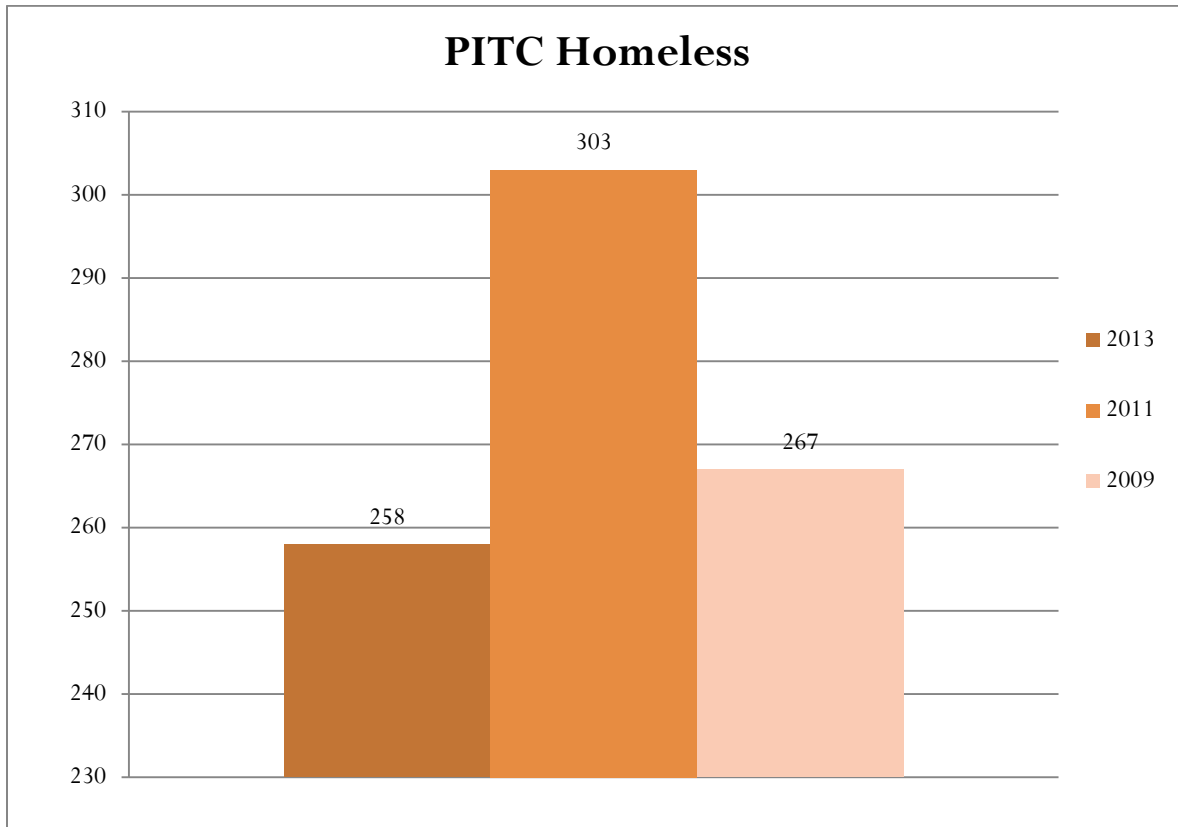


## SOMERSET COUNTY

On January 30, 2013 there were 258 homeless men, women and children counted in Somerset County according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations. Homelessness in Somerset County has fluctuated over the past three (3) full HUD count years with the highest numbers being seen in 2011.

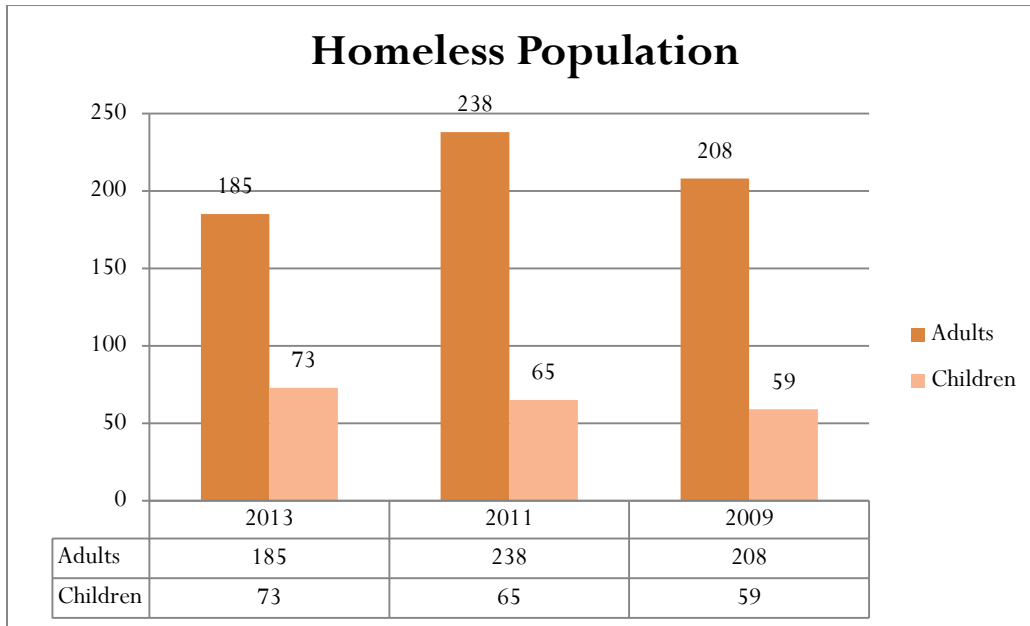


The actual number of people who are homeless over the course of the year may be two to four times higher than the number counted at one point in time. Using the statistical formula developed in the publication "Estimating the Need," it is projected that *over the course of a year, 500 adults and children are homeless in Somerset County.*

Of the 258 people who were homeless on the night of the count, 73 were children as reflected in the table below.

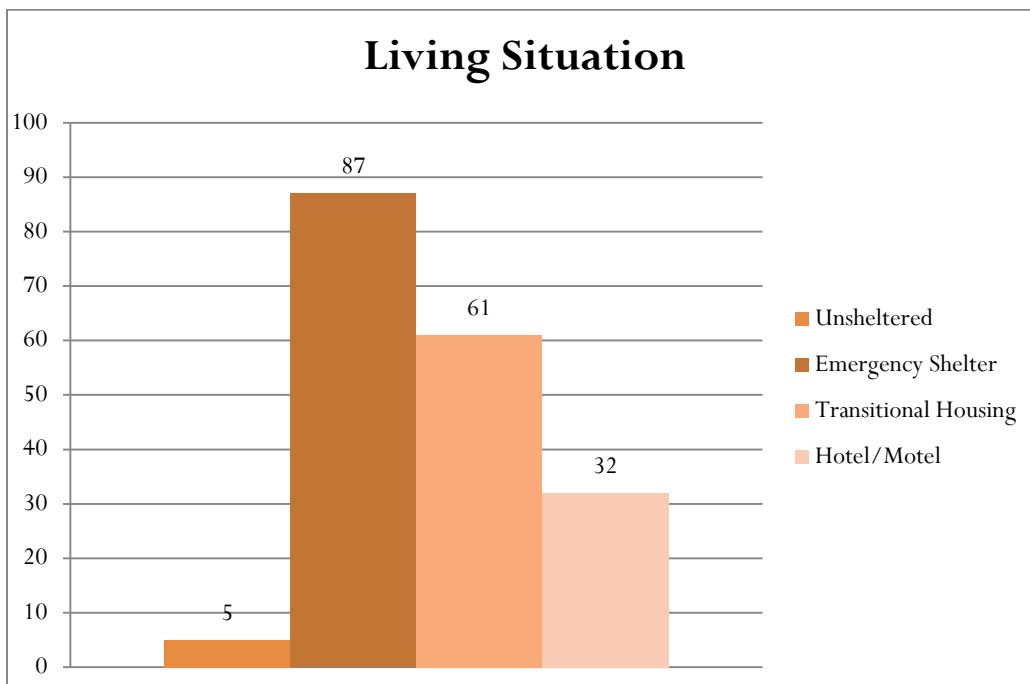
<b>2013 Homeless Breakdown</b>	
Respondents (Adults)	185
Family Members (Children)	73
<b>Total Homeless</b>	<b>258</b>

As the Homeless Population chart shows, while the adult homeless population has fluctuated over time the number of homeless children has been on the rise since 2009 with an overall increase of 19.1%.



