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WORDS TO DEEDS XIV – *OUT OF BOUNDS OR OUTSIDE THE BOX? SILVER LININGS LEARNED FROM COVID-19*

Centering Racial Equity in the Pandemic Response & Beyond - National, Statewide & County Perspectives

November 12th, 2020

National Alliance to End Homelessness

- NAEH is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose sole purpose is to end homelessness in the United States
  - We use research and data to find solutions to homelessness
  - We work with federal and local partners to create a solid base of policy and resources that support those solutions
  - We help communities implement solutions

Outline

- *Overview: Reflection on Racism and a Call to Action*

- *Understanding COVID-19 and Racial Inequity*

- *Homelessness, Race and COVID-19*

- *What the Homeless System Can Do to Address Equity*

- *Looking Ahead: Using Data to Assess Outcomes*

- *Action Steps*

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There's a lot of talk about racism these days

What has sparked the change?

COVID-19 and racial and

ethnic disparities

The murder of

**Mr. George Floyd**

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"If ever there were a time" has always been a constant

Racial Disparities and COVID-19: *Current Crisis*

- Inadequate access to health care
- Underserved areas/food deserts
- Poverty
- Employment – positions that don't allow for telework
- Criminalization

Minority Overrepresentation in Homelessness: *Ongoing Crisis*

- Poverty
- Criminalization
- Inadequate access to health care
- Employment – underemployment
- Underserved areas
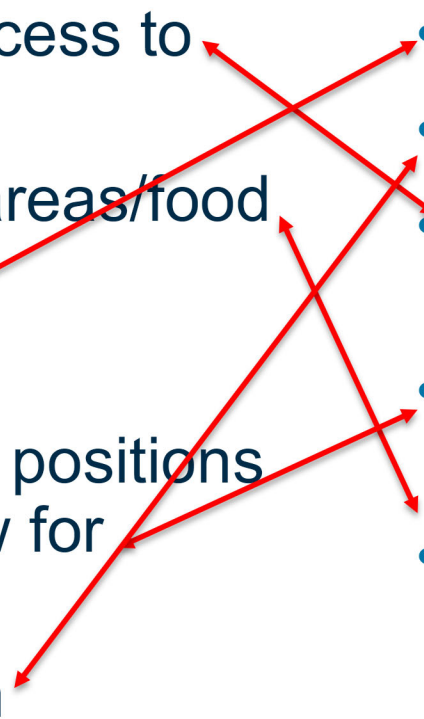
Justice Requires a Movement – not a Fad!

If we fail to address structural racism, we will always land in the same place:

Hurricane Katrina, homelessness, overcriminalization, COVID-19 and so on

Race and COVID-19

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

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

- **Counties with higher Black populations accounted for more than half of all cases and almost *60%* of deaths at onset of pandemic**

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

https://ehe.amfar.org/inequity

Black people are 2 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than White People

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-race-ethnicity.html

According to the CDC – Black people are almost 5x likely to be hospitalized

(Indigenous groups are 5x likely-followed by Hispanic or Latinx persons who are at 4x the rate)

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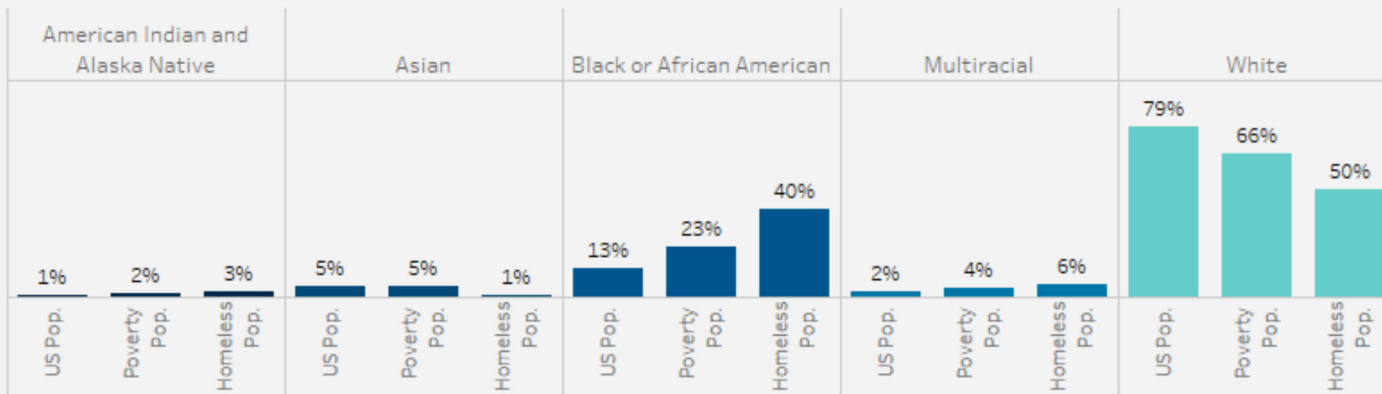
Race and Homelessness

