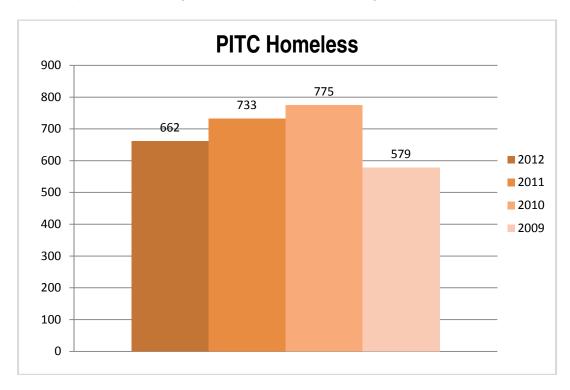
# **CAMDEN COUNTY**

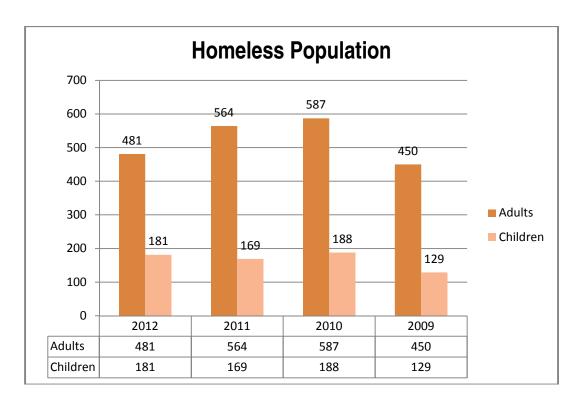
On January 25, 2012 there were 662 homeless men, women and children counted in Camden County according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations.



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*, *915* adults and children are homeless in Camden County.

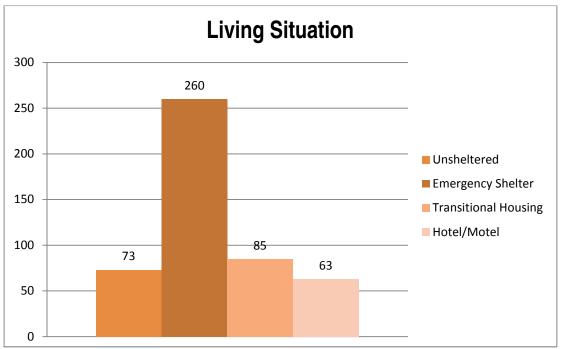
After an increase from 2009 to 2010, homelessness in Camden County has been on the decline. Of the 662 people who were homeless on the night of the count 181 of them were children. As the Homeless Population chart shows, since 2010, the number of adults who were homeless has decreased mirroring the total number of homeless. However, the number of children has fluctuated over the past four count years.

2012 Homeless Breakdown		
Respondents (Adults)	481	
Family Members (Children)	181	
Total Homeless	662	



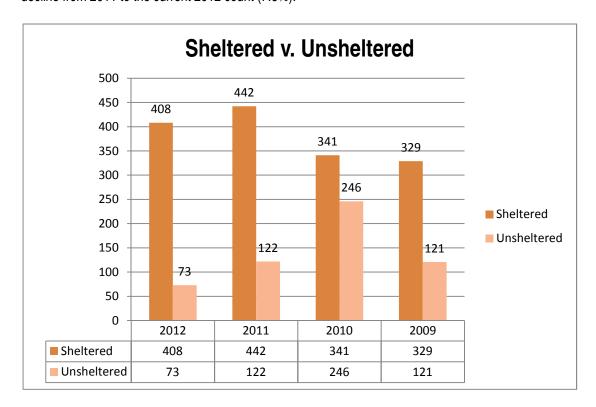
## **Living Situation**

As reflected in the Living Situation chart below, 73 or 15.2% of the homeless respondents were unsheltered the night of the count. The remainder of the homeless were living in sheltered situations with the largest population of the homeless residing in emergency shelter (n=260, 54.0%).



