



Data Explainer Series

Week 2: Homelessness – Office Hours

Series Schedule

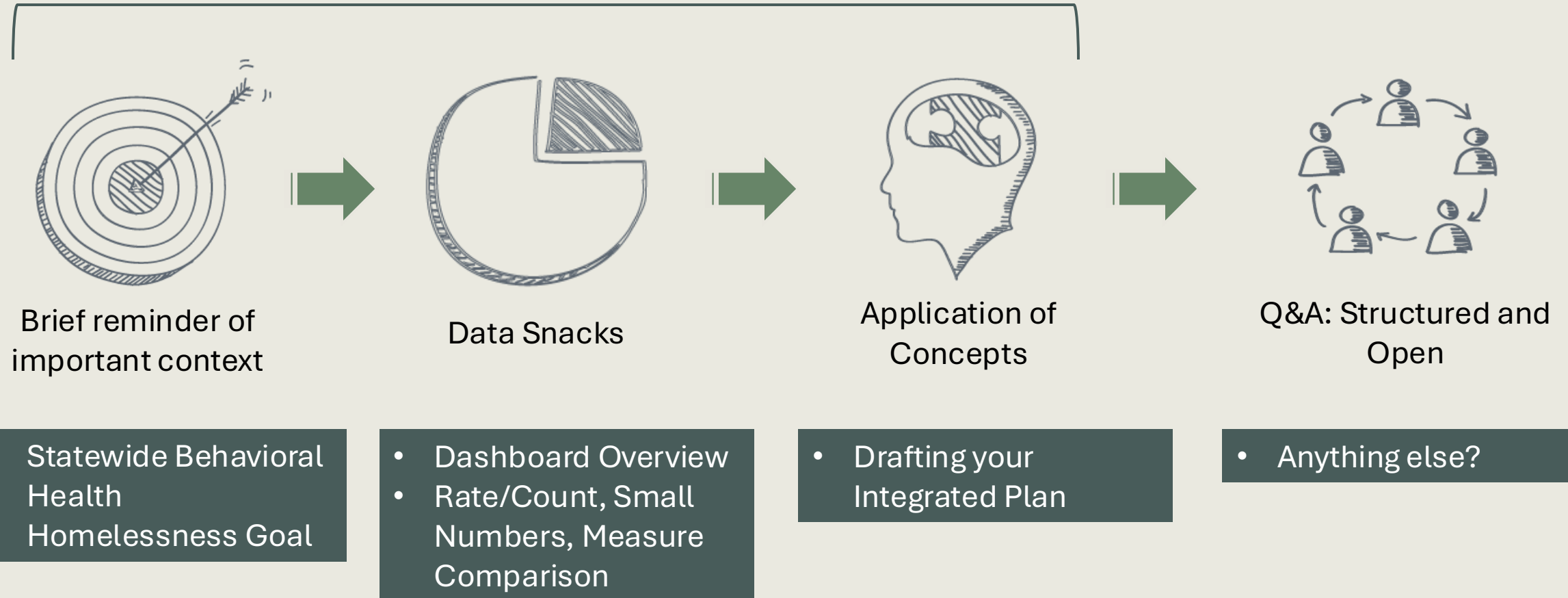
Webinar Date	Office Hours Date	Webinar Title
7/29/2025	8/1/2025	Introduction to Statewide Goals & Access to Care
8/5/2025	8/8/2025	Homelessness ← <i>You Are Here</i>
8/12/2025	8/15/2025	Justice-Involvement
8/19/2025	8/22/2025	Removal of Children from the Home
8/26/2025	8/29/2025	Overdoses and Suicides
9/2/2025	9/5/2025	Untreated Behavioral Health Conditions, Prevention and Treatment of Co-Occurring Physical Health Conditions
9/9/2025	9/12/2025	Care Experience, Quality of Life, Social Connection
9/15/2025	9/19/2025	Engagement in School and Work
9/23/2025	9/26/2025	Institutionalization
9/30/2025	9/30/2025	Collaborating with Local Planning Processes

Necessary Information

- Each week we have a new webinar topic and corresponding office hours.
- The aim of office hours is to dive a bit deeper and respond to questions.
- All webinars will be recorded and placed on our website (*office hours will not be recorded*).

Office Hours Grounding

20-30 minutes



Agenda

Welcome

Homelessness Dashboard Overview

Drafting your Integrated Plan

Webinar Q&A

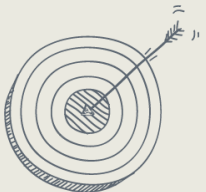
Open Discussion



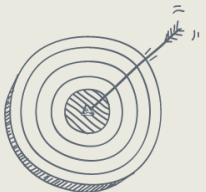
The Largest Picture

The vision for Behavioral Health Transformation is that all Californians have access to behavioral health services...

... this leads to improved health and happiness for individuals, better overall outcomes and reduced disparities.



