



# Supplemental Gaps Analysis 2020

Published by the Lead Agency of the Missouri Balance  
of State Continuum of Care  
2023

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# Summary

**In June 2021, Homebase conducted a gaps analysis of the Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care (MO BoS CoC) at the request of the Lead Agency, Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri. Homebase could not utilize HMIS data in this report. When data was collected, the Lead Agency CoC team conducted a gaps analysis of the results provided by the HMIS.**

Per Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri (CPSEMO), Homebase conducted this gaps analysis within a Target Universalism Framework. Target Universalism is an equity framework that promotes attaining a universal goal through the designing and implementation of multiple targeted strategies. The expressed goal of the Missouri Balance of State CoC’s work is **“To reduce the length and frequency of homelessness toward the universal goal.”**

The purpose of this Supplemental Data analysis is to analyze HMIS (Homelessness Management Information System) data. This data was collected through the CES (Coordinated Entry System) to determine any equity gaps with in diversity groups including: age, gender, race, chronic status, ethnicity, domestic violence involved, fleeing, veteran, and disabled and assessing the following areas-

- How many individuals exited without Permanent Housing compared to the same groups housed?
- How many individuals within these groups exited and returned to programs?
- How many individuals within these groups and their timeframes on the list?
- What are the VI-SPDAT/VF-SPDAT score ranges within these groups?

These questions will answer if there are any gaps in the MO BoS CoC CE System and processes for these groups. Data analysis and findings were guided by these key concepts.

# Table Of Content

- Summary.....2
- Key Findings .....6
- Graphs and Data .....8
- Sources .....16



# Homebase Gaps Analysis Highlights

Below are several highlights described from the Homebase Gaps Analysis of the MO BoS CoC of 2020.

“ Stakeholders are largely unaware of the inequity in the system and most lack training in diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB). ”



## “Progression through the System and Project Type Access

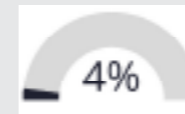
The racial disparity in housing type access may be caused by the equitable distribution of resources, such as emergency shelter and permanent housing. Improving permanent housing access in these areas would, theoretically improve access for a large portion of the white population as well.”

“ Further quantitative analysis of raw data is needed to verify and/or provide a deeper understanding to many of the findings in this report ”

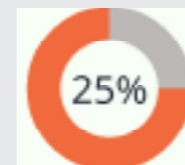
# Interesting Observations



When reviewing the results of the social demographics, the result showed that there were 217 Domestic Violence Victims and out of that 66 reported fleeing Domestic Violence. Known trends surrounding under-reporting in survivors of domestic violence raise the question of how many folks are accurately reporting fleeing status. Coordinated Entry training may consider language to address client reporting comfort and details of when to record this data.



According to the US Census Bureau, 11.8% of the population is African American in Missouri. From the HUD Racial Equity, CoC Analysis Tool 3.0, only 4% of the population is African American in Rural Missouri. .



From the HMIS data, 248 African Americans were sampled. This contributed 25.6% of Coordinated Entry or Head of Household Clients

## Client data from those presenting to service providers generally matched findings in the PIT

This translates to the fact that the annual Point in Time Count is an accurate representation of individuals, families and clients that are presenting at MO BoS CoC providers.

## About the Data

The following are the key findings from the HMIS data and analyzed by the Lead Agency CoC Team of the 2020 data. Data was separated into categories, including: race, gender, chronic status, ethnicity, domestic violence status, fleeing status, veteran, disabled, and age groups.

To establish the numbers, a table was created by filtering Head of Household, CE Programs, Project Exit Date, and Reason for Leaving, including: not completed program and not left for housing, except housed related exiting. Data quality did not support effective demographic analysis on exits from Coordinated Entry.

Duplicate client records were deleted to ensure accuracy for demographic representation.