- 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
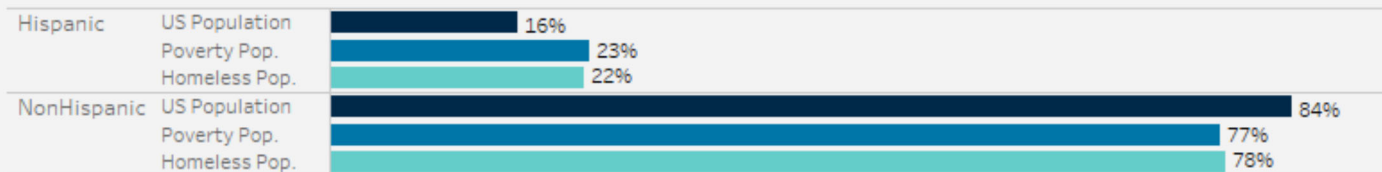
Race and Homelessness Cont.

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

Racial Comparisons

	American Indian and Alaska Native			Asian			Black or African American			Multiracial			White		
US Pop.	1%			5%			13%			2%			79%		
Poverty Pop.		2%			5%			23%			4%			66%	
Homeless Pop.			3%			1%			40%			6%			50%

Ethnicity Comparisons

Hispanic	US Population	16%
	Poverty Pop.	23%
	Homeless Pop.	22%
NonHispanic	US Population	84%
	Poverty Pop.	77%
	Homeless Pop.	78%

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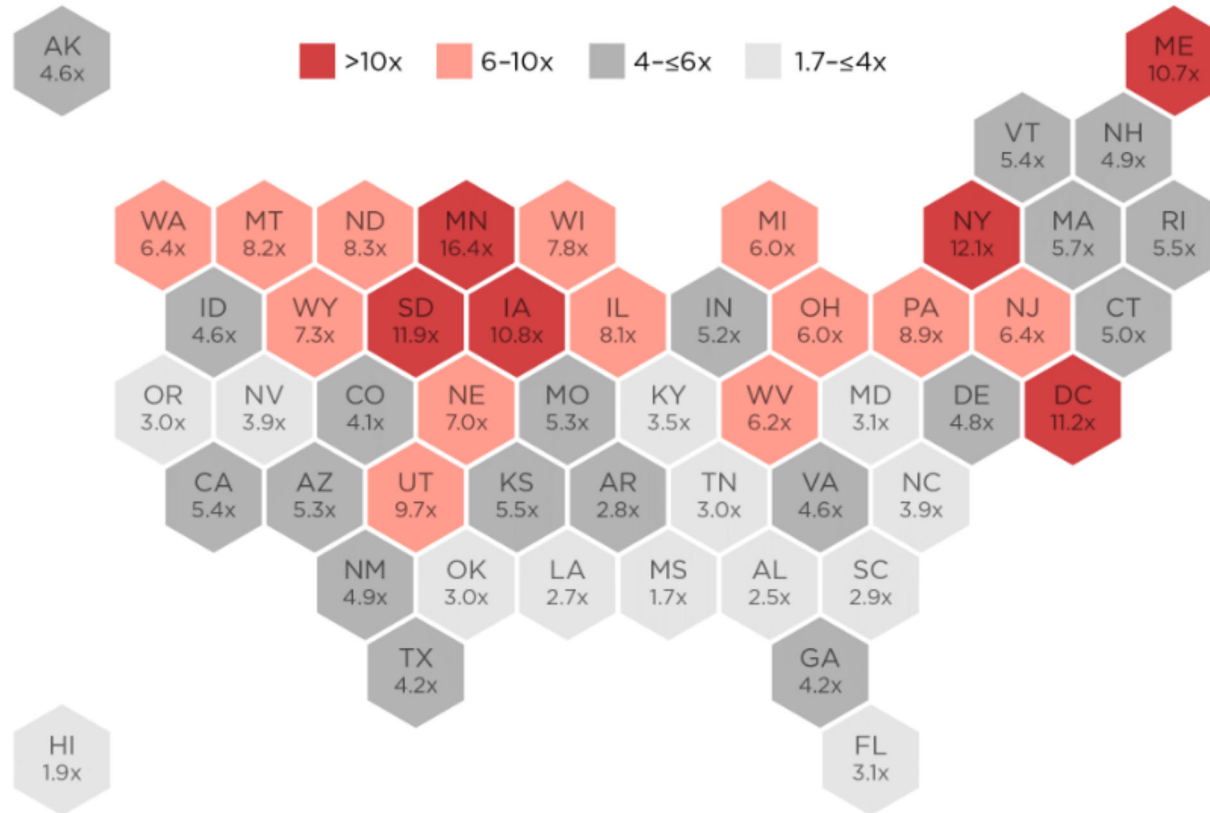
In Every State, African Americans Are More Likely Than Whites to Experience Homelessness

