

MA-503 RACIAL EQUITY ANALYSIS – 11/18/2021

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I. INTRODUCTION

In August of 2021, the MA-503 Cape Cod and Islands Continuum of Care (CoC) conducted an analysis of local data to determine if racial equity exists in the representation of marginalized groups in the homeless population, the manner in which such groups access and utilize homeless services in the region, and the outcomes of interactions between such groups and the system of homeless services.

Four datasets have been used in the analysis:

- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS): full client project enrollment information for the period 7/1/2020 through 6/30/2021
- MA Executive Office of Health and Humans Services (EOHHS) Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Homelessness Grant FY2021 Summary Report – 7/1/2020 through 6/30/2021
- MA-503 Coordinated Entry System – 7/1/2020 through 6/30/2021
- 2021 Point in Time (PIT) Count, conducted on January 26, 2021

II. HOMELESS DEFINITIONS

Homeless - Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning: (1) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; (2) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including motels paid for by charitable organizations or government programs); or (3) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

At Risk of Homelessness - Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that: (1) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; (2) No subsequent residence has been identified; and (3) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.

Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes - Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who: (1) Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes; (2) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application; (3) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; and (4) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers.

Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV - Any individual or family who: (1) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence; (2) Has no other residence; and (3) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.¹

Chronically Homeless - An individual with a disability who: (1) Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter; and (2) Has been homeless continuously for at least 12 months, or who has been homeless on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, and the combined occasions equal at least 12 months.²

III. REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

MA-503 consists of three counties: Barnstable County (Cape Cod), Dukes County (Martha’s Vineyard), and Nantucket County (Nantucket). As of July 1, 2019,³ the combined year-round population of the region was 241,721.⁴ Demographics of the region, particularly in race and ethnicity, differ dramatically from the United States as a whole:⁵

RACE	CoC	US
White alone	92%	76%
Black or African American alone	4%	13%
Asian alone	2%	6%
Two or More Races	2%	3%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	<1%	<1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	<1%	<1%

ETHNICITY	CoC Region	US
Hispanic/Latino	4%	18%
Non-Hispanic/Latino	96%	82%

During the 12-month period covered by this analysis, 1,580 unduplicated individuals were enrolled in 50 projects in HMIS. Demographics of the Cape and Islands region likewise vary considerably from demographics of the persons whose data are contained in HMIS. It is interesting to note that the demographic make-up of the HMIS participant population more nearly resembles US demographics in racial composition in the categories of White alone and Black or African American alone:

¹ https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf

² <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2017-title24-vol3/xml/CFR-2017-title24-vol3-part578.xml#seqnum578.3>

³ Although results of the 2020 Census have recently been released, the last six months of this analysis occurred in 2021. Therefore, the most up-to-date census information from 2019 has been used for demographic analysis and comparisons.

⁴ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/barnstablecountymassachusetts/PST045219>

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/dukescountymassachusetts/PST045219>

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/nantucketcountymassachusetts>

⁵ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045219>

RACE	CoC Region	HMIS ⁶
White alone	92%	78%
Black or African American alone	4%	13%
Asian alone	2%	<1%
More than one race	2%	3%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	<1%	2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	<1%	<1%

Ethnic composition of HMIS participants is more closely aligned with the ethnic makeup of the CoC region:

ETHNICITY	CoC Region	HMIS ⁷
Hispanic/Latino	4%	5%
Non-Hispanic/Latino	96%	92%

Comparisons of race and ethnicity of all three population sets (US, CoC Region, HMIS) are illustrated in the charts below. (NOTE: For purposes of brevity, the following terms and abbreviations will be used throughout this analysis):

Black – Black or African American alone

White – White alone

Asian – Asian alone

More than 1 – More than one race

AmInd – American Indian and Alaska Native alone

NatHI – Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone

Hispanic – Hispanic/Latino

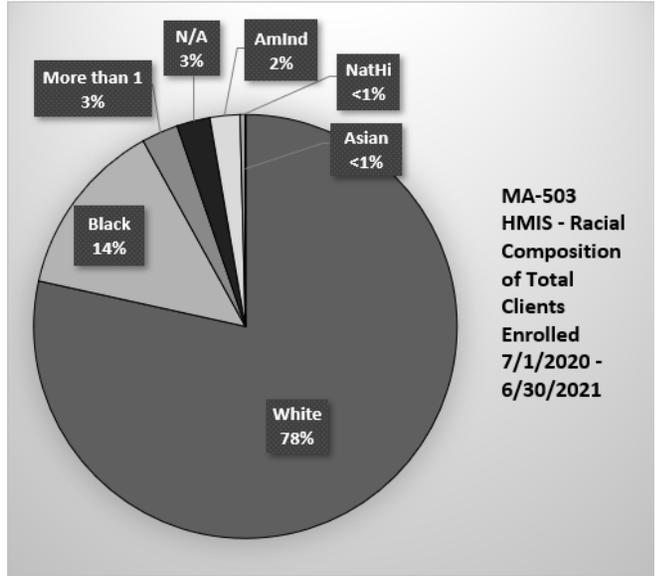
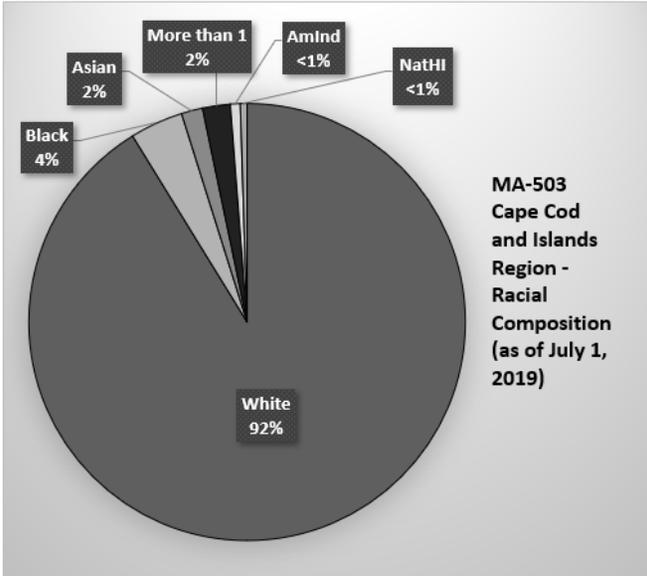
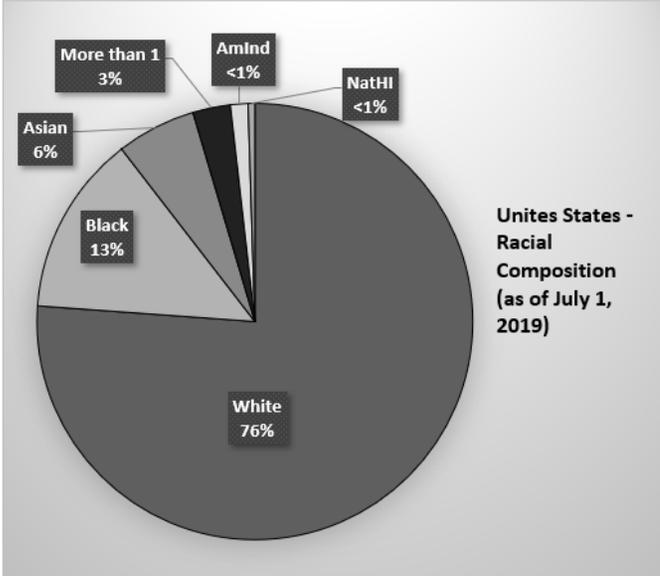
Non-Hispanic – Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino

⁶ NOTE: Approximately 3% of persons in the HMIS dataset were missing information regarding race. They have been removed from this racial comparison.

