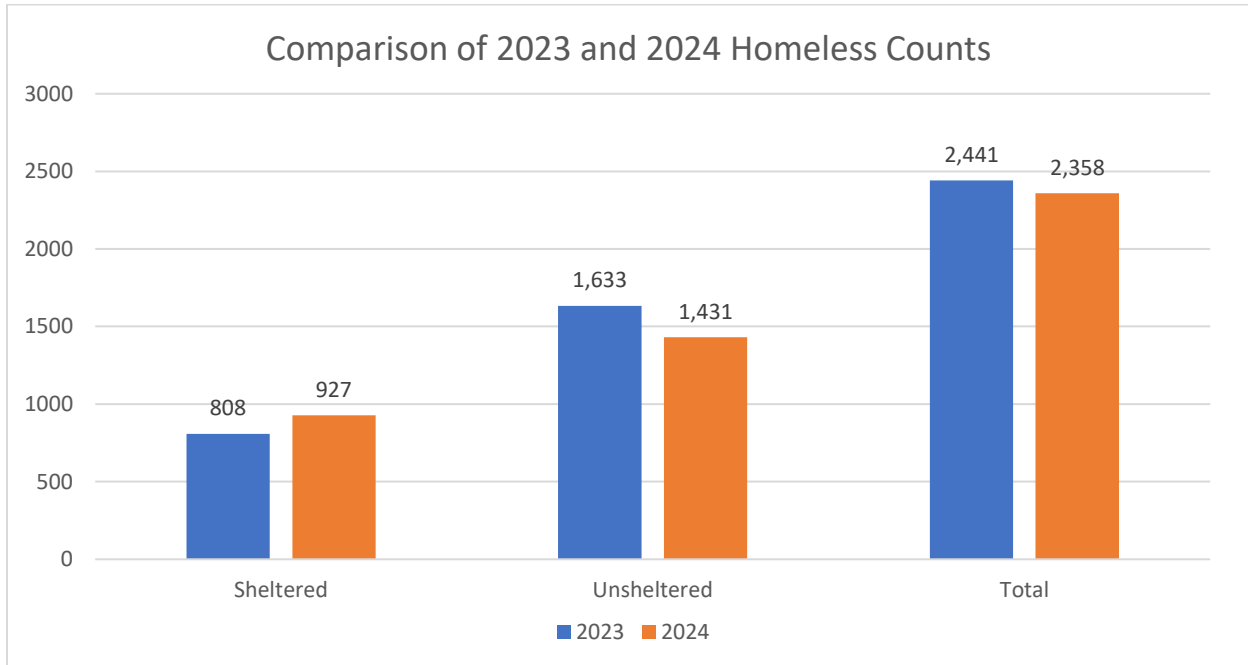


## 2024 Ventura County Homeless Count Executive Summary

There were 2,358 adults and children who were counted as homeless during the point-in-time count as noted in the chart below. This number represents a decrease of 83 persons or -3.4% when compared to the 2441 persons who were counted as homeless in 2023.

Chart 1



The total number of persons counted as sheltered and unsheltered:

- The total number of persons counted as sheltered increased from 808 in 2023 to 927 in 2024, which represents an increase of 119 persons or 14.7%.
- The total number of persons counted as unsheltered decreased from 1,633 in 2023 to 1431 in 2024, which represents a decrease of 202 persons or 12.4%.

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. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) assisted households who are still unsheltered on the night of the count (e.g., staying in an encampment and being assisted by an RRH project to obtain housing) must be included as part of the unsheltered count.

Ventura County first conducted a homeless count and subpopulation survey in 2007 as listed in Table 1. The following table compares the homeless counts since 2007. However, the homeless count and survey has been conducted every year beginning in 2009 except in 2021 (see note below).

