## **Identifying Inequities through Data**





ADVANCING SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS



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<sup>\*</sup> The content in this presentation is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Homebase does not enter into attorney-client relationships.

## **Today's Webinar**

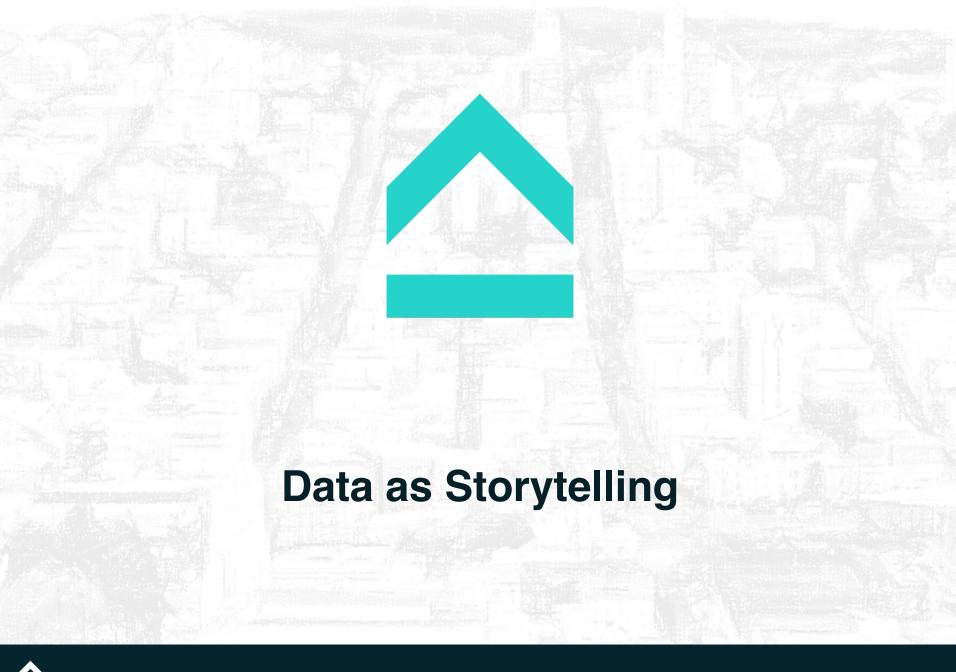
- Introductions
- Data as Storytelling
- Federal Data & Reporting
- State Data & Reporting



## Poll

Familiarity with Data Sources & Tools





### **Homelessness Data: TELLS A STORY**

To **HUD:** Show why communities should get funded (e.g., annual NOFO competition).

To **the State**: Reveal scope of state problem, direct limited resources, identify gaps in funding.

To **individual providers**: Identify areas of improvement, track activities, measure success.

To **CoC**: Present overall system performance, identify inequities, measure success.

To the **public**: Debunk myths, illustrate improvements.

To All: Show what has accomplished.



## **Homelessness Data: Challenges**

### Comparing apples to oranges

- PIT and HIC one specific night and only one for an entire year (and middle of winter, to boot).
- HMIS ongoing, people move in and out over a period of time.

### Practice

- Many different disparate sources.
- Infrequent collection & review (most annually).
- Often outdated data.



## **Homelessness Data: Inequities**

- HUD reports can support identifying some inequities, but not necessarily by race and ethnicity (i.e., single adults v. families, exits based by intervention).
- Disparate sources, adequacy of data makes it hard to identify and tell a story about inequities.
- Essential to understand the strengths and limitations of each data source in order to conduct a meaningful race ethnicity equity analysis.
- The presentation focuses on quantitative data, but collecting and analyzing qualitative data is key to beginning to understand the "why" behind gaps found in quantitative analysis. See HUD:

https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/COVID-19-Homeless-System-Response-Qualitative-Data-101.pdf





## **HUD: Basic Required Data**

- Point-in-Time (PIT) Count
- Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
  - System Performance Measures (SPMs)
  - The Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA)
  - Annual Performance Report (APR)
- Coordinated Entry By-Name List (BNL)



## Opportunities & Challenges with PIT/HIC/BNL Data for Equity Analysis

BNL: Self-reported data more accurate for race/ethnicity; include other needed data that may be helpful.