## Results

### Returns vs Non>Returns



**Of 969 clients, 921 exited and did not return.**

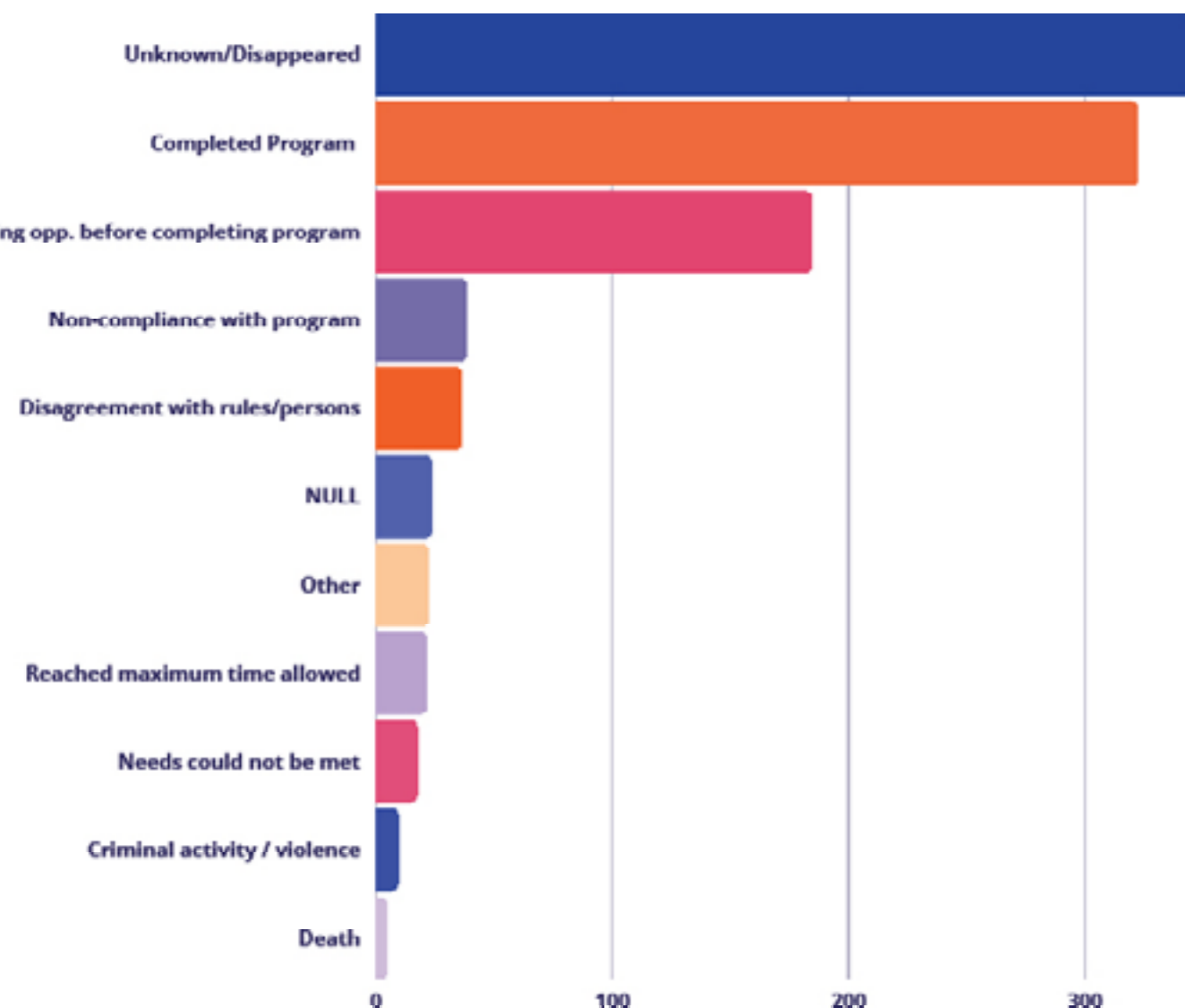
There is a significant number of 300+ clients who do not have meaningful exit data.

- 48 Clients exited Coordinated Entry programs and returned to housing programs.
  - Of those, 21 had positive outcomes the first time.
  - 10 completed the program (potentially they received housing).
  - 5 returned within a year to complete the program for a second time.
  - 11 found housing and left the program early.
    - 1 returned within a year.
    - 3 clients were successful the second time.

# Reasons of Leaving

With duplication created by returning clients, the data shows 1021 clients exited the program. When this data was filtered and deduplicated for those who completed the program and those who left because they were housed, findings show 472 clients exited without being housed. 497 clients were successfully housed. While it cannot be stated they completed the program, it means 497 clients are no longer experiencing homelessness according to HMIS data in that period.

The 472 remaining clients offer some insight. The vast majority left the program without substantial data collected. It can be speculated some of these clients could be distributed into other categories to justify their departure to the program. More outreach and data is needed to determine this. Based on the data, the combination of non-compliance with program expectations and disagreement with the rules represents more than half of the 472 clients. There is a need for training provided for program staff to appropriately handle collecting this data element.



# Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)

The VI-SPDAT offers providers a tool to prioritize those clients with the highest needs. A higher score means the client has the most contributing factors causing them to be homeless such as mental health disease, illicit drug use, and a history of incarceration. Such Clients may need a more vigorous assistance plan.

The VI-SPDAT score has been the center of controversy and research that is important to understand. According to Brown and Lyons<sup>1</sup> (2018), the VI-SPDAT is not a reliable predictor of client vulnerability. It did serve as a consistent predictor of client challenges. Higher scores trended toward higher rates of re-entry to homelessness. At some level, high VI-SPDAT scores do identify clients with housing stability barriers<sup>2</sup>.

Other concerns regarding racial equity in VI-SPDAT scores indicate that the tool is perpetuating racial inequality through unbalanced scoring. Our own data set supports this reality as well. The implication of this research is that VI-SPDAT scores may be predictive of long-term outcomes, inequalities among different demographics will mean that persons of certain demographic characteristics may not be identified as more vulnerable and may end up receiving less intensive services than appropriate. Note that lower scores for clients will generally result in fewer service opportunities for housing support, according to our CoC's prioritization model.

