

January 2012 Snapshot of Veterans

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 19.6% of individuals who indicated that they were veterans.

- 92.9% of veterans are males, and 7.1% are females. 53.8% of veterans are or have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are separated, widowed, or divorced.
- 1.5% of veterans have children living with them.
- A majority of veterans report that they are African-American (61.8%), followed by White (32.8%). 4.0% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult veterans is 50.4 years.
- 38.9% of veterans reported that they served in combat. 73.2% were honorably discharged. 15.4% of all discharges were general.
- 58.3% have only a high school education or GED. 22.0% attended some college, and 12.1% have a college degree or higher.
- 75.8% have been to jail and/or prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 57.0% reported having felony convictions, and 36.0% reported being homeless before incarceration.
- 27.3% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 25.7% had experienced it in the past year.
- 50.0% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 71.2% are currently in recovery.
- 48.1% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with drugs, 69.4% are currently in recovery.
- 37.4% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 66.7% are currently being treated, and 58.3% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 41.6% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 52.3% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 69.0% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 60.5% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 22.3% are employed. Of those who are employed, 57.7% work full-time, 23.1% work part-time, and 19.2% do day labor or temp work.
- 50.0% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for more than 10 years; 40.0% have lived in the area for more than 20 years.
- The largest percentage of respondents (48.9%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Chesterfield (6.9%), Henrico (7.6%), and Hanover (3.1%). 17.6% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 16.0% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless veterans have been homeless once (65.4%) or twice (17.3%). 17.3% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- 49.1% have been homeless for nine months or less.

For more information:

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

