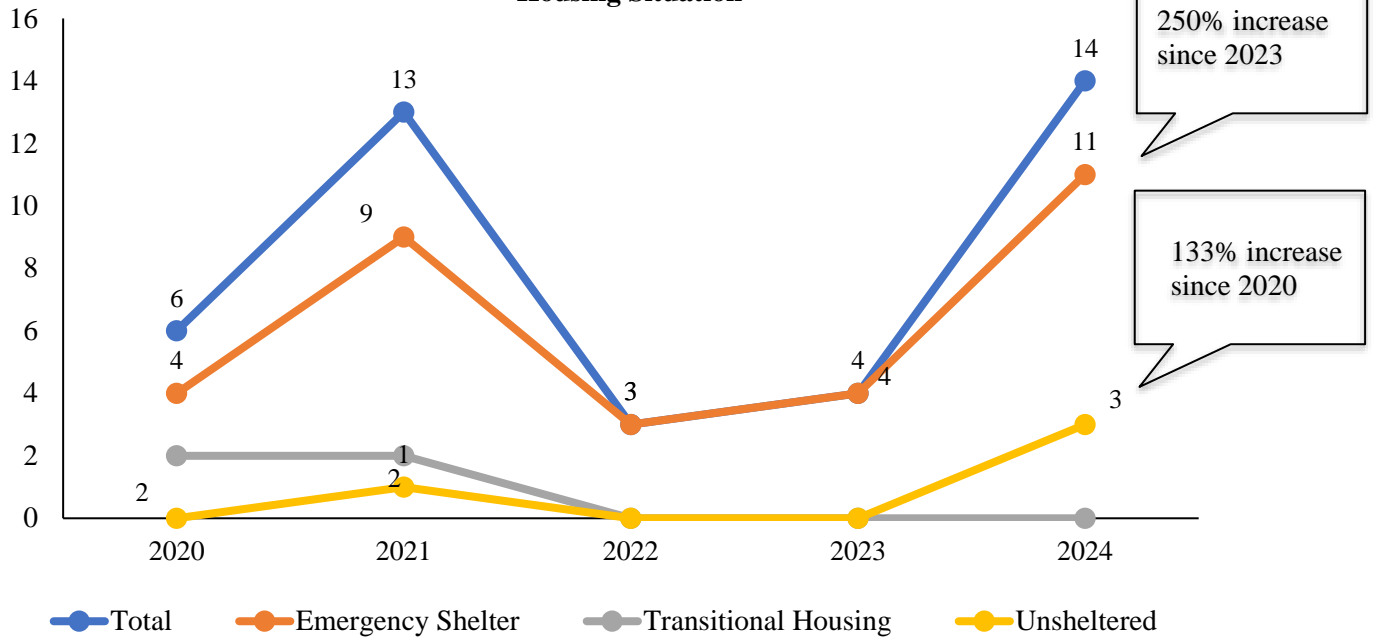
Fig. 24: Number of Veteran Persons by Disability Type

71% of veterans identify with a disability

Legend: Mental Health Issue — Substance Abuse Disorder — Physical Disability — Developmental Disability — Chronic Health Condition — HIV/AIDS
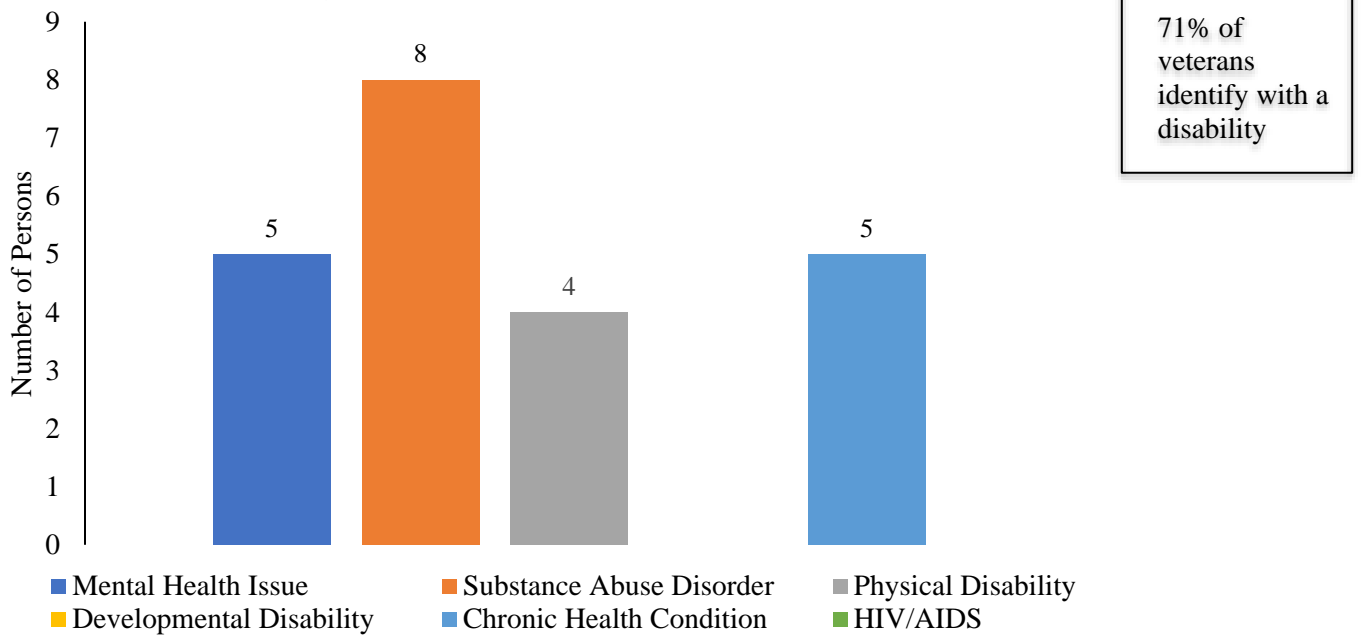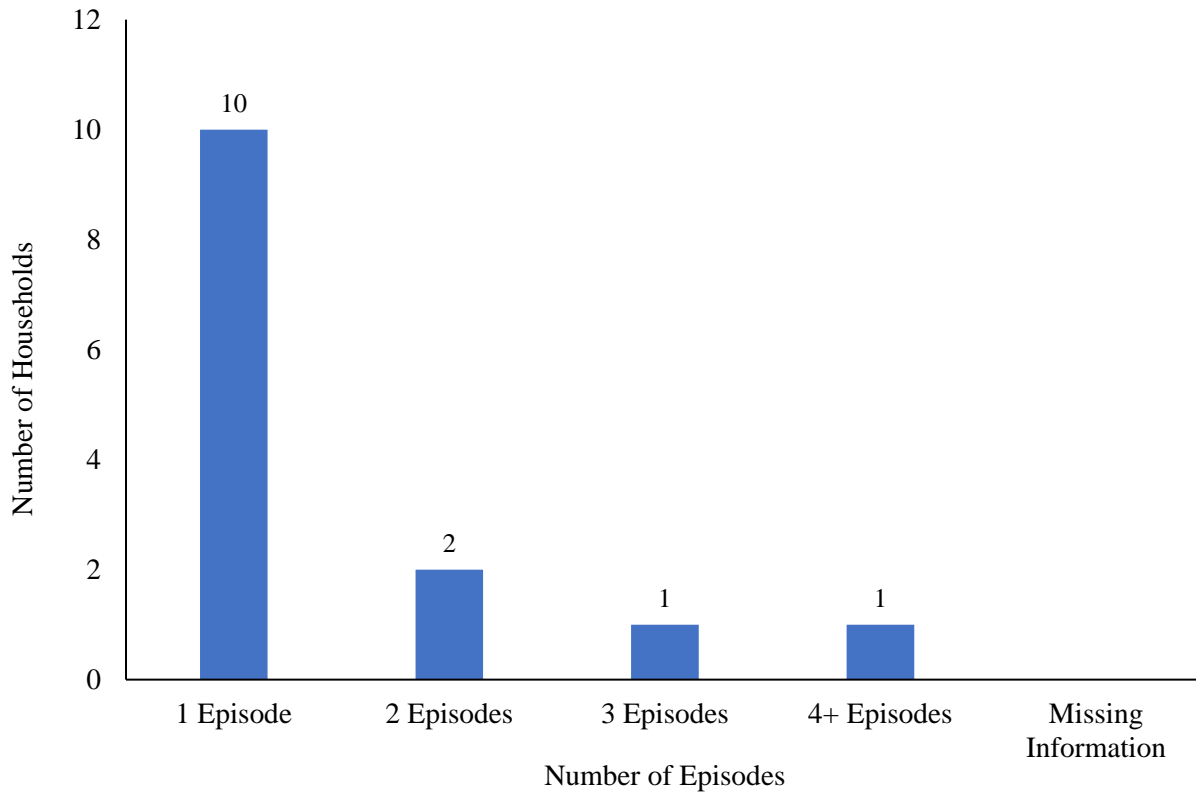
Fig. 25: Income by Housing Situation for Veteran Households
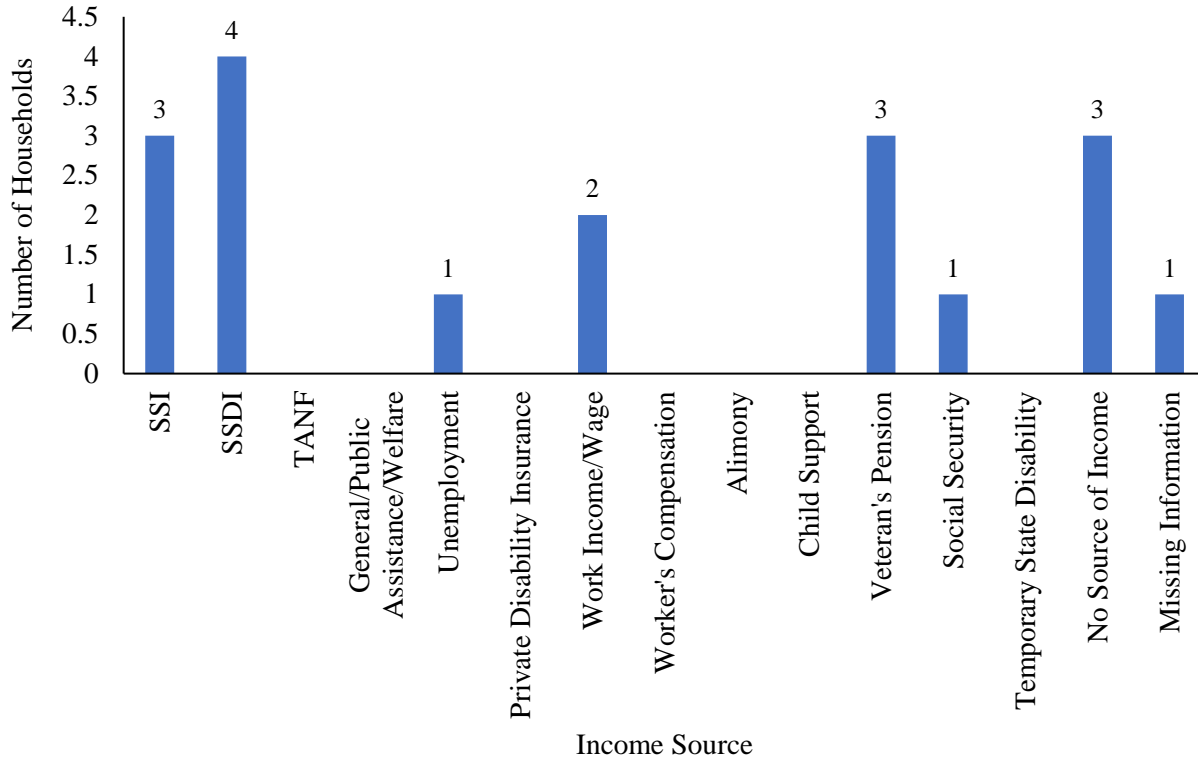
Fig. 26: Length of Homelessness Among Veteran Households

