



# RACIAL DISPARITY REPORT

RIVERSIDE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE



APRIL 2021

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# KEY FINDINGS

**The Black/African American population and Multi-Race population experience homelessness at a higher rate when compared to their composition of the total population.**

*Black and African Americans make up 18% of the homeless population while comprising 7% of the general population. Multi-Race individuals represent only 1% of the total population of Riverside County, while contributing to 9% of the homeless population.*

**Hispanic/Latinx individuals experience homelessness at the lowest rate when compared to their composition of the total population.**

*Hispanic/Latinx individuals represent 49% of the total population of Riverside County, while contributing to 35% of the homeless population.*

**Hispanic/Latinx and Black/African American individuals access emergency shelter services at a higher rate when compared to their composition of the homeless population.**

*Hispanic/Latinx individuals represent 46% of the homeless population accessing emergency shelter services, while contributing to 35% of the homeless population. Black/African Americans represent 24% of the homeless population accessing emergency shelter services, while contributing to 18% of the homeless population. All other racial and ethnic groups access emergency shelter services at a lower or equivalent rate compared to their representation in the homeless population.*

## **The percentage of individuals who exit from emergency shelter services into permanent housing is consistent between all racial and ethnic groups.**

*Each racial and ethnic group exits emergency shelter services into permanent housing at approximately the same rate that they access emergency shelter services. White individuals experience the greatest margin between the two categories, contributing to 37% of the sheltered population while representing 40% of the individuals exiting into permanent housing.*

## **White and Black/African American individuals utilize permanent supportive housing programs at a higher rate than all other racial and ethnic groups.**

*White and Black/African American individuals represent the highest percentages of homeless individuals accessing permanent supportive housing, comprising of 42% and 27% of homeless individuals respectively. These two subpopulations also access permanent supportive housing at a higher rate than they experience homelessness. All other racial and ethnic groups access permanent supportive housing at a lower rate than they experience homelessness.*

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# **INTRODUCTION**

On behalf of Riverside County's Department of Housing, Homelessness Prevention & Workforce Solutions (HHPWS), the Riverside County Continuum of Care has collected data that is demonstrative of racial and ethnic inequality in service provision of individuals experiencing homelessness in Riverside County. By identifying the gaps in service and disparity between the racial and ethnic groups represented within the Riverside County homeless population, the Continuum of Care hopes to spearhead programs to promote racial equity within services.

The following data was collected from the Riverside County 2019 Homeless Point in Time (PIT) Count, Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS), and the total Riverside County Population. Data from 2019 was used because this is the most recent census data available for Riverside County.

# DEMOGRAPHICS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY HOMELESS POPULATION

Figure 1 identifies the various racial and ethnic groups studied and the number of individuals from each racial and ethnic group in both the total population and the homeless population of the County of Riverside. Figure 2 visually represents this data, depicting each racial and ethnic group’s percentage of both the total population of the County of Riverside and the homeless population of the County of Riverside.

For three minority groups in Riverside County, Multi-race, Black and African American, and American Indian and Alaskan Native, the percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness is greater than the percentage of individuals that represent the total population. Conversely the racial and ethnic groups that constitute the majority of the County of Riverside’s population, Hispanic/Latinx and White individuals, experience homelessness at a lower rate when compared to their representation of homeless individuals in Riverside County.

