

January 2009 Snapshot of Ex-Offenders

Experiencing Homelessness in the Richmond Region

The following data were collected in Homeward's eleventh winter (January 29, 2009) count of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Richmond region. A total of 1014 adults and 136 children were counted, and 68.2% of adults completed the Homeward point-in-time survey. The statistics reported below represent the 465 individuals (73.0% of adults who completed the survey) who indicated that they had spent time in jail or prison.

- 81.8% of ex-offenders are males, 17.7% are females, and .4% are transgendered. Most are single, never married adults (56.3%). 5.7% are married, and 43.7% have been in families, including those who are married, as well as those who are widowed, separated, or divorced.
- A majority of ex-offenders report that they are African-American (70.1%), followed by White (23.6%). 3.6% indicated that they are Hispanic.
- The average age for adult ex-offenders is 44.8 years.
- 56.7% have a high school education or GED. 23.0% attended some college, and 5.5% have a college degree or higher.
- 19.7% are veterans.
- A majority of ex-offenders have served time in jail (59.1%). 10.3% indicated that they served time in prison, and 30.5% reported that they had served time in both jail and prison.
- 27.2% experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Of those experiencing domestic violence, 2.6% had experienced it in the past month, and 30.4% had experienced it in the past year.
- 52.2% report having a problem with alcohol sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem with alcohol, 79.3% are currently in recovery.
- 59.7% report having a problem with substance abuse sometime in their lifetime. Of those reporting a problem, 78.3% are currently in recovery.
- 31.9% report having a mental health problem sometime in their lifetime. Of these, 69.9% are currently being treated and 60.3% are taking medication for mental health problems.
- 26.9% report having a long-term disability.
- 25.6% are employed. Of those who are employed, 45.9% work full-time, 27.5% work part-time, and 26.6% do day labor or temp work.
- 50.6% of respondents have lived in Greater Richmond for 6 years or more; 37.4% have lived in the area for 17 years or more.
- Most (53.0%) reported having their last housing in Richmond. Others indicated previous housing in Henrico (9.9%), Chesterfield (6.6%), and Hanover (1.8%). 18.2% of respondents last lived elsewhere in Virginia, and 9.7% lived in other states.
- In the past three years, most homeless ex-offenders have been homeless once (57.2%) or twice (24.5%); 18.3% have been homeless three or more times during this time period.
- A little more than half (50.5%) have been homeless for 5 months or less.

For more information:

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