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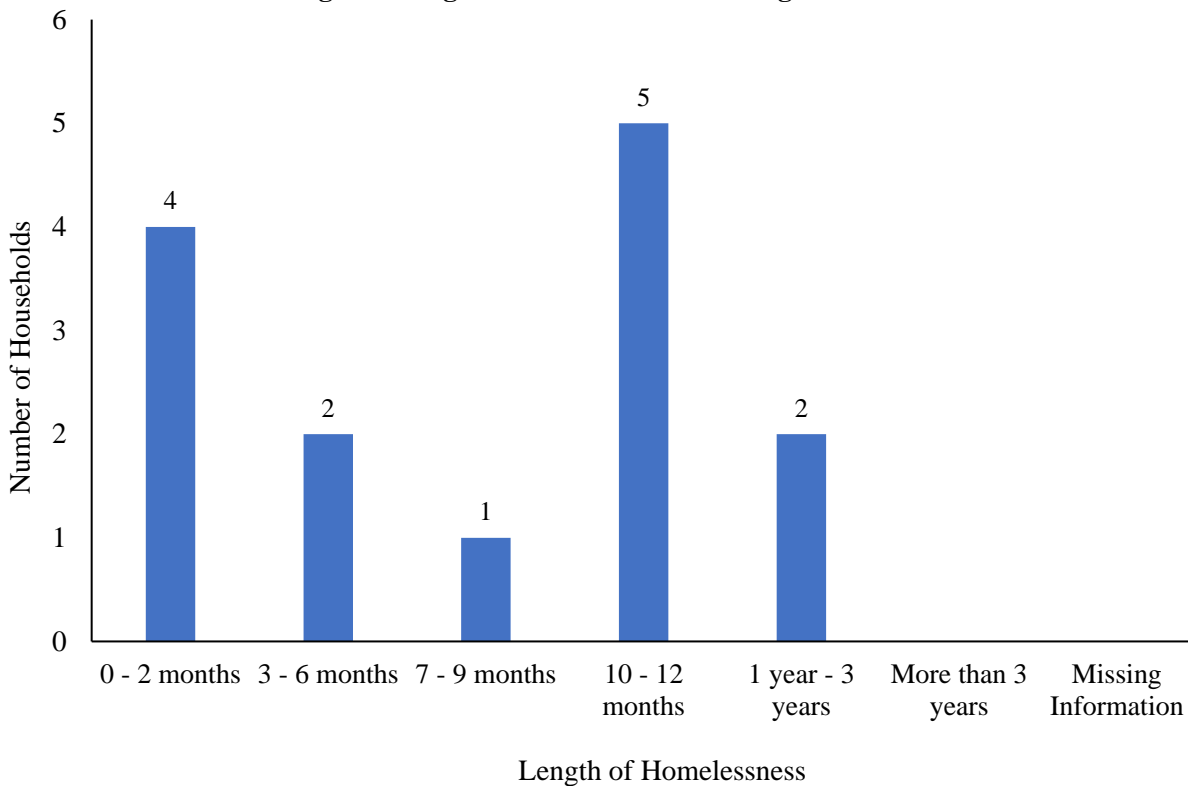
[10] Please note categories are not mutually exclusive as respondents may have selected multiple options

Fig. 27: Episodes of Homelessness Among Veteran Households

VII. Findings for Homeless Youth

The United States Interagency Council has identified homeless youth as a priority population 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 collaborating with community partners to end youth homelessness.

Fig. 28: Number of Homeless Youth by Housing Situation

> 59% of youth identified as Man (Boy if child)
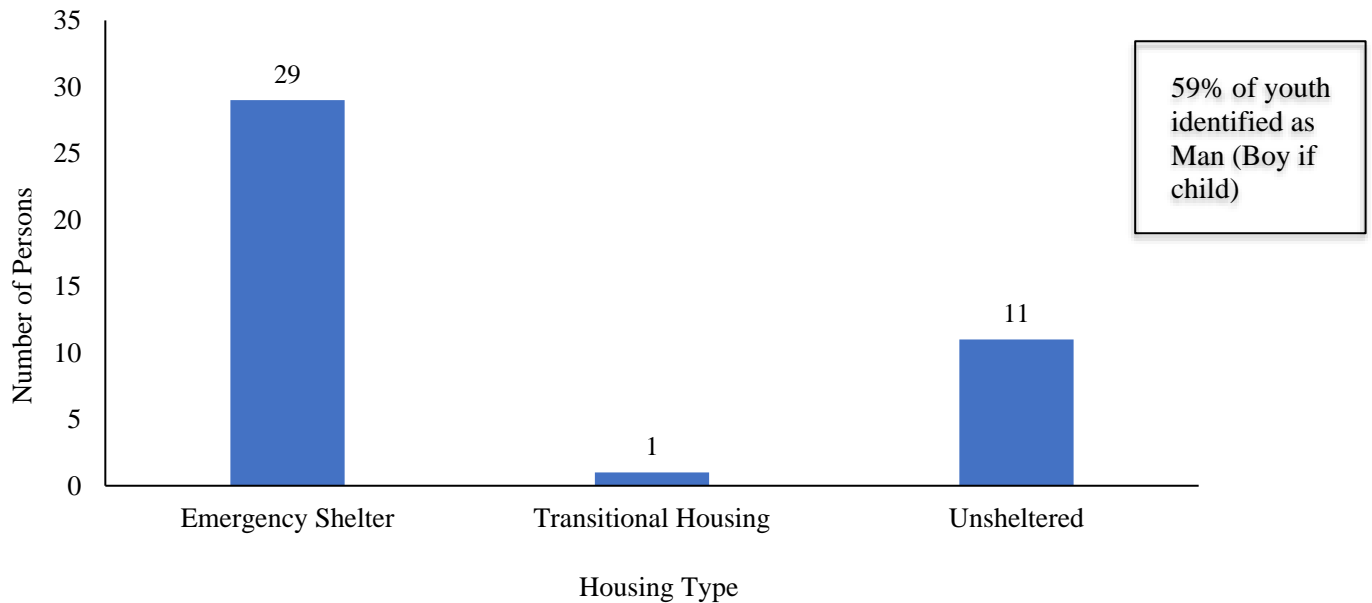
Fig. 29: Homeless Youth Households by Housing Situation

> 44% identified as White, non-Hispanic

Legend:
- Households With Dependent Children
- Households Without Dependent Children
- Households with Unaccompanied Minors
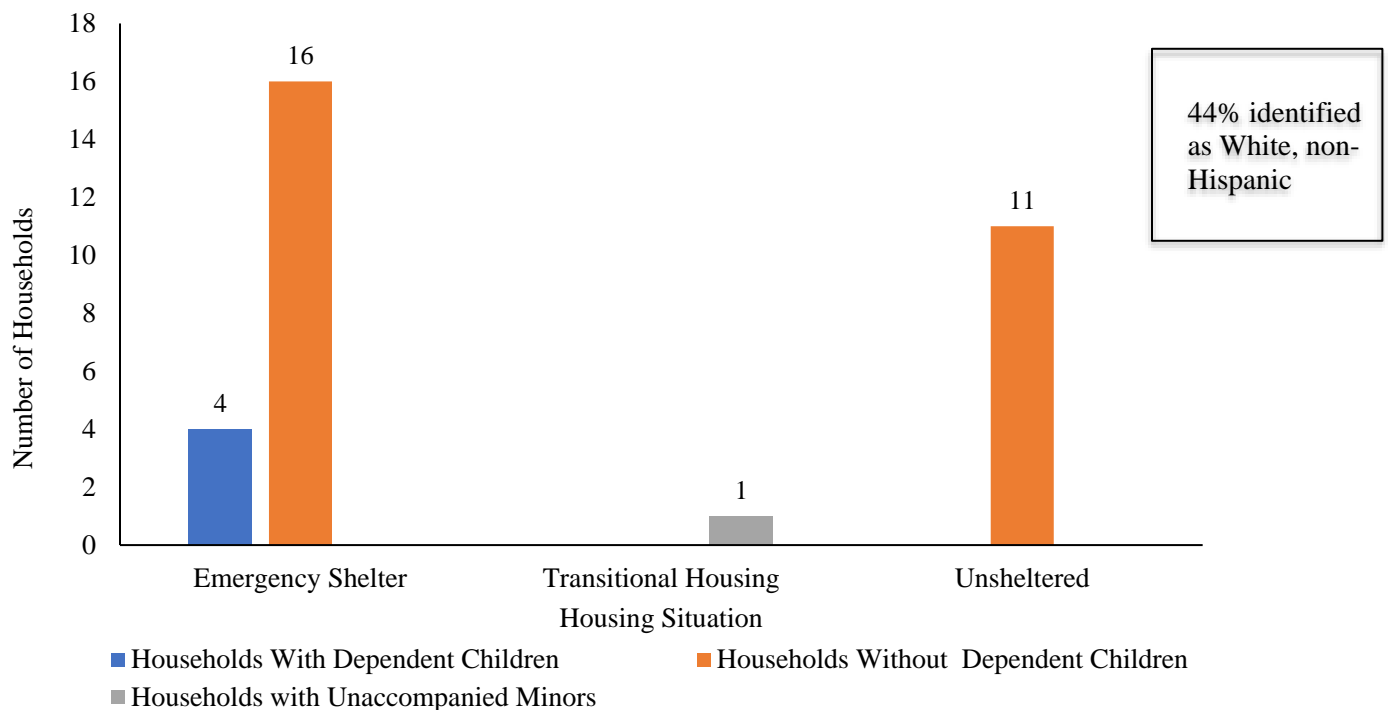
Fig. 30: Number of Youth by Disability Type

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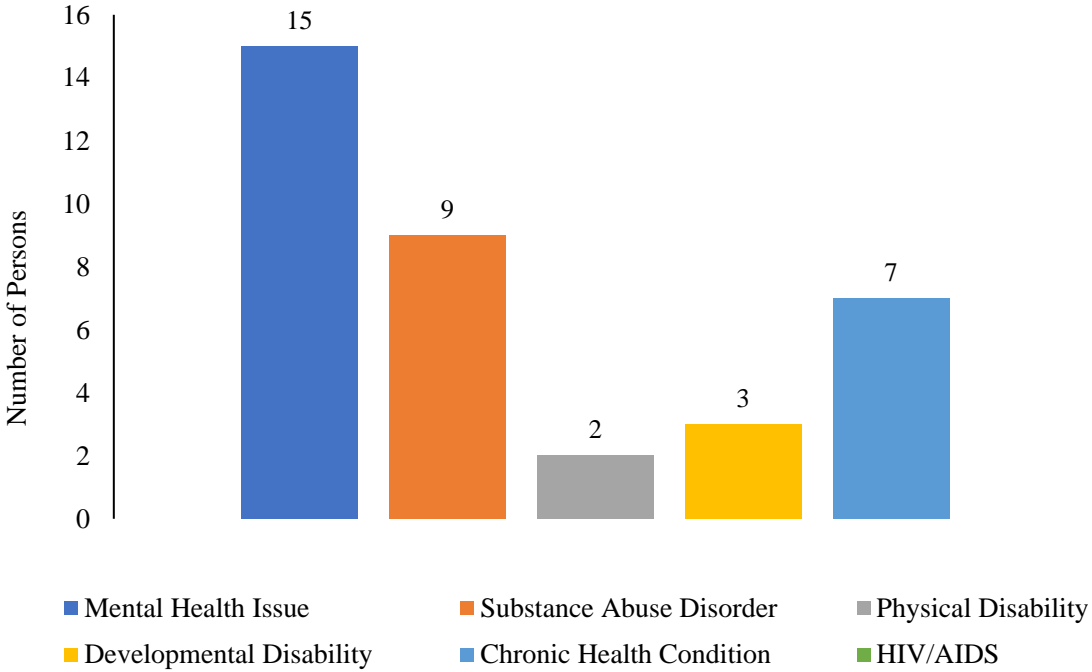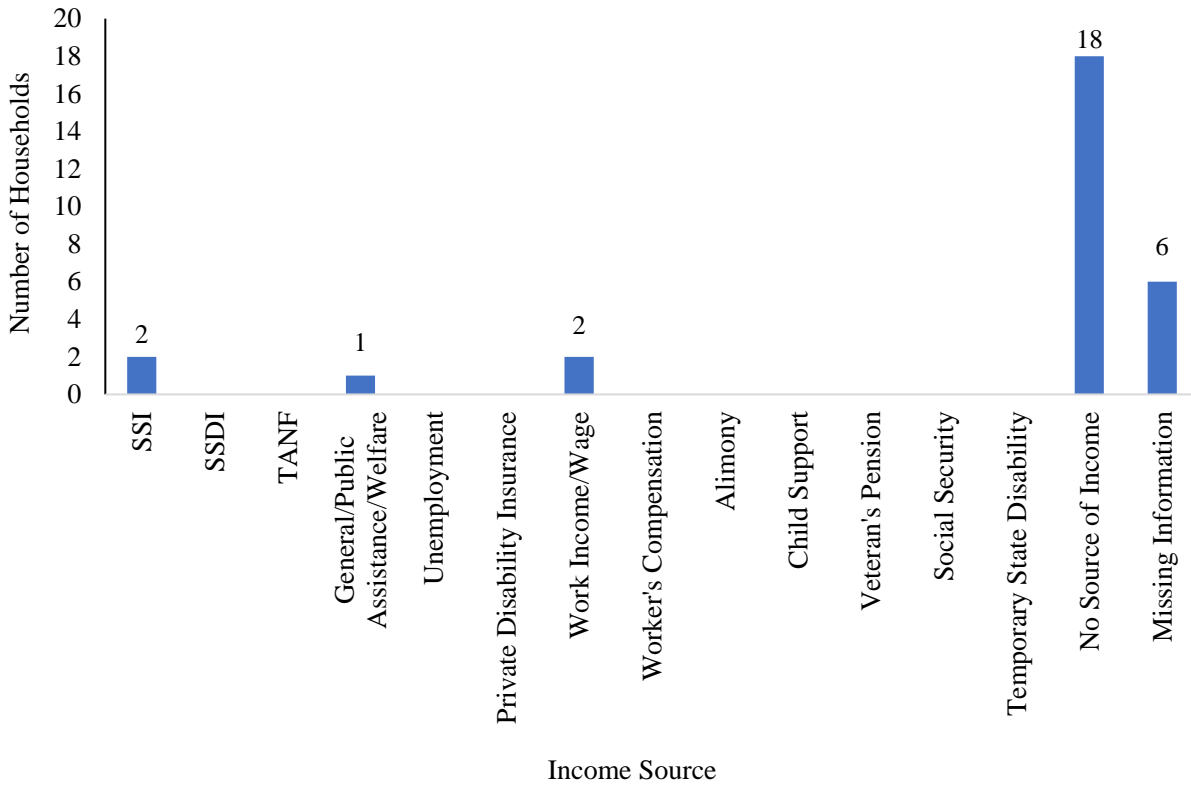- Chronic Health Condition
- HIV/AIDS

