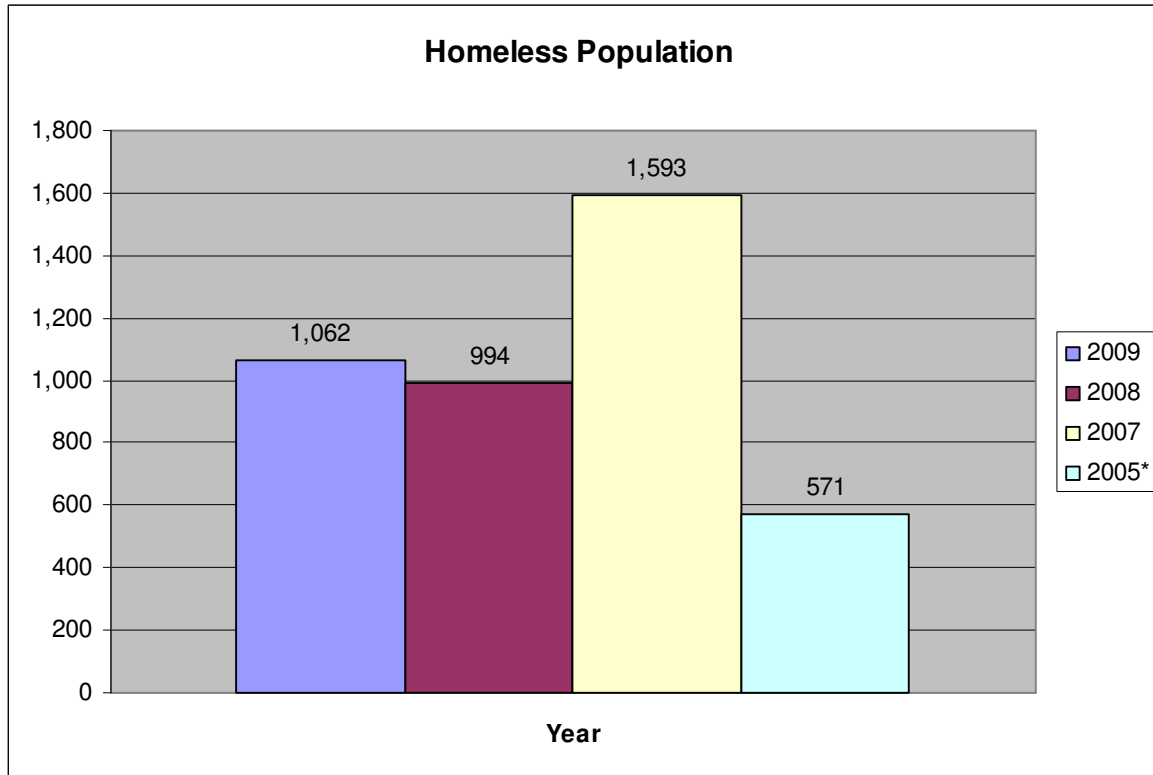


MERCER COUNTY

On January 28, 2009 there were 1,062 homeless men, women and children counted in Mercer County according to the official U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) McKinney-Vento Act definition of homelessness.



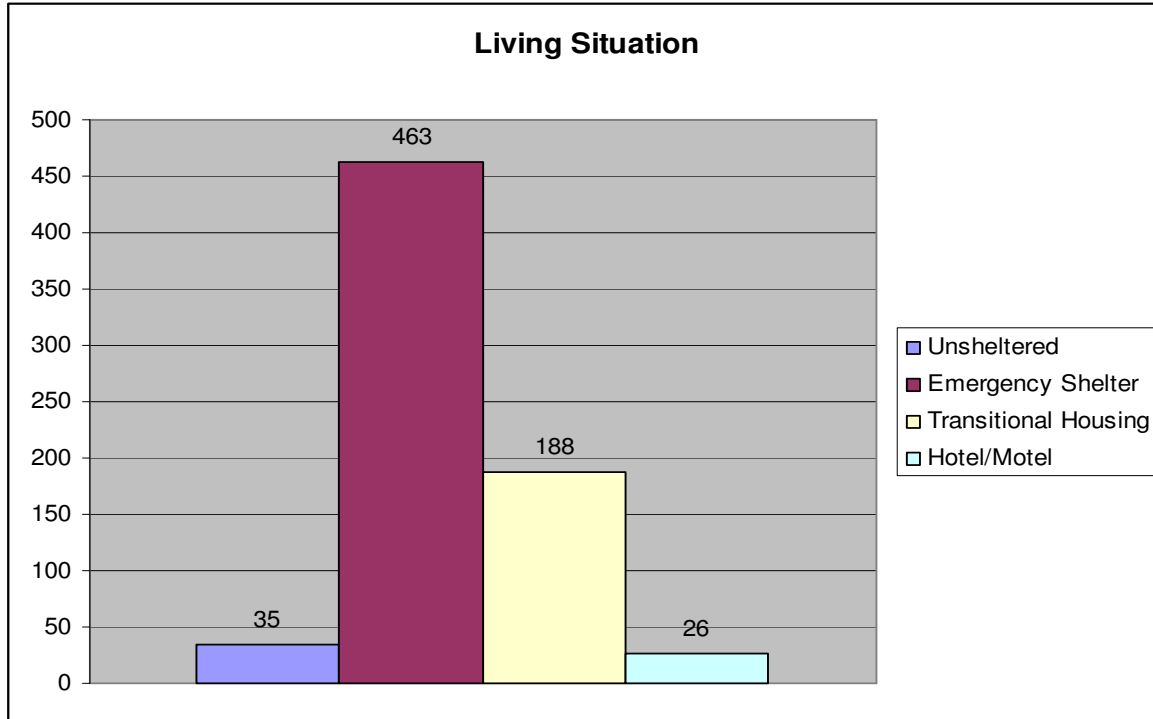
Due to the way the information was collected, we can only compare the number of homeless adults surveyed in 2005(571). Since 2005, the number of total homeless has fluctuated both up and down with each count, with the largest increase and decrease around 2007. The breakdown of homeless adults and children for 2009 is shown in the chart below.

