



SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA  
HOMELESS COALITION (SVHC)

# RACIAL DISPARITIES REPORT

OCTOBER 2020



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## Introduction

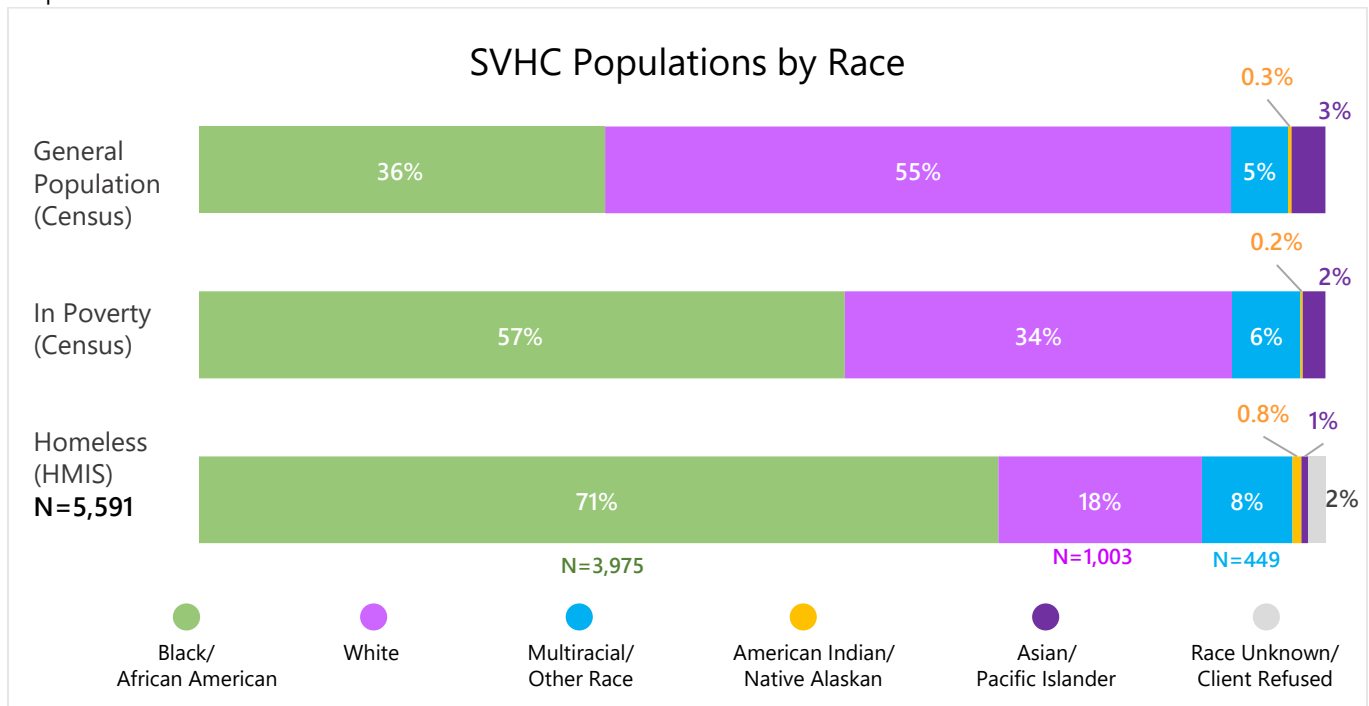
The Southeastern Virginia Homeless Coalition (SVHC), comprised of over 40 partner agencies, is tasked with developing, sustaining and coordinating a comprehensive Continuum of Care (CoC) of homeless services for the citizens of Southeastern Virginia, including Norfolk, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Franklin, Isle of Wight County and Southampton County. The SVHC strives to remove barriers to receiving services while developing housing and implementing effective strategies to ensure *homelessness will be rare, brief, and non-recurring*. The SVHC works to engage individuals, groups, and organizations throughout the community, including faith partners and members of the private sector that provide services to persons experiencing homelessness or have an interest in the process. Persons who have experienced homelessness are also encouraged to participate in the continuum's work. Coordination and facilitation are provided by The Planning Council, as the designated Lead Agency for SVHC.

The United States has a history of creating inequity for persons of color, particularly when it comes to obtaining and maintaining equal and fair housing. Nationally, persons of color experience homelessness at a proportionally higher rate than the portion of the general population warrants. *Persons of color* refers here to all non-White races, including Black or African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Multiracial.

This assessment examines data from the U.S. Census, the SVHC's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the 2020 Point in Time Count and SVHC member agencies to identify potential racial or ethnic disparities in the CoC's provision of homeless assistance.

