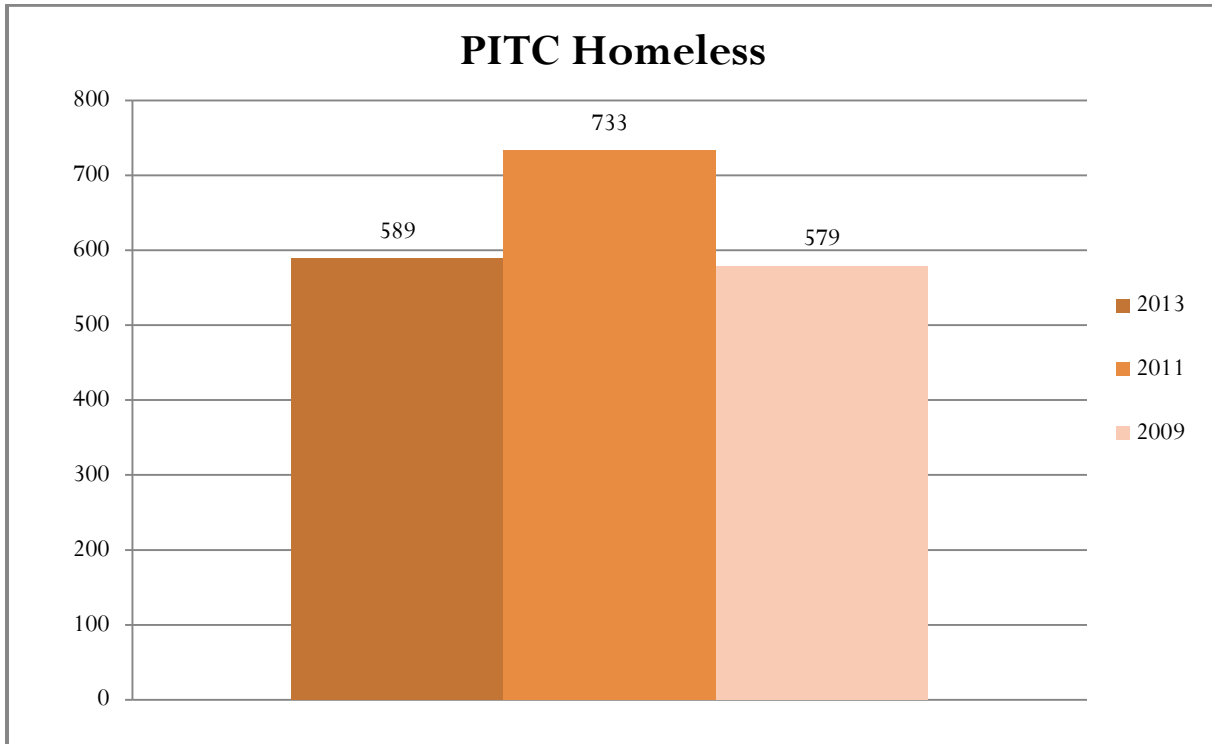# CAMDEN COUNTY

On January 30, 2013 there were 589 homeless men, women and children counted in Camden County according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations. Homelessness in Camden County has fluctuated over the last three full HUD count years with the highest levels being seen in 2011.
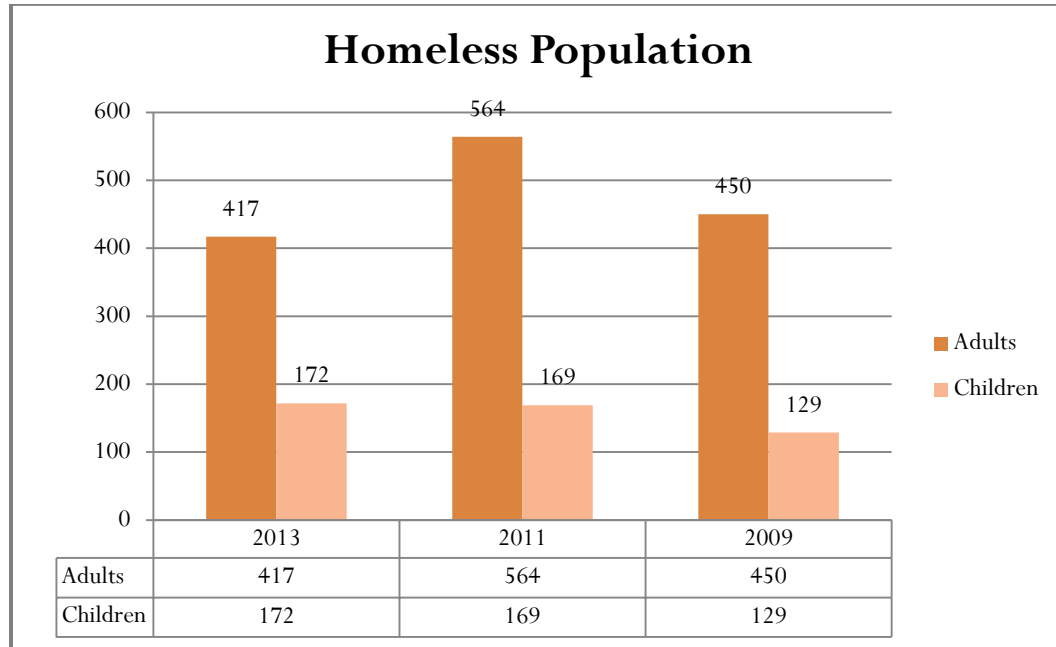
PITC Homeless

The actual number of people who are homeless over the course of the year may be between two and 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, 1922 adults and children are homeless in Camden County*.

Of the 589 people who were homeless on the night of the count 172 of them were children as reflected in the chart below.
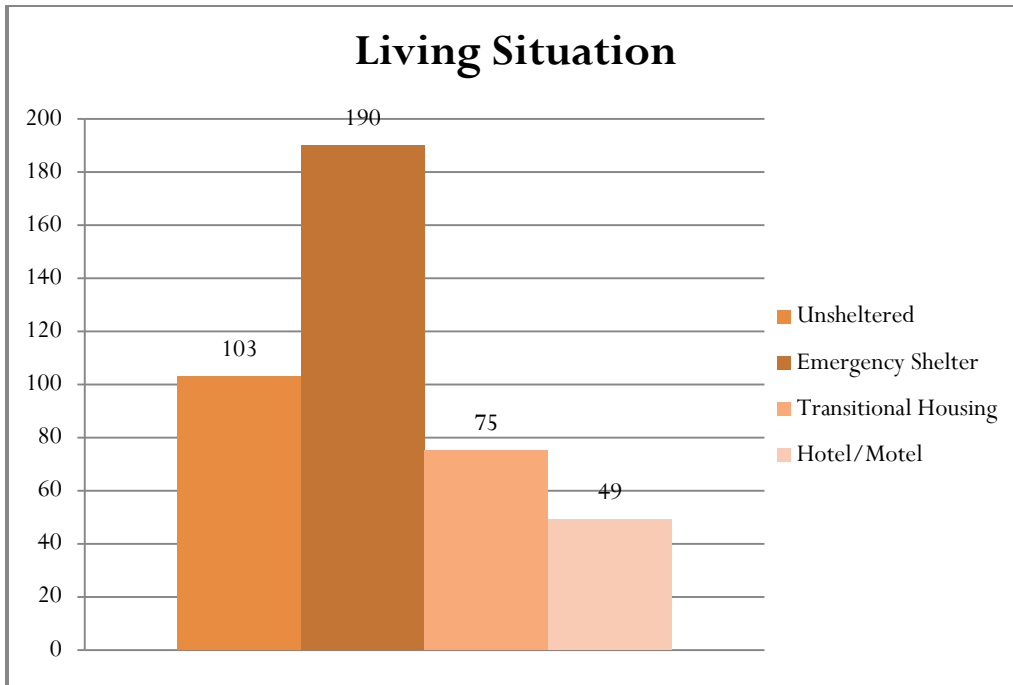
2013 Homeless Breakdown	
Respondents (Adults)	417
Family Members (Children)	172
Total Homeless	**589**

As the chart shows, since 2011, the number of adults who were homeless has mirrored the total number of homeless. However, the number of children has been on the rise over the last three (3) full HUD count years. It has reached its highest level in the 2013 count with a total overall increase of 25.0%.

