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**Racial Disproportionality in the Illinois Child Welfare System
FY2022 Report**

Tamara Fuller, PhD

Cady Landa, PhD

Satomi Wakita, PhD

Kyle A. Adams III, MS

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1010 W. Nevada Street, Suite 2080 | Urbana, IL 61801 | (217) 333-5837 | www.cfr Illinois.edu

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For questions about the content of the report contact:

Tamara Fuller at (217) 333-5837 or t-fuller@illinois.edu

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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 report³ 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 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.

³ Funding for this work was provided by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The views expressed herein should not be construed as representing those of the funding agency or the University of Illinois.

Figure 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.

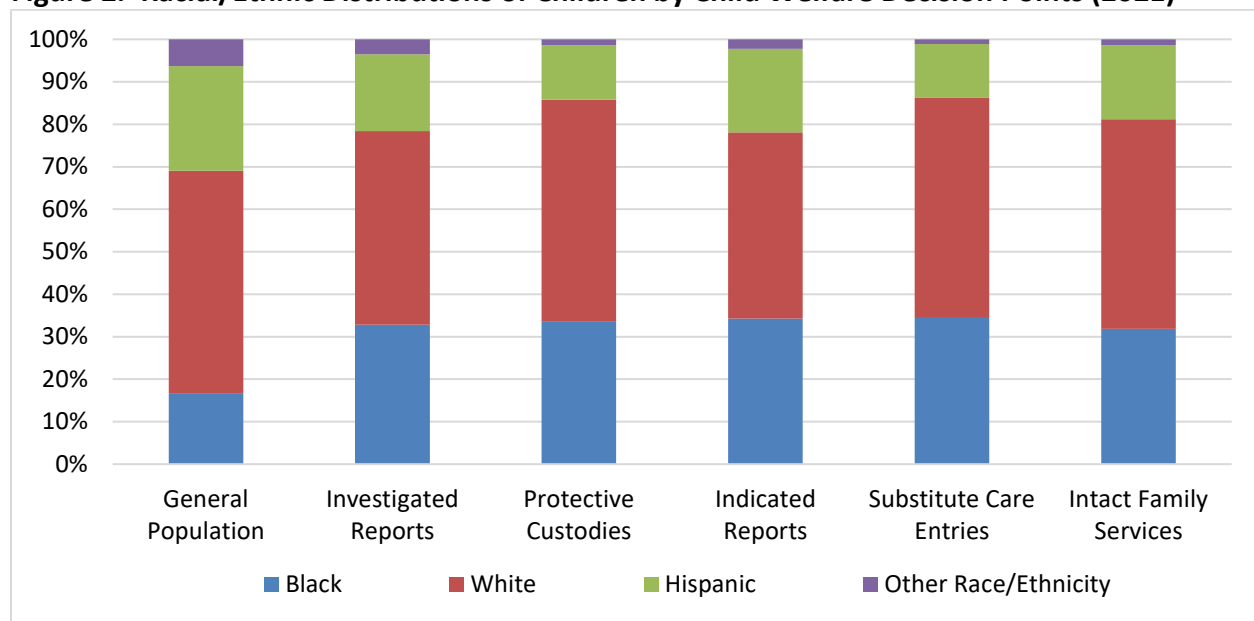
A second measure, known as the "relative RDI," is calculated by dividing a racial or ethnic group's representation at a child welfare decision point by that group's representation at a prior child welfare decision point. Relative RDIs change the denominator based on the decision point of the child welfare 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 report, 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.⁴ Figure 2 shows the racial and ethnic distribution of children at

⁴ 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.

each child welfare decision point in FY2021.⁵ 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 this report, 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. The appendix contains the absolute and relative RDI at each decision point for the three racial/ethnic groups over the past seven years.

Figure 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 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

⁵ The 2020 SEER Stat Database postcensal estimates were used for the “General Population” in Figure 2 and the calculations of RDIs in FY2020 and FY2021.

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.

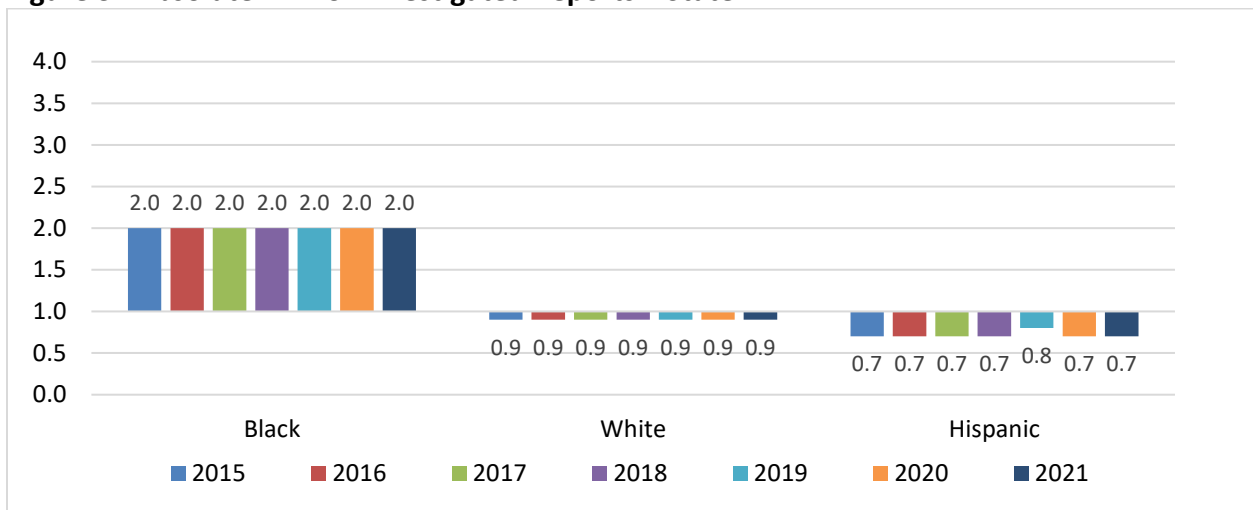
To provide a concrete example for interpreting the absolute and relative RDI, let us look at the absolute and relative RDI for Black children entering substitute care. The absolute RDI is calculated by dividing the percentage of Black children entering substitute care (34.4% in 2021) by the percentage 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 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; Appendix Table 1). There is little change in any of the three groups over the past seven years.

Figure 3. Absolute RDI for Investigated Reports—State



When the absolute RDIs for investigated reports in 2021 are examined by region (see Figure 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 (Appendix Table 2).

