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NJ
2017
Counts!

Warren County's 2017 Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless

January 24, 2017

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This report was prepared for
The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency
by
Monarch Housing Associates

I. Introduction

NJ Counts 2017

NJ Counts 2017, New Jersey's annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Count of the Homeless, provides a statewide snapshot of homeless households in our communities; where they find shelter, what their needs are, and what factors contribute to making them homeless. The 2017 Count reveals important demographic and other information about families and individuals who were homeless on the night of Tuesday, January 24th, 2017 and was carried out with the help of government agencies, community-based organizations, and local volunteers.

In New Jersey, each County's count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally, and the information gathered enables each community to better allocate housing resources and services in order to prevent and end homelessness. The PIT Count is the primary opportunity throughout the year for most communities to take a comprehensive look at the total homeless population, and is especially crucial in assessing the needs of the unsheltered homeless.

Acknowledgements

Monarch would like to thank all Point-In-Time Coordinators, homeless service providers, agencies, and volunteers who participated in NJ Counts 2017. Monarch would also like to specifically thank Bergen County for providing a Spanish translation of the 2017 paper survey tool.

Finally, a special acknowledgement is given to all the respondents who were willing to share personal information about themselves and their households' experiences in order to help our communities better understand and assist the homeless.

Funding for coordinating New Jersey's 2017 Point-In-Time Count and producing this report was provided by New Jersey's Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA).

This Report

The findings in this report are presented in the following sections:

1. Total homeless population;
2. Those experiencing chronic homelessness (families and individuals that have been homeless for a year or longer, or who have experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years totaling at least 12 months, and have a disabled head of household); and
3. Unsheltered families and individuals;

The structure of this report is intended to provide not only an overall snapshot of the homeless population counted in the Point-In-Time, but also to focus attention on the homeless subpopulations that are the most in need, and those that represent federal funding priorities set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In addition to the main findings presented in the body of this report, Appendix A includes charts illustrating the responses to all survey questions that were part of the 2017 Point-In-Time Count.

II. Data Collection and Methodology

Requirements for the Count

As part of its Continuum of Care (CoC) application for homelessness funding, HUD requires that jurisdictions across the nation conduct a statistically reliable and unduplicated count of the homeless for one overnight period during the last 10 days of January. New Jersey's Continuums of Care (regional networks of organizations, agencies, and community stakeholders that plan local efforts to help the homeless) conduct an annual count of sheltered homeless persons (i.e. persons in emergency shelter, transitional housing for the homeless, and Safe Haven programs) and at least a biennial count of unsheltered homeless persons.

In their Point-In-Time Count, CoCs must count and report all individuals and families who meet the criteria in paragraph (1)(i) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 91.5 of HUD's Homeless Definition Rule on the night designated for the count. This includes individuals and families who are:

- **Sheltered**, or “living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals),” or
- **Unsheltered**, “with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.”

Because this report focuses on those respondents who meet HUD's definition of homeless, it does not include information about those who may be at risk of homelessness, precariously housed, or considered homeless under other federal statutes. Persons who, on the night of the count, were living doubled up with another household, living in illegal or overcrowded units, being discharged from a jail or health facility with no subsequent residence, scheduled to be evicted, or paying for its own motel unit were not considered

homeless. All survey information collected for respondents who were at risk of homelessness or precariously housed was preserved and shared with each community for local planning purposes, but is not included in this report unless otherwise noted.

Data Collection Methods

Monarch Housing Associates provided each of New Jersey's 21 counties with in-person training, online video and print training guides, a practice online survey tool, and technical assistance to aid in the data collection process for New Jersey's 2017 Point-In-Time Count. Point-In-Time Coordinators in each county disseminated PIT training materials and helped facilitate local planning around implementation of the PIT count in their communities.

For the fourth year, the count of homeless persons who were sheltered on the night of the point in time was primarily taken from New Jersey's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), while the count for the unsheltered and those sheltered by non-HMIS programs was conducted using a Paper Survey tool, personal interviews, and agency client records. This strategy was designed in accordance with HUD guidance regarding conducting both sheltered and unsheltered Point-In-Time Counts.

The 2017 PIT Survey tool closely mirrors information collected in HMIS so that the data was comparable for important factors such as duration and episodes of homelessness, household characteristics, income, services needed, and factors contributing to homelessness. Agencies updated all HMIS data to accurately reflect the night of the count, and those with programs that were non HMIS-participating submitted information from interviews utilizing the Paper Survey tool through SurveyMonkey.

Limitations

1. HUD requires a count of sheltered homeless persons and families annually, but only a biennial count of those who are unsheltered. Even though New Jersey conducts both a sheltered and unsheltered count each year, the comprehensiveness of the unsheltered count may be influenced during the non-HUD required full count years. This report includes comparison data from 2013 to 2017. 2014 and 2016 were not HUD required full reporting years while 2013, 2015, and 2017 were.
2. The information presented in this report is based on survey interviews and agency HMIS records. In some cases, survey respondents did not answer every question completely, and homeless provider agencies did not report all client information on the night of the count. For this reason, all charts presented in this report will be based on the responses received, while all percentages will be based on the total households or individuals served and may not equal 100% in each category due to possible missing data.
3. Because the Point-In-Time Count represents only one night during the last ten days of January, it is widely accepted that the PIT will undercount the overall homeless

population. Undercounting may occur due to difficulty finding those living on the street, incomplete information for people who do not agree to complete the survey, a shortage of volunteers to cover a geographic area, or homeless persons choosing not to seek housing services on the night of the count. This data should not be viewed as a comprehensive measurement of all families and individuals who experience homelessness throughout the year, but rather as a minimum number of persons who experience homelessness in New Jersey on a given night.

De-duplication

Monarch Housing Associates collected and merged all HMIS and SurveyMonkey Point-In-Time data from each community into its combined database. Monarch generated two unique identifiers, one more general and one more in-depth, based on the identifying information for each individual record. Using a formula, these unique identifiers were compared to all identifiers for other records in the database to identify potential duplicates.

All duplicates detected through comparison of unique identifiers were then de-duplicated by the following process:

1. Multiple HMIS records where all fields match – a single record was preserved, and all duplicates were removed;
2. Multiple SurveyMonkey records where all fields match – a single record was preserved, and all duplicates were removed;
3. Comparing HMIS to SurveyMonkey records where unique identifiers, disabilities, income sources, household size, and location on the night of the count all match – the HMIS record was preserved and the SurveyMonkey duplicates were removed.

Following this de-duplication of the data, communities were given preliminary data to review all identified duplicates and records with missing data. Communities were then able to update records with missing information and/or request any additional de-duplication they determined prudent. Monarch then updated and removed additional records based on community feedback prior to completing its final analysis and report.

III. Findings for Total Homeless Population

Key Findings

- On the night of January 24th, 2017 a total of 39 households, including 57 persons, were experiencing homelessness in Warren County, according to the 2017 Point-In-Time Count.
- A total of 5 households, with 7 persons, were identified as chronically homeless.
- 13 unsheltered homeless persons were counted

Total Homeless Population

On the night of January 24th, 2017, a total of 57 persons, in 39 households, were experiencing homelessness in Warren County, according to the 2017 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 6 households (18.2%) and 17 persons (42.5%) from 2016. Warren County had 0.7% of New Jersey's statewide homeless population in 2017.

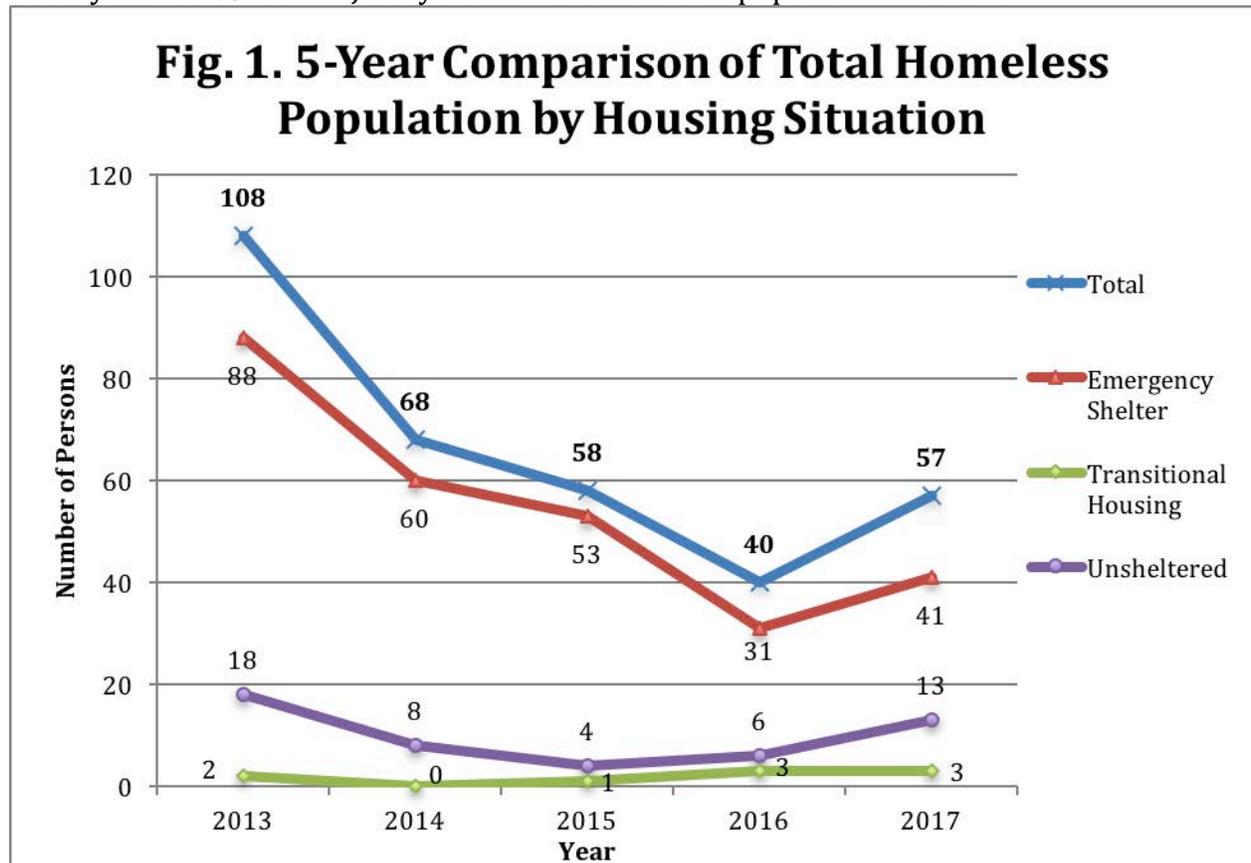
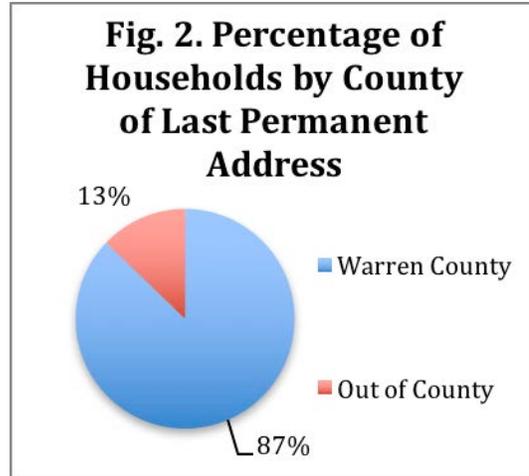


Figure 1 shows that, in 2017, 41 homeless persons were in emergency shelter, 3 were in transitional housing, and 13 were living unsheltered on the night of the count. The total number of those counted in emergency shelter increased by 10 persons (32.3%), and the number of unsheltered persons increased by 7 persons (116.7%) since 2016.