## SVHC Population by Race

Graph 1



Source: US Census, 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates; HMIS Custom Report, October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

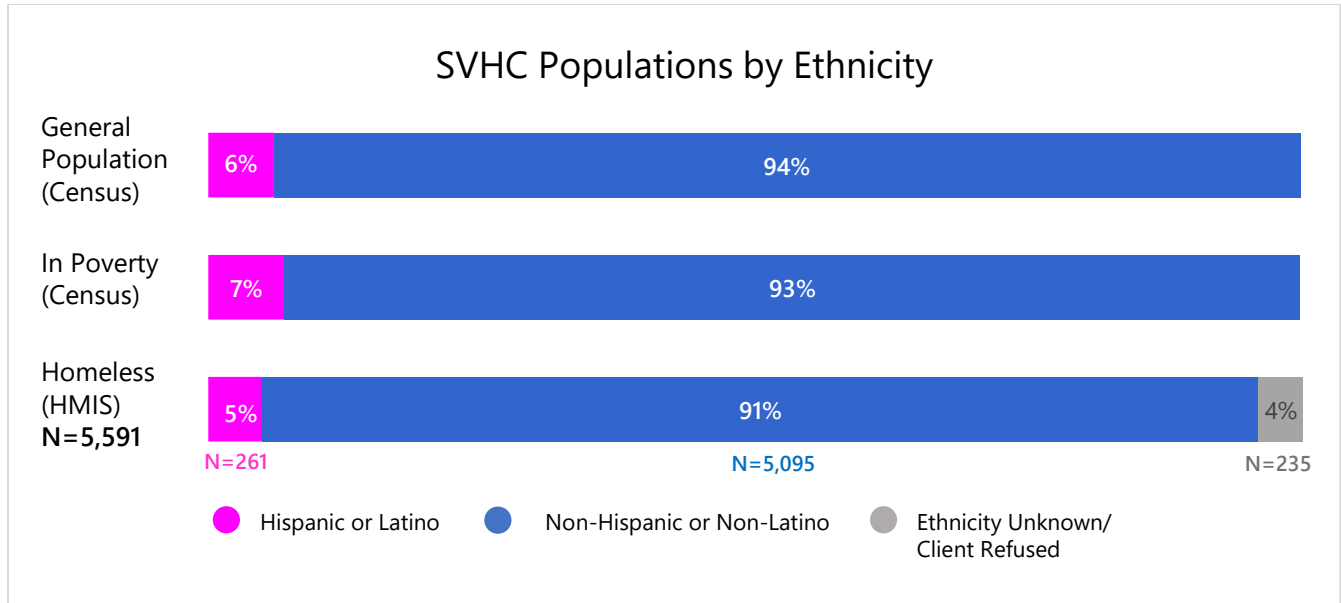
During the period from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 there were 5,591 unique individuals in HMIS who received homeless assistance across SVHC programs.

The graph above compares the racial composition of the SVHC’s general population, those in poverty and those experiencing homelessness to indicate that as in the national trend, persons of color in the SVHC service area experience homelessness at a rate that is disproportionate to their incidence in the general population. According to the most recent U.S. Census data, 36% of the SVHC’s general population identify as Black or African American, 55% of the identify as White, 5% identify as Multiracial, 3% identify as Asian or Pacific Islander and 0.3% identify as American Indian or Alaska Native. By comparison, of the 5,591 clients in HMIS, 3,975 (71%) were

Black/African American, 1,003 (18%) were White, 449 (8%) were Multiracial, 56 (1%) were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 45 (0.8%) were American Indian/Native American.