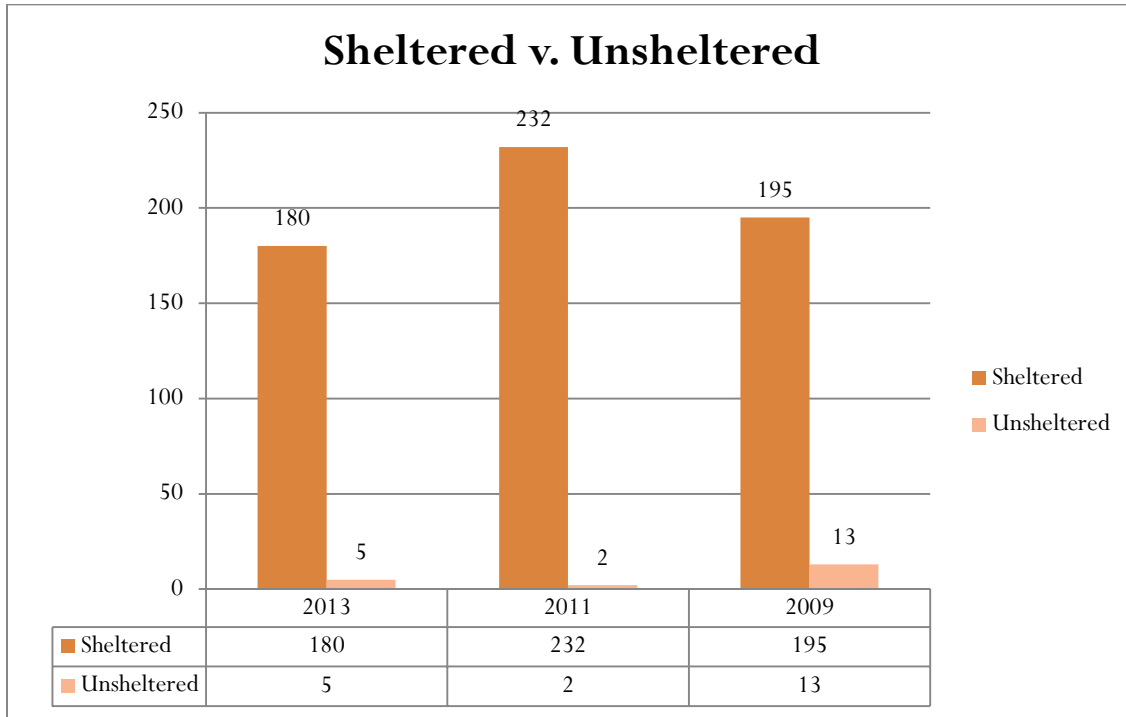
### Living Situation

As reflected in the Living Situation chart that follows, five (5) or 2.7% 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=87, 47%).



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

The numbers of sheltered and unsheltered homeless has fluctuated over the past three (3) full HUD count years with the highest numbers of sheltered homeless being seen in 2011 and the highest numbers of unsheltered homeless in 2009.



**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 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 17 years of age in emergency shelter or transitional housing on the night of the count.

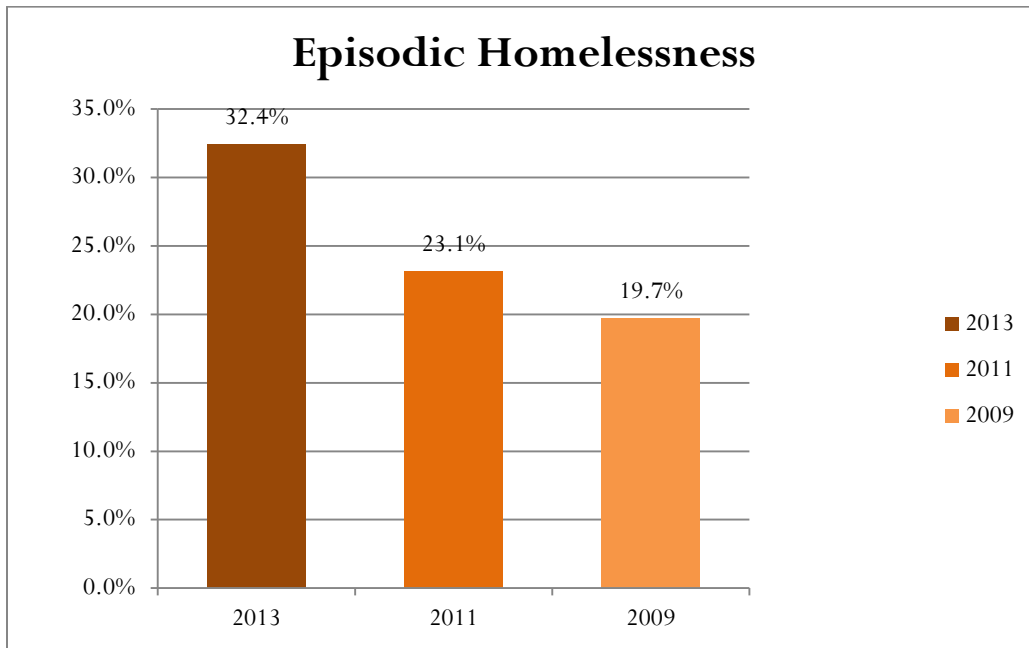
In Somerset County, there were a total of 32 adults in emergency shelter and no one (0) in transitional housing in the HMIS on the night of the count. These numbers are lower than what was recorded as part of the count. On the night of the count 81 respondents stated that they would be in emergency shelter and 61 reported residing in transitional housing.

**Length and Episodes of Homelessness**

Of the homeless population surveyed in Somerset County, 77 or 41.6% responded that they had been homeless in excess of one year. Of those who were homeless less than one year, 35.1% or 65% reported that they had been homeless at least one other time within the past 12 months.