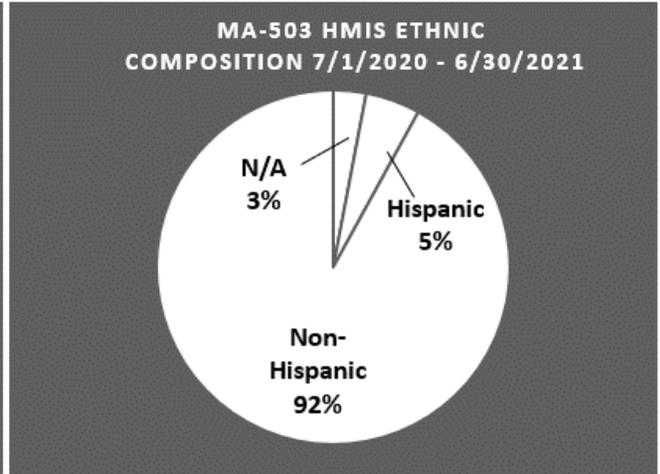
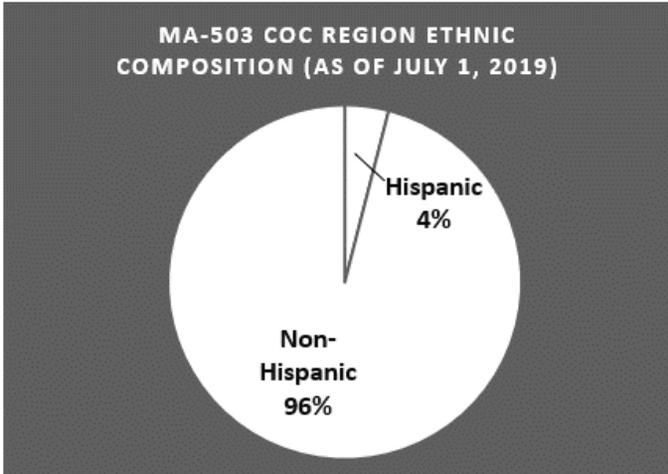
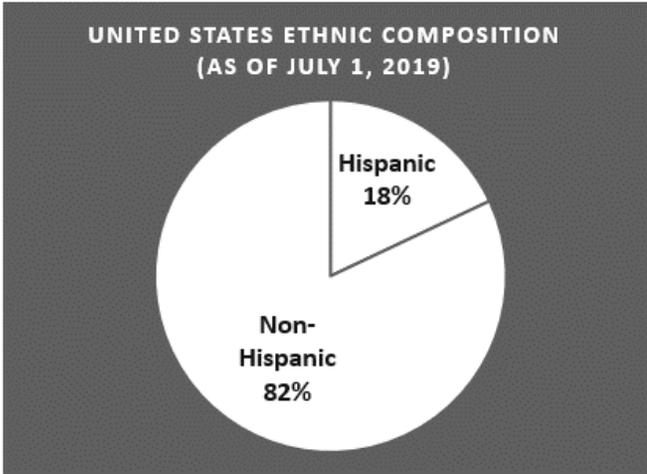
⁷ NOTE: Approximately 3% of persons in the HMIS dataset were missing information regarding ethnicity. They have been removed from this ethnic comparison.

MA-503 CAPE COD AND ISLANDS CONTINUUM OF CARE

RACIAL COMPOSITION COMPARISON: UNITED STATES / MA-503 CAPE COD AND ISLANDS CoC REGION / MA-503 HMIS



ETHNIC COMPOSITION COMPARISON: UNITED STATES / MA-503 CAPE COD AND ISLANDS CoC REGION / MA-503 HMIS



Despite the relatively lower rate of persons living in poverty in the CoC region (7%, N=16,777), compared to the rates for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (9%)⁸ and the US (11%)⁹, the Cape and Islands are not immune from the impact that limited employment opportunities, lack of available housing, mental illness, substance use, and a host of other social issues have on homelessness and the risk of becoming homeless.

The focus of this study is primarily concerned with comparisons between the White and Black homeless populations for two reasons. The small numbers of other persons of color both in the region and in HMIS obviate meaningful analysis. Additionally, project enrollments and service outcomes for Hispanic/Latino persons in HMIS generally correlate with their regional population percentage. The same is not true for homeless and at-risk Black persons, thus the emphasis on the two predominant racial groups in the region.

IV. ANALYSIS OF HMIS DATA

a. ALL ENROLLED CLIENTS

As mentioned above, during the 12-month analysis period, 1,580 unduplicated individuals were enrolled in HMIS in fifty projects, for a total of 1,927 total project enrollments.¹⁰ Racial composition of TOTAL UNDUPLICATED PERSONS, TOTAL ADULTS 18 +, and TOTAL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS 18-24 (YYA)¹¹ are illustrated in the chart below.

	TOTAL UNDUPLICATED PERSONS (N = 1,508)		TOTAL UNDUPLICATED ADULTS 18 + (N = 1,307)		TOTAL YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS 18-24 (N = 64)	
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total
RACE						
White	1,235	78%	1,077	82%	47	73%
Black	213	13%	151	12%	11	17%
More than 1	44	3%	20	2%	0	0%
N/A	40	3%	25	2%	3	5%
Amlnd	36	2%	23	2%	3	5%
NatHI	8	<1	7	<1%	0	0%
Asian	4	<1	4	<1%	0	0%
ETHNICITY						
Non-Hispanic	1,444	92%	1,211	93%	58	91%
Hispanic	83	5%	57	4%	4	6%
N/A	53	3%	39	3%	2	3%

⁸ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/MA>

⁹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045219>

¹⁰ Project enrollment refers to the entry by clients into service programs and/or housing programs. Each separate enrollment has a project start date and a project end date. Individuals may be enrolled in more than one project at a time (for example, Emergency Shelter and Homelessness Prevention). Individuals may also be enrolled in more than one project over the course of the report period (for example, from Emergency Shelter to Transitional Housing to Permanent Supportive Housing). A client enrollment is counted if the client was enrolled in the project for any part of the reporting period, regardless of project entry date or project exit date.

¹¹ Youth and Young Adults refers to persons aged 18-24 who are Heads of Household and not dependent children.

MA-503 CAPE COD AND ISLANDS CONTINUUM OF CARE

Most project category names are self-explanatory and limit the project to one specific activity. However, to enable a more streamlined presentation, several project categories have been combined into one - Prevention/Diversion/Stabilization. This category encompasses programs that offer: (1) financial assistance, counseling, and other services to prevent families and individuals from being evicted, losing their homes, or becoming homeless; (2) financial assistance to immediately address the needs of individuals who have just lost their housing; and (3) financial assistance and services to help tenants retain their housing and to continue to support them as needed. Numbers of project enrollment types¹² by race are indicated in the chart below.

TOTAL ENROLLMENTS BY RACE AND PROJECT TYPE	EMERGENCY SHELTER - FAMILY		EMERGENCY SHELTER - INDIVIDUAL		PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING		PREVENTION/ DIVERSION/ STABILIZATION		RAPID RE-HOUSING		STREET OUTREACH		TRANSITIONAL HOUSING		TOTAL ALL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Amlnd	7	2%	7	2%	6	2%	15	3%	2	2%	0	0%	2	1%	39	2%
Asian	0	0%	3	1%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4	0%
Black	90	28%	50	14%	18	7%	70	16%	8	10%	26	10%	14	8%	276	15%
More than 1	20	6%	5	1%	1	0%	16	4%	0	0%	5	2%	2	1%	49	3%
Native HI	1	0%	3	1%	2	1%	1	0%	1	1%	2	1%	0	0%	10	1%
N/A	17	5%	4	1%	4	2%	20	5%	0	0%	3	1%	2	1%	50	3%
White	181	57%	296	80%	222	87%	317	72%	72	87%	224	86%	158	89%	1470	77%
	316		368		254		439		83		260		178		<u>1,898</u>	

Overall, Black and White participants were enrolled in project types at rates consistent with their percentages of the entire HMIS population. Of the 1,898 project enrollments used in this analysis, Black participants represented 15% (N=276) of total enrollments (as opposed to being 14% of total HMIS client population) and White participants represented 77% (N=1,470) of total enrollments (as opposed to being 78% of the total HMIS population). However, when broken out by project type¹³, rates of some enrollments by each of the Racial groups varied considerably from their percentage of the total HMIS population. The chart below illustrates the percentage of variance for each project type.

PROJECT TYPE	BLACK % of HMIS = 14%		WHITE % of HMIS = 78%	
	% OF ALL ENROLLMENTS	VARIANCE FROM % of HMIS	% OF ALL ENROLLMENTS	VARIANCE FROM % of HMIS
	ES - F	28%	14%	57%
ES - I	14%	0%	80%	2%
PSH	7%	-7%	87%	9%
PDS	16%	2%	72%	-6%
RRH	10%	-4%	87%	9%
SO	10%	-4%	86%	8%
TH	8%	-6%	89%	11%
OVERALL	15%		77%	

¹² EMPLOYMENT SEARCH and HOUSING SEARCH constituted only 30 enrollments (28 and 2 respectively) and accounted for less than 2% of the total. Those project types have been excluded from analysis.