Homeless Population

	2013	2011	2009
Adults	417	564	450
Children	172	169	129

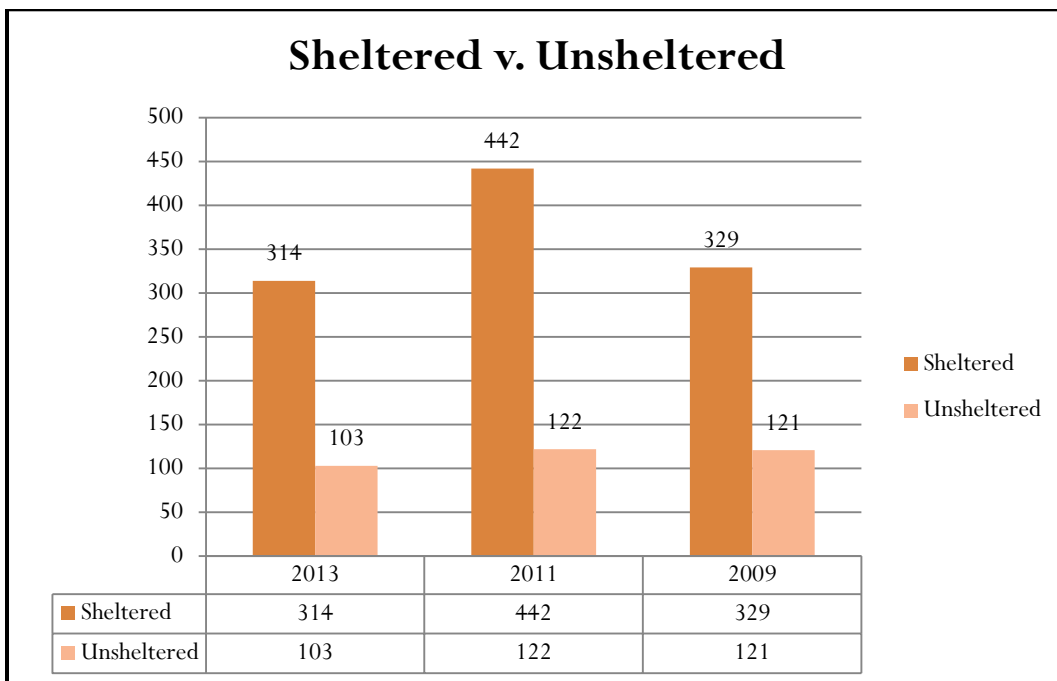## Living Situation

As reflected in the Living Situation chart below, 103 or 24.7% 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=190, 45.5%).

Living Situation

Category	Value
Unsheltered	103
Emergency Shelter	190
Transitional Housing	75
Hotel/Motel	49

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 seen a decline over the full HUD count years (15.5%). The number of sheltered homeless has followed the same fluctuation over the years as a majority of Camden's homeless has been in sheltered living situations.

Sheltered v. Unsheltered

	2013	2011	2009
Sheltered	314	442	329
Unsheltered	103	122	121

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

As HUD continually encourages CoCs to utilize HMIS to complete the sheltered count for a community, as part of this 2013 report, there is a comparison between what was reported in HMIS for emergency shelters and transitional housing for the night of the count with what was reported in the same categories for the PITC. The numbers from HMIS are based on those over the age of 17 years residing in emergency shelter or transitional housing on the night of the count.
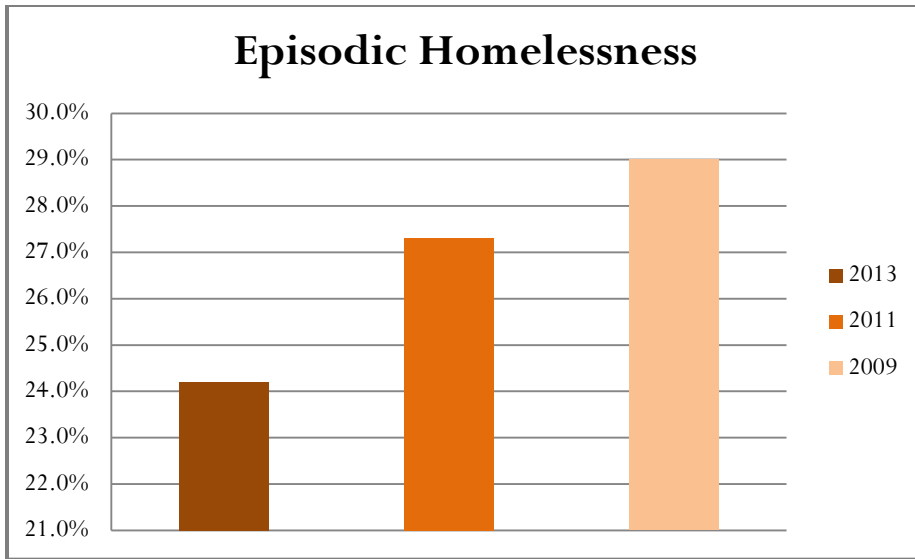
In Camden County, there were a total of 102 adults in emergency shelter and 202 adults in transitional housing in HMIS on the night of the count. These numbers differ greatly than what was recorded as part of the count. On the night of the count 190 respondents stated that they would be in emergency shelter and 75 reported residing in transitional housing.

Length and Episodes of Homelessness

Of the homeless population surveyed in Camden County, 126 or 30.2% responded that they have been homeless for more than one year. Of those who were homeless less than one year, 23.3% reported that they had been homeless at least one other time within the past 12 months.

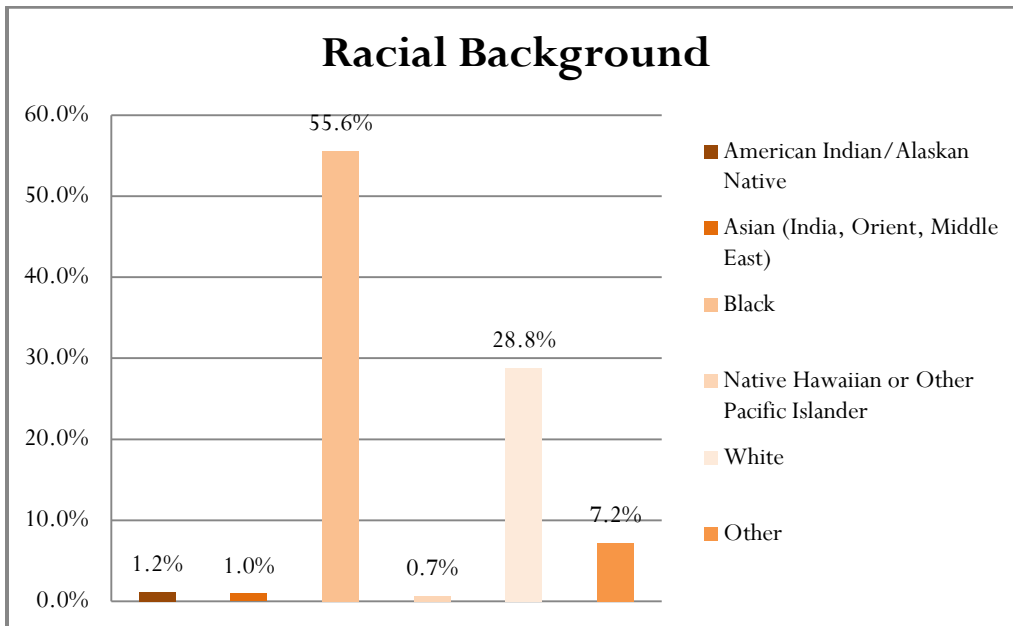| 2013 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day to 1 week	34	8.2%
8 days to 1 month	36	8.6%
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	51	12.2%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	91	21.8%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	74	17.7%
More than 1 year	**126**	**30.2%**

