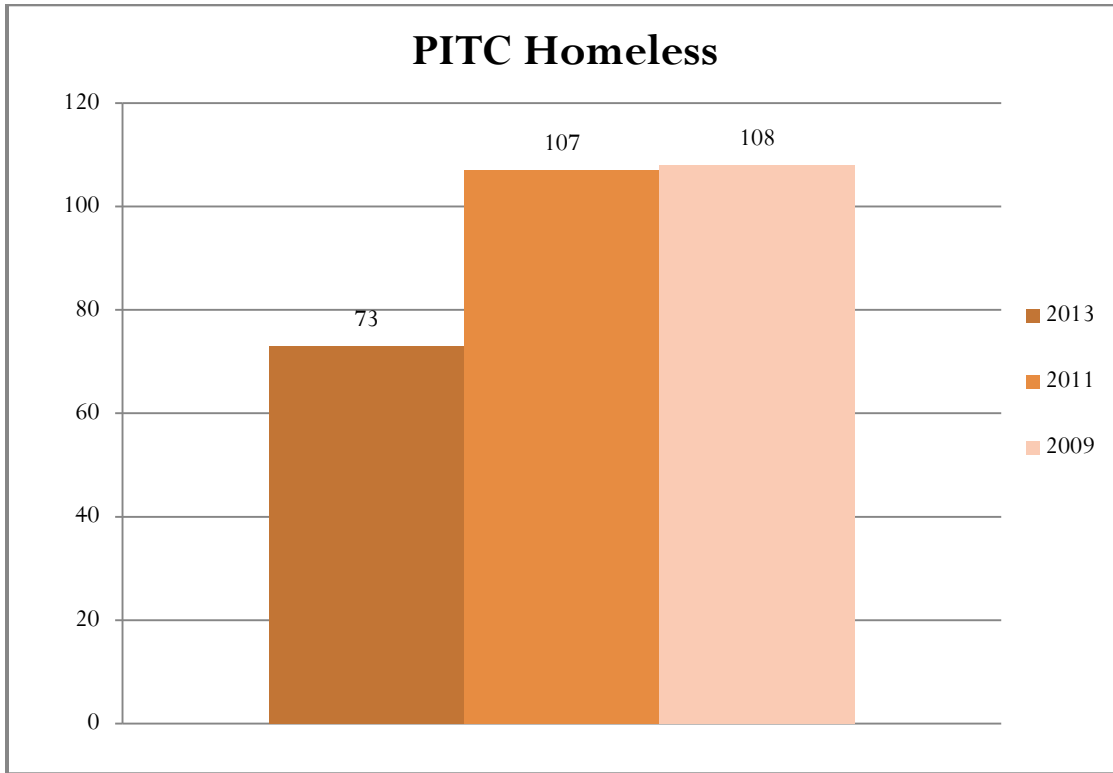# SUSSEX COUNTY

On January 30, 2013 there were 73 homeless men, women and children counted in Sussex County according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations. Homelessness in Sussex County has been on the decline since 2009 reaching its lowest numbers in this count year. The overall decrease is equal to 32.4%.

PITC Homeless

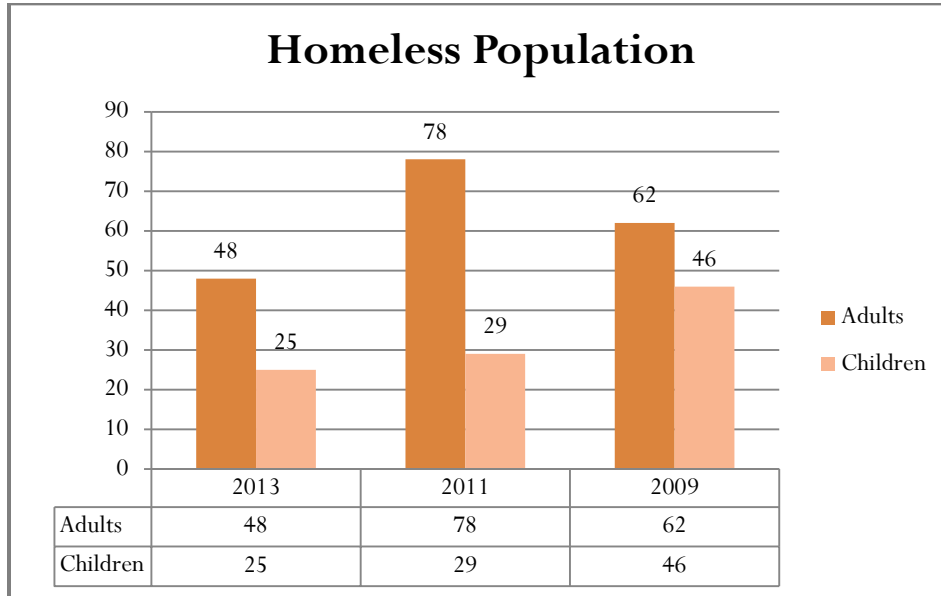| Year	Count
2013	73
2011	107
2009	108

The actual number of people who are homeless over the course of the year may be 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, **299 adults** and children are homeless in Sussex County*.

