Race & Ethnicity Equity Assessment:

Review of consumer's 2018 demographic and service utilization data by race and ethnicity across the Continuum of Care.

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Summary

Who: Individuals in the homeless system of care who are at-risk of homelessness, literally homeless, and/or receiving housing services within the Continuum of Care (CoC).

What: Race and ethnicity service data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), United States Census Bureau, and 2019 Point in Time Count.

When: Consumers who were actively utilizing services during calendar year 2018.

Where: Contra Costa County, California.

Why: The findings of this report will support a better understanding of differences in demographics, service utilization, and outcomes by race and ethnicity to improve equitable opportunities within the coordinated entry system (CES).

2018 Notable Findings:

⇒ **Census vs CoC**: Fewer Hispanic/Latinx (19%) were in the homeless system of care, compared to the general Hispanic/Latinx population in the County (26%). Forty percent of consumers were African American; 4x higher than the overall population in the County (10%).

⇒ **Age**: Many racial/ethnic differences can be found within select age groups. More than a 1/3 of Native Islanders and persons of multiple races were minors; there were no notable differences among transition age youth; more than half of Asians, American Indians, Whites and Hispanic/Latinx, were adults ages 25-54; and Asians and Whites had the greatest proportion of seniors 62 and older (11% each).

⇒ **Chronicity**: Native Islander/Hawaiians (10%) experienced the lowest rates of chronic homelessness (homeless for at least 12 months and self-reported disability); more than 1 in 4 White consumers experienced chronic homelessness.

⇒ **Domestic Violence**: Asians (24%), American Indians (21%), and Whites (21%) reported experiencing higher rates of domestic violence compared to all consumers (17%).

⇒ **Mental Health**: White consumers had the highest rates of a self-reported mental health disability (36%) and Native Islander/Hawaiian had the lowest rates (13%).

⇒ **Program Utilization**: Service utilization varied by program type and race. African Americans were the highest utilizers of prevention and rapid resolution (50%), emergency shelter (50%), transitional housing (40%), and rapid-rehousing (53%). Whites were the highest utilizers of outreach (46%), CARE Center (40%), and permanent supportive housing (41%).

⇒ **Positive Housing Exits:** Nearly half of all African Americans (47%) and persons of multiple races (48%) exited to housing in 2018.

# Race & Ethnicity Equity Assessment: 2018

This assessment is intended to identify areas where there may be racial and ethnic disparities among certain populations who access the County's Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC). The findings of this assessment will allow for the comparison of racial and ethnic distributions within demographics, service utilization, and outcomes to improve our knowledge of disparities within the homeless system and to prompt action and policy decisions to address inequities.

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Comparing Consumers in the CoC to the Contra Costa County Population

Figure 1. Comparison of Census Ethnicity Population Estimates to the Individual CoC Consumers[1,2]
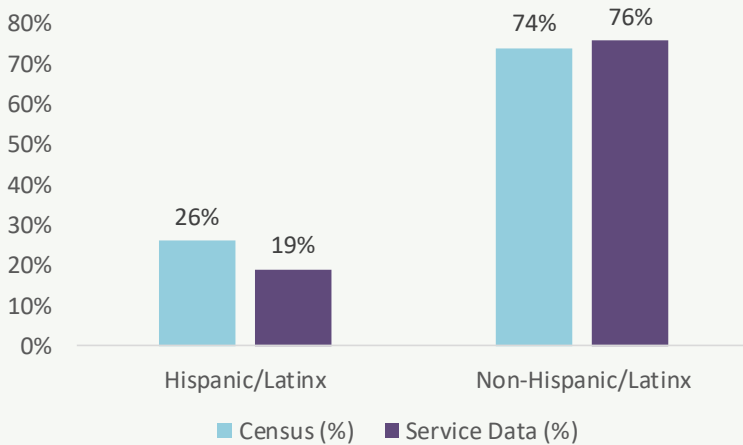

Note: Missing ethnicity service data not shown. Numbers may not sum to 100.

In 2018, 26% of Contra Costa County residents were of the Hispanic/Latinx cultural and racial identity, and 74% were non-Hispanic/Latinx. Nineteen percent of all CoC consumers identified as Hispanic/Latinx (Figure 1) in 2018. In general, there were fewer Hispanic/Latinx consumers in the homeless system of care compared to the Hispanic/Latinx composition throughout the County.

There were also differences in racial composition across the population in the County compared to consumers in the CoC (Figure 2). About 45% of CoC consumers were White, compared with 66% White in the County. While African Americans accounted for 10% of the County population, 40% of all consumers utilizing CoC services were African American. A higher percent of Native Americans in the CoC (8%) were served compared to Native Americans in the County (1%), and served a lower percent of the Asian population (2%) compared to Asians in the County (17%).

Figure 2. Comparison of Census Race Population Estimates to the Individual CoC Consumers[2]

More than 1 in 3 CoC consumers were African American; 4x higher than the African American distribution across the County.
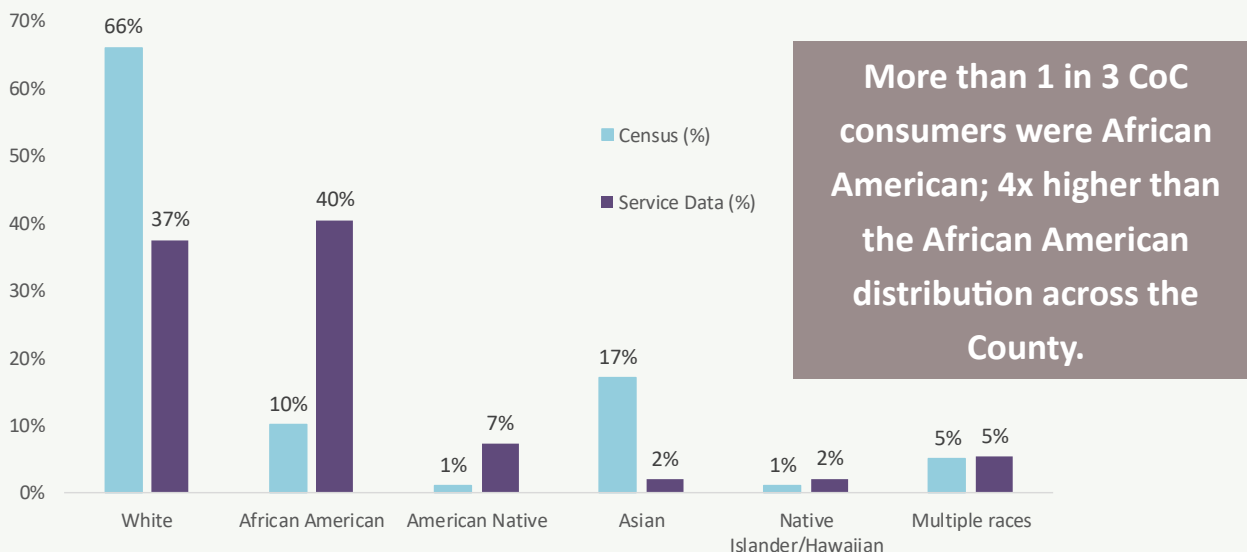
Note: Racial distributions in Figure 2 includes both Hispanic/Latinx and non-Hispanic/Latinx ethnicities. Missing race service data is not included; numbers may not sum to 100.