<b>2013 Length of Homelessness</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
1 day to 1 week	7	3.8
8 days to 1 month	6	3.2
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	15	8.1
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	28	15.1
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	47	25.4
<b>More than 1 year</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>41.6</b>

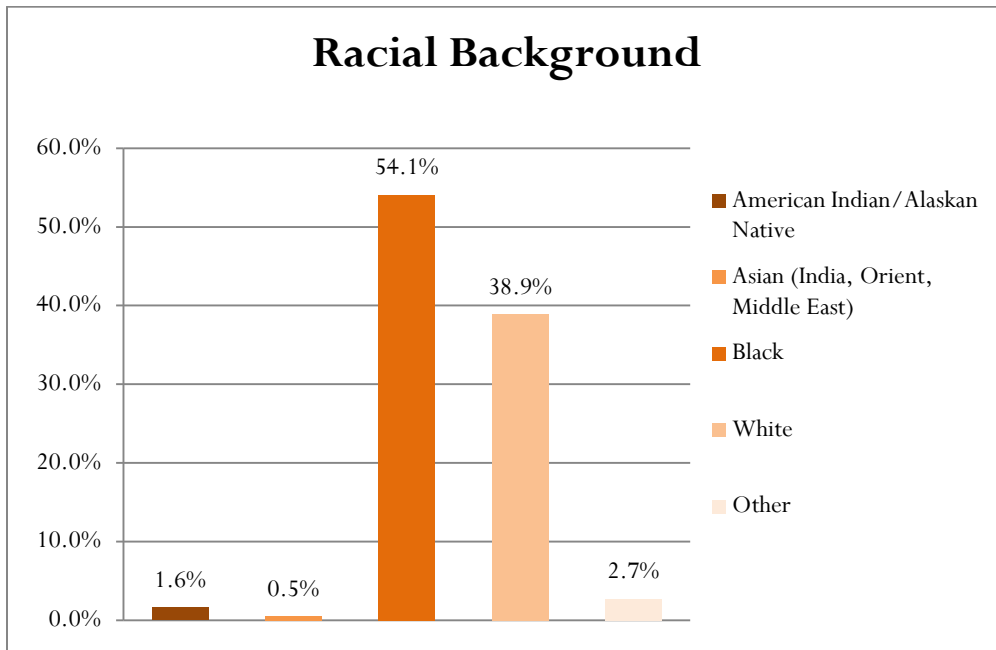
As reflected in the Episodic Homelessness chart that follows, a total of 60 or 32.4% of the total homeless population reported having at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. This percentage has been consistently on the rise over the past three full HUD count years reaching the highest percentage in the 2013 count year.



### Demographics

In 2013, of the total homeless population in Somerset County, 113 people or 61.1% were male, and 66 or 35.7% were female.

The chart below outlines the racial breakdown of homeless persons in the 2013 count. Over 50% defined their race as Black (54.1%) with the next largest percentage identifying as White (38.9%). The total percentage of the homeless population that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 8.1%.

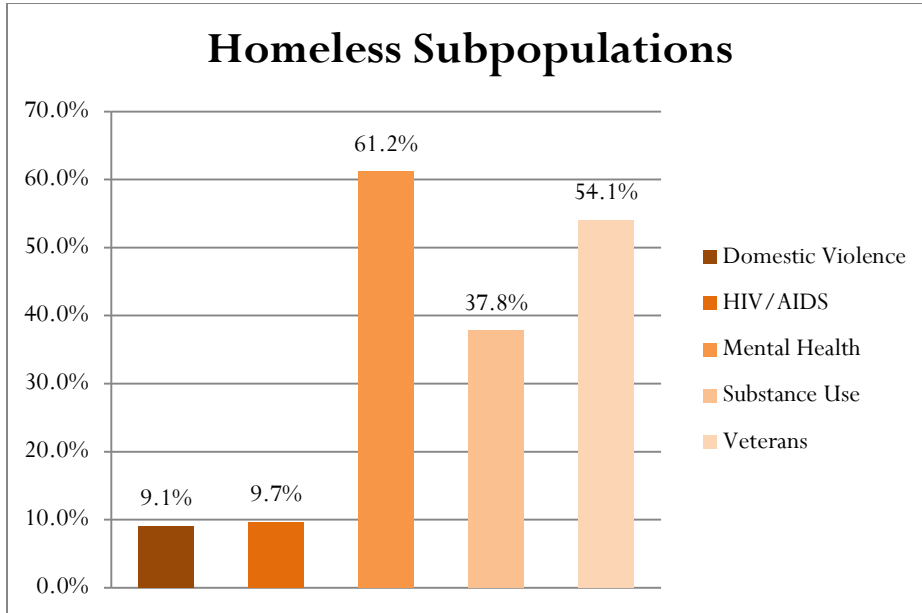


The largest percentage of the homeless in Somerset County fell within the 50 to 59 year old age range, totaling 30.3%. The remainder of the homeless population was dispersed throughout all of the other age groups as demonstrated in the table below.

2013 Age	#	%
Under 18	10	5.4
18-21	21	11.4
22-24	6	3.2
25-29	19	10.3
30-39	13	7.0
40-49	17	9.2
<b>50-59</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>30.3</b>
60-64	14	7.6
65 or older	5	2.7

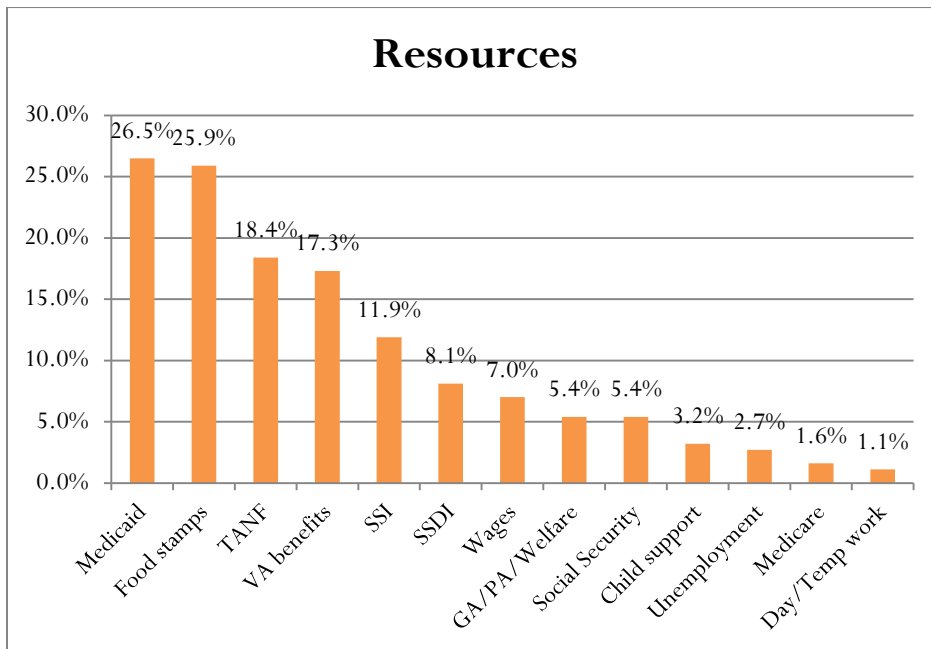
### Homeless Subpopulations

The chart below outlines the breakdown of the homeless subpopulations in Somerset County for the 2013 count. Overwhelmingly, the largest subpopulation was that of the homeless who had mental health issues (61.2%). The second largest subpopulation of people experiencing homelessness, 54.1% (n=100), was of veterans.



### Financial Resources and Income

The three main sources of income reported by people who were homeless in Somerset County on the night of the 2013 count were Medicaid (26.5%), Food Stamps (25.9%) and TANF (18.4%). 7.6% 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 annual income. In Somerset County, the largest percentage of respondents stated that they had an estimated annual income of less than \$5,000 with a total of 35.7% reporting no income on the night of the count.

