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Racial Disproportionality in the Illinois Child Welfare System FY2021 Report

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Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality¹

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.² One of the goals in the Department's *Child Welfare Transformation Strategic Plan* is to track racial equity at critical decision points to help inform planning and decision-making.³ This report 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 2014–2020, 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 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.

² 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.

³ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (January, 2017). *Illinois Child Welfare Transformation: 2016-2021*. Springfield, IL: Author.

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 does not take into account the impact that disproportionality at earlier child welfare decision points has on later decision points.

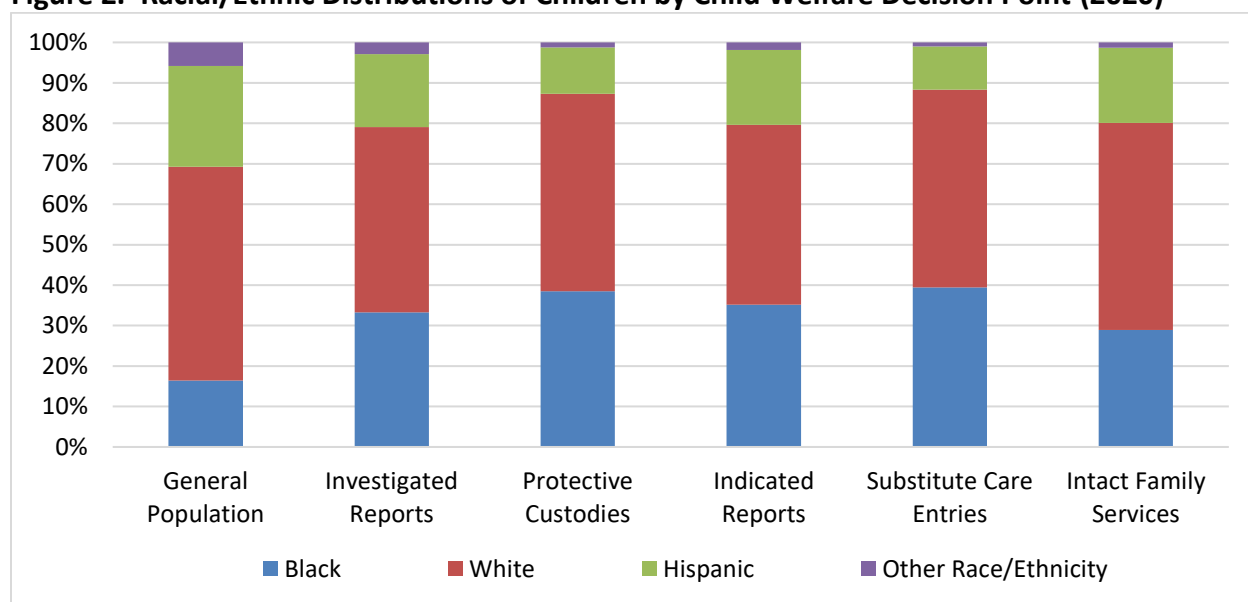
In order to isolate the impact of disproportionality at each decision point, a second measure, the "relative RDI," can be calculated; this measure divides a racial or ethnic group's representation at a child welfare decision point by that group's representation at a prior child welfare decision point. 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 the number of children who were investigated, instead of the number 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 National Center for Health Statistics.⁴ Figure 2 shows the

⁴ National Center for Health Statistics. (2020). Vintage 2019 bridged-race postcensal population estimates (April 1, 2010-July 1, 2019). Prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau. Available online from https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm as of July 9, 2020, following release by the U.S. Census Bureau of the unbridged Vintage 2019 postcensal estimates by 5-year age groups. [Retrieved 7/29/2020].

racial and ethnic distribution of children at each child welfare decision point in FY2020.⁵ The last decision point, children in care longer than 36 months, is excluded from the figure because children in the FY2020 cohort have not been in care for at least 36 months. Throughout the report, the RDI 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 Point (2020)



Interpreting Racial and Ethnic 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 half as represented 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). 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

⁵ The 2019 National Center for Health Statistics postcensal estimates were used for the “General Population” in Figure 4.2 and the calculations of RDIs in FY2019 and FY2020.

RDI that is greater than 1.1 to show over-representation. 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 and values below the baseline indicate under-representation. In both instances, the lengths of the bars in the figure correspond to the amount of disproportionality.

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. Absolute RDI is unlikely to change across the child welfare decision points because shifting from over- or under-representation at one decision point to another requires the same group be conversely under- or over-represented at a latter decision point.

Relative RDI adjusts for representation at past decision points. For example, when we examine the representation of a group of children in protective custodies, we compare that with the representation of that group among all children being investigated, rather than their representation in the general population. We ask, "What is the representation of children taken into protective custodies compared to the representation of children being investigated?"

Disproportionate representation in the relative RDI has already controlled for any previous over- or under-representation; therefore, even relatively small RDIs (below 0.9 or above 1.1) are of significant concern and are noted throughout the report.

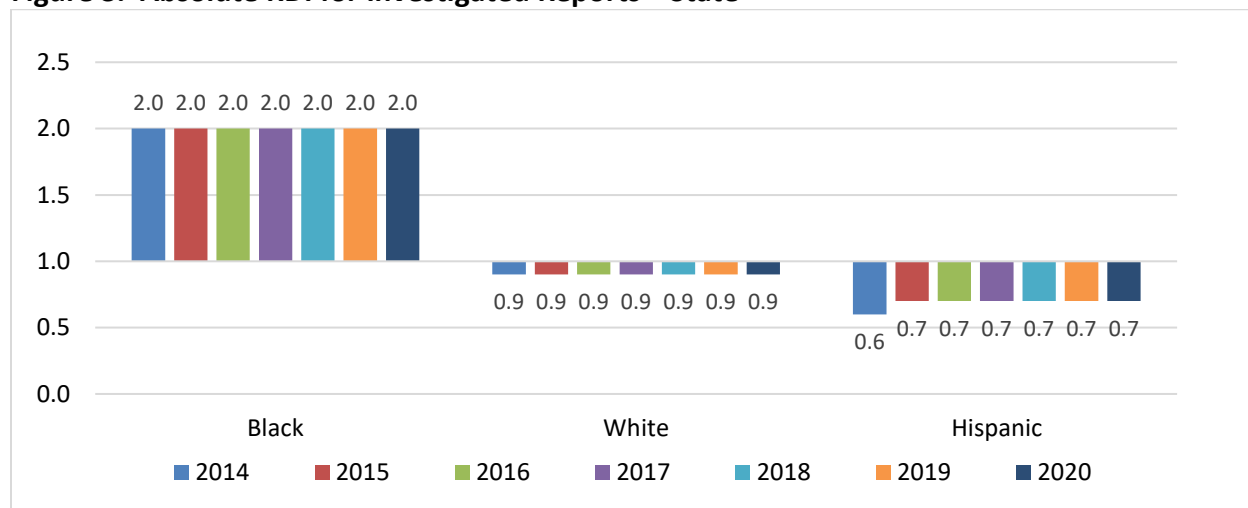
It is important to note that the child welfare system in Illinois, as in all states, is a reactionary system: Child maltreatment is investigated only when a report is received. This means the starting decision point in these analyses (investigations) reflects patterns of disproportionate reporting. For example, if Hispanic children are reported at disproportionately lower rates than Hispanic children in the general population, it will also be the case that Hispanic children are investigated at disproportionately lower rates. This rate of investigation does not mean we can conclude Hispanic children are safer, however. We lack information about the "true" rate of maltreatment, and this limits the conclusions we can draw about what absolute and relative RDI can tell us about child safety and bias in the child welfare system.

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 in the state 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 =

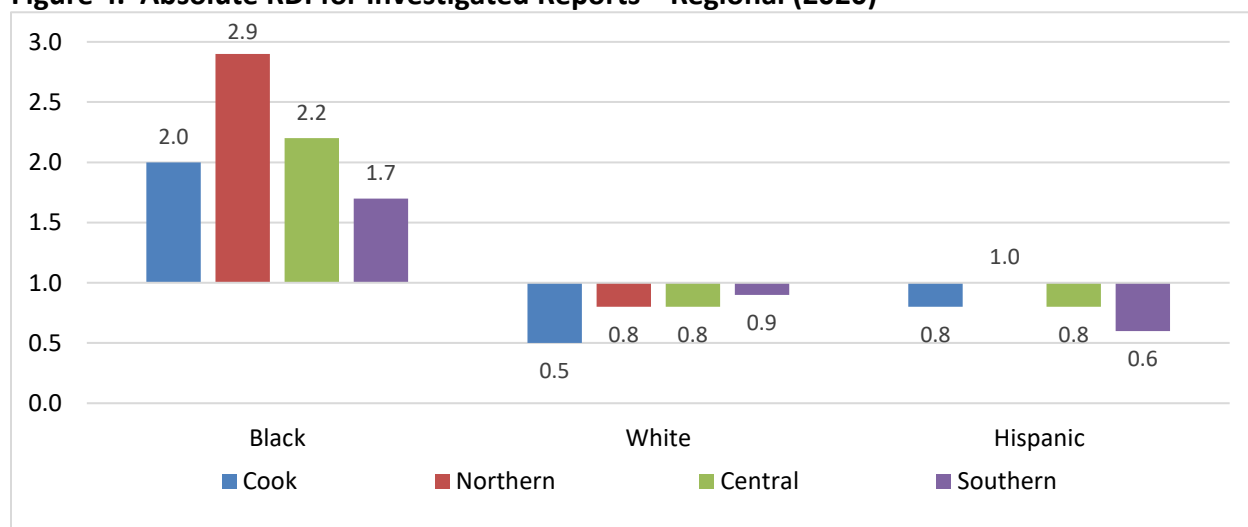
2.0), and Hispanic children are under-represented (RDIs = 0.6-0.7; see Appendix Table 1). There is little change in any of the three groups over the past seven years.

Figure 3. Absolute RDI for Investigated Reports—State



When the absolute RDIs for investigated reports in 2020 are examined by region (see Figure 4), several values stand out. Black children in the Northern region have an RDI of 2.9, 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 Cook (RDI = 0.8), Central (RDI = 0.8), and Southern (RDI = 0.6) regions, but are proportionally represented in the Northern region (RDI = 1.0). These regional patterns have been consistent over time (see Appendix Table 2).

Figure 4. Absolute RDI for Investigated Reports—Regional (2020)



Asian American and Pacific Islander Children

BOX 1

From 2014 through 2020, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI, defined as non-Hispanic Asian alone and non-Hispanic Other Pacific Islander alone) children comprised 5% of the Illinois child population. AAPI children were under-represented in the state's protective service system during 2014 – 2020, making up 1-2% of the state's annual investigations, with a modal RDI of 0.3 (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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ⁷
# in general population ⁸	143,242	144,650	145,218	146,422	146,211	146,140	146,140
% of general population	4.8%	4.9%	5.0%	5.1%	5.1%	5.2%	5.2%
# of investigations	1,002	1,125	1,323	1,271	1,502	1,642	1,522
% of investigations	1.1%	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%	2.0%	1.4%
RDI	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3

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.

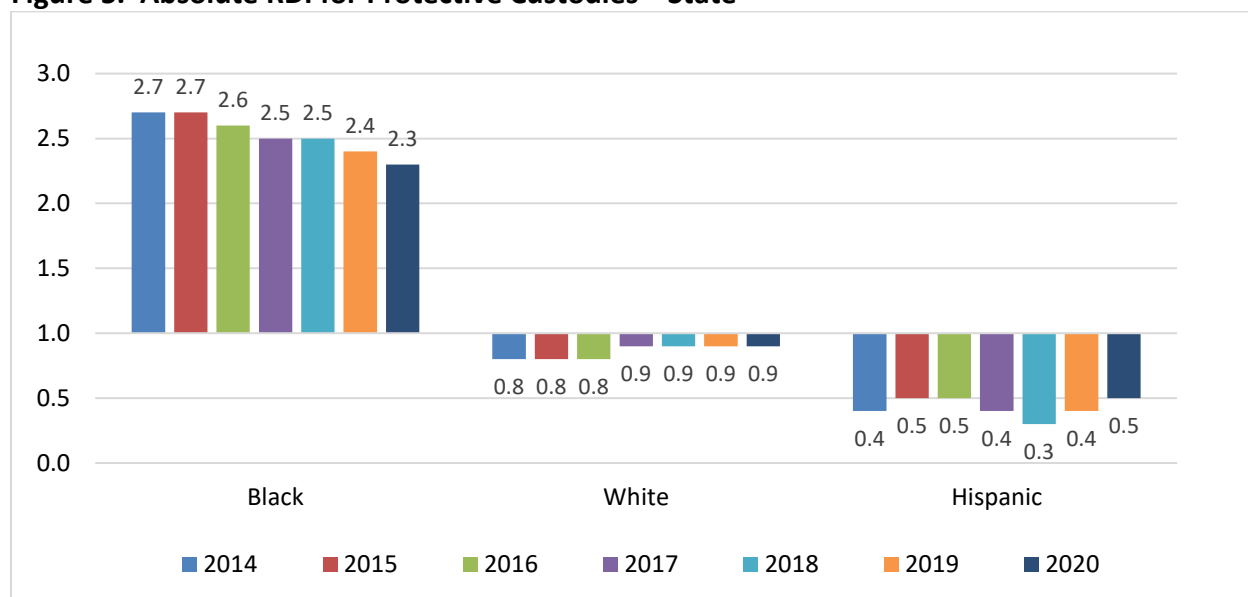
⁷ The 2019 estimate is used for the number of AAPI children in the general population and RDI calculations for both 2019 and 2020.

