

Racial Disparities and Homelessness in Western New York

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Increasing Capacity &
Building Connections:
Bridging to the Future



Goal

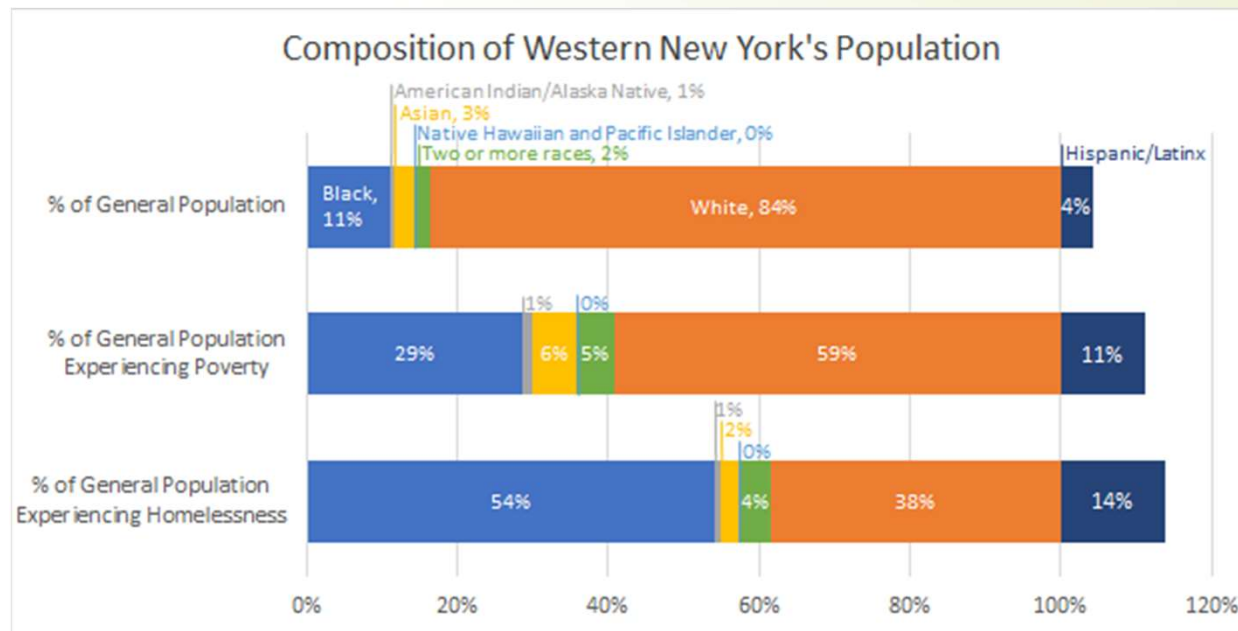
- Explore the rates at which our CoC assists clients of different races and ethnicities to better understand how equitably they are being served and what we can do to improve services moving forward

Methods

- Using data from HMIS:
 - Compare the racial/ethnic composition of WNY's general population with its population experiencing poverty and homelessness
 - Review the factors that we use to determine client eligibility for housing programs
 - Determine if client entries and successful exits have become more equitable with the implementation of coordinated entry