2009 Homeless Breakdown	
Respondents (Adults)	712
Family Members (Children)	350
Total all Survey Homeless	1,062

The 2009 PITC includes only a subset of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in New Jersey. 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 2,385, adults and children are homeless in Mercer County.*

Living Situation

As reflected in the chart below, 35 or 4.9% of the homeless were unsheltered the night of the count. Those that were in emergency shelter (n=463, 65%) represented the largest portion of homeless in the County.



Length and Episodes of Homelessness

The largest percentage of homeless were homeless for more than one year (n=310, 44%). This group was followed by those homeless from six months to a year (n=113, 16%) and those homeless three to six months (n=87, 12%).

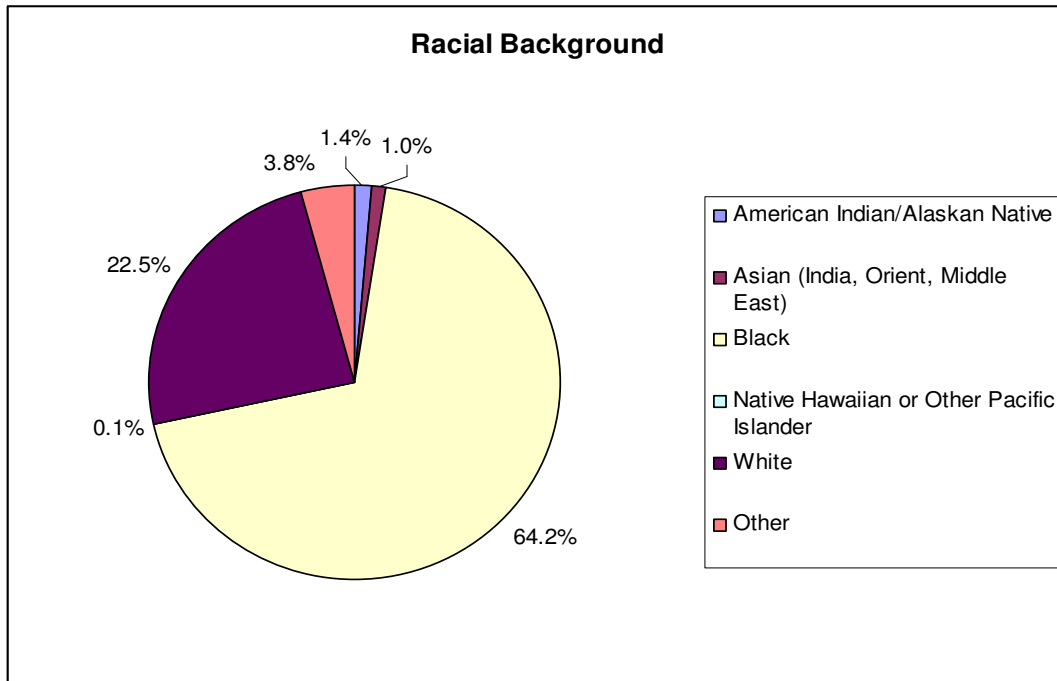
2009 Length of Homelessness	#	%
1 day - 1 week	39	5
8 days - 1 month	53	7
1 month & 1 day - 3 months	80	11
3 months & 1 day to 6 months	87	12
6 months & 1 day to 12 months	113	16
More than 1 year	310	44
No response	30	4

Of those who reported being homeless less than one year, 239 or 33.5% reported they had been homeless at least one other time within the past 12 months. A total of 264 or 37% of the homeless reported having at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Demographics

Of the 712 homeless respondents, 240 or 33.7% had at least one dependent child under 18 with them the night of the count and would be considered a homeless family. A total of 163 children were six years or younger and 187 were between the ages of 7 and 17. The remaining 66.3% of the homeless populations were individuals.

