



Salem 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 Salem 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 30 households were served in HMIS participating emergency shelter and transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 period
- There were 5 households identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period
- 38% of all adults served either as individuals or as part of a family identified having a disabling condition
- 36% of households moved on to permanent destinations after discharge

Total Homeless Population.

A total of 30 households composed of 78 persons were housed in Salem County CoC HMIS participating emergency shelter or transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 reporting period. This is a 3% increase in the total number of households served from 2014 and an 8% increase from the 72

persons served in 2014. Out of the households served in 2015, the majority, 57% (17 households) were families, while the remaining 43% (13) were individuals. As shown in Figure 1, the most served population was individuals in transitional housing projects, which accounted for 40% of the total population.

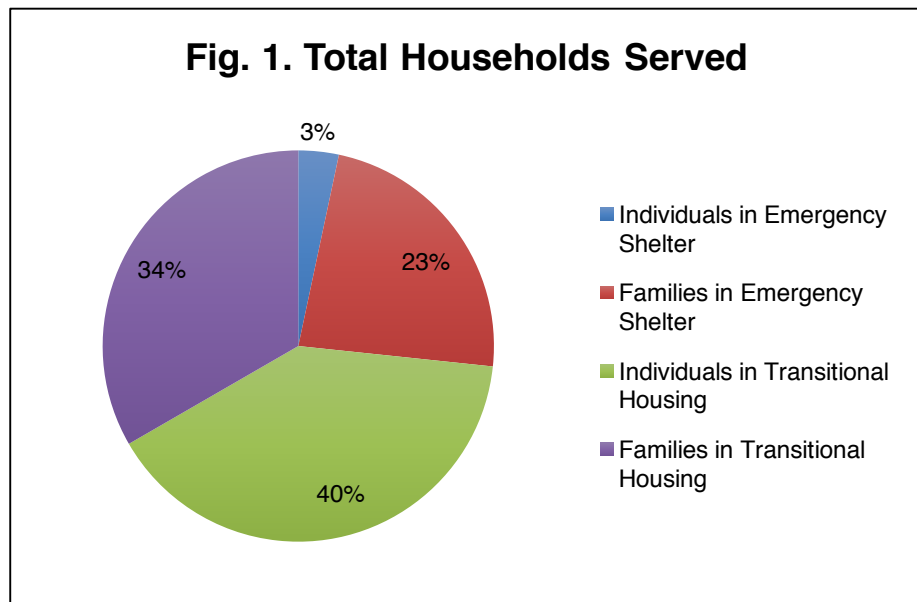
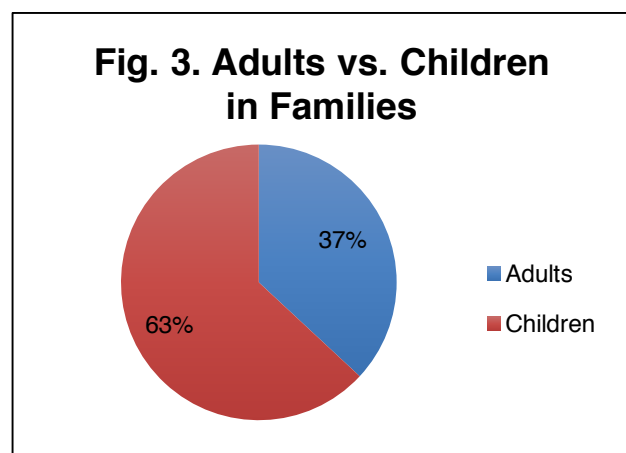


