Racial Disparities Analysis Using Data from Homeless Response Systems

Nathan Andrade, Programmer Analyst, Simtech Solutions Inc
Alexandra Espinosa, Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, HMIS Director
Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless Network, President/CEO

Increasing Capacity & Building Connections: **Bridging to the Future**

Community Profile: Texas - THN

Community Profile: Texas - THN

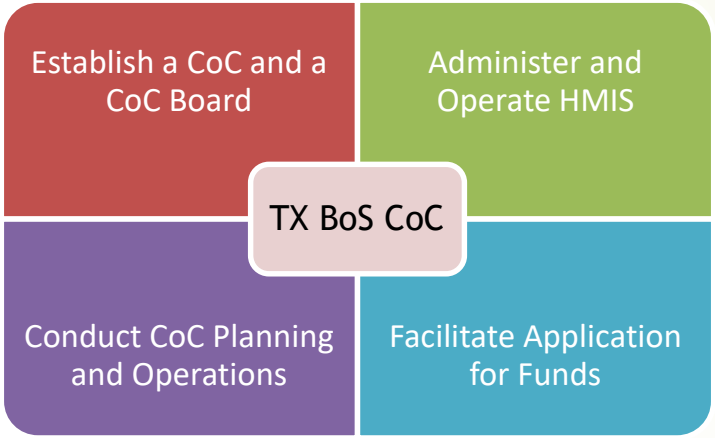
TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

- THN is a statewide agency that…
  - We lead Texas communities to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.
  - Vision: All communities in Texas have a coordinated response system in place to end homelessness.

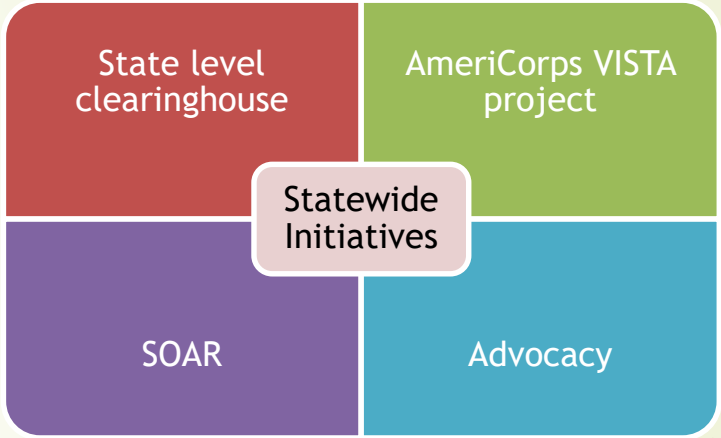
Community Profile: Texas – THN

- THN has two primary focus areas:

Texas Balance of State CoC

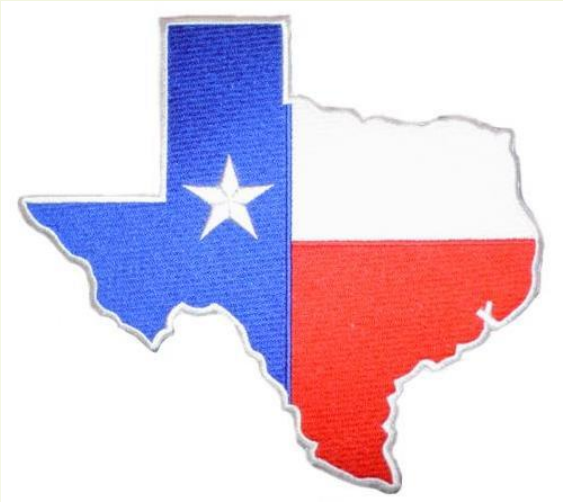


Statewide Initiatives



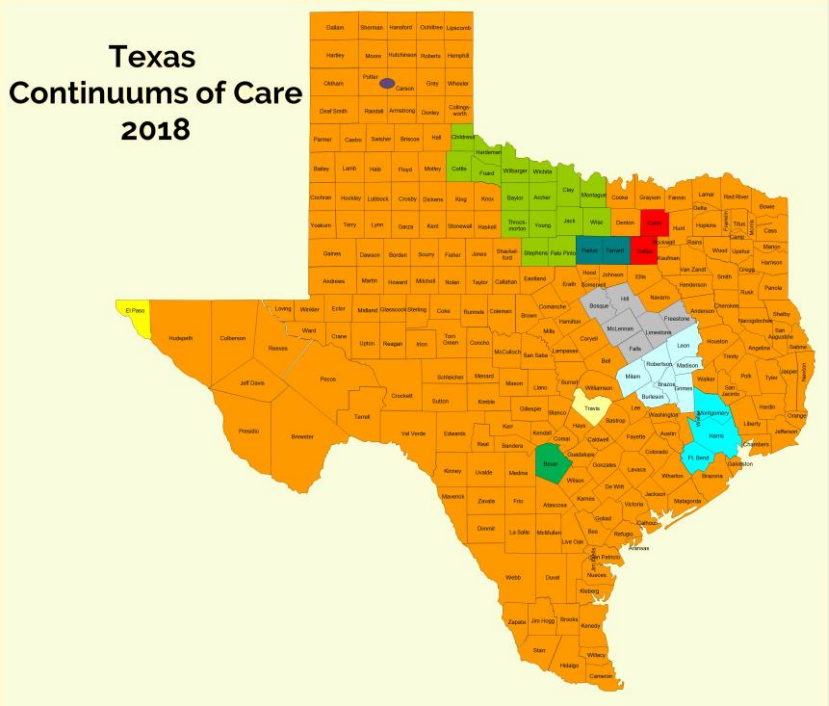
Community Profile: Texas - THN

- THN is the Lead Agency for the TX BoS CoC
- THN is the HMIS Lead Agency for the TX BoS CoC
- TX BoS CoC covers 215 of Texas' 254 counties (86% of Texas's land mass)



