



Conditions of Children in or at Risk of Foster Care in Illinois

FY2022 MONITORING REPORT
OF THE *B.H.* CONSENT DECREE

I ILLINOIS

Children & Family Research Center

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



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A REPORT BY THE

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Chapters

Executive Summary

Introduction: The Evolution of Child Welfare Monitoring in Illinois

Chapter 1: Child Safety

Chapter 2: Family Continuity, Placement Stability, and Length of Time in Care

Chapter 3: Legal Permanence: Reunification, Adoption, and Guardianship

Chapter 4: Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality

Appendix A: Indicator and Variable Definitions

Appendix B: Outcome Data by Region, Gender, Age, and Race/Ethnicity

Appendix C: Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Data

Appendix D: Data Adjustments

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	e-1
Introduction: The Evolution of Child Welfare Monitoring in Illinois	i-1
Box I.1 The Children and Family Research Center.....	i-2
The Origin and Purpose of Child Welfare Outcome Monitoring in Illinois.....	i-5
The Evolution of Outcome Monitoring in Illinois.....	i-8
Box I.2 <i>B.H.</i> Consent Decree Implementation Plan	i-11
The Current Monitoring Report of the <i>B.H.</i> Consent Decree.....	i-13
The Continued Importance of the <i>B.H.</i> Monitoring Report in Illinois.....	i-15
Chapter 1: Child Safety	1-1
Measuring Child Safety.....	1-1
Changes in Child Safety at a Glance.....	1-2
Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children with Substantiated Reports (CFSR).....	1-4
Maltreatment Among Children in Intact Family Cases.....	1-6
Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children Who Do Not Receive Services.....	1-9
Maltreatment in Substitute Care (CFSR).....	1-9
Discussion and Conclusions: Child Safety.....	1-12
Chapter 2: Family Continuity, Placement Stability, and Length of Time in Care	2-1
Changes in Continuity and Stability in Care at a Glance.....	2-2
Family Continuity.....	2-4
Box 2.1 Placement Type Terminology.....	2-4
Box 2.2 Children Placed in Out-of-State Group Homes or Institutions.....	2-12
Placement Stability.....	2-16
Length of Time in Substitute Care	2-24
Box 2.3 Children Admitted in Psychiatric Hospitals/Facilities.....	2-28
Discussion and Conclusions: Family Continuity, Placement Stability, and Length of Time in Care.....	2-31

Chapter 3: Legal Permanence: Reunification, Adoption, and Guardianship	3-1
Measuring Legal Permanence.....	3-2
Changes in Permanence at a Glance.....	3-3
Children Achieving Permanence (CFSR).....	3-6
Children Achieving Reunification.....	3-7
Stability of Reunification.....	3-10
Children Achieving Adoption.....	3-10
Stability of Adoption.....	3-13
Children Achieving Guardianship.....	3-14
Stability of Guardianship.....	3-15
Box 3.1 Living with Relatives.....	3-16
Children Who Do Not Achieve Legal Permanence.....	3-17
Discussion and Conclusions: Legal Permanence.....	3-19
Chapter 4: Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality	4-1
Measuring Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality.....	4-2
Interpreting Racial Disproportionality Indices.....	4-3
Investigated Reports	4-5
Box 4.1 Asian American and Pacific Islander Children	4-6
Protective Custodies.....	4-7
Indicated Reports	4-10
Post-Investigation Services.....	4-12
Substitute Care Exits	4-16
Discussion and Conclusions: Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality.....	4-18
Appendix A: Indicator and Variable Definitions	A-1
Appendix B: Outcome Data by Region, Gender, Age, and Race/Ethnicity	B-1
Appendix C: Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Data	C-1
Appendix D: Data Adjustments	D-1

List of Figures and Tables

Figure 1.1	Service Dispositions Among Children with Substantiated Reports.....	1-3
Figure 1.2	Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children with Substantiated Reports (CFSR).....	1-4
Figure 1.3	Maltreatment Recurrence by Age (CFSR)	1-5
Figure 1.4	Maltreatment Recurrence by Race/Ethnicity (CFSR).....	1-5
Figure 1.5	Maltreatment Recurrence by Region (CFSR).....	1-6
Figure 1.6	Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Families.....	1-7
Figure 1.7	Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Families by Age.....	1-7
Figure 1.8	Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Families by Race/Ethnicity.....	1-8
Figure 1.9	Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Families by Region.....	1-8
Figure 1.10	Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children Who Do Not Receive Services.....	1-9
Figure 1.11	Maltreatment Rate Per 100,000 Days in Substitute Care (CFSR).....	1-10
Figure 1.12	Maltreatment Rate Per 100,000 Days in Substitute Care by Age (CFSR).....	1-10
Figure 1.13	Maltreatment Rate Per 100,000 Days in Substitute Care by Race/Ethnicity (CFSR).....	1-11
Figure 1.14	Maltreatment Rate Per 100,000 Days in Substitute Care by Region (CFSR).....	1-11
Figure 2.1	Initial Placement Types.....	2-6
Figure 2.2	Initial Placement Types by Age - 2021.....	2-7
Figure 2.3	Initial Placement Types by Race/Ethnicity - 2021.....	2-8
Figure 2.4	Initial Placement Types by Region - 2021.....	2-8
Figure 2.5	End-of-Year Placement Types.....	2-9
Figure 2.6	End-of-Year Placement Types by Age - 2021.....	2-10
Figure 2.7	End-of-Year Placement Types by Race/Ethnicity - 2021.....	2-11
Figure 2.8	End-of-Year Placement Types by Region - 2021.....	2-11
Figure 2.9	Number of Children Placed in Out-of-State Group Homes or Institutions.....	2-12
Figure 2.10	Length of Time in Out-of-State Group Homes or Institutions.....	2-13
Figure 2.11	Initial Placements with Siblings.....	2-15
Figure 2.12	End-of-Year Placements with Siblings.....	2-16
Figure 2.13	Placement Moves per 1,000 Days in Substitute Care (CFSR).....	2-17
Figure 2.14	Placement Moves per 1,000 Days by Age (CFSR).....	2-17
Figure 2.15	Placement Moves per 1,000 Days by Race/Ethnicity (CFSR).....	2-18
Figure 2.16	Placement Moves per 1,000 Days by Region (CFSR).....	2-18

Figure 2.17	Changes in Placement by Initial Placement Type for Children Initially Placed in 2020.....	2-20
Figure 2.18	Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care.....	2-21
Figure 2.19	Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care by Age.....	2-22
Figure 2.20	Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care by Race/Ethnicity.....	2-22
Figure 2.21	Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care by Region.....	2-23
Figure 2.22	Placement Types Prior to and Following Runaway Episodes - 2020.....	2-24
Figure 2.23	Median Length of Time in Substitute Care.....	2-25
Figure 2.24	Median Length of Time in Substitute Care by Age.....	2-25
Figure 2.25	Median Length of Time in Substitute Care by Race/Ethnicity.....	2-26
Figure 2.26	Median Length of Time in Substitute Care by Region.....	2-26
Figure 2.27	Length of Time in Substitute Care by End-of-Year Placement Types.....	2-27
Table 2.1	Psychiatric Hospital/Facility Admission(s).....	2-28
Figure 2.28	Children with Psychiatric Hospital Admission(s) by Age.....	2-29
Figure 2.29	Children with Psychiatric Hospital Admission(s) by Race/Ethnicity.....	2-29
Figure 2.30	Children with Psychiatric Hospital Admission(s) by Region.....	2-30
Table 2.2	Length of Time in Psychiatric Hospitals/Facilities.....	2-30
Figure 3.1	Children Achieving Permanence by Length of Stay in Care (CFSR).....	3-6
Figure 3.2	Children Re-Entering Care by Length of Stay in Care (CFSR).....	3-7
Figure 3.3	Children Exiting to Reunification Within 12, 24, and 36 Months.....	3-8
Figure 3.4	Children Exiting to Reunification Within 36 Months by Age.....	3-8
Figure 3.5	Children Exiting to Reunification Within 36 Months by Race/Ethnicity.....	3-9
Figure 3.6	Children Exiting to Reunification Within 36 Months by Region.....	3-9
Figure 3.7	Stable Reunifications 1, 2, 5, and 10 Years After Finalization.....	3-10
Figure 3.8	Children Exiting to Adoption Within 24 and 36 Months.....	3-11
Figure 3.9	Children Exiting to Adoption Within 36 Months by Age.....	3-11
Figure 3.10	Children Exiting to Adoption Within 36 Months by Race/Ethnicity.....	3-12
Figure 3.11	Children Exiting to Adoption Within 36 Months by Region.....	3-13
Figure 3.12	Stable Adoptions at 2, 5, and 10 Years After Finalization.....	3-13
Figure 3.13	Children Exiting to Guardianship Within 24 and 36 Months	3-14
Figure 3.14	Children Exiting to Guardianship Within 36 Months by Age.....	3-15
Figure 3.15	Stable Guardianships 2, 5, and 10 Years After Finalization.....	3-15
Figure 3.16	Children Exiting to Live With Relatives Within 24 and 36 Months.....	3-16

Figure 3.17	Stable Relative Placements 2, 5, and 10 Years After Finalization.....	3-17
Figure 3.18	Exits from Substitute Care Within 36 Months.....	3-18
Figure 3.19	Exits from Substitute Care Within 36 Months: Cook Versus Balance of State (2018 Entry Cohort).....	3-18
Figure 4.1	Child Welfare Decision Points.....	4-2
Figure 4.2	Racial/Ethnic Distributions of Children by Child Welfare Decision Points (2021).....	4-3
Figure 4.3	Absolute RDI for Investigated Reports—State.....	4-5
Table 4.1	Asian American and Pacific Islander Children.....	4-6
Figure 4.4	Absolute RDI for Investigated Reports—Regional (2021).....	4-6
Figure 4.5	Absolute RDI for Protective Custodies—State.....	4-7
Figure 4.6	Absolute RDI for Protective Custodies—Regional (2021).....	4-8
Figure 4.7	Relative RDI for Protective Custodies—State.....	4-9
Figure 4.8	Relative RDI for Protective Custodies—Regional (2021).....	4-9
Figure 4.9	Absolute RDI for Indicated Reports—State.....	4-10
Figure 4.10	Absolute RDI for Indicated Reports—Regional (2021).....	4-11
Figure 4.11	Relative RDI for Indicated Reports--State.....	4-11
Figure 4.12	Absolute RDI for Substitute Care Entries—State	4-12
Figure 4.13	Absolute RDI for Substitute Care Entries—Regional (2021).....	4-13
Figure 4.14	Relative RDI for Substitute Care Entries—State.....	4-14
Figure 4.15	Relative RDI for Substitute Care Entries—Regional (2021)	4-14
Figure 4.16	Absolute RDI for Intact Family Services—State.....	4-15
Figure 4.17	Absolute RDI for Intact Family Services—Regional (2021).....	4-15
Figure 4.18	Relative RDI for Intact Family Services—State.....	4-16
Figure 4.19	Absolute RDI for Remaining in Care Longer than 36 Months—State.....	4-17
Figure 4.20	Absolute RDI for Remaining in Care Longer than 36 Months—Regional (2018 Entry Cohort).....	4-17
Figure 4.21	Relative RDI for Remaining in Care Longer than 36 Months—State.....	4-18



Executive Summary

Since its inception in 1996, the Children and Family Research Center (CFRC) has produced an annual report that monitors the performance of the Illinois child welfare system in achieving its stated goals of child safety, permanency, and well-being. The FY2022 monitoring report uses child welfare administrative data through December 31, 2021 to describe the conditions of children in or at risk of foster care in Illinois. Following an introductory chapter, the results are presented in four chapters that examine critical child welfare outcomes:

- The first chapter on **Child Safety** examines if children are kept safe from additional maltreatment after they have been involved in a child protective services (CPS) investigation. Rates of maltreatment are examined among several different groups of children: 1) all children with substantiated reports during the fiscal year, 2) children served in intact family cases, 3) children who do not receive post-investigation services, and 4) children in substitute care.
- The second chapter, **Family Continuity, Placement Stability, and Length of Time in Care**, examines the experiences of children from the time they enter substitute care until the time they exit the child welfare system. Once removed from their homes, the public child welfare system and its private agency partners have a responsibility to provide children with living arrangements that maintain connections with their family members (including other siblings in care) and community and provide stability. In addition, substitute care should be a temporary solution and children should live in substitute care settings for the shortest period necessary. This chapter examines how well the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services performs in providing substitute care living arrangements that meet these standards. It is organized into three sections: 1) Family Continuity, 2) Placement Stability, and 3) Length of Time in Substitute Care.
- The third chapter examines **Legal Permanence: Reunification, Adoption and Guardianship** with in-depth analyses of each of these three exit types. The chapter examines the likelihood that a child will exit substitute care to reunification, adoption,

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

or guardianship within 12 months (reunification only), 24 months, and 36 months of entry. For those children who achieve permanence, the stability of their permanent living arrangement at one year (reunification only), two years, five years, and ten years after exiting the child welfare system is also assessed. This chapter also examines the population of children that remain in care longer than three years, as well as those who exit substitute care without achieving a legally permanent family (e.g., running away from their placement, incarceration, aging out of the substitute care system). In addition, this chapter includes the CFSR permanency indicators, which examine the combined percentages of children who exit to all types of permanence and those that re-enter substitute care within 12 months of exiting care.

- The fourth chapter contains an analysis of **Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality** in the Illinois child welfare system. Racial/ethnic disproportionality refers to the over- or under-representation of a racial or ethnic group in the child welfare system compared to their representation in a base population and is often calculated as a Racial Disproportionality Index (RDI). To gain a better understanding of racial/ethnic disproportionality in the Illinois child welfare system, analyses examine the RDIs for White (Non-Hispanic), Black (Non-Hispanic), and Hispanic (any race) children at five child welfare decision points: investigated/screened-in maltreatment reports, protective custodies, indicated maltreatment reports, post-investigation service provision (including substitute care and intact family services), and timely exits from substitute care. Each analysis is done for the state as a whole and by DCFS administrative region so that regional differences can be observed.

The first three chapters in this report begin with a summary of the indicators used to measure the Illinois child welfare system's progress toward achieving positive outcomes for children and families, as well as a metric that we have developed that measures the amount of change that has occurred on that indicator between the most recent two years of data that are available. The metric used is the "percent change" and is calculated by subtracting the older value of the indicator from the newer value of the indicator (to find the relative difference), dividing the resulting number by the old value, and then multiplying by 100. If the result is positive, it is a percentage increase and if negative, it is a percentage decrease. In this report, changes of 5% or more are noted as significant. Changes of this magnitude are pictured with an upward or downward arrow, while changes less than 5% are denoted with an equal sign. The following sections highlight the changes in each indicator included in the first three chapters. For additional details, please refer to the full chapters and appendices.

Changes in Child Safety at a Glance

Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children with Substantiated Reports (CFSR)

↔ Of all children with a substantiated report, the percentage that had another substantiated report within 12 months remained stable at 14.4% in 2020.

Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Family Cases

↔ Of all children served in intact family cases, the percentage that had a substantiated report within 12 months remained stable at 18.1% in 2020.

Maltreatment Recurrence Among Substantiated Children Who Do Not Receive Services

↔ Of all children with substantiated reports who did not receive services, the percentage that had another substantiated report within 12 months remained stable and was 12.3% in 2020.

Rate of Victimization Per 100,000 Days Among Children in Substitute Care (CFSR)

↓ Of all children in substitute care during the year, the rate of substantiated maltreatment per 100,000 days in substitute care decreased from 19.5 in 2020 to 18.4 in 2021 (-6% change).

Changes in Continuity and Stability in Care at a Glance

Restrictiveness of Initial Placement Settings

↔ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in the home of parents remained stable and was 3.2% in 2021.

↑ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in a kinship foster home increased from 73.2% in 2020 to 76.5% in 2021 (+5% change).

↓ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in a traditional foster home decreased from 17.9% in 2020 to 15.9% in 2021 (-11% change).

↑ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in a specialized foster home increased from 0.8% in 2020 to 0.9% in 2021 (+13% change).

↓ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in an emergency shelter or emergency foster home decreased from 1.1% in 2020 to 0.8% in 2021 (-27% change).

↓ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in an institution or group home decreased from 3.7% in 2020 to 2.6% in 2021 (-30% change).

Restrictiveness of End of Year Placement Settings

↑ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in the home of parents increased from 4.8% in 2020 to 5.5% in 2021 (+15% change).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

↔ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in a kinship foster home remained stable and was 59.0% in 2021.

↔ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in a traditional foster home remained stable and was 19.8% in 2021.

↓ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in a specialized foster home decreased from 11.9% in 2020 to 11.2% in 2021 (-6% change).

↔ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in an emergency shelter or emergency foster home remained stable and was 0.2% in 2021.

↓ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in an institution or group home decreased from 4.8% in 2020 to 4.3% in 2021 (-10% change).

Placement with Siblings

Of all children entering substitute care and placed in a kinship or traditional foster home, the percentage that was initially placed in the same foster home with all their siblings in care:

For children with one or two siblings in care:

↔ remained stable for children initially placed in kinship foster homes and was 83.4% in 2021.

↑ increased for children initially placed in traditional foster homes from 51.3% in 2020 to 57.3% in 2021 (+12% change).

For children with three or more siblings in care:

↔ remained stable for children initially placed in kinship foster homes and was 50.9% in 2021.

↑ increased for children initially placed in traditional foster homes from 7.4% in 2020 to 12.3% in 2021 (+66% change).

Of all children living in kinship or traditional foster homes at the end of the year, the percentage that was placed in the same foster home with all their siblings in care:

For children with one or two siblings in care:

↔ remained stable for children in kinship foster homes and was 71.2% in 2021.

↔ remained stable for children in traditional foster homes and was 55.2% in 2021.

For children with three or more siblings in care:

↓ decreased for children in kinship foster homes from 38.7% in 2020 to 36.1% in 2021 (-7% change).

↑ increased for children in traditional foster homes from 10.8% in 2020 to 13.6% in 2021 (+26% change).

Placement Stability (CFSR)

↔ Of all children entering substitute care during the year, the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days in care remained stable and was 3.0 in 2021.

Children Who Run Away From Substitute Care

↔ Of all children entering substitute care between the age of 12 and 17 years, the percentage that ran away from a placement within one year of entry remained stable and was 14.1% in 2020.

Length of Stay In Substitute Care

↑ Of all children entering substitute care, the median length of stay increased from 32 months for children who entered care in 2017 to 34 months in 2018 (+6% change).

Changes in Permanence at a Glance**Children Achieving Permanence (CFSR)**

↔ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that achieved permanence within 12 months remained stable and was 14.9% of children who entered care in 2020.

↔ Of all children who had been in care between 12 and 23 months on the first day of the fiscal year, the percentage that achieved permanence within 12 months remained stable and was 24.5% in 2021.

↔ Of all children who had been in care 24 months or more on the first day of the fiscal year, the percentage that achieved permanence within 12 months remained stable and was 29.5% in 2021.

↓ Of all children who achieved permanence within 12 months, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of discharge decreased from 8.2% of children who exited care in 2018 to 7.3% of children who exited care in 2019 (-11% change).

↑ Of all children who achieved permanence after living in substitute care between 12 and 23 months, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of discharge increased from 4.0% of children who exited care in 2019 to 5.2% of children who exited care in 2020 (+30% change).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

↑ Of all children who achieved permanence after living in substitute care 24 months or more, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of discharge increased from 1.7% of children who exited care in 2019 to 2.1% of children who exited care in 2020 (+24% change).

Children Achieving Reunification

↔ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 12 months remained stable and was 15.8% of children who entered care in 2020.

↔ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 24 months remained stable and was 30.7% of children who entered care in 2019.

↑ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 36 months increased from 34.7% in 2017 to 38.2% in 2018 (+10% change).

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at one year post-reunification remained stable and was 92.0% of children who were reunified in 2020.

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at two years post-reunification remained stable and was 87.5% of children who were reunified in 2019.

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at five years post-reunification remained stable and was 84.1% of children who were reunified in 2016.

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at 10 years post-reunification remained stable and was 86.6% of children who were reunified in 2011.

Children Achieving Adoption

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was adopted within 24 months decreased from 4.2% of children who entered care in 2018 to 3.1% of children who entered care in 2019 (-26% change).

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was adopted within 36 months decreased from 16.6% of children who entered care in 2017 to 12.1% of children who entered care in 2018 (-27% change).

↔ Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage living with their family at 2 years post-adoption remained stable and was 99.1% of children who were adopted in 2019.

↔ Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage living with their family at 5 years post-adoption remained stable and was 97.2% of children who were adopted in 2016.

↔ Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage living with their family at 10 years post-adoption remained stable and was 95.8% of children who were adopted in 2011.

Children Achieving Guardianship

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that attained guardianship within 24 months decreased from 1.3% of children who entered care in 2018 to 0.7% of children who entered care in 2019 (-46% change).

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that attained guardianship within 36 months decreased from 2.7% of children who entered care in 2017 to 2.4% of children who entered care in 2018 (-11% change).

↔ Of all children who attained guardianship during the year, the percentage living with their family at 2 years post-guardianship remained stable and was 98.1% of children who attained guardianship in 2019.

↔ Of all children who attained guardianship during the year, the percentage living with their family at 5 years post-guardianship remained stable and was 96.7% of children who attained guardianship in 2016.

↓ Of all children who attained guardianship during the year, the percentage living with their family at 10 years post-guardianship decreased from 92.0% of children who attained guardianship in 2010 to 86.9% of children who attained guardianship in 2011 (-6% change).

Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality

This chapter uses two indices for measuring racial and ethnic disproportionality. The first is the “absolute RDI,” in which a racial or ethnic group’s representation at a specific child welfare decision point is divided by that group’s representation in the general child population. The same denominator (the general child population) is used when calculating absolute RDIs at each decision point. A second measure, known as the “relative RDI,” is calculated by dividing a racial or ethnic group’s representation at a child welfare decision point by that group’s representation at a prior child welfare decision point. Relative RDIs change the denominator based on the decision point of the child welfare system that is being examined. For both



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

absolute and relative RDIs, values less than 1.0 indicate under-representation, values equal or close to 1.0 indicate no disproportionality, and values greater than 1.0 indicate over-representation. Absolute RDI is the traditional measure for reporting disproportionality, and it provides useful information about how representations of a racial/ethnic group at a given decision point differ from their representation in the general population. However, the absolute RDI does not provide information about the amount of disproportionality that is introduced at each new decision point. The relative RDI provides this information by comparing a racial group's representation in a decision point to their representation at a prior decision point. Chapter 4 examines racial and ethnic disproportionality at five child welfare decision points mentioned above over the past 7 years.

Investigated Reports. White children are proportionally represented compared to their representation in the general population (RDI = 0.9), Black children are over-represented (RDI = 2.0), and Hispanic children are under-represented (RDIs = 0.7-0.8). When the absolute RDIs for investigated reports in 2021 are examined by region, Black children in the Northern region have an RDI of 2.8, greater than any other region and the state as a whole. White children are under-represented in the Cook (RDI = 0.5), Northern (RDI = 0.8), and Central (RDI = 0.8) regions, and are proportionally represented in the Southern region (RDI = 0.9). Hispanic children are under-represented in the Central (RDI = 0.8) and Southern (RDI = 0.7) regions and are proportionally represented in the Cook (RDI = 0.9) and Northern regions (RDI = 1.0).

Protective Custodies. At the state level, White children are proportionately represented among protective custodies during the last five years 2017-2021 (RDI = 0.9-1.0). Black children are over-represented at rates 2.0 to 2.7 times their proportion in the Illinois child population, and Hispanic children are under-represented (RDIs range from 0.3-0.5). There has been a decline in the disproportionality among Black children at this decision point in recent years. When the absolute RDIs for protective custodies in 2021 are examined by region, there are large differences for Black children; the Northern region has the highest RDI (3.4), followed by Cook (2.4), Central (2.3), and Southern (1.4). The relative RDI at the state level showed that disproportionality increased for Black children compared to the amount of disproportionality in investigated reports (relative RDIs between 1.2 and 1.3). Under-representation among Hispanic children increased at this decision point compared to their investigation rates (relative RDIs between 0.4 and 0.7). The relative RDIs for White children are close or equal to 1.0.

Indicated Reports. The absolute RDIs show that Black children are consistently over-represented among children with indicated reports and Hispanic children are under-represented. For most years, White children are proportionately represented. At the regional level, the Northern region has the highest over-representation of Black children in indicated reports (RDI = 3.0) in 2021, followed by the Central (RDI = 2.4), Cook (RDI = 2.0), and Southern regions (RDI = 1.5). The relative RDIs for the three groups over the past seven years show that all three racial groups have relative RDIs at or near 1.0 across the seven years, suggesting that the degree of disproportionality did not increase or decrease at this decision point compared to the previous decision point (investigated reports).

Substitute Care Entries. At the state level, Black children are placed into substitute care at rates 2.1 to 2.7 times that of their percentage within the Illinois child population. This disproportionality has been declining over time. White children were proportionately represented (RDI = 0.9-1.0) in the past six years. Hispanic children are under-represented compared to their percentage in the Illinois child population (RDI = 0.3-0.5). At the regional level in 2021, the Northern region has the highest RDI (3.5), followed by Cook and Central (RDI = 2.4), and Southern (RDI = 1.3). Black children had relative RDIs of 1.2-1.3 in 2015-2019, meaning that over-representation increased at this decision point compared to the amount of over-representation among indicated reports. However, in the last two years, their removal rate was proportional to their indication rate, which means that disproportionality did not increase at this decision point. White children entered substitute care at rates proportional to their representation among indicated reports 2015-2020, but their removal rate was higher than their indication rate in 2021 (RDI = 1.2).

Intact Family Services. The absolute RDIs show that Black children are over-represented for the last seven years, Hispanic children are under-represented for the most recent six years, and White children are proportionately represented. The absolute RDI for Black children shows over-representation in all regions, with the largest in the Northern region (RDI = 2.9) and smallest in the Southern region (RDI = 1.5). The relative RDIs for intact family services for White and Hispanic children were primarily proportional over the past seven years, meaning that children in these racial and ethnic groups were provided with intact family services at rates equal to the rates at which they were indicated for maltreatment. Over-representation among Black children decreased at this decision point compared to the previous decision point (indicated maltreatment reports).

Substitute Care Exits. The absolute RDIs for children remaining in care longer than 36 months at the state level show that Black children are over-represented, with RDIs around 3.0. Both White (RDIs = 0.7-0.8) and Hispanic (RDIs = 0.3-0.4) children are under-represented at this decision point. Disproportionality among Black children in the Northern region was very high in 2021, over four times their proportion in the general population (RDI = 4.3). Black children were also over-represented among children remaining in substitute care for more than 36 months in the Cook (RDI = 3.0), Central (RDI = 2.7), and Southern (RDI = 1.7) regions in 2021. When examining the relative RDIs at the state level for cohorts entering substitute care in 2015-2018, over-representation increases slightly for Black children, and under-representation increases slightly for White children (RDI = 0.8-0.9). RDI for Hispanic children have fluctuated at this decision point.





Introduction

i

The Evolution of Child Welfare Monitoring in Illinois

Since its inception in 1996, the Children and Family Research Center (CFRC, the Center; see Box I.1) has been responsible for the annual report that monitors the performance of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS, the Department) in achieving its stated goals of child safety, permanency, and well-being. The *Monitoring Report of the B.H. Consent Decree* (the *B.H.* report) is the culmination of the Center's efforts to provide clear and comprehensive data to a variety of stakeholders who are concerned with the outcomes of abused and neglected children in Illinois. This report is not an evaluation of the Department, the juvenile courts, private providers and community-based partners, or other human service systems responsible for child protection and welfare. Rather, it is a monitoring report that examines specific performance indicators and identifies trends on selected outcomes of interest to the federal court, the Department, members of the *B.H.* class, and their attorneys. It is our hope that this report will be used as a catalyst for dialogue between child welfare stakeholders at the state and local levels about the meanings behind these reported numbers and the strategies needed for quality improvement.

The Children and Family Research Center

BOX I.1

The Children and Family Research Center is dedicated to supporting and conducting “research with a purpose” to improve outcomes for children who are either currently involved in the child welfare system or at high risk for future involvement. The Center was created in 1996 through a cooperative agreement between the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The mission of the Center has been to conduct research that was responsive to the needs and responsibilities of the Department and contribute to scientific knowledge about child safety, permanency, and child and family well-being. In the two and a half decades since its creation, the Center has emerged as a national leader in conducting research that informs child welfare policy and improves child welfare practice. Center activities are organized around four core areas:

1) outcome monitoring and needs assessment; 2) program evaluation and data analysis; 3) training and technical assistance to advance best practice; and 4) knowledge dissemination.

Outcome monitoring and needs assessment

The Center was created, in part, to monitor the performance of the Illinois child welfare system pursuant to the ***B.H. Consent Decree***. Each year since 1997, the Center has compiled a comprehensive report that describes over 40 child welfare indicators related to child safety and permanence. The *B.H.* report is widely distributed to child welfare administrators, researchers, and policy makers throughout Illinois and the nation.

Program evaluation and data analysis

One of the key elements of the success of the child welfare reforms in Illinois and other states has been the ability of child welfare administrators to rely on scientifically rigorous research that demonstrates the effectiveness of the program innovations being implemented. The Children and Family Research Center engages in rigorously-designed experimental and quasi-experimental evaluations of innovative child welfare demonstration projects which have national implication and scope. For instance, the CFRC served as the evaluator for three of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services **Title IV-E waiver demonstration projects** and in 2013, the Center began a partnership with the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) as the evaluator of its Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project. The Wisconsin waiver evaluation, which ended in 2019, tested the effectiveness of a post-reunification support program, known as the P.S. Program, by comparing the rates of maltreatment recurrence and re-entry into substitute care of children who receive P.S. Program services compared to those who did not. In addition to the outcome evaluation, a process evaluation documented the implementation process using the

National Implementation Research Network (NIRN) framework, and a cost analysis will compare the costs and savings associated with the program.

The Children and Family Research Center, in partnership with DCFS, applied for and received funding from the National Quality Improvement Center on Differential Response (QIC-DR) to implement and evaluate a **Differential Response (DR)** program in Illinois. This comprehensive, 4-year evaluation consisted of a randomized controlled trial that compared outcomes for families randomly assigned to either a traditional child protective services investigation (control group) or non-investigative child protective services response known as a family assessment (treatment group). The evaluation also documented the implementation process so that other states considering Differential Response can learn from the Illinois experience. Finally, a cost evaluation compared the short-term and long-term costs associated with the two CPS responses.

The CFRC was also selected to design and conduct an evaluation of the **Oregon Differential Response Initiative** that included process, outcome, and cost evaluations. Mixed-methods data collection strategies were utilized to gather data from CPS caseworkers, supervisors, administrators, screeners, coaches, service providers, community partners, and parents involved in the child protection system to answer a comprehensive list of research questions related to the effectiveness of the implementation strategies used and the impact of DR on child and family outcomes.

Training and technical assistance to advance best practice

For over 20 years, the CFRC's Foster Care Utilization Review Program (FCURP) has worked with DCFS to prepare for, conduct, and respond to the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). The CFSR is the means by which the federal government ensures state compliance with federal mandates. Using a continuous quality improvement process, FCURP has played a vital role in supporting ongoing efforts to enhance child welfare outcomes in Illinois. FCURP supports DCFS and its private sector partners by 1) monitoring and reporting Illinois' progress toward meeting the safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes outlined in the Federal Child and Family Services Review; 2) providing training and education to help child welfare practitioners translate federal regulations and state policies into quality practice; and 3) providing technical assistance to promote system reform.

More recently, the CFRC has collaborated with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to provide Quality Service Reviews (QSR) in the four immersion sites throughout the state. QSRs employ a case-based practice improvement approach to assess outcomes and system performance by gathering information from a random sample of case files as well as interviews with children, families, and service team members. The Illinois QSR review instrument will examine the Family-centered,

Trauma-focused, Strength-based (FTS) model of practice, which includes utilization of Child and Family Team meetings.

Knowledge dissemination

CFRC disseminates its research findings widely to multiple audiences within Illinois and throughout the country. Using a variety of information-sharing strategies, the Center's researchers strive to put knowledge into the hands of both policy makers and practitioners. CFRC's dissemination includes:

- The Children and Family Research Center website, through which the public can access and download all research and technical reports, research briefs on specific topics, and presentations given at state and national conferences.
- The CFRC Data Center, which provides tables of DCFS performance data on child safety, stability, continuity, and family permanence. Each indicator in the *B.H.* report (with the exception of the well-being indicators) can be examined by child demographics (age, race/ethnicity, and gender) and geographic area (Illinois total, DCFS region, DCFS sub-region, and county). Outcome data for each indicator are displayed over a seven-year period, so that changes in performance can be tracked over time. In addition to the outcome indicator data, the Data Center also provides information on the number of child reports, family reports, and substantiation rates for the entire state and each county.
- Data summits and forums on topics of interest to DCFS and the child welfare community. Previous summits have focused on the nexus between juvenile justice and child welfare, effective early childhood and child abuse prevention programs, and the use of risk adjustment in performance outcomes for children's residential centers. The most recent summit, which gathered experts on the use of predictive analytics in child welfare, occurred in May 2019. Presentation from the predictive analytics forum can be found here: <https://pa2019.cfr Illinois.edu/index.php>
- Publication of research findings in peer-reviewed academic journals and presentations at state and national professional conferences.

The Origin and Purpose of Child Welfare Outcome Monitoring in Illinois

The foundation of this report can be traced directly to the *B.H.* consent decree, which was approved by United States District Judge John Grady on December 20, 1991, and required extensive reforms of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services over the subsequent two and a half years.¹ According to the Decree:

“It is the purpose of this Decree to assure that DCFS provides children with at least minimally adequate care. Defendant agrees that, for the purposes of this Decree, DCFS’s responsibility to provide such care for plaintiffs includes an obligation to create and maintain a system which assures children are treated in conformity with the following standards of care:

- a. Children shall be free from foreseeable and preventable physical harm.
- b. Children shall receive at least minimally adequate food, shelter, and clothing.
- c. Children shall receive at least minimally adequate health care.
- d. Children shall receive mental health care adequate to address their serious mental health needs.
- e. Children shall be free from unreasonable and unnecessary intrusions by DCFS upon their emotional and psychological well-being.
- f. Children shall receive at least minimally adequate training, education, and services to enable them to secure their physical safety, freedom from emotional harm, and minimally adequate food, clothing, shelter, health and mental health care.

In order to meet this standard of care, it shall be necessary for DCFS to create and maintain a system which:

- a. Provides that children will be timely and stably placed in safe and appropriate living arrangements;
- b. Provides that reasonable efforts, as determined based on individual circumstances (including consideration of whether no efforts would be reasonable) shall be made to prevent removal of children from their homes and

¹ *B.H. et al. v. Suter*, No. 88-cv-5599 (N.D. Ill., 1991). It should be noted that the name of the Defendant changes over time to reflect the name of the DCFS Director appointed at the time of the entry of a specific order. Susan Suter was the appointed Director at the time of the entry of the original consent decree in this case.

INTRODUCTION

to reunite children with their parents, where appropriate and consistent with the best interests of the child;

- c. Provides that if children are not to be reunited with their parents, DCFS shall promptly identify and take the steps within its power to achieve permanency for the child in the least restrictive setting possible;
- d. Provides for the prompt identification of the medical, mental health and developmental needs of children;
- e. Provides timely access to adequate medical, mental health and developmental services;
- f. Provides that while in DCFS custody children receive a public education of a kind and quality comparable to other children not in DCFS custody;
- g. Provides that while in DCFS custody children receive such services and training as necessary to permit them to function in the least restrictive and most homelike setting possible; and
- h. Provides that children receive adequate services to assist in the transition to adulthood.”

Under the terms of the *B.H. Consent Decree*, implementation of the required reforms was anticipated to occur by July 1, 1994. However, it became clear to the Court and to both parties that this ambitious goal would not be achieved in the two and a half years specified in the agreement. Consultation with a panel of child welfare and organizational reform experts led to the recommendation, among other things, to shift the focus of the monitoring from technical compliance (process) to the desired outcomes the parties hoped to achieve.² Both the plaintiffs and the defendants were in favor of a more results-oriented monitoring process, and together decided on three outcome categories: permanency, well-being, and safety.³ The two sides jointly moved to modify the decree in July 1996,⁴ outlining a series of new strategies based on measurable outcomes:

“The parties have agreed on outcome goals for the operation of the child welfare system covering the three areas of child safety, child and family well-being, and permanency of family relations.

² Mezey, S.G. (1998). Systemic reform litigation and child welfare policy: The case of Illinois. *Law & Policy*, 20, 203-230.

³ Puckett, K.L. (2008). *Dynamics of organizational change under external duress: A case study of DCFS's responses to the 1991 consent decree mandating permanency outcomes for wards of the state*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Chicago.

⁴ *B.H. et al. v. McDonald* (1996). Joint Memorandum in Support of Agreed Supplemental Order, No 88-C-5599 (N.D. Ill 1996).

- a) The outcome goals agreed upon by the parties include the following:
- i) Protection: Promptly and accurately determine whether the family care of children reported to DCFS is at or above a threshold of safety and child and family well-being, and if it exceeds that threshold, do not coercively interfere with the family.
 - ii) Preservation: When the family care of the child falls short of the threshold, and when consistent with the safety of the child, raise the level of care to that threshold in a timely manner.
 - iii) Substitute care: If the family care of the child cannot be raised to that threshold within a reasonable time or without undue risk to the child, place the child in a substitute care setting that meets the child’s physical, emotional, and developmental needs.
 - iv) Reunification: When the child is placed in substitute care, promptly enable the family to meet the child needs for safety and care and promptly return the child to the family when consistent with the safety of the child.
 - v) Permanency: If the family is unable to resume care of the child within a reasonable time, promptly arrange for an alternative, permanent living situation that meets the child’s physical, emotional, and developmental needs.”⁵

In addition to specifying the outcomes of interest, the Joint Memorandum outlined the creation of a Children and Family Research Center “responsible for evaluating and issuing public reports on the performance of the child welfare service system operated by DCFS and its agents. The Research Center shall be independent of DCFS and shall be within an entity independent of DCFS.”⁶ The independence of the CFRC was seen as an essential component of the settlement, and locating the CFRC within a research university helped ensure that the Department would be held accountable. The CFRC was tasked with the development of outcome indicators in consultation with the Department and the plaintiff’s counsel that provide quantitative measures of progress toward meeting the goals set forth in the consent decree: “The Research Center will develop technologies and methods for collecting data to accurately report and analyze these outcome indicators. The Research Center may revise these outcome indicators after consultation with the Department and counsel for the plaintiff class to the extent

⁵ Ibid, p. 2-4

⁶ Joint Memorandum, p. 2

INTRODUCTION

necessary to improve the Center's ability to measure progress toward meeting the outcome goals."⁷

The Joint Memorandum also specified the process through which the results of the outcomes monitoring would be disseminated: "The Research Center shall also provide to the parties and file with this Court an annual report summarizing the progress toward achieving the outcome goals and analyzing reasons for the success or failure in making such progress. The Center's analysis of the reasons for the success or failure of DCFS to make reasonable progress toward the outcome goals shall include an analysis of the performance of DCFS (including both DCFS operations and the operations of private agencies), and any other relevant issues, including, where and to the extent appropriate, changes in or the general conditions of the children and families or any other aspects of the child welfare system external to DCFS that affect the capacity of the Department to achieve its goals, and changes in the conditions and status of children and plaintiffs' counsel as the outcome indicators and data collection methods are developed..."⁸

The Evolution of Outcome Monitoring in Illinois

Safety, Stability, and Permanence

The *B.H.* parties agreed to give discretion to the Center to develop the specific indicators used to measure progress in achieving the agreed upon outcome goals. The parties also recognized the importance of exploring the systemic and contextual factors that influence outcomes, as well as the need for outcome indicators to change over time as data technology grows more sophisticated and additional performance issues emerge. The first *B.H.* monitoring report was filed with the Court in FY1998 and included information on outcomes for children in the custody of the Department through FY1997. The indicators in the first monitoring report were simple, and included safety indicators of 1) maltreatment recurrence among intact family cases at 30, 180, and 300 days, and 2) maltreatment reports on children in substitute care (overall rate and rates by living arrangement, region, child age, child race, and perpetrator). The indicators for permanence in the first report included: 1) rate of children who entered substitute care from intact cases; 2) percentage of children returned home from substitute care within 6, 12, 18, and 24 months; 3) percentage of reunified children who re-enter foster care; 4) percentage of children adopted from substitute care and median length of time to adoption; 5) adoption disruptions; and 6) percentage of children moved to legal guardianship from substitute care.

The indicators included in the *B.H.* monitoring report were significantly expanded and the overall organization of the report was given a major overhaul in FY2005. Indicators were added that examined placement stability in substitute care, running away from placement, placements with kin, placements in group homes and institutions (both within Illinois and

⁷ Joint Memorandum, p. 4

⁸ Joint Memorandum, p. 4

outside of Illinois), placement with siblings, and placement close to home. In FY2010, the indicator that examined the placements outside of Illinois was eliminated from the report because the number of children placed outside the state had been negligible for several years. Information on this indicator was included in the FY2020 and FY2021 reports because the number of children placed in residential placements outside of Illinois had increased to the point where it was once again a concern.⁹

Following the major updates in FY2005, only minor changes were made to the indicators in the *B.H.* monitoring report through FY2017. Careful thought goes into the selection of the indicators that are used to monitor system performance in the report, and we strive to keep the indicators as consistent as possible from year to year so that any changes in the results reported in the chapters and appendices signify actual changes in performance. However, occasionally it is necessary to make changes to how certain indicators are measured, either because the administrative data used in the analysis has changed, because the Department's policies or procedures have changed, or because of special requests made by the plaintiff or defendant attorneys or the court. When deciding whether to modify, add, or eliminate indicators in the *B.H.* monitoring report, the benefits of the change are weighed against the loss of continuity and potential for confusion in interpreting the results.

The most notable change in recent years occurred in FY2018, when the Department asked the CFRC to include the Round 3 CFSR statewide data indicators in the *B.H.* monitoring report. CFRC accommodated this request by:

1. replacing our existing measure of maltreatment recurrence with the Round 3 CFSR measure of maltreatment recurrence;
2. replacing our existing measure of maltreatment in care with the Round 3 CFSR measure of maltreatment in care;
3. replacing our existing measure of placement stability with the Round 3 CFSR measure of placement stability;
4. adding the three Round 3 CFSR measures of permanence to our existing measures of permanence;
5. adding the Round 3 CFSR measure of re-entry into substitute care to our existing measures of stability of permanence; and
6. adding two additional measures of re-entry into substitute care based on a request from the *B.H.* Expert Panel.

Another recent change was to add "home of parent" as a type of placement. Children were included in a home of parent placement if they were placed in the home of their parent(s) but legal custody was placed with the Department. In previous years, children placed in home of parent placements were not included in the population of children in substitute care.

⁹ Jackson, D., & Eldeib, D. (March 12, 2020). Hurt instead of helped: Foster children victimized in out-of-state facilities where oversight is lacking. *Chicago Tribune*.

INTRODUCTION

Another change that occurred in FY2021 was the definition of children who were maltreated in substitute care. Prior to FY2021, the CFRC used case open date and case close date or legal exit date¹⁰ to identify children in care and the time they spent in care during a given year and maltreatment incident dates occurring outside of the this period were excluded from the count, even if the report dates occurred during the period. In FY2021, we changed the definition in order to use the same definition as the Department. Now, the legal entry and exit dates are used to identify children in care and define the time they spent in care during each year; and maltreatment reports are counted if they occur between legal entry and legal exit dates. In addition, maltreatment reports that occur during the first 7 days after legal entry are excluded, as are reports with missing finding date even if the finding was indicated. Please see Appendix A for more information about the definition of the indicators in this report and Appendix D for information about data adjustments made to the substitute care indicators to use legal entry and exit dates.

Child Well-Being

The measurement of child well-being has experienced a dramatic evolution since the publication of the first *B.H.* report. The earliest reports contained no information about child well-being at all, because the child welfare administrative data systems did not contain information on child physical and mental health, development, and education. In 2001, the Department was court-ordered to fund a comprehensive study that examined the well-being of children in substitute care. Three rounds of data were collected for the *Illinois Child Well-Being Studies*, conducted by the Children and Family Research Center in 2001, 2003, and 2005. This comprehensive study collected interview data from caseworkers, caregivers, and the children themselves, in addition to data collection from school records and child welfare case files. Information was collected on a variety of well-being domains, including development, mental health, physical health, and education. The results of the Illinois Child Well-Being Studies were included in the *B.H.* monitoring reports published in FY2005–FY2009.

In 2009, data collection began on a new study called the *Illinois Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (ISCAW)*. ISCAW was a component of the second cohort of the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW), a longitudinal probability study of well-being and service delivery of children involved with the child welfare system. The sample for ISCAW included 818 children sampled to be representative of the entire population of Illinois children involved in substantiated investigations. Two waves of data were collected on the children in the ISCAW sample—baseline data were collected approximately 4 months following the substantiated investigation and follow-up data were collected approximately 18 months later. During both waves of data collection, data were collected from several informants on a variety of well-being domains. Caregivers (biological parents or foster parents) completed measures of child health, development, social skills, and behavior. School-aged children completed measures of depression, anxiety, relationships with peers and adults, substance use, sexual

¹⁰ Legal exit was used for exits to reunification to avoid counting children as reunified when the department retained legal custody.

activity, extra-curricular activities, and future expectations. Teachers completed measures of academic progress and behavior in school. The results of the ISCAW data collection were included in the *B.H.* monitoring reports published in FY2010–FY2014.

In October 2015, Judge Jorge Alonso ordered the Department to “restore funding for the Illinois Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing that uses standardized instruments and assessment scales modeled after the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing to monitor and evaluate changes in the safety, permanence, and well-being of children for a representative sample of DCFS-involved children and their caregivers.”¹¹ This order followed the recommendation of a panel of child welfare experts that was convened after the *B.H.* plaintiff attorneys filed an emergency motion to enforce the Consent Decree in February 2015 (for more information on the recent court activity involving the *B.H.* Consent Decree, see Box I.2). Data collection for the 2017 Illinois Study of Child Well-Being concluded in September 2018 and a final report is available on the CFRC website.¹² In addition to the Illinois Child Well-Being final evaluation report, the CFRC has produced a series of 18 research briefs based on the findings of the evaluation. These research briefs, which are all available on the CFRC website, focus on specific topics such as child safety, child development, resilience, physical health, education, relationships with birth parents, relationships with foster caregivers, and contacts with siblings.

***B.H.* Consent Decree Implementation Plan**

BOX I.2

In February 2015, the plaintiffs’ attorneys for the *B.H.* Consent Decree filed an emergency motion with the Court in order to require DCFS to comply with the terms of the Consent Decree, alleging that DCFS was in “gross violation of numerous, critically important provisions of the Decree.”¹³ More specifically, the plaintiffs’ attorneys claimed that “severe shortages of necessary services and placements for children have risen to crisis proportions” and that children were being placed in “dangerously inadequate residential treatment facilities,” “warehoused in temporary shelters, psychiatric hospitals and correctional facilities for extended periods of time,” and “waiting months and even years to receive the essential mental health services and specialized placements that DCFS itself has determined they need.” In the motion, the plaintiffs asked that DCFS take specific actions to address these problems, including the retention of child welfare experts to make additional recommendations and the use of independent clinicians to monitor the adequacy of services and conditions at residential treatment facilities.

¹¹ Testa, M.F., Naylor, M.W., Vincent, P., & White, M. (2015). *Report of the Expert Panel: B.H. vs. Sheldon Consent Decree*.

¹² Cross, T.P., Tran, S.P., Hernandez, A., & Rhodes, E. (2019). *The 2017 Illinois Child Well-Being Study Final Report*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

¹³ *B.H. et al. vs. Tate*. (February 23, 2015). *Plaintiffs’ Emergency Order to Enforce Consent Decree*, No. 88-cv-5599 (N.D. Ill 2015), p.1.

On April 10, 2015, Judge Jorge L. Alonso appointed a panel of four experts to make recommendations to assist the Court in determining how to improve the placements and services provided to children in the *B.H.* Consent Decree plaintiff class.¹⁴ After reviewing data and interviewing stakeholders, the expert panel made several recommendations for reforms:

1. Initiate a children’s system of care demonstration program that permits child welfare agencies and DCFS sub-regions to waive selected policy and funding restrictions on a trial basis in order to reduce the use of residential treatment and help children and youth succeed in living in the least restrictive, most family-like setting.
2. Engage in a staged immersion process of retraining and coaching front-line staff in a cohesive model of practice that provides children and their families with access to a comprehensive array of services, including intensive home-based services, designed to enable children to live with their families or to achieve timely permanence with adoptive parents or legal guardians.
3. Fund a set of permanency planning initiatives to improve permanency outcomes for adolescents who enter state custody at age 12 or older either by transitioning youth to permanent homes or preparing them for reconnecting with their birth families.
4. Retain an organizational consultant to aid the Department in rebooting a number of stalled initiatives that are intended to address the needs of children and youth with psychological, behavioral, or emotional challenges.
5. Restore funding to the Illinois Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being that uses standardized instruments and assessment scales modeled after the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being to monitor and evaluate changes in the safety, permanence, and well-being of children for a representative sample of DCFS-involved children and their caregivers.

The Court approved these recommendations, either in part or in whole, on October 20, 2015.¹⁵ It also extended the role of the expert panel to provide assistance to the Department in the development of an implementation plan for reform and assess the Department’s progress in making the required reforms. The Department was ordered to develop an enforceable implementation plan that identifies the tasks, responsibilities, and timeframes necessary to accomplish the objectives of the Consent Decree as addressed in the expert panel’s findings and recommendations. The Department submitted its *B.H. Implementation Plan* to the Court on February 23, 2016.¹⁶ The plan outlines the Department’s strategies to address each of the expert panel recommendations.

¹⁴ Testa, M.F., Naylor, M.W., Vincent, P., & White, M. (2015). *Report of the Expert Panel: B.H. vs. Sheldon Consent Decree*.

¹⁵ *B.H., et al. vs. Sheldon*. (October 20, 2015). *Order*, No. 88-cv-5599 (N.D. Ill 2015).

¹⁶ *B.H., et al. vs. Sheldon*. (2016). *DCFS B.H. Implementation Plan*. No. 88-cv-5599 (N.D. Ill 2015).

The Current Monitoring Report of the *B.H.* Consent Decree

The FY2022 *B.H.* monitoring report¹⁷ is organized into four chapters. **Child Safety** is the first chapter. A child's first contact with the child welfare system is typically through a Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation. Investigators make several decisions related to child safety, including whether the child is in immediate danger, whether there is credible evidence that maltreatment has occurred, whether to remove the child from the home and take the child into protective custody, and whether the family's needs indicate that they would benefit from ongoing child welfare services. Regardless of whether additional child welfare services are provided, the child welfare system has a responsibility to keep children from additional maltreatment once they have been investigated. The first chapter of the report examines the Department's performance in fulfilling this obligation by examining indicators related to maltreatment that occurs *after* a screened-in and investigated report of maltreatment. It is organized into four sections: 1) Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children with Substantiated Reports, 2) Maltreatment Among Children in Intact Family Cases, 3) Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children Who Do Not Receive Services, and 4) Maltreatment in Substitute Care.

The second chapter, **Family Continuity, Placement Stability, and Length of Time in Care**, examines the experiences of children from the time they enter substitute care until the time they exit the child welfare system. Once removed from their homes, the public child welfare system and its private agency partners have a responsibility to provide children with living arrangements that maintain connections with their family members (including other siblings in care) and community and provide stability. In addition, substitute care should be a temporary solution and children should live in substitute care settings for the shortest period necessary. This chapter examines how well the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services performs in providing substitute care living arrangements that meet these standards. It is organized into three sections: 1) Family Continuity, 2) Placement Stability, and 3) Length of Time in Substitute Care.

The third chapter examines **Legal Permanence: Reunification, Adoption, and Guardianship** with in-depth analyses of each of these three exit types. The chapter examines the likelihood that a child will exit substitute care to reunification, adoption, or guardianship within 12 months (reunification only), 24 months, and 36 months of entering care. For those children who achieve permanence, the stability of their permanent living arrangement at one year (reunification only), two years, five years, and ten years after exiting the child welfare system is also assessed. This chapter also examines the population of children that remain in care longer than three years, as well as those who exit substitute care without achieving a legally permanent family (e.g., running away from their placement, incarceration, aging out of the

¹⁷ There is typically a one year lag time between the most recent administrative data used for the *B.H.* monitoring report and the publication date. For instance, this year's report, published in FY2022, monitors outcomes through the end of FY2021.

INTRODUCTION

substitute care system). This chapter also examines the CFSR permanency and re-entry indicators.

The fourth chapter contains an analysis of **Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality** in the Illinois child welfare system. Racial/ethnic disproportionality refers to the over- or under-representation of a racial or ethnic group in the child welfare system compared to their representation in a base population and is often calculated as a Racial Disproportionality Index or RDI. To gain a better understanding of racial/ethnic disproportionality in the Illinois child welfare system, analyses examine the RDIs for White (Non-Hispanic), Black (Non-Hispanic), and Hispanic (any race) children at six child welfare decision points: investigated reports, protective custodies, indicated reports, substitute care entries, intact family case openings, and substitute care exits. Each analysis is done for the state as a whole and by DCFS administrative region so that regional differences can be observed. In addition, RDIs are calculated for the past seven years so that changes over time can be identified.

Chapters 1 through 4 contain figures that allow the reader to easily visualize Illinois' performance on the indicators over time. Readers interested in examining the results more closely will find additional information in the appendices to this report. Appendix A contains detailed **Indicator and Variable Definitions** for each of the indicators included in Chapters 1 through 3 as well as the definition of race/ethnicity used in this report. Appendix B contains the **Outcome Data** for the indicators over the past seven years for the state, along with breakdowns by child age, race/ethnicity, gender, and geographical region. The data provided in Appendix B are also available online via the CFRC Data Center (<https://cfrc.illinois.edu/data-center.php>). Appendix C provides **Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Data** for the analyses included in Chapter 4. Finally, Appendix D describes the **Data Adjustments** that were made to several of the indicators in the report.

Chapters 1 through 3 also contain a summary of the indicators used to track the Department's progress in achieving positive outcomes for children and families, and the amount of change that has occurred on each indicator between the two most recent years that data are available. These summaries, titled **Changes at a Glance**, are presented near the beginning of each chapter and list each outcome indicator in that chapter and an icon that denotes whether the indicator has significantly increased, decreased, or remained stable during the most recent monitoring period. To create these summaries, two decisions were made: 1) What time period is of *most* interest to policy-makers and other child welfare stakeholders? 2) How large must a change be to be a "significant" change?

Improvements in administrative data now allow us to track outcomes over long periods of time—some data can be traced back decades. Many of the figures in the chapters present outcome data over a 15-year period to show long-term trends. However, when trying to determine which child welfare outcomes may be starting to improve or decline, a more recent time frame is informative. Therefore, the summaries focus on the amount of change that has occurred during the *most recent 12 month period* for which data are available on a particular

indicator. Significant changes (defined below) in either direction may indicate the beginning of a new trend or may be random fluctuation, but either way it is worthy of attention.

To measure the change in each indicator, we calculated the “percentage change” in the following manner: the older value of the indicator was subtracted from the more recent value of the indicator (to find the relative difference), divided by the older value, and then multiplied by 100 to determine the percentage change. To illustrate this process, if the percentage of children who achieve reunification within 12 months was 16% in 2016 and 24% in 2017, the percentage change would be:

$$\frac{\text{new value} - \text{old value}}{\text{old value}} \times 100 \quad \text{OR} \quad \frac{24 - 16}{16} \times 100 = 50\%$$

If the result is positive, it is a percentage increase; if negative, it is a percentage decrease. In this fictional example, the change from 2016 to 2017 represents a 50% increase in the percentage of children reunified within 12 months. Looking at the percentage difference ($a - b / a$) rather than the actual difference ($a - b$) allows us to compare indicators of different “sizes” using a common metric, so that differences in indicators with very small values (such as the percentage of children maltreated in substitute care) are given the same attention as those of larger magnitude.

Determining what counts as a “significant” amount of change in one year is subjective. In the current report, increases or decreases of *5% or more* were noted as significant. Changes of this magnitude are pictured with an upward or downward arrow, while changes of *less than 5%* are pictured with an equal sign and described with the term “remained stable.” Please note that the phrase “remained stable” does not mean that the indicator did not change at all, only that the percent change was less than 5% in either direction. In addition, though the word “significant” is used to describe the percentage changes, this does not mean that tests of statistical significance were completed; it merely suggests that the amount of change is noteworthy.

The Continued Importance of the *B.H.* Monitoring Report in Illinois

In 1991, the *B.H.* consent decree required extensive reforms of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services in order to create and maintain a child welfare system that provides children with safe and appropriate living arrangements; reasonable efforts to reunite them with their families; timely permanence through other means if reunification is not possible; timely access to adequate medical, mental health, and developmental services; public education that is of similar quality to other children not in DCFS custody; and services and training to permit them to function in the least restrictive and most homelike setting possible. After several years of efforts failed to produce any appreciable changes in the Department’s performance, the *B.H.* parties agreed to a more results-oriented monitoring process as well as the creation of a Children and Family Research Center that would be “responsible for evaluating and issuing public reports on the performance of the child welfare service system operated by



INTRODUCTION

DCFS and its agents.”¹⁸ The independence of the Research Center from the Department was seen as a critical component of its mission to analyze data and produce an unbiased “annual report summarizing the Department’s progress toward achieving the outcome goals and analyzing the reasons for the success or failure in making such progress.”¹⁹

The *B.H.* consent decree and the establishment of an independent research center laid the foundation for a results-oriented process for reform in Illinois. The results of the Department’s data-driven approach to reform were impressive. By implementing and rigorously evaluating innovative reforms such as subsidized guardianship, performance-based contracting, and structured safety assessment, Illinois safely and effectively reduced the number of children in care from over 50,000 in FY1997 to around 15,000 through much of the 2010s. This was accomplished by both reducing the number of children who were taken into substitute care and by increasing the number of children who exited the system to reunification, adoption, and subsidized guardianship.

Unfortunately, the Department’s successes in the late 1990s and early 2000s in moving children to safe and permanent homes have not been sustained in more recent years. Rates of reunification, which were not as strongly impacted by the permanency initiatives implemented in the late 1990s, lag far behind the national average. Following their peak in the late 1990s, rates of adoption within 24 months fell to around 3% among children who entered substitute care in 2012. Although the rate of adoptions within 24 months had been steadily increasing in recent years to a new high of 5.5% for children who entered care in FY2017, the rate has decreased for the past two years and was 3.1% for children who entered care in FY2019 (see Appendix B, Indicator 3.C.1). The use of subsidized guardianship, which was promoted as a form of legal permanence and an alternative to long-term foster care, has dwindled in the past decade and is now rarely used—only 46 of the 6,448 children who entered substitute care in FY2019 (0.7%) exited to guardianship within 2 years (see Appendix B, Indicator 3.E.1).

In addition to the gradual erosion of progress in moving children to permanent homes, the annual *B.H.* monitoring reports have highlighted several areas of serious concern regarding child safety. One ongoing and significant concern first noted by the CFRC in the FY2015 monitoring report is the increase in substantiated maltreatment among children in intact family cases. This concern has been raised in each monitoring report since FY2015, and rates of maltreatment among children in intact family cases reached a new high level of 18.1% for both the last two years. This worrisome trend continues despite the findings and recommendations of a systemic review of intact families conducted by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.²⁰ Additional actions to improve safety in intact family cases should be implemented and their effects should be evaluated to determine their impact on maltreatment rates.

¹⁸ Joint Memorandum, p. 2

¹⁹ Joint Memorandum, p. 4

²⁰ Weiner, D., & Cull, M. (2019). *Systemic review of critical incidents in intact family services*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Recent *B.H.* monitoring reports have also highlighted concerns about the rates of maltreatment in substitute care, which have been increasing and reached their highest level in 15 years in 2020 (see Appendix B, Indicator 1.D). In 2020, the CFRC completed a study that examined the factors that increased a child’s risk of maltreatment in substitute care. The results of this study found that the strongest predictors of increased risk of maltreatment in care were: no caseworker contact with the child in the prior 30 days, no caseworker contact with the foster care provider within the prior 30 days, child mental health needs, and placement in an unlicensed foster home or the home of a parent.²¹ Following the publication of this study, the CFRC collaborated with the Department to develop a maltreatment in care dashboard that presents data on the number of children with indicated reports of maltreatment in care by year or quarter, as well more than 40 charts that provide information on the characteristics of the child cases involved in the indicated reports. The data in the maltreatment in care dashboard are updated on a quarterly basis and are available to all DCFS staff on their intranet. The charts provide a quick, concise, and easy-to-understand picture of the children who have been maltreatment while living in substitute care during a given time period.

The *B.H.* monitoring report can also highlight when a worrisome trend is reversed. Several years ago, the CFRC noted an increased use of congregate care settings as initial placements when children first enter substitute care. Additional analyses that separated group homes, institutions, and emergency shelters revealed that the use of all three placement types increased in the early part of the 2010 decade. The percentage of children initially placed in emergency shelters peaked at 11.7% in FY2012 and the percentage initially placed in group homes and institutions peaked at 8.6% in FY2015. Following the publication of these findings, the Department instituted several initiatives and procedural changes that were aimed at reducing the use of emergency shelters and congregate care settings as initial placements. Continued monitoring provided in the *B.H.* reports has shown that the percentage of children placed in emergency shelters has fallen to 0.8% of those who entered care in FY2021 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.5) and the percentage initially placed in group homes and institutions has decreased to 2.6% in FY2021 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.6). However, it will be important to keep a close eye on the use of these placement types as the number of children entering substitute care in Illinois continues to climb.

As these examples demonstrate, the importance of the annual *B.H.* monitoring report in identifying worrisome trends in child welfare outcomes cannot be overstated. By examining the a set of indicators that has been developed specifically for the Illinois child welfare system, and monitoring them at frequent intervals over long periods of time, we are able to identify trends as they emerge, track them over time, and highlight areas that need additional scrutiny. Our hope is that the *B.H.* report both serves its intended purpose of informing the *B.H.* parties on the performance of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, and that also it provides other child welfare stakeholders within the State with information that is useful to

²¹ Nieto, M., Wang, S., Fuller, T, & Adams, K. (2020). *Predicting Maltreatment in Substitute Care*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center.

INTRODUCTION

them and encourages further discussion on how to improve outcomes for children and families. We welcome feedback on the report, as well as suggestions for additional areas of study.²²

²² Contact information for the Children and Family Research Center can be found on the Acknowledgements page.



Chapter 1

Child Safety

Child safety is the paramount concern of the child protection system. According to the most recent federal child welfare outcome monitoring report, “Public child welfare agencies are responsible for ensuring that children who have been found to be victims of abuse or neglect are protected from further harm. “Whether the child is placed in foster care or maintained in the home, the child welfare agency’s first concern must be to ensure the safety of the child” (p. 16).¹ Once a child becomes involved in a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect, the child welfare system must act to protect the child from additional abuse or neglect.

1

Measuring Child Safety

In some ways, child safety is the most straightforward of all child welfare outcomes—safety is the *absence* of child maltreatment. Even so, there are many different ways to measure child safety which can lead to inconsistencies in results and confusion when comparing or interpreting them. With that in mind, it is important to specify how child safety is measured in this chapter (see Appendix A for detailed definitions of the indicators used in this report).

Maltreatment recurrence is the most common indicator used to assess child safety within the context of public child welfare. Typically, a recurrence is defined as a substantiated² maltreatment report following a prior substantiated report that involves the same child or family. Other measures of child safety, called re-referrals or re-reports, take a broader view and include *all* subsequent reports following an initial report, regardless of whether the subsequent report was substantiated. Although recognizing the importance of all future contacts with child

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children and Families, Children’s Bureau. (2021). *Child Welfare Outcomes 2018: Report to Congress*. Washington, DC: Child Welfare Information Gateway.

² In Illinois, maltreatment reports are indicated or unfounded, rather than substantiated or unsubstantiated. The current report uses the more widely used term “substantiated” instead of “indicated” and “unsubstantiated” instead of “unfounded.”

welfare, the current chapter uses the definition of maltreatment recurrence used in the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs), which includes additional substantiated maltreatment reports that occur within 12 months of an initial substantiated maltreatment report.

Changes in Child Safety at a Glance

Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children with Substantiated Reports (CFSR)

↔ Of all children with a substantiated report, the percentage that had another substantiated report within 12 months remained stable at 14.4% in 2020.

Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Family Cases

↔ Of all children served in intact family cases, the percentage that had a substantiated report within 12 months remained stable at 18.1% in 2020.

Maltreatment Recurrence Among Substantiated Children Who Do Not Receive Services

↔ Of all children with substantiated reports who did not receive services, the percentage that had another substantiated report within 12 months remained stable and was 12.3% in 2020.

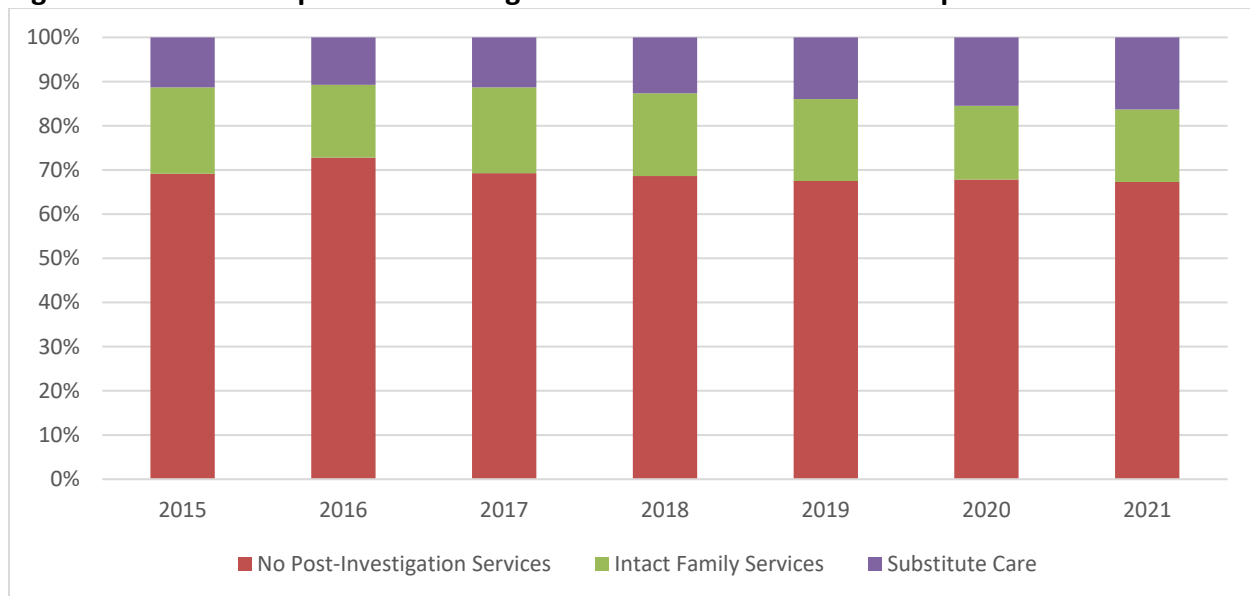
Rate of Victimization Per 100,000 Days Among Children in Substitute Care (CFSR)

↓ Of all children in substitute care during the year, the rate of substantiated maltreatment per 100,000 days in substitute care decreased from 19.5 in 2020 to 18.4 in 2021 (-6% change).

An additional consideration when selecting indicators of child safety is the population to be monitored. In Illinois, the mandate for ensuring child safety extends to all children investigated by the Department, regardless of whether post-investigation services are offered. Not all families—even those in which maltreatment is substantiated—receive post-investigation services. Figure 1.1 shows the service dispositions of children with substantiated reports each year from 2015 to 2021. The majority of children with substantiated reports do not receive any post-investigation services; the percentage of children in this group has been about 68% for the past three years. The percentage of children served at home in intact family cases (i.e., children who remain at home while the family receives supportive services rather than being placed into substitute care) has decreased in recent years, reaching a new low of 16.4% in 2021.³ Conversely, the percentage of children with a substantiated report who are placed in substitute care has increased 51% over the past six years, from 10.8% in 2016 to 16.3% in 2021.⁴

³ This percentage includes children with substantiated reports that occurred while the child was already being served in an intact family case as well as children served in an intact family case within 60 days of the initial substantiated report.

⁴ This percentage includes those children with substantiated reports that occurred while the child was in substitute care as well as children placed in substitute care within 60 days of a substantiated report.

Figure 1.1 Service Dispositions Among Children with Substantiated Reports

The relationship between post-investigation service provision and risk of maltreatment recurrence is complex. Many studies have found that families who receive child welfare services are at a higher risk of maltreatment recurrence than those who are not provided with services. This may seem counter-intuitive since services are provided to reduce family risk factors and decrease future maltreatment. The relationship between child welfare service provision and increased recurrence has been attributed to both increased surveillance by caseworkers and the fact that families who receive services typically have more risk factors than families not recommended for services.⁵ However, monitoring child safety without regard to service disposition ignores the possibility that children served in one setting may be more or less safe than those served in another. Therefore, in this chapter, separate indicators examine child safety among: 1) all children with substantiated reports; 2) children served in intact family cases; 3) children who do not receive any post-investigation services; and 4) children removed from the home and placed into substitute care (see Appendix A for technical definitions of these indicators).

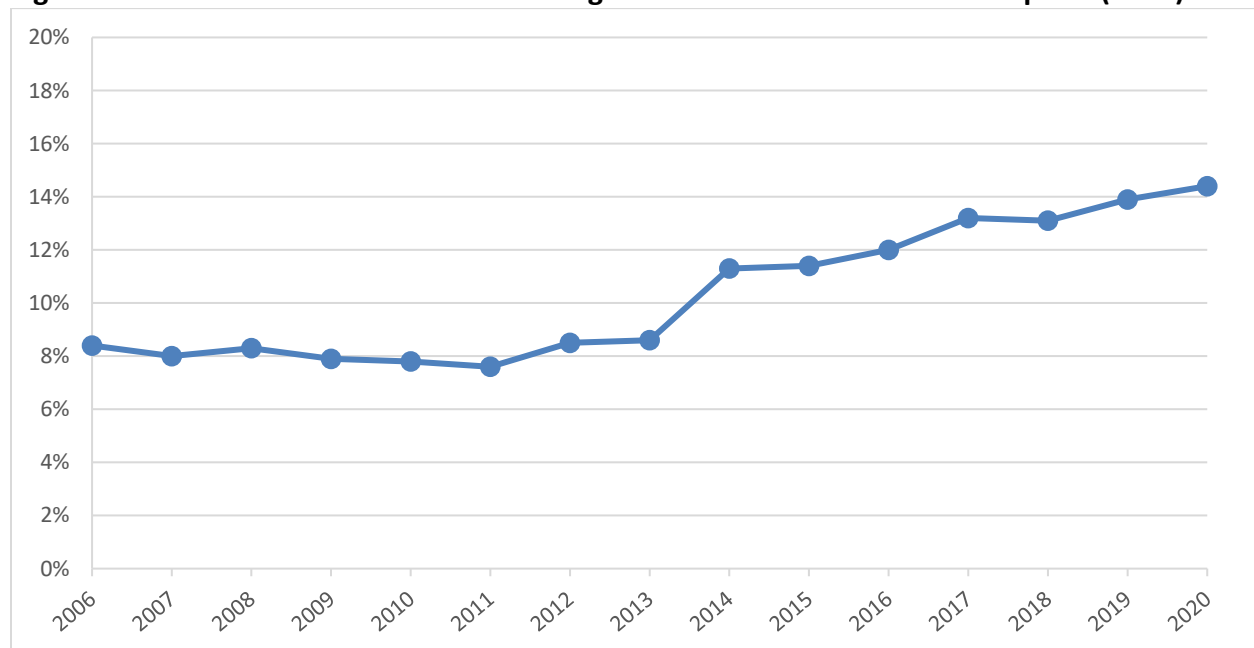
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⁵ Fuller, T., & Nieto, M. (2014). Child welfare services and risk of child maltreatment re-reports: Do services ameliorate initial risk? *Children and Youth Services Review*, 47, 46-54.

Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children with Substantiated Reports (CF SR)

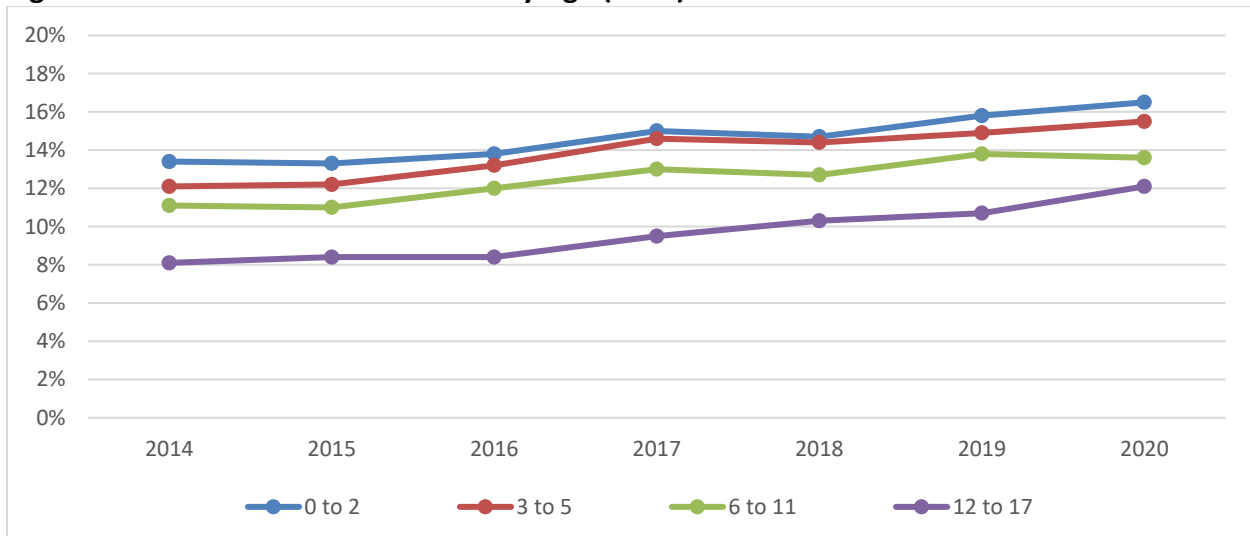
Figure 1.2 displays the 12-month maltreatment recurrence rate for all children with a substantiated maltreatment report over the past 15 years (see Appendix B, Indicator 1.A). The recurrence rate was lowest in 2011 (7.6%) and has steadily increased since then, reaching a new high rate of 14.4% in the most recent year. The continued increase in maltreatment recurrence over the past several years is a worrisome trend.

Figure 1.2 Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children with Substantiated Reports (CF SR)



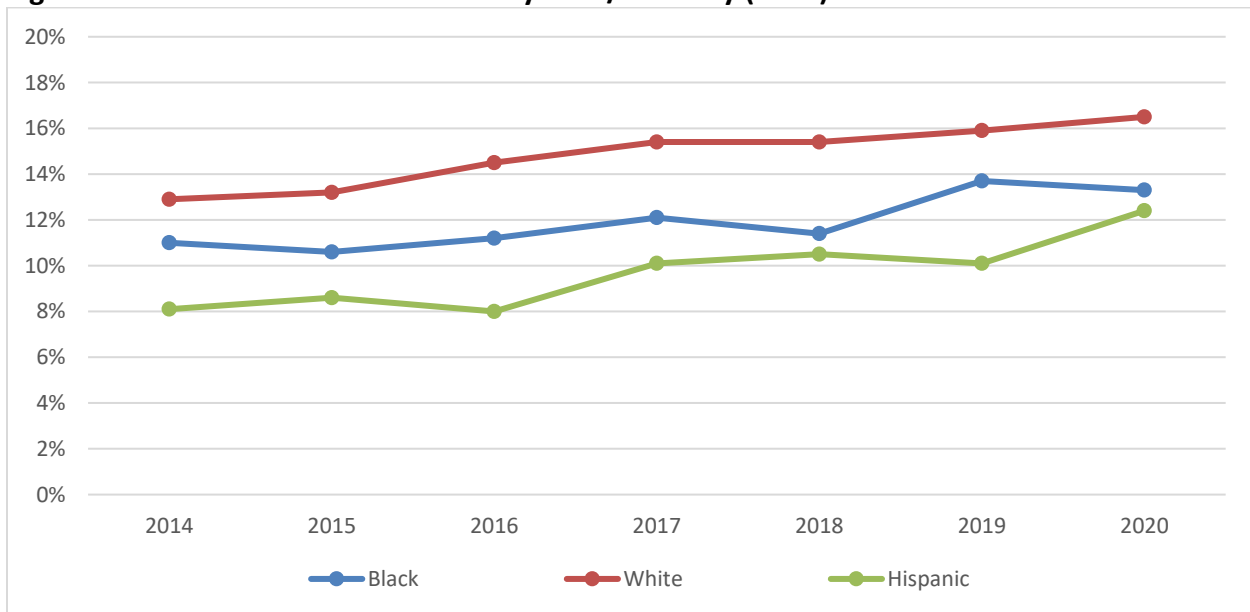
Past research has found that younger children are more likely to experience maltreatment recurrence than older children,⁶ a pattern consistently observed in Illinois. Of children with a substantiated report in 2020, 16.5% of children 0 to 2 years old and 15.5% of children 3 to 5 years old had an additional substantiated report within 12 months, compared to 13.6% of children 6 to 11 years old and 12.1% of children 12 to 17 years old (see Figure 1.3 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.A). Maltreatment recurrence increased for all age groups over the observed period.

⁶ Bae, H., Solomon, P.L., & Gelles, R.J. (2009). Multiple child maltreatment recurrence relative to single recurrence and no recurrence. *Children and Youth Services Review, 31*, 617-624. Connell, C.M., Bergeron, N., Katz, K.H., Saunders, L., & Tebes, J.K. (2007). Re-referral to child protective services: The influence of child, family, and case characteristics on risk status. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 31*, 573-588. Kahn, J.M., & Schwalbe, C. (2010). The timing to and risk factors associated with child welfare system recidivism at two decision-making points. *Children and Youth Services Review, 32*, 1035-1044. Fluke, J.D., Shusterman, G.R., Hollinshead, D.M., & Yuan, Y.T. (2008). Longitudinal analysis of repeated child abuse reporting and victimization: Multistate analysis of associated factors. *Child Maltreatment, 13*, 76-88.

Figure 1.3 Maltreatment Recurrence by Age (CFSR)

When recurrence rates are examined by child race and ethnicity, White children have higher rates of maltreatment recurrence than Black and Hispanic children. Rates for all three groups increased between 2014 and 2020 (see Figure 1.4 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.A).

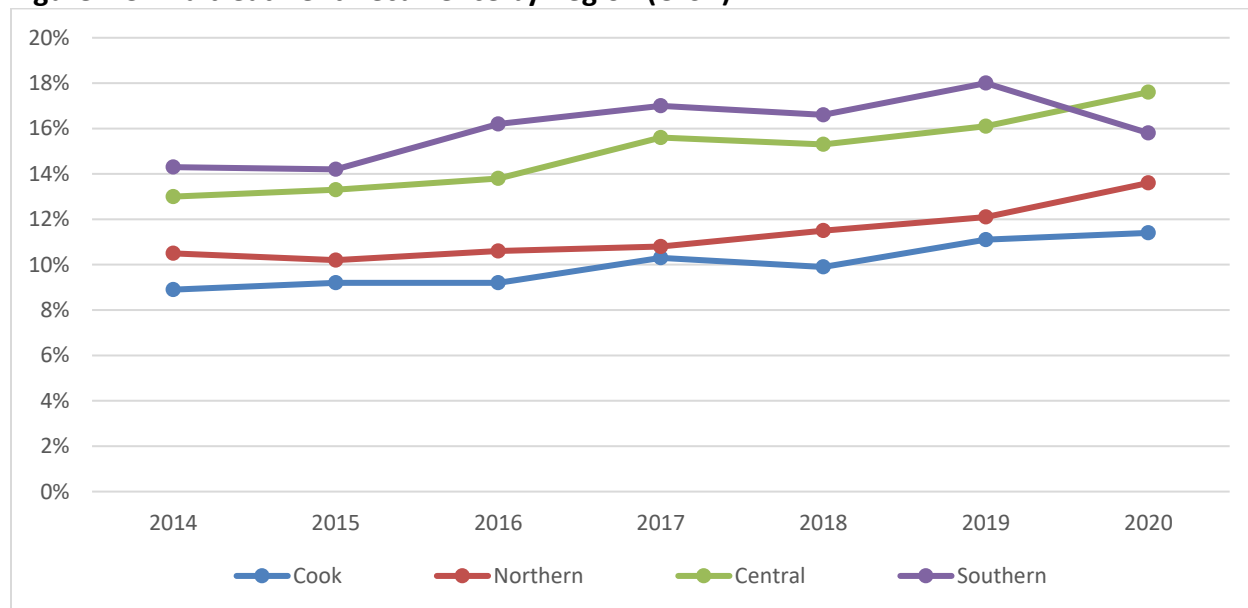
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Figure 1.4 Maltreatment Recurrence by Race/Ethnicity (CFSR)

CHILD SAFETY

For many years, recurrence rates were highest for children in the Southern region. However, in 2020, recurrence rates among children with substantiated reports were highest in the Central region (17.6%), followed by the Southern (15.8%) and Northern (13.6%) regions. The Cook region reported the lowest recurrence rate (11.4%). Recurrence rates increased for all regions during the last seven years (Figure 1.5 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.A).

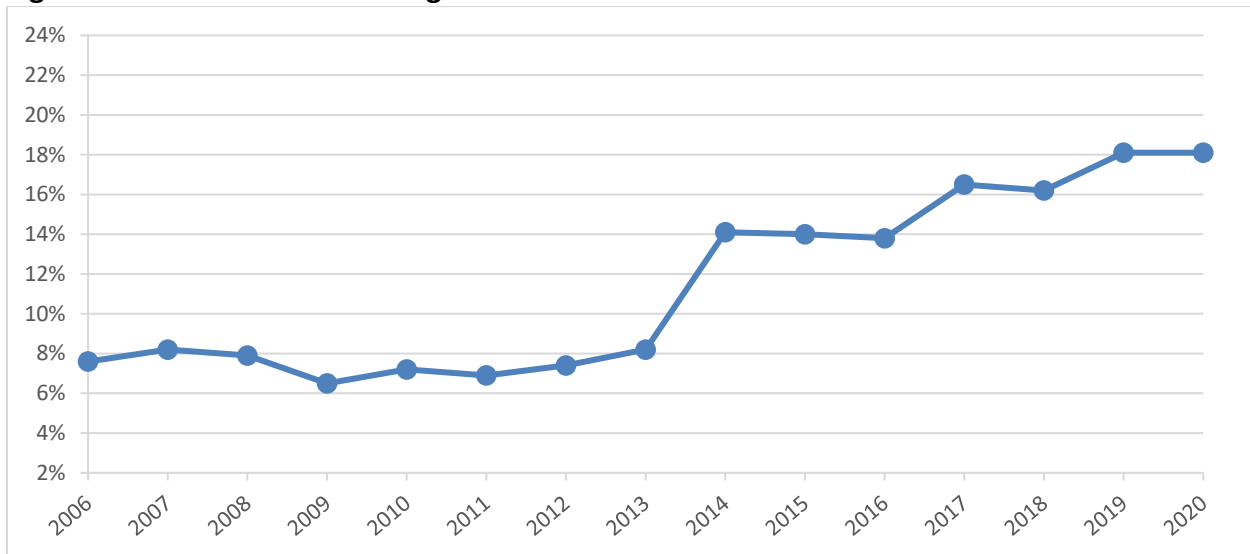
Figure 1.5 Maltreatment Recurrence by Region (CFSR)



Maltreatment Among Children in Intact Family Cases

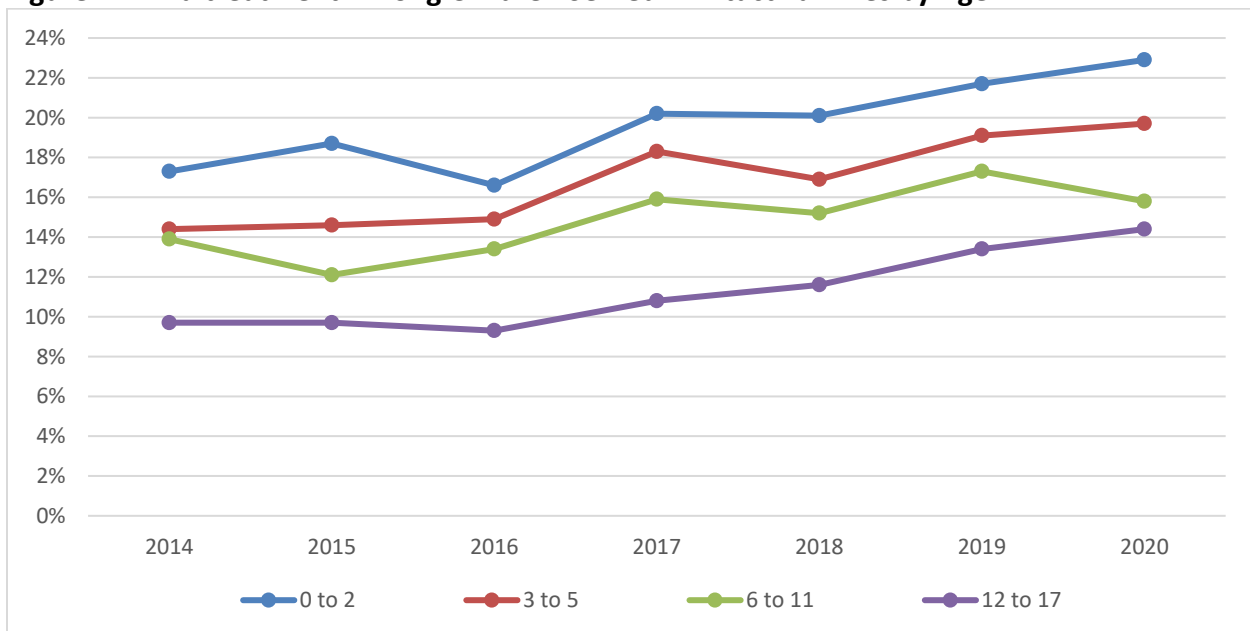
In some instances, the Department will substantiate child maltreatment in a family but decide that it is in the best interest of the child(ren) to remain at home. In such instances, the family receives supportive services rather than having the child(ren) placed into substitute care. These families are of special interest to the Department because the history of substantiated maltreatment for these families places them at increased risk of repeat maltreatment compared to families with no history of maltreatment.⁷ Figure 1.6 displays the percentage of children served in intact family cases that experienced a substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months of their case open date (see Appendix B, Indicator 1.B). Maltreatment rates among children served in intact family cases increased sharply in 2014 (from 8.2% in 2013 to 14.1% in 2014) and remained at that level for three years. Since 2016, the maltreatment rate has increased from 13.8% to 18.1% in 2019 and 2020, which is the highest rate observed in the past 15 years.

⁷ Horwitz, S.M., Hurlburt, M.S., Cohen, S.D., Zhang, J., & Landsverk, J. (2011). Predictors of placement for children who initially remained in their homes after an investigation for abuse or neglect. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 3, 188-199.

Figure 1.6 Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Families

Younger children served in intact family cases are more likely to be maltreated compared to older children (see Figure 1.7 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.B). In 2020, 22.9% of children ages 0 to 2 had a substantiated report within 12 months of their case opening, compared to 19.7%, 15.8%, and 14.4% of children ages 3 to 5, 6 to 11, and 12 to 17, respectively. Maltreatment has increased among all age groups since 2014. Although older children in intact care (ages 12 to 17) have overall lower rates of maltreatment compared to other age groups, they showed the highest relative increase from 2014 to 2020 (+48% change).

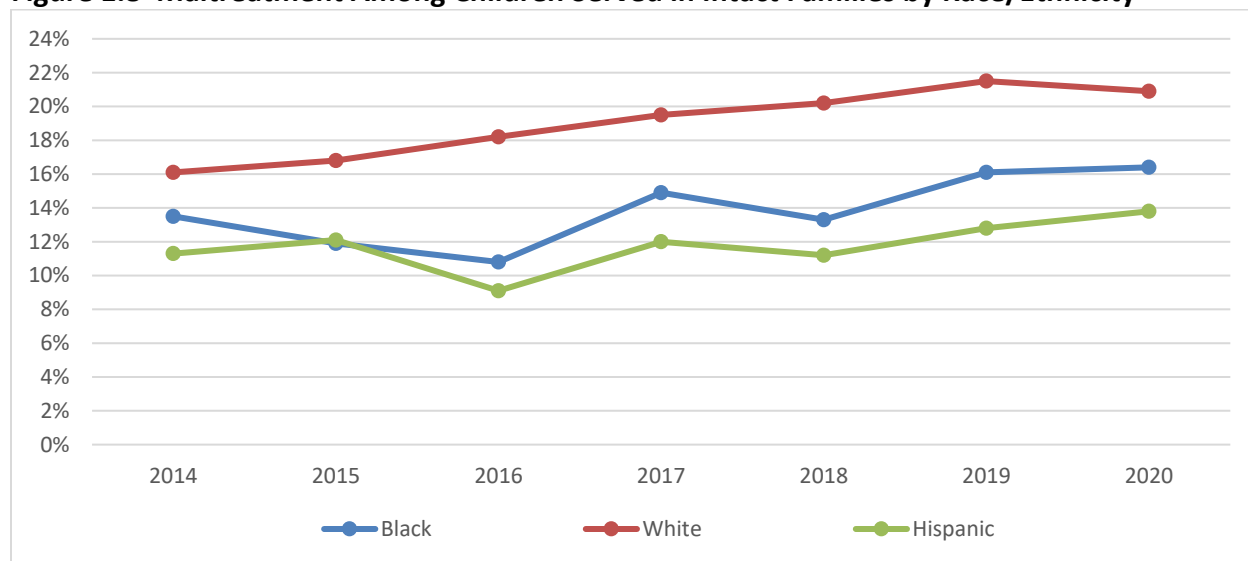
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Figure 1.7 Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Families by Age

CHILD SAFETY

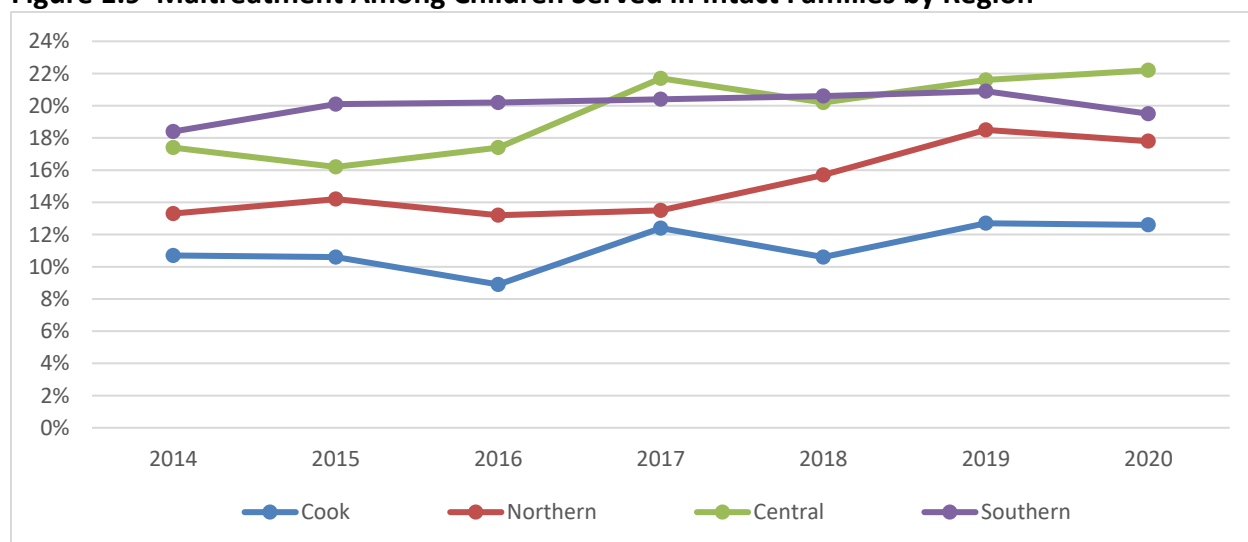
Figure 1.8 displays the maltreatment rates among children served in intact families by racial/ethnic group. White children served in intact families are consistently more likely to experience maltreatment than Black and Hispanic children (see Appendix B, Indicator 1.B). Maltreatment among all three groups has risen the past seven years, and White children had the largest relative increase between 2014 and 2020 (+30% change) compared to Hispanic (+22% change) and Black children (+21% change).

Figure 1.8 Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Families by Race/Ethnicity



Maltreatment rates among children served in intact family cases have been consistently higher in the Central and Southern regions compared to those in the Cook and Northern regions (see Figure 1.9 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.B). Since 2016, the Cook, Northern, and Central regions have seen significant relative increases in maltreatment rates ranging from +27.6% to +41.6%, while the Southern region has remained stable but high.

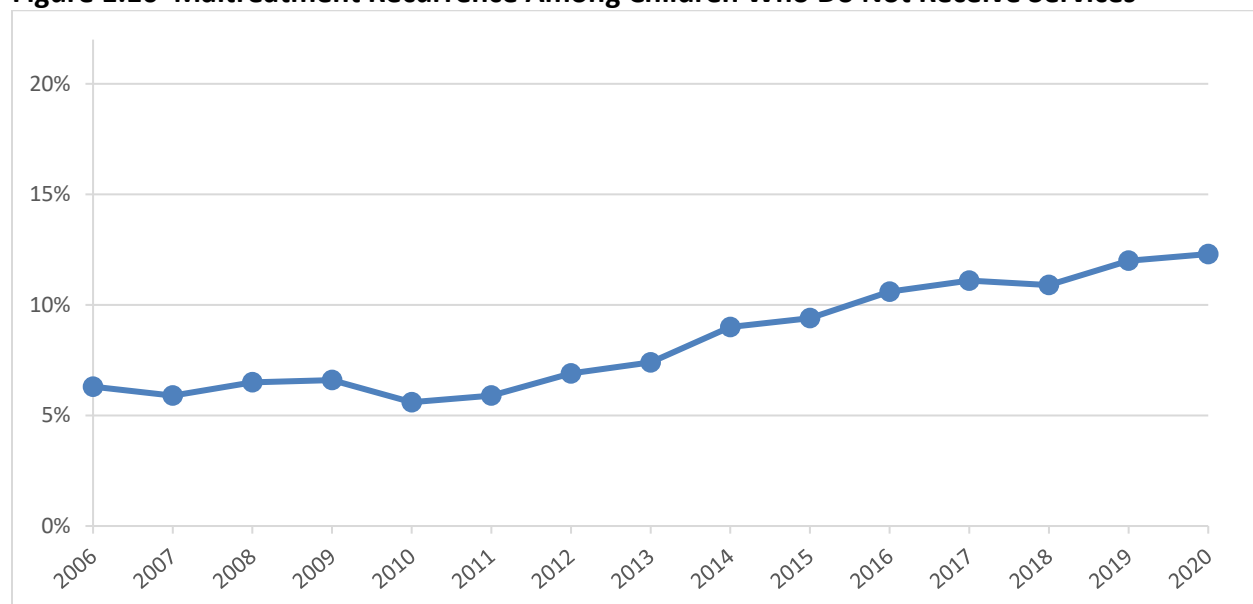
Figure 1.9 Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Families by Region



Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children Who Do Not Receive Services

The majority of children (67.8%) that had substantiated reports of maltreatment in 2020 did not receive any post-investigation child welfare services (see Figure 1.1). Figure 1.10 displays the 12-month maltreatment recurrence rates for children with a substantiated report who did not receive services (either intact family services or substitute care) following the investigation (i.e., the case was substantiated and closed; see Appendix B, Indicator 1.C). When observed over the past 15 years, recurrence rates consistently increased since 2010 and reached a high of 12.3% in 2020. Examination of recurrence rates by subgroups reveals that, like many other safety indicators, rates are highest among younger children, White children, and children living in the Southern and Central regions of the state (see Appendix B, Indicator 1.C).

Figure 1.10 Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children Who Do Not Receive Services



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Maltreatment in Substitute Care (CFSR)

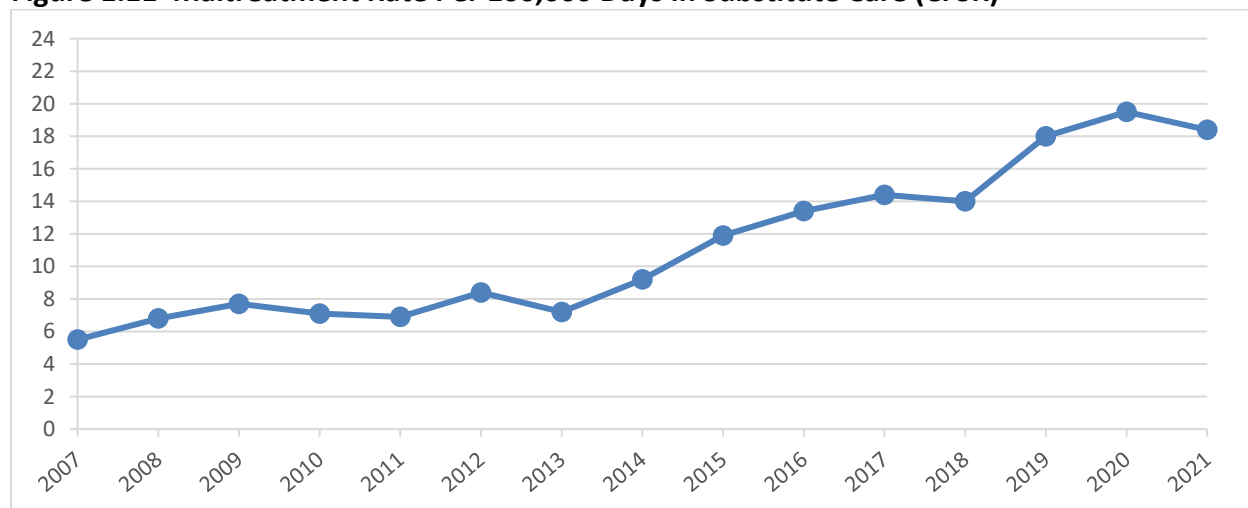
Children should only be removed from their parents' care and placed into substitute care when it is necessary to protect their well-being and safety, and it is essential that children are safe while they are in state care. To assess child safety in substitute care, this report uses the measure that was developed for Round 3 of the Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSRs).⁸ This measure looks at the children in substitute care during the fiscal year and calculates the total number of days these children were in substitute care. Then, the total number of substantiated reports of maltreatment for these children within this period is determined. To make the results easier to interpret, the results are multiplied by 100,000 and are described as the rate of maltreatment per 100,000 days of substitute care (see Appendix A for the technical definition).

⁸ Capacity Building Center for States (2019). CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicator Series: Maltreatment in Foster Care. Retrieved on March 19, 2022 https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/sites/default/files/media_pdf/recurrence-maltreatment-cfsr3-cp-00008.pdf

CHILD SAFETY

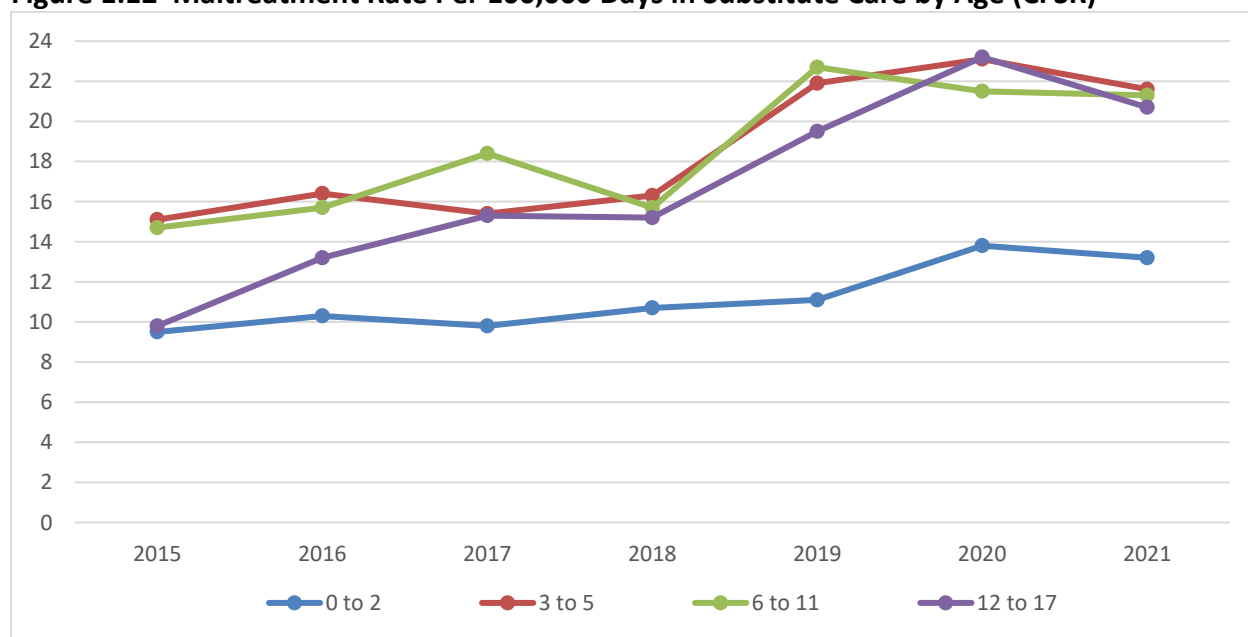
Figure 1.11 shows the rate of substantiated reports per 100,000 days in care over the past 15 years. Maltreatment rates were lowest in 2007 (5.5) and have increased almost every year since 2013 to a high of 19.5 in 2020. However, in 2021 there was a small decrease from the previous year (-6% change).

Figure 1.11 Maltreatment Rate Per 100,000 Days in Substitute Care (CFSR)



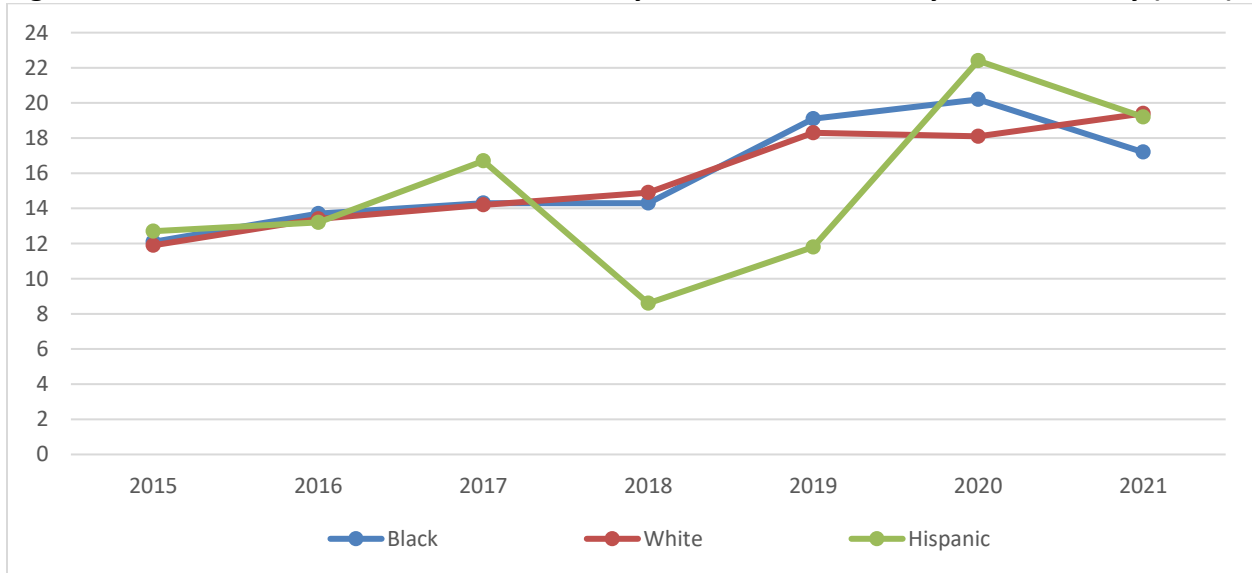
Unlike other indicators of child safety, children ages 0 to 2 years have the lowest rates of maltreatment in substitute care compared with children in other age groups (see Figure 1.12 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.D). Overall, rates of maltreatment in care increased for all age groups over the observed period.

Figure 1.12 Maltreatment Rate Per 100,000 Days in Substitute Care by Age (CFSR)



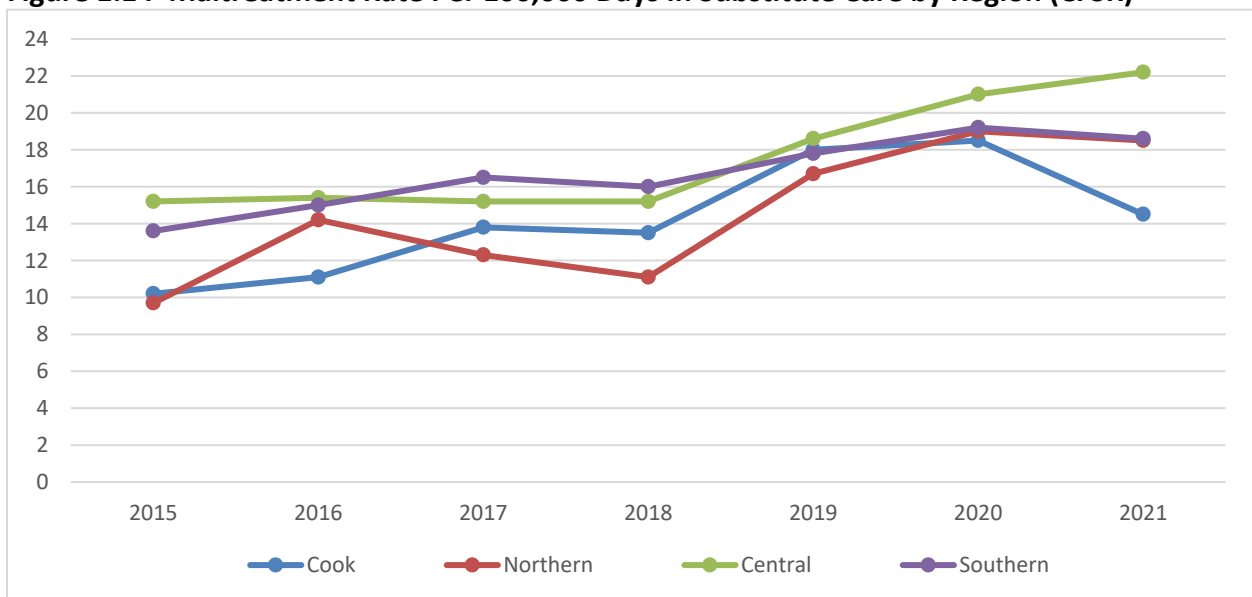
Rates of maltreatment in care have increased between 2015 and 2021 for all racial/ethnic groups (see Figure 1.13 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.D). The steep rate increase among Hispanic children is a concerning trend (+123% increase from 2018 to 2021).

Figure 1.13 Maltreatment Rate Per 100,000 Days in Substitute Care by Race/Ethnicity (CFSR)



Rates have increased for all regions between 2015 and 2021 (see Figure 1.14 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.D). However, there was a one-year decrease in the Cook region in 2021 compared to the previous year (-22% change).

Figure 1.14 Maltreatment Rate Per 100,000 Days in Substitute Care by Region (CFSR)



Discussion and Conclusions: Child Safety

One of the most important goals of the public child welfare system is to ensure that child maltreatment victims are safe from additional harm. In some cases, this is done by removing children from their homes and placing them into substitute care until it is determined safe for them to return home. In most cases, however, children remain in their homes at the conclusion of an investigation, even if they were found to be the victims of maltreatment. Some of these families receive formal child welfare services following the investigation, but most in Illinois do not.

The results presented in this chapter show persistent and troubling trends related to child safety in Illinois. On each of the indicators of child safety, the percentage of children who experience additional harm is at the highest levels in many years. Although recurrence rates have plateaued in the most recent year on some indicators, serious concerns remain about the safety of children from additional abuse and neglect after they become involved with the child welfare system.

There is a reasonable expectation that intact family services should *reduce* the risk of maltreatment for children. Past *B.H.* monitoring reports have highlighted a concern with the percentage of children in intact family cases who experience maltreatment, and the results of this year's report reinforce this concern. Maltreatment rates among children served in intact family cases remain at their highest rate in the last 15 years – 18.1% of the children served in intact family cases in 2020 had an indicated maltreatment report within 12 months of their case opening. Even more worrisome is that the most vulnerable children are at highest risk; 22.9% of children 0 to 2 years being served in an intact family case in 2020 experienced a substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months. The Department may wish to revisit the recommendations made following a systematic review of critical incidents that occurred in intact family cases that identified several structural and procedural areas of improvement.⁹

The second major concern identified in this chapter is the continued increase in maltreatment of children living in substitute care. Over the last decade, rates of maltreatment in substitute care increased 183%, from 6.9 per 100,000 days in 2011 to 19.5 per 100,000 days in 2020. Although the rate of victimization fell to 18.4 per 100,000 days in 2021 (-8% change), the overall increase is alarming and additional resources should be directed toward implementing policy and practice changes that address the underlying risk factors known to be associated with maltreatment in care.

The results of a study completed by the CFRC in 2020 revealed several factors that increased a child's risk of maltreatment in a foster home placement, including no face-to-face visit between the caseworker and child or caseworker and foster parent within the prior 30 days, an identified child mental health need, and placement in an unlicensed kinship foster home or in

⁹ Weiner, D., & Cull, M. (2019). *Systemic review of critical incidents in intact family services*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

the home of the parents.¹⁰ Following the publication of this study, the CFRC collaborated with the Department to develop a maltreatment in care dashboard that presents data on the number of children with indicated reports of maltreatment while they are in care as well more than 40 charts that provide information on the characteristics of the child cases involved in the indicated reports. The selection of the factors to examine in the dashboard was driven, in part, by the results of the maltreatment in care study completed by the CFRC; the factors that can be viewed in the dashboard are grouped into six categories:

1. Child age and race/ethnicity, administrative region/sub-region, agency or DCFS team, whether or not incident date was available;
2. placement type, time in care, number of siblings in the placement, number of prior indicated reports, case open reason, permanency goal;
3. caseworker caseload, caseworker contacts with the child and foster care provider within 30 days, caseworker education;
4. maltreatment reporter type;
5. perpetrator groups; and
6. allegation type.

The data in the maltreatment in care dashboard are updated on a quarterly basis and are available to all DCFS staff on their intranet. Dashboard users can filter the data to look at only those children who were maltreated in a certain region, sub-region, agency, or team. Data can also be filtered by several other factors including placement type at the time of the maltreatment report, child's race/ethnicity, total number of months in care, and whether or not child's parent was a perpetrator. The charts provide a quick, concise, and easy-to-understand picture of the children who have been maltreatment while living in substitute care during a given time period (year or quarter).

1

¹⁰ Nieto, M., Wang, S., Fuller, T., & Adams, K. (2020). *Predicting Maltreatment in Substitute Care*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center.



Chapter 2

Family Continuity, Placement Stability, and Length of Time in Care

Children should only be removed from their parents and placed in substitute care when it is necessary to ensure their safety and well-being. Once removed from their homes, the public child welfare system and its private agency partners have a responsibility to provide children with living arrangements that ensure that they are safe from additional harm, maintain connections with their family members (including other siblings in care) and community, and provide stability. Moreover, substitute care should be a temporary solution and children should live in substitute care settings for the shortest period necessary. Child safety in substitute care living arrangements was examined in the previous chapter. This chapter examines: 1) continuity with family and community, 2) placement stability, and 3) length of time in substitute care. The indicators used to measure the Department's performance in these areas are described in the chapter sections, and technical definitions are provided in Appendix A.

Two of the indicators in this chapter (placement restrictiveness and placement with siblings) are examined for children's initial placements in substitute care and their placements at the end of the fiscal year. It is important to keep in mind that the children in these two samples are not the same; initial placements examine the first placement for all children who entered care within a given fiscal year, while end-of-year placements examine the placement types of children in care on the last day of the state fiscal year (June 30). Children who are in care for several years are counted in several "end-of-year" samples, while children who enter after June 30th and exit before June 30th of the following year are not counted in any end-of-year sample. The other indicators in this chapter (placement stability and length of time in substitute care) do not differentiate between initial and end-of-year placements.

Changes in Continuity and Stability in Care at a Glance

Restrictiveness of Initial Placement Settings

- ↔ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in the home of parents remained stable and was 3.2% in 2021.
- ↑ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in a kinship foster home increased from 73.2% in 2020 to 76.5% in 2021 (+5% change).
- ↓ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in a traditional foster home decreased from 17.9% in 2020 to 15.9% in 2021 (-11% change).
- ↑ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in a specialized foster home increased from 0.8% in 2020 to 0.9% in 2021 (+13% change).
- ↓ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in an emergency shelter or emergency foster home decreased from 1.1% in 2020 to 0.8% in 2021 (-27% change).
- ↓ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in an institution or group home decreased from 3.7% in 2020 to 2.6% in 2021 (-30% change).

Restrictiveness of End of Year Placement Settings

- ↑ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in the home of parents increased from 4.8% in 2020 to 5.5% in 2021 (+15% change).
- ↔ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in a kinship foster home remained stable and was 59.0% in 2021.
- ↔ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in a traditional foster home remained stable and was 19.8% in 2021.
- ↓ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in a specialized foster home decreased from 11.9% in 2020 to 11.2% in 2021 (-6% change).
- ↔ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in an emergency shelter or emergency foster home remained stable and was 0.2% in 2021.
- ↓ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in an institution or group home decreased from 4.8% in 2020 to 4.3% in 2021 (-10% change).

Placement with Siblings

Of all children entering substitute care and placed in a kinship or traditional foster home, the percentage that was initially placed in the same foster home with all their siblings in care:

For children with one or two siblings in care:

↔ remained stable for children initially placed in kinship foster homes and was 83.4% in 2021.

↑ increased for children initially placed in traditional foster homes from 51.3% in 2020 to 57.3% in 2021 (+12% change).

For children with three or more siblings in care:

↔ remained stable for children initially placed in kinship foster homes and was 50.9% in 2021.

↑ increased for children initially placed in traditional foster homes from 7.4% in 2020 to 12.3% in 2021 (+66% change).

Of all children living in kinship or traditional foster homes at the end of the year, the percentage that was placed in the same foster home with all their siblings in care:

For children with one or two siblings in care:

↔ remained stable for children in kinship foster homes and was 71.2% in 2021.

↔ remained stable for children in traditional foster homes and was 55.2% in 2021.

For children with three or more siblings in care:

↓ decreased for children in kinship foster homes from 38.7% in 2020 to 36.1% in 2021 (-7% change).

↑ increased for children in traditional foster homes from 10.8% in 2020 to 13.6% in 2021 (+26% change).

Placement Stability (CFSR)

↔ Of all children entering substitute care during the year, the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days in care remained stable and was 3.0 in 2021.

Children Who Run Away From Substitute Care

↔ Of all children entering substitute care between the age of 12 and 17 years, the percentage that ran away from a placement within one year of entry remained stable and was 14.1% in 2020.

Length of Stay In Substitute Care

↑ Of all children entering substitute care, the median length of stay increased from 32 months for children who entered care in 2017 to 34 months in 2018 (+6% change).

Family Continuity

Restrictiveness of Placement Settings

When it is in the best interest of a child to be placed in substitute care, it is both federal and state policy “to place a child in the least restrictive and most family-like setting that will meet the needs of the child.”¹ In 1996, Congress required states to include in their Title IV-E state plans a provision that indicated the state shall consider giving preference to an adult relative over a non-related caregiver when determining a placement for a child, provided that the relative caregiver meets all relevant child protection standards. In Illinois, Department policy states that “placement in a family home is the least restrictive and thus the preferable placement choice for a child when a family will be able to meet the needs of the child. However, if a child needs treatment which can best be provided in a group home or child care institution, the child need not be placed in a foster family home prior to placement in a treatment setting” (p. 39).² Box 2.1 describes the different placement types that are used in Illinois.

Placement Type Terminology

BOX 2.1

Home of parents involves placement of children with the non-offending parent or in the home of the parent(s) prior to reunification or termination of child welfare services. When home of parent is used as a placement, DCFS retains legal responsibility for the child.³

Kinship foster care involves placement of children with relatives in the relatives’ homes. Relatives are the preferred placement for children who must be removed from their parents, as this kind of placement maintains the children’s connections with their families. In Illinois, kinship care providers may be licensed or unlicensed.

Traditional foster care involves placement of children with non-relatives in the non-relatives’ homes. These traditional foster parents have been trained, assessed, and licensed to provide shelter and care.

Specialized or treatment foster care involves placement of children with foster families who have been specially trained to care for children with certain medical or behavioral needs. Examples include medically fragile children, children with emotional

¹ Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980, Pub. L. 96-272.

² Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (October, 2016). *Procedures 301 Placement and Visitation Services*. Springfield, IL: Author.

³ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (November, 2016). *Procedures 315.250 Reunification, Planning for After Care and Termination of Services*. Springfield, IL: Author.

or behavioral disorders, and children with HIV/AIDS. Treatment foster parents are required to obtain additional training to become licensed, provide more support for children than regular family foster care, and have lower limits on the number of children that can be cared for in their home.

Emergency shelters provide temporary living arrangements for children if no other possible foster home placements can be arranged.⁴ DCFS policy states that placements in emergency shelters should not exceed 30 calendar days.

Two other placement types are non-family settings. **Group home** refers to a community-based residence that houses more children than are permitted to reside in a foster family home, but fewer than a residential treatment center. In Illinois, the number of children in a group home is limited to 10 or fewer. All other non-family settings are combined into a broad category called **institutions** in the current chapter. This category includes a variety of congregate care placements such as residential treatment centers, detention centers, hospitals and other health facilities. Since the number of children placed in group homes is relatively small, several analyses in this chapter combine children in group homes with children in other congregate care settings. In these instances, the combined term “Institution/Group Home” is used.

One advantage of placing children in the least restrictive, most family-like setting is that it increases bonding capital. Bonding capital is a type of social capital that comes from strong ties to family and friends. At the individual level, bonding capital is measured as a person's primary source of social support.⁵ One advantage of placement with kin is that it builds on a child's existing bonding capital. However, research finds that children in traditional foster care eventually develop bonds with foster parents comparable to those who are placed with kin.⁶

Placement restrictiveness is examined in two different groups of children: 1) initial placements of children entering care in a given fiscal year and 2) children in care at the end of the fiscal year. The first indicator (initial placements) over-represents children who are in care for a short period of time but provides important information about initial placements, which can influence a child's trajectory through substitute care. The second indicator (end-of-year placements) provides a snapshot of the overall types of placement for all the children in care at the end of each fiscal year.

⁴ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (October, 2015). *Procedures 301 Appendix G Temporary Placement to the DFCS Statewide Emergency Shelter System*. Springfield, IL: Author.

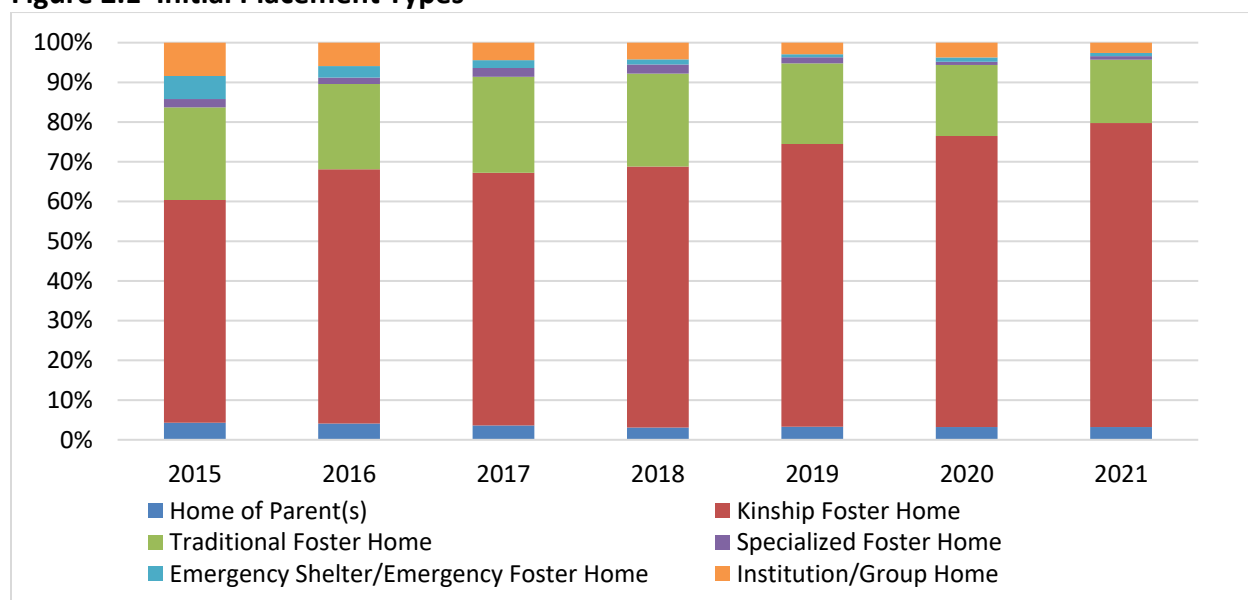
⁵ Putnam, R. (2000). *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. New York: Simon & Schuster. Granovetter M. S. (1973). The strength of weak ties. *American Journal of Sociology*, 78, 1360-1380.

⁶ Testa, M., Bruhn, C. M. & Helton, J. (2010). Comparative safety, stability, and continuity of children's placements in formal and informal substitute care. In M. B. Webb, et al., *Child Welfare and Child Well-being: New Perspectives from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-being*, (pp. 159-191). New York: Oxford.

Initial Placements

Initial placement types for children entering care during fiscal years 2015 through 2021 are shown in Figure 2.1. In the past seven years, between 3.1% and 4.3% of children were initially placed in the home of their parent(s) after DCFS took legal responsibility for them (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.1). Most children entering care were initially placed in kinship foster homes, and that percentage has increased from 56.1% in 2015 to 76.5% in 2021 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.2). Conversely, the percentage of children initially placed in traditional foster homes has been decreasing each year since 2017 and reached its lowest point of 15.9% in 2021 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.3). The percentage of children initially placed in specialized foster homes is small compared to other types of placements and has decreased from 2.3% in 2018 to 0.9% in 2021 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.4). The percentage of children initially placed in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes has been small in the past five years and was 0.8% in 2021 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.5). The percentage of children with an initial placement in group homes or institutions has decreased each year from 8.4% in 2015 to 2.6% in 2021 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.6).

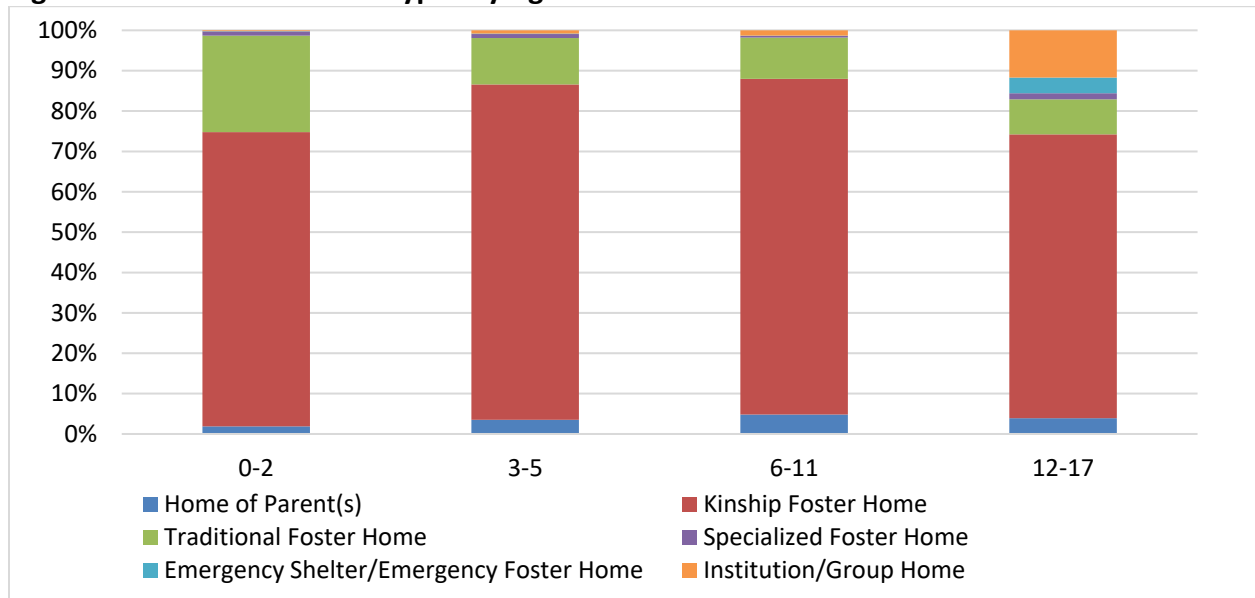
Figure 2.1 Initial Placement Types



The use of different placement types for initial placements varies by child age, race/ethnicity, and geographical region of the state. These relationships are explored in more detail by examining the initial placements during the most recent fiscal year for which data are available (2021). Over 98% of children 11 years and younger were initially placed in less restrictive settings such as home of parent(s), kinship, traditional, or specialized foster homes, as compared to 84.5% of youth 12 to 17 years old (see Figure 2.2 and Appendix B, Indicators 2.A.1–2.A.6). Conversely, 15.6% of youth 12 to 17 years old were initially placed in a more restrictive settings (emergency shelters, group homes, and institutions); these placements were much less common for younger children. The increased use of kinship homes as initial

placements over the past seven years has occurred across all age groups but was particularly notable among older children. For children 12 to 17 years old, the percentage initially placed in kinship homes has increased from 42.1% in 2015 to its peak of 70.4% in 2021 (a relative increase of 67%, see Indicator 2.A.2). The decreased use of traditional homes as initial placements over the past seven years has occurred across all age groups but was particularly notable among children under 12 (see Indicator 2.A.3).

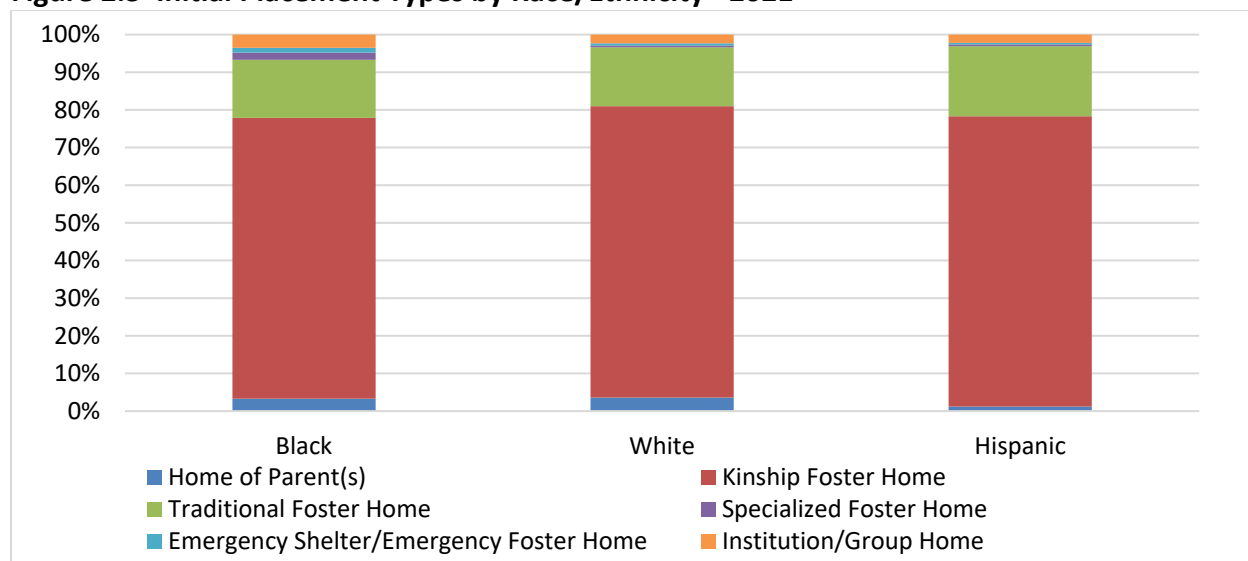
Figure 2.2 Initial Placement Types by Age - 2021



Initial placement types varied slightly by child race/ethnicity (see Figure 2.3 and Appendix B, Indicators 2.A.1–2.A.6). In the past, Black children were less likely than White and Hispanic children to be placed in kinship foster homes and were more likely to be placed in traditional foster homes in their initial placements. In 2021, the percentage of Black children initially placed in kinship foster homes reached its peak of the past seven years (74.6%) and was only slightly smaller than the percentages of White children (77.4%) and Hispanic children (77.1%). In addition, the percentage of Black children initially placed in group homes or institutions has decreased from 12.3% in 2015 to its lowest point of 3.5% in 2021 (a relative 72% decrease, see Indicator 2.A.6).

