Monmouth 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 Monmouth County analyzed data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) administered by the Monmouth County Department of Human Services, 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.
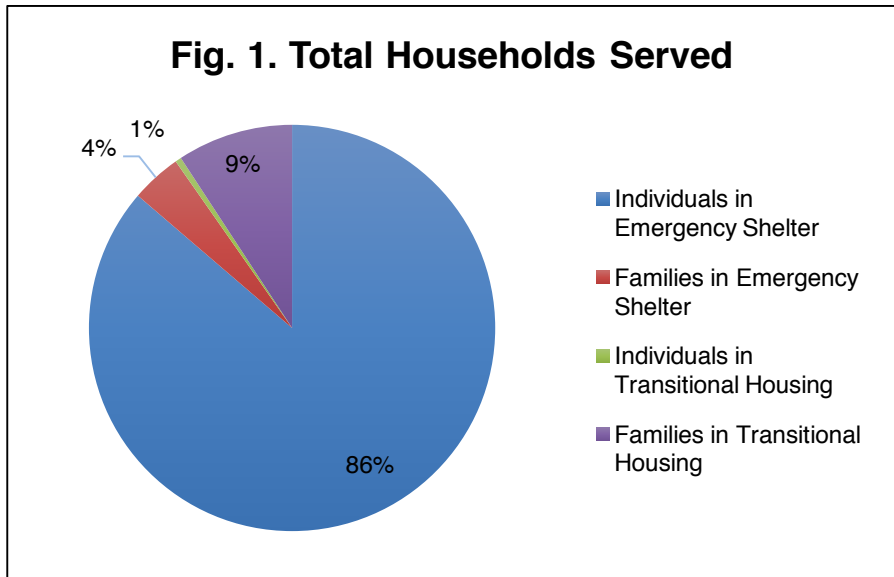
III. Findings for Total Population Served

Key Findings:
- A total of 824 households were served in HMIS participating emergency shelter and transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 period
- There were 40 households identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period
- 62% of all adults served either as individuals or as part of a family identified having a disabling condition
- 45% of households moved on to permanent destinations after discharge
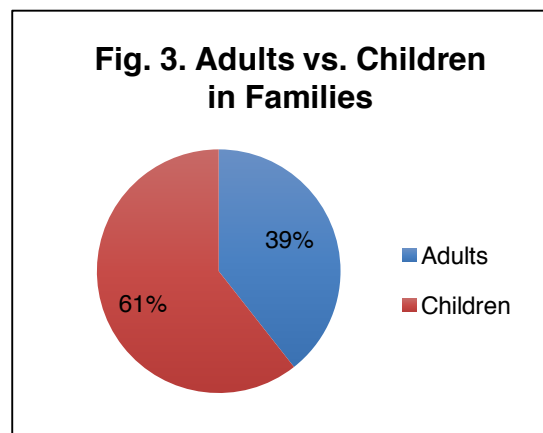
Total Homeless Population. A total of 824 households composed of 1,020 persons were housed in Monmouth County CoC HMIS participating emergency shelter or transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 reporting period. This is a 5% decrease in the total number of households served from 2014 but a 4%

Fig. 1. Total Households Served

- Individuals in Emergency Shelter
- Families in Emergency Shelter
- Individuals in Transitional Housing
- Families in Transitional Housing

increase from the 979 persons served in 2014. Out of the households served in 2015, the large majority, 87% (715) were individuals, while the remaining 13% (109 households) were families. As shown in Figure 1, the most served population was individuals in emergency shelter projects, which accounted for 86% of the total population.
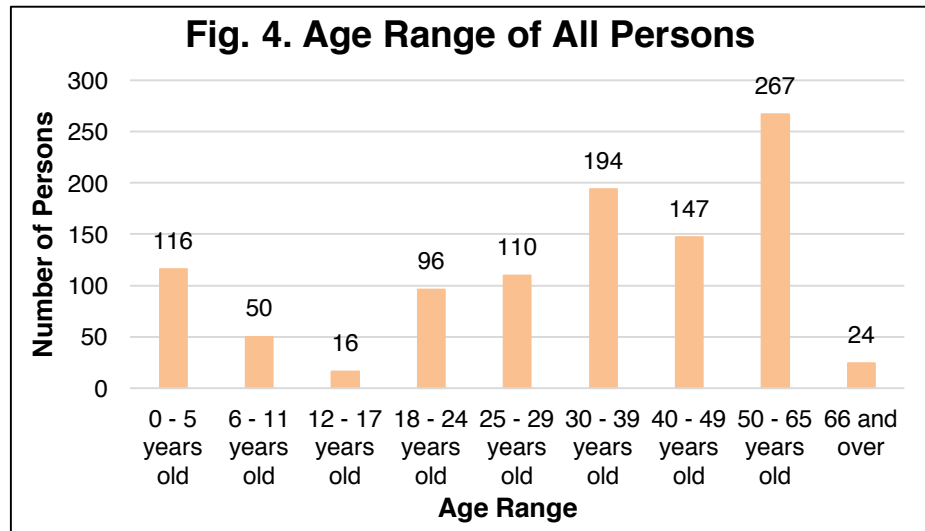
Fig. 2 Total Persons Served		
	Monmouth County	**New Jersey**
Total Persons Served	1,020	24,519
Emergency Shelter	803	20,337
Individuals	711	13,108
Families	92	7,229
Transitional Housing	217	4,134
Individuals	4	2,116
Families	213	2,018