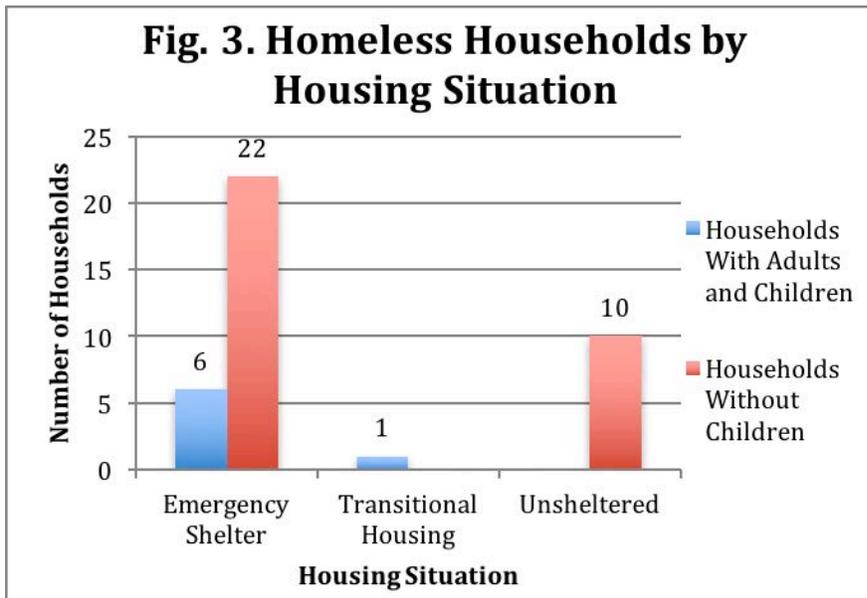
Figure 1 also shows that, over the past five years, the total number of homeless households has been trending downward in Warren County, with the highest count in 2013 (108 persons). Overall, there has been a decrease of 47.2% (51 persons) from 2013 to 2017. The largest decrease has been seen in the number of persons in emergency shelter, a decrease of 47 persons (53.4%) from 2013, followed by the unsheltered population (5 persons, 27.8%).

As Figure 2 shows, 13% of homeless households in Warren County reported that their last permanent address prior to becoming homeless was outside the county.



Homeless Families and Individuals

When reading the data regarding different types of homeless households, it is important for the reader to remember that, in this report, ‘household’ means “any group of persons who, if they were able to attain permanent housing, would choose to live together; and, shared the same sleeping arrangements on the night of the count.” Three different types of households are discussed below: households with adults and children under 18 (‘families’), households without children (‘individuals’), and households with only children under 18 (‘unaccompanied youth’).



Of the 39 homeless households counted in Warren County in 2017, 7 (17.9%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult, an increase of 2 families (40%) from 2016. These families included 20 persons, 13 children under age 18, and 7 adults. The average family size was 3 persons. Figure 3 shows that 6 (85.7%) of these families were staying in emergency shelters on the night of the count, while 1 (14.3%) was in transitional housing.

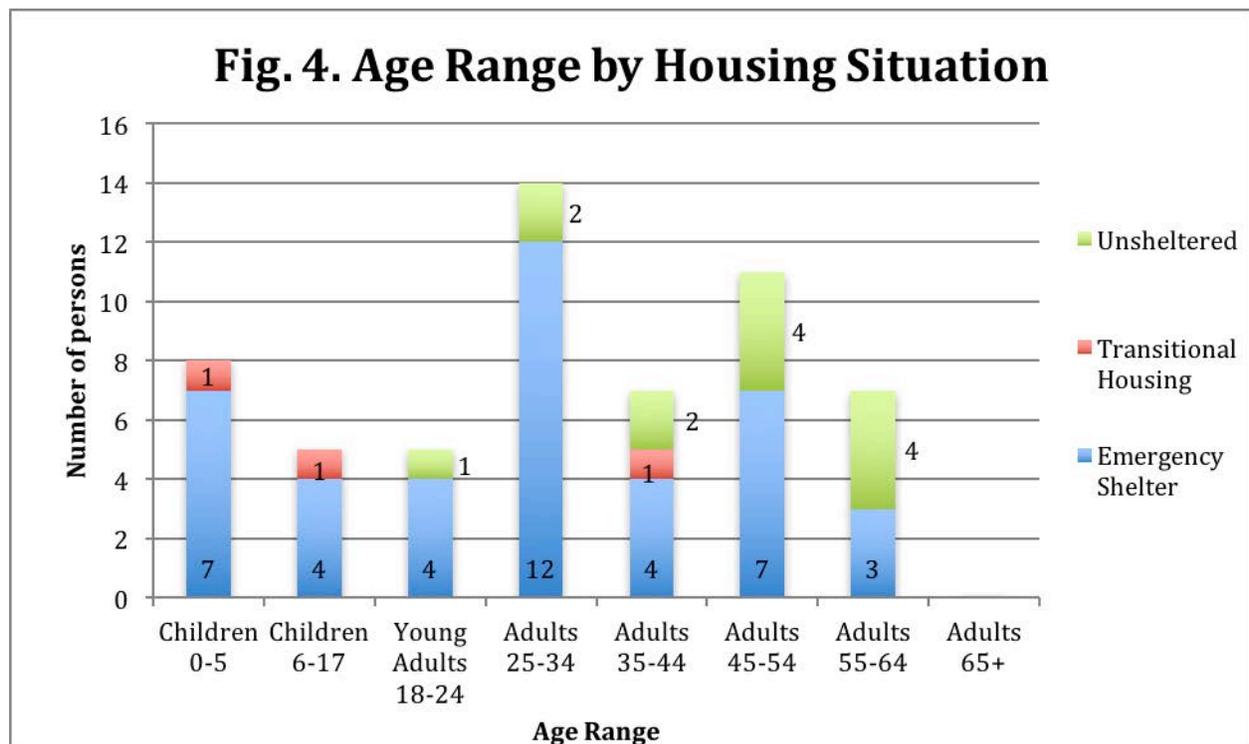
staying in emergency shelters on the night of the count, while 1 (14.3%) was in transitional housing.

82.1% of the homeless households (32) counted in Warren County were adult-only households, and were composed of 37 persons. 31.3% of the adult households were unsheltered on the night of the count, while the remaining 68.8% were in emergency shelters. Warren County saw an increase of 4 (14.3%) adult-only households since 2016.

Similar to 2016, there were 0 youth-only households counted in 2017.

Demographics

The majority (39 persons, 68.4%) of those experiencing homelessness in Warren County on the night of the count were adults over age 24. There were a total of 5 (8.8%) homeless young adults between 18 and 24 years old, and 13 (22.8%) children under 18 years old as well. Figure 4 shows that the age range that was most represented was adults between 25 and 34 years old (24.6%).



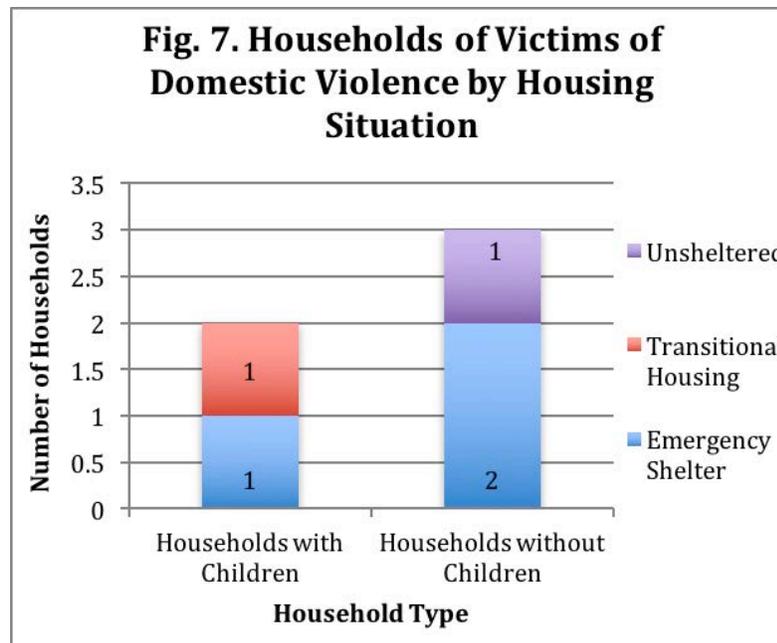
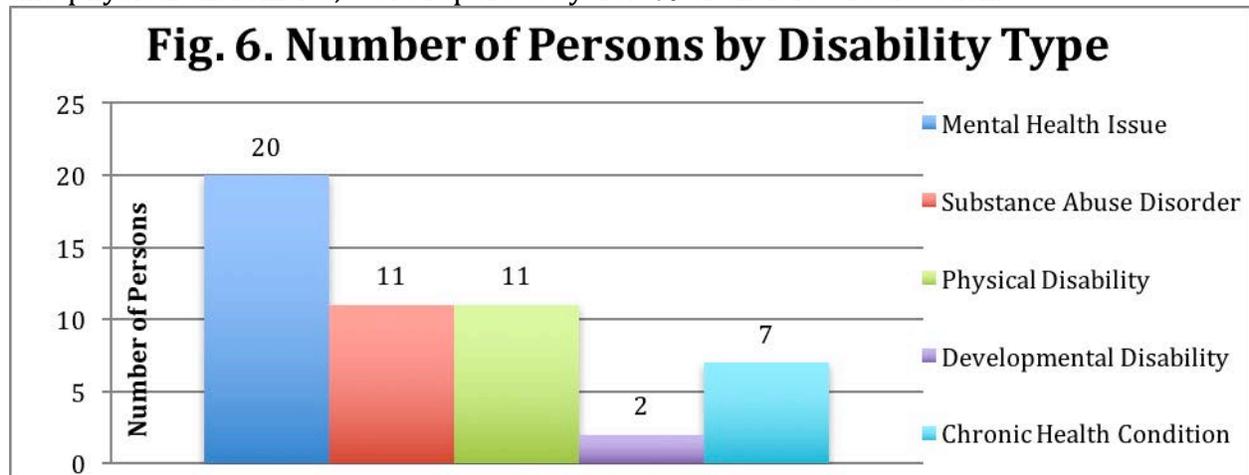
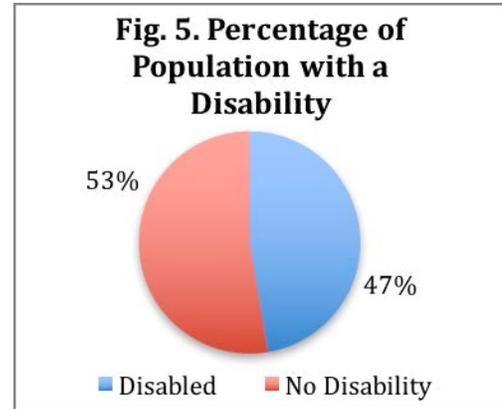
56.1% of homeless persons were male, and 42.1% were female.

80.7% (46) of homeless persons identified their race as White, making that the largest racial subgroup. The second largest self-identified as Black or African American (8.8%), followed by American Indian or Alaska Native (1.8%). With regard to ethnicity, 7% of persons identified themselves as Hispanic.

Disabilities

Figure 5 illustrates that 47.4% of homeless persons reported having some type of disability. All disabled persons were adults (61.4% of the adult population). Figure 6 shows the number of the homeless persons that identified as having various disabilities. The most prevalent disabilities were mental health issues, substance abuse disorders, and physical disabilities.

Among disabled adults, 74.1% reported mental health issues making this the most prevalent disability; representing 45.5% of the total adult homeless population. The next most prevalent disabilities, substance abuse disorders and physical disabilities, were reported by 40.7% of disabled adults each.



