

July 2013 Snapshot of Ex-Offenders

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's 7th summer (July 25, 2013) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 637 adults and 89 children were counted, and 89.2% of adults experiencing homelessness (568) completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 70.0% of individuals surveyed who indicated that they had spent time in jail or prison.

- 89.1% of ex-offenders are males, and 10.6% are females. Most are single, never married adults (58.4%). 41.6% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 5.2% of ex-offenders have children living with them.
- A majority of ex-offenders report that they are African-American (63.7%), followed by White (30.1%). 5.5% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult ex-offenders is 44.7 years.
- 56.8% have only a high school education or GED. 19.7% attended some college, and 6.0% have a college degree or higher.
- 17.9% are veterans.
- A majority of ex-offenders have served time in jail (66.9%). 5.1% indicated that they served time in prison, and 28.0% reported that they had served time in both jail and prison. 53.0% reported having felony convictions. 24.9% reported being homeless before incarceration, and 34.6% indicated that they were homeless upon release.
- 22.6% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 28.2% had experienced it in the past year.
- 62.9% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 71.3% are currently in recovery.
- 59.7% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 75.0% are currently in recovery.
- 39.7% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 71.7% are currently being treated, 50.7% are taking medication for mental health problems, and 91.8% have received counseling or treatment for mental health problems sometime in their lifetime.
- 52.6% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 75.6% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 61.1% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 47.2% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 20.7% are employed. Of those who are employed, 50.0% work full-time, 30.3% work part-time, and 19.7% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in greater Richmond is three years, and 29.9% have lived in the area for 20 years or more.
- The largest percentage of respondents (46.5%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (7.8%), Chesterfield (6.8%), and Hanover (1.1%). 22.7% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 14.6% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless ex-offenders have been homeless once (51.2%) or twice (25.0%); 23.8% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little less than half (49.0%) have been homeless for five months or less.

For more information:

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