Fig. 31: Income Sources for Youth Households

11

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

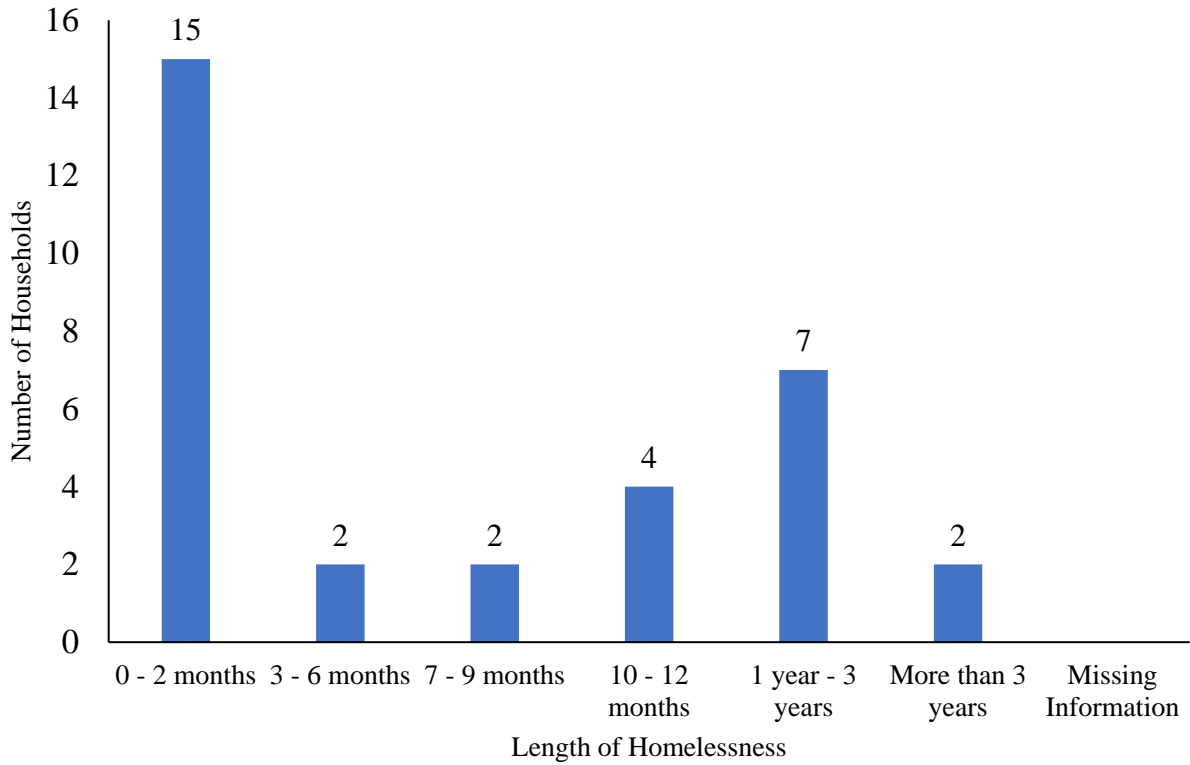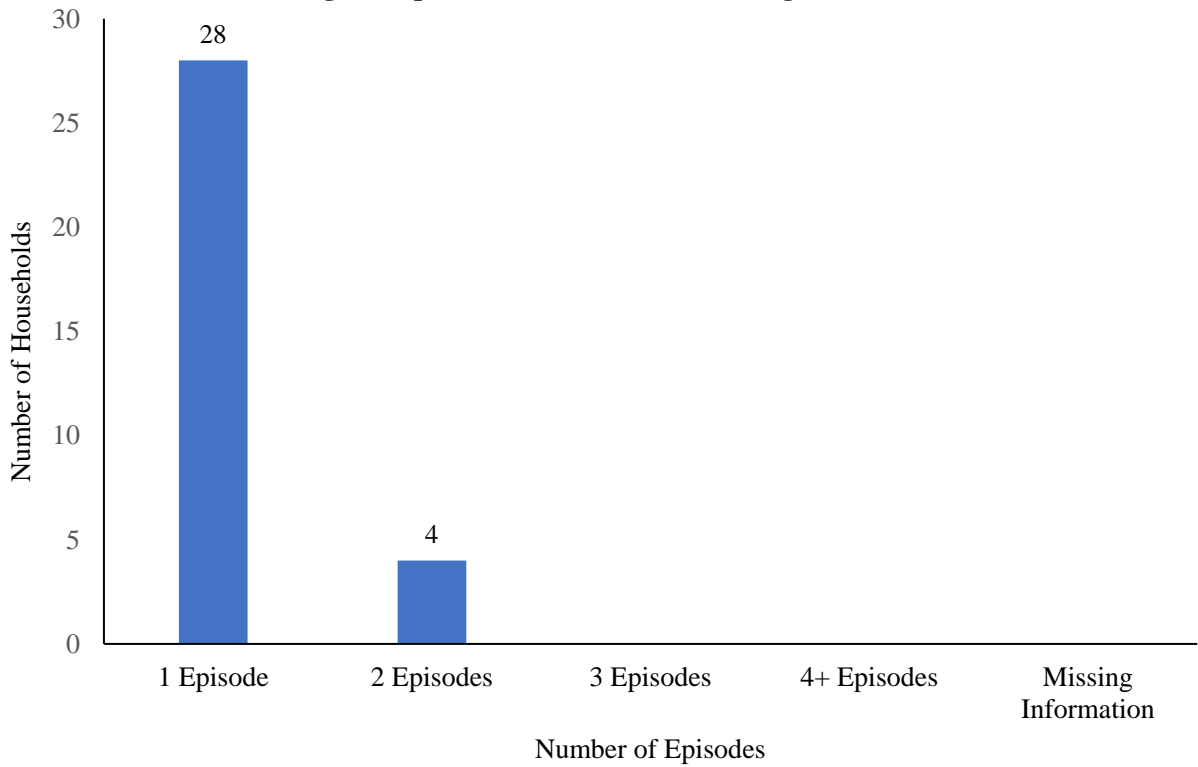**Fig. 32: Length of Homelessness Among Youth Households**

Bar chart — Number of Households (y-axis) by Length of Homelessness (x-axis):

- 0 - 2 months: 15
- 3 - 6 months: 2
- 7 - 9 months: 2
- 10 - 12 months: 4
- 1 year - 3 years: 7
- More than 3 years: 2
- Missing Information: 0

Fig. 33: Episodes of Homelessness Among Youth Households

Bar chart — Number of Households (y-axis) by Number of Episodes (x-axis):

- 1 Episode: 28
- 2 Episodes: 4
- 3 Episodes: 0
- 4+ Episodes: 0
- Missing Information: 0

VIII. Findings for Victims of Domestic Violence

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

35% identified as Black or African American
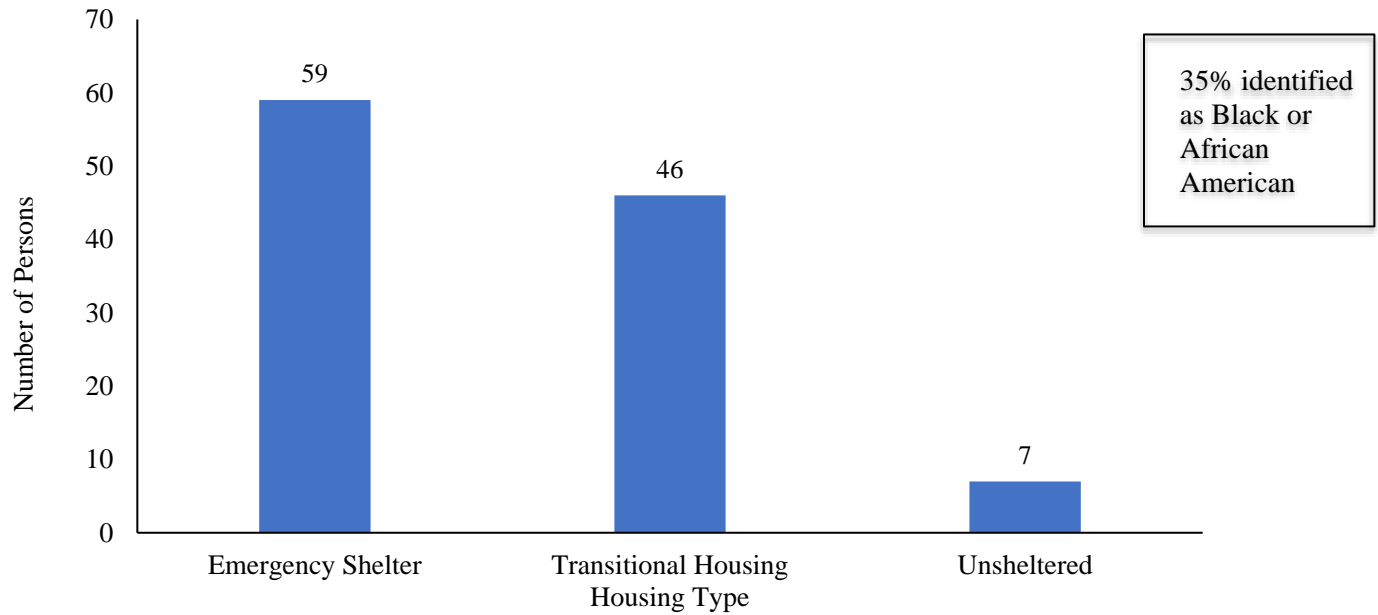
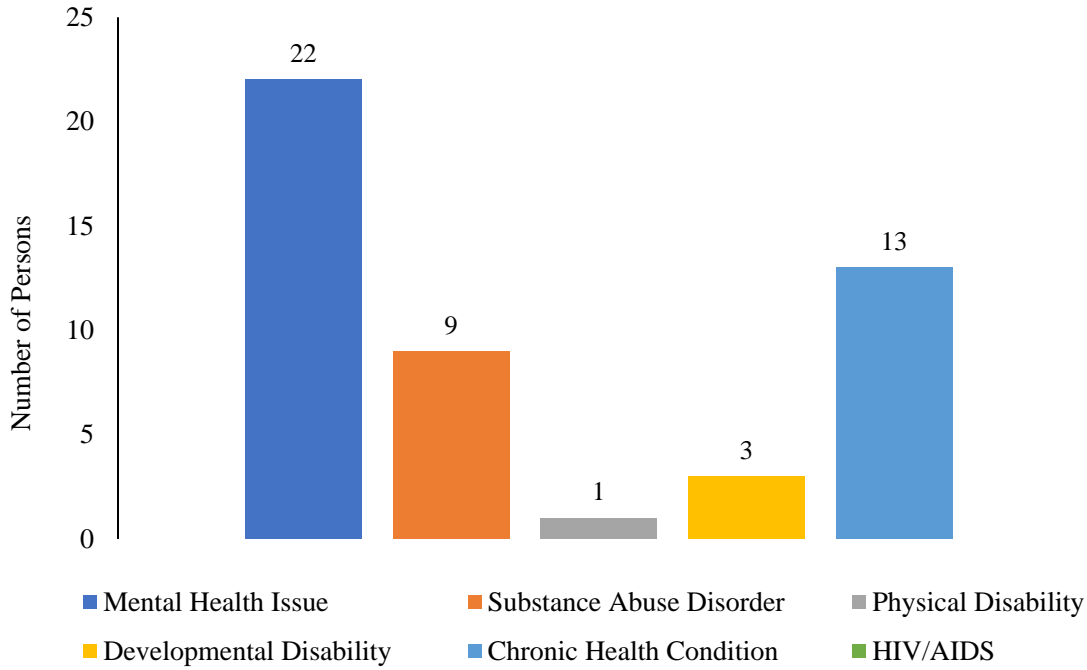**Fig. 35: Homeless DV Households by Housing Situation**

