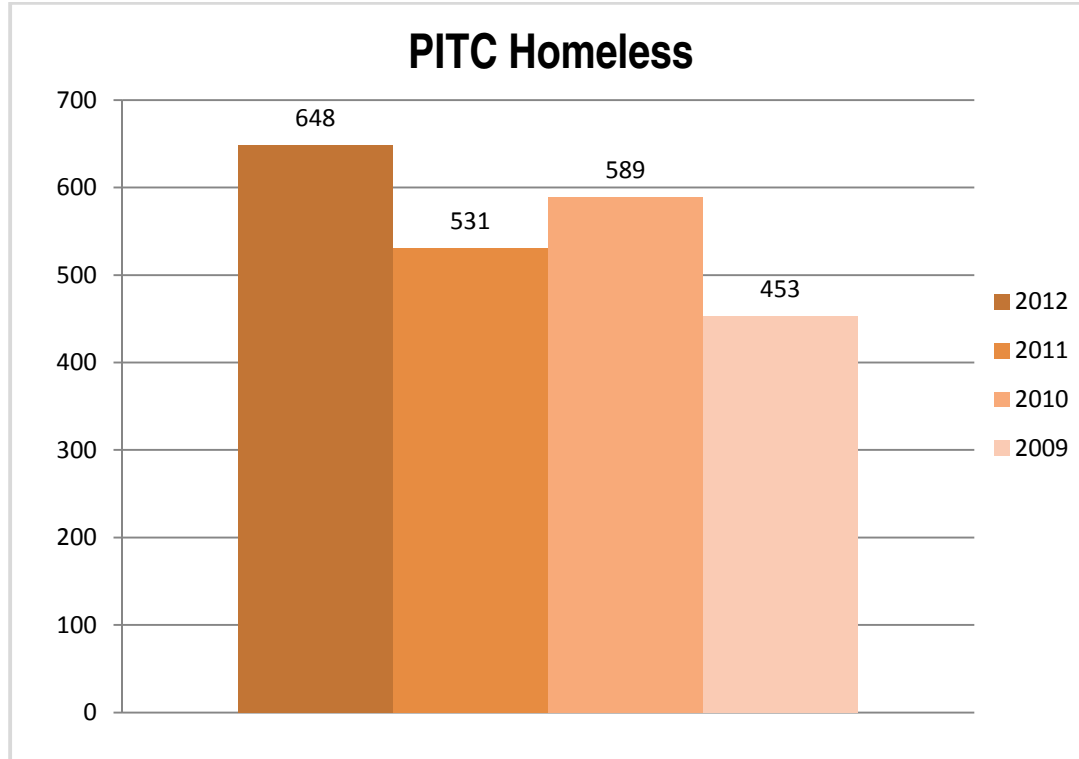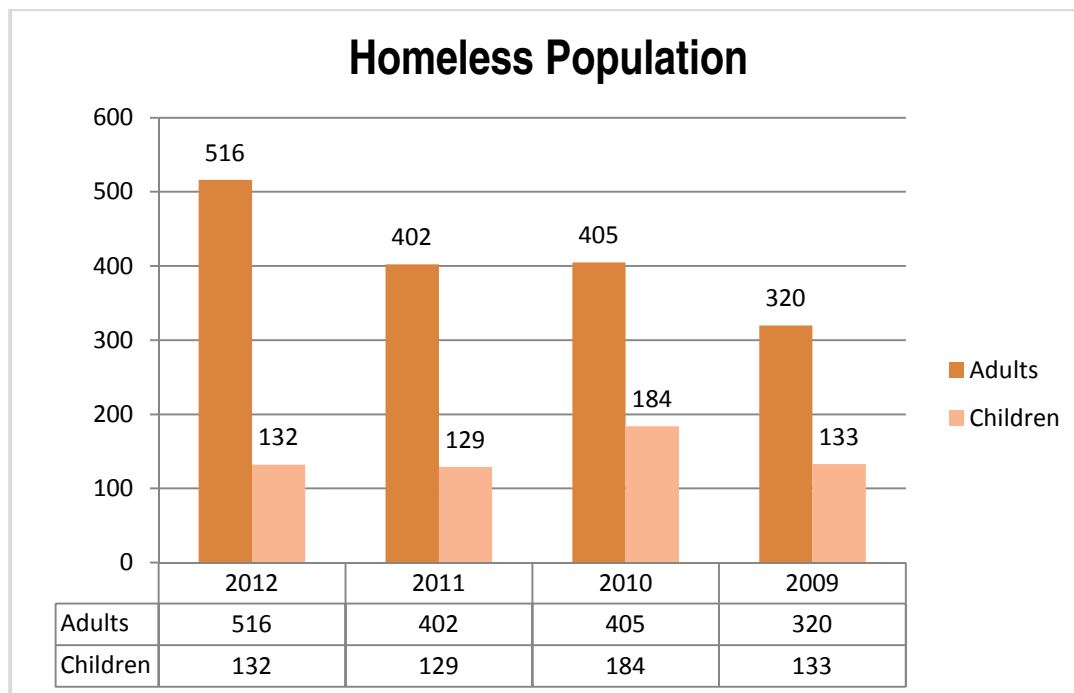# OCEAN COUNTY

On January 25, 2012 there were 648 homeless men, women and children counted in Ocean County according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations.

PITC Homeless

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, 1,908 adults and children are homeless in Ocean County.*
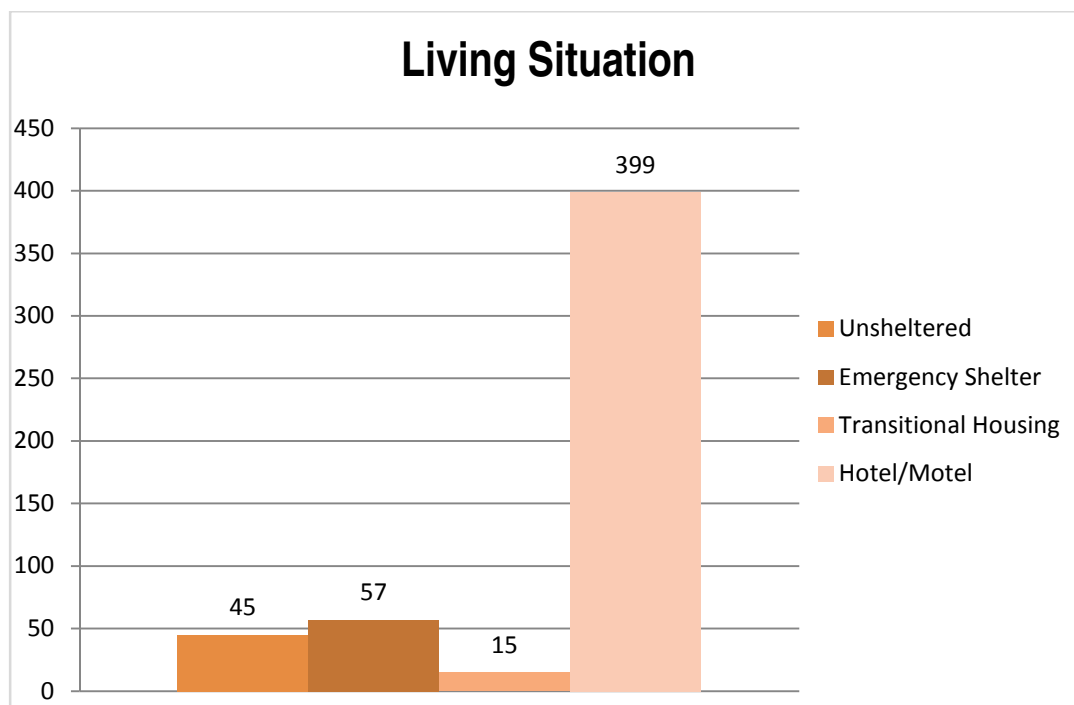
Homelessness in Ocean County has increased over the past four years reaching the highest level in this count year. Of the 648 people who were homeless on the night of the count 132 of them were children. As the Homeless Population chart shows, the number of homeless adults has been on the rise since 2009 with the number of homeless children almost having consistent numbers outside of the 2010 count year.

