



*Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.*

**COMING HOME OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
2017 POINT IN TIME (PIT) SURVEY  
COMING HOME DATA ANALYSIS**



# *Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.*

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I.	Introduction to the Point in Time Survey	3
II.	Literally Homeless vs. Precariously Housed	3
III.	Summary of Survey Responses	4
IV.	Changes in Homeless Populations	5
V.	Last Permanent Address – Homeless	6
VI.	Sheltered Households	7
VII.	Sheltered Adults without Children	8
VIII.	Disabilities	9
IX.	Income	10
X.	Income & Housing	11
XI.	Non-Cash Benefits	12
XII.	Cause of Homelessness	12
XIII.	Unsheltered	13
XIV.	Income & Non-Cash Benefits – Unsheltered	15
XV.	Chronic Homelessness	16
XVI.	Chronically Homeless - Income & Non-Cash Benefits	17
XVII.	Homeless Youth	18
XVIII.	Services Requested by Homeless Individuals & Families	19
	APPENDIX A – Definitions	20
	APPENDIX B – Methodology	22



## *Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.*

### **Introduction to the Point in Time Survey**

Annually across the country, communities conduct the Point in Time (PIT) survey (sponsored by the federal Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)) of homeless individuals and families on the last Wednesday in January. Surveys are created locally, with guidance from HUD, and are administered via paper survey to the homeless encountered on the street or at social service agencies and other institutions. In New Jersey, the same data is also collected from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for homeless individuals physically residing in emergency housing.

### **Literally Homeless vs. Precariously Housed**

For the purpose of the official Point in Time (PIT) survey, HUD only counts individuals who are “literally homeless,” i.e., those in emergency housing or on the street.

Middlesex County also chooses to gather information on those who are “precariously housed,” i.e. individuals who are staying in a hotel at their own expense and those staying temporarily with friends or family, since their housing status can, and does, change to “literally homeless” at a moment’s notice.

For additional definitions of terms used throughout this document, please refer to Appendix A.



# Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.

## Summary of Survey Responses

**Total: 544** individuals (372 Households<sup>1</sup>) reported being homeless on the night of Point in Time. Of this total, **421 individuals** (77% of all homeless persons), including 146 children, were **sheltered** in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, or Hotel Placement. **Middlesex County demonstrated a 19% increase in overall homelessness in the last year, however, in the past five years has seen a steady decline in homelessness, with an overall 47% reduction since 2013<sup>2</sup>.**

- Sheltered Households without Children - Most “homeless households” were sheltered, single adults or couples without children (173 single adults, and 4 couples, plus 6 parents with adult children, totaling **183 households**).
- Sheltered Households with Children, or “Families” - **73 homeless households** were Families, comprised of 228 individuals (including 146 children). The majority of all Sheltered Families (86%) were headed by female single parents.
- There were **116 Unsheltered households** on the night of the PIT, comprised of 123 individuals. 73% of the unsheltered were men.
- Men comprise homeless adults without children at 74%, while women represent 86.5% of adults in households with children (families). Children comprise 26.8% of the total homeless population.
- Chronically Homeless – there were **59 Chronically Homeless households** (comprised of 71 individuals), representing 15.8% of total homeless households. This represents a 54% increase in Chronically Homeless persons since 2016<sup>3</sup>. Approximately 67% of Chronically Homeless adults are male, and 54% of Chronically Homeless adults are unsheltered.
- Homeless Youth (age 18-24, unaccompanied by parent) - There were 22 Homeless Youth without children on the night of the PIT, which accounts for 7.4% of all homeless Households without Children. Additionally, there were 15 young single mothers and one (1) young parenting couple (ages 18-24) who were homeless, accounting for 42% of homeless Families.
- Veterans – there were 17 veterans who were homeless on the night of the PIT, which accounts for 4.6% of all homeless households, or 3.1% of total homeless persons.

---

<sup>1</sup> Throughout this report, unless indicated otherwise, numbers and percentages will be based on number of households, rather than individuals, represented in a given category. This will allow for the most accurate comparisons between household types, and will strive to prevent overrepresentation by families (who have more persons in each household).

<sup>2</sup> Middlesex County’s 2017 Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless, Monarch Housing Associates.

<sup>3</sup> Middlesex County’s 2017 Point-In-Time Count of the Homeless, Monarch Housing Associates.



# Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.

## Changes in Homeless Populations

While there was an increase this year in the total number of homeless counted in Middlesex County on the night of the PIT, there are some considerations to note. With the full implementation of Coordinated Assessment throughout 2016, the homeless system has been able to successfully identify and engage more homeless individuals and families than in past years. In addition to increased street outreach efforts throughout the year, including the night of the PIT, Coordinated Assessment staff also conducted telephone outreach to individuals on the waiting list for shelter to administer the PIT survey, which had never been done before.

