



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 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) Population Estimates

LEE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE RACIAL DISPARITIES

In an effort to address racial disparities in Lee County, the Lee County Continuum of Care completed its annual study as part of the 2023 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 2021 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 2021 to 2022 demonstrates that Black or African American individuals who needed assistance were at 43.6% compared to the Lee County Black or African American population which is 8.1%. The data shows the Black or African American population is overrepresented in those needing assistance within Lee County.

Race	2021 ACS Estimate	2021 ACS Estimate	FY 21/22 HMIS Data
Total	752,251	100%	2163
White Alone	586,690	78%	1152 (53.3%)
Black or African American	61,093	8.1%	942 (43.6%)
American Indian and Alaska Native	895	.1%	8 (0.4%)
Asian	12,565	1.7%	6 (0.3%)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	409	.1%	5 (0.2%)
Some other race	29,538	3.9%	0
Two or more races	61,061	8.1%	50 (2.3%)

Assistance by Ethnicity

The number of Hispanic or Latino individuals who sought assistance was 16.3% compared to the Lee County population of 22.6%. Hispanic or Latino individuals are underrepresented and are less likely to apply for assistance than Non-Hispanic or Latino individuals.

Ethnicity	2021 ACS Estimate	2021 ACS Estimate	FY 21/22 HMIS Data
Total:	752,251		
Not Hispanic or Latino:	582,181	77.4%	1810 (83.7%)
White	490,504	65.2%	853 (39.4%)
Black or African American	58,467	7.8%	904 (41.8%)
American Indian and Alaska Native	635	.1%	6 (.3%)
Asian	12,411	1.6%	5 (.2%)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	311	0%	3 (.1%)
Some other race	4,144	.6%	0 (0%)
Two or more races:	15,709	2.1%	39 (1.8%)
Hispanic or Latino:	170,070	22.6%	353 (16.3%)
Mexican	40,941	5.4%	NR
Puerto Rican	34,830	4.6%	NR
Cuban	42,954	5.7%	NR
Other Hispanic or Latino	51,345	6.8%	NR

Coordinated Entry by Race

The data reveals that 39.3% of individuals who engaged in coordinated entry were identified as Black or African American. Furthermore, the statistics indicate that 41.1% of Black or African American individuals received a VI-SPADT. The similarity in percentages between those participating in coordinated entry and those subsequently receiving a VI-SPADT suggests that the majority of individuals who start with coordinated entry proceed through the services offered by CoC. Nevertheless, it's worth noting that not all individuals who complete a coordinated entry ultimately receive a VI-SPADT, as evidenced by the fact of 57.8% of those engaging in coordinated entry were white, while only 56.1% of VI-SPADT recipients were white. There may be various reasons for this decrease. The table below provides a comparative analysis of the percentage of individuals undergoing Coordinated Entry and those subsequently receiving a VI-SPADT, aligning these figures with Lee County's population demographics and the 2022 Lee County PIT Count.

Race	Coordinated Entry	Received VI-SPADT	2021 ACS Estimate	2022 Lee County PIT
White	57.8%	56.1%	78%	69.5%
Black or African American	39.3%	41.1%	8.1%	27.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	.04%	.04%	.1%	1.3%
Asian	.04%	.05%	1.7%	0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	.02%	0%	.1%	0%
Multiple Races	2.0%	2.0%	8.1%	2.1%

Outcomes by Race/Ethnicity

Black or African American clients exhibit a notably higher rate of transitioning to permanent housing, standing at 30%, in contrast to other racial groups. On the other hand, white individuals show a higher percentage of transitioning to negative destinations, with 8.3% finding themselves in Institutional Settings or Temporary Housing.