## SVHC Population by Ethnicity

Graph 2

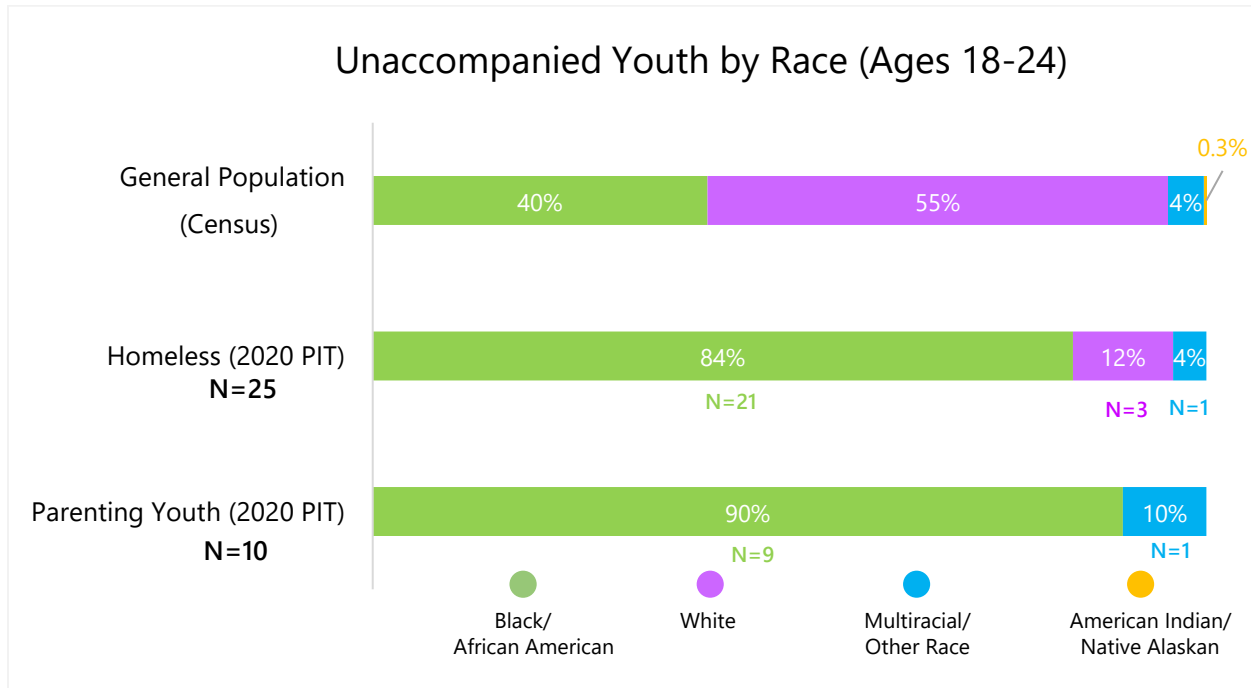


Source: US Census, 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates; HMIS Custom Report, October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

The percent of Hispanic or Latino persons experiencing homelessness (5%) is slightly less than in the general population (6%) and Hispanic or Latino residents in poverty (7%).

# Unaccompanied Youth by Race

Graph 3

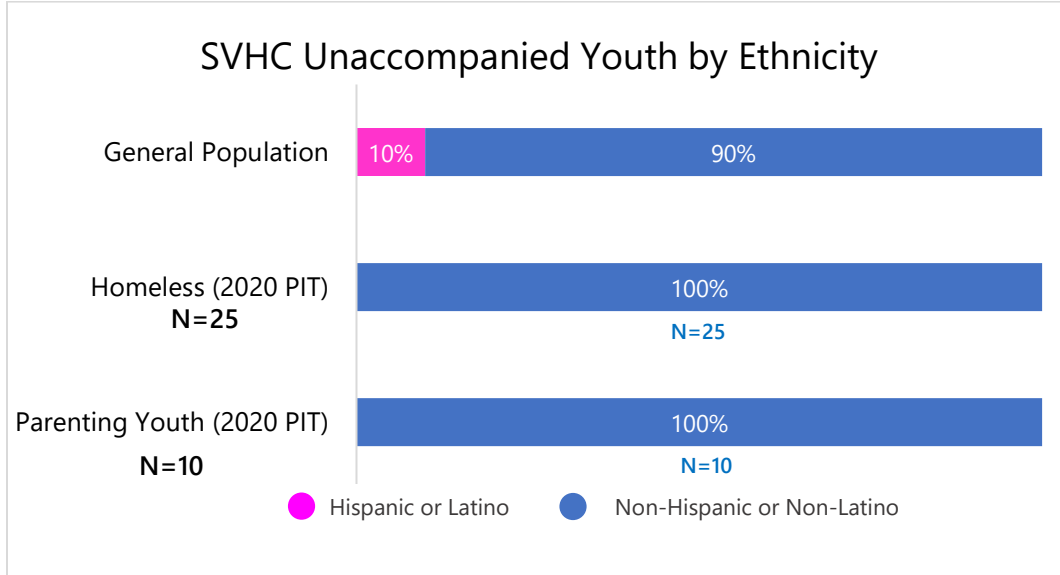


Source: US Census, 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates; 2020 SVHC PIT

There were 25 unaccompanied youth between ages 18 and 24 counted in the SVHC’s 2020 Point in Time Count. Just 40% of unaccompanied youth in the general population were Black/African American, but more than three-quarters (85%) of those experiencing homelessness were Black/African American. This compares to 55% of White unaccompanied youth in the general population but just 12% experiencing homelessness. There were 10 parenting youth counted during the 2020 Point in Time Count and 9 were Black/African American while 1 was White.

