



Passaic 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 Passaic 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 Passaic 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 households 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.

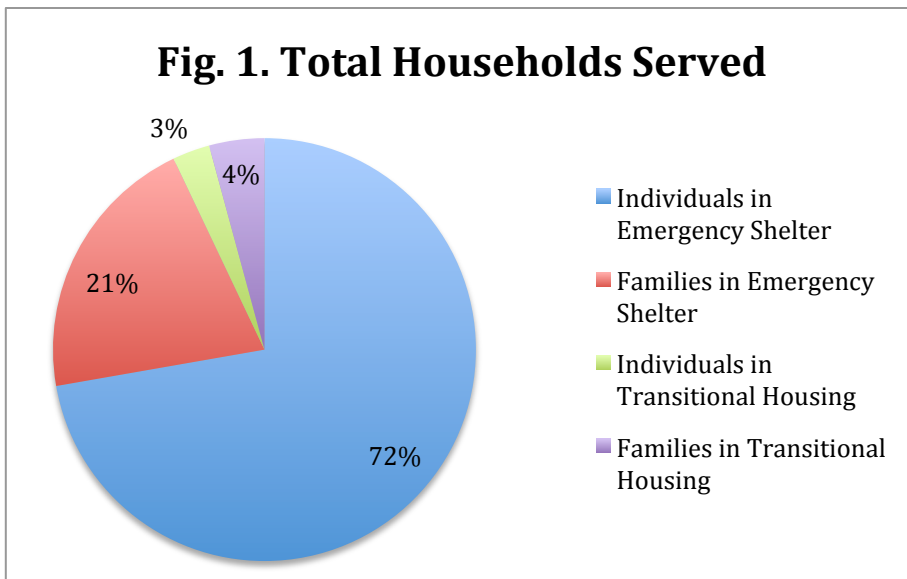
III. Findings for Total Population Served

Key Findings:

- A total of 735 households were served in HMIS participating emergency shelters and transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 period
- There were 42 households identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period
- 56% of all adults served either as individuals or as part of a family identified having a disabling condition
- 50% of the total population served was under age 30
- 42% of households moved on to permanent destinations after discharge from the projects

Total Homeless Population.

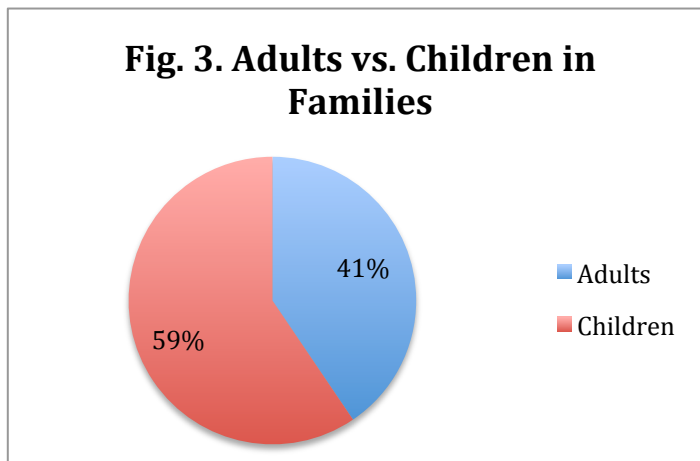
A total of 735 households composed of 1,052 persons were housed in Passaic County CoC HMIS participating emergency shelters or transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 reporting period. This is a 12% increase in total households served from 2012. Out of the households served in 2013, the majority, 75% (552) were individuals, while the remaining 25%



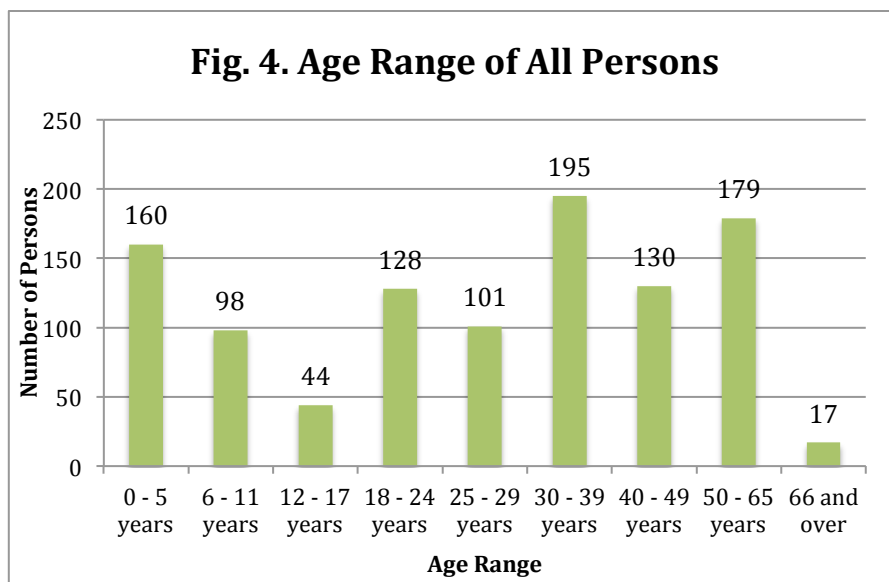
(183 households) were families. As shown in Figure 1, the most served population was individuals in emergency shelter, which made up 72% of the total population served. The 1,052 persons served throughout Passaic County HMIS projects made up 4% of New Jersey’s total homeless population served in HMIS projects in 2013.

