



Monmouth 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 Monmouth 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 Monmouth 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.

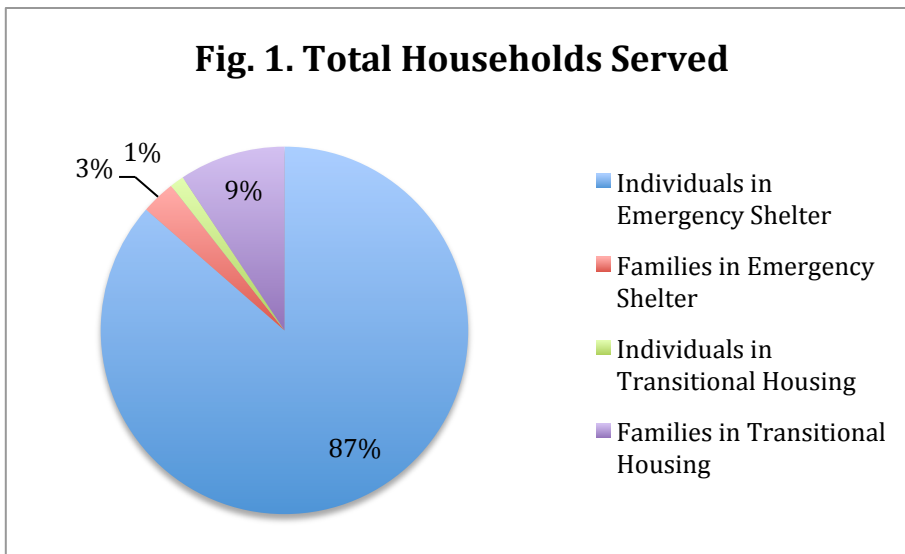
III. Findings for Total Population Served

Key Findings:

- A total of 803 households were served in HMIS participating emergency shelters and transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 period
- There were 15 households identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period
- 39% of all adults served either as individuals or as part of a family identified having a disabling condition
- 47% of the total population served was over the age of 40
- 12% of households moved on to permanent destinations after discharge

Total Homeless Population.

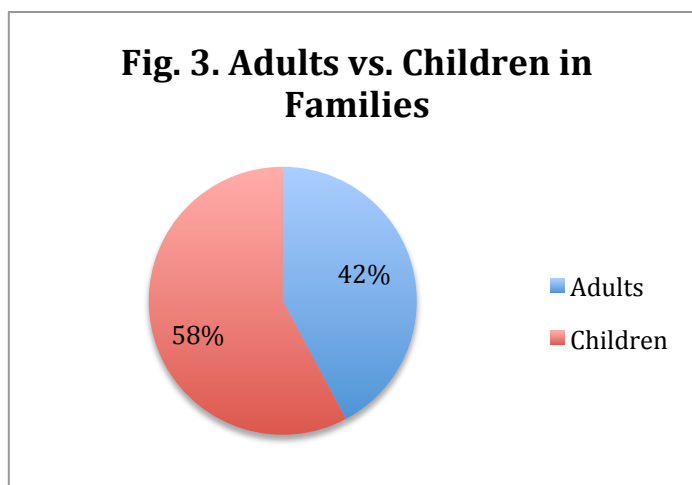
A total of 803 households composed of 979 persons were housed in Monmouth County CoC HMIS participating emergency shelters or transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 reporting period. This is a 3% decrease in total households served from 2012. Out of the households served in 2013, the majority, 88% (704) were individuals, while the remaining 12% (99 households) were families. As shown in Figure 1, the most served population was individuals in emergency shelter, which made up 87% of the total population served. The 979 persons served throughout Monmouth County HMIS projects made up 4% of New Jersey’s total homeless population served in HMIS projects in 2013.