**Opportunities** 

PIT/HIC: Capture data where people are living (street, shelter, etc.).

PIT captures people who aren't engaging with the system and might point to underserved populations.

PIT/HIC: Only a snap-shot of experience on one night.

Challenges

PIT: Often race and ethnicity by observation. Is data accurate? What assumptions are volunteers making about people? Is data based on bias?

PIT: Often high percentage of race, ethnicity, age is unknown.



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## What is the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)?

A local database Contains client-level data Used by projects serving people who are unhoused/sheltered Some funding requires HMIS participation (e.g. CoC, ESG)

HUD does **not** mandate any particular software or HMIS vendor



## **HMIS Challenges**

- Multiple users across many organizations + turnover.
- Not all providers participate (required if receive CoC funding grants).
- Client information is largely self-reported. Clients may refuse to answer questions or provide incomplete or inaccurate information for a variety of reasons.
- Impacts:
  - Inconsistent data entry and data quality.
  - Data collected is not comprehensive (missing information).
  - Similar data can be input in different fields (e.g., in "notes" fields vs. specific field).
  - Duplicative information collected.
  - Data fields often incomplete or empty.



## **Opportunities & Challenges** with HMIS Data for Equity Analysis

Race and ethnicity data is collected in universal data

**Opportunities** 

elements.

Inaccuracy of race / ethnicity data; layers of HMIS data with with multiple users may result in inconsistencies.

Challenges

Not everyone sees race & ethnicity separately (e.g., in 1 county, 40% wrote in "Mexican" for race). Changing HMIS data standards in May 2023.

Experiences by race and ethnicity may not be tracked and/or measured.



# How might HMIS be useful for understanding racial and/or ethnic inequities?



## **HMIS Reports**

- System Performance Measures (SPMs) system level data
- The Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) client-level data
  - Stella P
- Annual Performance Report (APR) aggregated HMIS client-level data



### SPMs v. APRs v. LSAs

All

**Data from HMIS** 

Standard reports (same format every time)

Designed by HUD



## System Performance Measures (SPMs)

Annual report on 7 system progress measures:

## of individuals accessing the system

## of people experiencing 1st time homelessness

Median/average length of time homeless

Exits to permanent housing

Income and job growth

Returns to homelessness

Preventing returns to homelessness

- Street outreach, emergency shelter/Safe Haven, transitional housing, RRH, PSH, other permanent housing
- Not homeless prevention, services only, coordinated entry, and other projects



## Opportunities & Challenges with SPM Reports for Equity Analysis

Required annually, so CoC is familiar

**Opportunities** 

Clear measures to track and compare (over time, across CoCs).

Data required by HUD not broken down by race / ethnicity.

CoC may not have time / resources to review frequently.

Challenges

Experiences by race and ethnicity may not be tracked or measured.

Based solely on HMIS, so errors in HMIS reflected in SPMs.

CoC-wide, so not clear how different programs/geographies are impacted.



## Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSAs)

 Annual submission of raw HMIS data to track system functionality year over year

## of individuals accessing the system

## of people experiencing 1st time homelessness

Length of time homeless

All household exits

Demographics

Returns to homelessness

Yearly inflow / outflow

Pathways through the system

- Emergency shelter/Safe Haven, TH, RRH, PSH
- **Not** homeless prevention, services only, coordinated entry, street outreach, other permanent housing, or other projects



