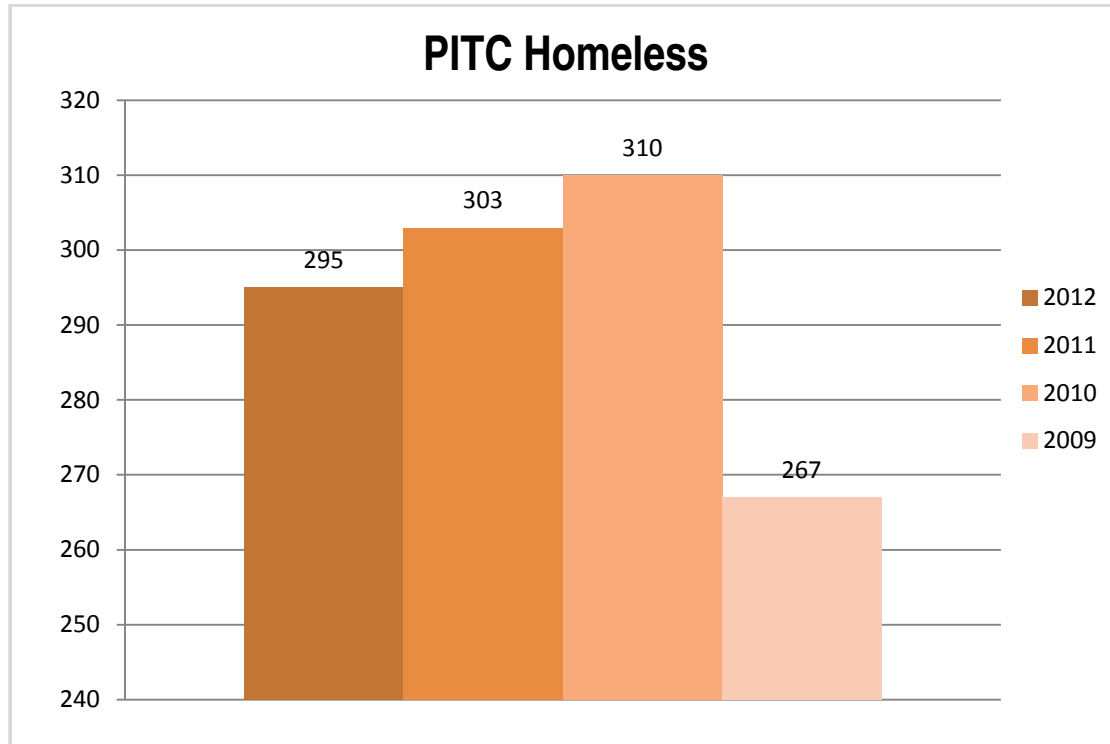


SOMERSET COUNTY

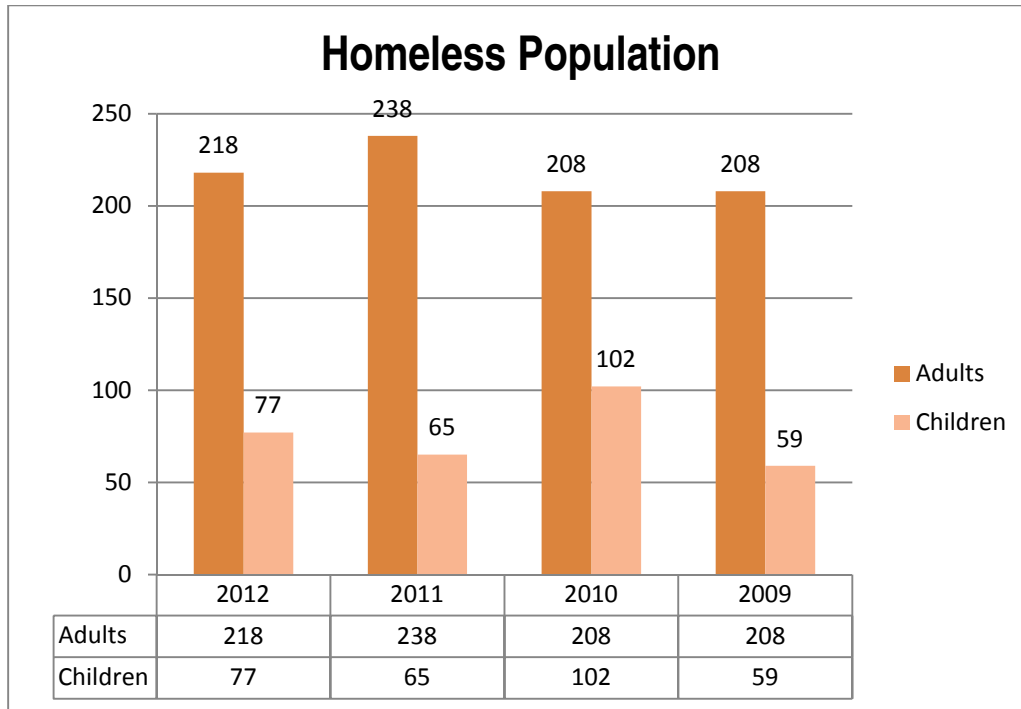
On January 25, 2012 there were 295 homeless men, women and children counted in Somerset County according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations.



