

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

FY2024 Monitoring Report of the *B.H. Consent Decree*

June 2024



**CHILDREN AND FAMILY RESEARCH CENTER**

100 Trade Centre Dr  
Champaign, IL 61820  
217-333-5837  
[www.cfrc.illinois.edu](http://www.cfrc.illinois.edu)



**School of Social Work**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



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A REPORT BY THE

CHILDREN AND FAMILY RESEARCH CENTER



### School of Social Work

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Tamara Fuller, Ph.D.

Martin Nieto, M.A.

Ethan Allgood, B.S.

Yu-Ling Chiu, Ph.D.

Amanda Kelley, Ph.D.

Cady Landa, Ph.D.

Steve Tran, Ph.D.

Satomi Wakita, Ph.D.

Shufen Wang, Ph.D.

With the assistance of  
Aaron Burnett and Heidi Meyer

The Children and Family Research Center is an independent research organization created jointly in 1996 by the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The goal of the Center is to identify research needs, support research that is policy and practice relevant, and encourage and facilitate public child welfare research activities through collaborative relationships.

Funding for this work is provided by the Department of Children and Family Services. The views expressed herein should not be construed as representing the policy of the University of Illinois or the Department of Children and Family Services.

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For questions about the content of the report contact:

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

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## CHILDREN AND FAMILY RESEARCH CENTER



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## Executive Summary

Since its inception in 1996, the Children and Family Research Center (CFRC) has produced an annual report that monitors the performance of the Illinois child welfare system in achieving its stated goals of child safety, permanency, and well-being. The FY2024 monitoring report uses child welfare administrative data through December 31, 2023 to describe the conditions of children in or at risk of foster care in Illinois. Following an introductory chapter, the results are presented in four chapters that examine critical child welfare outcomes:

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

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- The third chapter examines **Legal Permanence: Reunification, Adoption and Guardianship** with in-depth analyses of each of these three exit types. The chapter examines the likelihood that a child will exit substitute care to reunification, adoption, or guardianship within 12 months (reunification only), 24 months, and 36 months of entry. For those children who achieve permanence, the stability of their permanent living arrangement at one year (reunification only), two years, five years, and ten years after exiting the child welfare system is also assessed. This chapter also examines the population of children that remain in care longer than three years, as well as those who exit substitute care without achieving a legally permanent family (e.g., running away from their placement, incarceration, aging out of the substitute care system). In addition, this chapter includes the CFSR permanency indicators, which examine the combined percentages of children who exit to all types of permanence and those that re-enter substitute care within 12 months of exiting care.
- The fourth chapter contains an analysis of **Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality** in the Illinois child welfare system. Racial/ethnic disproportionality refers to the over- or under-representation of a racial or ethnic group in the child welfare system compared to their representation in a base population and is often calculated as a Racial Disproportionality Index (RDI). To gain a better understanding of racial and ethnic disproportionality in the Illinois child welfare system, analyses examine the RDIs for White, Black, and Latinx (any race) children for eight child welfare outcome indicators: investigations, protective custodies, indicated investigation, intact family services, substitute care entries, placement instability, length of stay in substitute care, and permanence through reunification, adoption, and guardianship. Each analysis is done for the state as a whole and by DCFS administrative region so that regional differences can be observed.

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

## Changes in Child Safety at a Glance

### Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children with Substantiated Reports (CFSR)

↔ Of all children with a substantiated report, the percentage that had another substantiated report within 12 months remained stable and was 14.9% in 2022.

### Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Family Cases

↓ Of all children served in intact family cases, the percentage that had a substantiated report within 12 months decreased from 18.1% in 2021 to 16.8% in 2022 (-7% change).

### Maltreatment Recurrence Among Substantiated Children Who Do Not Receive Services

↑ Of all children with substantiated reports who did not receive services, the percentage that had another substantiated report within 12 months increased from 12.5% in 2021 to 13.5% in 2022 (+8% change).

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

↔ Of all children in substitute care during the year, the rate of substantiated maltreatment per 100,000 days in substitute care remained stable and was 15.8 in 2023.

## Changes in Continuity and Stability in Care at a Glance

### Restrictiveness of Initial Placement Settings

↓ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in the home of parents decreased from 3.3% in 2022 to 2.7% in 2023 (-18% change).

↔ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in a kinship foster home remained stable and was 75.6% in 2023.

↔ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in a traditional foster home remained stable and was 17.5% in 2023.

↓ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in a specialized foster home decreased from 1.0% in 2022 to 0.7% in 2023 (-30% change).

↑ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in an emergency shelter or emergency foster home increased from 0.6% in 2022 to 1.1% in 2023 (+83% change).

↔ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in an institution or group home remained stable and was 2.4% in 2023.

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### Restrictiveness of End of Year Placement Settings

↔ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in the home of parents remained stable and was 4.4% in 2023.

↔ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in a kinship foster home remained stable and was 59.7% in 2023.

↔ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in a traditional foster home remained stable and was 19.2% in 2023.

↑ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in a specialized foster home increased from 10.8% in 2022 to 11.9% in 2023 (+10% change).

↑ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in an emergency shelter or emergency foster home increased from 0.4% in 2022 to 0.5% in 2023 (+25% change).

↑ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in an institution or group home increased from 3.9% in 2022 to 4.2% 2023 (+8% change).

### Placement with Siblings

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

#### For children with one or two siblings in care:

↔ remained stable for children initially placed in kinship foster homes and was 80.2% in 2023.

↓ decreased for children initially placed in traditional foster homes from 57.6% in 2022 to 51.5% in 2023 (-11% change).

#### For children with three or more siblings in care:

↓ decreased for children initially placed in kinship foster homes from 58.3% in 2022 to 49.7% in 2023 (-15% change).

↔ remained stable for children initially placed in traditional foster homes and was 11.1% in 2023.

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

#### For children with one or two siblings in care:

↔ remained stable for children in kinship foster homes and was 68.6% in 2023.

↔ remained stable for children in traditional foster homes and was 51.0% in 2023.



**For children with three or more siblings in care:**

↓ decreased for children in kinship foster homes from 34.7% in 2022 to 32.1% in 2023 (-7% change).

↓ decreased for children in traditional foster homes from 11.8% in 2022 to 7.4% in 2023 (-37% change).

**Placement Stability (CFSR)**

↔ Of all children entering substitute care during the year, the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days in care remained stable and was 3.3 in 2023.

**Children Who Run Away From Substitute Care**

↔ Of all children entering substitute care between the age of 12 and 17 years, the percentage that ran away from a placement within one year of entry remained stable and was 10.0% in 2022.

**Length of Stay in Substitute Care**

↑ Of all children who exited substitute care, the median length of stay increased from 29 months in 2022 to 32 months in 2023 (+10% change).

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

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that achieved permanence within 12 months decreased from 18.5% in 2021 to 16.7% in 2022 (-10% change).

↑ Of all children who had been in care between 12 and 23 months on the first day of the fiscal year, the percentage that achieved permanence within 12 months increased from 24.9% in 2022 to 26.2% in 2023 (+5% change).

↔ Of all children who had been in care 24 months or more on the first day of the fiscal year, the percentage that achieved permanence within 12 months remained stable and was 29.6% in 2023.

↑ Of all children who achieved permanence within 12 months, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of discharge increased from 9.8% of children who exited care in 2020 to 10.8% of children who exited care in 2021 (+10% change).

↑ Of all children who achieved permanence after living in substitute care between 12 and 23 months, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of discharge increased from 4.2% of children who exited care in 2021 to 4.7% of children who exited care in 2022 (+12% change).



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↑ Of all children who achieved permanence after living in substitute care 24 months or more, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of discharge increased from 1.7% of children who exited care in 2021 to 1.9% of children who exited care in 2022 (+12% change).

### Children Achieving Reunification

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 12 months decreased from 17.3% of children who entered care in 2021 to 15.7% of children who entered care in 2022 (-9% change).

↑ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 24 months increased from 31.8% of children who entered care in 2020 to 35.0% of children who entered care in 2021 (+10% change).

↑ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 36 months increased from 38.7% of children who entered care in 2019 to 42.3% of children who entered care in 2020 (+9% change).

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at one year post-reunification remained stable and was 92.9% of children who were reunified in 2022.

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at two years post-reunification remained stable and was 89.0% of children who were reunified in 2021.

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at five years post-reunification remained stable and was 84.5% of children who were reunified in 2018.

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at ten years post-reunification remained stable and was 82.4% of children who were reunified in 2013.

### Children Achieving Adoption

↑ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was adopted within 24 months increased from 1.8% of children who entered care in 2020 to 2.4% of children who entered care in 2021 (+33% change).

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was adopted within 36 months decreased from 9.5% of children who entered care in 2019 to 7.7% of children who entered care in 2020 (-19% change).

↔ Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage living with their family at two years post-adoption remained stable and was 99.0% of children who were adopted in 2021.

↔ Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage living with their family at five years post-adoption remained stable and was 98.1% of children who were adopted in 2018.

↔ Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage living with their family at ten years post-adoption remained stable and was 95.2% of children who were adopted in 2013.

### Children Achieving Guardianship

↔ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that attained guardianship within 24 months remained stable and was 1.0% of children who entered care in 2021.

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that attained guardianship within 36 months decreased from 2.3% of children who entered care in 2019 to 2.0% of children who entered care in 2020 (-13% change).

↔ Of all children who attained guardianship during the year, the percentage living with their family at two years post-guardianship remained stable and was 94.3% of children who attained guardianship in 2021.

↔ Of all children who attained guardianship during the year, the percentage living with their family at five years post-guardianship remained stable and was 94.2% of children who attained guardianship in 2018.

↑ Of all children who attained guardianship during the year, the percentage living with their family at ten years post-guardianship increased from 88.0% of children who attained guardianship in 2012 to 92.0% of children who attained guardianship in 2013 (+5% change).

## Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality

Racial and ethnic disproportionality refers to the over- or under-representation of a racial or ethnic group in the child welfare system compared to that group's representation 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 percentage within the child welfare indicator is divided by that group's percentage in the general child population. The same denominator (percentage of the racial/ethnic group in the child population) is used when calculating absolute RDIs for each indicator. Absolute RDI values less than 1.0 indicate under-representation compared to the



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general child population. 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 compared to the general population. Chapter 4 includes absolute RDI for five investigation indicators: investigations, protective custodies, indicated investigations, intact family services, and substitute care entries. We interpret absolute RDI greater than 1.2 to show over-representation and absolute RDI less than 0.8 to show under-representation.

A second measure of disproportionality is the “relative RDI,” which is calculated by dividing a racial or ethnic group’s percentage within a child welfare indicator by that group’s percentage within a prior child welfare indicator. The relative RDI tells us if the amount of over-representation or under-representation at an indicator increases or decreases *relative to* the amount that was present in the comparison population. Therefore, when interpreting the meaning of a relative RDI, the amount of disproportionality in the comparison population must also be taken into consideration. A relative RDI of 1.0 means that the amount of over-representation has not increased or decreased at a particular indicator. Relative RDIs greater than 1.0 mean one of two things: 1) the amount of over-representation has increased at the indicator compared to the previous indicator, or 2) the amount of under-representation has decreased compared to the previous indicator. Relative RDIs less than 1.0 indicate that either: 1) the amount of under-representation has increased compared to the previous indicator, or 2) the amount of over-representation has decreased compared to the previous indicator. Definition of each indicator are provided in Appendix A.

The absolute and relative RDI for the three largest racial/ethnic groups of children in Illinois are shown below.

Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality at a Glance						
	Black		White		Latinx	
	<i>Absolute RDI</i>	<i>Relative RDI</i>	<i>Absolute RDI</i>	<i>Relative RDI</i>	<i>Absolute RDI</i>	<i>Relative RDI</i>
Investigations	2.1	-	0.9	-	0.8	-
Protective Custodies	2.2	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.5	0.6
Indicated Investigations	2.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.0
Intact Service Services	2.1	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.9
Substitute Care Entries	2.2	1.0	1.1	1.2	0.4	0.5
Placement Instability		1.3		0.9		0.8
Length of Stay ≥ 48 Months		1.2		0.9		1.0
Permanence		0.9		1.1		1.0



## Introduction

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# The Evolution of Child Welfare Monitoring in Illinois

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

## The Children and Family Research Center

### BOX I.1

The Children and Family Research Center is dedicated to supporting and conducting “research with a purpose” to improve outcomes for children who are either currently involved in the child welfare system or at high risk for future involvement. The Center was created in 1996 through a cooperative agreement between the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The mission of the Center has been to conduct research that was responsive to the needs and responsibilities of the Department and contribute to scientific knowledge about child safety, permanency, and child and family well-being. In the two and a half decades since its creation, the Center has emerged as a national leader in conducting research that informs child welfare policy and improves child welfare practice. Center activities are organized around four core areas: 1) outcome monitoring and needs assessment; 2) program evaluation and data analysis; 3) training and technical assistance to advance best practice; and 4) knowledge dissemination.

#### ***Outcome monitoring and needs assessment***

The Center was created, in part, to monitor the performance of the Illinois child welfare system pursuant to the **B.H. Consent Decree**. Each year since 1997, the Center has compiled a comprehensive report that describes over 40 child welfare indicators related to child safety and permanence. In addition, since 2016, the CFRC has produced a report that examines **racial and ethnic disproportionality** within the Illinois child welfare system. The CFRC also produces an annual report in response to Illinois House Bill 2914,<sup>1</sup> which examines racial disproportionality in an expanded set of child welfare indicators. The *B.H.* report and racial disproportionality reports are widely distributed to child welfare administrators, researchers, and policy makers throughout Illinois, and have been cited in several pieces of child welfare legislation since 2020.

#### ***Program evaluation and data analysis***

One of the key elements of the success of the child welfare reforms in Illinois and other states has been the ability of child welfare administrators to rely on scientifically rigorous research that demonstrates the effectiveness of the program innovations being implemented. The Children and Family Research Center engages in rigorously designed experimental and quasi-experimental evaluations of innovative child welfare demonstration projects which have national implication and scope. For instance, the CFRC served as the evaluator for three of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services **Title IV-E waiver demonstration projects**, and in 2013, the Center began a partnership with the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) as the evaluator of its Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project.

<sup>1</sup> For more details about the bill, see <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=002005050K41.5>

The Wisconsin waiver evaluation, which ended in 2019, tested the effectiveness of a post-reunification support program, known as the P.S. Program, by comparing the rates of maltreatment recurrence and re-entry into substitute care of children who receive P.S. Program services compared to those who did not. In addition to the outcome evaluation, a process evaluation documented the implementation process using the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN) framework, and a cost analysis compared the costs and savings associated with the program.

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

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

#### ***Training and technical assistance to advance best practice***

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



More recently, the CFRC has collaborated with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to provide Well-being Improvement Review and Linkage (WIRL) for youth that have experienced a psychiatric hospitalization along with three placement moves within 12 months.

### ***Knowledge dissemination***

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

- The Children and Family Research Center website, through which the public can access and download all research and technical reports, research briefs on specific topics, and presentations given at state and national conferences.
- The CFRC Data Center, which provides tables of DCFS performance data on child safety, stability, continuity, and family permanence. Each indicator in the *B.H.* report (with the exception of the well-being indicators) can be examined by child demographics (age, race/ethnicity, and gender) and geographic area (Illinois total, DCFS region, DCFS sub-region, and county). Outcome data for each indicator are displayed over a seven-year period so that changes in performance can be tracked over time. In addition to the outcome indicator data, the Data Center also provides information on the number of child reports, family reports, and substantiation rates for the entire state and each county.
- Publication of research findings in peer-reviewed academic journals and presentations at state and national professional conferences.



## The Origin and Purpose of Child Welfare Outcome Monitoring in Illinois

The foundation of this report can be traced directly to the *B.H.* consent decree, which was approved by United States District Judge John Grady on December 20, 1991, and required extensive reforms of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services over the subsequent two and a half years.<sup>2</sup> According to the Decree:

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

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

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

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

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<sup>2</sup> *B.H. et al. v. Suter*, No. 88-cv-5599 (N.D. Ill., 1991). It should be noted that the name of the Defendant changes over time to reflect the name of the DCFS Director appointed at the time of the entry of a specific order. Susan Suter was the appointed Director at the time of the entry of the original consent decree in this case.