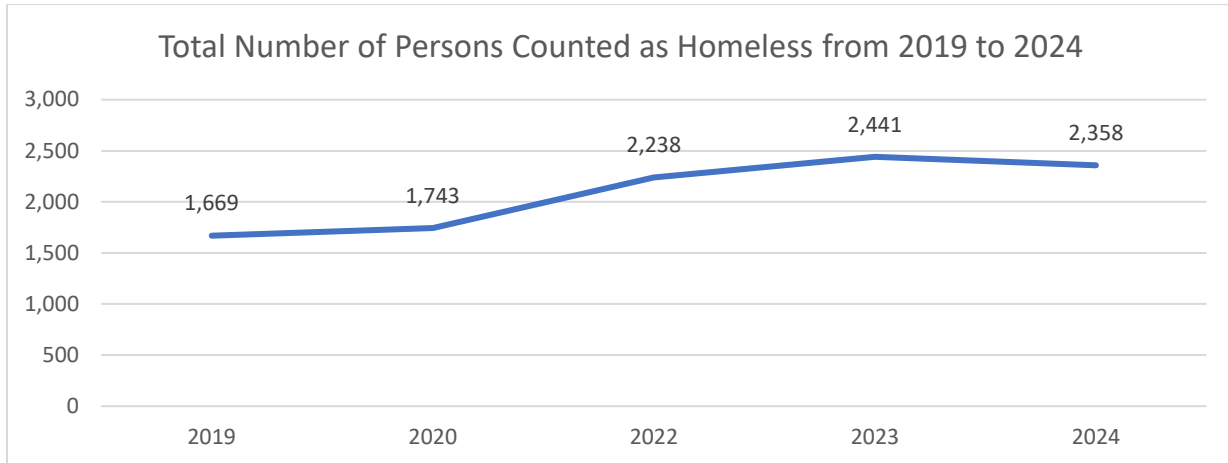
Table 1: Ventura County Homeless Counts from 2007 – 2024.

Year	Total # of Homeless Persons	% of Increase or Decrease from Previous Year
2007	1,961	-
2009	2,193	+12
2010	1,815	-17
2011	1,872	+3
2012	1,936	+3
2013	1,774	-8
2014	1,449	-18
2015	1,417	-2
2016	1,271	-10
2017	1,152	-9
2018	1,299	+12.8
2019	1,669	+28.5
2020	1,743	+4.4
2021	*	*
2022	2,238	+25.2
2023	2,441	+9.1
2024	2,358	-3.4

\*The Ventura County CoC received an exception from HUD not to conduct an unsheltered count because of pandemic related reasons.

The next chart shows that the number of persons counted as homeless has increased significantly between 2019 and 2024. The number of persons counted as homeless in 2019 was 1,669 and 2,358 persons in 2024, which represents an increase of 689 persons or 41.3%

Chart 2



The next table provides the number of homeless persons counted since 2007 by cities and unincorporated area. A count was not conducted in 2008 and an exception was granted by HUD not to conduct an unsheltered count in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 2. Comparison of the total number of unsheltered and sheltered persons counted since 2007 by cities and unincorporated area

Year	Camarillo	Fillmore	Moorpark	Ojai	Oxnard
2007	10	5	13	82	671
2009	13	4	7	60	679
2010	15	5	1	52	520
2011	29	10	7	40	638
2012	30	16	5	41	522
2013	27	13	9	43	645
2014	38	6	15	62	379*
2015	35	7	7	40	603
2016	24	6	4	29	584
2017	27	0	7	19	461
2018	49	2	3	31	335
2019	33	10	2	47	548
2020	30	10	0	49	567
2021	**	**	**	**	**
2022	49	8	0	38	793
2023	78	5	3	44	838
2024	89	13	5	58	752

\*This number was artificially low due to an unresolved reporting discrepancy and the winter warming shelter being located in Ventura.

\*\*An unsheltered count was not conducted because of pandemic related reasons.

Table 2. (con't)

Year	Port Hueneme	Santa Paula	Simi Valley	Thousand Oaks	Ventura	Countywide
2007	9	97	163	81	588	242
2009	1	91	303	147	623	265
2010	9	54	229	106	601	223
2011	6	50	226	87	570	209
2012	12	60	284	90	701	175
2013	17	34	211	121	519	135
2014	13	31	194	130	495	86
2015	22	20	202	83	334	64
2016	7	56	99	104	300	58
2017	18	35	105	102	301	77
2018	19	44	143	80	516	77
2019	30	106	121	103	555	114
2020	19	95	162	152	531	128
2021	**	**	**	**	**	**
2022	30	115	141	210	713	109
2023	14	121	150	128	644	416***
2024	44	137	160	178	536	386***

\*\*An unsheltered count was not conducted because of pandemic related reasons

\*\*\* Project Roomkey non-congregate shelters are counted in the Countywide data, as persons are served from various cities.