The More Immediate Picture: Integrated Plan

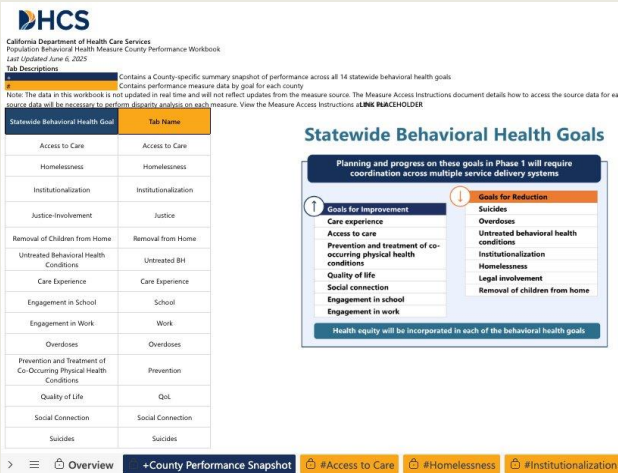


Homelessness Dashboard

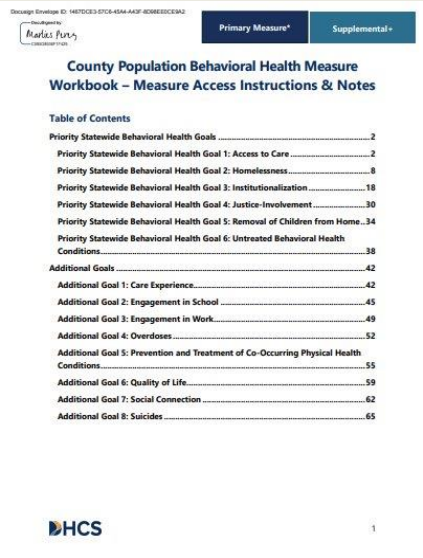
Priority Goal



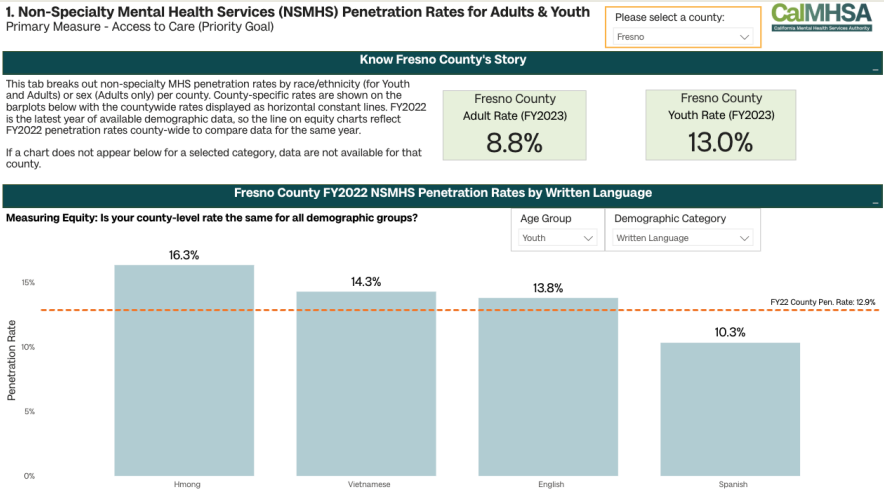
What are the Sources for CalMHSA's Dashboards?



County Rates directly from DHCS Workbook



County-specific Equity Data extracted from DHCS-recommended data sources



An all-in-one resource for you to complete your IP



Tips: The DHCS Workbook and IP Requirements

- ✓ The Workbook reflects a point-in-time as of June 2025; more recent data may be available from the primary source
- ✓ The Workbook provides calculated statewide rates that may not have been available in primary data sources
- ✓ In most cases, the year requested in the IP is available



Additional Data Tips for Your Integrated Plan

- ✓ When more recent data are not available, appropriate to use the most recent year of data available for the IP
- ✓ If publicly-available or local data are not available, can note on IP "None Available"
- ✓ Use locally available data to supplement publicly-available sources
- ✓ Phase 1 is focused on median and mean as benchmarks for planning rather than evaluation



Data Snack: Rate or Count?

Use a **rate** for a comparison:

- Comparing between different size populations (e.g. comparing across counties, or comparing across demographic groups)
- Trending your own counties' data over time

"Compared to other counties, we have a lower rate of people accessing housing-related services."

Use a **count** for scale:

- Measuring how many members of your community are affected by an issue
- To understand the resources needed to serve a population

"In our county, 800 people were identified as experiencing homelessness on a given night."



Data Snack: Small Numerators & Denominators

- The smaller the number, the more “jumpy” the estimates can be.
- Recommendation:
 - Use "hover" feature on dashboard to understand the numerator & denominators counts, not just the rate itself
 - When numbers are small, use caution in interpretation. Look for consistency over time, and for meaningfully-sized differences in rates.
 - Take population size into account when considering the scope of the intervention
- Example County:
 - Context: County population of around 100,000 but one race only has an estimated population of 200 people.

