Encampment Technical Assistance: Step One   December 20, 2023

Why Targeted Universalism

- **Grounds process in racial equity and justice:** equity-oriented framework and racial equity impact analysis is embedded in the targeted universalism framework.

- **Supports alignment with County and CoC:** Alameda County Office of Homeless Care and Coordination recently received targeted universalism training and framework is also being explored by the CoC Racial Equity Committee as foundational training for CoC membership.

- **Tested Process:** established framework from the Othering and Belonging Institute, has been included in SNAPS guidance documents as equity-centered practice, and it is being tested by other communities to address unsheltered homelessness (e.g. Oregon statewide).

Targeted Universalism Steps: Today's Focus

Establish a universal goal.

Assess general population performance relative to the goal.

Identify groups and places performing differently relative to the goal.

Assess and understand conditions that support or prevent each group from achieving the goal.

Develop and implement targeted strategies that support each group to meet the universal goal.

Step One: Establish a Universal Goal

- The goal should exceed all current performance.

- The goal isn't to get other groups to perform as compared to whites, but rather to improve everyone's performance to the desired level. This involves getting all groups within the universe to the goal, not just the most powerful or the most marginalized.
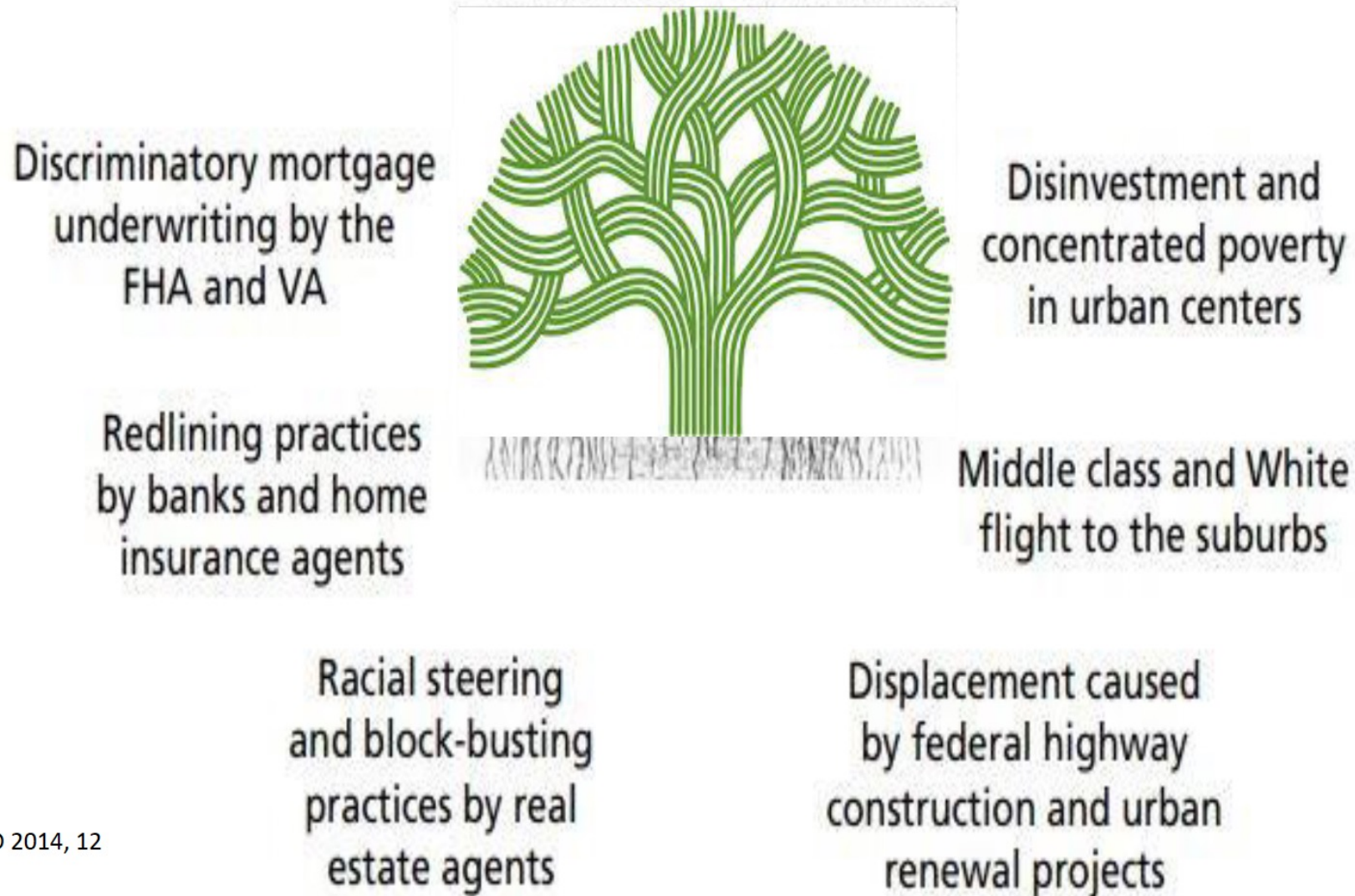
- Goal should be measurable.