¹³ ES-F = Emergency Shelter-Family, ES-I = Emergency Shelter-Individual, PSH = Permanent Supportive Housing, PDS = Prevention/Diversion/Stabilization, RRH = Rapid Re=Housing, SO = Street Outreach, TH = Transitional Housing.

The most noticeable example of this variance can be seen in the utilization of Emergency Family Shelter. Black participants accessed Family Shelter at a rate that is double their percentage of the total HMIS population (28% versus 14%, respectively), while conversely, Whites accessed Family Shelter at a rate that is approximately only ⅓ of their percentage of the total HMIS population (57% versus 78%). The rate of Black enrollments in Prevention/Diversion/Stabilization programs also exceeded the percentage of the HMIS population by 2%, while White Enrollments were 6% below the percentage of the HMIS population. In all other project enrollment types, White participant enrollments were disproportionately higher (ranging from 2% to 11%) than their percentage of the total HMIS population. With the exception of Individual Emergency Shelter, Black participant enrollments were disproportionately lower (ranging from 2% to 7% lower) than their percentage of the total HMIS population.

The variance in utilization rates of Family Emergency Shelter merits closer inspection.

While Emergency Shelter puts a roof over an individual's head, it is still considered homeless by HUD standards. The lop-sided rate at which Black participants access Family Shelter may perhaps reflect social conditions of the day: the higher rate of poverty in the Black population in America (as of 2019, 18.8% of Black persons live in poverty, as opposed to 7.3% of the White population¹⁴), the effects of COVID on housing instability¹⁵, a 70% out-of-wedlock birth rate among the Black population¹⁶ (with over 50% of these births to mothers aged 24 and under¹⁷), lack of affordable housing options in the region¹⁸, and a host of other factors.

Another significant contributor to the rate at which Black households access Family Shelter, as identified through HMIS data, is Domestic Violence.

Domestic Violence (also known as domestic abuse or intimate partner violence) can be defined as a pattern of abusive behavior by one or both partners in an intimate relationship, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, intimidation, stalking, passive/covert abuse, and economic deprivation.¹⁹

Approximately 63% of homeless women have experienced domestic violence in their adult lives. Black women are almost three times more likely to experience death as a result of Domestic Violence / Intimate Partner Violence as White women. And while Black women only make up 8% of the population of the US, they represent 29% of all victimized women and 22% of all Domestic Violence homicides. In fact, DV/IPV is one of the leading causes of death for Black women aged 15 to 35. Statistically speaking, the Black population experiences the highest rate of intra-racial violence of all racial groups.²⁰

¹⁴ <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2020/09/poverty-rates-for-blacks-and-hispanics-reached-historic-lows-in-2019.html>

¹⁵ <https://www.fitchratings.com/research/us-public-finance/covid-19-complicates-housing-affordability-defining-gaps-for-2021-24-06-2021>

¹⁶ <https://ifstudies.org/blog/trends-in-unmarried-childbearing-point-to-a-coming-apart>

¹⁷ https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr68/nvsr68_13-508.pdf

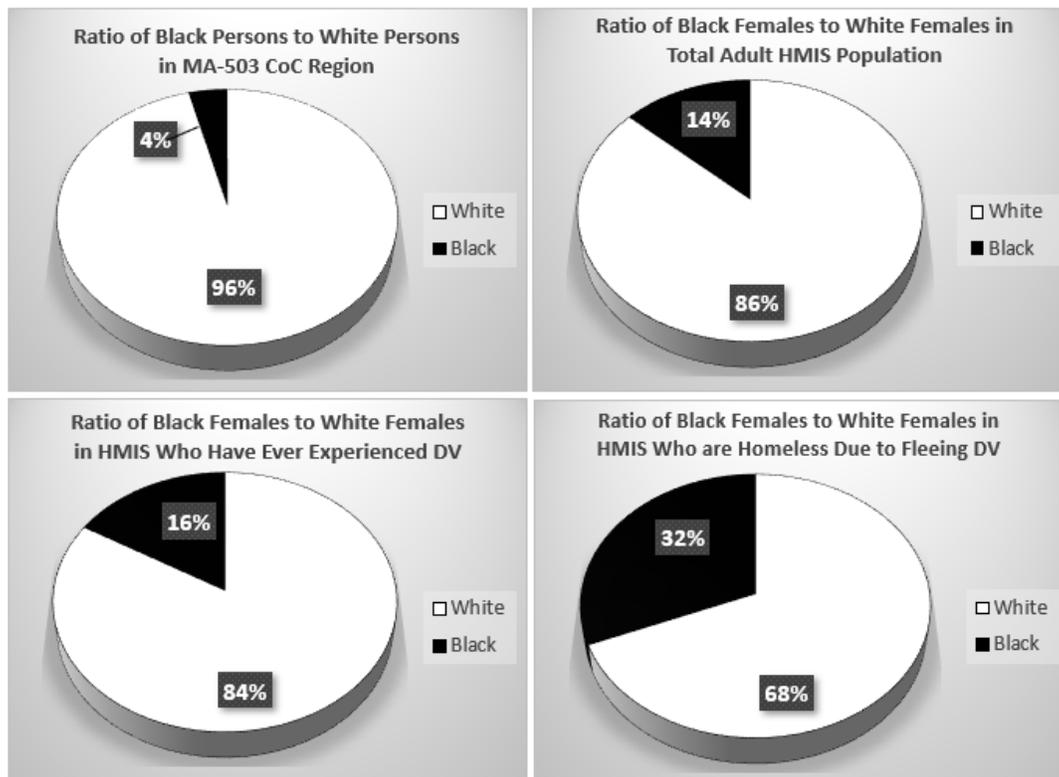
¹⁸ <https://www.barnstablepatriot.com/story/opinion/2021/05/12/real-reason-cape-housing-becoming-less-affordable/5052657001/>

¹⁹ <https://1800victims.org/crime-type/domestic-violence/>

²⁰ <https://time.com/3313343/ray-rice-black-women-domestic-violence/>

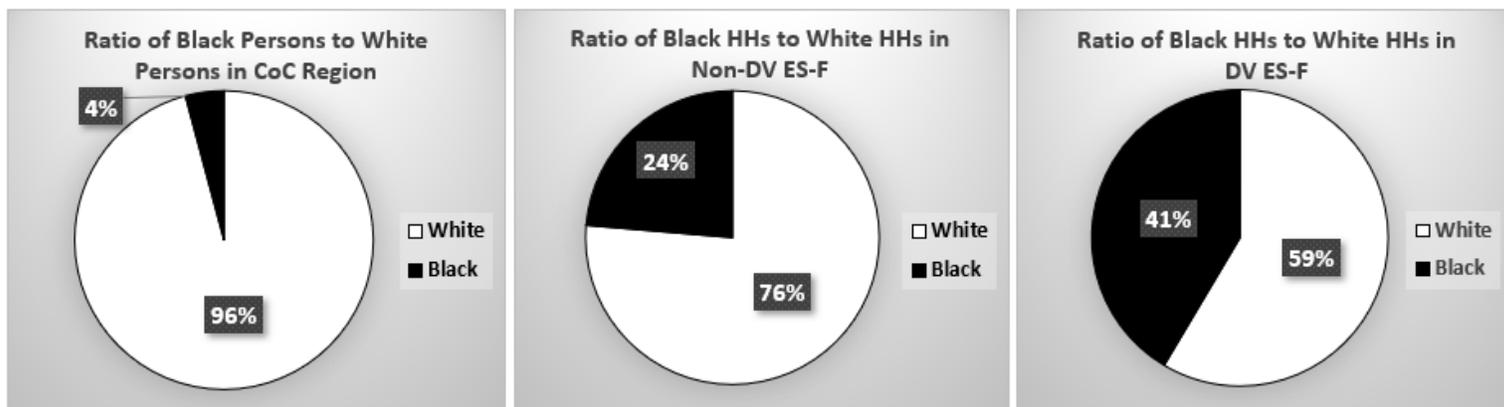
Data from the MA-503 HMIS document the disproportionate effects of Domestic Violence in the population of homeless Black adult females in the CoC region. Because Blacks and Whites comprise the two predominant racial groups in the CoC region, and because other racial groups represent very small percentages of the entire regional make-up, ratios²¹ have been utilized to provide a proportional comparison between Black adult females and White adult females only. From these comparisons, several observations can be made:

- The ratio of Black adult females to White adult females in the regional population is 4% to 96%.
- The total number of Black adult females and White adult females enrolled in all HMIS projects during the scope of this analysis is 587, which has been used as the divisor for all ratio calculations.
- Black adult females comprise a ratio of 14% of adult females enrolled in all projects in HMIS (N=80) compared to 86% for Whites adult females (N=507).
- Black adult females comprise a ratio of 16% of adult females in HMIS who have ever experienced domestic violence (N=40) compared to 84% of adult White females (N=204).
- Black adult females comprise a ratio of 32% of women in HMIS who are currently homeless due to fleeing domestic violence (N=24) compared to 68% for White adult females (N=52). *See chart below.*



²¹ Ratio refers to a comparison of numbers of Black persons to White persons, using a total of only those two populations as the divisor. Numbers of all other demographic groups have been subtracted and excluded from analysis and proportions have been adjusted accordingly.

