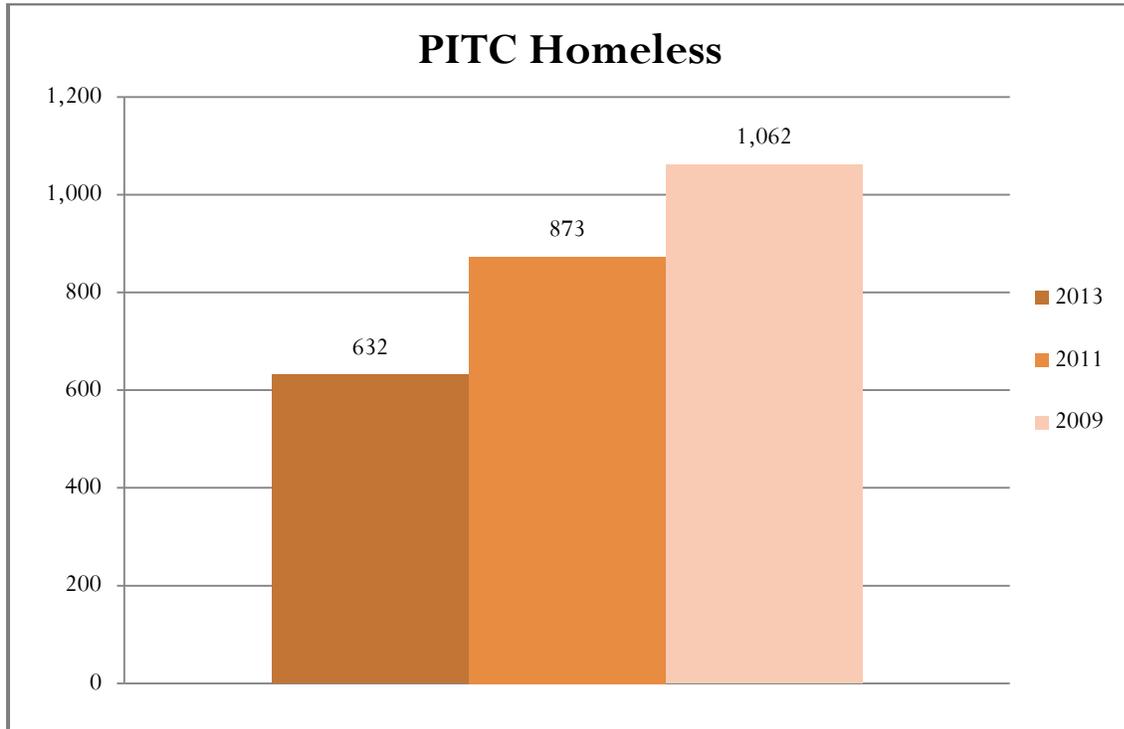


MERCER COUNTY

On January 30, 2013 there were 632 homeless men, women and children counted in Mercer County according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations. Homelessness in Mercer County has been on the decline over the last three (3) full HUD count years reaching its lowest levels in the current count year.

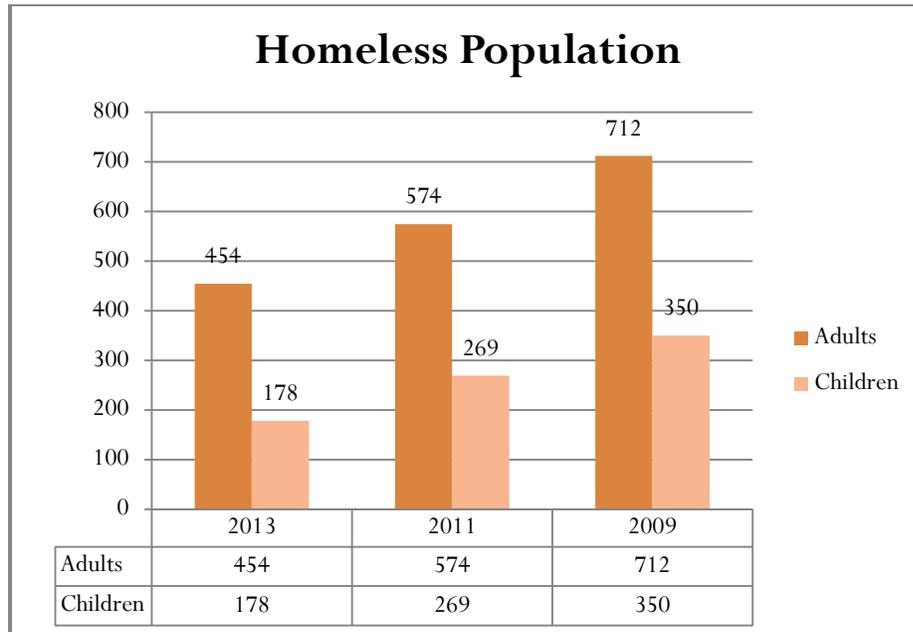


The actual number of people who are homeless over the course of the year may be two to four times greater than the number counted at one point in time. Using the statistical formula developed in the publication "Estimating the Need," it is projected that *over the course of a year, 1,493 adults and children are homeless in Mercer County.*

Of the 632 people who were homeless on the night of the count 178 were children as reflected in the table below.

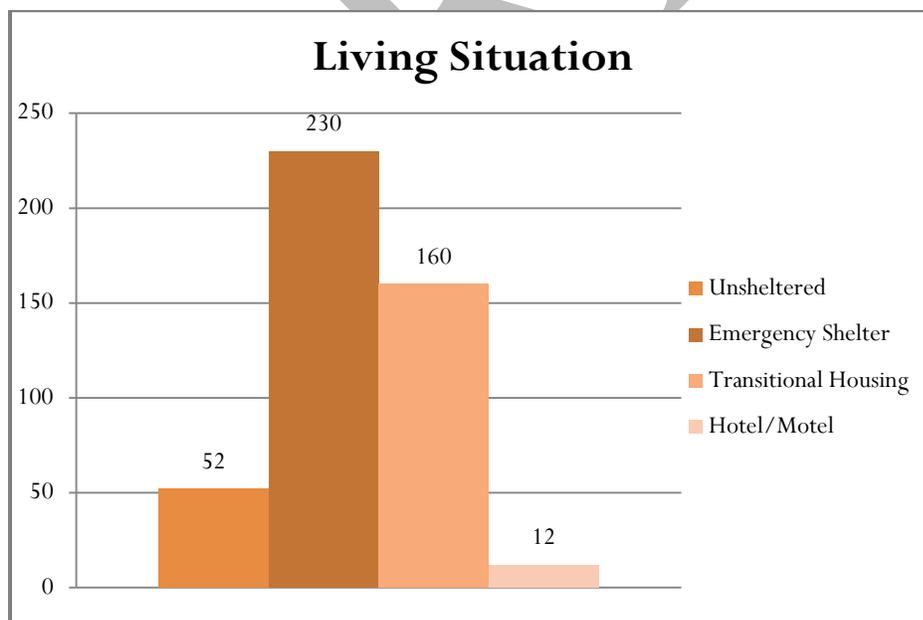
2013 Homeless Breakdown	
Respondents (Adults)	454
Family Members (Children)	178
Total Homeless	632

As the chart below shows, both the number of adults and of children has been on the decline proportionally over the past three (3) full HUD count years and mirrors the decline reflected in the PITC overall.