# Unaccompanied Youth by Ethnicity

Graph 4

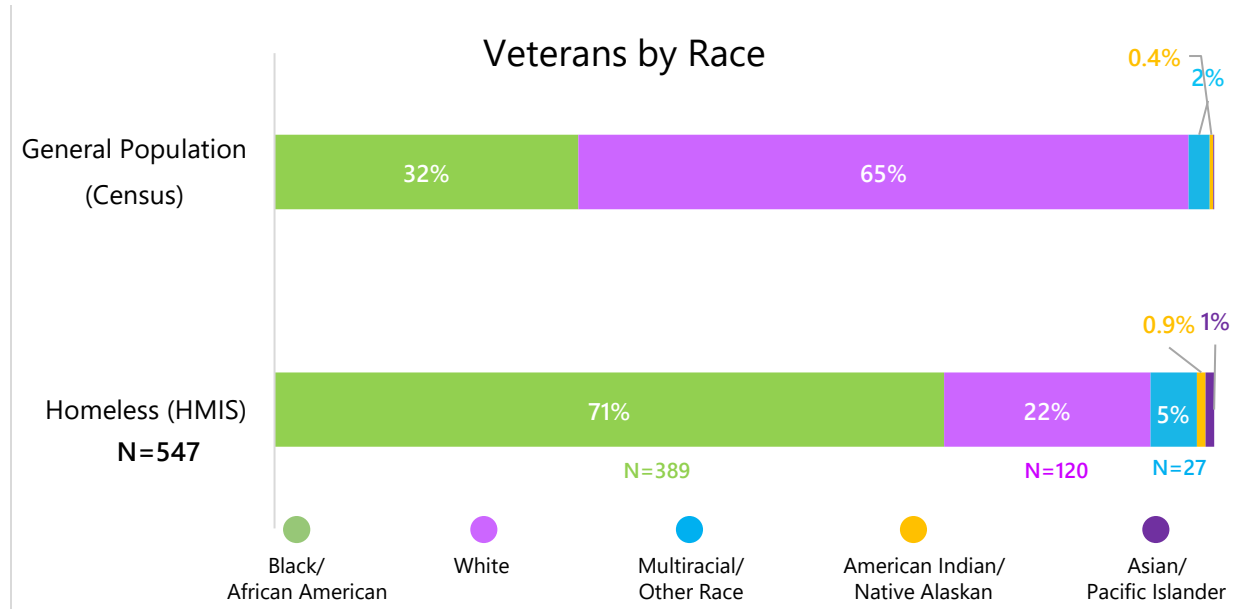


Source: US Census, 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates; 2020 SVHC PIT

Hispanic or Latino youth between ages 18 and 24 comprised 10% of the general population, and there were no Hispanic or Latino unaccompanied or parenting youth counted during the 2020 Point in Time Count in the SVHC geographical area.

## Veterans by Race

Graph 5



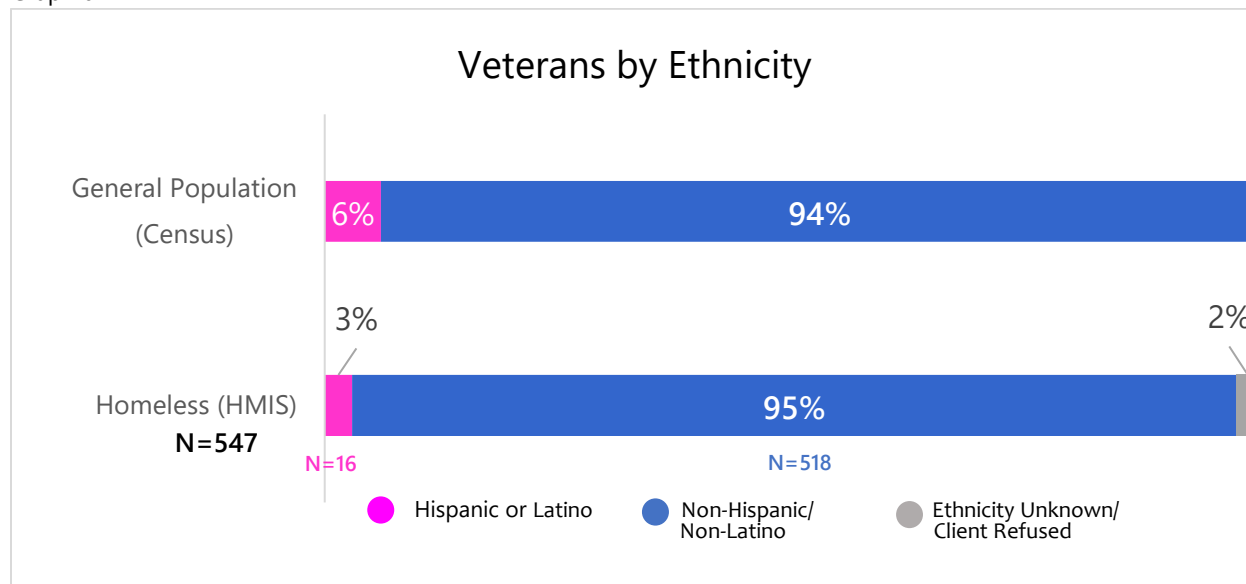
Source: US Census, 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates; HMIS Custom Report, October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

Veterans who are Black/African American are more likely to experience homelessness than other races. While Black/African American Veterans comprise 32% of the SVHC’s general population, they represent 71% of Veterans experiencing homelessness. By contrast, White Veterans represent 65% of the general population but just 22% of White Veterans experience homelessness.