Of the 73 people who were homeless on the night of the count, 25 were children as reflected in the table below.
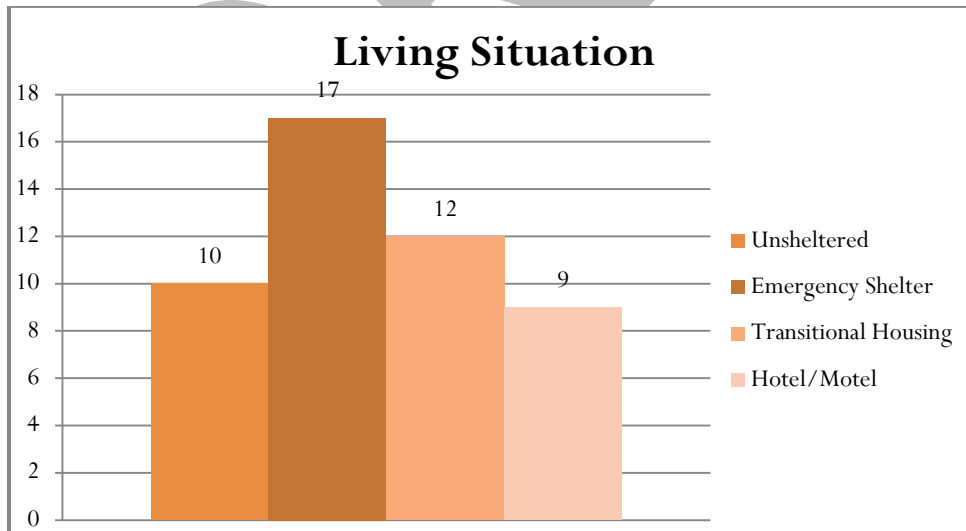
2013 Homeless Breakdown	
Respondents (Adults)	48
Family Members (Children)	25
Total Homeless	**73**

As the chart below shows, over the past three (3) full HUD count years, the number of adults who were homeless has fluctuated slightly over time while the number of children has been on the decline, decreasing a total of 45.7%.

Homeless Population

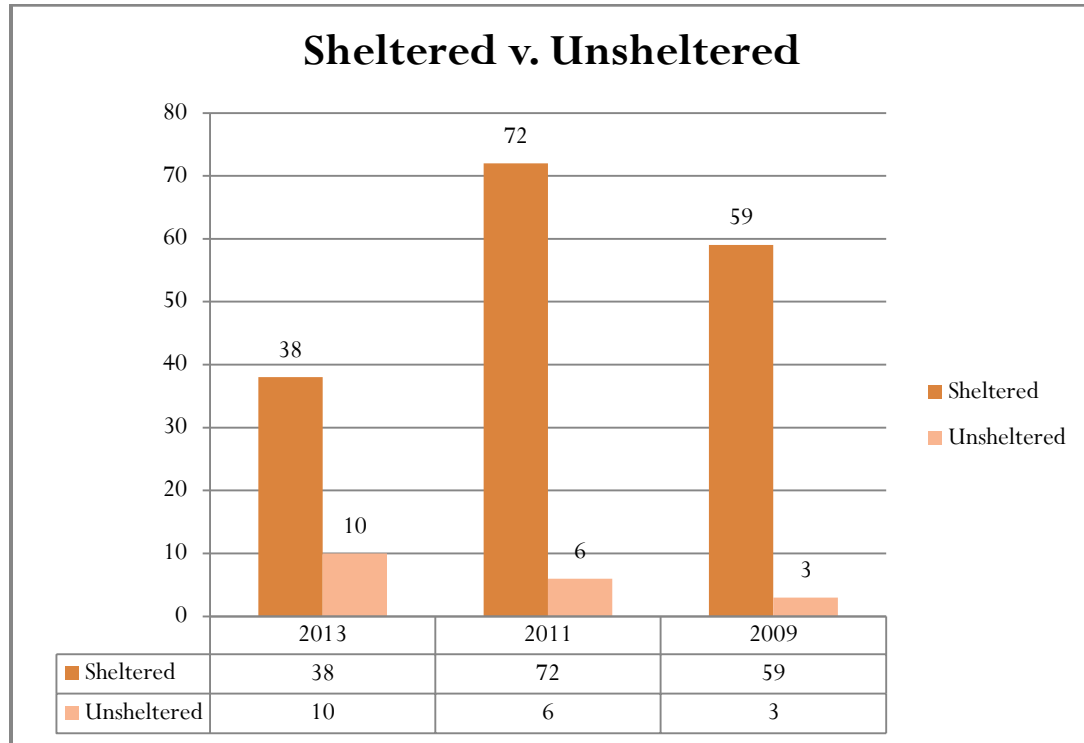|	2013	2011	2009
Adults	48	78	62
Children	25	29	46

Living Situation

As reflected in the Living Situation chart, 10 or 20.8% of the homeless respondents were unsheltered the night of the count. The remainder of the homeless were living in sheltered situations with the largest percentage of homeless residing in emergency shelter (n=17, 35.4%).

