



CONNECT

COLLABORATE

CULTIVATE

WWW.TCHELPSPOT.ORG

COMMUNITY REPORT ON HOMELESSNESS

**2026
POINT
INTIME**



772-213-9040
2525 ST. LUCIE AVE
VERO BEACH, FL
32960

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report brings together data from multiple systems that operate under different federal definitions, with the goal of providing a clearer and more complete picture of homelessness across the tri-county region of Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin counties. The Point-in-Time (*PIT*) Count reflects the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (*HUD*) definition of *literal homelessness*, capturing individuals who are sheltered or unsheltered on a single night in January.

In contrast, public school districts identify homelessness under the U.S. Department of Education's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which includes students and families experiencing housing instability, such as those living temporarily with others ("doubled up") due to economic hardship. Both perspectives are essential to understanding the true scale and complexity of housing instability affecting children, families, and individuals on the Treasure Coast.

Public schools are required to provide a student housing questionnaire to parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth at the start of the school year (*and as needed throughout the school year*) to help identify children and youth whose living situations may be unstable and who may qualify for additional supports. Numbers reset at the beginning of each school year and are closed out at the end of the school year. This means there is some uncertainty of outcomes for families during summer break. The numbers included in this report are specifically for students, meaning that the totals are likely double (*or even triple*) when accounting for 1-2 parents/guardians also residing in the same household.

The PIT Count is conducted during a single 24-hour timeframe and oftentimes does not capture the full scale of homelessness in our region. Many individuals may not be included in the count if:

- Volunteers could not find them
- They were residing in an area too unsafe for Volunteers to enter
- They had a hotel for the night
- They are 'couch-surfing'
- They are staying in a vehicle and were mobile the day of the count
- They were displaced from their encampment during the day

Fluctuations in these numbers are expected when conducting a single-day count designed to provide a snapshot of the current state of homelessness across our region. As outreach efforts have been expanded and strengthened, teams have made deeper connections within the community, identifying individuals and encampments that were previously unseen or uncounted. Based on the data included in this report, it is estimated that **as many as 6,000 individuals may be experiencing housing instability on the Treasure Coast**, underscoring the magnitude of need beyond what is captured in a single Point-in-Time count.

General Information

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered literally homeless persons on a single night in January. Homeless Services Council conducted its 2026 Point in Time Count on **January 29, 2026**. To be counted in the PIT count, individuals must be literally homeless (sleeping on the street, in a car, in the woods, in camp, etc.) or sheltered (emergency shelter, transitional shelter, hotel paid for by an Agency). There was a total of 26 agencies that surveyed unsheltered homeless individuals during the PIT count and a total of 9 agencies that reported sheltered homeless individuals.

2026 Homeless Data

On January 29, 2026, there were a total of **574 individuals (406 adults and 168 children)** who were counted as homeless on the Treasure Coast. These numbers show a **0.8% increase** from the 2025 PIT count.

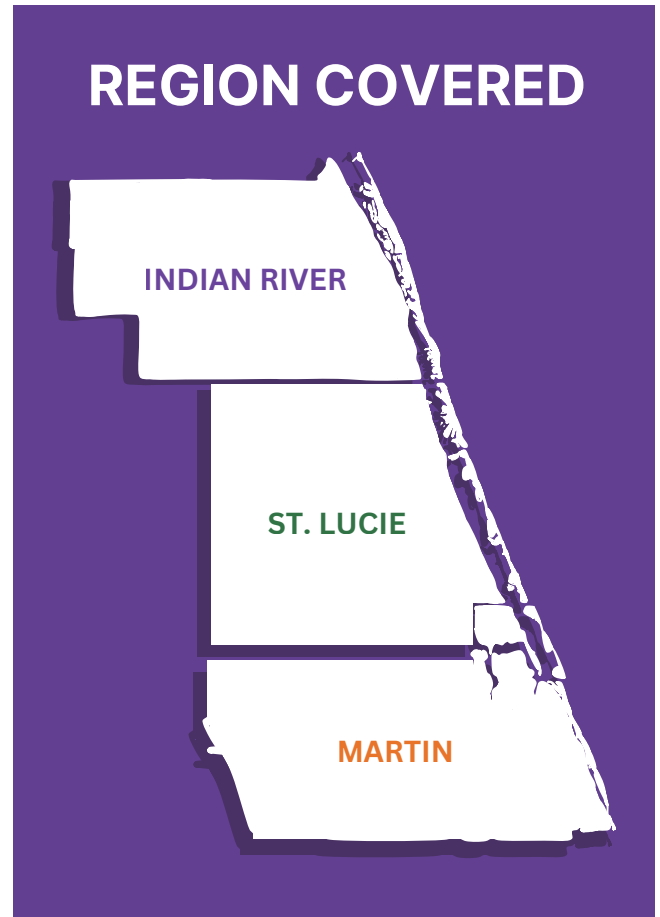
Residing In the Housing of Others

Additional individuals temporarily staying with family or friends because of economic reasons are not considered literally homeless by HUD definitions. An additional **2,488 students** were reported as doubled up by participating agencies during the Point in Time count. This is down from 2,743 during 2025, which is a **9% decrease** over last year's numbers.

