

July 2015 Snapshot of Ex-Offenders

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's 9th winter (July 29, 2015) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 607 adults and 89 children were counted, and 79.4% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 74.4% of individuals who indicated that they were ex-offenders.

- 86.5% of ex-offenders are males, and 13.5% are females. Most are single, never married adults (61.3%). 38.7% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 6.6% of ex-offenders have children living with them.
- A majority of ex-offenders report that they are African-American (61.7%), followed by White (31.0%). 2.9% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult ex-offenders is 45.8 years.
- 52.1% have only a high school education or GED. 25.1% attended some college, and 8.4% have a college degree or higher.
- 22.1% are veterans.
- A majority of ex-offenders have served time in jail (67.2%). 4.4% indicated that they served time in prison, and 28.4% reported that they had served time in both jail and prison. 57.1% reported having felony convictions. 33.6% reported being homeless before incarceration, and 35.1% indicated that they were homeless upon release.
- 28.2% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 37.8% had experienced it in the past year.
- 63.3% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 77.1% are currently in recovery.
- 61.8% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with drugs, 79.2% are currently in recovery.
- 47.2% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 56.0% are currently being treated, 51.3% are taking medication for mental health problems, and 90.6% have received counseling or treatment for mental health problems sometime in their lifetime.
- 50.3% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 78.4% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 47.3% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 33.8% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 21.7% are employed. Of those who are employed, 49.3% work full-time, 26.1% work part-time, and 24.6% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in greater Richmond is five years, and 36.7% have lived in the area for 20 years or more.
- The largest percentage of respondents (51.1%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (8.5%), Chesterfield (7.3%), and Hanover (3.5%). 15.8% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 12.3% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless ex-offenders have been homeless once (46.9%) or twice (25.2%); 28.0% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little less than half (49.5%) have been homeless for nine months or less.

For more information:

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