In 2009, a total of 396 or 56% were male, 264 or 37% were female and 5 or 1% reported being transgender. Only 11% of the homeless population defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino. The following chart outlines the racial breakdown of the homeless persons in 2009. The largest percentage were Black (n=457) followed by White (n= 160) with the remaining equaling less than 7%.

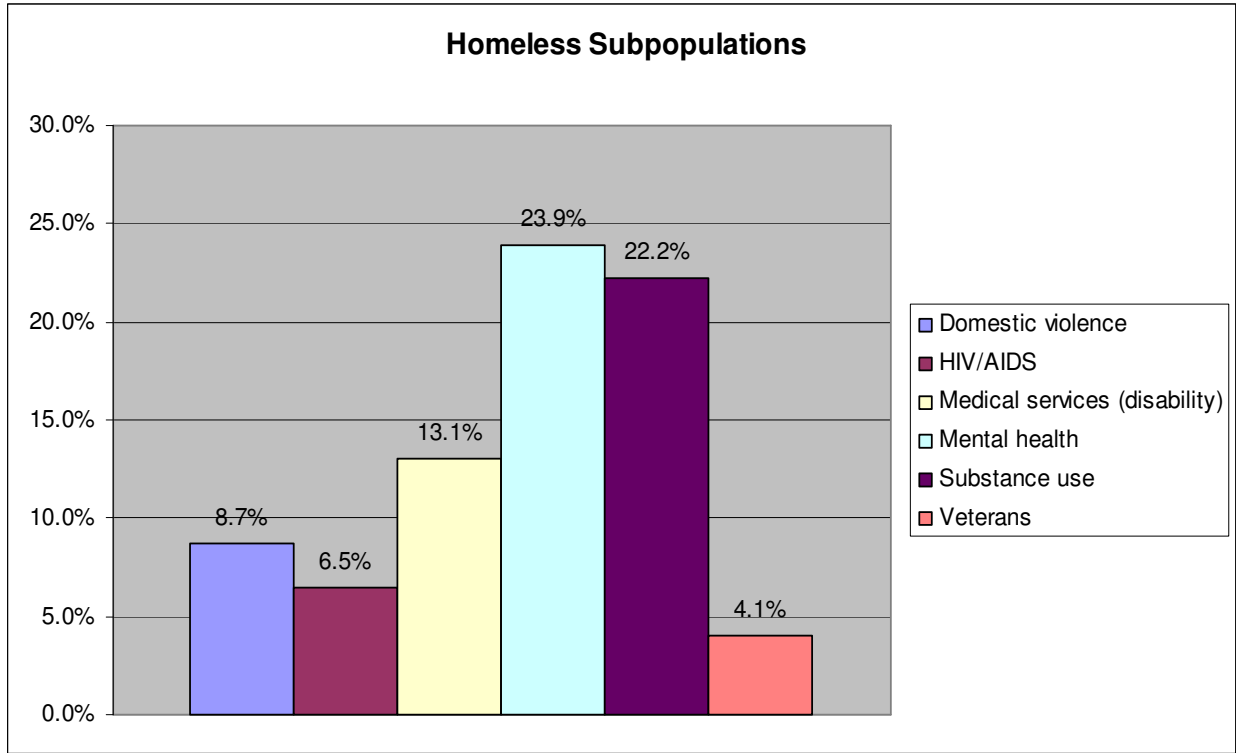


The 2009 count showed that the largest portion of homeless fell within the 40-49 year old age range, totaling 27.7%. This group was closely followed by those within the 50-59 age range (25.7%) followed by those between 30 and 39 (16.4%).

Age	#	%
Under 18	2	0.3
18-20	52	7.3
21-24	69	9.7
25-29	50	7.0
30-39	117	16.4
40-49	197	27.7
50-59	183	25.7
60-64	28	3.9
65+	14	2.0

