



PORTSMOUTH HOMELESS
ACTION CONSORTIUM (PHAC)

RACIAL DISPARITIES REPORT

DECEMBER 2020



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Introduction

The Portsmouth Homeless Action Consortium (PHAC) is a coalition of public and private organizations that maintains a current and viable process to end homelessness and provides services and resources to the most vulnerable households and individuals across the City of Portsmouth.

PHAC serves as the city's Continuum of Care (CoC) organization and is responsible for coordination and management of federal and state funding for homeless services. The Portsmouth Department of Social Services is the designated Lead Agency for PHAC. Coordination and facilitation support are provided through contract by The Planning Council. Persons who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness are encouraged to participate in the community process as well.

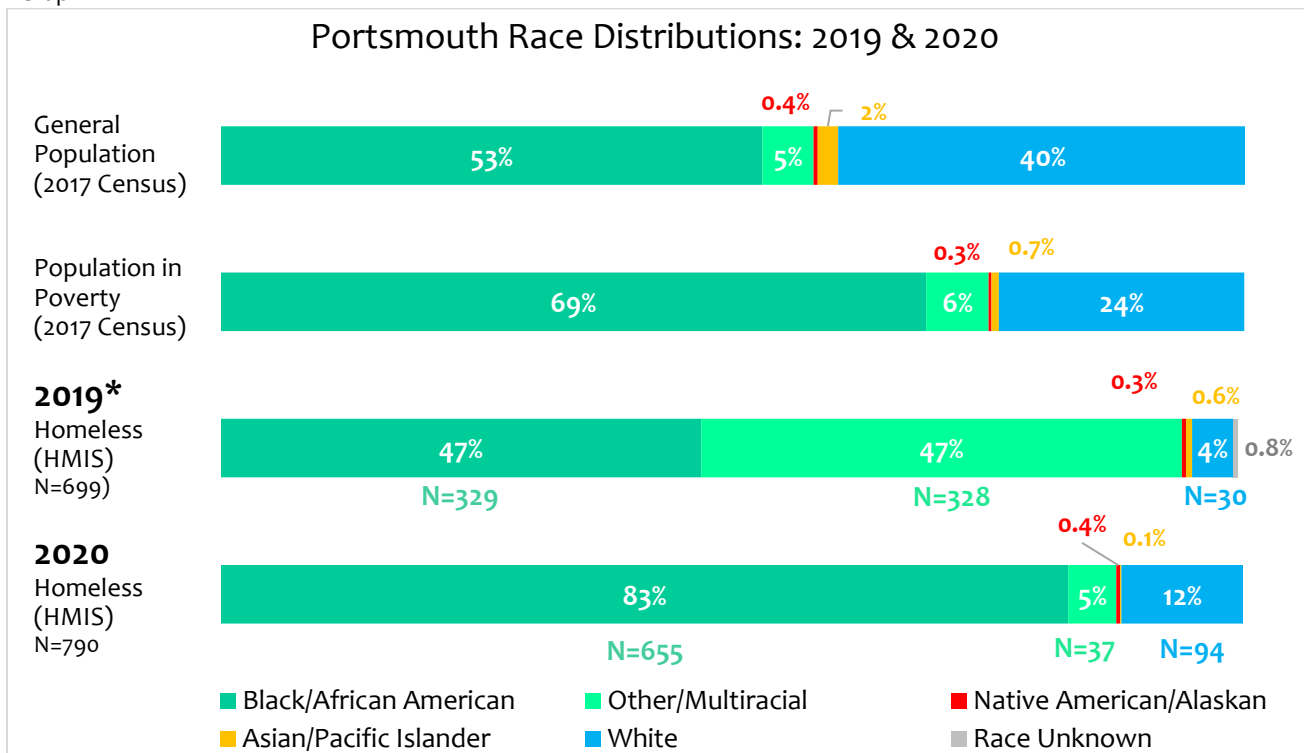
The United States has a history of creating inequity for persons of color, particularly when it comes to obtaining and maintaining equal and fair housing. Nationally, African Americans and other persons of color experience homelessness at a proportionally higher rate than the general population.

This assessment examines the most recent data from the U.S. Census (American Community Survey, 2013-2017 5-year estimates), PHAC's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the 2020 Point in Time Count (PIT) and PHAC member agencies to identify any potential disparities based on race or ethnicity of persons experiencing homelessness, and those agencies providing direct services to them. Where possible, comparisons are made with the 2019 Racial Disparities Report.

PHAC Populations by Race

The 2020 Racial Disparities Report reflects HMIS data from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 which is the same time period for System Performance Measures reports to HUD. During this period, there were **790** unique individuals in HMIS who received homeless assistance in PHAC programs. Where possible, this report compares the 2020 data to the data reported in PHAC’s 2019 Racial Disparities Report, which reflects HMIS data for the calendar year January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

Graph 1



Source: US Census, 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates; HMIS Custom Report, October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 and HMIS Custom Report, January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. *In 2019, 328 of 699 persons in HMIS (47%) reported being Multiracial and did not identify a specific race. In 2020, only 37 of 790 persons (5%) did not identify a specific race.

According to the most recent US Census data (2017), 53% of the general population identify as Black or African American, 40% identify as White, 5% identify as Multiracial, 0.4% identify as Asian/Pacific Islander and 1.5% identify as American Indian/Alaskan.

By comparison, of the 790 clients in HMIS for the 2020 report, 655 (83%) were Black/African American, 94 (12%) were White, 37 (5%) were Multiracial, 1 (0.1%) was Asian/Pacific Islander and 3 (0.4%) were American Indian/Alaskan.

As in the national trend, Black/African American persons in Portsmouth experience homelessness at a rate that is disproportionate to their incidence in the general population. That is, they make up 83% of the homeless population, but only make up 53% of the entire population.

