Using Your Data to Analyze Racial Disparities During the Pandemic

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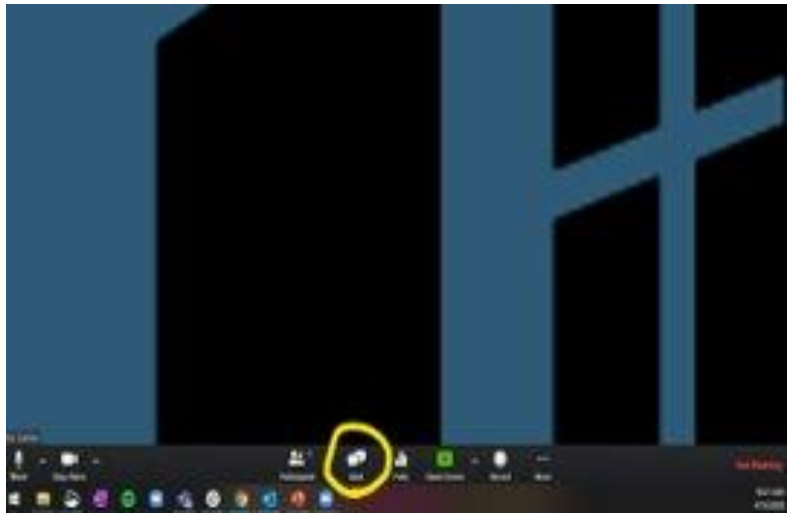
Housekeeping & Announcements

- All attendees are on mute, and video options are turned off.
- The Zoom chat function has been disabled. Please enter your questions in the **Zoom Q&A box**.
- Follow our COVID-19 Webinar Series here: https://endhomelessness.org/resource/covid-19-webinar-series/
- **Upcoming webinars:**
  - Making Housing Happen In Difficult Times – Tuesday, May 12th, 3:00pm EST
  - Helping Survivors of Domestic Violence and Trafficking Stay Safe During the Pandemic – Thursday, May 14th, 3:00pm EST
- Join the Ending Homelessness Forum - https://forum.endhomelessness.org/login



Housekeeping & Announcements

COMING SOON!

NAEH & NHCHC launching self-paced online courses on:

- Understanding Homelessness
- COVID Overview/CDC Guidance
- Cultural Humility
- Case Management 101
- Trauma Informed Care
- Trauma Informed Supervision
- Harm Reduction

Audience: hotel/motel and congregate shelter staff, new hires w/o prior experience of working with individuals experiencing homelessness, health care, medical, mental and behavioral health staff working with hotel/motel guests and staff.

Stay tuned to the Alliance's webpages - Coronavirus & Homelessness or the Center for Learning to enroll early next week!

Public Health and Economic Recovery

Overview: Homeless System Planning for the Most Effective Use of COVID-19 Funding

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS
Public Health Response: Emergency Protective Measures to Flatten the Curve

Create system-wide testing and/or screening protocol and route people to appropriate options based on need (asymptomatic, symptomatic, high-risk, COVID positive)

- **Unsheltered People:** Increase outreach and create additional hygiene resources (handwashing stations, showers, laundry) for people in unsheltered locations.
- **Shelters:**
  - Ensure social distancing in current congregate facilities.
  - Stand up new non-congregate shelter for high-risk, symptomatic, overflow and people in unsheltered locations.
- **Housing**
  - Continue housing people through normal channels.
- **Prevention/Diversion**
  - Implement jurisdiction-wide moratoria on evictions.
  - Support people in PSH and RRH.
  - Link to employment.
- **Other Key Activities:**
  - Collect data for planning.
  - Engage People with Lived Expertise in planning.

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS
Public Health and Economic Recovery Response: Effective and Equitable Re-Housing

Develop policies and practices that support people in non-congregate or overflow shelters exiting to housing, not back to unsheltered locations.