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

AK 4.6x								ME 10.7x
VT 5.4x	NH 4.9x
>10x	6–10x	4–≤6x	1.7–≤4x

WA 6.4x	MT 8.2x	ND 8.3x	MN 16.4x	WI 7.8x		MI 6.0x		NY 12.1x	MA 5.7x	RI 5.5x
ID 4.6x	WY 7.3x	SD 11.9x	IA 10.8x	IL 8.1x	IN 5.2x	OH 6.0x	PA 8.9x	NJ 6.4x	CT 5.0x
OR 3.0x	NV 3.9x	CO 4.1x	NE 7.0x	MO 5.3x	KY 3.5x	WV 6.2x	MD 3.1x	DE 4.8x	DC 11.2x
CA 5.4x	AZ 5.3x	UT 9.7x	KS 5.5x	AR 2.8x	TN 3.0x	VA 4.6x	NC 3.9x
NM 4.9x	OK 3.0x	LA 2.7x	MS 1.7x	AL 2.5x	SC 2.9x
TX 4.2x	GA 4.2x
HI 1.9x	FL 3.1x

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

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Pileup of Inequities = Disproportionality in Homelesness

- *Poverty*
  - Black people are more than twice as likely to live in poverty than Whites
- *Segregation/Rental Housing Discrimination*
 - government supported housing discrimination/redlining that discouraged investment in Black neighborhoods and NIMBYism
- *Overcriminalization*
  - studies show Black people are more than two times likely to be arrested, 3 times more likely to be in jail and 5 time more likely to be in prison
- *Access to Health Care*
  - gains have been made with the ACA, but gaps still occur, including outcomes

What Can the Homelessness System Do?

- Disproportionality influenced by historical and structural racism; including feeder systems such as criminal justice
  - *The homeless sector 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**

Step 1: Assess Disproportionality and Disparity

- **Tool**: HUD <u>CoC Analysis Tool on Race and Ethnicity.</u>
  - Allows you to examine what percentage of people in your CoC are poor, homeless, sheltered and unsheltered based on race and ethnicity

Step 2: 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

https://endhomelessness.org/resource/the-alliances-racial-equity-network-toolkit/

Data Elements

Who experiences homelessness?

Who gets into Crisis housing (emergency shelter and transitional housing)?

Who gets into permanent housing?

Who returns to homelessness?

What's in the COVID-19 Data 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?

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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

- Be intentional and committed for the long haul

- **Now what?**

Step 3: Use Data to Make Changes

Who Experiences Homelessness?

Immediate Steps:

- Make your data visually known internally/externally
- Add race/ethnicity data to CoC reports for continual tracking

Long-term Steps:

- Convene other stakeholders of feeder systems (e.g., child welfare, criminal justice) to share data and strategize how to reduce disparities of minority groups experiencing homelessness

Step 3: Use Data to Make Changes

Who Gets into Crisis Housing?

If you notice a disparity in clients accessing shelter and transitional housing (TH)

Immediate Steps:

- Convene a group of staff members and guests in the shelter/TH, including community stakeholders to review policy and procedure for barriers that might cause a specific racial group to avoid shelter (e.g., if African Americans are not accessing shelter proportionately, examine rules on dress code, criminal records and so on)

- Review data on bans/termination of services (e.g., is there a disparity with who is getting terminated from shelter and for how long?)

Long-term Step:

- Work with other community partners that largely serve minorities with outreach and assessment resources

Step 3: Use Data to Make Changes

Who Gets into Permanent Housing?

If the number of people accessing permanent housing is disproportionate to the number of people experiencing homelessness

Immediate Steps:

• Does your model address discrimination that may occur in the market (e.g., landlord engagement)?

• Does your model take into account culturally-responsive, community based supports the client/tenant might need?

Long-term Steps:

• Get technical assistance to re-design your coordinated entry processes if found to have disparate outcomes

Step 3: Use Data to Make Changes

Who Returns to Homelessness?

If the number of people returning homelessness disproportioned by race/ethnicity to who experience homelessness

Immediate Steps:

- Dedicate more intensive services to those with previous experiences in homelessness

Long-term Steps:

- Explore other systems to engage to connect people with mainstream resources to help maintain stability

There's More You Can Do!

- **Organizational**

   - designate a staff person or a team to address racial equity in your organization

   - commit resources

   - annually train staff

   - hold ongoing opportunities to discuss racial equity

- **Listening to People with Lived Expertise**

   - provide opportunities for those in your system to give feedback and expand opportunities for policy participation

Resources

https://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/REN-Action-Steps-final.pdf

https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/economy/2018/10/10/faces-poverty-social-racial-factors/37977173/

https://news.trust.org/item/20200713110849-az14m/

https://www.nami.org/Blogs/NAMI-Blog/July-2019/Racial-Disparities-in-Mental-Health-and-Criminal-Justice

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/usc-brookings-schaeffer-on-health-policy/2020/02/19/there-are-clear-race-based-inequalities-in-health-insurance-and-health-outcomes/

THANK YOU

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