



KCRHA

King County Regional Homelessness Authority

Seattle-King County CoC Convening

January 29, 2025

Welcome!

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that King County is located on the unceded, traditional land of the Coast Salish Peoples. We honor this land and its people past and present, and we are committed to directing funding and resources to organizations led by and in support of Native and Indigenous people.



Theory of Change

If we create a homelessness response system that centers the voices of people with lived experience of homelessness, then we will be able to focus on responding to needs and eliminating inequities, in order to end homelessness.



Agenda of the Day

10:00 AM: Welcome

10:20 AM: Understanding HMIS Data: Tools, Limits, Future
Presentation

11:15 AM: Break

11:25 AM: Seattle-King County Continuum of Care Governance
Charter Revision Presentation and Vote

12:10 PM: Break

12:20 PM: Community Appreciation

12:40 PM: 2025 CoC Workplan





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Understanding Race and Ethnicity HMIS Data: Tools, limits, and future

Community Impact

Daniel Ramos III, Data Asset Manager – HMIS Lead

January 29, 2025

Purpose

To understand the landscape of tools related to race and equity with HMIS data for a shared understanding of its limits, and its uses. Through learning together, we can further the accessibility of using HMIS to make data-driven decisions that reflect the experience and needs of those experiencing homelessness in our communities.

This presentation is meant to set the context for future data-driven work we'll all do together, rather than providing a comprehensive racial equity analysis.



Why is this important?

- We need to continue raise up and work to solve racial inequities in the Homeless Response System

How do we do that?

- Overview of Race Category collection in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Review current Race/Ethnicity Analysis available
- Activity
- Future direction

Discussion

Agenda



Shared Understanding Goals

Why is important to address racial equities within the homeless system?

What is the HMIS?

What are opportunities and limits to analyzing race and equity?

What is the difference between the definition of race and racial equity?

How can race and ethnicity data be analyzed to understand if outcomes are equitable?





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Why is Race and Ethnicity Data Important?

Why we need to address racial inequities:

Nationwide Disparities in Homelessness by Race & Ethnicity:

The white race category are the largest category experiencing homelessness, but other racial/ethnic category experience homelessness at ***much higher rates*** than the national average.

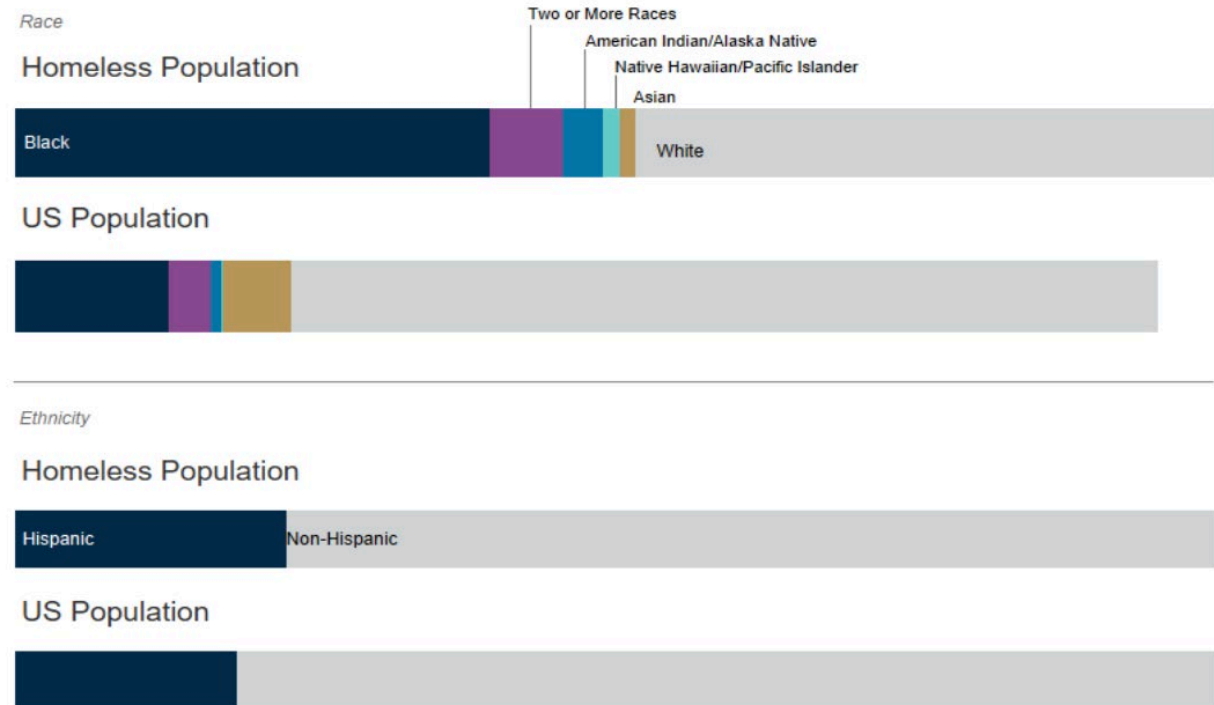
Exact homelessness rates for some ethnic/racial categories are unclear due to data limitations.

Asian Race Category: Aggregating all Asian ethnicities obscures significant disparities within subgroups, where some experience homelessness at much higher rates.

Native American/Alaska Native Data Issues: 7 times more likely to be experiencing homeless than the white race category, representing 3% of the homeless population despite being 2% of the U.S. population (AHAR).

Most Minority Groups Make up a Larger Share of the Homeless Population than They Do of the General Population