⁸ The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2021). KIDS COUNT Data Center. Available online from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org>. [Retrieved 6/1/2021].

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 four years, 2017-2020 (RDI = 0.9). Black children are over-represented at rates 2.3 to 2.7 times their proportion in the Illinois child population, and Hispanic children are under-represented (RDIs range from 0.3 to 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 (4.1), followed by Cook (2.6), Central (2.5), and Southern (1.4) in 2020. There are also regional differences in the RDIs for protective custodies for White children; they are particularly under-represented in the Cook region (RDI = 0.3), under-represented in the Northern (RDI = 0.7) and Central (RDI = 0.8) regions, and proportionally represented in the Southern region (RDI = 1.0). Hispanic children are under-represented in the Cook, Northern, and Central regions over the past seven years. The RDIs for Hispanic children in the Central and Southern regions, both characterized by a small number of Hispanic children, show substantial

⁹ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (October, 2015). *Procedures 300 Section 120 Taking Children into Protective Custody*. Springfield: Author. Retrieved from https://www.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/notices/Documents/procedures_300.pdf

variability for this decision point over the past seven years (see Appendix Table 4 for seven year data).

Figure 6. Absolute RDI for Protective Custodies—Regional (2020)

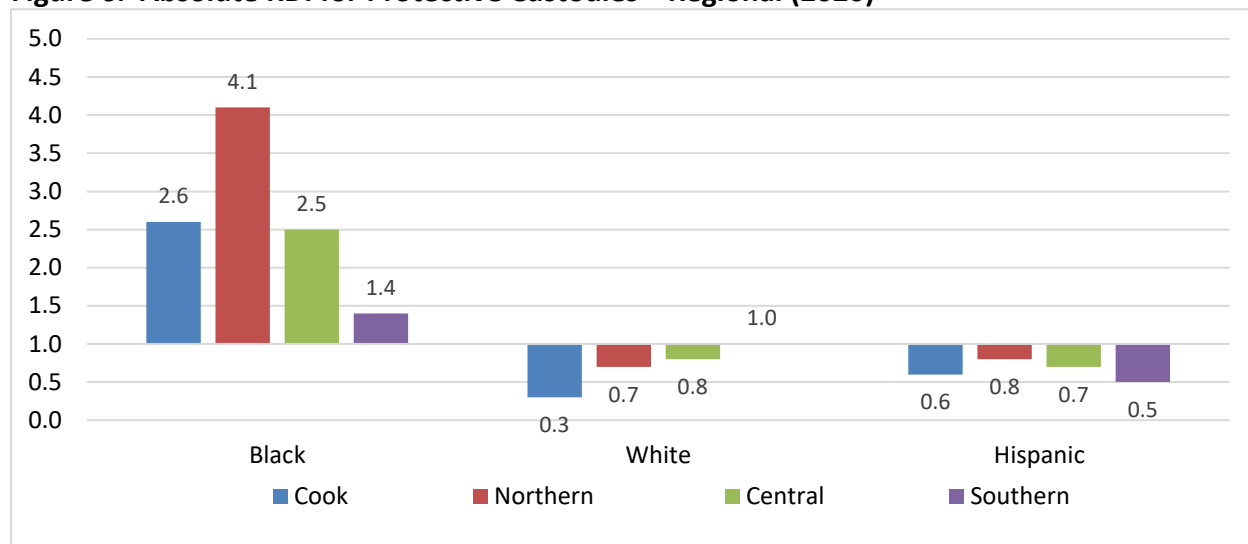
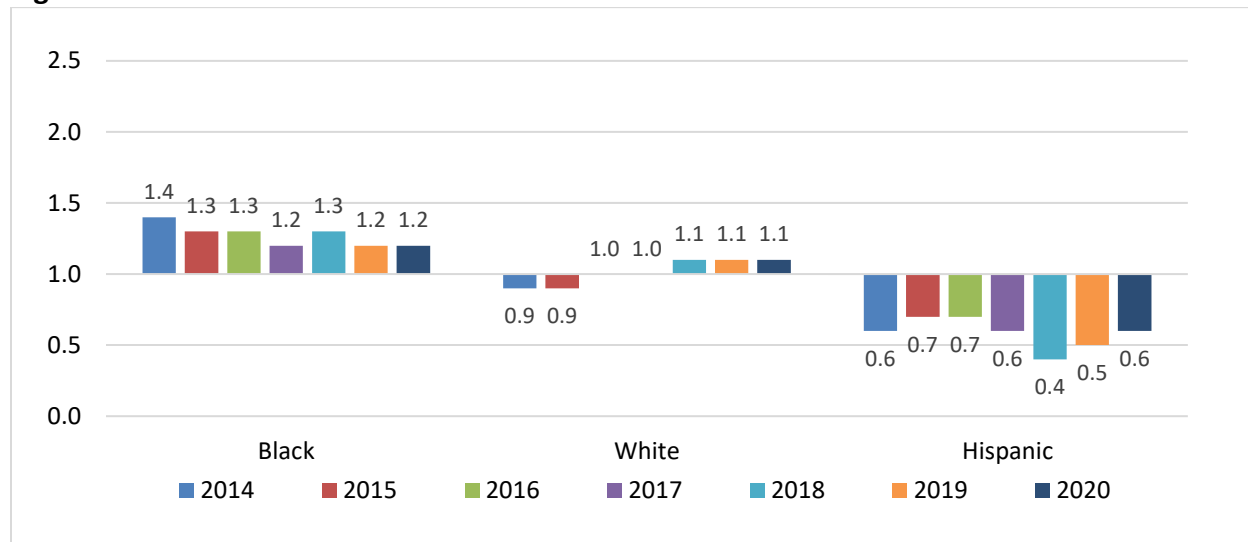


Figure 7 shows the relative RDIs at this decision point for the three racial/ethnic groups over the past seven years. This is the first decision point at which relative RDIs can be calculated. The relative RDI shows, for each race/ethnicity group, the percentage of children taken into protective custody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

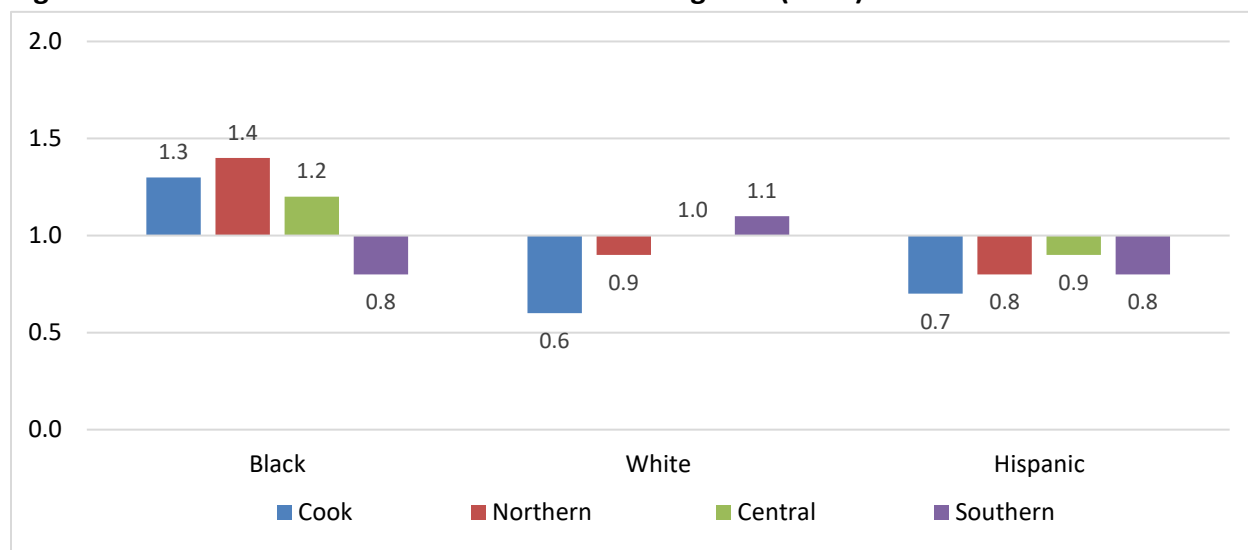
Examination of the relative RDI for protective custodies for the three groups at the state level (Figure 7) shows that Black children are more likely to be taken into protective custody compared to the rate at which they are investigated (relative RDIs between 1.2 and 1.4), while Hispanic children are less likely to be taken into protective custody 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 protective custodies are shown in Figure 8 (see Appendix Table 6). In the Cook (RDI = 1.3), Northern (RDI = 1.4), and Central (RDI = 1.2) regions, relative RDIs indicate over-representation for Black children, while the relative RDI in the Southern region (RDI = 0.8) indicates under-representation at this decision point in 2020. White children in the Cook region are under-represented at this decision point, with relative RDI of 0.6. White children in the other three regions are proportionally represented. Hispanic children in Cook (RDI = 0.7), Northern (RDI = 0.8) and Southern (RDI = 0.8) regions are under-represented in 2020, while Hispanic children in the Central region are proportionally represented (RDI = 0.9). Due to small numbers of Hispanic children at these decision points in the Central and Southern regions, the relative RDIs for protective custodies for Hispanic children in these regions fluctuated a great deal over the last seven years.

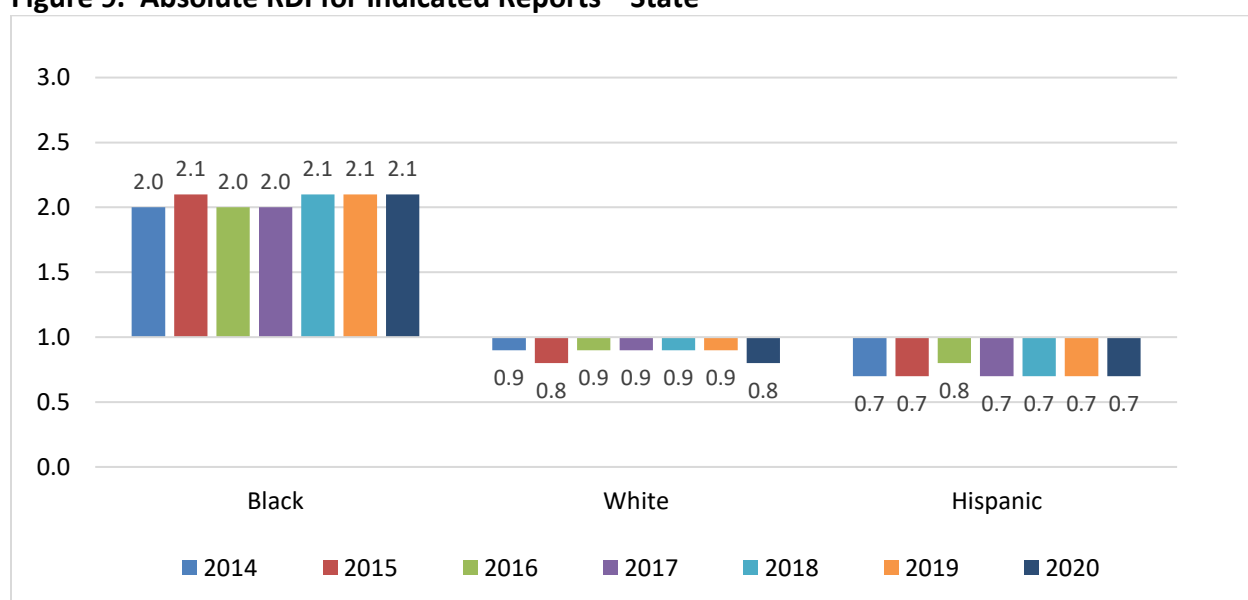
Figure 8. Relative RDI for Protective Custodies—Regional (2020)



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, with RDIs ranging from 2.0 to 2.1. Hispanic children are consistently under-represented, with RDIs ranging from 0.7 to 0.8. White children are most often proportionately represented (RDI = 0.9) between 2014 and 2020 (see Appendix Table 7).

