



Coming Home of Middlesex County, Inc.

**COMING HOME OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY
2018 POINT IN TIME (PIT) SURVEY
COMING HOME DATA ANALYSIS**



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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 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.



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Summary of Survey Responses

Total: 597 individuals (408 Households¹) reported being homeless on the night of the PIT. Of this total, **466 individuals** (78% of all homeless persons), including 150 children, were **sheltered** in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, or Hotel Placement. **Middlesex County demonstrated a 9% increase in overall homelessness in the last year, however, in the past five years, has seen a decline in homelessness, with an overall 25.5% reduction since 2014.**

- **Sheltered Households without Children** - Most “homeless households” were sheltered, single adults or couples without children (197 single adults, and 4 couples, plus 10 parents with adult children, totaling **210 households**).
- **Sheltered Households with Children**, or “Families” - **75 homeless households** were Families, comprised of 242 individuals (including 150 children). The majority of all Sheltered Families (72%) were headed by female single parents, however, there was an increase this year in single fathers and two parent households in this category.
- There were **123 Unsheltered households** on the night of the PIT, comprised of 115 individuals, 7 couples, and 1 parent with an adult child (age 22). 82% of the Unsheltered were men.
- Men comprise the majority of homeless adults without children at 66%, while women represent 74% of adults in households with children (families). Children comprise 25% of the total homeless population.
- **Chronically Homeless** – there were **78 Chronically Homeless households** (comprised of 88 individuals), representing 19% of total homeless households. This represents a 32% increase in Chronically Homeless households from last year. Approximately 74% of Chronically Homeless adults are male, and 56% of Chronically Homeless adults are unsheltered.
- **Homeless Youth (age 18-24, unaccompanied by parent)** - There were 12 Homeless Youth without children on the night of the PIT, which accounts for 3.6% of all homeless Households without Children. Additionally, there were 10 young single mothers and 3 young parenting couple (ages 18-24) who were homeless, accounting for 17.3% of homeless Families. This represents a significant reduction in both categories since 2016.
- **Veterans** – there were 16 veterans who were homeless on the night of the PIT, which accounts for 3.9% of all homeless households, or 2.7% of total homeless persons.

¹ 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).



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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 beginning in 2016, the homeless system continues 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 was only first done in 2017. Lastly, Coming Home, as the Coordinated Assessment lead agency, has developed relationships with social service agencies which do not traditionally interact with the homeless service agencies, in order to assist them in assessing their clientele who are experiencing homelessness.

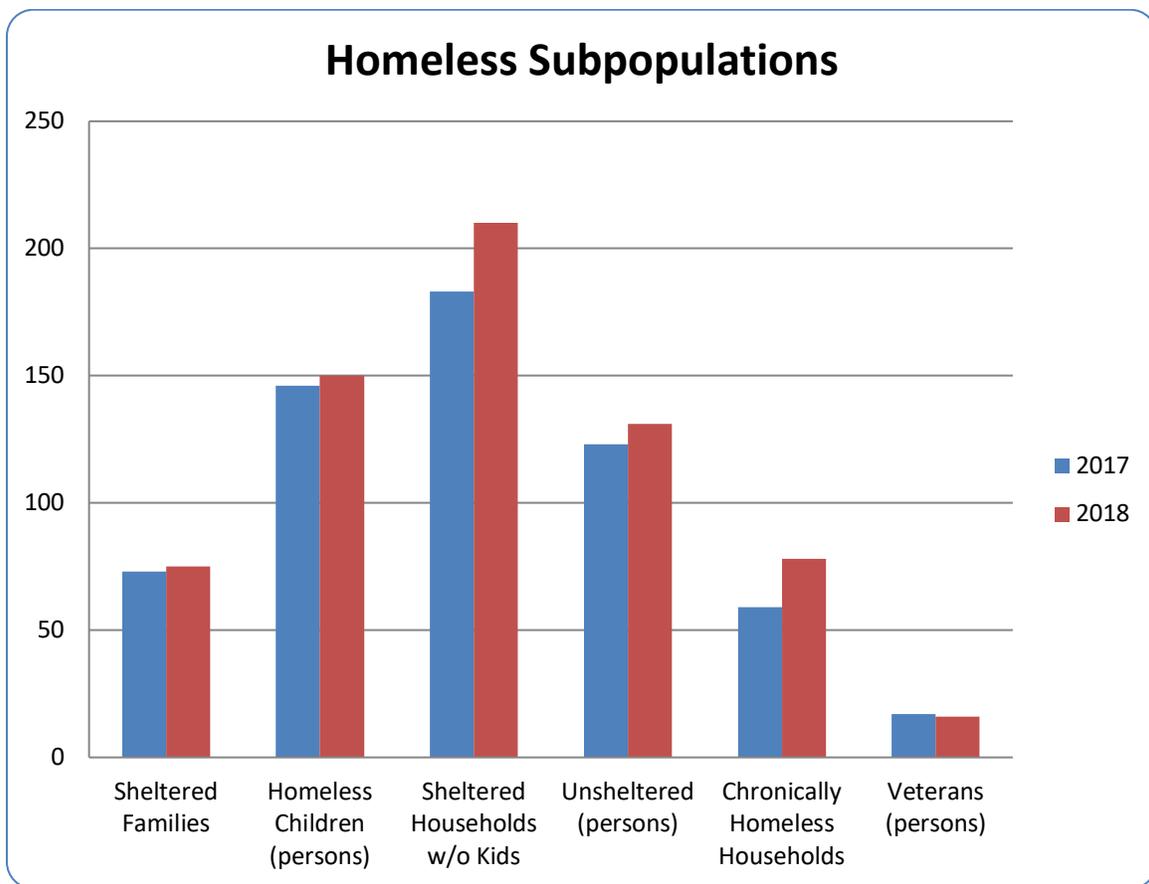


Figure 1 - Homeless Subpopulations

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, in 2017, Middlesex County successfully housed 47 chronically homeless households, as well as another 28 “high need” homeless individuals and families in housing dedicated to the homeless.