Community Profile: Texas – THN Service Area

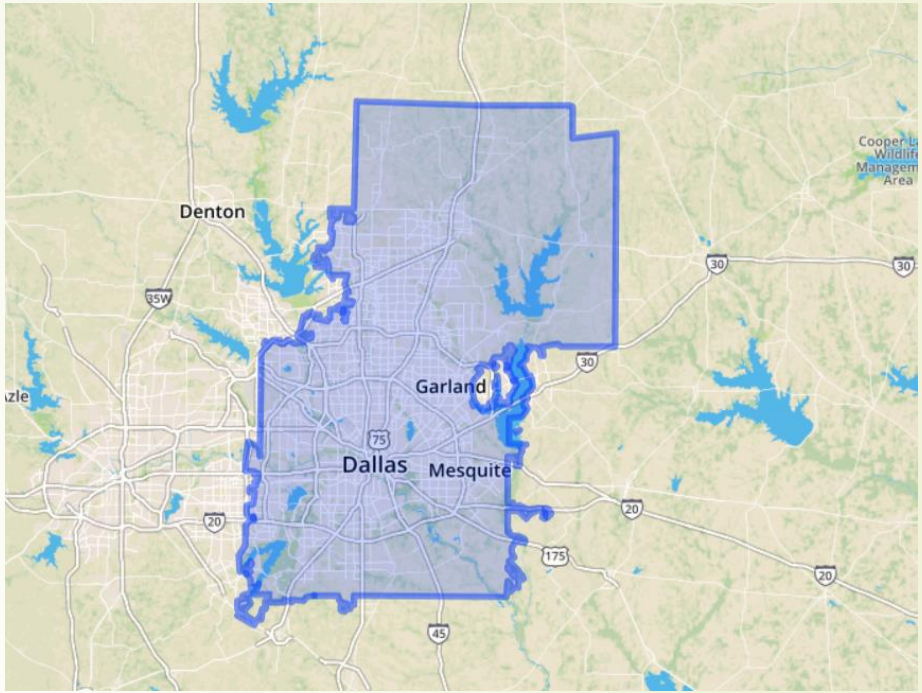
- Population 28 mil, 11 CoCs
- Poverty rate: 15.6%
- Only 29 out of 100 rental units are available to ELI Households (Austin, Dallas, & Houston have 20 or fewer per 100 units)
- 2017 CoC award amount = $88mil
- 2017 PIT Count: 23,548



Community Profile: Dallas – Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance

Community Profile: Dallas - MDHA

- Dallas CoC has approximately 184 projects in HMIS.
- 310 End Users
- We have 25 NOFA funded projects.
- These NOFA projects along with 18 Emergency Shelters were used as the basis for this analysis.



Community Profile: Dallas - MDHA

MDHA
METRO DALLAS HOMELESS ALLIANCE

MDHA has five main statutory roles:

1. Facilitate $16.5 million of Federal Continuum of Care (CoC) funding annually, for homeless services programs;
2. Administer the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), a community-wide database, that drives improvement of homeless services programs, serving 16,972 persons;
3. Maintain a count of persons experiencing homelessness
4. Maintain an inventory of housing and shelter beds for the homeless and formerly homeless;
5. Develop and quarterback an effective unified homeless response system, where all homeless services programs work together to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring.

Racial Disparities Analysis

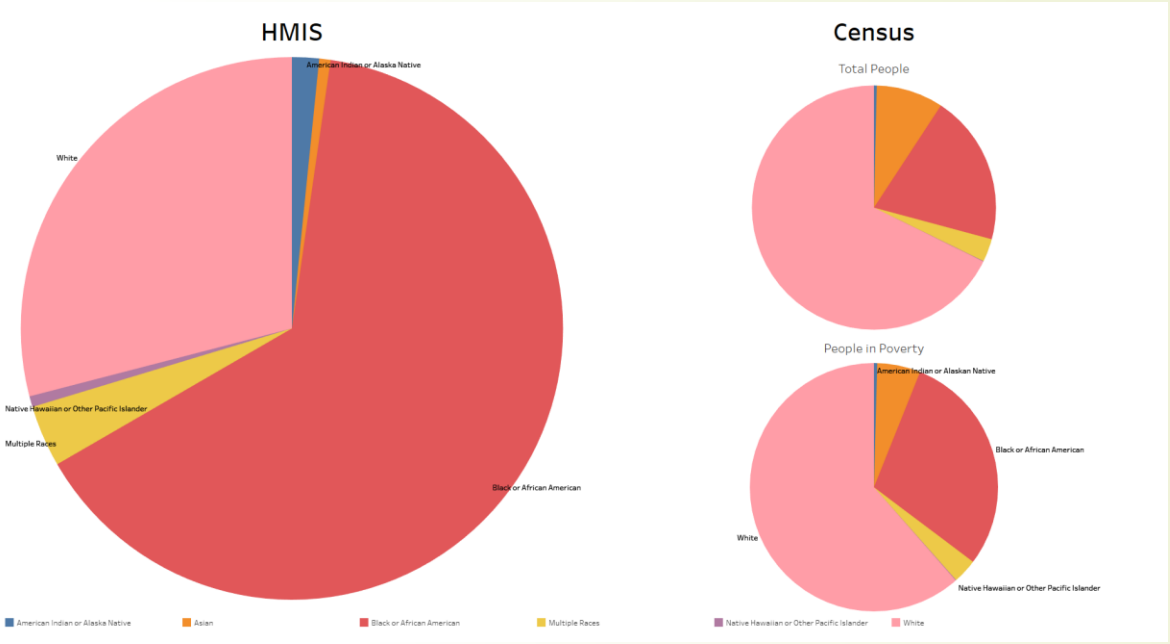
Racial Disparities Analysis – 2018 NOFA Application

In the 2018 HUD NOFA application, section 3B-5a asked applicants to indicate if any of the following statements applied to their CoC.