## INTRODUCTION

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

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

Under the terms of the *B.H.* Consent Decree, implementation of the required reforms was anticipated to occur by July 1, 1994. However, it became clear to the Court and to both parties that this ambitious goal would not be achieved in the two and a half years specified in the agreement. Consultation with a panel of child welfare and organizational reform experts led to the recommendation, among other things, to shift the focus of the monitoring from technical compliance (process) to the desired outcomes the parties hoped to achieve.<sup>3</sup> Both the plaintiffs and the defendants were in favor of a more results-oriented monitoring process, and together decided on three outcome categories: permanency, well-being, and safety.<sup>4</sup> The two sides jointly moved to modify the decree in July 1996,<sup>5</sup> outlining a series of new strategies based on measurable outcomes:

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

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<sup>3</sup> Mezey, S.G. (1998). Systemic reform litigation and child welfare policy: The case of Illinois. *Law & Policy*, 20, 203-230.

<sup>4</sup> Puckett, K.L. (2008). *Dynamics of organizational change under external duress: A case study of DCFS's responses to the 1991 consent decree mandating permanency outcomes for wards of the state*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Chicago.

<sup>5</sup> *B.H. et al. v. McDonald* (1996). Joint Memorandum in Support of Agreed Supplemental Order, No 88-C-5599 (N.D. Ill 1996).

- a) The outcome goals agreed upon by the parties include the following:
- i) Protection: Promptly and accurately determine whether the family care of children reported to DCFS is at or above a threshold of safety and child and family well-being, and if it exceeds that threshold, do not coercively interfere with the family.
  - ii) Preservation: When the family care of the child falls short of the threshold, and when consistent with the safety of the child, raise the level of care to that threshold in a timely manner.
  - iii) Substitute care: If the family care of the child cannot be raised to that threshold within a reasonable time or without undue risk to the child, place the child in a substitute care setting that meets the child’s physical, emotional, and developmental needs.
  - iv) Reunification: When the child is placed in substitute care, promptly enable the family to meet the child needs for safety and care and promptly return the child to the family when consistent with the safety of the child.
  - v) Permanency: If the family is unable to resume care of the child within a reasonable time, promptly arrange for an alternative, permanent living situation that meets the child’s physical, emotional, and developmental needs.”<sup>6</sup>

In addition to specifying the outcomes of interest, the Joint Memorandum outlined the creation of a Children and Family Research Center “responsible for evaluating and issuing public reports on the performance of the child welfare service system operated by DCFS and its agents. The Research Center shall be independent of DCFS and shall be within an entity independent of DCFS.”<sup>7</sup> The independence of the CFRC was seen as an essential component of the settlement, and locating the CFRC within a research university helped ensure that the Department would be held accountable. The CFRC was tasked with the development of outcome indicators in consultation with the Department and the plaintiff’s counsel that provide quantitative measures of progress toward meeting the goals set forth in the consent decree: “The Research Center will develop technologies and methods for collecting data to accurately report and analyze these outcome indicators. The Research Center may revise these outcome indicators after consultation with the Department and counsel for the plaintiff class to the extent

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p. 2-4

<sup>7</sup> Joint Memorandum, p. 2

## INTRODUCTION

necessary to improve the Center's ability to measure progress toward meeting the outcome goals."<sup>8</sup>

The Joint Memorandum also specified the process through which the results of the outcomes monitoring would be disseminated: "The Research Center shall also provide to the parties and file with this Court an annual report summarizing the progress toward achieving the outcome goals and analyzing reasons for the success or failure in making such progress. The Center's analysis of the reasons for the success or failure of DCFS to make reasonable progress toward the outcome goals shall include an analysis of the performance of DCFS (including both DCFS operations and the operations of private agencies), and any other relevant issues, including, where and to the extent appropriate, changes in or the general conditions of the children and families or any other aspects of the child welfare system external to DCFS that affect the capacity of the Department to achieve its goals, and changes in the conditions and status of children and plaintiffs' counsel as the outcome indicators and data collection methods are developed..."<sup>9</sup>

### **The Evolution of Outcome Monitoring in Illinois**

#### ***Safety, Stability, and Permanence***

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

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

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<sup>8</sup> Joint Memorandum, p. 4

<sup>9</sup> Joint Memorandum, p. 4

outside of Illinois), placement with siblings, and placement close to home. In FY2010, the indicator that examined the placements outside of Illinois was eliminated from the report because the number of children placed outside the state had been negligible for several years. Information on this indicator was included in the FY2020 and FY2021 reports because the number of children placed in residential placements outside of Illinois had increased to the point where it was once again a concern.<sup>10</sup>

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

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

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

Another recent change was to add "home of parent" as a type of placement. Children were included in a home of parent placement if they were placed in the home of their parent(s) but legal custody was placed with the Department. In previous years, children placed in home of parent placements were not included in the population of children in substitute care. In the past two years additional minor changes were made to the definitions of indicators and variables used in this report. These changes are described in Appendix E.

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<sup>10</sup> Jackson, D., & Eldeib, D. (March 12, 2020). Hurt instead of helped: Foster children victimized in out-of-state facilities where oversight is lacking. *Chicago Tribune*.

## INTRODUCTION

### ***Child Well-Being***

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

In 2009, data collection began on a new study called the *Illinois Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (ISCAW)*. ISCAW was a component of the second cohort of the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW), a longitudinal probability study of well-being and service delivery of children involved with the child welfare system. The sample for ISCAW included 818 children sampled to be representative of the entire population of Illinois children involved in substantiated investigations. Two waves of data were collected on the children in the ISCAW sample—baseline data were collected approximately 4 months following the substantiated investigation and follow-up data were collected approximately 18 months later. During both waves of data collection, data were collected from several informants on a variety of well-being domains. Caregivers (biological parents or foster parents) completed measures of child health, development, social skills, and behavior. School-aged children completed measures of depression, anxiety, relationships with peers and adults, substance use, sexual activity, extra-curricular activities, and future expectations. Teachers completed measures of academic progress and behavior in school. The results of the ISCAW data collection were included in the *B.H.* monitoring reports published in FY2010–FY2014.

In October 2015, Judge Jorge Alonso ordered the Department to “restore funding for the Illinois Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing that uses standardized instruments and assessment scales modeled after the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing to monitor and evaluate changes in the safety, permanence, and well-being of children for a representative sample of DCFS-involved children and their caregivers.”<sup>11</sup> Data collection for the 2017 Illinois Study of Child Well-Being concluded in September 2018 and a final report is available on the CFRC website.<sup>12</sup> In addition to the Illinois Child Well-Being final evaluation report, the CFRC has produced a series of 18 research briefs based on the findings of the evaluation. These research

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

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

briefs, which are all available on the CFRC website, focus on specific topics such as child safety, child development, resilience, physical health, education, relationships with birth parents, relationships with foster caregivers, and contacts with siblings.

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

The FY2024 *B.H.* monitoring report<sup>13</sup> is organized into four chapters. **Child Safety** is the first chapter. A child's first contact with the child welfare system is typically through a Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation. Investigators make several decisions related to child safety, including whether the child is in immediate danger, whether there is credible evidence that maltreatment has occurred, whether to remove the child from the home and take the child into protective custody, and whether the family's needs indicate that they would benefit from ongoing child welfare services. Regardless of whether additional child welfare services are provided, the child welfare system has a responsibility to keep children from additional maltreatment once they have been investigated. The first chapter of the report examines the Department's performance in fulfilling this obligation by examining indicators related to maltreatment that occurs *after* a screened-in and investigated report of maltreatment. It is organized into four sections: 1) Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children with Substantiated Reports, 2) Maltreatment Among Children in Intact Family Cases, 3) Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children Who Do Not Receive Services, and 4) Maltreatment in Substitute Care.

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

The third chapter examines **Legal Permanence: Reunification, Adoption, and Guardianship** with in-depth analyses of each of these three exit types. The chapter examines the likelihood that a child will exit substitute care to reunification, adoption, or guardianship within 12 months (reunification only), 24 months, and 36 months of entering care. For those children who achieve permanence, the stability of their permanent living arrangement at one year (reunification only), two years, five years, and ten years after exiting the child welfare system is also assessed. This chapter also examines the population of children that remain in care longer

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<sup>13</sup> There is typically a one-year lag time between the most recent administrative data used for the *B.H.* monitoring report and the publication date. For instance, this year's report, published in FY2024, monitors outcomes through the end of FY2023.



## INTRODUCTION

than three years, as well as those who exit substitute care without achieving a legally permanent family (e.g., running away from their placement, incarceration, aging out of the substitute care system). This chapter also examines the CFSR permanency and re-entry indicators.

The fourth chapter contains an analysis of **Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality** in the Illinois child welfare system. Racial/ethnic disproportionality refers to the over- or under-representation of a racial or ethnic group in the child welfare system compared to their representation in a base population and is often calculated as a Racial Disproportionality Index (RDI). To gain a better understanding of racial/ethnic disproportionality in the Illinois child welfare system, analyses examine the RDIs for the three largest racial and ethnic groups in Illinois: White, Black, and Latinx (any race). The Latinx category includes children from any racial background, and is therefore labeled as “Latinx (any race).” RDIs are calculated for several indicators that occur during investigations including screened-in investigations, protective custodies, indicated investigations, intact family services, and substitute care entries. RDIs are also calculated for indicators that occur after children enter substitute care including placement instability, length of stay in care, and permanence through reunification, adoption, and guardianship (combined). Each analysis is done for the state as a whole and by DCFS administrative region so that regional differences can be observed. In addition, RDIs are calculated for the past seven years so that changes over time can be identified.

Chapters 1 through 4 contain figures that allow the reader to easily visualize Illinois’ performance on the indicators over time. Readers interested in examining the results more closely will find additional information in the appendices to this report. Appendix A contains detailed **Indicator and Variable Definitions** for each of the indicators included in Chapters 1 through 4 as well as the definition of race/ethnicity, placement types, and legal spell used in this report. Appendix B contains the **Outcome Data** for the indicators in Chapters 1-3 over the past seven years for the state, along with breakdowns by child age, race/ethnicity, gender, and geographical region. The data provided in Appendix B are also available online via the CFRC Data Center (<https://cfrc.illinois.edu/data-center.php>).<sup>14</sup> Appendix C provides **Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Data** for the analyses included in Chapter 4. Appendix D provides **Illinois Child Population And Child Welfare Population Data** for the racial/ethnic groups included in Chapter 4. Appendix E describes the **Data Adjustments** that were made to several of the indicators in the report.

Chapters 1 through 3 also contain a summary of the indicators used to track the Department’s progress in achieving positive outcomes for children and families, and the amount of change that has occurred on each indicator between the two most recent years that data are available. These summaries, titled **Changes at a Glance**, are presented near the beginning of each chapter and list each outcome indicator in that chapter and an icon that denotes whether the indicator has significantly increased, decreased, or remained stable during the most recent monitoring

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<sup>14</sup> Please note that the outcome indicator data in the CFRC Data Center and those in Appendix B are not exactly the same because the data in the CFRC Data Center are updated quarterly.



period. To create these summaries, two decisions were made: 1) What time period is of *most* interest to policymakers and other child welfare stakeholders? 2) How large must a change be to be a “significant” change?

Improvements in administrative data now allow us to track outcomes over long periods of time—some data can be traced back decades. Many of the figures in the chapters present outcome data over a 15-year period to show long-term trends. However, when trying to determine which child welfare outcomes may be starting to improve or decline, a more recent time frame is informative. Therefore, the summaries focus on the amount of change that has occurred during the *most recent 12-month period* for which data are available on a particular indicator. Significant changes (defined below) in either direction may indicate the beginning of a new trend or may be random fluctuation, but either way it is worthy of attention.

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

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

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

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



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

In 1991, the *B.H.* consent decree required extensive reforms of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services in order to create and maintain a child welfare system that provides children with safe and appropriate living arrangements; reasonable efforts to reunite them with their families; timely permanence through other means if reunification is not possible; timely access to adequate medical, mental health, and developmental services; public education that is of similar quality to other children not in DCFS custody; and services and training to permit them to function in the least restrictive and most homelike setting possible. After several years of efforts failed to produce any appreciable changes in the Department's performance, the *B.H.* parties agreed to a more results-oriented monitoring process as well as the creation of a Children and Family Research Center that would be "responsible for evaluating and issuing public reports on the performance of the child welfare service system operated by DCFS and its agents."<sup>15</sup> The independence of the Research Center from the Department was seen as a critical component of its mission to analyze data and produce an unbiased "annual report summarizing the Department's progress toward achieving the outcome goals and analyzing the reasons for the success or failure in making such progress."<sup>16</sup>

The *B.H.* consent decree and the establishment of an independent research center laid the foundation for a results-oriented process for reform in Illinois. The results of the Department's data-driven approach to reform were impressive. By implementing and rigorously evaluating innovative reforms such as subsidized guardianship, performance-based contracting, and structured safety assessment, Illinois safely and effectively reduced the number of children in care from over 50,000 in FY1997 to around 15,000 through much of the 2010s (see Figure 2.1 in Chapter 2). This was accomplished by both reducing the number of children who were taken into substitute care and by increasing the number of children who exited the system to reunification, adoption, and subsidized guardianship.

Unfortunately, the Department's successes in the late 1990s and early 2000s in moving children to safe and permanent homes have not been sustained in more recent years. Although the rates of reunification with 24 and 36 months have improved in recent years, they still lag far behind the national average. Following their peak in the late 1990s, rates of adoption within 36 months fell to around 10% among children who entered substitute care in 2010-2012. Although the rate of adoptions within 36 months had been steadily increasing in recent years to a high of 15.9% of children who entered care in FY2017, the rate has steadily decreased in each of the past four years to a new low of 7.7% of children who entered care in FY2020 (see Appendix B, Indicator 3.C.2). The use of subsidized guardianship, which was promoted as a form of legal permanence and an alternative to long-term foster care, has dwindled in the past decade and is now rarely used—only 145 of the 7,382 children who entered substitute care in FY2020 (2.0%) exited to guardianship within 3 years (see Appendix B, Indicator 3.E.2).

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<sup>15</sup> Joint Memorandum, p. 2

<sup>16</sup> Joint Memorandum, p. 4

In addition to the gradual erosion of progress in moving children to permanent homes, the annual *B.H.* monitoring reports have highlighted several areas of serious concern regarding child safety. The first is the overall rate of maltreatment recurrence among all children with substantiated reports during the year, which has increased each year for over a decade. Another ongoing and significant concern first noted by the CFRC in the FY2015 monitoring report is the rate of substantiated maltreatment among children in intact family cases. Although the rate of maltreatment among children in intact family cases decreased slightly in the last year (from 18.1% to 16.8%), the rate is still more than double what it was 10 years ago. Examination of the maltreatment rates by region shows that the rates are highest in the Central and Southern regions compared to the Cook and Northern regions.

Recent *B.H.* monitoring reports have also highlighted concerns about the rates of maltreatment in substitute care, which increased to their highest level in 15 years in FY2020 (see Appendix B, Indicator 1.D). In response to this worrisome increase, the CFRC completed a study that examined the factors that increased a child's risk of maltreatment in substitute care. The results of this study found that the strongest predictors of increased risk of maltreatment in care were: no caseworker contact with the child in the prior 30 days, no caseworker contact with the foster care provider within the prior 30 days, child mental health needs, and placement in an unlicensed foster home or the home of a parent.<sup>17</sup> Following the publication of this study, the CFRC collaborated with the Department to develop a maltreatment in care dashboard that presents data on the number of children with indicated reports of maltreatment in care by year or quarter, as well more than 40 charts that provide information on the characteristics of the child cases involved in the indicated reports. The data in the maltreatment in care dashboard are updated on a quarterly basis and are available to all DCFS staff on their intranet. The charts provide a quick, concise, and easy-to-understand picture of the children who have been maltreated while living in substitute care during a given time period. Continued monitoring of the maltreatment in care indicator show that the rate has decreased in each of the past two years, which is a positive outcome that we will continue to track.