- **Unsheltered People:**
  - Sustain and expand efforts to support, screen, test, and safely shelter people who are unsheltered.
  - Engage people with lived expertise and other partners to increase outreach, especially in rural areas.
- **Shelters:**
  - Begin re-housing people placed into non-congregate or overflow shelter.
  - Re-house people in congregate or unsheltered locations.
- **Housing:**
  - Begin landlord engagement activities.
  - Begin re-engagement of coordinated entry.
  - Begin cross-system planning.
- **Prevention/Diversion:**
  - Scale up efforts to prevent loss of housing among people in PSH and RRH programs.
- **Other Key Activities:**
  - Implement equity-based decision making protocols.
  - Use data to project need for different interventions and inform equity-based decisions.

MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS
Economic Recovery Response: Reduce New Entries into Homelessness

Continue to implement CDC/HHS guidance in homeless programs and systems.

- **Unsheltered People:** Re-house people living in unsheltered locations and increase support for unsheltered persons.
- **Shelters:**
  - Scale up non-congregate shelter as needed.
  - Implement or increase housing-focused case management in shelter.
- **Housing:**
  - Move people from CARES-funded RRH into PSH if needed.
  - Work with PHAs and other housing agencies to access vouchers for households in CARES-funded RRH who need long-term assistance.
- **Housing cont'd:**
  - Prevent evictions due to economic crisis for extremely low income and marginalized persons first. Plan for higher income (30-80% AMI) at-risk households.
- **Prevention/Diversion:**
  - Divert households from homeless systems when possible.
  - Engage partner systems (TANF, Child Welfare, Justice) for prevention activities.
- **Other Key Activities:**
  - Use data to refresh projections of need for different interventions and assess equity impact.

LONGER-TERM ACTIONS
Economic Recovery and Public Health Preparedness: Strengthen Systems to Advance Racial Equity and Prepare for Future Crises

Strengthen connection between homeless and public health/emergency management systems to prepare for future crises.

- **Unsheltered People:** Monitor re-housing efforts for people living in unsheltered locations.
- **Shelters:**
  - Close non-congregate and overflow shelters by moving residents into housing.
  - Assess the feasibility of congregate shelter as a common practice in light of pandemic.
  - Connect COVID related homeless assistance to employment systems.
- **Housing:**
  - Assess and plan additional activities/targeting for marginalized/highly impacted communities.
- **Prevention/Diversion:**
  - Prevent evictions due to economic crisis for higher income populations as appropriate (30-80% AMI).
- **Other Key Activities:**
  - Conduct review of COVID response to inform lessons learned for planning, including impact of equity-focused practices.

[A Framework for COVID-19 Homelessness Response: Responding to the Intersecting Crises of Homelessness and COVID-19]

CARES ACT: RE-HOUSING STRATEGIES

April Mitchell

Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPs)

US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development

Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

CARES Act: Re-Housing Strategies

- Focus resources on addressing inequities in COVID-19 response
- Make sure you have providers who are experts in underserved populations
- Track housing placement rates
- CoCs should think through how to update Coordinated Entry prioritization strategies to account for vulnerabilities associated with COVID-19

Key Websites

HUD: https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/infectious-disease-prevention-response/

CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/index.html

NHCHC: https://nhchc.org/clinical-practice/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/

USICH: https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/coronavirus-covid-19-resources/

VA: https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp

HRSA: https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions.html

Contacts

For additional information or assistance, contact:

- Department of Housing and Urban Development:
  HUD Exchange Ask-A-Question (AAQ) Portal

USING YOUR DATA TO ANALYZE RACIAL DISPARITIES DURING THE PANDEMIC

Chandra Crawford, PhD

National Alliance to End Homelessness

Outline

- **COVID-19 and Racial Inequity**
- **Homelessness, Race and COVID-19**
- **What the Homeless System Can Do to Address Equity**
- **Using Data to Assess Outcomes in Your System**

Race and COVID-19

- **Black people are (especially) disproportionately impacted by COVID-19**

- **Blacks account for *13.4%* of the general population (Census Bureau)**

- **Counties with higher Black populations account for more than half of all cases and almost *60%* of deaths**

