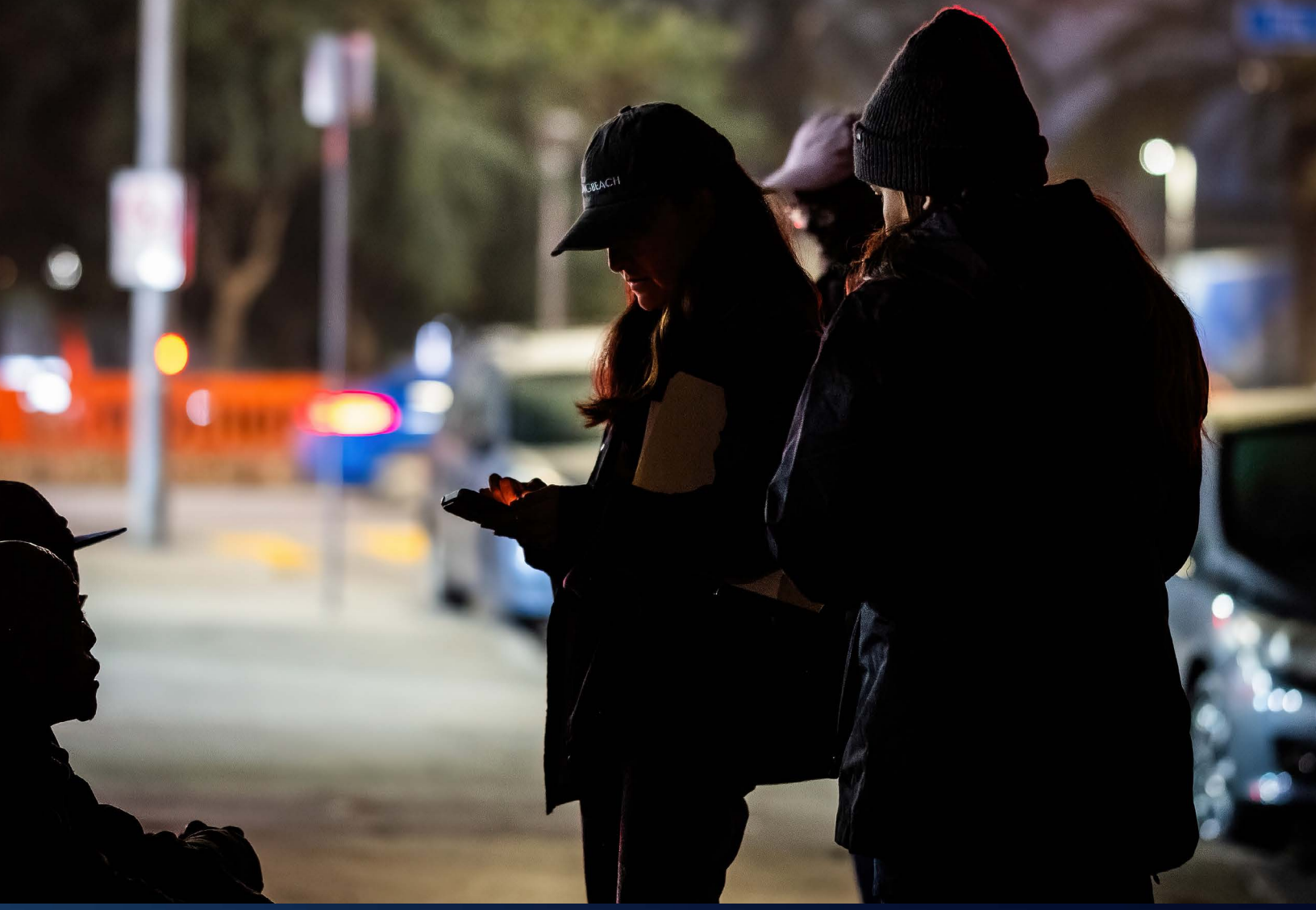

2026 Homeless Count

CITY OF
LONG
BEACH

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Message from the Director

Addressing homelessness in Long Beach requires collaboration, consistency and a shared commitment to supporting the well-being of all community members. Each year, the Point in Time Count provides essential information about people experiencing homelessness and helps the City better understand local needs.

Thank you to the volunteers, community partners and City staff who participated in this year's count. Your time, care and engagement helped make it possible to gather meaningful data that will support service planning and resource coordination throughout the year.

The information collected through the Point in Time Count plays a critical role in guiding how the City and its partners allocate resources, strengthen programs and respond to changing con-ditions. The findings help identify trends, challenges and emerging needs that shape our collec-tive efforts to address homelessness in Long Beach.

We remain committed to using this information to support effective planning and strengthen services that help people make progress toward stability.

Sincerely,

Alison King
Director, Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services

Introduction

Addressing homelessness in Long Beach is a shared responsibility supported by the Mayor, City Council, City departments, community partners and service providers. This collaborative effort is coordinated through the Long Beach Continuum of Care (CoC), a network of more than 80 service providers that works together to connect people experiencing homelessness with housing, supportive services and other resources that promote long-term stability. By coordinating services across agencies, the CoC helps ensure individuals and families receive the support they need to achieve lasting housing stability.

The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services' Homeless Services Bureau leads the City's coordinated response through a Housing First approach. The Department works with community partners to help people experiencing homelessness move into safe, stable housing as quickly as possible while connecting them with the services they need to maintain housing and improve their quality of life.

After people are housed, case managers provide ongoing support by connecting them with services such as employment assistance, behavioral health care, substance use treatment, health care and other community resources. These services help people and families maintain housing, strengthen self sufficiency and build long-term stability.

This work is grounded in dignity, respect and the belief that every person's path to stable housing is unique.

To respond effectively to community needs, the Long Beach CoC uses several strategies:

- Providing tailored services and resources for people and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Partnering with community organizations through a Coordinated Entry System to support coordinated and equitable access to services.
- Improving intake and application processes so residents can more easily connect with supportive services and financial assistance programs.

2025 Snapshot of Long Beach Homeless Service

2025 Outreach and Resources Stats

Outreach Team Requests:

4,245

1,833 resulted in accepted services

People Housed in Long Beach:

1,702

Shelter Beds in Long Beach:

1,521

383 beds owned by the City

Average Multi-Service Center (MSC) Daily Visitors:

129

Increase in Shelter Inventory

Long Beach's shelter inventory increased from 1,357 beds in early 2025 to 1,521 beds by the end of 2025, an increase of 164 beds (12.1%). Of the 1,521 shelter beds currently operating in Long Beach, 383 are in City-owned facilities, representing 25.2% of the total shelter inventory.

Long Beach Shelter Bed Inventory

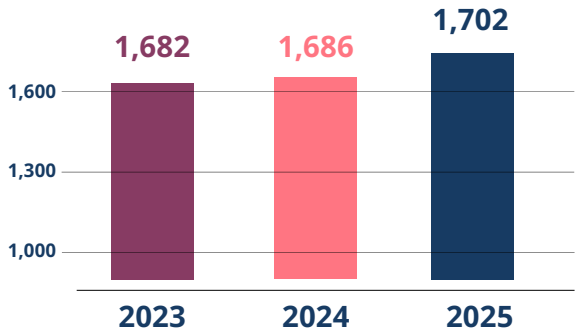
12.1% Increase

The City also completed two new interim housing sites, adding 90 new City-owned beds.

- Homekey at 5950, a conversion from a former motel, added 78 interim housing units with on-site supportive services, including 12 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessible rooms.
- In August 2025, the City celebrated the completion of construction of the Youth Shelter and Navigation Center, a 12-bed facility designed to provide shelter, case management and supportive services for youth ages 18 to 24. The center welcomed its first residents in May 2026.

