

# January 2015 Snapshot of Ex-Offenders

## Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's 17<sup>th</sup> winter (January 28, 2015) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 730 adults and 88 children were counted, and 84.8% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 72.6% of individuals who indicated that they were ex-offenders.

- 87.1% of ex-offenders are males, and 12.4% are females. Most are single, never married adults (54.1%). 45.9% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 4.9% of ex-offenders have children living with them.
- A majority of ex-offenders report that they are African-American (61.6%), followed by White (32.5%). 4.3% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult ex-offenders is 45.9 years.
- 52.1% have only a high school education or GED. 25.1% attended some college, and 8.4% have a college degree or higher.
- 22.1% are veterans.
- A majority of ex-offenders have served time in jail (66.4%). 4.9% indicated that they served time in prison, and 28.6% reported that they had served time in both jail and prison. 53.0% reported having felony convictions. 28.0% reported being homeless before incarceration, and 37.7% indicated that they were homeless upon release.
- 23.2% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 28.2% had experienced it in the past year.
- 59.3% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 71.8% are currently in recovery.
- 60.3% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 73.5% are currently in recovery.
- 40.7% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 64.3% are currently being treated, 56.1% are taking medication for mental health problems, and 92.2% have received counseling or treatment for mental health problems sometime in their lifetime.
- 49.6% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 75.64% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 47.8% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 43.6% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 14.6% are employed. Of those who are employed, 56.4% work full-time, 25.5% work part-time, and 18.2% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in greater Richmond is three years, and 29.9% have lived in the area for 20 years or more.
- The largest percentage of respondents (47.4%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (8.5%), Chesterfield (8.2%), and Hanover (1.1%). 14.3% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 19.8% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless ex-offenders have been homeless once (54.0%) or twice (19.6%); 26.5% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little more than half (52.8%) have been homeless for seven months or less.

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