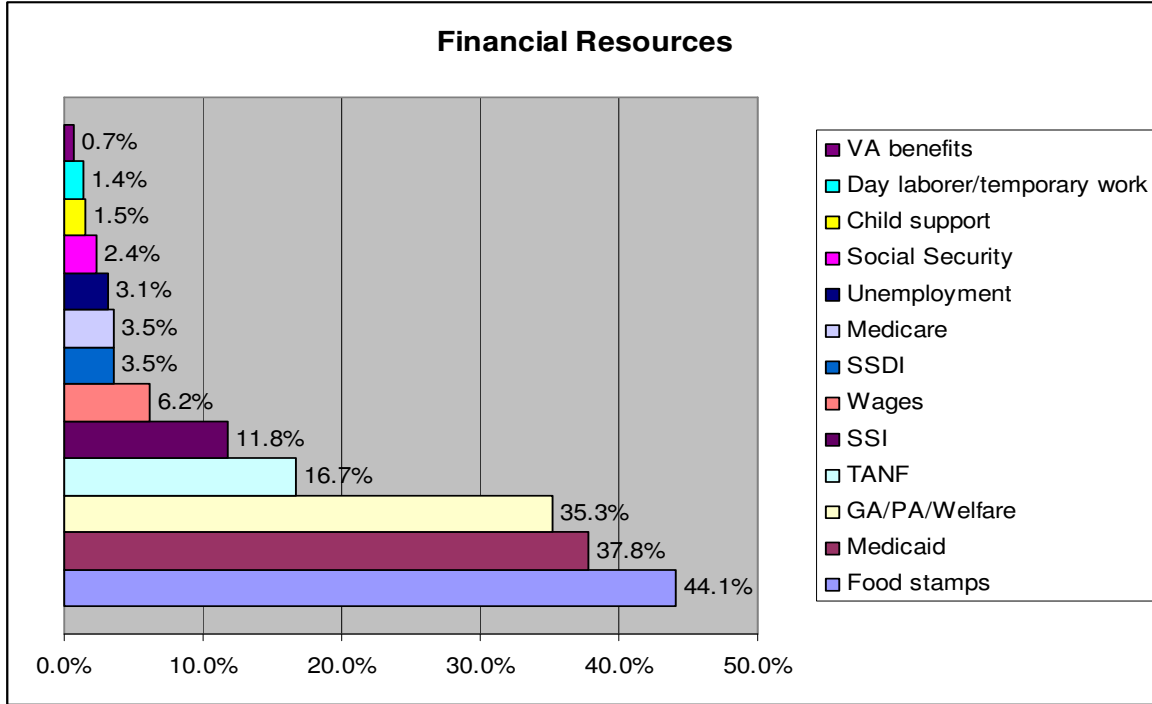
Homeless Subpopulations

The chart below outlines the breakdown of the subpopulations in the 2009 count. The largest percent were those with a mental health issues (received= 96, need= 74) closely followed by those with substance use issues (received= 95, need= 63).



Financial Resources

The 2009 count looked at the types of income/financial resources the homeless were currently receiving. The three main sources of income reported on the night of the count were Food Stamps (n= 314), Medicaid (n= 269) and Welfare (n= 251). The following shows all income/financial resources that were declared on the night of the count:



Additionally, 2% of the homeless population reported receiving no type of government benefit and 16% reported having no source of income on the night of the count.

Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The 2009 survey asked respondents what factors they felt contributed to their homelessness. As the chart below shows, the highest ranking factors that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness were substance use problems and loss of job/inability to find work. Furthermore, many of the other top ranking factors included relationship problems, eviction, and housing costs too high.

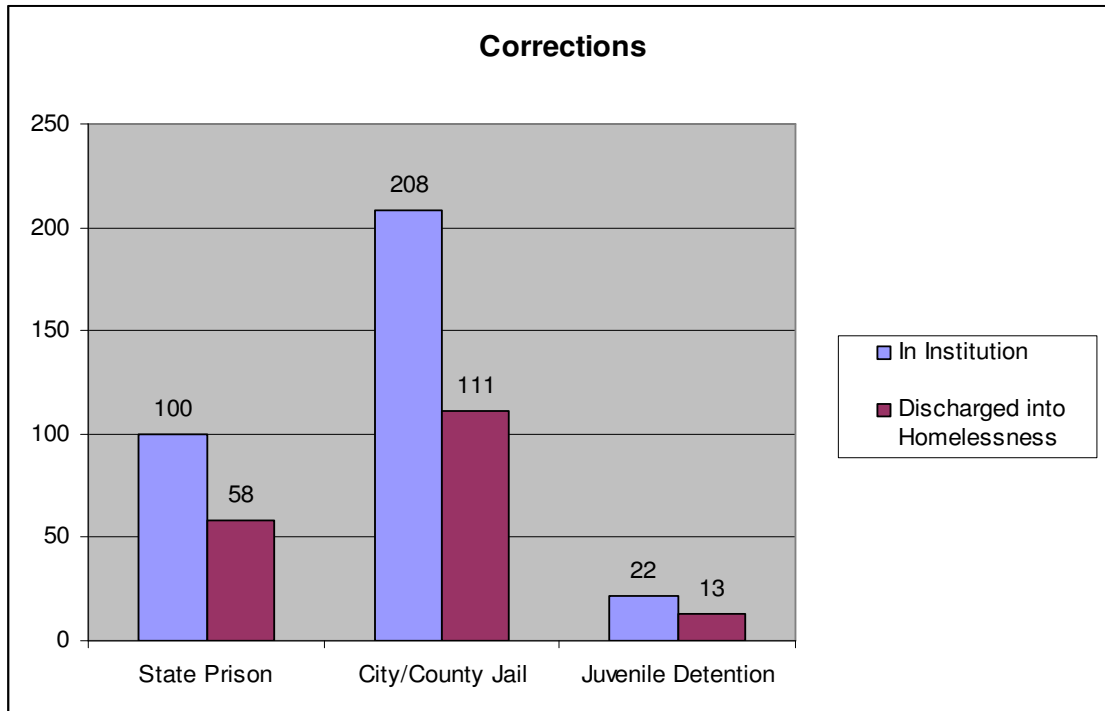
Factor	%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	26.7
Lost job/cannot find work	26.7
Relationship/family breakup/death	22.8
Eviction	20.5
Housing costs too high	20.4
Incarceration	15.7
Have work but wages are too low	12.9
Mental illness/emotional problems	11.9
Domestic violence	11.7
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	9.8
Lost job due to lack of transportation	4.9
Utility costs too high	4.6