Increase in Permanent Housing Move-Ins

The number of people moving into permanent housing has remained consistently high, with more people housed each year. This consistency highlights the system's ongoing capacity to help people exit homelessness, while also showing the need to address the inflow of people entering homelessness.



Expanding Shelter Capacity and Connecting People to Housing

The City of Long Beach has significantly expanded its shelter system, creating more opportunities for people experiencing homelessness to come indoors and connect with services that support long-term housing stability. These investments are reflected in the 2026 Point-in-Time Count. On the night of the count, 1,141 people were staying in shelter or interim housing programs, an increase from 989 people in 2025. As shelter capacity has expanded alongside coordinated outreach efforts, more people are spending less time on the street and more time connected to shelter, supportive services and pathways to permanent housing.

Shelter provides more than a safe place to stay. It offers access to case management, housing navigation, behavioral health services, employment assistance, benefits enrollment and health care referrals. Connecting people to these services in a shelter setting helps stabilize immediate needs while supporting progress toward permanent housing.

Today, Long Beach's coordinated shelter system includes six year-round shelter sites that provide a range of congregate and non-congregate shelter options designed to meet people's different needs. Together, these sites provide immediate safety and stability while connecting residents to supportive services and pathways to permanent housing.

Long Beach Shelter System At A Glance

6
Year-round shelter sites

443
Shelter beds

1,141
people stayed in shelter or interim housing during the 2026 Point in Time Count

Expanded shelter capacity strengthens Long Beach's coordinated homelessness response by connecting people to safety, supportive services and pathways to permanent housing.

A Coordinated Shelter System

Each City-funded shelter plays a unique role in Long Beach's coordinated homelessness response system.

702 Year-Round Shelter **Congregate • 81 Beds**	The 702 Year-Round Shelter provides temporary shelter and supportive services, including meals, case management and connections to housing-focused support. During the City's cold weather shelter season, capacity expands to 125 beds.
Atlantic Farms Bridge (ABC) Housing Community **Congregate • 125 Beds**	The Atlantic Farms Bridge Housing Community provides temporary shelter and supportive services while helping residents prepare for permanent housing.
Homekey at 1725 **Non-Congregate • 99 Beds**	Homekey at 1725 converted a former hotel into interim housing, providing private rooms and supportive services while connecting residents to housing-focused support.
Homekey at 5950 **Non-Congregate • 78 Beds**	Homekey at 5950 converted a former hotel into interim housing, providing private rooms and supportive services while connecting residents to housing-focused support.
The Colonial Motel **Non-Congregate • 60 Beds**	The Colonial Motel provides temporary interim housing through the State's Encampment Resolution Funding Program, connecting people previously living along the Los Angeles Riverbed to supportive services and permanent housing.
Youth Shelter and Navigation Center **Congregate • 12 Beds**	The Youth Shelter and Navigation Center is the City's first permanent shelter for young adults ages 18 to 24 experiencing homelessness, providing temporary shelter and supportive services while connecting residents to housing-focused support.

Investing in People. Building a Stronger Community.

By expanding shelter capacity and strengthening coordinated outreach, the City is creating more opportunities for people experiencing homelessness to come indoors, access supportive services and connect to permanent housing.

- **Immediate safety and stability**
- **Access to health and supportive services**
- **Pathways to permanent housing**

Health Outcomes Through Expanded Shelter Access

Over the past five years, the City of Long Beach has expanded shelter opportunities for people experiencing homelessness, creating more pathways for people to move into a safe, stable environment while working toward permanent housing. Through significant investment and collaboration, the City has developed, funded and supported a coordinated shelter system, along with seasonal emergency shelter services. The City also partners with Los Angeles County and community organizations to expand shelter opportunities throughout Long Beach.

Beyond increasing capacity, shelter plays an important role in improving health, stability and long-term housing outcomes. Access to shelter provides more than a place to stay. It creates stability that helps people connect to supportive services, address health needs and take steps toward permanent housing. For people experiencing homelessness, particularly those living unsheltered or in locations not fit for human habitation, the risks can be severe. Mortality rates among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness are approximately three times higher than among people who are housed. Shelter access improves connections to sanitary facilities, health care and supportive services, helping reduce the spread of communicable diseases and improving overall health outcomes.

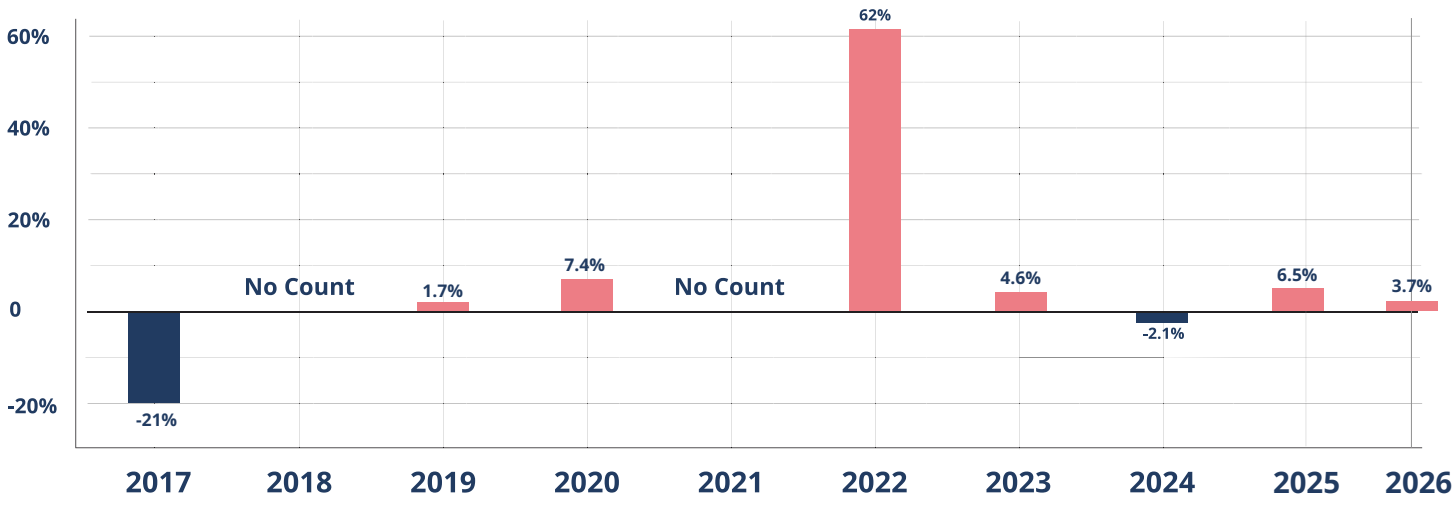
While the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development does not classify recuperative care beds as shelter, the creation of approximately 100 recuperative care beds in Long Beach has created a critical resource for people recovering from acute health conditions. These beds offer a safe place for individuals to heal while easing pressure on hospital systems and improving the coordination and flow of care services.

2026 Homeless Point in Time Count Overview

On January 22, 2026, the Point in Time Count estimated 3,729 people experiencing homelessness in Long Beach, an increase of 134 people (3.7%) compared with the 2025 count. In 2026, 2,588 (69.4%) people were unsheltered, having stayed in locations not intended for human habitation that night, while 1,141 (30.6%) were staying in shelter or interim housing programs.