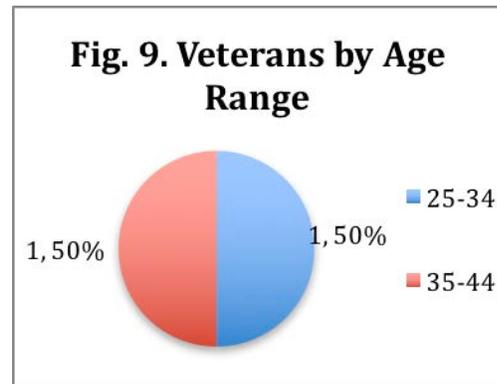
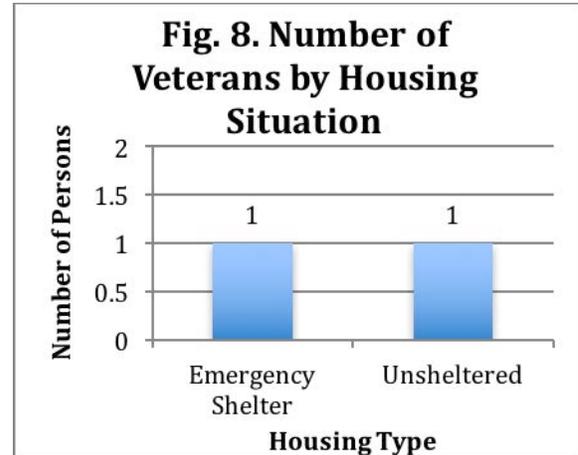
Victims of Domestic Violence

On the night of the count, in Warren County, 5 homeless households reported having a victim of domestic violence, a decrease of 1 from 2016. As shown in Figure 7, 40% of these households were families composed of 7 persons. The other 3 households were adult only households composed of 4 persons. 60% of domestic violence households were in emergency shelter on the night of the count.

Veterans

In its plan, *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has prioritized ending homelessness among veterans by 2015. Many communities in New Jersey have also been working hard to end homelessness among our country's servicemen and women.

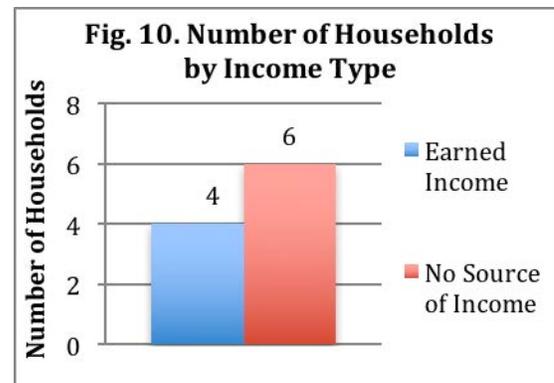
2 homeless veteran households were counted in Warren County on the night of the count, an increase of 1 from 2016. One of the veteran's counted was part of an adult couple, while the other was an individual.



Both of the veterans counted were male, and both reported their racial background as White. Figure 9 shows the age ranges reported by both veterans.

Neither of the veterans reported experiencing domestic violence, but both reported having disabilities. The disabilities reported were mental health issues (100%), a physical disability (50%), and a substance abuse disorder (50%). Both veterans received no source of income and were not

connected to any VA benefits. They however both received Medicaid and one veteran received Food stamps/SNAP.



Income and Benefits

Among all homeless households, 15.4% had no source of income, while 10.3% reported having earned income. The most common source of cash income among homeless households was General Assistance, which was reported 41% of households.

Figure 11 shows the average monthly income for all households.

	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered
Average for All Households	\$273.23	\$400.00	\$349.50

7.7% of households reported that their household was receiving no kind of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps (SNAP) and Medicaid were the top reported non-cash benefits, which were reported by 79.5% and 74.4% of households, respectively.

Length of Homelessness

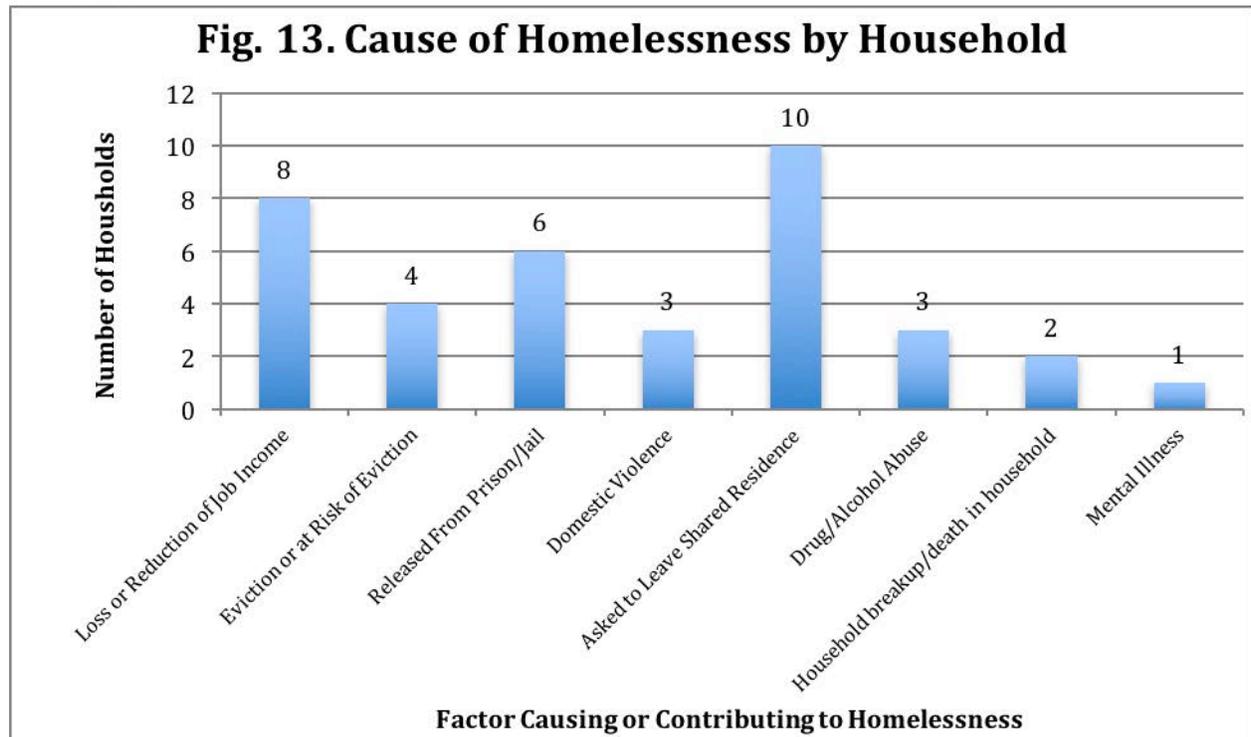
Figure 12 shows that the largest percent of households (25.6%) reported that their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted between 6 months and 1 year. 6 households reported being homeless for more than a year.



Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, more households identified being asked to leave a shared residence (10 households, 25.6%) than any other cause. Figure 13 has the full list of causes reported.

When homeless respondents were asked ‘what was your residence prior to your current living situation?’ more said they were in permanent housing (17.9%) than any other residence.



IV. Findings for the Chronically Homeless

HUD issued its final rule on the definition of chronic homelessness in 2015. Under this definition, someone with a long-term disabling condition, who has been continually homeless for a year or more, or at least four times in the past three years where the length of time in those episodes add up to a year or more, meets HUD's definition of chronically homeless. Any family with a head of household that meets this definition is considered a chronically homeless family.

HUD has established a goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2017. This goal reflects the urgency of helping to house those persons who have not been able to remain stably housed over the course of an extended period of time. Chronically Homeless persons are among the most vulnerable homeless groups, and providing effective supportive services and case management may be required in order to help some stay in the housing they need. Prioritization of new Continuum of Care funding opportunities has recently been giving some communities in New Jersey new resources for housing this subgroup.

Total Chronically Homeless Population

5 households, made up of 7 total persons, were chronically homeless in Warren County, according to the 2017 Point-In-Time Count. This matches the number of households counted in 2016, but is an increase of 2 persons (40%). The rate of chronic homelessness as a percentage of overall homelessness increased from 10.3 % to 12.3% in 2017.

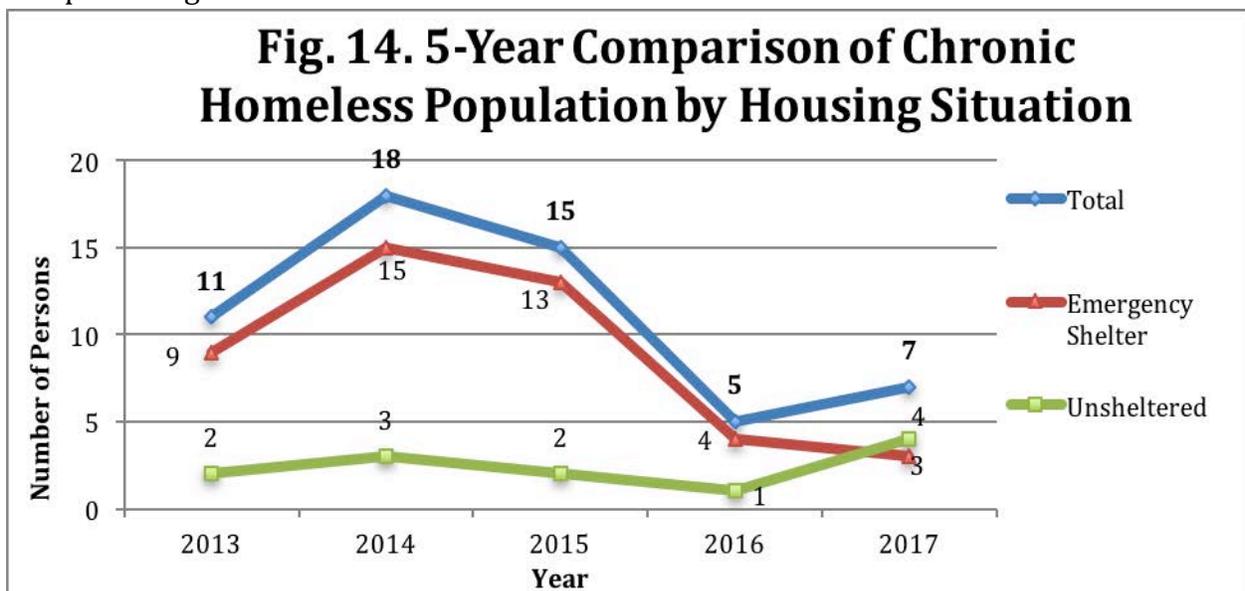
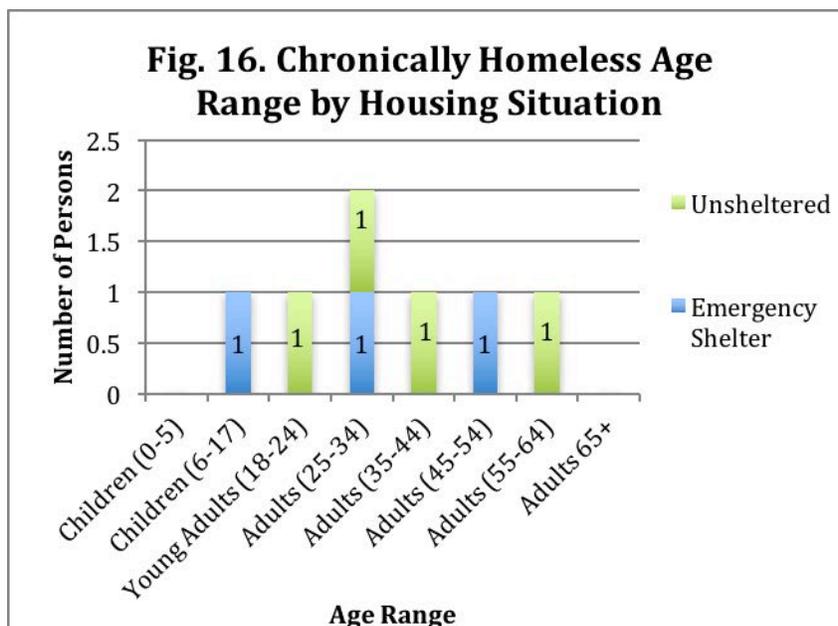
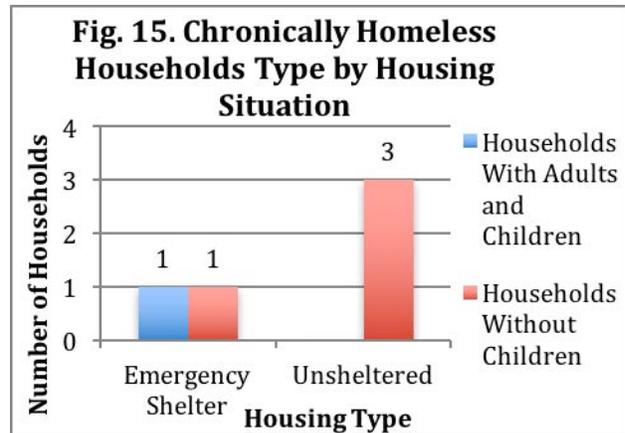


Figure 14 shows the number of chronically homeless persons who were in emergency shelter or living unsheltered in Warren County from 2013 to 2017. Though the number of chronically homeless has fluctuated over the past five years, Warren County has seen an overall decrease of 4 chronically homeless persons (36.4%) since 2013.