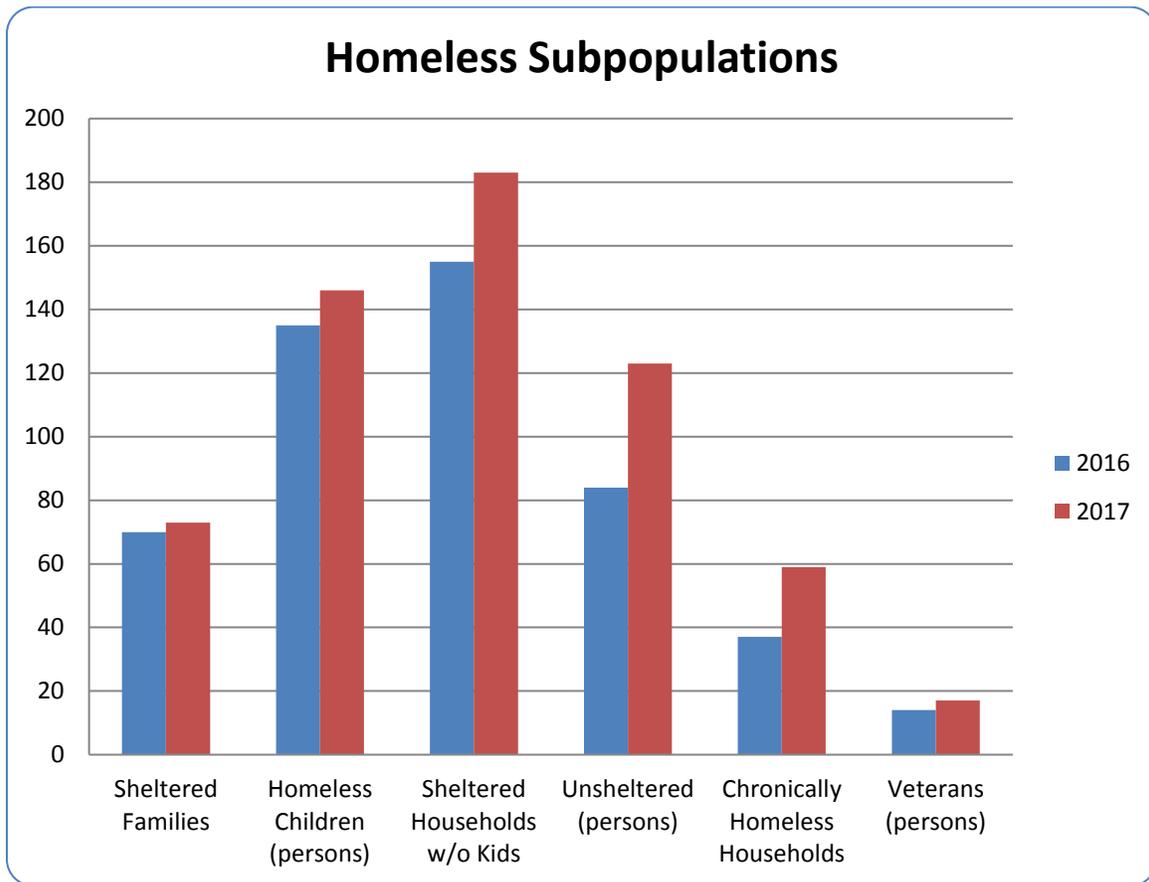


Figure 1 - Homeless Subpopulations

Despite the increases reflected above, the raw numbers do not reflect the whole story of the efforts to reduce homelessness throughout the County. Through the Coordinated Assessment system, combined with a system-wide focus on increasing permanent housing opportunities, from January 2016 - May 2017, just a few months after this count, Middlesex County successfully housed 50 chronically homeless households, including the majority of those identified during the night of the 2017 PIT. This is an almost 400% increase in accessing permanent housing compared to the years prior to the implementation of Coordinated Assessment, in which only 5-7 new chronically homeless individuals would be housed annually.



# Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.

## Last Permanent Address–Homeless

Survey respondents were asked, “Where was your last permanent address before becoming homeless?”

Municipality	Last Permanent Address
Carteret	4
Cranbury	0
Dunellen	1
East Brunswick	10
Edison	18
Helmetta	0
Highland Park	6
Jamesburg	6
Metuchen	2
Middlesex	5
Milltown	3
Monroe Twp	1
New Brunswick	100
North Brunswick	14
Old Bridge	4
Perth Amboy	59
Piscataway	18
Plainsboro	1
Sayreville	11
South Amboy	5
South Brunswick	11
South Plainfield	2
South River	4
Spotswood	1
Woodbridge	26
Out of County	36
Out of State	13
Out of Country (inc. PR)	3
Unknown/No Response	8

- There was a 28% increase in households reporting New Brunswick as their last permanent address on the night of the PIT over what was reported in 2016. While not inaccurate, this may be in part due to the stronger outreach effort and higher numbers of volunteers in New Brunswick.
- Approximately 14% of households reported their last permanent address as outside of Middlesex County, representing a 22% decrease from 2016.



# Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.

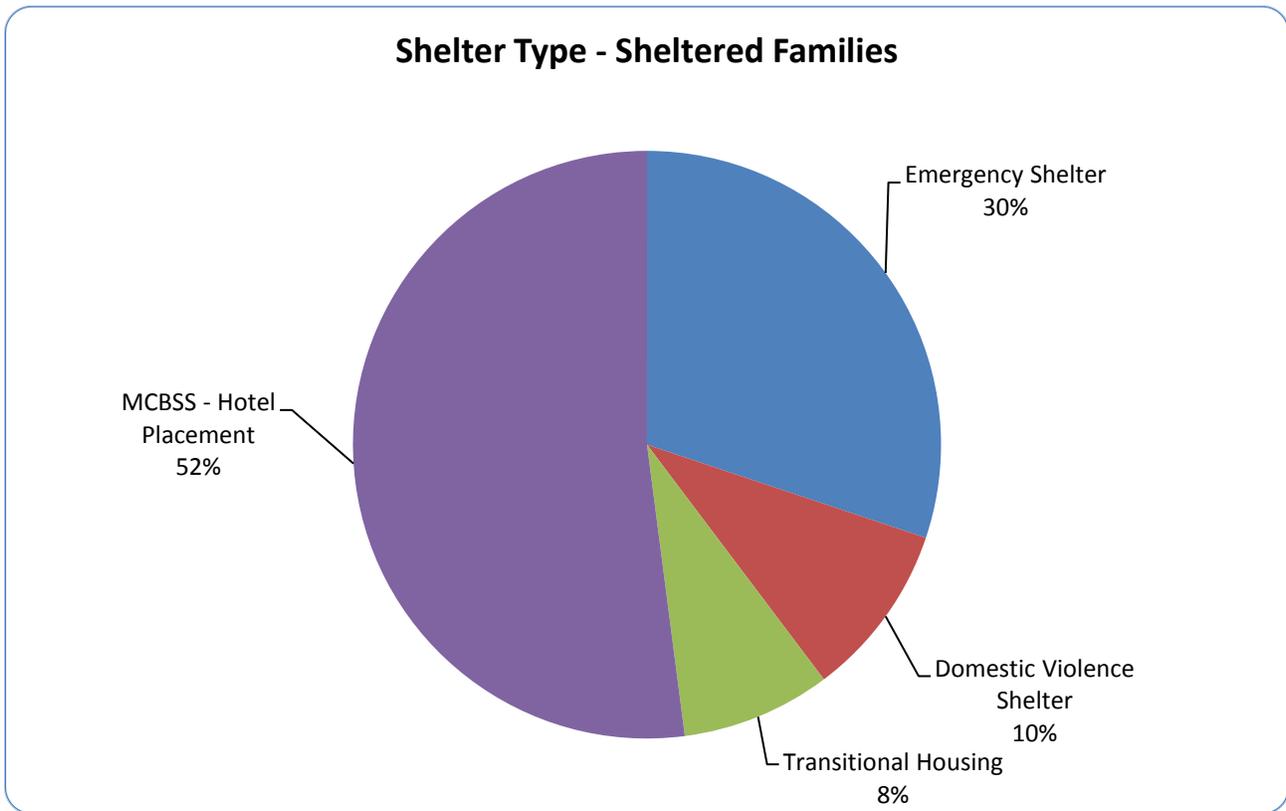
## Sheltered Households

There was a **65% increase in hotel placements of individuals and families by the Middlesex County Board of Social Services (MCBSS)** since 2016. This is notable due to the more stringent adherence to the eligibility criteria in recent years, which had resulted in decreases in placements in the couple of years prior. It is possible that through the increased efforts of the street outreach teams, in conjunction with a strong emphasis on identifying and housing Chronically Homeless persons through Coordinated Assessment, more unsheltered homeless were able to be engaged, and therefore found eligible for assistance through MCBSS than in past years.

As Middlesex County continues to work toward increasing permanent housing opportunities, the community has continued to reduce transitional housing, working with agencies to transform transitional housing into permanent housing. In 2016-2017, two transitional housing providers began the process of closing their transitional housing programs and turning them into permanent supportive housing for families, with the goal of opening in mid-late 2017.

## Sheltered Families

There were 73 Sheltered Families, totaling 228 individuals on the night of the Point in Time. These families consisted of 63 single mothers, 2 single fathers, and 8 two parent households.