Methods

The Point in Time (PIT) numbers reflect the official homeless numbers, as reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by the Continuum of Care. We utilize street outreach teams, service organizations, school homeless liaisons, and shelter programs to provide a count of individuals who meet HUD's definition of homelessness, counted on one specific day in the last 10 days of January. For validation purposes, we have deleted any duplicates and double checked the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to verify program enrollment on the day of the count. This method of counting has been utilized for all homeless data provided by this Continuum of Care and is an accurate way to show trends in homelessness.

HOMELESSNESS ON THE TREASURE COAST



HUD / PIT COUNT	McKinney-Vento (Schools)
Snapshots one night in January	Identified throughout the school year
Literal homelessness only (HUD defined)	Broader definition of homelessness
Sheltered & unsheltered	Includes doubled-up situations
Used for housing funding	Used to ensure educational stability

WHO IS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?



406

Adults are experiencing literal homelessness

315

are unsheltered, and

43

are Veterans



2,488

Children under the age of 18 are living 'doubled-up'

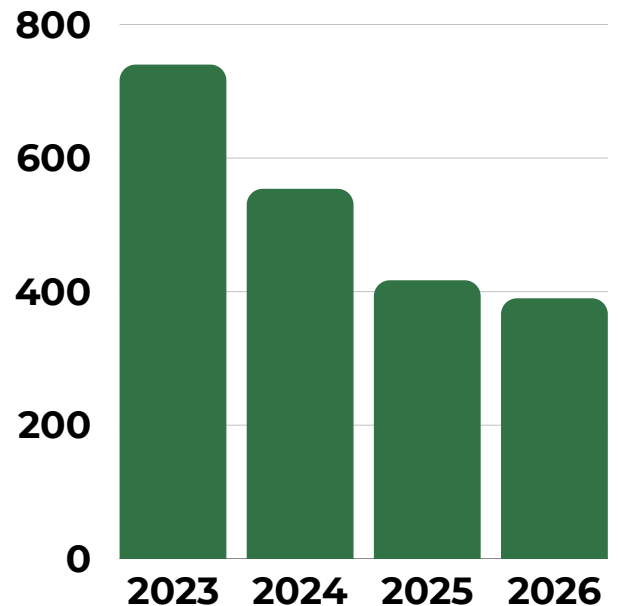
168

are experiencing literal homelessness, and

75

are unsheltered

Unsheltered homelessness through the years



HOMELESSNESS FACT SHEET

FL-509 - INDIAN RIVER, ST. LUCIE & MARTIN COUNTIES

These numbers represent the number of sheltered or unsheltered literally homeless individuals. These numbers are based on those individuals seeking or receiving services or interviewed in camp sites, feeding sites, and other locations on one single day. **An additional 2,488 individuals residing in the housing of others were not included in PIT totals;** however, under the McKinney-Vento Act, these “doubled-up” situations are considered homelessness, reflecting significant housing instability and a broader level of need within the community.

TOTAL HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

	FEBRUARY 20, 2025	JANUARY 29, 2026	DIFFERENCE	%
ADULTS	416	406	(10)	-2.4%
CHILDREN	153	168	+15	+9.8%
TOTAL	569	574	+5	+.08%

VETERAN STATUS

(self-reported and not verified during the PIT count)

VETERANS	24	43	+19	+79%
-----------------	----	----	-----	------

2026 SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED

	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
ADULTS	91	315	406
CHILDREN	93	75	168
TOTAL	184	390	574

HOMELESSNESS FACT SHEET

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

These numbers represent the number of sheltered or unsheltered literally homeless individuals in Indian River County. These numbers are based on those individuals seeking or receiving services or interviewed in camp sites, feeding sites, and other locations on one single day. **An additional 327 individuals residing in the housing of others were not included in PIT totals;** however, under the McKinney-Vento Act, these “doubled-up” situations are considered homelessness, reflecting significant housing instability and a broader level of need within the community.

