Santa Clara County Continuum of Care

# COORDINATED ASSESSMENT WORK GROUP

# WELCOME!

Coordinated Assessment is the system that matches people who need housing and services with programs that can help them.

This Work Group reviews and evaluates how well that process is working and suggests improvements.

# AGENDA

- Coordinated Assessment System Data Updates
- Coordinated Assessment and Racial Equity
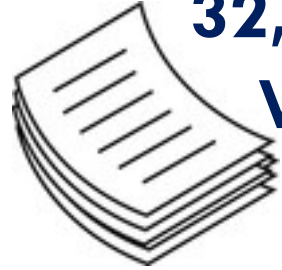- Data Focus: Assessments Leading to Referrals
- Housing Problem Solving
- Check Out

# COORDINATED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM DATA UPDATES

**Nov 15, 2015 – December 31, 2019:**

**32,656 Total VI-SPDATs**

**22,776 Unduplicated Assessments**

**61 Justice Discharge**

79%

6%

15%

**17,969 Individual Adults**

**1,352 Transition Age Youth (TAY)**

**3,394 Families with Children**

*VI-SPDAT Type*
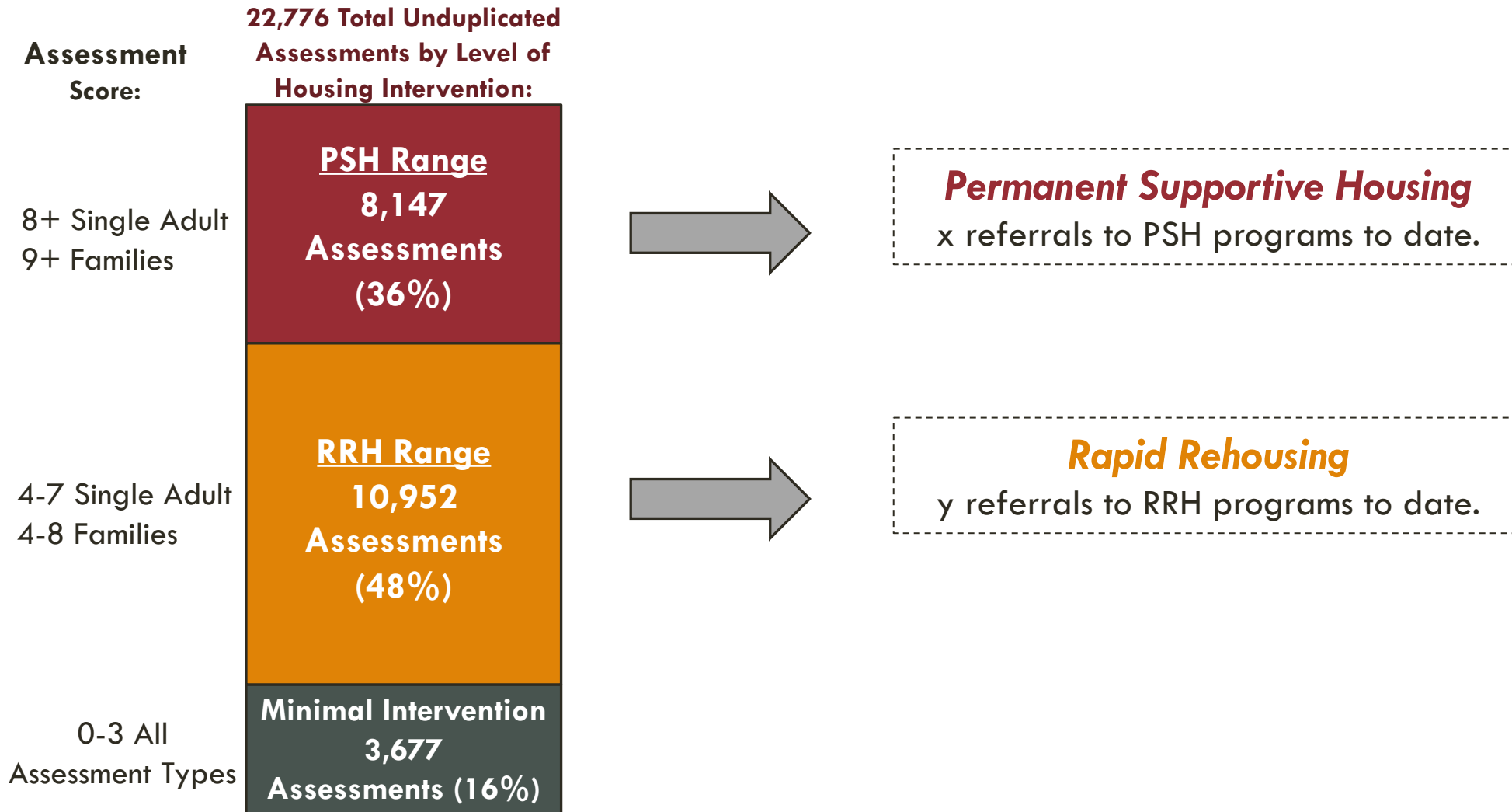
1,103 TAY have taken the Individual Adult Assessment and 467 TAY have taken the Family Assessment, increasing the percentage of TAY who have taken a VI-SDPAT assessment from 6% to 13%

