



Ocean 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 Ocean 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 Ocean 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 36 households were served in HMIS participating transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 period
- There were no households identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period
- 62% of all adults served either as individuals or as part of a family identified having a disabling condition
- All of the individuals served during the reporting period were between the ages of 12 and 24
- 61% of households moved on to permanent housing destinations upon discharge from the projects

Total Homeless Population.

A total of 36 households composed of 36 persons were housed in Ocean County CoC HMIS participating transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 reporting period. This is a 24% increase in total households served from 2012. Out of the households served in 2013, the majority, 94% (34) were individual adults, while the remaining 6% (2 households) were individual youth served under the age of 18. The 36 persons served throughout Ocean County HMIS projects made up less than 1% of New Jersey’s total homeless population served in HMIS projects in 2013.

Fig. 1. Total Households Served

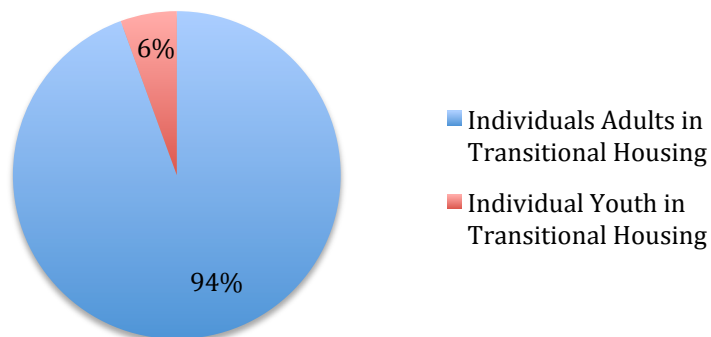
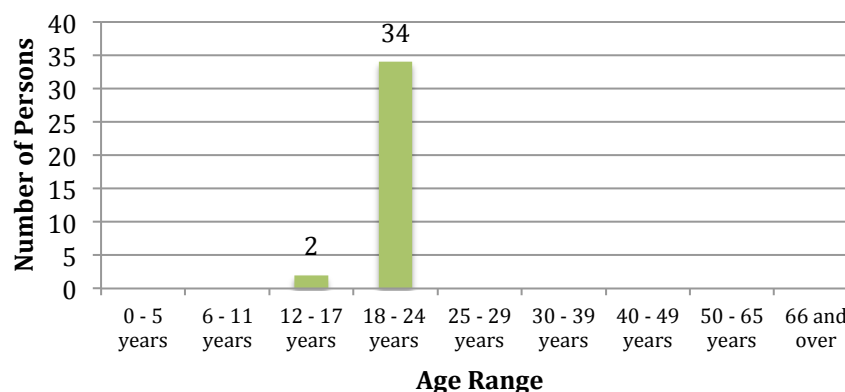


Figure 2. Total Persons Served

	Ocean County	New Jersey
Total Persons Served	36	23,949
Transitional Housing	36	4,455
Individuals	36	2,176
Families	0	2,279

Demographics. Of the total homeless population that was served in the Ocean CoC during 2013, the largest percent, 94%, of persons were between the ages of 18 and 24. As Figure 4 shows, the remaining two persons were individual youth under the age of 18.

