

# July 2010 Snapshot of Veterans

## Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's fourth summer (July 29, 2010) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 748 adults and 143 children were counted, and 73.8% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 18.2% of individuals who indicated that they were veterans.

- 98.0% of veterans are males, 2.0% are females. 63.9% of veterans are or have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are separated, widowed, or divorced.
- 2.0% of veterans have children living with them.
- A majority of veterans report that they are African-American (60.2%), followed by White (28.6%). 6.7% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult veterans is 49.0 years.
- 35.9% of veterans reported that they served in combat. 64.5% were honorably discharged. 4.3% of all discharges were medical.
- 48.0% have only a high school education or GED. 32.7% attended some college, and 8.1% have a college degree or higher.
- 76.1% have been to jail and/or prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 61.5% reported having felony convictions, and 35.4% reported being homeless before incarceration.
- 24.1% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 44.4% had experienced it in the past year.
- 60.2% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 78.0% are currently in recovery.
- 56.8% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with substance abuse, 83.3% are currently in recovery.
- 44.8% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 63.2% are currently being treated, and 61.5% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 52.7% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 69.8% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse; 51.4% indicated that their disability was a mental illness; and 58.1% indicated that their disability was a physical disability. (Note that respondents could select all, some, or none of these options.)
- 21.8% are employed. Of those who are employed, 47.4% work full-time, 36.8% work part-time, and 15.8% do day labor or temp work.
- 48.8% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for 4 years or more; 25.0% have lived in the area for 20 years or more.
- Most (40.7%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Chesterfield (4.7%), Henrico (12.8%), and Hanover (1.2%). 25.6% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 15.1% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless veterans have been homeless once (70.8%) or twice (15.7%). 13.5% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- 48.9% have been homeless for 9 months or less.

For more information:

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