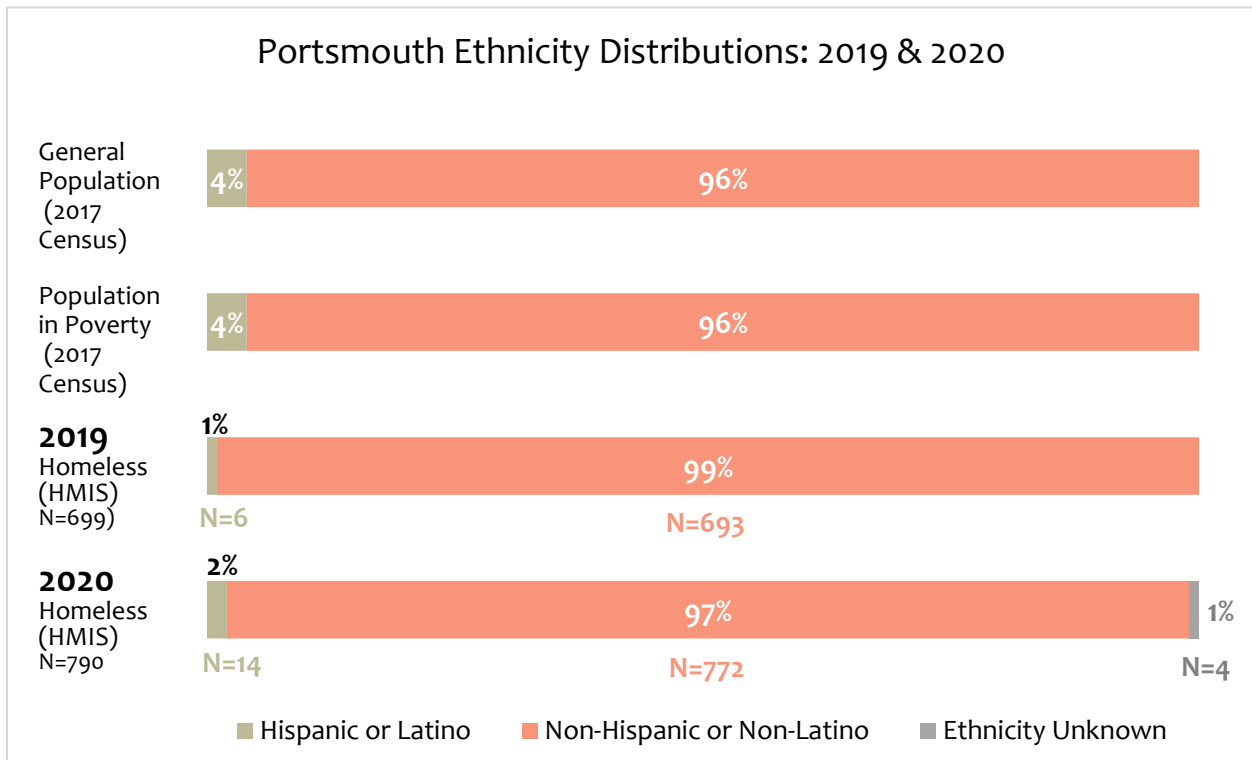
PHAC partner agencies have made improvements in collecting racial data of clients entering HMIS. For example, in PHAC’s 2019 Racial Disparity Report, 47% of clients were identified as Black/African American and 47% were identified as Multiracial, which does not identify any specific race. By comparing 2019 to 2020 data, it is evident that *persons of color* (those reporting as one or more non-White race) are also disproportionately represented among Portsmouth’s homeless population. In 2020, Whites reflected a slightly higher percentage of Portsmouth’s homeless population than in 2019 (from 4% in 2019 to 12% in 2020). Because specific race data was available in the most recent HMIS report, it is shown in this report to help identify and address any potential barriers to services.

Table A.

| Race | Number 2020 | Percent 2020 | Number 2019 | Percent 2019 |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Black/African American | 655 | 83% | 329 | 47% |
| Other/Multiracial | 37 | 5% | 328 | 47% |
| Native American/Alaskan | 3 | 0.4% | 2 | 0.3% |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 1 | 0.1% | 4 | 0.6% |
| White | 94 | 12% | 30 | 4% |
| Race Unknown | 0 | 0% | 6 | 0.8% |
| Total HMIS CLIENTS | 790 | 100% | 699 | 100% |

Portsmouth Populations by Ethnicity

Graph 2



Source: US Census, 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates; HMIS Custom Report, October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 and HMIS Custom Report, January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

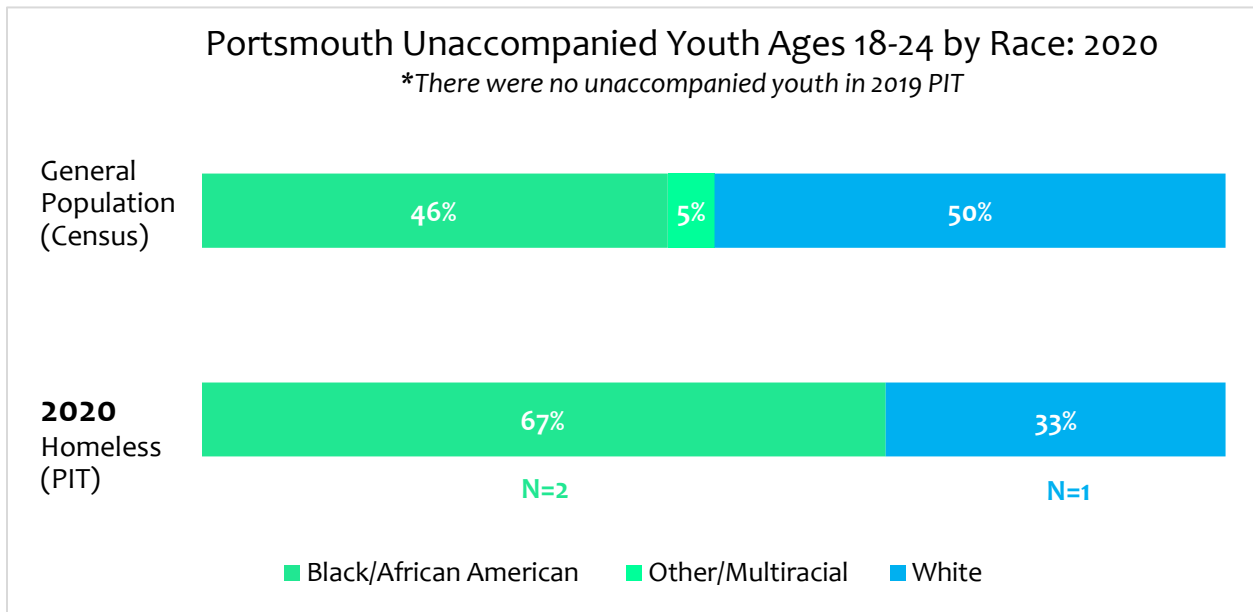
Of the 790 persons in HMIS during the 2020 report period, 14 were Hispanic or Latino, 772 were Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino and 4 clients did not know or report their ethnicity. The percent of Hispanic or Latino persons experiencing homelessness (2%) is half that in the general population (4%) as well as those in poverty.