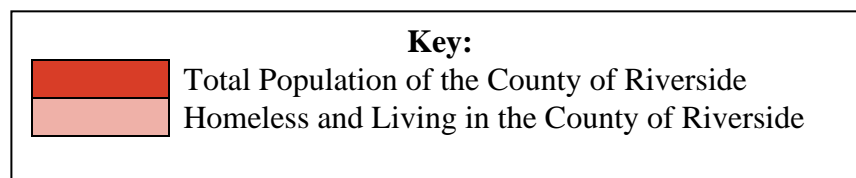
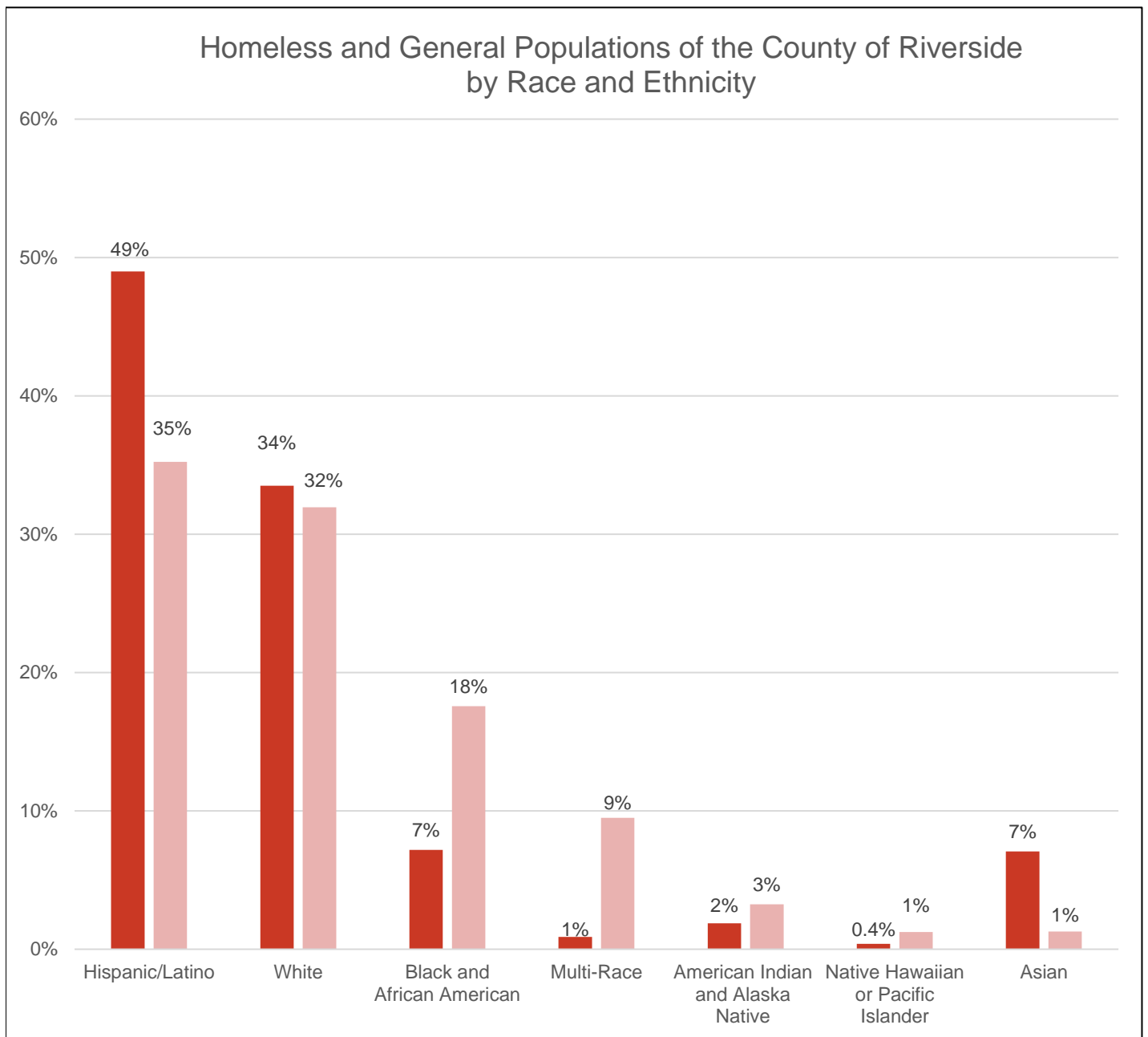
The Black/African American population and Multi-Race population experience the greatest disparity when comparing general and homeless population in the County of Riverside. Black/African Americans make up 7% of the total population while comprising 18% of the homeless population. Multi-Race individuals represent only 1% of the total population, while experiencing homelessness at more than eight times this rate by contributing to 9% of the homeless population.

