

# January 2017 Snapshot of Veterans

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## Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's 19<sup>th</sup> 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 18.4% of individuals who indicated that they were veterans.

- 94.0% of adults are males, and 6.0% are females. 62.8% are or have been in families (including those who are married, as well as those who are separated, widowed, or divorced) or are currently partnered.
- 2.4% of veterans have children living with them.
- The largest percentage of veterans report that they are African-American (49.4%), followed by White (43.5%). 8.3% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult veterans is 52.8 years.
- 42.4% of veterans reported that they served in combat. 75.9% were honorably discharged. 14.5% of all discharges were general.
- 46.5% have just a high school education or GED. 32.6% attended some college, and 16.3% have a college degree or higher.
- 70.3% have been to jail and/or prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 23.1% reported having felony convictions, and 30.8% reported being homeless before incarceration.
- 17.9% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 41.7% had experienced it in the past year.
- 56.8% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 69.0% are currently in recovery.
- 51.4% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with drugs, 86.8% are currently in recovery.
- 53.4% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 74.4% are currently being treated, and 66.7% are taking medication for mental health problems. 94.9% have received treatment or counseling for mental health problems sometime in their lifetime.
- 48.1% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 55.3% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 45.9% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 55.6% indicated that their disability was physical. (Note that respondents could select multiple disability types.)
- 24.7% are employed. Of those who are employed, 72.2% work full-time, 22.2% work part-time, and 5.6% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in Greater Richmond is four years, and 29.2% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- The largest percentage of respondents (35.6%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Chesterfield (9.6%), Henrico (12.3%), and Hanover (1.4%). 17.8% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 19.2% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless persons have been homeless once (54.1%) or twice (21.2%). 24.7% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- 51.5% have been homeless for seven months or less.

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