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Last Permanent Address–Homeless

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

Municipality	Last Permanent Address
Carteret	7
Cranbury	0
Dunellen	4
East Brunswick	13
Edison	15
Helmetta	0
Highland Park	12
Jamesburg	1
Metuchen	0
Middlesex	4
Milltown	4
Monroe Twp	4
New Brunswick	96
North Brunswick	22
Old Bridge	9
Perth Amboy	59
Piscataway	7
Plainsboro	4
Sayreville	9
South Amboy	4
South Brunswick	10
South Plainfield	3
South River	14
Spotswood	1
Woodbridge	29
Out of County	42
Out of State	16
Puerto Rico	10
Unknown/No Response	8
“Prison”	1

- There was a 4.2% decrease from 2017 in households reporting New Brunswick as their last permanent address on the night of the PIT. While not inaccurate, this may be in part due to the stronger outreach effort and higher numbers of volunteers in New Brunswick.
- About half of the Unsheltered individuals counted in East Brunswick on the night of the PIT reported South River as their last permanent address, and the other half from East Brunswick. It should be noted that most of the unsheltered population in East Brunswick sleep in the Transit Center on Old Bridge Turnpike, which has an East Brunswick address. However, the east side of Old Bridge Turnpike is mostly in South River, while the west side of the street is mostly in East Brunswick.
- Approximately 17% of households reported their last permanent address as outside of Middlesex County, representing a 30.8% increase from 2017.



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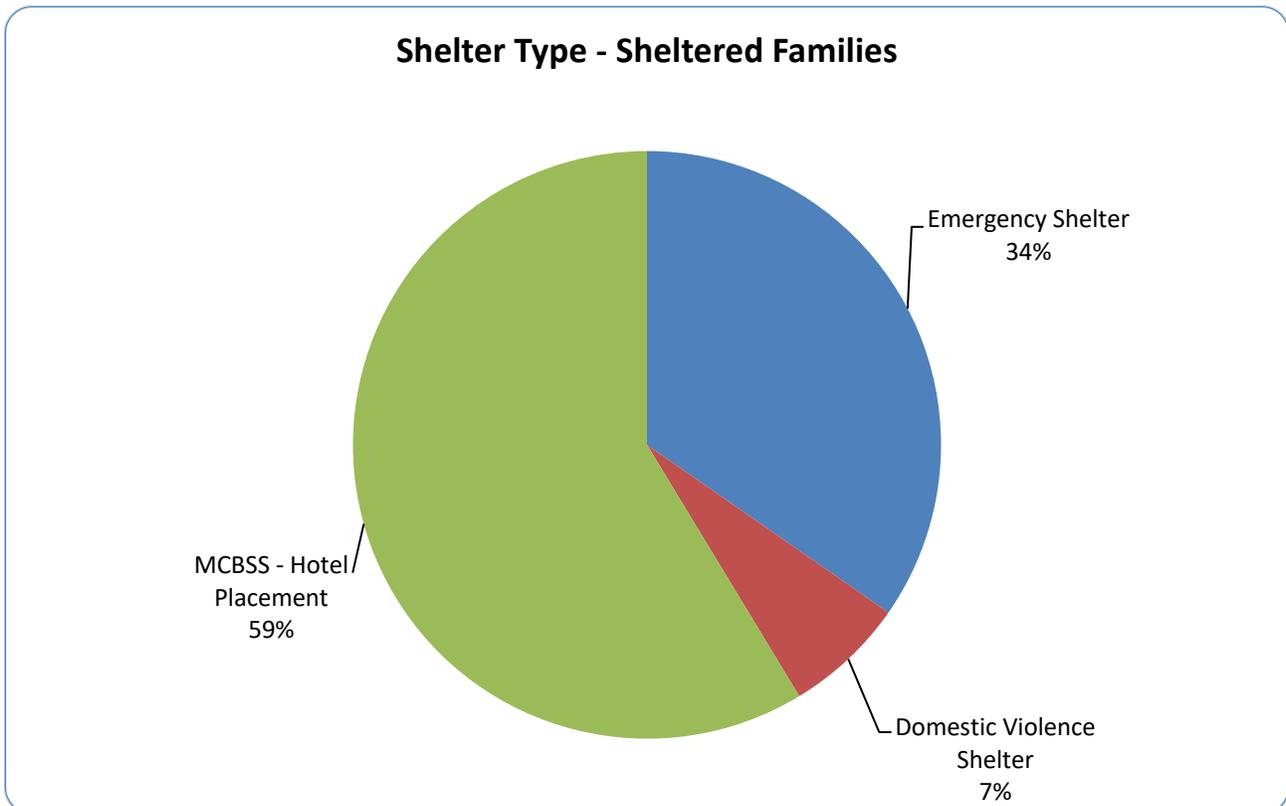
Sheltered Households

There was a **43% increase in hotel placements of individuals and families by the Middlesex County Board of Social Services (MCBSS)** since 2017. From 2016 – 2017, there was a 65% increase in hotel placements. The increases in each year are 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. Through 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 2017, all transitional housing for families was converted into project-based permanent supportive housing for individuals and families, leasing up in mid – 2017 through early 2018.

Sheltered Families

There were 75 Sheltered Families, totaling 242 individuals on the night of the PIT. These families were comprised of 54 single mothers, 7 single fathers, and 13 two-parent households.

