



Morris 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 Morris 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 Morris County 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.

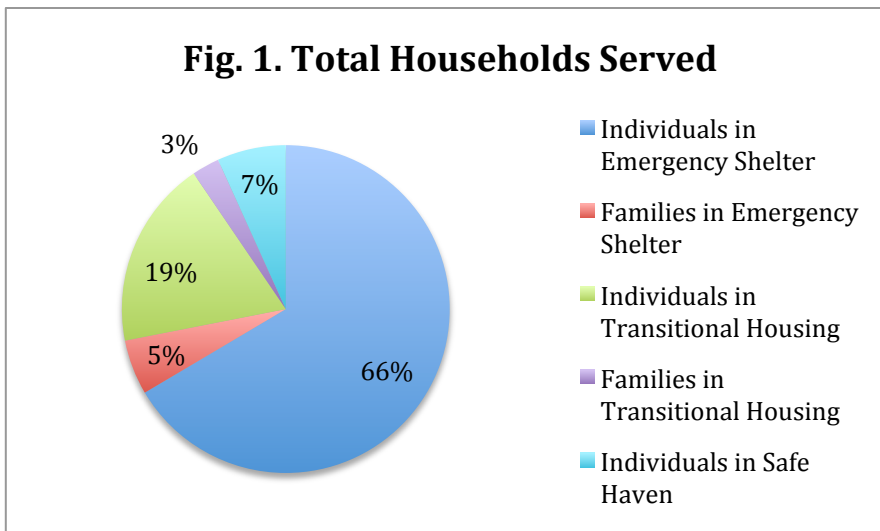
III. Findings for Total Population Served

Key Findings:

- A total of 737 households were served in HMIS participating emergency shelters, transitional housing and safe haven projects during the January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 period
- There were 136 households identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period
- 68% 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
- 26% of households moved on to permanent destinations after discharge

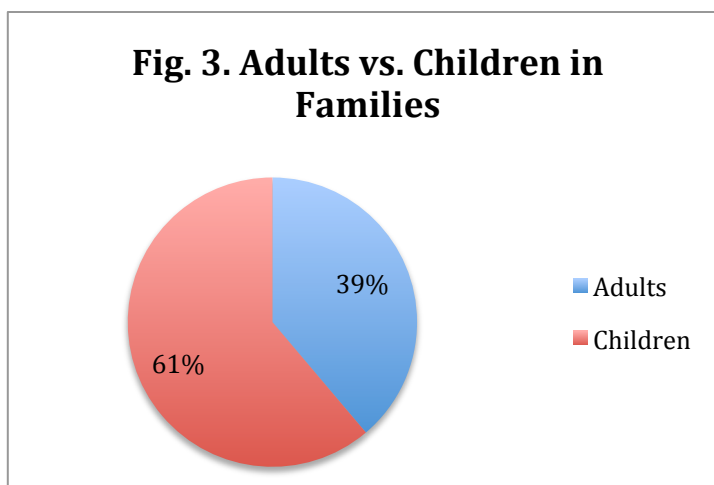
Total Homeless

Population. A total of 737 households composed of 838 persons were housed in Morris County CoC HMIS participating emergency shelters, transitional housing or safe haven projects during the January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 reporting period. Out of the households served in 2013, the large majority, 92% (677) were individuals, while the remaining 8% (60 households) were families. As shown in Figure 1, the most served population was individuals in emergency shelter, which accounted for 66% of the total population each. The 838 persons served throughout Morris County HMIS projects made up 3% of New Jersey’s total homeless population served in HMIS projects in 2013.