2012 Homeless Breakdown	
Respondents (Adults)	516
Family Members (Children)	132
Total Homeless	**648**

Homeless Population

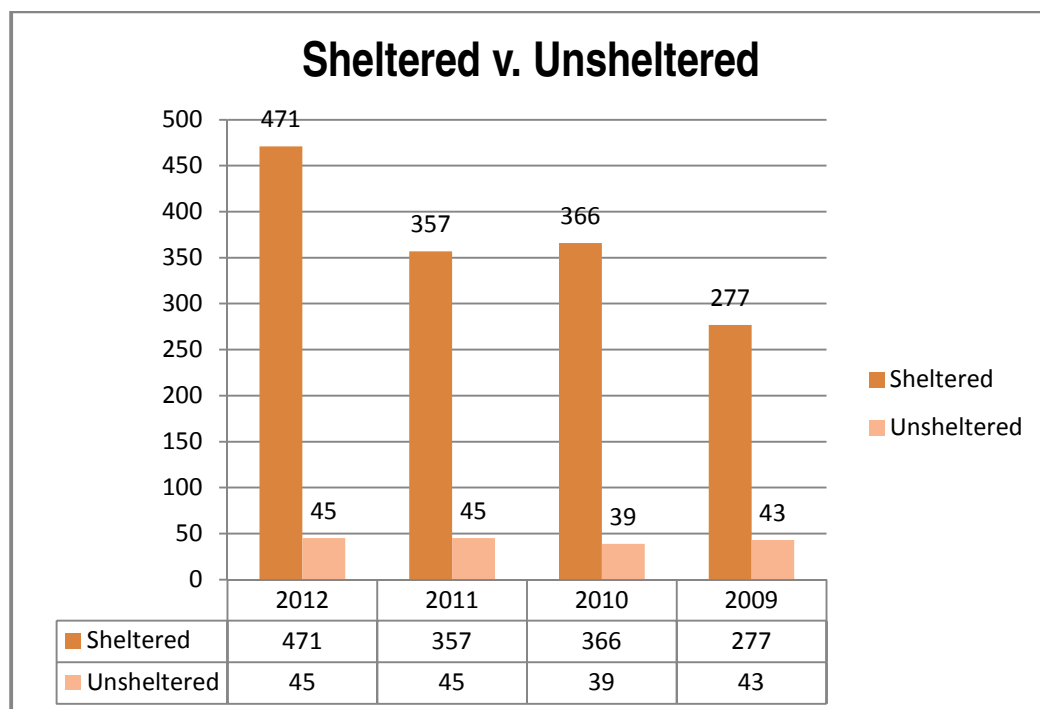|	2012	2011	2010	2009
Adults	516	402	405	320
Children	132	129	184	133

Living Situation

As reflected in the Living Situation chart below, 45 or 8.7% of the homeless respondents were unsheltered the night of the count. The remainder of the homeless were in living in sheltered situations with the largest population of the homeless in hotel/motel placement as emergency housing (n=399, 77.3%).

Living Situation

Unsheltered: 45
Emergency Shelter: 57
Transitional Housing: 15
Hotel/Motel: 399

Emergency Shelter includes those in ES, Domestic Violence Shelters, Youth Shelters and Safe Havens where applicable

2012 PITC- Ocean County

The number of unsheltered homeless in Ocean County has remained fairly consistent over the past four count years. In turn, the number of sheltered homeless has been on the rise with an overall increase of 41.1% since 2009.

Sheltered v. Unsheltered

	2012	2011	2010	2009
Sheltered	471	357	366	277
Unsheltered	45	45	39	43

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

As HUD continually encourages CoCs to utilize HMIS to complete the sheltered count for a community, for the first time, as part of this 2012 report, there is a comparison of what was reported in HMIS for emergency shelters and transitional housing for the night of the count to what was reported in the same categories for the Point In Time Count. The numbers from HMIS are based on those over 17 in emergency shelter or transitional housing on the night of the Point In Time Count.
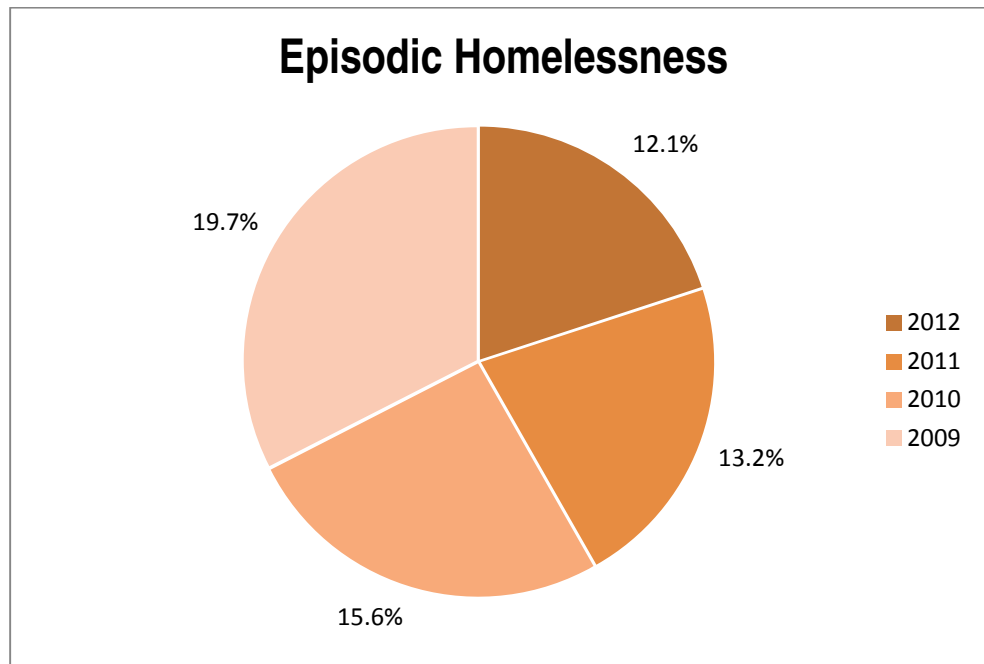
In Ocean County, there were a total of no (0) adults in emergency shelter in HMIS on the night of the count and there were none (9) in transitional housing in HMIS on the night of the count. These numbers are lower that was recorded as part of the count. On the night of the count 42 respondents stated that they would be in emergency shelter and 15 reported residing in transitional housing.

Length and Episodes of Homelessness

Of the homeless population surveyed in Ocean County, the largest percentage reported being homeless between one week and one month (16.5%) with 38.2% having no response to this question. Of those who were homeless less than one year, 20.3% reported that they had been homeless at least one other time within the past 12 months.