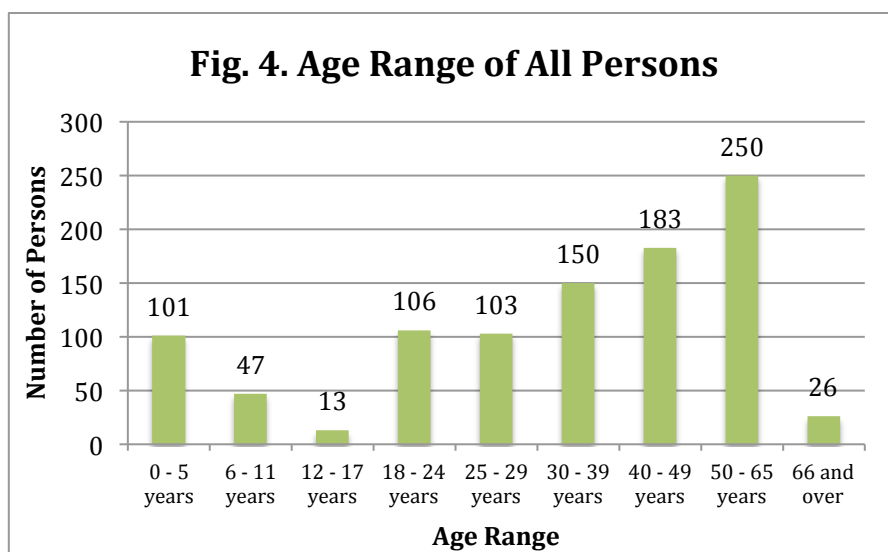
As shown in Figure 1, the most served population was individuals in emergency shelter, which made up 87% of the total population served. The 979 persons served throughout Monmouth County HMIS projects made up 4% of New Jersey’s total homeless population served in HMIS projects in 2013.

	Monmouth County	New Jersey
Total Persons Served	979	23,949
Emergency Shelter	760	19,208
Individuals	694	12,639
Families	66	6,569
Transitional Housing	219	4,455
Individuals	10	2,176
Families	209	2,279

Family Composition. All 99 families served in Monmouth County CoC emergency shelter and transitional housing projects were families with adults and children. 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 3 and the average age of a child served between the two project types was 5 years old.



Demographics. Of the total homeless population that was served in the Monmouth CoC during 2013, the largest percent, 26%, of persons were between the ages of 50 and 65. As Figure 4 shows, the next highest age range served was persons between 18 and 29 (21%), with slightly over half of that age group representing youth between the ages of 18 and 24 years.

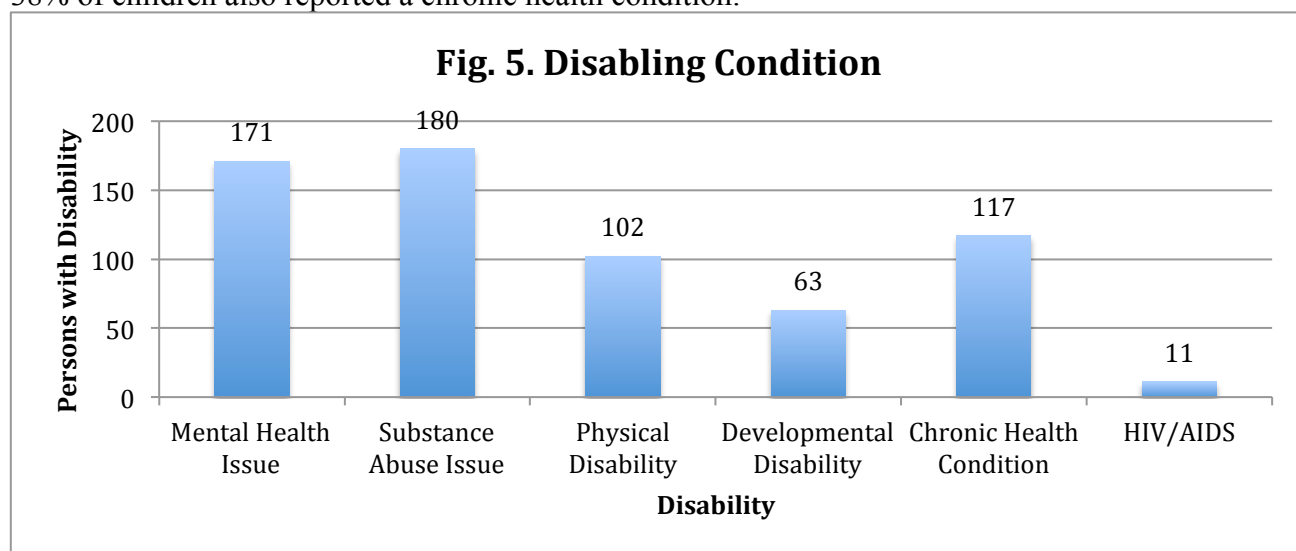


Similar to the 2012 numbers, more than half (70%) of the homeless persons served in Monmouth CoC HMIS participating projects were male, with women representing 30% of the population.

