

Initial Racial Disparity Report Clark County Social Service 2019

Objective: Perform a preliminary analysis on the SNH CoC and identify if any racial disparities exist within the system of care.

What is included:

1. Thought Framework and Criteria discussion.
2. Overview of the CoC's client distribution based on race.
3. Overview of each project type within the CoC and the client distribution based on race.
4. Overview of the CoC's exit outcome / results based on race.

Limitations:

1. Process / eligibility flow was NOT assessed.
2. Subpopulation was NOT included in assessment.
3. Ethnicity was NOT included in the assessment.

Key Definitions

1. **Disproportionality** – a state of being out of proportion. A condition when the percent of persons of a certain race or ethnicity in a target population differs from the percentage of persons of the same group in a reference (or base) population.ⁱ
2. **Disparity** – when the ratio of one racial or ethnic group in an event is not equal to the ratio of another racial or ethnic group who experienced the same event.ⁱⁱ

Establishing a baseline framework:

This preliminary report will be borrowing its thought and conceptual framework based on the *“Identifying Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Human Services Nov 2017”* study done by Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation of the Administration of Children and Families (ACF). The ACF study conducted is comprehensive and touches into broader examinations of agencies providing human services. With this in mind, choosing this report as the baseline of the SNH CoC's conceptual framework is apt.

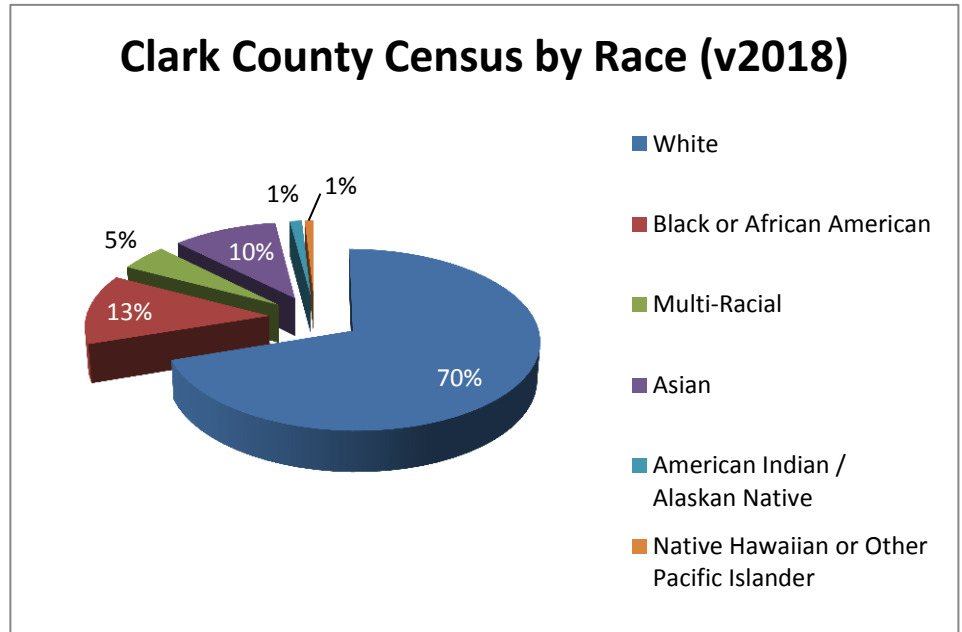
As there was no previous racial disparity study done, this analysis will look at ALL previous entries in the HMIS until the present. Tools used are US Census Bureau's FactFinder, HMIS, the 2019 Southern Nevada Homeless Census, HUD's CoC Racial Equity Tool and NAEH's Racial Equity Tool.

Challenges:

One of the initial challenges going into this Racial Disparity study for SNH CoC (also encountered by ACF) is identifying if Racial Disproportionality necessarily means an issue with Racial Disparityⁱⁱⁱ. Secondly, most of the analysis is limited to clients, and no assessment was done based on the individual processes in the Coordinated Entry Housing Assessment process. Lastly, any recommendation given is based on initial surface level analysis. Further analysis tools will be implemented once an initial strategy meeting has been conducted.