The *B.H.* monitoring report can also highlight when a worrisome trend is reversed. Several years ago, the CFRC noted an increased use of congregate care settings as initial placements when children first enter substitute care. Additional analyses that separated group homes, institutions, and emergency shelters revealed that the use of all three placement types increased in the early part of the 2010 decade. The percentage of children initially placed in emergency shelters peaked at 11.9% in FY2012 and the percentage initially placed in group homes and institutions peaked at 8.4% in FY2015. Following the publication of these findings, the Department instituted several initiatives and procedural changes that were aimed at reducing the use of emergency shelters and congregate care settings as initial placements. Continued monitoring provided in the *B.H.* reports has shown that the percentage of children placed in emergency shelters has fallen to 1.1% of those who entered care in FY2023 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.5) and the percentage initially placed in group homes and institutions

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<sup>17</sup> Nieto, M., Wang, S., Fuller, T., & Adams, K. (2020). *Predicting Maltreatment in Substitute Care*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center.



## INTRODUCTION

has decreased to 2.4% in FY2023 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.6). This is especially impressive because the number of children entering substitute care in Illinois substantially increased during this time period.

Growing concerns about the over-representation of Black children in the Illinois child welfare system prompted the CFRC to add a new chapter to the FY2017 monitoring report that examined racial and ethnic disproportionality at five indicators including investigated reports, protective custodies, indicated investigations, entries into substitute care, and timely exits from substitute care. More recent monitoring reports have added indicators that examine racial and ethnic disproportionality for substitute care indicators such as placement instability and exits from care to permanent homes. The results of these monitoring efforts have shown that Black children are over-represented at each child welfare decision point during investigations and that there is substantial variability in the amount of over-representation within the regions of the state. Data from the CFRC's racial disproportionality analyses have been used in several important pieces of legislation in Illinois since 2020, including Public Act 102-0470<sup>18</sup> which created an advisory commission on reducing the disproportionate representation of African American children in foster care, and Public Act 102-0451,<sup>19</sup> which mandated that the Department prepare and submit an annual report on racial disparities for children and families involved in the Illinois child welfare system.

As these examples demonstrate, the importance of the annual *B.H.* monitoring report in identifying worrisome trends in child welfare outcomes cannot be overstated. By examining a set of indicators that has been developed specifically for the Illinois child welfare system and monitoring them at frequent intervals over long periods of time, we are able to identify trends as they emerge, track them over time, and highlight areas that need additional scrutiny. Our hope is that the *B.H.* report both serves its intended purpose of informing the *B.H.* parties on the performance of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, and that it also provides other child welfare stakeholders within the State with information that is useful to them and encourages further discussion on how to improve outcomes for children and families. We welcome feedback on the report, as well as suggestions for additional areas of study.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0470>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0451>

<sup>20</sup> Contact information for the Children and Family Research Center can be found on the Acknowledgements page.



## Chapter 1

# Child Safety

Child safety is one of the primary concerns of the child welfare system. According to the most recent federal child welfare outcomes monitoring report, “Public child welfare agencies are responsible for ensuring that children who have been found to be victims of abuse or neglect are protected from further harm. Whether the child is placed in out-of-home care or maintained in the home, the child welfare agency’s first concern must be to ensure the safety of the child” (p. 19).<sup>1</sup> Once a child becomes involved in a substantiated<sup>2</sup> report of child abuse or neglect, the child welfare system must act to protect the child from additional abuse or neglect.

1

### Measuring Child Safety

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

One of the most common indicators used to assess child safety is maltreatment recurrence, which is typically defined as a substantiated maltreatment report following a prior substantiated report involving the same child or family. Other measures of child safety, called re-referrals or re-reports, take a broader view and include *all* subsequent reports following an initial report, regardless of whether the subsequent report was substantiated. Although

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children and Families, Children’s Bureau. (2024). *Child Welfare Outcomes 2020: Report to Congress*. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/cwo-2020>

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

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

### Changes in Child Safety at a Glance

#### **Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children with Substantiated Reports (CFSR)**

↔ Of all children with a substantiated report, the percentage that had another substantiated report within 12 months remained stable and was 14.9% in 2022.

#### **Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Family Cases**

↓ Of all children served in intact family cases, the percentage that had a substantiated report within 12 months decreased from 18.1% in 2021 to 16.8% in 2022 (-7% change).

#### **Maltreatment Recurrence Among Substantiated Children Who Do Not Receive Services**

↑ Of all children with substantiated reports who did not receive services, the percentage that had another substantiated report within 12 months increased from 12.5% in 2021 to 13.5% in 2022 (+8% change).

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

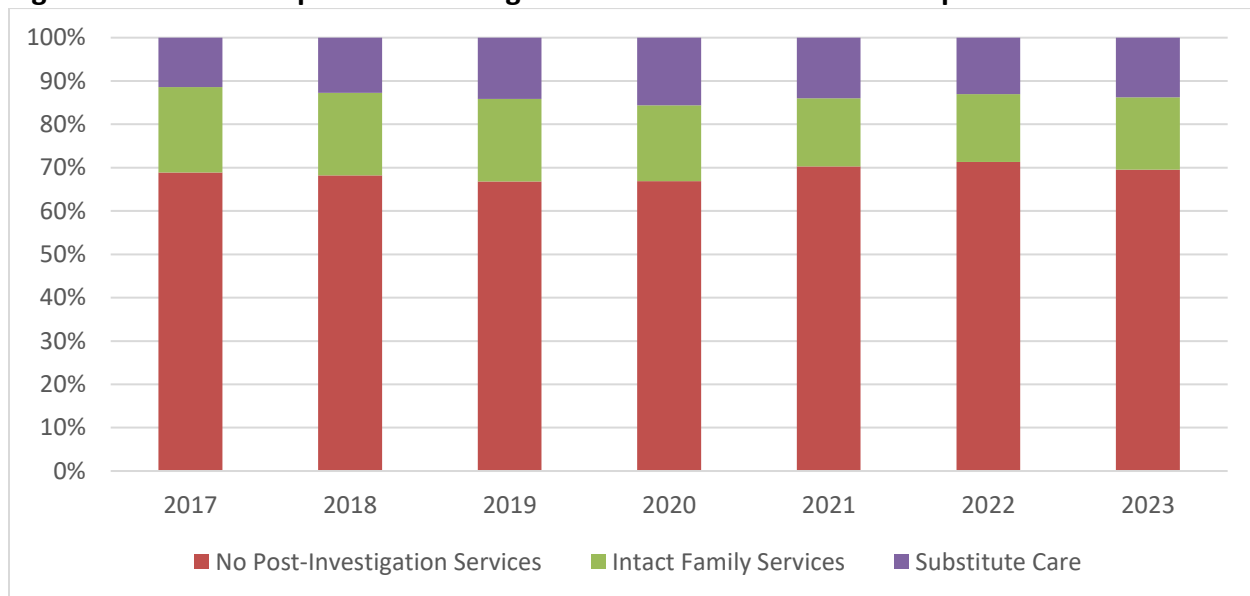
↔ Of all children in substitute care during the year, the rate of substantiated maltreatment per 100,000 days in substitute care remained stable and was 15.8 in 2023.

An additional consideration when selecting indicators of child safety is which populations to monitor. In Illinois, the mandate for ensuring child safety extends to all children investigated by the Department, regardless of whether post-investigation services are offered. Figure 1.1 shows the service dispositions of children with substantiated reports each year from 2017 to 2023. The majority of children with substantiated reports in Illinois do not receive any post-investigation services; this percentage has been around 70% for the past three years. The percentage of children served at home in intact family cases (i.e., children who remain at home while the family receives supportive services rather than being placed into substitute care) has been between 16-17% since 2021.<sup>3</sup> The percentage of children with a substantiated report who are placed in substitute care has been between 13-14% since 2021.<sup>4</sup>

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

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

**Figure 1.1 Service Dispositions Among Children with Substantiated Reports**

The relationship between post-investigation service provision and risk of maltreatment recurrence is complex. Some studies suggest that families who receive formal post-investigative services have higher rates of maltreatment recurrence than those who are not provided with services. An explanation for this outcome has remained unclear, however, there is some evidence suggesting that families who receive services typically have more risk factors than families not recommended for services.<sup>5</sup> Monitoring child safety without regard to service disposition ignores the possibility that children served in one setting may be more or less safe than those served in another. Therefore, this chapter examines separate indicators of child safety among 1) all children with substantiated reports; 2) children served in intact family cases; 3) children who do not receive any post-investigation services; and 4) children removed from the home and placed into substitute care (see Appendix A for technical definitions of these indicators).

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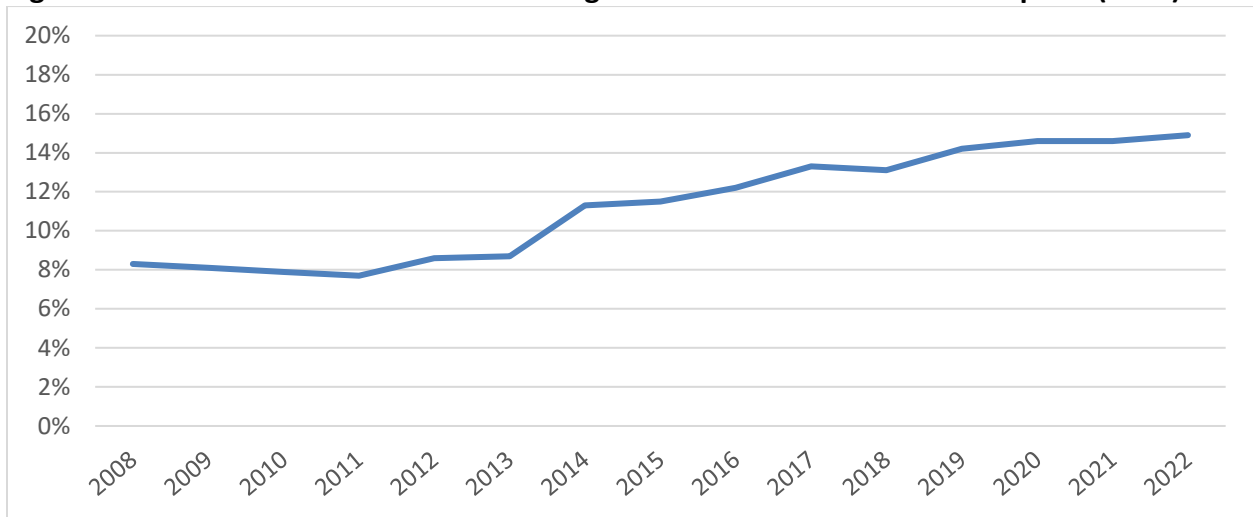
### Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children with Substantiated Reports (CFSR)

Figure 1.2 displays the 12-month maltreatment recurrence rate for all children with a substantiated maltreatment report over the past 15 years (see Appendix B, Indicator 1.A). The recurrence rate has steadily increased since 2013 and reached a new high of 14.9% in 2022.

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

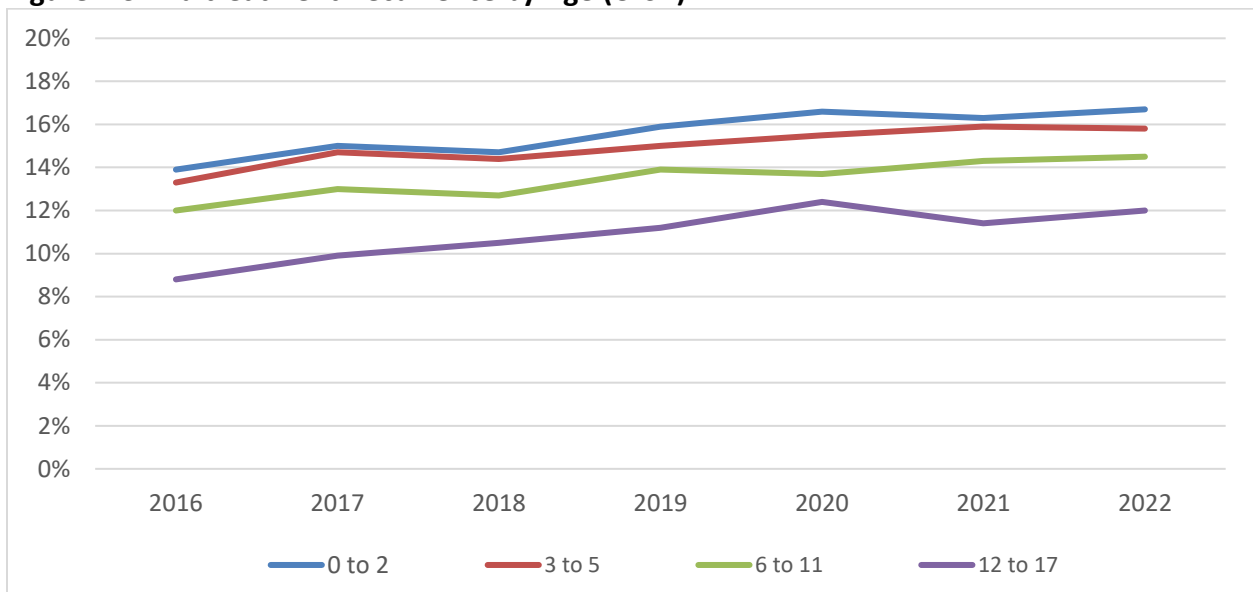
## CHILD SAFETY

**Figure 1.2 Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children with Substantiated Reports (CFSR)**



Current research suggests that younger children are more likely to experience maltreatment recurrence than older children,<sup>6</sup> a pattern consistently observed in Illinois as well. Of children with a substantiated report in 2022, 16.7% of children 0 to 2 years old and 15.8% of children 3 to 5 years old had an additional substantiated report within 12 months, compared to 14.5% of children 6 to 11 years old and 12.0% of children 12 to 17 years old (see Figure 1.3 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.A). Maltreatment recurrence increased for all age groups over the observed period.

**Figure 1.3 Maltreatment Recurrence by Age (CFSR)**

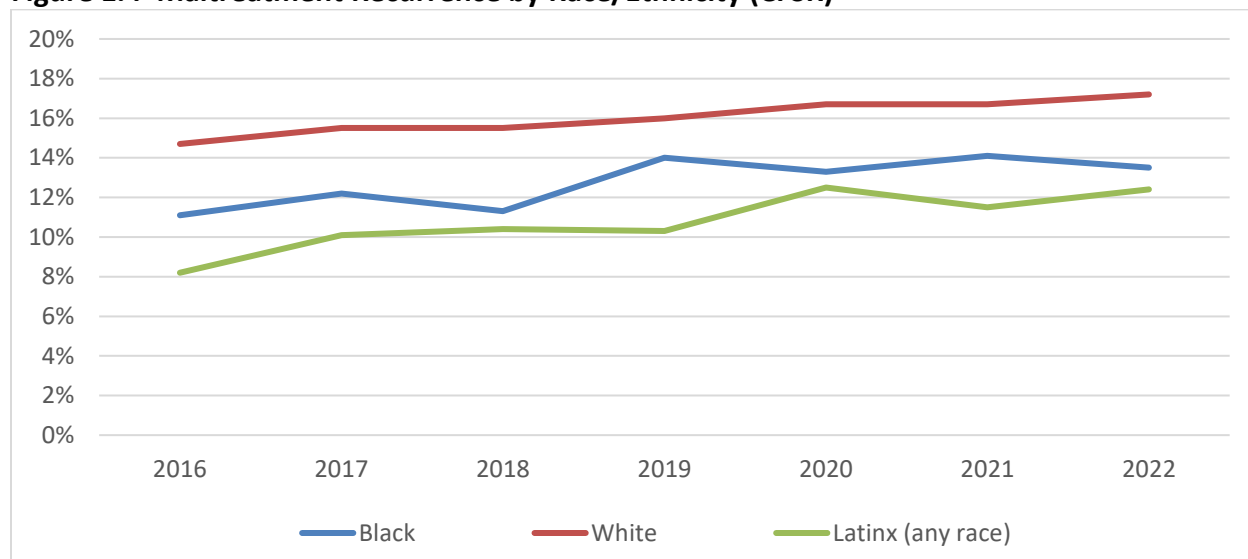


<sup>6</sup> Hindley, N., Ramchandani, P. G., & Jones, D. P. (2006). Risk factors for recurrence of maltreatment: a systematic review. *Archives of disease in childhood*, 91(9), 744-752; White, O. G., Hindley, N., & Jones, D. P. (2015). Risk factors for child maltreatment recurrence: An updated systematic review. *Medicine, Science and the Law*, 55(4), 259-277.



