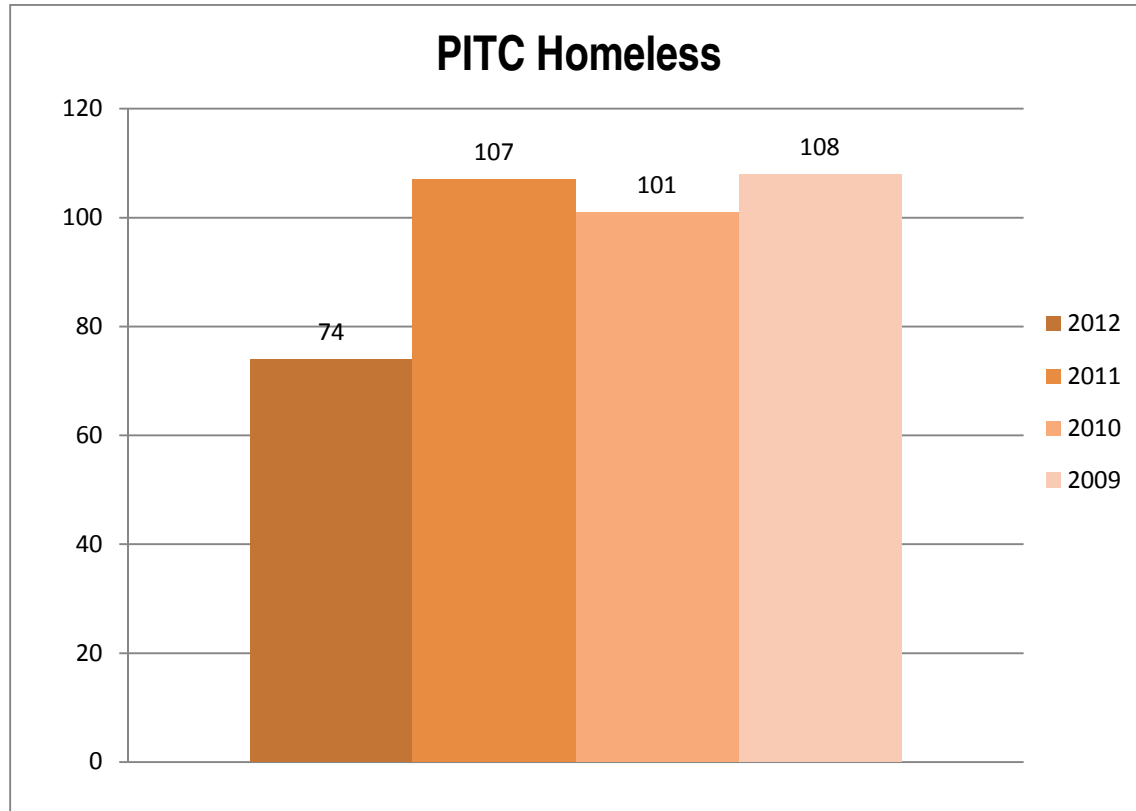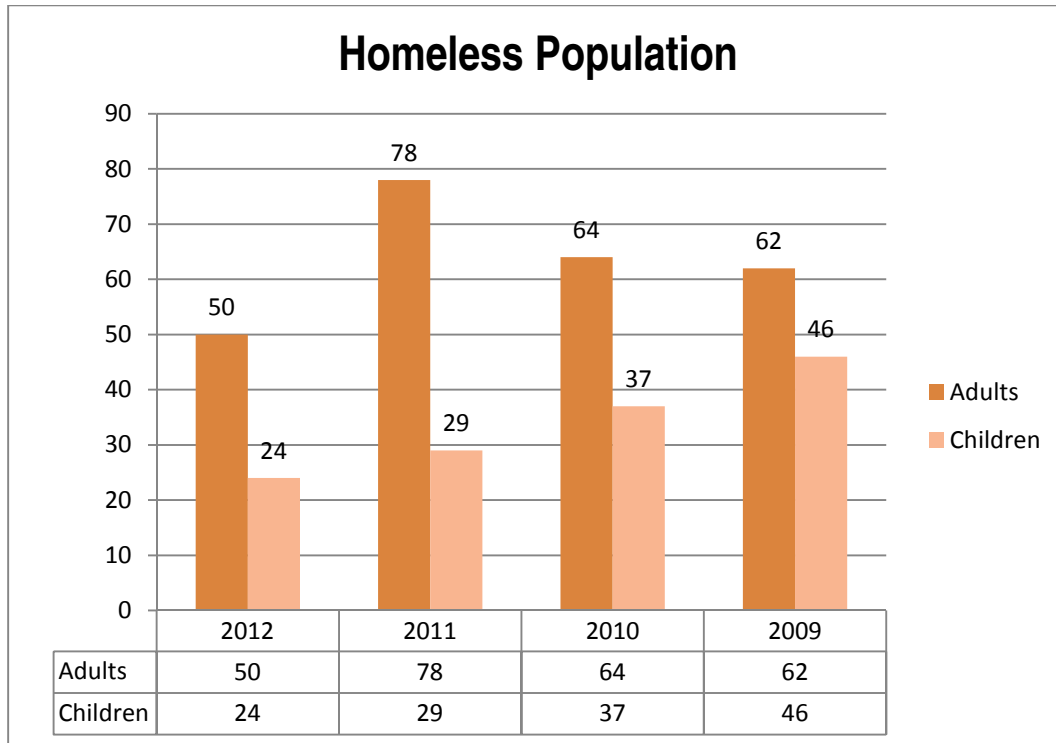# SUSSEX COUNTY

On January 25, 2012 there were 74 homeless men, women and children counted in Sussex County according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations.

PITC Homeless

74, 107, 101, 108

Legend: 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009

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, **108 adults** and children are homeless in Sussex County.*
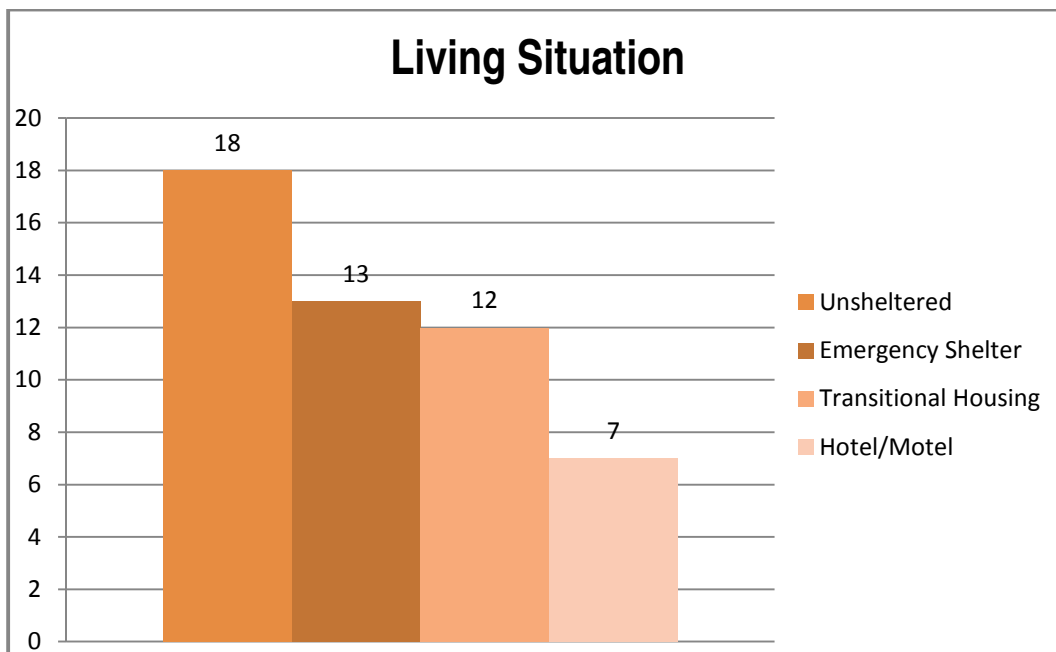
Homelessness in Sussex County has been on the decline since 2009 reaching its lowest numbers in this count year. Of the 74 people who were homeless on the night of the count 24 of them were children. As the Homeless Population chart shows, since 2009, the number of adults who were homeless has only fluctuated slightly while the number of children has been on the decline decreasing a total of 47.8%.

