



Hudson County CoC Homeless Assessment Report

2014

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, 2014 – December 31, 2014, 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.

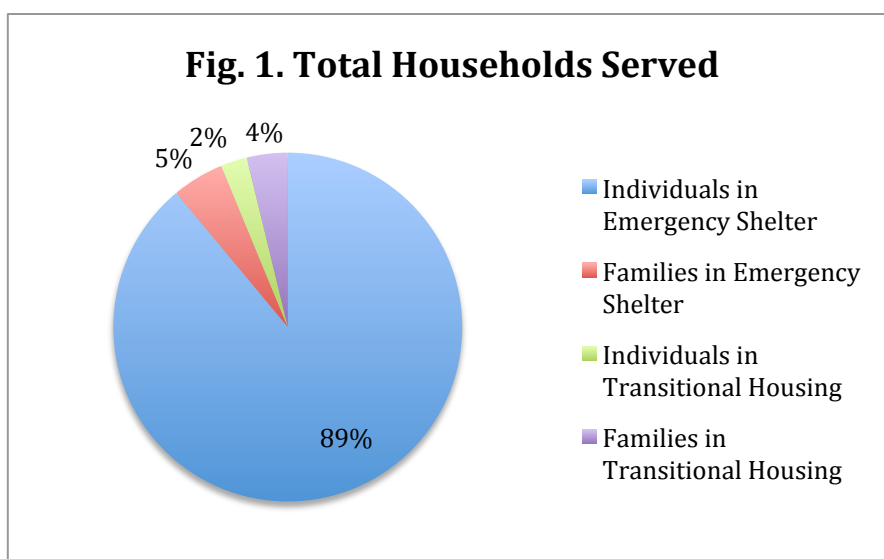
III. Findings for Total Population Served

Key Findings:

- A total of 1,874 households were served in HMIS participating emergency shelters and transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014 period
- There were 196 households identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period
- 53% of all adults served either as individuals or as part of a family identified having a disabling condition
- 19% of households moved on to permanent destinations after being discharged from the emergency shelter or transitional housing project

Total Homeless

Population. A total of 1,874 households composed of 2,099 persons were housed in Hudson County CoC HMIS participating emergency shelters or transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014 reporting period. This is a 14% increase in total households, and a 9% increase in total persons served from 2013. Out of

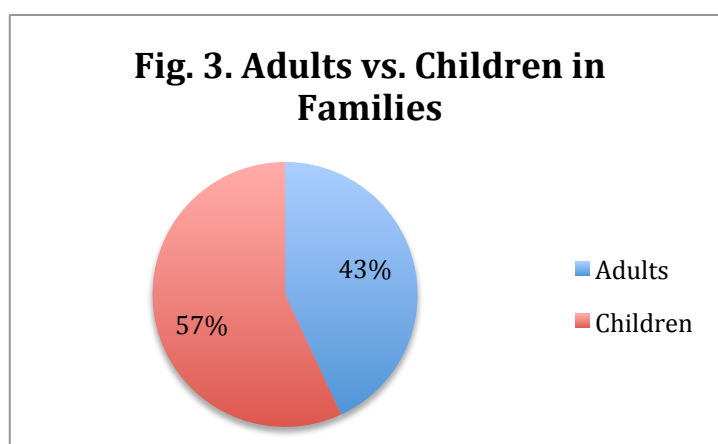


the households served in 2014, the majority, 91% (1,713) were individuals, while the remaining 9% (167 households) were families. As shown in Figure 1, the most served population was individuals in emergency shelter, which made up 89% of the total population served. The 2,099 persons served throughout Hudson County HMIS projects made up 8% of New Jersey's total homeless population served in HMIS projects in 2014.

Figure 2. Total Persons Served

| | Hudson County | New Jersey |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Total Persons Served | 2,099 | 25,327 |
| Emergency Shelter | 1,877 | 20,800 |
| Individuals | 1,667 | 14,143 |
| Families | 210 | 6,657 |
| Transitional Housing | 222 | 4,343 |
| Individuals | 46 | 2,256 |
| Families | 176 | 2,087 |

Family Composition. Of the 161 family households served throughout Hudson County in 2014, 159 (99%) were households with adults and children under 18, 1 was an adult only household while the remaining 1 was a youth only household. As shown in Figure 3, children represented 57% of the persons included in adult and children families. The average size of a homeless family in 2014 was 2 and the average age of a child served between the two project types was 5 years old.