Figure 9. Absolute RDI for Indicated Reports—State



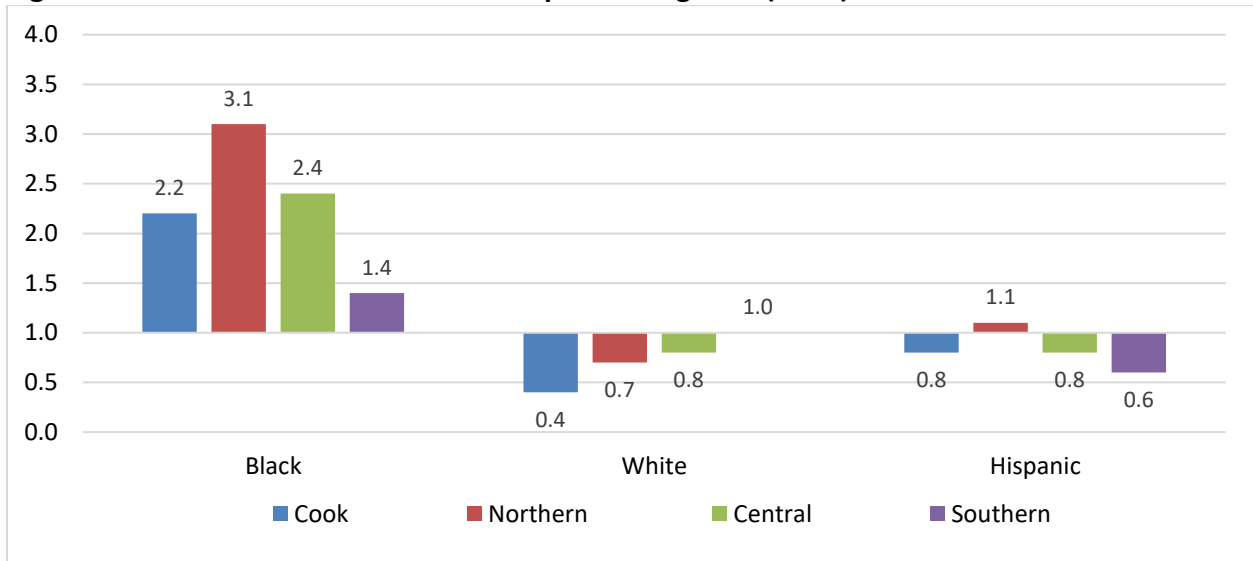
At the regional level (see Figure 10 and Appendix Table 8), the Northern region has the highest over-representation of Black children in indicated reports (RDI = 3.1) in 2020, followed by the Central (RDI = 2.4), Cook (RDI = 2.2), and Southern regions (RDI = 1.4). White children are particularly under-represented at this decision point in the Cook region (RDI = 0.4) in 2020. Hispanic children are under-represented at this decision point in 2020 in the Southern (RDI=0.6), Cook (RDI = 0.8), and Central (RDI = 0.8) regions, but are proportionately represented in the Northern region (RDI = 1.1).

¹⁰ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (October, 2015). *Procedures 300 Section 50 Investigative Process*. Springfield: Author. Retrieved from https://www.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/notices/Documents/procedures_300.pdf

¹¹ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (August, 2002). *Procedures 431 Section 140 Maintenance of Department Records*. Springfield: Author. Retrieved from https://www.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/notices/Documents/procedures_431.pdf

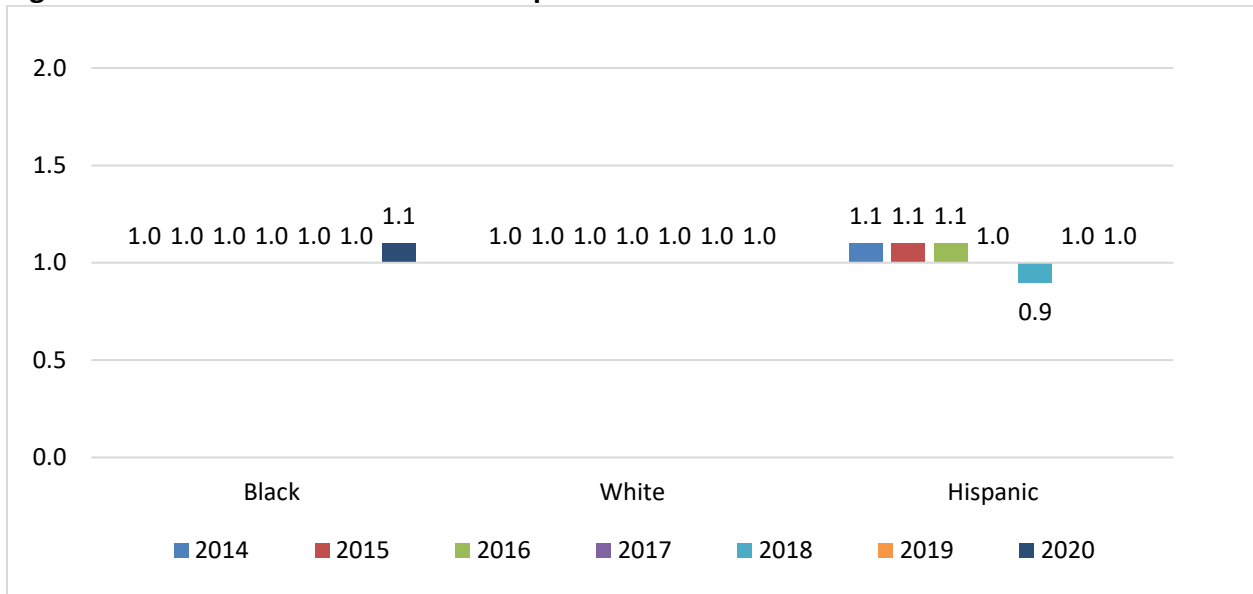
¹¹ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (August, 2002). *Procedures 431 Section 140 Maintenance of Department Records*. Springfield: Author. Retrieved from https://www.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/notices/Documents/procedures_431.pdf

Figure 10. Absolute RDI for Indicated Reports—Regional (2020)



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



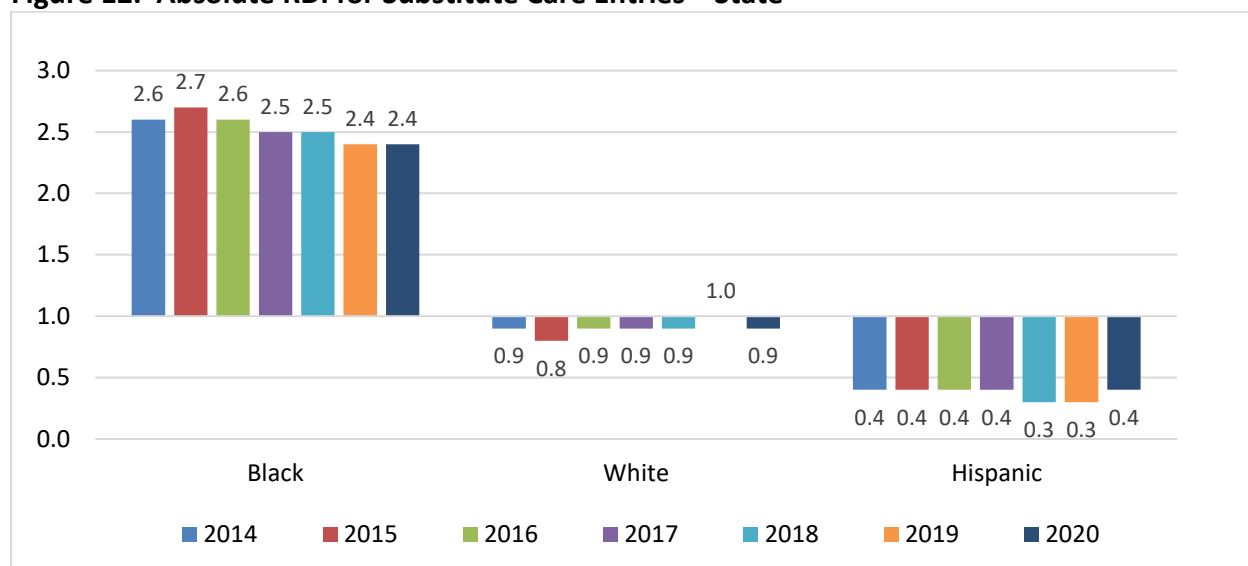
Post-Investigation Services

The next decisions involve whether or not 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 about 2.5 times that of their percentage within the Illinois child population, White children are proportionately represented, and Hispanic children are under-represented compared to their percentage in the Illinois child population (RDI = 0.4 or 0.3).

Figure 12. Absolute RDI for Substitute Care Entries—State

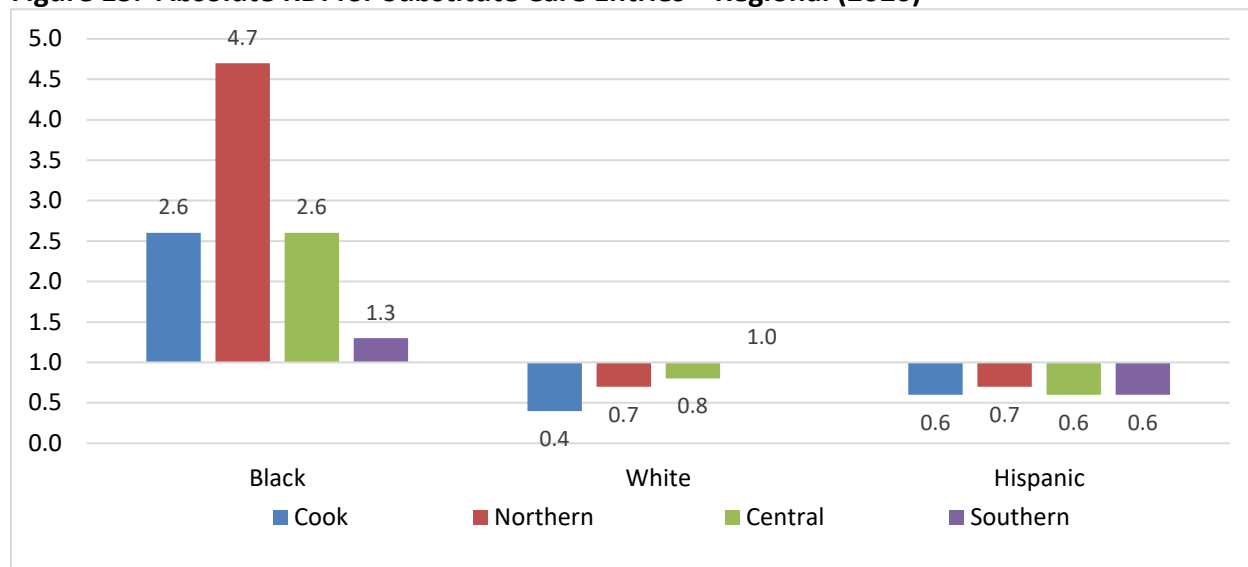


When the absolute RDIs for substitute care entries are examined by region, there are striking differences for Black children (see Figure 13 and Appendix Table 12). In 2020, the Northern region has the highest RDI (4.7), followed by Cook and Central (RDI = 2.6), and Southern (RDI = 1.3). White children are especially under-represented in substitute care entries in Cook (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

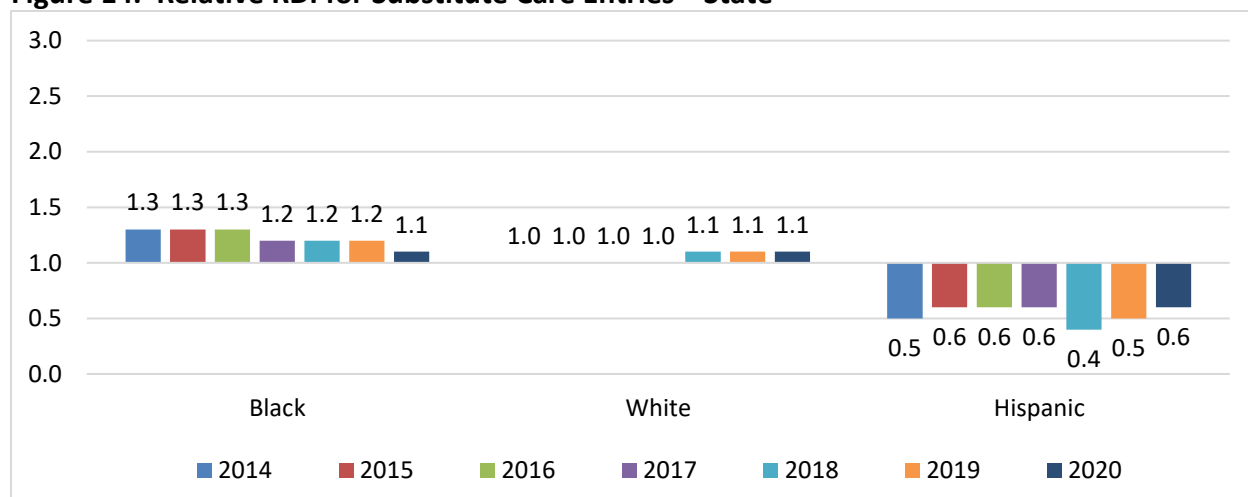
0.4), and to a lesser degree in the Northern (RDI = 0.7) and Central regions (RDI = 0.8). Hispanic children are under-represented in all regions during 2020 (RDIs = 0.6-0.7).

