

Tri-County Three Year PIT Analysis

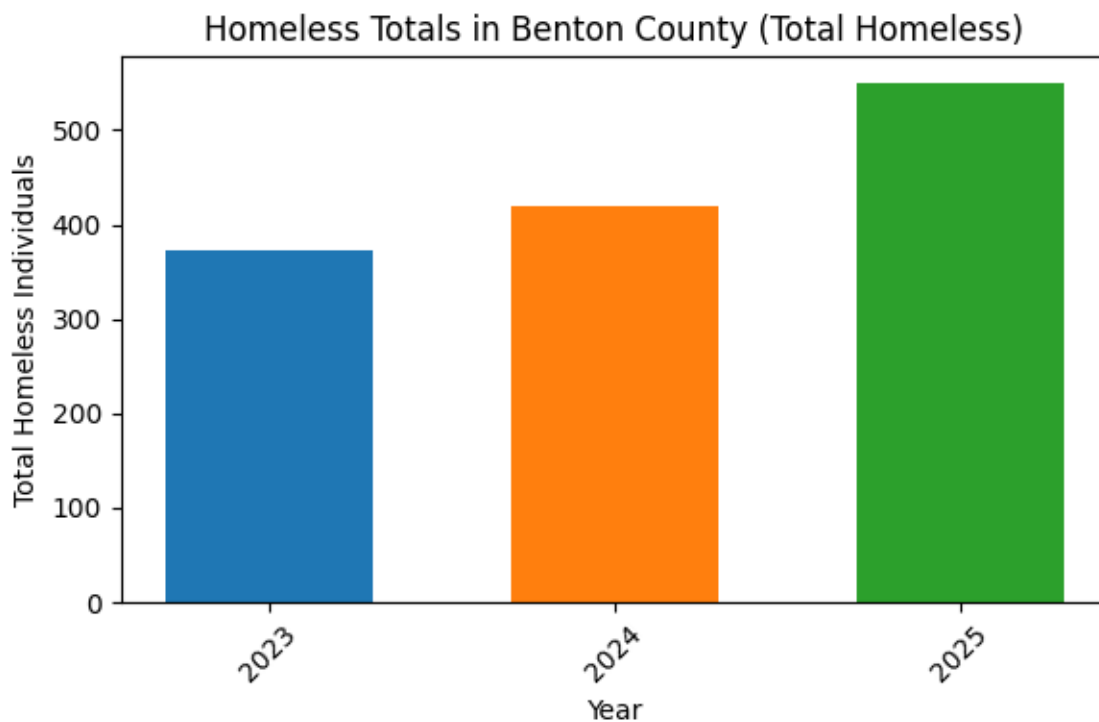
Benton, Lincoln, and Linn Counties

2023-2025

County Level Highlights

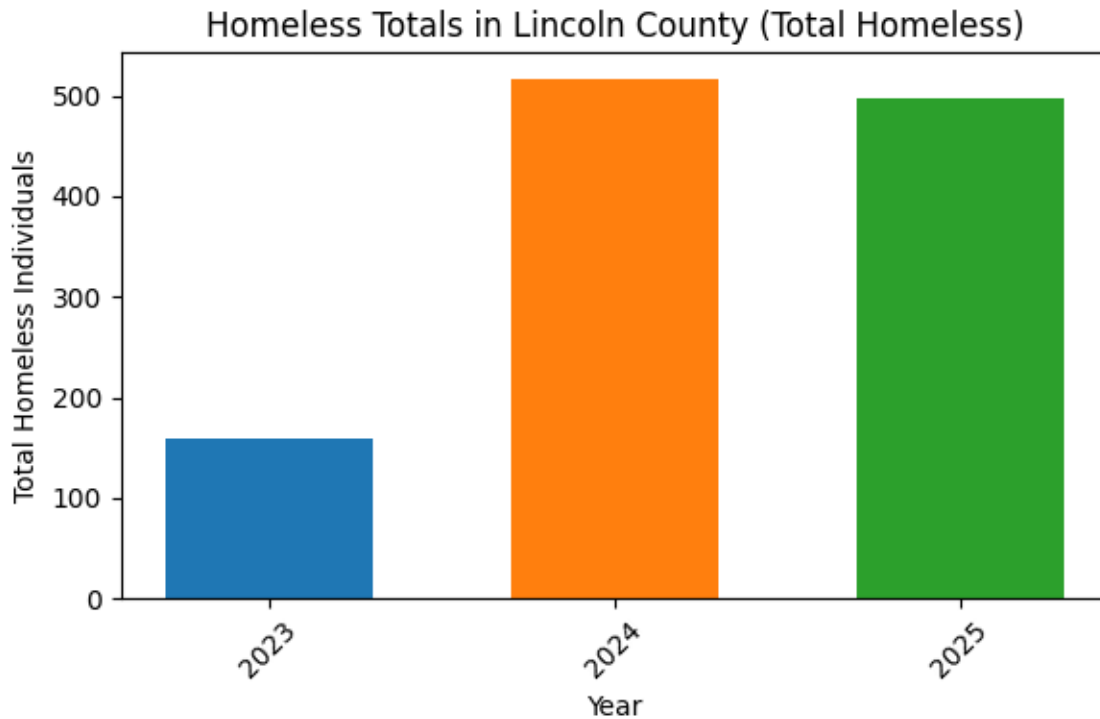
Benton County

- Trend: Steady increase from 372 (2023) to 550 (2025)
- Key Finding: Sheltered numbers dipped in 2024 but surged in 2025.
- The spike in unsheltered individuals in 2024 suggests a temporary strain on shelter capacity. The 2025 increase in sheltered individuals may reflect expanded services or emergency response.
- Recommendation: Expand shelter capacity and early intervention programs
- Forecast: ~680 by 2026