<b>2013 Year Income</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
No Income	66	35.7%
<b>\$1.00- \$4,999</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>45.4%</b>
\$5,000- \$9,999	15	8.1%
\$10,000- \$14,999	8	4.3%
Over \$15,000	1	0.5%

### **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.

<b>Contributing Factors to Homelessness</b>	<b>%</b>
Relationship/family breakup or death	40.0
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	34.6
Lost job/can't find work	31.4
Mental illness/emotional problems	30.8
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	30.3
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	22.2
Housing costs are too high	21.6
Have work but wages are too low	14.6
Lost job due to lack of transportation	14.1
Incarceration	13.5
Utility costs are too high	10.8
Domestic violence	7.6
Foreclosure or at risk of Foreclosure	5.4
House condemned	3.2
Natural disaster	2.2
Loss of child support	1.1

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

<b>2013 Service Needs</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>Received</i>		
Emergency shelter	104	56.2
Housing/Medical	90	48.6
Dental	81	43.8
<i>Need</i>		
Housing	56	30.3
Education/Employment	38	20.5
Dental	30	16.2

**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 State Prison.

<b>Discharged Into Homelessness (Past Three Years)</b>		
<i>Corrections</i>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
State Prison	15	8.1
City or County Jail	13	7.0
Juvenile Detention Center	2	1.1
<i>Inpatient Care</i>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Medical Hospital	14	7.6
State inpatient mental health	10	5.4
City/County inpatient mental health	3	1.6
Private Inpatient Substance Use	3	1.6

**Last Permanent Address**



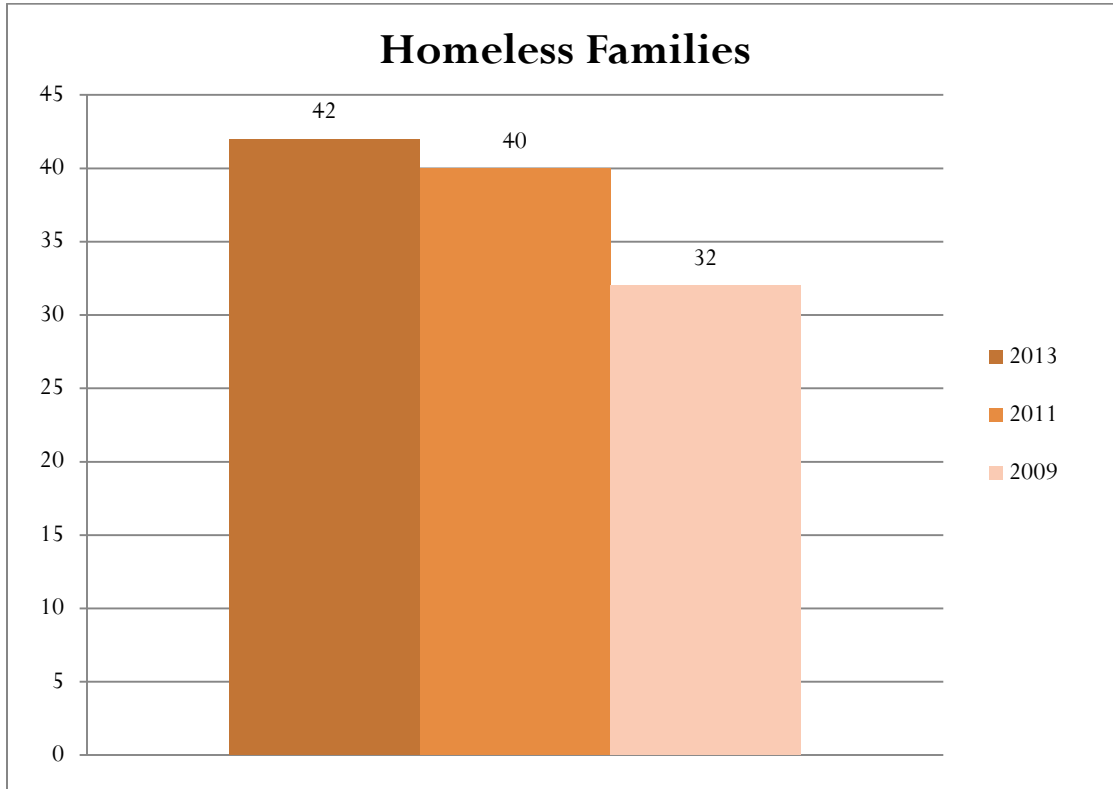
In the 2013 count, 87% (n=160) of the homeless respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. In reviewing the surrounding states, 0.5% (n=1) last lived in Connecticut, 1.6% (n=3) last lived in New York, and 1.6% (n=3) last lived in Pennsylvania.

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

<b>Town</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Newark	20	10.8%
Somerville	13	7.0%
Somerset	12	6.5%
Bound Brook	6	3.2%
East Orange	6	3.2%

## FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

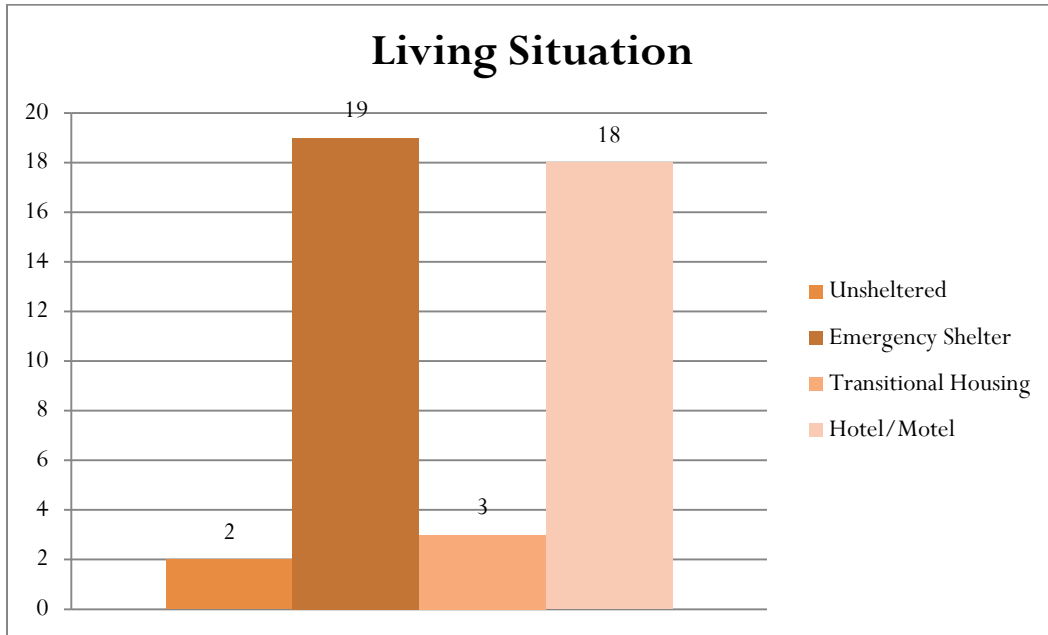
In 2013, of the 185 homeless respondents in Somerset County, 42 or 22.7% had at least one dependent child under the age of 18 with them the night of the count and is considered a homeless family. Of the total of 73 homeless children in these families, 55 were six (6) years or younger and 18 were between seven (7) and 17 years of age.



