Addressing Racial Disparities in Homelessness During COVID-19

May 18, 2020
House Keeping

- Because this is a webinar, attendees are muted.
- Please type any questions you have into the Questions Box.
- Please type any comment/suggestions/resources in the Comments box.
- We are recording this webinar and will send out the link to everyone who registered at a later date.
Agenda

1. Health Disparities During COVID

2. Stay Housing Focused and Racially Equitable During the COVID-19 Crisis
   • Using Key Principles with a Race Equity Lens
   • Resource Mapping During the Housing Process
   • Discussing and Developing Safety Precautions

3. Data Collection and Analysis
Race Equity

Recognizing racial disparities exist

Analyzing data for racial disparities (ongoing)

Race Equity Framework through CSH

NAEH Race Equity Network (REN) and CT REN

Training

CCEH Board Members and Hiring
Speakers

Regina Cannon
*Chief Equity and Impact Officer*
C4 Innovations

Cesar Aleman
*Racial Equity Strategist*

Fionnuala Darby-Hudgens
*Director of Operations*
Connecticut Fair Housing Center
Health Disparities During COVID
Health Disparities

Adopted from Center for American Progress, 2020

Uninsured

- Black/ African-American: 10.6%
- Hispanic: 16.1%
- Non-Hispanic White: 5.9%

Hypertension and HBP

- Black/ African-American: 42%
- Hispanic: 25%
- Non-Hispanic White: 28.7%

Asthma

- Black/ African-American: 12.6%
- Hispanic: 7.7%
Racial Disparities in COVID

In Connecticut, Black/African-Americans account for over 30% of people experiencing homelessness, but only represent about 10% of CT’s general population.

Black/African-Americans account for around 20% of CT COVID-positive cases and around 15% of COVID-related deaths (ctdata.org/covid19)
Mass Incarceration In Connecticut

Only five states are worse than Connecticut when it comes to disproportionately imprisoning Black adults.

Only seven states are worse than Connecticut when it comes to disproportionately imprisoning Latino adults.

Connecticut budgets more money for its prison and jail system than for its public health department, DMV, anti-discrimination agency, and more.

Adopted from ACLU CT, 2020
Between April 1-20, nearly 300 incarcerated people tested positive for COVID and one had passed away

Almost 600 are 50+

HIV rate is almost 3.5xs higher than State average

(ACLU Connecticut, 2020)
Staying Housing Focused During COVID-19
Using Foundational Principles to Stay Housing Focused

Motivational Interviewing
- Open-ended questions
- Change Talk
- Affirmations

Trauma Informed Care
- Choice
- Empowerment
- Safety

Active and Empathetic Listening
- Body language
- Not adding your own judgement
**Client-Driven, Housing Focused**

**Help** – Support the person in developing their own housing plan

**Ownership** – When people make their own housing plan, they will feel a sense of ownership and are more likely to follow through

**Understanding** – No one is perfect, and we all will make mistakes. Allow for people to make mistakes by giving them the room and support to try.

**Share** – Share helpful resources and tips with the person, and help them to navigate accessing them.

**Engage** - Every chance you get, engage the person in conversations about their housing plan and any recent success and challenges they’re experiencing.
Why is being client-driven essential to the work of race equity and working with communities of color, particularly when there is a provider-client racial mismatch?
Add Safety Tips and Health Supports to Housing Plan

• Unmet health needs can jeopardize housing
• Consider the additional needs that COVID presents
• Connect folks to health resources
  – Warm handoffs
  – Help them navigate accessing the resources
Developing COVID-19 Safety Precautions

What tips do you have for homeless service providers on working with culturally diverse populations on safety precautions related to COVID-19?
Can you talk about the intersection between access and homelessness?
Data Collection and Analysis
Data Tracking and Analysis

• New HMIS Fields for COVID symptoms and testing
  – Webinar Recording Available
• Data Dashboards
• NAEH Race Equity Network Data Analysis Tools
Questions?

Type in questions below

Additional Questions?
Contact training@cceh.org