2012 Homeless Breakdown	
Respondents (Adults)	50
Family Members (Children)	24
Total Homeless	**74**

Homeless Population

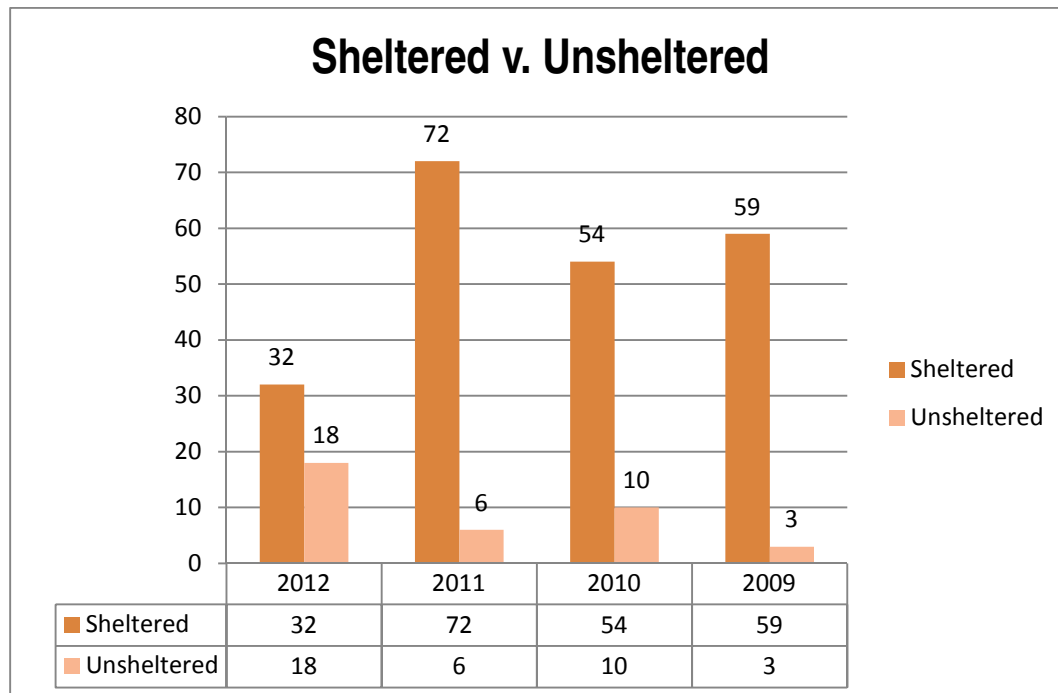|	2012	2011	2010	2009
Adults	50	78	64	62
Children	24	29	37	46

Living Situation

As reflected in the Living Situation chart below, 18 or 36% 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 percentage residing in emergency shelter (n=13, 26%).

Living Situation

Unsheltered: 18
Emergency Shelter: 13
Transitional Housing: 12
Hotel/Motel: 7

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

2012 PITC- Sussex County

The number of unsheltered homeless in Sussex County fluctuated over the past four count years with the highest numbers being seen in this current count year. Conversely, the number of sheltered homeless declined sharply from 2011 to the current count year as reflected below.

Sheltered v. Unsheltered

	2012	2011	2010	2009
Sheltered	32	72	54	59
Unsheltered	18	6	10	3

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 years of age in emergency shelter or transitional housing on the night of the Point in Time Count.
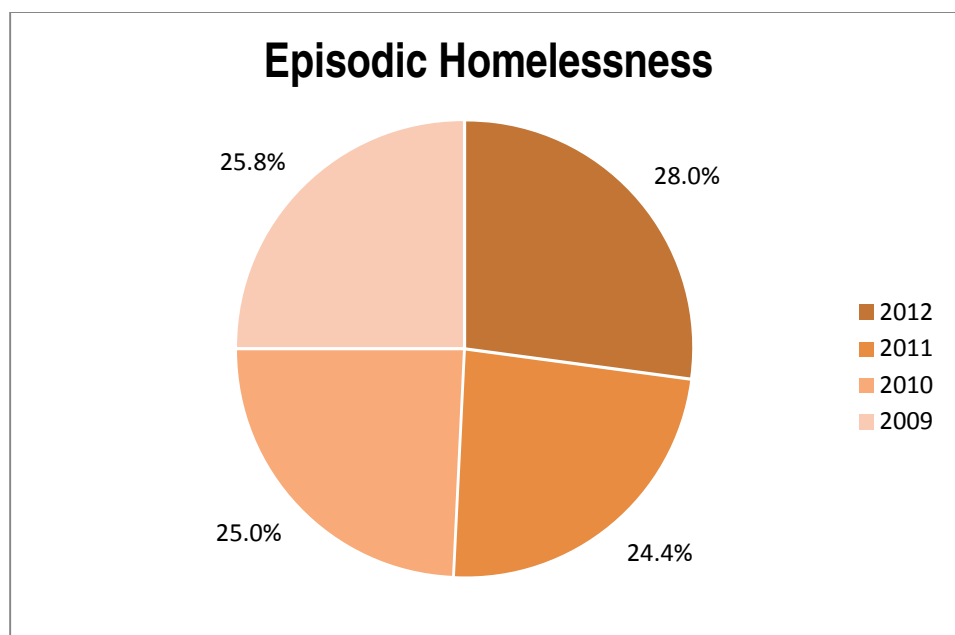
In Sussex County, there were a total of nine (9) adults in emergency shelter in HMIS on the night of the count and there were eight (8) in transitional housing in HMIS on the night of the count. These numbers are lower that was recorded as part of the count. On the night of the count 12 respondents stated that they would be in emergency shelter and 12 reported residing in transitional housing.

Length and Episodes of Homelessness

Of the homeless population surveyed in Sussex County, the largest percentage (28%) responded that they have been homeless for one (1) to three (3) months. Of those who were homeless less than one year, 34% reported that they had been homeless at least one other time within the past 12 months.

