

# July 2016 Snapshot of Veterans

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## Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's 10<sup>th</sup> summer (July 20, 2016) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 607 adults and 84 children were counted, and 88.1% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 21.1% of individuals who indicated that they were veterans.

- 91.7% of adults are males, and 8.3% are females. 57.4% are or have been in families (including those who are married, as well as those who are separated, widowed, or divorced) or are currently partnered.
- 1.2% of veterans have children living with them.
- A majority of veterans report that they are African-American (63.0%), followed by White (31.5%). 4.7% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult veterans is 51.6 years.
- 33.0% of veterans reported that they served in combat. 67.0% were honorably discharged. 14.2% of all discharges were general.
- 33.0% have just a high school education or GED. 38.5% attended some college, and 19.3% have a college degree or higher.
- 69.8% have been to jail and/or prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 58.5% reported having felony convictions, and 34.8% reported being homeless before incarceration.
- 16.5% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 26.7% had experienced it in the past year.
- 55.2% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 71.7% are currently in recovery.
- 56.3% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with drugs, 70.4% are currently in recovery.
- 50.5% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 66.7% are currently being treated, and 60.4% are taking medication for mental health problems. 91.7% have received treatment or counseling for mental health problems sometime in their lifetime.
- 34.6% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 69.4% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 62.9% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 38.2% indicated that their disability was physical. (Note that respondents could select multiple disability types.)
- 37.5% are employed. Of those who are employed, 55.5% work full-time, 25.0% work part-time, and 19.4% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in Greater Richmond is four years, and 30.2% have lived in the area for 20 years or more.
- The largest percentage of respondents (45.3%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Chesterfield (7.4%) and Henrico (13.7%). 18.9% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 13.7% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless persons have been homeless once (59.6%) or twice (18.3%). 22.1% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- 52.0% have been homeless for four months or less.

For more information:

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