In addition, 48% 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 (43%), followed by Multi-Racial with 4%. With regards to ethnicity, only 10% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

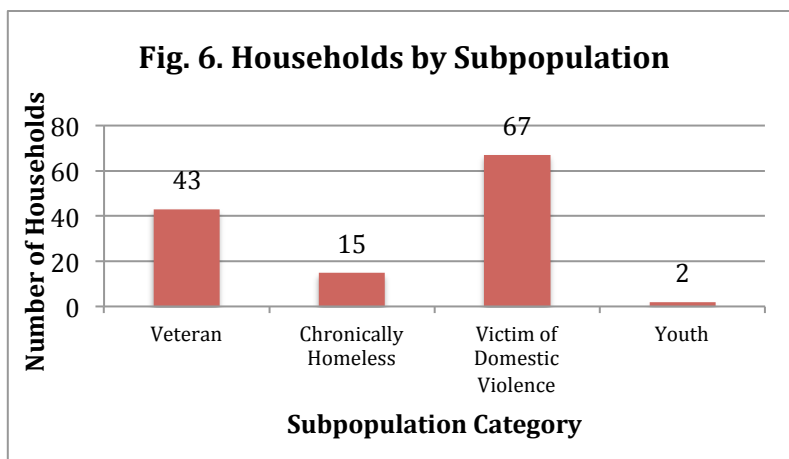
Disabling Conditions. Among all persons served throughout Monmouth County’s HMIS emergency shelter and transitional housing projects, 33% identified having a disabling condition, this number includes 39% of adults and 5% of children.

Among disabled adults, 57% reported substance abuse issues making this the most prevalent disability; representing 22% of the total adult homeless population. 54% of disabled adults also reported a mental health issue. Among disabled children, 75% reported a developmental disability. 38% of children also reported a chronic health condition.



Subpopulation Characteristics.

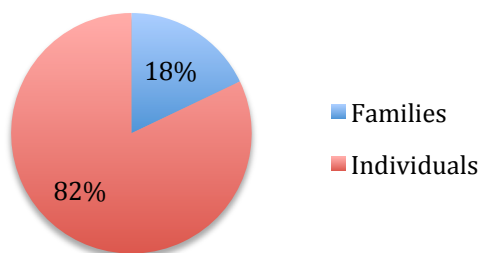
In its plan, *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has prioritized ending youth, veteran and chronic homelessness across the Country. In 2013, Monmouth CoC served a total of 15 households that were identified as chronically homeless. All 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 Monmouth HMIS projects. These households were composed of 2 individual youth, both of whom were served in emergency shelter projects.

As far as veterans served, Monmouth CoC served a total of 43 veterans throughout 2013. 98% of veterans served were individuals and only 9% were female. All of the veterans served were served in emergency shelter projects. 53% of veterans reported having some kind of disability, with the most common disability reported being substance abuse issue (61%).

Fig. 7. Household Type Among Victims of Domestic Violence

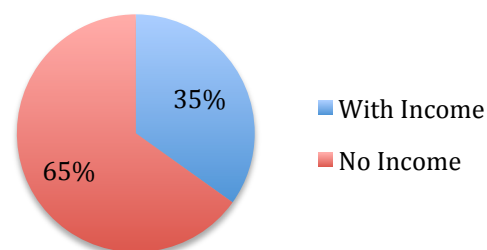


In addition to the chronic, youth and veteran populations, there were 67 homeless households that reported having a victim of domestic violence. 82% of these households were individuals, while the remaining 12 were families. 54% reported that the last episode of domestic violence occurred over a year ago, while 24% reported it happening within the past 3 months. The majority of the domestic violence victims (88%) 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.

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.

