



Hudson County CoC Homeless Assessment Report

2013

I. Introduction

In 2012, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Interim rules. These interim regulations require a high level of planning and coordination among all Continuums of Care (CoCs) throughout the Country. As with any planning process, data analysis of the needs and outcomes of the current system is essential to facilitate meaningful planning.

In order to assist the Continuums of Care throughout New Jersey with this data analysis, this report uses information from the New Jersey Homeless Information System (HMIS) to provide a snapshot of the characteristics of homeless households in the Hudson County CoC. This report can serve as the foundation of a more in depth review of the population and its needs. Communities in New Jersey are well positioned to move towards data driven planning with the wealth of information available through HMIS.

II. Data Source

This Homeless Assessment Report for Hudson County CoC analyzed data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) administered by New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA), the HMIS Lead Agency. In New Jersey, NJHMFA utilized software developed by Foothold Technology as the primary HMIS system for the state. The projects included in this report were all Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing and Safe Haven projects (if available in the community) that were classified as “Homeless Only”.

The Homeless Assessment Report is based on information about unduplicated homeless families and individuals who used available emergency shelter, transitional housing and safe haven projects during the yearlong reporting period January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013, as reported in HMIS.

For purposes of this report, families included any persons that presented together at the HMIS participating project and would choose to be permanently housed together if that was an option. This can include, households with adults and children under the age of 18, households made of all adults, or unaccompanied youth (under age 18) that present together.

III. Findings for Total Population Served

Key Findings:

- A total of 1,646 households were served in HMIS participating emergency shelters and transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 period
- There were 214 households identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period
- 50% of all adults served either as individuals or as part of a family identified having a disabling condition
- 33% of the total population served was under age 30
- 26% of households moved on to permanent destinations after discharge, while 24% moved on to temporary destinations

Total Homeless Population.

A total of 1,646 households composed of 1,932 persons were housed in Hudson County CoC HMIS participating emergency shelters or transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 reporting period. This is a 5% decrease in total households served from 2012. Out of the

households served in 2013, the majority, 88% (1,449) were individuals, while the remaining 12% (197 households) were families. As shown in Figure 1, the most served population was individuals in emergency shelter, which made up 85% of the total population served. The 1,932 persons served throughout Hudson County HMIS projects made up 8% of New Jersey's total homeless population served in HMIS projects in 2013.

Fig. 1. Total Households Served

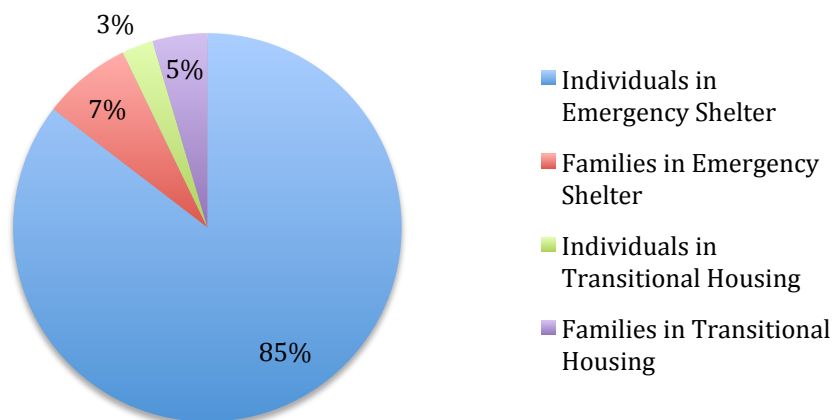
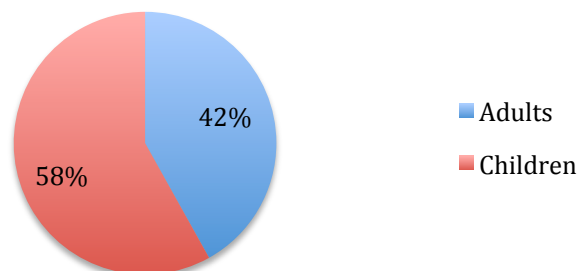


