



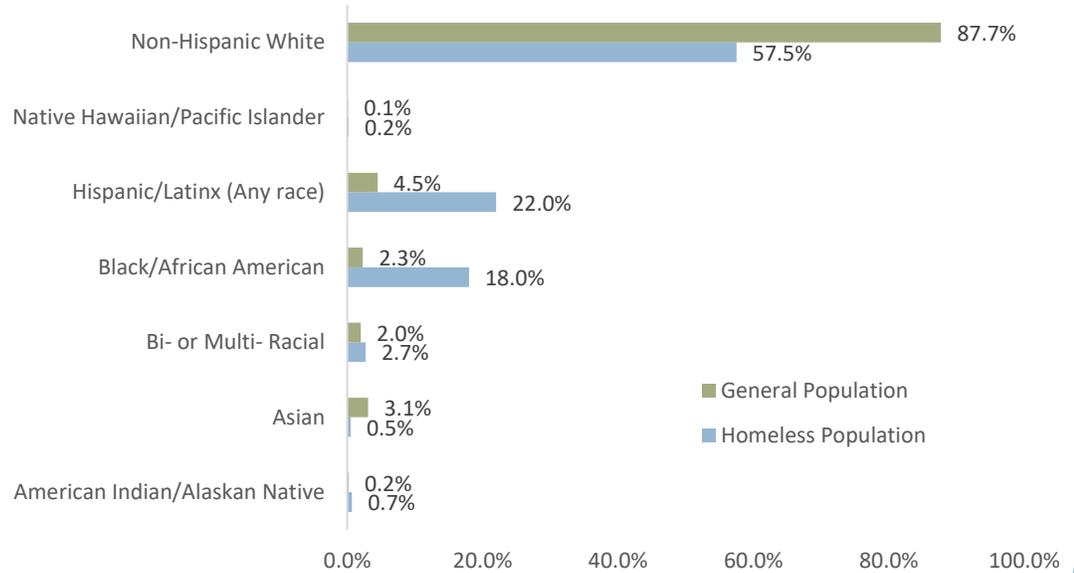
Racial Disparities

This racial disparities analysis compares the representation of different racial and ethnic groups among all homeless persons to their representation in both the general population and the population of persons in the area living in the Very Low Income range, defined as being at or below 50% of the Federal poverty level.

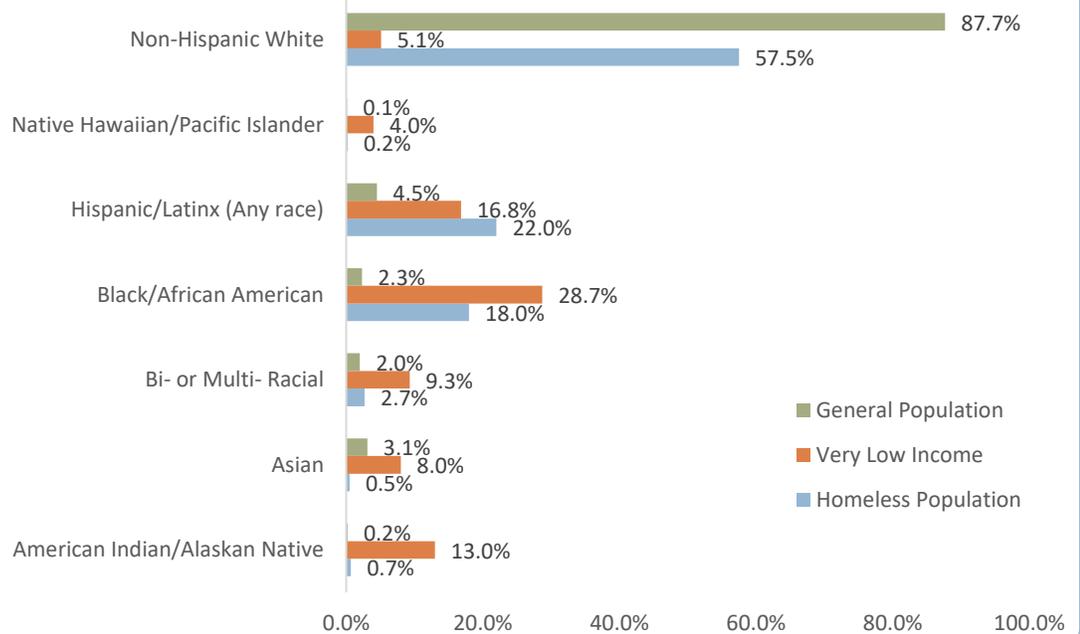
The Three County CoC region – Hampshire, Berkshire, and Franklin Counties – consists predominantly of people who are White, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx, Asian, or bi/multi-racial. Black and African American persons are overrepresented among the homeless population comprising 18% compared to 2.3% of the general population. Hispanic and Latinx persons are also overrepresented in the homeless population with 22% compared to 4.5% of the general population.

