

Highlights from the Children and Family Research Center FY2022 Racial Disproportionality Report

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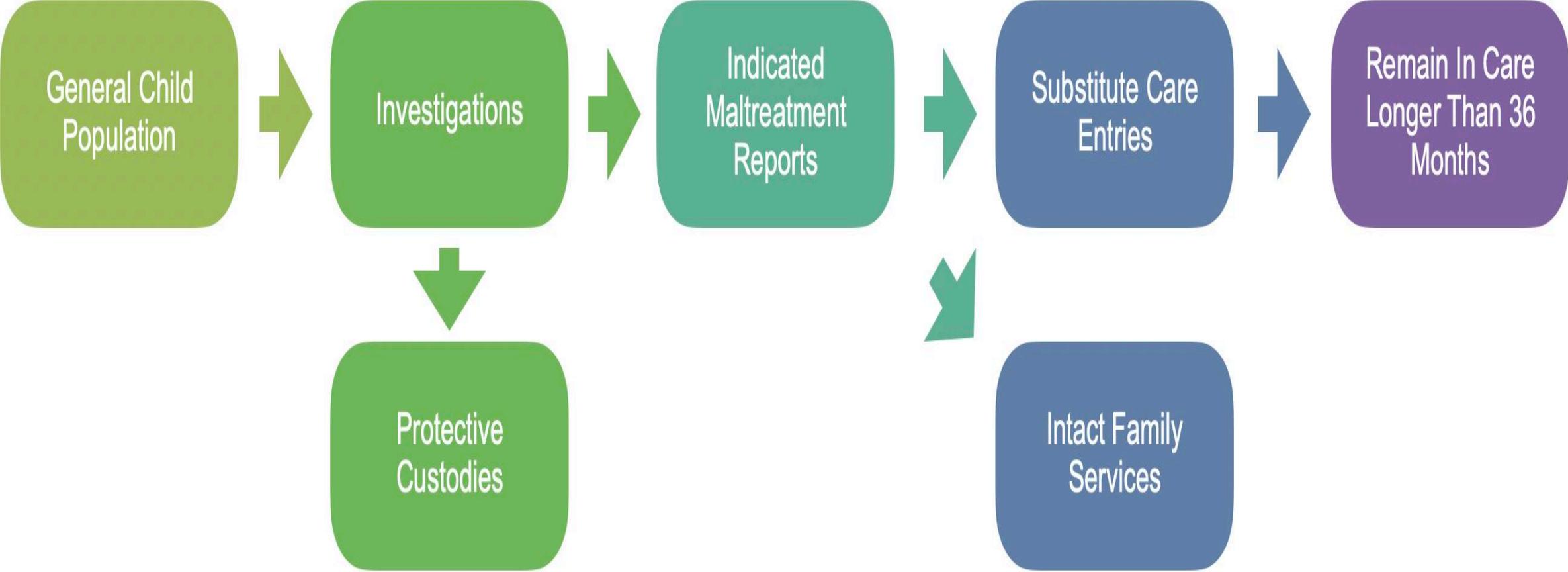
November 17, 2022



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Examining Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare



Four Main Points from the FY2022 BH Report

1. Black children are over-represented at every decision point in the Illinois child welfare system when compared to their representation in the Illinois child population.
2. There are large regional differences in the degree to which Black children are over-represented in the Illinois child welfare system.
3. Most, but not all, of the over-representation of Black children in the Illinois child welfare system is introduced at the hotline.
4. The amount of over-representation of Black children in child welfare has been decreasing over the past few years at some decision points.



Defining and Measuring Racial Disproportionality

Racial disproportionality is defined as the over- or under-representation of a racial group in the child welfare system compared to their representation (%) in a relevant base population.

We measure it with a **Racial Disproportionality Index (RDI)**, which is calculated by dividing the percentage of children in a racial group involved in the child welfare system by the percentage of children in a relevant base population.



Measuring Racial Disproportionality

Absolute RDIs are calculated by dividing a racial group's representation at a child welfare decision point by their representation in the general child population.

Relative RDIs are calculated by dividing a racial group's representation at a child welfare decision point by their representation at a prior decision point.



Interpreting Racial Disproportionality Indices

RDI values greater than 1 indicate over-representation. For example, RDI of 2.0 means that children are represented at twice the rate that they are present in the general population.

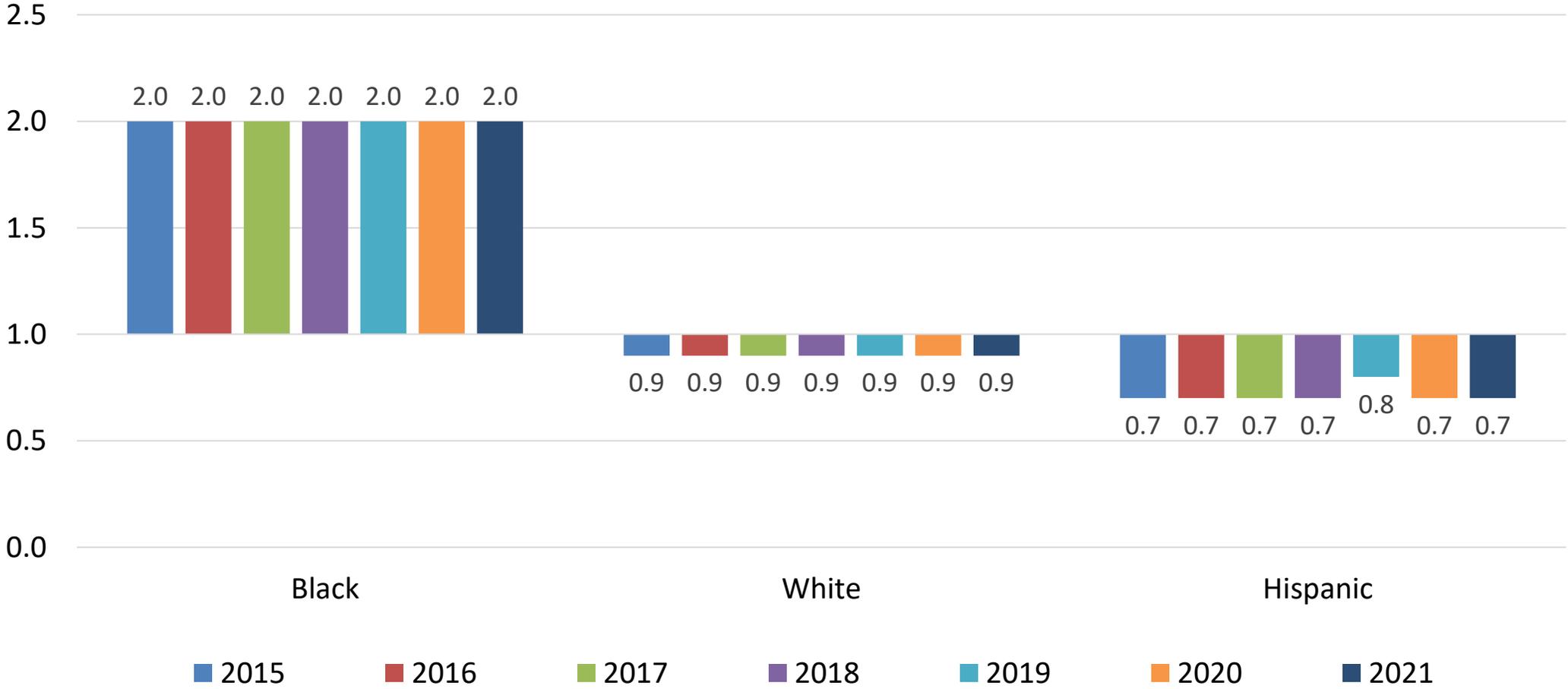
RDI values less than 1 indicate under-representation. For example, an RDI of 0.5 means that children in a racial group are present at half the rate that they are in the general population.