Family Composition. Of the 109 family households served throughout Monmouth County in 2015, 105 (96%) were households with adults and children under 18, 3% (3 households) were adult only households, while the last was a youth only household. As shown in Figure 3, children represented 61% 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.

Fig. 3. Adults vs. Children in Families

- Adults
- Children

Demographics. Of the total homeless population that was served in Monmouth County CoC during 2015, the largest percent, 26%, of persons were between the ages of 50 and 65. As Figure 4 shows, the next highest age range served was persons between the ages of 18 and 29, which represented 20% of the total population.

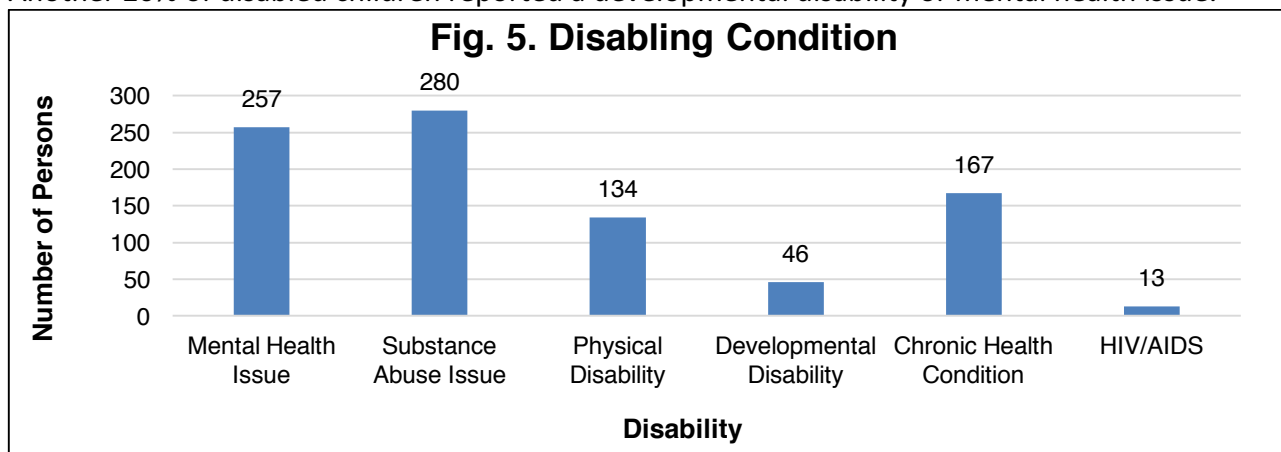**Fig. 4. Age Range of All Persons**

Similar to the 2014 numbers, more than half (68%) of the homeless persons served in Monmouth County HMIS participating projects were male, with women representing 32% of the population.
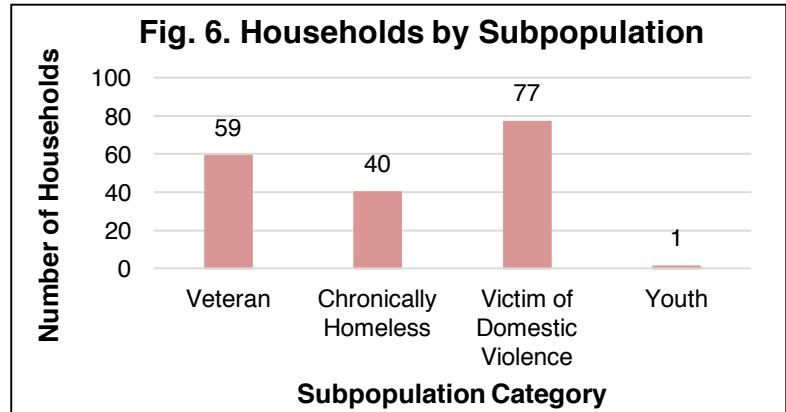
In addition, 51% of the homeless persons served during 2015 identified their race as White, making that the largest racial subgroup. The next largest was Black or African American (41%), followed by Multi-Racial at 3%. With regards to ethnicity, 11% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