Race	Exited to Institutional Setting		Exited to Temporary Housing Situation		Exited to Permanent Housing		Unknown Destination or No Exit Interview		Total	
White	49	3.2%	78	5.1%	361	23.7%	72	4.7%	560	36.8%
Black or African American	25	1.6%	76	5.0%	457	30.0%	130	8.5%	688	45.2%
Other Races or Unknown	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	30	2.0%	6	0.3%	40	2.6%

Race	Exited to Institutional Setting		Exited to Temporary Housing Situation		Exited to Permanent Housing		Unknown Destination or No Exit Interview		Total	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Hispanic/Latino	13	0.9%	29	1.9%	160	10.5%	32	2.1%	234	15.4%



CoC Governing Board Representation

The data concerning the racial composition of the 2021-2022 Continuum of Care Governing Board membership reveals a predominantly white membership. There is a clear need for additional representation from racial groups beyond white individuals to mirror the diversity within the homeless population. To achieve a more comprehensive representation, it is essential to include members of all backgrounds who can provide valuable insights and represent homeless populations from these communities. In recent years, there has been a positive shift in diversification, with the percentage of Black or African American members increasing to 30%. This enhanced diversity on the board enables better representation of communities within the homeless population.

Homeless Population Served in Lee County 10/1/2019 and 9/30/2020			CoC Board Membership	2021 ACS Estimates
Race	#	%		
American Indian or Alaskan Native	12	.4%		.1%
American Indian or Alaskan Native, Black or African American	8	.2%		0%
American Indian or Alaskan Native, White	14	.4%		.4%
Asian	12	.4%		1.7%
Asian, White	1	0%		.3%
Black or African American	1387	40.8%	30%	8.1%
Black or African American, White	47	1.4%		.7%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	9	.3%		.1%
Other	1	0%		3.9%
White	1910	56.1%	65%	78%
Don't Know/Refused	2	.1%	5%	NR
Total	3403	100%		100%

Disparities in Victims Services

The data for the fiscal year 2021-2022 obtained from Lee County's Abuse and Counseling and Treatment (ACT) shelter reveals a notable pattern. Specifically, it shows that 28% of individuals who received assistance were Black or African American, a figure significantly higher than the 8.1% representation of Black or African Americans in Lee County's population. This indicates an overrepresentation of Black or African Americans among domestic violence (DV) survivors in the shelter's population. Similarly, the data highlights that 32% of the individuals who received aid were Hispanic or Latino, surpassing the 22.6% Hispanic or Latino population in Lee County. Hence, it becomes evident that Hispanic or Latino individuals are also overrepresented among domestic violence (DV) survivors seeking support.

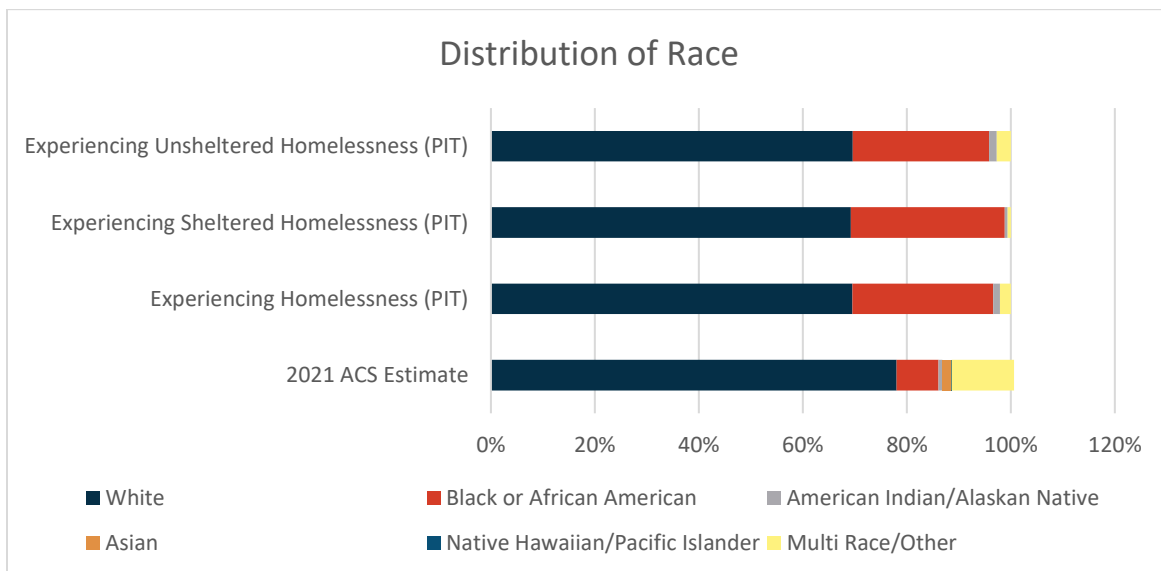
Domestic Violence Victims Data from Act Shelter			
Total # Served		75	
Race/Ethnicity		% of Total Served	2021 ACS Estimates
American Indian	0	0	.1%
Asian	0	0	1.7%
African American	21	28.0%	8.1%
Multiple Races	0	0	8.1%
White	54	72.0%	78%
Pacific Islander	0	0	.1%
Other	0	0	3.9%
Other	0	0	0%
Hispanic or Latino	24	32.0%	22.6%
Non-Hispanic	38	68.0%	77.4%