As reflected in the Episodic Homelessness chart below, a total of 101 or 24.2% of the total homeless population reported having at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. This number has been on the decline over the last three full HUD count years reaching its lowest in the 2013 count.

Episodic Homelessness

[Bar chart showing Episodic Homelessness percentages for three years. Y-axis ranges from 21.0% to 30.0%. 2013 bar at approximately 24.2%, 2011 bar at approximately 27.3%, 2009 bar at approximately 29.0%.]

Legend:
- 2013
- 2011
- 2009

Demographics

In 2013, of the total homeless population in Camden County, 251 people or 60.2% were male, 151 people or 36.2% were female.

The chart below outlines the racial breakdown of homeless persons in the 2013 count. The largest percentage was Black (55.6%) most closely followed by White (28.8%). The total percentage of the homeless population that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 15.3%.

Racial Background

[Bar chart showing Racial Background percentages. Y-axis ranges from 0.0% to 60.0%. Bars labeled: 1.2%, 1.0%, 55.6%, 0.7%, 28.8%, 7.2%.]

Legend:
- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Asian (India, Orient, Middle East)
- Black
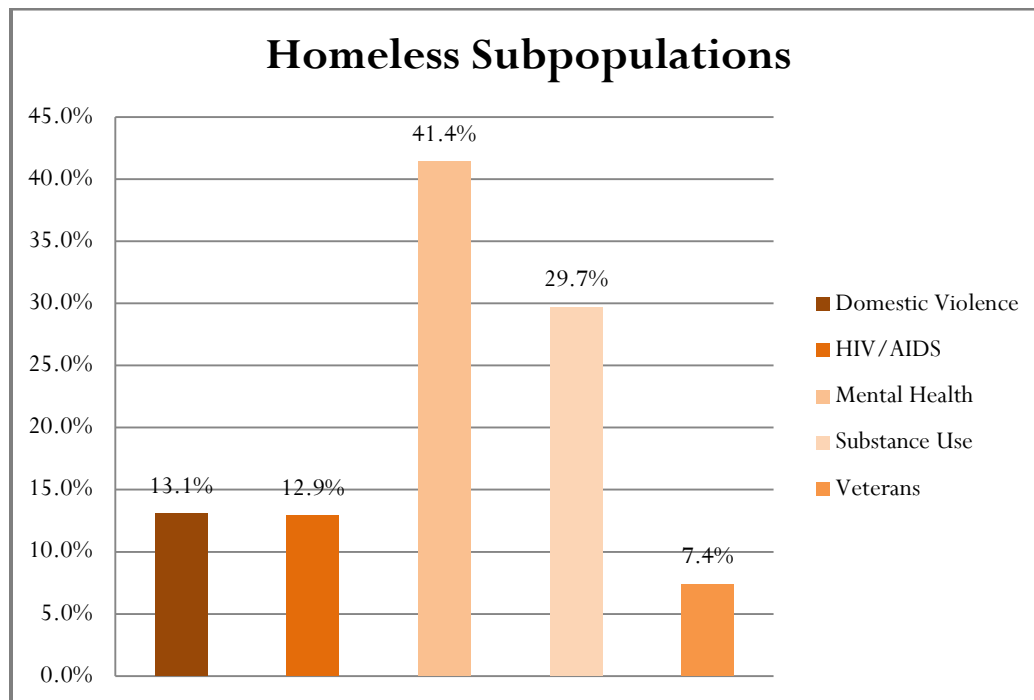- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other

The largest percentage of the homeless in Camden County fell within the 40 to 49 year old age range, totaling 25.7%. The next largest percentage was those within the 50 to 59 year old age range (22.3%).

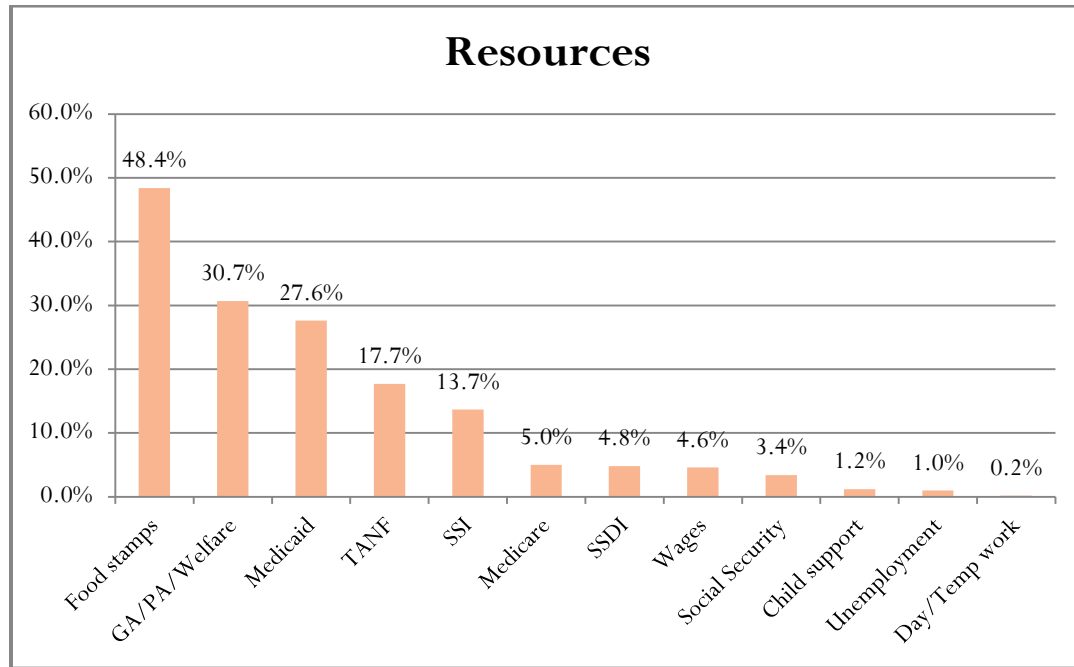| 2013 Age	#	%
Under 18	3	0.7%
18-21	38	9.1%
22-24	25	6.0%
25-29	30	7.2%
30-39	64	15.3%
40-49	**107**	**25.7%**
50-59	93	22.3%
60-64	12	2.9%
65 or older	7	1.7%

Homeless Subpopulations

The chart below outlines the breakdown of the homeless subpopulations in Camden County for the 2013 count. The largest subpopulation was those who had mental health issues totaling 41.4% followed by those with substance abuse issues equaling 29.7%. The number of veterans equaled 7.4% (n=31).

Financial Resources and Income

The three main sources of income reported by people who were homeless in Camden County on the night of the 2013 count were Food Stamps (48.4%), Welfare (30.7%) and Medicaid (27.6%).   A total of 4.1% of the homeless population reported receiving no form of government benefit on the night of the count.