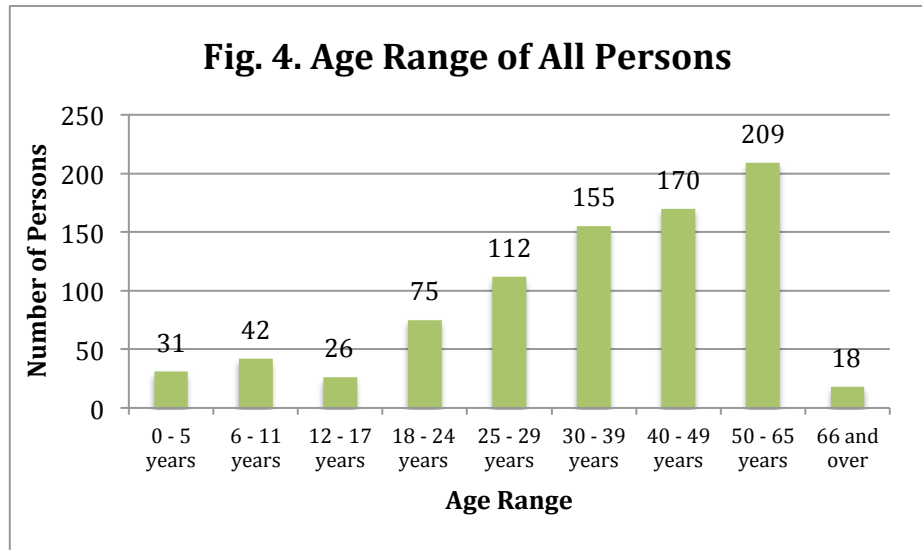


	Morris County	New Jersey
Total Persons Served	838	23,949
Emergency Shelter	594	19,208
Individuals	490	12,639
Families	104	6,569
Transitional Housing	194	4,455
Individuals	137	2,176
Families	57	2,279
Safe Haven	50	286
Individuals	50	286
Families	0	0

Family Composition. Of the 60 family households served throughout Morris County in 2013, 56 (93%) were households with adults and children under 18, 2 were adult only households while the other 2 were youth only households. As shown in Figure 3, children represented 61% 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 8 years old.



Demographics. Of the total homeless population that was served in Morris County CoC during 2013, the largest percent, 25%, of persons were between the ages of 50 and 65. As Figure 4 shows, the next highest age range served was persons between the ages of 18 and 29, which represented 22%, followed by persons between 40 and 49 with 20% of the total persons served.

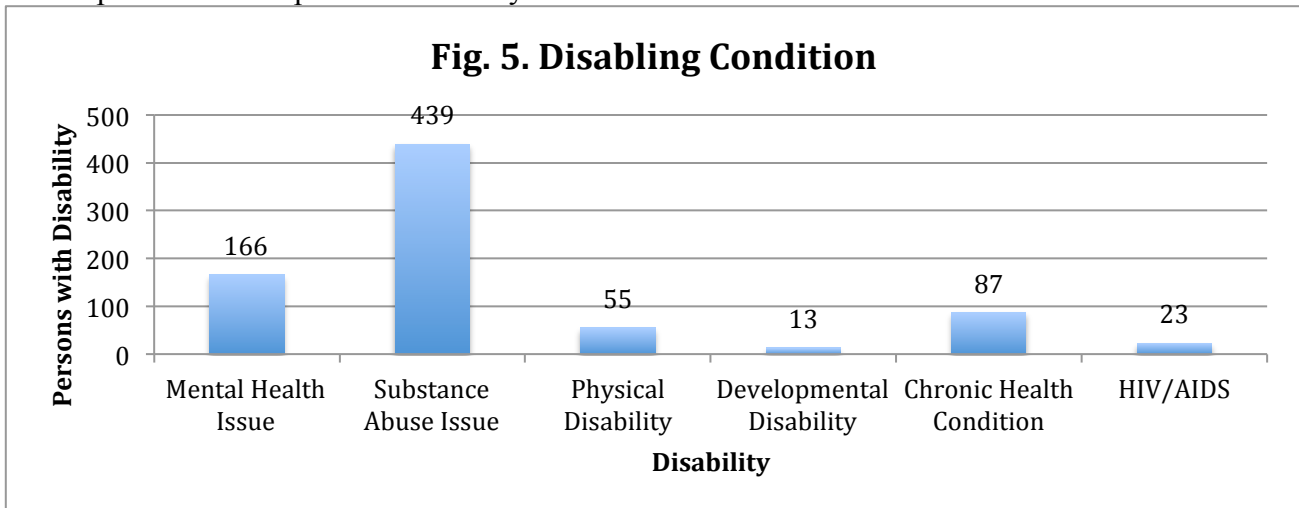


Similar to the 2012 numbers, more than half (79%) of the homeless persons served in Morris County HMIS participating projects were male, with women representing 21% of the population.