	Passaic County	New Jersey
Total Persons Served	1,052	23,949
Emergency Shelter	964	19,208
Individuals	531	12,639
Families	433	6,569
Transitional Housing	88	4,455
Individuals	21	2,176
Families	67	2,279

Family Composition. Of the 183 family households served throughout Passaic County in 2013, 179 (98%) were households with adults and children under 18, 2 (1%) were adult only households while the remaining 2 were youth only households. As shown in Figure 3, children represented 59% 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 6 years old.



Demographics. Of the total homeless population that was served in the Passaic CoC during 2013, the largest percent, 29%, of persons were children under age 18, with 302 aged between 0 and 17. As Figure 4 shows, the next highest age range served was persons between 18 and 29 (22%), showing that a little over 50% of the population served was under the age of 30.

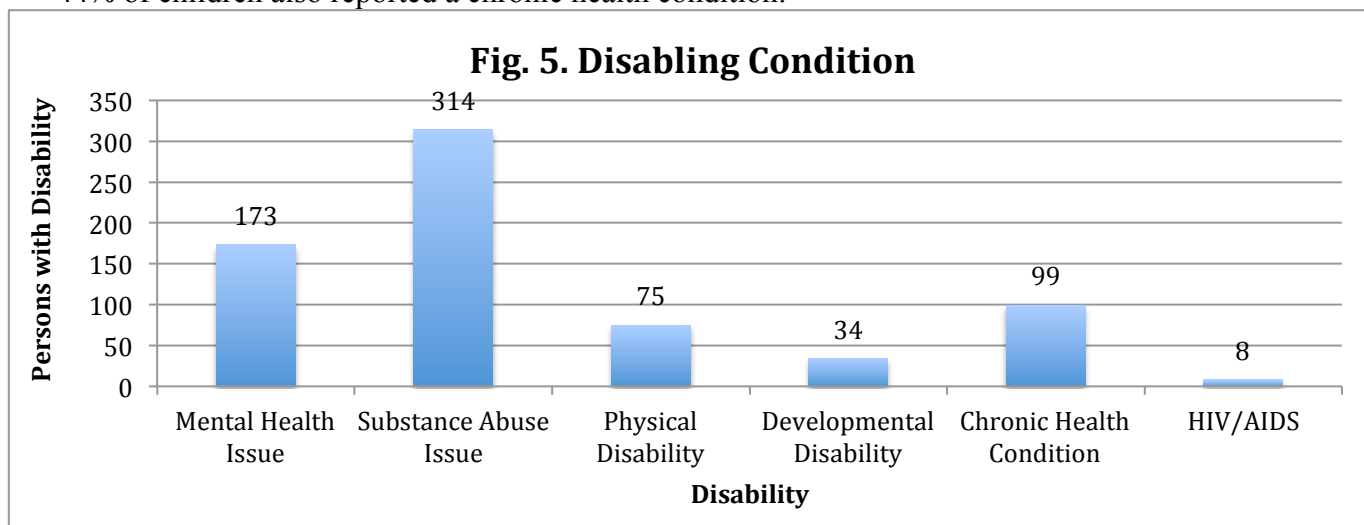


Unlike the 2012 numbers, more than half (54%) of the homeless persons served in Passaic CoC HMIS participating projects were female, with men representing 46% of the population.

