



# 2025 Homeless Count

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CITY OF  
LONG  
BEACH



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Long Beach Homeless Count  
**2025**



# Introduction

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In Long Beach, addressing homelessness is not just a priority—it's a collective mission. The City has built compassionate and strong support systems to meet the needs of those experiencing homelessness in our city. At the heart of it all is the Long Beach Continuum of Care (CoC), consisting of over 80 service partners working together to provide essential resources and pathways to stability.

Leading the charge is the Health Department's Homeless Services Bureau. Guided by the Housing First model, the Department prioritizes getting people into stable housing as quickly as possible, because having a warm bed to sleep in at night is often the first step toward addressing deeper challenges. Once housed, individuals receive personalized support from case managers who walk alongside them on their journey, offering help with sobriety, job training, mental health care and more.

This people-centered approach is rooted in dignity, recognizing that every person has a unique goal and unique challenges. We're committed to building not only stability, but also a renewed connection to the community.

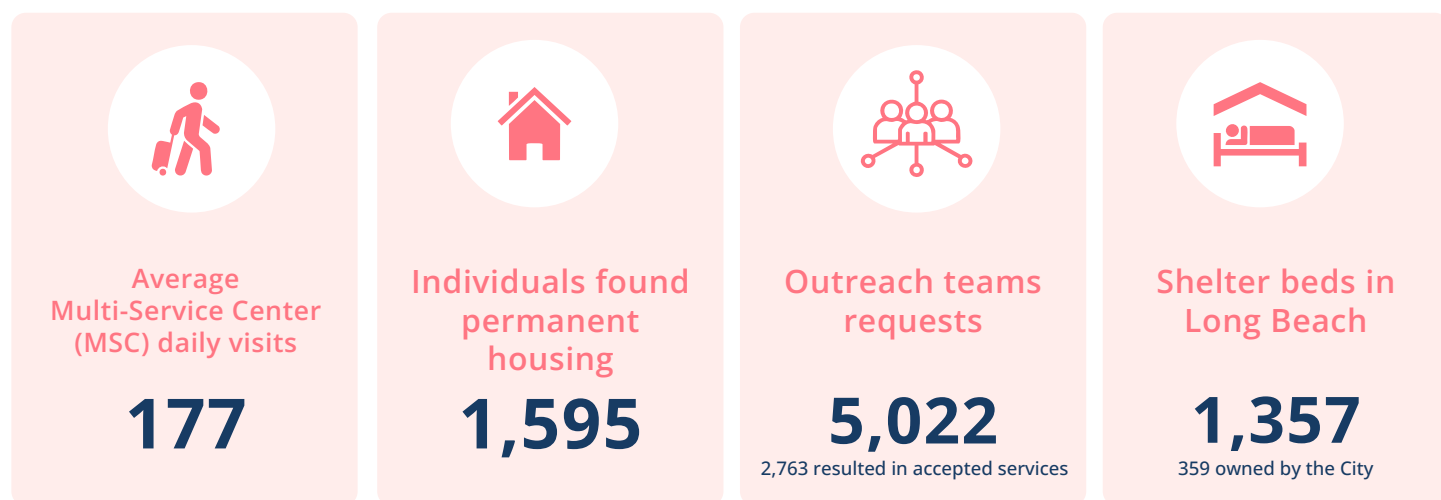
## **To meet people where they are and address their diverse needs, the Long Beach CoC uses several proven strategies:**

- Individualized delivery of services grounded in evidence-based practices for households experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Integrating key partners into the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to ensure a holistic approach to accessing and receiving services.
- Streamlined intakes and application processes linked to supportive services and financial assistance programs.
- Interdepartmental and inter-jurisdictional coordination among government departments and agencies to utilize expertise and resources to address homelessness in a systematic way.

Following our homelessness emergency, which ended in February 2024, the City reaffirmed our commitment to supporting the people in our community who need it most.



Our homeless services team expanded its reach, meeting people where they are and connecting more individuals to much needed resources:



- In 2024, an average of 177 people per day visited the Multi-Service Center (MSC) and staff were also able to help an additional 1,536 people through the Mobile Access Center (MAC).
- Outreach teams received a total 5,022 outreach request, and 2,763 accepted services.
- The City is committed to offering shelter beds to people experiencing homelessness, through both City-run shelters and those provided by partner organizations. Altogether, there are about 1,357 beds across Long Beach. Of those 1,357 shelter beds, 359 are 100% City-Owned and accessible to people experiencing homelessness via referrals from our MSC.

#### Looking ahead, 2025 brings new opportunities, including:

- Homekey at 1725: Former Best Western with interim housing units and supportive services, funded by \$5.1 million in federal grants.
- Youth Shelter and Navigation Center: Site with daily storage and 12 year-round beds for ages 18-24, plus case management, supported by \$4.1 million from Measure A, AB32 and HEAP.
- Homekey at 5950: Former Luxury Inn converted to 78 interim housing units, including 12 ADA-accessible rooms, funded by \$6.5 million from Project Homekey, the City and Measure A.

The City is building for the long term through the Community Development Department, focusing on affordable housing with support services. Recent highlights include:

- Opening The Cove, providing 60 Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers.
- Beginning construction on an 82-unit affordable housing project near the East Village for low-income and formerly homeless seniors.
- Opening of 26 Point 2, providing 77 units of supportive housing for formerly homeless individuals.

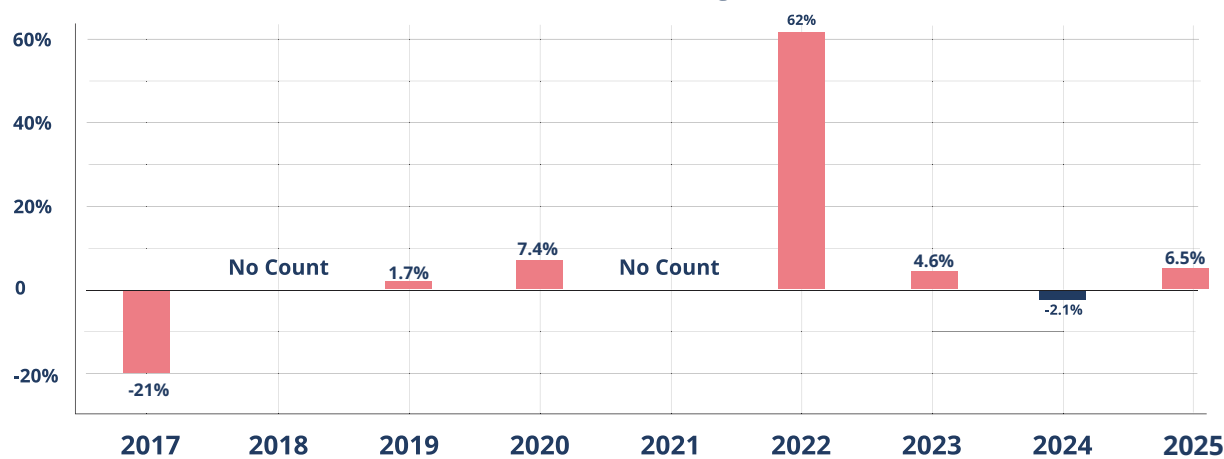
More than programs, this is a promise: no matter where people are in their journey, help is within reach in Long Beach.

