

January 2020 Snapshot of Adults in Families

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's 22nd winter (January 23, 2020) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 479 adults and 70 children were counted. While most people experiencing homelessness in our area are staying in local shelters, 130 unsheltered individuals were counted this year. The statistics below represent the 9.0% of individuals who indicated that they were accompanied by children.

- 83.3% of adults are females, and 16.7% are males. Most adults in families are single, never married adults (76.7%). 23.3% are or have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are partnered, separated, widowed, or divorced.
- A majority of persons in families report that they are African-American (86.7%), followed by White (10.0%). None indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adults is 36.9 years.
- 46.7% have just a high school education or GED. 16.7% attended some college, and 6.7% have a college degree.
- 60.0% served some time in jail and/or prison. Out of all individuals surveyed (including those who have not served time in jail and/or prison), 56.7% spent time in jail, and 3.3% spent time in both jail and prison.
- 50.0% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 35.7% had experienced it in the past year.
- 10.3% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime, and 31.0% have reported having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime.
- 58.6% report having received counseling or treatment for a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 70.6% are currently being treated, and 70.6% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 16.7% report having a long-term disability.
- 50.0% are employed. Of those who are employed, 40.0% work full-time, 40.0% work part-time, and 20.0% do day labor or temporary work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in Greater Richmond is a little more than one month. 7.1% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- The majority of respondents (63.3%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (16.7%) and in Chesterfield (6.7%). 13.3% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia.
- In the past three years, most homeless adults in families have been homeless once (60.0%) or twice (16.7%); 23.3% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- Under half (46.4%) have been homeless for five months or less.

For more information:

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