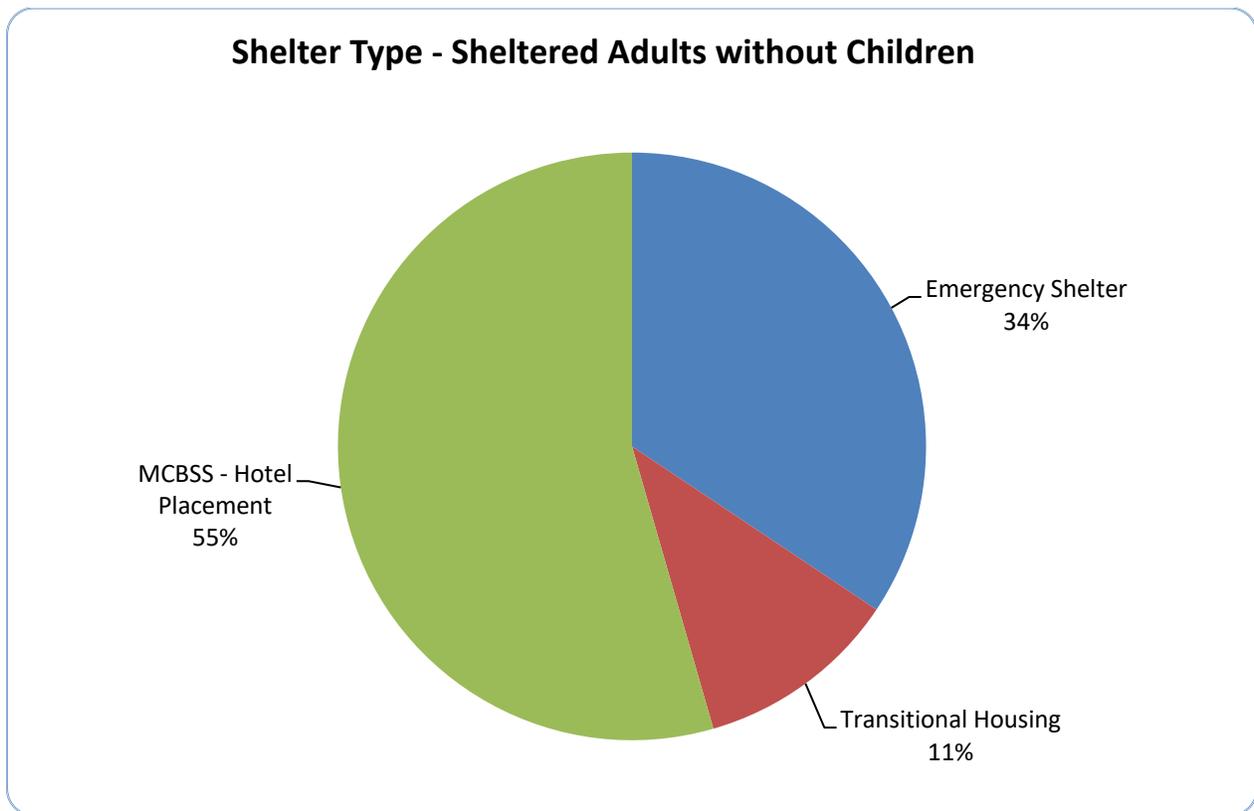




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Sheltered Adults without Children

There were 210 Sheltered Adult Households without Children comprised of 224 individuals on the night of the PIT. The majority of these households were located in Emergency Shelter and Hotel placements (89%). Most (197 individuals) were single adults, and there were 4 couples and 10 multigenerational households (parents with their adult children).





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Disabilities²

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 (mental health & substance abuse disorders combined). There are more homeless Adults without Children with at least one disability than there are Adults with Children, with 76% of childless Sheltered and Unsheltered adults reporting having at least one disability compared to only 55% of Sheltered Adults in Families. Only 22% of children are living with disabilities, primarily mental health and/or developmental disabilities.

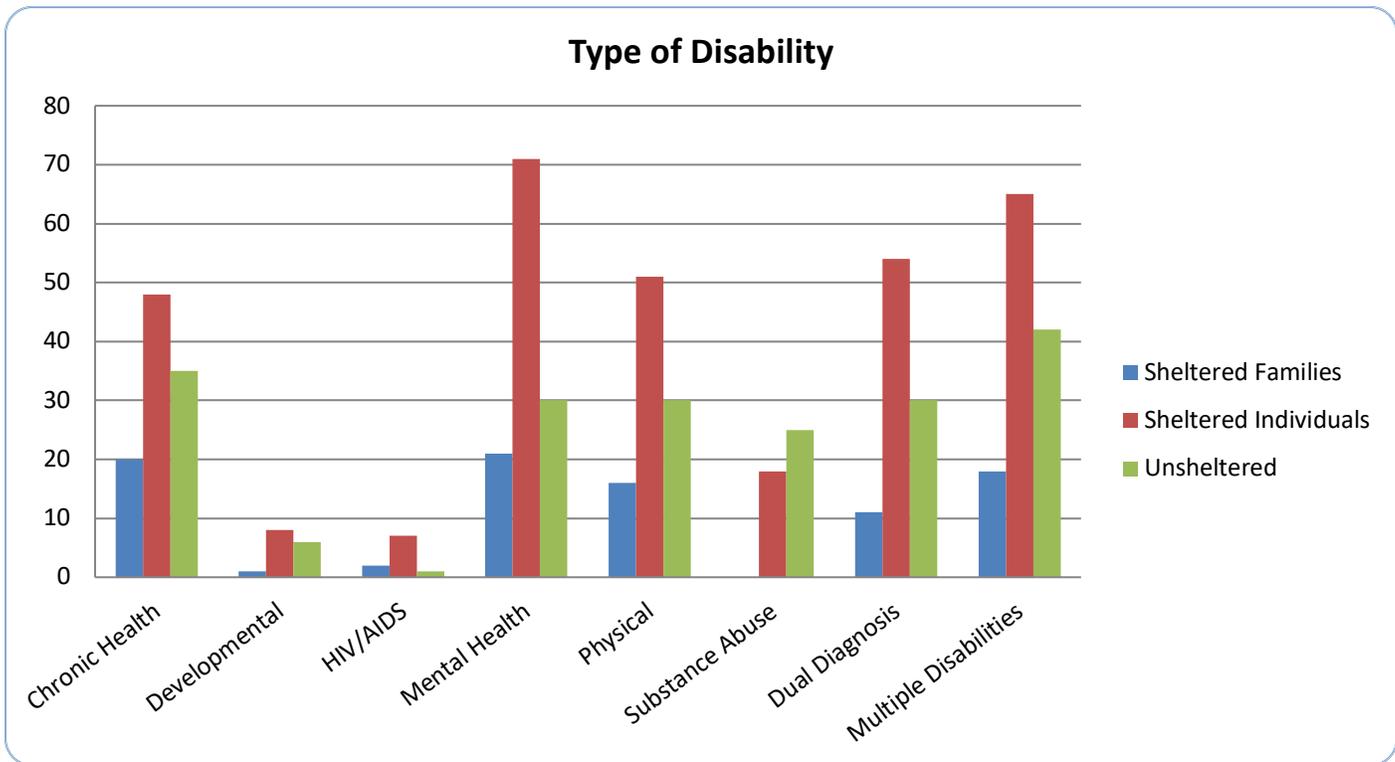


Figure 2 - Adults with Disabilities

In 2018, there was an almost 30% increase from 2017 in homeless parents with disabilities. While it is still less common than in childless adults, the numbers rose dramatically in 2018. Prioritization of families with a variety of special needs for shelter through the Homeless Hotline and Coordinated Assessment process may have impacted this. Families in which the adults are living without a disability and are able to work full time may be more successfully diverted from the homeless system to stay with friends or family while stabilizing their income in order to secure permanent housing.