Table B.

| Ethnicity | Number 2020 | Percent 2020 | Number 2019 | Percent 2019 |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Hispanic or Latino | 14 | 2% | 6 | 1% |
| Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino | 772 | 97% | 693 | 99% |
| Ethnicity Unknown | 4 | 1% | 0 | 0% |
| Total HMIS CLIENTS | 790 | 100% | 699 | 100% |

Unaccompanied Youth by Race and Ethnicity

Graph 3



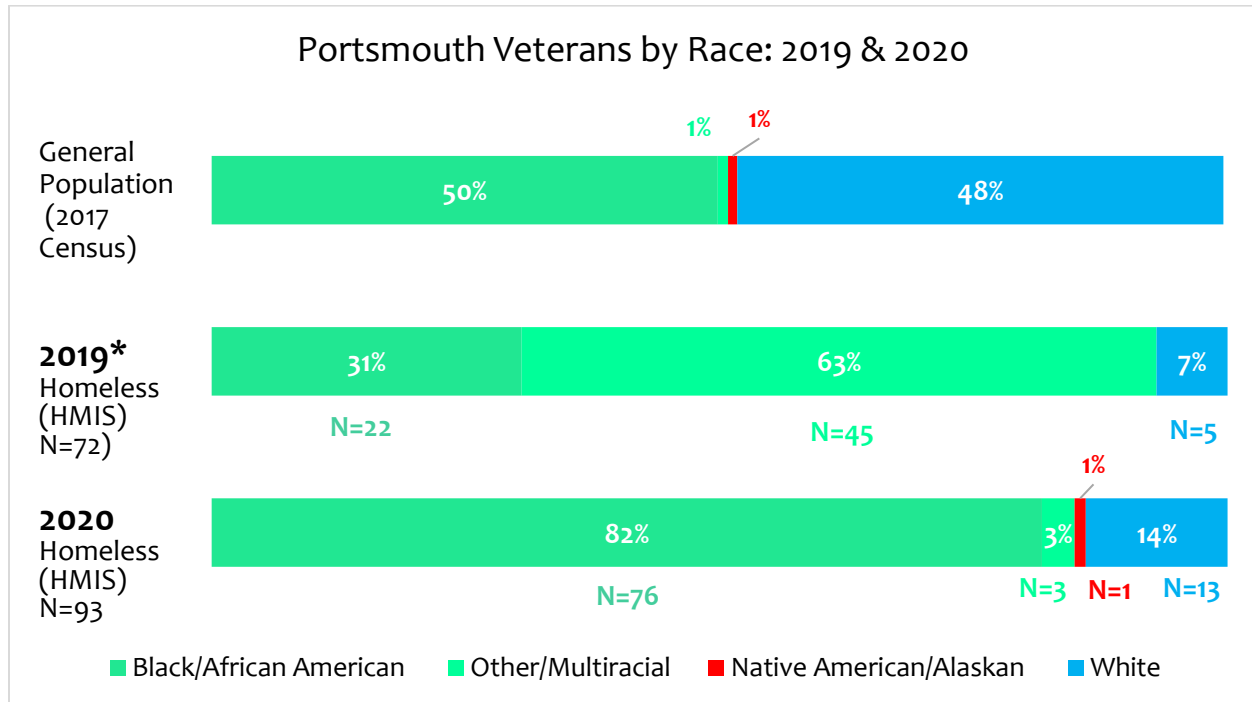
*Source: US Census, 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates; 2020 PHAC PIT.
 There were no Hispanic or Latino unaccompanied youth counted in the 2020 PIT.
 There were no unaccompanied youth counted in the 2019 PIT to compare to the 2020 PIT*

In the 2020 Point in Time Count, 3 unaccompanied youth between ages 18 and 24 were counted in Portsmouth. Although these numbers are too small to draw conclusions, there were more Black/African American unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness (67%) than Whites (33%), and a larger percentage of homeless Black/African American unaccompanied youth than in the general population. ***There were no unaccompanied youth counted during the 2019 Point in Time Count.***

Hispanic or Latino youth between ages 18 and 24 comprised 6% of general population, ***and there were no Hispanic or Latino unaccompanied counted during the 2020 Point in Time Count.***

Veterans by Race

Graph 4

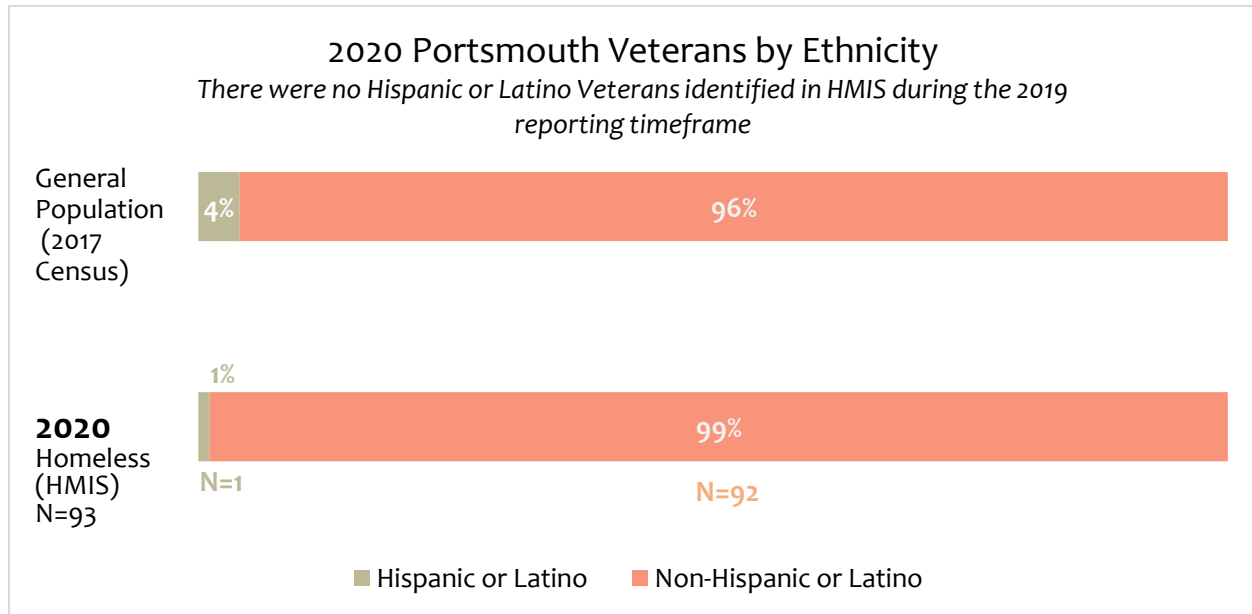


*Source: US Census, 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates; HMIS Custom Report, October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 and HMIS Custom Report, January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. *In 2019, 45 of 72 veterans in HMIS (63%) reported being Multiracial and did not identify a specific race. In 2020, only 3 of 93 veterans (3%) did not identify a specific race.*

Veterans who are Black/African American are more likely to experience homelessness than other races. While Black/African American Veterans comprise 50% of Portsmouth’s general population, they represent 82% of Veterans experiencing homelessness. By contrast, White Veterans represent 48% of the general population but just 14% of Veterans experiencing homelessness.

