



VENTURA COUNTY
**CONTINUUM OF
CARE ALLIANCE**

ENDING HOMELESSNESS
IN VENTURA COUNTY

2026 PRELIMINARY HOMELESS COUNT Executive Summary

FINAL REPORT TO BE RELEASED IN MAY 2026



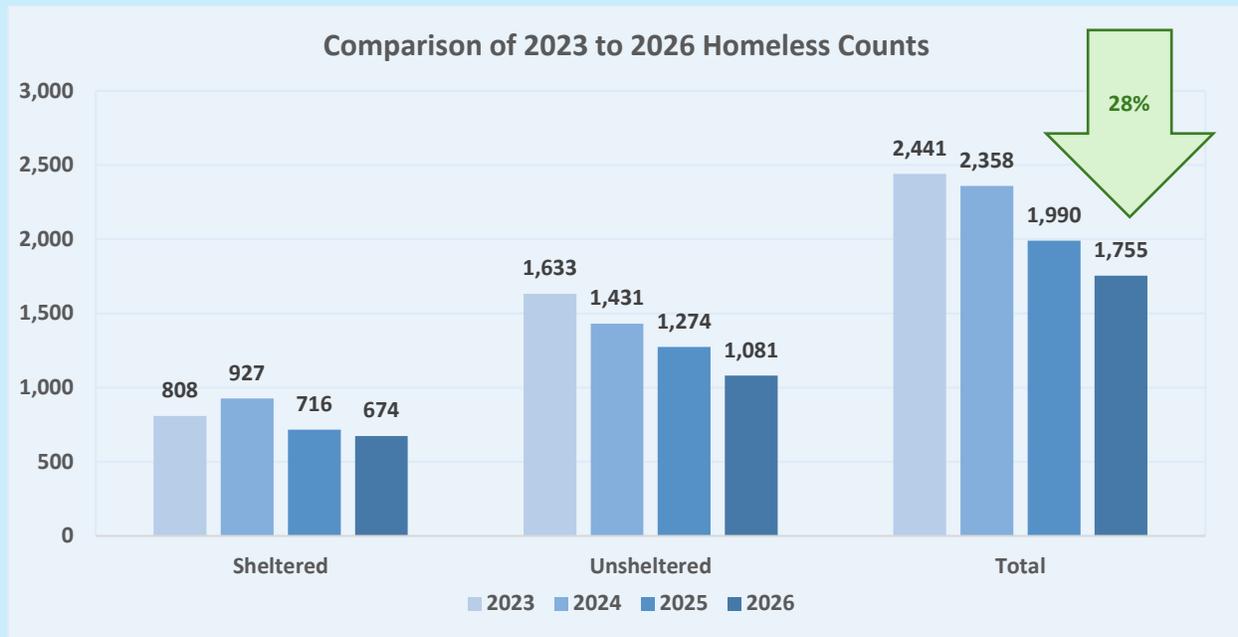
I. Executive Summary

There were 1,755 adults and children counted as experiencing homelessness during the 2026 Point-in-Time Count, as shown in Table 1 below. This represents a decrease of 235 people, or 11.8%, compared to the 1,990 individuals counted in 2025. Since 2023, overall homelessness has decreased by 28%, as reflected in Chart 1. Within this overall reduction, unsheltered homelessness declined by 34%.

Table 1. Comparison of 2025 and 2026 Homeless Counts

Year	Sheltered			Unsheltered			Total
	Adults	Children	Sub-Total	Adults	Children	Sub-Total	
2025 Homeless Count	607	109	716	1,257	17	1,274	1,990
2026 Homeless Count	584	90	674	1,072	9	1,081	1,755
Difference:	-23 (-3.8%)	-19 (-17.4%)	-42 (-5.9%)	-185 (-14.7%)	-8 (-47.1%)	-193 (-15.1%)	-235 (-11.8%)

Chart 1



A decrease in the number of unsheltered people continues as new permanent supportive housing units are occupied and homelessness prevention services help people retain housing. A decrease in shelter beds has occurred due to the reduced use of motel rooms for shelter such as Project Roomkey and Encampment Resolution Programs. Many sheltered in motels transitioned to permanent housing with the opening of Valentine Road Apartments and Casa De Carmen as well as other projects.

