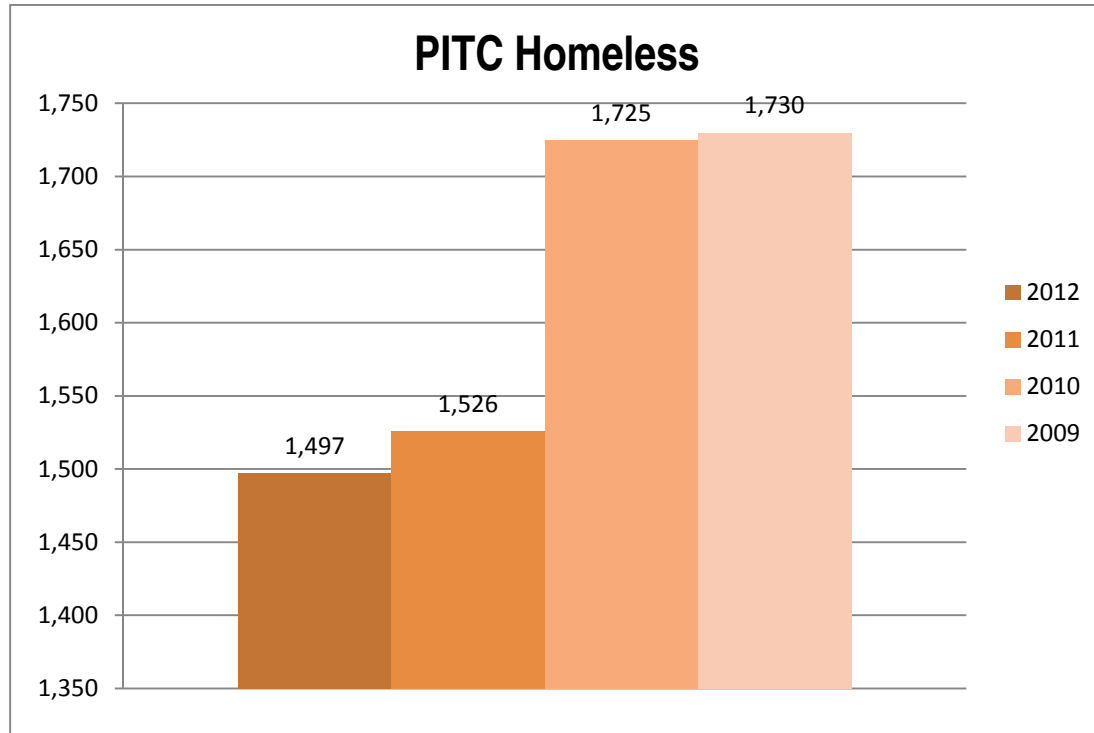


## ESSEX COUNTY

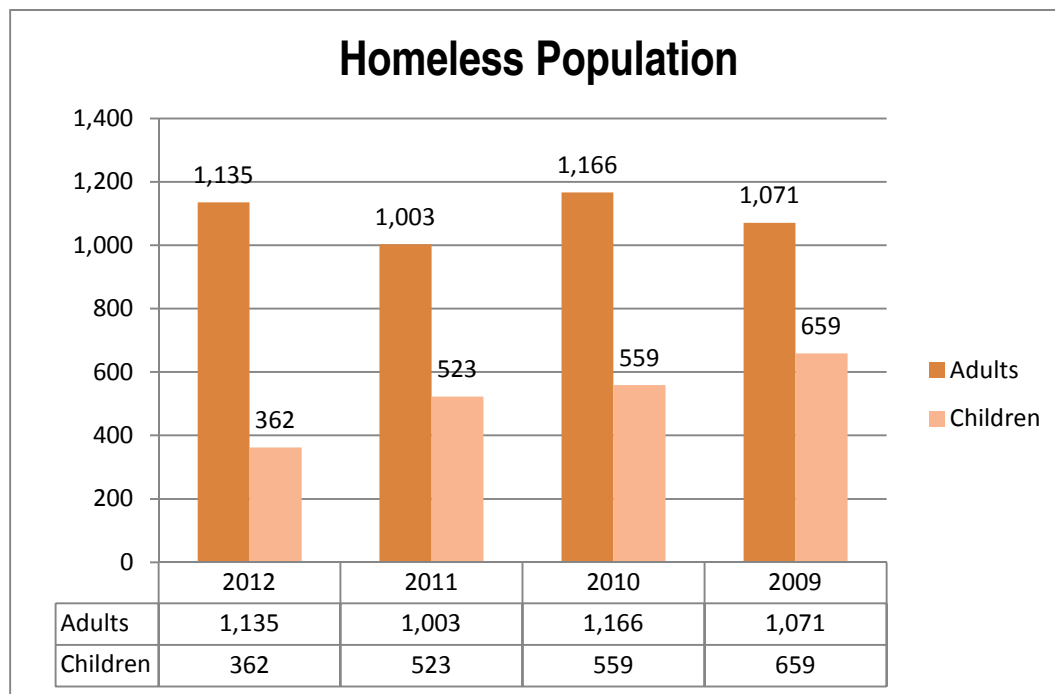
On January 25, 2012 there were 1,497 homeless men, women and children counted in Essex County according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations.



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, 3,198 adults and children are homeless in Essex County.*

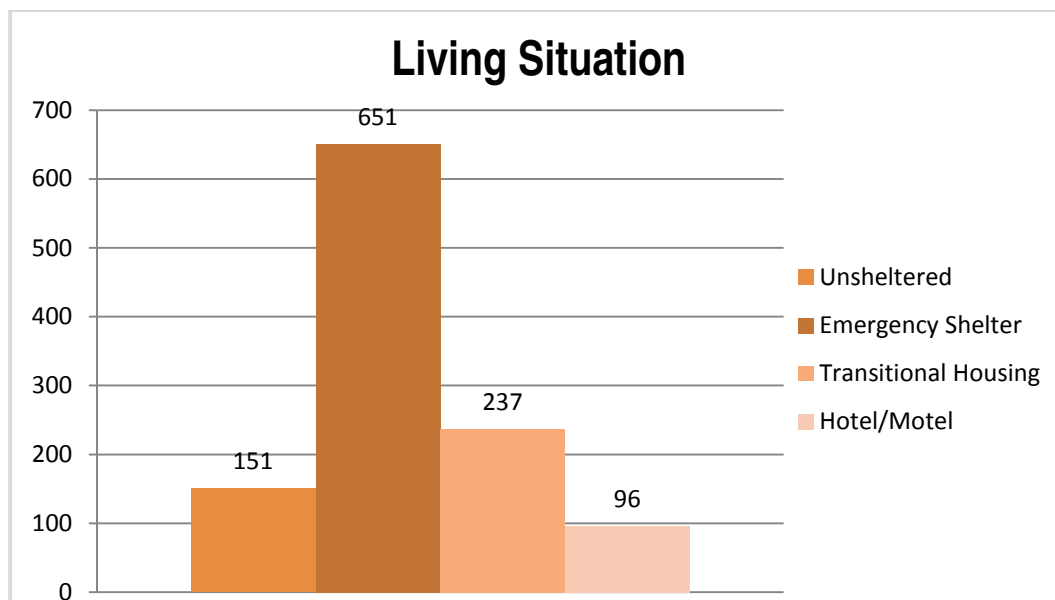
Homelessness in Essex County has been on the decline over the past four (4) count years reaching the lowest level in this count year. Of the 1,497 people who were homeless on the night of the count 362 of them were children. As the Homeless Population chart shows on page xx, since 2009, the number of homeless children has been on the decline reaching the lowest numbers in the current 2012 count. The number of adults who were homeless has fluctuated over the past four (4) count years with the lowest numbers being seen last year in 2011.