Figure 13. Absolute RDI for Substitute Care Entries—Regional (2020)



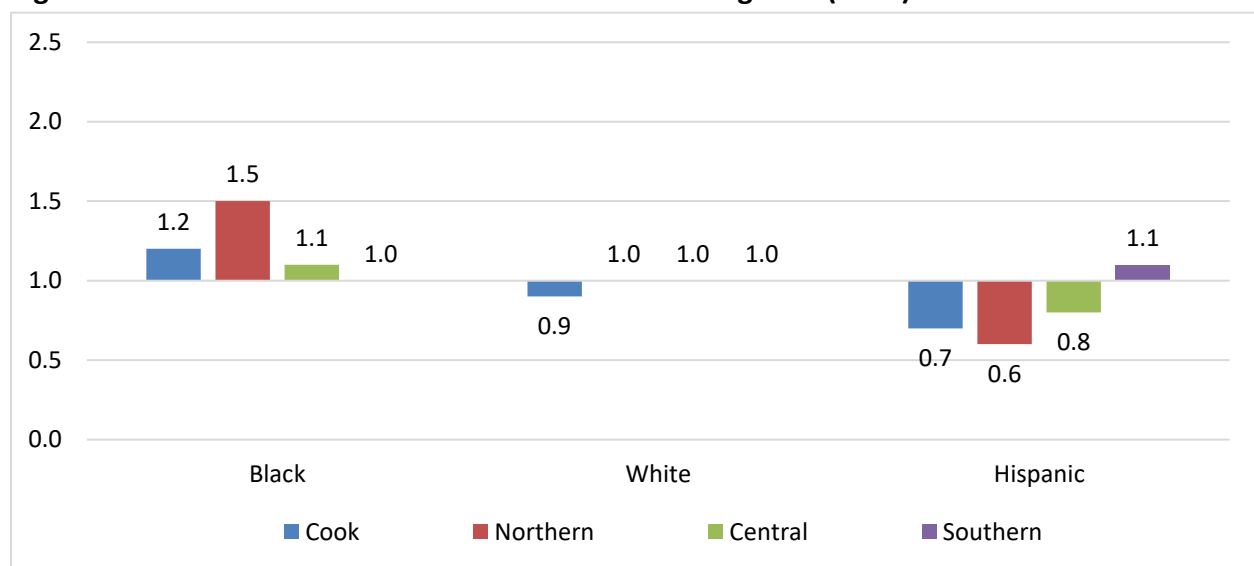
The relative RDIs for substitute care entries at the state level were calculated by comparing, for each race/ethnicity group, the percentage of children entering substitute care to the percentage of children with indicated reports (see Figure 14 and Appendix Table 13). Black children have relative RDIs of 1.2-1.3 in 2014-2019, meaning that their removal rate is higher than their indication rate. White children enter substitute care at rates proportional to their representation among indicated reports (RDIs between 1.0 and 1.1). The relative RDIs for Hispanic children have been 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 2020 substitute care entries are shown in Figure 15. Black children are over-represented among substitute care entries in the Cook (RDI = 1.2) and Northern (RDI = 1.5) regions and are proportionally represented in the Central region (RDI = 1.1) and Southern (RDI = 1.0) regions. In 2020, White children entered substitute care at rates proportional to their representation among indicated reports in all regions (RDIs = 0.9-1.0). In 2020, Hispanic children are under-represented in all regions (RDIs = 0.6-0.8) 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 = 0.5-1.4), 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 (2020)



Intact Family Services

Figure 16 shows the absolute RDI for children receiving intact family services (see Appendix Table 15). Black children are over-represented (RDIs = 1.6-1.9), White children are proportionately represented (RDIs = 0.9-1.0), and Hispanic children are under-represented (RDIs = 0.7-0.8).

Figure 16. Absolute RDI for Intact Family Services—State

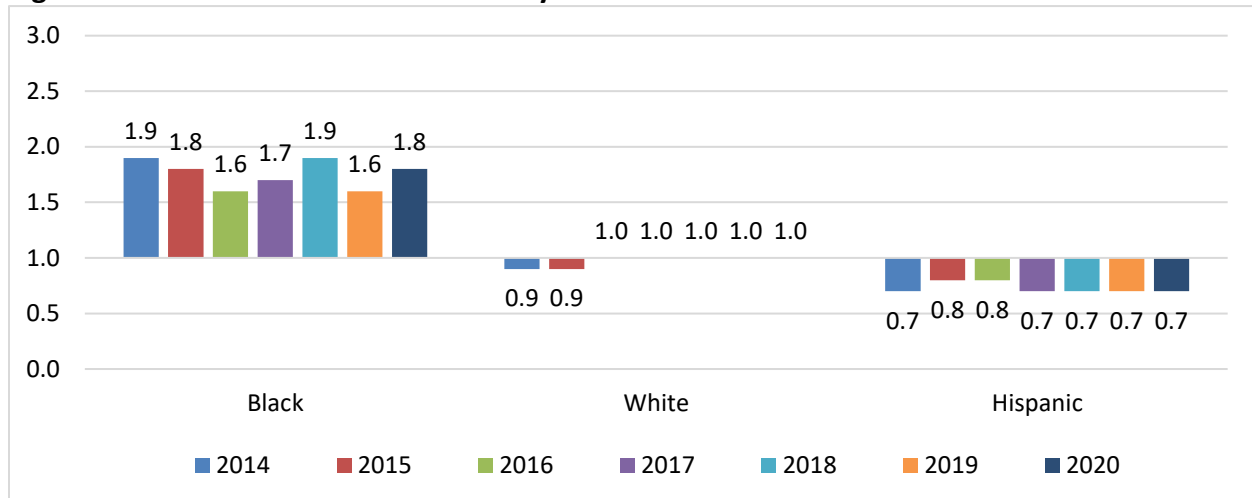


Figure 17 shows the 2020 absolute RDI for intact family services for each of the DCFS regions. The RDI for Black children, showing over-representation in all regions, is largest in the Northern region (RDI = 3.0) and smallest in the Southern region (RDI = 1.4). White children are under-represented in the Cook (RDI = 0.5) and Northern and Central regions (RDI = 0.8). Hispanic children are proportionally represented in the Cook, Northern, and Central regions, and are under-represented in the Southern region (RDI = 0.6; see Appendix Table 16 for seven year data).

Figure 17. Absolute RDI for Intact Family Services—Regional (2020)

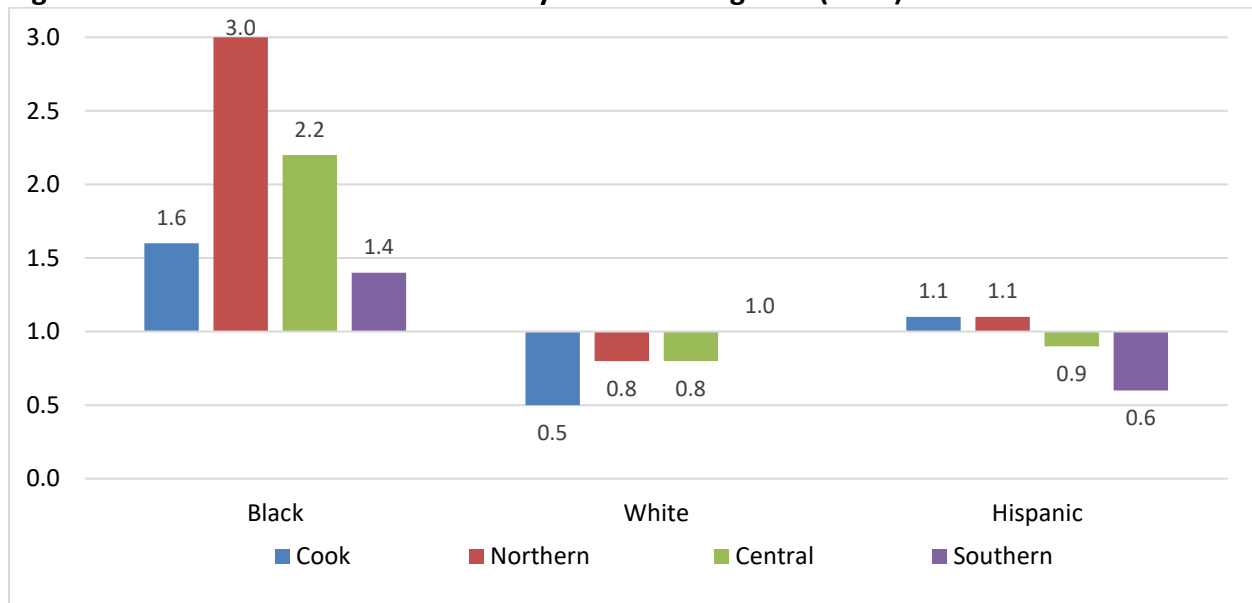


Figure 18 shows relative RDI for receipt of intact family services at the state level, which was calculated by comparing, for each race/ethnicity group, the percentage of children receiving intact family services to the percentage of children with indicated maltreatment reports. The relative RDIs for intact family services for White and Hispanic children vary between 1.0 and 1.2 over the past seven years. This means that children in these racial and ethnic groups were provided with intact family services at rates equal to or higher than the rates at which they were indicated for maltreatment. However, Black children were mostly under-represented among those receiving intact family services relative to those with indicated maltreatment reports (see Appendix Table 17).