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Sources for more information  
<sup>2</sup> Refer to Sources for more information



**VISPDAT**

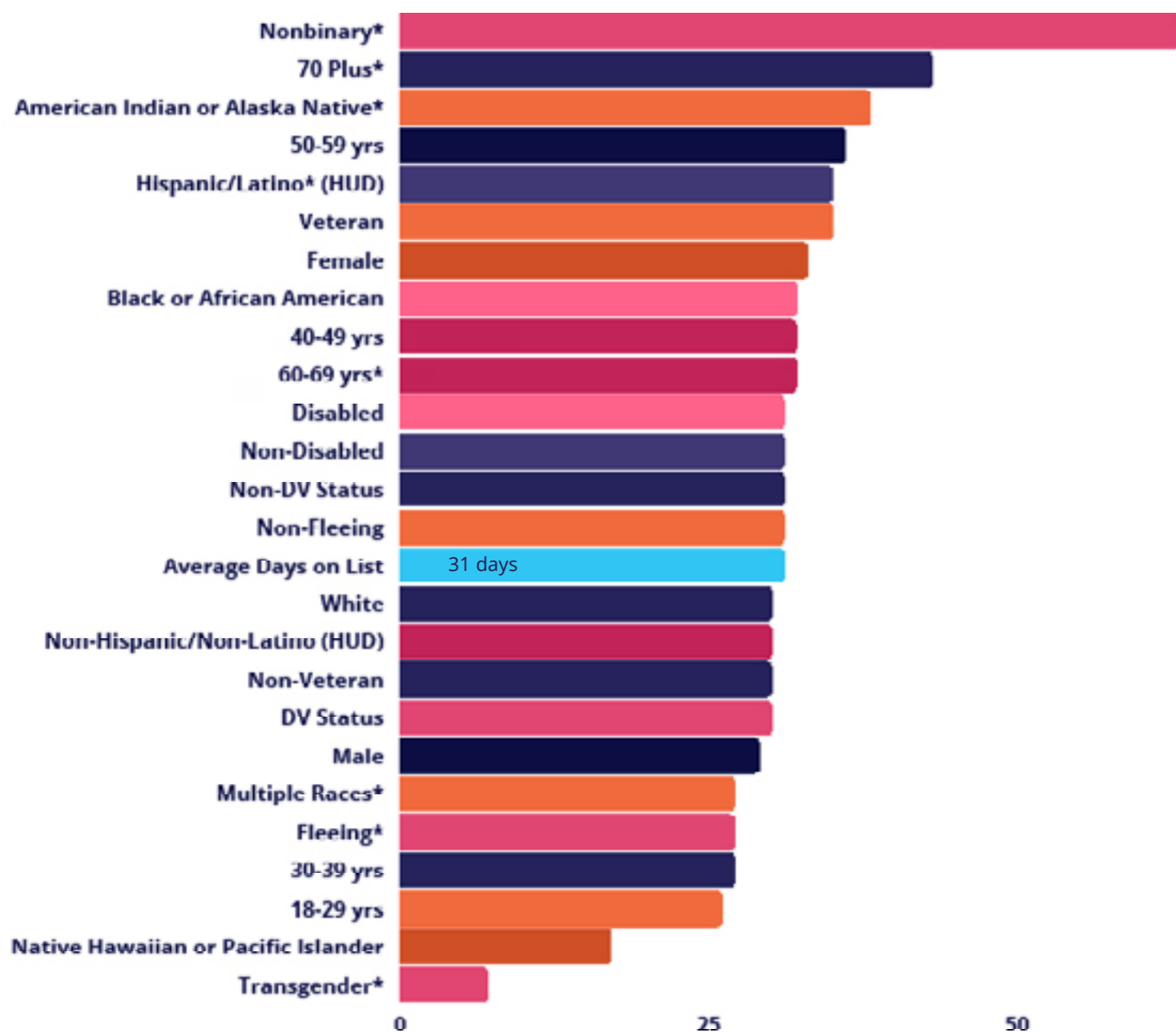
The average score for an African American client is 1.2 points lower than that of white clients. Then when compared to clients that received housing, African American client scores drop by 0.8, and the gap increases.

# Days on List Data

It is a goal of the MO BoS CoC CES to house all households within 60 days or less. Therefore, any days over the 60 days shows areas of improvement. Our system showed, across all CES entries, the average days on the Priority List was 117 days. That number is concerning, because this means clients are in the program twice as long as expected. Determining why will require more research and data.

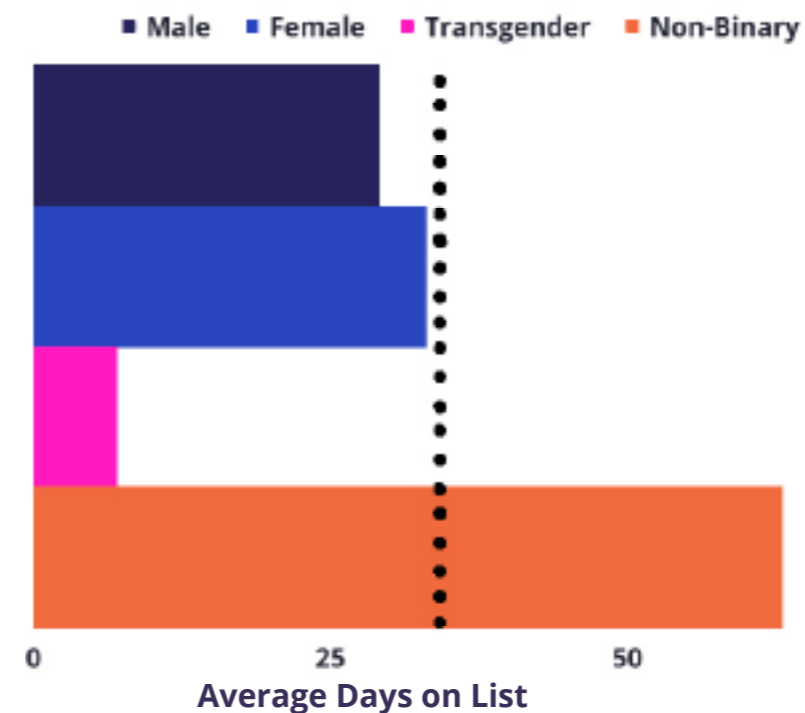
*To improve accuracy of demographic comparison, the CES data was filtered to remove data that would skew demographic measures. Entries were de-duplicated to represent each client individually by average of days for clients with multiple entries. Entries were limited to Clients who were 16 or older, had an age entered, and an exit date. Clients that were on the list more than 75 days were considered to be non-applicable due to list upkeep issues that were apparent. Clients with two ages in the reporting period were represented by their older age in the time.*

