



# Passaic 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 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, 2014 – December 31, 2014, 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.

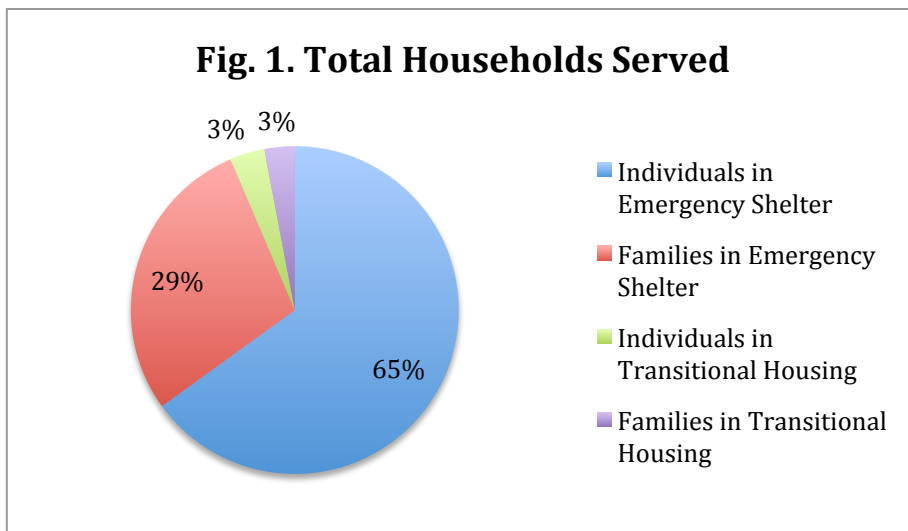
## **III. Findings for Total Population Served**

### **Key Findings:**

- A total of 669 households were served in HMIS participating emergency shelters and transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014 period
- There were 45 households identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period
- 54% of all adults served either as individuals or as part of a family identified having a disabling condition
- 57% of the total population served was under age 30
- 50% of households moved on to permanent destinations after discharge from the projects

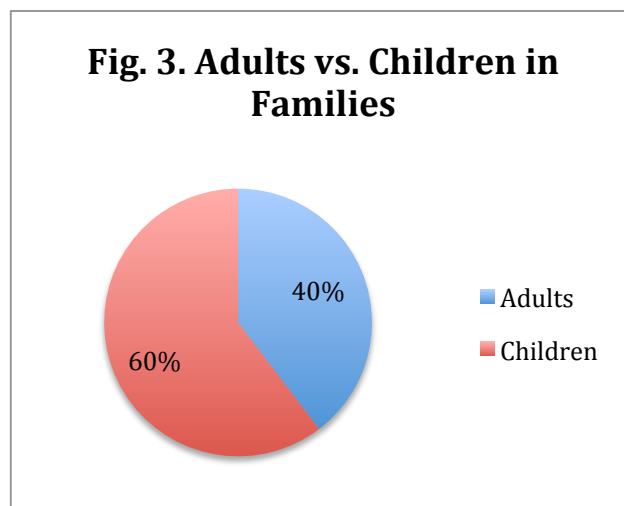
**Total Homeless**

**Population.** A total of 669 households composed of 1,026 persons were housed in Passaic County CoC HMIS participating emergency shelters or transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014 reporting period. This is a 9% decrease in total households, and a 2% decrease in total persons served from 2013. Out of the households served in 2014, the majority, 68% (458) were individuals, while the remaining 32% (211 households) were families. As shown in Figure 1, the most served population was individuals in emergency shelter, which made up 65% of the total population served. The 1,026 persons served throughout Passaic County HMIS projects made up 4% of New Jersey’s total homeless population served in HMIS projects in 2014.

