SAMPLE SUMMARY – RACIAL EQUITY IN HOMELESS PREVALENCE
DuPage County Illinois

Results from the HUD Racial Equity Tool show that several disparities between race/ethnic subpopulations. While the African American population in DuPage County represents only 4% of the general population, AAs comprise 38% of all homeless persons and 62% of all persons in homeless families. Compared to their population representation, AAs are greatly overrepresented in the homeless population, between 9 to 15 times more likely to be homeless at any given point in time. While whites represent 80% of the overall population, among those homeless, only 55% of all persons and 33% of all family persons are Caucasians. In contrast to AAs, whites are underrepresented in the homeless population compared to the general population.

The Racial Equity analysis also shows representation among Asian/Pacific Islanders (API) and Hispanics. API are actually far less likely to be homeless, with a population prevalence of 11% and a homeless prevalence of 4%. Hispanic persons generally appear to have a similar prevalence among the general and homeless population, although Hispanic persons in families are slightly more represented among the homeless population (17%) compared to their general family prevalence (13%). The Hispanic population is extremely heterogeneous and any rigorous analysis would need more detailed breakdown by type of Hispanic heritage (Mexican, Puerto Rican, Central American, South American).

Since DuPage counted only 15 persons unsheltered during the most recent PIT count, the Racial Equity analysis lacks sufficient data to compare unsheltered versus sheltered by race, which serves as a proxy for accessibility to services and outcomes. Data available do support greater access to homeless housing services for blacks compared to whites since 13 of the 14 unsheltered persons are whites. The Racial Equity analysis does not have discharge information linked to allow for an analysis of emergency, transitional and permanent supportive housing outcomes by race. The CoC notes that SPM outcomes are not stratified by race.

A comparison of poverty rates among ethnic groups reveals differing associations between poverty levels and homelessness. While whites represent 66% of all persons in poverty, their homeless prevalence is less at 55%. In contrast, blacks are more nearly 3 times more likely to be homeless compared to their poverty prevalence. Hispanics and API offer a much different patterns with homeless prevalence 2.5 to 4 times less than poverty prevalence. Poverty alone is not a factor in homelessness. The use of the ACS poverty figures is also problematic since official statistics do not include non-cash benefits including housing subsidy assistance, food stamp assistance, Medicaid and earned income tax credit.

A brief review of data on youth also show an over-representation of black youth (38%) compared to their population (6%) and an underrepresentation of whites (56% homeless vs. 75% population). The number of youth homeless totaled only 63 persons, so percentages can swing more easily based on small changes in ethnic breakdown.

Lastly, an analysis of veterans is also limited since DuPage has successfully reduced its homeless veteran population, counting only 8 veterans, including no veterans unsheltered in the last PIT count.

Methodology used for this analysis includes the use of cross-sectional (point-in-time) data without controlling for additional known factors that impact utilization of homeless services. The use of cross-sectional data itself is highly problematic since it does not account for the overall
utilization over a longer period of time by race. If AAs are twice as likely to be present in the cross-sectional homeless data, but whites have an average length of homeless service usage that is half of AA, then the overall prevalence over a longer period of time would show no overrepresentation and relative prevalence equity. Use of the PIT is problematic and HUD should consider use of annual HMIS counts to provide more rigor to any findings.

The overall hierarchy of prevalence from lowest to higher – API, Whites, AA – tends to conform to the national level of two-parent families (84% Asian, 75% White and 34% AA), which is a highly correlated to homeless prevalence.

Lastly, the magnitude of the differences especially in comparison to the overall prevalence must give pause to assigning broad conclusions to explain homeless prevalence. In DuPage, only 127 out of 40,756 AAs were found homeless during the PIT, or approximately 1 out of every 321 persons. For whites, the ratio is 1 out of every 4,044; for API 1 out of every 7,270. While homelessness is a serious problem, these overall population small prevalence rates must be considering while forming conclusions and recommendations. DuPage’s homeless prevalence is 5x lower than the national average.
### CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool

**Homelessness and Poverty Counts at the CoC and State Level**

**Select your CoC:** DuPage County CoC

---

#### Distribution of Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>All (ACS)1</th>
<th>In Poverty (ACS)2</th>
<th>Experiencing Homelessness (PIT)3</th>
<th>Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness (PIT)2</th>
<th>In Families with Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>528,043</td>
<td>798,509</td>
<td>66,574</td>
<td>49,528</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

#### Distribution of Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>All (ACS)1</th>
<th>In Poverty (ACS)2</th>
<th>Experiencing Homelessness (PIT)3</th>
<th>Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness (PIT)2</th>
<th>In Families with Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All (Non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>391,077</td>
<td>543,068</td>
<td>64,570</td>
<td>49,518</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

#### State Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>All (ACS)1</th>
<th>In Poverty (ACS)2</th>
<th>Experiencing Homelessness (PIT)3</th>
<th>Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness (PIT)2</th>
<th>In Families with Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>528,043</td>
<td>798,509</td>
<td>66,574</td>
<td>49,528</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Notes

1. American Community Survey (ACS) 2011-2015 5-yr estimates; Veteran CoC data comes from the ACS 2015 1-yr estimate; Total youth in the American Community Survey is a rollup of race estimates of all persons under 25.
3. *Youth experiencing homelessness is limited to unaccompanied and parenting youth persons under 25.*

---

[1]: [American Community Survey (ACS) 2011-2015 5-yr estimates](#)
[2]: [Veteran CoC data comes from](#)
[3]: [Total youth in the American Community Survey](#)
[4]: [a rollup of race estimates of all persons under 25.](#)
[5]: [Youth in Poverty (ACS) 2011-2015 5-yr estimates](#)
[6]: [Youth in Families with Children (ACS) 2011-2015 5-yr estimates](#)
[7]: [Youth experiencing homelessness is limited to unaccompanied and parenting youth persons under 25.](#)