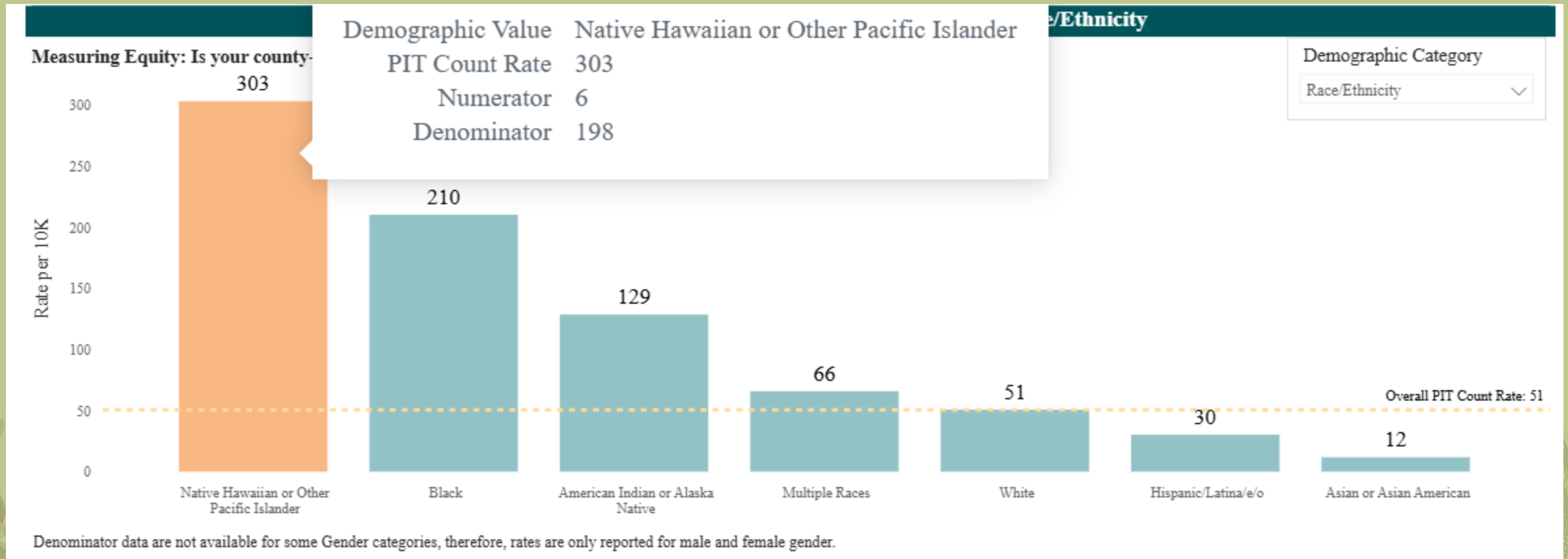
$$\frac{6}{200} = 0.03 \quad \times 10,000 = 300 \text{ per } 10,000$$

$$\frac{8}{200} = 0.04 \quad \times 10,000 = 400 \text{ per } 10,000$$

A change of two people
on the PIT count,
changes the rate by 100
in 10,000!



Data Snack: Small Numerators & Denominators



PIT rates are prone to extreme values when calculated among small populations. *Demographic groups with a small denominator are displayed in orange.

Data Bite: Dashboard Orientation



CalMHSA is hosting an educational series through Sept. 30 to support counties in advancing California's statewide behavioral health goals and population-level measures under the Behavioral Health Services Act. The webinars and corresponding office hours will help counties incorporate these goals into Integrated Plans and strengthen data-informed strategies that improve population health outcomes. *Please note: Live participation in the series is only for county behavioral health staff.*

Visit this web page for links to recordings of each webinar, printable resource materials, and data dashboards as they are developed.

Each week's offering will focus on one or a related grouping of statewide goals and measures and examine them through:

- **Webinars (Tuesdays, 12-1 p.m.):** Focused on understanding the data, including statewide performance metrics, system context, and county health equity and disparity considerations
- **Office Hours (Fridays, 12-1 p.m.):** A collaborative, open forum for discussion and cross-county learning

CONTENTS

Webinars



Data Dashboards



BHT Planning Documents



<https://www.calmhsa.org/data-explainer-series/>



Data Snack: Homeless Measure Comparison

Estimates of homelessness vary widely by the data source and definition of homelessness being used. The chart below compares the estimates of youth homelessness under 18 across the three data sources used in the Homelessness Statewide Goal.