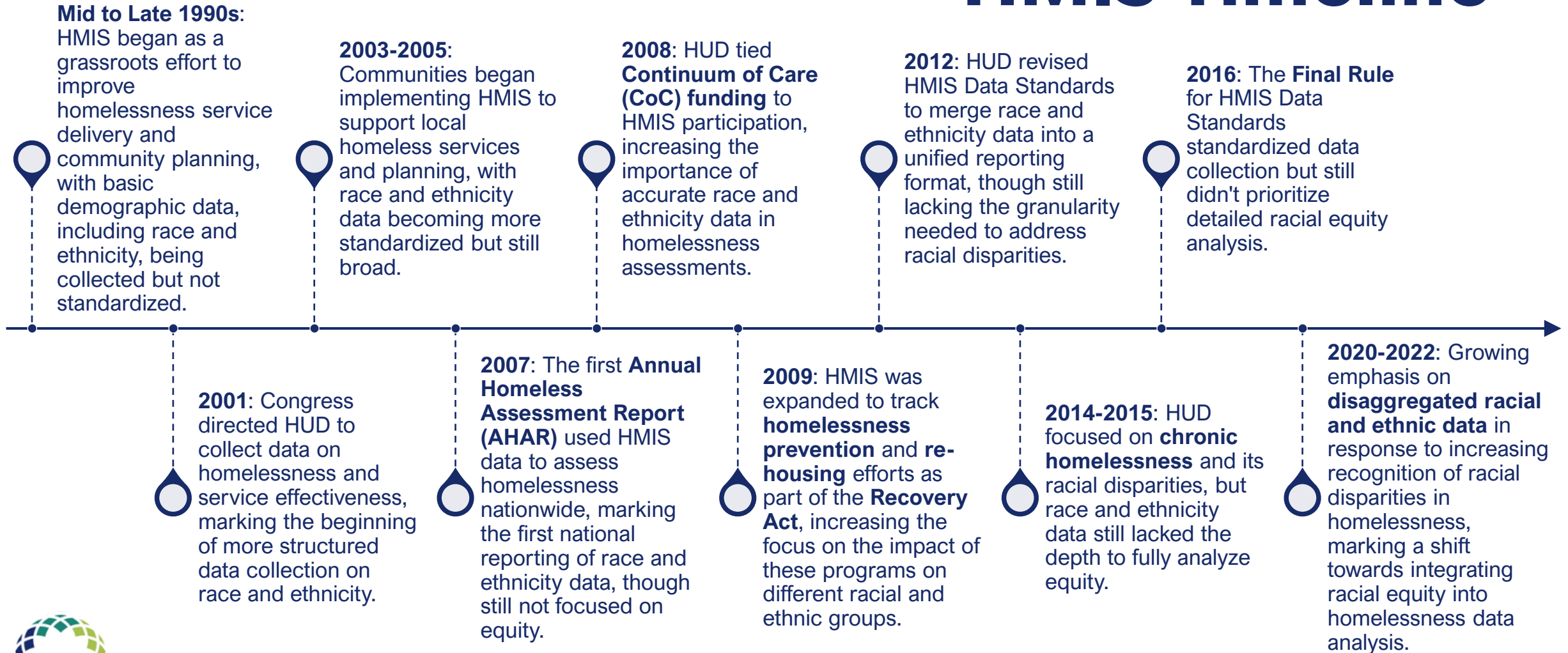
Race and ethnicity of those experiencing homelessness compared with the general population



Homeless population data are for a given night in 2020.
Source: Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, Part 1, 2021.



HMIS Timeline





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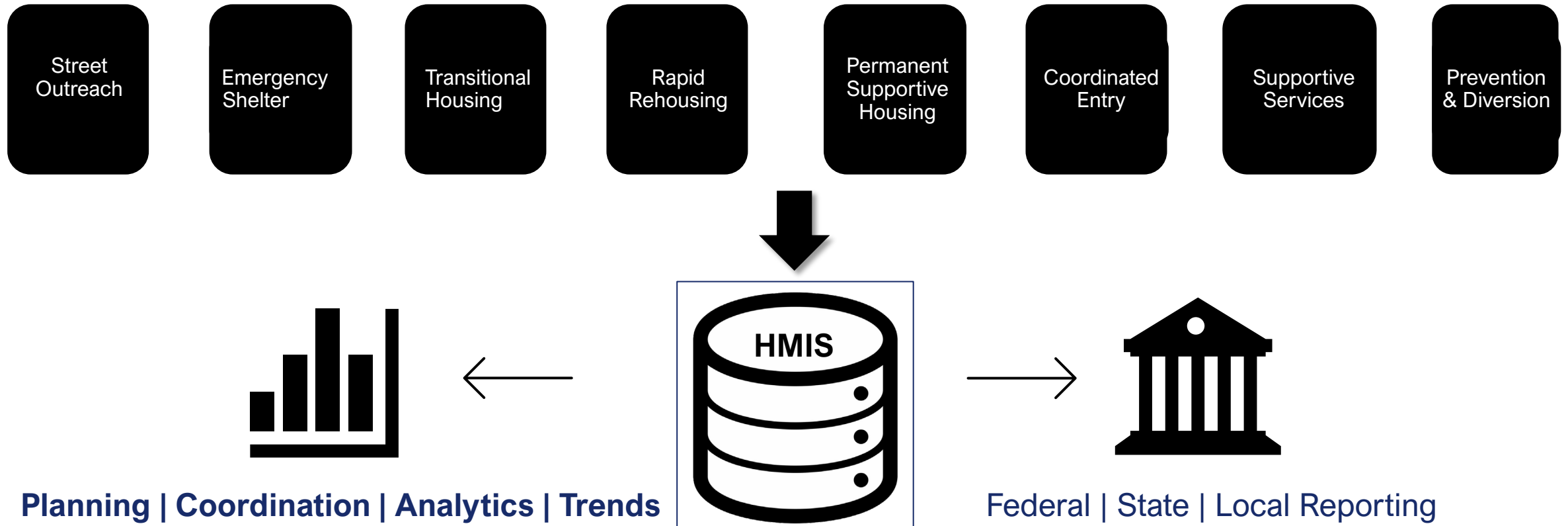
How is Race and Ethnicity data collected?