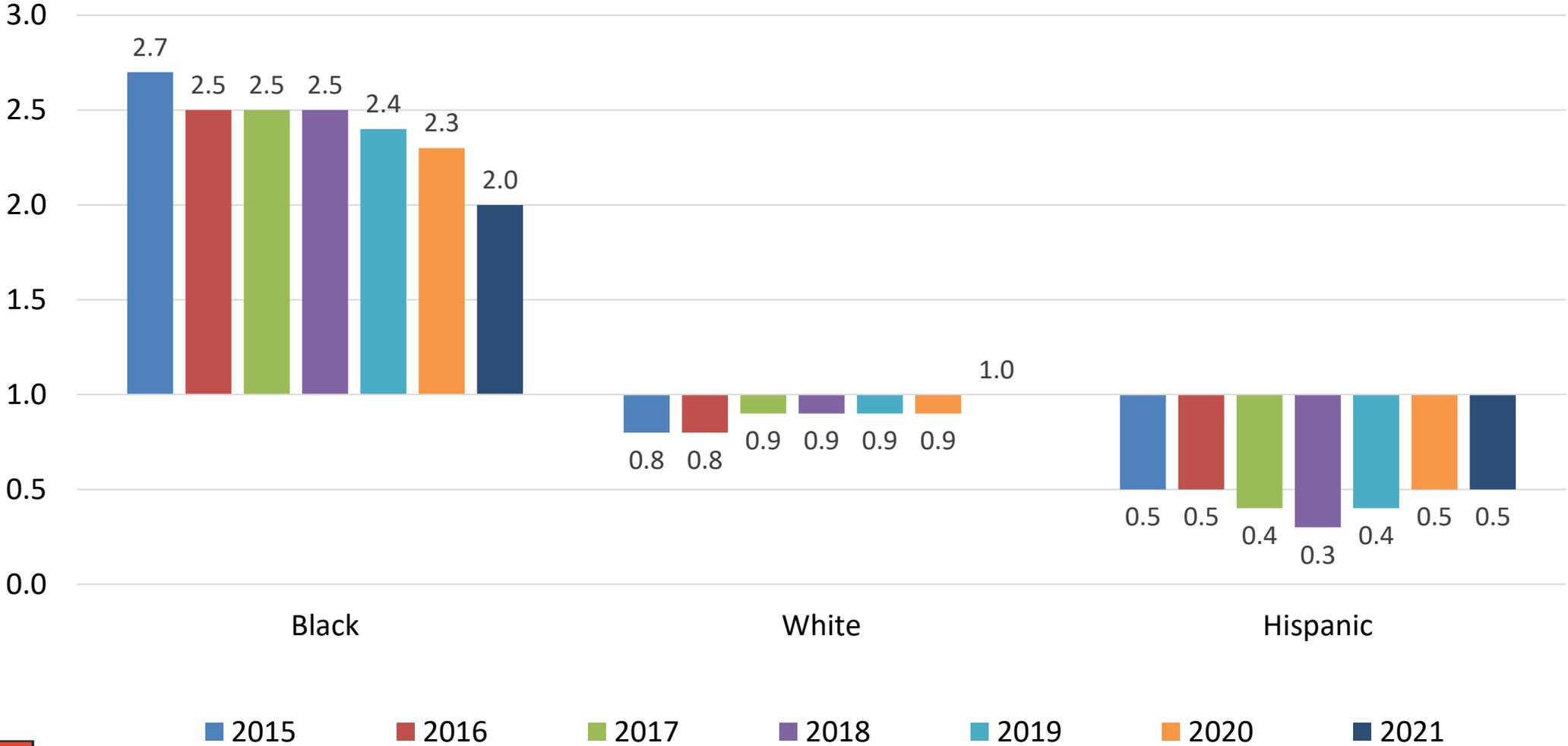
Finding 1: Black children are over-represented at every decision point in the Illinois child welfare system