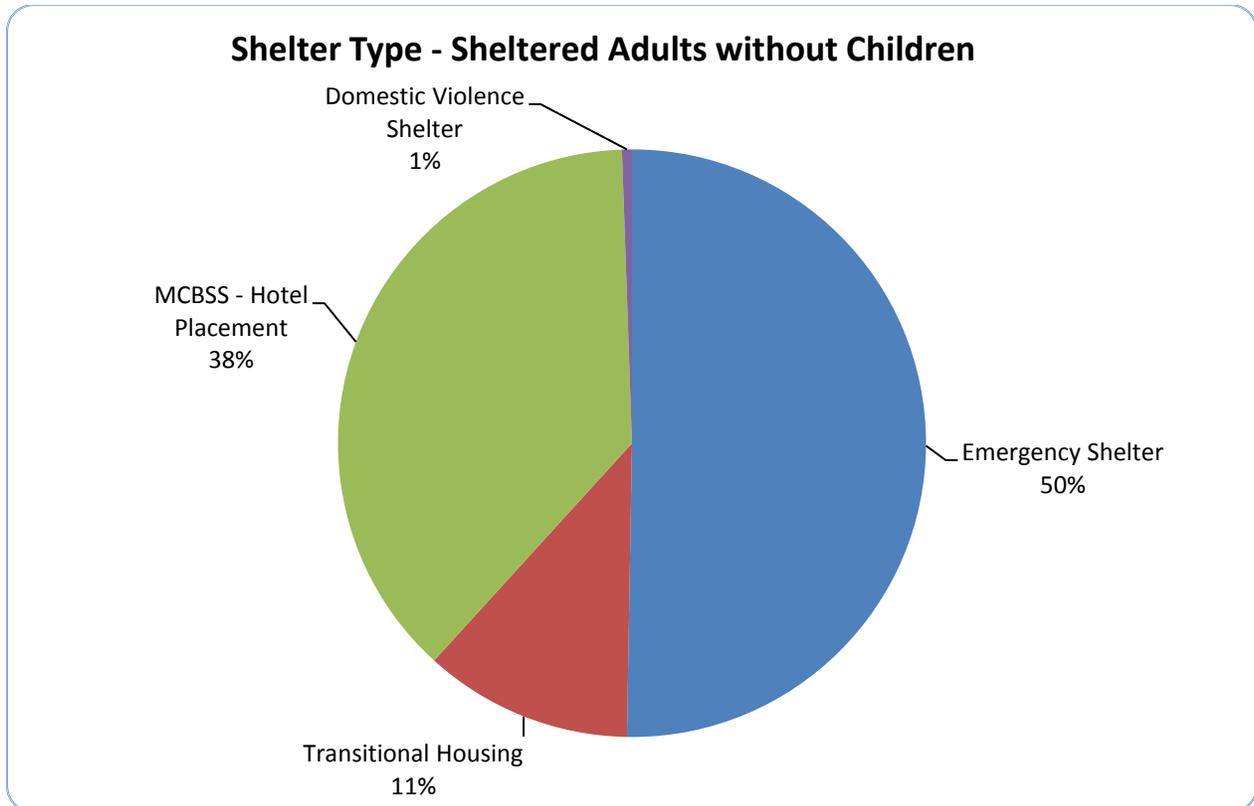




# Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.

## Sheltered Adults without Children

There were 183 Sheltered Adult Households without Children comprised of 193 individuals on the night of the PIT. The majority of these households were located in Emergency Shelter and Hotel placements (88%). Most (173 individuals) were single adults, while there were 4 couples and 6 multigenerational households (parents with their adult children).





# Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.

## Disabilities<sup>4</sup>

The percentage of Sheltered individuals, both adults and children, who report having at least one disability has continued to increase. The chart below represents the total number of adults in each category reporting a disability, with the last column representing the number of adults reporting multiple disabilities. The disability reported the most frequently by an adult in any cohort is mental illness and/or dual diagnosis (MICA – mental health & substance abuse disorders combined). Adults without Children who are homeless and living with at least one disability is more than 6 times that of Adults with Children, with 74% of childless Sheltered Adults and 60% of childless Unsheltered adults reporting having at least one disability compared to only 43% of Sheltered Adults in Families. Only 15% of children are living with disabilities, primarily mental health and/or developmental disabilities.

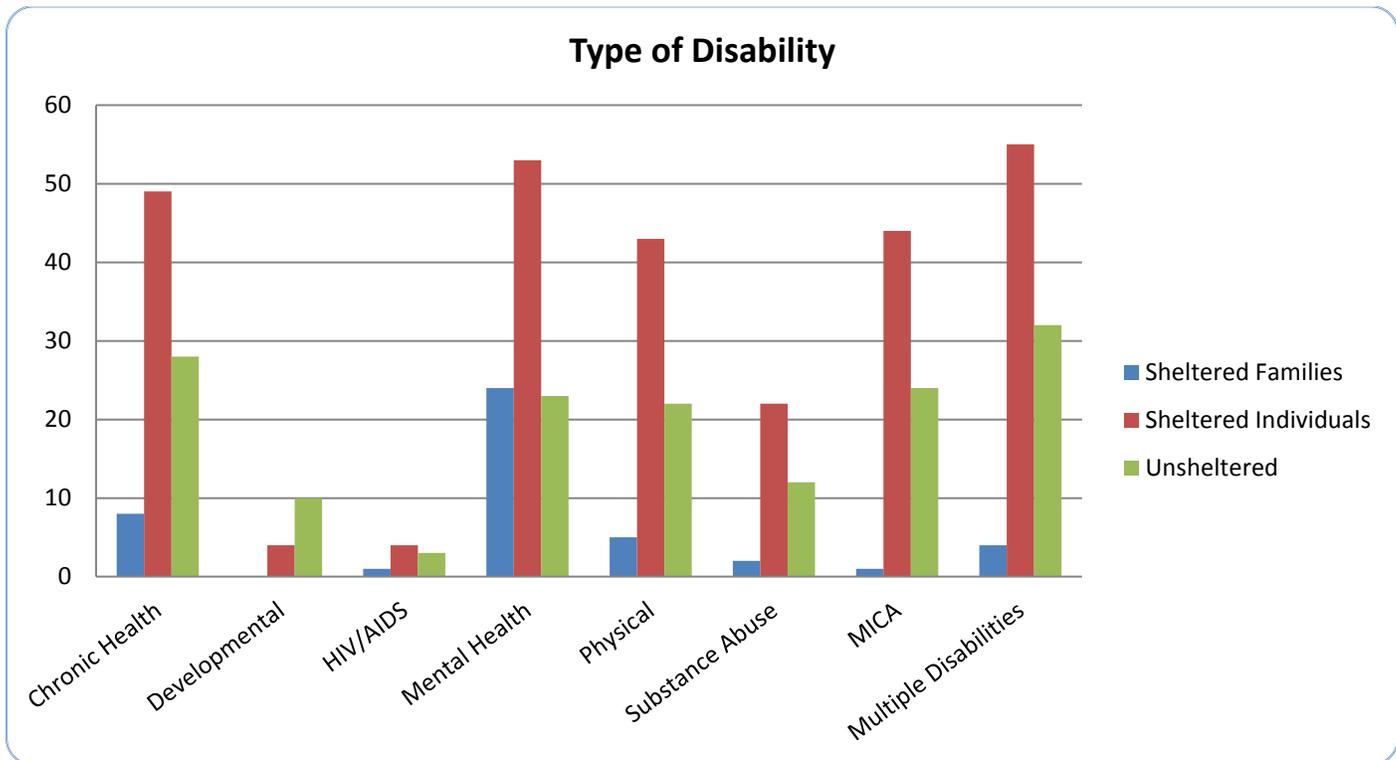


Figure 2 - Adults with Disabilities

<sup>4</sup> The data in these graphs represents each individual adult, not the household.



# Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.

## Income

Adequate income to afford housing in Middlesex County continues to be one of the biggest challenges facing homeless individuals and families.

### Sheltered Households

In 2017, 56% of Sheltered Families received TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families) and 33% of childless Adults received GA (General Assistance) through the MCBSS. Only 25% of Families and 20% of childless Adults reported receiving employment income, representing a decrease from 2016. While single parents reporting income from child support in 2017 more than doubled since 2016 (9%), only 25% reported child support income, so there is still significant room for improvement.

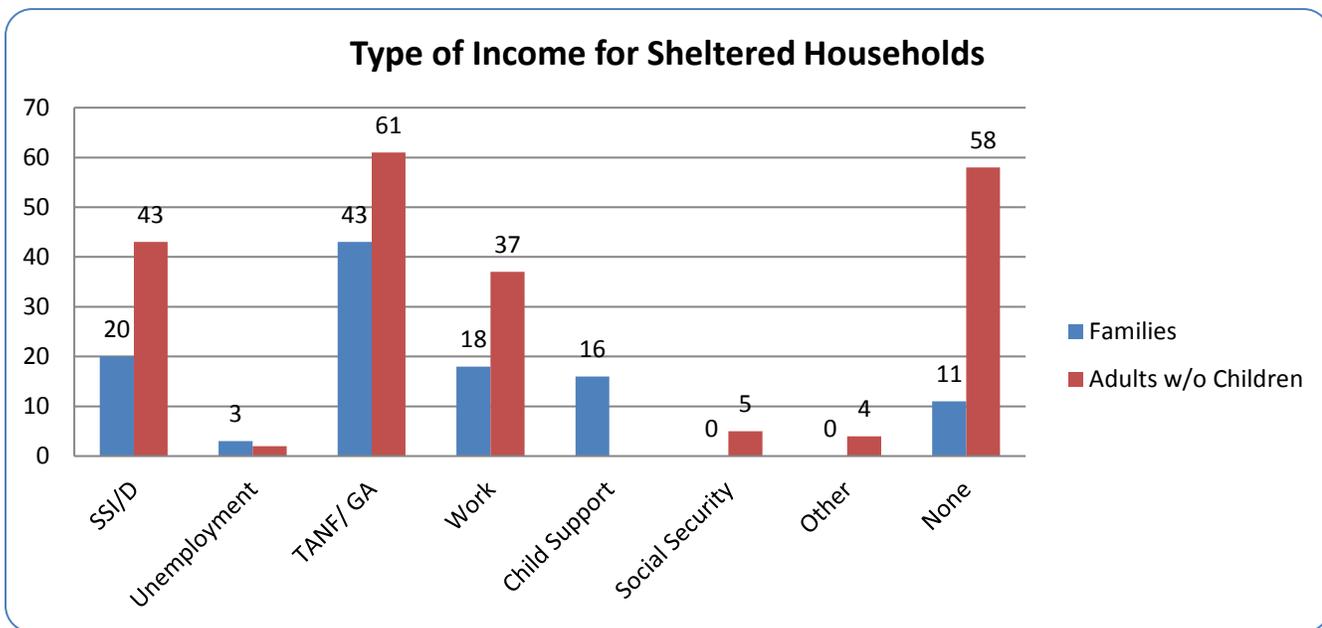


Figure 3 - Income Sources

In addition, less than half of families in which one family member was living with a disability report any kind of disability income (SSI, SSD, or other disability income), and less than a third of childless Adults have disability income. Only a few more in each cohort have pending applications or applications in the appeal process. In both cohorts, this leaves between 50-60% of potentially eligible households who need to apply for benefits<sup>5</sup>. While not all individuals with disabilities meet the criteria for receiving SSI or SSD, there is still a substantial gap between those who may be eligible for these benefits and those who are receiving them. While there has been an increase in eligible households receiving benefits, this gap was identified in 2014 and is still an area that requires attention.

<sup>5</sup> The PIT survey question and HMIS data related to income does not separate income of adults and children. Both record only household income.



# Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.

## Income and Housing

In 2017, Fair Market Rent (FMR) for apartments in Middlesex County indicates that permanent housing continues to be out of reach for homeless households.

Efficiency	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom
\$1,054	\$1,296	\$1,654	\$2,109

The majority of all homeless Families (79%) reported an income of less than \$1,260 per month, making even a 1 bedroom apartment unaffordable for them. Approximately 7% of Families reported a monthly income over \$1,260, only 13.7% reported \$2,000+/month.

Based on household size, the following chart represents the minimum housing needs of homeless Families:

### Rationale

- 1 bedroom: appropriate for 2-3 adults without children, or for 1 adult + 1 child
- 2 bedrooms: appropriate for 1 adult + 2-4 kids, or 2 adults & 1-2 kids
- 3 bedrooms: appropriate for 1 adult + 4+ kids, or 2 adults + 3+ kids
- 4 bedrooms: appropriate for larger families, and multi-generational families

1 Bdrm (\$1,296)	2 Bdrm (\$1,654)	3 -4 Bdrm (\$2,109-2,551)
29	34	10

The majority (87%) of homeless childless Adults reported an income of less than \$1,050 per month, making even an Efficiency/Studio apartment unaffordable. Even the going rate for an SRO at \$700-750/month is unaffordable to 79% of this population, whose monthly income is under \$775. Only 4.7% of these households reported a monthly income between \$1,075-1,200, and an additional 7.4% reported an income over \$1,200/month.

Based on household size, the following chart represents the minimum housing needs of homeless childless Adults (including Unsheltered households):

### Rationale

- Room (SRO): suitable for a single adult
- Studio/Efficiency: Suitable for a 1-2 adults
- 1 bedroom: appropriate for 2 adults without children

SRO or Efficiency (\$700-1,054)	1 Bdrm (\$1,296)
282	16



# Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.

## Non-Cash Benefits

Non-cash benefits include food stamps, Medicaid, Medicare, WIC and other public benefits. The most frequently reported benefits received by homeless persons are food stamps and Medicaid. Approximately 80% of all Sheltered households receive these benefits, up from 57% in 2016. For Sheltered Families, 90% of households are receiving food stamps, but only 62% of Sheltered childless Adults and 33% of Unsheltered persons are receiving this benefit. While the data demonstrates that Sheltered Families have more success in accessing these benefits, there has been substantial increase in all homeless cohorts receiving Food Stamps and Medicaid over the last couple of years, demonstrating the positive benefit of increased outreach efforts discussed earlier in engaging the homeless population.

