

July 2019 Snapshot of Veterans

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's 13th 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 17.6% of individuals who indicated that they were veterans.

- 94.6% of adults are males, and 5.4% are females. 55.4% 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.
- 3.6% of veterans reported having children living with them.
- The largest percentage of veterans report that they are African-American (56.4%), followed by White (36.4%). None indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult veterans is 57.6 years.
- 25.0% of veterans reported that they served in combat. 75.6% were honorably discharged. 7.3% of all discharges were general.
- 42.9% have just a high school education or GED. 28.6% attended some college, and 16.1% have a college degree or higher.
- 66.1% have been to jail and/or prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 50.0% reported having felony convictions, and 17.9% reported being homeless before incarceration.
- 23.2% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 27.3% had experienced it in the past year.
- 42.9% report having a problem with alcohol and 38.1% report having a problem with drugs sometime in their lifetime.
- 38.1% report having received treatment of counseling for mental health problems sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 75.0% are currently being treated, and 73.3% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 30.4% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 35.3% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 58.8% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 64.7% indicated that their disability was physical. (Note that respondents could select multiple disability types.)
- 35.7% are employed. Of those who are employed, 50.0% work full-time, 25.0% work part-time, and 25.0% do day labor or temp work.
- The median length of time respondents have lived in Greater Richmond is 2.3 years, and 28.6% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- The largest percentage of respondents (48.2%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Chesterfield (5.4%) and Henrico (10.7%). 26.8% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 8.9% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless persons have been homeless once (48.1%) or twice (22.2%). 29.6% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- 47.5% have been homeless for six months or less.

For more information:

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