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

The number of unsheltered homeless in Camden County has been on the decline since 2010 with an overall decrease of 70.3%. The number of sheltered homeless was on the rise from 2009 to 2011 but then saw a small decline from 2011 to the current 2012 count (7.6%).



## **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.

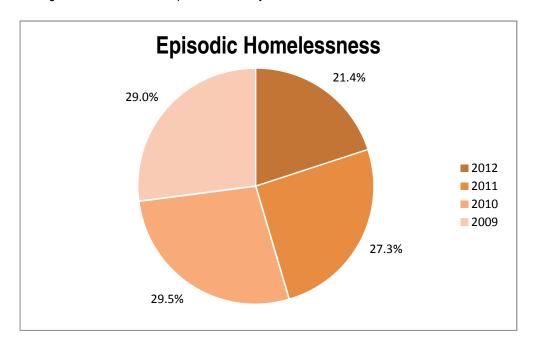
In Camden County, there were a total of 98 adults in emergency shelter in HMIS on the night of the count and there were 162 in transitional housing in HMIS. These numbers are very different than what was recorded as part of the count. On the night of the count 255 respondents stated that they would be in emergency shelter and 85 reported residing in transitional housing.

### **Length and Episodes of Homelessness**

Of the homeless population surveyed in Camden County, 116 or 24.1% responded that they have been homeless for more than one year. Of those who were homeless less than one year, 22% reported that they had been homeless at least one other time within the past 12 months.

2012 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day - 1 week	53	11.0%
8 days - 1 month	55	11.4%
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	77	16.0%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	99	20.6%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	76	15.8%
More than 1 year	116	24.1%
No response	5	1.0%

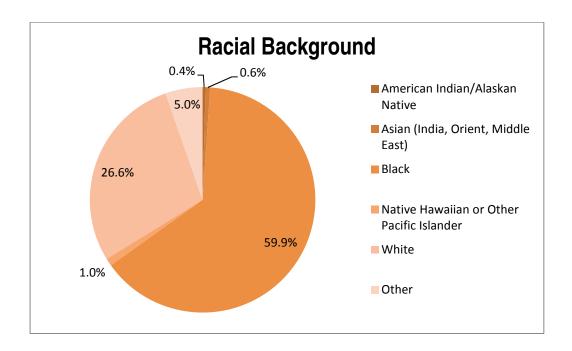
As reflected in the chart below, a total of 103 or 21.4% of the total homeless population reported having at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. Although this number has fluctuated over the past four years, this is a significant decrease from previous count years.



# **Demographics**

In 2012, of the total homeless population in Camden County, 306 people or 63.6% were male, 161 or 33.5% were female and five (5) or 1.0% were transgender.

The Racial Background chart outlines the racial breakdown of homeless persons in the 2012 count. The largest percentage was Black (59.9%) most closely followed by White (26.6%). The total percentage of the homeless population that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 13.5%.

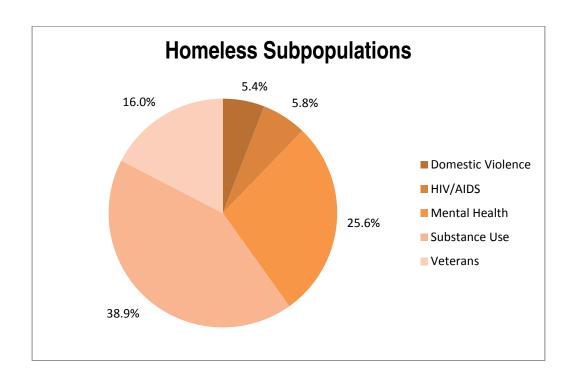


The largest percentage of homeless in Camden County fell equally within the 40 to 49 and 50 to 59 year old age range, totaling 47.4% of the overall homeless population. This was most followed by those within the 30 to 39 year old age range (18.5%).