Data Collection Methodology

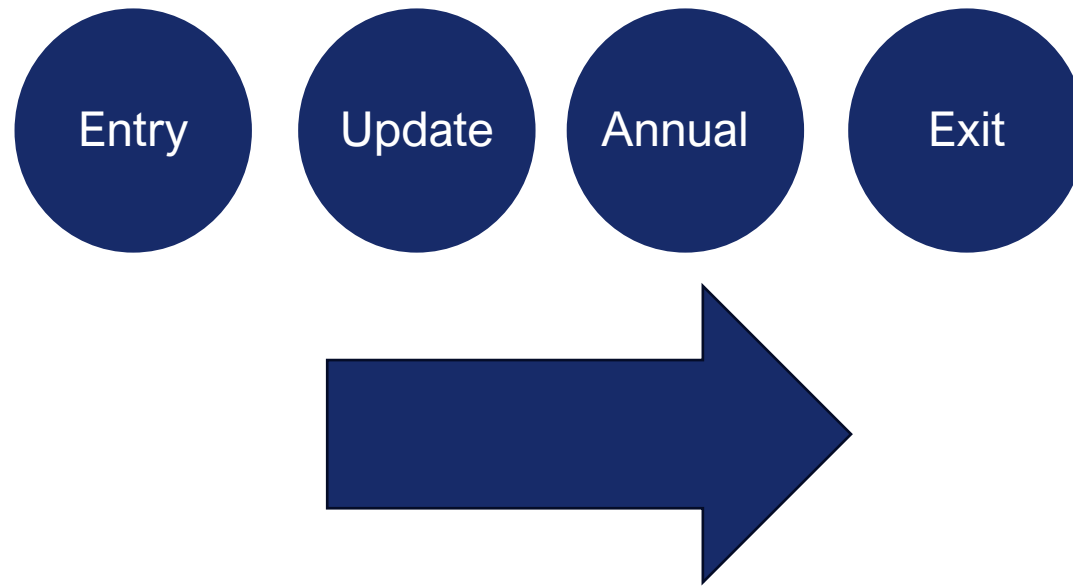
- HMIS data collection is a requirement for receiving federal, state and local funding.
- Some data is universally gathered from everyone, while others are project, population or funding specific.
- Person-centered practices are used in data collection with specific guidance coming from HUD.



HMIS Data Collection Structure



HMIS Data Collection Stages



HMIS Data Collection Structure

Universal Data Elements

- Name
- **Demographics**
- Living Situation
- Barriers
- Project Start
- Project End Date
- Language preferences
- Exit Destination
- *Tribal Affiliation



Program Specific Data Elements

- Date of Engagement
- Date of Move-in
- Income
- Bed Nights
- Services
- Coordinated Entry Events &
- Referrals

Race and Ethnicity Picklist

2022 HMIS Data Standards

(can pick multiple)

- American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous
- Asian or Asian American
- Black, African American, or African
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- White

Ethnicity *(can select one)*

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latin(a)(o)(x)

Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)

Current HMIS Data Standards

(can pick multiple)

- American Indian, Alaska Native, or indigenous
- Asian or Asian American
- Black, African American, or African
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- **Hispanic/Latina/e/o**
- **Middle Eastern or North African**
- White





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What are the Limitations of Race and Ethnicity HMIS Data?

Known limitations, what are we missing?

- **Broad Racial Categories:** The use of overly broad racial categories (e.g., "Asian," "Black," "White") without subcategories for ethnic groups (e.g., Chinese, Vietnamese, Native Hawaiian) masks important disparities and intersectional experiences within those populations, obscuring the unique challenges faced by specific groups.
- **Aggregated Data for Ethnicity:** Combining race and ethnicity into one category (e.g., "Hispanic or Non-Hispanic") limits the ability to analyze the unique impact of both racial identity and ethnicity, especially for Latinx populations, where diverse subgroups (e.g., Puerto Rican, Mexican, Cuban) have distinct socioeconomic and health disparities.
- **Lack of training and cultural awareness on the part of the interviewer:** For example, the categorization of Indigenous people as "American Indian or Alaska Native" without additional identifiers (e.g., tribal affiliation or Native American subgroups) fails to capture important differences in the lived experiences and systemic barriers faced by these groups, which can prevent accurate equity analysis.



Known limitations, what are we missing?

- **Missing or Incomplete Data:** The reliance on self-reporting in HMIS systems may result in incomplete, inaccurate, or inconsistent data, particularly when clients are reluctant or unable to specify their race or ethnicity, leading to gaps in understanding racial inequities or misrepresentation of marginalized communities.
- **Overrepresentation of "Multi-racial" Category:** The use of a "multiracial" category for race/ethnicity often captures a wide variety of identities and experiences, diluting the data and making it difficult to analyze specific racial groups that may be disproportionately impacted by homelessness or lack of access to services.
- **Data standard changes:** Year to year analysis comparison is difficult when data standards change.

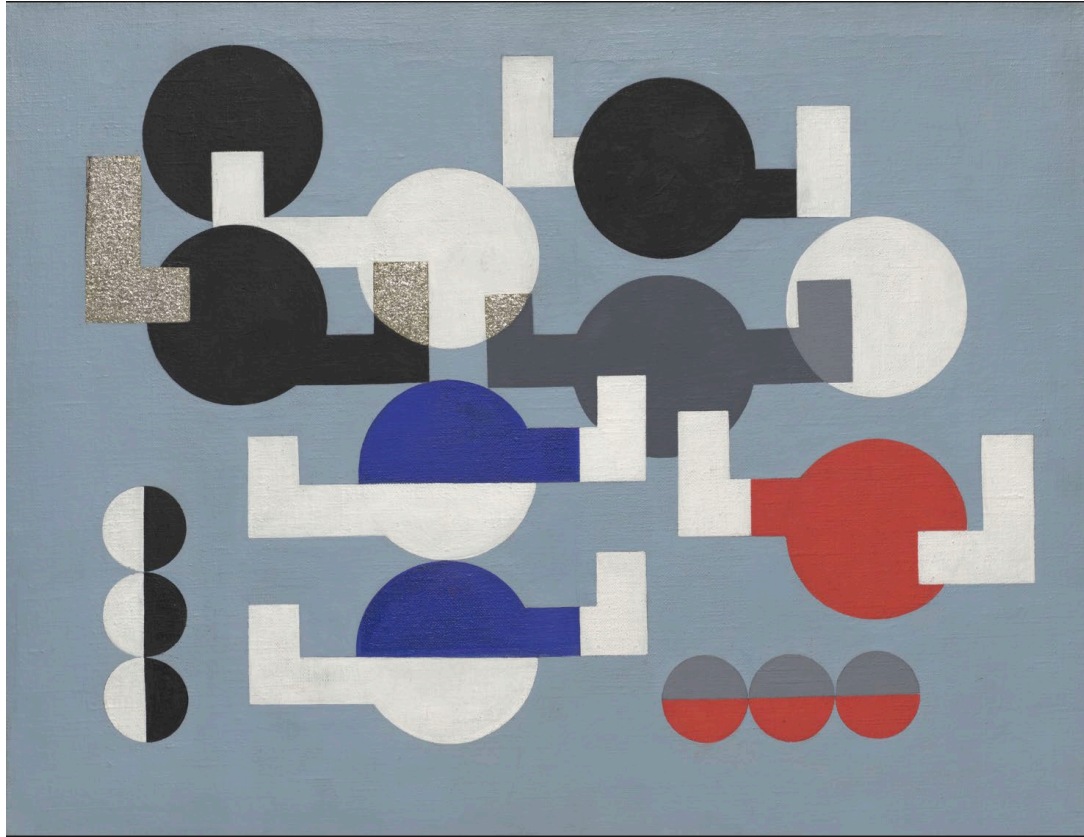




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How are we analyzing Race and Ethnicity Data?