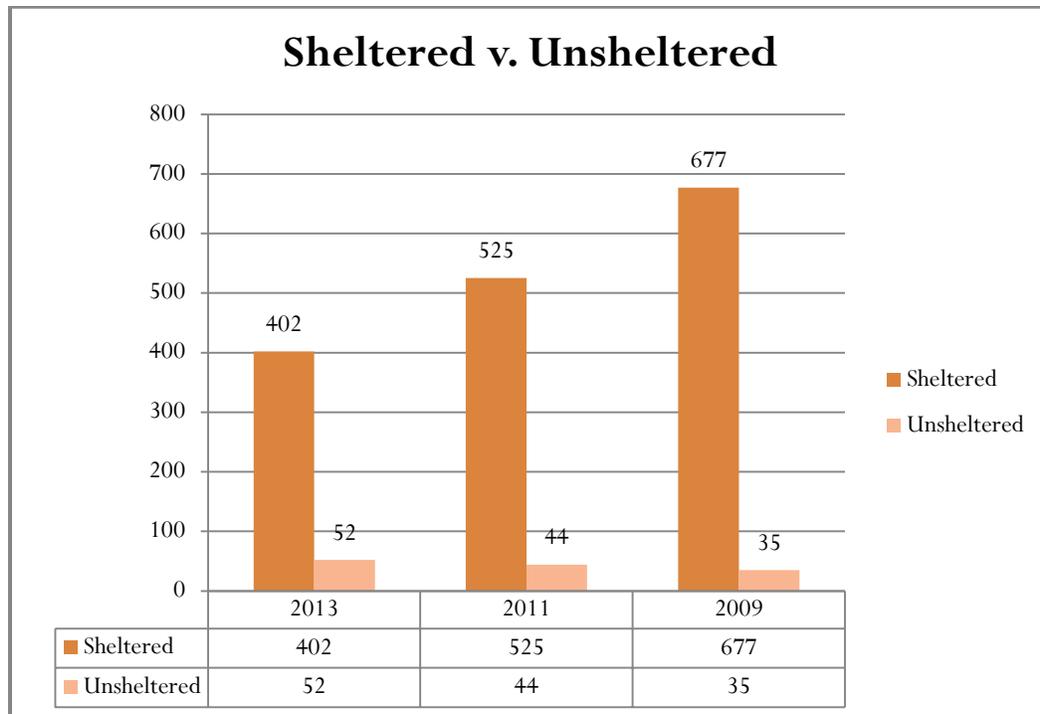
Living Situation

As reflected in the following Living Situation chart, 52 or 11.4% of the homeless respondents were unsheltered the night of the count. The remainder of the homeless were living in sheltered situations with the majority of the population residing in emergency shelter (n=230, 50.6%).



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

The number of unsheltered homeless in Mercer County has been on the rise over the last three (3) full HUD count years with a total increase of 32.6%. The number of sheltered homeless has been on the decline with a total decrease of 40.6%.



Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

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

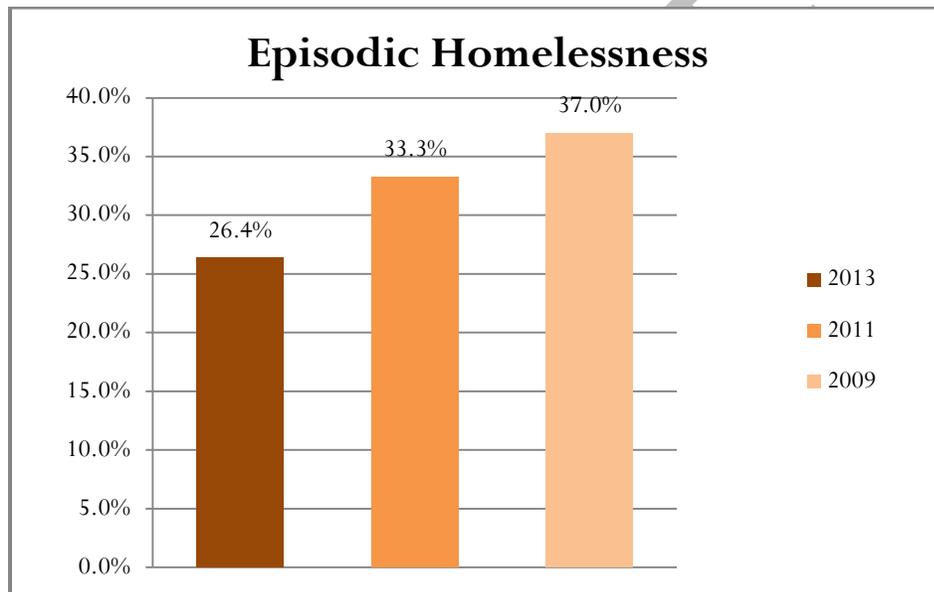
There were a total of 329 adults in emergency shelter and 253 adults in transitional housing in HMIS on the night of the count. These numbers are higher than what was recorded as part of the count. On the night of the count 228 respondents stated that they would be in emergency shelter and 160 reported residing in transitional housing.

Length and Episodes of Homelessness

Of the homeless population surveyed in Mercer County, 155 or 34.1% responded that they have been homeless in excess of one year. Of those who were homeless less than one year, 31.7% 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	25	5.5
8 days to 1 month	52	11.5
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	71	15.6
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	82	18.1
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	57	12.6
More than 1 year	155	34.1