When recurrence rates are examined by child race and ethnicity, White children have higher rates of maltreatment recurrence than Black and Latinx children. Rates for all three groups have increased between 2016 and 2022 (see Figure 1.4 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.A).

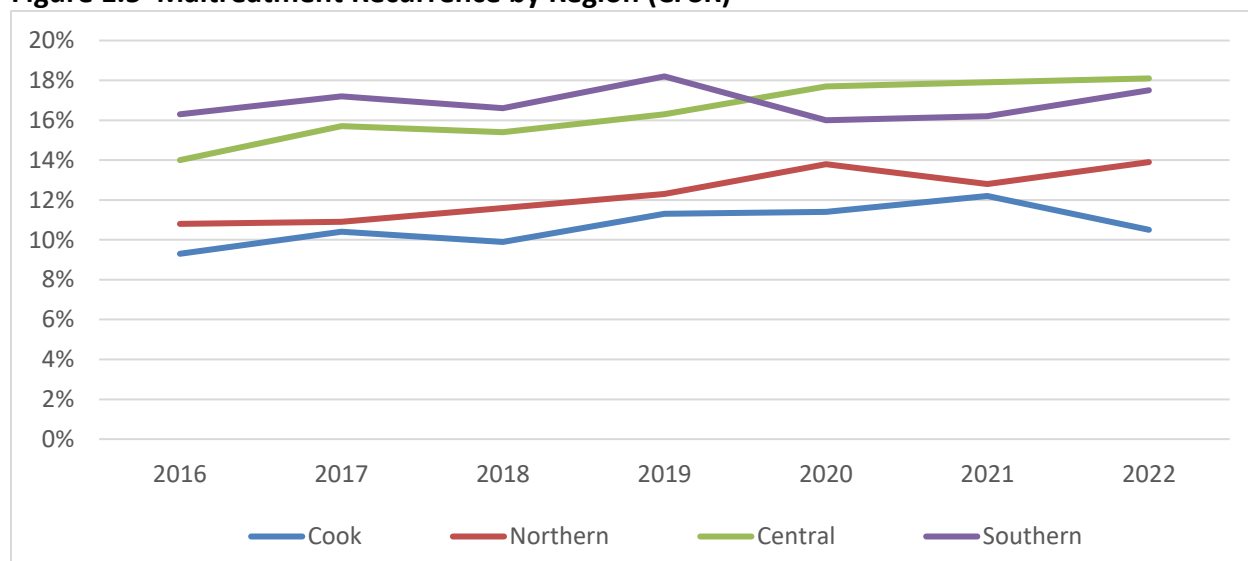
**Figure 1.4 Maltreatment Recurrence by Race/Ethnicity (CFSR)**



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Recurrence rates among children with substantiated reports were historically highest in the Southern region; however, since 2020 the Central region had the highest recurrence rates (18.1% in 2022). Maltreatment recurrence rates were lowest in the Cook region across the entire observation period and decreased from 12.2% in 2021 to 10.5% in 2022. Recurrence rates in each region have increased between 2016 and 2022 (Figure 1.5 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.A).

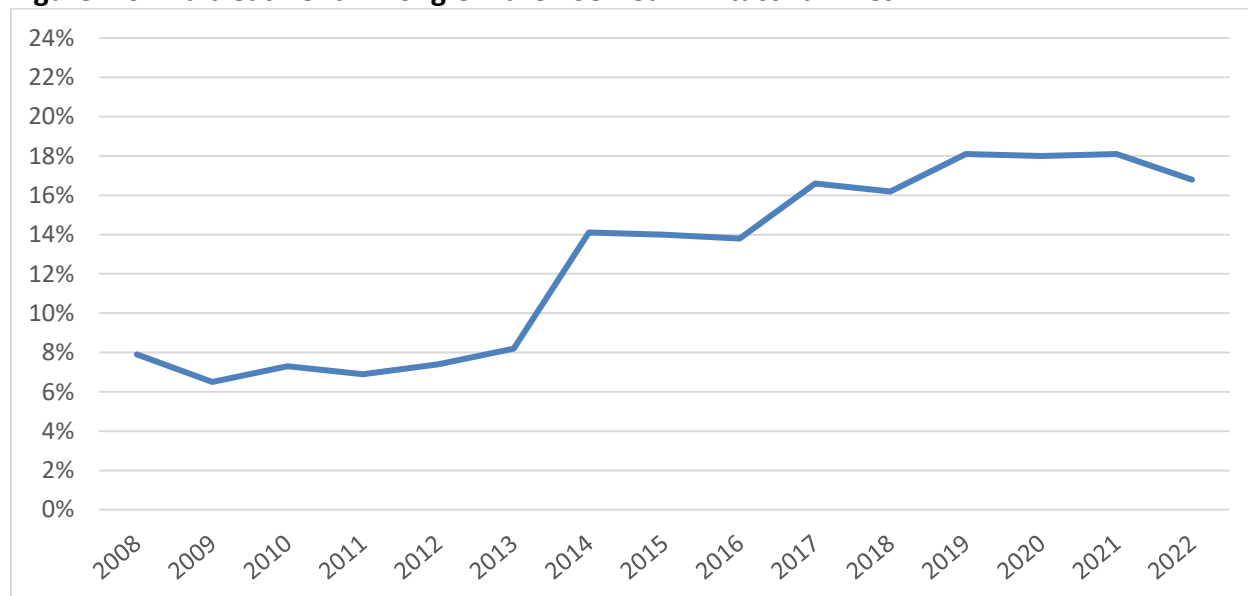
**Figure 1.5 Maltreatment Recurrence by Region (CFSR)**



## Maltreatment Among Children in Intact Family Cases

Despite some families receiving a substantiated maltreatment allegation, there are instances when keeping the family together is in the best interests of the child. When this occurs, families receive supportive services to prevent the child from entering substitute care. These families are of special interest because their history of substantiated maltreatment places them at increased risk of repeat maltreatment compared to families with no history of maltreatment. Figure 1.6 displays the percentage of children served in intact family cases that experienced a substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months of their case open date (see Appendix B, Indicator 1.B). Maltreatment rates among children served in intact family cases increased sharply in 2014 (from 8.2% in 2013 to 14.1% in 2014) and remained at that level for three years. The maltreatment rates increased again from 13.8% in 2016 to 18.1% in 2019, and remained at that rate for three years. A slight decrease was observed in 2022; rates dropped from 18.1% in 2021 to 16.8% in 2022.

**Figure 1.6 Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Families**



Younger children served in intact family cases are more likely to be maltreated compared to older children (see Figure 1.7 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.B). In 2022, 20.8% of children ages 0 to 2 and 18.3% of children ages 3 to 5 had a substantiated report within 12 months of their case opening, compared to 15.5% of children ages 6 to 11 and 13.1% of children ages 12 to 17. Maltreatment rates have increased among all age groups since 2016.

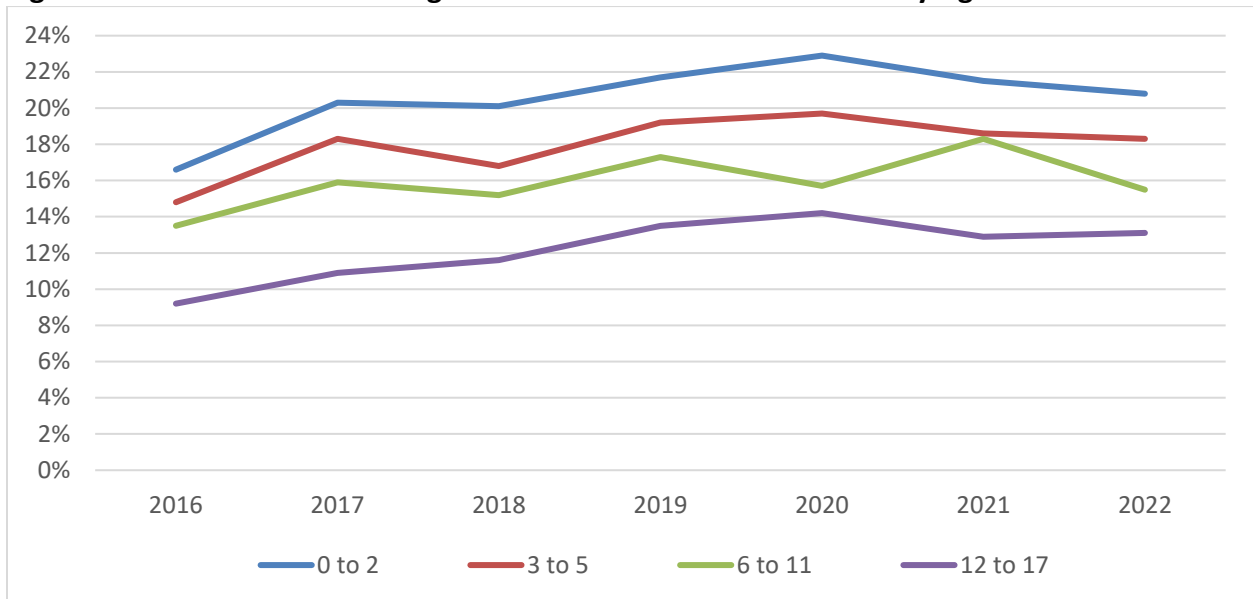
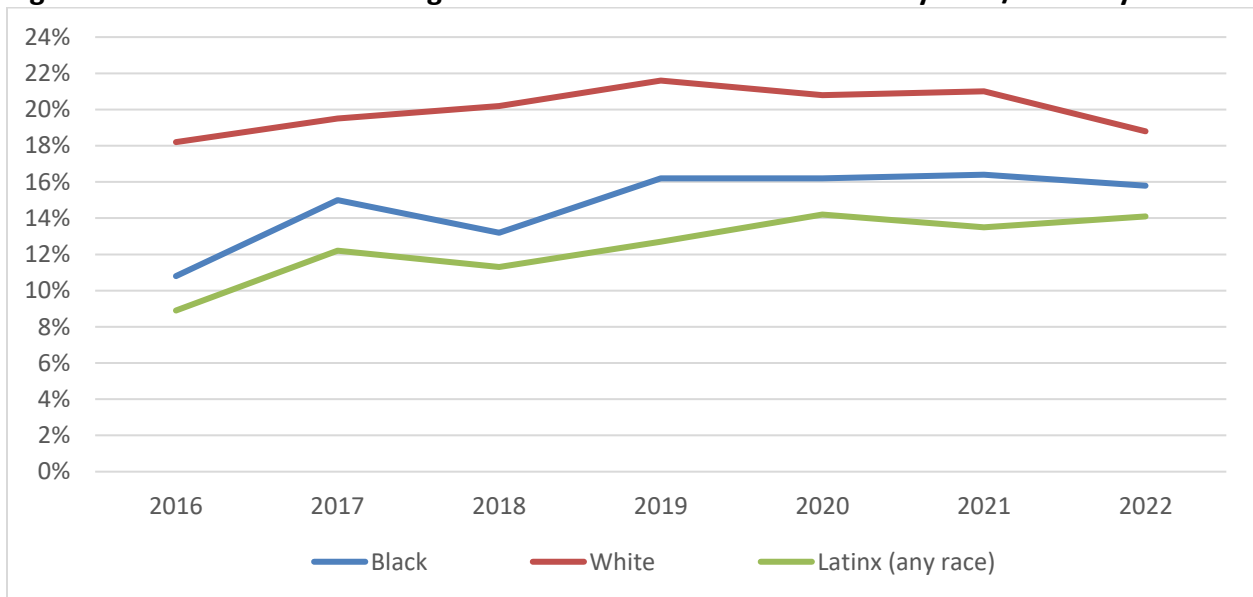
**Figure 1.7 Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Families by Age**

Figure 1.8 displays the maltreatment rates among children served in intact families by racial/ethnic group. White children served in intact families are consistently more likely to experience maltreatment than Black and Latinx children (see Appendix B, Indicator 1.B). Maltreatment rates among all three groups have risen in the past seven years.

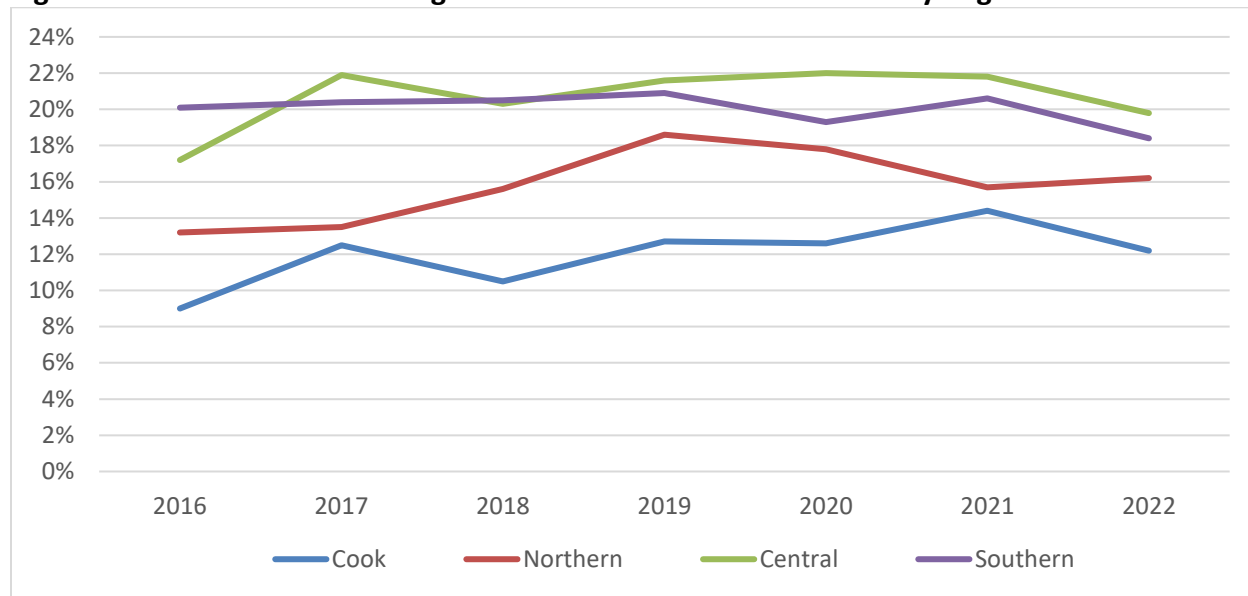
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**Figure 1.8 Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Families by Race/Ethnicity**

## CHILD SAFETY

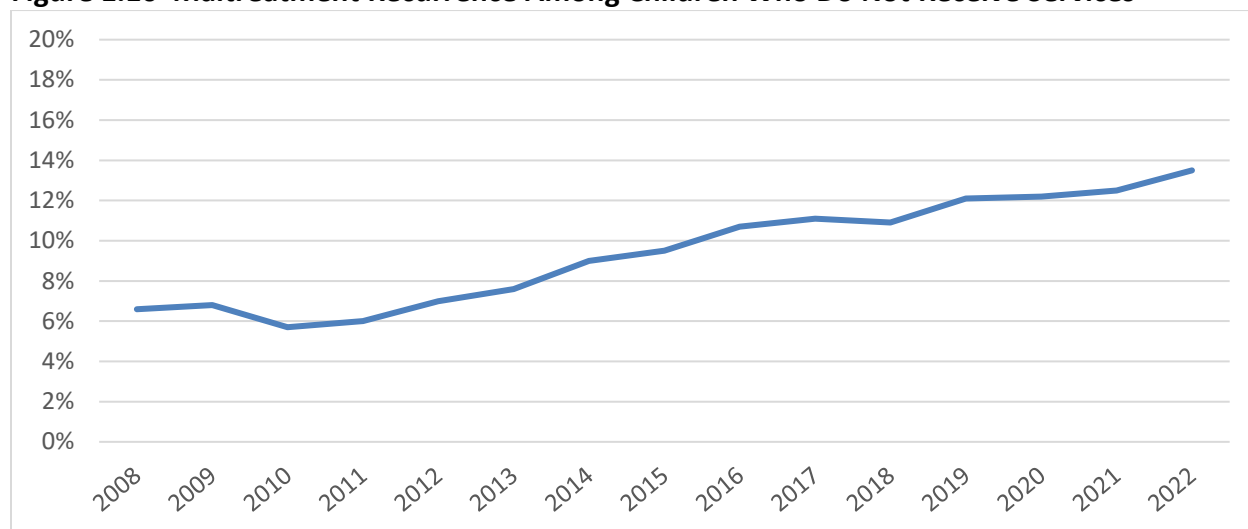
Maltreatment rates among children served in intact family cases have been consistently lower in the Cook and Northern regions compared to those in the Central and Southern regions (see Figure 1.9 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.B).