TOTAL HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

	FEBRUARY 20, 2025	JANUARY 29, 2026	DIFFERENCE	%
ADULTS	131	130	(1)	-0.7%
CHILDREN	67	68	+1	+1%
TOTAL	198	198	0	0%

VETERAN STATUS

(self-reported and not verified during the PIT count)

VETERANS	4	15	+11	+275%
-----------------	---	----	-----	-------

2026 SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED

	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
ADULTS	39	91	130
CHILDREN	42	26	68
TOTAL	81	117	198

HOMELESSNESS FACT SHEET

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

These numbers represent the number of sheltered or unsheltered literally homeless individuals in St. Lucie County. These numbers are based on those individuals seeking or receiving services or interviewed in camp sites, feeding sites, and other locations on one single day. **An additional 1,614 individuals residing in the housing of others were not included in PIT totals;** however, under the McKinney-Vento Act, these “doubled-up” situations are considered homelessness, reflecting significant housing instability and a broader level of need within the community.

TOTAL HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

	FEBRUARY 20, 2025	JANUARY 29, 2026	DIFFERENCE	%
ADULTS	132	124	(8)	-6%
CHILDREN	43	40	(3)	-6.9%
TOTAL	175	164	(11)	-6.2%

VETERAN STATUS

(self-reported and not verified during the PIT count)

VETERANS	10	19	(+9)	+90%
-----------------	----	----	------	------

2026 SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED

	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
ADULTS	19	105	124
CHILDREN	10	30	40
TOTAL	29	135	164

HOMELESSNESS FACT SHEET

MARTIN COUNTY

These numbers represent the number of sheltered or unsheltered literally homeless individuals in Martin County. These numbers are based on those individuals seeking or receiving services or interviewed in camp sites, feeding sites, and other locations on one single day. **An additional 547 individuals residing in the housing of others were not included in PIT totals;** however, under the McKinney-Vento Act, these “doubled-up” situations are considered homelessness, reflecting significant housing instability and a broader level of need within the community.

TOTAL HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

	FEBRUARY 20, 2025	JANUARY 29, 2026	DIFFERENCE	%
ADULTS	153	152	(1)	-0.6%
CHILDREN	43	60	17	+39.5%
TOTAL	196	212	+16	+8.1%

VETERAN STATUS

(self-reported and not verified during the PIT count)

VETERANS	10	9	-1	-10%
-----------------	----	---	----	------

2026 SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED

	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED	TOTAL
ADULTS	33	119	152
CHILDREN	41	19	60
TOTAL	74	138	212



THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 PIT PARTNERS

AREA AGENCY ON AGING
CAREERSOURCE RESEARCH COAST
CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY
CITY OF FORT PIERCE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE
CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE POLICE
CITY OF SEBASTIAN
CITY OF SEBASTIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMPASSION HOUSE
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT
FRANK NOLAN
FAMILY PROMISE OF MARTIN COUNTY
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
HOPE FOR FAMILIES CENTER
HOUSE OF HOPE
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
LOAVES AND FISHES
LOVE AND HOPE IN ACTION
MARTIN COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
MARTIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MUSTARD SEED MINISTRIES
NEW HORIZONS OF THE TREASURE COAST
REACH CHURCH
RITELIFE SERVICES
SAFESPACE, INC.
SALVATION ARMY (IRC, SLC, MC)
SAMARITAN CENTER
ST. LUCIE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ST. LUCIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ST. LUCIE CO. COMMUNITY SERVICES
ST. VINCENT DEPAUL
TENT CITY HELPERS
UNITED AGAINST POVERTY (IRC/SLC)
UNITED WAY OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
VETERAN SERVICES OFFICES (IRC, SLC, MC)
WEST PALM BEACH DEPT. OF VETERAN
AFFAIRS
WESTSIDE CHURCH

QUESTIONS
PIT@TCHHELPSPOT.ORG



MOVING FORWARD

WHY IT MATTERS

- ✓ Critical snapshot of local homelessness
- ✓ Strengthen community-wide response
- ✓ Identify service gaps
- ✓ Guide funding decisions

WHAT'S NEXT

- ✓ Enhance partner coordination
- ✓ Decrease housing instability
- ✓ Expand housing solutions
- ✓ Refine strategies

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Increasing tri-county outreach activities
- ✓ Growing tri-county housing inventory
- ✓ Creating new Veteran shelter space
- ✓ Expanding funding initiatives

GET INVOLVED →