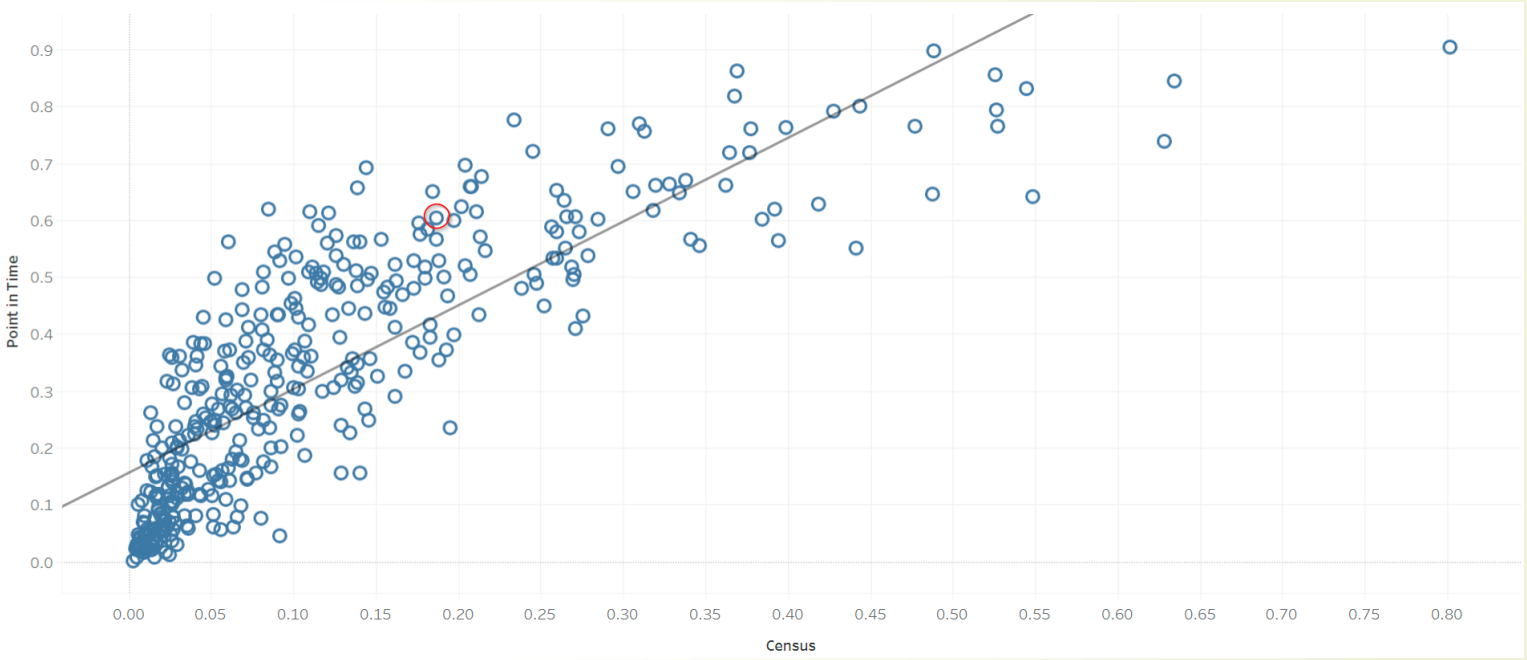
1. People of different races or ethnicities are more or less likely to receive homeless assistance.
2. People of different races or ethnicities are more or less likely to receive a positive outcome from homeless assistance.
3. There are no racial or ethnic disparities in the provision or outcome of homeless assistance
4. The results are inconclusive for racial or ethnic disparities in the provision or outcome of homeless assistance.

HMIS vs Census Population

1. *People of different races or ethnicities are more or less likely to receive homeless assistance.*