2012 Age	#	%
Under 18	0	0.0%
18-20	31	6.4%
21-24	36	7.5%
25-29	51	10.6%
30-39	89	18.5%
40-49	114	23.7%
50-59	114	23.7%
60-64	16	3.3%
65+	6	1.2%
No response	24	5.0%

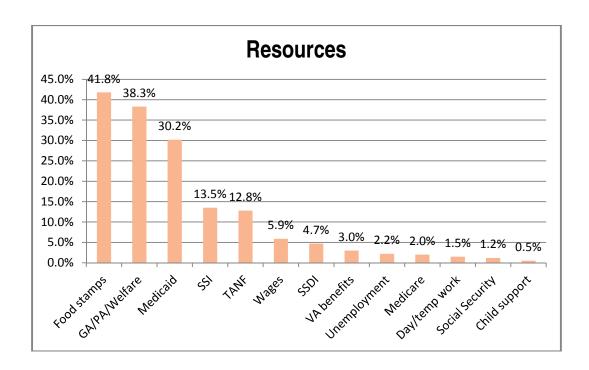
# **Homeless Subpopulations**

The Homeless Subpopulations outlines the breakdown of the homeless subpopulations in Camden County for the 2012 count. The largest subpopulation were the homeless who had substance use issues totaling 38.9%. The number of homeless who reported serving in the US military equaled 16% (n=77).



# **Financial Resources and Income**

The three main sources of income reported by people who were homeless in Camden County on the night of the 2012 count were Food Stamps (41.8%), Welfare (38.3%) and Medicaid (30.2%). A total of 3.7% of the homeless population reported receiving no type of government benefit on the night of the count.



As part of the 2012 count, homeless respondents were asked to provide a current income that, in turn, provided a potential estimated yearly income. In Camden County, the largest percent of respondents stated that they were earning less than \$5,000 a year.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income	95	19.8%
\$1.00-\$4,999	536	49.1%
\$5,000- \$9,999	45	9.4%
\$10,000-\$14,999	13	2.7%
\$15,000- \$19,999	9	1.9%
\$20,000-\$24,999	2	0.4%
\$25,000- \$29,999	0	0.0%
\$30,000- \$34,999	1	0.2%
No Response	80	17%

# <u>Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness</u>

The highest ranking factor that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Camden County was loss of a job and inability to find work. Other top ranking factors included relationship breakdown, substance abuse, and eviction.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Lost job/cannot find work	30.4%
Relationship/family breakup/death	27.4%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	26.4%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	21.2%
Incarceration	13.9%
Mental illness/emotional problems	13.7%
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	13.1%
Housing costs too high	10.2%
Have work but wages are too low	8.5%
Domestic violence	6.7%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	4.6%
Utility costs too high	3.1%
Foreclosure or at risk of Foreclosure	2.3%
House condemned	1.7%
Loss of child support	1.5%
Natural disaster	1.0%

The types of services that respondents stated that they have received in the past three years or are currently needed are reflected in the Service Needs chart. In Camden 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	210	43.7%
Emergency food or meal assistance	117	24.3%
Housing	104	21.6%

Need		
Housing	188	39.1%
Employment assistance	79	16.4%
Dental	77	16.0%

## **Discharge from Mainstream Institutions**

As part of the 2012 survey, homeless respondents were asked if they hade 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	57	11.9%
City/County Jail	73	15.2%
Juvenile Detention Center	5	1.0%
Inpatient Care	#	%
Hospitalized (Medical)	32	6.7%
State Inpatient Mental Health	16	3.3%
City/County Inpatient Mental Health	13	2.7%
Substance Abuse Treatment	9	1.9%

