



Southern NJ CoC 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 Southern NJ 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

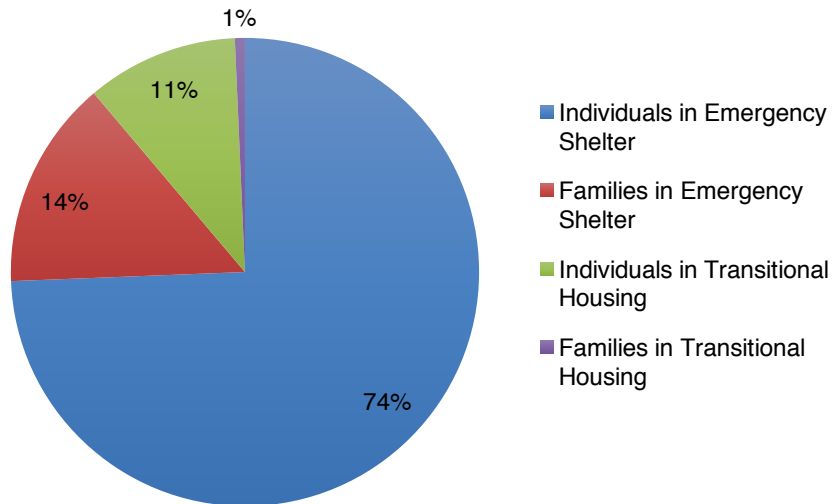
Key Findings:

- A total of 3,466 households were served in HMIS participating emergency shelter and transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 period
- There were 134 households identified as chronically homeless during this reporting period
- 41% of all adults served either as individuals or as part of a family identified having a disabling condition
- 30% of households moved on to permanent destinations after discharge

Total Homeless Population.

A total of 3,466 households composed of 4,419 persons were housed in Southern NJ CoC, composed of Camden, Gloucester, Cumberland and Cape May counties, HMIS participating emergency shelter or transitional housing projects during the January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 reporting period. This is a 12% decrease in the total number of households

Fig. 1. Total Households Served



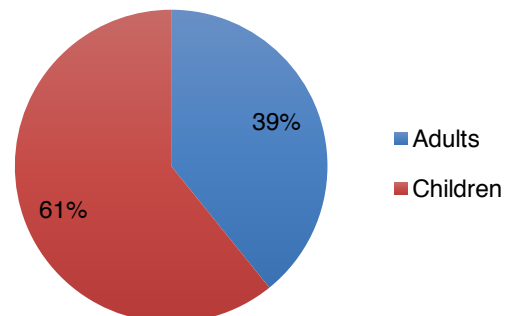
served from 2014 and an 8% decrease from the 4,783 persons served in 2014. Out of the households served in 2015, the large majority, 85% (2,941) were individuals, while the remaining 15% (525 households) were families. As shown in Figure 1, the most served population was individuals in emergency shelter projects, which accounted for 74% of the total population.

Fig. 2 Total Persons Served

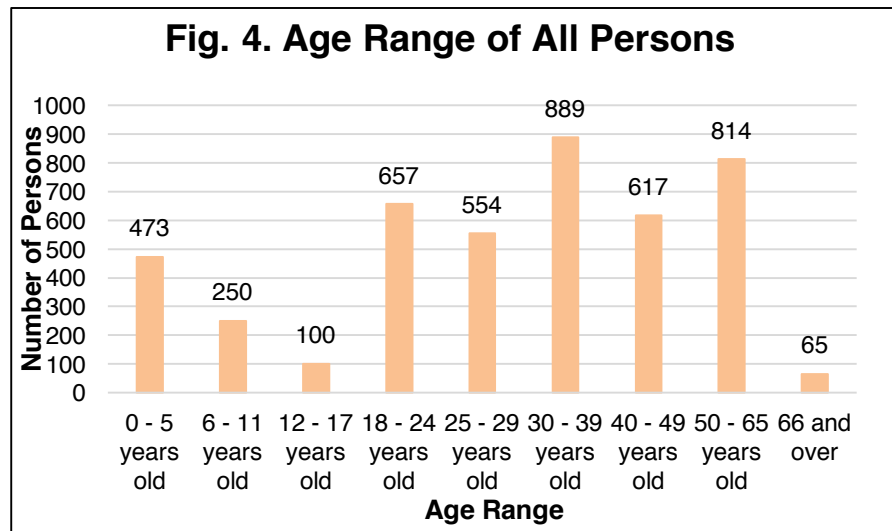
	Southern NJ CoC	New Jersey
Total Persons Served	4,419	24,519
Emergency Shelter	3,958	20,337
Individuals	2,578	13,108
Families	1,380	7,229
Transitional Housing	461	4,134
Individuals	363	2,116
Families	98	2,018