Asian American and Pacific Islander Children

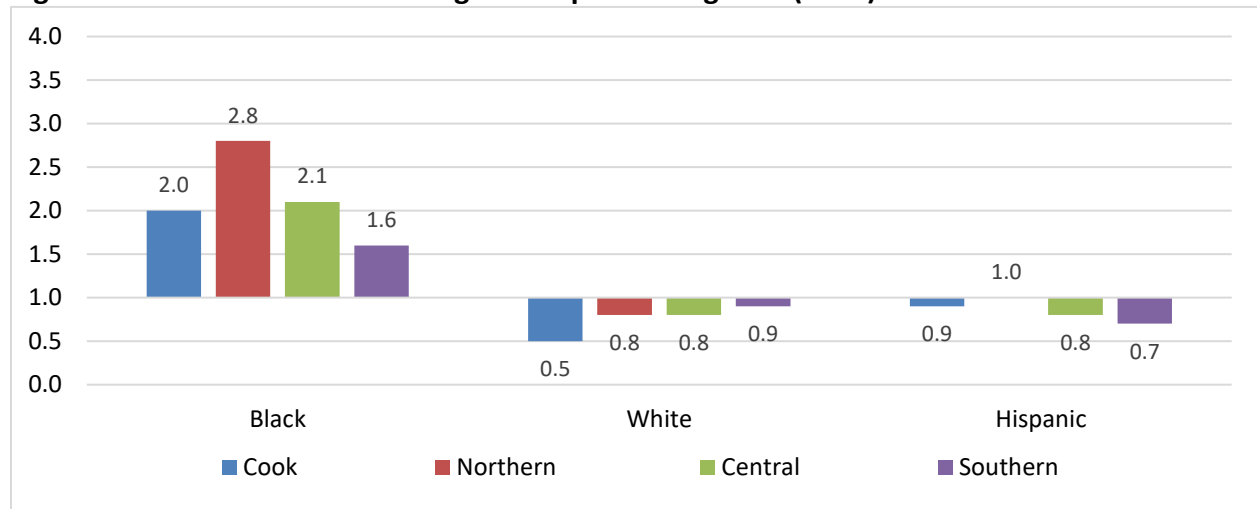
BOX 1

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 1). AAPI children are also under-represented among children receiving state protective services—more so than Hispanic children—on a national level.⁶

Table 1. Asian American and Pacific Islander Children

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 ⁷
# in general population ⁸	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. Absolute RDI for Investigated Reports—Regional (2021)



⁶ 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.

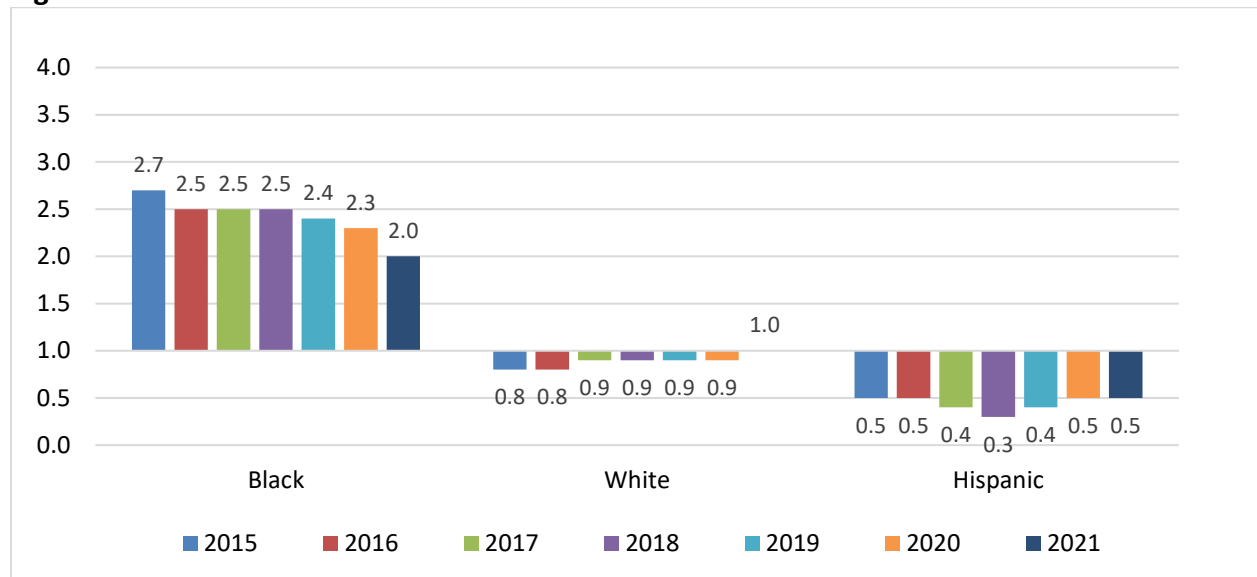
⁷ The 2020 estimate is used for the number of AAPI children in the general population and RDI calculations for both 2020 and 2021.

⁸ 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.⁹ Figure 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 Table 3).

Figure 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 6 and Appendix Table 4); 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 proportionately 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), and proportionately represented in the Northern region (RDI = 0.9). The RDIs for Hispanic

⁹ 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

children at the regional level show substantial year-to-year variability for this decision point (see Appendix Table 4 for seven-year data).

Figure 6. Absolute RDI for Protective Custodies—Regional (2021)