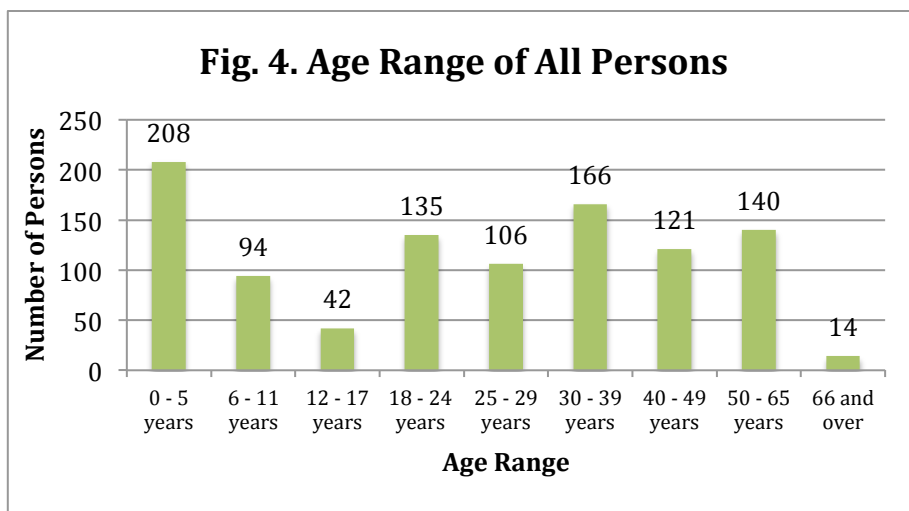


	Passaic County	New Jersey
<b>Total Persons Served</b>	1,026	25,327
<b>Emergency Shelter</b>	958	20,800
Individuals	435	14,143
Families	523	6,657
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	68	4,343
Individuals	23	2,256
Families	45	2,087

**Family Composition.** Of the 211 family households served throughout Passaic County in 2014, 207 (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 60% of the persons included in adult and children families. The average size of a homeless family in 2014 was 3 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 Passaic CoC during 2014, the largest percent, 34%, of persons were children under age 18, with 344 aged between 0 and 17. As Figure 4 shows, the next highest age range served was persons between 18 and 29 (23%), showing that nearly 60% of the population served was under the age of 30.

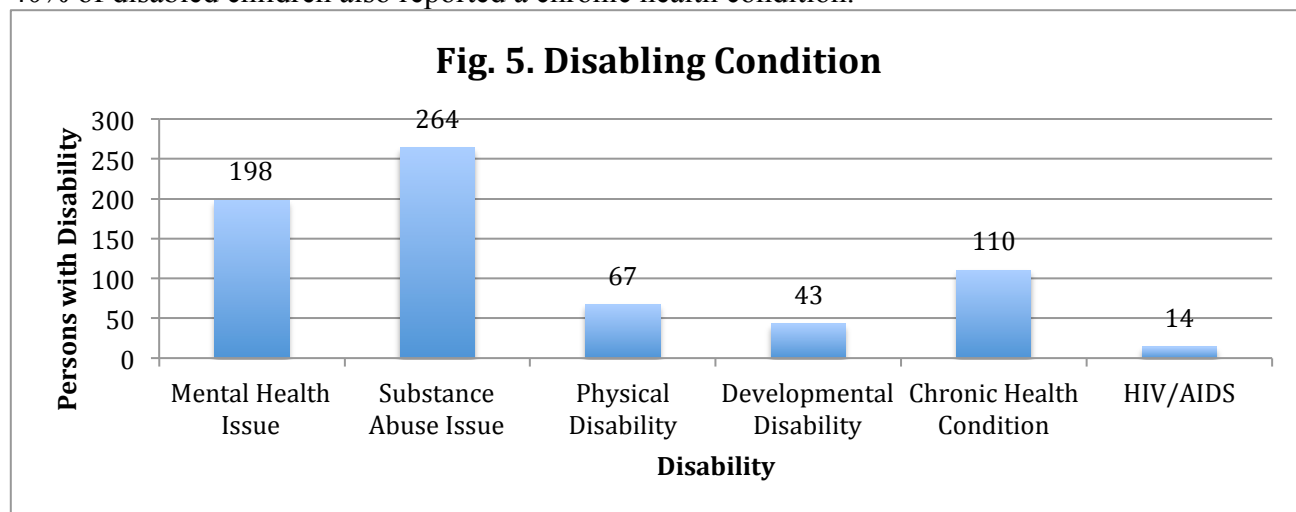


Similar to the 2013 numbers, more than half (58%) of the homeless persons served in Passaic CoC HMIS participating projects were female, with men representing 42% of the population.

