

# July 2012 Snapshot of Veterans

## 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 18.1% of individuals who indicated that they were veterans.

- 92.4% of veterans are males, and 7.6% are females. 53.9% of veterans are or have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are separated, widowed, or divorced.
- 2.9% of veterans have children living with them.
- A majority of veterans report that they are African-American (56.7%), followed by White (39.4%). 3.9% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult veterans is 50.2 years.
- 26.7% of veterans reported that they served in combat. 67.3% were honorably discharged. 19.8% of all discharges were general.
- 47.6% have only a high school education or GED. 28.2% attended some college, and 15.5% have a college degree or higher.
- 72.7% have been to jail and/or prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 56.3% reported having felony convictions, and 33.3% reported being homeless before incarceration.
- 20.8% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 40.0% had experienced it in the past year.
- 55.6% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 74.5% are currently in recovery.
- 49.0% report having a problem with drug abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with drug abuse, 72.9% are currently in recovery.
- 38.4% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 60.5% are currently being treated, and 44.7% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 57.4% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 58.0% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 47.8% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 56.8% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 35.7% are employed. Of those who are employed, 28.1% work full-time, 53.1% work part-time, and 18.8% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in Greater Richmond is five years; 32.6% have lived in the area for 20 years or more.
- The largest percentage (39.2%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Chesterfield (3.1%), Henrico (17.5%), and Hanover (1.0%). 17.5% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 20.6% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless veterans have been homeless once (53.8%) or twice (24.0%). 22.1% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- Less than half (47.7%) have been homeless for seven months or less.

For more information:

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