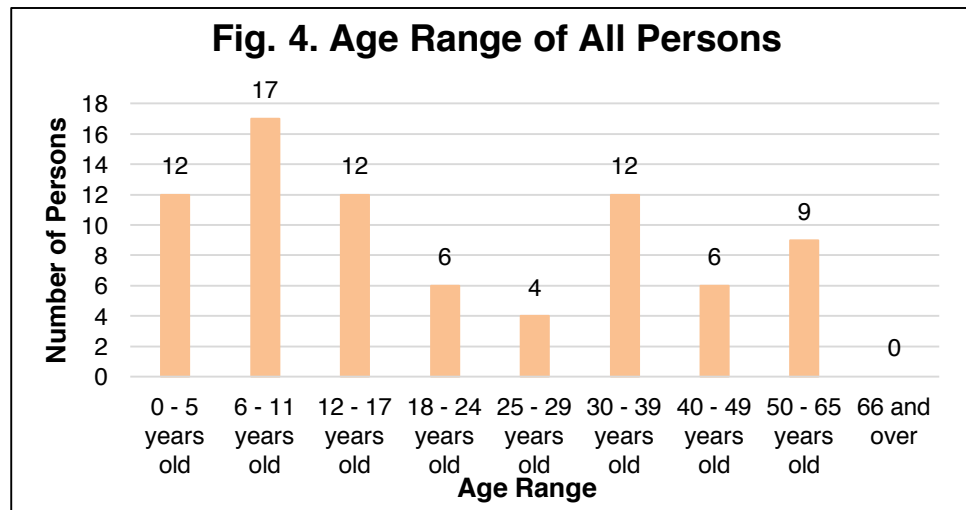
Fig. 2 Total Persons Served		
	Salem County	New Jersey
Total Persons Served	78	24,519
Emergency Shelter	34	20,337
Individuals	1	13,108
Families	33	7,229
Transitional Housing	44	4,134
Individuals	12	2,116
Families	32	2,018

Family Composition. Of the 17 family households served throughout Salem County in 2015, all were households with adults and children under 18. As shown in Figure 3, children represented 63% of the persons included in adult and children families. The average size of a homeless family in 2015 was 4 and the average age of a child served between the two project types was 8 years old.



Demographics.

Of the total homeless population that was served in Salem County CoC during 2015, the largest percent, 53%, 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 30 and 39, which represented 15% of the total population.

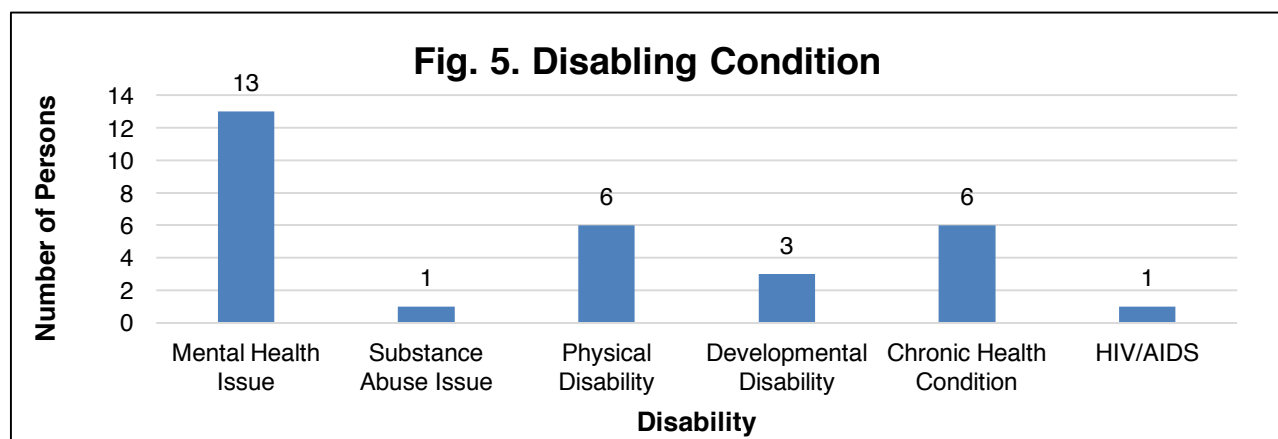


Different from 2014, just over half (53%) of the homeless persons served in Salem County HMIS participating projects were male, with women representing 47% of the population.

