

July 2008 Snapshot of Chronically Homeless

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's second summer (July 24, 2008) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 823 adults and 153 children were counted, and 66.7% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey.

The statistics below represent the 10.9% of respondents who met the definition of chronic homelessness. Individuals who are chronically homeless must 1) be unaccompanied by a partner or children 2) have a serious disability and 3) have been homeless at least four times in the past three years or homeless for the past year.

- 80.0% of the chronically homeless are males, 20.0% are females.
- A majority of the chronically homeless report that they are African-American (51.7%), followed by White (43.3%) and two or more races (3.3%). No Hispanics met the definition for chronic homelessness.
- The average age for chronically homeless adults is 49.1 years.
- 32.8% have a high school education or GED. 24.1% attended some college, and 12.1% have a college degree or higher.
- 27.6% are veterans.
- 85.4% have been to jail and/or prison. Among chronically homeless individuals, 58.3% reported serving time in jail, 2.1% reported serving time in prison, and 25.0% indicated that they had served time in both jail and prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 53.7% reported having felony convictions; 69.2% reported being homeless prior to their last incarceration; and 72.5% reported being homeless upon discharge from their last incarceration.
- 25.0% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 9.1% had experienced it in the past month, and 45.5% had experienced it in the past year.
- 66.0% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 45.2% are currently in recovery.
- 54.2% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a substance abuse problem, 61.5% are currently in recovery.
- 54.2% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these individuals, 69.2% are currently being treated, and 53.8% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 14.6% are employed. Of those who are employed, 57.1% work full-time, 14.3% work part-time, and 28.6% do day labor or temp work.
- 50.0% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for 14 years or more; 43.5% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- Most (54.2%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (8.3%), Chesterfield (12.5%) and Hanover (4.2%). 16.7% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 4.2% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most chronically homeless individuals have been homeless once (42.0%), twice (14.0%) or three times (16.0%); 28.0% have been homeless more than three times during this time period.
- 47.5% have been homeless for two years or more.

For more information:

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* Data gathered at the July 24, 2008, Point in Time Count & Survey. Final report date: September 10, 2008. © Homeward 2008