Lee County Data

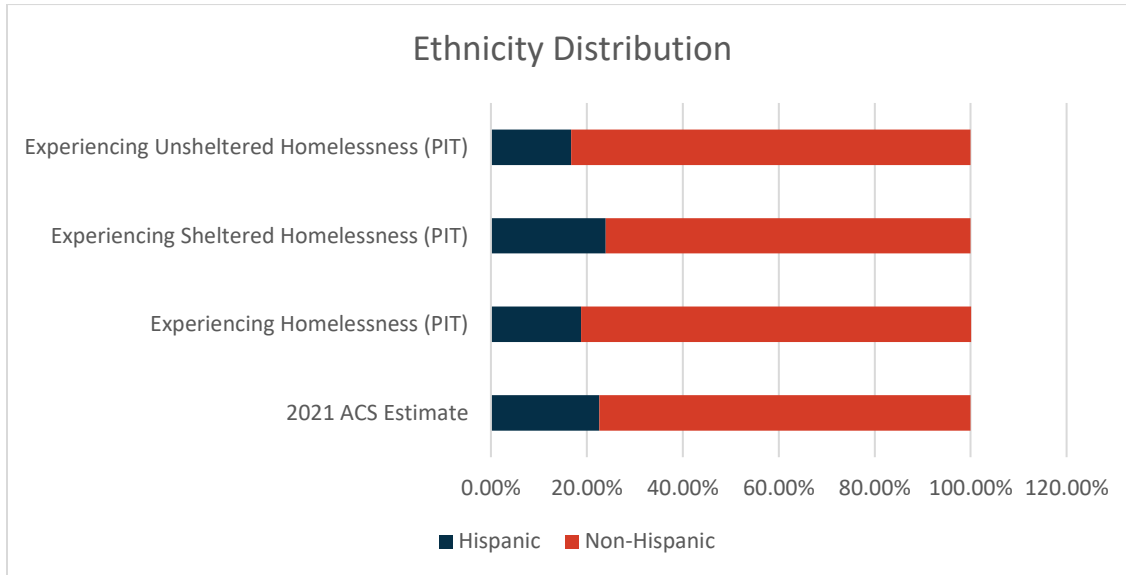
The table compares Lee County's population with the Continuum of Care's Point in Time Count. The count is further broken down into Sheltered and Unsheltered homeless individuals.

Race/Ethnicity	2021 ACS Estimates		Experiencing Homelessness (PIT)		Experiencing Sheltered Homelessness (PIT)		Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness (PIT)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total	752,251		560		159		401	
Race								
White	586,690	78%	389	69.5%	110	69.2%	279	69.6%
Black or African American	61,093	8.1%	152	27.1%	47	29.6%	105	26.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	895	.1%	7	1.3%	1	.6%	6	1.5%
Asian	12,565	1.7%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	409	.1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Multi Race/Other	90,599	12%	12	2.1%	1	.6%	11	2.7%
Ethnicity								
Hispanic	170,070	22.6%	105	18.8%	38	23.9%	67	16.7%
Non-Hispanic	582,181	77.4%	455	81.3%	121	76.1%	334	83.3%

The Point-In-Time count data reveals an overrepresentation of Black or African individuals, comprising 27.1% of the count, in contrast to their 8.1% share of the county's overall population. Hispanic or Latino individuals were underrepresented in the Point-In-Time count, accounting for 18.8% of the count compared to the 22.6% they represent in Lee County's population.



