

2019
RACIAL AND ETHNIC
DISPARITIES ANALYSIS

Northeast Florida CoC, FL-510

ABSTRACT

Staff review of racial and ethnic population distributions.

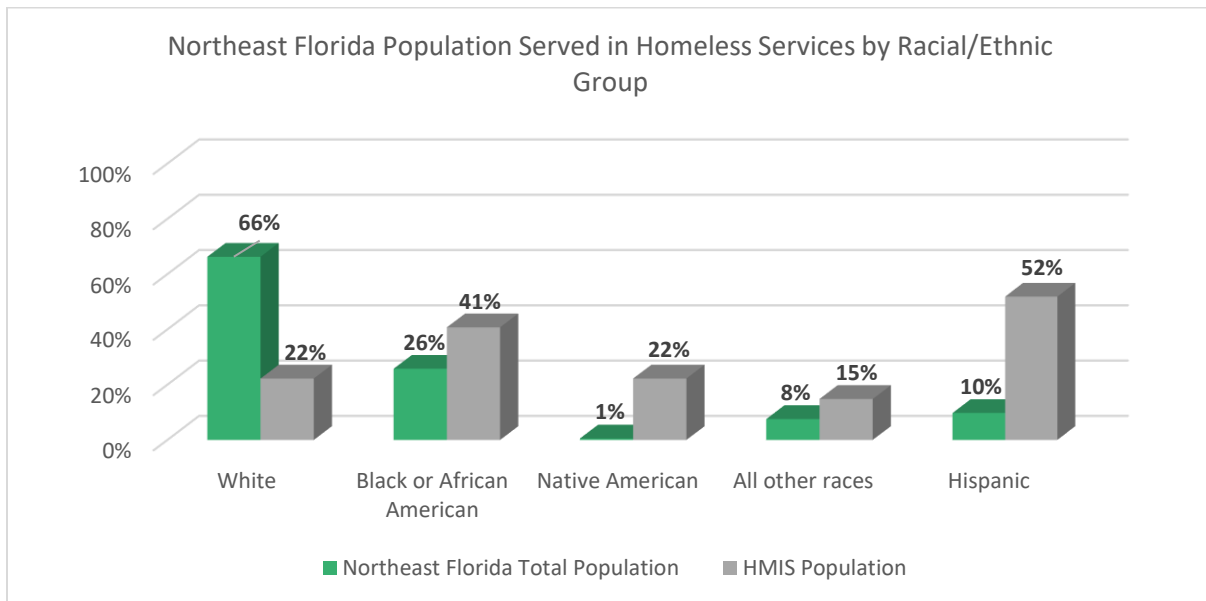
Racial and Ethnic Disparities Analysis

Changing Homelessness, as Lead Agency for the FL-510 CoC, conducted an analysis of racial and ethnic disparities in the homeless system. Staff compared the racial and ethnic distributions of the populations of:

- all people living in Northeast Florida CoC (Duval, Nassau, and Clay counties),
- people in poverty (based on the federal poverty definition)
- people’s VI-SPDAT assessment scores (i.e., determines system access)
- individuals participating in all homeless programs, emergency shelter, safe haven, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing programs as recorded in HMIS in CY 2018
- those exiting to permanent housing and returning to homelessness

The results presented in the graphs below show that when comparing homeless program participants to the general population, the largest disparities occur in the following racial and ethnic groups:

- White (less frequent in the homeless population)
- Black or African American (more frequent in the homeless population)
- Native Americans (more frequent in the homeless population)
- All other races combined¹ (more frequent in the homeless population)
- Hispanic (more frequent in the homeless population)