HMIS enrollment data for DV Emergency Family Shelter²² and Non-DV Emergency Family Shelter further illustrate the disproportionate impact of Domestic Violence on Black households in the CoC region. Repeating the Black / White ratio methodology above, the ratio of Black households to White households in the region equals 4% to 96%. The total number of Black households and White households enrolled in Non-DV Emergency Family Shelter is 68. The ratio of Black households enrolled in Non-DV Emergency Family Shelter increases by sixfold to 24% (N=16) compared to 76% for White households(N=52). The total number of Black households and White households enrolled in DV Emergency Family Shelter is 41. The ratio of Black households in DV Emergency Shelter jumps to 41% (N=17) compared to 59% for White households(N=24), more than 10 times the ratio of the regional Black / White population. See chart below.



b. ALL ADULT ENROLLED CLIENTS

It is widely acknowledged that mental illness (MI),²³ substance abuse (SU),²⁴ and co-occurring (C-O), a combination of both MI and SU,²⁵ are highly prevalent within the homeless population. HMIS data collection relies on self-reporting by clients, who may or may not have a clinical diagnosis of mental illness but perceive themselves to be mentally ill. Further, HMIS data collection does not include a category for co-occurring, and so determinations of the presence of co-occurring MI and SU have been made by identifying overlaps in individual client responses (both “Yes” to Substance Use and “Yes” to Mental Illness). Analysis has been limited to the subset of adults only (aged 18 and older, regardless of relationship to head of household).

During the 12-month scope of this analysis, 1,307 adults aged 18 and older were enrolled in projects in HMIS. Of the total, 49% (N=636) reported having MI and 34% (N=446) reported SU. By comparing “Yes” responses to both categories, it was possible to identify a rate of 20% (N=259) for individuals with co-

²² While there are two DV family shelters in the CoC region, only one is covered by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and that project does not contribute data to either HMIS or a comparable database. DV shelter data used in this analysis comes from an MA Emergency Assistance (EA) family shelter with a target population of DV survivor households. This shelter is not covered by VAWA, and identifiable client data is entered into HMIS.

²³ <https://www.psychiatrictimes.com/view/never-ending-loop-homelessness-psychiatric-disorder-and-mortality>

²⁴ <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/opioid-abuse-and-homelessness/#:~:text=A%20survey%20by%20the%20United,by%2012%20percent%20of%20cities.>

²⁵ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30929588/>

occurring MI and SU. Rates of MI and SU line up closely with the percentage of the total adult HMIS population for both Race (Black and White only) and Ethnicity. Variances in these categories were calculated at plus or minus 2% or less. The most noticeable variances were in the rates of C-O among Black and White adult participants. The rate of C-O among White participants was 4% higher than their percentage of the total adult HMIS population, while the rate for Black participants was 4% lower than their percentage of the total adult HMIS population. *See chart below.*²⁶

RACE/ ETHNICITY	% OF TOTAL HMIS ADULTS	TOTAL # MI 636			TOTAL # SU 446			TOTAL # C-O 259		
		# OF MI BY RACE	% OF TOTAL MI	VARIANCE	# OF SU BY RACE	% OF TOTAL SU	VARIANCE	# OF C-O BY RACE	% OF TOTAL C-O	VARIANCE
Black	12%	69	11%	-1%	46	10%	-2%	22	8%	-4%
White	82%	526	83%	1%	374	84%	2%	223	86%	4%
Hispanic	4%	31	5%	1%	17	4%	0%	9	3%	-1%
Non-Hispanic	93%	592	93%	0%	420	94%	1%	246	95%	2%

Of all project types in HMIS, only one, Street Outreach (SO), contains information on participants that are verified to be unsheltered at the time of enrollment. Adult Street Outreach enrollments (N=260) make up 14% of total enrollments in HMIS. The **Project Type Enrollments by Race** chart on page 5 indicates that the rate of enrollments in SO by Black participants (10%, N=26) is 2% lower than their percentage of the total adult HMIS population. On the other hand, the rate of enrollment in SO by White participants (86%, N=224) is 4% higher than their percentage of the total adult HMIS population.

Tangentially related to enrollments in SO is the rate of Chronic Homelessness among the adult HMIS population. Over 10% of the adult HMIS population (N=164) are classified as Chronically Homeless. Of this number, Black participants represent 6% (N=10) and White participants represent 78% (N=128). Both rates are lower than the percentage of the total adult HMIS population (12% and 82%, respectively). For Black participants, the variance is -6%, and for White participants, the variance is -4%.

The total number of Veterans who access homeless services as documented in HMIS makes up 13% of the total adult population (N=167). The rate of Black veterans, 10% (N=16) falls 2% lower than their percentage of the total adult HMIS population, while the rate of White Veterans, 87% (N=146) is 5% higher than their percentage of this population. Hispanic Veterans comprise 4% (N=6), and Non-Hispanic Veterans represent 96% (N=161), both rates in line with their percentages of the total adult HMIS population.

One of the most important methods of determining the efficiency of any homeless services system is the tracking of project outcomes. In HMIS, outcomes are recorded through Project Exit Assessments. Complete Exit Assessments include a client’s Exit Destination, which does not record an actual geographic location but rather the type of living situation to which a client goes after leaving the project. For instance, a client may be enrolled in Emergency Shelter but exits the project to move into Transitional Housing, i.e., a project exit destination that is a change in living situation. On the other hand, clients may enter and exit a project without necessarily experiencing a change in living situation. For example, a client enrolled in Permanent Supportive Housing may also enroll in Stabilization Services

²⁶ Responses that were missing Race have been excluded from analysis.

for a short period of time. When the client exits the Stabilization project, he or she remains in Permanent Supportive Housing, and the exit destination is recorded as Permanent Supportive Housing, even though there is no change to the living situation.

Project Exits are recorded for all HMIS participants and enrollments, and therefore analysis has been conducted on the full HMIS client enrollment dataset. In the **Project Type Enrollments by Race** chart on page 5, the total number of project enrollments included in the analysis was 1,898 – 30 enrollments were excluded because of the small number in each category (Employment Search and Housing Search). In the analysis of Project Exits and Outcomes, the full number of enrollments (1,928) has been used as the divisor in the calculations of rate of exits to enrollments.

Over the 12-month period, 1,098 project exits were recorded in HMIS, a rate of 57% of total enrollments. However, 246 exits were missing **complete** Exit Assessments, thereby reducing the number of exit destinations to 852 where Race was also specified and 821 exits where Ethnicity was specified. In this analysis, exit Destination Types have been sorted into three Outcome types:

- Positive - Short, medium, or long-term stable housing
- Neutral – Medical facility or shelter (roof over one’s head but still considered literally homeless)
- Negative – Incarceration or unsheltered homelessness

In this analysis, Positive Outcomes represent successful client exits to stable housing options. These data provide concrete evidence that the homeless response system of the region is achieving the results for which it was designed. Both Neutral Outcomes represent living situations that are less than ideal but that nonetheless offer individuals and families temporary protection from the elements, medical care as needed, and services to improve their lives as they work toward more permanent housing solutions. They are considered neither Positive nor Negative. Negative Outcomes represent the least desirable exit destinations for clients leaving HMIS programs. Persons who return to unsheltered homelessness are still eligible to receive services through Street Outreach and to use Emergency Shelter when available. While homeless provider agencies in the region may not be able to work with individuals during periods of incarceration, resources exist to assist these individuals when they are released.

