

# 2021 Racial Disparities Assessment

Athens-Clarke County CoC (GA-503)

The Athens-Clarke County Homeless Coalition (ACCHC)/CoC is committed to addressing racial inequality in the provision and outcome of homeless services in Athens-Clarke County. ACCHC aligns with HUD priorities in an effort to promote equity throughout the CoC's homeless response system for Black/African American, Indigenous, Hispanic/Latinx, and LGBTQ+ populations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness than their white, straight, cisgender counterparts (FY21 CoC Program NOFO). Examining discrepancies in homeless services is being led by the ACCHC Governing Board, but is part of Athens-Clarke County's larger efforts to address racial inequality and discrimination in Athens, Georgia. The Mayor's Taskforce on Diversity was created in September 2017 to address racial inequality in the areas of housing, education, criminal justice, and economic mobility. The CoC's Collaborative Applicant, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), was the administrative entity for the Taskforce.

The taskforce efforts led to the development of the Inclusion Office in Athens-Clarke County to create a better Athens by closing the gaps, expanding access, and improving outcomes. This office is charged with coordinating equity and inclusion efforts in the ACC government, ACC government policies, and to be a liaison to the community on equity issues. The Inclusion office began work in January 2020 and is focused on five primary action items – atone for the urban renewal policies on the African American community, improve resident access to discrimination complaint process, provide critical community education through a culturally informed approach, expand minority participation in ACC government contracting, and expand minority recruitment and retention throughout local government. (ACCGov Inclusion Office)

In addition, the Athens-Clarke County Homeless Coalition expanded their reach and recruitment efforts to additional organizations and spaces in an effort to be more inclusive in their membership and board. These efforts continue as the Coalition adds committees and collaborates with additional organizations serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

## Methodology

- US Census Bureau - 2020
- US Census Bureau - 2019 American Community Survey
- ACC Point-in-Time Count (2017-2021)
- ACC Coordinated Entry - HMIS (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020)
- ACC Longitudinal Systems Analysis (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020)

## Athens-Clarke County, GA Demographics

In addition to demographic data on homeless individuals and families in Athens-Clarke County, demographic information from the United States and ACC was examined for comprehensive comparison of trends. This comparison is necessary to get a complete understanding of the population and disparities present. Data on income, unemployment, and education is also compared for the largest three population groups (Black/African American, White, and Hispanic/Latinx).

ACC vs. USA   Population Comparison by Race/Ethnicity		
	Athens-Clarke County	U.S. Population
<b>Race</b>		
White	64.8%	76.3%
Black/African American	28.3%	13.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%	1.3%
Asian	4.1%	5.9%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.2%
Multiple Races	2.2%	2.8%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	55.2%	60.1%
Hispanic/Latino	11%	18.5%

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2020

Athens-Clarke County   Income, Poverty, and Unemployment by Race/Ethnicity			
Race/Ethnicity	Median Income	Poverty Rate	Unemployment
White	\$50,596	23.3%	2.9%
Black/African American	\$30,909	35.7%	9.6%
Hispanic/Latino	\$36,217	20.6%	Data Not Available

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2019 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 1-YEAR ESTIMATES

Athens-Clarke County   Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity		
	Male	Female
<b>White</b>		
High School graduate or higher	96.3%	96.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	62.9%	65.5%
<b>Black/African American</b>		
High School graduate or higher	70.5%	89.9%
Bachelor degree or higher	14.2%	24.4%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>		
High School graduate or higher	95.9%	92.3%
Bachelor degree or higher	30.4%	36.2%

