

Regional Community Response to Homelessness

Housing Ex-Offenders: A Review of Regional Data

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Definition of Homeless

A person living in an emergency or transitional shelter or sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation

NOT: staying with family or friends

NOT: living in motel

NOT: living in crowded or substandard conditions

By the numbers ...

On any given day, there are **1,073** men, women and children experiencing homelessness while living and working in our region. (01/08)

This means that over the course of one year 3,154 – 4,294 people experience a crisis that results in homelessness.

2,656 – 3,616 are sheltered

498 – 678 are unsheltered

450 - 612 are children (sheltered)

Incarceration is single most significant characteristic of persons experiencing homelessness



71.9% of adults experiencing homelessness served some time in jail and/ or prison. Of these, 61.7% reported having felony convictions, and 33.5% reported being homeless before incarceration.

**How do homeless ex-offenders
compare to homeless adults
who have not served time in
jail or prison?**

Demographic Comparisons

- More males than females
 - The percentage of ex-offenders among males (80.7%) is higher than the percentage of ex-offenders among females (50.3%.)
- Similar educational levels for ex-offenders and non-offenders.
- Similar veteran status for homeless ex-offenders and homeless non-offenders.
- Ex-offenders are more likely to have been homeless more than one time in the past three years.

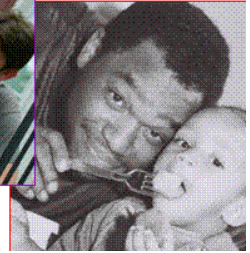
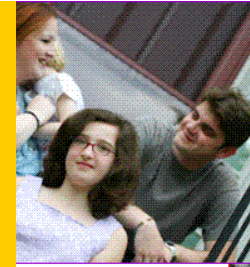
Disabling Conditions Play a Role

- Homeless ex-offenders are more likely to have had a drug or substance abuse problem in their lifetime.
- Homeless ex-offenders are more likely to have an alcohol problem in their lifetime.
- Ex-offenders are **not** more likely to have had treatment for mental health problems during their lifetime.

Housing Barriers

Compared to homeless individuals who have not spent time in jail or prison, ex-offenders are:

- Marginally less likely to be employed
- More likely to have ever caused serious damage to a property in which they lived
- Less likely to be able to obtain credit
- Less likely to have a checking account
- Marginally less likely to have a savings account



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**The prevention and end of
homelessness is our priority.**