



National Research on Racial Disparities in Homelessness

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SPARC

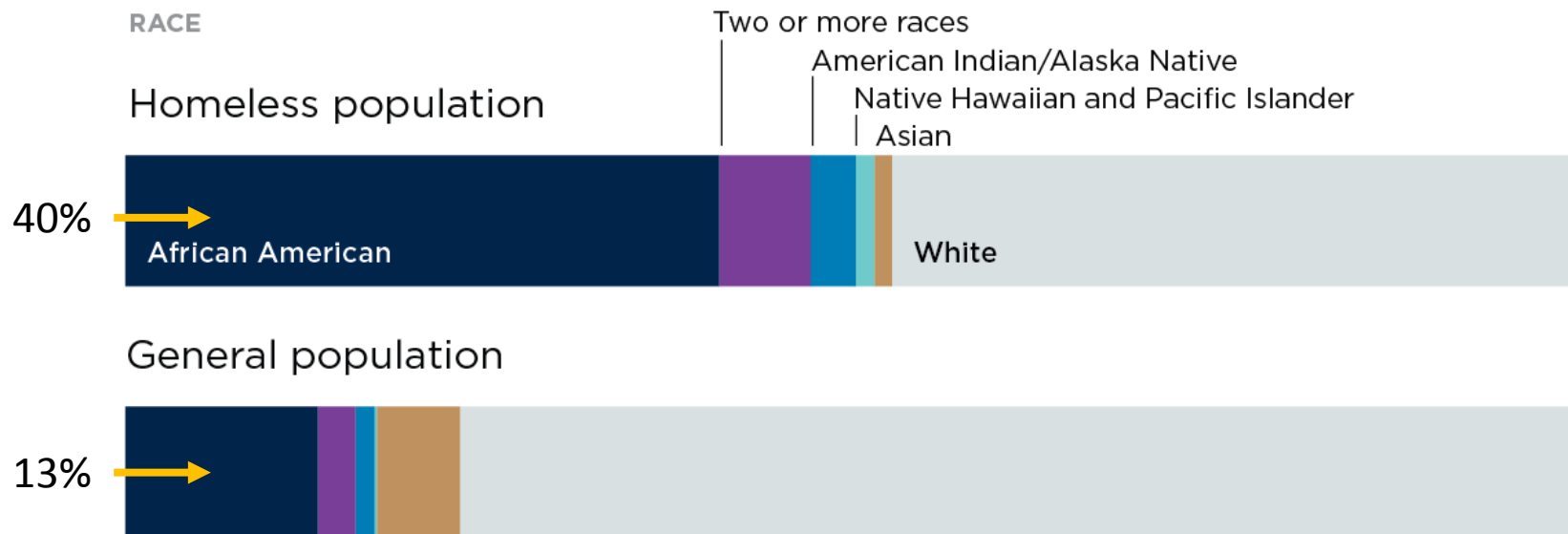
Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities

- Started in September 2016 by Center for Social Innovation
- Aim: Understand and respond to racial inequities in homelessness
- Partnering with 10 communities nationwide for HMIS data analysis, interviews with folks experiencing homelessness

National Disparities

Most Minority Groups Make up a Larger Share of the Homeless Population Than They Do of the General Population