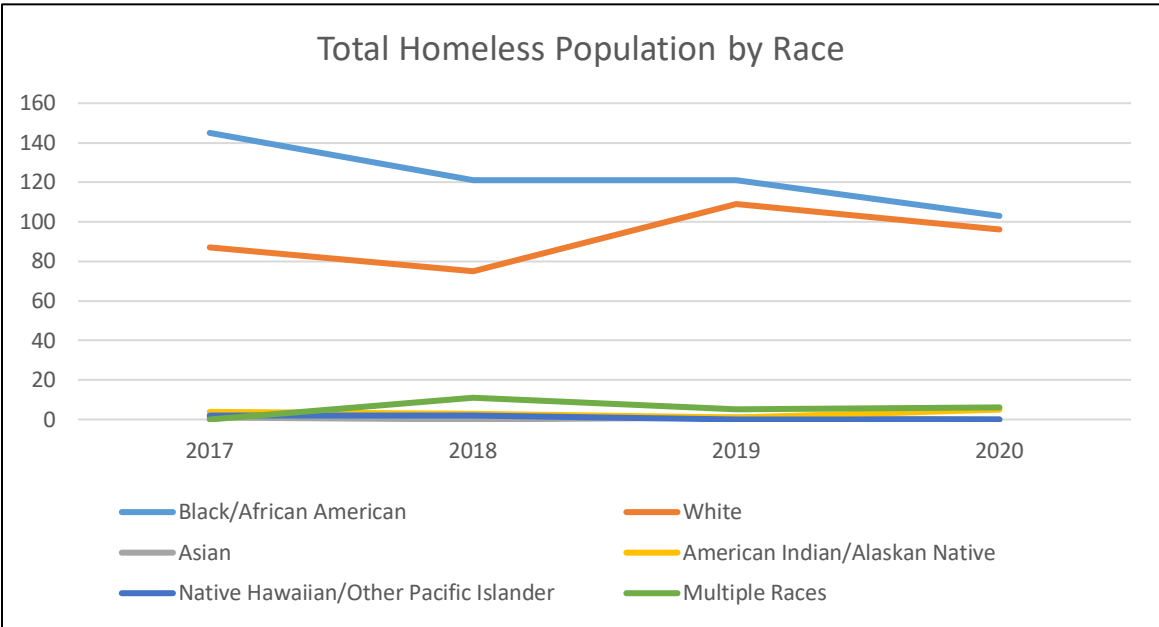
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2019 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 1-YEAR ESTIMATES

## Point-in-Time Count Data

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January. HUD requires that all Continuums of Care, such as Athens-Clarke County (ACC), conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe havens on a single night as well as those living in places not meant for human habitation, in cars, on the streets, etc. (Athens-Clarke County Homeless Coalition)

Those experiencing sheltered homelessness are counted by homeless shelter providers submitting the number of housed clients from the night of the PIT Count. Unsheltered homelessness is counted by local organizations and partners surveying various locations where homeless individuals often congregate and receive services. Only those who were surveyed that identified as homeless were included in the PIT count final data. (Athens-Clarke County Homeless Coalition)

Total Homeless Population by Race/Ethnicity (Sheltered & Unsheltered)				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Race</b>				
White	87 (36%)	75 (35%)	109 (46%)	96 (46%)
Black/African American	145 (61%)	121 (57%)	121 (51%)	103 (49%)
Asian	1 (.004%)	0 (0%)	1 (.004%)	0 (0%)
American Indian/Alaska Native	4 (2%)	3 (2%)	1 (.004%)	5 (2%)
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Multiple Races	0 (0%)	11 (5%)	5 (2%)	6 (3%)
<b>Ethnicity</b>				
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx	227 (95%)	202 (95%)	230 (97%)	202 (96%)
Hispanic/Latinx	12 (5%)	10 (5%)	7 (3%)	8 (4%)



When comparing the total homeless population by race/ethnicity to the total ACC population, there is a disparity between White and Black/African American homeless populations. The ACC population is 28.3% Black/African American, but the homeless population is approximately 50% Black/African American; conversely, the general population is 64.8% white, but only make up 46% of the homeless population. However, this disparity has lessened by about 10% over four years according to PIT data.

Additionally, racial disparities exist for minority groups who make up smaller portions of the total ACC population. American Indian/Alaskan Natives are overrepresented in 2020 PIT Data at 2% while only accounting for 0.4% of the total population. Individuals who identified as multiple races also experience disparities in homelessness at 3% of the 2020 homeless population and 2.2% of the general population.