# Permanent Housing Program Referrals
## (Referred to queue Nov 15, 2015 – Dec 31, 2019)

Assessment Score:

22,776 Total Unduplicated Assessments by Level of Housing Intervention:

8+ Single Adult
9+ Families

**PSH Range**
**8,147 Assessments**
**(36%)**

→ *Permanent Supportive Housing*
x referrals to PSH programs to date.

4-7 Single Adult
4-8 Families

**RRH Range**
**10,952 Assessments**
**(48%)**

→ *Rapid Rehousing*
y referrals to RRH programs to date.

0-3 All Assessment Types

**Minimal Intervention**
**3,677 Assessments (16%)**

# BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

HUD requires CoCs to establish coordinated entry systems that both provide fair and equal access and use a standardized assessment tool.

National studies show that:

- Whites are **underrepresented** in the homeless population
- People identifying as black/African American, American Indian, and multiracial are **overrepresented** in the homeless population
- People of color experiencing homelessness also tend to be **overrepresented when compared to those living in deep poverty** – indicating that poverty alone is not enough to explain their overrepresentation in the homeless population

Providers have expressed concerns about the VI-SPDAT prioritizing White people for housing resources over Black and Indigenous People/Person(s) of Color (BIPOC).

# ABOUT C4'S ANALYSIS

## C4 analyzed four CoC's coordinated entry data:

- Portland/Gresham/Multnomah County (Oregon)
- Roanoke City & County-Salem (Virginia)
- Seattle/King County (Washington)
- Tacoma/Lakewood/Pierce County (Washington)

## The analysis posed two questions:

- Are White people more likely to be prioritized for PSH compared to BIPOC?

- Which VI-SPDAT subscales predict vulnerability/housing needs across racial groups, and are there methods or proxy variables that can result in more equitable prioritization?

# CES RACIAL EQUITY ANALYSIS FINDINGS

**S** The report's findings included the following:

**1** On average, BIPOC receive statistically significant lower prioritization scores on the VI-SPDAT than their White counterparts

**2** White individuals are prioritized for PSH intervention at a higher rate than BIPOC, though this is not true for families

**3** Race is a predictor of 11/16 subscales, and most subscales are tilted towards capturing vulnerabilities that Whites are more likely to endorse

**4** Since race is a predictor of receiving a higher score, the assessment tool itself plays a role in creating racial inequities within coordinated entry systems for individuals

## B. Risks

4. In the past six months, how many times have you...

   a) Received health care at an emergency department/room?  ____ ☐ Refused

   b) Taken an ambulance to the hospital?  ____ ☐ Refused

   c) Been hospitalized as an inpatient?  ____ ☐ Refused

   d) Used a crisis service, including sexual assault crisis, mental health crisis, family/intimate violence, distress centers and suicide prevention hotlines?  ____ ☐ Refused

   e) Talked to police because you witnessed a crime, were the victim of a crime, or the alleged perpetrator of a crime or because the police told you that you must move along?  ____ ☐ Refused

   f) Stayed one or more nights in a holding cell, jail or prison, whether that was a short-term stay like the drunk tank, a longer stay for a more serious offence, or anything in between?  ____ ☐ Refused

