



## **BrainGain@PEC**

Produced by the PEC Policy Department

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BrainGain@PEC provides brief summaries of research or publications on family homelessness and related issues. Previous issues of BrainGain@PEC can be found at <http://www.pec-cares.org/publications.html>.

### **Part III: Pennsylvania's Housing Inventory for Homeless Families Shows Decline in Capacity**

On a single night in Pennsylvania last year, the number of homeless persons in the state as counted in the annual Point in Time (PIT) survey mandated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) exceeded the populations of many Commonwealth towns. The 14,415 men, women, and children who were counted living in an emergency or transitional housing program or on the street surpassed the number of residents of Hanover, Hershey, Kingston, Meadville, New Kensington, St. Mary's, Washington, and Whitehall -- among others. The ostensible good news is that this figure is a decrease from the 15,378 individuals counted as homeless on a single night in 2008.

However, according to HUD's annual Housing Inventory Chart (HIC), the number of available housing units for homeless families between 2008 and 2010 declined by 369 units in Pennsylvania. This drop raises the possibility that the apparent decrease in homelessness<sup>i</sup> was in fact a result of fewer beds rather than an accurate and true decline in the number of homeless persons.

<b>Housing for Homeless Families reported in Housing Inventory Chart, PA</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Total Emergency Housing Units	1,065	994	1,060
Total Transitional Housing Units	2,038	1,882	1,822
Total Permanent Supportive Housing Units	1,523	1,323	1,375
<b>TOTAL Family Units</b>	<b>4,626</b>	<b>4,199</b>	<b>4,257</b>

The information in this BrainGain@PEC is part of series of reports on the Point In Time Count recently posted on HUD's web site at <http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewHomelessRpts>. The HIC information is an unduplicated count of the number of housing units for homeless people who are served by agencies providing data to HUD's Homeless Management Information Systems. Its purpose is to help communities obtain a picture of the capacity of their homeless systems and make

decisions on the allocation of resources.

This BrainGain@PEC shows data by each “Continuum of Care” and graphs that consolidate the data to show regional trends. The five regions are:

- Northeast Region -- includes Allentown, Berks, “Northeast Pa,” Lackawanna, and Luzerne counties
- Central Region -- includes Altoona/Central Pa, Harrisburg/Dauphin, and Lancaster
- Southeast Region -- includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties
- Northwest Region -- includes Erie and “Northwest Pa”
- Southwest Region -- includes Beaver, Pittsburgh/Allegheny County, and “Southwest Pa”

Counties are listed in the order as shown at the HUD website. The original HUD source does not provide commentary on why the numbers of units for homeless families increased or decreased over time.

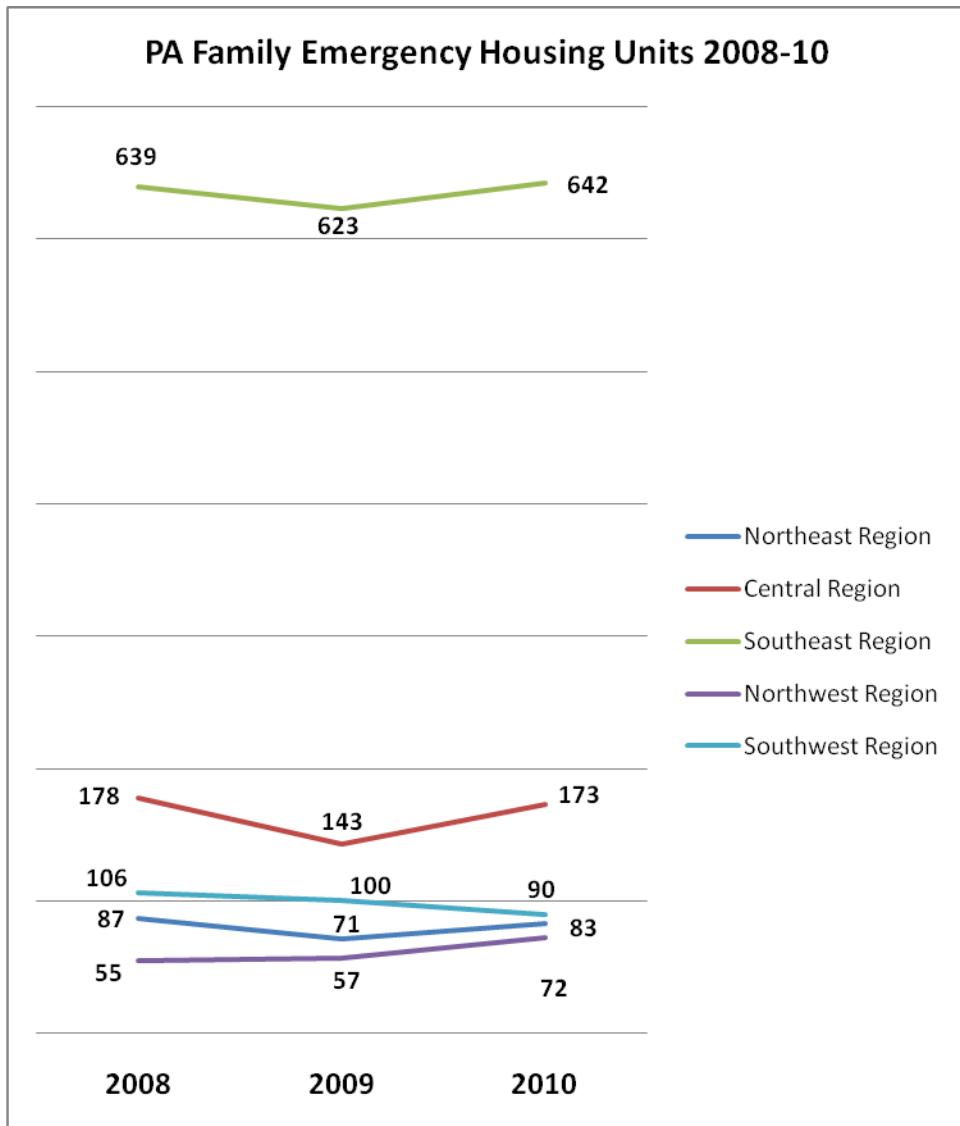
**Note:** HIC does not capture data on all housing programs serving homeless populations. A number of housing programs do not participate in the HUD-sponsored data collection system and it can be assumed that these programs do not receive public support.