Disabling Conditions. Among all persons served throughout Monmouth County's HMIS emergency shelter and transitional housing projects, 52% identified having a disabling condition, this number includes 62% of adults and 5% of children.

Among disabled adults, 54% reported a substance abuse issue, making this the most prevalent disability; representing 33% of the total adult homeless population. 49% of disabled adults also reported a mental health issue. Among disabled children, 70% reported a chronic health condition. Another 20% of disabled children reported a developmental disability or mental health issue.
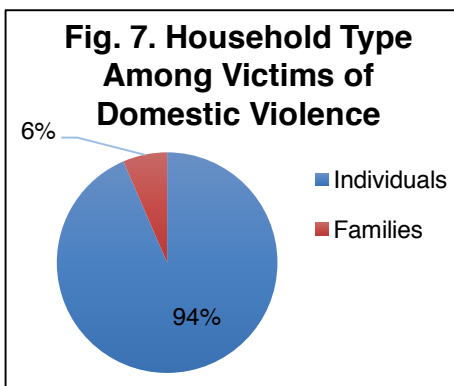
Fig. 5. Disabling Condition

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 2015, Monmouth County CoC projects served a total of 40 households that were identified as

Fig. 6. Households by Subpopulation

chronically homeless, a 29% decrease from the 56 chronically homeless households served in 2014. 100% of the chronic households served in 2015 were individuals in emergency shelters.

Youth only households, households without someone over age 18, represented less than 1% of the total households served throughout Monmouth HMIS projects. 1 youth family household was served in a transitional housing project in 2015.
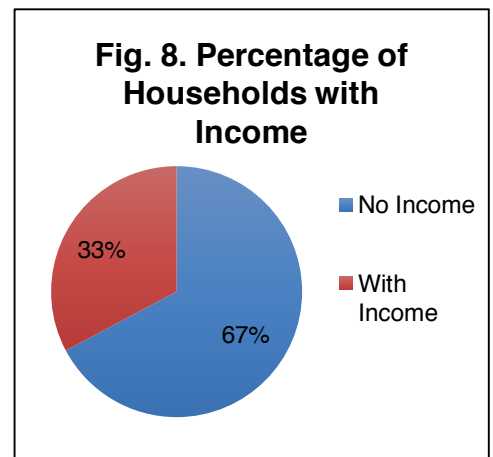
As far as veterans served, Monmouth County projects served a total of 59 veterans throughout 2015. All of the veterans served were individuals in emergency shelter and only 3% were female. 71% of veterans reported having some kind of disability, with the most common disability reported being a substance abuse issue (64%).