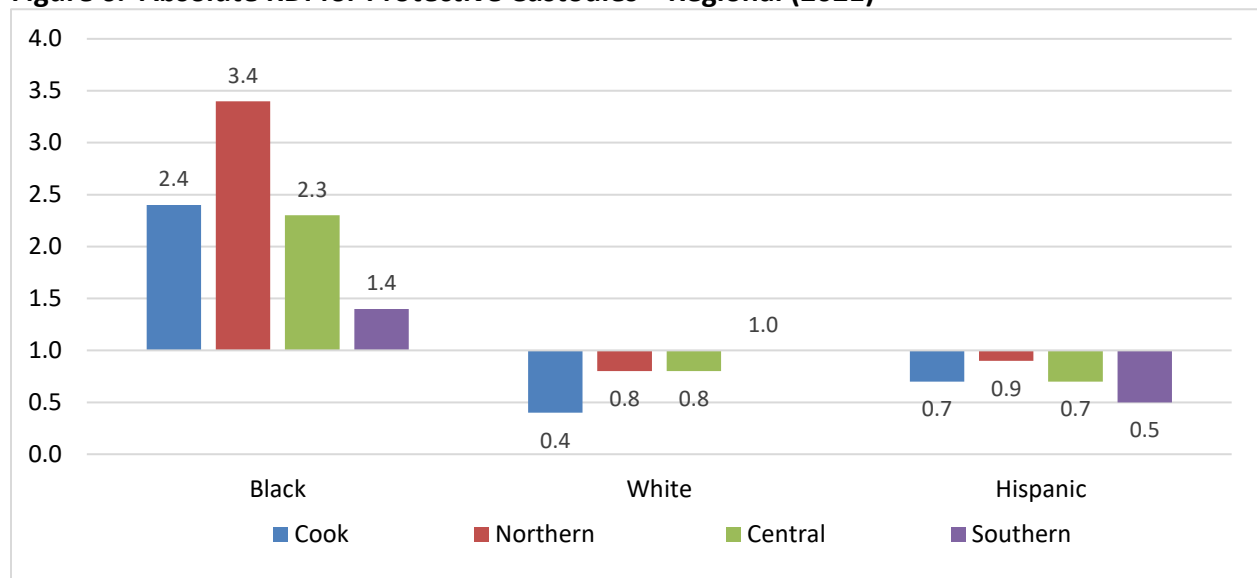
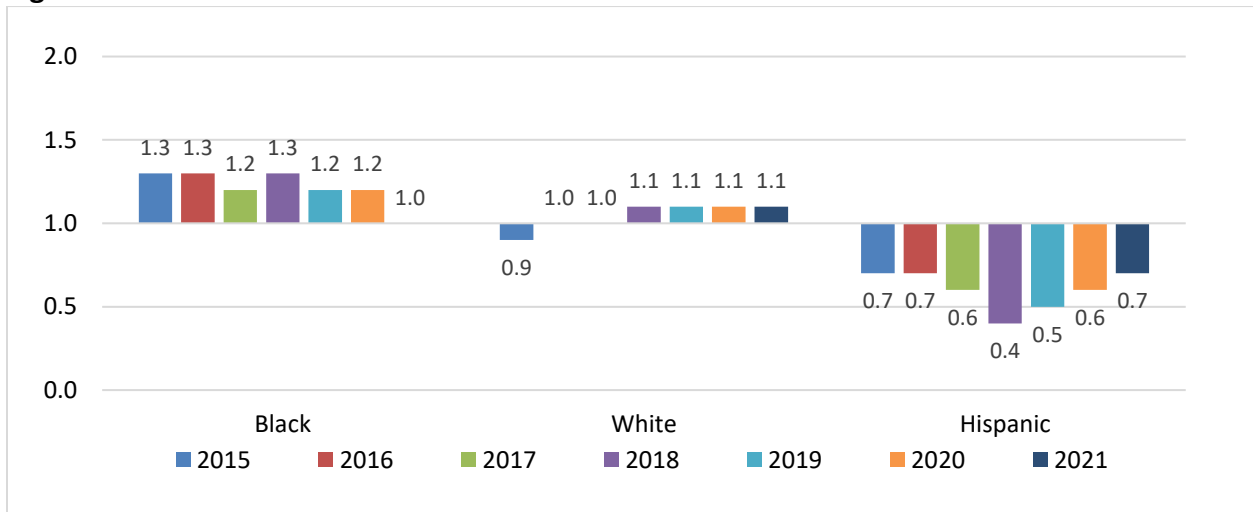


Figure 7 shows the relative RDIs at this decision point for the three racial/ethnic groups over the past seven years. This is the first decision point at which relative RDIs can be calculated. The relative RDI shows the percentage of children taken into protective custody divided by the percentage of 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.

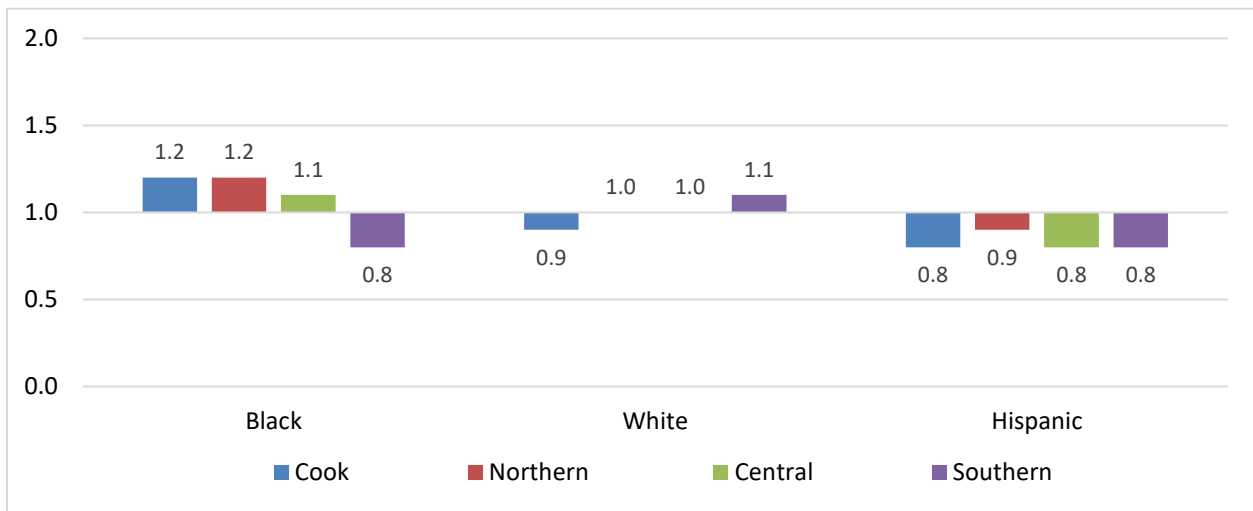
Examination of the relative RDI for protective custodies for the three groups at the state level (see Figure 7) shows that from 2015-2020, disproportionality increased at this decision point for Black children compared to the amount of disproportionality in investigated reports (relative RDIs between 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 Table 5).

Figure 7. Relative RDI for Protective Custodies—State



Regional relative RDIs for 2021 protective custodies are shown in Figure 8 (see Appendix Table 6). 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.