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, 717 adults and children are homeless in Somerset County.*

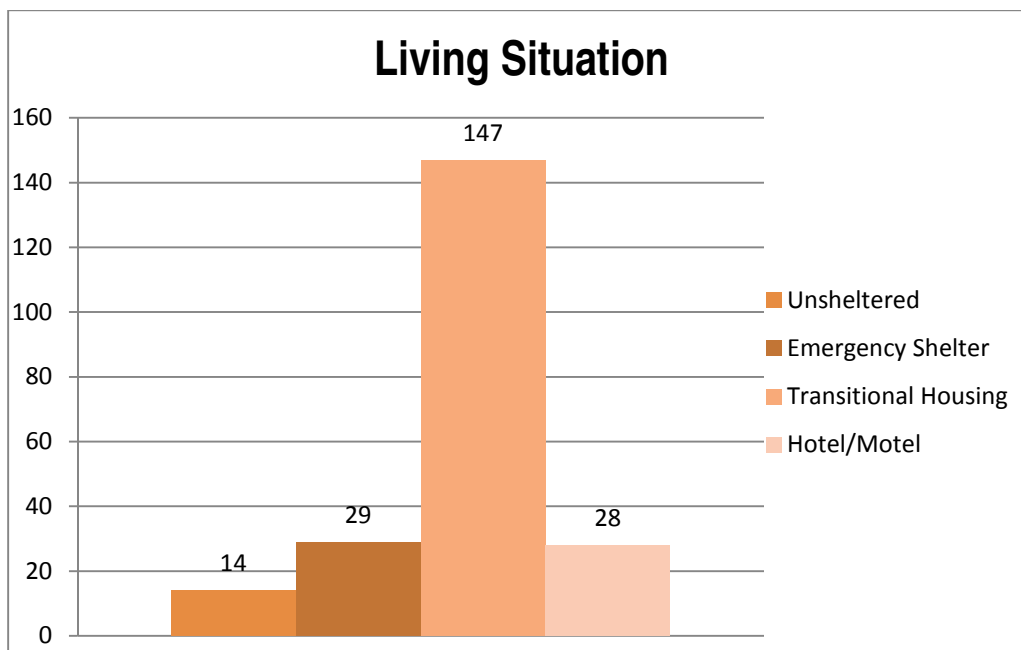
After a sharp increase of homeless in 2012, homelessness in Somerset Count has been on the decline reaching the lowest numbers in this count year. Of the 295 people who were homeless on the night of the count 77 of them were children. As the Homeless Population chart shows, since 2010, the number of adults and children who were homeless has fluctuated over time even though since 2012 the total number of homeless has been on the decline.

2012 Homeless Breakdown	
Respondents (Adults)	218
Family Members (Children)	77
Total Homeless	295



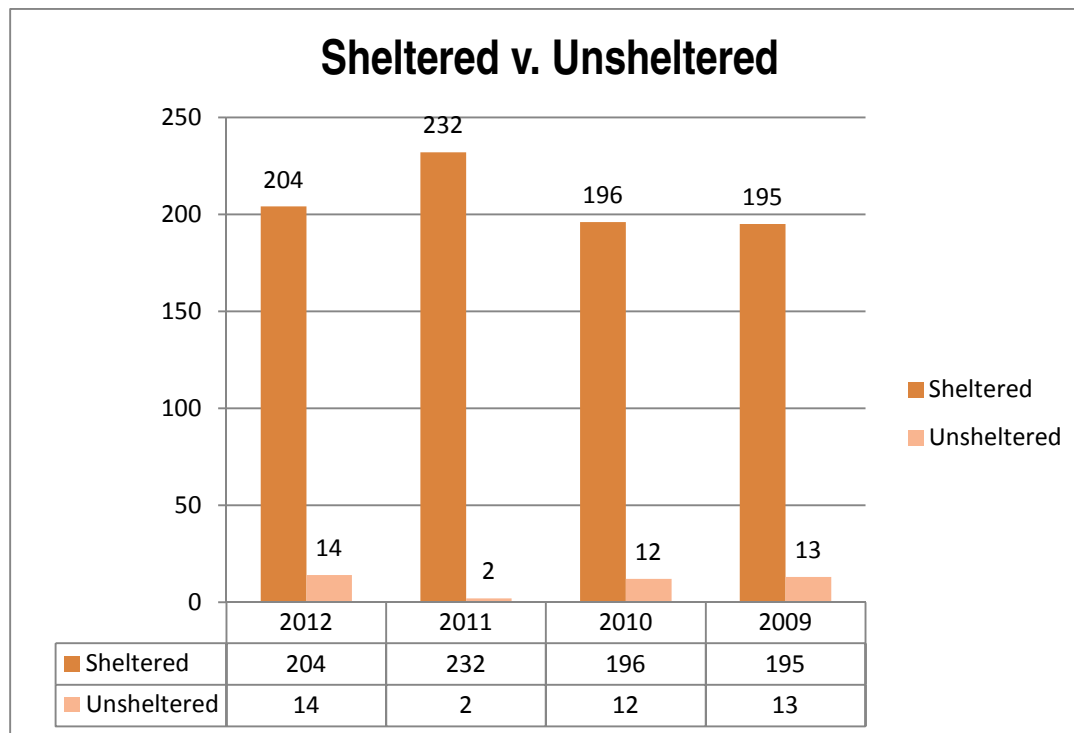
Living Situation

As reflected in the Living Situation chart below, 14 or 6.4% 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 transitional housing (n=147, 67.4%).