In addition, 52% of the homeless persons served during 2013 identified their race as Black or African American, making that the largest racial subgroup. The next largest was White (44%), followed by Multi-Racial with 2%. With regards to ethnicity, 31% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

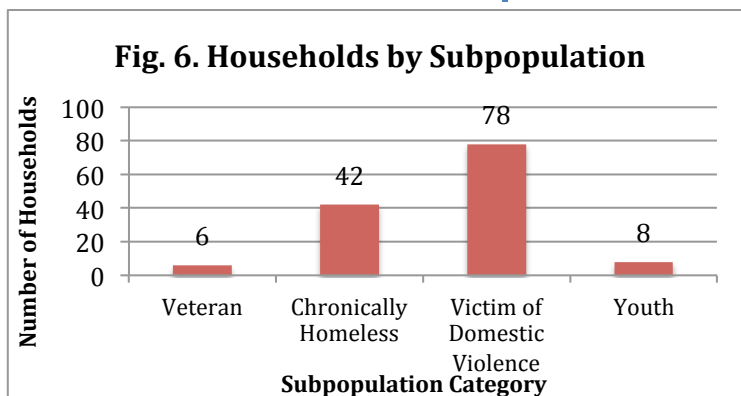
Disabling Conditions. Among all persons served throughout Passaic County’s HMIS emergency shelter and transitional housing projects, 42% identified having a disabling condition, this number includes 56% of adults and 6% of children.

Among disabled adults, 74% reported substance abuse issues making this the most prevalent disability; representing 42% of the total adult homeless population. 40% of disabled adults also reported a mental health issue. Among disabled children, 67% reported a developmental disability. 44% of children also reported a chronic health condition.



Subpopulation Characteristics.

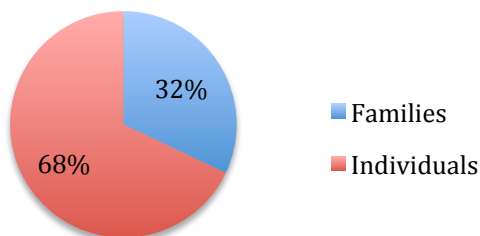
In its plan, *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has prioritized ending youth, veteran and chronic homelessness across the Country. In 2013, Passaic CoC served 42 households that were identified as chronically homeless households in emergency shelter and transitional housing projects. 88% of the chronic households served were individuals in emergency shelters. The remaining 12% were families.



Youth only households, households without someone over age 18, represented 1% of the total households served throughout Passaic HMIS projects. These households were composed of 6 individual youth and 4 persons in youth only households. The majority of these households (75%) were served in emergency shelter projects.

As far as veterans served, Passaic CoC served a total of 6 veterans throughout 2013. 83% of veterans served were individuals and only 33% were female. 100% of the veterans served were served in emergency shelter projects. 50% of veterans reported having some kind of disability, with the most common disability reported being physical disability (67%).

Fig. 7. Household Type Among Victims of Domestic Violence

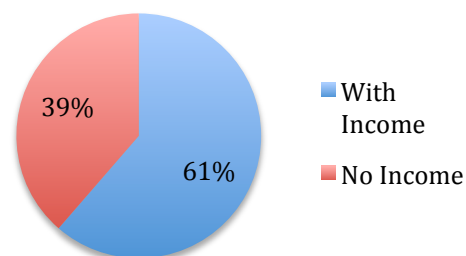


In addition to the chronic, youth and veteran populations, there were 78 homeless households that reported having a victim of domestic violence. 68% of these households were individuals, while the remaining 25 were families. 40% reported that the last episode of

domestic violence occurred over a year ago, while 45% reported it happening within the past 3 months. The majority of the domestic violence victims (99%) 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.