Families and Individuals

Of the 5 chronically homeless households, 4 were adult only households and 1 was a family household composed of 1 adult and 1 child. The chronically homeless family was staying in emergency shelter on the night of the count. 1 (25%) of the adult households was staying in an unsheltered location.



Demographics

Of the 7 total chronically homeless persons, 2 (28.6%) were between 25 and 34 years old, while 1 (14.3%) was a child under 18 years.

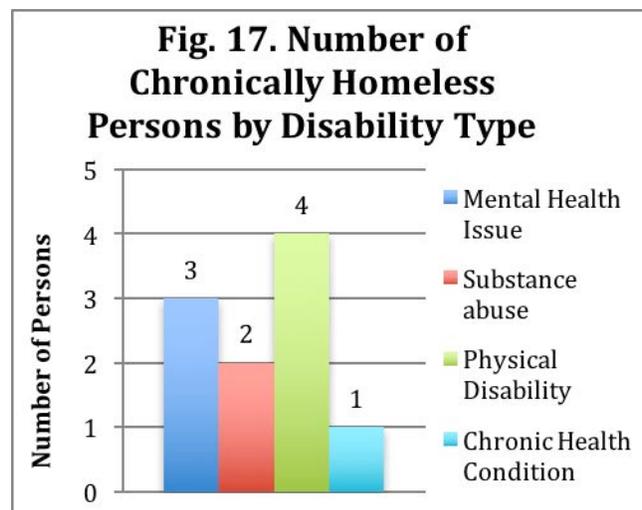
71.4% of the chronically homeless persons were male, and 28.6% were female.

85.7% of chronically homeless persons reported

their race as White and 1 was Black or African-American. 28.5% identified their ethnicity as Hispanic.

Disabilities

In order to meet the definition of chronically homeless, at least one adult in each household must have some kind of disability. The disabilities most commonly identified were physical disabilities (57.1%) and mental health issues (42.9%). The complete numbers of reported disabilities among the chronically homeless can be seen in Figure 17.



Subpopulations

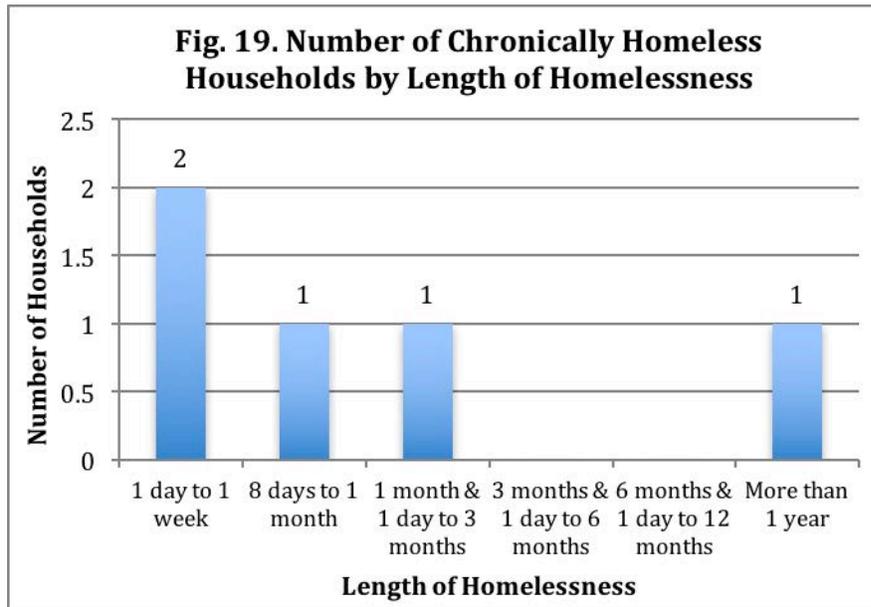
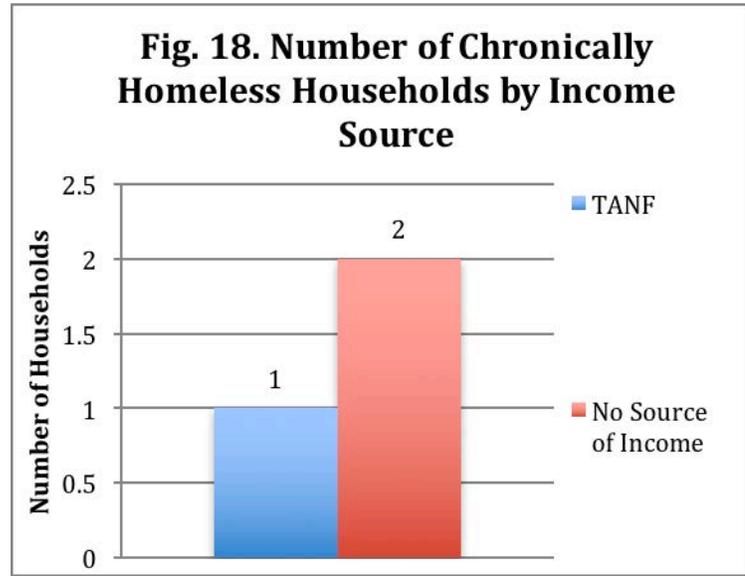
On the night of the count, 0 chronically homeless households identified having victims of domestic violence.

There was 1 chronically homeless veterans identified on the night of the count living in an unsheltered location, an increase of 1 from 2016.

Income and Benefits

2 of the chronically homeless households reported receiving not source of income on the night of the count. 1 chronically homeless household (20%) reported receiving TANF.

1 (20%) chronically homeless household reported not receiving any type of non-cash benefit on the night of the count. Food Stamps (SNAP) and Medicaid were both received by 3 households (60%).

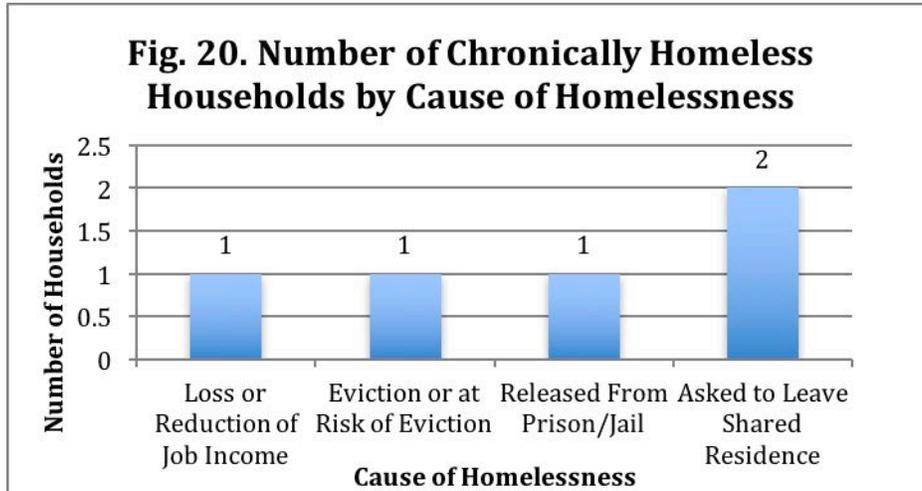


Length of Homelessness

1 chronically homeless household (20%) reported their most recent, continuous episode of homelessness had lasted for more than 1 year. 2 (40%) reported being homeless less than 1 week.

Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, 2 chronically homeless households (40%) reported being asked to leave a shared residence. The complete list of reported causes of homelessness can be found in Figure 20.



V. Findings for the Unsheltered Homeless

HUD’s definition of “unsheltered homeless” applies to any individual or family “with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.”

Unsheltered homeless individuals and families are among those with the most critical housing needs in a community. The unsheltered are especially vulnerable in the cold weather and the elements, which are in evidence at the end of January when the Count takes place. The Point-In-Time survey can play an important role in helping communities understand why some of the homeless remain unsheltered, and who is included in this group.

Total Unsheltered Homeless Population

10 households, made up of 13 persons, were living unsheltered in Warren County, according to the 2017 Point-In-Time Count. This is an increase of 4 households (66.7%) and 7 persons (116.7%) from 2016.

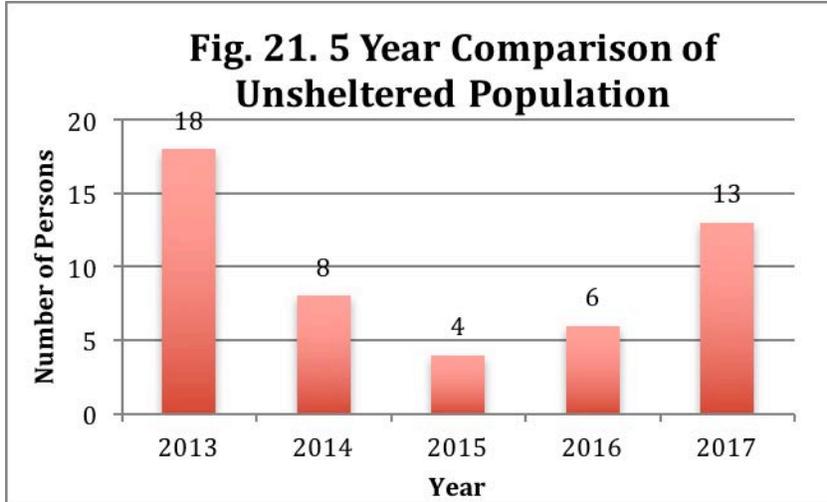


Figure 21 shows the number of unsheltered persons from 2013 to 2017. From 2013 to 2015, the number of unsheltered persons had decreased in Warren County, but have been increasing since 2015. While this is true, Warren County has seen an overall decrease of 5 unsheltered persons, (27.8%), since 2013.

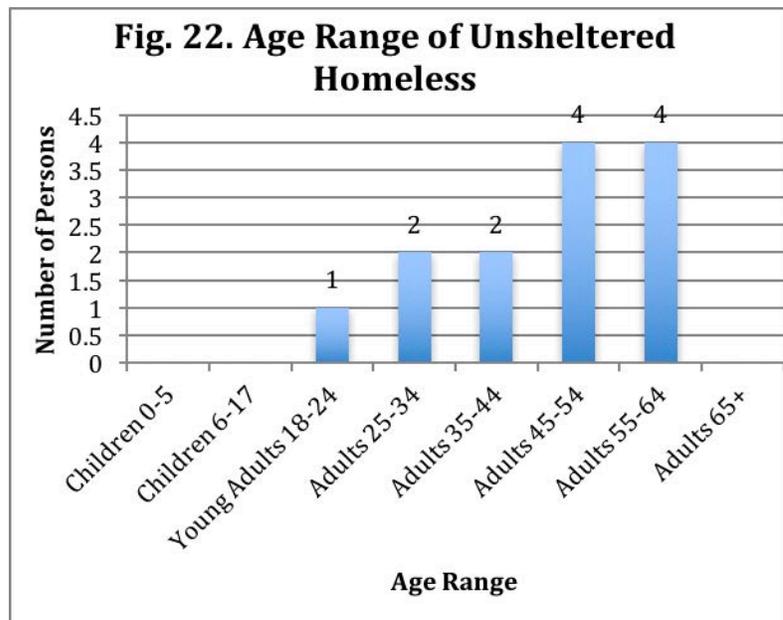
Families and Individuals

All 10 unsheltered households counted in Warren County in 2017 were adult-only households, include 3 adult couples, to total 13 persons. Similar to 2016, there were no unsheltered families counted in 2017.