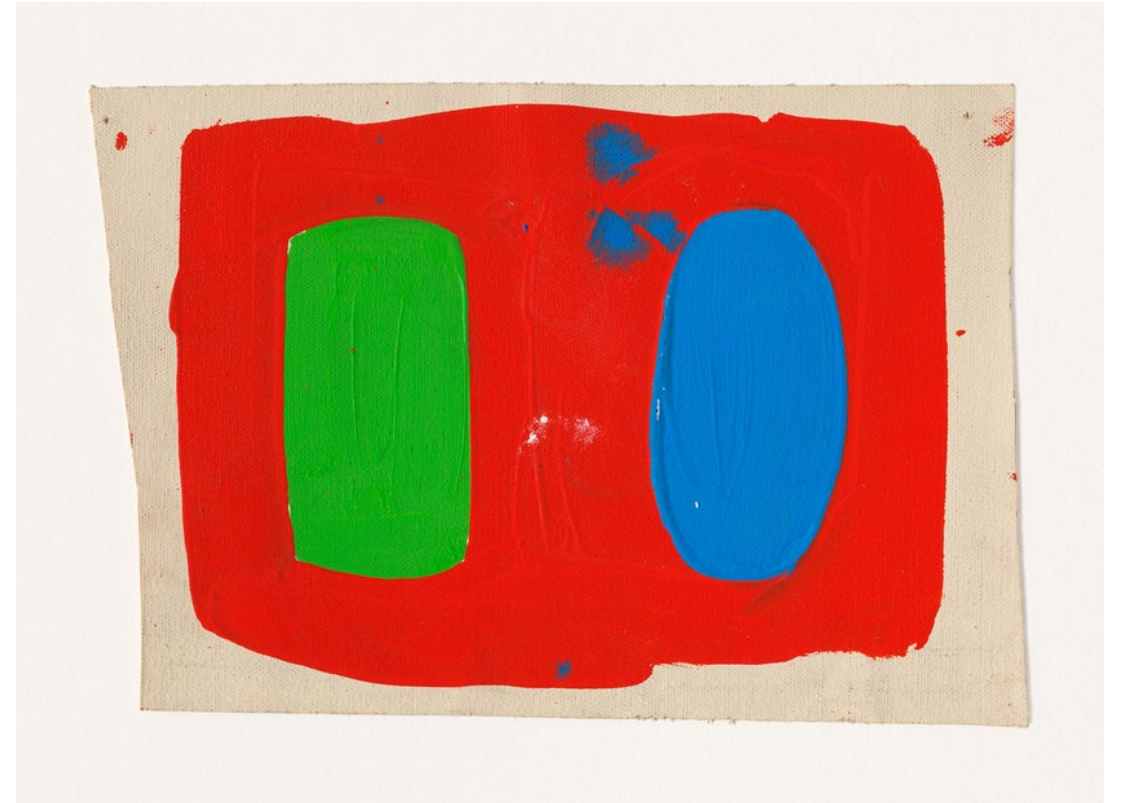
Data Ethics



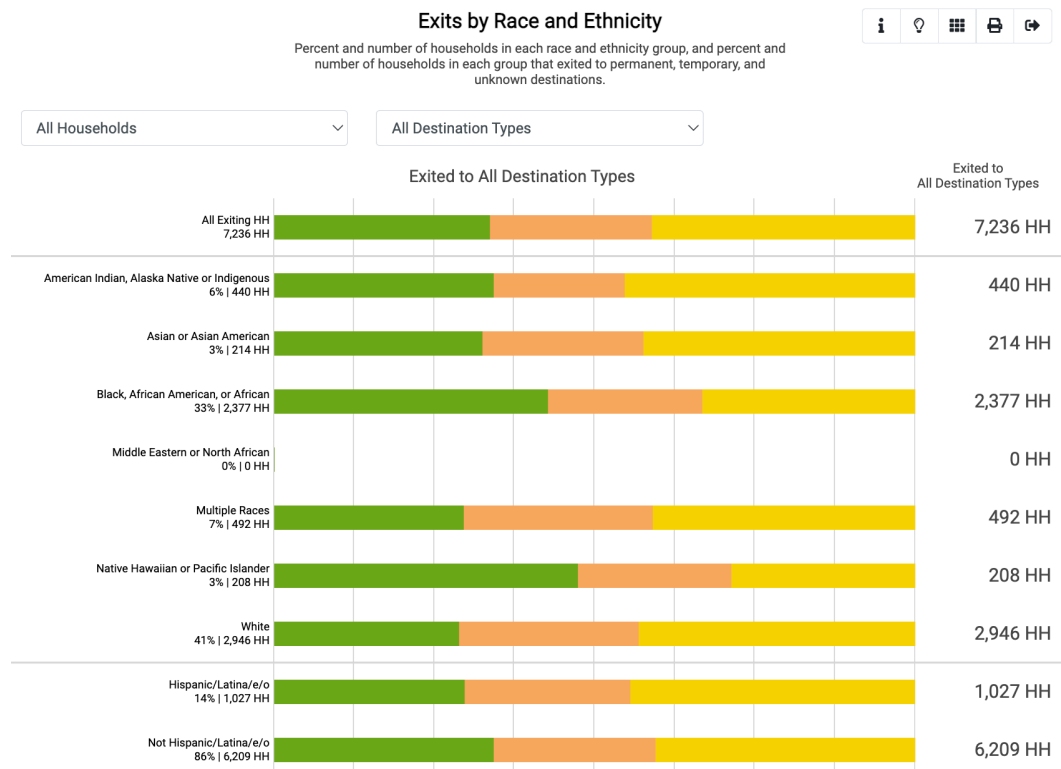
- Uphold applicable statutes, regulations, professional practices, and standards
- Respect the public, individuals, and communities
- Respect privacy and confidentiality
- Act with honesty, integrity, and humility
- Hold oneself and others accountable
- Promote and act with transparency
- Stay informed of developments related to the data you work with.
- There is always a person(s) behind the data

