



# Gloucester County Homeless Assessment Report

**2015**

## 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 Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) used in New Jersey to provide a snapshot of the characteristics of homeless households that were served throughout the State. This report can serve as the foundation of a more in depth review of the population and its needs.

## II. Data Source

This Homeless Assessment Report for Gloucester County analyzed data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) administered by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA), the HMIS Lead Agency for the CoC. 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, 2015 – December 31, 2015, 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.

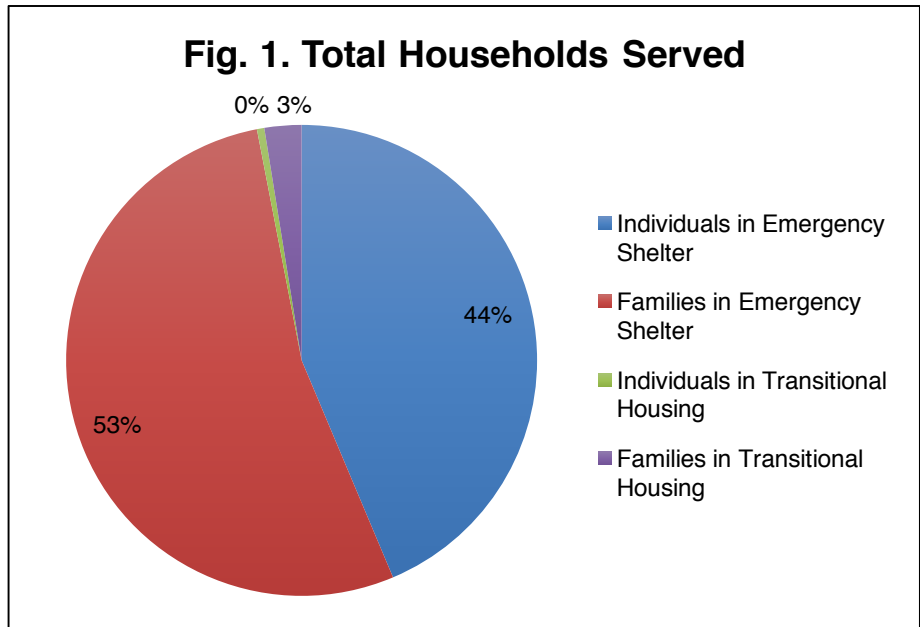
## III. Findings for Total Population Served

### Key Findings:

- A total of 197 households were served in HMIS participating emergency shelter and transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 period
- There were 6 households identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period
- 42% of all adults served either as individuals or as part of a family identified having a disabling condition
- 61% of households moved on to permanent destinations after discharge

**Total Homeless Population.**

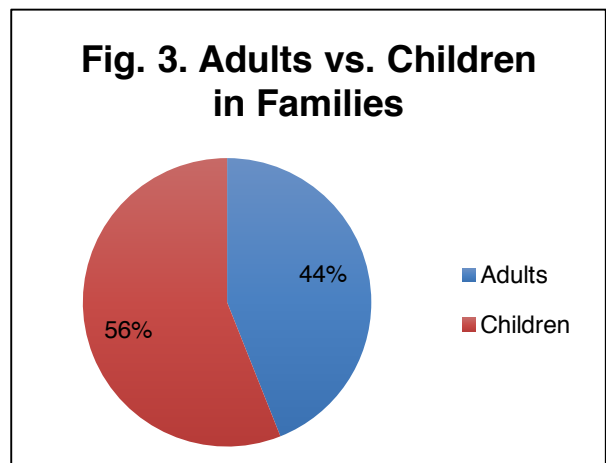
A total of 197 households composed of 373 persons were housed in Gloucester County HMIS participating emergency shelter or transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 reporting period. This is a 2% decrease in the total number of households served from 2014 but a 4% increase from the 359 persons served in 2014. Out



of the households served in 2015, the majority, 56% (110 households) were families, while the remaining 44% (87) were individuals. As shown in Figure 1, the most served population was families in emergency shelter projects, which accounted for 53% of the total population.

