



# **Passaic 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 Passaic 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 627 households were served in HMIS participating emergency shelter and transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 period
- There were 95 households identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period
- 47% 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 627 households composed of 1,062 persons were housed in Passaic County CoC HMIS participating emergency shelter or transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 reporting period. This is a 6% decrease in the total number of households served from 2014 but a 4% increase from the

1,023 persons served in 2014. Out of the households served in 2015, the majority, 62% (391) were individuals, while the remaining 38% (236 households) were families. As shown in Figure 1, the most served population was individuals in emergency shelter projects, which accounted for 61% of the total population.

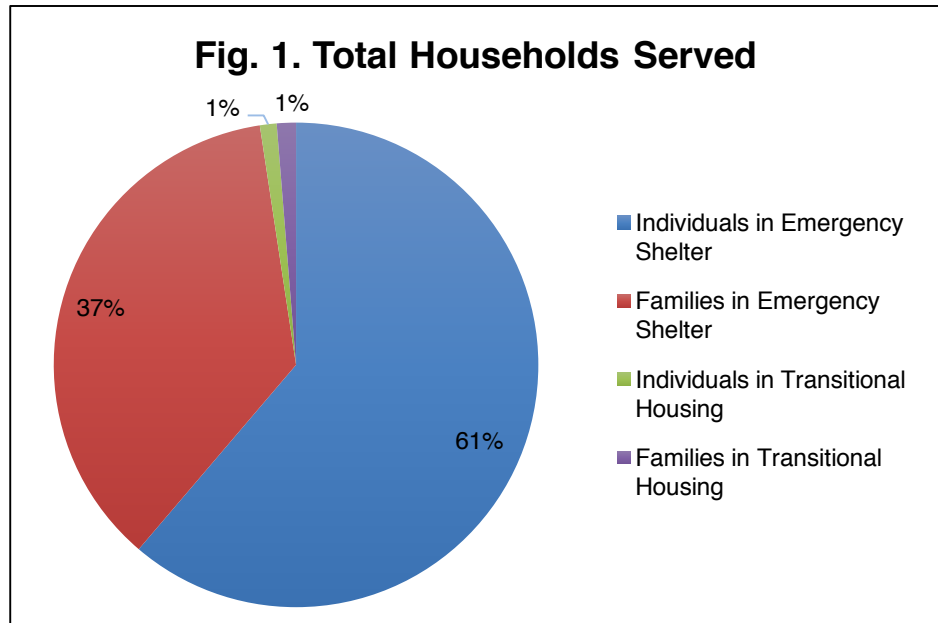
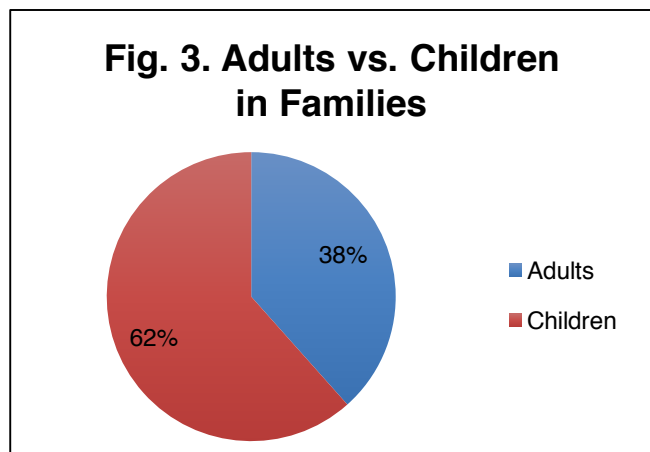
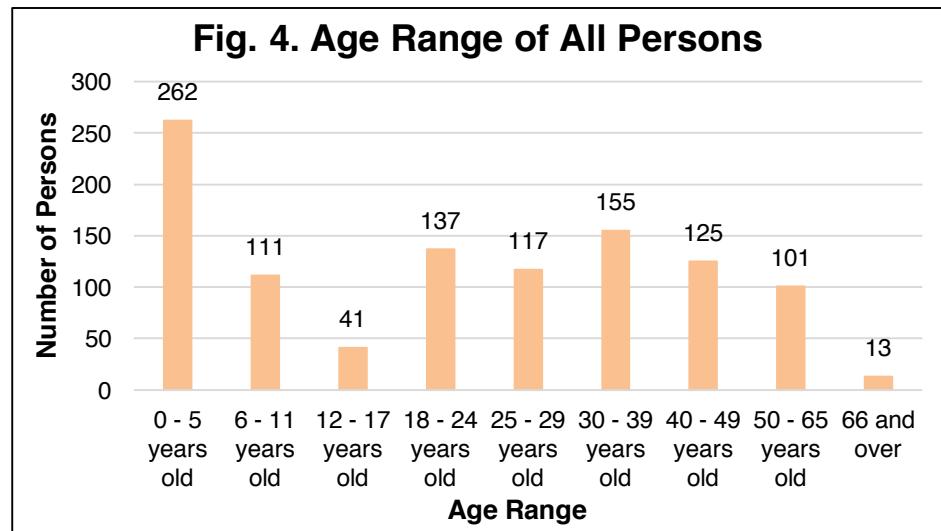