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

Outside of 2011, the number of unsheltered homeless has been fairly stable in Somerset County. This was also the case for the sheltered homeless as reflected in the chart below.



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.

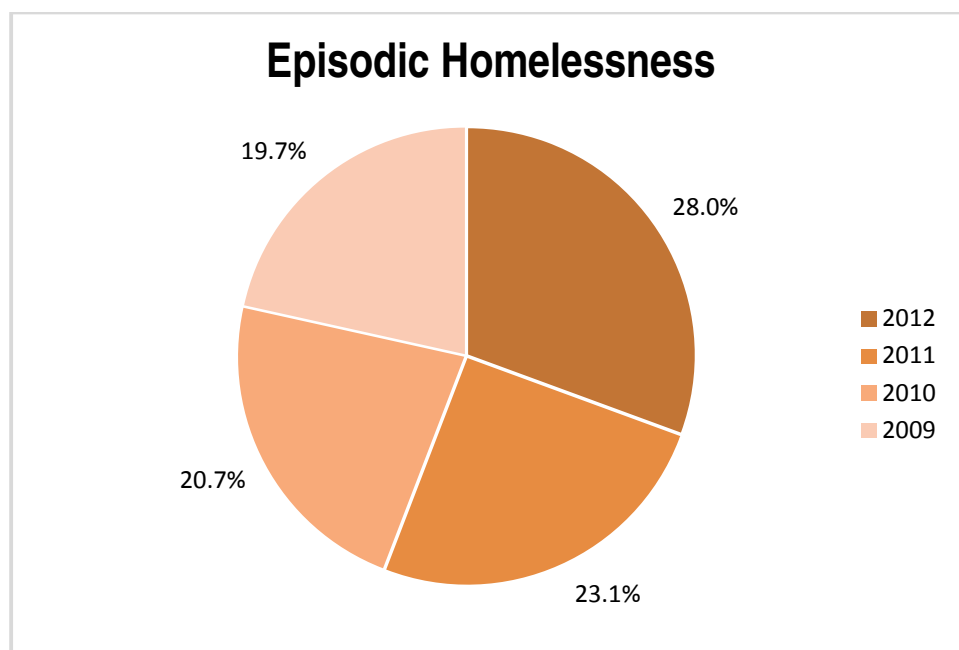
In Somerset County, there were a total of 19 adults in emergency shelter in HMIS on the night of the count and there were 92 in transitional housing in HMIS on the night of the count. These numbers are lower than what was recorded as part of the count. On the night of the count 21 respondents stated that they would be in emergency shelter and 147 reported residing in transitional housing.

Length and Episodes of Homelessness

Of the homeless population surveyed in Somerset County, 88 or 40.4% responded that they have been homeless for more than one year. Of those who were homeless less than one year, 24.8% reported that they had been homeless at least one other time within the past 12 months.

2012 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day - 1 week	11	5.0%
8 days - 1 month	16	7.3%
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	29	13.3%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	34	15.6%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	33	15.1%
More than 1 year	88	40.4%
No response	7	3.2%

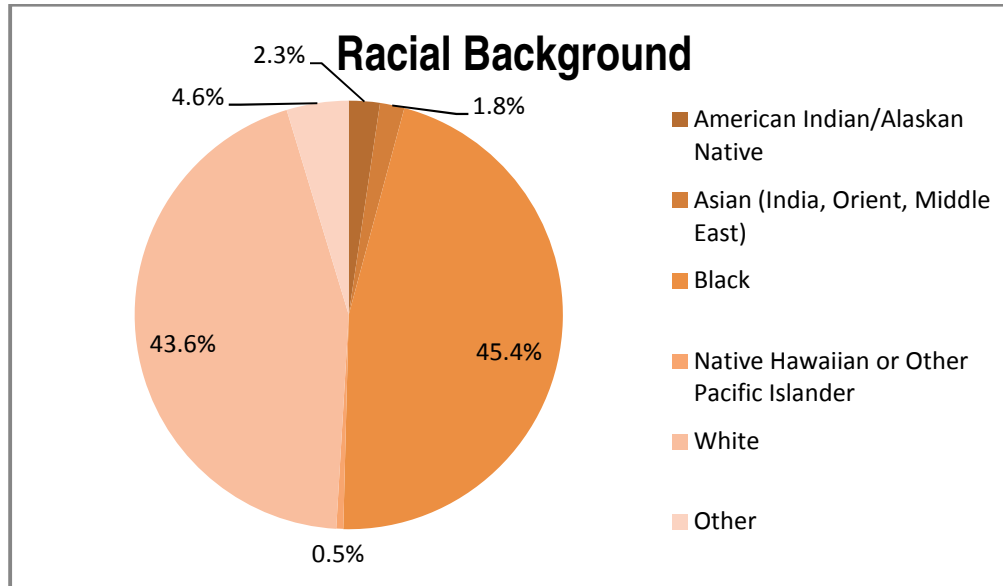
As reflected in the chart below, a total of 61 or 28% of the total homeless population reported having at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. This percentage has been consistently on the rise over the past four count years reaching the highest percentage in the 2012 count year.