Family Composition. Of the 525 family households served throughout Southern NJ CoC in 2015, 463 (88%) were households with adults and children under 18, while the remaining 62 (12%) were adult only households. 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 6 years old.

Fig. 3. Adults vs. Children in Families



Demographics. Of the total homeless population that was served in Southern NJ CoC during 2015, the largest percent, 27%, of persons were between the ages of 18 and 29. As Figure 4 shows, the next highest age range served was persons between the ages of 30 and 39, which represented 20% of the total population.

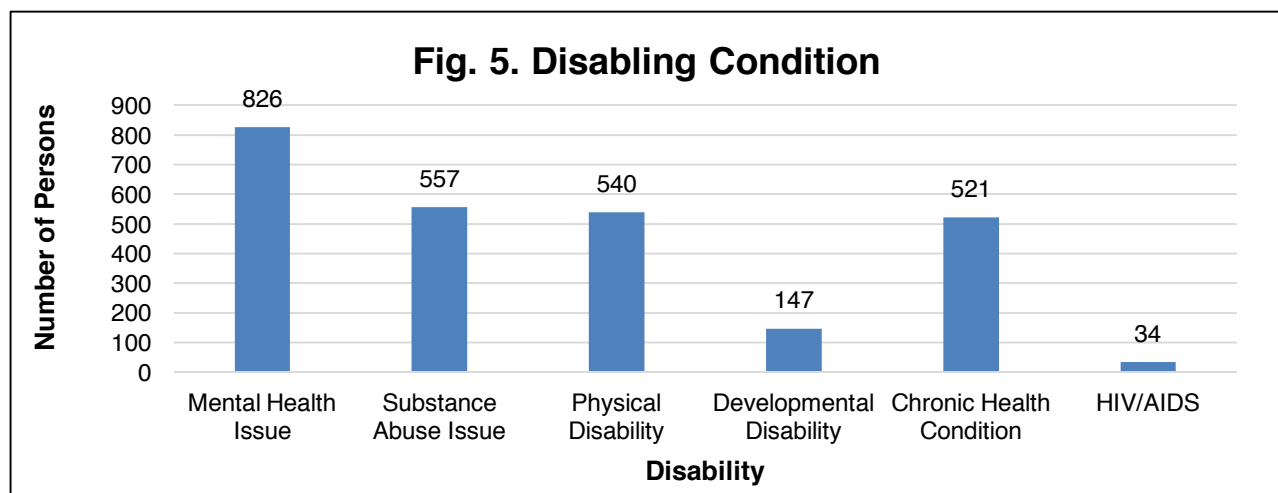


Similar to the 2014 numbers, just over half (58%) of the homeless persons served in Southern NJ CoC HMIS participating projects were male, with women representing 42% of the population.

In addition, 53% 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 (42%), followed by Multi-Racial with 2%. With regards to ethnicity, 14% identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

Disabling Conditions. Among all persons served throughout Southern NJ CoC's HMIS emergency shelter and transitional housing projects, 34% identified having a disabling condition, this number includes 41% of adults and 5% of children.

Among disabled adults, 55% reported a mental health issue, making this the most prevalent disability; representing 23% of the total adult homeless population. 38% of disabled adults also reported a substance abuse issue. Among disabled children, 44% reported a chronic health condition. Another 41% 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, Southern NJ CoC projects served a total of 134 households that

were identified as chronically homeless, a 36% decrease from the 208 served in 2014. 70% of the chronic households served in 2015 were in emergency shelters (7 were families). The remaining 30% were served in transitional housing (1 was a family).

There were 2 individual youth households, households without someone over age 18, served in Southern NJ CoC in 2015. 1 was served in emergency shelter, the other in transitional housing.

