

# July 2008 Snapshot of Individuals and Families

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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. The statistics reported below represent the 549 (66.7%) of adults who completed the Homeward point-in-time survey.

- 72.6% of adults are males, 27.1% are females, and .4% are transgendered. Most homeless persons are single adults (56.2%). 43.8% of people experiencing homelessness are or have been in families, including those who are married, separated, widowed or divorced. (The combined total for single, widowed, separated and divorced adults is 94.9%).
- A majority of persons report that they are African-American (63.4%), followed by White (31.6%) or Hispanic (2.4%).
- The average age for adults is 43.6 years.
- 50.5% have a high school education or GED. 18.8% attended some college, and 11.2% have a college degree or higher.
- 22.0% are veterans.
- The majority (71.7%) 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), 47.3% reported serving time in jail, 4.8% reported serving time in prison, and 19.6% indicated that they had served time in both jail and prison.
- 29.0% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 7.6% had experienced it in the past month, and 32.6% had experienced it in the past year.
- 49.0% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 78.0% are currently in recovery.
- 56.9% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 81.2% are currently in recovery.
- 36.1% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 62.2% are currently being treated and 54.7% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 34.9% report having a long-term disability.
- 32.8% are employed. Of those who are employed, 61.1% work full-time, 26.1% work part-time, and 12.7% do day labor or temp work.
- 46.9% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for 5 years or more; 33.5% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- Most (50.2%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (10.6%), Chesterfield (9.0%) and Hanover (2.0%). 17.5% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 10.4% lived in other states.
- 12.1% of homeless persons have children living with them.
- In the past three years, most homeless persons have been homeless once (59.5%) or twice (23.6%); 16.9% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little less than half (48.3%) of homeless persons 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