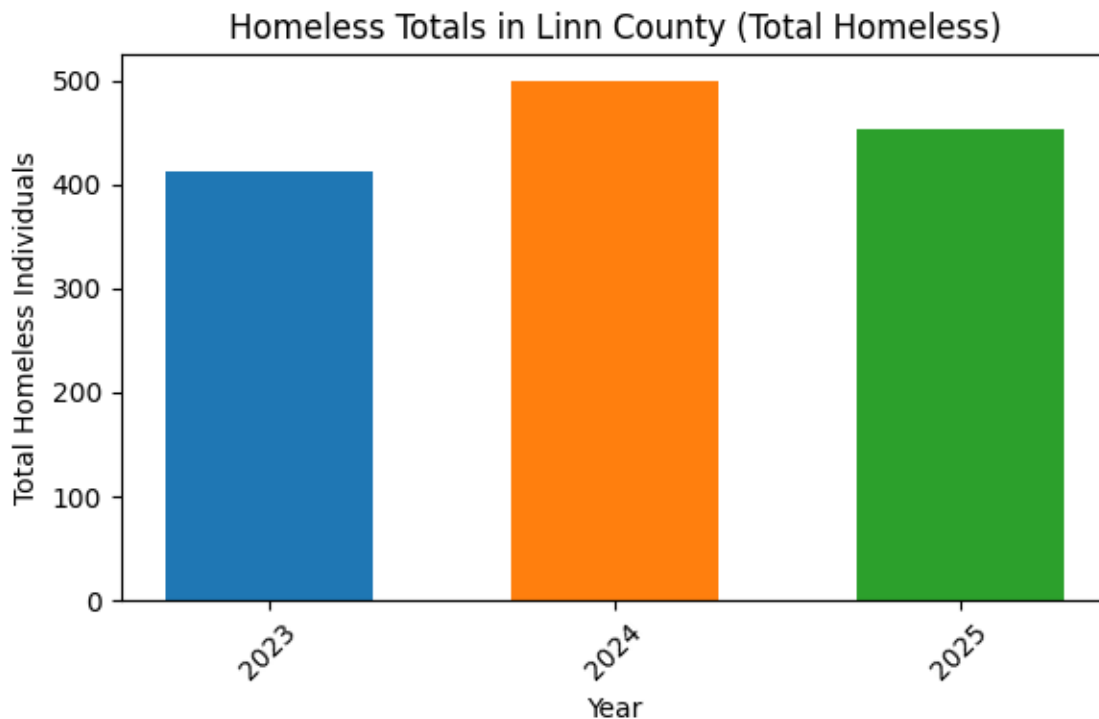
Lincoln County

- Trend: Sharp spike in 2024 (517), slight decline in 2025 (498)
- Key Finding: 2025 saw a slight decline but numbers remained high.
- The near-equal split between sheltered and unsheltered in 2025 suggests balanced service access. The near-equal split between sheltered and unsheltered in 2025 suggests balanced service access.
- Recommendation: Investigate 2024 spike causes, strengthen transitional housing
- Forecast: ~510 by 2026



Linn County

- Trend: Peak in 2024 (500), decline in 2025 (454)
- Key Finding: Homelessness peaked in 2024, then declined in 2025. Linn County may be benefiting from successful outreach or rehousing programs. The decline in unsheltered individuals is a positive sign, but overall numbers remain high. Continued investment in shelter and housing support is essential.
- Recommendation: Sustain shelter access, invest in rapid rehousing
- Forecast: ~470 by 2026