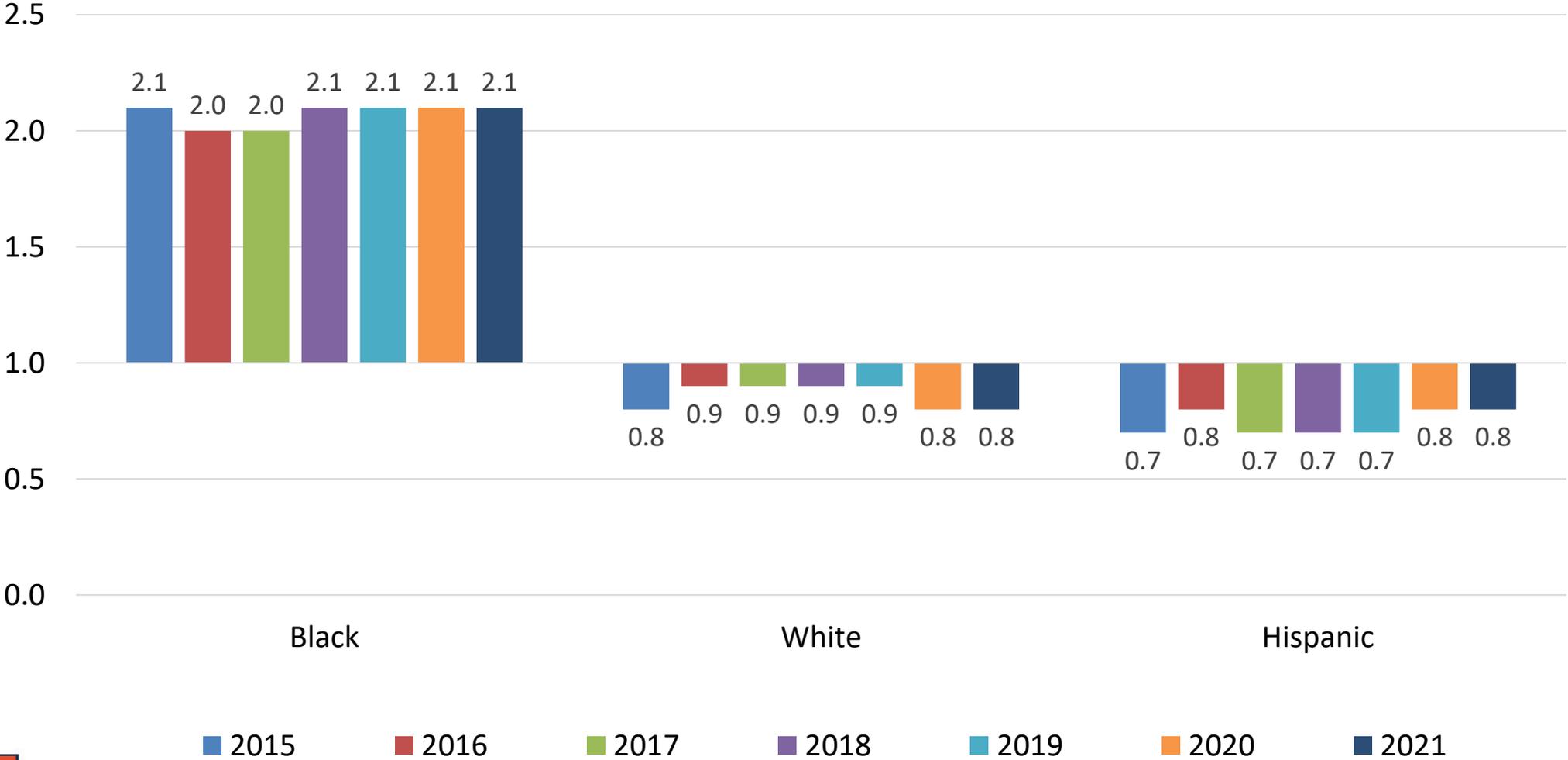
Absolute RDI – Investigated Reports



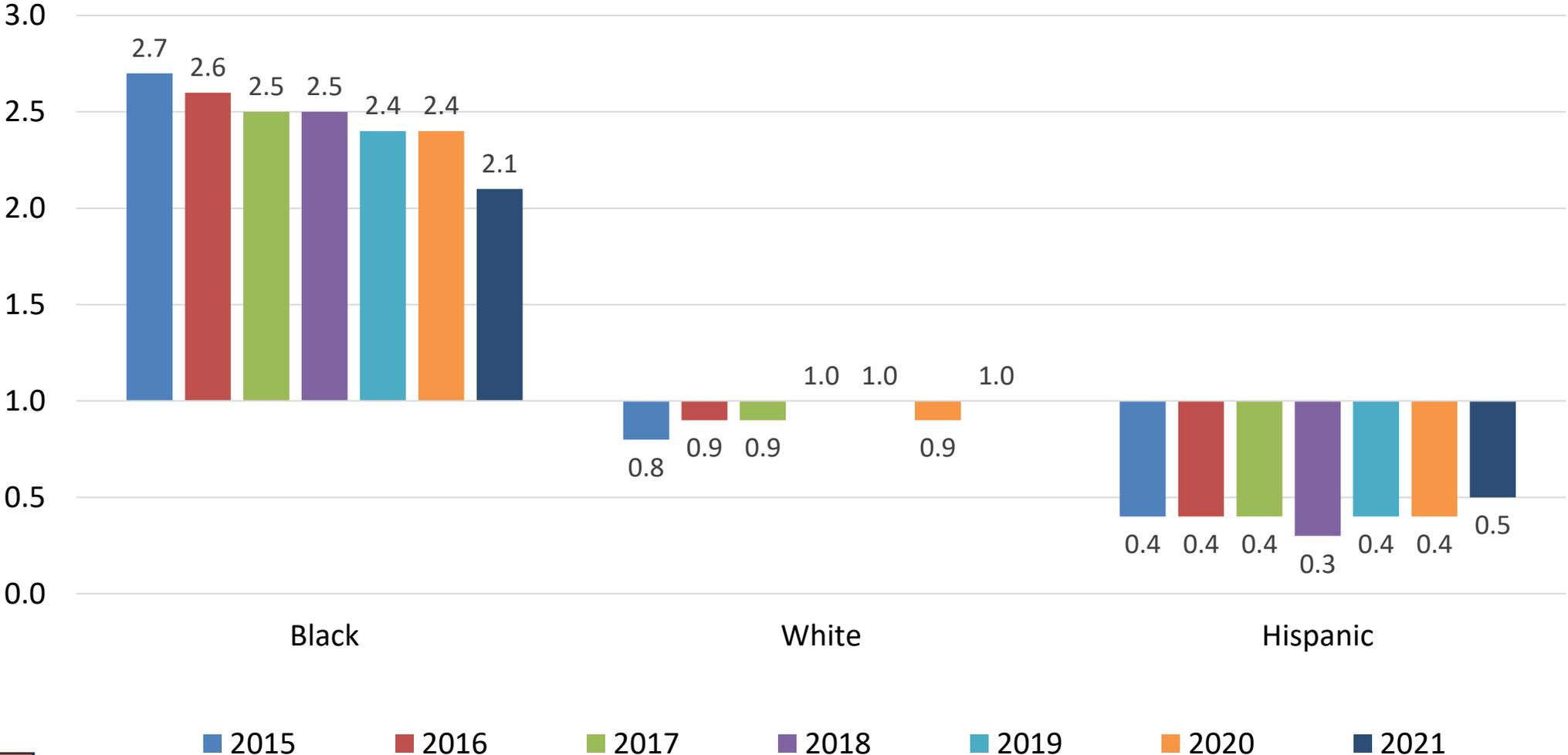
Absolute RDI – Protective Custodies



Absolute RDI – Indicated Reports