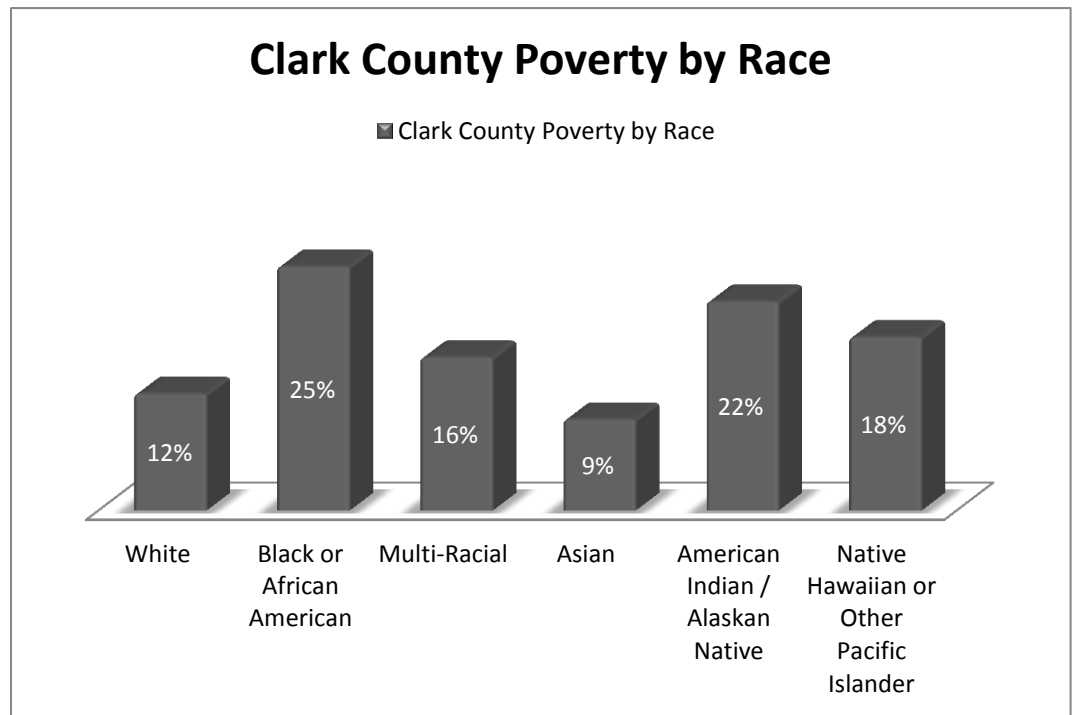
Population and Poverty:

One of the first steps in determining racial disproportionality vs disparity is obtaining Clark County’s population census broken down by race. The total population estimate is 2,231,647 residents present in Clark County. The Clark County Census by Race (v2018) graph shows the population racial breakdown with White at 70%, Black or African American at 13% and Asian at 10%.