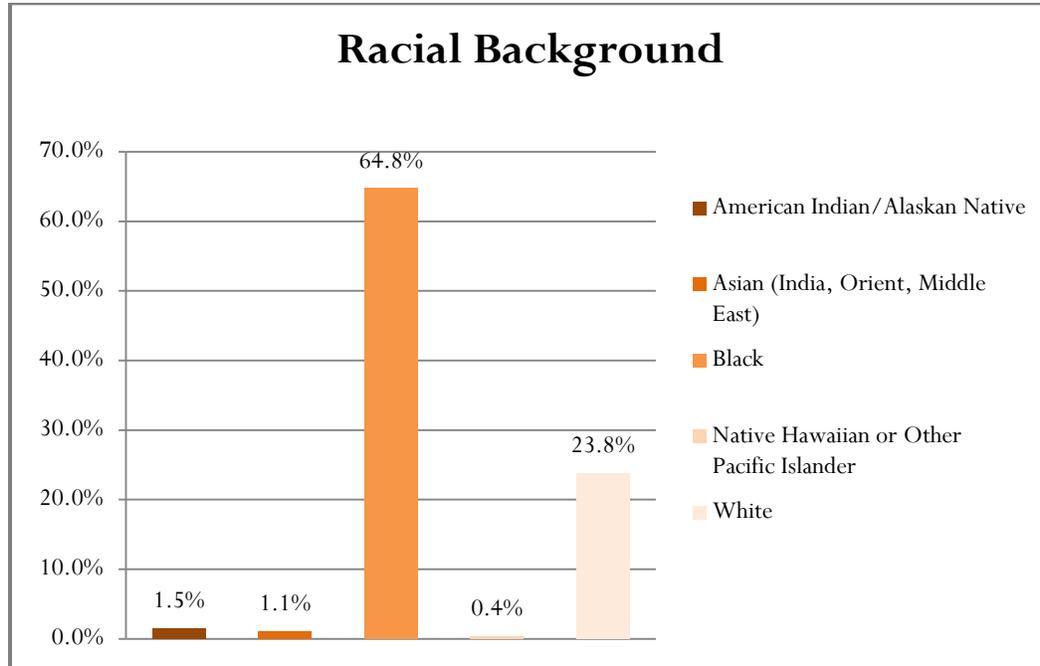
As reflected in the Episodic Homelessness chart that follows, a total of 120 or 26.4% of the total homeless population reported having at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three years. This number has been on the decline over the last three (3) full HUD count years reaching its lowest percentage in the current count year.



Demographics

In 2013, of the total homeless population in Mercer County, 281 people or 61.9% were male, 152 people or 33.5% were female and one (1) person or 0.2% identified as transgender.

The chart below outlines the racial breakdown of homeless persons in the 2013 count. The largest percentage identified as Black (64.8%) followed by those who defined their race as White (23.8%). The total percentage of the homeless population that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 12.6%.

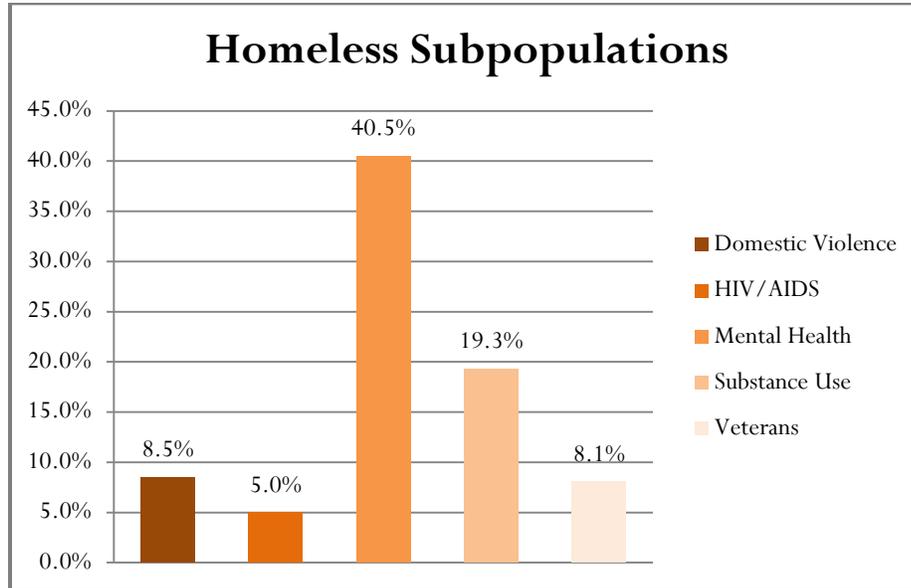


The largest percentage of the homeless in Mercer County fell within the 50 to 59 year old age range, totaling 24.2%. This group was very closely followed by those within the 40 to 49 year old age range (22.2%).

2013 Age	#	%
18-21	28	6.2
22-24	37	8.1
25-29	43	9.5
30-39	74	16.3
40-49	101	22.2
50-59	110	24.2
60-64	26	5.7
65 or older	5	1.1

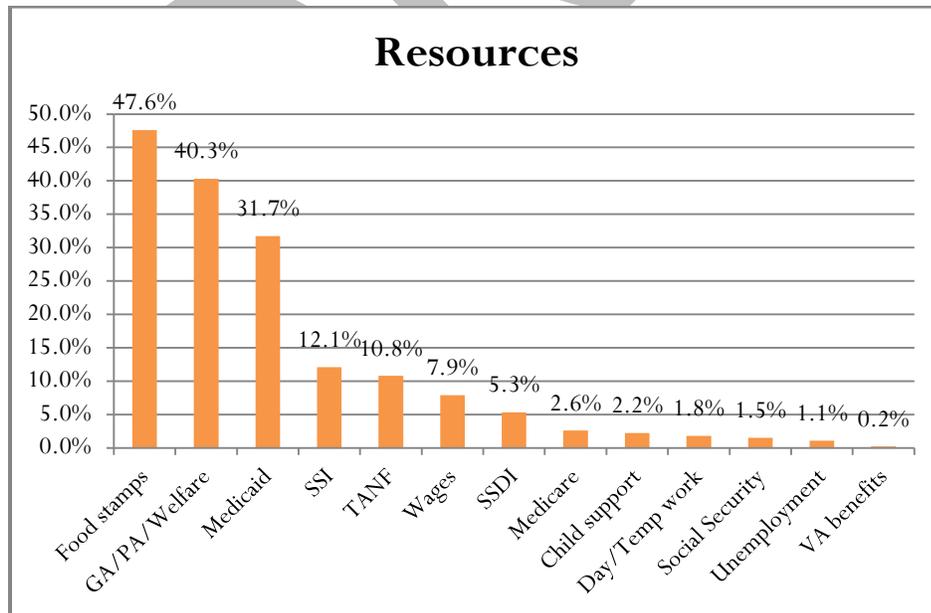
Homeless Subpopulations

The Homeless Subpopulation chart outlines the breakdown of the homeless HUD subpopulations in Mercer County for the 2013 count. The largest subpopulation that was homeless had mental health issues (40.5%). The number of homeless veterans equaled 8.1% (n=37).



Financial Resources and Income

The three main sources of income reported by people who were homeless in Mercer County on the night of the 2013 count were Food Stamps (47.6%), Welfare (40.3%) and Medicaid (31.7%). A total of 4.0% of the homeless population reported receiving no form of government benefits 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 annual income. The largest percent of respondents stated they had an estimated annual income of less than \$5,000 with a total of 22.9% reporting no income.

