

January 2011 Snapshot of Adults in Families

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 64 individuals who indicated that children were living with them.

- 82.8% of adults are females, 17.2% are males. Most adults in families are single, never married adults (68.4%), and 31.6% are or have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are separated, widowed, or divorced.
- A majority of persons in families report that they are African-American (70.5%), followed by White (24.6%). 7.9% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adults is 32.9 years.
- 50.0% have just a high school education or GED. 25.0% attended some college, and 9.4% have a college degree or higher.
- 3.1% are veterans.
- Less than half (42.8%) served some time in jail and/or prison. Out of all individuals surveyed (including those who have not served time in jail and/or prison), 33.3% reported serving time in jail, and 9.5% indicated that they had served time in both jail and prison.
- 57.4% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 51.5% had experienced it in the past year.
- 14.3% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 55.6% are currently in recovery.
- 19.0% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 58.3% are currently in recovery.
- 25.4% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 81.2% are currently being treated and 68.8% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 28.1% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 22.2% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse, 66.7% indicated that their disability was a mental illness, and 50.0% indicated that their disability was physical. (Note that respondents could select both or neither of these options.)
- 36.4% are employed. Of those who are employed, 47.6% work full-time, 42.9% work part-time, and 9.5% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in Greater Richmond is one year; 15.3% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- Less than half (41.3%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (17.5%), Chesterfield (9.5%), and Hanover (1.6%). 17.5% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 12.7% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless adults in families have been homeless once (67.2%) or twice (21.9%); 10.9% 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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