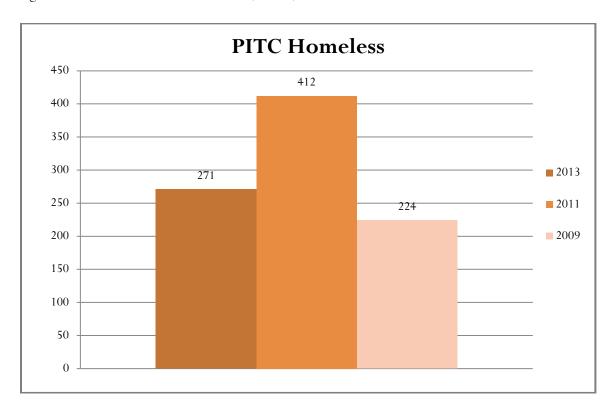
### **CAPE MAY COUNTY**

On January 30, 2013 there were 271 homeless men, women and children counted in Cape May County according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations. Homelessness in Cape May County has fluctuated over time with both a large increase from 2009 to 2011 (45.6%) and a significant decrease from 2011 to 2013 (34.2%).

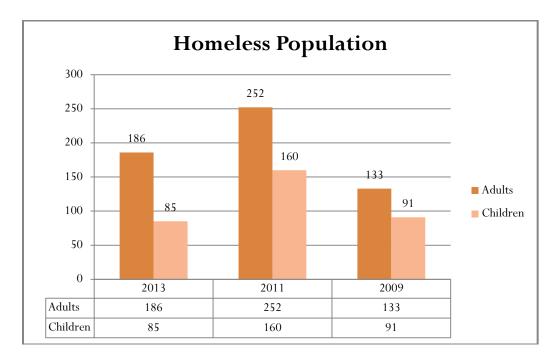


The actual number of people who are homeless over the course of the year may be between two to four times larger than the number counted at one point in time. Using the statistical formula developed in the publication "Estimating the Need," it is projected that *over the course of a year, 842 adults and children are homeless in Cape May County.* 

Of the 271 people who were homeless on the night of the count 85 of them were children as reflected in the chart below.

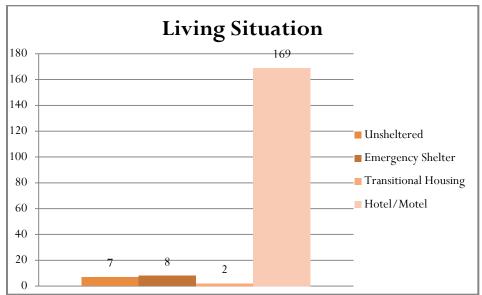
2012 Homeless Breakdown		
Respondents (Adults)	186	
Family Members (Children)	85	
Total Homeless	271	

As the chart below shows both the number of adults and children has fluctuated over the past three (3) full HUD count years and reflects the changes in the numbers of the total population over time.



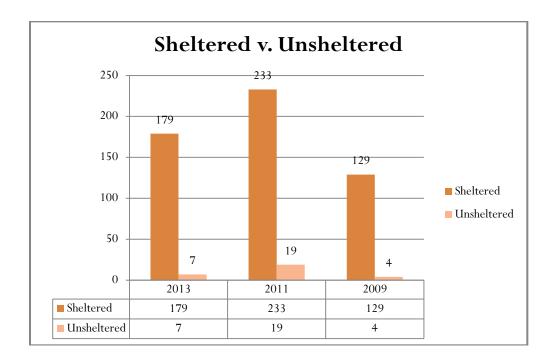
### **Living Situation**

As reflected in the Living Situation chart below, 7 or 3.7% of the homeless respondents were unsheltered the night of the count. The remainder of the homeless population was living in sheltered situations with the largest portion residing in a hotel/motel placement as emergency shelter (n=169, 90.8%).



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

The number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless in Cape May County again has mirrored the fluctuation of the total population over the past three full HUD count years with both being at the highest levels in 2011.