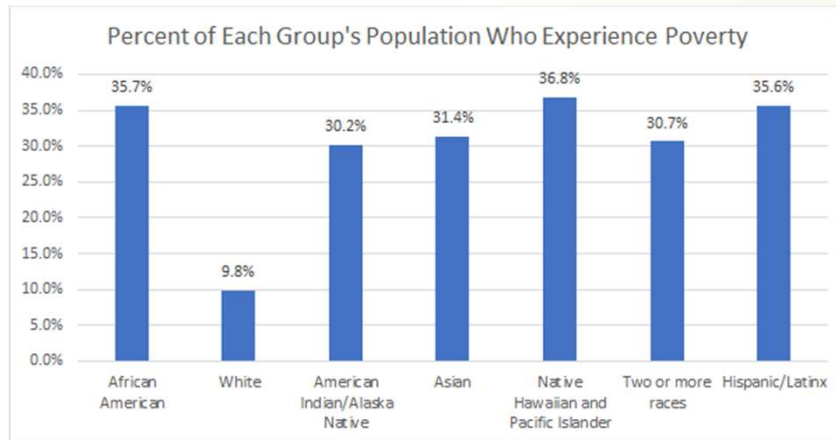
WNY Background Info



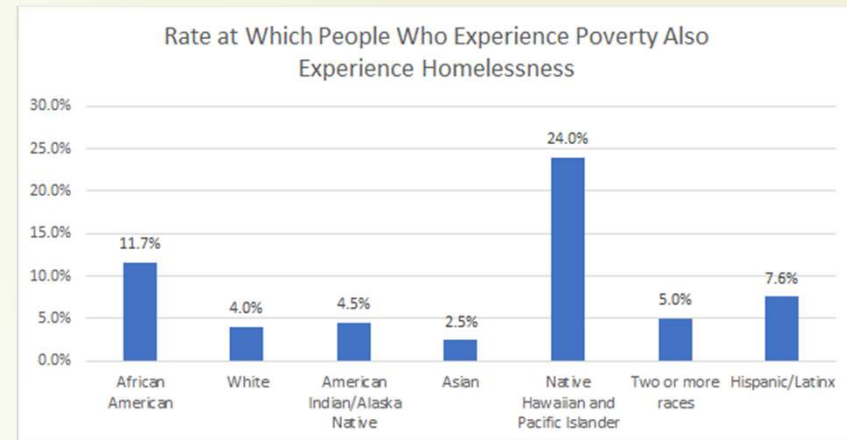
- Percentage of each race in WNY general population, those who experienced poverty (United States Census Bureau - 2016 American Community Survey) and those experienced homelessness (Homeless Management Information System - FY2017).
- Because Hispanic/Latinx is considered an ethnicity, in this chart it is calculated separately from people's races so each section of the graph will be greater than 100%.



WNY Background Info



Percentage of people experiencing poverty in each group based on the total population of that group



Percentage of people experiencing homelessness in each group based on the number of people experiencing poverty in that group

Factors Influencing Disproportionate Rates

- Graduation Rates
- Unemployment Rates
- Income Levels
- Criminal Justice System



Homelessness reflects the failure of our social systems to serve people of all racial and ethnic groups equally in housing, education, employment, wealth accumulation, and justice.



Entering the Homelessness System

Before and After Implementing Coordinated Entry

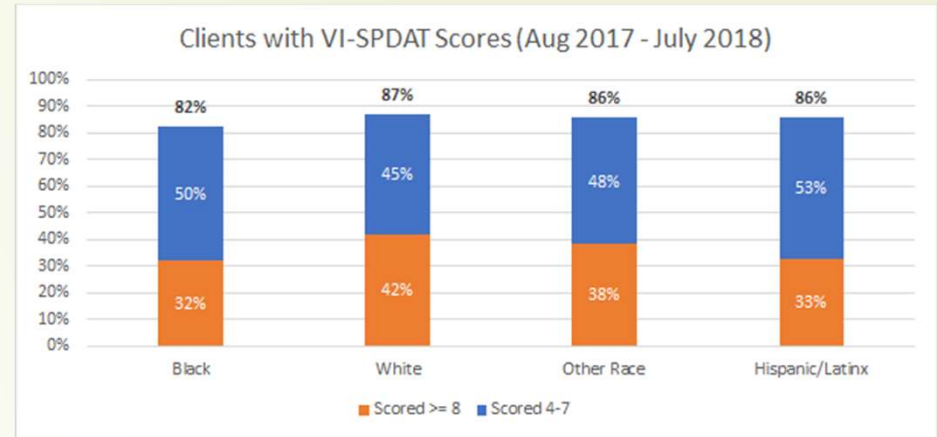
Anyone can enter shelter*, but clients need to be on a by-name list to be admitted to housing assistance programs like RRH and PSH

- Before coordinated entry, clients were chosen for these programs based on:
 - “First come, first serve”
 - Program-based criteria/requirements (criminal history, income, etc....)
- With coordinated entry, clients are chosen for these programs based on:
 - Vulnerability Score
 - Disability
 - Homeless history

*New York is a right-to-shelter state, so all clients experiencing homelessness will be accepted into some kind of shelter. Clients are added to the by-name list once they've connected with an outreach worker or after they've been in shelter for more than a few days.