**Figure 1.9 Maltreatment Among Children Served in Intact Families by Region**



### Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children Who Do Not Receive Services

The majority of children (71.3%) that had substantiated reports of maltreatment in 2022 did not receive any post-investigation child welfare services (see Figure 1.1). Figure 1.10 displays the 12-month maltreatment recurrence rates for children with a substantiated report who did not receive services (either intact family services or substitute care) following the investigation (i.e., the case was substantiated and closed; see Appendix B, Indicator 1.C). When observed over the past 15 years, recurrence rates have consistently increased since 2010, and a new high rate of 13.5% was reached in 2022. Examination of recurrence rates by subgroups reveals that rates are highest among children who are ages 5 and younger, White, and living in the Central and Southern regions of the state (see Appendix B, Indicator 1.C).

**Figure 1.10 Maltreatment Recurrence Among Children Who Do Not Receive Services**

### Maltreatment in Substitute Care (CFSR)

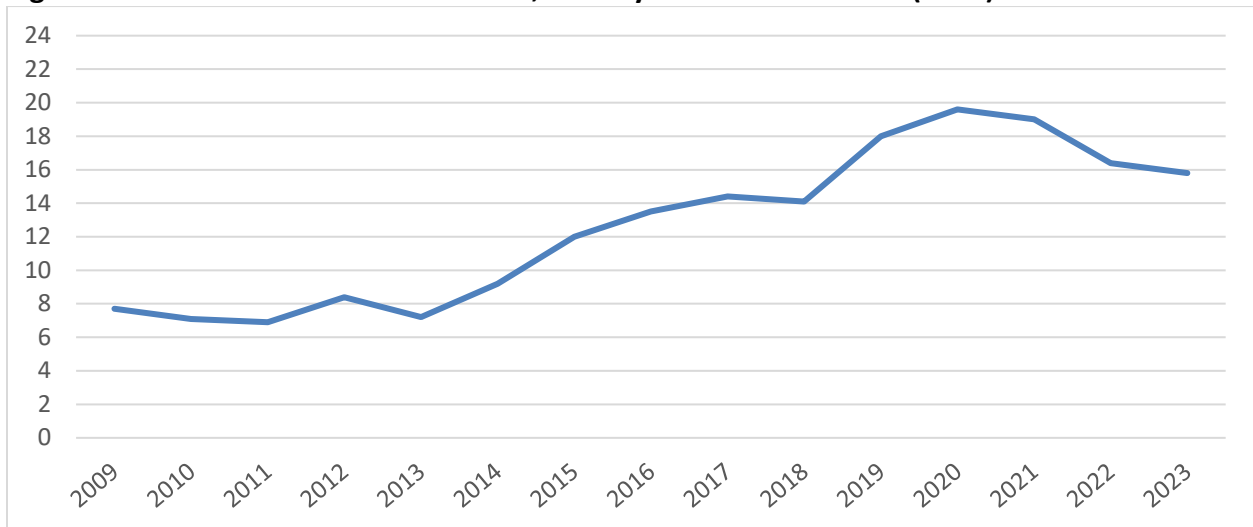
Substitute care is meant to be a safe respite for children whose safety and well-being was compromised. As such, it is essential that children remain protected while they are in state care. To assess child safety in substitute care, this report uses the measure that was developed for Round 4 of the Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSRs).<sup>7</sup> This measure looks at the children in substitute care during the fiscal year and calculates the total number of days these children were in substitute care. Then, the total number of substantiated reports of maltreatment for these children within this period is determined. To make the results easier to interpret, the results are multiplied by 100,000 and are described as the rate of maltreatment per 100,000 days of substitute care (see Appendix A for the technical definition). Figure 1.11 shows the rate of substantiated reports per 100,000 days in care over the past 15 years. Maltreatment rates increased from 7.2 in 2013 to a high of 19.6 in 2020. Since then, the rates are in decline, decreasing to 15.8 in 2023 (-19% change).

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<sup>7</sup> Capacity Building Center for States (2019). Maltreatment in Foster Care: CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicator Series. Retrieved on March 15, 2024, <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/resources/cfsr-r4-swidi-maltreatment-in-care>

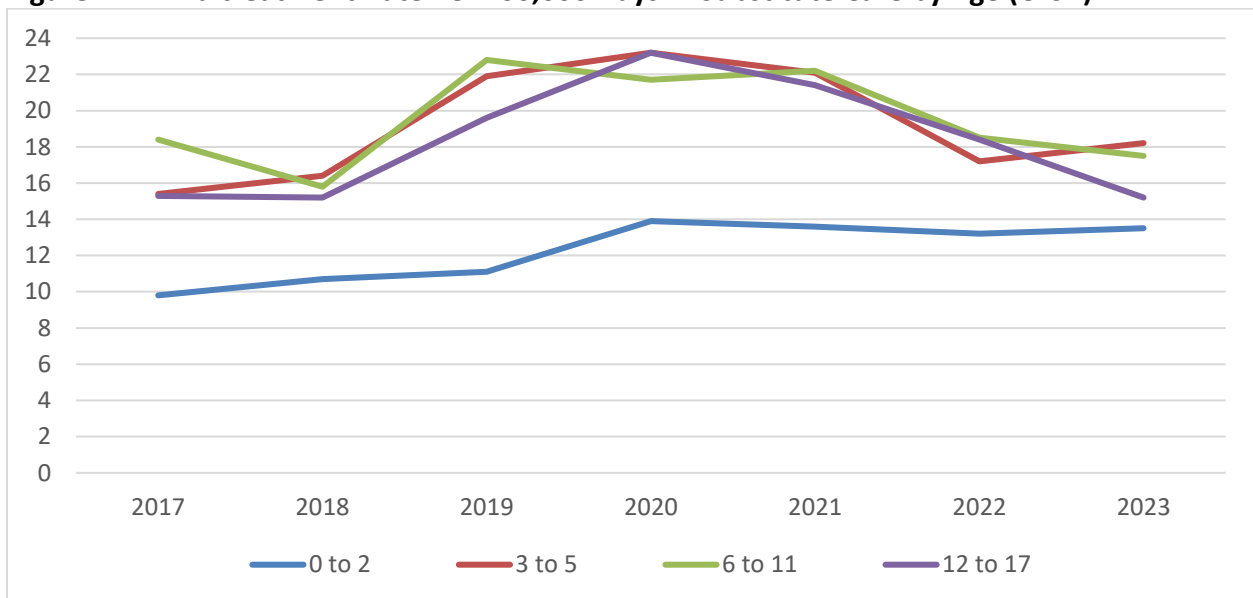
## CHILD SAFETY

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



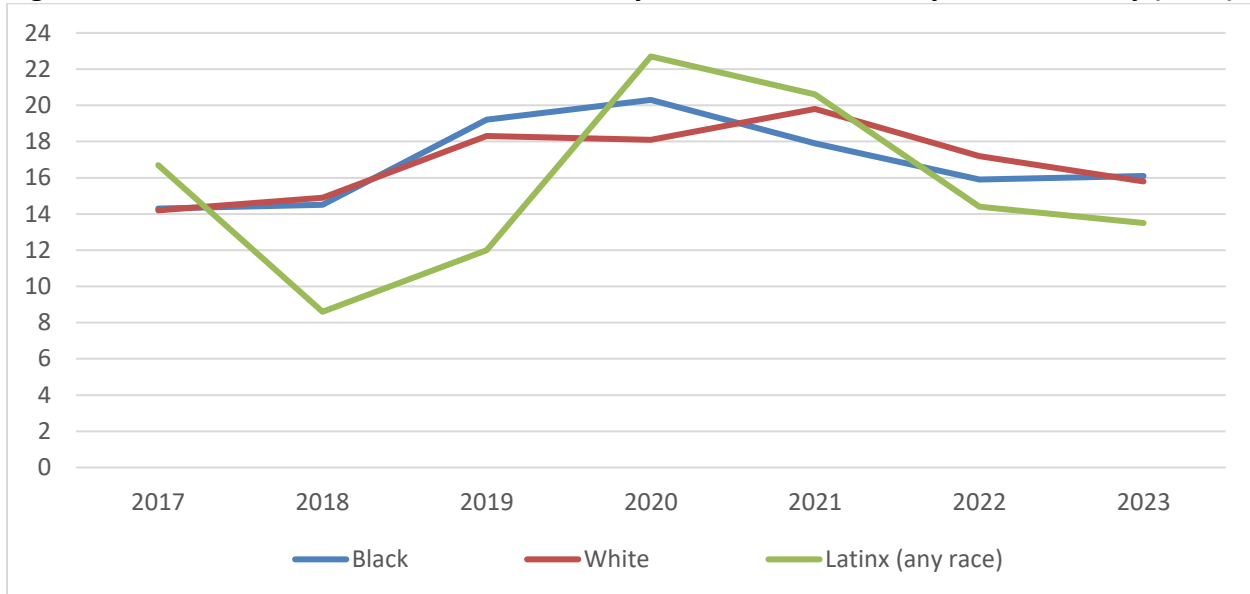
Unlike other indicators of child safety, children ages 0 to 2 years have the lowest rates of maltreatment in substitute care compared with children in other age groups (see Figure 1.12 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.D). Rates of maltreatment in care peaked in 2020 for all age groups except children 6 to 11, which peaked in 2019. Since 2020, there have been notable decreases in maltreatment in care among all groups except children ages 0 to 2. Rates among children ages 12 to 17 have decreased from 23.3 in 2020 to 15.2 in 2023, a 34% relative decrease.

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



In general, the rates of maltreatment in care increased for Black and Latinx children until 2020 and have since seen significant declines. The maltreatment rates for White children increased until 2021 and have since declined (see Figure 1.13 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.D).

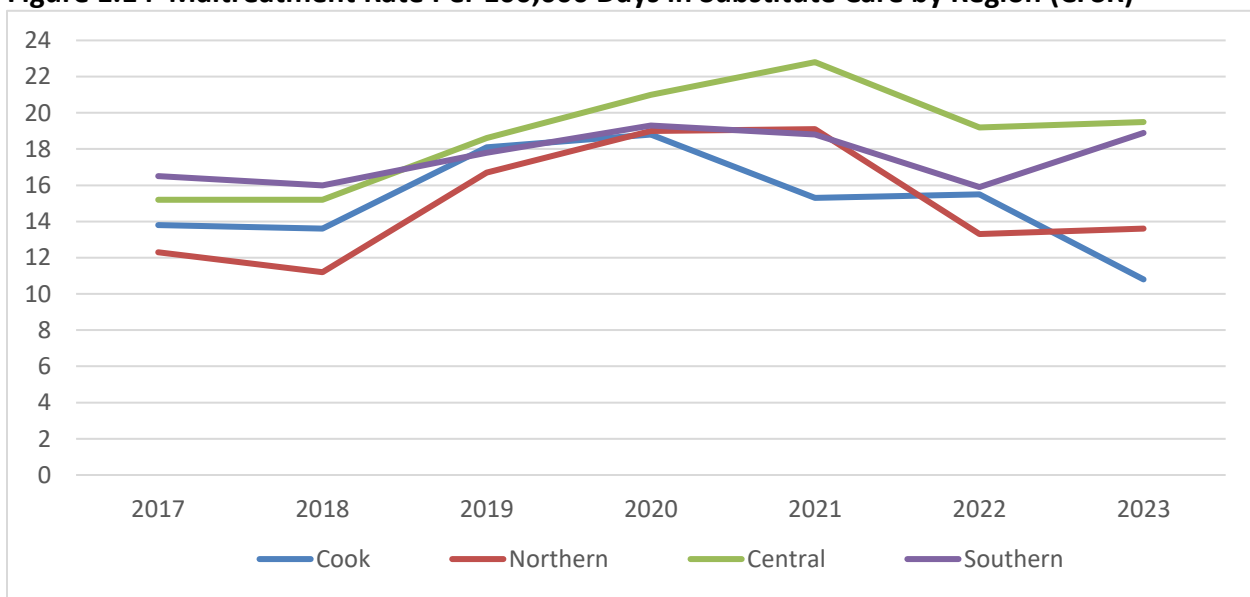
**Figure 1.13 Maltreatment Rate Per 100,000 Days in Substitute Care by Race/Ethnicity (CFSR)**



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Maltreatment rates increased for all regions between 2018 and 2020 (see Figure 1.14 and Appendix B, Indicator 1.D). A decrease in the Cook region was observed afterwards and continued in 2023 (from 18.8 in 2020 to 10.8 in 2023). Rates in the Northern and Central regions remained the same in 2022 and 2023, while those in the Southern region increased from 15.9 in 2022 to 18.9 in 2023.

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



## Discussion and Conclusions: Child Safety

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

The results in this chapter continue to show persistent and troubling trends related to child safety in Illinois. Overall rates of maltreatment recurrence for all children with substantiated reports are at their highest levels in 15 years. The same is also true for children with substantiated reports who do not receive post-investigation services; which included around 70% of children with substantiated reports in FY2023.

There is a reasonable expectation that intact family services should reduce the risk of maltreatment for children. Past *B.H.* monitoring reports have highlighted a concern with the percentage of children in intact family cases who experience maltreatment, and although the results of this year's report showed a small decrease in this outcome, maltreatment rates among children served in intact family cases remain at a near record high level in FY2023. Even more worrisome is that the most vulnerable children are at highest risk: one of every five children aged 0 to 2 years served in an intact family case experienced a substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months. Little research has focused on post-investigative services for children that remain in the home. As such, it would be beneficial for the Department to study the service array available for families and whether these services are effective at lowering the risk of future maltreatment.

A positive trend was noted related to the rate of maltreatment in substitute care. After many years of increases that peaked in 2020 at 19.6 per 100,000 days, the rate of maltreatment in care has declined to 15.8 per 100,000 days in 2023 (a relative decrease of 19%). Although this decline is positive news, the rate of maltreatment in care is still significantly higher than the goal of 9.0 per 100,000 days set by the Department. Previous research conducted by the Children and Family Research Center has shown that children placed in unlicensed kinship foster homes have a higher likelihood of experiencing maltreatment in care compared to children in other placement types.<sup>8</sup> It will be important in the upcoming year to monitor the effect of the changes in kinship foster home licensing requirements on rates of maltreatment in care.

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<sup>8</sup> Nieto, M., Wang, S., Fuller, T., & Adams, K. (2020). *Predicting maltreatment in substitute care*. Urbana, IL: Children and Family Research Center.