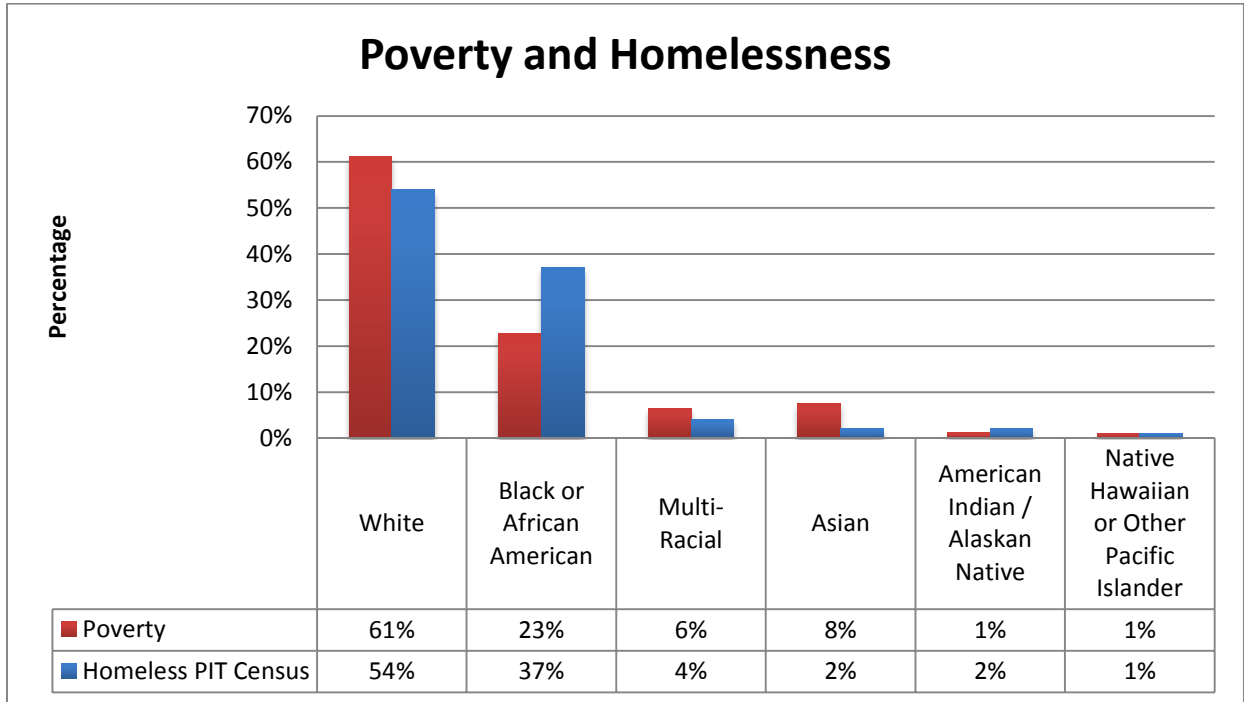
Following ACF’s conceptual framework, we now identify each demographics’ potential need for services. For the sake of surface level analysis, we would simply determine this by obtaining the poverty percentage within each race. The poverty census of Clark County was obtained for the year 2017 as this is the latest report published by the US Census Bureau. **Results show a disproportion and overrepresentation of the following races: African American or Black (13% Population, 25% in poverty), American Indian / Native Alaskan (1% Population, 22% in poverty) and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (1% population, 18% in poverty). Meanwhile, another**

disproportion yet an underrepresentation is seen in the White demographic as the race makes up 70% of the population, but only about 12% experience poverty. Looking at the poverty results, we see that Black or African American, American Indian / Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander are the races that potentially would need human services offered within Southern Nevada.



Poverty and Homelessness:

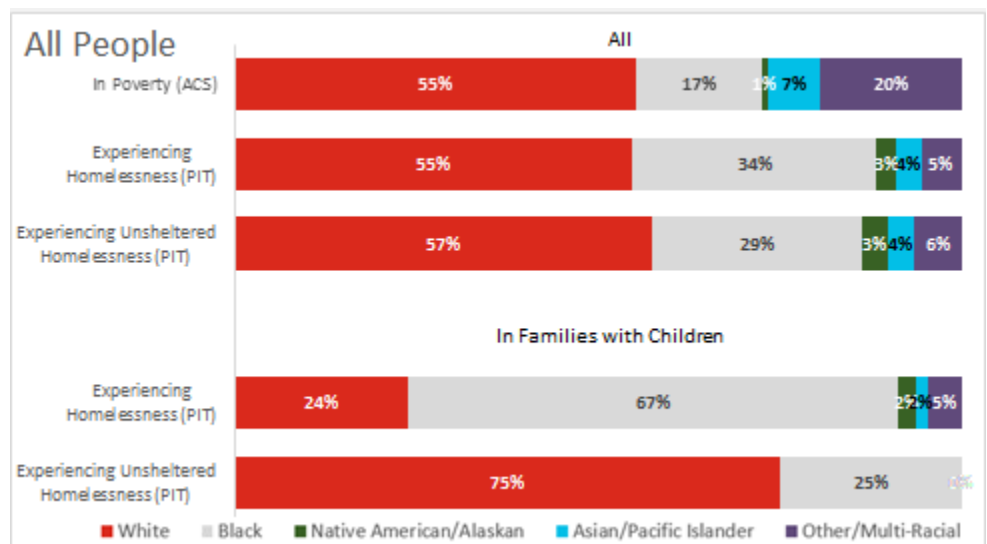
We take a step further and obtain the racial breakdown of all people living in poverty at Clark County and compare it with the recent Homeless Census in Clark County.