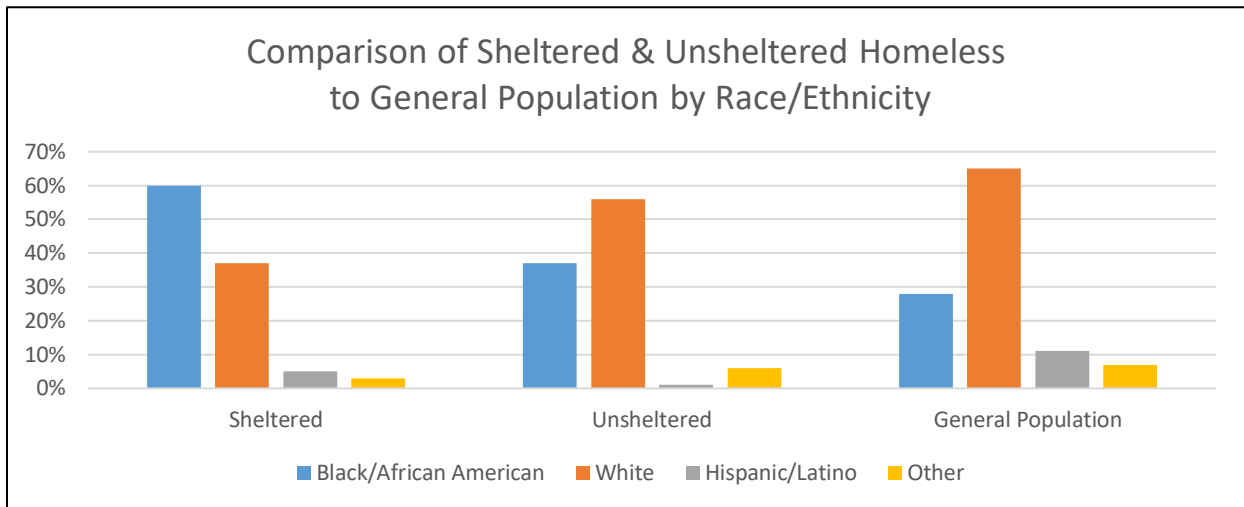
### Point-in-Time Count | 2021

Athens-Clarke County received an exemption from the 2021 Unsheltered PIT Count due to public health risk associated with the coronavirus pandemic. In an effort to get current unsheltered homeless data, a local PIT Count was conducted in July 2021.

2021 Sheltered Point-in-Time Data	
<b>Race</b>	
White	49 (37%)
Black/African American	80 (60%)
Multiple Races	4 (3%)
<b>Ethnicity</b>	
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx	127 (95%)
Hispanic/Latinx	6 (5%)

2021 Unsheltered Point-in-Time Data*	
<b>Race &amp; Ethnicity</b>	
White	54 (56%)
Black/African American	35 (37%)
Hispanic	1 (1%)
Other	6 (6%)

\*The 2021 Unsheltered PIT Count used different methodology than HUD Mandated PIT Counts



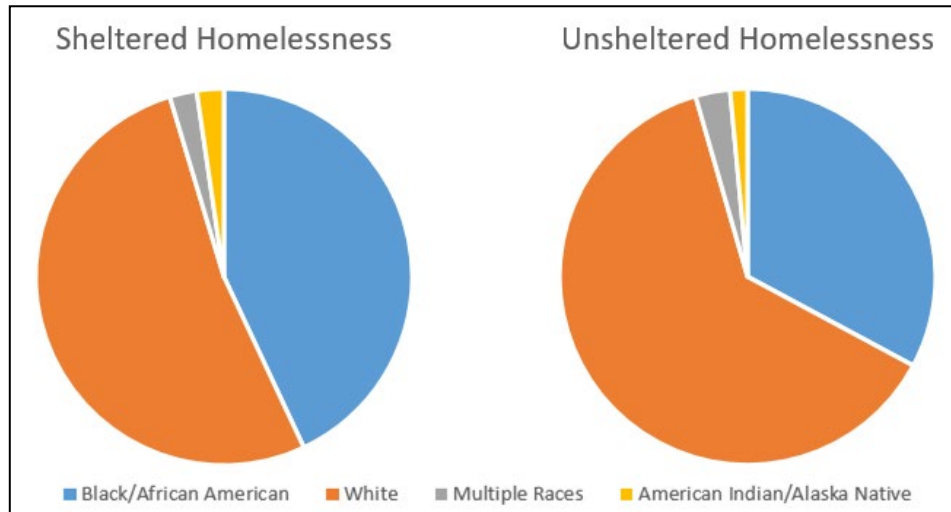
ACC PIT COUNT DATA, 2021; U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2020

The 2021 PIT Data shows a continuing disparity for Black/African American individuals. This disparity is greatest in sheltered homelessness where 60% of those experiencing sheltered homelessness are Black/African American. However, Black/African American individuals are also overrepresented in the unsheltered population at 37% while only accounting for 28.3% of the general population.

## Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

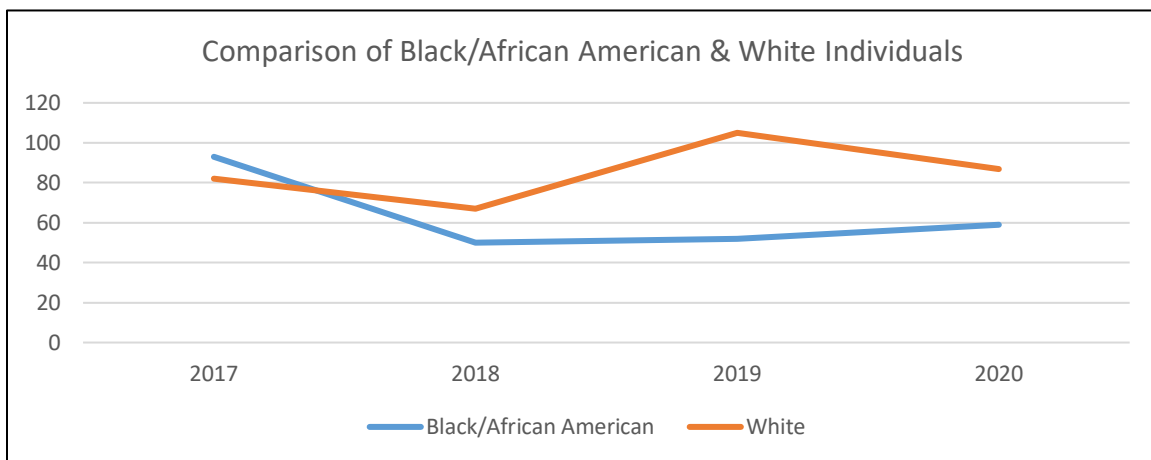
### HOUSEHOLDS WITH ONLY ADULTS

2020 Sheltered & Unsheltered Point-in-Time Data		
	Sheltered	Unsheltered
<b>Race</b>		
White	45 (52%)	42 (63%)
Black/African American	37 (43%)	22 (33%)
Multiple Races	2 (2.5%)	2 (3%)
American Indian/Alaska Native	2 (2.5%)	1 (1%)
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx	83 (97%)	64 (96%)
Hispanic/Latinx	3 (3%)	3 (4%)



According to 2020 ACC PIT data, Black/African American adults experiencing homelessness access Emergency Shelter at higher rates than White adults. In 2020, Black/African American individuals made up 43% of the emergency shelter population and 33% of the unsheltered population while White individuals made up 52% of the sheltered population and 63% of the unsheltered population. This trend is consistent with national data on sheltered vs. unsheltered homelessness.

Comparison of Black/African American & White Individuals (Sheltered & Unsheltered)				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
White	82 (45%)	67 (52%)	105 (65%)	87 (57%)
Black/African American	93 (51%)	50 (39%)	52 (32%)	59 (39%)

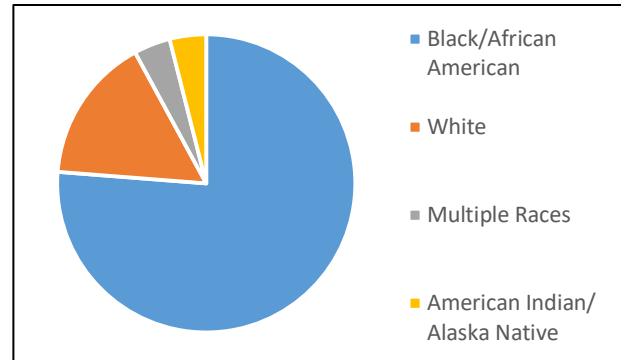


The above data shows that there are more White individuals experiencing homelessness than Black/African American individuals, but there is still a disparity for black/African Americans based on ACC total population. Between the 2017 and 2020 PIT Counts, the number of White individuals experiencing homelessness has increased and the number of Black/African American individuals experiencing homelessness has decreased.