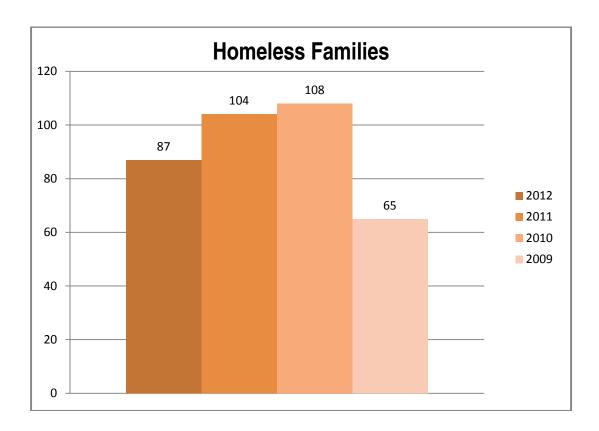
# **Last Permanent Address**

In the 2012 count, 87.3% (n=420) of the homeless respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. In looking at the surround states, 5.6% (n=27) last lived in Pennsylvania and 2.9% (n=14) last lived in other states.

The largest and only significant number (48.0%) reported last living in the City of Camden. All other towns reported were less than five (5) percent.

### **FAMILY HOMELESSNESS**

In 2012, of the 481 homeless respondents in Camden County, 87or 1.6% had at least one dependent child under 18 with them the night of the count and are considered a homeless family. Of the total of 181 homeless children in these families, 111 were six years or younger and 70 were between the ages of 7 and 17.



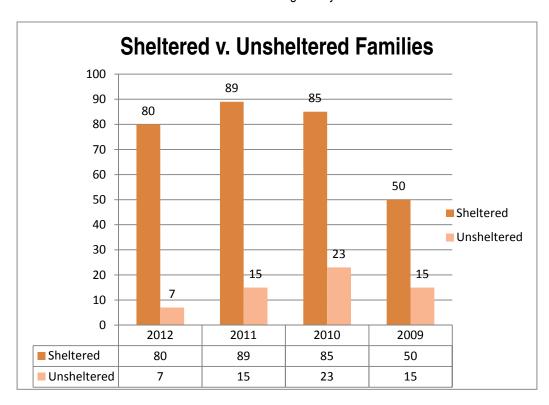
## **Living Situation**

In Camden County, there were seven (7) homeless families in an unsheltered living situation on the night with a total of 18 children.

The remaining 80 homeless families were in sheltered living situations that included emergency shelter, transitional housing and hotel/motel plancement as emergency shelter. The largest percentage (47.1%) of homeless families were residing in a hotel or motel on the night of the 2012 count.



As the chart below shows, since 2012, homeless families in Camden County have been mainly in sheltered living situations with the number of unsheltered decreasing each year.



## **Length of Homelessness**

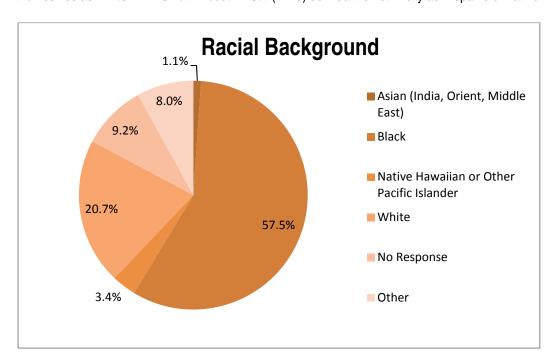
The largest percentage (33.3%) of homeless families had been homeless three (3) to six (6) months. This differs from the total homeless population overall where the highest percentage was those homeless more than one year.

2012 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day - 1 week	6	6.9%
8 days - 1 month	7	8.0%
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	22	25.3%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	29	33.3%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	15	17.2%
More than 1 year	8	9.2%

## **Demographics**

Of the total 87 homeless families in Camden County, 81.6% (n= 71) were female headed households and 14.9% (n=13) were male headed households.

