

New Jersey Point in Time Count of the Homeless Data Report

January 26, 2011

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary _____	4
• <i>2011 Point in Time Count</i>	
• <i>Survey Data</i>	
• <i>2011 Point In Time Count Report</i>	
• <i>Key Findings</i>	
Statewide Point in Time Count Report	
Homeless _____	10
• <i>County/Continuum of Care Jurisdiction</i>	
• <i>Living Situation</i>	
• <i>Length and Episodes</i>	
• <i>Demographics</i>	
• <i>Homeless Subpopulations</i>	
• <i>Service Needs</i>	
• <i>Financial Resources</i>	
• <i>Contributing Factors</i>	
• <i>Discharge from Mainstream Institutions</i>	
• <i>Last Permanent Address</i>	
➤ Family Homelessness _____	22
• <i>County/Continuum of Care Jurisdiction</i>	
• <i>Living Situation</i>	
• <i>Length of Homelessness</i>	
• <i>Demographics</i>	
• <i>Subpopulations</i>	
• <i>Financial Resources</i>	
• <i>Contributing Factors</i>	
Chronic Homeless _____	28
• <i>County/Continuum of Care Jurisdiction</i>	
• <i>Living Situation</i>	
• <i>Length of Homelessness/Episodes</i>	
• <i>Demographics</i>	
• <i>Chronic Homeless Subpopulations</i>	
• <i>Financial Resources</i>	
• <i>Contributing Factors</i>	
• <i>Discharge from Mainstream Institutions</i>	
• <i>Last Permanent Address</i>	

➤ Chronic Homeless Families _____	36
• <i>County/Continuum of Care Jurisdiction</i>	
• <i>Living Situation</i>	
• <i>Length of Homelessness/Episodes</i>	
• <i>Demographics</i>	
• <i>Subpopulations</i>	
• <i>Financial Resources</i>	
• <i>Contributing Factors</i>	
Other Respondents _____	41
• <i>County/Continuum of Care Jurisdiction</i>	
• <i>Living Situation</i>	
• <i>Demographics</i>	
• <i>Service Needs</i>	
• <i>Financial Resources</i>	
• <i>Contributing Factors</i>	
• <i>Place of Residence on the Night of the Count</i>	
County/Continuum of Care Jurisdiction Reports _____	48
• <i>Atlantic</i>	
• <i>Bergen</i>	
• <i>Burlington</i>	
• <i>Camden</i>	
• <i>Cape May</i>	
• <i>Cumberland</i>	
• <i>Essex</i>	
• <i>Gloucester</i>	
• <i>Hudson</i>	
• <i>Hunterdon</i>	
• <i>Mercer</i>	
• <i>Middlesex</i>	
• <i>Monmouth</i>	
• <i>Morris</i>	
• <i>Ocean</i>	
• <i>Passaic</i>	
• <i>Salem</i>	
• <i>Somerset</i>	
• <i>Sussex</i>	
• <i>Union</i>	
• <i>Warren</i>	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 26, 2011, there were 12,825 homeless men, women and children counted across the state of New Jersey.

On Wednesday, January 26, 2011¹, twenty-one Continuum of Care (CoC) jurisdictions in New Jersey – representing the twenty-one counties – conducted the 2011 Point in Time Count (PITC) of the homeless across the state. The goal of the Point in Time Count was to identify the number of homeless people at a given point in time and to collect demographic and other information about those who are homeless to be used to develop effective plans to address and end homelessness.

2011 Point in Time Count

As part of its Continuum of Care application for homelessness funding, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requests that jurisdictions across the nation conduct a bi-annual, statistically reliable and unduplicated count of the homeless over the course of one day in the last ten (10) days in January. This year's count (2011) is a national HUD-statistical PITC year and there was a large effort on behalf of the federal government to complete an expansive and accurate count. HUD provided much guidance and emphasized the counting of special populations such as veterans, youth and families.

One significant change that occurred with the 2011 PITC is the expanded definition of chronic homelessness to include families. As part of the 2010 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the HUD McKinney-Vento Homeless programs, HUD changed the definition of chronic homelessness to the following:

Chronically Homeless Person. An unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition or a family with at least one adult member who has a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

The term homeless in this case means a person sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets), in an emergency homeless shelter, or in a Safe Haven as defined by HUD.

The definition of homelessness that was employed for the count has not changed and still is the current official U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) McKinney-Vento Act definition:

¹ Due to weather and scheduling some CoCs did not complete the PITC on Wednesday, January 26 but all counts were conducted within the week of Monday, January 24- Friday, January 28.

An individual is considered homeless if s/he is:

- Sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, or abandoned or condemned buildings;
- Sleeping in an emergency shelter;
- Spending a short time (90 consecutive days or less) in a hospital or other institution, but ordinarily sleeping in the types of places mentioned above;
- Living in transitional housing for the homeless having come from streets or emergency shelters;

Under the McKinney Act at the time of the count, the term “homeless” or “homeless individual” does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of Congress or a state law, or individuals who are “doubled up” with family or friends in overcrowded conditions.

One final note on the 2011 PITC: The originally scheduled date for the PITC, as well as several other days in the same week, was affected by particularly bad weather this year. Many CoCs reported that this weather affected the count of unsheltered homeless people living on the streets, as well as counts completed through Project Homeless Connect events throughout the state.

Survey Data

The survey includes questions that correspond to the information HUD requests from each Continuum of Care. The survey used in 2011 has been in use since 2008. Although HUD has required new information on chronic homeless families, the survey tool collects the necessary information required to extrapolate numbers for chronically homeless families. The survey also includes expanded information on those precariously housed, services needed by those who are homeless, and discharge practices of institutions. Information collected by the survey allows for an annualized estimate of homeless persons over the course of the year and those numbers are included for each CoC/County in their individual county reports.

2011 PITC Report

The report is based primarily on respondent data and data that are directly entered by homeless agencies from client information and case files. The survey data is based on all ADULT respondents². Survey respondents did not complete every question and some homeless agencies did not have full access to client information on the night of the count; because of missing data, the numbers and percentages in the report do not always equal the number of respondents or all surveyed homeless.

² Head of households 18 years of age and older.

This report includes comparison information from the last four (4) HUD statistical counts (2011, 2009, 2007, and 2005). However, in New Jersey, PITC information was not collected in a replicable manner prior to 2008, so that it is not possible to show true comparisons of all pertinent homeless data across these four years. We have included comparable information where possible within these constraints.

Key Findings of the 2011 Point in Time Count

Homeless

- = There were 12,825 homeless men, women and children counted across the state of New Jersey as part of the 2011 PITC.
- = The estimated number of men, women and children that are homeless over the course of the year within the State of New Jersey is 28,830.³
- = There were 8,493 adults counted as homeless on the night of January 26, 2011. Of those adults, 1,022 (12.1%) were unsheltered and 7,471 (87.9%) were sheltered homeless. The largest percentage of the homeless were living in Emergency Shelters on the night of the count (39.2%)
- = A total of 4,332 children under the age of 18 were homeless on the night of January 26, 2011. Of the 4,332 children, 2,365 were six (6) years or younger and 1,967 were ages seven (7) to seventeen (17).
- = The County of Essex had the highest number of homeless in NJ with 11.8% of the total homeless population on the night of the count.
- = The largest percentage of homeless had been homeless for more than one year and 23.1% of the total homeless population reported having at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years (since January 26, 2008).
- = The largest percentage of homeless defines their race as Black (47.1%) and the largest homeless cohort was in the age range of 40 to 49 years old (25.4%).
- = The most prevalent homeless subpopulation in the 2011 count was people who are homeless with mental health issues.
- = Economic issues and eviction were the top reported factors that led to the survey respondent's homelessness.

³ Based the statistical formula developed in the publication "Estimating the Need," by CSH.

= As reported by respondents, over the past three years, over 20% of the homeless had been in either a city/county jail (20.8%) or hospitalized (24%) for medical reasons. Furthermore, as reported by respondents, mainstream correctional and inpatient care institutions had a rate of discharging into homelessness of over 45%⁴.

Homeless Families

= A total of 2,291 families reported being homeless on the night of January 26, 2011. Of those families, 138 (6.1%) were unsheltered on the night of the count. Of the 138 unsheltered families, 299 children were unsheltered on the night of the count with 139 aged six (6) or younger and 160 aged seven (7) to seventeen (17).

= The largest percentage of homeless families was living in Transitional Housing on the night of the 2011 count (49.7%).

= The County of Bergen had the highest number of homeless families in NJ with 13.5% of the statewide total.

= The largest percentage of homeless families counted was homeless for more than one year (27%).

= Approximately 20% of the head of households were male.

= A total of 51.2% of homeless families defined their race as Black and 31.5% of the head of households fell within the 30 to 39 year old age range.

= The largest subpopulation of homeless families was those that had a head of household with a mental health issue.

= A total of 17.8% of the homeless families were experiencing domestic violence as compared to 8.8% of the homeless population as a whole.

= Economic issues and eviction were the top reported factors that led to the family's homelessness.

⁴ This percentage is based on respondent data and only takes into account the number of the homeless that reported in the survey that they were in one of the mainstream institutions and then were discharged into homelessness. **It is not a reflection of the mainstream institution population as a whole.** This is true for individual County reports as well.

Chronic Homeless- Individuals

- = A total of 751 adults met the HUD definition of chronically homeless when counted on January 26, 2011. Chronically homeless individuals made up approximately 8.8% of the total homeless population for NJ in 2011.
- = In 2011, the number of unsheltered chronically homeless totaled 139 or 18.5% of the chronically homeless individual population.
- = The County of Essex had the highest number of chronically homeless individuals on the night of the count with 14.5% of the statewide total.
- = The largest percentage of chronically homeless individuals defined themselves as Black (46.5%) and the largest age cohort were those between 50 and 59 years of age
- = The chronically homeless individual population overwhelming reported having mental health issues (89.5%) and/or substance use issues (63.4%).
- = Mental health and substance abuse issues were two of the top factors leading to this population's chronic homelessness.

Chronic Homeless Families

- = A total of 94 families statewide met the chronic homeless family definition on the night of the 2011 count. The number of chronically homeless families equaled 1.1% of the total homeless population.
- = Chronically homeless individuals and chronically homeless families together totaled 845 or 9.9% of the total homeless population. Of the total chronically homeless population, families equaled 11.1%.
- = A total of 13 chronically homeless families with 18 children were unsheltered on the night of the 2011 count.
- = Burlington, Essex and Passaic counties had the highest number of chronically homeless families, each with a total of 11 families or 11.7% of the statewide total.
- = A total of 50% of chronic homeless families defined their race as Black and the largest cohort (24.5%) of the head of households fell within the 30 to 39 year old age range.
- = The largest subpopulation of chronic homeless families was those that had a head of household with a mental health issue, followed by those with substance use issues.

= Mental health and substance abuse issues were two of the top three factors leading to this population's chronic homelessness, along with eviction.

Other Respondents

= A total of 12,051 surveys were completed across the State of New Jersey as part of the 2011 Point in Time Count. A total of 2,708 (22.4%) surveys were collected from respondents that did not meet HUD's homeless definition (Other Respondents). This equaled an additional 4,164 men, women and children that were counted on the night of January 26, 2011.

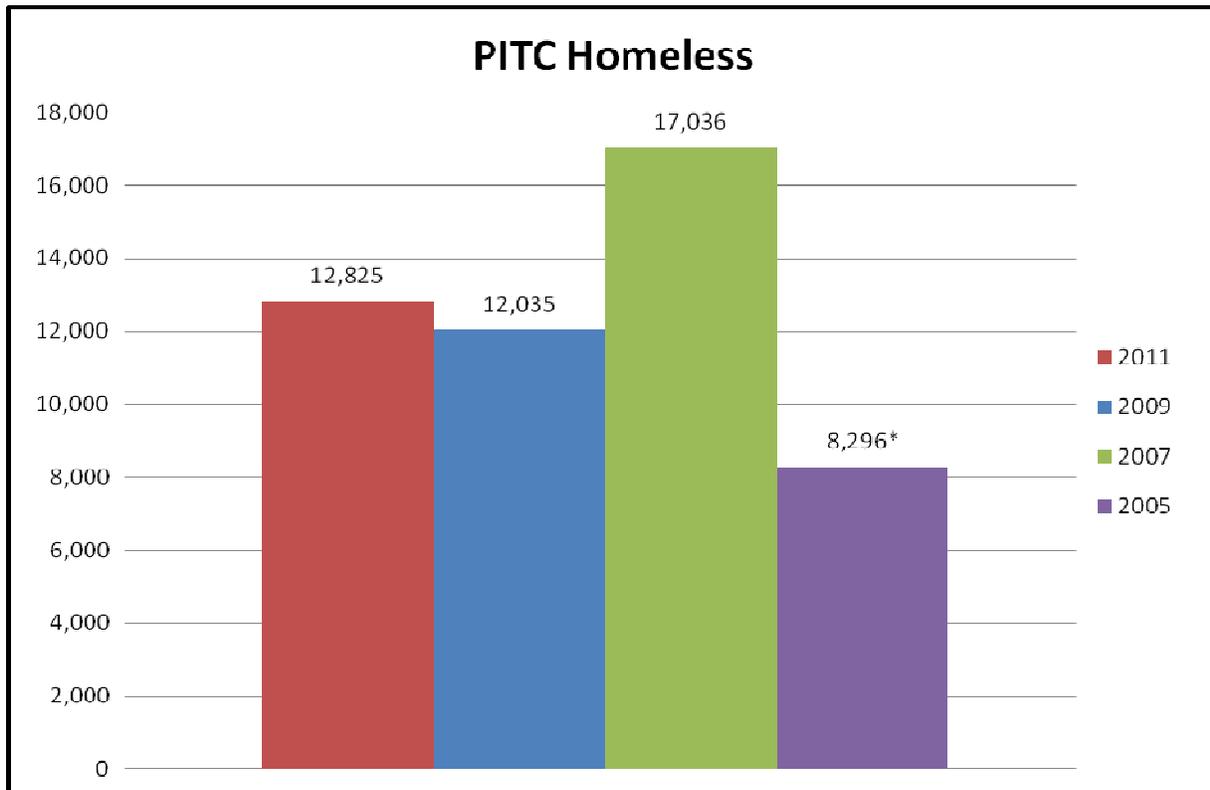
= On the night of the count, the majority (77.9%) of the Other Respondent population reported living in some type of permanent housing situation (41.3%) or living temporarily with friends or family (36.5%).