Demographics

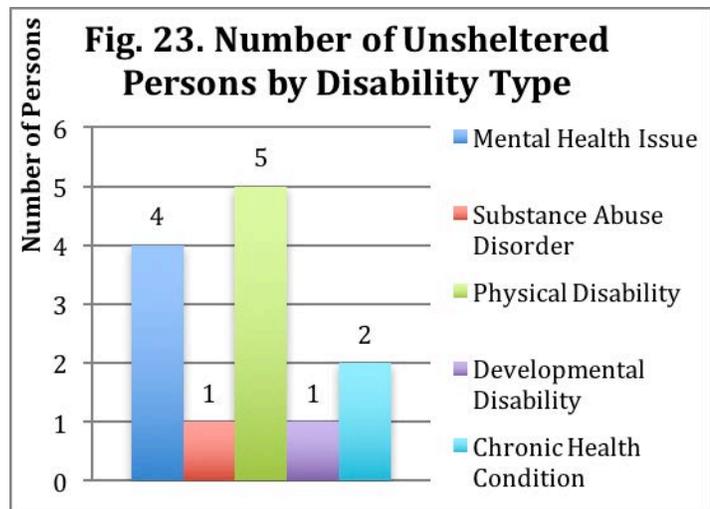
There were no children under the age of 18, or adults over the age of 64, that were unsheltered on the night of the count. Full numbers for the ages of the unsheltered homeless population can be seen in Figure 22.

76.9% of unsheltered persons were male and 23.1% were female. 76.9% identified their race as White. Of the remaining 2, 1 self-identified as Black or African-American, while the other identified as American Indian or Alaska Native. None of the unsheltered persons reported their ethnicity as Hispanic.



Disabilities

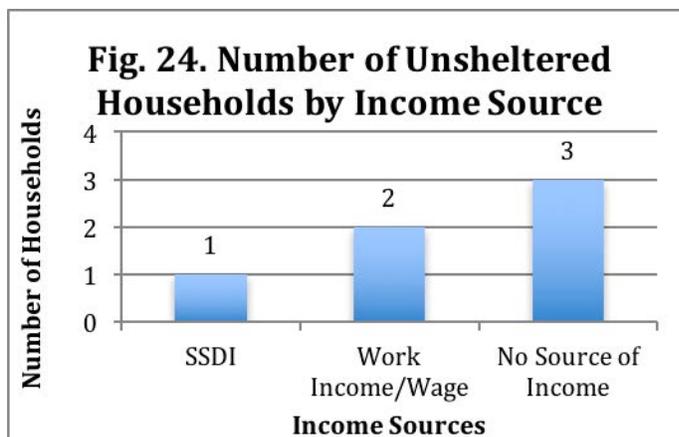
6 of the 13 unsheltered persons (46.2%) reported having some type of disability. The most commonly reported disabilities were physical disabilities (83.3%) and mental health issues (66.7%). All reported disabilities can be seen in Figure 23.



Subpopulations

On the night of the count, 1 (7.7%) unsheltered household in Warren County reported being a victim of domestic violence.

There was 1 (7.7%) unsheltered veteran on the night of the count, an increase of 1 from 2016.



Income and Benefits

The largest portion (30%) of unsheltered households reported no source of income. 20% each reported having earned income.

2 of the 10 unsheltered households (20%) reported not receiving any non-cash benefits. 4 households (40%) reported receiving Food Stamps (SNAP), and 3 (30%) reported connection to Medicaid.

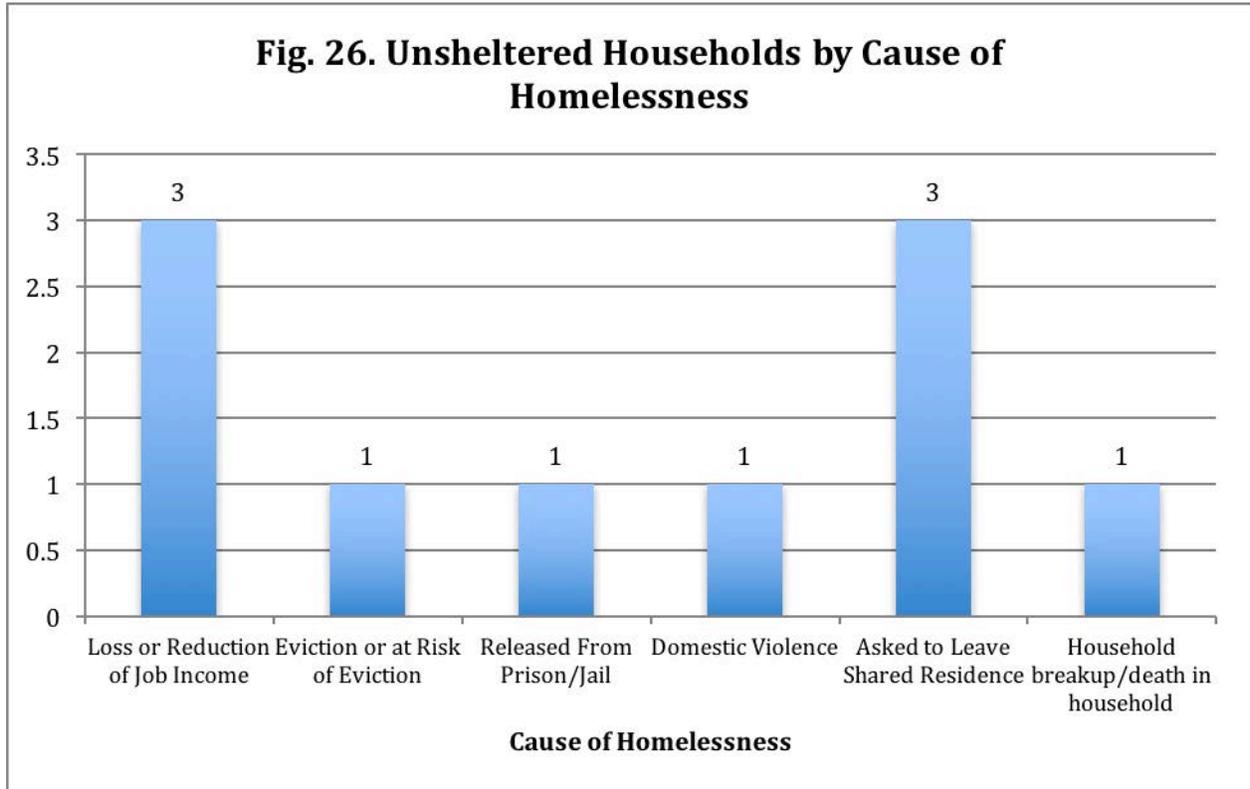
Length of Homelessness

As shown in Figure 25, 30% of unsheltered households reported their most recent length of homelessness had lasted more than 1 year, 1 of which reported their homelessness lasting between 2 and 5 years.



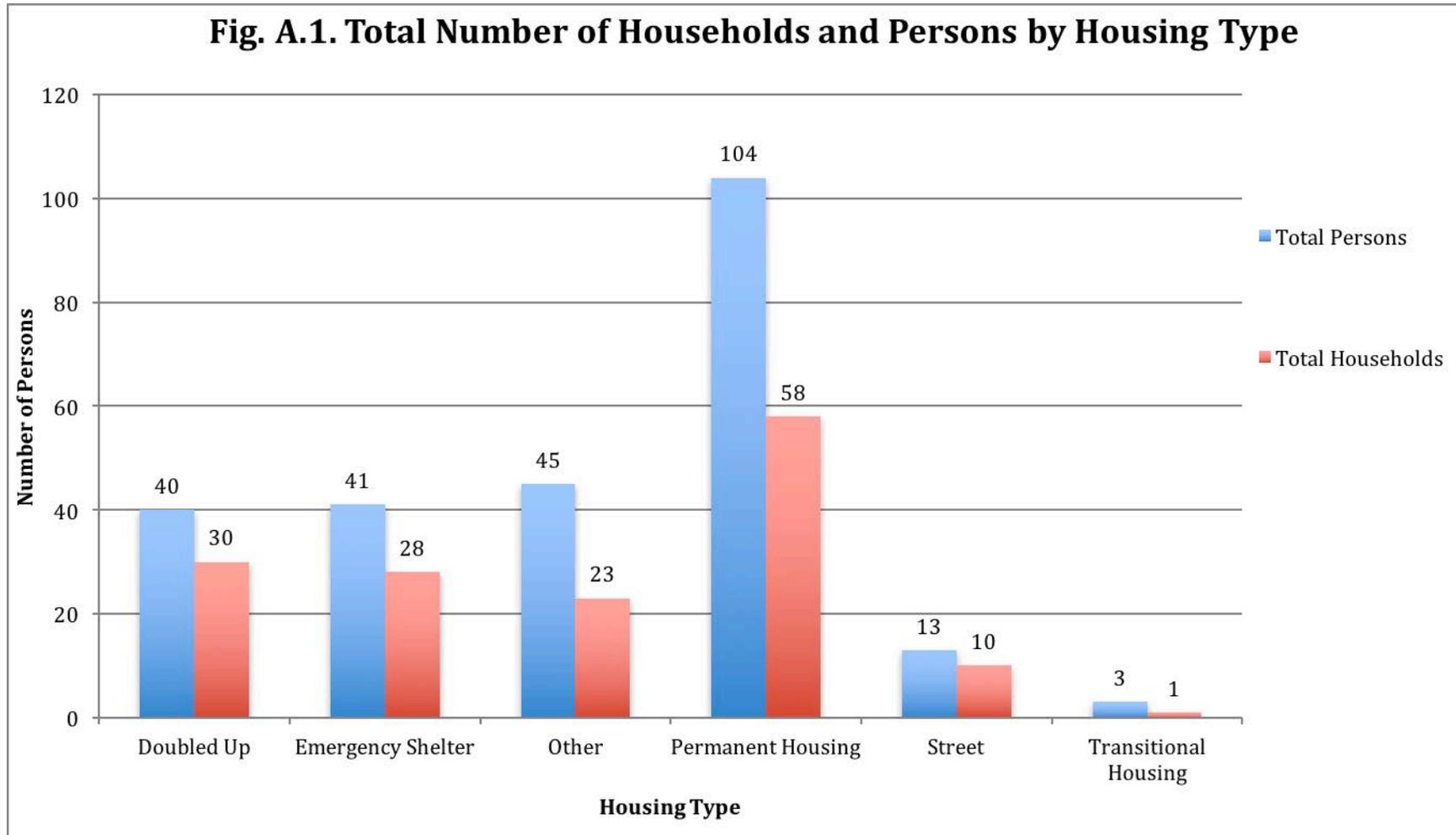
Cause of Homelessness

When asked to share the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, their homelessness, the greatest number of unsheltered persons identified being asked to leave shared residence or a loss or reduction of job income (30% each). Figure 26 shows all reported causes.



