

July 2010 Snapshot of Ex-Offenders

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's fourth summer (July 29, 2010) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 748 adults and 143 children were counted, and 73.8% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 74.2% of individuals who indicated that they had spent time in jail or prison.

- 81.1% of ex-offenders are males, 18.7% are females, and .3% are transgendered. Most are single, never married adults (50.4%). 6.9% are married, and 49.6% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 5.7% of ex-offenders have children living with them.
- A majority of ex-offenders report that they are African-American (60.0%), followed by White (32.9%). 3.9% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult ex-offenders is 44.4 years.
- 55.6% have only a high school education or GED. 21.4% attended some college, and 5.8% have a college degree or higher.
- 18.0% are veterans.
- A majority of ex-offenders have served time in jail (65.3%). 5.7% indicated that they served time in prison, and 29.0% reported that they had served time in both jail and prison. 60.6% reported having felony convictions. 39.2% reported being homeless before incarceration, and 49.2% indicated that they were homeless upon release.
- 36.3% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 7.3% had experienced it in the past month, and 28.5% had experienced it in the past year.
- 65.7% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 80.0% are currently in recovery.
- 71.2% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 84.2% are currently in recovery.
- 41.2% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 58.2% are currently being treated and 47.4% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 62.9% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 77.7% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 43.5% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 44.3% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 22.2% are employed. Of those who are employed, 48.8% work full-time, 36.6% work part-time, and 14.6% do day labor or temp work.
- 49.7% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for more than five years; 36.0% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- Most (46.1%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (12.0%), Chesterfield (5.9%), and Hanover (3.2%). 22.4% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 9.6% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless ex-offenders have been homeless once (63.0%) or twice (18.5%); 18.5% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little more than half (52.0%) have been homeless for 9 months or less. 31.7% have been homeless for five months or less.

For more information:

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