The Racial Background chart below outlines the racial breakdown of homeless families in the 2012 count. More than one half of the respondents defined themselves as Black (57.5%). The next largest group was those that defined themselves as White with 20.7%. About 21.8% (n=19) defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

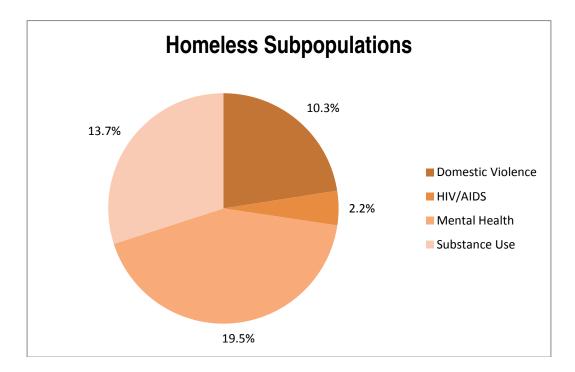


The largest percentage of homeless families in Camden County had a head of household that fell within the 30 to 39 year old age range. This was most closely followed by those between the age of 25 to 29. Overall, this is younger than the total homeless population in the County.

2012 Age	#	%
18-20	7	8.0%
21-24	13	14.9%
25-29	20	23.0%
30-39	29	33.3%
40-49	12	13.8%
50-59	4	4.6%
60-64	1	1.1%
No response	1	1.0%

## **Homeless Family Subpopulations**

Among the HUD homeless subpopulations in the 2012 count, in Camden 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.



### **Financial Resources and Income**

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

- TANF (73.6%);
- Food Stamps (56.3%); and
- Medicaid (42.5%)

There were only three (3) families that did not receive some type of government benefit. In looking at yearly income, the majority of the homeless families were earning less than \$5,000 a year.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income	8	9.2%
\$1.00-\$4,999	43	49.4%
\$5,000- \$9,999	14	16.1%
\$10,000-\$14,999	2	2.3%
No Response	20	23%

## **Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness**

The highest ranking factor that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Camden County was eviction. Other top ranking factors included relationship breakdown and lost job/inability to find work.

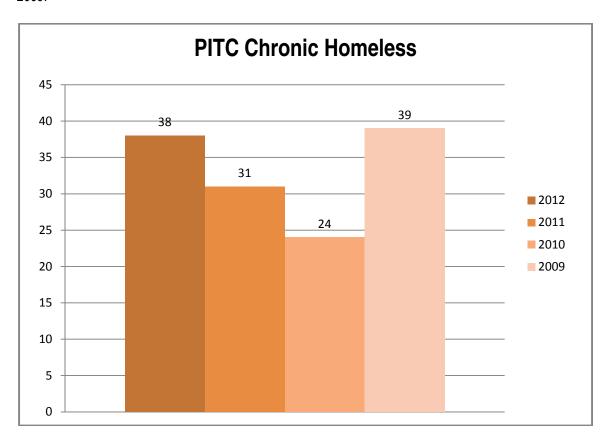
Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	42.5%
Relationship/family breakup/death	28.7%
Lost job/cannot find work	21.8%
Domestic violence	14.9%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	11.5%

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

- Emergency shelter (43.7%);
- Emergency food or meal assistance (24.3%); and
- Housing (21.6%)

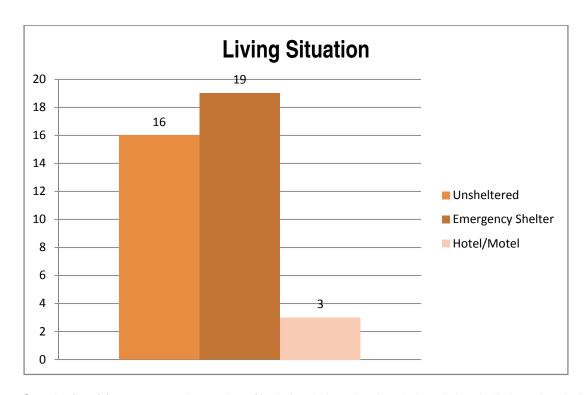
# **CHRONICALLY HOMELESS**

On the night of January 25, 2012, there were 38 chronically homeless individuals counted in Camden County equaling 7.9% of the total homeless population. The number of chronically homeless in Camden County has been consistently on the rise since 2010 almost reaching the highest numbers over the past four (4) count years seen in 2009.