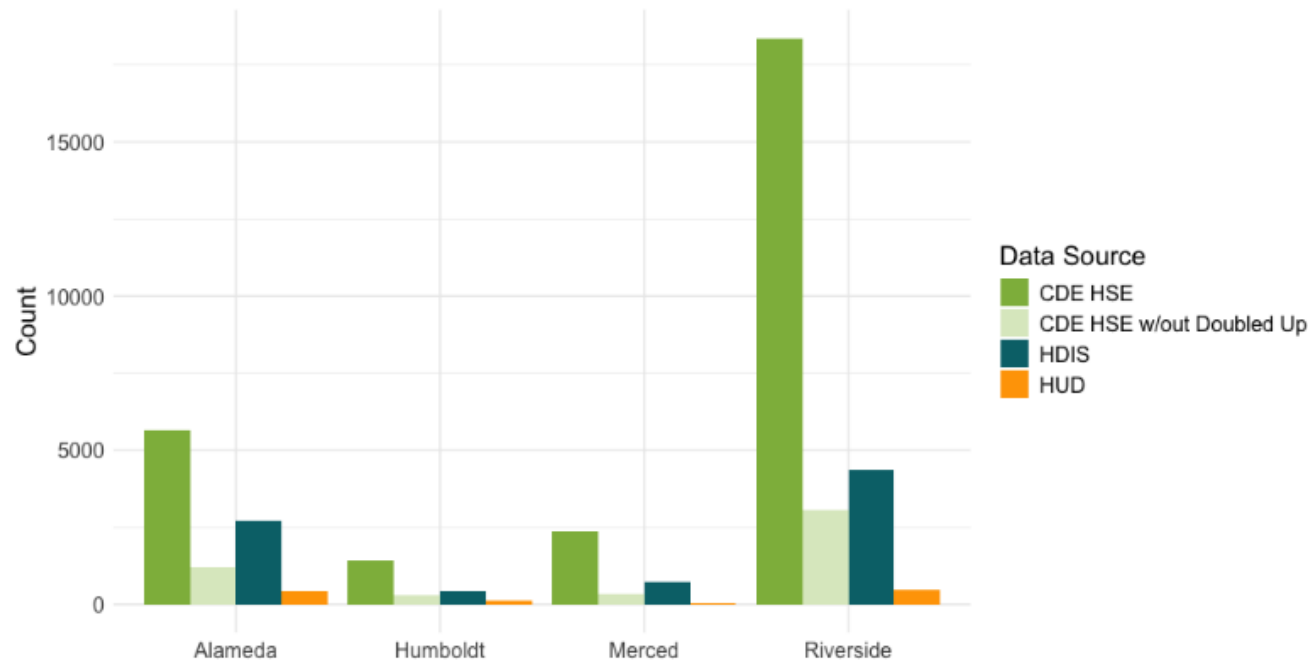


Chart Legend

- **Measure 4 CDE HSE:** CDE's total Homeless Student Enrollment (HSE) count
- **Measure 4 CDE HSE w/out Doubled Up:** The total HSE count excluding those categorized as "temporarily doubled up"
- **Measure 5: HDIS (HMIS) service access:** The "under 18" category from HDIS' demographic data
- **Measure 1: HUD PIT Count** The summation of "persons in households with only children" and the "children under age 18" subset within "persons in households with at least one adult and one child"



Drafting Your Integrated Plan

From Hunches to Strategies

Prompts for Generating Hunches

Start with the Data

- What patterns or disparities stand out?
- Which populations appear most impacted — and why might that be?
- Are there high-need populations being missed?
- Who isn't showing up in your data — and what might explain their absence?

Look at System Gaps and Breakdowns

- Where are people falling through the cracks?
- Where might access, trust, or system design be contributing to inequity?
- What parts of your system feel like missed opportunities for earlier support or prevention?

Prompts for Generating Hunches

Center Community Insight

- What do frontline staff, peers, or people with lived experience say is happening?
- Who are your underutilized community-based partners?
- Are there specific neighborhoods, institutions, or settings where outcomes are worse?

Build from What's Working

- What programs or partnerships are already working?
- What would it take to scale what's working?
- Where might small shifts lead to outsized impact?