# 2025 Homeless Point-in-Time Count Overview

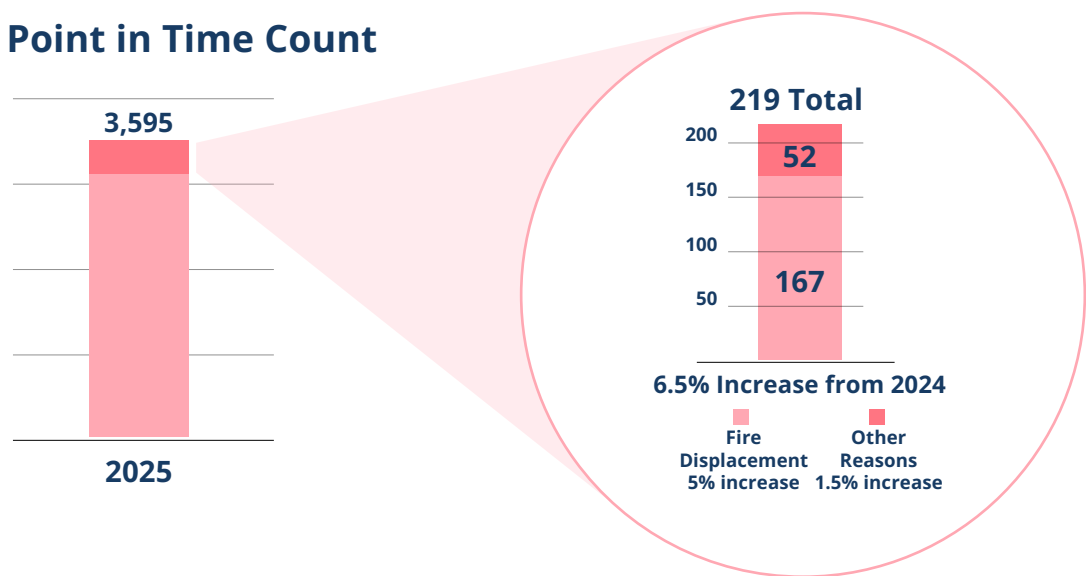
The 2025 Point in Time Count, which took place on January 23, found a total of 3,595 people experiencing homelessness in our city, a net increase of 219 people when compared with 2024. Of the people surveyed during the Count, 167 people reported being displaced by the Southern California wildfires, which were still raging at that time.

During the LA wildfire event, people fleeing the region stayed in our hotels, and we offered discounted accommodations at the City-operated Queen Mary for those who couldn't get home due to the fires. We also opened shelters and additional beds to support people experiencing homelessness. And we further supported those in need through services in Long Beach including Safe Parking and support at the Multi-Service Center.

Percentage Change of People Experiencing Homelessness in Long Beach



## 2025 Point in Time Count



## This year

- The average age of people experiencing homelessness dropped from 48.8 to 46.8 years old.
- More people are experiencing homelessness for the first time, rising from 53.6% to 57.6%.
- The number of people who recently became homeless have increased from 14.3% to 16% (among the unsheltered population) .

Meanwhile, the number of people experiencing long-term or chronic homelessness fell from 50.5% to 46.7%.

The most common reason people became homeless was financial hardship. In fact, the number of people reporting financial hardship rose from 37.1% to 41.2%. This increase is likely tied to the rising cost of living, which continues to put financial strain on many individuals and families, making it harder for them to afford housing and basic needs.

The City continues to address homelessness through programs at the City, County and State levels. In 2025, the City will use Project Homekey funding to open two new interim housing sites, as well as funding from Measure A, AB32, and the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program to open a Youth Shelter and a Navigation Center. Additionally, a third round of Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) from the State will be used to help people experiencing homelessness along the Los Angeles Riverbed in Long Beach.

# Key Findings

## **2024 to 2025 Year Over Year Homelessness:**

During the count, 390 (10.9% of total PIT count) individuals identified as newly homeless in our area. This number highlights the ongoing pressures of rising housing costs, economic instability and other systemic challenges. While we're making progress in housing those already unhoused, these data underscore the need for both prevention and long-term solutions.

## **Newly Homeless:**

The number of unsheltered people reporting that they are newly homeless has increased from 14.3% last year to 16% in 2025. "Newly homeless" refers to people who are experiencing homelessness for the first time and have been homeless for less than a year. The rate of first-time homelessness is the same as last year, so the drop in newly homeless people suggests that fewer people in Long Beach have been homeless for less than a year.

## **Where Did You Lose Your Housing?**

Among people who are newly homeless, most —56.8%— lost their housing in Long Beach. Another 26.7% came from nearby areas in Los Angeles, and 6.2% came from Orange County.

## **Homelessness & Vehicles:**

Vehicular homelessness has risen to 38.7% (of the unsheltered population), often signaling newly homeless individuals and families who still have ties to work or school. Living in a car or RV is often a last resort, reflecting broader economic pressures and limited shelter options. This form of homelessness is especially common in high-cost urban and suburban areas. The trend underscores both urgent needs and the opportunity for rapid rehousing through early intervention, even as chronic homelessness sees modest decline.

## **Latinx Population:**

The proportion of Latinx individuals experiencing homelessness in Long Beach decreased from 28.4% in 2024 to 24.1% in 2025. While it's difficult to pinpoint a single cause, this trend may be influenced by the current political climate. Increased fear or mistrust, especially around immigration issues, might make individuals hesitant to share personal information or engage with strangers, particularly if they don't know who is asking, or why. This could lead to underrepresentation in the data, making it more difficult to fully understand and address the needs of Latinx communities.

## **Domestic Violence Survivors:**

Homeless service providers often ask individuals to disclose sensitive information, but survivors of domestic violence may avoid answering questions about their experience due to trust issues. Nationally, nearly 30% of survivors don't identify themselves on surveys. To address this, the City used a new survey method in the 2025 PIT Count, allowing individuals to indirectly indicate if they are fleeing abuse. This approach revealed a higher rate of individuals fleeing domestic violence, (10.5% in



2025, compared to 4.4% in 2023 and 5.5% in 2024), suggesting past surveys underreported the issue. Our findings show a significant need for more resources to support domestic violence survivors, as domestic violence shelter providers are already operating at capacity.