In addition, 62% 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 (28%), followed by Multi-Racial with 9%. With regards to ethnicity, 14% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

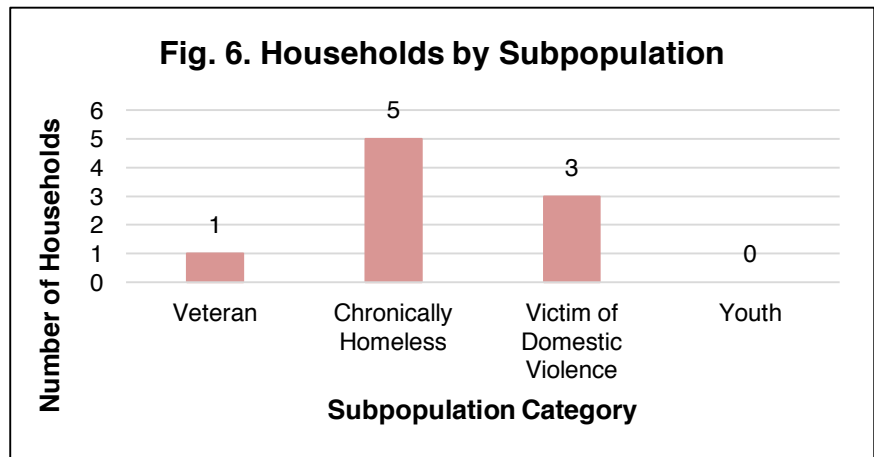
Disabling Conditions. Among all persons served throughout Salem County's HMIS emergency shelter and transitional housing projects, 22% identified having a disabling condition, this number includes 38% of adults and 7% of children.

Among disabled adults, 71% reported a mental health issue, making this the most prevalent disability; representing 27% of the total adult homeless population. 36% of disabled adults also reported a physical disability or a chronic health condition. 100% of disabled children reported a mental health issue. Another 67% of disabled children reported a developmental disability.



Subpopulation

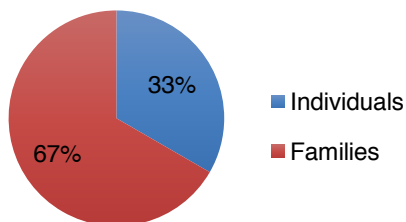
Characteristics. In its plan, Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has prioritized ending youth, veteran and chronic homelessness across the Country. In 2015, Salem County CoC projects served a total of 5 households that were identified as chronically homeless, matching the 5 chronically homeless households served in 2014. All of the chronic households served in 2015 were served in transitional housing projects. 1 of the 5 households was a family.



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

As far as veterans served, Salem County projects served 1 individual veteran throughout 2015. This veteran was a non-disabled male served in a transitional housing project.

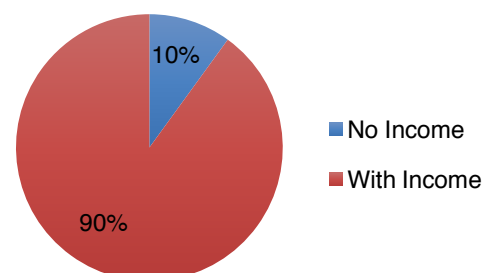
Fig. 7. Household Type Among Victims of Domestic Violence



In addition to the chronic, youth and veteran populations, there were 3 homeless households that reported having a victim of domestic violence. 67% of these households were families, while the remaining 1 was an individual. 33% reported that the last episode of domestic violence occurred over a year ago, while 67% reported it happening 6 to 12 months ago. All of the domestic violence victims were served in transitional housing projects. 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.