### <u>Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)</u>

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 the night of the count with what was reported in the same categories for the PITC. The numbers from HMIS are based on those in emergency shelter or transitional housing over the age of 17 on the night of the count.

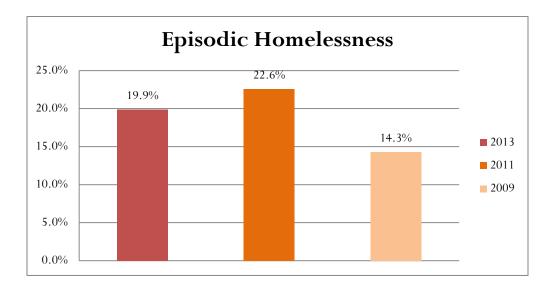
In Cape May County, there were 0 adults in emergency shelter and 0 in transitional housing in HMIS. These numbers are different than what was recorded as part of the count. On the night of the count 18 respondents stated that they would be in emergency shelter and five (5) reported residing in transitional housing.

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

Of the homeless population surveyed in Cape May County, the largest percentage (23.1%) responded that they have been homeless for a period of three (3) to six (6) months. The next largest group was those homeless between six (6) and twelve (12) months. Of those who were homeless less than one year, 22.6% 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	14	7.5%
8 days to 1 month	17	9.1%
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	29	15.6%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	43	23.1%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	39	21.0%
More than 1 year	33	17.7%
No response	11	5.9%

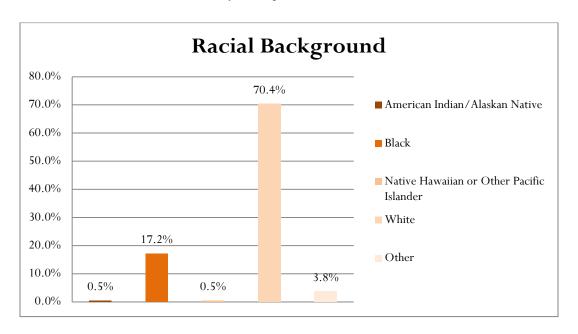
As reflected in the Episodic Homelessness chart below, a total of 37 or 19.9% of the total homeless population reported having at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. This number has changed over the last three (3) full HUD count years with the largest percentage being seen in 2011.



# **Demographics**

In 2013, of the total homeless population in Cape May County, 88 people or 47.3% were male, 86 or 46.2% were female and two (2) or 1.1% identified as transgender.

The chart below outlines the racial breakdown of homeless persons in the 2013 count. The largest percentage of the homeless population was White (70.4%) most closely followed by Black (17.2%). A total of 15.1% defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

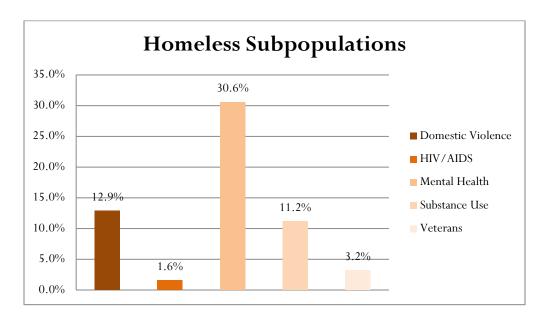


The largest percentage of homeless in Cape May County fell within the 30 to 39 year old age range, totaling 23.7%, followed by those within the 40 to 49 year old age range (18.8%).