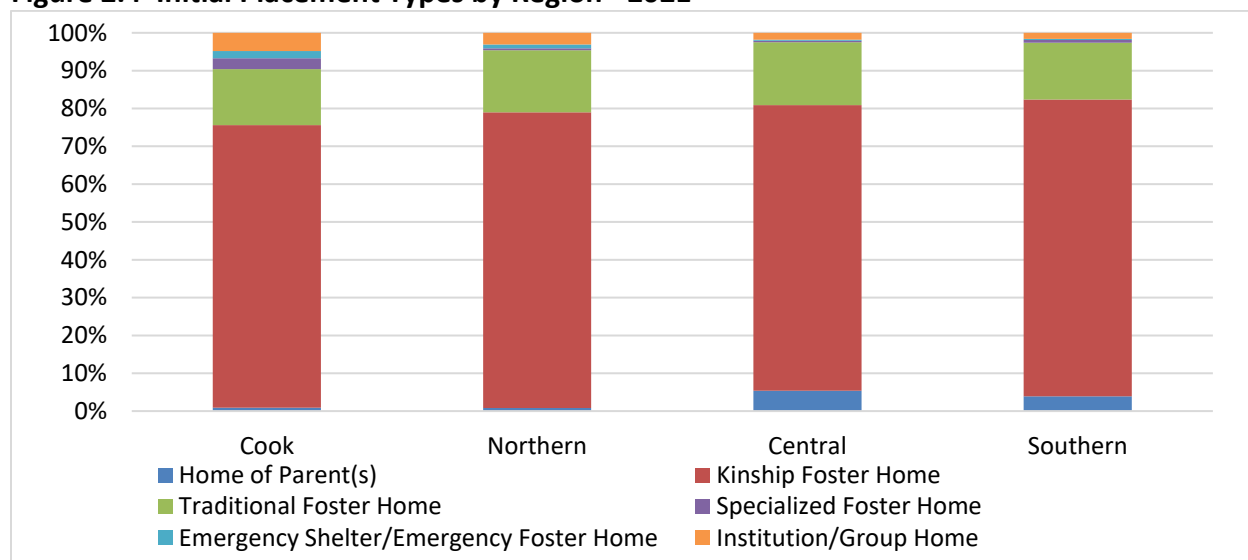
CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

Figure 2.3 Initial Placement Types by Race/Ethnicity - 2021



Initial placement types also varied by region (see Figure 2.4 and Appendix B, Indicators 2.A.1–2.A.6). In 2021, as compared to other regions, the Cook region had a highest percentage of initial placements in specialized foster homes (2.9% vs. Northern, 0.5%; Central, 0.4%; and Southern, 0.7%), emergency shelters/emergency foster homes (1.9% vs. Northern, 1.0%; Central, 0.3%; Southern, 0.3%), and institutions/group homes (4.8% vs. Northern, 3.1%; Central, 1.8%; and Southern, 1.6%). However, a positive trend also has been shown in the Cook region in the recent years. The percentages of the congregate settings (emergency shelters/emergency foster homes and institutions/group homes) have decreased each year and reached its lowest point in 2021. Moreover, the percentage of children initially placed in kinship foster homes in this region has increased from 47.7% in 2015 to 74.7% in 2021.

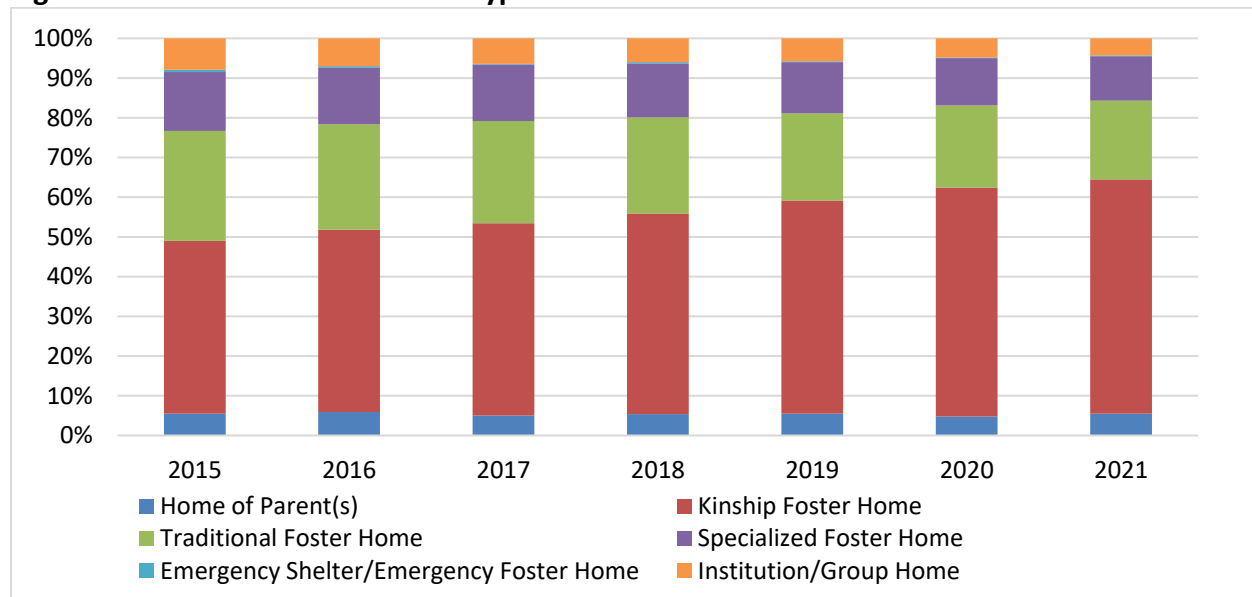
Figure 2.4 Initial Placement Types by Region - 2021



End-of-Year Placements

End-of-year placement types for children in substitute care during fiscal years 2015 through 2021 are shown in Figure 2.5. Among children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, between 5-6% were placed with their parent(s) over the past seven years (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.B.1). The percentage of children in kinship foster homes at the end of the year increased each year from 43.5% in 2015 to 59.0% in 2021 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.B.2). Conversely, the percentage of children in traditional foster homes decreased each year from 27.7% in 2015 to 19.8% in 2021 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.B.3). The percentage of children in specialized foster homes at the end of the year decreased gradually over the past seven years and was at its lowest point (11.2%) in 2021 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.B.4). Less than 1% of children were placed in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes at the end of the year during the last seven years (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.B.5). The percentage of children in group homes at the end of the fiscal year has been less 1% (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.B.6). The percentage of children in institutions at the end of the year decreased each year from 6.8% in 2015 to 3.8% in 2021 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.B.7).

Figure 2.5 End-of-Year Placement Types

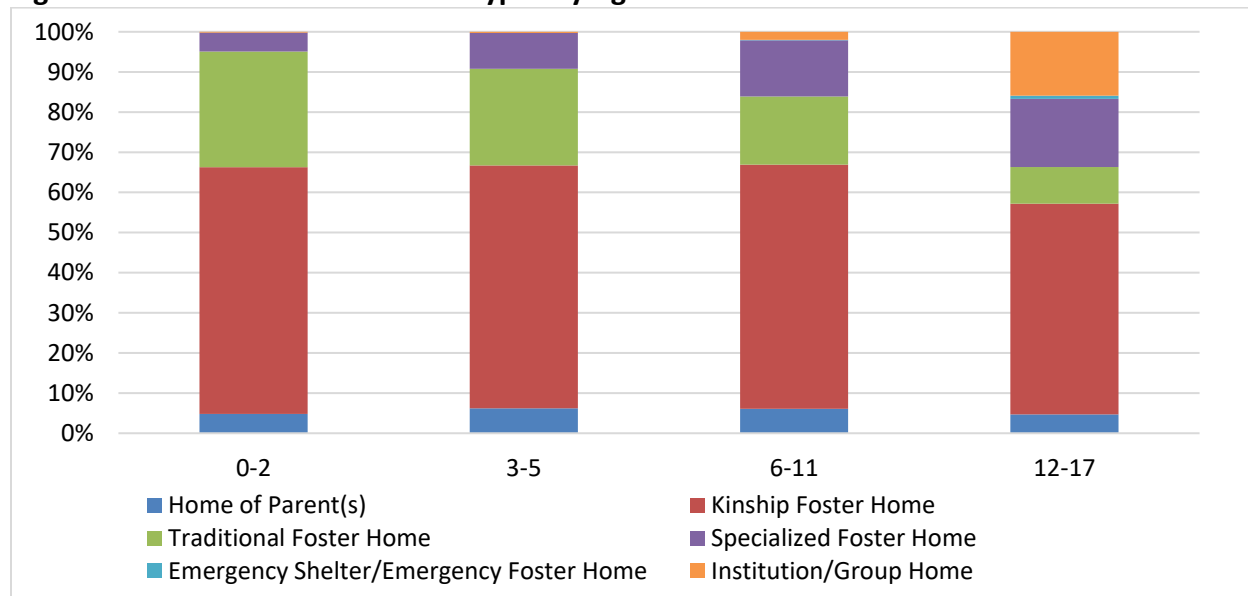


The distribution of placement types for end-of-year placements also varies by child age, race/ethnicity, and region. These relationships are explored by examining end-of-year placements during the most recent fiscal year for which data are available (2021). A child's placement at the end of the year varied by age (see Figure 2.6 and Appendix B, Indicators 2.B.1–2.B.7). In 2021, around 61% of children 11 years and younger were living in kinship foster homes at the end of the year, compared to 52.5% of youth 12 to 17 years old. Similarly, the percentage of children living in traditional foster homes was higher for younger children: 28.8% of children 0 to 2 years old were in traditional foster homes at the end of the year compared to 9.1% of youth 12 to 17 years old. Conversely, the proportion of children placed in specialized foster homes, institutions, or group homes at the end of year was larger for older children. For

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

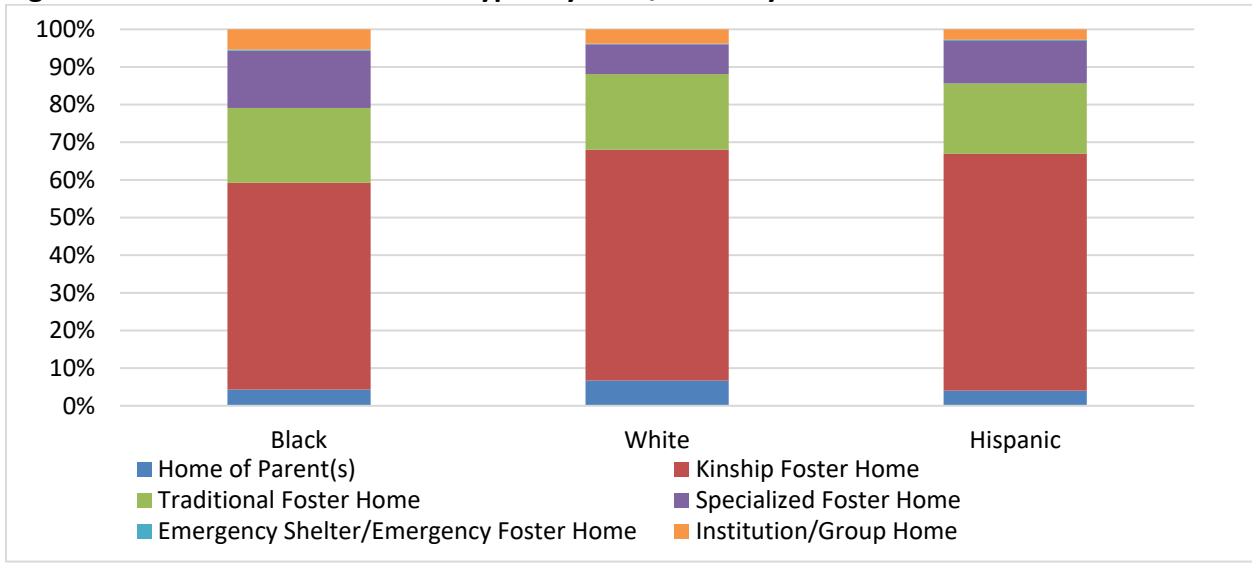
example, 2.0% of children 6 to 11 years old were living in group homes or institutions at the end of 2021, compared to 15.9% of children 12 to 17 years old. There have been some positive trends towards less restrictive placements for children 12 to 17 years old during the past seven years. Older youth had the largest increase in the percentage placed in kinship foster homes at the end of year, from 29.1% in 2015 to 52.5% in 2021 (see Indicator 2.B.2). The percentage of older youth placed in an institution decreased from 21.3% in 2015 to 13.8% in 2021 (see Indicator 2.B.7).

Figure 2.6 End-of-Year Placement Types by Age - 2021



When placements at the end of FY2021 were compared by race/ethnicity, Black children were less likely than White or Hispanic children to be placed in kinship foster homes (54.9% compared to 61.4% and 62.9%, respectively); and more likely to be placed in a specialized foster home (15.2% compared to 7.9% and 11.3%, respectively; see Figure 2.7 and Appendix B, Indicators 2.B.1–2.B.7). In another notable difference, the decline in use of specialized foster homes in the past seven years was greater for White children (11.7% in 2015 to 7.9% in 2021) than for Black and Hispanic children (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.B.4).

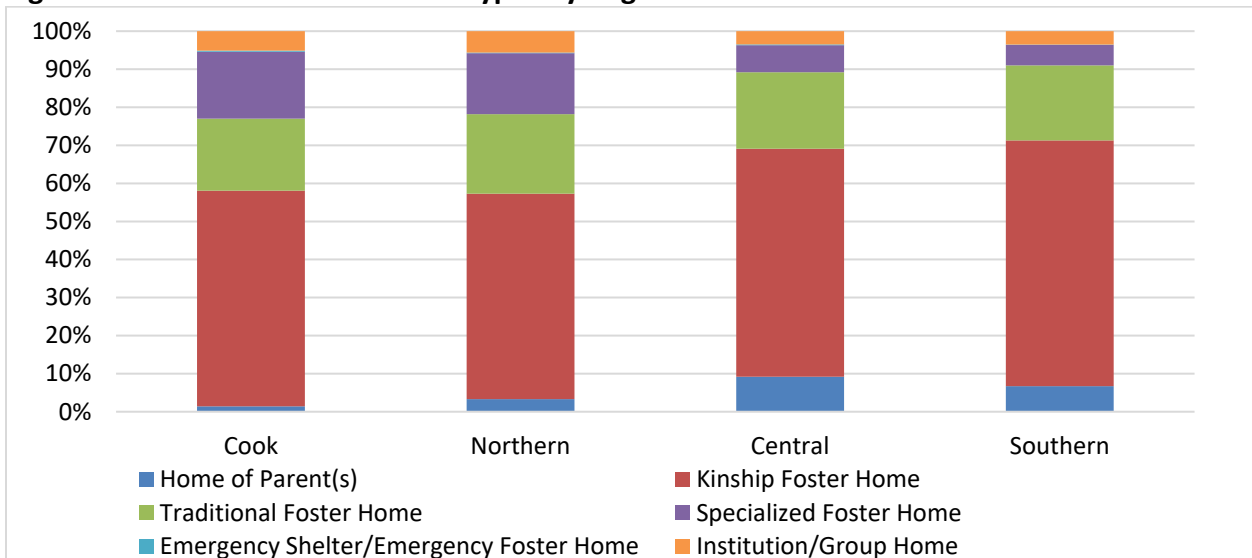
Figure 2.7 End-of-Year Placement Types by Race/Ethnicity - 2021



Analysis of children’s placement settings at the end of FY2021 shows several regional differences (see Figure 2.8 and Appendix B, Indicators 2.B.1–2.B.7). The Central (9.2%) and Southern (6.7%) regions had higher percentages of children living in the home of parent(s) than did the Northern (3.3%) and Cook (1.4%) regions. The Southern region had the highest percentage of children placed in kinship foster homes (64.6%) followed by the Central region (60.0%), the Cook region (56.7%), and the Northern region (54.0%). Children in the Cook (17.6%) and Northern (16.0%) regions were more likely to live in specialized foster homes than those in the Central (7.1%) and Southern (5.4%) regions. In addition, the reduction in the use of specialized foster homes in the past seven years was more pronounced in the Central region compared to other regions, from 12.3% in 2015 to 7.1% in 2021 (a relative 42% decrease, see Indicator 2.B.4).



Figure 2.8 End-of-Year Placement Types by Region - 2021



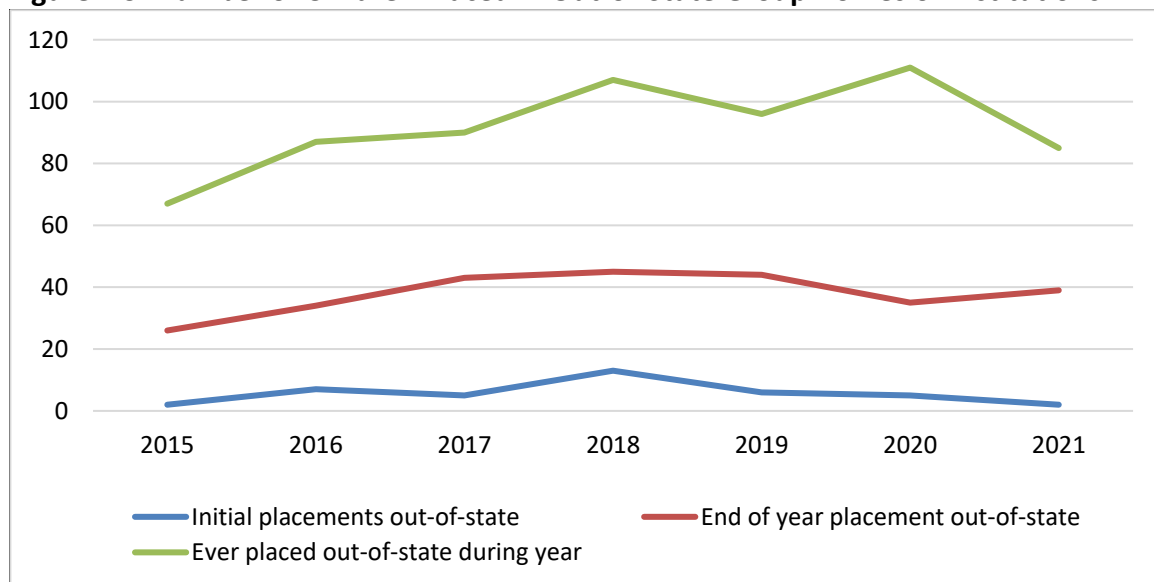
Children Placed in Out-of-State Group Homes or Institutions

BOX 2.2

Recent reporting by the *Chicago Tribune*⁷ highlighted Illinois DCFS' increased use of placements in out-of-state mental health institutions for children in care. The article cites data from the federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) indicating that the number of children Illinois DCFS placed in out-of-state care grew from 19 in 2011 to 56 in 2018. The Tribune's reporting emphasized the limited capacity of DCFS to monitor the care and safety of children placed out-of-state, and it described incidents in which children placed out-of-state were maltreated in care.

The *B.H.* monitoring report included an indicator for out-of-state placement of children until FY2010. This indicator was discontinued because the number of children in out-of-state placements had dwindled to near zero for several years. In response to the concerns raised by the *Chicago Tribune* report, we examine the number of children placed in out-of-state group homes and institutions: 1) in their initial placements; 2) at the end of each fiscal year; and 3) at any time during the fiscal year (see Figure 2.9).⁸ The number of children placed in an out-of-state institution in their first placement is small; there were only 2 children initially placed out of state in 2021. The number of children placed in out-of-state institutions at the end of the fiscal year was between 26 and 45 in the past seven years. The number of children ever placed out-of-state increased from 67 in 2015 to 111 in 2020, but then decreased to 85 in 2021.

Figure 2.9 Number of Children Placed in Out-of-State Group Homes or Institutions



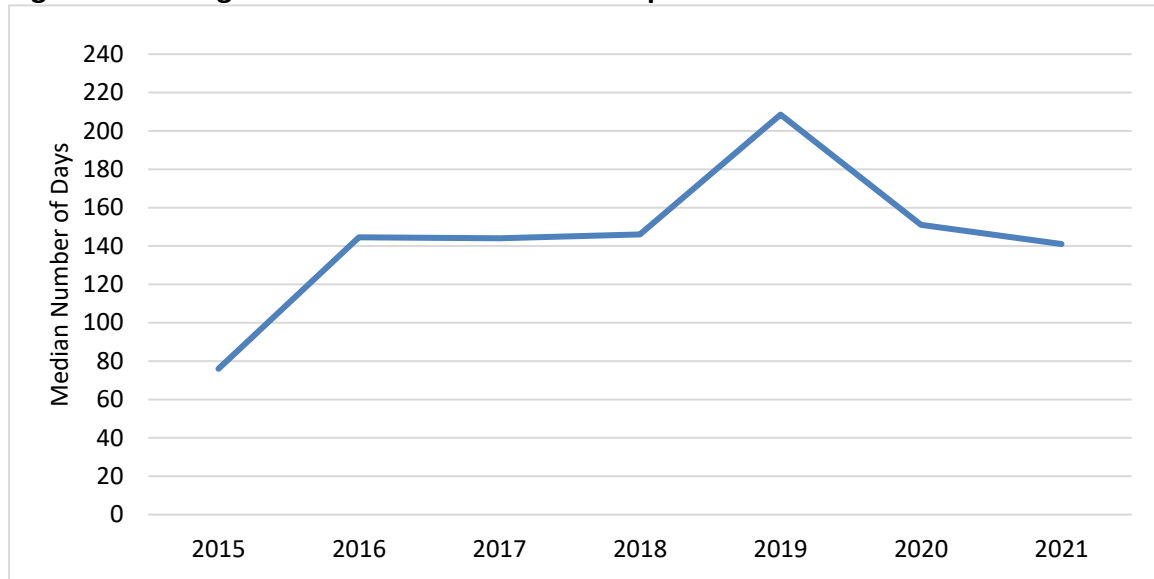
⁷ Jackson, D., & Eldeib, D. (March 12, 2021). Hurt instead of helped: Foster children victimized in out-of-state facilities where oversight is lacking. *Chicago Tribune*.

⁸ The end-of-year sample most closely compares to the AFCARS data reported in the *Chicago Tribune*.

To understand the use of out-of-state group homes and institutions, the following analyses focus on children ever placed out-of-state during the fiscal year. In 2021, the majority of these children were placed in either Wisconsin (29.8%) or Tennessee (25.0%) and the majority were 12 to 17 years old (85.9%). The decreased use of out-of-state placements in the last year occurred across all race, gender, and regional groups.

To examine the length of time children are in out-of-state placements, we calculated the median number of days that children stayed in out-of-state care during that fiscal year.⁹ Figure 2.10 shows the median of length of time increased from 76 days in 2015 to 209 days in 2019, then decreased to 141 days in 2021.

Figure 2.10 Length of Time in Out-of-State Group Homes or Institutions



⁹ Because the number of days is constrained to the fiscal year, the maximum stay for each year is 365 days. Some children stay in out-of-state placements longer than one year; their total length of stay would be different from the number reported here.

Placement with Siblings

Research shows that there are many benefits of placing children with their siblings in substitute care when possible. Siblings may provide one another with emotional support, a sense of connection, and continuity when they are removed from what is familiar to them and placed into substitute care.¹⁰ Research has shown that children who are placed with siblings are less likely to experience placement disruptions,¹¹ more likely to be reunified with their parents,¹² and less at risk for internalizing problems such as depression.¹³

The importance of maintaining sibling connections among children in substitute care is reflected in several pieces of legislation at the national and state level. The 2008 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (P.L. 110-135) instructs states to make “reasonable efforts” to place siblings together. In Illinois, the importance of sibling relationships among children in DCFS care was reinforced when the Preserving Sibling Relationships for Children in State Care and Adopted through DCFS Public Act (P.A. 97-1076) was enacted in 2012. This act amended the Children and Family Services Act and specified that, when placing a child into a substitute care placement, “the Department shall place the child with the child’s sibling or siblings... unless the placement is not in each child’s best interest, or is otherwise not possible under the Department’s rules. If the child is not placed with a sibling under the Department’s rules, the Department shall consider placements that are likely to develop, preserve, nurture, and support sibling relationships, where doing so is in each child’s best interest.”¹⁴

Despite the preference for placing siblings together in substitute care, sometimes it may be better to place siblings apart. For example, some members of sibling groups may have physical or emotional disabilities that require specialized care. However, sometimes siblings are separated simply because not enough foster families are willing to take sibling groups. It is more difficult to find foster families who have the resources (physical, emotional, and financial) to provide for a sibling group. Additionally, some foster parents prefer one gender or a specific age range of children.

The likelihood of a child being initially placed with all of his or her siblings is related to two factors: the size of the sibling group and the type of foster home (kinship or traditional). As mentioned above, other types of placements, such as specialized foster homes or congregate care settings, are designed to serve children with special needs. The Department does not place siblings together in those placements when kinship or traditional foster homes are available

¹⁰ McBeath, B., Kothari, B. H., Blakeslee, J., Lamson-Siu, E., Bank, L., Linares, L. O., & Schlonsky, A. (2015). Intervening to improve outcomes for siblings in foster care: Conceptual, substantive, and methodological dimensions of a prevention science framework. *Children and Youth Services Review, 39*, 1-10.

¹¹ Leathers, S. J. (2005). Separation from siblings: Associations with placement adaptation and outcomes among adolescents in long-term foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review, 27*, 793-819.

¹² Albert, V. N., & King, W. C. (2008). Survival analyses of the dynamics of sibling experiences in foster care. *Families in Society, 89*, 533-541.

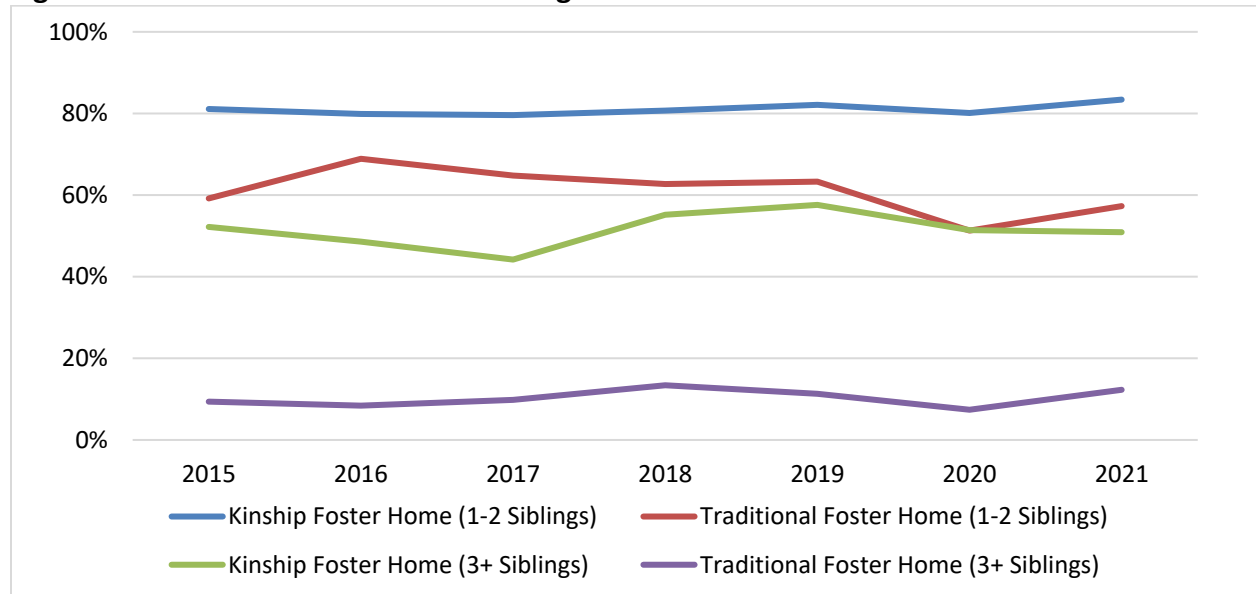
¹³ Hegar, R. L., & Rosenthal, J. A. (2009). Kinship care and sibling placement: Child behavior, family relationships, and school outcomes. *Children and Youth Services Review, 31*, 670-679.

¹⁴ The full text of P.A. 97-1076 is available online: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/97/HB/PDF/09700HB5592lv.pdf>

and suitable for some of the sibling members. Therefore, the following analyses focus on children placed in kinship or traditional foster homes.

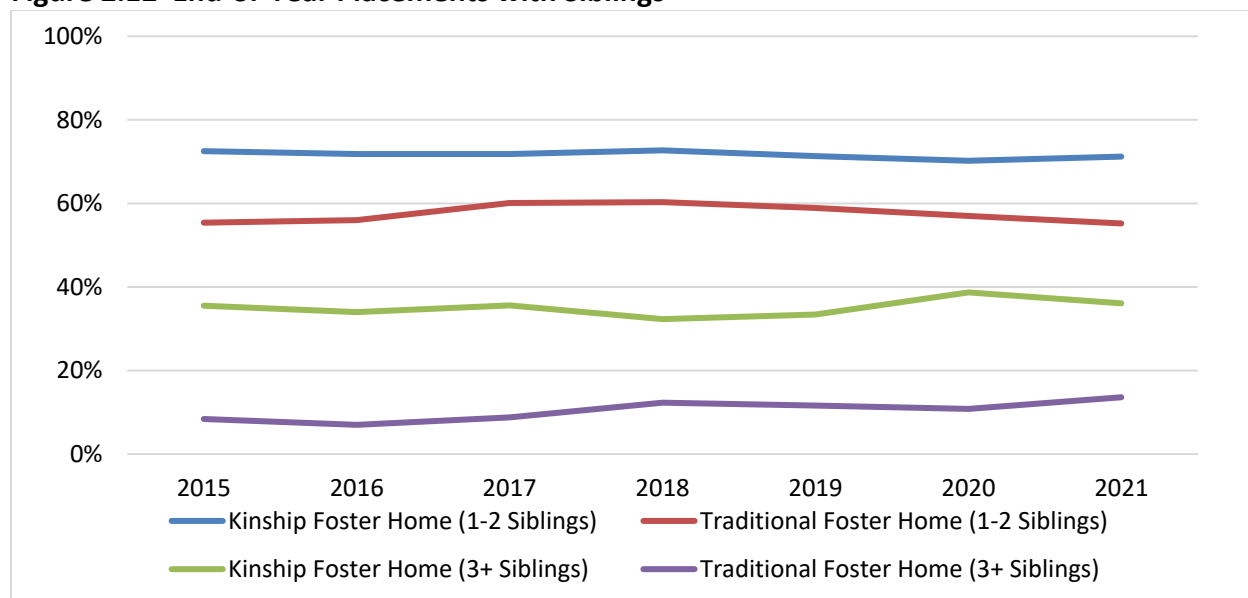
Of the 7,058 children who entered care in 2021, 6,523 (92.4%) were initially placed in kinship or traditional foster homes. Of these children, 2,960 (45.4%) had one or two siblings and 1,286 (19.7%) had three or more siblings who were also in care. As might be expected, the percentage of children with one or two siblings initially placed with all their siblings was higher than children with three or more siblings. Additionally, children initially placed in kinship foster homes were more likely to be placed with all their siblings than children initially placed in traditional foster homes. In 2021, 83.4% of children with one or two siblings were initially placed together in kinship foster homes compared to 57.3% of children who were initially placed in traditional foster homes. For children with three or more siblings, 50.9% were initially placed together in kinship foster homes compared to only 12.3% of children initially placed in traditional foster homes in 2021 (see Figure 2.11 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.C).

Figure 2.11 Initial Placements with Siblings



When the percentage of children placed with all their siblings in care was examined at the end of each fiscal year, the overall pattern was the same: smaller sibling groups and placement with kin increased the likelihood of siblings being placed together (see Figure 2.12 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.D). There has been little change in these percentages in the past seven years, other than a slight increase in the percentage of children with three or more siblings placed together in traditional foster homes, which increased from 8.4% in 2015 to 13.6% in 2021.

Figure 2.12 End-of-Year Placements with Siblings



Placement Stability

Placement stability is important for children in substitute care, and placement instability has numerous negative consequences for a child’s well-being and likelihood of achieving permanence. For example, placement instability during the first year of care has been tied to later negative outcomes such as increased mental health costs¹⁵ and increased emergency department visits.¹⁶ Two measures of placement stability are included in this monitoring report. The first measure was adapted from the Round 3 Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) measure¹⁷ and examines the number of placement moves per 1,000 days in substitute care. The second measure examines the percentage of youth age 12 to 17 who run away from substitute care during their first year in care (see Appendix A for technical definitions of the indicators used in the report).

Placement Moves Per 1,000 Days in Substitute Care (CFSR)

The definition of placement stability in the CFSR is the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days of substitute care among all children who enter substitute care in a 12-month period.¹⁸ Although the measure used in this report is similar to the CFSR measure, the results are not age-adjusted and therefore are not identical to those presented in federal outcome reports.

¹⁵ Rubin, D. M., Alessandrini, E. A., Feudtner, C., Mandell, D. S., Localio, A. R., & Hadley, T. (2004). Placement stability and mental health costs for children in foster care. *Pediatrics*, *113*, 1336-1341.

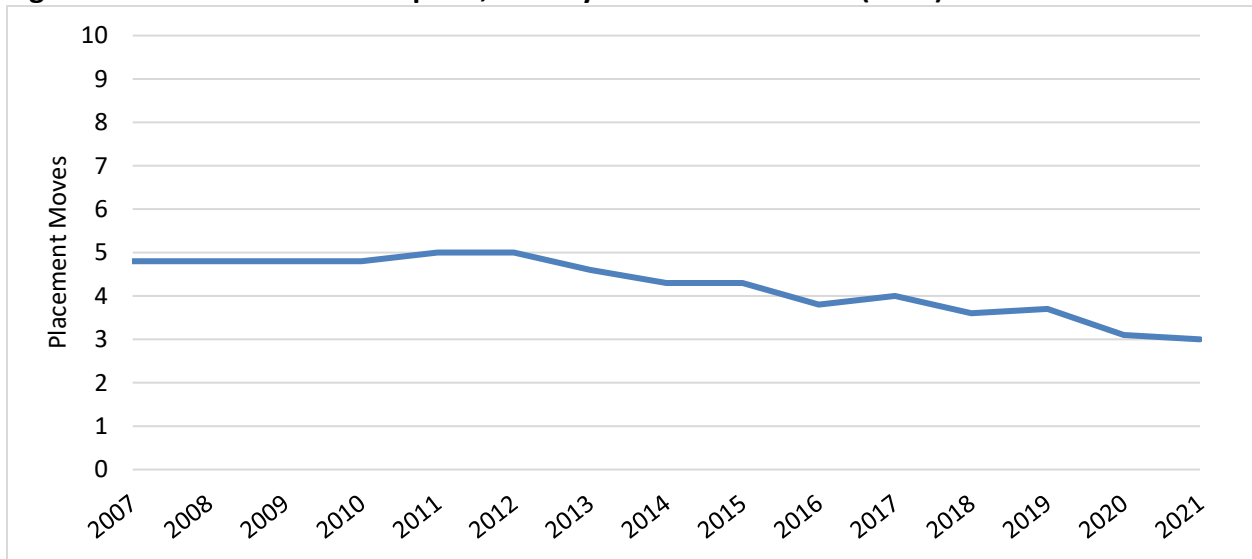
¹⁶ Rubin, D. M., Alessandrini, E. A., Feudtner, C., Localio, A. R., & Hadley, T. (2004). Placement changes and emergency department visits in the first year of foster care. *Pediatrics*, *114*, 354-360.

¹⁷ Children’s Bureau (n.d.). CFSR Round Statewide Data Indicators. Retrieved from <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/focus-areas/cqi/cfsr-data-syntax-toolkit/>

¹⁸ Ibid.

The placement moves per 1,000 days have gradually decreased since 2012 to its lowest point in 2021 (3.0 moves per 1,000 days; see Figure 2.13 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.E).

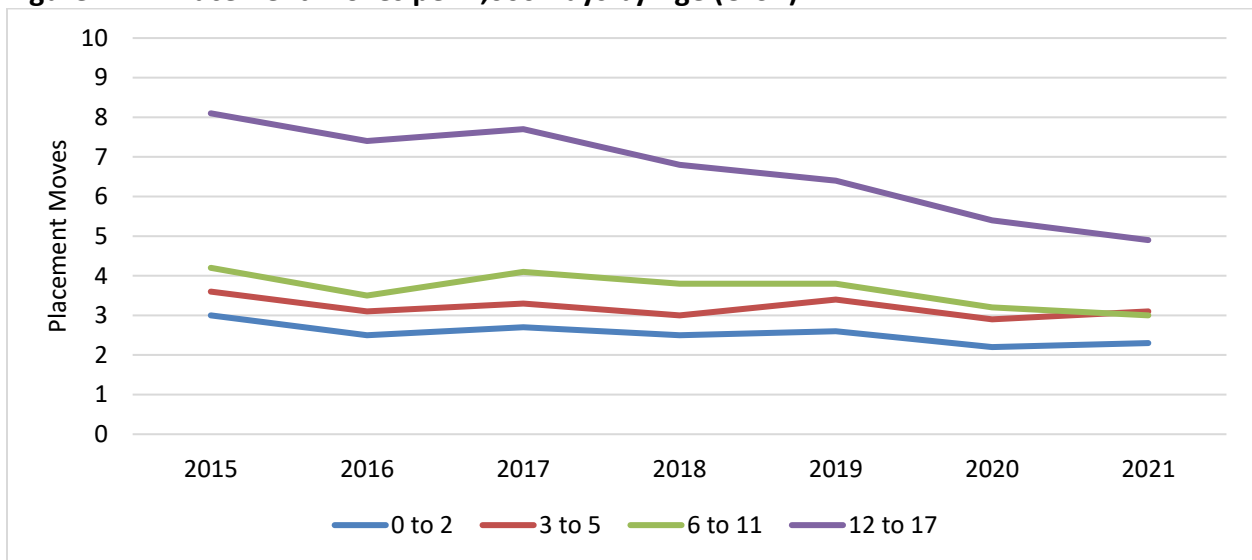
Figure 2.13 Placement Moves per 1,000 Days in Substitute Care (CFSR)



Consistent with past research,¹⁹ placement stability in Illinois decreases as child age increases (see Figure 2.14 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.E). In 2021, the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days for children 0 to 2 years was 2.3 compared to 4.9 for youth 12 to 17 years. However, placement stability among youth age 12 to 17 has improved in the past several years, with the number of placement moves decreasing from 8.1 in 2015 to 4.9 in 2021.



Figure 2.14 Placement Moves per 1,000 Days by Age (CFSR)

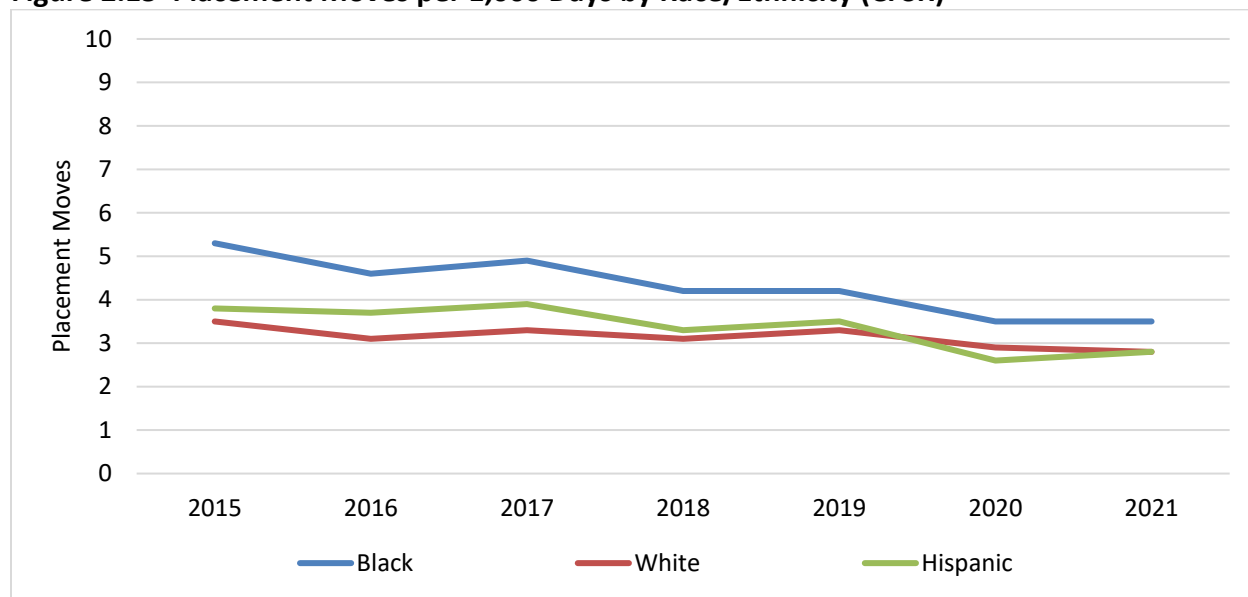


¹⁹ Barth, R. P, Lloyd, E. C., Green, R. L., James, S., Leslie, L. K., & Landsverk, J. (2007). Predictors of placement moves among children with and without emotional and behavioral disorders. *Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders*, 15, 46-55.

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

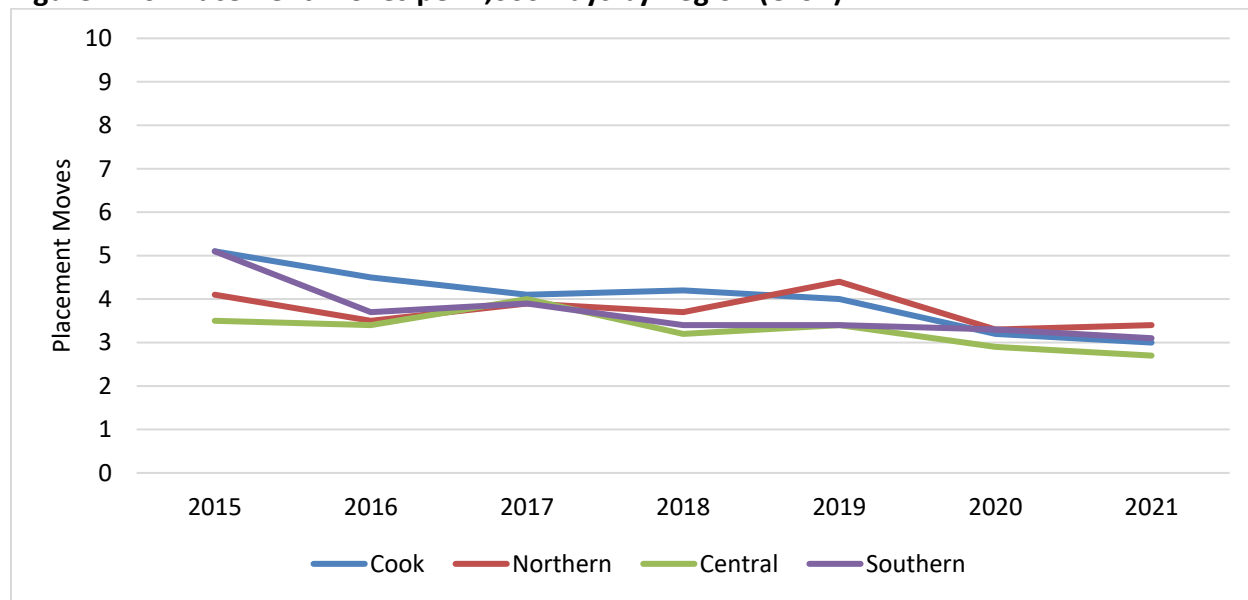
Black children experience less placement stability (3.5 moves per 1,000 days in 2021) compared to White children (2.8 moves per 1,000 days) and Hispanic children (2.8 moves per 1,000 days). Although placement stability is lower among Black children, it has improved from 4.5 in 2017 to 3.5 in 2021 (see Figure 2.15 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.E).

Figure 2.15 Placement Moves per 1,000 Days by Race/Ethnicity (CFSR)



In recent years, the rates of placement moves in the regions have been similar. In 2021, the rate was 3.4 for the Northern region, 3.1 for the Southern region, 3.0 for the Cook region, and 2.7 for the Central region (see Figure 2.16 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.E).

Figure 2.16 Placement Moves per 1,000 Days by Region (CFSR)



This year's report examines changes in placement experienced by children during their first year in substitute care by initial placement type. The initial placement type at entry into care was compared to the placement type at the end of the first year in care and eight categories of placement change were created: permanence achieved; trial reunification; no placement change; moved back to the same placement;²⁰ parallel move;²¹ moved to a less restrictive placement;²² moved to a more restrictive placement,²³ and other (such as runaway, armed services, or hospitals).

Figure 2.17 shows the types of placement changes experienced by children in different initial placement types who entered care in 2020. Among children initially placed in home of parents, 61.4% achieved permanence within 12 months and 11.0% had no change in placement during the 12-month period. Among children initially placed in kinship foster homes, 45.5% had no placement change during the 12-month period and 18.6% had a placement change but moved back to the same kinship home by the end of the first year. Only 4.5% of the children initially placed in kinship foster homes were moved to more restrictive placements by the end of their first year. Among the children initially placed in traditional foster homes, 37.3% had no placement change, 18.8% moved back to the same foster home by the end of their first year, and 9.2% moved to more restrictive placements (including a specialized foster home, a group home, or an institution). Among children initially placed in specialized foster homes, 33.9% had no placement change, 21.1% moved to a less restrictive placement (including a kinship or traditional foster home), 16.1% moved back to the same specialized foster homes, 14.5% were in "other" placement types (such as runaway or hospitals), and 11.3% moved to a more restrictive placement (including a group home or an institution). Among children initially placed in emergency shelter/emergency foster homes, 46.4% were moved to more restrictive placements (including a specialized foster home, a group home, or an institution) and 35.7% were moved to less restrictive placements (including a kinship or traditional foster home). Among children initially placed in institutions/group homes, 38.5% did not change placements, 22.2% were moved back to the same institution/group home within 12 months, 15.6% moved to a less restrictive placement, 11.5% were in "other" placement types (such as runaway or hospitals), and 10.4% achieved permanence.

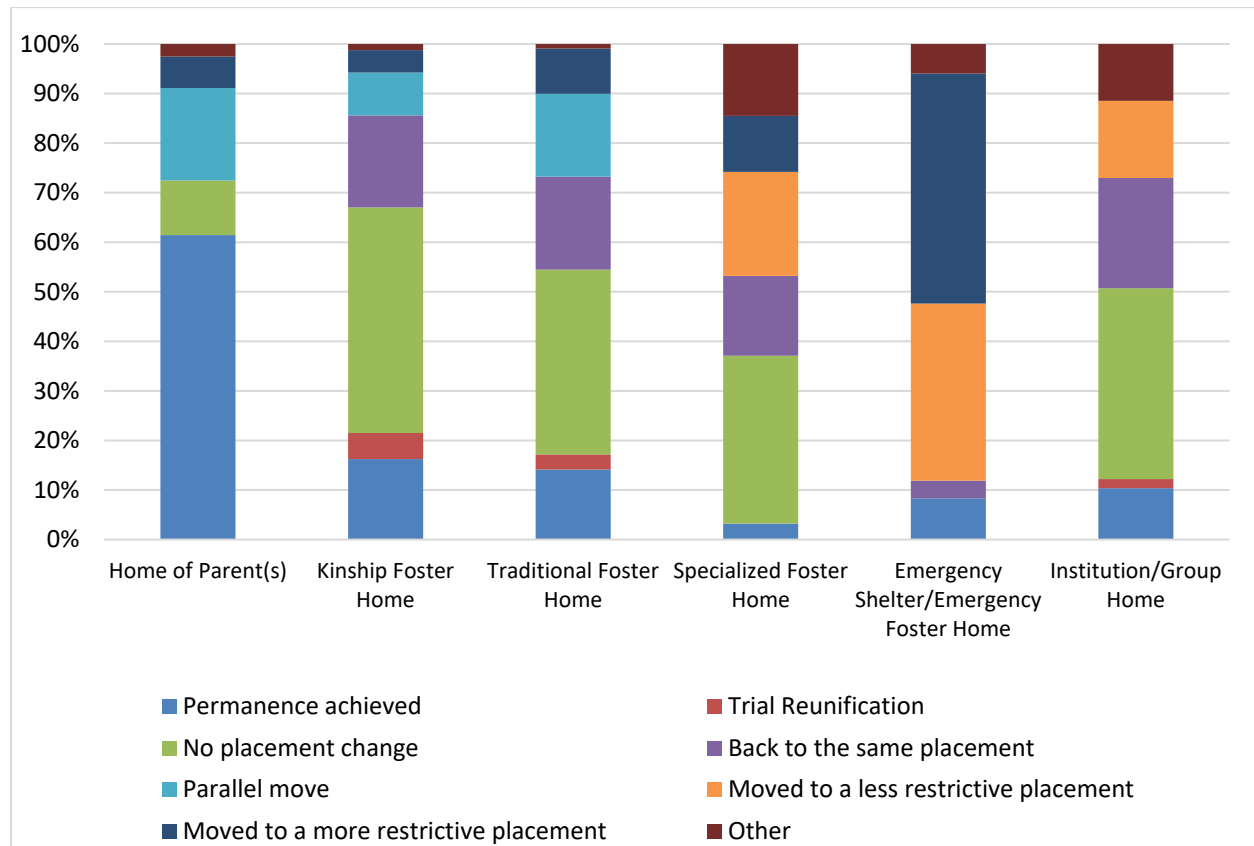
²⁰ The category "moved back to the same placement" refers to children who were removed from their initial placement but moved back to the same placement/provider by their 12th month.

²¹ Parallel move refers to moves between similar types of placements; for example, a move between home of parents to a kinship or traditional foster home, or a move between a specialized foster home, emergency shelter/emergency foster home, or institution/group home.

²² A move to a less restrictive placement is, for example, a move from an institution to a traditional foster home.

²³ A move to a more restrictive placement is, for example, a move from a kinship foster home to a specialized foster home or from a specialized foster home to an institution.

Figure 2.17 Changes in Placement by Initial Placement Type for Children Initially Placed in 2020



Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care

The nature of runaways from substitute care is different from typical runaways.²⁴ Most are running away to live with others, usually family or friends.²⁵ Running away puts children at risk for victimization, sexual exploitation, and substance abuse. It also limits their access to school, treatments, or services, such as counseling, medication, and substance abuse treatment. Children who run away are more likely to do so early in their placement, often in their first few months in care. Placement instability increases the likelihood of children running away from

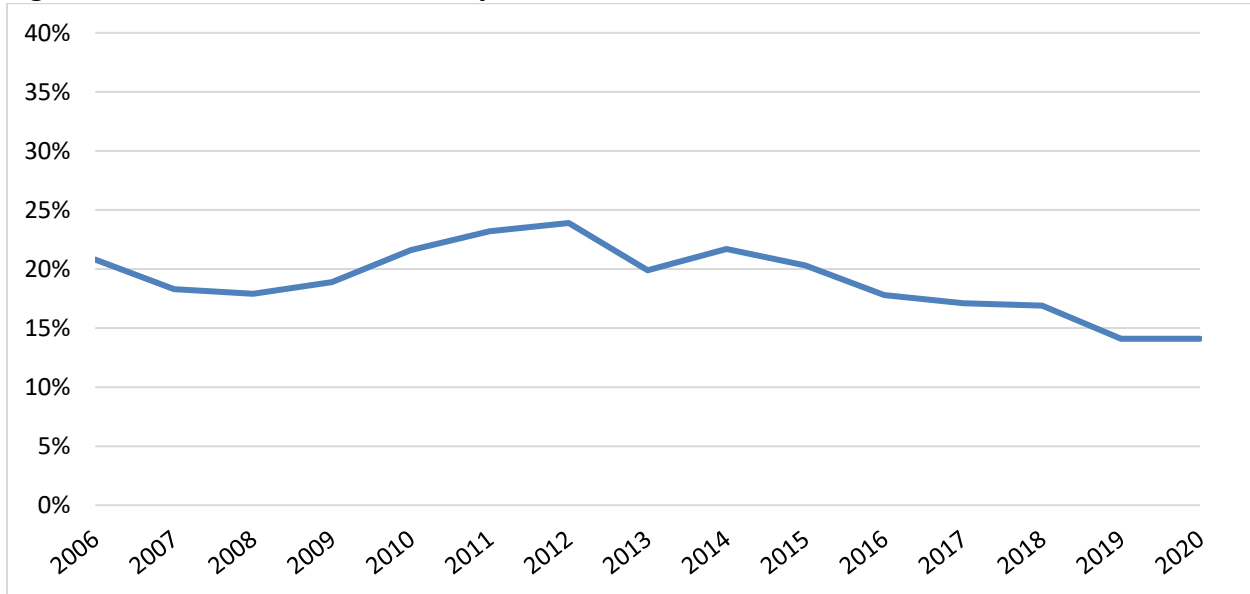
²⁴ Gambon, T. B. & O'Brien, J. R. G. (2021). Runaway Youth: Caring for the Nation's Largest Segment of Missing Children. *Pediatrics*, 145, 1-14. Pergamit, M. R., Ernst, M., Benoit-Bryan J., & Kessel, J. (2010). *Why they run: An in-depth look at America's runaway youth*. Chicago, IL: the National Runaway Switchboard.

²⁵ Crosland, K., Joseph, R., Slattery, L., Hodges, S., & Dunlap, G. (2018). Why youth run: Assessing run function to stabilize foster care placement. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 85, 35-42. Crosland, K., & Dunlap, G. (2015). Running away from foster care: What do we know and what do we do? *Journal of Child & Family Studies*, 24, 1697-1706. Pergamit, M. R., & Ernst, M. (2011). *Running Away from Foster Care: Youths' Knowledge and Access of Services*. Chicago, IL: National Runaway Switchboard. Nesmith A. (2006). Predictors of running away from family foster care. *Child Welfare*, 85, 585-609.

care. For example, children who have two placements are 70% more likely to run away than those who are in their first placement.²⁶

This chapter examines the percentage of youth who run away within one year of entry into substitute care. Since running away occurs most frequently among older children, this indicator includes youth who are 12–17 years old when they enter care. In the past 15 years, the percentage of children who run away reached its highest point in 2012 (23.9%) and has decreased to 14.1% in the recent two years (see Figure 2.18 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.F).

Figure 2.18 Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care



The percentage of youth who run away from substitute care differs by age and race/ethnicity, with a higher percentage of older youth (see Figure 2.19 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.F) and Black youth (see Figure 2.20 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.F) running away within their first year in care.

²⁶ Courtney, M. E. & Zinn, A. (2009). Predictors of running away from out-of-home care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 31, 1298-1306.

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

Figure 2.19 Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care by Age

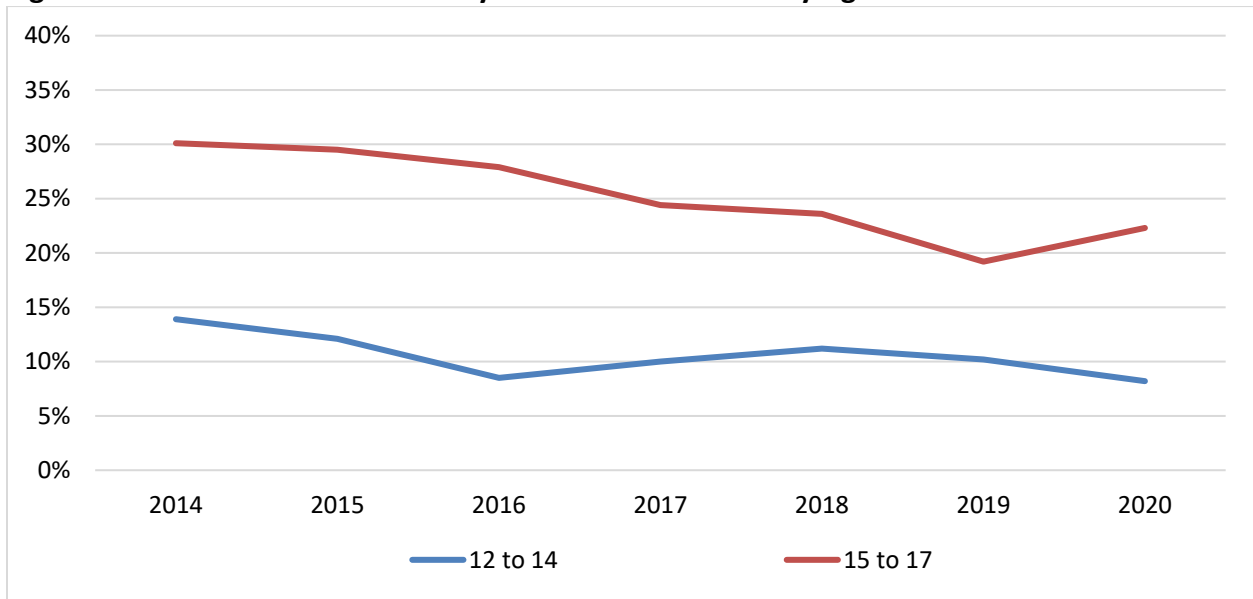
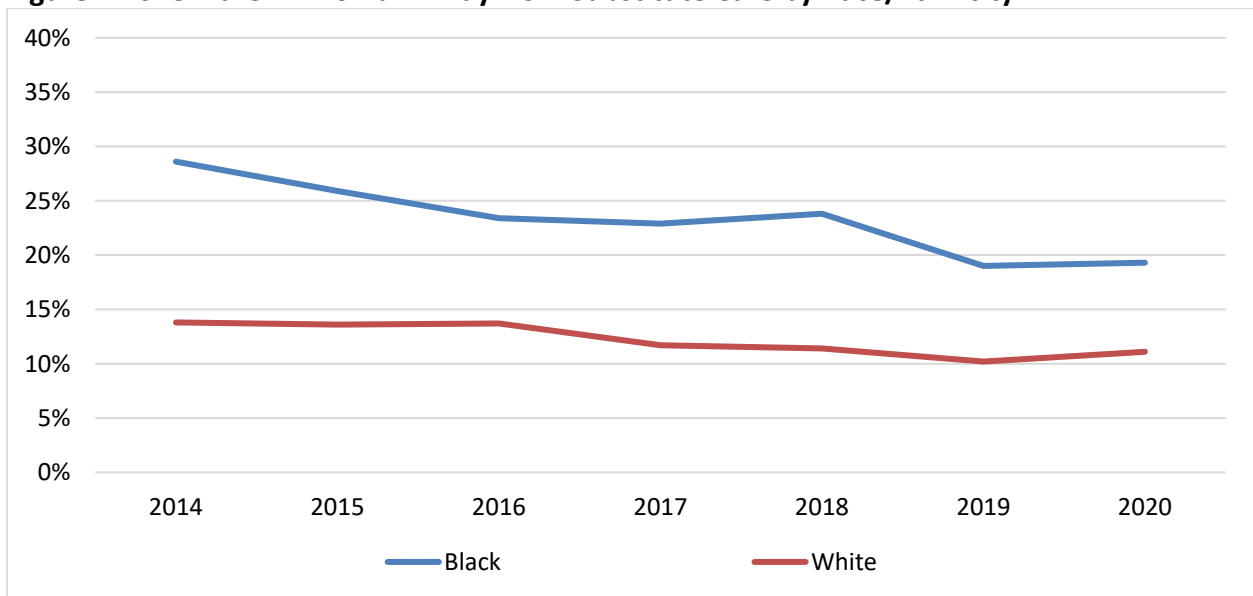
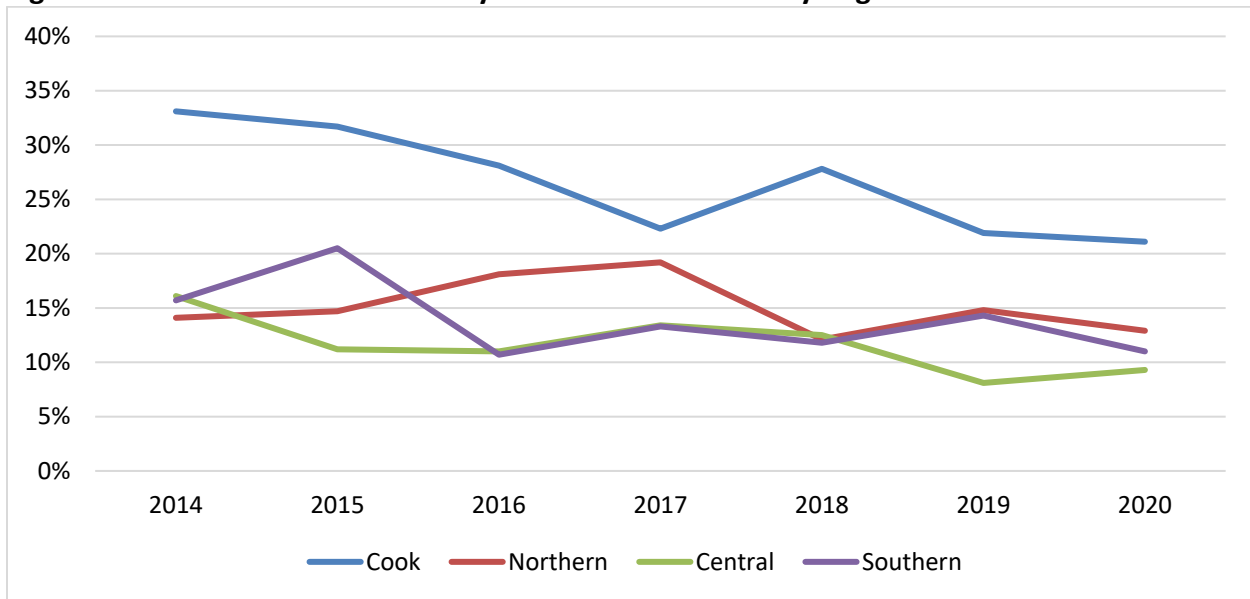


Figure 2.20 Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care by Race/Ethnicity

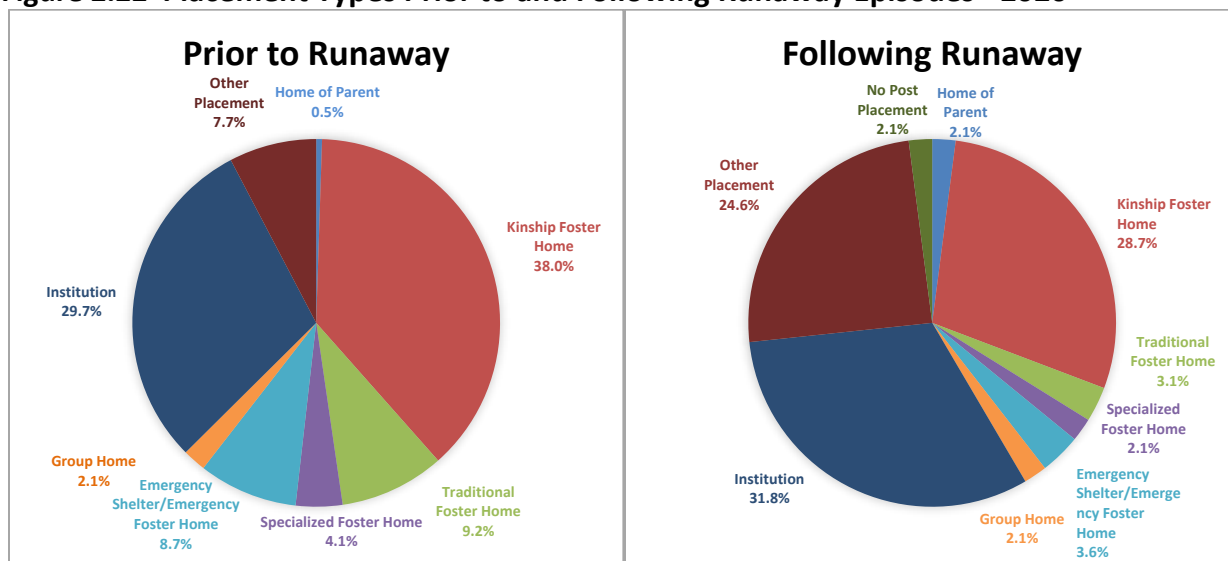


Youth in the Cook region were more likely to run away from their placements than those in other regions. Among youth entering substitute care in the Cook region in 2020, 21.1% ran away during their first year, compared to 12.9% in the Northern region, 9.3% in the Central region, and 11.0% in the Southern region (see Figure 2.21 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.F).