As far as veterans served, Southern NJ CoC projects served a total of 331 veterans throughout 2015. 97% of veterans served were individuals and only 6% were female. 72% of the veterans served were served in transitional housing projects. 69% of veterans reported having some kind of disability, with the most common disability reported being a mental health issue (57%).

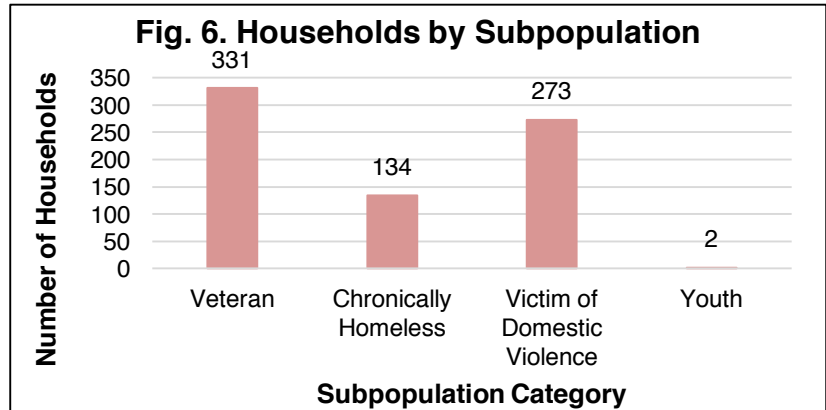
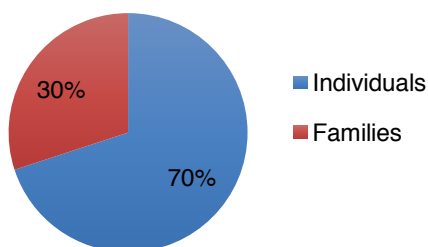


Fig. 7. Household Type Among Victims of Domestic Violence

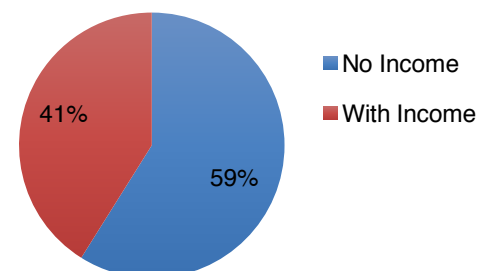


In addition to the chronic, youth and veteran populations, there were 273 homeless households that reported having a victim of domestic violence. 70% of these households were individuals, while the remaining 82 were families. 25% reported that the last episode of domestic violence occurred over a year ago, while 38% reported it happening within the past 3 months. The majority of the domestic violence victims (96%) 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.