Fig. 2 Total Persons Served		
	Passaic County	New Jersey
<b>Total Persons Served</b>	1,062	24,519
<b>Emergency Shelter</b>	1,037	20,337
Individuals	384	13,108
Families	653	7,229
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	25	4,134
Individuals	7	2,116
Families	8	2,018

**Family Composition.** Of the 236 family households served throughout Passaic County in 2015, 235 (99.6%) were households with adults and children under 18, while the last was a youth only household. As shown in Figure 3, children represented 62% 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 Passaic County CoC during 2015, the largest percent, 39%, 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 24% of the total population.

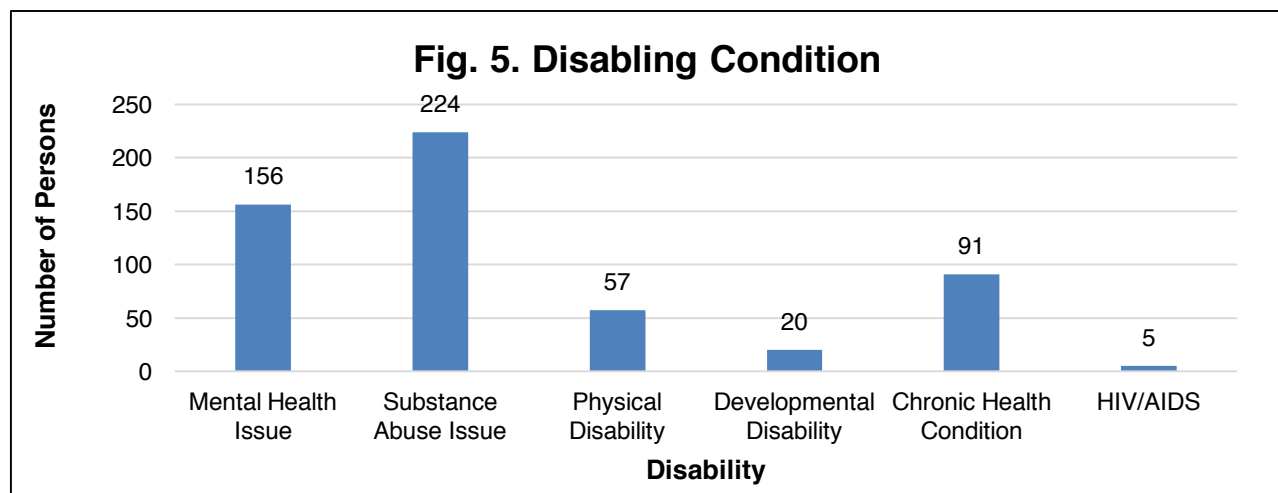


Similar to the 2014 numbers, more than half (58%) of the homeless persons served in Passaic County HMIS participating projects were female, with men representing 42% of the population.

In addition, 55% 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 (40%), followed by American Indian or Alaskan Native with 3%. With regards to ethnicity, 35% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

**Disabling Conditions.** Among all persons served throughout Passaic County's HMIS emergency shelter and transitional housing projects, 30% identified having a disabling condition, this number includes 47% of adults and 3% of children.