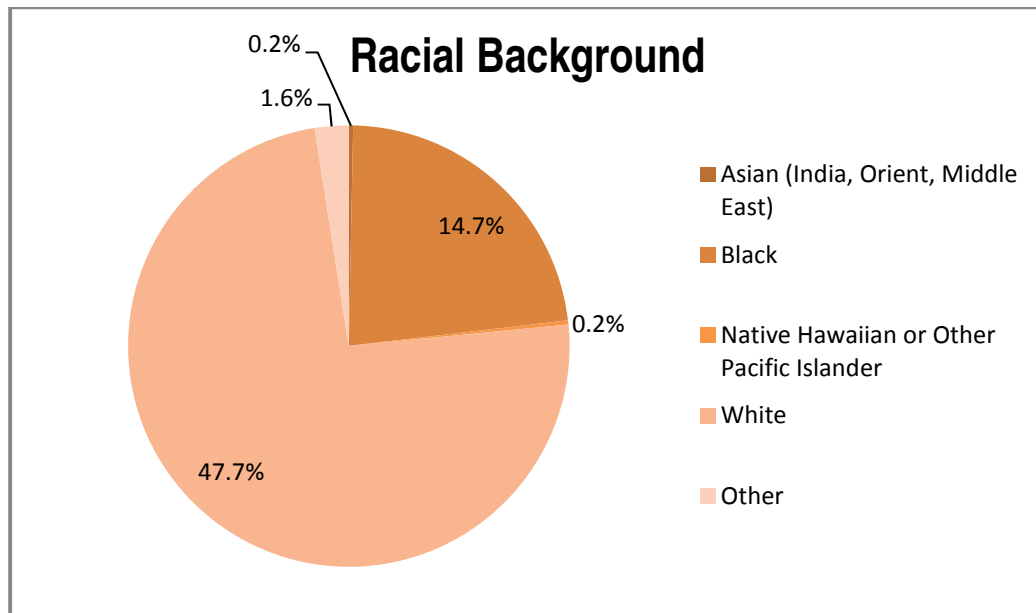| 2012 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day - 1 week	31	6.0%
8 days - 1 month	**85**	**16.5%**
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	33	6.4%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	55	10.7%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	67	13.0%
More than 1 year	48	9.3%
No response	197	38.2%

As reflected in the chart below, a total of 57or 12.1% of the total homeless population reported having at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. This number has been on the decline since 2009.

Demographics

In 2012, of the total homeless population in Ocean County, 289 people or 56% were male, 203 or 39.3 % were female and one (1) or 0.2% identified as transgender.

The Racial Background chart outlines the racial breakdown of homeless persons in the 2012 count. The largest percentage were White (47.7%) most closely followed by Black (14.7%).   The total percentage of the homeless population that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 7.6%.

Racial Background

Legend:
- Asian (India, Orient, Middle East)
- Black
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other

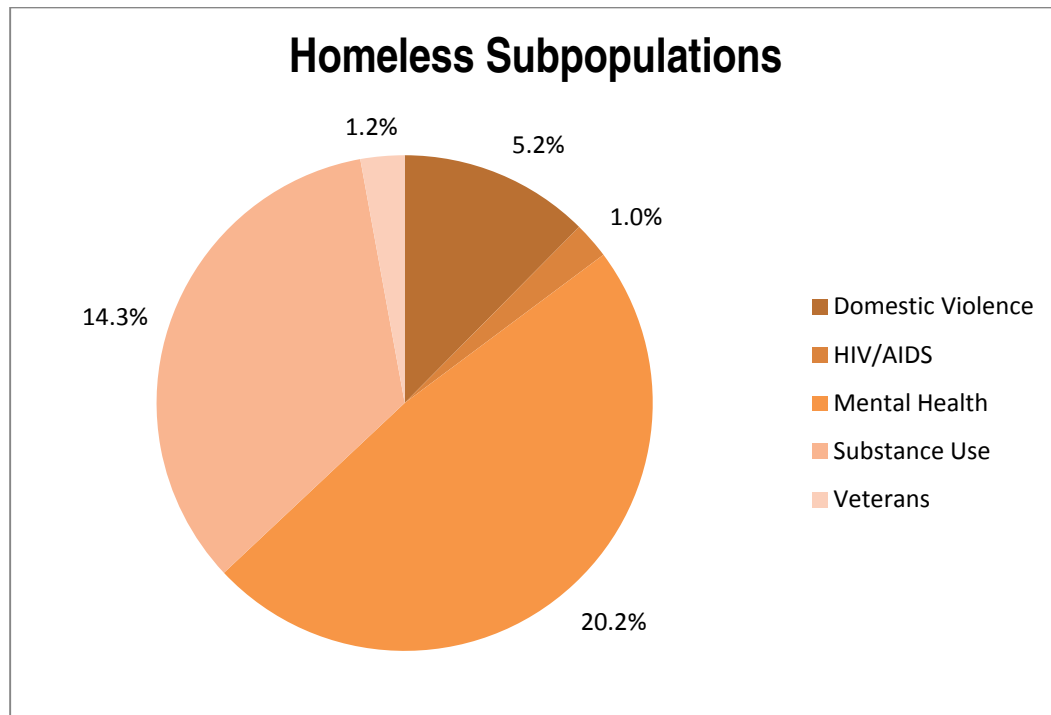Values shown: 0.2%, 1.6%, 14.7%, 0.2%, 47.7%

The largest percentage of homeless in Ocean County fell within the 30 to 39 year old age range, totaling 16.9%. The majority of the homeless population was clustered between the ages of 25 and 49.

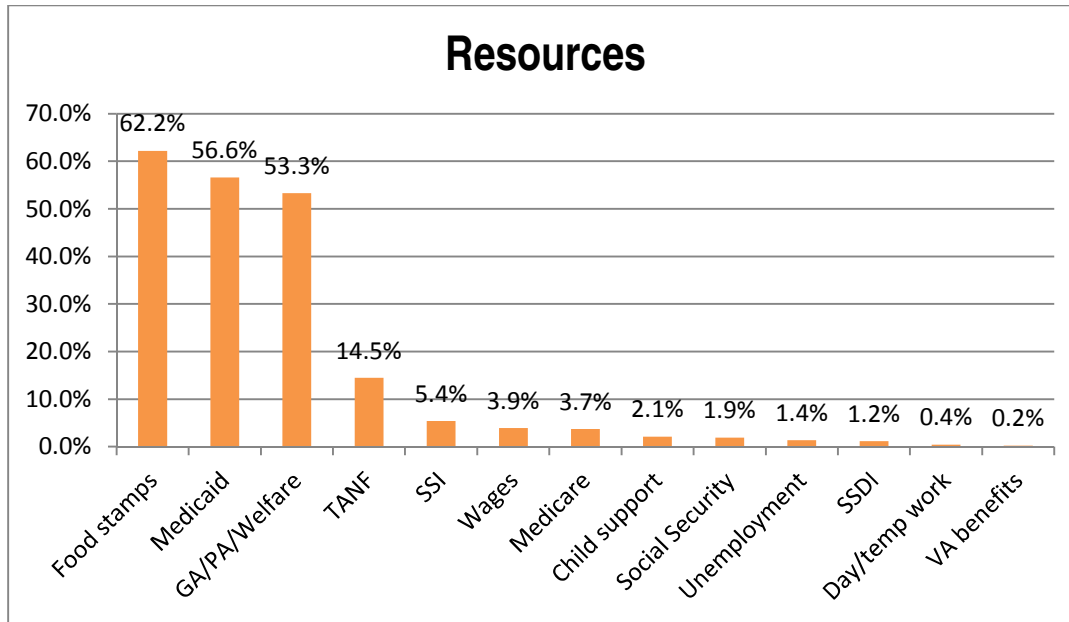| 2012 Age	#	%
Under 18	11	2.1%
18-20	27	5.2%
21-24	46	8.9%
25-29	80	15.5%
30-39	**87**	**16.9%**
40-49	86	16.7%
50-59	55	10.7%
60-64	15	2.9%
65+	3	0.6%
No response	106	20.5%

Homeless Subpopulations

The Homeless Subpopulation chart outlines the breakdown of the HUD homeless subpopulations in Ocean County for the 2012 count. The largest subpopulation was the homeless who had mental health issues (20.2%). The number of homeless who reported serving in the US military equaled 1.2% (n=6).