2012 Homeless Breakdown	
Respondents (Adults)	1135
Family Members (Children)	362
<b>Total Homeless</b>	<b>1497</b>



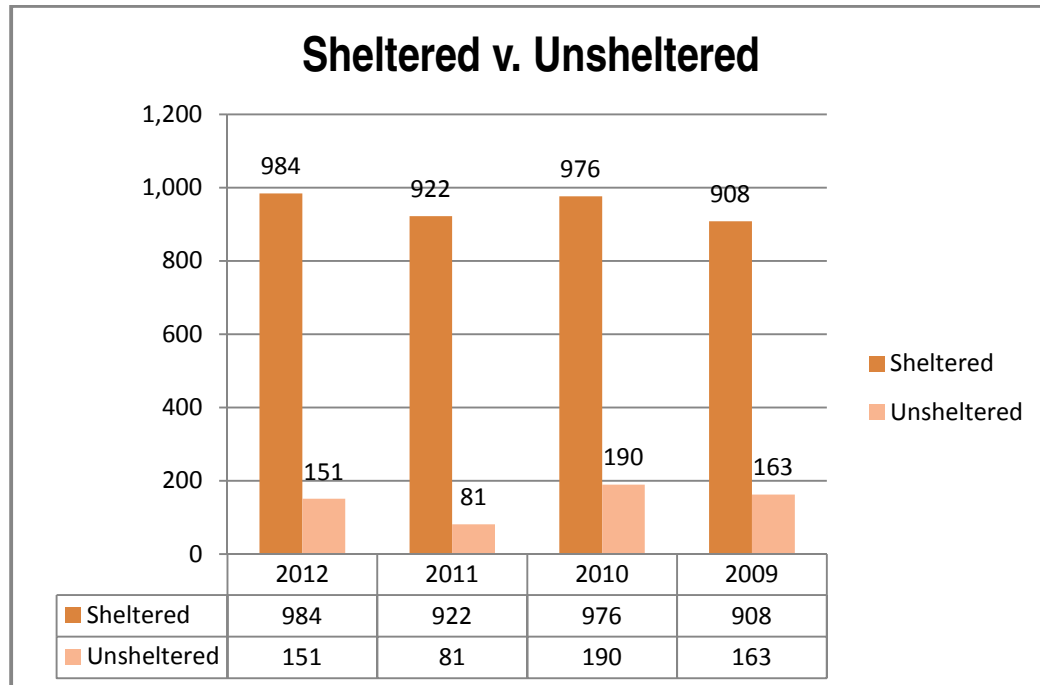
#### Living Situation

As reflected in the Living Situation chart below, 151 or 13.3% 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 residing in emergency shelter (n=651, 87.1%).



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

The number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless in Essex County has fluctuated over the past four (4) count years. The number of unsheltered saw an increase of 46.3% from 2011 to 2012 while the sheltered homeless population has seen only slight variation over time with the largest disparity also being seen between 2011 and 2012 with a 6.3% increase.



### **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.

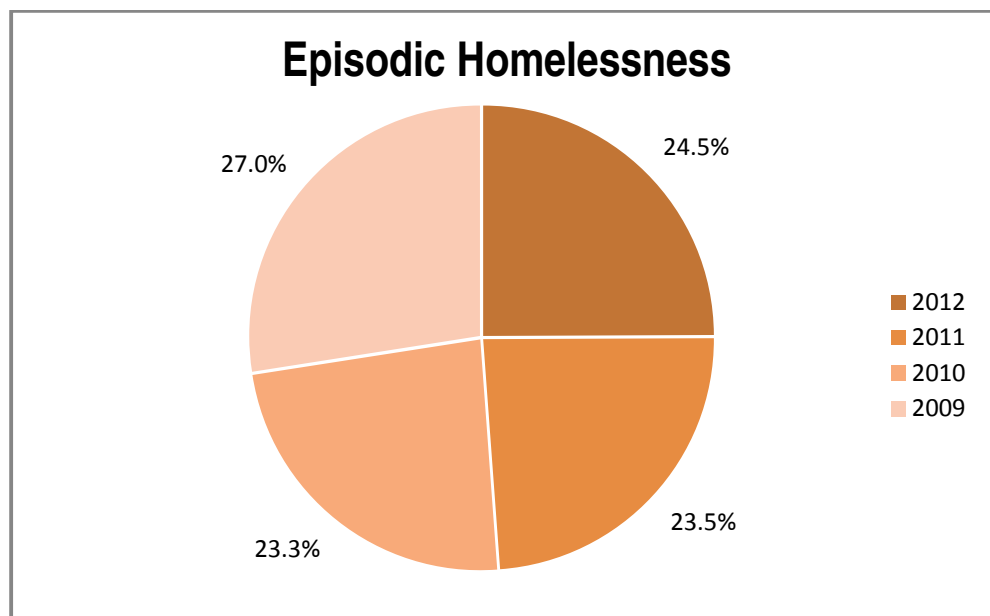
In Essex County, there were a total of 715 adults in emergency shelter in HMIS on the night of the count and there were 299 in transitional housing in HMIS on the night of the count. These numbers are different than what was recorded as part of the count. On the night of the count 647 respondents stated that they would be in emergency shelter and 237 reported residing in transitional housing.

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

Of the homeless population surveyed in Essex County, 366 or 32.2% responded that they have been homeless for more than one year. Of those who were homeless less than one year, 25.9% reported that they had been homeless at least one other time within the past 12 months.

<b>2012 Length of Homelessness</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
1 day - 1 week	45	0.4%
8 days - 1 month	95	8.4%
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	160	14.1%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	205	18.1%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	214	18.9%
<b>More than 1 year</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>32.2%</b>
No response	50	4.4%

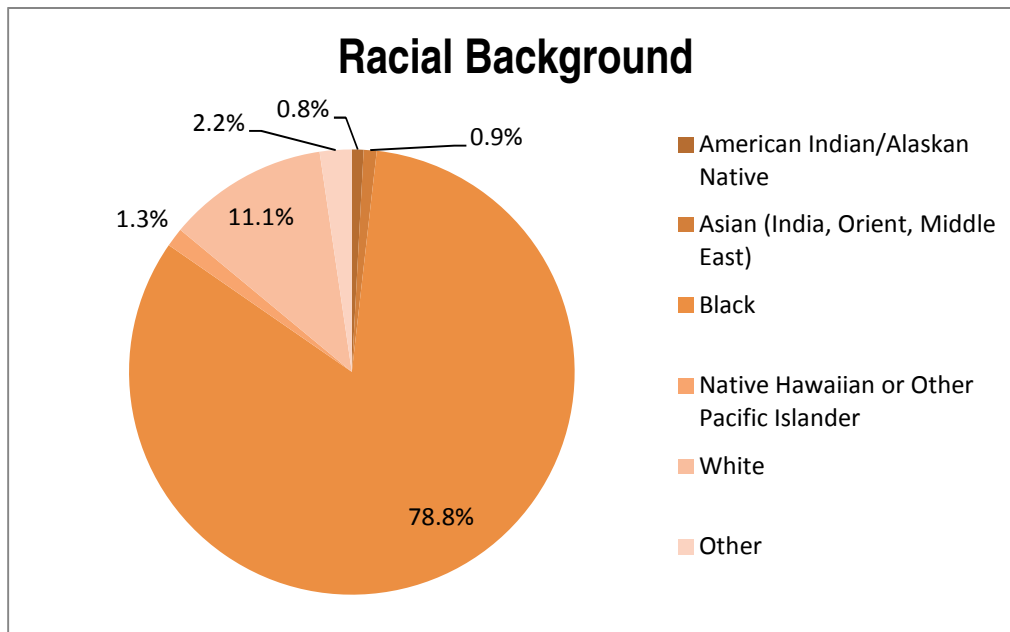
As reflected in the Episodic Homeless chart below, a total of 278 or 24.5% of the total homeless population reported having at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. Although this number has fluctuated over the past four years, it has remained between 23% and 27%.



### **Demographics**

In 2012, of the total homeless population in Essex County, 689 people or 60.7% were male, 420 or 37% were female and five (5) or 0.4% were transgender.

The Racial Background chart outlines the racial breakdown of homeless persons in the 2012 count. The largest percent were Black (78.8%). The total percentage of the homeless population that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 12%.

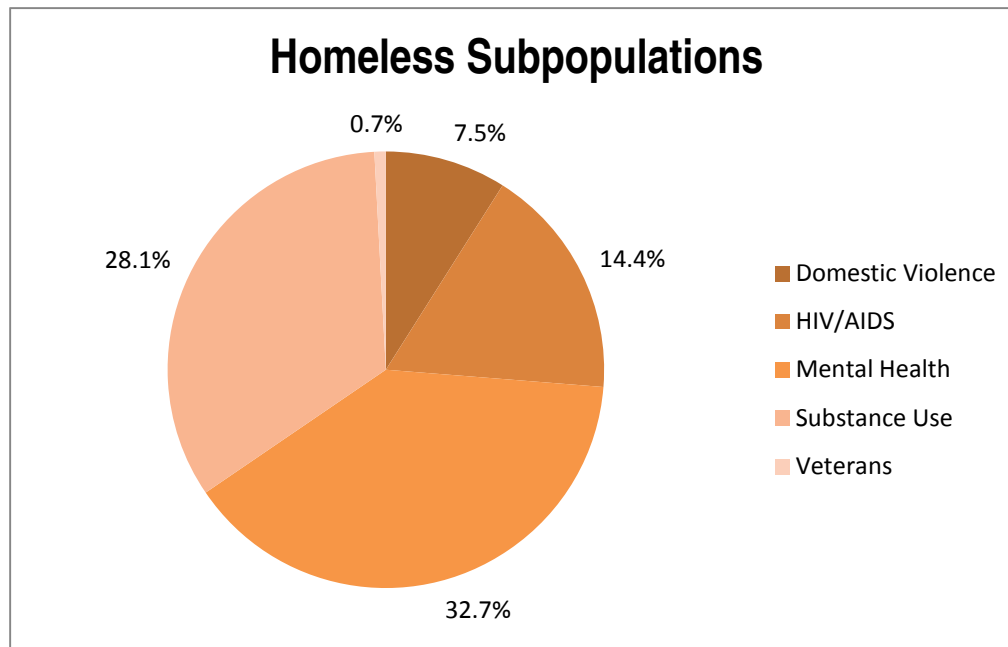


The largest percentage of homeless in Essex County fell within the 40 to 49 year old age range, totaling 27%, with the majority of the homeless population clustered between 30 and 59 years of age.