Fig. 7. Household Type Among Victims of Domestic Violence

In addition to the chronic, youth and veteran populations, there were 77 homeless households that reported having a victim of domestic violence. 94% of these households were individuals, while the remaining 5 were families. 40% reported that the last episode of domestic violence occurred over a year ago, while 22% reported it happening within the past 3 months. The majority of the domestic violence victims (97%) were served in emergency shelters. As a note, while there are victims of domes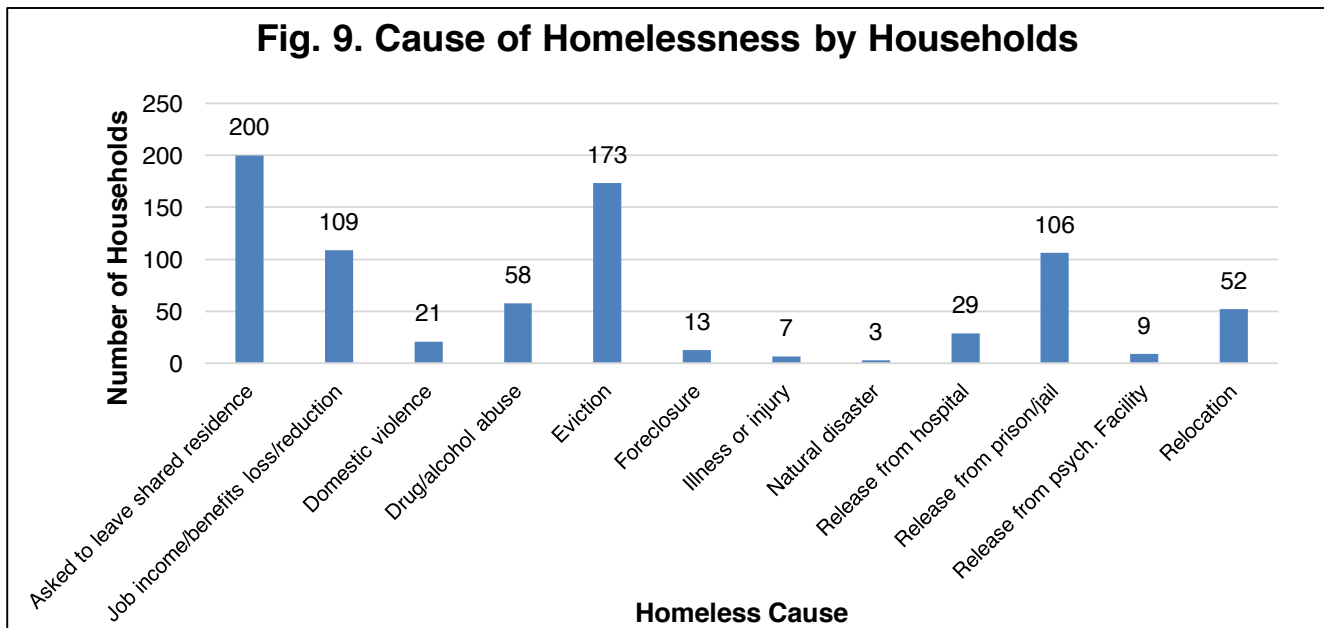tic violence being served in HMIS participating agencies, due to federal regulations, Domestic Violence specific projects are not able to enter data into HMIS, so the number of victims served in those projects are not included in this report.

Income and Benefits. Among all homeless households served in emergency shelter or transitional housing projects during 2015, 67% had no source of income, while 8% reported receiving some form of earned income. The most common sources of cash income among households were SSI and TANF (9% each). The average monthly income for households was $208 for emergency shelter and $439 for households served in transitional housing projects.

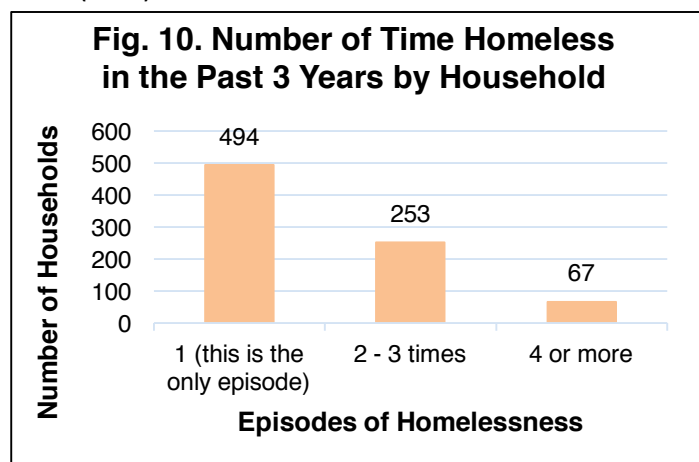**Fig. 8. Percentage of Households with Income**

While 33% of households had some source of income, 41% of households were receiving some kind of non-cash benefit. Food Stamps was the top reported non-cash benefit, reported by 30% of households, followed by Medicaid, reported by 29%.

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 eviction (21%) and job income or benefits loss or reduction (13%).