Homeless Subpopulations

1.2%
5.2%
1.0%
14.3%
20.2%

- Domestic Violence
- HIV/AIDS
- Mental Health
- Substance Use
- Veterans

Financial Resources and Income

The three main sources of income reported by people who were homeless in Ocean County on the night of the 2012 count were Food Stamps (62.6%), Medicaid (56.6%) and Welfare (53.3%).   Additionally, 1.2% of the homeless population reported receiving no type of government benefit on the night of the count.

Resources

As part of the 2012 count, homeless respondents were asked to provide a current income that provided a potential estimated yearly income. In Ocean County, the largest percentage of respondents stated that they had income less than $5,000.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income	101	19.6%
$1.00-$4,999	**274**	**53.1%**
$5,000- $9,999	65	12.6%
$10,000-$14,999	6	1.2%
$15,000- $19,999	4	0.8%
$20,000-$24,999	0	0.0%
$25,000- $29,999	1	0.2%
$45,000- $49,999	1	0.2%
No Response	64	12.4%

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness
The highest ranking factor that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Ocean County was loss of a job and inability to find work. Other top ranking factors included housing costs being too high and relationship breakdown.

2012 PITC- Ocean County

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Lost job/cannot find work	26.7%
Housing costs too high	17.8%
Relationship/family breakup/death	15.5%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	12.6%
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	12.0%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	11.8%
Mental illness/emotional problems	10.9%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	9.9%
Utility costs too high	7.6%
Domestic violence	7.2%
Incarceration	6.4%
Have work but wages are too low	2.5%
Foreclosure or at risk of Foreclosure	1.9%
Loss of child support	1.0%
House condemned	0.4%
Natural disaster	0.4%

The types of services that respondents stated that they have received in the past three years or are currently needed are reflected in the chart below. In Ocean County, the top service received was emergency shelter and the top service that was reported as needed was housing.

2012 Service Needs	#	%
Received		
Emergency shelter	202	39.1%
Housing	124	24.0%
Emergency food or meal assistance	118	22.9%

Need		
Housing	119	23.1%
Employment assistance	72	14.0%
Educational training	59	11.4%

Discharge from Mainstream Institutions

As part of the 2012 survey, homeless respondents were asked if they had been discharged into homelessness from certain mainstream institutions within the past three years (since January 25, 2009). The discharge information is based on the homeless population that responded to the survey and relies on self report.

As the chart shows the institution that had the highest numbers of respondents reporting they were discharged into homelessness was City/County Jail.

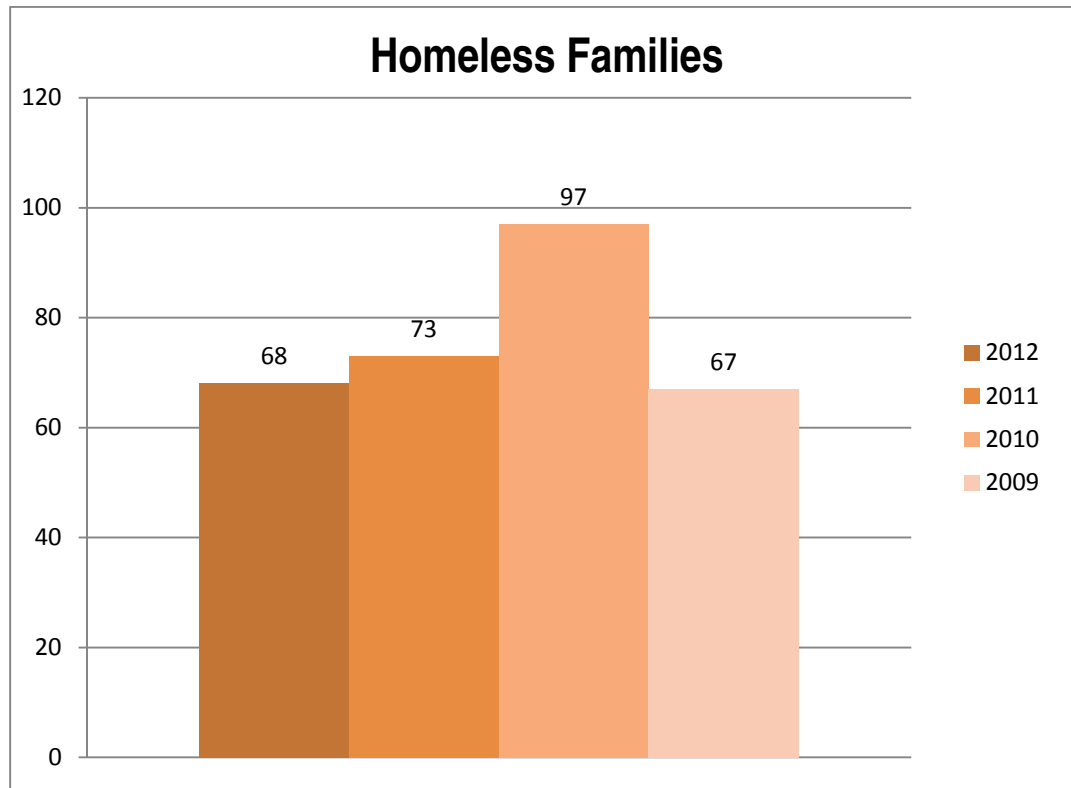| Discharged Into Homelessness (Past Three Years)		
Corrections	**#**	**%**
State Prison	13	2.5%
City/County Jail	28	5.4%
Juvenile Detention Center	0	0.0%
Inpatient Care	#	%
Hospitalized (Medical)	15	2.9%
State Inpatient Mental Health	2	0.4%
City/County Inpatient Mental Health	9	1.7%
Substance Abuse Treatment	2	0.4%

Last Permanent Address

In the 2012 count, 68.8% (n=355) of the homeless respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. In looking at the surround states, 1.0% (n=5) last lived in New York. The remaining homeless population resided in other states or did not respond to the question.

The cities /towns most frequently cited by respondents as the last place they lived before becoming homeless are below (those with a rate of 5% or higher). The largest number reported last living in Toms River.

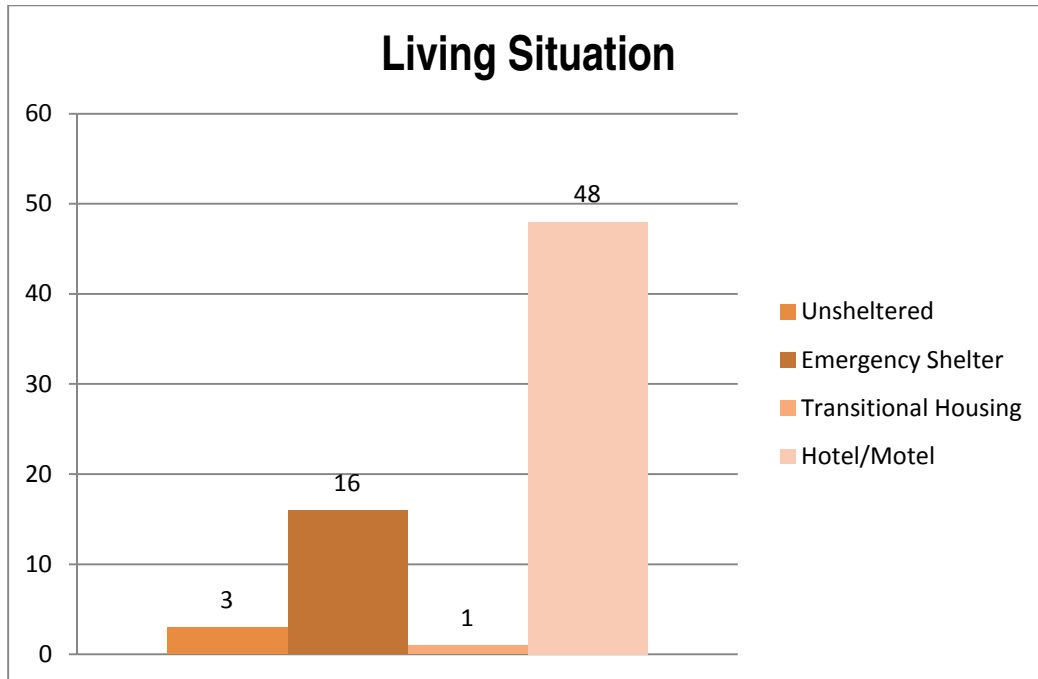| Town	#	%
Toms River	93	18.0%
Lakewood	35	6.8%

FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

In 2012, of the 516 homeless respondents in Ocean County, 68 or 13.1% had at least one dependent child under 18 with them the night of the count and is considered a homeless family. Of the total of 132 homeless children in these families, 80 were six years or younger and 52 were between the ages of 7 and 17.