How We Get There

- Literature Review: Structural Racism and its Impact on Homelessness.

- Regional Plan Goals: Home Together 2026, Centering Racial Equity in Homeless System Design, All Home Regional Plan.

- Takeaways from previous engagement with frontline staff and/or people with lived experience and expertise.

- Department of Race and Equity Draft Encampment Outcomes.

- Staff Insights and Experiences.

Structural Racism and its Impact on Homelessness

Historical Roots of Racial Residential Segregation and Persistent Poverty

Discriminatory mortgage underwriting by the FHA and VA

Disinvestment and concentrated poverty in urban centers

Redlining practices by banks and home insurance agents

Middle class and White flight to the suburbs

Racial steering and block-busting practices by real estate agents

Displacement caused by federal highway construction and urban renewal projects

Source: ACPHD 2014, 12

Racial Income and Wealth Gap

- In 2019, the median African American household wealth was approximately $24,100, while the median white household wealth was approximately $188,200—a difference of $164,100.26. The mean for African American household wealth was $142,300, while the mean for white household wealth was close to $1 million at $983,400—a difference of $840,900.27. More in report here.

- In 2021, the gap between high- and low-income families in California was among the largest in the nation—exceeding all but three other states. Families at the top of the income distribution **earned 11 times more** than families at the bottom ($291,000 vs. $26,000 for the 90th and 10th percentiles, respectively). Black and Latino families made up 12% of those with incomes above the 90th percentile, while comprising 44% of all families in California. The opposite is true at lower levels of the income distribution, where Black and Latino families comprised 56% of families at or below the 10th percentile. More in fact sheet here.