The likelihood of COVID-19 increases with the proportion of Black residents

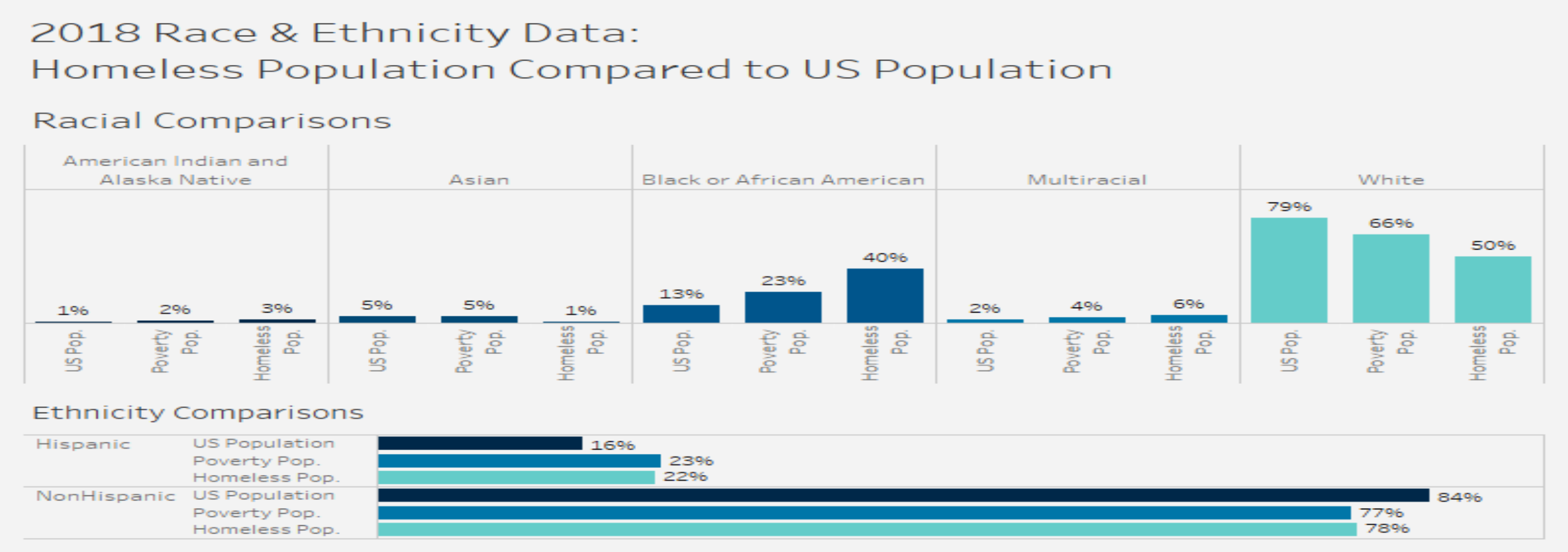
https://ehe.amfar.org/inequity

Black people are at higher risk due to health, social, and economic disparities

Race and Homelessness

- Most minority groups in the US represent a disproportionate share of the homeless population
  - The most striking disproportionality can be found among African Americans
    - **African Americans** make up **40%** of homeless population, but only **13%** of general population (and 23% of poverty showing that poverty alone does not account for the disproportionality)