Homeless Families

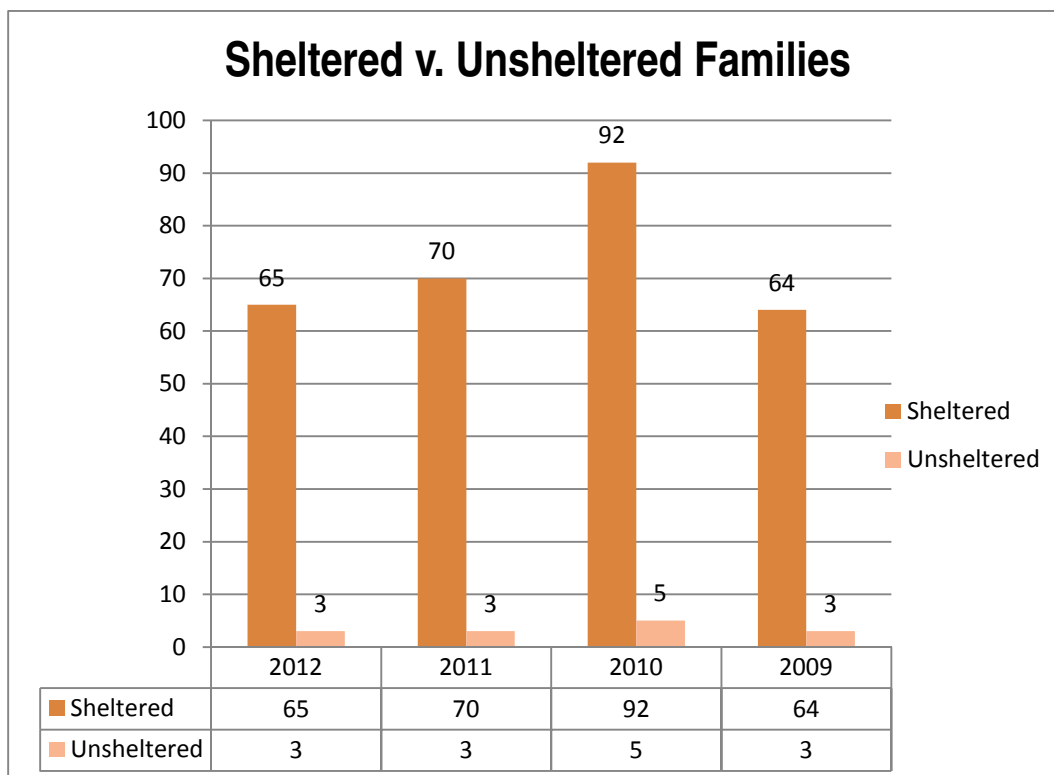| Year	Value
2012	68
2011	73
2010	97
2009	67

Living Situation

In Ocean County, three (3) homeless families were in an unsheltered living situation on the night of the count. These unsheltered homeless families had a total (5) children with them on the night of the count.

The remaining 65 homeless families were in sheltered living situations that included emergency shelter and transitional housing. The largest percentage (70.6%) of homeless families were residing in hotel/motelplacement as emergency shelter on the night of the 2012 count as reflected in the Living situation chart.

Living Situation

Category	Value
Unsheltered	3
Emergency Shelter	16
Transitional Housing	1
Hotel/Motel	48

As the chart below shows, homeless families in Ocean County have mainly been in sheltered living situations over the past four counts with the number of unsheltered being a small but stable number.

Sheltered v. Unsheltered Families

	2012	2011	2010	2009
Sheltered	65	70	92	64
Unsheltered	3	3	5	3

2012 PITC- Ocean County
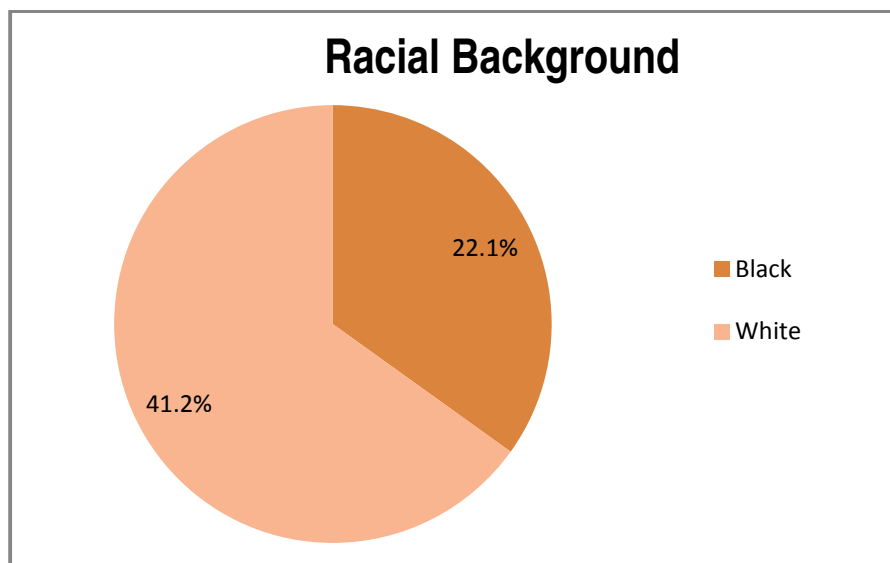
Length of Homelessness

The largest percentage (19.1%) of homeless families had been homeless eight (8) days to one (1) month with the next largest percentage being homeless between six (6) months and one (1) year.

2012 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day - 1 week	5	7.4%
8 days - 1 month	**13**	**19.1%**
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	3	4.4%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	6	8.8%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	12	17.6%
More than 1 year	5	7.4%
No response	24	35.3%

Demographics

Of the total 68 homeless families in Ocean County, 88.2% (n= 60) were female headed households and 11.8% (n=8) were male headed households.