72% were households with children under 18

■ Households With Adults and Children   ■ Households Without Children
■ Households with Only Children
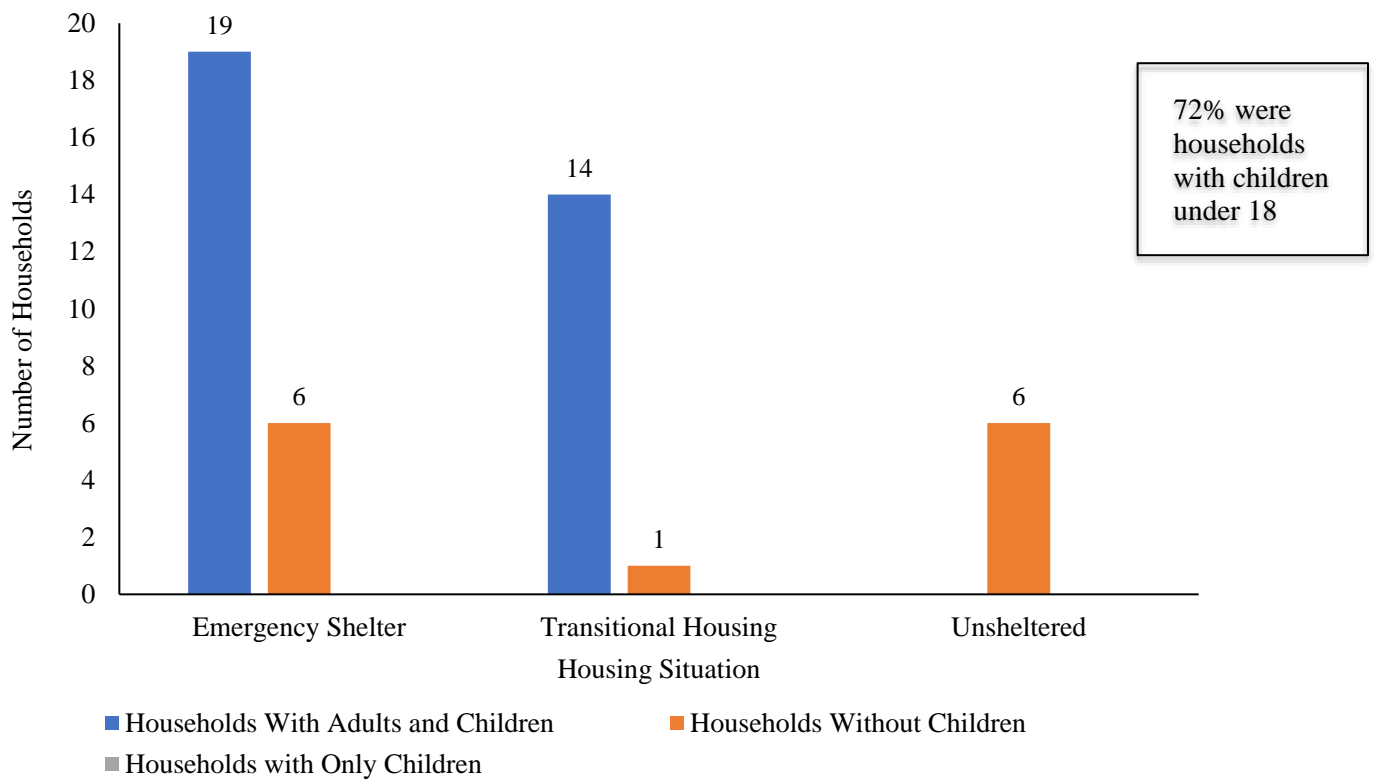
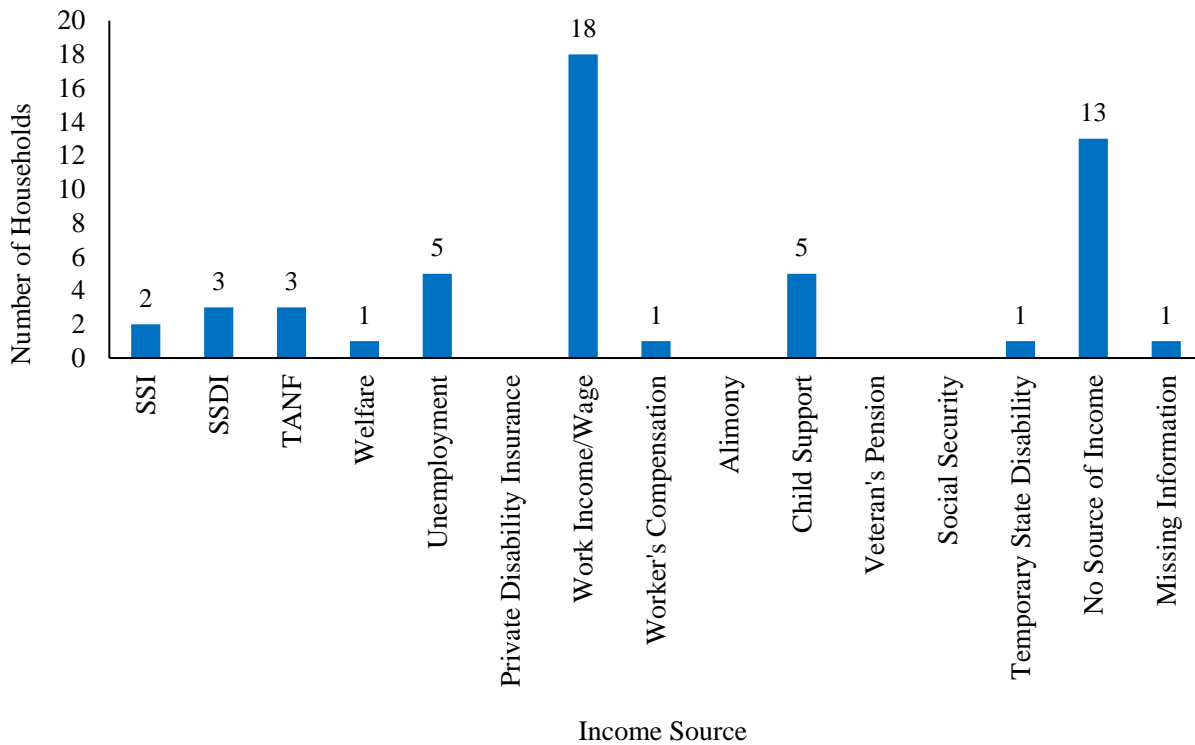**Fig. 36: Number of DV Victims by Disability Type**

Fig. 37: Income Source for DV Victim Households

12

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

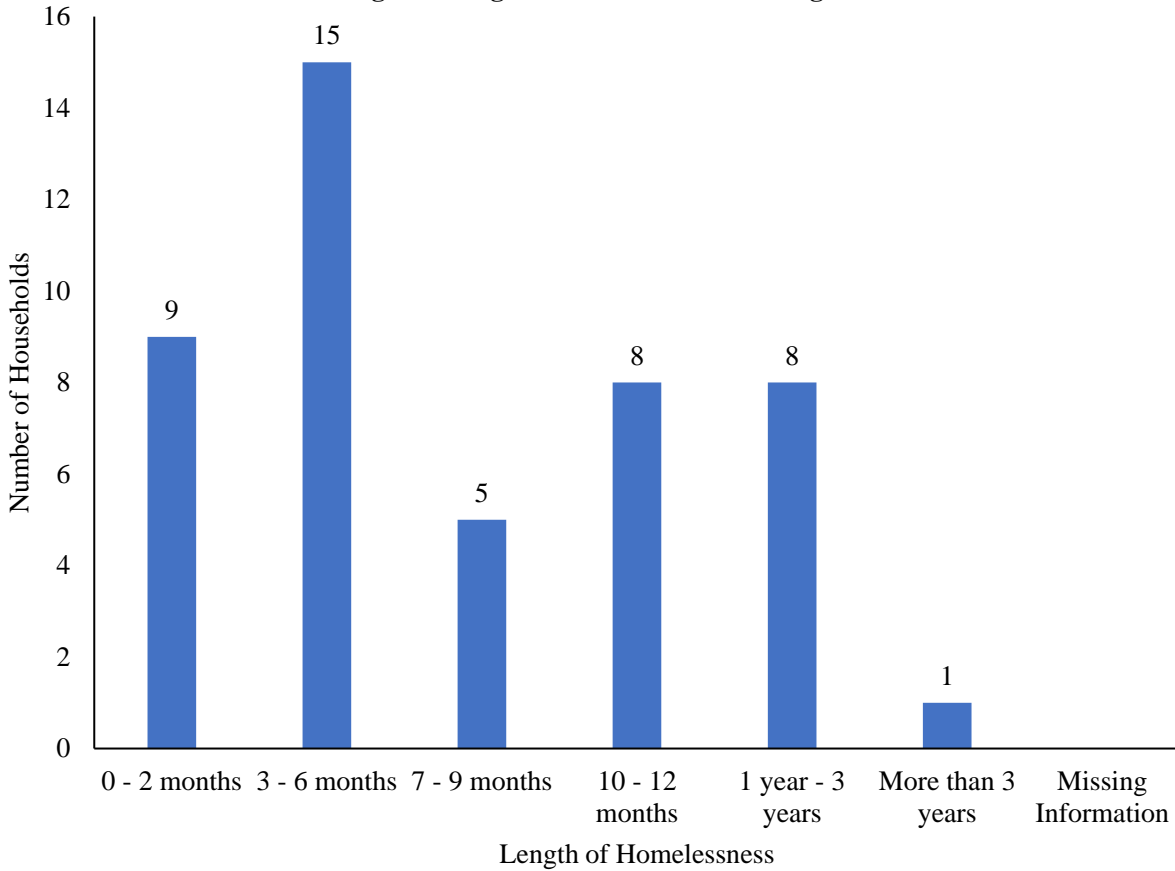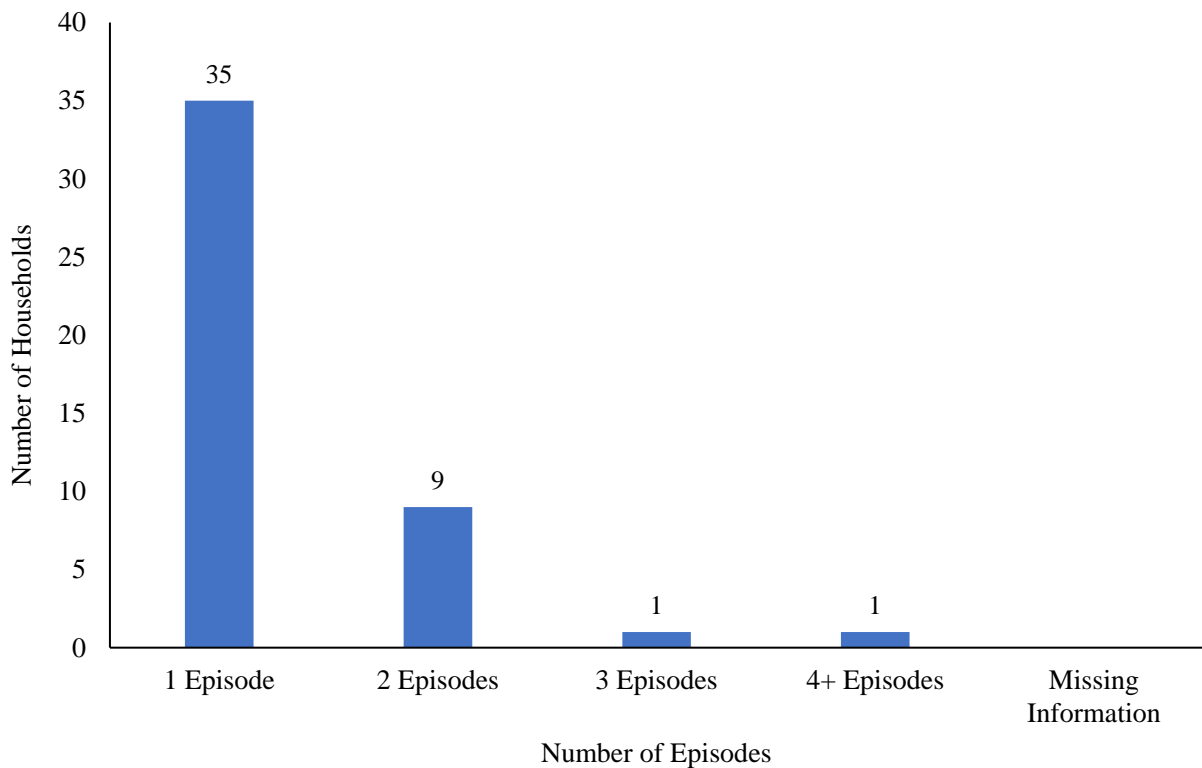**Fig. 38: Length of Homelessness Among DV Victim Households**

Fig. 39: Episodes of Homelessness Among DV Victim Households

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 2024 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 50% of the records for households experiencing homelessness were generated through HMIS.