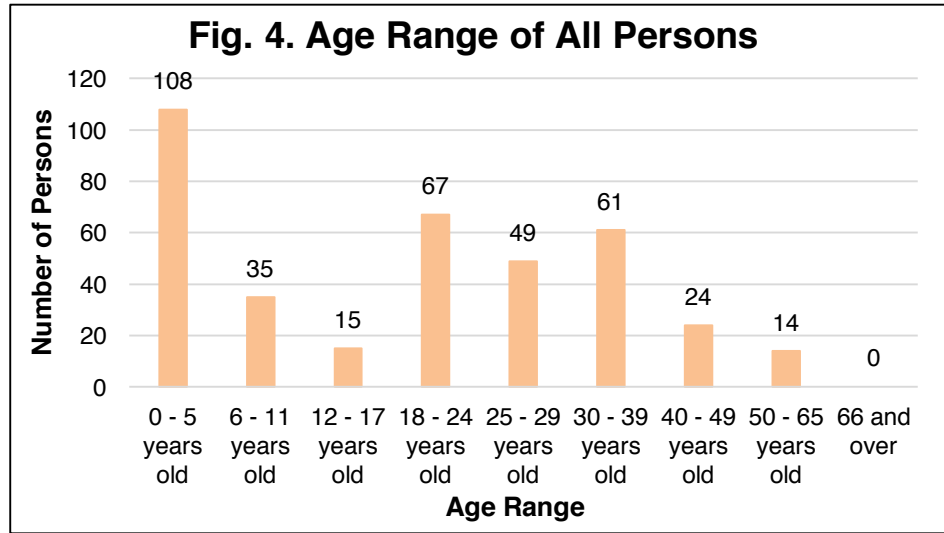
	Gloucester County	New Jersey
<b>Total Persons Served</b>	373	24,519
<b>Emergency Shelter</b>	352	20,337
Individuals	86	13,108
Families	266	7,229
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	21	4,134
Individuals	1	2,116
Families	20	2,018

**Family Composition.** Of the 110 family households served throughout Gloucester County in 2015, 108 (98%) were households with adults and children under 18, while the remaining 2 (2%) were adult only households. As shown in Figure 3, children represented 56% of the persons included in adult and children families. The average size of a homeless family in 2015 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 Gloucester County during 2015, the largest percent, 42%, of persons were children under the age of 18. As Figure 4 shows, the next highest age range served was persons between the ages of 18 and 29, which represented 31% of the total population.

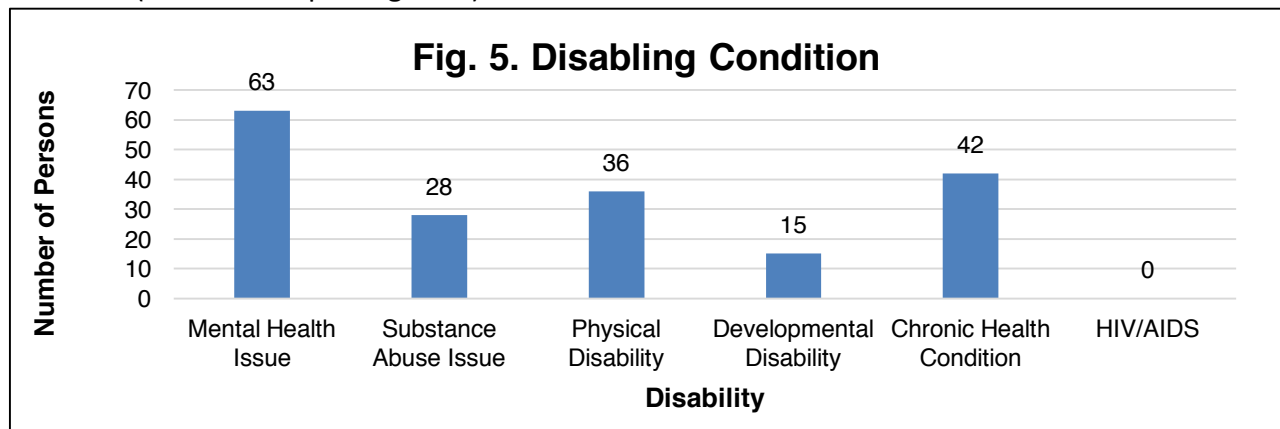


Similar to the 2014 numbers, more than half (73%) of the homeless persons served in Gloucester County HMIS participating projects were female, with men representing 27% of the population.