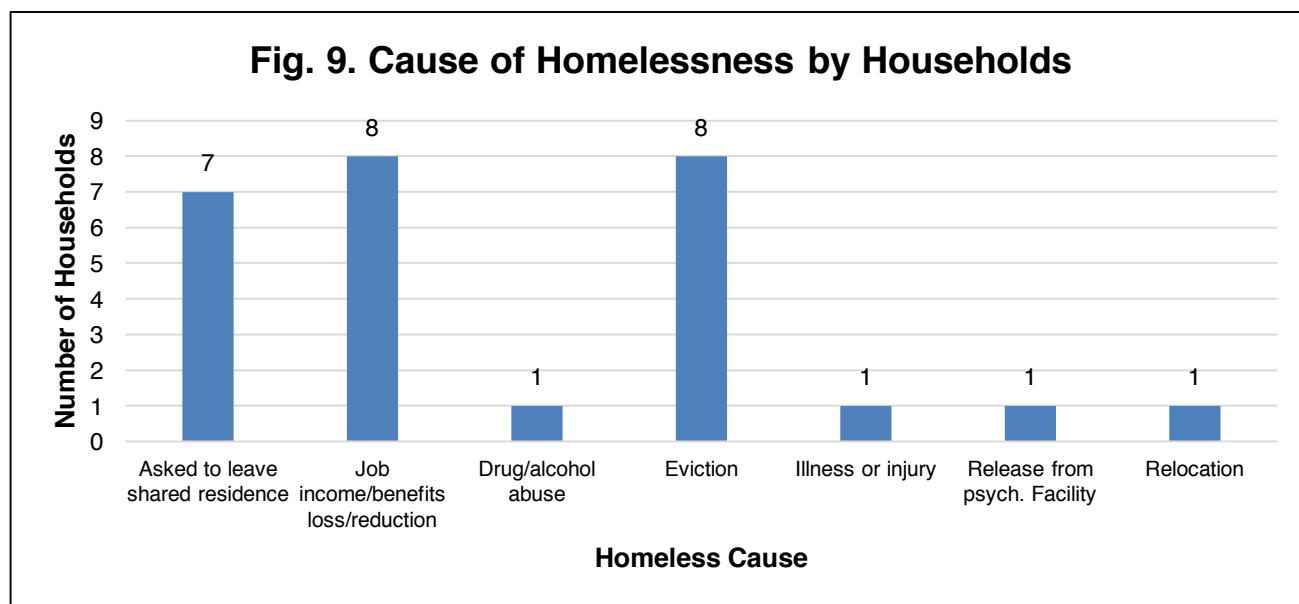
Income and Benefits. Among all homeless households served in emergency shelter or transitional housing projects during 2015, 10% had no source of income, while 47% reported receiving some form of earned income. The most common sources of cash income among households were earned income (47%) and SSI (33%). The average monthly income for households was \$775 for emergency shelter and \$707 for households served in transitional housing projects.

Fig. 8. Percentage of Households with Income



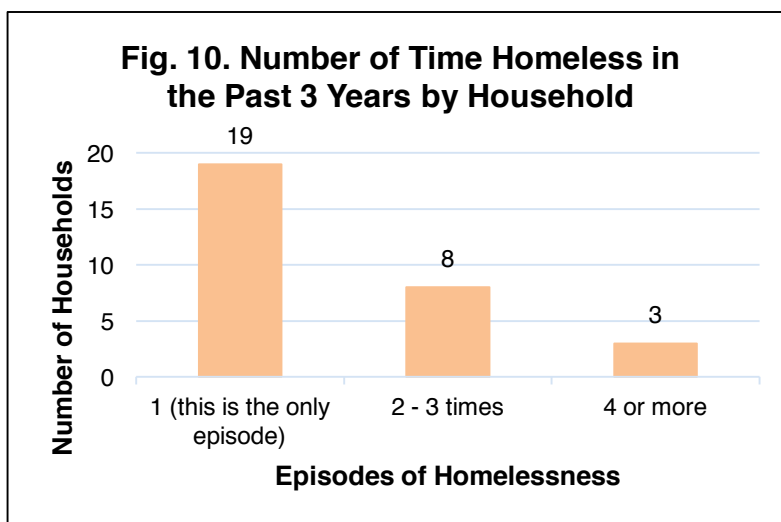
While 90% of households had some source of income, 97% of households were receiving some kind of non-cash benefit. Medicaid was the top reported non-cash benefit, reported by 83% of households, followed by Food Stamps, reported by 70%.

