Racial Disparities in the Fight Against Homelessness

May 2, 2019
Racial Disparities in the Homeless Population

- Most minority groups in the United States experience homelessness at higher rates than Whites, and therefore make up a disproportionate share of the homeless population\(^1\).

- Racial disparities are driven by a variety of complex systematic inequities and social dynamics including\(^2\):
  - Biases and prejudices
  - Overt discrimination
  - Systemic and institutional racism

1 - https://endhomelessness.org/resource/racial-inequalities-homelessness-numbers/
National: RACE and ETHNICITY

[Diagram showing the comparison between the homeless population and the general population in terms of race and ethnicity.]

**RACE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homeless population</th>
<th>General population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ETHNICITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Homeless population</th>
<th>General population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>Non-Hispanic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Homeless population data are for a given night in 2017.  
**Source:** 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, Part 1

[Link to resource page: https://endhomelessness.org/resource/racial-inequalities-homelessness-numbers/]
Florida
RACE and
ETHNICITY:

Homeless Population

- White, 58%
- Black or African American, 37%
- Two or More Races, 4%
- Asian, 0%
- Amer Indian and Alaska Native, 1%
- Native Haw./Other Pacific Islander, 0%

General Population

- White, 77%
- Black or African American, 17%
- Two or More Races, 2%
- Asian, 3%
- Amer Indian and Alaska Native, 1%
- Native Haw./Other Pacific Islander, 0%

https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/fl#
2018 Point-in-Time Count data used for homeless population analysis
Hillsborough County
RACE and ETHNICITY:

Homeless Population ETHNICITY
- Hispanic or Latino, 17%
- Not Hispanic or Latino, 83%

General Population ETHNICITY
- Hispanic or Latino, 29%
- Not Hispanic or Latino, 71%

Homeless Population
- White, 49%
- Black or African American, 48%
- Native Haw./Other Pacific Islander, 1%
- Amer Indian and Alaska Native, 2%
- Asian, 0%
- Two or More Races, 0%

General Population
- White, 75%
- Black or African American, 18%
- Native Haw./Other Pacific Islander, 0%
- Amer Indian and Alaska Native, 1%
- Asian, 4%
- Two or More Races, 3%
How Do We Address Race Disparities?

We can begin to address racial disparities through...

DATA & POLICY
How Do We Address Race Disparities?

Assess the **scope of racial disparities** in experiences of homelessness in our community and ask these important questions:

- Are people experiencing different results due to how policies are enforced or enacted?
- Do our policies address and meet the needs of people of color?
- How does implicit bias affect individuals’ outcomes?
- Are connections to services and housing provided at equitable rates and achieving equitable outcomes for clients across races and ethnicities?
- How can we address these dynamics?
