

January 2013 Snapshot of Ex-Offenders

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's 15th winter (January 24, 2013) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 885 adults and 114 children were counted, and 78.0% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 76.7% of individuals who indicated that they had spent time in jail or prison.

- 82.6% of ex-offenders are males, and 17.2% are females. Most are single, never married adults (53.0%). 47.0% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 6.7% of ex-offenders have children living with them.
- A majority of ex-offenders report that they are African-American (62.1%), followed by White (33.0%). 5.6% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult ex-offenders is 44.6 years.
- 54.2% have only a high school education or GED. 23.6% attended some college, and 7.4% have a college degree or higher.
- 14.3% are veterans.
- A majority of ex-offenders have served time in jail (64.6%). 3.0% indicated that they served time in prison, and 32.5% reported that they had served time in both jail and prison. 59.6% reported having felony convictions. 28.6% reported being homeless before incarceration, and 31.0% indicated that they were homeless upon release.
- 26.2% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 36.7% had experienced it in the past year.
- 58.0% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 77.5% are currently in recovery.
- 59.6% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 77.9% are currently in recovery.
- 38.1% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 62.1% are currently being treated. 57.1% are taking medication for mental health problems, and 88.4% are receiving counseling.
- 53.3% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 80.4% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 50.6% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 42.2% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 17.1% are employed. Of those who are employed, 46.3% work full-time, 35.4% work part-time, and 18.3% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in greater Richmond is six years, and 40.2% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- The largest percentage of respondents (51.5%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (9.7%), Chesterfield (6.8%), and Hanover (1.4%). 18.7% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 13.0% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless ex-offenders have been homeless once (58.1%) or twice (19.6%); 22.2% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little less than half (49.4%) 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

