



# YOUNG WOMEN OF COLOR AND HOUSING

**Structural barriers** are **systemic challenges** embedded in our culture, economy, and institutions that **cause inequality**. Produced by systems of power, they require **large-scale investment** and **policy solutions** to achieve meaningful change. CLASP conducted focus groups\* with young women of color to learn what structural barriers they encounter in daily life. This fact sheet includes insights from **Native, Latina** and **gender non-conforming** young people about experiences with housing and homelessness. Uprooting homelessness, housing instability and other structural barriers demands **turning over the ground** to reveal these root causes, **partnering with young women of color** to identify solutions, and **seeding change** in equitable ground.

## LACK OF AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOUSING

# 71%

Of the 11.4 million extremely low income (ELI) rental households, 71% are severely cost-burdened, spending more than half of their income on rent and utilities.



Twenty-six percent of black households and 22% of Hispanic households are severely cost-burdened and ELI.

# 7.2M

There is a shortage of 7.2 million affordable, available rental homes for ELI households. For every 100 ELI households, there are 35 affordable, available rental units.<sup>1</sup>

*"... like housing, it's so expensive. ...cause I'm starting to look at apartments for me and my boyfriend and he's 'Wow, for a one bedroom apartment—like—oh my God... How is it that much?'"*

- Denver

## HOUSING INSTABILITY AND EVICTIONS

*"... I'm having a difficult time on you know trying to find something affordable out here now and what's affordable... now you're making our life even more harder because we now we have to live outside of what we're used to because I was born and raised here in [this town] so I know [this town] pretty well like the back of my hand. You take them to [nearby town]? I'm like I know some streets ... I've been there like two times and here I am trying to look for a place in that community."*

- Central Valley



In high-poverty black neighborhoods, 1 in 17 women are evicted, compared to 1 in 150 women in high-poverty white neighborhoods.<sup>2</sup>



Households below the federal poverty level moved at nearly twice the rate of non-poor households during a one-year period (**19%** versus **10%**).<sup>3</sup>

## HOUSING CONDITIONS AND NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS

*"Like most of the houses [that] are affordable would be in like the worst areas, especially when you have like a two year old or three year old and just be playing out in the front. Like I think the worst part about here in the community and the schools is probably like gangs and drugs too. There are certain places where you can't go like safe. You have to live in a certain area to feel safe"*

- Central Valley

One in seven affordable housing units (less than \$650 per month) are physically inadequate, leaving households to choose between affordability and housing quality.<sup>4</sup>

Black and Hispanic public housing residents are four times more likely than white public housing residents to live in high-poverty areas.<sup>5</sup>

People at or below the Federal Poverty Level experience violent victimization at double the rate of high-income households (**39.8** per 1,000 versus **16.9** per 1,000).<sup>6</sup>

Black and Hispanic people are **24%** and **12%** less likely to live in safe, adequate housing than white people.<sup>7</sup>

*"It's the quality of the homes ... it's like your windows are broke, walls are peeling, your roof is caving in, it's leaking, the mold yes there's cockroaches and the good quality homes there's none of that. It's good carpet, air conditioning, good stable windows. You know somebody's not going to come in in the middle of the night and break into your house while you and your kids are there."*

- Central Valley

## DISCRIMINATION

Black/African-American youth are **83%** more likely to experience homelessness than other youth, and Hispanic youth are **33%** more likely to experience homelessness.<sup>8</sup>

# 28K

Of the 28,000 reported complaints of housing discrimination in 2016, 19.6% involved racial discrimination, 8.5% involved discrimination against families with children, and 6.4% involved sex-based discrimination.<sup>9</sup>



Compared to equally qualified white renters, Blacks (**4.2%**) and Hispanics (**7.5%**) are shown fewer rental units.<sup>10</sup>

*"I think some struggles that women in the community face is when you're a single mom or you are trying to be independent it's like they said the guys are usually the ones renting a home like renting out being the renters and if you try to be there they're like oh no you don't have a man that has a stable job. You can't do it by yourself. So they're just like kind of discriminate on gender"*

- Central Valley

## LGBTQ+ HOMELESS YOUTH

LGBT youth have a **120%** increased risk of experiencing homelessness compared to youth who identified as heterosexual or cisgender.<sup>11</sup>

Twenty-six percent of homeless LGBTQ youth report being forced out of their homes because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Nineteen percent of people who identify as transgender experienced homelessness at some point in their lives. Of those who attempted to access a homeless shelter, **55%** were harassed, **22%** were sexually assaulted, and **29%** were turned away.<sup>12</sup>

*"Lots of LGBT community that is homeless"*  
- Washington, DC

\*In 2017, CLASP conducted five focus groups with African American, Hispanic American, Native, and Latina girls and young women as well as gender non-conforming youth as part of a research project with Frontline Solutions focused on structural barriers and identity.

<sup>1</sup> National Low Income Housing Coalition, The Gap: A shortage of affordable homes, 2018. [http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/gap/Gap-Report\\_2018.pdf](http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/gap/Gap-Report_2018.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Brett Theodis, Sara McTernaghan, and Claudia Goulton, Family Residential Instability: What can states and localities do?, Urban Institute, 2018. [https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/98286/family\\_residential\\_instability\\_what\\_can\\_states\\_and\\_localities\\_do\\_1.pdf](https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/98286/family_residential_instability_what_can_states_and_localities_do_1.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> National Low Income Housing Coalition, Housing Spotlight, November 2012. <http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/HousingSpotlight2-2.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Household Poverty and Non-fatal Violent Victimization, 2008-2012, 2014. <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/hpnnv0812.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, Protect Tenants, Prevent Homelessness, 2018. <https://www.nlc.org/ProtectTenants2018>

<sup>8</sup> Voices of Youth Count, Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America, Chapin Hall, 2017. <http://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/VoYC-National-Estimates-Brief-Chapin-Hall-2017.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> National Fair Housing Alliance, The Case for Fair Housing, 2017 Fair Housing Trends Report, 2017. <http://nationalfairhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/TRENDS-REPORT-2017-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research, Housing and Discrimination against Racial and Ethnic Minorities 2012. [https://www.huduser.gov/portal/Publications/pdf/HUD-514\\_HDS2012.pdf](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/Publications/pdf/HUD-514_HDS2012.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Voices of Youth Count, Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America, Chapin Hall, 2017. <http://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/VoYC-National-Estimates-Brief-Chapin-Hall-2017.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> National Coalition for the Homeless, LGBTQ Homelessness, 2017. <http://nationalhomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/LGBTQ-Homelessness.pdf>

**CLASP**  
Policy solutions that work for low-income people