Figure 2. Total Persons Served

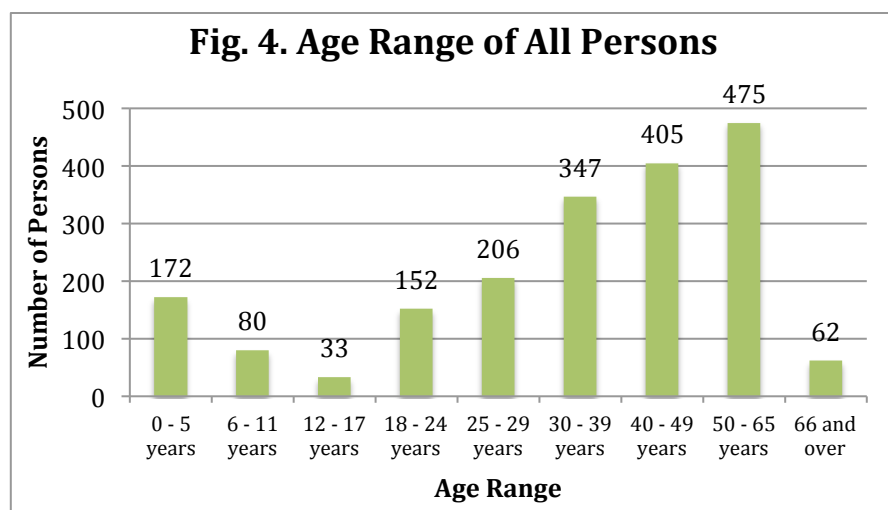
	Hudson County	New Jersey
Total Persons Served	1,932	23,949
Emergency Shelter	1,690	19,208
Individuals	1,406	12,639
Families	284	6,569
Transitional Housing	242	4,455
Individuals	43	2,176
Families	199	2,279

Family Composition. Of the 197 family households served throughout Hudson County in 2013, 193 (98%) were households with adults and children under 18, 1 (1%) were adult only households while the remaining 3 were youth only households. As shown in Figure 3, children represented 58% of the persons included in adult and children families. The average size of a homeless family in 2013 was 2 and the average age of a child served between the two project types was 6 years old.

Fig. 3. Adults vs. Children in Families



Demographics. Of the total homeless population that was served in the Hudson CoC during 2013, the largest percent, 25%, of persons were adults between the ages of 50 and 65. As Figure 4 shows, the next highest age range served was persons between 40 and 49 (21%), showing that 49% of the population served was over the age of 40.