The following Exit Destinations (some of which are HMIS categories that have been condensed) fall within each Outcome type:

Positive

- Family
- Foster care
- Friends
- Halfway house
- Motel no voucher
- Owned by client, no subsidy
- Owned by client, with subsidy
- Permanent Housing
- Rental by client in a public housing unit
- Rental by client, no subsidy
- Rental by client, with subsidy
- Transitional Housing
- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)
- Other Stable Housing

Neutral

- Detox
- Emergency Shelter
- Long-term care
- Medical hospital
- Psychiatric hospital
- Safe Haven

Negative

- Jail / Prison
- Unsheltered

MA-503 CAPE COD AND ISLANDS CONTINUUM OF CARE

Analysis of project exit data shows that 72% of all Outcomes reported (N=612) were Positive, 14% (N=123) were Neutral, and 14% (N=117) were Negative. When compared to their percentage of total HMIS project enrollments, Black participants experienced disproportionately higher rates of Positive Outcomes (2% variance), disproportionately higher rates of Neutral Outcomes (9% variance), and disproportionately lower rates of Negative Outcomes (-5% variance). Conversely, White participants experienced disproportionately lower rates of Positive Outcomes (-2% variance), disproportionately lower rates of Neutral Outcomes (-9% variance), and disproportionately higher rates of Negative Outcomes (8% variance). *See chart below.*

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HMIS ENROLLMENTS BY RACE
15% 77%

OUTCOME TYPE	TOTAL OUTCOMES	# OF TOTAL OUTCOMES	EXITS BY BLACK PARTICIPANTS			EXITS BY WHITE PARTICIPANTS		
			# OF OUTCOMES BY TYPE	% OF TOTAL OUTCOMES BY TYPE	VARIANCE FROM % OF TOTAL HMIS ENROLLMENTS BY BLACK PERSONS	# OF OUTCOMES BY TYPE	% OF TOTAL OUTCOMES BY TYPE	VARIANCE FROM % OF TOTAL HMIS ENROLLMENTS BY WHITE PERSONS
Positive	612	72%	102	17%	2%	456	75%	-2%
Neutral	123	14%	29	24%	9%	84	68%	-9%
Negative	117	14%	12	10%	-5%	99	85%	8%
TOTAL	852	100%	143	17%		639	75%	

The total number of Outcomes by Ethnicity in HMIS varies from that of Outcomes by Race because 31 of the 852 total Exit Assessments did not specify Ethnicity (a response of “Data was not collected”, “Client refused”, “Client doesn’t know”, or left blank). Of the remaining 821 Outcomes, Hispanic participants represented 6% (N=47) and Non-Hispanic participants represented 94% (N=774). The rates of Positive Outcomes and Neutral Outcomes for both Hispanic and Non-Hispanic participants exceeded their percentages of total HMIS enrollments by between 1% and 3%. Hispanic participants enjoyed a disproportionately lower rate of Negative Outcomes (-3% variance), while Non-Hispanic participants experienced a disproportionately higher rate of Negative Outcomes (7% variance). *See chart below.*

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HMIS ENROLLMENTS BY ETHNICITY
5% 91%

OUTCOME TYPE	TOTAL OUTCOMES	# OF TOTAL OUTCOMES	EXITS BY HISPANIC PARTICIPANTS			EXITS BY NON-HISPANIC PARTICIPANTS		
			# OF OUTCOMES BY TYPE	% OF TOTAL OUTCOMES BY TYPE	VARIANCE FROM % OF TOTAL HMIS ENROLLMENTS BY HISPANIC PERSONS	# OF OUTCOMES BY TYPE	% OF TOTAL OUTCOMES BY TYPE	VARIANCE FROM % OF TOTAL HMIS ENROLLMENTS BY NON-HISPANIC PERSONS
Positive	588	69%	36	6%	1%	552	94%	3%
Neutral	120	14%	9	8%	3%	111	93%	2%
Negative	113	13%	2	2%	-3%	111	98%	7%
TOTAL	821		47	6%		774	94%	

c. ALL ENROLLED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT CLIENTS

As national attention has become more focused on the issues of homelessness and housing instability experienced by the Youth and Young Adult (YYA) population, HMIS data regarding this group has been examined separately to determine if racial disparities exist in services and utilization. This population consists of individual heads of household aged 18 through 24 who are not dependents or in the custody of an adult. The number of YYAs identified is relatively small compared to the total number of clients in HMIS (4%, N=64). However, certain trends can be discovered even within this limited dataset. Black YYAs (N=11) are disproportionately over-represented in this group compared to the percentage of Black participants in HMIS (17% versus 14%, respectively), and White YYAs (N=47) are disproportionately under-represented (73% versus 78%). At first glance it seems that AmInd YYAs are also disproportionately over-represented at 5% (the percentage of AmInd participants in HMIS is less than 1%) however, the number of AmInd YYAs is so small (N=3) that it is not useful to attach any significance to the percentage.

Non-Hispanic YYAs make up 91% of the total YYA participants (N=58), while Hispanic YYAs represent 6% of the total (N=4). Non-Hispanic YYAs are under-represented by 1% compared to the percentage of Non-Hispanic participants in HMIS, while the rate of Hispanic YYAs is 1% higher than the percentage of Hispanic participants in HMIS. *See chart below.*

YYA RACIAL COMPOSITION		
AmInd	3	5%
Black	11	17%
N/A	3	5%
White	47	73%
TOTAL	64	

YYA ETHNIC COMPOSITION		
Hispanic	4	6%
N/A	2	3%
Non-Hispanic	58	91%
	64	

YYA participants were responsible for 77 project enrollments, broken down in the following manner:

PROJECT TYPE	TOTAL ENROLLMENTS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HMIS ENROLLMENTS					
		15% BLACK YYAs			77% WHITE YYAs		
		# OF ENROLLMENTS	% OF TOTAL ENROLLMENTS	VARIANCE FROM HMIS	# OF ENROLLMENTS	% OF TOTAL ENROLLMENTS	VARIANCE FROM HMIS
ES-F	14	4	29%	14%	9	64%	-13%
ES-I	15	4	27%	12%	8	53%	-24%
PDS	17	0	0%	-15%	16	94%	17%
PSH	10	2	20%	5%	6	60%	-17%
RRH	1	0	0%	-15%	1	100%	23%
SO	6	0	0%	-15%	5	83%	6%
TH	14	2	14%	-1%	11	79%	2%
TOTAL	77	12	16%		56	73%	

Among the 64 unduplicated individuals, 2 YYAs reported Veteran status and 1 qualified as Chronically Homeless under the HUD definition (see page 4).

Numbers of project enrollments by type by Black YYAs are so small as to be impractical for analysis. Even among White YYA enrollments, numbers are small enough that the addition or subtraction of 1 in any

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project enrollment type would significantly impact percentages, and so the chart above can serve only as a visual indicator of potential trends in YYS utilization of the homeless response system.

At 6% (N=5), rates of enrollments by Hispanic YYAs lines up exactly with their percentage of the total YYA population. As with enrollments by Black YYAs, numbers of enrollments by Hispanic YYAs are so small as to be unfeasible for analysis. The chart below shows project type breakout by Ethnicity. Enrollments that do not indicate Ethnicity are excluded from analysis.

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HMIS ENROLLMENTS

PROJECT TYPE	TOTAL ENROLLMENTS	5%			91%		
		HISPANIC YYAs			NON-HISPANIC YYAs		
		# OF ENROLLMENTS	% OF TOTAL ENROLLMENTS	VARIANCE FROM HMIS	# OF ENROLLMENTS	% OF TOTAL ENROLLMENTS	VARIANCE FROM HMIS
ES-F	14	2	14%	9%	11	79%	-12%
ES-I	15	2	13%	8%	13	87%	-4%
PDS	17	0	0%	-5%	16	94%	3%
PSH	10	0	0%	-5%	10	100%	9%
RRH	1	0	0%	-5%	1	100%	9%
SO	6	1	17%	12%	5	83%	-8%
TH	14	0	0%	-5%	14	100%	9%
TOTAL	77	5	6%	1%	70	91%	<-1%

Data indicate that Domestic Violence impacts the YYA population at an alarmingly high rate. Of the 64 YYAs in question, 34% (N=22) reported having ever experienced DV, and 14% (N=9) reported that they were homeless due to fleeing DV. The dataset is quite small, and analysis can only highlight possible Racial trends, rather than establish statistical surety. Of the 22 YYAs reporting any history of DV, only one was of Hispanic ethnicity, and none of those fleeing was of Hispanic ethnicity. *See chart below for breakout by Race.*

YYA EVER EXPERIENCED DV			YYA CURRENTLY FLEEING DV		
RACE	#	%	RACE	#	%
Amlnd	2	9%	Amlnd	1	11%
Black	5	23%	Black	2	22%
N/A	1	5%	N/A	1	11%
White	14	64%	White	5	56%
TOTAL	22			9	

The presence of Mental Illness (MI), Substance Use (SU), and Co-occurring MI and SU has been tracked through the YYA population in HMIS, and breakouts by Race (Black and White populations only) and Ethnicity can be seen in the chart below. For the category of MI, the size of the dataset makes valid analysis possible, but the total numbers of SU and C-O are too small to analyze. Black YYAs reported MI at a disproportionately high rate (6% variance, N=7) compared to their percentage of the total YYA population, while the White YYAs are disproportionately under-represented (-18% variance, N=17). Hispanic YYAs reported 3 individuals with MI and none with SU or C-O.