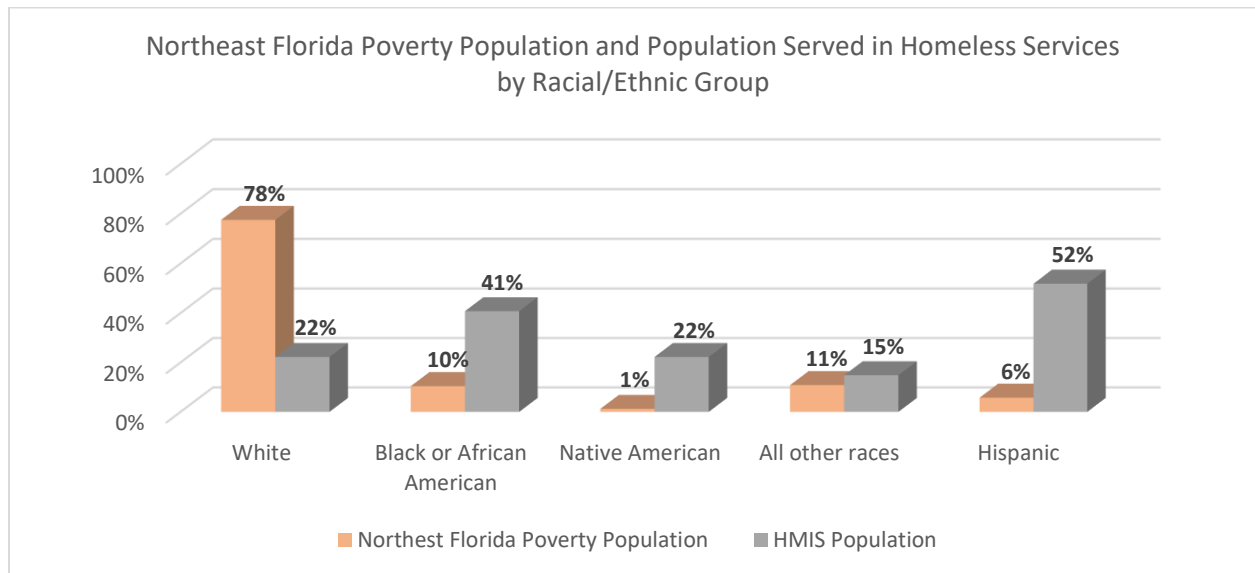
When comparing the population of people in poverty to those participating in homeless programs, the same racial disparities occur as when comparing those in the general population. Specifically:

- White (less frequent in the homeless population)

¹ NAEH Racial Disparities Tool combines Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and multiple races into one category “all other races”.