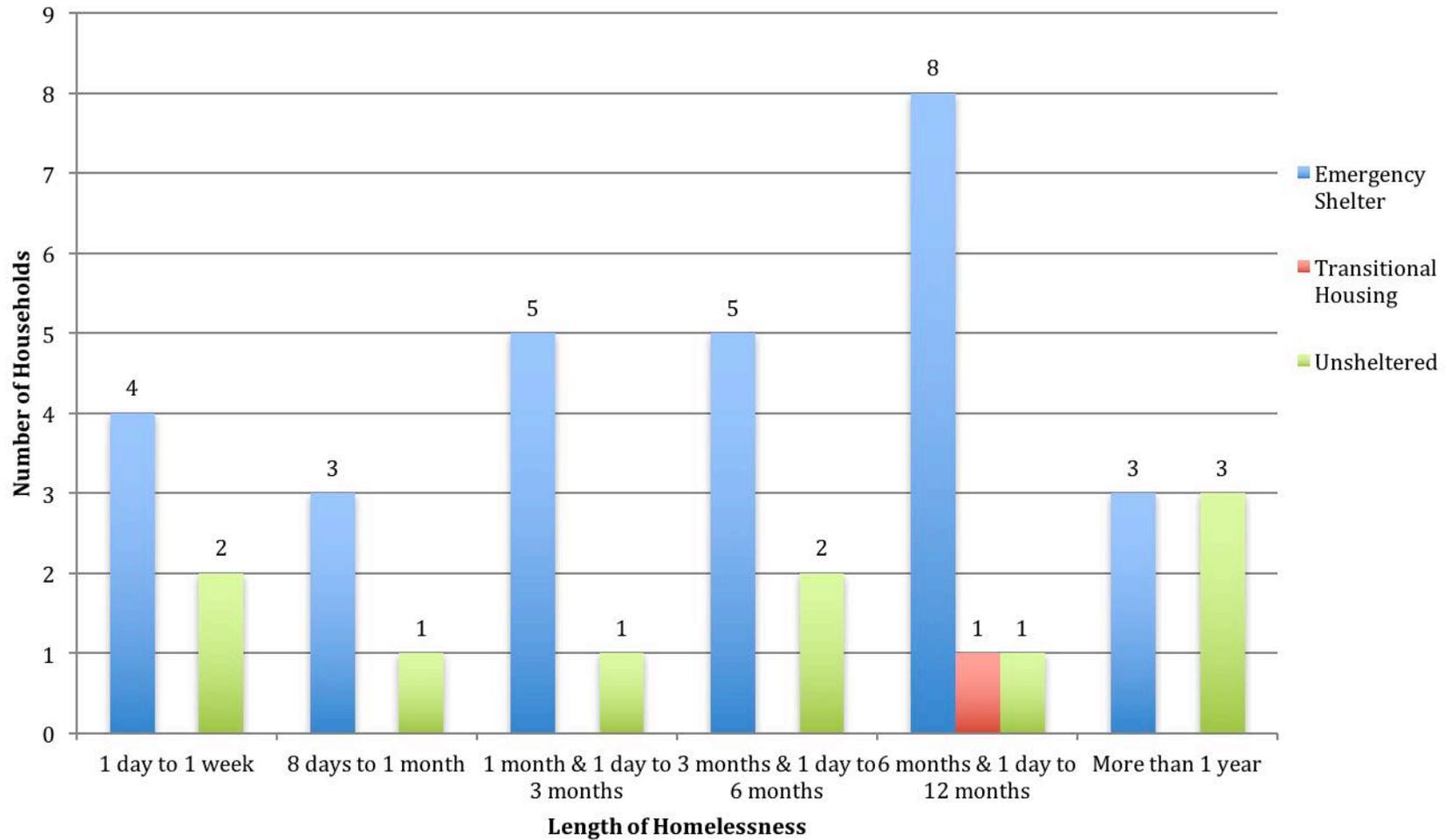
VI. Appendix

Where did you spend the night of Tuesday, January 24, 2017?



How long have you been in your current living situation?

Fig. A.2. Homeless Housholds by Length of Homelessness and Housing Type



Who was homeless with you on the night of January 24th?