In the Point-In-Time Count, white individuals were depicted as underrepresented, with their population share being 78% in Lee County, while they comprised only of 69.5% of the count. Black or African American individuals were shown as overrepresented. While they made up 27% of individuals experiencing homelessness, they made up 29.6% of individuals who were in shelters that night.



In the Point-In-Time Count, Hispanic individuals were found to be underrepresented, accounting for 18.8% of the count, in contrast to their 22.6% representation in Lee County’s population. Interestingly, a higher proportion of Hispanic individuals were sheltered (23.9%) compared to those who were unsheltered (16.7%).

State of Florida Data

According to the 2022 Florida Council on Homelessness Annual Report, approximately 25,810 individuals faced homelessness in the state of Florida. The following table shows a comparison between data from the State of Florida and the Lee County Continuum of Care Point-In-Time Count for 2022. These tables indicate that 82.4% of individuals experiencing homelessness were non-Hispanic/Latino, a figure similar to the Lee County Point-In-Time Count, which reported that on a particular night, 81.3% of homeless individuals were non-Hispanic/Latino. However, it is worth noting that there were more white individuals experiencing homelessness in Lee County than in the overall state.

Ethnicity/Race	2022 Florida PIT Estimates	2022 Lee County (CoC PIT Estimates)
<i>Total Numbers</i>	25,810	560
Ethnicity		
Hispanic/Latino	17.6%	18.7%
Non-Hispanic/Latino	82.4%	81.3%
Race		
White	54%	69.5%
Black or African American	41%	27.1%
Native American/Alaskan	.9%	1.3%
Asian	.4%	0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	.6%	0%
Other/Multi-Racial	0%	2.1%



United States Data

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development 2022 Annual Report shows that the estimated amount of people experiencing homelessness in the United States in 2022 stood at 582,462. Among this estimated population, 75.9% were identified as Non-Hispanic/Latino, while 24.1% were identified as Hispanic/Latino. Furthermore, 50% of the homeless population were identified as white, in contrast to Florida, where the white homeless population was 54% and Lee County, where it reached 69.5%. Notably, Lee County had a higher percentage of white individuals experiencing homelessness compared to both Florida and the entire United States. Conversely, Lee County had a lower percentage of Black or African American

individuals experiencing homelessness, with a rate of 27.1% as opposed to Florida’s 41% and the U.S.’s 37.3%. The table below shows a comparative analysis of data from the United States, the State of Florida, and Lee County.

Ethnicity/Race	2022 U.S	2022 Florida	2022 Lee County
<i>Total Numbers</i>	582,462	25,810	560
Ethnicity			
Hispanic/Latino	24.1%	17.6%	18.7%
Non-Hispanic/Latino	75.9%	82.4%	81.3%
Race			
White	50%	54%	69.5%
Black or African American	37.3%	41%	27.1%
Native American/Alaskan	1.8%	.9%	1.3%
Asian	1.4%	.4%	0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1.8%	.6%	0%
Other/Multi-Racial	6.1%	NR	2.1%

*2022 U.S data received from The 2022 Homeless Assessment Report

*2022 Florida data received from the 2022 Florida Council on Homelessness Annual Report

*2022 Lee County data received from the Lee County Continuum of Care PIT

Summary

In summary, the data reflects an overrepresentation of Black or African Americans within Lee County’s homeless population. Among those in need of assistance, 43.6% were Black or African American, a stark contrast to their representation in Lee County’s population, which stands at 8.1%. White individuals, on the other hand, exhibited a higher rate of transitioning to a negative destination than any other demographics, with 8.3% of individuals moving to an Institutional Setting or Temporary Housing. Furthermore, observed trends indicate that Hispanic/Latino individuals are less likely to seek or receive assistance, as only 16.3% received aid. To better serve minority communities, it is advisable to increase the representation of these minority groups on the CoC Governing Board. This step can help ensure their needs are adequately addressed.