2015 MEDIAN WEALTH FOR SINGLES

White Men
$28,900

African American Men
$300

White Women
$15,640

African American Women
$200

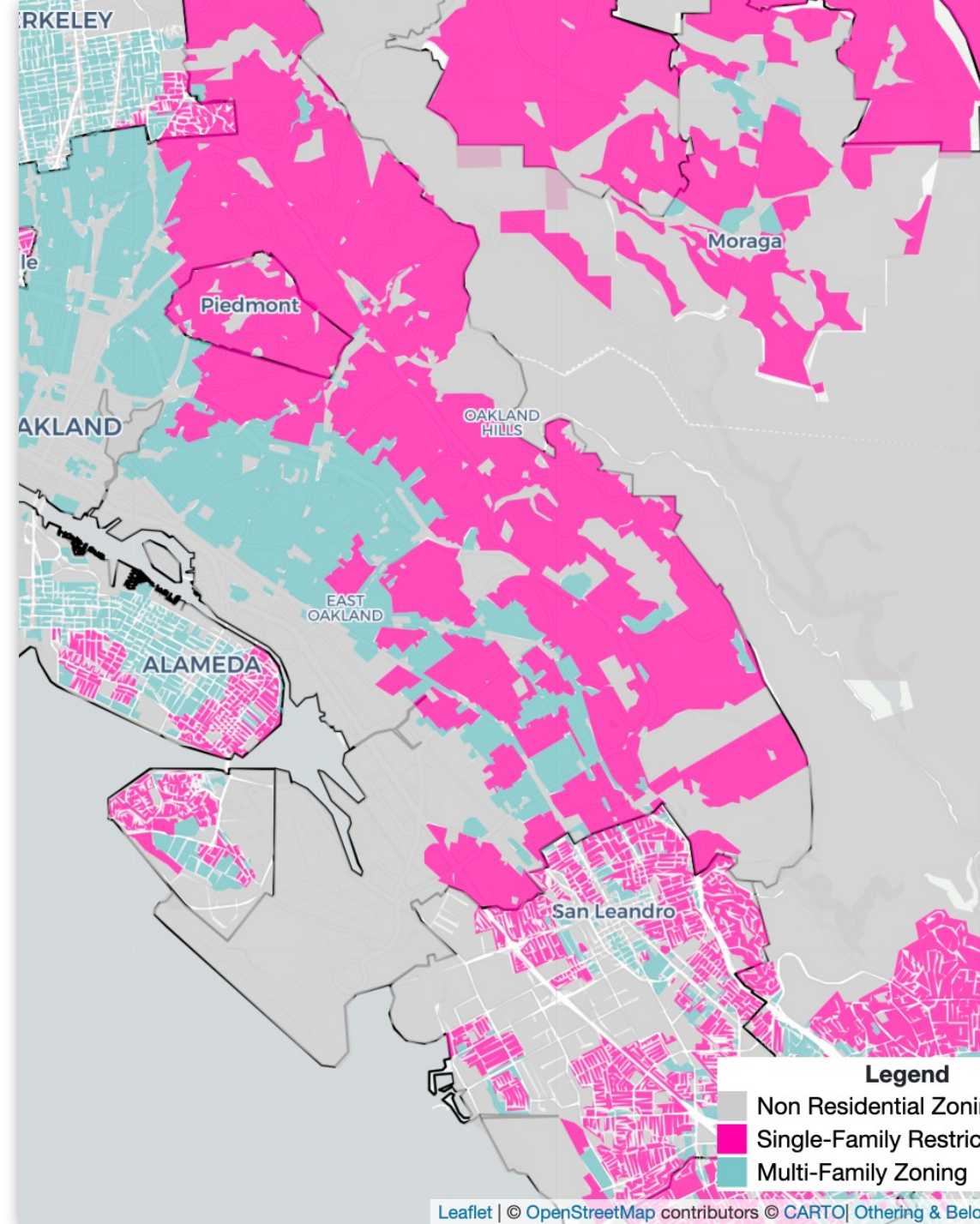More to explore at Urban Institute's Financial Health and Wealth Dashboard

Exclusionary Zoning

Othering and Belonging Institute's [Single-Family Zoning in the Bay Area work](#) revealed that cities with high levels of single-family zoning have greater resources in virtually every statistic they measure. These cities have higher incomes, higher home values, better-performing schools, and evidence indicates they are high opportunity in the broadest sense: children who were raised in these cities 30 years ago have better outcomes in their adulthoods. However, this is also consistent with a troubling pattern of social, economic, and racial exclusion in cities with high levels of single-family zoning.

Community Research on Race and Housing can be found [here](#).

Legend
Non Residential Zoni
Single-Family Restric
Multi-Family Zoning

Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap contributors © CARTO| Othering & Bel

Race Counts Key Takeaways

Across indicators, California Black residents are most impacted by racial disparity.

Less than half of Latinx households earn above the cost-of-living adjusted poverty rate in California.

California schools produce below average graduation rates for Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Latinx, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students.

More than half of Black, Latinx, and American Indian/Alaska Native renters are rent-burdened spending more than 30% of income on housing costs.

Latinx Californians are more than twice as likely to live in overcrowded housing as the average Californian, and over 7x more likely than White Californians.

Despite being more likely than most other groups to be insured, the California Black population is nearly 5x more likely to experience preventable hospitalizations than the group with the lowest rate.

