LEE COUNTY CONTINUUM

OF CARE RACIAL DISPARITIES

Report Summary

This report outlines the findings of an evaluation of race and ethnicity data from the Lee County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), Abuse Counseling and Treatment (ACT), and CoC Governing Board Membership in comparison to 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) Population Estimates

In an effort to address racial disparities in Lee County, the Lee County Continuum of Care completed its annual study as part of the 2022 Continuum of Care (CoC) Funding Competition, which provides the framework to begin examining local data and the disparities that exist within the homeless service system.

Racial Disparities in Lee County Homeless Services

The Lee County CoC examined data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Abuse Counseling and Treatment (ACT) shelter to identify race and ethnicity trends in the homeless population in Lee County. The data was then compared to the 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates to determine if the homeless population served through the Lee County CoC programs represents the overall Lee County population or if there are disparities.

Assistance by Race

Lee County's data from the fiscal year 2020 to 2021 demonstrates that Black or African American individuals who needed assistance were at 42.2% compared to the Lee County Black or African American population which is 8.3 %. The substantial difference between the ACS estimate and the HMIS data shows that Black or African Americans are overrepresented in the homeless population.

Race	2020 ACS Estimate	2020 ACS Estimate	FY 20/21 HMIS Data
Total	756,570	100%	2108
White Alone	614,872	81.3%	1145 (52.4%)
Black or African American	62,612	8.3%	890 (42.2%)
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,270	.2%	8 (0.4%)
Asian	12,529	1.7%	6 (0.3%)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	439	.1%	2 (0.1%)
Some other race	27,267	3.6%	0
Two or more races	37,581	5%	54 (4.6%)

Assistance by Ethnicity

The number of Hispanic or Latino individuals who sought assistance was 13.2% compared to the Lee County population of 21.9%. Hispanic or Latino individuals are underrepresented in the CoC services and are less likely to apply for assistance than Non-Hispanic or Latino individuals.

Ethnicity	2020 ACS Estimate	2020 ACS Estimate	FY 20/21 HMIS Data
Total:	756,570		
Not Hispanic or Latino:	591,252	78.1%	1830
White	501,531	66.3%	915 (43.4%)
Black or African American	60,045	7.9%	859 (40.7%)
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,104	.1%	7 (.3%)
Asian	12,377	1.6%	6 (.3%)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	341	0%	2 (.1%)
Some other race	4,097	.5%	0
Two or more races:	11,757	1.6%	41 (1.9%)
Hispanic or Latino:	165,318	21.9%	278 (13.2%)
Mexican	42,934	5.7%	NR
Puerto Rican	33,999	4.5%	NR
Cuban	40,800	5.4%	NR
Other Hispanic or Latino	47,585	6.3%	NR

Coordinated Entry by Race

The data demonstrates that 42.1% of individuals who did a coordinated entry were Black or African American. The data also shows that the percentage of Black or African American individuals who received a VI-SPADT was 44.46%. The numbers between those doing a coordinated entry and those receiving a VI-SPADT are similar, meaning most receiving a coordinated entry will continue through the services the CoC offers. However, some who complete a coordinated entry may never complete a VI-SPADT as 54.95% of individuals who did a coordinated entry were white, while only 52.64% of those receiving a VI-SPADT were white. The decrease could be caused by numerous reasons. The table below compares the percentage of individuals receiving a Coordinated Entry to the individuals once in the system who receive a VI-SPADT. Those two numbers are then compared to the Lee County Population demographics and the 2020 Lee County PIT Count.

Race	Coordinated Entry	Received VI-SPADT	2020 ACS Estimate	2020 Lee County PIT
White	54.95%	52.64%	81.3%	69.5%
Black or African American	42.1%	44.46%	8.3%	27.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	.52%	.66%	.2%	1.2%
Asian	.23%	.2%	1.7%	0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0%	0%	.1%	0%
Multiple Races	2.21%	2.04%	5%	2.1%

Outcomes by Race/Ethnicity

Clients who are Black or African Americans have a higher percentage of exiting to permanent housing with 28.7% compared to other racial groups. White individuals had the second-highest percentage with 28.1% of persons exiting to a permanent destination. Those who were Hispanic/Latino had a lower percentage exiting to permanent housing with 5%. White individuals also had a higher percentage of exiting to a negative destination with 24% of individuals exiting to a negative destination.