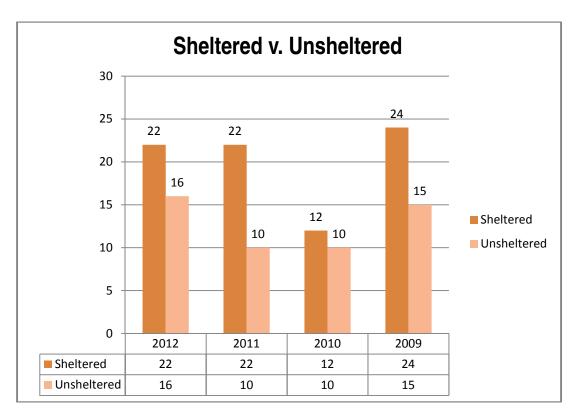


## **Living Situation**

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 (50%) of the chronically homeless population in Camden County was residing in emergency shelter on the night of the count.



Over the four (4) count years, the number of both the sheltered and unsheltered chronically homeless individuals in Camden County has fluctuated however, the number of unsheltered chronically homeless reached its highest numbers in 2012.



## **Length of Homelessness**

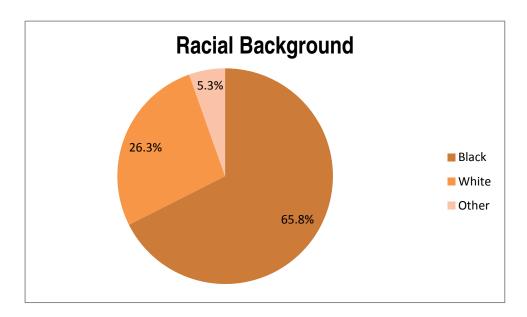
Of the total chronically homeless individuals in Camden County, 57.9% (n= 22) reported they had been homeless for more than one year. Also, a total of 81.6% (n= 31) reported they had four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

2012 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day - 1 week	2	5.3%
8 days - 1 month	2	5.3%
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	4	10.5%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	5	13.2%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	3	7.9%
More than 1 year	22	57.9%

## **Demographics**

In 2012, a total of 26 or 68.4% of the chronically homeless individual population was male and 11 or 28.9% was female.

As the Racial Background chart below outlines, the over 65% of chronically homeless individuals identified themselves as Black with the next largest percentage being those who identified themselves as White (26.3%). The total percentage that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 7.9%.

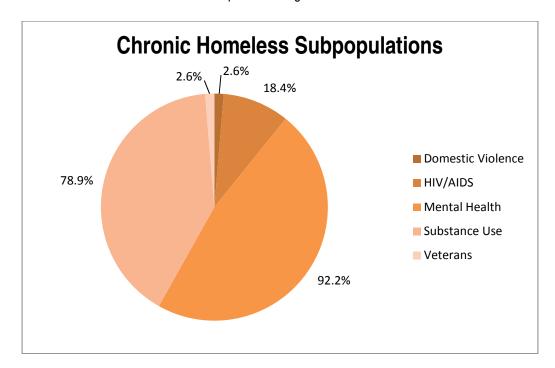


As the Age chart shows, on the night of the 2012 count in Camden County, the largest percentage of chronically homeless individuals fell into the 40 to 49 year old age range (39.5%). This age group was closely followed by those between the ages of 50 and 59 years.

2012 Age	#	%
21-24	1	2.6%
25-29	2	5.3%
30-39	6	15.8%
40-49	15	39.5%
50-59	14	26.8%

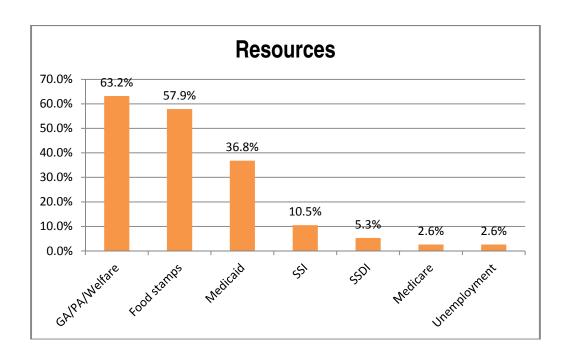
## **Chronic Homeless Subpopulations**

The Chronic Homeless Subpopulations chart below outlines the breakdown of the chronic homeless individual subpopulations for the 2012 count. As shown in the chart, 92.2% of the chronic homeless individuals reported they had mental health issues and 78.9% reported having substance use issues.