The only minority group that does not experience homelessness at a higher rate when compared to the general population are Asian individuals. Although the total population of the County of Riverside is 7% Asian, this group accounts for only 1% of the homeless population.

**Figure 1.**

Race/Ethnicity	Demography		Homeless in County of Riverside (PIT 2019)		Homeless in Emergency Shelter (PIT, 2019)		Homeless and Unsheltered (PIT, 2019)	
	Total Population in Riverside County (Census, 2019)	% of Population	Total Number	%	Total Number	%	Total Number	%
Hispanic/Latino	1,235,000	49%	990	35%	361	46%	750	35%
White	842,456	34%	898	32%	197	25%	788	37%
Black and African American	180,349	7%	494	18%	187	24%	431	20%
Multi-Race	22,235	1%	267	9%	21	3%	49	2%
American Indian and Alaska Native	46,940	2%	91	3%	9	1%	79	4%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	9,882	0%	35	1%	7	1%	27	1%
Asian	177,879	0%	36	1%	4	1%	31	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,514,741</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2811</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,155</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Figure 2.**



# DEMOGRAPHICS OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS ACCESSING EMERGENCY SHELTER SERVICES

Figures 3 and 4 compare the racial and ethnic demographics of individuals experiencing homelessness accessing emergency shelter services to the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness in the County of Riverside. These figures also include the percentage of individuals that subsequently exited emergency shelter services into permanent housing solutions, also separated by race and ethnicity. Figure 5 is a visual depiction of this data.

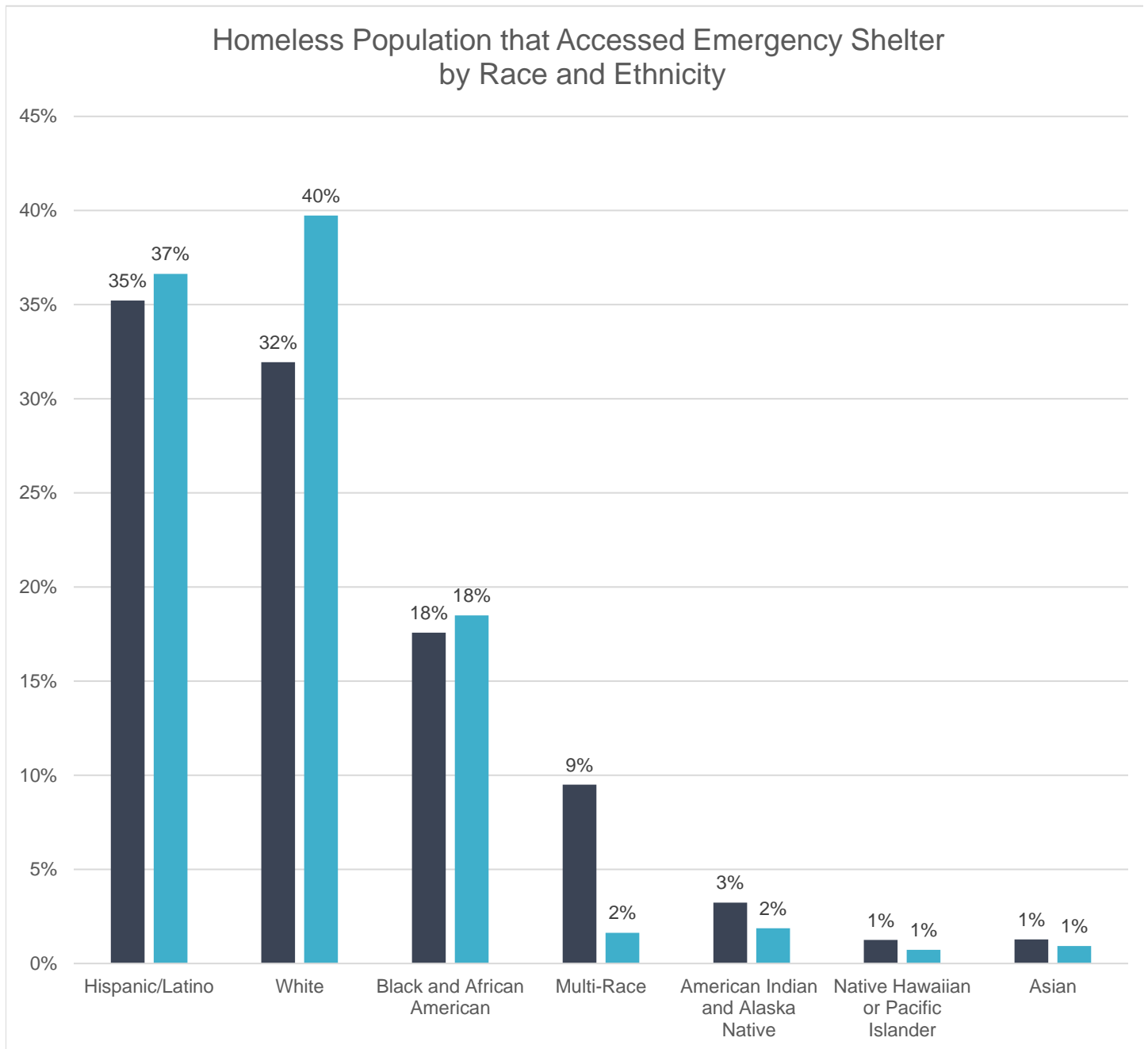
Multi-Race individuals once again experience the greatest disparity when comparing the rate at which these individuals experience homelessness and their subsequent access to emergency shelter services, with 9% of the homeless population consisting of Multi-Race individuals while only 2% of the sheltered population is comprised of these same individuals. The White population experiences a greater representation of individuals accessing emergency shelter services compared to the rate in which they experience homelessness.

