

January 2010 Snapshot of Ex-Offenders

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's twelfth winter (January 21, 2010) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 881 adults and 131 children were counted, and 77.2% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics reported below represent the 469 individuals who indicated that they had spent time in jail or prison.

- 83.3% of ex-offenders are males, 16.5% are females, and .2% are transgendered. Most are single, never married adults (51.9%). 6.9% are married, and 48.1% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- 6.0% of ex-offenders have children living with them.
- A majority of ex-offenders report that they are African-American (65.7%), followed by White (28.8%). 3.6% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult ex-offenders is 44.8 years.
- 52.5% have only a high school education or GED. 20.0% attended some college, and 9.7% have a college degree or higher.
- 17.2% are veterans.
- A majority of ex-offenders have served time in jail (64.6%). 4.3% indicated that they served time in prison, and 31.1% reported that they had served time in both jail and prison. 62.0% reported having felony convictions. 36.2% reported being homeless before incarceration, and 51.1% indicated that they were homeless upon release.
- 33.0% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 5.0% had experienced it in the past month, and 29.5% had experienced it in the past year.
- 54.3% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 79.1% are currently in recovery.
- 60.0% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 80.6% are currently in recovery.
- 34.2% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 57.2% are currently being treated and 53.5% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 45.9% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 69.4% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse, and 50.0% indicated that their disability was a mental illness. (Note that respondents could select both or neither of these options.)
- 19.1% are employed. Of those who are employed, 34.1% work full-time, 45.1% work part-time, and 20.7% do day labor or temp work.
- 49.9% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for 10 years or more; 43.0% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- Most (55.1%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (9.1%), Chesterfield (5.6%), and Hanover (1.9%). 16.0% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 11.4% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless ex-offenders have been homeless once (60.7%) or twice (23.2%); 16.1% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little less than half (45.8%) have been homeless for 5 months or less. 49.0% have been homeless for more than 6 months.

For more information:

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