## Veterans by Ethnicity

Graph 6

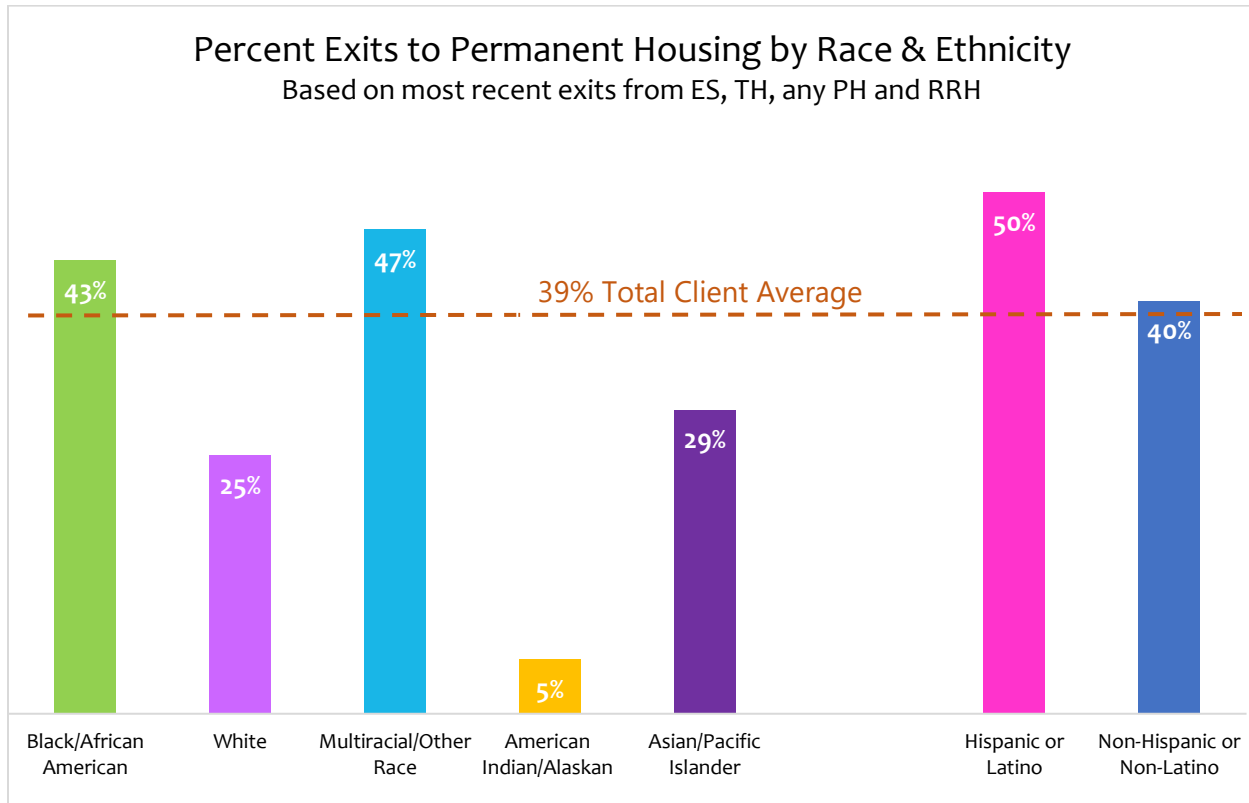


Source: US Census, 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates; HMIS Custom Report, October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

Compared to Hispanic or Latino Veterans in the general population (6%), just 3% experienced homelessness.