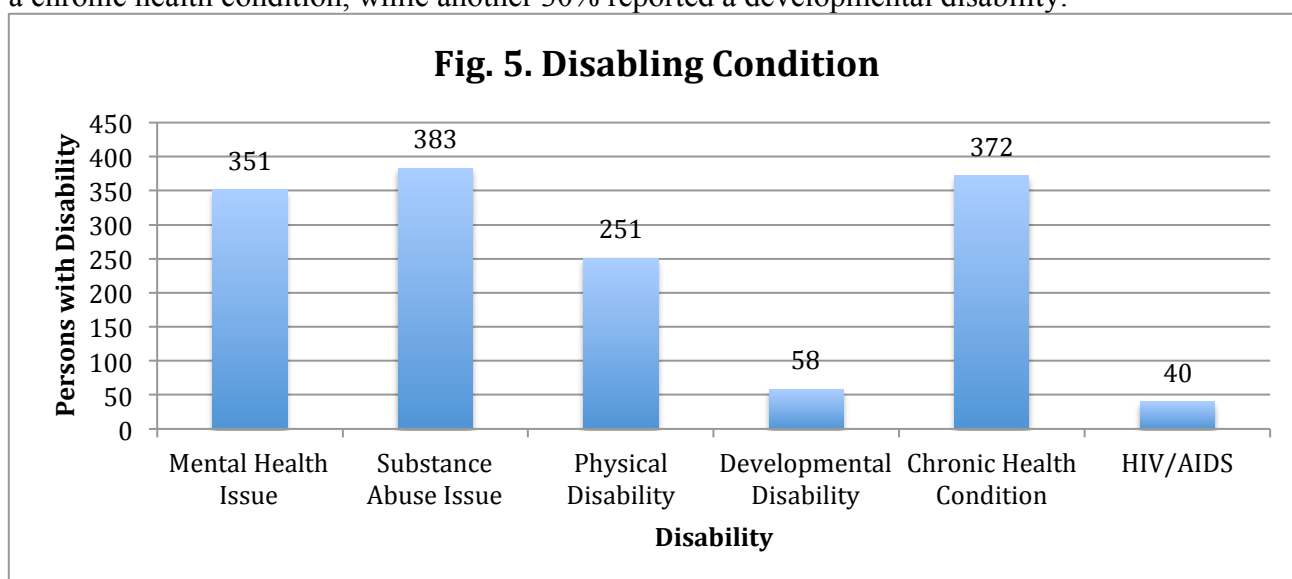


Similar to the 2012 numbers, more than half (69%) of the homeless persons served in Hudson CoC HMIS participating projects were male, with women representing 31% of the population.

In addition, 52% of the homeless persons served during 2013 identified their race as White, making that the largest racial subgroup. The next largest was Black or African American (44%), followed by Asian with 23 persons. With regards to ethnicity, 40% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

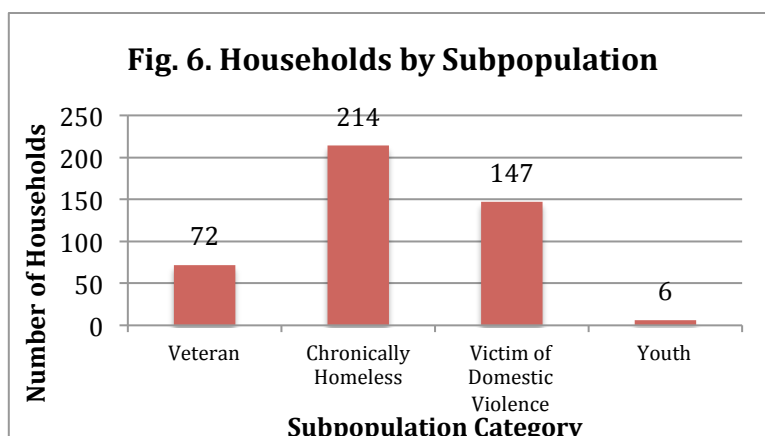
Disabling Conditions. Among all persons served throughout Hudson County's HMIS emergency shelter and transitional housing projects, 44% identified having a disabling condition, this number includes 50% of adults and 12% of children.

Among disabled adults, 47% reported a substance abuse issue making this the most prevalent disability; representing 23% of the total adult homeless population. 43% of disabled adults also reported either a mental health or chronic health condition. Among disabled children, 67% reported a chronic health condition, while another 30% reported a developmental disability.



Subpopulation Characteristics.

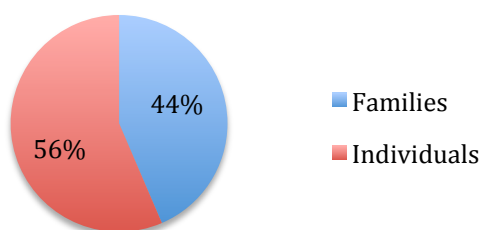
In its plan, *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has prioritized ending youth, veteran and chronic homelessness across the Country. In 2013, Hudson CoC served a total of 214 households that were identified as chronically homeless in emergency shelter or transitional housing projects. 86% of the chronic households served were individuals in emergency shelter projects.