## **Example: LSA Template in HDX 2.0**

**Summary Tables** 

All Households Served in the System During the Report Period	All AO			AO AC			C	0
puseholds Served in PSH During the Report Period		%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Universe: Total households served in PSH during the report period								
Number of households already housed (i.e. already had a move-in date) in PSH at beginning of the report period							$\neg$	
Number of households who moved into PSH during the report period, evidenced by PH move-in date							$\Box$	
Total number of households that exited PSH during the report period								
Universe: Of those who exited, households that had been housed (had a move-in date) prior to the report period (out of exiters								
in this universe)								
Of those who exited, households that exited to permanent destinations during the report period (out of exiters in this universe)								
Of those who exited, households that exited to temporary destinations during the report period (out of exiters in this universe)								
Of those who exited, households that exited to other destinations during the report period (out of exiters in this universe)								
Number of households still housed in PSH at the end of the year								
Turnover	$\times$		$\times$		$\times$		$\times$	
▼ The Extent to Which Households That Exited Projects in Specified Cohorts Returned to Homelessness								
∀ Households that exited within the first six months of the report period	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Universe: Total households that exited in first six months of the current report period								
Of households that exited to permanent situations, the number that returned within 180 days								
Of households that exited to temporary situations, the number that returned within 180 days								
Of households that exited to other situations, the number that returned within 180 days								
→ Households that exited in the year beginning one year prior to the start of the report period	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Universe: Total households that exited one year prior to the start of the current report period								
Of households that exited to permanent situations, the number that returned within 180 days								
Of households that exited to temporary situations, the number that returned within 180 days								
Of households that exited to other situations, the number that returned within 180 days								
Of households that exited to permanent situations, the number that returned within 365 days								
Of households that exited to temporary situations, the number that returned within 365 days								
Of households that exited to other situations, the number that returned within 365 days								
∀ Households that exited in the year beginning two years prior to the start of the report period	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Universe: Total households that exited two years prior to the start of the current report period								
Of households that exited to permanent situations, the number that returned within 180 days								
Of households that exited to temporary situations, the number that returned within 180 days							$\neg$	
Of households that exited to other situations, the number that returned within 180 days								
Of households that exited to permanent situations the number that returned within 365 days			İ					$\Box$



## SPMs v. LSA

	LSA	SPM
Purpose	System functionality	Benchmark
Source of Data	HMIS	HMIS
Project types measured	<del>SO</del> ,ES,SH,TH,RRH,PSH, <del>OPH</del> <del>CE, HP,O, SSO</del>	SO,ES,SH,TH,RRH,PSH,OPH CE, HP,O, SSO
Unit of measure	Households* (And more)	Individuals (Only)
Demographic breakdowns	yes	no
Employment and income growth	no	yes
Data Analysis	Completed for the CoC by HUD	Completed for HUD by the CoC
Data visualization	Extensive and growing	Limited in scope and possibility



## **Opportunities & Challenges** with LSA Reports for Equity Analysis

Can look more closely at project

**Opportunities** 

level outcomes.

Focus is on system functionality, not people or progress.

Need statistical software to draw conclusions from the data.

Challenges

Data reports are annual only. CoC may not have time / resources to review data more frequently.

Based solely on HMIS, so errors in HMIS reflected in LSAs.



## **Annual Performance Reports (APRs)**

- Annual submission of aggregate provider-level HMIS data to HUD for each CoC homeless assistance program
  - Provider level = aggregate totals of individuals
  - Program level = aggregate totals of individuals
  - System level (rare) = aggregate totals of individuals e.g. Coordinated Entry APR
- Tracks program-level activity
- Monitors outputs and activities for funding allocations (NOFO)
- Reports can be run at system-level (e.g., coordinated entry, all PSH projects)



APRs:
What is
HUD
Looking
for?

Is your program serving the number and type of clients you said you would serve?

Are clients maintaining or exiting to permanent housing destinations?

Is the data accurate and complete?

Are individuals increasing their access to income and non-cash benefits throughout their stay in the program?



## **Example: APR Template**

#### **HMIS Data Quality Template**

#### Q1. Report Validation Table

#	Validation	В
1	Total number of persons served	
2	Number of adults (age 18 or over)	
3	Number of children (under age 18)	
4	Number of persons with unknown age	
5	Number of leavers	
6	Number of adult leavers	
7	Number of adult and head of household leavers	
8	Number of stayers	
9	Number of adult stayers	
10	Number of veterans	
11	Number of chronically homeless persons	
12	Number of youth under age 25	
13	Number of parenting youth under age 25 with children	
14	Number of adult heads of household	
15	Number of child and unknown-age heads of household	
16	Heads of households and adult stayers in the project 365 days or more	