While the overall number of people experiencing homelessness increased, several underlying indicators improved, including decreases in unsheltered homelessness and first-time homelessness. At the same time, the percentage of people who were newly homeless increased from 2025 to 2026, and chronic homelessness continued to rise, indicating that a large number of people experiencing homelessness are remaining homeless for over a year.

Percentage Change of People Experiencing Homelessness in Long Beach



At a Glance

The 2026 Count took place in the early morning hours of January 22, 2026, and was supported by more than 300 volunteers who assisted with counting and interviewing people experiencing homelessness. Participants included representatives from community-based and faith organizations, the business community, members of the public and City staff.

Total Count

3,729

People were experiencing homelessness on the morning of January 22, 2026.

Unsheltered Count

2,588

69.4% Unsheltered

Sheltered Count

1,141

30.6% Sheltered

152 more people sheltered than during the 2025 Point in Time Count.

Unsheltered Living in Vehicles

783

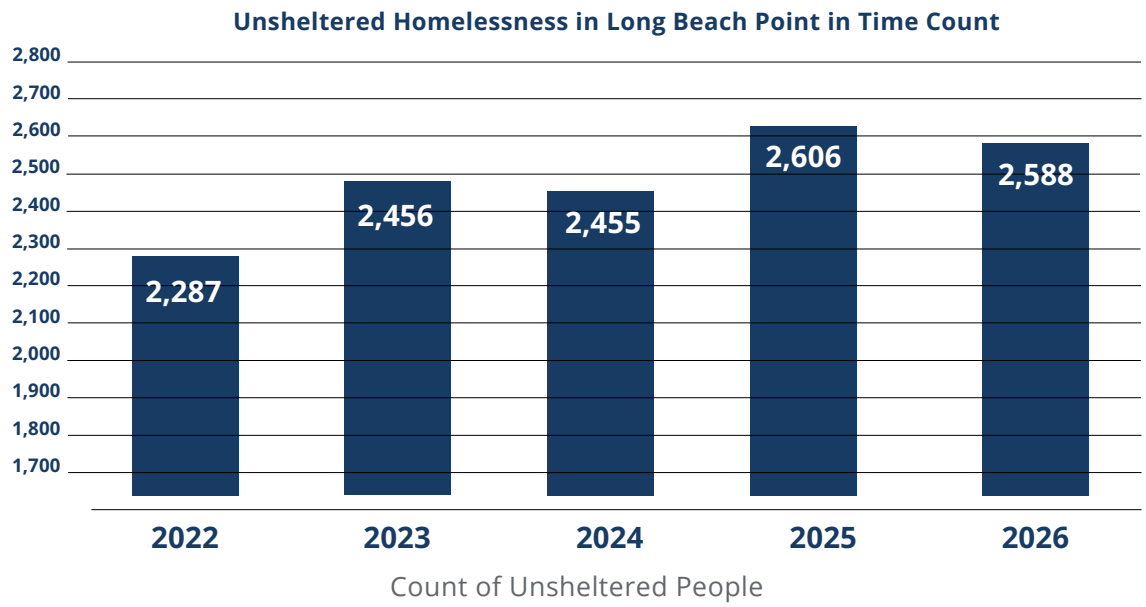
30.3% of unsheltered people reported living in a vehicle.

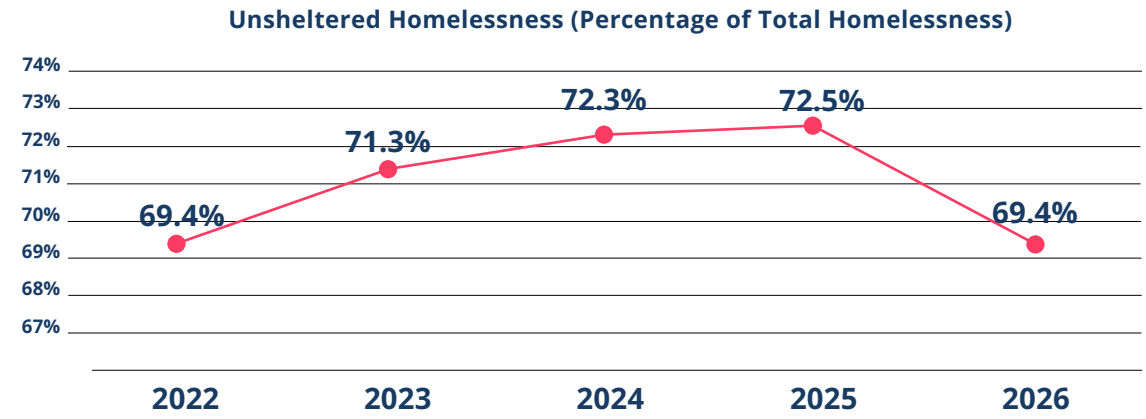
Note: Following additional data validation, the 2025 data on people living in vehicles were revised from 1,008 people to 684 people. Comparisons in this report use the corrected 2025 value.

Key Findings

Several trends emerged when comparing the 2026 Point in Time Count to the 2025 Point in Time Count. Most notably, Long Beach experienced a decrease in the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and unsheltered people also represented a smaller share of the overall homeless population. The count also showed a decrease in people experiencing homelessness for the first time, while the percentage of people experiencing chronic homelessness increased. Overall, the data highlight the impact of housing affordability and financial hardship on homelessness trends in the city.

A Decrease in Unsheltered Homelessness





Note: This graph was updated on July 23, 2026, to correct the y-axis scale. The underlying data and percentages remain unchanged.

In 2026, the proportion of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness decreased from 72.5% in 2025 to 69.4%, while the percentage of people staying in shelters increased from 27.5% to 30.6%.

Unsheltered homelessness refers to people staying in locations not intended for human habitation, such as streets, parks, vehicles, tents and makeshift shelters. For the purpose of this report, vehicles include cars, vans, SUVs and RVs.

Over the past five years, the proportion of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness has remained relatively stable, ranging from 69.4% to 72.7%, while sheltered homelessness ranged from 27.3% to 30.6%.

These findings indicate that a greater proportion of people experiencing homelessness were staying in shelters in 2026 than in 2025. The increase in sheltered homelessness reflects expanded access to shelter and interim housing resources and highlights the need to continue creating pathways to housing.

An Increase in People Newly Experiencing Homelessness
People newly experiencing homelessness are people who have entered their current episode of homelessness within the past year. This measure includes both people experiencing homelessness for the first time and people who have experienced homelessness previously but recently returned.

In 2026, the percentage of people newly experiencing homelessness increased from 10.9% in 2025 to 12.4%. This suggests that a larger proportion of people counted in the 2026 Point-in-Time Count had entered homelessness within the previous year. While the percentage of people experiencing homelessness for the first time decreased, the increase in people newly experiencing homelessness suggests that more people who had previously exited homelessness returned to homelessness within
the last year.

The City continues to prioritize homelessness prevention, early intervention and connections to shelter, housing and supportive services to help people avoid homelessness and exit homelessness as quickly as possible.

Note: The 2025 estimate of people newly experiencing homelessness was corrected from the previously published 16% to 10.9%. Comparisons in this report use the corrected value.

An Increase in Chronic Homelessness
Chronic homelessness refers to people who have a disabling condition and have experienced homelessness for an extended period, either continuously for at least one year or multiple times over a three-year period exceeding 12 months combined.

City of Long Beach 2026 Homeless Point in Time Count Report 12 In 2026, 58% of people experiencing homelessness in Long Beach met the definition of chronic homelessness, an increase from 46.7% in 2025.

