



LEE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE
2021 ANALYSIS OF
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 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Population Estimates

In an effort to address racial disparities in Lee County, the Lee County Continuum of Care completed their annual study as part of the 2020 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 2019 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 fiscal year 2019 to 2020 demonstrates that Black or African American individuals who needed assistance were at 45.1% compared to the Lee County Black or African American population which, is 8.6%. The substantial difference between the ACS estimate and the HMIS data shows that Black or African Americans are overrepresented in the homeless population.

Race	2019 ACS Estimate	2019 ACS Estimate	FY 19/20 HMIS Data
Total	737,468	100%	1996
White Alone	622,299	84.4%	1046 (52.4%)
Black or African American	63,282	8.6%	900 (45.1%)
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,395	.2%	9 (0.4%)
Asian	11,967	1.7%	4 (0.2%)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	412	.1%	2 (0.1%)
Some other race	24,959	3.4%	0
Two or more races	13,154	1.8%	35 (1.8%)

Assistance by Ethnicity

The number of Hispanic or Latino individuals who were assisted was 13.4% compared to the Lee County population of 21.4%. 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	2019 ACS Estimate	2019 ACS Estimate	FY 19/20 HMIS Data
Total:	737,468		
Not Hispanic or Latino:	579,787	78.6%	1729 (86.6%)
White	495,480	67.2%	818 (41.0%)
Black or African American	60,077	8.1%	871 (43.6%)
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,247	.2%	5 (0.3%)
Asian	11,801	1.6%	3 (0.1%)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	278	0%	2 (0.1%)
Some other race	1,890	.3%	0
Two or more races:	9,014	1.2%	30 (1.5%)
Hispanic or Latino:	157,681	21.4%	267 (13.4%)
Mexican	44,108	6%	NR
Puerto Rican	31,984	4.3%	NR
Cuban	36,033	4.9%	NR
Other Hispanic or Latino	45,556	6.2%	NR

Coordinated Entry by Race

The data demonstrates that 39.05% of individuals who did a coordinated entry were Black or African American. Those individuals had a small increase when compared to receiving a VI-SPADT which 40.2% of those receiving a VI-SPADT were Black or African American. 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 60.14% of individuals who did a coordinated entry were white, while only 58% 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 2019 Lee County PIT Count.

Race	Coordinated Entry	Received VI-SPADT	2019 ACS Estimate	2019 Lee County PIT
White	60.14%	58%	84.4%	65.6%
Black or African American	39.05%	40.2%	8.6%	32.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	.45%	.7%	.2%	.8%
Asian	.09%	0%	1.7%	.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	.27%	.4%	.1%	.2%
Multiple Races	0%	.7%	1.8%	.8%

Outcomes by Race/Ethnicity

Clients who are Other Races or Unknown had a higher percentage of exiting to a permanent housing destination with 78.6% compared to the other racial groups. Black or African Americans had the second-highest percentage with 66.5% of person exiting to a permanent destination. White individuals had the highest negative exits, with a combined percentage of 43.1% of exiting to an institutional setting, unknown destination, exiting to a temporary housing situation, or no exit interview.

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
White	33	11%	57	19.1%	170	56.9%	39	13%	299	34.0%
Black or African American	7	2.1%	44	12.9%	226	66.5%	63	18.5%	340	100%
Other Races or Unknown	0	0%	2	14.3%	11	78.6%	1	7.1%	14	1.6%

Race	Exited to Institutional Setting		Exited to Temporary Housing Situation		Exited to Permanent Housing		Unknown Destination or No Exit Interview		Total	
Hispanic/Latino	10	1.1%	72	8.2%	114	13.0%	31	3.5%	227	25.8%



CoC Governing Board Representation

The data regarding the race of the 2019-2020 Continuum of Care Governing Board membership indicates that most members were white individuals. Additional representation from races other than white are 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 2019, 45.1% 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	2019 ACS Estimates
Race	#	%		
American Indian or Alaskan Native	9	0.5%		.2%
American Indian or Alaskan Native, Black or African American	1	0.1%		0%
American Indian or Alaskan Native, White	3	0.2%		.3%
Asian	4	0.2%		1.6%
Asian, White	0	0%		.3%
Black or African American	900	45.1%	10%	8.6%

Black or African American, White	23	1.2%		.5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2	0.1%		.1%
Other	8	0.4%		3.4%
White	1046	52.4%	75%	84.4%
Don't Know/Refused	0	0%	15%	-
Total	1996	100%	100%	100%

Disparities in Victims Services

Fiscal year 2019-2020 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 28.2% which is higher compared to Lee County's Black or African American population of 8.6%. 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 48.7% compared to the Lee County population of 21.4%. Hispanic or Latino individuals are also overrepresented in the population of domestic violence (DV) survivors.

