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**ALAMEDA COUNTY**

**EQUITY ANALYSIS:  
COORDINATED ENTRY ASSESSMENTS**

**FEBRUARY 2025**

## WHO WE ARE



Focus Strategies is a nationally recognized consulting and technical assistance firm based in California. Our mission and sole area of practice is to help communities house people as quickly and equitably as possible.

# Agenda

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- Project Background
- Equity Analysis Findings
- Tested Changes to Prioritization Criteria
- Recommendation



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# Project Background

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- In 2021, Focus Strategies conducted an equity analysis of Alameda County's CE crisis and housing needs assessment. The analysis found disparities in scores, primarily negatively impacting Black households.
  - Potential changes tested to decrease disparities for Black households were at risk of creating disparities for other populations, primarily Latine/Hispanic households.
  - Geographic location was identified as a potential factor that could help eliminate disparities in scores, but the data in HMIS was limited at the time.

# Project Background

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- Following our initial report, Alameda County conducted an analysis of enrollments to housing program and found no disparities.
- Based on no recommendations that would confidently reduce disparities and findings of no disparities in enrollments, Alameda County decided to hold off on any changes, collect zip-code information, and re-assess after sufficient data was collected.

# Project Background

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In 2024, Alameda County engaged Focus Strategies to re-evaluate their CE assessment tools. Focus Strategies conducted analyses to:

- Identify any continuing or new disparities in assessment scores
- Test the impact, and potential risks, of making changes to the prioritization criteria
- Recommend changes to address disparities

# Crisis and Housing Needs Assessments

The assessments are used as a tool to identify the households with the highest barriers to housing and prioritize them for limited crisis and housing resources. The assessments take into account several domains:

**Age and Household Size**

**Housing Barriers**

**Prior Experience and Length  
of Homelessness**

**Health, Disabilities, and Self-  
Care Needs**

**Safety Concerns**

# Data Sample



Data from October 2023 to August 2024



**4,000** crisis and **4,500** housing needs assessments



Analysis conducted by household type



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# Equity Analysis Findings

# Summary of Findings - Gender and Sexual Orientation

## Gender

Men scored, on average, slightly higher than women. However, the difference in score **did not lead to a meaningful disproportionality** in who meets the prioritization criteria to be added to the housing queue.

## Sexual Orientation

**No meaningful differences** in average scores by sexual orientation.

# Summary of Findings - Race and Ethnicity

## Race and Ethnicity

- For adult only households: **White and American Indian/Alaskan Native** households scored, on average, meaningfully **higher** than all other race and ethnicities.
- For families: On average, **Black and Hispanic/Latine** households scored significantly **lower** than white families.
- This led to disproportionalities in who met the prioritization criteria for being added to the housing pool, **negatively impacting Black households, primarily.**

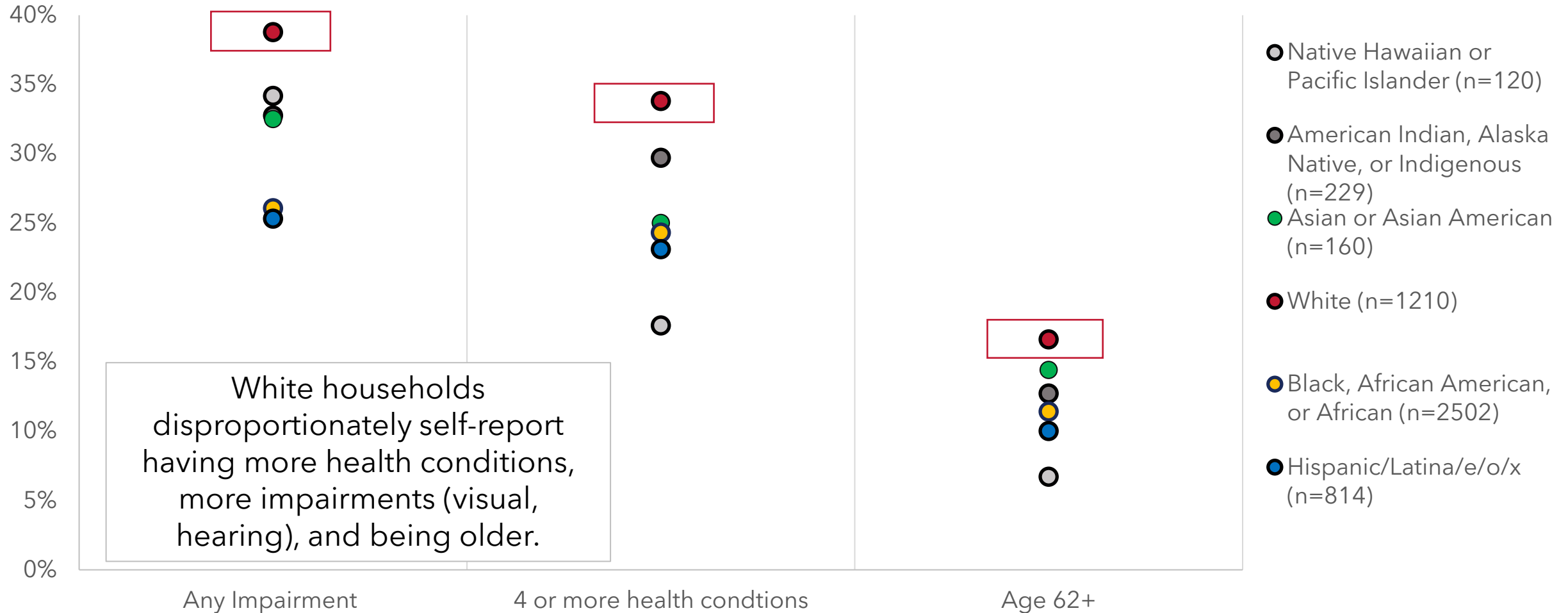
# Summary of Findings - Race/Ethnicity and Gender



## Intersectional Analysis: Race/Ethnicity and Gender

- Analysis on the intersection of race and gender resulted in the disparities being true for men and women of Black and Hispanic/Latine Households.
- Disparities were also present for Asian women and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander men.

# Health Conditions Question Response Differences by Race/Ethnicity





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# Tested Changes to Prioritization Criteria

# Tested Changes to Scoring Criteria



Zip Code



Number of Health Conditions



Health Insurance

# Tested Changes to Scoring Criteria

Tested Change	Impact
Add households without health insurance as a prioritization criteria	No impact on disparities.
Collapse categories for the number of health conditions	Decreases, but does not eliminate disparities.
Collapse categories for the number of health conditions and add not having health insurance as a prioritization factor	Decreases, but does not eliminate disparities.

# Tested Changes to Scoring Criteria

Tested Change	Impact
Add zip code as a prioritization criteria based on regional index scores	Eliminates disparities in average score for adult only households.  For families, it decreases, but does not eliminate, the disparities.
Collapse health condition categories and add zip code as a prioritization criteria	Eliminates disparities in average score for both adult only and family households.



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# Recommendation

# Recommendation

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Collapse health condition categories and add zip code as a prioritization criteria	Eliminates disparities in average score for both adult only and family households.



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