2013 Year Income	#	%
No Income	104	22.9%
\$1.00- \$4,999	196	43.2%
\$5,000- \$9,999	66	14.5%
\$10,000- \$14,999	28	6.2%
\$15,000-\$19,999	11	2.4%
\$20,000-\$24,999	6	1.3%
\$25,000-\$29,999	1	0.2%
Over \$30,0000	5	1.0%

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness

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

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Relationship/family breakup or death	27.5
Lost job/can't find work	24.9
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	20.3
Medical problems/disability	11.7
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	11.0
Mental illness/emotional problems	10.6
Have work but wages are too low	9.5
Domestic violence	7.7
Lost job due to lack of transportation	6.6
Utility costs are too high	5.9
Foreclosure or at risk of Foreclosure	3.5
House condemned	3.3
Natural disaster	1.8
Loss of child support	0.9

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

2013 Service Needs	#	%
<i>Received</i>		
Emergency shelter	217	47.8
Emergency food	137	30.2
Housing	90	19.8
<i>Need</i>		
Housing	238	52.4
Employment assistance	109	24.0
Transportation services	91	20.0

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 shows, the institution that had the highest numbers of respondents reporting they were discharged into homelessness was City/County Jail, followed by State Prison and Medical Hospital.

Discharged Into Homelessness (Past Three Years)		
<i>Corrections</i>		
	#	%
City or County Jail	66	14.5
State Prison	57	12.6
Juvenile Detention Center	6	1.3
<i>Inpatient Care</i>		
	#	%
Medical Hospital	53	11.7
State inpatient mental health treatment	16	3.5
Private Inpatient Substance Use	14	3.1
	10	2.2

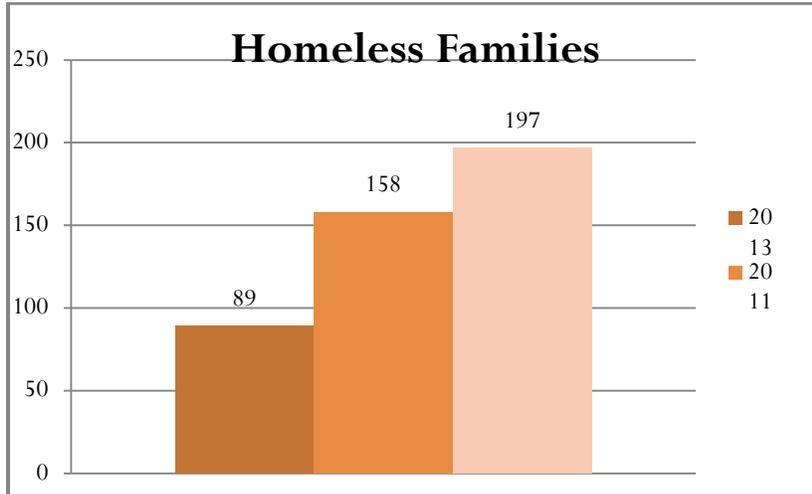
Last Permanent Address

In the 2013 count, 88.7% (n=403) of the homeless respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. In reviewing the surrounding states, 1.3% (n=6) last lived in Pennsylvania, and 1.1% (n=5) last lived in New York. The only municipality that reported significant numbers for last permanent address was the City of Trenton (n=318, 70%).

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FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

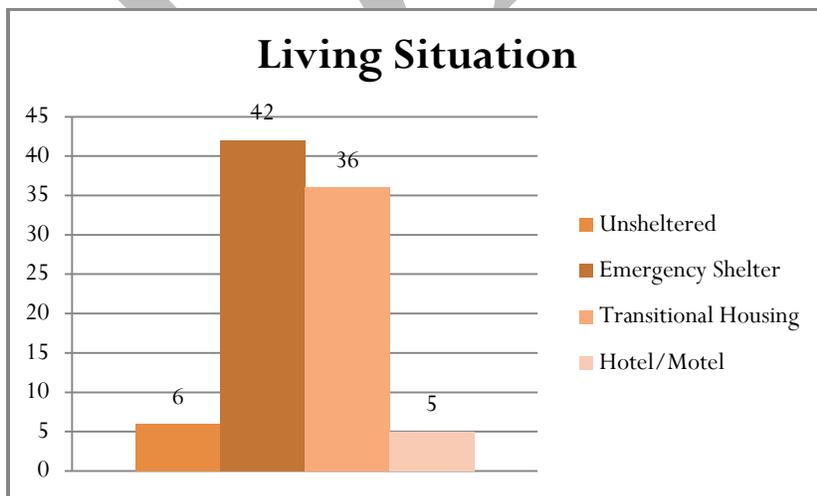
In 2013, of the 454 homeless respondents in Mercer County, 89 or 19.6% had at least one dependent child under the age of 18 with them the night of the count and are considered a homeless family. Of the 178 homeless children in these families, 116 were six (6) years of age or younger and 62 were between the ages of seven (7) and 17.



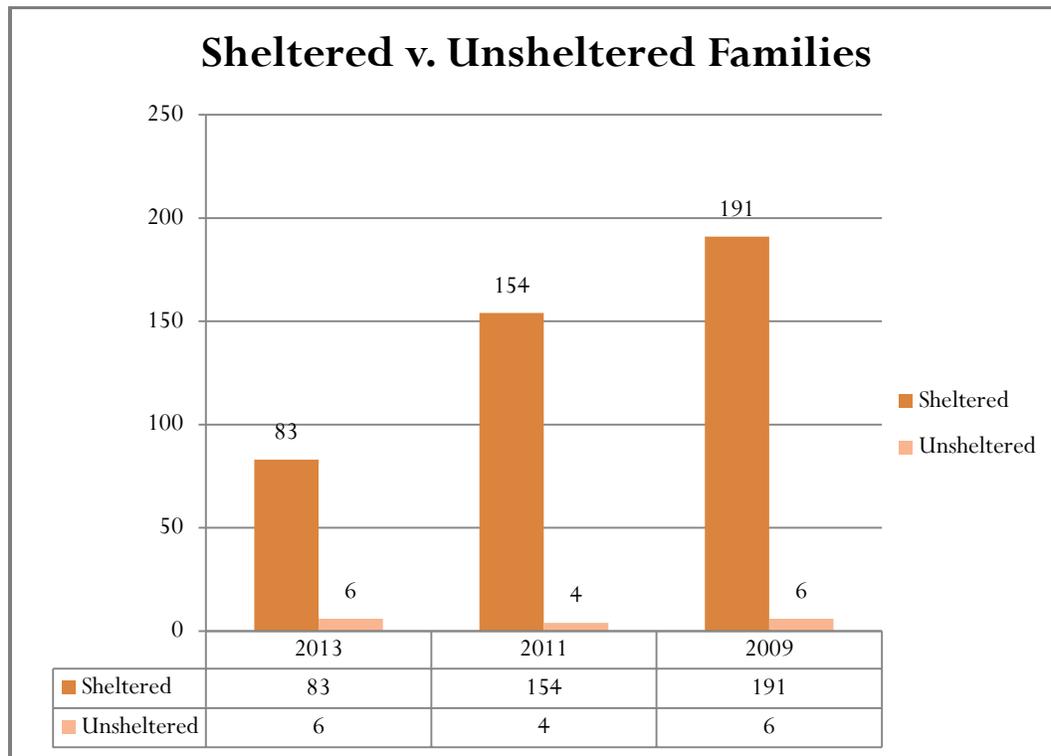
Living Situation

In Mercer 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 15 children with them.