The 2024 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. 50% 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. 2024 was not 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
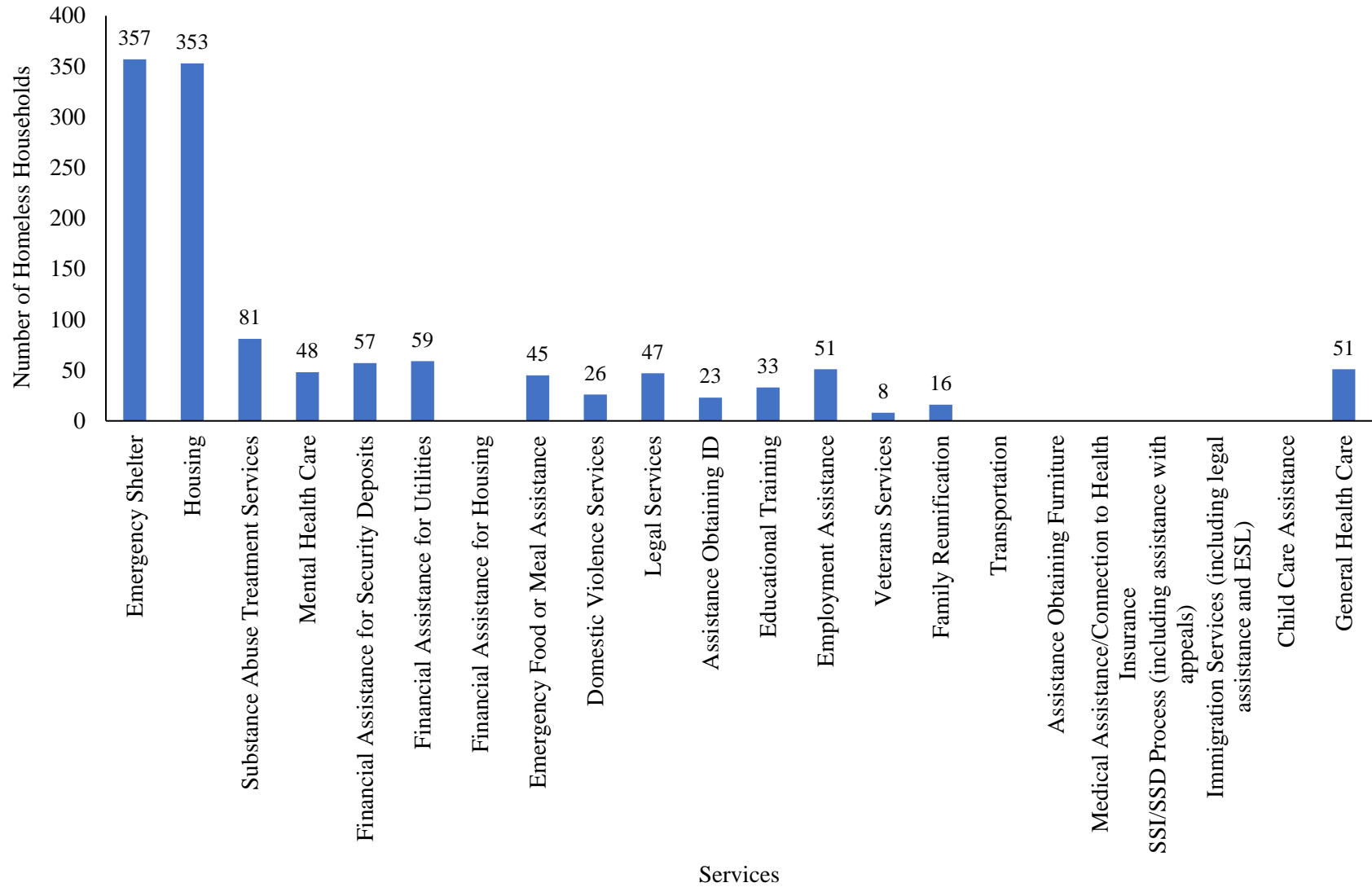
X. Appendix B: 10-Year Look Back and Survey Responses

10-Year Comparison of Homeless Population (2015-2024)

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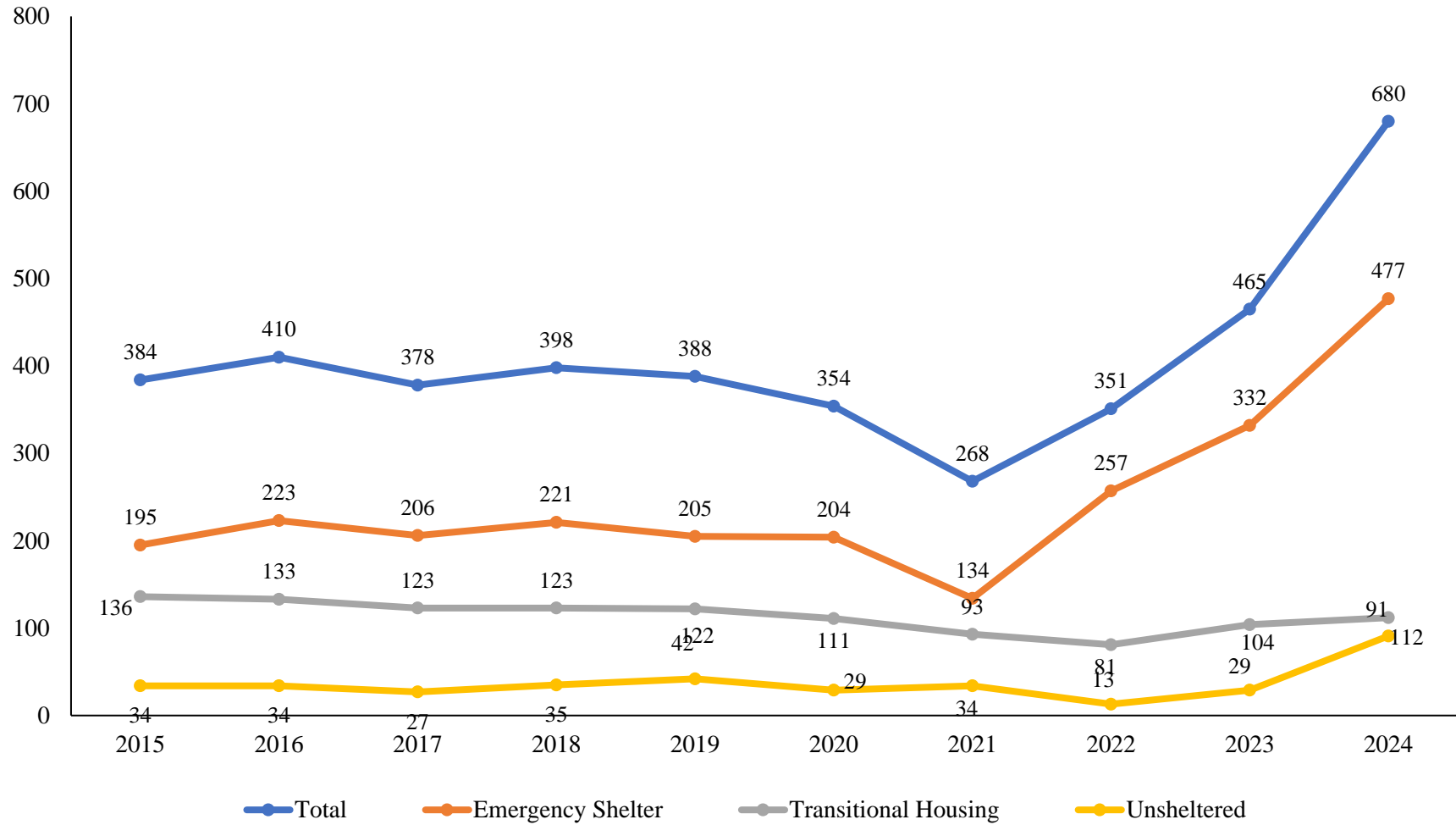
Would you, or anyone in your household like to receive any of the following services? Check all that apply to each person

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

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
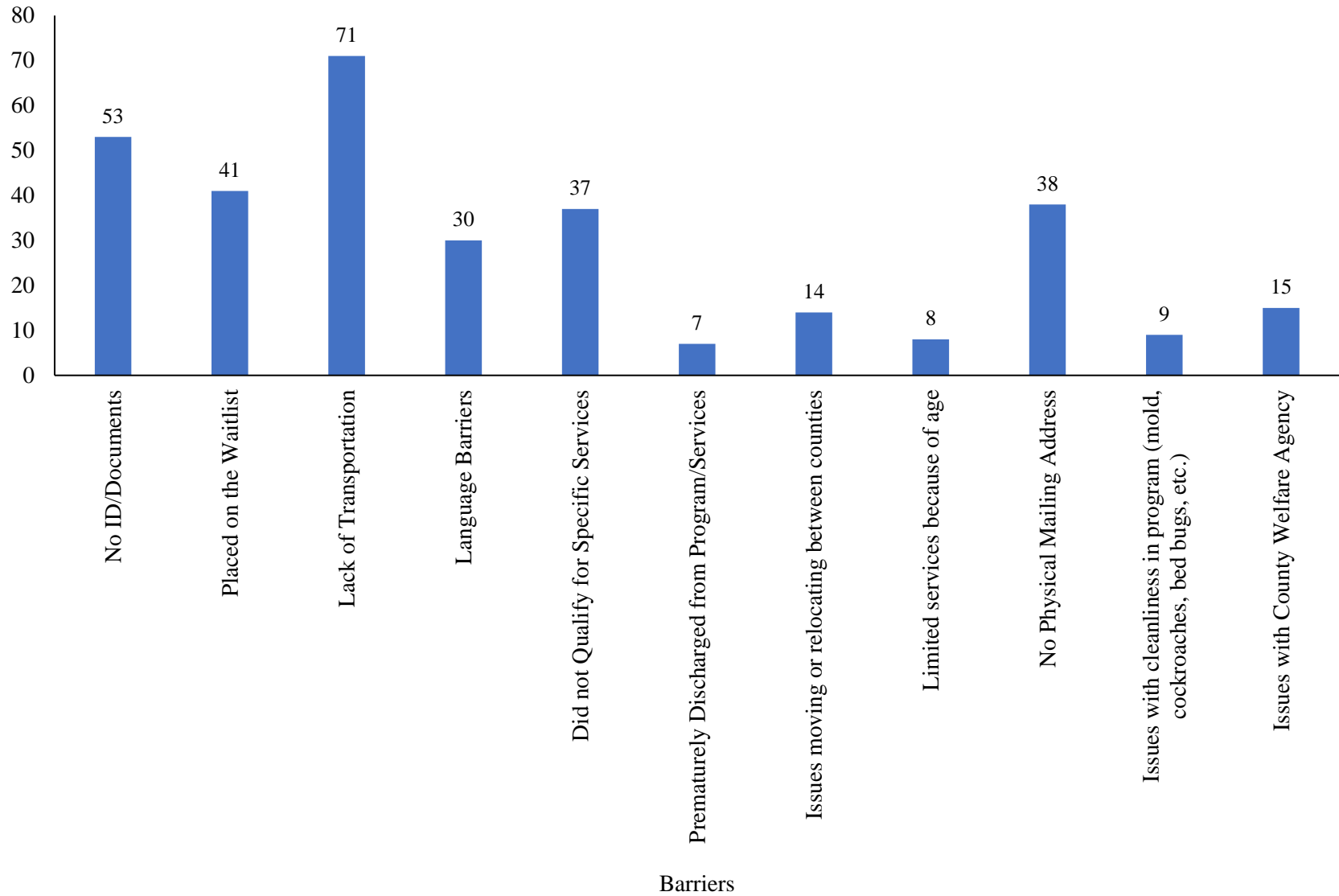
Where did you spend the night of January 23, 2024?

