

# July 2009 Snapshot of People Who Were Homeless or in Foster Care as Children

## 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 13.5% of adults who completed the survey who indicated that they had experienced homelessness as children or were in foster care.

- 63.4% of the people now homeless who experienced homelessness or foster care as children are males, 36.6% are females.
- A majority report that they are African-American (68.8%), followed by White (25.0%). Hispanics comprised 5.0% of the sample.
- The average age for adults now homeless who experienced homelessness as children or were in foster care is 38.7 years.
- 51.9% have a high school education or GED. 18.5% attended some college, and 7.4% have a college degree or higher.
- 13.4% are veterans.
- 77.8% have been to jail and/or prison. Of those serving time in jail and/or prison, 55.0% reported having felony convictions. 47.5% reported being homeless prior to their most recent incarceration; 62.1% reported being homeless upon their most recent discharge.
- 34.1% have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 3.8% had experienced it in the past month, and 42.3% had experienced it in the past year.
- 47.4% report having a long-term disability. Of those reporting a long-term disability, 60.7% indicated that their disability was drug or alcohol abuse, and 75.8% indicated that their disability was a mental illness. (Note that respondents could select both or neither of these options.)
- 54.9% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 64.4% are currently in recovery.
- 48.1% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with substance abuse, 79.5% are currently in recovery.
- 43.2% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 61.8% are currently being treated, 55.9% are taking medication for mental health problems, and 85.7% are receiving counseling.
- 19.5% are employed. Of those who are employed, 35.7% work full-time, 42.9% work part-time, and 21.4% do day labor or temp work.
- 51.9% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for more than 4 years; 36.4% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- The largest percentage of people (58.0%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (13.6%), Chesterfield (3.7%) and Hanover (1.2%). 13.6% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 9.9% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most have been homeless once (56.2%), twice (17.8%), or three times (12.3%); 13.7% have been homeless more than three times during this time period.
- 60.6% have been homeless for 5 months or more.

For more information:

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