More to explore at Race Counts

Racial Disparities in Homelessness

Legend:
- % of general population
- % of people living below poverty level
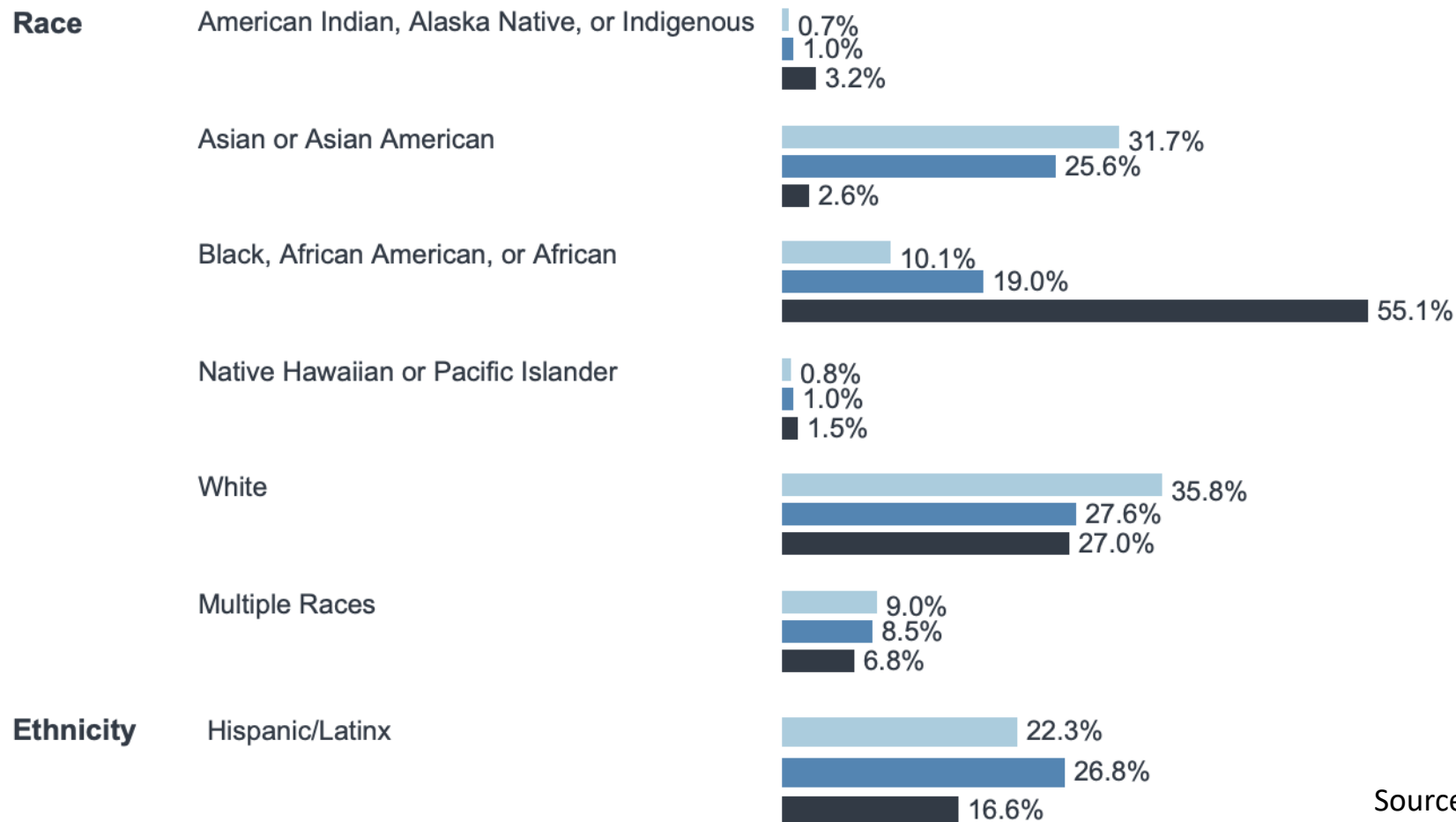- % of people who accessed homelessness services

Data Dictionary »

Race

American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous
- 0.7%
- 1.0%
- 3.2%

Asian or Asian American
- 31.7%
- 25.6%
- 2.6%

Black, African American, or African
- 10.1%
- 19.0%
- 55.1%

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- 0.8%
- 1.0%
- 1.5%

White
- 35.8%
- 27.6%
- 27.0%

Multiple Races
- 9.0%
- 8.5%
- 6.8%

Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latinx
- 22.3%
- 26.8%
- 16.6%