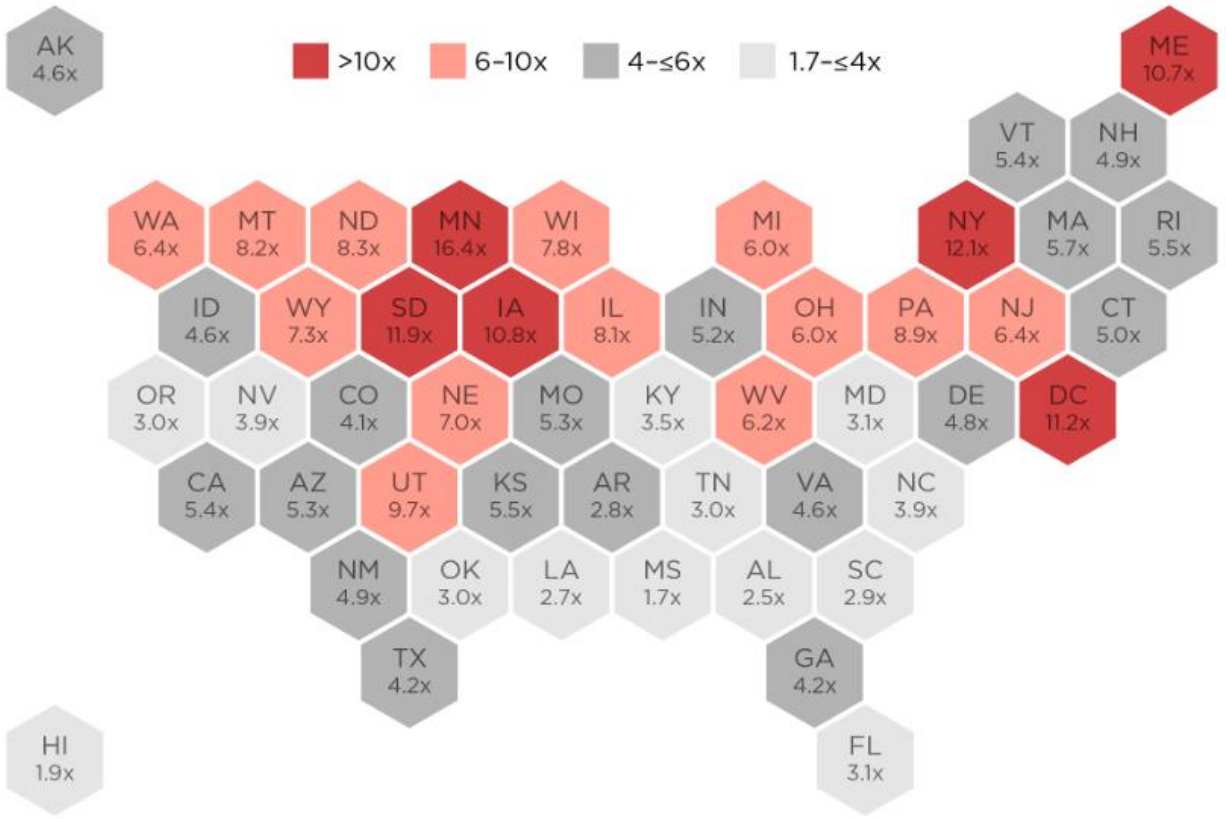
Race and Homelessness



Source: NAEH State of Homelessness Report 2019
https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/state-of-homelessness-report/

In Every State, African Americans Are More Likely Than Whites to Experience Homelessness

Ratio of Black-to-White homelessness rate by state, 2018



Source: NAEH analysis of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2018 Point-in-Time Count data

National Alliance to End Homelessness

What Can the Homelessness System Do?

- Disproportionality influenced by historical and structural racism, including feeder systems such as criminal justice
  - *Homeless workers can and should contribute to these efforts to address disproportionality*

- **Homeless systems have the responsibility to make sure they are not, themselves, having a disparate impact on people based on race or ethnicity**

Assess Data for Disparate Outcomes

- **Tool:** NAEH Race Equity Tool
- The Alliance's Racial Equity Network created a tool to help you measure whether the outcomes of your program or system vary depending on the race or ethnicity of a homeless person or family
- Simple dashboard measuring key portions of a homeless program or system

Data Elements

- Who experiences homelessness?
- Who gets into crisis housing (emergency shelter and transitional housing)?
- Who gets into permanent housing?
- Who returns to homelessness?

Use Data to Make Changes

- Without racial data we cannot see whether disparities exist
- If we don't see disparities then we typically don't factor them into our decision-making or response
- **Now what?**

USING THE SIMPLE RACIAL EQUITY TOOL FOR COVID-19

Jackie Janosko

National Alliance to End Homelessness

What's in the COVID-19 Tab?

