

January 2008 Snapshot of People Who Were Homeless or in Foster Care as Children

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 completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics reported below represent the 109 individuals (16.1% of adults who completed the survey) who indicated that they had experienced homelessness as children or were in foster care.

- 55.6% of the people now homeless who experienced homelessness or foster care as children are males, 43.5% are females, and 0.9% are transgender.
- A majority report that they are African-American (66.4%), followed by White (19.6%) or biracial (8.4%). Hispanics comprised 3.1% of the sample.
- The average age for adults now homeless who experienced homelessness as children or were in foster care is 39.0 years.
- 51.4% have a high school education or GED. 17.8% attended some college, and 6.5% have a college degree or higher.
- 15.2% are veterans.
- 67.3% have been to jail and/or prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 60.6% reported having felony convictions, and 35.7% reported being homeless before incarceration.
- 47.7% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 20.5% had experienced it in the past month, and 52.3% had experienced it in the past year.
- 36.7% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 45.0% are currently in recovery.
- 52.3% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with substance abuse, 63.2% are currently in recovery.
- 50.5% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 51.9% are currently being treated, and 47.2% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 31.5% are employed. Of those who are employed, 48.5% work full-time, 30.3% work part-time, and 21.2% do day labor or temp work.
- 48.4% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for 10 years or more; 38.9% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- Most (61.7%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (7.5%), Chesterfield (5.6%) and Hanover (1.9%). 8.4% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 13.1% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most have been homeless once (41.5%), twice (23.2%), or three times (17.1%); 18.3% have been homeless more than three times during this time period.
- 53.9% have been homeless for 5 months or more.

For more information:

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