Veterans by Ethnicity

Graph 5

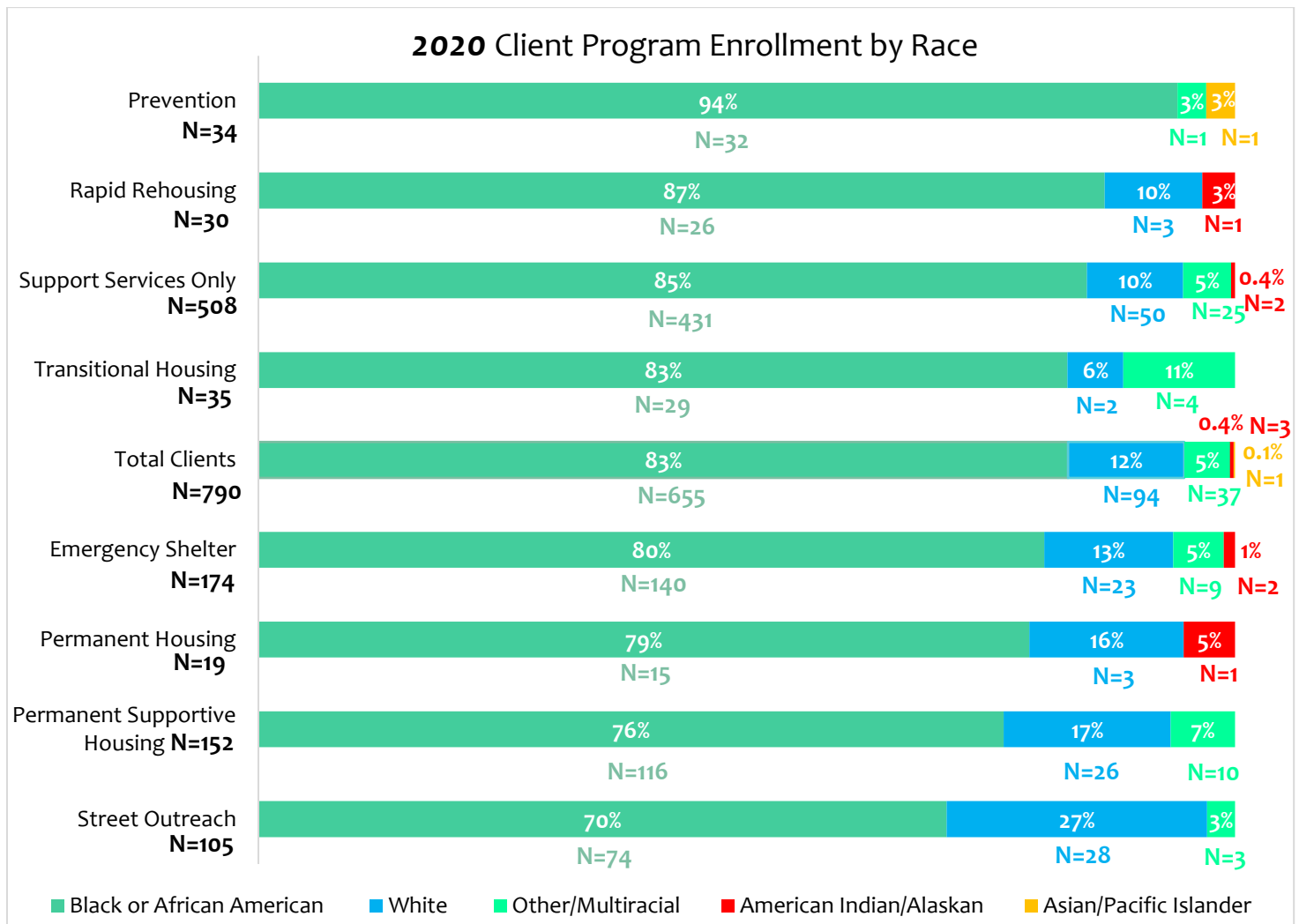


Source: US Census, 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates; HMIS Custom Report, October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

While 4% of Veterans in the general population are Hispanic or Latino, just 1 person (1%) in the 2020 HMIS report identified as Hispanic or Latino. **There were no veterans who identified as Hispanic or Latino in the 2019 HMIS report.**

Annual Program Enrollment by Race

Graph 6



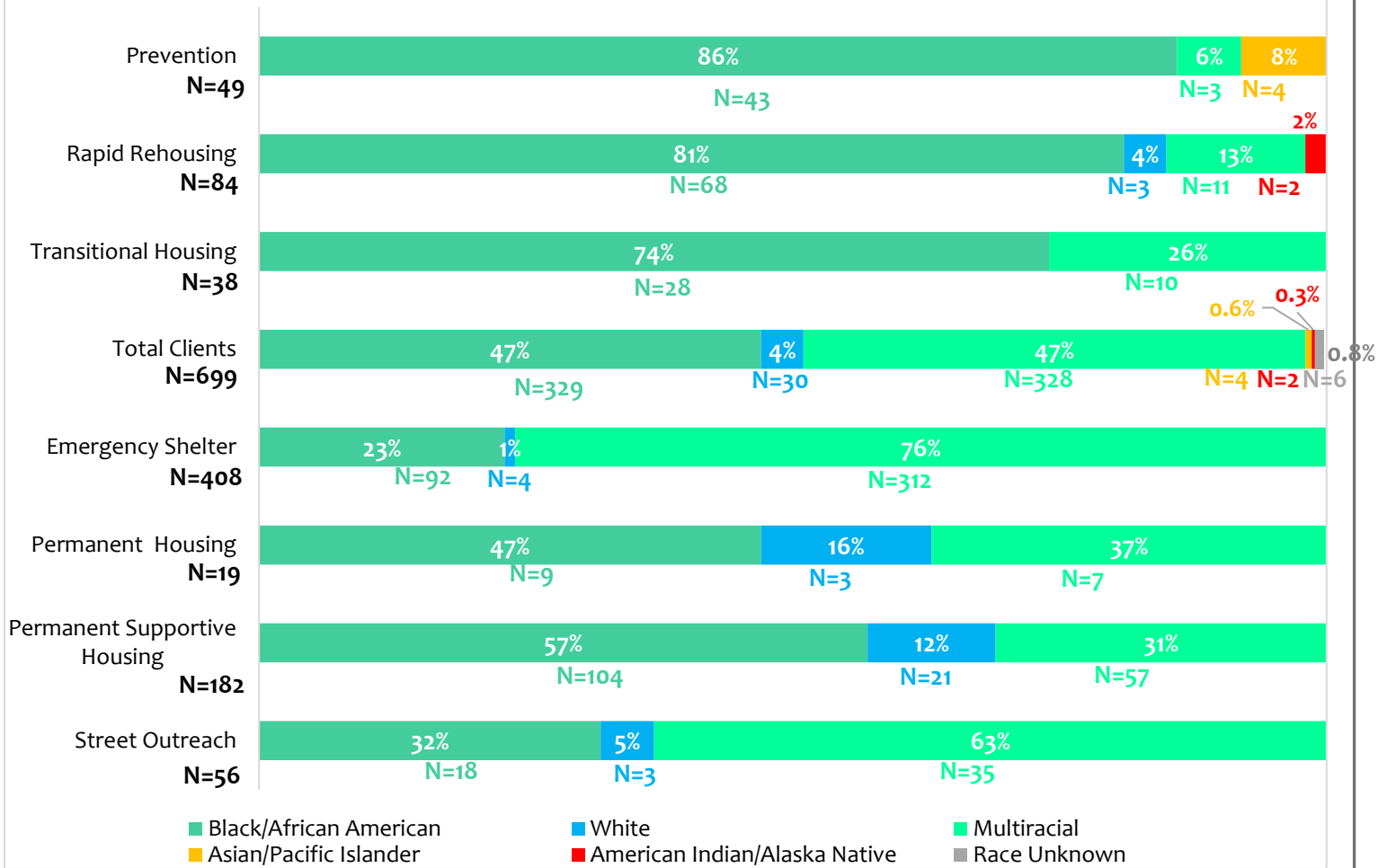
Source: HMIS Custom Report, October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

