



# Ocean 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 Ocean County CoC 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

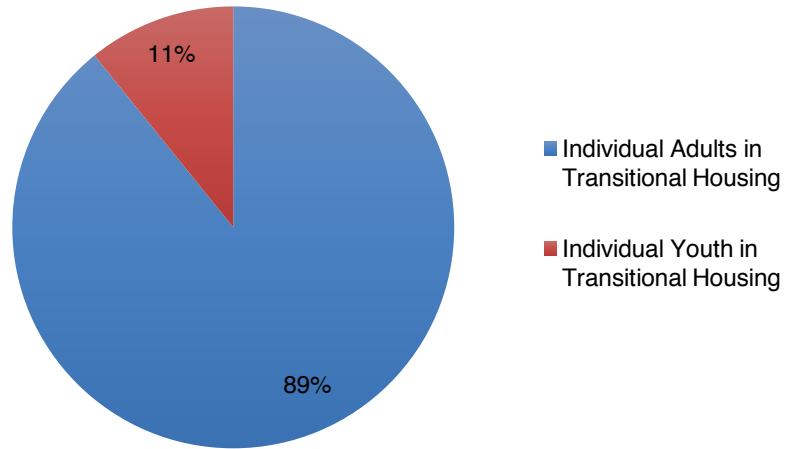
### Key Findings:

- A total of 37 households were served in HMIS participating transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 period
- There were 0 households identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period
- 76% of all adults served either as individuals or as part of a family identified having a disabling condition
- 71% of households moved on to permanent destinations after discharge

**Total Homeless Population.**

A total of 37 households composed of 37 persons were housed in Ocean County CoC HMIS participating transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 reporting period. This is a 48% increase in the total number of households and persons from the 25 served from 2014. Out of the households served in 2015, the majority, 89% (33) were individual adults, while the remaining 11% (4) were individual youth under the age of 18.

**Fig. 1. Total Households Served**

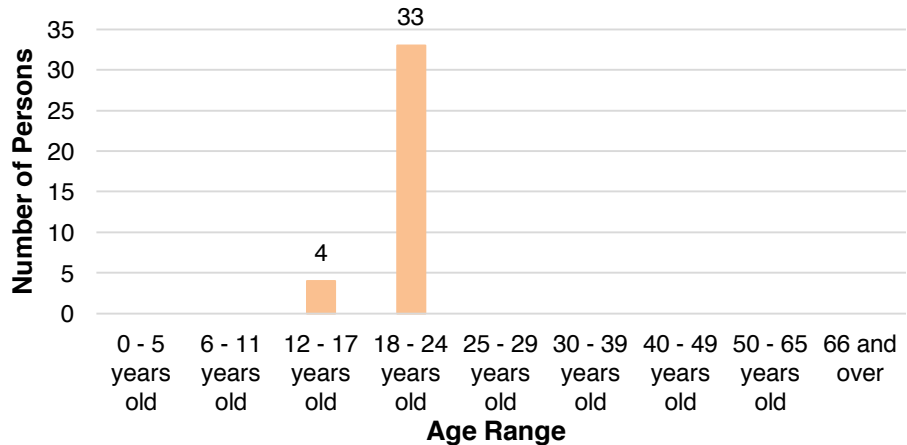


**Fig. 2 Total Persons Served**

	Ocean County	New Jersey
<b>Total Persons Served</b>	37	24,519
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	37	4,134
Individuals	37	2,116
Families	0	2,018

**Demographics.** Of the total homeless population that was served in Ocean County during 2015, the largest percent, 89%, of persons were between the ages of 18 and 24. As Figure 4 shows, the remaining 4 persons were individual youth under 18.

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

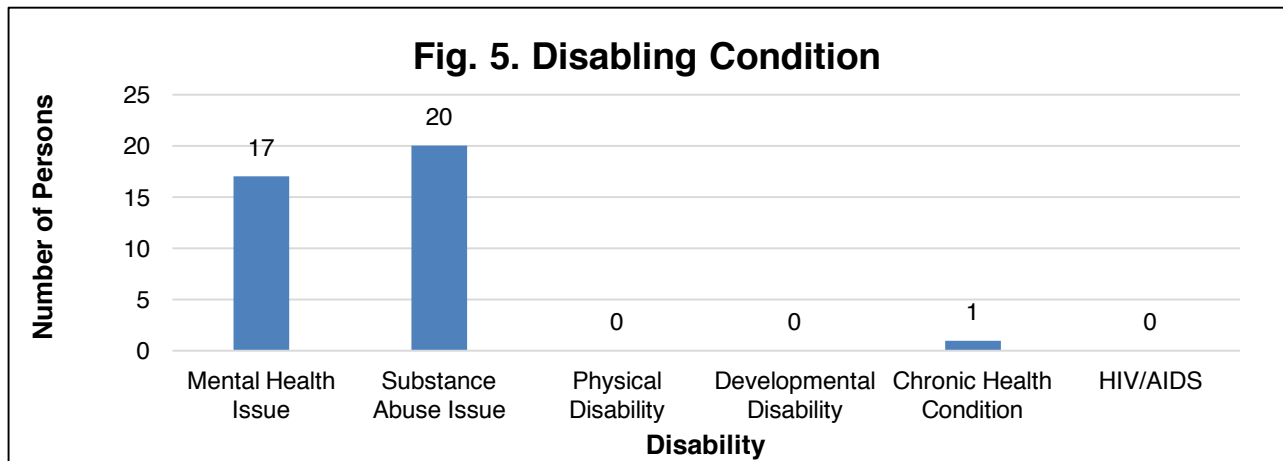


Similar to the 2014 numbers, just over half (57%) of the homeless persons served in Ocean County CoC HMIS participating projects were male, with women representing 43% of the population.