**Veterans:**

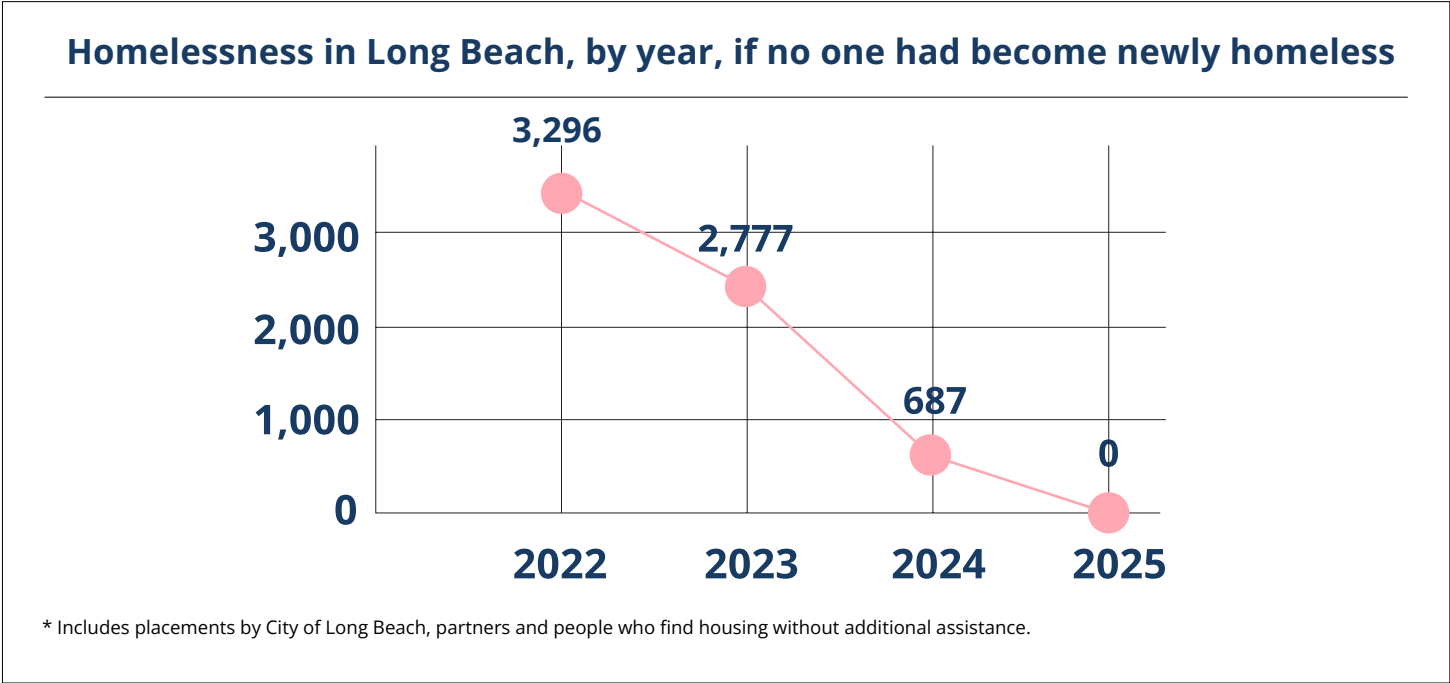
The proportion of veterans experiencing homelessness decreased in 2025. Veterans now make up 9.6% of the total, down from 11.3% in 2024, with the percentage of veterans in shelters falling slightly, from 53% to 50%.

In 2024, the City opened The Cove, an affordable housing development in West Long Beach for low-income and very low-income veterans, including those who have experienced homelessness.

- The development includes 89 high-quality studio units for veterans earning between 30% and 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Of these, 60 units were leased to veterans using Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers provided by the Housing Authority of the City of Long Beach.
- The Cove also offers essential on-site supportive services through partnerships with over 30 service providers, including U.S. VETS and the local Veterans Administration, ensuring residents have access to the resources they need.

**A Powerful Hypothetical:**

What if no one had become newly homeless after 2022? This chart shows what would have happened if no one had become newly homeless after 2022. Using real data on how many people moved into housing each year, we can see that the number of people experiencing homelessness would have dropped from 3,296 in 2022 to 0 in 2025. That’s a big decline, and it proves that the work being done to house people is making a real difference. But it also shows that we can’t solve homelessness just by helping people exit; we also must stop it from happening in the first place.





# At a Glance

The 2025 Count was conducted in the early hours of January 23, 2025, with the help of more than 300 people who dedicated their time to compassionately count and interview their neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. Volunteers included members of community-based and faith organizations, the business community, members of the public and City staff.

## 2025 Demographics & Survey Results: An Overview

### Total Count



3,595

People were experiencing homelessness on the morning on **January 23, 2025**

### Chronic Homelessness

A notable trend this year is the slight decrease in chronic homelessness, with 1,678 individuals now experiencing long-term homelessness, down from previous levels. Of this group, 477 (28.4%) are sheltered, while 1,201 (71.6%) remain unsheltered. The proportion of chronically homeless individuals who are sheltered has increased by 46.6% compared to last year, reflecting the success of targeted interventions. While much progress remains, this decrease in overall numbers and improvement in shelter access signal that efforts like supportive housing programs and enhanced outreach are beginning to make a tangible impact in reducing chronic homelessness.



1,678

- Sheltered: 477 (28.4%)
- Unsheltered: 1,201 (71.6%)