2013 Age	#	%
18-21	16	8.6%
22-24	24	12.9%
25-29	28	15.1%
30-39	44	23.7%
40-49	35	18.8%
50-59	18	9.7%
60-64	3	1.6%
65 or older	1	0.5%
No Response	17	9.1%

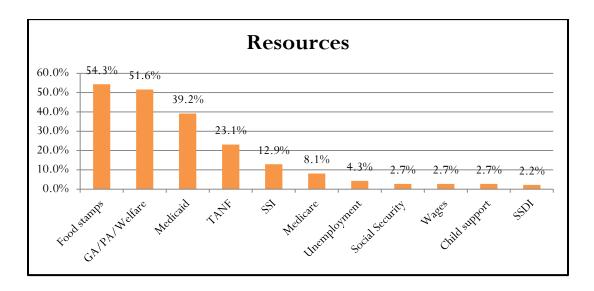
### **Homeless Subpopulations**

The chart below outlines the breakdown of the homeless subpopulations in Cape May County for the 2013 count. The largest subpopulation is comprised of the homeless who had mental health issues (30.6%). The number of homeless veterans equaled 3.2% (n=6).



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

The three main sources of income reported by people who were homeless in Cape May County on the night of the 2013 count were Food Stamps (54.3%), Welfare (51.6%) and Medicaid (39.2%). Additionally, 1.6% of the homeless population reported receiving no type of government benefit on the night of the count.



As part of the 2013 count, homeless respondents were asked to report a current income that provided a potential estimated yearly income. In Cape May County, the largest percent of respondents stated that they earned less than \$5,000 a year with 27.4% reporting no income on the night of the count.

2013 Year Income	#	%
No Income	51	27.4%
\$1.00- \$4,999	100	53.8%
\$5,000- \$9,999	13	7.0%
Over \$10,000	4	2.1%

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

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

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	
Lost job/can't find work	37.6%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	32.8%
Relationship/family breakup or death	29.6%
Housing costs are too high	22.0%
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	18.3%
Mental illness/emotional problems	17.2%
Domestic violence	15.6%
Incarceration	11.8%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	11.8%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	11.3%
Utility costs are too high	8.6%
Have work but wages are too low	8.1%
Foreclosure or at risk of Foreclosure	3.2%
House condemned	2.2%
Loss of child support	1.6%
Natural disaster	1.6%

The types of services that respondents stated they have received in the past three years or are needed currently are reflected in the table below. In Cape May County, the top service received was emergency shelter and the top service reported as being needed was housing.

2013 Service Needs	#	%
Received		
Emergency shelter	79	42.5%
Emergency food	61	32.8%
Housing	58	31.2%
Need		
Housing	40	21.5%
Dental care	36	19.4%
Employment assistance	33	17.7%

# **Discharge from Mainstream Institutions**

As part of the 2013 survey, homeless 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 table below shows the institution that had the highest number of respondents reporting they were discharged into homelessness was City/County Jail.

Discharged Into Homelessness		
(Past Three Years)		
Corrections	#	%
City or County Jail	22	11.8%
State Prison	21	11.3%
Juvenile Detention Center	1	0.5%
Inpatient Care	#	%
Medical Hospital	15	8.1%
State inpatient mental health	6	3.2%
City/County inpatient mental health	2	1.1%
Private Inpatient Substance Use	1	0.5%

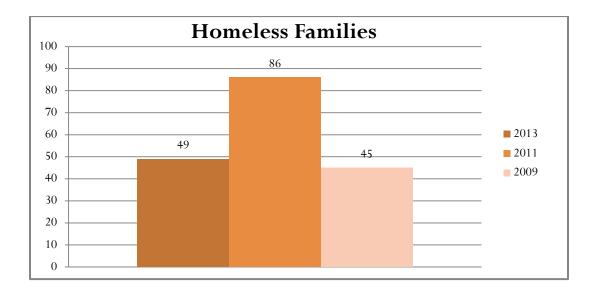
# **Last Permanent Address**

In the 2013 count, 96.2% (n=179) of the homeless respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. 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 of homeless respondents reported last living in Wildwood.