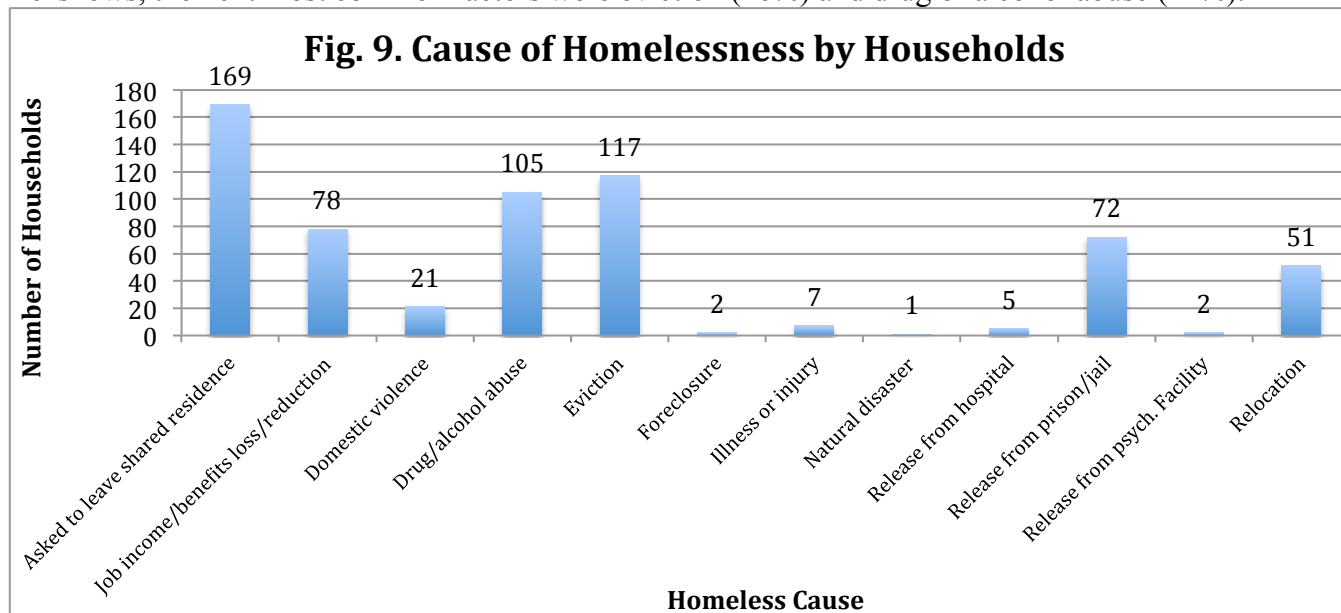
Income and Benefits. Among all homeless households served in emergency shelter or transitional housing projects during 2013, 39% had no source of income, while 10% reported receiving some form of earned income. The most common source of cash income among households was SSI (31%) and General Assistance (21%). The average monthly income for households in emergency shelter was \$271, while it was \$230 for households served in transitional housing projects.

Fig. 8. Percentage of Households with Income



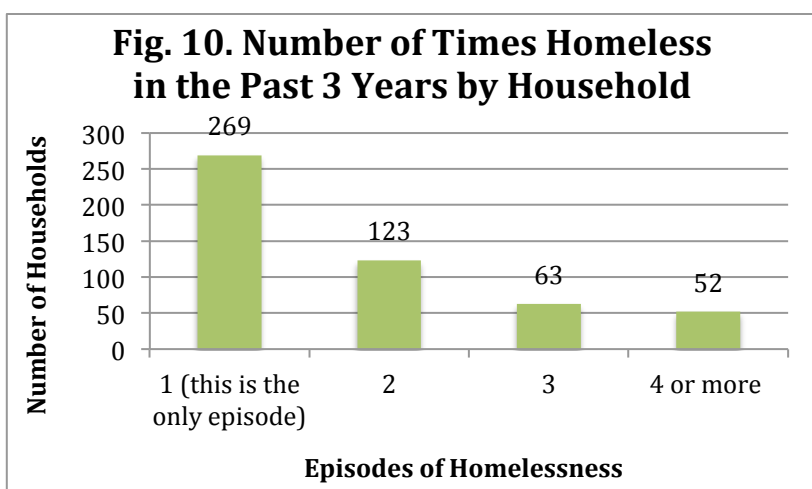
While 39% of households had no source of income, 41% of households were not receiving some kind of non-cash benefit. Food Stamps was the top reported non-cash benefit, which was reported by 54% of the households. Another 31% of households were connected to Medicaid benefits.

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 (23%) than any other cause. As Figure 9 shows, the next most common factors were eviction (16%) and drug or alcohol abuse (14%).



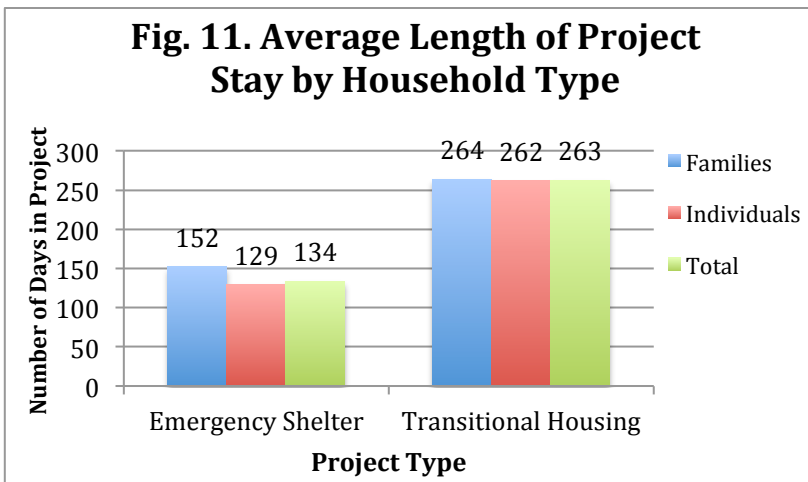
These causes of homelessness coincide with the common responses for residence prior to project entry with 39% of households staying or living with family or friends prior to project entry. The next most common response was rental by client (21%) followed by emergency shelter (10%).