### Unsheltered Count



2,606

72.4% Unsheltered

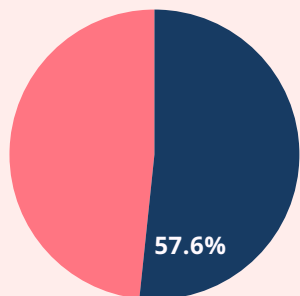
### Sheltered Count



989

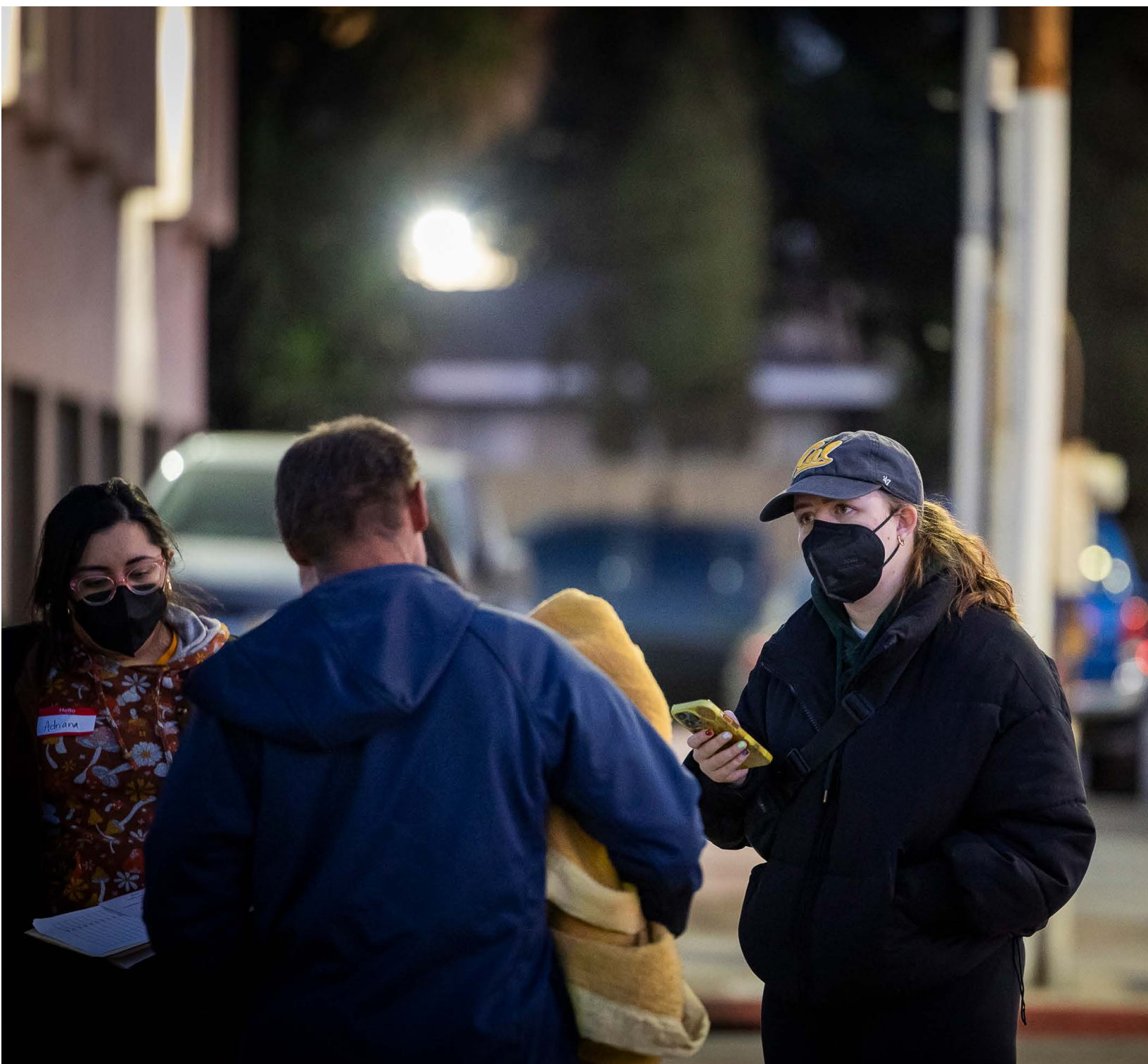
27.5% Sheltered

## First Time Homeless



**2,067 (57.6%)**

2,067 Reported that this is their first episode of homelessness





# 2025 Demographics and Survey Results: An Overview

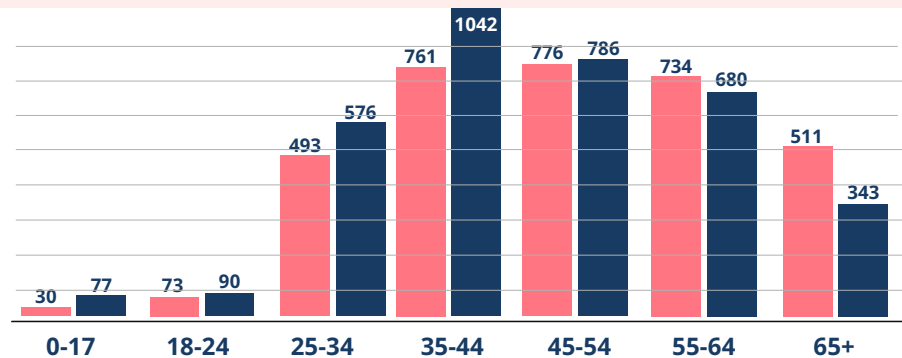
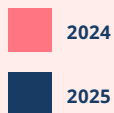
Overview of findings generated from the survey component of the 2025 Long Beach Homeless Point in Time Count & Survey



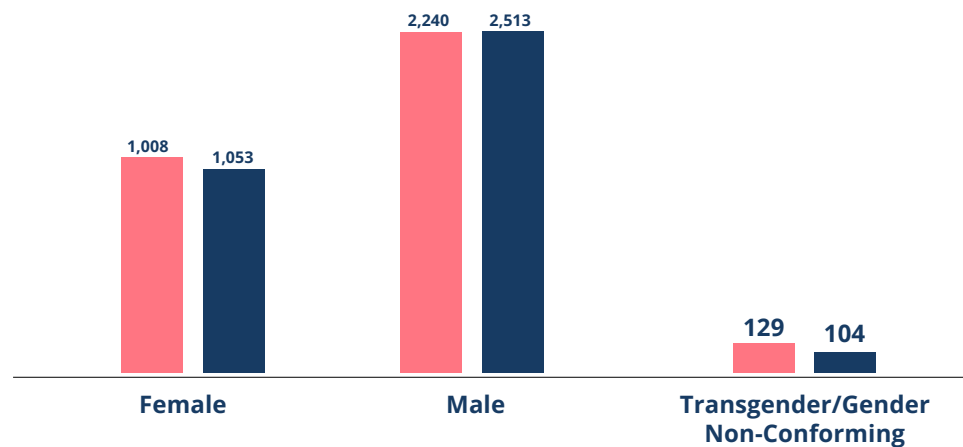
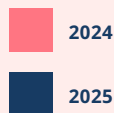
# Demographics

## 2025 Demographics & Survey Results

### Age

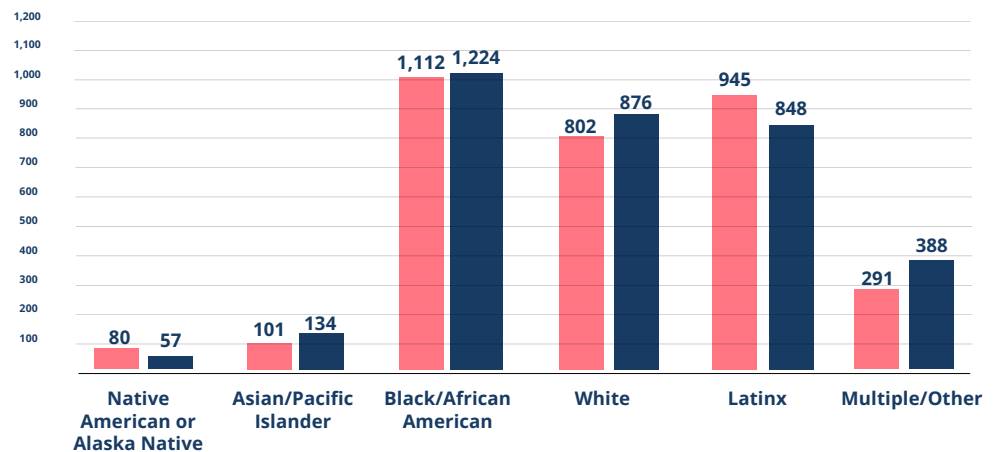
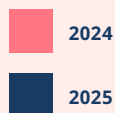