**IF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INTERACTIONS EQUALS 4 OR MORE, THEN SCORE 1 FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE USE.**

**SCORE:**

# C4 CES RACIAL EQUITY ANALYSIS

## S  Local Recommendations and Next Steps:

1. While aggregate analyses are critical to understanding general patterns in the data, **community-specific racial equity analyses must be performed** in order to determine the extent of racial inequities in the CES and to identify opportunities for local strategic action. Analyses similar to the ones presented here are ideal, but a simple comparison of means is a good place to start. At the minimum, use existing tools such as HUD COC Racial Equity Analysis Tool to identify the populations that are disproportionately represented in your homeless system, and start a conversation in your CoC.

2. As part of such analyses, communities should **assess whether/which contextual factors**—client/provider rapport, location of assessment, assessor training, cultural competence of assessors—**may be contributing to and confounding disparate impacts for BIPOC** and take actionable steps to address them.

3. For CoCs using the VI-SPDAT, **investigate alternative tools and/or methods, as well as the inclusion of other factors, for prioritization and use a racial equity framework for this investigative process.**

4. Ensure that **providers and program administrators are trained in racial equity frameworks and practice**, cultural humility/sensitivity, and trauma-informed practice. Undertake continuous quality improvement and self-evaluation of this process.

# SUMMARY OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY RACIAL EQUITY DATA ANALYSIS

# Three Themes

1. Disproportionately high rates of homelessness among specific racial and ethnic groups

2. Racial/ethnic variation in exits to homelessness and in VI-SPDAT Scores

3. Structural barriers, including lack of affordable housing and economic opportunity

Theme 1

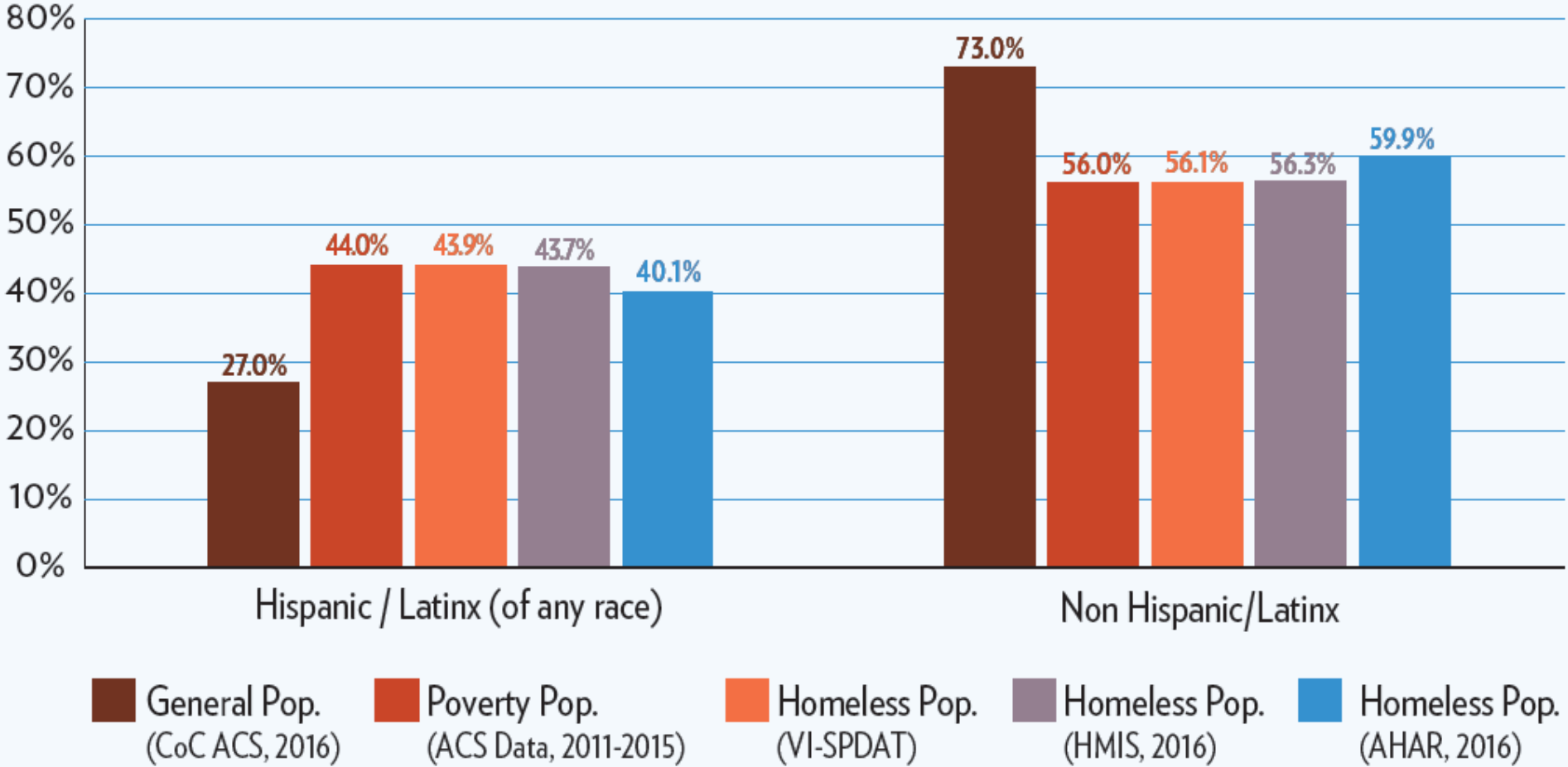# Disproportionality in the Homeless Population