Youth only households, households without someone over age 18, represented less than 1% of the total households served throughout Hudson HMIS projects. These households were composed of 3 individual youth and 6 persons in youth only households. All youth households were served in emergency shelter projects.

As far as veterans served, Hudson CoC served a total of 72 veterans throughout 2013. All of the veterans served were individuals and only 6% were female. 96% of the veterans served were served in emergency shelter projects. 63% of veterans reported having some kind of disability, with the most common disability reported being a physical disability (49%).

Fig. 7. Household Type Among Victims of Domestic Violence

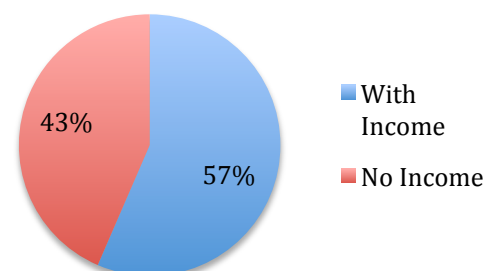


In addition to the chronic, youth and veteran populations, there were 147 homeless households that reported having a victim of domestic violence. 56% of these households were individuals, while the remaining 64 were families. 54% reported that the last episode of domestic violence occurred over a year ago, while 27% reported it happening within the past 3 months. The majority of the domestic violence victims (71%) were served in emergency shelters. As a note, while there are victims of

domestic violence being served in HMIS participating agencies, due to federal regulations, Domestic Violence specific projects are not able to enter data into HMIS, so the number of victims served in those projects are not included in this report.

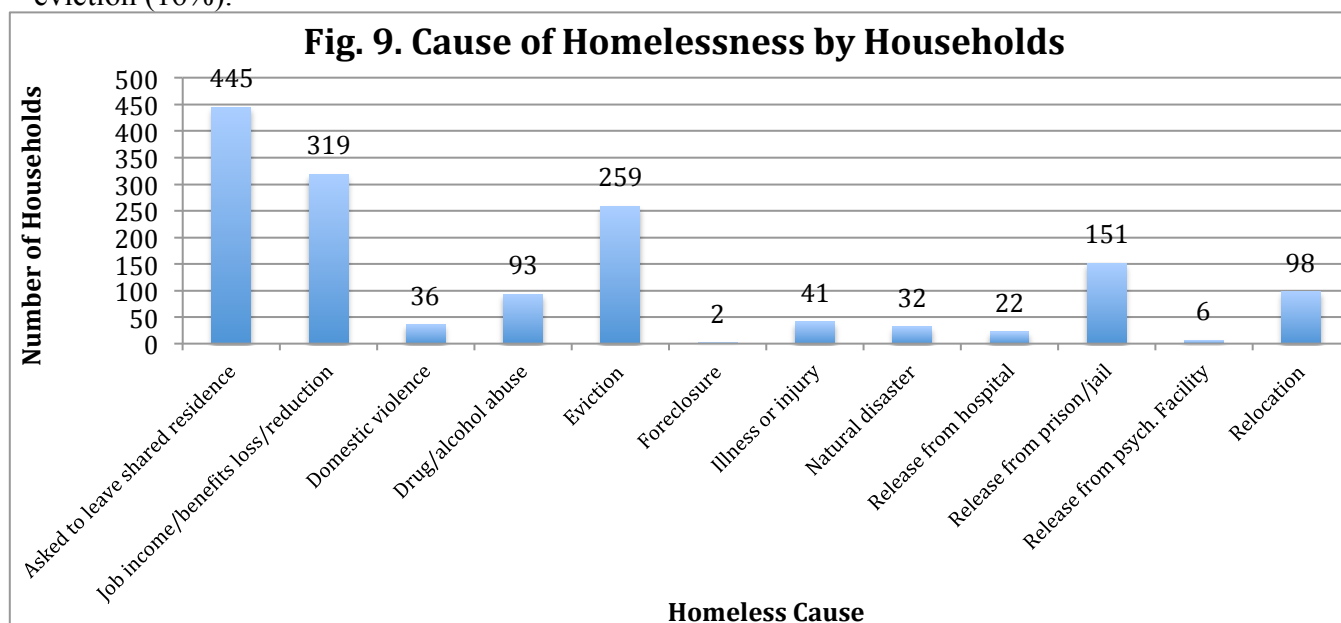
Income and Benefits. Among all homeless households served in emergency shelter or transitional housing projects during 2013, 43% had no source of income, while 18% reported receiving some form of earned income. The most common source of cash income among households was SSI (22%) and General Assistance (12%). The average monthly income for households was \$331 in emergency shelter and \$707 for households served in transitional housing projects.