V. ANALYSIS OF EOHHS YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT HOMELESSNESS GRANT DATA

Barnstable County is the recipient and administering agent of a Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Homelessness Grant from the MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). The grant targets unaccompanied heads of household aged 18 through 24 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The five sub-grantee organizations, representing Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket Counties, offer outreach, referral out to services (such as health, education, job training, etc.), flexible funds (for cell phones, food, child-care, etc.), winter shelter options, homelessness prevention assistance, and stabilization services.

Data collected from the EOHHS YYA Grant is different from YYA data collected in HMIS. Although the criteria for being categorized as YYA are the same for both populations, Personally Identifiable Information (PII) from the YYA grant has not been made available for this analysis. It is possible that some clients overlap both datasets, but there is no way to ascertain the rates and numbers of overlaps. Therefore, each dataset has been analyzed separately.

In the 12-month period of this analysis, a total of 147 unduplicated individuals were served by the YYA Grant. Demographic data for race and ethnicity collected from participants are shown in the charts below. (It should be noted that YYA categories for Race do not align exactly with categories set by the Federal Government for CoC reporting in HMIS. The YYA program does not have a reporting category for *NatHI* or for *More than 1*. However, the YYA program contains a category for *Other*, which consists of any racial identity that does not correspond to the other categories.)

RACE	#	% of TOTAL
White	105	71%
Black	22	15%
Asian	0	0%
Amlnd	4	3%
Other	16	11%
TOTAL	147	100%

ETHNICITY	#	% of TOTAL
Hispanic	5	3%
Non-Hispanic	142	97%
TOTAL	147	100%

YYA percentages for Racial composition (limited to Black and White) are closer to HMIS percentages than to the CoC regional population, but percentages for Ethnic²⁷ composition more nearly align with both the CoC regional population and HMIS percentages:

RACE	CoC Region	HMIS	YYA
White	92%	78%	71%
Black	4%	13%	15%

ETHNICITY	CoC Region	HMIS	YYA
Hispanic	4%	5%	3%
Non-Hispanic	96%	92%	97%

While the percentages of Black and White YYAs are closer to HMIS percentages than to the CoC Region as a whole, there is a difference of 7% in percentages of White YYAs versus White persons in HMIS. This

²⁷ Approximately 3% of persons in the HMIS dataset were missing information regarding ethnicity. They have been removed from this ethnic comparison.

variance might be explained by the presence of the YYA “Other” category and the HMIS “N/A” category, both of which contain percentages of unknown Racial composition (11% and 3% respectively).

During the YYA grant year, Black participants have accessed services in disproportionately larger numbers, while White individuals are represented in disproportionately smaller numbers. Data regarding the rate at which Black and White YYAs accessed each service type were not collected. However, one reporting category, ***Demographics of Rehousing Outcomes: (Unduplicated) Youth Who Transitioned into Stabilized Housing***, provides data on the Racial composition of YYAs who were successfully rehoused through the grant. Of the 28 individuals who attained this outcome, 4% (N=1) were Hispanic and 96% (N=27) were Non-Hispanic. These rates closely mirror the percentage of Hispanic and Non-Hispanic participants in the YYA grant and align exactly with the ethnic percentages of the CoC Region as a whole. Inspection of the two Racial groups in this analysis produces far different results.

Of the 28 individuals identified in the successful rehousing metric, 86% were White (N=24), but there were no Black participants who were successfully rehoused. The remaining 14% (N=4) consisted of Amlnd (3% - N=1) and Other (11% - N=3). White participants achieved a greater level of successful housing outcomes than their percentage of the YYA population (86% versus 71%, respectively); Black participants achieved no successful housing outcomes (0% versus 15%).

VI. ANALYSIS OF COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM DATA

Coordinated Entry is a method of matching people experiencing homelessness to available housing, shelter, and services. MA-503 CoC’s Coordinated Entry System (CES) prioritizes those who are most in need of assistance and employs a low threshold / low barrier Housing First model. MA-503’s CES follows the No Wrong Door approach, that is, individuals and families can be assessed anywhere for services through CES. There are 11 Access Points throughout the Cape and Islands region that administer standardized assessments which will identify individuals and families facing the highest vulnerability and greatest need for permanent, supportive housing. “HUD’s primary goals for coordinated entry processes are that assistance be allocated as effectively as possible and that it be easily accessible no matter where or how people present.”²⁸

Coordinated Entry data is stored in HMIS, but CES projects are formatted differently than HMIS project types, as are the reporting templates for both. It is not possible to pull a systemwide HMIS report that includes CES projects. While project overlap certainly exists among clients enrolled in both HMIS projects and CES (for example, an individual enrolled in Street Outreach and in CES), the process of identifying and comparing such overlaps is not a focus of this analysis. Thus, Coordinated Entry will be treated as a separate, stand-alone dataset.

From 7/1/2020 to 6/30/2021, 132 unduplicated individuals were assessed through CES. Of those, 13 were missing information regarding Race, and so 119 (132 minus 13) has been used as the divisor for Racial analysis of the Coordinated Entry System. Likewise, information regarding Ethnicity was missing for 11 individuals, thus 121 (132 minus 11) has been used as the divisor for Ethnic analysis of the CES.

Racial composition of all individuals assessed follow the general demographics of individuals enrolled in HMIS projects, with White CES making up 82% (N=98), Black CES making up 12% (N=14), and the

²⁸ <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Coordinated-Entry-Policy-Brief.pdf>

remaining 6% is composed of AmInd, Asian, More than 1, and NatHI, with rates ranging from 1% (N=1) to 3% (N=4). Ethnicity of assessed individuals mirrors the CoC regional population, with Hispanic at 4% and Non-Hispanic at 96%. See chart below.

COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM - UNDUPLICATED INDIVIDUALS ASSESSED BETWEEN 7/1/2020 AND 6/30/2021					
RACE	#	% OF TOTAL	ETHNICITY	#	% OF TOTAL
AmInd	1	1%	Hispanic	5	4%
Asian	1	1%	Non-Hispanic	116	96%
Black	14	12%	TOTAL	121	
More than 1	4	3%			
NatHI	1	1%			
White	98	82%			
TOTAL	119				

One of the requirements of the Continuum of Care program is that all referrals to CoC-funded housing must come through Coordinated Entry, and for each housing vacancy that arises in a CoC program, at least three referrals must be submitted to the housing agency. Referrals are based on the vulnerability Prioritization list outlined in the Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures.²⁹ CES targets Chronically Homeless persons with the highest level of vulnerability, as determined by a standardized assessment tool (Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool [VI-SPDAT]³⁰).

Total utilization in all CoC Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs combined generally hovers between 95% and 100%, and the availability of vouchers can be unpredictable. Through the period of this analysis, 45 referrals were made to PSH slots. (NOTE: Some individuals received more than one referral during the year.) Of the 45, 4 were missing information on Race, and they have been removed from analysis.

Creation of a referral doesn't necessarily mean that a client will be issued a voucher and housed in a PSH unit. The policy of providing at least 3 referrals per opening is intended to ensure that open slots are filled as quickly as possible. For every client referral that results in the issuing of a voucher through CES, at least 2 referrals are returned. On occasion, none of the assessed individuals referred for an opening will be issued the voucher – for a variety of reasons - and the referral process must begin anew.

Of the 41 referrals where Race was indicated, White participants received 85% (N=35), while Black participants received 15% (N=6), both of which rates are 3% higher than their percentage of the total assessed population. Six referrals were Accepted (voucher issued), 14 were Pending (no action taken), and 21 were returned by the Housing Agencies to CES as not a match.