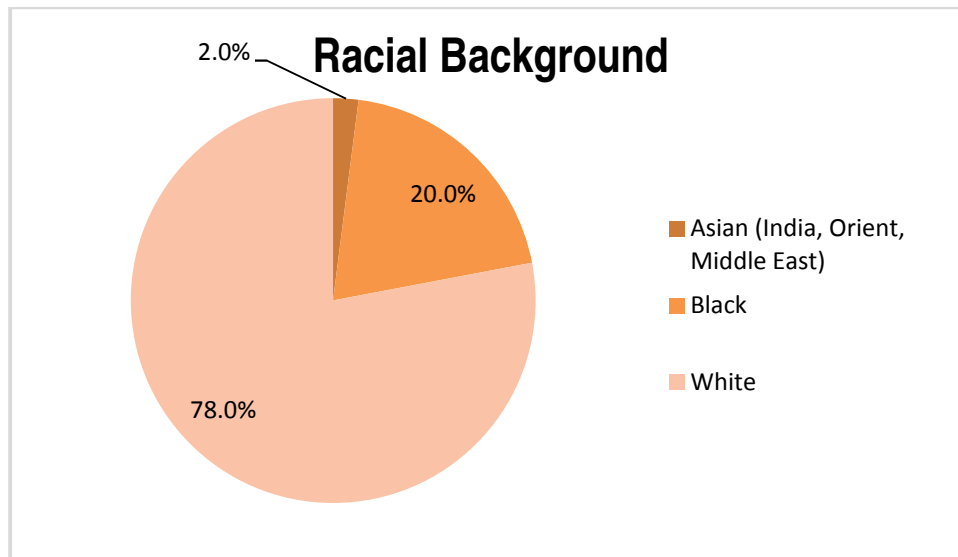| 2012 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day - 1 week	1	2.0%
8 days - 1 month	5	10.0%
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	**14**	**28.0%**
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	10	20.0%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	10	20.0%
More than 1 year	9	18.0%
No response	1	2.0%

As reflected in the chart below, a total of 14 or 28% of the total homeless population reported having at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. Although this number has fluctuated over the past four years, the current count year is the highest.

Demographics
In 2012, of the total homeless population in Sussex County, 21 people or 42% were male, 29 or 5.8% were female.

The Racial Background chart below outlines the racial breakdown of homeless persons in the 2012 count. The largest majority were White (78%) followed by Black (20%).   The total percentage of the homeless population that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 8%.

Racial Background

2.0%

20.0%

78.0%

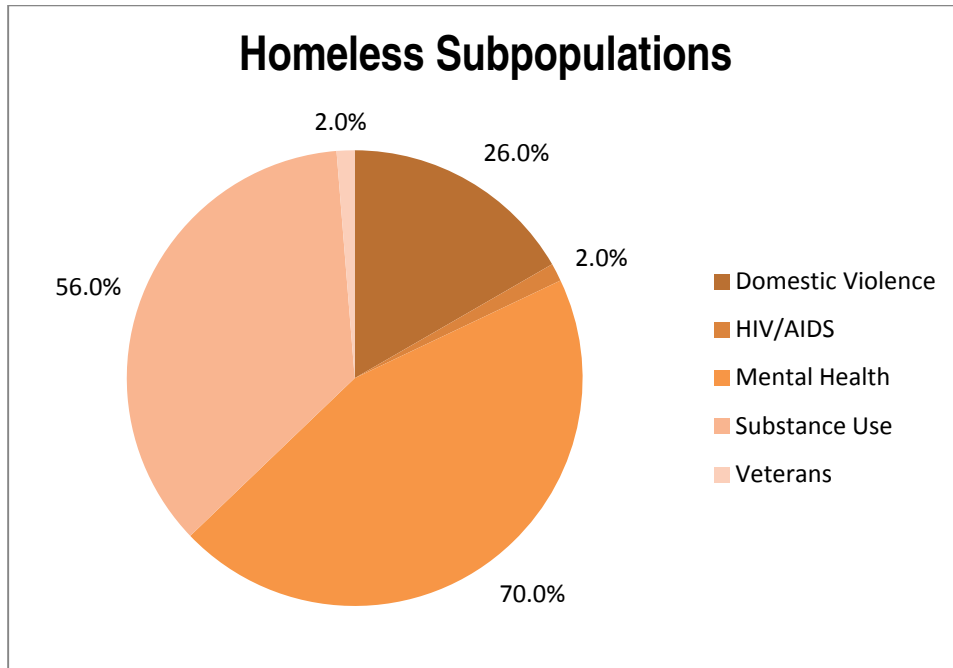- Asian (India, Orient, Middle East)
- Black
- White

The largest percentage of homeless in Sussex County fell within the 40 to 49 year old age range, totaling 26%, followed by those within the 21 to 24 and 30 to 39 year old age range (22%).

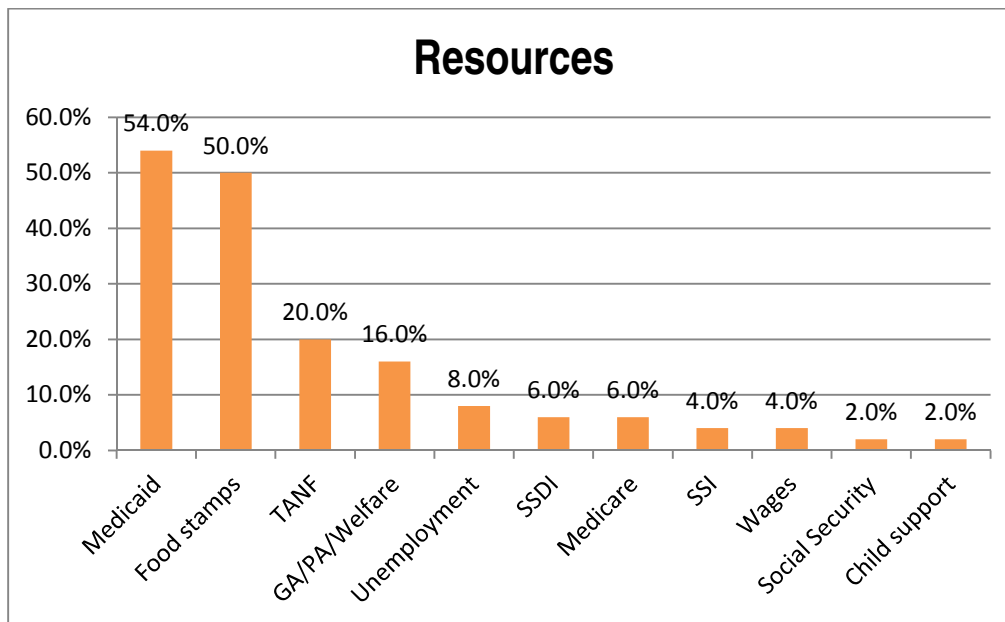| 2012 Age	#	%
18-20	5	10.0%
21-24	11	22.0%
25-29	3	6.0%
30-39	11	22.0%
40-49	**13**	**26.0%**
50-59	2	4.0%
60-64	2	4.0%
65+	2	4.0%
No response	1	2.0%

Homeless Subpopulations

The Homeless Subpopulation chart outlines the breakdown of the homeless subpopulations in Sussex County for the 2012 count. Overwhelmingly, the largest subpopulation was the homeless who had mental health issues (70%). The number of homeless who reported serving in the US military equaled 2.0% (n=1).

