

July 2009 Snapshot of Ex-Offenders

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's third summer (July 23, 2009) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 906 adults and 155 children were counted, and 65.1% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics below represent the 72.5% of those adults surveyed who indicated that they had spent time in jail or prison.

- Of those serving time, 67.4% have served time in jail; 4.9% have served time in prison; and 27.7% have served time in both jail and prison.
- 56.7% reported having felony convictions. 34.7% reported being homeless before their last incarceration, and 46.9% reported being homeless upon their last discharge from jail/prison.
- 76.6% of ex-offenders are males; 22.6% are females; and .7% are transgendered. Most are single, never married adults (52.6%). 47.4% have been in families, including those who are married, separated, widowed, or divorced. (The combined total for single, widowed, separated, and divorced adults is 93.5%.)
- A majority of ex-offenders report that they are African-American (65.7%), followed by White (28.8%) or two or more races (2.8%). Hispanics comprised 3.0% of the sample.
- The average age for adult ex-offenders is 44.1 years.
- 51.7% have a high school education or GED. 19.8% attended some college, and 9.4% have a college degree or higher.
- 18.0% are veterans.
- 34.6% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 3.9% had experienced it in the past month, and 26.0% had experienced it in the past year.
- 59.6% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 78.4% are currently in recovery.
- 67.2% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 82.8% are currently in recovery.
- 35.1% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 59.4% are currently being treated, 50.0% are taking medication for mental health problems, and 88.5% are receiving counseling.
- 48.2% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 73.4% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse, and 50.9% indicated that their disability was a mental illness. (Note that respondents could select both or neither of these options.)
- 24.0% are employed. Of those who are employed, 47.7% work full-time, 36.4% work part-time, and 15.9% do day labor or temp work.
- 53.5% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for 3 years or more; 33.1% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- Most (51.1%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (11.3%), Chesterfield (8.3%) and Hanover (1.8%). 19.6% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 7.3% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless ex-offenders have been homeless once (57.7%) or twice (24.6%); 17.7% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little less than half (49.6%) have been homeless for 5 months or less.

For more information:

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* Data gathered at the July 23, 2009, Point in Time Count & Survey. Final report date: September 15, 2009. © Homeward 2009