



Ocean 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 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, 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.

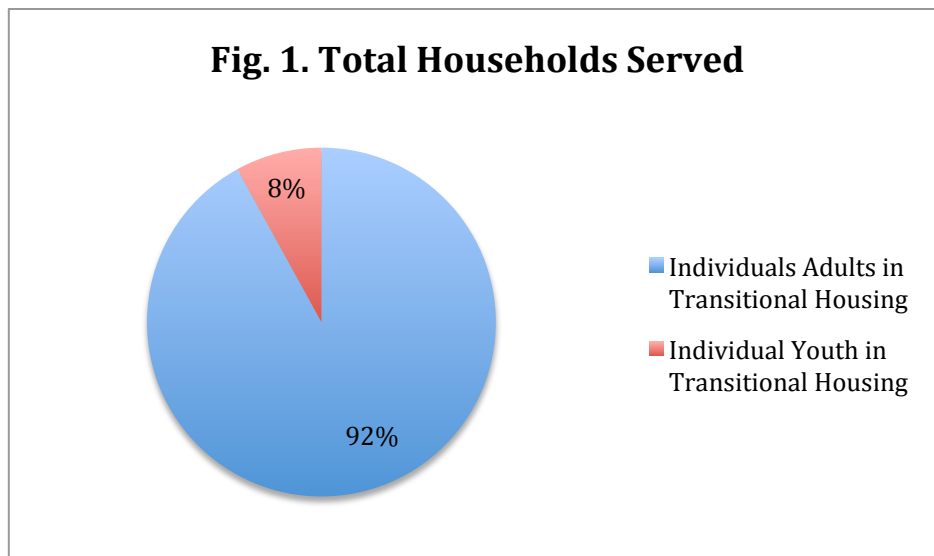
III. Findings for Total Population Served

Key Findings:

- A total of 25 households were served in HMIS participating transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014 period
- There were no households identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period
- 65% 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
- 67% of households moved on to permanent housing destinations upon discharge from the projects

Total Homeless Population.

A total of 25 households composed of 25 persons were housed in Ocean County CoC HMIS participating transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014 reporting period. This is a 31% decrease in total households and persons served from 2013. Out of the households served in 2014, the majority, 92%



(23) were individual adults, while the remaining 8% (2 households) were individual youth served under the age of 18. The 25 persons served throughout Ocean County HMIS projects made up less than 1% of New Jersey’s total homeless population served in HMIS projects in 2014.

	Ocean County	New Jersey
Total Persons Served	25	25,327
Transitional Housing	25	4,343
Individuals	25	2,256
Families	0	2,087

Demographics. Of the total homeless population that was served in the Ocean CoC during 2014, the largest percent, 92%, 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.

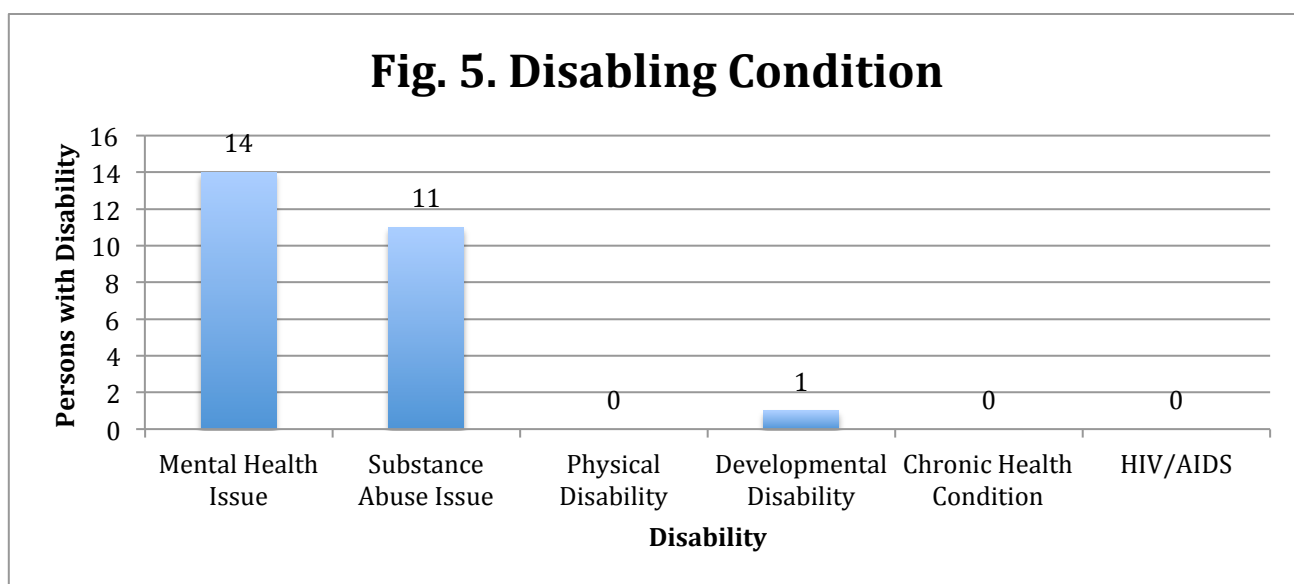


Similar to 2013, the majority (76%) of the homeless persons served in Ocean CoC HMIS participating projects were male, with women representing 24% of the population.