Results show that while the White demographic makes up to 61% of the poverty census, only 54% experience homelessness. **On the other hand, the African American or Black demographic experience a higher rate of homelessness, taking up 37% of the total homeless census while only taking up 23% of the total poverty census.** The same principle can be seen in the HUD’s Racial Equity Analysis tool below.

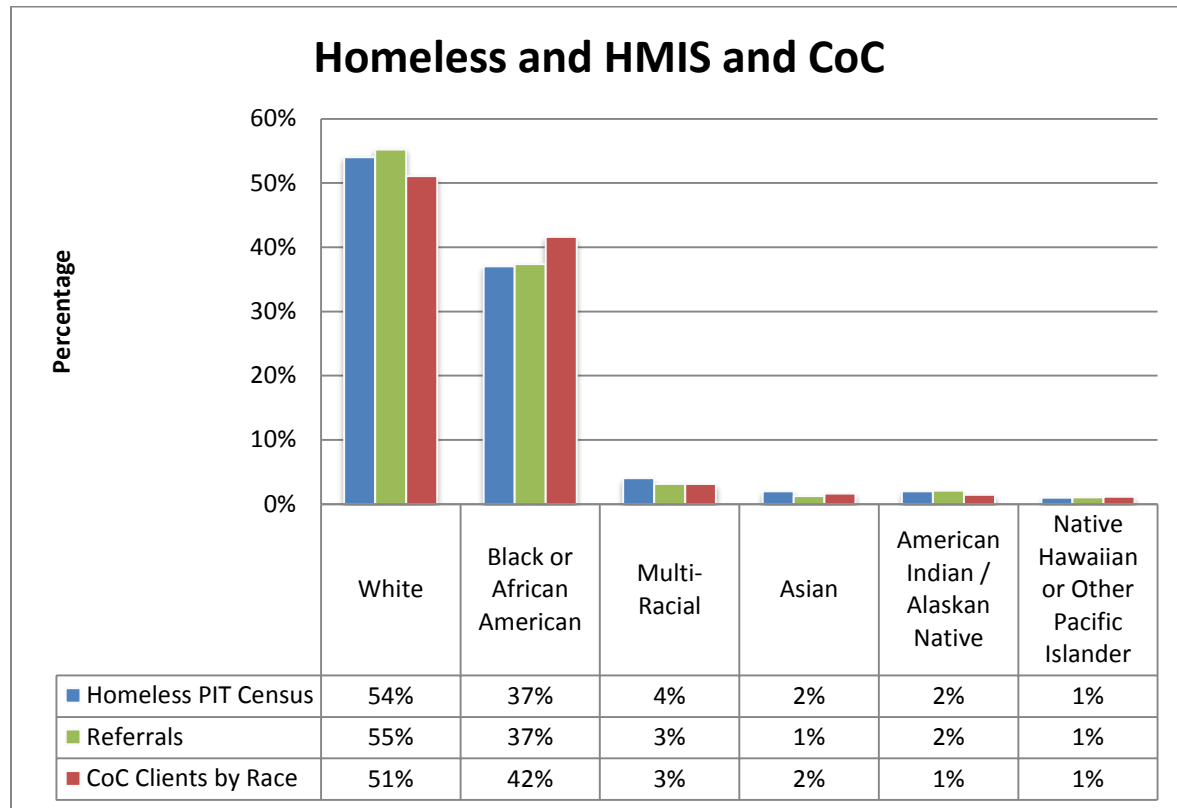
We can initially infer that homelessness amongst the African American or Black demographic goes beyond the state of poverty. As for the root cause, be it systemic, cultural, or economical, further analysis is required.

With these data available, we can proceed with the next step in comparing Clark County’s general population and poverty to the race statistics of the SNH CoC.