Living Situation

Unsheltered: 10
Emergency Shelter: 17
Transitional Housing: 12
Hotel/Motel: 9

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

The number of sheltered homeless in Sussex County has fluctuated since 2009 with the highest numbers being seen in 2011. Conversely, the number of unsheltered homeless has been on the rise with an overall increase of 70.0%.

Sheltered v. Unsheltered

	2013	2011	2009
Sheltered	38	72	59
Unsheltered	10	6	3

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 to 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 Sussex County, there were a total of 27 adults in emergency shelter and eight (8) in transitional housing in HMIS on the night of the count. These numbers differ from what was recorded as part of the count. On the night of the count 15 respondents stated that they would be in emergency shelter and 12 reported residing in transitional housing.
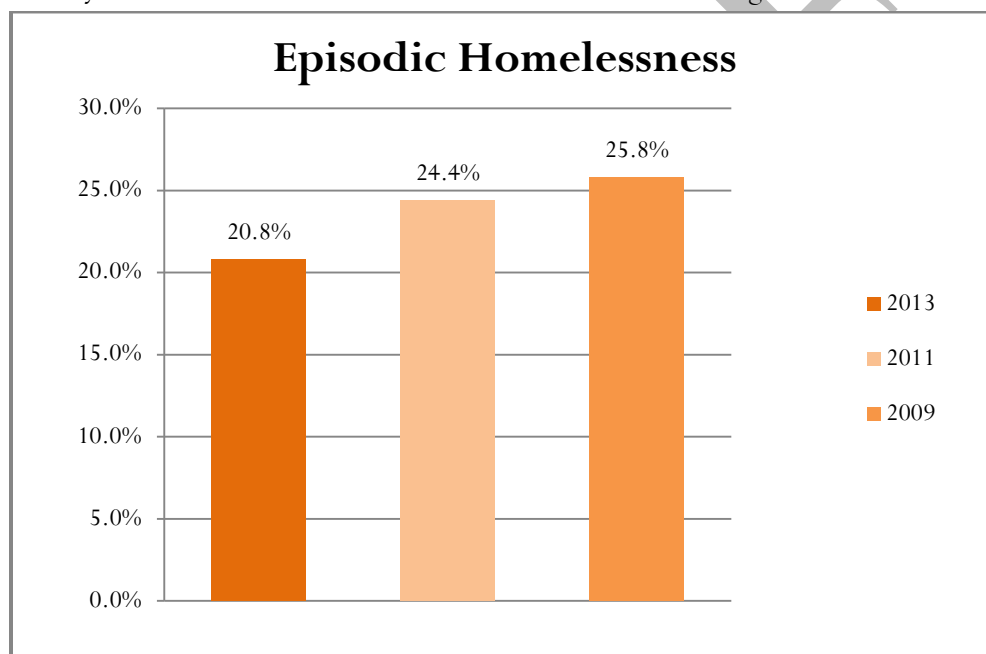
Length and Episodes of Homelessness

Of the homeless population surveyed in Sussex County, the largest percentage (25%) responded that they had been homeless between three (3) and six (6) months. This was closely followed by those homeless

between one (1) and three (3) months. Of those who were homeless less than one year, 33.3% reported that they had been homeless at least one other time within the past 12 months.

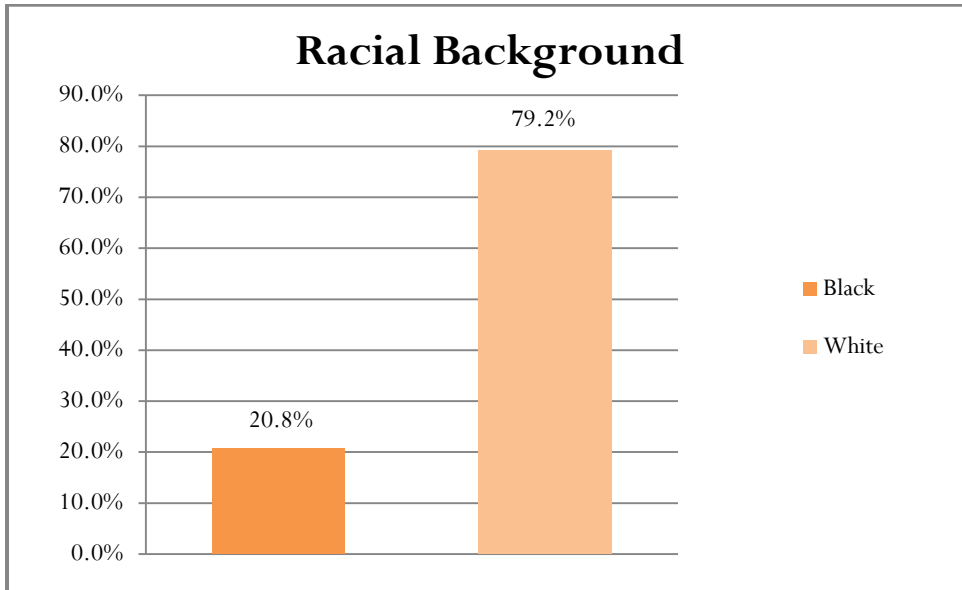| 2013 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day to 1 week	7	14.6
8 days to 1 month	6	12.5
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	11	22.9
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	**12**	**25.0**
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	3	6.3
More than 1 year	9	18.8

As reflected in the Episodic Homelessness chart following, a total of 10 or 20.8% of the homeless population reported having at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. For Sussex County, this number has been on the decline since 2009 reaching its lowest level in the current count year.

