

Housing precarity among the Latino population

- 2019, national poverty for Latinos was more than double that of whites (15.7% vs. 7.3%) (U.S. Census 2021).
- Latino households are more likely to experience doubled up/overcrowded housing (Baker 1996; Richard et. al. 2022).
- Latinos experience high rates of eviction (Hepburn et. al. 2020).
- 2019, 45% of Latino population was foreign-born (BLS 2021). Foreign-born status results in challenges to community integration, and less access and use of public benefits.

What do we know about Latino homelessness?

- Historically, lower rates of homelessness than expected given population characteristics and poverty rates – “Latino Paradox” (Baker, 1996).
- Reliance on social networks and limited use of public services (Conroy & Heer, 2003; Lee, et. al., 2010; Molina-Jackson, 2008).
- May be systematically undercounted because more likely to exist outside traditional homeless spaces (Conroy & Heer, 2003).

Characteristics of Latino homelessness

- Latinos are more likely to:
 - Be first time homeless (Flaming, Burns, & Carlen, 2018)
 - Experience homelessness with children (Flaming, Burns, & Carlen, 2018)
 - Include intergenerational family members (CA Policy Lab, 2018)

Latino homelessness is on the rise...

2022 Point-In-Time

CoC (Top 10 CoCs by 2020 PIT Count)	% Change, Overall Homeless Pop, 2020-2022	% Change, Latino Homeless Pop, 2020-2020	Gap Between Latino Homeless Pop and Overall Homeless Pop Changes
New York City CoC	-21%	-18%	+3%
Los Angeles City/County CoC	+9%	+26%	+17%
Seattle/King County CoC	+14%	+30%	+16%
San Jose, Santa Clara City/County CoC	+4%	+16%	+12%
Texas Balance of State CoC	-30%	18%	+12%
Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda City/County CoC	+20%	+64%	+44%
San Francisco CoC	-5%	+34%	+39%
San Diego City/County CoC	+10%	+29%	+19%
Phoenix, Mesa/Maricopa County CoC	+22%	+42%	+20%
Santa Ana, Anaheim/Orange County CoC	-18%	-12%	+6%

Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness

Covid-19: Disproportionate health and economic impacts

- Risk of infection, hospitalization, and death were twice as high for Latinos as compared to their white counterparts (CDC 2020)
- April 2020, unemployment rate for Latinos rose to 18.2%, compared to 12.8% among whites (Fairlie et. al. 2021).
- In California, only 35% of applicants for rent relief program were Latino; Latinos make up 57% of the renter population (Treuhaft et. al. 2022)
- Latinos were less likely to receive stimulus payments and claim the Child Tax Credit (Burnside 2021)

Policy solutions

Finding	Policy Recommendation
1. Lack of familiarity with homeless service system	Make homeless services available in non-traditional homeless service spaces (e.g., clinics/churches); Increase outreach and communication to Latino community (e.g., Spanish media).
2. Language and cultural barriers	Increase federal support for robust implementation of language access plans; Identify key practices for engagement.
3. Restrictions on some federally-funded housing solutions (e.g., PSH)	Ensure local resources do not have restrictions (e.g., DHS Flex Pool); Ensure access to federal resources that don't have restrictions (e.g., CoC-funded RRH, CARES Act ESG funds).
4. Few affordable units available for families, including multigenerational households	Examine how federal programs can create incentives for larger units (ex. State Family Challenge Grants that set aside resources for families in capital programs).
5. Fears surrounding immigration and public charge	Promote partnerships between legal aid and homeless services.

Questions? Comments?

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