= The largest percentage of Other Respondents defined their race as White (39.3%) and the largest cohort was in the age range of 40 to 49 years old (28.1%).

= The largest service needs reported by the Other Respondent population were housing, employment assistance and dental care.

2011 STATEWIDE POINT IN TIME COUNT OF THE HOMELESS

On January 26, 2011 there were 12,825 homeless men, women and children counted across the state of New Jersey according to the official U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) McKinney-Vento Act definition of homelessness.



*2005 number is ADULTS only

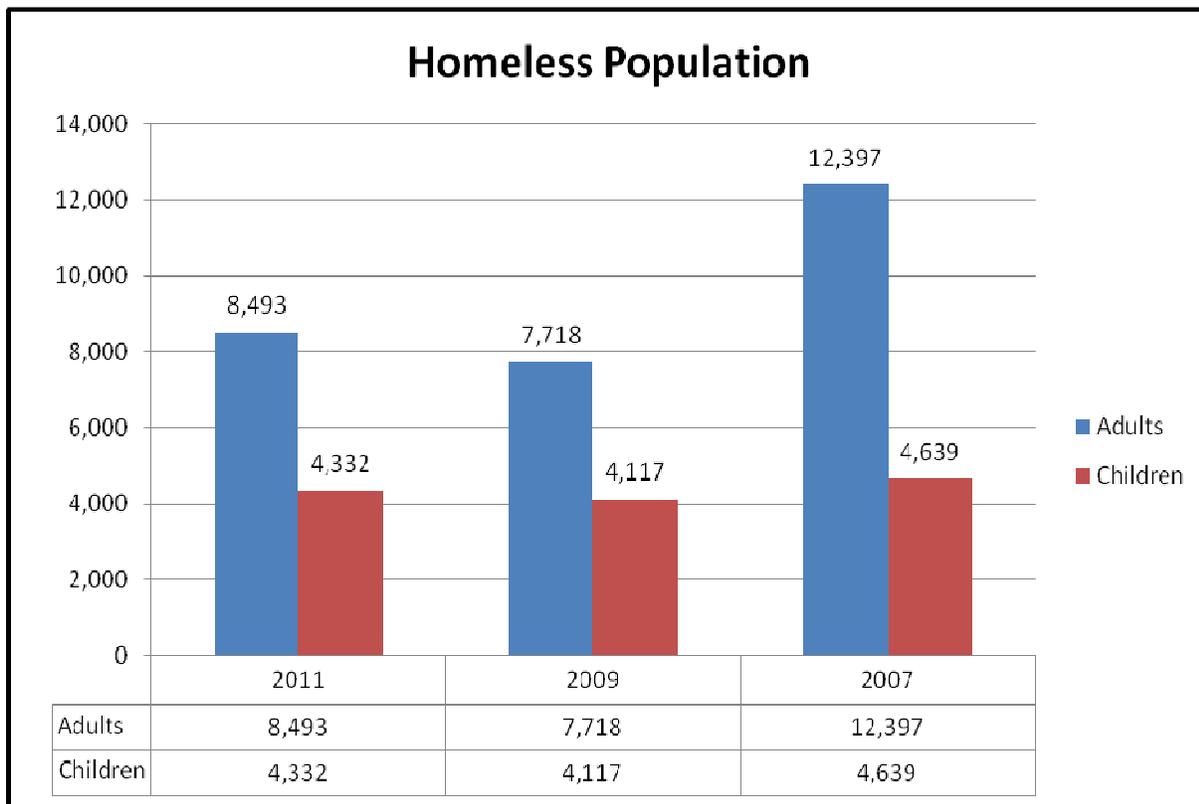
In looking at the past four HUD statistical counts (understanding that the 2005 number reflects Adult respondents only) the total number of homeless has fluctuated with the highest numbers being seen in 2007. There was a 29.3% decrease in homeless from the 2007 to 2009 count but then a slight increase of 6% from 2009 to 2011.

The breakdown of statewide homeless adults and children for 2011 is shown in the chart below:

2011 Homeless Breakdown	
Respondents (Adults)	8,493
Family Members (Children)	4,332
Total All Surveyed Homeless	12,825

The actual number of people who are homeless over the course of the year may be between two to four times larger than the number counted at one point in time. Using the statistical formula developed in the publication "Estimating the Need," it is projected that *over the course of a year, 28,830 adults and children are homeless in the State of New Jersey.*

The breakdown of homeless adults and children since 2007 is shown below. As the chart shows, after the initial drop from 2007 to 2009, the number of homeless adults has been on the rise although there was a larger increase in the number of adults (10%) compared to the number of children (5.2%) from 2009 to 2011.



Homeless by County/Continuum of Care (CofC) Jurisdiction

All twenty-one Counties/ CoC jurisdictions participated in the 2011 PITC and every county had homeless persons residing in their jurisdiction on the night of January 26, 2011. Essex County had the highest number of homeless adults, with 11.8% of the statewide total, while Salem had the lowest number, with less than one percent (0.6%) of the statewide total as shown in the County Ranking on page 12.

Rank	County	#	%
1	Essex	1,003	11.8
2	Bergen	938	11.0
3	Union	887	10.4
4	Burlington	657	7.7
5	Mercer	574	6.8
6	Middlesex	571	6.7
7	Camden	564	6.6
8	Hudson	480	5.7
9	Atlantic	477	5.6
10	Ocean	402	4.7
11	Monmouth	350	4.1
12	Passaic	323	3.8
13	Cape May	252	3.0
14	Morris	247	2.9
15	Somerset	234	2.8
16	Warren	167	2.0
17	Gloucester	99	1.2
18	Sussex	78	0.9
19	Cumberland	70	0.8
20	Hunterdon	68	0.8
21	Salem	52	0.6

Living Situation

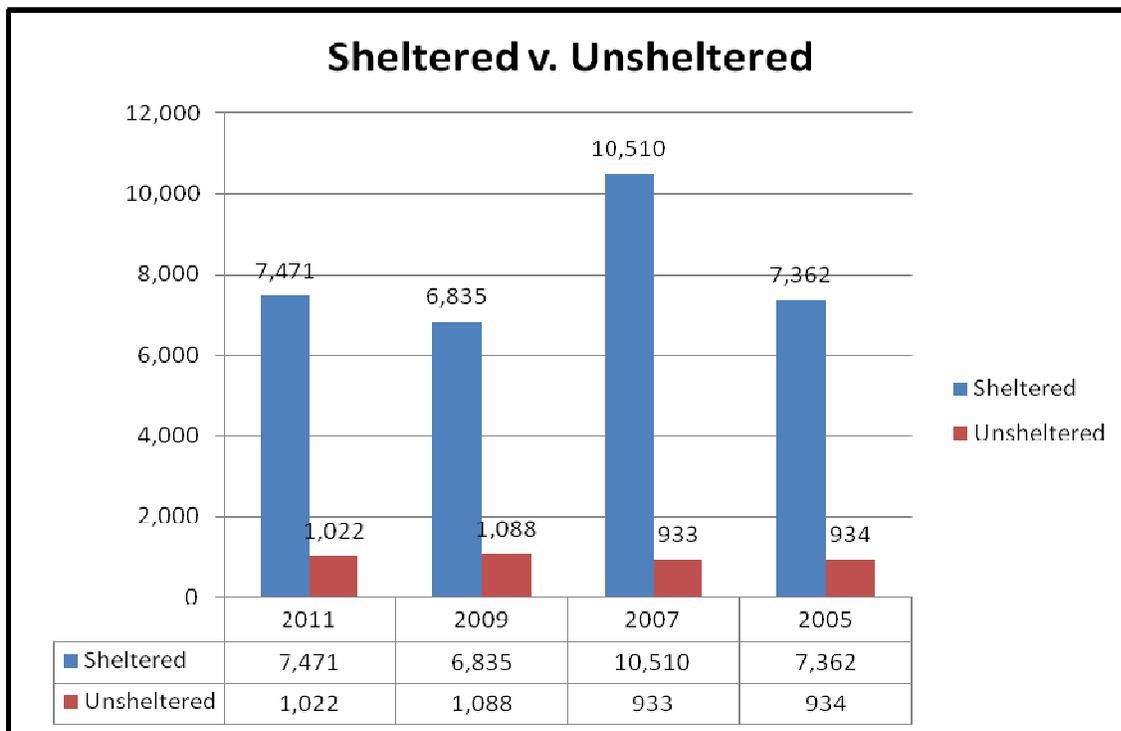
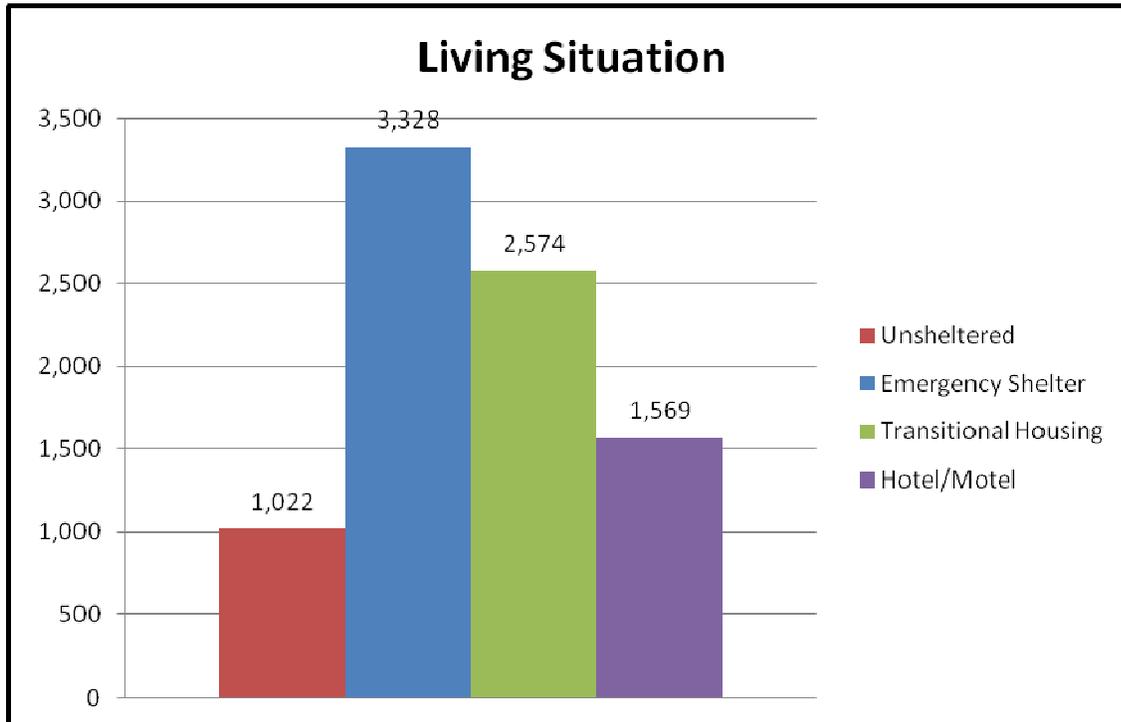
In the 2011 PITC, 1,022 or 12% of the homeless respondents were unsheltered on the night of the count. The remaining 7,471 or 87.9% were split between emergency shelter, transitional housing and hotel/motel paid for by an agency as emergency shelter. These homeless are regarded as the sheltered homeless.

The largest percentage of the sheltered homeless reported staying in emergency shelter⁵. This percentage of the homeless population equaled 39.2% (n=3,328). This was followed by those in transitional housing with 30.3% (n=2,574), then hotel/motel stayers at 18.4% (n=1,569) as represented in the Living Situation chart on page 13.

The Sheltered v. Unsheltered chart on the page 13 represents numbers from the 2005-2011 HUD statistical count years. The number of unsheltered homeless remained the same until 2009 where it saw an increase of 16.6%. The number of sheltered homeless has fluctuated up

⁵ Emergency Shelter includes Domestic Violence and Youth shelters.

and down through the four HUD count years, with the largest number of sheltered homeless counted in 2007, as well as the largest disparity of those sheltered versus unsheltered (91.1%).



Below is a chart that represents the percentage of sheltered and unsheltered compared to the total number of homeless for the four HUD count years for the State of New Jersey. Comparatively, 2007 was the only year that showed a significant difference in the percentage of sheltered homeless versus those unsheltered as related to the total number of homeless overall.

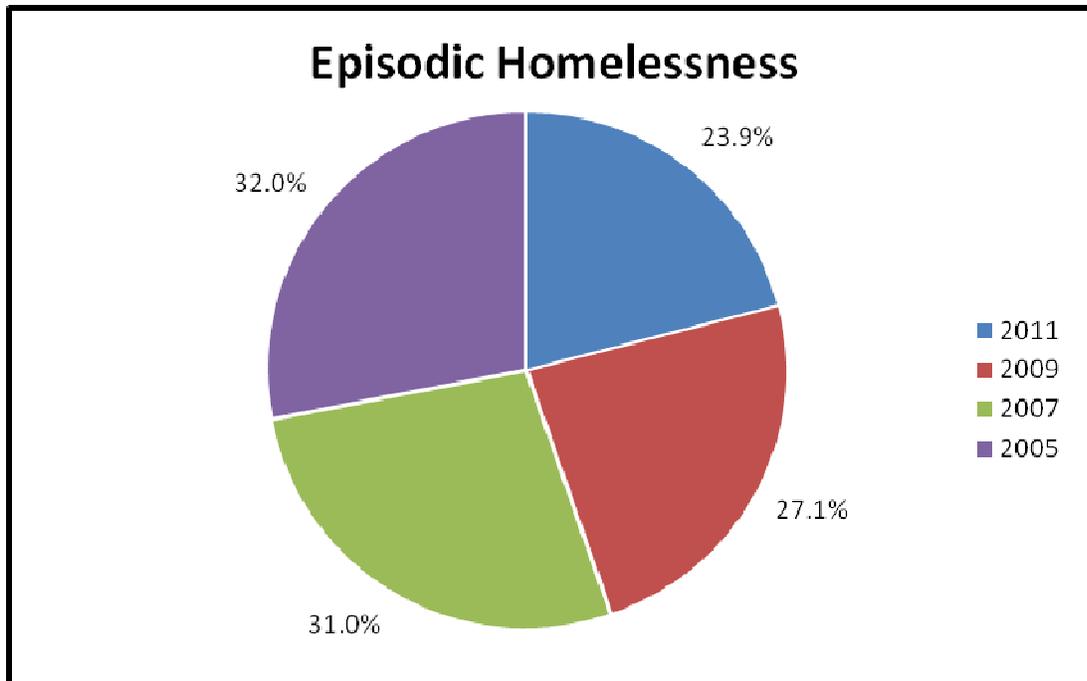
% of Total Homeless	2011	2009	2007	2005
Sheltered	87.9%	86.2%	91.8%	89.0%
Unsheltered	12.1%	13.8%	8.2%	11.0%

Length and Episodes of Homelessness

In the 2011 PITC, the largest cohort of those who were homeless on the night of the count had been homeless for more than one year (n=2,868, 33.8%). Those who were homeless six to twelve months were the next largest cohort at 22.6% (n=1,639) followed by those homeless three to six months (n=1,376, 16.2%). Among those who were homeless less than one year, 22.6% (n= 1,922) stated that they had been homeless at least one other time within the past twelve months.