Average Days on List Ranked by Category

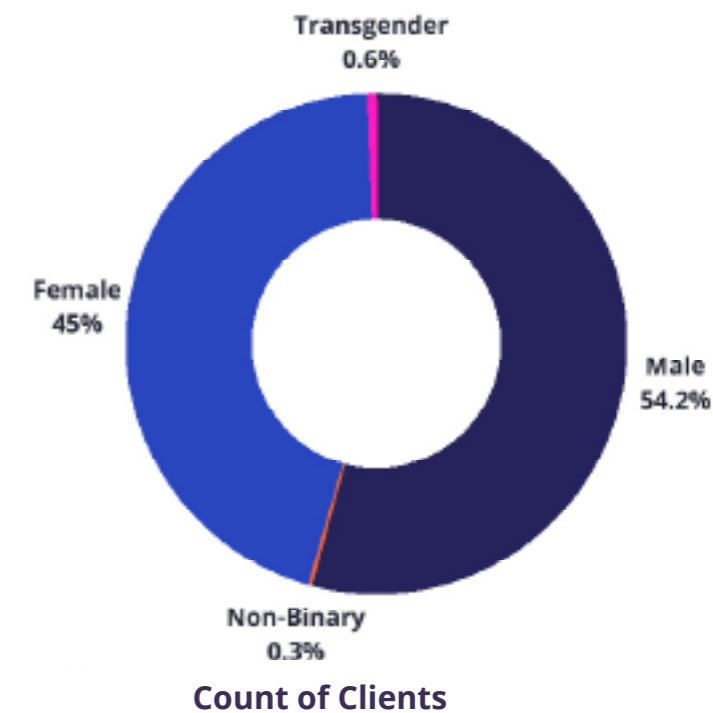


## Days on List Data Continued

Gender	Avg. Days on List	Count of Clients
Male	29	195
Female	33	162
Transgender	7	2
Gender Non-Conforming (i.e. not exclusively male or female)	63	1

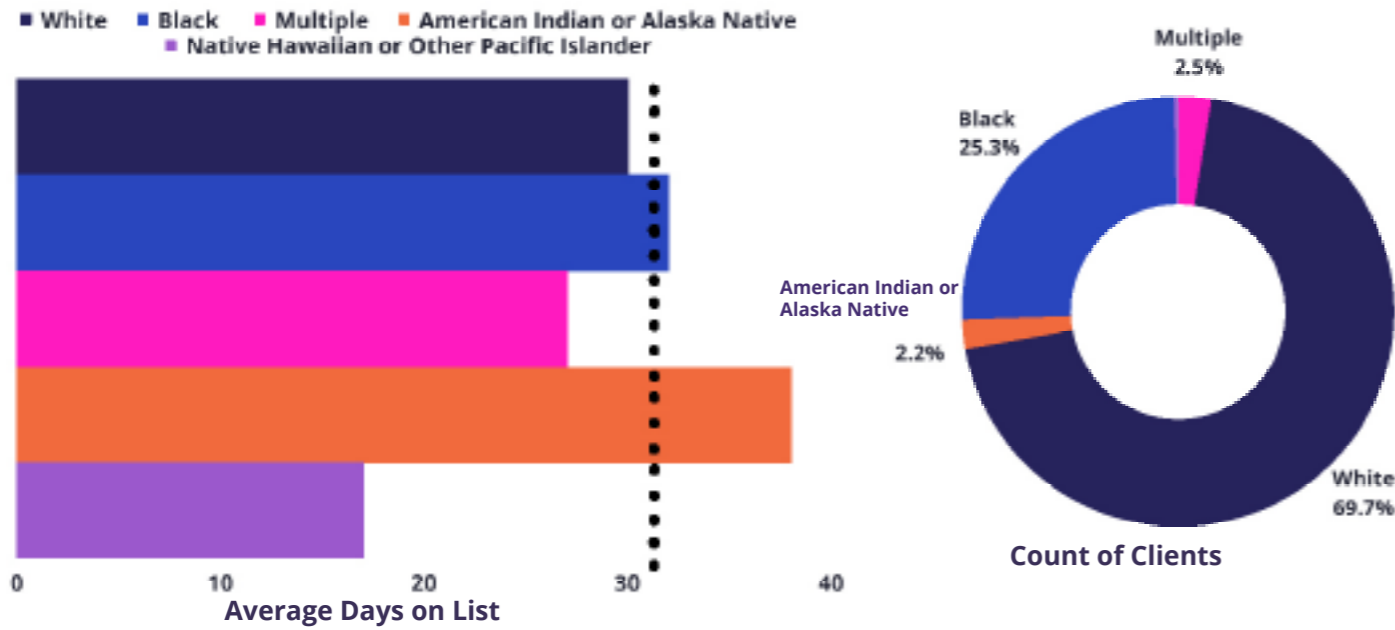


\*The dotted line represents the overall average for Days on List, 31 days.