The annual Homeless Count data helps our community identify trends and gaps which guide local leaders to make data-driven funding decisions and identify current needs. The key takeaways include:

- 1) **Permanent Housing Solutions:** 274 permanent supportive housing units dedicated to people experiencing homelessness opened in 2024 and 2025. These units have supportive services to provide ongoing wrap around services for housing stabilization.
- 2) **Prevention Efforts:** Rental assistance funds for homelessness prevention and landlord engagement incentives continue to make a positive impact by helping low-income households retain housing.
- 3) **Veteran and Youth Subpopulations:** Investments in transitional and permanent housing as well as housing-focused street outreach have contributed to a 35.9% decrease in unsheltered Veterans. The number of unsheltered young adults ages 18 to 24 also declined, dropping from 39 in 2025 to 18 in 2026.
- 4) **Encampment Response:** Multidisciplinary outreach teams provide behavioral health services, health care, public safety, homeless resources, and connect people living unsheltered to shelter, housing programs, and supportive services. State Encampment Resolution Funding has supported the development of new housing and shelter beds.

Regarding sheltered homelessness, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) states that

- CoCs must count all individuals or families who meet the criteria in paragraph (1)(ii) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3. This includes individuals and families ***“living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals)”*** on the night designated for the count. This includes individuals residing in Safe Haven projects.

Regarding unsheltered homelessness, HUD states that

- CoCs must count all individuals or families who meet the criteria in paragraph (1)(i) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3. This includes individuals and families ***“with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground”*** on the night designated for the count.

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the 2026 homeless count by sheltered and unsheltered persons for each jurisdiction. Among cities, Oxnard had the largest number of unhoused persons (532) and Ventura had the second largest number of unhoused persons (464).

Table 2. Total Number of Sheltered and Unsheltered Individuals by Jurisdiction in 2026

Jurisdiction	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Shelter	Transitional Housing		
Camarillo	1	0	68	69
Fillmore	0	0	18	18
Moorpark	0	0	1	1
Ojai	10	0	62	72
Oxnard	172	2	358	532
Port Hueneme	0	0	13	13
Santa Paula	45	0	39	84
Simi Valley	11	0	116	127
Thousand Oaks	29	0	58	87
Ventura	108	76	280	464
Countywide*	188	32	68	288
Total:	564	110	1,081	1,755

*Programs categorized as “Countywide” include domestic violence (DV) programs, scattered-site housing programs operating in multiple areas of the County, shelter programs serving residents from across the County, and projects located in unincorporated areas.

Table 3 compares the total number of unsheltered persons, sheltered persons and the total number of persons counted in 2026 to the same totals for 2025.

Table 3. 2025 - 2026 Comparison of Unsheltered and Sheltered Persons by Jurisdiction

Incorporated and Unincorporated Areas	Total Number of Unsheltered Persons				Total Number of Sheltered Persons*				Total Number					
	2025		2026		Difference		%		2025		2026		Difference	
	#	#	#	%	#	#	#	%	#	#	#	%		
Camarillo	79	68	-11	-13.9	11	1	-10	-90.9	90	69	-21	-23.3		
Fillmore	10	18	+8	+80	0	0	0	0	10	18	+8	+80		
Moorpark	2	1	-1	-50	0	0	0	0	2	1	-1	-50		
Ojai	54	62	+8	+14.8	6	10	+4	+66.7	60	72	+12	+20		
Oxnard	379	358	-21	-5.5	255	174	-81	-31.8	634	532	-102	-16.1		
Port Hueneme	21	13	-8	-38	0	0	0	0	21	13	-8	-38.1		
Santa Paula	60	39	-21	-35	47	45	-2	-4.3	107	84	-23	-21.5		
Simi Valley	142	116	-26	-18.3	10	11	+1	+10	152	127	-25	-16.4		
Thousand Oaks	162	58	-104	-64.2	0	29	+29	**	162	87	-75	-46.3		
Ventura	281	280	-1	0	241	184	-57	-23.7	522	464	-58	-11.1		
County-wide***	84	68	-16	-19	146	220	+74	+50.7	230	288	+58	+25.2		
Total:	1,274	1,081	-193	-15.1	716	674	-42	-5.9	1,990	1,755	-235	-11.8		

*Sheltered persons include emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens.