Resources

Resource	Percent
Food stamps	48.4%
GA/PA/Welfare	30.7%
Medicaid	27.6%
TANF	17.7%
SSI	13.7%
Medicare	5.0%
SSDI	4.8%
Wages	4.6%
Social Security	3.4%
Child support	1.2%
Unemployment	1.0%
Day/Temp work	0.2%

As part of the 2013 count, homeless respondents were asked to report 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 with 28.3% reporting no income at all on the night of the count.

2013 Year Income	#	%
No Income	118	28.3%
$1.00– $4,999	**169**	**40.5%**
$5,000- $9,999	51	12.2%
$10,000- $14,999	8	1.9%
Over $15,000	2	0.4%

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The highest ranking factors that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness were relationship breakdown and loss of a job/inability to find work. Another top ranking factor included alcohol or drug abuse.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Relationship/family breakup or death	30.2%
Lost job/can't find work	29.7%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	27.1%
Housing costs are too high	22.5%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	21.6%
Mental illness/emotional problems	15.8%
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	14.9%
Utility costs are too high	14.1%
Domestic violence	12.5%
Incarceration	11.3%
Have work but wages are too low	9.8%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	8.9%
Foreclosure or at risk of Foreclosure	2.4%
House condemned	1.9%
Natural disaster	1.7%
Loss of child support	1.4%

The types of services that respondents stated they have received in the past three years or are currently needed are reflected in the chart below. In Camden County, the top service received was emergency shelter and the top service need was identified as housing.

2013 Service Needs	#	%
Received		
Emergency shelter	200	48.0%
Emergency food	157	37.6%
Housing	108	25.9%
Need	#	%
Housing	222	53.2%
Dental care	123	29.5%
Employment/ Transportation	106	25.4%

Discharge from Mainstream Institutions

As part of the 2013 survey, respondents were asked if they had been discharged into homelessness from certain mainstream institutions within the past three years (since January 30, 2010). The discharge information is based on the homeless population that responded to the survey and relies on self- report.

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

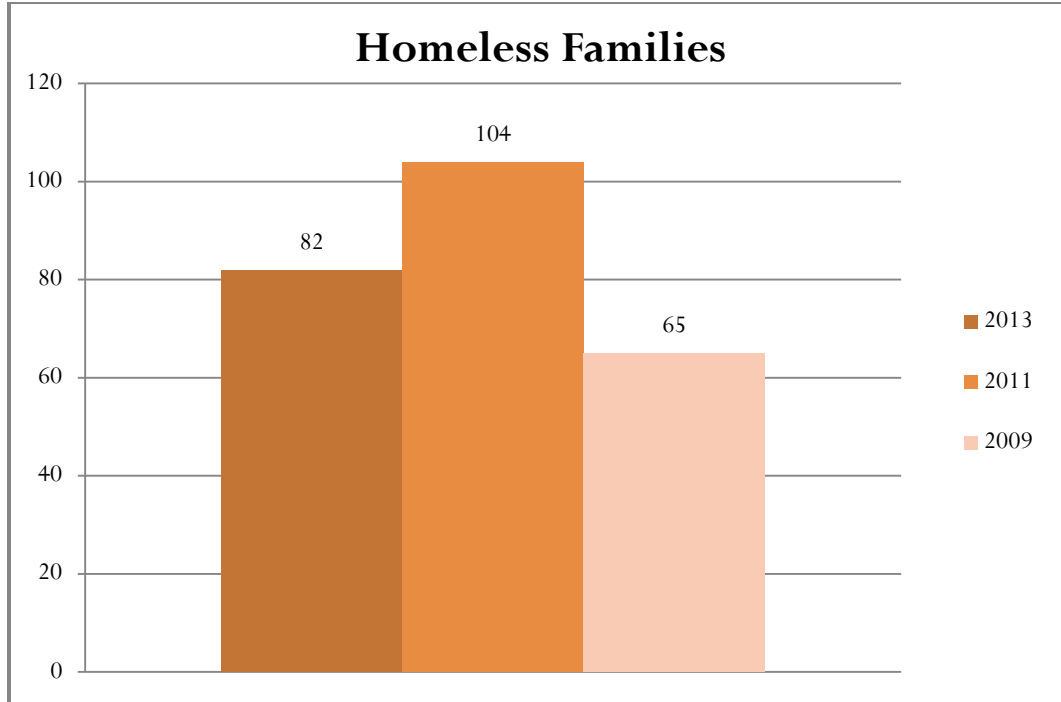| Discharged Into Homelessness (Past Three Years)		
Corrections	**#**	**%**
City or County Jail	79	18.9%
State Prison	39	9.4%
Juvenile Detention Center	2	0.5%
Inpatient Care	**#**	%
Medical Hospital	41	9.8%
Private Inpatient Substance Use	13	3.1%
State inpatient mental health	8	1.9%
City/County inpatient mental health	7	1.7%

Last Permanent Address

In the 2013 count, 94.7% (n=395) of the homeless respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. In reviewing the surrounding states, 1.4% (n=6) last lived in Pennsylvania.

The cities/towns most frequently cited by respondents as the last place they lived before becoming homeless are below (a rate of 3% or higher). The largest number reported last living in the City of Camden.

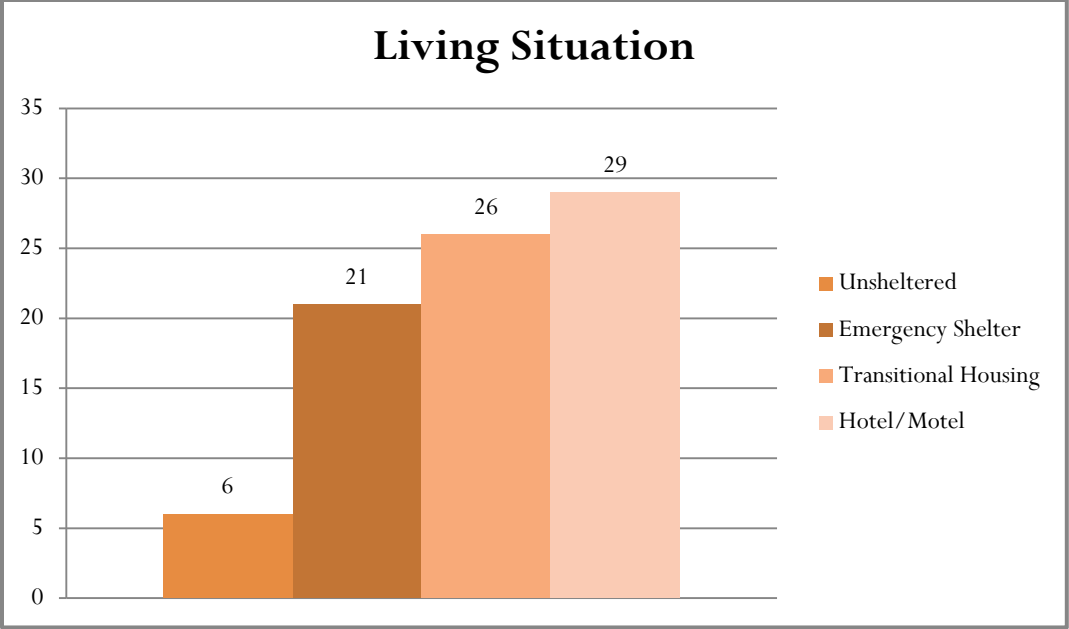| Town	#	%
Camden	191	45.8%
Pennsauken	13	3.1%

FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

In 2013, of the 417 homeless respondents in Camden County, 82 or 19.6% had at least one dependent child under the age of 18 with them on the night of the count and are considered a homeless family. Of the total of 172 homeless children in these families, 66 were six years or younger and 94 were between the ages of 7 and 17.
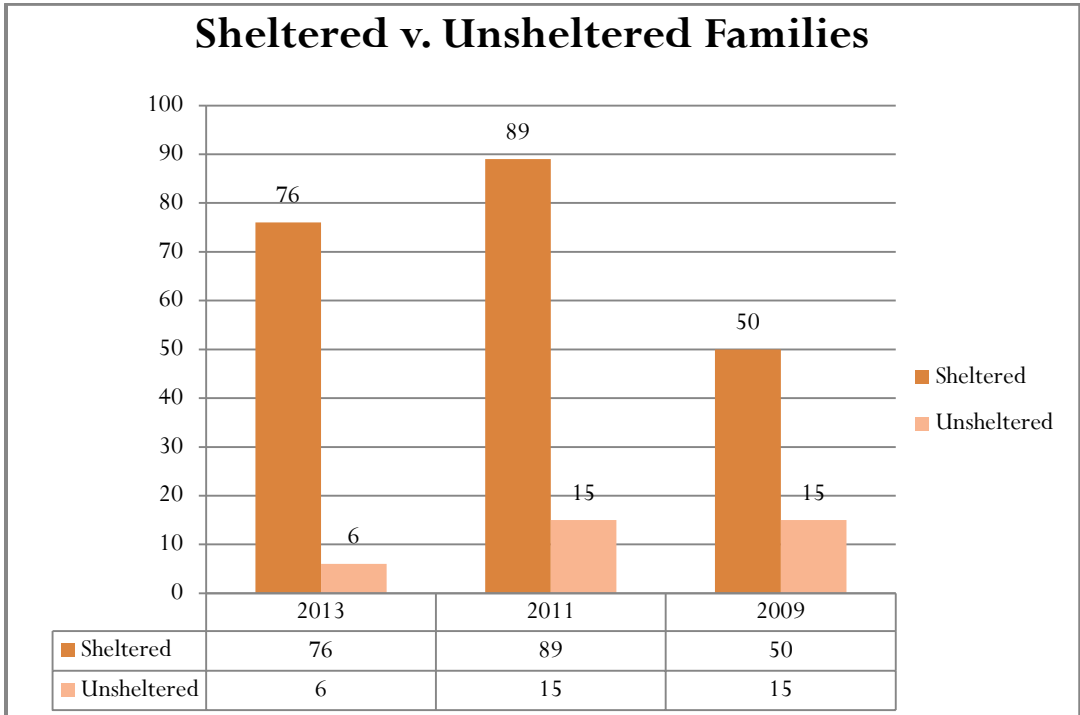
Homeless Families

Living Situation

In Camden County, there were six (6) homeless families in an unsheltered living situation on the night of the count inclusive of 11 children. The remaining 76 homeless families were in sheltered living situations that included emergency shelter, transitional housing and hotel/motel placement as emergency shelter. The largest percentage (35.3%) of homeless families were residing in a hotel or motel on the night of the 2013 count as reflected in the Living Situation chart below.

Living Situation

Unsheltered: 6
Emergency Shelter: 21
Transitional Housing: 26
Hotel/Motel: 29

As the chart below shows, since 2013, homeless families in Camden County have been mainly in sheltered living situations with the number of unsheltered decreasing to its lowest point in 2013.

Sheltered v. Unsheltered Families

	2013	2011	2009
Sheltered	76	89	50
Unsheltered	6	15	15

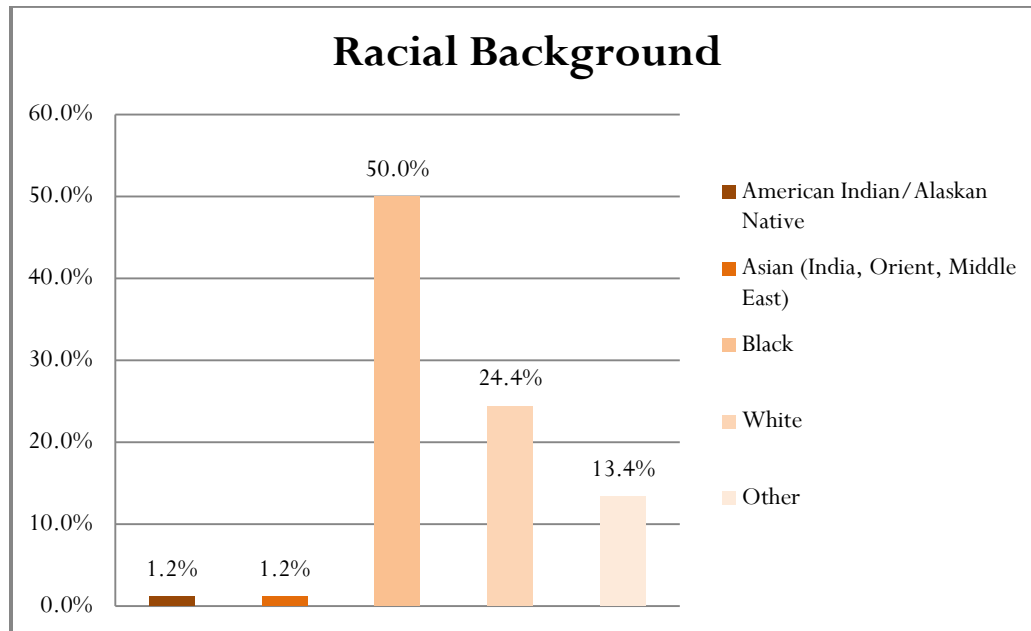2013 PITC- Camden County

Length of Homelessness

The largest percentage (24.4%) of homeless families had been homeless from three (3) to six (6) months. This was closely followed by those homeless six (6) to twelve (12) months (22.0%). This differs from the total homeless population overall where the highest percentage was those homeless more than one year.

2013 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day to 1 week	12	14.6%
8 days to 1 month	6	7.3%
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	13	15.9%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	**20**	**24.4%**
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	18	22.0%
More than 1 year	13	15.9%

Demographics

Of the total 82 homeless families in Camden County, 64.6% (n= 53) were female headed households and 29.3% (n=24) were male headed households.