## Families Experiencing Homelessness

HOUSEHOLDS WITH ADULTS & CHILDREN

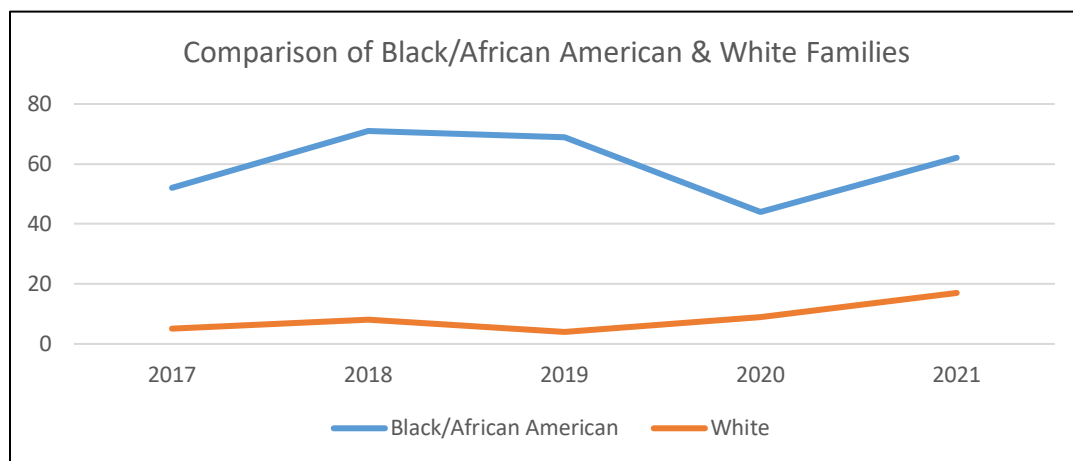
2020 Sheltered Point-in-Time Data	
<b>Race</b>	
White	9 (16%)
Black/African American	44 (77%)
American Indian/Alaska Native	2 (3.5%)
Multiple Races	2 (3.5%)
<b>Ethnicity</b>	
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx	55 (96%)
Hispanic/Latinx	2 (4%)



**The Athens-Clarke County PIT Count has recorded zero unsheltered families over the past five years.**

According to First Focus Campaign for Children, most children and families experiencing homelessness do not stay in shelters or other official venues. HUD’s point-in-time count often misses most families and children experiencing homelessness because the count only includes people physically counted on streets or in shelters. Children and family homelessness is often considered “invisible” because they mostly stay in motels or temporarily with others due to lack of alternatives.

Comparison of Black/African American vs. White Families (Sheltered)					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
White	5 (9%)	8 (10%)	4 (5%)	9 (16%)	17 (21%)
Black/African American	52 (91%)	71 (84%)	69 (91%)	44 (77%)	62 (76%)



Data on family homelessness shows a large disparity between White and Black/African American families. Between 2017 and 2021 the number of Black/African American families experiencing homelessness was as high as 91%. While this percentage has remained high over the past five years, PIT data does show a downward trend over the past couple of years. In 2021 Black/African American families made up 76% of the families experiencing homelessness, compared to 21% White families. It is important to note that there was a significant increase in the number of families recorded in the 2021 PIT Count; this is due to an increase in emergency shelter beds for families during the coronavirus pandemic.

## Coordinated Entry

DATA FROM 10/1/2019 – 9/30/2020

Coordinated Entry Enrollment Demographics		
Race	Number	Percentage
White	70	29%
Black/African American	169	69%
Multiple Races	2	0.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	0.4%
Asian	1	0.4%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1	0.4%
Ethnicity		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx	243	0.8%
Hispanic/Latinx	2	99%