Episodic Homelessness

- 2013: 20.8%
- 2011: 24.4%
- 2009: 25.8%

Demographics

In 2013, of the homeless population in Sussex County, 19 people or 39.6% were male, and 29 or 60.4% were female.

The chart below outlines the racial breakdown of homeless persons in the 2013 count. The largest majority defined their race as White (79.2%) followed by Black (20.8%). The percentage of the homeless population that defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino equaled 8.3%.

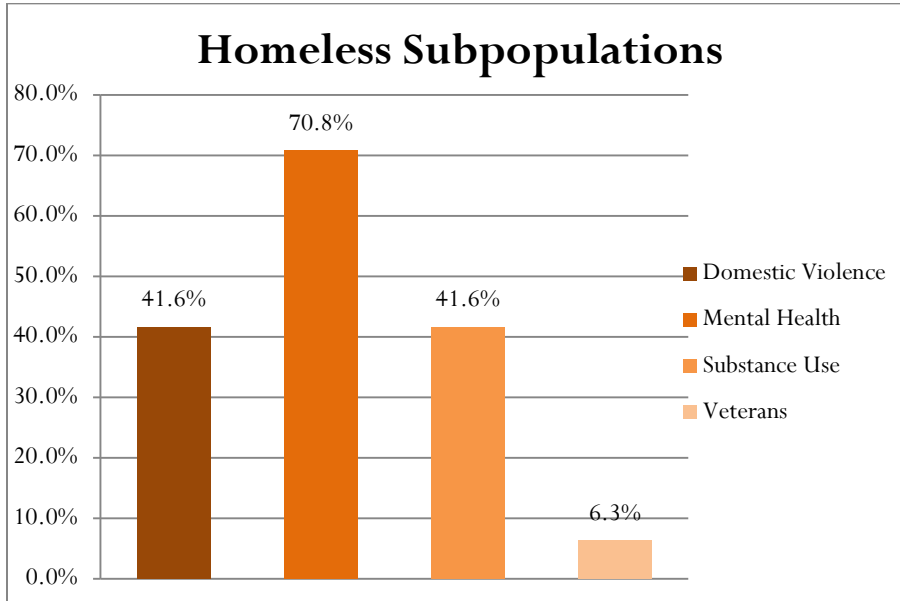**Racial Background**

The largest percentage of homeless in Sussex County fell within the 30 to 39 year old age range, totaling 20.8%, followed by those within the 25 to 29 year old age range (16.7%).

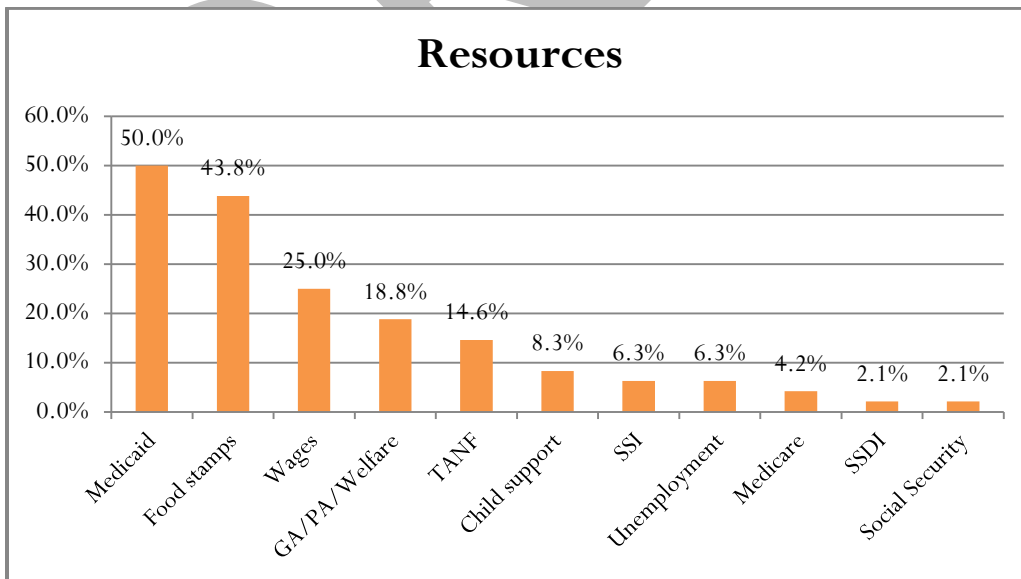| 2013 Age	#	%
18-21	6	12.5
22-24	7	14.6
25-29	8	16.7
30-39	**10**	**20.8**
40-49	6	12.5
50-59	7	14.6
60-64	3	6.3

Homeless Subpopulations

The chart below outlines the breakdown of the homeless subpopulations in Sussex County for the 2013 count. Overwhelmingly, the largest subpopulation was the homeless who had mental health issues (70.8%). The number of homeless veterans equaled 6.3% (n=3).