In addition, 61% 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 (33%), followed by Multi-Racial with 2%. With regards to ethnicity, only 16% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

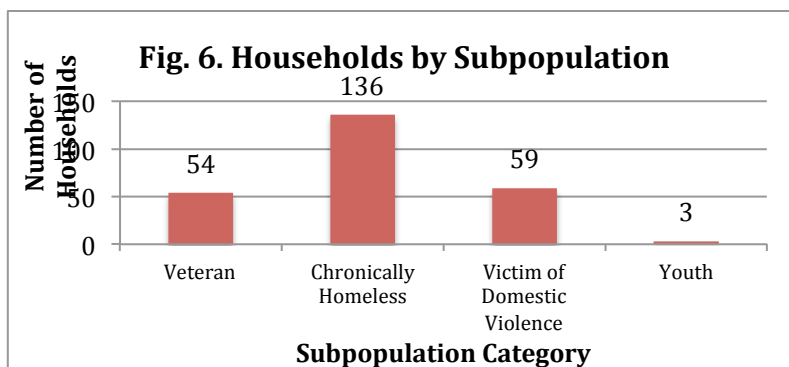
Disabling Conditions. Among all persons served throughout Morris County’s HMIS emergency shelter, transitional housing and safe haven projects, 61% identified having a disabling condition, this number includes 68% of adults and 11% of children.

Among disabled adults, 87% reported substance abuse issues making this the most prevalent disability; representing 59% of the total adult homeless population. 32% of disabled adults also reported a mental health issue. Among disabled children, 45% reported a mental health issue, while 36% 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, Morris County CoC served a total of 136 households that were identified as chronically

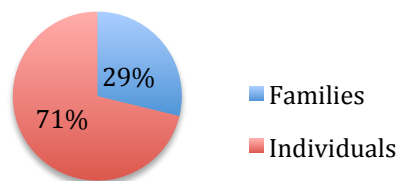


homeless in emergency shelter, transitional housing or safe haven projects. 47% of the chronic households served were in emergency shelters (only 1 of which was a family); 34% were individuals in transitional housing and the remaining 19% were individuals in safe haven.

Youth only households, households without someone over age 18, represented less than 1% of the total households served throughout Morris HMIS projects. These households were composed of 1 individual youth and 5 persons in youth only households. All of these households were served in emergency shelter projects.

As far as veterans served, Morris County served a total of 54 veterans throughout 2013. All of veterans served were individuals and only 4% were female. 76% of the veterans served were served in emergency shelter projects. 72% of veterans reported having some kind of disability, with the most common disability reported being substance abuse issue (90%).

Fig. 7. Household Type Among Victims of Domestic Violence

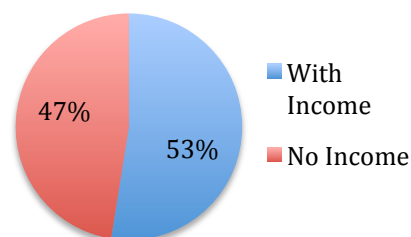


In addition to the chronic, youth and veteran populations, there were 59 homeless households that reported having a victim of domestic violence. 71% of these households were individuals, while the remaining 17 were families. 47% reported that the last episode of domestic violence occurred over a year ago, while 24% reported it happening within the past 3 months. The majority of the domestic violence victims (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.