2012 Age	#	%
Under 18	6	0.5%
18-20	66	5.8%
21-24	89	7.8%
25-29	83	7.3%
30-39	217	19.1%
<b>40-49</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>27.0%</b>
50-59	258	22.7%
60-64	41	3.6%
65+	17	1.5%
No response	52	4.6%

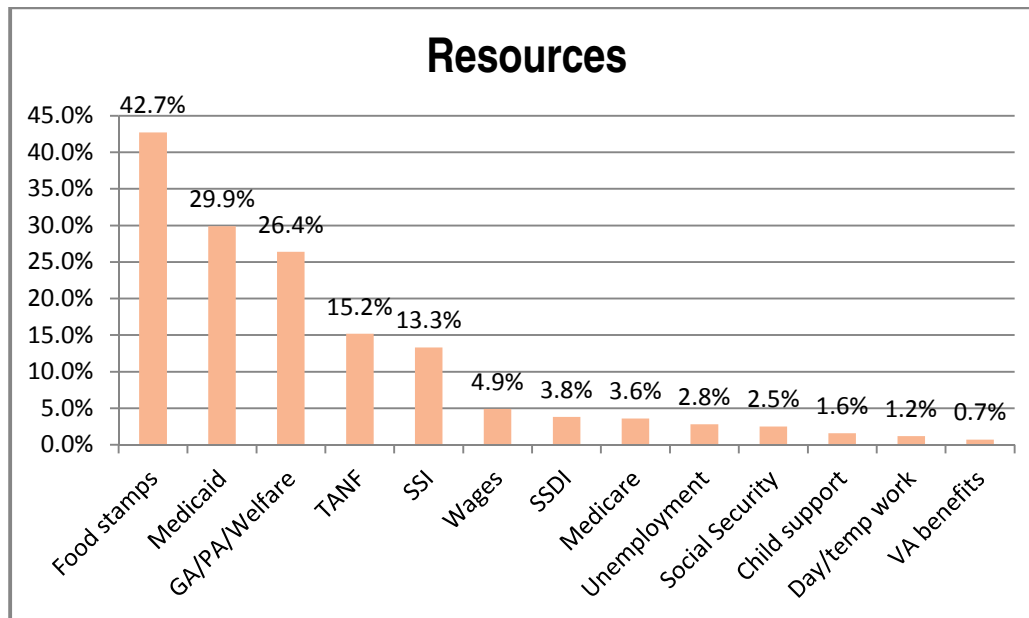
### **Homeless Subpopulations**

The Homeless Subpopulations chart outlines the breakdown of the HUD homeless subpopulations in Essex County for the 2012 count. The largest subpopulation was the homeless who had mental health issues (32.7%). This was closely followed by those with substance use issues (28.1%). The number of homeless who reported serving in the US military equaled 0.7% (n=80).



### **Financial Resources and Income**

The three main sources of income reported by people who were homeless in Essex County on the night of the 2012 count were Food Stamps (42.7%), Medicaid (29.9%) and Welfare (26.4%). 4.2% 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 provided a potential estimated yearly income. In Essex County, the largest percent of respondents are estimated to make less than \$5,000 in yearly income.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income	386	34.0%
<b>\$1.00-\$4,999</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>34.4%</b>
\$5,000- \$9,999	236	20.8%
\$10,000-\$14,999	29	2.5%
\$15,000- \$19,999	15	1.3%
\$20,000-\$24,999	7	0.6%
\$25,000- \$29,999	3	0.3%
\$30,000- \$34,999	2	0.2%
\$35,000- \$39,000	2	0.2%
\$40,000- \$44,999	1	0.1%
\$45,000+	1	0.1%
No Response	63	5.6%

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

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

<b>Contributing Factors to Homelessness</b>	<b>%</b>
Lost job/cannot find work	30.0%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	29.2%
Relationship/family breakup/death	26.8%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	24.4%
Incarceration	18.8%
Housing costs too high	16.9%
Mental illness/emotional problems	10.9%
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	10.7%
Utility costs too high	7.8%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	7.5%
Have work but wages are too low	7.4%
Domestic violence	4.7%
House condemned	3.4%
Loss of child support	1.3%
Foreclosure or at risk of Foreclosure	1.0%
Natural disaster	0.6%

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 Essex County, the top service received was emergency shelter and the top service that was reported as needed was housing.

<b>2012 Service Needs</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
<b><i>Received</i></b>		
Emergency shelter	692	61.0%
Emergency food or meal assistance	432	38.1%
Transportation	225	19.8%



<b><i>Need</i></b>		
Housing	714	62.9%
Employment assistance	404	35.6%
Emergency food or meal assistance	342	30.1%

### **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 three institutions that had the highest numbers of respondents reporting they were discharged into homelessness were City/County Jail, State Prison and Medical Hospitals.

<b>Discharged Into Homelessness (Past Three Years)</b>		
<b><i>Corrections</i></b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
State Prison	155	13.7%
City/County Jail	204	18.0%
Juvenile Detention Center	3	30.0%
<b><i>Inpatient Care</i></b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Hospitalized (Medical)	104	9.2%
State Inpatient Mental Health	27	2.4%
City/County Inpatient Mental Health	25	2.2%
Substance Abuse Treatment	15	1.3%

### **Last Permanent Address**

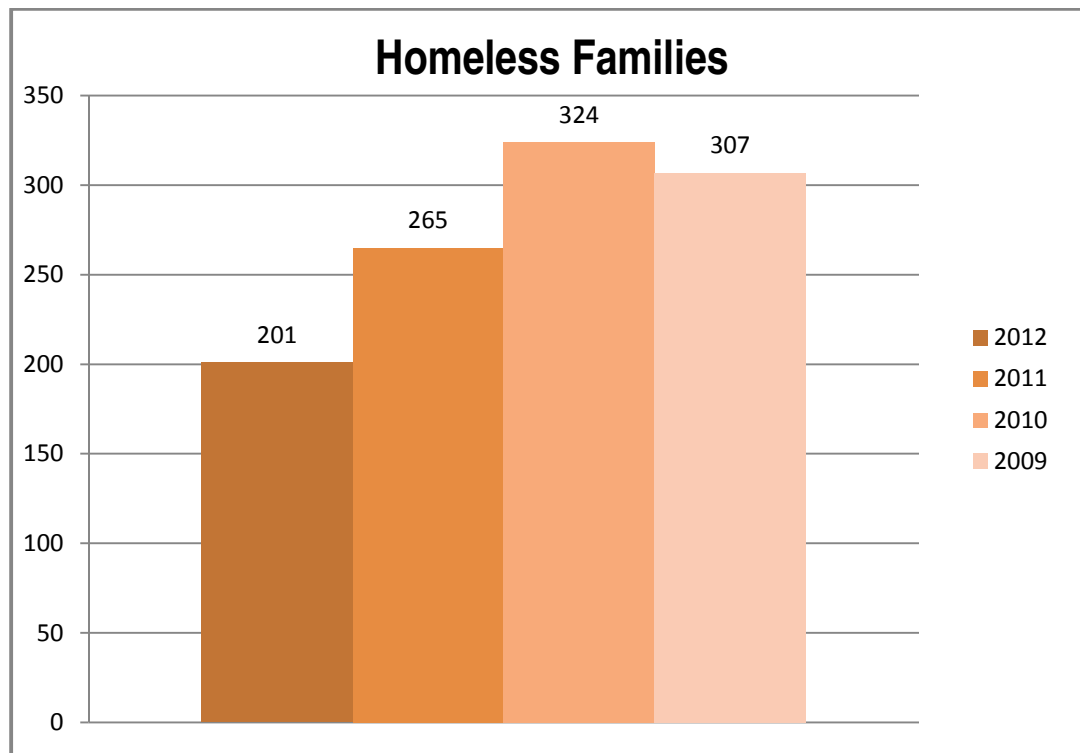
In the 2012 count, 92.7% (n=1052) of the homeless respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. In looking at the surround states, 1.0% (n=11) last lived in New York, 0.2% (n=2) last lived in Pennsylvania.

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 Newark.

