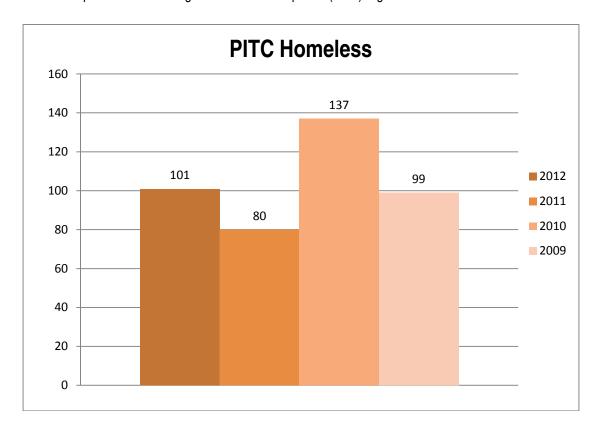
# **HUNTERDON COUNTY**

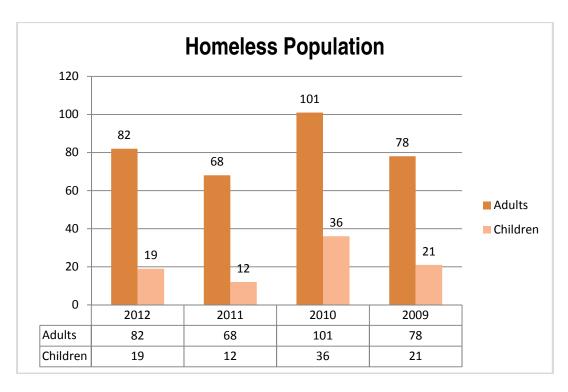
On January 25, 2012 there were 101 homeless men, women and children counted in Hunterdon County according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations.



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*, *312* adults and children are homeless in Hunterdon County.

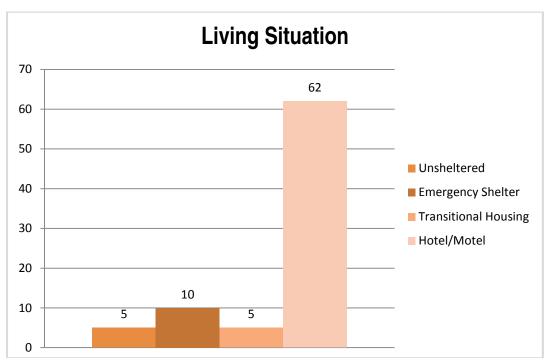
Homelessness in Hunterdon County has fluctuated over the past four (4) count years with the highest numbers being seen in 2010. Of the 101 people who were homeless on the night of the count 19 of them were children. As the Homeless Population chart, since 2010, the number of adults and children were consistent with the overall increases and decreases of the total homeless numbers.

2012 Homeless Breakdown		
Respondents (Adults)	82	
Family Members (Children)	19	
Total Homeless	101	



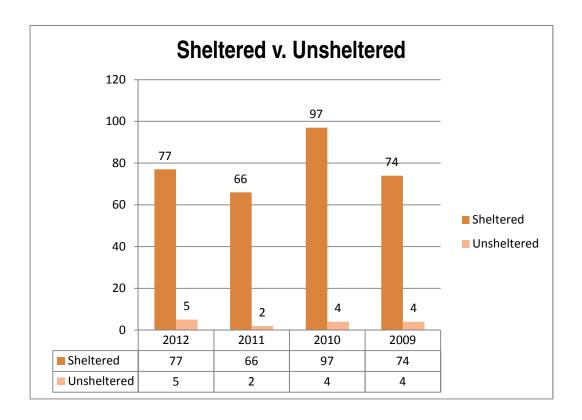
## **Living Situation**

As reflected in the Living Situation chart below, 5 or 6.1% 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 hotel/motel placements as emergency shelter (n=62, 75.6%).



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

The homeless population has mainly been in sheltered living situations over the past four (4) count years and followed the overall pattern of the total homeless numbers.



