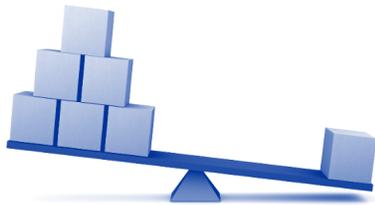


# Racial Disparities

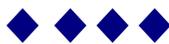


## A CLOSER LOOK

### WITHIN THE COC

Locally, racial disparities align with national trends. Despite comprising about 30% of the general population of Virginia, persons of color represent almost 77% of the service population of the CoC.

**77%** of the CoC's service population is comprised of persons of color.



**30%** of Virginians are persons of color.

Source: Hampton Roads HMIS, Census Data Quick Facts

## Introduction

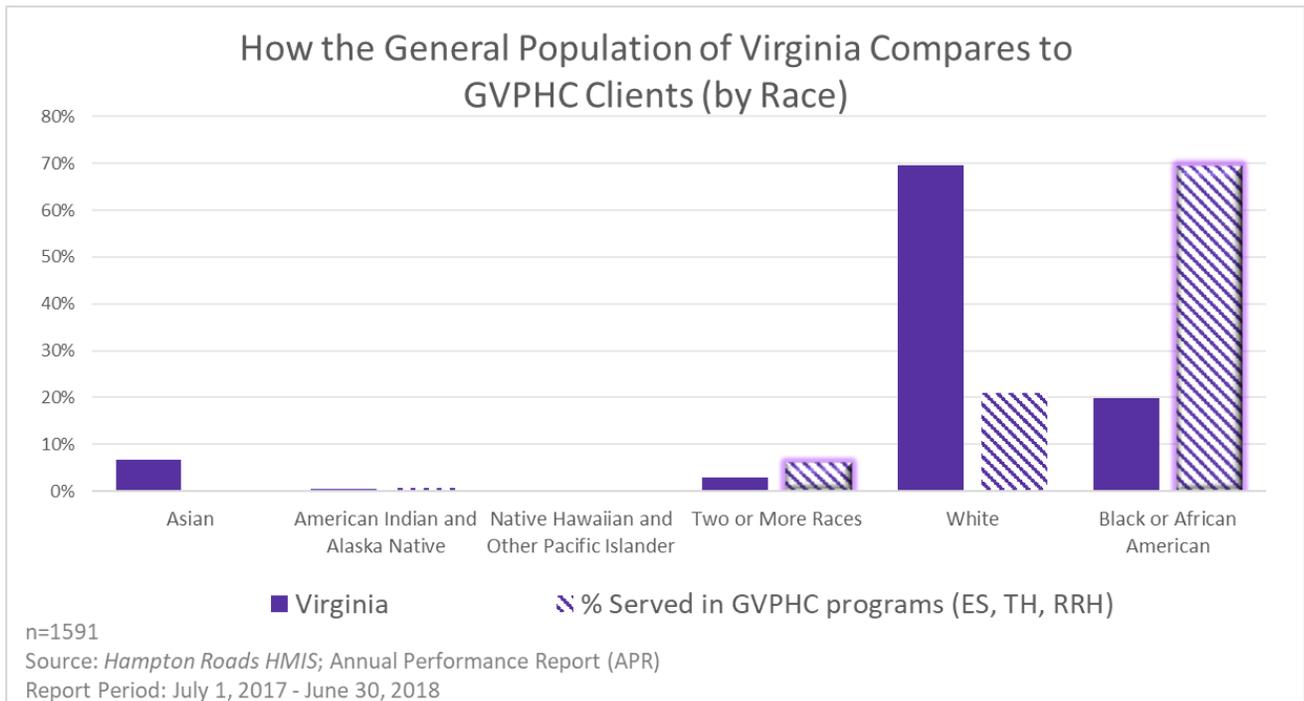
The United States has a history of creating inequity for persons of color, particularly when it comes to obtaining and maintaining equal and fair housing. Nationally, persons of color experience homelessness at a proportionally higher rate than the portion of the general population warrants. *Persons of color* refers here to all non-White races, including Black or African American, Asian, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Two or More Races. This report examines preliminary findings around race and ethnicity and their prevalence within the population served by the local Continuum of Care (CoC).

## About the GVPHC

The Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Consortium (GVPHC) 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 following six (6) jurisdictions: the cities of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, and Williamsburg, and the counties of James City and York. The GVPHC serves as the region's Continuum of Care (CoC) organization, and is responsible for coordination and management of federal and state funding for homeless services; the Hampton Department of Human Services acts as the lead agency for the CoC. Coordination and facilitation is provided by The Planning Council. Persons who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness are encouraged to participate in the process, as well. The GVPHC has adopted the vision that *homelessness will be rare, brief, and non-recurring*.

## Prevalence of Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Within the CoC, persons of color experience homelessness at a rate disproportionate to their incidence in the general population of the state of Virginia. Preliminary analysis of data collected via the Hampton Roads Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) supports national findings of racial



disparities regarding incidence of homelessness. While persons of color represent 30% of Virginians, almost 77% of persons being served by Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Rapid Rehousing programs are persons of color (unduplicated persons of all household types). Similar disparities do not present when ethnicity is considered; just over 9% of Virginia reports Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and 6% of the GVPHC service population reports the same ethnicity.

## Service Provision

The GVPHC is committed to fair and equal housing opportunities and service provision, regardless of race or ethnicity. The CoC operates a coordinated entry that permits recipients of Federal and State funds to comply with applicable civil rights and fair housing laws and requirements. Additionally, the CoC’s Standards of Care stipulate that each agency must have a written resident admissions policy/residential selection plan with clearly delineated criteria that are not intended to unfairly discriminate against clients. Per the guidelines in the Standard, the program must have a written admissions policy/residential selection plan that complies with fair housing regulations. Technical assistance is available to agencies that ensure compliance with fair housing regulations.

The CoC markets its services primarily through the CoC website, [www.gvphc.org](http://www.gvphc.org), the Regional Housing Crisis Hotline, Outreach teams and other designated access points. Additionally, households calling 211, the community's 24-hour information hotline, and seeking housing assistance are referred to the Regional Housing Crisis Hotline. Clients can access the Regional Housing Crisis Hotline through both a local and a toll-free number. Clients are also able to make call requests through web forms on the CoC website. The Regional Housing Crisis Hotline is accessible to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and individuals with speech impairments via TTY. Language interpreters are also available for individuals with limited English proficiency at all access points. The numbers for the Hotline are made available at several local partners such as Departments of Social Services. Business cards in Spanish and English with the Hotline numbers are available at all CoC community events. Outreach workers distribute the cards at local gathering spots, 24-hour establishments as well as restaurants, hospitals, hot meal programs, churches, businesses, check cashing locations and other places known to be frequented by the target population. Multiple training opportunities focused on Fair Housing is offered to service providers on an annual basis.

For more information, please contact [info@theplanningcouncil.org](mailto:info@theplanningcouncil.org), or visit [www.gvphc.org](http://www.gvphc.org).