## Exits to Permanent Housing by Race and Ethnicity

Graph 7



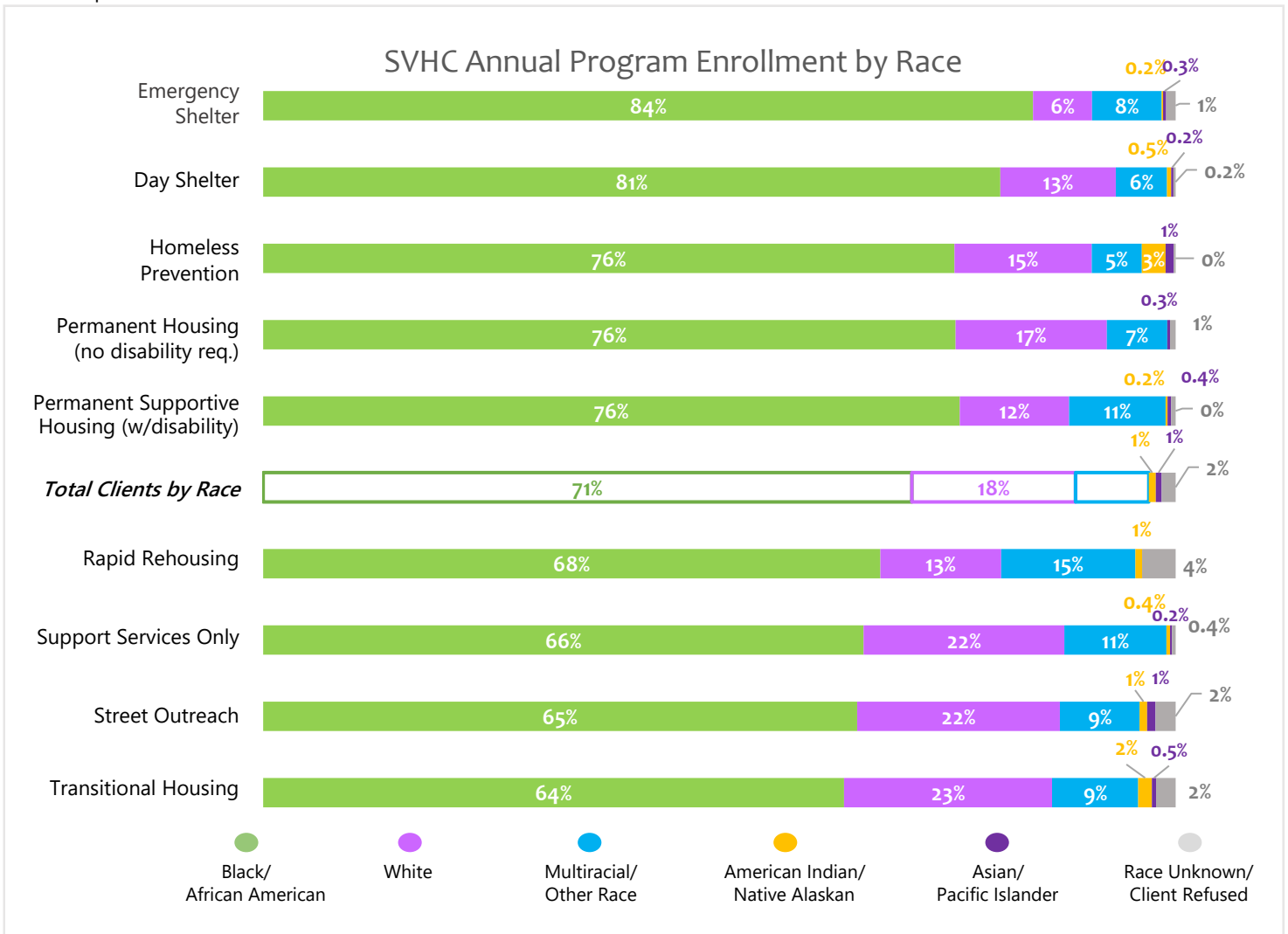
Source: HMIS Custom Report, October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

Among clients exiting from Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, any Permanent Housing or Rapid Rehousing program during the program year, 39% exited to a permanent housing destination. Forty-three percent (43%) of Black/African American clients had a positive exit outcome compared to just 25% of Whites and 47% of those identifying as Other or Multiracial. Although 5% of American Indian/Alaskan clients exited to a permanent destination, this represents just 1 of 19 persons, and may not be symbolic.

Hispanic or Latino clients had better exit outcomes (50%) than Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino clients (40%).