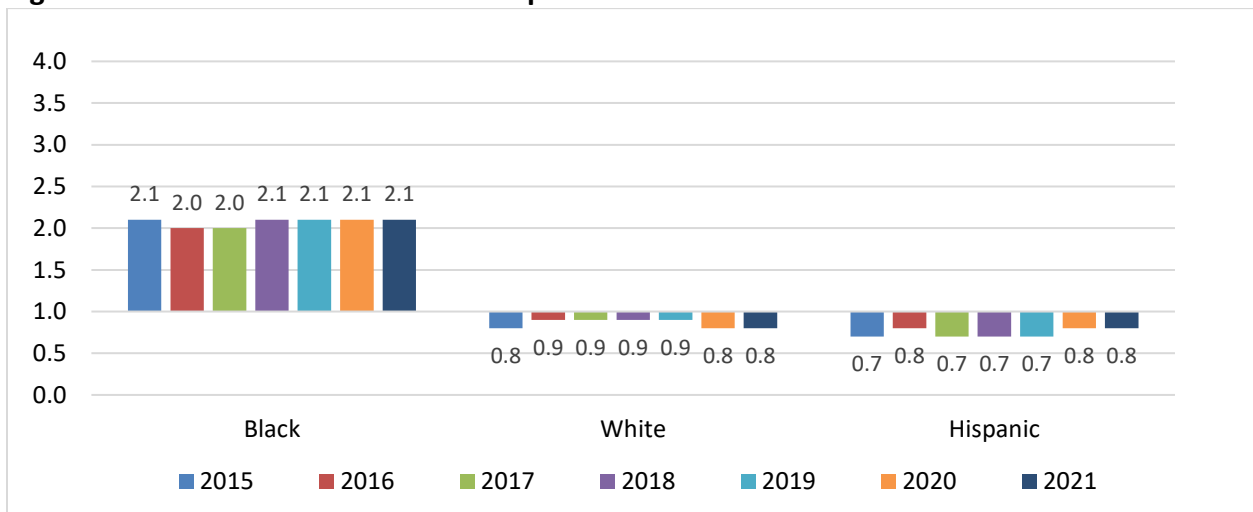
Figure 8. Relative RDI for Protective Custodies—Regional (2021)



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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ The absolute RDIs for the three groups at this decision point over the past seven years are shown in Figure 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 Table 7).

Figure 9. Absolute RDI for Indicated Reports—State

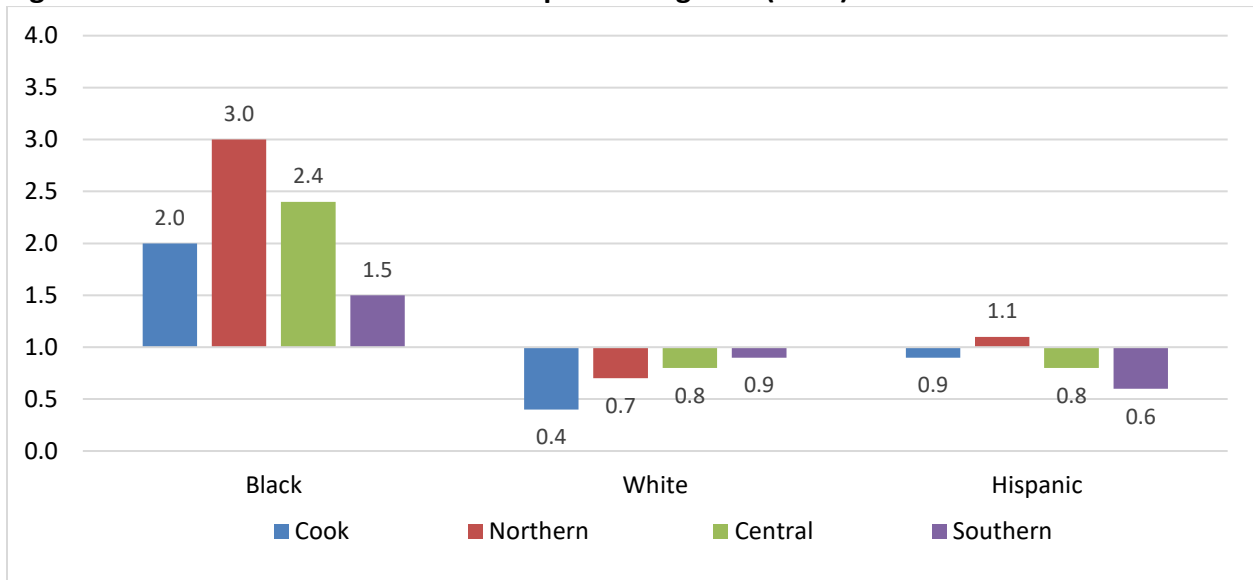


At the regional level (see Figure 10 and Appendix Table 8), the Northern region has the highest over-representation of Black children in indicated reports (RDI = 3.0) in 2021, followed by the Central (RDI = 2.4), Cook (RDI = 2.0), and Southern regions (RDI = 1.5). White children are particularly under-represented 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 proportionally 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 proportionally represented in the Cook (RDI = 0.9) and Northern regions (RDI = 1.1). Regional RDI have been consistent for the past seven years.

¹⁰ 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

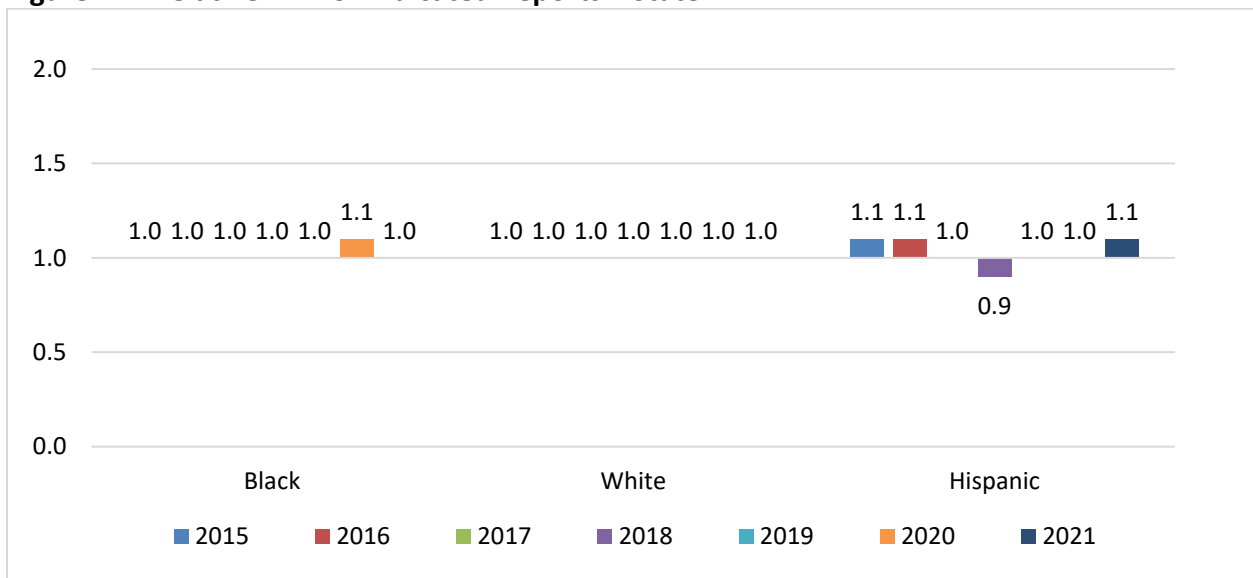
¹¹ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (August, 2002). *Procedures 431 Section 30 Maintenance of Records*. Springfield: Author. Retrieved from https://www2.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/notices/Documents/rules_431.pdf

Figure 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 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 Table 9). The regional relative RDIs at this decision point (not shown) were also at or near 1.0 for all four regions (see Appendix Table 10).