Table 3 provides a breakdown of the 2024 homeless count by sheltered and unsheltered persons for each jurisdiction. Among cities, Oxnard had the largest number of unsheltered persons (433) and the largest number of sheltered persons (319). The City of Ventura had the second largest number of unsheltered (316) and sheltered persons (220). Project Roomkey non-congregate shelters are counted in the Countywide data, as persons are served from various cities.

The decrease in the total number of people counted as homeless in the cities of Oxnard and Ventura from 2023 to 2024 was attributed to a lower observation rate for unsheltered surveys, as noted in charts 5 and 6 below, as well as the utilization of Emergency Housing Vouchers from HUD for more permanent housing placements this past year. The observation rate in 2023 was 57.8% and this resulted in a significant number of observation surveys which could not be deduplicated. The observation rate in 2024 dropped to 34% which allowed for a greater number of full surveys to be reviewed for deduplication purposes.

Table 3. Total Number of Sheltered and Unsheltered Adults and Children by Jurisdiction in 2024

Jurisdiction	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Shelter	Transitional Hg		
Camarillo	9	0	80	89
Fillmore	0	0	13	13
Moorpark	0	0	5	5
Ojai	4	0	54	58
Oxnard	291	28	433	752
Port Hueneme	0	0	44	44
Santa Paula	49	0	88	137
Simi Valley	11	0	149	160
Thousand Oaks	0	0	178	178
Ventura	101*	119	316	536
Countywide**	289	26	71	386
<b>Total:</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>1431</b>	<b>2,358</b>

\*Includes Safe Haven beds.

\*\*Domestic Violence (DV) Shelter locations are not disclosed and thus are reported here. Project Roomkey non-congregate shelters are counted in the Countywide data, as persons are served from various cities.

Table 4 compares the total number of unsheltered persons, sheltered persons and the total number of persons counted in 2024 to the same totals for 2023.

Table 4. 2023 - 2024 Comparison of Unsheltered and Sheltered Persons by Jurisdiction

Incorporated and Unincorporated Areas	Total Number of Unsheltered Persons				Total Number of Sheltered Persons*				Total Number			
	2023	2024	Difference		2023	2024	Difference		2023	2024	Difference	
	#	#	#	%	#	#	#	%	#	#	#	%
Camarillo	78	80	+2	+2.6	0	9	+9	**	78	89	+11	+14.1
Fillmore	5	13	+8	+160	0	0	0	0	5	13	+8	+160
Moorpark	3	5	+2	+66.7	0	0	0	0	3	5	+2	+66.7
Ojai	38	54	+16	+42.1	6	4	-2	-33.3	44	58	+14	+31.8
Oxnard	625	433	-192	-30.7	213	319	+106	+49.8	838	752	-86	-10.3
Port Hueneme	14	44	+30	**	0	0	0	0	14	44	+30	**
Santa Paula	75	88	+13	+17.3	46	49	+3	+6.5	121	137	+16	+13.2
Simi Valley	146	149	+3	+2.0	4	11	+7	+175	150	160	+10	+6.7
Thousand Oaks	128	178	+50	+39	0	0	0	0	128	178	+50	+39.1
Ventura	452	316	-136	-30.1	192	220	+28	+14.6	644	536	-108	-16.8
County-wide***	69	71	+2	+2.9	347	315	-32	-9.2	416	386	-30	-7.2
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,633</b>	<b>1431</b>	<b>-202</b>	<b>-12.4</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>+119</b>	<b>+14.7</b>	<b>2441</b>	<b>2358</b>	<b>-83</b>	<b>-3.4</b>

\*Sheltered persons include emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens (Note: only Ventura has a safe haven).

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

\*\*\*Includes Survivors of Domestic Violence (DV) programs.

## I. Unsheltered Persons

Of the 2,358 persons counted in 2024, 1431 or 60.7% were unsheltered, which is defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as

“An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning: (i) An individual or family 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.”