The Vulnerability Index- Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Prescreen Tool

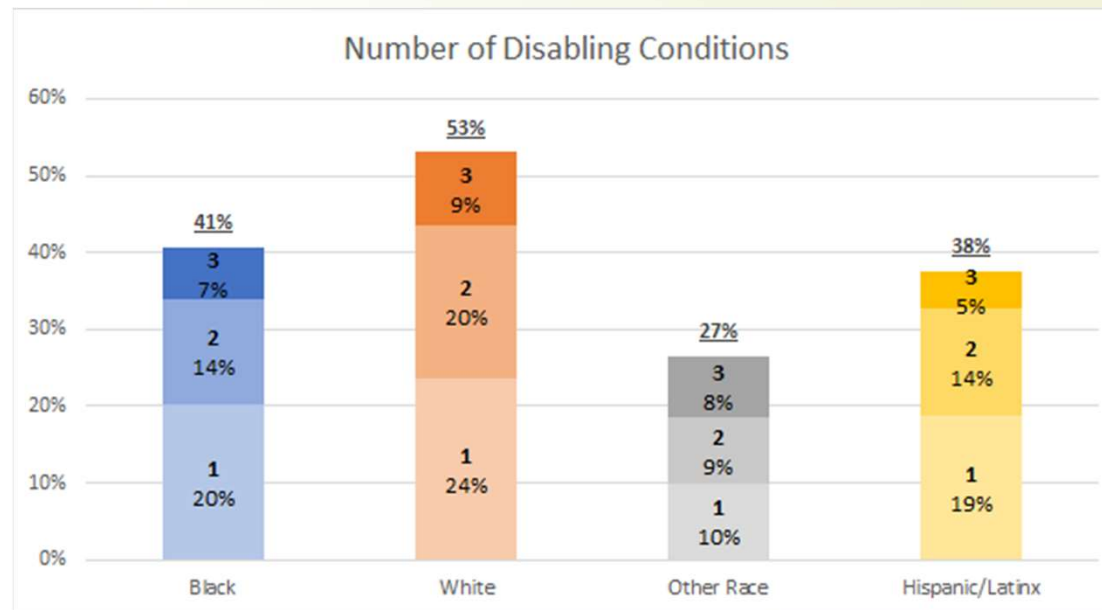
- 3 Levels of Scoring
 - 0-3: should be able to self-resolve
 - 4-7: recommended RRH services
 - 8-26: recommended PSH services



	Clients with VI-SPDAT (Aug 2017 - July 2018)			
	Black	White	Other Race	Hispanic/Latinx
Clients Served	2236	1587	368	746
Clients Assessed	577 (26%)	382 (24%)	63 (17%)	169 (23%)



Disabling Conditions





How does this impact who enters programs?

- What does this say about the clients we serve?
- What happens when our community is faced with hundreds of eligible clients but limited housing resources?