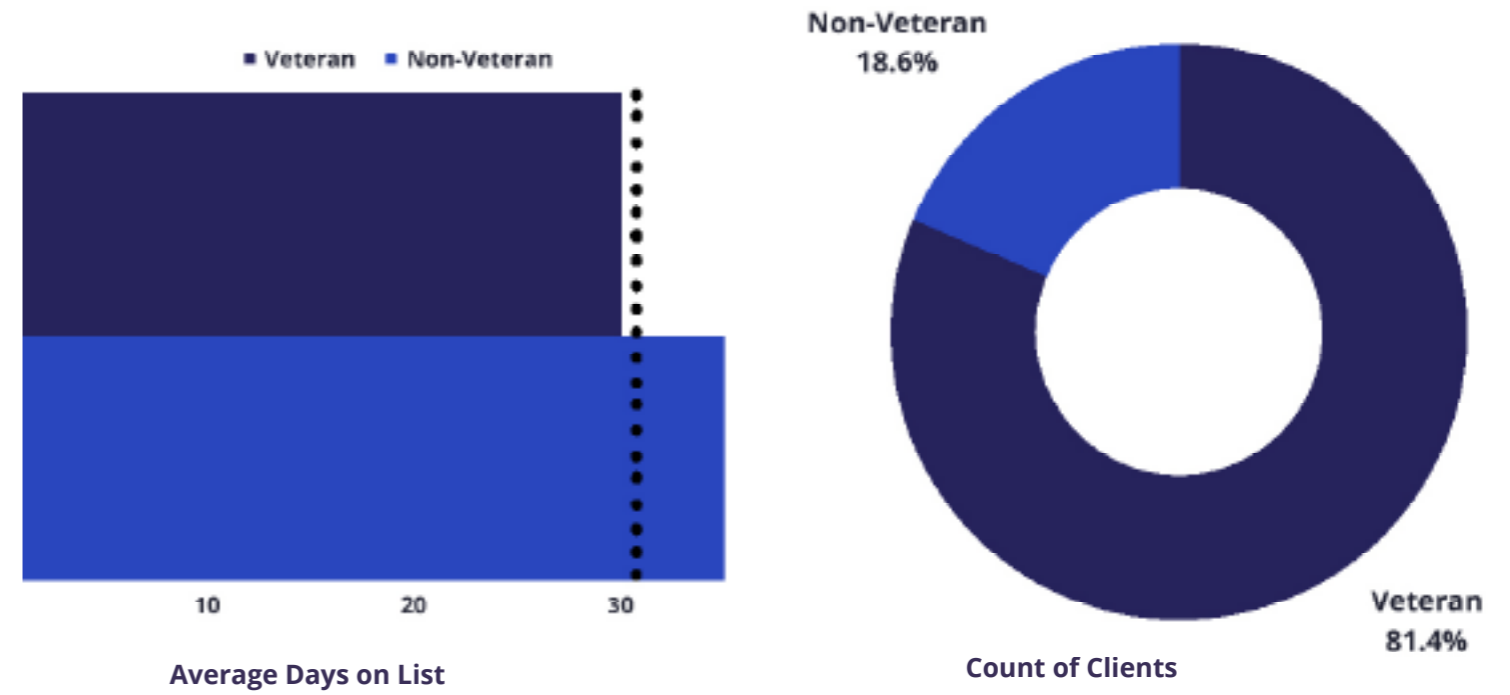
Days on List Data Continued

Race	Avg. Days on List	Count of Clients
White	30	251
Black or African American	32	91
Multiple Races	27	9
American Indian or Alaska Native	38	8
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	17	1