Figure 2.21 Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care by Region

To understand more about the youth who run away from their placements, we examined the placement types prior to and after their first runaway episode in 2020. In addition to the placement types used in previous analyses (home of parent, kinship foster home, traditional foster home, specialized foster home, emergency shelter/emergency foster home, group home, and institution), we created another placement type (“other” placement) that includes medical hospitalization, psychiatric hospitalization, independent living, unauthorized placement, and unauthorized home of parent. Figure 2.22 shows that 38.0% of the youth who ran away in 2020 were living in a kinship foster home prior to running away, 29.7% were living in an institution, 9.2% were in a traditional foster home, and 8.7% were in an emergency shelter/emergency foster home. After running away, 31.8% of the youth were placed in an institution, 28.7% in a kinship foster home, and 24.6% in an “other” placement. A small number of youth (2.1%) had no placement following the runaway episode, which indicates that their cases were closed immediately after the runaway event.

Figure 2.22 Placement Types Prior to and Following Runaway Episodes - 2020

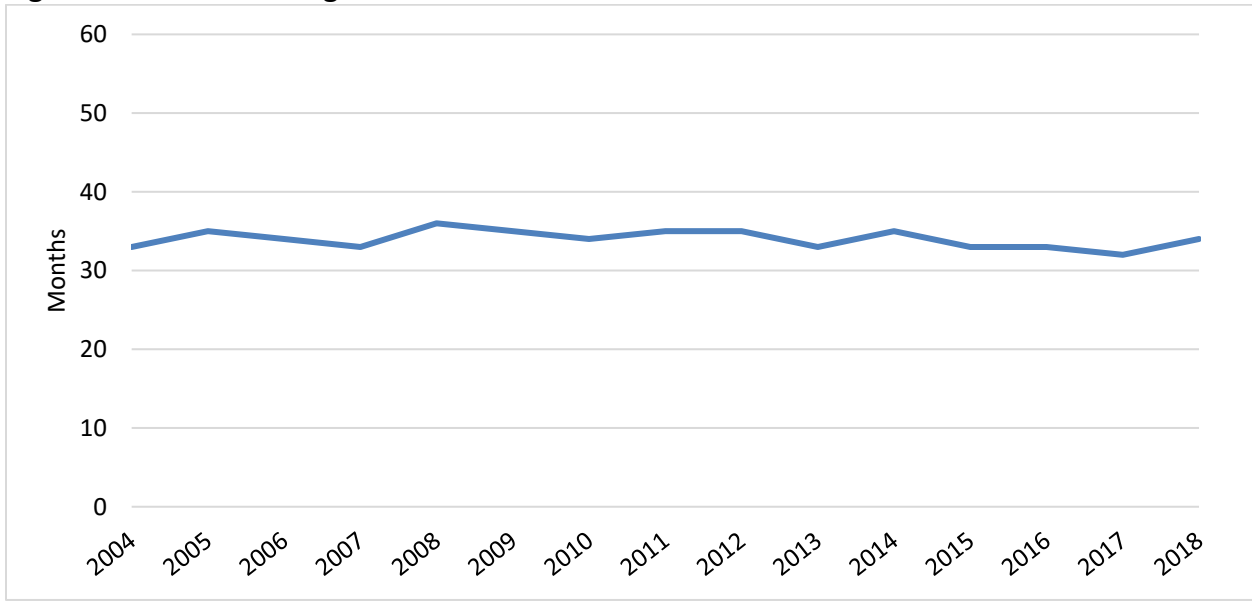


Length of Time in Substitute Care

Children should not languish in foster care. The state may need to take custody of children to keep them safe, but they should not be raised in a substitute care setting for long periods of time. Once a child is placed in substitute care, the goal is to move them out of care as quickly as it is safe and reasonable to do so. The length of time a child spends in substitute care is affected by a variety of factors, including their permanency goal, the type of placement in which they live, and the type of maltreatment that brought them into care.

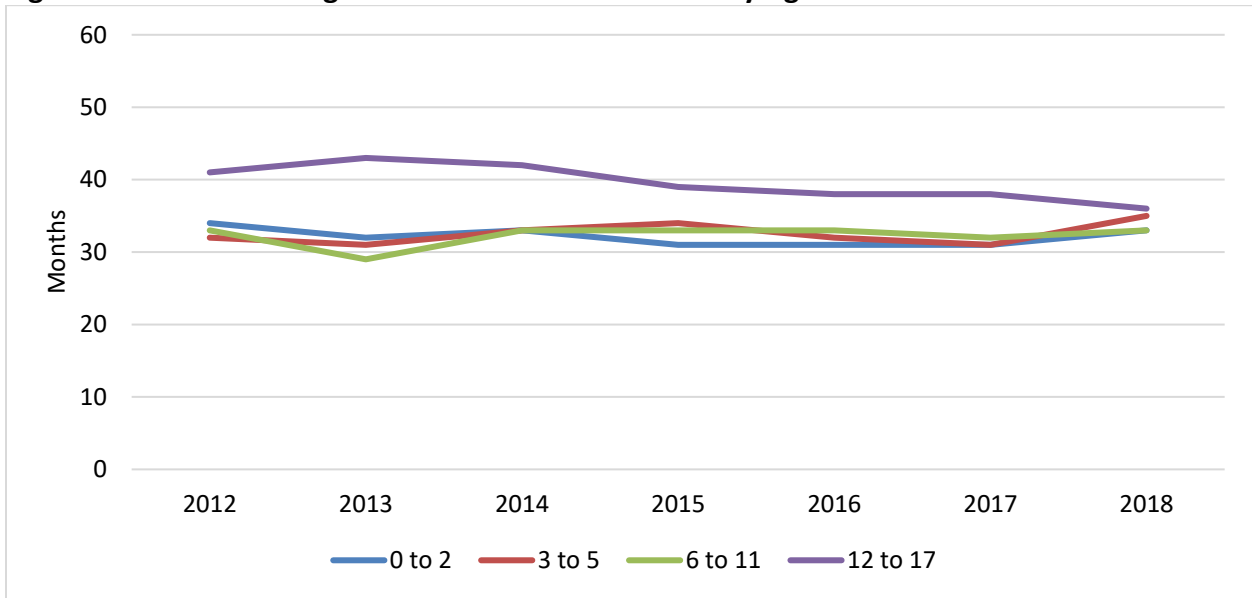
In this report, length of time in substitute care is measured by calculating the median length of time for all children who enter substitute care in a given fiscal year. The median length of stay is the number of months it takes for 50% of those children to exit substitute care. Some children might enter substitute care more than once in a given fiscal year. The analysis here only examines the length of their first spell during the year. Because this measure only includes children that entered care within a given fiscal year and excludes children that entered care in previous year(s) and remained in care, it over-represents children that are in care for a short period of time. The most recent year for which median length of stay in substitute care can be calculated is 2018, since there needs to be enough time for 50% of the children that enter in a given year to exit care. The median length of stay has been between 32 and 36 months for the over the past 15 years (see Figure 2.23), and there has been little change in this indicator in the past seven years (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.G).

Figure 2.23 Median Length of Time in Substitute Care



Older children usually have a longer median length of stay than younger children. However, the length of stay in care for children 12-17 years has been declining over the past seven years and is now similar to that of children in other age groups (see Figure 2.24 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.G).

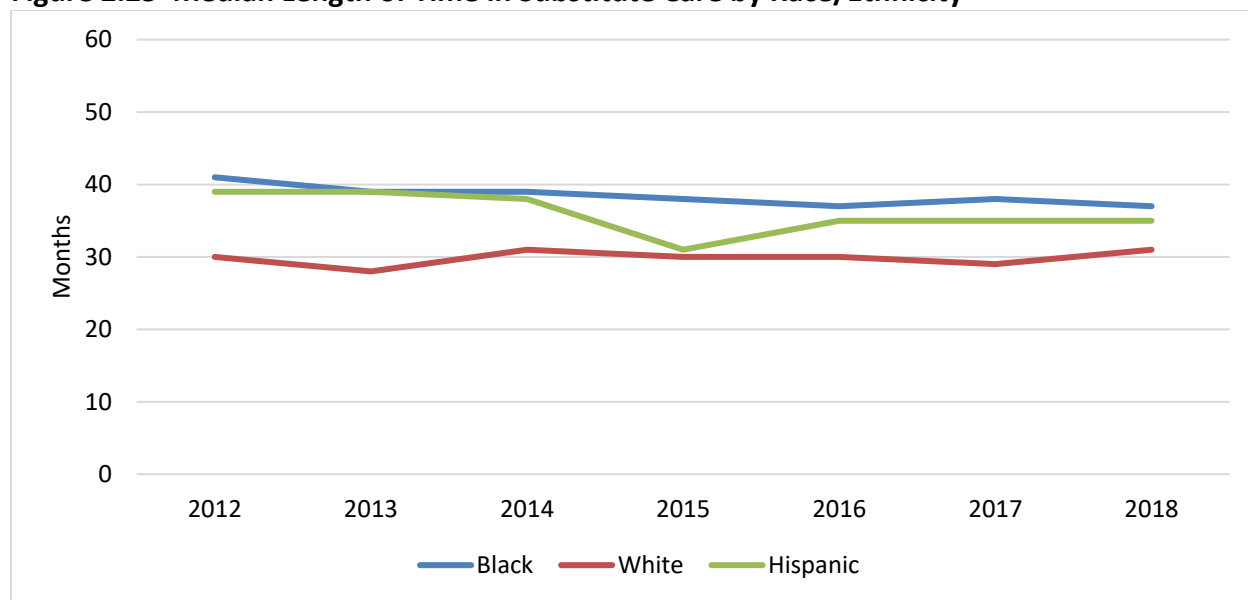
Figure 2.24 Median Length of Time in Substitute Care by Age



The median length of stay varies by race/ethnicity and was lowest for White children (31 months in 2018) compared to Black (37 months in 2018) and Hispanic children (35 months in 2018; see Figure 2.25 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.G).

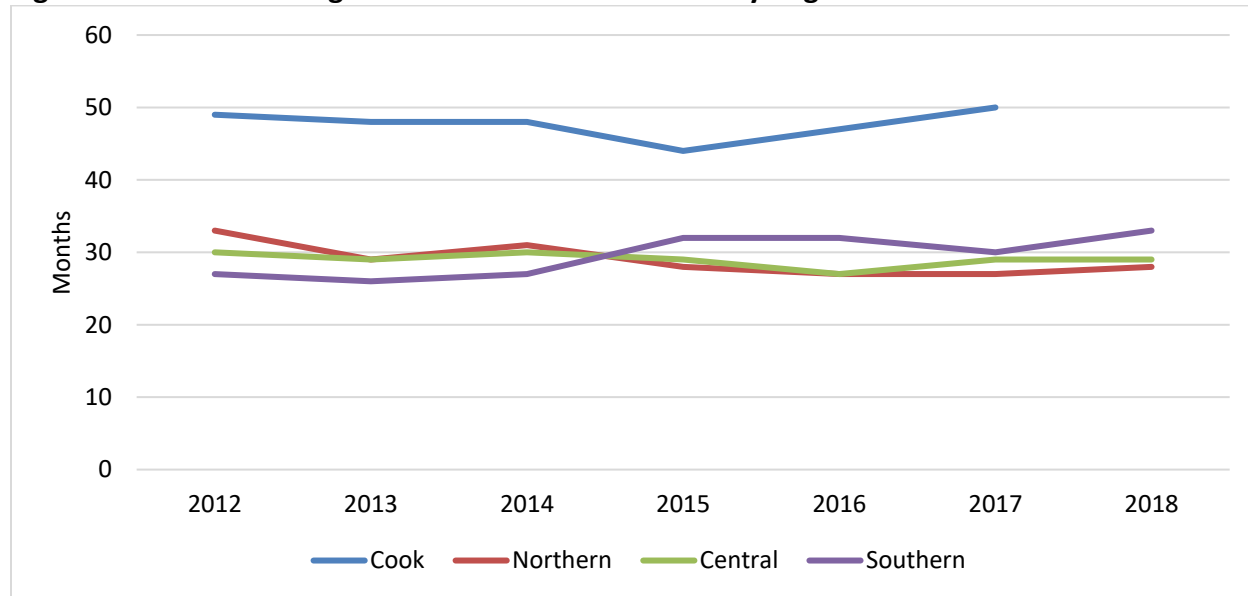
CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

Figure 2.25 Median Length of Time in Substitute Care by Race/Ethnicity



There are notable regional differences in the median length of stay (see Figure 2.26 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.G). Children in the Cook region spent substantially longer time in substitute care than children who resided in other regions.

Figure 2.26 Median Length of Time in Substitute Care by Region²⁷

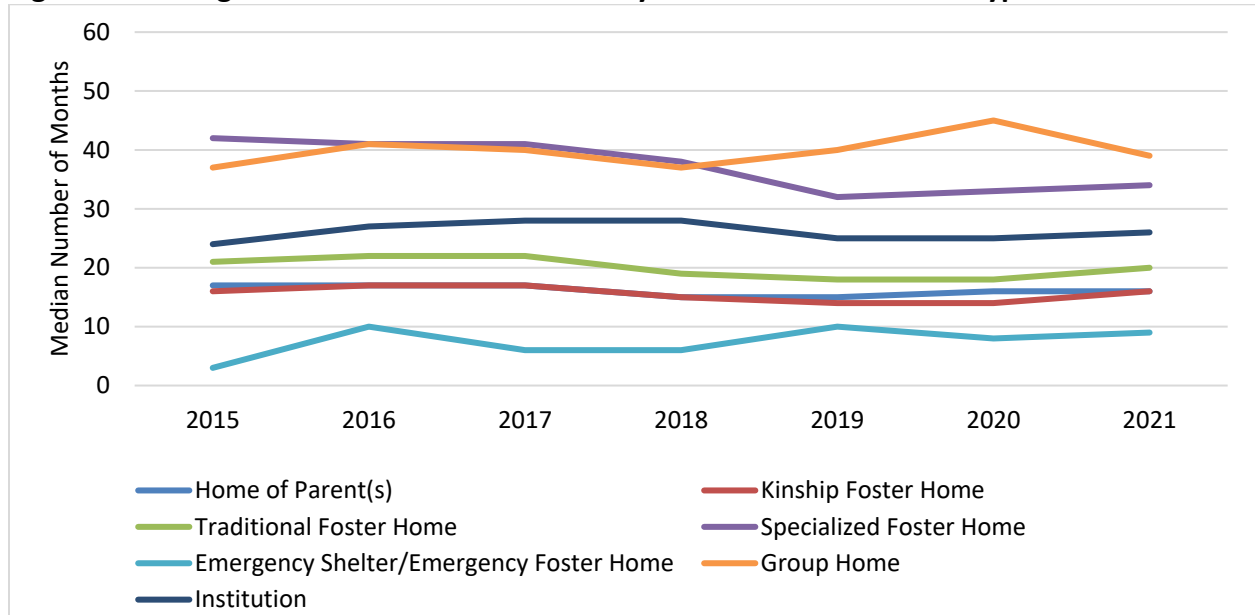


Length of time in substitute care was also examined by end-of-year placement type. In this analysis, the length of time in substitute care is measured by calculating the number of months

²⁷ In the Cook region, less than 50% of 2018 cohort exited substitute care by the end of FY2021. The definition of the median length of stay is the number of months it takes for 50% of the cohort to exit substitute care; therefore the median length of stay for the 2018 cohort in the Cook region cannot be calculated.

between the case open date of each child and the last day of the state fiscal year (June 30th). The median length of stay (in months) is then calculated for each placement type. Figure 2.27 shows that children who were in an emergency shelter/emergency foster home at the end of the year had the shortest median length of time in substitute care over the past seven years (between 3 and 10 months). Children who were in specialized foster homes (32-42 months) or group homes (37-45 months) at the end of the year had the longest median lengths of time in substitute care.

Figure 2.27 Length of Time in Substitute Care by End-of-Year Placement Types



Children Admitted in Psychiatric Hospitals/Facilities

BOX 2.3

In the past few years, DCFS has come under scrutiny for children who were placed in psychiatric hospitals/facilities and stayed beyond medical necessity (ProPublica, 2018; Walker, 2018).²⁸ Although the CFRC does not have access to the data related to medical necessity of stays in psychiatric hospitals/facilities, we are able to provide a descriptive analysis of the children who were admitted to psychiatric hospitals/facilities while they were in substitute care.

Between 3.2% and 4.6% of children in substitute care were admitted to psychiatric hospitals/facilities each year between 2018 and 2021 (see Table 2.1). Of the children admitted to psychiatric hospitals/facilities during these years, the majority were between 12 and 17 years old, followed by children ages 6 to 11, and children ages 0 to 5 (see Figure 2.28). Over half of the children admitted to psychiatric hospitals in 2018 were Black, but this percentage has been decreasing each year and was 43.6% in 2021 (Figure 2.29). Between 33.2% and 41.7% of the children admitted to psychiatric hospitals each year were in the Cook region, followed by the Central region (23.9% and 29.3%), the Northern region (18.5% and 19.4%), and the Southern region (15.1% and 18.2%; Figure 2.30).

Table 2.1 Psychiatric Hospital/Facility Admission(s)

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children in substitute care during the fiscal year	19760	21245	23416	25470
Number of children with psychiatric hospital/facility admission(s) during year	915	986	939	822
Percent	4.6%	4.6%	4.0%	3.2%

²⁸ Eldeib, D. (2018). Hundreds of Illinois children languish in psychiatric hospitals after they're cleared for release. *ProPublica Illinois*. <https://features.propublica.org/stuck-kids/illinois-dcfs-children-psychiatric-hospitals-beyond-medical-necessity/>; Walker, B. J. (2018). *The challenge of youth in psychiatric hospitals*. Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/aboutus/newsandreports/Documents/The_Challenge_of_Youth_in_Psychiatric_Hospitals.pdf

Figure 2.28 Children with Psychiatric Hospital Admission(s) By Age

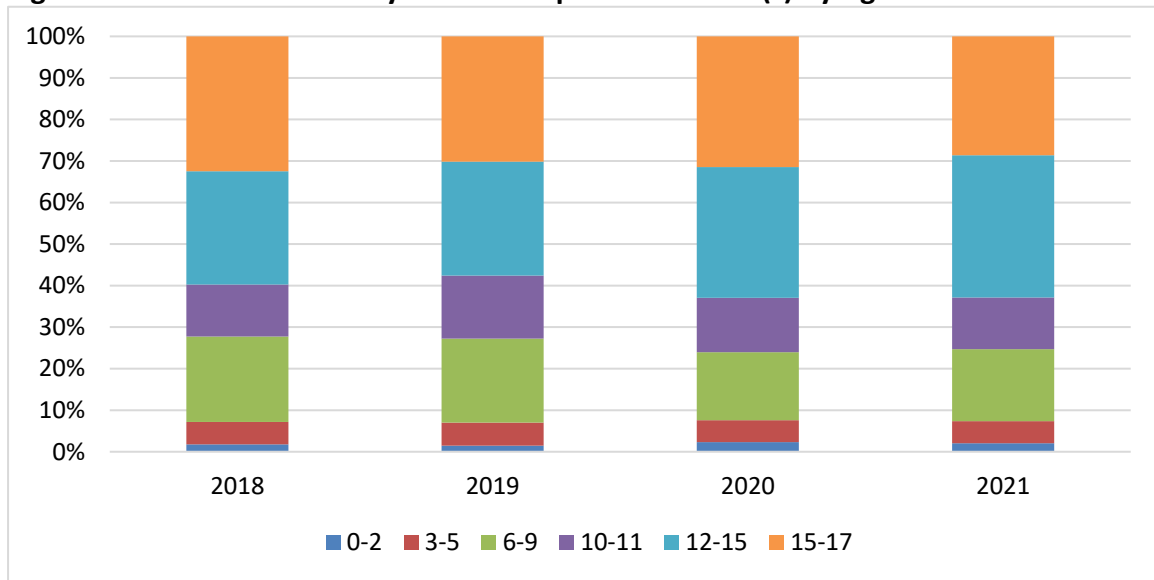


Figure 2.29 Children with Psychiatric Hospital Admission(s) By Race/Ethnicity

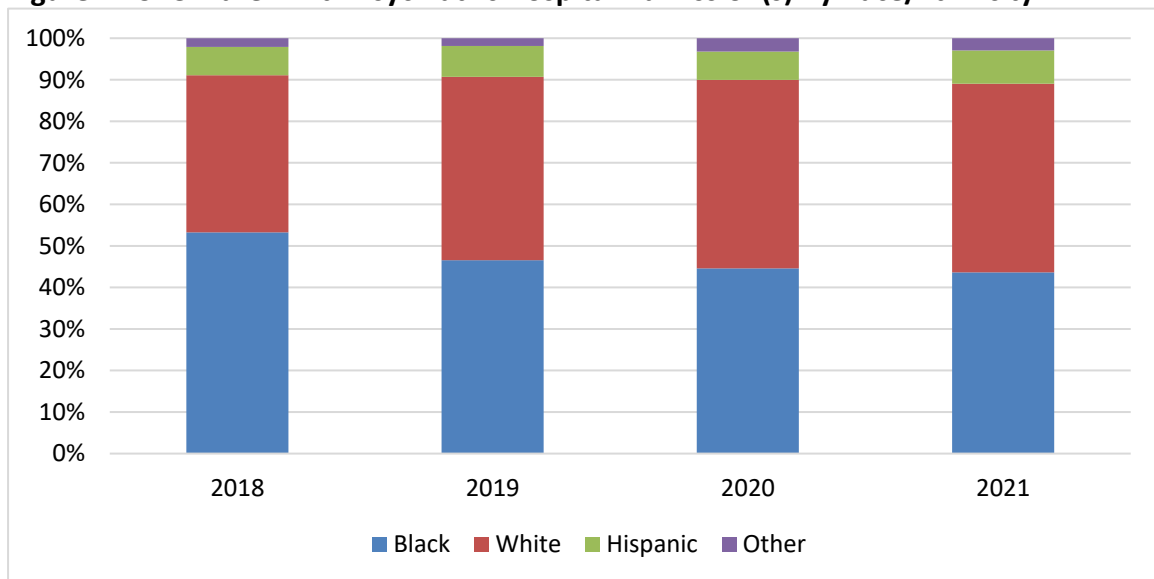
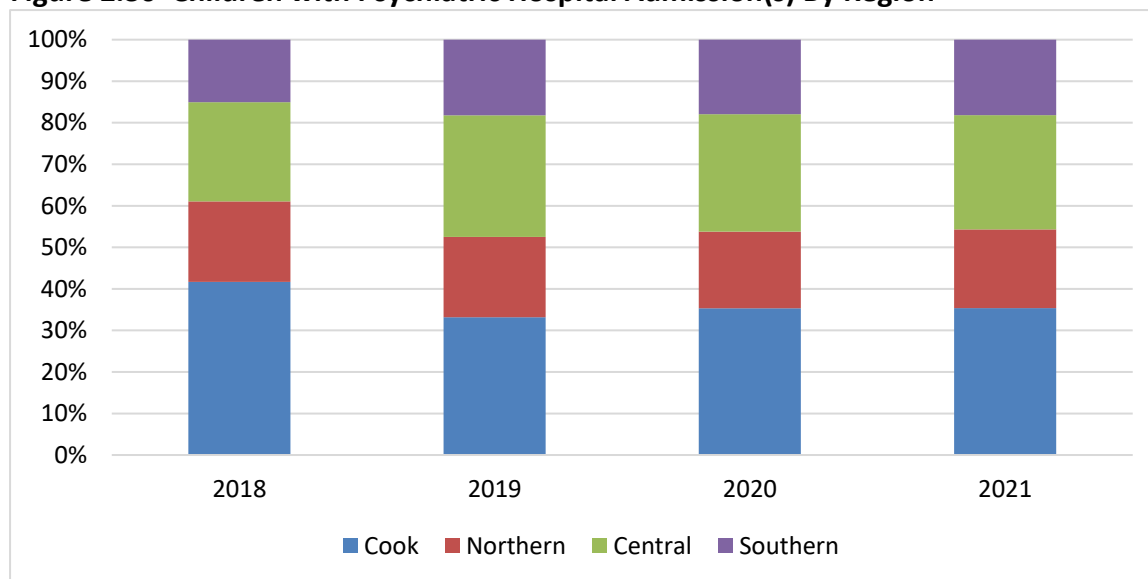


Figure 2.30 Children with Psychiatric Hospital Admission(s) By Region



Around one-third of the children were admitted to psychiatric hospitals or facilities more than once during the year (see Table 2.2). The median length of time in psychiatric hospital/facility stay per child was between 21 and 26 days. However, between 20.4% and 29.9% of children stayed in psychiatric hospitals/facilities for 60 days or more.

Table 2.2 Length of Time in Psychiatric Hospitals/Facilities

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of children with psychiatric hospital/facility admission(s) during year	915	986	939	822
Percent of children with two or more psychiatric hospital/facility admissions during year	35.2%	33.2%	28.8%	30.7%
Median length of time in psychiatric hospital/facility stay (days)	21	24	23	26
Percent of psychiatric hospital/facility stays for 60 days or more	20.4%	23.9%	26.0%	29.9%

Discussion and Conclusions: Family Continuity, Placement Stability, and Length of Time in Care

Once the state decides to take legal custody of children to protect them from harm, the child welfare system has a responsibility to provide the children in its care with safe and stable substitute living arrangements and ensure they maintain connections with their family members and siblings. After many years of relative stability, the number of children entering substitute care during the year has increased significantly since 2018; the number increased from 4,736 entering care in FY2017 to 7,058 entering care in FY2021. In the past, when the number of children entering care increased rapidly, it led to an increased number of children being placed in emergency shelters, emergency foster homes, group homes, and institutions, especially in their initial placements. Examination of the percentage of children initially placed in these placement types since FY2018 does not show an increase in their use and, in fact, shows the opposite. The percentage of children and youth initially placed in emergency shelters and emergency foster homes has decreased over the past seven years and was 0.8% in FY2021. The decrease in the use of initial placements in emergency shelters and foster homes has been especially noteworthy among older children ages 12-17 years; rates in this age group have decreased from 15.0% in 2015 to 3.9% in 2021. Similarly, initial placements in group homes and institutions have decreased over the past seven years, especially among older children, where the rate has dropped from 22.5% in 2015 to 11.7% in 2021.

Other indicators show improvement. For example, the percentage of youth ages 12 to 17 years who are placed in kinship foster homes at the end of year increased from 29.1% in 2015 to 52.5% in 2021. In addition, the percentage of older youth, ages 12 to 17 years, who are placed in institutions at the end of the fiscal year decreased from 25.0% in 2015 to 15.9% in 2021. Placement stability also improved among all children in care, including older children ages 12 to 17. These improvements are encouraging, and the Department may wish to expand their efforts in these areas.



Chapter 3

Legal Permanence: Reunification, Adoption, and Guardianship

All children deserve permanent homes. Although abuse and neglect sometimes make it necessary to place children temporarily in “substitute” homes, federal and state child welfare policies mandate that permanency planning should begin at the time of placement and that children should be placed in safe, nurturing, permanent homes within a reasonable timeframe. In Illinois, there are three processes through which children can exit substitute care and attain a permanent home: reunification with parents, adoption, and guardianship.

3

Reunification with parents is the preferred method for achieving permanence for children in substitute care, and it is the most common way that children exit care, accounting for 48% of exits nationwide.¹ Reunification is possible if parents are able to rectify the issues that endangered their children, often with the help of child welfare and other services. In some cases, parents are not able to provide a safe, nurturing home for their children, even with the aid of services. In these instances, child welfare professionals must find alternative placements for children as quickly as possible. A second permanency option is **adoption**, in which kin or non-kin adoptive parents legally commit to care for children. Adoptive parents have identical rights and responsibilities as biological parents; they may also receive financial support from the state. In 2020, adoptions made up 25% of foster care exits nationally,² and many children wait each year for adoption. **Guardianship** is a third permanency option in which caregivers,

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2021). *The AFCARS report: Preliminary FY 2020 estimates*. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/afcarsreport28.pdf>

² Ibid.

almost always kin, assume legal custody and permanent care of children and receive financial assistance from the state. This form of permanence allows caregivers to provide a permanent home for children while not requiring them to terminate the parental rights of the biological parent, who is typically a close relative of the guardian. Guardianship is less common than reunification and adoption, accounting for 10% of foster care exits nationally in 2020.³

Measuring Legal Permanence

There are several different ways to measure the performance of the child welfare system in achieving permanence for children in substitute care. Good indicators are tied to the system's critical performance goals, which in this case involve moving children from temporary placements in substitute care to permanent homes and doing so in a timely manner. Thus, permanency indicators should measure both the **likelihood** of achieving permanence as well as the **timeliness** in which it is achieved. In addition, the **stability** of the permanent placements should be monitored to ensure that the children who exit substitute care do not re-enter care.

One consideration when selecting indicators for measuring permanency outcomes is whether to combine the different types of permanency (reunification, adoption, and guardianship) into a single measure, or to examine the likelihood and timeliness of each type separately. The measures used in the third round of the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) combine reunification, adoption, guardianship, and living with relatives into an overall permanency rate. The CFSR permanency indicators examine the overall permanency rate in three different groups of children: 1) children who enter substitute care during a 12-month period;⁴ 2) children who have been in care between 12 and 23 months;⁵ and 3) children who have been in care 24 months or more.⁶ In addition, the Round 3 CFSR indicators include one measure of re-entry into substitute care for the children who achieve permanence within 12 months.⁷ The *B.H.* monitoring report includes the four CFSR permanency indicators, plus two additional indicators of re-entry that are based on CFSR measures (see Appendix A for technical definitions of these indicators).⁸

³ Ibid.

⁴ Children's Bureau (n.d.). *CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicator Series: Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Foster Care*. Retrieved <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/focus-areas/cqi/cfsr-data-syntax-toolkit/>

⁵ Children's Bureau (n.d.). *CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicator Series: Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 12 to 23 Months*. Retrieved from <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/focus-areas/cqi/cfsr-data-syntax-toolkit/>

⁶ Children's Bureau (n.d.). *CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicator Series: Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 24 Months or More*. Retrieved from <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/focus-areas/cqi/cfsr-data-syntax-toolkit/>

⁷ Children's Bureau (n.d.). *CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicator Series: Re-Entry to Foster Care*. Retrieved from <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/focus-areas/cqi/cfsr-data-syntax-toolkit/>

⁸ Please note that although we have adapted the CFSR measures for use in this report, we do not use the same data extraction method for computing the results, nor do we apply any risk adjustment strategies used by the

In an effort to provide a more nuanced understanding of the dynamics associated with children’s exits to permanence, this report also includes additional indicators that look at the likelihood and timeliness of each type of permanence (reunification, adoption, and guardianship) separately. Policy and practice changes may affect one type of exit positively, while negatively impacting another; examining only the overall permanency rate would mask such effects. This chapter therefore includes measures of the percentages of children in each yearly entry cohort that exit substitute care to reunification, adoption, and guardianship within 24 and 36 months.⁹ For each type of permanence, the percentage of children exiting within 36 months is examined by child age, gender, race, and geographic region; notable differences in subgroups are described in the chapter. The stability of each permanence type is measured by the percentage that remain intact (i.e., the children do not re-enter substitute care) within one year (reunification only), two years, five years, and ten years following the child’s exit from substitute care (see Appendix A for definitions of all indicators included in this report).

Child welfare systems strive to find permanent homes for all children in care, but this goal is not achieved for all children. Many children remain in care for much longer than 36 months, and others exit substitute care without a legally permanent parent or guardian—they run away, they are incarcerated, and they emancipate or “age out” of the child welfare system.

Changes in Permanence at a Glance

Children Achieving Permanence (CFSR)

↔ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that achieved permanence within 12 months remained stable and was 14.9% of children who entered care in 2020.

↔ Of all children who had been in care between 12 and 23 months on the first day of the fiscal year, the percentage that achieved permanence within 12 months remained stable and was 24.5% in 2021.

↔ Of all children who had been in care 24 months or more on the first day of the fiscal year, the percentage that achieved permanence within 12 months remained stable and was 29.5% in 2021.

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Children’s Bureau to calculate state performance. Therefore, the results presented in this report may not be comparable to those produced in the federal child welfare outcomes reports.

⁹ The report also includes an indicator of the percentage of children who are reunified within 12 months. Because adoptions and guardianships are seldom finalized within 12 months of a child’s entry into care, the 12-month rate is only used for reunifications. Please also note that, because entry cohorts are used to examine permanency rates over time, the most recent entry cohort available to examine permanence within 36 months is the 2017 entry cohort.

LEGAL PERMANENCE

↓ Of all children who achieved permanence within 12 months, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of discharge decreased from 8.2% of children who exited care in 2018 to 7.3% of children who exited care in 2019 (-11% change).

↑ Of all children who achieved permanence after living in substitute care between 12 and 23 months, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of discharge increased from 4.0% of children who exited care in 2019 to 5.2% of children who exited care in 2020 (+30% change).

↑ Of all children who achieved permanence after living in substitute care 24 months or more, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of discharge increased from 1.7% of children who exited care in 2019 to 2.1% of children who exited care in 2020 (+24% change).

Children Achieving Reunification

↔ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 12 months remained stable and was 15.8% of children who entered care in 2020.

↔ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 24 months remained stable and was 30.7% of children who entered care in 2019.

↑ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 36 months increased from 34.7% in 2017 to 38.2% in 2018 (+10% change).

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at one year post-reunification remained stable and was 92.0% of children who were reunified in 2020.

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at two years post-reunification remained stable and was 87.5% of children who were reunified in 2019.

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at five years post-reunification remained stable and was 84.1% of children who were reunified in 2016.

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at 10 years post-reunification remained stable and was 86.6% of children who were reunified in 2011.

Children Achieving Adoption

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was adopted within 24 months decreased from 4.2% of children who entered care in 2018 to 3.1% of children who entered care in 2019 (-26% change).

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was adopted within 36 months decreased from 16.6% of children who entered care in 2017 to 12.1% of children who entered care in 2018 (-27% change).

↔ Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage living with their family at 2 years post-adoption remained stable and was 99.1% of children who were adopted in 2019.

↔ Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage living with their family at 5 years post-adoption remained stable and was 97.2% of children who were adopted in 2016.

↔ Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage living with their family at 10 years post-adoption remained stable and was 95.8% of children who were adopted in 2011.

Children Achieving Guardianship

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that attained guardianship within 24 months decreased from 1.3% of children who entered care in 2018 to 0.7% of children who entered care in 2019 (-46% change).

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that attained guardianship within 36 months decreased from 2.7% of children who entered care in 2017 to 2.4% of children who entered care in 2018 (-11% change).

↔ Of all children who attained guardianship during the year, the percentage living with their family at 2 years post-guardianship remained stable and was 98.1% of children who attained guardianship in 2019.

↔ Of all children who attained guardianship during the year, the percentage living with their family at 5 years post-guardianship remained stable and was 96.7% of children who attained guardianship in 2016.

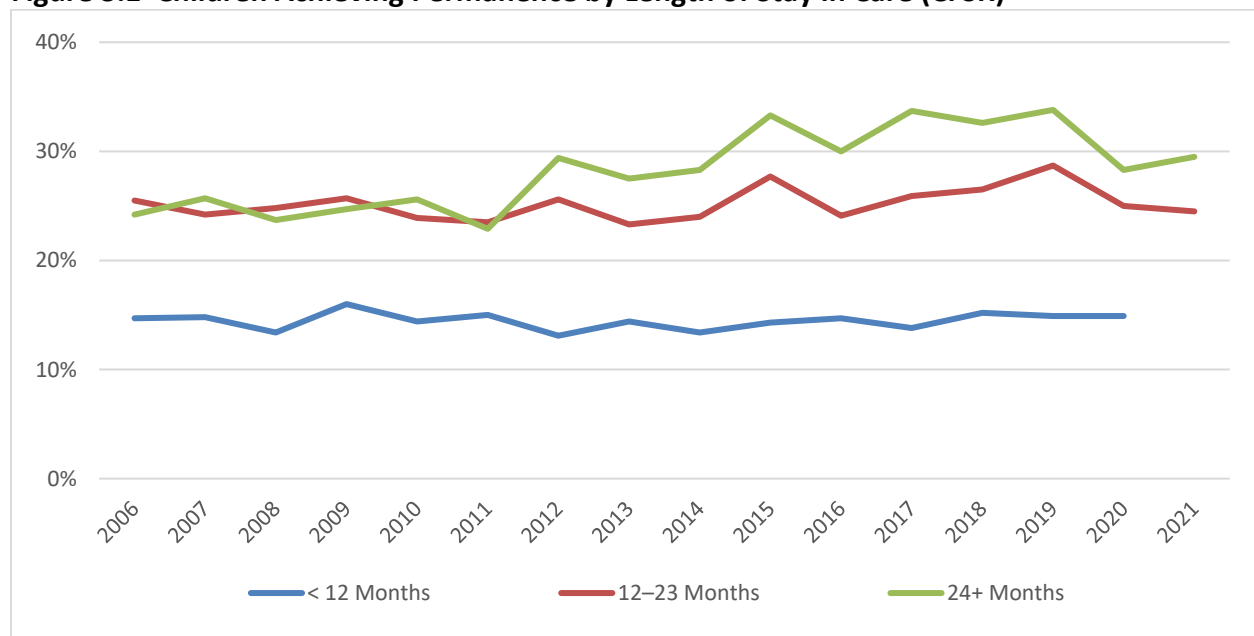
↓ Of all children who attained guardianship during the year, the percentage living with their family at 10 years post-guardianship decreased from 92.0% of children who attained guardianship in 2010 to 86.9% of children who attained guardianship in 2011 (-6% change).

Children Achieving Permanence (CFSR)

The CFSR permanency indicators measure whether the child welfare agency “reunifies or places children in safe and permanent homes as soon as possible after removal.”¹⁰ Figure 3.1 shows the percentages of children that exit substitute care through reunification, living with relatives, adoption, and guardianship each year over the past 15 years. Permanency rates are shown for three different groups of children: 1) children who enter substitute care during the fiscal year; 2) children who have been in care between 12 and 23 months on the first day of the fiscal year; and 3) children who have been in care 24 months or more on the first day of the fiscal year (see Figure 3.1 and Appendix B, Indicators 3.G, 3.H, and 3.I).

Between 13-16% of children who entered substitute care during the year achieved permanence within 12 months of entering care (blue line in Figure 3.1) and there has been little change in this rate for many years. The permanency rate among children who had been in care for 12 to 23 months (red line) has fluctuated between 24-29% between 2014 and 2020. Permanency rates for children in substitute care for 24 or more months (green line) increased from 22.9% in 2011 to 33.8% in 2019, but decreased to 29.5% in 2021.

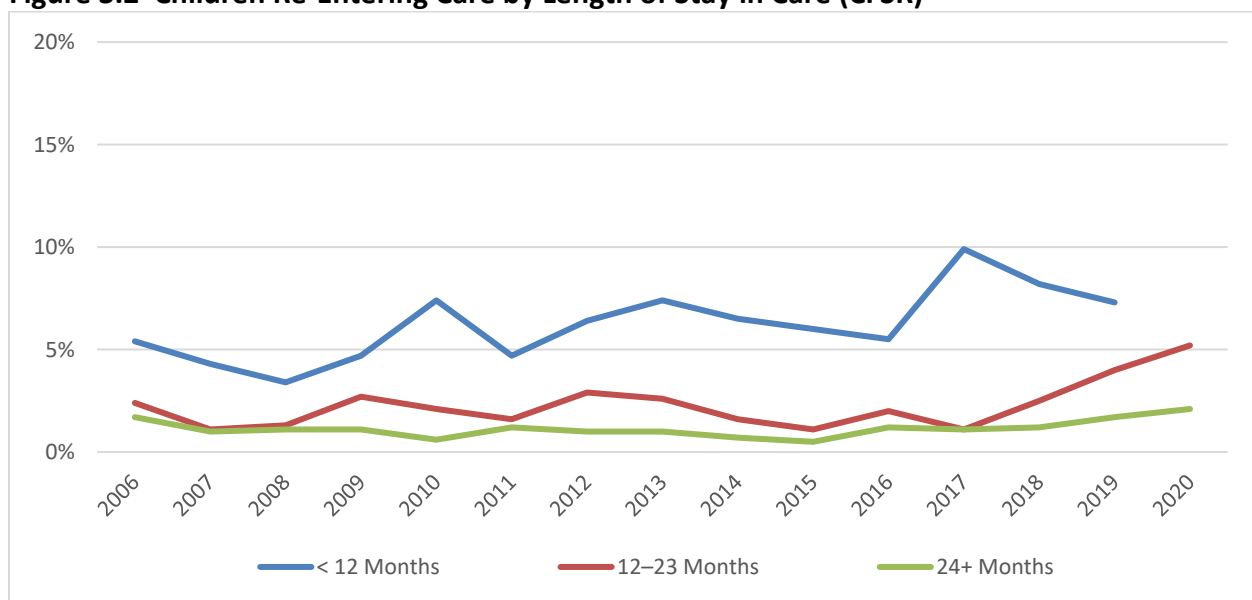
Figure 3.1 Children Achieving Permanence by Length of Stay in Care (CFSR)



¹⁰ Children’s Bureau. (May 13, 2015). *Executive Summary of the Final Notice of Statewide Data Indicators and National Standards for Child and Family Service Reviews*. Accessed from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/round3_cfsr_executive_summary.pdf

The percentages of children in each of these three groups that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of their exit are shown in Figure 3.2 (see Appendix B, Indicators 3.J, 3.K, and 3.L). Children in care less than 12 months prior to achieving permanence (blue line) have the highest rates of re-entry into substitute care compared to other groups of children; 7.3% of the children who achieved permanence in 2019 re-entered substitute care within 12 months. Children who were in substitute care for 12 to 23 months (red line) and 24 months or more (green line) prior to achieving permanence had much lower rates of re-entry into substitute care compared to children in care less than 12 months prior to achieving permanence; between 1-5% of those children re-entered care within 12 months of achieving permanence. However, re-entry rates for children in these two groups have increased during the past three years and are at their highest rate in 15 years in 2020 (5.2% and 2.1% respectively).

Figure 3.2 Children Re-Entering Care by Length of Stay in Care (CFSR)

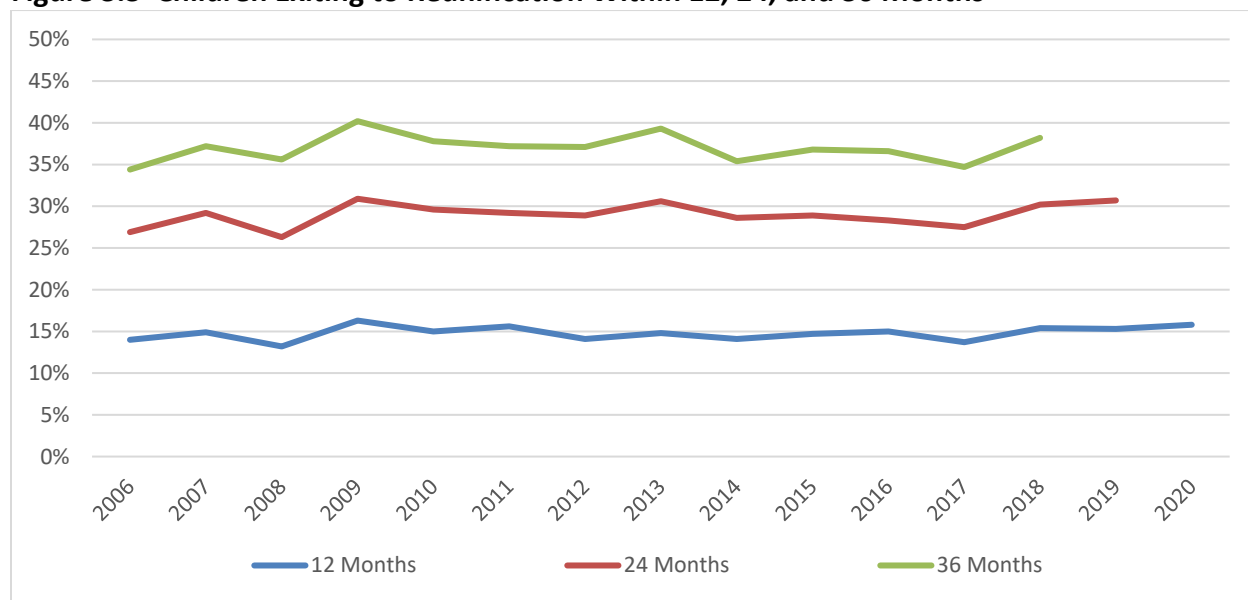


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Children Achieving Reunification

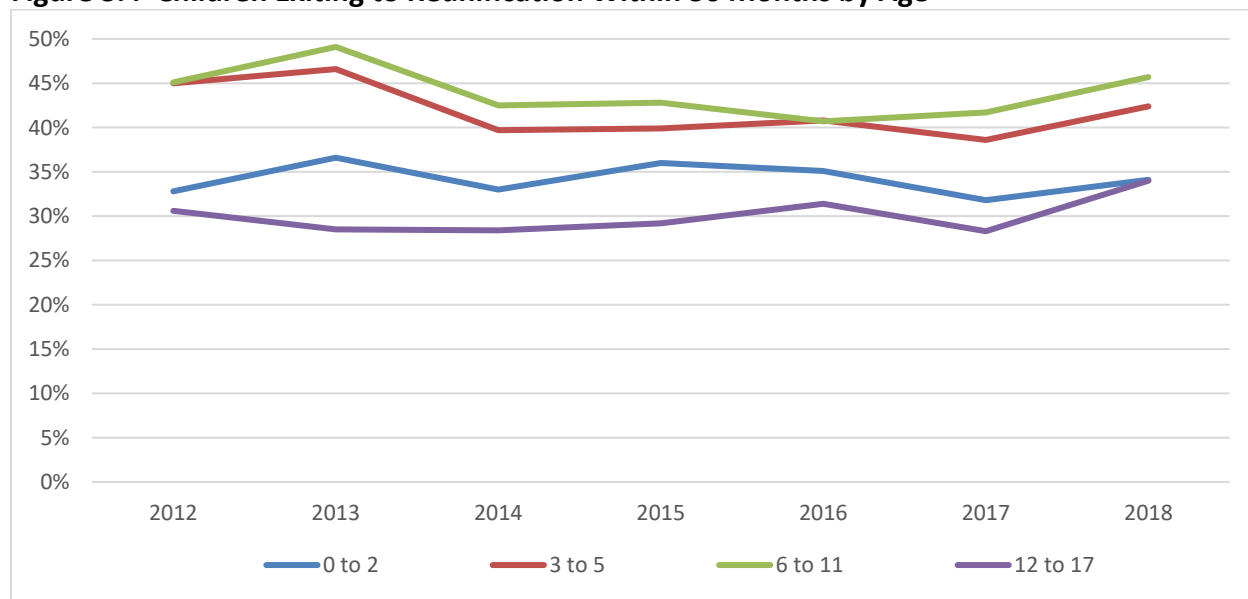
Figure 3.3 examines the percentage of children exiting substitute care to reunification within 12, 24, and 36 months of their entry into care (see Appendix B, Indicators 3.A.1, 3.A.2, and 3.A.3). For the 2020 entry cohort, 15.8% of children exited care to reunification within 12 months. For the 2019 entry cohort, 30.7% of children exited care within 24 months, and for the 2018 entry cohort, 38.2% exited within 36 months. There has been little notable change in reunification rates for many years.

Figure 3.3 Children Exiting to Reunification Within 12, 24, and 36 Months



One factor that influences a child’s likelihood of reunification within 36 months is their age (see Figure 3.4 and Appendix B, Indicator 3.A.3). Children ages 3 to 11 years old when they entered care were more likely to be reunified—42.4% of children ages 3 to 5 years old and 45.7% of children 6 to 11 who entered care in 2018 were reunified within 36 months. Children ages 0 to 2 and youth ages 12 to 17 years old were less likely to be reunified; around 34% of those who entered care in 2018 were reunified within 3 years of entering care.

Figure 3.4 Children Exiting to Reunification Within 36 Months by Age



Race and ethnicity are also associated with a child’s likelihood of achieving reunification within three years of entering care; in general, Black children are slightly less likely to be reunified than either White or Hispanic children (see Figure 3.5 and Appendix B, Indicator 3.A.3).

Figure 3.5 Children Exiting to Reunification Within 36 Months by Race/Ethnicity

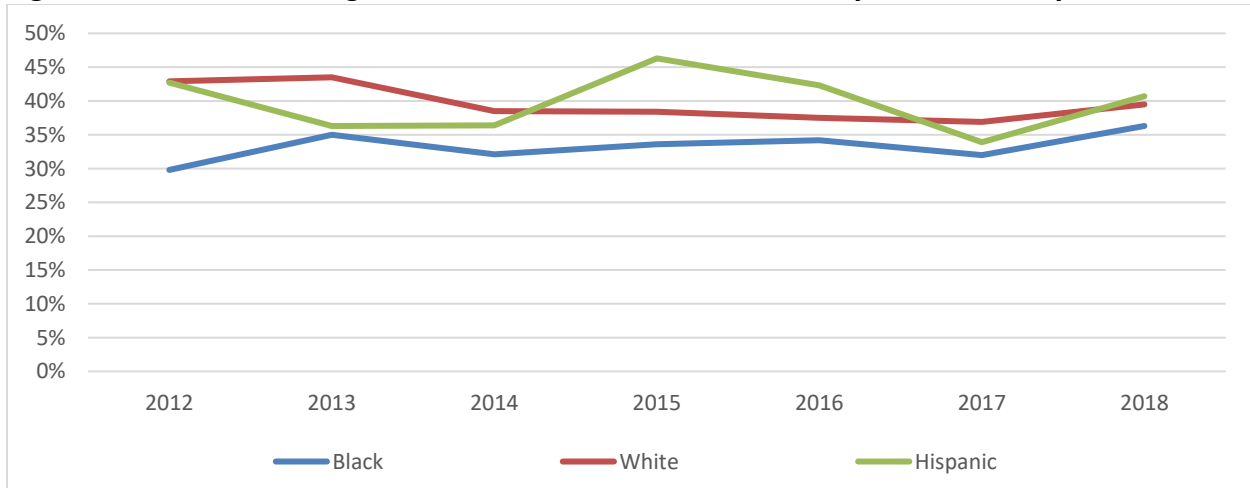
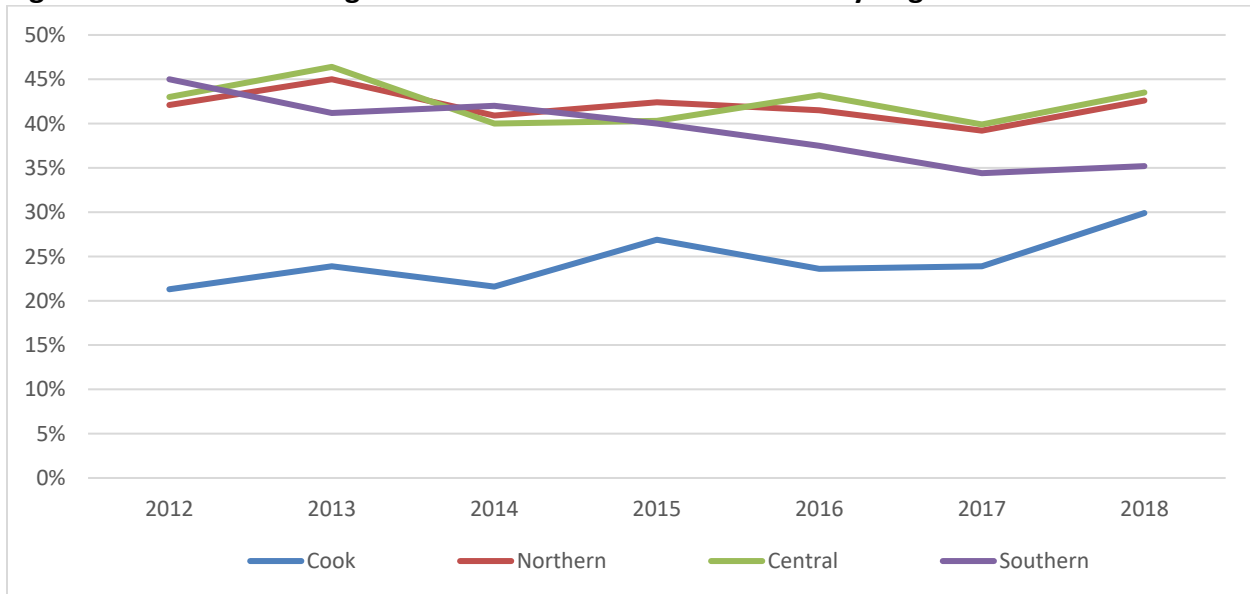


Figure 3.6 shows the 36-month reunification rate by region (see Appendix B, Indicator 3.A.3). Reunification rates in the Cook region are much lower than in any other region. Only 29.9% of children who entered care in the Cook region in 2018 were reunified with their families within 36 months, compared to 42.6% of children in the Northern region, 43.5% of children in the Central region, and 35.2% of children in the Southern region. Although the reunification rates in the Cook region are much lower than those in other regions, there has been a slight increase in the reunification rate in the Cook region since 2014.

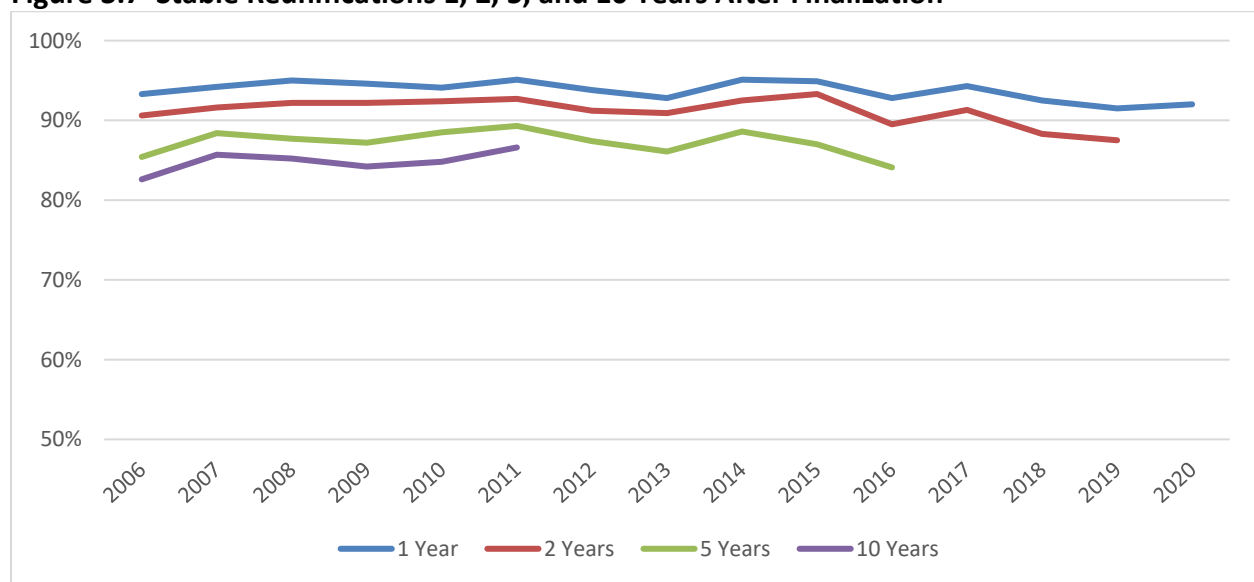
Figure 3.6 Children Exiting to Reunification Within 36 Months by Region



Stability of Reunification

Reunification is only considered permanent if children can remain safely in their homes and are not removed again. Figure 3.7 displays the percentages of children that remain stable in their homes (and do not re-enter care) within 1, 2, 5, and 10 years following reunification with their parents (see Appendix B, Indicators 3.B.1, 3.B.2, 3.B.3, and 3.B.4). As expected, the stability of reunifications decreases over time. For example, of the children who were reunified in 2011, 95.1% remained at home one year after reunification, while only 86.6% remained at home after ten years. There has been little fluctuation in the stability of reunifications over the past decade.

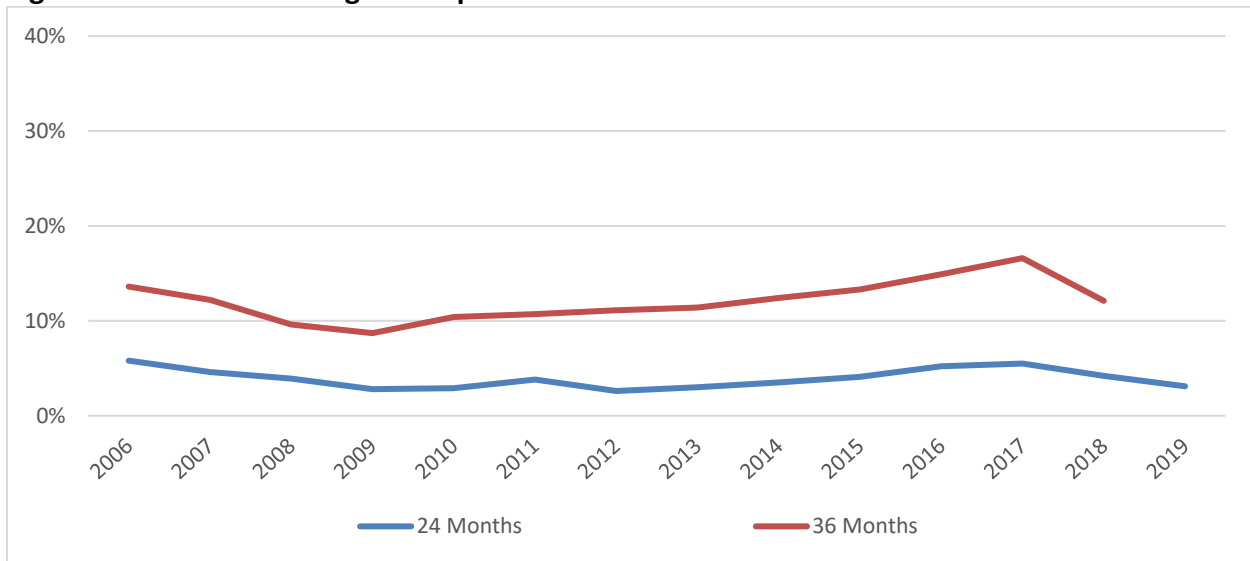
Figure 3.7 Stable Reunifications 1, 2, 5, and 10 Years After Finalization



Children Achieving Adoption

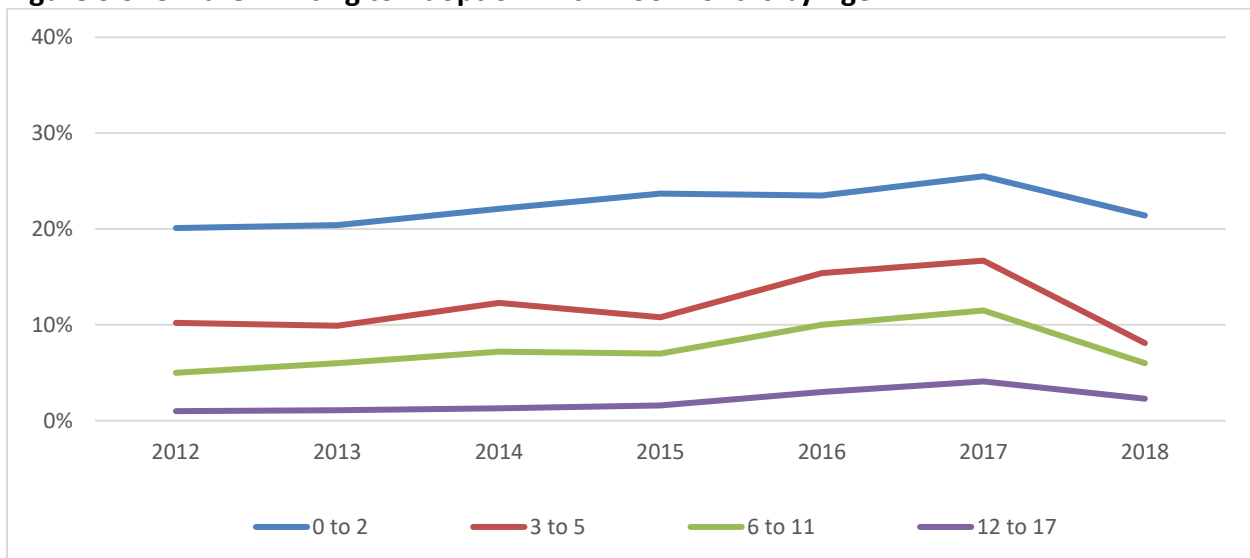
Adoption, in which a child’s biological parents’ rights are terminated and new adults assume this role, is another form of legal permanence available to children in substitute care. Adoption is generally considered a secondary option for permanence and is only available after reasonable efforts to achieve reunification have failed or become impossible. As such, it is unlikely to occur within 12 months of entry into care, and Figure 3.8 presents the percentages of children adopted within 24 and 36 months of entry into care (see Appendix B, Indicators 3.C.1 and 3.C.2). The 24- and 36-month adoption rates have decreased over 25% in the most recent entry cohorts.

Figure 3.8 Children Exiting to Adoption Within 24 and 36 Months



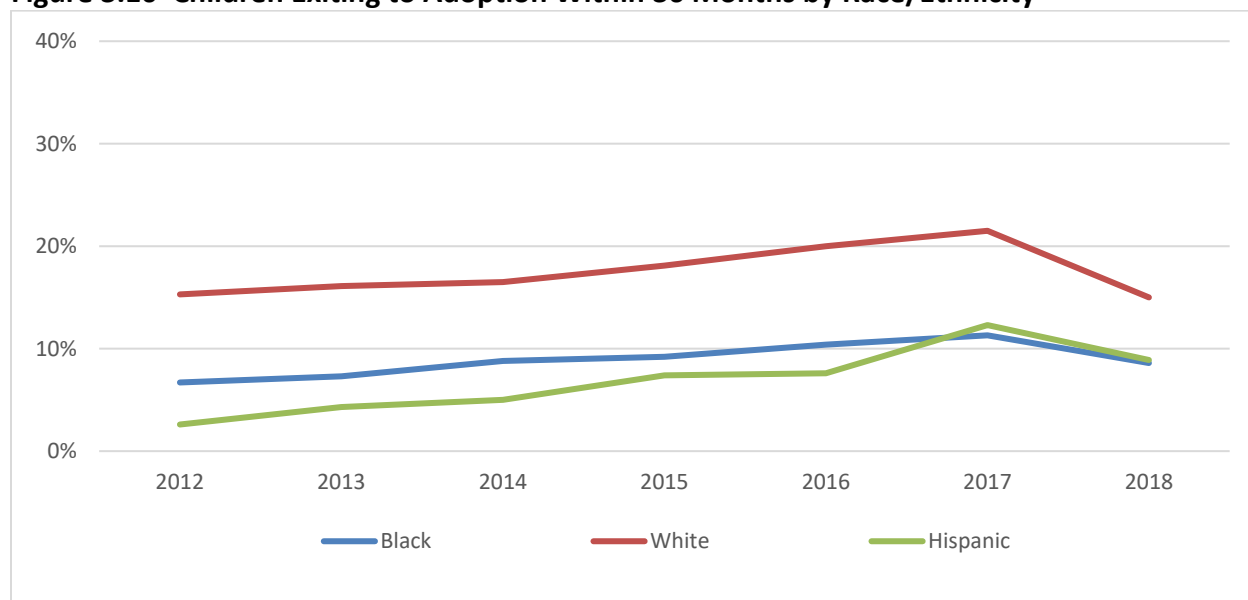
Age plays an important role in understanding the children most likely to be adopted; children from birth to 2 years of age are more likely to exit care to adoption than older children. Figure 3.9 shows the 36-month adoption rates by age group (see Appendix B, Indicator 3.C.2) and highlights the gap between the adoption rate for children 0 to 2 and all other age groups— 21.4% of children ages 0 to 2 entering care in 2018 were adopted within 36 months, compared to 8.1% of children ages 3 to 5 years old, 6.0% of children ages 6 to 11 years old, and 2.3% of youth ages 12 to 17 years old. Youth ages 12 years and older when they enter care are very unlikely to be adopted within three years. Usually less than 3% of youth ages 12 years and older are adopted each year. The decrease in adoptions in the most recent entry cohort can be seen in all groups groups but was especially pronounced in children ages 3-5 (52% relative decrease), ages 6-11 (48% relative decrease), and age 12-17 (43% relative decrease).