Racial Disparity in Continuum of Care:

Initial results show that **there is no obvious disparity** in the overall racial make-up of homeless people enrolled in the SNH CoC in comparison with the Clark County Homeless Census 2019 and client referrals to the community queue (July 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019). Allotting a ± 5 margin of error, the graph shows that each race falls within that margin.



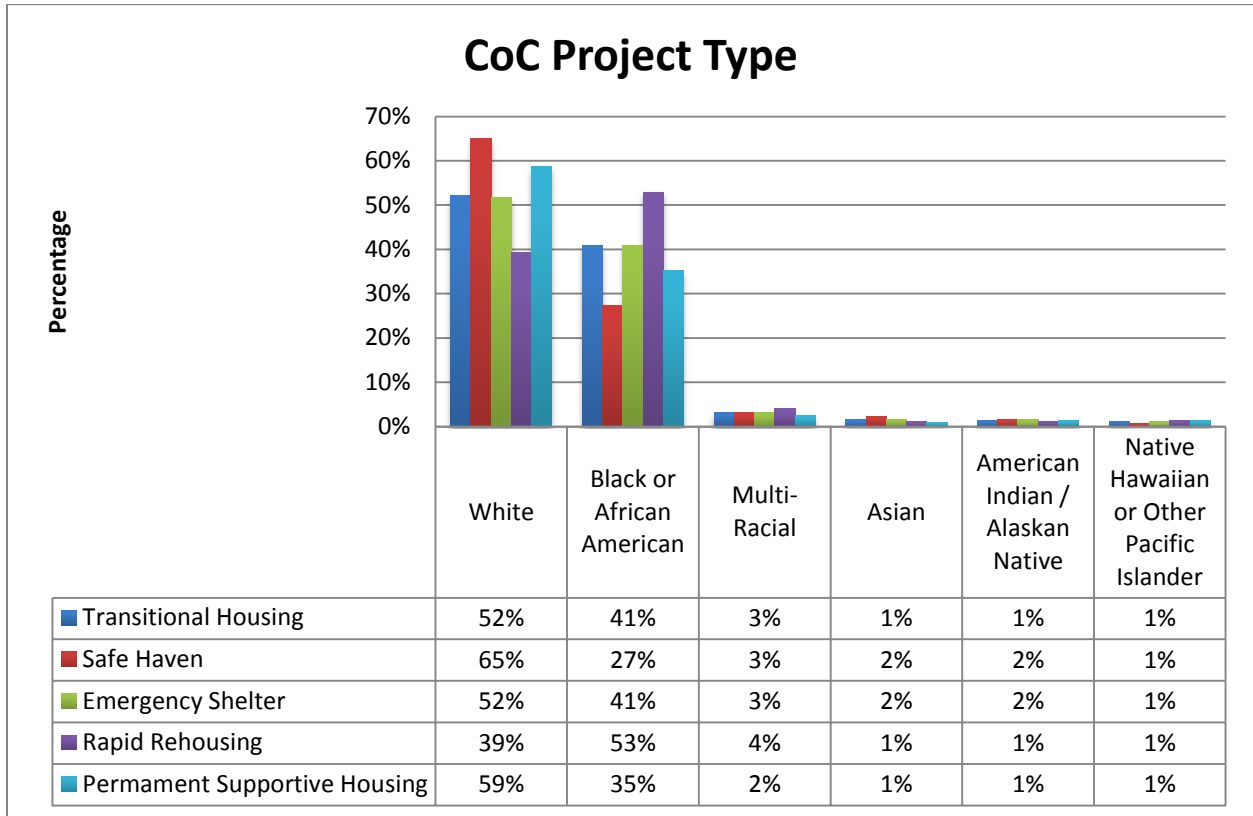
CoC Project Type Breakdown:

However, a deeper look in the individual project type within SNH CoC implies a different situation. Three project types, namely Safe Haven, Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing are over the margin of error.

