

January 2017 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 19th winter (January 25, 2017) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 606 adults and 56 children were counted, and 80.5% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 11.1% of individuals who indicated that they were homeless or in foster care as children.

- 65.4% of adults are males, and 34.6% are females. Most are single, never married adults (74.1%). 25.9% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 11.5% have children living with them.
- The largest percentage report that they are African-American (47.2%), followed by White (37.7%). 7.4% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adults now homeless who experienced homelessness as children or were in foster care is 38.2 years.
- 49.3% have just a high school education or GED. 15.1% attended some college, and 18.9% have a college degree or higher.
- 19.6% are veterans.
- 71.2% have been to jail and/or prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 33.3% reported having felony convictions, and 52.4% reported being homeless before incarceration.
- 40.7% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 45.5% had experienced it in the past year.
- 37.0% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 65.0% are currently in recovery.
- 37.0% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with drugs, 89.5% are currently in recovery.
- 53.7% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 55.2% are currently being treated, and 44.8% are taking medication for mental health problems. 89.7% have also received counseling for mental health problems at some time in their lifetime.
- 37.5% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 55.6% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 72.2% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 64.7% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 25.9% are employed. Of those who are employed, 14.3% do day labor or temporary work, 35.7% work part-time, and 50.0% work full-time.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in Greater Richmond is one year, and 25.0% have lived in the area for 10 or more years.
- The largest percentage of respondents (40.8%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (8.2%) and Hanover (2.0%). 14.3% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 30.6% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless adults have been homeless once (57.4%) or twice (9.3%); 33.3% had been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little more than half (52.6%) 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