In addition, 52% of the homeless persons served during 2014 identified their race as Black or African-American, while 40% identified their race as White, followed by Multi-Racial with 4%. With regards to ethnicity, 32% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

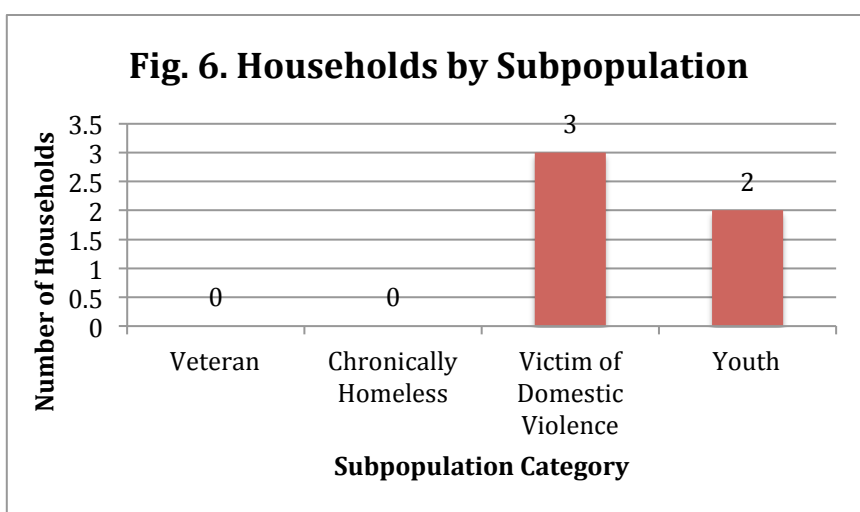
Disabling Conditions. Among all persons served throughout Ocean County’s HMIS transitional housing projects, 68% identified having a disabling condition, this number includes 65% of adults and 100% of children.

Among disabled adults, 80% reported mental health issues making this the most prevalent disability, followed by substance abuse with 73% of disabled adults reporting this condition. Both disabled youth served reported a mental health issue.



Subpopulation

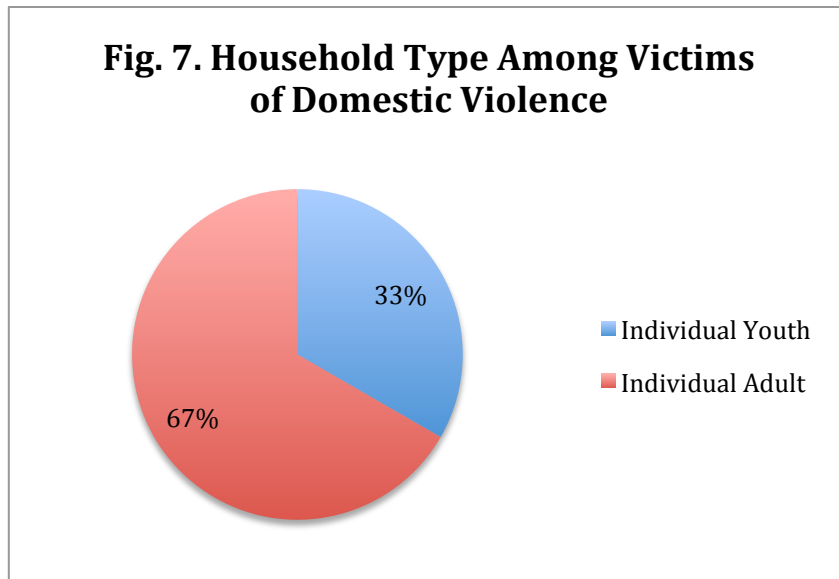
Characteristics. In its plan, *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has prioritized ending youth, veteran and chronic homelessness across the Country. In 2014, Ocean CoC found 0 chronically homeless households among those served in their transitional housing projects.



Youth only households, households without someone over age 18, represented 8% 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 2014 reporting period.

