

January 2012 Snapshot of Ex-Offenders

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's 14th winter (January 26, 2012) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 909 adults and 131 children were counted, and 79.2% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 71.8% of individuals who indicated that they had spent time in jail or prison.

- 87.9% of ex-offenders are males, and 12.1% are females. Most are single, never married adults (59.6%). 40.4% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 4.2% of ex-offenders have children living with them.
- A majority of ex-offenders report that they are African-American (60.3%), followed by White (32.5%). 4.6% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult ex-offenders is 44.7 years.
- 56.1% have only a high school education or GED. 22.7% attended some college, and 6.5% have a college degree or higher.
- 21.1% are veterans.
- A majority of ex-offenders have served time in jail (64.1%). 5.4% indicated that they served time in prison, and 30.5% reported that they had served time in both jail and prison. 58.4% reported having felony convictions. 31.7% reported being homeless before incarceration, and 45.7% indicated that they were homeless upon release.
- 31.8% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 32.2% had experienced it in the past year.
- 60.0% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 75.3% are currently in recovery.
- 59.4% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 77.9% are currently in recovery.
- 36.3% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 55.6% are currently being treated and 50.3% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 52.5% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 70.2% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 53.7% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 51.5% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 16.6% are employed. Of those who are employed, 48.7% work full-time, 34.2% work part-time, and 17.1% do day labor or temp work.
- 51.0% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for more than five years, and 39.5% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- The largest percentage of respondents (48.8%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (8.3%), Chesterfield (7.1%), and Hanover (2.2%). 17.9% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 14.8% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless ex-offenders have been homeless once (59.3%) or twice (17.4%); 23.3% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little more than half (51.7%) have been homeless for five months or less.

For more information:

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