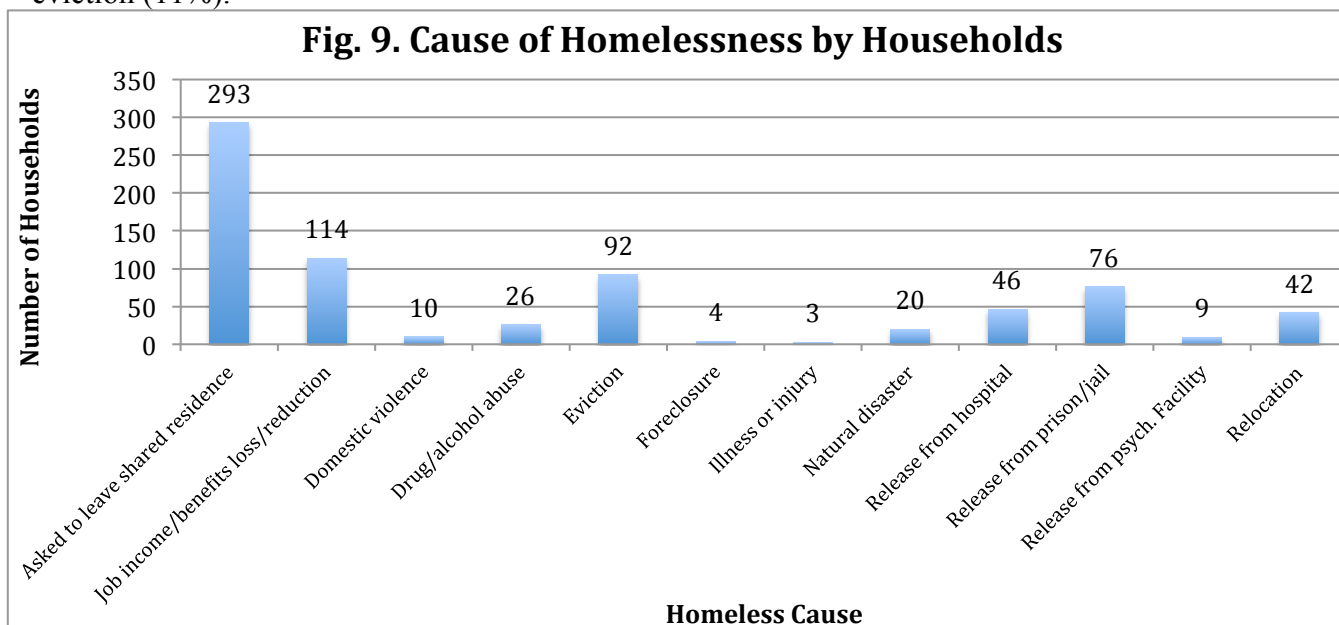
Income and Benefits. Among all homeless households served in emergency shelter or transitional housing projects during 2013, 65% had no source of income, while 8% reported receiving some form of earned income. The most common sources of cash income among households was TANF and SSI, which were both reported by 10% of the population. The average monthly income for households in emergency shelter was \$182, while it was \$695 for households served in transitional housing projects.

Fig. 8. Percentage of Households with Income



While 65% of households had no source of income, 72% of households were not receiving some kind of non-cash benefit. Food Stamps was the top reported non-cash benefit, which was reported by 23% of the households. Another 17% of households were connected to Medicaid benefits.

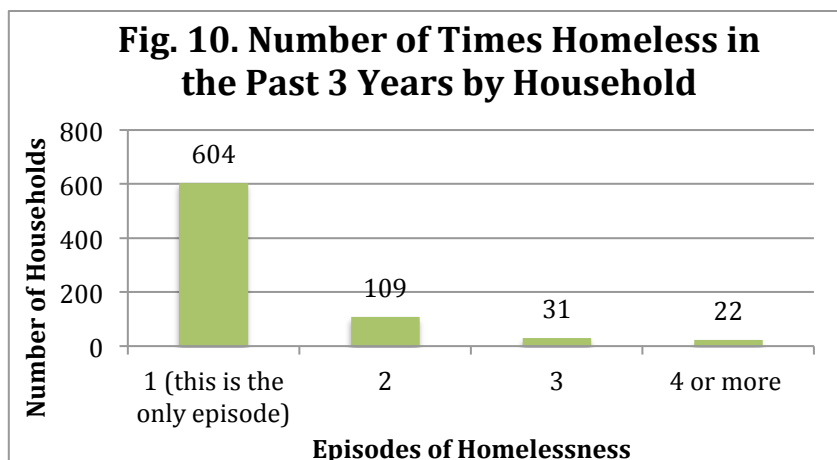
Cause of Homelessness and Residence Prior to Project Entry. When asked what the primary factor was that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households attributed their homelessness to being asked to leave a shared residence (36%) than any other cause. As Figure 9 shows, the next most common factors were job income or benefits loss or reduction (14%) and eviction (11%).



These causes of homelessness coincide with the common response for residence prior to project entry with 38% of households staying or living with family or friends prior to project entry. The next most common response was emergency shelter and transitional housing with 13% each.