The Racial Background chart below outlines the racial breakdown of homeless families in the 2012 count. The largest percentage of respondents defined themselves as White (41.2%) with the other population defined as Black (22.15). 8.8% (n=6) defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.
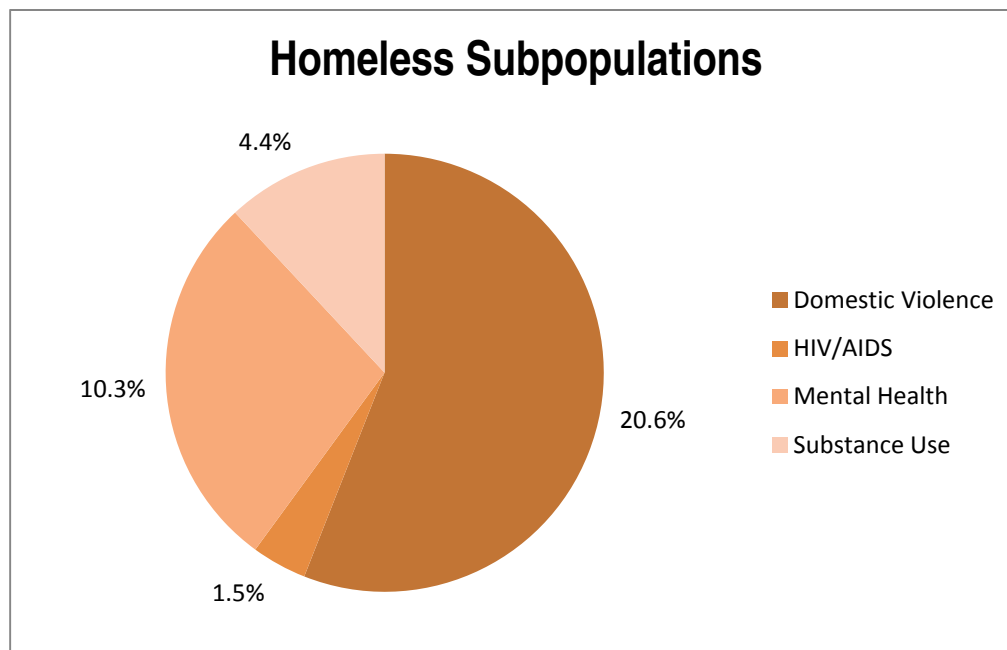
The largest percentage of homeless families in Ocean County had a head of household that fell within the 25 to 29 year old age range, with the majority of families clustered in the 21 and 39 years of age bracket as reflected in the Age chart.

2012 Age	#	%
18-20	5	7.4%
21-24	14	20.6%
25-29	**23**	**33.8%**
30-39	14	20.6%
40-49	5	7.4%
50-59	4	5.9%
No response	3	4.4%

Homeless Family Subpopulations

Among the HUD homeless subpopulations in the 2012 count, in Ocean County the largest subpopulation among homeless families were those with a head of household experiencing domestic violence. The next largest percentage was households with mental health issues as reflected in the chart below.

Homeless Subpopulations

4.4%

10.3%

1.5%

20.6%

- Domestic Violence
- HIV/AIDS
- Mental Health
- Substance Use

Financial Resources and Income

The three main sources of income reported by homeless families in Ocean County on the night of the 2012 count were:

- TANF (77.9%);
- Food Stamps (73.5%); and
- Medicaid (63.2%)

There was only one family that stated they did not receive some type of government benefit. In looking at yearly estimated income, the majority of the homeless families were earning less than $10,000 a year.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income	8	11.8%
$1.00-$4,999	21	30.9%
$5,000- $9,999	**34**	**50.0%**
$10,000-$14,999	1	1.5%
$15,000- $19,999	1	1.5%
$25,000- $29,999	1	1.5%
No Response	2	2.9%

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The highest ranking factor that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Ocean County was loss of a job and inability to find work. Other top ranking factors included housing costs too high and eviction.
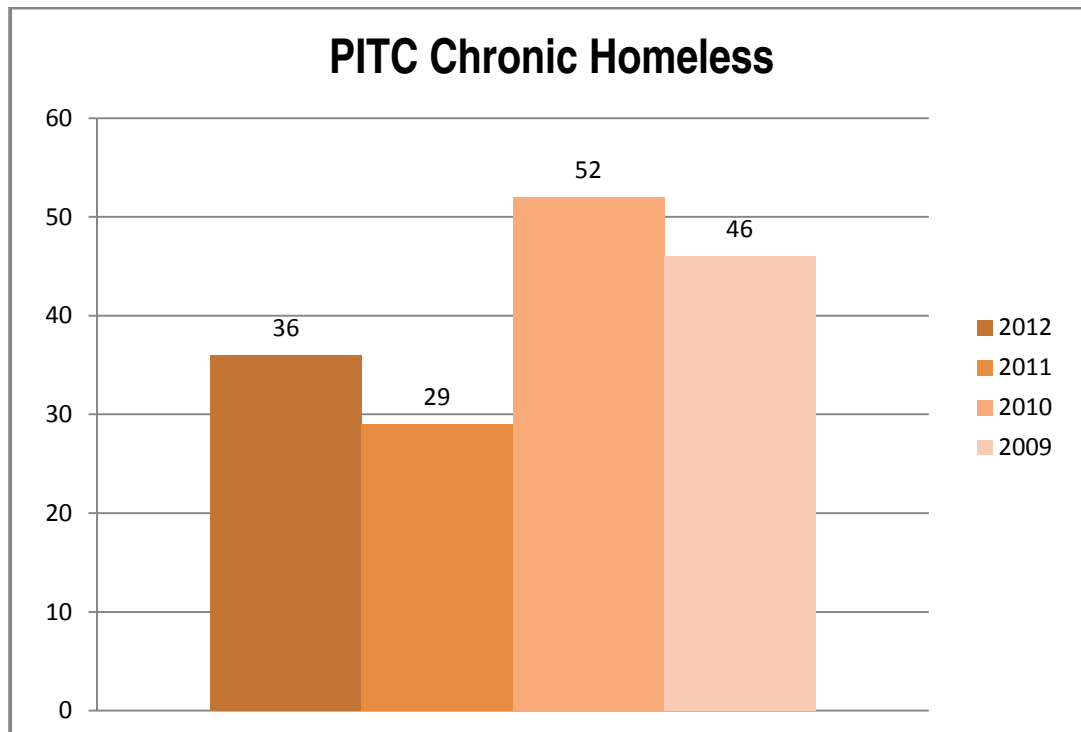
Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Lost job/cannot find work	33.8%
Housing costs too high	32.4%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	26.5%
Domestic violence	19.1%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	17.6%

When homeless families were asked what their top needs were on the night of the count the top three needs included:

- Housing (47.1%);
- Emergency shelter (41.2%); and
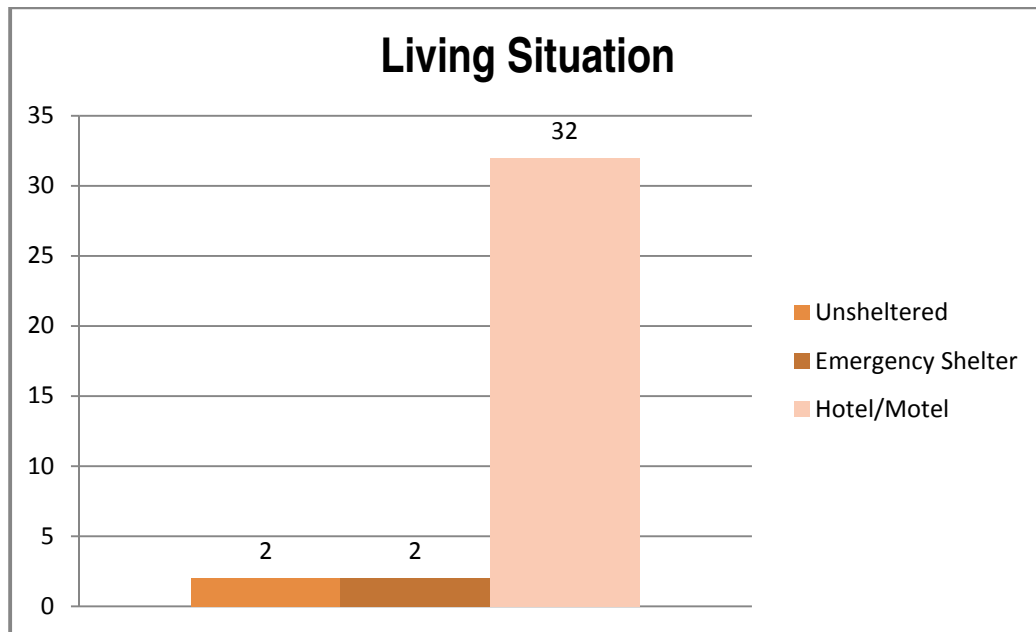- Transportation/Medical (36.8%)