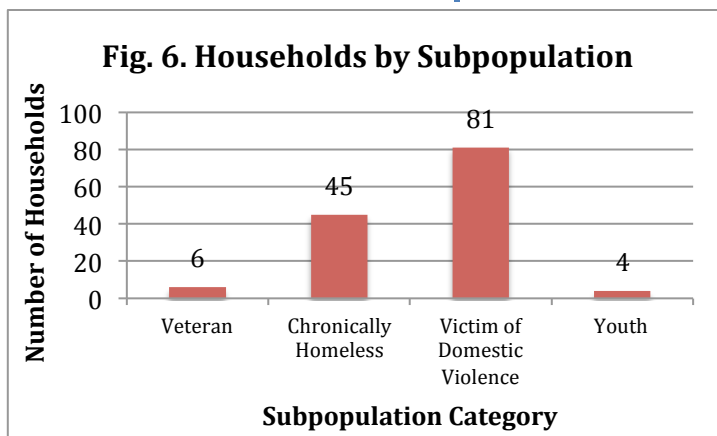
In addition, 57% of the homeless persons served during 2014 identified their race as Black or African American, making that the largest racial subgroup. The next largest was White (38%), followed by Multi-Racial with 1%. With regards to ethnicity, 27% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

**Disabling Conditions.** Among all persons served throughout Passaic County’s HMIS emergency shelter and transitional housing projects, 38% identified having a disabling condition, this number includes 54% of adults and 7% of children.

Among disabled adults, 72% reported substance abuse issues making this the most prevalent disability; representing 39% of the total adult homeless population. 51% of disabled adults also reported a mental health issue. Among disabled children, 44% reported a developmental disability. 40% of disabled children also reported a chronic health condition.



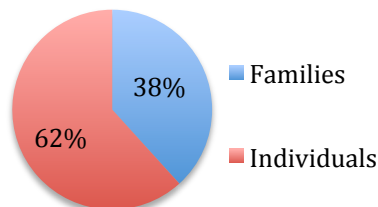
**Subpopulation Characteristics.** In its plan, *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has prioritized ending youth, veteran and chronic homelessness across the Country. In 2014, Passaic CoC served 45 households that were identified as chronically homeless households, an increase of 3 chronically homeless households from 2013. 91% of the chronic households served were served in emergency shelters (only 2 were families). The remaining 9% were families in transitional housing projects.



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 2 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 2014. All of the veterans served were individuals and only 17% were female. 100% of the veterans served were served in emergency shelter projects. 67% of veterans reported having some kind of disability, with the most common disabilities reported being physical disability and chronic health condition with 50% each.

**Fig. 7. Household Type Among Victims of Domestic Violence**

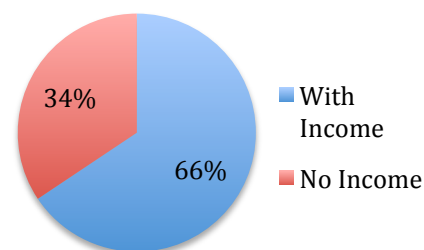


In addition to the chronic, youth and veteran populations, there were 81 homeless households that reported having a victim of domestic violence. 62% of these households were individuals, while the remaining 31 were families. 43% reported that the last episode of domestic violence occurred over a year ago, while 37% reported it happening within the past 3 months. The majority of the domestic violence victims (96%) 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.