## Chapter 2

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

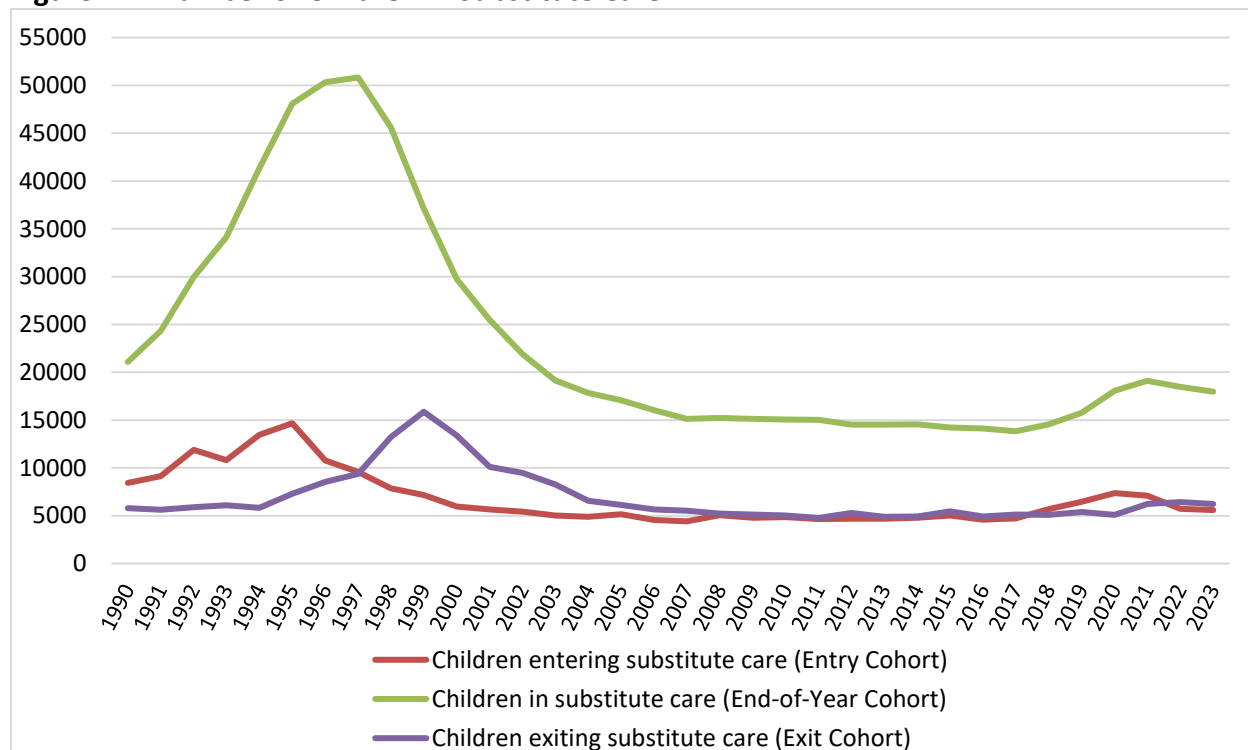
Children should only be removed from their parents and placed in substitute care when it is necessary to ensure their safety and well-being. Once removed from their homes, the public child welfare system and its private agency partners have a responsibility to provide children with living arrangements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

Two of the indicators in this chapter (placement restrictiveness and placement with siblings) are examined for children’s initial placements in substitute care (entry cohort) and their placements at the end of the fiscal year (end-of-year cohort). It is important to keep in mind that the children in these two samples are not the same; initial placements examine the first placement for all children who entered care within a given fiscal year, while end-of-year placements examine the placement types of children in care on the last day of the state fiscal year (June 30). Children who are in care for several years are counted in several “end-of-year” samples, while children who enter after June 30<sup>th</sup> and exit before June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year are not counted in any end-of-year sample. The indicator for length of time in substitute care measures the median length of time in care for all children who exited care during the fiscal year (exit cohort).

## CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

When examining the indicators related to substitute care placements, it is important to understand the number of children who are entering and exiting care during the year. Figure 2.1 shows the distribution of three different samples of children in substitute care: entry cohort (number of children who entered care during the fiscal year), end-of-year cohort (a cross-sectional count of the number of children in care on June 30), and exit cohort (number of children who exited care during the fiscal year). Beginning in the early 2000s, the number of children entering care each year was relatively stable and fluctuated between 4,500 and 5,500. In 2019, the number of children entering care increased to 6,448, and over 7,000 children entered care in 2020 and 2021. The increased number of children entering care led to an increase in the total number of children in care at the end of the year; after many years of relative stability, the number of children in care at the end of the year increased from 14,563 in 2018 to over 19,000 in 2021. However, the number of children entering care has declined from 7,090 in 2021 to 5,582 in 2023, which has led to a slight decrease in the number of children in care at the end of the year.

**Figure 2.1 Number of Children in Substitute Care**



## Changes in Continuity and Stability in Care at a Glance

### Restrictiveness of Initial Placement Settings

↓ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in the home of parents decreased from 3.3% in 2022 to 2.7% in 2023 (-18% change).

↔ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in a kinship foster home remained stable and was 75.6% in 2023.

↔ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in a traditional foster home remained stable and was 17.5% in 2023.

↓ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in a specialized foster home decreased from 1.0% in 2022 to 0.7% in 2023 (-30% change).

↑ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in an emergency shelter or emergency foster home increased from 0.6% in 2022 to 1.1% in 2023 (+83% change).

↔ Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage initially placed in an institution or group home remained stable and was 2.4% in 2023.

### Restrictiveness of End of Year Placement Settings

↔ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in the home of parents remained stable and was 4.4% in 2023.

↔ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in a kinship foster home remained stable and was 59.7% in 2023.

↔ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in a traditional foster home remained stable and was 19.2% in 2023.

↑ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in a specialized foster home increased from 10.8% in 2022 to 11.9% in 2023 (+10% change).

↑ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in an emergency shelter or emergency foster home increased from 0.4% in 2022 to 0.5% in 2023 (+25% change).

↑ Of all children in substitute care at the end of the year, the percentage placed in an institution or group home increased from 3.9% in 2022 to 4.2% 2023 (+8% change).

### Placement with Siblings

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

#### For children with one or two siblings in care:

↔ remained stable for children initially placed in kinship foster homes and was 80.2% in 2023.

↓ decreased for children initially placed in traditional foster homes from 57.6% in 2022 to 51.5% in 2023 (-11% change).

#### For children with three or more siblings in care:

↓ decreased for children initially placed in kinship foster homes from 58.3% in 2022 to 49.7% in 2023 (-15% change).

↔ remained stable for children initially placed in traditional foster homes and was 11.1% in 2023.

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

#### For children with one or two siblings in care:

↔ remained stable for children in kinship foster homes and was 68.6% in 2023.

↔ remained stable for children in traditional foster homes and was 51.0% in 2023.

#### For children with three or more siblings in care:

↓ decreased for children in kinship foster homes from 34.7% in 2022 to 32.1% in 2023 (-7% change).

↓ decreased for children in traditional foster homes from 11.8% in 2022 to 7.4% in 2023 (-37% change).

### Placement Stability (CFSR)

↔ Of all children entering substitute care during the year, the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days in care remained stable and was 3.3 in 2023.

### Children Who Run Away From Substitute Care

↔ Of all children entering substitute care between the age of 12 and 17 years, the percentage that ran away from a placement within one year of entry remained stable and was 10.0% in 2022.

### Length of Stay in Substitute Care

↑ Of all children who exited substitute care, the median length of stay increased from 29 months in 2022 to 32 months in 2023 (+10% change).

## Family Continuity

### *Restrictiveness of Placement Settings*

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

#### Placement Type Terminology

#### BOX 2.1

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

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

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

**Specialized or treatment foster care** involves placement of children with foster families who have been specially trained to care for children with certain medical or behavioral needs. Examples include medically fragile children, children with emotional or behavioral disorders, and children with HIV/AIDS. Treatment foster parents are required to obtain additional training to become licensed, provide more support for children than regular family foster care, and have lower limits on the number of children that can be cared for in their home.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>4</sup> Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (October, 2015). *Procedures 301.55 Temporary Placement in the DFCS Statewide Emergency Shelter System*. Springfield, IL: Author.

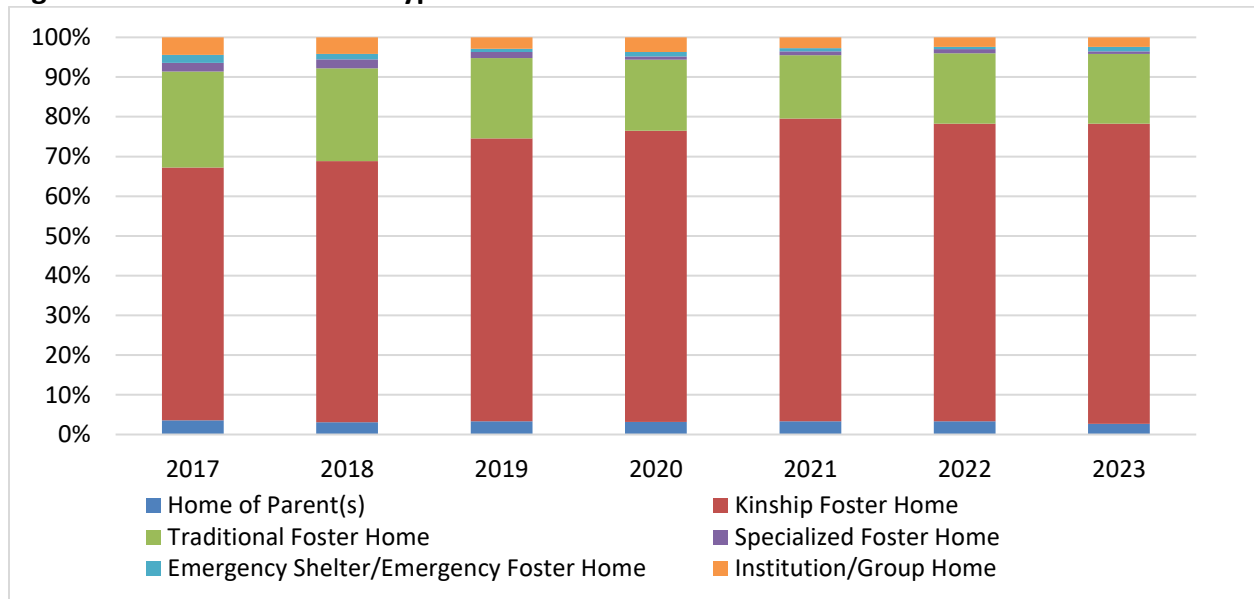
<sup>5</sup> Putnam, R. (2000). *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. New York: Simon & Schuster. Granovetter M. S. (1973). The strength of weak ties. *American Journal of Sociology*, 78, 1360-1380.

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

**Initial Placements**

Initial placement types for children entering care during fiscal years 2017 through 2023 are shown in Figure 2.2. In the past seven years, between 2.7% and 3.6% of children were initially placed in the home of their parent(s) after DCFS took legal responsibility for them (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.1). Most children entering care were initially placed in kinship foster homes; that percentage has been increasing over time and was 75.6% in 2023 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.2). The percentage of children initially placed in traditional foster homes has decreased from 24.2% in 2017 to 17.5% in 2023 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.3). The percentage of children initially placed in specialized foster homes is small compared to other types of placements and was 0.7% in 2023 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.4). The percentage of children initially placed in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes has been less than 2% since 2018 and was 1.1% in 2023 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.5). The percentage of children with an initial placement in group homes or institutions has decreased over time and was 2.4% in 2023 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.A.6).

**Figure 2.2 Initial Placement Types**

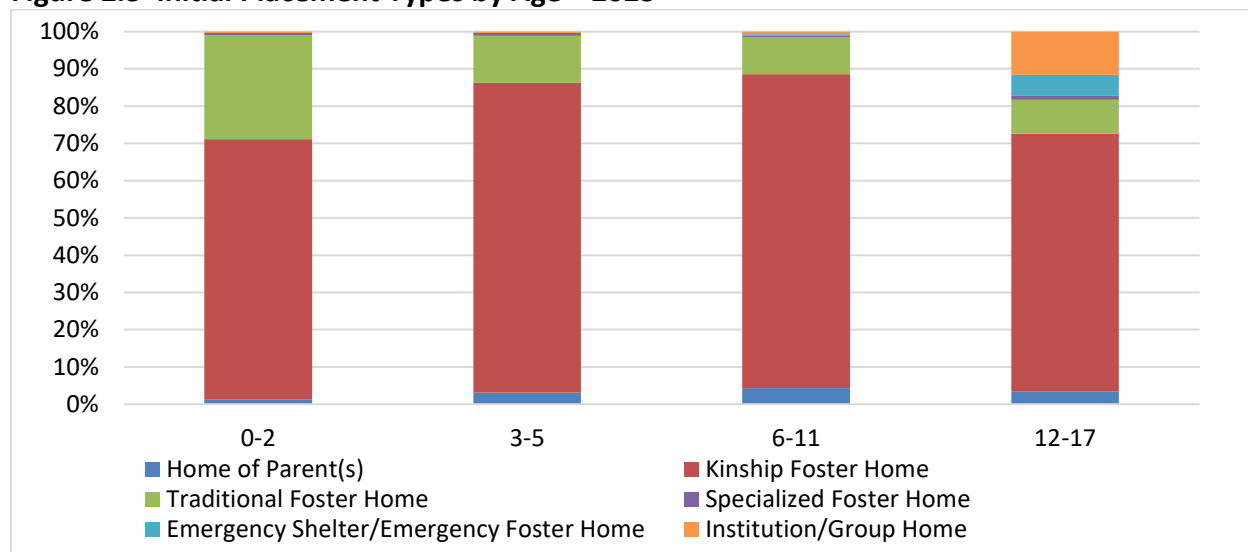


The use of different placement types for initial placements varies by child age, race/ethnicity, and geographical region of the state. These relationships are explored in more detail by examining the initial placements during the most recent fiscal year for which data are available (2023). Over 98% of children 11 years and younger were initially placed in less restrictive settings such as home of parent(s), kinship, traditional, or specialized foster homes, as compared to 82.9% of youth 12 to 17 years old (see Figure 2.3 and Appendix B, Indicators 2.A.1–2.A.6). Conversely, 17.1% of youth 12 to 17 years old were initially placed in more restrictive settings (emergency shelters, group homes, and institutions); these placements were much less common for younger children. The increased use of kinship homes as initial placements over the past seven years has occurred across all age groups but was particularly

## CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

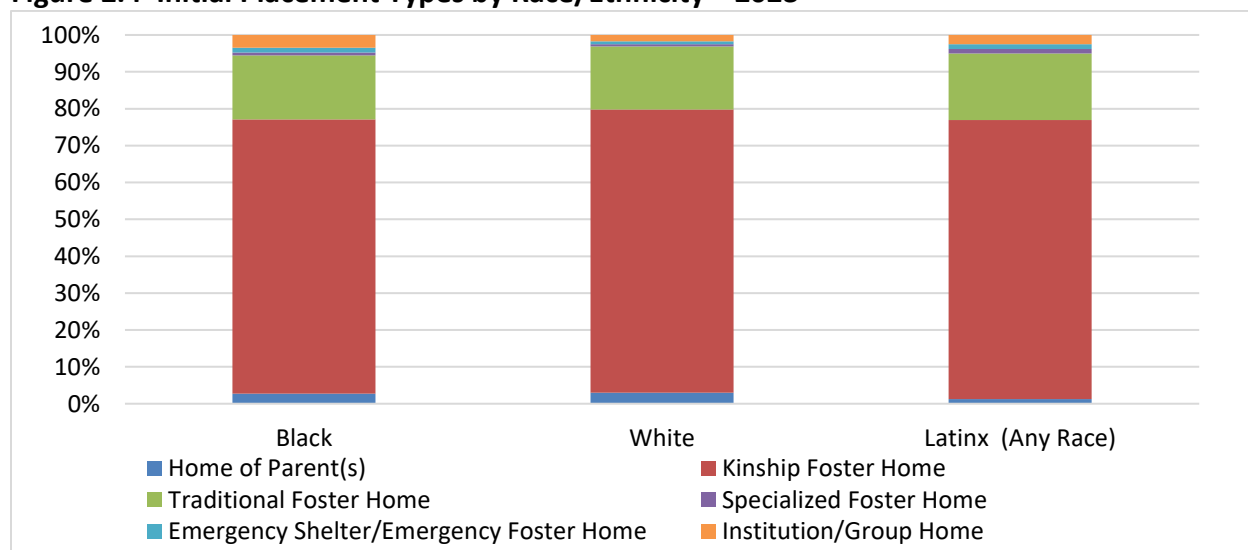
notable among older children. For children 12 to 17 years old, the percentage initially placed in kinship homes has increased from 48.6% in 2017 to 69.2% in 2023 (see Indicator 2.A.2). The decreased use of traditional homes as initial placements in recent years has occurred across all age groups but was particularly notable for children ages 3 to 11 years (see Indicator 2.A.3).