Figure 18. Relative RDI for Intact Family Services—State

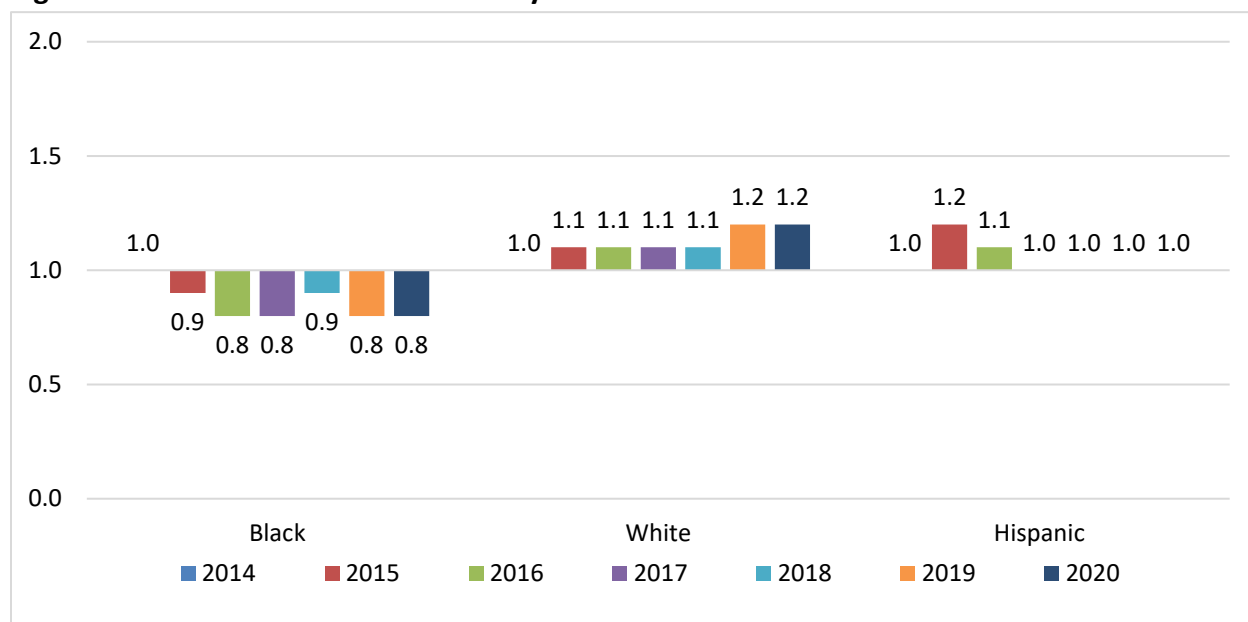
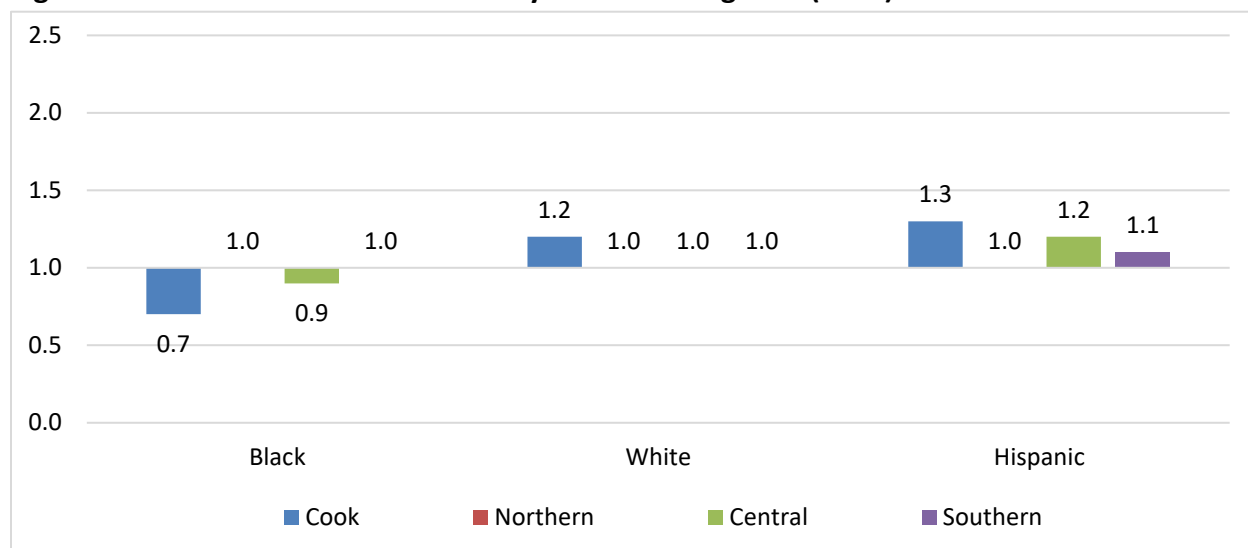


Figure 19 shows regional variation in the 2020 relative RDI for intact family services. During 2020, Cook was the only region in which the relative RDI for Black children for intact family services shows Black children under-represented among children who receive intact family services compared to their representation among children with indicated maltreatment reports (RDI = 0.7). In all other regions in 2020, Black children were proportionally represented for intact family services relative to their representation among indicated reports (RDIs = 0.9-1.0). However, in five of the previous six years, Black children were under-represented in intact family services in this way in the Southern region, as well (see Appendix Table 18). In 2020, White children in the Cook region are over-represented for intact family services relative to their representation among children with indicated reports (RDI = 1.2); this ratio is proportional in the other regions (RDI = 1.0). In 2020, Hispanic children are over-represented for intact family services relative to their representation among children with indicated reports in the Cook (RDI = 1.3) and Central (RDI = 1.2) regions. Over the previous six years, the RDIs for Hispanic children

show much year-to-year variability in both the Central and Southern regions (see Appendix Table 18).

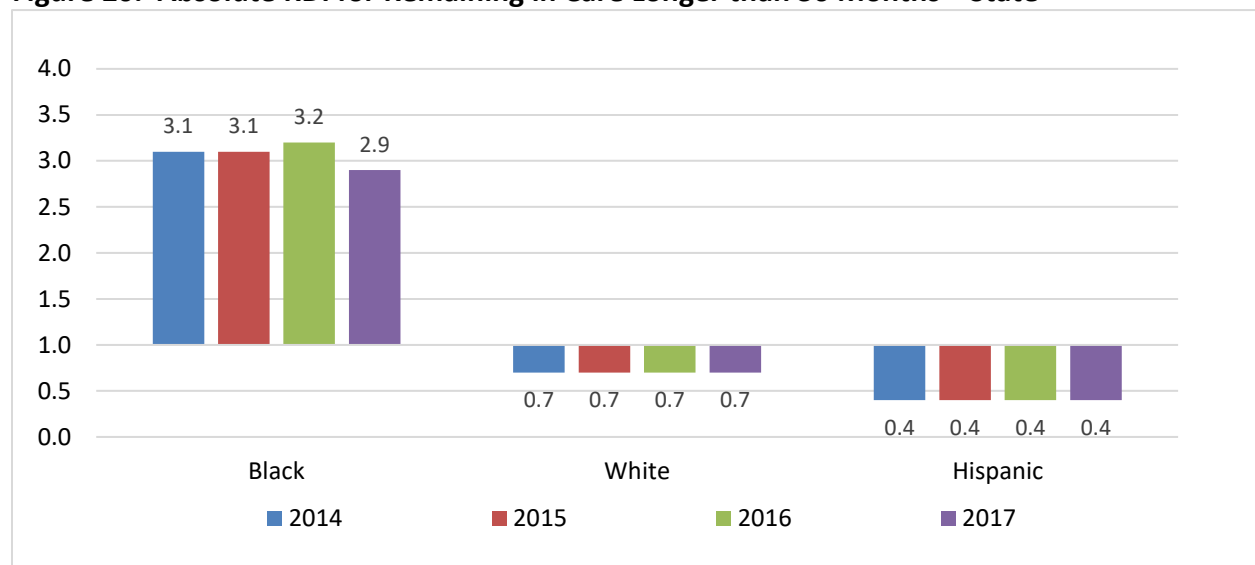
Figure 19. Relative RDI for Intact Family Services—Regional (2020)



Substitute Care Exits

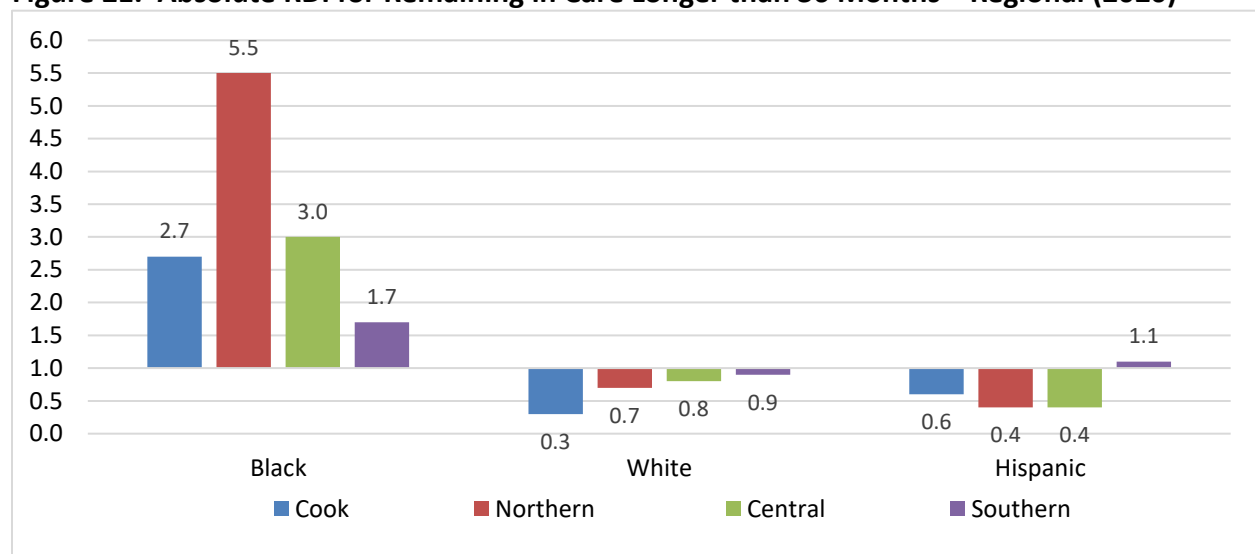
The final decision point examined is substitute care exits. When children are removed from their families and placed into substitute care, the goal is for them to safely exit substitute care as soon as possible, either through reunification with their biological caregivers, adoption, or guardianship. 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) and Hispanic (RDIs = 0.4) children are under-represented (see Figure 20 and Appendix Table 19).

Figure 20. Absolute RDI for Remaining in Care Longer than 36 Months—State



The regional patterns for the absolute RDI are shown in Figure 21 (see Appendix Table 20). Disproportionality for Black children in the Northern region is very high, five and a half times their proportion in the general population (RDI = 5.5). Black children are also over-represented among children remaining in substitute care for more than 36 months in the Central (RDI = 3.0), Cook (RDI = 2.7), and Southern (RDI = 1.7) regions. White children are under-represented in the Cook (RDI = 0.3), Northern (RDI = 0.7), and Central (RDI = 0.8) regions. Hispanic children are under-represented in the Cook, Northern, and Central regions (RDI = 0.4-0.6).

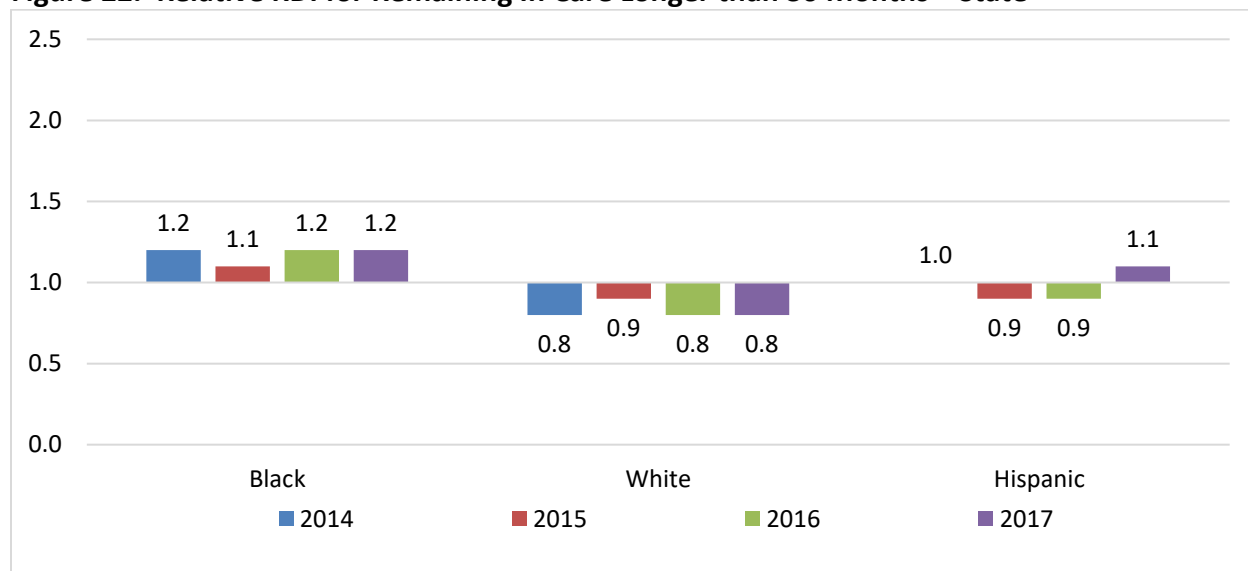
Figure 21. Absolute RDI for Remaining in Care Longer than 36 Months—Regional (2020)



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 (see Figure 22 and Appendix Table 21), Black children are over-represented among the children who stayed in care for longer than 36 months (RDI = 1.2 for children who entered care in 2017), White children are under-represented (RDI = 0.8 for children who entered care in 2017), and Hispanic children are proportionally represented (RDI = 1.1). Examination of the regional relative RDIs for this cohort show mostly proportional representation across regions for all racial and ethnic groups, with the exception of Hispanic children in the Central and Southern regions, where there is substantial fluctuation in rates corresponding to small numbers of Hispanic children in substitute care (see Appendix Table 22).