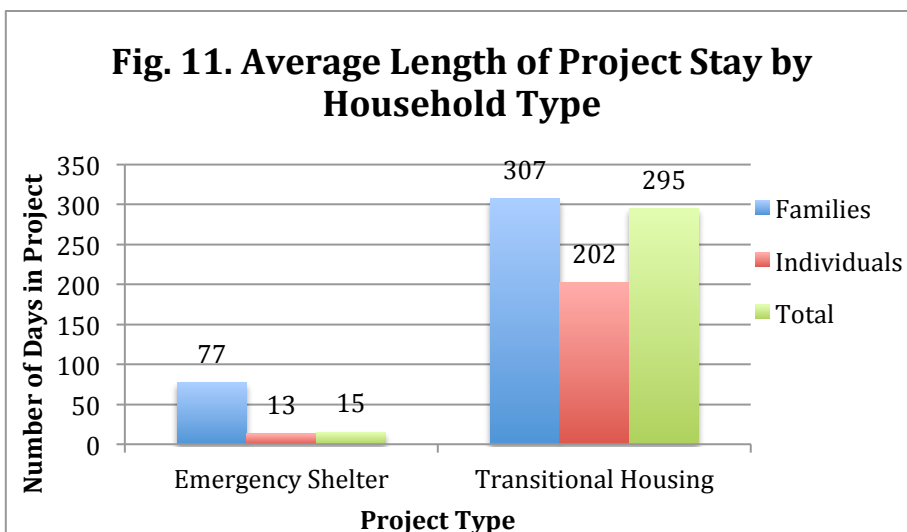
Length of Stay at Prior Residence and Episodes of Homelessness.

25% of 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 33% were in their prior residence for more than 3 months but less than one year, while only 6% were there one week or less. Similarly, only 3% of households experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years, while the majority of households (75%) were experiencing their first episode of homelessness, as seen in Figure 10.



Average Length of Project Stay.

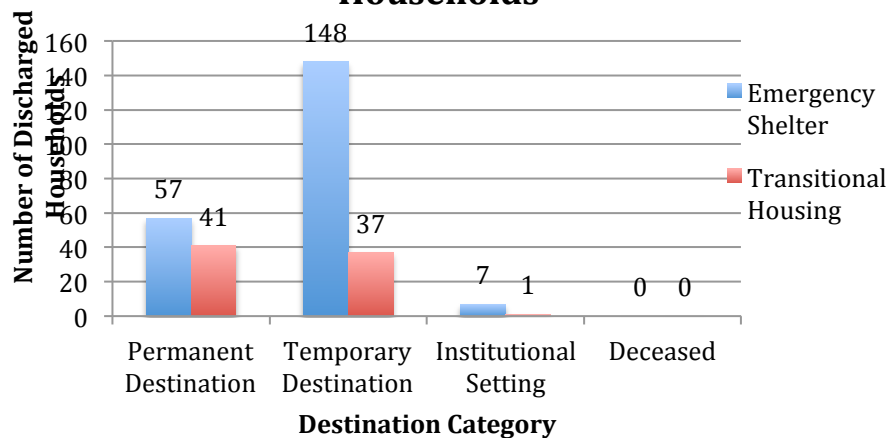
When looking at total length of project stay for families and individuals, families seemed to have longer stays in both emergency shelter and transitional housing projects when compared to individuals. During their project stay it was found that families stayed on average 64 days or about 2 months longer than individuals in emergency shelter, and on average 105 days, or 3½ months longer in transitional housing projects.



Reason and Destination at Discharge.

A total of 798 households were discharged from emergency shelter and transitional housing projects during the 2013 reporting period. 24% of these households were discharged from projects after completing the program while 8% were discharged from the project due to non-compliance.

Fig. 12. Destination Category by Households



Unfortunately, due to the nature of nightly emergency shelter projects, information about where the household left to was not able to be collected by staff for a large number of households.

Based on the data that was collected, 12% 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 10% of total households moving into a rental upon discharge. This rental could be with or without a subsidy. 23% 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 emergency shelter, which involved 13% of the total households. An institutional destination, which was the destination of 1% 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.



Appendix A: HMIS Projects Included in Report

I. Emergency Shelter Projects

Agency	Project Name
Easter Seals	ESNJ- Fort Monmouth Homeless Shelter
Family Promise of Monmouth County	Family Promise of Monmouth County Shelter
HABcore	HABcore – Laurel House Respite
	HABcore –Coffey Residence Respite
Market Street Mission	MSM-Jersey Shore Rescue Mission

II. Transitional Housing Projects

Agency	Project Name
Catholic Charities ECS	CCME Monmouth Linkages
Monmouth Neighborhood Housing	MNH Manna House