



2026 MAUI COUNTY POINT IN TIME COUNT TOPLINE REPORT

2026 PIT data

OVERVIEW

Every January, counties across the nation carry out the Homeless Point in Time (PIT) Count in their respective jurisdictions. The PIT Count is an annual survey of people experiencing homelessness on a given night.

Bridging the Gap (BTG), which represents Hawai'i County, Maui County, and Kaua'i County, is the Neighbor Islands Continuum of Care (CoC). As Hawai'i's balance-of-state CoC, BTG serves as the local planning body designed to promote a community-wide commitment to end homelessness. Autonomous PIT Counts are conducted in each county, and the data are analyzed and aggregated for total rural county results. Major findings are reported in the annual funding application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

This year, teams on Maui canvassed parks, beaches, and other areas, asking people where they slept on the night of January 25, 2026. This federally mandated survey seeks to count people who slept on the street, in a vehicle, in an encampment, or in other areas not meant for human habitation. Sheltered homelessness is counted through data collected from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and provider census data for January 25. While the PIT Count does not capture every person experiencing homelessness, it provides a one-night snapshot of homelessness on Maui. The data are compared county to county and year to year to help stakeholders understand homelessness in their districts.

BTG did not conduct an unsheltered count in 2025, so full PIT comparisons in this topline report use 2024 as the prior full PIT year. The 2025 data are included only for sheltered comparisons.

MAUI COUNTY STATISTICS AND TRENDS

Maui County recorded 651 people experiencing homelessness in the 2026 PIT Count, compared with 654 people in the last full PIT Count in 2024. Although the overall total changed only slightly, the composition shifted substantially. Sheltered homelessness decreased from 369 to 253 people, while unsheltered homelessness increased from 285 to 398 people.

The 2024 unsheltered number should be read within the post-wildfire non-congregate shelter environment. Because non-congregate shelter at hotels did not initially have a screening process, some people who otherwise may have been counted as unsheltered may have sought shelter in those settings. The 2026 increase in unsheltered homelessness should therefore be interpreted in this context, rather than as a simple two-year trend line.

Although the 2026 data did not show a clear trend of wildfire-impacted individuals being counted as unsheltered, the 2023 wildfires continue to shape Maui’s homelessness response. The fires intensified an already constrained housing market by reducing available housing inventory, increasing competition for rental units, and contributing to higher housing costs. These conditions make it harder for providers to move individuals and families from shelter or unsheltered settings into permanent housing as quickly as they otherwise might. Therefore, the increase in unsheltered homelessness should be understood alongside both shelter operating changes and the broader post-wildfire housing market.

The decrease in Maui sheltered homelessness should also be read in the context of several shelter operating changes rather than as a stand-alone decrease in need. On the night of the count, Ka Hale A Ke Ola (KHAKO) reported 71 percent occupancy, with nine units temporarily off-line. Ho`olanani also transitioned locations and restructured to a unit-based model. In addition, Pu`uhonua o Nene, which had been opened after the wildfires as a temporary emergency shelter and was included in prior sheltered counts, closed in December 2025. These factors likely reduced the number of people counted in shelter on PIT night and may have contributed to the increase in the unsheltered count.

2026 SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED DATA

Year	Maui Total	Sheltered #	Sheltered %	Unsheltered #	Unsheltered %
2018	873	399	45.7%	474	54.3%
2019	862	420	48.7%	442	51.3%
2020	789	375	47.5%	414	52.5%
2021	N/A	346	N/A	N/A	N/A
2022	741	305	41.2%	436	58.8%
2023	704	317	45.0%	387	55.0%
2024	654	369	56.4%	285	43.6%
2025	N/A	332	N/A	N/A	N/A
2026	651	253	38.9%	398	61.1%

Table 1: Maui Sheltered and Unsheltered Summary, 2018-2026. 2025 includes sheltered count only because no unsheltered count was conducted.

Overall homelessness was essentially flat compared with the last full PIT Count, decreasing by three people from 654 in 2024 to 651 in 2026. Sheltered homelessness fell by 116 people, while unsheltered homelessness increased by 113 people, reflecting a 39.6 percent increase in the unsheltered count over the two-year period.

2026 HOUSEHOLD CONFIGURATION

Category	Maui Total	Sheltered #	Sheltered %	Unsheltered #	Unsheltered %
Individuals	423	76	18.0%	347	82.0%
Family Individuals	228	177	77.6%	51	22.4%
Adults in Families	107	86	80.4%	21	19.6%
Children in Families	121	91	75.2%	30	24.8%
All Individuals	651	253	38.9%	398	61.1%
Family Households	61	47	77.0%	14	23.0%

Table 2: 2026 Maui Sheltered and Unsheltered Household Configuration Summary.

Most single individuals counted in 2026 were unsheltered, with 347 of 423 individuals, or 82.0 percent, counted in unsheltered settings. Family homelessness increased slightly, from 59 family households in 2024 to 61 in 2026. Unsheltered family households increased from 10 to 14, and the number of children in unsheltered families increased from 14 to 30.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Sheltered homelessness: Maui’s sheltered count decreased from 369 in 2024 to 253 in 2026. Compared with the 2025 sheltered-only count, sheltered homelessness fell by 79 people, from 332 to 253. This reduction appears to be driven in part by changes in shelter capacity, operations, and program availability.