# Annual Program Enrollment by Race

Graph 8

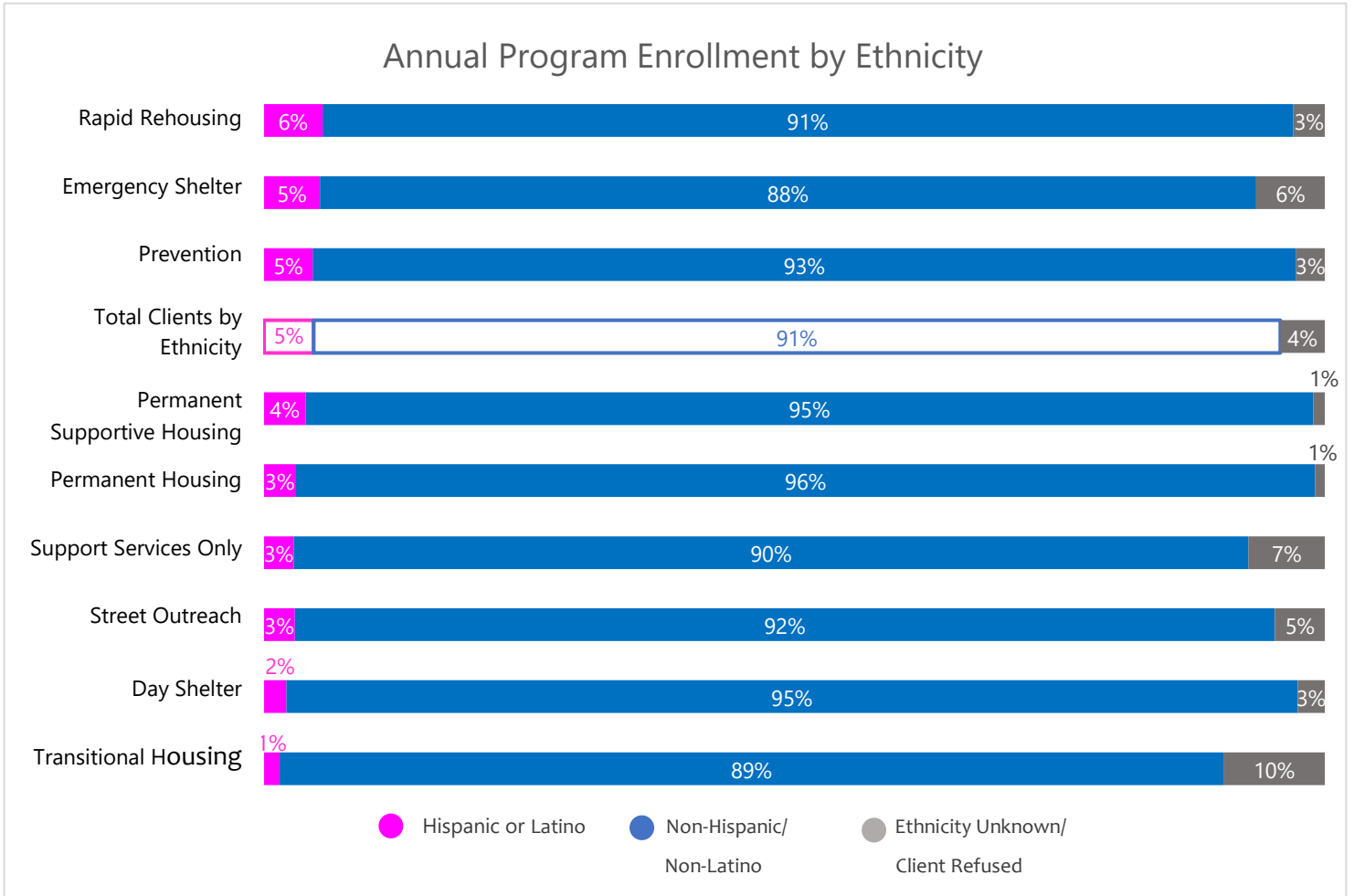


Source: HMIS Custom Report, October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

To compare the percent of clients in each program, the total percentage of clients by race is indicated in the Total Clients bar in the graph above. Black/African American clients comprised a larger share in Emergency Shelter, Day Shelter, Prevention, and Permanent Housing programs than other races while White clients comprised a smaller share of these programs. The three programs nearest the bottom of the chart (Support Services Only, Street Outreach and Transitional Housing) indicate a smaller proportion of Black/African Americans are enrolled and a greater share of White clients are enrolled. **The SVHC will explore this finding to see if there are disparities in service provision of these programs.**