Homeless Subpopulations

Domestic Violence: 41.6%
Mental Health: 70.8%
Substance Use: 41.6%
Veterans: 6.3%

Financial Resources and Income

The three main sources of income reported by people who were homeless in Sussex County on the night of the 2013 count were Medicaid (50%), Food Stamps (53.8%) and Wages (25%). 6.3% of the homeless population reported receiving no form of government benefit the night of the count.

Resources

Source	Percent
Medicaid	50.0%
Food stamps	43.8%
Wages	25.0%
GA/PA/Welfare	18.8%
TANF	14.6%
Child support	8.3%
SSI	6.3%
Unemployment	6.3%
Medicare	4.2%
SSDI	2.1%
Social Security	2.1%

As part of the 2013 count, homeless respondents were asked to report a current income that provided a potential estimated yearly income. In Sussex County, the largest percent of respondents stated that they had an annual income of less than $5,000 with 31.3% reporting no income on the night of the count.

2013 Year Income	#	%
No Income	15	31.3
$1.00- $4,999	**18**	**37.5**
$5,000- $9,999	6	12.5
$10,000- $14,999	4	8.3
$15,000-$19,999	2	4.2
Over $20,000	3	6.3

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness
The highest ranking factor that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Sussex County was loss of a job/inability to find work. Other top ranking factors included relationship breakdown and eviction as reflected in the following table.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Lost job/can't find work	41.7
Relationship/family breakup or death	35.4
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	31.3
Domestic violence	29.2
Housing costs are too high	29.2
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	25.0
Mental illness/emotional problems	20.8
Lost job due to lack of transportation	16.7
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	16.7
Utility costs are too high	16.7
Have work but wages are too low	10.4
Incarceration	6.3
House condemned	2.1

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 Services table. In Sussex County, the top service received was emergency food and the top service that was reported as being needed was housing.

2013 Service Needs	#	%
Received		
Emergency food	34	70.8
Emergency shelter	32	66.7
Employment/Housing/Medical	18	37.5
Need		
Housing	26	54.2
Emergency food	15	31.3
Dental/Transportation	13	27.1

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 reflects, 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	6	12.5
State Prison	1	2.1
Inpatient Care	#	%
City/County inpatient mental health	2	4.2
Private Inpatient Substance Use	2	4.2
Medical Hospital	1	2.1

Last Permanent Address

In the 2013 count, 95.8% (n=46) of the homeless respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. In reviewing the surrounding states, 2.0% (n=1) last lived in Pennsylvania.
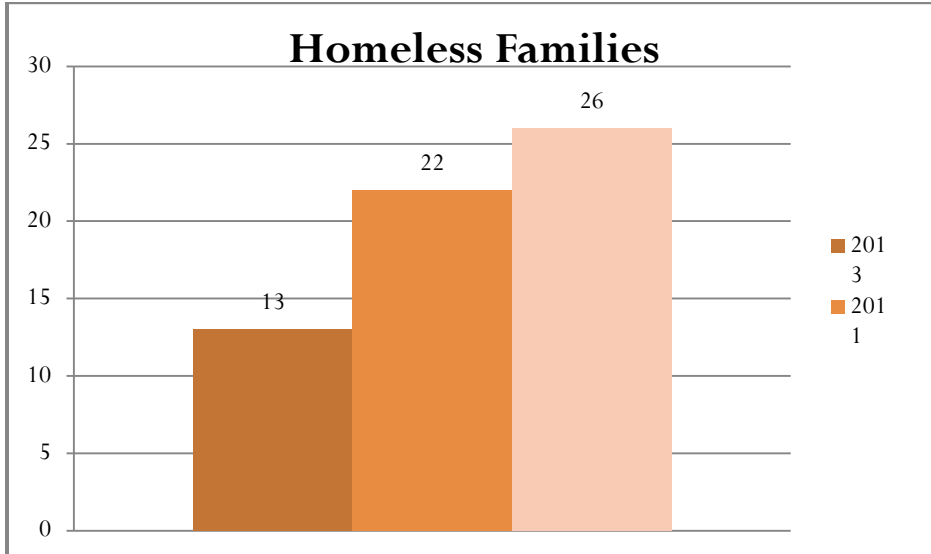
The cities/towns most frequently cited by respondents as the last place they lived before becoming homeless are below (a rate of 5% or higher). The largest number reported last living in Newton.