Among disabled adults, 73% reported a substance abuse issue, making this the most prevalent disability; representing 35% of the total adult homeless population. 49% of disabled adults also reported a mental health issue. Among disabled children, 54% reported a chronic health condition. Another 38% of disabled children reported a mental health issue.



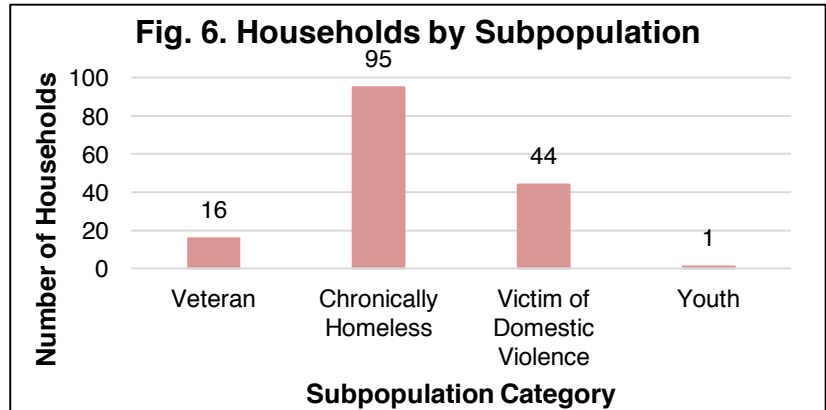
### Subpopulation Characteristics.

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, Passaic County CoC projects served a total of 95 households that

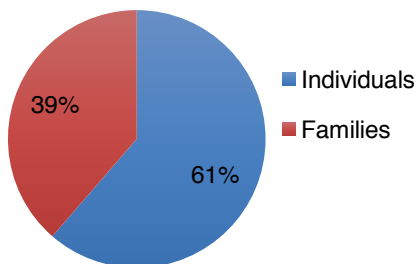
were identified as chronically homeless, an increase of 50 from the 45 chronically homeless households served in 2014. 96% of the chronic households were served in emergency shelters in 2015 (4 were families). The remaining 4% were families served in transitional housing.

There was 1 youth only family household, a household without someone over age 18, served in an emergency shelter in Passaic County CoC in 2015.

As far as veterans served, Passaic County projects served a total of 16 veterans throughout 2015. 75% of veterans served were individuals and 44% were female. All of the veterans served were served in emergency shelter projects. 56% of veterans reported having some kind of disability, with the most common disability reported being a substance abuse issue (78%).



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

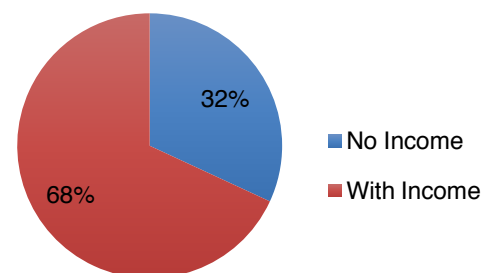


In addition to the chronic, youth and veteran populations, there were 44 homeless households that reported having a victim of domestic violence. 61% of these households were individuals, while the remaining 17 were families. 36% reported that the last episode of domestic violence occurred over a year ago, while 43% reported it happening within the past 3 months. All of the 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.

