

# July 2008 Snapshot of Ex-Offenders

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## 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 71.7% of those adults surveyed who indicated that they had spent time in jail or prison.

- Of those serving time, 65.9% have served time in jail; 6.7% have served time in prison; and 27.4% have served time in both jail and prison.
- 61.8% reported having felony convictions. 39.3% reported being homeless before their last incarceration, and 55.0% reported being homeless upon their last discharge from jail/prison.
- 80.1% of ex-offenders are males; 19.3% are females; and .6% are transgendered. Most are single adults (55.5%). 44.5% have been in families, including those who are married, separated, widowed or divorced. (The combined total for single, widowed, separated and divorced adults is 94.7%.)
- A majority of ex-offenders report that they are African-American (65.8%), followed by White (29.4%) or two or more races (2.2%). Hispanics comprised 1.2% of the sample.
- The average age for adult ex-offenders is 43.8 years.
- 52.7% have a high school education or GED. 18.0% attended some college, and 10.5% have a college degree or higher.
- 22.0% are veterans.
- 26.3% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 7.0% had experienced it in the past month, and 25.6% had experienced it in the past year.
- 60.2% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 78.9% are currently in recovery.
- 68.6% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 81.7% are currently in recovery.
- 38.0% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 56.0% are currently being treated, and 50.4% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 34.4% report having a long-term disability.
- 34.6% are employed. Of those who are employed, 62.7% work full-time, 26.3% work part-time, and 11.0% do day labor or temp work.
- 52.3% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for 3 years or more; 34.8% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- Most (50.6%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (8.5%), Chesterfield (7.6%) and Hanover (2.8%). 18.6% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 11.6% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless ex-offenders have been homeless once (54.9%) or twice (27.8%); 17.3% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little more than half (53.2%) have been homeless for 5 months or less.

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