Current HMIS reports and tools for examining race and ethnicity trends

- Federal HMIS reports
- HUDs Racial Equity Tool
- KCRHA local Dashboards
- Seattle/King County Outcomes Report



Longitudinal System Analysis



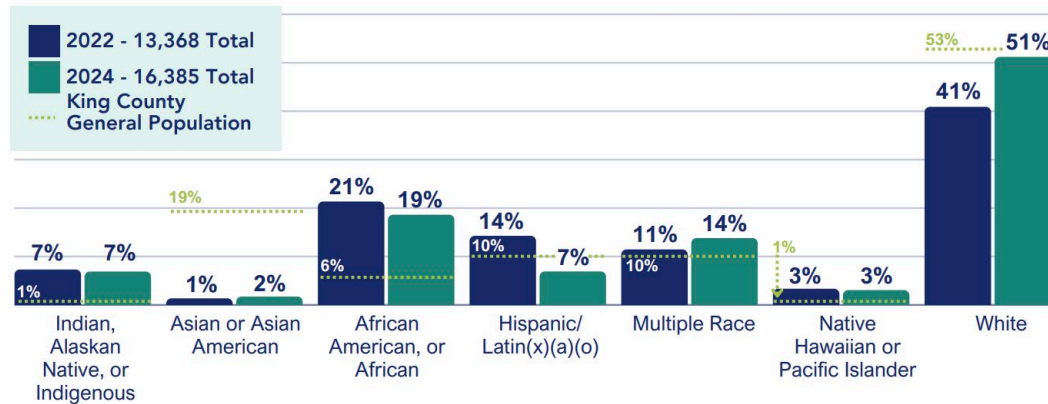
- **Race and Ethnicity Analysis:** Stella P provides detailed data on how different racial and ethnic groups experience homelessness, including metrics on **Days Homeless, Exits, and Returns**. It offers **intersectional analysis** for various combinations of race and ethnicity, such as **Black and Hispanic** or **White and Hispanic**.
- **Disparity Identification:** By breaking down data by race and ethnicity, Stella P helps identify disparities in outcomes, such as differences in **exit rates to permanent housing, length of time homeless, and rates of return to homelessness**, enabling communities to pinpoint which groups are most impacted.
- **Performance by Race and Ethnicity:** The tool allows CoCs to track and compare the performance of different racial and ethnic groups across key measures, helping to highlight groups with **longer homelessness durations** or **higher return rates**, signaling areas for improvement.
- **Local Analysis & Equity:** Stella P encourages CoCs to integrate local data to assess disparities and engage with **historically marginalized racial and ethnic communities** for a more complete understanding of systemic inequities. This can inform policies and practices to improve equity in service delivery.
- **Qualitative Engagement:** To complement quantitative data, Stella P stresses the importance of **qualitative analysis** through **inclusive stakeholder engagement** and **feedback from people with lived experience**, ensuring that racial equity efforts are grounded in the realities of those most affected by homelessness.



Point-in-Time Count

Racial Inequity

Homelessness continues to disproportionately affect communities of color in King County. Based on the PIT analyses, 19% of people experiencing homelessness in King County identify as Black/African American, but according to the 2020 U.S. Census only 6% of King County's population identifies as Black/African American. Similarly, 7% of people experiencing homelessness identify as American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous, but that group makes up only 1% of King County's population. **As our community continues the dialogue about race and equity, it is important to recognize that homelessness is an outcome of structural racism and racial inequities.**

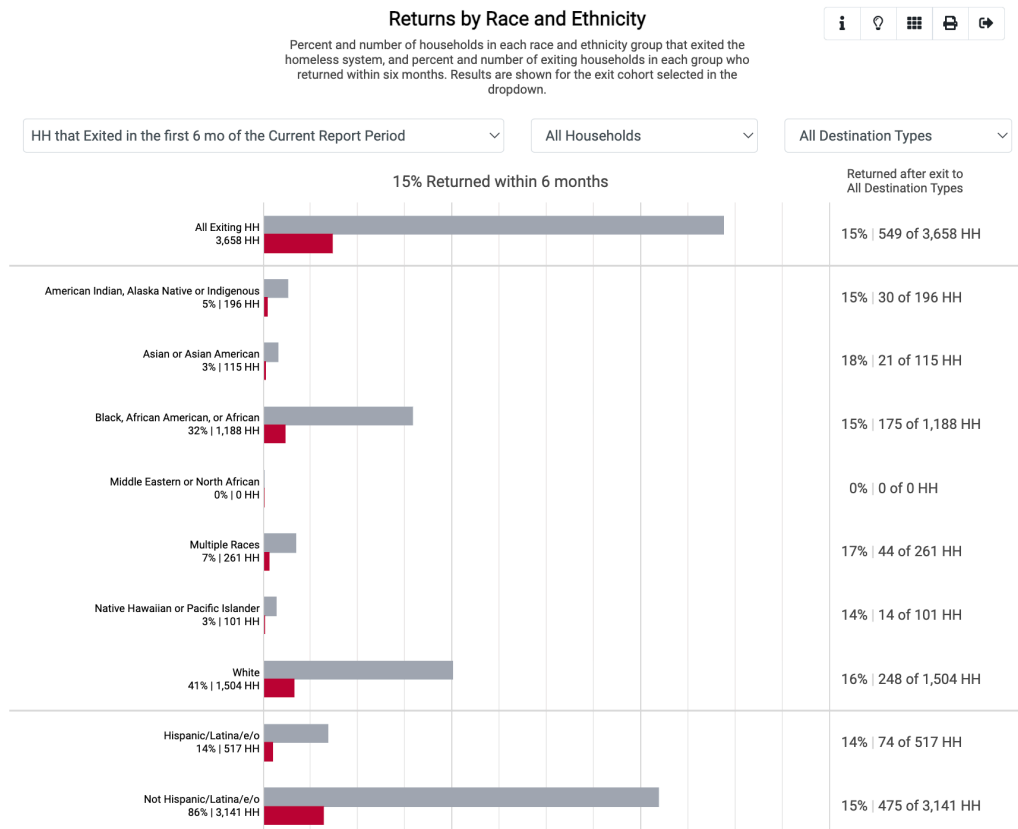


Method or change in Census definitions could have impacted results, read more at kcrha.org/pit

