

# January 2016 Snapshot of Veterans

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## 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 18.3% of individuals who indicated that they were veterans.

- 89.0% of veterans are males, and 8.8% are females. 66.7% of veterans are or have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are separated, widowed, or divorced.
- No veterans have children living with them.
- A majority of veterans report that they are African-American (67.0%), followed by White (24.2%). 3.5% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult veterans is 51.0 years.
- 24.4% of veterans reported that they served in combat. 58.3% were honorably discharged. 22.6% of all discharges were general.
- 52.5% have only a high school education or GED. 26.3% attended some college, and 16.3% have a college degree or higher.
- 73.8% have been to jail and/or prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 51.4% reported having felony convictions, and 33.8% reported being homeless before incarceration.
- 21.3% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 46.1% had experienced it in the past year.
- 49.4% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 69.2% are currently in recovery.
- 45.6% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with drugs, 68.6% are currently in recovery.
- 34.6% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 66.7% are currently being treated, and 59.3% are taking medication for mental health problems. 96.3% have received treatment or counseling for mental health problems sometime in their lifetime.
- 41.5% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 64.5% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 48.4% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 35.5% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 24.7% are employed. Of those who are employed, 45.0% work full-time, 10.0% work part-time, and 45.0% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in Greater Richmond is ten years; 26.9% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- The largest percentage of respondents (57.0%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Chesterfield (7.6%) and Henrico (5.1%). 19.0% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 10.1% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless veterans have been homeless once (57.1%) or twice (25.3%). 17.6% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- 51.9% have been homeless for seven months or less.

For more information:

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