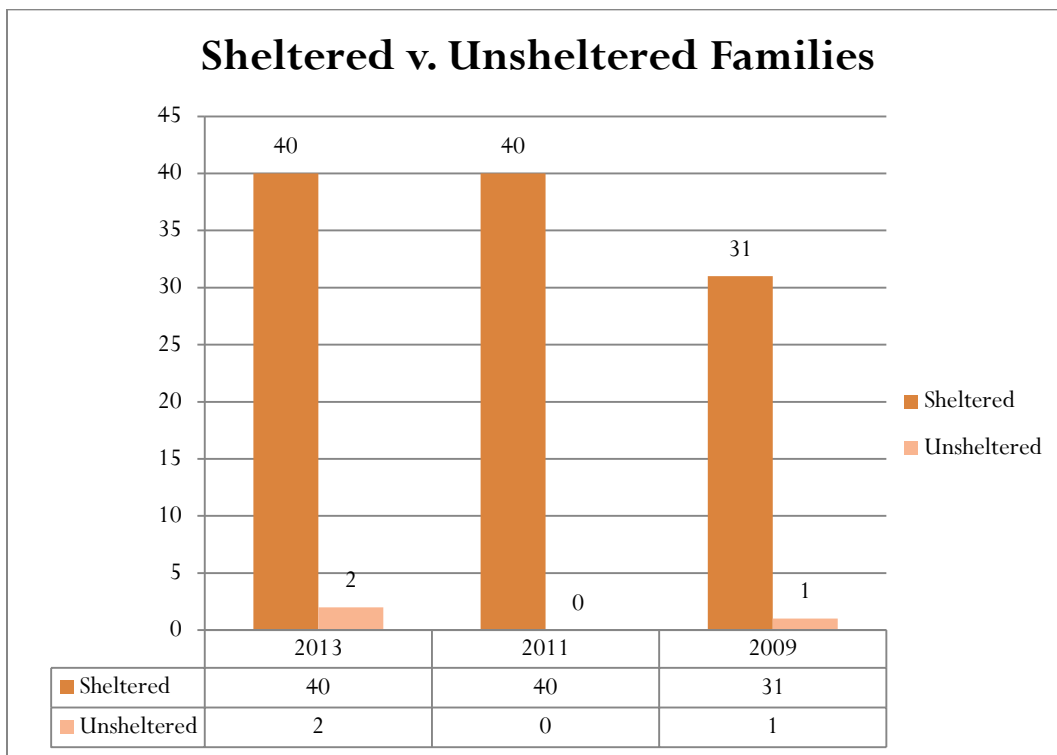
### Living Situation

In Somerset County, two (2) homeless families were in an unsheltered living situation on the night of the count. These two homeless families had a total of three (3) children with them.

The remaining 40 homeless families were in sheltered living situations that included emergency shelter and transitional housing. The largest percentage (45%) of homeless families was residing in an emergency shelter on the night of the 2013 count as reflected in the Living Situation chart that follows.



Homeless families in Somerset County have primarily been in sheltered living situations since 2009 with the highest numbers overall being seen in this 2013 count year.



**Length of Homelessness**

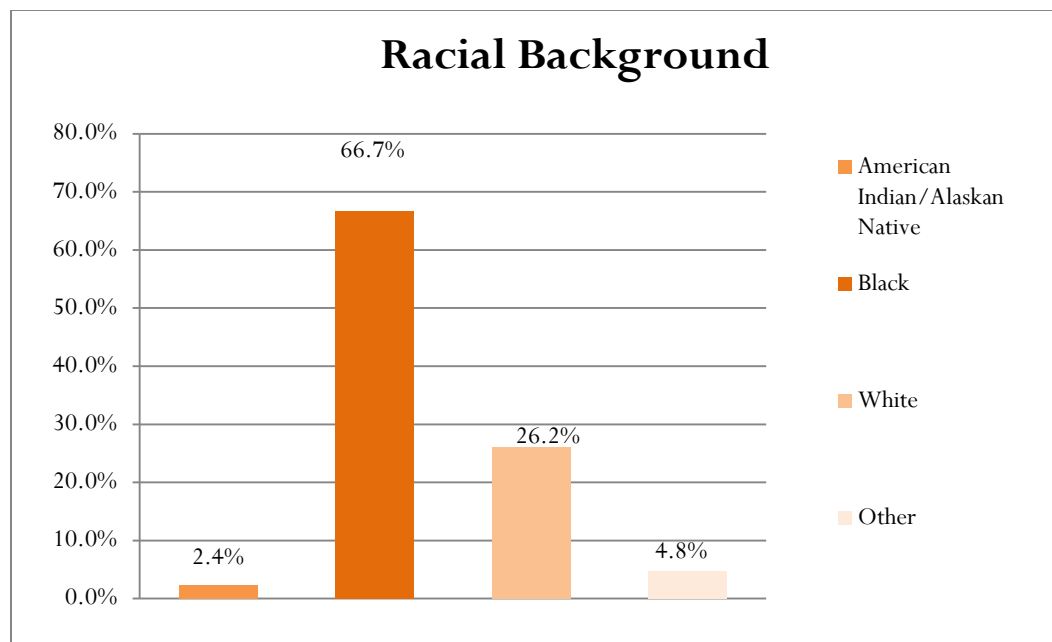
The largest percentage (40.5%) of homeless families had been homeless for six (6) months to one (1) year. This differs from the total homeless population overall where the highest percentage was homeless more than one year.

<b>2013 Length of Homelessness</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
1 day to 1 week	1	2.4
8 days to 1 month	1	2.4
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	7	16.7
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	11	26.2
<b>6 months &amp; 1 day to 12 months</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>40.5</b>
More than 1 year	5	11.9

**Demographics**

Of the total 42 homeless families in Somerset County, 90.5% (n= 38) were female headed households and 9.5% (n=4) 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 (66.7%). Those that defined themselves as White were 26.2%. A total of 14.3% (n=6) defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

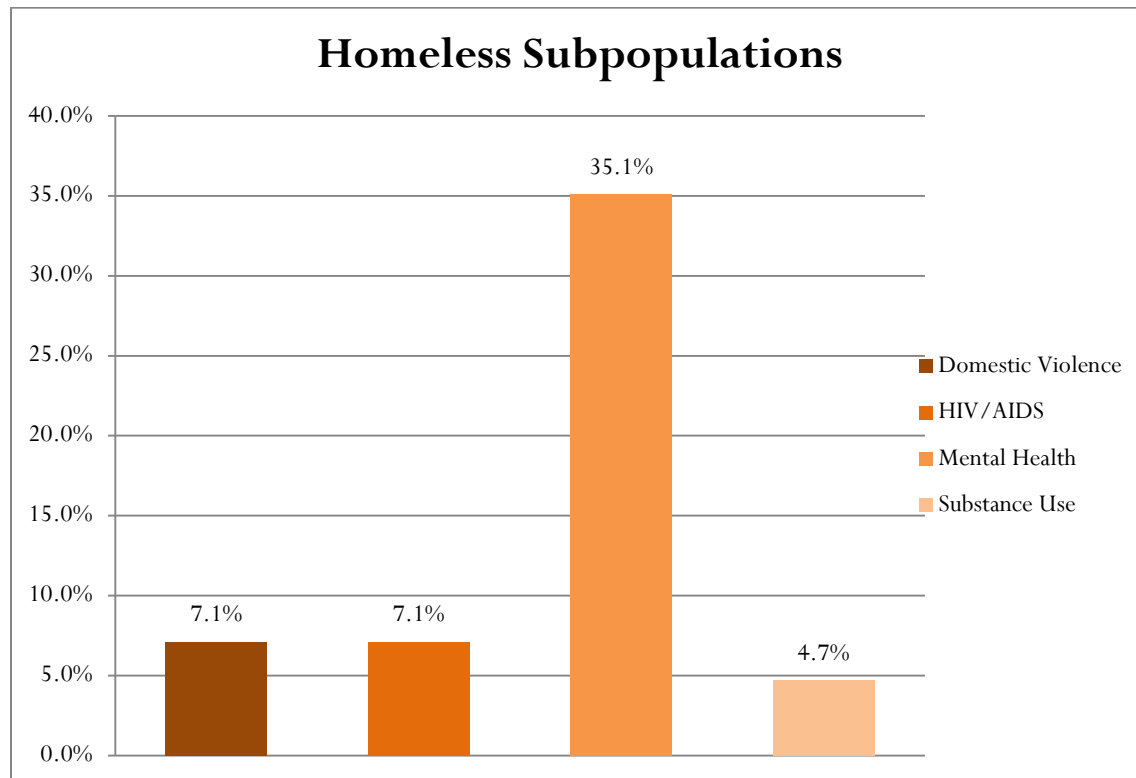


The largest percentage of homeless families in Somerset County had a head of household that fell within the 25 to 29 year old age range. This was closely followed by those in the 30 and 39 yearold age range (23.8%).

