

**SUSSEX COUNTY
POINT IN TIME SURVEY REPORT
ON HOMELESSNESS IN 2009**

March, 2009

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Executive Summary

The 2009 Point in Time survey of the homeless population of Sussex County was conducted on January 28, 2009. Surveys were collected through various agencies such as the Division of Social Services, Project Self-Sufficiency and Newton Memorial Hospital as well as at Project Homeless Connect and in various places throughout the county where the homeless can be found.

A total of 292 people responded to the survey, 277 of whom are currently homeless. This number is almost identical to the 2008 Point in Time survey population, which surveyed 293 individuals. However, in 2008 there were 40 individuals surveyed who were in permanent housing compared to 15 permanently housed respondents in 2009.

Getting an accurate picture of the homeless in any area is extremely difficult because the population itself fluctuates over time, and can be seasonal as well. The winter months are the hardest for the homeless population with increases in heating costs often causing people to choose between rent/mortgage payments and utilities and individuals who have seasonal work such as landscaping in the warmer months or retail service during the holiday season find themselves unemployed. In 2009, the number of evictions was higher than in the 2008 survey, which may reflect higher rates of unemployment.

The Point in Time survey is designed to capture data on the homeless population at its most vulnerable, and at a time of year when they are most likely to reach out for assistance. This year's survey shows some interesting statistics which, if they are truly representative of the homeless in Sussex County, would indicate that chronic homelessness is on the rise, and more women than men are currently chronically homeless. However, the survey also seems to indicate that a very small percentage of the homeless population is actually on the street or doesn't know where they will be staying, and more individuals in need are receiving housing, food and medical assistance.

The age group that appears most vulnerable is the group between ages 26 and 45, which was 15% larger in 2009 than in 2006. There were 13 individuals over age 60 who responded to the survey, with the oldest individual being a 78 year old woman, two men aged 74, and a woman aged 73. However, five of these including the 78 year old woman and one of the 74 year old men are now in permanent housing. The remainder are all in housing paid for a public agency.

Where possible, comparisons have been made to previous point in time data in order to attempt to discern trends and gain a perspective over time. While certain conclusions can be drawn, it must always be with the understanding that no single point in time survey can be relied upon for a complete and accurate look at homelessness. However, with this understanding, trends can be observed and information can be used for human service planning.

Introduction

The 2009 Point in Time Survey of Homelessness in Sussex County was conducted on January 28, 2009.

The following report offers a snapshot of the face of homelessness as experienced by residents of Sussex County on that night. Data is compiled from survey responses for the entire respondent population, and is then broken down between the chronically homeless and those who have been homeless for less than one year or who have experienced homelessness less than four times in the last three years.

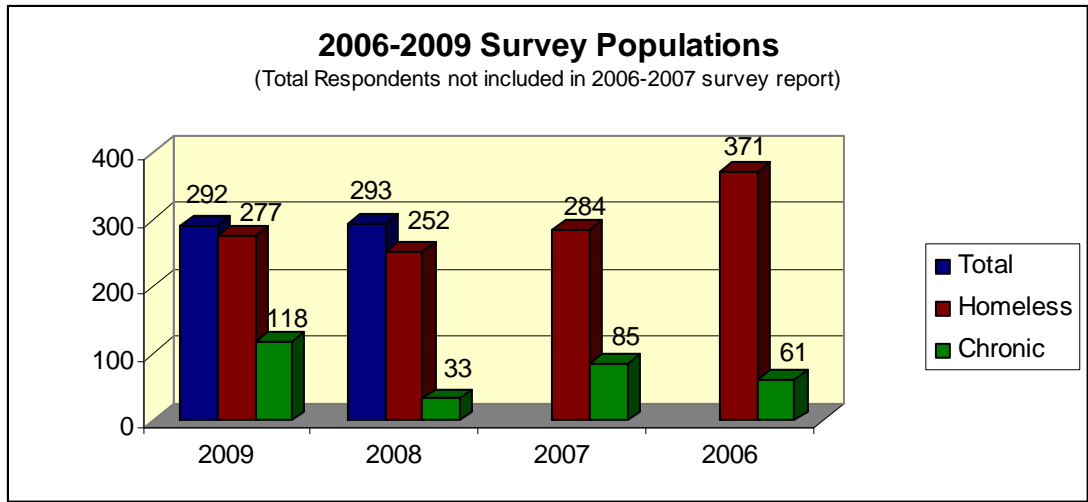
In addition, the report contains comparisons of data on the homeless population from Point in Time surveys for 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006. Since the survey instrument itself has changed over time, the data sets collected are slightly different for each year, with the exception of 2008 and 2009, which used the same survey. For example, the 2007 Point in Time survey did not include individuals who were previously homeless but now living in permanent housing. Therefore, the only respondents were those who were actually homeless on the night of the survey. The data collected for 2006 was quite different than the last three years, so it will be included only where it is logical to do so.

As with all Point in Time surveys, the number of individuals responding to the survey is exactly that – a point in time. It is difficult to ascertain whether or not these numbers accurately represent the numbers of people who experience homelessness in between surveys dates, or whether or not they represent the total homeless population on that night. Thus, the actual number of homeless individuals in Sussex County is probably higher than the Point in Time count shows because there were undoubtedly homeless individuals who could be not reached.

Who Are the Homeless?

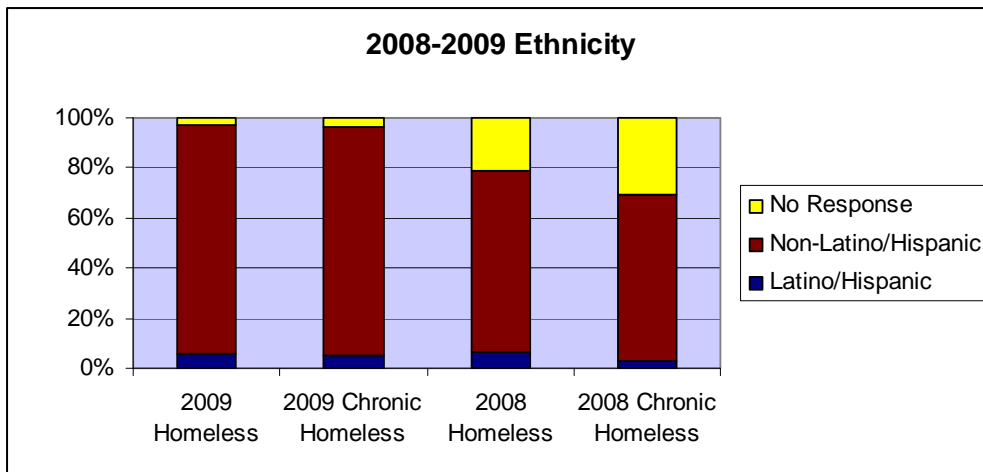
There were 292 respondents to this year’s survey, 277 of whom are currently homeless. 118 (43%) of those currently homeless meet the criteria for “Chronically Homeless,” that is, they have been homeless for more than one year, and/or the have been homeless at least four times within the past three years. The total number of homeless individuals counted in 2009 was up by 10% over the same time last year. In 2008, 14% of the 293 survey respondents indicated that they were currently in permanent housing as opposed to 5% in 2009. In 2008, only 33 individuals (13%) of survey respondents were chronically homeless. However, in 2007, 85 individuals (30%) of those surveyed met the criteria to be considered chronically homeless.

While the data is somewhat inconsistent, it does indicate that the total number of those who are currently homeless or were homeless and have now found housing is increasing slowly over time. Perhaps more importantly, the number of chronically homeless individuals has grown dramatically from 2006 to 2009, with a substantial dip in 2008. The number of chronically homeless people in 2006 was 61, which rose to 85 in 2007, dipped to 33 in 2008 and almost doubled to 118 in 2009.