Figure 11. Relative RDI for Indicated Reports—State



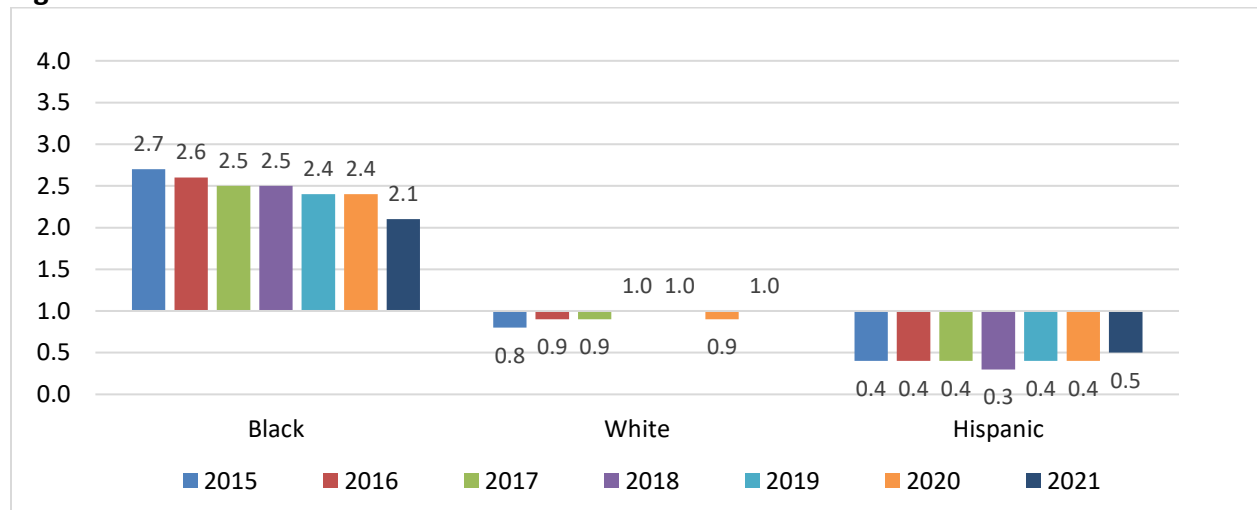
Post-Investigation Services

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,"¹² 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 12 (see Appendix Table 11). 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 12. Absolute RDI for Substitute Care Entries—State

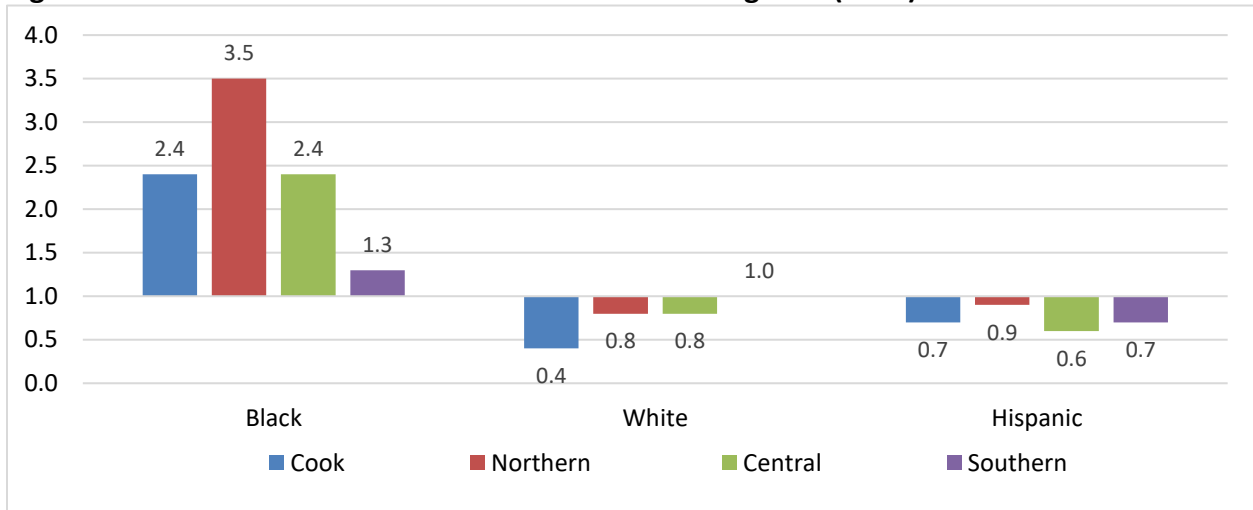


When the absolute RDIs for substitute care entries are examined by region, there are striking differences for Black children (see Figure 13 and Appendix Table 12). In 2021, the Northern region has the highest RDI (3.5), followed by Cook and Central (RDI = 2.4), and Southern (RDI = 1.3). The Northern region has had RDIs for Black children entering substitute care entries that are significantly higher than the other regions for each of the last seven years, although the RDI