**Fig. B.4: Total Number of Households and Persons by Housing Type**

■ Total Persons ■ Total Households
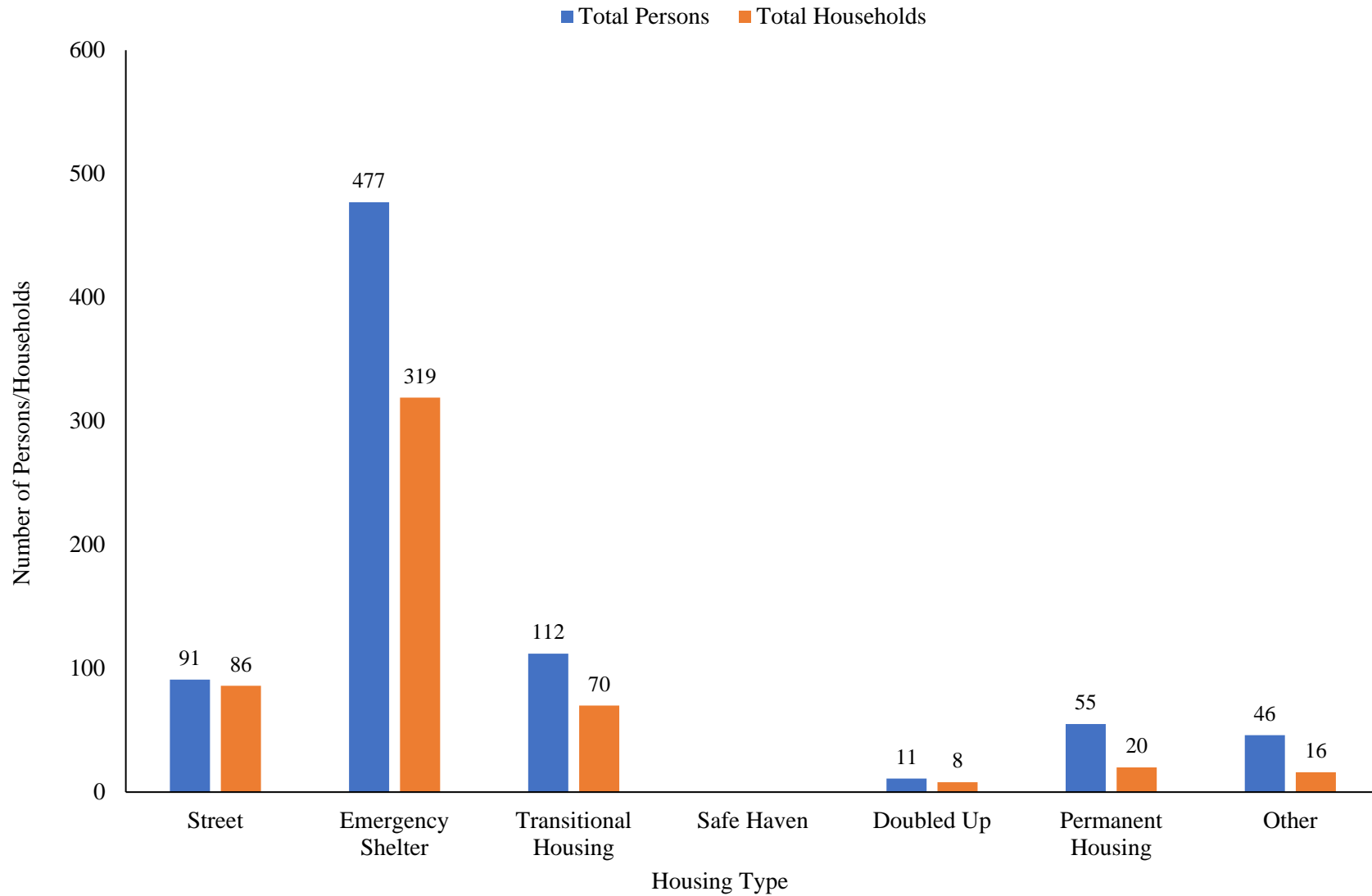
What was your location the night of the Count?

| Fig. B.5: Number of Homeless Persons by Municipality on the Night of the Count	
Location Night of Count – Municipality	**Number of Persons**
Boonton	3
Butler	1
Chatham	1
Chester Twp.	1
Dover	38
East Hanover	2
Florham Park	1
Hanover	35
Jefferson Twp.	4
Mendham	2
Mine Hill	1
Montville	3
Morris Plains	60
Morris Twp.	6
Morristown	247
Mount Olive Twp.	7
Netcong	2
Parsippany-Troy Hills	11
Randolph	1
Rockaway Boro	10
Rockaway Twp	9
Roxbury Twp.	7
Victory Gardens	1
Wharton	9

What is your total length of homelessness?

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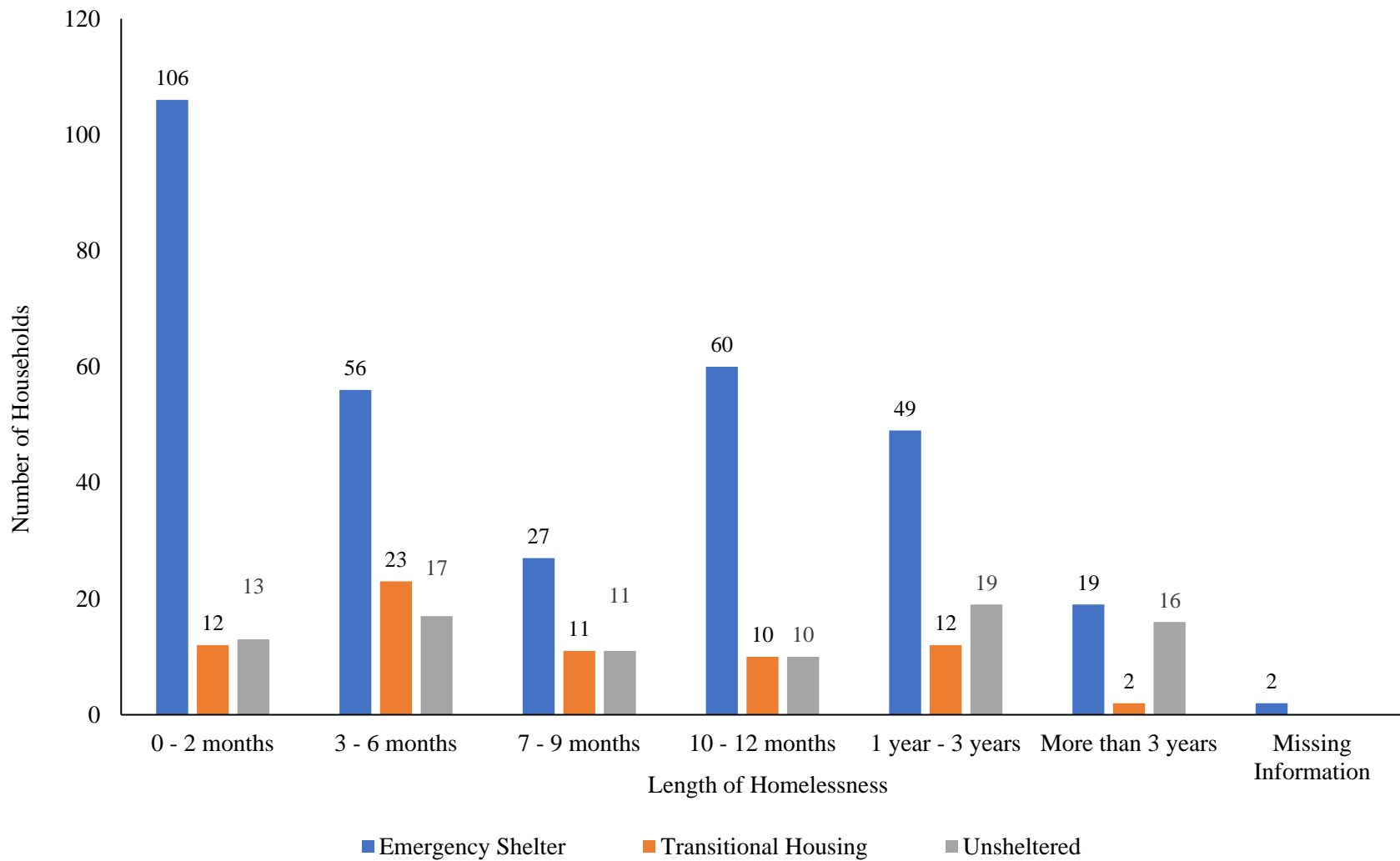
How many times have you been homeless in the past 3 years?

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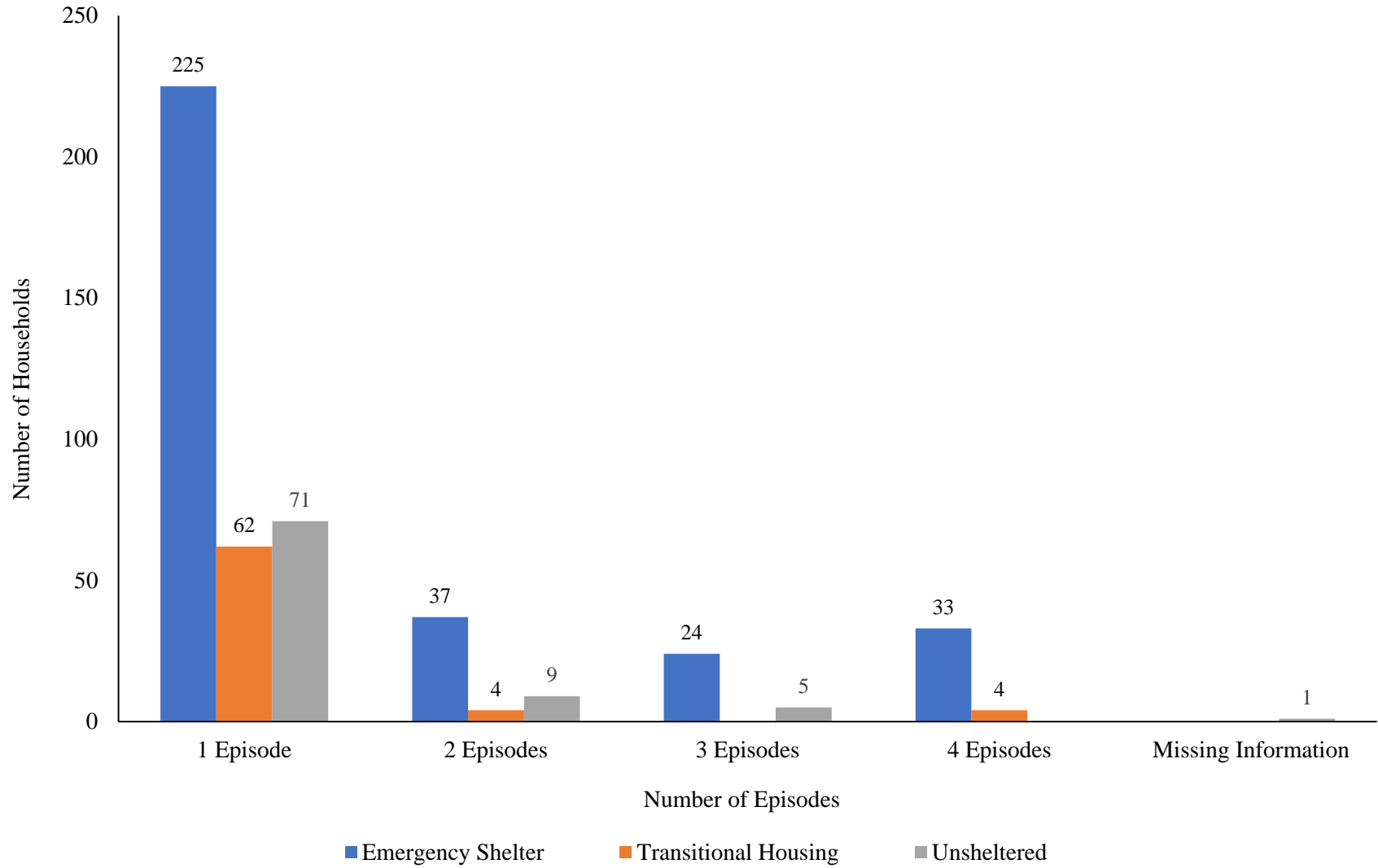
Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?

Fig. B.8. Number of Homeless Households by State or Country of Last Permanent Address	
Last Permanent Address – County/State	**Number of Households**
Essex County	10
Hudson County	2
Hunterdon County	1
Middlesex County	1
Monmouth County	1
Morris County	119
Ocean County	1
Passaic County	2
Sussex County	5
Union County	6
Warren County	3
Florida	3
New York	4
Pennsylvania	1
Tennessee	1
Texas	2