<b>Town</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Newark	695	61.2%
East Orange	92	8.1%

## FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

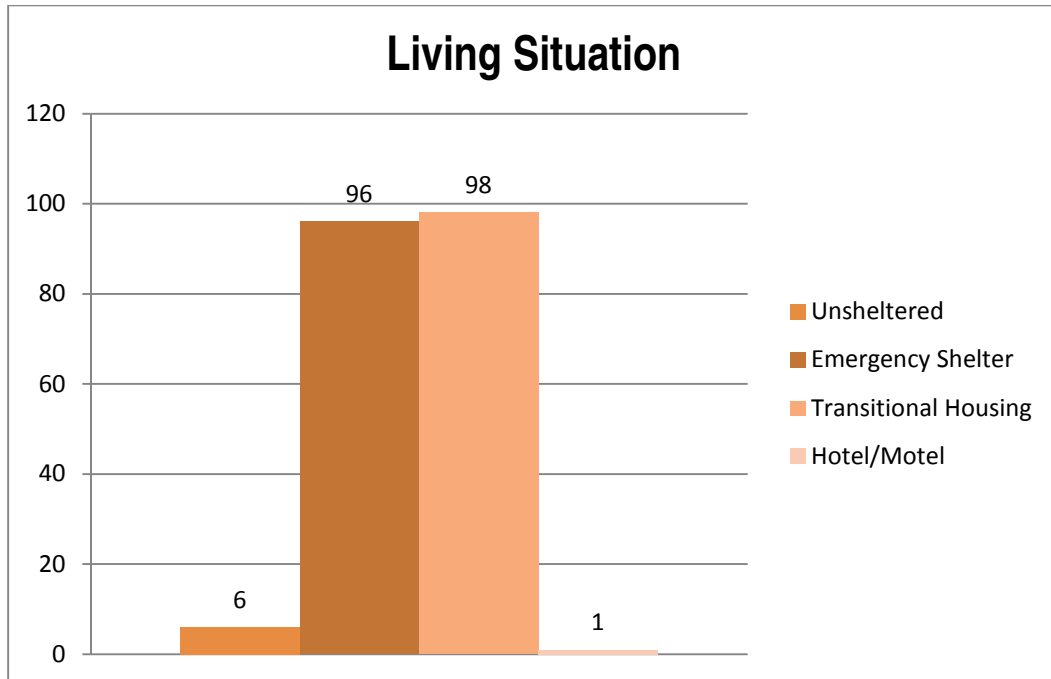
In 2012, of the 1,135 homeless respondents in Essex County, 201 or 17.7% had at least one dependent child under 18 with them the night of the count and are considered a homeless family. Of the total of 362 homeless children in these families, 211 were six years or younger and 151 were between the ages of 7 and 17.



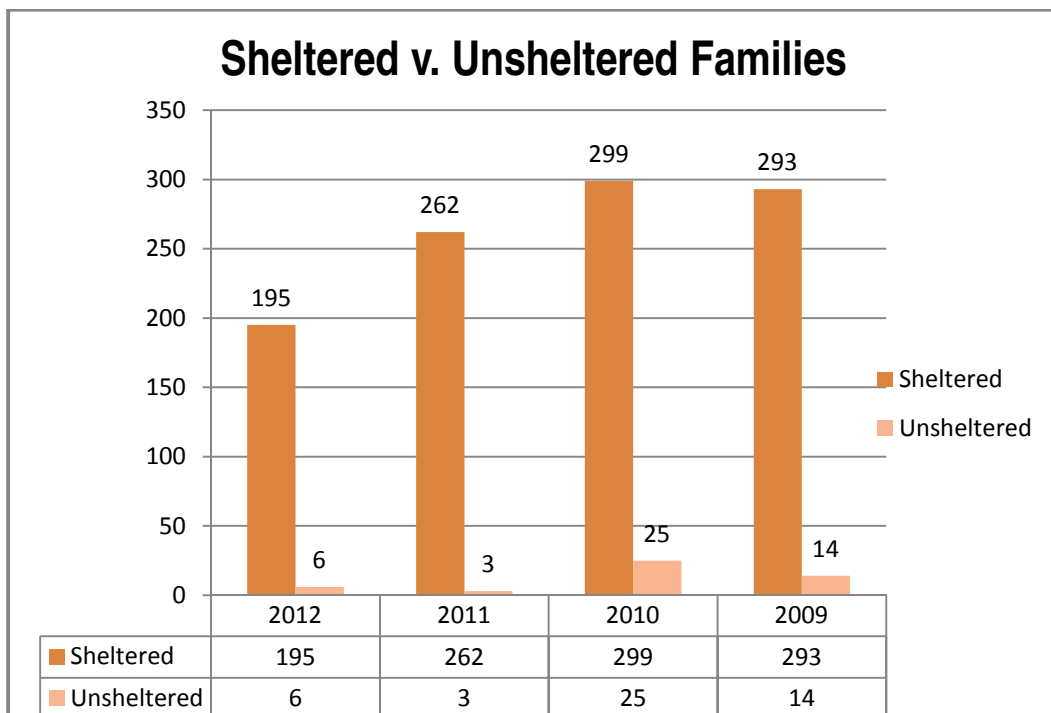
## Living Situation

In Essex County, six (6) homeless families were in an unsheltered living situation on the night of the count. The unsheltered homeless families had a total of 18 children with them on the night of the count.

The remaining 195 homeless families were in sheltered living situations that included emergency shelter and transitional housing. Transitional housing had a total of 48.7% of the homeless population and emergency shelter had a total of 47.7% as reflected in the Living Situation chart.



As the chart below shows, homeless families in Essex County have mainly been in sheltered living situations over the past four counts with the decline mirroring the overall population numbers. The number of unsheltered has fluctuated with the highest numbers being seen in 2010.



### **Length of Homelessness**

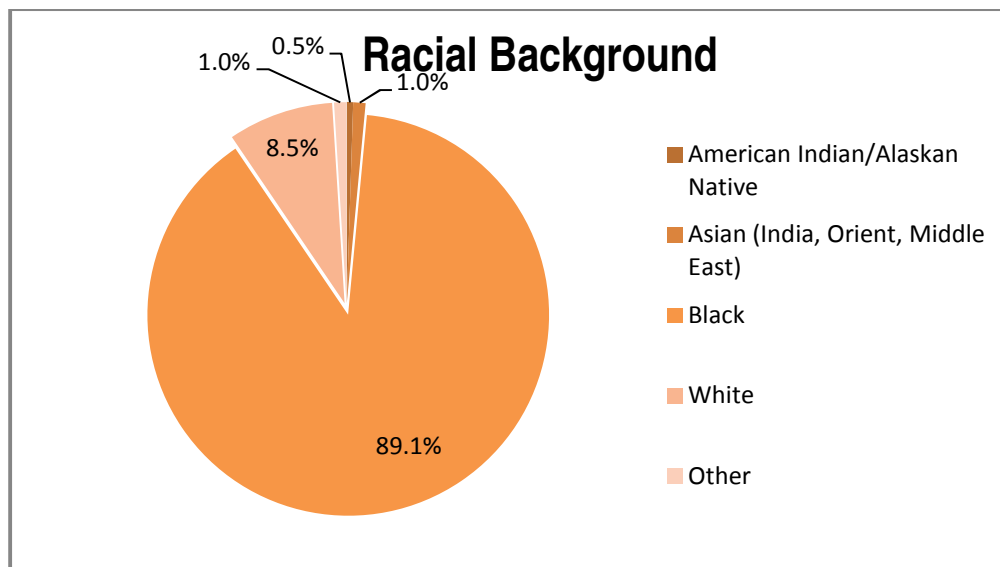
The largest percentage (26.9%) of homeless families had been homeless three (3) to six (6) months. This differs from the total homeless population overall where the highest percentage were homeless more than one year.

<b>2012 Length of Homelessness</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
1 day - 1 week	6	3.0%
8 days - 1 month	27	13.4%
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	39	19.4%
<b>3 months &amp; 1 day to 6 months</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>26.9%</b>
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	45	22.4%
More than 1 year	29	14.4%
No response	1	0.5%

### **Demographics**

Of the total 201 homeless families in Essex County, 88.6% (n= 178) were female headed households and 10.9% (n=22) were male headed households.