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

On the night of January 25, 2012, there were 36 chronically homeless individuals counted in Ocean County equaling 6.9% of the total homeless population. The number of chronically homeless individuals in Ocean County over the past four count years has fluctuated with the highest numbers being seen in 2010.
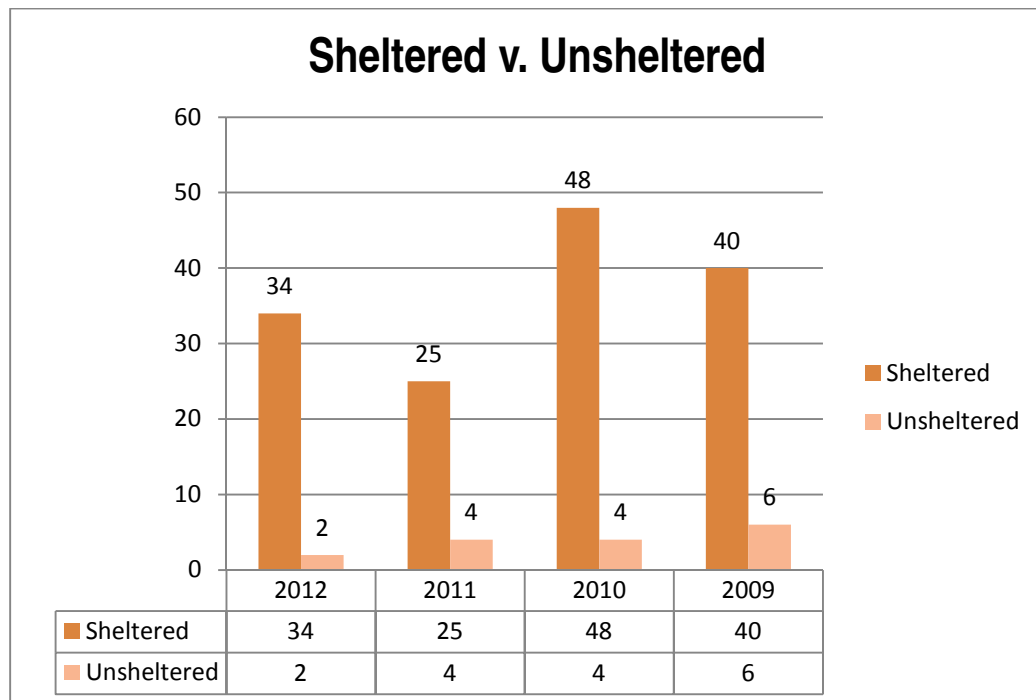
PITC Chronic Homeless

Year	Count
2012	36
2011	29
2010	52
2009	46

Living Situation

As defined, homeless living situations for the chronically homeless can only include those living on the street, in places not meant for human habitation or emergency shelter. The Living Situation is a breakdown of where the chronically homeless were residing on the night of the 2012 count. The largest percentage (88.9%) of the chronically homeless population in Ocean County were residing in hotel/ motel as emergency shelter on the night of the count.

Living Situation

Living Situation	Count
Unsheltered	2
Emergency Shelter	2
Hotel/Motel	32

Over the four (4) count years, the number of both the sheltered and unsheltered chronically homeless individuals in Ocean County has fluctuated however, although small in number, the number of unsheltered chronically homeless individuals has been on the decline since 2009.

Sheltered v. Unsheltered

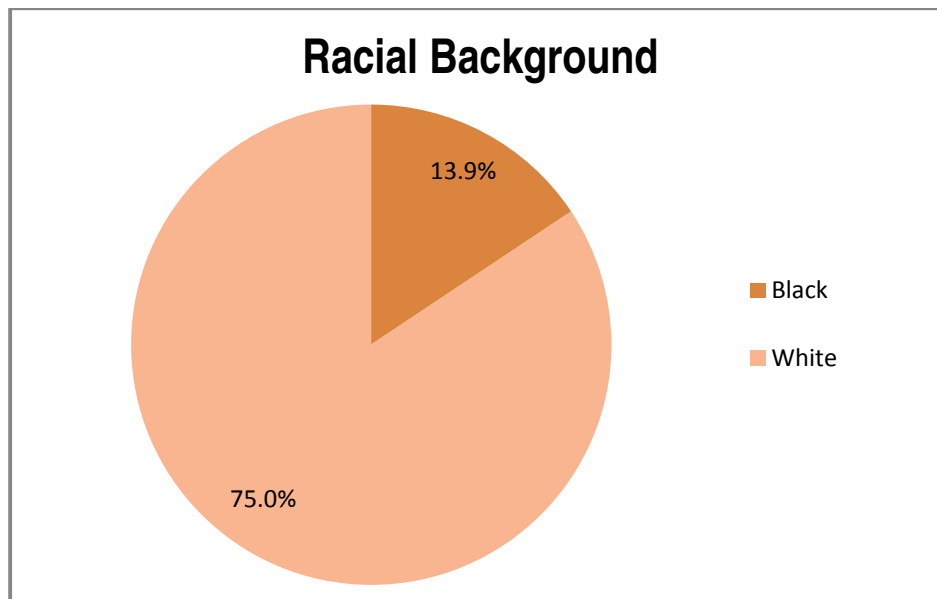|	2012	2011	2010	2009
Sheltered	34	25	48	40
Unsheltered	2	4	4	6

Length of Homelessness

Of the total chronically homeless individuals in Ocean County, 47.2% (n= 17) reported they had been homeless for more than one year. Also, a total of 75% (n= 27) reported they had four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

2012 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	2	5.6%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	11	30.6%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	6	16.7%
More than 1 year	**17**	**47.2%**

Demographics

In 2012, a total of 27 or 75% of the chronically homeless individual population was male and 9 or 25% was female.

As the Racial Background chart outlines, the largest percentage of the chronically homeless individuals identified themselves as White (75%).   The total percentage that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 11.1%.
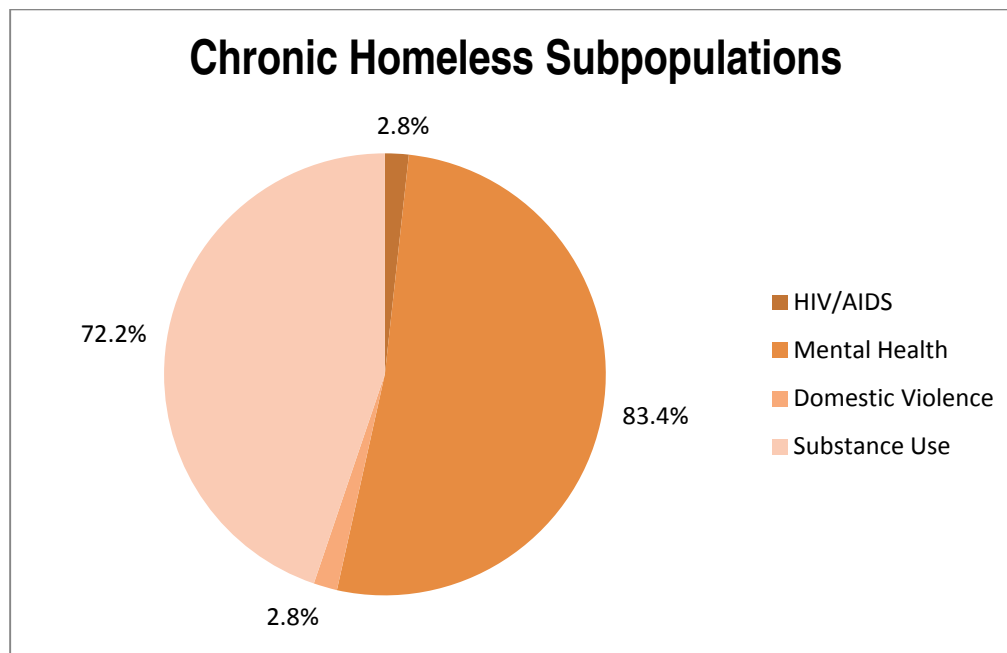

As the Age chart shows, on the night of the 2012 count in Ocean County, the largest percentage of chronically homeless individuals fell into the 40 to 49 year old age range (30.6%). This age group was closely followed by those between the ages of 30 and 39 years.