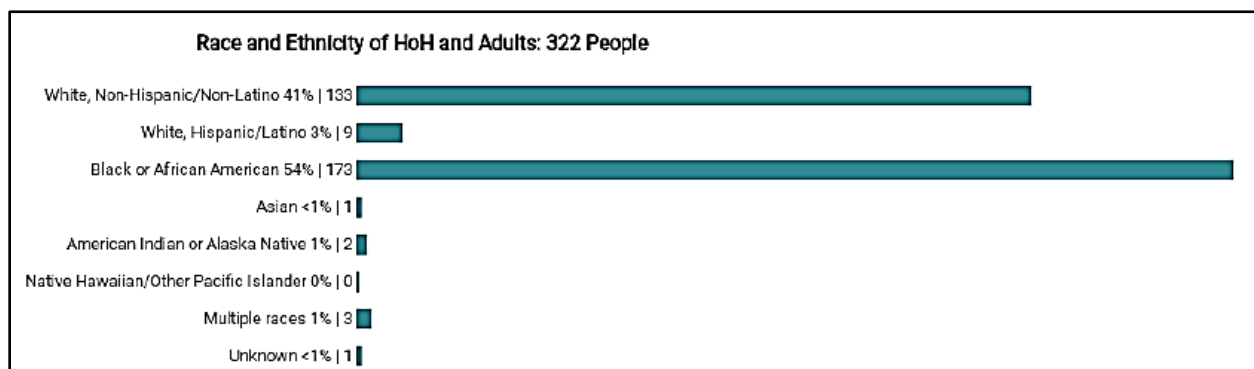
Athens-Clarke County agencies that participate in the HMIS Coordinated Entry system include Athens Area Homeless Shelter, Advantage Behavioral Health Systems, Live Forward (AIDS Athens), and The Salvation Army. The Coordinated Entry data above shows that 69% of enrollments are Black/African American while 29% are White. The percentage of Black/African American households represented on the coordinated entry list may be higher than that in the total homeless population due to an increased likelihood to access emergency shelter and the large percentage of Black/African American homeless families. Other minority groups including American Indian/Alaskan Native, Hispanic/Latinx, and Multiple Races are underrepresented in the Coordinated Entry system as compared to the total homeless population.

## Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA)

DATA FROM LSA REPORT: 10/1/2019 – 9/30/2020

The Longitudinal System Analysis is a report that is produced from a CoC's Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) and submitted to HUD annually. This report provides information about how people experiencing homelessness use local resources and their system of care. LSA data contains community-level information on people and households served by CoC projects such as demographics, length of time homeless, and patterns of system use. (HUD Exchange)

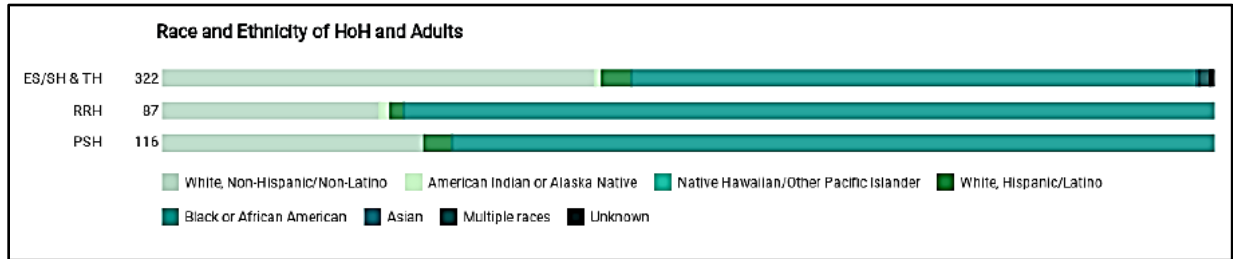
### LSA Demographics



\*Head of Household (HoH)

LSA data supports that there is a disparity for Black/African American individuals as this population makes up 54% of the homeless population served in HMIS while the total ACC population is 28% Black/African American. A comparison to PIT data shows that individuals experiencing homelessness who are American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic/Latinx, or Multiple Races may be less likely to access agencies utilizing HMIS.