2013 Age	#	%
18-21	6	14.3
22-24	5	11.9
<b>25-29</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>28.6</b>
30-39	10	23.8
40-49	3	7.1
50-59	1	2.4

**Homeless Family Subpopulations**

Among the HUD homeless subpopulations in the 2013 count, the largest subpopulation among homeless families was those with a head of household with mental health issues (35.1%). The next largest percentage was for households experiencing domestic violence and with a head of household with HIV/AIDS, 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 2013 count were:

- TANF (78.6%);
- Food Stamps (69%); and
- Medicaid (57.1%)

All of the families reported receiving some type of government benefit. In reviewing annual income, the majority of the families had an estimated annual income of less than \$5,000 a year.

<b>2013 Year Income</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>\$1.00- \$4,999</b>	<b>73.8%</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>\$5,000- \$9,999</b>	<b>23.8%</b>	<b>10</b>

### **Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness**

The highest ranking factor that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Somerset County was eviction. The other top ranking factor was relationship breakdown.

<b>Contributing Factors to Homelessness</b>	<b>%</b>
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	52.4%
Relationship/family breakup or death	45.2%
Lost job/can't find work	38.1%
Housing costs are too high	23.8%
Lost job due to lack of transportation	21.4%

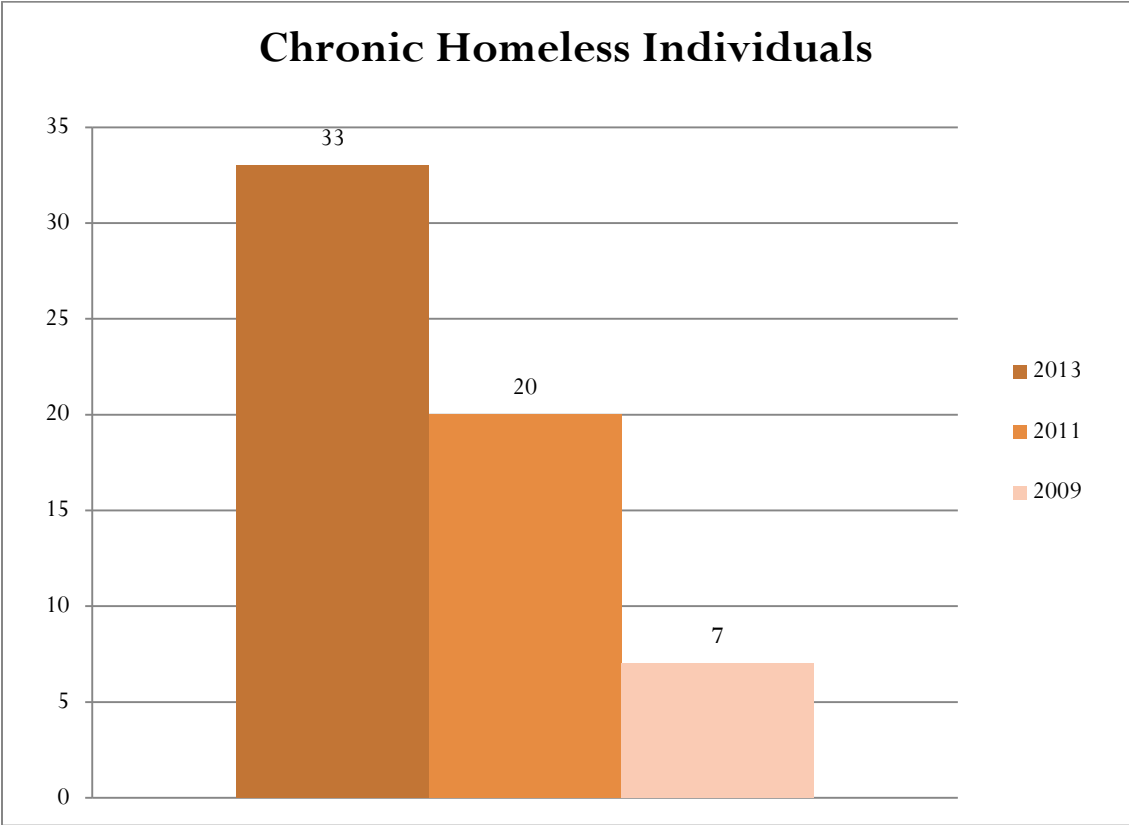
When homeless families were asked what their top needs were on the night of the count the top three needs included:

- Housing (38%)
- Employment assistance (30.9%); and
- Child care (21%)

**CHRONICALLY HOMELESS**

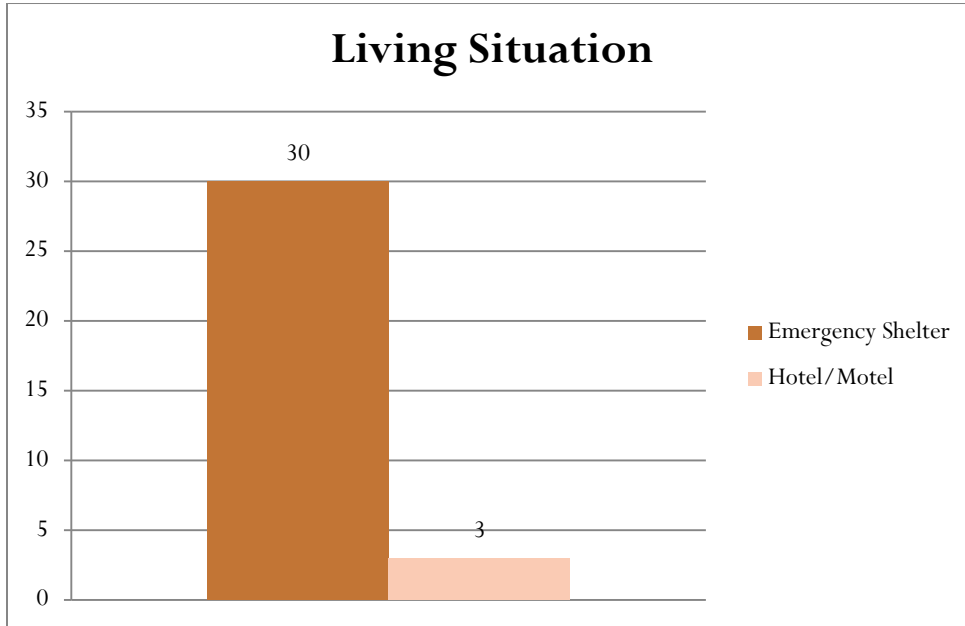
**INDIVIDUALS**

On the night of January 30, 2013, there were 33 chronically homeless individuals counted in Somerset County equaling 12.8% of the total homeless population. The number of chronically homeless individuals in Somerset County has been on the rise since 2009 with an overall increase of 78.7%.