Figure 22. 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 their 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 percentages 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. The over-representation among Black children in the child welfare system is particularly high for children who remain in substitute care more than 3 years; the percentage of Black children who remain in care longer than 3 years is almost 3 times their percentage in the Illinois child population. Regional analysis indicates that the highest rates of disproportionality for Black children occur in the Northern region; RDIs 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, relevant decision point. When relative RDIs were examined for the state, analyses indicated that disproportionality was exacerbated among Black and Hispanic children at the protective custody and substitute care entry decision points: Black children became more over-represented and Hispanic children more under-represented. Disproportionality also increased for Black children at the substitute care exit decision; the percentage of Black children that remained in care longer than 3 years was even larger than the percentage of Black children that entered care.

In contrast to the consistent pattern of over-representation of Black children in the Illinois child welfare system, the relative RDI analysis shows that Black children are under-represented among children who receive intact family services compared to their representation among children with indicated reports. In other words, the proportion of Black children who receive intact family services is smaller than the proportion of Black children with indicated reports. In contrast, White and Hispanic children are either slightly over-represented or are proportionately represented among children receiving intact family services when compared to their representations among children with indicated reports. The fact that Black children are over-represented among substitute care entries but under-represented among intact family service case openings suggests that DCFS staff decision-making at investigation conclusion and case opening deserves additional scrutiny.

Both over-representation and under-representation could result from unfair treatments or uneven resource allocations against a specific racial or ethnic group. One of the goals in the DCFS strategic plan is to eliminate racial/ethnic disparity through implementing the Family Focused, Trauma Informed, and Strengths Based (FTS) Illinois Core Practice Model in communities.¹³ Careful tracking of RDIs over time can inform any improvement in the Department's efforts in this important area.

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. The data used in this appendix come from three sources: 1) Illinois child population data were obtained from the National Center for Health Statistics; 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, 2020. Note that the numbers in the tables are rounded to one decimal place for display purposes.

Table 1. Absolute RDI for Investigated Reports

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Black							
Children in investigated reports	33.9%	34.3%	33.2%	33.3%	33.1%	33.2%	33.3%
Total child population	16.8%	16.8%	16.6%	16.5%	16.5%	16.4%	16.4%
Absolute RDI	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
White							
Children in investigated reports	48.0%	46.3%	46.9%	46.8%	46.4%	45.4%	45.8%
Total child population	53.6%	53.4%	53.2%	53.1%	53.0%	52.8%	52.8%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Hispanic							
Children in investigated reports	15.1%	16.7%	17.4%	17.4%	17.9%	18.5%	18.0%
Total child population	24.2%	24.3%	24.5%	24.7%	24.8%	24.9%	24.9%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7

Table 2. Absolute RDI for Investigated Reports by Region

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cook							
Black							
Children in investigated reports	52.1%	52.2%	50.5%	50.8%	49.6%	49.2%	50.4%
Total child population	26.3%	26.0%	25.7%	25.3%	25.0%	24.9%	24.9%
Absolute RDI	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
White							
Children in investigated reports	18.3%	15.9%	16.9%	16.5%	16.1%	15.7%	16.1%
Total child population	32.0%	32.1%	32.2%	32.4%	32.5%	32.7%	32.7%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Hispanic							
Children in investigated reports	25.5%	28.3%	29.2%	29.4%	30.8%	30.9%	29.3%
Total child population	35.2%	35.3%	35.5%	35.5%	35.5%	35.4%	35.4%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8
Northern							
Black							
Children in investigated reports	26.8%	26.7%	25.9%	25.9%	26.6%	26.5%	26.0%
Total child population	8.8%	8.8%	8.8%	8.9%	8.9%	9.0%	9.0%
Absolute RDI	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.9
White							
Children in investigated reports	49.0%	47.2%	46.9%	46.4%	45.2%	44.5%	44.7%
Total child population	59.8%	59.3%	58.8%	58.3%	57.8%	57.3%	57.3%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Hispanic							
Children in investigated reports	20.8%	23.0%	24.4%	24.8%	24.8%	25.8%	26.0%
Total child population	25.0%	25.3%	25.7%	26.0%	26.3%	26.6%	26.6%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
Central							
Black							
Children in investigated reports	25.2%	26.2%	26.2%	26.5%	26.1%	26.5%	27.0%
Total child population	11.9%	12.1%	12.3%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%
Absolute RDI	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2
White							
Children in investigated reports	68.8%	67.6%	67.1%	66.6%	67.0%	66.1%	65.1%
Total child population	78.3%	77.9%	77.5%	77.3%	77.0%	76.9%	76.9%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Hispanic							
Children in investigated reports	4.1%	4.7%	5.0%	5.2%	5.5%	5.6%	6.0%
Total child population	7.0%	7.1%	7.3%	7.4%	7.5%	7.6%	7.6%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
Southern							
Black							
Children in investigated reports	24.0%	25.8%	24.8%	25.0%	26.0%	25.4%	25.7%
Total child population	15.1%	15.1%	15.1%	15.2%	15.2%	15.1%	15.1%
Absolute RDI	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7
White							
Children in investigated reports	71.9%	70.0%	70.9%	70.8%	69.8%	70.4%	69.5%
Total child population	79.1%	78.9%	78.8%	78.6%	78.4%	78.3%	78.3%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Hispanic							
Children in investigated reports	2.3%	2.6%	2.9%	2.9%	2.8%	2.8%	3.0%
Total child population	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%	4.7%	4.7%	4.8%	4.8%
Absolute RDI	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6

Table 3. Absolute RDI for Protective Custodies

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Black							
Children in protective custodies	46.0%	45.2%	42.5%	41.3%	41.9%	39.2%	38.5%
Total child population	16.8%	16.8%	16.6%	16.5%	16.5%	16.4%	16.4%
Absolute RDI	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3
White							
Children in protective custodies	43.9%	42.0%	44.7%	47.2%	49.5%	49.9%	48.8%
Total child population	53.6%	53.4%	53.2%	53.1%	53.0%	52.8%	52.8%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	8.9%	11.7%	11.9%	10.7%	7.7%	9.9%	11.5%
Total child population	24.2%	24.3%	24.5%	24.7%	24.8%	24.9%	24.9%
Absolute RDI	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5

Table 4. Absolute RDI for Protective Custodies by Region

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cook							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	70.7%	65.6%	66.8%	67.2%	71.9%	66.5%	65.9%
Total child population	26.3%	26.0%	25.7%	25.3%	25.0%	24.9%	24.9%
Absolute RDI	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.6
White							
Children in protective custodies	11.7%	11.3%	11.1%	11.0%	12.5%	12.5%	10.3%
Total child population	32.0%	32.1%	32.2%	32.4%	32.5%	32.7%	32.7%
Absolute RDI	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	15.8%	22.0%	20.9%	20.4%	14.5%	20.1%	21.9%
Total child population	35.2%	35.3%	35.5%	35.5%	35.5%	35.4%	35.4%
Absolute RDI	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6
Northern							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	40.6%	40.0%	41.9%	43.6%	41.0%	44.3%	37.0%
Total child population	8.8%	8.8%	8.8%	8.9%	8.9%	9.0%	9.0%
Absolute RDI	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.6	4.9	4.1
White							
Children in protective custodies	44.2%	44.5%	38.7%	41.5%	43.1%	37.9%	41.9%
Total child population	59.8%	59.3%	58.8%	58.3%	57.8%	57.3%	57.3%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	13.8%	13.8%	18.3%	14.8%	14.5%	16.9%	20.0%
Total child population	25.0%	25.3%	25.7%	26.0%	26.3%	26.6%	26.6%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.8
Central							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	36.9%	37.3%	32.5%	30.7%	32.6%	30.4%	31.2%
Total child population	11.9%	12.1%	12.3%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%
Absolute RDI	3.1	3.1	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.5
White							
Children in protective custodies	59.9%	57.4%	61.8%	63.9%	63.6%	64.2%	62.4%
Total child population	78.3%	77.9%	77.5%	77.3%	77.0%	76.9%	76.9%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	2.4%	4.5%	4.8%	4.2%	3.4%	4.1%	5.4%
Total child population	7.0%	7.1%	7.3%	7.4%	7.5%	7.6%	7.6%
Absolute RDI	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.7
Southern							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	24.3%	24.9%	23.2%	22.5%	21.8%	22.4%	20.9%
Total child population	15.1%	15.1%	15.1%	15.2%	15.2%	15.1%	15.1%
Absolute RDI	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4
White							
Children in protective custodies	74.3%	71.3%	74.0%	72.1%	75.9%	73.3%	75.9%
Total child population	79.1%	78.9%	78.8%	78.6%	78.4%	78.3%	78.3%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	1.0%	2.5%	2.5%	5.0%	1.6%	3.6%	2.5%
Total child population	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%	4.7%	4.7%	4.8%	4.8%
Absolute RDI	0.2	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.3	0.7	0.5

Table 5. Relative RDI for Protective Custodies

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Black							
Children in protective custodies	46.0%	45.2%	42.5%	41.3%	41.9%	39.2%	38.5%
Children in investigated reports	33.9%	34.3%	33.2%	33.3%	33.1%	33.2%	33.3%
Relative RDI	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2
White							
Children in protective custodies	43.9%	42.0%	44.7%	47.2%	49.5%	49.9%	48.8%
Children in investigated reports	48.0%	46.3%	46.9%	46.8%	46.4%	45.4%	45.8%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	8.9%	11.7%	11.9%	10.7%	7.7%	9.9%	11.5%
Children in investigated reports	15.1%	16.7%	17.4%	17.4%	17.9%	18.5%	18.0%
Relative RDI	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6

Table 6. Relative RDI for Protective Custodies by Region

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cook							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	70.7%	65.6%	66.8%	67.2%	71.9%	66.5%	65.9%
Children in investigated reports	52.1%	52.2%	50.5%	50.8%	49.6%	49.2%	50.4%
Relative RDI	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3
White							
Children in protective custodies	11.7%	11.3%	11.1%	11.0%	12.5%	12.5%	10.3%
Children in investigated reports	18.3%	15.9%	16.9%	16.5%	16.1%	15.7%	16.1%
Relative RDI	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	15.8%	22.0%	20.9%	20.4%	14.5%	20.1%	21.9%
Children in investigated reports	25.5%	28.3%	29.2%	29.4%	30.8%	30.9%	29.3%
Relative RDI	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.7
Northern							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	40.6%	40.0%	41.9%	43.6%	41.0%	44.3%	37.0%
Children in investigated reports	26.8%	26.7%	25.9%	25.9%	26.6%	26.5%	26.0%
Relative RDI	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.4
White							
Children in protective custodies	44.2%	44.5%	38.7%	41.5%	43.1%	37.9%	41.9%
Children in investigated reports	49.0%	47.2%	46.9%	46.4%	45.2%	44.5%	44.7%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	13.8%	13.8%	18.3%	14.8%	14.5%	16.9%	20.0%
Children in investigated reports	20.8%	23.0%	24.4%	24.8%	24.8%	25.8%	26.0%
Relative RDI	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8
Central							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	36.9%	37.3%	32.5%	30.7%	32.6%	30.4%	31.2%
Children in investigated reports	25.2%	26.2%	26.2%	26.5%	26.1%	26.5%	27.0%
Relative RDI	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2
White							
Children in protective custodies	59.9%	57.4%	61.8%	63.9%	63.6%	64.2%	62.4%
Children in investigated reports	68.8%	67.6%	67.1%	66.6%	67.0%	66.1%	65.1%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	2.4%	4.5%	4.8%	4.2%	3.4%	4.1%	5.4%
Children in investigated reports	4.1%	4.7%	5.0%	5.2%	5.5%	5.6%	6.0%
Relative RDI	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.9
Southern							
Black							
Children in protective custodies	24.3%	24.9%	23.2%	22.5%	21.8%	22.4%	20.9%
Children in investigated reports	24.0%	25.8%	24.8%	25.0%	26.0%	25.4%	25.7%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8
White							
Children in protective custodies	74.3%	71.3%	74.0%	72.1%	75.9%	73.3%	75.9%
Children in investigated reports	71.9%	70.0%	70.9%	70.8%	69.8%	70.4%	69.5%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1
Hispanic							
Children in protective custodies	1.0%	2.5%	2.5%	5.0%	1.6%	3.6%	2.5%
Children in investigated reports	2.3%	2.6%	2.9%	2.9%	2.8%	2.8%	3.0%
Relative RDI	0.4	1.0	0.9	1.7	0.5	1.3	0.8