#### Q2. Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

Data Element	Client Doesn't Know/Refused	Information Missing	Data Issues	% of Error Rate
Name (3.1)				
Social Security Number (3.2)				
Date of Birth (3.3)				
Race (3.4)				
Ethnicity (3.5)				
Gender (3.6)				
Overall Score				

#### Q3. Universal Data Elements

Data Element	Error Count	% of Error Rate
Veteran Status (3.7)		
Project Entry Date (3.10)		
Relationship to Head of Household (3.15)		
Client Location (3.16)		
Disabling Condition (3.8)		

#### Q4. Income and Housing Data Quality

Data Element	Error Count	% of Error Rate
Destination (3.12)		
Income and Sources (4.2) at Entry		

#### HUD Annual Performance Report (APR) Full APR - Table Shells

Use beginning January 1, 2023

#### Q1. Grant Information

#### **APR** information

Grant number, recipient, CoC, Component Type, Project Type, Award Amount, Operating Year Start and End Dates, Grant Term in Months are imported into Sage from e-snaps and e-LOCCS - **Not editable by recipient**.

#### **Grant Focus Information**

#### Manual data entry, not on CSV

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Was this project funded under a special initiative?	select
If yes, what?	select
Target subpopulation(s): Does your project have a specific population focus?	select
If yes, which population?	select
Are 100% of the clients in HMIS or where applicable in a comparable data base?	select
If no, why?	

#### Q2. Bed & Unit Inventory and Utilization

#### Proposed Bed and Unit Inventory

#### Total Number of Year-Round Beds/Units from Application - Not editable by recipient.

Total Units	Prepopulated
Total Beds	Prepopulated
Total Dedicated CH Beds	Prepopulated
Total Non-Dedicated CH Beds	Prepopulated

#### PIT Actual Bed and Unit Utilization

Manual data entry, not on CSV

#### Occupied AND Available for Occupancy

Point-in-Time Utilization on the Last Wednesday	As Proposed in the Application	January	April	July	October	Average % of Actually Available to Proposed
Units	Prepopulated-					-Calculates-
Beds	Prepopulated-					-Calculates-



### SPMs v. APRs

System Performance Measures

All projects in system

19 data tables

Good for: system performance

Annual Performance Report

Single project

70+ data tables

Good for: project performance / outcomes



## Opportunities & Challenges with APR Reports for Equity Analysis

Dig deep into one single project, to be able to see patterns and practices, gaps, etc.

**Opportunities** 

HMIS may allow a CoC to run an APR for groups of projects (e.g., all PSH) to allow for community-wide look. Does not show change over time and does not reflect outcomes broken out by race or ethnicity, challenge to see patterns or practices around race / ethnicity.

**Challenges** 

Data reports are annual only. CoC may not have time / resources to review data more frequently, or to see changes in trends quickly.



# How might SPMs, LSA, or APRs be useful for understanding racial and/or ethnic inequities?



## **HMIS** as a Tool for Equity Analysis

- Collects important demographic data.
- Technical capacity exists for equity analysis.
- But HUD does not require it.
- Reports give you insights into areas to dig more deeply.
- CoC has to pull and analyze the data on their own.
- Potential to track and measure equitable impacts through race and ethnicity lens.





## **Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

- Annual Report to HUD.
- CoC hosts competition for local funding (usually performance driven).
- Required to report to HUD:
  - Updates on past year activities on behalf of entire CoC and funded programs.
  - Specific questions focus changes each year (recent focus includes racial equity, representation, youth engagement, LGBTQ+ representation
  - Proposed funding for upcoming year by project and for entire CoC
- Partially data driven (HMIS)
  - SPMs
  - HIC especially RRH
  - Bed utilization







## Valuable Data Sources to Identify Inequities

- Comprehensive Housing Assessment Strategy (CHAS) sometimes data is years old.
  - Housing cost-burden (pay >30% of income on housing).
  - Housing problems (cost burden, overcrowding, and incomplete bath or kitchen).
  - Breakdown renter v. owner.
- U.S. Census: Quick Facts + others
  - Compare general population to homeless population.
  - Identifies inequities.
  - Median gross rent, median housing cost, etc.