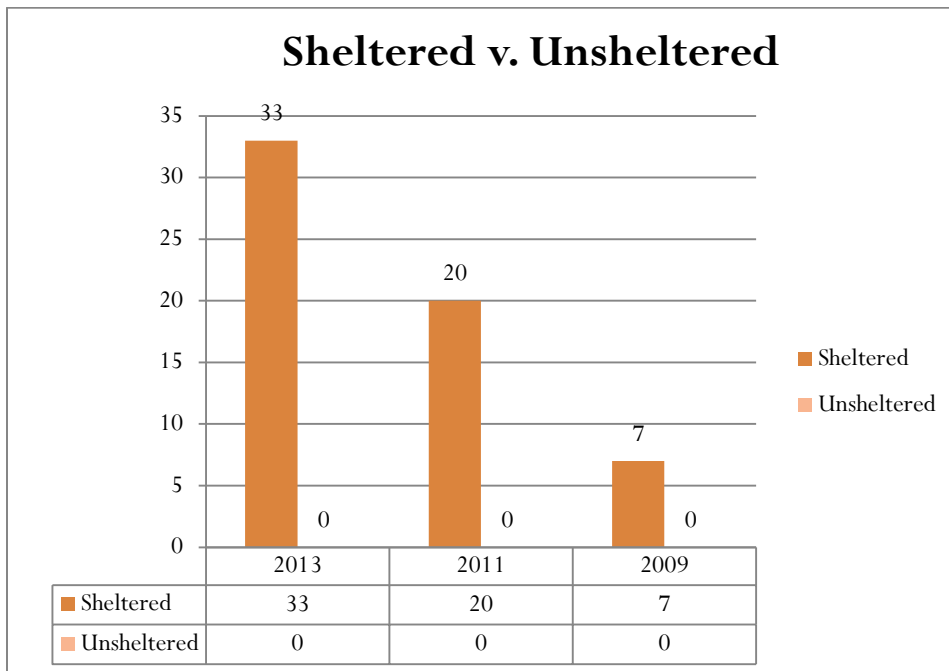


**Living Situation**

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. All chronically homeless individuals counted were in sheltered living situations on the night of the 2013 count with the largest percentage residing in emergency shelter (90.0%; n=30) as reflected in the Living Situation chart that follows.



Over the past three (3) full HUD count years, all of the chronically homeless individual population has been residing in sheltered living situations.





### Length of Homelessness

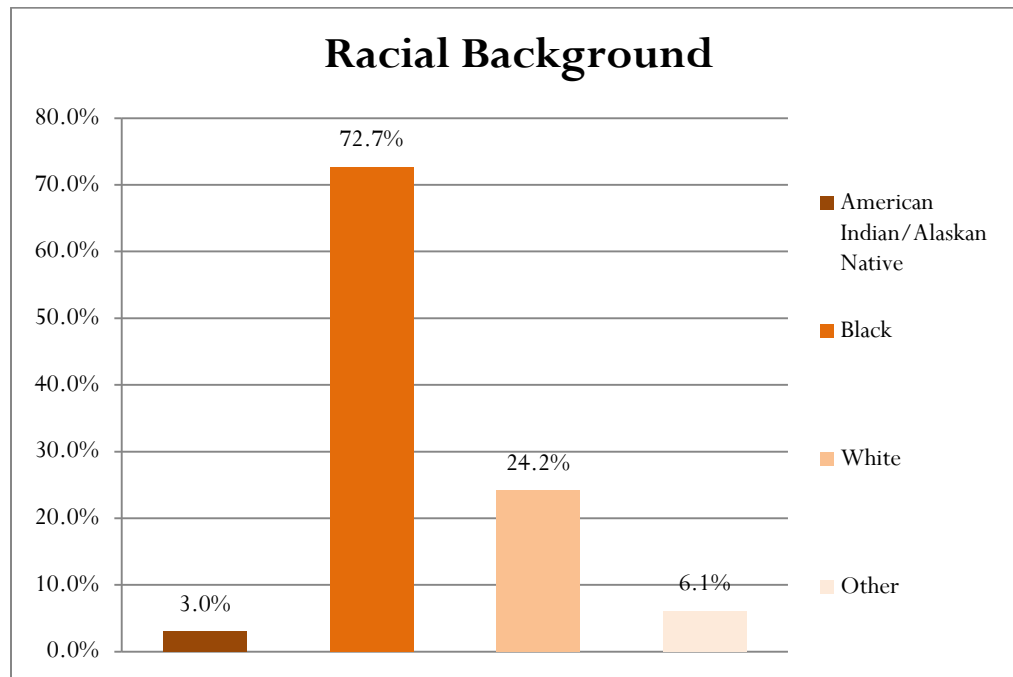
Of the chronically homeless individuals in Somerset County, 72.7% (n= 24) reported having been homeless in excess of one year. A total of 75.8% (n= 25) reported they had four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

2013 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day to 1 week	0	0.0
8 days to 1 month	1	3.0
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	2	6.1
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	3	9.1
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	2	6.1
<b>More than 1 year</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>72.7</b>

### Demographics

In 2013, a total of 26 or 78.8% of the chronically homeless individual population were male and four (4) or 12.1% were female.

As the chart below outlines, the majority of the chronically homeless individuals identified their race as Black (68%) with the next largest percentage being those who identified themselves as White (23%). The total percentage that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 6.1%.

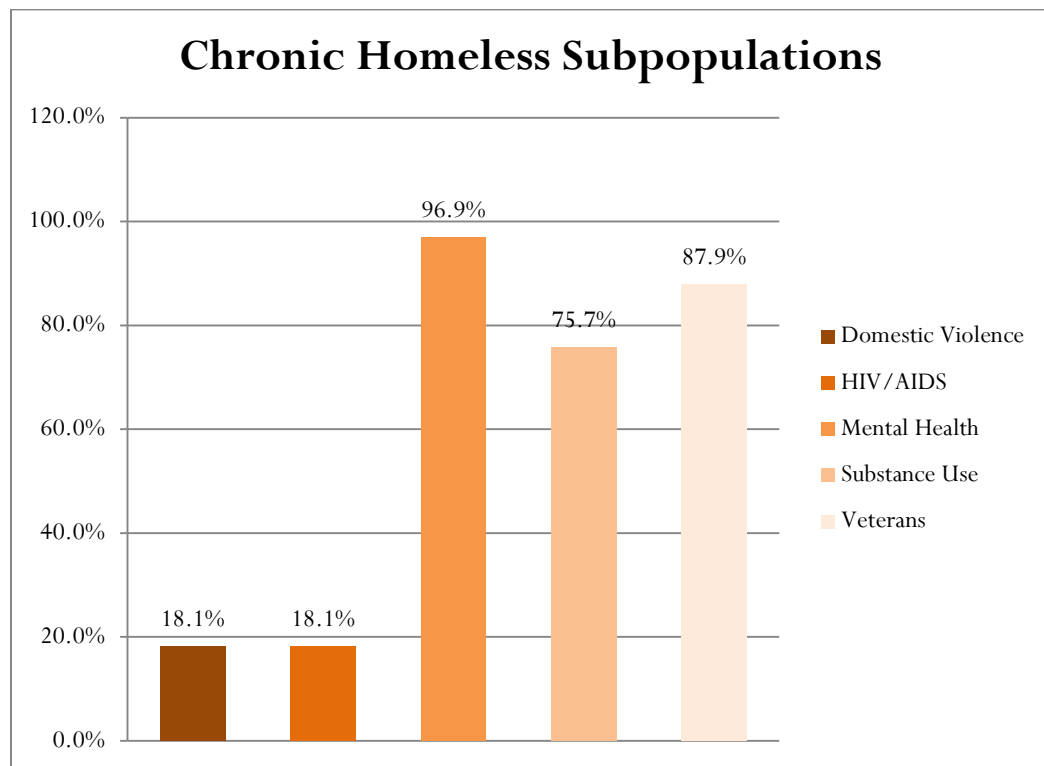


As the table below shows, on the night of the 2013 count in Somerset County, the largest percentage of chronically homeless individuals were between the ages of 50 and 59.