This increase suggests that a larger percentage of people remained unhoused for extended periods and may require more intensive housing interventions and supportive services. The Long Beach CoC prioritizes people experiencing chronic homelessness for housing and shelter resources to help support long-term stability.

Housing Loss Prior to Homelessness
Participants were asked where they last lost stable housing before experiencing homelessness. The findings show that homelessness in Long Beach is not limited to housing loss within city boundaries.

Among all survey respondents, 49.1% reported losing their housing in Long Beach, while 50.9% reported losing housing elsewhere, including other parts of Los Angeles County, Orange County, other areas of California and locations outside the state. The pattern was more pronounced among people who had recently become homeless. Among the people newly experiencing homelessness population, 38.1% reported losing housing in Long Beach, while 61.9% reported losing housing outside the city.

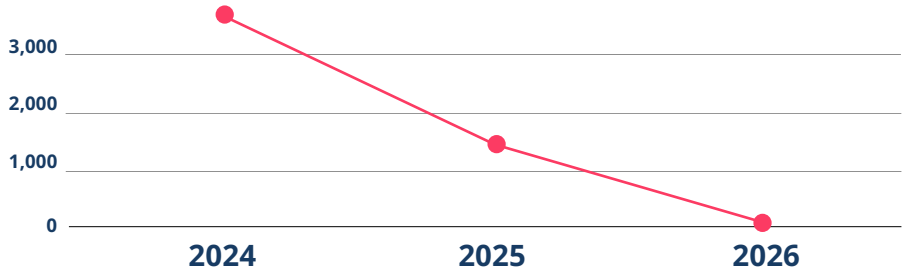
These findings highlight the regional dynamics of homelessness and demonstrate that people experiencing homelessness in Long Beach have housing histories that extend beyond the city's boundaries.

A Powerful Hypothetical

What if no one had become newly homeless after 2023? This chart shows what would have happened if no one had become newly homeless after 2023. Using actual data on how many people moved into housing each year, the number of people experiencing homelessness would have declined from 3,376 in 2024 to zero by 2026.

This significant decline shows that efforts to help people move into housing are making a real difference. It also demonstrates why preventing homelessness before it starts is essential. Investments in prevention strategies, including renter assistance and programs like Upstream LB, help address housing instability early and keep people from entering homelessness in the first place.

Homelessness in Long Beach, by year, if no one had become newly homeless



** Includes placements by City of Long Beach, community partners and people who find housing without additional assistance.*

2026 Demographics and Survey Results: An Overview

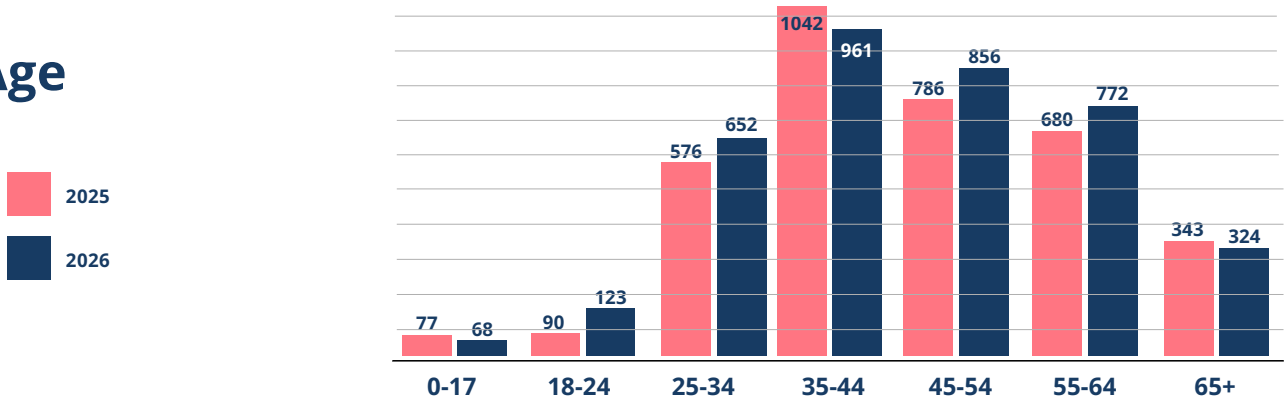
Overview of findings generated from the survey component of the 2026 Long Beach Point in Time Count

The 2026 Point in Time Count survey data show several shifts in the demographic composition of people experiencing homelessness in Long Beach across age, gender and race categories. Overall, the population continues to reflect significant housing instability across many demographic groups, with the largest number represented by working-age adults.

Demographics

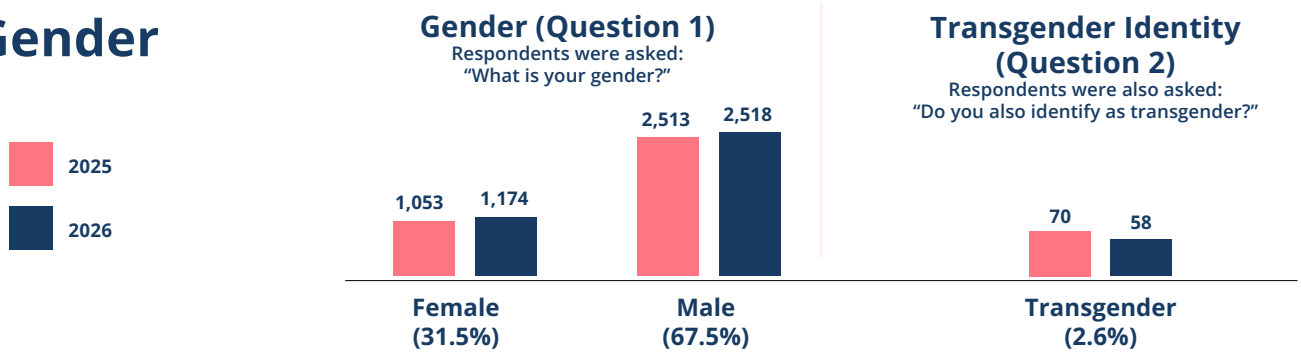
2026 Demographics & Survey Results

Age



The population remains primarily concentrated among adults in working-age brackets, consistent with prior years, suggesting ongoing economic and housing affordability pressures as key drivers of homelessness.

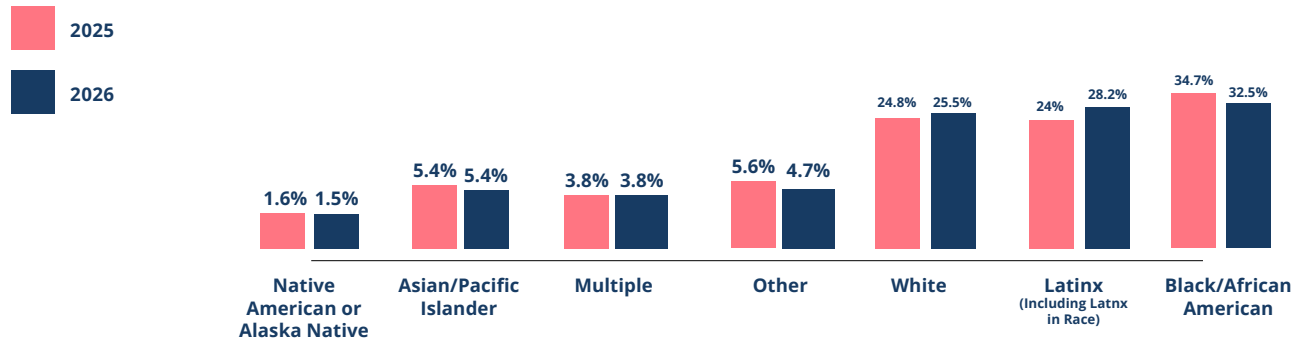
Gender



Most people identified as male, while a smaller share identified as female. An additional survey question found that 58 people identified as transgender or gender non-conforming. Because transgender identity was collected separately from gender, these people are also included within the male or female counts.