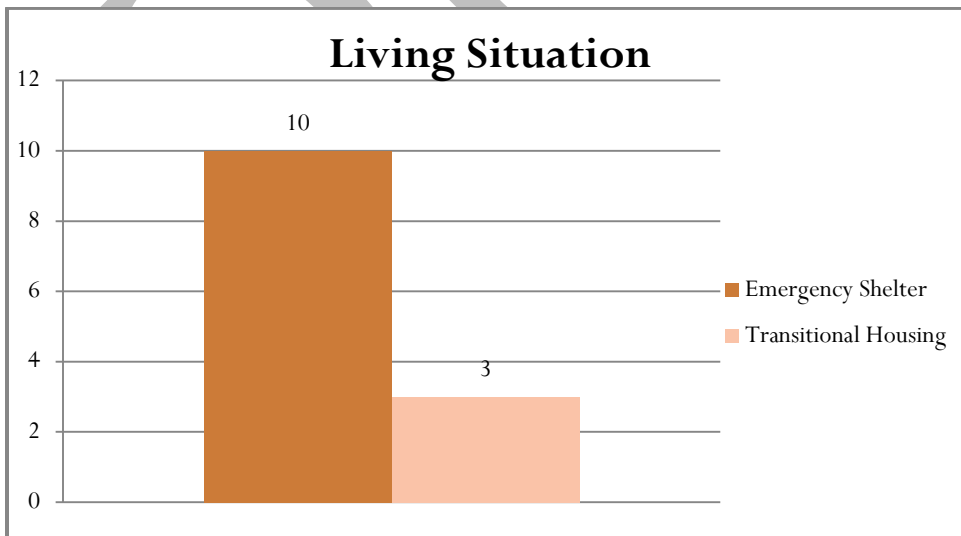| Town	#	%
Newton	14	29.2%
Sussex	5	10.4%
Newark	3	6.3%
Andover	3	6.3%
Stanhope	3	6.3%

FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

In 2013, of the 48 homeless respondents in Sussex County, 13 or 27% 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 25 homeless children in these families, 16 were six (6) years or younger and nine (9) were between the ages of seven (7) and 17.

Homeless Families

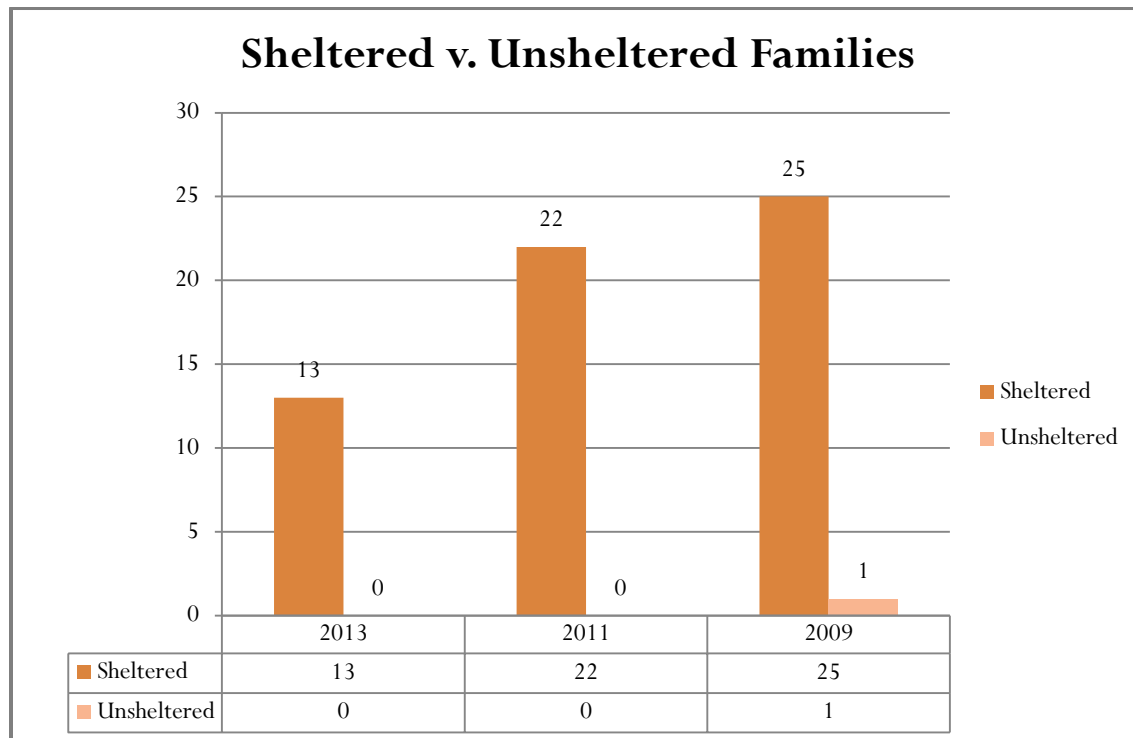(Bar chart showing values: 13 (2013), 22, 26 (2011))

Living Situation

In Sussex County, no homeless families were in an unsheltered living situation on the night of the count. All families were in sheltered living situations that included emergency shelter and transitional housing. The largest percentage (76.9%) of families were residing in emergency shelter as reflected in the Living Situation chart that follows.

Living Situation

(Bar chart: Emergency Shelter = 10, Transitional Housing = 3)

Homeless families in Sussex County have primarily been in sheltered living over the past three (3) full HUD count years, with 2009 being the one year that had a family in an unsheltered living situation.