² The data in these graphs represents each individual adult, not the household.



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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 2018, 61% of Sheltered Families received TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families) and 40% of childless Adults received GA (General Assistance) through the MCBSS, both of which demonstrate an increase from 2017. Only 23% of Families and 16% of childless Adults reported receiving employment income, representing a decrease for the second year in a row. Only 18.6% reported child support income, a decrease from 2017, although still more than double what was reported in 2016.

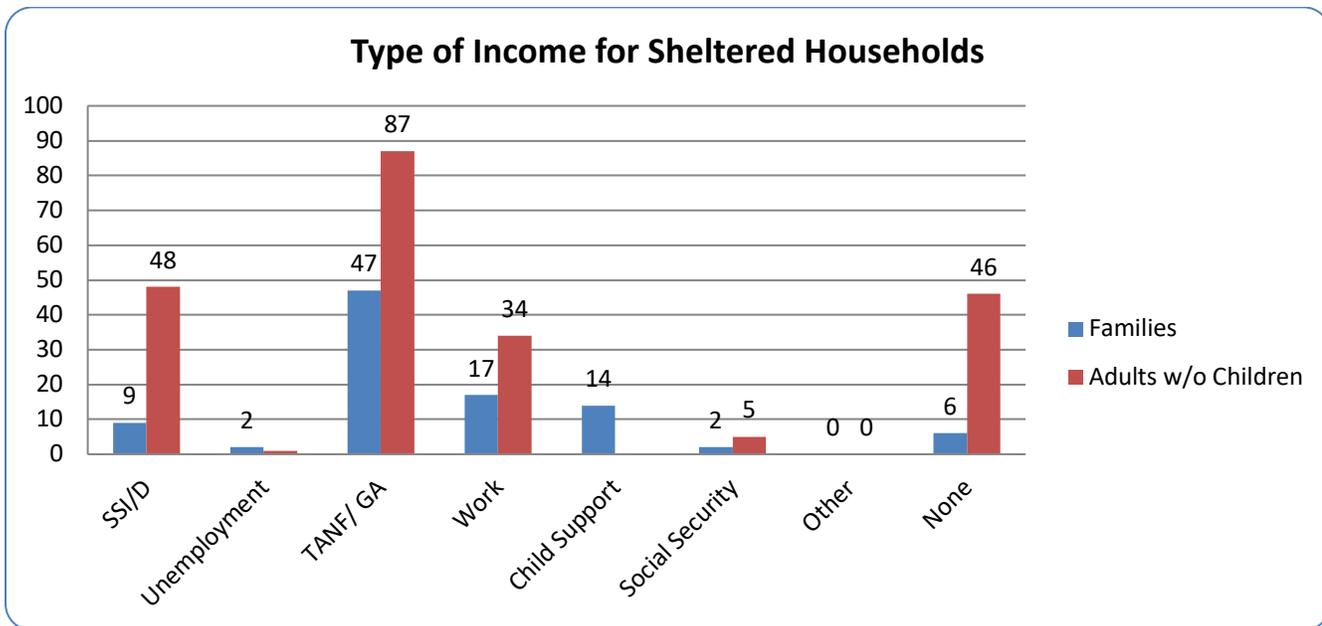


Figure 3 - Income Sources

In addition, only 18% of families with an adult with a disability report any kind of disability income (SSI, SSD, or other disability income), and less than half of childless Adults have disability income. Only a few more in each cohort have pending applications or applications in the appeal process. For families in particular, this represents a 48% decrease in potentially eligible households actually receiving benefits³. 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.

³ The PIT survey question and HMIS data related to income does not separate income of adults and children. Both record only household income.



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Income and Housing

In 2018, 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, but only 13.3% 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)
26	34	14

The majority (80.5%) 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 62% of this population, whose monthly income is under \$700. Only 2% of these households reported a monthly income between \$1,050-1,260, and an additional 8.2% reported an income over \$1,260/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)
312	22



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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 85% of all Sheltered households receive some form of non-cash benefits, up from 80% in 2017 and 57% in 2016. For Sheltered Families, 88% of households are receiving food stamps, but only 61% of Sheltered childless Adults and 24% of Unsheltered persons are receiving this benefit. The data demonstrates that Sheltered Families have more success in accessing these benefits, and despite an increase in childless Adults receiving benefits from 2016 to 2017, this has dropped for Unsheltered adults in the last year. Outreach efforts to engage these individuals will continue, in order to ensure that all homeless individuals are able to access mainstream benefits for which they are eligible.

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 (18.7%), Loss/Reduction of Job Income (17.3%), and Domestic Violence (13.3%). For childless Sheltered Adults, the top causes were: Release from Prison/Institution (22%), Mental Illness (11.9%), and Asked to Leave Shared Residence and Loss/Reduction of Job Income (10.4%) each. Lastly, for Unsheltered persons, the top causes were: Loss/Reduction of Job Income (26.8%), Household breakup/death (13.8%), and Substance Abuse (13%). While each cohort reported Loss of Job Income and Asked to Leave Shared Residence in the top 5 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 third 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 were in the top 3 for Unsheltered persons. Substance Abuse and Mental Illness were also in the top 5 for childless Sheltered Adults, and much less common in Sheltered Families.