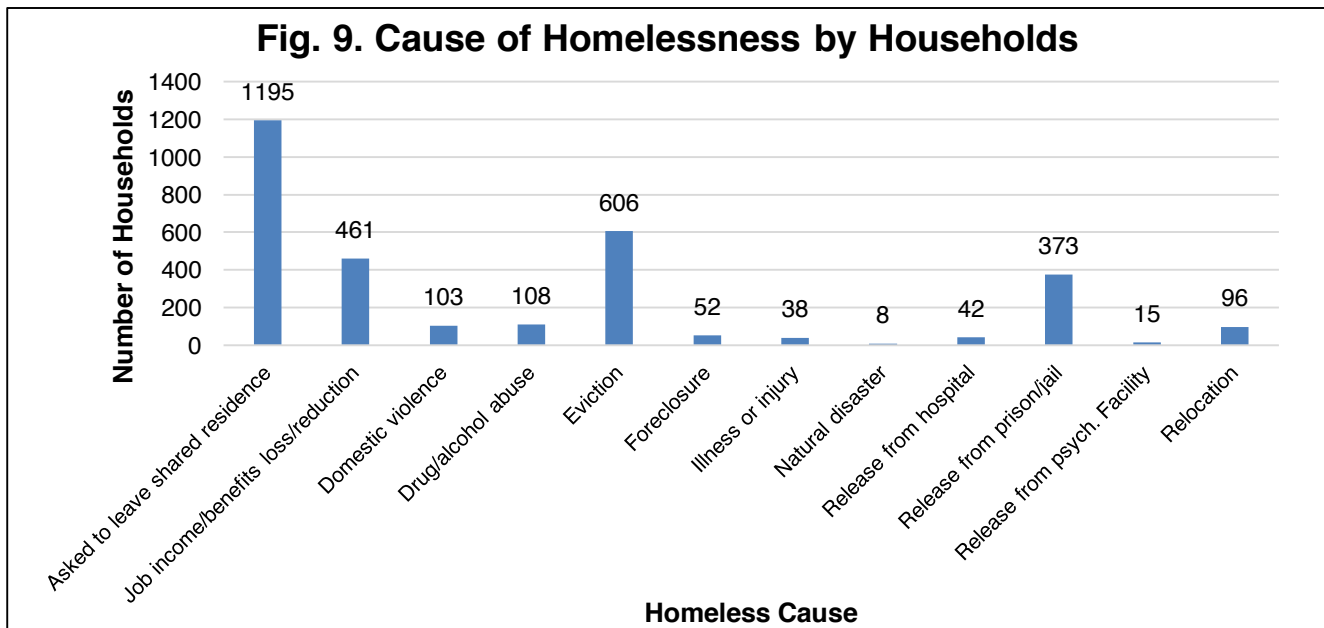
Income and Benefits. Among all homeless households served in emergency shelter or transitional housing projects during 2015, 59% had no source of income, while 8% reported receiving some form of earned income. The most common sources of cash income among households were SSI (20%) and general assistance (11%). The average monthly income for households was \$197 for emergency shelter and \$791 for households served in transitional housing projects.

Fig. 8. Percentage of Households with Income



While 41% of households had some source of income, 62% of households were receiving some kind of non-cash benefit. Medicaid was the top reported non-cash benefit, reported by 42% of households, followed by Food Stamps, reported by 38%.

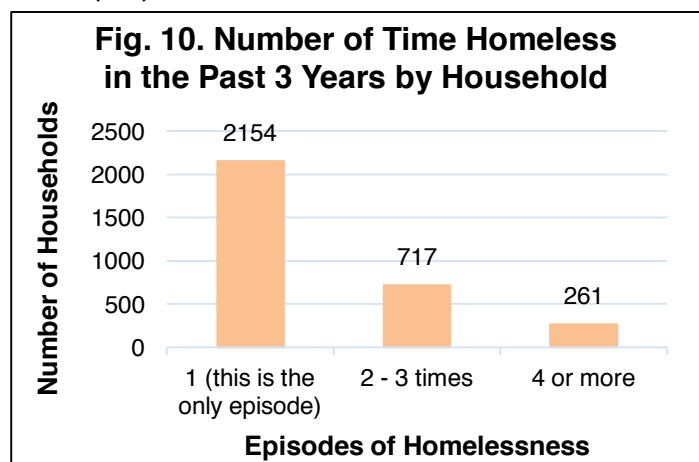
Cause of Homelessness and Residence Prior to Project Entry. When asked what the primary factor was that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households attributed their homelessness to being asked to leave a shared residence (34%) than any other cause. As Figure 9 shows, the next most common factors were eviction (17%) and job income or benefits loss or reduction (13%).



The most common response for residence prior to project entry was staying or living with friends or family, with 46% of households. The next most common response was emergency shelter (17%) followed by a place not meant for human habitation (9%).

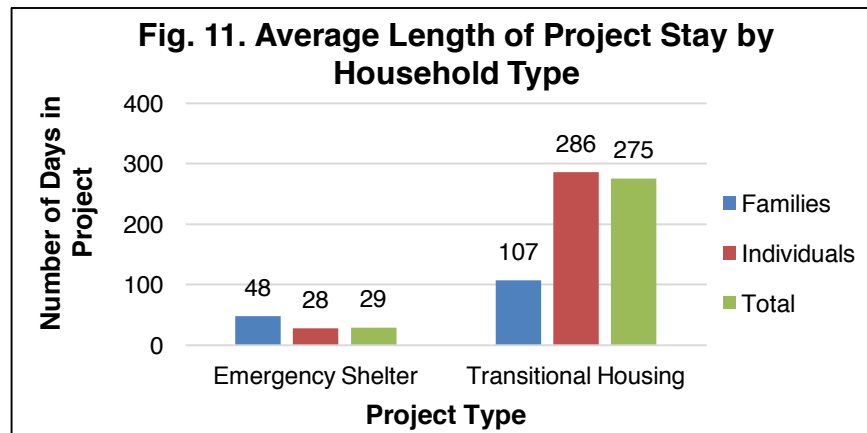
Length of Stay at Prior Residence and Episodes of Homelessness.