## Cause of Homelessness

The top three causes of homelessness varied among all homeless cohorts. For Sheltered Families, the top three causes of homelessness were: Asked to Leave Shared Residence (31.5%), Domestic Violence (27.3%), and Loss/Reduction of Job Income (10.9%). For childless Sheltered Adults, the top causes were: Release from Prison/Institution (21%), Asked to Leave Shared Residence (16.4%), and Loss/Reduction of Job Income (12%). Lastly, for Unsheltered persons, the top causes were: Loss/Reduction of Job Income (25%), Asked to Leave Shared Residence (12.9%), and Substance Abuse and Release from Prison/Institution (10% each). While each cohort reported Loss of Job Income and Asked to Leave Shared Residence in the top 3 causes, there are other significant differences in the cause of homelessness reported among the cohorts, which would impact services that agencies might offer to their clients. For Families, Domestic Violence was cited as the second leading cause of homelessness. Meanwhile, childless Sheltered Adults reported Release from Prison or other Institution as the leading cause of homelessness, while only 1 Family reported this as a cause, and Substance Abuse was in the top 3 for Unsheltered persons. Substance Abuse and Mental Illness were also in the top 5 for childless Sheltered Adults.

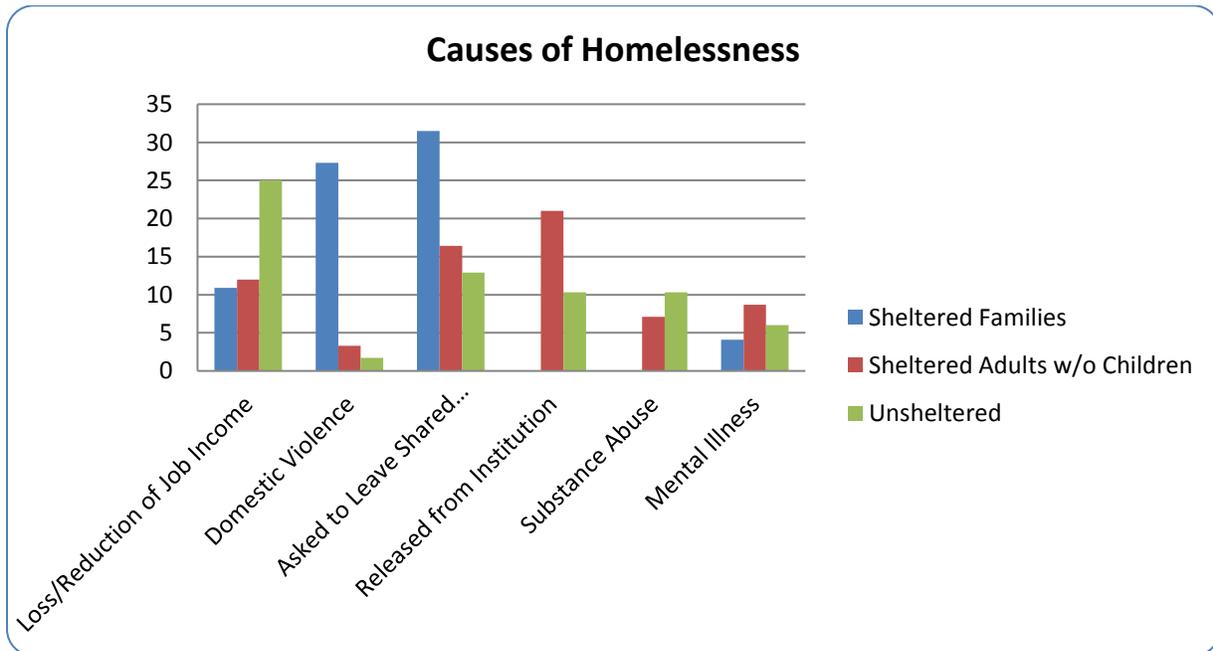


Figure 4 - Cause of Homelessness (%)



# Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.

## Unsheltered

- There were 123 adults (116 households) who were Unsheltered on the night of the PIT, which represents a 46% increase from 2016;
- Of the unsheltered, men outnumber women approximately 3:1; 2 identified as transgender;
- Of the men, the majority (53%) are between 30 – 49 years of age; 27% are age 50 – 59; and 7% are 60 years and older;
- Of all Unsheltered adults, only 5 qualify as “homeless youth” (18-24).

Despite the increase in unsheltered persons in the last 2 years, there has been a 49% reduction in the last 5 years.

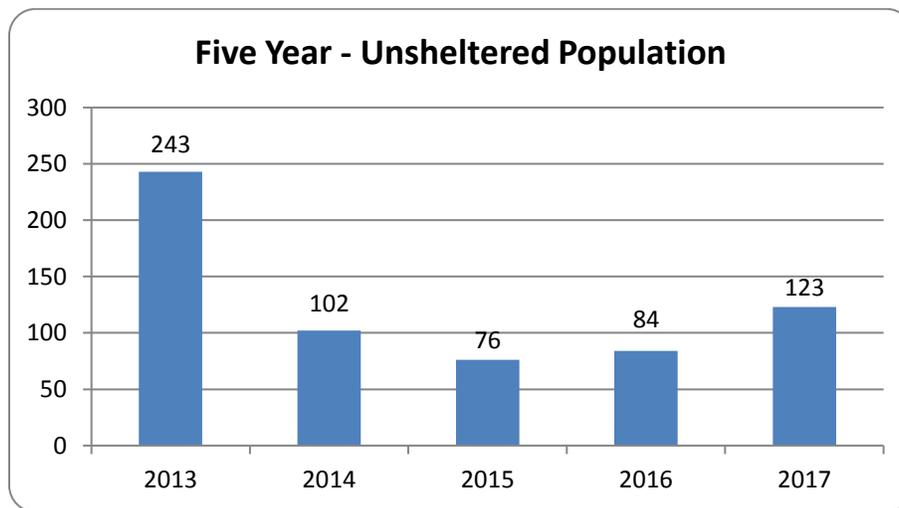


Figure 5 - Unsheltered 2013-2017

## Last Permanent Address of the Unsheltered

The survey included questions asking for the household’s Last Permanent Address and household’s current location (In what town did you spend the night?), as depicted in the two graphs below (Figure 6 & Figure 7).

- 34% of unsheltered households reported New Brunswick as their last permanent address, increasing from 23.5% in 2016; 12% reported Perth Amboy (decrease from 19% in 2016), and 14% reported an address out of the County or out of State (decrease from 19% in 2016) as their last permanent address.
- The majority of households reported that they spent the night of the survey in New Brunswick (62%), which is a slight increase from 59% in 2016. The next city represented is Perth Amboy, with 15% spending the night there (down from 29% in 2016).
- In both 2016 and 2017, approximately 50% of unsheltered households report that they remained in their home town when they became homeless, indicating that these individuals tend to stay in the area with which they are familiar and where they may have ties.