To compare the percentage 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 83% of total clients in HMIS but a larger share of Prevention (94%), Rapid Rehousing (87%) and Support Services Only programs (85%) than other races. Research indicates that Black/African American persons in Virginia have higher eviction rates than other races, which may explain why this population represents a higher percentage of homeless prevention programs.¹

¹ McCoy, Terrance. November 10, 2018. The Washington Post, "Eviction isn't just about poverty. It's also about race – and Virginia proves it." Retrieved at https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/social-issues/eviction-isnt-just-about-poverty-its-also-about-race--and-virginia-proves-it/2018/11/10/475be8ae-d7bd-11e8-aeb7-ddcad4a0a54e_story.html

Graph 7

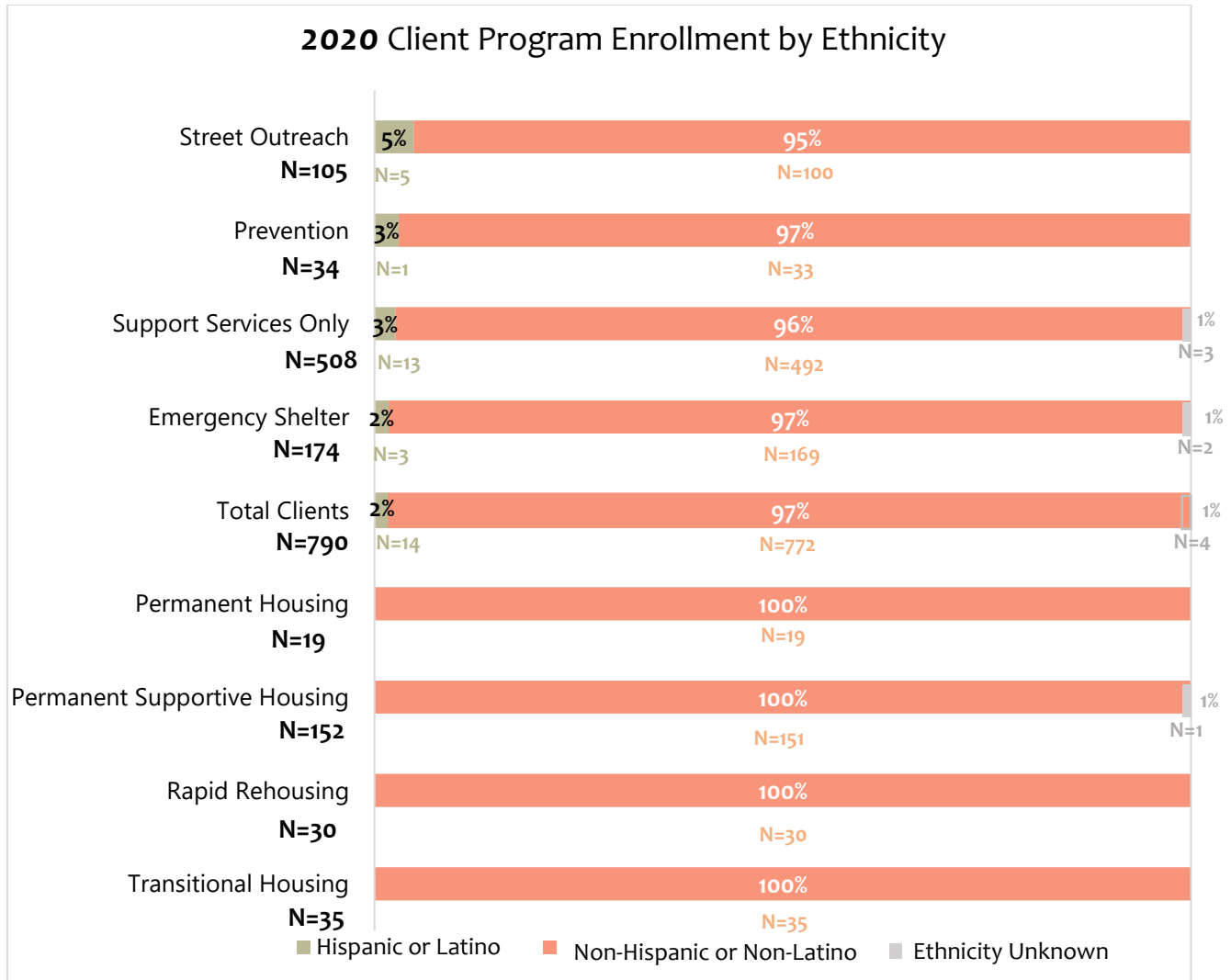
2019 Client Program Enrollment by Race*



Source: HMIS Custom Report, January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. *In 2019, nearly half (328 of 699 persons in HMIS or 47%) of clients reported being Multiracial and did not identify a specific race. Because of this, the Multiracial persons reflected in the 2019 chart above comprise a greater share of programs than Multiracial clients in the 2020 graph.