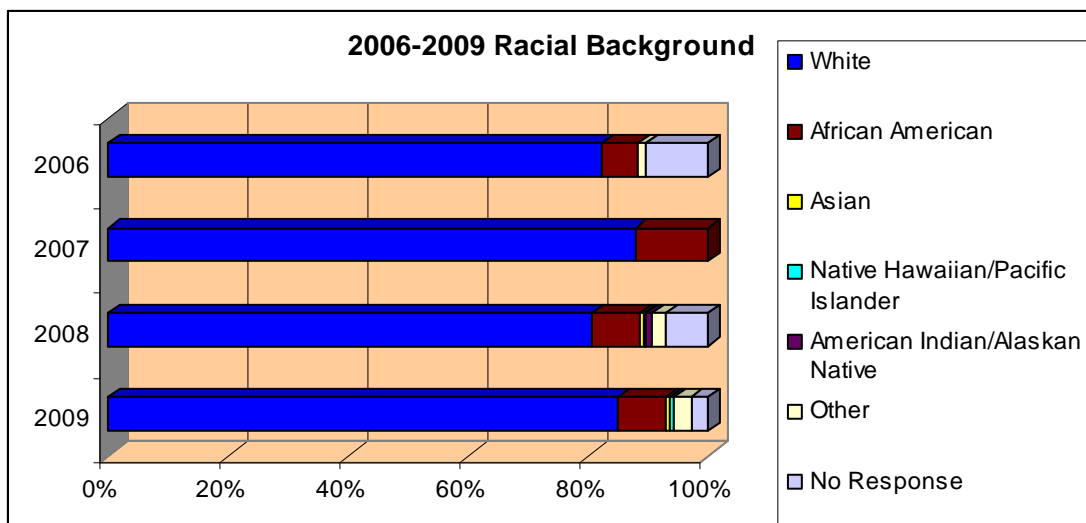
Ethnicity and Racial Background

Of those who responded to the question on their ethnicity (276), 17 (6%) are Latino or Hispanic. The percentage of Latino or Hispanic respondents drops to 5% for those who are chronically homeless. The percentage of homeless Latino or Hispanic respondents decreased by 1% from 2008 to 2009; however, the percentage of chronically homeless Latino or Hispanic respondents rose by 2%, indicating that the number of chronically homeless individuals of Latino or Hispanic ethnicity is rising slowly. These numbers may be attributed to the increasing Latino and Hispanic population in Sussex County, which grew by 2% from 2000 to 2007. Ethnicity data was not broken down between homeless and chronically homeless in 2007, in which 21 (7%) of respondents indicated that they were Latino or Hispanic. Ethnicity was reported as a component of Race in 2006, which reported 15 respondents of Latino or Hispanic background. No other data was reported in 2007 or 2006.



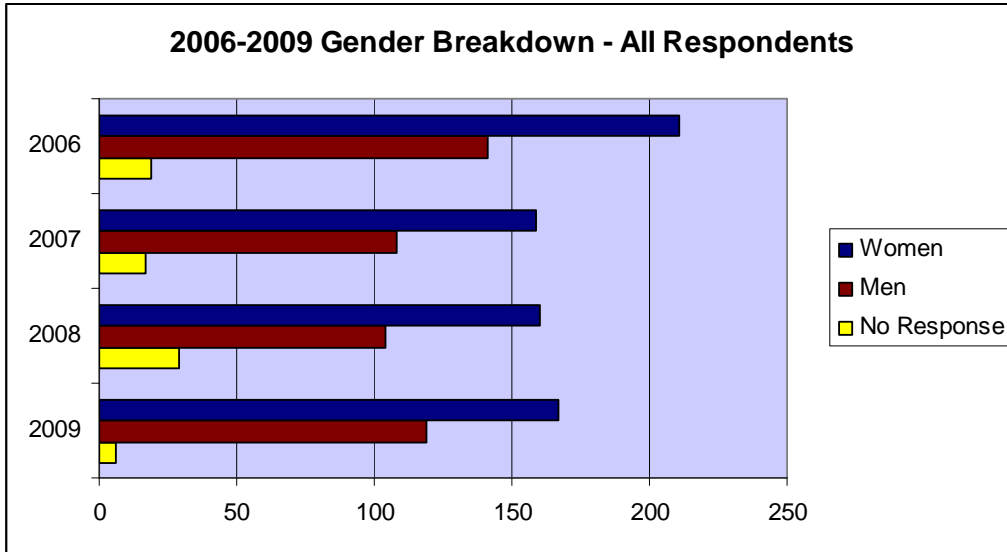
In 2009, 284 individuals answered the question on their racial background. Of these, 249 (86.7%) are white, 4 (1%) are Asian, 24 (8%) are African American, 2 (.5%) are Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander and 8 (2%) are Other. There is no significant difference in the racial background of respondents between 2009 and 2008, although several of the smallest racial groups have shown slight shifts. There were no Native Americans or Alaskan Natives responding in 2009, and the Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander populations have doubled from 1 to 2. However, the statistical significance of this increase is nil, due to the small numbers of respondents involved.

The 2007 report does not break the numbers down beyond Black, White and Other which includes American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders. The 2006 report shows no significant changes except for an increase in the number of African Americans from 6% to 8% of the homeless population.

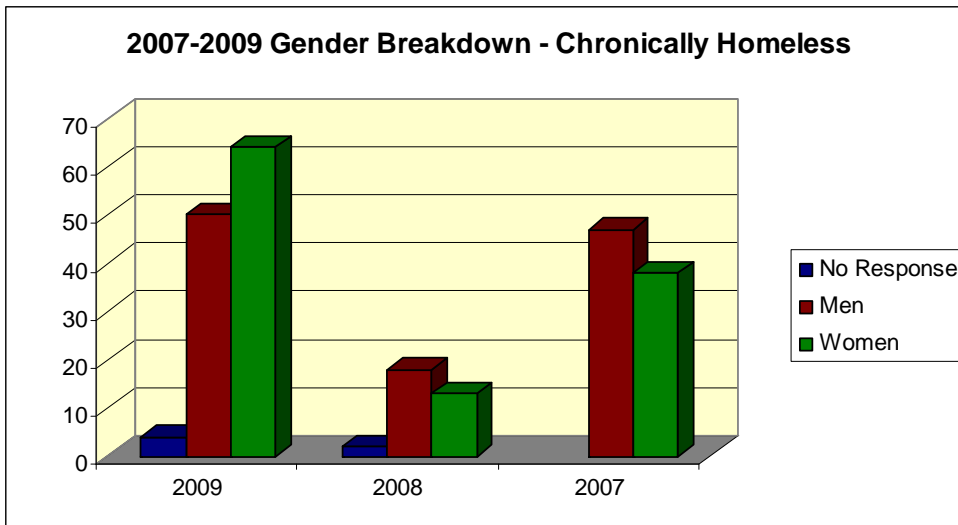


Gender and Age

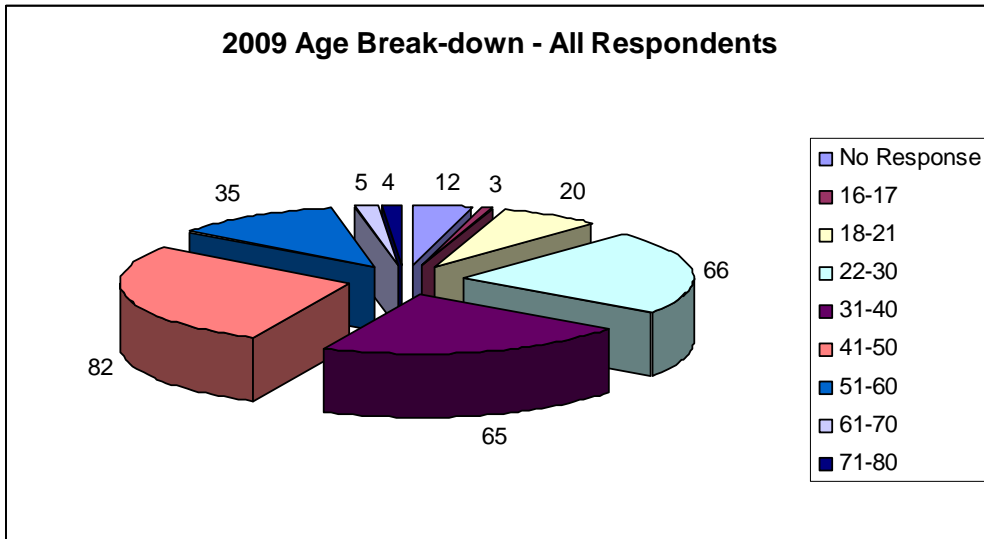
286 of the 292 2009 respondents answered the question on gender. As was true for 2008, there are more homeless women than men responding to the survey. In 2009, there were 167 women and 119 men, 58% and 42% respectively. The number of women in 2008 was 160, or 55%, with 104 men, or 35%. However, in 2008, there was a larger percentage of individuals who did not respond to the question which may account for the apparent increase in homeless men (10% in 2008 as opposed to 2% in 2009). In 2007, there were 159 women and 102 men responding to the survey, while in 2006, there were 211 women and 141 men responding, with 19 respondents not answering the question.



