

January 2008 Snapshot of Ex-Offenders

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's tenth winter (January 24, 2008) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 920 adults and 153 children were counted, and 73.8% of adults who completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics reported below represent the 71.9% of adults who indicated that they had spent time in jail or prison.

- 80% of ex-offenders are males, 19% are females. Most are single adults (54.3%). 45.7% have been in families, including those who are widowed or divorced. (The combined total for single, widowed, separated and divorced adults is 94.1%.)
- A majority of ex-offenders report that they are African-American (70.5%), followed by White (23.6%) or biracial (3.3%). Hispanics comprised 2.6% of the sample.
- The average age for adult ex-offenders is 44.18 years.
- 53.7% have a high school education or GED. 19.9% attended some college, and 8.0% have a college degree or higher.
- 24.6% are veterans.
- 33.0% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 14.0% had experienced it in the past month, and 33.8% had experienced it in the past year.
- 56.8% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 73.8% are currently in recovery.
- 67.9% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 79.0% are currently in recovery.
- 38.0% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 55.7% are currently being treated and 50.9% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 32.2% report having a long-term disability.
- 30.9% are employed. Of those who are employed, 54.3% work full-time, 30.0% work part-time, and 15.7% do day labor or temp work.
- 51.0% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for 7 years or more; 36.6% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- Most (57.3%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (7.4%), Chesterfield (6.3%) and Hanover (1.5%). 15.0% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 11.8% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless ex-offenders have been homeless once (52.0%) or twice (23.8%); 24.1% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little more than half (53.0%) have been homeless for 5 months or less.

For more information:

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* Data gathered at the January 24, 2008, Point in Time Count & Survey. Updated: April 15, 2008.