Race

(Including Latinx in Race)



Racial disparities persist among people experiencing homelessness. Black residents continue to be disproportionately represented relative to their percentage of the Long Beach population, while representation among other racial and ethnic groups varies. More respondents declined to state their race in 2026 than in 2025.

Sheltered & Unsheltered

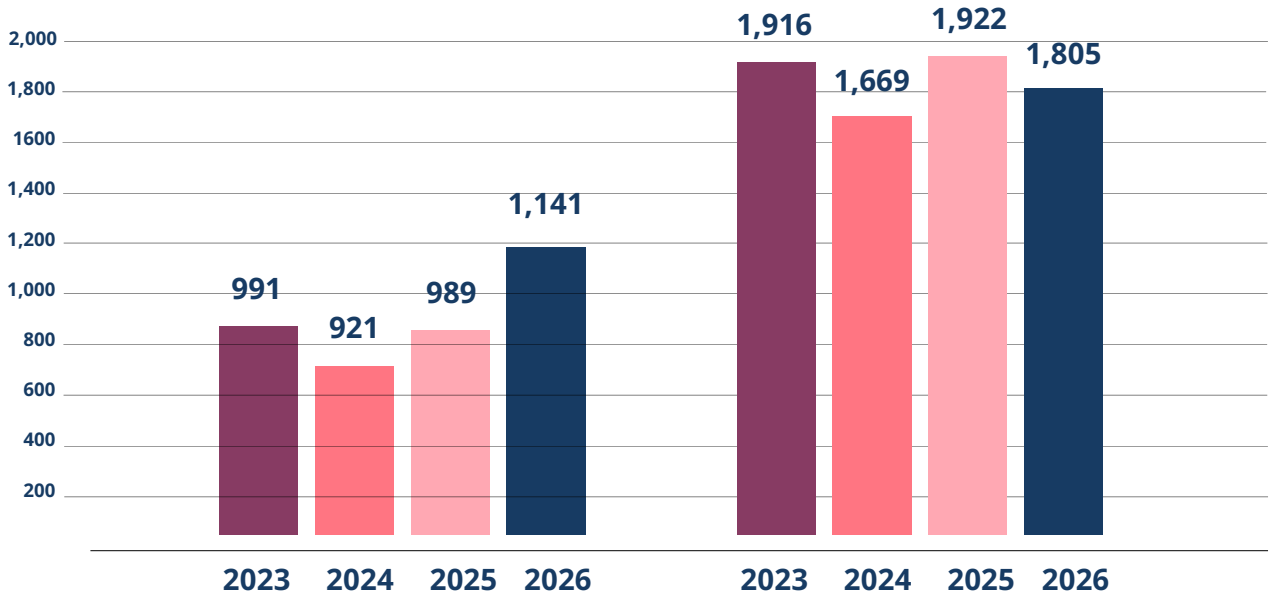
2026 Demographics & Survey Results

2026 Sheltered vs Unsheltered

30.60%
Sheltered

69.4%
Unsheltered

2026 Sheltered vs Unsheltered



People sheltered
12.96% increase

People unsheltered (non-vehicle)
6.1% decrease

Subpopulations experiencing homelessness

2026 Demographics & Survey Results

Living In Vehicles

(30.3%)

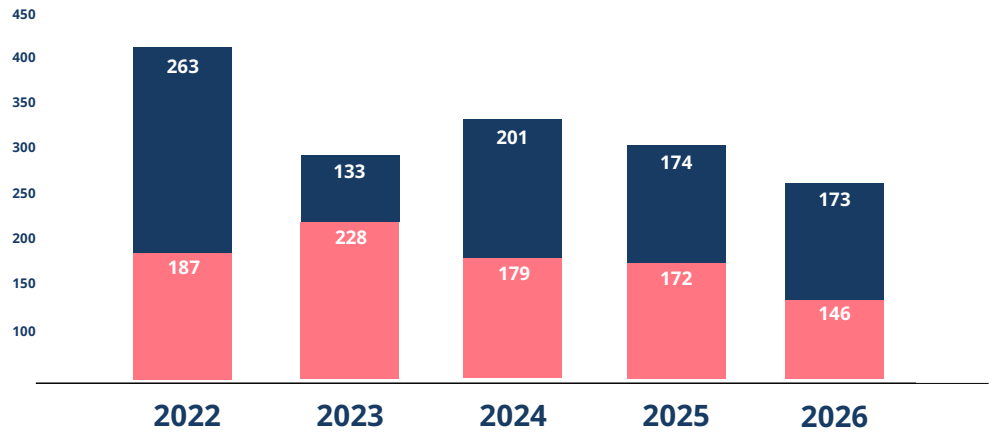
of unsheltered people reported living in a vehicle (car, van, SUV or RV), representing a 14.5% increase compared with 2025.

Note: The 2025 data on people living in vehicles were revised from 1,008 people to 684 people. Comparisons in this report use the corrected 2025 value.

Veterans

Sheltered Vs.
Unsheltered

29% decrease since 2022



LGBTQ+

2024	2025	2026
7.7%	7.5%	9.3%

Students

2024	2025	2026
6.6%	5.54%	5.8%

The Underlying Conditions of Homelessness

2026 Demographics & Survey Results

Often, people experiencing homelessness face long-term trauma, mental health or substance use challenges and other health conditions that can make maintaining housing, accessing services and sustaining employment more difficult. Participants were asked to identify any disabling conditions they are experiencing alongside homelessness.

Homelessness can intensify stress, trauma and mental health challenges. In some cases, people use drugs or alcohol as a coping mechanism, which can worsen existing conditions and create additional barriers to housing stability.

Physical Disability

35.2%

Severe Mental Illness

37.8%

Chronic Medical Condition

32.2%

Substance Use Disorder

29.7%

Traumatic Brain Injury

26.5%

Developmental Disability

21.3%

Survey participants report multiple underlying conditions: therefore, percentages may exceed 100%

Causes of Homelessness

2026 Demographics & Survey Results

Understanding the factors that contribute to homelessness is critical to informing prevention and response efforts. Survey participants were asked to identify the primary factors that led to their housing loss. Financial hardship and family disruption remained the most commonly reported contributors to homelessness, highlighting the continued impact of economic instability on housing security. While mental health concerns, substance use and physical disabilities were identified by some respondents, they were reported less frequently than financial and family-related challenges.

These findings align with regional and national research identifying a lack of affordable housing for low-income households as a leading driver of homelessness. Together, the survey results and broader research underscore the role housing affordability plays in increasing the risk of homelessness.

Most reported causes remained relatively consistent between 2025 and 2026. Overall, contributing factors either remained steady or declined. Financial hardship continued to be the most frequently cited factor, remaining relatively unchanged from 41.2% in 2025 to 40.4% in 2026. During the same period, reports of mental health concerns increased from 15.3% to 20.4%, while reports of physical disabilities increased from 10.8% to 13.3%.