Persons living in the Very Low Income (VLI) range are at the greatest risk for homelessness. Hispanic and Latinx persons are represented as 16.8% of the VLI population and yet 22% of the homeless population, which is an overrepresentation even among those living in what is considered to be Deep Poverty.

Rates of Homelessness Compared to the General Population



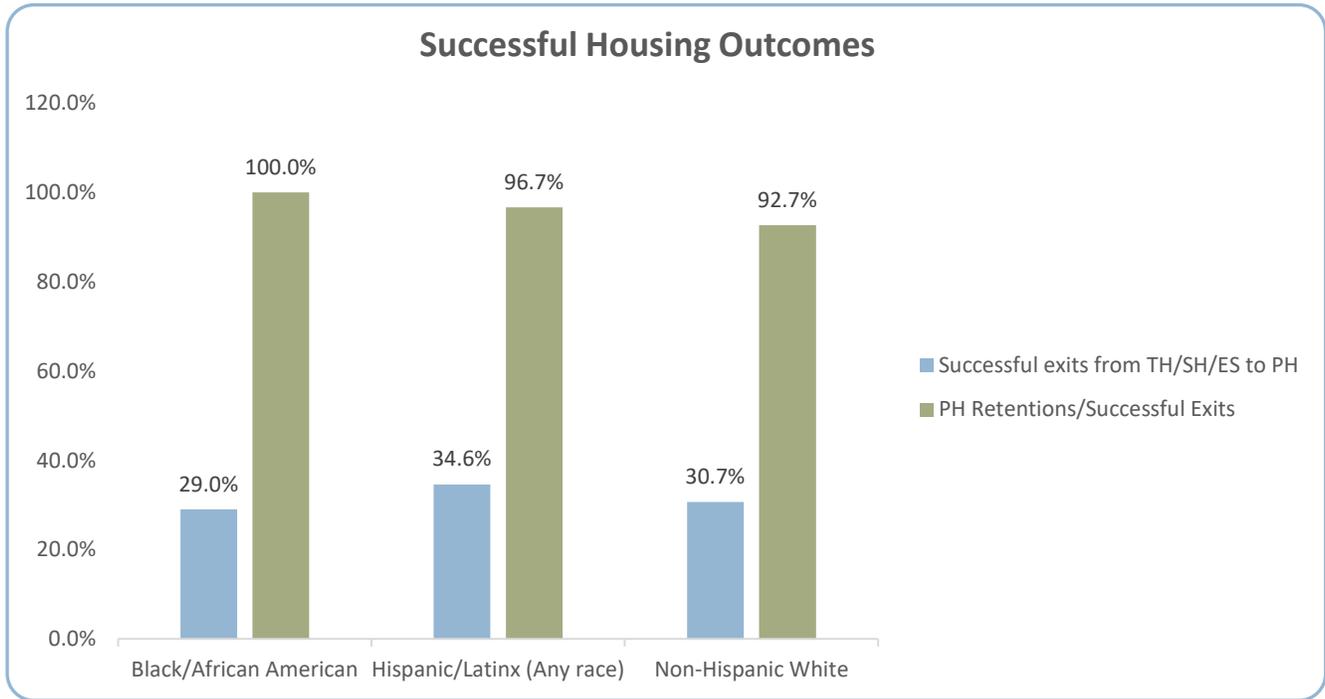
Rates of Homelessness Compared to the Population Living with Very Low Incomes



The rates of homelessness are determined by those living in shelters, transitional housing, or who were counted during street outreach during the FY2018 meaning there are homeless people with no connection to continuum of care services who remain uncaptured by this data.