²⁹ CES Policies and Procedures may be found under "Program Components": <https://www.bchumanservices.net/initiatives/continuum-of-care/>

³⁰ <https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/beehivegroupcadev/pages/1208/attachments/original/1479851656/VI-SPDAT-v2.01-Single-US-Fillable.pdf?1479851656>

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All 45 referrals contained information regarding Ethnicity, and all referrals were made for Non-Hispanic client. Six referrals were Accepted, 16 were Pending, and 23 were Returned.

Data are broken out by Race and Ethnicity in the charts below.

CES REFRALS BY RACE	REFERRED		ACCEPTED		PENDING		RETURNED	
	#	% OF TOTAL	#	% OF TOTAL	#	% OF TOTAL	#	% OF TOTAL
Black	6	15%	2	33%	2	14%	2	10%
White	35	85%	4	67%	12	86%	19	90%
TOTAL	41		6	15%	14	34%	21	51%

CES REFERRALS BY ETHNICITY	REFERRED		ACCEPTED		PENDING		RETURNED	
	#	% OF TOTAL	#	% OF TOTAL	#	% OF TOTAL	#	% OF TOTAL
Hispanic	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Non-Hispanic	45	100%	6	100%	16	100%	23	100%
	45		6	13%	16	36%	23	51%

Most frequently, referral returns are initiated by the Housing Agencies to whom the referrals have been made. Reasons for returns are varied: the voucher is no longer available, the voucher has been rescinded (offered to client but taken back by the housing agency before client acceptance), the program is full, the client poses a health or safety risk (especially in congregate programs), the client did not provide adequate documentation, etc. Some referral returns are client-initiated: client refused match (the client didn't want the living situation) or client disappeared (client's Case Manager can no longer make contact with the client). There were only 2 returns for Black participants, and both were Agency-initiated. However, of the 19 returns for White participants, 37% (N=7) were Client-initiated.

The chart below outlines the breakdown of reasons for CES referral returns by Race.

COORDINATED ENTRY REFERRAL RETURNS			
RACE	REASON FOR RETURN	#	WHO INITIATED RETURN
Black	Rescinded by agency	1	Housing Agency
	Voucher Expired	1	Housing Agency
White	Client Refused Match	3	Client
	Health/Safety	1	Housing Agency
	Program full	2	Housing Agency
	Unknown/Disappeared	4	Client
	Voucher Unavailable	9	Housing Agency

VII. ANALYSIS OF 2021 POINT IN TIME (PIT) COUNT DATA

The Point in Time Count offers a different type of data source than the previous three sets in that the information is static, a one-time snapshot view of homelessness that does not move through time or take place over a span of months or even days.

HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of people staying in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens, as well as a count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, on a single night in January. The Point in Time (PIT) count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally. Results of the 2021 PIT count, which took place on January 26, 2021, on Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard, and Nantucket, indicated that the total number of homeless persons (adults and children, sheltered and unsheltered) on that night was 343. Of that total, 28 unduplicated individuals were unsheltered.

Data for the PIT Count Report come from two sources: HMIS (which tracks individuals and families enrolled in HMIS Emergency Shelter and HMIS Transitional Housing on the night of the PIT) and the Street Count. For the latter, volunteers survey homeless individuals and families in the community and collect information about their homeless living situation, their demographics, disabling conditions, etc. Information from the Street Count is compared with HMIS information, the data are de-duplicated, and the Street Count information is analyzed along with the HMIS information for submission to HUD in the PIT Report.

MA-503 POINT IN TIME COUNT RESULTS - JANUARY 26, 2021

	SHELTERED				UNSHEL- TERED	TOTAL ALL
	Emergency Shelter			TH		
	Street Count	HMIS	ES TOTAL			
PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD						
Total Number of Households	51	88	139	87	24	250
Total number of persons	63	165	228	87	28	343
Number of persons <18	11	72	83	0	2	85
Number of persons 18-24	3	4	7	7	2	16
Number of persons >24	49	89	138	80	24	242
GENDER						
Female	29	94	123	35	11	169
Male	32	71	103	52	17	172
Transgender	1	0	1	0	0	1
Gender-non conforming	1	0	1	0	0	1
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
ETHNICITY						
Non-Hispanic	55	153	208	87	28	323
Hispanic	8	12	20	0	0	20
RACE						
White	57	120	177	79	25	281
Black	3	28	31	7	3	41
Asian	0	2	2	0	0	2
American indian	1	4	5	0	0	5
Native Hawaiian	0	0	0	0	0	0
More than 1 race	2	11	13	1	0	14
CHRONICALLY HOMELESS						
Total number of persons	27	21	48	10	18	76
Total number of households	26	21	47	10	18	75

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Of the total 343 homeless individuals identified in the 2021 PIT Count, 246 are individuals and families enrolled in HMIS projects on the night of January 26, 2021, and they have already been accounted for in the previous HMIS analyses. Therefore, this section will include only those individuals and families who were not enrolled in HMIS and were interviewed and surveyed as part of the Street Count.

On the night of the PIT, 97 unduplicated individuals were counted through the survey process, 65 single individuals and 32 persons in families (13 families, 13 dependent children, 6 spouses/partners). Of the 97, 28 were unsheltered, while the remaining 69 were staying in Emergency Shelter (N=63) or in Transitional Housing (N=6). Two families (2 heads of household, each with 1 dependent child) were included in the unsheltered population.

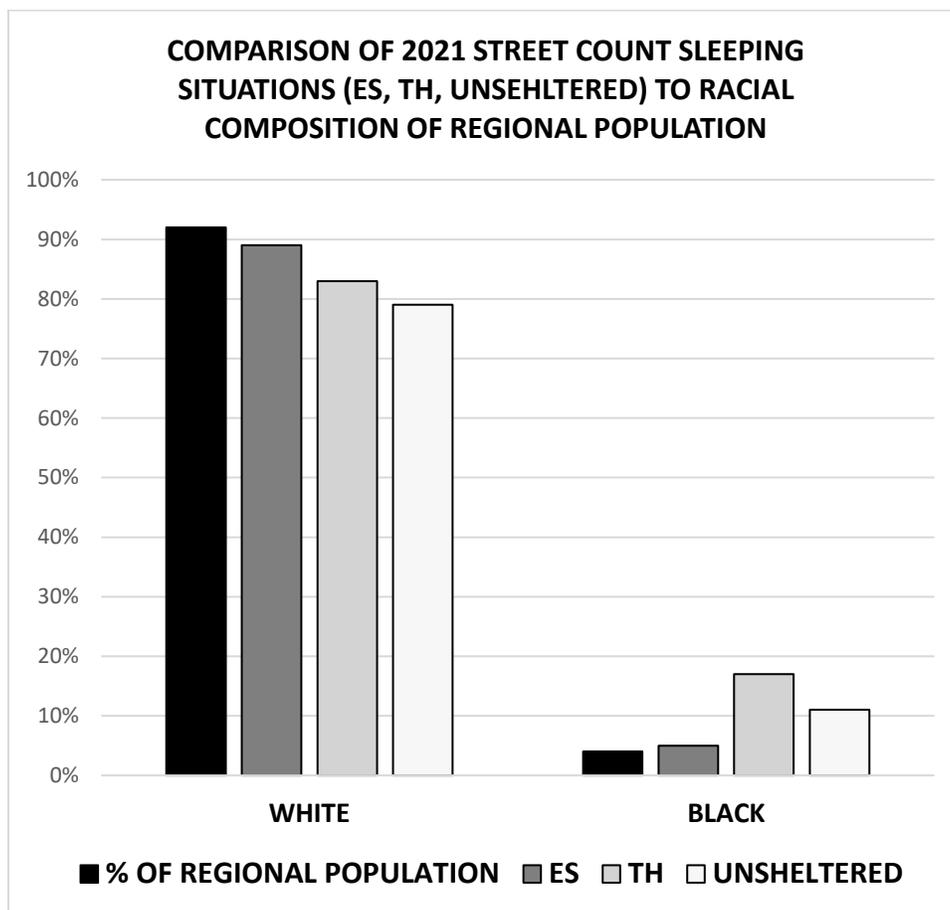
Of the total homeless population included in the Street Count, White persons made up 89% (N=56) of those in ES, 83% (N=5) in TH, and 79% (N=22) of those who were unsheltered. Black persons made up 5% (N=3) of those in ES, 17% (N=1) in TH, and 11% (N=3) of those who were unsheltered. AmerInd, More than 1, and N/A represented only a handful of participants and will be excluded from analysis. Hispanic individuals were represented in ES only at 13% (N=8). Except for 3 Unsheltered individuals for whom Ethnicity was not indicated, the remainder of individuals counted in the street survey were Non-Hispanic. Racial and Ethnic composition of both the sheltered and unsheltered population are illustrated in the chart below.