Town	#	%
Wildwood	55	29.6%
Villas	27	14.5%
Rio Grande	12	6.5%
Cape May	10	5.4%
Woodbine	9	4.8%
Cape May Courthouse	9	4.8%
Whitesboro	7	3.8%
Ocean City	6	3.2%

### **FAMILY HOMELESSNESS**

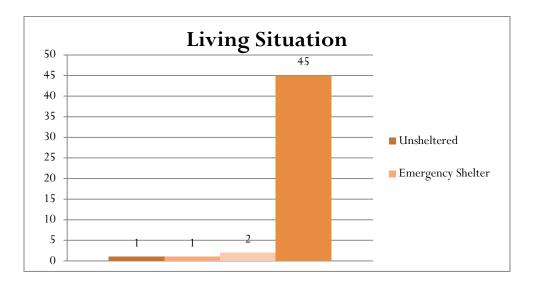
In 2013, of the 186 homeless respondents in Cape May County, 49 or 26.3% had at least one dependent child under 18 with them the night of the count and are considered a homeless family. Of the total of 85 homeless children in these families, 62 were six (6) years or younger and 23 were between the ages of 7 and 17.



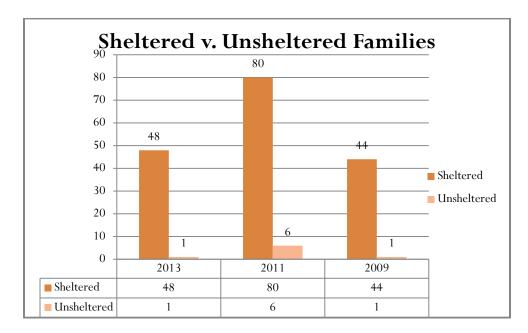
# **Living Situation**

In Cape May County, only one homeless family was in an unsheltered living situation on the night of the count and had a total of one (1) child with them.

The remaining 48 homeless families were in sheltered living situations that included emergency shelter, transitional housing and hotel/motel placement. The largest percentage (91.8%) of homeless families were residing in hotel/motel placements as emergency shelter on the night of the 2013 count as reflected in the Living Situation chart below.



Homeless families in Cape May County have mainly resided in sheltered living situations over the last three (3) full HUD count years with the numbers mirroring the increases and decreases of the overall homeless population with the largest numbers of both sheltered and unsheltered being seen in 2011.



### **Length of Homelessness**

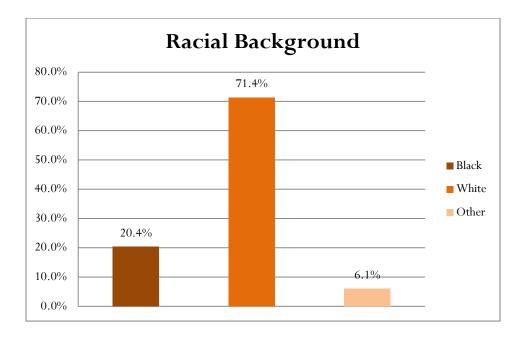
The largest percentage (28.6%) of homeless families had been homeless three (3) to six (6) months which mirrors the general homeless population.

2013 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day to 1 week	3	6.1%
8 days to 1 month	6	12.2%
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	9	18.4%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	14	28.6%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	8	16.3%
More than 1 year	5	10.2%
No Response	4	8.5%

### **Demographics**

Of the total 49 homeless families in Cape May County, 83.7% (n= 41) were female headed households and 14.3% (n=7) were male headed households and 2% or (n=1) identified as transgender.

The chart below outlines the racial breakdown of homeless families in the 2013 count. Overwhelmingly, the largest percentage of the respondents defined themselves as White (71.4%). The next largest group was those that defined themselves as Black at 20.4%. A total of 20.4% (n=10) defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

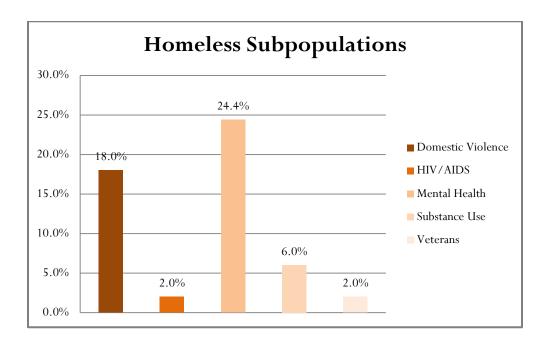


The largest percentage of homeless families in Cape May County had a head of household that fell within the 30 to 39 year old age range. The largest proportion of homeless families was 22 to 39 years of age.