¹² 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

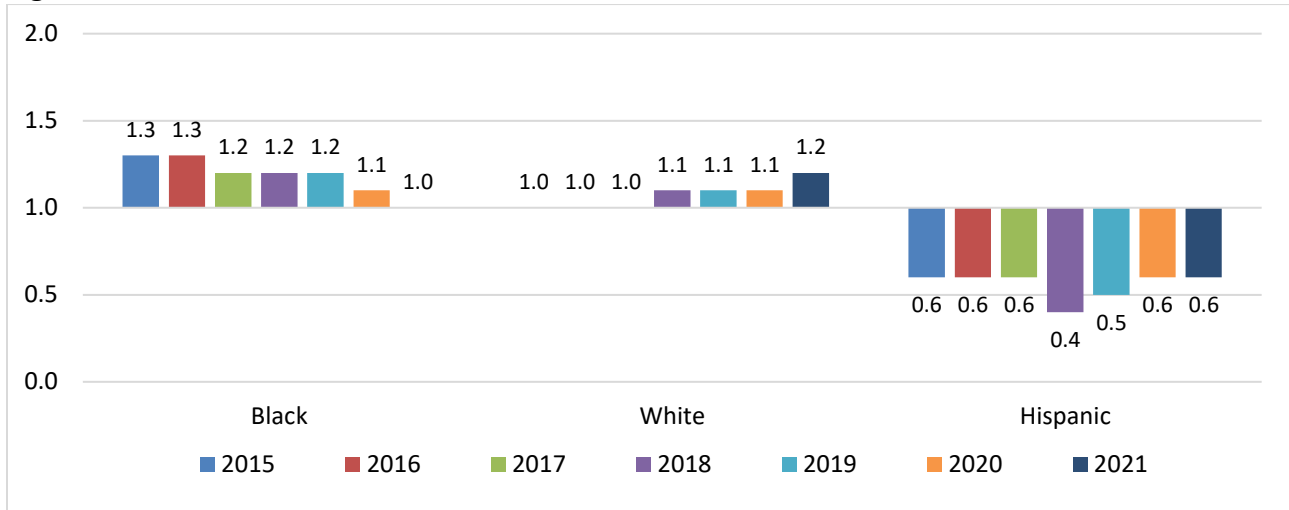
in the Northern region decreased from 4.5 in 2020 to 3.5 in 2021. White children are especially under-represented in substitute care entries in Cook (RDI = 0.4), and to a lesser degree in the Northern and Central regions (RDI = 0.8). They are proportionally represented in the Southern region (RDI = 1.0). 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 13. Absolute RDI for Substitute Care Entries—Regional (2021)



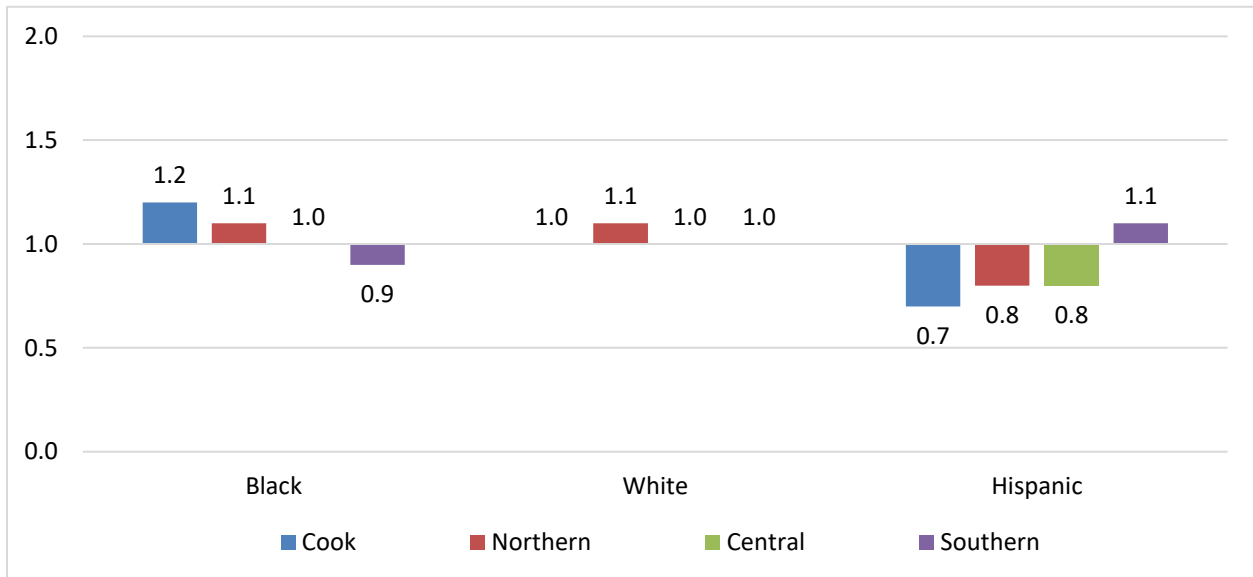
The relative RDI for substitute care entries at the state level were calculated by comparing, for each race/ethnicity group, the percentage of children entering substitute care to the percentage of children with indicated reports. These relative RDIs are shown in Figure 14 (see Appendix Table 13). Black 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 14. Relative RDI for Substitute Care Entries—State



Regional relative RDIs for 2021 substitute care entries are shown in Figure 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 Table 14).

Figure 15. Relative RDI for Substitute Care Entries—Regional (2021)



Intact Family Services

Figure 16 shows the absolute RDI for children receiving intact family services (see Appendix Table 15). 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 16. Absolute RDI for Intact Family Services—State

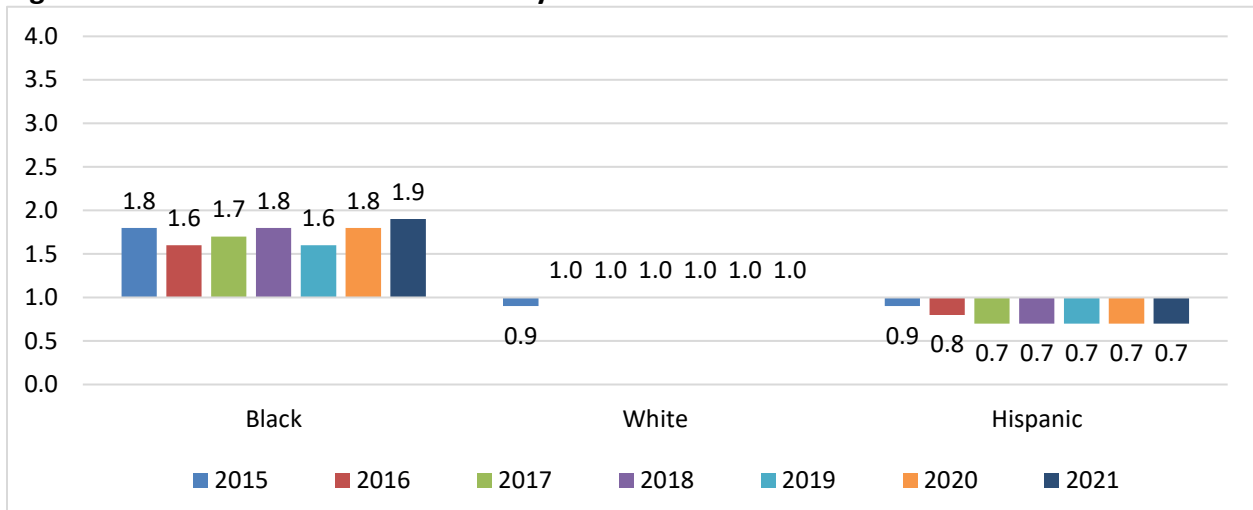


Figure 17 shows the 2021 absolute RDI for intact family services for each of the DCFS regions. The RDI for Black children, showing over-representation in all regions, is largest in the Northern region (RDI = 2.9) and smallest in the Southern region (RDI = 1.5). White children are under-represented in 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 Table 16).