Factor	%
House condemned	3.9
Foreclosure	2.8
Natural disaster	1.4
Loss of child support	1.3

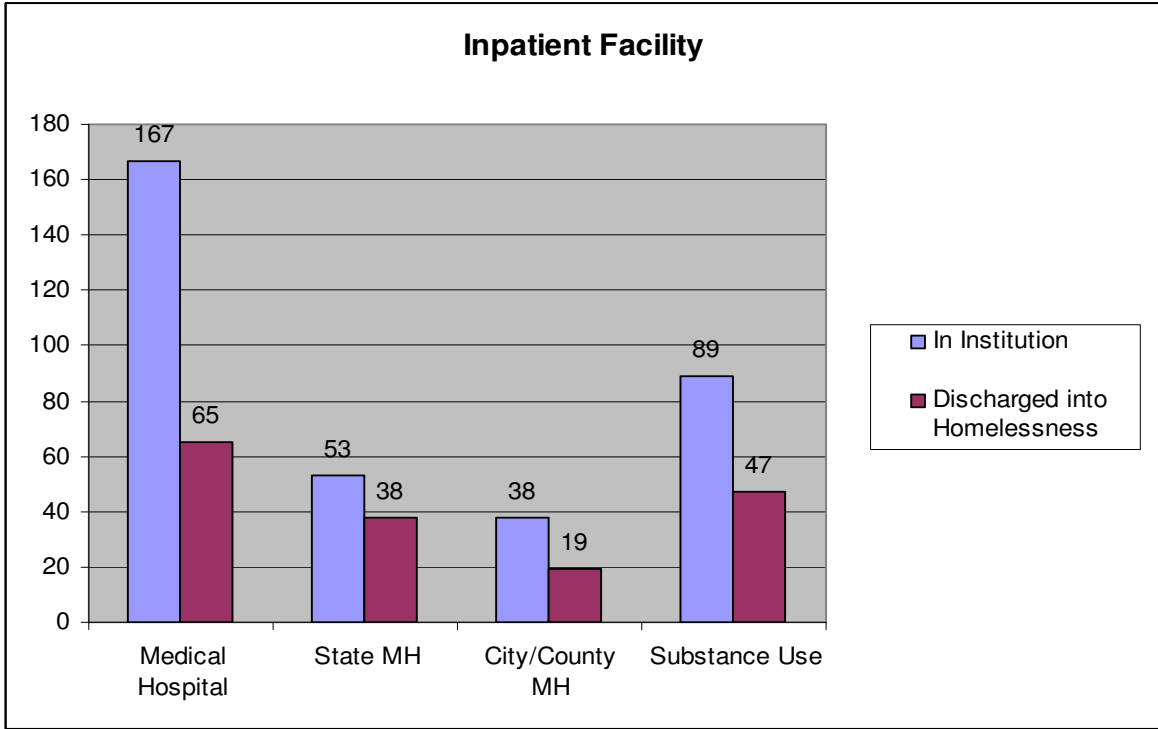
Discharge from Mainstream Institutions

Detailed information on mainstream institution stay and discharge was gathered as part of this year’s point in time count. The institution stay was limited to within the past three years and there was a distinction made between state and city or county institutions as discharge policies are different for each. Each of the mainstream institutions included in the survey discharged at least some people into homelessness, according to the survey respondents. The charts below outline the stays and discharge rates for the mainstream corrections and inpatient institutions (numbers may be duplicated).