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 or job income or benefits loss or reduction (27% each) than any other cause. As Figure 9 shows, the next most common factor was being asked to leave a shared residence (23%).



The most common response for residence prior to project entry was staying or living with friends or family, with 63% of households. The next most common response was rental by client (13%).

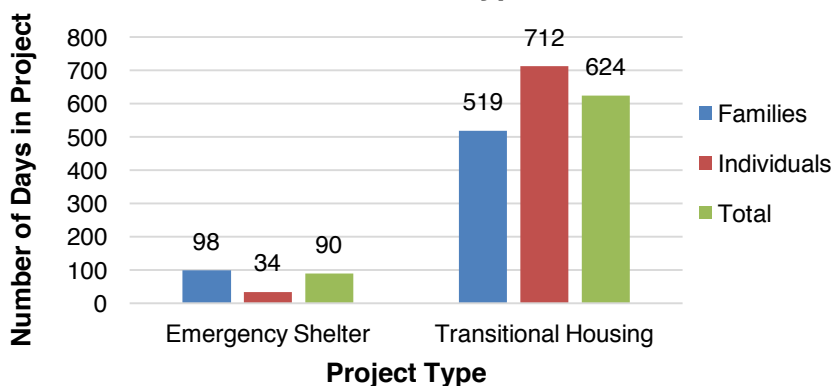
Length of Stay at Prior Residence and Episodes of Homelessness. 50% of households served during 2015 had stated they resided in their last residence for one year or longer before entering the emergency shelter or transitional housing project, while 10% were there one week or less. Additionally, only 10% of households experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years, while 63% 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 16 days for emergency shelter but increased by 41 days for transitional housing projects in 2015.

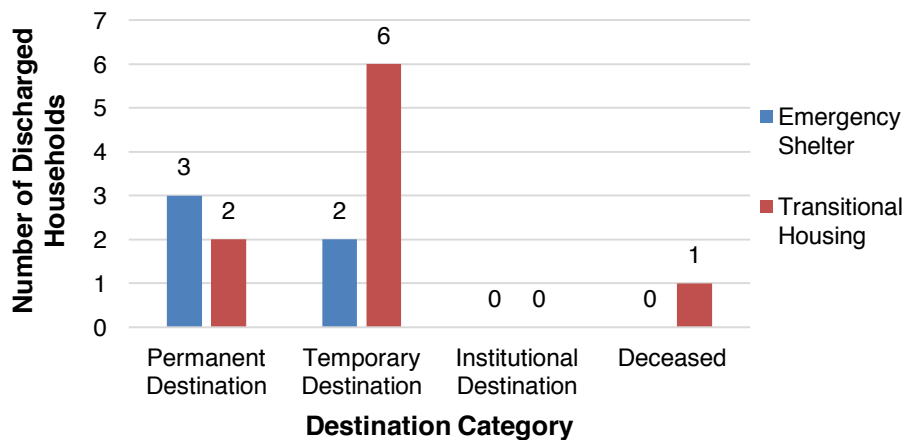
Fig. 11. Average Length of Project Stay by Household Type



Reason and Destination at Discharge.

A total of 14 households were discharged from emergency shelter and transitional housing projects during the 2015 reporting period. 43% of these households were discharged due to non-compliance, while 21% were discharged upon program 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.

36% 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 29% of total households moving into a rental upon discharge. This rental could be with or without a subsidy. 57% 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 50% of households. An institutional destination, which was the destination of 0 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.

Appendix A: HMIS Projects Included in Report**I. Emergency Shelter Projects**

Agency	Project Name
Family Promise of Salem County	FPSC-Family Promise of Salem County

II. Transitional Housing Projects

Agency	Project Name
Salem County IAC Leased Apts Program	IAC Leased Apts/Homes Program