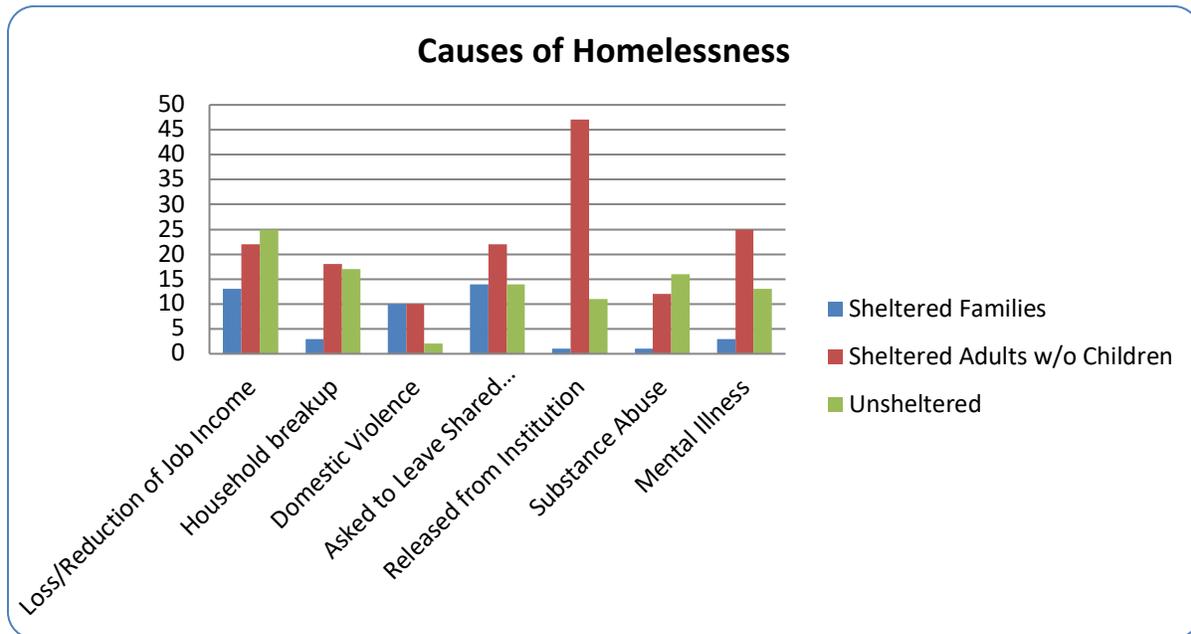


Figure 4 - Cause of Homelessness (%)



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Unsheltered

- There were 131 adults (123 households) who were Unsheltered on the night of the PIT, which represents a 6% increase from 2017;
- Of the unsheltered, men outnumber women approximately 4:1;
- Of the men, the majority (40%) are between 30 – 49 years of age; 27% are age 50 – 59; and 17.8% are 60 years and older;
- Of all Unsheltered adults, only 6 qualify as “homeless youth” (18-24).

After a steady decline in Unsheltered from 2013 – 2015, the numbers counted during the PIT started to climb in 2016. This happens to also be the timeframe in which Middlesex County implemented Coordinated Assessment. As the community has continued to increase outreach efforts and build relationships with social service agencies, such as mental health and addiction treatment providers, the Unsheltered count has risen. While the PIT count appears to demonstrate a rise in homeless, both sheltered and unsheltered, the increase could also mean that the homeless population has always been there and the homeless service community has improved its outreach efforts.

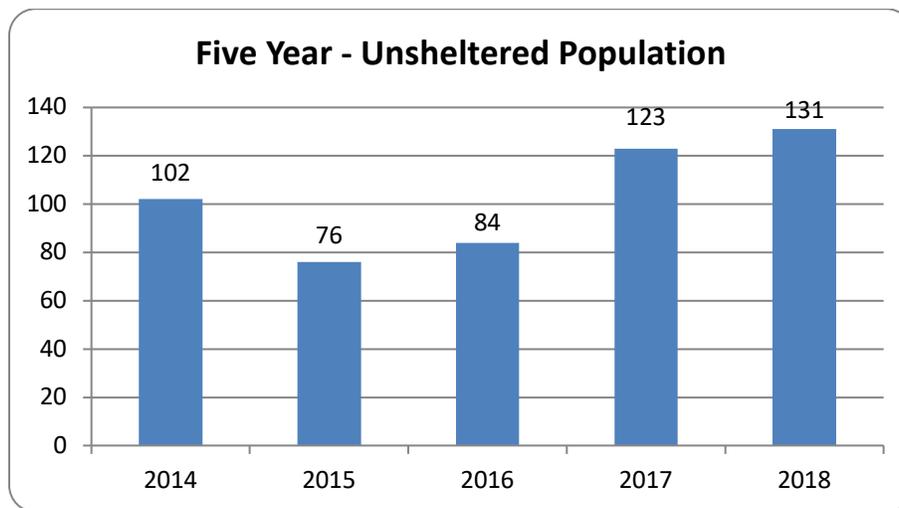


Figure 5 - Unsheltered 2013-2017



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Last Permanent Address of the Unsheltered

The PIT survey includes 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).

- 27.6% of unsheltered households reported New Brunswick as their last permanent address, decreasing from 34% in 2017; 17.9% reported Perth Amboy (increase from 12% in 2017), and 13% reported an address out of the County or out of State (decrease from 14% in 2017) as their last permanent address.
- The majority of households reported that they spent the night of the survey in New Brunswick (48%), which is a decrease from 62% in 2017. The next city represented is Perth Amboy, with 28% spending the night there (up significantly from 15% in 2017).
- In both 2017 and 2018, 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. Another 21% were in the next town over from their home town.