In the corrections system, 58% of the homeless who had been in a state prison were discharged into homelessness, 53.3% who were in a city or county jail were discharged into homelessness and 59% who were in juvenile detention centers were discharged into homelessness.



In the inpatient care system, 38.9% of the homeless that were hospitalized were discharged into homelessness, 71.7% of those in a state mental health treatment facility were discharged into homelessness 50% in city or county facilities were discharged into homelessness, and 52.8% that had received inpatient substance abuse treatment were discharged into homelessness.



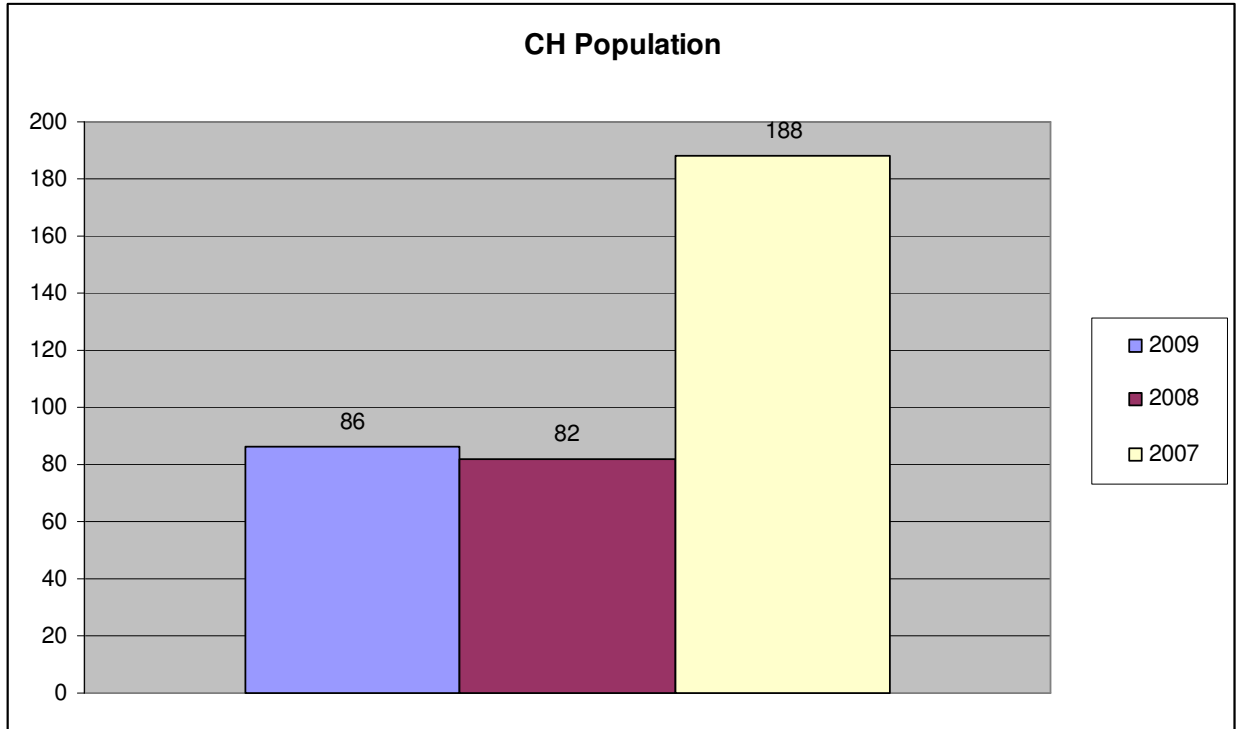
Last Permanent Address

In the 2009 count, 73.1% (n=57) respondents lived in New Jersey before becoming homeless. Approximately six percent (6.4%) lived in Pennsylvania before becoming homeless. The cities most frequently cited by respondents as the last place they lived before becoming homeless are below (those that had a rate of 1% or higher).

Trenton	92.7%
Hamilton	2.4%
Bordentown	1.1%
Ewing	1.1%

Chronic Homeless

On the night of January 28, 2009, there were 86 chronically homeless counted in Mercer County equaling 12% of the total homeless population. With the data that has been collected, we are able to compare chronic homeless numbers from the past three years which is represented in the chart below.

