

# January 2016 Snapshot of Ex-Offenders

## Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's 18<sup>th</sup> winter (January 27, 2016) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 677 adults and 85 children were counted, and 76.5% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 71.3% of individuals who indicated that they were ex-offenders.

- 87.2% of ex-offenders are males, and 12.5% are females. Most are single, never married adults (54.5%). 45.5% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 2.9% of ex-offenders have children living with them.
- A majority of ex-offenders report that they are African-American (61.1%), followed by White (31.5%). 3.7% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult ex-offenders is 45.2 years.
- 57.1% have only a high school education or GED. 19.2% attended some college, and 11.2% have a college degree or higher.
- 19.3% are veterans.
- A majority of ex-offenders have served time in jail (66.7%). 4.4% indicated that they served time in prison, and 28.9% reported that they had served time in both jail and prison. 56.6% reported having felony convictions. 27.9% reported being homeless before incarceration, and 36.3% indicated that they were homeless upon release.
- 28.2% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 40.3% had experienced it in the past year.
- 60.1% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 77.5% are currently in recovery.
- 61.3% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 74.3% are currently in recovery.
- 40.4% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 63.8% are currently being treated, 51.6% are taking medication for mental health problems, and 90.4% have received counseling or treatment for mental health problems sometime in their lifetime.
- 52.6% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 76.5% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 44.5% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 37.8% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 19.2% are employed. Of those who are employed, 46.7% work full-time, 21.7% work part-time, and 31.7% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in greater Richmond is two years, and 31.0% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- The largest percentage of respondents (47.6%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (8.4%), Chesterfield (7.4%), and Hanover (1.6%). 22.2% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 11.9% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless ex-offenders have been homeless once (52.7%) or twice (24.4%); 22.9% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little more than half (58.5%) have been homeless for seven months or less.

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