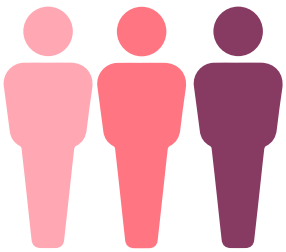
Differences also emerged between sheltered and unsheltered participants. Across both years, people staying in shelters identified a greater number of contributing factors than people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. In 2025, sheltered participants identified an average of 1.43 contributing factors compared with 1.01 among unsheltered participants. In 2026, sheltered participants identified an average of 1.58 contributing factors compared with 1.15 among unsheltered participants.

These findings reflect observed differences in self-reported survey responses and the context in which data is collected. They should not be interpreted as establishing causal relationships, as secondary or underlying factors contributing to homelessness may be underreported or not captured through the survey.

Financial/Unemployment

40.4%

said they became homeless due to unemployment or financial reasons; a 0.8% decrease compared with 2025.



Family Disruption

29%

said they became homeless due to family disruption or relationship problems, a 0.9% increase compared with 2025.

2026

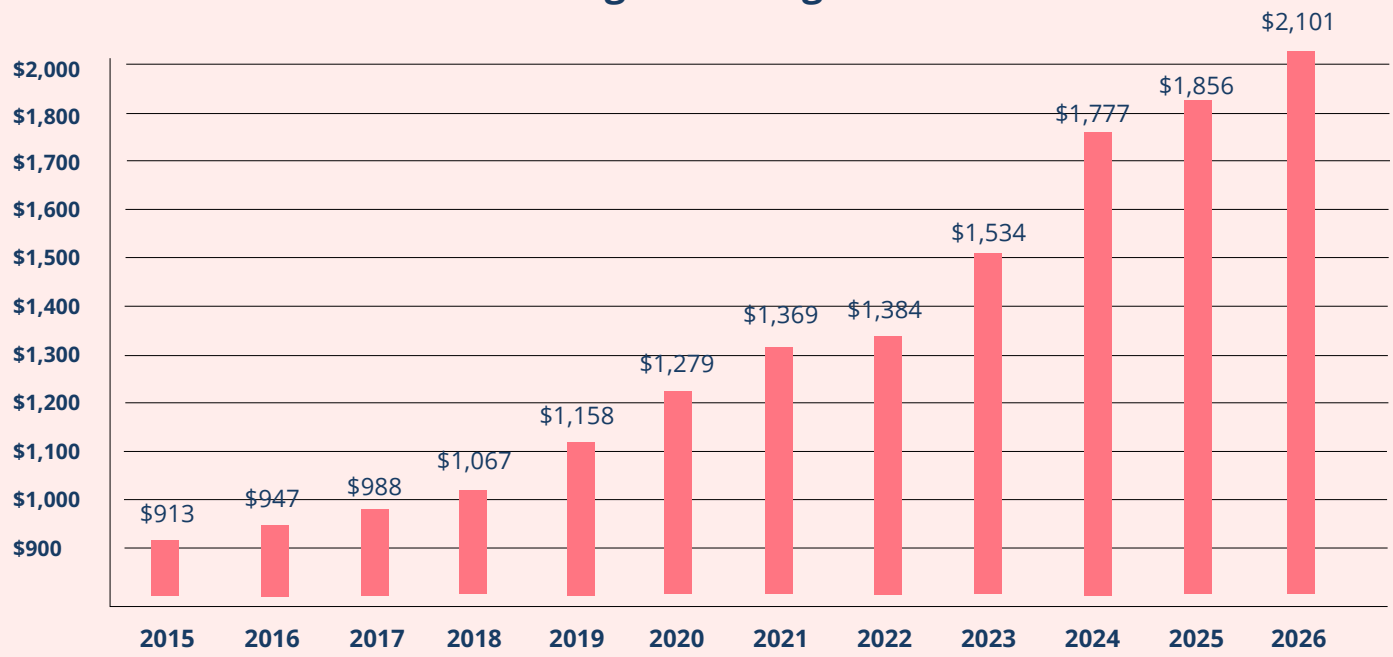
40.4%	29%	20.4%	15.5%	13.3%	12%
Finance/ Unemployment	Family Disruption	Mental Health	Eviction	Physical Disability	Substance Use

Affordable Housing in Los Angeles County

Homelessness is closely tied to a lack of available and affordable housing. In Southern California, residents continue to face a structural shortage of available rental units, rents that outpace wages and a high overall cost of living that limits housing stability for many households.

Recent cost-of-living data continues to show that the Los Angeles region is among the most expensive in the United States. The Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) Cost of Living Index most recently placed the Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim metro area at roughly 50% higher than the national average, consistently ranking it among the highest-cost regions in the country.

Housing insecurity is widespread. According to the University of Southern California's Lusk Center's SOLACHAN analysis, more than half of households in the Long Beach–South Bay area are rent-burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs.



Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Fair Market Rents (FMR), Los Angeles–Long Beach HUD Metro FMR Area, 2015–2026.

In Los Angeles County overall, affordability pressures are significant:

Rent burden (Neighborhood Data for Social Change):

- Cost-burdened renters (30%+ of income on housing): 59% of renting households
- Severely cost-burdened renters (50%+ of income): 30% of renters .

These figures align with broader national findings from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and regional housing analyses showing that severe rent burden in high-cost coastal metros is significantly above the U.S. average (which is closer to ~25% cost-burdened and ~12% severely cost-burdened renters nationwide).

The commonly cited affordability benchmark remains unchanged: housing is generally considered affordable when households spend no more than 30% of gross income on rent and utilities. However, in much of Los Angeles County, most renters exceed that threshold, contributing to housing instability and increasing vulnerability to homelessness.

2026 Programs & Investments

The findings presented throughout this report highlight both the progress made and the challenges that remain. In response, the City continues to invest in programs that prevent homelessness, expand outreach, shelter and housing opportunities and strengthen the coordinated response system. The following section highlights key programs and investments supporting these efforts in 2026.

Expanding Housing and Outreach

Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) – Los Angeles Riverbed
Through the Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) program, the City will continue operating an interim housing program through a motel lease with the Colonial Motel. The program provides temporary housing for up to 60 participants at a time while connecting residents to supportive services and pathways to permanent housing.

Long Beach is one of only three Continuum of Care in California to receive a third round of Encampment Resolution Funding, reflecting the City's continued success in helping people transition from encampments into shelter and permanent housing. Building on two previous ERF-funded initiatives, the Los Angeles Riverbed program expands the City's coordinated, housing-focused approach by pairing intensive outreach with interim housing, case management and pathways to permanent housing while restoring public spaces for community use.

Participants receive individualized case management, rental assistance and connections to transitional and permanent housing resources to support long-term housing stability. In addition to interim housing, the program will assist approximately 80 people in securing permanent housing.

Prevention is Essential to Reducing Homelessness
Helping people move into permanent housing is a critical part of addressing homelessness, but longterm progress also depends on preventing people from becoming homeless in the first place.

Each year, many people successfully move into housing. At the same time, others experience homelessness for the first time due to rising housing costs, financial hardship, health challenges and other life circumstances. As new households enter homelessness, they can offset the progress made through housing placements. Reducing homelessness over time requires continued investments in both housing and prevention.

Recognizing this need, the City has expanded its homelessness prevention efforts through Upstream LB, a coordinated package of Measure A-funded initiatives that helps people remain safely housed before a housing crisis occurs. Through Measure A, the City has made its largest investment in homelessness prevention to date, investing approximately $6.65 million to expand prevention services.