- **Disproportionate Representation:** By breaking down the PIT Count data by race and ethnicity, it is possible to identify if certain racial or ethnic groups are overrepresented among the homeless population, pointing to systemic issues like racial discrimination in housing, employment, and criminal justice.
- **Trend Analysis:** Longitudinal data from multiple PIT Counts can highlight whether certain racial or ethnic groups experience growing or decreasing rates of homelessness over time, revealing potential disparities in access to resources, housing stability, and economic opportunities.
- **Geographic Disparities:** Comparing PIT Count data across different regions or cities can uncover geographic patterns where racial or ethnic minorities are more likely to experience homelessness, helping to identify areas where targeted interventions or policy changes are needed.
- **Shelter Access and Service Utilization:** Analyzing the racial and ethnic breakdown of individuals accessing emergency shelters or transitional housing programs can highlight barriers to service access, such as cultural competency, language barriers, or discriminatory practices in shelter intake procedures.
- **Intersectionality with Other Vulnerabilities:** The PIT Count can reveal how race and ethnicity intersect with other factors like gender, age, disability, and veteran status, offering insights into how compounded vulnerabilities contribute to homelessness among specific racial or ethnic groups.



System Performance Measures (HUD)

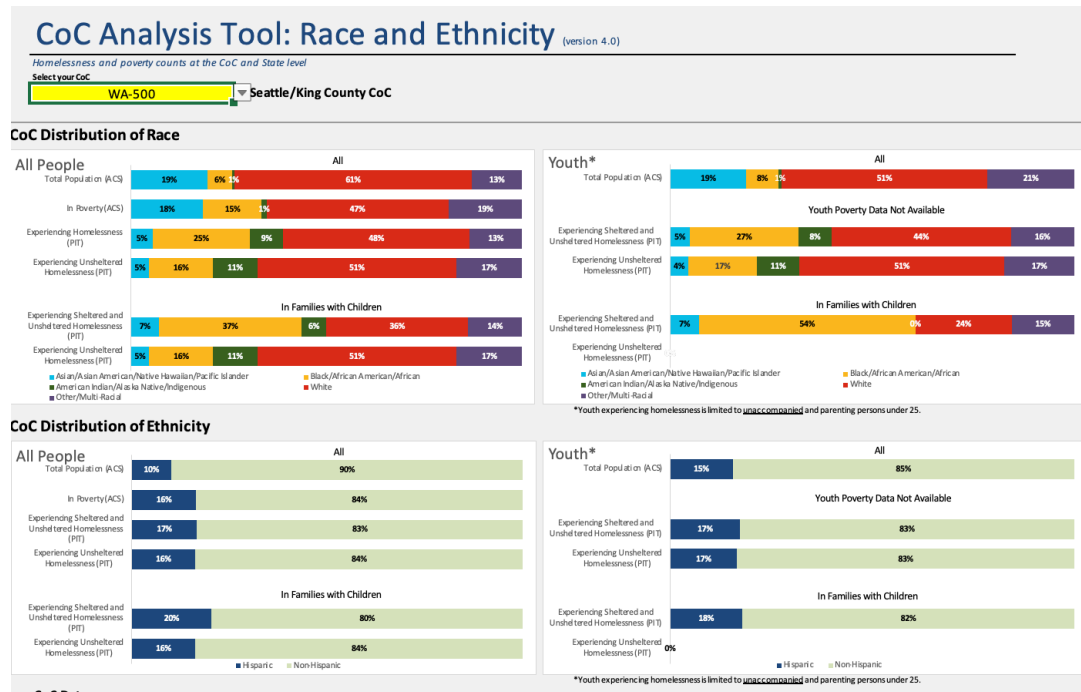


- **Exit Rates to Permanent Housing:** By comparing the rate at which people exit homelessness to permanent housing across racial and ethnic groups, the SPM report can highlight if certain groups face more challenges in achieving housing stability, potentially due to discrimination or other systemic factors.
- **Recidivism Patterns:** The report tracks how often people return to homelessness after being housed. If people from specific racial or ethnic backgrounds are more likely to experience recidivism, it can indicate that they face ongoing structural barriers to maintaining stable housing, like job discrimination or limited affordable housing options.
- **Progress Toward Equity Goals:** The SPM report can be used to measure the effectiveness of specific policies or programs aimed at reducing racial and ethnic disparities in homelessness. By tracking whether certain groups are improving at the same rate as others, it helps policymakers see if their efforts are truly addressing inequities or if more needs to be done.



CoC Analysis Tool: Race and Ethnicity

- The CoC Analysis Tool: Race and Ethnicity draws on Point-In-Time Count (PIT) and American Community Survey (ACS) data to facilitate analysis of racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness. Such an analysis is a critical first step in identifying and changing racial and ethnic disparities in our systems and services.



Seattle/King County Outcomes Report

- Program specific data presented and empowers agencies to be looking at the data and find inconsistencies or patterns.
- Allows for analyzing racial category and housing outcomes, return rate, and average length of stay
- All HMIS users can run for their program to monitor and respond to changes
- Allows for more targeted population intervention and adopt improvements rapidly



Seattle-KC Program Outcomes Report

ENROLLMENT & UTILIZATION									
	New Household Enrollments During the Report Period		Total Household Enrollments During the Report Period		Household Enrollments from Homelessness During the Report Period		Occupancy Rate During the Reporting Period		
	Total:	# of Households	Total:	# of Households	Total:	# of Households	%	Units Utilized:	61,051
Overall		304		346		220	63.58%	Total Unit Capacity:	68,355
								% of Units Utilized:	89.31%

OUTCOMES								
	Household Exits	Household Exits to a Permanent Destination	Household Exits to a Temporary Destination	Return to Homelessness Rate	Average Length of Stay			
Overall								
Total	290	130	44.83%	14	4.83%	9	8.04%	196.14
Equity Outcomes								
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous Households	17	8	47.06%	0	0%	1	0.89%	254.47
Asian or Asian American Households	7	5	71.43%	0	0%	0	0%	226.86
Black, African American, or African Households	129	49	37.98%	3	2.33%	5	4.46%	161.14
Hispanic/Latina/e/o Households	5	2	40%	0	0%	0	0%	128.67
Middle Eastern or North African Households	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	235
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Households	8	4	50%	1	12.5%	0	0%	288.3
White Households	77	34	44.16%	5	6.49%	1	0.89%	213.42
Multiracial Households	38	24	63.16%	3	7.89%	1	0.89%	236.88
Unknown/PNTA/Data Not Collected Race and Ethnicity Households	8	3	37.5%	2	25%	1	0.89%	145.78