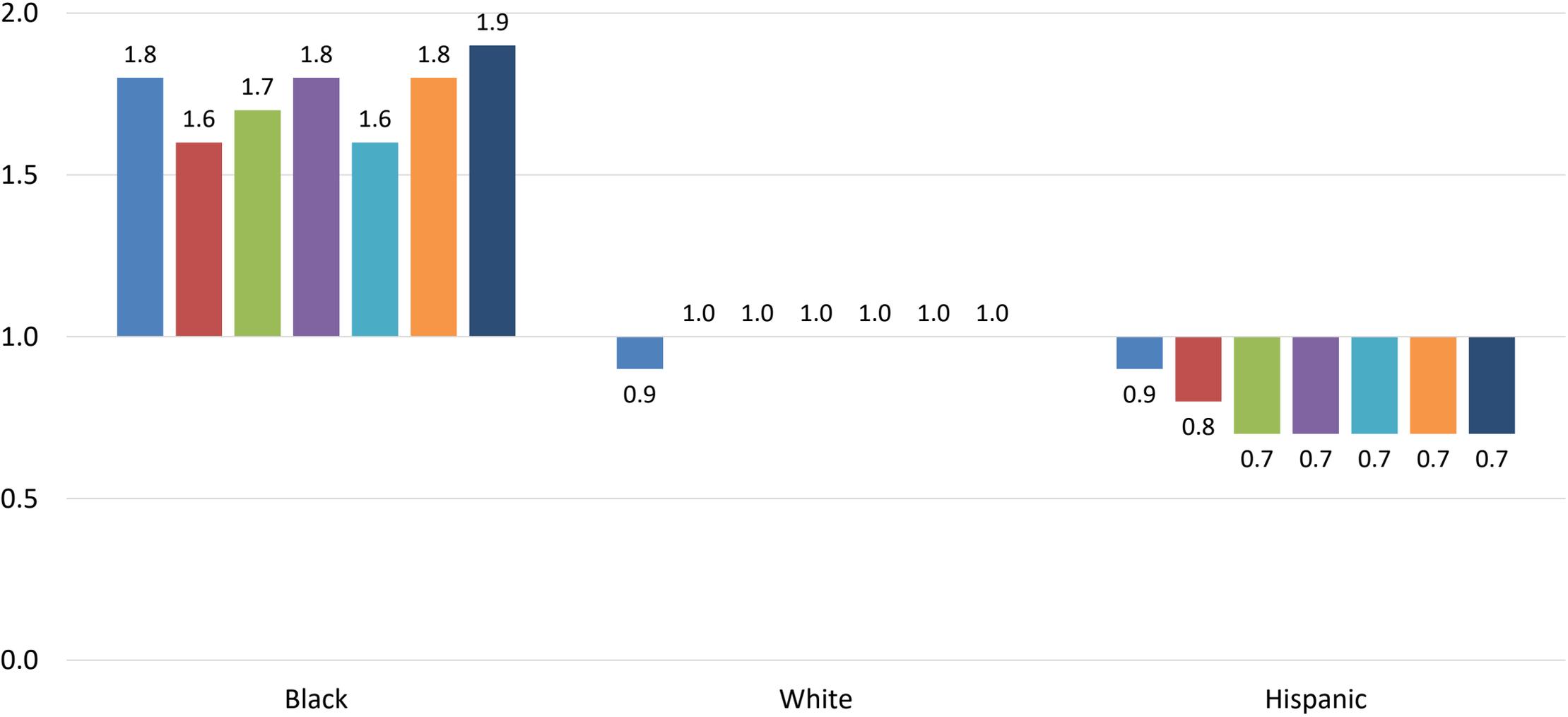


Absolute RDI – Substitute Care Entries



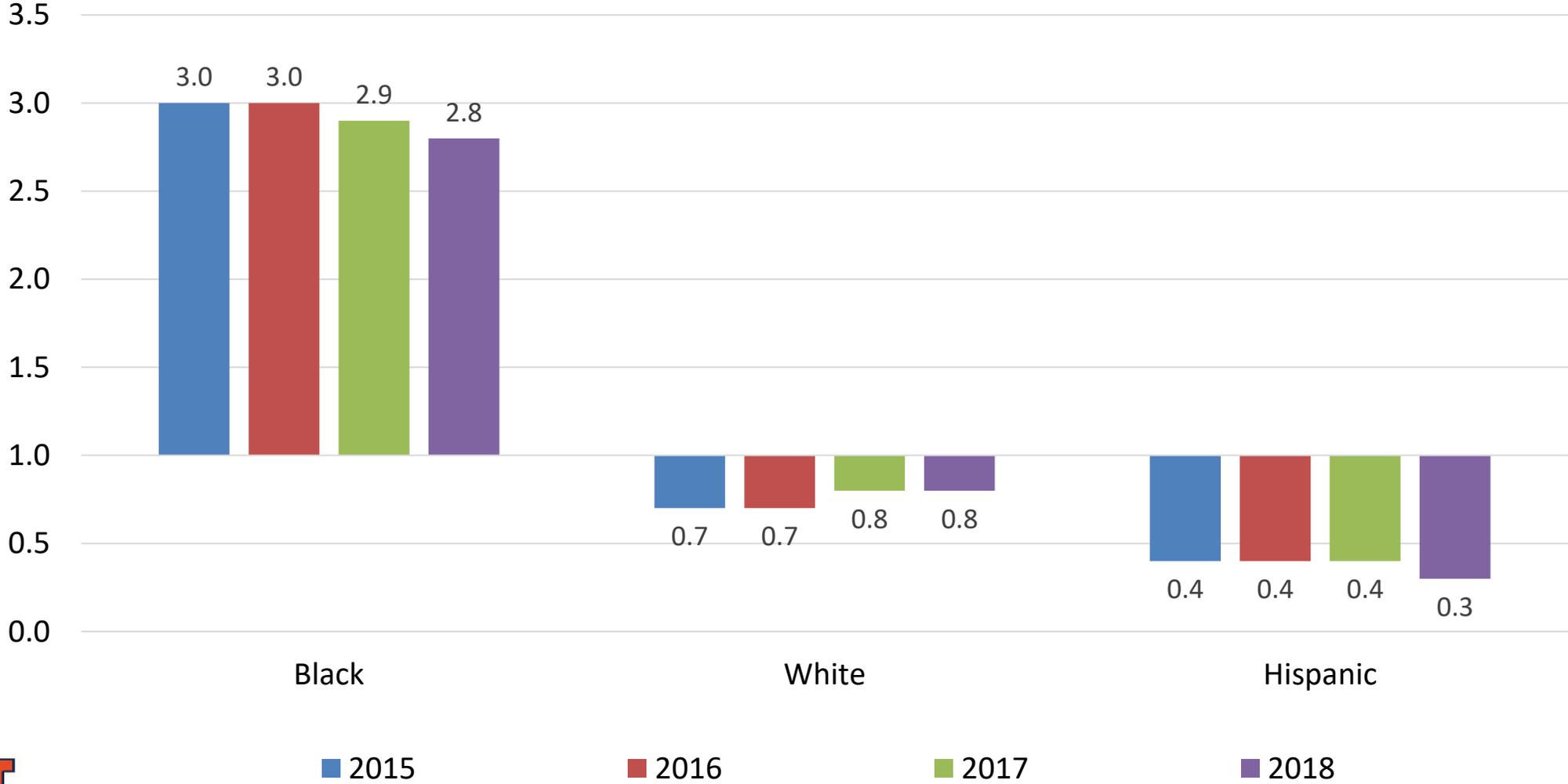
■ 2015
 ■ 2016
 ■ 2017
 ■ 2018
 ■ 2019
 ■ 2020
 ■ 2021

