

Black Homelessness in Los Angeles



Dezmin Hemmans
Dr. Rosemary Kim
Accounting Department



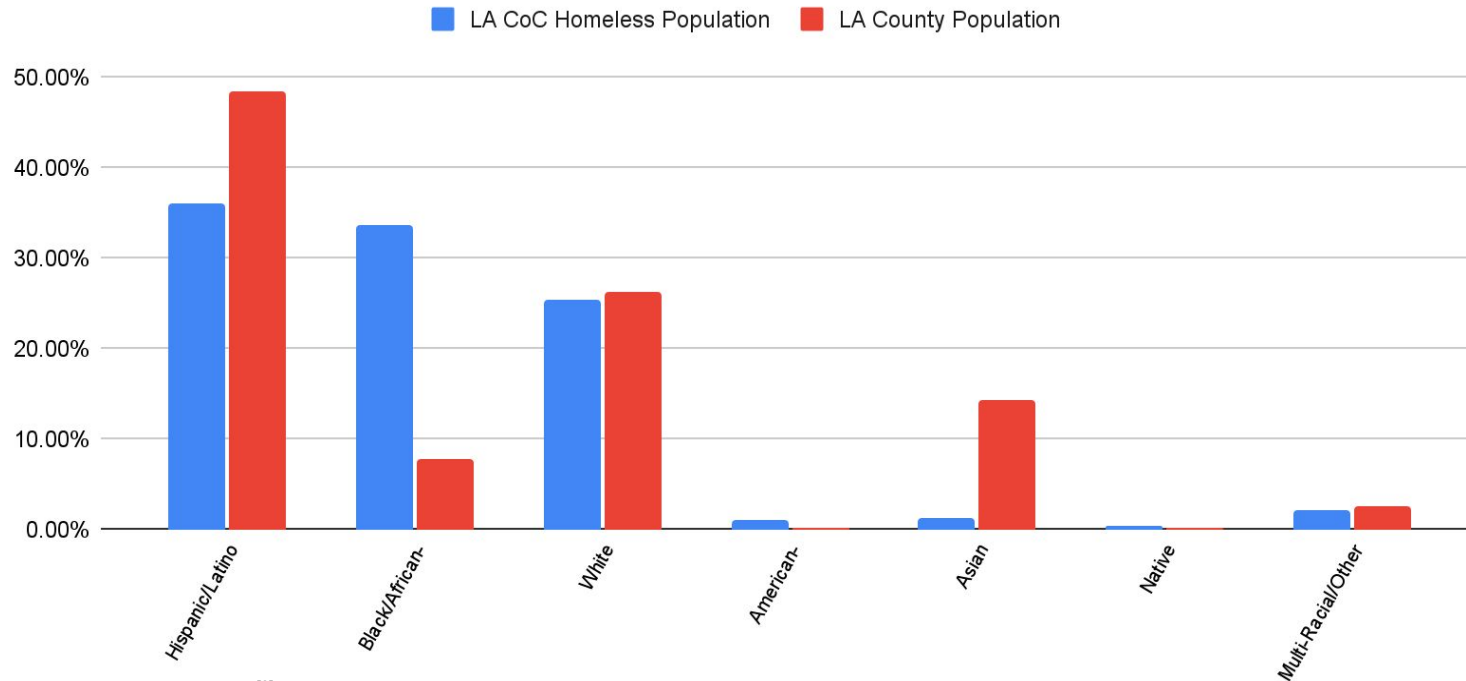


Background

- Over half a million individuals experience homelessness^[1]
- Homelessness in LA County has risen by **12 percent between 2018-2020**^[2]
- Black people have been disproportionately homeless since **1885** during the reconstruction era^[3]
- Black people are **4x more likely to be homeless** in LA^[2]
- Black people make up **7.9%** of population in LA county but makeup **33%** of the homeless population in LA county^[2]

LASHA Homelessness Count Results

LA CoC Homeless Population and LA County Population



Source: LAHSA Homeless Count^[2] graph created by Dezmin Hemmans

Homelessness Factors



Mental Health^[3]