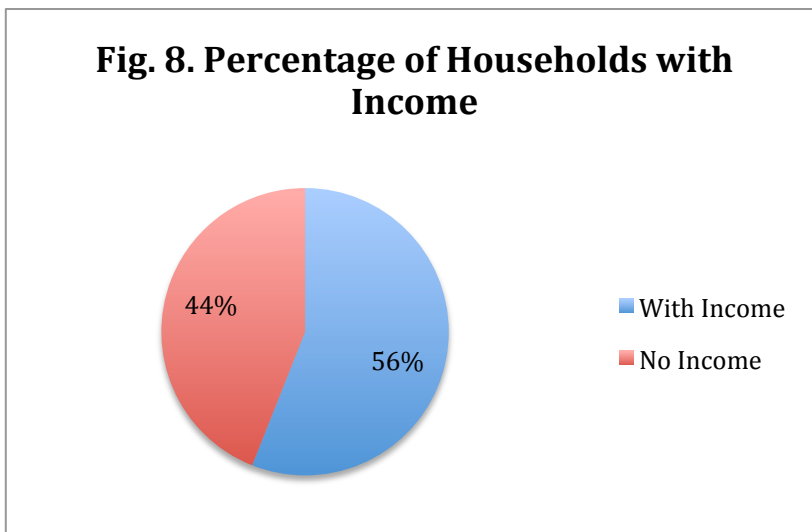
In addition to these subpopulations, there were 3 individual homeless households that reported



being a victim of domestic violence. 33% reported that the last episode of domestic violence occurred more than a year ago, while another 33% 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.

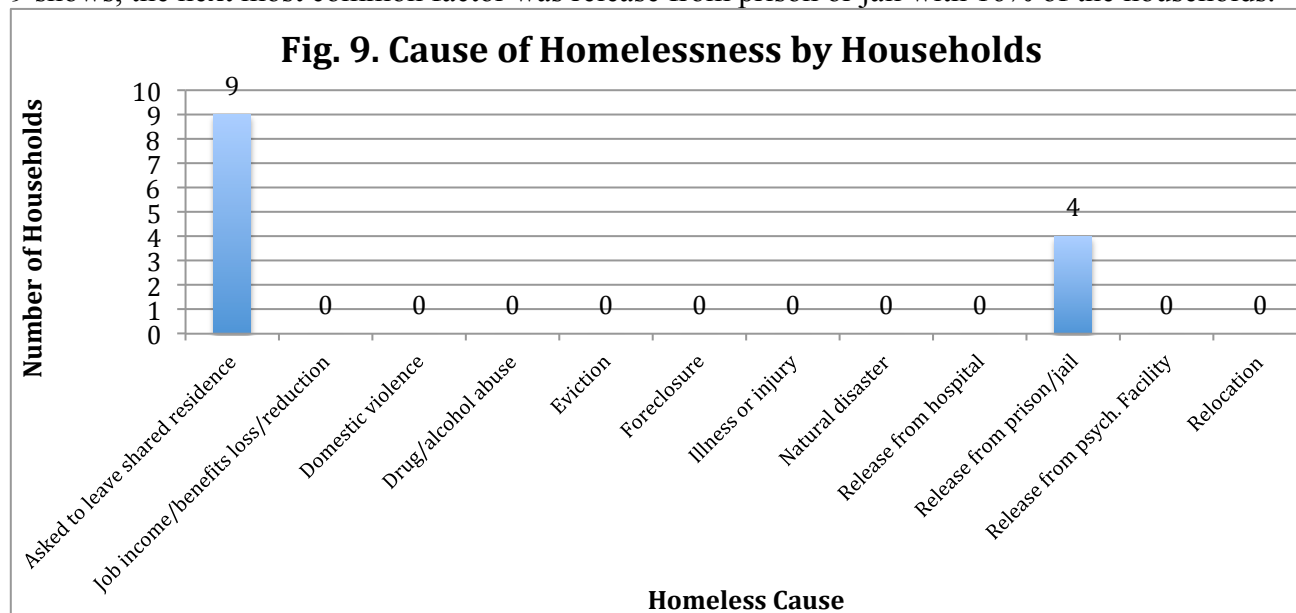
Among all homeless households served in transitional housing projects during 2014, 44% had no source of income, while 56% reported receiving some form of earned income. The average monthly income for households in transitional housing was \$1,091.



While 44% of households had no source of income, 36% of households were not receiving some kind of non-cash benefit.

Medicaid was the top reported non-cash benefit, which was reported by 64% of the households.