2011 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day - 1 week	410	4.8
8 days - 1 month	533	6.3
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	968	11.4
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	1,376	16.2
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	1,921	22.6
More than 1 year	2,868	33.8
No response	417	4.9

The percentage of homeless that reported having at least four (4) episodes of homelessness over three (3) years has been on the decline since the 2005 count, reaching its lowest level of 23.1% (n=2,034) in 2011. This is represented in the Episodic Homelessness chart on page 15.

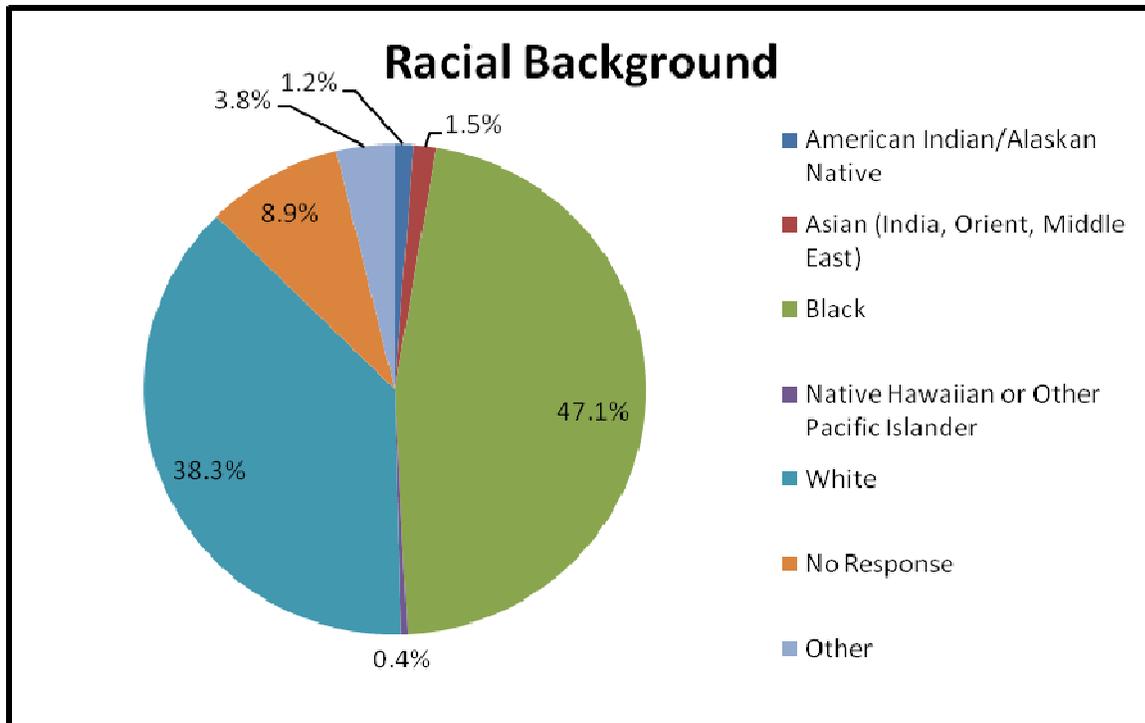


Demographics

In 2011, a total of 4,662 or 54.9% of the homeless respondents were male, 3,622 or 42.6% were female and 28 or 0.3% were transgender

The following chart outlines the racial breakdown of homeless persons in 2011. The largest percentage of the homeless was Black at 47.1% (n=3,997) followed by White (n=3,250, 38.3%) with the remainder totaling 16% combined as shown in the Racial Background chart on page 16.⁶ Moreover, 15% (n= 1,278) define their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

⁶ Race totals more than 100% as respondents could choose more than one race to identify themselves.



In the 2011 count, the largest portion of homeless fell within the 40 to 49 year old age range, totaling 25.4%. However, a majority of the total population is clustered between the ages of 30 to 59 as shown in the Age chart on page 16.

These results are fairly consistent with what has been found since the 2005 count. The largest percentage of the homeless population has fallen within the 40 to 49 age range with the largest cohort including those 30 to 59 years of age.

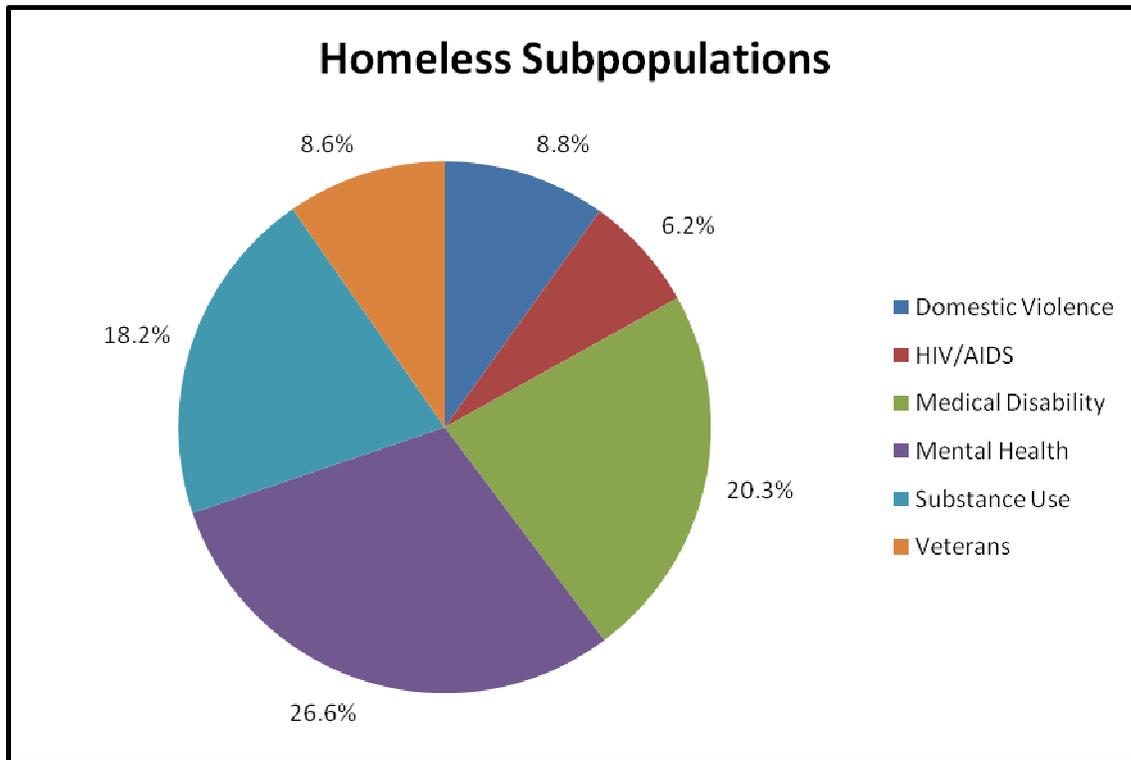
Age	#	%
Under 18	50	0.6
18-20	377	4.4
21-24	716	8.4
25-29	876	10.3
30-39	1,719	20.2
40-49	2,160	25.4
50-59	1,817	21.4
60-64	313	3.7
65+	141	1.7
No response	324	3.8

Homeless Subpopulations

HUD asks that communities report on specific subpopulations of the homeless that were counted as part of the PITC. These subpopulations include domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, Severe and Persistent Mental Illness, Substance Abuse and Veterans. In addition to the subpopulations requested by HUD, the PITC also identified those with a Medical Disability, as in years past. These subpopulations are mainly determined by asking respondents about the types of services they have received or need.

The Homeless Subpopulations chart on page 17 outlines the breakdown of the subpopulations in the 2011 count. The numbers represented in the count are not unduplicated numbers and respondents may fall into one or more of the subpopulations.

The largest subpopulation of homeless was those with a mental illness equaling 26.6% of the total homeless population. This subpopulation was then followed by those with a medical disability (20.3%), closely followed by those with substance use issues (18.2%). The smallest subpopulation was persons with HIV/AIDS, equaling only 6.2% of the total homeless population.



As in years past, the number of veterans counted was lower than expected and lower than what the VA reports nationally. Also, the number of those who reported serving in the US military and those who received and/or needed veterans' services is different. In 2011, a total

of 728 or 8.6% of the homeless population responded that they had served in the US military. However, only 209 (2.4%) of the respondents had received veterans' services in the past three years. A total of 183 (2.1%) responded that they were need of VA services within that same timeframe.

Other Service Usage and Needs

The 2011 count also looked at areas of services that were received or needed within the past three years and if respondents were turned down for services within the same timeframe.

The Service chart on page 18 shows that some of the most utilized services among the homeless include emergency shelter, emergency food and housing. The services reported to be most needed were housing, dental care and employment services. Finally, immigration services, legal services and child care were the services that people reported being denied most frequently⁷. This question was not asked in a consistent manner throughout the four HUD count years but was asked in 2009 and these responses are consistent with the ones given in that count.

Service	#	%
<i>Received</i>		
Emergency Shelter	4,574	53.9
Emergency Food	3,441	40.5
Housing	2,865	33.7
<i>Need</i>		
Housing	3,279	38.6
Dental	1,968	23.2
Employment	1,967	23.2
<i>Turned Down</i>		
Immigration	344	4.1
Legal	305	3.6
Child Care	284	3.3

Financial Resources

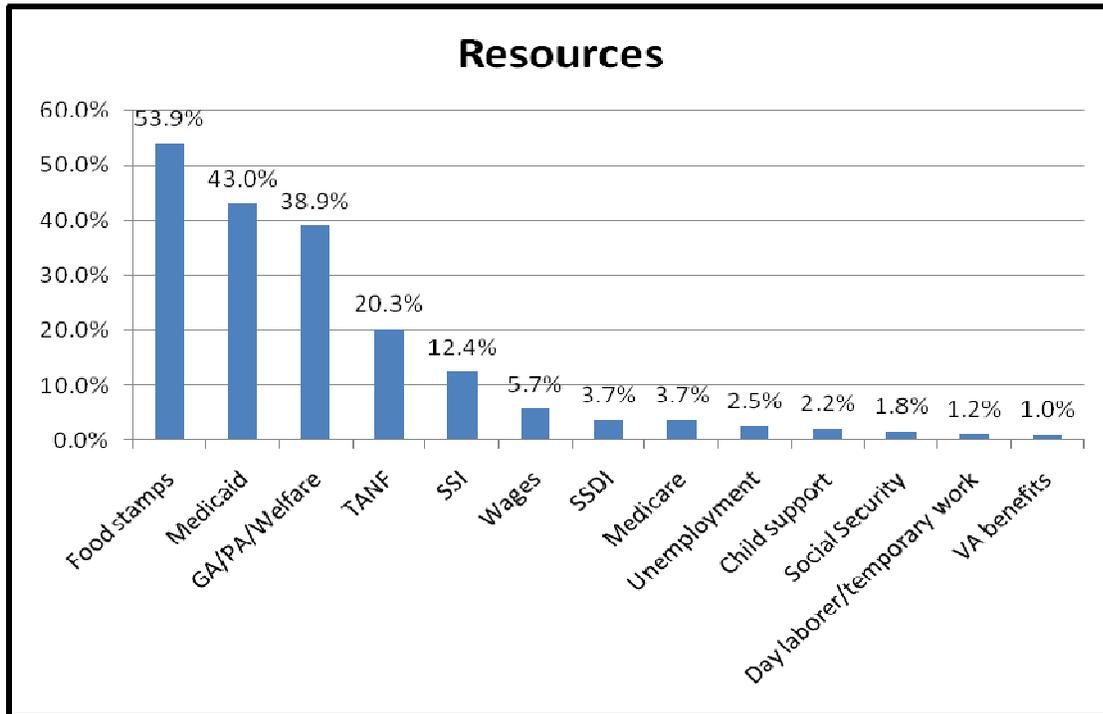
As in previous years, the 2011 count asked respondents about types of income/financial resources they were currently receiving. As the Resources chart shows on page 19, the three main sources of income reported on the night of the count were food stamps (n=4,574, 53.9%), Medicaid (n=3,653, 43.0%) and General Assistance/Public Assistance/Welfare (n=3,300, 38.9%).

⁷ Percent based on total homeless, count is not unduplicated.



The other two resources that were reported by more than 10% of the homeless population were TANF (20.3%) and SSI (12.4%).⁸

Additionally, 3.8% (n= 320) of the homeless population reported receiving no type of government benefit and 6.5% (n= 554) reported having no source of income on the night of the 2011 count. These resources mirror the top resources identified in the 2009 HUD count.



Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The survey includes a question on what factors the respondents felt led to their homelessness. As the Contributing Factors chart on page 20 shows, the most frequently cited factor was the loss of a job and inability to find work. Eviction and unaffordable housing costs were also top factors in the 2011 count.

This question was also asked in the 2009 PITC, where the most frequently cited contributing factors to homelessness were loss of job and inability to find work, unaffordable housing costs and alcohol and/or drug abuse problems.

⁸ Percent based on total homeless, count is not unduplicated.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Lost job/cannot find work	34.0
Eviction	27.0
Housing costs too high	24.2
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	21.6
Relationship/family breakup/death	20.6
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	18.1
Mental illness/emotional problems	17.0
Incarceration	12.3
Utility costs too high	10.0
Have work but wages are too low	9.4
Domestic violence	9.1
Lost job due to lack of transportation	6.5
Foreclosure	2.3
Loss of child support	2.0
House condemned	1.3
Natural disaster	0.5

Discharge from Mainstream Institutions

Questions on institutional stays and discharge from mainstream institutions were a part of the 2011 count. The institutional stay timeframe (when someone had been in one of the mainstream institution) was limited to the last three years (since January 26, 2008). The chart below outlines the number of homeless people who experienced stays in mainstream corrections and inpatient institutions, as well as the number who reported that they were discharged from institutions into homelessness.⁹

System (Past Three Years)	Homeless In System		In System Discharged into Homelessness	
	#	%	#	%
<i>Corrections</i>				
State Prison	825	9.7	565	68.5
City/County Jail	1,765	20.8	1,041	59.0
Juvenile Detention Center	128	1.5	60	46.9

⁹ As pointed out in the Key Findings, these numbers are based on respondent data and only take into account the number of the homeless that completed the 2011 survey. It is not a reflection of the mainstream institution population as a whole. Numbers may be duplicated.

