

January 2008 Snapshot of Individuals and Families

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. The statistics reported below represent the 73.8% of adults who completed the Homeward point-in-time survey.

- 72% of adults are males, 27% are females. Most homeless persons are single adults (56.4%). 43.6% of persons are or have been in families, including those who are widowed or divorced. (The combined total for single, widowed, separated and divorced adults is 94.9%.)
- A majority of persons report that they are African-American (70.5%), followed by White (23.1%) or Hispanic (3.6%).
- The average age for adults is 43.44 years.
- 53.8% have a high school education or GED. 20.1% attended some college, and 8.8% have a college degree or higher.
- 22.5% are veterans.
- The majority (71.9%) served some time in jail and/or prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 61.7% reported having felony convictions, and 33.5% reported being homeless before incarceration.
- 30.9% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 12.2% had experienced it in the past month, and 35.9% had experienced it in the past year.
- 49.2% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 71.3% are currently in recovery.
- 57.7% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 78.4% are currently in recovery.
- 37.7% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 58.8% are currently being treated and 53.7% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 31.6% report having a long-term disability.
- 33.4% are employed. Of those who are employed, 52.1% work full-time, 32.9% work part-time, and 15.0% do day labor or temp work.
- 51.1% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for 5 years or more; 34.4% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- Most (55.6%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (9.3%), Chesterfield (6.3%) and Hanover (1.4%). 14.0% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 12.7% lived in other states.
- 10.3% of homeless persons have children living with them.
- In the past three years, most homeless persons have been homeless once (55.4%) or twice (22.4%); 22.2% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little more than half (51.4%) of homeless persons 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. Final report date: March 17, 2008. © Homeward 2008