

# January 2011 Snapshot of Veterans

---

## 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 123 individuals who indicated that they were veterans.

- 95.1% of veterans are males, 4.9% are females. Most veterans (57.0%) are or have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are separated, widowed, or divorced, and 43.0% are single, never married adults.
- 1.6% of veterans have children living with them.
- A majority of veterans report that they are African-American (57.0%), followed by White (37.2%). 2.5% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult veterans is 47.8 years.
- 32.2% of veterans reported that they served in combat. 69.6% were honorably discharged. 2.7% of all discharges were medical.
- 52.8% have only a high school education or GED. 29.3% attended some college, and 10.6% have a college degree or higher.
- 74.6% have been to jail and/or prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 49.4% reported having felony convictions, and 33.3% reported being homeless before incarceration.
- 23.3% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 18.5% had experienced it in the past year.
- 47.9% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 75.0% are currently in recovery.
- 48.3% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with substance abuse, 75.0% are currently in recovery.
- 41.4% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 58.3% are currently being treated, and 54.2% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 47.5% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 51.7% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse, 62.1% indicated that their disability was a mental illness, and 69.0% indicated that their disability was physical. (Note that respondents could select multiple disability types.)
- 21.0% are employed. Of those who are employed, 44.0% work full-time, 28.0% work part-time, and 28.0% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in Greater Richmond is three years; 27.0% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- Most (42.9%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (9.2%), Chesterfield (4.2%), and Hanover (1.7%). 21.8% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 19.3% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless veterans have been homeless once (59.3%) or twice (23.6%). 17.1% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little less than half (48.1%) of veterans have been homeless for 5 months or less.

For more information:

Margot Ackermann, Ph.D. ♦ Research and Evaluation Director  
(804)343-2045 x11 ♦ mackermann@homewardva.org