<i>Inpatient Care</i>	#	%	#	%
Hospitalized (Medical)	2,038	24.0	928	45.5
State Inpatient Mental Health	392	4.6	213	54.3
City/County Inpatient Mental Health	511	6.0	279	54.6
Substance Abuse Treatment	823	9.7	385	46.8

The systems that had the most contact with the homeless population in the past three years included city/county jails and medical hospitals. Furthermore, the highest number of respondents reported that they had been discharged into homelessness from state prisons.

Last Permanent Address

In the 2011 count, 89.5% (n=7,602) of respondents resided in New Jersey before becoming homeless, while 1.3% (n=117) last lived in Pennsylvania, and 0.9% (n=81) last lived in New York. The remaining homeless population (8.1%, n=693) last lived in other states before becoming homeless in New Jersey.

The cities most frequently cited by respondents as the last place they resided before becoming homeless are below¹⁰. Please note that listing a city/town as last place lived does not necessarily correlate to the county where the respondent is currently homeless.

Town	#	%
Newark	633	7.5
Elizabeth	626	7.4
Trenton	424	5.0
Camden	321	3.8
Jersey City	296	3.5
New Brunswick	172	2.0
East Orange	145	1.6
Hackensack	139	1.6
Atlantic City	137	1.4
Mount Holly	119	1.2
Plainfield	105	1.2
Willingboro	99	1.2
Asbury Park	93	1.1

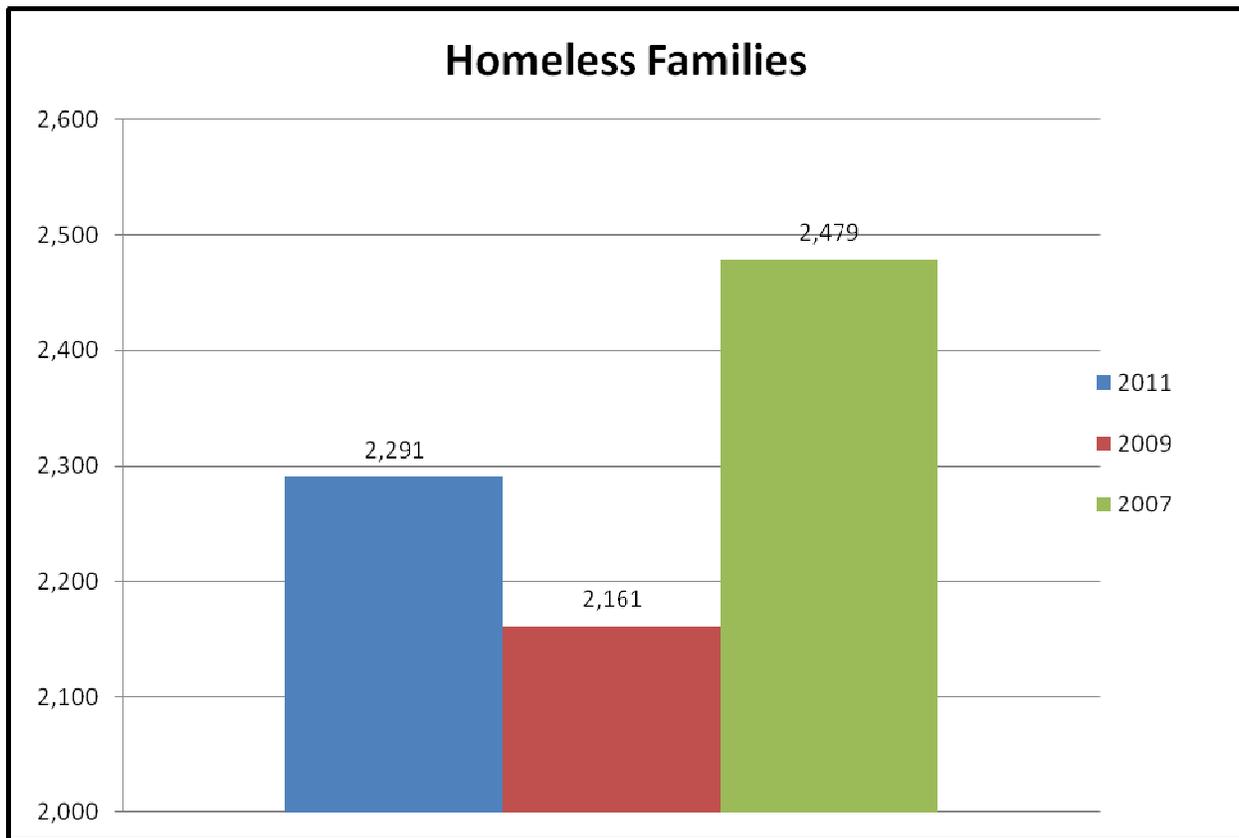
¹⁰ Those that had a rate of 1% or higher.

FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

As HUD has placed a larger emphasis on counting homeless families, this report highlights some of the demographic data collected on homeless families as part of the 2011 count. As stated previously, since the PITC data has not been collected in a consistent manner over the past four HUD count years, only some family homeless data is comparable over those counts.

In 2011, of the 8,493 homeless respondents, 2,291 or 26.9% had at least one dependent child under 18 with them the night of the 2011 count and would be considered a homeless family. A total of 2,365 homeless children were within the age range of six years or younger and 1,967 were between the ages of 7 and 17. There was only one (1) family throughout the whole State that was part of the 2011 PITC that consisted entirely of unaccompanied youth.¹¹

The chart below compares the number of homeless families from the four HUD count years. In 2005, the information collected reflects the total number of families which may include families that do not meet the HUD definition of homeless. As the chart shows, family homelessness was on the decline from 2007 to 2009 until the recent increase of 6% in 2011.



2005 included families that would not meet the HUD homeless definition and cannot be compared

¹¹ Family consisting of all individuals under the age of 18.

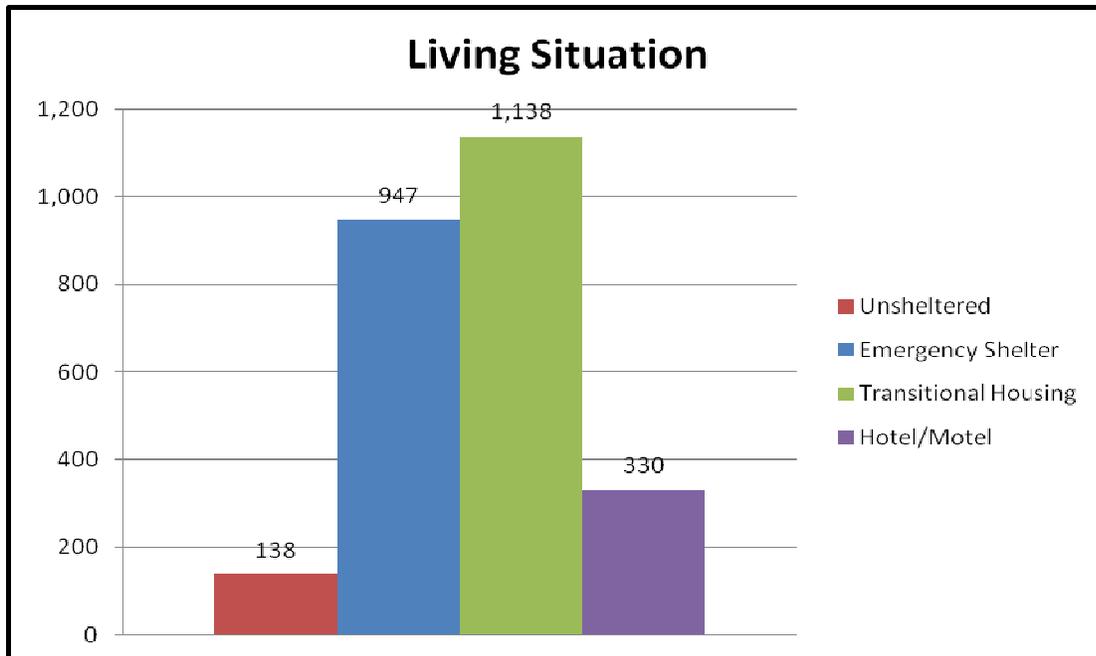
Homeless Families by County/Continuum of Care (CofC) Jurisdiction

On the night of the 2011 count, Bergen County had the highest number of homeless families with 13.5% of the statewide total. Hunterdon County had the lowest number, with less than one percent (0.3%) of the statewide total. These ranks do not directly correlate with the ranking for the total number of homeless and some counties have a higher rank in family homelessness than total homeless overall.

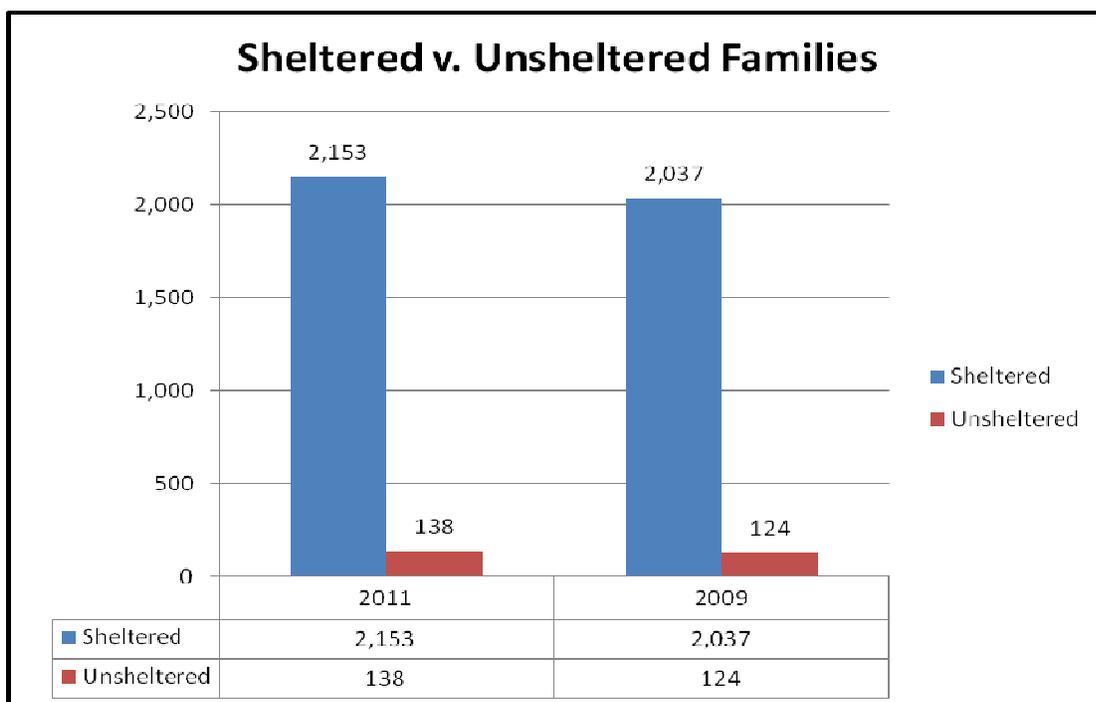
Rank	County	#	%
1	Bergen	310	13.5
2	Union	303	13.2
3	Essex	265	11.6
4	Middlesex	198	8.6
5	Burlington	183	8.0
6	Mercer	158	6.9
7	Hudson	111	4.8
8	Camden	104	4.5
9	Monmouth	103	4.5
10	Passaic	99	4.3
11	Cape May	86	3.8
12	Ocean	73	3.2
13	Warren	66	2.9
14	Gloucester	50	2.2
15	Morris	46	2.0
16	Somerset	40	1.7
17	Atlantic	37	1.6
18	Sussex	22	1.0
19	Salem	17	0.7
20	Cumberland	13	0.6
21	Hunterdon	7	0.3

Living Situation

In the 2011 PITC, 138 or 6.1% of the total homeless families with a total of 299 children under the age of 18 were unsheltered the night of the count. The remaining 2,153 or 93.9% were in sheltered situations, with the largest percentage (49.7%) in transitional housing as outlined in the Living Situation chart on page 24.



Through existing data, we can only compare the sheltered versus unsheltered homeless families for the past two (2011 and 2009) HUD count years. Although the numbers are slightly higher in 2011 from 2009, the percentage of homeless families that were living in unsheltered and sheltered situations were almost identical (unsheltered = 5.7%, sheltered = 94.3%) as shown in the Sheltered v. Unsheltered chart below.



Length of Homelessness

In the 2011 PITC, family homeless mirrored the total homeless population with the largest cohort of those who were homeless on the night of the count being homeless for more than one year (n= 2,868, 33.8%). However, they were closely followed by those homeless from six (6) to 12 months. Overall, the largest portion of homeless families had been homeless for six months or more.

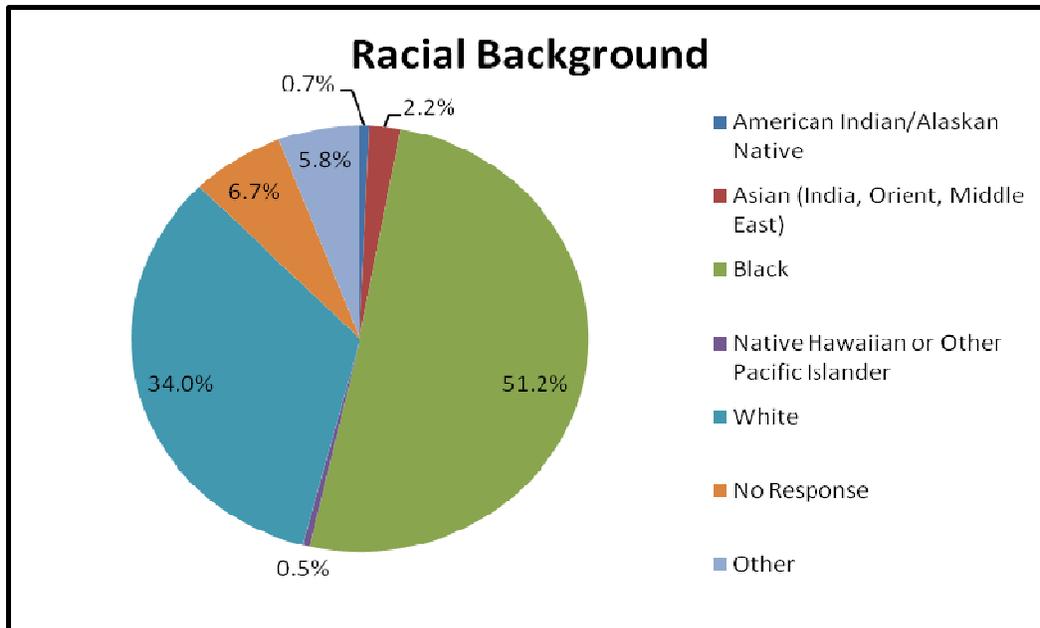
2011 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day - 1 week	118	5.2
8 days - 1 month	153	6.7
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	348	15.2
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	421	18.4
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	577	25.2
More than 1 year	618	27.0
No response	56	2.4

Demographics

In 2011, of the total 2,291 homeless families, 461 or 20.1% were male headed households, 1,780 or 77.7% were female headed households and 11 or 0.5% were transgender.