Figure 3.9 Children Exiting to Adoption Within 36 Months by Age



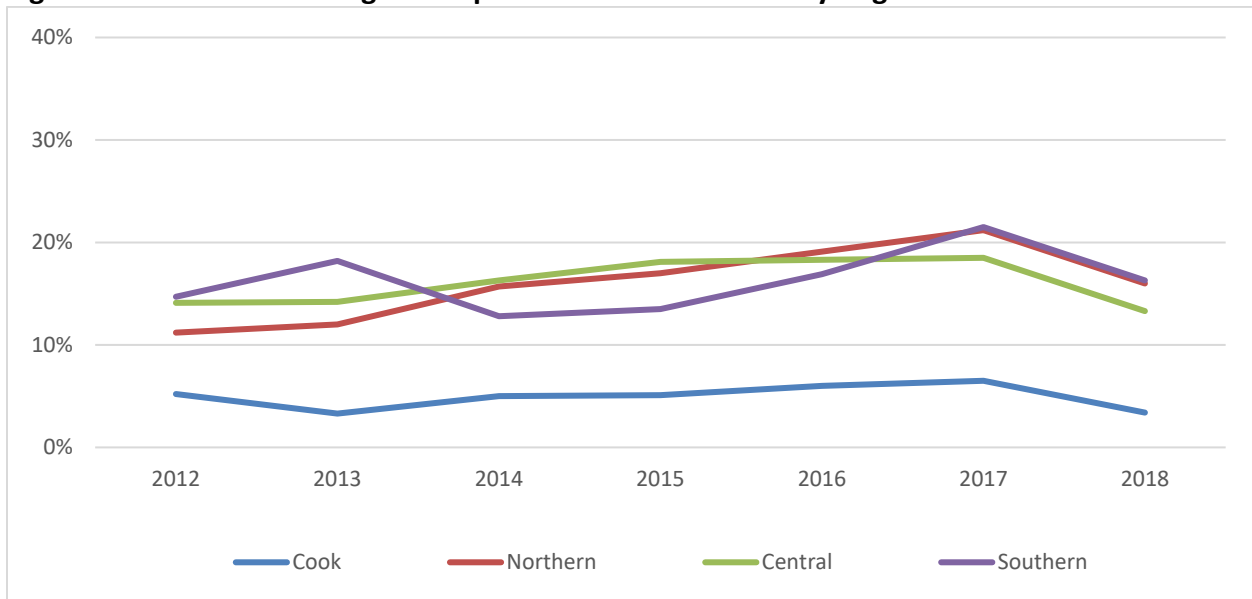
Race and ethnicity are other factors that influence the likelihood of adoption. White children are consistently more likely to exit care to adoption within 36 months than are Black and Hispanic children, as shown in Figure 3.10 (see also Appendix B, Indicator 3.C.2). For White children entering care in 2018, 15.0% exited care to adoption within 36 months, compared to 8.6% of Black children and 8.9% of Hispanic children. Adoption rates across the three groups had been increasing over the past several years but rates decreased for all racial groups in the most recent year.

Figure 3.10 Children Exiting to Adoption Within 36 Months by Race/Ethnicity



Adoption rates by region are shown in Figure 3.11 (see also Appendix B, Indicator 3.C.2). As with reunifications, adoption rates in the Cook region are markedly lower than other regions; only 3.4% of children who entered care in the Cook region in 2018 were adopted within 36 months, compared to 16.0% of children in the Northern region, 13.3% of children in the Central region, and 16.3% of children in the Southern region. Adoption rates decreased across all four regions in the most recent year.

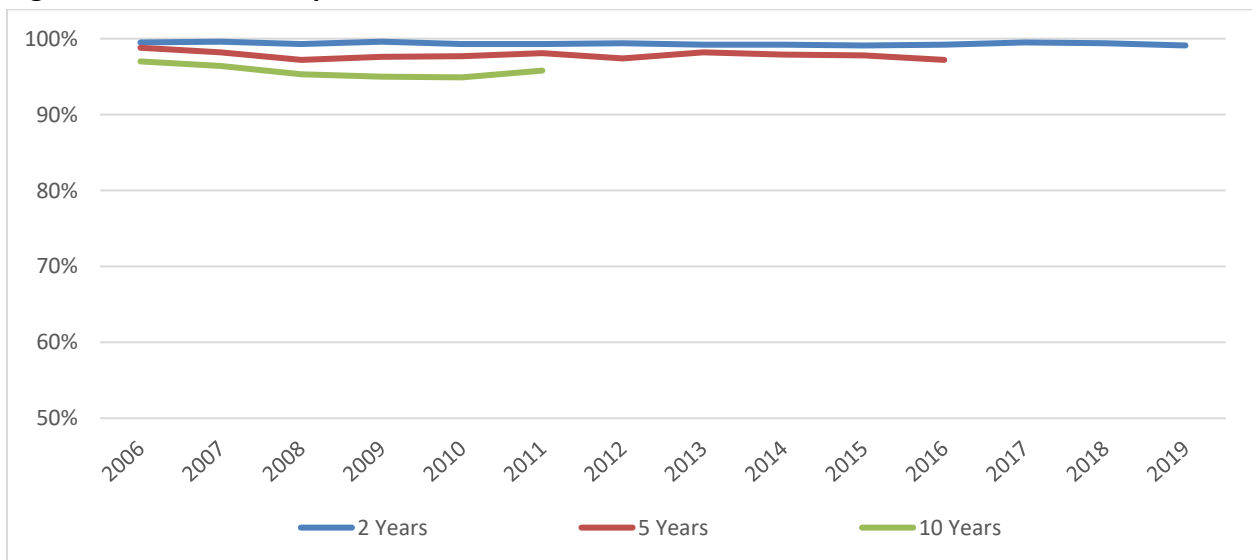
Figure 3.11 Children Exiting to Adoption Within 36 Months by Region



Stability of Adoption

Rates of post-adoption stability after 2, 5, and 10 years are presented in Figure 3.12 (see Appendix B, Indicators 3.D.1, 3.D.2, and 3.D.3). Of children adopted in 2011, 99.3% of them remained in their adoptive homes after 2 years, 98.1% after 5 years, and 95.8% after 10 years. There has been little variability in the stability of adoptions over the past several years.

Figure 3.12 Stable Adoptions 2, 5, and 10 Years After Finalization



Children Achieving Guardianship

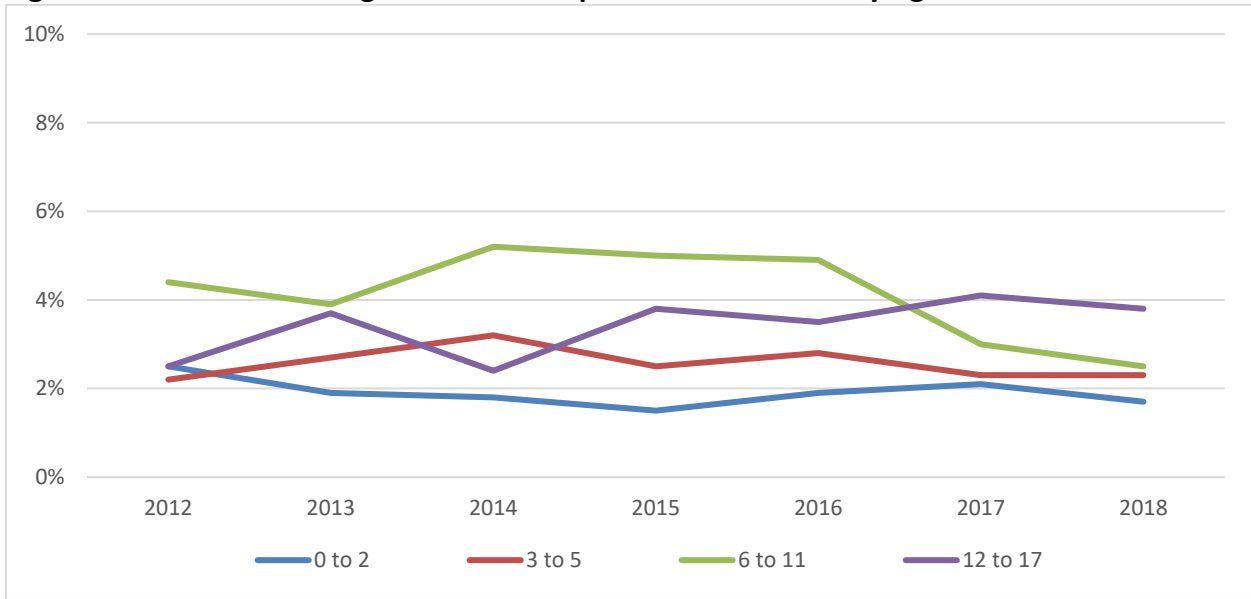
The third type of permanence explored in this report is guardianship, in which an adult or adults other than the child’s biological parents assume legal guardianship of the child and receive support from the state to help pay for that child’s care. As with adoption, guardianships generally are considered as an option for permanence only after attempts at reunification have been exhausted; rates of guardianship after 24 and 36 months of entering care are shown in Figure 3.13 (see Appendix B, Indicators 3.E.1 and 3.E.2). Exits to guardianships within 24 months of entry are rare and have been less than 1% for over a decade. The percentage of children exiting to guardianship within 36 months reached its peak of 3.4% among children in the 2007 entry cohort. The trend over the next several years is one of decline and reached a low of 1.6% in the 2009 entry cohort. Since the 2012 entry cohort, the percentage of children taken into guardianship within 36 months has been around 3%.

Figure 3.13 Children Exiting to Guardianship Within 24 and 36 Months



Unlike adoption, which is most likely to occur among the youngest children in care, guardianship within 36 months is most likely to occur among children who enter care between 6 and 17 years old and least likely to occur among children 0 to 5 years (see Figure 3.14 and Appendix B, Indicator 3.E.2). The small total number of children who exit care to guardianship each year means the percentages tend to vary more from year to year than other types of exits.

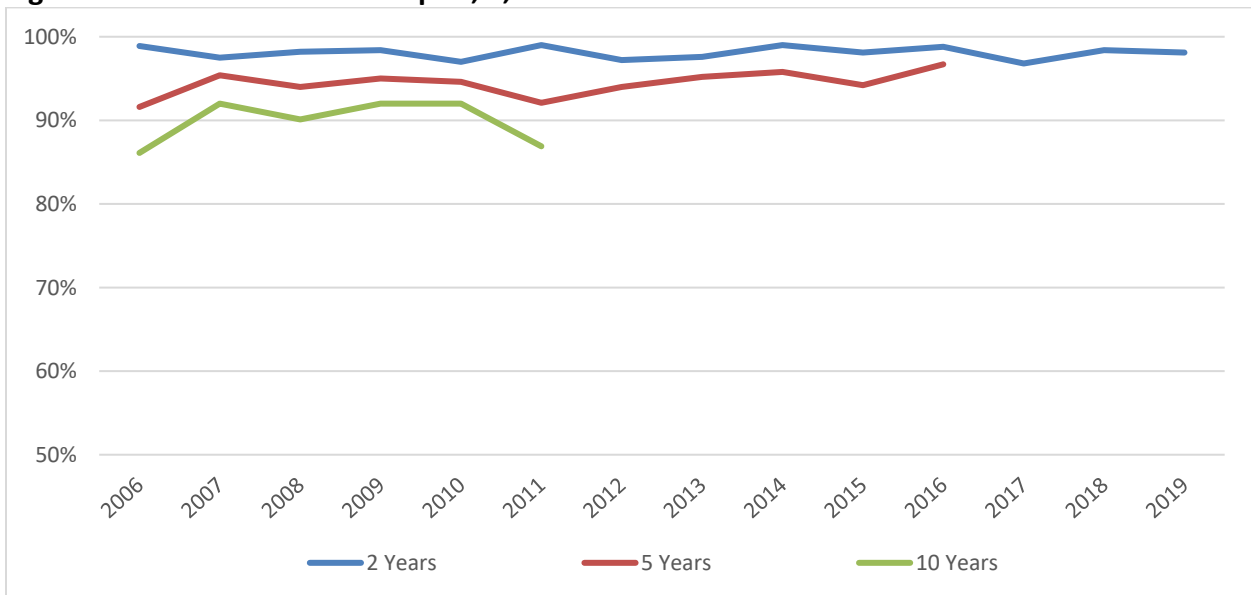
Figure 3.14 Children Exiting to Guardianship Within 36 Months by Age



Stability of Guardianship

The stability of guardianship after 2, 5, and 10 years is shown in Figure 3.15 (see Appendix B, Indicators 3.F.1, 3.F.2, and 3.F.3). Of children who exited care to guardianship in 2011, 99.0% remained with their guardian after 2 years; 92.1% after 5 years; and 86.9% after 10 years. The rates of stability within 2 and 5 years of exiting substitute care have been relatively unchanged for several years, while the 10-year stability rate has been more variable.

Figure 3.15 Stable Guardianships 2, 5, and 10 Years After Finalization



Living with Relatives

BOX 3.1

A fourth type of permanence known as “living with relatives” is included in the federal permanency measures. In this type of permanence, relatives assume legal guardianship of a child without receiving a subsidy or becoming licensed foster parents. Figure 3.16 shows the number of children exiting to live with relatives within 24 and 36 months. Living with relatives is a type of permanence used less commonly in Illinois than nationally (6% of children exiting care in 2020)¹¹ and much less often than reunification, adoption, or guardianship.

This permanency type has remained relatively stable over time. Over the past 15 years, between 0.8–1.7% of children who entered substitute care during the year achieved permanence by exiting to live with relatives within 36 months of entering care.

3.16 Children Exiting to Live With Relatives Within 24 and 36 Months

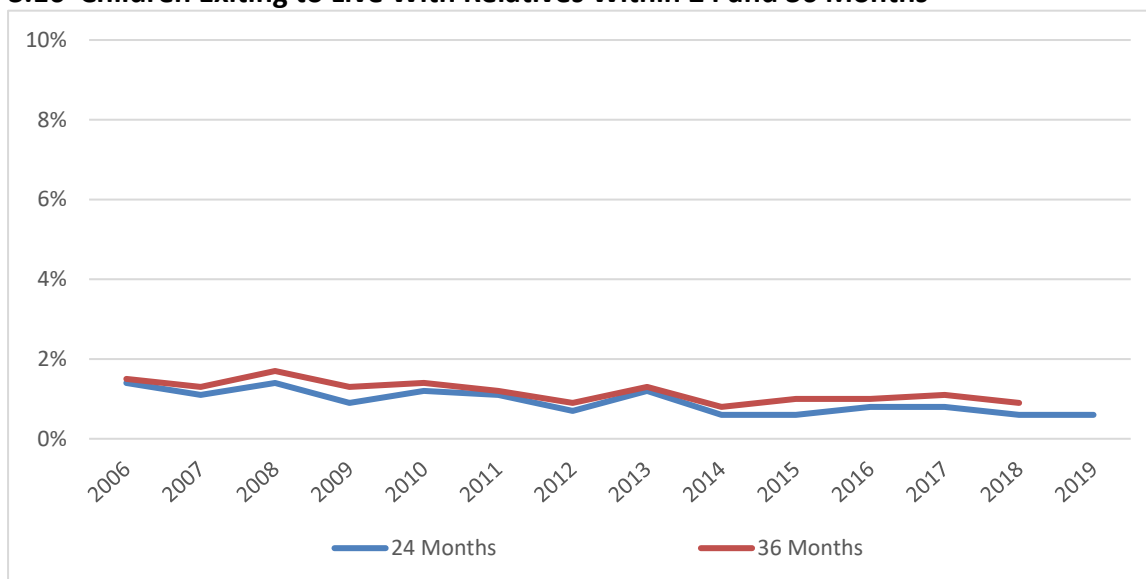
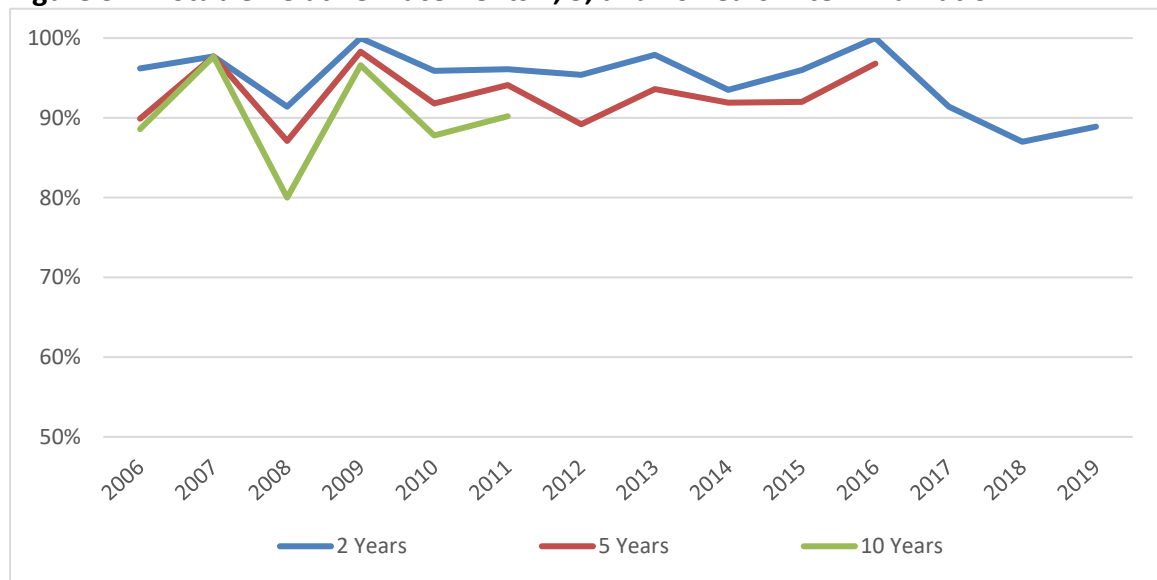


Figure 3.17 shows the stability rates for relative placements after 2, 5, and 10 years. Looking at the children who exited to live with relatives in 2011, we see that 96.1% remain in their homes after 2 years, and 94.1% after 5 years, and 90.2% after 10 years. Because of the overall small number of children exiting to this permanency type, the stability rates are more variable than other types of permanency. However, the overall trend is similar to other permanency types (i.e., reunification, adoption, and guardianship); the stability of living with relatives decreases over time.

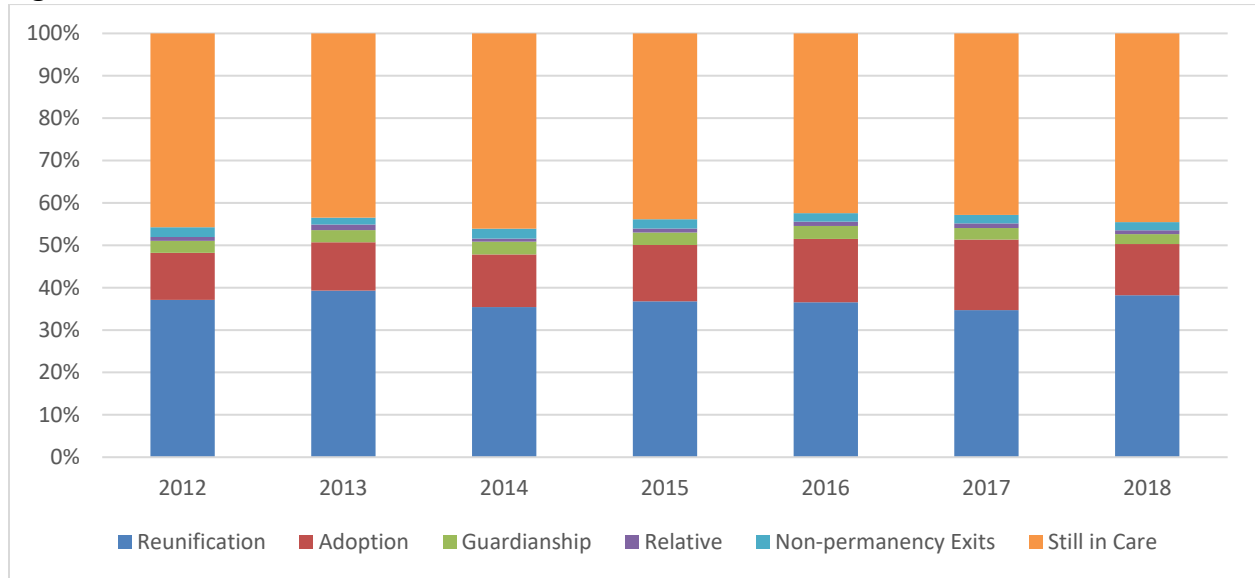
¹¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2021). *The AFCARS report: Preliminary FY 2020 estimates*. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/afcarsreport28.pdf>

Figure 3.17 Stable Relative Placements 2, 5, and 10 Years After Finalization

Children Who Do Not Achieve Legal Permanence

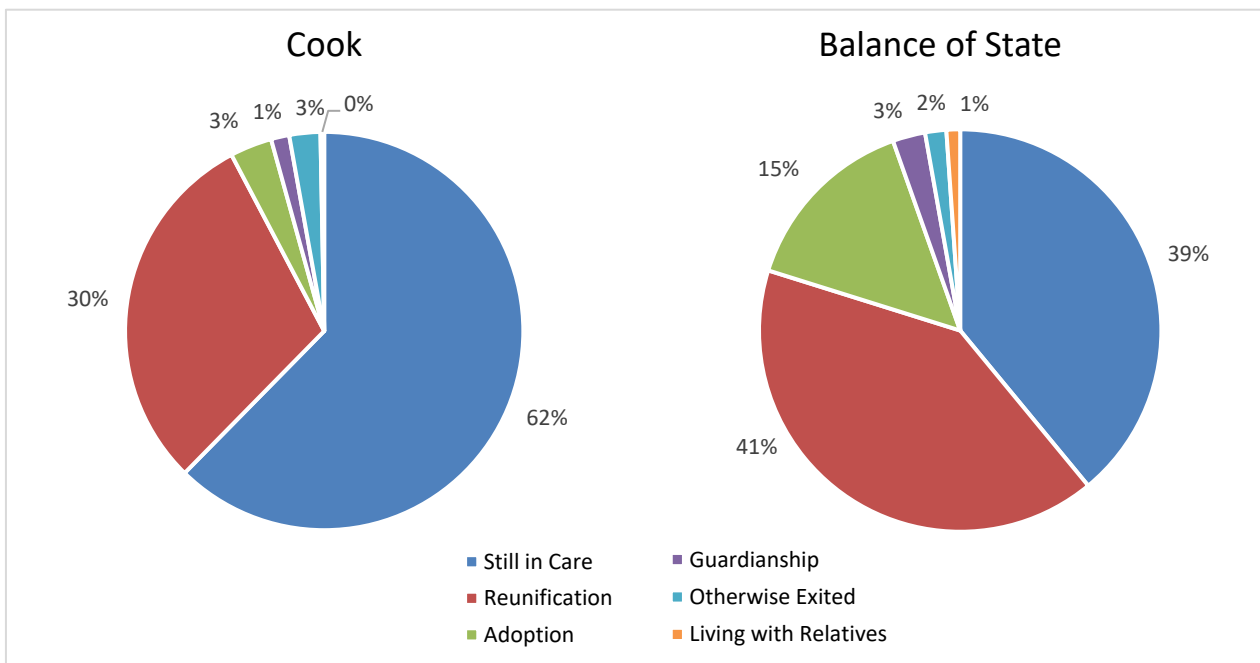
In the sections above, we explored four ways children exit care to legal permanence: reunification with their family of origin, adoption, guardianship, and living with relatives. More than half (53.6%) of the children in the 2018 entry cohort exited care within 36 months to one of these permanency options (see Figure 3.18). However, a significant portion of the children in this entry cohort remained in care longer than 36 months (44.5%) and others exited substitute care without ever achieving legal permanence (1.9%). Figure 3.18 shows the permanency outcomes for all children in each entry cohort over the past seven years. From 2012 to 2018, between 42.4% and 46.1% of children remained in care more than 36 months. A small percentage of each entry cohort (between 1.6% and 2.3%) exited substitute care within 36 months without ever achieving legal permanence; these “non-permanency exits” include aging out, incarceration, and running away.

Figure 3.18 Exits from Substitute Care Within 36 Months



There are large regional differences in the achievement of timely permanence for children in care. Figure 3.19 compares the outcomes for children in care after 36 months in the Cook region versus the rest of the state. Approximately 62.4% of children in care in the Cook region remain in care after 36 months, 29.9% are reunified, 3.4% are adopted, and 1.5% exit to guardianships. In the balance of the state, 39.0% of children are still in care after 36 months, 40.8% are reunified, 14.8% are adopted, and 2.6% exit to guardianships.

Figure 3.19 Exits from Substitute Care Within 36 Months: Cook Versus Balance of State (2018 Entry Cohort)



Discussion and Conclusions: Legal Permanence

State child welfare agencies are not meant to be long-term caregivers for children. Once a child is removed from his or her home, the goal is to find a safe and permanent home in which he or she can develop normally and thrive. In Illinois, about half of the children who enter substitute care achieve permanence within three years, either through reunification, adoption, or guardianship; this rate has been consistent for the past decade.

Reunification remains the most common exit type, followed by adoption and then, for a small number of children, guardianship or living with relatives. Age, race, and region continue to influence a child's likelihood of achieving permanence. Children who enter care when older, children who are Black, and children who live in the Cook region are less likely to achieve permanence than children who are younger, children who are White, and children who live elsewhere in the state.

In Illinois, there are large regional differences in the achievement of timely permanence for children in care. Over 62% of children in the 2018 cohort taken into substitute care in the Cook region can expect to stay there longer than three years. In contrast, 39% of children in other regions of the state stay in care longer than three years. Another noticeable regional difference was adoption: only 3% of the children who entered substitute care in the Cook region in FY2018 were adopted by the end of FY2021, as compared to 15% of children in the rest of state.

There were notable decreases in the percentages of children who exited care to adoption within 24 or 36 months this year, compared to the prior year; adoption rates for both groups of children decreased more than 25%. This mirrors a national trend in a 12.5% decrease in the number of adoptions that occurred in FY2020 compared to FY2019.¹² The Child Welfare League of America suggested that the historic drop in numbers of adoption occurred across several states may have been related to court delays that occurred during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹³

Stability of the permanent placements is another important indicator to measure the performance of a child welfare system in achieving permanence for children in substitute care. In Illinois, 7.3% of the children who entered foster care in FY2019 and attained permanency within 12 months re-entered substitute care within a year, which is slightly lower than the national average of 8.1%.¹⁴ However, the re-entry rates for children who had been in care for

¹² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2021). *Trends in Foster Care and Adoption: FY2011 – 2020*. Retrieved from: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/trends-fostercare-adoption-11thru20.pdf>

¹³ Sciamanna, J. (n.d.). *New AFCARS Data See Drop in Numbers, Maybe Freeze in Courts or Systems*. Retrieved from <https://www.cwla.org/new-afcars-data-see-drop-in-numbers-maybe-freeze-in-courts-or-systems/>

¹⁴ Children's Bureau (n.d.). *CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicator Series: Re-Entry to Foster Care*. Retrieved from <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/focus-areas/cqi/cfsr-data-syntax-toolkit/>

LEGAL PERMANENCE

12 to 23 months and 24 months or more prior to achieving permanence notably increased in the most recent year. Therefore, re-entry is another permanency indicator to watch in the next annual report to determine if this is the beginning of a concerning trend.



Chapter 4

Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality

Child welfare systems across the nation share the concern that children from some racial and ethnic minority groups may be disproportionately represented in the child welfare system compared to their representation in the general population.¹ One of the goals in the Department's *Child Welfare Transformation Strategic Plan* was to track racial equity at critical decision points to help inform planning and decision-making.² This chapter provides information relevant to that goal by examining racial and ethnic disproportionality in the Illinois child welfare system at five critical decision points (see Figure 4.1) during 2015–2021, including:

- A. investigated/screened-in maltreatment reports,
- B. protective custodies,
- C. indicated maltreatment reports,
- D. post-investigation service provision, including substitute care and intact family services, and
- E. timely exits from substitute care.

¹ Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2016). *Racial disproportionality and disparity in child welfare*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

² Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (January, 2017). *Illinois Child Welfare Transformation: 2016-2021*. Springfield, IL: Author.

Figure 4.1 Child Welfare Decision Points

Measuring Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality

Racial and ethnic disproportionality refers to over- or under-representation of a racial or ethnic group in the child welfare system compared to that group's representation in the general population. In this report, it is represented by a Racial Disproportionality Index (RDI), in which the percentage of children in a racial or ethnic group involved in some part of the child welfare system is divided by the percentage of children in a relevant base population.

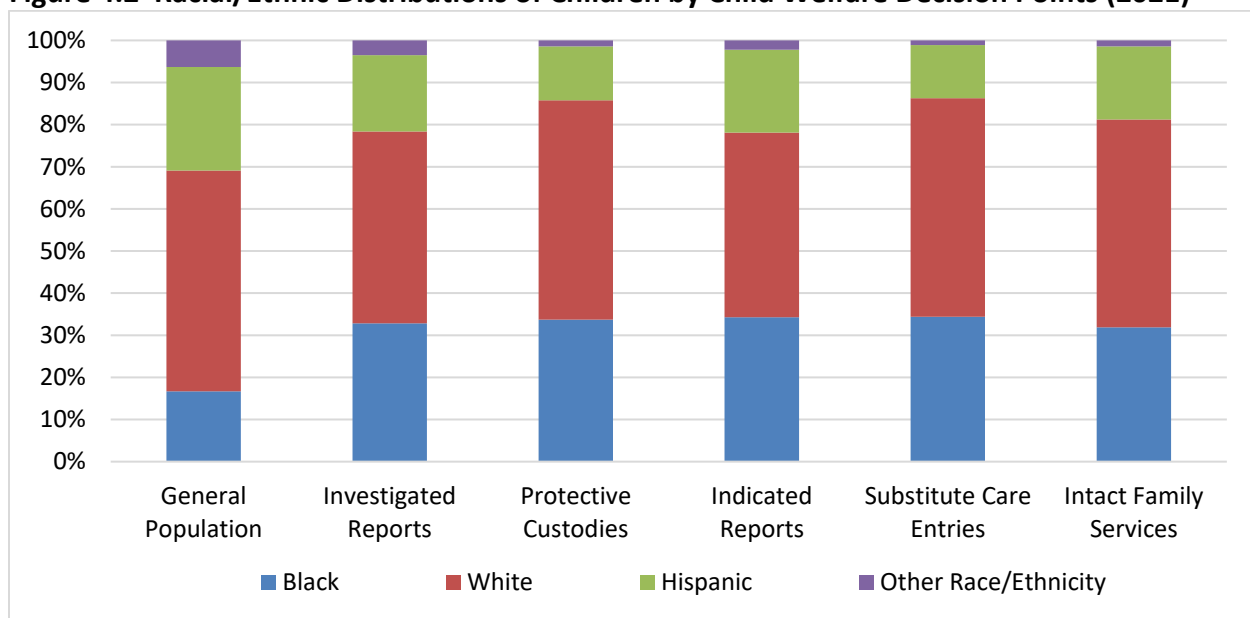
There are two commonly used methods for calculating RDI; each uses a different population in the denominator. The first is the "absolute RDI," in which a racial or ethnic group's representation at a specific child welfare decision point is divided by that group's representation in the general child population. The same denominator (the general child population) is used when calculating absolute RDIs at each decision point. The absolute RDI provides information about a racial or ethnic group's over- or under-representation at each decision point, but it does not take into account the impact that disproportionality at earlier child welfare decision points has on later decision points.

A second measure, known as the "relative RDI," is calculated by dividing a racial or ethnic group's representation at a child welfare decision point by that group's representation at a prior child welfare decision point. Relative RDIs change the denominator based on the decision point of the child welfare system that is being examined. For example, the denominator for calculating the relative RDI of protective custodies is a group's representation among all children who were investigated, instead of the group's representation in the general child population.

To calculate the absolute RDIs in this chapter, data on race and ethnicity for the Illinois child population were obtained from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program

at the National Cancer Institute.³ Figure 4.2 shows the racial and ethnic distribution of children at each child welfare decision point in FY2021.⁴ The last decision point, children in care longer than 36 months, is excluded from the figure because children in the FY2021 cohort have not been in care for at least 36 months. Throughout the chapter, the RDIs are reported only for the three largest racial/ethnic groups in Illinois: White (Non-Hispanic), Black (Non-Hispanic), and Hispanic (any race). The numbers of children in other racial/ethnic groups involved in the child welfare system in Illinois (e.g., Native Americans, Asian) are so small that the resulting RDIs fluctuate significantly from year to year. RDIs are examined for the state as a whole, as well as for each DCFS administrative region (Cook, Northern, Central, and Southern) to discern if there are any regional differences. Appendix C contains the absolute and relative RDI at each decision point for the three racial/ethnic groups over the past seven years.

Figure 4.2 Racial/Ethnic Distributions of Children by Child Welfare Decision Points (2021)



Interpreting Racial Disproportionality Indices

Absolute or relative RDI values less than 1.0 indicate under-representation. For example, an RDI of 0.5 means that children are represented half as much at that decision point as they are in the population (absolute RDI) or at a prior decision point (relative RDI). RDI values equal or close to 1.0 indicate no disproportionality; children in that group are represented at rates that are proportionate to their representation in the population. RDI values greater than 1.0 indicate

³ Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program Populations (1969-2020) (www.seer.cancer.gov/popdata) National Cancer Institute, DCCPS, Surveillance Research Program, Cancer Statistics Branch, released February 2022.

⁴ The 2020 SEER Stat Database postcensal estimates were used for the “General Population” in Figure 4.2 and the calculations of RDIs in FY2020 and FY2021.

DISPROPORTIONALITY

over-representation. For example, an RDI of 2.0 means that children in that group are represented at twice the rate at a decision point as they are in the population (absolute RDI) or at a prior decision point (relative RDI). To show the differences in RDI between racial/ethnic groups or across years, they are displayed in figures throughout the report. Since an RDI of 1.0 indicates no disproportionality, 1.0 is set as the baseline on the figures. Values above the baseline indicate over-representation, while values below the baseline indicate under-representation. In both instances, the length of the bar in the chart corresponds to the amount of disproportionality. In this report, we consider an RDI of less than 0.9 to show under-representation, an RDI of 0.9-1.1 to show proportional representation, and an RDI that is greater than 1.1 to show over-representation.

Absolute RDI is the traditional measure for reporting disproportionality, and it provides useful information about how representations of a racial/ethnic group at a given decision point differ from their representation in the general population. However, the absolute RDI does not provide information about the amount of disproportionality that is introduced at each new decision point. The relative RDI provides this information by comparing a racial group's representation in a decision point to their representation at a prior decision point.

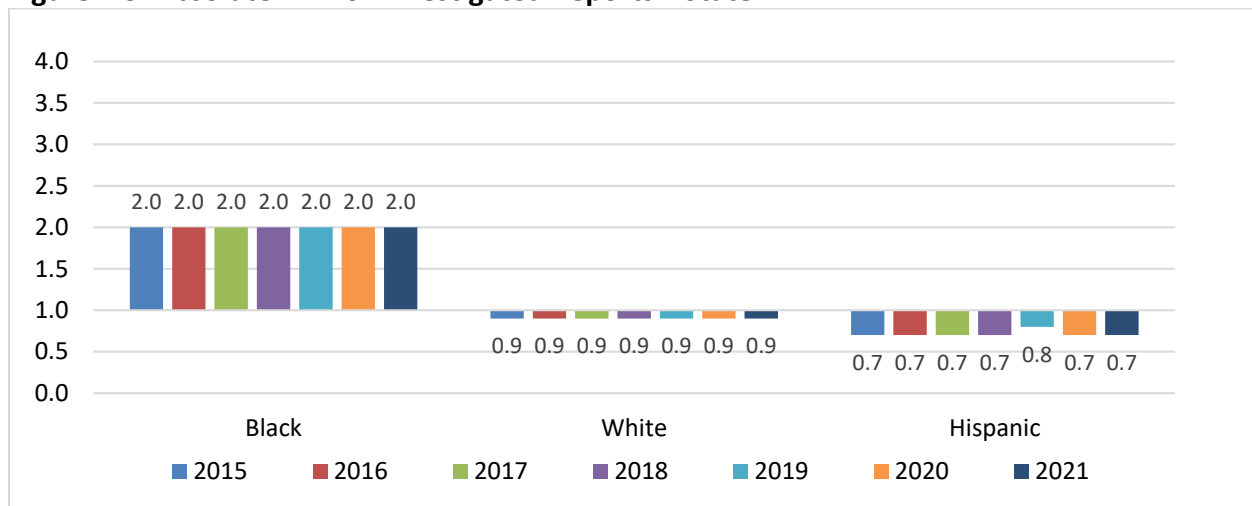
To provide a concrete example for interpreting the absolute and relative RDI, let us look at the absolute and relative RDI for Black children entering substitute care. The absolute RDI is calculated by dividing the percentage of Black children entering substitute care (34.4% in 2021) by the percentage of Black children in the Illinois child population (16.7% in 2021), which results in an absolute RDI of 2.1. This means that Black children enter substitute care at over two times their representation in the child population; they are over-represented among substitute care entries in 2021. The relative RDI for this decision point is calculated by dividing the percentage of Black children entering substitute care (34.4% in 2021) by the percentage of Black children in indicated reports (34.3% in 2021) to find a relative RDI of 1.0. This means that the amount of disproportionality at the substitute care entry decision point did not *increase or decrease* for Black children in 2021, compared to the amount of disproportionality present at the previous decision point. A relative RDI of 1.0 does not mean that disproportionality does not exist at this decision point; we know from the absolute RDI of 2.1 that Black children are over-represented.

A relative RDI of 1.0 means that the amount of over-representation does not increase or decrease at a decision point. Relative RDIs greater than 1.0 mean one of two things: 1) the amount of over-representation has increased at the decision point compared to the previous decision point, or 2) the amount of under-representation decreases compared to the previous decision point. Relative RDIs less than 1.0 indicate that either: 1) the amount of under-representation has increased compared to the previous decision point, or 2) the amount of over-representation has decreased compared to the previous decision point.

Investigated Reports

The first decision point examined is investigated reports. At this stage, DCFS staff at the State Central Register (SCR) screen each call that is received from a maltreatment reporter to determine if the circumstances meet the criteria for an investigation. Calls can be either screened in to become investigated reports or screened out and no further child welfare actions are taken. Figure 4.3 shows the Absolute RDI (absolute and relative RDI are identical because the general population is the applicable denominator for both) for the three racial/ethnic groups (Black, White, and Hispanic) for investigated reports at the state level over the past seven years. White children are proportionally represented compared to their representation in the general population (RDI = 0.9), Black children are over-represented (RDI = 2.0), and Hispanic children are under-represented (RDIs = 0.7-0.8; see Appendix C, Table 4.A.1). There is little change in any of the three groups over the past seven years.

Figure 4.3 Absolute RDI for Investigated Reports—State



When the absolute RDIs for investigated reports in 2021 are examined by region (see Figure 4.4), several values stand out. Black children in the Northern region have an RDI of 2.8, greater than any other region and the state as a whole. White children are under-represented in the Cook (RDI = 0.5), Northern (RDI = 0.8), and Central (RDI = 0.8) regions, and are proportionally represented in the Southern region (RDI = 0.9). Hispanic children are under-represented in the Central (RDI = 0.8) and Southern (RDI = 0.7) regions and are proportionally represented in the Cook (RDI = 0.9) and Northern regions (RDI = 1.0). These regional patterns have been consistent over time (see Appendix C, Table 4.A.2).

Asian American and Pacific Islander Children

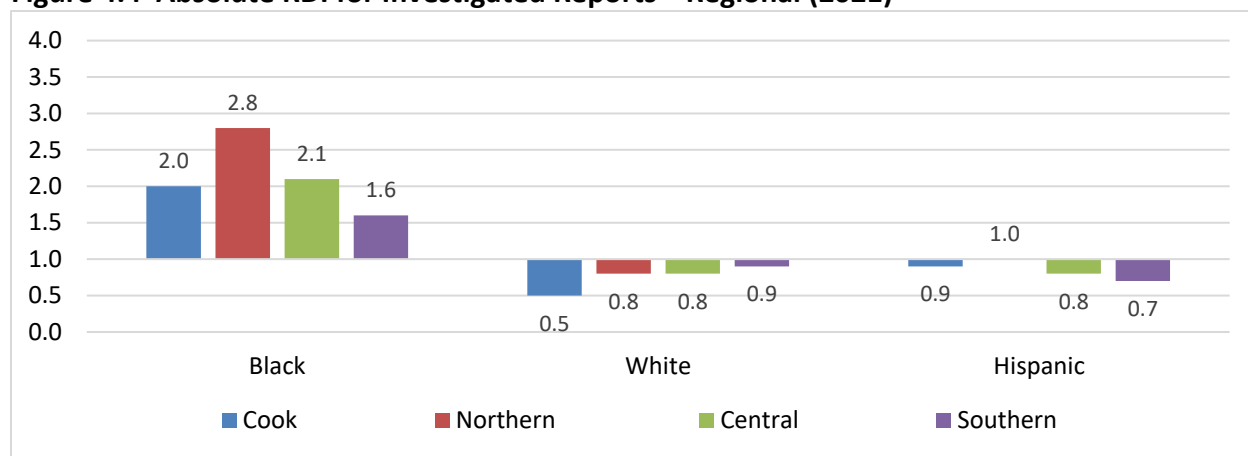
BOX 4.1

From 2015 through 2021, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI, defined as non-Hispanic Asian alone and non-Hispanic Other Pacific Islander alone) children comprised 6% of the Illinois child population. In addition, AAPI children are the majority of children in the “other race/ethnicity” category in this report. AAPI children were under-represented in the state’s protective service system during these years, making up 1-2% of the state’s annual investigations, with a modal RDI of 0.2 (see Table 4.1). AAPI children are also under-represented among children receiving state protective services—more so than Hispanic children—on a national level.⁵

Table 4.1 Asian American and Pacific Islander Children

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 ⁶
# in general population ⁷	162,504	164,352	167,277	168,544	169,064	168,870	168,870
% of general population	5.5%	5.6%	5.8%	5.9%	6.0%	6.1%	6.1%
# of investigations	1,130	1,329	1,274	1,516	1,523	1,523	1,753
% of investigations	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%
RDI	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3

Figure 4.4 Absolute RDI for Investigated Reports—Regional (2021)



⁵ Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2016). *Racial disproportionality and disparity in child welfare*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children’s Bureau.

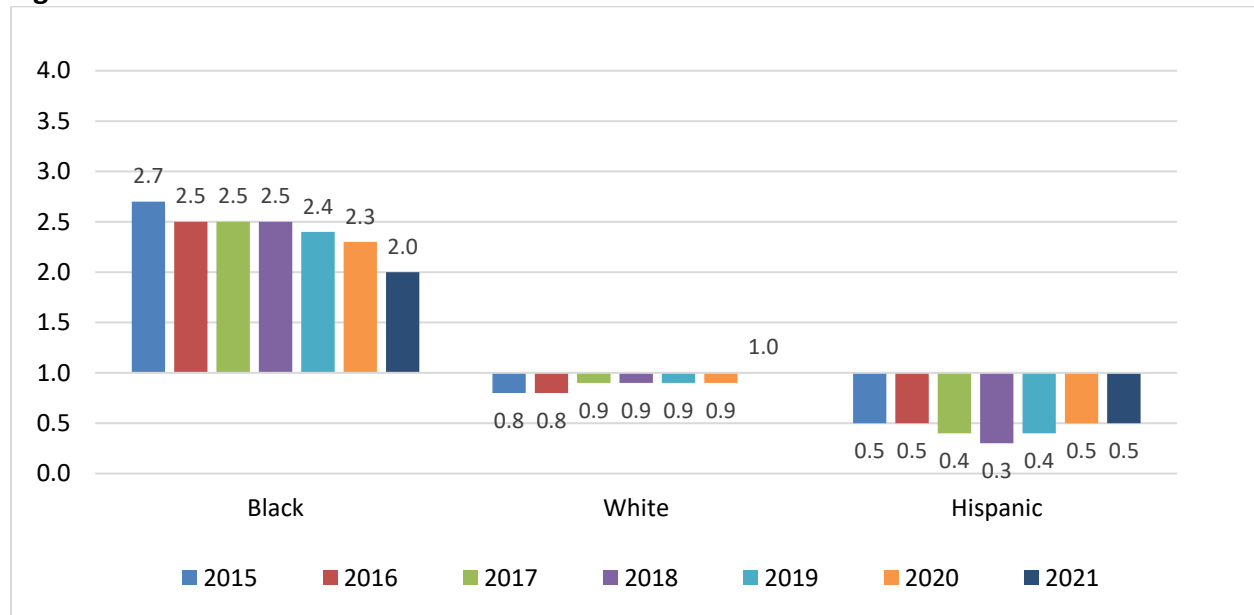
⁶ The 2020 estimate is used for the number of AAPI children in the general population and RDI calculations for both 2020 and 2021.

⁷ Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program Populations (1969-2020) (www.seer.cancer.gov/popdata), National Cancer Institute, DCCPS, Surveillance Research Program, Cancer Statistics Branch, released February 2022.

Protective Custodies

The next decision point examined is protective custody. During an investigation, a child protective services (CPS) worker can take protective custody of a child if he or she believes that the child is unsafe in the home or with the caregiver; the child is taken into care for up to 48 hours (excluding weekends) until a shelter hearing is convened.⁸ Figure 4.5 shows the absolute RDIs at this decision point for the three racial/ethnic groups over the past seven years. White children are proportionately represented among protective custodies during the last five years 2017-2021 (RDI = 0.9-1.0). Black children are over-represented at rates 2.0 to 2.7 times their proportion in the Illinois child population, and Hispanic children are under-represented (RDIs range from 0.3-0.5). There has been a decline in the disproportionality among Black children at this decision point in recent years (see Appendix C, Table 4.B.1).

Figure 4.5 Absolute RDI for Protective Custodies—State



When the absolute RDIs for protective custodies are examined by region, there are striking differences for Black children (see Figure 4.6 and Appendix C, Table 4.B.2); the Northern region has the highest RDI (3.4), followed by Cook (2.4), Central (2.3), and Southern (1.4) in 2021. However, the RDI for Black children in the Northern region has decreased in recent years, from 4.9 in 2019 to 3.4 in 2021. There are also regional differences in the RDIs for protective custodies for White children; they are particularly under-represented in the Cook region (RDI = 0.4), slightly under-represented in the Northern (RDI = 0.8) and Central (RDI = 0.8) regions, and proportionally represented in the Southern region (RDI = 1.0). In 2021, Hispanic children are under-represented in the Cook, Central, and Southern regions (0.7, 0.7, and 0.5, respectively),

⁸ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (October, 2015). *Procedures 300 Section 120 Taking Children into Protective Custody*. Springfield: Author. Retrieved from https://www2.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/notices/Documents/rules_300.pdf

DISPROPORTIONALITY

and proportionately represented in the Northern region (RDI = 0.9). The RDIs for Hispanic children at the regional level show substantial year-to-year variability for this decision point (see Appendix C, Table 4.B.2 for seven-year data).

Figure 4.6 Absolute RDI for Protective Custodies—Regional (2021)

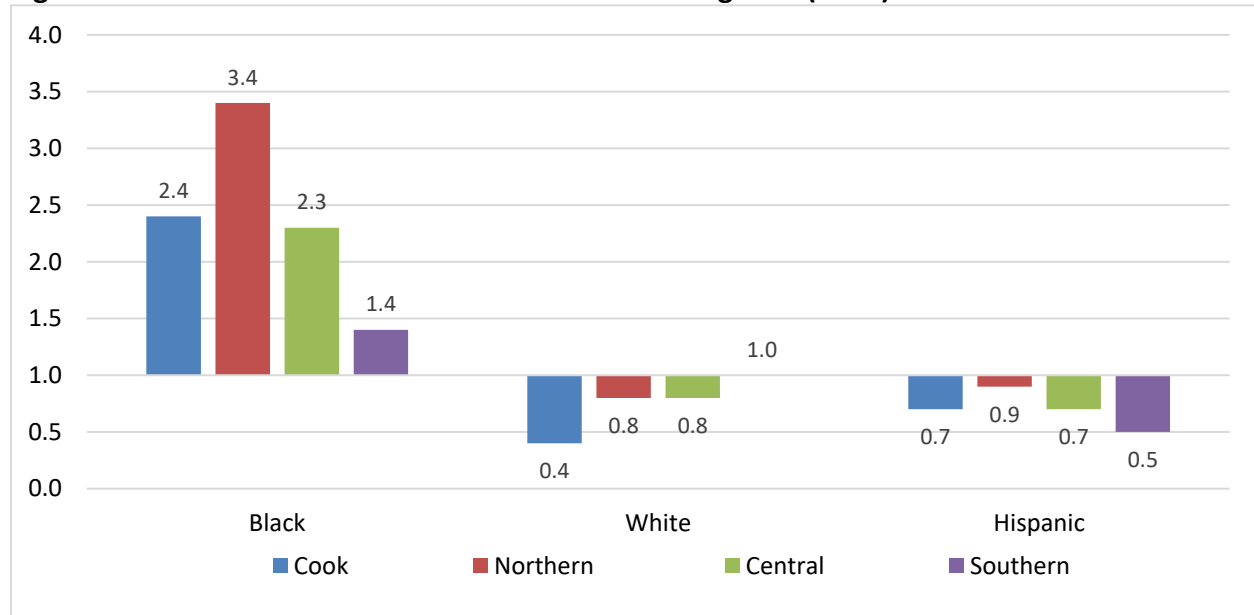
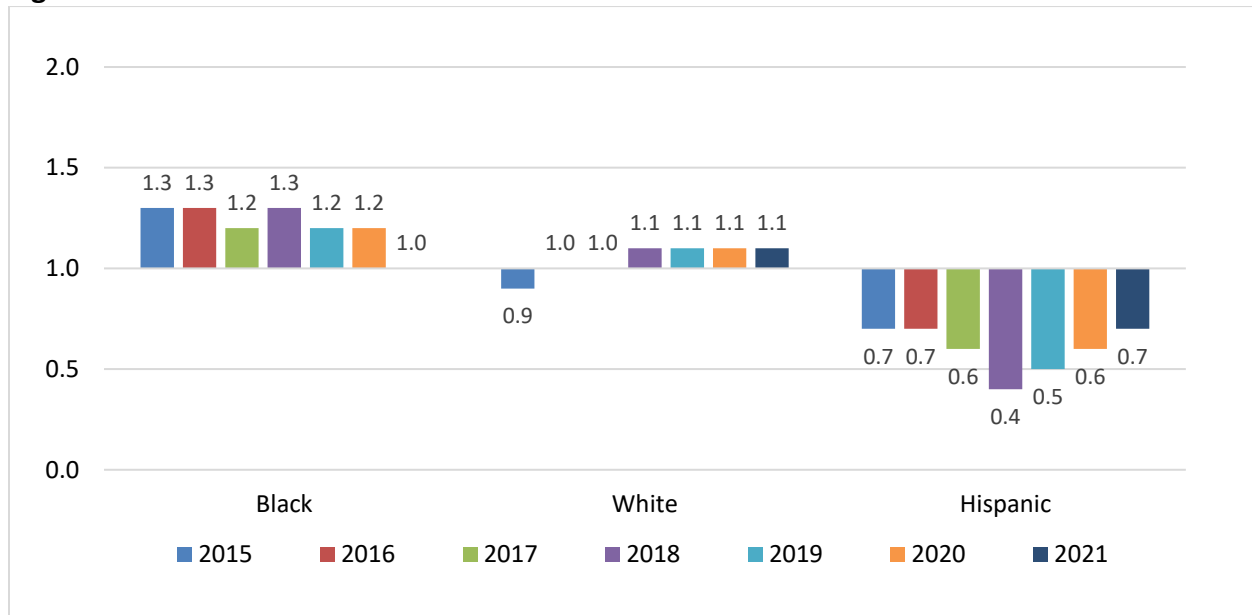
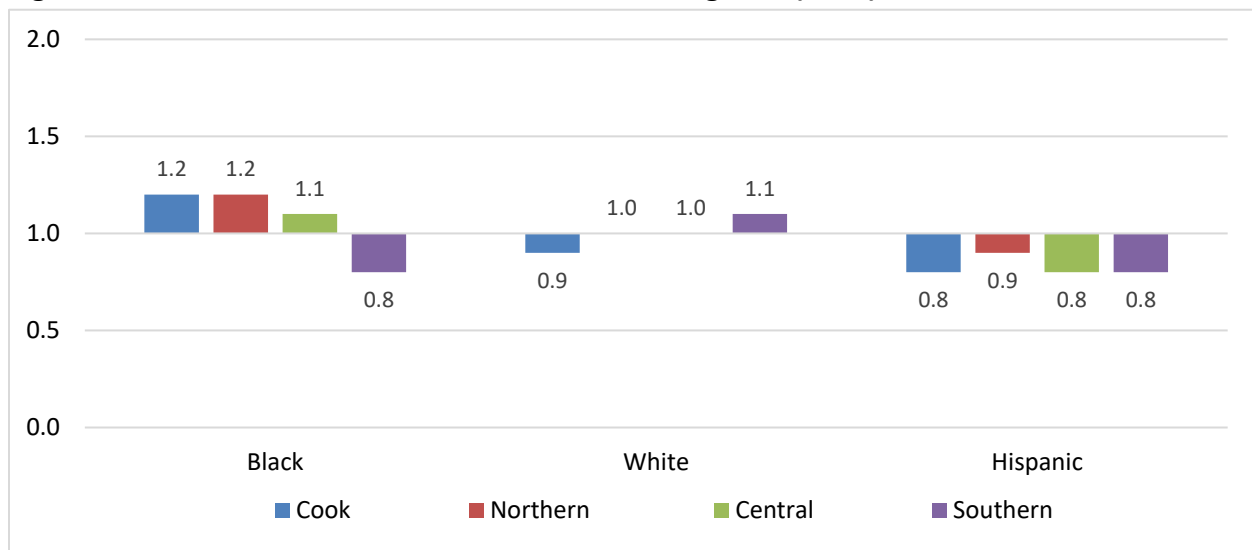


Figure 4.7 shows the relative RDIs at this decision point for the three racial/ethnic groups over the past seven years. This is the first decision point at which relative RDIs can be calculated. The relative RDI shows the percentage of children taken into protective custody divided by the percentage of children who are investigated. Relative RDIs greater than 1.0 indicate that children in a race/ethnicity group make up a higher percentage of children taken into protective custody than their representation among investigations; relative RDIs less than 1.0 indicate a lower percentage compared to investigations.

Examination of the relative RDI for protective custodies for the three groups at the state level (see Figure 4.7) shows that from 2015-2020, disproportionality increased at this decision point for Black children compared to the amount of disproportionality in investigated reports (relative RDIs between 1.2 and 1.3). Under-representation among Hispanic children increased at this decision point compared to their investigation rates (relative RDIs between 0.4 and 0.7). The relative RDIs for White children are close or equal to 1.0, which indicates that there is little difference in the rates of protective custodies compared to rates of investigation (see Appendix C, Table 4.B.3).

Figure 4.7 Relative RDI for Protective Custodies—State

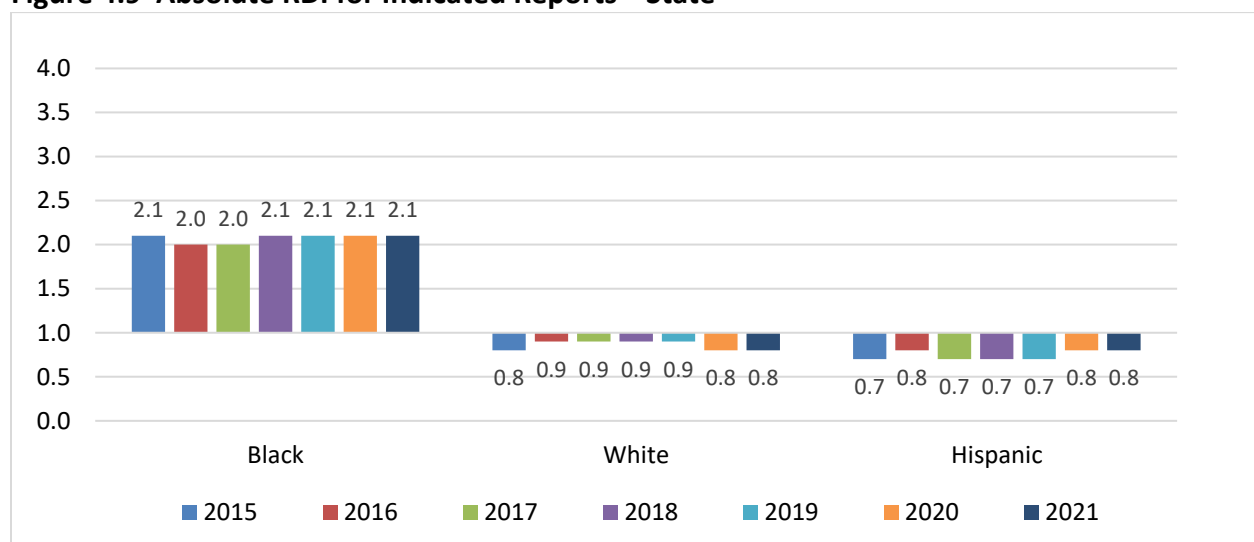
Regional relative RDIs for 2021 protective custodies are shown in Figure 4.8 (see Appendix C, Table 4.B.4). In the Cook (RDI = 1.2) and Northern (RDI = 1.2) regions, relative RDIs indicate that over-representation for Black children increases at this decision point compared to investigations. The relative RDI for the Central region shows that disproportionality remains at the same level (RDI = 1.1), and the relative RDI in the Southern region (RDI = 0.8) indicates that disproportionality decreases for Black children at this decision point compared to investigated children. Disproportionality for White children in all regions remains at the same level at this decision point (RDI = 0.9-1.1). The relative RDIs show that under-representation for Hispanic children in the Cook (RDI = 0.8), Central (RDI = 0.8) and Southern (RDI = 0.8) regions increases compared to the investigation decision.

Figure 4.8 Relative RDI for Protective Custodies—Regional (2021)

Indicated Reports

The next decision point examined is indicated maltreatment reports. Reports are indicated when CPS workers find credible evidence that the alleged abuse or neglect occurred.⁹ If the allegations are indicated, the perpetrators' names are entered into the State Central Register and remain there for a period of 5 to 50 years, depending on the allegation type.¹⁰ The absolute RDIs for the three groups at this decision point over the past seven years are shown in Figure 4.9. Black children are consistently over-represented among children with indicated reports and Hispanic children are under-represented. For most years, White children are proportionately represented (see Appendix C, Table 4.C.1).

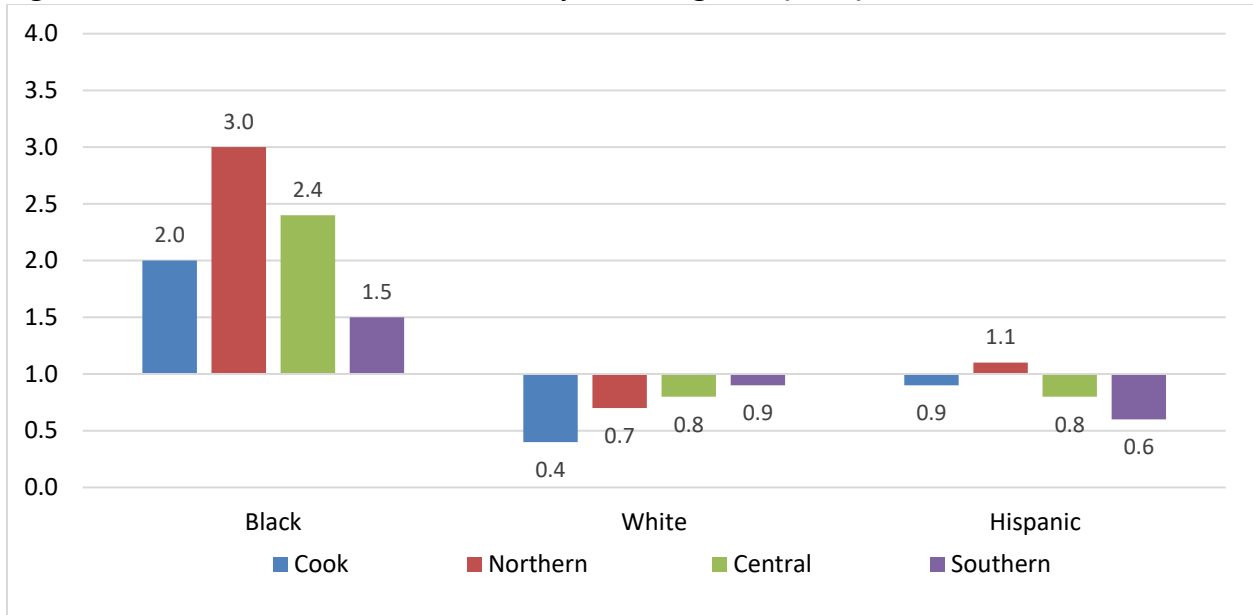
Figure 4.9 Absolute RDI for Indicated Reports—State



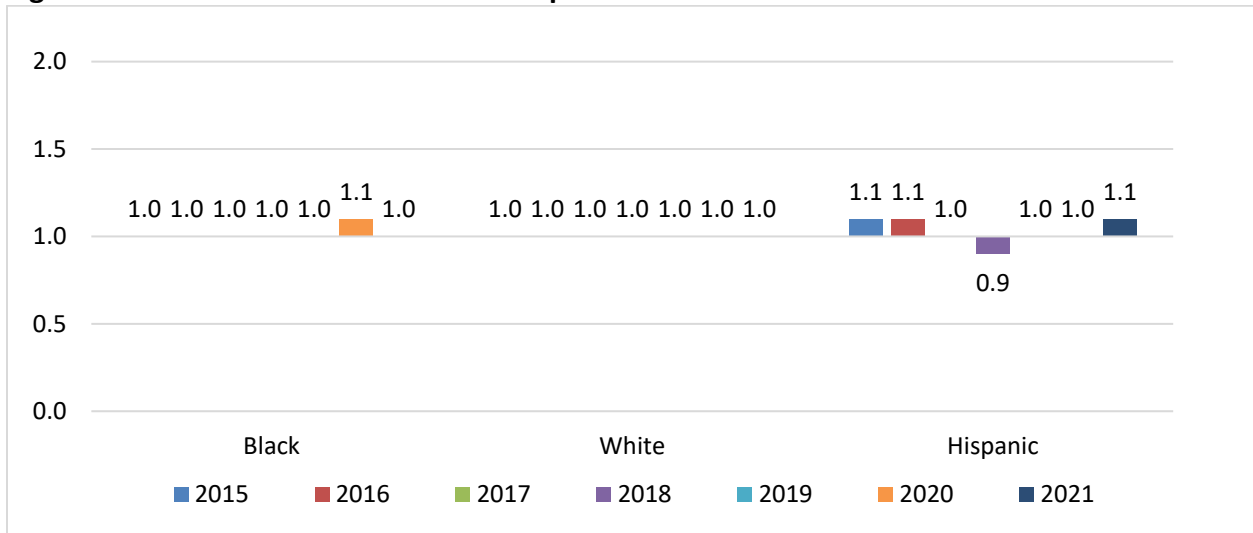
At the regional level (see Figure 4.10 and Appendix C, Table 4.C.2), the Northern region has the highest over-representation of Black children in indicated reports (RDI = 3.0) in 2021, followed by the Central (RDI = 2.4), Cook (RDI = 2.0), and Southern regions (RDI = 1.5). White children are particularly under-represented at this decision point in the Cook region (RDI = 0.4). While also under-represented in the Northern (RDI = 0.7) and Central (RDI = 0.8) regions, they are proportionately represented in the Southern region (RDI = 0.9). Hispanic children are under-represented at this decision point in the Central (RDI = 0.8) and Southern (RDI = 0.6) regions but are proportionately represented in the Cook (RDI = 0.9) and Northern regions (RDI = 1.1). Regional RDI have been consistent for the past seven years.