### **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.

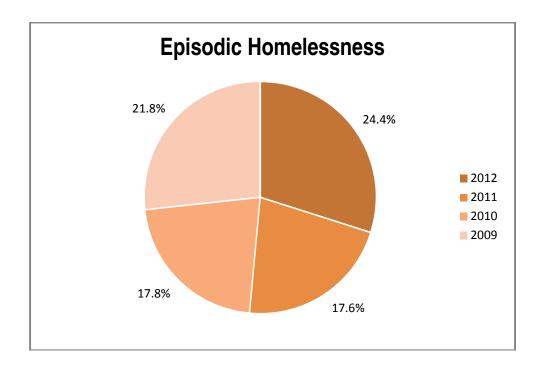
In Hunterdon County, there were a total of three (3) adults in emergency shelter in HMIS on the night of the count. There was no one in transitional housing in HMIS on the night of the count. These numbers are lower than what was recorded as part of the count. On the night of the count six (6) respondents stated that they would be in emergency shelter and five (5) reported residing in transitional housing.

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

Of the homeless population surveyed in Hunterdon County, 27 or 32.9% responded that they have been homeless for more than one year. Of those who were homeless less than one year, 17.1% reported that they had been homeless at least one other time within the past 12 months.

2012 Length of Homelessness	#	%
8 days - 1 month	5	6.1%
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	17	20.7%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	16	19.5%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	15	18.3%
More than 1 year	27	32.9%
No response	2	2.4%

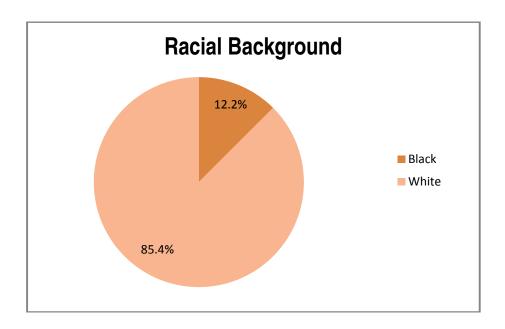
As reflected in the chart below, a total of 20 or 24.4% of the total homeless population reported having at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. Although this number has fluctuated over the past four years, this is the highest percentage over the past four (4) count years.



## **Demographics**

In 2012, of the total homeless population in Hunterdon County, 47 people or 57.3% identified as male, 32 or 39% identified as female and one (1) or 1.2% identified as transgender.

The Racial Background chart outlines the racial breakdown of homeless persons in the 2012 count. The largest majority was White (85.4%) and the only other race reported was Black (12.2%). The total percentage of the homeless population that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 7.3%.

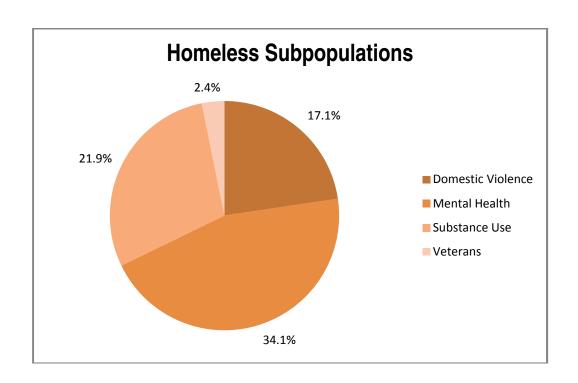


The largest percentage of homeless in Hunterdon County fell within the 50 to 59 year old age range, totaling 29.3%, followed by those within the 40 to 49 year old age range (20.7%).

2012 Age	#	%
18-20	2	2.4%
21-24	8	9.8%
25-29	12	14.6%
30-39	8	9.8%
40-49	17	20.7%
50-59	24	29.3%
60-64	3	3.7%
65+	1	1.2%
No response	7	8.5%

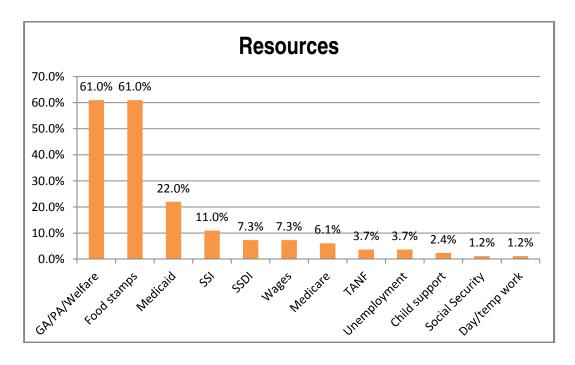
## **Homeless Subpopulations**

The Homeless Subpopulations chart outlines the breakdown of the homeless HUD subpopulations in Hunterdon County for the 2012 count. The largest subpopulation was the homeless who had mental health issues (34.1%). The number of homeless who reported serving in the US military equaled 2.4% (n=2).