### Gender



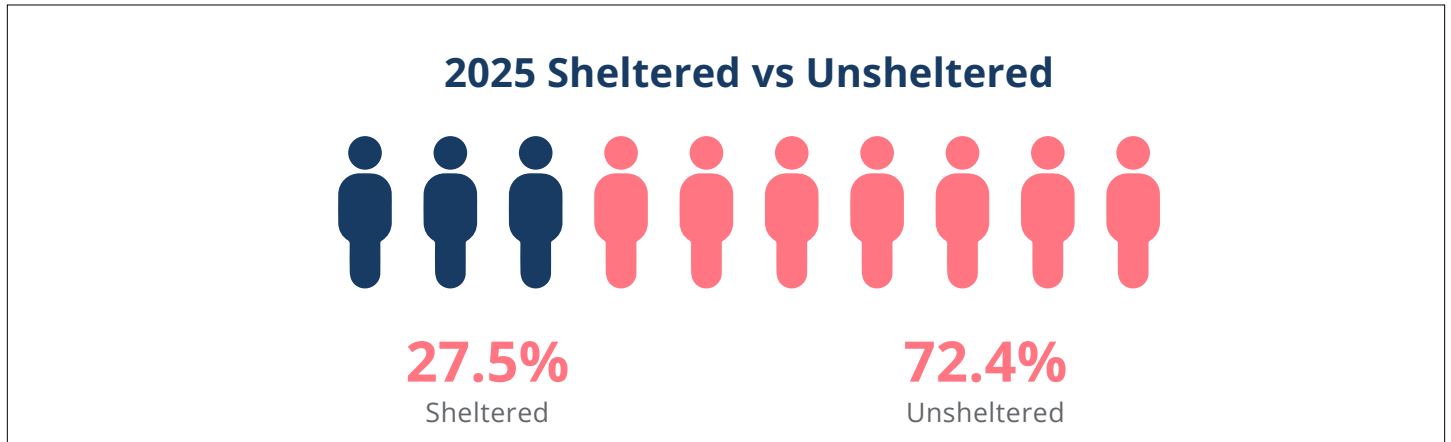
### Race

(Including Latinx in Race)

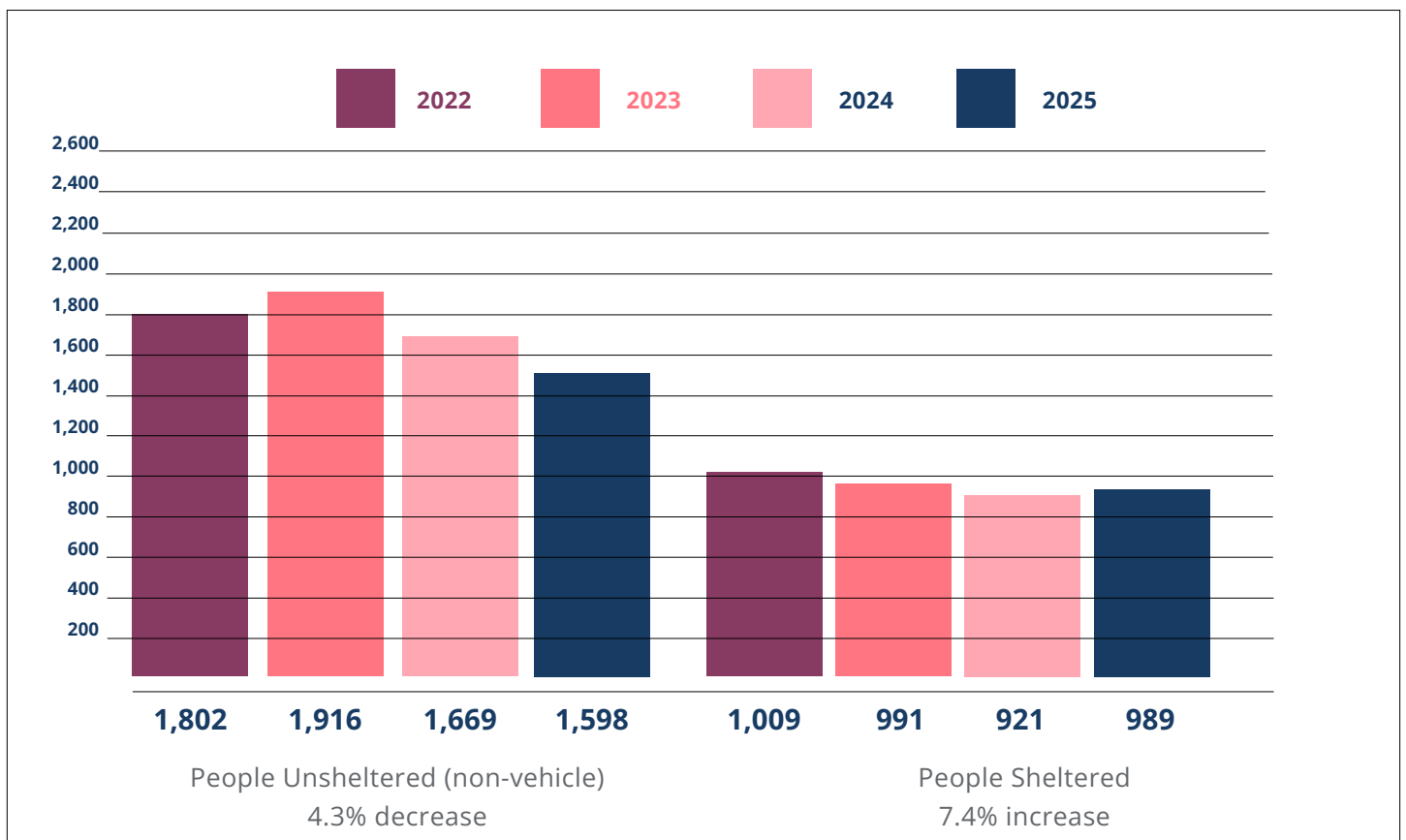


# Sheltered & Unsheltered

## 2025 Demographics & Survey Results



Overview of findings generated from the survey component of the 2025 Long Beach Homeless Point in Time Count & Survey



# Subpopulations experiencing homelessness

## Living In Vehicles



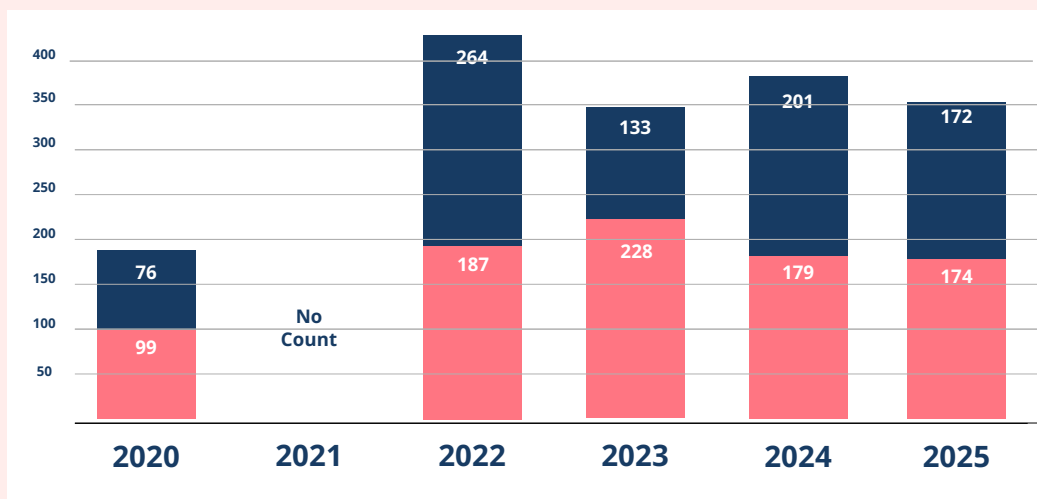
**1,008 (38.7%)**

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

## Veterans

■ Sheltered Vs.  
■ Unsheltered

9% decrease



## LGBTQ+



**11.2%**

2023

**7.7%**

2024

**7.5%**

2025

## Students



**7.4%**

2023

**6.6%**

2024

**5.5%**

2025

# Case Study: Homelessness along the Riverbed

## What We've Learned and What's Ahead

In 2025, the City surveyed 164 people living along the Riverbed to better understand who they are, what challenges they face and how the City can best support them. The results show us a younger, diverse community dealing with a mix of hardships, many of which began early in life.