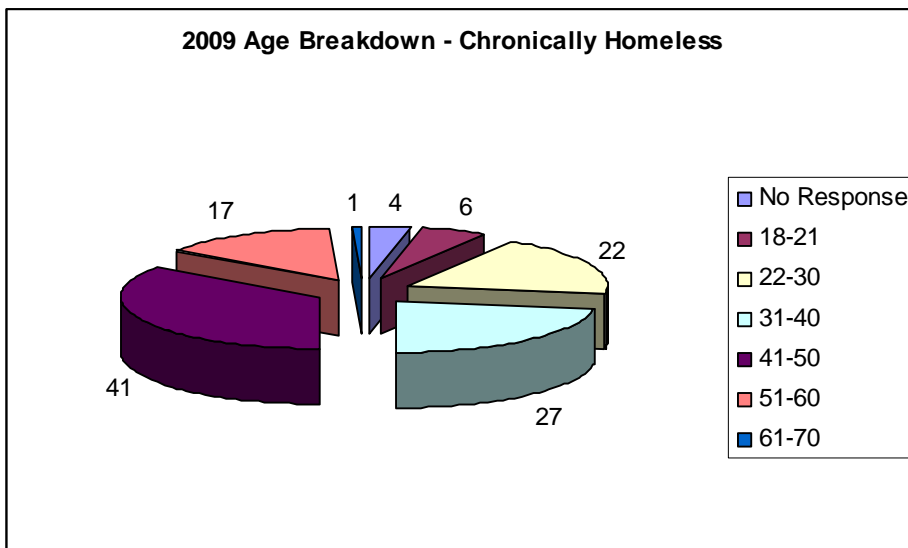
There was a significant change in the gender composition of the chronically homeless from 2008 to 2009. In 2009, 59 women and 53 men were chronically homeless. In 2008, 13 women and 18 men met this criteria. Only 2 people did not answer the question in 2008, and 4 in 2009, so the percentage of non-respondents is not significant enough to impact the data. The 2006 report does not break out data on gender for the chronically homeless.



In 2009, the data shows that the greatest numbers of homeless individuals were in the groups from 22-30 (66), 31-40 (65), and 41-50 (82).

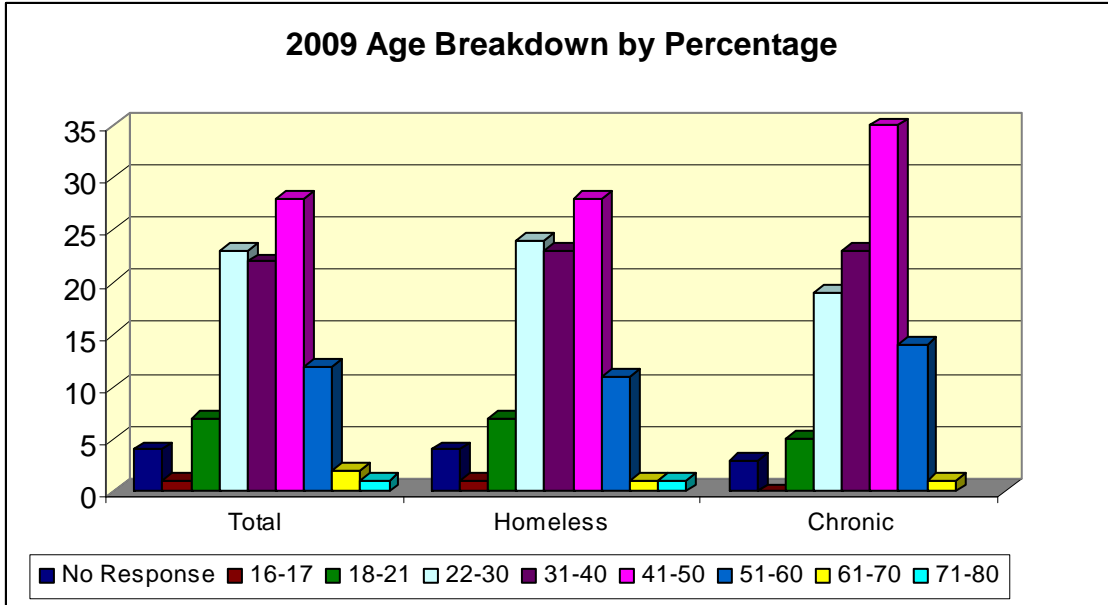


Age data was not included in the 2008 or 2007 reports, and in 2006, the groupings were insufficient for adequate data analysis and comparison. However, there was a small decrease in the percentage of homeless people aged 18-25 from 2006 to 2009 (21% in 2006 and 17% in 2009), while the percentage of respondents aged 46 and up remained constant at 27%. The biggest jump in homelessness was for those aged 26-45, which increased from 35% to 50% of the population surveyed over the four year period.



In 2009, the largest age grouping of respondents was in the 41-50 group (25%). This group also had the highest percentage of chronically homeless (35%). The percentage breakdowns remained consistent through all the other age groups, varying only by a percentage point or two if at all, with the exception of chronically homeless individuals in the 22-30 and 31-40 age groups. Among the chronically homeless individuals surveyed, there were 4% fewer 22-30 year olds than there were 31-40 year olds while in the total respondent population, these groups

differed by one individual. There were no respondents between the ages of 71 and 80 who were chronically homeless.



Where are the Homeless?

Town of Last Permanent Address

Newton has the largest percentage of respondents who stated that this was their last permanent address before becoming homeless (35% of the 260 responses received). A number of respondents lived in other counties and other states before becoming homeless. One individual lived in the Philippines before becoming homeless in Sussex County. 13 respondents lived in other states and 26 lived in other counties in New Jersey before becoming homeless. Franklin, Hopatcong, Newton and Sussex all had a significantly higher percentage of the chronically homeless compared to all respondents reporting these towns as their last permanent address. All of the other towns cited were either slightly higher or lower by comparison.

	Town of Last Permanent Address			
	All Respondents		Chronically Homeless	
No response	33	11.3%	3	2.54%
Other country	1	.34%	1	.85%
Out of State	13	4.45%	4	3.39%
Out of County	26	8.9%	13	11.02%
Andover	4	1.37%	2	1.69%
Branchville	10	3.42%	5	4.24%
Byram	1	.34%	1	.85%
Franklin	16	5.48%	2	1.69%
Fredon	1	.34%		
Hamburg	19	6.51%	8	6.78%
Highland Lakes	3	1.03%		
Hopatcong	14	4.79%	9	7.63%
Lafayette	3	3.03%		
Montague	5	1.71%	2	1.69%
Newton	92	31.51%	45	38.14%
Ogdensburg	1	.34%	1	.85%
Sparta	2	.68%	1	.85%

Stanhope	4	1.3%		
Stockholm	2	.68%	1	.85%
Sussex	26	8.9%	13	11.02%
Swartswood	2	.68%	1	.85%
Vernon	7	2.4%	3	2.54%
Wantage	7	2.4%	3	2.54%

The 2008 report provides no break-down of towns within Sussex County, and the 2007 and 2006 reports do not provide complete information. However, the percentage of homeless individuals whose last permanent address was Newton has risen by 1.58% from 2007 to 2009 and by 8.51% from 2006 to 2009. The number of homeless individuals whose last permanent address was Franklin has decreased from 2007 to 2009 by 7.72% while the numbers for Sussex have varied greatly from 2006 to 2009. In 2006, 10% of all respondents had lived in Sussex. This number dropped to 4.93% in 2007, and rose again in 2009 to 8.9%. The number of respondents whose last permanent address was Andover, Branchville or Vernon has risen slightly, and decreased slightly in Hopatcong and Sparta from 2007 to 2009. Hamburg experienced a jump from 2.82% to 6.51% over the same time period.