⁹ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (October, 2015). *Procedures 300 Section 50 Investigative Process*. Springfield: Author. Retrieved from https://www2.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/notices/Documents/rules_300.pdf

¹⁰ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (August, 2002). *Procedures 431 Section 30 Maintenance of Records*. Springfield: Author. Retrieved from https://www2.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/notices/Documents/rules_431.pdf

Figure 4.10 Absolute RDI for Indicated Reports—Regional (2021)

The relative RDIs at this decision point were calculated by comparing the percentage of children in indicated reports to the percentage of children in investigated reports. The relative RDIs for the three groups at this decision point over the past seven years are shown in Figure 4.11. At the state level, all three racial groups have relative RDIs at or near 1.0 across the seven years, suggesting that the degree of disproportionality did not increase or decrease at this decision point compared to the previous decision point (see Appendix C, Table 4.C.3). The regional relative RDIs at this decision point (not shown) were also at or near 1.0 for all four regions (see Appendix C, Table 4.C.4).

Figure 4.11 Relative RDI for Indicated Reports—State

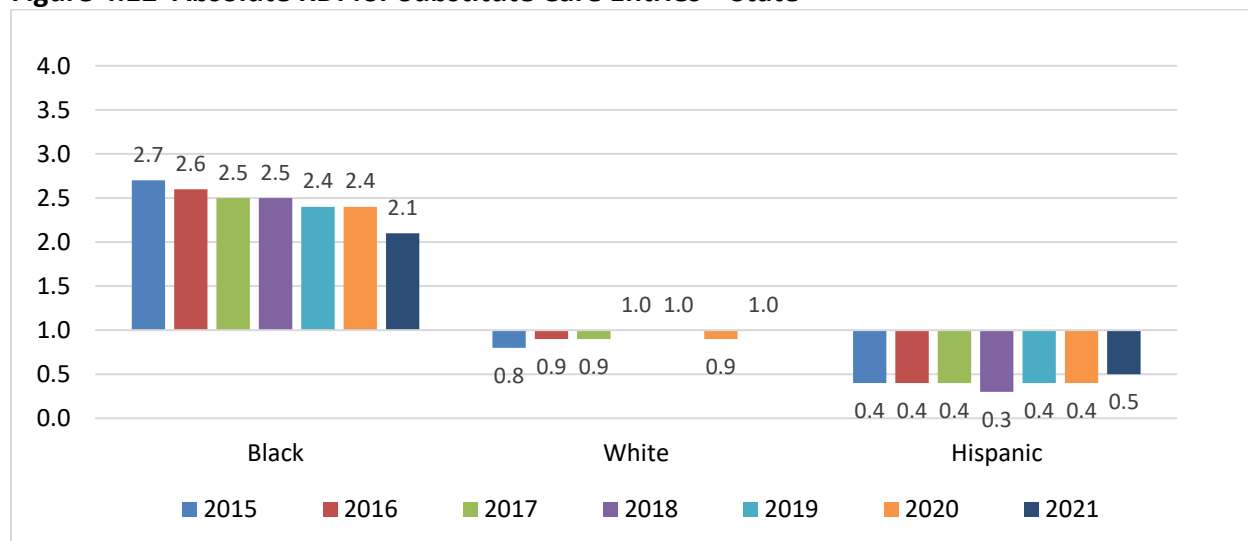
Post-Investigation Services

The next decisions involve whether to provide post-investigation services following an indicated investigation. In Illinois, there are two types of post-investigative services that can be provided by the child welfare system—substitute care and intact family services. If the child welfare worker concludes that "there are safety threats that cannot be controlled or mitigated through the service provision,"¹¹ the child may be removed and placed into substitute care. In other instances, the worker may decide that it is in the best interest of the child to remain at home while the family receives supportive services in what are known as intact family cases.

Substitute Care Entries

The absolute RDI for substitute care entries for the three groups over the last seven years are shown in Figure 4.12 (see Appendix C, Table 4.D.1). Black children are placed into substitute care at rates 2.1 to 2.7 times that of their percentage within the Illinois child population. This disproportionality has been declining over time. White children were proportionately represented (RDI = 0.9-1.0) in the past six years. Hispanic children are under-represented compared to their percentage in the Illinois child population (RDI = 0.3-0.5).

Figure 4.12 Absolute RDI for Substitute Care Entries—State

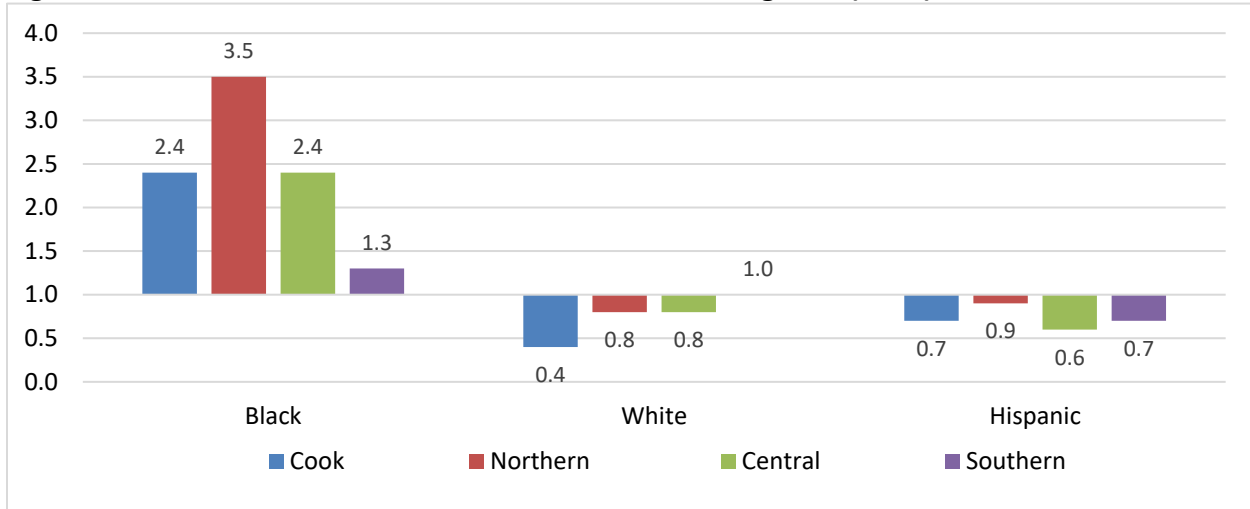


When the absolute RDIs for substitute care entries are examined by region, there are striking differences for Black children (see Figure 4.13 and Appendix C, Table 4.D.2). In 2021, the Northern region has the highest RDI (3.5), followed by Cook and Central (RDI = 2.4), and Southern (RDI = 1.3). The Northern region has had RDIs for Black children entering substitute

¹¹ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (October, 2015). Procedures 300 Section 130 Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect. Springfield: Author. Retrieved from https://www2.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/notices/Documents/procedures_300.pdf

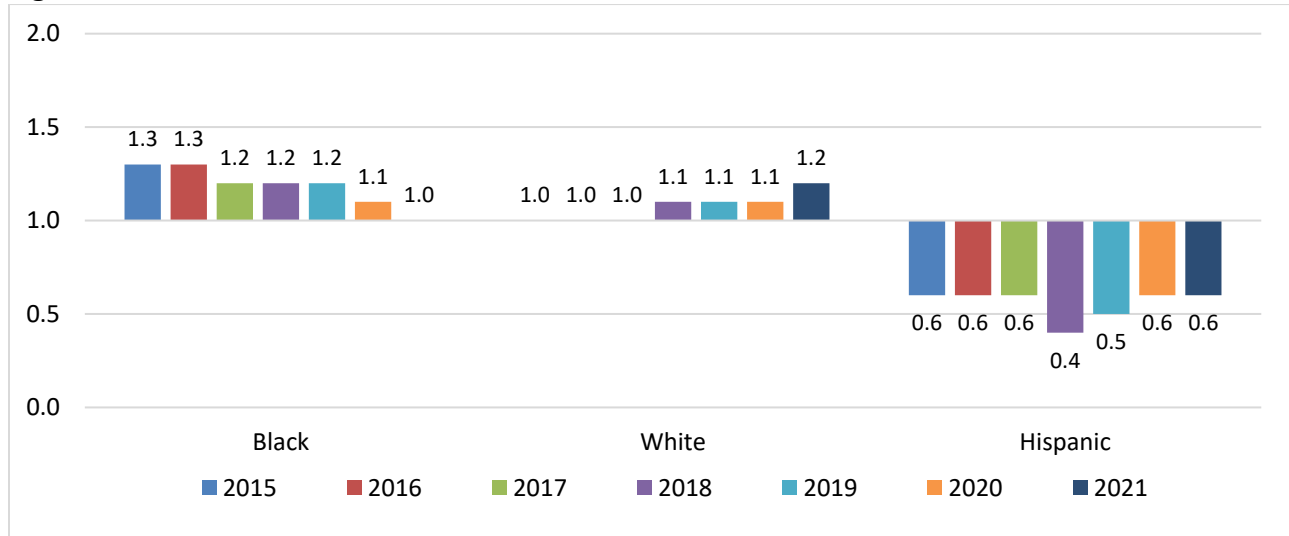
care entries that are significantly higher than the other regions for each of the last seven years, although the RDI in the Northern region decreased from 4.5 in 2020 to 3.5 in 2021. White children are especially under-represented in substitute care entries in Cook (RDI = 0.4), and to a lesser degree in the Northern and Central regions (RDI = 0.8). They are proportionally represented in the Southern region (RDI = 1.0). Hispanic children are under-represented in the Cook, Central, and Southern regions during 2021 (RDIs = 0.6-0.7) but are proportionally represented in the Northern region (RDI = 0.9).

Figure 4.13 Absolute RDI for Substitute Care Entries—Regional (2021)



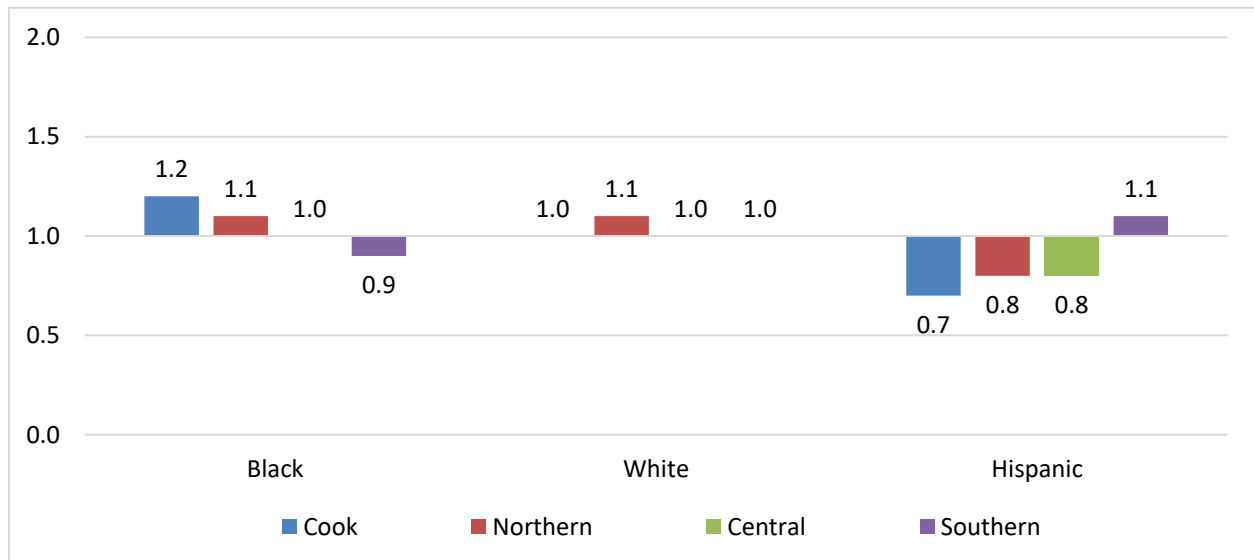
The relative RDI for substitute care entries at the state level were calculated by comparing, for each race/ethnicity group, the percentage of children entering substitute care to the percentage of children with indicated reports. These relative RDIs are shown in Figure 4.14 (see Appendix C, Table 4.D.3). Black children had relative RDIs of 1.2-1.3 in 2015-2019, meaning that over-representation increased at this decision point compared to the amount of over-representation among indicated reports. However, in the last two years, their removal rate was proportional to their indication rate, which means that disproportionality did not increase at this decision point. White children entered substitute care at rates proportional to their representation among indicated reports 2015-2020, but their removal rate was higher than their indication rate in 2021 (RDI = 1.2). The relative RDIs for Hispanic children were between 0.4 and 0.6 for the past seven years, meaning that workers remove Hispanic children from home and place them into substitute care less frequently than their indication rates.

Figure 4.14 Relative RDI for Substitute Care Entries—State



Regional relative RDIs for 2021 substitute care entries are shown in Figure 4.15. Over-represented among Black children increased in the Cook region (RDI = 1.2) and remained the same in the Northern, Central, and Southern regions (RDI = 0.9-1.1). In 2021, White children entered substitute care at rates proportional to their representation among indicated reports in all regions. In 2021, Hispanic children were more under-represented in substitute care entries compared to indicated reports in all regions (RDIs = 0.7-0.8) except the Southern region (RDI = 1.1). However, the relative RDI of Hispanic children for this decision point in the Southern region fluctuated considerably over the previous six years (RDIs = 0.7-1.3), most likely due to the small numbers of Hispanic children entering substitute care in this region each year (see Appendix C, Table 4.D.4).

Figure 4.15 Relative RDI for Substitute Care Entries—Regional (2021)



Intact Family Services

Figure 4.16 shows the absolute RDI for children receiving intact family services (see Appendix C, Table 4.E.1). Black children are over-represented for the last seven years, Hispanic children are under-represented for the most recent six years, and White children are proportionately represented.

Figure 4.16 Absolute RDI for Intact Family Services—State

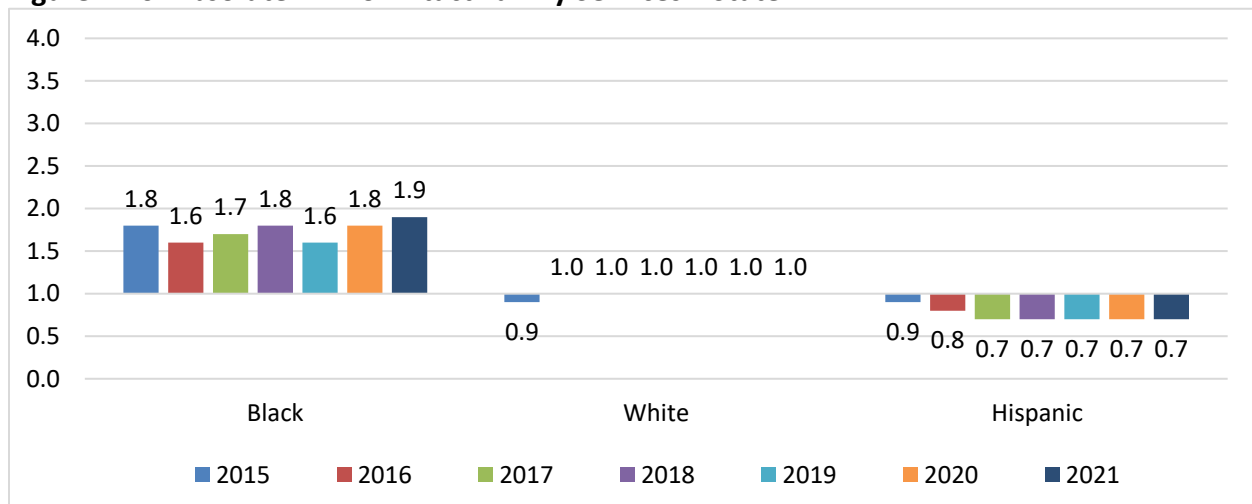
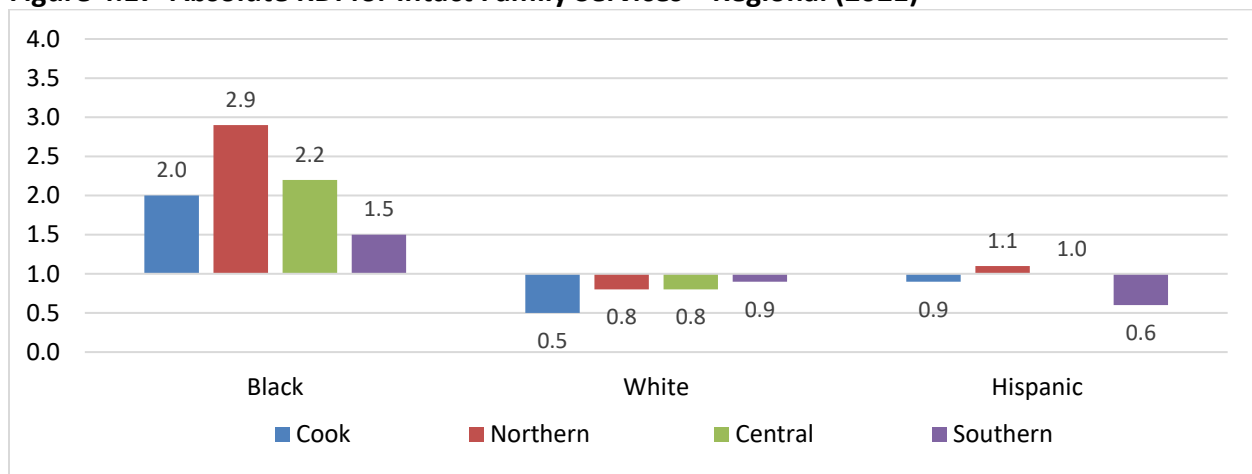


Figure 4.17 shows the 2021 absolute RDI for intact family services for each of the DCFS regions. The RDI for Black children, showing over-representation in all regions, is largest in the Northern region (RDI = 2.9) and smallest in the Southern region (RDI = 1.5). White children are under-represented in all regions, except Southern, where they are proportionally represented. In 2021, Hispanic children are proportionally represented in the Cook, Northern, and Central regions and under-represented in the Southern region (RDI = 0.6; see Appendix C, Table 4.E.2 for 7-year data).

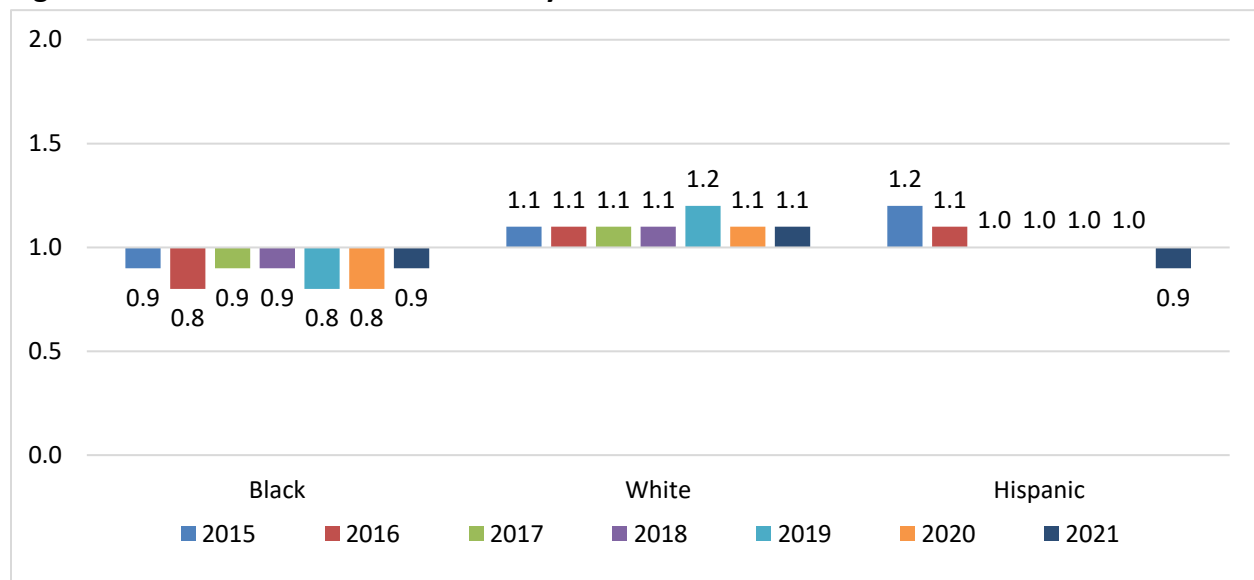
Figure 4.17 Absolute RDI for Intact Family Services—Regional (2021)



DISPROPORTIONALITY

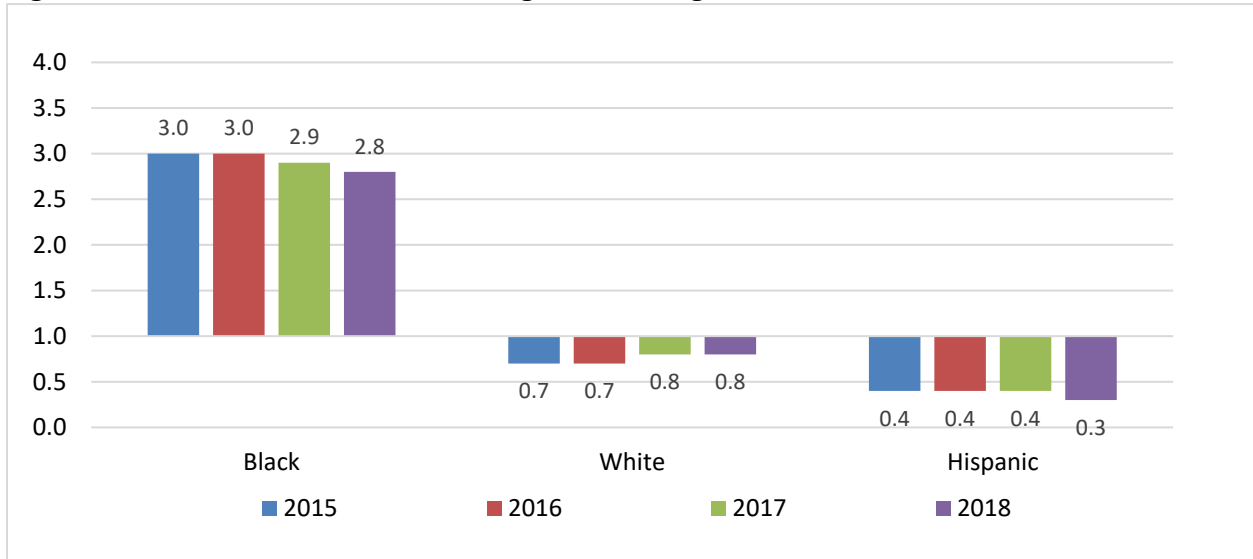
Figure 4.18 shows relative RDIs for receipt of intact family services at the state level, which was calculated by comparing the percentage of children receiving intact family services to the percentage of children with indicated maltreatment reports. The relative RDIs for intact family services for White and Hispanic children were primarily proportional over the past seven years. Children in each of these racial and ethnic groups were, for six of the last seven years, provided with intact family services at rates equal to the rates at which they were indicated for maltreatment. Over-representation among Black children decreased at this decision point compared to the previous decision point (indicated maltreatment reports) (see Appendix C, Table 4.E.3).

Figure 4.18 Relative RDI for Intact Family Services—State

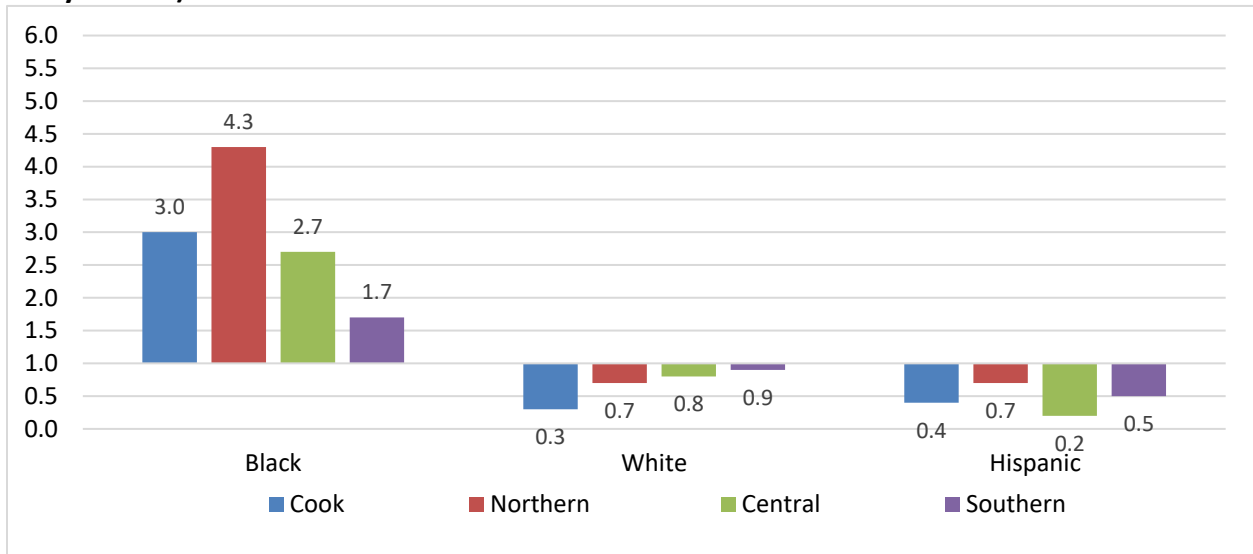


Substitute Care Exits

The final decision point examined is substitute care exits. When children are removed from their families and placed into substitute care, the goal is for them to safely exit substitute care as soon as possible, either through reunification with their biological caregivers, adoption, or guardianship. A sizeable percentage of children remain in substitute care for long periods of time in Illinois, and this indicator examines the percentage of children in each racial group that remain in substitute care for more than three years. When the absolute RDIs are examined at this stage, Black children are over-represented, with RDIs around 3.0. Both White (RDIs = 0.7-0.8) and Hispanic (RDIs = 0.3-0.4) children are under-represented (see Figure 4.19 and Appendix C, Table 4.F.1).

Figure 4.19 Absolute RDI for Remaining in Care Longer than 36 Months—State

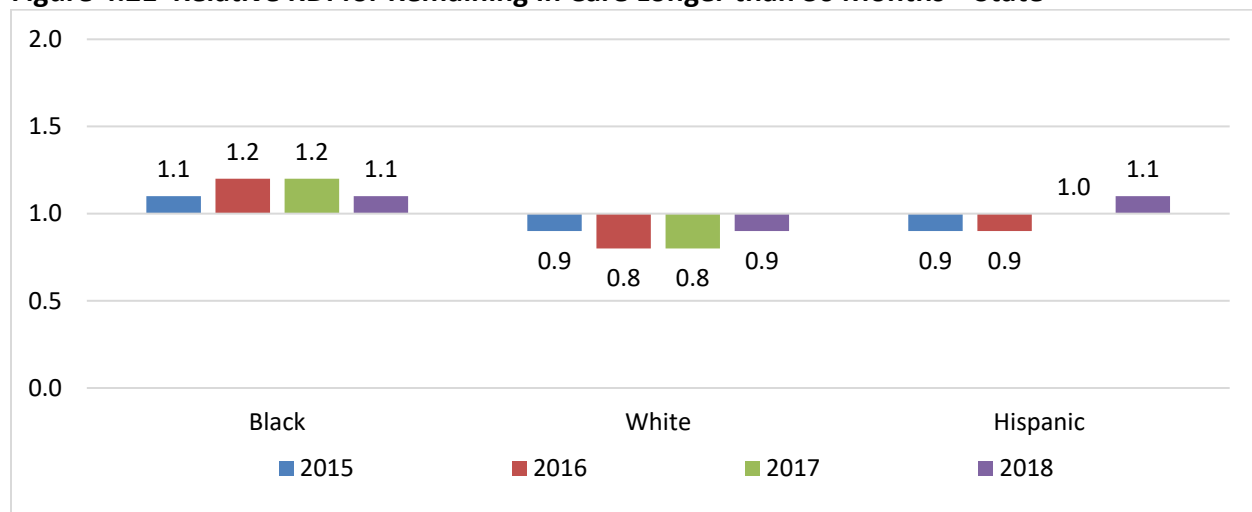
The regional patterns for the absolute RDI are shown in Figure 4.20 (see Appendix C, Table 4.F.2). Disproportionality for Black children in the Northern region is very high, over four times their proportion in the general population (RDI = 4.3). However, it did decrease from 5.3 for children who entered substitute care in 2017 to 4.3 for those that entered care in 2018. Black children are also over-represented among children remaining in substitute care for more than 36 months in the Cook (RDI = 3.0), Central (RDI = 2.7), and Southern (RDI = 1.7) regions. White children are under-represented among children in care longer than 36 months in the Cook, Northern, and Central regions (RDI = 0.3-0.8) and are proportionally represented in the Southern region (RDI = 0.9). Hispanic children are under-represented in all four regions (RDI = 0.2-0.7).

Figure 4.20 Absolute RDI for Remaining in Care Longer than 36 Months—Regional (2018 Entry Cohort)

DISPROPORTIONALITY

The relative RDI for this indicator examines the percentage of children in each racial group that remain in substitute care for more than three years compared to the percentage of children in the same racial group that entered substitute care. When examining these relative RDIs at the state level for cohorts entering substitute care in 2015-2018, over-representation increases slightly for Black children (see Figure 4.21 and Appendix C, Table 4.F.3), and under-representation increases slightly for White children (RDI = 0.8-0.9). RDI for Hispanic children have fluctuated at this decision point. Examination of the regional relative RDIs show that they were consistent with the state-level data (see Appendix C, Table 4.F.4).

Figure 4.21 Relative RDI for Remaining In Care Longer than 36 Months—State



Discussion and Conclusions: Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality

This chapter examines racial and ethnic disproportionality in the Illinois child welfare system at decision points where children in a particular racial/ethnic group may be disproportionately represented compared to the representation in the general population or at a previous decision point. By doing so, we can begin to identify decision points in the child welfare system where over- or under-representation may become magnified. These decision points may then serve as a starting point for efforts to root out racial biases—be they implicit, explicit, or institutional—that harm children.

We examined racial and ethnic disproportionality in two ways. Absolute racial disproportionality indices were calculated that compared children's percentages at child welfare decision points with their corresponding percentage in the Illinois child population. The results of these analyses found that, compared to their percentage in the general child population, Black children were over-represented and Hispanic children were under-represented at every decision point in the child welfare system over the past seven years; White children, in contrast, were proportionally represented at all decision points except indicated reports and remaining in care longer than 36 months, where they were under-

represented. The over-representation among Black children in the child welfare system is particularly high for children who remain in substitute care more than three years; the percentage of Black children who remain in care longer than three years is almost three times their percentage in the Illinois population. Regional analysis indicates that the highest rates of disproportionality for Black children occur in the Northern region and are lowest in the Southern region.

Relative RDIs examine the representation of a particular racial/ethnic group at one decision point compared to a prior decision point and tell us if disproportionality increases or decreases compared to the prior decision point. When relative RDIs were examined for the state, analyses indicated that disproportionality was exacerbated for Black children in substitute care for more than 36 months and for Hispanic children at the protective custody and substitute care entry decision points. Already disproportionately represented among children in substitute care, the representation of Black children among those in care longer than three years was, in 2016 and 2017, larger than their representation among children who entered substitute care. Conversely, Hispanic children became more under-represented at the protective custody and substitute care entry points.

Although Black children remain disproportionately over-represented throughout the Illinois child welfare system, data for 2021 does show some diminution of this over-representation for the state as a whole and particularly in the Northern region. The 2021 statewide data show slight decreases in the disproportionate representation of Black children at the protective custody and substitute care entry decision points. The absolute RDI of Black children in protective custodies fell from 2.3 in 2020 to 2.0 in 2021. The absolute RDI of Black children for substitute care entries fell from 2.4 in 2020 to 2.1 in 2021, following a steady decline over seven years from 2.7 in 2015.

Much of this change was driven by decreases in disproportionality in the Northern region—the region in which over-representation of Black children in the child welfare system has been the highest. In the Northern region the absolute RDI for Black children taken into protective custodies fell from 4.0 in 2020 to 3.4 in 2021. It fell from 2.6 to 2.4 in the Cook region, and from 2.4 to 2.3 in the Central region. In the Northern region, the absolute RDI for Black children for substitute care entries fell more substantially, from 4.5 in 2020 to 3.5 in 2021. It fell from 2.6 to 2.4 in the Cook region and from 2.5 to 2.4 in the Central region. In the Northern region, the absolute RDI for Black children remaining in care longer than 36 months fell from 5.3 in 2020 to 4.3 in 2021. It increased in the Cook region from 2.7 to 3.0 and decreased in the Central region from 3.0 in 2020 to 2.7 in 2021. For each of these decision points, the disproportionality of Black children in the Southern region, the region in which over-representation of Black children in the child welfare system is lowest, remained steady between 2020 and 2021.

Although these decreases in over-representation among Black children at several decision-points are encouraging, additional monitoring is needed to determine if rates continue to decrease in the future. In addition, it should be noted that even with these improvements, Black children are still over-represented at each decision point in the Illinois child welfare

DISPROPORTIONALITY

system. One of the goals in the DCFS 2016-2021 strategic plan was to eliminate racial/ethnic disparity through implementing the Family Focused, Trauma Informed, and Strengths Based (FTS) Illinois Core Practice Model in communities.¹² It is clear that additional reforms will be needed to eliminate the racial disproportionality that exists in the Illinois child welfare system.

¹² Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (January, 2017). *Illinois Child Welfare Transformation: 2016-2021*. Springfield, IL: Author. Retrieved from https://www2.illinois.gov/dcms/aboutus/newsandreports/documents/2016-2021_illinois_childwelfare_transformation_strategic_plan_final.pdf



Appendix A

Indicator and Variable Definitions

Appendix A-1 provides definitions for each of the outcome indicators used in the report. For each indicator, a general definition is provided, followed by a description of the population of children included in the denominator and numerator, and any children who were excluded from the calculations. Appendix A-2 provides the operational definition of race/ethnicity used in this report.

Indicators are calculated based on the state fiscal year, which spans the 12-month period from July 1 to June 30. All indicators exclude youth 18 years and older. Indicators used in the Child and Family Service Reviews are designated by (CFSR) in the indicator title. For outcome indicators 1.D through 3.L, the child is defined as in substitute care if they were in a legal spell (see Appendix D for the definition of legal spell and how it was used to adjust the data).

A-1. Indicator Definitions

Chapter 1: Child Safety

Indicator 1.A: Maltreatment Recurrence (CFSR)¹

Definition: Of all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment report during the fiscal year, the percentage that were victims of another substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months.

Denominator: The number of children with at least one substantiated maltreatment report during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children who had another substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months of their initial report.

Exclusions: 1) subsequent reports of maltreatment within 14 days of the initial report; 2) multiple reports on the same incident date; 3) substantiated reports of allegation 60 (Environment Injurious to Health and Welfare) between October 1, 2001–December 31, 2013 and May 31, 2014–June 11, 2014.

Indicator 1.B: Maltreatment Among Children in Intact Family Cases

Definition: Of all children served in intact family cases during the fiscal year, the percentage that had a substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months.

Denominator: The number of children served in intact family cases during the fiscal year. Intact family cases are defined as those in which all children in the family are at home at the time the family case opens.

Numerator: The number of children who had a substantiated report within 12 months of the case open date.

Exclusions: 1) intact family cases open seven days or fewer; 2) intact family cases with any child who enters substitute care within 30 days of case open date; 3) subsequent reports within 14 days of the initial maltreatment report; 4) multiple reports on the same incident date; 5) substantiated reports of allegation 60 (Environment Injurious to Health and Welfare) between October 1, 2001–December 31, 2013 and May 31, 2014–June 11, 2014; 6) maltreatment reports in childcare facilities, including day care facilities, foster homes, group homes, and residential treatment centers.

¹ Children's Bureau (n.d.). CFSR Round Statewide Data Indicators. Retrieved from <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/focus-areas/cqi/cfsr-data-syntax-toolkit/>

Indicator 1.C: Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children Receiving No Services

Definition: Of all children with a substantiated report who did not receive intact family or substitute care services, the percentage that had another substantiated report within 12 months.

Denominator: The number of children with a substantiated maltreatment report during the fiscal year who were not in an intact family case or placed into substitute care within 60 days of the maltreatment report date.

Numerator: The number of children who had another substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months of their initial report.

Exclusions: 1) subsequent reports of maltreatment within 14 days of the initial report; 2) multiple reports on the same incident date; 3) substantiated reports of allegation 60 (Environment Injurious to Health and Welfare) between October 1, 2001–December 31, 2013 and May 31, 2014–June 11, 2014.

Indicator 1.D: Maltreatment in Substitute Care (CFSR)²

Definition: Of all children in substitute care during the fiscal year, the rate of maltreatment per 100,000 days of substitute care.

Denominator: The total number of days that children were in substitute care placements, including trial home visits, during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The total number of substantiated maltreatment reports that occurred during substitute care placements.

Adjustments: The results are multiplied by 100,000 to produce larger numbers that are easier to understand.

Exclusions: 1) substitute care episodes less than eight days; 2) if a youth turns age 18 while in care, the time in care and maltreatment reports that occur after their 18th birthday; 3) maltreatment reports that occur within the first seven days of removal; 4) subsequent reports that occur within one day of the initial report; 5) maltreatment reports if the incident date did not occur during the substitute care spell; 6) substantiated reports of allegation 60 (Environment Injurious to Health and Welfare) between October 1, 2001–December 31, 2013 and May 31, 2014–June 11, 2014.

² Ibid.

Chapter 2: Family Continuity, Placement Stability, and Length of Time in Care

The placement type in Indicators 2.A.1 through 2.D is determined by two fields from the database in the Child and Youth Centered Information System: child living arrangement type and type of service code. In constructing each placement type, the type of service code was given priority over the child living arrangement type. There were cases where the type of service code was not available for a given child living arrangement. In this appendix, only a child living arrangement type, not the service code, was listed for each placement type.

Indicator 2.A.1: Initial Placement—Home of Parents

Definition: Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in the home of their parent(s) in their first placement.

Denominator: The number of children entering substitute care during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children initially placed in the home of parents.

Child living arrangement type: Home of Parents.

Exclusions: Children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer.

Indicator 2.A.2: Initial Placement—Kinship Foster Home

Definition: Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in kinship foster homes in their first placement.

Denominator: The number of children entering substitute care during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children initially placed in kinship foster homes.

Child living arrangement type: Delegated Relative Authority (DRA), Foster Home Adoption (FHA), Foster Home Guardianship (FHG), Home of Relative Applicant (HRA), Home of Relative (HMR), and Home of Fictive Kin (HFK).

Exclusions: Children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer.

Indicator 2.A.3: Initial Placement—Traditional Foster Home

Definition: Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in traditional foster homes in their first placement.

Denominator: The number of children entering substitute care during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children initially placed in traditional foster homes.

Child living arrangement type: Foster Home Boarding DCFS (FHB), Foster Home Indian (FHI), Foster Home Boarding Private Agency (FHP), Foster Home Adoption (FHA), Foster Home Guardianship (FHG), Foster Home Specialized (FHS), and Home of Relative (HMR).

Exclusions: Children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer.

Indicator 2.A.4: Initial Placement—Specialized Foster Home

Definition: Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in specialized foster homes in their first placement.

Denominator: The number of children entering substitute care during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children initially placed in specialized foster homes.

Child living arrangement type: Emergency Foster Care (EFC), Foster Home Boarding Private Agency (FHP), Home of Relative (HMR), Foster Home Adoption (FHA), Foster Home Guardianship (FHG), Foster Home Specialized (FHS), Foster Home Treatment (FHT), Home of Fictive Kin (FHK), and Therapeutic Foster Home (TFH).

Exclusions: Children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer.

Indicator 2.A.5: Initial Placement—Emergency Shelter/Emergency Foster Home

Definition: Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes in their first placement.

Denominator: The number of children entering substitute care during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children initially placed in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes.

Child living arrangement type: Emergency Foster Care (EFC), Foster Home Boarding DCFS (FHB), Foster Home Specialized (FHS), Group Home (GRH), Institution Private Child Care Facility (IPA), Institute Private Shelter (IPS), and Youth Emergency Shelters (YES).

Exclusions: Children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer.

Indicator 2.A.6: Initial Placement—Group Home/Institution

Definition: Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that placed in group homes or institutions in their first placement.

Denominator: The number of children entering substitute care during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children initially placed in group homes or institutions.

Child living arrangement type: Group Home (GRH), Detention Facility/Jail (DET), Institution DCFS (ICF), Institution Department of Corrections (IDC), Institution Department of Mental Health (IMH), Institution Private Child Care Facility (IPA), Institution Rehabilitation Services (IRS), Nursing Care Facility (NCF), Institute Private Shelter (IPS), and Qualified Residential Treatment (QRT), and Institution Other Public (IOP).

Exclusions: Children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer.

Indicator 2.B.1: End of Year Placement—Home of Parents

Definition: Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in the home of their parent(s).

Denominator: The number of children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children placed in the home of parents.

Child living arrangement type: Home of Parents (HMP).

INDICATOR AND VARIABLE DEFINITIONS

Indicator 2.B.2: End of Year Placement—Kinship Foster Home

Definition: Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in kinship foster homes.

Denominator: The number of children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children placed in kinship foster homes.

Child living arrangement type: Delegated Relative Authority (DRA), Foster Home Adoption (FHA), Foster Home Guardianship (FHG), Home of Relative Applicant (HRA), Home of Relative (HMR), and Home of Fictive Kin (HFK).

Indicator 2.B.3: End of Year Placement—Traditional Foster Home

Definition: Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in traditional foster homes.

Denominator: The number of children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children placed in traditional foster homes.

Child living arrangement type: Foster Home Boarding DCFS (FHB), Foster Home Indian (FHI), Foster Home Boarding Private Agency (FHP), Foster Home Adoption (FHA), Foster Home Guardianship (FHG), Foster Home Specialized (FHS), and Home of Relative (HMR).

Indicator 2.B.4: End of Year Placement—Specialized Foster Home

Definition: Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in specialized foster homes.

Denominator: The number of children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children placed in specialized foster homes.

Child living arrangement type: Emergency Foster Care (EFC), Foster Home Boarding Private Agency (FHP), Home of Relative (HMR), Foster Home Adoption (FHA), Foster Home Guardianship (FHG), Foster Home Specialized (FHS), Foster Home Treatment (FHT), Home of Fictive Kin (FHK), and Therapeutic Foster Home (TFH).

Indicator 2.B.5: End of Year Placement—Emergency Shelter/Emergency Foster Home

Definition: Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes.

Denominator: The number of children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children placed in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes.

Child living arrangement type: Emergency Foster Care (EFC), Foster Home Boarding DCFS (FHB), Foster Home Specialized (FHS), Group Home (GRH), Institution Private Child Care Facility (IPA), Institute Private Shelter (IPS), and Youth Emergency Shelters (YES).

Indicator 2.B.6: End of Year Placement—Group Home

Definition: Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in group homes.

Denominator: The number of children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children placed in group homes. The Group Home category includes group home.

Child living arrangement type: Group Home (GRH).

Indicator 2.B.7: End of Year Placement—Institution

Definition: Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in institutions.

Denominator: The number of children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children placed in institutions.

Child living arrangement type: Detention Facility/Jail (DET), Institution DCFS (ICF), Institution Department of Corrections (IDC), Institution Department of Mental Health (IMH), Institution Private Child Care Facility (IPA), Institution Rehabilitation Services (IRS), Nursing Care Facility (NCF), Institute Private Shelter (IPS), and Qualified Residential Treatment (QRT), and Institution Other Public (IOP).

Indicator 2.C: Initial Placement with Siblings

Definition: Of all children entering substitute care and initially placed in kinship or traditional foster homes, the percentage that was placed with their siblings in their initial placement.

Denominator: The number of children entering substitute care during the fiscal year who had siblings in substitute care and were initially placed into kinship or traditional foster homes.

Siblings are defined as children who belong to a common family based on the ID number of the family.

Numerator: The number of children placed in the same foster home as all their siblings in substitute care in their initial placement.

Child living arrangement type: Delegated Relative Authority (DRA), Foster Home Adoption (FHA), Foster Home Guardianship (FHG), Home of Relative Applicant (HRA), Home of Relative (HMR), Home of Fictive Kin (HFK), Foster Home Boarding DCFS (FHB), Foster Home Indian (FHI), Foster Home Boarding Private Agency (FHP), and Foster Home Specialized (FHS).

Exclusions: 1) children with no siblings in substitute care; 2) children who enter substitute care and stay seven or fewer days.

Indicator 2.D: End of Year Placement with Siblings

Definition: Of all children in kinship or traditional foster homes at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed with their siblings.

Denominator: The number of children in kinship or traditional foster homes at the end of the fiscal year who had siblings in substitute care. Siblings are defined as children who belong to a common family based on the ID number of the family.

Numerator: The number of children placed in the same foster home as all their siblings in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year.

Child living arrangement type: Delegated Relative Authority (DRA), Foster Home Adoption (FHA), Foster Home Guardianship (FHG), Home of Relative Applicant (HRA), Home of Relative (HMR), Home of Fictive Kin (HFK), Foster Home Boarding DCFS (FHB), Foster Home Indian (FHI), Foster Home Boarding Private Agency (FHP), and Foster Home Specialized (FHS).

Exclusions: Children with no siblings in substitute care.

INDICATOR AND VARIABLE DEFINITIONS

Indicator 2.E: Placement Stability (CFSR)³

Definition: Of all children who entered substitute care during the fiscal year, the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days of care.

Denominator: Among the children who entered substitute care during the year, the total number of days they were in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of placement moves during the fiscal year.

Adjustment: The result is multiplied by 1,000 to produce larger numbers that are easier to understand.

Exclusions: 1) children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer; 2) for youth who enter at age 17 and turn 18 during the period, any time in substitute care beyond the 18th birthday or placement changes after that date; 3) the initial removal from the home is not counted as a placement move.

Indicator 2.F: Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care

Definition: Of all children age 12 to 17 entering substitute care, the percentage that run away from a substitute care placement during their first year.

Denominator: The number of children age 12 to 17 entering substitute care during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children who run away from their substitute care placement within one year from the case opening date. Runaway includes: Runaway, Abducted, and Whereabouts Unknown.

Exclusions: Children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer.

Indicator 2.G: Median Length of Stay in Substitute Care

Definition: The median length of stay in substitute care of all children who entered substitute care during the fiscal year. The median represents the amount of time in months that it took half of the children who entered substitute care in a fiscal year to exit care or emancipate.

Population: The number of children who enter substitute care during the fiscal year. If the child had more than one out-of-home spell during the fiscal year, the first spell was selected.

Exclusions: Children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer.

³ Ibid.

Chapter 3: Legal Permanence—Reunification, Adoption, and Guardianship

Indicator 3.A.1: Reunification Within 12 Months

Definition: Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 12 months.

Denominator: The number of children entering substitute care during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children who were reunified within 12 months of the date of entry into substitute care. Reunification is defined as when the child is returned home, and legal custody is transferred back to parent(s).

Exclusions: Children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer.

Indicator 3.A.2: Reunification Within 24 Months

Definition: Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 24 months.

Denominator: The number of children entering substitute care during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children who were reunified within 24 months of the date of entry into substitute care. Reunification is defined as when the child is returned home, and legal custody is transferred back to parent(s).

Exclusions: Children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer.

Indicator 3.A.3: Reunification Within 36 Months

Definition: Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 36 months.

Denominator: The number of children entering substitute care during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children who were reunified within 36 months of the date of entry into substitute care. Reunification is defined as when the child is returned home, and legal custody is transferred back to parent(s).

Exclusions: Children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer.

Indicator 3.B.1: Stability of Reunification at One Year

Definition: Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at one year.

Denominator: The number of children reunified during the fiscal year. Reunification is defined as when the child is returned home, and legal custody is transferred back to parent(s).

Numerator: The number of children who did not re-enter substitute care within one year of reunification.

Exclusions: Children who re-entered substitute care and stayed seven days or fewer.

INDICATOR AND VARIABLE DEFINITIONS

Indicator 3.B.2: Stability of Reunification at Two Years

Definition: Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at two years.

Denominator: The number of children reunified during the fiscal year. Reunification is defined as when the child is returned home, and legal custody is transferred back to parent(s).

Numerator: The number of children who did not re-enter substitute care within two years of reunification.

Exclusions: Children who re-entered substitute care and stayed seven days or fewer.

Indicator 3.B.3: Stability of Reunification at Five Years

Definition: Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at five years.

Denominator: The number of children reunified during the fiscal year. Reunification is defined as when the child is returned home, and legal custody is transferred back to parent(s).

Numerator: The number of children who did not re-enter substitute care within five years of reunification.

Exclusions: Children who re-entered substitute care and stayed seven days or fewer.

Indicator 3.B.4: Stability of Reunification at Ten Years

Definition: Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at ten years.

Denominator: The number of children reunified during the fiscal year. Reunification is defined as when the child is returned home, and legal custody is transferred back to parent(s).

Numerator: The number of children who did not re-enter substitute care within ten years of reunification.

Exclusions: Children who re-entered substitute care and stayed seven days or fewer.

Indicator 3.C.1: Adoption Within 24 Months

Definition: Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was adopted within 24 months.

Denominator: The number of children entering substitute care during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children who were adopted within 24 months of the date of entry into substitute care.

Exclusions: Children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer.

Indicator 3.C.2: Adoption Within 36 Months

Definition: Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was adopted within 36 months.

Denominator: The number of children entering substitute care during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children who were adopted within 36 months of the date of entry into substitute care.

Exclusions: Children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer.

Indicator 3.D.1: Stability of Adoption at Two Years

Definition: Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at two years.

Denominator: The number of children adopted during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children who did not re-enter substitute care within two years of adoption.

Exclusions: Children who re-entered substitute care and stayed seven days or fewer.

Indicator 3.D.2: Stability of Adoption at Five Years

Definition: Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at five years.

Denominator: The number of children adopted during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children who did not re-enter substitute care within five years of adoption.

Exclusions: Children who re-entered substitute care and stayed seven days or fewer.

Indicator 3.D.3: Stability of Adoption at Ten Years

Definition: Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at ten years.

Denominator: The number of children adopted during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children who did not re-enter substitute care within ten years of adoption.

Exclusions: Children who re-entered substitute care and stayed seven days or fewer.

Indicator 3.E.1: Guardianship Within 24 Months

Definition: Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was taken into guardianship within 24 months.

Denominator: The number of children entering substitute care during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children taken into guardianship within 24 months of the date of entry into substitute care.

Exclusions: Children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer.

INDICATOR AND VARIABLE DEFINITIONS

Indicator 3.E.2: Guardianship Within 36 Months

Definition: Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was taken into guardianship within 36 months.

Denominator: The number of children entering substitute care during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children taken into guardianship within 36 months of the date of entry into substitute care.

Exclusions: Children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer.

Indicator 3.F.1: Stability of Guardianship at Two Years

Definition: Of all children taken into guardianship during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at two years.

Denominator: The number of children taken into guardianship during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children who did not re-enter substitute care within two years of guardianship.

Exclusions: Children who re-entered substitute care and stayed seven days or fewer.

Indicator 3.F.2: Stability of Guardianship at Five Years

Definition: Of all children taken into guardianship during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at five years.

Denominator: The number of children taken into guardianship during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children who did not re-enter substitute care within five years of guardianship.

Exclusions: Children who re-entered substitute care and stayed seven days or fewer.

Indicator 3.F.3: Stability of Guardianship at Ten Years

Definition: Of all children taken into guardianship during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at ten years.

Denominator: The number of children taken into guardianship during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children who did not re-enter substitute care within ten years of guardianship.

Exclusions: Children who re-entered substitute care and stayed seven days or fewer.

Indicator 3.G: Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Substitute Care (CFSR)⁴

Definition: Of all children who entered substitute care during the fiscal year, the percentage that was discharged to permanency within 12 months.

Denominator: The number of children who enter substitute care during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children who are discharged to permanency (reunification, living with relative, adoption, or guardianship) within 12 months of entering substitute care.

Exclusions: 1) children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer; 2) youth entering care at age 17 who turn 18 while in care or discharge at age 18 are excluded from the numerator.

Indicator 3.H: Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 12 to 23 Months (CFSR)⁵

Definition: Of all children in care on the first day of the fiscal year who had been in care between 12 and 23 months, the percentage that was discharged to permanency within 12 months.

Denominator: The number of children in substitute care on the first day of the fiscal year who had been in substitute care between 12 and 23 months.

Numerator: The number of children who are discharged to permanency (reunification, living with relative, adoption, or guardianship) within 12 months of the first day of the fiscal year.

Exclusions: Youth entering care at age 17 who turn 18 while in care or discharge at age 18 are excluded from the numerator.

Indicator 3.I: Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 24 Months or More (CFSR)⁶

Definition: Of all children in care on the first day of the fiscal year who had been in care for 24 months or more, the percentage that was discharged to permanency within 12 months.

Denominator: The number of children in substitute care on the first day of the fiscal year period who had been in substitute care for 24 months or more.

Numerator: The number of children who are discharged to permanency (reunification, living with relative, adoption, or guardianship) within 12 months of the first day of the fiscal year.

Exclusions: Youth entering care at age 17 who turn 18 while in care or discharge at age 18 are excluded from the numerator.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

Indicator 3.J: Re-Entry to Substitute Care Among Children in Care Less Than 12 Months (CFSR)⁷

Definition: Of all children who entered foster care during the fiscal year and attained permanency within 12 months, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of their discharge.

Denominator: The number of children who entered substitute care during the fiscal year and were discharged within 12 months to reunification, living with a relative, adoption, or guardianship.

Numerator: The number of children who re-entered substitute care within 12 months of discharge. If a child had multiple re-entries within 12 months of discharge, only their first re-entry is selected.

Exclusions: 1) children who enter care and stay seven days or fewer are excluded from the denominator; 2) children who re-enter care and stay seven days or fewer are excluded from the numerator.

Indicator 3.K: Re-Entry to Substitute Care Among Children in Care 12 to 23 Months

Definition: Of all children who had been in substitute care between 12 and 23 months and exited to permanency during the fiscal year, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of their discharge.

Denominator: The number of children in substitute care on the first day of the fiscal year who had been in substitute care between 12 and 23 months and who were discharged to permanency (reunification, living with a relative, adoption, or guardianship) during the fiscal year.

Numerator: The number of children who re-entered substitute care within 12 months of discharge. If a child had multiple re-entries within 12 months of discharge, only their first re-entry is selected.

Exclusions: Children who re-enter care and stay seven days or fewer are excluded from the numerator.

⁷ Ibid.

Indicator 3.L: Re-Entry to Substitute Care Among Children in Care 24 Months or More

Definition: Of all children who had been in substitute care 24 months or more and exited to permanency during the fiscal year, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of their discharge.

Denominator: Number of children in substitute care on the first day of the fiscal year who had been in care for 24 months or more who were discharged to permanency (reunification, living with a relative, adoption, or guardianship) within 12 months.

Numerator: Number of children who re-enter substitute care within 12 months of discharge. If a child has multiple re-entries within 12 months of discharge, only their first re-entry is selected.

Exclusions: Children who re-enter care and stay seven days or fewer are excluded from the numerator.

A-2. Operational Definition of Race/Ethnicity

The race/ethnicity variable used in this report was created from two variables in the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and the Child and Youth Centered Information System (CYCIS): primary race and ethnicity. The ethnicity variable includes several codes designating Hispanic origin, including Hispanic South American, Hispanic Cuban, Hispanic Mexican, Hispanic Puerto Rican, Hispanic Spanish Descent, Hispanic Dominican, Hispanic Central American, and Hispanic Other. If the individual's ethnicity was coded as any of these, their race/ethnicity in this report was coded as "Hispanic" regardless of the primary race code. If the individual's ethnicity was *not* of Hispanic origin, their race/ethnicity in this report was determined using the code in the primary race variable contained in SACWIS and CYCIS. Values on the primary race variable include: White, Black, Native American/Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders. Because the numbers in categories other than White and Black are small, they are combined into one category labeled as "other race/ethnicity." Note that if the value of primary race was "could not be verified," "unknown," "declined to identify," or missing (null), it was treated as missing and excluded when indicators are reported by race/ethnicity.



Appendix B

Outcome Data by Region, Gender, Age, and Race/Ethnicity

Appendix B provides data on each of the outcome indicators defined in Appendix A. For each indicator, data are presented for the state, followed by breakdowns by DCFS administrative region, child gender, age, and race/ethnicity. The data used to compute these indicators come from two Illinois DCFS data systems: the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and the Child and Youth Centered Information System (CYCIS). Both the SACWIS and CYCIS data were extracted on December 31, 2021. All indicators are calculated based on the state fiscal year, which spans the 12-month period from July 1 to June 30.