Absolute RDI – Intact Family Services



■ 2015
 ■ 2016
 ■ 2017
 ■ 2018
 ■ 2019
 ■ 2020
 ■ 2021

Absolute RDI – Remaining in Care > 3 Years



2015

2016

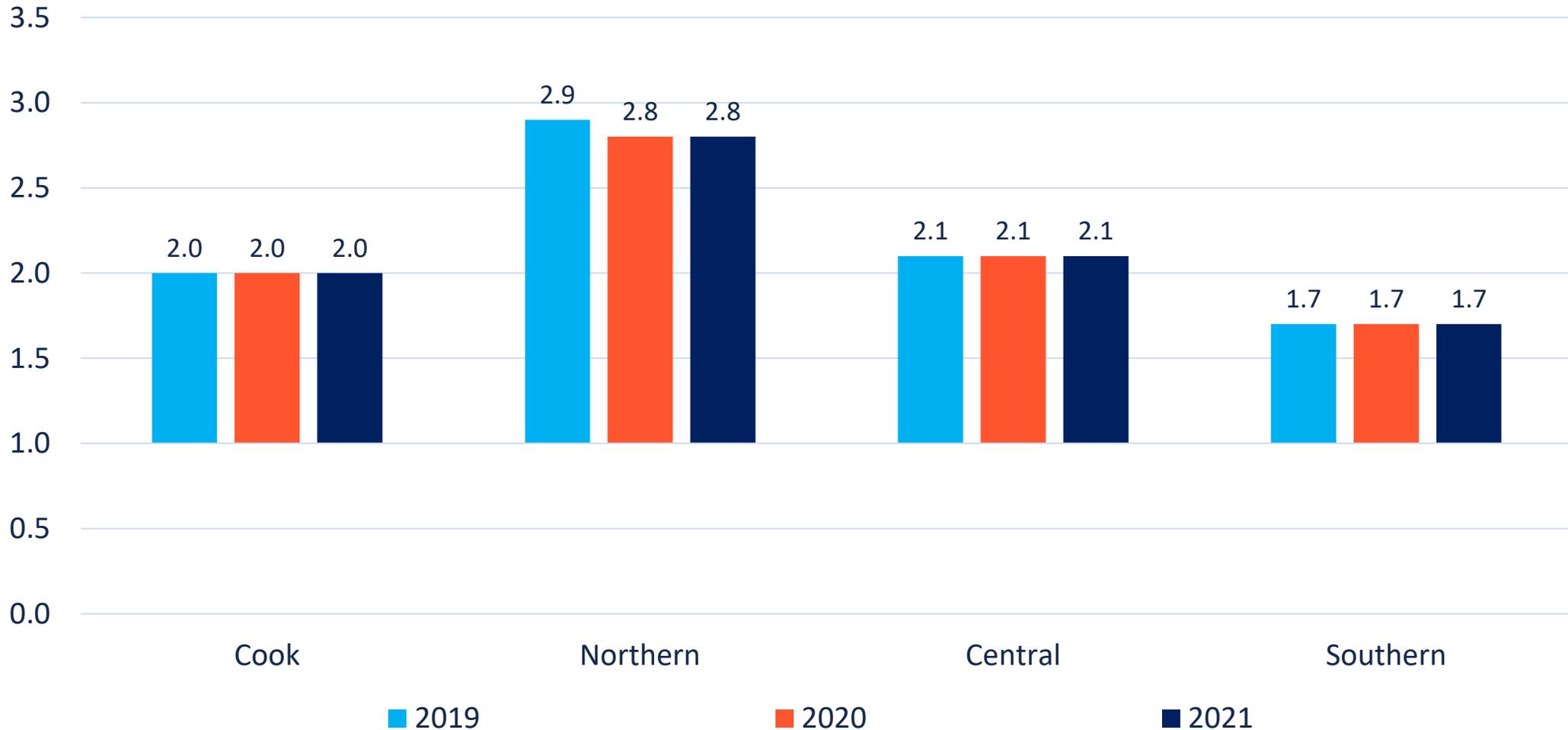
2017

2018

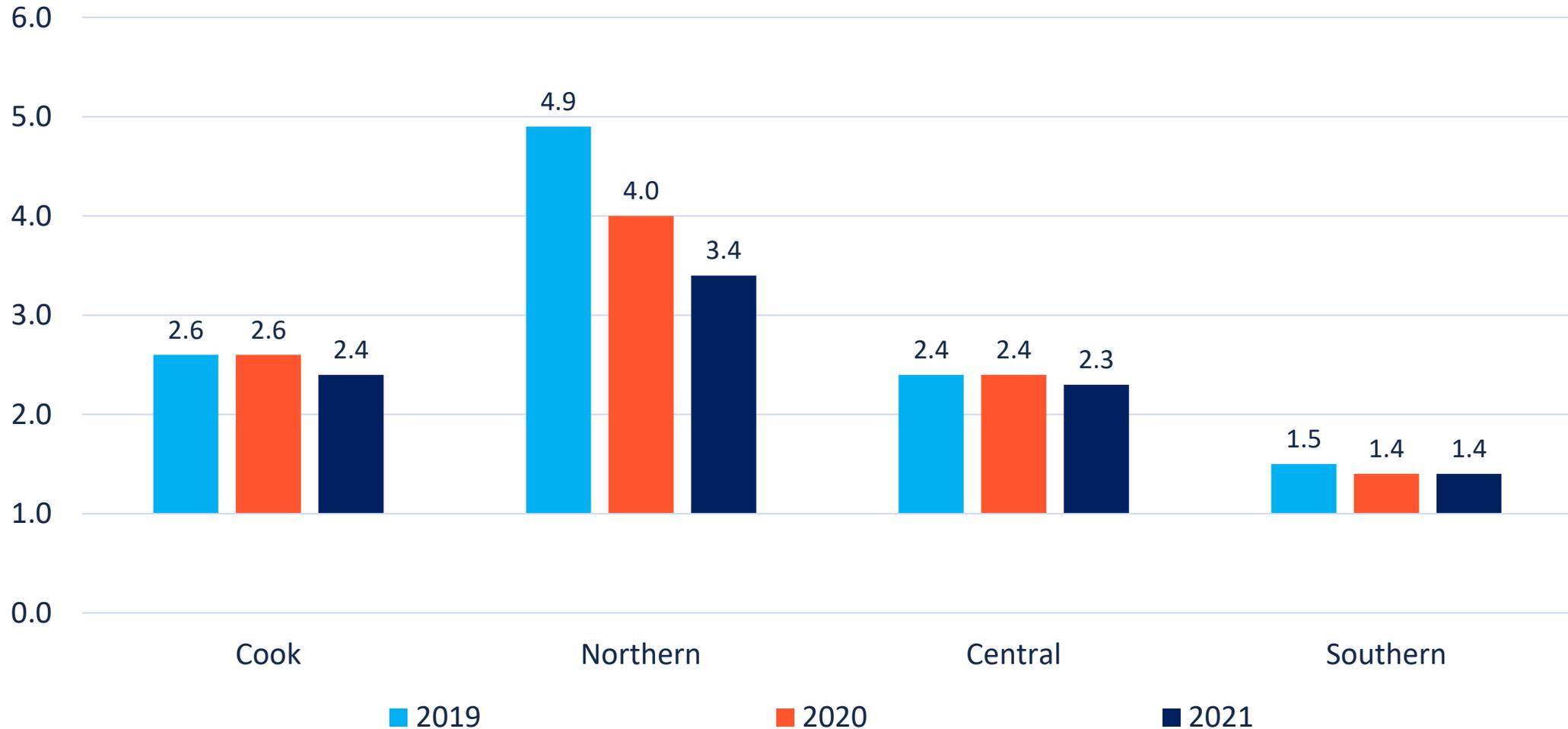
Finding 2: Large regional differences exist in the absolute RDI for Black children at each decision point



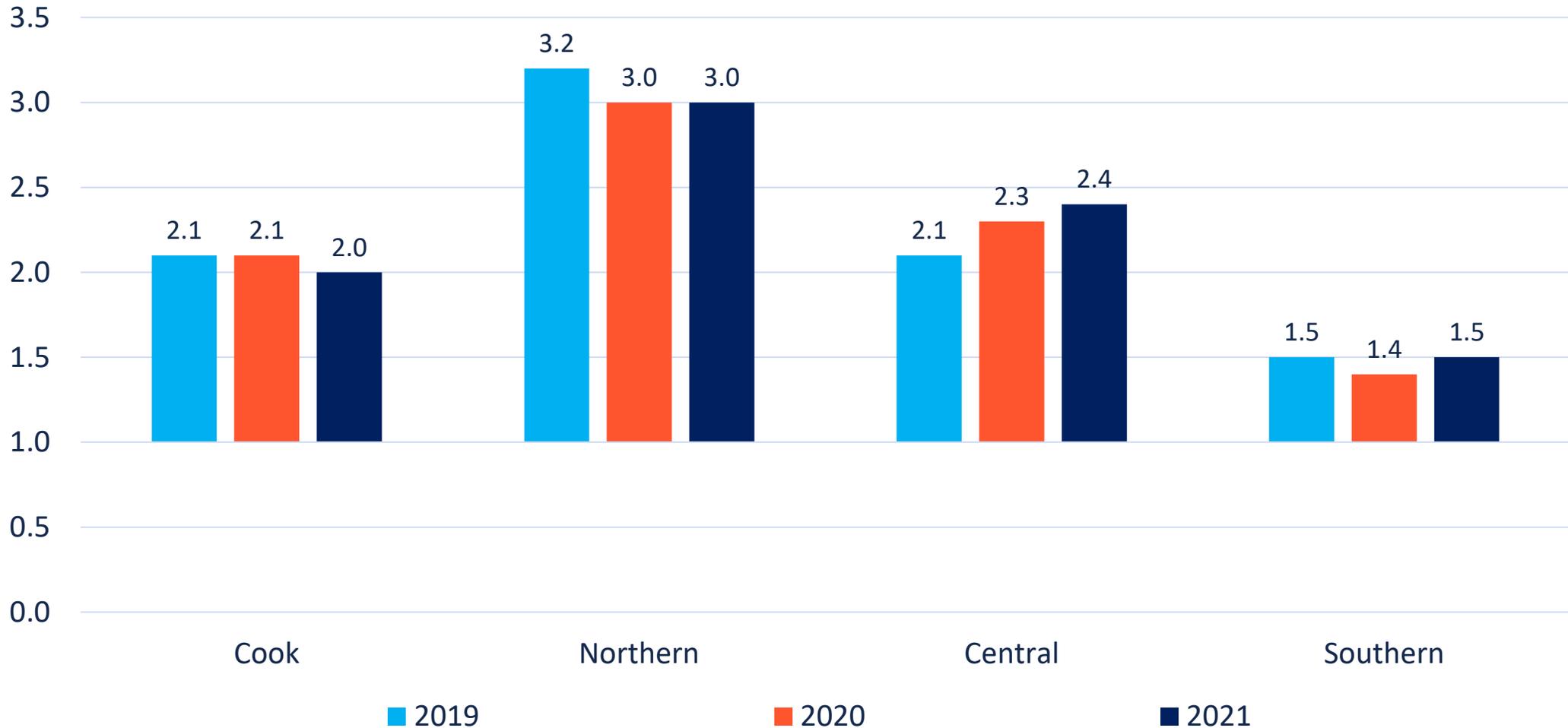
Regional RDI for Black Children in Investigated Reports



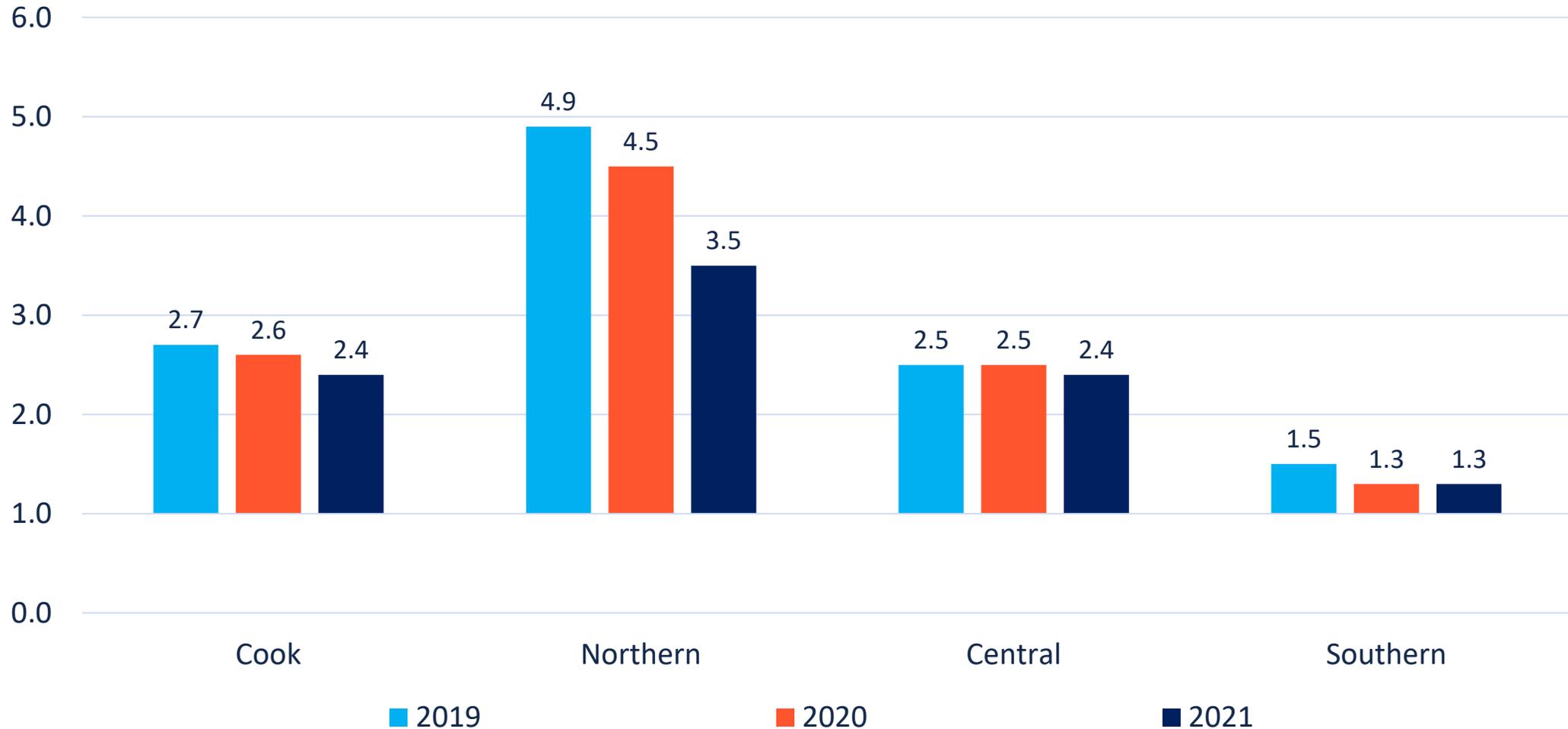
Regional RDI for Black Children in Protective Custodies