Homeless Subpopulations

2.0%

26.0%

2.0%

56.0%

70.0%

- 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 Sussex County on the night of the 2012 count were Medicaid (54%), Food Stamps (50%) and TANF (20%). 8.0% of the homeless population reported receiving no type of government benefit on the night of the count.

Resources

	Medicaid	Food stamps	TANF	GA/PA/Welfare	Unemployment	SSDI	Medicare	SSI	Wages	Social Security	Child support
	54.0%	50.0%	20.0%	16.0%	8.0%	6.0%	6.0%	4.0%	4.0%	2.0%	2.0%

As part of the 2012 count, homeless respondents were asked to provide a current income that provided a potential estimated yearly income. In Sussex County, the largest percent of respondents stated that they had no income.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income	**25**	**50.0%**
$1.00-$4,999	13	26.0%
$5,000- $9,999	9	18.0%
$10,000-$14,999	2	4.0%
$15,000- $19,999	0	0.0%
$20,000-$24,999	1	2.0%

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The highest ranking factor that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Sussex County was loss of a job and inability to find work. Other top ranking factors included relationship breakdown, substance abuse problems, and housing costs being too high.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Lost job/cannot find work	46.0%
Relationship/family breakup/death	46.0%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	42.0%
Housing costs too high	40.0%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	38.0%
Mental illness/emotional problems	30.0%
Have work but wages are too low	26.0%
Domestic violence	24.0%
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	24.0%
Utility costs too high	20.0%
Incarceration	16.0%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	12.0%

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

2012 Service Needs	#	%
Received		
Emergency food or meal assistance	25	50.0%
Emergency shelter	23	46.0%
Transportation	16	32.0%
Need		
Housing	38	76.0%
Dental	22	44.0%
Employment assistance	19	38.0%

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	1	2.0%
City/County Jail	11	22.0%
Juvenile Detention Center	1	2.0%

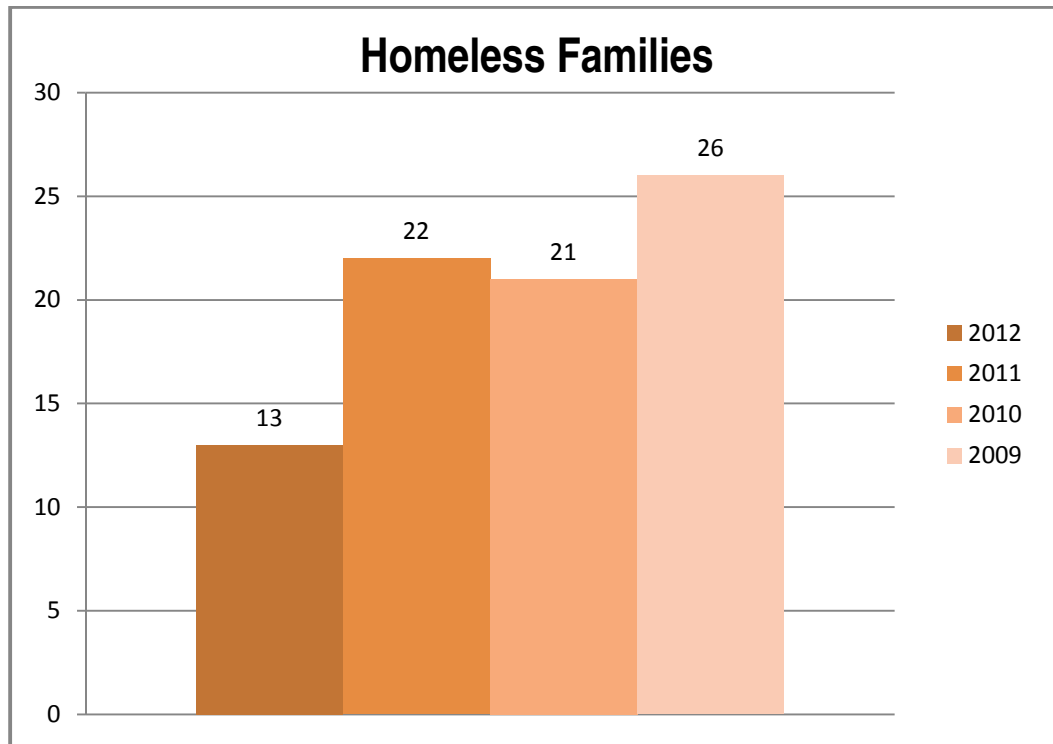| *Inpatient Care*	#	%
Hospitalized (Medical)	8	16.0%
State Inpatient Mental Health	1	2.0%
City/County Inpatient Mental Health	5	10.0%
Substance Abuse Treatment	4	8.0%

Last Permanent Address

In the 2012 count, 94% (n=47) of the homeless respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. In looking at the surround states, 4.0% (n=2) last lived in Pennsylvania.

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 Newton.

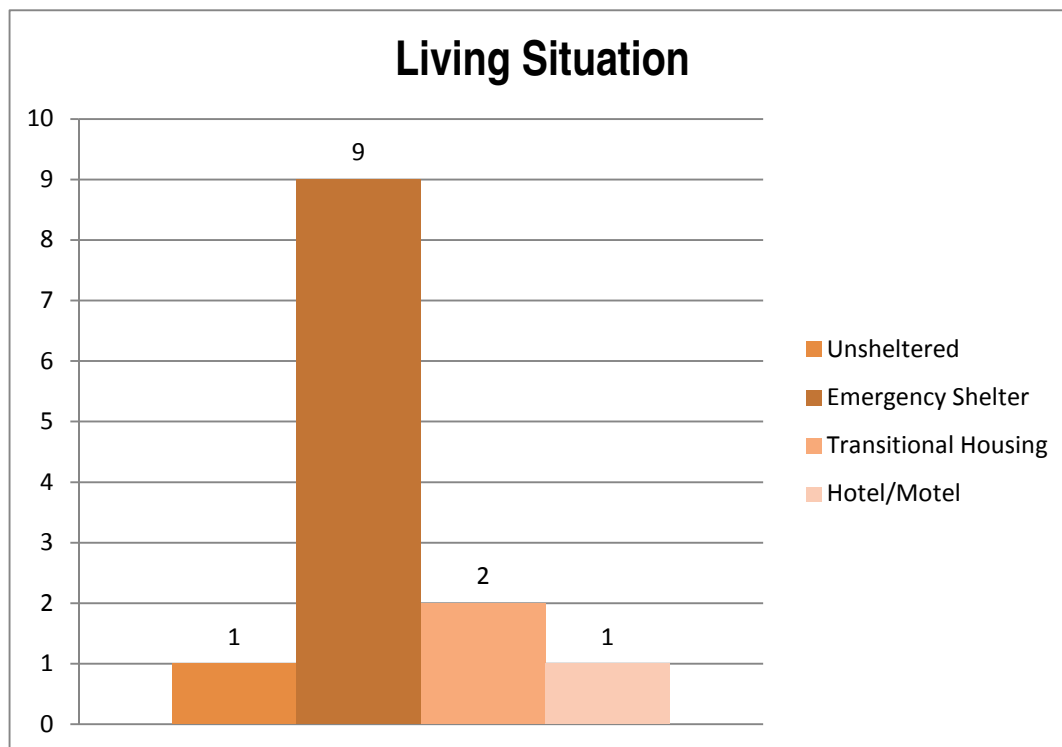| Town	#	%
Newton	16	32.0%
Sussex	9	18.0%
Hopatcong	3	6.0%
Wantage	3	6.0%

FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

In 2012, of the 50 homeless respondents in Sussex County, 13 or 26.0% 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 24 homeless children in these families, 18 were six years or younger and 6 were between the ages of 7 and 17.