Cross-County Summary

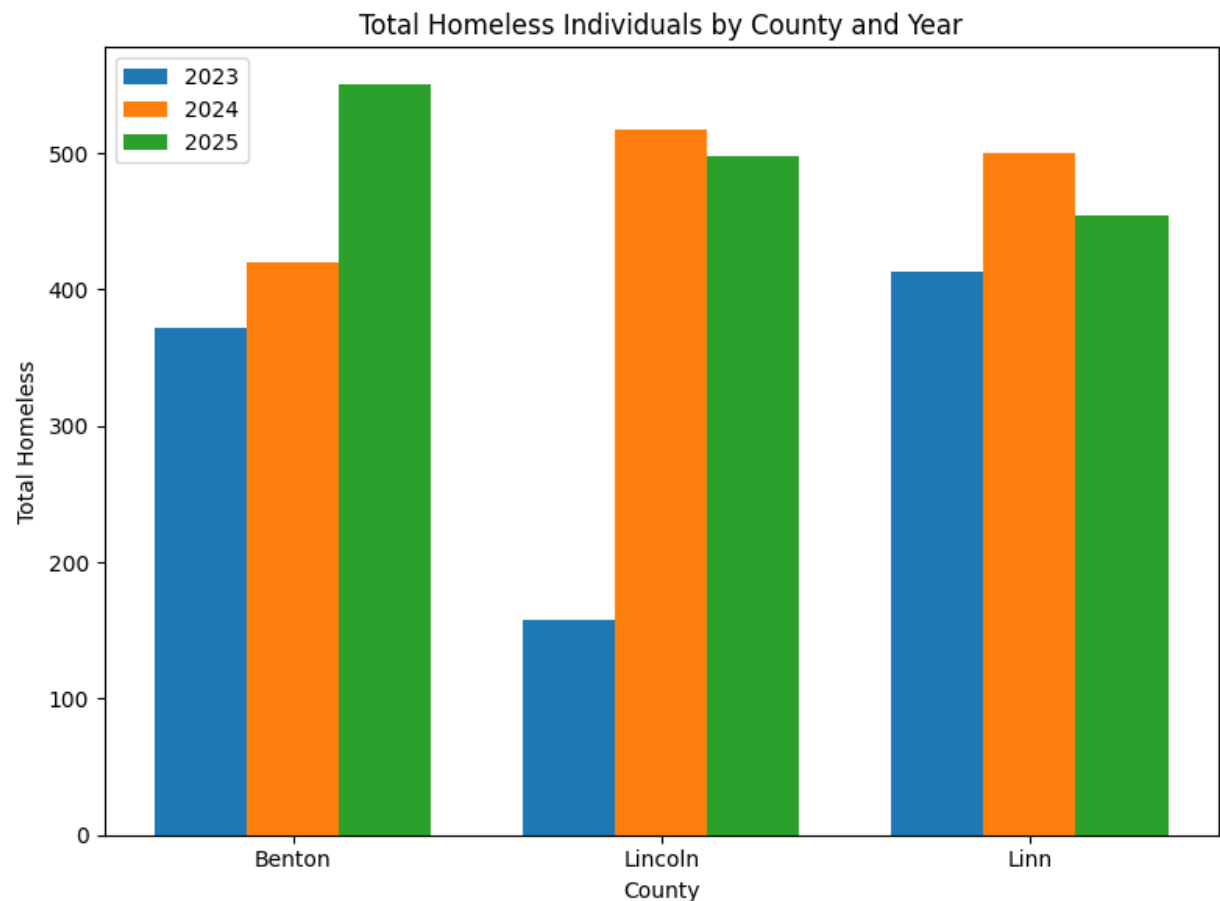
- Sheltered populations are rising across all counties
- Unsheltered spikes in Lincoln and Linn Counties in 2024 suggest systemic vulnerabilities
- Benton County shows consistent growth, indicating a sustained need

Future Predictions

- Next crisis window: Likely within 1–2 years if housing and economic pressures persist
- Projected 2026 totals:
 - Benton: ~680
 - Lincoln: ~510
 - Linn: ~470

Combined County Overview

- All three counties show rising homelessness from 2023 to 2025.



Key Findings

- Sheltered populations are increasing, indicating improved access or expanded services.
- Unsheltered spikes in Lincoln and Linn Counties suggest systemic vulnerabilities.
- Benton County’s consistent growth points to a sustained and growing need.

Recommendations

- Benton: Expand shelter infrastructure and early intervention programs.
- Lincoln: Investigate 2024 spike causes; balance emergency and transitional housing.
- Linn: Sustain shelter access and invest in rapid rehousing and outreach.

Forecasts for Next Total Increase in Homeless Population (2026-2028)

County	2026	2027	2028
Benton	590	635	682
Lincoln	540	630	721
Linn	470	498	527

Key Contributing Factors

1. Rising Housing Costs & Limited Affordable Housing
 - The steady increase in both sheltered and unsheltered populations suggests that more individuals and families are being priced out of stable housing.
 - Lack of affordable rental units and long waitlists for subsidized housing have likely pushed more people into homelessness.
2. Economic Stress
 - Factors such as unemployment, underemployment, and stagnant wages may have reduced people's ability to maintain housing.
 - The sharp spike in Lincoln County in 2024 could reflect a local economic disruption, such as job losses or industry shifts.
3. Insufficient Shelter Capacity
 - The rise in unsheltered individuals, especially in 2024, points to a gap between the need for emergency shelter and available beds.
 - Benton County's increase in sheltered individuals in 2025 may reflect a reactive expansion of services following prior strain.
4. Mental Health and Substance Use Challenges
 - While not explicitly listed in the data, these are commonly associated with chronic homelessness and may be contributing to the unsheltered population growth.
5. Youth and Family Homelessness
 - The data shows consistent numbers of youth-only and family households experiencing homelessness, indicating that intergenerational poverty and family instability are ongoing issues.