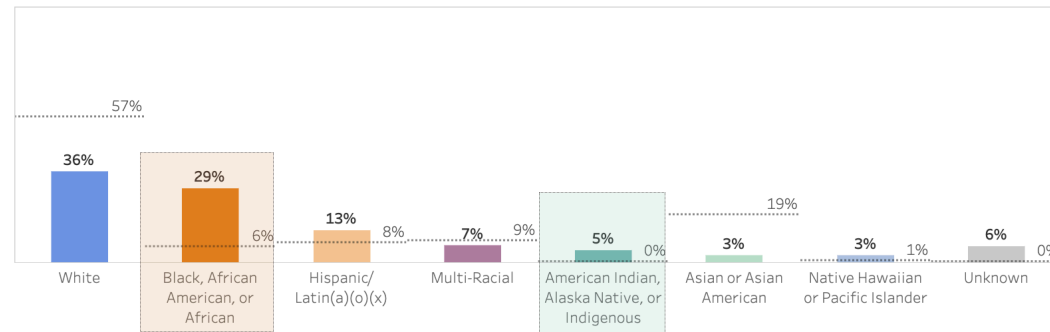
KCRHA Program Performance Dashboards & Ad Hoc Reporting

How equitable is the system?



Homelessness disproportionately impacts people and households of color.

On 7/31/2023, 10,817 households experienced homelessness and received services in the homeless response system. The majority of heads of households identified as people of color. When compared to the racial demographics of the King County general population, the largest disparities were observed among those identifying as **Black or African American** (29% in the homeless response system compared to 6% in the county's general population) and **American Indian/Alaskan Native** (5% compared to <1%).



1. Data includes households experiencing homelessness and accessing services as captured in Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) on 9/1/2023.
 2. Demographic data reflect characteristics of the head of household.
 3. Dotted lines represent the King County population according to the 2021 5-Year American Community Survey.

Demographics: KCRHA can identify disparities in how different populations are affected by homelessness.

Specificity: Our local dashboards and reports can look at race and ethnicity by custom project type, funding, and region.

Research and evaluation: Ad hoc reports and research allow for evaluations of parts of our system and how it is performing.





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**Where do we go from
here?**

Future Projects

- We'll never have complete information but need to continue working towards our goals.
- Open comment period for HUDs data collection in May 2025.
- KCRHA 5-year plan continues to prioritize our Theory of Change
- CE evaluation focused on how individuals and households move through the CE by race/ethnicity
- Continue to monitor federal reporting and demographics.
- KCRHA outcomes dashboards



Shared Understanding Goals

Why is important to address racial equities within the homeless system?

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Scan this QR code to sign up for KCRHA emails →



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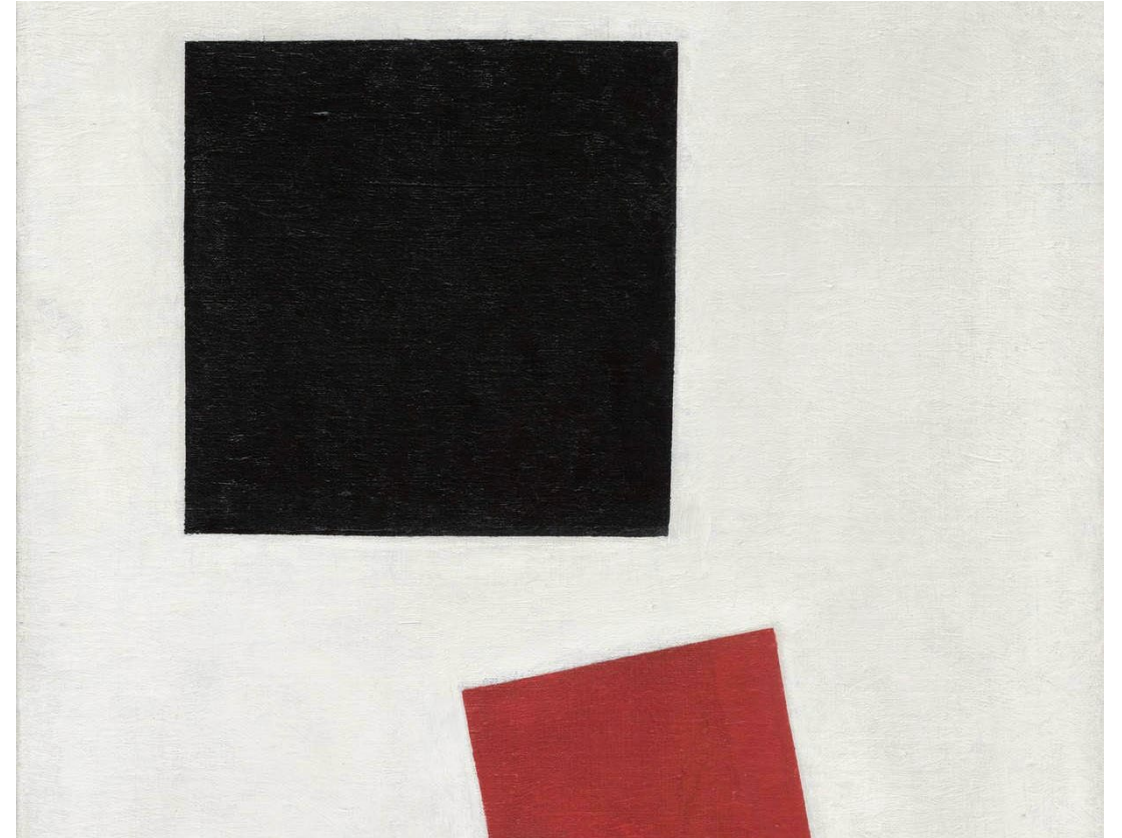
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- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). (n.d.). *Person-centered approaches to HMIS data collection*. HUD Exchange. <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hmis/hmis-data-standards/standards/introduction-to-hmis-data-standards/person-centered-approaches-to-hmis-data-collection/>
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- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). (n.d.). *History of HMIS: Handout*. HUD Exchange. https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HMISHistory_Handout.pdf



Artwork:

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- Taeuber-Arp, S. (1930). *Composition*.
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Break until 11:25am

Please grab some coffee, a snack, and stretch.





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Seattle/King County Continuum of Care

Charter Revision Recommendations

January 2025

CoC Charter Revision Work Group

At the last CoC Convening, the CoC Membership established a CoC Charter Revision Work Group with the following actions.