**percentages are only provided for differences that were 200% or less.

***Programs categorized as “Countywide” include domestic violence (DV) programs, scattered-site housing programs operating in multiple areas of the County, shelter programs serving residents from across the County, and projects located in unincorporated areas.

Unsheltered Survey Details

Of the 1,755 persons counted in 2026, 1,081 or 61.6% were unsheltered, which is defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an individual or family who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, such as a vehicle, encampment, or street.

Of the 1,081 unsheltered persons, 1,072 were adults and 9 were children under age 18 who were accompanied by a family, with an adult. A total of seven families with children under age 18 were identified across the following jurisdictions:

- Camarillo: One family with two adults and two children
- Ojai: One family with one adult and one child
- Oxnard: Two families, one family with one adult and one child and another family with one adult and one child
- Port Hueneme: One family with two adults and two children
- Ventura: One family with one adult and one child
- Unincorporated County: One family with two adults and one child

Surveyed vs Observation of Unsheltered Persons

The goal of the survey was to interview as many adults as possible who were counted during the Point-in-Time Count, gathering information about themselves and any children living unsheltered with them. Survey questions addressed both HUD-required data elements and locally prioritized information identified by the Ventura County Continuum of Care (VC CoC). The number and percentage of adults surveyed are shown in Table 4. The survey rate was higher in 2026 compared to the rates from 2020 through 2025. To support improved full survey completion, training was provided in January 2026 to review the mobile data collection app and emphasize the importance of completing full surveys whenever possible. Full surveys result in more accurate counts and provide richer subpopulation data.

HUD requires Continuums of Care to report on several subpopulations, including chronically homeless individuals and families, persons with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and veterans. The VC CoC also sought additional local data related to chronic health conditions, first-time homelessness, foster youth, income, veterans, and involvement with the justice system.

Counters surveyed 758 adults who answered questions about themselves and their households. The survey included items about gender/sex, age, race, ethnicity, and length of time homeless for both adults and children. Additional questions—such as those related to disability, health status, mental health, substance use, income, and veteran status—applied only to adults. Individuals were observed rather than surveyed if volunteers felt unsafe approaching them or if the person was sleeping. In these situations, volunteers recorded estimated gender/sex, age, race, and ethnicity. Of the 323 persons observed, 322 were adults and one was a child accompanied by an adult.

Table 4. Total Number and Percent of Unsheltered Adults Surveyed and Observed

Year	Surveyed		Observed		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
2019	907	72.1	351	27.9	1,258	100
2020	874	69.1	391	30.9	1,265	100
2022	741	54.6	615	45.5	1,356	100
2023	683	42.2	937	57.8	1,620	100
2024	933	66.2	479	33.8	1,412	100
2025	838	66.7	419	33.3	1,257	100
2026	758	70.7	314	29.3	1,072	100

Table 5 provides a breakdown of the total number and percentage of adults surveyed and observed by jurisdiction. Of the 1,081 people counted as unsheltered in 2026, 1,072 were adults. The remaining nine (9) people were accompanied children under age 18.