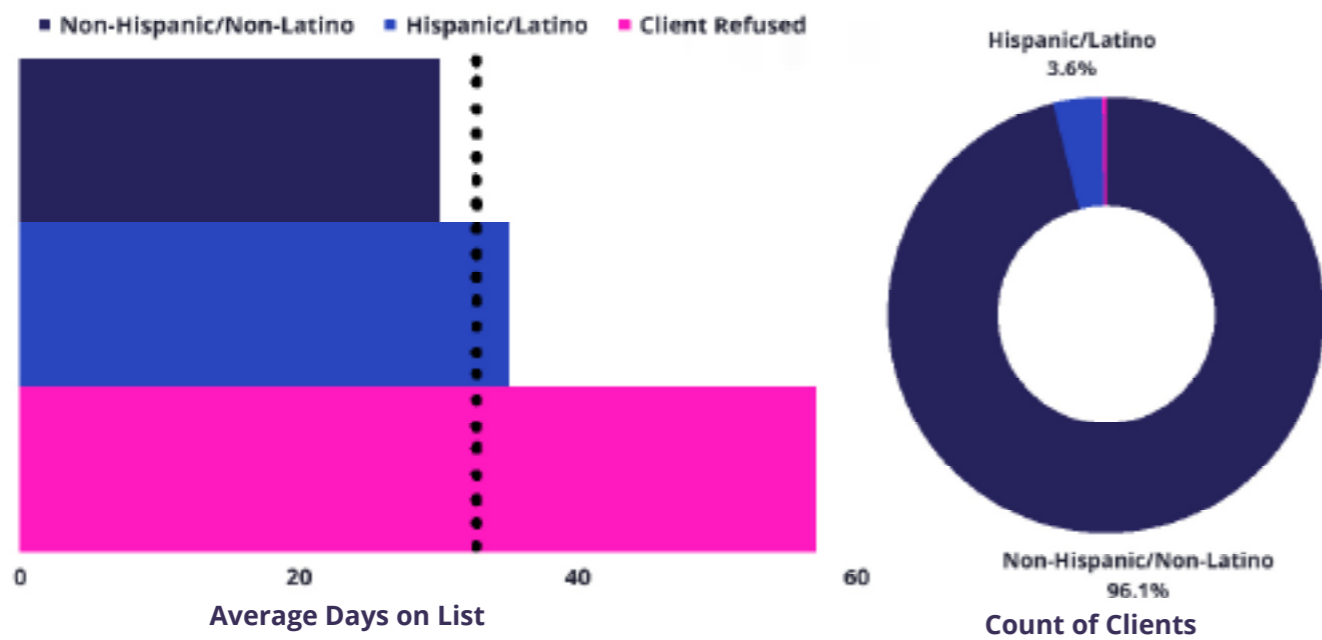


Days on List Data Continued

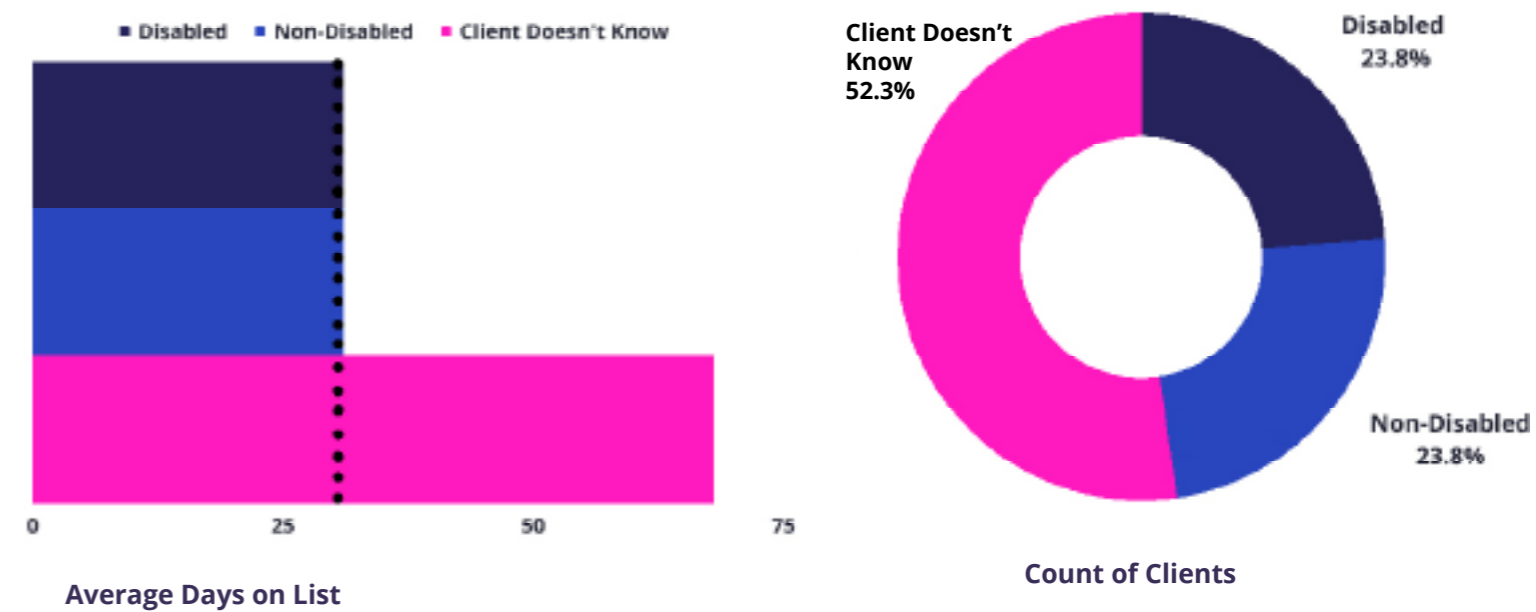
Veteran	Avg. Days on List	Count of Clients
Yes	30	293
No	35	67



Ethnicity	Avg. Days on List	Count of Clients
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino (HUD)	30	346
Hispanic/Latino (HUD)	35	13
Client refused (HUD)	57	1