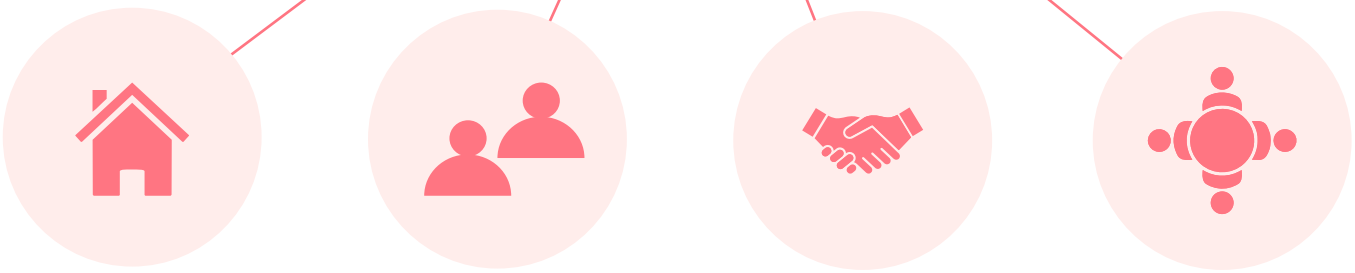
Together, these investments strengthen the City's efforts to help people remain housed while reducing the number of people who experience homelessness in the future. The City's largest investment in homelessness prevention to date is highlighted below.

$6.65 MILLION

Measure A Prevention Funding

Largest investment in homelessness prevention in the City's history

How Funding Supports Prevention



Long Beach Renter Aid Program

Older Adult Shallow Subsidy Program

Youth Homelessness Prevention Unit

Right to Counsel Program

Long Beach Renter Aid Program

The Long Beach Renter Aid Program provides short-term financial assistance to low-income renters experiencing financial hardship and risk of housing loss. Approximately $2.7 million in rental assistance is available. Payments are made directly to landlords or utility providers to ensure timely support.

Participants may also be connected to community resources, including food assistance, health care and other essential services. Eligible households may receive up to $9,000 in financial assistance over a period of up to six months. For more information, visit longbeach.gov/renteraid.

Older Adult Shallow Subsidy Program

The Older Adult Shallow Subsidy program provides medium-term rental assistance to low-income older adults in Long Beach who are extremely rent burdened. The program offers approximately $400–$500 in monthly rental support to help reduce rent burden and prevent homelessness.

Participants receive light-touch case management, including quarterly check-ins to assess needs and provide referrals to supportive services. The program serves households with at least one member age 55 or older who is at immediate risk of housing loss, with priority for those whose existing subsidies are expiring. Eligible households may receive up to $12,000 in financial assistance over a period of up to two years. For more information, visit longbeach.gov/olderadultrent.

Right to Counsel Program

The Right to Counsel Program provides legal counsel for low-income residents facing eviction through the regional Stay Housed LA initiative. The program offers tenant education, outreach, legal services and representation to help prevent unlawful evictions and preserve housing stability. Since January 2021, Stay Housed LA has provided legal services to 1,765 participants, navigation services to 7,991 participants and hosted 69 workshops with 1,072 attendees. In 2026, the City invested approximately $1.5 million in Los Angeles County Measure A funds to continue operation of the program.

Youth Homelessness Prevention Unit (HPU) - Launching Fall 2026

The Youth Homelessness Prevention Unit (HPU) provides proactive homelessness prevention services for transition-age youth (ages 18–25) who are at high risk of homelessness. Using data-driven predictive modeling developed in partnership with University of California Los Angeles Policy Lab and multiple City and County data systems, the program identifies youth who may require support before a crisis occurs.

Participants receive a year of prevention services, including case management, flexible financial assistance and connections to employment services, mental health care and housing navigation.

Impacts of Immigration Enforcement and Policies

The City of Long Beach recognizes that immigration enforcement and related policies can have significant impacts on community members, including family separation, disruptions to employment and increased risk of housing instability. To help mitigate these impacts, the City has dedicated funding through the Long Beach Renter Aid Program to support households affected by federal immigration policies and continues to invest in the Justice Fund, which provides legal services to people facing deportation proceedings.

The City observed a slight increase in the percentage of people identifying as Latinx during the 2026 Point in Time Count and will continue to monitor how immigration policies may affect homelessness in Long Beach.

Affordable Housing for Long Beach

The Long Beach Community Development Department continues to advance affordable housing in Long Beach. Six developments partially funded through the Long Beach Community Investment Company (LBCIC) are under construction and expected to open in 2026 and 2027, adding 375 affordable housing units, including permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the Luma Point Apartments, featuring 163 affordable units, is expected to open in summer 2026.

Budget Cuts

Funding Challenges Ahead

Across the country, public health programs are experiencing the effects of reduced and uncertain funding. In Long Beach, the Department of Health and Human Services relies on a combination of City, state and federal funding to provide homelessness prevention, outreach, housing assistance and other critical services.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2027, the Department anticipates significant funding disruptions and volatility, including reductions in annual allocation of grant awards made available from its public funders. County Measure A Comprehensive Homeless Services funding for the City of Long Beach represents a 32% reduction from FY25-26 (from $13.08M to $8.92M), with further reduction of 43% forecasted for FY 27-28 (from $8.92M to $5.13M). Additional risks include a likely loss of $4.8 million (32%) in federal funding in Fiscal Year 2028, as a result of changes to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care program. Final funding levels remain subject to adopted budgets and legislative action.

Funding Source	FY27 Forecasted Funding Change	FY28 Potential Reductions
County	**-32%**	**-43%**
State	**+.04%**	**-20%**
Federal	**-5%**	**-53%**

**Federal reduction reflects worst case reduction as result of th e FY26 CoC Notice of Funding, as well as expiration of one-time, emergency sources (HOME-Am erican Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP), Special Unsheltered Notice of Funding Opportunity (SNOFO), Emergency Solutions Grants-Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (ESG-RUSH)*

Despite these challenges, the City's Measure A-funded homelessness prevention initiatives, including Upstream LB, remain in place. These locally funded investments continue to support services that help people remain housed before a housing crisis occurs, even as other funding sources become more uncertain.

Over time, reduced and delayed funding may affect the Department's ability to sustain outreach, housing assistance and other services that rely on state and federal funding.

Emergency Housing Vouchers: A Short-Lived but Impactful Program

The Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program, created by Congress in 2021, provided rental assistance to households experiencing or at risk of ho melessness during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the program was originally expected to continue through 2030, housing authorities nationwide were notified that federal funding will end several years earlier than anticipated.

In Long Beach, the program helped 582 families achieve housing stability. As federal funding ends several years earlier than originally planned, fewer new households will be able to access Emergency Housing Vouchers, reducing one pathway to housing stability for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Count Methodology

Count Methodology for Data Collection

The City's Point in Time Count is part of a nationwide effort to better understand homelessness in communities across the country. Required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the State of California, the Point in Time Count helps cities qualify for funding to support programs and services for people experiencing homelessness. While the count is required, HUD does not provide funding to conduct it or prescribe a single methodology for all communities to follow. Instead, each jurisdiction is responsible for developing a methodology that meets HUD requirements while reflecting local conditions and available resources. As a result, the City relies on dedicated volunteers and community partners to help carry out the annual count.

The count also helps the City understand who is experiencing homelessness in Long Beach, the challenges they face and what kinds of services and support are most needed.

The Point in Time Count includes two parts:

- A communitywide count of people experiencing homelessness on a single night
- An optional survey, developed as part of Long Beach's local methodology, that gathers additional information about people's experiences and needs

The survey helps service providers, community organizations and local leaders make more informed decisions about housing, outreach and supportive services in Long Beach.