The chart below outlines the racial breakdown of homeless families in the 2013 count. One half of the respondents defined themselves as Black (50%). The next largest group was those that defined themselves as White with 24.4%. 24.4% (n=20) defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.
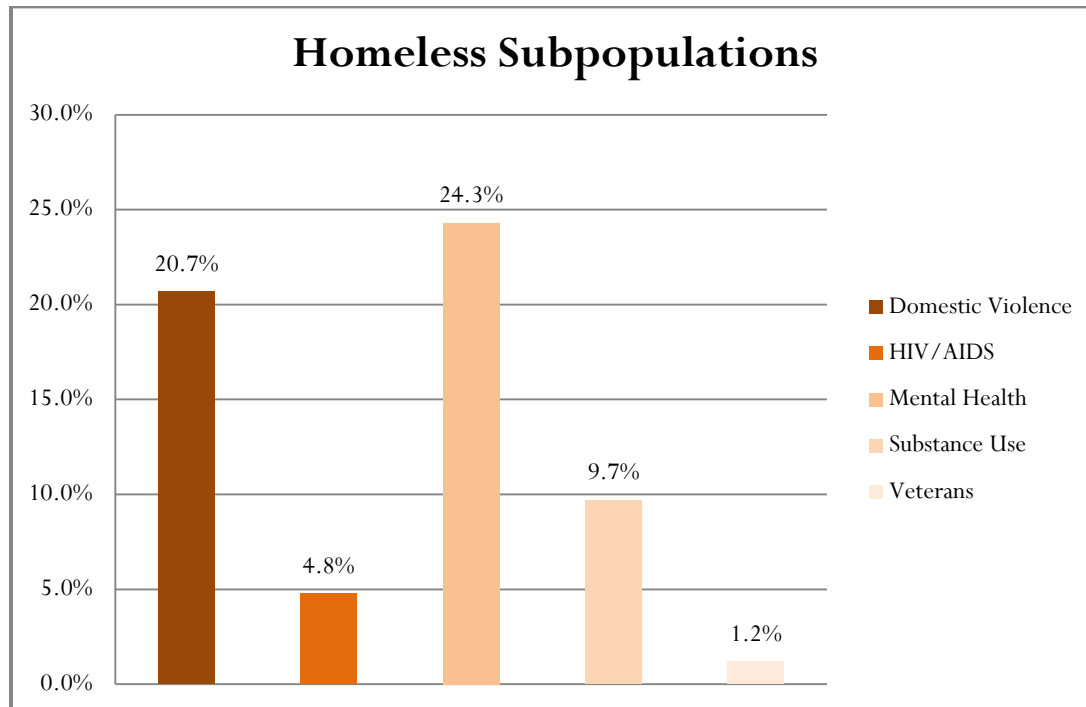
The largest percentage of homeless families in Camden County had a head of household that fell within the 30 to 39 year old age range. This was most closely followed by those between the age of 18 and 21. Overall, this is younger than the total homeless population in the County.

2013 Age	#	%
Under 18	2	2.4%
18-21	18	22.0%
22-24	11	13.4%
25-29	9	11.0%
30-39	**21**	**25.6%**
40-49	8	9.8%
50-59	3	3.7%

Homeless Family Subpopulations

Among the HUD homeless subpopulations in the 2013 count, in Camden County the largest subpopulation among homeless families was those with a head of household with mental health issues (24.3%). The next largest percentage was households with domestic violence issues as reflected in the chart below (20.7%).

Financial Resources and Income

The three main sources of income reported by homeless families in Camden County on the night of the 2013 count were:

- TANF (70.7%);
- Food Stamps (53.7%); and
- Medicaid (51.2%)

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

2013 Year Income	#	%
No Income	15.9%	13
$1.00- $4,999	**48.8%**	**40**
$5,000- $9,999	18.3%	15
$10,000- $14,999	4.9%	4
Over $15,000	1.2%	1

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The highest ranking factors that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Camden County were relationship breakdown and loss of job. The other top ranking factor was eviction.

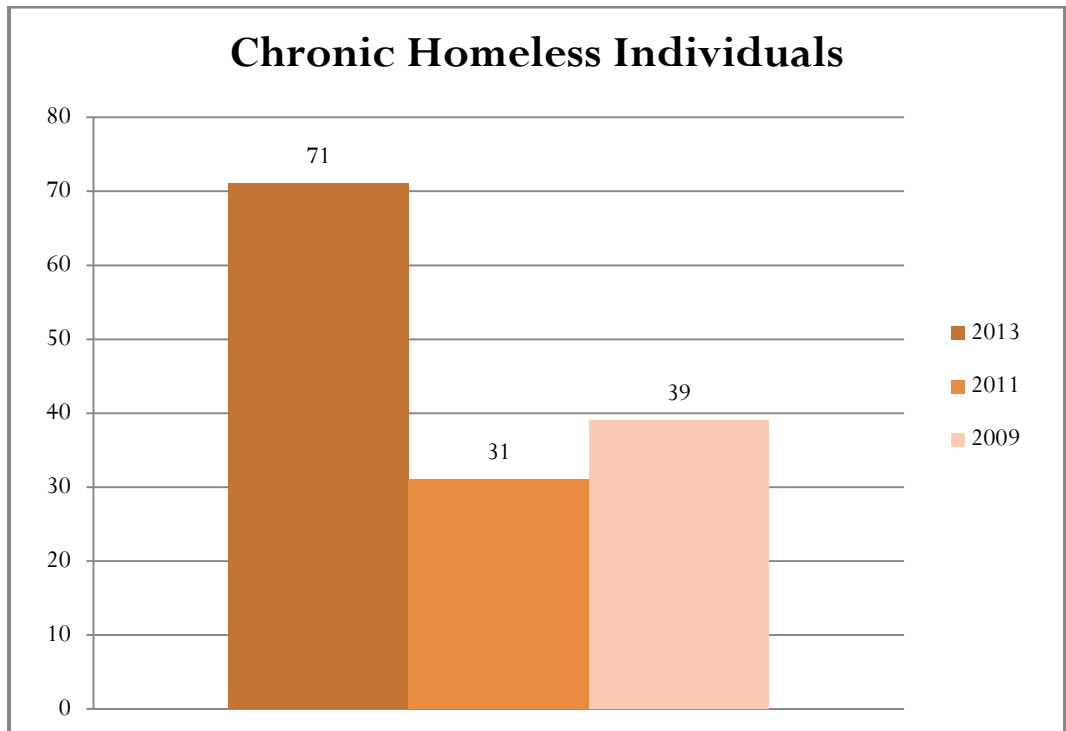| Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Relationship/family breakup or death	29.3%
Lost job/can't find work	28.0%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	26.8%
Domestic violence	22.0%
Housing costs are too high	20.7%

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

- Housing (23.1%);
- Employment Assistance (21.9%); and
- Educational Training (18.2%)