None of the previous Point in Time reports offer a breakdown by town for those who meet the criteria for chronically homeless.

Night of January 28th – Breakdown by Town

The preponderance (51.2% of the 286 responses to this question) of all respondents indicated that they would be spending the night of January 28, 2009 in Newton. Sussex had the second highest number of homeless individuals on January 28th (33 individuals or 11.3%), and Lafayette the third highest (15 individuals or 5.1%). Only one respondent stated that she would not be spending the night in Sussex County, but would be in Paterson, NJ on the night of January 28, 2009. For the most part, the percentage of total respondents and percentage of chronically homeless were approximately the same. However, both Franklin and Lafayette showed a significantly lower percentage of chronically homeless compared to all respondents, and Hopatcong, Sparta and Sussex showed a significantly higher percentage of chronically homeless compared to all respondents.

Town in Which Respondents Will Spend January 28 th , 2009				
	All Respondents		Chronically Homeless	
No Response	6	2.05%	0	
Out of County	1	.34%	0	
Andover	8	2.74%	3	2.54%
Branchville	6	2.05%	3	2.54%
Franklin	21	7.19%	5	4.24%
Hamburg	21	7.19%	8	6.78%
Hampton			1	.85%
Highland Lakes	1	.34%	0	
Hopatcong	12	4.11%	8	6.78%
Lafayette	15	5.14%	2	1.69%
Montague	2	.68%	1	.85%
Newton	151	51.71%	61	51.69%
Ogdensburg	2	.68%	1	.85%
Sandyston	1	.34%	1	.85%
Sparta	3	1.03%	3	2.54%
Stanhope	1	.34%	0	
Stockholm			1	
Sussex	33	11.3%	18	15.25%
Swartswood	1	.34%	0	
Vernon	5	1.71%	2	1.69%

Wantage	2	.68%	1	.85%
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Night of January 28th – Breakdown by Type of Accommodation

In 2009, the majority of all respondents (55.62%) and not quite two thirds of the chronically homeless respondents were living in apartments paid for by a public agency or a rooming house. The second most common type of shelter arrangement was a hotel or motel paid for by a public agency (10.62% for all respondents, 13.56% for the chronically homeless.) The 2008 survey shows that 117 (40%) of all respondents were in emergency shelter (26 or 79% of the chronically homeless), and the 2007 survey shows 190 (66.9%) respondents in emergency shelter. In 2008, there were more respondents in permanent housing and living temporarily with family or friends (40 and 43, respectively) than there were in 2009. The 2007 survey report includes data only on those on the street, in emergency shelter, transitional housing or hotel/motel paid for by an agency, which constituted 89% of all respondents. No additional break-down for the remaining 30 respondents is included in the report. The 2006 study used different categories, so it is hard to make comparisons for that year.

Where Respondents Will Spend the Night of January 28 th , 2009				
	All Respondents		Chronically Homeless	
On the street	1	.34%	0	
Don't Know	2	.68%	2	1.69%
Emergency shelter	2	.68%	0	
Transitional housing	19	6.51%	4	3.39%
Hotel/motel paid by agency	31	10.62%	16	13.56%
Permanent housing	15+	5.14%	3+	2.54%
Temporarily with family/friends	19*	6.51%	6*	5.08%
Domestic violence shelter	1	.34%	0	
Hotel/motel individual paid for	5	1.71%	1	.85%
Psychiatric hospital	1	.34%	0	
Jail	15	5.14%	7	5.93%
Substance abuse treatment facility	16	5.48%	1	.85%
Other: (see below)	163	55.62%	78	66.10%
Apt. paid for by agency	129		64	
Rooming house	28		13	
Own apartment	3			
No explanation	3		1	

+ 7 individual respondents and 3 chronically homeless respondents found permanent housing during 2008
 * 16 individual respondents and 5 chronically homeless respondents have no permanent arrangements to live with family or friends

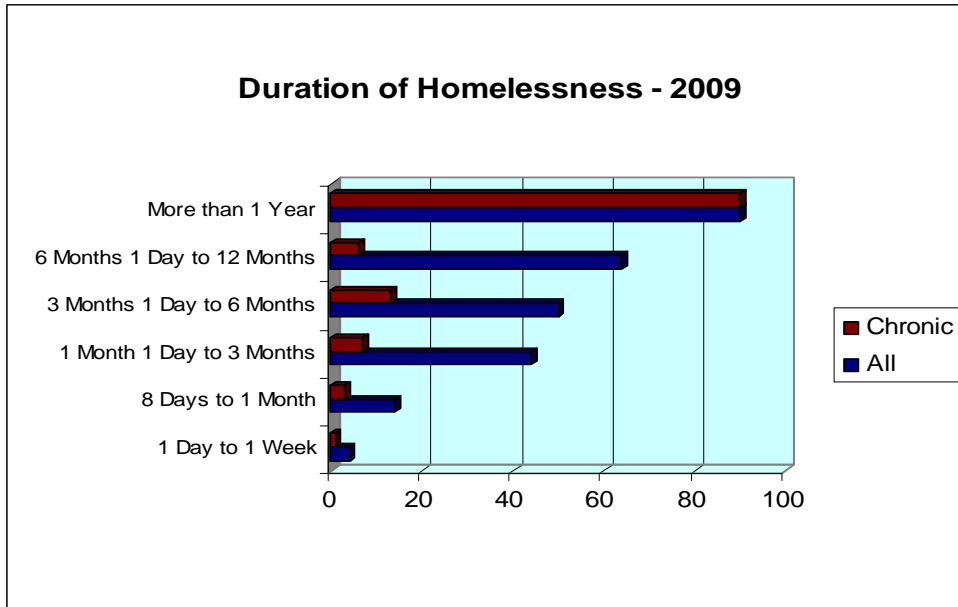
Reports from 2006 through 2009 show that very few of Sussex County's homeless who were surveyed live on the street or in areas not intended for human habitation. If the numbers of individuals surveyed is representative of the actual total homeless population of Sussex County, the surveys appear to indicate that the numbers of homeless individuals may be decreasing and the number of those living on the streets has declined over the four year period. However, it must be noted again that the Point in Time survey may not give a complete picture of homelessness since it is based only on a study sample of those who either took the survey through an agency or at Project Homeless Connect, or those who could be reached by workers canvassing areas where the homeless are most likely to be found.

Duration of Homelessness

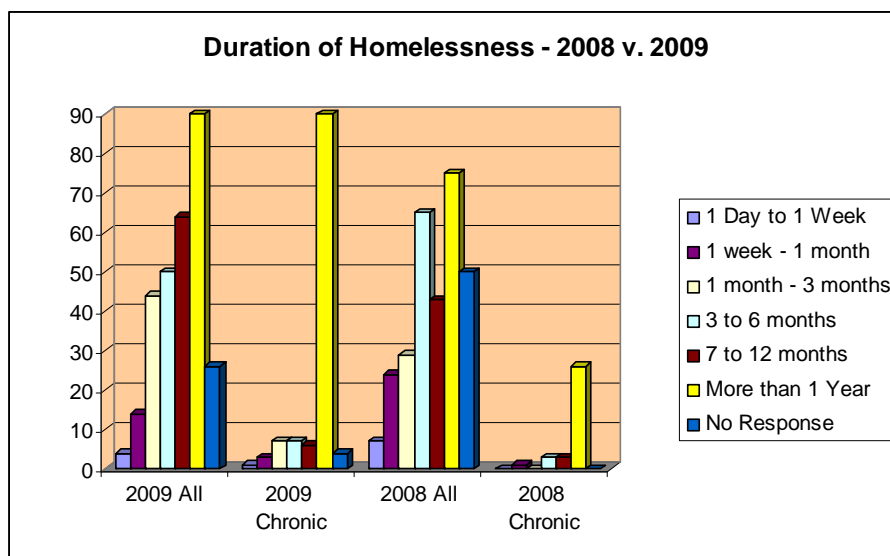
2009 respondents who said that they had experienced periods of homelessness in the last year were likely to have been homeless for more than three months. 76% of the 266 individuals who responded to the question on how long they have been homeless indicated that they were homeless for anywhere from three months and one day to more than a year. 90 of these respondents were homeless for more than one year, meeting the criteria for

chronic homelessness. The remaining 28 individuals who are chronically homeless had not been homeless for an entire year but had experienced at least four periods of homelessness since January 28th, 2006.