The Racial Background chart on page 26 outlines the racial breakdown of the homeless families in the 2011 count. Over one half (51.2%, n=1,173) were Black, most closely followed by White (34.0%, n=780).¹² Moreover, 21.3% (n=489) define their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

¹² Race totals more than 100% as respondents could choose more than one race to identify themselves.

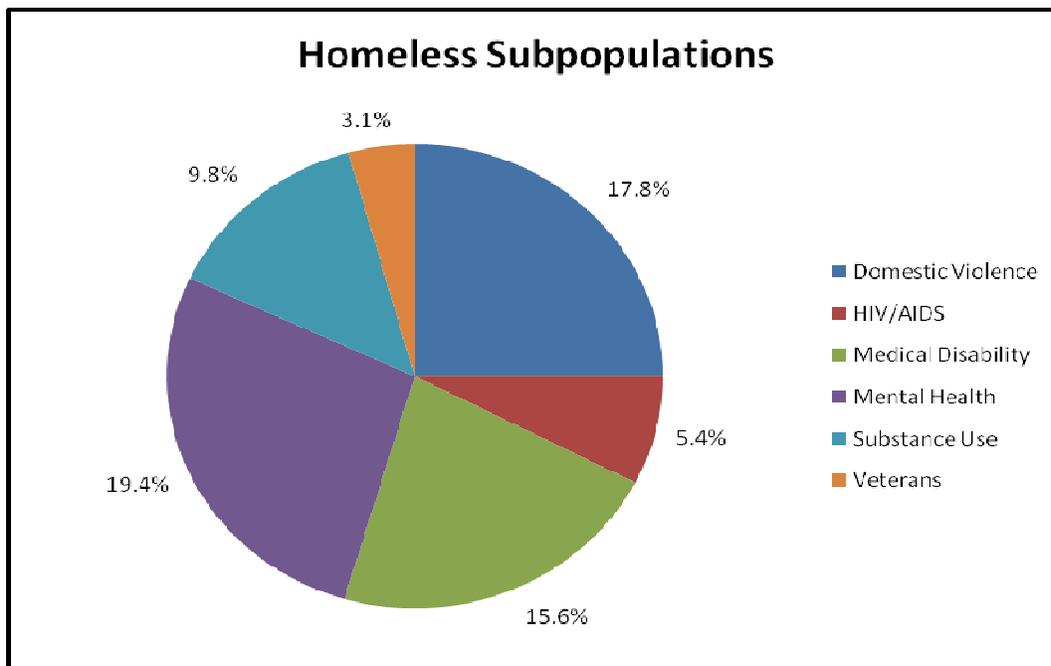


The largest cohort of homeless families had a head of household that fell within the 30 to 39 year-old age range, totaling 31.5% as shown in the chart below. This is the younger end of the total homeless population.

Age	#	%
Under 18	1	0.0
18-20	145	6.3
21-24	384	16.8
25-29	436	19.0
30-39	722	31.5
40-49	402	17.5
50-59	136	5.9
60-64	11	0.5
65+	5	0.2
No response	49	2.1

Homeless Family Subpopulations

This report looks at where homeless families fell within the homeless subpopulations. A family is determined to be a part of a subpopulation based on the head of household responses. For homeless families, the largest percentage is those with mental health issues as represented in the Homeless Subpopulation chart on page 27. However, the percentage of those with substance abuse issues is much less than the percentage in the overall homeless population (9.8% compared to 18.2%) and domestic violence is much higher (17.8% compared to 8.8%).



Financial Resources

On the night of the count the top three resources for homeless families were:

- Food stamps: 69.8%
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): 69%
- Medicaid: 52.6%

A small percentage (1.2%, n= 28) of the homeless families reported receiving no type of government benefit and 2.7% (n= 62) reported having no source of income on the night of the 2011 count.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The survey includes a question on what factors the respondents felt led to their homelessness. The chart below shows the top (5) five most frequently cited factors. The top three reasons are the same as the total homeless population. However, domestic violence was not reported as one of the top five (5) factors for the total homeless population.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Lost job/Can't find work	34.7
Eviction	34.2
Housing costs too high	28.5
Relationship/family breakup or death	23.8
Domestic Violence	17.8

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

Per the 2010 NOFA, HUD's definition of chronically homeless changed to the following:

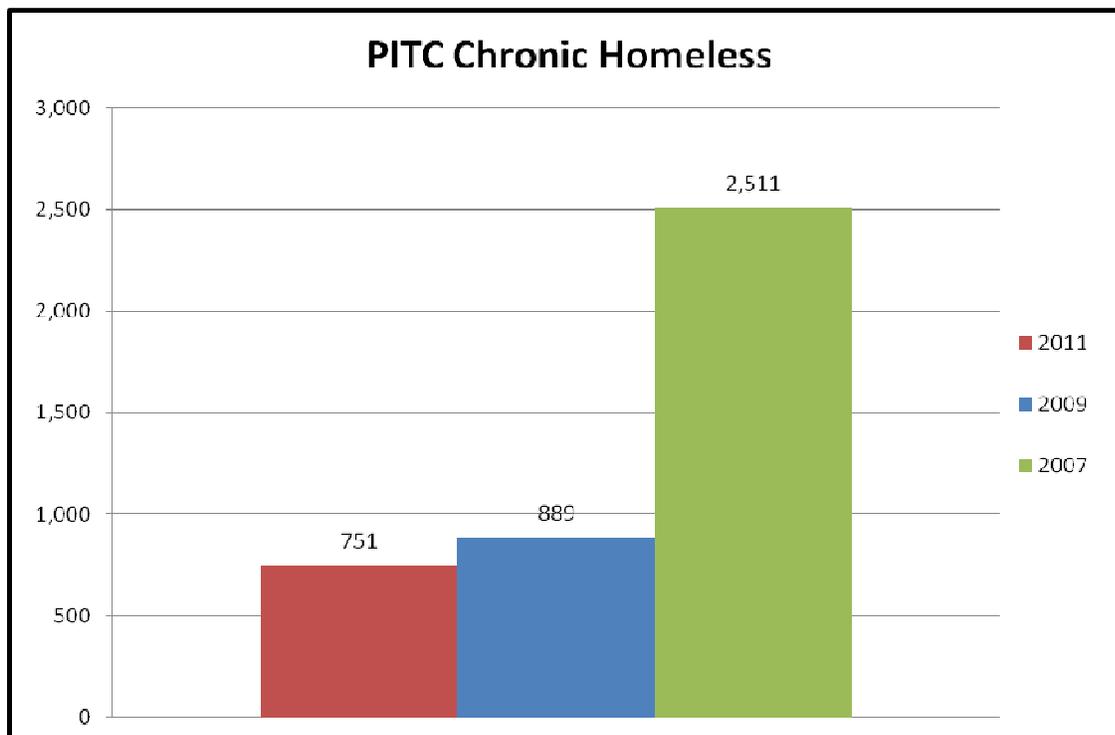
Chronically Homeless Person or Family:

- An unaccompanied homeless individual (18 or older) with a disabling condition or a family with at least one adult member (18 or older) who has a disabling condition,
- who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, OR
- has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

The term homeless means a person sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets), in an emergency homeless shelter, or in a Safe Haven as defined by HUD.

As this is the first year in which families were included in the definition, the majority of the reporting and comparative information in this report reflects information on chronically homeless individuals. The information on chronic homeless families is provided separately.

On the night of January 26, 2011, there were 751 chronically homeless individuals counted in New Jersey equaling 8.8% of the total homeless population. The number of chronically homeless has been on the decline over the past three HUD counts with the highest numbers by far in 2007 as represented in the chart below.



The chronically homeless as a percentage of the total homeless has been on the decline as well, as the chronically homeless accounted for 20% of the total homeless population in 2007, and 11.2% in 2009.

Chronic Homeless by County/Continuum of Care Jurisdiction

In the 2011 count, there were chronically homeless people counted in all counties/CoC jurisdictions except for Salem County. Essex County had the highest number of individuals who were chronically homeless, with 14.5% of the statewide total.

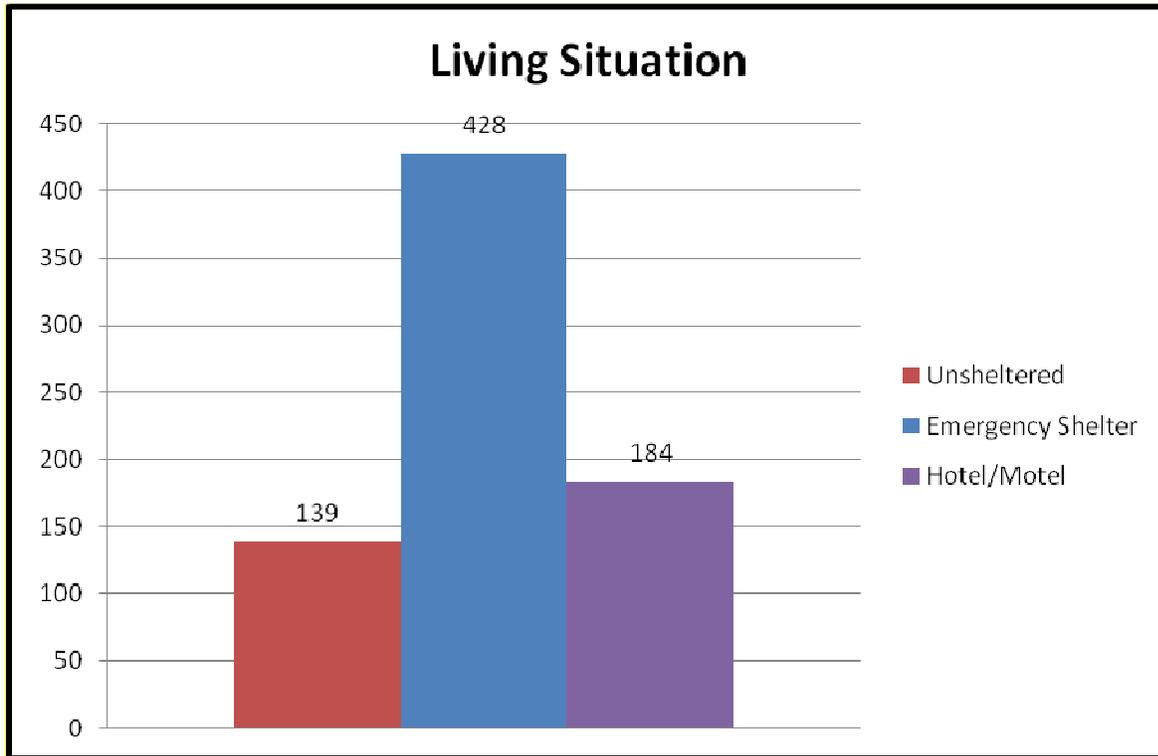
Rank	County	#	%
1	Essex	109	14.5
2	Burlington	88	11.7
3	Atlantic	81	10.8
4	Hudson	52	6.9
5	Mercer	52	6.9
6	Middlesex	51	6.8
7	Bergen	49	6.5
8	Monmouth	44	5.9
9	Morris	43	5.7
10	Union	38	5.1
11	Camden	31	4.1
12	Ocean	29	3.9
13	Passaic	23	3.1
14	Somerset	20	2.7
15	Cape May	12	1.6
16	Sussex	10	1.3
17	Hunterdon	7	0.9
18	Cumberland	5	0.7
19	Warren	5	0.7
20	Gloucester	2	0.3
21	Salem	0	0

Living Situation

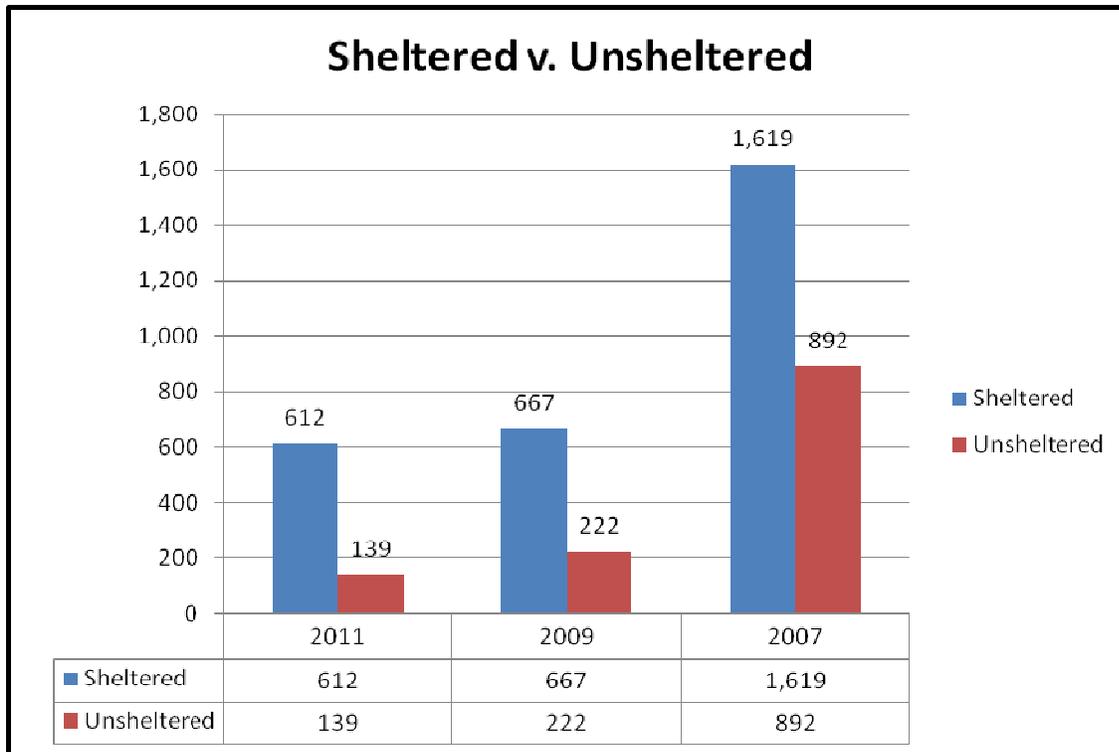
To meet HUD’s chronically homeless definition, those who are chronically homeless must be living on the streets, in places not meant for human habitation or in emergency shelter¹³. Hotels and motels paid for by an agency are deemed emergency shelter in those areas that do not have sufficient capacity in their emergency shelter system.