Source: CA Homeless Data Integration System
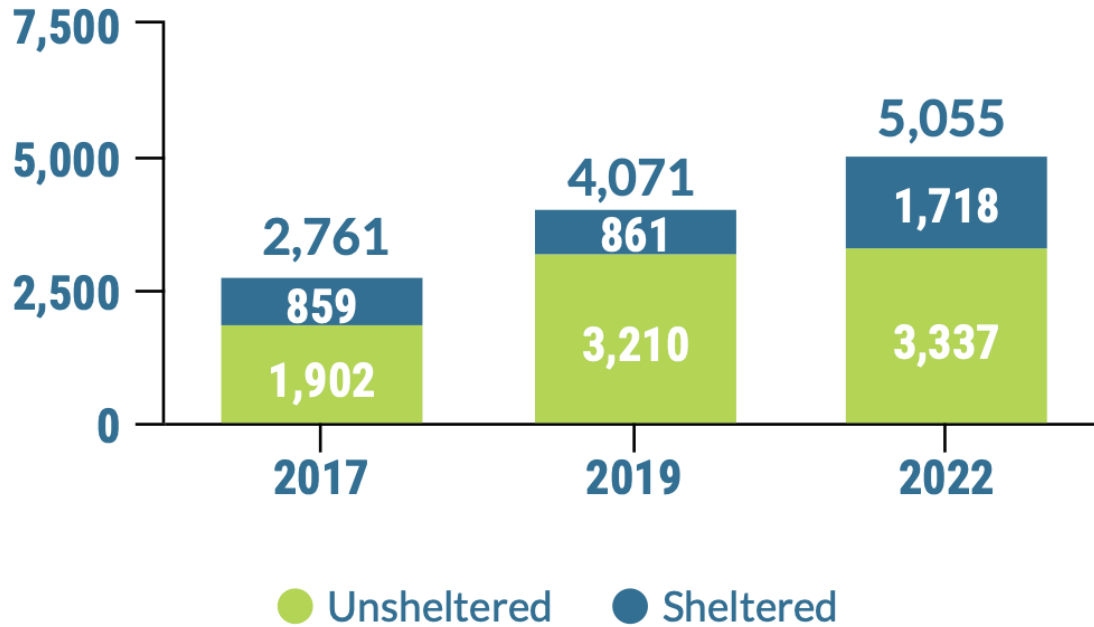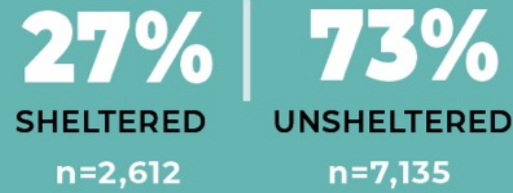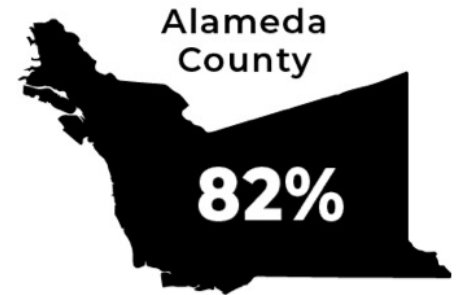
Source: Everyone Home 2022 PIT Executive Summary Infographic

RACE AND ETHNICITY COMPARED TO GENERAL POPULATION

RACE
■ 2022 Homeless Population ■ 2020 General Population

ETHNICITY

- Black/African American: 43% / 10%
- White: 39% / 34%
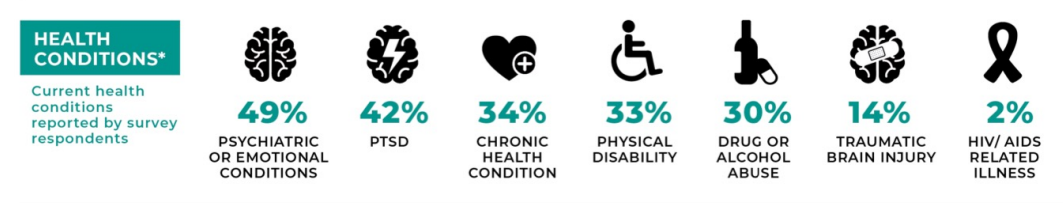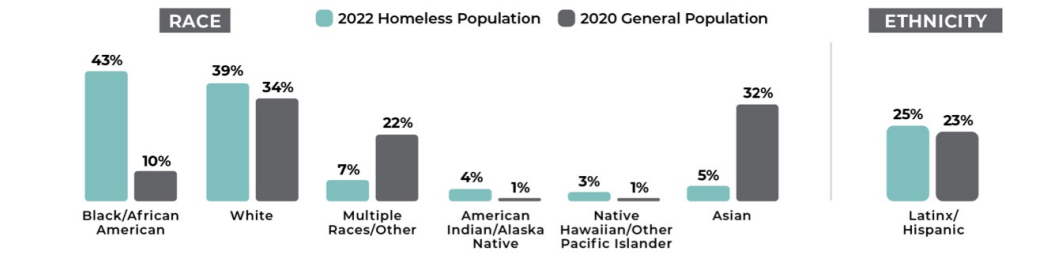- Multiple Races/Other: 7% / 22%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 4% / 1%
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander: 3% / 1%
- Asian: 5% / 32%
- Latinx/Hispanic: 25% / 23%