Example: Kern County Measure

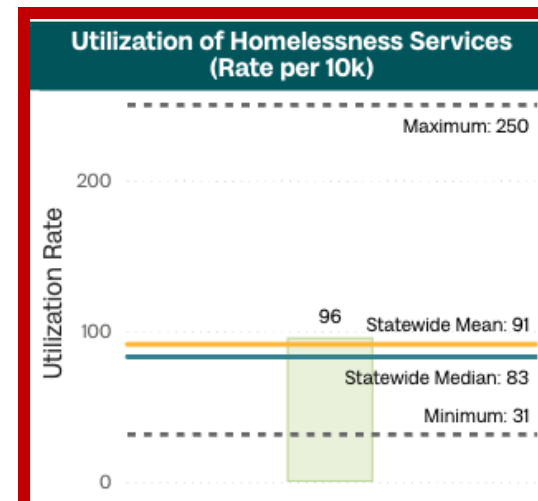
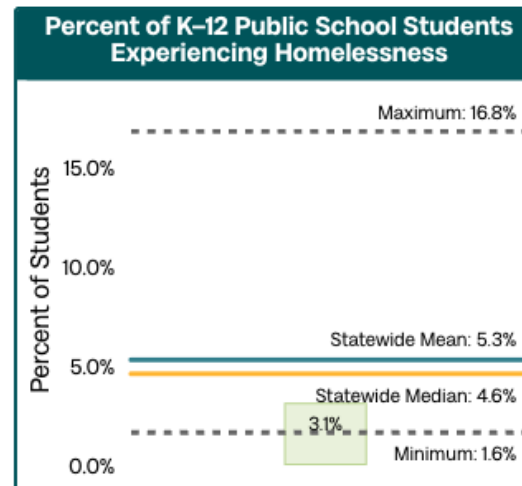
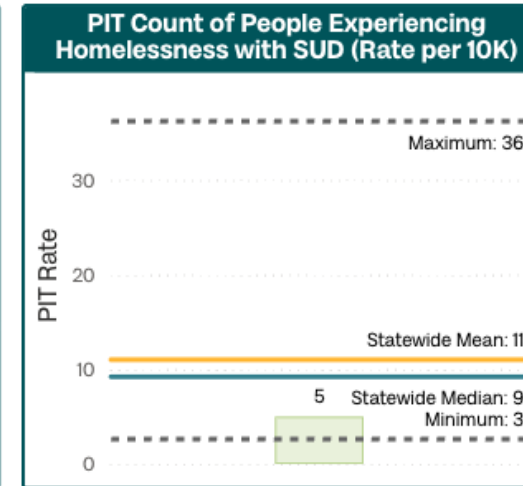
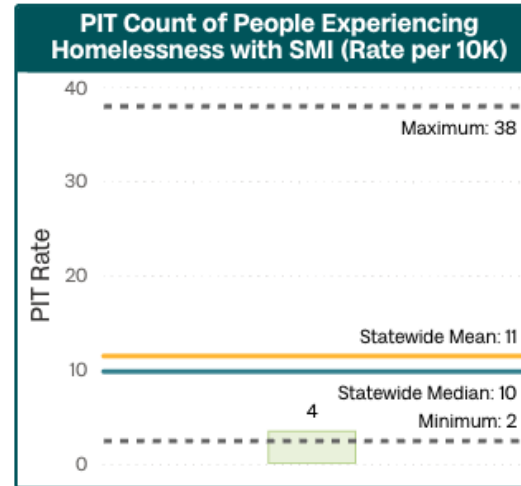
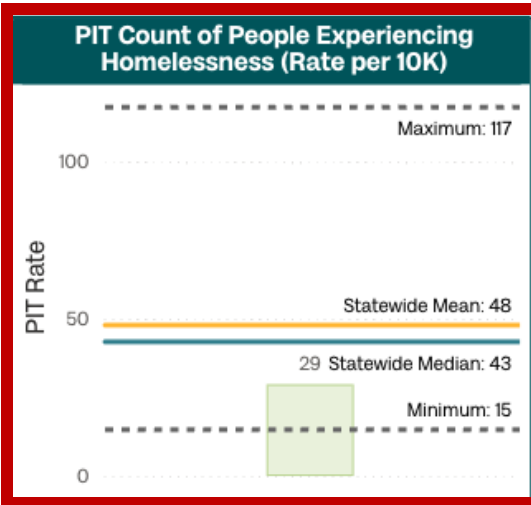
Overview