Fig. 4. Age Range of All Persons

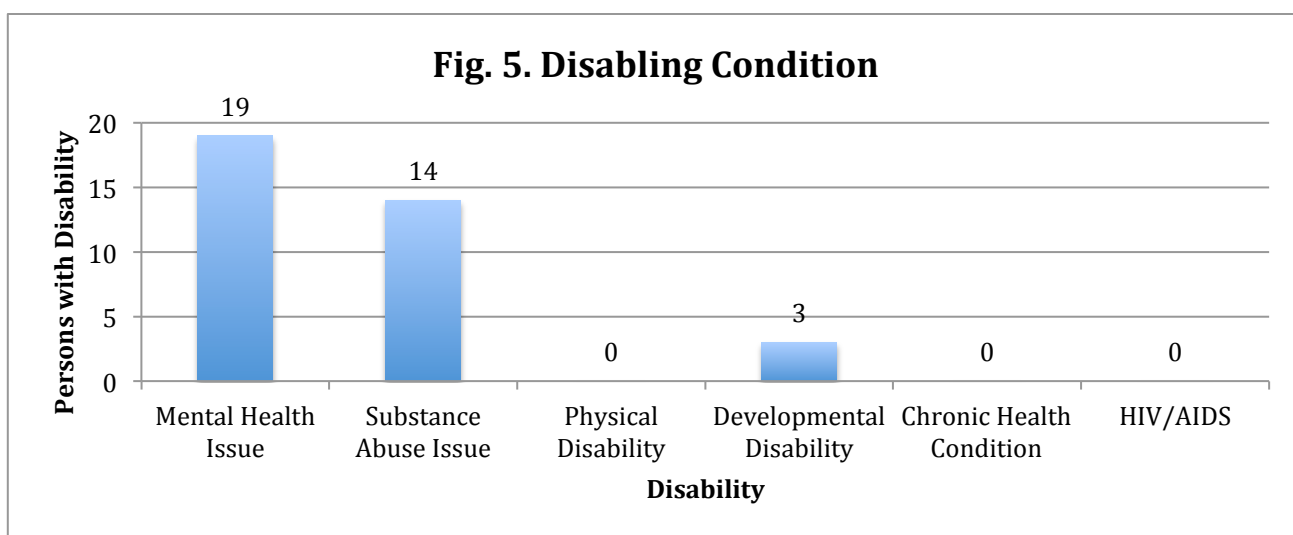


Slightly different than the 2012 numbers, where the male/female split was about 50/50, the majority (75%) of the homeless persons served in Ocean CoC HMIS participating projects were male, with women representing 25% of the population.

In addition, 50% of the homeless persons served during 2013 identified their race as White, while the remaining 50% identified their race as Black or African-American. With regards to ethnicity, 33% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

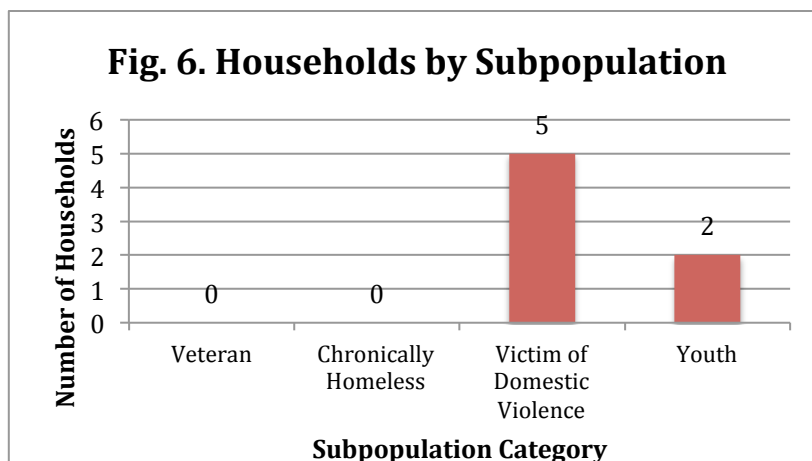
Disabling Conditions. Among all persons served throughout Ocean County’s HMIS transitional housing projects, 64% identified having a disabling condition, this number includes 62% of adults and 100% of children.

Among disabled adults, 81% reported mental health issues making this the most prevalent disability, followed by substance abuse with 67% of adults reporting this condition. Both disabled youth served reported a mental health issue.



Subpopulation

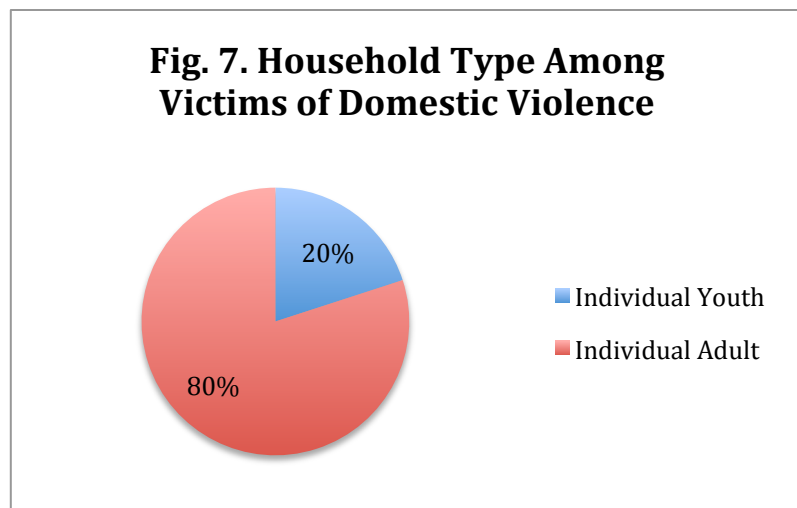
Characteristics. In its plan, *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has prioritized ending youth, veteran and chronic homelessness across the Country. In 2013, Ocean CoC found 0 chronically homeless households among those served in their transitional housing projects.



Youth only households, households without someone over age 18, represented 6% of the total households served throughout Ocean HMIS projects. These households were composed of 2 individual youth.

