

January 2011 Snapshot of Ex-Offenders

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's thirteenth winter (January 27, 2011) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 943 adults and 159 children were counted, and 75.2% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 502 individuals who indicated that they had spent time in jail or prison.

- 87.2% of ex-offenders are males, 12.8% are females. Most are single, never married adults (54.6%), and 45.4% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 5.4% of ex-offenders have children living with them.
- A majority of ex-offenders report that they are African-American (58.7%), followed by White (35.0%). 3.3% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult ex-offenders is 44.2 years.
- 54.0% have only a high school education or GED. 20.7% attended some college, and 8.0% have a college degree or higher.
- 17.7% are veterans.
- A majority of ex-offenders have served time in jail (60.8%). 3.4% indicated that they served time in prison, and 35.9% reported that they had served time in both jail and prison. 57.9% reported having felony convictions. 33.3% reported being homeless before incarceration, and 50.3% indicated that they were homeless upon release.
- 32.7% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 32.9% had experienced it in the past year.
- 56.2% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 75.5% are currently in recovery.
- 59.3% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 75.5% are currently in recovery.
- 33.5% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 50.9% are currently being treated and 44.6% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 54.2% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 63.6% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse, 67.2% indicated that their disability was a mental illness, and 66.0% indicated that their disability was physical. (Note that respondents could select multiple disability types.)
- 18.8% are employed. Of those who are employed, 44.3% work full-time, 30.7% work part-time, and 25.0% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in Greater Richmond is four years; 31.3% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- Most (50.7%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (10.5%), Chesterfield (7.3%), and Hanover (1.6%). 18.7% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 10.8% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless ex-offenders have been homeless once (57.6%) or twice (21.9%); 20.5% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little less than half (49.8%) of ex-offenders have been homeless for 5 months or less.

For more information:

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