Homeless Families

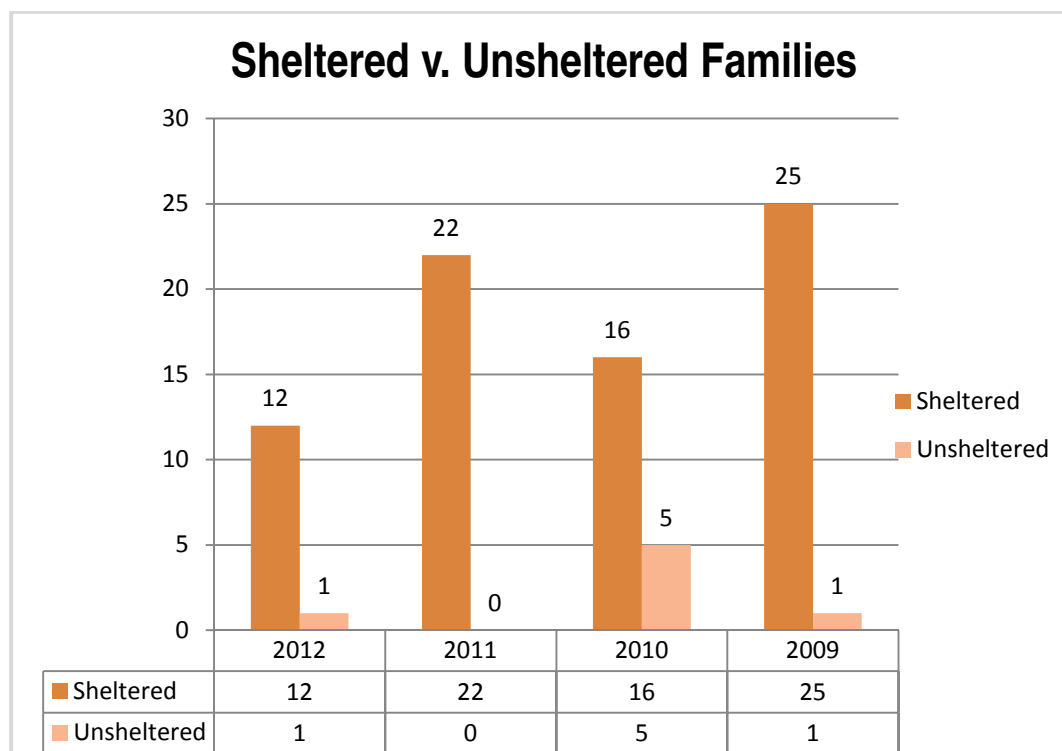| Year	Count
2012	13
2011	22
2010	21
2009	26

Living Situation

In Sussex County, only one (1) homeless family was in an unsheltered living situation on the night of the count. The unsheltered homeless family had one (1) child with them on the night of the count.

The remaining 12 homeless families were in sheltered living situations that included emergency shelter and transitional housing. The largest percentage (69.2%) of homeless families were residing in emergency shelter on the night of the 2012 count.

Living Situation

	Value
Unsheltered	1
Emergency Shelter	9
Transitional Housing	2
Hotel/Motel	1

As the chart below shows, homeless families in Sussex County have mainly been in sheltered living situations over the past four counts with the number of unsheltered decreasing each year.

Sheltered v. Unsheltered Families

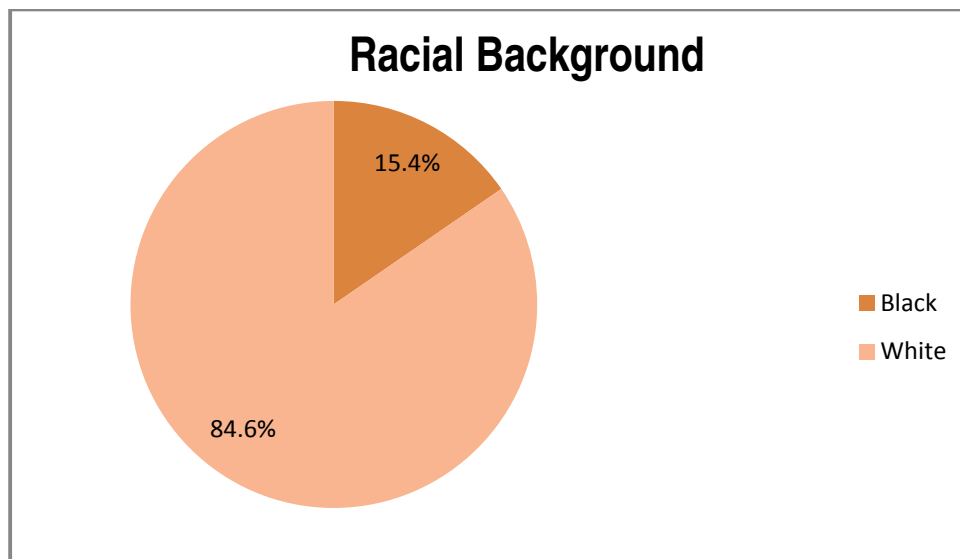|	2012	2011	2010	2009
Sheltered	12	22	16	25
Unsheltered	1	0	5	1

2012 PITC- Sussex County

Length of Homelessness

The largest percentage (30.8%) of homeless families had been homeless three (3) and twelve (12) months with the other large percentage being homless for more than one year.

2012 Length of Homelessness	#	%
8 days - 1 month	1	7.7%
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	1	7.7%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	**4**	**30.8%**
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	**4**	**30.8%**
More than 1 year	3	23.1%

Demographics

Of the total 13 homeless families in Sussex County, 61.5% (n= 8) were female headed households and 38.5% (n=5) were male headed households.

