

July 2008 Snapshot of Veterans

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 reported below represent the 22.0% of those adults surveyed who indicated that they were veterans.

- 92.2% of veterans are males, 6.9% are females, and .9% are transgendered.
- A majority of veterans report that they are African-American (59.8%), followed by White (34.2%) or two or more races (2.6%). Hispanics comprised 3.7% of the sample.
- The average age for adult veterans is 49.2 years.
- 73.2% were honorably discharged. 3.6% of all discharges were medical.
- 48.7% have a high school education or GED. 31.3% attended some college, and 13.9% have a college degree or higher.
- The majority (76.0%) served some time in jail and/or prison. Out of the individuals surveyed, 46.0% reported serving time in jail, 4.0% reported serving time in prison, and 26.0% indicated that they had served time in both jail and prison. Of the individuals who served time in jail or prison, 55.3% reported having felony convictions; 37.5% indicated that they were homeless prior to their last incarceration; and 56.0% reported being homeless upon discharge from their last incarceration.
- 17.8% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, none had experienced it in the past month, and 25.0% had experienced it in the past year.
- 60.4% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 85.2% are currently in recovery.
- 61.4% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with substance abuse, 85.5% are currently in recovery.
- 39.0% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 74.4% are currently being treated, and 61.5% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 37.4% report having a long-term disability.
- 35.0% are employed. Of those who are employed, 68.6% work full-time, 28.6% work part-time, and 2.9% do day labor or temp work.
- 51.0% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for 3 years or more; 35.7% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- Most (49.5%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (7.9%), Chesterfield (7.9%) and Hanover (3.0%). 16.8% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 14.9% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless veterans have been homeless once (55.0%), twice (22.9%), or three times (13.8%); 8.3% have been homeless more than three times during this time period.
- 40.0% have been homeless for 4 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