### Who lives along the riverbed?



#### Most are younger

Most are younger: **60.1%** are under the age of **44**.



#### Majority Male

The majority are men: **71.4%** identify as male, **25%** identify as female, **3.5%** as transgender and 3.57% as gender non-conforming.



#### Diverse Group

It's a diverse group: **32.1%** identify as Latinx, and another **32.1%** as White. Additionally, **17.8%** identify as Black, and **10.7%** as Asian or Pacific Islander.



# What challenges are they facing?



## Childhood Trauma

Early childhood trauma: **39.4%** said they experienced abuse or neglect as children. **14.8%** are former foster youth.



## Financial Struggles

Financial struggles are a big factor: **44.7%** said they became homeless due to job loss or not being able to afford housing.

Other reasons included family disruption (18.4%), eviction (7.9%), physical disabilities (7.9%), mental health struggles (5.2%) and substance use (2.6%).

# What the City is doing

To respond to the needs of people living along the riverbed, the City has received \$11 million in State funding through its third round of Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF). This funding will go directly toward helping individuals off the riverbed and into stable housing by:

**Increasing outreach and engagement efforts**

**Moving people into non-congregate shelters and ultimately, into permanent housing**

**Opening new non-congregate shelter spaces and providing supportive services to help individuals transition into stable housing.**

With targeted funding and a clear understanding of what people along the Riverbed need, the City is committed to making lasting progress.

# Case Study: Youth Homelessness

## Challenges faced by Transitional-Aged Youth and the City Response

One of the most vulnerable groups facing homelessness are transitional-aged youth (those who are 18-24). Youth face unique challenges, including aging out of foster care, family conflict and lack of access to stable income. Tailored interventions and youth-specific services remain critical to reducing these numbers and providing long-term stability.

### A portrait of the 90 transitional-aged youth experiencing homelessness in Long Beach:



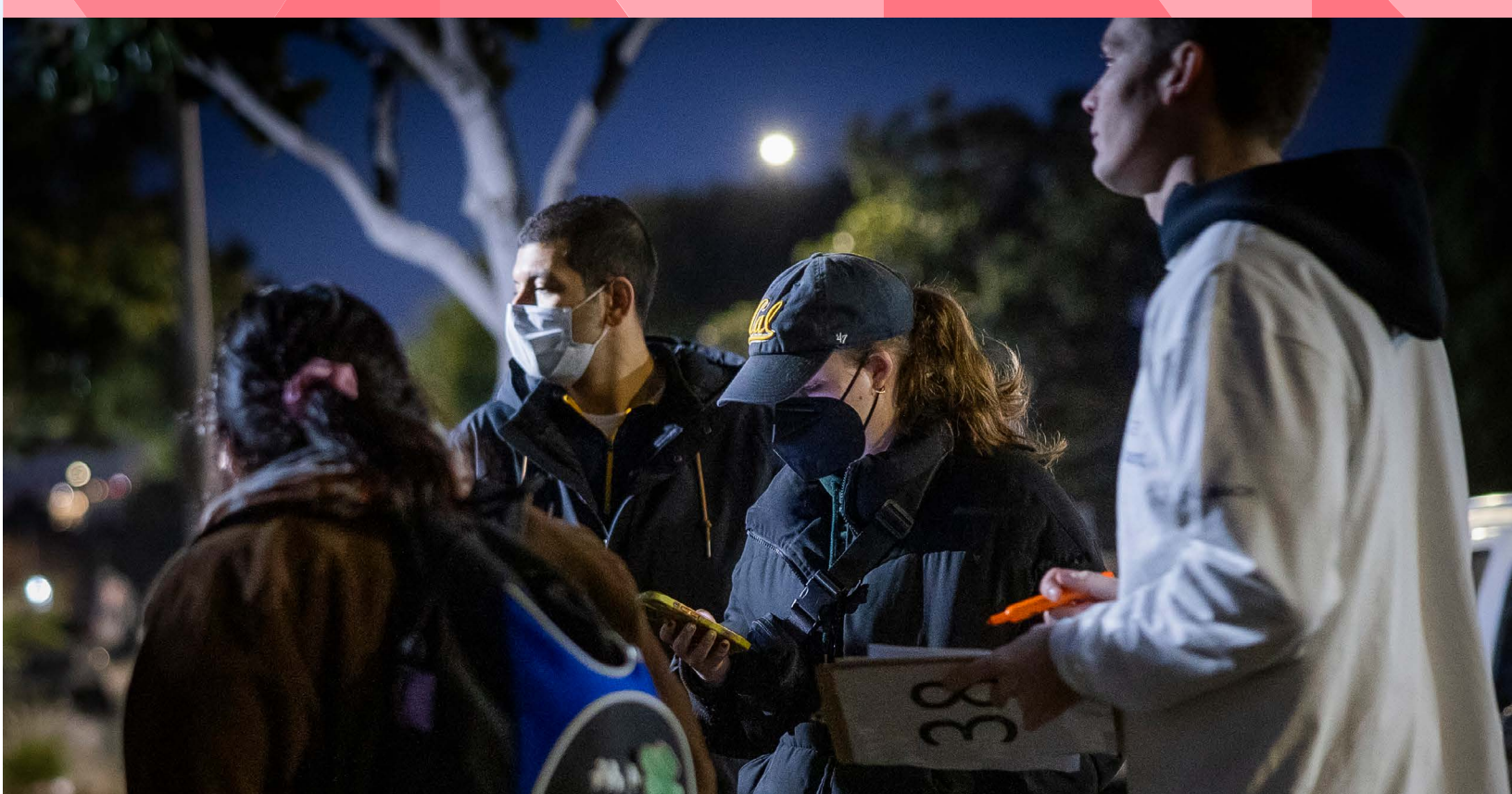
More likely to be sheltered (**40.6%**) than the general adult population (**25.7%**)



Majority male: **58.1%** (vs. 69.8% of adult population), **38.7%** female (vs. 29.3%), **6.7%** transgender (vs. 1.9%), and **3.2%** gender non-conforming (vs. 1%)



Represent every racial and ethnic group but more likely to be Black: **46.9%** (vs. 34.1% of adult population)



## Transitional-aged youth are also:

- Former foster youth (31% vs. 17.8% of the adult population)
- Students (25.8% vs. 3.9% of the adult population)
- Survivors of childhood trauma or abuse (58% vs. 38% of the adult population)
- Dealing with mental health issues (53.3% vs. 36.5% of the adult population)
- LGBTQIA+ (10% vs. 7.5% of the adult population)

## What the City is doing

To respond to the needs of youth experiencing homelessness, the City has received \$4.1 million in funding to open and operate its first-ever permanent shelter facility for youth. The facility will offer two core resources:

- Support services for youth ages 18–24, including connections to comprehensive social services and on-site case management.
- 12 shelter beds with restrooms, showers, laundry facilities, a kitchenette and a lounge area.