Lack of housing^[5]



Financial Stress^{[3] [5]}



Substance Abuse^[3]

Related Study

Public Exposure and Attitudes about Homelessness^[6]

- Study conducted by Tsai, Shen, Southwick & Pietrzak, in 2018
- Addressed public concern on homelessness
- Increase of Homelessness
- Public Policy changes

“Most Americans care about homelessness as a major problem but there are divergent perspectives on solutions to address homelessness based on gender, income level, and political affiliation.^[6]”

*Why are Black people disproportionately
homeless in Los Angeles?*

Is the public aware of this discrepancy?

Study Objectives

1. Identify public perception of homelessness
2. Identify the observable amount of homeless people by race
3. Identify risk factors the public deems can cause homelessness

Study Methods

- Distributed questionnaire via social media
- Self reflective study
- Volunteer study
- Mainly comprised of college students who drive through LA

Methods and Materials

The questions were the following:

1. Do you live in LA county?
2. Have you traveled within LA county within the last 2 years?
3. Have you noticed homeless people on your commute?
4. On average how many homeless people do you see on your typical commute?
5. **What is the race of the majority of homeless people you see on your commute?**
6. Did you notice an increase in homeless people in the past 2 years?
7. **What do you think caused the increase?**
8. Have you noticed any displacement of homeless people (forced relocation of homeless folks) within the past year?
9. Are you aware of any policies that address homelessness within LA County?
10. **List the policies that address homelessness in LA county.**