# Annual Program Enrollment by Ethnicity

Graph 9

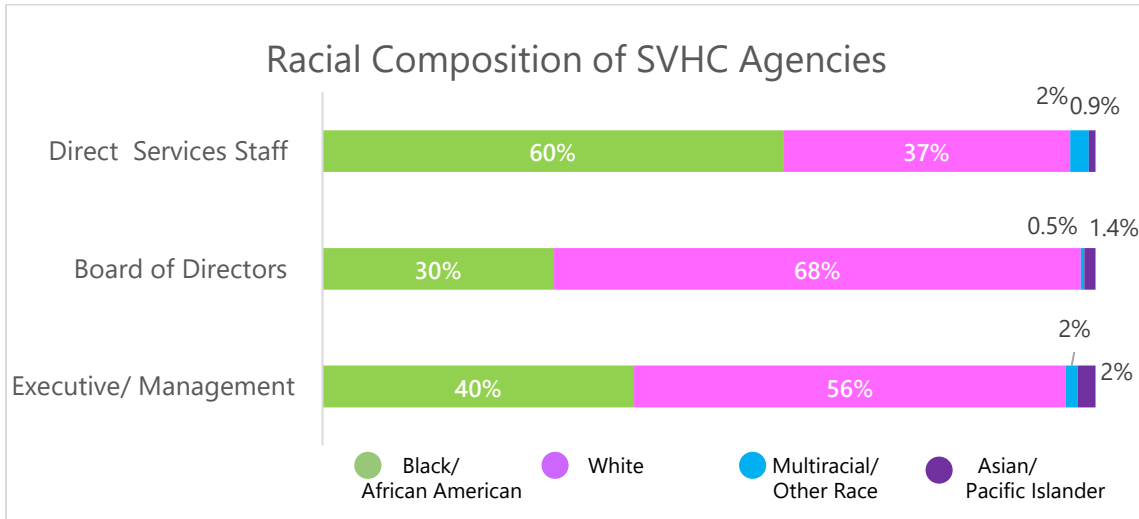


Source: HMIS Custom Report, October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

As in the chart above, the graph below provides the total percentage of clients by ethnicity for comparison to ethnicity of clients in each program. Hispanic or Latino clients were enrolled in Rapid Rehousing, Emergency Shelter and Prevention in proportion to their incidence in HMIS. Slightly fewer Hispanic or Latino clients were enrolled in Permanent Housing programs, Support Services Only and Street Outreach. Just 2% were enrolled in Day Shelter and only 1% were enrolled in Transitional Housing. **SVHC agencies will explore these finding to see if there are disparities or if this simply reflects the needs of those served during the program year.**

# Racial Composition of SVHC Agencies

Graph 10

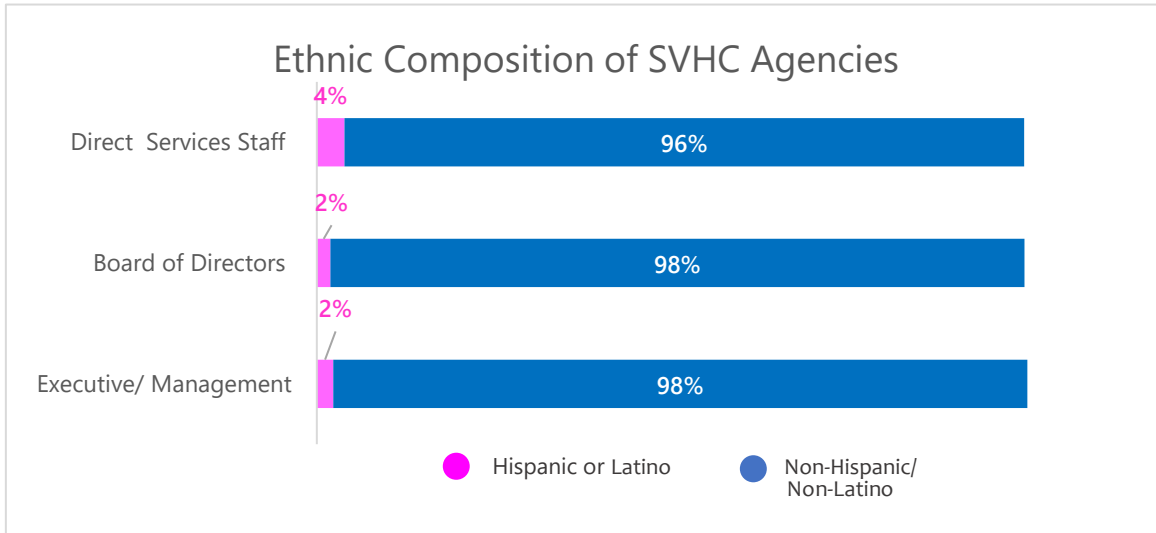


Source: SVHC agencies

This is the second year that the SVHC has tracked the racial composition of staff, management, and Boards of Directors in service provider agencies. Compared to the 71% of SVHC clients who are Black/African American, the SVHC agencies are represented by 60% Black/African American direct housing staff, 30% Board of Directors, and 40% in management. The SVHC continues to strive to include agencies that best represent the clients they serve.

# Ethnic Composition of SVHC Agencies

Graph 11



Source: SVHC agencies

SVHC agencies seem to reflect the ethnicity of the clients they serve. Five percent of all clients were Hispanic or Latino during the program year as were 4% of direct housing staff, 2% of board members and 2% of management.