Consumer's Self-Identified Race by Ethnicity

Table 1. Counts of Hispanic/Latinx and Non-Hispanic/Latinx by Race

	Hispanic/Latinx	Not H/L	Missing	Total
African American	139	3,152	32	3,323
White	648	2,424	7	3,079
American Indian	513	79	1	593
Multiple races	131	297	1	429
Native Islander/Hawaiian	34	129	0	163
Asian	9	141	1	151
Missing	93	40	357	490
Total	1,474	6,262	399	8,228

Table 1 above displays the number of individual consumers in the CoC, broken down by ethnicity and race, and Figure 3 shows the proportion of each race among Hispanic/Latinx and non-Hispanic/Latinx.

♦ Among Hispanic/Latinx, 41% were White, 33% American Indian, and 9% African American.

♦ Among Non-Hispanic/Latinx, 50% were African American, followed by 39% White and 5% of multiple races.

Figure 3. Individual Consumer Race by Ethnicity, Hispanic/Latinx compared to Non-Hispanic/Latinx[2]
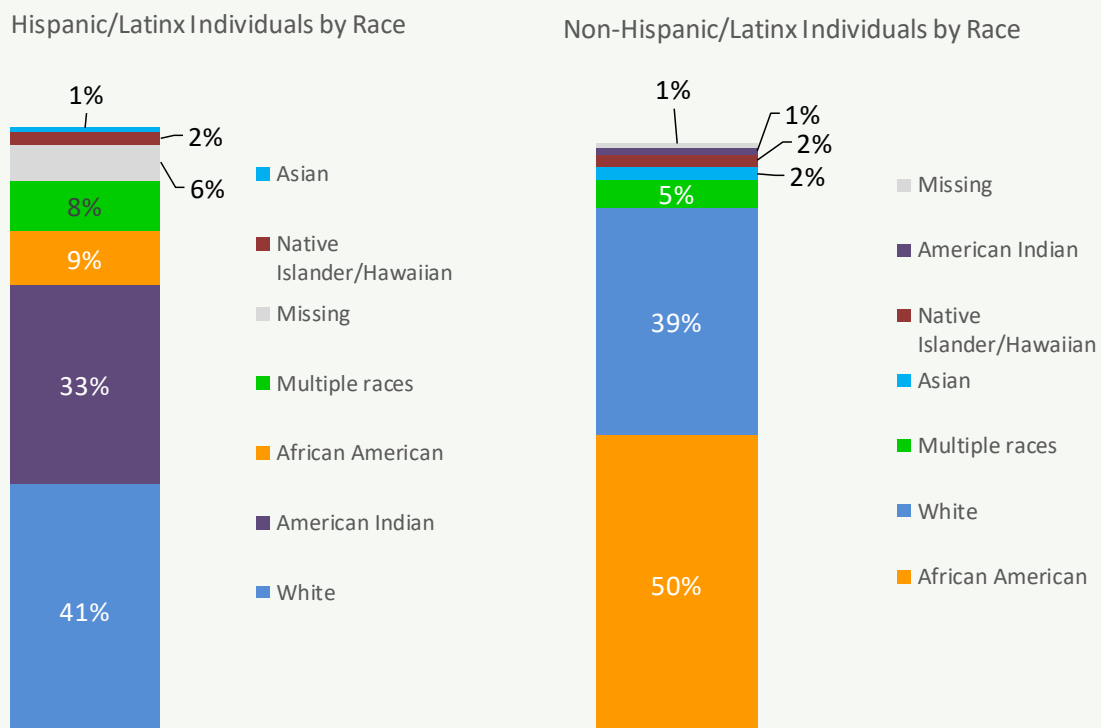
Service Data vs. Point In Time (PIT) Count