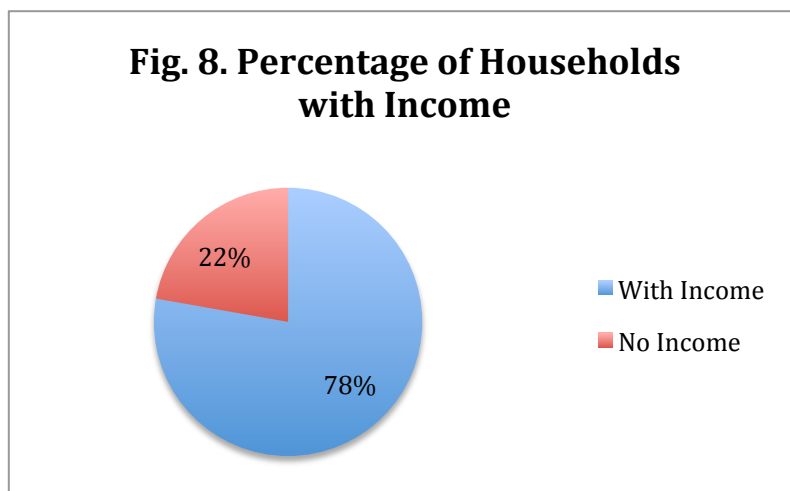
Ocean County HMIS participating transitional housing projects did not serve any veteran households during the 2013 reporting period.

In addition to these subpopulations, there were 5 individual homeless households that reported



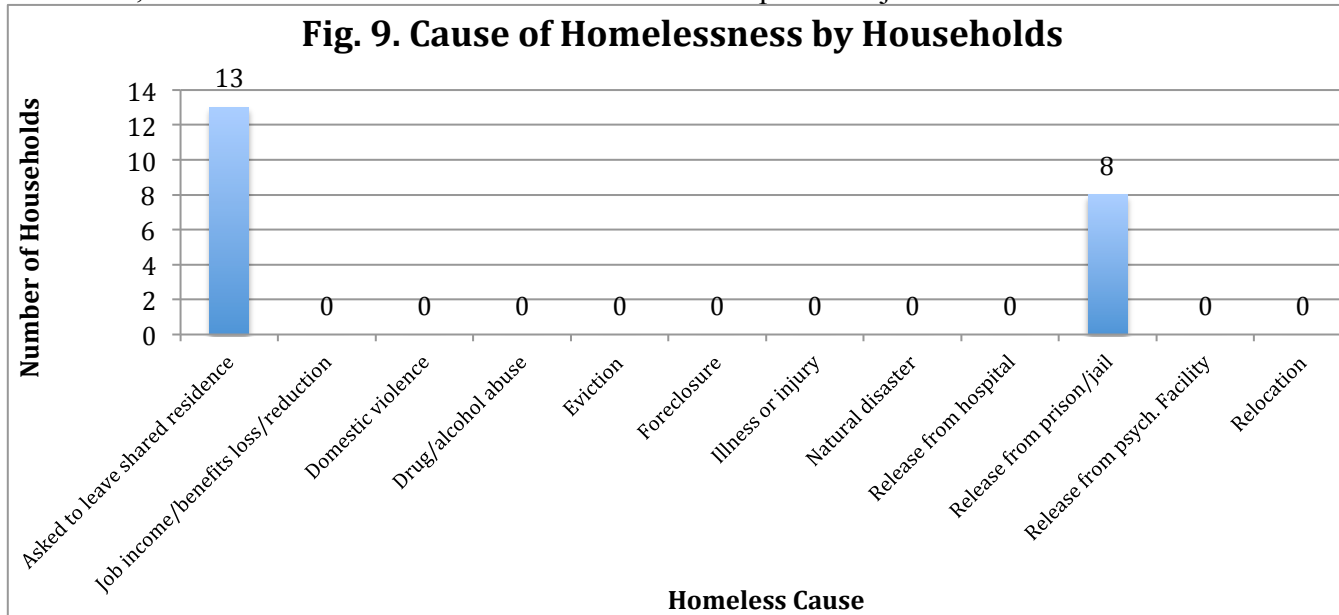
having a victim of domestic violence. 80% reported that the last episode of domestic violence occurred more than a year ago, while the other 20% reported it happening within the last three months. As a note, while there are victims of domestic violence being served in HMIS participating agencies, due 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 transitional housing projects during 2013, 22% had no source of income, while 78% reported receiving some form of earned income. The most common source of cash income among households, following earned income, was SSI with 3% of households receiving this income source. The average monthly income for households in transitional housing was \$1,162.



While 22% of households had no source of income, 39% of households were not receiving some kind of non-cash benefit. Medicaid was the top reported non-cash benefit, which was reported by 61% of the households. Another 3% of households were receiving Food Stamps.