Sheltered v. Unsheltered Families

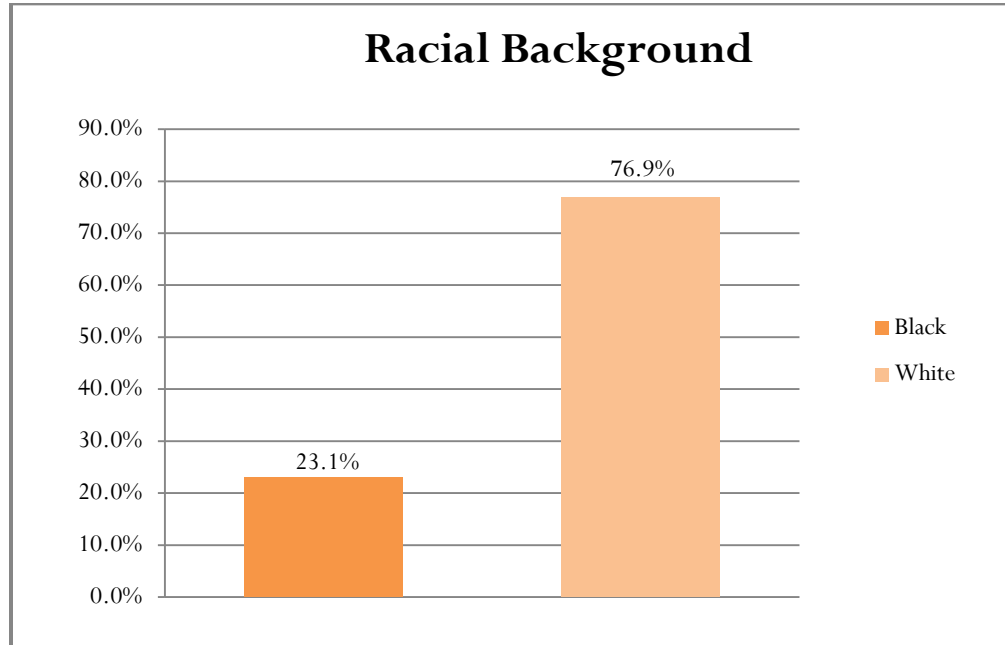|	2013	2011	2009
Sheltered	13	22	25
Unsheltered	0	0	1

Length of Homelessness

In terms of the length of time homeless, the majority of homeless families had been homeless for one (1) to six (6) months as reflected in the table below.

2013 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day to 1 week	1	7.7
8 days to 1 month	2	15.4
1 month & 1 day to 3 months	**4**	**30.8**
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	**4**	**30.8**
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	1	7.7
More than 1 year	1	7.7

Demographics

Of the 13 homeless families in Sussex County, 92.3% (n= 12) were female headed households and 7.7% (n=1) were male headed households.

The chart below outlines the racial breakdown of homeless families in the 2013 count. The largest percentage of the respondents defined their race as White (76.9%). The other race reported with significance was Black at 23.1%. Three (3) family heads of households (23.0%) defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.
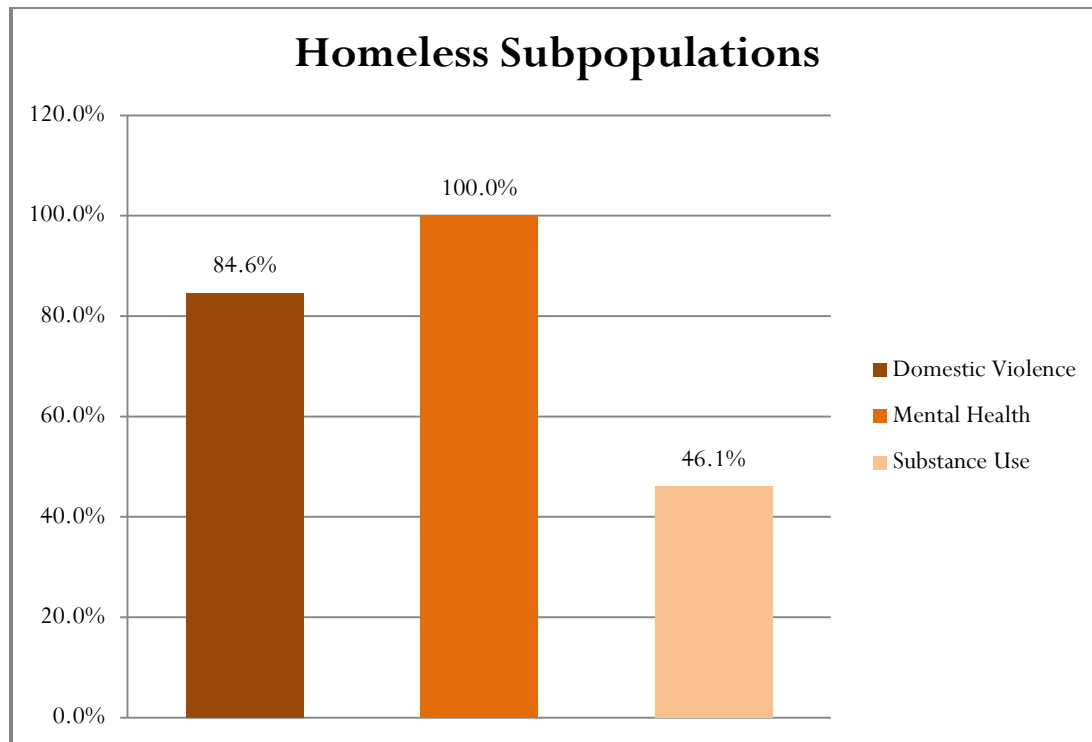
Racial Background

The largest percentage of heads of households fell within the 25 to 29 year old age group. This was closely followed by those 30 to 39 years of age. This is similar to the age ranges of the total homeless population in Sussex County.