HMIS vs Census Population



http://www.simtechsolutions.com/race/

Positive Destination

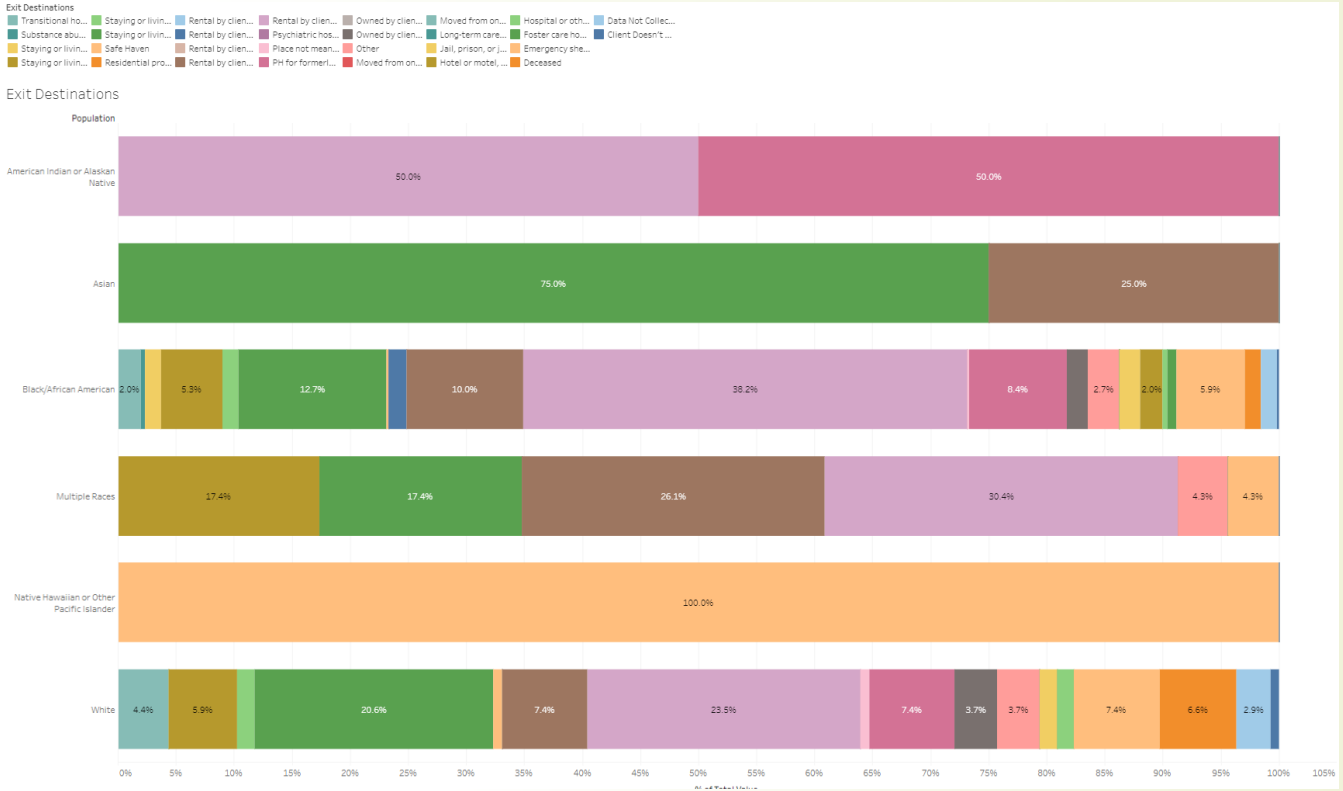
2. People of different races or ethnicities are more or less likely to receive a positive outcome from homeless assistance.

Positive Exits

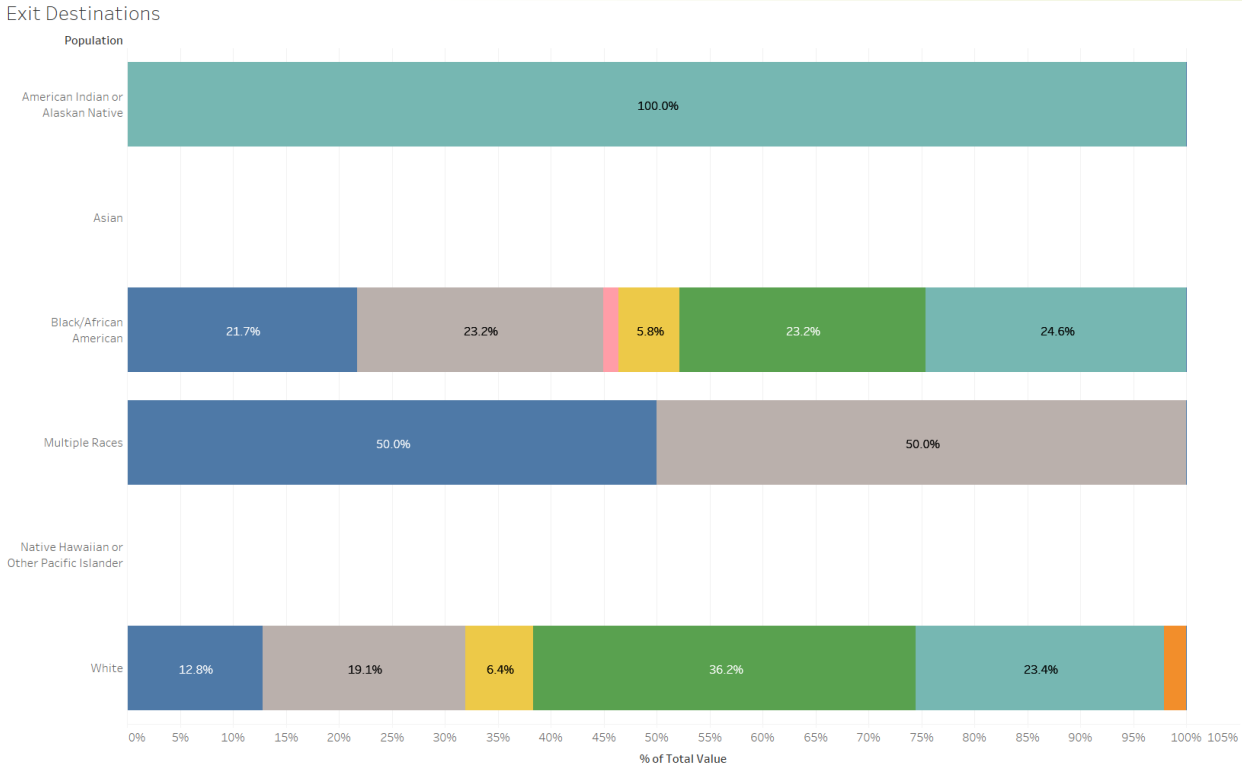
	90 Days or Less	More than 90 Days
American Indian or Alaskan Native	7.58%	64.71%
Asian	2.13%	14.29%
Black/African American	8.06%	62.17%
Multiple Races	14.34%	64.58%
White	7.84%	48.97%

