

July 2011 Snapshot of Ex-Offenders

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's fourth summer (July 28, 2011) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 772 adults and 169 children were counted, and 75.3% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 73.2% of individuals who indicated that they had spent time in jail or prison.

- 83.7% of ex-offenders are males, and 16.3% are females. Most are single, never married adults (57.4%). 42.6% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 8.2% of ex-offenders have children living with them.
- A majority of ex-offenders report that they are African-American (65.8%), followed by White (28.9%). 3.7% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult ex-offenders is 44.1 years.
- 51.5% have only a high school education or GED. 19.8% attended some college, and 6.6% have a college degree or higher.
- 19.4% are veterans.
- A majority of ex-offenders have served time in jail (63.0%). 6.0% indicated that they served time in prison, and 31.0% reported that they had served time in both jail and prison. 61.8% reported having felony convictions. 30.9% reported being homeless before incarceration, and 46.4% indicated that they were homeless upon release.
- 32.4% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 6.8% had experienced it in the past month, and 38.1% had experienced it in the past year.
- 62.4% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 77.0% are currently in recovery.
- 64.8% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 77.2% are currently in recovery.
- 36.2% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 62.0% are currently being treated and 55.3% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 55.9% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 67.3% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 48.0% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 50.5% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 20.5% are employed. Of those who are employed, 51.3% work full-time, 34.6% work part-time, and 14.1% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in Greater Richmond is two years, and 30.1% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- The largest percentage (49.4%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (8.1%), Chesterfield (5.1%), and Hanover (2.7%). 20.8% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 11.7% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless ex-offenders have been homeless once (61.3%) or twice (16.5%); 22.2% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little more than half (50.6%) have been homeless for five months or less. 30.3% have been homeless for two months or less.

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