The racial and ethnic demographic of individuals accessing emergency shelter services and successful exits into permanent housing remains relatively consistent between all groups represented according to the available data.



**Figure 3.**

Race/Ethnicity	Homeless and Living in the County of Riverside (PIT, 2019)		Homeless and Accessed Emergency Shelter Services (1/1/2019 – 12/30/2019)		Homeless Exited to Permanent Supportive Housing (1/1/2019 – 12/30/2019)	
	Total Number	%	Total Number	%	Total Number	%
Hispanic/Latino	990	35%	3056	37%	45	40%
White	898	32%	3314	40%	42	38%
Black and African American	494	18%	1542	18%	19	17%
Multi-Race	267	9%	136	2%	3	3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	91	3%	156	2%	0	0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	35	1%	61	1%	1	1%
Asian	36	1%	77	1%	2	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2811</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8,342.00</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>100%</b>

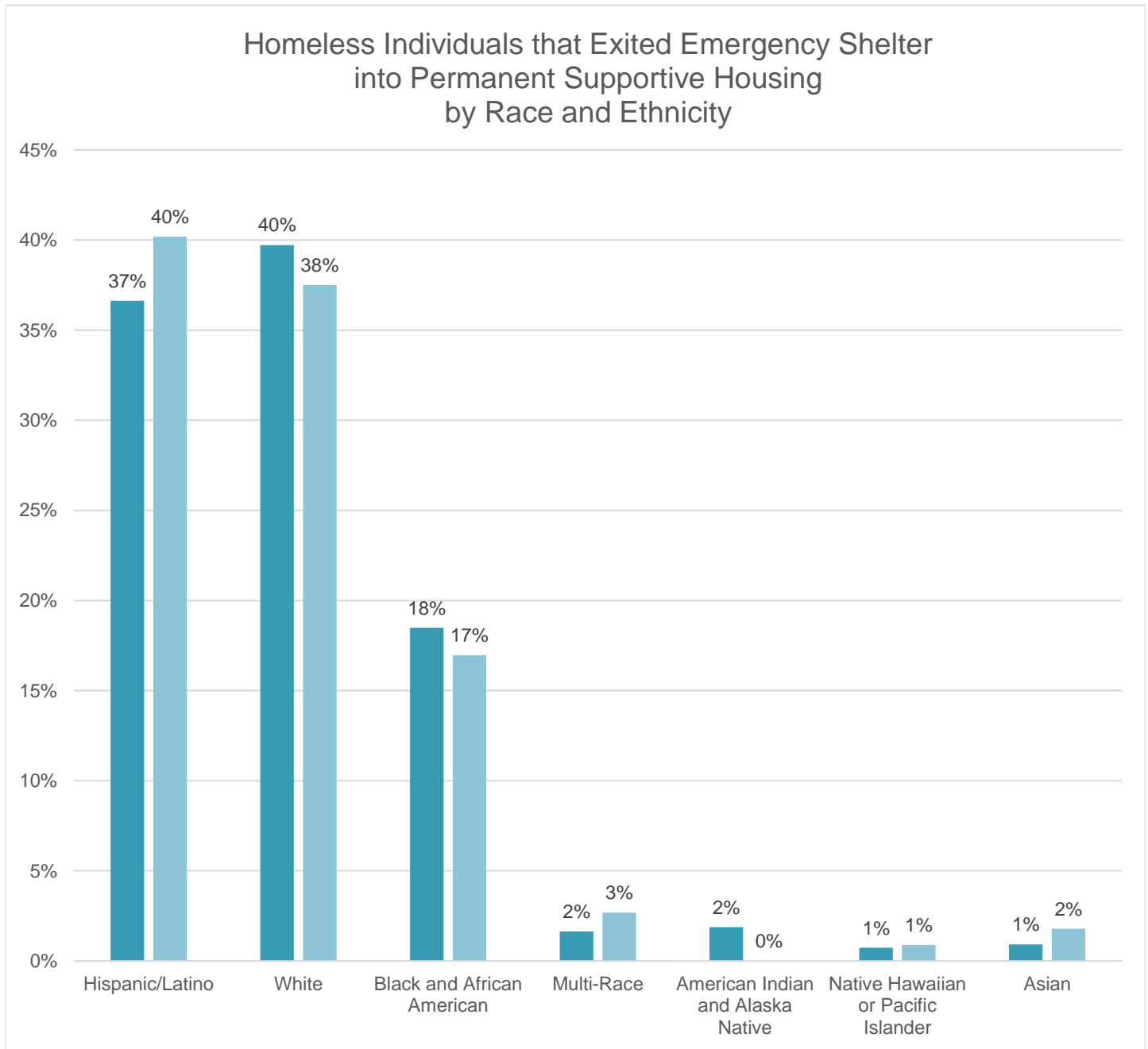
**Figure 4.**





**Key:**

	Homeless and Living in the County of Riverside
	Homeless and Accessed Emergency Shelter Services

**Figure 5.**



**Key:**

	Homeless and Accessed Emergency Shelter Services
	Homeless and Exited to Permanent Housing Solutions



# DEMOGRAPHICS OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS ACCESSING PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Inequality in service provision among racial and ethnic groups can also be identified by analyzing the demographic of total individuals accessing permanent supportive housing programs. Figures 6 and 7 display the percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness in Riverside County compared to the percentage of individuals accessing permanent supportive housing, separated by race and ethnicity.