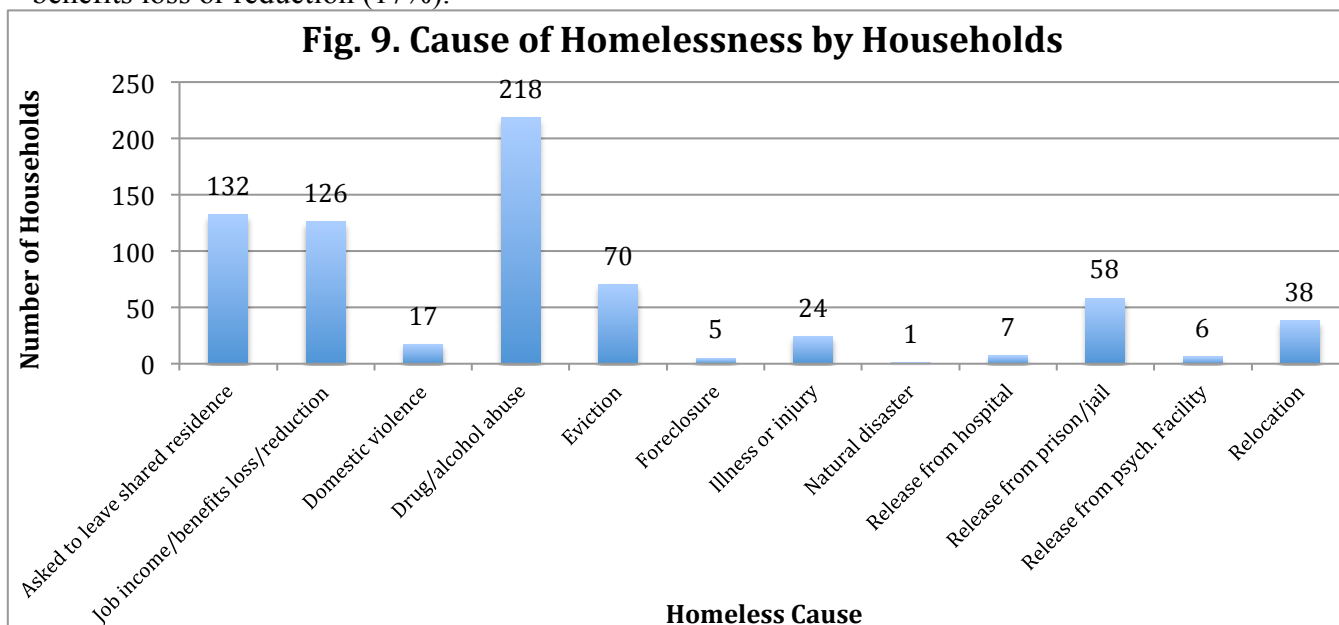
Income and Benefits. Among all homeless households served in emergency shelter, transitional housing or safe haven projects during 2013, 47% had no source of income, while 22% reported receiving some form of earned income. The most common sources of cash income among households were SSI (27%) and General Assistance (22%). The average monthly income for households was \$374 for emergency shelter, \$448 for safe haven, and \$582 for households served in transitional housing projects.

Fig. 8. Percentage of Households with Income



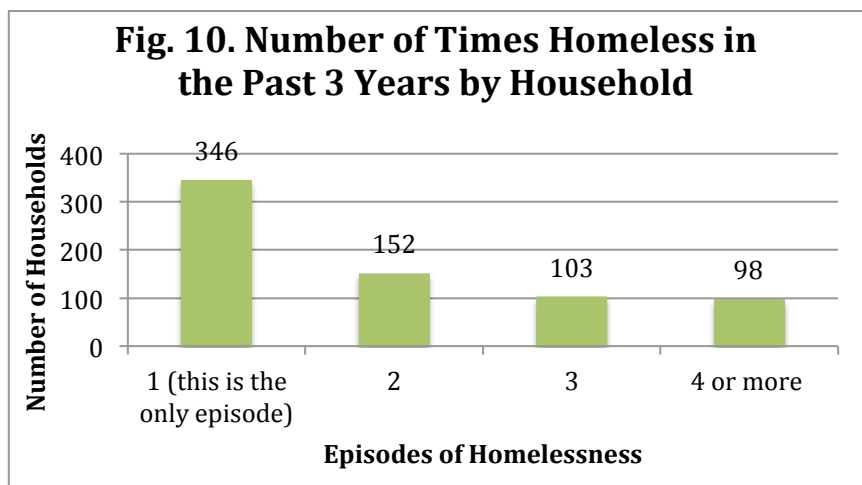
While 47% of households had no source of income, 55% of households were not receiving some kind of non-cash benefit. Food Stamps was the top reported non-cash benefit, which was reported by 39% of the households. Another 32% of households were connected to Medicaid benefits.

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 drug or alcohol abuse (30%) than any other cause. As Figure 9 shows, the next most common factors were being asked to leave a shared residence (18%) and job income or benefits loss or reduction (17%).



When looking at the household’s residence prior to project entry, 28% of households reported staying or living with family or friends or staying in an emergency shelter prior to project entry. The next most common response was a place not meant for habitation (10%).