Fig. 8. Percentage of Households with Income



While 43% of households had no source of income, 50% of households were not receiving some kind of non-cash benefit. Food Stamps was the top reported non-cash benefit, which was reported by 41% of households. Another 27% of households were connected to Medicaid benefits.

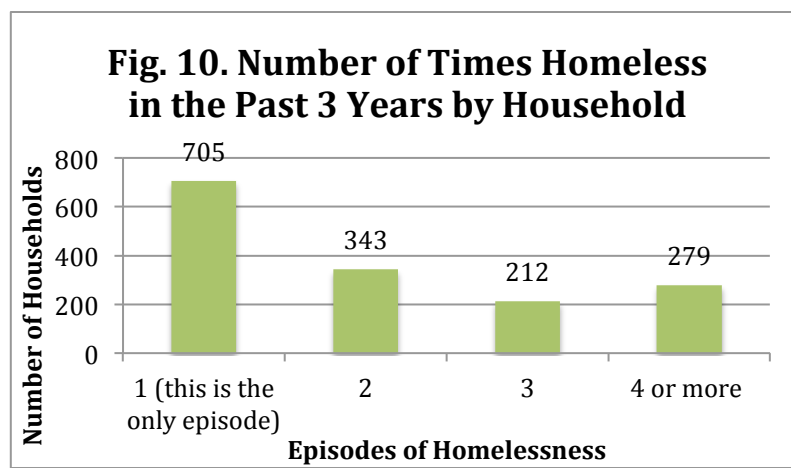
Cause of Homelessness and Residence Prior to Project Entry. When asked what the primary factor was that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households attributed their homelessness to being asked to leave a shared residence (27%) than any other cause. As Figure 9 shows, the next most common factors were job income or benefits loss/reduction (19%) and eviction (16%).



These causes of homelessness coincide with the common response for residence prior to project entry with 30% of households staying or living with family or friends prior to project entry. The next most common response was place not meant for habitation (24%) followed by emergency shelter (19%).

Length of Stay at Prior Residence and Episodes of Homelessness.

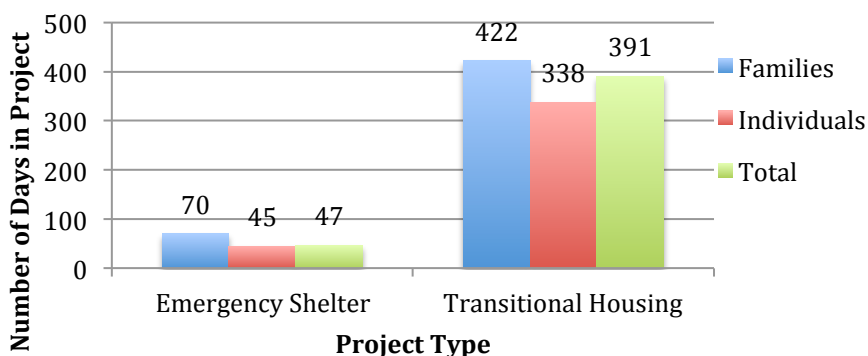
32% of the households served during 2013 had resided in their last residence for one year or longer before entering the emergency shelter or transitional housing project. Another 22% were in their prior residence for more than 3 months but less than one year, while only 14% were there one week or less. Similarly, only 17% of households experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years, while most households (43%) were experiencing their first episode of homelessness, as seen in Figure 10.