Figure 4. Racial Distributions in 2018 Service Data[2] Compared to 2019 PIT Data[3]
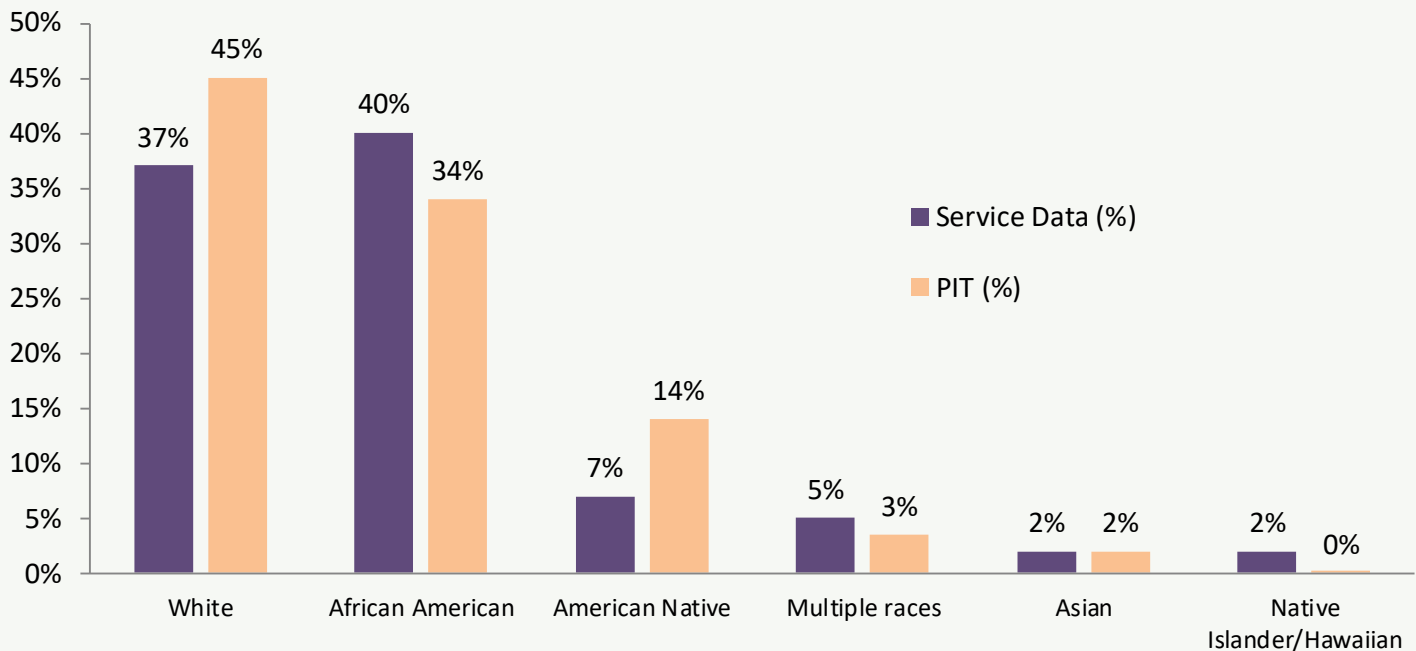
Note: Racial distributions in Figure 4 include both Hispanic/Latinx and non-Hispanic/Latinx ethnicities. Missing race service data is not included; numbers may not sum to 100.
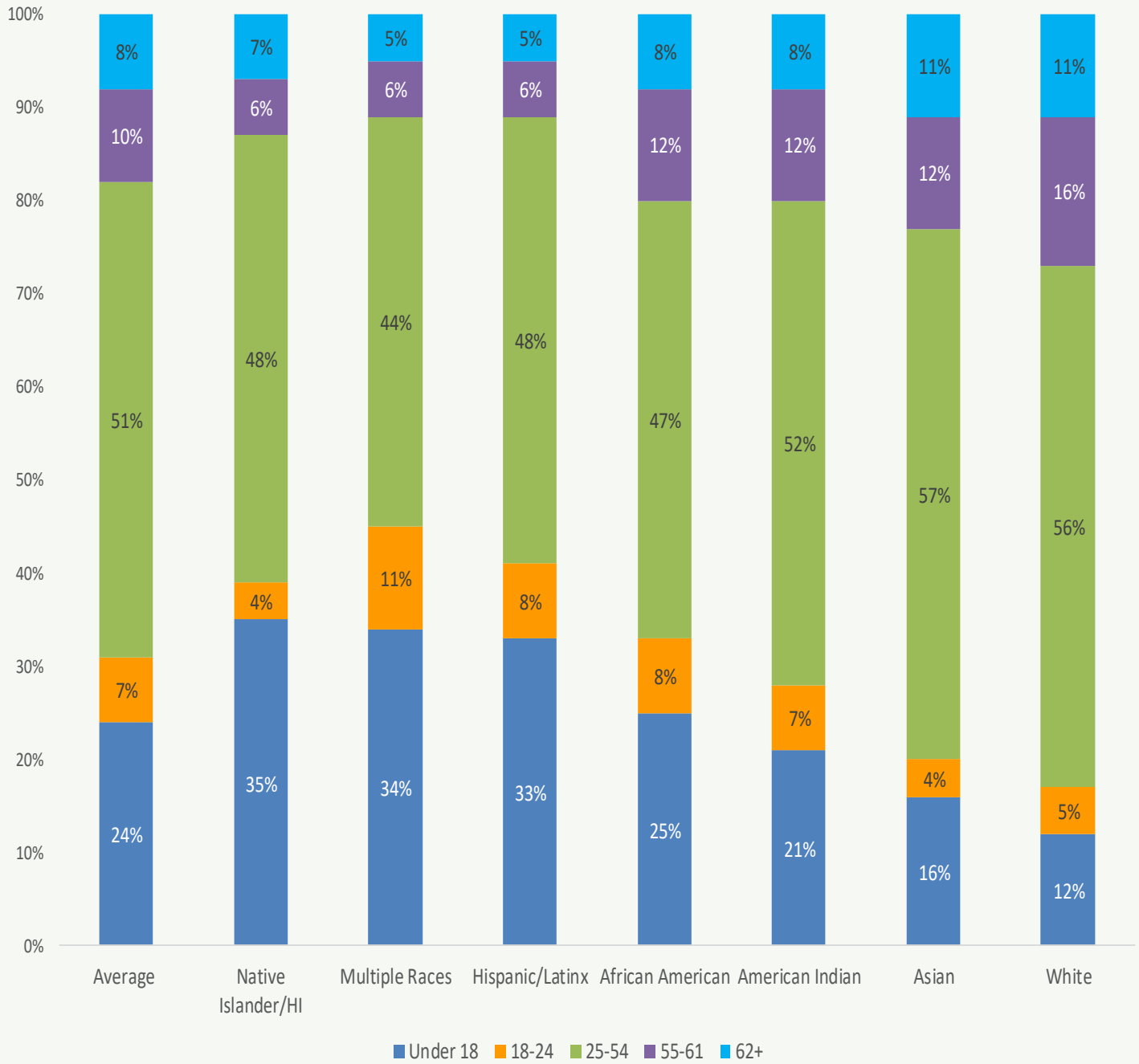
Few differences in race also exist between Service data and the Point in Time (PIT) count data (Figure 4). A lower percent of African Americans were identified in the PIT (34%) compared to Service data (40%). A higher percent of Whites (45%) and American Natives (14%) were identified in the PIT. There were no notable differences in ethnicity (data not shown).[3]

Race & Ethnicity by Select Age Groups

Figure 5 on the following page shows age groups broken down over five categories:

♦ **Under 18:** 1 out of 3 persons identifying as Native Islanders (35%), multiple races (34%), and Hispanic/Latinx (33%) were minors, far more than Asians (16%) and Whites (12%).