# The Underlying Conditions of Homelessness

## 2025 Demographics & Survey Results

Many people experiencing homelessness have underlying long-term trauma; mental health or substance use concerns or other health conditions. These conditions can make living in unsupported housing and holding a job much more difficult.

Homelessness often leads to chronic stress, trauma and mental health challenges. To cope, many individuals self-medicate with drugs or alcohol, which can worsen existing conditions or create new ones. This cycle of instability and substance use makes it even harder to access housing and support, trapping people in a harmful loop without proper intervention.



Physical Disability

**32.9%**



Severe Mental  
Illness

**34.5%**



Chronic Medical  
Condition

**30.8%**



Substance Use  
Disorder

**25.7%**



Traumatic Brain  
Injury

**17.4%**



Developmental  
Disability

**17.3%**

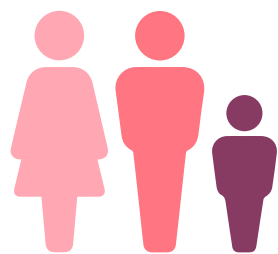


# Causes of Homelessness

## 2025 Demographics & Survey Results

A critical component of addressing and preventing homelessness is better understanding the major causes behind it. People were asked to identify the leading causes of their homelessness. The following were the top causes reported by respondents. Most causes of homelessness have either stayed the same or decreased. However, financial hardship has increased, rising from 37.1% to 41.1%.

### Family Disruption



28.1%

said they became homeless due to family disruption or relationship problems, a 3.3% decrease compared with 2024.

### Financial



41.2%

41.2% of respondents said they became homeless due to unemployment or financial reasons; an 11% increase compared with 2024.

### 2025



28.1%

Family



41.2%

Unemployment



15.3%

Mental Health



16%

Eviction



9.5%

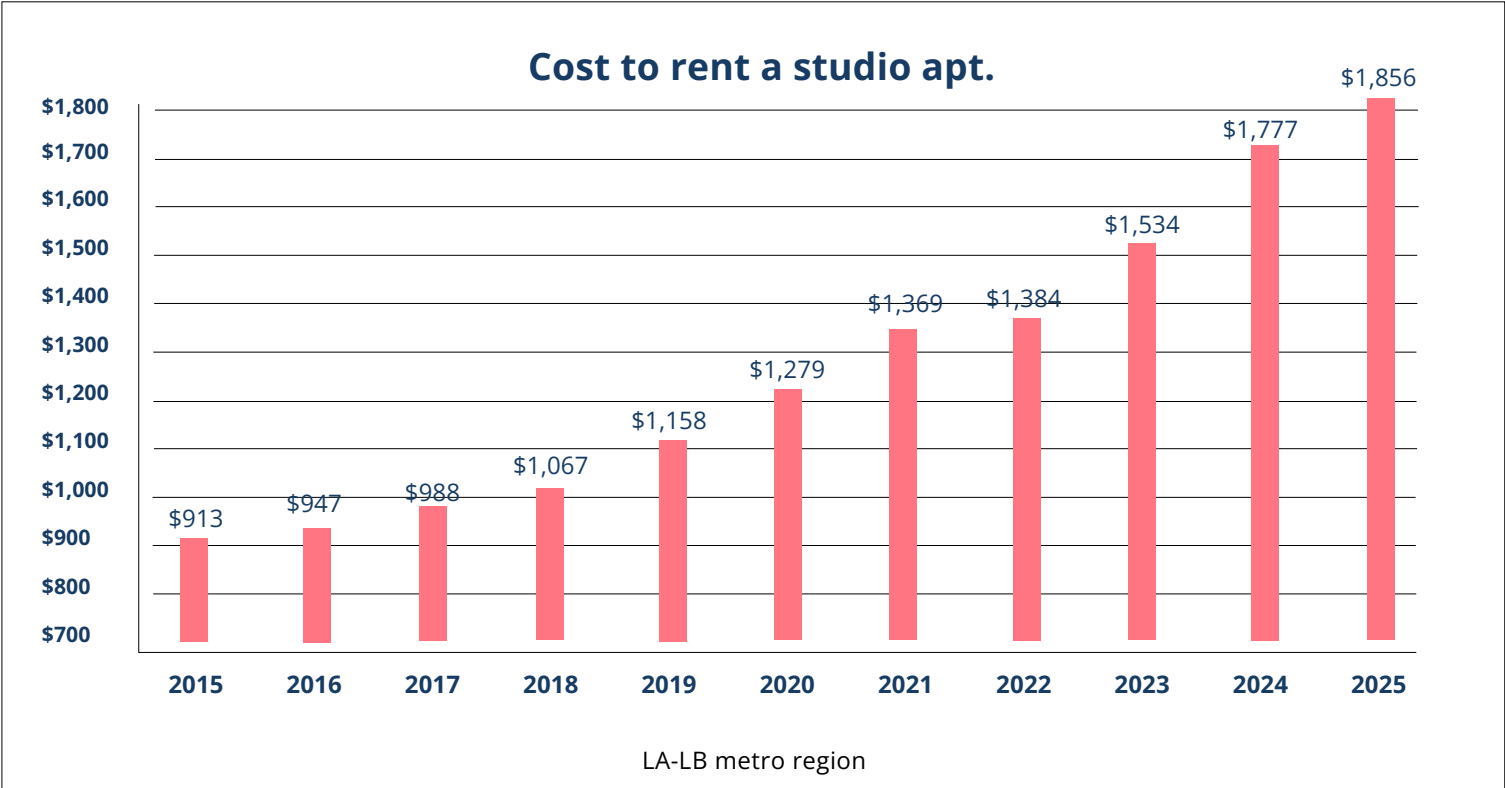
Substance Abuse



11%

Disability

Homelessness is, fundamentally, a lack of housing. City residents deal with ongoing challenges like very few available rental units, rent that’s high compared to what people earn, and a generally high cost of living. The Council for Community and Economic Research Cost of Living Index reports that the cost of living in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim area is 48.8% higher than the national average, making it one of the most expensive places in the country. And according to the USC Lusk 2024 Multifamily Forecast Report, 52.8% of households in the Long Beach-South Bay area spend too much of their income on rent.



In Los Angeles County, housing affordability is a significant challenge. While financial experts recommend that no more than 30% of a household’s income should go toward rent, the reality for many County residents is far different.

**Rent Burden**

- Cost-Burdened Renters: Approximately 57% of renting households in Los Angeles County spend more than 30% of their income on housing.
- Severely Cost-Burdened Renters: Around 50% of all U.S. households allocate over 50% of their income to rent and utilities.

# Looming Cuts

## **Emergency Housing Vouchers: A Program at Risk**

The cost of living continues to outpace wages and benefits, increasing the risk of homelessness for many people. A key component of the City's strategy to reduce homelessness has been Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs).