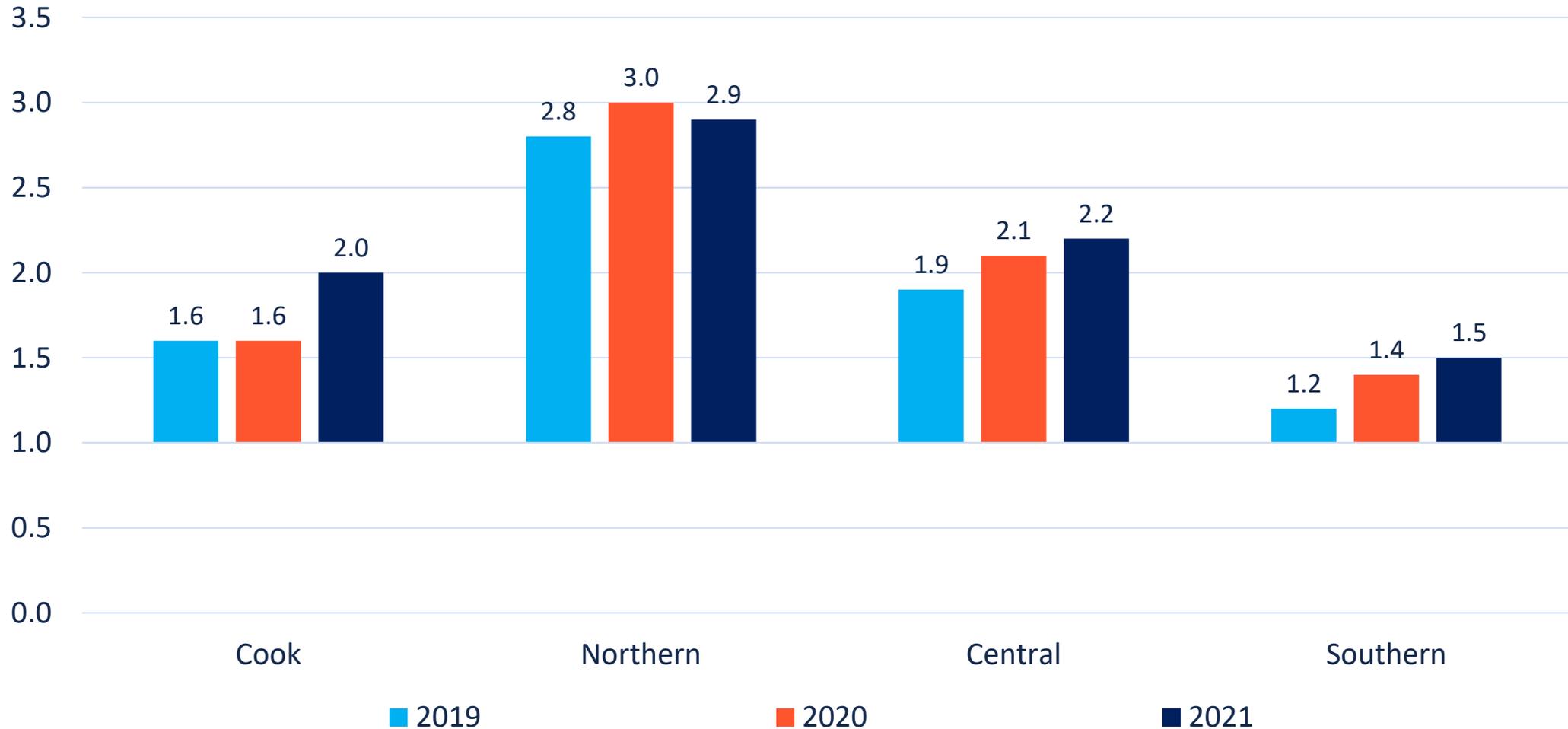
Regional RDI for Black Children in Indicated Investigations



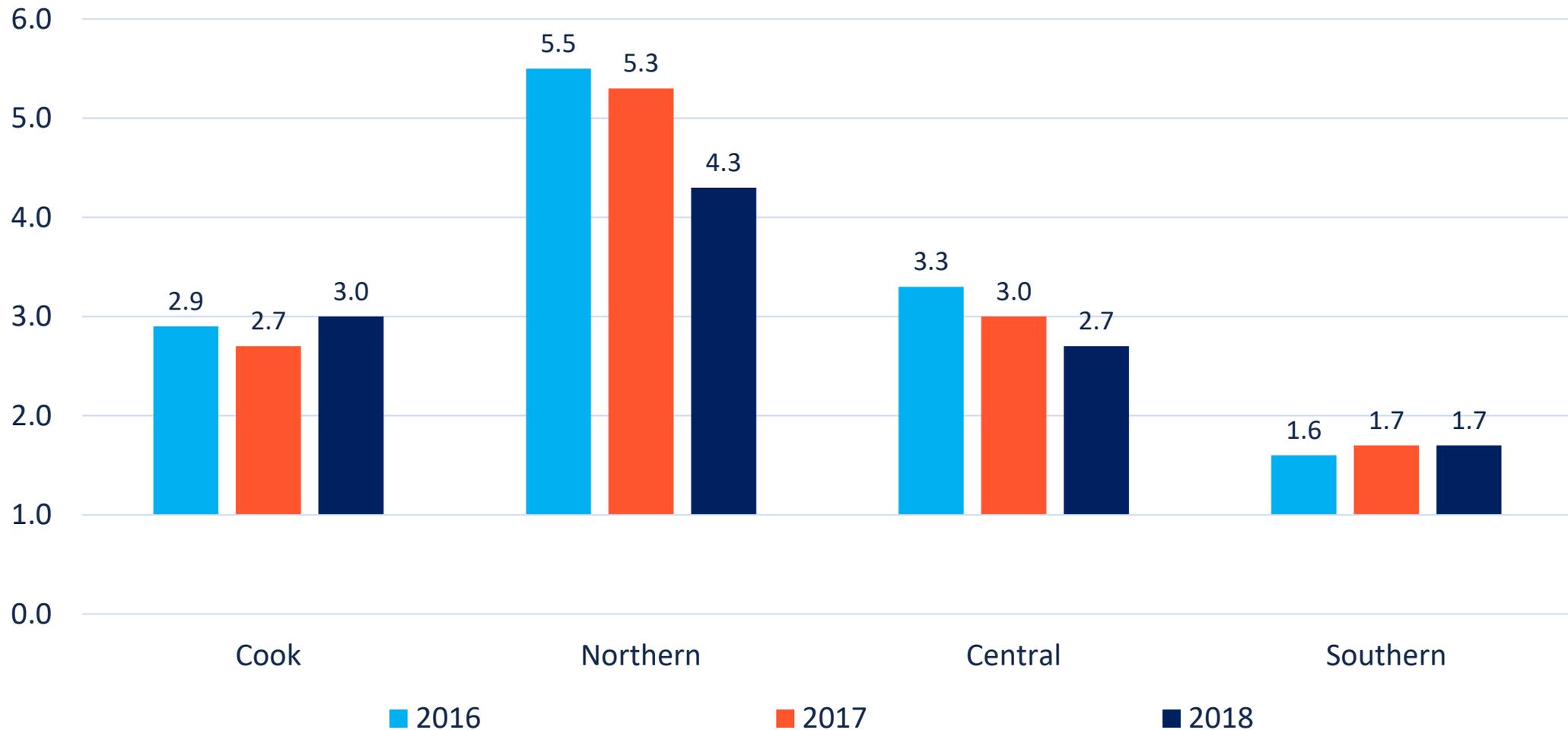
Regional RDI for Black Children Entering Substitute Care