♦ **18 to 24 years (Transition Age Youth; TAY):** 11% of persons identifying as multiple races were TAY, although there were mostly an even distribution of races and ethnicities among TAY.

♦ **25-54 years**: Over half of Asians (57%), Whites (56%), and American Indians (52%) were adults.

♦ **55-61 years**: Whites had the highest proportion of older adults ages 55-61 (16%). Six percent of persons identifying as Multiple Races, Native Islanders, and Hispanic/Latinx were 55-61.

♦ **62+:** Whites (11%) had the greatest proportion of seniors 62+, while persons identifying as multiple races (5%) and Hispanic/Latinx (5%) had the lowest.

Figure 5. Individual Consumer Race and Ethnicity by Select Age Groups[2]

	Average	Native Islander/HI	Multiple Races	Hispanic/Latinx	African American	American Indian	Asian	White
62+	8%	7%	5%	5%	8%	8%	11%	11%
55-61	10%	6%	6%	6%	12%	12%	12%	16%
25-54	51%	48%	44%	48%	47%	52%	57%	56%
18-24	7%	4%	11%	8%	8%	7%	4%	5%
Under 18	24%	35%	34%	33%	25%	21%	16%	12%

■ Under 18   ■ 18-24   ■ 25-54   ■ 55-61   ■ 62+

Note: Figure 5 includes both race and ethnicity distributions; race distributions represent non-Hispanic/Latinx by race. Therefore, the categories are not mutually exclusive. For more information about race by ethnicity breakdown, see page 5.

Select Sub-populations

Race and ethnicity were analyzed within sub populations to identify vulnerable characteristics.
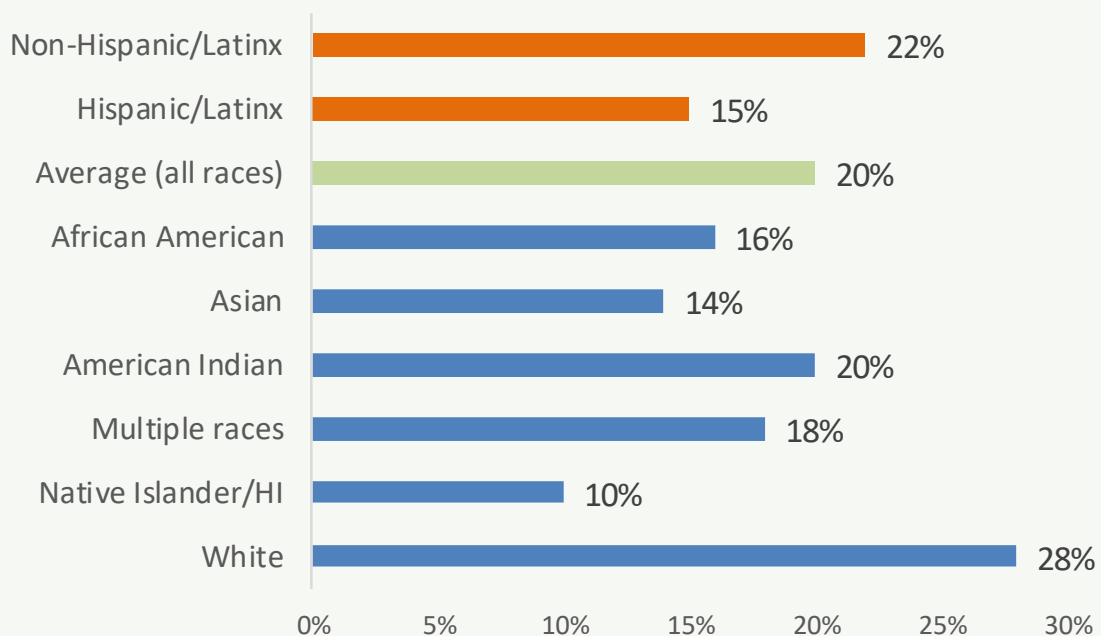
Chronic Homeless

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a chronically homeless individual as someone who has experienced homelessness for at least a year—or who has experienced repeated episodes of homelessness in the last three years—and also has a disabling condition that prevents them from maintaining work or housing.[4] On average, in 2018 approximately 1 in 5 of all CoC consumers experienced chronic homelessness (Figure 6). A higher proportion of Whites experienced chronic homelessness (28%) and Native Islander/ Hawaiians (10%) experienced the lowest rates of chronic homelessness.

Native Islander/Hawaiians experienced the lowest rates of chronic homelessness.

More than 1 in 4 White CoC consumers experienced chronic homelessness.

Figure 6. Chronic Homelessness by Race & Ethnicity[2]

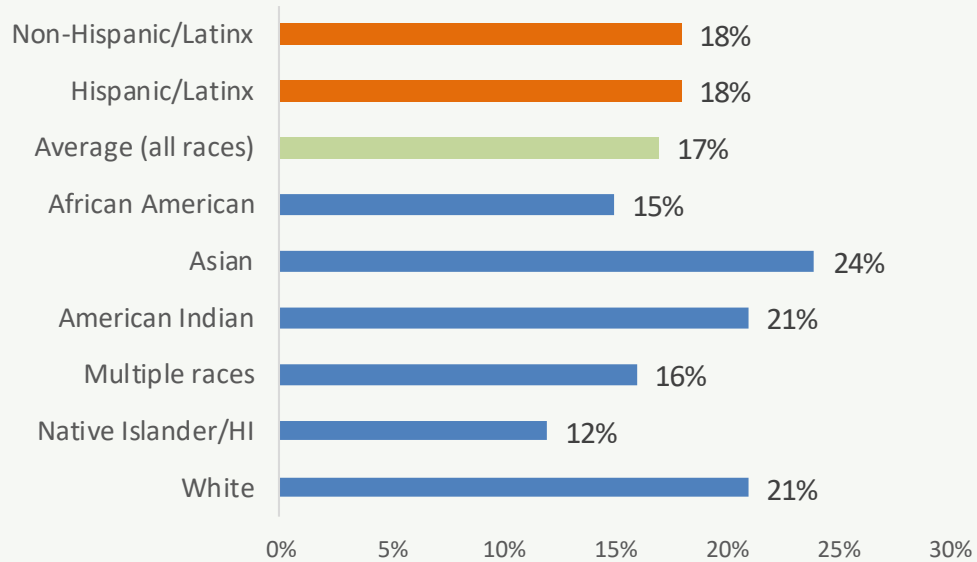| Category	Percentage
Non-Hispanic/Latinx	22%
Hispanic/Latinx	15%
Average (all races)	20%
African American	16%
Asian	14%
American Indian	20%
Multiple races	18%
Native Islander/HI	10%
White	28%

Note: Figure 6 includes both race and ethnicity distributions and race distributions represent non-Hispanic/Latinx by race. Therefore, the categories are not mutually exclusive. For more information about race by ethnicity breakdown, see page 5.