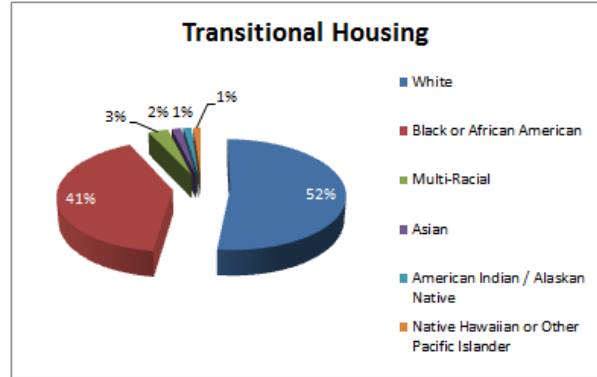
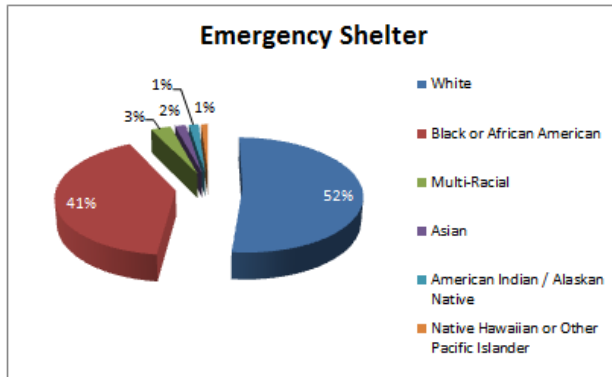
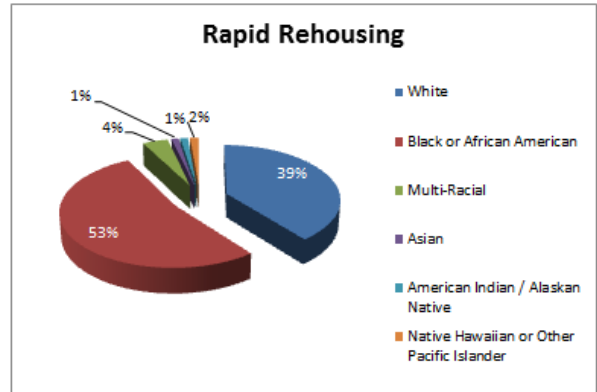
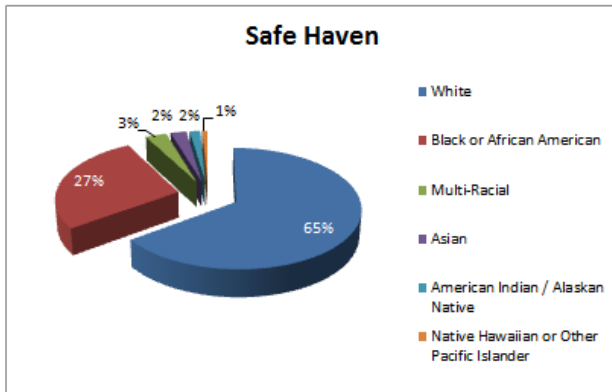
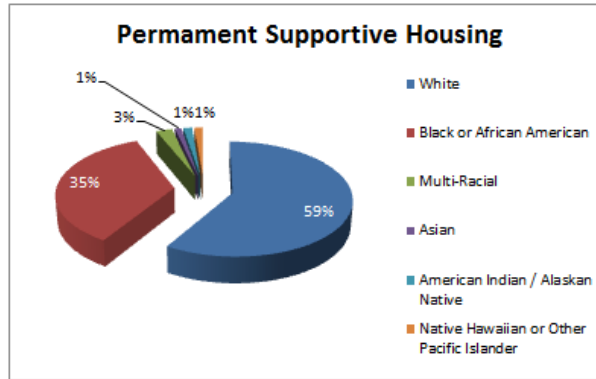
- i. **Permanent Supportive Housing** – Whites experience 8% higher than their average in receiving Permanent Housing while African Americans are 7% less than their average.
- ii. **Rapid Rehousing** – Whites experience 12% less than their average to enter into Rapid Rehousing while African Americans are 11% more than their average.
- iii. **Safe Haven** – Whites experience 14% higher than their average to enter into a Safe Haven compared to African Americans who are 15% less than their average.