2013 Age	#	%
18-21	7	14.3%
22-24	11	22.4%
25-29	11	22.4%
30-39	14	28.6%
40-49	3	6.1%
50-59	2	4.1%

# **Homeless Family Subpopulations**

Among the HUD homeless subpopulations in the 2013 count, in Cape May County the largest subpopulation among homeless families was those with a head of household with mental health issues (24.4%). The next largest percentage was households experiencing domestic violence (18.0%) as reflected in the chart below.



### **Financial Resources and Income**

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

- TANF (75.5%);
- Food Stamps (57.1%); and

• Medicaid (42.9%)

All homeless families reported receiving some form of government benefit on the night of the count. In reviewing yearly income, the largest percentage of the homeless families was earning less than \$5,000 a year with 28.6% reporting having no income on the night of the count.

2013 Year Income	#	%
No Income	14	28.6%
\$1.00- \$4,999	18	36.7%
\$5,000- \$9,999	8	16.3%
Over \$15,000	3	2.0%

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

The highest ranking factor that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Cape May County was eviction. The other top ranking factor was loss of job/inability to find work.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	49.0%
Lost job/can't find work	36.7%
Domestic violence	28.6%
Relationship/family breakup or death	26.5%
Housing costs are too high	24.5%

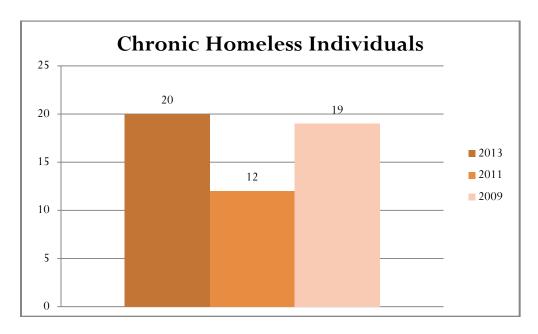
When homeless families were asked what their top needs were on the night of the count the top three needs (all ranking at 24.4%) included:

- Educational Training;
- Employment Assistance; and
- Housing

### **CHRONICALLY HOMELESS**

### **INDIVIDUALS**

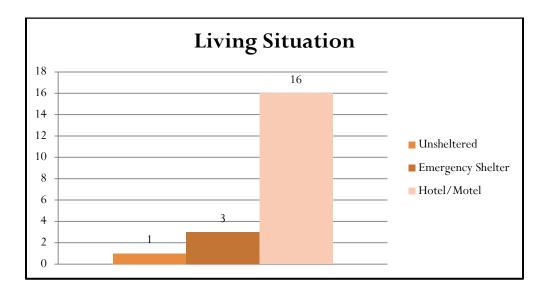
On the night of January 30, 2013, there were 20 chronically homeless individuals counted in Cape May County equaling 10.7% of the total homeless population. After a large decrease from 2009 to 2011, the number of chronically homeless in Cape May County was then on the rise from 2011 to 2013 reaching its highest level over the last three (3) full HUD count years in 2013.



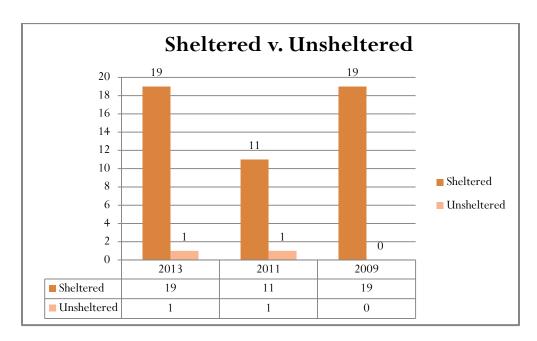
# **Living Situation**

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.