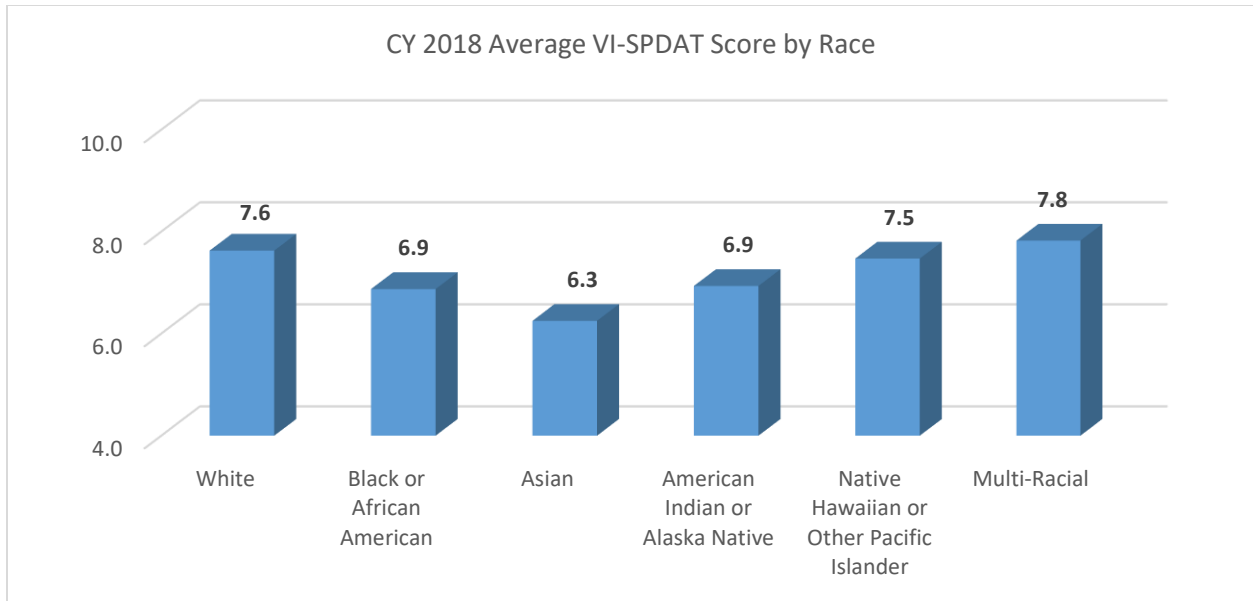
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- Black or African American (more frequent in the homeless population)
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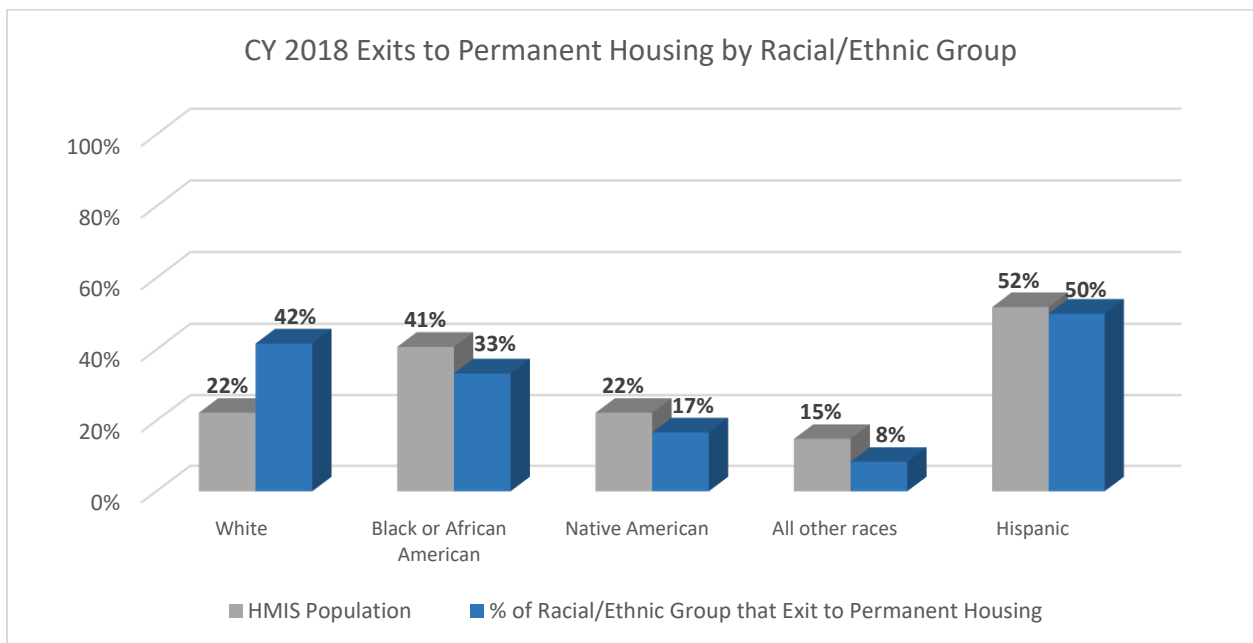
Therefore, regardless of whether the general or poverty populations are examined, African Americans, Native Americans and those of Hispanic ethnicity appear to be overrepresented in the homeless population served in FL-510. The next graph illustrates the distribution of average VI-SPDAT scores by race and ethnicity. The data indicate that those identifying as White, multi-racial and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander have somewhat higher scores indicating more vulnerability. Contrary to what one might expect, those identifying as African American and Native American had lower average scores than those identifying as White (data were not available to determine average VI-SPDAT scores for those identifying as Hispanic). Therefore, there does not appear to be a relationship between the overrepresentation of African Americans and Native Americans in the homeless system and their vulnerability scores which impact access to that system.