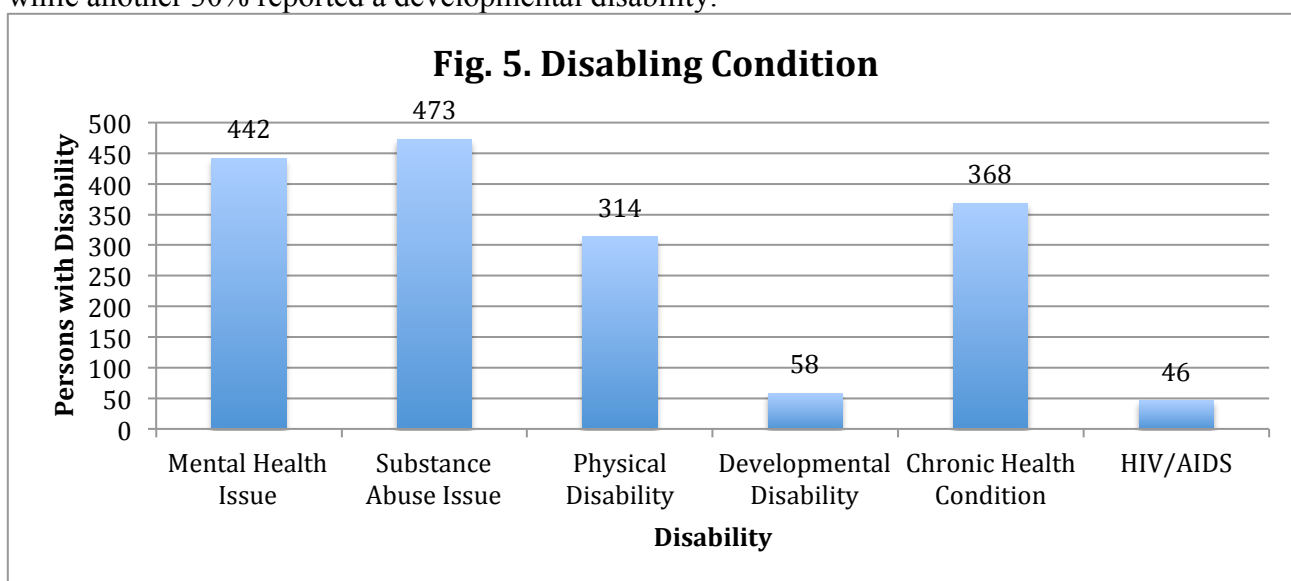
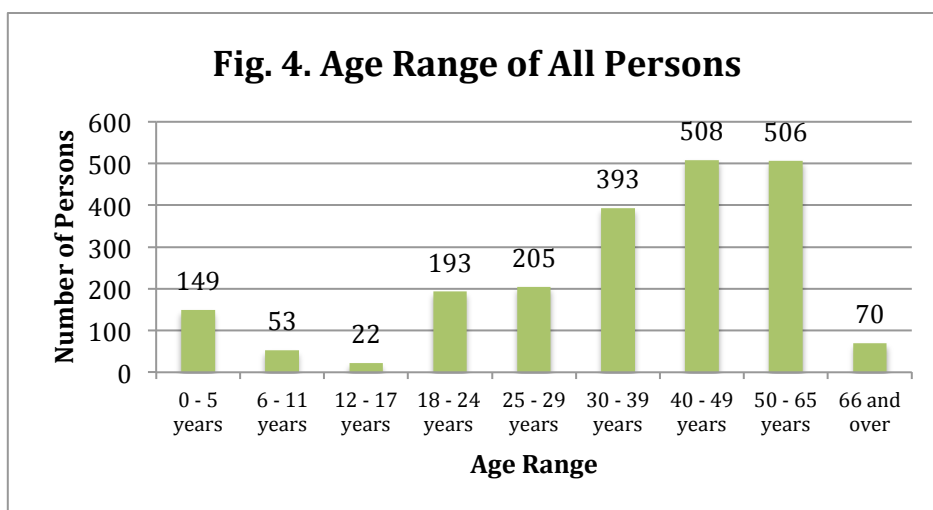
Demographics. Of the total homeless population that was served in the Hudson CoC during 2014, the largest percent, 24%, of persons were adults between the ages of 40 and 49. As Figure 4 shows, the next highest age range served was persons between 50 and 65 (24%).