# Disproportionality - Race



FIGURE 1. **General Population, Poverty, VI-SPDAT, HMIS, and AHAR Data by Race**
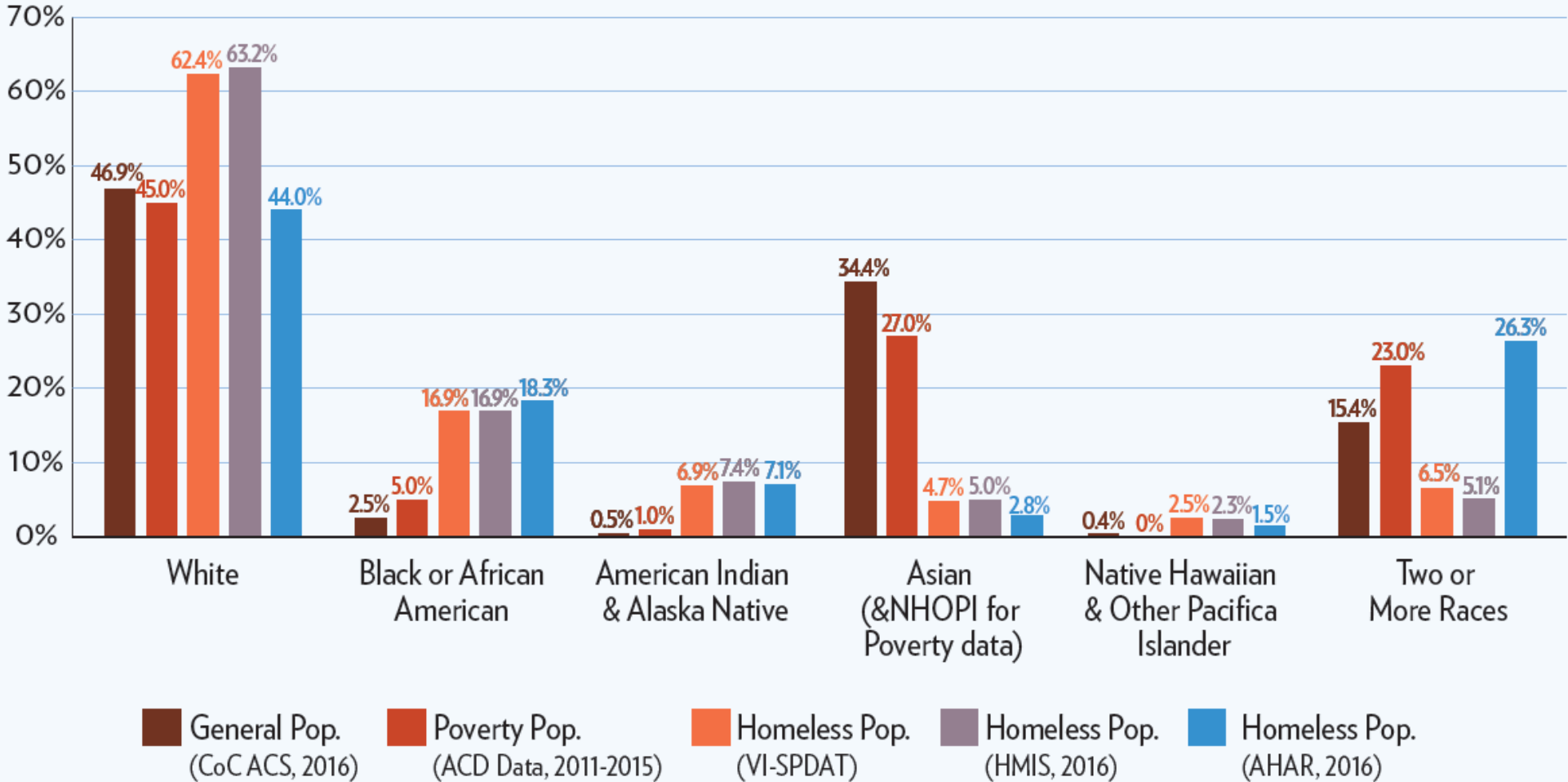
# Disproportionality - Ethnicity