Demographics

In 2012, of the total homeless population in Somerset County, 123 people or 56.4% were male, 95 or 43.6% were female.

The Racial Background chart below outlines the racial breakdown of homeless persons in the 2012 count. The largest majority were Black (45.4%) closely followed by White (43.6%). The total percentage of the homeless population that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 12.8%.

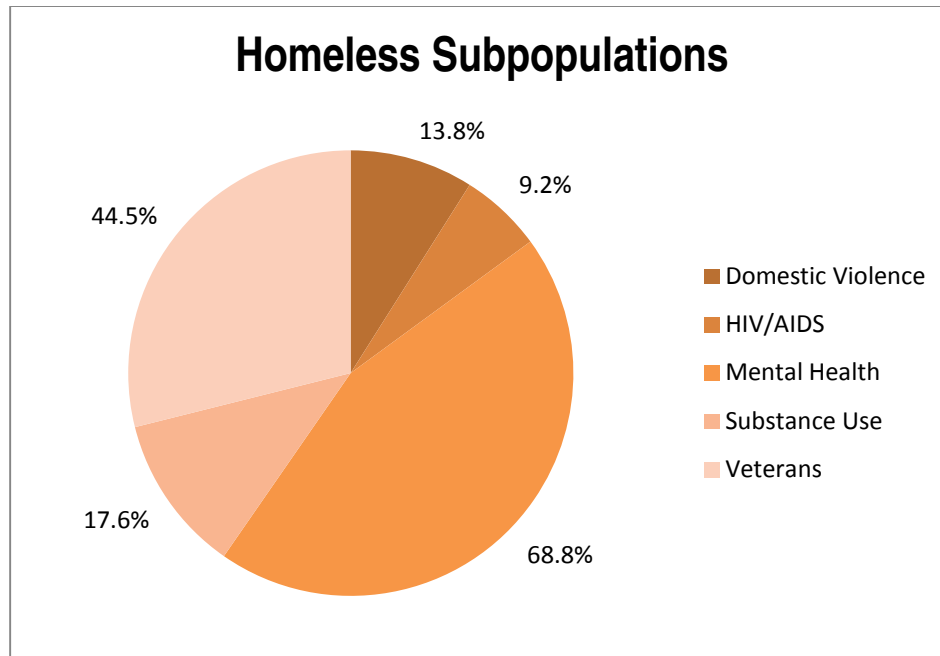


The largest percentage of homeless in Somerset County fell within the 50 to 59 year old age range, totaling 27.5%, followed by those within the 30 to 49 year old age range with 12.4% of the population each.

2012 Age	#	%
Under 18	8	3.7%
18-20	26	11.9%
21-24	24	11.0%
25-29	20	9.2%
30-39	27	12.4%
40-49	27	12.4%
50-59	60	27.5%
60-64	13	6.0%
65+	3	1.4%
No response	10	4.6%

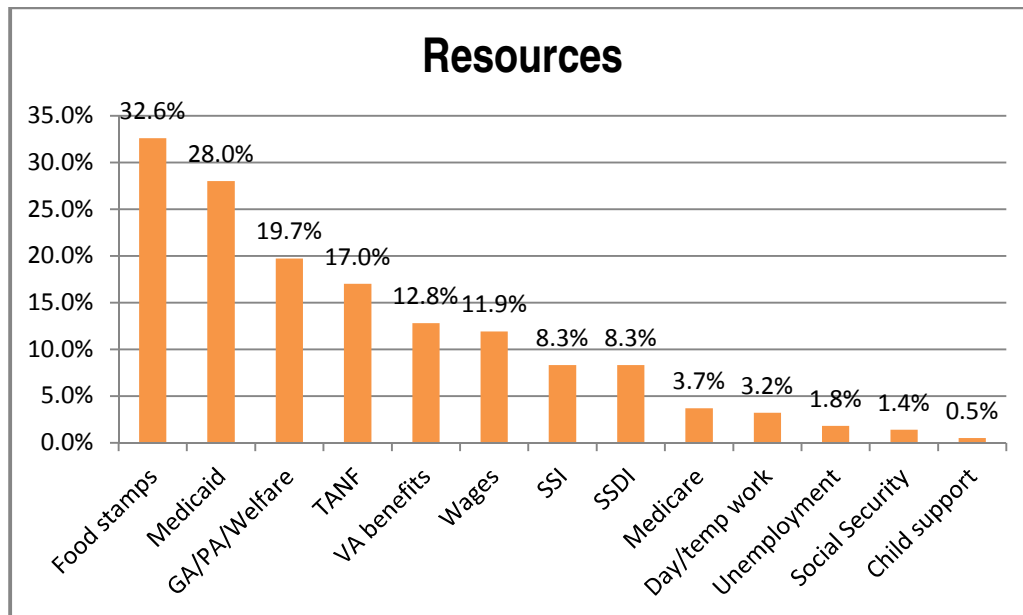
Homeless Subpopulations

The chart below outlines the breakdown of the homeless subpopulations in Somerset County for the 2012 count. Overwhelmingly, the largest subpopulation was the homeless who had mental health issues (68.8%). The number of homeless who reported serving in the US military equaled 44.5% (n=97).