Similar to the 2013 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.

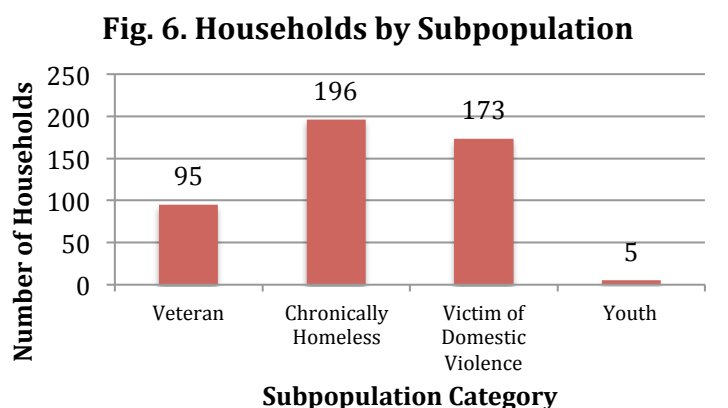
In addition, 51% of the homeless persons served during 2014 identified their race as White, making that the largest racial subgroup. The next largest was Black or African American (45%), followed by Multi-Racial with 2%. With regards to ethnicity, 39% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

Disabling Conditions. Among all persons served throughout Hudson County's HMIS emergency shelter and transitional housing projects, 48% identified having a disabling condition, this number includes 53% of adults and 9% of children.

Among disabled adults, 48% reported a substance abuse issue making this the most prevalent disability; representing 24% of the total adult homeless population. 44% of disabled adults also reported a mental health issue. Among disabled children, 60% reported a chronic health condition, while another 30% reported a developmental disability.



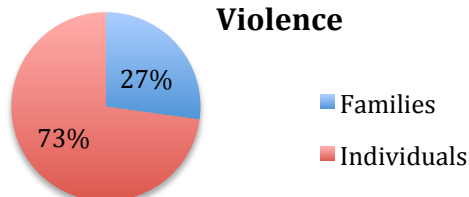
Subpopulation Characteristics. In its plan, *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has prioritized ending youth, veteran and chronic homelessness across the Country. In 2014, Hudson CoC served a total of 196 households that were identified as chronically homeless, this is an 8% decrease in the total number of chronically homeless households served from 2013. 86% of the chronic households served were served in emergency shelter projects, only 1 of which was a family household. The remaining 14% were served in transitional housing projects, the majority of which (22 households) were families.



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 4 individual youth and 3 persons in a youth only household. All youth households were served in emergency shelter projects.

As far as veterans served, Hudson CoC served a total of 95 veterans throughout 2014. All of the veterans served were individuals and only 3% were female. 99% of the veterans served were served in emergency shelter projects. 56% of veterans reported having some kind of disability, with the most common disability reported being a substance abuse issue (49%).

Fig. 7. Household Type Among Victims of Domestic Violence

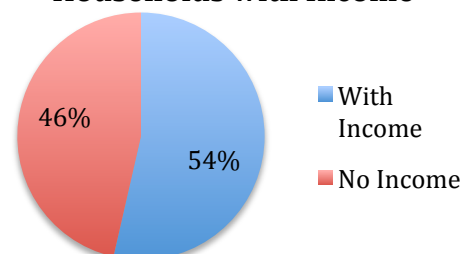


In addition to the chronic, youth and veteran populations, there were 173 homeless households that reported having a victim of domestic violence. 73% of these households were individuals, while the remaining 47 were families. 53% reported that the last episode of domestic violence occurred over a year ago, while 24% reported it happening within the past 3 months. The majority of the domestic violence victims (81%) 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.