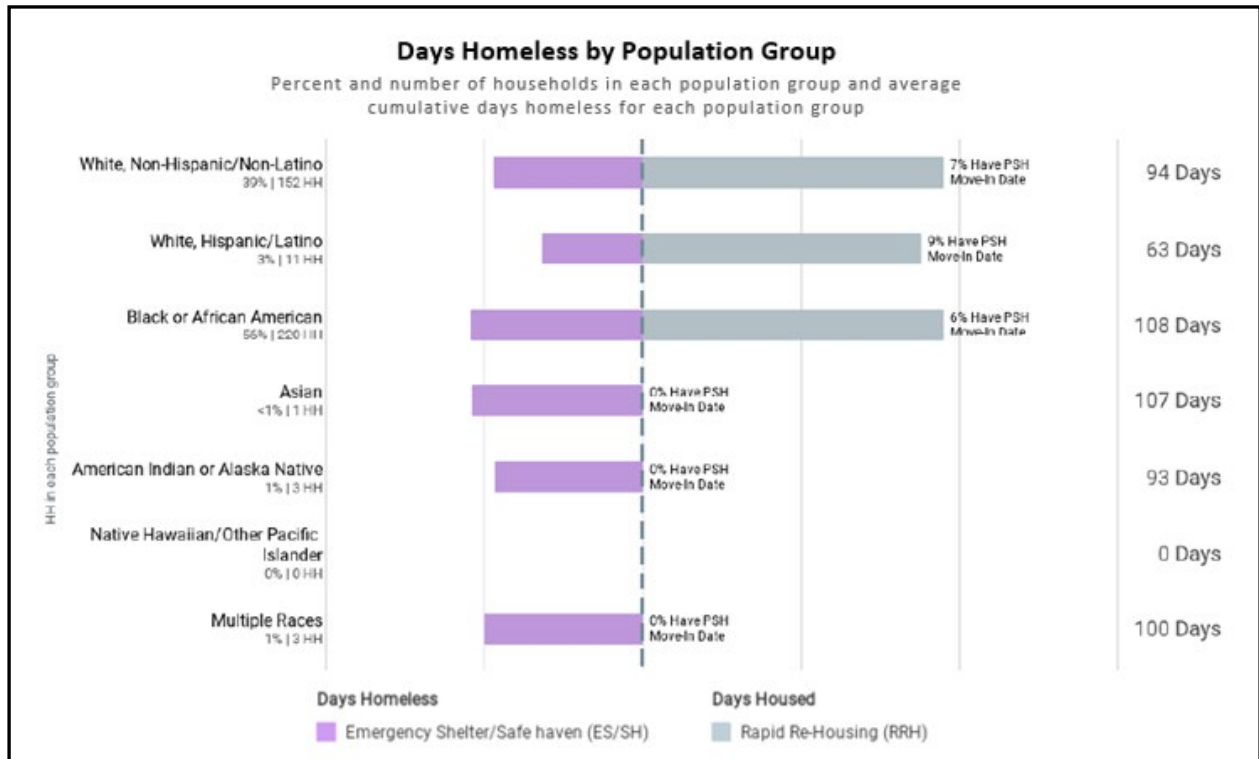
### Demographic Comparison by Project Type



Comparing demographics by project type shows that Black/African American households make up the majority of participants in Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing projects. These projects served a total of 87 households and 116 households respectively. Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing projects serve the largest number of participants, a total 322 households, with White and Black Households making up comparable percentages.