- The COVID-19 tab of the Racial Equity Tool helps communities analyze the racial component to the COVID crisis.
- Asks several questions to help you determine if and where equity issues exist
  - 1a - How many people experiencing homelessness in your system are symptomatic for COVID-19 (have fevers and other symptoms such as cough or difficulty breathing)?
  - 1b - Of those people, how many were tested?
  - 2a - How many people experiencing homelessness in your system have tested positive for COVID-19?
  - 2b - How many of those positives have received treatment?
  - 3 - How many people experiencing homelessness have been referred to isolation and quarantine "beds" within your system?
  - 4 – How many people experiencing homelessness who have either appeared symptomatic or tested positive for COVID-19 have received permanent housing?

How does it Work?

- The tool is meant to be a basic starting point for assessing inequity in your community's COVID-19 response
- Simply enter the total number of people by race and ethnicity in the indicated cells on the spreadsheet
- The graphs to the right will auto populate with the calculated percentage for each group
- Let's look at the tool for a quick demonstration!
- https://endhomelessness.org/resource/the-alliances-racial-equity-network-toolkit/

THINKING ABOUT ACTION STEPS

Mindy Mitchell

National Alliance to End Homelessness

An Example to Use as a COVID-19 Template for Thinking About Racial Disparities & Homelessness: REN Toolkit and Action Steps

Racial Equity Tool

Start Date: 1/1/2018 End Date: 12/31/2018

1-Who Experiences Homelessness?

Enter the unduplicated total number of people in HMIS for each racial and ethnic group below

White	African American	Native American	All Other Races	Total
150	275	150	100	675
22%	41%	22%	15%	

Hispanic	Not Hispanic	Total
350	325	675
52%	48%	

2-Who Gets into Crisis Housing?

*Enter the total number of each group entering **Emergency Shelter***

White	African American	Native American	All Other Races	Total
30	50	20	10	110
27%	45%	18%	9%	

Hispanic	Not Hispanic	Total
80	30	110
73%	27%	

*Enter the total number of each group entering **Transitional Housing***

White	African American	Native American	All Other Races	Total
15	30	20	10	75
20%	40%	27%	13%	

Hispanic	Not Hispanic	Total
40	35	75
53%	47%	

3-Who Gets into Permanent Housing?

Enter the total number of exits to Permanent Housing from all project types by group

White	African American	Native American	All Other Races	Total
50	40	20	10	120
42%	33%	17%	8%	

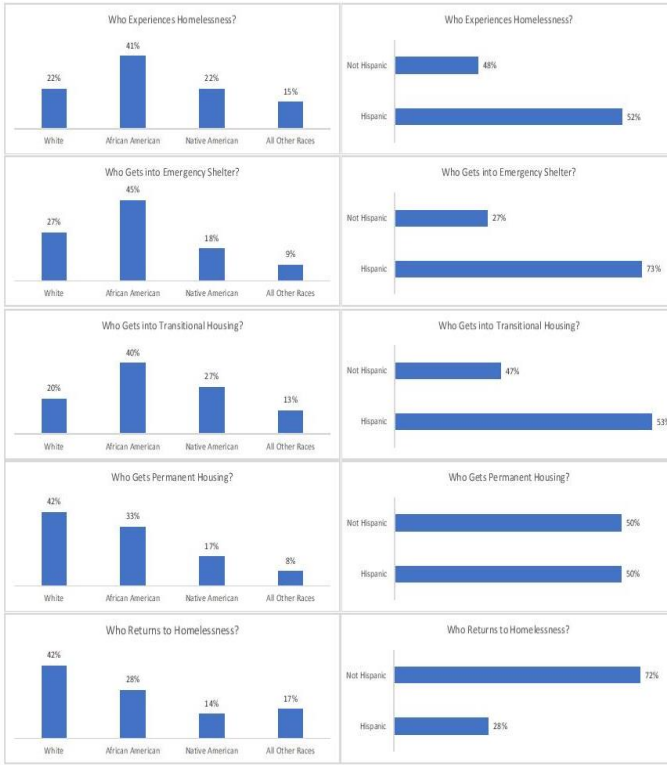
Hispanic	Not Hispanic	Total
60	60	120
50%	50%	

4-Who Returns to Homelessness?