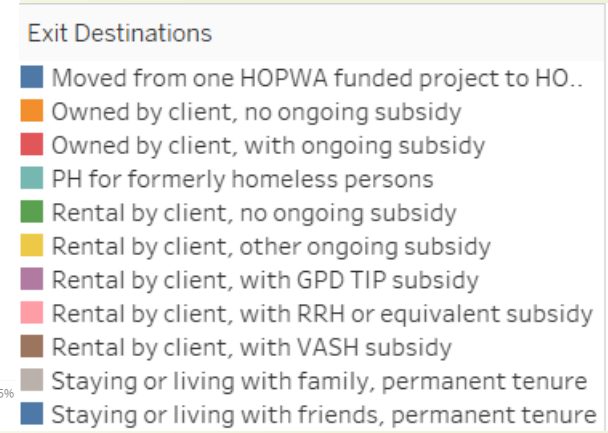
Positive Destination: RRH

All Destinations

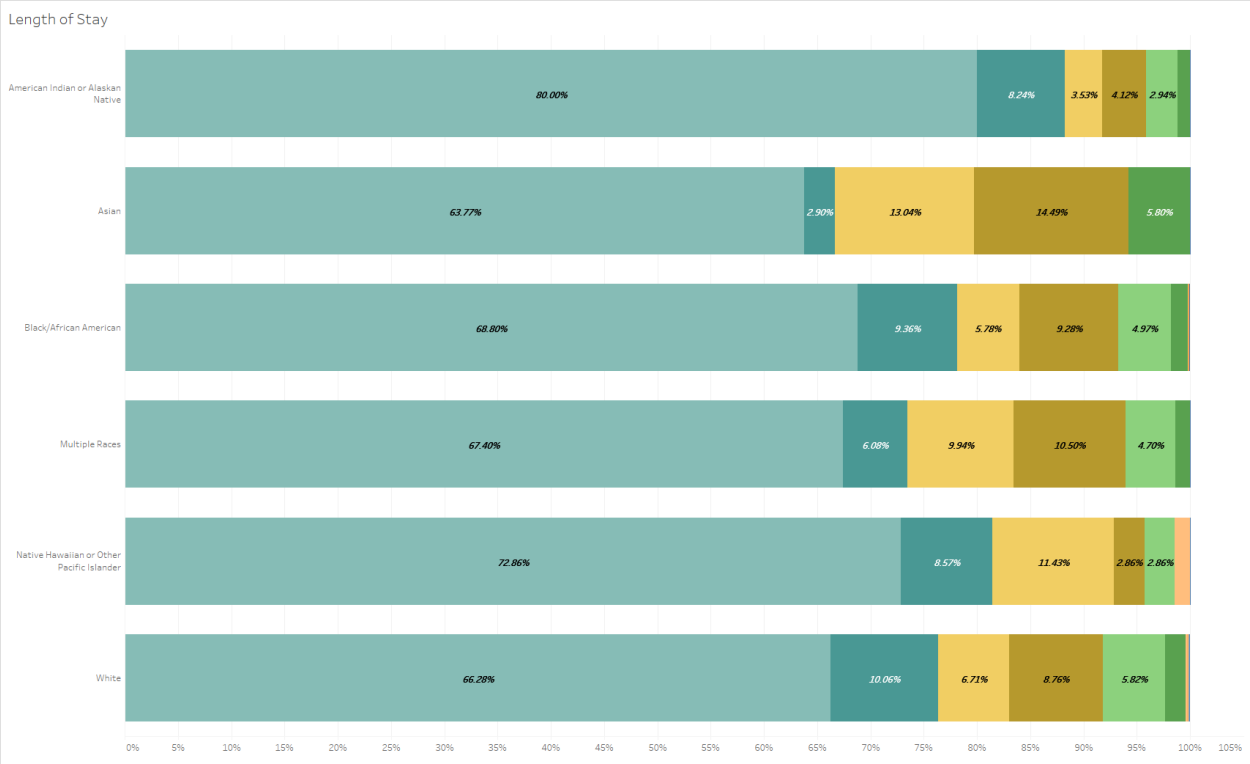


Permanent Destination Exits from PSH





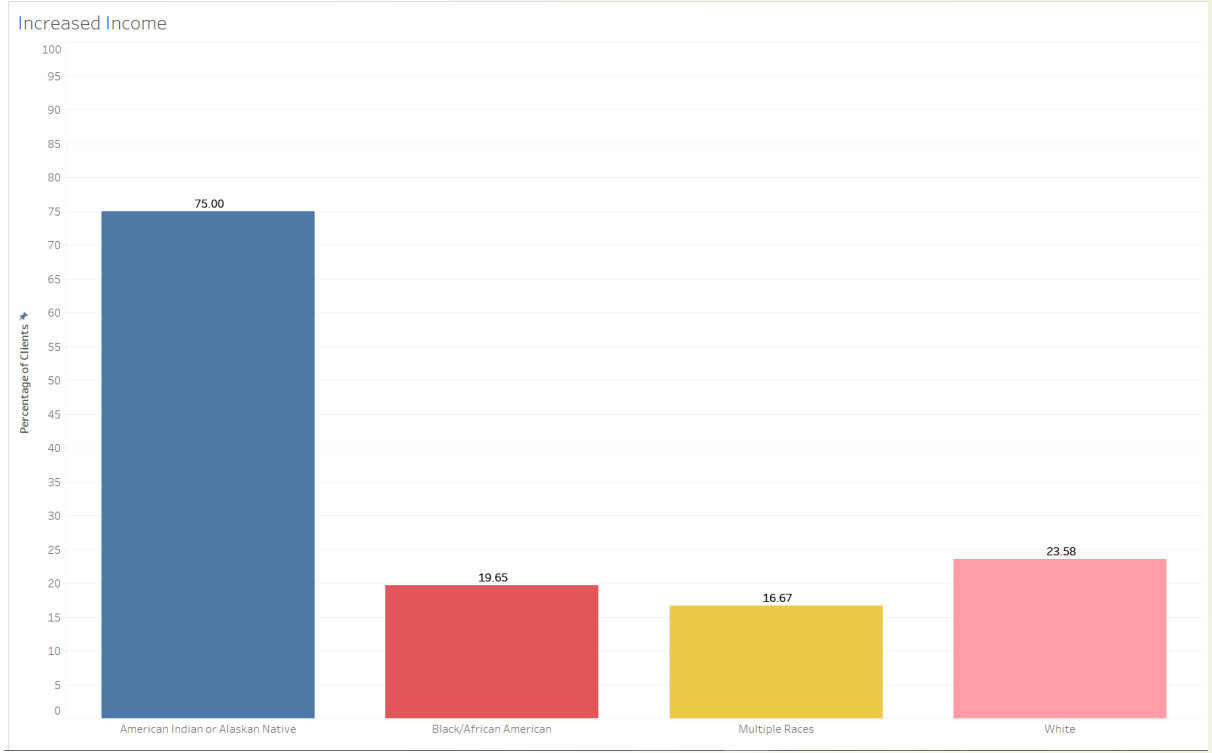
Length of Stay



Length of stay: PSH

Length of stay: RRH

Increased Income: PSH



Increased Income: PSH

Increased Income

	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Black/African American	Multiple Races	White
Project 1		23.2	0.0	24.6
Project 2		0.0	0.0	0.0
Project 3		0.0		0.0
Project 4		10.0		0.0
Project 5		32.6	0.0	31.5
Project 6		28.8	50.0	16.7
Project 7		17.5	12.5	14.3
Project 8		17.3		5.0
Project 9		8.0	0.0	12.1
Project 10		22.2	50.0	22.2
Project 11		25.9	0.0	33.3
Project 12		28.2		21.4
Project 13	100.0	7.9	0.0	25.0
Project 14	66.7	25.2	40.0	30.0
Project 15		14.3		50.0
Project 16		16.4	0.0	54.5

Community Response: Dallas - MDHA

SPARC and Center of Social Innovations Report

Since late 2016, with the support of a $32,700 grant from the **United Way of Metropolitan Dallas'** Unite Dallas Relief Fund, we have been partnering with five other cities, towards establishing racial equity in homeless services, through **SPARC** (Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities), a new research and action program from the **Center for Social Innovation** (C4)