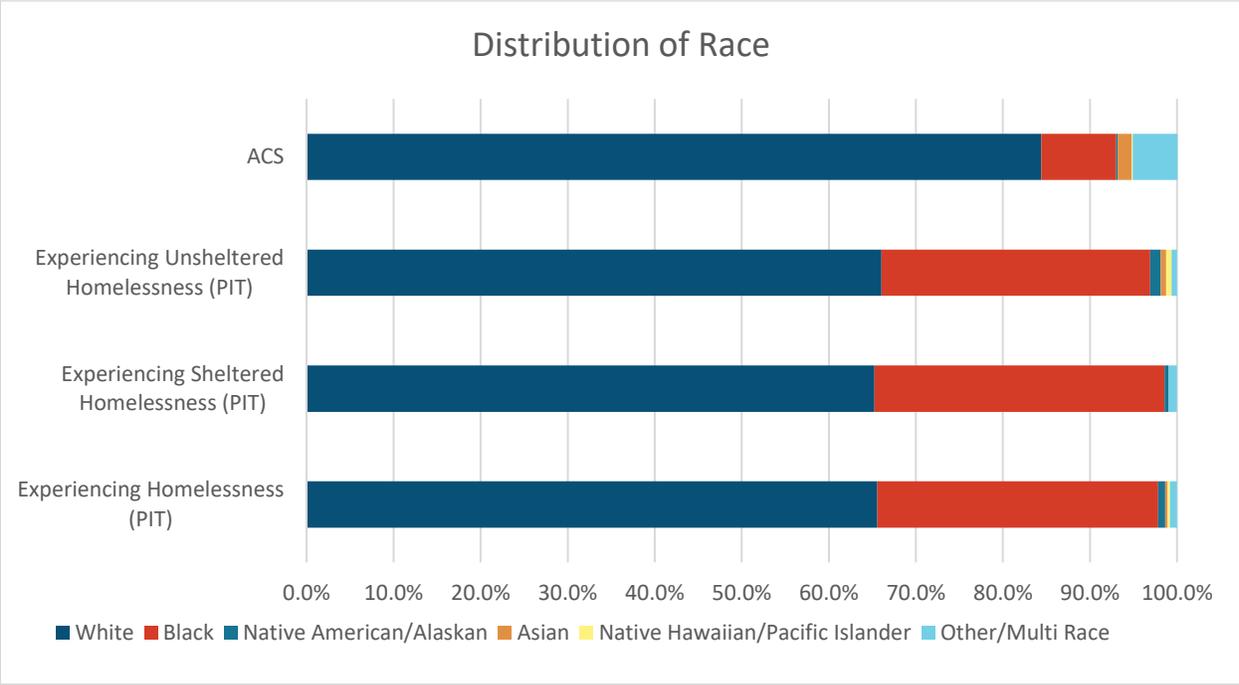
Domestic Violence Victims Data from Act Shelter			
Total # Served		39	
Race/Ethnicity		% of Total Served	2019 ACS Estimates
American Indian	0	0	.2%
Asian	0	0	1.6%
African American	11	28.2	8.6%
Multiple Races	0	0	1.8%
White	28	71.8	84.4%
Pacific Islander	0	0	.1%
Other	0	0	3.4%
Other			
Other	0	0	
Hispanic or Latino	19	48.7	21.4%
Non-Hispanic	20	51.3	78.6%

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. .

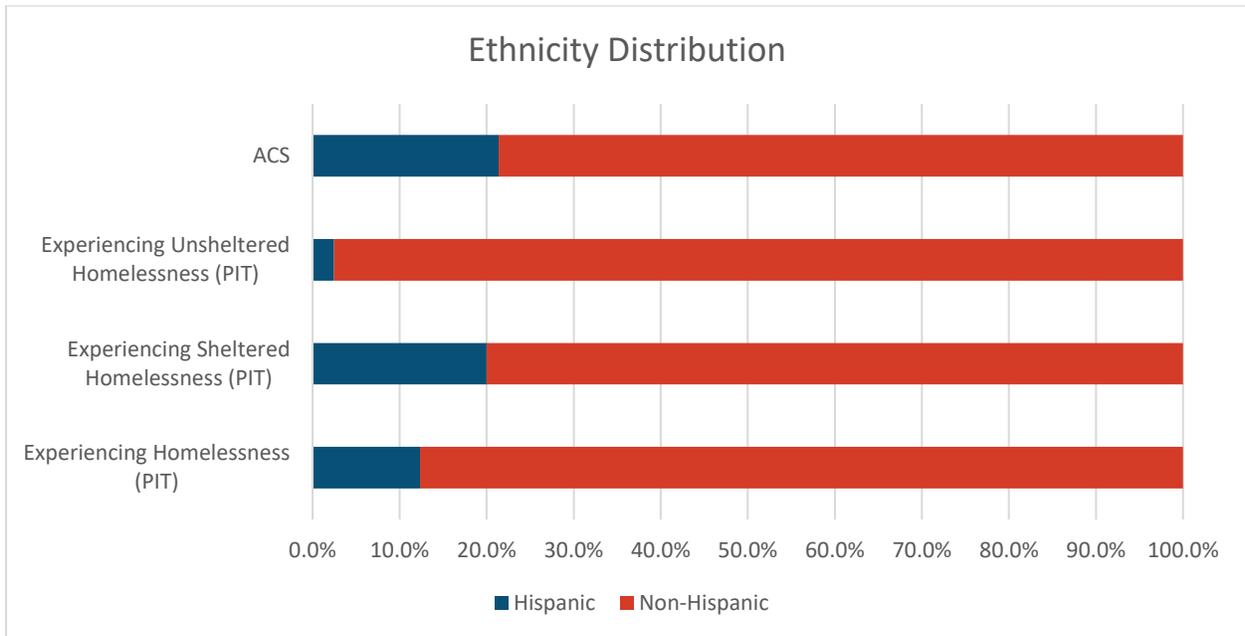
Race/Ethnicity	2019 ACS Estimates		Experiencing Homelessness (PIT)		Experiencing Sheltered Homelessness (PIT)		Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness (PIT)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total	737,468		372		210		162	
Race								
White	622,299	84.4%	244	65.6%	137	65.2%	107	66%
Black or African American	63,282	8.6%	120	32.3%	70	33.3%	50	30.9%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1,395	.2%	3	.8%	1	.5%	2	1.2%
Asian	11,967	1.6%	1	.3%	0	0%	1	.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	412	.1%	1	.3%	0	0%	1	.6%
Other/Multi Race	38,113	5.17%	3	.8%	2	1%	1	.6%
Ethnicity								
Hispanic	157,681	21.4%	46	12.4%	42	20%	4	2.5%
Non-Hispanic	579,787	78.6%	326	87.6%	168	80%	158	97.5%