FIGURE 2. **General Population, Poverty, VI-SPDAT, HMIS, and AHAR Data by Ethnicity**

Hispanic / Latinx (of any race):
- General Pop. (CoC ACS, 2016): 27.0%
- Poverty Pop. (ACS Data, 2011-2015): 44.0%
- Homeless Pop. (VI-SPDAT): 43.9%
- Homeless Pop. (HMIS, 2016): 43.7%
- Homeless Pop. (AHAR, 2016): 40.1%

Non Hispanic/Latinx:
- General Pop. (CoC ACS, 2016): 73.0%
- Poverty Pop. (ACS Data, 2011-2015): 56.0%
- Homeless Pop. (VI-SPDAT): 56.1%
- Homeless Pop. (HMIS, 2016): 56.3%
- Homeless Pop. (AHAR, 2016): 59.9%

# Findings - Disproportionality

- Black/African Americans are dramatically overrepresented in the homeless populations (16.9% compared to 2.5% of the general population).

- American Indian/Alaskan Natives are 0.5% of the general population but 7.4% of the homeless population.

- Hispanic/Latinx individuals represent 43.9% of the HMIS sample compared to 27% of the general population.

- High rates of Hispanic/Latinx family homelessness—65% of families experiencing homelessness.

- Poverty alone does not explain high rates of homelessness among people of color.
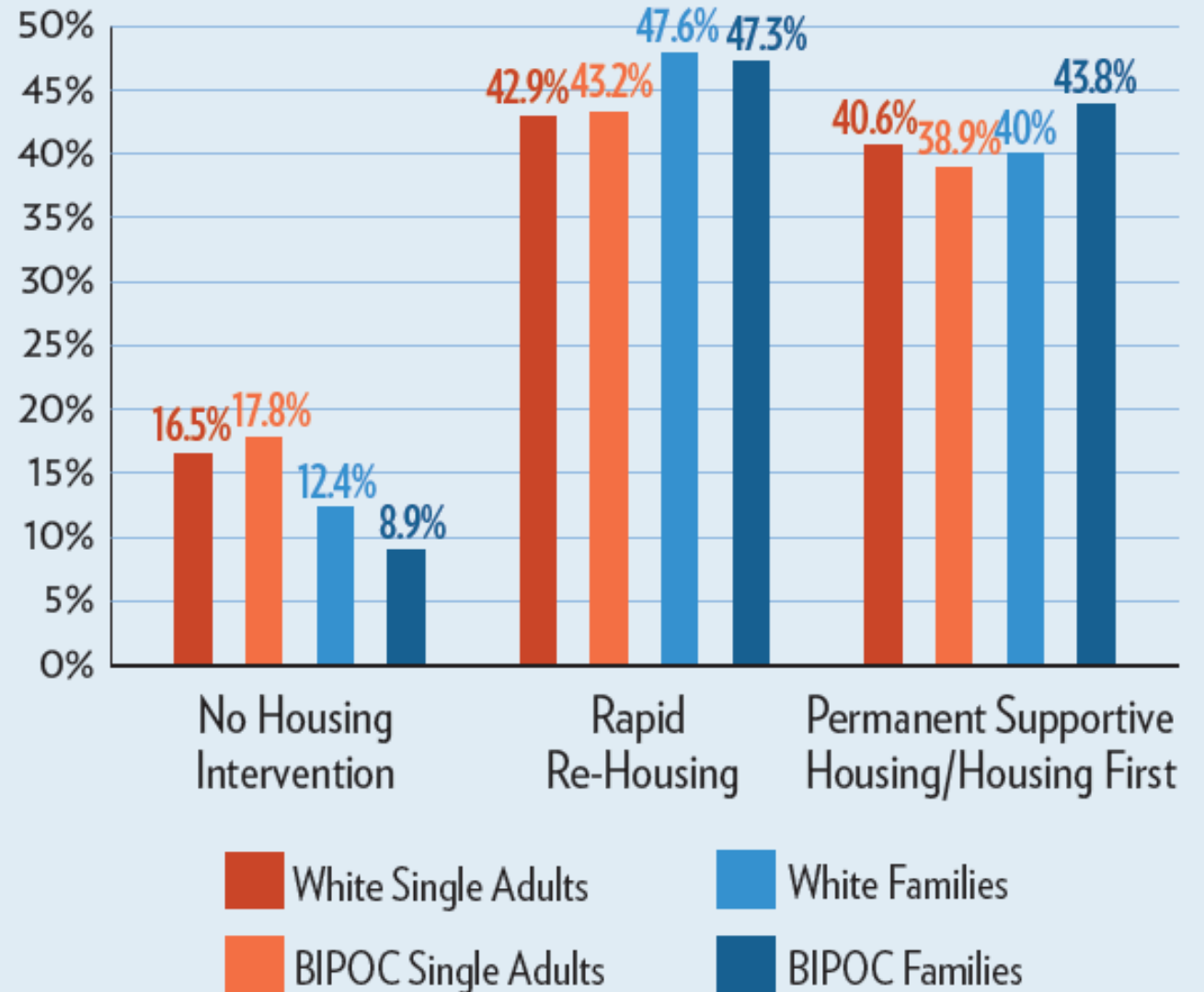
Theme 2