Kern County's Homelessness Data Overview

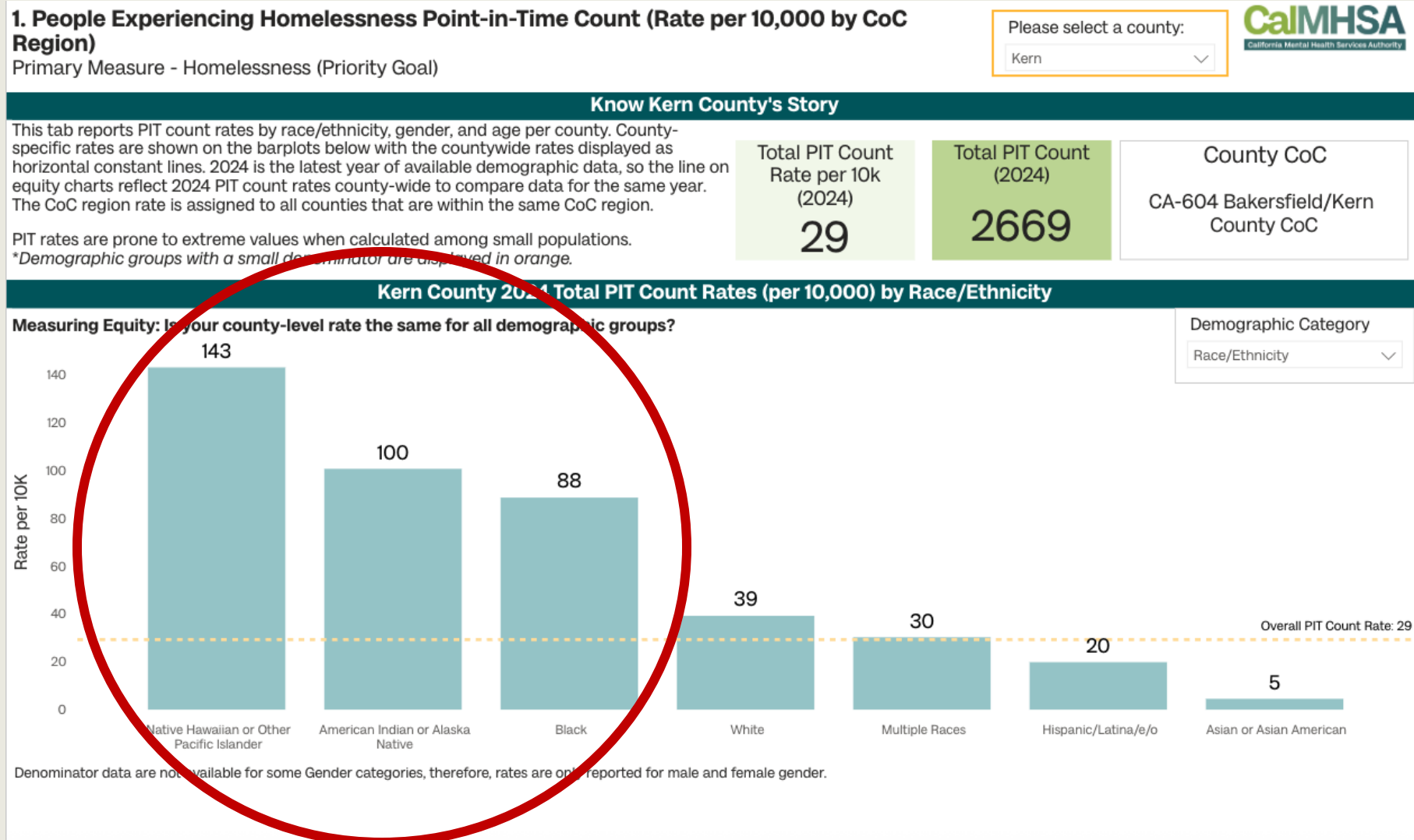
This tab provides an overview of each measure per county. County-specific rates are shown on the barplots below with the statewide mean, median, minimum and maximum displayed as horizontal constant lines.

Please select a county:

Kern



Example: Kern County PIT Count Rates Disparities Analysis

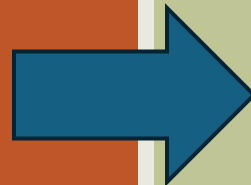
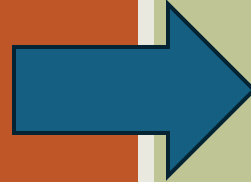


From Hunches to Strategy

Hunch

What if we partnered with culturally specific organizations to co-design housing stabilization supports?

What if we focused on reducing chronic homelessness and returns among people already in services?



Strategy

Co-design culturally responsive housing retention and stabilization supports with trusted partners

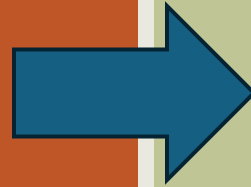
Use data to identify high-utilizers and tailor housing retention and stabilization supports.

From Hunches to Strategy

Hunch

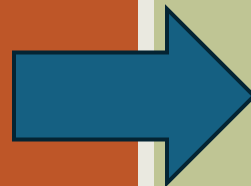
What if people with lived experience helped shape how services are delivered and measured?

What if we worked with MCPs to align goals and explore Community Supports as a tool?



Strategy

Support community leadership and feedback loops to shape service improvement and evaluation.



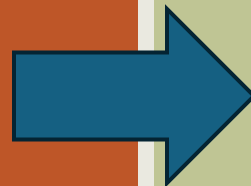
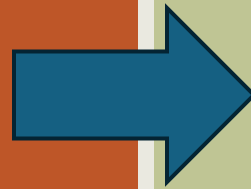
Work with MCPs to align on priority populations and identify solutions to address barriers.

From Hunches to Strategy

Hunch

What if we built on strong service engagement by embedding behavioral health supports in high-volume CoC sites?

What if we co-developed a shared outcomes framework with the CoC focused on stability, recovery, and housing retention?