### Valuable Data Tools

**Stella** is a strategy and analysis tool that helps CoCs understand how their system is performing and models an optimized system that fully addresses homelessness.

- The Stella Performance Module ("Stella P") uses visuals
  of CoC data to illustrate how households move through the
  homeless system and highlights outcome disparities.
  - Data sources from HMIS to LSA to Stella P.
- Stella Modeling Module ("Stella M") assists CoCs to explore how resource investment decisions amplify system capacity to end homelessness.



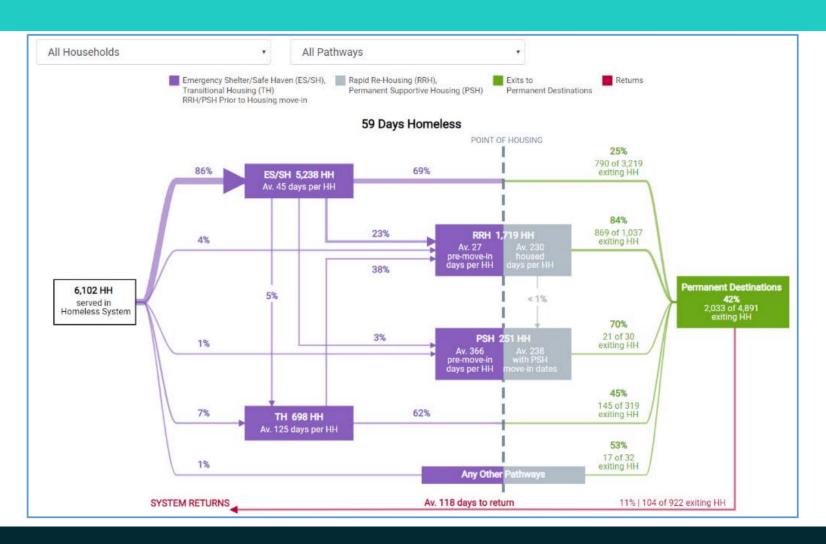
### Valuable Data Tools: Stella P

### Stella P (HUD) (using LSA data)

- Online **tool** used to develop effective performance improvement strategies for the CoC system.
- System level, not project-level data.
- Helps CoCs evaluate:
  - Progress toward the goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring; and
  - Data placed in the context of system design (e.g. participants targeted to be served by a project) and best practices and research (e.g. Housing First, cost effectiveness).



# Valuable Data Tools: Stella P





# Opportunities & Challenges with Stella P. for Equity Analysis

Opportunities **S** 

Produces data visualizations to see race / ethnicity data in context.

Filters performance to see how each population has been served in the system to inform planning and improve outcomes.

Creates community pressure for providers to join HMIS as gaps can significantly affect performance in Stella.

Demographics tab displays some data on the individual level, including race / ethnicity.

Requires staff resources and analytic expertise.

Gaps in HMIS participation can affect system-level performance.

Challenges

Errors in HMIS will be reflected in Stella P.

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System-level only, can't be limited by geography or project.

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### Valuable Data Tools: Stella M

### Stella M (HUD)

- Online analysis tool to support communities seeking to model resource needs, identify priorities, and estimate costs.
- Accessed through HDX.
- Manually enter data into the tool and system project needs.
- Project needs by unit and household (not beds/people).
- Can use PIT, HIC, HMIS, Stella P, and raw data.