Fig. A.3. Number of Persons by Age Range and Housing Type

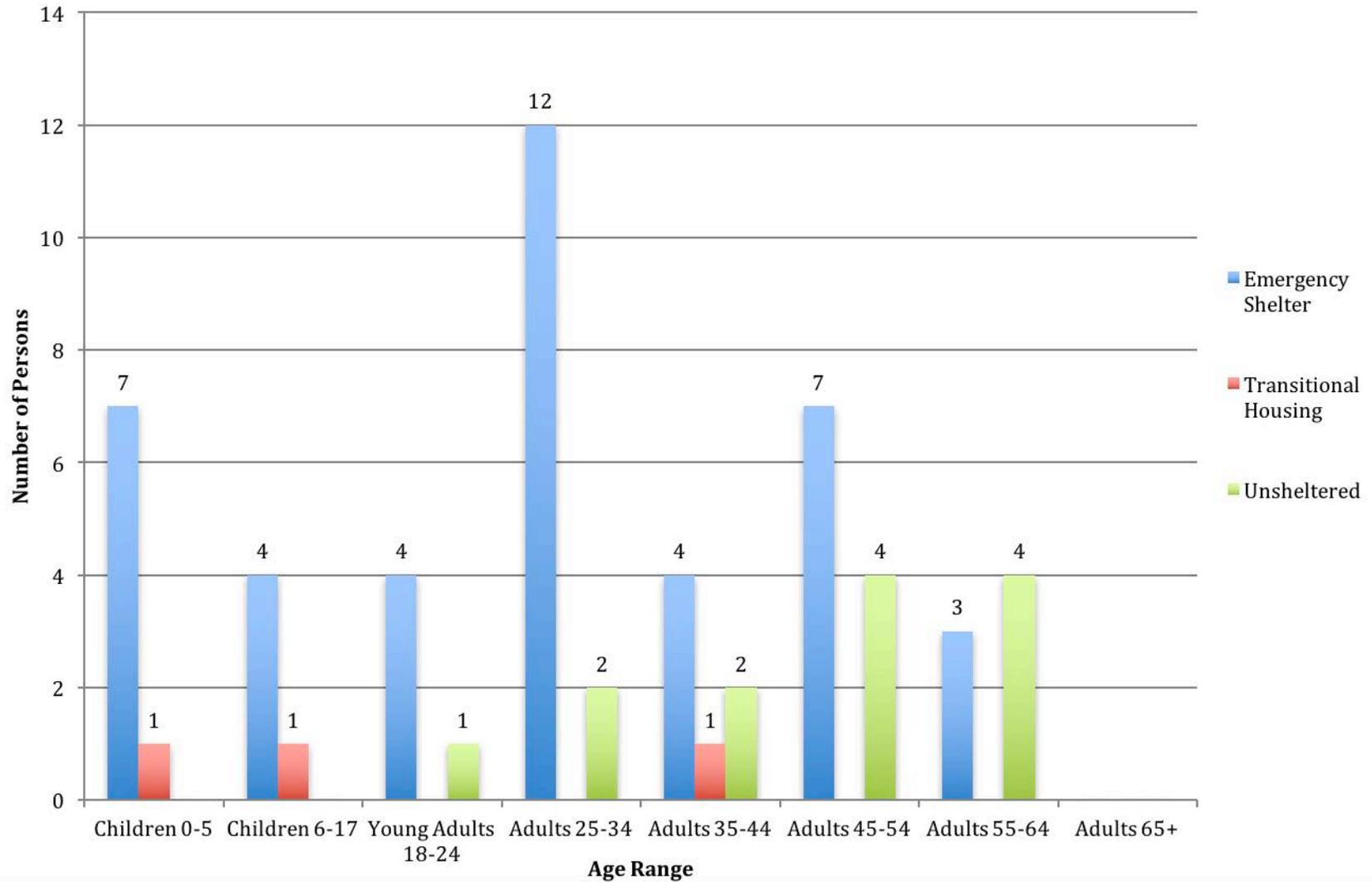


Fig. A.4. Number of Persons by Gender and Housing Situation

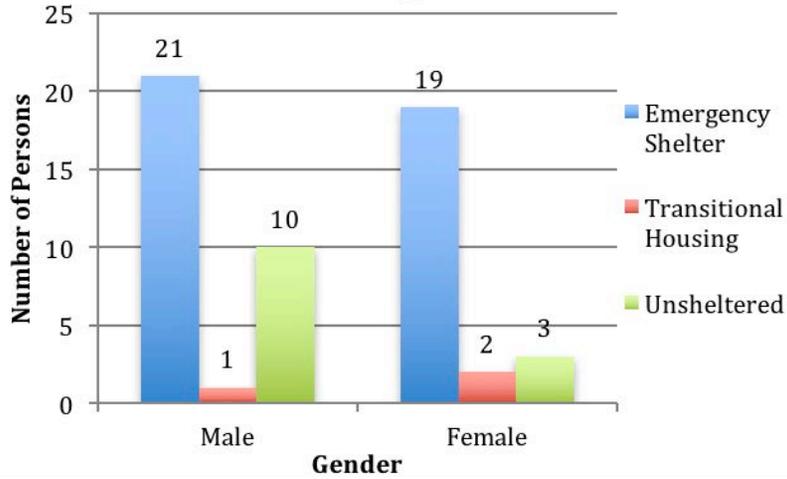


Fig. A.6. Number of Homeless Persons by Ethnicity

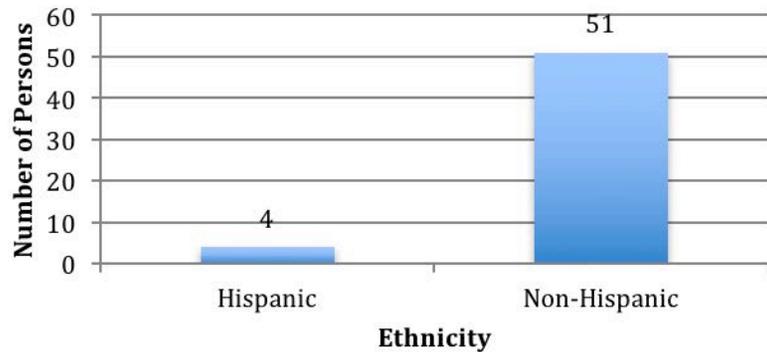
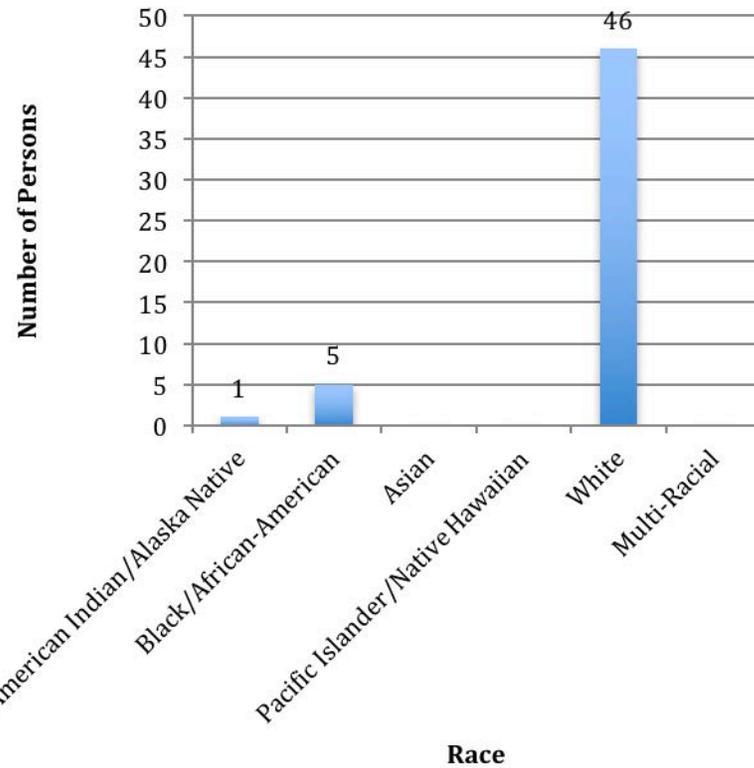
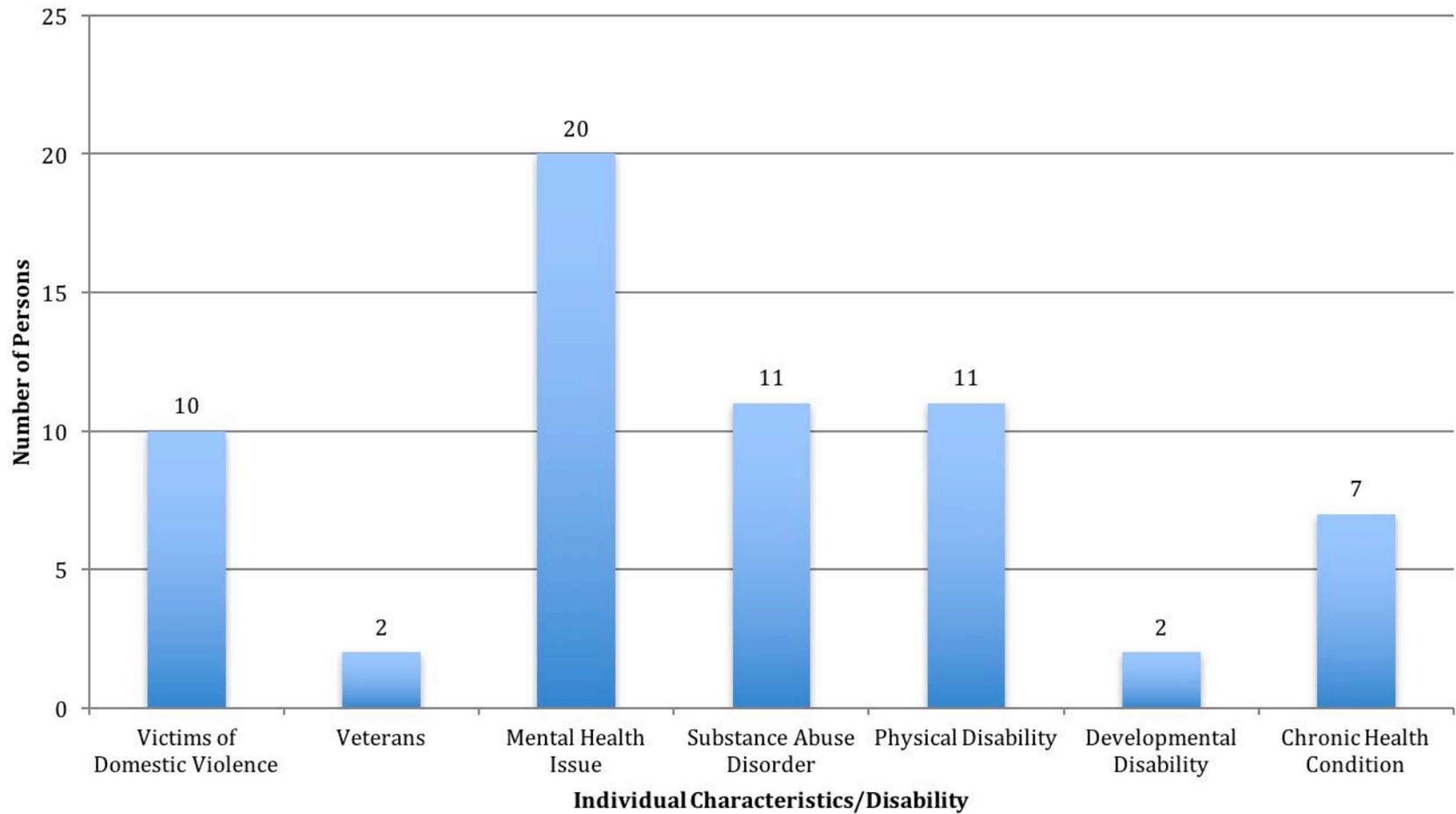


Fig. A.5. Number of Homeless Persons by Race



Household Characteristics - check all that apply to each person

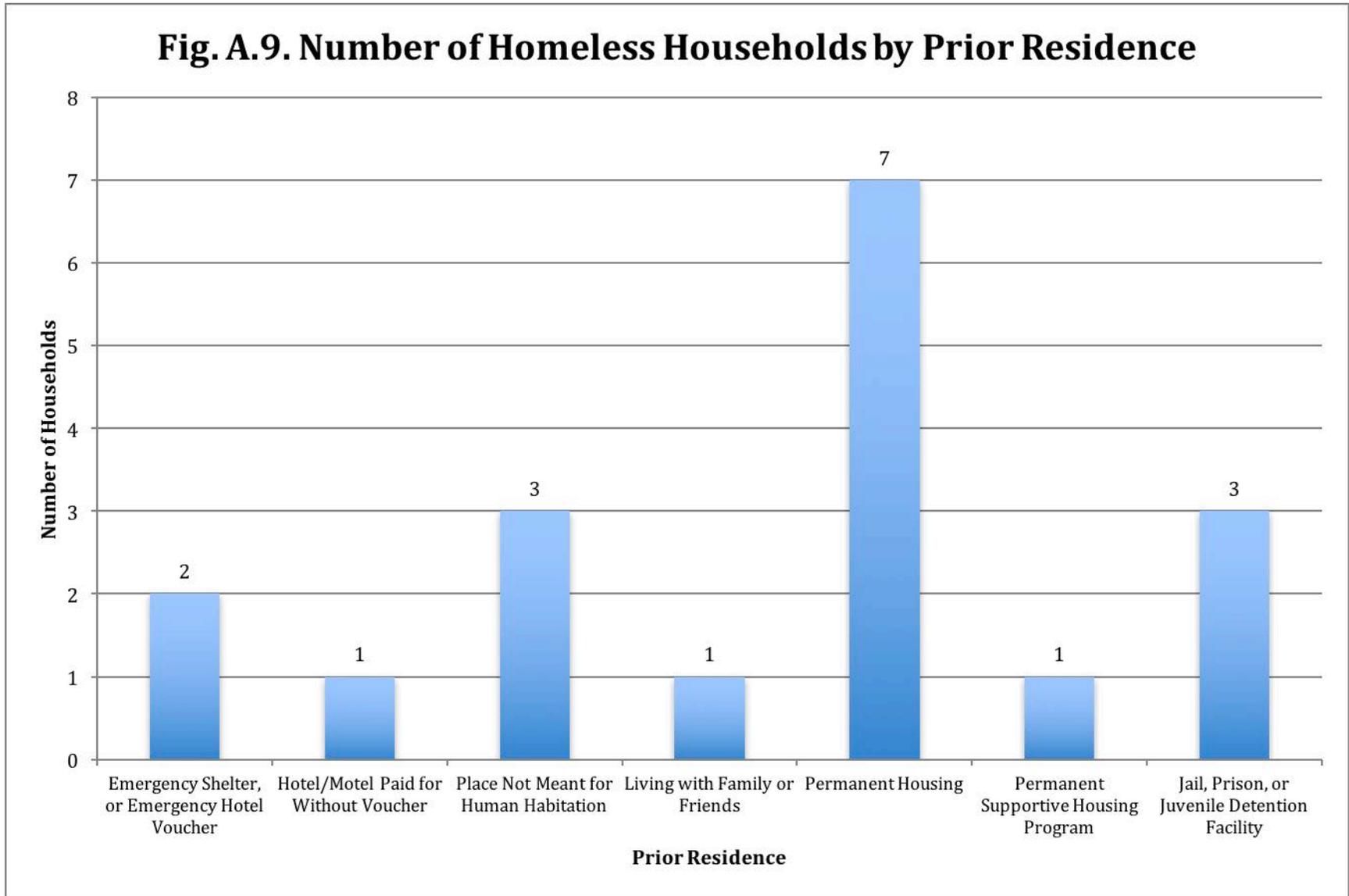
Fig. A.7. Number of Homeless Persons by Victims of Domestic Violence, Veteran Status, and Disability



Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?

Fig. A.8. Number of Homeless Households by County, State or Country of Last Permanent Address	
Last Permanent Address – State	Number of Households
Hunterdon County	1
Union county	1
Warren County	34
Pennsylvania	2

What was your residence prior to your current living situation?



Which of the following sources of income or non-cash benefits do you, or anyone in your household, receive?