Financial Resources and Income

The three main sources of income reported by people who were homeless in Somerset County on the night of the 2012 count were Food Stamps (32.6%), Medicaid (28%) and Welfare (19.7%). 2.3% of the homeless population reported receiving no form 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 Somerset County, the largest percentage of respondents stated that they had an estimated income of less than \$5,000.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income	60	27.5%
\$1.00-\$4,999	70	32.1%
\$5,000- \$9,999	35	16.1%
\$10,000-\$14,999	18	8.3%
\$15,000- \$19,999	12	5.5%
\$20,000-\$24,999	7	3.2%
\$25,000- \$29,999	1	0.5%
\$30,000- \$34,999	2	0.9%
\$35,000- \$39,000	2	0.9%
No Response	11	5.0%

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness

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

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Relationship/family breakup/death	34.9%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	33.9%
Lost job/cannot find work	31.2%
Mental illness/emotional problems	28.9%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	17.4%
Domestic violence	14.2%
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	13.8%
Have work but wages are too low	11.9%
Housing costs too high	11.5%
Incarceration	8.7%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	8.3%
Utility costs too high	7.3%
Foreclosure or at risk of Foreclosure	3.2%
Loss of child support	2.3%
Natural disaster	2.3%
House condemned	0.9%

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

2012 Service Needs	#	%
<i>Received</i>		
Emergency shelter	129	59.2%
Housing	113	51.8%
Medical (routine healthcare)	96	44.0%

<i>Need</i>		
Housing	101	46.3%
Employment assistance	61	28.0%
Transportation	59	27.1%

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

Discharged Into Homelessness (Past Three Years)		
<i>Corrections</i>	#	%
State Prison	10	4.6%
City/County Jail	17	7.8%
Juvenile Detention Center	1	0.5%
<i>Inpatient Care</i>	#	%
Hospitalized (Medical)	14	6.4%
State Inpatient Mental Health	5	2.3%
City/County Inpatient Mental Health	9	4.1%
Substance Abuse Treatment	8	3.7%

Last Permanent Address

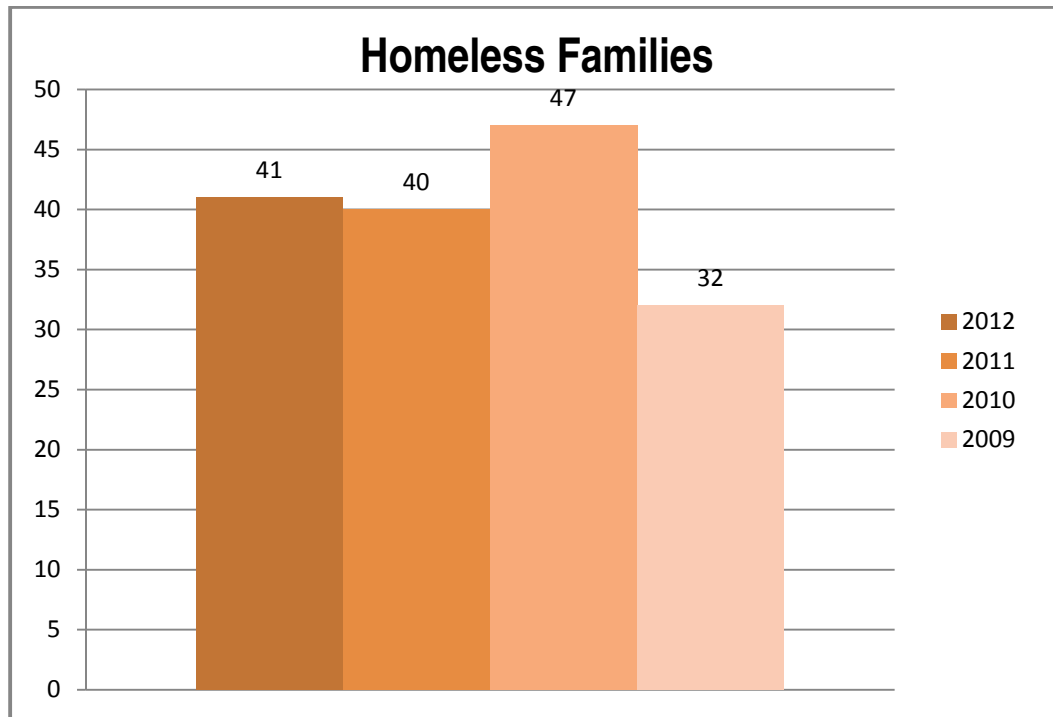
In the 2012 count, 90.4% (n=197) of the homeless respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. In looking at the surround states, 2.8% (n=6) last lived in New York, 0.9% (n=2) last lived in Pennsylvania.

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 the City of Newark in Essex County.