Domestic Violence

On average, 17% of CoC consumers have experienced domestic violence (DV) at some point in their lifetime (Figure 7). Nearly 1 in 4 (24%) Asians, and 1 in 5 American Indians (21%), and Whites (21%) reported experiencing DV.
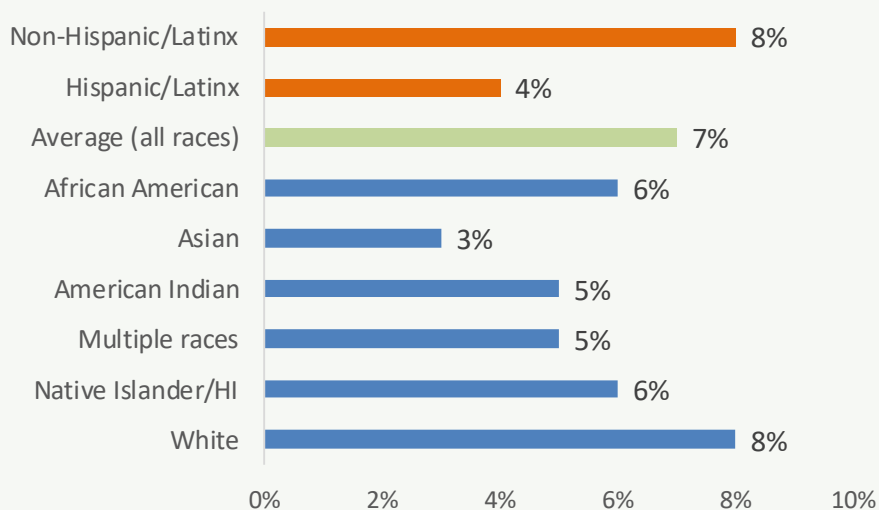
Figure 7. Domestic Violence by Race & Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
Non-Hispanic/Latinx	18%
Hispanic/Latinx	18%
Average (all races)	17%
African American	15%
Asian	24%
American Indian	21%
Multiple races	16%
Native Islander/HI	12%
White	21%

Veterans

In 2018, veterans made up approximately 7% of all CoC consumers (Figure 8). Asian consumers had the lowest percent of Veterans by race (3%). Overall, the few differences in Veterans by various race and ethnicities were not notable.

Figure 8. Veterans by Race & Ethnicity

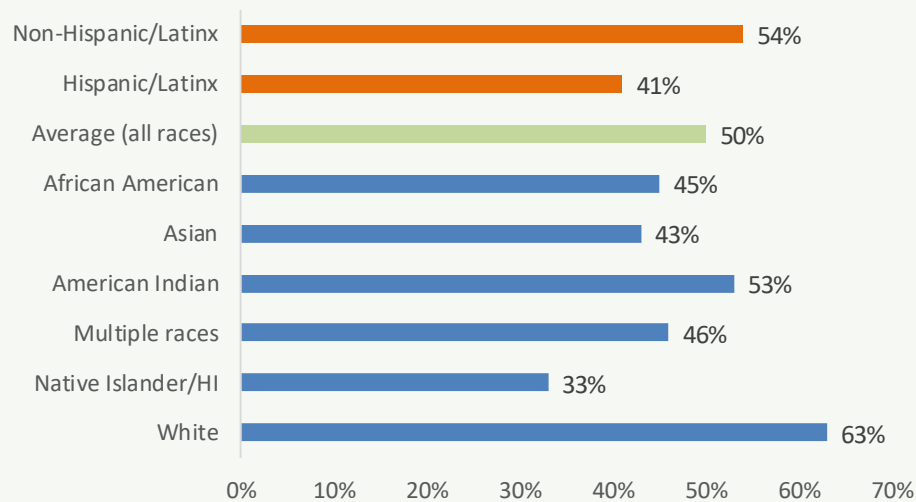| Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
Non-Hispanic/Latinx	8%
Hispanic/Latinx	4%
Average (all races)	7%
African American	6%
Asian	3%
American Indian	5%
Multiple races	5%
Native Islander/HI	6%
White	8%

Note: The above figures include both race and ethnicity distributions and race distributions represent non-Hispanic/Latinos by race. Therefore, the categories are not mutually exclusive. For more information about race by ethnicity breakdown, see page 5.
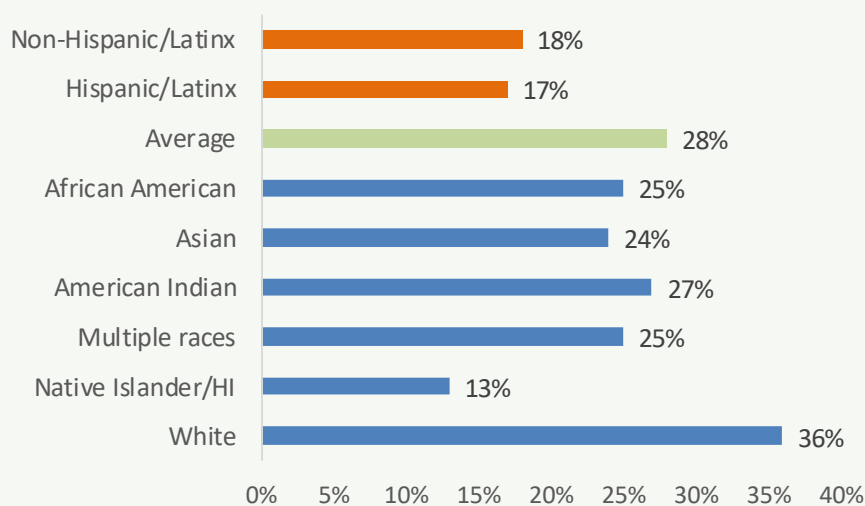
Disability Status

Half (50%) of all CoC consumers reported experiencing at least one disability (mental health, physical health, developmental, substance use, and/or chronic health) (Figure 9). White consumers had the highest rates of disability (63%) and Native Islander/Hawaiian had the lowest (33%).