Of the 1431 unsheltered persons, 1,412 were adults and 19 were accompanied children under age 18.

Of the 11 jurisdictions, four include families with children under age 18. The cities of

- Simi Valley includes one family with three children;
- Oxnard includes three families with seven children consisting of one family with two children, one family with four children, and one family with one child;
- Ventura includes two families with two children consisting of two families with one child;
- Thousand Oaks includes two families with 4 children consisting of one family with three children and one family with one child.
- Unincorporated/County includes two families with 3 children consisting of one family with two children, and one family with one child

Of the ten families, five families were two adult households. Four families had two adults and one child and one family had two adults and three children. Three families were three adult households. Two families had three adults and two children and one family had three adults and four children. One family had five adults and one child. The last family had one adult and three children.

### Surveyed vs Observation

The goal was to survey, meaning to interview, as many adults who were counted about themselves and any children who were living unsheltered with them. Survey questions focused on requirements from HUD and local information desired by the Ventura County Continuum of Care (CoC). The number and percentage of adults surveyed is noted in Table 5.

HUD requires CoCs to report the number of various subpopulations that include chronically homeless individuals and families, persons with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, AIDS or an HIV-related illness, and veterans. The CoC desired local information included a focus on chronic health condition, first time homelessness, foster youth, income, and involvement with the justice system.

Counters surveyed 933 adults that answered questions about themselves and the 17 children living unsheltered with them. Thus, survey information was collected for 950 persons. The survey included questions about gender, age, race, ethnicity, and length of time homeless for adults and children. Other questions about disability, health, mental health, substance use, income, and veteran status pertained only to adults.

Persons were observed and not surveyed if volunteer counters felt unsafe or an unsheltered person was sleeping. Volunteers were asked to count the person by recording an estimate of the individual’s gender, age, race, and ethnicity. Of the 481 persons observed, 479 were adults and 2 were children.

The observation rate decreased from 57.8% in 2023 to 34% in 2024 with an increased number of volunteer counters countywide. Additional training was offered in January 2024 to review the mobile app and emphasize the importance of full surveys when possible. Full surveys assist with a more accurate count and provide more details with subpopulation data.

Table 5. 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	1412	100

The next table provides a breakdown of the total number and percent of adults surveyed and observed by jurisdiction.

Table 6. Total Number and Percent of Unsheltered **Adults** Surveyed and Observed by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Surveyed		Observed		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Camarillo	58	72.5	22	27.5	80	100
Fillmore	7	53.8	6	46.2	13	100
Moorpark	2	40	3	60	5	100
Ojai	47	87	7	13	54	100
Oxnard	265	62.2	161	37.8	426	100
Port Hueneme	25	56.8	19	43.2	44	100
Santa Paula	60	68.2	28	31.8	88	100
Simi Valley	114	78.1	32	21.9	146	100
Thousand Oaks	117	67.2	57	32.8	174	100
Ventura	187	59.6	127	40.4	314	100
Unincorporated	51	75	17	25	68	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>66.1</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>1412</b>	<b>100</b>

The following four tables focus on gender, ethnicity, race, and age for the 1,431 unsheltered adults and children who were surveyed and observed.

### Gender

The following table provides a breakdown by gender for the 1,412 adults and 19 children under age 18 in families. HUD requires the summary to consist of male, female, transgender, non-binary, questioning, different identity, more than one gender, culturally specific identity, and unknown.

Table 7. Gender for Adults and Children

	Adults		Children in Families	
	#	%	#	%
Male (Boy if child)	987	69.9	10	52.6
Female (Girl if child)	407	28.8	9	47.4
Transgender	7	0.5	0	0
Non-Binary	1	0.1	0	0
Questioning	1	0.1	0	0
Different Identity	0	0	0	0
More Than One Gender	9	0.6	0	0
Culturally Specific Identity (e.g., Two-Spirit)	0	0	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1412</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100</b>

Of the 9 persons that identified as more than one gender, 9 persons identified as both male and female. One person selected female and questioning, one selected female and transgender, and the last person selected male and non-binary.