The Racial Background chart below outlines the racial breakdown of homeless families in the 2012 count. The largest group of the respondents defined themselves as White (84.6%). The other group was those that defined themselves as Black at 15.4%. No one defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.
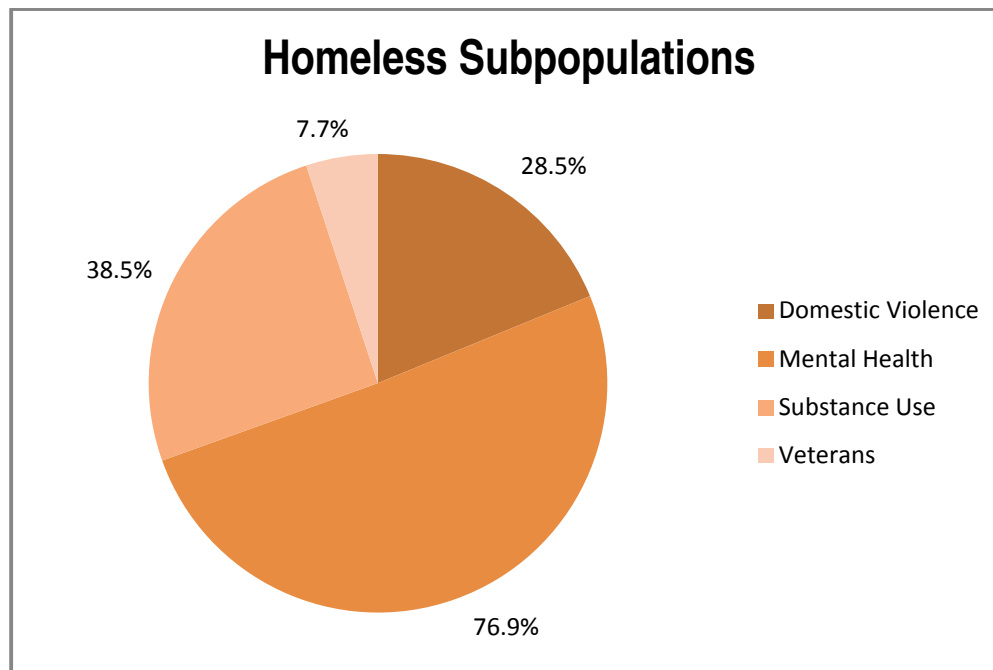
In Sussex County, in terms of age, almost all the heads of households were evenly disbursed between the ages of 18 and 49 year old. This is a wider varying age range than that of the total homeless population.

2012 Age	#	%
18-20	2	15.4%
21-24	**3**	**23.1%**
25-29	2	15.4%
30-39	**3**	**23.1%**
40-49	2	15.4%
50-59	1	7.7%

Homeless Family Subpopulations

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

Homeless Subpopulations

7.7%

28.5%

38.5%

76.9%

- Domestic Violence
- Mental Health
- Substance Use
- Veterans

Financial Resources and Income

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

- Medicaid (92.3%);
- Food Stamps (84.6%); and
- TANF (69.2%)

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

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income	5	38.5%
$1.00-$4,999	3	23.1%
$5,000- $9,999	5	38.5%

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The highest ranking factor that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Sussex County was loss of job and inability to find work. The other top ranking factor included was eviction.
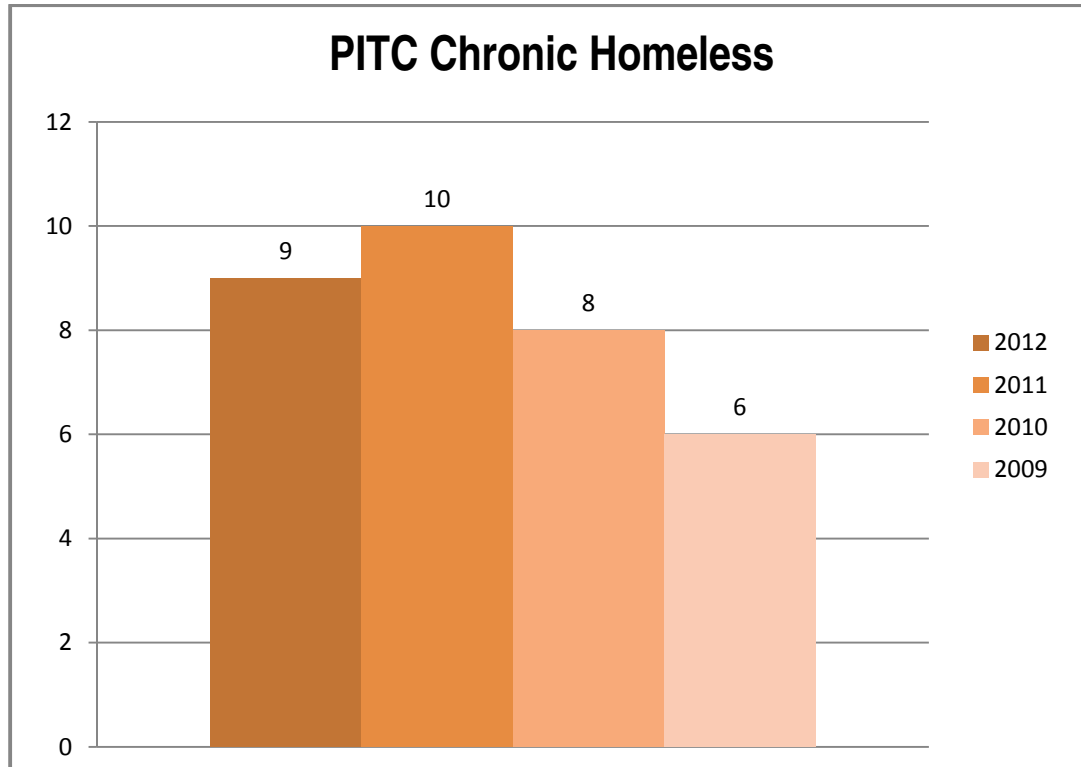
Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Lost job/cannot find work	53.8%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction/Housing costs too high	46.2%
Have work, wages too low/Relationship/family breakup/death	38.5%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	30.8%
Mental illness/emotional problems	30.8%

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

- Housing (84.6%);
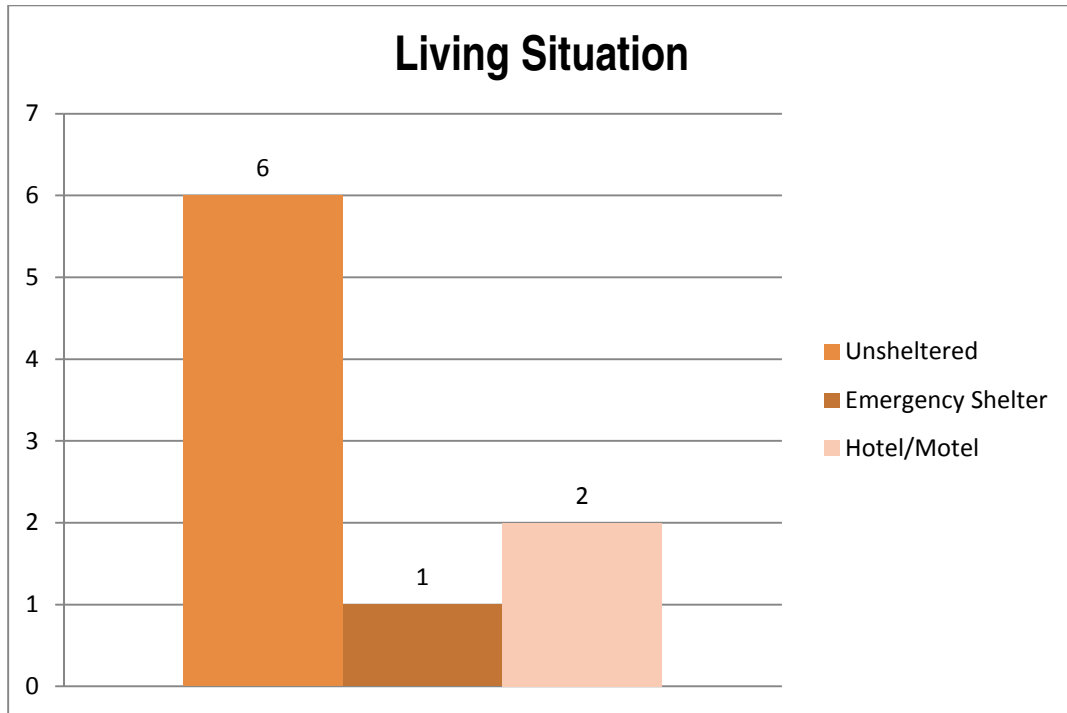- Childcare (53.8%); and
- Dental (53.8%)