Figure 9. CoC Consumers with any Self-Reported Disability by Race & Ethnicity[2]

Category	Percentage
Non-Hispanic/Latinx	54%
Hispanic/Latinx	41%
Average (all races)	50%
African American	45%
Asian	43%
American Indian	53%
Multiple races	46%
Native Islander/HI	33%
White	63%

Mental health disabilities in particular are important to identify and understand, as they impact the types of services, referrals, and care CoC consumers need. More than 1 in 4 CoC consumers reported experiencing a mental health disability overall (Figure 10). Similar to the patterns seen for any disability, White consumers had the highest rates of a mental health disability (36%) and Native Islander/Hawaiian had the lowest (13%).

Figure 10. CoC Consumers with a Self-Reported Mental Health Disability by Race & Ethnicity[2]

Category	Percentage
Non-Hispanic/Latinx	18%
Hispanic/Latinx	17%
Average	28%
African American	25%
Asian	24%
American Indian	27%
Multiple races	25%
Native Islander/HI	13%
White	36%

Note: The above figures include both race and ethnicity distributions and race distributions represent non-Hispanic/Latinx by race. Therefore, the categories are not mutually exclusive. For more information about race by ethnicity breakdown, see page 5.

Program Utilization

There are a variety of programs to serve persons at risk of and currently experiencing homelessness, and for persons who previously experienced homelessness in permanent housing. The goal of CES is to move people from access points, and for those with higher needs, to housing services. Each type of service is described below:

Prevention/Rapid Resolution Programs are designed to help families and individuals stay in their homes and avoid entering homelessness by providing one-time financial assistance, legal aid, or landlord engagement.

CORE Street Outreach provides basic hygiene supplies, food, and water, and referrals for health, care coordination, housing, and benefits.

Emergency Shelters provide temporary shelter for people that have no safe and healthy sleeping arrangements.

CARE (and CARE-capable) Centers provide basic health and hygiene services, housing navigation, and financial and benefits programs.

Transitional Housing provides short-term housing for consumers to get them off the streets and into more stable living environments until permanent housing can be established.
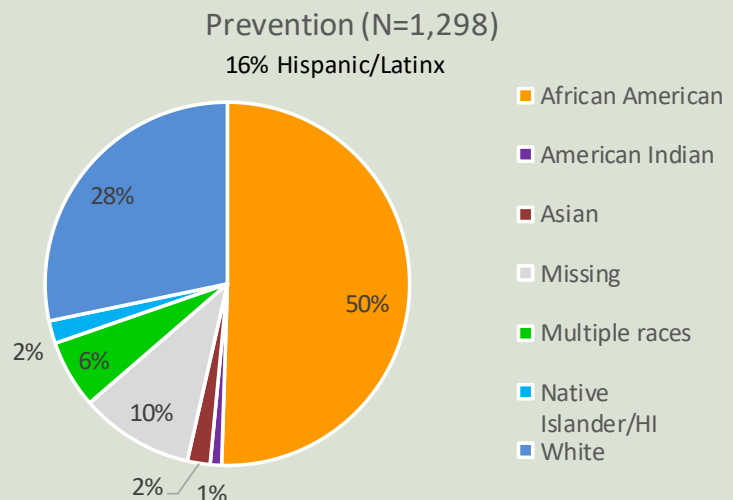
Rapid Rehousing/Permanent Housing programs provide short-term financial assistance and services to help those who are experiencing homelessness to get quickly re-housed and stabilized.

Permanent Supportive Housing links long-term, safe, affordable, community-based housing with flexible, voluntary support services to help the individual or family stay housed and healthy.

Figure 11. Prevention/Rapid Resolution Utilization by Race & Ethnicity[2]

Prevention/Rapid Resolution

Half of prevention/rapid resolution program consumers were African American (50%), followed by White (28%) consumers, and Multiple races (6%) (Figure 11).

Prevention (N=1,298)
16% Hispanic/Latinx

African American
American Indian
Asian
Missing
Multiple races
Native Islander/HI
White

Note: Racial distributions above figure includes both Hispanic/Latinx and non-Hispanic/Latinx ethnicities. Missing race service data is not included; numbers may not sum to 100.

Outreach Services (CORE)

The majority of outreach services were utilized by Whites (46%), followed by African Americans (31%), and American Indians (8%) (Figure 12).

CORE Outreach (N=3,444)
17% Hispanic/Latinx

- African American — 31%
- American Indian — 8%
- Asian — 1%
- Missing — 10%
- Multiple races — 2%
- Native Islander/HI — 2%
- White — 46%

Emergency Shelters

Forty-three percent of emergency shelter consumers were African American, followed by White (40%), and American Indians (8%) (Figure 13).
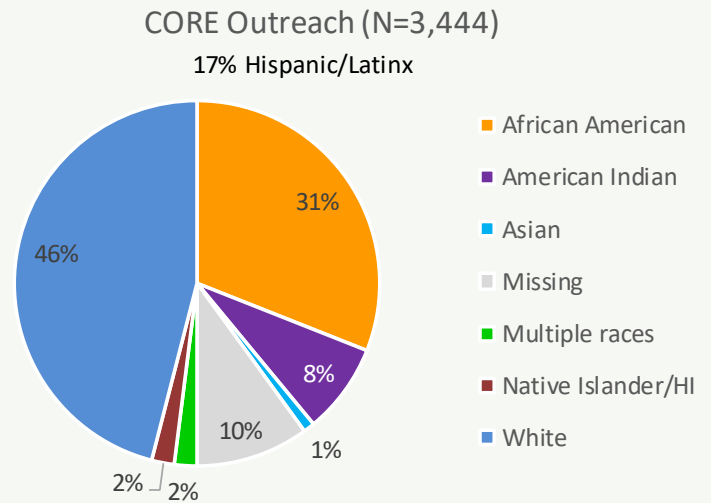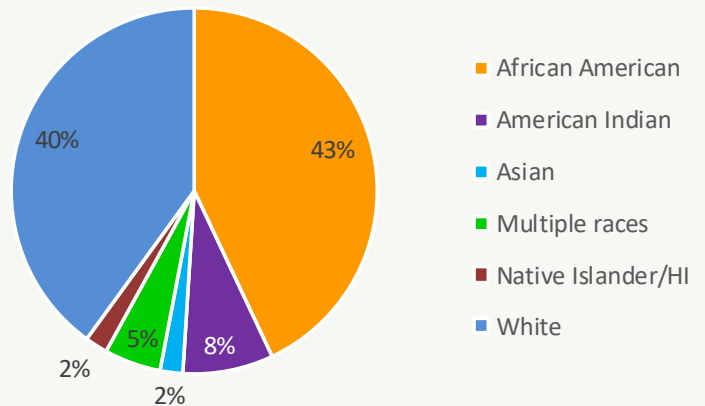
Figure 13. Emergency Shelter Utilization by Race & Ethnicity[2]