Indicator 1.A Maltreatment Recurrence (CFSR)

Of all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment report during the fiscal year, the percentage that were victims of another substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Children with a substantiated maltreatment report	25,014	30,728	29,700	28,841	32,015	33,458	35,552
Children with another substantiated report within 12 months	2,815	3,489	3,578	3,807	4,181	4,661	5,137
Percent	11.3%	11.4%	12.0%	13.2%	13.1%	13.9%	14.4%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	684	8.9%	824	9.2%	724	9.2%	781	10.3%	885	9.9%	1,072	11.1%	1,190	11.4%
Northern	708	10.5%	890	10.2%	895	10.6%	794	10.8%	896	11.5%	1,022	12.1%	1,290	13.6%
Central	926	13.0%	1,169	13.3%	1,211	13.8%	1,416	15.6%	1,563	15.3%	1,612	16.1%	1,871	17.6%
Southern	497	14.3%	606	14.2%	748	16.2%	811	17.0%	837	16.6%	950	18.0%	786	15.8%

Male	1,450	11.8%	1,751	11.6%	1,781	12.2%	1,980	13.9%	2,039	12.9%	2,361	14.2%	2,545	14.4%
Female	1,365	10.8%	1,736	11.2%	1,796	12.0%	1,826	12.6%	2,138	13.3%	2,298	13.8%	2,590	14.6%

0 to 2	848	13.4%	1,137	13.3%	1,173	13.8%	1,241	15.0%	1,344	14.7%	1,456	15.8%	1,650	16.5%
3 to 5	609	12.1%	750	12.2%	770	13.2%	815	14.6%	882	14.4%	966	14.9%	1,077	15.5%
6 to 11	935	11.1%	1,102	11.0%	1,144	12.0%	1,203	13.0%	1,296	12.7%	1,491	13.8%	1,505	13.6%
12 to 17	419	8.1%	499	8.4%	487	8.4%	544	9.5%	658	10.3%	742	10.7%	902	12.1%

Black	942	11.0%	1,136	10.6%	1,092	11.2%	1,175	12.1%	1,263	11.4%	1,571	13.7%	1,667	13.3%
White	1,510	12.9%	1,838	13.2%	2,028	14.5%	2,095	15.4%	2,311	15.4%	2,449	15.9%	2,606	16.5%
Hispanic	344	8.1%	478	8.6%	442	8.0%	511	10.1%	571	10.5%	612	10.1%	825	12.4%
Other Race/Ethnicity	10	4.2%	27	7.7%	13	4.1%	22	7.5%	34	10.6%	25	6.8%	30	7.5%

Indicator 1.B Maltreatment Among Children in Intact Family Cases

Of all children served in intact family cases during the fiscal year, the percentage that had a substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Children in intact family cases	13,497	11,195	10,242	11,628	12,878	14,503	15,016
Children with substantiated reports	1,898	1,566	1,412	1,923	2,083	2,620	2,721
Percent	14.1%	14.0%	13.8%	16.5%	16.2%	18.1%	18.1%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	582	10.7%	497	10.6%	344	8.9%	474	12.4%	466	10.6%	581	12.7%	520	12.6%
Northern	356	13.3%	337	14.2%	291	13.2%	365	13.5%	364	15.7%	510	18.5%	569	17.8%
Central	576	17.4%	411	16.2%	422	17.4%	637	21.7%	766	20.2%	967	21.6%	1,090	22.2%
Southern	384	18.4%	321	20.1%	355	20.2%	447	20.4%	487	20.6%	562	20.9%	542	19.5%

Male	986	14.3%	814	14.3%	701	13.6%	993	16.7%	1,046	16.0%	1,325	17.8%	1,392	18.3%
Female	912	13.8%	752	13.7%	711	14.0%	930	16.3%	1,037	16.3%	1,295	18.3%	1,328	18.0%

0 to 2	606	17.3%	581	18.7%	453	16.6%	645	20.2%	699	20.1%	822	21.7%	878	22.9%
3 to 5	405	14.4%	333	14.6%	303	14.9%	410	18.3%	432	16.9%	575	19.1%	607	19.7%
6 to 11	636	13.9%	456	12.1%	475	13.4%	622	15.9%	670	15.2%	844	17.3%	799	15.8%
12 to 17	251	9.7%	196	9.7%	181	9.3%	246	10.8%	282	11.6%	379	13.4%	437	14.4%

Black	668	13.5%	500	11.9%	390	10.8%	598	14.9%	633	13.3%	786	16.1%	842	16.4%
White	957	16.1%	789	16.8%	836	18.2%	1,047	19.5%	1,167	20.2%	1,480	21.5%	1,466	20.9%
Hispanic	231	11.3%	241	12.1%	167	9.1%	238	12.0%	229	11.2%	299	12.8%	341	13.8%
Other Race/Ethnicity	41	7.2%	32	12.7%	19	11.4%	34	15.8%	49	20.6%	47	15.2%	65	18.8%

Indicator 1.C Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children Receiving No Services

Of all children with a substantiated report who did not receive intact family or substitute care services, the percentage that had another substantiated report within 12 months.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Children receiving no services	16,944	21,240	21,611	19,974	21,962	22,581	24,099
Children with substantiated reports	1,523	1,994	2,280	2,212	2,384	2,716	2,975
Percent	9.0%	9.4%	10.6%	11.1%	10.9%	12.0%	12.3%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	388	7.3%	468	7.6%	474	8.1%	498	9.2%	527	8.1%	729	10.0%	835	10.6%
Northern	415	8.6%	523	8.1%	622	9.5%	477	8.6%	581	9.7%	669	10.4%	851	11.8%
Central	501	10.6%	728	12.0%	824	13.0%	826	13.3%	905	13.5%	862	14.2%	950	15.0%
Southern	219	10.5%	275	10.7%	360	12.7%	407	14.3%	371	13.2%	453	16.3%	339	13.0%

Male	767	9.4%	987	9.5%	1,134	10.8%	1,153	11.8%	1,150	10.7%	1,393	12.5%	1,468	12.4%
Female	756	8.7%	1,005	9.3%	1,145	10.4%	1,058	10.5%	1,230	11.0%	1,321	11.6%	1,505	12.4%

0 to 2	389	10.7%	551	11.1%	709	13.1%	656	13.5%	676	12.9%	762	14.7%	858	15.2%
3 to 5	330	9.8%	452	10.4%	489	11.5%	471	12.1%	477	11.3%	565	13.0%	620	13.3%
6 to 11	529	8.9%	667	9.2%	756	10.4%	723	10.7%	777	10.6%	890	11.5%	909	11.4%
12 to 17	274	7.0%	323	7.0%	322	7.0%	360	8.1%	454	8.9%	494	9.4%	586	10.1%

Black	512	9.1%	640	8.7%	706	9.9%	731	10.7%	756	9.9%	1,003	12.4%	1,031	11.7%
White	816	10.4%	1,070	11.3%	1,276	12.9%	1,164	12.9%	1,250	12.7%	1,291	13.6%	1,380	14.0%
Hispanic	185	6.0%	262	6.6%	285	6.8%	303	8.1%	350	8.4%	408	8.9%	543	10.9%
Other Race/Ethnicity	7	3.9%	16	5.9%	10	3.9%	12	5.3%	26	10.5%	11	3.8%	13	4.2%

Indicator 1.D Maltreatment in Substitute Care (CFSR)

Of all children in substitute care during the fiscal year, the rate of maltreatment per 100,000 days of substitute care.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children in substitute care during the fiscal year	19,815	19,055	19,062	19,760	21,245	23,416	25,470
Days in substitute care	5,475,831	5,352,336	5,248,884	5,354,193	5,670,114	6,384,966	7,061,089
Substantiated maltreatment reports	654	719	754	752	1,018	1,245	1,300
Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days	11.9	13.4	14.4	14.0	18.0	19.5	18.4

	Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days	Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days	Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days	Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days	Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days	Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days	Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days
Cook	10.2	11.1	13.8	13.5	18.0	18.5	14.5
Northern	9.7	14.2	12.3	11.1	16.7	19.0	18.5
Central	15.2	15.4	15.2	15.2	18.6	21.0	22.2
Southern	13.6	15.0	16.5	16.0	17.8	19.2	18.6

Male	11.8	12.9	13.3	13.7	16.8	19.0	17.4
Female	12.1	14.1	15.6	14.4	19.2	20.0	19.4

0 to 2	7.2	10.3	9.8	10.7	11.1	13.8	13.2
3 to 5	10.4	16.4	15.4	16.3	21.9	23.1	21.6
6 to 11	12.0	15.7	18.4	15.7	22.7	21.5	21.3
12 to 17	7.9	13.2	15.3	15.2	19.5	23.2	20.7

Black	12.1	13.7	14.3	14.3	19.1	20.2	17.2
White	11.9	13.4	14.2	14.9	18.3	18.1	19.4
Hispanic	12.7	13.2	16.7	8.6	11.8	22.4	19.2
Other Race/Ethnicity	8.0	10.6	9.8	11.7	12.7	22.6	15.2

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

Indicator 2.A.1 Initial Placement: Home of Parents

Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in the home of their parent(s) in their first placement.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children entering substitute care	5,023	4,599	4,736	5,702	6,448	7,373	7,058
Children placed in home of parents	216	189	170	176	213	236	228
Percent	4.3%	4.1%	3.6%	3.1%	3.3%	3.2%	3.2%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	15	1.0%	10	0.8%	9	0.8%	7	0.5%	7	0.6%	39	2.2%	11	0.9%
Northern	5	0.5%	4	0.4%	8	0.9%	0	0.0%	10	0.9%	8	0.6%	13	0.8%
Central	160	9.7%	141	8.9%	118	6.7%	103	4.8%	133	5.4%	129	4.6%	144	5.4%
Southern	36	4.1%	34	3.9%	35	3.6%	66	5.0%	63	3.9%	60	4.0%	60	3.9%

Male	118	4.6%	107	4.5%	89	3.6%	87	2.9%	112	3.5%	128	3.4%	119	3.3%
Female	98	4.0%	82	3.7%	81	3.5%	89	3.2%	101	3.1%	108	3.0%	109	3.2%

0 to 2	54	2.7%	39	2.1%	38	2.0%	37	1.6%	49	1.9%	59	2.0%	57	1.9%
3 to 5	34	4.1%	42	5.5%	30	3.6%	39	4.2%	50	4.2%	48	3.7%	43	3.5%
6 to 11	76	6.8%	71	6.7%	61	5.4%	60	4.3%	71	4.5%	67	3.9%	79	4.8%
12 to 17	52	5.1%	37	4.0%	41	4.6%	40	3.9%	43	3.8%	62	4.5%	49	3.9%

Black	73	3.3%	54	2.9%	57	3.2%	56	2.5%	84	3.6%	73	2.7%	75	3.3%
White	119	5.3%	123	5.5%	99	4.2%	105	3.6%	109	3.2%	136	3.7%	137	3.6%
Hispanic	16	3.5%	5	1.2%	10	2.3%	10	2.7%	9	1.8%	17	2.2%	10	1.2%
Other Race/Ethnicity	7	5.6%	7	9.2%	3	2.6%	5	3.8%	10	5.9%	5	2.8%	4	1.8%

Indicator 2.A.2 Initial Placement: Kinship Foster Home

Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in kinship foster homes in their first placement.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children entering substitute care	5,023	4,599	4,736	5,702	6,448	7,373	7,058
Children placed in kinship foster homes	2,817	2,942	3,015	3,745	4,590	5,399	5,402
Percent	56.1%	64.0%	63.7%	65.7%	71.2%	73.2%	76.5%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	697	47.7%	724	59.2%	698	59.8%	771	57.1%	788	63.2%	1,252	70.8%	960	74.7%
Northern	675	65.2%	634	70.1%	586	69.0%	648	70.9%	798	71.2%	994	74.6%	1,258	78.2%
Central	919	55.6%	976	61.4%	1,098	62.7%	1,392	65.5%	1,768	71.1%	2,046	73.6%	1,992	75.4%
Southern	526	60.4%	608	69.0%	633	65.4%	934	71.1%	1,236	77.5%	1,107	74.2%	1,192	78.4%

Male	1,372	53.7%	1,478	62.0%	1,519	62.2%	1,908	64.7%	2,272	70.1%	2,708	72.3%	2,729	75.6%
Female	1,445	58.5%	1,464	66.1%	1,496	65.2%	1,837	66.8%	2,318	72.3%	2,690	74.2%	2,673	77.5%

0 to 2	1,125	55.2%	1,152	62.1%	1,187	62.6%	1,515	64.0%	1,696	67.2%	2,094	70.2%	2,142	72.8%
3 to 5	543	65.0%	543	71.6%	597	72.1%	646	69.8%	906	75.6%	1,038	79.6%	1,014	83.0%
6 to 11	717	63.7%	778	73.7%	800	71.0%	1,013	73.0%	1,245	78.7%	1,378	80.9%	1,356	83.1%
12 to 17	432	42.1%	469	50.4%	431	48.6%	570	55.9%	743	65.0%	889	64.4%	890	70.4%

Black	1,153	52.5%	1,141	61.3%	1,075	59.8%	1,364	61.4%	1,522	65.5%	1,939	71.8%	1,672	74.6%
White	1,314	58.8%	1,464	65.5%	1,581	66.6%	2,043	69.3%	2,542	74.4%	2,704	73.7%	2,907	77.4%
Hispanic	272	59.4%	283	69.5%	278	64.5%	225	61.0%	390	77.1%	596	77.0%	625	77.1%
Other Race/Ethnicity	73	58.4%	44	57.9%	73	62.4%	92	70.8%	108	63.5%	124	69.3%	174	79.1%

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

Indicator 2.A.3 Initial Placement: Traditional Foster Home

Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in traditional foster homes in their first placement.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children entering substitute care	5,023	4,599	4,736	5,702	6,448	7,373	7,058
Children placed in traditional foster homes	1,172	991	1,146	1,337	1,306	1,322	1,121
Percent	23.3%	21.5%	24.2%	23.4%	20.3%	17.9%	15.9%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	223	15.3%	207	16.9%	237	20.3%	315	23.3%	264	21.2%	269	15.2%	190	14.8%
Northern	258	24.9%	204	22.6%	208	24.5%	207	22.6%	270	24.1%	268	20.1%	264	16.4%
Central	489	29.6%	395	24.8%	461	26.3%	561	26.4%	519	20.9%	528	19.0%	439	16.6%
Southern	202	23.2%	185	21.0%	240	24.8%	254	19.3%	253	15.9%	257	17.2%	228	15.0%

Male	598	23.4%	503	21.1%	595	24.4%	696	23.6%	653	20.2%	679	18.1%	578	16.0%
Female	574	23.2%	488	22.0%	551	24.0%	641	23.3%	653	20.4%	643	17.7%	543	15.8%

0 to 2	691	33.9%	599	32.3%	629	33.2%	758	32.0%	738	29.2%	786	26.3%	703	23.9%
3 to 5	166	19.9%	147	19.4%	184	22.2%	215	23.2%	224	18.7%	196	15.0%	141	11.5%
6 to 11	189	16.8%	152	14.4%	215	19.1%	242	17.4%	218	13.8%	214	12.6%	167	10.2%
12 to 17	126	12.3%	93	10.0%	118	13.3%	122	12.0%	126	11.0%	126	9.1%	110	8.7%

Black	497	22.6%	409	22.0%	436	24.3%	556	25.0%	529	22.8%	475	17.6%	346	15.4%
White	555	24.9%	490	21.9%	567	23.9%	651	22.1%	644	18.9%	687	18.7%	585	15.6%
Hispanic	85	18.6%	66	16.2%	100	23.2%	89	24.1%	80	15.8%	117	15.1%	151	18.6%
Other Race/Ethnicity	33	26.4%	19	25.0%	34	29.1%	29	22.3%	48	28.2%	35	19.6%	35	15.9%

Indicator 2.A.4 Initial Placement: Specialized Foster Home

Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in specialized foster homes in their first placement.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children entering substitute care	5,023	4,599	4,736	5,702	6,448	7,373	7,058
Children placed in specialized foster homes	106	73	105	131	95	62	67
Percent	2.1%	1.6%	2.2%	2.3%	1.5%	0.8%	0.9%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	66	4.5%	57	4.7%	82	7.0%	93	6.9%	65	5.2%	37	2.1%	37	2.9%
Northern	15	1.4%	0	0.0%	7	0.8%	14	1.5%	8	0.7%	11	0.8%	8	0.5%
Central	14	0.8%	12	0.8%	11	0.6%	15	0.7%	14	0.6%	9	0.3%	11	0.4%
Southern	11	1.3%	4	0.5%	5	0.5%	9	0.7%	8	0.5%	5	0.3%	11	0.7%

Male	48	1.9%	42	1.8%	51	2.1%	57	1.9%	54	1.7%	33	0.9%	34	0.9%
Female	58	2.3%	31	1.4%	54	2.4%	74	2.7%	41	1.3%	29	0.8%	33	1.0%

0 to 2	39	1.9%	22	1.2%	29	1.5%	43	1.8%	34	1.3%	22	0.7%	29	1.0%
3 to 5	15	1.8%	9	1.2%	11	1.3%	20	2.2%	14	1.2%	5	0.4%	12	1.0%
6 to 11	21	1.9%	14	1.3%	25	2.2%	30	2.2%	14	0.9%	10	0.6%	7	0.4%
12 to 17	31	3.0%	28	3.0%	40	4.5%	38	3.7%	33	2.9%	25	1.8%	19	1.5%

Black	55	2.5%	39	2.1%	67	3.7%	87	3.9%	53	2.3%	37	1.4%	42	1.9%
White	38	1.7%	17	0.8%	18	0.8%	29	1.0%	28	0.8%	19	0.5%	18	0.5%
Hispanic	11	2.4%	12	2.9%	16	3.7%	14	3.8%	12	2.4%	5	0.6%	4	0.5%
Other Race/Ethnicity	1	0.8%	2	2.6%	4	3.4%	1	0.8%	2	1.2%	0	0.0%	2	0.9%

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

Indicator 2.A.5 Initial Placement: Emergency Shelter/Emergency Foster Home

Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes in their first placement.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children entering substitute care	5,023	4,599	4,736	5,702	6,448	7,373	7,058
Children placed in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes	290	132	93	75	54	84	55
Percent	5.8%	2.9%	2.0%	1.3%	0.8%	1.1%	0.8%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	147	10.1%	59	4.8%	35	3.0%	42	3.1%	38	3.0%	55	3.1%	25	1.9%
Northern	40	3.9%	29	3.2%	16	1.9%	13	1.4%	10	0.9%	9	0.7%	16	1.0%
Central	19	1.1%	12	0.8%	12	0.7%	8	0.4%	5	0.2%	5	0.2%	9	0.3%
Southern	84	9.6%	32	3.6%	30	3.1%	12	0.9%	1	0.1%	15	1.0%	5	0.3%

Male	159	6.2%	80	3.4%	53	2.2%	49	1.7%	32	1.0%	44	1.2%	35	1.0%
Female	131	5.3%	52	2.3%	40	1.7%	26	0.9%	22	0.7%	40	1.1%	20	0.6%

0 to 2	52	2.6%	10	0.5%	1	0.1%	3	0.1%	1	0.0%	14	0.5%	4	0.1%
3 to 5	31	3.7%	6	0.8%	2	0.2%	2	0.2%	2	0.2%	8	0.6%	1	0.1%
6 to 11	53	4.7%	14	1.3%	7	0.6%	14	1.0%	12	0.8%	16	0.9%	1	0.1%
12 to 17	154	15.0%	102	11.0%	83	9.4%	56	5.5%	39	3.4%	46	3.3%	49	3.9%

Black	149	6.8%	62	3.3%	40	2.2%	35	1.6%	35	1.5%	46	1.7%	29	1.3%
White	108	4.8%	59	2.6%	43	1.8%	27	0.9%	14	0.4%	25	0.7%	21	0.6%
Hispanic	27	5.9%	10	2.5%	9	2.1%	12	3.3%	5	1.0%	7	0.9%	3	0.4%
Other Race/Ethnicity	6	4.8%	1	1.3%	1	0.9%	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	6	3.4%	2	0.9%

Indicator 2.A.6 Initial Placement: Group Home/Institution

Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in group homes or institutions in their first placement.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children entering substitute care	5,023	4,599	4,736	5,702	6,448	7,373	7,058
Children placed in group homes or institutions	422	272	207	238	190	270	185
Percent	8.4%	5.9%	4.4%	4.2%	2.9%	3.7%	2.6%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	314	21.5%	167	13.6%	106	9.1%	122	9.0%	85	6.8%	117	6.6%	62	4.8%
Northern	43	4.2%	33	3.7%	24	2.8%	32	3.5%	25	2.2%	43	3.2%	50	3.1%
Central	53	3.2%	54	3.4%	52	3.0%	46	2.2%	46	1.9%	63	2.3%	48	1.8%
Southern	12	1.4%	18	2.0%	25	2.6%	38	2.9%	34	2.1%	47	3.2%	25	1.6%

Male	259	10.1%	173	7.3%	135	5.5%	154	5.2%	117	3.6%	153	4.1%	116	3.2%
Female	163	6.6%	99	4.5%	72	3.1%	84	3.1%	73	2.3%	117	3.2%	69	2.0%

0 to 2	76	3.7%	34	1.8%	11	0.6%	13	0.5%	6	0.2%	10	0.3%	6	0.2%
3 to 5	46	5.5%	11	1.5%	4	0.5%	3	0.3%	3	0.3%	9	0.7%	10	0.8%
6 to 11	69	6.1%	26	2.5%	18	1.6%	28	2.0%	22	1.4%	19	1.1%	21	1.3%
12 to 17	231	22.5%	201	21.6%	174	19.6%	194	19.0%	159	13.9%	232	16.8%	148	11.7%

Black	271	12.3%	156	8.4%	122	6.8%	124	5.6%	99	4.3%	130	4.8%	78	3.5%
White	99	4.4%	81	3.6%	65	2.7%	93	3.2%	79	2.3%	97	2.6%	86	2.3%
Hispanic	47	10.3%	31	7.6%	18	4.2%	19	5.1%	10	2.0%	32	4.1%	18	2.2%
Other Race/Ethnicity	5	4.0%	3	3.9%	2	1.7%	2	1.5%	2	1.2%	9	5.0%	3	1.4%

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

Indicator 2.B.1 End of Year Placement: Home of Parents

Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in the home of their parent(s).							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children in substitute care at end of year	14,226	14,116	13,832	14,563	15,772	18,085	19,143
Children in home of parents	784	826	695	786	867	870	1,050
Percent	5.5%	5.9%	5.0%	5.4%	5.5%	4.8%	5.5%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	148	3.0%	157	3.2%	126	2.7%	127	2.8%	150	3.3%	101	1.9%	74	1.4%
Northern	91	3.0%	81	2.8%	52	2.0%	60	2.4%	73	2.8%	86	2.9%	108	3.3%
Central	368	9.0%	438	10.7%	326	7.9%	401	8.7%	435	8.3%	417	6.8%	607	9.2%
Southern	177	8.4%	150	6.8%	191	8.0%	198	7.0%	209	6.2%	266	7.1%	261	6.7%

Male	398	5.3%	417	5.6%	385	5.3%	410	5.4%	447	5.5%	458	4.9%	528	5.4%
Female	386	5.7%	409	6.1%	310	4.7%	376	5.4%	420	5.5%	412	4.7%	521	5.6%

0 to 2	183	5.5%	171	5.3%	147	4.6%	179	5.0%	190	4.8%	175	3.8%	234	4.8%
3 to 5	166	5.7%	196	6.5%	165	5.5%	178	5.7%	208	6.1%	228	5.7%	269	6.2%
6 to 11	259	6.2%	265	6.4%	241	5.8%	272	6.3%	310	6.6%	277	5.2%	341	6.1%
12 to 17	176	4.6%	194	5.2%	142	4.0%	157	4.5%	159	4.3%	190	4.6%	206	4.7%

Black	288	4.2%	320	4.8%	251	4.0%	282	4.4%	350	5.3%	325	4.4%	322	4.3%
White	424	7.2%	428	7.2%	376	6.3%	428	6.5%	446	6.0%	482	5.7%	608	6.7%
Hispanic	44	3.9%	54	4.5%	57	4.6%	49	4.2%	44	3.5%	39	2.3%	80	4.0%
Other Race/Ethnicity	27	8.5%	21	7.1%	10	3.3%	24	7.1%	25	6.3%	16	3.6%	34	6.7%

Indicator 2.B.2 End of Year Placement: Kinship Foster Home

Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in kinship foster homes.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children in substitute care at end of year	14,226	14,116	13,832	14,563	15,772	18,085	19,143
Children in kinship foster homes	6,193	6,477	6,700	7,358	8,483	10,427	11,289
Percent	43.5%	45.9%	48.4%	50.5%	53.8%	57.7%	59.0%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	2,023	40.9%	2,148	43.7%	2,135	45.5%	2,093	45.9%	2,175	47.3%	2,780	53.6%	3,012	56.7%
Northern	1,404	45.8%	1,335	46.3%	1,240	47.0%	1,208	47.4%	1,267	48.4%	1,569	52.2%	1,781	54.0%
Central	1,755	42.9%	1,850	45.1%	2,037	49.5%	2,395	51.9%	2,903	55.7%	3,690	60.0%	3,972	60.0%
Southern	1,011	47.8%	1,144	51.6%	1,288	54.1%	1,662	58.5%	2,138	63.9%	2,388	63.8%	2,524	64.6%

Male	3,082	41.2%	3,210	43.3%	3,301	45.5%	3,658	48.1%	4,225	51.9%	5,155	55.7%	5,674	57.5%
Female	3,110	46.2%	3,267	48.7%	3,399	51.7%	3,700	53.1%	4,258	55.8%	5,271	59.7%	5,615	60.5%

0 to 2	1,598	48.2%	1,644	50.8%	1,735	54.4%	2,015	55.8%	2,257	56.6%	2,784	59.9%	2,980	61.4%
3 to 5	1,480	50.8%	1,564	52.1%	1,599	53.4%	1,698	54.4%	1,976	57.9%	2,437	60.8%	2,624	60.5%
6 to 11	2,006	47.9%	2,079	50.1%	2,127	51.6%	2,289	53.2%	2,672	57.1%	3,179	60.2%	3,397	60.8%
12 to 17	1,109	29.1%	1,190	31.9%	1,239	35.1%	1,356	38.4%	1,578	42.7%	2,027	48.8%	2,288	52.5%

Black	2,810	40.8%	2,825	42.3%	2,781	44.0%	2,942	46.2%	3,199	48.1%	3,919	52.7%	4,081	54.9%
White	2,686	45.6%	2,879	48.7%	3,094	52.1%	3,637	54.9%	4,359	58.9%	5,181	61.3%	5,611	61.4%
Hispanic	540	47.7%	620	51.5%	650	52.6%	587	50.0%	669	53.1%	1,020	61.3%	1,244	62.9%
Other Race/Ethnicity	154	48.6%	145	49.2%	159	52.0%	168	49.6%	218	54.8%	259	58.2%	296	58.4%

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

Indicator 2.B.3 End of Year Placement: Traditional Foster Home

Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in traditional foster homes.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children in substitute care at end of year	14,226	14,116	13,832	14,563	15,772	18,085	19,143
Children in traditional foster homes	3,937	3,745	3,550	3,522	3,462	3,735	3,795
Percent	27.7%	26.5%	25.7%	24.2%	22.0%	20.7%	19.8%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	1,262	25.5%	1,239	25.2%	1,147	24.4%	1,077	23.6%	994	21.6%	1,003	19.4%	1,003	18.9%
Northern	887	28.9%	819	28.4%	752	28.5%	677	26.6%	621	23.7%	632	21.0%	689	20.9%
Central	1,167	28.5%	1,066	26.0%	1,035	25.2%	1,118	24.2%	1,170	22.4%	1,334	21.7%	1,331	20.1%
Southern	621	29.4%	621	28.0%	616	25.9%	650	22.9%	677	20.2%	766	20.5%	772	19.7%

Male	2,001	26.7%	1,914	25.8%	1,811	24.9%	1,801	23.7%	1,723	21.2%	1,871	20.2%	1,908	19.3%
Female	1,935	28.7%	1,831	27.3%	1,739	26.5%	1,721	24.7%	1,739	22.8%	1,864	21.1%	1,887	20.3%

0 to 2	1,362	41.1%	1,255	38.8%	1,159	36.3%	1,231	34.1%	1,301	32.6%	1,454	31.3%	1,400	28.8%
3 to 5	1,024	35.1%	979	32.6%	944	31.5%	961	30.8%	920	27.0%	969	24.2%	1,045	24.1%
6 to 11	1,060	25.3%	1,052	25.3%	984	23.9%	913	21.2%	845	18.1%	928	17.6%	953	17.0%
12 to 17	491	12.9%	459	12.3%	463	13.1%	417	11.8%	396	10.7%	384	9.2%	397	9.1%

Black	1,922	27.9%	1,843	27.6%	1,698	26.9%	1,607	25.2%	1,546	23.3%	1,565	21.0%	1,477	19.9%
White	1,616	27.5%	1,499	25.4%	1,453	24.4%	1,516	22.9%	1,514	20.5%	1,735	20.5%	1,835	20.1%
Hispanic	303	26.8%	305	25.4%	298	24.1%	296	25.2%	297	23.6%	320	19.2%	369	18.7%
Other Race/Ethnicity	93	29.3%	87	29.5%	90	29.4%	84	24.8%	84	21.1%	90	20.2%	99	19.5%

Indicator 2.B.4 End of Year Placement: Specialized Foster Home

Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in specialized foster homes.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children in substitute care at end of year	14,226	14,116	13,832	14,563	15,772	18,085	19,143
Children in specialized foster homes	2,102	2,024	1,964	1,977	2,031	2,151	2,144
Percent	14.8%	14.3%	14.2%	13.6%	12.9%	11.9%	11.2%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	1,029	20.8%	995	20.2%	974	20.7%	972	21.3%	953	20.7%	985	19.0%	938	17.6%
Northern	427	13.9%	415	14.4%	413	15.6%	415	16.3%	486	18.6%	522	17.4%	528	16.0%
Central	505	12.3%	470	11.5%	437	10.6%	421	9.1%	430	8.2%	466	7.6%	467	7.1%
Southern	141	6.7%	144	6.5%	140	5.9%	169	5.9%	162	4.8%	178	4.8%	211	5.4%

Male	1,198	16.0%	1,169	15.8%	1,165	16.0%	1,135	14.9%	1,166	14.3%	1,214	13.1%	1,222	12.4%
Female	904	13.4%	855	12.8%	799	12.2%	842	12.1%	865	11.3%	937	10.6%	922	9.9%

0 to 2	160	4.8%	161	5.0%	144	4.5%	183	5.1%	237	5.9%	231	5.0%	230	4.7%
3 to 5	235	8.1%	258	8.6%	280	9.4%	279	8.9%	297	8.7%	358	8.9%	387	8.9%
6 to 11	696	16.6%	623	15.0%	652	15.8%	703	16.3%	707	15.1%	765	14.5%	785	14.0%
12 to 17	1,011	26.5%	982	26.4%	888	25.2%	812	23.0%	790	21.4%	797	19.2%	742	17.0%

Black	1,220	17.7%	1,151	17.2%	1,113	17.6%	1,108	17.4%	1,106	16.6%	1,198	16.1%	1,131	15.2%
White	686	11.7%	679	11.5%	623	10.5%	619	9.3%	675	9.1%	661	7.8%	725	7.9%
Hispanic	163	14.4%	161	13.4%	186	15.1%	196	16.7%	191	15.2%	224	13.5%	224	11.3%
Other Race/Ethnicity	31	9.8%	31	10.5%	40	13.1%	50	14.7%	54	13.6%	62	13.9%	58	11.4%

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

Indicator 2.B.5 End of Year Placement: Emergency Shelter/Emergency Foster Home

Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children in substitute care at end of year	14,226	14,116	13,832	14,563	15,772	18,085	19,143
Children in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes	83	47	33	42	27	37	41
Percent	0.6%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	38	0.8%	13	0.3%	16	0.3%	11	0.2%	10	0.2%	13	0.3%	18	0.3%
Northern	13	0.4%	7	0.2%	6	0.2%	9	0.4%	3	0.1%	9	0.3%	8	0.2%
Central	17	0.4%	13	0.3%	4	0.1%	10	0.2%	7	0.1%	6	0.1%	11	0.2%
Southern	15	0.7%	14	0.6%	7	0.3%	12	0.4%	7	0.2%	9	0.2%	4	0.1%

Male	46	0.6%	30	0.4%	17	0.2%	27	0.4%	20	0.2%	24	0.3%	24	0.2%
Female	37	0.5%	17	0.3%	16	0.2%	15	0.2%	7	0.1%	13	0.1%	17	0.2%

0 to 2	2	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
3 to 5	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.1%	1	0.0%	1	0.0%
6 to 11	9	0.2%	0	0.0%	3	0.1%	4	0.1%	7	0.1%	7	0.1%	3	0.1%
12 to 17	71	1.9%	47	1.3%	30	0.9%	38	1.1%	17	0.5%	29	0.7%	36	0.8%

Black	42	0.6%	24	0.4%	21	0.3%	20	0.3%	9	0.1%	13	0.2%	20	0.3%
White	31	0.5%	22	0.4%	8	0.1%	19	0.3%	15	0.2%	20	0.2%	14	0.2%
Hispanic	10	0.9%	0	0.0%	3	0.2%	1	0.1%	3	0.2%	4	0.2%	6	0.3%
Other Race/Ethnicity	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	1	0.3%	2	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%

Indicator 2.B.6 End of Year Placement: Group Home

Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in group homes.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children in substitute care at end of year	14,226	14,116	13,832	14,563	15,772	18,085	19,143
Children in group homes	158	132	101	101	119	96	102
Percent	1.1%	0.9%	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.5%	0.5%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	71	1.4%	54	1.1%	36	0.8%	33	0.7%	43	0.9%	28	0.5%	32	0.6%
Northern	35	1.1%	40	1.4%	23	0.9%	24	0.9%	26	1.0%	35	1.2%	24	0.7%
Central	43	1.1%	31	0.8%	34	0.8%	34	0.7%	32	0.6%	26	0.4%	33	0.5%
Southern	9	0.4%	7	0.3%	8	0.3%	10	0.4%	18	0.5%	7	0.2%	13	0.3%

Male	90	1.2%	69	0.9%	61	0.8%	64	0.8%	70	0.9%	62	0.7%	67	0.7%
Female	68	1.0%	63	0.9%	40	0.6%	37	0.5%	49	0.6%	34	0.4%	35	0.4%

0 to 2	5	0.2%	3	0.1%	2	0.1%	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
3 to 5	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	3	0.1%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
6 to 11	12	0.3%	14	0.3%	12	0.3%	11	0.3%	15	0.3%	10	0.2%	10	0.2%
12 to 17	141	3.7%	114	3.1%	84	2.4%	89	2.5%	101	2.7%	86	2.1%	92	2.1%

Black	81	1.2%	72	1.1%	46	0.7%	48	0.8%	52	0.8%	39	0.5%	44	0.6%
White	66	1.1%	46	0.8%	46	0.8%	49	0.7%	59	0.8%	51	0.6%	48	0.5%
Hispanic	10	0.9%	12	1.0%	8	0.6%	4	0.3%	5	0.4%	4	0.2%	8	0.4%
Other Race/Ethnicity	1	0.3%	2	0.7%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	3	0.8%	2	0.4%	2	0.4%

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

Indicator 2.B.7 End of Year Placement: Institution

Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in institutions.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children in substitute care at end of year	14,226	14,116	13,832	14,563	15,772	18,085	19,143
Children in institutions	969	865	789	777	783	769	722
Percent	6.8%	6.1%	5.7%	5.3%	5.0%	4.3%	3.8%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	379	7.7%	308	6.3%	262	5.6%	249	5.5%	270	5.9%	273	5.3%	238	4.5%
Northern	210	6.8%	185	6.4%	154	5.8%	153	6.0%	140	5.4%	154	5.1%	163	4.9%
Central	240	5.9%	234	5.7%	242	5.9%	235	5.1%	237	4.5%	214	3.5%	196	3.0%
Southern	140	6.6%	138	6.2%	131	5.5%	140	4.9%	136	4.1%	128	3.4%	125	3.2%

Male	673	9.0%	605	8.2%	520	7.2%	506	6.7%	491	6.0%	475	5.1%	442	4.5%
Female	296	4.4%	260	3.9%	269	4.1%	271	3.9%	292	3.8%	294	3.3%	280	3.0%

0 to 2	6	0.2%	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	4	0.1%	1	0.0%	4	0.1%	8	0.2%
3 to 5	8	0.3%	4	0.1%	3	0.1%	6	0.2%	7	0.2%	12	0.3%	13	0.3%
6 to 11	145	3.5%	120	2.9%	103	2.5%	109	2.5%	121	2.6%	113	2.1%	101	1.8%
12 to 17	810	21.3%	739	19.8%	681	19.3%	658	18.7%	654	17.7%	640	15.4%	600	13.8%

Black	520	7.6%	447	6.7%	407	6.4%	361	5.7%	385	5.8%	378	5.1%	358	4.8%
White	377	6.4%	359	6.1%	343	5.8%	362	5.5%	332	4.5%	320	3.8%	299	3.3%
Hispanic	61	5.4%	51	4.2%	33	2.7%	42	3.6%	51	4.0%	53	3.2%	47	2.4%
Other Race/Ethnicity	11	3.5%	8	2.7%	5	1.6%	11	3.2%	14	3.5%	16	3.6%	17	3.4%

Indicator 2.C Initial Placement with Siblings

Of all children entering substitute care and initially placed in kinship or traditional foster homes, the percentage that was placed with their siblings in their initial placement.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Kinship Foster Care	1-2 siblings						
Children with 1-2 siblings	1,373	1,372	1,438	1,805	2,271	2,511	2,585
Children initially placed with all siblings	1,114	1,096	1,145	1,456	1,865	2,012	2,156
Percent	81.1%	79.9%	79.6%	80.7%	82.1%	80.1%	83.4%
Traditional Foster Care	1-2 siblings						
Children with 1-2 siblings	441	360	446	483	502	478	375
Children initially placed with all siblings	261	248	289	303	318	245	215
Percent	59.2%	68.9%	64.8%	62.7%	63.3%	51.3%	57.3%
Kinship Foster Care	3 or more siblings						
Children with 3 or more siblings	584	638	642	764	1028	1,392	1,148
Children initially placed with all siblings	305	310	284	422	592	715	584
Percent	52.2%	48.6%	44.2%	55.2%	57.6%	51.4%	50.9%
Traditional Foster Care	3 or more siblings						
Children with 3 or more siblings	170	143	205	254	238	231	138
Children initially placed with all siblings	16	12	20	34	27	17	17
Percent	9.4%	8.4%	9.8%	13.4%	11.3%	7.4%	12.3%

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

Indicator 2.D End of Year Placement with Siblings

Of all children in kinship or traditional foster homes at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed with their siblings.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Kinship Foster Care	1-2 siblings						
Children with 1-2 siblings	3,068	3,255	3,376	3,720	4,350	5,240	5,680
Children placed with all siblings at end of year	2,224	2,337	2,423	2,704	3,100	3,681	4,045
Percent	72.5%	71.8%	71.8%	72.7%	71.3%	70.2%	71.2%
Traditional Foster Care	1-2 siblings						
Children with 1-2 siblings	1,930	1,854	1,716	1,696	1,625	1,831	1,823
Children placed with all siblings at end of year	1,070	1,039	1,031	1,022	957	1,043	1,006
Percent	55.4%	56.0%	60.1%	60.3%	58.9%	57.0%	55.2%
Kinship Foster Care	3 or more siblings						
Children with 3 or more siblings	1,580	1,573	1,604	1,723	1,981	2,604	2,653
Children placed with all siblings at end of year	561	535	571	556	661	1,008	959
Percent	35.5%	34.0%	35.6%	32.3%	33.4%	38.7%	36.1%
Traditional Foster Care	3 or more siblings						
Children with 3 or more siblings	1,039	968	959	953	973	1,016	1,040
Children placed with all siblings at end of year	87	68	84	117	113	110	141
Percent	8.4%	7.0%	8.8%	12.3%	11.6%	10.8%	13.6%

Indicator 2.E Placement Stability (CFSR)

Of all children who entered substitute care during the fiscal year, the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days of care.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children entering substitute care	4,730	4,382	4,559	5,509	6,228	7,109	6,832
Days in substitute care	801,089	734,977	749,984	906,424	1,001,009	1,235,812	1,174,191
Placement moves	3,480	2,781	2,987	3,243	3,687	3,887	3,536
Placement moves per 1,000 days in substitute care	4.3	3.8	4.0	3.6	3.7	3.1	3.0

	Moves per 1,000 days	Moves per 1,000 days	Moves per 1,000 days	Moves per 1,000 days	Moves per 1,000 days	Moves per 1,000 days	Moves per 1,000 days
Cook	5.1	4.5	4.1	4.2	4.0	3.2	3.0
Northern	4.1	3.5	3.9	3.7	4.4	3.3	3.4
Central	3.5	3.4	4.0	3.2	3.4	2.9	2.7
Southern	5.1	3.7	3.9	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.1

Male	4.2	3.7	4.0	3.6	3.7	3.1	3.0
Female	4.5	3.9	4.0	3.6	3.7	3.2	3.0

0 to 2	3.0	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.2	2.3
3 to 5	3.6	3.1	3.3	3.0	3.4	2.9	3.1
6 to 11	4.2	3.5	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.2	3.0
12 to 17	8.1	7.3	7.6	6.8	6.4	5.4	4.9

Black	5.3	4.6	4.9	4.2	4.2	3.5	3.5
White	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.3	2.9	2.8
Hispanic	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.3	3.5	2.6	2.8
Other Race/Ethnicity	3.5	3.5	4.5	4.3	3.6	3.3	2.6

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

Indicator 2.F Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care

Of all children ages 12 to 17 entering substitute care, the percentage that run away from a substitute care placement during their first year.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Children entering substitute care between age 12 to 17	1,024	1,026	930	887	1,020	1,143	1,380
Children who run away during their first year	222	208	166	152	172	161	195
Percent	21.7%	20.3%	17.8%	17.1%	16.9%	14.1%	14.1%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	121	33.1%	110	31.7%	85	28.1%	61	22.3%	85	27.8%	61	21.9%	97	21.1%
Northern	30	14.1%	33	14.7%	32	18.1%	30	19.2%	22	12.1%	31	14.8%	29	12.9%
Central	45	16.1%	34	11.2%	31	11.0%	39	13.4%	41	12.5%	32	8.1%	41	9.3%
Southern	26	15.7%	31	20.5%	18	10.7%	22	13.3%	24	11.8%	37	14.3%	28	11.0%

Male	110	20.7%	111	22.3%	74	15.8%	76	17.2%	87	16.9%	81	14.9%	96	15.0%
Female	112	22.7%	97	18.3%	92	19.9%	76	17.0%	85	16.9%	80	13.3%	99	13.3%

12 to 14	74	13.9%	66	12.1%	41	8.5%	45	10.0%	62	11.2%	67	10.2%	65	8.2%
15 to 17	148	30.1%	142	29.5%	125	27.9%	107	24.4%	110	23.6%	94	19.2%	130	22.3%

Black	146	28.6%	131	25.9%	94	23.4%	88	22.9%	104	23.8%	87	19.0%	109	19.3%
White	59	13.8%	58	13.6%	59	13.7%	45	11.7%	56	11.4%	57	10.2%	68	11.1%
Hispanic	15	19.7%	19	24.7%	11	13.1%	18	19.4%	11	16.9%	14	13.9%	16	9.5%
Other Race/Ethnicity	2	18.2%	0	0.0%	1	11.1%	1	4.3%	1	4.2%	1	5.9%	2	8.0%

Indicator 2.G Median Length of Stay in Substitute Care

The median length of stay in substitute care of all children who entered substitute care during the fiscal year.							
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Children entering substitute care	4,684	4,686	4,787	5,023	4,599	4,736	5,702
Median length of stay (in months)	35	33	35	33	33	32	34

	N	Months	N	Months	N	Months	N	Months	N	Months	N	Months	N	Months
Cook	1,307	49	1,232	48	1,333	48	1,462	44	1,224	47	1,167	50	1,350	-- ¹
Northern	1,049	33	1,181	29	1,077	31	1,036	28	904	27	849	27	914	28
Central	1,441	30	1,542	29	1,544	30	1,654	29	1,590	27	1,752	29	2,125	29
Southern	885	27	730	26	833	27	871	32	881	32	968	30	1,313	33

Male	2,392	35	2,413	32	2,444	35	2,554	33	2,383	32	2,442	32	2,951	33
Female	2,291	34	2,273	33	2,343	34	2,469	33	2,216	33	2,294	32	2,751	34

0 to 2	1,864	34	1,888	32	1,817	33	2,037	31	1,856	31	1,895	31	2,369	33
3 to 5	836	32	776	31	771	33	835	34	758	32	828	31	925	35
6 to 11	996	33	1,034	29	1,175	33	1,125	33	1,055	33	1,126	32	1,387	33
12 to 17	988	41	987	43	1,024	42	1,026	39	930	38	887	38	1,020	36

Black	2,001	41	1,988	39	2,108	39	2,198	38	1,861	37	1,797	38	2,222	37
White	2,308	30	2,235	28	2,237	31	2,233	30	2,234	30	2,373	29	2,948	31
Hispanic	267	39	350	39	343	38	458	31	407	35	431	35	369	35
Other Race/Ethnicity	106	27	112	29	99	33	125	37	76	34	117	33	130	29

¹ In the Cook region, less than 50% of 2018 cohort exited substitute care by the end of FY2021. The definition of the median length of stay is the number of months it takes for 50% of the cohort to exit substitute care; therefore, the median length of stay for the 2018 cohort in the Cook region cannot be calculated.

LEGAL PERMANENCE

Indicator 3.A.1 Reunification Within 12 Months

Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 12 months.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Children entering substitute care	4,787	5,023	4,599	4,736	5,702	6,448	7,373
Children reunified within 12 months	673	736	688	648	878	984	1,167
Percent	14.1%	14.7%	15.0%	13.7%	15.4%	15.3%	15.8%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	79	5.9%	112	7.7%	63	5.1%	70	6.0%	138	10.2%	87	7.0%	137	7.7%
Northern	217	20.1%	183	17.7%	185	20.5%	157	18.5%	184	20.1%	213	19.0%	316	23.7%
Central	210	13.6%	270	16.3%	302	19.0%	289	16.5%	356	16.8%	441	17.7%	450	16.2%
Southern	167	20.0%	171	19.6%	138	15.7%	132	13.6%	200	15.2%	243	15.2%	264	17.7%

Male	330	13.5%	360	14.1%	369	15.5%	330	13.5%	460	15.6%	484	14.9%	609	16.3%
Female	343	14.6%	376	15.2%	319	14.4%	318	13.9%	418	15.2%	500	15.6%	558	15.4%

0 to 2	229	12.6%	282	13.8%	257	13.8%	225	11.9%	308	13.0%	323	12.8%	402	13.5%
3 to 5	116	15.0%	133	15.9%	122	16.1%	121	14.6%	158	17.1%	201	16.8%	239	18.3%
6 to 11	203	17.3%	193	17.2%	183	17.3%	192	17.1%	254	18.3%	279	17.6%	328	19.2%
12 to 17	125	12.2%	128	12.5%	126	13.5%	110	12.4%	158	15.5%	181	15.8%	198	14.3%

Black	250	11.9%	279	12.7%	244	13.1%	215	12.0%	326	14.7%	332	14.3%	405	15.0%
White	354	15.8%	370	16.6%	365	16.3%	358	15.1%	470	15.9%	533	15.6%	637	17.4%
Hispanic	52	15.2%	61	13.3%	61	15.0%	60	13.9%	55	14.9%	82	16.2%	84	10.9%
Other Race/Ethnicity	17	17.2%	23	18.4%	16	21.1%	12	10.3%	23	17.7%	29	17.1%	27	15.1%

Indicator 3.A.2 Reunification Within 24 Months

Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 24 months.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children entering substitute care	4,686	4,787	5,023	4,599	4,736	5,702	6,448
Children reunified within 24 months	1,435	1,369	1,451	1,301	1,304	1,721	1,977
Percent	30.6%	28.6%	28.9%	28.3%	27.5%	30.2%	30.7%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	182	14.8%	194	14.6%	259	17.7%	183	15.0%	202	17.3%	295	21.9%	221	17.7%
Northern	431	36.5%	384	35.7%	365	35.2%	319	35.3%	268	31.6%	328	35.9%	391	34.9%
Central	556	36.1%	492	31.9%	548	33.1%	554	34.8%	575	32.8%	748	35.2%	862	34.7%
Southern	265	36.3%	299	35.9%	279	32.0%	245	27.8%	259	26.8%	350	26.7%	503	31.5%

Male	754	31.2%	675	27.6%	735	28.8%	694	29.1%	665	27.2%	904	30.6%	978	30.2%
Female	681	30.0%	694	29.6%	716	29.0%	607	27.4%	639	27.9%	817	29.7%	999	31.1%

0 to 2	545	28.9%	478	26.3%	566	27.8%	497	26.8%	468	24.7%	614	25.9%	681	27.0%
3 to 5	276	35.6%	251	32.6%	271	32.5%	232	30.6%	250	30.2%	309	33.4%	416	34.7%
6 to 11	404	39.1%	404	34.4%	366	32.5%	340	32.2%	381	33.8%	523	37.7%	546	34.5%
12 to 17	210	21.3%	236	23.0%	248	24.2%	232	24.9%	205	23.1%	275	27.0%	334	29.2%

Black	527	26.5%	539	25.6%	569	25.9%	486	26.1%	457	25.4%	632	28.4%	664	28.6%
White	783	35.0%	708	31.6%	687	30.8%	666	29.8%	693	29.2%	922	31.3%	1,095	32.1%
Hispanic	86	24.6%	94	27.4%	159	34.7%	121	29.7%	119	27.6%	119	32.2%	149	29.4%
Other Race/Ethnicity	39	34.8%	28	28.3%	33	26.4%	23	30.3%	28	23.9%	40	30.8%	53	31.2%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

Indicator 3.A.3 Reunification Within 36 Months

Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 36 months.							
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Children entering substitute care	4,684	4,686	4,787	5,023	4,599	4,736	5,702
Children reunified within 36 months	1,739	1,842	1,696	1,848	1,681	1,644	2,180
Percent	37.1%	39.3%	35.4%	36.8%	36.6%	34.7%	38.2%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	278	21.3%	294	23.9%	288	21.6%	394	26.9%	289	23.6%	279	23.9%	404	29.9%
Northern	442	42.1%	531	45.0%	441	40.9%	439	42.4%	375	41.5%	333	39.2%	389	42.6%
Central	619	43.0%	715	46.4%	617	40.0%	667	40.3%	687	43.2%	699	39.9%	925	43.5%
Southern	398	45.0%	301	41.2%	350	42.0%	348	40.0%	330	37.5%	333	34.4%	462	35.2%

Male	893	37.3%	963	39.9%	844	34.5%	959	37.5%	896	37.6%	839	34.4%	1,148	38.9%
Female	846	36.9%	879	38.7%	852	36.4%	889	36.0%	785	35.4%	805	35.1%	1,032	37.5%

0 to 2	612	32.8%	691	36.6%	600	33.0%	734	36.0%	651	35.1%	603	31.8%	807	34.1%
3 to 5	376	45.0%	362	46.6%	306	39.7%	333	39.9%	309	40.8%	320	38.6%	392	42.4%
6 to 11	449	45.1%	508	49.1%	499	42.5%	481	42.8%	429	40.7%	470	41.7%	634	45.7%
12 to 17	302	30.6%	281	28.5%	291	28.4%	300	29.2%	292	31.4%	251	28.3%	347	34.0%

Black	596	29.8%	696	35.0%	676	32.1%	738	33.6%	637	34.2%	575	32.0%	806	36.3%
White	991	42.9%	973	43.5%	862	38.5%	858	38.4%	838	37.5%	875	36.9%	1,164	39.5%
Hispanic	114	42.7%	127	36.3%	125	36.4%	212	46.3%	172	42.3%	146	33.9%	150	40.7%
Other Race/Ethnicity	38	35.8%	46	41.1%	33	33.3%	37	29.6%	29	38.2%	39	33.3%	50	38.5%

Indicator 3.B.1 Stability of Reunification at One Year

Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at one year.							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Children reunified	1,996	2,152	1,983	1,895	1,976	2,286	2,487
Children stable at one year	1,899	2,043	1,841	1,787	1,827	2,092	2,289
Percent	95.1%	94.9%	92.8%	94.3%	92.5%	91.5%	92.0%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	327	94.5%	387	91.5%	339	93.1%	365	95.1%	455	92.7%	409	93.0%	394	89.1%
Northern	513	95.5%	587	95.8%	436	93.4%	392	93.8%	369	92.5%	376	89.7%	446	91.8%
Central	664	95.3%	702	96.0%	735	92.5%	706	94.8%	632	91.9%	858	91.3%	932	93.1%
Southern	395	95.0%	367	95.3%	331	92.7%	324	93.1%	371	93.2%	449	92.2%	516	92.6%

Male	1,029	95.6%	1,024	94.7%	980	93.8%	932	94.4%	990	93.4%	1,066	90.8%	1,187	92.2%
Female	870	94.6%	1,019	95.1%	861	91.8%	855	94.2%	837	91.4%	1,026	92.3%	1,102	91.8%

0 to 2	387	91.5%	446	93.9%	422	91.3%	370	91.1%	401	89.9%	472	89.9%	516	89.3%
3 to 5	467	96.1%	476	95.0%	416	93.3%	436	96.2%	458	93.9%	480	90.7%	529	92.0%
6 to 11	662	96.6%	703	95.8%	599	93.3%	590	95.3%	600	93.8%	704	93.2%	781	94.2%
12 to 17	383	95.3%	418	94.6%	404	93.3%	391	93.8%	368	91.5%	436	91.4%	463	91.7%

Black	706	95.5%	838	94.1%	778	92.8%	707	94.9%	737	90.4%	795	91.7%	799	91.2%
White	1,018	94.2%	993	95.6%	865	92.5%	869	94.4%	847	93.0%	1,082	91.2%	1,228	92.0%
Hispanic	125	100.0%	173	94.5%	155	95.1%	167	91.8%	214	98.2%	164	92.7%	175	94.1%
Other Race/Ethnicity	50	98.0%	39	100.0%	43	91.5%	44	93.6%	29	90.6%	51	91.1%	87	96.7%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

Indicator 3.B.2 Stability of Reunification at Two Years

Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at two years.							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children reunified	1,999	1,996	2,152	1,983	1,895	1,976	2,286
Children stable at two years	1,818	1,846	2,007	1,774	1,730	1,744	2,000
Percent	90.9%	92.5%	93.3%	89.5%	91.3%	88.3%	87.5%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	330	94.6%	320	92.5%	380	89.8%	336	92.3%	356	92.7%	444	90.4%	396	90.0%
Northern	420	89.6%	494	92.0%	577	94.1%	423	90.6%	374	89.5%	345	86.5%	354	84.5%
Central	618	89.3%	648	93.0%	690	94.4%	699	87.9%	682	91.5%	603	87.6%	824	87.7%
Southern	450	92.0%	384	92.3%	360	93.5%	316	88.5%	318	91.4%	352	88.4%	426	87.5%

Male	944	91.0%	1,002	93.1%	1,008	93.2%	943	90.2%	898	91.0%	940	88.7%	1,021	87.0%
Female	874	90.9%	844	91.7%	999	93.3%	831	88.6%	832	91.6%	804	87.8%	979	88.0%

0 to 2	336	87.7%	374	88.4%	436	91.8%	394	85.3%	356	87.7%	375	84.1%	439	83.6%
3 to 5	463	92.2%	457	94.0%	465	92.8%	401	89.9%	422	93.2%	437	89.5%	456	86.2%
6 to 11	658	91.1%	639	93.3%	696	94.8%	585	91.1%	570	92.1%	576	90.0%	687	91.0%
12 to 17	361	92.1%	376	93.5%	410	92.8%	394	91.0%	382	91.6%	356	88.6%	418	87.6%

Black	642	90.4%	683	92.4%	832	93.4%	749	89.4%	688	92.3%	708	86.9%	768	88.6%
White	1,004	90.9%	993	91.9%	965	92.9%	832	89.0%	837	90.9%	807	88.6%	1,021	86.1%
Hispanic	130	92.9%	120	96.0%	171	93.4%	152	93.3%	161	88.5%	200	91.7%	161	91.0%
Other Race/Ethnicity	42	93.3%	50	98.0%	39	100.0%	41	87.2%	44	93.6%	29	90.6%	50	89.3%

Indicator 3.B.3 Stability of Reunification at Five Years

Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at five years.							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Children reunified	2,096	2,242	2,157	1,999	1,996	2,152	1,983
Children stable at five years	1,854	2,002	1,886	1,722	1,769	1,872	1,668
Percent	88.5%	89.3%	87.4%	86.1%	88.6%	87.0%	84.1%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	329	88.2%	349	91.6%	309	84.9%	311	89.1%	316	91.3%	367	86.8%	333	91.5%
Northern	407	86.4%	465	88.7%	468	84.0%	406	86.6%	479	89.2%	553	90.2%	411	88.0%
Central	800	91.3%	803	88.0%	741	91.9%	584	84.4%	612	87.8%	636	87.0%	642	80.8%
Southern	318	84.6%	385	90.6%	368	85.6%	421	86.1%	362	87.0%	316	82.1%	282	79.0%

Male	940	89.6%	1,030	90.4%	954	86.4%	898	86.6%	956	88.8%	942	87.1%	876	83.8%
Female	914	87.3%	969	88.1%	930	88.5%	824	85.7%	813	88.4%	930	86.8%	792	84.4%

0 to 2	377	85.3%	388	86.2%	358	85.6%	310	80.9%	355	83.9%	400	84.2%	363	78.6%
3 to 5	443	87.2%	511	90.3%	472	88.2%	437	87.1%	431	88.7%	431	86.0%	368	82.5%
6 to 11	603	88.7%	672	89.7%	628	86.0%	619	85.7%	613	89.5%	645	87.9%	549	85.5%
12 to 17	431	92.5%	431	90.4%	428	90.3%	356	90.8%	370	92.0%	396	89.6%	388	89.6%

Black	739	89.0%	814	88.9%	720	84.3%	605	85.2%	655	88.6%	789	88.6%	717	85.6%
White	958	87.7%	1,010	89.0%	1,005	89.2%	950	86.1%	948	87.7%	885	85.2%	764	81.7%
Hispanic	99	90.0%	129	91.5%	121	91.7%	126	90.0%	117	93.6%	160	87.4%	147	90.2%
Other Race/Ethnicity	58	90.6%	49	98.0%	40	90.9%	41	91.1%	49	96.1%	38	97.4%	40	85.1%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

Indicator 3.B.4 Stability of Reunification at Ten Years

Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at ten years.							
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Children reunified	2,088	2,031	1,920	1,913	2,005	2,096	2,242
Children stable at ten years	1,768	1,678	1,645	1,630	1,689	1,778	1,941
Percent	84.7%	82.6%	85.7%	85.2%	84.2%	84.8%	86.6%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	458	82.4%	422	85.8%	376	84.3%	276	87.9%	348	88.3%	314	84.2%	341	89.5%
Northern	331	86.6%	331	84.9%	372	84.5%	329	89.2%	383	84.7%	393	83.4%	451	86.1%
Central	651	86.8%	562	80.3%	556	86.7%	684	83.6%	681	81.9%	766	87.4%	782	85.7%
Southern	328	82.0%	363	80.8%	341	86.8%	341	82.8%	277	84.5%	305	81.1%	367	86.4%

Male	906	83.5%	856	83.6%	858	85.5%	861	85.3%	883	84.8%	906	86.4%	998	87.6%
Female	860	85.9%	821	81.6%	787	85.8%	765	85.1%	801	83.6%	872	83.3%	940	85.5%

0 to 2	316	81.0%	312	80.4%	273	80.1%	320	80.4%	319	80.6%	356	80.5%	370	82.2%
3 to 5	340	79.1%	360	77.1%	352	83.4%	374	84.6%	377	80.7%	416	81.9%	494	87.3%
6 to 11	579	84.6%	556	83.0%	556	87.1%	511	84.2%	586	84.7%	575	84.6%	646	86.2%
12 to 17	533	91.3%	450	88.9%	464	89.4%	425	91.2%	407	90.4%	431	92.5%	431	90.4%

Black	709	81.4%	690	81.3%	654	82.2%	567	84.2%	630	82.0%	703	84.7%	793	86.6%
White	863	86.1%	857	82.9%	850	87.7%	885	84.8%	875	84.6%	920	84.2%	978	86.2%
Hispanic	135	90.6%	110	86.6%	88	89.8%	113	90.4%	139	90.3%	97	88.2%	123	87.2%
Other Race/Ethnicity	61	92.4%	21	100.0%	53	93.0%	65	91.5%	45	91.8%	58	90.6%	47	94.0%

Indicator 3.C.1 Adoption Within 24 Months

Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was adopted within 24 months.							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children entering substitute care	4,686	4,787	5,023	4,599	4,736	5,702	6,448
Children adopted within 24 months	140	166	207	241	260	238	199
Percent	3.0%	3.5%	4.1%	5.2%	5.5%	4.2%	3.1%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	12	1.0%	19	1.4%	18	1.2%	19	1.6%	19	1.6%	15	1.1%	15	1.2%
Northern	36	3.0%	22	2.0%	59	5.7%	56	6.2%	64	7.5%	49	5.4%	39	3.5%
Central	60	3.9%	78	5.1%	90	5.4%	117	7.4%	112	6.4%	108	5.1%	86	3.5%
Southern	32	4.4%	47	5.6%	40	4.6%	49	5.6%	65	6.7%	66	5.0%	59	3.7%

Male	67	2.8%	92	3.8%	102	4.0%	124	5.2%	132	5.4%	123	4.2%	96	3.0%
Female	73	3.2%	74	3.2%	105	4.3%	117	5.3%	128	5.6%	115	4.2%	103	3.2%

0 to 2	122	6.5%	128	7.0%	162	8.0%	169	9.1%	179	9.4%	189	8.0%	152	6.0%
3 to 5	8	1.0%	21	2.7%	22	2.6%	30	4.0%	35	4.2%	18	1.9%	20	1.7%
6 to 11	7	0.7%	13	1.1%	18	1.6%	27	2.6%	31	2.8%	20	1.4%	19	1.2%
12 to 17	3	0.3%	4	0.4%	5	0.5%	15	1.6%	15	1.7%	11	1.1%	8	0.7%

Black	46	2.3%	45	2.1%	68	3.1%	65	3.5%	59	3.3%	64	2.9%	36	1.6%
White	87	3.9%	111	5.0%	129	5.8%	165	7.4%	170	7.2%	153	5.2%	142	4.2%
Hispanic	2	0.6%	3	0.9%	6	1.3%	7	1.7%	17	3.9%	11	3.0%	7	1.4%
Other Race/Ethnicity	5	4.5%	7	7.1%	4	3.2%	2	2.6%	10	8.5%	6	4.6%	13	7.6%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

Indicator 3.C.2 Adoption Within 36 Months

Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was adopted within 36 months.							
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Children entering substitute care	4,684	4,686	4,787	5,023	4,599	4,736	5,702
Children adopted within 36 months	519	535	594	667	687	788	688
Percent	11.1%	11.4%	12.4%	13.3%	14.9%	16.6%	12.1%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	68	5.2%	41	3.3%	66	5.0%	74	5.1%	74	6.0%	76	6.5%	46	3.4%
Northern	118	11.2%	142	12.0%	169	15.7%	176	17.0%	173	19.1%	180	21.2%	146	16.0%
Central	203	14.1%	219	14.2%	252	16.3%	299	18.1%	291	18.3%	324	18.5%	282	13.3%
Southern	130	14.7%	133	18.2%	107	12.8%	118	13.5%	149	16.9%	208	21.5%	214	16.3%

Male	239	10.0%	266	11.0%	303	12.4%	334	13.1%	352	14.8%	410	16.8%	345	11.7%
Female	280	12.2%	269	11.8%	291	12.4%	333	13.5%	335	15.1%	378	16.5%	343	12.5%

0 to 2	374	20.1%	385	20.4%	401	22.1%	482	23.7%	437	23.5%	484	25.5%	506	21.4%
3 to 5	85	10.2%	77	9.9%	95	12.3%	90	10.8%	117	15.4%	138	16.7%	75	8.1%
6 to 11	50	5.0%	62	6.0%	85	7.2%	79	7.0%	105	10.0%	130	11.5%	83	6.0%
12 to 17	10	1.0%	11	1.1%	13	1.3%	16	1.6%	28	3.0%	36	4.1%	23	2.3%

Black	135	6.7%	145	7.3%	186	8.8%	203	9.2%	194	10.4%	203	11.3%	190	8.6%
White	353	15.3%	360	16.1%	370	16.5%	405	18.1%	446	20.0%	510	21.5%	441	15.0%
Hispanic	7	2.6%	15	4.3%	17	5.0%	34	7.4%	31	7.6%	53	12.3%	33	8.9%
Other Race/Ethnicity	24	22.6%	15	13.4%	21	21.2%	22	17.6%	13	17.1%	17	14.5%	17	13.1%

Indicator 3.D.1 Stability of Adoption at Two Years

Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at two years.							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children adopted	1,483	1,525	1,850	1,560	1,850	1,711	1,848
Children stable at two years	1,471	1,513	1,833	1,547	1,840	1,700	1,831
Percent	99.2%	99.2%	99.1%	99.2%	99.5%	99.4%	99.1%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	381	99.0%	318	99.4%	493	100.0%	391	99.0%	418	98.6%	396	99.5%	408	98.6%
Northern	290	99.7%	363	99.7%	405	98.5%	394	99.0%	474	99.8%	431	99.5%	411	98.3%
Central	534	98.9%	548	98.9%	575	99.3%	497	99.2%	640	99.7%	593	99.3%	618	99.7%
Southern	266	99.6%	284	99.0%	360	98.1%	265	99.6%	307	99.7%	280	98.9%	394	99.5%

Male	733	99.3%	800	99.5%	927	99.1%	777	98.9%	950	99.3%	855	99.0%	943	99.3%
Female	738	99.1%	713	98.9%	906	99.0%	768	99.5%	890	99.7%	845	99.8%	888	98.9%

0 to 2	210	99.1%	212	99.5%	270	100.0%	249	99.2%	326	99.7%	289	99.0%	338	99.4%
3 to 5	535	99.4%	549	99.6%	662	99.7%	505	99.0%	626	99.7%	578	99.8%	578	99.5%
6 to 11	554	99.3%	560	99.3%	715	98.9%	618	99.4%	669	99.3%	625	99.0%	663	99.3%
12 to 17	172	98.3%	192	97.5%	186	96.4%	175	98.9%	219	99.1%	208	99.5%	252	97.3%

Black	650	99.1%	620	99.0%	768	99.4%	646	98.9%	758	99.2%	693	99.3%	637	98.8%
White	720	99.2%	796	99.5%	947	98.9%	787	99.2%	931	99.7%	854	99.3%	994	99.2%
Hispanic	70	100.0%	58	96.7%	71	100.0%	81	100.0%	99	100.0%	107	100.0%	141	99.3%
Other Race/Ethnicity	31	100.0%	39	100.0%	47	97.9%	33	100.0%	48	98.0%	45	100.0%	48	100.0%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

Indicator 3.D.2 Stability of Adoption at Five Years

Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at five years.							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Children adopted	1,364	1,198	1,739	1,483	1,525	1,850	1,560
Children stable at five years	1,333	1,175	1,694	1,457	1,493	1,809	1,517
Percent	97.7%	98.1%	97.4%	98.2%	97.9%	97.8%	97.2%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	459	98.1%	338	98.8%	446	97.8%	379	98.4%	313	97.8%	485	98.4%	386	97.7%
Northern	285	97.6%	200	98.0%	335	98.8%	290	99.7%	359	98.6%	398	96.8%	388	97.5%
Central	418	97.4%	422	98.4%	624	96.0%	530	98.1%	540	97.5%	572	98.8%	485	96.8%
Southern	171	97.7%	215	96.4%	289	98.3%	258	96.6%	281	97.9%	354	96.5%	258	97.0%

Male	690	98.3%	565	98.1%	880	97.2%	727	98.5%	793	98.6%	916	98.0%	759	96.6%
Female	637	97.1%	609	98.1%	812	97.6%	730	98.0%	700	97.1%	893	97.6%	756	97.9%

0 to 2	237	99.6%	181	100.0%	241	98.8%	209	98.6%	212	99.5%	269	99.6%	248	98.8%
3 to 5	482	99.0%	435	99.3%	609	98.4%	533	99.1%	547	99.3%	657	98.9%	503	98.6%
6 to 11	466	96.1%	425	96.6%	644	96.0%	546	97.8%	547	97.0%	703	97.2%	599	96.3%
12 to 17	148	96.1%	134	96.4%	200	97.6%	169	96.6%	187	94.9%	180	93.3%	167	94.4%

Black	679	97.1%	516	97.7%	754	96.7%	646	98.5%	610	97.4%	756	97.8%	627	96.0%
White	564	98.3%	583	98.3%	825	98.0%	710	97.8%	787	98.4%	936	97.7%	776	97.9%
Hispanic	64	98.5%	62	98.4%	96	99.0%	70	100.0%	57	95.0%	70	98.6%	81	100.0%
Other Race/Ethnicity	26	100.0%	14	100.0%	19	95.0%	31	100.0%	39	100.0%	47	97.9%	33	100.0%

Indicator 3.D.3 Stability of Adoption at Ten Years

Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at ten years.							
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Children adopted	1,959	1,712	1,761	1,562	1,419	1,364	1,198
Children stable at ten years	1,890	1,661	1,698	1,488	1,348	1,294	1,148
Percent	96.5%	97.0%	96.4%	95.3%	95.0%	94.9%	95.8%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	996	94.7%	767	95.4%	662	95.4%	561	97.2%	503	95.3%	449	95.9%	325	95.0%
Northern	257	99.2%	242	99.2%	307	96.8%	280	95.9%	205	96.2%	278	95.2%	199	97.5%
Central	439	98.0%	443	98.0%	524	96.3%	479	93.0%	448	94.1%	409	95.3%	414	96.5%
Southern	198	99.0%	209	98.6%	205	99.5%	168	94.4%	192	95.0%	158	90.3%	210	94.2%

Male	978	96.6%	844	97.2%	882	95.8%	763	94.7%	668	94.1%	671	95.6%	554	96.2%
Female	912	96.3%	816	96.8%	815	97.1%	723	95.9%	675	96.0%	617	94.1%	593	95.5%

0 to 2	340	97.1%	318	100.0%	334	98.8%	301	98.7%	271	98.5%	235	98.7%	181	100.0%
3 to 5	588	97.0%	554	97.4%	628	97.5%	504	96.6%	470	96.5%	466	95.7%	424	96.8%
6 to 11	692	95.4%	552	94.7%	539	94.4%	520	92.4%	455	90.3%	445	91.8%	409	93.0%
12 to 17	270	97.1%	237	97.9%	197	94.7%	163	94.8%	152	99.3%	148	96.1%	134	96.4%

Black	1,139	95.1%	944	95.8%	875	95.3%	759	95.5%	716	94.5%	654	93.6%	498	94.3%
White	601	98.8%	606	98.9%	683	98.3%	591	94.7%	524	95.1%	552	96.2%	574	96.8%
Hispanic	94	98.9%	75	98.7%	93	96.9%	88	98.9%	73	98.6%	62	95.4%	62	98.4%
Other Race/Ethnicity	56	96.6%	36	94.7%	47	90.4%	50	92.6%	35	97.2%	26	100.0%	14	100.0%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

