

2016 Encampment Removal Monitoring Report

July 12, 2017



Seattle
Office for Civil Rights

OCR's Monitoring Role

Time period: Sept 2016 - Dec 31, 2016

Assess for compliance with the MDAR and related procedures.

- **Document the posting of notices;**
- **Observe storage processes;**
- **Interview encampment residents, outreach workers and City staff.**

If outreach was not completed, if residents did not receive storage of their belongings, or if other elements of the MDAR were not met, OCR had authority to halt the removal.

Summary of Compliance

- OCR present at 50 removals of unauthorized encampments between Sept and Dec 31, 2016
- OCR took action in seven cases:
 - Three removals halted
 - Four called-off ahead of time

Action taken by OCR	Date	Location	Reason for action
Halted	9/13/16	2 nd and Main	SPD left before removal complete.
	10/17/16	4 th Ave. S. and S. Spokane St	SPD left before removal complete.
	11/16/16	Rainier Ave. to I-90 Ramp	Incomplete outreach in large posted area.
Called-off	9/28/16 and 9/29/16	Myers Way (North)	OCR notified of only one specific area of large site. OCR called off since appeared outreach and notice had not occurred to full site.
	10/6/16	Eastlake and Harrison	OCR called-off event after learning that outreach workers were unsuccessful connecting with individual.
	10/18/16	Alaska Way Viaduct, Main and Jackson	No notice posted for second site.
	10/26/16	Off ramp of 65 th and Ravenna	No outreach to offramp area due to REACH being unaware that area was included in the site.

Additional Issues of Concern

- **Storage**
- **Notice**
- **WSDOT Relations**
- **Disproportionate Impact on People of Color and People with Disabilities**

Storage

Challenge: A lack of clarity on what items should be stored allowing for too much subjectivity in the process.

Opportunity:

- **Ensure that written procedures are as specific as possible regarding items to retain or throw away.**
- **Ensure FAS staff have a copy of storage rules with them at all removals.**
- **Have clean-up staff take photographs of what will be thrown away so that post clean-up reviews can occur and adjustments made to the storage procedures as needed.**

Notice

Challenge: Lack of interagency coordination and communication.

Opportunity:

- **Ensure a written description of the site is clearly stated on the notice.**
- **Ensure notices are conspicuously posted throughout the full geography of the site.**
- **Ensure every department or agency that is posting notices are in communication with the outreach workers ahead of time on where those notices are located so the outreach workers can connect with residents ahead of the removal.**

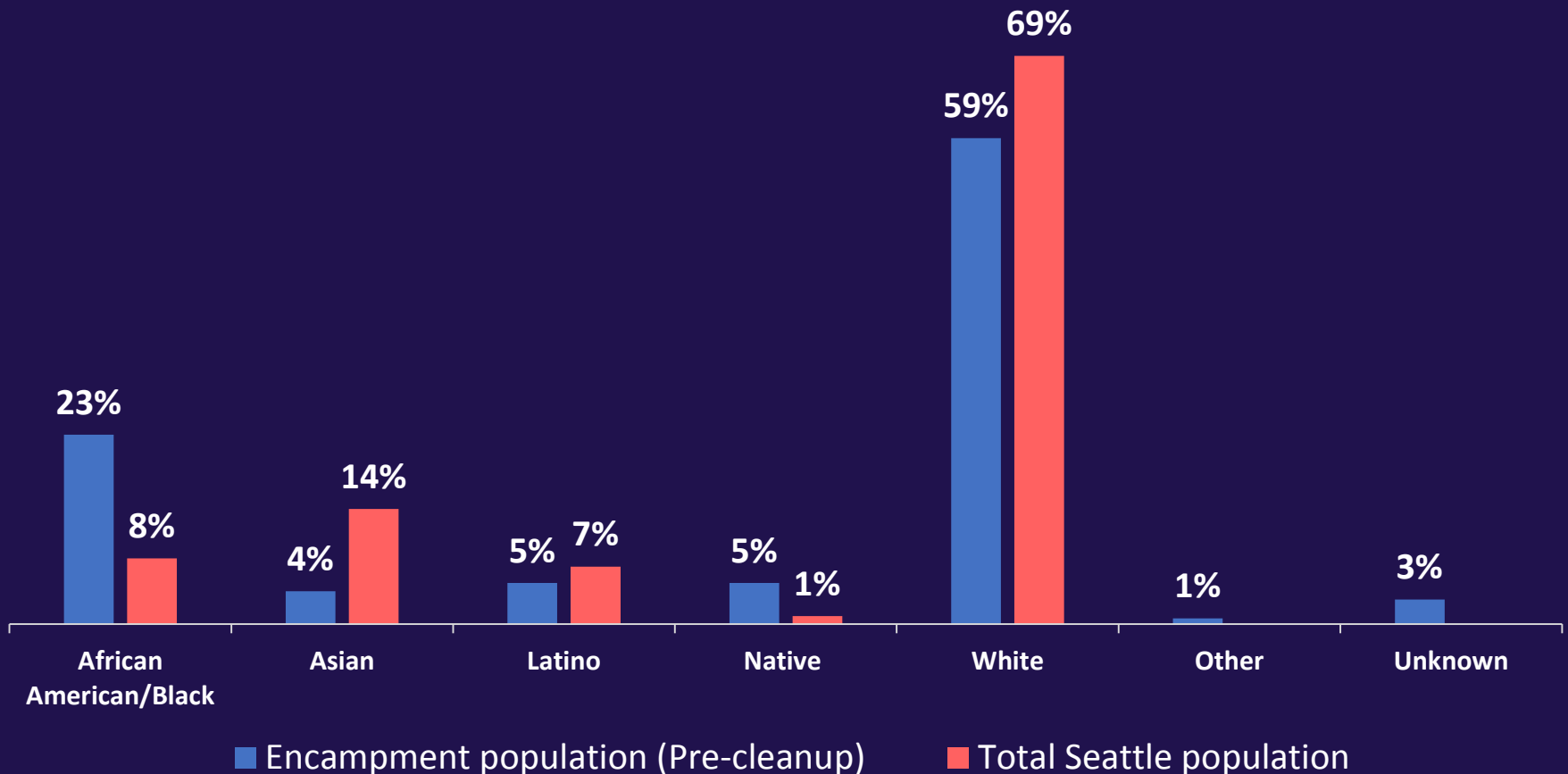
WSDOT Relations

Challenge: Crews increasingly frustrated with the removal process and related protocol.

Opportunity: Ensure all staff in the field fully understand the role of each department, protocols the City are following and the role of OCR monitors.

Disproportionate Impact

Racial demographics of unauthorized encampment residents compared to overall Seattle population



Disproportionate Impact

Recommendation:

The City should ensure that a racial equity analysis and an analysis of impacts on people with disabilities is applied to programs, policies, and investment efforts to address homelessness, as well as to protocols that address the removal and clean-up of unauthorized encampments.

2017 Monitoring

- Conduct a review of monthly operational reports and encampment removal data collected by the City via REACH or other agency partners;
- Perform random site visits during encampment removals. SOCR will document its observations and provide immediate feedback if critical to the clean-up operations, including only halting removals if necessary to preserve compliance with MDAR 17-01 or FAS-01;
- As needed, conduct interviews of encampment clean-up personnel, law enforcement officers, residents, and other stakeholders; and
- Issue a semi-annual report detailing observations, findings, and recommendations.