Emergency Shelter (N=1,826)
18% Hispanic/Latinx

- African American — 43%
- American Indian — 8%
- Asian — 2%
- Multiple races — 5%
- Native Islander/HI — 2%
- White — 40%

CARE Centers

CARE Center services are the most utilized service within the CoC. The majority of CARE Center utilization was among White (40%) and African American (38%) consumers, followed by American Indians (9%) (Figure 14).

Figure 14. CARE Center Utilization by Race & Ethnicity[2]

CARE Centers (N=3,505)
19% Hispanic/Latinx
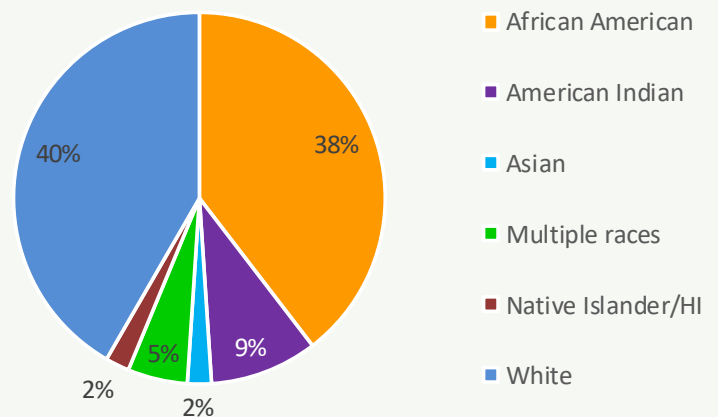
- African American — 38%
- American Indian — 9%
- Asian — 2%
- Multiple races — 5%
- Native Islander/HI — 2%
- White — 40%

Note: Racial distributions above figures include both Hispanic/Latinx and non-Hispanic/Latinx ethnicities. Missing race service data is not included; numbers may not sum to 100.

Transitional Housing

Forty percent of transitional housing consumers are African American, followed by White (33%) and American Indian (14%) (Figure 15).
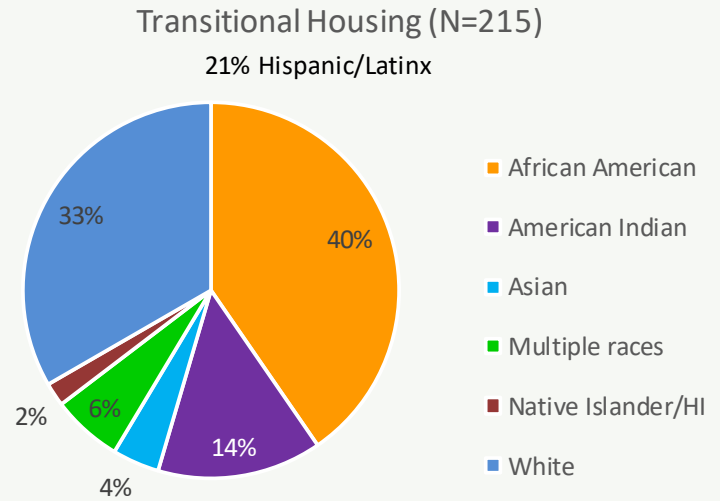
Transitional Housing (N=215)
21% Hispanic/Latinx

Legend:
- African American
- American Indian
- Asian
- Multiple races
- Native Islander/HI
- White

Rapid Rehousing/Permanent Housing

More than half of Rapid-Rehousing/Permanent Housing consumers were African American (53%), more than 1 in 4 consumers were White (27%), and nearly 1 in 10 consumers were of Multiple Races (9%) (Figure 16).
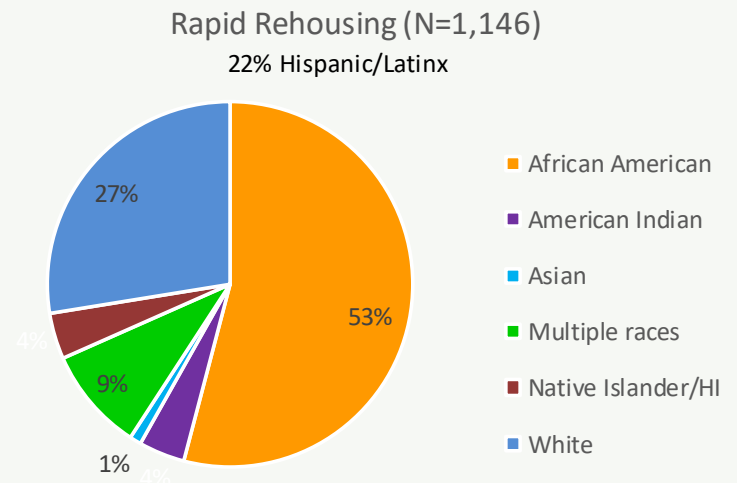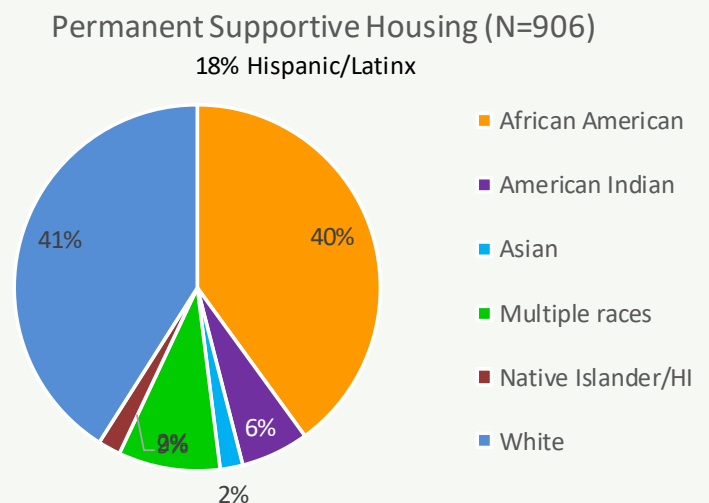
Figure 16. Rapid Rehousing Utilization by Race & Ethnicity[2]