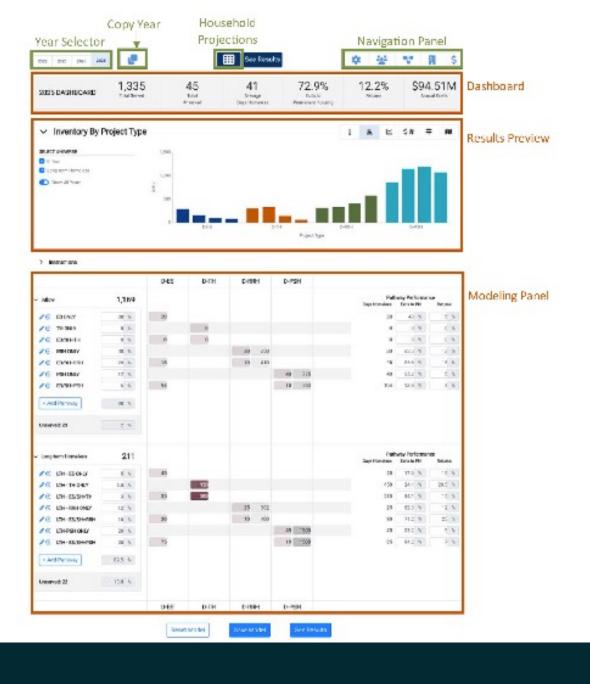


# What can Stella M Do?

	Single Year Model	Multi - Year Model
	"What do I need today to meet everyone's needs?"	"How many resources per year do I need to meet everyone's needs in 5 or 10 years?"
Estimate Future Need population	No	Yes
Allows for Custom pathways	No (ES, TH, RRH, PSH Only)	Yes
Allow for time changing system flow	No	Yes
Helps Estimate Housing Resource Need	Yes (ES, TH, RRH, PSH Only)	Yes
Helps Estimates cost	Yes	Yes
Helps optimize and visualize the system	Yes	Yes
Helps sets coordination targets	Yes	Yes



# What can Stella M Do?





# Opportunities & Challenges with Stella M for Equity Analysis

Produces data visualizations to see race /ethnicity data in context.

Ability to use PIT/HIC/HMIS data

Can predict community needs.

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Can enter in data from outside PIT/HIC and HMIS.

Challenges

Requires extensive staff resources and analytic expertise.

Not easy to use without trial and error.

Errors in HMIS will be reflected in Stella M.

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**Opportunities** 

How do the differences between Stella P and Stella M help you in your work?

What kinds of questions might you use Stella M to answer for your community?



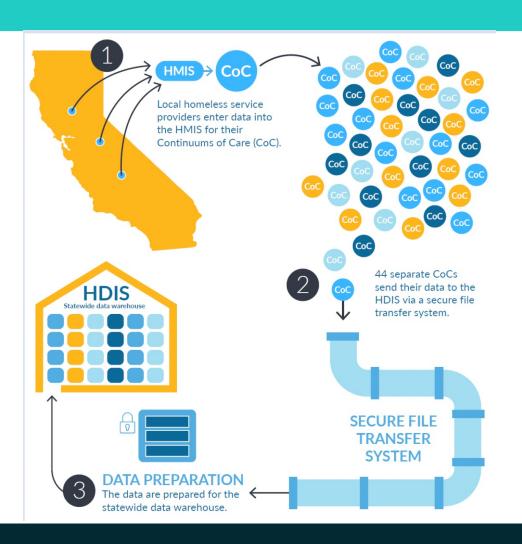




- Statewide data warehouse.
- Compiles and processes data from all 44 CA CoCs.
- Local entities enter data into HMIS.
- Quarterly each CoC sends data to Cal Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH):
  - HDIS ingests 44 sets of data.
  - HDIS cleans, standardizes, matches, and de-duplicates the data.
  - Searchable and explorable interactive data.