The CoC Charter Revision Work Group will review and recommend to the CoC Membership revised language and process related to the board member terms, the selection process for open board seats, and whether there is to be a process for bringing nominees to the floor. **Specifically, page 6: Section iv. CoC Board Membership and Selection Process and page 8: Section i. Terms.** This Work Group will only be reviewing those specific sections.

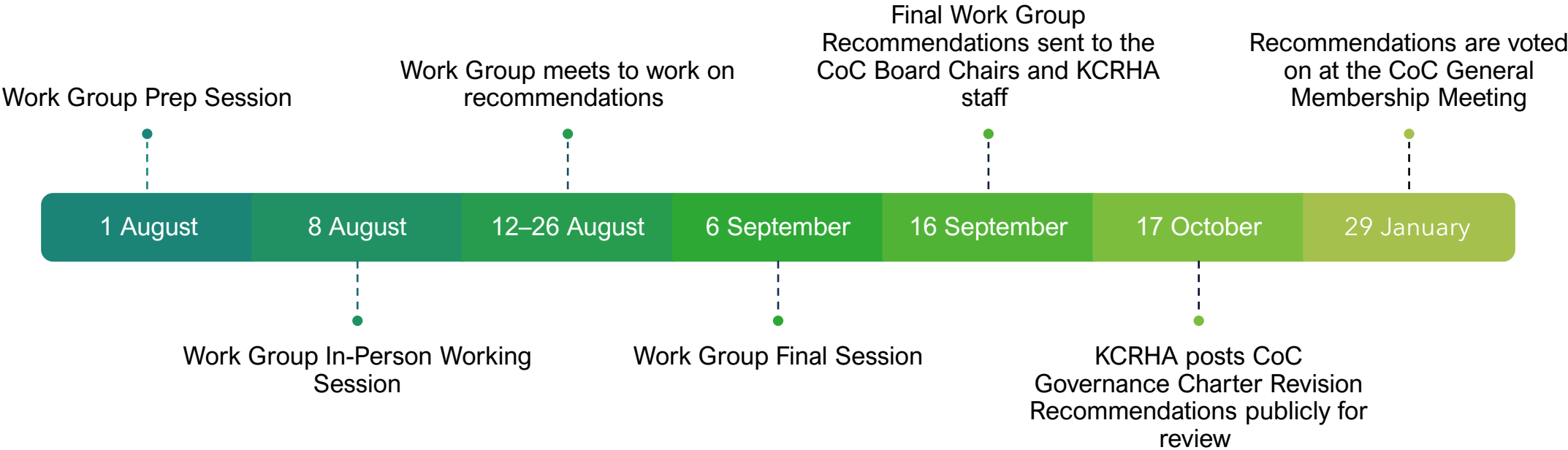


Charter Revision Process

- Work Group members met for one prep session in late July.
- Held an in-person meeting in August.
- For the following three weeks met remotely 5 times.
- Final meeting was on September 6th.
- On September 16th, the final recommendations were sent to the CoC Board Chairs and KCRHA staff.



Timeline and Process



Review Recommendations



Next Steps

In 2025.

The CoC Program Interim Rule requires Continuums to review their Governance Charter annually.

At the last CoC Convening and through the Charter Revision Work Group it was noted that the rest of the Charter needs to be reviewed and possibly revised.

In early 2025, a 2025 Charter Revision Work Group will be seated to review the rest of the Governance Charter and make recommendations for a 2025 CoC Membership Convening vote.



Voting Process



Cast your vote.

- Please use the link in the chat.
 - Voting open for 10 minutes.



Break until 12:20pm

Please grab some coffee, a snack, and stretch.



Community Appreciation

KCHRA wants to thank and recognize the following individuals and organizations for their exceptional work and service in our community in 2024:

Organization:

- YMCA of Greater Seattle

Housing Champion:

- Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness



2025 CoC Workplan

Requirements and what's to come.



Roles within the CoC

- Collaborative Applicant
- HMIS Lead
- Coordinated Entry Lead
- CoC Board
- CoC Membership



2025 Workplan: CoC Administrative Requirements

Operate Continuum of Care

- Education
- Training
- Narrative

Operate the HMIS

- Comparable Database Work
- By-Name-List Development

Operate the Coordinated Entry System

- Access and Engagement
- Increase focus on Domestic Violence and Homelessness

NOFO

- Deeper look into rating criteria
- Intentional language



Overall HUD Requirements

CoC Membership
Development

Gathering
Public Feedback &
Input

Convenings

Provider-Level
Housing First
Compliance

Cross-System
Partner
Coordination

Coordinated Entry
System Evaluation

Racial Equity
Analysis

Written Standards



Feedback and Input

What do you want to see in 2025?



CoC Registered Members - Who's Missing from HUD's Recommendations?

- Housing Authorities
- Workforce Development
- Veteran's Services
- Re-Entry Programs
- Hospitals and Health Clinics
- School Districts
- Colleges and Universities
- Jails/Law Enforcement
- Affordable Housing Development



CoC Member Development

- Host more community events and convenings.
- On-boarding cohorts/mentorship (board members)
- More training and educational opportunities
- Connect with similar interest groups - Tenant Orgs, Transit Riders, etc.
- Ensure members meeting minimum requirements (i.e. Convening attendance)

Convenings

- Increase frequency and duration.
- Make space for smaller group discussions, roundtables, or break-out groups.
- Include cross-system training

System Partner Coordination

- Engagement with Public Housing Authorities to increase direct access for those experiencing homelessness.
- Cross-system Peer Learning Groups & Collaborative Initiatives.
- Cross-system trainings to build relationships and connections



Housing First Compliance

- Ensure clear and shared definitions (Housing First & Low Barrier)
- Include current and former program participants
- Evaluate the System and Projects.
- For Providers: Ask clarifying questions to evaluate understanding and applied practices.

Public Input

- Permanent mechanism for community feedback and posted responses.
- Increased time for public comment (public meetings & convenings).
- Increase linguistic accessibility.
- Promote engagement via social media.

System Evaluation

- Increase transparency in CE process for those experiencing homelessness
- Complete a power analysis of the system
- Goal should always be to improve outcomes for BIPOC who are disproportionately represented in the homelessness system.
- Explore barriers to organizations not participating - increase access to HMIS.



What is missing from our 2025 workplan?

Please provide comments or raise your hand.





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