The Racial Background chart below outlines the racial breakdown of homeless families in the 2012 count. The majority of the respondents defined themselves as Black (89.1%). A total of 10.4% (n=21) defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

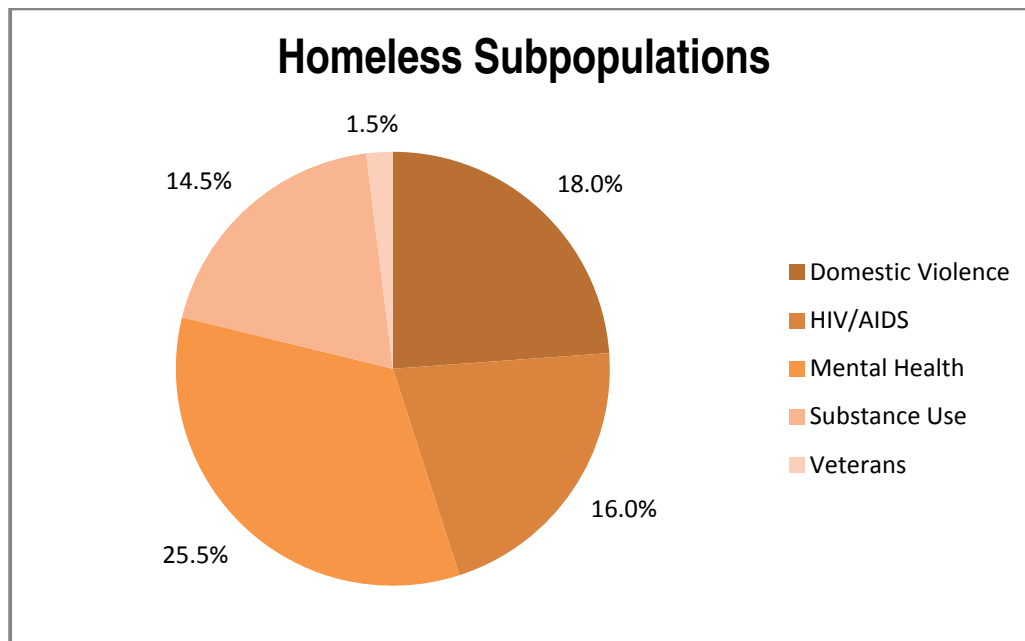


The largest percentage of homeless families in Essex County had a head of household that fell within the 30 to 39 year old age range. This was closely followed by those between the ages of 21 and 24 years old. This is younger than the total homeless population in the County.

2012 Age	#	%
Under 18	14	0.5%
18-20	30	14.9%
21-24	50	24.9%
25-29	29	14.4%
<b>30-39</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>26.9%</b>
40-49	25	12.4%
50-59	11	5.5%
60-64	1	0.5%

#### **Homeless Family Subpopulations**

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



### **Financial Resources and Income**

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

- TANF (76.6%);
- Food Stamps (69.2%); and
- Medicaid (53.2%)

All the families on the night of the count stated they received some type of government benefit. In looking at yearly income, the largest percentage of the homeless families was earning less than \$5,000 a year.

<b>2012 Yearly Income</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
No Income	10	5.0%
<b>\$1.00-\$4,999</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>56.2%</b>
\$5,000- \$9,999	59	29.4%
\$10,000-\$14,999	8	4.0%
\$15,000- \$19,999	1	0.5%
\$20,000-\$24,999	2	1.0%
\$25,000- \$29,999	2	1.0%
\$30,000- \$34,999	0	0.0%
\$35,000- \$39,000	1	0.5%

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

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

<b>Contributing Factors to Homelessness</b>	<b>%</b>
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	48.8%
Relationship/family breakup/death	32.3%
Lost job/cannot find work	26.9%
Housing costs too high	25.9%
Utility costs too high	18.4%

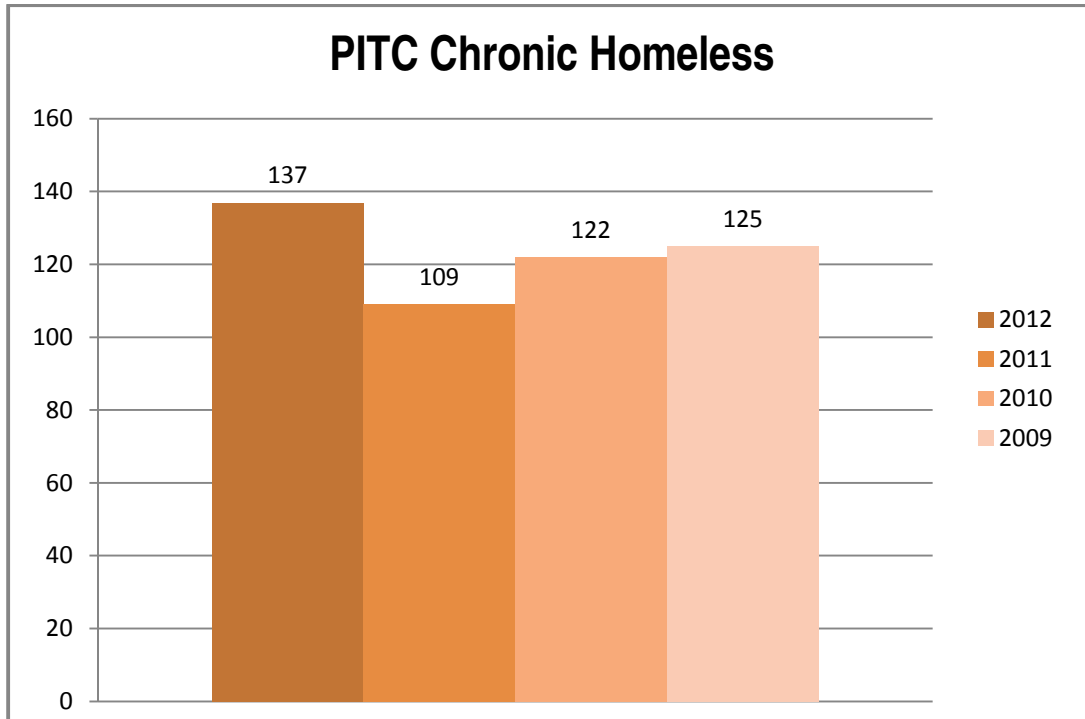
When homeless families were asked what their top needs were on the night of the count the top three needs included:

- Housing (61.2%);
- Employment assistance (36.8%); and
- Educational training (32.8%)



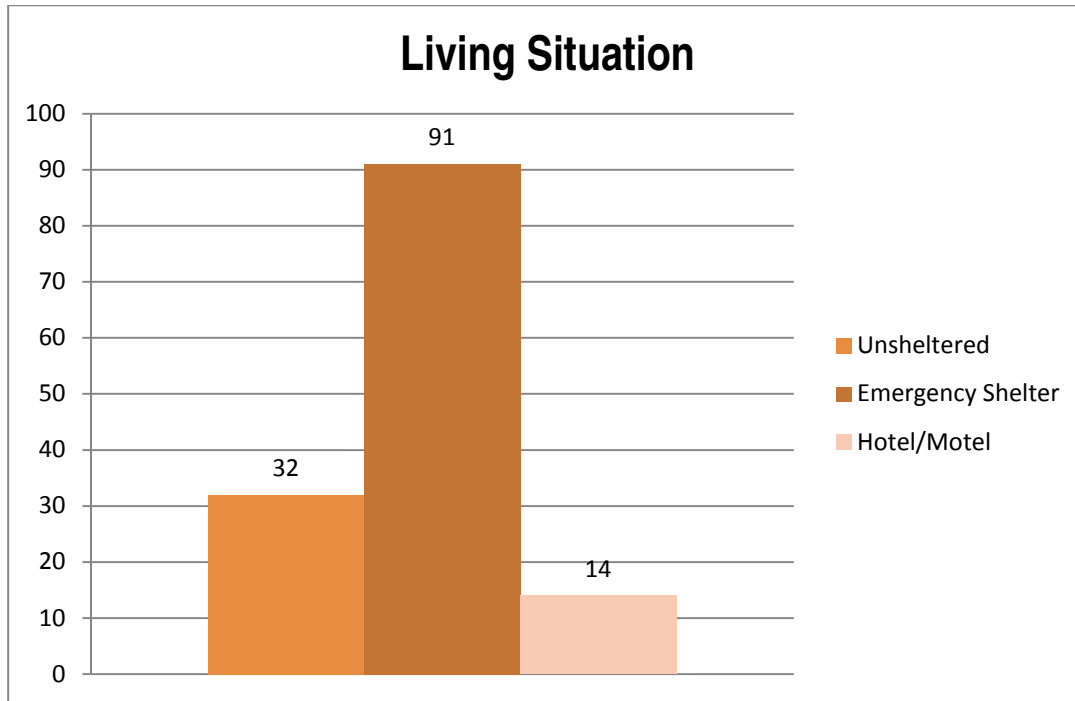
## **CHRONICALLY HOMELESS**

On the night of January 25, 2012, there were 137 chronically homeless individuals counted in Essex County equaling 12.0% of the total homeless population. The number of chronically homeless individuals in Essex County saw an increase from 2011 to 2012 (20.4%) after being on the decline since 2009.

