Homelessness in the Black Community

Home for the holidays, except when you have no place to call home.
Homelessness- The Big Picture

“Most minority groups in the United States experience homelessness at higher rates than Whites.”

National Alliance to End Homelessness
Public Policies Contribute to Higher Percentages of Black Homelessness
Impact on the Black Community
POVERTY AND LACK OF EDUCATION FORM A VICIOUS CYCLE

Source: St. John’s Lutheran Church
Black Homelessness (by the numbers)

• 40% of homeless population, 13% of the general population*
• 6.5% of CA residents are Black, but represent approximately 40% of CA homeless population. #
• In Monterey County, CA, the percent of Blacks that are homeless is seven times higher than the County’s black population (3.5 % residents in County vs 25% of the county’s homeless population). +

* National Alliance to End Homelessness
# U.S. Census Bureau
+ Cal Matters
Today’s Presentations and Speakers

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Derek R. Hull, Chair
https://blackcommunity.planning.org/
https://www.facebook.com/apablackcommunitydivision
https://twitter.com/ApaPbcd
Home for the Holidays…

Except when you have no Place to call Home

Alison Korte
Associate Director, Capacity Building & Training

Friday, December 20, 2019
About LAHSA

• Lead agency in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care, which is the regional planning body that coordinates housing and services for homeless families and individuals in Los Angeles County.

• LAHSA coordinates and manages over $300 million annually in federal, state, county, and city funds for programs that provide shelter, housing, and services to people experiencing homelessness.

• LA County Coordinated Entry System Administrator
Impact of Homelessness in the Black Community

Demographic summary

Homeless Population vs. General Population, by Race & Ethnicity, Los Angeles Continuum of Care, 2017

- **2019**
  - **Black**: 40%
  - **Hispanic/Latinx**: 35%
  - **White**: 20%
  - **Asian**: 15%
  - **American Indian and Alaska Native**: 1%

**KEY FACTS:**

- Black people in LA continue to be 4 times more likely to experience homelessness.
- Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness – continued implementation of 67 recommendations.
- 200 new interim housing beds for women.
- Ad Hoc Committee on Women and Homelessness – continued implementation of 53 recommendations.

**Race/Ethnicity:**

- **Black/African-American**: 40%
- **Hispanic/Latinx**: 35%
- **White**: 26%
- **Asian**: 15%
- **American Indian/Alaskan Native**: 1%
- **Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander**: 1%
- **Multi-Racial / Other**: 2%

**2017 & 2018 Growth**

- **Homeless Population**
  - 2017: 18,334 (35%)
  - 2018: 17,540 (35%)
- **General Population**
  - 2017: 10,814 (20%)
  - 2018: 12,538 (25%)
- **Black / African-American**
  - 2017: 20,660 (40%)
  - 2018: 17,825 (36%)
- **Asian**
  - 2017: 537 (1%) & 2018: 545 (1%)
- **American Indian/Alaskan Native**
  - 2017: 707 (1%) & 2018: 865 (1%)
- **Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander**
  - 2017: 143 (0.3%) & 2018: 221 (0.5%)
- **Multi-Racial / Other**
  - 2017: 1,146 (2%) & 2018: 721 (1%)
According to analysis conducted by the Center for Social Innovation regarding American homelessness, “although Black people comprise 13% of the general population in the United States and 26% of those living in poverty, they account for more than 40% of the homeless population, suggesting that poverty rates alone do not explain the overrepresentation.”

Indeed, the circumstances that lead Black people to disproportionately experience homelessness cannot be untangled from the impact of institutional and structural racism in education, criminal justice, housing, employment, health care, and access to opportunities. Institutional and structural racism impact Black people experiencing homelessness on a daily, life-long basis, from renting an apartment, to seeking employment, to the trauma of living in an anti-Black society.

Fifty years ago, in 1968, the Fair Housing Act legally outlawed landlords and real estate companies, municipalities, and banks from denying people housing based on their race in response to rampant redlining and exclusionary zoning. However, according to a recent report by the National Fair Housing Alliance, the federal government has overwhelmingly failed to enforce the law, and in turn, racial discrimination in housing continues to be a pervasive problem across the country. A recent analysis of Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data gave evidence that Black people continue to face housing discrimination despite policy efforts to prevent discriminatory lending practices. The analysis found that Black borrowers were charged higher fees and interest rates than White borrowers, making credit less affordable to Black borrowers. Further, mortgage loan denial rates showed that Black applicants were denied far more often than White applicants in some of the country’s largest cities.

As a result of the vestiges of redlining and exclusionary zoning, Los Angeles County ranks as one of the most segregated metropolitan areas in the United States. According to Richard Rothstein, author of *The Color of Law*: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America, data show that more than half (60%) of Black people in Los Angeles live in neighborhoods where few White people are present.