Regional RDI for Black Children in Intact Family Services Cases



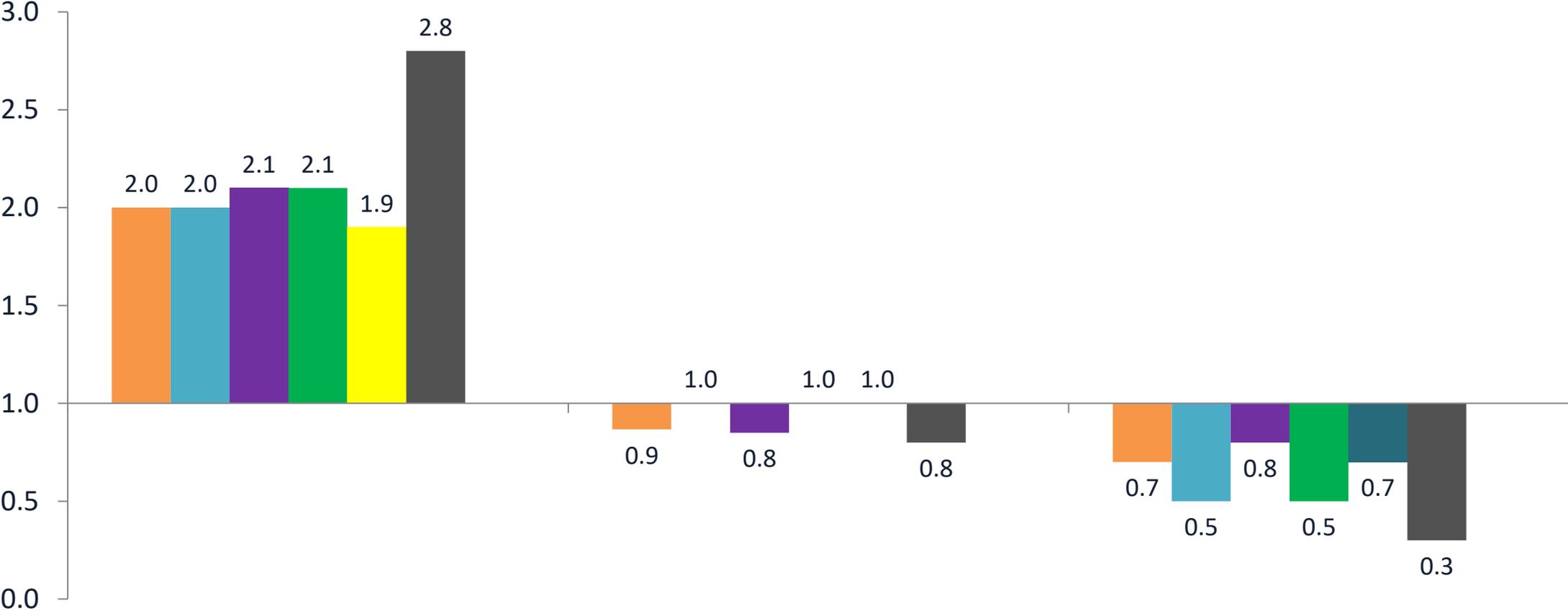
Regional RDI for Black Children Remaining in Care Longer Than 3 Years



Finding 3: Most, but not all, of the over-representation of Black children in the Illinois child welfare system is introduced at the hotline



Absolute RDI – State (FY2021)