Indicator 3.E.1 Guardianship Within 24 Months

Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was taken into guardianship within 24 months.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children entering substitute care	4,686	4,787	5,023	4,599	4,736	5,702	6,448
Children taken into guardianship within 24 months	36	38	44	57	57	74	46
Percent	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	1.2%	1.2%	1.3%	0.7%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	8	0.6%	12	0.9%	10	0.7%	7	0.6%	3	0.3%	8	0.6%	5	0.4%
Northern	9	0.8%	5	0.5%	17	1.6%	12	1.3%	15	1.8%	20	2.2%	8	0.7%
Central	9	0.6%	10	0.6%	12	0.7%	18	1.1%	27	1.5%	26	1.2%	18	0.7%
Southern	10	1.4%	11	1.3%	5	0.6%	20	2.3%	12	1.2%	20	1.5%	15	0.9%

Male	11	0.5%	21	0.9%	22	0.9%	26	1.1%	35	1.4%	32	1.1%	21	0.6%
Female	25	1.1%	17	0.7%	22	0.9%	31	1.4%	22	1.0%	42	1.5%	25	0.8%

0 to 2	8	0.4%	8	0.4%	7	0.3%	11	0.6%	18	0.9%	27	1.1%	19	0.8%
3 to 5	7	0.9%	5	0.6%	6	0.7%	12	1.6%	8	1.0%	11	1.2%	5	0.4%
6 to 11	6	0.6%	11	0.9%	12	1.1%	15	1.4%	15	1.3%	16	1.2%	10	0.6%
12 to 17	15	1.5%	14	1.4%	19	1.9%	19	2.0%	16	1.8%	20	2.0%	12	1.0%

Black	9	0.5%	12	0.6%	13	0.6%	12	0.6%	18	1.0%	22	1.0%	8	0.3%
White	25	1.1%	24	1.1%	28	1.3%	43	1.9%	27	1.1%	47	1.6%	38	1.1%
Hispanic	2	0.6%	2	0.6%	1	0.2%	1	0.2%	10	2.3%	3	0.8%	0	0.0%
Other Race/Ethnicity	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	1.6%	1	1.3%	2	1.7%	1	0.8%	0	0.0%

Indicator 3.E.2 Guardianship Within 36 Months

Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was taken into guardianship within 36 months.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Children entering substitute care	4,684	4,686	4,787	5,023	4,599	4,736	5,702
Children taken into guardianship within 36 months	134	133	144	147	141	128	134
Percent	2.9%	2.8%	3.0%	2.9%	3.1%	2.7%	2.4%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	46	3.5%	37	3.0%	48	3.6%	50	3.4%	46	3.8%	24	2.1%	20	1.5%
Northern	14	1.3%	29	2.5%	28	2.6%	37	3.6%	17	1.9%	26	3.1%	29	3.2%
Central	32	2.2%	41	2.7%	43	2.8%	43	2.6%	47	3.0%	48	2.7%	48	2.3%
Southern	42	4.7%	26	3.6%	25	3.0%	17	2.0%	31	3.5%	30	3.1%	37	2.8%

Male	69	2.9%	64	2.7%	83	3.4%	62	2.4%	69	2.9%	73	3.0%	64	2.2%
Female	65	2.8%	69	3.0%	61	2.6%	85	3.4%	72	3.2%	55	2.4%	70	2.5%

0 to 2	47	2.5%	35	1.9%	33	1.8%	31	1.5%	35	1.9%	39	2.1%	40	1.7%
3 to 5	18	2.2%	21	2.7%	25	3.2%	21	2.5%	21	2.8%	19	2.3%	21	2.3%
6 to 11	44	4.4%	40	3.9%	61	5.2%	56	5.0%	52	4.9%	34	3.0%	34	2.5%
12 to 17	25	2.5%	37	3.7%	25	2.4%	39	3.8%	33	3.5%	36	4.1%	39	3.8%

Black	59	2.9%	50	2.5%	63	3.0%	48	2.2%	48	2.6%	41	2.3%	41	1.8%
White	69	3.0%	66	3.0%	68	3.0%	83	3.7%	84	3.8%	64	2.7%	80	2.7%
Hispanic	3	1.1%	13	3.7%	11	3.2%	12	2.6%	7	1.7%	19	4.4%	7	1.9%
Other Race/Ethnicity	3	2.8%	4	3.6%	2	2.0%	4	3.2%	2	2.6%	4	3.4%	5	3.8%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

Indicator 3.F.1 Stability of Guardianship at Two Years

Of all children taken into guardianship during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at two years.							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children taken into guardianship	335	313	466	334	434	440	374
Children stable at two years	327	310	457	330	420	433	367
Percent	97.6%	99.0%	98.1%	98.8%	96.8%	98.4%	98.1%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	134	98.5%	124	100.0%	201	99.0%	123	100.0%	177	97.3%	185	98.4%	166	99.4%
Northern	57	98.3%	68	97.1%	89	95.7%	86	98.9%	88	94.6%	92	97.9%	46	100.0%
Central	96	99.0%	74	100.0%	90	97.8%	70	95.9%	102	98.1%	106	99.1%	106	96.4%
Southern	40	90.9%	44	97.8%	77	98.7%	51	100.0%	53	96.4%	50	98.0%	49	96.1%

Male	180	97.8%	167	99.4%	239	97.6%	171	97.7%	216	96.4%	211	97.7%	193	97.5%
Female	147	97.4%	143	98.6%	218	98.6%	159	100.0%	204	97.1%	222	99.1%	174	98.9%

0 to 2	20	100.0%	11	100.0%	23	100.0%	13	100.0%	23	95.8%	28	93.3%	22	88.0%
3 to 5	68	98.6%	82	100.0%	94	97.9%	59	100.0%	66	95.7%	77	100.0%	68	98.6%
6 to 11	143	97.3%	114	100.0%	184	98.9%	133	99.3%	190	99.0%	155	100.0%	119	97.5%
12 to 17	96	97.0%	103	97.2%	156	96.9%	125	97.7%	141	94.6%	173	97.2%	158	100.0%

Black	168	98.2%	157	98.7%	249	96.9%	150	99.3%	192	95.5%	200	97.6%	175	98.3%
White	135	96.4%	127	99.2%	173	99.4%	149	98.7%	176	97.8%	172	98.9%	149	97.4%
Hispanic	20	100.0%	20	100.0%	29	100.0%	26	96.3%	41	97.6%	43	100.0%	37	100.0%
Other Race/Ethnicity	4	100.0%	6	100.0%	6	100.0%	5	100.0%	11	100.0%	18	100.0%	6	100.0%

Indicator 3.F.2 Stability of Guardianship at Five Years

Of all children taken into guardianship during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at five years.							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Children taken into guardianship	464	191	283	335	313	466	334
Children stable at five years	439	176	266	319	300	439	323
Percent	94.6%	92.1%	94.0%	95.2%	95.8%	94.2%	96.7%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	194	91.5%	94	87.9%	108	90.8%	128	94.1%	121	97.6%	190	93.6%	122	99.2%
Northern	94	96.9%	43	95.6%	44	93.6%	57	98.3%	66	94.3%	84	90.3%	81	93.1%
Central	112	96.6%	29	100.0%	95	97.9%	95	97.9%	70	94.6%	90	97.8%	70	95.9%
Southern	39	100.0%	10	100.0%	19	95.0%	39	88.6%	43	95.6%	75	96.2%	50	98.0%

Male	234	95.1%	92	94.8%	141	92.8%	176	95.7%	164	97.6%	226	92.2%	169	96.6%
Female	205	94.0%	84	89.4%	125	95.4%	143	94.7%	136	93.8%	213	96.4%	154	96.9%

0 to 2	19	100.0%	10	83.3%	20	100.0%	20	100.0%	11	100.0%	21	91.3%	13	100.0%
3 to 5	75	100.0%	41	93.2%	69	97.2%	68	98.6%	81	98.8%	90	93.8%	58	98.3%
6 to 11	176	95.1%	81	91.0%	106	98.1%	139	94.6%	107	93.9%	177	95.2%	128	95.5%
12 to 17	169	91.4%	44	95.7%	71	84.5%	92	92.9%	101	95.3%	151	93.8%	124	96.9%

Black	246	92.1%	112	89.6%	126	92.0%	162	94.7%	149	93.7%	240	93.4%	147	97.4%
White	146	97.3%	53	98.1%	124	96.1%	133	95.0%	125	97.7%	168	96.6%	145	96.0%
Hispanic	33	100.0%	8	88.9%	15	93.8%	20	100.0%	20	100.0%	25	86.2%	26	96.3%
Other Race/Ethnicity	12	100.0%	3	100.0%	1	100.0%	4	100.0%	6	100.0%	6	100.0%	5	100.0%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

Indicator 3.F.3 Stability of Guardianship at Ten Years

Of all children taken into guardianship during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at ten years.							
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Children taken into guardianship	592	526	526	384	436	464	191
Children stable at ten years	531	453	484	346	401	427	166
Percent	89.7%	86.1%	92.0%	90.1%	92.0%	92.0%	86.9%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	368	88.7%	281	83.6%	251	89.6%	165	85.5%	225	91.1%	187	88.2%	86	80.4%
Northern	42	91.3%	49	84.5%	70	97.2%	59	90.8%	68	91.9%	93	95.9%	41	91.1%
Central	82	92.1%	73	91.3%	116	93.5%	79	96.3%	86	94.5%	110	94.8%	29	100.0%
Southern	39	92.9%	50	96.2%	47	94.0%	43	97.7%	22	91.7%	37	94.9%	10	100.0%

Male	243	88.0%	250	87.7%	253	91.7%	175	90.7%	217	92.7%	227	92.3%	86	88.7%
Female	288	91.1%	203	84.2%	231	92.4%	170	89.5%	184	91.1%	200	91.7%	80	85.1%

0 to 2	22	100.0%	27	93.1%	26	96.3%	17	89.5%	18	100.0%	19	100.0%	10	83.3%
3 to 5	61	80.3%	66	86.8%	81	92.0%	64	100.0%	73	90.1%	74	98.7%	39	88.6%
6 to 11	187	87.0%	165	78.9%	165	87.8%	114	84.4%	146	89.6%	166	89.7%	73	82.0%
12 to 17	261	93.5%	195	92.0%	212	95.1%	151	91.0%	164	94.3%	168	90.8%	44	95.7%

Black	376	90.2%	319	83.7%	301	91.5%	215	87.0%	236	89.4%	237	88.8%	107	85.6%
White	125	88.7%	112	91.1%	164	93.7%	107	96.4%	144	95.4%	144	96.0%	50	92.6%
Hispanic	26	86.7%	20	100.0%	10	90.9%	21	100.0%	17	100.0%	32	97.0%	6	66.7%
Other Race/Ethnicity	4	100.0%	2	100.0%	9	81.8%	3	60.0%	4	100.0%	12	100.0%	3	100.0%

Indicator 3.G Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Substitute Care (CFSR)

Of all children who entered substitute care during the fiscal year, the percentage that was discharged to permanency within 12 months.							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Children entering substitute care	4,798	5,033	4,612	4,748	5,713	6,464	7,404
Children discharged to permanency within 12 months	643	721	678	657	870	964	1,106
Percent	13.4%	14.3%	14.7%	13.8%	15.2%	14.9%	14.9%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	80	6.0%	107	7.3%	61	5.0%	67	5.7%	137	10.1%	96	7.6%	143	8.0%
Northern	195	18.1%	187	18.0%	179	19.6%	164	19.2%	193	21.1%	202	18.0%	291	21.8%
Central	200	13.0%	256	15.5%	297	18.7%	285	16.2%	336	15.8%	420	16.9%	416	14.9%
Southern	168	20.2%	171	19.6%	141	16.0%	141	14.5%	204	15.5%	246	15.4%	256	17.1%

Male	319	13.0%	355	13.9%	362	15.2%	337	13.8%	449	15.2%	477	14.7%	566	15.0%
Female	324	13.8%	366	14.8%	316	14.2%	320	13.9%	421	15.3%	487	15.2%	540	14.8%

0 to 2	217	11.9%	275	13.5%	245	13.2%	237	12.5%	312	13.1%	320	12.6%	375	12.5%
3 to 5	105	13.6%	129	15.4%	123	16.2%	118	14.2%	160	17.3%	197	16.4%	219	16.7%
6 to 11	188	16.0%	188	16.7%	183	17.3%	192	17.0%	247	17.8%	268	16.9%	310	18.2%
12 to 17	133	12.9%	129	12.5%	127	13.5%	110	12.4%	151	14.8%	179	15.6%	202	14.6%

Black	235	11.1%	276	12.5%	235	12.6%	214	11.9%	324	14.5%	315	13.5%	374	13.8%
White	347	15.5%	371	16.6%	364	16.3%	370	15.6%	464	15.7%	544	15.9%	608	16.6%
Hispanic	48	14.0%	52	11.3%	61	15.0%	57	13.2%	57	15.4%	70	13.8%	85	10.9%
Other Race/Ethnicity	13	13.0%	19	15.1%	15	18.5%	14	12.0%	21	16.2%	30	17.5%	27	14.9%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

Indicator 3.H Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 12 to 23 Months (CFSR)

Of all children in care on the first day of the fiscal year who had been in care between 12 and 23 months, the percentage that was discharged to permanency within 12 months.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children in care on the first day of the fiscal year who had been in care between 12 and 23 months	3,426	3,499	3,697	3,334	3,534	4,177	4,857
Children discharged to permanency within 12 months	948	845	959	884	1,014	1,043	1,192
Percent	27.7%	24.1%	25.9%	26.5%	28.7%	25.0%	24.5%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	165	16.1%	164	14.6%	190	15.8%	174	17.1%	157	16.1%	164	15.2%	163	15.0%
Northern	240	29.0%	166	23.6%	210	31.0%	188	31.5%	205	34.9%	164	27.9%	213	26.7%
Central	388	35.0%	347	31.0%	395	33.0%	366	33.9%	427	33.9%	490	32.2%	480	26.8%
Southern	154	33.5%	168	30.3%	164	26.4%	156	24.4%	225	31.7%	225	22.8%	336	28.5%

Male	480	27.3%	434	24.1%	493	26.1%	461	26.6%	530	29.1%	528	24.5%	573	23.6%
Female	468	28.1%	411	24.2%	466	25.7%	423	26.4%	484	28.3%	515	25.4%	619	25.5%

0 to 2	345	31.0%	308	29.2%	376	32.4%	345	32.9%	379	34.0%	384	28.5%	385	26.6%
3 to 5	194	28.8%	164	24.2%	211	27.8%	183	27.0%	225	29.9%	217	25.0%	276	25.7%
6 to 11	242	29.2%	237	25.2%	236	24.4%	236	26.1%	267	28.5%	288	25.9%	341	25.6%
12 to 17	167	20.6%	136	16.4%	136	16.9%	120	17.0%	143	19.6%	154	18.1%	190	19.0%

Black	332	21.9%	300	18.9%	334	20.3%	312	22.4%	331	23.8%	333	20.1%	380	21.0%
White	536	34.3%	477	30.1%	527	32.7%	487	30.9%	584	33.9%	630	29.3%	684	27.3%
Hispanic	62	22.6%	49	19.4%	75	22.5%	73	24.4%	70	21.9%	51	19.8%	84	21.3%
Other Race/Ethnicity	18	24.7%	19	25.3%	21	21.9%	12	22.6%	24	25.3%	20	21.5%	34	27.2%

Indicator 3.I Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 24 Months or More (CFSR)

Of all children in care on the first day of the fiscal year who had been in care 24 months or more, the percentage that was discharged to permanency within 12 months.							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children in care on the first day of the fiscal year who had been in care 24 months or more	6,919	6,408	6,439	6,348	6,072	5,941	6,772
Children discharged to permanency within 12 months	2,303	1,922	2,167	2,070	2,054	1,681	2,001
Percent	33.3%	30.0%	33.7%	32.6%	33.8%	28.3%	29.5%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	745	26.5%	563	21.4%	669	24.4%	748	27.0%	670	25.8%	516	20.6%	579	21.6%
Northern	490	36.1%	479	35.9%	519	41.0%	391	35.9%	365	36.9%	292	32.8%	313	33.9%
Central	648	37.8%	584	36.2%	654	40.5%	629	38.9%	632	41.3%	524	33.2%	654	34.3%
Southern	418	40.5%	296	35.7%	325	39.5%	302	34.8%	387	40.4%	349	36.2%	455	36.1%

Male	1,188	31.9%	986	28.5%	1,132	32.9%	1,074	31.9%	1,054	32.9%	894	28.5%	1,015	28.7%
Female	1,115	34.9%	934	31.7%	1,035	34.5%	996	33.4%	1,000	34.9%	787	28.1%	986	30.5%

0 to 2	233	45.7%	191	37.7%	230	46.9%	226	44.9%	216	47.3%	175	37.9%	220	34.8%
3 to 5	799	46.6%	598	40.7%	679	45.1%	656	43.9%	613	42.7%	528	37.2%	632	37.4%
6 to 11	928	38.6%	808	36.9%	869	39.4%	808	37.2%	813	38.4%	669	32.1%	752	32.1%
12 to 17	343	15.0%	325	14.5%	389	17.4%	380	17.4%	412	20.0%	309	15.7%	397	18.9%

Black	1108	29.5%	914	26.6%	1,023	29.5%	999	29.4%	856	27.4%	706	23.4%	843	25.3%
White	1016	39.2%	857	36.3%	933	40.1%	827	36.8%	970	42.9%	786	35.6%	938	34.9%
Hispanic	131	29.7%	116	24.2%	154	30.0%	189	34.1%	180	33.2%	138	24.4%	161	28.0%
Other Race/Ethnicity	48	37.8%	35	28.2%	57	43.2%	54	36.7%	42	32.8%	46	31.7%	50	31.4%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

Indicator 3.J Re-Entry to Substitute Care Among Children in Care Less Than 12 Months (CFSR)

Of all children who entered foster care during the fiscal year and attained permanency within 12 months, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of their discharge.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Children who entered care and exited to permanency within 12 months	674	643	721	678	657	870	964
Children re-entering substitute care within 12 months	50	42	43	37	65	71	70
Percent	7.4%	6.5%	6.0%	5.5%	9.9%	8.2%	7.3%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	6	8.3%	8	10.0%	11	10.3%	7	11.5%	8	11.9%	15	10.9%	14	14.6%
Northern	24	11.9%	11	5.6%	7	3.7%	8	4.5%	12	7.3%	14	7.3%	16	7.9%
Central	15	6.3%	10	5.0%	17	6.6%	11	3.7%	34	11.9%	30	8.9%	25	6.0%
Southern	5	3.1%	13	7.7%	8	4.7%	11	7.8%	11	7.8%	12	5.9%	15	6.1%

Male	25	7.2%	21	6.6%	22	6.2%	21	5.8%	36	10.7%	34	7.6%	30	6.3%
Female	25	7.6%	21	6.5%	21	5.7%	16	5.1%	29	9.1%	37	8.8%	40	8.2%

0 to 2	16	6.4%	10	4.6%	20	7.3%	15	6.1%	27	11.4%	30	9.6%	25	7.8%
3 to 5	7	5.5%	8	7.6%	7	5.4%	9	7.3%	6	5.1%	17	10.6%	16	8.1%
6 to 11	19	9.4%	11	5.9%	7	3.7%	4	2.2%	22	11.5%	11	4.5%	16	6.0%
12 to 17	8	8.3%	13	9.8%	9	7.0%	9	7.1%	10	9.1%	13	8.6%	13	7.3%

Black	22	9.2%	19	8.1%	29	10.5%	16	6.8%	27	12.6%	34	10.5%	34	10.8%
White	21	5.5%	16	4.6%	11	3.0%	16	4.4%	29	7.8%	33	7.1%	33	6.1%
Hispanic	5	13.5%	6	12.5%	2	3.8%	5	8.2%	5	8.8%	3	5.3%	3	4.3%
Other Race/Ethnicity	2	12.5%	1	7.7%	1	5.3%	0	0.0%	4	28.6%	1	4.8%	0	0.0%

Indicator 3.K Re-Entry to Substitute Care Among Children in Care 12 to 23 Months

Of all children who had been in substitute care between 12 and 23 months and exited to permanency during the fiscal year, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of their discharge.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Children who exited to permanency within 12 and 23 months	827	948	845	959	884	1,014	1,043
Children who re-entered substitute care within 12 months	13	10	17	11	22	41	54
Percent	1.6%	1.1%	2.0%	1.1%	2.5%	4.0%	5.2%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	3	2.2%	6	3.6%	8	4.9%	4	2.1%	3	1.7%	3	1.9%	16	9.8%
Northern	4	2.0%	0	0.0%	2	1.2%	5	2.4%	5	2.7%	11	5.4%	15	9.1%
Central	4	1.3%	2	0.5%	5	1.4%	0	0.0%	10	2.7%	20	4.7%	14	2.9%
Southern	2	1.1%	2	1.3%	2	1.2%	2	1.2%	4	2.6%	7	3.1%	9	4.0%

Male	6	1.4%	7	1.5%	7	1.6%	5	1.0%	10	2.2%	24	4.5%	28	5.3%
Female	7	1.8%	3	0.6%	10	2.4%	6	1.3%	12	2.8%	17	3.5%	26	5.0%

0 to 2	3	1.0%	2	0.6%	5	1.6%	3	0.8%	10	2.9%	14	3.7%	18	4.7%
3 to 5	5	2.8%	4	2.1%	1	0.6%	3	1.4%	3	1.6%	8	3.6%	11	5.1%
6 to 11	2	0.9%	0	0.0%	6	2.5%	0	0.0%	5	2.1%	9	3.4%	11	3.8%
12 to 17	3	2.3%	4	2.4%	5	3.7%	5	3.7%	4	3.3%	10	7.0%	14	9.1%

Black	4	1.6%	4	1.2%	11	3.7%	6	1.8%	5	1.6%	14	4.2%	22	6.6%
White	9	1.8%	6	1.1%	5	1.0%	3	0.6%	17	3.5%	23	3.9%	27	4.3%
Hispanic	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	2.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	5.9%
Other Race/Ethnicity	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	5.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	16.7%	2	10.0%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

Indicator 3.L Re-Entry to Substitute Care Among Children in Care 24 Months or More

Of all children who had been in substitute care 24 months or more and exited to permanency during the fiscal year, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of their discharge.							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Children who exited to permanency after 24 months or more in care	1,982	2,303	1,922	2,167	2,070	2,054	1,681
Children who re-entered substitute care within 12 months	13	12	23	24	25	35	36
Percent	0.7%	0.5%	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%	1.7%	2.1%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	2	0.4%	2	0.3%	4	0.7%	11	1.6%	13	1.7%	9	1.3%	9	1.7%
Northern	3	0.6%	4	0.8%	5	1.0%	4	0.8%	3	0.8%	14	3.8%	3	1.0%
Central	5	0.8%	5	0.8%	9	1.5%	6	0.9%	7	1.1%	10	1.6%	16	3.1%
Southern	3	0.9%	1	0.2%	5	1.7%	3	0.9%	2	0.7%	2	0.5%	8	2.3%

Male	5	0.5%	6	0.5%	9	0.9%	14	1.2%	12	1.1%	19	1.8%	23	2.6%
Female	8	0.9%	6	0.5%	14	1.5%	10	1.0%	13	1.3%	16	1.6%	13	1.7%

0 to 2	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	1.0%	1	0.4%	3	1.3%	3	1.4%	5	2.9%
3 to 5	2	0.3%	1	0.1%	5	0.8%	3	0.4%	7	1.1%	11	1.8%	6	1.1%
6 to 11	4	0.5%	4	0.4%	9	1.1%	7	0.8%	7	0.9%	15	1.8%	15	2.2%
12 to 17	7	2.2%	7	2.0%	7	2.2%	13	3.3%	8	2.1%	6	1.5%	10	3.2%

Black	7	0.8%	7	0.6%	12	1.3%	10	1.0%	22	2.2%	19	2.2%	13	1.8%
White	5	0.5%	5	0.5%	10	1.2%	11	1.2%	2	0.2%	14	1.4%	21	2.7%
Hispanic	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.9%	2	1.3%	1	0.5%	2	1.1%	1	0.7%
Other Race/Ethnicity	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.2%



Appendix C

Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Data

Appendix C provides data for the racial/ethnic disproportionality analyses included in Chapter 4. For each indicator, data are presented for the state and the four DCFS administrative regions for the past seven fiscal years. The data used in this appendix come from three sources: 1) Illinois child population data were obtained from the National Cancer Institute;¹ child welfare data were obtained from 2) the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and 3) the Child and Youth Centered Information System (CYCIS). Both the SACWIS data and the CYCIS data were extracted on December 31, 2021. Note that the numbers in Appendix C are rounded to one decimal place for display purposes.

¹Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program Populations (1969-2020) (www.seer.cancer.gov/popdata), National Cancer Institute, DCCPS, Surveillance Research Program, Cancer Statistics Branch, released February 2022.

DISPROPORTIONALITY

Table 4.A.1 Absolute RDI for Investigated Reports

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black							
Children in investigated reports	34.3%	33.2%	33.3%	33.1%	33.2%	33.3%	32.8%
Total child population	16.8%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%
Absolute RDI	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
White							
Children in investigated reports	46.3%	46.8%	46.8%	46.3%	45.4%	45.8%	45.5%
Total child population	53.3%	53.1%	53.0%	52.7%	52.6%	52.4%	52.4%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Hispanic							
Children in investigated reports	16.8%	17.5%	17.5%	18.0%	18.6%	18.1%	18.1%
Total child population	24.2%	24.3%	24.4%	24.5%	24.6%	24.6%	24.6%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7

Table 4.A.2 Absolute RDI for Investigated Reports by Region

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Cook							
Black							
Children in investigated reports	52.2%	50.5%	50.8%	49.5%	49.2%	50.5%	49.6%
Total child population	26.1%	25.8%	25.5%	25.3%	25.2%	25.1%	25.1%
Absolute RDI	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
White							
Children in investigated reports	15.9%	16.8%	16.4%	16.1%	15.6%	16.1%	15.6%
Total child population	32.0%	32.1%	32.2%	32.3%	32.4%	32.5%	32.5%
Absolute RDI	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Hispanic							
Children in investigated reports	28.4%	29.3%	29.5%	30.9%	31.1%	29.4%	29.9%
Total child population	35.0%	35.1%	35.0%	35.0%	34.9%	34.7%	34.7%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9
Northern							
Black							
Children in investigated reports	26.7%	25.9%	25.9%	26.6%	26.5%	26.0%	26.2%
Total child population	8.8%	8.8%	8.9%	9.0%	9.1%	9.2%	9.2%
Absolute RDI	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8
White							
Children in investigated reports	47.1%	46.8%	46.3%	45.1%	44.4%	44.6%	43.9%
Total child population	59.2%	58.7%	58.1%	57.5%	57.0%	56.6%	56.6%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Hispanic							
Children in investigated reports	23.1%	24.5%	25.0%	24.9%	25.9%	26.2%	25.9%
Total child population	25.2%	25.5%	25.8%	26.1%	26.4%	26.6%	26.6%
Absolute RDI	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Central							
Black							
Children in investigated reports	26.2%	26.2%	26.5%	26.1%	26.5%	27.0%	27.0%
Total child population	12.1%	12.3%	12.5%	12.7%	12.8%	12.9%	12.9%
Absolute RDI	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
White							
Children in investigated reports	67.6%	67.0%	66.6%	66.9%	66.1%	65.2%	64.6%
Total child population	77.8%	77.4%	77.1%	76.7%	76.5%	76.2%	76.2%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Hispanic							
Children in investigated reports	4.7%	5.0%	5.2%	5.6%	5.6%	6.1%	6.0%
Total child population	7.2%	7.3%	7.4%	7.6%	7.7%	7.8%	7.8%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
Southern							
Black							
Children in investigated reports	25.8%	24.8%	25.0%	26.0%	25.4%	25.8%	24.6%
Total child population	15.1%	15.1%	15.2%	15.3%	15.3%	15.3%	15.3%
Absolute RDI	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6
White							
Children in investigated reports	70.0%	70.9%	70.8%	69.8%	70.3%	69.6%	70.1%
Total child population	79.0%	78.9%	78.6%	78.4%	78.2%	78.1%	78.1%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Hispanic							
Children in investigated reports	2.6%	2.9%	3.0%	2.9%	2.9%	3.0%	3.3%
Total child population	4.4%	4.4%	4.6%	4.7%	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7

DISPROPORTIONALITY

Table 4.B.1 Absolute RDI for Protective Custodies

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black							
Children in protective custodies	45.0%	42.5%	41.3%	42.0%	39.2%	38.6%	33.7%
Total child population	16.8%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%
Absolute RDI	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.0
White							
Children in protective custodies	41.9%	44.8%	47.1%	49.4%	49.9%	48.8%	52.1%
Total child population	53.3%	53.1%	53.0%	52.7%	52.6%	52.4%	52.4%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	11.9%	11.9%	10.7%	7.8%	10.0%	11.5%	12.8%
Total child population	24.2%	24.3%	24.4%	24.5%	24.6%	24.6%	24.6%
Absolute RDI	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5

Table 4.B.2 Absolute RDI for Protective Custodies by Region

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Cook							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	65.3%	66.8%	67.2%	71.9%	66.5%	66.3%	59.9%
Total child population	26.1%	25.8%	25.5%	25.3%	25.2%	25.1%	25.1%
Absolute RDI	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.4
White							
Children in protective custodies	11.5%	11.1%	11.0%	12.4%	12.6%	10.0%	13.7%
Total child population	32.0%	32.1%	32.2%	32.3%	32.4%	32.5%	32.5%
Absolute RDI	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	22.2%	20.9%	20.4%	14.6%	20.1%	21.9%	24.0%
Total child population	35.0%	35.1%	35.0%	35.0%	34.9%	34.7%	34.7%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7
Northern							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	39.9%	41.7%	43.6%	41.1%	44.3%	36.9%	31.3%
Total child population	8.8%	8.8%	8.9%	9.0%	9.1%	9.2%	9.2%
Absolute RDI	4.5	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.9	4.0	3.4
White							
Children in protective custodies	44.2%	38.9%	41.2%	42.8%	37.7%	42.1%	42.7%
Total child population	59.2%	58.7%	58.1%	57.5%	57.0%	56.6%	56.6%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	14.3%	18.4%	15.2%	14.7%	17.1%	20.2%	24.5%
Total child population	25.2%	25.5%	25.8%	26.1%	26.4%	26.6%	26.6%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.9
Central							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	37.3%	32.5%	30.6%	32.6%	30.4%	31.2%	30.3%
Total child population	12.1%	12.3%	12.5%	12.7%	12.8%	12.9%	12.9%
Absolute RDI	3.1	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.3
White							
Children in protective custodies	57.4%	61.9%	64.0%	63.5%	64.2%	62.4%	63.6%
Total child population	77.8%	77.4%	77.1%	76.7%	76.5%	76.2%	76.2%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	4.5%	4.9%	4.2%	3.5%	4.2%	5.4%	5.1%
Total child population	7.2%	7.3%	7.4%	7.6%	7.7%	7.8%	7.8%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7
Southern							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	24.9%	23.2%	22.5%	21.8%	22.3%	21.0%	20.9%
Total child population	15.1%	15.1%	15.2%	15.3%	15.3%	15.3%	15.3%
Absolute RDI	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4
White							
Children in protective custodies	71.3%	74.0%	72.1%	75.9%	73.4%	75.9%	75.6%
Total child population	79.0%	78.9%	78.6%	78.4%	78.2%	78.1%	78.1%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	2.5%	2.5%	5.0%	1.6%	3.7%	2.6%	2.6%
Total child population	4.4%	4.4%	4.6%	4.7%	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.5

DISPROPORTIONALITY

Table 4.B.3 Relative RDI for Protective Custodies

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black							
Children in protective custodies	45.0%	42.5%	41.3%	42.0%	39.2%	38.6%	33.7%
Children in investigated reports	34.3%	33.2%	33.3%	33.1%	33.2%	33.3%	32.8%
Relative RDI	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0
White							
Children in protective custodies	41.9%	44.8%	47.1%	49.4%	49.9%	48.8%	52.1%
Children in investigated reports	46.3%	46.8%	46.8%	46.3%	45.4%	45.8%	45.5%
Relative RDI	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	11.9%	11.9%	10.7%	7.8%	10.0%	11.5%	12.8%
Children in investigated reports	16.8%	17.5%	17.5%	18.0%	18.6%	18.1%	18.1%
Relative RDI	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7

Table 4.B.4 Relative RDI for Protective Custodies by Region

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Cook							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	65.3%	66.8%	67.2%	71.9%	66.5%	66.3%	59.9%
Children in investigated reports	52.2%	50.5%	50.8%	49.5%	49.2%	50.5%	49.6%
Relative RDI	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2
White							
Children in protective custodies	11.5%	11.1%	11.0%	12.4%	12.6%	10.0%	13.7%
Children in investigated reports	15.9%	16.8%	16.4%	16.1%	15.6%	16.1%	15.6%
Relative RDI	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.9
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	22.2%	20.9%	20.4%	14.6%	20.1%	21.9%	24.0%
Children in investigated reports	28.4%	29.3%	29.5%	30.9%	31.1%	29.4%	29.9%
Relative RDI	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8
Northern							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	39.9%	41.7%	43.6%	41.1%	44.3%	36.9%	31.3%
Children in investigated reports	26.7%	25.9%	25.9%	26.6%	26.5%	26.0%	26.2%
Relative RDI	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.2
White							
Children in protective custodies	44.2%	38.9%	41.2%	42.8%	37.7%	42.1%	42.7%
Children in investigated reports	47.1%	46.8%	46.3%	45.1%	44.4%	44.6%	43.9%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	14.3%	18.4%	15.2%	14.7%	17.1%	20.2%	24.5%
Children in investigated reports	23.1%	24.5%	25.0%	24.9%	25.9%	26.2%	25.9%
Relative RDI	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9
Central							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	37.3%	32.5%	30.6%	32.6%	30.4%	31.2%	30.3%
Children in investigated reports	26.2%	26.2%	26.5%	26.1%	26.5%	27.0%	27.0%
Relative RDI	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.1
White							
Children in protective custodies	57.4%	61.9%	64.0%	63.5%	64.2%	62.4%	63.6%
Children in investigated reports	67.6%	67.0%	66.6%	66.9%	66.1%	65.2%	64.6%
Relative RDI	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	4.5%	4.9%	4.2%	3.5%	4.2%	5.4%	5.1%
Children in investigated reports	4.7%	5.0%	5.2%	5.6%	5.6%	6.1%	6.0%
Relative RDI	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.8
Southern							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	24.9%	23.2%	22.5%	21.8%	22.3%	21.0%	20.9%
Children in investigated reports	25.8%	24.8%	25.0%	26.0%	25.4%	25.8%	24.6%
Relative RDI	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
White							
Children in protective custodies	71.3%	74.0%	72.1%	75.9%	73.4%	75.9%	75.6%
Children in investigated reports	70.0%	70.9%	70.8%	69.8%	70.3%	69.6%	70.1%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	2.5%	2.5%	5.0%	1.6%	3.7%	2.6%	2.6%
Children in investigated reports	2.6%	2.9%	3.0%	2.9%	2.9%	3.0%	3.3%
Relative RDI	1.0	0.9	1.7	0.5	1.3	0.8	0.8

DISPROPORTIONALITY

Table 4.C.1 Absolute RDI for Indicated Reports

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black							
Children in indicated reports	34.9%	32.8%	33.7%	34.5%	34.2%	35.2%	34.3%
Total child population	16.8%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%
Absolute RDI	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
White							
Children in indicated reports	45.2%	47.0%	47.2%	47.0%	46.0%	44.4%	43.8%
Total child population	53.3%	53.1%	53.0%	52.7%	52.6%	52.4%	52.4%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	18.0%	18.6%	17.5%	17.0%	18.1%	18.6%	19.7%
Total child population	24.2%	24.3%	24.4%	24.5%	24.6%	24.6%	24.6%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8

Table 4.C.2 Absolute RDI for Indicated Reports by Region

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Cook							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	51.2%	47.6%	51.2%	52.6%	51.8%	53.8%	50.8%
Total child population	26.1%	25.8%	25.5%	25.3%	25.2%	25.1%	25.1%
Absolute RDI	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0
White							
Children in indicated reports	15.3%	16.9%	14.9%	14.2%	14.4%	14.0%	14.2%
Total child population	32.0%	32.1%	32.2%	32.3%	32.4%	32.5%	32.5%
Absolute RDI	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	31.0%	33.2%	31.4%	31.0%	31.3%	29.7%	31.5%
Total child population	35.0%	35.1%	35.0%	35.0%	34.9%	34.7%	34.7%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Northern							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	28.4%	27.7%	27.7%	28.2%	29.0%	28.0%	27.9%
Total child population	8.8%	8.8%	8.9%	9.0%	9.1%	9.2%	9.2%
Absolute RDI	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.0
White							
Children in indicated reports	44.4%	42.5%	43.1%	44.0%	41.3%	41.0%	40.1%
Total child population	59.2%	58.7%	58.1%	57.5%	57.0%	56.6%	56.6%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	24.9%	27.8%	27.4%	25.9%	27.6%	29.0%	29.6%
Total child population	25.2%	25.5%	25.8%	26.1%	26.4%	26.6%	26.6%
Absolute RDI	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Central							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	29.8%	29.1%	29.5%	28.3%	27.3%	30.1%	30.6%
Total child population	12.1%	12.3%	12.5%	12.7%	12.8%	12.9%	12.9%
Absolute RDI	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.4
White							
Children in indicated reports	64.2%	65.0%	64.3%	65.6%	66.4%	62.7%	61.9%
Total child population	77.8%	77.4%	77.1%	76.7%	76.5%	76.2%	76.2%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	4.9%	4.9%	5.2%	5.2%	5.0%	5.9%	6.3%
Total child population	7.2%	7.3%	7.4%	7.6%	7.7%	7.8%	7.8%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
Southern							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	24.2%	23.7%	22.8%	24.4%	23.2%	21.0%	22.3%
Total child population	15.1%	15.1%	15.2%	15.3%	15.3%	15.3%	15.3%
Absolute RDI	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5
White							
Children in indicated reports	71.3%	72.5%	73.1%	72.2%	73.1%	75.6%	73.6%
Total child population	79.0%	78.9%	78.6%	78.4%	78.2%	78.1%	78.1%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	3.2%	3.1%	3.3%	2.6%	2.9%	2.7%	3.0%
Total child population	4.4%	4.4%	4.6%	4.7%	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6

DISPROPORTIONALITY

Table 4.C.3 Relative RDI for Indicated Reports

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black							
Children in indicated reports	34.9%	32.8%	33.7%	34.5%	34.2%	35.2%	34.3%
Children in investigated reports	34.3%	33.2%	33.3%	33.1%	33.2%	33.3%	32.8%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0
White							
Children in indicated reports	45.2%	47.0%	47.2%	47.0%	46.0%	44.4%	43.8%
Children in investigated reports	46.3%	46.8%	46.8%	46.3%	45.4%	45.8%	45.5%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	18.0%	18.6%	17.5%	17.0%	18.1%	18.6%	19.7%
Children in investigated reports	16.8%	17.5%	17.5%	18.0%	18.6%	18.1%	18.1%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1

Table 4.C.4 Relative RDI for Indicated Reports by Region

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Cook							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	51.2%	47.6%	51.2%	52.6%	51.8%	53.8%	50.8%
Children in investigated reports	52.2%	50.5%	50.8%	49.5%	49.2%	50.5%	49.6%
Relative RDI	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
White							
Children in indicated reports	15.3%	16.9%	14.9%	14.2%	14.4%	14.0%	14.2%
Children in investigated reports	15.9%	16.8%	16.4%	16.1%	15.6%	16.1%	15.6%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	31.0%	33.2%	31.4%	31.0%	31.3%	29.7%	31.5%
Children in investigated reports	28.4%	29.3%	29.5%	30.9%	31.1%	29.4%	29.9%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
Northern							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	28.4%	27.7%	27.7%	28.2%	29.0%	28.0%	27.9%
Children in investigated reports	26.7%	25.9%	25.9%	26.6%	26.5%	26.0%	26.2%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
White							
Children in indicated reports	44.4%	42.5%	43.1%	44.0%	41.3%	41.0%	40.1%
Children in investigated reports	47.1%	46.8%	46.3%	45.1%	44.4%	44.6%	43.9%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	24.9%	27.8%	27.4%	25.9%	27.6%	29.0%	29.6%
Children in investigated reports	23.1%	24.5%	25.0%	24.9%	25.9%	26.2%	25.9%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
Central							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	29.8%	29.1%	29.5%	28.3%	27.3%	30.1%	30.6%
Children in investigated reports	26.2%	26.2%	26.5%	26.1%	26.5%	27.0%	27.0%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1
White							
Children in indicated reports	64.2%	65.0%	64.3%	65.6%	66.4%	62.7%	61.9%
Children in investigated reports	67.6%	67.0%	66.6%	66.9%	66.1%	65.2%	64.6%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	4.9%	4.9%	5.2%	5.2%	5.0%	5.9%	6.3%
Children in investigated reports	4.7%	5.0%	5.2%	5.6%	5.6%	6.1%	6.0%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
Southern							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	24.2%	23.7%	22.8%	24.4%	23.2%	21.0%	22.3%
Children in investigated reports	25.8%	24.8%	25.0%	26.0%	25.4%	25.8%	24.6%
Relative RDI	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9
White							
Children in indicated reports	71.3%	72.5%	73.1%	72.2%	73.1%	75.6%	73.6%
Children in investigated reports	70.0%	70.9%	70.8%	69.8%	70.3%	69.6%	70.1%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	3.2%	3.1%	3.3%	2.6%	2.9%	2.7%	3.0%
Children in investigated reports	2.6%	2.9%	3.0%	2.9%	2.9%	3.0%	3.3%
Relative RDI	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9

DISPROPORTIONALITY

Table 4.D.1 Absolute RDI for Substitute Care Entries

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black							
Children entering substitute care	45.3%	42.9%	41.5%	41.6%	39.4%	39.4%	34.4%
Total child population	16.8%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%
Absolute RDI	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.1
White							
Children entering substitute care	43.1%	46.0%	47.7%	50.4%	51.1%	48.7%	51.9%
Total child population	53.3%	53.1%	53.0%	52.7%	52.6%	52.4%	52.4%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	10.6%	10.5%	10.1%	7.3%	8.8%	11.0%	12.6%
Total child population	24.2%	24.3%	24.4%	24.5%	24.6%	24.6%	24.6%
Absolute RDI	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5

Table 4.D.2 Absolute RDI for Substitute Care Entries by Region

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Cook							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	66.8%	67.5%	65.9%	73.4%	68.7%	65.7%	60.9%
Total child population	26.1%	25.8%	25.5%	25.3%	25.2%	25.1%	25.1%
Absolute RDI	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.4
White							
Children entering substitute care	11.5%	12.1%	12.0%	11.5%	12.4%	11.6%	13.9%
Total child population	32.0%	32.1%	32.2%	32.3%	32.4%	32.5%	32.5%
Absolute RDI	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	20.5%	19.8%	21.3%	13.8%	18.5%	21.4%	23.2%
Total child population	35.0%	35.1%	35.0%	35.0%	34.9%	34.7%	34.7%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7
Northern							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	40.5%	43.4%	42.9%	38.6%	44.6%	41.3%	31.8%
Total child population	8.8%	8.8%	8.9%	9.0%	9.1%	9.2%	9.2%
Absolute RDI	4.6	4.9	4.8	4.3	4.9	4.5	3.5
White							
Children entering substitute care	44.6%	39.6%	43.2%	44.9%	39.3%	40.0%	43.4%
Total child population	59.2%	58.7%	58.1%	57.5%	57.0%	56.6%	56.6%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	13.0%	16.0%	13.4%	15.5%	15.5%	18.2%	23.6%
Total child population	25.2%	25.5%	25.8%	26.1%	26.4%	26.6%	26.6%
Absolute RDI	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9
Central							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	39.9%	35.7%	32.8%	33.2%	31.5%	32.3%	30.7%
Total child population	12.1%	12.3%	12.5%	12.7%	12.8%	12.9%	12.9%
Absolute RDI	3.3	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4
White							
Children entering substitute care	55.3%	59.5%	62.7%	63.8%	63.9%	61.5%	63.6%
Total child population	77.8%	77.4%	77.1%	76.7%	76.5%	76.2%	76.2%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	4.4%	4.2%	3.7%	2.6%	3.7%	5.3%	4.8%
Total child population	7.2%	7.3%	7.4%	7.6%	7.7%	7.8%	7.8%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.6
Southern							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	24.2%	21.7%	24.5%	22.3%	22.4%	20.0%	20.1%
Total child population	15.1%	15.1%	15.2%	15.3%	15.3%	15.3%	15.3%
Absolute RDI	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3
White							
Children entering substitute care	72.6%	75.0%	70.9%	75.0%	73.1%	76.8%	75.9%
Total child population	79.0%	78.9%	78.6%	78.4%	78.2%	78.1%	78.1%
Absolute RDI	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	2.3%	3.0%	4.3%	2.0%	3.8%	2.8%	3.4%
Total child population	4.4%	4.4%	4.6%	4.7%	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%
Absolute RDI	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.7

DISPROPORTIONALITY

Table 4.D.3 Relative RDI for Substitute Care Entries

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black							
Children entering substitute care	45.3%	42.9%	41.5%	41.6%	39.4%	39.4%	34.4%
Children in indicated reports	34.9%	32.8%	33.7%	34.5%	34.2%	35.2%	34.3%
Relative RDI	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0
White							
Children entering substitute care	43.1%	46.0%	47.7%	50.4%	51.1%	48.7%	51.9%
Children in indicated reports	45.2%	47.0%	47.2%	47.0%	46.0%	44.4%	43.8%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	10.6%	10.5%	10.1%	7.3%	8.8%	11.0%	12.6%
Children in indicated reports	18.0%	18.6%	17.5%	17.0%	18.1%	18.6%	19.7%
Relative RDI	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6

Table 4.D.4 Relative RDI for Substitute Care Entries by Region

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Cook							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	66.8%	67.5%	65.9%	73.4%	68.7%	65.7%	60.9%
Children in indicated reports	51.2%	47.6%	51.2%	52.6%	51.8%	53.8%	50.8%
Relative RDI	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
White							
Children entering substitute care	11.5%	12.1%	12.0%	11.5%	12.4%	11.6%	13.9%
Children in indicated reports	15.3%	16.9%	14.9%	14.2%	14.4%	14.0%	14.2%
Relative RDI	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.0
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	20.5%	19.8%	21.3%	13.8%	18.5%	21.4%	23.2%
Children in indicated reports	31.0%	33.2%	31.4%	31.0%	31.3%	29.7%	31.5%
Relative RDI	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7
Northern							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	40.5%	43.4%	42.9%	38.6%	44.6%	41.3%	31.8%
Children in indicated reports	28.4%	27.7%	27.7%	28.2%	29.0%	28.0%	27.9%
Relative RDI	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.1
White							
Children entering substitute care	44.6%	39.6%	43.2%	44.9%	39.3%	40.0%	43.4%
Children in indicated reports	44.4%	42.5%	43.1%	44.0%	41.3%	41.0%	40.1%
Relative RDI	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	13.0%	16.0%	13.4%	15.5%	15.5%	18.2%	23.6%
Children in indicated reports	24.9%	27.8%	27.4%	25.9%	27.6%	29.0%	29.6%
Relative RDI	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8
Central							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	39.9%	35.7%	32.8%	33.2%	31.5%	32.3%	30.7%
Children in indicated reports	29.8%	29.1%	29.5%	28.3%	27.3%	30.1%	30.6%
Relative RDI	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0
White							
Children entering substitute care	55.3%	59.5%	62.7%	63.8%	63.9%	61.5%	63.6%
Children in indicated reports	64.2%	65.0%	64.3%	65.6%	66.4%	62.7%	61.9%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	4.4%	4.2%	3.7%	2.6%	3.7%	5.3%	4.8%
Children in indicated reports	4.9%	4.9%	5.2%	5.2%	5.0%	5.9%	6.3%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.8
Southern							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	24.2%	21.7%	24.5%	22.3%	22.4%	20.0%	20.1%
Children in indicated reports	24.2%	23.7%	22.8%	24.4%	23.2%	21.0%	22.3%
Relative RDI	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9
White							
Children entering substitute care	72.6%	75.0%	70.9%	75.0%	73.1%	76.8%	75.9%
Children in indicated reports	71.3%	72.5%	73.1%	72.2%	73.1%	75.6%	73.6%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	2.3%	3.0%	4.3%	2.0%	3.8%	2.8%	3.4%
Children in indicated reports	3.2%	3.1%	3.3%	2.6%	2.9%	2.7%	3.0%
Relative RDI	0.7	1.0	1.3	0.8	1.3	1.0	1.1

DISPROPORTIONALITY

Table 4.E.1 Absolute RDI for Children in Intact Family Services

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black							
Children in intact family services	30.4%	26.9%	28.8%	30.7%	27.3%	29.6%	31.6%
Total child population	16.8%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%
Absolute RDI	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.9
White							
Children in intact family services	47.5%	51.5%	51.8%	51.4%	53.7%	50.7%	49.8%
Total child population	53.3%	53.1%	53.0%	52.7%	52.6%	52.4%	52.4%
Absolute RDI	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	20.8%	20.5%	18.2%	16.9%	17.6%	18.4%	17.2%
Total child population	24.2%	24.3%	24.4%	24.5%	24.6%	24.6%	24.6%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7

Table 4.E.2 Absolute RDI for Children in Intact Family Services by Region

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Cook							
Black							
Children in intact family services	42.0%	38.7%	41.9%	45.6%	40.6%	41.1%	49.9%
Total child population	26.1%	25.8%	25.5%	25.3%	25.2%	25.1%	25.1%
Absolute RDI	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.6	2.0
White							
Children in intact family services	16.6%	18.9%	18.7%	15.1%	18.1%	17.4%	14.9%
Total child population	32.0%	32.1%	32.2%	32.3%	32.4%	32.5%	32.5%
Absolute RDI	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	38.7%	41.3%	36.7%	37.7%	38.2%	39.2%	32.4%
Total child population	35.0%	35.1%	35.0%	35.0%	34.9%	34.7%	34.7%
Absolute RDI	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9
Northern							
Black							
Children in intact family services	27.1%	22.2%	26.6%	29.5%	25.8%	27.3%	26.6%
Total child population	8.8%	8.8%	8.9%	9.0%	9.1%	9.2%	9.2%
Absolute RDI	3.1	2.5	3.0	3.3	2.8	3.0	2.9
White							
Children in intact family services	45.4%	44.3%	44.3%	45.8%	45.8%	42.2%	42.7%
Total child population	59.2%	58.7%	58.1%	57.5%	57.0%	56.6%	56.6%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	26.1%	31.3%	28.0%	23.3%	27.1%	28.8%	29.1%
Total child population	25.2%	25.5%	25.8%	26.1%	26.4%	26.6%	26.6%
Absolute RDI	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1
Central							
Black							
Children in intact family services	27.4%	27.0%	29.2%	26.7%	23.7%	27.6%	28.1%
Total child population	12.1%	12.3%	12.5%	12.7%	12.8%	12.9%	12.9%
Absolute RDI	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.2
White							
Children in intact family services	68.0%	68.8%	66.6%	67.2%	70.9%	65.0%	63.6%
Total child population	77.8%	77.4%	77.1%	76.7%	76.5%	76.2%	76.2%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	4.2%	4.0%	3.8%	5.5%	4.6%	6.7%	7.7%
Total child population	7.2%	7.3%	7.4%	7.6%	7.7%	7.8%	7.8%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.0
Southern							
Black							
Children in intact family services	17.7%	17.8%	13.9%	19.5%	18.3%	21.8%	22.3%
Total child population	15.1%	15.1%	15.2%	15.3%	15.3%	15.3%	15.3%
Absolute RDI	1.2	1.2	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.5
White							
Children in intact family services	78.7%	78.5%	82.5%	77.0%	78.2%	74.9%	73.5%
Total child population	79.1%	78.9%	78.8%	78.6%	78.4%	78.3%	78.3%
Absolute RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	3.4%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%
Total child population	4.4%	4.4%	4.6%	4.7%	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6

DISPROPORTIONALITY

Table 4.E.3 Relative RDI for Children in Intact Family Services

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black							
Children in intact family services	30.4%	26.9%	28.8%	30.7%	27.3%	29.6%	31.6%
Children in indicated reports	34.9%	32.8%	33.7%	34.5%	34.2%	35.2%	34.3%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9
White							
Children in intact family services	47.5%	51.5%	51.8%	51.4%	53.7%	50.7%	49.8%
Children in indicated reports	45.2%	47.0%	47.2%	47.0%	46.0%	44.4%	43.8%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	20.8%	20.5%	18.2%	16.9%	17.6%	18.4%	17.2%
Children in indicated reports	18.0%	18.6%	17.5%	17.0%	18.1%	18.6%	19.7%
Relative RDI	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9

Table 4.E.4 Relative RDI for Children in Intact Family Services by Region

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Cook							
Black							
Children in intact family services	42.0%	38.7%	41.9%	45.6%	40.6%	41.1%	49.9%
Children in indicated reports	51.2%	47.6%	51.2%	52.6%	51.8%	53.8%	50.8%
Relative RDI	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.0
White							
Children in intact family services	16.6%	18.9%	18.7%	15.1%	18.1%	17.4%	14.9%
Children in indicated reports	15.3%	16.9%	14.9%	14.2%	14.4%	14.0%	14.2%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.1
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	38.7%	41.3%	36.7%	37.7%	38.2%	39.2%	32.4%
Children in indicated reports	31.0%	33.2%	31.4%	31.0%	31.3%	29.7%	31.5%
Relative RDI	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.0
Northern							
Black							
Children in intact family services	27.1%	22.2%	26.6%	29.5%	25.8%	27.3%	26.6%
Children in indicated reports	28.4%	27.7%	27.7%	28.2%	29.0%	28.0%	27.9%
Relative RDI	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
White							
Children in intact family services	45.4%	44.3%	44.3%	45.8%	45.8%	42.2%	42.7%
Children in indicated reports	44.4%	42.5%	43.1%	44.0%	41.3%	41.0%	40.1%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	26.1%	31.3%	28.0%	23.3%	27.1%	28.8%	29.1%
Children in indicated reports	24.9%	27.8%	27.4%	25.9%	27.6%	29.0%	29.6%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
Central							
Black							
Children in intact family services	27.4%	27.0%	29.2%	26.7%	23.7%	27.6%	28.1%
Children in indicated reports	29.8%	29.1%	29.5%	28.3%	27.3%	30.1%	30.6%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
White							
Children in intact family services	68.0%	68.8%	66.6%	67.2%	70.9%	65.0%	63.6%
Children in indicated reports	64.2%	65.0%	64.3%	65.6%	66.4%	62.7%	61.9%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	4.2%	4.0%	3.8%	5.5%	4.6%	6.7%	7.7%
Children in indicated reports	4.9%	4.9%	5.2%	5.2%	5.0%	5.9%	6.3%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.2
Southern							
Black							
Children in intact family services	17.7%	17.8%	13.9%	19.5%	18.3%	21.8%	22.3%
Children in indicated reports	24.2%	23.7%	22.8%	24.4%	23.2%	21.0%	22.3%
Relative RDI	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0
White							
Children in intact family services	78.7%	78.5%	82.5%	77.0%	78.2%	74.9%	73.5%
Children in indicated reports	71.3%	72.5%	73.1%	72.2%	73.1%	75.6%	73.6%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	3.4%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%
Children in indicated reports	3.2%	3.1%	3.3%	2.6%	2.9%	2.7%	3.0%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0

DISPROPORTIONALITY

Table 4.F.1 Absolute RDI for Remaining in Care Longer Than 36 Months

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	51.1%	51.0%	48.5%	47.4%
Total child population	16.8%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%
Absolute RDI	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	37.8%	39.0%	40.4%	44.0%
Total child population	53.3%	53.1%	53.0%	52.7%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	9.8%	9.6%	10.5%	8.1%
Total child population	24.2%	24.3%	24.4%	24.5%
Absolute RDI	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3

Table 4.F.2 Absolute RDI for Remaining in Care Longer Than 36 Months by Region

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Cook				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	72.1%	73.7%	69.5%	76.0%
Total child population	26.1%	25.8%	25.5%	25.3%
Absolute RDI	2.8	2.9	2.7	3.0
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	11.0%	10.8%	10.2%	10.0%
Total child population	32.0%	32.1%	32.2%	32.3%
Absolute RDI	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	16.0%	15.2%	19.5%	13.3%
Total child population	35.0%	35.1%	35.0%	35.0%
Absolute RDI	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4
Northern				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	40.1%	48.5%	47.3%	38.9%
Total child population	8.8%	8.8%	8.9%	9.0%
Absolute RDI	4.5	5.5	5.3	4.3
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	43.0%	36.5%	41.2%	42.2%
Total child population	59.2%	58.7%	58.1%	57.5%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	12.8%	14.1%	11.6%	18.8%
Total child population	25.2%	25.5%	25.8%	26.1%
Absolute RDI	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.7
Central				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	43.4%	40.6%	37.5%	34.3%
Total child population	12.1%	12.3%	12.5%	12.7%
Absolute RDI	3.6	3.3	3.0	2.7
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	51.8%	55.6%	58.5%	63.6%
Total child population	77.8%	77.4%	77.1%	76.7%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	4.4%	3.3%	2.9%	1.8%
Total child population	7.2%	7.3%	7.4%	7.6%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.2
Southern				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	27.4%	24.0%	26.2%	25.5%
Total child population	15.1%	15.1%	15.2%	15.3%
Absolute RDI	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.7
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	69.8%	72.3%	68.7%	71.1%
Total child population	79.0%	78.9%	78.6%	78.4%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	2.4%	3.7%	5.1%	2.5%
Total child population	4.4%	4.4%	4.6%	4.7%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.8	1.1	0.5

DISPROPORTIONALITY

Table 4.F.3 Relative RDI for Remaining in Care Longer Than 36 Months

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	51.1%	51.0%	48.5%	47.4%
Children entering substitute care	45.3%	42.9%	41.5%	41.6%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	37.8%	39.0%	40.4%	44.0%
Children entering substitute care	43.1%	46.0%	47.7%	50.4%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	9.8%	9.6%	10.5%	8.1%
Children entering substitute care	10.6%	10.5%	10.1%	7.3%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1

Table 4.F.4 Relative RDI for Remaining in Care Longer Than 36 Months by Region

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Cook				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	72.1%	73.7%	69.5%	76.0%
Children entering substitute care	66.8%	67.5%	65.9%	73.4%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	11.0%	10.8%	10.2%	10.0%
Children entering substitute care	11.5%	12.1%	12.0%	11.5%
Relative RDI	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.9
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	16.0%	15.2%	19.5%	13.3%
Children entering substitute care	20.5%	19.8%	21.3%	13.8%
Relative RDI	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0
Northern				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	40.1%	48.5%	47.3%	38.9%
Children entering substitute care	40.5%	43.4%	42.9%	38.6%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	43.0%	36.5%	41.2%	42.2%
Children entering substitute care	44.6%	39.6%	43.2%	44.9%
Relative RDI	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	12.8%	14.1%	11.6%	18.8%
Children entering substitute care	13.0%	16.0%	13.4%	15.5%
Relative RDI	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.2
Central				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	43.4%	40.6%	37.5%	34.3%
Children entering substitute care	39.9%	35.7%	32.8%	33.2%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	51.8%	55.6%	58.5%	63.6%
Children entering substitute care	55.3%	59.5%	62.7%	63.8%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	4.4%	3.3%	2.9%	1.8%
Children entering substitute care	4.4%	4.2%	3.7%	2.6%
Relative RDI	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7
Southern				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	27.4%	24.0%	26.2%	25.5%
Children entering substitute care	24.2%	21.7%	24.5%	22.3%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	69.8%	72.3%	68.7%	71.1%
Children entering substitute care	72.6%	75.0%	70.9%	75.0%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	2.4%	3.7%	5.1%	2.5%
Children entering substitute care	2.3%	3.0%	4.3%	2.0%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.2



Appendix D

Data Adjustments

Appendix D describes two data adjustments that were made to the indicators in the *B.H.* monitoring report: 1) adjusting the definition of a substitute care spell to include the use of legal entry and exit dates, and 2) adjusting the data for Indicator 3.I (permanency in 12 months for children in care 24 months or more).

Legal Spell

A legal spell is defined as the period a child is in DCFS legal custody during an open child placement case. In other words, it is the time period that a child *legally* enters substitute care until the child *legally* exits care. For outcome indicators from 1.D through 3.L in this year’s *B.H.* monitoring report, the child was defined as in substitute care if the child was in legal spell.

Legal custody information was obtained from the “*cftvcm9400*” table in the Child and Youth Centered Information System. From this table, the legal status code and the legal entry and exit dates were used to define the legal spell. If a child’s legal status was “adoptive rights (AR),” “guardianship (GO),” “protective custody (PC),” “surrender both parents (SB),” or “temporary custody with right to consent or without rights to consent (TR TW),” they were defined as being in DCFS legal custody, and the initial date for the child’s legal status was coded as the legal entry date. If the legal status code was “NO (no legal),” then the legal custody ended on the date shown in the *lgl_stat_date* field. There were a small number of cases where the case closing date was available but there was no information on when legal custody ended. In these situations, it was assumed that DCFS custody ended on the case closing date.

Table D-1 describes how the legal entry and exit dates were adjusted for each outcome indicator by substitute care cohort type. There are three substitute care cohort types used to generate the outcome indicators from 1.D through 3.L: (a) entry cohort; (b) exit cohort; and (c) cross-sectional counts of active substitute care cases. An entry cohort consists of the children who enter substitute care during a fiscal year and an exit cohort consists of the children who leave substitute care during a fiscal year by achieving legal permanencies (reunification, adoption, guardianship, and living with relatives). The cross-sectional count of active substitute care cases includes children whose cases are open and make up the active caseload during the fiscal year.

Table D-1 Legal Spell Data Adjustments by Substitute Care Cohort Type

Cohort Type	Legal Spell Data Adjustment	Outcome Indicator ¹
Entry cohort	The legal substitute care entry date was used to define the beginning of the legal spell. Prior to this year, the case opening date was used to define the beginning of the spell.	2.A.1 – 2.A.6, 2.C, 2.E – 2.G, 3.A.1 – 3.A.3, 3.C.1 – 3.C.3, 3.E.1 – 3.E.3, 3.G
Exit cohort	The legal substitute care exit date and the last placement type code were used. Prior to this year, the legal substitute care exit date and the last permanency type were used to define reunification; the last placement type only was used to define adoption and guardianship cases.	3.B.1 – 3.B.4, 3.D.1 – 3.D.3, 3.F.1 – 3.F.3, 3.J – 3.L
Cross-sectional counts	Both the legal entry and exit dates were used to define the legal spell. Prior to this year, the case opening and closing dates were used to define the spell.	1.D, 2.B.1 – 2.B.7, 2.D, 3.H, 3.I

¹ See Appendix A for the corresponding list of indicator numbers and definitions.

An additional legal spell data adjustment was applied to the permanency stability outcome indicators, including Indicators 3.B (stability of reunification), 3.D (stability of adoption), and 3.F (stability of guardianship). Prior to this year, re-entry into care was counted when the child was placed in one of the following placement types:

- Home of relative,
- Specialized foster home,
- Traditional foster home,
- Group home, and
- Institution (excluding hospital facilities).

With the data adjustment, a child was counted as re-entering substitute care regardless of the placement type as long as the child was back in DCFS legal custody.

Indicator 3.I: Permanency in 12 months for Children in Care 24 months or More (CF SR)

While we were adjusting the spell for Indicator 3I with legal entry and exit dates using the decision rules above, we noticed that we were counting children as having been in substitute care for 24 months or longer even though they already achieved permanencies prior to the period. In other words, the time spent in substitute care was substantially shortened once the legal spell was applied. This is because the case closing dates were used to determine the period where children were in substitute care, and if the case closing dates were missing for some reason, the child was coded as “in care” and was considered to be in substitute care in the base population data. Because the last placement type was used to identify the permanency status, the numerator for the indicator, children who are discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the fiscal year, was unaffected. Once we started using the legal exit date and adjusted the period in the denominator, a significant reduction in the base population was observed. Consequently, the percentage of children who were discharged to permanency within 12 months has gone up for the indicator.



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