Segregation is associated with lower homeownership, lower wealth accumulation, and higher rents. Over the past two decades, Black homeownership has declined at nearly five times the rate of White homeownership, according to a study by the Urban Institute. The same study found that, while homeownership rates have increased for every other group over the past 50 years, Black homeownership has fallen to levels similar to those before the passage of the Fair Housing Act. Another nationwide study focused on renters found that while neighborhoods with concentrated minority populations have a median income that is 28% below the metro-wide median, their rent is only 12% below the metro-wide median, suggesting that people who live in segregated neighborhoods are more likely to have higher housing cost burdens. In Los Angeles specifically, a 2016 report found that White households have a median net worth of $355,000 compared to just $3,500 for Black households. As discussed further in the subsequent section of this report (focusing on cost of living and employment-related challenges), these economic impacts of discrimination and segregation contribute to increased risk of homelessness for Black people, further compounding the disparity.

Racial discrimination has also persisted locally, according to a recent Resident Fair Housing survey conducted by the City of Los Angeles and the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) from late 2016 to early 2017. Twenty-eight percent of survey respondents reported being discriminated against based on race/ethnicity, of these, approximately half were Black. According to the Los Angeles Housing Rights Center, who presented to the Committee in September 2018, racial bias (particularly against Black men and boys), lack of tenant protections, lack of access to subsidized housing, and the use of criminal records in tenant screening practices cause or maintain segregation.
Impacts

“We need to stop these systems that are forcing us to lie. Have you ever had to lie on an application or the social worker told you to lie unless you won't get this program? How do you think we feel after we lie and walk away? You are talking about lowering our self-esteem; it effects our spiritual life. I am already in a bad place, and I have to lie on top of it. Sleeping on someone's couch, and I have to lie and say I am sleeping on the street. It doesn’t make sense.”

BLACK WOMAN
South Los Angeles listening session participant

29% of people experiencing homelessness report a serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder

29%

71%

KEY FACTS:
- Intensive case management services provided to over 900 people with severe mental illness
- Expanded interdisciplinary outreach through Department of Mental Health
- 5 new Mental Health Urgent Care and Sobering Centers on Skid Row

However, economic factors are driving increases in homelessness

Wages have not kept pace with rental cost

An LA renter earning minimum wage ($13.25/hr) would need to work 79 hours per week to afford rent on a 1-bedroom apartment*

721,000 LA County households are severely rent-burdened**

1/3 of LA households spend more than 50% of their household income on rent

LA needs 516,946 new affordable housing units

To meet the needs of low-income renters***

Criminalization of Homelessness, Incarceration, and Re-entry

“I had a gentleman that went to our church who was arrested 13 times in one year. We are in Skid Row. Every time he got arrested, he would lose his place for housing.” —Black Man, Pastor at South Central listening session

“I think we need to take into consideration the criminalization and incarceration rates in the communities. Not only does it remove an adult from the family, it also removes an income, and creates other barriers. I think it is worth mentioning the criminalization and our justice system.” —Woman at Venice/Santa Monica listening session

It is nearly impossible to house Black people with related histories. —Black Woman, Santa Monica

The affordable housing crisis is driving a regional increase in homelessness

- Rising homelessness is a statewide challenge
- The simple average increase among reporting areas statewide is +27%
- LA is the least affordable housing market in the United States**
## Strategies and Current Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>H.R.4302</td>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>Rep. Brad Sherman (CA-30)</td>
<td>Homeless Assistance Act of 2019</td>
<td>Authorizes public housing agencies to share data regarding individuals experiencing homelessness with the lead entity in a Continuum of Care.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>AB 1482</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Asm. David Chiu (AD-17)</td>
<td>Statewide Rent Cap</td>
<td>Establishes a statewide cap on annual rent increases of 5% + CPI for apartments and other rental units built at least 15 years ago.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>AB 53</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Asm. Reggie Jones-Sawyer (AD-59)</td>
<td>Ban the Box for Rental Applications</td>
<td>Prohibits landlords from inquiring about an applicant's criminal background record during the initial application phase for rental housing.</td>
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</table>
Strategies and Current Activities

• Align planning efforts so that Black people can stay in their communities and are not displaced by prosperity and gentrification – rental protections
• Advocate for the return of first-time homebuyer incentive programs
• 67 recommendations, 7 types
  • Overarching
  • Cross System Collaboration
  • Data and research
  • Policy and Advocacy
  • Programs and services
  • Funding
  • Overarching

Appendix V: Racial Equity Toolkit

The Racial Equity Toolkit used to guide the Committee’s work was created in 2008 by the Seattle Office for Civil Rights’ Race and Social Justice Team. The purpose of the Toolkit is to “center race” with the goal of eliminating racial disparities and advancing racial equity. The Racial Equity Toolkit is a process and set of guiding questions the Committee implemented to inform and assess how the homeless service delivery system’s policies, programs, and budgetary decisions benefited and/or burdened Black people experiencing homelessness. More information can be found here: www.seattle.gov/civilrights/programs/race-and-social-justice-initiative/racial-equity-toolkit.