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

On the night of January 25, 2012, there were nine (9) chronically homeless individuals counted in Sussex County equaling 18.0% of the total homeless population. The number of chronically homeless in Sussex County has only fluctuated slightly over the past four count year with the highest number being seen in 2011.
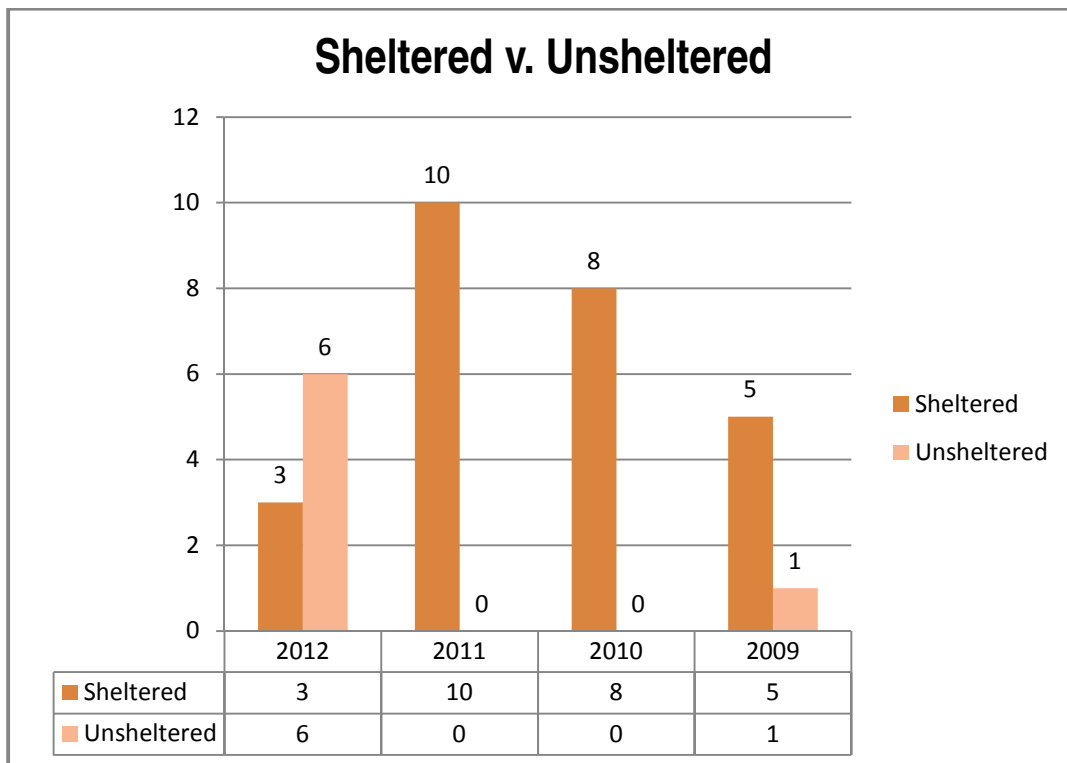
PITC Chronic Homeless

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 chart is a breakdown of where the chronically homeless were residing on the night of the 2012 count. The largest percentage (66.6%) of the chronically homeless population in Sussex County was unsheltered on the night of the count.

Living Situation

Over the four (4) count years, the chronically homeless individual population was mainly in sheltered living situations until the current count year where the number of unsheltered is higher than the number of sheltered chronically homeless.

Sheltered v. Unsheltered

	2012	2011	2010	2009
Sheltered	3	10	8	5
Unsheltered	6	0	0	1

2012 PITC- Sussex County
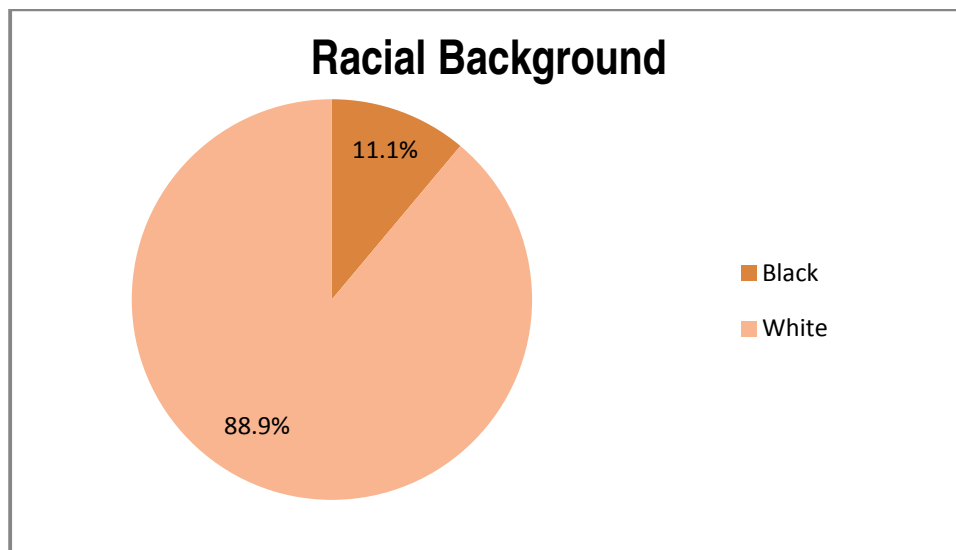
Length of Homelessness

Of the total chronically homeless individuals in Sussex County, the largest percentage (44.4%) was homeless between one to three months closely followed by those homeless for more than one year. Also, a total of 88.9% (n= 8) reported they had four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

2012 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day - 1 week	1	11.1%
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	**4**	**44.4%**
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	1	11.1%
More than 1 year	3	33.3%

Demographics

In 2012, a total of 3 or 33.3% of the chronically homeless individual population was male and 6 or 66.7% was female.