In addition, 61% of the homeless persons served during 2015 identified their race as Black or African American, making that the largest racial subgroup. The next largest was White (33%), followed by Multi-Racial with 4%. With regards to ethnicity, 11% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

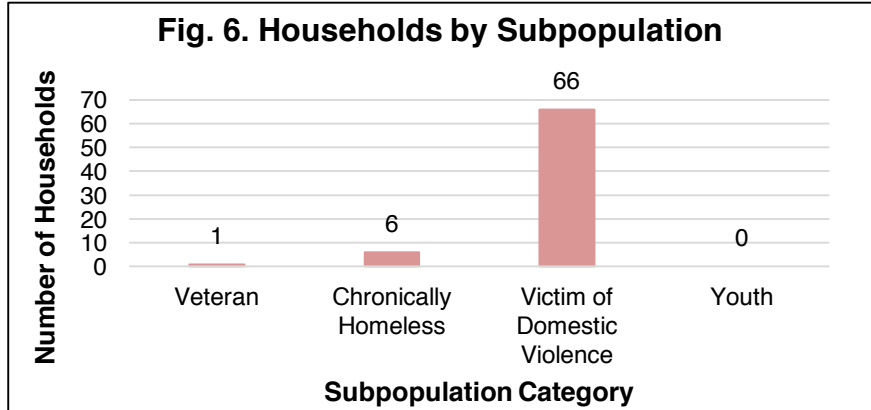
**Disabling Conditions.** Among all persons served throughout Gloucester County’s HMIS emergency shelter and transitional housing projects, 26% identified having a disabling condition, this number includes 42% of adults and 4% of children.

Among disabled adults, 68% reported a mental health issue, making this the most prevalent disability; representing 28% of the total adult homeless population. 44% of disabled adults also reported a chronic health condition. Among disabled children, 50% reported a developmental disability. 33% of disabled children reported a mental health condition or a chronic health condition (2 children reporting each).



**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 2015, Gloucester

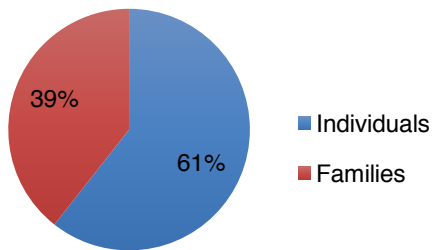


County projects served a total of 6 households that were identified as chronically homeless, a 40% decrease from the 10 chronically homeless households served in 2014. All of the chronic households served in 2015 were served in emergency shelters (2 were families).

There were no youth only households, households without someone over age 18, served throughout Gloucester County HMIS projects in 2015.

As far as veterans served, Gloucester County projects served 1 male veteran in 2015. This veteran was part of a family and was served in an emergency shelter project. They did not report having a disabling condition.

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

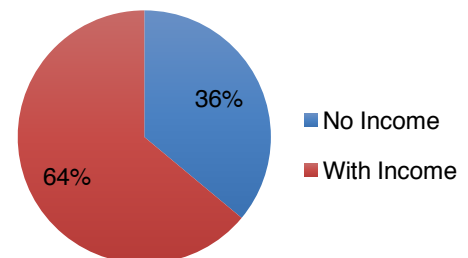


In addition to the chronic, youth and veteran populations, there were 66 homeless households that reported having a victim of domestic violence. 61% of these households were individuals, while the remaining 26 were families. 11% reported that the last episode of domestic violence occurred over a year ago, while 47% reported it happening within the past 3 months. All domestic violence victims 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.