Annual Program Enrollment by Ethnicity

Graph 8

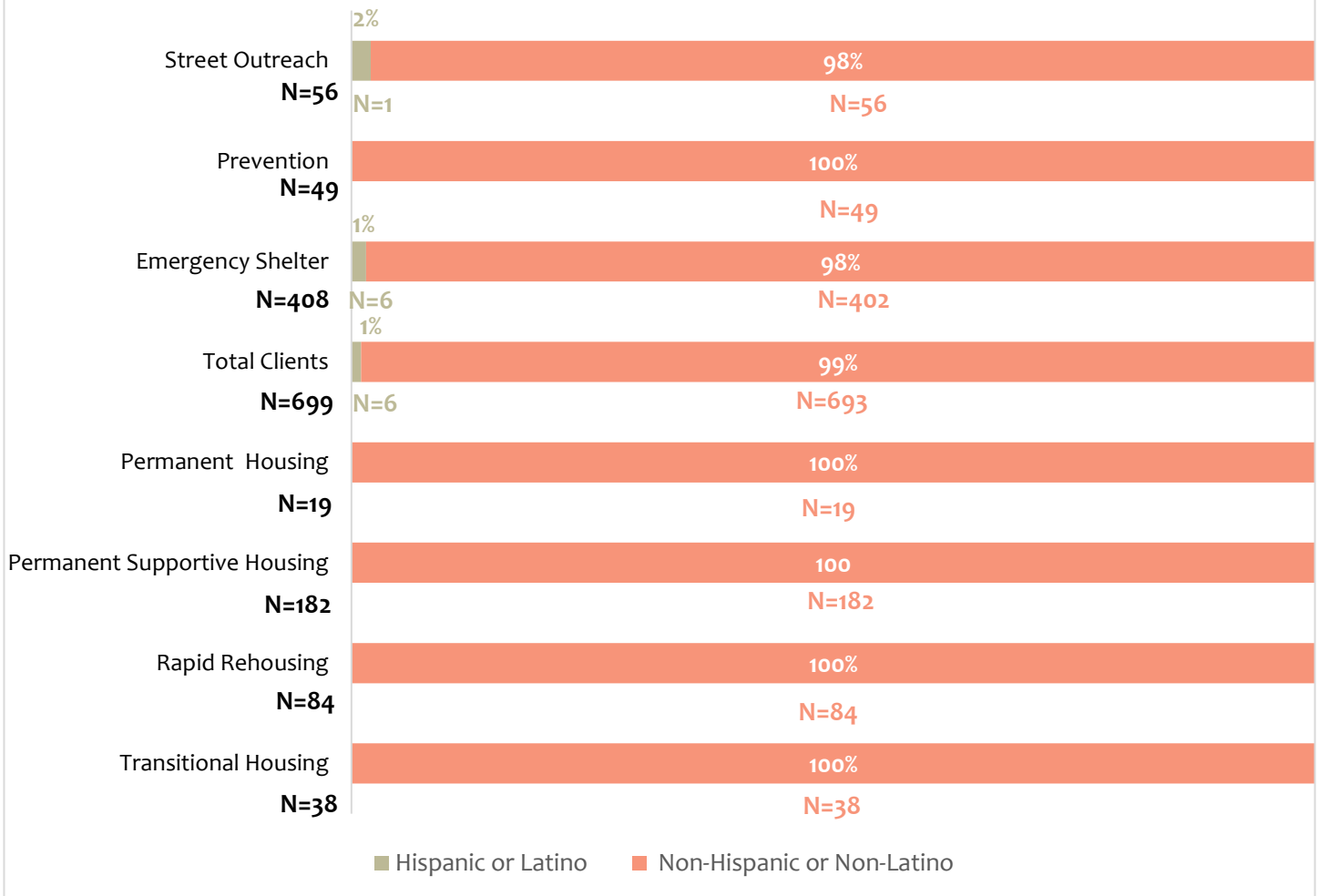


Source: HMIS Custom Report, October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

While Hispanic or Latino clients represented 2% of all HMIS clients, they comprised a larger share of Street Outreach (5%), Prevention (3%) and Support Services Only programs (3%). No Hispanic or Latino clients were enrolled in Permanent Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing or Transitional Housing. PHAC agencies will explore these findings to see if there are disparities or if this simply reflects the needs of those served during the program year.

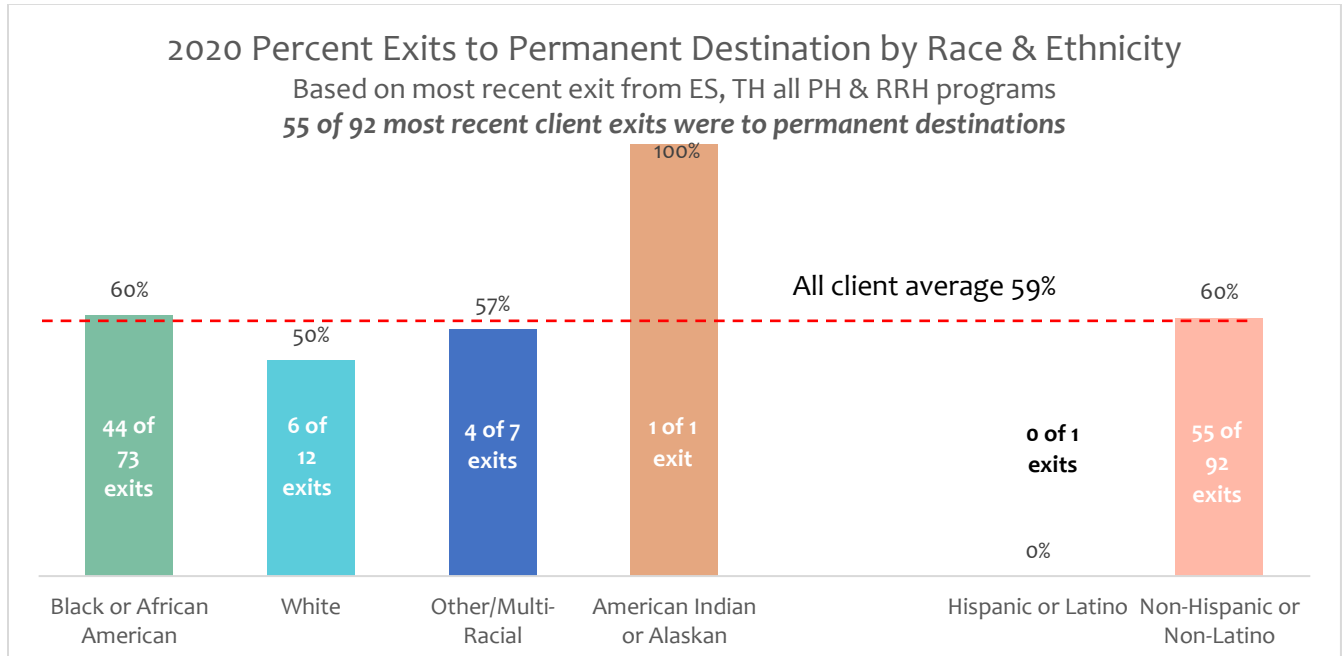
Graph 9

2019 Client Program Enrollment by Ethnicity



Exits to Permanent Housing by Race and Ethnicity

Graph 10 – This is a new graph using a different calculation method than was used in the 2019 Racial Disparities report, so comparisons cannot be made between 2019 and 2020.



