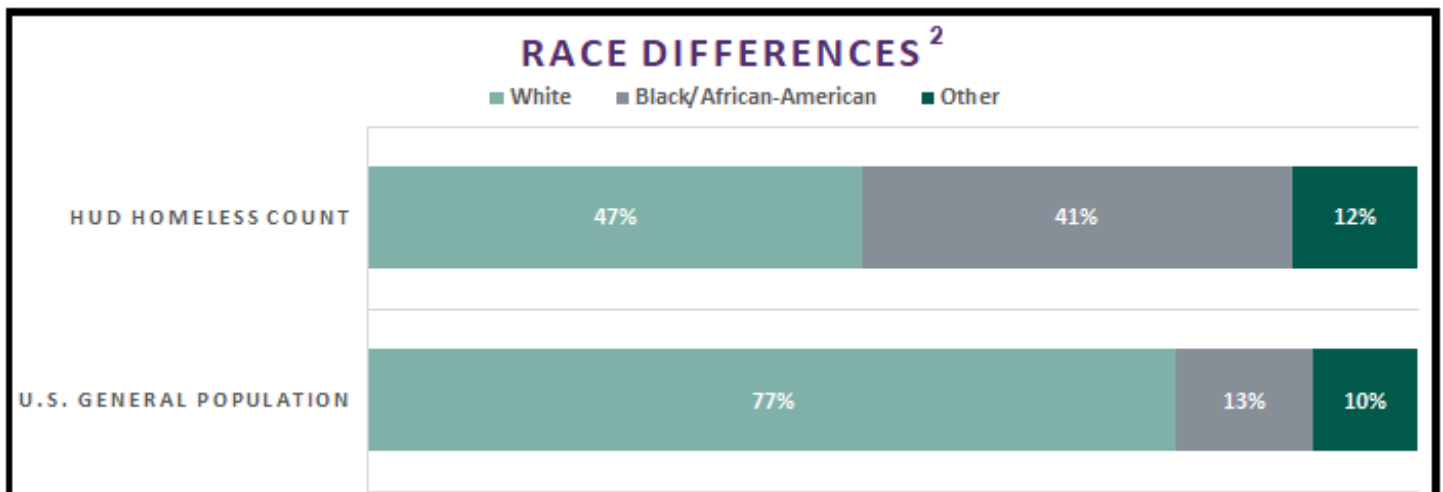


The **National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC)** is a network of federally qualified health centers, clinical providers, medical respite care programs, researchers, people with the lived experience of homelessness, and others who share the mission to prevent and end homelessness. Last year, 300 Health Care for the Homeless programs provided over 1 million patients with primary care, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, case management, and other needed services to improve health and increase stability.



What we know about Racism and Homelessness¹

- **Homelessness is caused by historical and structural oppression:** Discriminatory policies and practices in housing, health care, voting, employment, criminal justice, and elsewhere have prevented African-Americans from being recognized as full members of society.
- **These root causes have also led to economic disadvantages:** Long-standing discrimination has prevented African-Americans from building wealth and has resulted in disproportionate rates of poverty and homelessness.
- **African-Americans are vastly over represented in the homeless population:** African-Americans comprise about 41% of the homeless population, but only 13% of the general population.
- **The intersection of race and homelessness must be addressed by policymakers:** Most national efforts to end homelessness have not acknowledged the long-standing role of racism and other discriminatory practices, which persist to this day.





What we know about Race and Health³

- **African-Americans face significant challenges accessing health care:** African-Americans are more likely to forgo or delay care due to costs and other reasons.
- **African-Americans are disproportionately affected by gaps in Medicaid:** African-Americans are twice as likely as Whites to fall in the coverage gap that exists in states that have not expanded Medicaid.
- **African-Americans suffer higher rates of disease and mortality:** African-Americans report worse health than Whites and face higher rates of obesity, diabetes, HIV, and many other health conditions.

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”

-Martin Luther King Jr.



Our Role Addressing Homelessness

- We **create and implement best practices** based on our hands-on experience providing health care to people experiencing homelessness. We also educate the larger health care community on culturally appropriate care.
- We **support health care providers through training and technical assistance** as they care for the most vulnerable and work to address the social determinants of health, such as access to food and housing.
- We **advocate for health care and housing as human rights**. We work with Congress and the Administration to advocate for policies that achieve social, economic, and racial justice.

¹ Olivet, J., Dones, M., Richard, M., Wilkey, C., Yampolskaya, S., Beit-Arie, M., & Joseph, L. (2018, March). SPARC Phase One Study Findings. Retrieved from <https://center4si.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/SPARC-Phase-1-Findings-March-20181.pdf>

² HUD Homeless Count data from HUD's Point in Time Count (2018), U.S. General Population data from the U.S. Census Bureau (2018)

³ Artiga, S., Foutz, J., Cornachione, E., & Garfield, R. (2018, June 14). Key Facts on Health and Health Care by Race and Ethnicity. Retrieved from <https://www.kff.org/disparities-policy/report/key-facts-on-health-and-health-care-by-race-and-ethnicity/>