The data regarding Lee County Point-In-Time count shows that Black or African American individuals were overrepresented as they made up 32.3% of the count compared to 8.6% of Black or African Individuals in Lee County’s population.



In the Point in Time Count, White individuals made up a similar percentage of the homeless population for unsheltered and sheltered at around 65%. 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. They made up similar percentages across

being sheltered or unsheltered, but had a slightly higher percentage of 33.3% of Black of African individuals were sheltered compared to 30.9% of Black or African individuals were unsheltered.



Non-Hispanic individuals were overrepresented in unsheltered homelessness. 97.5% of Non-Hispanic individuals were unsheltered during that night compared to 78.6% of individuals in Lee County’s population are Non-Hispanic.

State of Florida Data

According to the 2019 Florida Council on Homelessness Annual Report, approximately 28,591 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 2019. The below tables show that 86.9% of people experiencing homelessness were Non-Hispanic/Latino which was similar to the Lee County Point in Time count where on that given night, 87.6% of persons experiencing homelessness were Non-Hispanic/Latino.

Ethnicity/Race	2019 Florida PIT Estimates	2019 Lee County (CoC PIT Estimates)
<i>Total Numbers</i>	28,591	372
Ethnicity		
Hispanic/Latino	13.1%	12.4%
Non-Hispanic/Latino	86.9%	87.6%
Race		
White	54.9%	65.6%
Black or African American	40.8%	32.3%
Native American/Alaskan	.8%	.8%
Asian	.4%	.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	.3%	.2%
Other/Multi-Racial	2.7%	.8%



United States Data

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development 2019 Annual Report shows that the estimated amount of people experiencing homelessness in 2019 in the United States was 567,715. Of the estimated amount, 78% were Non-Hispanic/Latino and 22% were Hispanic/Latino. In addition, 47.7% were white, compared to Florida which had 54.9% white and 65.6% were white in Lee County. Lee County had a higher percentage of white individuals homeless than Florida and the U.S. The below table is comparing data from the United States, the State of Florida, and Lee County.

Ethnicity/Race	2019 U.S	2019 Florida	2019 Lee County
<i>Total Numbers</i>	567,715	28,591	372
Ethnicity			
Hispanic/Latino	22%	13.1%	87.6%
Non-Hispanic/Latino	78%	86.9%	12.4%
Race			
White	47.7%	54.9%	65.6%
Black or African American	39.8%	40.8%	32.3%
Native American/Alaskan	3.2%	.8%	.8%
Asian	1.3%	.4%	.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1.6%	.3%	.2%
Other/Multi-Racial	6.5%	2.7%	.8%

*2019 U.S data received from The 2019 Homeless Assessment Report
*2019 Florida data received from the 2020 Florida Council on Homelessness Annual Report
* 2019 Lee County data received from the Lee County Continuum of Care PIT

Summary

Overall, the data reflects Black or African Americans are also overrepresented in Lee County's homeless population. Black or African American individuals compromise 45.1% compared to the ACS estimate which has Black or African American individuals compromising the homeless population at 8.6%. While they are overrepresented, they do have the second-highest percentage of exits to permanent housing at 65.6% just below unknown race or not reported. White individuals had a higher percentage of exiting to a negative destination with a combined percentage of 43.1%. Additionally, trends show that Hispanic/Latino individuals are less likely to seek or receive assistance as 21.1% 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.