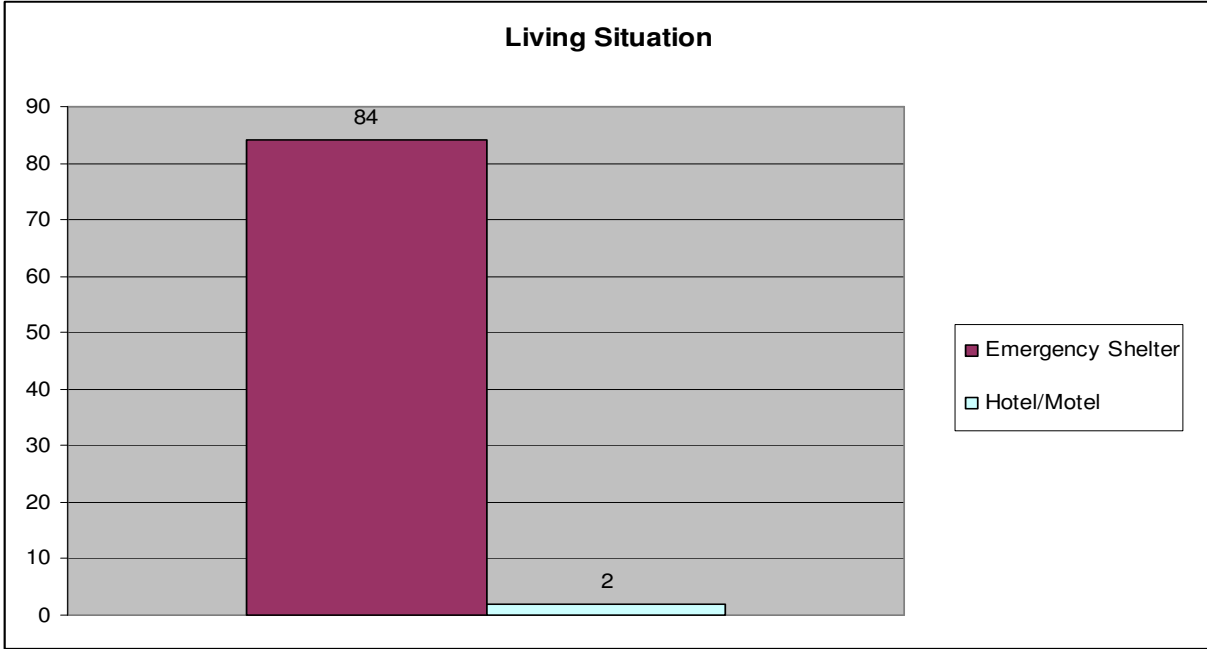


The chronic homeless number dropped significantly from 2007 to 2008 and rose slightly from 2008 to 2009. In 2008 the chronic homeless population represented 13% of the homeless population while it was 16% in 2007.

Living Situation

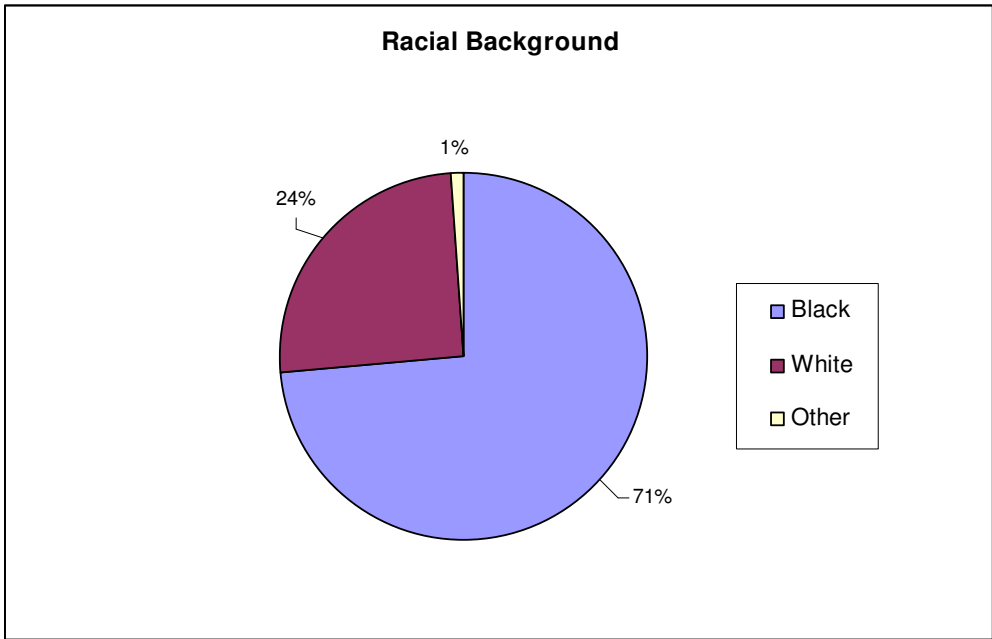
In adherence to the HUD definition, those that are chronically homeless must be living on the streets or in emergency shelter. Hotels and motels paid by an agency are deemed emergency shelter in those areas that do not have any other type of emergency shelter system.

The chart below is a breakdown of the living situation for the chronic homeless as reported on the night of the count. No one was unsheltered the night of the count. The majority of the population was in Emergency Shelter (98%) with a small percentage in hotel/motel placements (2%).