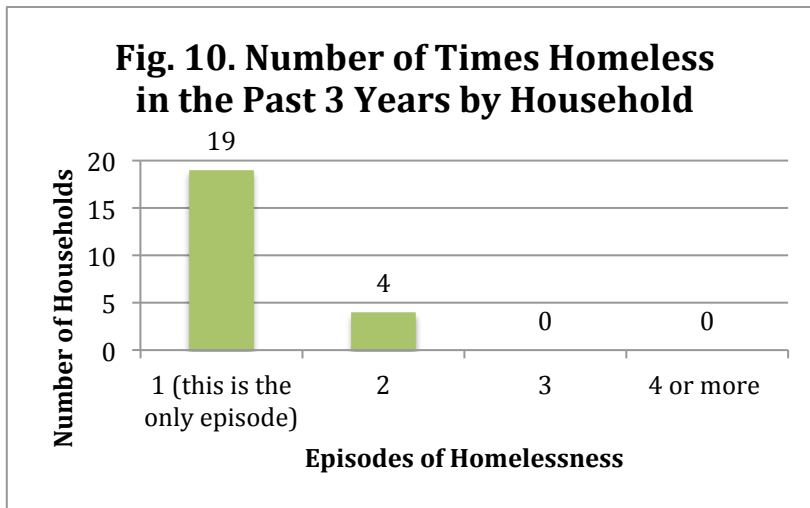
Cause of Homelessness and Residence Prior to Project Entry. When asked what the primary factor was that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households attributed their homelessness to being asked to leave a shared residence (36%) than any other cause. As Figure 9 shows, the next most common factor was release from prison or jail with 22% of the households.



When looking at the household’s residence prior to project entry, 36% reported coming from emergency shelters, which was the most common response. 25% reported staying or living with family or friends prior to project entry, followed by jail or prison with 22%.

Length of Stay at Prior Residence and Episodes of Homelessness.

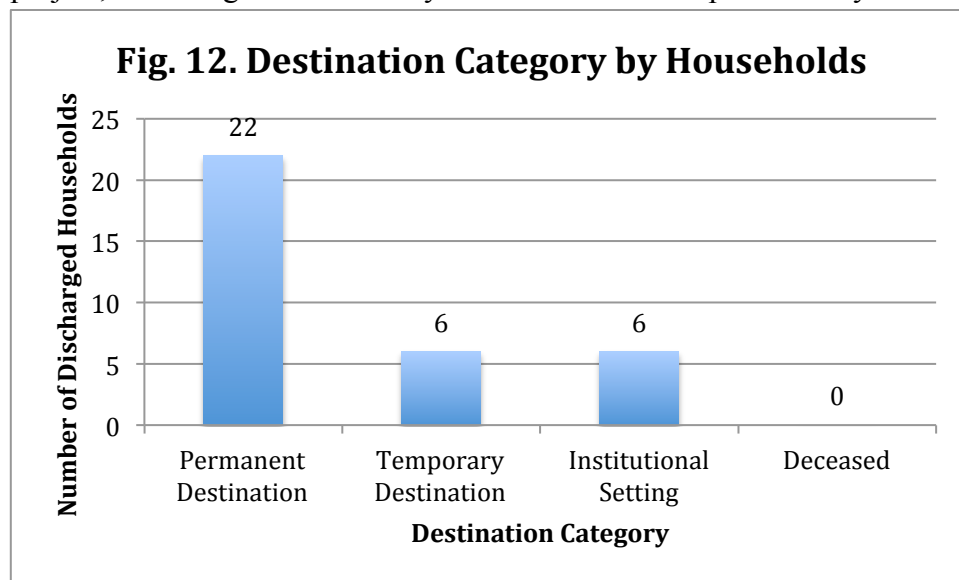
28% of the households served during 2013 had resided in their last residence for one to three months before entering the transitional housing project. Another 28% stayed at their last residence for more than 1 week but less than 1 month, while 17% were at their residence for a year or longer before project entry. When looking at the number of times the household had been homeless in the past 53% of households 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, individuals in transitional housing projects stayed for an average of 203 day, or 6½ months before leaving the project.

Reason and Destination at Discharge. A total of 36 households were discharged from transitional housing projects during the 2013 reporting period. 31% of these households were left the housing project for another housing opportunity, while another 28% were discharged from the project after project completion.

61% 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 living with family or friends permanently with 50% of total households moving into this destination. 17% 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 11% of the total households. An institutional destination, which was the destination of 17% 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. Both jail or prison and foster care were the most reported institutional destinations with 8% of the total households reporting each.

Appendix A: HMIS Projects Included in Report

I. Transitional Housing Projects

Agency	Project Name
Ocean’s Harbor House	OHH Transitional Living Program