Figure 17. Absolute RDI for Intact Family Services—Regional (2021)

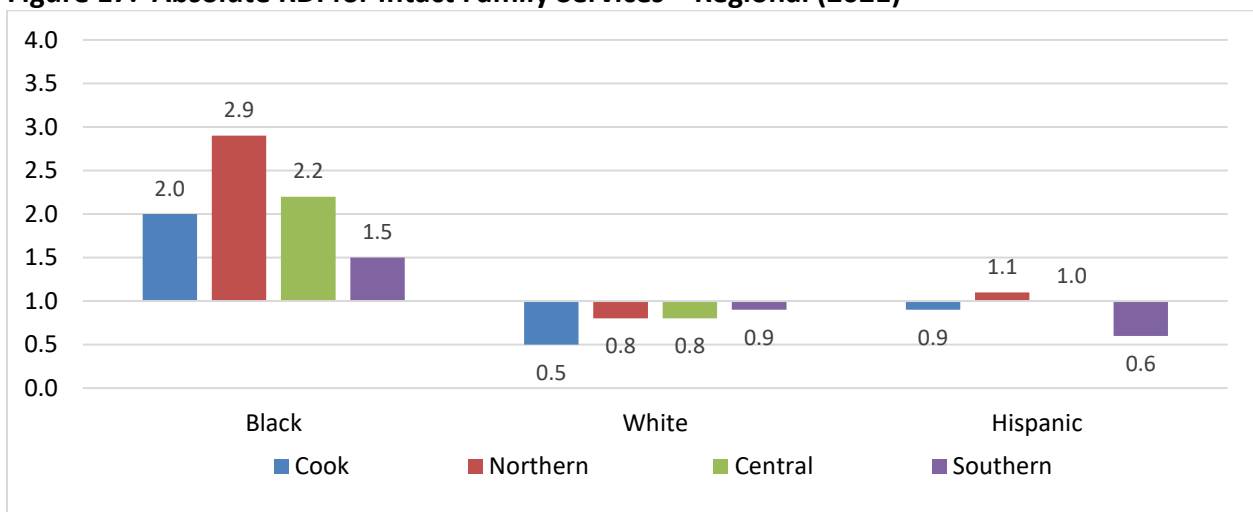
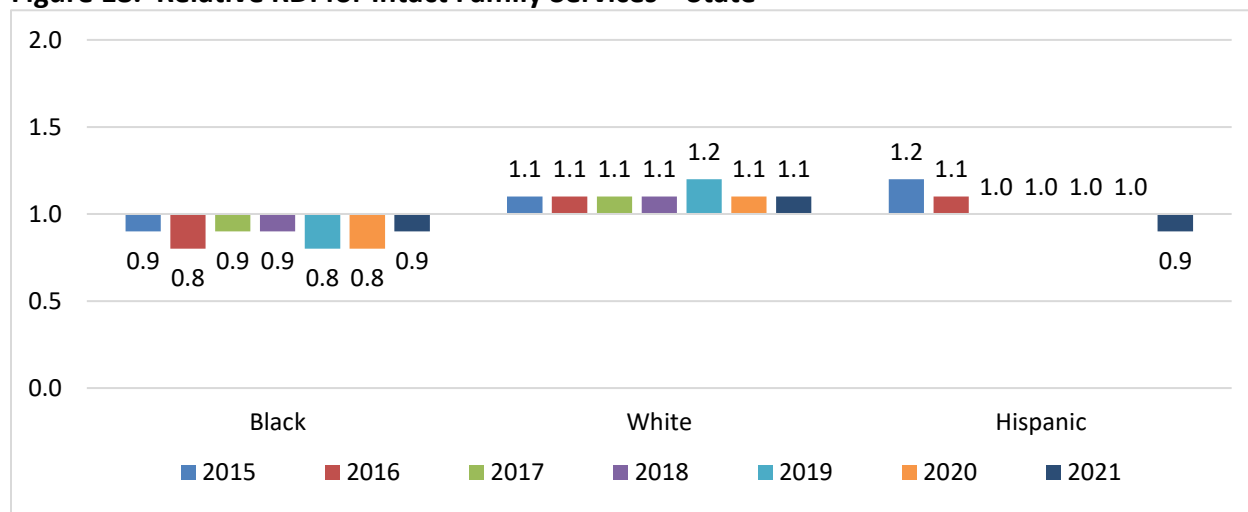


Figure 18 shows relative RDIs for receipt of intact family services at the state level, which was calculated by comparing the percentage of children receiving intact family services to the percentage of children with indicated maltreatment reports. The relative RDIs for intact family services for White 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 Table 17).

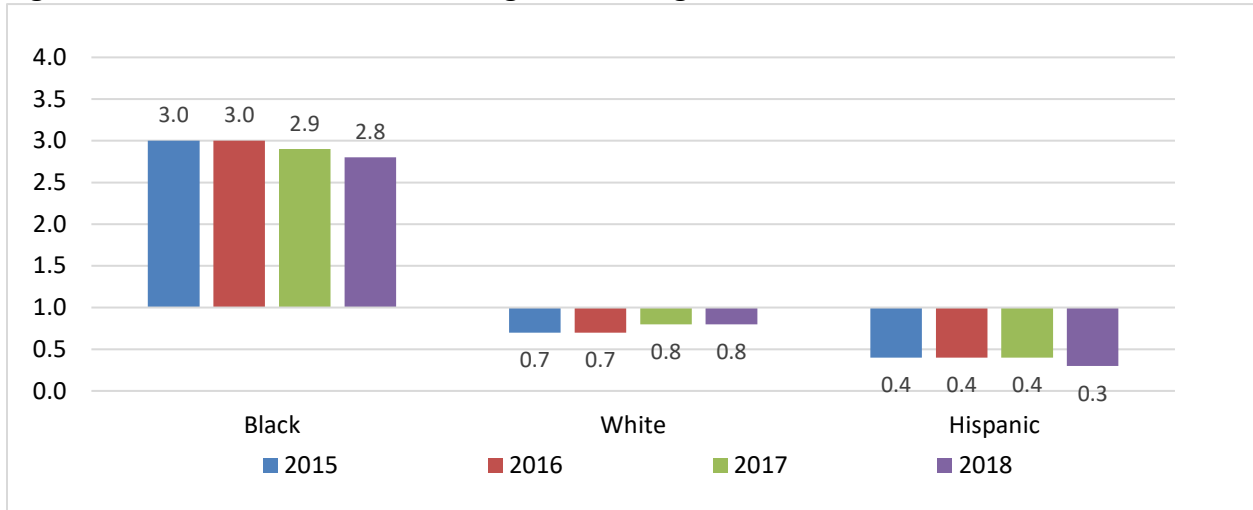
Figure 18. Relative RDI for Intact Family Services—State