Race	Exited to Institutional Setting		Exited to Temporary Housing Situation		Exited to Permanent Housing		Unknown Destination or No Exit Interview		Total	
White	39	10.9%	49	13.6%	233	64.9%	38	10.6%	359	100%
Black or African American	14	3.8%	51	13.8	238	64.3%	67	18.1%	370	100%
Other Races or Unknown	2	9.5%	0	-	14	66.7%	5	23.8%	21	100%

Race	Exited to Institutional Setting		Exited to Temporary Housing Situation		Exited to Permanent Housing		Unknown Destination or No Exit Interview		Total	
Hispanic/Latino	7	9%	19	24.4%	41	52.6%	11	14.1%	78	100%

CoC Governing Board Representation

The data regarding the race of the 2020-2021 Continuum of Care Governing Board membership indicates that most members were white individuals. Additional representation from races other than white is needed to provide a true representation of the homeless population. The CoC Governing Board needs representation of Asians, American Indians, and Pacific Islanders to provide diverse input and represent those populations who are homeless. In 2020, 42.1% of the homeless population was Black or African American, but only 10% of individuals on the Governing Board were Black or African American. By having a more diverse board, they can represent those communities in the homeless population.

Homeless Population Served in Lee County 10/1/2019 and 9/30/2020			CoC Board Membership	2020 ACS Estimates
Race	#	%		
American Indian or Alaskan Native	8	0.4%		.2%
American Indian or Alaskan Native, Black or African American	1	0.0 %		0%
American Indian or Alaskan Native, White	6	0.3%		.3%
Asian	6	0.3%		1.7%
Asian, White	0	0%		.3%

Black or African American	890	42.2%	28%	8.3%
Black or African American, White	39	1.9%		.6%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	5	0.2%		.1%
Other	8	0.4%		3.6%
White	1145	54.3%	66%	81.3%
Don't Know/Refused	0	0%	4.7%	-
Total	1996	100%	100%	100%

Disparities in Victims Services

The fiscal year 2020-2021 data from the Abuse and Counseling and Treatment (ACT) shelter in Lee County demonstrates that the percentage of Black or African American individuals who received help was 33.3% which is higher compared to Lee County's Black or African American population of 8.3%. Black or African Americans were overrepresented in the population of domestic violence (DV) survivors. Similarly, the percentage of Hispanic or Latino individuals who received help was 43.6% compared to the Lee County population of 21.9%. Hispanic or Latino individuals are also overrepresented in the population of domestic violence (DV) survivors.

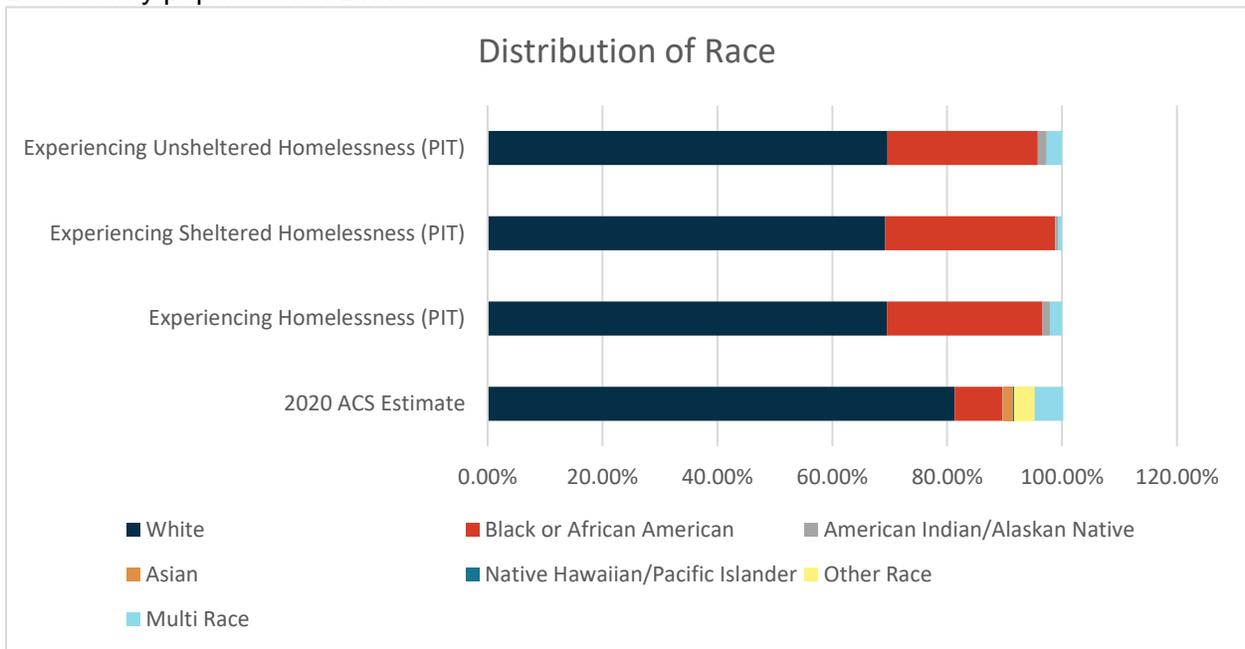| Domestic Violence Victims Data from Act Shelter			
Total # Served			39
Race/Ethnicity		**% of Total Served**	**2020 ACS Estimates**
American Indian	0	0	.2%
Asian	0	0	1.7%
African American	13	33.3%	8.3%
Multiple Races	0	0	5%
White	26	66.6%	81.3%
Pacific Islander	0	0	.1%
Other	0	0	3.6%
Other	0	0	
Hispanic or Latino	17	43.6%	21.9%
Non-Hispanic	22	56.4%	78.1%