² NAEH Racial Disparities Tool combines Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and multiple races into one category “all other races”.

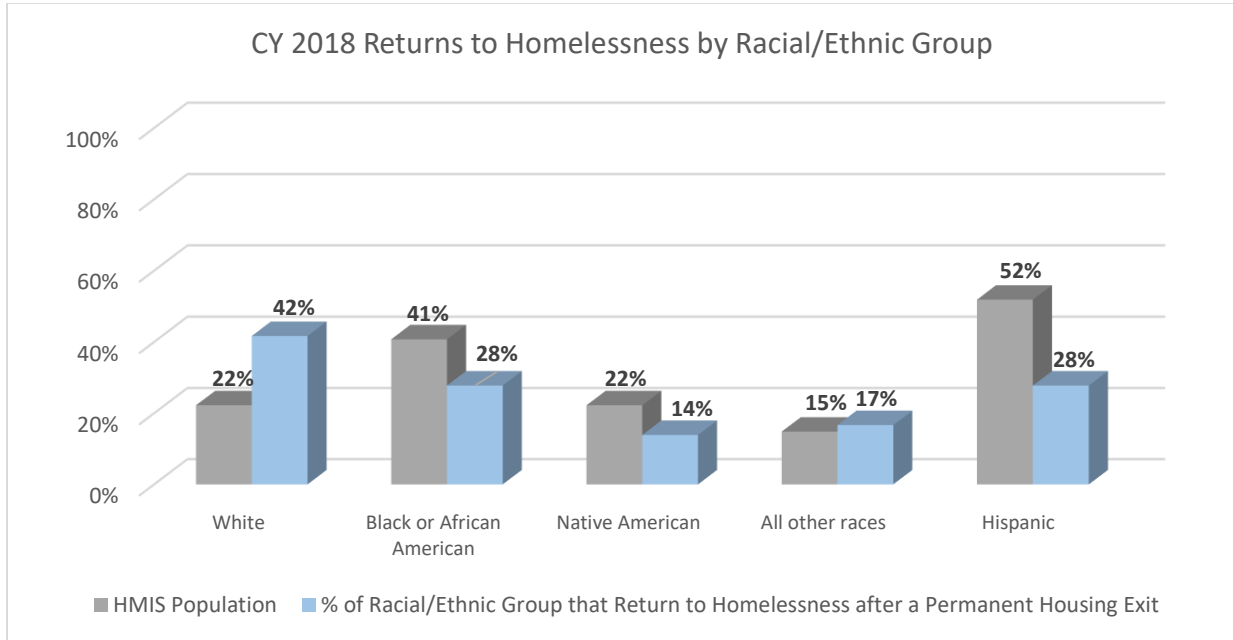


The final two graphs indicate whether racial disparities exist for those who are served in the homeless system; that is for those who receive services do the outcomes appear equitable? First, the racial distribution of those served in HMIS compared to the racial distribution of those exiting homeless projects to permanent housing shows disparities in the following racial groups:

- White (more likely to exit to permanent housing)
- Black or African American, Native American, and all other races combined (less likely to exit to permanent housing)



On the other hand, the next graph illustrates that those identifying as White are much more likely to return to homeless after a permanent housing exit and that Black or African Americans and Native Americans return to homelessness after a permanent housing exit at a lower rate compared to their overall representation in the homeless services population.



In summary, African Americans and Native Americans are more likely to:

- Be overrepresented in the homeless system when compared to the general and poverty populations
- Score lower on the vulnerability index associated with accessing the homeless system
- Be somewhat less likely to exit homeless programs to permanent housing
- Be less likely to return to homelessness after a permanent housing exit