## **Financial Resources and Income**

The three main sources of income reported by people who were homeless in Hunterdon County on the night of the 2012 count were Welfare (61%), Food Stamps (61%) and Medicaid (22%). 4.9% 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 Hunterdon County, the largest percent of respondents stated that they had income less than \$5,000.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income	9	11.0%
\$1.00-\$4,999	34	41.5%
\$5,000- \$9,999	16	19.5%
\$10,000-\$14,999	10	12.2%
\$15,000- \$19,999	3	3.7%
\$20,000-\$24,999	1	1.2%
\$25,000- \$29,999	0	0.0%
\$30,000- \$34,999	1	1.2%
\$35,000- \$39,000	0	0.0%
\$40,000-\$44,999	1	1.2%
No Response	7	8.5

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

The highest ranking factor that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Hunterdon County was alcohol or drug abuse problems. Other top ranking factors included mental illness, relationship breakdown and incarceration.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	30.5%
Mental illness/emotional problems	24.4%
Relationship/family breakup/death	22.0%
Incarceration	20.7%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	18.3%
Lost job/cannot find work	18.3%
Domestic violence	14.6%

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	13.4%
Housing costs too high	7.3%
Have work but wages are too low	6.1%
Loss of child support	2.4%

The types of services that respondents stated that they have received in the past three years or are currently needed are reflected in the Services chart. In Hunterdon 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	48	58.5%
Emergency food or meal assistance	29	35.4%
Housing	24	29.3%
Need		
Housing	19	23.2%
Transportation	12	14.6%
Emergency food or meal assistance	10	12.2%

## **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	11	13.4%
City/County Jail	21	25.6%
Juvenile Detention Center	0	0%
Inpatient Care	#	%
Hospitalized (Medical)	3	3.7%
State Inpatient Mental Health	2	2.4%
City/County Inpatient Mental Health	1	1.2%

# **Last Permanent Address**

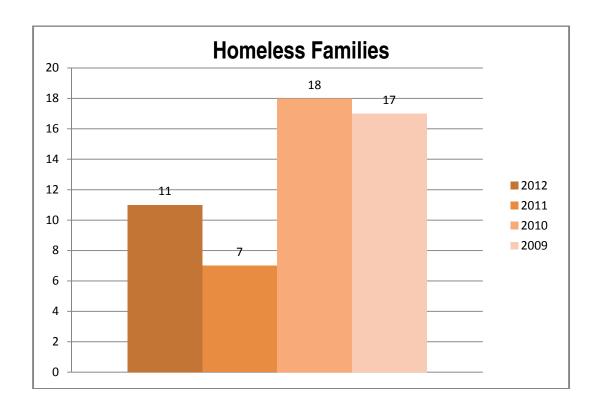
In the 2012 count, 68.3% (n=56) of the homeless respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. In looking at the surround states, 7.3% (n=6) last lived in Pennsylvania, 1.2% (n=1) last lived in New York.

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

Town	#	%
Flemington	11	13.4%
Whitehouse	6	7.3%
Lebanon	4	4.9%
Milford	4	4.9%

### **FAMILY HOMELESSNESS**

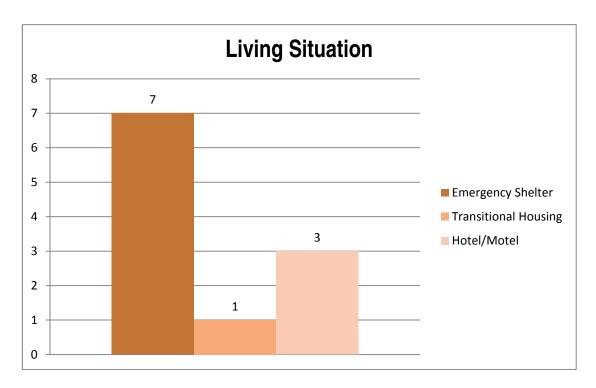
In 2012, of the 82 homeless respondents in Hunterdon County, 11 or 13.4% had at least one dependent child under 18 with them the night of the count and is considered a homeless family. Of the total of 19 homeless children in these families, 10 were six years or younger and 9 were between the ages of 7 and 17.