The remaining 83 homeless families were in sheltered living situations that included emergency shelter, transitional housing, and hotel/motel placements. The largest percentage (50.6%) of homeless families were residing in emergency shelters on the night of the 2013 count as reflected in the Living Situation chart that follows.



The homeless families in Mercer County have primarily been in sheltered living situations over the last three (3) full HUD count years with the numbers declining as the overall homeless population has declined.



Length of Homelessness

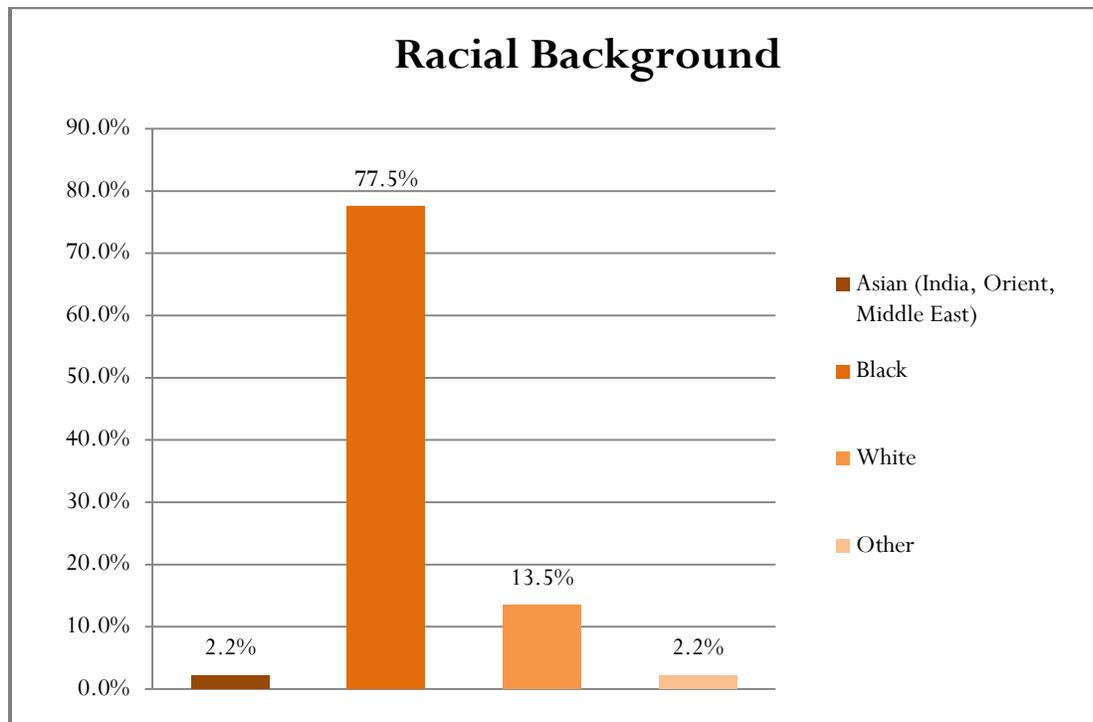
The largest percentage (22.5%) of homeless families had been homeless three (3) to six (6) months. This was closely followed by those families that had been homeless between eight (8) days and three (3) months (21.3%) as reflected in the table below.

2013 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day to 1 week	8	9.0
8 days to 1 month	19	21.3
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	19	21.3
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	20	22.5
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	8	9.0
More than 1 year	12	13.5

Demographics

Of the 89 homeless families in Mercer County, 76.4% (n=68) were female headed households and 18% (n=16) were male headed households.

The chart below outlines the racial breakdown of homeless families in the 2013 count. The largest percentage defined their race as Black (77.5%). The next largest group defined themselves as White at 13.5%. A total of 13.5% (n=12) defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

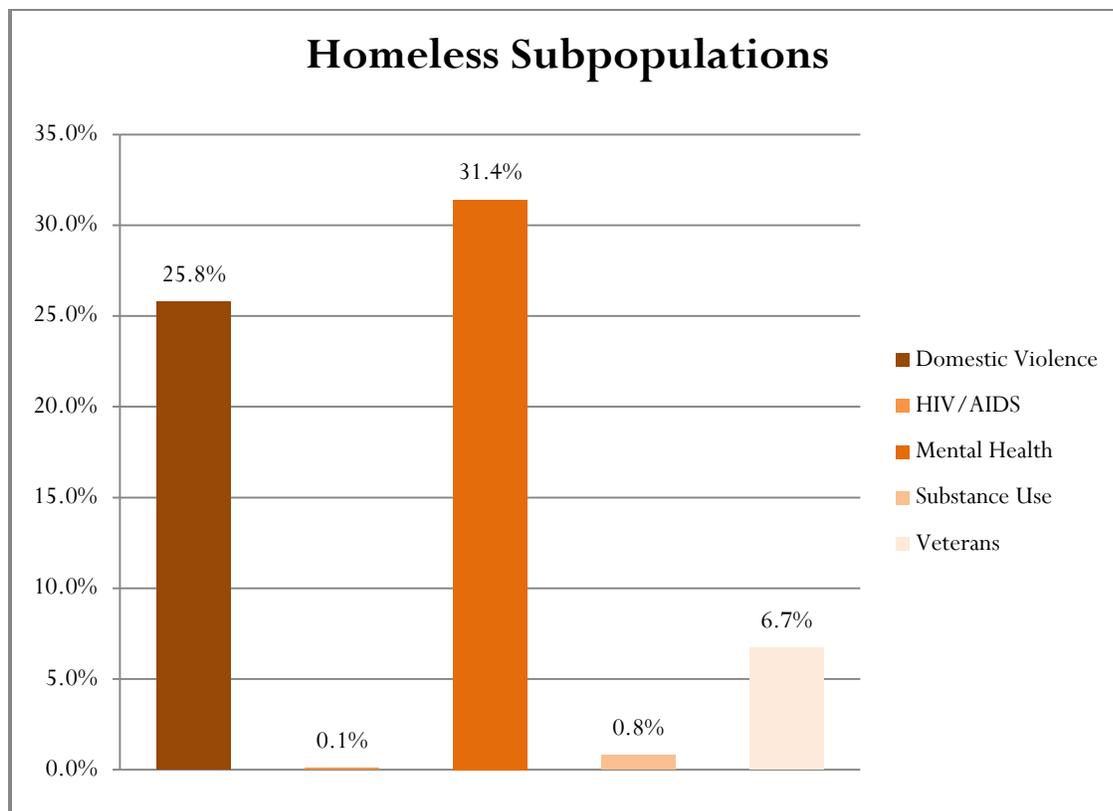


Of homeless families in Mercer County, the largest percentage had a head of household that fell within the 30 to 39 year old age range. The next largest percentage fell within the 22 to 24 year old age range (22.5%).

