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
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!

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 screening protocol and route people to appropriate isolation (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
- Continuously house people through normal channels.
- Prevention/Diversion
- Implement vaccination-wide moratoria or evictions.
- Support people in PHS 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 housing, not back to unsheltered locations.

- Unsheltered People: Sustain and exceed 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-housing people in congregate or unsheltered locations.

Other Key Activities:
- 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 PHS and RRH.
- 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 Entrees 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. Implemnt or increase housing-focused case management in shelter.
- Housing:
- Move people from CARES-funded RRH into PHS 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.
- Prevention/Diversion:
- Divert households from homeless systems when possible.
- Engage partner systems (TANF, IHSD Welfare, Justice) for prevention activities.
- Other Key Activities:
- Use data to refresh projections of need for different interventions and assess exouls impact.

LONGER-TERM ACTIONS

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.
- Economically vulnerable individuals served by all service systems.
- Engage the community (TAH/IN, IHSD Welfare, Justice) on prevention activities.
- 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.
CARES ACT: RE-HOUSING STRATEGIES

April Mitchell
Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPs)
US Dept. of Housing & 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


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

2018 Race & Ethnicity Data: Homeless Population Compared to US Population

Racial Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>American Indian and Alaska Native</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Black or African American</th>
<th>Multiracial</th>
<th>White</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US Pop</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Pop</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless Pop</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>50%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Ethnicity Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>US Population</th>
<th>Poverty Pop</th>
<th>Homeless Pop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NAEH State of Homelessness Report 2019
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
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

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

**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/