In addition, readers are cautioned that some of the decreases as posted by HUD may be different than what the Continuums experienced. Each year, HUD improves the data collection process that the Continuums use to gather information. Philadelphia county reported privately that the reason for their decrease in transitional and permanent supportive housing is that in earlier years, it included all Transitional and Permanent housing units that could **potentially** be used to house homeless persons (i.e. housing units funded and managed by the behavioral health system, where homeless individuals and families have priority for housing, but the units are not set aside exclusively for homeless people). HUD clarified their expectations over the years, which is that **ONLY** units reserved specifically for homeless people should be included in the housing inventory. So this county subtracted behavioral health units in its housing inventory that **can** serve homeless people but are not **exclusively reserved** for homeless people.

## Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) results for family units:

Family Emergency Housing Units	2008	2009	2010	Change from '08-'10 (#)	Change from '08-'10 (%)
<b><i>Pennsylvania</i></b>	1,065	994	1,060	-5	-0.5%
<i>Philadelphia</i>	489	490	494	5	1.0%
<i>Harrisburg/Dauphin</i>	26	20	28	2	7.1%
<i>Delaware Co.</i>	71	60	69	-2	-2.9%
<i>Luzerne Co.</i>	6	5	5	-1	-20.0%
<i>Montgomery Co.</i>	35	35	35	0	0.0%
<i>Chester Co.</i>	21	15	19	-2	-10.5%
<i>Berks Co.</i>	27	15	15	-12	-80.0%
<i>Altoona/Central Pa</i>	128	97	113	-15	-13.3%
<i>Lackawanna Co.</i>	9	9	9	0	0.0%
<i>Allentown/Northeast Pa</i>	45	42	54	9	16.7%
<i>Lancaster Co.</i>	24	26	32	8	25.0%
<i>Bucks Co.</i>	23	23	25	2	8.0%
<i>Pittsburgh/Allegheny Co.</i>	71	57	52	-19	-36.5%
<i>Southwest Pa</i>	29	36	29	0	0.0%
<i>Northwest Pa</i>	32	34	49	17	34.7%
<i>Beaver Co.</i>	6	7	9	3	33.3%
<i>Erie Co.</i>	23	23	23	0	0.0%

- Family emergency housing units are shown here by region:

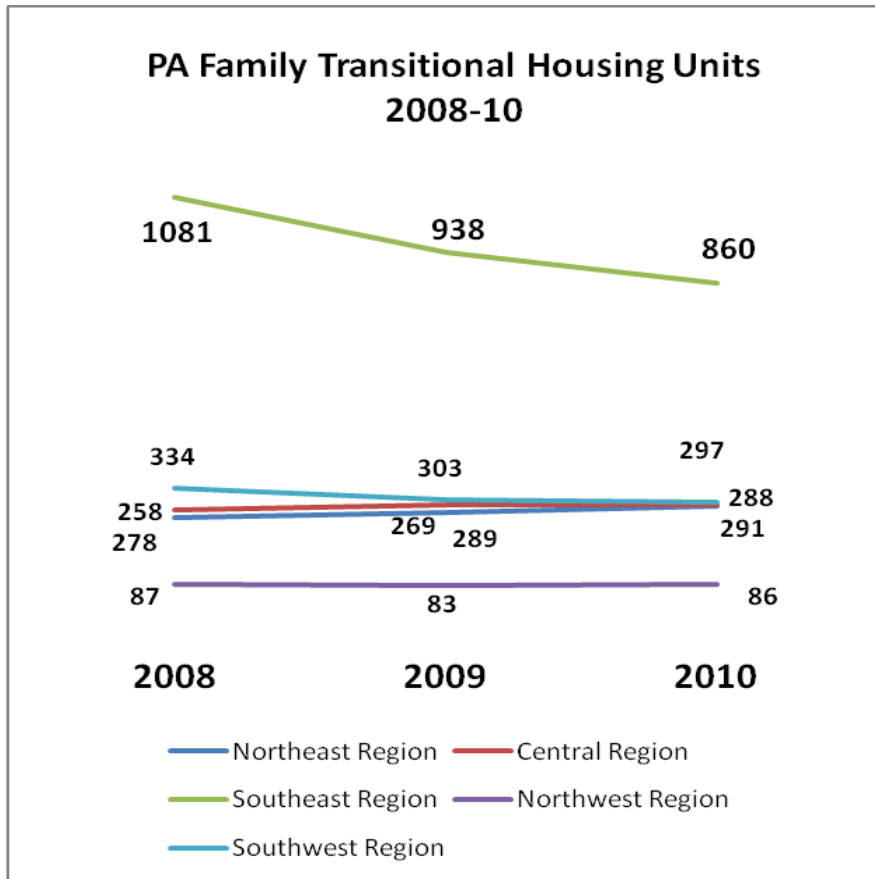


## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING UNITS FOR FAMILIES

- Transitional housing units for families declined by 216 units, or 11.9%, mostly due to changes in Philadelphia.

<b>Family Transitional Housing Units</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Change from '08-'10 (#)</b>	<b>Change from '08-'10 (%)</b>
<b><i>Pennsylvania</i></b>	2,038	1,882	1,822	-216	-11.9%
<i>Philadelphia</i>	769	625	562	-207	-36.8%
<i>Harrisburg/Dauphin</i>	38	36	40	2	5.0%
<i>Delaware Co.</i>	94	94	90	-4	-4.4%
<i>Luzerne Co.</i>	22	22	22	0	0.0%
<i>Montgomery Co.</i>	71	71	68	-3	-4.4%
<i>Chester Co.</i>	49	46	51	2	3.9%
<i>Berks Co.</i>	67	60	58	-9	-15.5%
<i>Altoona/Central Pa</i>	157	160	162	5	3.1%
<i>Lackawanna Co.</i>	41	37	45	4	8.9%
<i>Allentown/Northeast Pa</i>	128	150	163	35	21.5%
<i>Lancaster Co.</i>	83	93	89	6	6.7%
<i>Bucks Co.</i>	98	102	89	-9	-10.1%
<i>Pittsburgh/Allegheny Co.</i>	247	220	212	-35	-16.5%
<i>Southwest Pa</i>	82	78	76	-6	-7.9%
<i>Northwest Pa</i>	32	33	36	4	11.1%
<i>Beaver Co.</i>	5	5	9	4	44.4%
<i>Erie Co.</i>	55	50	50	-5	-10.0%

- Family transitional housing units are shown here by region:

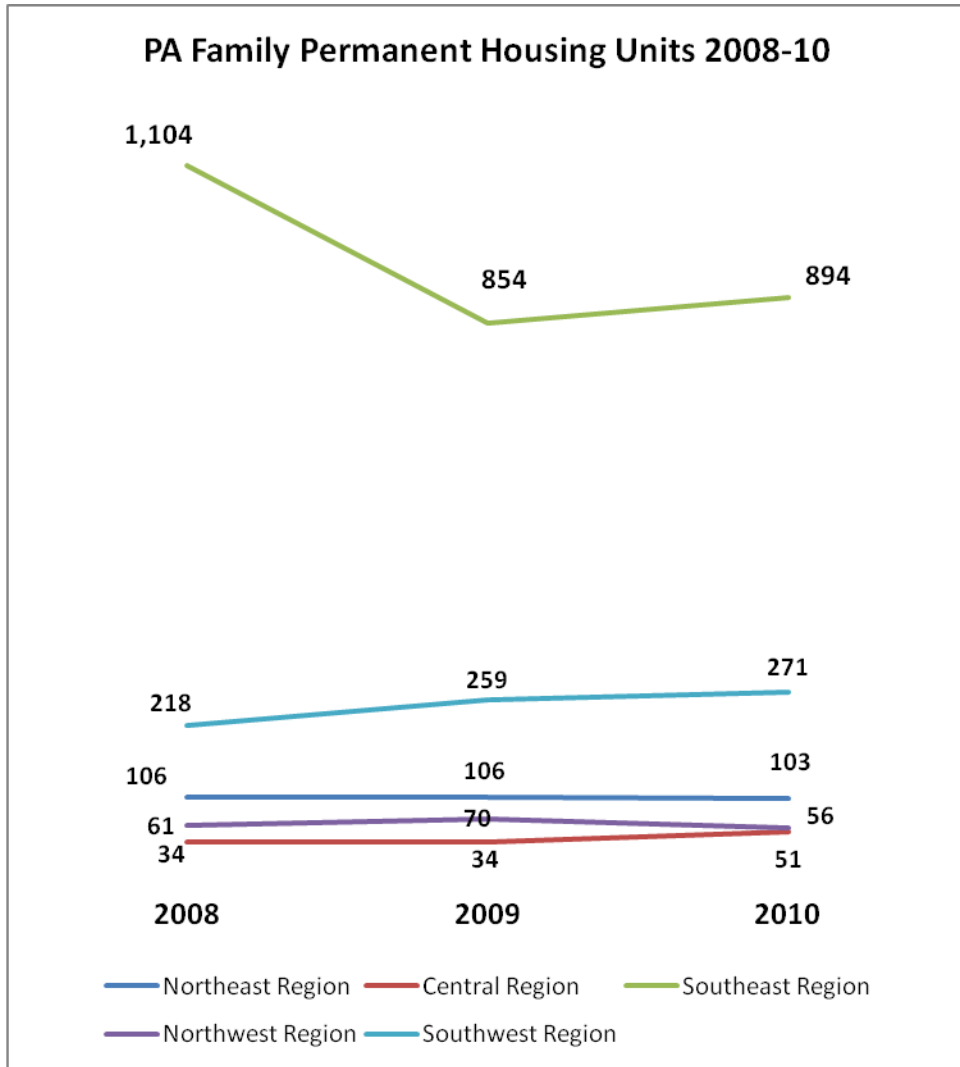


## FAMILY PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING UNITS

- According to HUD data, Pennsylvania's permanent supportive housing for families declined by 148 family units, or 10.8%, mostly due to changes in Philadelphia.

Family Permanent Support Housing Units	2008	2009	2010	Change from '08-'10 (#)	Change from '08-'10 (%)
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	1,523	1,323	1,375	-148	-10.8%
<i>Philadelphia</i>	1,014	772	817	-197	-24.1%
<i>Harrisburg/Dauphin</i>	9	8	11	2	18.2%
<i>Delaware Co.</i>	42	36	35	-7	-20.0%
<i>Luzerne Co.</i>	30	30	31	1	3.2%
<i>Montgomery Co.</i>	27	27	22	-5	-22.7%
<i>Chester Co.</i>	21	19	20	-1	-5.0%
<i>Berks Co.</i>	39	37	37	-2	-5.4%
<i>Altoona/Central Pa</i>	11	10	23	12	52.2%
<i>Lackawanna Co.</i>	0	0	0	0	n/a
<i>Allentown/Northeast Pa</i>	37	39	35	-2	-5.7%
<i>Lancaster Co.</i>	14	16	17	3	17.6%
<i>Bucks Co.</i>	0	0	0	0	n/a
<i>Pittsburgh/Allegheny Co.</i>	162	193	190	28	14.7%
<i>Southwest Pa</i>	42	45	67	25	37.3%
<i>Northwest Pa</i>	41	44	28	-13	-46.4%
<i>Beaver Co.</i>	14	21	14	0	0.0%
<i>Erie Co.</i>	20	26	28	8	28.6%

- Family Permanent Supportive Housing units are shown here by region:



<sup>1</sup> See [http://www.pec-cares.org/clientfolders/pdf/bg\\_may\\_2011\\_point\\_in\\_time\\_count\\_families\\_2007\\_to\\_2010.pdf](http://www.pec-cares.org/clientfolders/pdf/bg_may_2011_point_in_time_count_families_2007_to_2010.pdf)