As the Racial Background chart outlines, the majority of the chronically homeless individuals identified themselves as White (88.9%) with the other group being those who identified themselves as Black (11.1%).   The total percentage that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 11.1%.
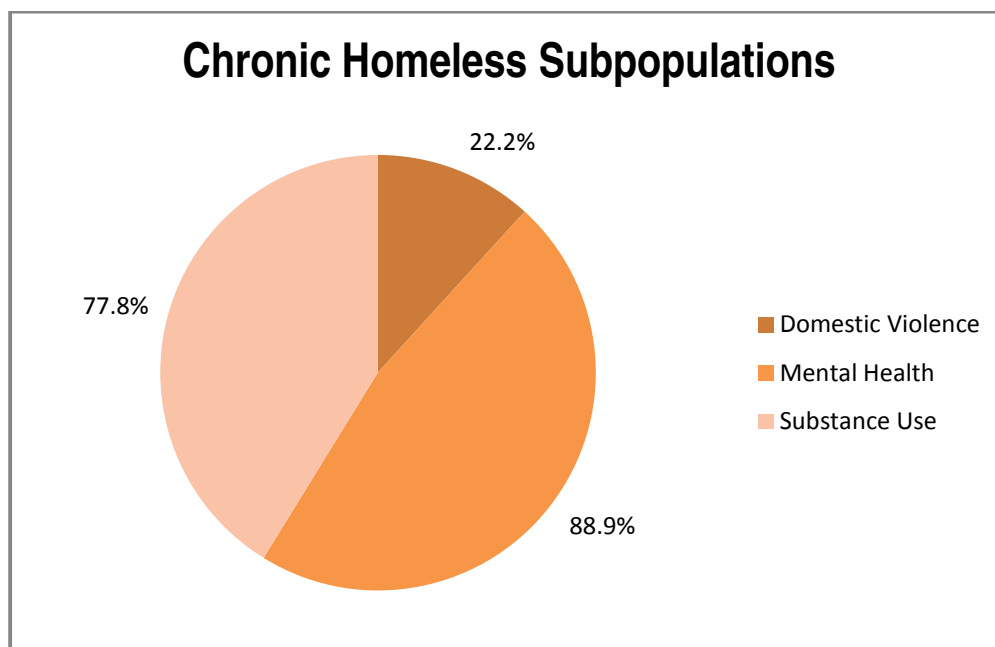
As the Age chart shows, on the night of the 2012 count in Sussex County, the largest percentage of chronically homeless individuals fell into the 21-24 and 30-39 year old age range (33.3%). This age group was closing followed by those between the ages of 40 and 49 years.

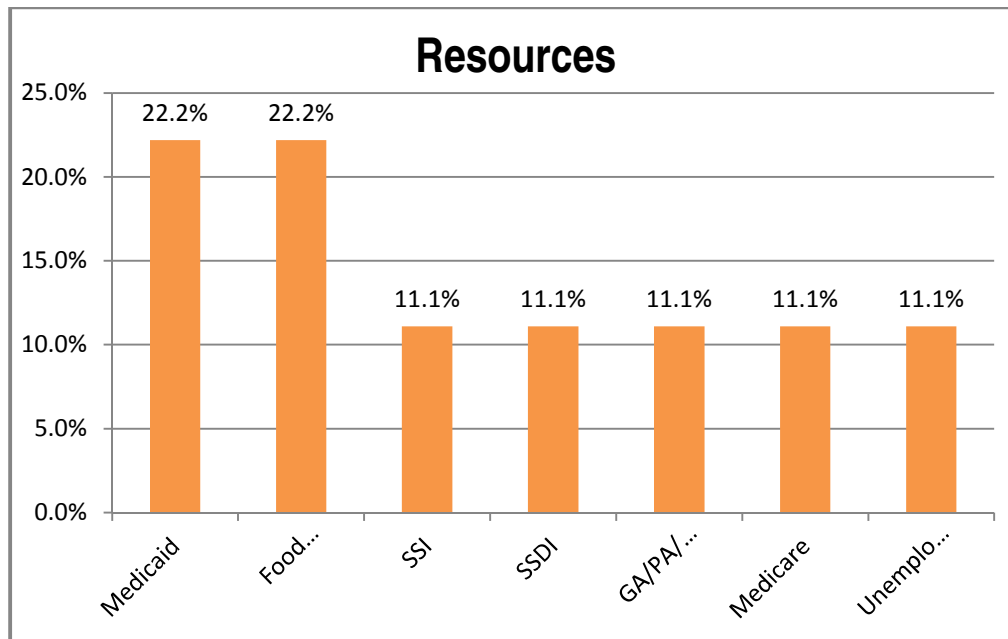| 2012 Age	#	%
21-24	**3**	**33.3%**
30-39	**3**	**33.3%**
40-49	2	22.2%
50-59	1	11.1%

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, 88.9% of the chronic homeless individuals reported they had mental health issues and 77.6% reported having substance use issues.

Financial Resources

The three main sources of income reported by people who were homeless in Sussex County on the night of the 2012 count were Medicaid (22.2%), Food Stamps (22.2%) and SSI (11.1%). Additionally, none of the homeless population reported receiving no type of government benefit on the night of the count.

Resources

Category	Percentage
Medicaid	22.2%
Food...	22.2%
SSI	11.1%
SSDI	11.1%
GA/PA/...	11.1%
Medicare	11.1%
Unemplo...	11.1%

As reflected in the Income chart below, the largest percentage (55.6%) of chronically individuals reported having no income on the night of the count. As with the total homeless population, the majority had a projected yearly income of less than $10,000.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income	**5**	**55.6%**
$1.00-$4,999	2	22.2%
$5,000- $9,999	1	11.1%
$10,000-$14,999	1	11.1%

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness

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

2012 Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	77.8%
Incarceration	55.6%
Mental illness/emotional problems	55.6%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	44.4%
Relationship/family breakup/death	44.4%
Lost job/cannot find work	33.3%
Domestic violence	22.2%
Have work but wages are too low	22.2%
Housing costs too high	22.2%
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	22.2%
Utility costs too high	22.2%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	11.1%

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 Sussex County, the top service received by the chronically homeless individual population was emergency food or meal assistance and the top service that was reported as needed was emergency shelter/housing services.

2012 Service Needs	#	%
Received		
Emergency food or meal assistance	5	55.6%
Medical services (disability)	4	44.4%
Emergency shelter	3	33.3%
Need		
Emergency Shelter/Housing	6	66.7%
Dental	4	44.4%
Emergency food or meal assistance	3	33.3%

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	0	0.0%
City/County Jail	6	66.7%
Juvenile Detention Center	1	11.1%
Inpatient Care	#	%
Hospitalized (Medical)	2	22.2%
State Inpatient Mental Health	0	0.0%
City/County Inpatient Mental Health	1	11.1%
Substance Abuse Treatment	2	22.2%

Last Permanent Address

In the 2012 count, 100% (n=9) of the chronically homeless individual respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless.

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 Newton.

Town	#	%
Newton	16	177.8%
Sussex	3	33.3%
Hopatcong	2	22.2%

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 Sussex County, there was only one (1) family that met the chronic homeless definition and could be considered a chronically homeless family. In 2011, Sussex County counted no families that met the chronically homeless definition.

One family equals 2.0% of the total homeless population and 7.6% 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 Sussex County a total chronically homeless population of 11 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 emergency shelter. The family had been homeless more than one year.

Demographics
In 2012, the chronically homeless family was a female headed household and defined their race as White. The head of household was between 21 and 24 years old.

Chronic Homeless Family Subpopulations
In Sussex County, the chronically homeless family was part of the mental illness HUD subpopulation.

Financial Resources and Income
The only resource reported by the chronically homeless family was Medicaid and they reported no gross monthly 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 economic including having wages were too low, housing costs that were too high and loss of job due to transportation.