## Unsheltered Households

### Last Permanent Address

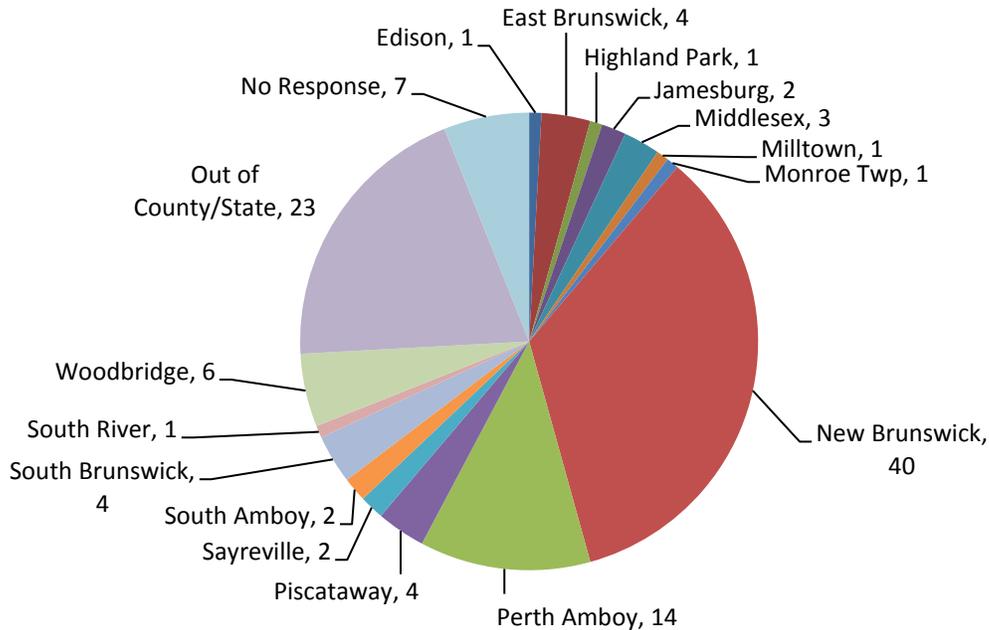


Figure 6 - Last Permanent Address of Unsheltered Households

### Where did you spend the night?

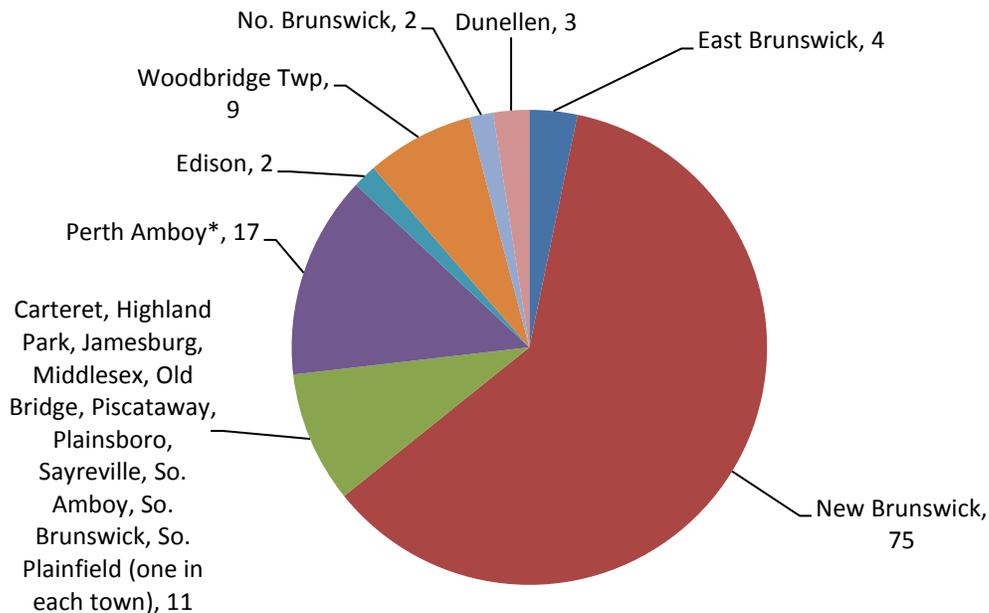


Figure 7 - In what town did you spend the night?



# Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.

## Income & Non-Cash Benefits – Unsheltered

Of the Unsheltered households, **53%** reported receiving no income, and 14% reported receiving employment income, which is a slight increase over 2016. Of those with employment income, 3 earn enough to support an SRO in a rooming house, and 3 others reported enough income to support an efficiency apartment. One of those households is a veteran household who has since secured a HUD VASH voucher. One is a PATH client whose illness appears to interfere with the ability to engage in services and/or accept housing assistance. A few of the other households are less well known, but report disabilities which may interfere with their ability to engage in services, similar to the PATH client.

There is a high rate of adults with disabilities in the Unsheltered cohort with 60% reporting at least one disability. However, only 9% of Unsheltered individuals reported receiving welfare benefits, and 15% reported receiving disability benefits. **Based on reported income, over 95% of the Unsheltered would be eligible for food stamps and Medicaid, but more than half of these individuals reported receiving no non-cash benefits.**

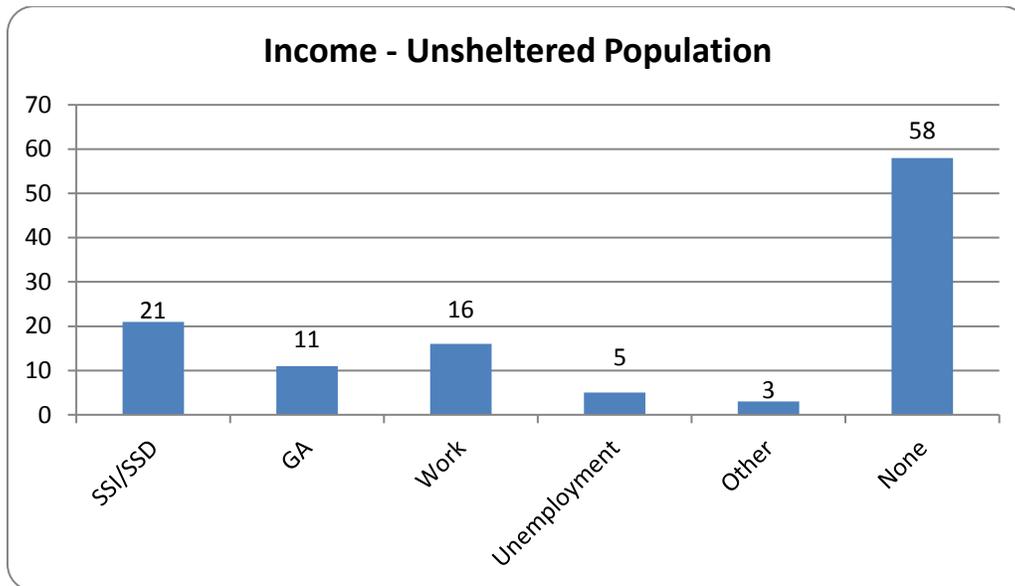


Figure 8 - Income - Unsheltered



## *Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.*

### **Chronic Homelessness**

While the federal emphasis is on ending Chronic Homelessness (CH), Middlesex County's homeless population demonstrates a small percentage of Chronically Homeless households, at only 15.8% of all homeless households. As noted above, homeless service providers in Middlesex County, especially through our Outreach projects (HEART and PATH programs) are actively working with the vast majority of the CH population, who through the Coordinated Assessment process, are prioritized for Permanent Supportive Housing. In fact, of the 59 CH households counted in the 2017 PIT, 30 of them are known to the homeless service system, have already received permanent supportive housing vouchers, and are either already housed or are in the housing search process at the time of this writing, 6 months later.