2013 Age	#	%
18-21	10	11.2
22-24	20	22.5
25-29	14	15.7
30-39	28	31.5
40-49	11	12.4
50-59	2	2.2

Homeless Family Subpopulations

Among the HUD homeless subpopulations in the 2013 count, the largest subpopulation among homeless families had a head of household with mental health issues (31.4%). Households experiencing domestic violence (25.8%) ranked second as a subpopulation as reflected in the chart below.



Financial Resources and Income

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

- Food Stamps (62.9%);
- TANF (50.6%); and
- Medicaid (47.2%).

All of the families reported receiving some type of government benefit on the night of the count. In reviewing yearly income, the majority of the homeless families were earning less than \$15,000 annually with the largest percentage having an estimated income of less than \$5,000 per year.

2013 Year Income	#	%
No Income	8	9.0
\$1.00- \$4,999	32	36.0
\$5,000- \$9,999	20	22.5
\$10,000- \$14,999	12	13.5
\$15,000-\$19,999	8	9.0
\$20,000-\$24,999	5	5.6
Over \$25,000	2	2.2

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The highest ranking factor that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Mercer County was relationship breakdown. Other top ranking factors included housing costs being too high and domestic violence.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Relationship/family breakup or death	36.0%
Housing costs are too high	22.5%
Domestic violence	21.3%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction/ lost job/can't find work	13.5%
Utility costs are too high	10.1%

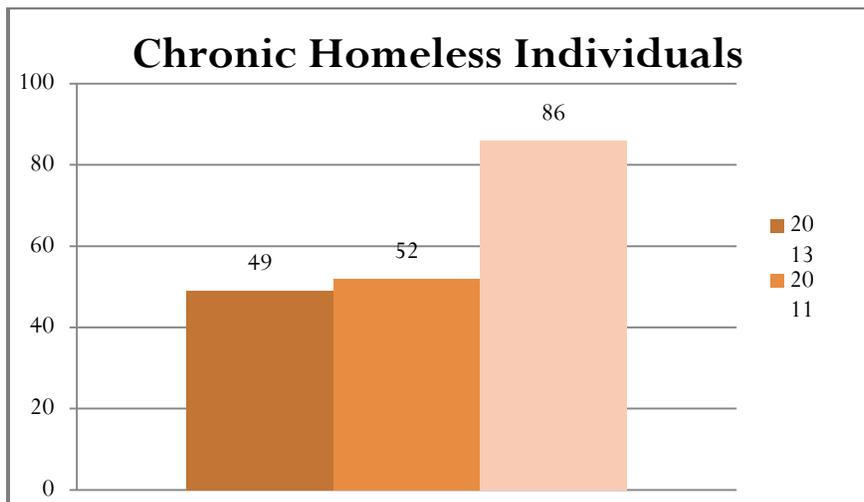
When homeless families were asked their top needs on the night of the count, the top three needs identified included:

- Housing (33.7%);
- Child Care (23.5%); and
- Educational training (16.8%).

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

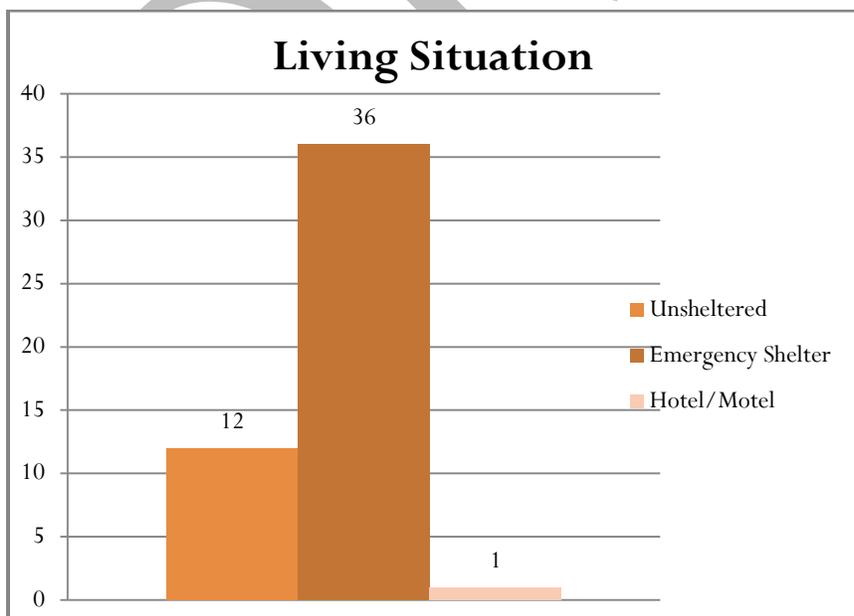
INDIVIDUALS

On the night of January 30, 2013, there were 49 chronically homeless individuals counted in Mercer County equaling 10.7% of the total homeless population. The chronically homeless individual population has been on the decline over the past three (3) full HUD years reaching its lowest level in this year's count.

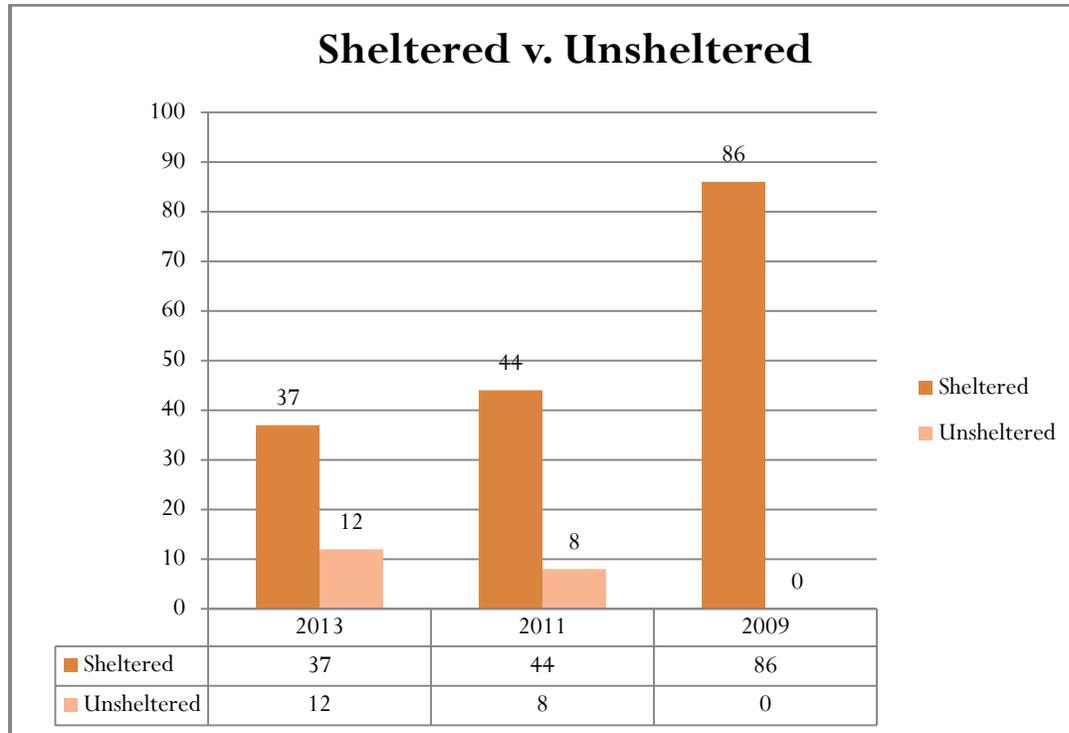


Living Situation

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 that follows is a breakdown of where the chronically homeless individual population was residing on the night of the 2013 count. The largest percentage (73.4%) of the chronically homeless was residing in emergency shelter on the night of the count.