https://bcsh.ca.gov/calich/hdis.html

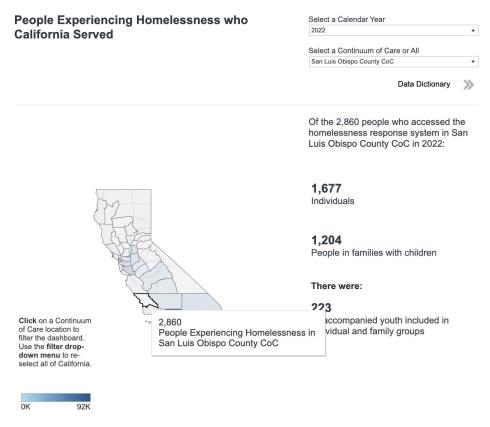




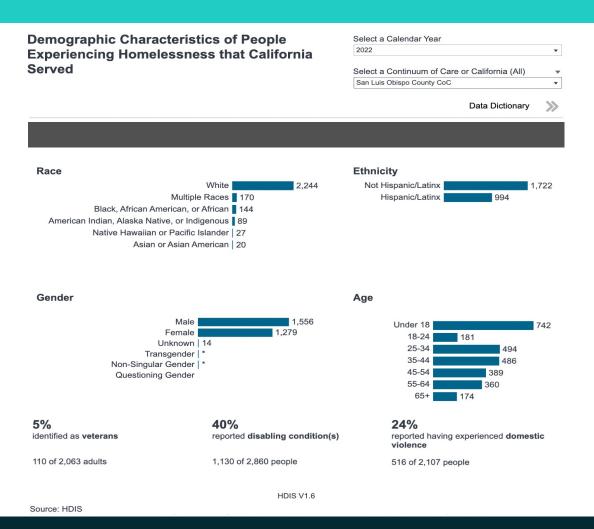


#### California's Homelessness Response System Acts to Serve those in Need

In 2022, CoCs across California have provided housing and services to 316,434 individuals experiencing homelessness.









# Opportunities & Challenges with HDIS for Equity Analysis

Displays race / ethnicity data on searchable dashboard.

**Opportunities** 

Each community has access to HDIS Academy - one sign in per CoC. The tool provides much more in-depth analysis including more focused racial and ethnicity data analysis.

Captures statewide data and individual community data, i.e., CoC can see themselves in relation to others.

Data is not in real-time – often at least one quarter in the past.

Challenges

Limited number of data sets available through HDIS.

Requires CoCs to produce data with no funding to do so.



# Homeless Housing, Assistance & Prevention (HHAP)



### **HHAP**

- One-time state funding to CoCs, cities, and counties.
- State requires:
  - CoC must provide data on the demographics & characteristics of the homeless population and in programs providing housing and homeless services.
  - Measurable goals (e.g., the ## of individuals served, and % of individuals successfully placed in permanent housing).
- Jurisdictions must track:
  - Expenditures broken out by eligible uses.
  - Number of homeless individuals served by the program funds each year.
  - Type of housing assistance provided by number of individuals.
  - Outcome data, such as exits and housing types that resulted in unsuccessful exits.



### HHAP 3

- Priority of funds opportunity to focus on race / ethnicity
  - Capacity building and workforce development for the jurisdiction's administering staff and providers, including technical assistance to culturally specific providers.
  - Funding existing evidence-based programs serving people experiencing homelessness.
  - Investing in data systems to meet reporting requirements or strengthen HMIS.
  - Improve PIT counts.
  - Improve coordinated entry systems to eliminate racial bias or to create a youth-specific coordinated entry system.



# Opportunities & Challenges with HHAP

State uses HDIS to produce data for CoC.

**Opportunities** 

State provides more flexible funding than HUD for a broader range of activities.

State provides fund to address racial and ethnic inequities.

State expects quality data and has access to HDIS to articulate data goals.

Challenges

State expects measurable deliverables around improving race / ethnicity performance of the CoC.



# Additional Data Sources / Data Tools



# **Key Additional Federal Data Sources**

Comprehensive
Housing
Assessment
Strategy (CHAS)

U.S. Census Bureau



### **Additional State Data Sources**

Health Care

Victim Service Providers Public Benefits (e.g., CalFresh, CalWorks)

Affordable Housing (ELI, VLI)

School System

**Legal Services** 

**Employment** 

Think Tanks

Employment & Education

Child Welfare

Criminal Legal Systems



# Next Steps: Leverage to Address Inequities



## Use Data to...

**Examine current and historical inequity within a community.** 

Expand community understanding, capacity, and willingness to engage with equity work.

Measure parameters of disparities including when, where, breadth, and duration.

Investigate why disparities and inequity happen across cultural/social, structural, institutional, community, and interpersonal levels.

Measure the impact of disparities and inequity on populations, people, systems, and staff across financial/economic, relational/ community, psychological and physical health, and familial and individual metrics.

Explore and design interventions and building responsive systems to address and prevent Inequity.



# **QUESTIONS?**