Lee County Data

The table compares Lee County's population with the Continuum of Care's Point in Time Count. The count is further broken down into Sheltered and Unsheltered homeless individuals.
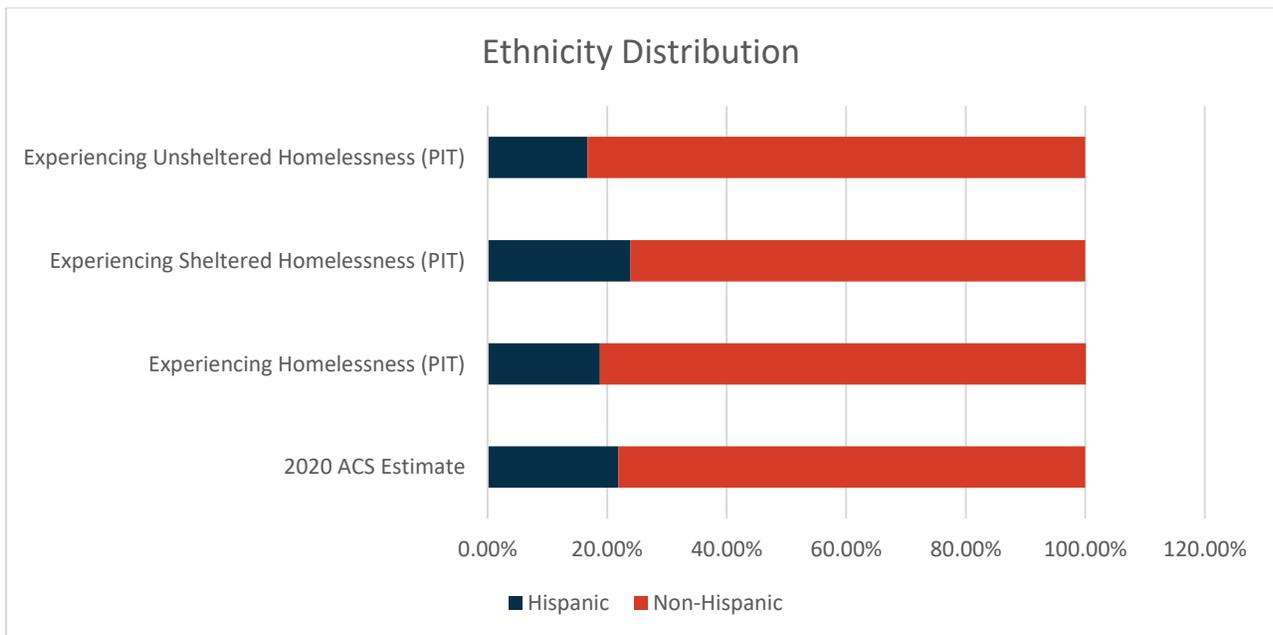
Race/Ethnicity	2020 ACS Estimates		Experiencing Homelessness (PIT)		Experiencing Sheltered Homelessness (PIT)		Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness (PIT)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total	756,570		560		159		401	
Race								
White	614,872	81.3%	389	69.5%	110	69.2%	279	69.6%
Black or African American	62,612	8.3%	152	27.1%	47	29.6%	105	26.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1,270	.2%	7	1.3%	1	.6%	6	1.5%
Asian	12,529	1.7%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	439	.1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Multi Race	37,581	5%	12	2.1%	1	.6%	11	2.7%
Ethnicity								
Hispanic	165,318	21.9%	105	18.8%	38	23.9%	67	16.7%
Non-Hispanic	591,252	78.1%	455	81.3%	121	76.1%	334	83.3%