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

According to the most recent client exit from Emergency Shelter (ES), Transitional Housing (TH), any Permanent Housing program (PH), or Rapid Rehousing (RRH) between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019:

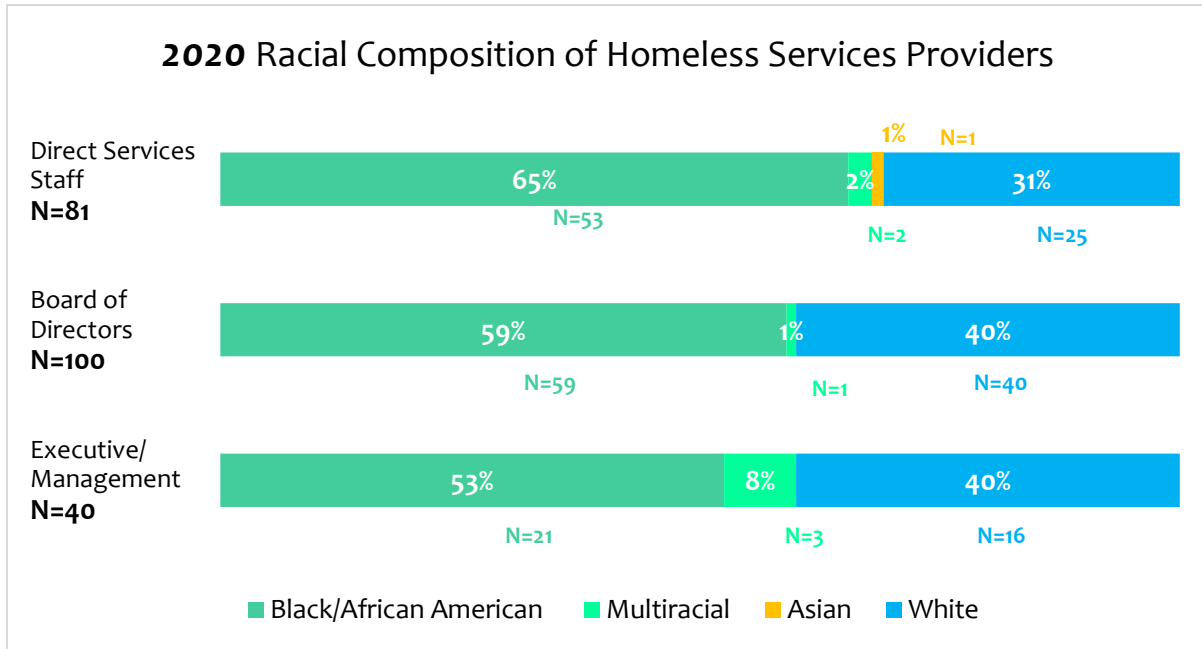
Table C.

| Race | Number of exits from ES, TH, PH, PSH or RRH | Number of exits to a permanent destination | Percent of exits to a permanent destination |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Black/African American | 73 | 44 | 60% |
| White | 12 | 6 | 50% |
| Other Race/Multiracial | 7 | 4 | 57% |
| American Indian/Alaskan | 1 | 1 | 100% |
| Total by race | 93 | 55 | 59% |

| Ethnicity | Number of exits from ES, TH, PH, PSH or RRH | Number of exits to a permanent destination | Percent of exits to a permanent destination |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|
| Hispanic/Latino | 1 | 0 | 0% |
| Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino | 92 | 55 | 59% |
| Total by ethnicity | 93 | 55 | 59% |

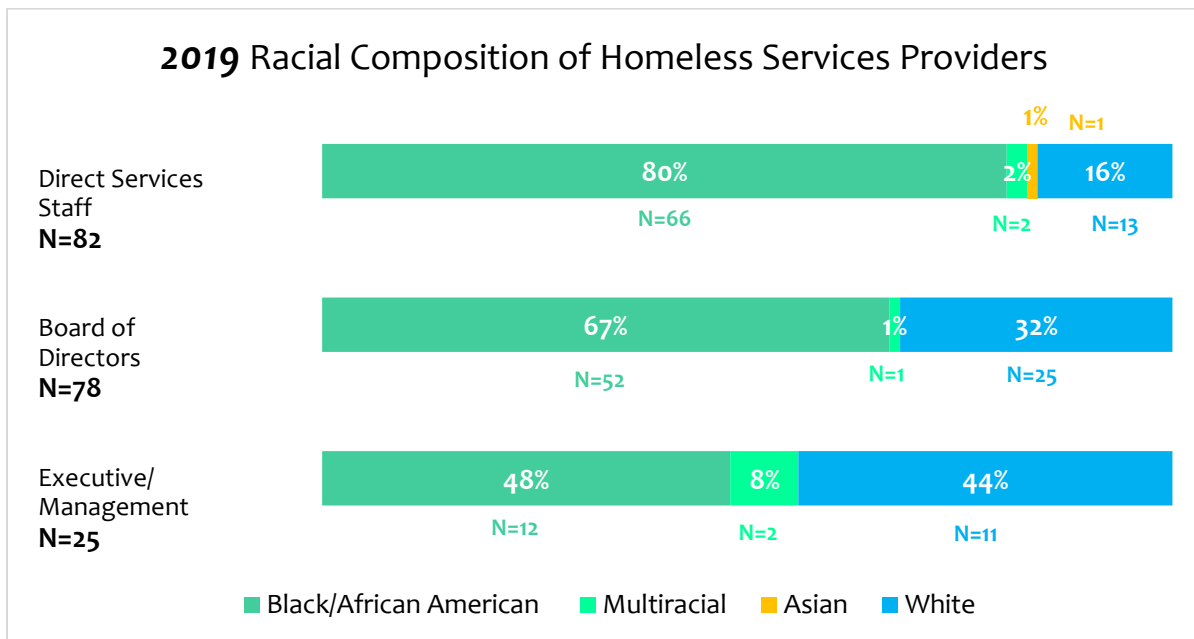
Racial and Ethnic Composition of PHAC Agencies