2013 Age	#	%
30-39	1	3.0
40-49	5	15.2
<b>50-59</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36.4</b>
60-64	3	9.1

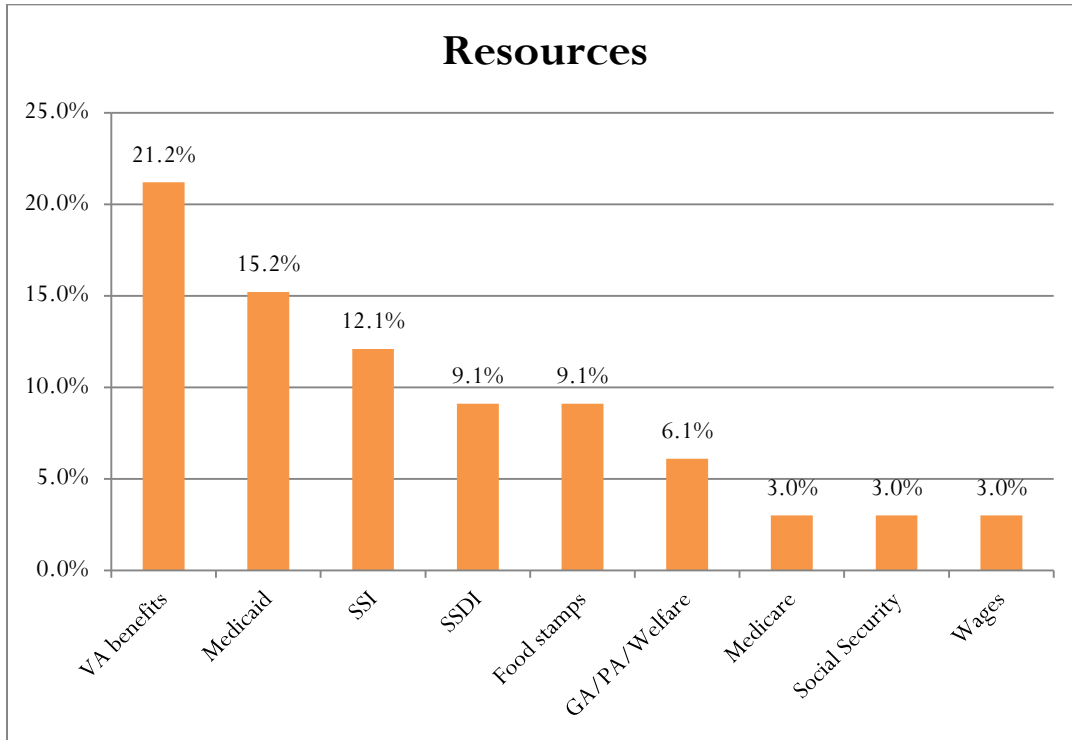
**Chronic Homeless Subpopulations**

Of the chronically homeless individual population, the largest percent was a part of the mental health HUD subpopulation (96.9%). The next largest subpopulation was homeless veterans (87.9%) as reflect in the chart below.



**Financial Resources**

The three (3) main sources of income reported by the chronically homeless population on the night of the count were VA benefits (21.2%), Medicaid (15.2%), and SSI (12.1%). 15.2% (n=5) reported receiving no form of government benefits on the night of the count.



The majority of chronically homeless individuals reported having no income. Of those with income, the largest percentage had an estimated annual income of less than \$5,000.

2013 Year Income	#	%
<b>No Income</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>51.5</b>
\$1,000- \$4,999	9	27.3
\$5,000- \$9,999	1	3.0
\$10,000- \$14,999	4	12.1

**Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness**

The highest ranking factor that chronically homeless individual respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Somerset County was substance abuse problems. The other top ranking factor was mental illness as reflected in the following chart.

<b>2013 Contributing Factors to Homelessness</b>	<b>%</b>
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	60.6
Mental illness/emotional problems	48.5
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	39.4
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	33.3
Lost job/can't find work	33.3
Relationship/family breakup or death	33.3
Housing costs are too high	27.3
Utility costs are too high	27.3
Have work but wages are too low	18.2
Incarceration	18.2
Foreclosure or at risk of Foreclosure	12.1
Lost job due to lack of transportation	12.1
Domestic violence	6.1
House condemned	3.0

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 chart below. In Somerset County, the top service received by the chronically homeless individual population was emergency shelter and the top services that were reported as being needed were housing and educational services.

<b>2013 Service Needs</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
<b><i>Received</i></b>		
Emergency shelter	16	48.5
Veterans services	15	45.5
Dental care	11	33.3
<b><i>Need</i></b>		
Housing/ Educational	18	54.5
Medical (disability)	15	45.5
Legal	14	42.4

### **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 reflects, the institution that had the highest numbers of respondents reporting they were discharged into homelessness was State Prison.

<b>Discharged Into Homelessness (Past Three Years)</b>		
<i>Corrections</i>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
State Prison	6	18.2
City or County Jail	5	15.2
<i>Inpatient Care</i>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Medical Hospital	5	15.2
State inpatient mental health	3	9.1
City/County inpatient mental health	2	6.1
Private Inpatient Substance Use	2	6.1

### **Last Permanent Address**

In the 2013 count, 76% (n=25) 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 (rate of 5% or higher). The only city with a significant number of respondents identifying was Newark.

<b>Town</b>	<b>%</b>
Newark	18.1
East Orange	9.0
Plainfield	6.0
Somerville	6.0

## **CHRONICALLY HOMELESS FAMILIES**

In Somerset County, a total of three (3) families met the chronic homeless definition and could be considered a chronically homeless family. This number has increased since the 2011 count where there were no chronically homeless families. These families had a total of three (3) children with them on the night of the count.

The number of chronically homeless families equals 1.62% of the total homeless population and 7.0% of the total family homeless population. Adding the families to the individuals gives Somerset County a total chronically homeless population of 39 men, women and children on the night of the 2013 count.

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

On the night of the count all three (3) families were in a sheltered homeless living situation; two (2) resided in hotel/motel placements, and one (1) resided in an emergency shelter. One (1) family had been homeless in excess of a year, while the other two (2) families had had a total of four (4) episodes of homelessness in the last three (3) years.

### **Demographics**

In 2013, all three (3) chronically homeless families had a female headed household. One (1) head of household was between the ages of 18 and 21, and two (2) were between the ages of 22 and 24. Two (2) heads of household identified their racial background as White, and one (1) defined their race as Black. One (1) identified their ethnicity as Hispanic.

### **Chronic Homeless Family Subpopulations**

In Somerset County, all three (3) chronically homeless families were a part of the mental health HUD subpopulation, while one (1) family had also experienced domestic violence.

### **Financial Resources and Income**

The three main sources of income reported by the chronically homeless families were Food Stamps, Medicaid and TANF. All three (3) had an estimated annual income of less than \$10,000.

### **Contributing Factors to Homelessness**

Mental illness was identified as a contributing factor to homelessness for all three (3) chronically homeless families. The other contributing factors were loss of job due to lack of transportation, and the inability to find work.