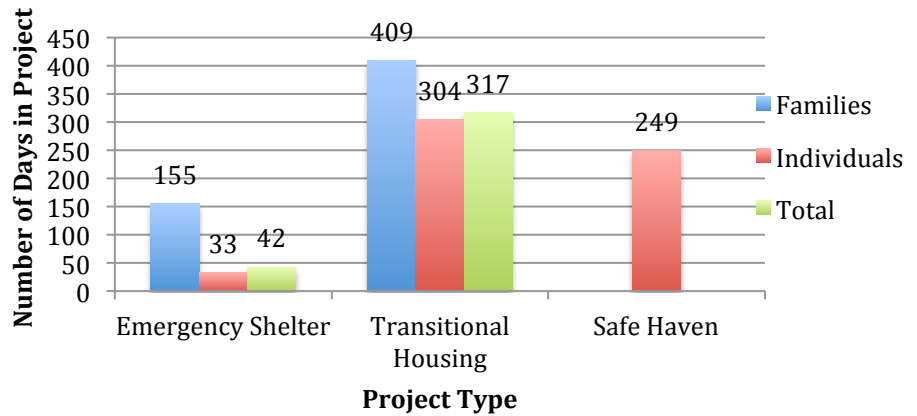
Length of Stay at Prior Residence and Episodes of Homelessness. 35% of households served during 2013 had stated they resided in their last residence for one year or longer before entering the emergency shelter or transitional housing project. Another 21% were in their prior residence for more than 3 months but less than one year, while only 9% were there one week or less. Similarly, only 13% of households experienced 4 or more episodes of homeless prior to project entry, while 47% of households were experiencing their first episode of homelessness.



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 122 days, or 4 months, longer than individuals in emergency shelter, and 105, or 3½ months, longer in transitional housing projects.

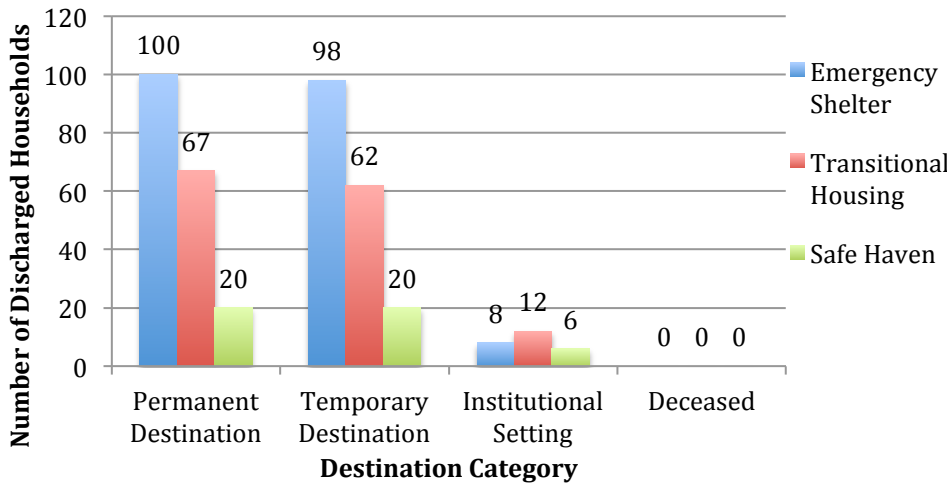
Fig. 11. Average Length of Project Stay by Household Type



Reason and Destination at Discharge.

A total of 726 households were discharged from emergency shelter, transitional housing and safe haven projects during the 2013 reporting period. 30% of these households were discharged from projects after completing the program while 10% were discharged from the project 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. 25% 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 16% of the total households. An institutional destination, which was the destination of 4% 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. Substance abuse treatment facility was the most common institutional destinations reported with 2% of total households.

Appendix A: HMIS Projects Included in Report

I. Emergency Shelter Projects

Agency	Project Name
Family Promise of Morris County	Family Promise ES
Homeless Solutions	HSI Family (ESG) Program
	HSI Men's Program
	HSI Single Women Program
Market Street Mission	MSM 1 Overnight Guest

II. Transitional Housing Projects

Agency	Project Name
Eric Johnson House	EJH – Transitional Housing
Homeless Solutions	HSI Transitional Housing Program
Market Street Mission	MSM Life Change
Roots and Wings	Roots and Wings-Client Affairs

III. Safe Haven Projects

Agency	Project Name
Homeless Solutions	HSI Safe Haven Program