### Race and Ethnicity

Table 8 provides a breakdown by race and ethnicity for the 1,412 adults and 19 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 8. Ethnicity for Adults and Children

	Adults		Children in Families	
	#	%	#	%
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	21	1.5	1	5.3
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	5	0.4	0	0
Asian or Asian American	16	1.1	0	0
Asian or Asian American & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	1	0.1	0	0



Black, African American, or African	72	5.1	0	0
Black, African American, or African & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	2	0.1	0	0
Hispanic/Latina/e/o	529	37.5	10	52.6
Middle Eastern or North African	1	0.1	0	0
Middle Eastern or North African & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	0	0.0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	5	0.4	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	0	0.0	0	0
White	673	47.7	7	36.8
White & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	53	3.8	0	0
Multi-Racial & Hispanic/Latina/e/o	5	0.4	0	0
Multiple Races (not Hispanic/Latina/e/o)	12	0.8	0	0
Unknown	17	1.2	1	5.3
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,412</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100</b>

Age

Table 10 provides a breakdown by age of the 1,412 adults and 19 children under age 18 in families.

Table 10. Unsheltered Adults and Children by Age

<b>Adults:</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Under Age 18	19	100
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100</b>
Ages 18 – 24	55	3.9
Age 25 – 34	229	16.2
Age 35 – 44	313	22.2
Age 45 – 54	322	22.8
Age 55 – 64	342	24.2
Age 65+	151	10.7
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>1412</b>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>100</b>

Other Subpopulations

Table 11 only includes self-reported responses from the 1,412 adults. The most notable finding concerns chronically homeless adults. Nearly half (48.6%) of adults were chronically homeless in 2023 and nearly half (48.0%) of adults in 2024.

Table 11. Unsheltered Adults by Subpopulations

Subpopulations:	2023		2024		Difference	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Chronically Homeless Adults	787	48.6	678	48	-109	13.9
Families including Chronically Homeless Families	7*	--	10**	--	3	+42.9
Persons w/Chronic Health Conditions	428	26.4	438	31.0	+10	+2.3
Persons w/a Developmental Disability	131	8.1	102	7.2	-29	-22.1
Persons w/HIV/AIDS	10	0.6	9	0.6	-1	-10
Persons w/Mental Health Problems	353	21.8	349	24.7	-4	-1.1
Persons w/a Physical Disability	334	20.6	346	24.5	+12	+3.6
Substance Users	599	37.0	422	29.9	-177	-29.5
Veterans***	134	8.3	69	4.9	-63	-49
Experiencing Homelessness Because Fleeing Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking	99	6.1	237	16.8	-138	-139

\*In 2023, seven families consisted of 22 persons of which 9 were adults and 13 were children, none of whom were chronically homeless.

\*\*In 2024, 10 families consisted of 44 persons of which 25 were adults and 19 were children. Of the 10 families, 5 were chronically homeless and include 14 adults and 10 children.

Other Survey Questions

**Did you become homeless for the first time in the last 12 months?**

The next chart shows that the percentage of unsheltered adults who became homeless for the first time during the past 12 months is decreasing. Nearly one-fourth (24%) of unsheltered adults in 2020, nearly one-third (32%) in 2022, more than one-third (39%) in 2023 and less than one-fourth in 2024 (17%).

Additional resources for homelessness prevention have been dedicated through the State of California and Ventura County Continuum of Care. The rental assistance, utility assistance and landlord engagement have provided more stability for many households who were at risk of homelessness during program year 2023.