Town	#	%
Newark (Essex County)	25	11.5%
Somerville	18	8.3%
North Plainfield	12	5.5%
Somerset	12	5.5%

FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

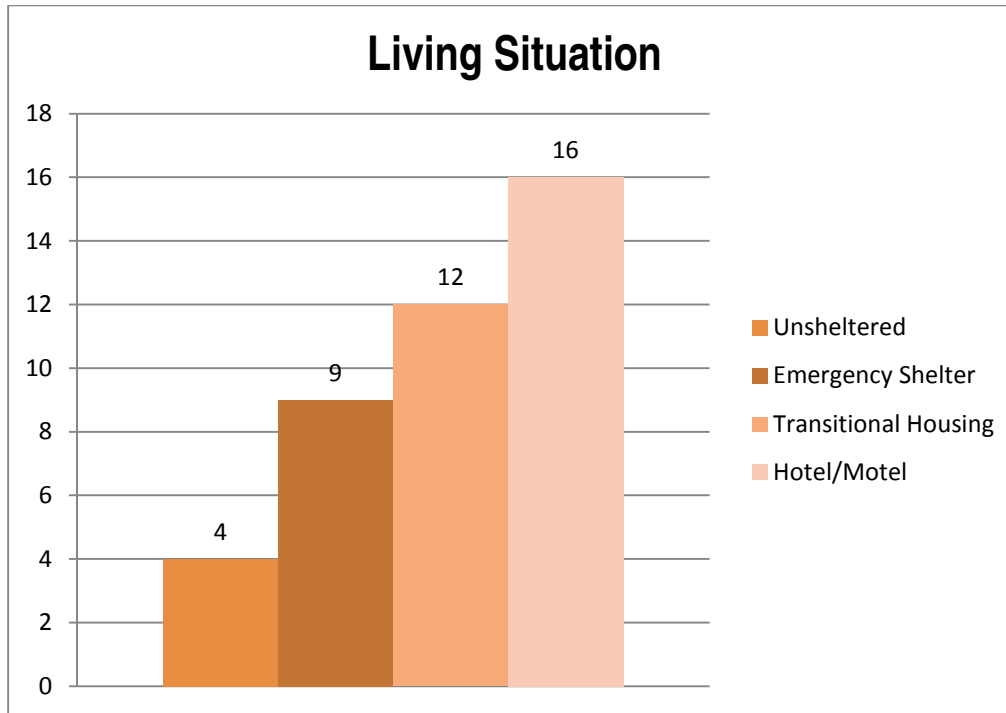
In 2012, of the 218 homeless respondents in Somerset County, 41 or 18.8% had at least one dependent child under 18 with them the night of the count and is considered a homeless family. Of the total of 77 homeless children in these families, 47 were six years or younger and 30 were between the ages of 7 and 17.



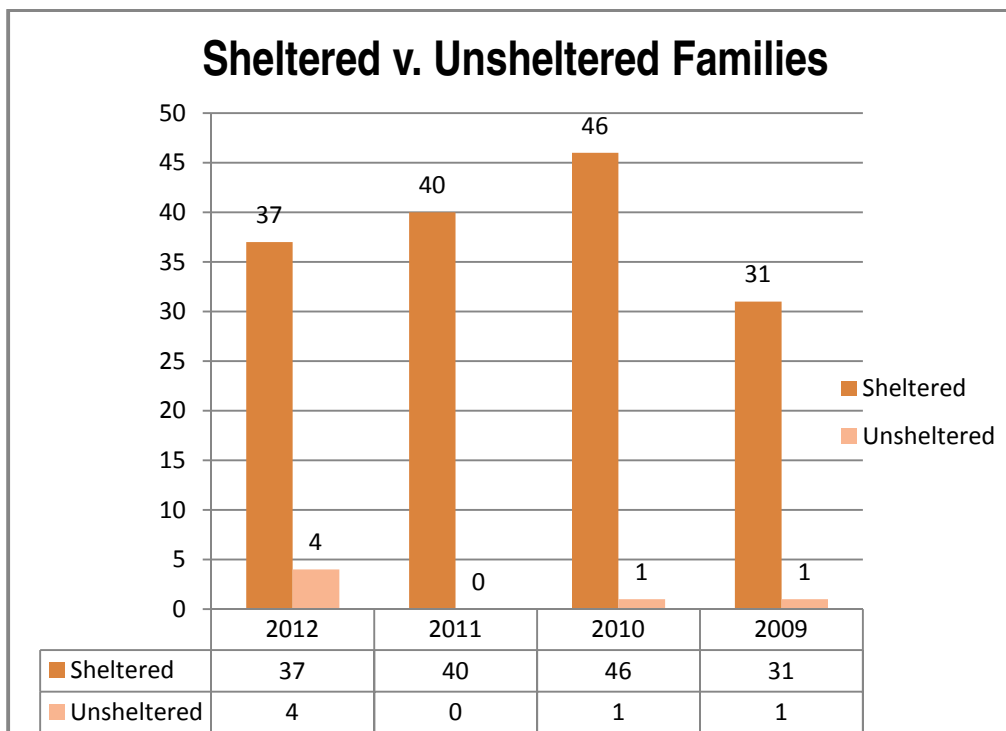
Living Situation

In Somerset County, four (4) homeless families were in an unsheltered living situation on the night of the count. These unsheltered homeless families had a total of nine (9) children with them on the night of the count.