GENDER
- 62% MALE
- 37% FEMALE
- <1% TRANSGENDER/GENDER NON-CONFORMING/QUESTIONING

LGBTQ+ STATUS
- 9% OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS IDENTIFIED AS LGBTQ+

AGE
- 6% UNDER 18
- 8% 18-24
- 86% 25+

HEALTH CONDITIONS*
Current health conditions reported by survey respondents

- 49% PSYCHIATRIC OR EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS
- 42% PTSD
- 34% CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITION
- 33% PHYSICAL DISABILITY
- 30% DRUG OR ALCOHOL ABUSE
- 14% TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
- 2% HIV/AIDS RELATED ILLNESS

DISABLING CONDITIONS
40% OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS REPORTED HAVING AT LEAST ONE DISABLING CONDITION

A disabling condition is defined by HUD as a developmental disability, HIV/AIDS, or a long-term physical or mental impairment that impacts a person's ability to live independently, but could be improved with stable housing.

WHAT MIGHT OF PREVENTED HOMELESSNESS

TOP 4 RESPONSES*

- 49% Rent Assistance
- 37% Employment Assistance
- 27% Mental Health Assistance
- 26% Benefits/Income

Source: Everyone Home 2022 PIT Executive Summary Infographic

Alameda County Unsheltered Data

- 2019 PIT: 80% unsheltered
- 2022 PIT: 73% Unsheltered
    - This reduction can be attributed, in part, to actions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic that allowed for rapid sheltering of those who were unsheltered.
- From Home Together Plan:
    - At least 48% of unsheltered people contacted by a street outreach program have one or more vulnerabilities such as advanced age, a health or mental health condition, and/or barriers to housing like eviction history or criminal justice system contacts.
    - Vulnerable unsheltered people in the county are also more likely to be African American than any other race or ethnic group.

Between 2017 and 2022, the Point-In-Time count of people experiencing homelessness in Alameda County, California grew 73% (from 5,629 to 9,746) and the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness climbed 85% (from 3,863 to 7,135).

While Black or African American people comprise 10% of the population of Alameda County, they are 43% of those experiencing homelessness in the County (2022 PIT Count).

EveryOneHome

2023 City of Oakland Shelter Ordinance

The shelter crisis exposes houseless and often disabled elders, individuals, and families to risk of death, illness and injury due to disease, physical threats, exposure to weather and rodents, lack of adequate sanitation and debris services, as well as regular involuntary removal and disposal of personal belongings, forced migration to other parts of the City or outside of the City, and extreme emotional trauma and other conditions detrimental to their health and safety.

The crisis disproportionately impacts:

Black People Experiencing Homelessness

Latinx People Experiencing Homelessness

Elders or Seniors Experiencing Homelessness

Homelessness Regional Plans: Goal Overview

Source: Outreach, Access, and Coordination CoC Committee October 2023 Meeting

Home Together Plan Goals and Strategies

1 Prevent homelessness for our residents

1. Address racial disparities in mainstream/upstream systems to prevent racially disproportionate inflow into homelessness
2. Focus resources for prevention on people most likely to lose their homes
3. Rapidly resolve episodes of homelessness through Housing Problem Solving
4. Prevent racially disproportionate returns to homelessness