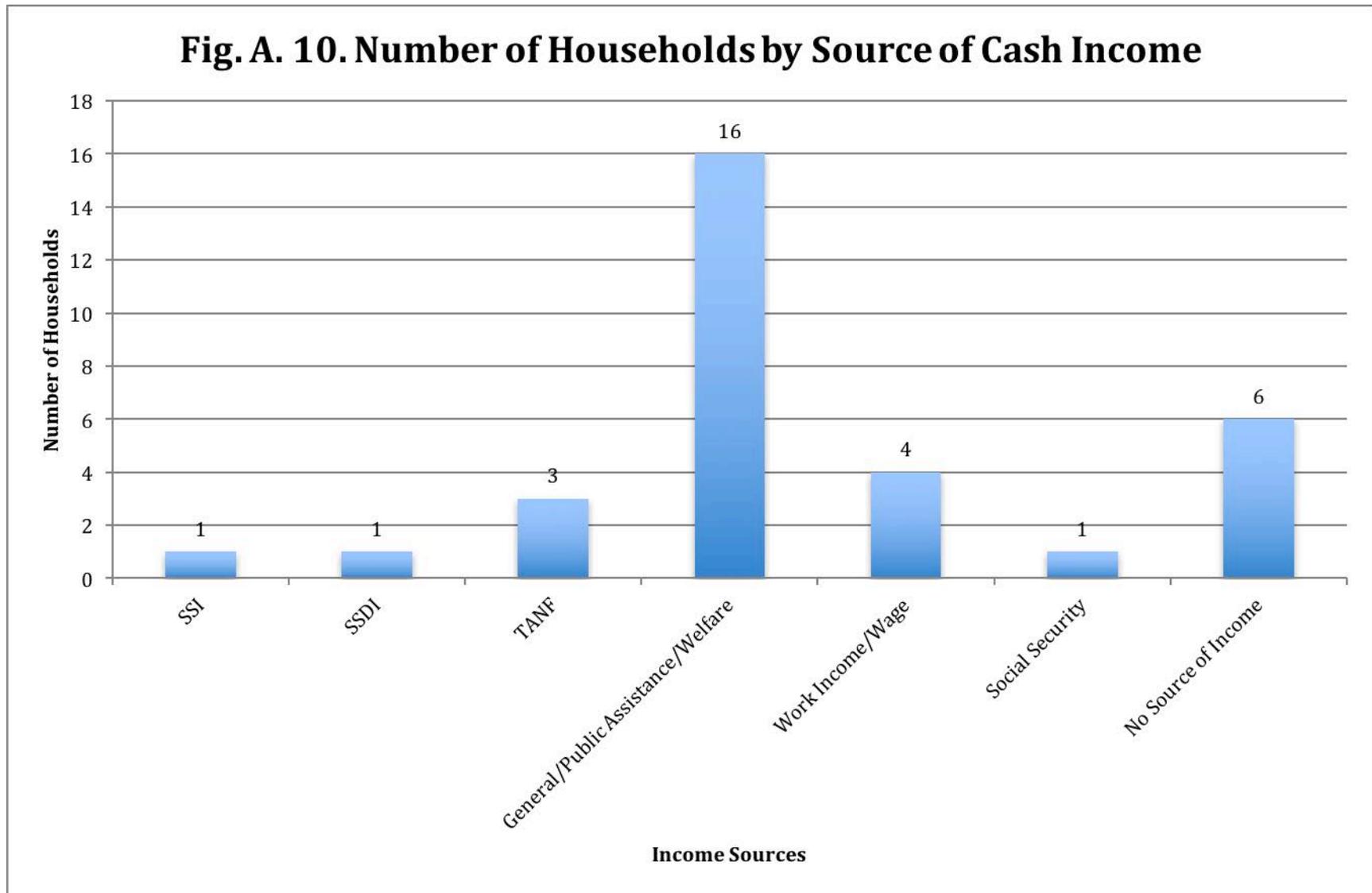
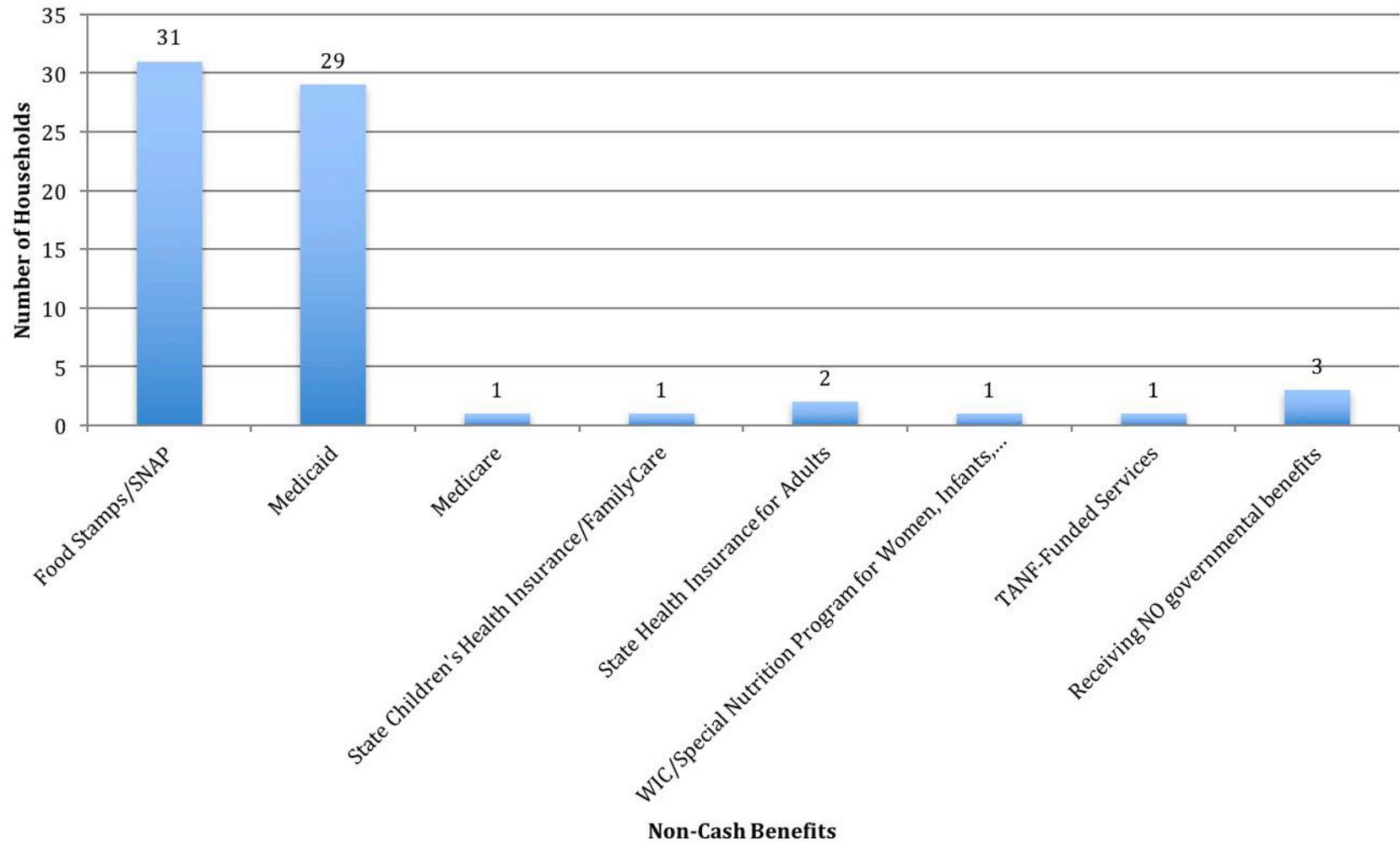
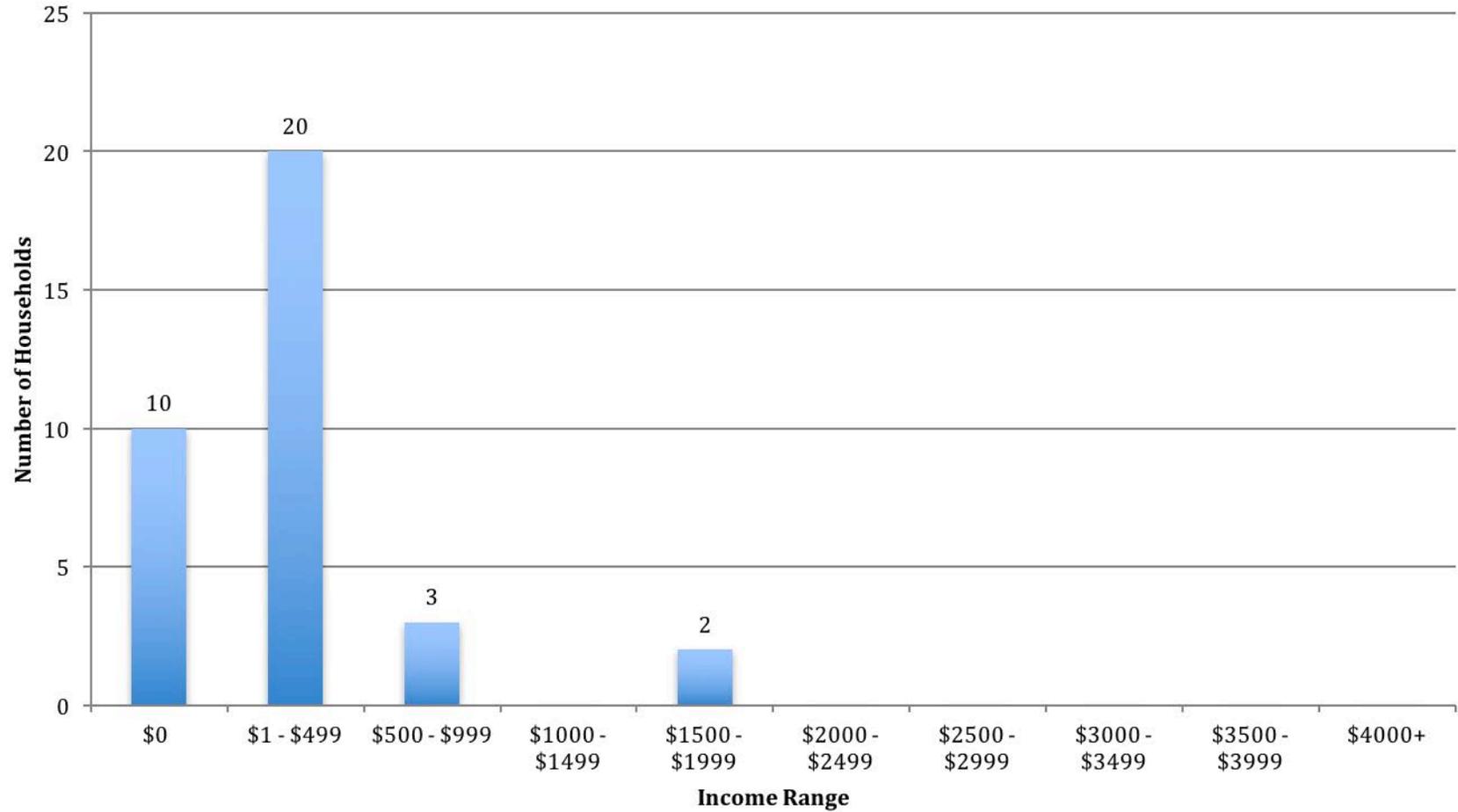


Fig. A. 11. Number of Households by Sources of Non-Cash Benefits



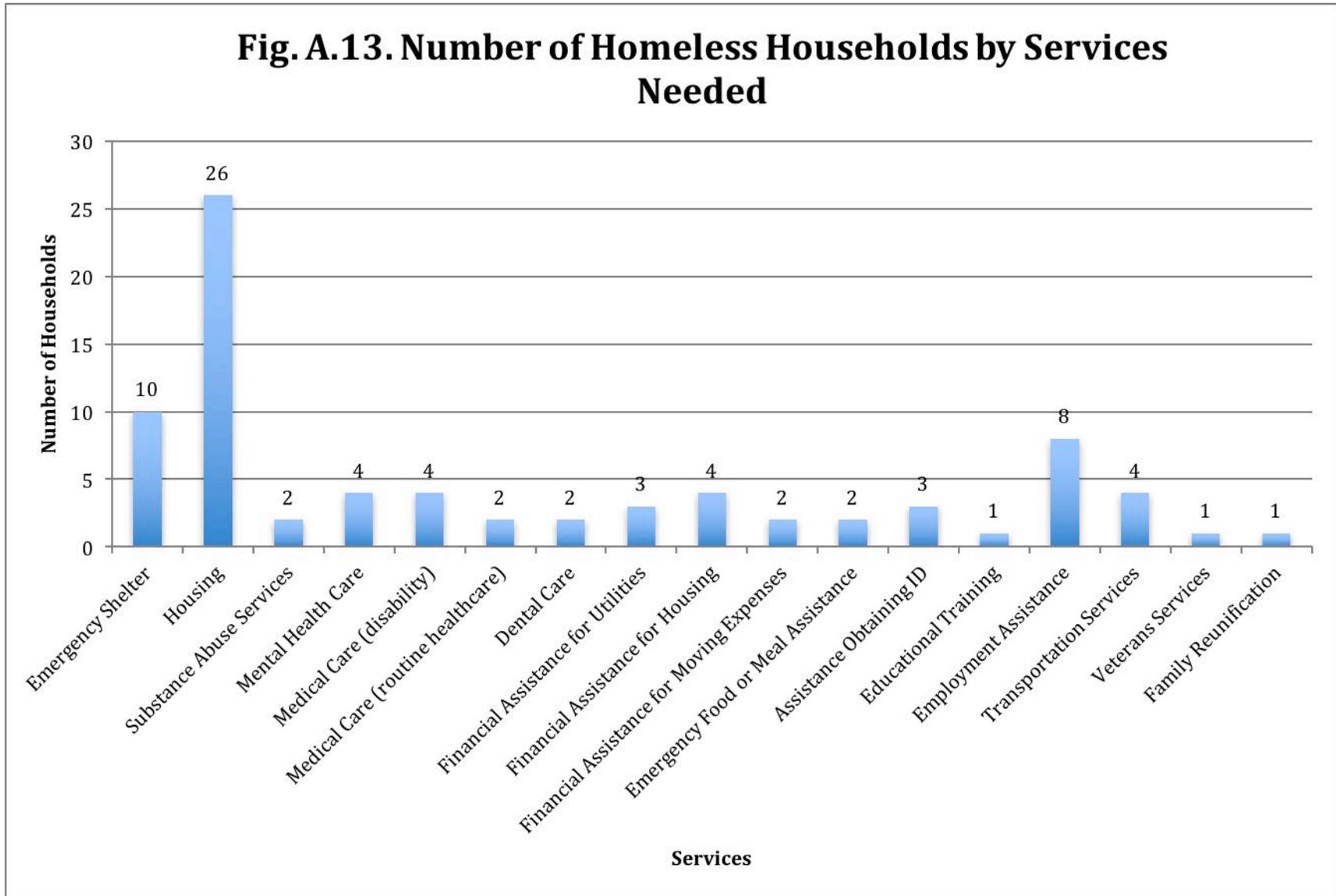
What is your monthly household income?

Fig. A.12. Number of Homeless Households by Monthly Income Range



Would you, or anyone in your household, like to receive any of the following services?

Fig. A.13. Number of Homeless Households by Services Needed



What was the primary factor that contributed to, or caused, your current living situation?