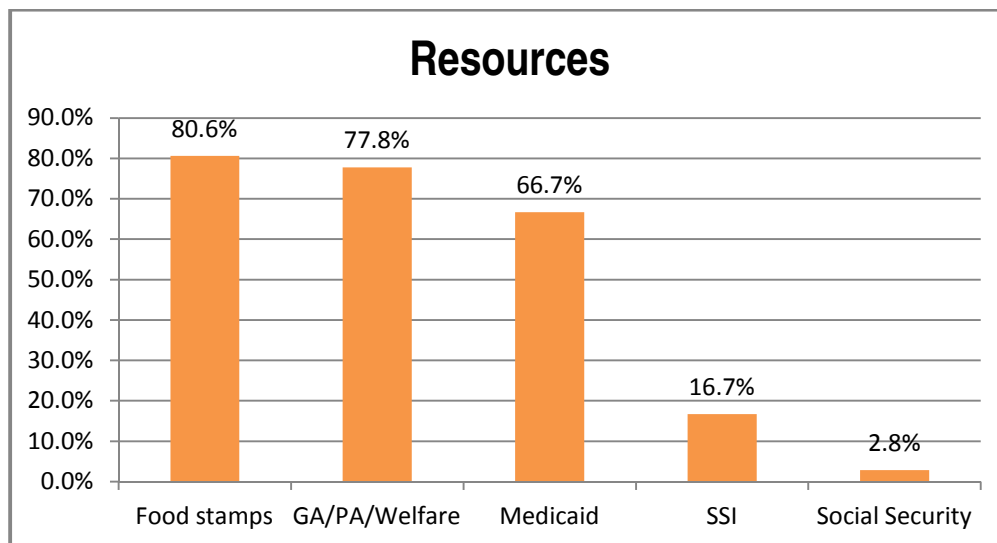| 2012 Age	#	%
18-20	1	2.8%
21-24	2	5.6%
25-29	4	11.1%
30-39	9	25.0%
40-49	**11**	**30.6%**
50-59	6	16.7%
60-64	3	8.3%

Chronic Homeless Subpopulations

The Chronic Homeless Subpopulations chart below outlines the breakdown of the chronic homeless individual HUD subpopulations for the 2012 count. As shown in the chart, 83.4% of the chronic homeless individuals reported they had mental health issues and 72.2% reported having substance use issues.

Chronic Homeless Subpopulations

2.8%

72.2%

83.4%

2.8%

- HIV/AIDS
- Mental Health
- Domestic Violence
- Substance Use

Financial Resources

The three main sources of income reported by people who were homeless in Ocean County on the night of the 2012 count were Food Stamps (80.6%), Welfare (77.8%) and Medicaid (66.7%). All of the chronically homeless individual population reported some type of government benefit on the night of the count.

Resources

Category	Percentage
Food stamps	80.6%
GA/PA/Welfare	77.8%
Medicaid	66.7%
SSI	16.7%
Social Security	2.8%

As reflected in the Income chart below, the largest percentage (47.2%) of chronically individuals reported having no income. The other percentage with significance was those with an estimated income of less than $5,000.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income	**17**	**47.2%**
$1.00-$4,999	11	30.6%
$5,000- $9,999	4	11.1%
$10,000-$14,999	1	2.8%
$15,000- $19,999	1	2.8%
No Response	1	2.8%

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The highest ranking factor that chronically homeless individual respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Ocean County was substance abuse problems. Other top ranking factors included mental health issues and medical problems.

2012 Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	58.3%
Mental illness/emotional problems	47.2%
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	30.6%
Lost job/cannot find work	27.8%
Housing costs too high	25.0%
Relationship/family breakup/death	22.2%
Incarceration	16.7%
Utility costs too high	16.7%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	13.9%
Domestic violence	8.3%
Foreclosure or at risk of Foreclosure	8.3%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	5.6%

The types of services that respondents stated that they have received in the past three years or are currently needed are reflected in the chart below. In Ocean County, the top service received by the chronically homeless individual population was emergency shelter and the top service that was reported as needed was housing.

2012 Service Needs	#	%
Received		
Emergency shelter	28	77.8%
Housing	17	47.2%
Emergency food or meal assistance	16	44.4%
Need		
Housing	11	30.6%
Employment assistance	3	8.3%
Medical (routine healthcare)	3	8.3%

Discharge from Mainstream Institutions

As part of the 2012 survey, the respondents were asked if they had been discharged into homelessness from certain mainstream institutions within the past three years (since January 25, 2009). The discharge information is based on the chronically homeless individual population that responded to the survey and relies on self report.

As the chart shows the institution that had the highest numbers of respondents reporting they were discharged into homelessness was City/County Jail.

Discharged Into Homelessness (Past Three Years)		
Corrections	#	%
State Prison	1	2.8%
City/County Jail	9	25.0%
Juvenile Detention Center	0	0.0%
Inpatient Care	#	%
Hospitalized (Medical)	5	13.9%
State Inpatient Mental Health	0	0.0%
City/County Inpatient Mental Health	5	13.9%
Substance Abuse Treatment	1	2.8%

Last Permanent Address

In the 2012 count, 91.7% (n=33) of the chronically homeless individual respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. In looking at the surround states, 2.8% (n=1) last lived in New York.

The cities /towns most frequently cited by respondents as the last place they lived before becoming homeless are below (those with a rate of 5% or higher). The only town with a significant number was Toms River.

Town	#	%
Toms River	16	44.4%
Lakewood	4	11.1%
Jackson	2	5.6%
Point Pleasant	2	5.6%

CHRONICIALLY HOMELESS FAMILIES

The 2011 count was 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 and as it is only the second year of reporting this data, there is not significant comparable data.

In Ocean County, there was only one (1) family that met the chronic homeless definition and could be considered a chronically homeless family. This is equal to the amount of families that were counted in 2011.

One family equals 0.1% of the total homeless population and 1.4% of the total family homeless population. This family had a one (1) child with them on the night of the count.

Adding the families to the individuals gives Ocean County a total chronically homeless population of 38 men, women and children on the night of the 2012 count.

Living Situation and Length of Homelessness

On the night of the count the family was in a sheltered homeless living situation and was residing in a hotel/motel placement as emergency shelter. The family had been homeless between three to six months and had four (4) episodes of homeless over that past three (3) years (since January 25, 2009).

Demographics

In 2012, the chronically homeless family was a female headed households and defined their race as White. The head of household was between 25 and 29 years old.

Chronic Homeless Family Subpopulations

In Ocean County, the chronically homeless family was part of the mental illness and domestic violence HUD subpopulations.

Financial Resources and Income

The resources reported by the chronically homeless family included SSI, TANF, Medicaid and Food Stamps and they reported no gross income on the night of the count.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The main contributing factors to homelessness as reported by the chronically homeless family were domestic violence, physical and mental health problems, and housing costs being too high.