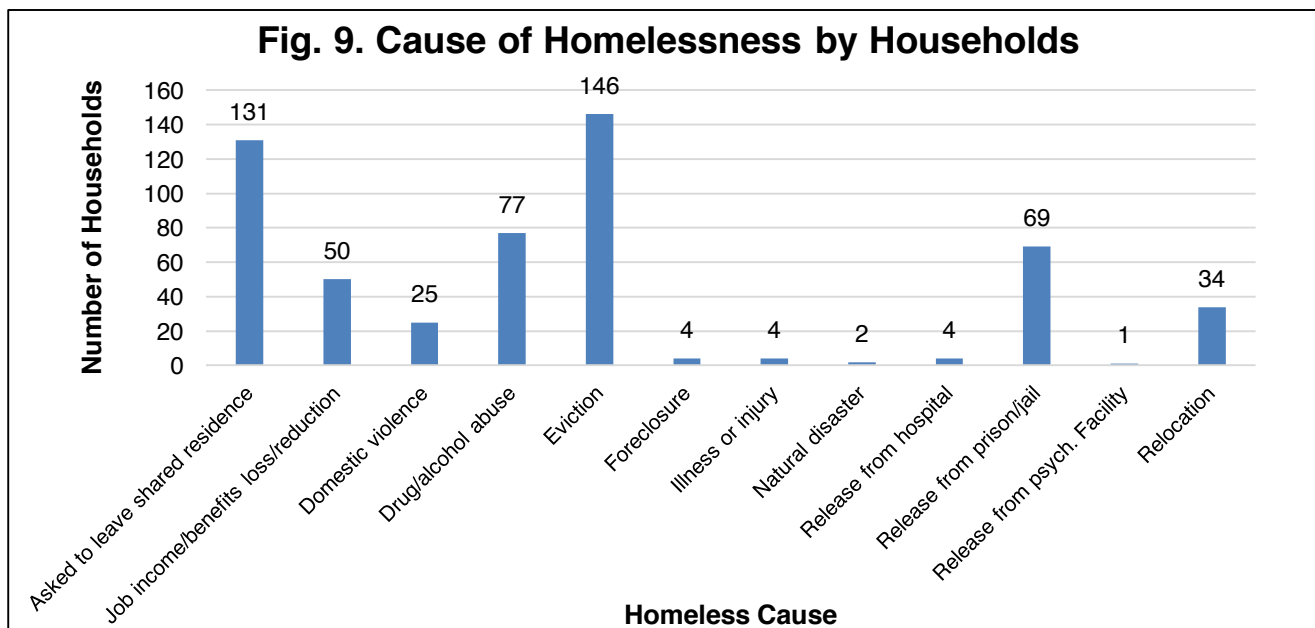
**Income and Benefits.** Among all homeless households served in emergency shelter or transitional housing projects during 2015, 32% had no source of income, while 9% reported receiving some form of earned income. The most common sources of cash income among households were TANF (29%) and SSI (26%). The average monthly income for households was \$287 for emergency shelter and \$361 for households served in transitional housing projects.

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



While 68% of households had some source of income, 75% of households were receiving some kind of non-cash benefit. Medicaid was the top reported non-cash benefit, reported by 65% of households, followed by Food Stamps, reported by 63%.

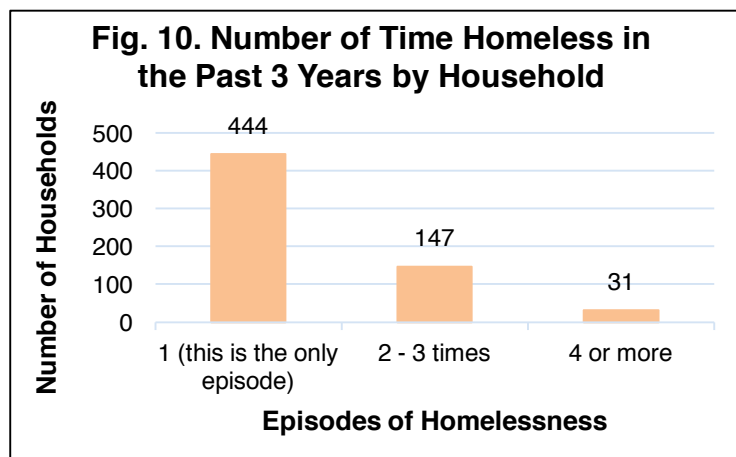
**Cause of Homelessness and Residence Prior to Project Entry.** When asked what the primary factor was that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households attributed their homelessness to eviction (23%) than any other cause. As Figure 9 shows, the next most common factors were being asked to leave a shared residence (21%) and release from prison or jail (11%).



The most common response for residence prior to project entry was staying or living with family or friends, with 49% of households. The next most common response was rental by client (18%) followed by emergency shelter (10%).