In addition, 68% 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 (30%). With regards to ethnicity, 27% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

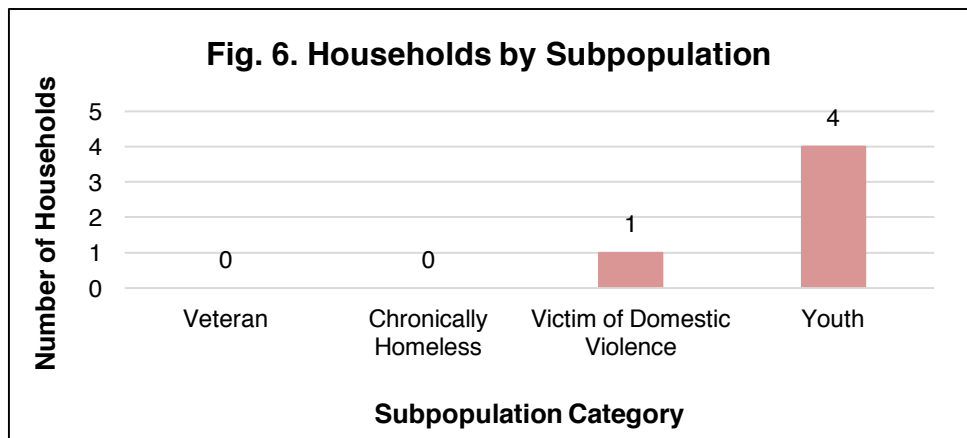
**Disabling Conditions.** Among all persons served throughout Ocean County’s HMIS transitional housing projects, 73% identified having a disabling condition, this number includes 76% of adults and 50% of children.

Among disabled adults, 72% reported a substance abuse issue, making this the most prevalent disability; representing 55% of the total adult homeless population. 64% of disabled adults also reported a mental health issue. Among disabled children, 100% reported a substance abuse issue. Another 50% of disabled children 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



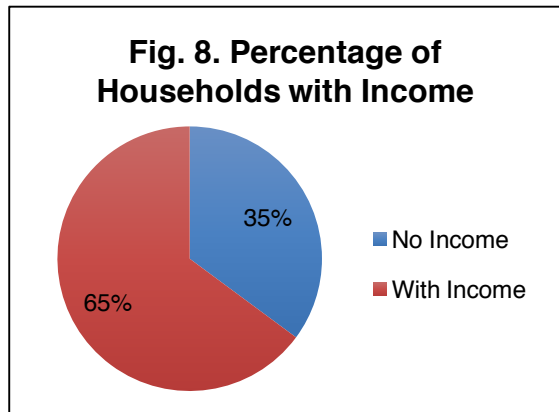
chronic homelessness across the Country. In 2015, Ocean CoC found 0 chronically homeless households among those served in their transitional housing projects.

Youth only households, households without someone over age 18, represented 11% of the total households served throughout Ocean HMIS projects. These households were composed of 4 individual youth.

Ocean County HMIS participating transitional housing projects did not serve any veteran households during the 2015 reporting period.

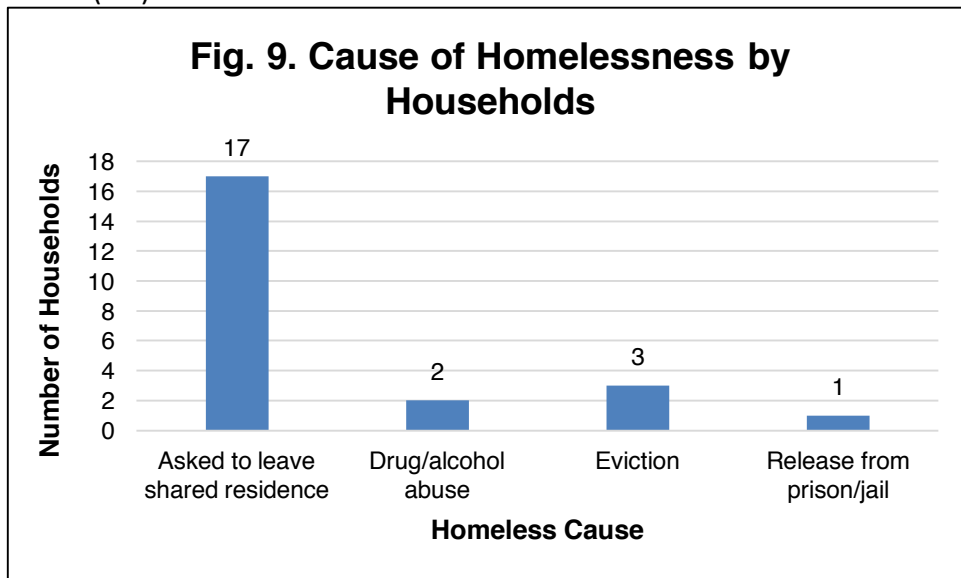
In addition to these subpopulations, there was 1 homeless individual that reported being a victim of domestic violence that was served in an Ocean CoC transitional housing project. As a note, while there are victims of domestic violence being served in HMIS participating agencies, due to federal regulations, 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 2015, 35% had no source of income, while 62% reported receiving some form of earned income. The most common sources of cash income among households were earned income (62%) and SSI or SSDI, reported by 3% each. The average monthly income for households in transitional housing was \$983.