89 individuals who reported being homeless for less than one year indicated that there was another time within the last twelve months (2008) during which they have been homeless. 53 respondents have been homeless at least four times since January 28, 2006.



The 2008 survey is the only one of the last four years that tracks data on the duration of periods of homelessness by similar categories as the 2009. In 2008, 63% of all respondents had been homeless for more than three months compared to 76% in the 2009 survey.



The numbers of chronically homeless individuals has fluctuated since 2006. In that year, there were only 16 people who met the criteria for chronic homelessness. In 2007, this number rose to 85, dropped to 33 in 2008

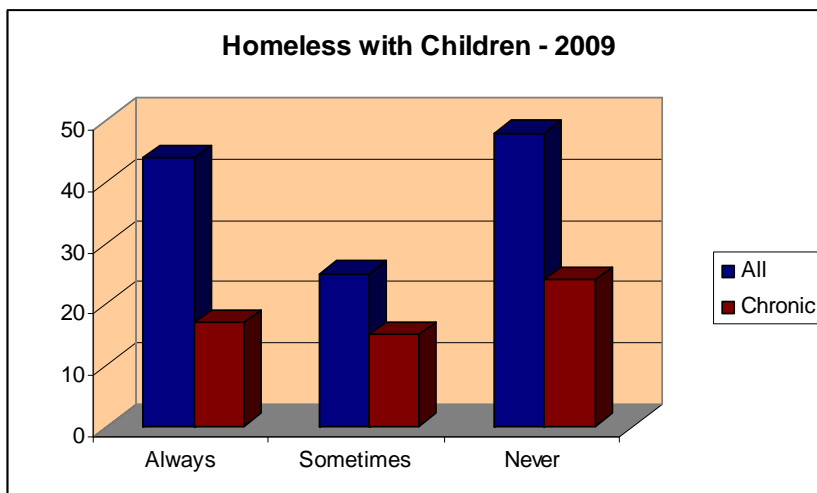
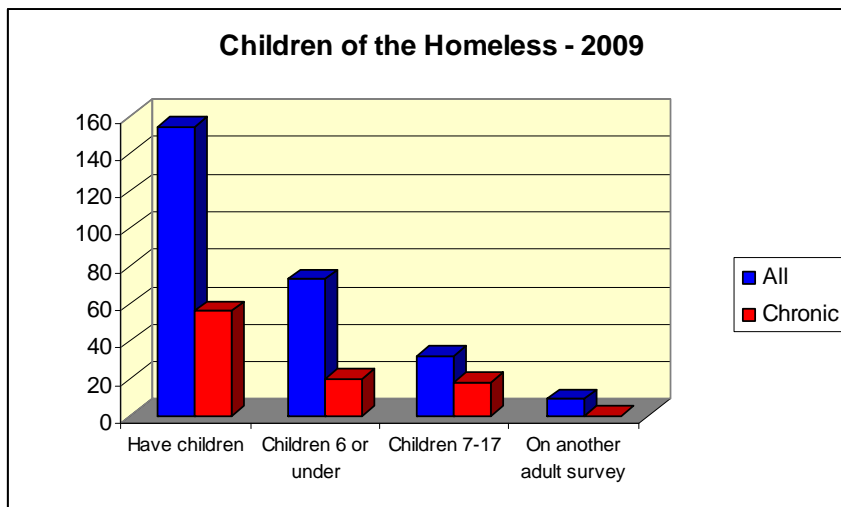
and rose significantly to 118 in 2009. Again, since the survey is a snapshot in time, it is difficult to determine if this is an accurate picture of the total homeless population in Sussex County.

Children and the Homeless

154 respondents have children. Of these, 73 have children 6 year old or younger, 32 have children between the ages of 7 and 17, and 9 have children who were old enough to be counted on another adult survey. The total number of children under age 7 was 151, and the number of those 7 or older was 51. 44 respondents had their children with them every time they experienced a period of homelessness, 25 had them with them some of the time they were homeless, and 48 never had their children with them while homeless. For those who are chronically homeless, 56 respondents had children. 20 have children aged 6 or younger, and 18 have children between the ages of 7 and 17. None have children counted on another adult survey. 17 have had their children with them every time they have experienced homelessness, 15 have had their children with them sometimes while homeless, and 24 have never had their children with them while homeless.

Fewer respondents have children in the 2009 survey than the 2008 survey. In 2008, with a similar number of respondents, 170 had children. Also in 2008, there were more children in total. 111 children aged 6 or younger were with their parents on the night of the survey, and 76 children aged 7 and up accompanied their parents.

Again, the question was slightly different on the 2008 survey, making it impossible to do an accurate comparison.



However, the number of respondents who had their children with them every time they experienced homeless was higher in 2009 than in 2008, 44 in 2009 compared to 23 in 2008. 25 respondents had their children with them some of the time in the 2009 survey compared to 18 in 2008. The biggest difference was for those who never had their children with them while homeless. In 2008, there were 74 respondents in this category, while in 2009, there were only 48. Of the 33 chronically homeless respondents in 2008, only 11 had children. There was no data reported on the ages of these children, and no respondents said they had their children with them every time they were homeless. Only two said that they had their children with the some of the time, while 16 said they never had their children with them while homeless. The remaining 15 respondents did not answer the question.

This clearly indicates that, at least on the night of January 28th, 2009, there were more children experiencing homelessness with their parents than the previous year.

Of those who always had their children with them when homeless, there were 43 children aged 6 and under, and 27 children aged 7 through 17 for a total of 70 children who were always with their homeless parents. Only one respondent had more than 2 children aged 6 and under, but three respondents had more than two children between 7 and 17. One respondent had 3 children, another had 4 children and yet another had 5 children between 7 and 17 who were always with them when the parents were homeless. There were 17 children aged 6 and under and 4 children aged 7 through 17 for a total of 21 children who were sometimes with their parents when homeless.

Of the chronically homeless, there were 12 children aged 6 and under and 19 children between 7 and 17, a total of 31 children who were always with their parents during their periods of homelessness. All of the respondents who had more than 3 children between the ages of 7 and 17 who were always with them while homeless were also chronically homeless. There were 7 children aged 6 and under and 4 children between 7 and 17 who were sometimes with their chronically homeless parents while the parents were homeless.

Sources of Income

In 2009, 76 of the 287 respondents who answered the question on income had only one source of income. Of these 76 individuals, 31 41% cited General Assistance or other Public Assistance as their sole source of income. 200 respondents had multiple sources of income, and 11 stated they had no source of income. The most common multiple sources of income were General Assistance, Medicaid and Food Stamps (75 or 37.5% of the with multiple sources of income), followed by those receiving Temporary Assistance for needy Families (TANF), Medicaid and Food Stamps (51 or 25.5% of those with multiple sources of income). In addition, 4 individuals received GA, Medicaid and Food Stamps along with other sources of income including wages, and 8 individuals received TANF, Medicaid and Food Stamps along with other sources of income including wages.

Among the chronically homeless in 2009, 27 had only one source of income, with 16 (59.2% indicating that General Assistance or other Public Assistance is their sole source of income. 91 had multiple sources of income, with 34% (31 individuals) receiving a combination of General Assistance, Medicaid and Food Stamps and 21.9% (20 individuals) receiving a combination of TANF, Medicaid and Food Stamps. In each group, 3 additional respondents also had another source of income including wages.

Two thirds of all respondents and almost three quarters of all chronically homeless respondents receive Food Stamps. Almost two thirds of all respondents receive Medicaid (59.9% of all respondents, 64.4% of chronically homeless respondents). Other major sources of income are General Assistance/Public Assistance (40.8% for all respondents and 43.2% for chronically homeless), and TANF (27.1% for all and 24.6% for chronically homeless). The chronically homeless were slightly more likely to be receiving some type of public assistance, both cash and non-cash. The only other significant source of income is SSI and SSDI.