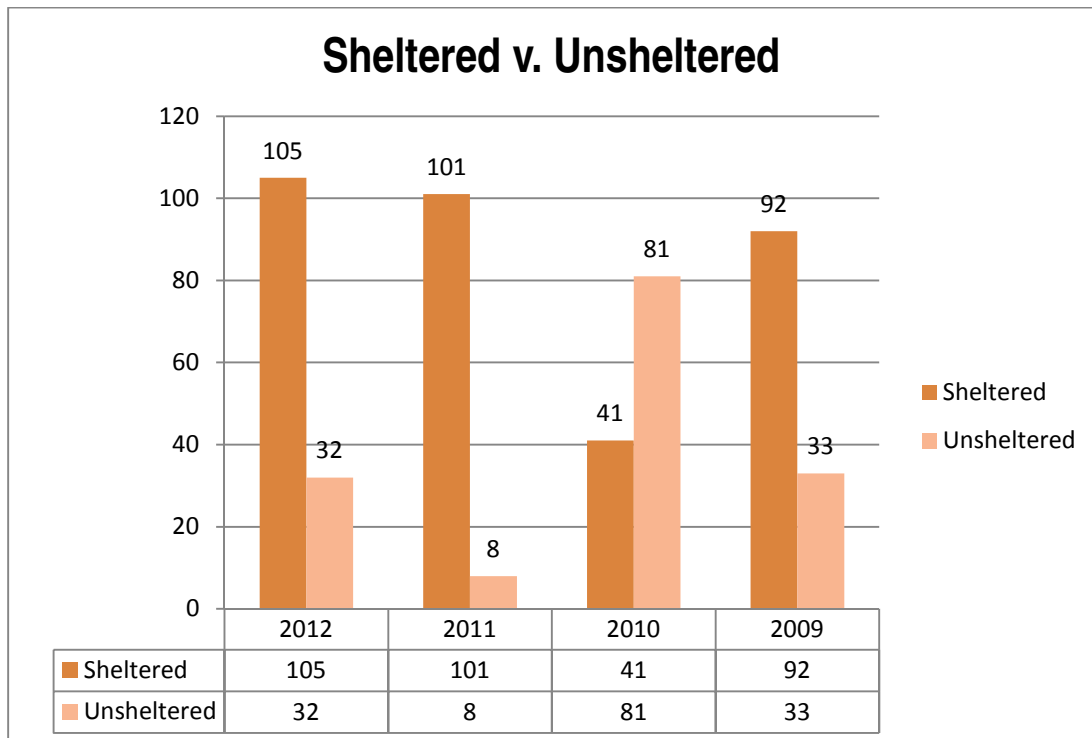


### **Living Situation**

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 individuals were residing on the night of the 2012 count. The largest percentage (66.4%) of the chronically homeless individual population in Essex 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 Essex County has fluctuated dramatically however, with the largest increase in unsheltered numbers between 2011 and 2012 (75%) and the largest decrease in sheltered numbers between 2009 and 2010 (55.4%).



### **Length of Homelessness**

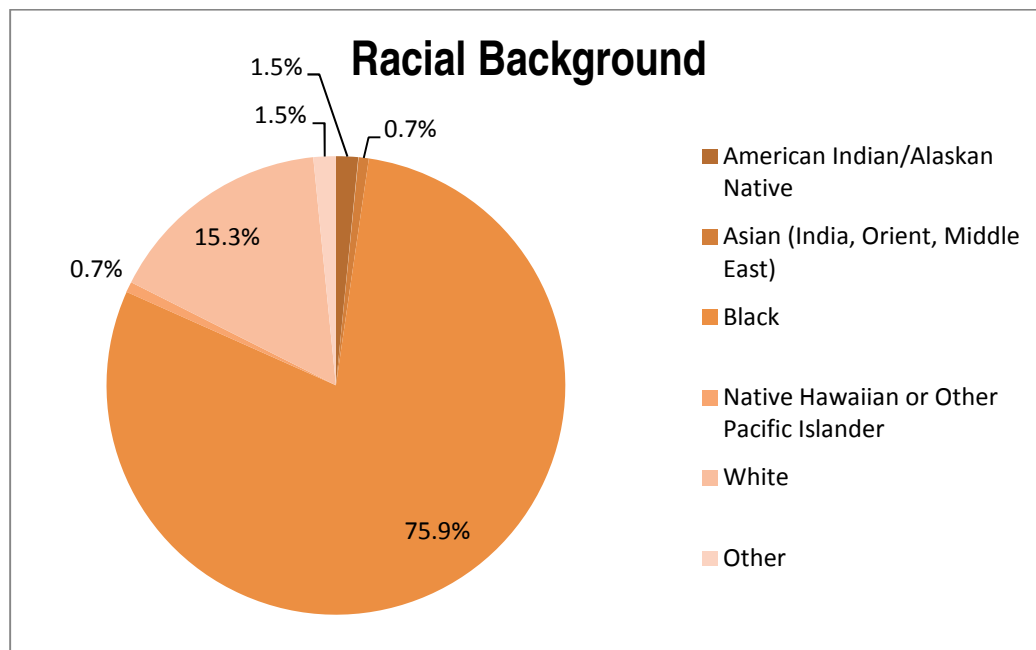
Of the total chronically homeless individual population in Essex County, 76.6% (n= 105) reported they had been homeless for more than one year. Also, a total of 43.8% (n= 60) reported they had four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

<b>2012 Length of Homelessness</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
1 day - 1 week	3	2.2%
8 days - 1 month	0	0.0%
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	10	7.3%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	6	4.4%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	13	9.5%
<b>More than 1 year</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>76.6%</b>

### **Demographics**

In 2012, a total of 99 or 72.3% of the chronically homeless individual population was male and 37 or 27% was female.

As the Racial Background chart outlines, the majority of chronically homeless individuals identified themselves as Black (75.9%). The total percentage that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 11.7%.

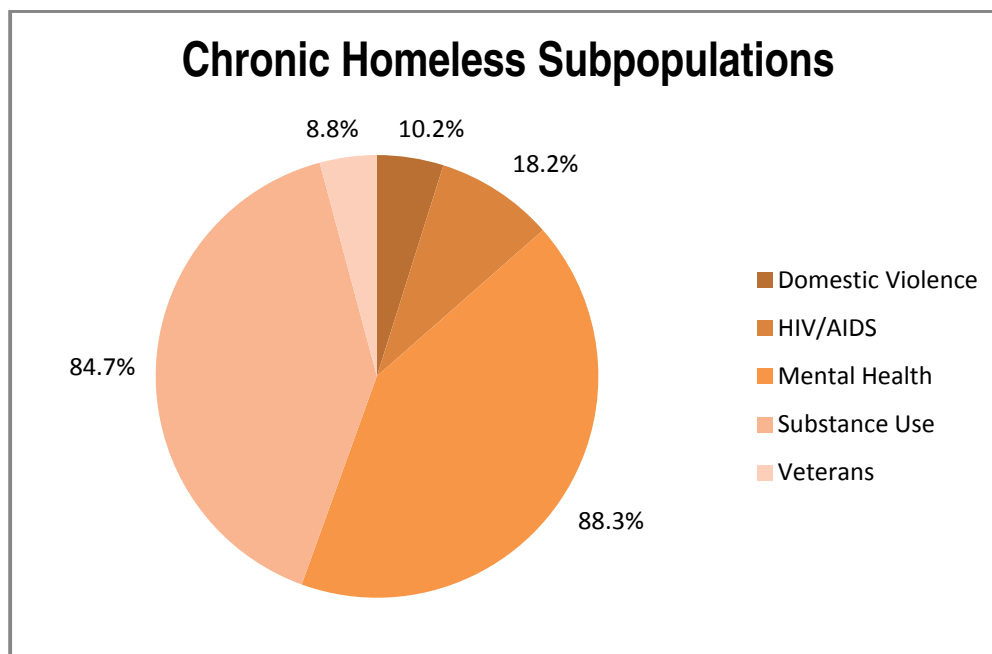


As the Age chart shows, on the night of the 2012 count in Essex County, the largest percentage of chronically homeless individuals fell into the 40 to 49 year old age range (36.5%), with the majority clustered between the ages of 30 and 59 years old.

2012 Age	#	%
18-20	2	1.5%
21-24	3	2.2%
25-29	8	5.8%
30-39	28	20.4%
<b>40-49</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>36.5%</b>
50-59	38	27.7%
60-64	5	3.6%
No response	3	2.2%

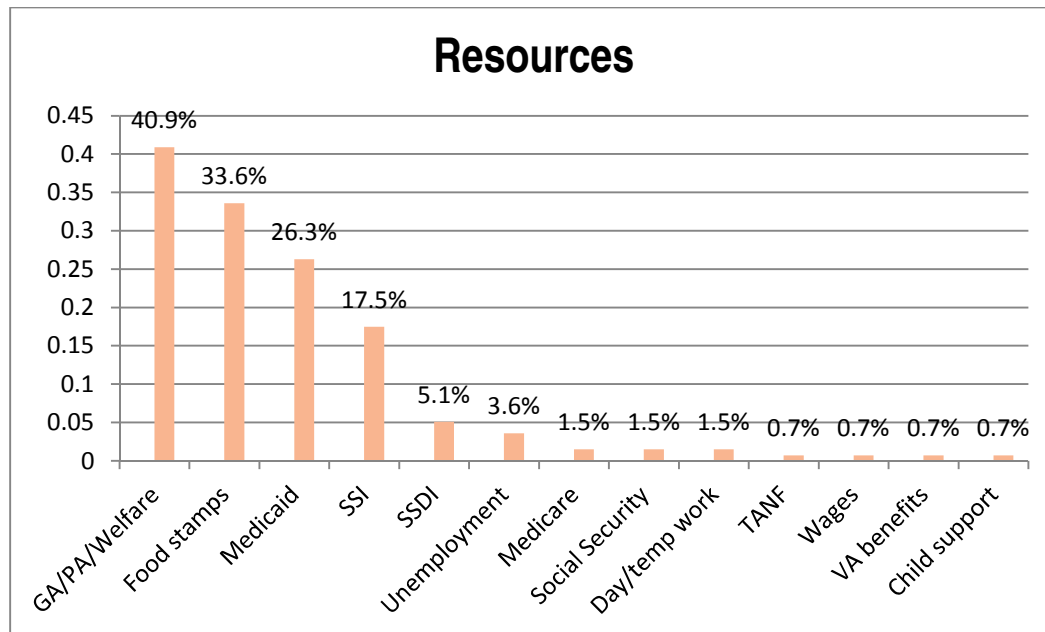
### **Chronic Homeless Subpopulations**

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, 88.3% of the chronic homeless individuals reported they had mental health issues and 84.7% reported having substance use issues.