Racial and Ethnic Variations in VI-SPDAT Score

# Race and VI-SPDAT Score

Analysis showed a statistically significant association between race and prioritization category (VI-SPDAT score range) for families only.
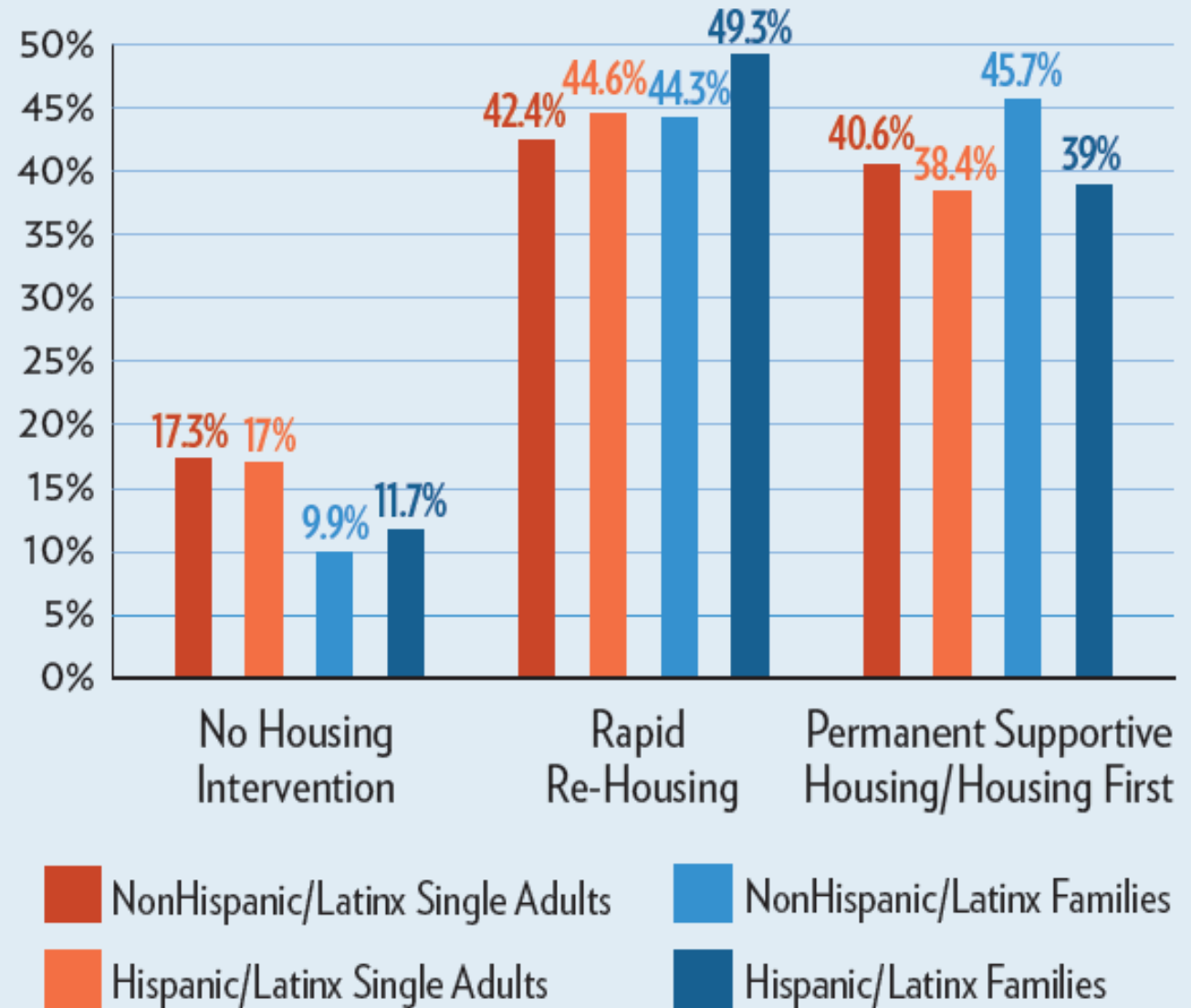


FIGURE 3. **Race and Prioritization Category**

# Ethnicity and VI-SPDAT Score

Analysis showed a statistically significant association between ethnicity and prioritization category (VI-SPDAT score range) for both single adults and families.



FIGURE 4. **Ethnicity & Prioritization Category**

Theme 3

# Structural barriers, including lack of affordable housing and economic opportunity

# Findings – Structural Barriers

- While housing affordability affects people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds, people of color may be most severely impacted.

- The persistent wealth gap and lack of economic opportunity put communities of color at risk of homelessness.

- Disproportionately high rates of homelessness among people of color in the county are similar to disproportionality in other systems.

# Next Steps

# ASSESSMENTS LEADING TO REFERRALS

# HOUSING PROBLEM SOLVING

# SYSTEM DESIGN DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How and when would we want to offer Housing Problem Solving (HPS) conversations? Options could include:

- Offering it to everyone before giving the VI-SPDAT
- Ask a few triage questions to figure out who might be a good candidate for an HPS conversation
- Offering it again after the VI-SPDAT or when a client checks in about status on the queue

If HPS is offered to everyone coming into the system, what should happen when somebody gets a temporary placement and then finds themselves back on the system? If participating in HPS has changed their eligibility or place in the queue, what can we do to address that?

How/when would we want to offer HPS to people that are already on the queue?

# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

**Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, March 12, 2020**

**1-2:30pm**

**Location TBD**