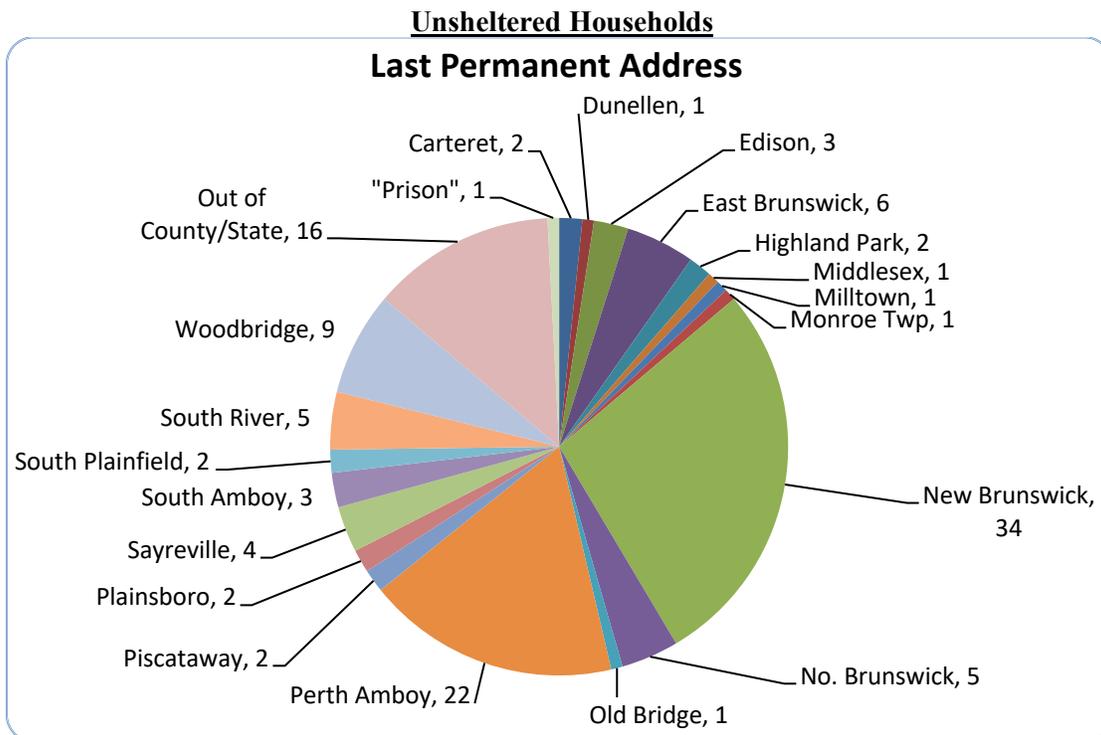


Figure 6 - Last Permanent Address of Unsheltered Households



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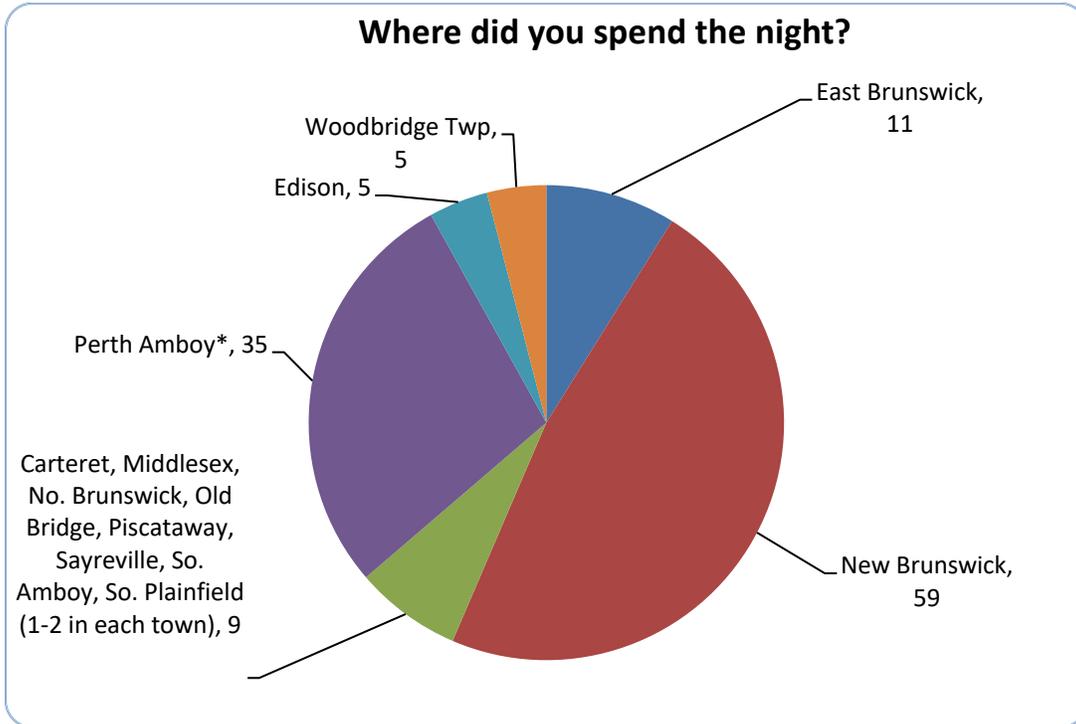


Figure 7 - In what town did you spend the night?



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Income & Non-Cash Benefits – Unsheltered

Of the Unsheltered households, **52%** reported receiving no income, and 15% reported receiving employment income, which is a slight increase over 2017. Of those with employment income, 2 earned enough to support an SRO in a rooming house, and 9 others reported enough income to support an efficiency apartment.

There is a high rate of adults with disabilities in the Unsheltered cohort with 76% reporting at least one disability. However, only 5.6% of Unsheltered individuals reported receiving welfare benefits, and 18% reported receiving disability benefits. **Based on reported income, over 95% of the Unsheltered would be eligible for food stamps and Medicaid, but half of these individuals reported receiving no non-cash benefits.**

