

July 2012 Snapshot of Ex-Offenders

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's sixth summer (July 26, 2012) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 772 adults and 135 children were counted, and 83.5% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 71.1% of individuals who indicated that they had spent time in jail or prison.

- 86.0% of ex-offenders are males, and 14.0% are females. Most are single, never married adults (59.9%). 40.1% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 5.6% of ex-offenders have children living with them.
- A majority of ex-offenders report that they are African-American (61.7%), followed by White (33.3%). 4.0% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult ex-offenders is 44.3 years.
- 53.2% have only a high school education or GED. 23.5% attended some college, and 6.2% have a college degree or higher.
- 18.3% are veterans.
- A majority of ex-offenders have served time in jail (64.6%). 5.6% indicated that they served time in prison, and 29.8% reported that they had served time in both jail and prison. 57.3% reported having felony convictions. 28.3% reported being homeless before incarceration, and 36.9% indicated that they were homeless upon release.
- 28.1% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 31.4% had experienced it in the past year.
- 58.7% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 75.7% are currently in recovery.
- 58.9% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 82.1% are currently in recovery.
- 37.3% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 57.9% are currently being treated and 48.7% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 60.8% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 72.1% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 51.4% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 49.4% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 24.3% are employed. Of those who are employed, 43.2% work full-time, 41.1% work part-time, and 15.8% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in greater Richmond is five years, and 34.2% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- The largest percentage of respondents (44.1%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (10.1%), Chesterfield (5.7%), and Hanover (2.2%). 20.7% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 16.3% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless ex-offenders have been homeless once (55.8%) or twice (24.6%); 19.7% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little less than half (47.4%) have been homeless for five months or less.

For more information:

Margot Ackermann, Ph.D. ♦ Research and Evaluation Director
(804)343-2045 x11 ♦ mackermann@homewardva.org