Enter the total number of returns to homelessness by race below

White	African American	Native American	All Other Races	Total
15	10	5	6	36
42%	28%	14%	17%	

Hispanic	Not Hispanic	Total
10	26	36
28%	72%	

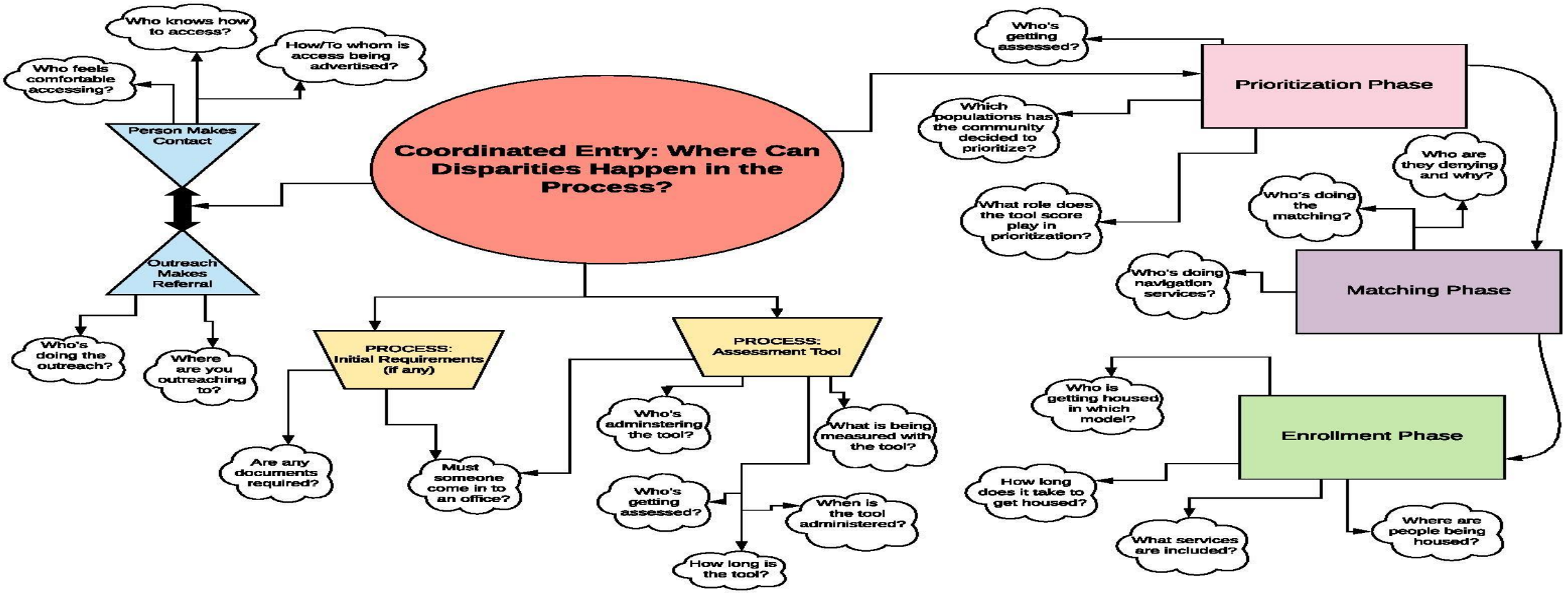


Permanent Housing

Reviewing Who Gets Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Subsidized Housing, or Other Housing Placements

	Action Steps
Immediate Steps	If there are racial or ethnic disparities in permanent housing placements, consider the program design of your permanent housing model(s): - Do(es) your model(s) address discrimination that may occur in the market (e.g., landlord engagement)? - Do(es) your model(s) take into account culturally-responsive, community-based supports the client/tenant might need? - Is your model(s) supportive of the person's employment or employment prospects?
	Continuously examine the coordinated entry processes, including vulnerability assessments and housing matching tools to determine any potential disparate impact by race/ethnicity.
Long Term Step	Get technical assistance to re-design your coordinated entry process (which includes access, assessment, prioritization, and referral) if found to have disparate outcomes.