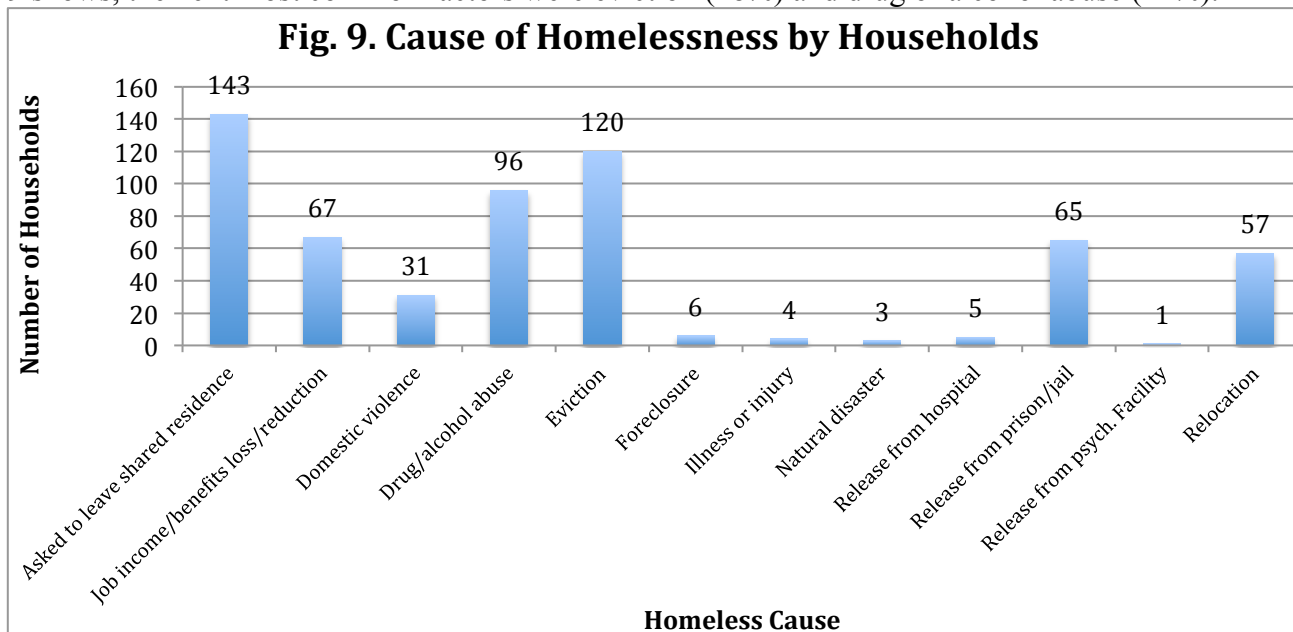
**Income and Benefits.** Among all homeless households served in emergency shelter or transitional housing projects during 2014, 34% had no source of income, while 11% reported receiving some form of earned income. The most common sources of cash income among households was SSI (26%) and TANF (23%). The average monthly income for households in emergency shelter was \$296, while it was \$253 for households served in transitional housing projects.

**Fig. 8. Percentage of Households with Income**



While 34% of households had no source of income, 37% of households were not receiving some kind of non-cash benefit. Food Stamps was the top reported non-cash benefit, which was reported by 61% of the households. Another 31% of households were connected to Medicaid benefits.

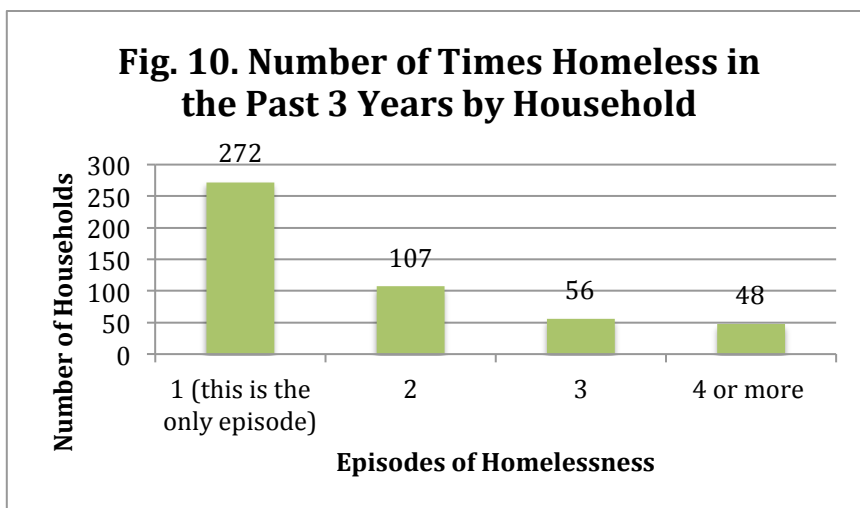
**Cause of Homelessness and Residence Prior to Project Entry.** When asked what the primary factor was that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households attributed their homelessness to being asked to leave a shared residence (21%) than any other cause. As Figure 9 shows, the next most common factors were eviction (18%) and drug or alcohol abuse (14%).