While 65% of households had some source of income, 89% of households were receiving some kind of non-cash benefit. Medicaid was the top reported non-cash benefit, reported by 70% of households, followed by State Children’s Health Insurance, reported by 24%.

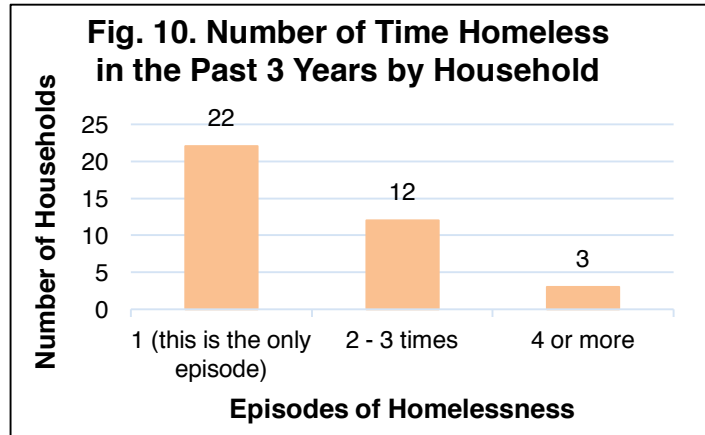
**Cause of Homelessness and Residence Prior to Project Entry.** When asked what the primary factor was that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households attributed their homelessness to being asked to leave a shared residence (46%) than any other cause. As Figure 9 shows, the next most common factors were eviction (8%) and drug or alcohol abuse (5%).



The most common response for residence prior to project entry was staying or living with family or friends, with 46% of households. The next most common response was emergency shelter (22%) followed by substance abuse treatment facility or detox center (11%).

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

16% of households served during 2015 had stated they resided in their last residence for one year or longer before entering the transitional housing project, while 8% were there one week or less. Additionally, only 8% of households experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years, while 59% of households were experiencing their first episode of homelessness prior to project entry, as shown in Figure 10.

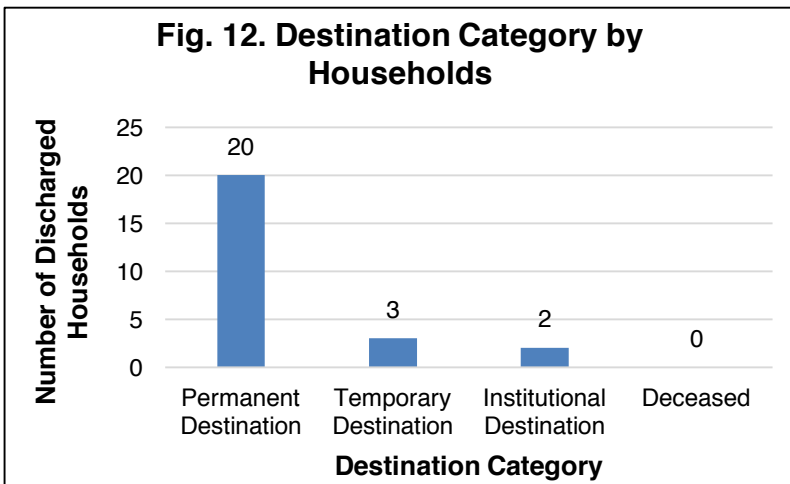


**Average Length of Project Stay.**

When looking at total length of project stay, individuals in transitional housing projects stayed for an average of 118 days, or 4 months before leaving the project, this is a 102 day, or 3 month, decrease from the 2014 average.

**Reason and Destination at Discharge.**

A total of 28 households were discharged from transitional housing projects during the 2015 reporting period. 32% of these households left for a housing opportunity prior to project completion, while 25% 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.

71% 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 living with friends or family with 57% of total households reporting this destination. 11% 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 staying with friends and family, which was reported by 11% of households. An institutional destination, which was the destination of 2 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. 1 household reported a foster care home while the other was discharged to a psychiatric facility.



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

**I. Transitional Housing Projects**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project Name</b>
Ocean's Harbor House	OHH Transitional Living Program