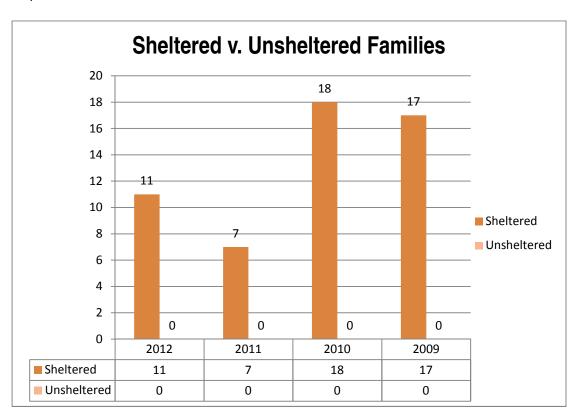
### **Living Situation**

In Hunterdon County, no homeless family was in an unsheltered living situation on the night of the count.

All of the homeless families were in sheltered living situations that included emergency shelter and transitional housing. The largest percentage (63.7%) of homeless families were residing in emergency shelter on the night of the 2012 count.



As the chart below shows, homeless families in Hunterdon County have only been in sheltered living situations over the past four counts.



# **Length of Homelessness**

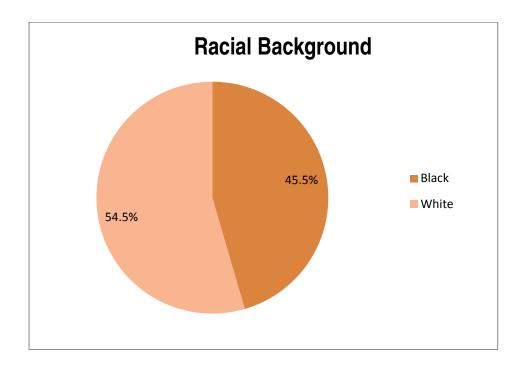
The largest percentage (45.5%) of homeless families had been homeless three (3) to six (6) months. This differs from the total homeless population overall where the highest percentage was homeless more than one year.

2012 Length of Homelessness	#	%
8 days - 1 month	1	9.1%
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	2	18.2%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	5	45.5%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	2	18.2%
More than 1 year	1	9.1%

## **Demographics**

Of the total 11 homeless families in Hunterdon County, 100% (n= 11) were female 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 White (54.5%). The only other race identified was Black at 45.4%. A total of 1.9% (n=1) defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

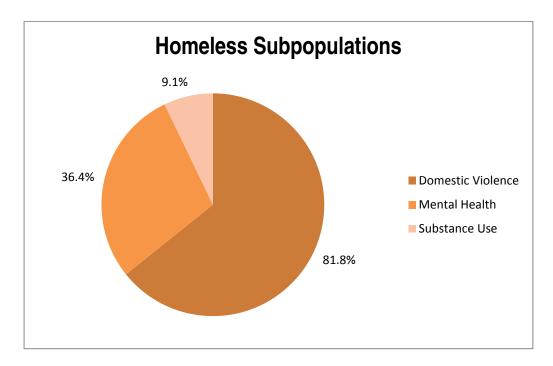


The largest percentage of homeless families in Hunterdon County had a head of household that fell within the 25 to 29 year old age range closely followed by those 30 to 39 years of age.

2012 Age	#	%
18-20	1	9.1%
21-24	1	9.1%
25-29	4	36.4%
30-39	3	27.3%
40-49	0	0.0%
50-59	1	9.1%
No response	1	9.1%

## **Homeless Family Subpopulations**

Among the HUD homeless subpopulations in the 2012 count, in Hunterdon County the largest HUD subpopulation among homeless families was 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.



# **Financial Resources and Income**

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

- Wages (36.4%);
- Food Stamps (36.4%); and
- Welfare (18.2%)

There was only one (1) family that stated they did not receive some type of government benefit. In looking at yearly income, the majority of the homeless families were earning less than \$15,000 a year.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income	2	18.2%
\$1.00-\$4,999	1	9.1%
\$5,000- \$9,999	1	9.1%
\$10,000-\$14,999	3	27.3%
\$15,000- \$19,999	0	0.0%
\$20,000-\$24,999	1	9.1%
\$25,000- \$29,999	0	0.0%
\$30,000- \$34,999	1	9.1%
\$35,000- \$39,000	0	0.0%
\$40,000- \$44,999	1	9.1%
No Response	1	9.1%

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

The highest ranking factor that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Hunterdon County was domestic violence. Other top ranking factors included relationship breakdown and eviction.