The remaining 37 homeless families were in sheltered living situations that included emergency shelter and transitional housing. The largest percentage (39%) of homeless families were residing in a hotel/motel placement as emergency shelter on the night of the 2012 count as reflected in the Living Situation chart.



As the chart below shows, homeless families in Somerset County have mainly been in sheltered living situations over the past four counts with the highest number in this 2012 count year.



Length of Homelessness

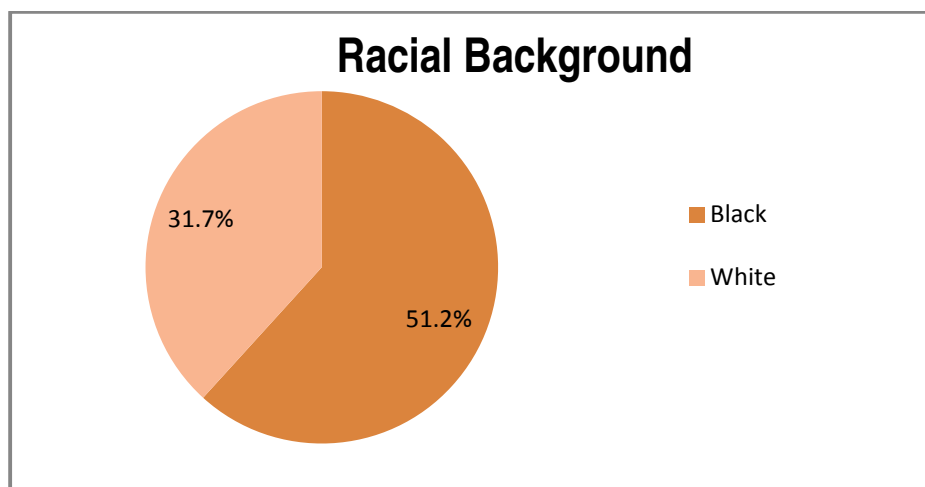
The largest percentage (29.3%) of homeless families had been homeless one (1) to three (3) months. This differs from the total homeless population overall where the highest percentage were homeless more than one year.

2012 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day - 1 week	1	2.4%
8 days - 1 month	4	9.8%
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	12	29.3%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	9	22.0%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	8	19.5%
More than 1 year	6	14.6%
No response	1	2.4%

Demographics

Of the total 41 homeless families in Somerset County, 92.7% (n= 38) were female headed households and 7.3% (n=3) 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 (51.2%). The other group was those that defined themselves as White at 31.7%. 19.5% (n=8) defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

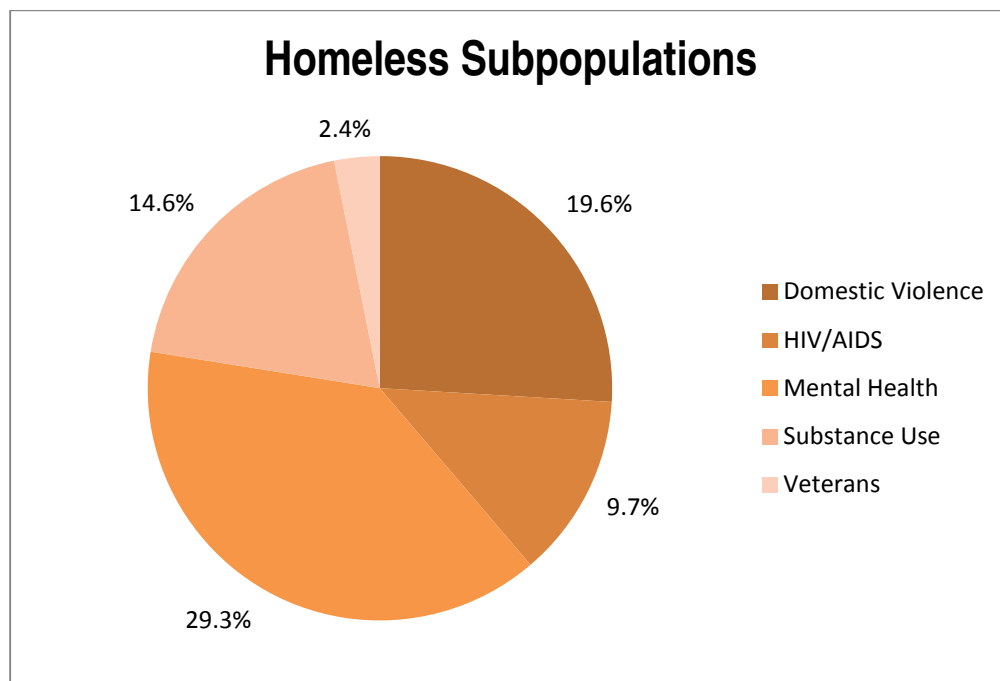


The largest percentage of homeless families in Somerset County had a head of household that fell within the 21 to 24 year old age range. This is much younger than the total homeless population in the County.

2012 Age	#	%
18-20	3	7.3%
21-24	15	36.6%
25-29	9	22.0%
30-39	9	22.0%
40-49	2	4.9%
50-59	2	4.9%
No response	1	2.4%

Homeless Family Subpopulations

Among the HUD homeless subpopulations in the 2012 count, in Somerset 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 Somerset County on the night of the 2012 count were:

- TANF (87.8%);
- Food Stamps (63.4%); and
- Medicaid (53.7%)

All of the families reported receiving some type of government benefit. In looking at yearly income, the majority of the homeless families had an estimated income of less than \$10,000 a year.