Results - Respondents were unsure of race

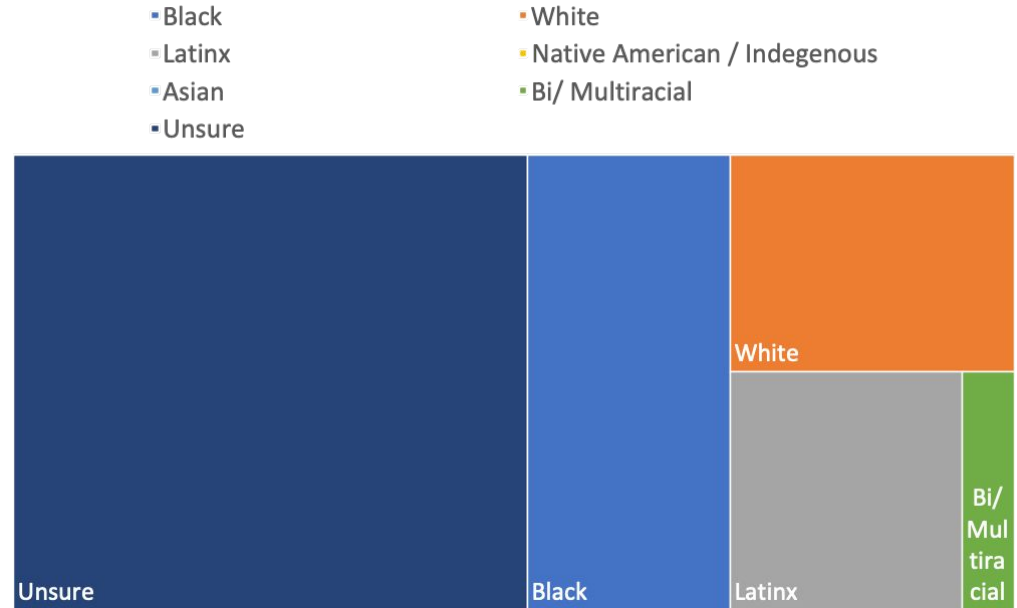
n=74

98% reported seeing homeless people on their average commute

53% of respondents could not categorize race of homeless people they have seen

Of those who categorized race 41.67% identified black homeless people

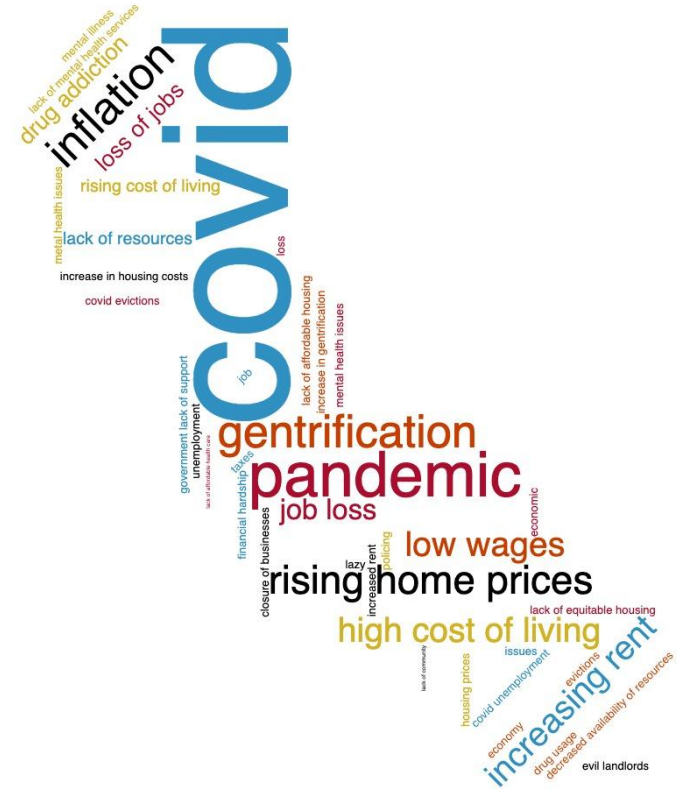
No respondents could identify a specific measure or policy addressing homelessness



Perceived causes of homelessness affect Black people more

What do you think caused the increase?

- Covid-19 pandemic^[7]
- Rise of Costs of Living/ Inflation^{[8][9]}
- Loss of Jobs^[9]
- Rising home prices^[10]

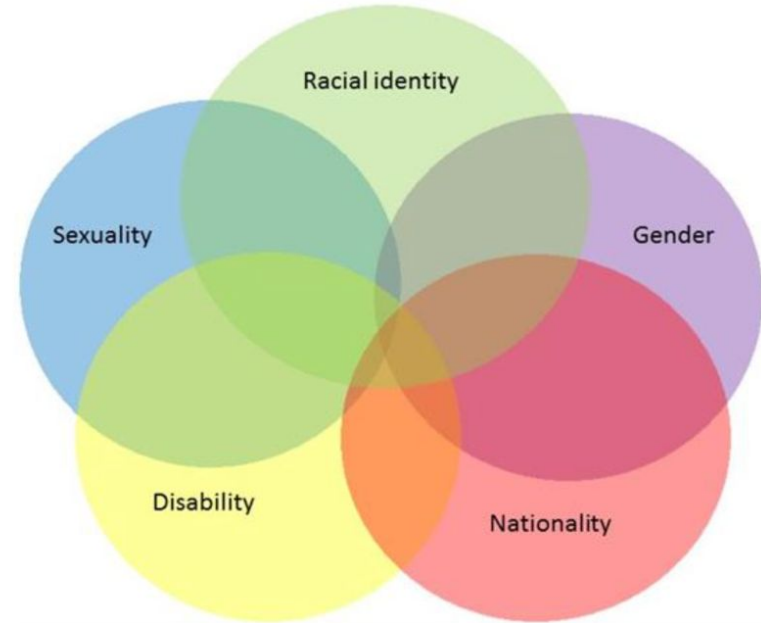


Limitations of the Study & Opportunities

01	Sample Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Larger sample size• Demographic data
02	Scope of Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collecting more demographic data• Interviewing homeless people• Interviewing politicians
03	LA County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study only operating in LA county• National issue

Without intersectionality homelessness will not end

“Intersectionality is the acknowledgement that **everyone has their own unique experiences of discrimination and oppression** and we must consider everything and anything that can marginalise people – gender, race, class, sexual orientation, physical ability, etc.^[11]”



Acknowledgments

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