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS
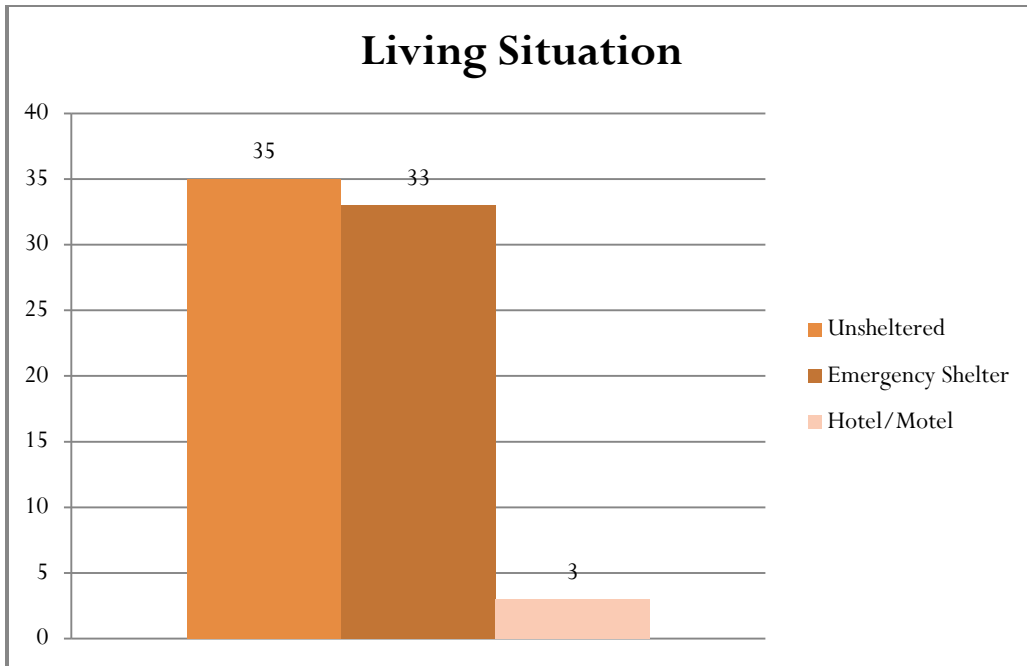
INDIVIDUALS
On the night of January 30, 2013, there were 71 chronically homeless individuals counted in Camden County equaling 17% of the total homeless population. Camden County saw its largest numbers over the full HUD count years in 2013 which included an increase of 56.3% from 2011.
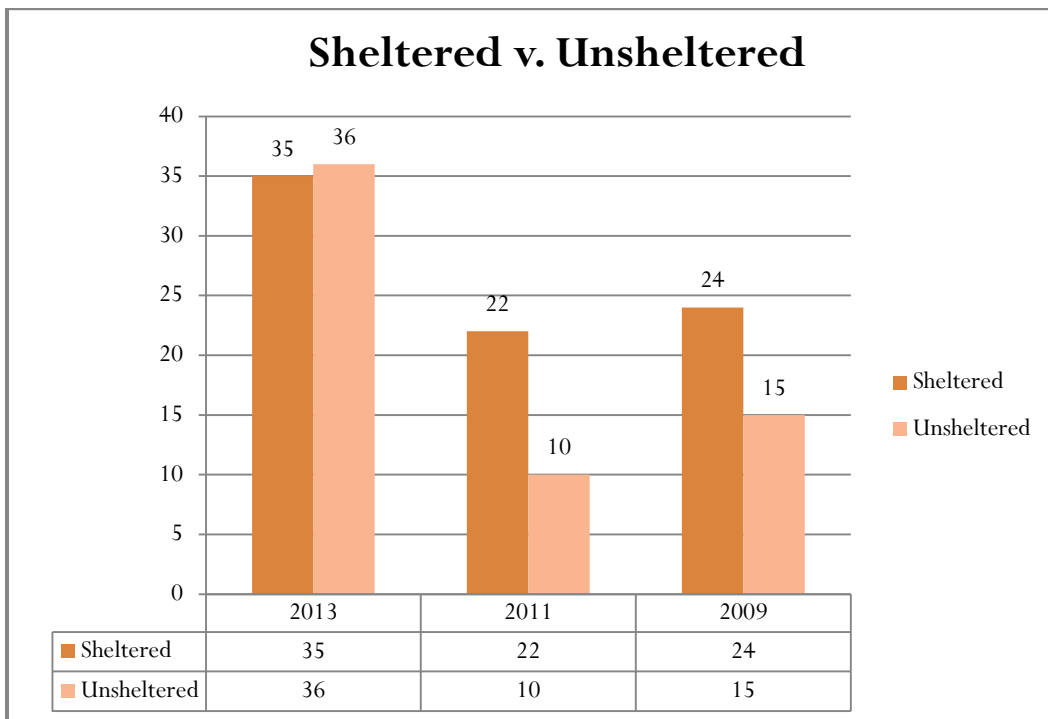
Chronic Homeless Individuals

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 below is a breakdown of where the chronically homeless were residing on the night of the 2013 count. The largest percentage (49.2%) of the chronically homeless population in Camden County was unsheltered on the night of the count.

Living Situation

Over the last three full HUD count years, the number of both the sheltered and unsheltered chronically homeless individuals in Camden County has fluctuated again with the highest numbers being seen in 2013.

Sheltered v. Unsheltered

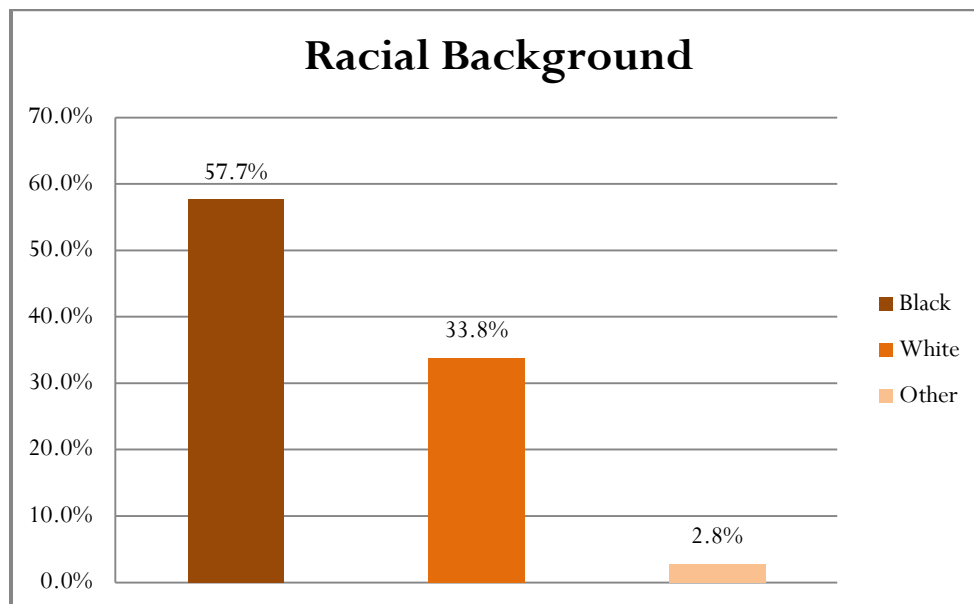|	2013	2011	2009
Sheltered	35	22	24
Unsheltered	36	10	15

Length of Homelessness

Of the total chronically homeless individuals in Camden County, 74.6% (n= 53) reported they had been homeless for more than one year. Also, a total of 63.4% (n= 45) reported they had four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

2013 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day to 1 week	4	5.6%
8 days to 1 month	1	1.4%
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	2	2.8%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	5	7.0%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	6	8.5%
More than 1 year	**53**	**74.6%**

Demographics

In 2013, a total of 41 or 57.7% of the chronically homeless individual population was male and 28 or 39.4% was female.

As the chart below outlines, the 57.7% of chronically homeless individuals identified themselves as Black with the next largest percentage being those who identified themselves as White (33.8%). The total percentage that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 11.3%.
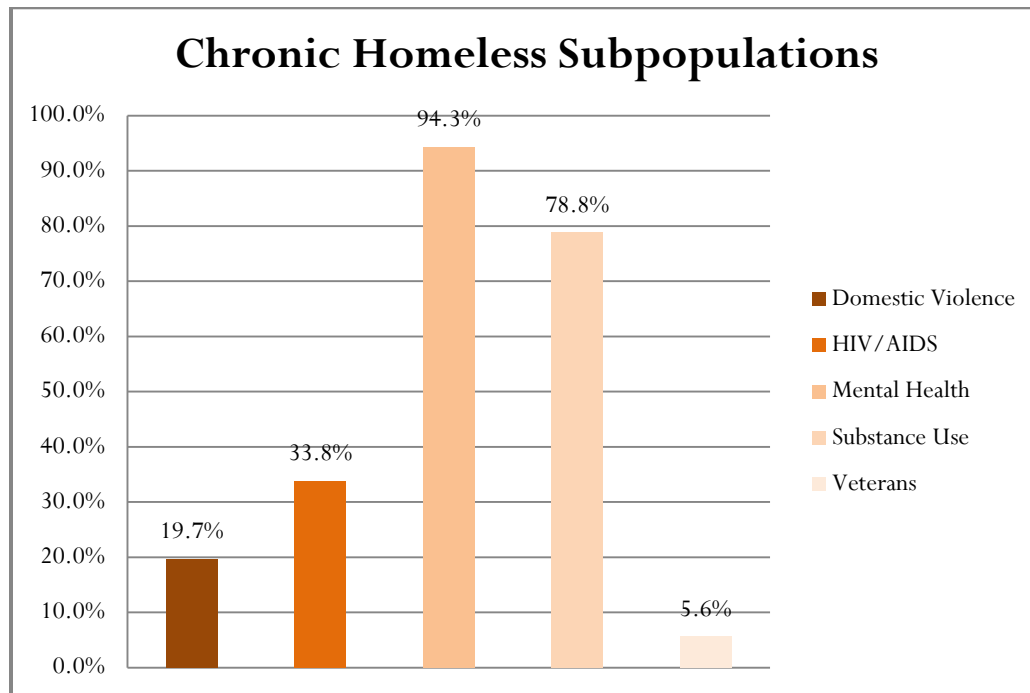

On the night of the 2013 count in Camden County, the largest percentage of chronically homeless individuals fell into the 50 to 59 year old age range (35.2%). This age group was very closely followed by

those between the ages of 40 and 49 years. Generally, the chronically homeless individual population is older that the total homeless population as a whole.