Table 5. Total Number and Percent of Unsheltered Adults Surveyed and Observed by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Surveyed		Observed		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Camarillo	65	95.6	1	4.4	68	100
Fillmore	13	72.2	5	27.8	18	100
Moorpark	1	100	0	0.0	1	100
Ojai	48	77.4	13	22.6	62	100
Oxnard	199	55.6	157	44.4	358	100
Port Hueneme	10	76.9	1	23.1	13	100
Santa Paula	34	87.2	5	12.8	39	100
Simi Valley	104	89.7	12	10.3	116	100
Thousand Oaks	35	60.3	23	39.7	58	100
Ventura	195	69.6	84	30.4	280	100
Unincorporated	54	79.4	13	20.6	68	100
Total	758	70.7	314	29.3	1072	100

The following tables focus on gender/sex, ethnicity, race, and age for the 1,081 unsheltered adults and children who were surveyed and observed.

Sex

Table 6 provides a breakdown by sex for the 1,072 adults and 9 children under age 18 in families. HUD requires the summary to consist of male (boy if child) and female (girl if child).

Table 6. Sex of Unsheltered Adults and Children

	Adults		Children in Families	
	#	%	#	%
Male (Boy if child)	735	68.6	5	55.6
Female (Girl if child)	337	31.4	4	44.4
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total:	1,072	100	9	100

Race and Ethnicity

Table 7 provides a breakdown by race and ethnicity for the 1,072 adults and 9 children under age 18 in families. HUD requires the summary to consist of Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) and Non-Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x).

Table 7. Race and Ethnicity for Unsheltered Adults and Children

	Adults		Children in Families	
	#	%	#	%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	50	4.7	0	0.0
Asian or Asian American	12	1.1	0	0.0
Black, African American or African	74	6.9	3	33.3
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	408	38.1	4	44.5
Middle Eastern or North African	1	0.1	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	8	0.7	0	0.0
White	500	46.6	2	22.2
Multiple Races or Other	19	1.8	0	0.0
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total:	1,072	100	9	100

Age

Table 8 provides a breakdown by age of 1,072 adults and 9 children under age 18 in families. Compared to the prior year, the number of children in families experiencing unsheltered homelessness decreased from 17 in 2025 to 9 in 2026. The number of Transitional Age Youth (ages 18 to 24) also declined, dropping from 39 in 2025 to 18 in 2026. New transitional housing programs for Transitional Age Youth have expanded the number of available beds for unsheltered youth.

Table 8. Unsheltered Adults and Children by Age

Adults:	#	%
Under Age 18	9	100
Subtotal:	9	100
Ages 18 – 24	18	1.7

Age 25 – 34	129	12.0
Age 35 – 44	271	25.3
Age 45 – 54	247	23.0
Age 55 – 64	288	26.9
Age 65+	119	11.1
Subtotal:	1,072	100
Total:	1,081	100

Table 9 only includes self-reported responses from the 1,072 adults. The most notable findings show a decrease in the number of unsheltered Veterans as well as domestic violence survivors. A 35.9% decrease in the number of Veterans and a 31.8% decrease in those experiencing homelessness as domestic violence survivors. These two subpopulations have dedicated resources to support the transition into permanent housing solutions.