Substitute Care Exits

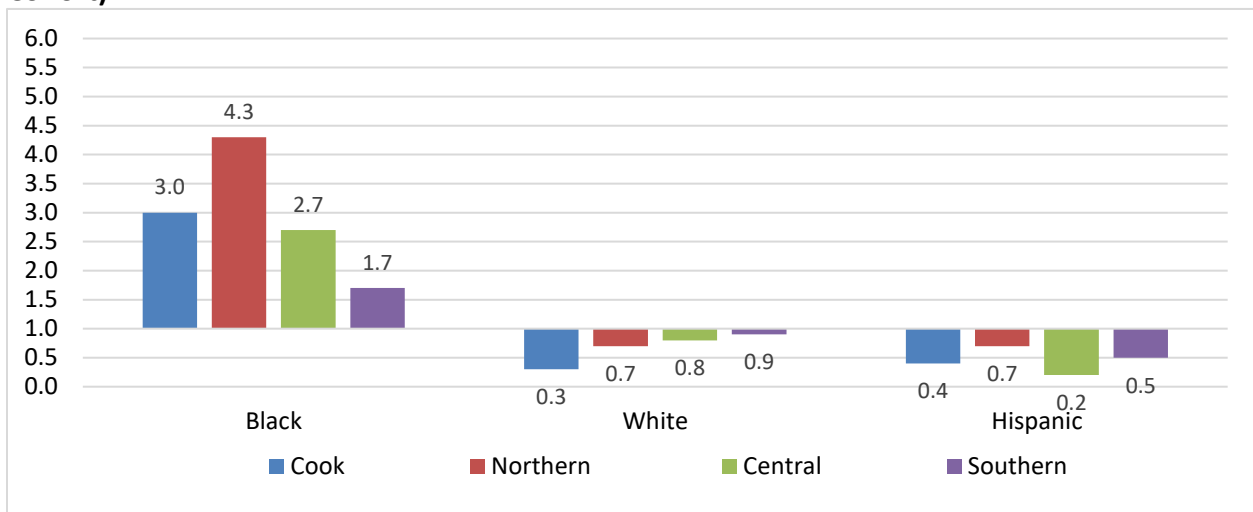
The final decision point examined is substitute care exits. When children are removed from their families and placed into substitute care, the goal is for them to safely exit substitute care as soon as possible, either through reunification with their biological caregivers, adoption, or guardianship. 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 19 and Appendix Table 19).

Figure 19. Absolute RDI for Remaining in Care Longer than 36 Months—State



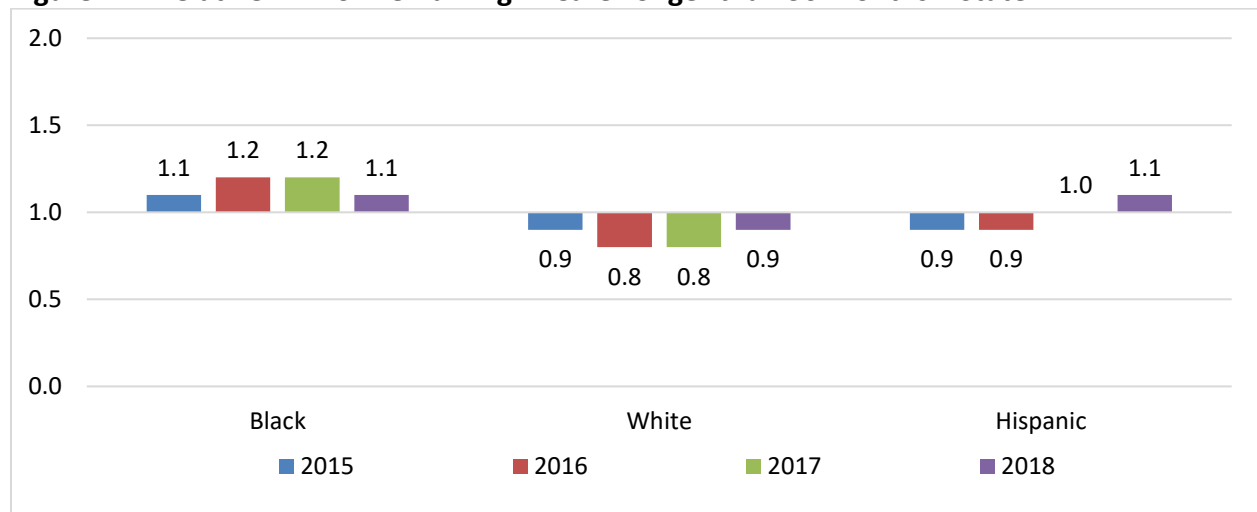
The regional patterns for the absolute RDI are shown in Figure 20 (see Appendix Table 20). Disproportionality for Black children in the Northern region is very high, over four times their proportion in the general population (RDI = 4.3). However, it did decrease from 5.3 for children who entered substitute 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 20. Absolute RDI for Remaining in Care Longer than 36 Months—Regional (2018 Entry Cohort)



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 21 and Appendix Table 21), 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 Table 22).

Figure 21. Relative RDI for Remaining In Care Longer than 36 Months—State



Discussion and Conclusions: Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality

This report 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 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.¹³ It is clear that additional reforms will be needed to eliminate the racial disproportionality that exists in the Illinois child welfare system.

¹³ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (January, 2017). *Illinois Child Welfare Transformation: 2016-2021*. Springfield, IL: Author. Retrieved from https://www2.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/newsandreports/documents/2016-2021_illinois_childwelfare_transformation_strategic_plan_final.pdf

Appendix Tables

Appendix tables provide data for the racial/ethnic disproportionality analyses included in this report. 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;¹⁴ 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 CYSIS data were extracted on December 31, 2021. Note that the numbers in this appendix are rounded to one decimal place for display purposes.

¹⁴ 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.

Table 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 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

Table 3. 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. 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

Table 5. 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 6. 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

Table 7. 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 8. 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

Table 9. 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 10. 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

Table 11. 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 12. 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

Table 13. 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 14. 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

Table 15. 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 16. 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

Table 17. 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 18. 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

Table 19. 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 20. 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

Table 21. 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 22. 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