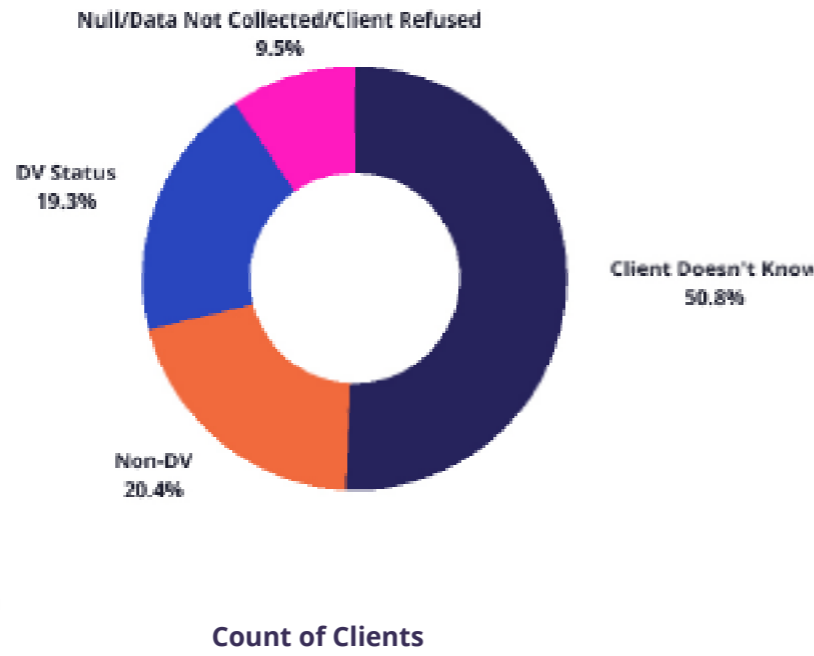
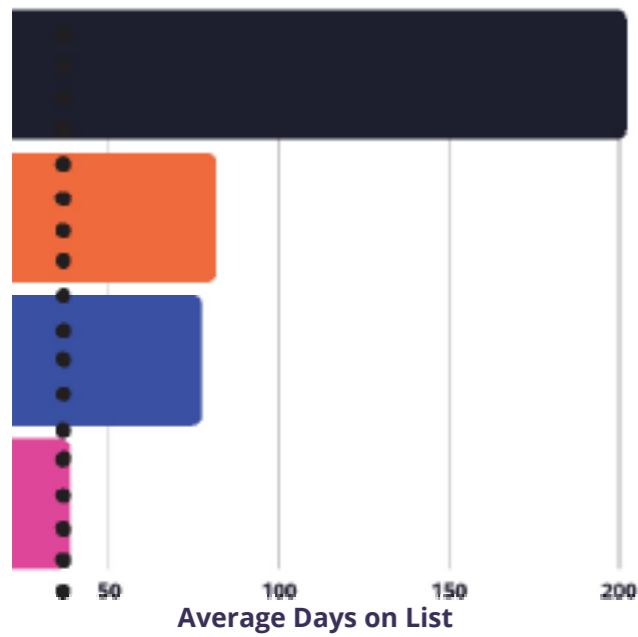
Disabled	Avg. Days on List	Count of Clients
Yes	31	213
No	31	146
Client Doesn't Know	68	1



Days on List Data Continued

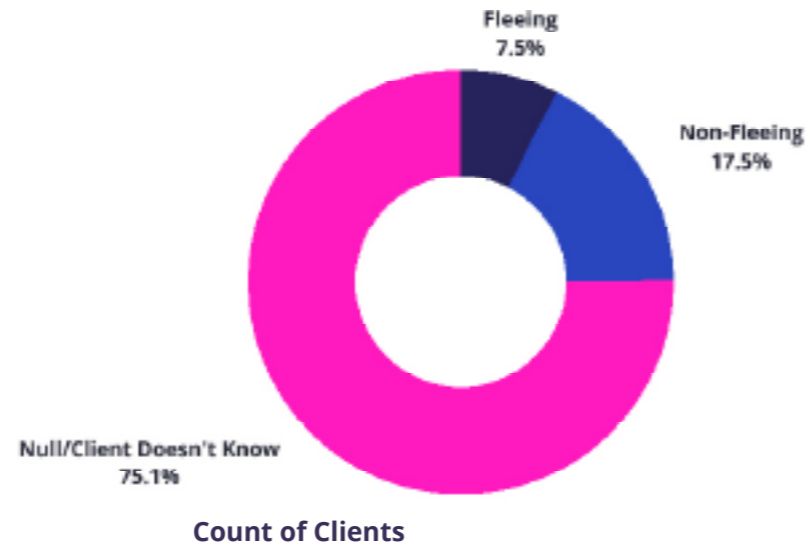
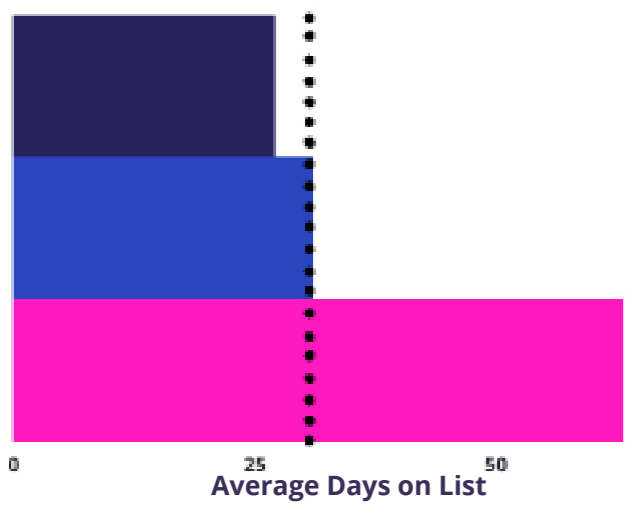
DV Status	Avg. Days on List	Count of Clients
Client doesn't know	31	202
No	30	81
Yes	130	77
Null/Data Not Collected/Client Refused	38	38