- In total, there were 55 Households without Children and 4 Families who were Chronically Homeless, for a total of 59 CH households, comprised of 71 persons. While this is an increase since 2016, it is likely that this is largely due to the implementation of Coordinated Assessment, combined with increased efforts of outreach staff to identify the hardest to serve. In addition, it is likely that there will be a dramatic reduction in 2018, due to those same efforts in placing the CH population in supportive housing throughout 2017.
- 32 Chronically Homeless were Unsheltered, while 23 were childless Sheltered Adults and 4 were Sheltered Families were living in Emergency Shelter or Hotel placement by MCBSS.
- Of the CH Unsheltered and Sheltered childless Adults, there were 40 men and 18 women; and all of the CH Families (4), there were single mothers.
- Among the CH households, there were no Homeless Youth (ages 18-24).
- 44% of all Chronically Homeless adults (26), have multiple disabilities. Almost 80% (47) of the CH population has a mental health diagnosis, 26 of whom also reported a substance abuse disorder. Another 9 adults reported a substance abuse disorder without a coinciding mental health disorder (see Figure 9 below).
- The 5 CH Veterans are known to the homeless system. Three (3) of these individuals have continued to decline services, while 2 of those veterans have received housing vouchers since the night of the PIT.
- All but one of the 4 CH Families have received vouchers and/or been housed since the night of the PIT. The remaining CH family is headed by a single mother who does not have legal status in the country so is not eligible for a voucher. In addition, 26 of the Unsheltered and Sheltered childless CH Adults have received vouchers and/or are housed (including the veterans above). Of the remaining CH adults, the majority are known to the outreach teams, but at the time of the PIT, have continued to decline services.



# Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.

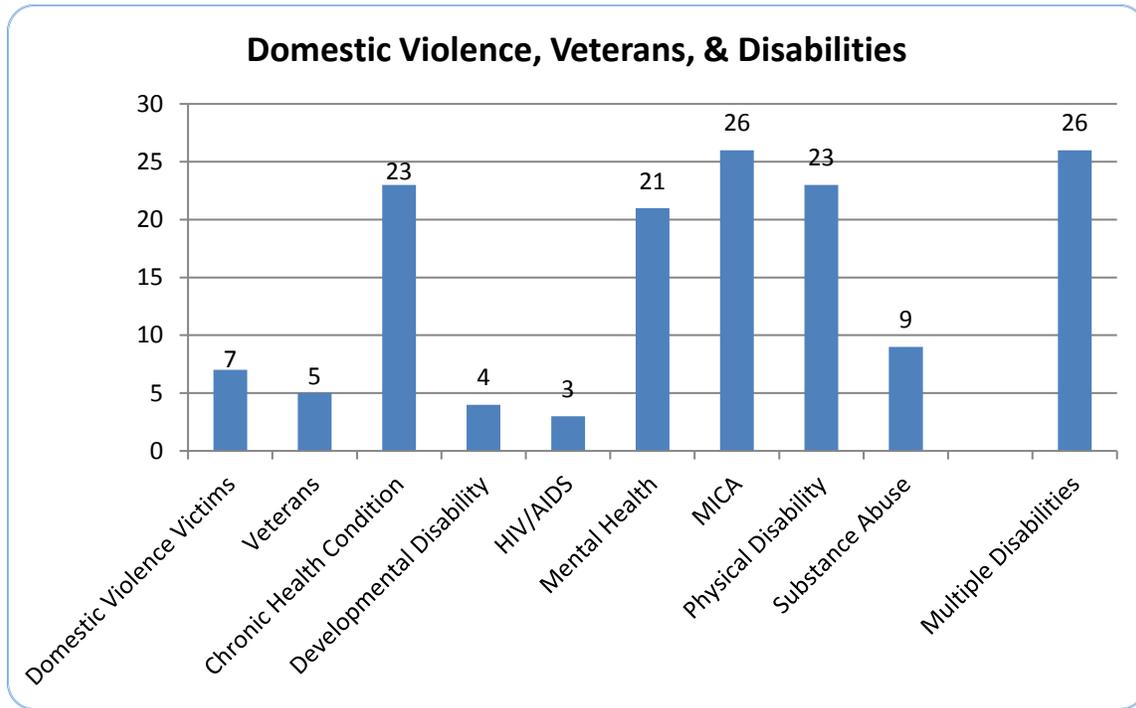


Figure 9 – Chronically Homeless – DV, Vets, & Disabilities

## Chronically Homeless - Income & Non-Cash Benefits

Forty-four (44%) percent of CH households report having no income and approximately 19% report having no non-cash benefits. Of those households that do report some income, only 15 childless Adult households (27%) report sufficient income to support the cost of an SRO, and none of the Families have sufficient income to afford even an Efficiency or 1 bedroom unit.

Approximately 72% of CH childless Adults report receiving Medicaid or Medicare, while 100% of the Families have these health benefits. These numbers demonstrate a significant increase in health insurance coverage among the CH population of childless Adults compared to 2016 (approximately 35%), demonstrating again the positive impact of the outreach and case management efforts of the homeless system staff in Middlesex County.



## *Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.*

### **Homeless “Youth”**

Homeless Youth are a subpopulation of all Sheltered Families, Sheltered Adults without Children, and the Unsheltered cohorts. On the night of the 2017 PIT, 22 unaccompanied young Adults without Children and 16 Sheltered Families headed by young adults, ages 18-24, reported being homeless.

- In the 16 Sheltered Families, 15 young single mothers and 1 young couple were accompanied by 25 children, ranging in age from 0-8 years old. 37.5% of these families were African American, 56% were Hispanic, 6% were Caucasian, and 6% were Asian. Half of these young women reported being victims of domestic violence.
- Of the 22 Adults without Children, 5 were Unsheltered. 77% of the Unsheltered and Sheltered childless young adults were male. 32% were Hispanic, 55% were African American, and 13% were Caucasian.

### **Cause of Homelessness**

Approximately 26% of Homeless Youth reported their cause of homelessness as being Asked to Leave a Shared Residence, followed by Domestic Violence (16%) and Loss of Job/Reduction in Income (13%). Without additional information, it is unknown why these individuals were asked to leave the shared residence in which they were living. For example, they may have had a disagreement with their parents, or they may have been living with a friend or other family member and been unable to contribute financially to the household expenses due to their low income.