The Housing Authority hadn't received any significant allocations of vouchers until EHVs were allocated in 2021. These EHVs, part of a 10-year program, allowed the city to house 582 families.

However, the program is now under threat and funding is expected to terminate on Dec. 31, 2025. Ending EHVs will not only affect current recipients but also prevent new placements for families who have been waitlisted for many years.

Full utilization of the Emergency Housing Vouchers was a key focus within the Homeless Emergency response, allowing us to support hundreds of chronically homeless people in getting back into housing.

Long Beach has shown great success with consistently utilizing its full allocation of voucher funding to the Housing Authority and was one of the first communities in California to fully lease up its EHV allocation.

However, with the threat to sunset at the end of this year, the people currently housed under EHVs could be at risk of losing their housing. Based on the proposed White House budget, there could also be fewer housing opportunities for vulnerable populations using regular Section 8 vouchers. Maintaining this program is essential to preventing homelessness in our community.



# Count Methodology



# Count Methodology for Data Collection

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The City's Point in Time (PIT) Count is part of a nationwide effort to estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single night. Required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the State of California, this count is essential for the City to qualify for funding aimed at addressing homelessness. The data gathered during the count helps the City better understand the trends, challenges and demographics impacting those experiencing homelessness in the community.

To gain deeper insights, the City also offers an optional survey during the count. This survey collects more detailed information that supports service providers, government agencies and the broader community in developing more effective and responsive services to address homelessness in Long Beach.

The Long Beach PIT Count is guided by best practices and lessons learned from previous years. Accurately counting a mobile and often hard-to-reach population presents ongoing challenges, but each year the City's Homeless Services Bureau works to improve data collection methods to more clearly understand the needs of this vulnerable population.

HUD does not provide a standardized methodology for all jurisdictions to follow – each is responsible for developing its own approach. The City has created a methodology tailored to its specific needs, resources and context. While our approach may differ from those used in other jurisdictions, it aligns with HUD's requirements.

The 2025 Count was conducted in the early hours of January 23, 2025, with the help of more than 300 volunteers. Volunteers came from:

**Community-Based  
Organizations**

**Faith Based  
Organizations**

**Business  
Community**

**General Public**

**Legislative Offices**

**City Staff**

Teams, led by experienced guides, spread out on foot and by car to survey people experiencing homelessness throughout Long Beach. Having enough volunteers is important to make sure all parts of the City are fully covered.

**The PIT Count process is designed to cover all 52 square miles of Long Beach. In preparation:**

- Experienced outreach teams conducted a specialized count in the days leading up to January 23 in areas that are hard to reach or may pose safety concerns.
- Hot spot guides provided maps to volunteer teams, marking known gathering spots of people experiencing homelessness.

**Before the PIT Count, all volunteers attended orientation and received training on:**

- How to use the electronic survey app
- How to engage with people experiencing homelessness
- How to carry out the survey effectively

**On the morning of the PIT Count:**

- Teams were organized into small groups of three or four people
- Volunteer teams were given supplies and snacks to share with people they met
- Teams deployed across designated areas to begin the count

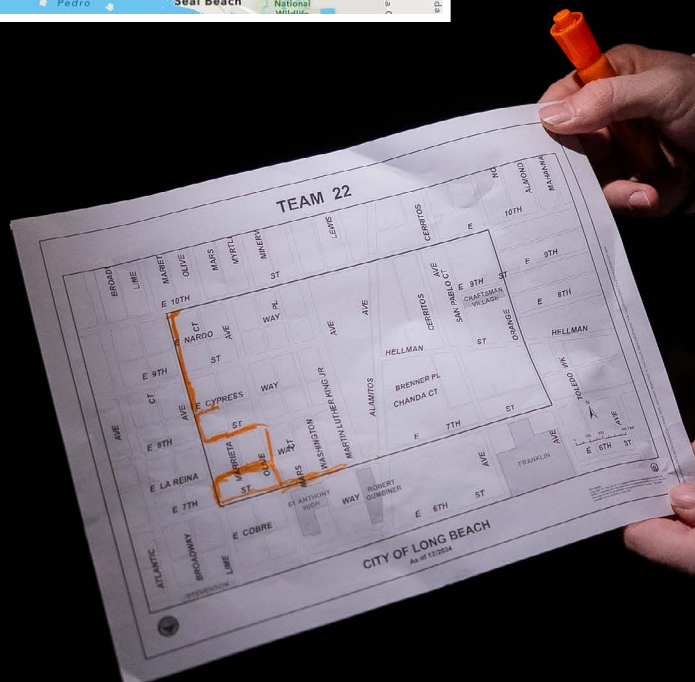
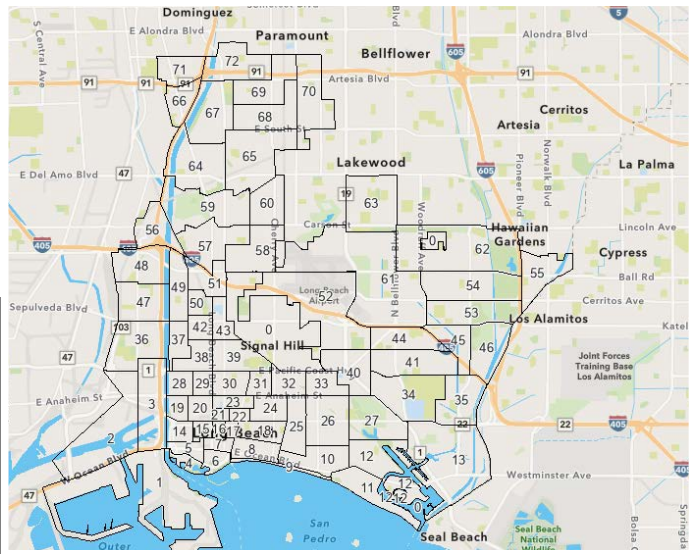


**Volunteers used a custom-built app to conduct the count electronically. The app featured:**

- Real-time mapping to track team locations
- Collection of survey responses
- Improved count management by allowing data scientists to see where each survey was taken

**During the count:**

- Teams noted whether a person was counted visually or surveyed
- A 20-question survey collected information on:
  - Demographics
  - Subpopulations
  - Length and circumstances of homelessness
  - Causes of homelessness
  - Previous use of services





# Count Methodology for Data Analysis

**After the unsheltered count was completed, the data were gathered for analysis. For shelter programs:**

- Reports were pulled from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and confirmed by the host agency.
- For agencies that do not participate in HMIS, those agencies generated reports from their own reporting system identifying their overnight occupancy.

**To ensure data accuracy:**

- Duplicate surveys were identified and removed using unique identifiers based on key demographic questions.

**To improve the accuracy of recorded visual counts:**

- Outreach staff conducted additional surveys to estimate the rate of user error, such as how often multiple people living in a car, van or RV.
- These findings were used to adjust the visual count numbers and provide the most accurate estimate possible.

**For individuals counted visually:**

- Demographic information was based on sampling and the completed demographics surveys.







City of Long Beach  
411 W. Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90802

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