The Toolkit process as applied by the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness, is outlined in detail below.

STEP ONE: SETTING RACIAL EQUITY OUTCOMES
Set key community outcome for racial equity analysis. The committee chose to conduct a racial equity analysis to better understand the racial inequities impacting Black people experiencing homelessness, and the unique barriers Black people may face when trying to exit homelessness by accessing services and affordable housing. The committee chose the following outcome to guide its work: Eliminate racial disparities impacting Black people experiencing homelessness by ensuring racial equity within the homeless crisis response system.
Everyone counts. No matter where they live.

https://www.theycountwillyou.org/

Volunteer For Your Local Homeless Count
The Impact of Homelessness in the Black Community

JAMES GILLEYLEN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, J-QUAD PLANNING GROUP  WWW.JQUAD.COM
Who We Are

Planning and Development
- Urban Planning & Design
- Commercial Corridor Planning
- Neighborhood Planning
- Revitalization Planning
- Disaster Recovery Planning
- Community Engagement
- Housing Market Analysis
- Housing Needs Assessments and Forecasting
- Economic Assessments and Forecasting
- Demographic Analysis
- HUD Entitlement Grant Management

Grant Management
- Consolidated Plans
- Assessment of Fair Housing
- Public Housing - Entitlement Program Deconcentration Plans
- Site and Neighborhood Standards Analysis
- CAPERS, IDIS, and Regulatory Reporting
- Program Design & Administration
- Davis Bacon Compliance
- Federal Manpower Validation
- Fair Housing Consent Decree Compliance

Housing and Economic Development
- Economic Development Finance
- Housing Finance
- Downtown and Specialty Housing
- Program Design & Administration
- Davis Bacon Compliance
- Housing Development Feasibility Analysis
- CDFI Program Development
- Planning and Zoning Changes and Compliance

Featured Projects
- EAPDO Regional Plan
- Cleveland Buckeye Larchmere Shaker Square Woodland Hills Transformation Vision Plan
- Port Arthur Texas Disaster Recovery Plan
- Port Arthur Downtown Housing Plan
- RMAP Regional Housing Needs Assessment
- Huntsville Housing Authority Deconcentration Plan
- Shreveport LA Assessment of Fair Housing
- Mobile Alabama Consolidated Plan
- Shreveport Housing Needs Assessment
Client Listing
The following table provides an estimate of homeless individuals and families within several categories. These numbers are taken from the previous 2014 Point-in-time count. To date, Mobile County has not provided a separate count of homeless individuals or families in rural areas. Estimates for the number of homeless persons each year, becoming homeless each year, number exiting homeless each year, and duration of homelessness have not been developed, as yet.

### Homeless Needs Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Estimate the # of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night</th>
<th>Estimate the # experiencing homelessness each year</th>
<th>Estimate the # becoming homeless each year</th>
<th>Estimate the # exiting homelessness each year</th>
<th>Estimate the # of days persons experience homelessness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons in Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)</td>
<td>Sheltered 12</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Persons in Households with Children</td>
<td>Unsheltered 0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons in Households with Only Adults</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chronically Homeless Individuals</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chronically Homeless Families</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>Veterans</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>38</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied Child</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons with HIV</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 26 - Homeless Needs Assessment

Data Source Comments: 2014 Point-in-time Count Mobile City and County and Baldwin County CoC
Lessons Learned
10- Year Plan to Eliminate Homelessness

§ People are homeless for a variety of reasons

§ Public Policies at the federal, state and local levels have aided in exacerbating Black homelessness

§ Eradicating homelessness requires multiple strategies

§ Homelessness is not “just an urban issue”

§ Resources beyond the federal level are required to combat homelessness

§ Homeless counts are important to document persons and conditions/ Conduct interviews
Recommendations/Strategies

§ Multiple strategies are required - Comprehensive approach best serves homeless populations (Mental Health, Education, Job Resources, General Health Care, Housing/Shelter, Interviews and Follow Up)

§ Triage is important during intake to determine what services are needed

§ Consider including public safety personnel (Police, Fire, and Health Care) for Point in Time Count; Seek volunteers including family members to assist with count

§ Case management alone does not work. Access to a network of service providers is a better approach. Be sure not to duplicate services

§ Resources must be spread across regions (No time for NIMBYism) and not just in communities of color

§ Homelessness is “localized”. There must be a commitment at the local level to address the issue