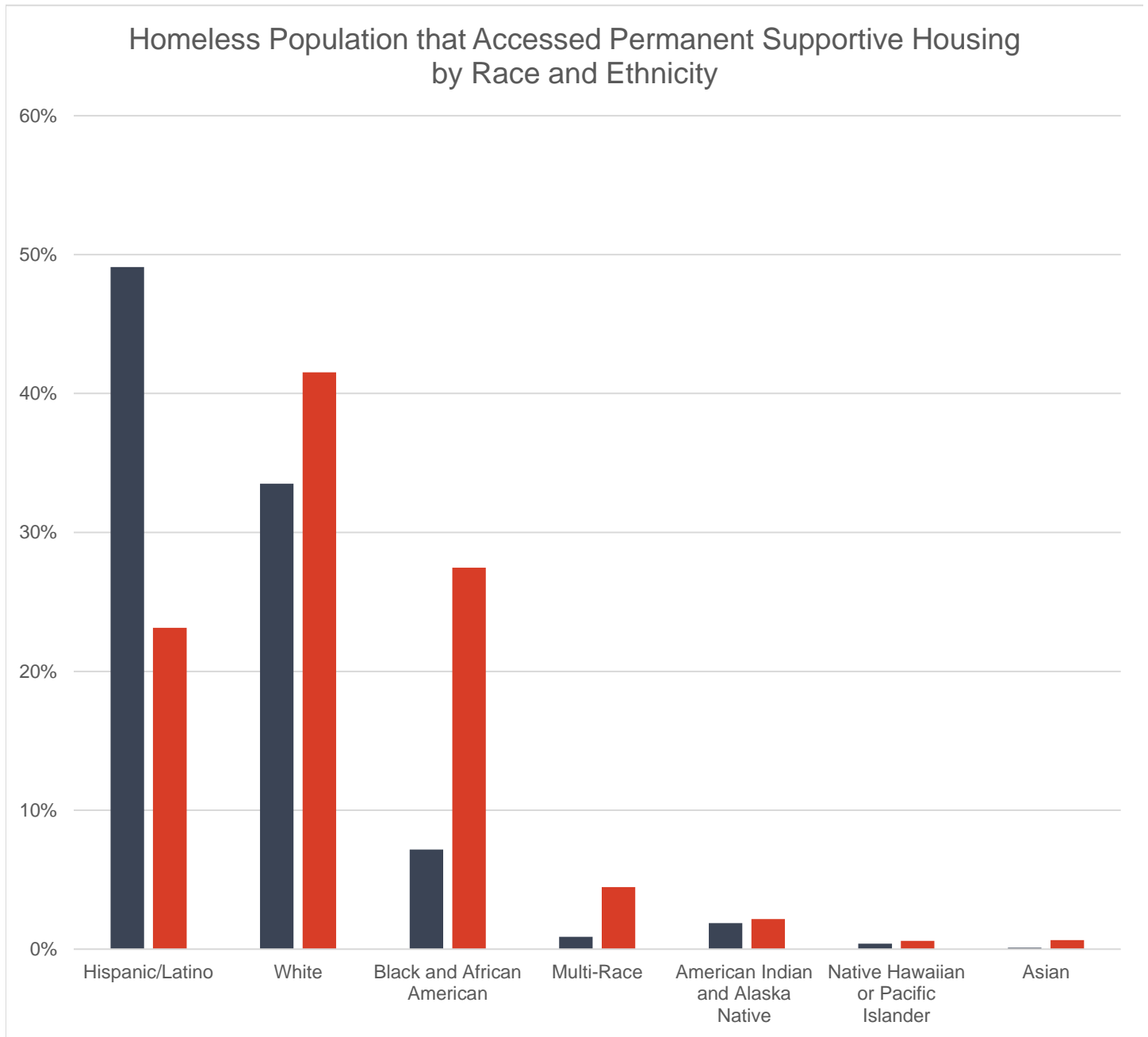
The Hispanic/Latinx population accounts for only 23% of individuals accessing permanent supportive housing programs, while contributing to 35% of the homeless population. Multi-race individuals again experience the greatest disparity of all groups. Only 4% of individuals accessing permanent supportive housing programs consists of Multi-Race individuals, while they contribute to 9% of the total homeless population. White and Black/African American individuals utilize these programs at a higher rate than they experience homelessness when compared to the total population of the County of Riverside.

According to available data, the American Indian and Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Asian populations access permanent supportive housing programs at approximately the same rate that these groups experience homelessness in Riverside County.

**Figure 6.**

Race/Ethnicity	Homeless and Living in the County of Riverside (PIT, 2019)		Homeless Individuals that Accessed Permanent Supportive Housing (1/1/2019 – 12/30/2019)	
	Total Number	%	Total Number	%
Hispanic/Latino	990	35%	352	23%
White	898	32%	632	42%
Black and African American	494	18%	418	27%
Multi-Race	267	9%	68	4%
American Indian and Alaska Native	91	3%	33	2%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	35	1%	9	1%
Asian	36	1%	10	1%
Total	2811	100%	1,522.00	100%

**Figure 7.**



**Key:**

	Homeless and Living in the County of Riverside
	Homeless and Accessed Permanent Supportive Housing

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# CONCLUSION

By analyzing statistical data collected by the 2019 Riverside County Point in Time (PIT) Homeless Count, Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS), and the U.S Census Bureau, a pattern of racial disparity among individuals experiencing homelessness in the County of Riverside becomes apparent in regards to the number of individuals experiencing homelessness as well as the services these individuals access.