### **Income & Non-Cash Benefits**

Homeless Youth reported very low income, with 29% reporting no income. However, 55% of Sheltered Homeless Youth without children and 100% of young Families receive at least Medicaid and Food Stamps. Of those with income, only 3 of the childless Sheltered Homeless Youth can afford an SRO, and none of the Unsheltered or the Families can afford housing to meet their household size.

### **Disabilities – Homeless Youth**

Approximately 47% of the Homeless Youth reported having at least one disability, and 3 reported having multiple disabilities. The most prevalent disability within this cohort was Mental Health issues, with 39% (16 individuals) reporting a Mental Health condition, 5 of whom also reported a co-occurring Substance Abuse problem.



## *Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.*

### **Services Requested by Homeless Individuals and Families**

The top 4 services requested by homeless adults in the 2017 PIT were consistent across all cohorts: Housing, Financial Assistance for Housing (i.e. Rental/Utility assistance), Employment, and Transportation. Families also reported the need for Child Care; and Adults without Children reported the need for Routine Medical Care, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment.

Generally, the service needs reported by the homeless have remained consistent year to year.



# Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.

## APPENDIX A – Definitions

**Chronically Homeless** – pursuant to HUD, a homeless person with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more, OR who has had 4 episodes of homelessness in the last 3 years, is considered “Chronically Homeless.” The individual must have been on the streets or in an emergency shelter (not transitional housing) during their homeless episodes.

**Coordinated Assessment** – the process, or system, by which homeless individuals are uniformly assessed and prioritized for permanent housing solutions, generally prioritizing those with longer lengths of homelessness and greater service needs for the most intensive resources, such as Permanent Supportive Housing.

**Emergency Shelter** – a facility that houses groups of unrelated individuals or families who are literally homeless. This includes a single agency with shelter buildings, or a network of religious institutions, where homeless individuals rotate between the institutions each week. This also includes facilities that open as “Code Blue” sites. Typically, the average length of stay in an Emergency Shelter is 60-75 days.

**HMIS** – the County’s Homeless Management Information System. In Middlesex County, this system is administered by Coming Home. This is a HUD required system, and allows for the County to manage data on the homeless population for planning, operational and reporting purposes. All County funded emergency housing and permanent supportive housing programs enter data in to HMIS.

**Household** – any individual or a group of individuals that reside together. A household could be a single adult, a couple without children, a group of adults who live together (often related), or a family with minor children. A household could also be a “child-only” household, in which no adults are present.

**Family** - a household in which minor children are present, i.e. a single parent with children, a two-parent family (married or unmarried), or another guardian with minor children.

**Single Adult or Couples without children** – Single adults and adults living together (married or not) without children are all considered single adults by HUD.

**Homeless “Youth”** – unaccompanied homeless persons under the age of 25 *and* without a head of household older than 24. This would be a sub-group of homeless households within the Adults without Children and Unsheltered cohorts. If a young adult has a child, they are counted in the Family category, regardless of age. *In 2015, a young adult with minor children is counted in the Family category, but is also counted separately as a homeless, parenting youth.*

**Literally Homeless (or Homeless)** – households who were sheltered and staying in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Hotel Paid for by an Agency, or TRA, and those who were unsheltered, i.e. who reported being “On the Street or in a Place not meant for human habitation.”



## *Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.*

**Middlesex County Board of Social Services (MCBSS)** – the public welfare agency for the County for individuals and families with no income. MCBSS provides General Assistance (GA) for adults without minor children, Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) for families with minor children, Food Stamps, Medicaid, and Emergency Assistance (EA) for those receiving GA, TANF or SSI (Supplemental Security Income for disabled children or adults with little to no work history). MCBSS also administers additional assistance for welfare recipients, including Child Support, Child Care, Transportation, and WorkFirst NJ (to help individuals find employment).

**Emergency Assistance** – households receiving GA, TANF, or SSI may be eligible for additional Emergency Assistance if they are experiencing a housing crisis, including financial assistance to pay a utility bill, past due rent, security deposit, or for homeless households, hotel placement or Temporary Rental Assistance (TRA). EA can also be used as to pay Emergency Shelters a per diem rate for homeless clients who may be placed in the shelter. Households are eligible for up to 12 months of EA in a lifetime.

**Hotel Placement** – in Middlesex County, the MCBSS may pay for a hotel placement for eligible individuals and families (i.e. receiving GA, TANF, or sometimes SSI) who are experiencing homelessness, if the existing shelters are full, or if someone in the household is unable to live in a shelter setting due to a medical reason.

**Temporary Rental Assistance (TRA)** – a short term (up to 12 months) rental subsidy for eligible households.

**Precariously Housed** – households who reported “Temporarily Staying with Friends/Family”, in a “Hotel that they paid for” without assistance, “Jail”, “Medical Hospital”, or other location on the night of the count. HUD does not consider individuals living in these circumstances to be “homeless,” although Middlesex County recognizes that these households can become homeless at any time.

**Single Room Occupancy (SRO)** – single rooms in a multi-tenant building, in which tenants typically share bathroom and kitchen facilities. Sometimes called a Rooming House or Boarding House.

**Transitional Housing** – refers to programs that are designed to house individuals or families in small apartments, while providing case management and life skills education on site. The average length of stay in these programs is approximately 18 months, and they are typically used for households that require some additional assistance in areas of life skills, parenting, education, or employment beyond the timeframe that is possible to address at an Emergency Shelter.



## *Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.*

### **APPENDIX B – Methodology**

On January 27, 2017, Middlesex County conducted its annual Point in Time (PIT) survey (sponsored by the federal Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)) of homeless individuals and families residing in Middlesex County. Surveys were primarily administered to respondents at multiple locations, including two “Project Homeless Connect (PHC)” sites (Elijah’s Promise in New Brunswick and the Cathedral in Perth Amboy), as well as through street outreach activities throughout the County. At the PHC sites and on the street, the surveys were read to the respondents, and their responses were recorded on the paper survey. HUD allowed for street outreach data to continue to be collected for a period of 7 days after the PIT date. In Middlesex County, street outreach teams collected data from Jan. 27 – Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>.

Additionally, homeless service providers, government agencies addressing homelessness, school homeless liaisons, police departments and other entities throughout the County were sent copies of the surveys to gather information from individuals and families experiencing homelessness with whom they had contact. These entities may have interviewed their consumers/clients, or they may have recorded information for the survey based on previous information they had gathered from their consumers. Additionally, data was gathered on the sheltered homeless from Middlesex County’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). For Middlesex County Board of Social Services (MCBSS) clients, paper and electronic records were reviewed for individuals receiving Emergency Assistance benefits, and data was recorded on the survey tool from the records.

All of the paper survey responses were transferred to an online database administered by Monarch Housing Associates, Inc. (Monarch), the entity contracted by the New Jersey Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency to oversee the administration of the PIT statewide, either by the survey taker, a data entry volunteer, or Coming Home staff. The raw data was then pulled from the database and sent to Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc. (CHM or Coming Home), as the PIT Coordinator. This document is a summary analysis of the raw data, after correcting for data entry errors when compared with the paper surveys, and eliminating duplicate surveys and surveys indicating that the respondent was “Permanently Housed,” i.e. not homeless.