Table 7. Absolute RDI for Indicated Reports

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Black							
Children in indicated reports	34.1%	34.9%	32.8%	33.7%	34.5%	34.2%	35.2%
Total child population	16.8%	16.8%	16.6%	16.5%	16.5%	16.4%	16.4%
Absolute RDI	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1
White							
Children in indicated reports	46.9%	45.2%	47.1%	47.3%	47.0%	46.1%	44.4%
Total child population	53.6%	53.4%	53.2%	53.1%	53.0%	52.8%	52.8%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	16.9%	17.9%	18.5%	17.4%	16.9%	17.9%	18.5%
Total child population	24.2%	24.3%	24.5%	24.7%	24.8%	24.9%	24.9%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7

Table 8. Absolute RDI for Indicated Reports by Region

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cook							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	50.4%	51.2%	47.7%	51.3%	52.6%	51.8%	53.7%
Total child population	26.3%	26.0%	25.7%	25.3%	25.0%	24.9%	24.9%
Absolute RDI	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2
White							
Children in indicated reports	17.8%	15.3%	16.9%	15.0%	14.3%	14.4%	14.2%
Total child population	32.0%	32.1%	32.2%	32.4%	32.5%	32.7%	32.7%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	28.3%	31.0%	33.1%	31.2%	30.9%	31.3%	29.5%
Total child population	35.2%	35.3%	35.5%	35.5%	35.5%	35.4%	35.4%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Northern							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	27.5%	28.4%	27.6%	27.8%	28.2%	29.0%	28.0%
Total child population	8.8%	8.8%	8.8%	8.9%	8.9%	9.0%	9.0%
Absolute RDI	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1
White							
Children in indicated reports	45.5%	44.5%	42.7%	43.2%	44.1%	41.5%	41.1%
Total child population	59.8%	59.3%	58.8%	58.3%	57.8%	57.3%	57.3%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	24.4%	24.8%	27.7%	27.2%	25.6%	27.3%	28.8%
Total child population	25.0%	25.3%	25.7%	26.0%	26.3%	26.6%	26.6%
Absolute RDI	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
Central							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	28.6%	29.7%	29.1%	29.5%	28.4%	27.3%	30.2%
Total child population	11.9%	12.1%	12.3%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%
Absolute RDI	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.4
White							
Children in indicated reports	66.1%	64.3%	65.1%	64.3%	65.6%	66.5%	62.6%
Total child population	78.3%	77.9%	77.5%	77.3%	77.0%	76.9%	76.9%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	4.3%	4.8%	4.8%	5.2%	5.1%	5.0%	5.8%
Total child population	7.0%	7.1%	7.3%	7.4%	7.5%	7.6%	7.6%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
Southern							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	22.1%	24.3%	23.7%	22.8%	24.4%	23.3%	20.9%
Total child population	15.1%	15.1%	15.1%	15.2%	15.2%	15.1%	15.1%
Absolute RDI	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4
White							
Children in indicated reports	74.8%	71.1%	72.5%	73.2%	72.2%	73.1%	75.3%
Total child population	79.1%	78.9%	78.8%	78.6%	78.4%	78.3%	78.3%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	2.3%	3.2%	3.0%	3.3%	2.6%	2.8%	2.7%
Total child population	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%	4.7%	4.7%	4.8%	4.8%
Absolute RDI	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6

Table 9. Relative RDI for Indicated Reports

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Black							
Children in indicated reports	34.1%	34.9%	32.8%	33.7%	34.5%	34.2%	35.2%
Children in investigated reports	33.9%	34.3%	33.2%	33.3%	33.1%	33.2%	33.3%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
White							
Children in indicated reports	46.9%	45.2%	47.1%	47.3%	47.0%	46.1%	44.4%
Children in investigated reports	48.0%	46.3%	46.9%	46.8%	46.4%	45.4%	45.8%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	16.9%	17.9%	18.5%	17.4%	16.9%	17.9%	18.5%
Children in investigated reports	15.1%	16.7%	17.4%	17.4%	17.9%	18.5%	18.0%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0

Table 10. Relative RDI for Indicated Reports by Region

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cook							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	50.4%	51.2%	47.7%	51.3%	52.6%	51.8%	53.7%
Children in investigated reports	52.1%	52.2%	50.5%	50.8%	49.6%	49.2%	50.4%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
White							
Children in indicated reports	17.8%	15.3%	16.9%	15.0%	14.3%	14.4%	14.2%
Children in investigated reports	18.3%	15.9%	16.9%	16.5%	16.1%	15.7%	16.1%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	28.3%	31.0%	33.1%	31.2%	30.9%	31.3%	29.5%
Children in investigated reports	25.5%	28.3%	29.2%	29.4%	30.8%	30.9%	29.3%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
Northern							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	27.5%	28.4%	27.6%	27.8%	28.2%	29.0%	28.0%
Children in investigated reports	26.8%	26.7%	25.9%	25.9%	26.6%	26.5%	26.0%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
White							
Children in indicated reports	45.5%	44.5%	42.7%	43.2%	44.1%	41.5%	41.1%
Children in investigated reports	49.0%	47.2%	46.9%	46.4%	45.2%	44.5%	44.7%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	24.4%	24.8%	27.7%	27.2%	25.6%	27.3%	28.8%
Children in investigated reports	20.8%	23.0%	24.4%	24.8%	24.8%	25.8%	26.0%
Relative RDI	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1
Central							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	28.6%	29.7%	29.1%	29.5%	28.4%	27.3%	30.2%
Children in investigated reports	25.2%	26.2%	26.2%	26.5%	26.1%	26.5%	27.0%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1
White							
Children in indicated reports	66.1%	64.3%	65.1%	64.3%	65.6%	66.5%	62.6%
Children in investigated reports	68.8%	67.6%	67.1%	66.6%	67.0%	66.1%	65.1%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	4.3%	4.8%	4.8%	5.2%	5.1%	5.0%	5.8%
Children in investigated reports	4.1%	4.7%	5.0%	5.2%	5.5%	5.6%	6.0%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0
Southern							
Black							
Children in indicated reports	22.1%	24.3%	23.7%	22.8%	24.4%	23.3%	20.9%
Children in investigated reports	24.0%	25.8%	24.8%	25.0%	26.0%	25.4%	25.7%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
White							
Children in indicated reports	74.8%	71.1%	72.5%	73.2%	72.2%	73.1%	75.3%
Children in investigated reports	71.9%	70.0%	70.9%	70.8%	69.8%	70.4%	69.5%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	2.3%	3.2%	3.0%	3.3%	2.6%	2.8%	2.7%
Children in investigated reports	2.3%	2.6%	2.9%	2.9%	2.8%	2.8%	3.0%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.9

Table 11. Absolute RDI for Substitute Care Entries

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Black							
Children entering substitute care	44.5%	45.5%	43.5%	41.4%	41.6%	39.6%	39.5%
Total child population	16.8%	16.8%	16.6%	16.5%	16.5%	16.4%	16.4%
Absolute RDI	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4
White							
Children entering substitute care	45.8%	43.1%	45.6%	48.0%	50.2%	51.1%	48.9%
Total child population	53.6%	53.4%	53.2%	53.1%	53.0%	52.8%	52.8%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	8.6%	10.4%	10.3%	10.0%	7.4%	8.6%	10.7%
Total child population	24.2%	24.3%	24.5%	24.7%	24.8%	24.9%	24.9%
Absolute RDI	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4

Table 12. Absolute RDI for Substitute Care Entries by Region

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cook							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	72.1%	66.6%	68.0%	65.9%	73.6%	69.1%	65.3%
Total child population	26.3%	26.0%	25.7%	25.3%	25.0%	24.9%	24.9%
Absolute RDI	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.6
White							
Children entering substitute care	11.5%	11.9%	12.5%	12.1%	11.3%	11.7%	12.2%
Total child population	32.0%	32.1%	32.2%	32.4%	32.5%	32.7%	32.7%
Absolute RDI	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
Hispanic							
Children in indicated reports	14.7%	20.4%	18.8%	21.5%	13.8%	18.9%	21.2%
Total child population	35.2%	35.3%	35.5%	35.5%	35.5%	35.4%	35.4%
Absolute RDI	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6
Northern							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	39.2%	41.9%	44.2%	42.4%	38.5%	44.6%	42.0%
Total child population	8.8%	8.8%	8.8%	8.9%	8.9%	9.0%	9.0%
Absolute RDI	4.5	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.3	4.9	4.7
White							
Children entering substitute care	43.4%	43.8%	38.5%	44.1%	45.3%	39.4%	39.7%
Total child population	59.8%	59.3%	58.8%	58.3%	57.8%	57.3%	57.3%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	16.2%	12.7%	16.3%	13.0%	15.3%	15.4%	17.6%
Total child population	25.0%	25.3%	25.7%	26.0%	26.3%	26.6%	26.6%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7
Central							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	37.0%	39.5%	35.9%	33.2%	33.7%	31.3%	32.5%
Total child population	11.9%	12.1%	12.3%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%
Absolute RDI	3.1	3.3	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.6
White							
Children entering substitute care	60.5%	55.6%	59.4%	62.3%	62.8%	64.6%	61.7%
Total child population	78.3%	77.9%	77.5%	77.3%	77.0%	76.9%	76.9%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	1.6%	4.4%	4.2%	3.6%	3.0%	3.0%	4.8%
Total child population	7.0%	7.1%	7.3%	7.4%	7.5%	7.6%	7.6%
Absolute RDI	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6
Southern							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	23.2%	25.3%	22.8%	24.0%	22.4%	23.1%	20.2%
Total child population	15.1%	15.1%	15.1%	15.2%	15.2%	15.1%	15.1%
Absolute RDI	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3
White							
Children entering substitute care	75.5%	71.8%	74.1%	71.5%	75.1%	72.3%	76.3%
Total child population	79.1%	78.9%	78.8%	78.6%	78.4%	78.3%	78.3%
Absolute RDI	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	1.1%	2.3%	2.9%	4.2%	1.9%	3.8%	2.8%
Total child population	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%	4.7%	4.7%	4.8%	4.8%
Absolute RDI	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.8	0.6

Table 13. Relative RDI for Substitute Care Entries

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Black							
Children entering substitute care	44.5%	45.5%	43.5%	41.4%	41.6%	39.6%	39.5%
Children in indicated reports	34.1%	34.9%	32.8%	33.7%	34.5%	34.2%	35.2%
Relative RDI	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1
White							
Children entering substitute care	45.8%	43.1%	45.6%	48.0%	50.2%	51.1%	48.9%
Children in indicated reports	46.9%	45.2%	47.1%	47.3%	47.0%	46.1%	44.4%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	8.6%	10.4%	10.3%	10.0%	7.4%	8.6%	10.7%
Children in indicated reports	16.9%	17.9%	18.5%	17.4%	16.9%	17.9%	18.5%
Relative RDI	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6

Table 14. Relative RDI for Substitute Care Entries by Region

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cook							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	72.1%	66.6%	68.0%	65.9%	73.6%	69.1%	65.3%
Children in indicated reports	50.4%	51.2%	47.7%	51.3%	52.6%	51.8%	53.7%
Relative RDI	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2
White							
Children entering substitute care	11.5%	11.9%	12.5%	12.1%	11.3%	11.7%	12.2%
Children in indicated reports	17.8%	15.3%	16.9%	15.0%	14.3%	14.4%	14.2%
Relative RDI	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	14.7%	20.4%	18.8%	21.5%	13.8%	18.9%	21.2%
Children in indicated reports	28.3%	31.0%	33.1%	31.2%	30.9%	31.3%	29.5%
Relative RDI	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.7
Northern							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	39.2%	41.9%	44.2%	42.4%	38.5%	44.6%	42.0%
Children in indicated reports	27.5%	28.4%	27.6%	27.8%	28.2%	29.0%	28.0%
Relative RDI	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
White							
Children entering substitute care	43.4%	43.8%	38.5%	44.1%	45.3%	39.4%	39.7%
Children in indicated reports	45.5%	44.5%	42.7%	43.2%	44.1%	41.5%	41.1%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	16.2%	12.7%	16.3%	13.0%	15.3%	15.4%	17.6%
Children in indicated reports	24.4%	24.8%	27.7%	27.2%	25.6%	27.3%	28.8%
Relative RDI	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Central							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	37.0%	39.5%	35.9%	33.2%	33.7%	31.3%	32.5%
Children in indicated reports	28.6%	29.7%	29.1%	29.5%	28.4%	27.3%	30.2%
Relative RDI	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1
White							
Children entering substitute care	60.5%	55.6%	59.4%	62.3%	62.8%	64.6%	61.7%
Children in indicated reports	66.1%	64.3%	65.1%	64.3%	65.6%	66.5%	62.6%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	1.6%	4.4%	4.2%	3.6%	3.0%	3.0%	4.8%
Children in indicated reports	4.3%	4.8%	4.8%	5.2%	5.1%	5.0%	5.8%
Relative RDI	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.8
Southern							
Black							
Children entering substitute care	23.2%	25.3%	22.8%	24.0%	22.4%	23.1%	20.2%
Children in indicated reports	22.1%	24.3%	23.7%	22.8%	24.4%	23.3%	20.9%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.0
White							
Children entering substitute care	75.5%	71.8%	74.1%	71.5%	75.1%	72.3%	76.3%
Children in indicated reports	74.8%	71.1%	72.5%	73.2%	72.2%	73.1%	75.3%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children entering substitute care	1.1%	2.3%	2.9%	4.2%	1.9%	3.8%	2.8%
Children in indicated reports	2.3%	3.2%	3.0%	3.3%	2.6%	2.8%	2.7%
Relative RDI	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.3	0.7	1.4	1.1