Only one (1) chronically homeless individual was unsheltered on the night of the count. The largest percentage (80%) of the chronically homeless individual population in Cape May County was residing in hotel/motel placement as emergency shelter on the night of the count.



Over the last three (3) full HUD count years, the chronically homeless individual population has primarily been in sheltered living situations and mirrors the fluctuations of the total homeless population.



### **Length of Homelessness**

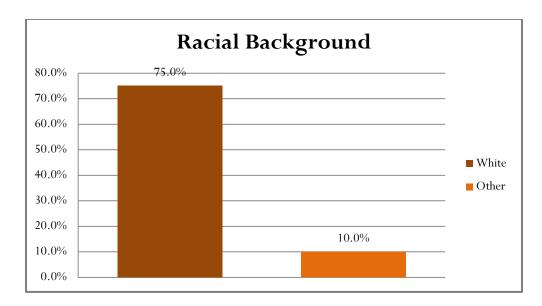
Of the total chronically homeless individuals in Cape May County, 60% (n=12) reported they had been homeless for more than one year. Also, a total of 65% (n=13) reported they had four (4) episodes of homelessness over the past three (3) years.

2013 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day to 1 week	2	10.0%
8 days to 1 month	1	5.0%
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	1	5.0%
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	2	10.0%
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	2	10.0%
More than 1 year	12	60.0%

## **Demographics**

In 2013, a total of 13 or 65% of the chronically homeless individual population was male and 7 or 35% was female.

As the chart below outlines, overwhelmingly the largest percentage of chronically homeless individuals identified themselves as White (75%) with the next largest percentage being those who identified themselves as other (10%). The total percentage that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 20%.

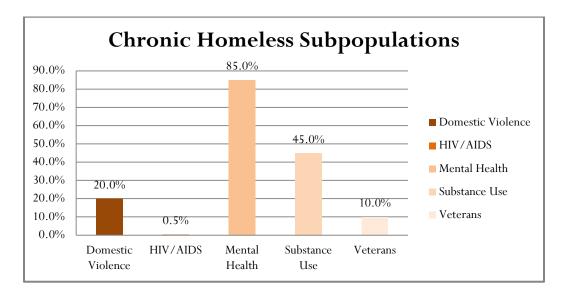


As the Age Table below details, on the night of the 2013 count in Cape May County, the largest percentage of chronically homeless individuals fell into the 40 to 49 year old age range (25%) with a majority being within the 30 to 59 year old age range.

2013 Age	#	%
22-24	2	10.0%
25-29	3	15.0%
30-39	4	20.0%
40-49	5	25.0%
50-59	4	20.0%
60-64	0	0.0%
65 or older	1	5.0%

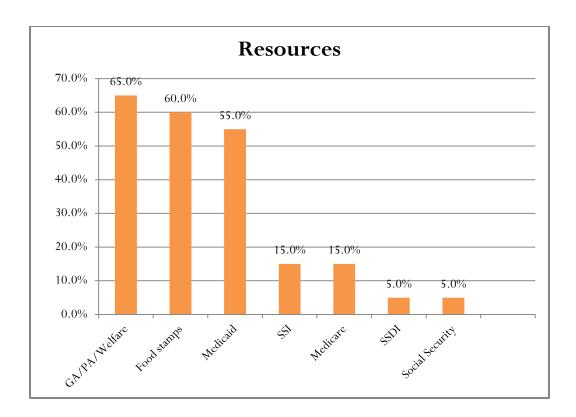
### **Chronic Homeless Subpopulations**

The Chronic Homeless Subpopulations chart below outlines the breakdown of the chronic homeless individual subpopulations for the 2013 count. As shown in the chart, 85% of the chronic homeless individuals reported they had mental health issues and 45% reported having substance use issues.