Black
Investigation

Foster Care Entries

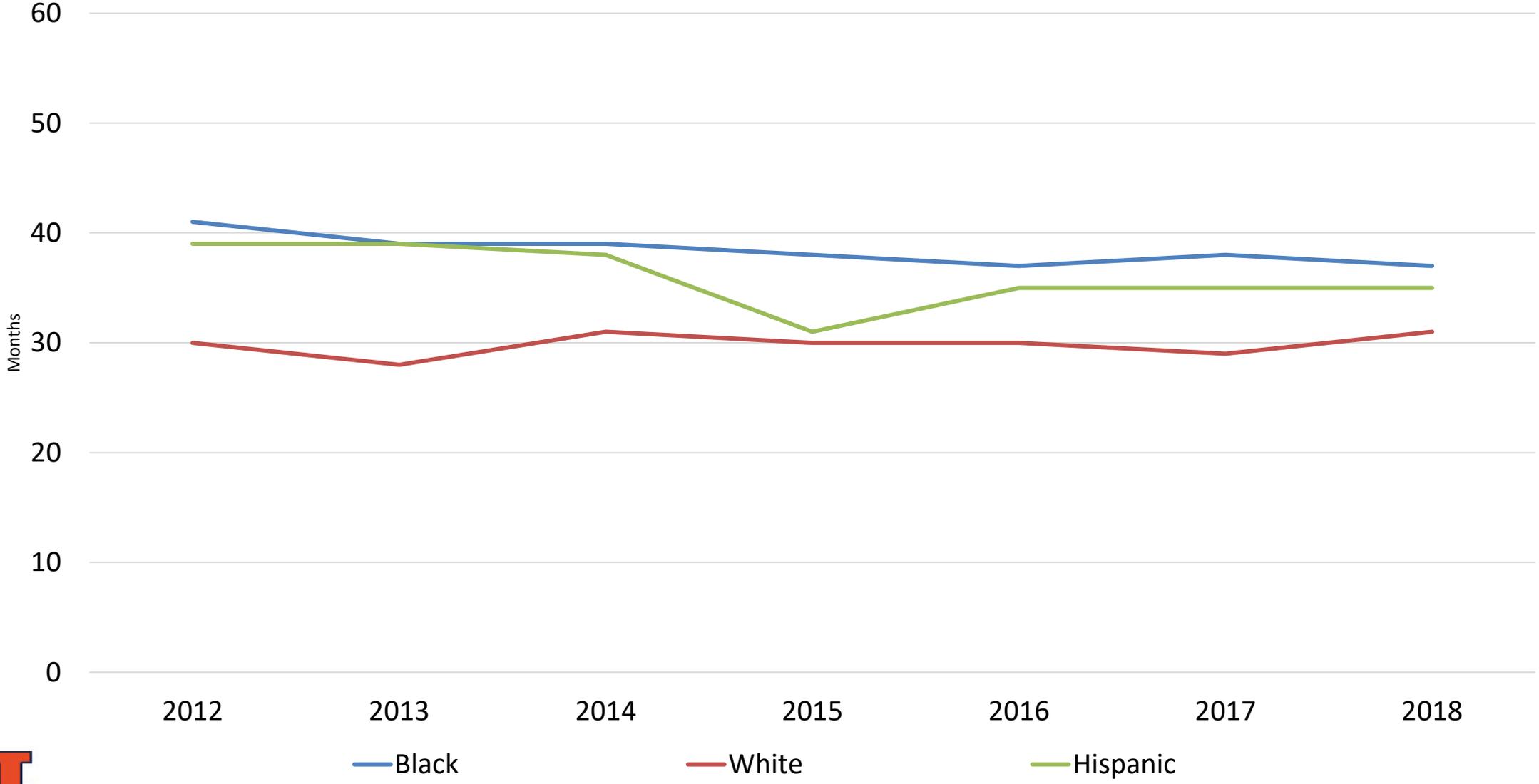
White
Protective Custody

Intact Family Services

Hispanic
Indicated Inv.
Remain in Care > 36 mo



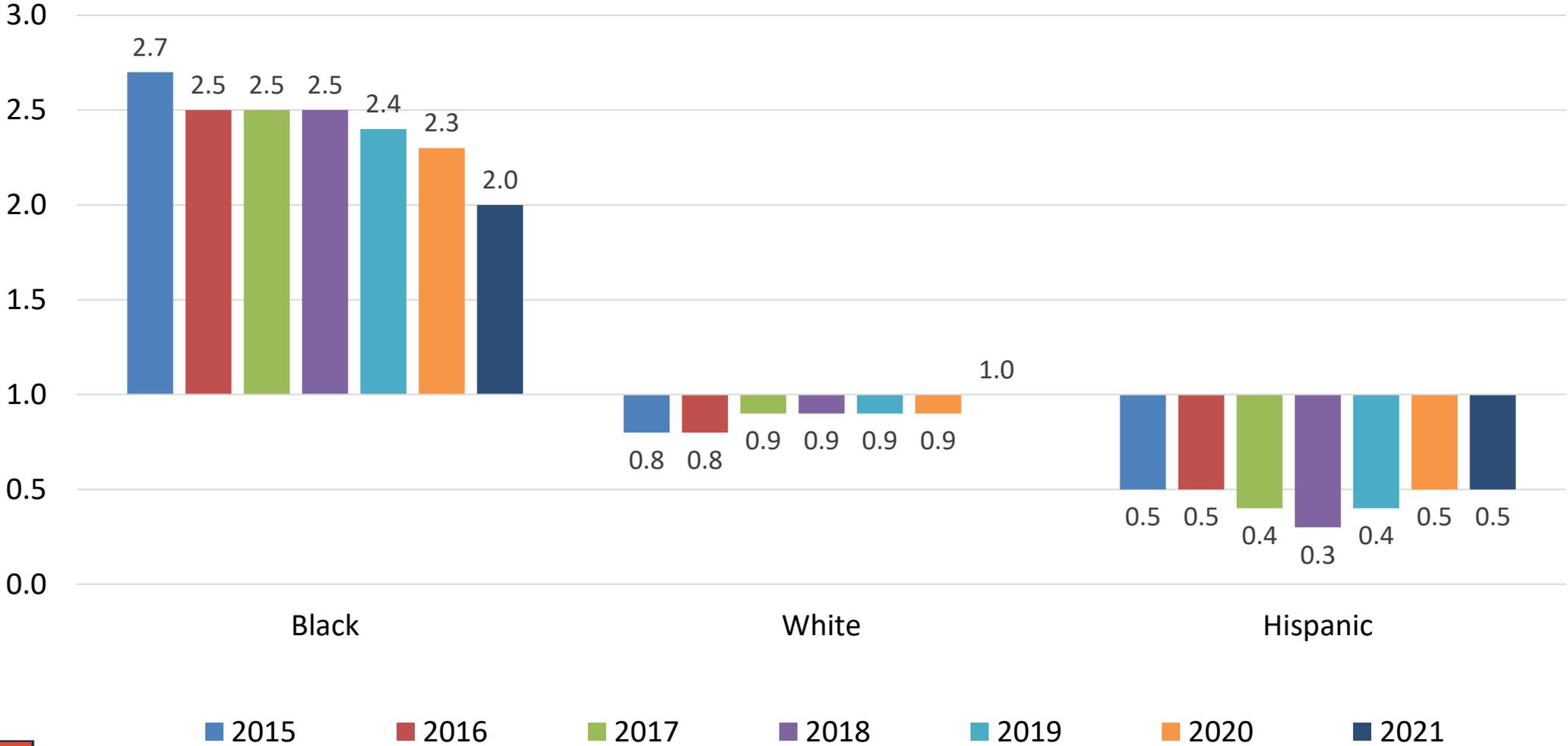
Median Length of Time in Substitute Care



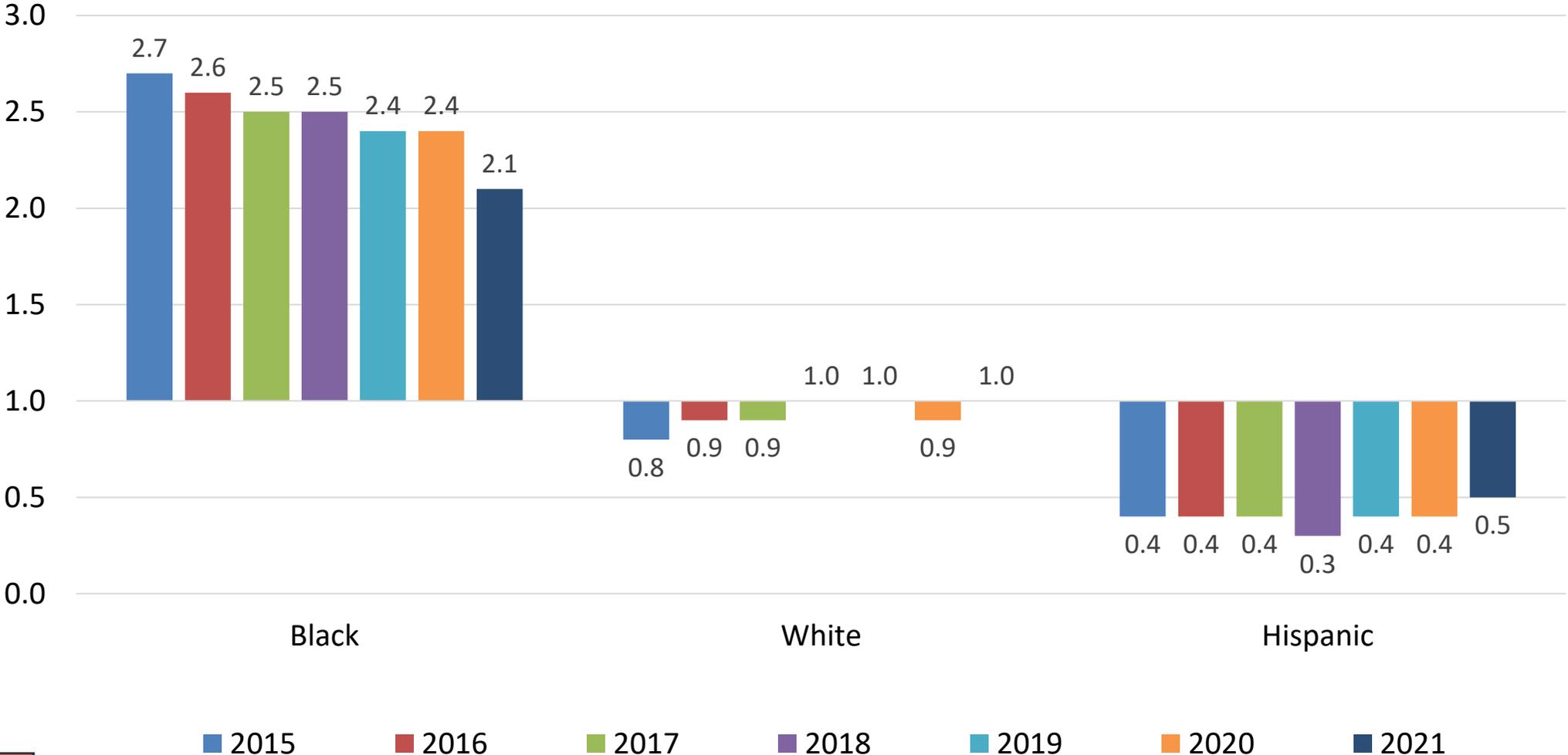
Finding 4: Over-representation of Black children in child welfare has been decreasing over the past few years at some decision points



Absolute RDI – Protective Custodies



Absolute RDI – Substitute Care Entries



2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021

Acknowledgements and Disclaimers

The *Racial Disproportionality in the Illinois Child Welfare System FY2022 Report* is available on the Children and Family Research Center website www.cfr Illinois.edu. CFRC researchers Dr. Satomi Wakita, Dr. Cady Landa, Kyle Adams III, and Martin Nieto made important contributions to this report.

This work was funded by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The information and opinions expressed herein reflect solely the position of the authors and should not be construed to indicate the support or endorsement of its content by the funding agency.