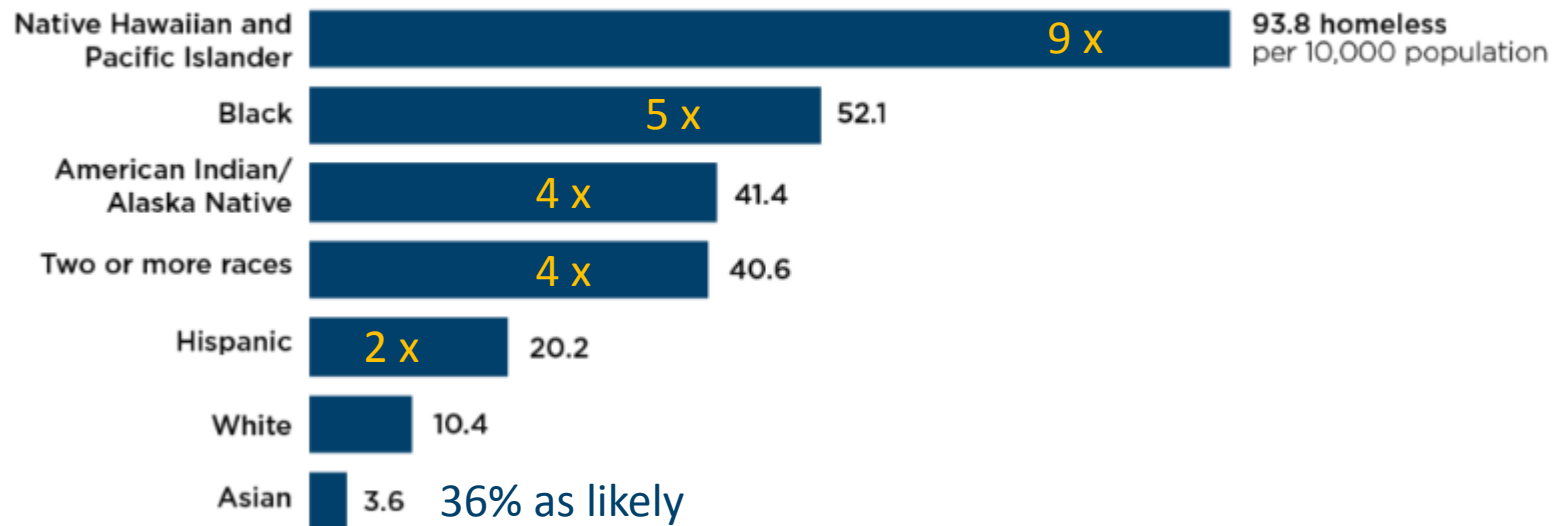
Race and ethnicity of those experiencing homelessness compared with the general population



National Disparities

Most Minority Groups Experience Homelessness at Much Higher Rates Than Whites

Number of homeless people per 10,000 population by race and ethnicity



Homeless population data are for a given night in 2017.

Source: 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, Part 1

SPARC Report

Key Findings:

- Rates of homelessness for Native Americans and Black folks were disproportionately high
 - 65% of folks experiencing homelessness in SPARC communities were black
- Poverty alone does not explain inequity

SPARC Communities (Aggregate)	General Population	Deep Poverty	Homeless
White	62.3%	45.6%	28.0%
Black	18.3%	34.1%	64.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.4%	0.6%	1.6%

- Homeless services workforce not representative of folks experiencing homelessness

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Why?

"This is no accident; it is the result of centuries of structural racism that have excluded historically oppressed people—particularly Black and Native Americans—from equal access to housing, community supports, and opportunities for economic mobility."

SPARC Phase One Findings, Center for Social Innovation

[History of Housing Segregation in America](#)

Domains of Inequality

- Economic Mobility & Network Impoverishment
- Housing
- Criminal Justice
- Behavioral Health
- Family Stabilization

Policy Strategies

- Implement and enforce existing **fair housing protections** with the full force of local, state, and federal government.
- Develop **new affordable housing stock** (inclusionary zoning, mandatory affordable units for new developments.)
- **Regulate evictions more** closely. Appropriate representation for folks facing eviction.
- **Prevent speculators** from conducting mass evictions or choosing not to renew leases of tenants (legislation, regulations)
- Enact national **tenants' rights legislation**.

Policy Strategies

- Re-introduce **rent control** into large urban markets.
- Enact **criminal justice system reform** (limit scope of background checks, sealing non-violent records, change subsidy eligibility reqs.)
- Restructure relationship between property value **education/public works funding**
- **Reform child welfare system** – specifically focusing on family reunification.
- Enact **immigration policies** that increase the likelihood of engagement of Hispanic/Latinx people in seeking help

Other Strategies

- Board and decision-making bodies **representative** of population served
- **Communication is inclusive** of underrepresented groups
- Train staff to better understand racism and the **intersection of racism and homelessness**
- Create **professional development opportunities** for emerging leaders of different races

Other Strategies

- **Review coordinated entry processes** to understand impact on people of different races and ethnicities
- Collecting data to better **understand patterns of program use** for people of different races and ethnicities
- Conducting additional research to understand the **scope and needs of different races** or ethnicities experiencing homelessness

Other Strategies

- **Sustained economic investment** in communities of color
- **Expand affordable housing** availability, and make sure units go to folks most at risk of homelessness
- Implement and **enforce fair housing legislation**

Resources

[SPARC Report](#)

[NAEH Article](#)

[ICA Racial Disparities Dashboard](#)

[History of Housing Discrimination Video](#)

Contact Info

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