**Figure 2.3 Initial Placement Types by Age—2023**



Initial placement types varied slightly by child race/ethnicity (see Figure 2.4 and Appendix B, Indicators 2.A.1–2.A.6). Rates of initial placements in group homes and institutions are highest for Black children. However, the percentage of Black children initially placed in these placement types has been decreasing in the recent years (see Indicator 2.A.6). In addition, initial placements in kinship foster homes have increased among all racial and ethnic groups, but are notably higher among Black children, increasing from 59.8% in 2017 to 74.4% in 2023.

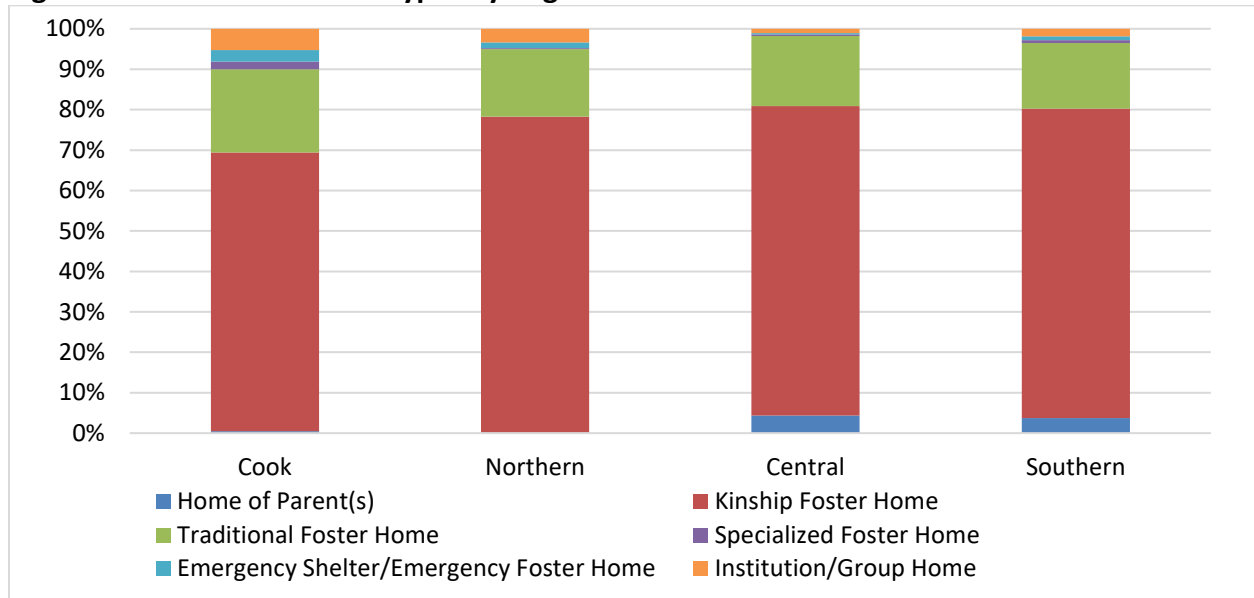
**Figure 2.4 Initial Placement Types by Race/Ethnicity—2023**





Although the majority of children across all regions were initially placed in either kinship or traditional foster homes, initial placements in more restrictive placement types varied by region (see Figure 2.5 and Appendix B, Indicators 2.A.1–2.A.6). In 2023, the Cook region had a higher percentage of initial placements in emergency shelters/emergency foster homes (2.8% vs. Northern, 1.4%; Central, 0.3%; Southern, 0.9%) and in institutions/group homes (5.3% vs. Northern, 3.4%; Central, 1.1%; and Southern, 1.9%). However, the percentages of children initially placed in group homes/institutions in the Cook region have decreased from 9.1% in 2017 to 5.3% in 2023 which is a positive trend (see Indicators 2.A.6).

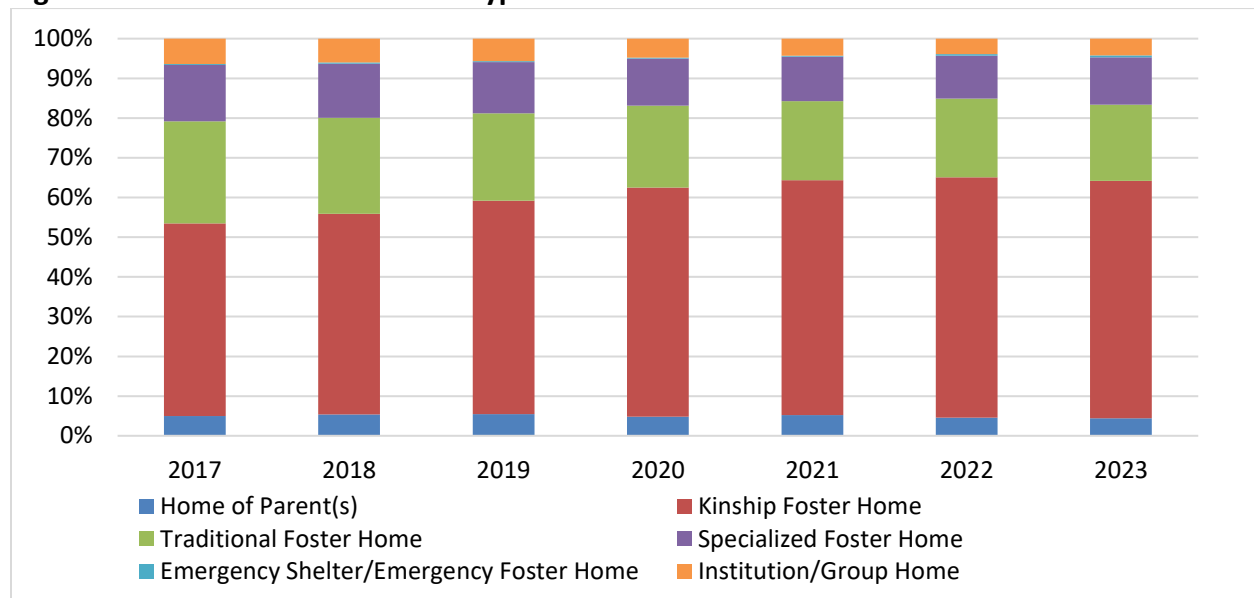
**Figure 2.5 Initial Placement Types by Region—2023**



**End-of-Year Placements**

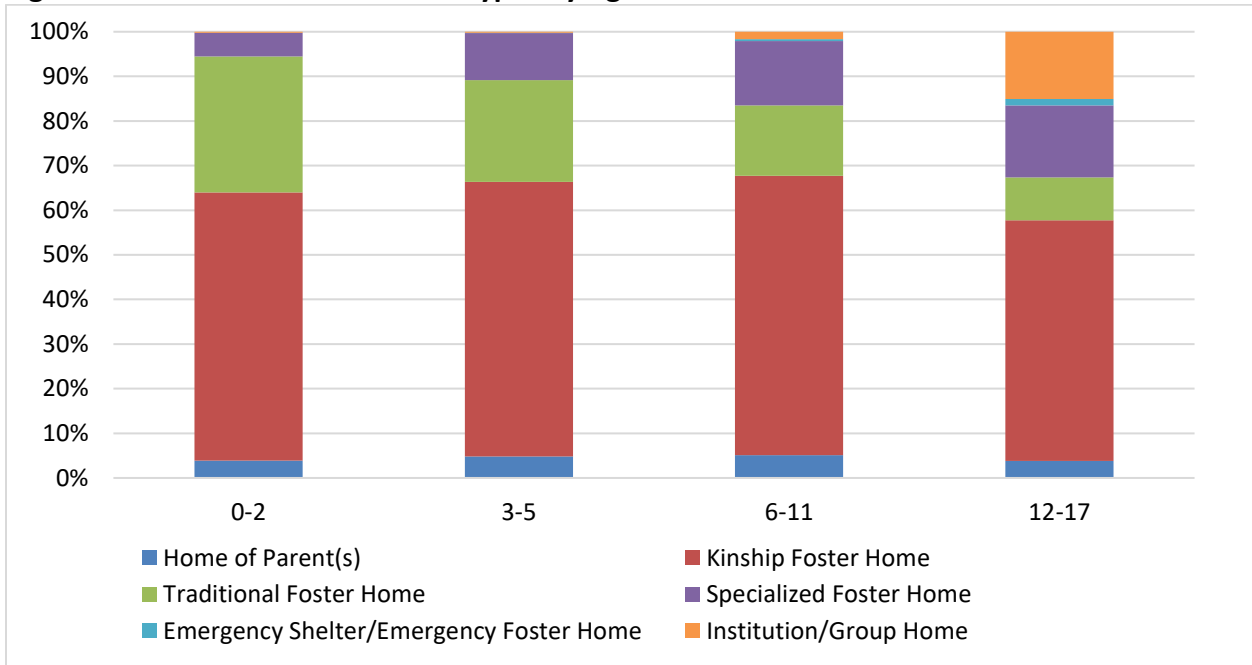
End-of-year placement types for children in substitute care during fiscal years 2017 through 2023 are shown in Figure 2.6. Among children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, between 4.4%-5.5% were placed with their parent(s) over the past seven years (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.B.1). More than half of the children in care were in kinship foster homes at the end of the year since 2018; in 2023, 59.7% of children were in kinship foster homes at the end of the year (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.B.2). Conversely, the percentage of children in traditional foster homes has decreased each year and reached its lowest point of 19.2% in 2023 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.B.3). The percentage of children in specialized foster homes at the end of the year decreased until 2022 and then increased from 10.8% in 2022 to 11.9% in 2023 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.B.4). Placement rates in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes at the end of the year have stayed at or below 0.5% in the past seven years (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.B.5). The percentage of children in group homes at the end of the fiscal year has been 0.5% for the past four years (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.B.6), and the percentage in institutions has been under 4% in the past three years and was 3.7% in 2023 (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.B.7).

**Figure 2.6 End-of-Year Placement Types**



Placement types at the end of the year vary by child age, race/ethnicity, and region. These relationships are explored by examining end-of-year placements during the most recent fiscal year for which data are available (2023). A child’s placement at the end of the year varied by age (see Figure 2.7 and Appendix B, Indicators 2.B.1–2.B.7). In 2023, over 60% of children 11 years and younger were living in kinship foster homes at the end of the year, compared to 54.0% of youth 12 to 17 years old. Similarly, the percentage of children living in traditional foster homes at the end of the year was higher for younger children: 30.5% of children 0 to 2 years old were in traditional foster homes compared to 9.6% of youth 12 to 17 years old. Conversely, the proportion of children placed in specialized foster homes, institutions, or group homes at the end of year was larger for older children. For example, 1.7% of children 6 to 11 years old were living in group homes or institutions at the end of 2023, compared to 15.1% of children 12 to 17 years old. There have been positive trends towards less restrictive placements for children 12 to 17 years old during the past seven years. Older youth had the largest increase in kinship foster home placements at the end of year, from 35.1% in 2017 to 54.0% in 2023 (see Indicator 2.B.2), as well as a large decrease in institutional placements (from 19.3% in 2017 to 13.0% in 2023; see Indicator 2.B.7).

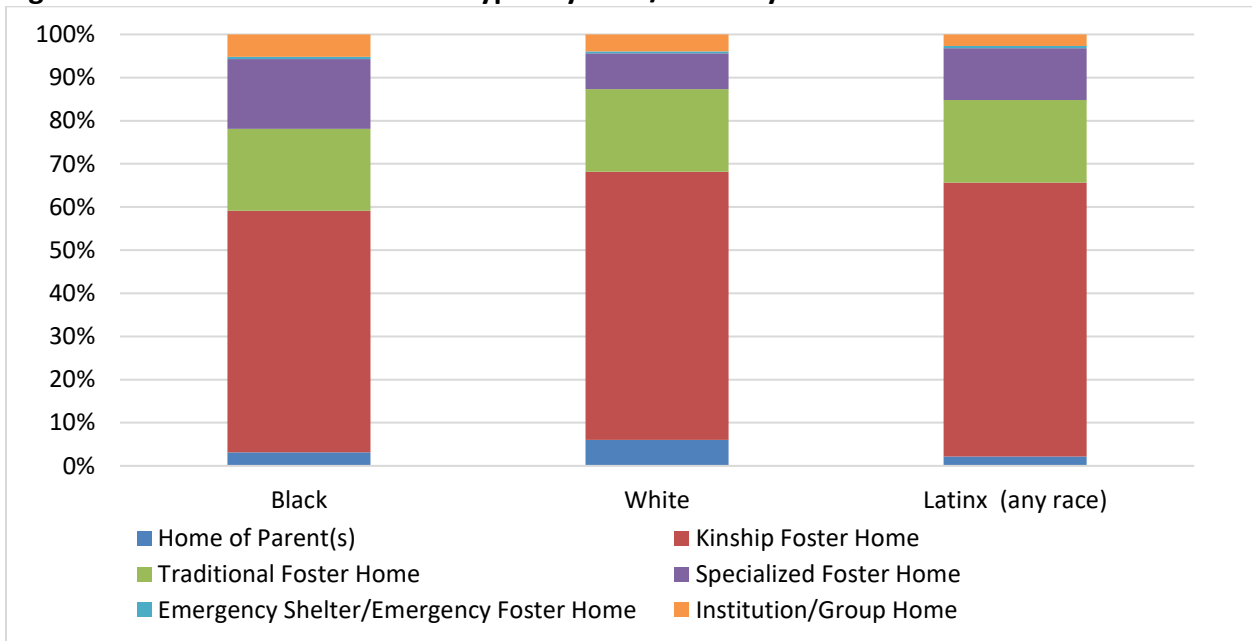
**Figure 2.7 End-of-Year Placement Types by Age—2023**



When placements at the end of FY2023 were compared by race/ethnicity, Black children were less likely than White or Latinx children to be placed in kinship foster homes (56.1% compared to 62.2% and 63.5%, respectively); and more likely to be placed in a specialized foster home (16.2% compared to 8.3% and 12.0%, respectively) and in institutional placements (5.2% compared to 3.9% and 2.7% respectively; see Figure 2.8 and Appendix B, Indicators 2.B.1–2.B.7).

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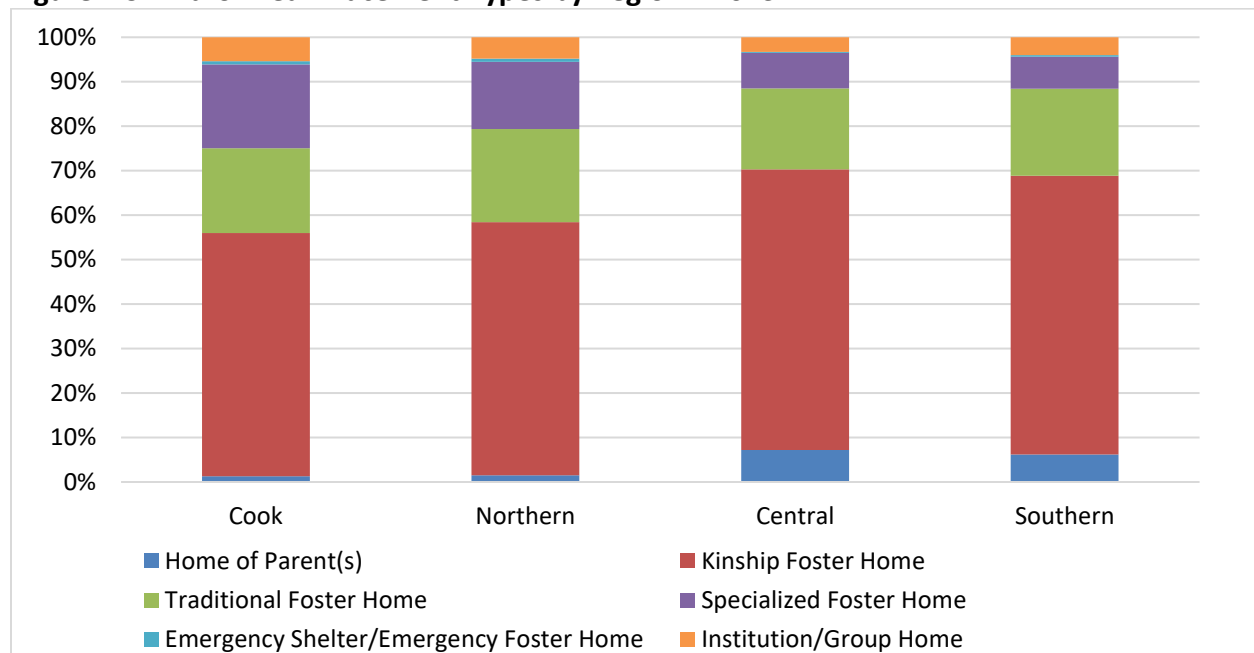
**Figure 2.8 End-of-Year Placement Types by Race/Ethnicity—2023**



## CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

Analysis of children’s placement settings at the end of FY2023 shows several regional differences (see Figure 2.9 and Appendix B, Indicators 2.B.1–2.B.7). The Central (7.2%) and Southern (6.2%) regions had higher percentages of children living in the home of parent(s) than did the Northern (1.5%) and Cook (1.3%) regions. Also, the Central (63.2%) and Southern (62.7%) regions had higher percentages of children living in kinship homes (Northern region: 56.9%; Cook region: 54.6%). Children in the Cook (18.8%) and Northern (15.1%) regions were more likely to live in specialized foster homes than those in the Central (8.0%) and Southern (7.2%) regions.

