

January 2017 Snapshot of People with Incarceration Histories

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 73.2% of individuals who indicated that they had a history of incarceration.

- 90.9% of people with a history of incarceration are males, and 9.1% are females. Most are single, never married adults (59.3%). 40.7% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 3.7% have children living with them.
- A majority of people with a history of incarceration report that they are African-American (52.0%), followed by White (40.3%). 6.5% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adults is 45.0 years.
- 51.8% have only a high school education or GED. 20.8% attended some college, and 11.2% have a college degree or higher.
- 17.6% are veterans.
- A majority have served time in jail (63.4%). 3.9% indicated that they served time in prison, and 32.7% reported that they had served time in both jail and prison. 52.7% reported having felony convictions. 28.5% reported being homeless before incarceration, and 34.6% indicated that they were homeless upon release.
- 22.3% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 28.8% had experienced it in the past year.
- 63.9% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 77.4% are currently in recovery.
- 63.0% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with drugs, 84.7% are currently in recovery.
- 38.7% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 55.1% are currently being treated, 44.9% are taking medication for mental health problems, and 88.1% have received counseling or treatment for mental health problems sometime in their lifetime.
- 54.3% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 79.4% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 44.6% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 35.4% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 19.9% are employed. Of those who are employed, 63.3% work full-time, 21.7% work part-time, and 15.0% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in greater Richmond is two years, and 30.0% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- The largest percentage of respondents (42.3%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (10.1%), Chesterfield (5.7%), and Hanover (2.3%). 24.2% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 14.4% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most people experiencing homelessness who also have a history of incarceration have been homeless once (57.1%) or twice (19.8%); 23.1% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little more than half (50.6%) have been homeless for six months or less.

For more information:

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