Length of Stay at Prior Residence and Episodes of Homelessness. The majority of households (32%) served during 2013 had resided in their last residence for two days to one week before entering the emergency shelter or transitional housing project. Another 26% were in their prior residence for more than a year, while 12% were there one to three months. While this is true, only 7% of households experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years, while the majority of households (37%) were experiencing their first episode of homelessness, as seen in Figure 10.



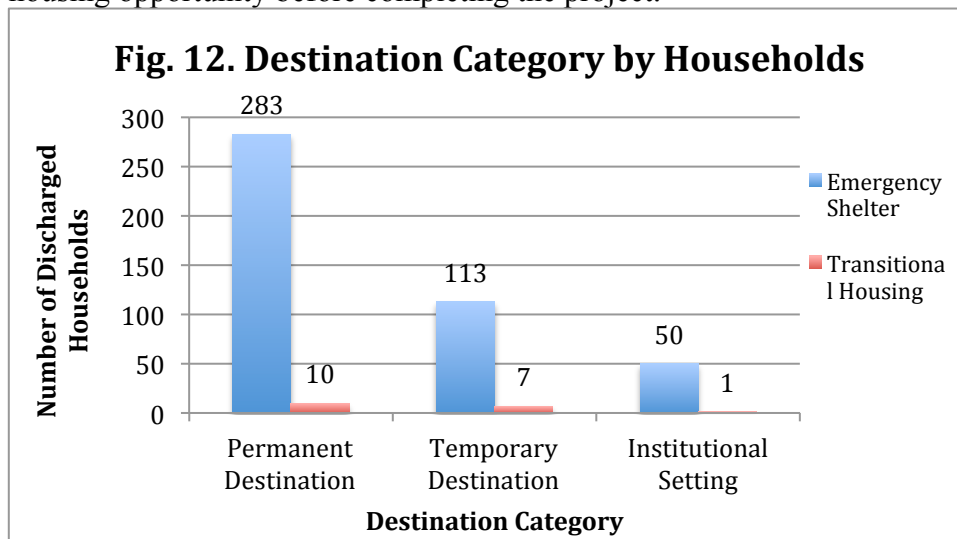
Average Length of Project Stay.

When looking at total length of project stay for families and individuals, families seemed to have longer stays in emergency shelter. During their project stay it was found that families stayed on average 22 days longer than individuals in emergency shelter. Yet, families and individuals had nearly the same average length of stay for transitional housing with families staying on average only 2 days longer than individuals.



Reason and Destination at Discharge.

A total of 699 households were discharged from emergency shelter and transitional housing projects during the 2013 reporting period. 26% of these households were discharged from projects after completing the program while 24% left for a housing opportunity before completing the project.



42% 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, living with a family member or friend permanently, foster care, a long-term

care facility or a hotel or motel the household pays for. The most common permanent destination was rental by client with 35% of total households moving into a rental upon discharge. This rental could be with or without a subsidy. 17% of households moved on to a temporary destination at discharge, which could include an emergency shelter, hotel or motel paid for by an agency, 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 13% of the total households. An institutional destination, which was the destination of 7% of households, includes hospitals (psychiatric or non-psychiatric), a halfway house, jail or prison, or a substance abuse treatment facility. Substance abuse treatment facility was the most common institutional destination reported with 3% of the total discharges.



Appendix A: HMIS Projects Included in Report

I. Emergency Shelter Projects

Agency	Project Name
Eva’s Village	Eva’s Family Shelter
	Eva’s Men’s Overnight Shelter
	Eva’s Women’s Overnight Shelter
Family Promise of Passaic County	FPPC – Family Promise of Passaic County
Paterson Task Force	PatersonTaskForce –Hilltop Haven FS
St. Paul’s CDC	St. Paul’s Emergency Men’s Shelter
St. Peter’s Haven	St. Peter’s Haven-Shelter
Strengthen Our Sisters	SOS-SSH Beds

II. Transitional Housing Projects

Agency	Project Name
Eva’s Village	Eva’s Family Transitional
Hispanic Multi-Purpose Center	H.M.P.S.C. Switch Program
NJ Community Development Corp.	NJCDC-Independence House