¹³ Emergency shelter number includes domestic violence and youth emergency shelters.

The breakdown of the living situation for the chronically homeless as reported on the night of the count shows that the largest percentage was staying in emergency shelter (56.9%). This was then followed by those in hotels/motels (24.5%) and finally those who were unsheltered (18.5%) on the night of the count.



In looking over the past three HUD count years (2007-2011), the percentage of chronically homeless individuals that were in unsheltered living situations has been on the decline as well, going from 35% in 2007 to 24.9% in 2009 to the current rate of 18.5% in 2011. The raw numbers for those in sheltered and unsheltered living situations over the past three HUD count years are reflected in the Sheltered v. Unsheltered chart on page 31.



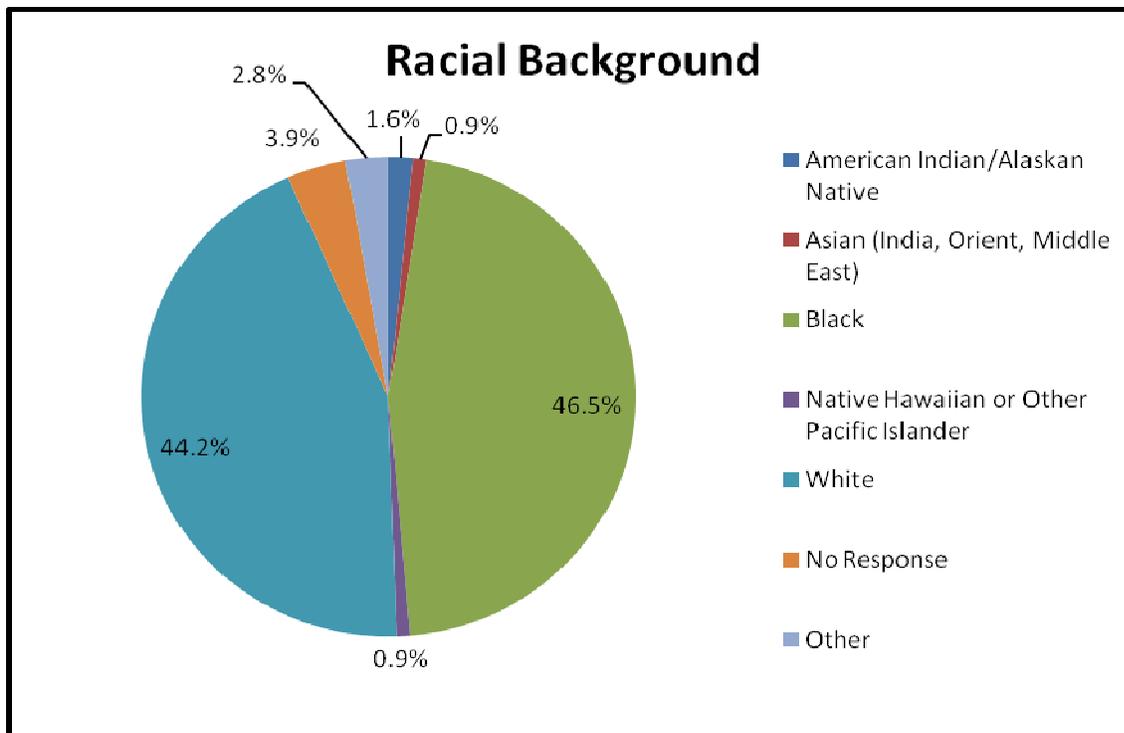
Length of Homelessness/Episodes

Of the total chronic homeless individual population, 567 or 75.5% reported they had been homeless for more than one year. A total of 510 or 67.9% also reported that they had four (4) episodes of homelessness within the past three (3) years.

Demographics

In 2011, a total of 514 or 68.4% of the chronically homeless was male, 219 or 29.2% was female and three (3) or 0.4% was transgender.

The racial breakdown of chronically homeless persons in 2011 is reflected in the Racial Background chart found on page 32. The chronically homeless population was mainly split between those that identified themselves as Black (46.5%) and White (44.2%), with the remaining groups equaling approximately 10% combined. Moreover, a total of 12% of the chronically homeless individuals defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.



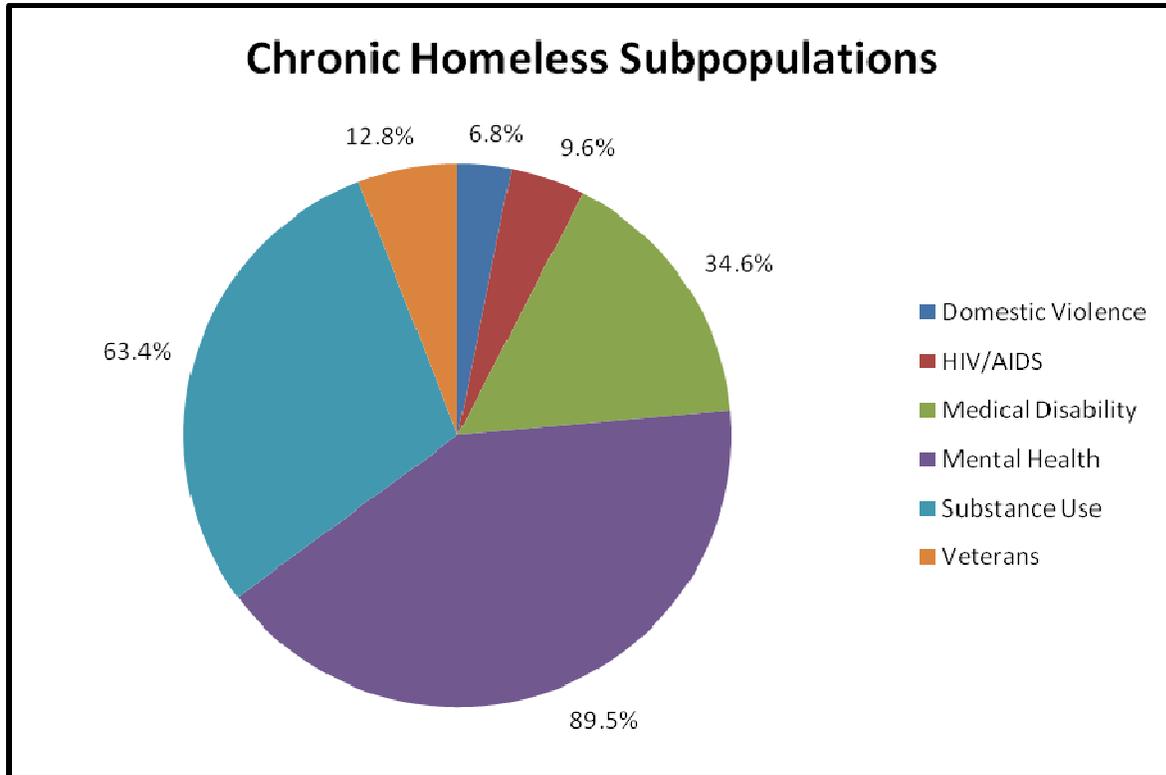
As the Age chart below shows, the largest cohort of the chronically homeless fell within the 40 to 49 year old age range with only slightly larger numbers overall in the 50 to 59 year old age range. The 40 to 59 year old age range has consistently been the largest cohort over the past HUD counts for the chronically homeless individual population.

Age	#	%
18-20	7	0.9
21-24	33	4.4
25-29	53	7.1
30-39	128	17.0
40-49	234	31.2
50-59	236	31.4
60-64	34	4.5
65+	17	2.3
No response	9	1.2

Chronic Homeless Subpopulations

As with the homeless population, subpopulation information was gathered for the chronically homeless. The numbers represented in the count are not unduplicated numbers and respondents may fall into one or more of the subpopulations.

The largest subpopulation for the chronically homeless was those with mental health issues (89.5%). This was most closely followed by those with substance use issues (34.6%). The smallest subpopulation was those experiencing domestic violence.



Financial Resources

The 2011 count showed that the three main sources of income reported on the night of the count by chronically homeless individuals reflected that of the total homeless population. These three resources were:

- Food Stamps: 51%
- Welfare/General Assistance: 47%
- Medicaid: 41.4%

Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The factors that chronically homeless respondents reported led to their homelessness differ slightly from the total homeless population. In 2011, the two top ranking factors were substance abuse at 52.3% of the chronically homeless population and mental illness/emotional problems at 49.8%. Other factors stated after those top two are more reflective of the general homeless population as shown in the Contributing Factors chart on page 34.¹⁴

¹⁴ Numbers may be duplicated

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	52.3
Mental illness/emotional problems	49.8
Lost job/cannot find work	34.1
Eviction	31.3
Relationship/family breakup/death	28.2
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	26.9
Housing costs too high	24.1
Incarceration	22.9
Lost job due to lack of transportation	12.5
Have work but wages are too low	12.4
Utility costs too high	10.4
Domestic violence	7.6
House condemned	2.4
Foreclosure	2.1
Loss of child support	1.5
Natural disaster	0.8

Discharge from Mainstream Institutions

The chart below outlines the number of homeless people who experienced stays in mainstream corrections and inpatient institutions, as well as the number who reported that they were discharged from institutions into homelessness. The systems that had the most contact with the chronically homeless included medical hospitals and city/county jails. Furthermore, all systems had a very high rate of discharging the chronic homeless back into homelessness with the highest being State Prison at a rate of 75.8%¹⁵.

System (Past Three Years)	Homeless In System		In System Discharged into Homelessness	
	#	%	#	%
<i>Corrections</i>				
State Prison	128	17.0%	97	75.8%
City/County Jail	332	44.2%	239	72.0%
Juvenile Detention Center	17	2.3%	10	58.8%

¹⁵ As noted in the Key Findings, this percentage is based on respondent data and only takes into account the number of the chronic homeless that completed the 2011 survey. The data may be duplicative and it is not a reflection of the mainstream institution population as a whole.

<i>Inpatient Care</i>	#	%	#	%
Hospitalized (Medical)	333	44.3%	227	68.2%
State Inpatient Mental Health	113	15.0%	79	69.9%
City/County Inpatient Mental Health	157	20.9%	108	68.8%
Substance Abuse Treatment	189	25.2%	110	58.2%

Last Permanent Address

A total of 89.3% (n=671) of the chronically homeless respondents stated that their last permanent address was in New Jersey before becoming homeless, while 1.9% (n=15) last lived in Pennsylvania and 1.3% (n=10) last lived in New York. The remaining homeless population (7.3%, n=55) last had a permanent address in other states.

The cities most frequently cited by respondents as their last permanent address are below¹⁶. Please note that listing a city/town as last placed lived does not necessarily correlate to the county where the respondent is currently residing.

Town	%
Newark	8.7
Trenton	4.7
Atlantic City	4.4
Elizabeth	4.3
New Brunswick	4.0
Jersey City	3.9
Paterson	3.5
Mount Holly	3.2
Camden	3.1
Morristown	2.0
East Orange	1.7
Hackensack	1.7
Asbury Park	1.6
Hoboken	1.5
Willingboro	1.2
Plainfield	1.1
Orange	1.1

¹⁶ The towns that had a rate of 1% or higher.

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS FAMILIES

The 2011 count is the first year that HUD requested information on chronically homeless families as the definition of chronically homeless was changed with the 2010 NOFA. The information is based on responses by the head of household.

Across the entire State, only 94 families met the chronic homeless definition and could be considered a chronically homeless family. This is only 1.1% of the total homeless population and 4.1% of the total family homeless population. A total of 186 children were part of the 94 families with 79 six years of age or younger and 107 between the ages of seven (7) and 17. Both chronically homeless populations together total 845 households. Families equal 11.1% of the total chronically homeless households.

Chronic Homeless Families by County/Continuum of Care Jurisdiction

In the 2011 count, there were not chronically homeless families counted in all counties/CoC jurisdictions. As the chart below reflects, three counties (Burlington, Essex and Passaic) had the largest number of chronically homeless families with a total of 11 families or 11.7%. There were also three counties (Hunterdon, Salem and Sussex) that had no chronically homeless families as part of the 2011 count.