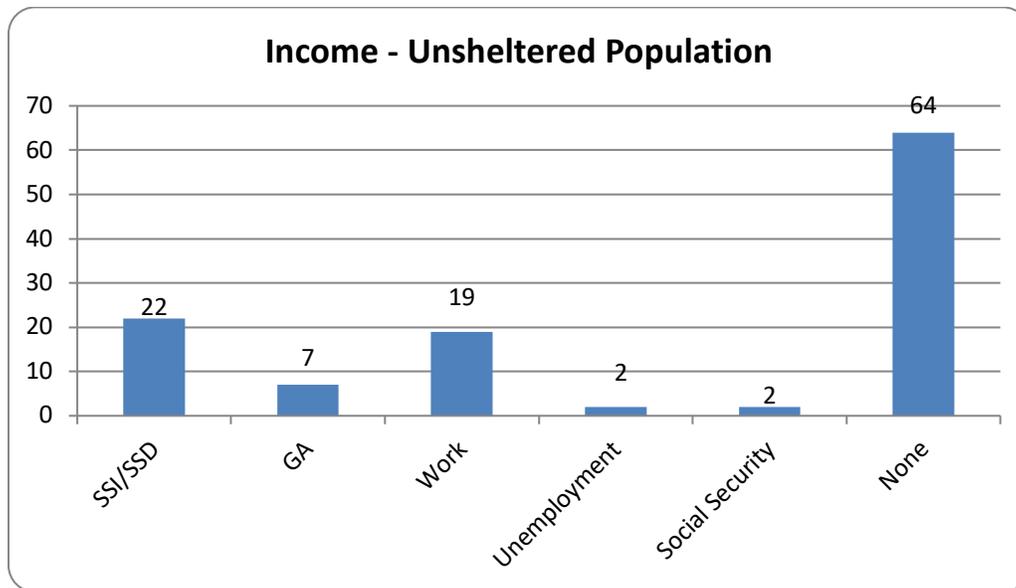


Figure 8 - Income - Unsheltered



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Chronic Homelessness

While the federal focus is on ending Chronic Homelessness (CH), only 19% of all homeless households in Middlesex County are Chronically Homeless. 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 total, there were 76 Households without Children, and 2 Families who were Chronically Homeless, for a total of 78 CH households, comprised of 88 persons.
- 46 Chronically Homeless persons were Unsheltered, while 34 were childless Sheltered Adults and 2 were Sheltered Families living in a Hotel placement by MCBSS.
- Of the CH Unsheltered and Sheltered childless Adults, there were 61 men and 19 women; and both of the CH Families were headed by single mothers.
- Among the CH households, there were only 2 Homeless Youth (ages 18-24).
- 44% of all Chronically Homeless adults (36) have multiple disabilities. Almost 68% (56) of the CH population has a mental health diagnosis, 35 of whom also reported a substance abuse disorder. Another 16 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. All but one of these individuals have engaged in services and been assessed through Coordinated Assessment, and 1 of the veterans has received a housing voucher since the night of the PIT. Another veteran has moved in with friends permanently.
- One of the CH Families has been selected for permanent supportive housing and is waiting for the project to open. In addition, 10 of the Unsheltered and Sheltered childless CH Adults have received vouchers and/or are housed (including the veterans above). Of the remaining CH adults, most are known to the outreach teams. About half have completed the Coordinated Assessment, and the remaining individuals continue to decline services.



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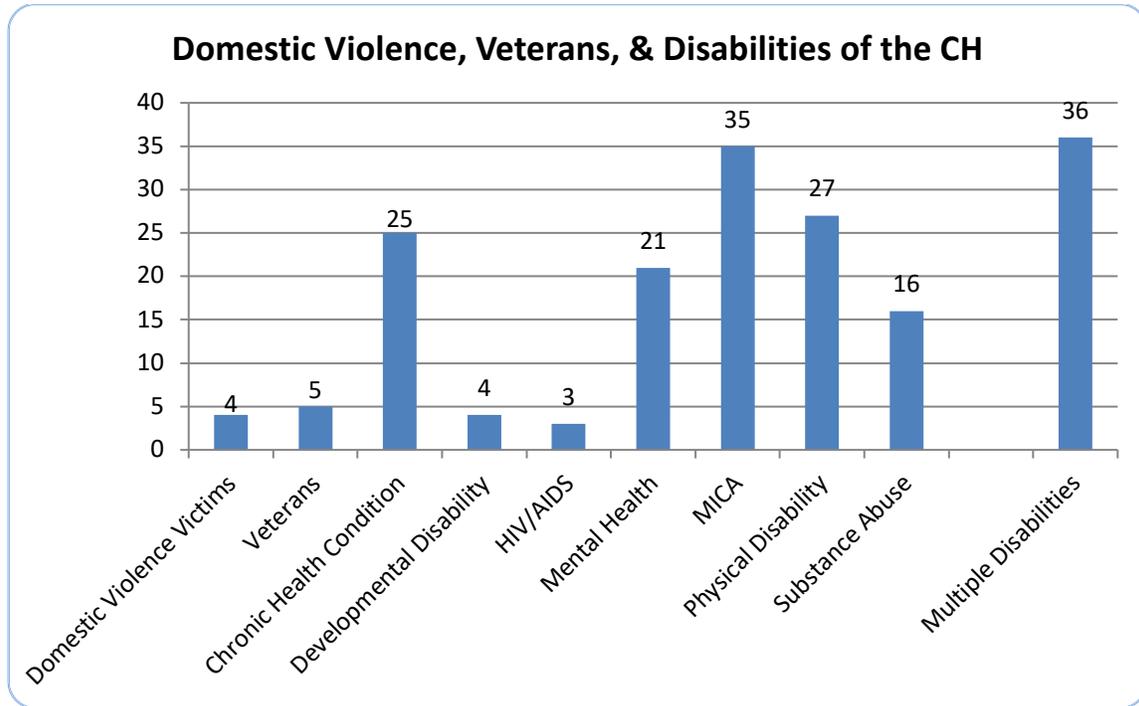


Figure 9 – Chronically Homeless – DV, Vets, & Disabilities

Chronically Homeless - Income & Non-Cash Benefits

Almost half (42.5%) of CH households report having no income and approximately 33% report having no non-cash benefits. Of those households that do report some income, only 13 childless Adult households (17%) report sufficient income to support the cost of an SRO, and neither of the Families have sufficient income to afford even an Efficiency or 1 bedroom unit. Approximately 63% of CH childless Adults report receiving Medicaid or Medicare, while 100% of the Families have these health benefits.

All of the numbers above demonstrate a decrease in income and receipt of non-cash benefits amongst the Chronically Homeless. However, Chronically Homeless individuals who have engaged in services are receiving whatever income and non-cash benefits for which they are eligible. While there is an overall decrease in income and non-cash benefits for the Chronically Homeless, this could demonstrate the increased outreach efforts and identification of chronically homeless individuals who remain unengaged in services. The outreach teams continue to work towards engaging those individuals in services, assisting them in obtaining mainstream benefits and income, and working toward securing permanent housing.



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Homeless “Youth”

Homeless Youth are a subpopulation of all Sheltered Families, Sheltered Adults without Children, and the Unsheltered cohorts. On the night of the 2018 PIT, 12 unaccompanied young Adults without Children and 13 Sheltered Families headed by young adults, ages 18-24, reported being homeless.

- In the 13 Sheltered Families, 10 young single mothers and 3 young couples were accompanied by 23 children, ranging in age from 0-8 years old. 56% of these young adults were African American, 37.5% were Hispanic, 6% (1) were Biracial. One young woman reported being a victim of domestic violence.
- Of the 12 Adults without Children, 2 were Unsheltered. 67% of the Unsheltered and Sheltered childless young adults were male. 58% were Hispanic, 33% were African American, and 6% (1) were Biracial.