RACE	TOTAL PERSONS		ES		TH		UNSHELTERED	
	#	% OF TOTAL	#	% OF ES	#	% OF TH	#	% OF UN
AmerInd	1	1%	1	2%				
Black	7	7%	3	5%	1	17%	3	11%
More than 1	2	2%	2	3%				
N/A	4	4%	1	2%			3	11%
White	83	86%	56	89%	5	83%	22	79%
TOTAL	97		63		6		28	

ETHNICITY	TOTAL PERSONS		ES		TH		UNSHELTERED	
	#	% OF TOTAL	#	% OF ES	#	% OF TH	#	% OF UN
Hispanic	8	8%	8	13%				
N/A	5	5%					5	18%
Non-Hispanic	84	87%	55	87%	6	100%	23	82%
TOTAL	97		63		6		28	

As can be seen above, 4% of the total individuals (N=4) did not indicate race, while the numbers of Black persons (N=7) and More than 1 (N=2) are too small to present meaningful analysis and can only suggest trends in the region. With this caveat in mind, comparing racial presence to demographics of the region indicates that Black persons were over-represented by a margin of 1% in Emergency Shelter, 13% in Transitional Housing, and 7% in the Unsheltered population. When compared to demographics of the region, White persons were under-represented in all three categories by margins of -5% in Emergency Shelter, -9% in Transitional Housing, and -13% in the Unsheltered population. Hispanic persons were over-represented in Emergency Shelter by a margin of 9%, but there were no Hispanic persons reported in Transitional Housing or in the Unsheltered population.

It is also possible to compare the rates of access to the various sleeping situations (Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Unsheltered) noted in the 2021 PIT Street Count with the demographic make-up of the entire CoC region. While remembering the caveat regarding small numbers of Black persons and bearing in mind that this comparison can only *suggest* potential trends, the under-representation of White persons and the over-representation of Black persons are demonstrated in the graph below.



VIII. OBSERVATIONS

Homelessness is an affliction which visits people of every race and ethnicity, and access to housing and services should be readily available to all individuals and families. The MA-503 CoC region does not bear much demographic resemblance to the rest of the Commonwealth or the country with a population whose vast majority is White and Non-Hispanic (92% and 96%, respectively). This analysis has been conducted to examine whether homeless and at-risk members of the Black and Hispanic communities of the Cape and Islands are able to access housing and services equitably, utilizing the data at hand from the four data sources. Because most analysis has revealed that Hispanic persons accessed housing and services at rates which generally match their percentage of the regional population, observations will be limited to topics of racial equity.

- (1) **HMIS** - Data revealed that Black individuals and families are significantly over-represented in homeless programs when compared to their percentage of the general population. In fact, Black

persons have accessed HMIS programs at a rate almost 4 times their percentage of the CoC regional population (rate of regional population = 4%, rate of HMIS enrollments = 15%), while White persons are significantly under-represented (rate of regional population =92%, rate of HMIS enrollments=78%). On the surface, this fact may seem dismaying, but when program types are inspected individually, data results in some areas are more encouraging and point to a greater level of racial equity in service delivery and outcomes than initially appears.

- a. **STABLE HOUSING** - For the project types that represent medium- and long-term stable housing situations (Permanent Supportive Housing, Prevention/Diversion/Stabilization, Rapid Re-housing, and Transitional Housing), Black persons make up 12% of the total HMIS enrollments. This rate is 3% lower than the rate of total enrollment by Black persons in HMIS (15%).
- b. **EMERGENCY SHELTER** - While Emergency Shelter is not the optimum living situation and is considered by HUD to be a condition of homelessness, it does provide a roof over one's head and keeps people safe and out of the elements. In both Family and Individual Emergency Shelter, Black individuals and families comprise almost 21% of total enrollments, thus removing them from the specter of unsheltered homelessness.
- c. **STREET OUTREACH** - Of the one project type that does confirm a living situation of unsheltered homelessness, namely Street Outreach, Black individuals are under-represented by -5% when compared to their percentage of all HMIS enrollments (10% versus 15%, respectively).
- d. **OUTCOMES** - The true measurement of a successful homeless system response is in successful outcomes, that is, the rate at which individuals and families either retain stable permanent housing or exit from programs into stable permanent housing, and it is in this metric that true racial equity can be observed in the homeless response system. Project exits to Positive destinations by Black persons (N=102) represent 17% of the total Positive HMIS exits (N=612), a rate that is 2% higher than the rate of HMIS enrollments by Black persons. Exits by Black persons to Neutral destinations (N=29) comprise 24% of all Neutral destinations (N=123), a rate that is 9% higher than the rate of total Black enrollments, while exits by Black persons to Negative destinations (N=12) represent only 10% of total Negative destinations (N=117), a rate that is 5% lower than the rate of total Black enrollments.
- e. **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** – Domestic Violence has proven to be prevalent as a cause of homelessness among Black households, particularly among households headed by Black adult females. The rate at which Black victims of DV access Emergency Family Shelter in the region is so disproportionately high that it certainly merits more intense scrutiny and greater efforts to address the problem.
- f. **MENTAL ILLNESS, SUBSTANCE USE, CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS AMONG ADULTS IN HMIS** – While MI, SU, and C-O are well-known contributory factors to homelessness, the

Black homeless population in HMIS is not disproportionately affected by any of the three conditions. In fact, rates for all three are slightly lower than the rate of all adult Black persons listed in HMIS (12%).

- g. **YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS IN HMIS** – Although the total numbers of YYAs (N=64) and YYA enrollments (77) are small compared to the total numbers of all clients and all enrollments in HMIS, they reflect certain trends present in the full HMIS population. Black YYAs are over-represented in the general YYA population, and Mental Illness as a contributory factor to Black YYA homelessness is present at a disproportionately high level. Domestic Violence is startlingly common among YYAs (34% of total YYAs, N=22). Of those individuals who have experienced DV, Black YYAs identify as victims of abuse and report being homeless due to fleeing DV at disproportionately high rates when compared to their percentage of the total YYA population.
- (2) EOHHS YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT HOMELESS GRANT** – Black YYAs accessed services through the EOHHS YYA grant at disproportionately high rates compared to their percentage of the regional population. Through this grant, 28 of the 147 unduplicated individuals served achieved successful housing outcomes (stably housed for at least 3 months). However, none of the successful housing outcomes were attributed to Black YYAs. The YYA Grant report does not indicate why this disparity exists, only that it does exist. Although beyond the scope of this analysis, further study of this discrepancy may be warranted.
- (3) COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM** – MA-503 has reached and surpassed racial equity through its Coordinated Entry system. During the span of this analysis, Black persons were assessed through CES at a rate 3 times greater than their percentage of the local population (12% versus 4%). Of the 41 total referrals made through CES, 15% (N=6) were issued for Black individuals, 3% higher than their percentage of the total assessed population, and 6 individuals were accepted for housing placement, 2 of whom were Black (33%).
- (4) POINT IN TIME COUNT** – Of the 97 individuals surveyed in the PIT Street Count, 7 identified as Black (7%). While this rate is higher than their percentage of the regional population (4%), the number of persons is so small as to make meaningful analysis impractical.

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Data show that Black program participants achieve a high level of Positive housing outcomes. However, data also show that the rate at which Black persons access stable housing situations is 3% lower than their percentage of total HMIS project enrollments. In order to reach full racial equity, greater effort should be made to connect Black program participants with stable housing opportunities through targeted communications, guided support services, assistance with housing search, landlord outreach, etc.
- (2) The effect of Domestic Violence on homelessness, particularly among the Black community, is impossible to ignore. Almost one third of the total Adult Females in HMIS who reported being

homeless due to fleeing Domestic Violence are Black, and the trend appears to have trickled down to the Youth and Young Adult population as well. Having wonderful, caring DV service providers in the CoC region helps to alleviate some of the problems, but not before these individuals have been victimized and found themselves with no home and nowhere to go. The MA-503 CoC homeless response system can provide housing and services to DV survivors, but the goal must be to stop the violence before it begins. Regional DV awareness trainings, collaborative support for our DV providers, consumer education, cooperation with law enforcement, the methods are many and varied...and necessary.