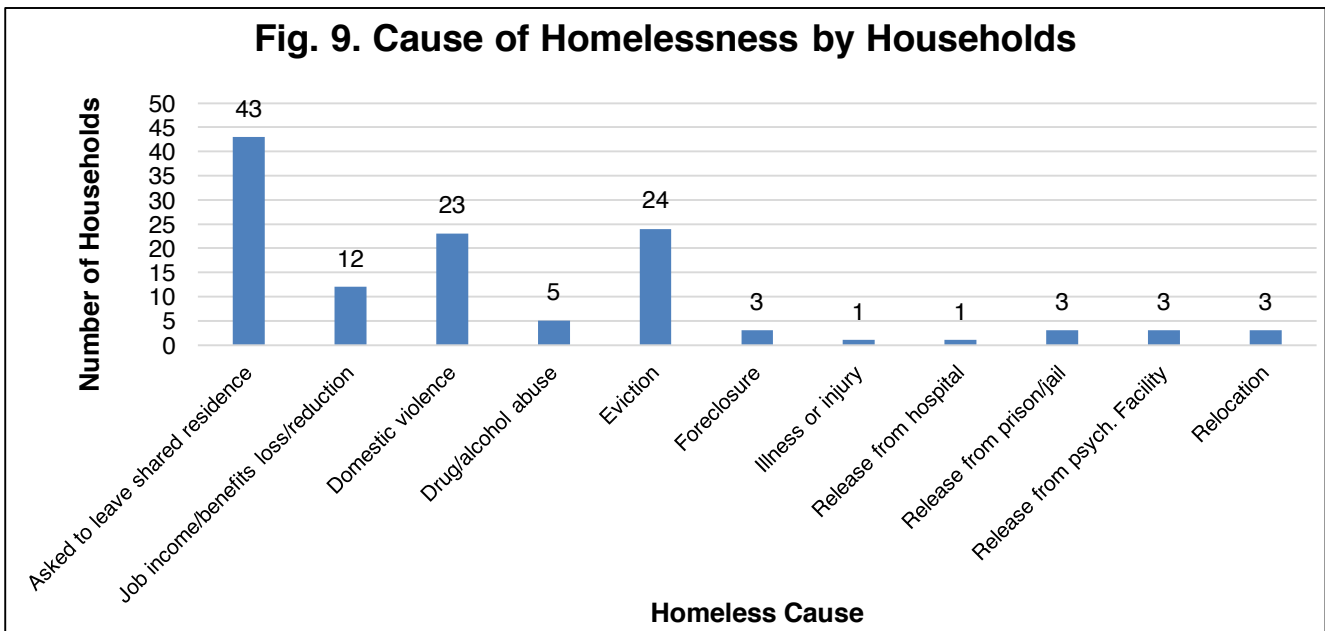
**Income and Benefits.** Among all homeless households served in emergency shelter or transitional housing projects during 2015, 36% had no source of income, while 10% reported receiving some form of earned income. The most common sources of cash income among households were TANF (29%) and SSI (25%). The average monthly income for households was \$299 for emergency shelter and \$1,458 for households served in transitional housing projects.

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



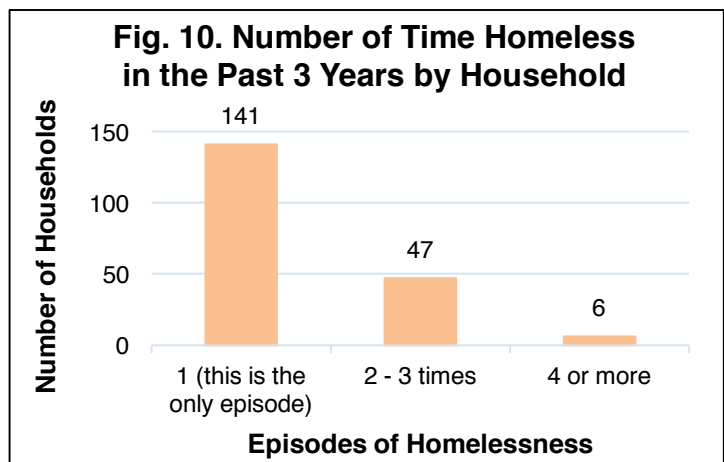
While 64% of households had some source of income, 72% of households were receiving some kind of non-cash benefit. Medicaid was the top reported non-cash benefit, reported by 66% of households, followed by Food Stamps, reported by 62%.

**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 (22%) than any other cause. As Figure 9 shows, the next most common factors were eviction (12%) and domestic violence (12%).