2 Connect people to shelter and needed resources

1. Expand access in key neighborhoods and continue improvements to Coordinated Entry
2. Lower programmatic barriers to crisis services such as prevention, problem solving, and shelter
3. Prevent discharge from mainstream systems to homelessness
4. Significantly increase the availability of shelter, especially non-congregate models, to serve vulnerable adults and families with children and to reduce unsheltered homelessness
5. Provide accessible behavioral health services to people with serious mental illness or substance use needs and who are unsheltered, in shelter, or in supportive housing programs

Home Together Plan Goals and Strategies

3 Increase housing solutions

1. Add units and subsidies for supportive housing, including new models for frail/older adults

2. Create dedicated affordable housing subsidies for people who do not need intensive services

3. Create shallow subsidies for those who can exit or avoid homelessness with more limited assistance

4. Add new slots of rapid rehousing for those who can pay full rent over time

5. Ensure new housing funding is distributed across the county according to need

6. Reduce entry barriers to housing and ensure racial equity in referrals and placements

4 Strengthen coordination, communication and capacity

1. Use data to improve outcomes and track racial equity impacts

2. Improve messaging and information availability

3. Build infrastructure to support and monitor new and expanded programs

Home Together Executive Summary

Regional Action Plan

Call to accelerate work to bring 75% of people living unsheltered indoors by 2024 (plan was published in 2021) by improving existing systems and investing in a 1-2-4 system flow model:

- Fund interim housing needed to bring people living unsheltered indoors immediately and ensure those temporarily housed during the pandemic have safe permanent housing.

- Fund two housing solutions for every interim housing unit added to the homelessness system.

- Fund four preventative interventions for every interim housing unit added to the homelessness system.

All Home Regional Action Plan

Centering Racial Equity in Homeless System Design Report: Strategies to Advance Equity

- Increase the availability of housing for people with extremely low incomes and high service needs.

- Develop housing opportunities for people with extremely low incomes and low ongoing service needs.

- Develop subsidized housing models for people with low incomes.

- Create targeted prevention and rapid resolution resources.

- Targeted use of temporary supports (e.g. RRH for households that show potential to increase their income).

- Create housing opportunities throughout the County.

- Increase access by lowering programmatic barriers to participation in crisis services.

- Increase independence and autonomy.

- Improve communication to ensure people receive accurate, clear information about available resources, eligibility criteria, and the process for accessing resources.

2019 Oakland Permanent Access to Housing Framework

Strategies to Reduce Homelessness

- Fewer people become homeless each year.

- More people return to housing as quickly as possible.

- Expand, improve, and maintain crisis response beds.

- People who have been homeless have the incomes and supports they need to avoid returning to homelessness.

- Expand the supply of deeply affordable and supportive housing for Oakland's most vulnerable residents.

- Address impacts of unsheltered homelessness on sheltered and unsheltered neighbors.

Expected Changes in Homelessness

- No families with children sleeping outdoors, in cars, or other places not meant for human habitation.

- Significant reductions in the numbers of people who experience homelessness each year.

- Reductions in the number of people who are unsheltered.

- Elimination of disparities by race in permanent housing outcomes.

Takeaways from People with Lived Experience and Expertise: Centering Racial Equity Focus Groups