The data regarding Lee County Point-In-Time count shows that Black or African American individuals were overrepresented as they made up 27.1% of the count compared to 8.3% of Black or African Individuals in Lee County's population. Hispanic or Latino individuals were under-represented in the Point-In-Time count as the percentage was 18.8% compared to the

Lee County population of 21.4%

Distribution of Race

In the Point in Time Count, White individuals made up a similar percentage of the homeless population for unsheltered and sheltered at around 69%. They were underrepresented in the count as white individuals make up 84.4% of Lee County's population. Black or African individuals were overrepresented during the count. While they made up 27% of individuals experiencing homelessness, they made up 29% of individuals who were in shelters that night.

Ethnicity Distribution

Non-Hispanic individuals were overrepresented in unsheltered homelessness. 83.3% of Non-Hispanic individuals were unsheltered during that night compared to 78.1% of individuals in Lee County's population are Non-Hispanic.

State of Florida Data

According to the 2020 Florida Council on Homelessness Annual Report, approximately 26,671 individuals experienced homelessness in the State of Florida. The table below compares data between the State of Florida and the Lee County Continuum of Care Point in Time Count from 2020. The below tables show that 85.6%% of people experiencing homelessness were Non-Hispanic/Latino which was similar to the Lee County Point in Time count where on that given night, 81.3% of persons experiencing homelessness were Non-Hispanic/Latino. However, there were more white individuals experiencing homelessness in Lee County than in the state

Ethnicity/Race	2020 Florida PIT Estimates	2020 Lee County (CoC PIT Estimates)
Total Numbers	26,671	560
Ethnicity		
Hispanic/Latino	14.4%	18.7%
Non-Hispanic/Latino	85.6%	81.3%
Race		
White	55.6%	69.5%
Black or African American	39.6%	27.1%
Native American/Alaskan	1.2%	1.3%
Asian	.4%	0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	.2%	.2%
Other/Multi-Racial	2.9%	.8%

United States Data

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development 2020 Annual Report shows that the estimated amount of people experiencing homelessness in 2020 in the United States was 580,466. Of the estimated amount, 77.5% were Non-Hispanic/Latino and 22.5% were Hispanic/Latino. In addition, 48.3% were white, compared to Florida which had 55.6% white and 69.5% were white in Lee County. Lee County had a higher percentage of white individuals homeless than Florida and the U.S. Also, Lee County had a lower percentage of Black or African American individuals who were homeless at 27.1% compared to Florida which had a percentage of 39.6%, and the US at 39.4% The below table is comparing data from the United States, the State of Florida, and Lee County.

Ethnicity/Race	2020 U.S	2020 Florida	2020 Lee County
Total Numbers	580,466	26,671	560
Ethnicity			
Hispanic/Latino	22.5%	14.4%	18.7%
Non-Hispanic/Latino	77.5%	85.6%	81.3%
Race			
White	48.3%	55.6%	69.5%
Black or African American	39.4%	39.6%	27.1%
Native American/Alaskan	3.3%	1.2%	1.3%
Asian	1.3%	.4%	0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1.5%	.2%	0%
Other/Multi-Racial	6.1%	2.9%	2.1%

*2020 U.S data received from The 2020 Homeless Assessment Report
*2020 Florida data received from the 2020 Florida Council on Homelessness Annual Report
*2020 Lee County data received from the Lee County Continuum of Care PIT

Summary

Overall, the data reflects Black or African Americans are overrepresented in Lee County's homeless population. Black or African American individuals comprise 42.2% compared to the ACS estimate which has Black or African American individuals comprising the homeless population at 8.3%. White individuals had a higher percentage of exiting to a negative destination with a combined percentage of 28%. Additionally, trends show that Hispanic/Latino individuals are less likely to seek or receive assistance as 21.9% of those seeking assistance were Hispanic/Latino. Increased representation of the minority groups on the CoC governing board can help represent the minority communities and make sure they are better served.