

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Links:**

- [High-resolution photos of Father Joe's Villages](#)
- [2024 monthly reports](#)
- December [monthly report](#) and [video](#)

## **2023 vs. 2024: Encounters for Substance Use Treatment Nearly Double at Father Joe's Villages Health Center**

- *Organization's final 2024 counts illustrate a significant need for unhoused neighbors, with encounters for substance use disorder treatment growing from 2,106 in 2023 to 4,043 in 2024*
- *With the prevalence of dangerous street drugs like fentanyl putting hundreds of vulnerable San Diegans at risk of overdose, this year, Father Joe's Villages is deepening its support, opening a new sober shelter and a detox center*

**WHAT:**

[Father Joe's Villages](#) released final figures for its 2024 homeless services. [These monthly reports](#) include total neighbors served, demographics, and exits to housing, as well as counts for its Village Health Center's treatments such as dental, medical and substance use recovery. Encounters from those seeking substance use treatments surged from 2023 to 2024. Labeled as Transformative Recovery Services, the charity recorded nearly double the encounters this past year, with 4,043 in 2024, compared to 2,106 in 2023, about a 90% increase.

None of the other medical and behavioral health services provided at the Village Health Center saw this growth, with the second highest being dental services at about a 50% increase.

Father Joe's Villages' substance use disorder program provides unhoused neighbors with treatment plans, counseling sessions, and daily groups that cover topics like coping strategies and relapse prevention. The organization's state-certified program, however, is one piece of a broader solution. This year, Father Joe's Villages is deepening its support of people struggling with substance abuse:

- On New Year's Day, Father Joe's Villages opened a new sober shelter with 250 beds. The sober-living environment promotes positive relationships and purpose for individuals working to end their homelessness as quickly as possible.
- In April, [the charity will inaugurate a detox center](#) with 44 beds specifically tailored to those experiencing substance use disorder.

#### WHY:

Father Joe's Villages issues monthly reports that offer a snapshot of how people in need use its services. This helps the organization allocate resources to meet the needs of the communities it serves.

As the toll of fentanyl rises throughout San Diego County, unhoused neighbors remain especially vulnerable. In the past two years, fatal overdoses represented a large number of deaths on the street, with 60% in 2023 and 44% in 2024 of total deaths attributed to this cause.

#### QUOTE:

"Everyone deserves the right to confront their substance use challenges and change their lives, and it's encouraging to see more neighbors seeking our support for these purposes," **said Deacon Jim Vargas, President and CEO of Father Joe's Villages.** "As we have done for the past 75 years, we will continue to lead the movement to end homelessness through the innovations necessary, always with both urgency and compassion. San Diego faces a critical lack of resources for unhoused neighbors facing substance use disorder, and our latest efforts, a new sober shelter and a new detox center, aim to start addressing this changing face of homelessness."

#### 2024 BY THE NUMBERS:

- In 2024, 10,605 people experienced homelessness, a 3% increase from last year. Of these individuals:
  - 44% of unsheltered people and 24% of people living in shelters chronically experience homelessness
  - Veterans make up 9% of the unsheltered homeless population
  - 28% of unsheltered homeless persons are women, while 8% are youth
  - In 2024 (YTD), Father Joe's Villages:
    - Served 11,516 people
    - Provided 275,908 shelter nights
    - Helped 340 people exit to permanent housing
    - Served 6,628 at the Day Center
  - The Village Health Center served:
    - 3,945 unduplicated people served, including:
      - 16,648 medical appointments
      - 2,446 Street Health visits

- 2,703 dental appointments
- 4,043 transformative recovery services

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND CONTACT:**

- **Organization:**
  - [Father Joe's Villages](#)
- **Interviews available:** Arturo Garcia, [arturo@gomixte.com](mailto:arturo@gomixte.com), (619) 732-0789 x278
- **Link to use in your story:**
  - [my.neighbor.org](https://my.neighbor.org)
  - [2024 monthly reports](#)
  - December [monthly report](#) and [video](#)

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**About Father Joe's Villages**

As San Diego's leading homeless services provider, Father Joe's Villages ensures that each person can rediscover hope and leave homelessness behind. For 75 years, the organization has been a beacon of hope and has striven to address the complex needs of people who are homeless, including by providing housing for more than 2,500 people each night, along with health care, behavioral health and substance use treatment, job training, therapeutic childcare and more. This mission of rebuilding lives is made possible only through generous public and private [charitable contributions](#), [volunteer work](#), [car donations](#), and the efforts of compassionate staff. For more information, please visit: <https://my.neighbor.org/>.