Demographics

In 2009, a total of 60 or 70% of the chronically homeless population were male, 19 or 22% were female, and 2 or 2% reported to be transgender. A small percentage of the chronically homeless population defined their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino (7%). The following chart outlines the racial breakdown of chronically homeless persons in 2009. The largest percentage was those that identified themselves as Black (n= 61) followed by White (n=21).

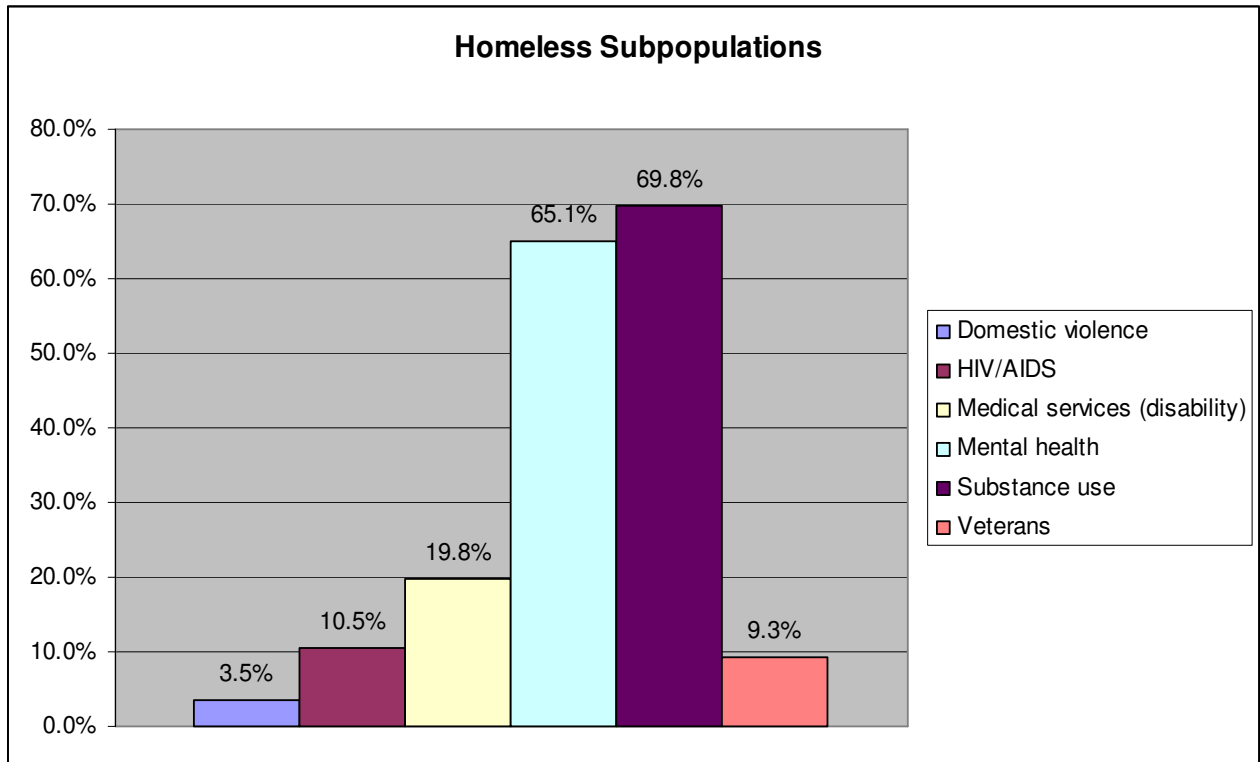


The 2009 count showed that the largest portion of chronic homeless fell within the 50-59 year old age range, totaling 35%. The remaining population mostly fell into the 40-49 age range (27%) and the 30-39 age range (22%).

Age	#	%
18-20	2	2
21-24	2	2
25-29	4	5
30-39	19	22
40-49	23	27
50-59	30	35
60-64	3	3
65+	3	3

Homeless Subpopulations

The chart below outlines the breakdown of the chronic homeless subpopulations in the 2009 count. The largest percent were those with substance use issues (received= 16, need= 44) followed by those with mental health issues (received= 13, need= 43).



Contributing Factors to Homelessness

The 2009 survey asked respondents what factors they felt contributed to their homelessness. As chart below shows, the highest ranking factor that respondents stated contributed to their homelessness were substance abuse problems.

Factor	%
Alcohol or drug abuse problems	55
Eviction	37
Incarceration	31
Housing costs too high	30
Lost job/cannot find work	30
Mental illness/emotional problems	22
Relationship/family breakup/death	22
Have work but wages are too low	19
Domestic violence	17
Medical problems/physical or developmental disability	8
House condemned	6
Foreclosure	2
Lost job due to lack of transportation	2
Utility costs too high	2