SPARC and Center of Social Innovations Report

Provider Training

Local HMIS Data Collection

Town Hall Meeting

Planning Session of Community Leaders

THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES

SPARC and Center of Social Innovations Report

1. Strengthening opportunities for economic mobility
2. Consider equity measures
3. Diversifying leadership and board membership

SPARC and Center of Social Innovations Report

Quantitative Findings

Qualitative Findings

SPARC and Center of Social Innovations Report

The conclusion of the report made the following recommendations to help address the issue of racial inequality in the homeless system:

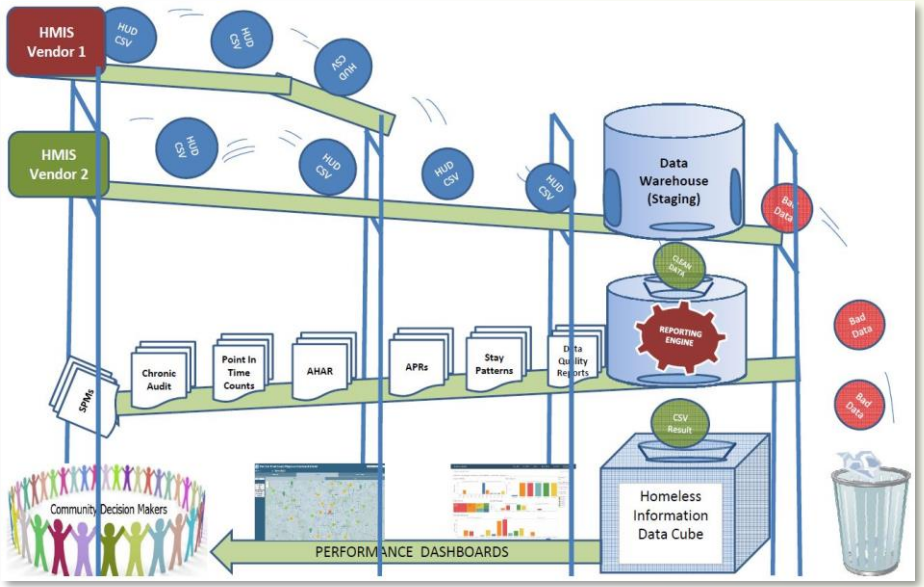
1. Design an equitable Coordinated Entry system.
2. Incorporate racial equity into grantmaking and contracting for homelessness and housing programs.
3. Include racial equity data analysis and benchmarks in strategic planning to end homelessness.
4. Support organizational development to ensure racial equity at the organizational level.
5. Encourage anti-racist program delivery.