Strategy

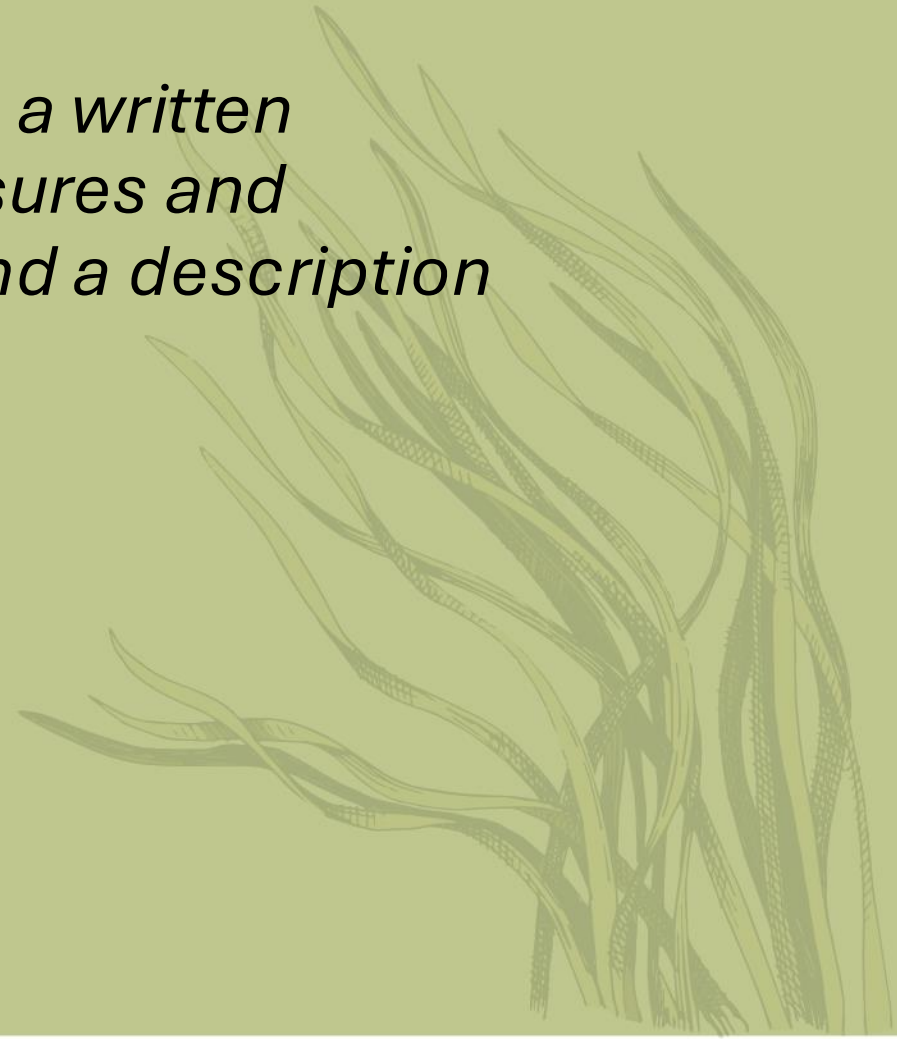
Embed behavioral health supports within CoC access points to build on high engagement and meet people where they are.

Partner with the CoC to co-develop shared outcomes frameworks that prioritize housing retention, recovery, and re-entry prevention—stratified by race and ethnicity

Integrated Plan: Disparities Analysis

“For any disparities observed, please provide a written summary of your findings, including the measures and population groups experiencing disparities and a description of the data that supported your analysis.”

(2,000 character limit)



Integrated Plan: Cross Measure Questions

- *Describe what programs, services, partnerships, or initiatives the county is planning to strengthen or implement*
- *Describe how you plan to address measures where your status is below the statewide average or median, within the context of local needs*
- *Refer to any data that was used to inform new programs, services, partnerships, or initiatives the county is implementing (e.g., developing an intervention targeting a sub-population in which data demonstrates they have poorer outcomes)*

(2,000 character limit)

Who are Your Partners?

- **Continuum of Care (CoC):** A regional planning body that coordinates the community's response to homelessness.
 - **Coordinated Entry System (CES) Operators:** Match clients to available housing resources based on vulnerability and need.
- **Homeless Outreach Teams:** Identify and engage unsheltered individuals, often the first connection to housing services.
- **Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Providers:** Offer immediate shelter and can connect clients to permanent housing.
- **Permanent Housing Providers:** Affordable housing developers, property managers, local housing departments, landlords.
- **Managed Care Plans:** Can fund Community Supports including navigation, housing deposits, sustaining services and transitional rent.