#### **Financial Resources**

The three main sources of income reported chronically homeless individuals in Cape May County on the night of the 2013 count were Welfare (65%), Food Stamps (60%) and Medicaid (55%). All respondents reported receiving some form of government benefit on the night of the count.



As reflected in the table below, the largest percentage (60%) of chronically homeless individuals were reported having an annual income of less than \$5,000 which is reflective of the total homeless population in Cape May County.

2013 Year Income	#	%
No Income	4	20.0%
\$1.00- \$4,999	12	60.0%
\$5,000- \$9,999	2	10.0%

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

The highest ranking factor that chronically homeless individual respondents stated contributed to their homelessness was mental illness. The other top ranking factor identified was alcohol or drug problems.

2013 Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Mental illness/emotional problems	50.0%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	45.0%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	40.0%
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	40.0%
Relationship/family breakup or death	40.0%
Domestic violence	35.0%
Lost job/can't find work	35.0%
Housing costs are too high	30.0%
Incarceration	25.0%
Have work but wages are too low	10.0%
House condemned	10.0%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	10.0%
Utility costs are too high	10.0%
Natural disaster	5.0%

The types of services that respondents stated they have received in the past three years or are currently in need of receiving are reflected in the table below. In Cape May County, the top service received by the chronically homeless individual population was emergency food assistance/emergency shelter and the top services that were reported as being needed were dental and emergency food services.

2013 Service Needs	#	%
Received		
Emergency Food / Shelter	9	45.0%
Housing/ Medical	8	40.0%
Medical Disability/Dental Care	6	30.0%
Need		
Dental/Emergency Food	6	30.0%
Medical/Transportation	5	25.0%
Medical Disability/ID/Employment	4	20.0%

### **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 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.

Discharged Into Homelessness (Past Three Years)		
Corrections	#	%
City or County Jail	8	40.0%
State Prison	4	20.0%
Inpatient Care	#	%
Medical Hospital	5	25.0%
Treatment?	3	15.0%
City/County inpatient mental health	2	10.0%
Private Inpatient Substance Use	1	5.0%

### **Last Permanent Address**

In the 2013 count, 100% (n=20) of the chronically homeless individual respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless.

The cities /towns most frequently cited by respondents as the last place they lived before becoming homeless are below (those with a rate of 10% or higher). Erma had the highest number of respondents stating that was their last permanent address.

Town	#	%
Erma	3	15.0%
Villas	2	10.0%
Woodbine	2	10.0%

#### **CHRONICALLY HOMELESS FAMILIES**

In Cape May 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 five (5) families that met the definition. This is 0.4% of the total homeless population and 1.0% of the total family homeless population. These families had a total of four (4) children with them on the night of the count; two (2) were below age six (6) and two (2) were between the age of seven (7) and seventeen (17).

Adding the families to the individuals gives Cape May County a total chronically homeless population of 26 men, women and children on the night of the 2013 count.

### **Living Situation and Length of Homelessness**

On the night of the count both families were in a sheltered homeless living situation residing in a hotel/motel placement as emergency shelter. One of the families had been homeless for an excess of one year.

### **Demographics**

In 2013, both of the chronically homeless families had a female head of household and one defined their race as Black and the other as White. The ages of head of households were between 25 to 29 and 30 to 39 years of age.

#### <u>Chronic Homeless Family Subpopulations</u>

In Cape May County, one of chronically homeless families was a part of almost all of the HUD subpopulations including mental illness, substance use, HIV/AIDS and domestic violence.

### **Financial Resources and Income**

The sources of income reported by the chronically homeless families were TANF, SSI, Food Stamps and Medicaid and their estimated yearly income was below \$5,000 a year.

#### **Contributing Factors to Homelessness**

The two families report many contributing factors to homelessness including:

- Personal issues (domestic violence/mental illness/relationship breakdown);
- Housing issues (foreclosure, eviction, costs too high);
- Economic issues (loss of job/housing costs being too high).