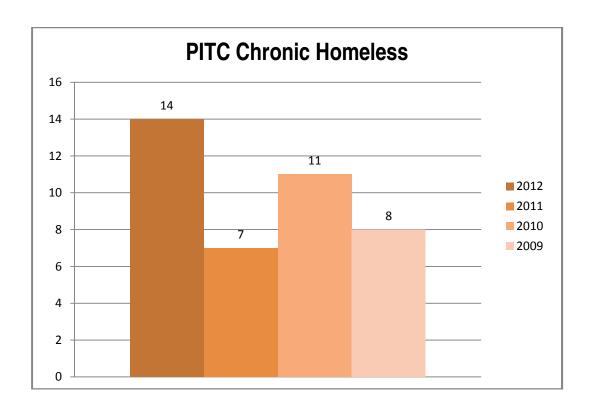
Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Domestic violence	54.4%
Relationship/family breakup/death	45.5%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	36.4%
Have work but wages are too low	27.3%
Loss of child support	18.2%

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

- Housing (72.7%);
- Medical (36.4%); and
- Dental (36.4%)

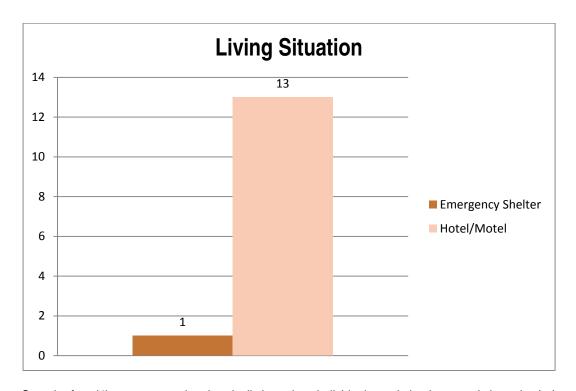
# **CHRONICALLY HOMELESS**

On the night of January 25, 2012, there were 14 chronically homeless individuals counted in Hunterdon County equaling 17.0% of the total homeless population. The number of chronically homeless in Hunterdon County fluctuated over the past four (4) count years but saw a large increase from 2011 to 2012 (50%).

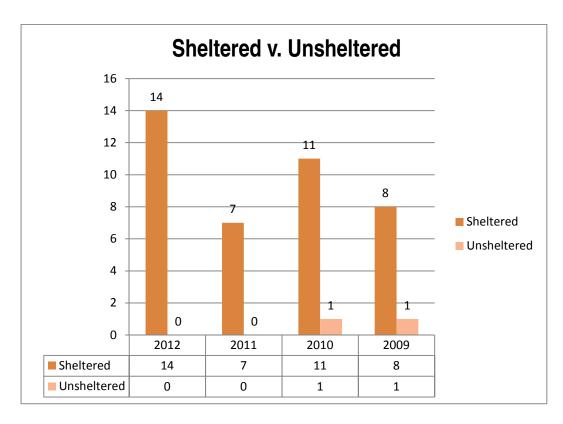


## **Living Situation**

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. Almost all (92.8%) of the chronically homeless individual population was residing in hotel/motel placement as emergency shelter on the night of the count.



Over the four (4) count years, the chronically homeless individual population has mostly been in sheltered living situations with 2009 and 2010 being the only years that had one chronically homeless individual that was unsheltered.



## **Length of Homelessness**

Of the total chronically homeless individuals in Hunterdon County, 71.4% (n= 10) reported they had been homeless for more than one year. Also, a total of 64.3% (n= 9) reported they had four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

2012 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	1	7.1%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	1	7.1%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	1	7.1%
More than 1 year	10	71.4%
No response	1	7.1%

### **Demographics**

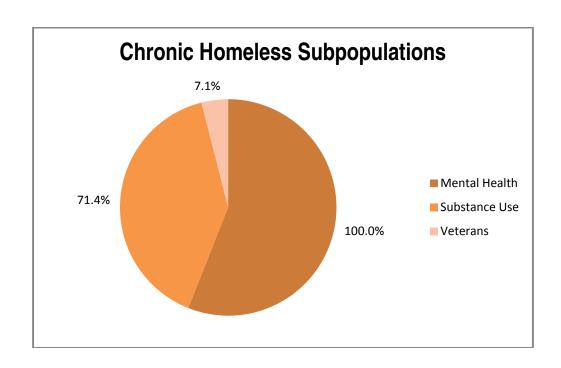
In 2012, a total of 12 or 85.7% of the chronically homeless individual population were male and 2 or 14.3% were female. All of the respondents defined themselves as White (100%). A total of 7.1% (n=1) defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