### Length of time Homeless

Average Cumulative Days homeless: 101 Days

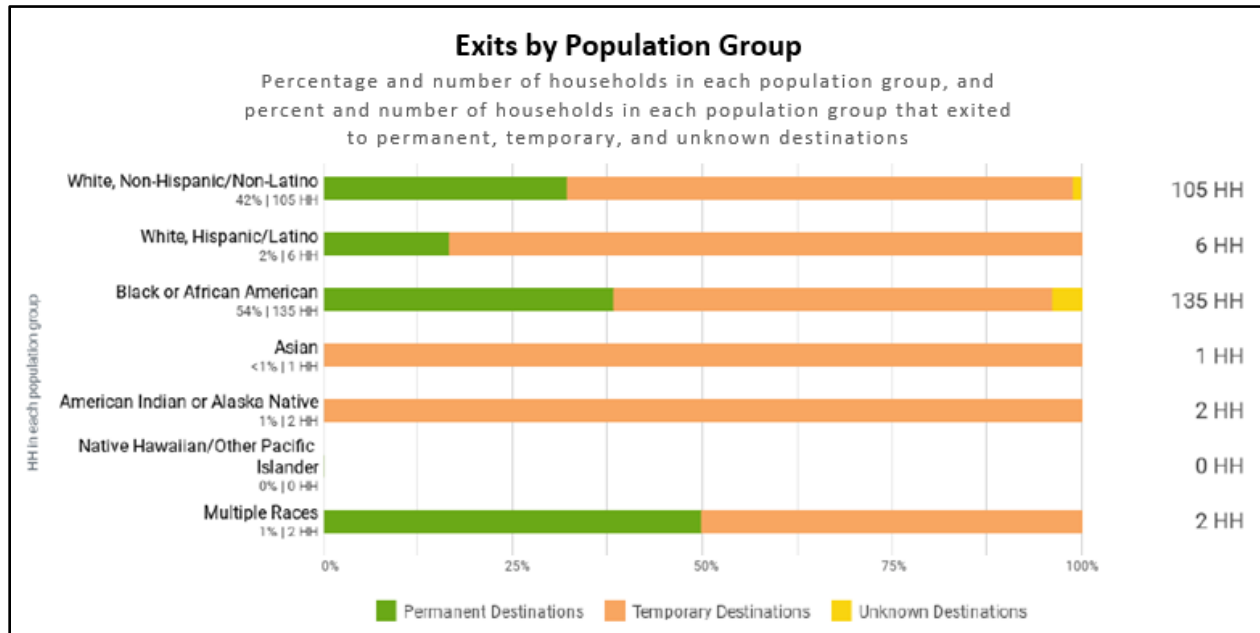




Black/African American households, which account for 56% of the households served (220 households), experience the longest length of time homeless at 108 days. Disparities also exist for Hispanic/Latinx individuals; the graph above shows that this population has the shortest stays in Emergency Shelter and fewest days housed through Rapid Rehousing.

## Exits from Homeless System

Cumulative exits – 35%



The graph above shows that there are key differences in exits from the homeless system by race/ethnicity. Hispanic/Latinx households exit to temporary destinations at a higher frequency than comparable population groups. Additionally Black/African American households are most likely to exit to an unknown destination.

## Next Steps

The Athens-Clarke County CoC is dedicated to racial equity in homeless services and taking necessary steps to alleviate existing disparities. The ACC Homeless Coalition will continue efforts to increase membership and involvement from underrepresented groups including proactive outreach to individuals with lived experience, engaging racial minority and LGBTQ+ community based organizations, and coordinating with the ACCGov inclusion office.

The CoC Collaborative Applicant, the Housing and Community Development Department, is in the process of hiring a fulltime Homeless Specialist. This position will allow for greater planning and coordination of homeless services including a continued focus on data driven decision-making and racial equity in the homeless response system. The CoC plans to expand data collection efforts over the next year to include street outreach, homeless prevention, and Clarke-County School District McKinney Vento data to gain a greater understanding of ACC homelessness and racial disparities in the homeless

response system. Additionally, the 2022 HUD Data Standards, which updates race, ethnicity, and gender categories, will allow for more inclusive and accurate data collection.

In collaboration with the Homeless Coalition, the Housing and Community Development Department will create a comprehensive anti-discrimination policy, review current policy and procedures with a racial equity lens, and complete a community wide gaps analysis. The Athens-Clarke County Government has also approved creation of a multi-year strategic plan on homelessness with assistance from an outside consultant.

## 2021 Racial Disparities Assessment

### References

- Athens-Clarke County Homeless Coalition  
<https://endathenshomelessness.com/>
- Athens-Clarke County Inclusion Office  
<https://www.accgov.com/7679/Inclusion-Office>
- Coordinated Entry - HMIS (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020)
- First Focus Campaign for Children  
<https://campaignforchildren.org/news/press-release/new-hud-homeless-data-grossly-undercounts-children-and-youth/>
- FY21 CoC Program NOFO  
<file:///C:/Users/internh/Downloads/FY21%20Continuum%20of%20Care%20Competition.pdf>
- HUD Exchange  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/lsa/>
- Longitudinal Systems Analysis (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020)
- Point-in-Time Count (2017-2021)
- US Census Bureau - 2019 American Community Survey
- US Census Bureau (2020)