Rapid Rehousing (N=1,146)
22% Hispanic/Latinx

Legend:
- African American
- American Indian
- Asian
- Multiple races
- Native Islander/HI
- White

Permanent Supportive Housing

White (41%) and African American (40%) consumers had approximately the same utilization of Permanent Supportive Housing services (Figure 17).

Figure 17. Permanent Supportive Housing Utilization by Race & Ethnicity[2]

Permanent Supportive Housing (N=906)
18% Hispanic/Latinx

Legend:
- African American
- American Indian
- Asian
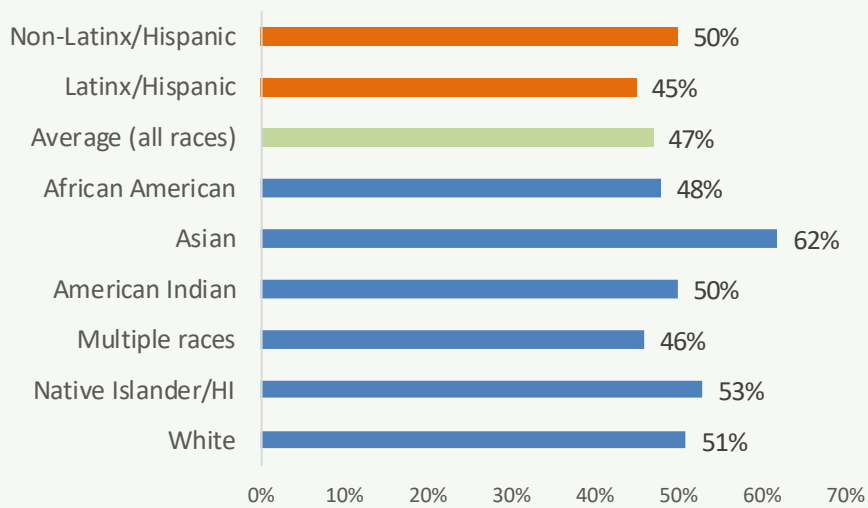- Multiple races
- Native Islander/HI
- White

Note: Racial distributions above figures include both Hispanic/Latinx and non-Hispanic/Latinx ethnicities. Missing race service data is not included; numbers may not sum to 100.

In-Flow and Out-Flow

In 2018, nearly half (47%) of all consumers experienced homelessness for 12 months or less (Figure 18). Asian consumers experienced the highest rates of new homelessness (62%). Across races and ethnicities, there were minor differences in the rates of new homelessness.
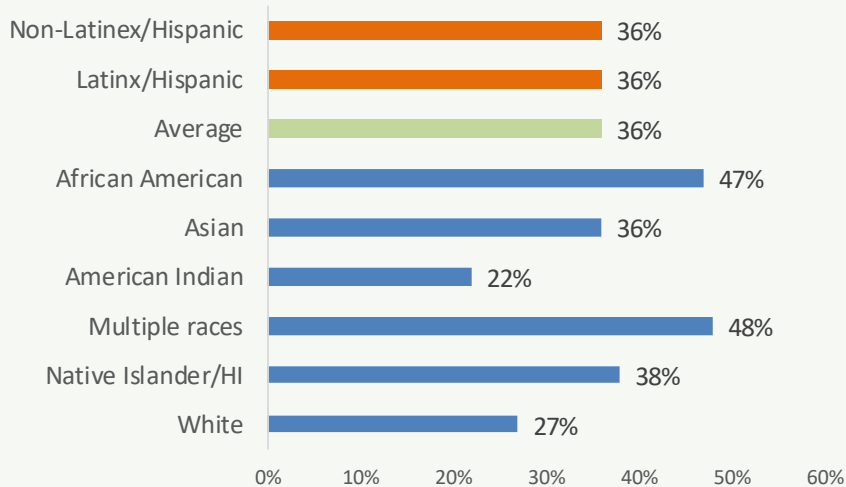
A little more than one-third (36%) of all consumers utilizing services in 2018 exited to housing (Figure 19). African Americans (47%) and multiple races (48%) had higher rates of exits to housing compared to all other races. American Indians (22%) and Whites (27%) had the lowest rates of housing on exit.

Figure 18. Twelve Months of Homelessness or Less by Race & Ethnicity[2]

Category	Percentage
Non-Latinx/Hispanic	50%
Latinx/Hispanic	45%
Average (all races)	47%
African American	48%
Asian	62%
American Indian	50%
Multiple races	46%
Native Islander/HI	53%
White	51%

Nearly half of all African Americans (47%) and persons of Multiple races (48%) who utilized services exited to housing in 2018.

Figure 19. Housed on Exit by Race & Ethnicity[2]

Category	Percentage
Non-Latinex/Hispanic	36%
Latinx/Hispanic	36%
Average	36%
African American	47%
Asian	36%
American Indian	22%
Multiple races	48%
Native Islander/HI	38%
White	27%

*Note: The above figures include both race and ethnicity distributions and race distributions represent non-Hispanic/Latinos by race. Therefore, the categories are not mutually exclusive. For more information about race by ethnicity breakdown, see page 5.

Data Sources

1. QuickFacts, United States Census Bureau, Contra Costa County Population Estimates July 1, 2018, https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/ contracostacountycalifornia . Retrieved on 9/18/2019.

2. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Service Data, Contra Costa County, 2018.

3. Point in Time (PIT) Count, Contra Costa County, January 2019.

4. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH): Defining "Chronically Homeless" Final Rule. https://www.hudexchange.info/ resource/4847/hearth-defining-chronically-homeless-final-rule/. Retrieved on 9/18/2019.