Chart 3

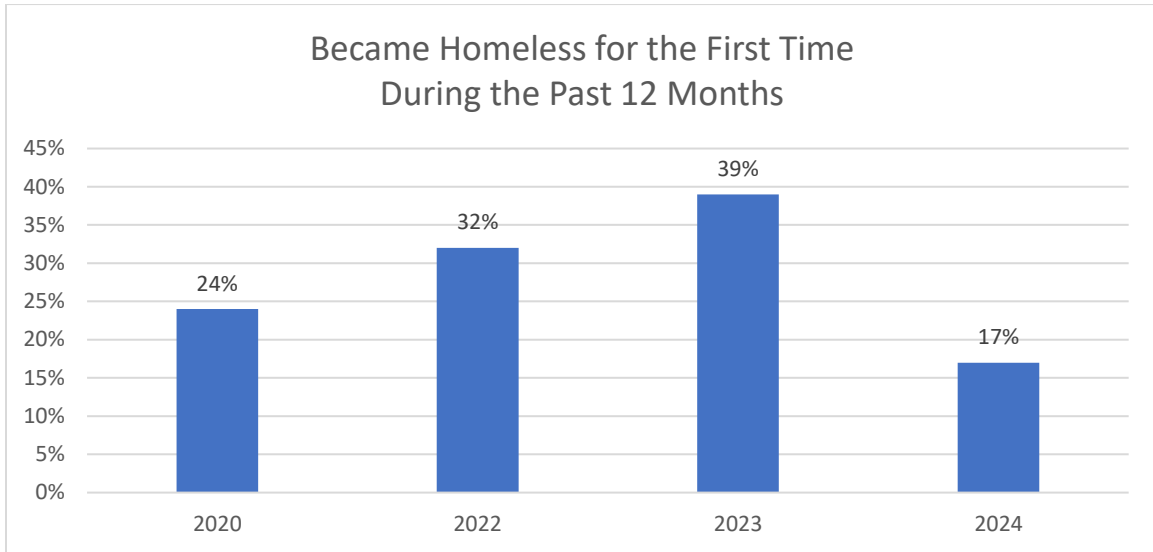


Table 12. Other Survey Questions

Demographic Information	n=1,412	
	Number	Percent
Are you a current or former foster youth?	61	4.3
Do you have a chronic health condition?	285	20.2
Do you have any family or friends that you would like to reconnect with even if you do not currently know how to reach them?	155	11.0
Do you receive disability benefits?	113	8.0
Do you remember the address of the place you were living before you became homeless this time?	408	28.9
Have you been released from jail or prison in the last 12 months?	191	13.5
How long have you been homeless this time?		
0 to 3 months	71	5.0
4 to 6 months	75	5.3
7 to 11 months	52	3.7
12 to 23 months	102	7.2
24 to 35 months	78	5.5
36 months or more	473	33.5
Unknown	561	39.8
Total:	1,412	100

Table 12. (cont.)

<b>Demographic Information</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
How long in months have you been in this community?		
0 to 3 months	78	5.5
4 to 6 months	51	3.6
7 to 11 months	32	2.3
12 to 23 months	58	4.1
24 to 35 months	52	3.7
36 months or more	558	39.5
Unknown	583	41.3
Total:	1,412	100
How much is your monthly income?		
No Income	458	32.4
\$1 - \$500	104	7.4
\$501 - \$1,000	87	6.2
More than \$1,000	143	10.1
Unknown	620	43.9
Total:	1,412	100
Where were you sleeping on the night of the Count?		
Abandoned building	20	1.4
Bus, train station, airport	9	0.6
Outdoor encampment	294	20.8
Park	59	4.2
Street or sidewalk	207	14.7
Under bridge/overpass	18	1.3
Vehicle/boat/RV	292	20.7
Other	41	2.9
Unknown	472	33.4
Total:	1,412	100

## Next Steps: Implementing Recommendations to End Homelessness

The Ventura County Continuum of Care (VC CoC) Board approved the following recommendations in April 2024 to prevent and end homelessness in Ventura County. These recommendations are aligned with the Ventura County Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness which was adopted by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in December 2023. The full plan can be found on the VC CoC website [here](#):

The following recommendations were approved by the VC CoC Board for 2024:

1. Achieve functional zero with homeless veterans in 2024 in collaboration with Veteran Affairs and local veteran service providers;
2. Further the efforts to end homelessness among unsheltered youth with the expansion of new transitional housing programs for transitional-age-youth (18-24);
3. Reduce the number of chronically homeless adults by 2024 with the addition of new permanent supportive housing units;
4. Encourage each jurisdiction to review their 2024 unsheltered homeless count and ensure alignment with local strategies to reduce unsheltered homelessness;
5. Expand the efforts of the Ventura County Continuum of Care Workgroup partnering with people with lived experience to solicit feedback and provide recommendations;
6. Reduce the number of first time homeless households by expanding homelessness prevention programs and implementing diversion strategies;
7. Leverage resources to prioritize or increase supportive services for housing retention.