When considering both the total population and the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness in the County of Riverside, most minority racial and ethnic groups compose a higher percentage of the homeless population compared to the same group's contribution to the total population. In addition to this, some racial and ethnic populations experience homelessness at a higher rate than their racial and ethnic counterparts. Black individuals, for example, account for only 7% of the county population, but account for 18% of individuals experiencing homelessness.

The percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness compared to their representation of the total population of the County of Riverside was higher for four minority groups: Multi-race, Black/African American, American Indian and Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Multi-Race individuals experience homelessness at the highest rate when compared to their make-up of the total population of the County of Riverside, comprising of 9% of the homeless population and only 1% of the total population.

In contrast, the total percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness in the two majority groups, Hispanic/Latinx and Non-Hispanic White, was lower than their composition of the total population of the County of Riverside. These groups also experience homelessness at a lesser rate than almost every other racial and ethnic group represented. The Asian population also experiences homelessness at a lower rate when compared to their total population; Only 1% of homeless individuals in are Asian, while 9% of the total population are Asian.

THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE HAS ALREADY IMPLEMENTED SEVERAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION. ON JUNE 30, 2020, THE CITY COUNCIL DECLARED RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS. IN CONJUNCTION, AN ANTI-RACISM VISION WAS APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IN THE FOLLOWING MONTHS. THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ALSO UNANIMOUSLY PASSED A RESOLUTION DECLARING RACISM AND INEQUALITY A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN THE COUNTY DURING A MEETING IN AUGUST OF 2020. THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE HAS ALSO SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH NEW INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION WITHIN HOUSING PROGRAMS BY INVOLVING A DIVERSE GROUP OF COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS, COLLECTING FURTHER DATA VIA COMMUNITY SURVEY, AND ENGAGING WITH MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES THROUGH A VAST SPECTRUM OF LIFE SKILLS CLASSES.

White individuals not only experience homelessness at a lower rate compared to other racial and ethnic groups, but these individuals also utilize emergency shelter resources more frequently than other racial and ethnic populations. This trend persists when examining the percentage of white homeless individuals accessing permanent supportive housing programs. While white individuals make up 32% of the homeless population, they represent 42% of total individuals accessing permanent supportive housing services in the County of Riverside.

Although Hispanic/Latinx individuals utilize emergency shelter services at about the same rate this population experiences homelessness, the percentage of Hispanic/Latinx individuals that utilize permanent supportive housing programs is relatively low. Hispanic/Latinx individuals account for 23% of homeless individuals accessing permanent supportive housing programs while representing 35% of the total homeless population of the County of Riverside.

When it comes to both emergency shelter services and permanent supportive housing programs, Multi-Race individuals again experience the greatest disparity of all the racial and ethnic groups represented. Multi-Race individuals contribute to 9% of the total homeless population of the County of Riverside, while only representing 2% of homeless individuals in emergency shelters, and 4% of individuals accessing permanent supportive housing programs.

Utilization of emergency shelter services and permanent supportive housing programs remains consistent with the composition of the overall homeless population for three minority racial and ethnic groups: American Indian and Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Asian populations. The percentage of individuals that exited emergency shelter programs into permanent housing solutions also remains consistent between all racial and ethnic groups when compared to each group's percentage of the total homeless population of the County of Riverside.

It is important to note that service data is not complete or less conclusive. Further analysis of access to shelter, permanent supportive housing, coordinated entry, and exits to permanent destination is needed to depict a more accurate picture of racial disparity in the homeless population of Riverside County. The data utilized by this study shows that there is a disparity between racial and ethnic groups when examining the overall homeless population, and the services accessed by these individuals experiencing homelessness.