Table 15. Absolute RDI for Children in Intact Family Services

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Black							
Children in intact family services	32.6%	30.0%	26.8%	28.4%	30.9%	26.9%	28.9%
Total child population	16.8%	16.8%	16.6%	16.5%	16.5%	16.4%	16.4%
Absolute RDI	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.8
White							
Children in intact family services	48.2%	48.0%	51.6%	52.1%	51.3%	54.1%	51.2%
Total child population	53.6%	53.4%	53.2%	53.1%	53.0%	52.8%	52.8%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	17.5%	20.7%	20.6%	18.3%	16.9%	17.6%	18.6%
Total child population	24.2%	24.3%	24.5%	24.7%	24.8%	24.9%	24.9%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7

Table 16. Absolute RDI for Children in Intact Family Services by Region

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cook							
Black							
Children in intact family services	47.0%	41.9%	39.1%	41.2%	45.5%	40.2%	40.0%
Total child population	26.3%	26.0%	25.7%	25.3%	25.0%	24.9%	24.9%
Absolute RDI	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.6
White							
Children in intact family services	17.1%	16.9%	18.6%	19.2%	15.1%	18.1%	17.7%
Total child population	32.0%	32.1%	32.2%	32.4%	32.5%	32.7%	32.7%
Absolute RDI	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	32.6%	38.5%	41.2%	36.9%	37.8%	38.6%	39.8%
Total child population	35.2%	35.3%	35.5%	35.5%	35.5%	35.4%	35.4%
Absolute RDI	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
Northern							
Black							
Children in intact family services	27.3%	26.4%	21.2%	26.6%	30.0%	26.0%	26.8%
Total child population	8.8%	8.8%	8.8%	8.9%	8.9%	9.0%	9.0%
Absolute RDI	3.1	3.0	2.4	3.0	3.4	2.9	3.0
White							
Children in intact family services	48.3%	45.9%	45.3%	44.1%	45.4%	46.0%	43.0%
Total child population	59.8%	59.3%	58.8%	58.3%	57.8%	57.3%	57.3%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	22.7%	26.2%	31.3%	28.2%	23.0%	26.7%	28.5%
Total child population	25.0%	25.3%	25.7%	26.0%	26.3%	26.6%	26.6%
Absolute RDI	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.1
Central							
Black							
Children in intact family services	28.6%	26.9%	26.6%	28.0%	26.5%	23.5%	27.1%
Total child population	11.9%	12.1%	12.3%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%
Absolute RDI	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.2
White							
Children in intact family services	66.5%	67.9%	69.3%	66.9%	67.6%	70.9%	65.2%
Total child population	78.3%	77.9%	77.5%	77.3%	77.0%	76.9%	76.9%
Absolute RDI	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	4.2%	4.7%	3.8%	4.6%	5.3%	4.8%	6.9%
Total child population	7.0%	7.1%	7.3%	7.4%	7.5%	7.6%	7.6%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.9
Southern							
Black							
Children in intact family services	19.8%	17.7%	18.0%	14.9%	20.2%	16.9%	21.1%
Total child population	15.1%	15.1%	15.1%	15.2%	15.2%	15.1%	15.1%
Absolute RDI	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.4
White							
Children in intact family services	77.1%	78.4%	77.9%	81.5%	76.4%	79.3%	75.6%
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	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	2.9%	3.6%	3.3%	3.0%	3.1%	3.2%	2.9%
Total child population	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%	4.7%	4.7%	4.8%	4.8%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6

Table 17. Relative RDI for Children in Intact Family Services

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Black							
Children in intact family services	32.6%	30.0%	26.8%	28.4%	30.9%	26.9%	28.9%
Children in indicated reports	34.1%	34.9%	32.8%	33.7%	34.5%	34.2%	35.2%
Relative RDI	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
White							
Children in intact family services	48.2%	48.0%	51.6%	52.1%	51.3%	54.1%	51.2%
Children in indicated reports	46.9%	45.2%	47.1%	47.3%	47.0%	46.1%	44.4%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	17.5%	20.7%	20.6%	18.3%	16.9%	17.6%	18.6%
Children in indicated reports	16.9%	17.9%	18.5%	17.4%	16.9%	17.9%	18.5%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Table 18. Relative RDI for Children in Intact Family Services by Region

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cook							
Black							
Children in intact family services	47.0%	41.9%	39.1%	41.2%	45.5%	40.2%	40.0%
Children in indicated reports	50.4%	51.2%	47.7%	51.3%	52.6%	51.8%	53.7%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7
White							
Children in intact family services	17.1%	16.9%	18.6%	19.2%	15.1%	18.1%	17.7%
Children in indicated reports	17.8%	15.3%	16.9%	15.0%	14.3%	14.4%	14.2%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.2
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	32.6%	38.5%	41.2%	36.9%	37.8%	38.6%	39.8%
Children in indicated reports	28.3%	31.0%	33.1%	31.2%	30.9%	31.3%	29.5%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3
Northern							
Black							
Children in intact family services	27.3%	26.4%	21.2%	26.6%	30.0%	26.0%	26.8%
Children in indicated reports	27.5%	28.4%	27.6%	27.8%	28.2%	29.0%	28.0%
Relative RDI	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.0
White							
Children in intact family services	48.3%	45.9%	45.3%	44.1%	45.4%	46.0%	43.0%
Children in indicated reports	45.5%	44.5%	42.7%	43.2%	44.1%	41.5%	41.1%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	22.7%	26.2%	31.3%	28.2%	23.0%	26.7%	28.5%
Children in indicated reports	24.4%	24.8%	27.7%	27.2%	25.6%	27.3%	28.8%
Relative RDI	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
Central							
Black							
Children in intact family services	28.6%	26.9%	26.6%	28.0%	26.5%	23.5%	27.1%
Children in indicated reports	28.6%	29.7%	29.1%	29.5%	28.4%	27.3%	30.2%
Relative RDI	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
White							
Children in intact family services	66.5%	67.9%	69.3%	66.9%	67.6%	70.9%	65.2%
Children in indicated reports	66.1%	64.3%	65.1%	64.3%	65.6%	66.5%	62.6%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	4.2%	4.7%	3.8%	4.6%	5.3%	4.8%	6.9%
Children in indicated reports	4.3%	4.8%	4.8%	5.2%	5.1%	5.0%	5.8%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.2
Southern							
Black							
Children in intact family services	19.8%	17.7%	18.0%	14.9%	20.2%	16.9%	21.1%
Children in indicated reports	22.1%	24.3%	23.7%	22.8%	24.4%	23.3%	20.9%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.0
White							
Children in intact family services	77.1%	78.4%	77.9%	81.5%	76.4%	79.3%	75.6%
Children in indicated reports	74.8%	71.1%	72.5%	73.2%	72.2%	73.1%	75.3%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
Hispanic							
Children in intact family services	2.9%	3.6%	3.3%	3.0%	3.1%	3.2%	2.9%
Children in indicated reports	2.3%	3.2%	3.0%	3.3%	2.6%	2.8%	2.7%
Relative RDI	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.1

Table 19. Absolute RDI for Remaining in Care Longer Than 36 Months

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	52.2%	51.3%	52.5%	48.7%
Total child population	16.8%	16.8%	16.6%	16.5%
Absolute RDI	3.1	3.1	3.2	2.9
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	38.3%	37.7%	37.8%	39.8%
Total child population	53.6%	53.4%	53.2%	53.1%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	8.6%	9.8%	9.2%	10.9%
Total child population	24.2%	24.3%	24.5%	24.7%
Absolute RDI	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4

Table 20. Absolute RDI for Remaining in Care Longer Than 36 Months by Region

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Cook				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	73.8%	71.0%	74.4%	68.8%
Total child population	26.3%	26.0%	25.7%	25.3%
Absolute RDI	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.7
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	10.9%	11.4%	10.6%	10.3%
Total child population	32.0%	32.1%	32.2%	32.4%
Absolute RDI	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	13.8%	16.7%	14.7%	20.4%
Total child population	35.2%	35.3%	35.5%	35.5%
Absolute RDI	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6
Northern				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	44.2%	40.5%	48.8%	48.5%
Total child population	8.8%	8.8%	8.8%	8.9%
Absolute RDI	5.0	4.6	5.5	5.5
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	41.2%	43.0%	36.3%	40.1%
Total child population	59.8%	59.3%	58.8%	58.3%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	14.5%	12.5%	14.1%	11.5%
Total child population	25.0%	25.3%	25.7%	26.0%
Absolute RDI	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4
Central				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	42.5%	44.5%	42.0%	37.8%
Total child population	11.9%	12.1%	12.3%	12.5%
Absolute RDI	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.0
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	55.1%	51.7%	55.2%	58.0%
Total child population	78.3%	77.9%	77.5%	77.3%
Absolute RDI	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	1.5%	3.4%	2.2%	3.0%
Total child population	7.0%	7.1%	7.3%	7.4%
Absolute RDI	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.4
Southern				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	28.8%	28.7%	25.8%	25.5%
Total child population	15.1%	15.1%	15.1%	15.2%
Absolute RDI	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.7
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	70.3%	68.6%	70.2%	69.4%
Total child population	79.1%	78.9%	78.8%	78.6%
Absolute RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	0.9%	2.4%	4.0%	5.1%
Total child population	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%	4.7%
Absolute RDI	0.2	0.5	0.9	1.1

Table 21. Relative RDI for Remaining in Care Longer Than 36 Months

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	52.2%	51.3%	52.5%	48.7%
Children entering substitute care	44.5%	45.5%	43.5%	41.4%
Relative RDI	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	38.3%	37.7%	37.8%	39.8%
Children entering substitute care	45.8%	43.1%	45.6%	48.0%
Relative RDI	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	8.6%	9.8%	9.2%	10.9%
Children entering substitute care	8.6%	10.4%	10.3%	10.0%
Relative RDI	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.1

Table 22. Relative RDI for Remaining in Care Longer Than 36 Months by Region

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Cook				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	73.8%	71.0%	74.4%	68.8%
Children entering substitute care	72.1%	66.6%	68.0%	65.9%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	10.9%	11.4%	10.6%	10.3%
Children entering substitute care	11.5%	11.9%	12.5%	12.1%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.9
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	13.8%	16.7%	14.7%	20.4%
Children entering substitute care	14.7%	20.4%	18.8%	21.5%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.0
Northern				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	44.2%	40.5%	48.8%	48.5%
Children entering substitute care	39.2%	41.9%	44.2%	42.4%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	41.2%	43.0%	36.3%	40.1%
Children entering substitute care	43.4%	43.8%	38.5%	44.1%
Relative RDI	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	14.5%	12.5%	14.1%	11.5%
Children entering substitute care	16.2%	12.7%	16.3%	13.0%
Relative RDI	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9
Central				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	42.5%	44.5%	42.0%	37.8%
Children entering substitute care	37.0%	39.5%	35.9%	33.2%
Relative RDI	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	55.1%	51.7%	55.2%	58.0%
Children entering substitute care	60.5%	55.6%	59.4%	62.3%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	1.5%	3.4%	2.2%	3.0%
Children entering substitute care	1.6%	4.4%	4.2%	3.6%
Relative RDI	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.8
Southern				
Black				
Children in care longer than 36 months	28.8%	28.7%	25.8%	25.5%
Children entering substitute care	23.2%	25.3%	22.8%	24.0%
Relative RDI	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1
White				
Children in care longer than 36 months	70.3%	68.6%	70.2%	69.4%
Children entering substitute care	75.5%	71.8%	74.1%	71.5%
Relative RDI	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0
Hispanic				
Children in care longer than 36 months	0.9%	2.4%	4.0%	5.1%
Children entering substitute care	1.1%	2.3%	2.9%	4.2%
Relative RDI	0.8	1.1	1.4	1.2