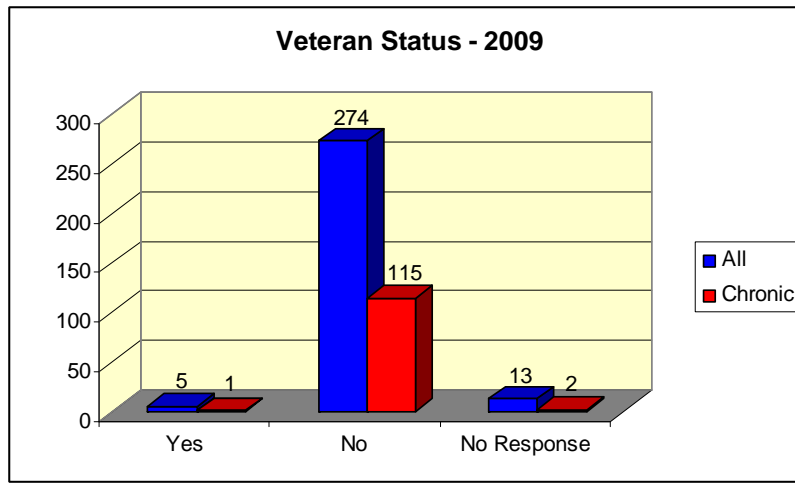
Sources of Income	All		Chronically Homeless	
SSI	47	16.1%	25	21.2%
SSDI	20	6.8%	9	7.6%
TANF	79	27.1%	29	24.6%
GA/PA/Welfare	119	40.8%	51	43.2%
Medicaid	175	59.9%	76	64.4%
Medicare	11	3.8%	6	5.1%
Social Security	6	2.1%	3	2.5%
Wages	12	4.1%	8	6.8%
Unemployment	3	1.0%	1	0.8%
VA Benefits	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Child support	11	3.8%	3	2.5%
Day laborer	2	.07%	1	0.8%
Food stamps	197	67.5%	84	71.2%
No source of income	11	3.8%	1	0.8%
Receiving NO benefits	6	2.1%	3	2.5%
Other	6	2.1%	0	0.0%

While the categories of income sources were slightly different in 2006 and 2007, it can be clearly seen that Food Stamps, Medicaid and various forms of public assistance are consistently the greatest source of income for all respondents and for the chronically homeless. It should be noted that in 2007, SSI and SSDI were lumped together, so the figure for SSI is inflated. This means that SSI and SSDI remain as significant sources of income, after the cash and non-cash assistance programs. It should also be noted that Food Stamps surpassed Medicaid among the homeless after 2007.

Sources of Income	2009		2008		2007	2006
	All	Chronic	All	Chronic	All	All
SSI	47	25	55	12	81	51
SSDI	20	9	22	4		17
TANF	79	29	56	2		55
GA/PA/Welfare	119	51	95	16	110	
Medicaid	175	76	109	20	168	130
Medicare	11	6	24	5		10
Social Security	6	3	8	0		9
Wages	12	6	3	0	9	42
Unemployment	3	1	23	1		13
VA Benefits	0	0	3	0		4
Child support	11	3	2	0		18
Day laborer	2	1	12	0		
Food stamps	197	84	127	22	153	122
No source of income	11	1	14	1		40
Receiving NO benefits	6	3	20	2		
Other	6	0	18	0		10

Veteran Status

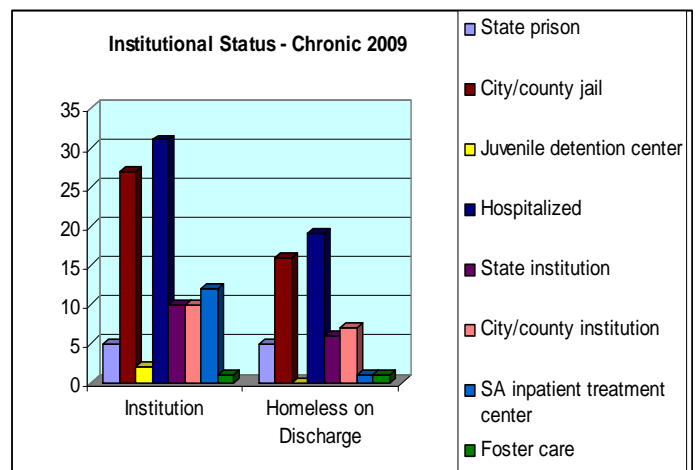
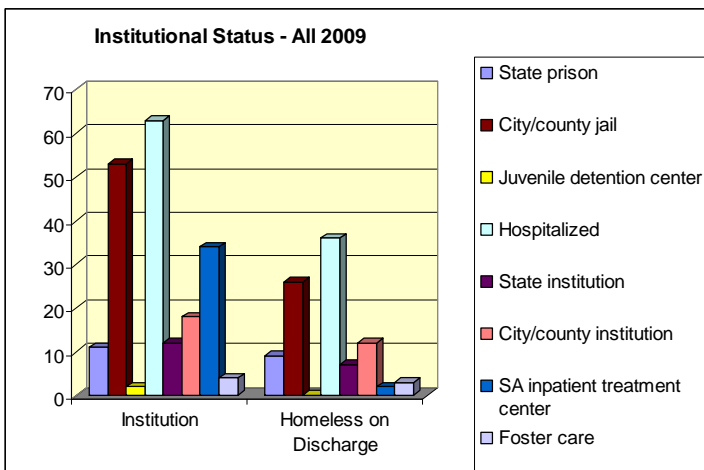
Veteran status was not reported in 2006 or 2007, but in 2009, there were a total of 5 respondents who indicated that they had served in the U.S. military. Of these, 1 was chronically homeless.



In 2008, there were 8 veterans (3%) in the total respondent population, and 2 veterans (6%) in the chronically homeless population.

Institutional Status in the Last Three Years

138 of the 2009 respondents (47.2%) had been in some type of institution during the last three years. Of these, 69 institutionalizations (50%) ended with a discharge into homelessness. 45 respondents spent time in more than one type of institution. Of the 138 respondents, 45.6% (63) had been hospitalized and 38.4% (53) had been in a city/county jail, and 24.6% (34) spent time in an inpatient substance abuse treatment center. Of the chronically homeless, 64 (54.2%) of respondents spent time in some type of institution. 29 of these institutionalizations (45.3%) ended with a discharge into homelessness. Again, more respondents spent time in hospitals (31 or 48.4%) and city/county jails (27 or 42.1%) than in other institutions. There are only small differences in the percentages of all respondents compared to the chronically homeless having experienced institutionalization of some type, with the percentage in hospitals and jails remaining very close.



The 2006 and 2007 surveys did not report on prior institutional status, and the categories reported on in 2008 were limited to incarceration, hospitalization and in-patient services such as mental health or addiction treatment. In 2008, 25% of all respondents (73) had been incarcerated and 56% of these (41) were discharged into homelessness. 40% of all respondents (116) had been hospitalized and 40% of those who had been hospitalized (46) were discharged into homelessness. 38% of all respondents (110) had received in-patient services, and 46% of those who had received such service (51) were discharged into homelessness.

Of the chronically homeless in 2008, 33% had been incarcerated (11), and 64% of these (7) were discharged into homelessness. 55% or 18 chronically homeless respondents had been hospitalized and 61% or 11 of these were discharged into homelessness. 64% of chronically homeless respondents (21) had received in-patient services, and 62% of these (13) were discharged into homelessness.

Factors Contributing to Homelessness

In 2009, of the 282 responses to the question about circumstances contributing to homelessness, only 55 respondents listed a single causative factor. Responses show that for the remaining 83% of all respondents, two or more factors contributed to their current living situation. 118 respondents (40%) cited that the high cost of housing was a factor contributing to their current living situation, and 110 (37.7%) cited the loss of a job and inability to find work. In the same vein, 92 respondents (31.5%) were evicted from their homes.

28.7% of all respondents (84) indicated that mental illness played a role in their current situation, and an identical number indicated that medical problems were a causative factor for them. 26.3% of all respondents (77) cited alcohol or other drug abuse problems were an issue, and 26.0% (76) cited relationship issues (breakup or death) as an issues contributing to their current situation.