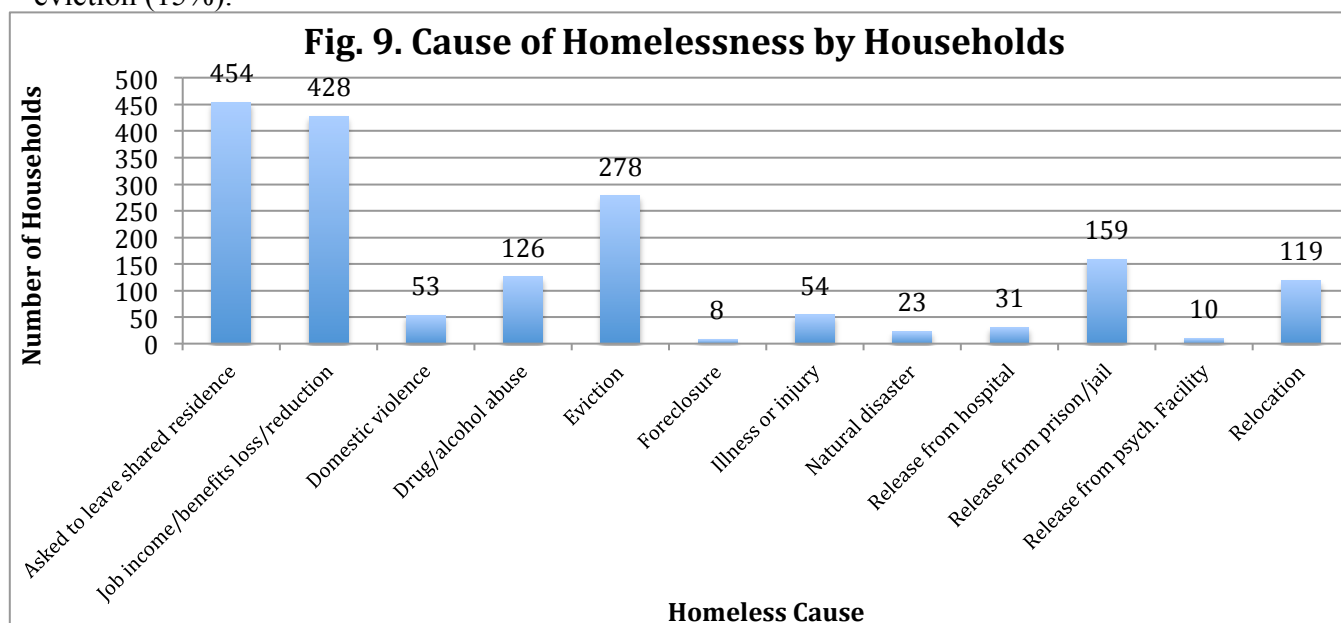
Income and Benefits. Among all homeless households served in emergency shelter or transitional housing projects during 2014, 46% had no source of income, while 19% reported receiving some form of earned income. The most common source of cash income among households was SSI (22%). The average monthly income for households was \$305 in emergency shelter and \$646 for households served in transitional housing projects.

Fig. 8. Percentage of Households with Income



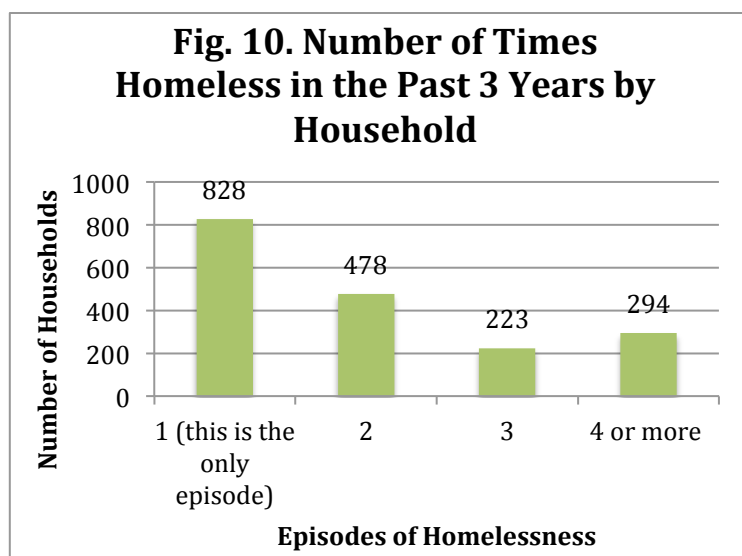
While 46% of households had no source of income, 54% of households were not receiving some kind of non-cash benefit. Food Stamps was the top reported non-cash benefit, which was reported by 39% of households. Another 19% of households were connected to Medicaid benefits.