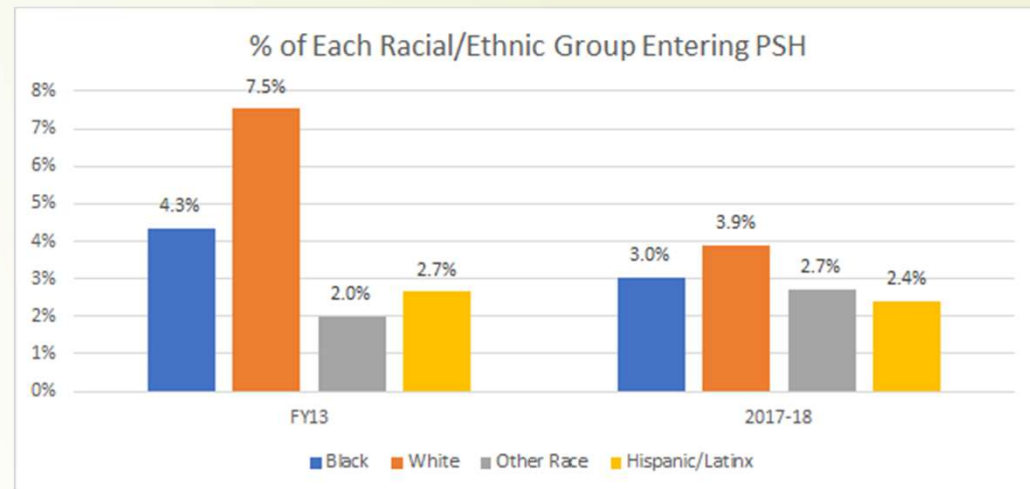


To understand how equitably we serve our clients, we looked at...

- 1. Rates at which clients of different races/ethnicities enter our permanent housing programs**
- 2. Rates at which clients of different races/ethnicities successfully exit from our programs**



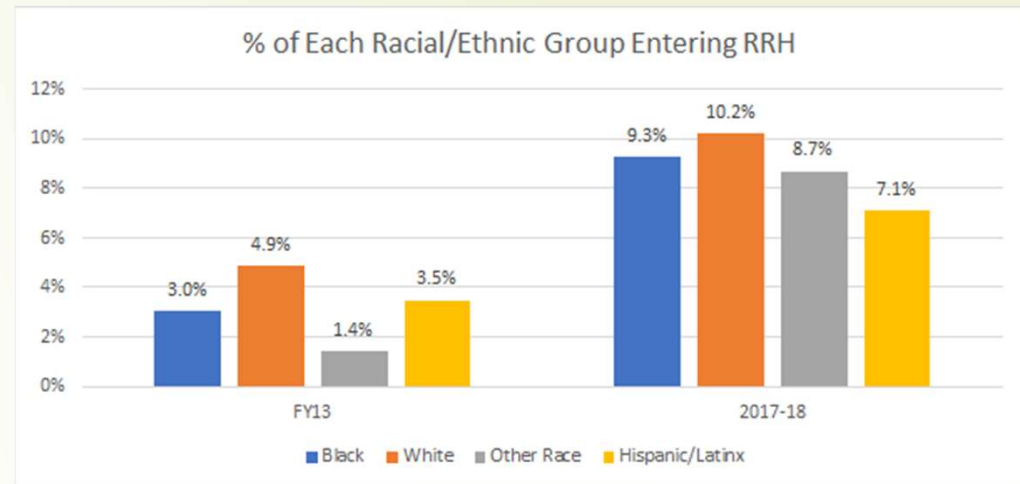
Entering Permanent Supportive Housing



	New Admissions in PSH							
	FY 2013				Aug 17 - July 18			
	Black	White	Other Race	Hispanic/Latinx	Black	White	Other Race	Hispanic/Latinx
Clients who were homeless during reporting period	1683	1008	500	603	2236	1587	368	746
Clients Entering PSH	73 (4.3%)	76 (7.5%)	10 (2.0%)	16 (2.7%)	68 (3.0%)	62 (3.9%)	10 (2.7%)	18 (2.4%)