Results would immediately point out on a racial disparity on these three project types. However, further analyzing subpopulations might offer reason for the disparity. For example, a demographic with a higher count of homelessness with children might be more represented in the Rapid Rehousing project, or a demographic showing more reported mental illness might be more represented in Permanent Supportive Housing. Until a thorough analysis is done on homeless subpopulations, caution is required in drawing conclusions.

Project Type Summary:



Project Type Detailed:

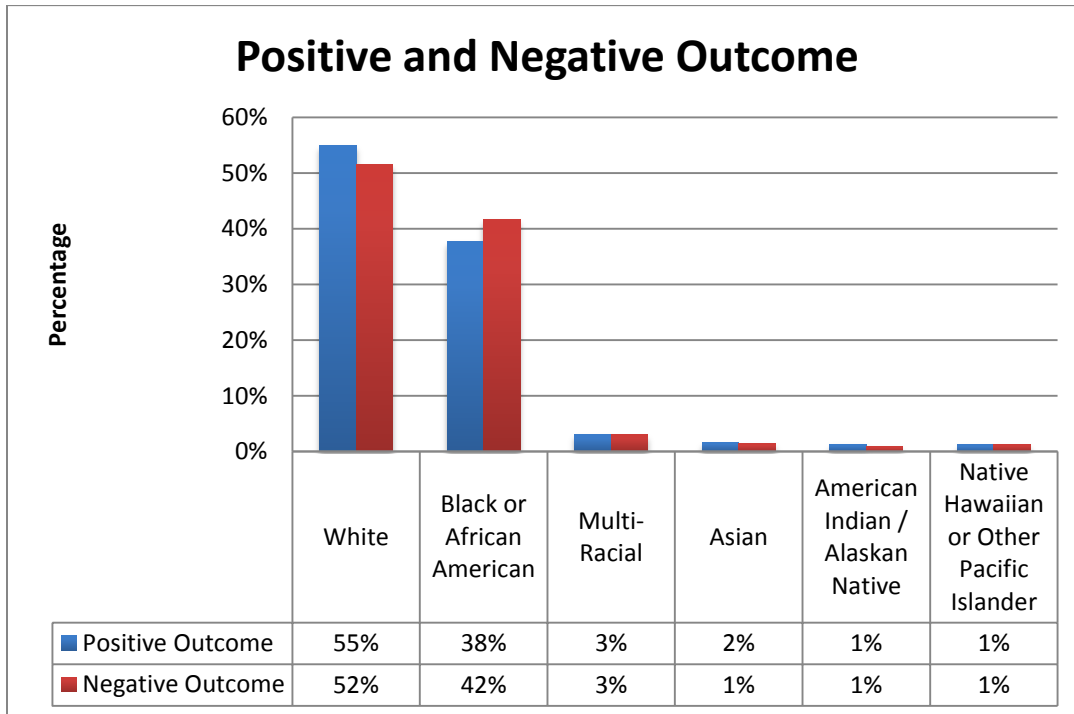


Outcome and Results:

It is HUD’s goal to end homelessness and therefore analyzing clients’ exit outcomes would paint a picture of the effectiveness of programs or project types. Exit numbers were categorized based on Exit Reason to determine positive and negative outcomes. All clients represented here are part of the SNH CoC.

The Exit Reasons were categorized as follows:

- i. **Positive:** Completed Program, Left for a housing opportunity before completing program
- ii. **Negative:** Criminal Activity, Disagreement with rules, needs could not be met by program, non-compliance with program, no payment of rent, Reached maximum time allowed by program.



Results show that there is no racial disparity on either positive or negative outcomes. The percentage for each race and each outcome fall within the margin of error. One thing to note, only the African-American or Black demographic show more occurrence of negative outcome than positive outcome.

Conclusion:

Results indicate that while there may be a disproportion in Clark County’s racial representation in poverty to homelessness, there are **no clear indicators that racial disparity exists** in the overall view of SNH CoC. Further analysis is needed in the individual project types as well as the subpopulations to accurately conclude any initial findings.

ⁱ University of Illinois at Chicago – Jane Addams College of Social Work - Identifying and Describing Disproportionality and Disparities in Child Welfare: A Critical Discussion of Race and Research Methods

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ⁱⁱⁱ Administration for Children and Families - Identifying Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Human Services 11/2017