SPARC and Center of Social Innovations Report

6. Promote ongoing anti-racism training for homeless service providers.
7. Collaborate to increase affordable housing availability for all people experiencing homelessness.
8. Utilize innovative upstream interventions to prevent homelessness for people of color.
9. Investigate flexible subsidies to mitigate the effects of network impoverishment.
10. Support innovative health care strategies to meet the health and behavioral health needs of communities of color.

Creating the Racial Disparities Analysis

Data Cubes



- Records results from HMIS reports to store aggregate project level data
- Filters are applied to the reports to focus on specific sub-populations
- Recorded results can be exported in a CSV format that can be consumed by data visualization tools

Data Cubes

Dallas Data Cube:

43 projects
x
2 report types (APR and HIC)
x
2 years of data
x
7 populations

1132 total reports run

(566 APR reports x 1011 APR data elements)
+
(566 HIC reports x 15 HIC data elements)

580,716 total data elements recorded

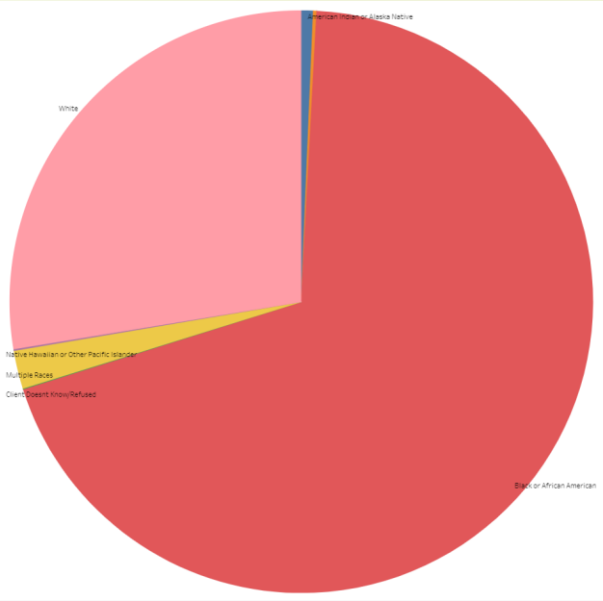
APR Results Recorded

APR

Q12a. Race

	Total	Without Children	With Children And Adults	With Only Children	Unknown Household Type
White	3	3	0	0	0
Black or African American	9	9	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0
Multiple Races	0	0	0	0	0
Client Doesn't Know/Client Refused	0	0	0	0	0
Data Not Collected	0	0	0	0	0
Total	12	12	0	0	0

Tableau



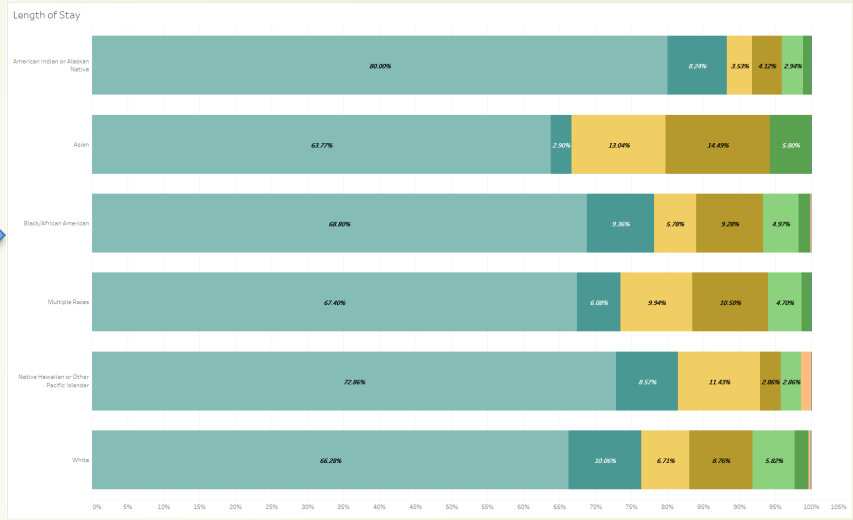
APR Results Recorded

APR

Q22a1. Length Of Participation

	Total	Leavers	Stayers
30 days or less	0	0	0
31 to 60 days	0	0	0
61 to 90 days	0	0	0
91 to 180 days	0	0	0
181 to 365 days	0	0	0
366 to 730 days	0	0	0
731 to 1095 days	3	2	1
1096 to 1460 days	3	2	1
1461 to 1825 days	2	0	2
More than 1825 days	4	0	4
Data Not Collected			
Total	12	4	8