### **Financial Resources**

The three main sources of income reported by chronically homeless individuals in Essex County on the night of the 2012 count were Welfare (40.9%), Food Stamps (33.6%) and Medicaid (26.3%). 5.1% 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 (42.3%) of chronically individuals were reporting having no income. As with the total homeless population, the majority had a projected yearly income of less than \$5,000.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income	58	42.3%
\$1.00-\$4,999	53	38.7%
\$5,000- \$9,999	19	13.9%
\$10,000-\$14,999	1	0.7%
\$15,000- \$19,999	3	2.2%
\$20,000-\$24,999	1	0.7%

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

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

<b>2012 Contributing Factors to Homelessness</b>	<b>%</b>
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	49.6%
Incarceration	33.6%
Lost job/cannot find work	33.6%
Mental illness/emotional problems	26.3%
Relationship/family breakup/death	22.6%
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	21.9%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	21.2%
Housing costs too high	19.0%
Have work but wages are too low	10.9%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	9.5%
Domestic violence	8.8%
Utility costs too high	8.8%
House condemned	2.9%
Loss of child support	2.2%
Foreclosure or at risk of Foreclosure	1.5%

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 Essex 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 services.

<b>2012 Service Needs</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
<b><i>Received</i></b>		
Emergency shelter	89	65.0%
Emergency food or meal assistance	65	47.4%
Medical (routine healthcare)	25	18.2%

<b><i>Need</i></b>		
Housing	95	69.3%
Transportation	61	44.5%
Emergency food or meal assistance	59	43.1%

### **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 number of respondents reporting they were discharged into homelessness was City/County Jail.

<b>Discharged Into Homelessness (Past Three Years)</b>		
<b><i>Corrections</i></b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
State Prison	37	27.0%
City/County Jail	54	39.4%
Juvenile Detention Center	0	0.0%
<b><i>Inpatient Care</i></b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Hospitalized (Medical)	33	24.1%
State Inpatient Mental Health	11	8.0%
City/County Inpatient Mental Health	4	2.9%
Substance Abuse Treatment	2	1.5%

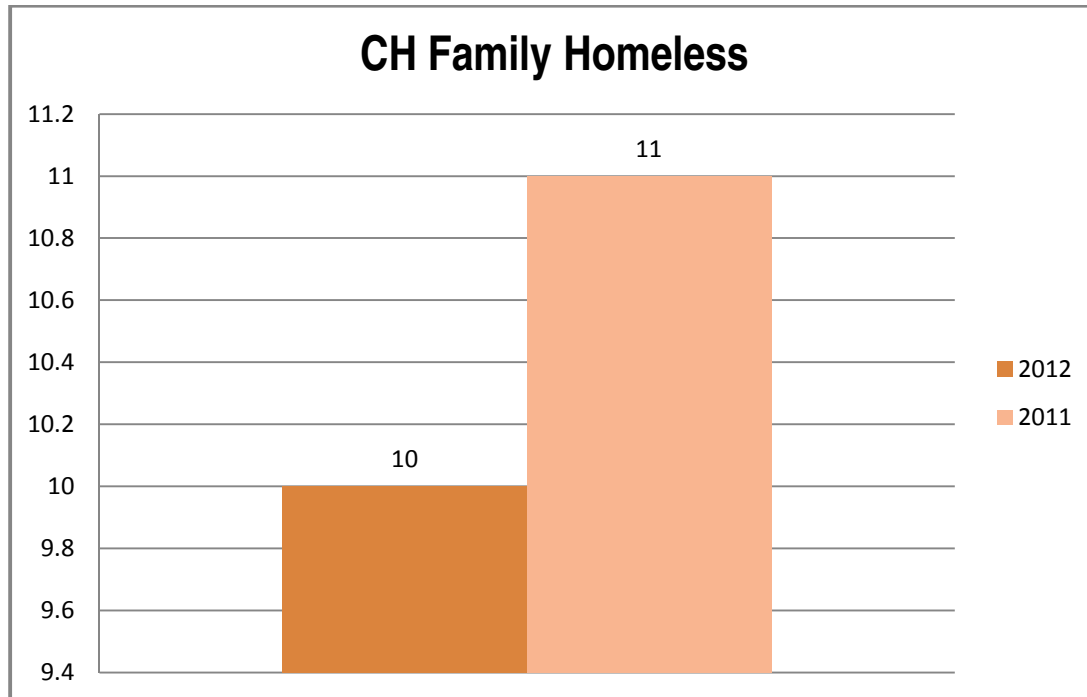
### **Last Permanent Address**

In the 2012 count, 93.4% (n=128) of the chronically homeless individual respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. In looking at the surround states, 0.7% (n=1) last lived in New York. The only town with a significant number of chronically homeless individuals reporting that their last permanent address was the City of Newark (n=107, 78.1%).

## 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 and there is no real comparable data to previous years.

In Essex County, a total of 10 families met the chronic homeless definition and could be considered a chronically homeless family. This is only 0.8% of the total homeless population and 4.9% of the total family homeless population. These families had a total of 21 children with them on the night of the count.

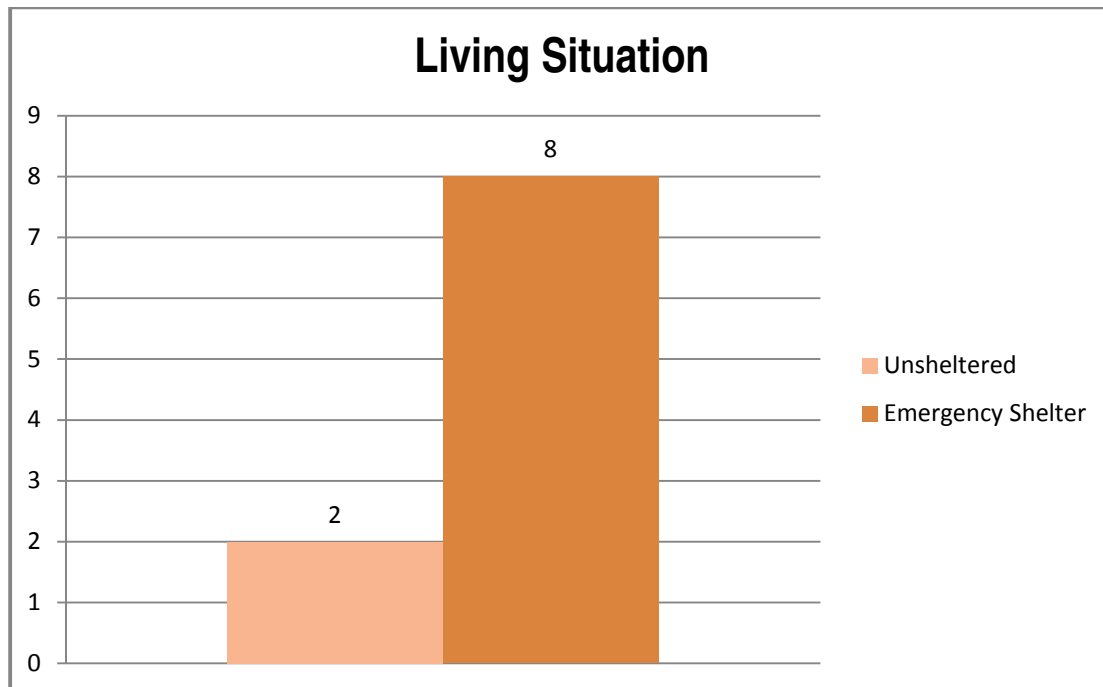


Adding the families to the individuals gives Essex County a total chronically homeless population of 168 men, women and children on the night of the 2012 count.