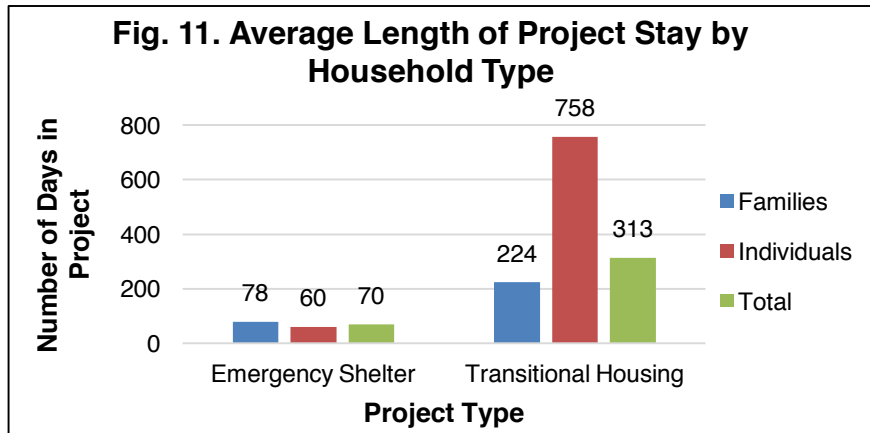
The most common response for residence prior to project entry was staying or living with friends or family, with 47% of households. The next most common response was emergency shelter (28%) followed by rental by client (9%).

**Length of Stay at Prior Residence and Episodes of Homelessness.** 17% of households served during 2015 had stated they resided in their last residence for one year or longer before entering the emergency shelter or transitional housing project, while 15% were there one week or less. Additionally, only 3% of households experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years, while 72% of households were experiencing their first episode of homelessness prior to project entry, as shown in Figure 10.



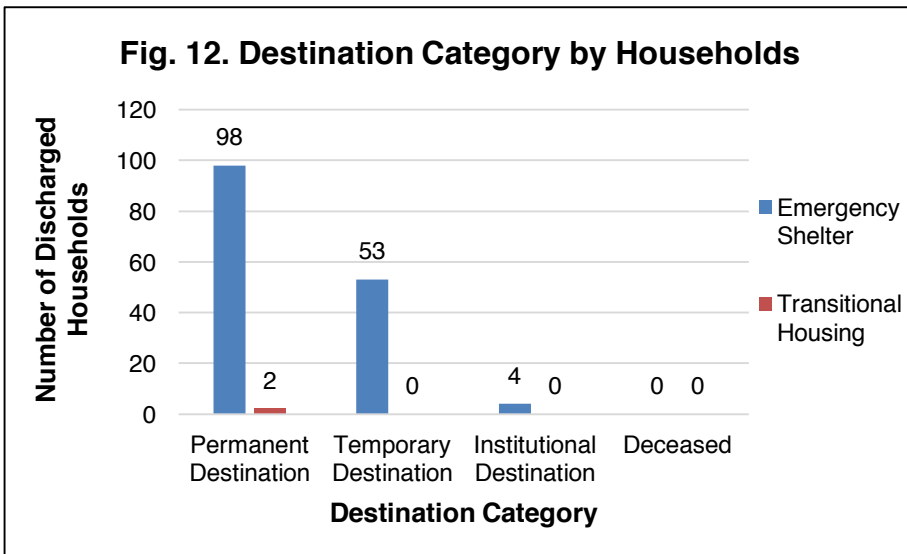
**Average Length of Project Stay.**

When looking at total length of project stay, families seemed to have longer lengths of program stay in emergency shelter but shorter stays in transitional housing projects. When comparing the average lengths of stay in 2015 to those in 2014, the average length of stay decreased by 37 days for emergency shelters but increased by 44 days for transitional housing projects in 2015.



**Reason and Destination at Discharge.**

A total of 164 households were discharged from emergency shelter and transitional housing projects during the 2015 reporting period. 23% of these households left for a housing opportunity prior to project completion, while 21% were discharged upon project completion.



Due to the nature of some homeless projects, discharge information was not able to be collected for all discharged households.

61% of households discharged in 2015 moved on to permanent destinations upon discharge from the project. A permanent destination includes a unit owned or rented by a client, a permanent housing project, or living with a family

member or friend permanently. The most common permanent destination was rental by client with 36% of total households moving into a rental upon discharge. This rental could be with or without a subsidy. 32% 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 temporary destination was emergency shelter, which was reported by 15% of 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. The most common institutional destination was a medical hospital with 1% of households being discharged to this location.



**Appendix A: HMIS Projects Included in Report**

**I. Emergency Shelter Projects**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project Name</b>
Center for Family Services	CFS-MCRS EA Families
VOADV	VOADV-Eleanor Corbett Emergency Shelter

**II. Transitional Housing Projects**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project Name</b>
Center for Family Services	CFS-MCRS Transitional Housing
Tri-County Comm. Action Partnership Parvins Branch	TCCAP-TH