2012 Yearly Income	#	%
No Income	3	7.3%
\$1.00-\$4,999	13	31.7%
\$5,000- \$9,999	18	43.9%
\$10,000-\$14,999	2	4.9%
\$15,000- \$19,999	1	2.4%
\$20,000-\$24,999	1	2.4%
No Response	3	7.3%

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness

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

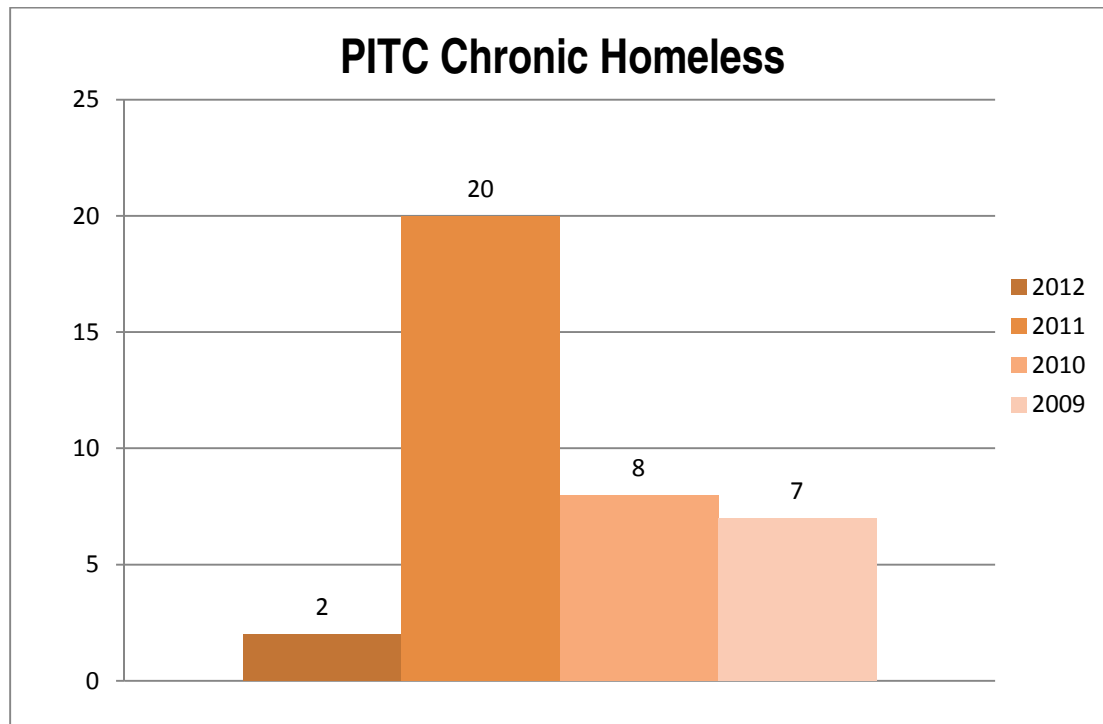
Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Relationship/family breakup/death	46.3%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	36.6%
Lost job/cannot find work	31.7%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	24.4%
Domestic violence	24.4%

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

- Housing (58.5%);
- Employment assistance (31.7%); and
- Educational training (31.7%)

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

On the night of January 25, 2012, there were two (2) chronically homeless individuals counted in Somerset County equaling 0.9% of the total homeless population. The number of chronically homeless in Somerset County saw a large spike in 2011 but then saw an even larger decrease to the current count year (90.0%).



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 two chronically homeless individuals that were counted were both in unsheltered living situations on the night of the 2012 count.

Length of Homelessness

Of the chronically homeless individuals in Somerset County, one reported being homeless from six (6) to twelve (12) months and the other reported being homeless for more than one year. Also, they both reported they had four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

Demographics

In 2012, the total chronically homeless individual population was male. One defined their race as Black and the other fell under the "Other" category. Both individuals were of different ages with one being between 50 and 59 years old and the other between 25 and 29 years old.

Chronic Homeless Subpopulations

Both of the chronically homeless individuals reported being a part of the following HUD subpopulations:

- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- HIV/AIDS

Also, they both reported that they were veterans.

Financial Resources

The two chronically homeless individuals reported having no gross income on the night of the count however, one did report receiving VA benefits and one reported receiving Food Stamps.

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness

All of the services listed as part of the 2012 survey were reported to be needed by at least one of the two chronically homeless individuals. This includes emergency food and shelter, medical, dental, legal and other support services. There were also many factors that were reported as causing their current homelessness including loss of a job/inability to find work, substance abuse problems, mental health issues and relationship breakdown.

Discharge from Mainstream Institutions

One of the chronically homeless individuals reported being discharged into homelessness from City/County jail within the past three years.

Last Permanent Address

Although still in New Jersey, both chronically homeless respondents reported having their last permanent address outside of Somerset County.

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS FAMILIES

In 2012, Somerset County counted no one that met the chronically homeless family definition.