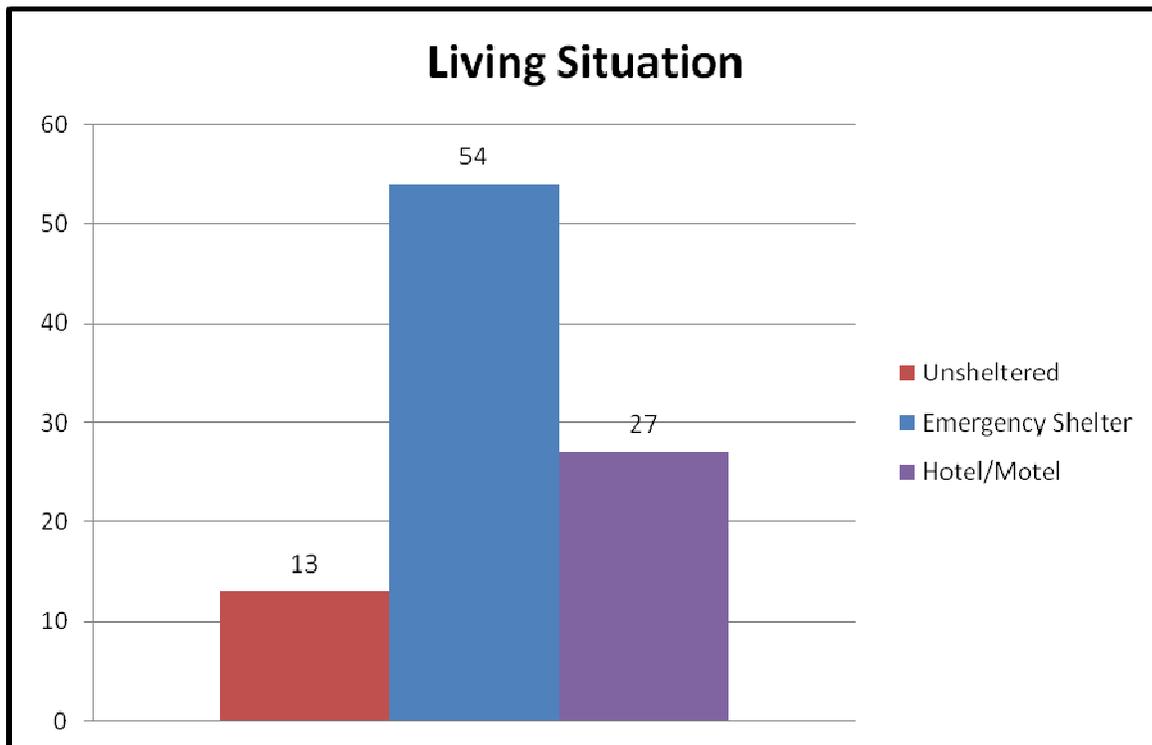
Rank	County	#	%
1	Burlington	11	11.7
1	Essex	11	11.7
1	Passaic	11	11.7
2	Middlesex	9	9.6
2	Monmouth	9	9.6
3	Atlantic	7	7.4
3	Hudson	7	7.4
4	Cape May	5	5.3
4	Mercer	5	5.3
4	Somerset	5	5.3
5	Morris	4	4.3
6	Camden	3	3.2
7	Gloucester	2	2.1
8	Bergen	1	1.1
8	Cumberland	1	1.1
8	Ocean	1	1.1
8	Union	1	1.1
8	Warren	1	1.1
	Hunterdon	0	0
	Salem	0	0
	Sussex	0	0

Living Situation

To meet HUD's chronically homeless definition, those who are chronically homeless must be living on the streets, in places not meant for human habitation or in emergency shelter¹⁷.

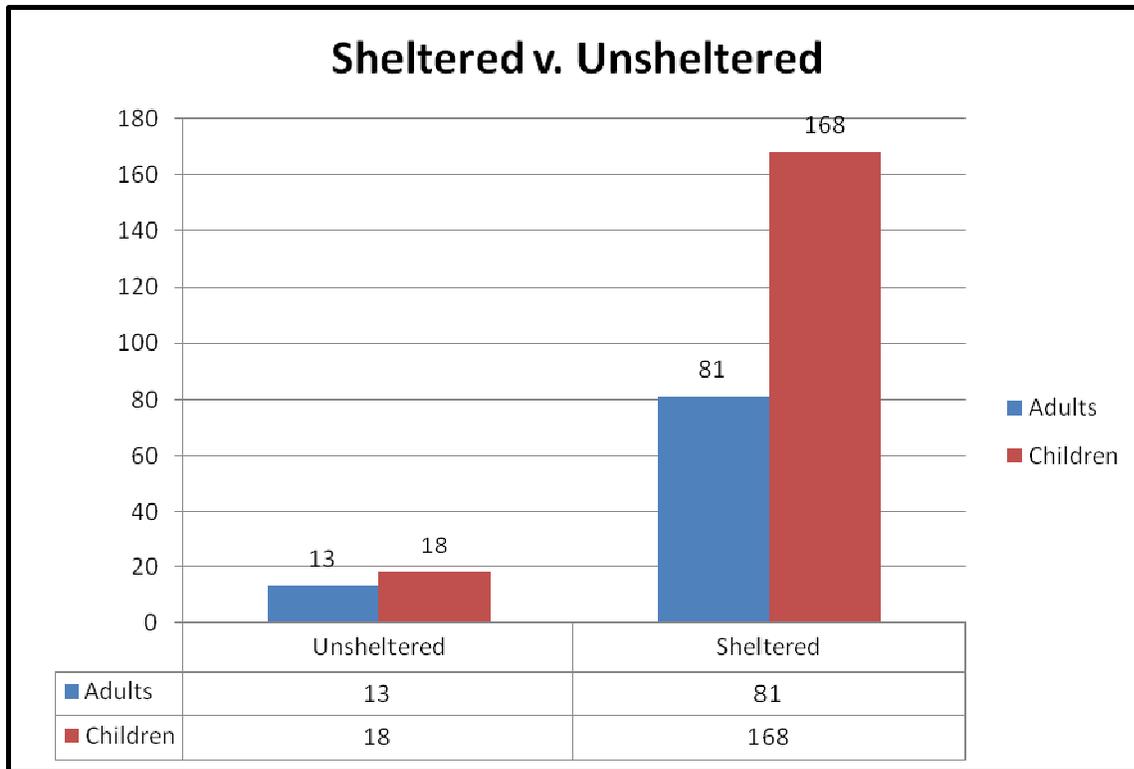
Hotels and motels paid for by an agency are deemed emergency shelter in those areas that do not have sufficient capacity in their emergency shelter system.

The breakdown of the living situation for chronically homeless families as reported on the night of the count shows that the largest percentage was staying in emergency shelter (57.4%). This was then followed by those in hotels/motels (28.7%) and finally those who were unsheltered (13.8%).



The Sheltered v. Unsheltered chart on page 38 has a breakdown of the number of chronically homeless adults and children in sheltered and unsheltered situations on the night of the count. Again, the majority were in sheltered situations so the 13 families only had a total of 18 children with them on the night of the count.

¹⁷ Emergency shelter number includes domestic violence and youth emergency shelters.



Length of Homelessness/Episodes

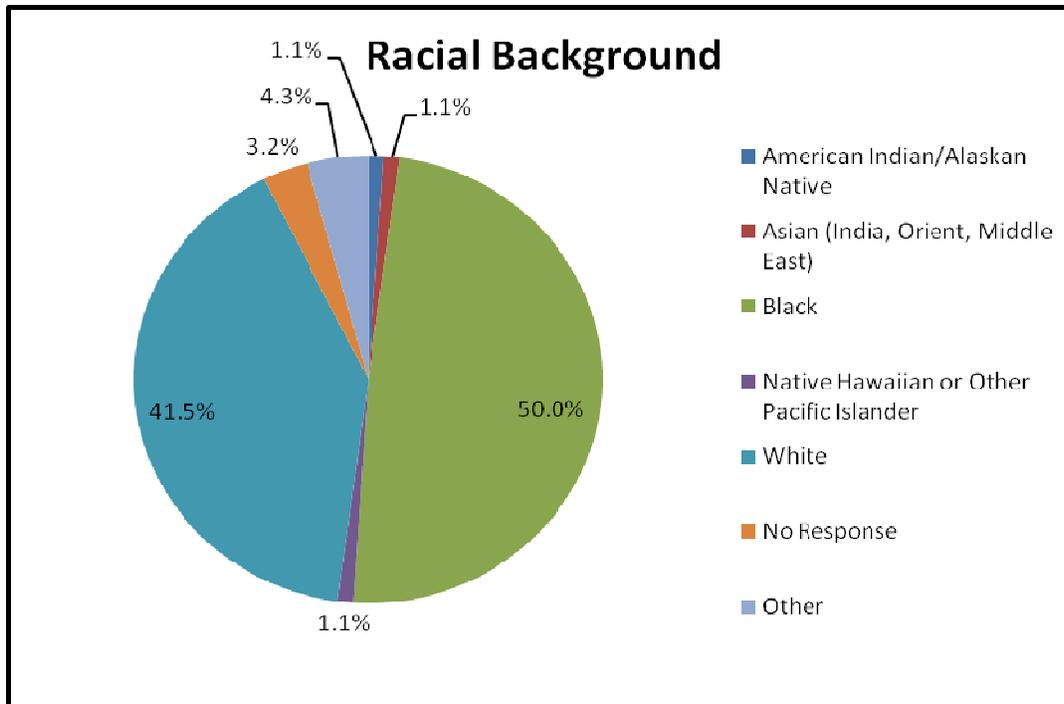
Of the total chronically homeless family population, 77 or 81.9% reported they had been homeless for more than one year. A total of 61 or 64.9% had also reported that they had four episodes of homelessness within the past three years

Demographics

In the 2011 count, 38 or 40.4% were male headed chronically homeless family households, 54 or 57.4% were female headed households and one (1) or 1.1% was transgender.

The Racial Background chart on page 39 outlines the racial breakdown of the chronically homeless families in the 2011 count. One half (50.0%, n=43) were Black most closely followed by White (41.5%, n=39).¹⁸ Moreover, 13.8% (n=13) define their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

¹⁸ Race totals more than 100% as respondents could choose more than one race to identify themselves.

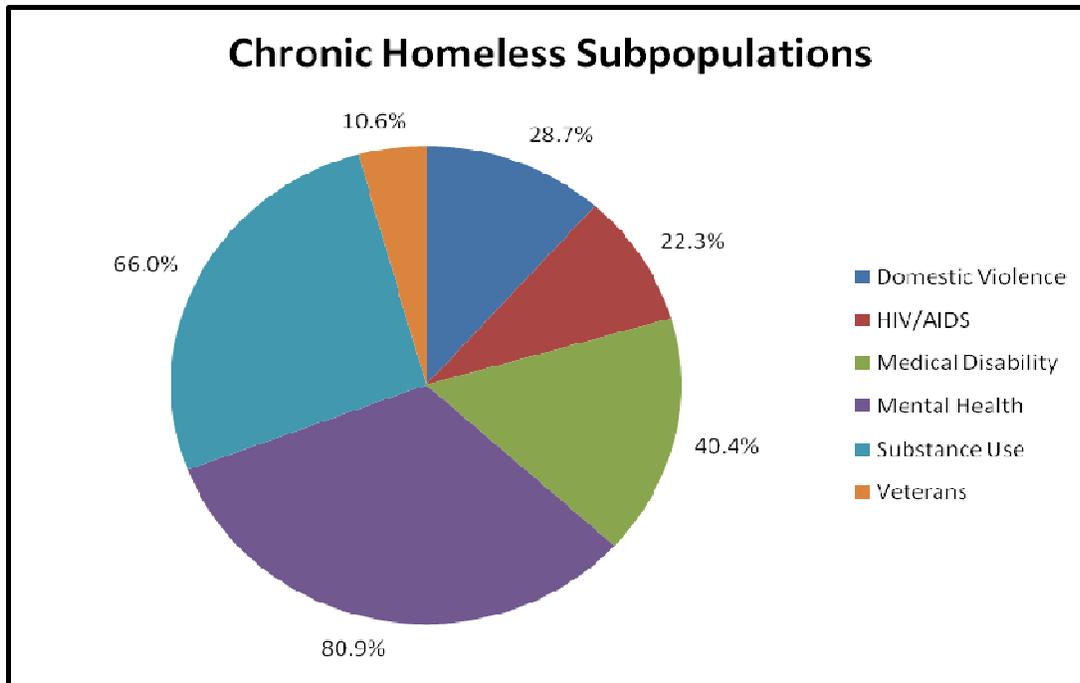


The largest cohort of chronically homeless families had a head of household that fell within the 30 to 39 year-old age range which mirrors that of the total family homeless population. However, those that fell between 40 and 49 years of age had almost the same number so the largest portion was between the ages of 30 and 49.

Age	#	%
18-20	1	1.1
21-24	14	14.9
25-29	14	14.9
30-39	23	24.5
40-49	22	23.4
50-59	15	16.0
60-64	2	2.1
65+	1	1.1
No response	2	2.1

Chronic Homeless Family Subpopulations

For chronic homeless families the largest percentage are those with mental health issues. However, unlike the total family homeless population and more reflective of the chronic homeless individual population, the percentage of those with substance abuse issues is the second largest subpopulation. The subpopulation breakdown is reflected in the Chronic Homeless Subpopulation chart on page 40.



Financial Resources

On the night of the count the top three resources for chronically homeless families mirrored that of the total homeless family population and include:

- Food stamps: 63.8%
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): 47.9%
- Medicaid: 47.9%

A slightly larger percentage (6.4%, n= 6) of the chronically homeless families reported receiving no type of government compared to the total homeless family population. Furthermore, 5.3% (n= 5) reported having no source of income on the night of the 2011 count.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness

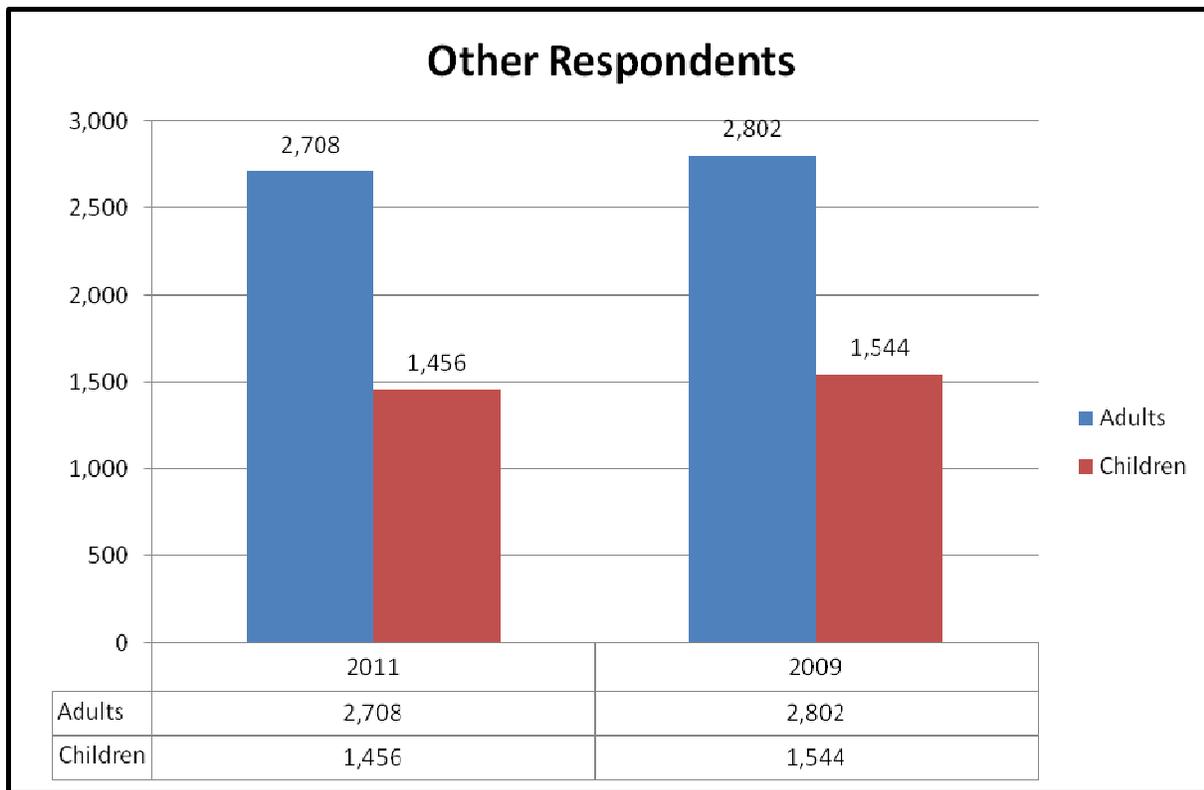
The chart below shows the top five highest ranking factors that the head of household stated contributed to their family’s homelessness on the night of the count. The top reasons do reflect a combination of top reasons for both the homeless family population and the chronically homeless individual population.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	43.6
Eviction	35.1
Mental illness/Emotional problems	35.1
Lost job/Can't find work	34.0
Relationship/family breakup or death	34.0

OTHER RESPONDENTS

On January 26, 2010, 2,708 adults and 1,456 children were counted who did not meet HUD's definition of homelessness.¹⁹ While the PITC focuses on people who are homeless, it also gathered information on formerly homeless people living in permanent supportive housing, as well as those who requested services (for example, at a Project Homeless Connect event) who were living in other forms of housing including those temporarily living with friends or family ("doubled up"), paying for rooms in motels because they could not afford housing, and other non-homeless situations.