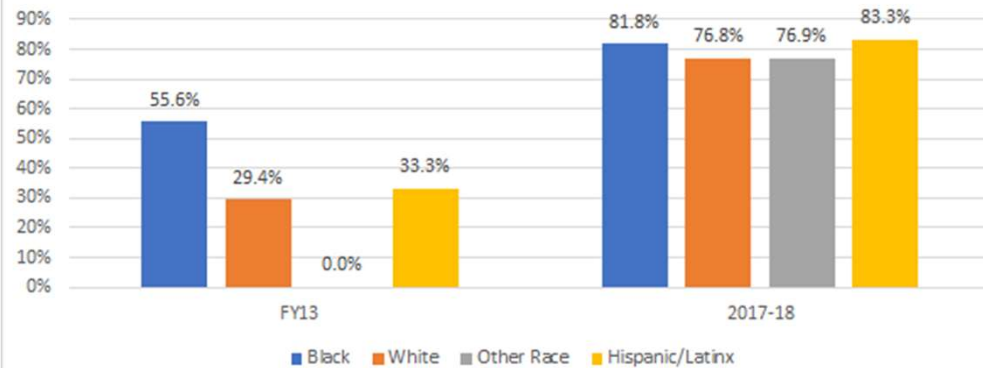


Entering Rapid Rehousing



	New Admissions in RRH							
	FY 2013				Aug 17 - July 18			
	Black	White	Other Race	Hispanic/Latinx	Black	White	Other Race	Hispanic/Latinx
Clients who were homeless during reporting period	1683	1008	500	603	2236	1587	368	746
Clients Entering RRH	51 (3.0%)	49 (4.9%)	7 (1.4%)	21 (3.5%)	207 (9.3%)	162 (10.2%)	32 (8.7%)	53 (7.1%)

Successful Exits from RRH by Racial/Ethnic Groups

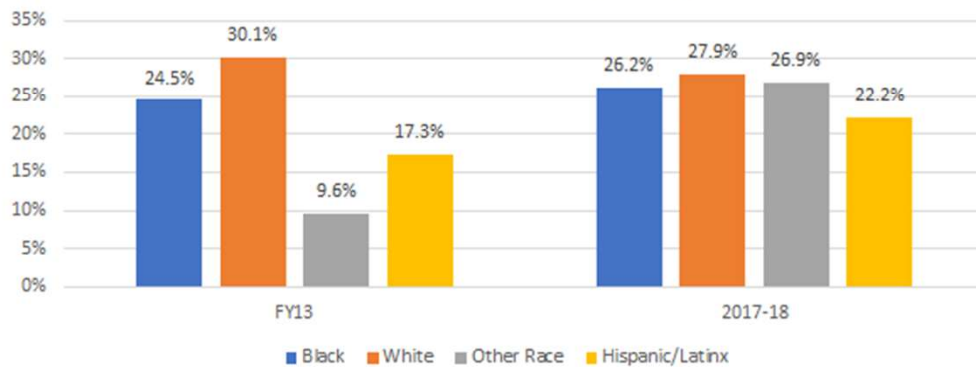


Exiting Rapid Rehousing

	Successful Exits from RRH							
	FY 2013				Aug 17 - July 18			
	Black	White	Other Race	Hispanic/Latinx	Black	White	Other Race	Hispanic/Latinx
Clients Exiting within the reporting period	18	17	1	3	88	82	13	24
Clients Exiting Successfully from RRH	10 (55.6%)	5 (29.4%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (33.3%)	72 (81.8%)	63 (76.8%)	10 (76.9%)	20 (83.3%)



Successful Exits from All Providers by Racial/Ethnic Groups



Exiting All Programs

	Successful Exits from Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Street Outreach, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Rapid Rehousing							
	FY 2013				Aug 17 - July 18			
	Black	White	Other Race	Hispanic/Latinx	Black	White	Other Race	Hispanic/Latinx
Clients Exiting	1559	906	468	571	2327	1625	383	796
Clients Exiting Successfully from homeless system	382 (24.5%)	273 (30.1%)	45 (9.6%)	99 (17.3%)	609 (26.2%)	454 (27.9%)	103 (26.9%)	177 (22.2%)



Going forward...

- Work with other systems that perpetrate racial bias
- Improve prevention services
- Increase racial/ethnic representation in staff
- Implement and enforce the fair housing protections with local government
- Continue monitoring CE data
- Advocate for increased assistance that helps all clients maintain stable housing
- Conduct additional analyses to further examine underserved populations and general homeless history



Contact Us + Homeless Alliance of WNY

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Homeless Alliance of WNY Website

<https://wnyhomeless.org/>

Racial Disparities and Homelessness in WNY – Report

<https://wnyhomeless.org/app/uploads/WNY-Racial-Disparities-2018.pdf>

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