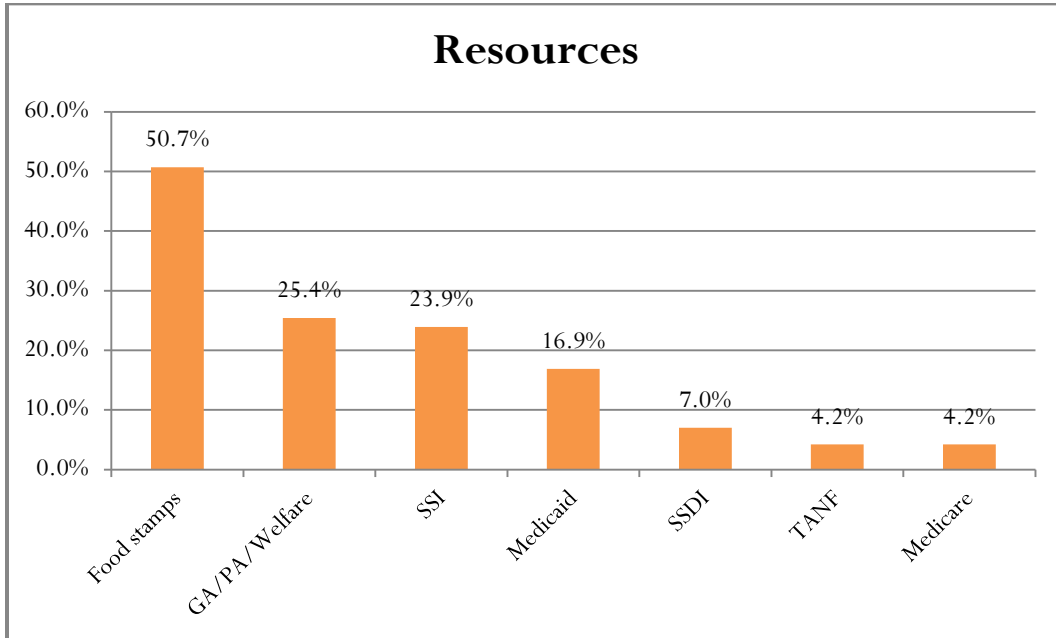| 2013 Age	#	%
18-21	1	1.4%
22-24	2	2.8%
25-29	6	8.5%
30-39	8	11.3%
40-49	23	32.4%
50-59	**25**	**35.2%**
60-64	1	1.4%

Chronic Homeless Subpopulations

The chart below outlines the breakdown of the chronic homeless individual subpopulations for the 2013 count. As shown in the chart, 94.3% of the chronic homeless individuals reported they had mental health issues and 78.8% 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 2013 count were Food Stamps (50.7%), Welfare (25.4%) and SSI (23.9%). 1.4% of the homeless population reported receiving no type of government benefit on the night of the count.

Resources

Category	Percentage
Food stamps	50.7%
GA/PA/Welfare	25.4%
SSI	23.9%
Medicaid	16.9%
SSDI	7.0%
TANF	4.2%
Medicare	4.2%

As reflected in the Income chart below, the largest percentage of chronically individuals were reporting having yearly income less than $5,000 with almost as many people reporting no income (n=26, 36.6&%) on the night of the count.

2013 Year Income	#	%
No Income	26	36.6%
$1.00– $4,999	**27**	**38.0%**
$5,000- $9,999	4	5.6%
$10,000- $14,999	2	2.8%
Over $15,000	1	1.4%

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 alcohol or drug problems. Other top ranking factors included mental illness and relationship breakdown.

2013 Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	49.3%
Mental illness/emotional problems	35.2%
Relationship/family breakup or death	31.0%
Lost job/can't find work	28.2%
Housing costs are too high	26.8%
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	26.8%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	22.5%
Utility costs are too high	19.7%
Domestic violence	18.3%
Incarceration	15.5%
Have work but wages are too low	12.7%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	11.3%
Foreclosure or at risk of Foreclosure	4.2%
Natural disaster	2.8%
House condemned	1.4%
Loss of child support	1.4%

The types of services that respondents stated that they have received in the past three years or are currently needed are reflected in the chart below. In Camden County, the top service received by the chronically homeless individual population was emergency shelter and the top service reported as needed was housing.

2013 Service Needs	#	%
Received		
Emergency shelter	34	47.9%
Emergency food	28	39.4%
Medical (routine healthcare)	19	26.8%
Need		
Housing	49	69.0%
Assistance obtaining ID	29	40.8%
Dental care	27	38.0%

Discharge from Mainstream Institutions

As part of the 2013 survey, the respondents were asked if they had been discharged into homelessness from certain mainstream institutions within the past three years (since January 30, 2010). 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	*#*	*%*
City or County Jail	20	28.2%
State Prison	11	15.5%
Inpatient Care	*#*	*%*
Medical Hospital	15	21.1%
Private Inpatient Substance Use	7	9.9%
City/County inpatient mental health	4	5.6%
State Inpatient mental health	1	1.4%

Last Permanent Address

In the 2013 count, 92.9% (n=66) of the chronically homeless individual respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless and 8.4% (n=6) last lived in Pennsylvania.

The cities /towns most frequently cited by respondents as the last place they lived before becoming homeless are below (rate of 5% or higher). The only town with a significant number was the City of Camden.

Town	#	%
Camden	38	53.5%
Westville	3	4.2%

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS FAMILIES

In Camden County, a total of two (2) families met the chronic homeless definition and could be considered a chronically homeless family. This is a decrease from 2011 when there were three (3) families identified. This is 0.4% of the total homeless population and 2.4% of the total family homeless population. These families had a total of six (6) children with them on the night of the count.

Adding the families to the individuals gives Camden County a total chronically homeless population of 79 men, women and children on the night of the 2013 count.

Living Situation and Length of Homelessness

On the night of the count one (1) family was in a sheltered homeless living situation and was residing in an emergency shelter. The family had been homeless for more than one year. The other family was unsheltered and had been homeless for more than one year and also had been homeless at least four (4) times within the last three (3) years.

Demographics

In 2013, both chronically homeless families had a female head of households of which one defines her race as black and the other had no response. The head of households were between 25 to 29 and 30 to 39 years old.

Chronic Homeless Family Subpopulations

In Camden County, both chronically homeless families were part of the mental illness subpopulation.

Financial Resources and Income

The three main sources of income reported by the chronically homeless families were TANF, Medicaid, and Food Stamps and their estimated yearly income was less than $10,000 a year.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness

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

- Eviction
- Housing costs to High
- Loss of job/inability to find work