The chart below shows the breakdown of adults and children on the night of the count for 2011 and 2009 as they were the only two HUD count years that collected this data. In 2011, there was a slight decrease in the number of Other Respondents counted compared to 2009.



¹⁹ This number includes only households that responded that they were in distinct housing situations on the night of the count. This number does not include those that reported they were in “other” non- HUD homeless situations or those that gave a No Response answer.

County/Continuum of Care Jurisdiction

For some Counties/CoC jurisdictions Other Respondents were a larger percent of the total number of respondents on the night of the count while for others, the percentage was minor. As the chart below shows, Cumberland County had numbers totaling almost 70% of their total count while only five jurisdictions had numbers equaling less than 10%. Salem County was the only County where all of their respondents were homeless on the night of the count.

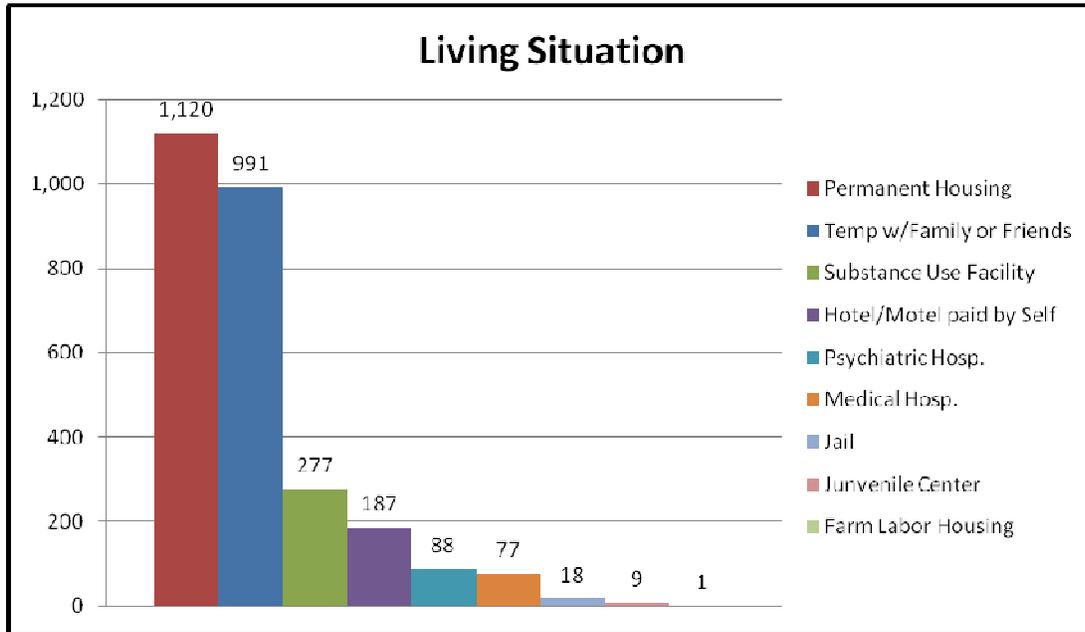
County 2011	Other Respondents	Total Respondents	% of Total
Cumberland	166	242	68.6
Monmouth	274	637	43.0
Gloucester	77	195	39.5
Hudson	292	781	37.4
Middlesex	337	932	36.2
Sussex	154	435	35.4
Mercer	312	918	34.0
Morris	290	891	32.5
Passaic	128	465	27.5
Hunterdon	24	94	25.5
Warren	50	229	21.8
Camden	98	676	14.5
Ocean	63	475	13.3
Essex	142	1,255	11.3
Bergen	111	1,060	10.5
Atlantic	49	528	9.3
Burlington	58	721	8.0
Somerset	19	254	7.5
Union	32	924	3.5
Cape May	32	286	0.2
Salem	0	52	0.0

Living Situation

The count gathered information on several living situations that did not meet HUD's definition of homelessness. These include permanent housing (supportive housing and other forms), temporarily with friends and family ("doubled up"), hotel/motel paid by the respondents, inpatient facility (medical, psychiatric, substance abuse), correctional facility (jail, juvenile detention) and farm labor housing.

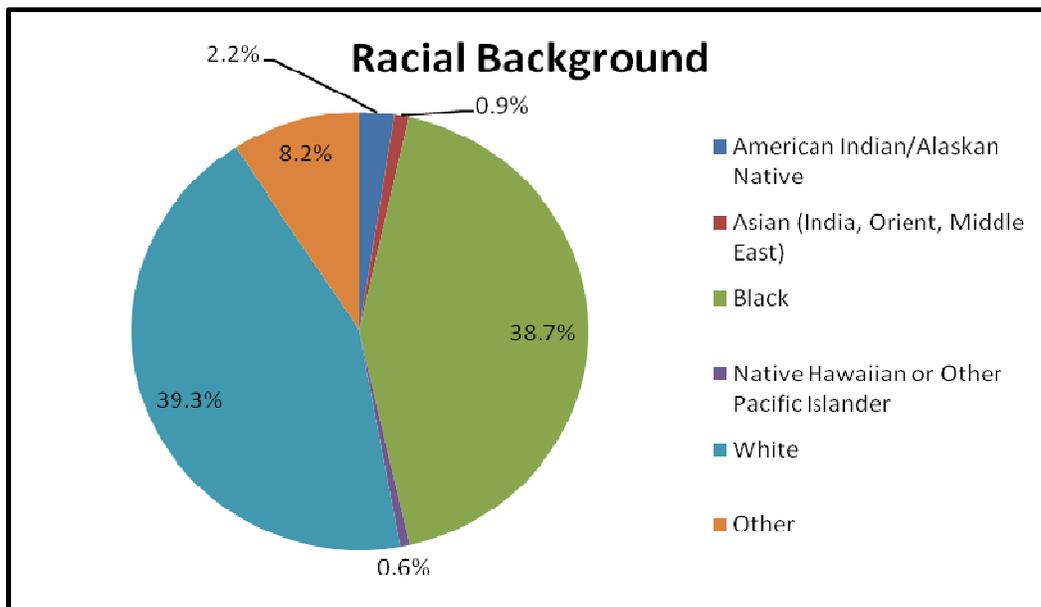
The largest percent (41.3%) of Other Respondents that were counted were living in some form of permanent housing. This was followed by those that were "doubled up" with friends or

family (36.5%). The remaining living situations numbers were not significant as compared to these top two.



Demographics

A total of 1,506 or 55.6% of Other Respondents were male, 1,130 or 41.7% were female and 14 or 0.5% were transgender. The largest percentage were White (39.3%) followed by Black (38.7%) as represented in the Racial Background chart on page 44. Moreover, approximately a quarter (25.5%) of the respondents defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.



In terms of age, the Other Respondents in the 2011 count were reflective of the homeless population as a whole. The largest portion of Other Respondents fell within the 40 to 49 year old age range, totaling 28.1% with the largest percentage clustered between 30 and 59 years of age as shown in the chart below.

Age	#	%
Under 18	6	0.2
18-20	91	3.4
21-24	190	7.0
25-29	271	10.0
30-39	540	19.9
40-49	761	28.1
50-59	552	20.4
60-64	110	4.1
65+	99	3.7
No response	88	3.2

Service Needs

The 2011 survey collected information on Service Needs for Other Respondents, as their participation in supportive housing or their attendance at events for the homeless, such as Project Homeless Connect, indicates a level of service and/or housing need. The following chart outlines information gathered on services needed as reported by Other Respondents on the night of the count.²⁰

The services reported to be most in need were housing (34.5%, n= 1,103), employment assistance (27.7%, n= 939) and dental care (27.5%, n= 835). This is also representative of the top service needs reported in 2009 for this population.

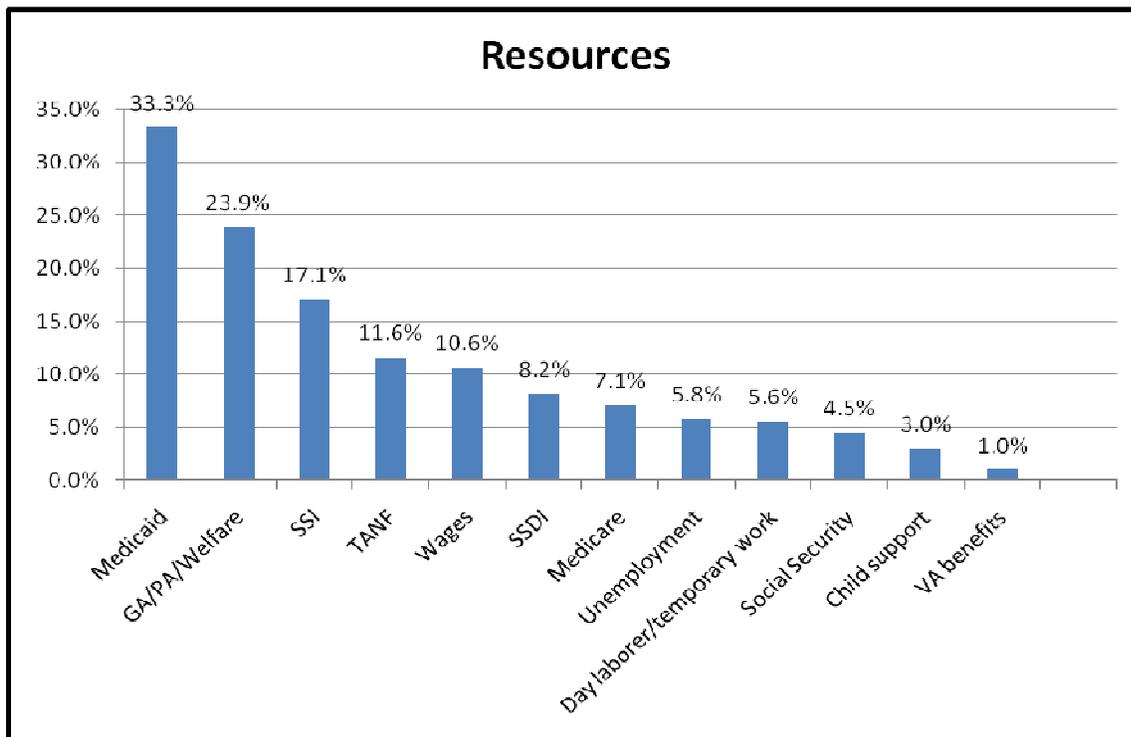
Needed Services	#	%
Housing	934	34.5
Employment assistance	749	27.7
Dental	746	27.5
Emergency food or meal assistance	637	23.5
Transportation	612	22.6
Educational training	591	21.8
Medical (routine healthcare)	562	20.8
Emergency shelter	388	14.3
Legal	361	13.3

²⁰ Not an unduplicated count.

Needed Services	#	%
Assistance obtaining ID	349	12.9
Mental health	282	10.4
Medical services (disability)	257	9.5
Substance use	191	7.1
Immigration	190	7.0
Child care	148	5.5
HIV/AIDS	142	5.2
Domestic violence	85	3.1
Veterans	54	2.0

Financial Resources

The 2011 count looked at the types of income/financial resources Other Respondents were currently receiving. The three main sources of income reported on the night of the count were Medicaid (33.3%), Welfare (23.9%) and SSI (17.1%) as represented in the Resources chart on page 46. Furthermore, 121 or 4.5% stated they were receiving no type of government assistance and 235 or 8.7% of the respondents stated they currently had no source of income.



Contributing Factors

The highest ranking factor that Other Respondents stated contributed to their current living situation was the loss of a job and inability to find work. The top reasons stated by Other Respondents – unaffordable housing costs, substance use issues and relationship crises -- are reflective of the factors reported by the homeless population as a whole.

Contributing Factors to Living Situation	%
Lost job/cannot find work	35.4
Housing costs too high	28.6
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	25.5
Relationship/family breakup/death	21.3
Mental illness/emotional problems	19.8
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	18.8
Eviction	17.3
Have work but wages are too low	16.8
Utility costs too high	15.0
Lost job due to lack of transportation	10.5
Incarceration	10.0
Domestic violence	8.2
Loss of child support	3.8
Foreclosure	2.2
House condemned	1.0
Natural disaster	0.4

Residing the Night of the Count

The cities most frequently cited by respondents as the place they would be sleeping on the night of the 2011 count are shown in the Town chart on page 47²¹. The highest number of respondents reported that they would be staying in the City of Trenton (10.6%) on the night of the count closely followed by those staying in the City of Jersey City (9.5%).

²¹ Those towns that are at a rate of 1% or higher.

Town	%
Trenton	10.6
Jersey City	9.5
Morristown	5.4
Perth Amboy	5.2
Paterson	4.5
Freehold	4.0
Asbury Park	3.0
Newark	2.9
Camden	2.8
Newton	2.4
Vineland	2.2
Bridgeton	2.1
New Brunswick	2.1
Red Bank	1.9
Millville	1.6
Paramus	1.6
Phillipsburg	1.2