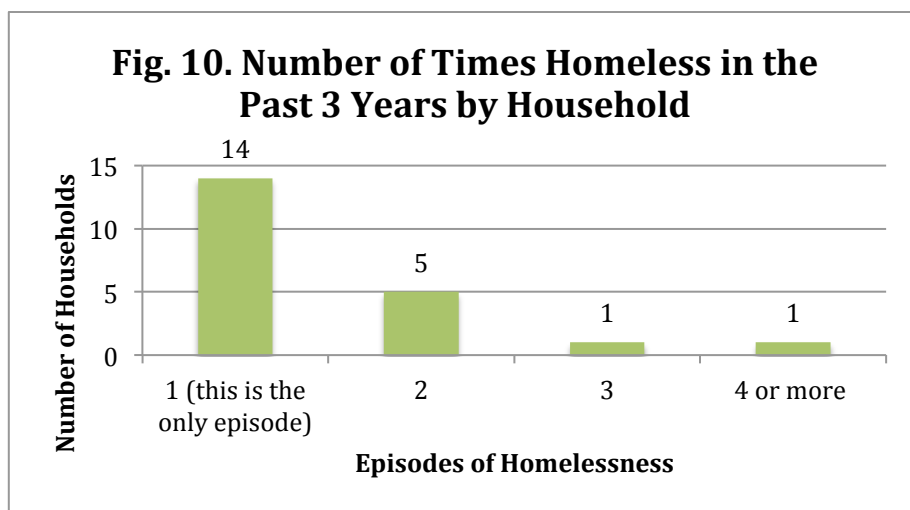
Cause of Homelessness and Residence Prior to Project Entry. When asked what the primary factor was that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households attributed their homelessness to being asked to leave a shared residence (36%) than any other cause. As Figure 9 shows, the next most common factor was release from prison or jail with 16% of the households.



When looking at the household’s residence prior to project entry, 40% reported coming from emergency shelters, which was the most common response. 28% reported staying or living with family or friends prior to project entry, followed by jail or prison and foster care with 12% each.

Length of Stay at Prior Residence and Episodes of Homelessness.

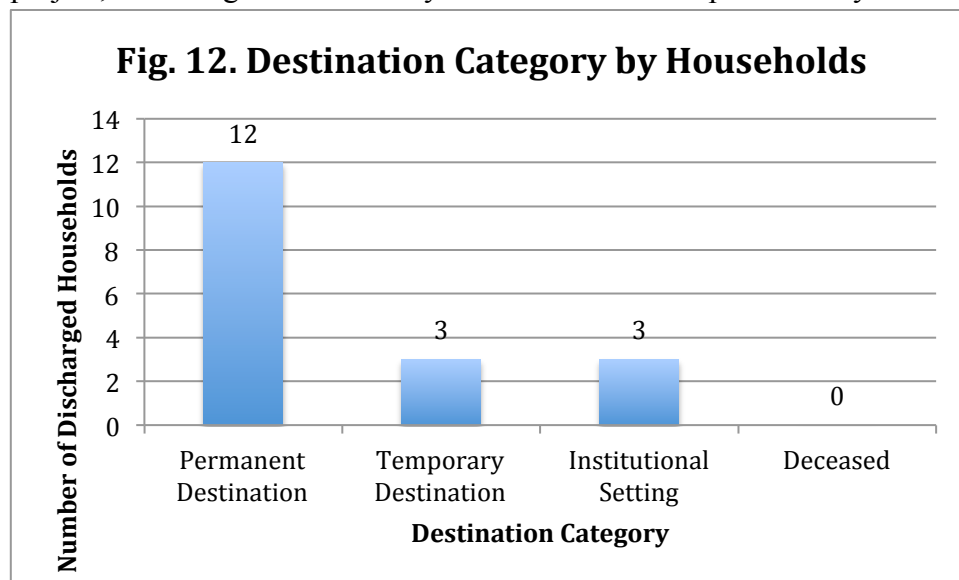
40% of the households served during 2014 had resided in their last residence for more than one week, but less than one month before entering the transitional housing project. Another 20% stayed at their last residence for 1 to 3 months or one year or longer, while only 4% were at their residence for 1 week or less before project entry. When looking at the number of times the households had been homeless in the past 3 years, 56% 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 220 days, or 7 months before leaving the project, this is a 17 day increase from the 2013 average.

Reason and Destination at Discharge. A total of 18 households were discharged from transitional housing projects during the 2014 reporting period. 28% of these households were discharged upon project completion, while 17% left for a housing opportunity before completion or were discharged due to criminal activity.

67% 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 living with family or friends permanently with 61% 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. Jail or prison was the most reported institutional destination with 11% of the total households reporting that destination.



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Appendix A: HMIS Projects Included in Report

I. Transitional Housing Projects

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