Cause of Homelessness

Approximately 61.5% of Homeless Youth households reported their cause of homelessness as being Asked to Leave a Shared Residence, followed by Domestic Violence (38%) and Loss of Job/Reduction in Income (23%). 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. All of those reporting Domestic Violence as the cause of their homelessness were Families.

Income & Non-Cash Benefits

Homeless Youth reported very low income, with 23% reporting no income and another 69% reported less than \$700/month. However, 58% of Sheltered Homeless Youth without children and 100% of young Families receive at least Medicaid and/or Food Stamps. Of those with income, only 4 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 32% of the Homeless Youth reported having at least one disability, and 4 reported having multiple disabilities. The most prevalent disability within this cohort was Mental Health issues, with 25% (7 individuals) reporting a Mental Health condition, 3 of whom also reported a co-occurring Substance Abuse problem.



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Precariously Housed

HUD only counts the “literally homeless” each year in their Point in Time census. Middlesex County adopts a broader definition of homelessness, including people who do not have permanent housing, and whose shelter is temporary. Most of these households reported staying temporarily with friends or family, while others reported staying in a hotel that they paid for without assistance or being in jail or a hospital. HUD considers these households to be “at risk” of homelessness; however, they are presenting themselves for financial and housing assistance to Middlesex County homeless service providers.

- On the night of the 2018 PIT, there were 90 Households without Children (97 adults) and 103 Families (151 adults and 228 children) who fall within the “precariously housed” (PH) cohort.
- 2 Families were headed by single mothers who qualify as Homeless Youth (ages 18-24), as well as 1 young single father and 4 young parenting couples. There are also 9 Adults without Children who were also between the ages of 18-24.
- 7 women in families and 3 individuals reported being victims of domestic violence, and 5 were veterans.
- The majority of households (81%) reported that they were staying “Temporarily with Friends or Family.”
- Of the 103 families, 62% were single mothers, 3.8% were single fathers, 27% were two parent households. By comparison, 72% of literally homeless families were headed by single mothers and only 17% were two parent households. This may indicate that two parent households have more resources, both financially and socially, as they are able to secure temporary housing situations more readily than single parent households.

Cause of Homelessness

The leading cause of homelessness for “precariously housed” (PH) Families was Natural Disaster, which was an anomaly in 2018, due to the devastating hurricanes in Puerto Rico, Florida and Texas. After Natural Disaster, the top cause of homelessness for these households, and for PH households without children, was economic, *i.e.* Loss of Job/Reduction of Income and Loss or Reduction of Benefits. Other factors, such as Being Asked to Leave a Shared Residence, Relocation, and Household breakup or death also indicate probable financial problems or loss of income leading to homelessness. The cause of homelessness for PH households was similar to that of homeless households, although there was a significantly higher percentage of literally homeless households reporting Release from an Institution, Mental Illness, and Substance Abuse within the homeless households.

Income & Employment

Approximately 21% of all PH households reported no income at all, as compared to 29.7% of homeless households, and 24% of PH households had an income below \$700. Almost twice as many PH households reported employment income compared to homeless households. The household income for PH households was generally higher than the homeless households with employment, with about 24% of PH households reporting an income of \$1260/month or higher, in comparison to only 10.7% of homeless households. Despite higher reported income for PH households, approximately 80% reported an income level below what would be sufficient to support a 2-3 bedroom apartment, which for most of these families would be the minimum apartment size needed. For PH Adults without Children, 66% are unable to afford an SRO, and an additional 21% can afford an SRO, but not an efficiency apartment.

Disabilities

There was a significantly lower number of adults living with disabilities (36%) in PH households, as compared to 68% of homeless adults.



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SERVICE NEEDS

Homeless Households

Generally, the service needs reported by the homeless have remained consistent year to year and across the specific populations. The top services requested by homeless adults in the 2018 PIT were consistent across all cohorts: Housing, Financial Assistance for Housing (i.e. Rental/Utility assistance), Employment, and Emergency Food. In addition, each cohort also reported a few distinct needs. Families reported the need for assistance applying for SSI or SSD. Sheltered Adults without Children reported the need for Transportation and Mental Health Treatment. As expected, Unsheltered adults reported the need for Emergency Shelter. The Chronically Homeless, which is a sub-population of all of the cohorts, reported the need for Mental Health and Substance Abuse treatment, but not for Employment.

Sheltered Families	Sheltered Adults without Children	Unsheltered	Chronically Homeless
Housing (92%)	Housing (92%)	Housing (91%)	Housing (100%)
Financial Assistance with Housing (92%)	Utility Assistance (89%)	Financial Assistance with Housing (61%)	Financial Assistance with Housing (73%)
Utility Assistance (87%)	Financial Assistance with Housing (88%)	Emergency Shelter (61%)	Utility Assistance (72%)
Employment (51%)	Emergency Food (41%)	Utility Assistance (55%)	Emergency Food (47%)
SSI/D Application (25%)	Employment (33%)	Emergency Food (46%)	Emergency Shelter (36%)
Emergency Food (21%)	Transportation & Mental Health Tx (13.5% each)	Employment (41%)	Mental Health Tx (33%) & Substance Abuse (32%)

Precariously Housed Households

As with homeless households, PH households requested the same top 4 services: Housing, Financial Assistance for Housing and Utilities, and Employment. However, Emergency Food also surfaced in the top 5 for the PH cohort.

Adults without Children	Families
Housing (74%)	Housing (67%)
Financial Assistance with Housing (51%)	Financial Assistance with Housing (48%)
Utility Assistance & Emergency Food (42% each)	Utility Assistance (46%)
Emergency Shelter (38%)	Employment (20%)
Employment (34%)	Emergency Food (13%)

Precariously housed households prioritized the same needs as the homeless households, with housing, food, and employment rising to the top. However, homeless households also reported the need for transportation, mental health and substance abuse treatment.



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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 either the Family or Adults without Children and Unsheltered cohorts. If a young adult has a child, and does not have a partner over the age of 24, he/she is considered a Parenting Homeless Youth. If a young couple, both age 24 and under, are parenting, they are both considered Parenting Homeless 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.”



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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 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. In Middlesex County, the only transitional housing is designated for single male ex-offenders coming out of prison.



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APPENDIX B – Methodology

On January 24, 2018, 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. 24 – Jan. 30th.

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 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.