Another Example to Use as a COVID-19 Template for Thinking About Racial Disparities & Homelessness: Coordinated Entry & Racial Disparity Considerations Flowchart



Questions?

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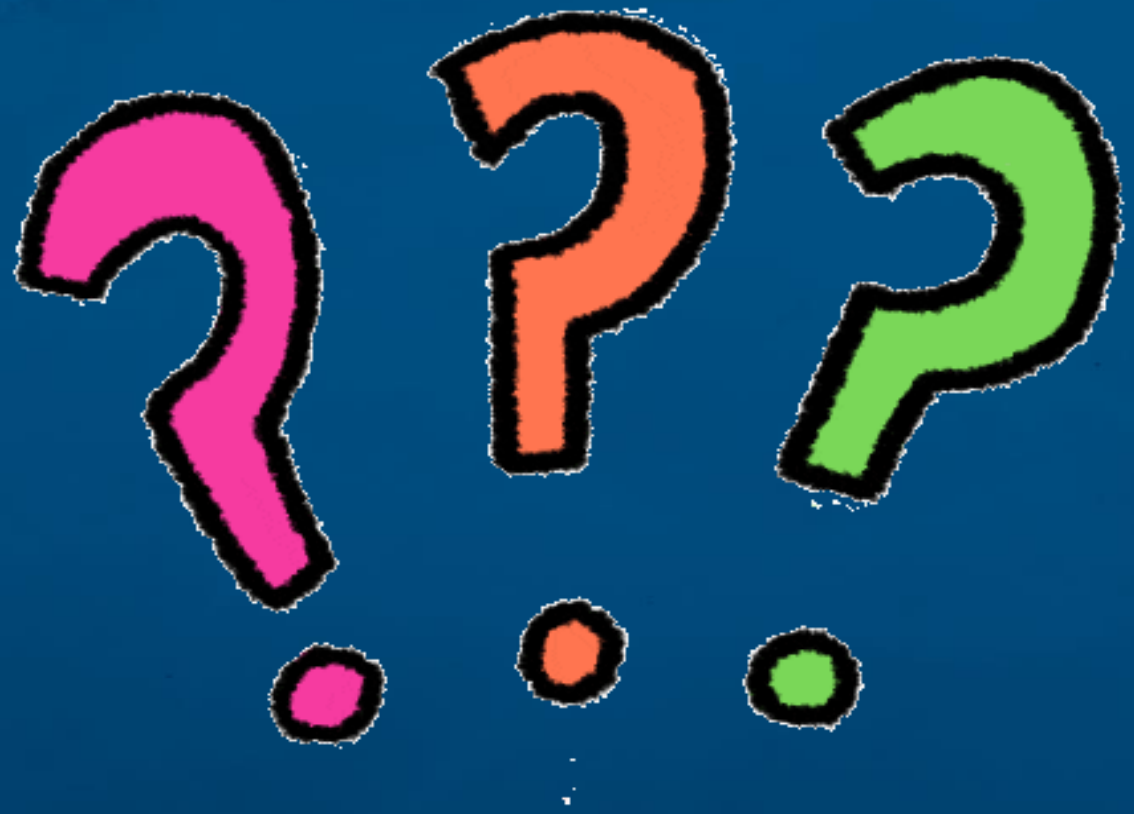

Take action on CARES 2 legislation now!

The next few weeks will determine how much Congress will invest in homelessness and housing during the pandemic.

New legislation called CARES 2 is now being written to expand the investments made by the CARES Act.

Contact your Senators and Representatives now:

https://endhomelessness.org/actions/letter-cares-2-should-provide-more-homelessness-and-housing-funds/