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 (24%) than any other cause. As Figure 9 shows, the next most common factors were job income or benefits loss or reduction (23%) and eviction (15%).



When looking at the most common response for residence prior to project entry, 29% of households reported they were staying in a place not meant for habitation prior to project entry. The next most common response was staying with family or friends (25%) followed by emergency shelter (22%).

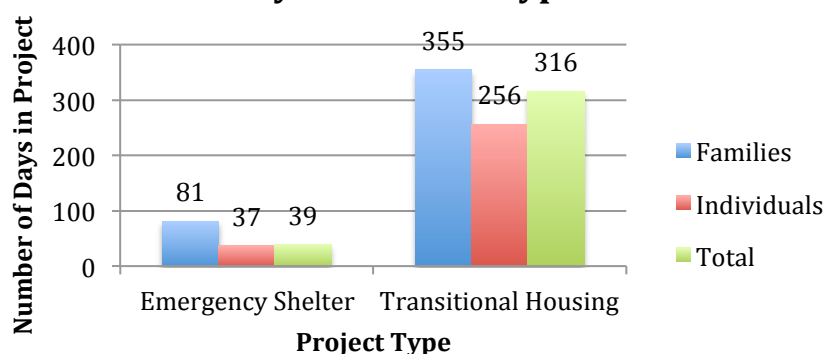
Length of Stay at Prior Residence and Episodes of Homelessness. 23% of the households served during 2014 had resided in their last residence for one year or longer before entering the emergency shelter or transitional housing project. Another 18% were in their prior residence for more than 3 months but less than one year, while only 25% were there one week or less. As far as number of times homeless, only 16% of households experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years, while most households (44%) were experiencing their first episode of homeless prior to project entry, as seen in Figure 10.



Average Length of Project Stay

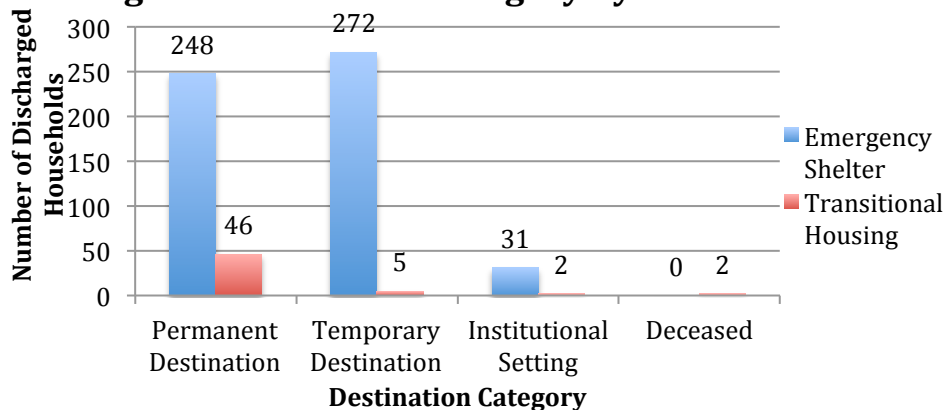
When looking at total length of project stay, families seemed to have longer stays in both emergency shelter and transitional housing projects than individuals. During their project stay it was found that families stayed on average 44 days, or about 1½ months, longer than individuals in emergency shelter, and 99 days, or a little over 3 months longer in transitional housing projects. Compared to the average lengths of stay found in 2013, the average length of stay for emergency shelter decreased by 8 days, while it decreased by 75 days for transitional housing in 2014.

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



Reason and Destination at Discharge. A total of 1,582 households were discharged from emergency shelter and transitional housing projects during the 2014 reporting period. 33% of these households were discharged from projects after project completion or left for a housing opportunity prior to project completion, while 13% were discharged from projects due to non-compliance.

Fig. 12. Destination Category by Households



19% of households discharged in 2014 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 13% of total households moving into a rental upon discharge. This rental could be with or without a subsidy. 18% 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 9% of the total households. An institutional destination, which was the destination of 2% 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 14 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 |