27% 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 16% were there one week or less. Additionally, only 8% of households experienced 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years, while 62% of households were experiencing their first episode of homelessness prior to project entry, as shown in Figure 10.

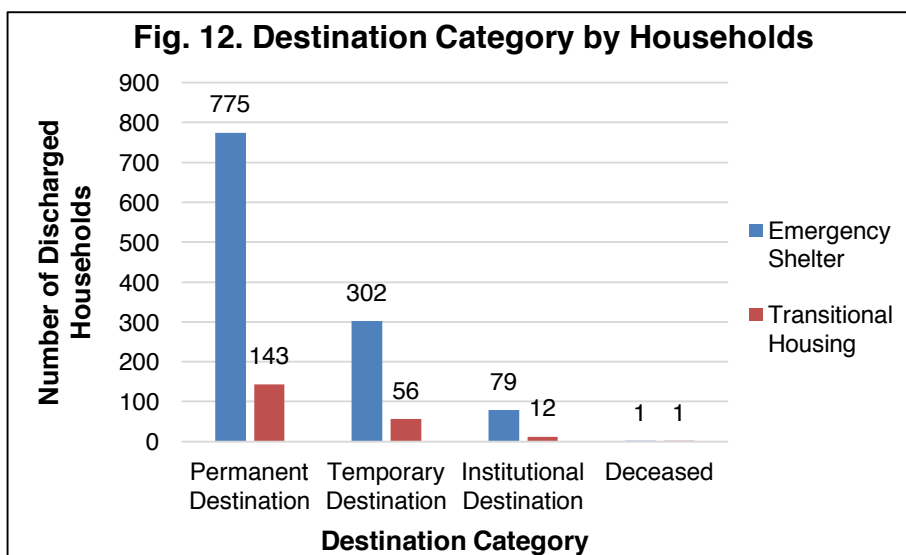


Average Length of Project Stay.

When looking at total length of project stay, families seemed to have longer lengths of program stay in emergency shelters 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 72 days for emergency shelters but increased by 28 days for transitional housing projects in 2015.



Reason and Destination at Discharge. A total of 3,092 households were discharged from emergency shelter and transitional housing projects during the 2015 reporting period. 37% of these households were discharged upon project completion, while 16% were discharged due to reaching the maximum time they could stay in the project.



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

30% 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 19% of total households moving into a rental upon discharge. This rental could be with or without a subsidy. 12% 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 6% 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. 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

Agency	Project Name
Cape May Board of Social Services	CMCBSS – Temporary Shelter
Center for Family Services	CFS-MCRS EA Families
Joseph’s House of Camden	JH – Nightly Shelter
Rural Development Corp.	RDC Cumberland Family Shelter
Tri-County Comm. Action Partnership Parvins Branch	TCCAP Hotel/Motel
VOADV	VOADV- Aletha Wright- Emergency Shelter
	VOADV-Anna Sample Family Shelter
	VOADV-Eleanor Corbett Emergency Shelter

II. Transitional Housing Projects

Agency	Project Name
Camden County OEO	CCCOEO Imani House Transitional Housing
Center for Family Services	CFS-Camden Grandslam Transitional Living
	CFS-Camden Homebase Group Home
	CFS-GrandSlam Supportive Apartment
	CFS-MCRS Transitional Housing
Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council	IHOC Network
	IHOC Transitional Housing
NJD Veterans Affairs	NJDMAVA – Veterans Haven
Tri-County Comm. Action Partnership Parvins Branch	TCCAP-TH
VOADV	VOADV Property Promise Program
	VOADV-Anna Sample Safe Haven 2
	VOADV-Anna Sample Safe Haven HUD
	VOADV-Anna Sample Transitional Living
	VOADV-Home for the Brave
	VOADV-Transition in Place