Table 9. Unsheltered Adults by Subpopulations

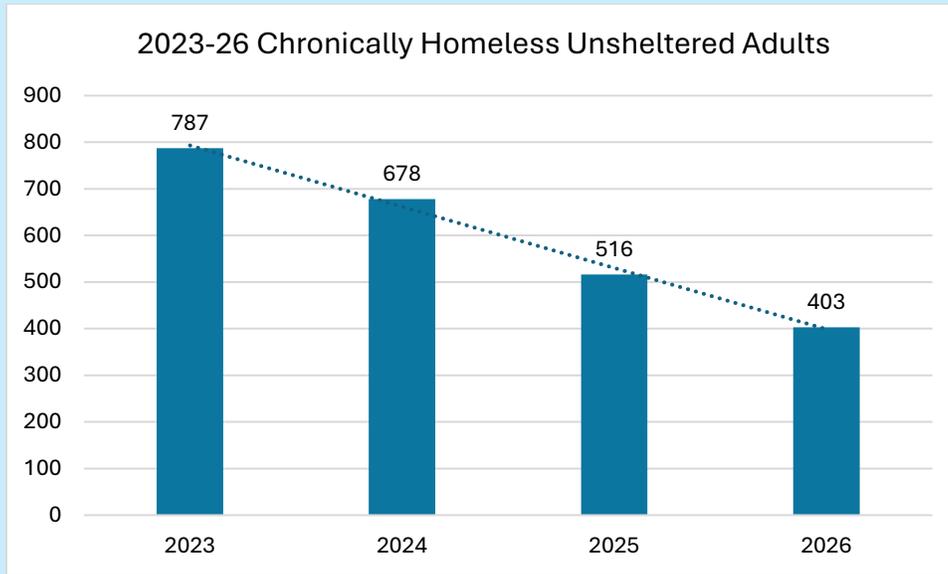
Subpopulations:	2025		2026		Difference	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Chronically Homeless Adults	453	36.0	403	37.6	-50	-11.0
Families including Chronically Homeless Families	10*	--	9**	--	-1	-10
Persons w/Chronic Health Conditions	393	31.3	335	31.3	-58	-14.8
Persons w/a Developmental Disability	103	8.2	82	7.7	-21	-20.4
Persons w/HIV/AIDS	9	0.7	9	0.8	0	0.0
Persons w/Mental Health Problems	341	27.1	292	27.2	-49	-14.4
Persons w/a Physical Disability	331	26.3	270	25.2	-61	-18.4
Substance Users	422	33.6	333	31.1	-89	-21.9
Veterans	64	5.1	41	3.8	-23	-35.9
Experiencing Homelessness Because of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking	245	19.5	167	15.6	-78	-31.8

*In 2025, 10 families consisted of 36 persons of which 19 were adults and 17 were children. Of the 10 families, 3 were chronically homeless and included 6 adults and 5 children.

** In 2026, 7 families consisted of 19 persons of which 10 were adults and 9 were children. Of the 7 families, none (0) were chronically homeless

Chart 2 illustrates a 48.8% decrease in the number of unsheltered adults experiencing chronic homelessness from 2023 to 2026. Chronic homelessness is defined as individuals who have been homeless for at least 12 months and who have a disabling condition. The addition of new permanent supportive housing units developed and occupied between 2023 and 2026 has contributed significantly to this reduction.

Chart 2



Other Survey Questions

Table 10 shows demographic details of the 1,072 unsheltered adults surveyed.

Table 10. Other Survey Questions for Adults

Demographic Information	n=1,072	
	Number	Percent
Are you a current or former foster youth?	59	5.5
Are you working with a service provider or case manager?	273	25.5
Do you have any pets with you?	263	24.5
Do you receive disability benefits?	115	10.7
Do you remember the address of the place you were living before you became homeless this time?	471	43.9
Have you been released from jail or prison in the last 12 months?	230	21.5
How long have you been homeless this time?		
0 to 3 months	53	4.9
4 to 6 months	41	3.8
7 to 11 months	50	4.7
12 to 23 months	86	8.0

24 to 35 months	88	8.2
36 months or more	655	61.1
Unknown	99	9.2
Total:	1,072	100
How long in months have you been in this community?		
0 to 3 months	74	6.9
4 to 6 months	32	3.0
7 to 11 months	48	4.5
12 to 23 months	68	6.3
24 to 35 months	43	4.0
36 months or more	697	65.0
Unknown	110	10.3
Total:	1,072	100
How much is your monthly income?		
No Income	531	49.5
\$1 - \$500	128	11.9
\$501 - \$1,000	75	7.0
More than \$1,000	157	14.7
Unknown	181	16.9
Total:	1,072	100
Where were you sleeping on the night of the Count?		
Abandoned building	13	1.2
Bus, train station, airport	12	1.1
Outdoor encampment	363	33.9
Park	59	5.5
Street or sidewalk	244	22.8
Under bridge/overpass	23	2.1
Vehicle/boat/RV	317	29.6
Other	41	3.8
Unknown	0	0.0
Total:	1,072	100