Fig. 9. Cause of Homelessness by Households

The most common response for residence prior to project entry was staying or living with friends or family, with 38% of households. The next most common response was rental by client (14%) followed by jail, prison or juvenile detention center (10%).
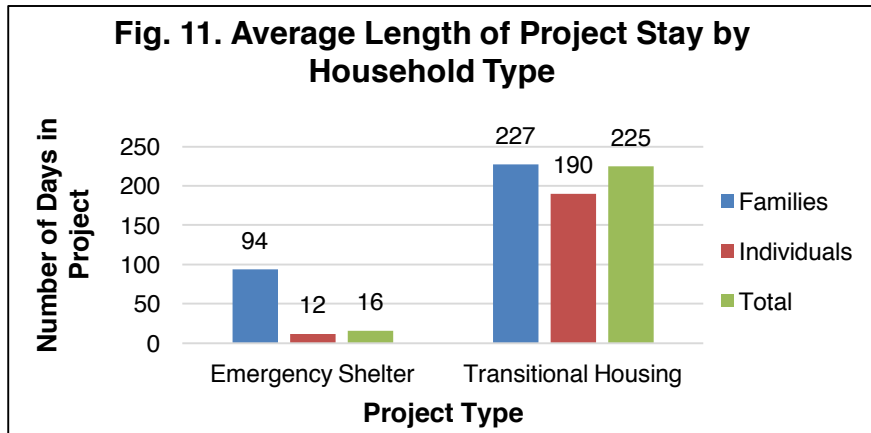
Length of Stay at Prior Residence and Episodes of Homelessness. 31% of households served during 2015 had stated they resided in their last residence for one year or longer before entering the emergency shelter or transitional housing project, while 14% were there one week or less. Additionally, only 8% of households experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years, while 60% of households were experiencing their first

Fig. 10. Number of Time Homeless in the Past 3 Years by Household

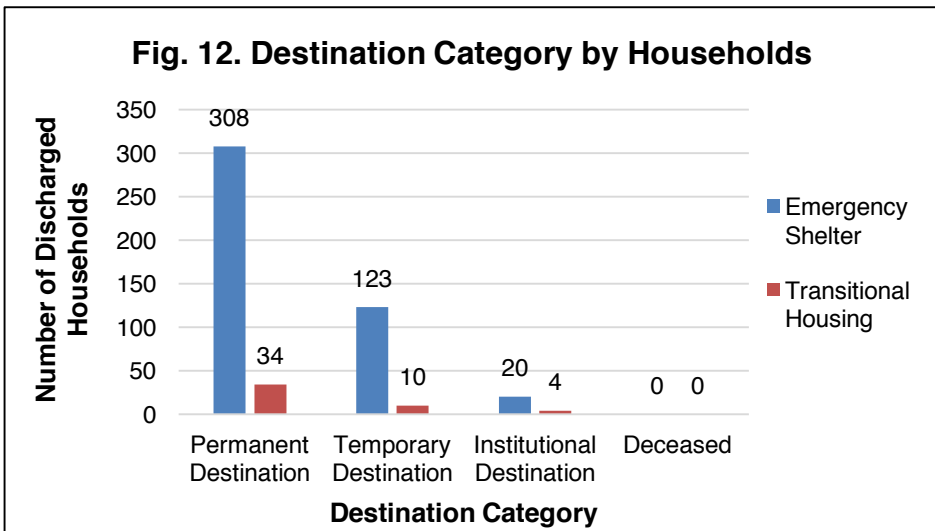episode of homelessness prior to project entry, as shown in Figure 10.

Average Length of Project Stay. When looking at total length of project stay, families seemed to have a longer lengths of stay in both emergency shelters and transitional housing projects. When comparing the average lengths of stay in 2015 to those in 2014, the average length of stay increased by 3 days for emergency shelter projects but decreased by 16 days for transitional housing projects in 2015.

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

Reason and Destination at Discharge. A total of 763 households were discharged from emergency shelter and transitional housing projects during the 2015 reporting period. 19% of these households were discharged upon project completion, while 7% left for a housing opportunity prior to project completion.

Fig. 12. Destination Category by Households

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

45% 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 41% 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, 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 8% of households. An institutional destination, which was the destination of 3% 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, medical hospital and substance abuse treatment facility were all reported by 6 households, making them the most common institutional destinations.

Appendix A: HMIS Projects Included in Report

I. Emergency Shelter Projects

Agency	Project Name
Affordable Housing Alliance	AHA – SSH Program
	AHA- Fort Monmouth Homeless Shelter
Family Promise of Monmouth County	Family Promise of Monmouth County Shelter
HABcore	HABcore – Laurel House Respite
	HABcore –Coffey Residence Respite
Market Street Mission	MSM-Jersey Shore Rescue Mission
Monmouth County Department of Social Services	MCDSS- SSH

II. Transitional Housing Projects

Agency	Project Name
Catholic Charities Monmouth ECS	CCME Monmouth Linkages
Monmouth Neighborhood House	MNH Manna House