Tableau



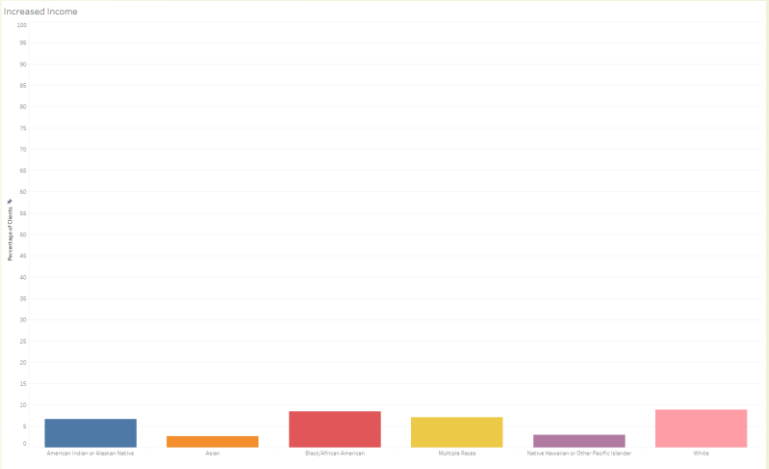
APR Results Recorded

APR

Q19a3. Client Cash Income Change by Start and Exit/Annual Assessment

	Had at Start Not at Exit/Latest	Retained Income w/ Less $ at Exit/Annual Asst.	Retained Income w/ Same $ at Exit/Annual Asst.	Retained Income w/ More $ at Exit/Annual Asst.	Did Not Have at Start Gained at Exit/Annual Asst.	Did Not Have at Start or at Exit/Annual Asst.	Total Adults (inc. those with No Income)	Perf. Measures: Gained or Increased from Start To Exit/Annual Asst.	Perf. Measure: Percent of persons who accomplished this measure
Adults with Earned Income	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	1	25%
Average Change in Earned Income			-		$1053.00	-	-	$1053.00	
Adults with Other Income	0	0	0	1	1	2	4	2	50%
Average Change in Other Income			-	$136.30	$133.57	-	-	$134.94	
Adults with Any Income	0	0	0	1	2	1	4	3	75%
Average Change in Any Income			-	$136.30	$593.28	-	$330.72	$440.96	

Tableau



APR Results Recorded

APR

Q23. Exit Destination

Other Destinations					
Residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria	0	0	0	0	0
Deceased	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Client Doesn't Know/Client Refused	0	0	0	0	0
Data Not Collected (no exit interview completed)	2	2	0	0	0
Subtotal	2	2	0	0	0
Total	4	4	0	0	0
Total persons exiting to positive destinations	2	2	0	0	0
Total persons whose destinations excluded them from the calculation	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage	50%	50%	-	-	-

Tableau

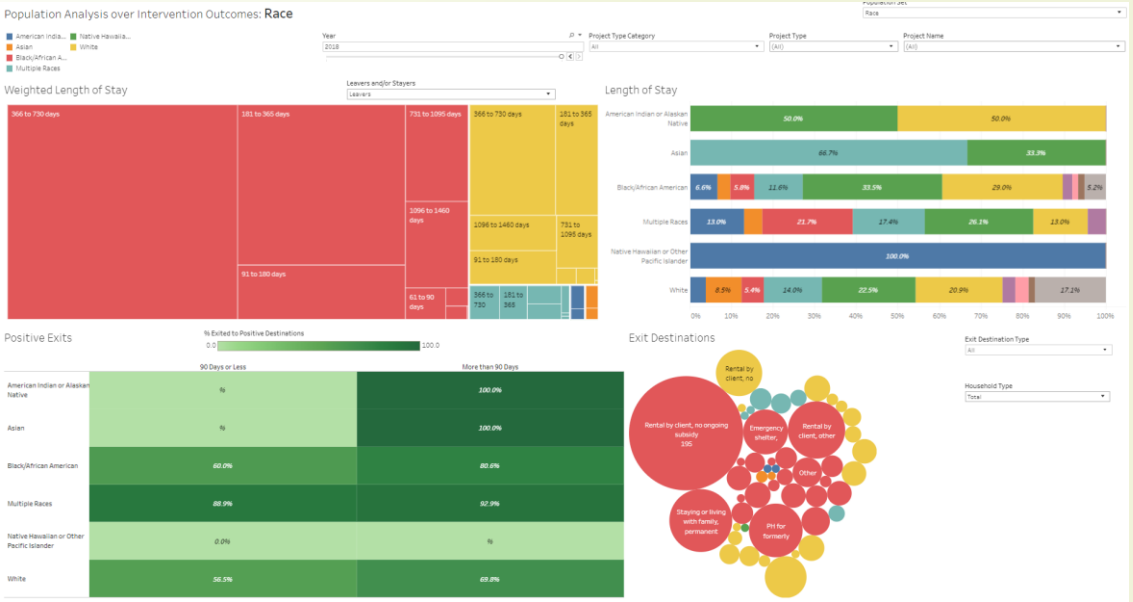
Integrating Census Data

- Census data obtained from www.census.gov
  - 2017 5 year estimates from American Community Survey were used
- Data was broken down by census tracts
- Census tracts were cross referenced with CoC shape files giving census figures by CoC that could be compared with HMIS data
- Results were fed to Tableau to do a side by side comparison of Census and HMIS Data

- Poverty status does NOT vary geographically.
- Poverty status is determined based on household income compared to size and composition.
- Noncash benefits are not included.

Data Visualization

- All data from both data cube and census results were brought together in Tableau.
- Interactive data visualizations created within Tableau
- Dashboards saved to Tableau Public where they could be shared via URL.



Next Steps

- Incorporate ethnicity into analysis.
- Consider the cost of living for different regions.
- Create multiple year trends to gauge improvement.

Questions?