### **Financial Resources**

The three main sources of income reported by chronically homeless individuals in Camden County on the night of the 2012 count were Welfare (63.2%), Food Stamps (57.9%) and Medicaid (36.8%). 2.6% of the homeless population reported receiving no type of government benefit on the night of the count.



As reflected in the Income chart below, the largest percentage of chronically individuals were reporting having yearly income less than \$5,000. This mirrors the total homeless population overall.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income	8	21.1%
\$1.00-\$4,999	23	60.5%
\$5,000- \$9,999	3	7.9%
\$10,000-\$14,999	2	5.3%
No Response	2	5%

# **Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness**

The highest ranking factor that chronically homeless individual respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Camden County was substance abuse problems. Other top ranking factors included incarceration and loss of job/inability to find work.

2012 Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	57.9%
Incarceration	26.3%
Lost job/cannot find work	23.7%
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	23.7%
Relationship/family breakup/death	23.7%
Mental illness/emotional problems	21.1%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	18.4%
Have work but wages are too low	18.4%
Housing costs too high	10.5%
Domestic violence	7.9%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	7.9%
Foreclosure or at risk of Foreclosure	2.6%
House condemned	2.6%
Utility costs too high	2.6%

The types of services that respondents stated that they have received in the past three years or are currently needed are reflected in the Services chart below. In Camden 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	16	42.1%
Emergency food or meal assistance	14	36.8%
Medical (routine healthcare)	13	34.2%
Need		
Housing	16	42.1%
Dental	14	36.8%
Emergency food or meal assistance	13	34.2%

## **Discharge from Mainstream Institutions**

As part of the 2012 survey, the respondents were asked if they hade 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 two institutions that had the highest numbers of respondents reporting they were discharged into homelessness were City/County Jail and Medical Hospitals.

Discharged Into Homelessness		
(Past Three Years)		
Corrections	#	%
State Prison	6	15.8%
City/County Jail	12	31.6%
Juvenile Detention Center	1	2.6%
Inpatient Care	#	%
Hospitalized (Medical)	8	21.1%
State Inpatient Mental Health	5	13.2%
City/County Inpatient Mental Health	2	5.3%
Substance Abuse Treatment	0	0.0%

### **Last Permanent Address**

In the 2012 count, 89.5% (n=34) of the chronically homeless individual respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless and 7.9% (n=3) last lived in other states.

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 the City of Camden.

Town	#	%
Camden	20	52.6%
Lindenwold	2	5.3%

### **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 Camden County, a total of one (1) family met the chronic homeless definition and could be considered a chronically homeless family. This is a decrease from 2011 when there were three (3). This is 0.2% of the total homeless population and 1.1% of the total family homeless population. This family had a total of one (1) child with them on the night of the count that was between the age of Seven (7) and 17.

Adding the families to the individuals gives Camden County a total chronically homeless population of 40 men, women and children on the night of the 2011 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 for more than one year and had reported having four (4) episodes on homelessness over the past three years.

### **Demographics**

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

### **Chronic Homeless Family Subpopulations**

In Camden County, the chronically homeless family was part of the substance use subpopulation.

#### **Financial Resources and Income**

The three main sources of income reported by the chronically homeless family were Food Stamps, Medicaid, and TANF and their estimated yearly income was less than \$5,000 a year.

### **Contributing Factors to Homelessness**

The main contributing factors to homelessness as reported by the chronically homeless family were:

- Substance Abuse
- Eviction
- Wages too low and housing costs too high
- Loss of job/inability to find work