Temporary shelter closure: Pu`uhonua o Nene opened in September 2023 as a temporary emergency shelter for pre-disaster homeless individuals impacted by the wildfires and later opened to anyone experiencing homelessness. The shelter closed in December 2025. At closure, 60 participants were residing there; 32 were placed in permanent housing, while others moved to transitional settings, group homes, or other placements, and some returned to an unsheltered setting. Because this shelter was no longer operating during the 2026 PIT, the 2026 sheltered count no longer reflects that temporary capacity.

Shelter model changes: Ho`olanani transitioned from a congregate shelter model to a unit-based family shelter. The new configuration cannot serve the same number of people at one time as the former congregate model; however, it provides a more home-like setting where families can build tenancy skills and prepare for permanent housing. Ho`olanani has emphasized focused case management, shorter lengths of stay, and movement from shelter to permanent housing within approximately 60 to 90 days.

Shelter maintenance and operations: On the night of the count, KHAKO reported 71 percent occupancy. Nine units were temporarily off-line, including six under maintenance, two reserved for intake, and one two-bedroom unit being scheduled for intake. This level of occupancy should

be understood within the normal operating realities of emergency shelter programs. Shelters operate in a constant-use environment, with units turning over as participants exit to housing, transfer to another setting, or leave the program. To maintain a safe and sanitary environment, units cannot always be refilled immediately. Providers must allow time for cleaning, repairs, pest treatment when needed, safety checks, and preparation of the space before the next household or individual can be admitted.

As a result, a shelter may appear to have available capacity on a single night while still being constrained by maintenance, turnover, intake scheduling, staffing, or unit configuration needs. This is especially true for family shelters and unit-based programs, where the size and composition of each household must match the available unit type. Temporary unit closures are a necessary part of shelter operations and help ensure that the next participant enters a safe and appropriate living environment.

Taken together, these shelter changes help explain why Maui can show a lower sheltered count at the same time that the unsheltered count increased. The PIT Count reflects a one-night census and can be affected by temporary unit availability, closure of temporary emergency shelter capacity, and changes in shelter design. These factors do not necessarily indicate reduced demand for shelter; rather, they suggest that fewer shelter beds or units were available or occupied in ways that counted as emergency shelter on the night of the count.

MAUI HOMELESS SUBPOPULATIONS

Subpopulation	2024	2025	2026	Change from 2024 to 2026
Chronically homeless individuals	182	N/A	220	+38 (+20.9%)
Chronically homeless families	5	N/A	4	-1 (-20.0%)
Veterans	15	N/A	23	+8 (+53.3%)
Serious mental illness	210	N/A	203	-7 (-3.3%)
Chronic substance use	165	N/A	209	+44 (+26.7%)
HIV/AIDS	1	N/A	2	+1 (+100.0%)

Table 3: Selected Maui Homeless Subpopulations. 2025 values are not shown where they require an unsheltered count.

Maui continues to collect data on the subpopulations above. Chronic homelessness among individuals increased from 182 in 2024 to 220 in 2026, while chronically homeless families decreased from five to four. Veteran homelessness increased from 15 veterans in 2024 to 23 in 2026, and the unsheltered veteran count rose from 11 to 17. Chronic substance use also increased, from 165 people in 2024 to 209 in 2026, while serious mental illness decreased slightly from 210 to 203.

These data point to the continued need for intensive outreach, housing-focused case management, behavioral health supports, substance use services, and permanent supportive housing for people with the deepest needs.

REGIONAL SUMMARY

Region	2024 Unsheltered People	2026 Unsheltered People	Change
Central Maui	97	186	+89 (+91.8%)
Lower Waiehu	30	33	+3 (+10.0%)
Up Country	31	25	-6 (-19.4%)
Lahaina	82	78	-4 (-4.9%)
Kihei	45	57	+12 (+26.7%)
Hana	0	0	N/A
Moloka`i	N/A	19	New region in 2026
All Regions	285	398	+113 (+39.6%)

Table 4: Maui Unsheltered Individuals by Region, 2024 and 2026.

Maui unsheltered homelessness appears to have shifted geographically. Central Maui accounted for the largest increase, rising from 97 unsheltered people in 2024 to 186 in 2026. Kihei also increased, from 45 to 57. Lahaina and Up Country decreased modestly, while Moloka`i was added as a new region in 2026 with 19 unsheltered people counted.

COMMUNITY ACTIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

Maui Homeless Alliance supports the following community actions:

1. BUILD, ACQUIRE, AND PRESERVE AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Increase deeply affordable housing, especially for households at or below 30 percent of Area Median Income. Without additional affordable housing, the flow from homelessness into housing becomes stagnant and length of homelessness increases.

2. INCREASE PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING: Expand housing linked with supportive services for people with disabling conditions and long histories of homelessness. Stable housing and ongoing support are essential for people with the greatest needs.

3. MAINTAIN RAPID RE-HOUSING AND LONG-TERM RENTAL SUBSIDIES: Continue rapid re-housing, housing navigation, flexible assistance, and rental subsidies that help people exit homelessness and remain housed, especially in Maui’s competitive post-wildfire rental market.

4. EXPAND HOMELESS PREVENTION AND DIVERSION: Strengthen diversion and prevention so families and individuals can avoid homelessness when safe alternatives exist. Prevention resources are critical as housing costs remain high and rental options remain limited.

5. EXPAND STREET OUTREACH AND SHELTER TRANSITIONS: Increase outreach coverage, especially in Central Maui, and strengthen transitions after temporary shelter closure and lower-capacity unit-based models. Street outreach is often the first connection to housing, health care, documentation, and other critical services.