How the count was conducted

The 2026 Point in Time Count took place during the early morning hours of January 22, 2026, with the help of more than 300 volunteers from across the community, including:

Community-Based Organizations	**Faith Based Organizations**	**Local Businesses**
Legislative Offices	**City staff**	**Community Members**

Together, these volunteers helped ensure broad geographic coverage and supported the City's efforts to conduct a comprehensive count across Long Beach.

Volunteers worked in small teams led by experienced guides and traveled throughout Long Beach on foot and by car to help identify and count people experiencing homelessness across the city.

Preparing for the count
Because homelessness can be difficult to measure, the City spent months preparing for the Point in Time Count to help make the process as accurate and organized as possible.

Before the count:
- Outreach teams visited hard-to-reach areas and locations with safety concerns to count people experiencing homelessness and conduct surveys
- Team leaders identified known gathering areas, where people experiencing homelessness were likely to be present
- Volunteers attended training sessions to learn how to respectfully engage with people, safely conduct the count and use the electronic survey system

Volunteers also learned how to use a custom-built app to complete surveys electronically and visual counts consistently across the city.

On the morning of the count
Volunteer teams were assigned specific areas across Long Beach's 52 square miles to help reduce overlap and make sure all areas of the city were included.

Teams were provided with:
- Maps and count materials
- Hygiene kits, water and services information to offer people experiencing homelessness
- Gift cards for compensation to people who chose to complete the demographic survey

Volunteers used a custom electronic survey app during the count. The app helped teams collect information in real time, track coverage across the city and support coordination throughout the morning.

What information was collected
During the count, volunteers either:
- Conducted a brief survey with people who chose to participate, or
- Conducted a visual count when someone could not or chose not to participate

The optional survey included questions about:
- Age, race and gender
- Length of time experiencing homelessness
- Causes or circumstances that contributed to homelessness
- Subpopulation status (e.g., Veterans, LGBTQ+, Students)
- Previous use of housing or support services

Limitations of results

Like all Point in Time Counts conducted across the country, the Point in Time Count provides a snapshot of homelessness on a single night. While the City works carefully to count as many people as possible, some people may still be missed, especially those staying temporarily with others, moving between locations or living in hard-to-reach areas.

Each year, the City continues working to improve the process through better outreach, stronger coordination and improved technology. The information collected through the Point in Time Count plays an important role in helping Long Beach plan services, apply for funding and better support community members experiencing homelessness.

Data Analysis

After the unsheltered count was completed, data were compiled, reviewed and analyzed.

Shelter Programs

- Reports were generated from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and verified by the host agency.
- Agencies that do not participate in HMIS generated reports from their own reporting systems to identify overnight occupancy totals.

Data Accuracy Measures

To ensure data accuracy:

- Duplicate surveys were identified and removed using unique identifiers based on key demographic information.
- Outreach staff conducted supplemental surveys to estimate potential error in visual counts, such as instances where multiple people were living in a single car, van or RV.
- Findings from these supplemental surveys were used to adjust visual count estimates and improve overall accuracy.

The City's Multiplier: Estimating Occupancy in Vehicles and Makeshift Shelters

While conducting the unsheltered count, volunteer surveyors often encounter vehicles or makeshift shelters and tents that serve as a person's sleeping site. For safety and privacy reasons, surveyors are instructed not to attempt to enter to survey potential inhabitants, and to count these vehicles, tents and makeshift shelters separately. These vehicles and tents – often – have multiple people sleeping inside, therefore the City does not simply count each vehicle or tent as a single person. Instead, they apply a multiplier to these counts to more accurately reflect how many people may be residing in these vehicles and tents for the total count.

To generate this multiplier, the City conducts separate surveys with people living in vehicles or makeshift shelters and tents before and after the Point in Time Count with questions specifically tailored to estimate the number of people who are residing in vehicles, tents and makeshift shelters. These data are aggregated to generate a multiplier.

For example: In 2026 each RV/Camper has approximately 1.53 people living inside. These multipliers are then multiplied with the count of each vehicle or tent type. Continuing the running example: The City counted 138 RVs/Campers in 2026; 1.53 multiplied by 138 gives an estimate of 211 people residing in RVs/Campers for the 2026 Point in Time Count.

Each separate category is then added together to generate a complete estimate for the number of people experiencing homelessness that the City cannot explicitly count or interview. This multiplier had a greater influence on the estimate in 2026 than in previous years due to a reduction in the number of people willing to take the survey, and subsequently a higher rate of counting vehicles and tents instead of people.

Appendix A: Clarification and Correction

During the development of this report, we identified an error in the information previously presented in the 2025 Homeless Count Report. Transparency and accuracy are important to our work, and we are providing this appendix to clarify the issue and document the correction.

What happened
A mistake was identified in the original analysis/documentation due to an error in a formula that falsely increased the 2025 vehicular homelessness number by 324 people. For homeless count data, vehicular homelessness is categorized into three different categories: cars and sedans, vans and SUVs, and RVs. The formula error had incorrectly also added people living in tents, which is counted as its own category. This error had no impact on the total number of people counted in 2025, but rather the categorization of where they were living.

Impact of the error
The error affected the following sections of the 2025 Report:

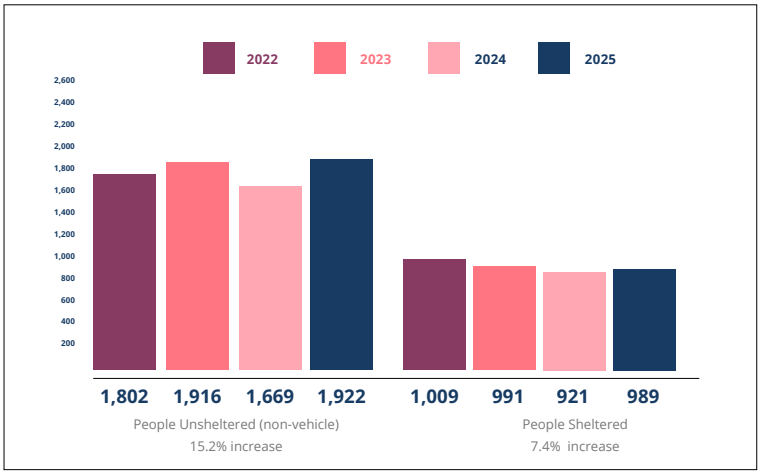
On page 14 of the 2025 Report, the chart titled “2025 Homeless Point in Time Count Report” incorrectly showed a 4.3% decrease in the number of People Unsheltered (non-vehicle) compared to the previous year. With the corrected data, this figure should reflect a 15.2% increase.

On page 15, the graphic showing people living in vehicles incorrectly reported 1,008 people (38.7%). With the corrected data, the figure should be 684 people (26.2%).

After reviewing the information, we determined that the identified error specifically only impacts our vehicular homelessness numbers in the 2025 report and had no impact on overall unsheltered or homeless count data.

Correction
The corrected information is as follows:

2025 Homeless Point in Time Count Report (Corrected July 2026)



2025 Homeless Point in Time Count Report (Corrected July 2026)

Living in Vehicles

684 (26.2%)

of unsheltered people are living in a vehicle (car or RV)

Current Status

The 2026 Homeless Point in Time Count Report reflects the correct information. All analyses and recommendations included in the final version are based on the corrected data. We are documenting this correction to maintain an accurate record and support transparency.

We appreciate the opportunity to correct the record and remain committed to providing accurate and reliable information.

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To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services at he-publicaffairs@longbeach.gov or 562.570.4290. A minimum of three (3) business days is requested to ensure availability. Reasonable attempts will be made to accommodate request made within less than three (3) business days.