Focus Group Themes

The following themes emerged from the focus groups deepening understanding of how structural racism plays out across multiple systems and intersects with lived experiences of homelessness.
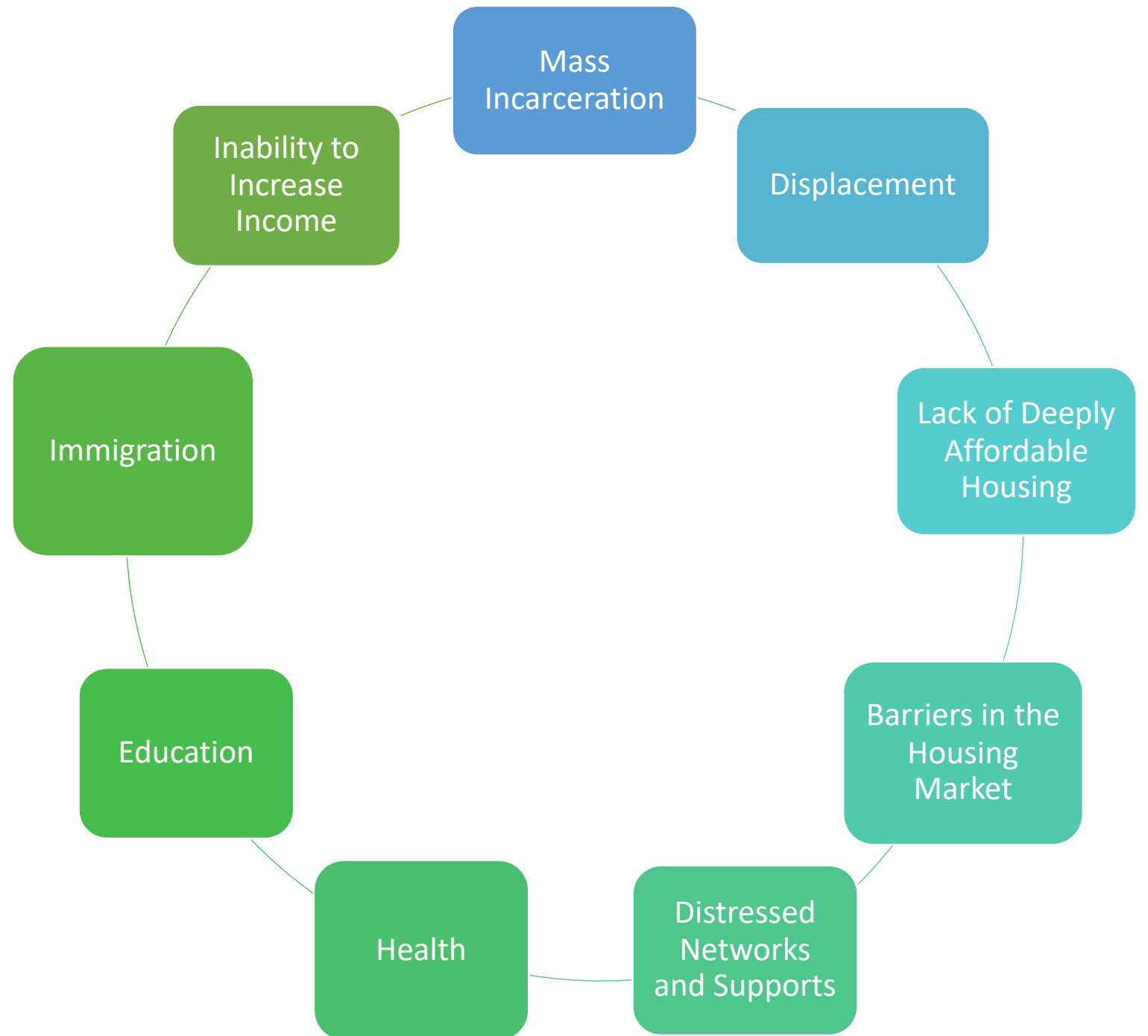
Establishing a Universal Goal

Universal Goals: Key Points

- The goal should exceed all current performance.

- The goal isn't to get other groups to perform as compared to whites, but rather to improve everyone's performance to the desired level. This involves getting all groups within the universe to the goal, not just the most powerful or the most marginalized.

- Goal should be measurable.

Starting Place - Department of Race and Equity Draft Encampment Outcomes

- Number of encampments have been reduced/eliminated.

- Living conditions in any remaining encampments, at minimum, meet California State health and safety standards.

- Majority BIPOC neighborhoods are not disproportionately impacted by encampments.

- Disparities in Black and other POC representation in, and returns to, homelessness has been reduced/eliminated.

Starting Place – Oregon Statewide Work

- Prevent homelessness for at least 8,750 households statewide.

- Increase shelter capacity in emergency areas by 600 units.

- Rehouse at least 1,200 households statewide this year.

Miro Board – Establish a Universal Goal

Next Steps

Next Steps: January 2024

- City Attorney Meeting: January 2, 2024

- Encampment Response Mapping: Present Reality and Reimagined Future – TBD

- **On Site Half Day Session: January 30, 2024**

  - Step Two: Assess general population performance relative to the goal.

  - Step Three: Identify groups and places performing differently relative to the goal.

  - Step Four: Assess and understand conditions that support or prevent each group from achieving the goal. Will initiate Part One of Step Four – planning for community conversations with frontline staff and people living or who have lived unsheltered.