As the Age chart shows, on the night of the 2012 count in Hunterdon County, the largest percentage of chronically homeless individuals fell into the 50 to 59 year old age range (35.7%). This age group was most closely followed by those between the ages of 40 and 49 years.

2012 Age	#	%
21-24	1	7.1%
25-29	2	14.3%
40-49	3	21.4%
50-59	5	35.7%
60-64	2	14.3%
No response	1	7.1%

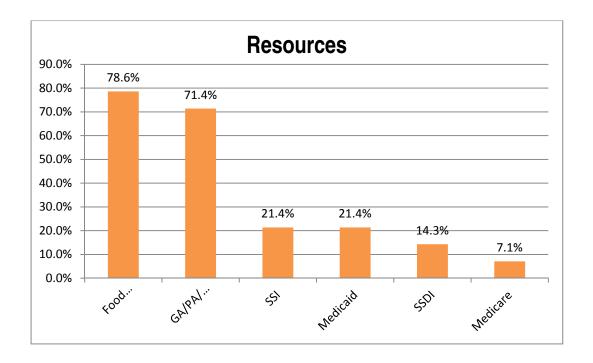
### **Chronic Homeless Subpopulations**

The Chronic Homeless Subpopulations chart outlines the breakdown of the chronic homeless individual HUD subpopulations for the 2012 count. As shown in the chart, 100% of the chronic homeless individuals reported they had mental health issues and 71.4% reported having substance use issues.



# **Financial Resources**

The three main sources of income reported by the chronically homeless population in Hunterdon County on the night of the 2012 count were Food Stamps (78.6%), Welfare (71.4%) and SSI (21.4%). None of the homeless population reported receiving any type of government benefit on the night of the count.



As reflected in the Income chart below, the largest percentage (64.3%) of chronically individuals were reporting having income less than \$5,000. As with the total homeless population, the all had a projected yearly income of less than \$15,000.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
\$1.00-\$4,999	9	64.3%
\$5,000- \$9,999	2	14.3%
\$10,000-\$14,999	3	21.4%

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

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

2012 Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Mental illness/emotional problems	78.6%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	57.1%
Incarceration	50.0%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	21.4%
Lost job/cannot find work	21.4%
Relationship/family breakup/death	14.3%
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	7.1%

The types of services that respondents stated that they have received in the past three years or are currently needed are reflected in the Service chart below. In Hunterdon 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	13	92.9%
Emergency food or meal assistance	7	50.0%
Housing	7	50.0%
Need		
Housing	1	7.1%

# **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 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	3	21.4%
City/County Jail	8	57.1%
Juvenile Detention Center	0	0%
Inpatient Care	#	%
Hospitalized (Medical)	0	0%
State Inpatient Mental Health	0	0%
City/County Inpatient Mental Health	1	7.1%

# **Last Permanent Address**

In the 2012 count, 71.4% (n=10) of the chronically homeless individual respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. In looking at the surround states, 7.1% (n=1) 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 only town with a significant number was Whitehouse.

Town	#	%
Whitehouse	4	28.6%
Flemington	2	14.3%
Lebanon	2	14.3%

### **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 Hunterdon County, there was only one (1) family that met the chronic homeless definition and could be considered a chronically homeless family. This is only 1.2% of the total homeless population and 9.0% of the total family homeless population. This family had a total of four (4) children with them on the night of the count.

Adding the families to the individuals gives Hunterdon County a total chronically homeless population of 19 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 between three to six months and had four (4) episodes of homeless over the past three (3) years (since January 25, 2009).

### **Demographics**

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

#### **Chronic Homeless Family Subpopulations**

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

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

The source of income reported by the chronically homeless family was unemployment and their estimated yearly income was between \$10,000 and \$15,000 a year.

## **Contributing Factors to Homelessness**

The main contributing factors to homelessness as reported by the chronically homeless family were domestic violence and economics.