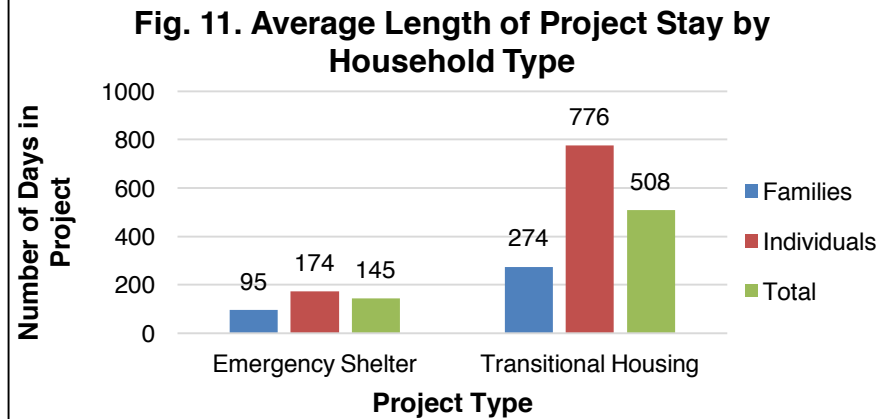
### Length of Stay at Prior Residence and Episodes of Homelessness.

30% 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 17% were there one week or less. Additionally, only 5% of households experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years, while 71% of households were experiencing their first episode of homelessness prior to project entry, as shown in Figure 10.

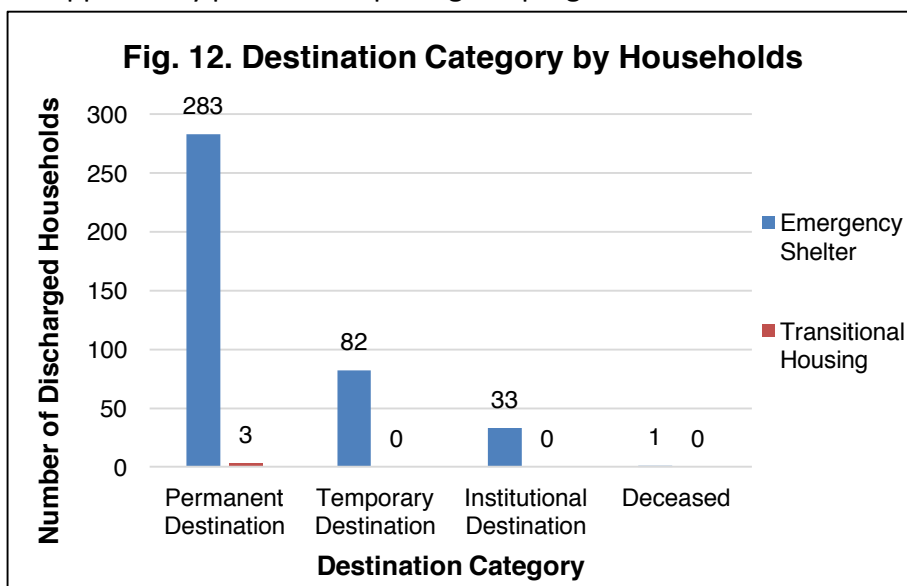


### Average Length of Project Stay.

When looking at total length of project stay, individuals seemed to have longer lengths of program stays in both emergency shelter and transitional housing projects. When comparing the average lengths of stay in 2015 to those in 2014, the average length of stay increased by 18 days for emergency shelter and 271 days, or almost 9 months, for transitional housing projects in 2015.



**Reason and Destination at Discharge.** A total of 470 households were discharged from emergency shelter and transitional housing projects during the 2015 reporting period. 31% of these households were discharged upon project completion, while another 31% left for a housing opportunity prior to completing the program.



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 49% 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 staying with friends or family, which was reported by 10% of households. An institutional destination, which was the destination of 7% 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 jail or prison with 18 households being discharged to this location.

**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 Womens Overnight Shelter
Family Promise of Passaic County	FPPC – Family Promise of Passaic County
Hispanic Multi-Purpose Ctr.	H.M.P.S.C. Switch Program
Paterson Task Force	PatersonTaskForce –Hilltop Haven FS
St. Paul's CDC	St. Paul's Emergency Men's Shelter
St. Peter's Haven	St. Peters 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
NJ Community Development Corp.	NJCDC-Independence House