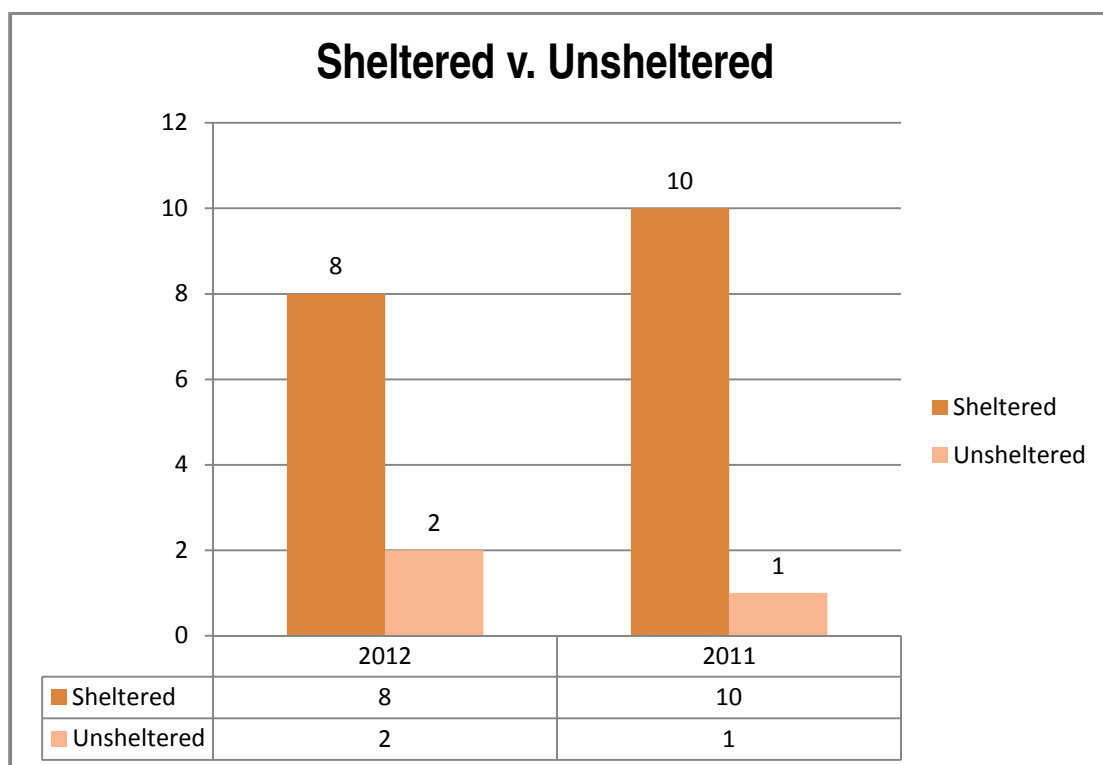
## Living Situation

As with the chronically homeless individual population, living situations can only include those living on the street, in places not meant for human habitation or emergency shelter. The breakdown of living situation for chronically homeless families is reflected in the Living Situation chart. On the night of the count, 20% of the families were in unsheltered situations. All of the sheltered families (80%) were residing in emergency shelter.





Even though these are small numbers, over the past two (2) count years, the number of unsheltered has increased and the number of sheltered chronically homeless families has decreased.

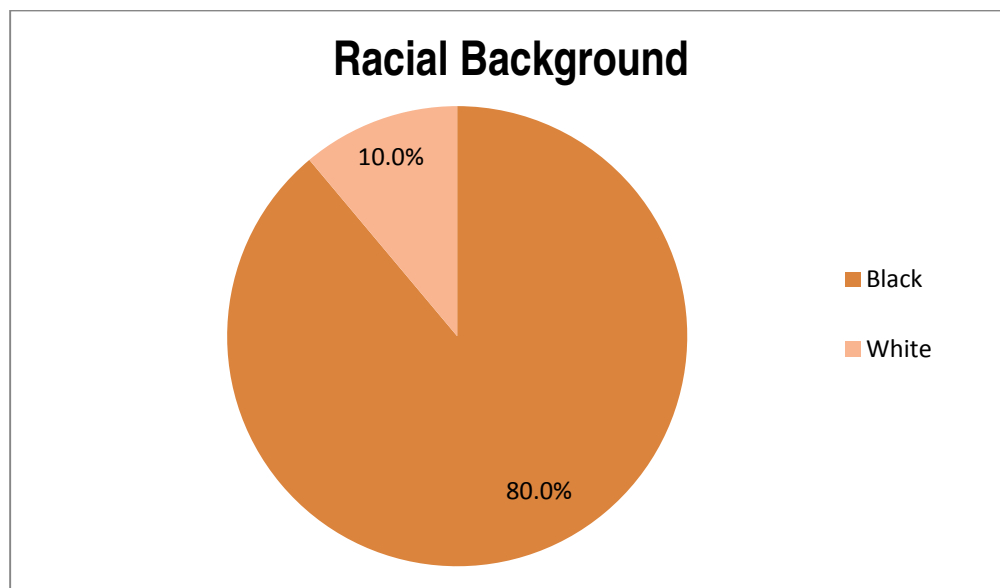


### **Length of Homelessness**

Of the total chronically homeless family population, 50.0% reported that they had been homeless for more than one year and 100% (n= 10) reported that they had been homeless four (4) times in the past three (3) years.

### **Demographics**

In 2012, only one (1) or 10% of the chronically homeless families was a male headed household and nine (9) or 90% were female headed households. The Racial Background chart below outlines the racial breakdown of the chronically homeless families in Essex County. The largest percentage (80%) defined themselves as Black and the remainder defined themselves as White. A total of 20% of chronically homeless families defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

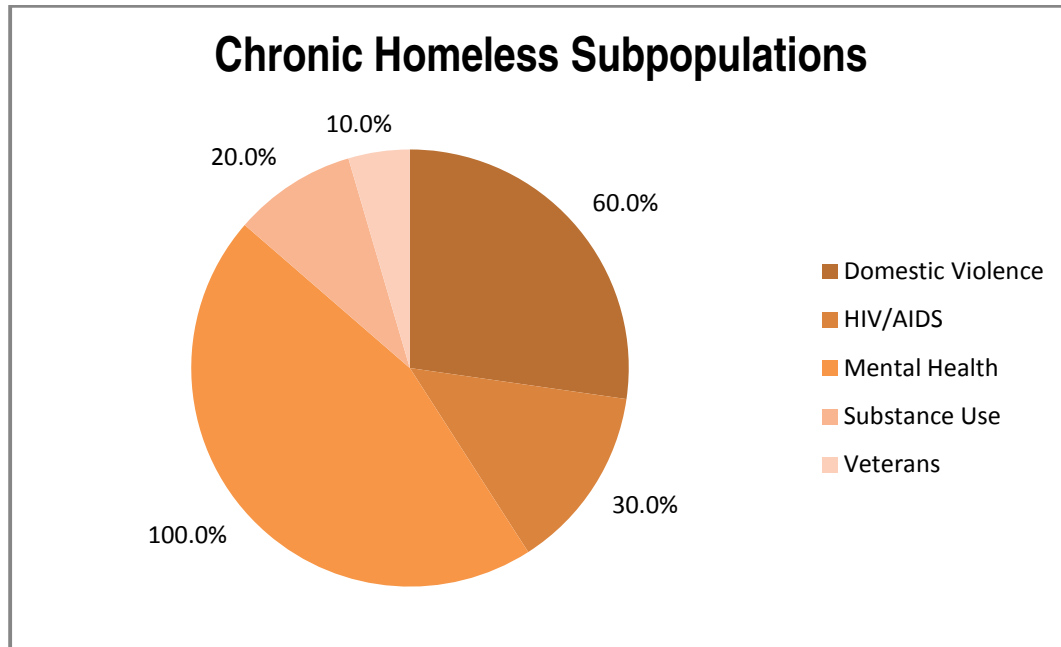


The largest percentage (70%) in the 2012 count were heads of households between 30 and 39 years old as represented in the Age chart below.

2012 Age	#	%
25-29	1	10.0%
30-39	7	70.0%
40-49	2	20.0%

### **Chronic Homeless Family Subpopulations**

In Essex County, for chronically homeless families the largest HUD subpopulation was those with mental health issues as represented in the Chronic Homeless Subpopulations chart. The next largest were those experiencing domestic violence.



### **Financial Resources and Income**

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

- TANF (80%);
- Medicaid (60%); and
- Food Stamps (60%)

All of the families reported receiving some type of government benefit on the night of the count. In looking at yearly income, the majority of the families were earning less than \$5,000 a year.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income		
<b>\$1.00-\$4,999</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>60.0%</b>
\$5,000- \$9,999	3	30.0%
\$10,000-\$14,999	1	10.0%

### **Contributing Factors to Homelessness**

The Contributing Factors chart includes the top five factors, as reported by respondents in Essex County, which led their family to become homeless. The top ranked factor was eviction. The remaining factors included housing costs being too high and loss of job/inability to find work.

<b>Contributing Factors to Homelessness</b>	<b>%</b>
Eviction or at risk of Eviction/Utility costs too high	80%
Housing costs too high	70%
Lost job/cannot find work	60%
Relationship/family breakup/death	50%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	40%

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

- Housing (70%);
- Transportation (30%); and
- Dental (30%)