

January 2020 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 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 20.6% of individuals who indicated that they had been homeless or in foster care as children.

- 60.2% of adults are males, and 36.1% are females. Most are single, never married adults (65.1%). 34.9% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 14.5% have children living with them.
- The largest percentage report that they are African-American (61.7%), followed by White (32.1%). 7.2% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adults now homeless who experienced homelessness as children or were in foster care is 41.1 years.
- 39.8% have just a high school education or GED. 33.7% attended some college, and 4.8% have a college degree.
- 9.6% are veterans.
- 76.8% have been to jail and/or prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 38.2% reported having felony convictions, and 42.6% reported being homeless before incarceration.
- 49.4% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 44.4% had experienced it in the past year.
- 24.7% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime, and 36.5% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime.
- 70.3% report having received counseling or treatment for a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 78.8% are currently being treated, and 69.2% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 42.2% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 28.6% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 91.4% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 47.1% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 29.3% are employed. Of those who are employed, 20.8% do day labor or temporary work, 33.3% work part-time, and 45.8% work full-time.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in Greater Richmond is one year, and 24.7% have lived in the area for 17 or more years.
- The largest percentage of respondents (53.0%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. 8.4% last lived in Henrico, and 8.4% last lived in Chesterfield. 14.5% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 14.5% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless adults have been homeless once (45.7%) or twice (13.6%); 40.7% had been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- Just over half (51.6%) have been homeless for seven months or less.

For more information:

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