All of the chronically homeless responded to the question on causative factors. For these respondents, too, the high cost of housing was most often cited as contributing to homelessness (50.8% or 60 respondents). However, mental illness rose from 4th place for all respondents to 2nd place for the chronically homeless as a factor contributing to their homelessness (47.5% or 56 respondents). Eviction was third (43.2% or 51 respondents), followed by loss of job/can't find work (42.4% or 50 respondents). Slightly more chronically homeless respondents indicated that relationship issues were causative for them, 27.9% compared to 26.3% for all respondents. 22.9% of the chronically homeless cited alcohol or other drug issues, compared to 26.3% of all respondents.

While not all categories were reported in 2008, there are several differences between the responses reported in 2008 and those collected in 2009. The major difference is a dramatic increase in the number of evictions and foreclosures. In 2008, these two were reported as a single group, and 18% of all respondents and of all chronically homeless respondents indicated that this was a factor in their situation. In 2009, this percentage rose to 31.5% for all respondents and 43.2% for the chronically homeless.

The other significant difference between the 2008 and 2009 reports is in the area of relationships. The 2008 report indicates that 36% of all respondents and 24% of chronically homeless respondents cited relationship issues as causative. The 2009 survey shows that 26% of all respondents and 28% of chronically homeless cited relationship issues as causative. There is a significant drop (10%) in all responses and a rise of 4% for the chronically homeless in the area of relationships.

	2009				2008			
	All Respondents		Chronic Homeless		All Respondents		Chronic Homeless	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total	292		118		293		33	
Alcohol or other drug abuse	77	26.4	27	22.9	66	22.5	9	27.3
Domestic violence	44	15.1	21	17.8	47	16.0	7	21.2
Eviction/foreclosure	98	33.6	54	43.2	52	17.7	6	18.2
Wages too low	41	14.0	26	45.8	37	12.6	3	9.1
House condemned	1	.3	1	.8	0	0	0	0.

Housing costs too high	118	40.4	60	50.8	119	40.6	10	30.3
Incarceration	38	13.0	16	13.6	10	3.4		
Loss of child support	19	6.5	7	5.9	10	3.4	2	6.1
Loss job/can't find work	110	37.7	50	42.4	99	33.8	12	36.4
Lost job/no transportation	21	7.2	7	5.9	12	4.1	3	9.1
Medical problems	84	28.8	43	36.4	80	27.3	14	42.4
Mental illness	84	28.8	56	47.5	85	29.0	17	51.5
Natural disaster	0	0	0	0	3	1.0	1	3.0
Relationship breakup/death	76	26.0	33	28.0	105	35.8	8	24.2
Utility costs too high	37	12.7	24	20.3				
Other (pregnancy, felon, dysfunctional, fire, injury)	5	1.7	2	1.7	13	4.4	0	0

Services Received, Needed and Denied to the Homeless

In 2009, 272 of all respondents received one or more services in the past three years. 128 respondents indicated that they are in need of one or more service, and only 28 respondents indicated that they need services for which they were denied. 112 of the 118 chronically homeless respondents in 2009 received one or more service in the past three years. 80 chronically homeless respondents indicated that they still need one or more services, and 16 stated that they were turned down for needed services.

After housing, the most commonly received service was emergency food (151 or 55.5%), followed by routine medical care (154 or 53.3%). Dental care (42) and employment (42) were the services most needed for all respondents, and dental care (19) and housing (17) were the most needed for the chronically homeless. The service most frequently denied to both groups was medical disability services (13 for all respondents, and 7 for the chronically homeless).

2009 – Services Summary						
	All Respondents			Chronically Homeless		
	Received	Need	Denied	Received	Need	Denied
Assistance with ID	13	20	2	6	10	1
Child care	29	16	2	8	5	1
Dental care	33	42	5	9	19	3
Domestic violence	25	6	1	11	3	1
Educational training	58	34	0	18	12	0
Emergency food	151	30	0	75	9	0
Emergency shelter	100	13	7	44	7	2
Employment	77	42	3	30	14	0
Legal services	57	24	0	30	13	0
HIV/AIDS services	4	3	0	2	2	0
Housing	199	36	11	93	17	5
Immigration	0	1	0	0	1	0
Medical (disability)	63	23	13	34	13	7
Medical (routine)	145	18	2	72	9	1
Mental health	79	26	1	45	13	1
Substance abuse services	47	14	4	17	9	2
Transportation services	109	37	3	44	13	1
Veterans services	2	1	0	0	0	0
Other	177	3	1	86	0	0
EA	48			24		
TRA	129			62		

There was an almost identical number of services received between 2008 and 2009 (1366 services for 293 respondents in 2008 compared to 1365 services for 292 respondents in 2009), accompanied by a decline in both the services needed (596 to 389) and services denied (130 to 55). The distribution of services changed significantly from 2008 to 2009. In 2008, more respondents received routine healthcare than any other service (165 or 56%), including housing (116 or 40%). Housing was the greatest need (79 or 27%), followed by dental

care and employment assistance, both at 58 or 20%. Medical disability services, veterans services, immigration assistance and emergency shelter were equally denied in 2008 (8 respondents or 3%), followed closely by child care (7 respondents or 2%).

It appears, at least in looking at these two points in time, that the services received by respondents are somewhat better aligned to their greatest needs.

Among the chronically homeless in 2008, routine healthcare and housing were the services most received (79% and 76% respectively), and housing and dental care were the services most needed (39% and 24% respectively.) Domestic violence, medical disability services, mental health services, veteran services, immigration assistance and child care were all equally denied. However, it must be noted that each of these was denied to only two respondents, yielding a statistical sample too small from which to draw any conclusions.

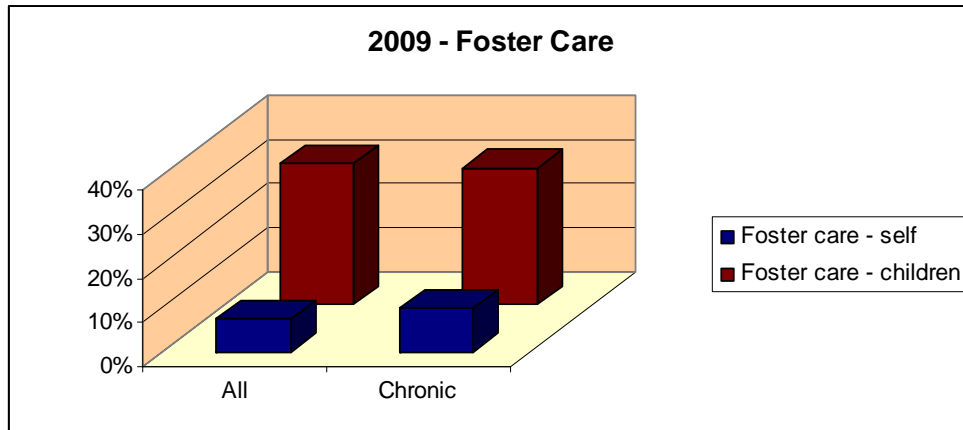
In 2007, 54% of all respondents indicated that they would benefit from mental health services, 29% wanted substance abuse services, and 25% needed medical care.