■ Client Doesn't Know ■ Non-DV ■ DV Status  
■ Null/Data Not Collected/Client Refused



Fleeing	Avg. Days on List	Count of Clients
Yes	27	27
No	31	63
Null/Client Doesn't Know	63	271

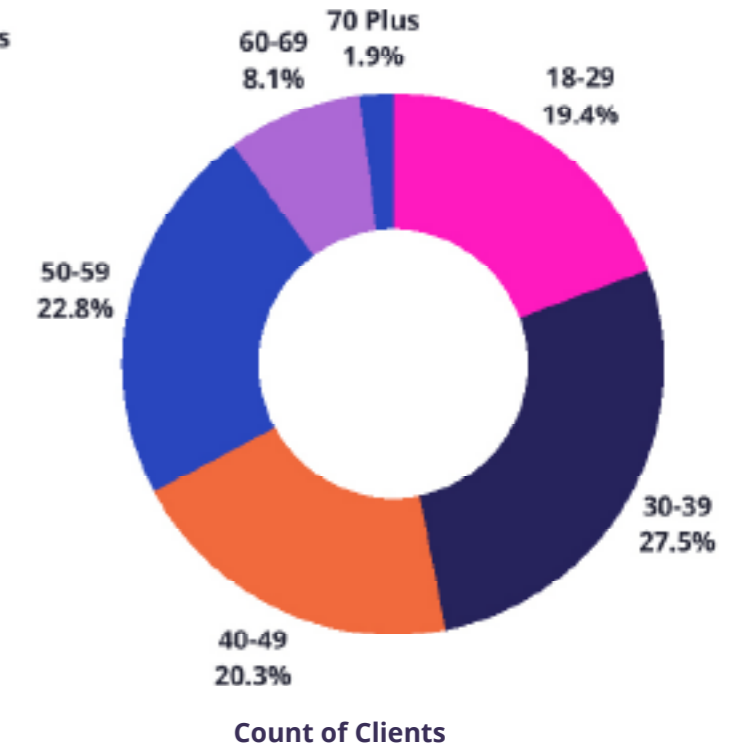
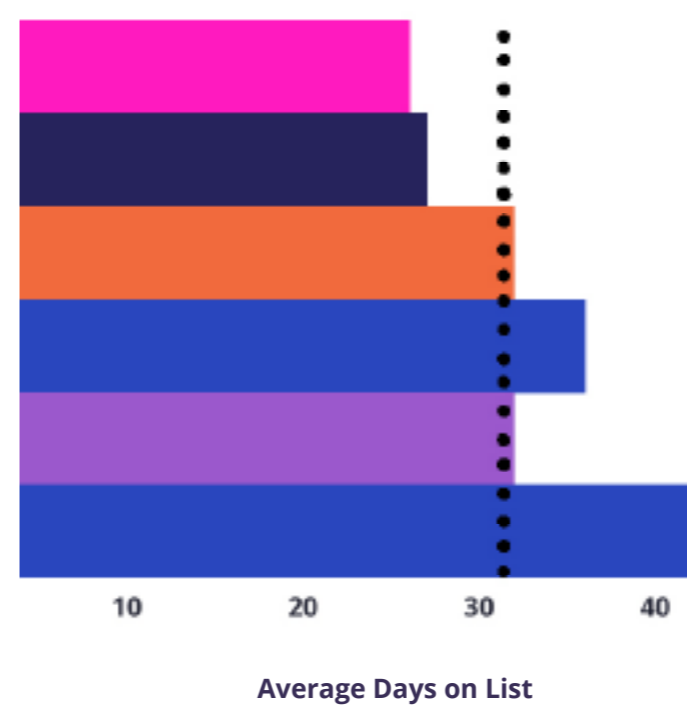
■ Fleeing ■ Non-Fleeing ■ Null/Client Doesn't Know



\*The dotted line in graphs represents the overall average for Days on List, 31 days.

Age	Avg. Days on List	Count of Clients
18-29	26	70
30-39	27	99
40-49	32	73
50-59	36	82
60-69	32	29
70Plus	43	7

■ 18-29 ■ 30-39 ■ 40-49 ■ 50-59 ■ 60-69 ■ 70 Plus



\*The dotted line in graphs represents the overall average for Days on List, 31 days.





# Sources

All graphs and data were from the 2019-2020 HMIS data report.

## References

1. Brown M, Cummings C, Lyons J, Carrión A, Watson DP. Reliability and validity of the Vulnerability Index–Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) in real-world implementation. *J Soc Distress Homeless*. 2018;27(2):110-117. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10530789.2018.1482991>

2. Cronley C. Invisible intersectionality in measuring vulnerability among individuals experiencing homelessness—critically appraising the VI-SPDAT. *J Soc Distress Homeless*. 2020:1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10530789.2020.1852502>

3. US Census Bureau

## Gaps Analysis Report

2020