2013 Age	#	%
22-24	1	7.7
25-29	**6**	**46.2**
30-39	5	38.5
40-49	1	7.7

Homeless Family Subpopulations

Among the HUD homeless subpopulations in the 2013 count, in Sussex County all homeless families had a head of household with mental health issues. A large percentage (84.6%) of households experienced domestic violence.

Homeless Subpopulations

A bar chart titled "Homeless Subpopulations" showing three subpopulations with y-axis from 0.0% to 120.0%:
- Domestic Violence: 84.6%
- Mental Health: 100.0%
- Substance Use: 46.1%

Financial Resources and Income

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

- Medicaid (61.5%)
- Food Stamps (46.2%); and
- TANF (46.2%)

There was only one family that stated they did not receive some type of government benefit on the night of the count. In reviewing estimated annual income, the largest percentage (38.5%) of families has an estimated annual income of less than $5,000 a year.

2013 Year Income	#	%
No Income	2	15.4
$1.00– $4,999	**5**	**38.5**
$5,000- $9,999	3	23.1
$10,000- $14,999	2	15.4
Over $15,000	1	7.7

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The highest ranking factor that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Sussex County was domestic violence. The other top ranking factor included was loss of job/inability to find work.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness	%
Domestic violence	46.2%
Lost job/can't find work	38.5%
Relationship/family breakup or death	38.5%
Eviction or at risk of Eviction	30.8%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	23.1%

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

- Mental Health Services (46%), followed by
- Domestic Violence Services, Educational Training, Emergency Food, Housing, and Transportation (all 38%)

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

INDIVIDUALS

On the night of January 30, 2013, there were four (4) chronically homeless individuals counted in Sussex County equaling 8.3% of the total homeless population.

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. On the night of the 2013 count, 50.0% of the chronically homeless individuals were unsheltered, and 50.0% were in hotel/motel placement as emergency shelter.

Length of Homelessness

Of the chronically homeless individuals in Sussex County, two (2) adults were homeless for more than a year and three (3) had four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.

Demographics

In 2013, a total of 75% of the chronically homeless individual population were male and one (1) or 25% was female. Three (3) indicated a racial background of White (75%), and one (1) identified as Black (25%). The majority of the chronically homeless individuals were greater than 40 years of age.

Chronic Homeless Subpopulations

The breakdown of the chronic homeless individual HUD subpopulations for the 2013 count indicates that all respondents identified as having substance abuse issues. The majority also indicated mental health issues, and one (1) reported domestic violence issues.

Financial Resources

When asked to identify income sources, the top resources reported were Medicaid, Food Stamps, SSI and Welfare. A total of 50% (n=2) of chronically homeless individuals reported having no income on the night of the count while the other 50.0% had an estimated annual income of less than $10,000.

Service Needs and Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The highest ranking factor that chronically homeless individual respondents stated contributed to their homelessness in Sussex County was substance abuse problems. Other top ranking factors were mental health issues and high housing costs.

The types of service reported as needed by this population were assistance with obtaining an ID, veterans' services, dental care, housing, legal, medical, and transportation services.

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. All of the chronically homeless individuals indicated being discharged into homelessness from the city/county jail.

Last Permanent Address

In the 2013 count, all of the chronically homeless individual respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless with the largest percentage reporting their last permanent address as Newton.

CHRONICALLY HOMELESS FAMILIES

In 2013, Sussex County had one (1) family that met the chronic homeless definition and could be considered a chronically homeless family. This family had one (1) child with them on the night of the count. In 2011, Sussex County counted no families that met the chronically homeless definition.

One family equals 2.0% of the total homeless population and 7.7% of the total family homeless population. Adding the families to the individuals gives Sussex County a total chronically homeless population of six (6) men, women and children on the night of the 2013 count.

Living Situation and Length of Homelessness

On the night of the count the one chronically homeless family was in a sheltered homeless living situation, residing in an emergency shelter. The family had been homeless for one (1) week at the time of the count while having had four (4) episodes of homelessness over the past three (3) years.

Demographics

In 2013, the chronically homeless family was a female headed household and defined their race as White, and non-Hispanic. The head of household was between 30 and 39 years old.

Chronic Homeless Family Subpopulations

In Sussex County, the chronically homeless family was part of mental illness, substance abuse and domestic violence subpopulations.

Financial Resources and Income

The chronically homeless family reported receiving no source of income or government benefits on the night of the count.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The chronically homeless family identified several issues that contributed to their homeless situation, including domestic violence, substance abuse, eviction, housing costs being too high, medical problems and relationship breakdown.