Racial Disparities Among Housing Outcomes



One of the clearest ways to assess racial disparities among housing outcomes is by looking at rates of successful housing outcomes among different race and ethnic groups, specifically self-reported exits to permanent housing. What we find is that successful housing outcomes are very similar across the racial and ethnic groups we can analyze. All groups have high successful retentions in permanent housing because people are likely to remain in permanent housing when they are also receiving supportive services. When looking overall at successful exits from transitional or shelter housing, Hispanic/Latinx people are slightly more likely to enter permanent housing than White people but Black/African American people are slightly less likely to enter permanent housing than White people although the rates are very close across the board. The largest discrepancy comes from a slightly lower percentage of Non-Hispanic White persons, 92.7%, who remained in permanent housing over the course of the year or exited to other permanent housing.



Housing Enrollment Gap

Another way to look at housing disparities is to look at different racial and ethnic groups by their representation in shelter housing compared to permanent housing. Those in permanent housing do not include persons who self-resolve or exit to permanent housing which is not CoC-sponsored. In an equitable system, we should see very similar representation in permanent housing as we do in shelters, and yet we can see a clear gap. While the enrollment gap for Black and African American persons is quite low, there is a slight enrollment gap for Hispanic and Latinx persons and Non-Hispanic White persons are actually overrepresented in permanent housing when compared to the percentage of people who enter shelter housing.

Race/Ethnicity	Shelter Occupancy	Permanent Housing Occupancy	Enrollment Gap	For every 10 people who enter a shelter...
Black/African American	18.0%	17.3%	-0.7%	10 will enroll in CoC PH
Hispanic/Latinx (Any race)	22.4%	18.9%	-3.5%	8 will enroll in CoC PH
Non-Hispanic White	54.5%	63.4%	8.9%	12 will enroll in CoC PH

It is important to note that the housing enrollment gap for Hispanic and Latinx persons may be due to the over-representation of Hispanic/Latinx families with children in the CoC shelter system, when coupled with the fact that the CoC has minimal permanent housing for families. However, permanent housing for families is available through Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Rapid Re-Housing and enrollment data is collected by DHCD rather than the CoC. We would want to look at our enrollment data by household type prior to drawing conclusions, since we may be observing a measurement problem (due to the lack of DHCD RRH enrollment data) rather than a racial disparities problem.



Data & Methodology

HMIS data for FY2018 was used to determine the representation of racial and ethnic groups among the homeless population – specifically this captures all persons who stayed in emergency shelters or transitional housing in the Three County CoC region from October 1st, 2017 to September 30th, 2018. This data was compared to census data from the American Community Survey (ACS) for Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties combined. The most recent ACS census data available at the time of this report was from 2017 and 2013-2017 5-year estimate data was used for this report. The data analyzed is available below:

Hampshire, Franklin, Berkshire County Race/Ethnicity			
Race/Ethnicity	Homeless Population	Very Low Income	General Population
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.7%	13.0%	0.2%
Asian	0.5%	8.0%	3.1%
Bi- or Multi- Racial	2.7%	9.3%	2.0%
Black/African American	18.0%	28.7%	2.3%
Hispanic/Latinx (Any race)	22.0%	16.8%	4.5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.2%	4.0%	0.1%
Non-Hispanic White	57.5%	5.1%	87.7%

The Three County CoC covers a wide geographic area, part of which is rural, and in many cases data for racial groups other than Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx, and White persons was too small to analyze for the local homeless population. There is a danger, however, in assuming that this is because the population size for those groups is too small and instead could serve as guidance for new forms of targeted outreach to connect more people with services and housing. This is especially true when we consider the lack of accessible public transportation throughout the CoC’s region which makes it more difficult for isolated persons to connect with housing and supportive services. The Three County CoC will present this report to both the Data Evaluation Committee and the Equity and Inclusion Committee for their interpretation and suggested actions.



Next Steps

The Three County CoC will provide the Data Evaluation Committee and the Inclusion and Equity Committee with copies of this report. The committees will use this report to attempt to draw tentative conclusions about racial disparities in the Three County area and suggest steps which might be taken to address some of the disparities. The Data Evaluation Committee will begin work to expand on the types of disparities which the Three County CoC analyzes and determine the best direction to analyze next. Possible reports include racial disparities analyzed among subpopulations and gender disparities apparent in the Three County CoC. The Inclusion and Equity Committee will work to diversify representation among the CoC Board, Membership, and Project staffing. Following the release of the previous Three County CoC Racial Disparities Report, the CoC underwent racial equity training for all of its funded projects which was very well received. This training, however, occurred after the 2018FY ended and so the data for this report is from before the CoC underwent racial equity training- it may be worthwhile to prepare another racial disparities report to look at any changes in racial disparity following the racial equity training.