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
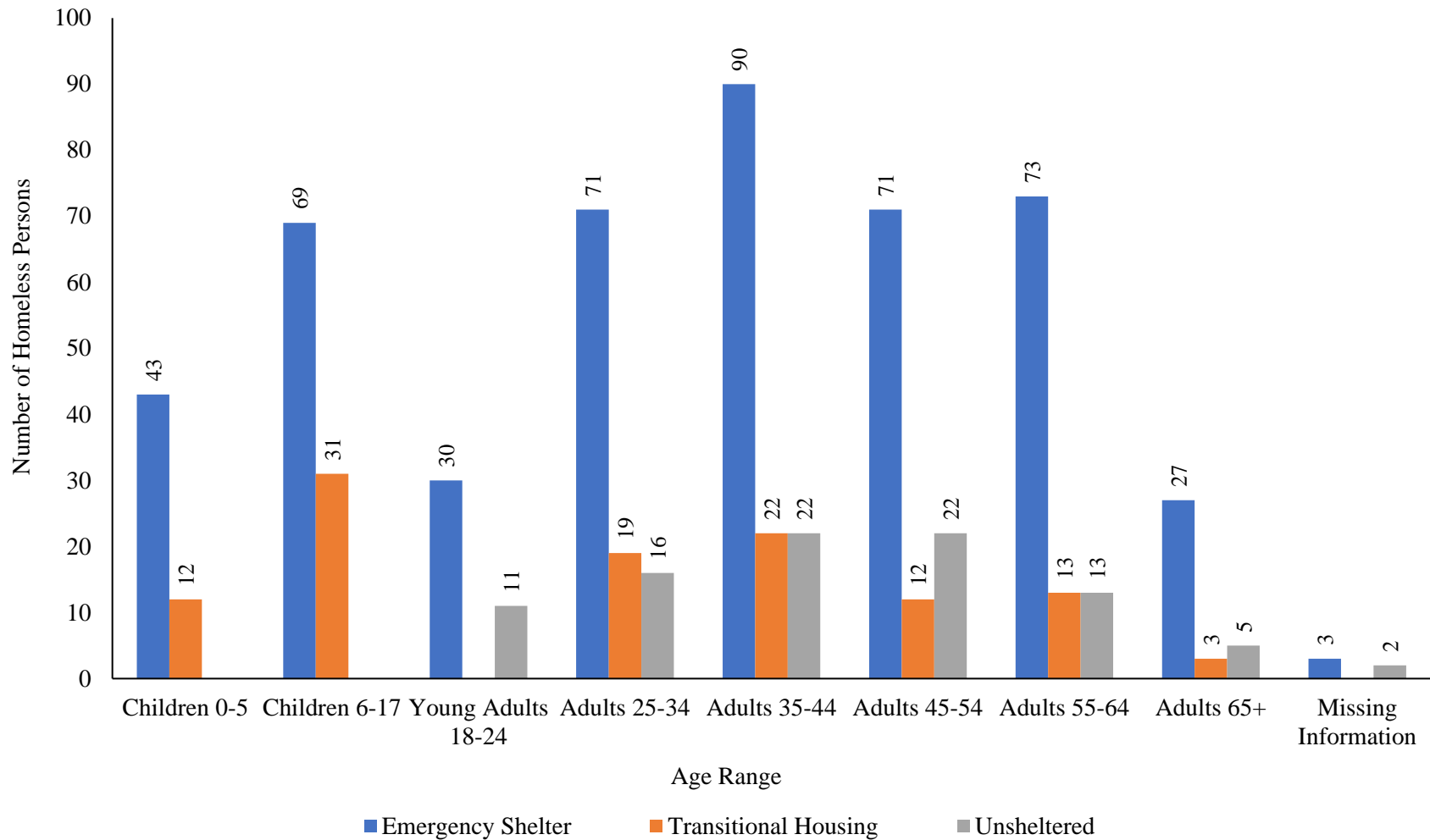
Household Characteristics: Demographic Data – check all that apply to each person
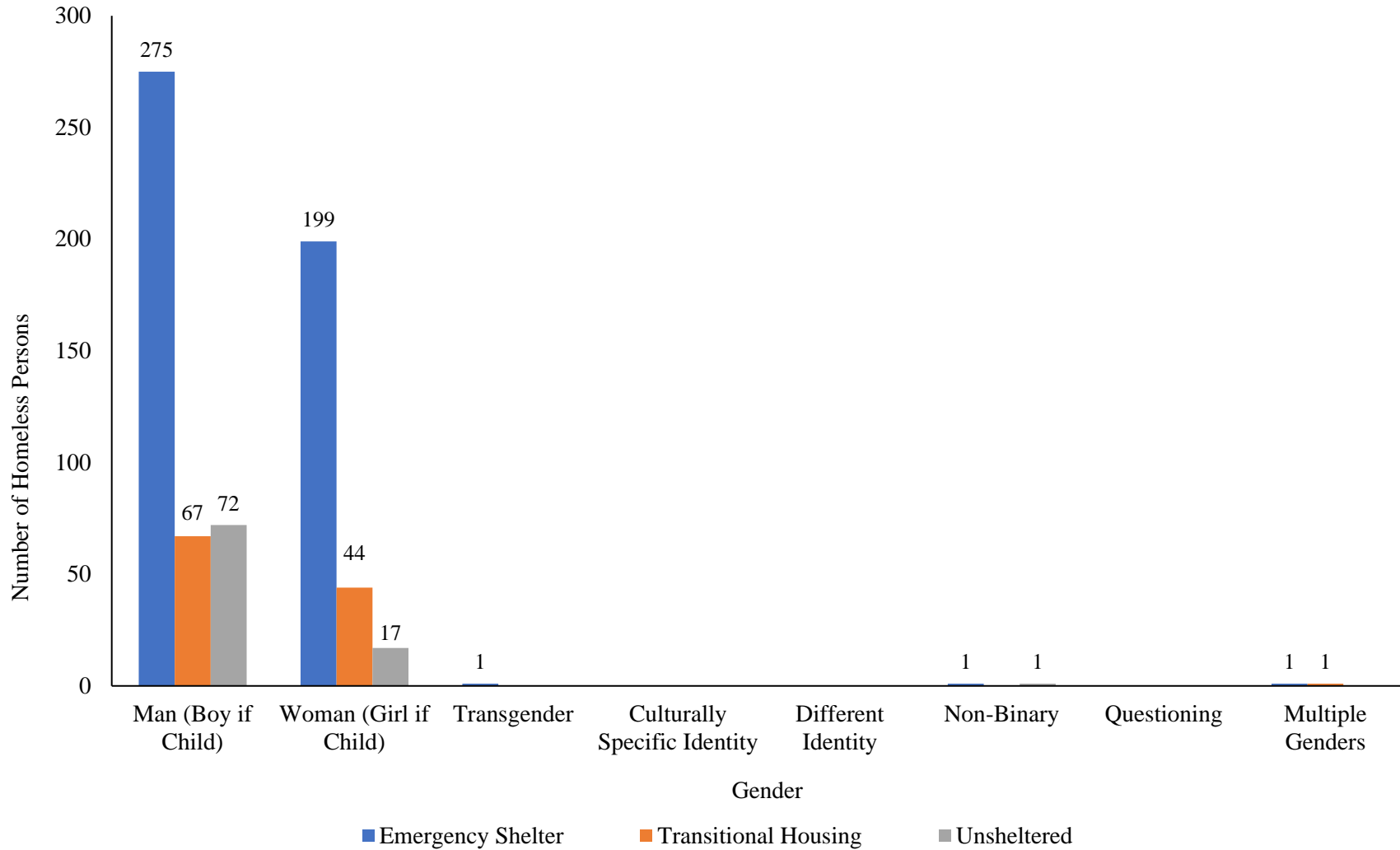
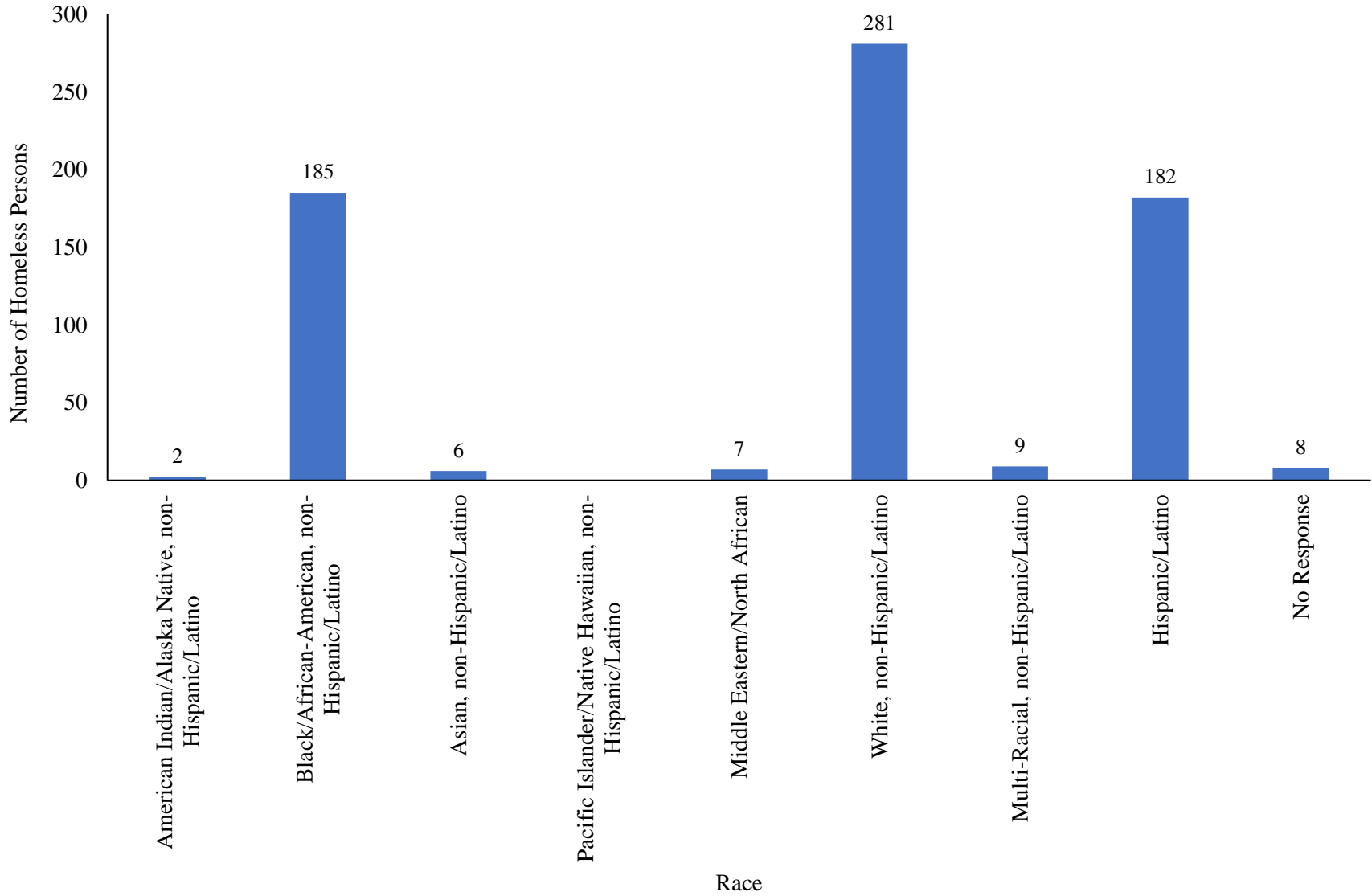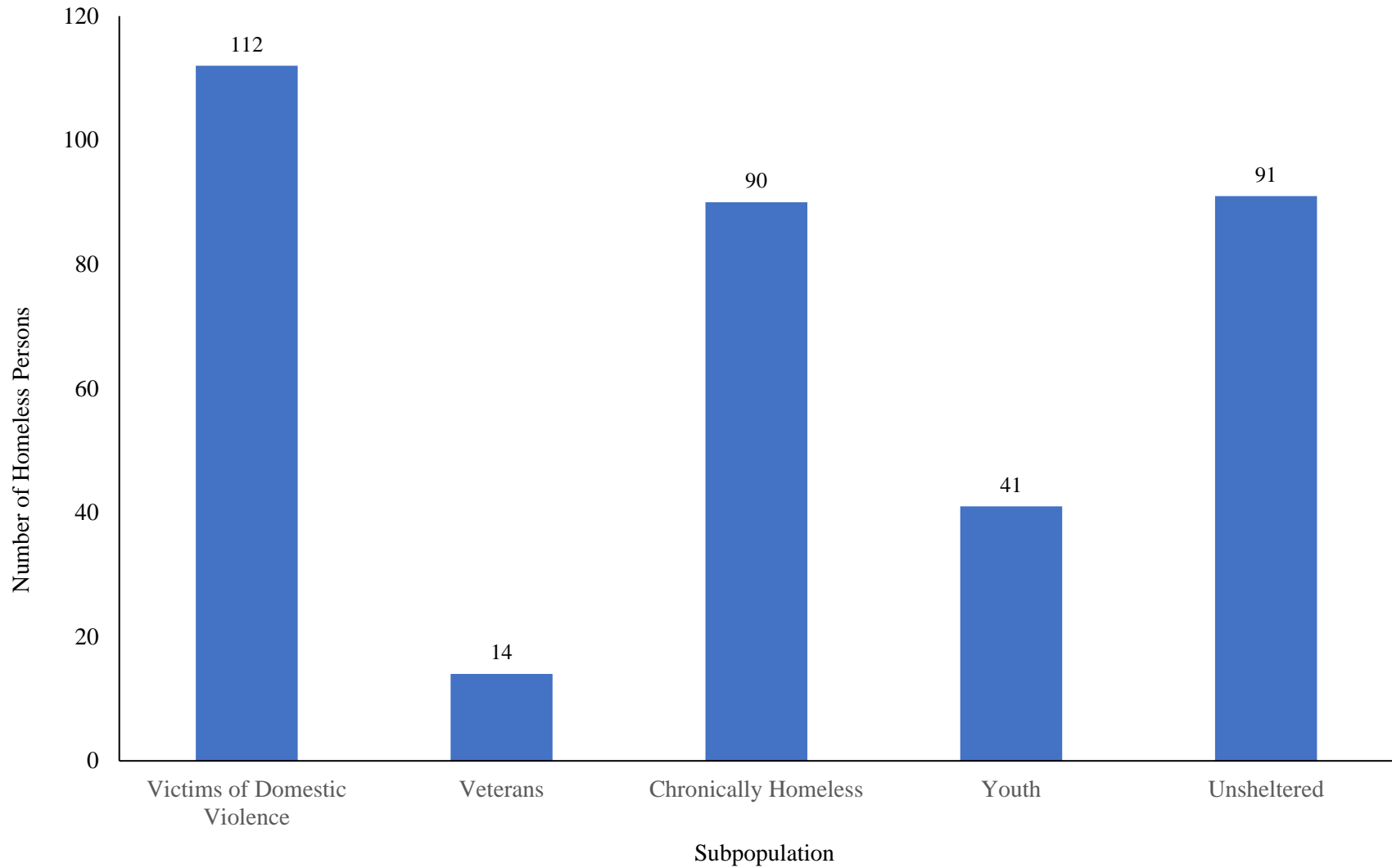**Fig. B.10: Number of Persons by Gender and Housing Type**
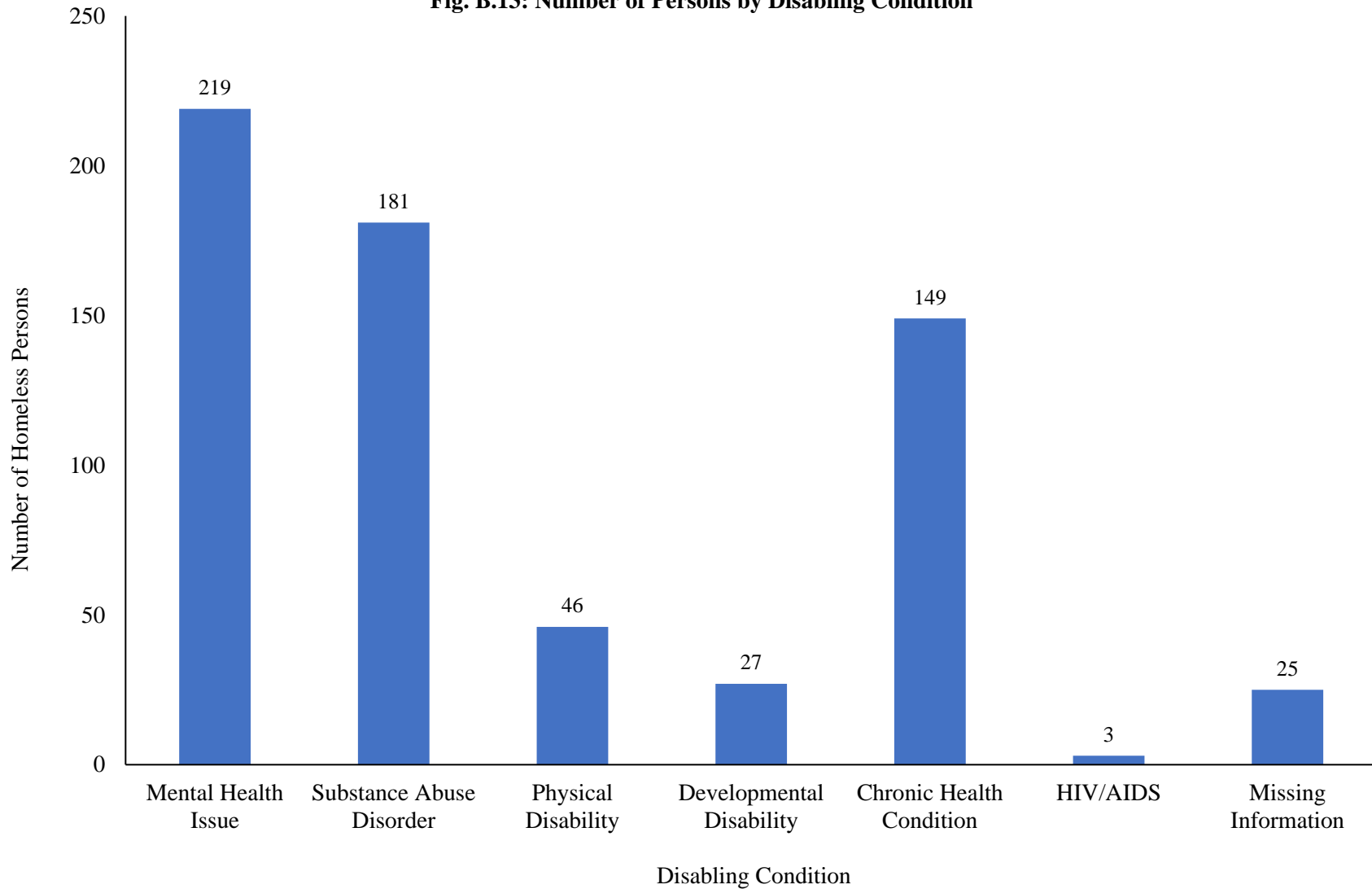
Fig. B.11: Number of Persons by Race