Over the last three (3) full HUD count years, the number of the sheltered chronically homeless individuals in Mercer County has been on the decline, decreasing a total of 56.9%. Conversely, the number of unsheltered chronically homeless individuals has been on the rise reaching its highest numbers in 2013.



Length of Homelessness

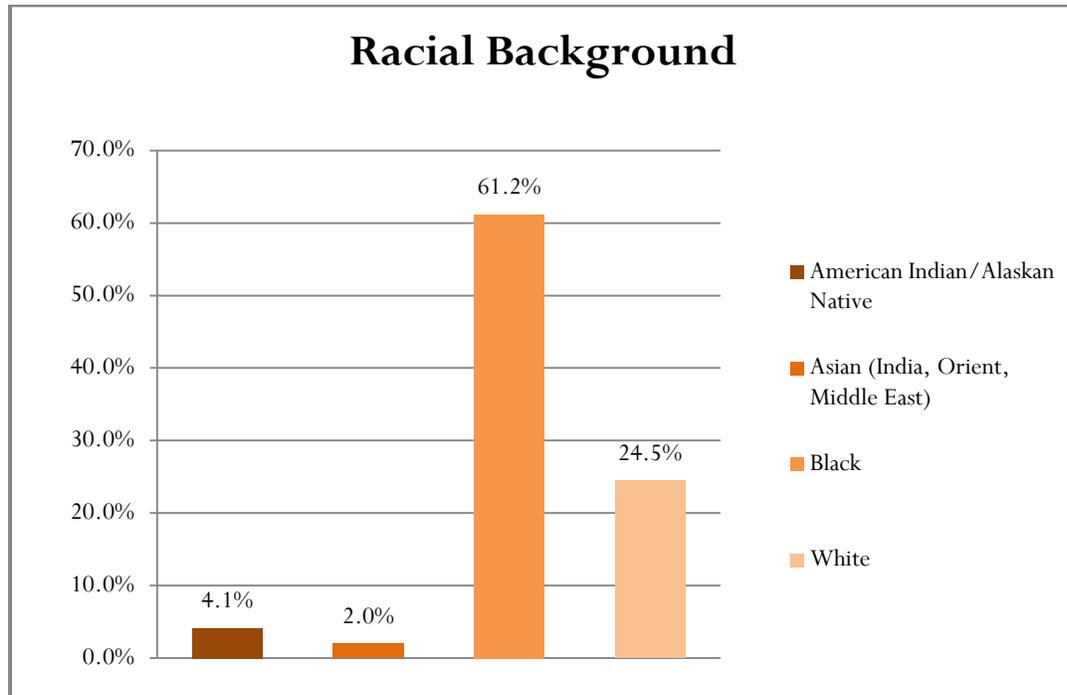
Of the total chronically homeless individuals in Mercer County, 81.6% (n= 40) reported they had been homeless for more than one year. A total of 69.4% (n= 34) reported they had four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

2013 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day to 1 week	1	2.0
8 days to 1 month	2	4.1
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	3	6.1
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	0	0.0
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	3	6.1
More than 1 year	40	81.6

Demographics

In 2013, four (4) or 81.6% of the chronically homeless individual population were male and eight (8) or 16.3% were female.

As the chart below outlines, the largest percentage of chronically homeless individuals identified their race as Black (61.2%) with the next largest percentage being those who identified their race as White (24.5%). The total percentage that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 10.2%.

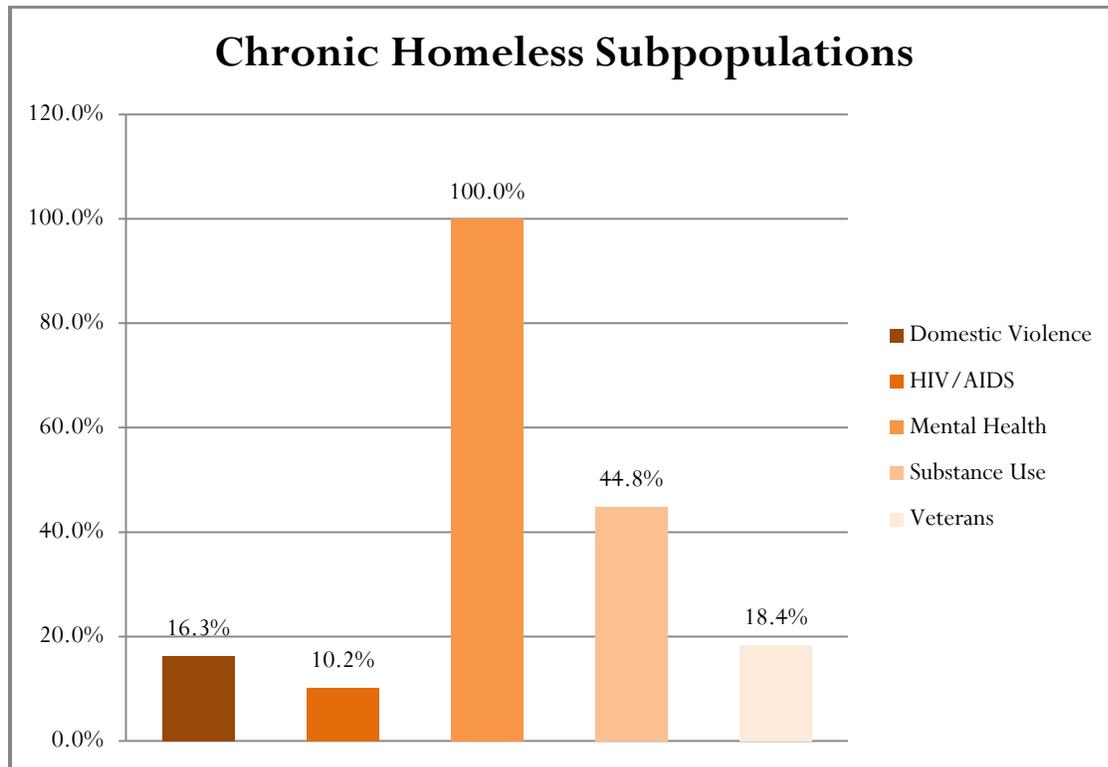


On the night of the 2013 count in Mercer County, the largest percentage of chronically homeless individuals fell into the 50 to 59 year old age range (46.9%).

