

January 2013 Snapshot of People Who Were Homeless or in Foster Care as Children

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 14.1% of individuals who indicated that they were homeless or in foster care as children.

- 66.3% of the people now homeless who experienced homelessness or foster care as children are males, 33.7% are females. Most are single, never married adults (62.0%). 38.0% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 12.0% have children living with them.
- A majority report that they are African-American (57.8%), followed by White (27.8%). 7.1% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adults now homeless who experienced homelessness as children or were in foster care is 41.7 years.
- 58.2% have just a high school education or GED. 16.5% attended some college, and 8.8% have a college degree or higher.
- 18.0% are veterans.
- 75.8% have been to jail and/or prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 62.3% reported having felony convictions, and 33.0% reported being homeless before incarceration.
- 40.0% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 57.6% had experienced it in the past year.
- 48.4% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 65.1% are currently in recovery.
- 47.3% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with drugs, 73.2% are currently in recovery.
- 49.5% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 60.0% are currently being treated, and 61.4% are taking medication for mental health problems. 91.1% are receiving counseling for mental health problems.
- 46.9% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 70.3% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 64.9% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 55.3% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 21.7% are employed. Of those who are employed, a little more than half (57.9%) work full-time.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in Greater Richmond is 2.5 years, and 29.1% have lived in the area for 20 or more years.
- The largest percentage of respondents (50.0%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (12.0%) and Chesterfield (4.3%). 16.3% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 15.2% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most have been homeless once (55.6%) or twice (26.7%); 17.7% had been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- 49.4% have been homeless for four months or less.

For more information:

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