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

Fig. B.12: Number of Persons by Subpopulation

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

Fig. B.13: Number of Persons by Disabling Condition

Y-axis: Number of Homeless Persons (0 to 250)
X-axis: Disabling Condition

- Mental Health Issue: 219
- Substance Abuse Disorder: 181
- Physical Disability: 46
- Developmental Disability: 27
- Chronic Health Condition: 149
- HIV/AIDS: 3
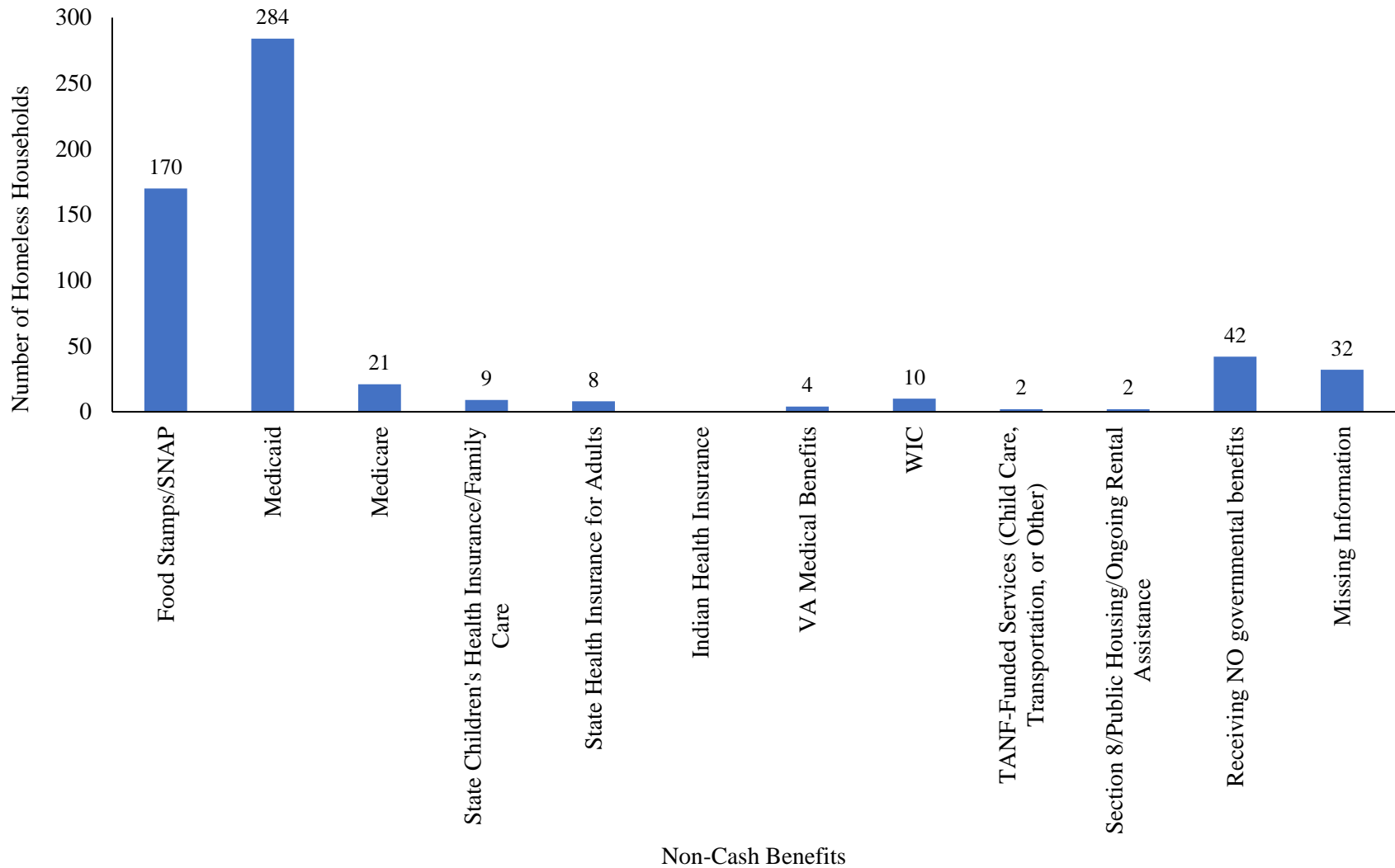- Missing Information: 25

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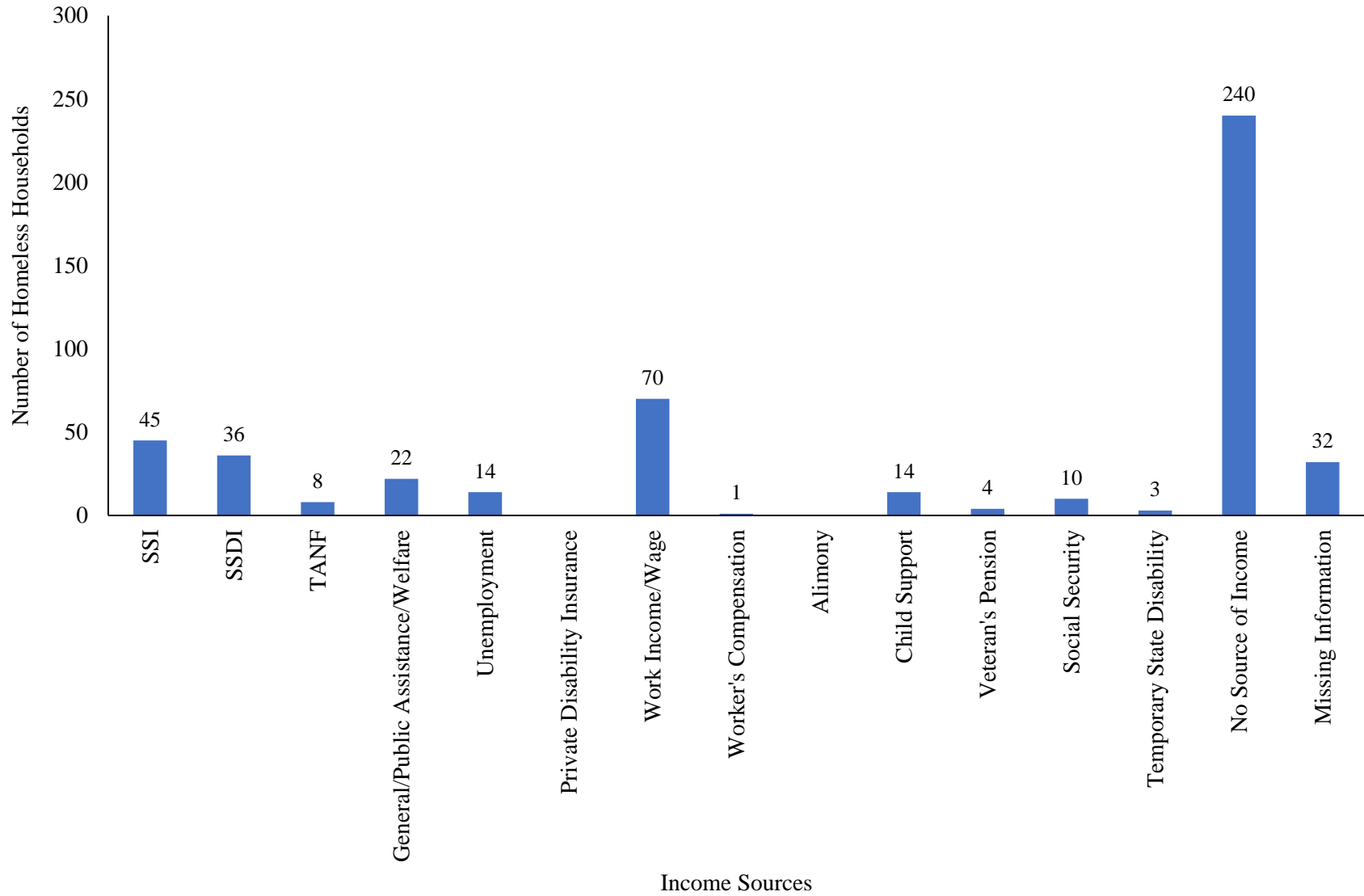
Which of the following sources of non-cash benefits do you, or anyone in your household, receive?

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

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

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