These causes of homelessness coincide with the common responses for residence prior to project entry with 47% of households staying or living with family or friends prior to project entry. The next most common response was rental by client (16%) followed by emergency shelter (10%).

**Length of Stay at Prior Residence and Episodes of Homelessness.**

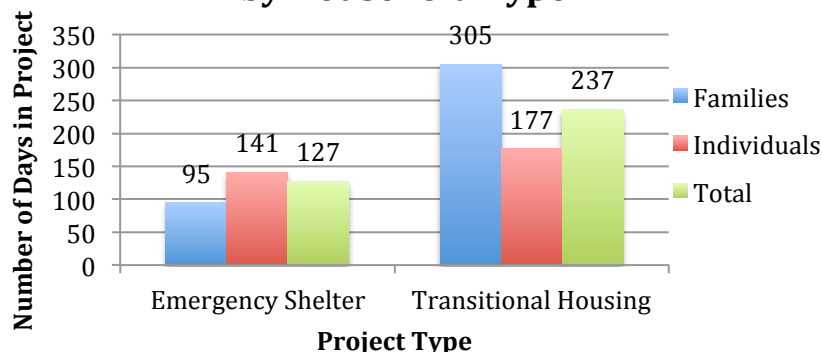
29% of households served during 2014 had resided in their last residence for one year or longer before entering the emergency shelter or transitional housing project. Another 25% were in their prior residence for less than one week. While this is true, only 7% of households experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years, while most households (41%) were experiencing their first episode of homelessness, as seen in Figure 10.



**Average Length of Project Stay.**

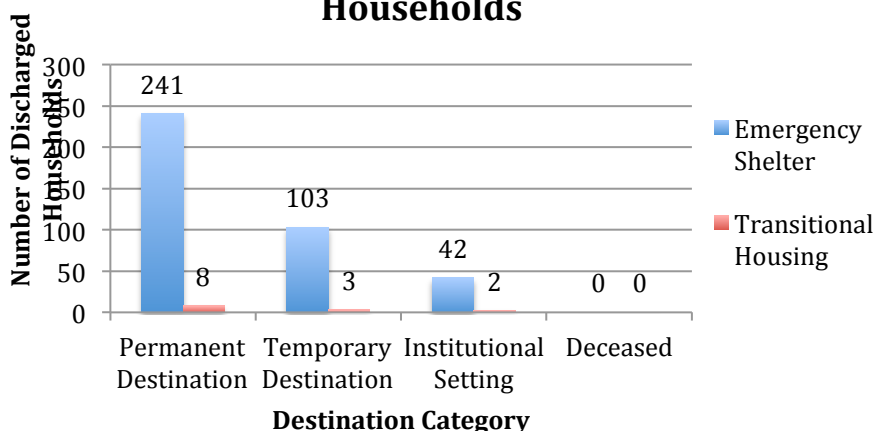
When looking at total length of project stay, individuals seemed to have longer project stays than families in emergency shelter, staying on average 46 days, or 1½ months longer, where the opposite was found in transitional housing, in which families stayed on average 128 days, or a little over 4 months longer than individuals. When comparing the average lengths of stay found in 2014, to those of 2013, it was found that the average length of stay decreased by 7 days for emergency shelter projects, and 26 days for transitional housing projects in 2014.

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



**Reason and Destination at Discharge.** A total of 498 households were discharged from emergency shelter and transitional housing projects during the 2014 reporting period. 29% of households left projects for a housing opportunity before project completion, while another 24% were discharged upon project completion.

**Fig. 12. Destination Category by Households**



50% 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, 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 40% of

total households moving into a rental upon discharge. This rental could be with or without a subsidy. 21% 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 16% of the total households. An institutional destination, which was the destination of 9% 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**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project Name</b>
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**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project Name</b>
Eva’s Village	Eva’s Family Transitional
Hispanic Multi-Purpose Center	H.M.P.S.C. Switch Program
NJ Community Development Corp.	NJCDC – Elm Street Apts
	NJCDC – Independence House