2013 Age	#	%
25-29	9	18.4
30-39	4	8.2
40-49	9	18.4
50-59	23	46.9
60-64	1	2.0
65 or older	1	2.0

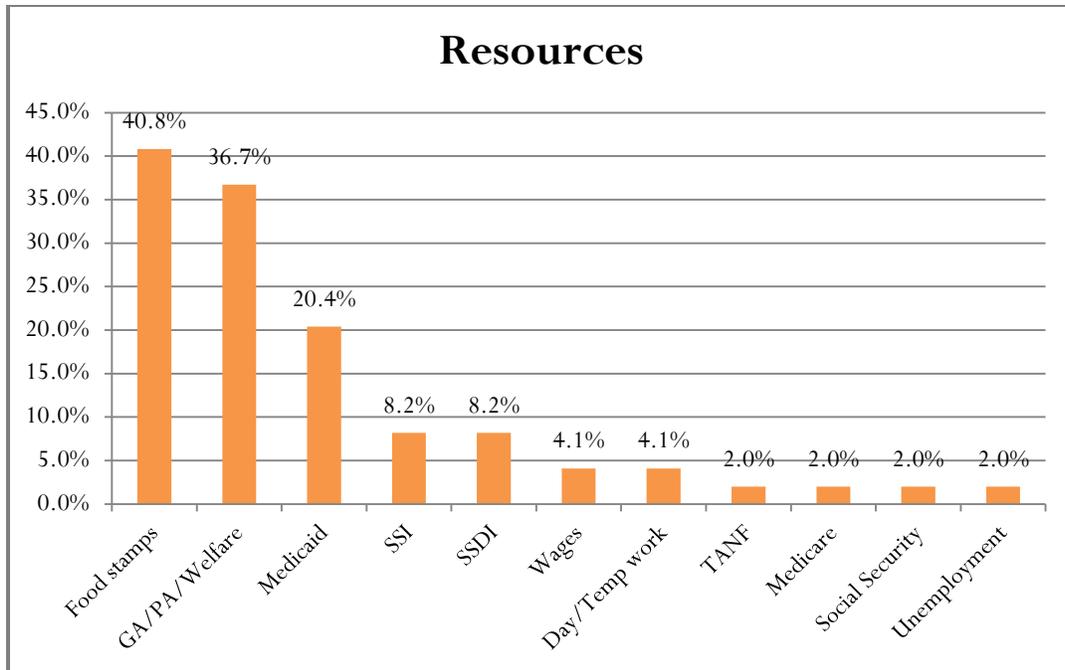
Chronic Homeless Subpopulations

The chart below outlines the breakdown of the chronic homeless individual HUD subpopulations for the 2013 count. As shown in the chart, 100% reported having mental health issues and 44.8% of the chronic homeless individuals reported they had substance use issues. A total of 18.4% (n=9) were veterans.



Financial Resources

The three main sources of income reported by chronically homeless individuals in Mercer County on the night of the 2013 count were Food Stamps (40.8%), Welfare (36.7%) and Medicaid (20.4%). 4.1% reported receiving no form of government benefit on the night of the count.



As reflected in the table below, the largest percentage (40.8%) of chronically homeless individuals reported having no income. The next largest percentage was those with an estimated annual income of less than \$5,000.

2013 Year Income	#	%
No Income	20	40.8
\$1,000- \$4,999	18	36.7
\$5,000- \$9,999	5	10.2
\$10,000- \$14,999	2	4.1
Over \$15,000	1	2.0

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The highest ranking factor that chronically homeless individual respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Mercer County was alcohol or drug abuse problems. The other top ranking factor was loss of a job/inability to find work.

2013 Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	38.8
Lost job/can't find work	34.7
Incarceration	24.5
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	24.5
Have work but wages are too low	22.4
Relationship/family breakup or death	22.4
Housing costs are too high	16.3
Mental illness/emotional problems	16.3
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	12.2
Lost job due to lack of transportation	10.2
Domestic violence	8.2
House condemned	8.2
Utility costs are too high	8.2
Foreclosure or at risk of Foreclosure	2.0
Loss of child support	2.0

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

2013 Service Needs	#	%
<i>Received</i>		
Emergency shelter	28	57.1
Emergency food	14	28.6
Medical (disability)	7	14.3
<i>Need</i>		
Housing	36	73.5
Medical (disability)	19	38.8
ID/Dental care/Healthcare	18	36.7

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 table 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>	#	%
City or County Jail	17	34.7
State Prison	14	28.6
Juvenile Detention Center	1	2.0
<i>Inpatient Care</i>	#	%
Medical Hospital	11	22.4
State inpatient mental health	9	18.4
City/County inpatient mental health	3	6.1
Private Inpatient Substance Use	2	4.1

Last Permanent Address

In the 2013 count, 87.7% (n=43) of the chronically homeless individual respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. In reviewing the surrounding states, 0.2% (n=1) last lived in Pennsylvania. The only municipality that had a significant number of chronically homeless individual respondents reporting that municipality as their last permanent address before becoming homeless was the City of Trenton (73.4%).

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS FAMILIES

In Mercer County, a total of three (3) families met the chronic homeless definition and could be considered a chronically homeless family. This is a decrease from the last full HUD count year in 2011 when a total of five (5) families were counted.

A total of three (3) chronically homeless families equal 0.6% of the total homeless population and 3.3% of the total family homeless population. These families had a total of six (6) children with them. Adding the families to the chronically homeless individuals gives Mercer County a total chronically homeless population of 58 men, women and children on the night of the 2013 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. On the night of the count, 100% of the families were residing in emergency shelter.

Length of Homelessness

66.7% (n=2) reported that they had been homeless for more than one year while one (1) family had been homeless between three (3) and six (6) months. A total of 66.7% (n=2) reported that they had been homeless four (4) times in the past three (3) years.

Demographics

In 2013 all three (3) or 100% of the chronically homeless families were female headed households and 100% defined their race as Black.

The ages of the heads of households were between 30 to 39 years old (66.7%; n=2) and 22 to 24 years old (33.3%; n=1).

Chronic Homeless Family Subpopulations

All of the chronically homeless families were a part of the HUD subpopulation for mental illness and one (1) family reported substance abuse issues.

Financial Resources and Income

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

- TANF (66.7%);
- Food Stamps (66.7%); and

- SSI, Medicaid and Child Support (33.3%).

All of the families reported receiving some type of government benefit. The estimated annual income for these families was less than \$15,000.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The top factors, as reported by respondents in Mercer County, which led their family to become homeless, were mental illness and relationship breakdown.

When chronically homeless families were asked their top need, almost all of the services listed in the survey were reported to be needed by at least one (1) of the families.

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