

# July 2019 Snapshot of People Who Were Homeless or in Foster Care as Children

## Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's 13<sup>th</sup> summer (July 31, 2019) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 436 adults and 57 children were counted, and 74.3% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 18.8% of individuals who indicated that they had been homeless or in foster care as children.

- 63.3% of adults are males, and 36.7% are females. Most are single, never married adults (67.2%). 32.8% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 8.2% have children living with them.
- The largest percentage report that they are African-American (63.1%), followed by White (34.5%). 3.3% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adults now homeless who experienced homelessness as children or were in foster care is 44.2 years.
- 39.3% have just a high school education or GED. 31.2% attended some college or have a college degree.
- 8.3% are veterans.
- 75.4% have been to jail and/or prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 35.5% reported having felony convictions, and 28.1% reported being homeless before incarceration.
- 39.3% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 31.6% had experienced it in the past year.
- 37.8% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime, and 31.8% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime.
- 45.2% report having received counseling or treatment for a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 78.9% are currently being treated, and 63.2% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 41.0% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 36.0% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 64.0% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 52.0% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 31.1% are employed. Of those who are employed, 31.6% do day labor or temporary work, 15.8% work part-time, and 52.6% work full-time.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in Greater Richmond is 2.8 years, and 29.3% have lived in the area for 17 or more years.
- The largest percentage of respondents (61.7%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. 10.0% last lived in Henrico. 15.0% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 11.7% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless adults have been homeless once (47.4%) or twice (3.5%); 49.2% had been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- Half (50.0%) have been homeless for seven months or less.

For more information:

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