Average Length of Project Stay

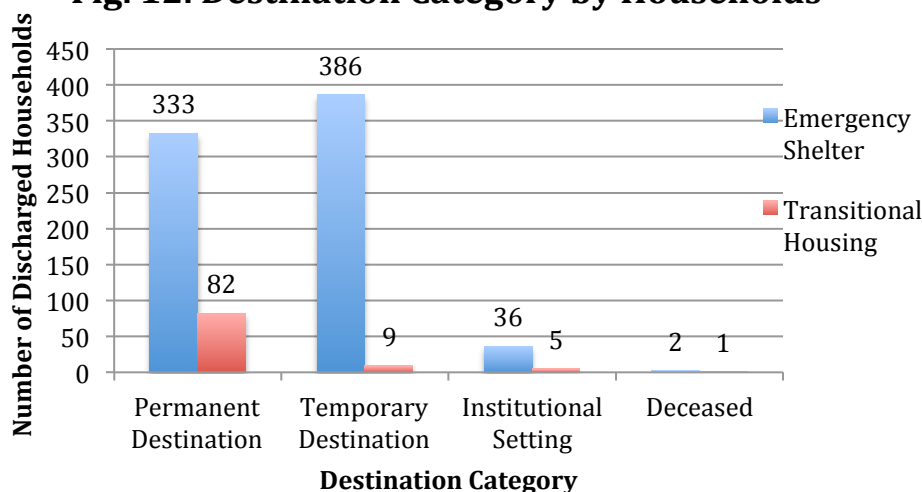
When looking at total length of project stay, families seemed to have longer stays in both emergency shelter and transitional housing projects than individuals. During their project stay it was found that families stayed on average 25 days longer than individuals in emergency shelter, and 84 days, or almost 3 months longer in transitional housing projects.

Fig. 11. Average Length of Project Stay by Household Type



Reason and Destination at Discharge. A total of 1,626 households were discharged from emergency shelter and transitional housing projects during the 2013 reporting period. 16% of these households were discharged from projects after completing the program or left for a housing opportunity prior to project completion, while 14% were discharged from projects due to non-compliance.

Fig. 12. Destination Category by Households



26% of households discharged in 2013 moved on to permanent destinations upon discharge from the project. A permanent destination includes a unit owned or rented by a client, permanent housing project, or living with a family member or friend permanently. The most common permanent destination was rental by

client with 20% of total households moving into a rental upon discharge. This rental could be with or without a subsidy. 24% of households moved on to a temporary destination at discharge, which could include an emergency shelter, hotel or motel, place not meant for habitation, staying with a family member or friend temporarily, safe haven, or transitional housing for homeless persons. The most common form of temporary housing as a destination was staying with family or friends temporarily, which involved 12% of the total households. An institutional destination, which was the destination of 3% of households, includes hospitals (psychiatric or non-psychiatric), a halfway house, jail or prison, foster care, long-term care facility or a substance abuse treatment facility. Medical hospital was the most common institutional destination recorded, with 18 households being discharged to medical hospitals after their project stay.

Appendix A: HMIS Projects Included in Report

I. Emergency Shelter Projects

Agency	Project Name
Catholic Charities	CC Hudson – St. Lucy’s Outreach
	CC Hudson Hope House Family Shelter
	CC Hudson St. Lucy’s
Communities of Faith for Housing	CFH Hoboken Shelter
Palisades Emergency Corporation	PERC - Shelter
	PERC-Family Emergency Shelter
	PERC-Overflow

II. Transitional Housing Projects

Agency	Project Name
Catholic Charities	CC Hudson Franciska Residence
House of Faith Inc.	The House of Faith Inc-The House of Faith
North Hudson Community Action	NHCAC Temporary Housing Program
St. Joseph’s Home	Saint Joseph Transitional Housing
WomenRising	PHWR-Project Home