Graph 11



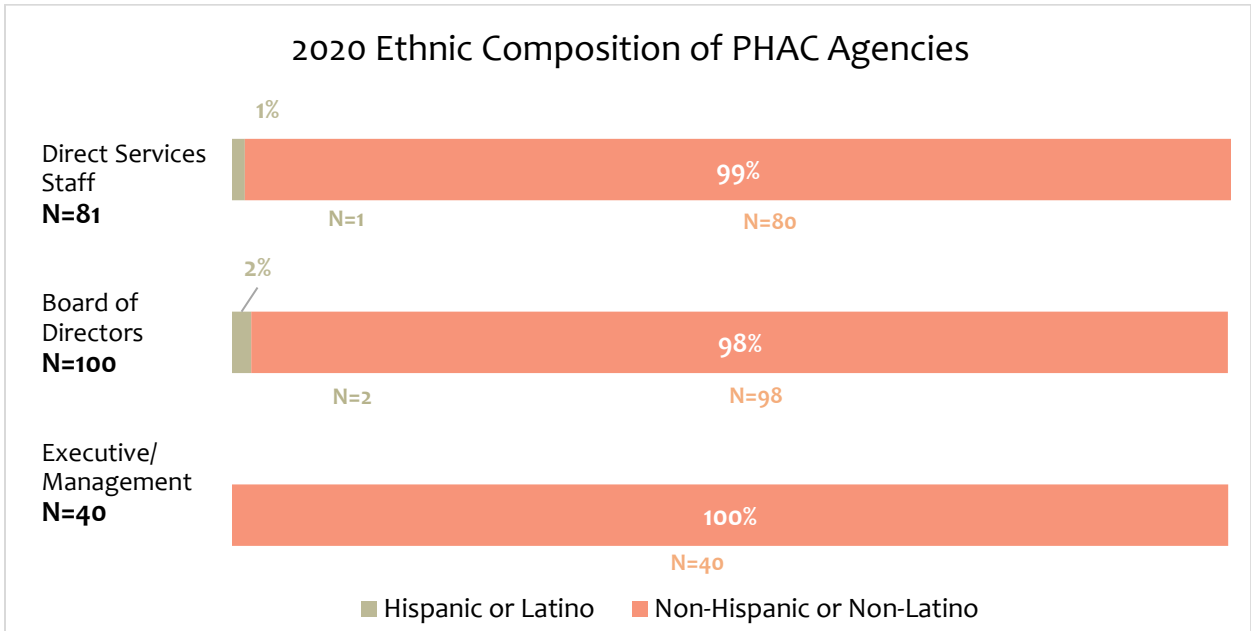
Source: PHAC partner agencies.

Graph 12



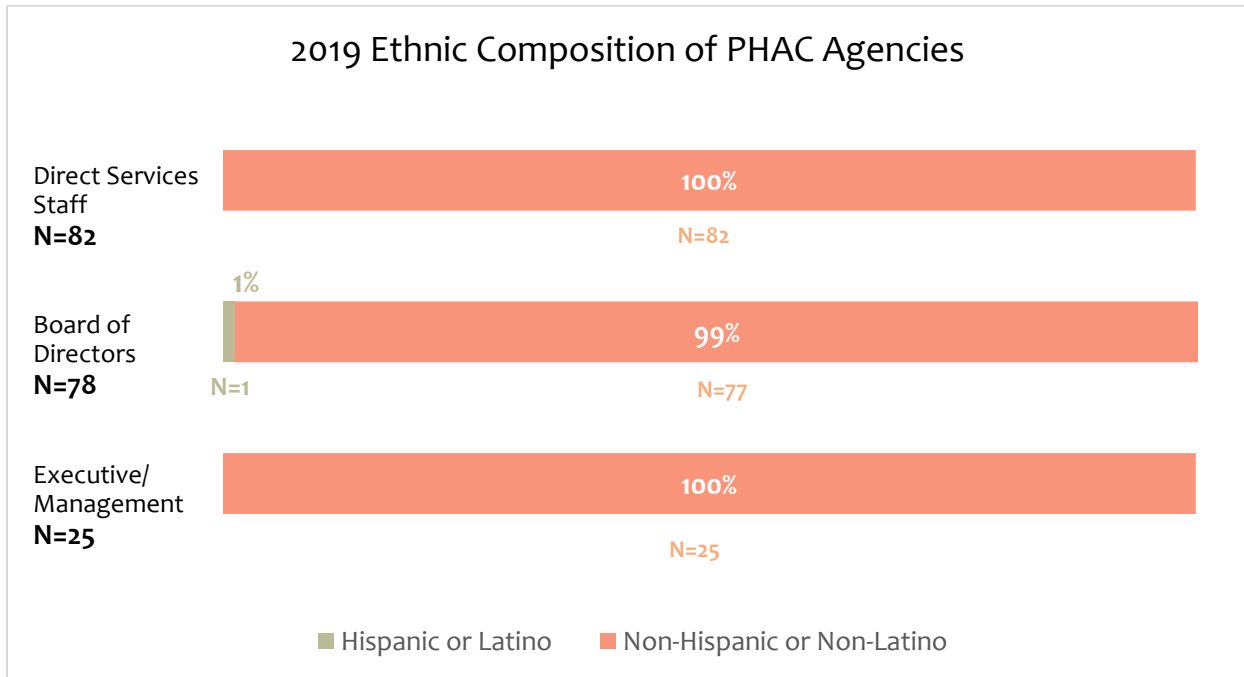
Source: PHAC partner agencies.

Graph 13



Source: PHAC partner agencies.

Graph 14



Source: PHAC partner agencies.

Agencies included in the data and graphs above are Portsmouth Action Resources Coalition, Portsmouth Christian Outreach Ministries, Portsmouth Department of Social Services (housing-related staff only), STOP Inc., H.E.R. Shelter, Virginia Supportive Housing (Hampton Roads), The Planning Council, Portsmouth Behavioral Healthcare Services and Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless.

This is the second year that the PHAC has tracked the racial composition of staff, management, and Boards of Directors at their service provider agencies. Compared to the 83% of PHAC clients who are Black/African American, PHAC agencies are represented by 65% direct housing staff, 59% Board of Directors, and 53% management who are Black/African American. PHAC continues to strive to include agencies that also represent the clients they serve.

The direct housing staff and Board members of PHAC agencies seem to reflect the ethnicity of the clients they serve: 2% of all clients were Hispanic or Latino during the program year as were 1% of direct housing staff, 2% of board members. In 2020, there were no Hispanic or Latino Executive or Management personnel at PHAC agencies.

PHAC is committed to ensuring that all persons needing housing, shelter and supportive services are able to access and receive those services regardless of race or ethnicity. The CoC will continue research within its homeless system as well as within the general community to provide services and support to meet the needs of the community.