2008-2009 – Services Summary Comparison						
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	Received		Need		Denied	
Assistance with ID	13	6	20	17	2	2
Child care	29	34	16	26	2	7
Dental care	33	85	42	58	5	3
Domestic violence	25	42	6	10	1	7
Educational training	58	39	34	48	0	3
Emergency food	151	120	30	35	0	6
Emergency shelter	100	147	13	29	7	8
Employment	77	57	42	58	3	4
Legal services	57	88	24	33	0	4
HIV/AIDS services	4	10	3	1	0	6
Housing	199	116	36	79	11	3
Immigration	0	2	1	1	0	8
Medical (disability)	63	77	23	41	13	8
Medical (routine)	145	165	18	54	2	4
Mental health	79	111	26	24	1	7
Substance abuse services	47	70	14	24	4	5
Transportation services	109	80	37	45	3	7
Veterans services	2	7	1	3	0	8
Other	177	110	3	7	1	4

Foster Care and the Homeless

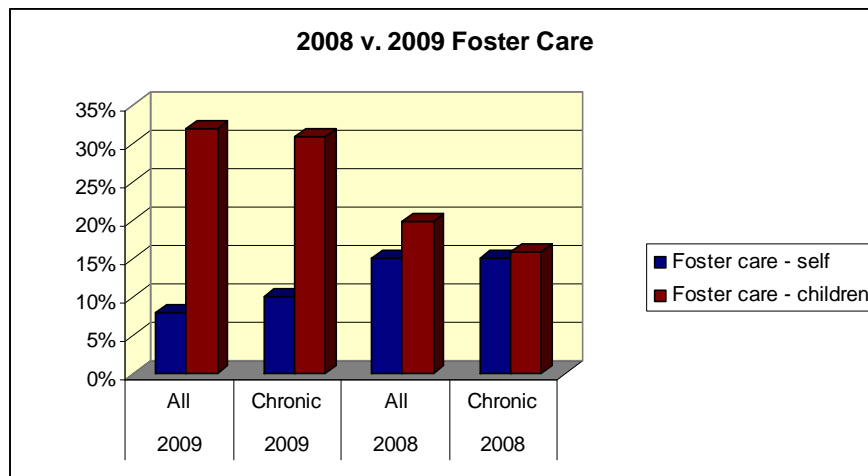
Of the 285 respondents who answered the question about ever being in foster care themselves, 264 (92%) of them had never been in foster care. All of the chronically homeless respondents answered this question and only 12 (10%) of the 118 respondents had ever been in foster care themselves. While between 8% and 10% of all respondents and chronically homeless respondents had ever been in foster care, the percentage of their children who had spent time in foster care was substantially higher. 32% (55) of all those who answered the question about their children said that their children have been in foster care, and 31% (20) of chronically homeless respondents had children who were at some time in foster care.

It is interesting to note that the percentages were almost identical for both groups, and that children of the homeless surveyed were three times more likely to be in foster care than their parents. Additional study would need to be done to determine if homelessness had a significant impact on the likelihood of children going into foster care, or if other factors had equal or greater impact on this situation.



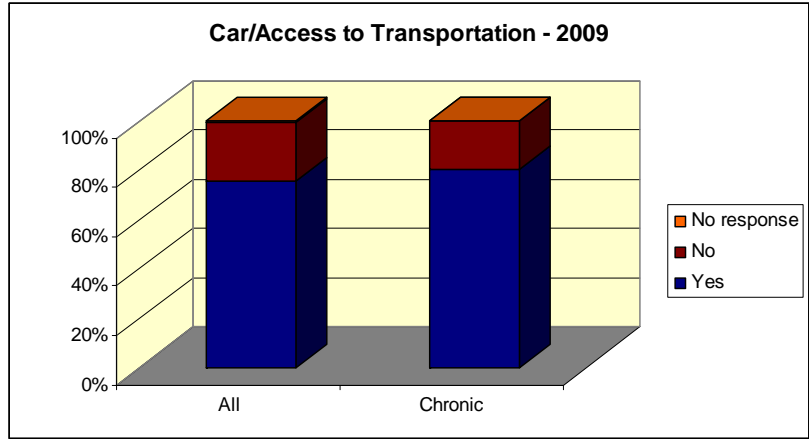
In the 2008 report, 185 of the 217 respondents who answered the question about ever having been in foster care themselves answered no. 159 of the 198 respondents who answered the question about their children ever being in foster care answered no. This computes to 85% and 80% respectively, and indicates that 5% more children were involved in foster care than their parents. For the chronically homeless surveyed in 2008, the percentages are almost identical: 85% of respondents were at one time involved with foster care and 84% of their children were involved with foster care.

The populations surveyed in 2008 and 2009 differed substantially in their experience with foster care in that 7% fewer total respondents had been involved in foster care themselves but 12% more of their children had experience with foster care. Neither the 2006 nor the 2007 survey asked about foster care status.

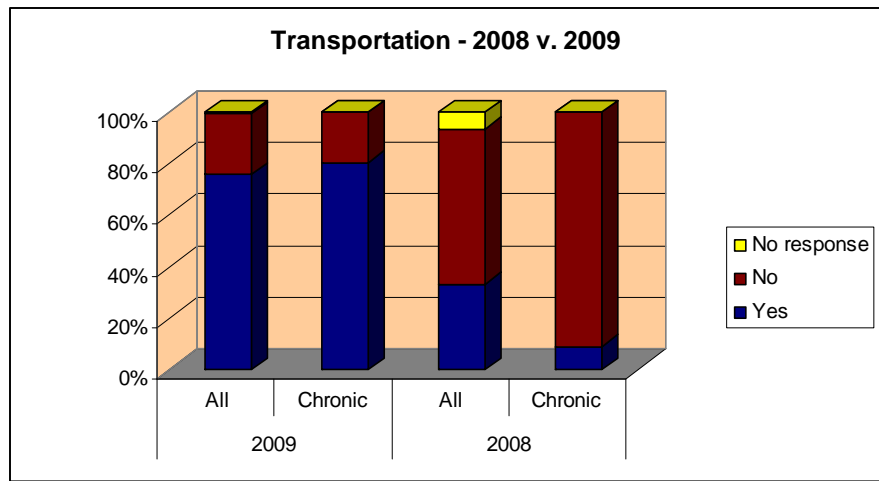


Transportation

75.6% (221 respondents) of all 2009 respondents either have their own car or have access to public transportation. For the chronically homeless, the percentage increases to 80.5% (95 respondents).



These percentages are quite different from the results of the 2008 survey, in which 60% of all respondents did not have transportation, and 91% of the chronically homeless lacked transportation.



Additional Data

There are two pieces of additional data that were included in the survey. Whether or not a respondent has a photo ID card has a major impact on his/her ability to get assistance, employment, and housing. Fear of eviction indicates how precarious respondents feel their current living situation to be. Even for those who are not currently homeless, fear of homelessness or a return to homelessness can be a constant worry.

Photo ID Cards: 81.8% (239) of all respondents in 2009 do have a photo ID, 51 (17.4%) do not, and 2 people did not respond to the question. The percentage drops slightly for the chronically homeless respondents (80.5%), with 19.5% reporting that they do not have a photo ID. These numbers are higher than those reported in 2008, in which 77% have a photo ID, 14% did not and 10% did not respond. The 2008 chronically homeless reported 79% as having a photo ID, 18% not having one, and 3% not responding.

Fear of eviction: 42% of all 2009 respondents live with the worry that they will lose the place in which they are currently staying. This percentage rises to 53% for the chronically homeless. In 2008, the percentage of all respondents who fear eviction was exactly the same, but the percentage of the chronically homeless who were worried about this was only 27%, a dramatically lower number than in 2009.

Conclusions

While it is difficult to draw conclusions about the state of homelessness in general from such a limited survey, there are several trends that can be observed, always with the caveat that these reflect a snapshot of homelessness as it was surveyed on a single night, and is therefore limited.

It appears that the number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness is on the rise, the number of parents who always have their children with them while homeless is increasing, and the number of evictions is growing as well. While the gender make-up of all respondents remains approximately the same, the gender composition of the chronically homeless population has shifted, and there are more women than men who are chronically homeless.

The number of respondents who have experienced institutionalization within the last three years has also risen, with major increases in those who were hospitalized and those who were incarcerated. However, the percentage of those who were discharged into homelessness was lower than in 2008.

It has already been noted that, while fewer respondents had been in foster care themselves, more of their children are or have been in foster care.

One of the more positive outcomes of the 2009 survey is in the area of services received, needed and denied. The number of needed services has decreased, as has the number of services denied. In this latter area, the majority of denied services related to disability status, a fact that is not surprising, given the increasing difficulty in receiving disability benefits. However, the percentage of individuals who have received housing assistance has grown, and only one respondent indicated that s/he would be on the street on the night of the survey, with two others stating that they did not know where they would spend the night. This would seem to indicate that at least at that point in time, individuals needing assistance were getting what they need, and very few homeless individuals had absolutely no place to spend the night.

Additional study over time would have to be conducted to determine whether or not these conclusions are valid for all homeless individuals, but this Point in Time survey is a start to putting a face on homelessness in Sussex County.

Appendix A – Survey Instrument

Appendix B – Statistical Supplement