

# January 2010 Snapshot of Adults in Families Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

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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. Just over three fourths (77.2%) of adults experiencing homelessness (680 people) completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below are based upon the 11.5% of adults surveyed who indicated that children were living with them.

- 79.5% of adults are females, 20.5% are males. Most adults in families are single, never married adults (68.4%). 5.3% are married, and 31.6% are or have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are separated, widowed, or divorced.
- A majority of persons in families report that they are African-American (70.5%), followed by White (24.4%). 2.7% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adults is 34.2 years.
- 46.7% have just a high school education or GED. 33.3% attended some college, and 9.4% have a college degree or higher.
- 7.9% are veterans.
- Less than half (36.8%) served some time in jail and/or prison. Out of all individuals surveyed (including those who have not served time in jail and/or prison), 32.9% reported serving time in jail, and 3.9% indicated that they had served time in both jail and prison.
- 48.0% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 36.4% had experienced it in the past year.
- 17.1% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 76.9% are currently in recovery.
- 30.3% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 82.6% are currently in recovery.
- 26.3% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 70.0% are currently being treated and 60.0% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 23.6% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 50.0% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse, and 66.7% indicated that their disability was a mental illness. (Note that respondents could select both or neither of these options.)
- 42.3% are employed. Of those who are employed, 28.1% work full-time, 68.8% work part-time, and 3.1% do day labor or temp work.
- 50.0% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for 17 months or less; 24.3% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- Most (50.6%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (11.7%), Chesterfield (7.8%), and Hanover (3.9%). 15.6% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 10.4% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless adults in families have been homeless once (69.9%) or twice (20.5%); 9.6% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little more than half (53.0%) have been homeless for 5 months or less.

For more information:

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