Resources: Housing and Homelessness Webinars

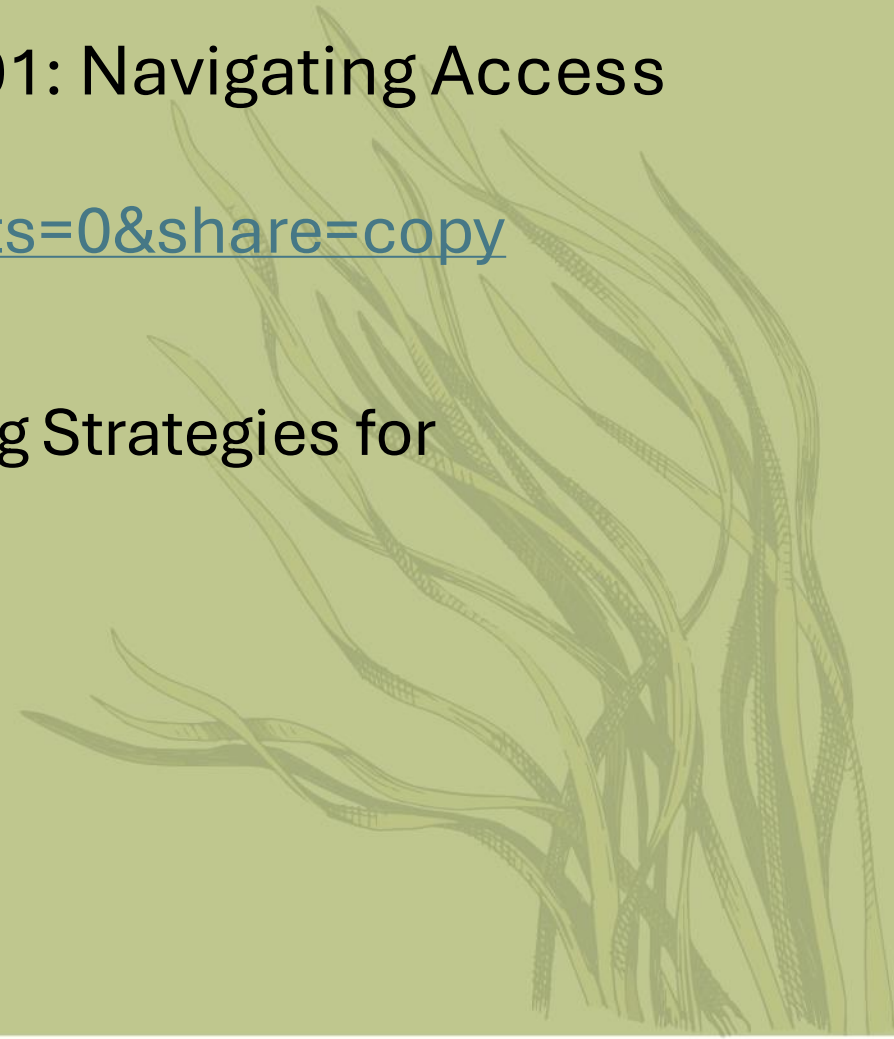
Past CalMHSA Webinars:

- Watch the recording of Pathways to Housing 101: Navigating Access for Clients with Behavioral Health Needs

<https://vimeo.com/1096310631/87f6d83c32?ts=0&share=copy>

- Watch the recording of Diving Deeper: Emerging Strategies for Behavioral Health Housing Engagement

<https://tinyurl.com/58ftw72p>



Resources: Housing and Homelessness Webinars

Upcoming CalMHSA Webinars:

Homeless Outreach: From Street Engagement to Housing Success

- August 13, 10:30-12 noon
- Who should attend? BH outreach workers, case managers, and supervisors; CoC homeless outreach staff and front-line providers.
- Registration Link: https://calmhsa-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DkYlNeQNT5Wjgz4zk7hHtQ

System Navigation Starts Here: Optimizing Coordinated Entry

- August 22, 10-11:30
- Who should attend? BH case managers, outreach workers, and supervisors; CoC front-line housing and shelter staff; Coordinated Entry leads and HMIS/data administrators.
- Registration Link: https://calmhsa-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_s9Ze48VlTVejy5pK5uOX8w



Resources: Housing and Homelessness Webinars

Guiding the Journey to Housing Resources: Strengthening Housing Case Management

- September 3, 11-12:30 pm
- Who should attend? BH case managers and supervisors; CoC housing case managers; front-line staff working with clients experiencing housing instability.
- Registration Link: https://calmhsa-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VfWoQq-bT1GEutMlkQu7kg

Data Sharing for System Collaboration

- September 9, 2-3:30 pm
- Who should attend? Behavioral health supervisors, case managers, and data staff; HMIS administrators; CoC system leaders; program supervisors; quality improvement staff.
- Registration Link: https://calmhsa-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wTwyzhczSEWPQu63IGYvEA



Reminder: There are Six Priority Goals and One Additional Goal

Designing strategies that
address more than one
goal/measure at once will
work in your favor!





Office Hours Q&A

Turning data into action

What's Next?

Please fill out the survey in the chat!

BHT Data Explainer Series: Office
Hours Experience Survey



Data Explainer Week 3: Justice
Involvement

Tuesday 8/12, 12-1 p.m.

Questions:

managedcare@calmhsa.org





Thank You!

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