**Figure 2.9 End-of-Year Placement Types by Region—2023**



### **Placement with Siblings**

Research shows that there are many benefits of placing children with their siblings in substitute care when possible. Siblings may provide one another with emotional support, a sense of connection, and continuity when they are removed from what is familiar to them and placed into substitute care.<sup>7</sup> Research has shown that children who are placed with siblings are less likely to experience placement disruptions,<sup>8</sup> more likely to be reunified with their parents,<sup>9</sup> and less at risk for experiencing behavioral health problems.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>7</sup> McBeath, B., Kothari, B. H., Blakeslee, J., Lamson-Siu, E., Bank, L., Linares, L. O., & Schlonsky, A. (2015). Intervening to improve outcomes for siblings in foster care: Conceptual, substantive, and methodological dimensions of a prevention science framework. *Children and Youth Services Review, 39*, 1-10.

<sup>8</sup> Leathers, S. J. (2005). Separation from siblings: Associations with placement adaptation and outcomes among adolescents in long-term foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review, 27*, 793-819.

<sup>9</sup> Albert, V. N., & King, W. C. (2008). Survival analyses of the dynamics of sibling experiences in foster care. *Families in Society, 89*, 533-541.

<sup>10</sup> Hegar, R. L., & Rosenthal, J. A. (2009). Kinship care and sibling placement: Child behavior, family relationships, and school outcomes. *Children and Youth Services Review, 31*, 670-679; Winokur, M., Holtan, A., & Batchelder, K. E.

The importance of maintaining sibling connections among children in substitute care is reflected in several pieces of legislation at the national and state levels. The 2008 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (P.L. 110-135) instructs states to make “reasonable efforts” to place siblings together. In Illinois, the importance of sibling relationships among children in DCFS care was reinforced when the Preserving Sibling Relationships for Children in State Care and Adopted through DCFS Public Act (P.A. 97-1076) was enacted in 2012. This act amended the Children and Family Services Act and specified that, when placing a child into a substitute care placement, “the Department shall place the child with the child’s sibling or siblings [...] unless the placement is not in each child’s best interest, or is otherwise not possible under the Department’s rules. If the child is not placed with a sibling under the Department’s rules, the Department shall consider placements that are likely to develop, preserve, nurture, and support sibling relationships, where doing so is in each child’s best interest.”<sup>11</sup>

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

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

Of the 5,582 children who entered care in 2023, 5,196 (93.1%) were initially placed in kinship or traditional foster homes. Of these children, 2,231 had one or two siblings and 1,146 had three or more siblings who were also in care. In 2023, 80.2% of children with one or two siblings were initially placed together in kinship foster homes compared to 51.5% of children who were initially placed in traditional foster homes. For children with three or more siblings, 49.7% were initially placed together in kinship foster homes compared to only 11.1% of children initially placed in traditional foster homes in 2023. There was a notable decrease in the percentage of children with one or two siblings who were placed with their siblings in traditional foster homes

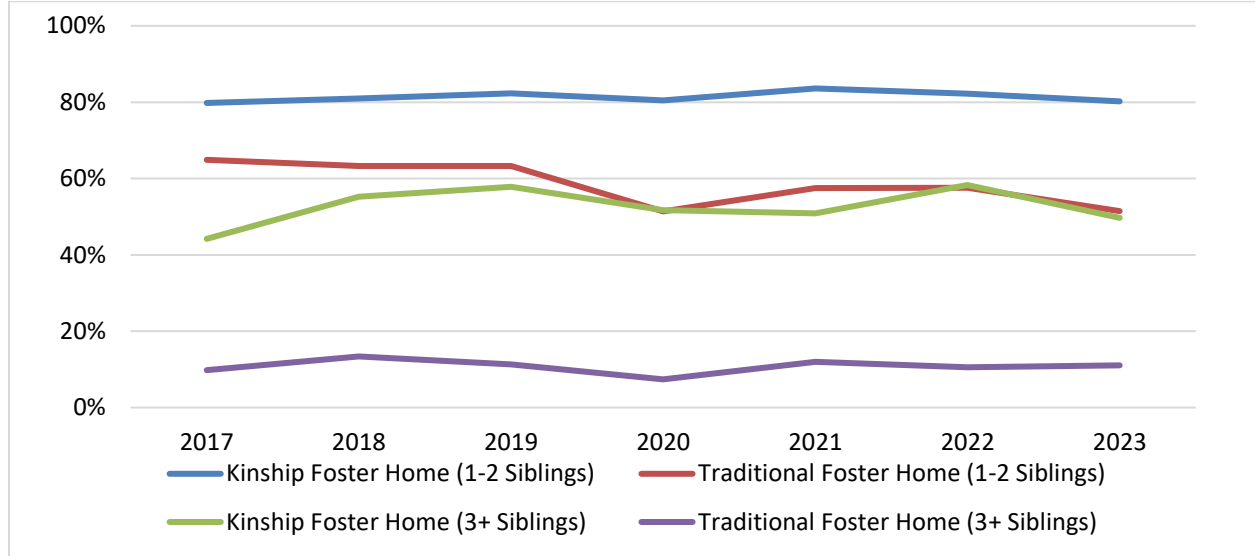
(2014). Kinship care for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children removed from the home for maltreatment. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, 1, 242p; Winokur, M. A., Holtan, A., & Batchelder, K. E. (2018). Systematic review of kinship care effects on safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 28(1), 19-32.

<sup>11</sup> The full text of P.A. 97-1076 is available online: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/97/HB/PDF/09700HB5592lv.pdf>

## CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

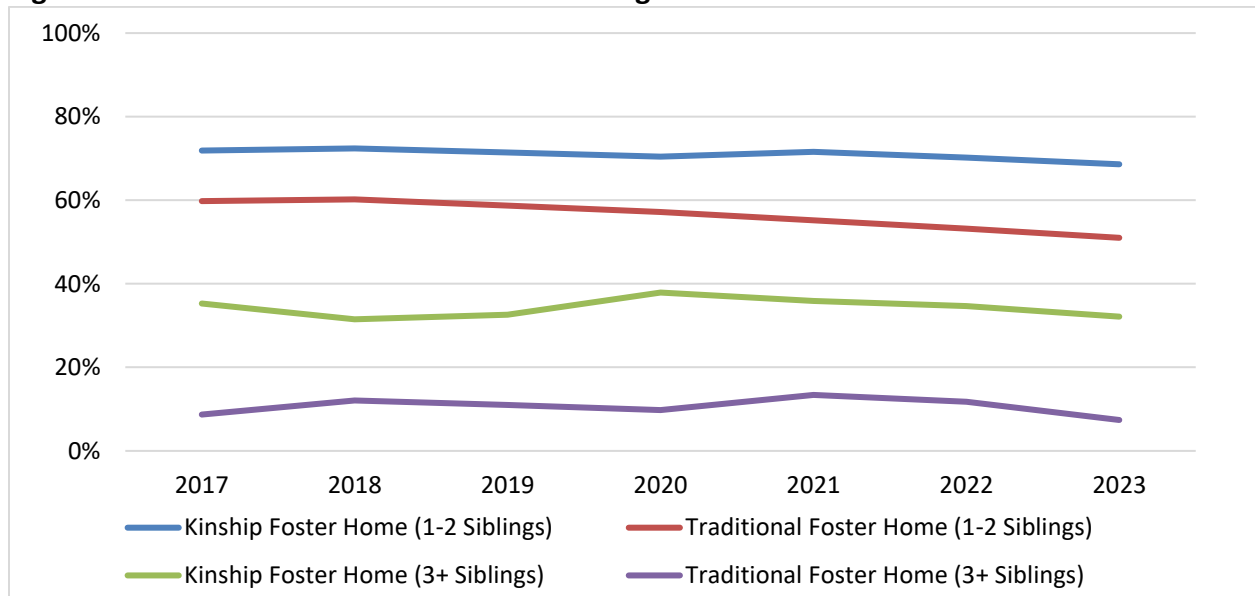
(from 64.9% in 2017 to 51.5% in 2023) and a decrease in the percentage of children with three or more siblings placed with their siblings in kinship foster homes in the past year (from 58.3% in 2022 to 49.7% in 2023; see Figure 2.10 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.C).

**Figure 2.10 Initial Placements with Siblings**



When the percentage of children placed with all their siblings in care was examined at the end of each fiscal year, the overall pattern was the same: smaller sibling groups and placement with kin increased the likelihood of siblings being placed together (see Figure 2.11 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.D). There has been little change in these percentages in the past seven years, other than a decrease in the percentage of children with three or more siblings placed together in the past two years in traditional foster homes from 13.4% in 2021 to 7.4% in 2023.

**Figure 2.11 End-of-Year Placements with Siblings**



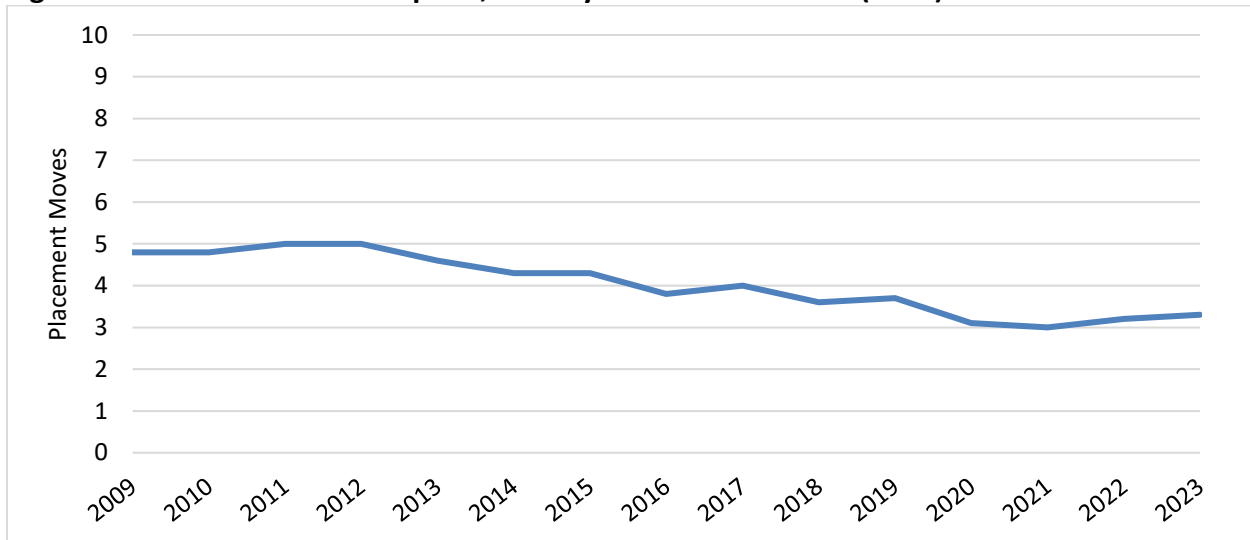
## Placement Stability

Placement stability is important for children in substitute care, and placement instability has numerous negative consequences for a child’s well-being and likelihood of achieving permanence. For example, placement instability during the first year of care has been tied to later negative outcomes such as increased mental health costs<sup>12</sup> and increased emergency department visits.<sup>13</sup> Two measures of placement stability are included in this monitoring report. The first measure was adapted from the Round 3 Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) measure<sup>14</sup> and examines the number of placement moves per 1,000 days in substitute care. The second measure examines the percentage of youth age 12 to 17 who run away from substitute care during their first year in care (see Appendix A for technical definitions of the indicators used in the report).

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

The definition of placement stability in the CFSR is the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days of substitute care among all children who enter substitute care in a 12-month period.<sup>15</sup> Although the measure used in this report is similar to the CFSR measure, the results are not age-adjusted and therefore are not identical to those presented in federal outcome reports. Placement moves per 1,000 days have gradually decreased since 2012 and was 3.3 per 1,000 in 2023 (see Figure 2.12 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.E).

**Figure 2.12 Placement Moves per 1,000 Days in Substitute Care (CFSR)**



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<sup>12</sup> Rubin, D. M., Alessandrini, E. A., Feudtner, C., Mandell, D. S., Localio, A. R., & Hadley, T. (2004). Placement stability and mental health costs for children in foster care. *Pediatrics*, *113*, 1336-1341.

<sup>13</sup> Rubin, D. M., Alessandrini, E. A., Feudtner, C., Localio, A. R., & Hadley, T. (2004). Placement changes and emergency department visits in the first year of foster care. *Pediatrics*, *114*, 354-360.

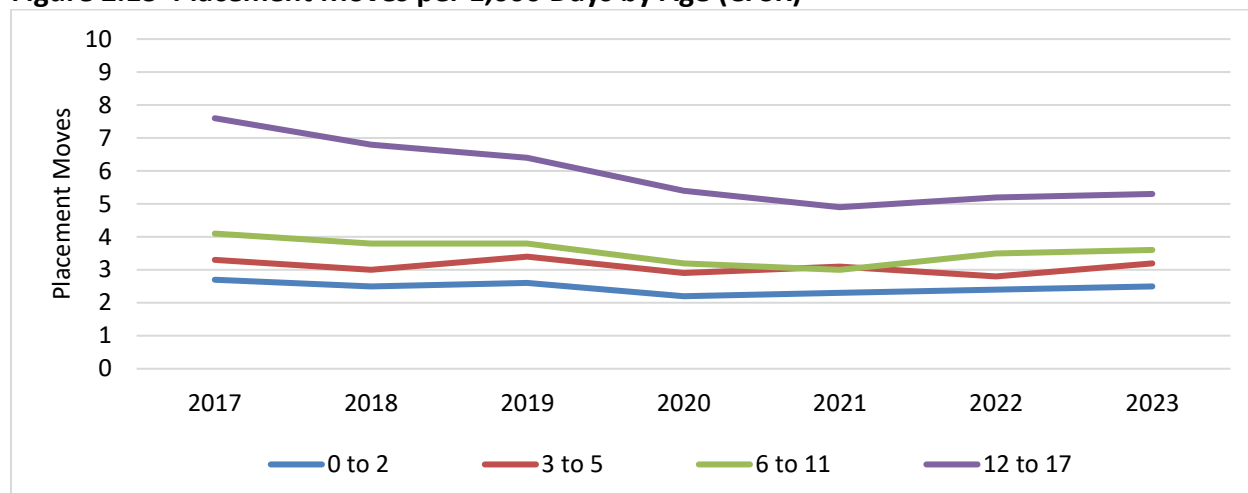
<sup>14</sup> Children’s Bureau (n.d.). CFSR Round Statewide Data Indicators. Retrieved from <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/focus-areas/cqi/cfsr-data-syntax-toolkit/>

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

## CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

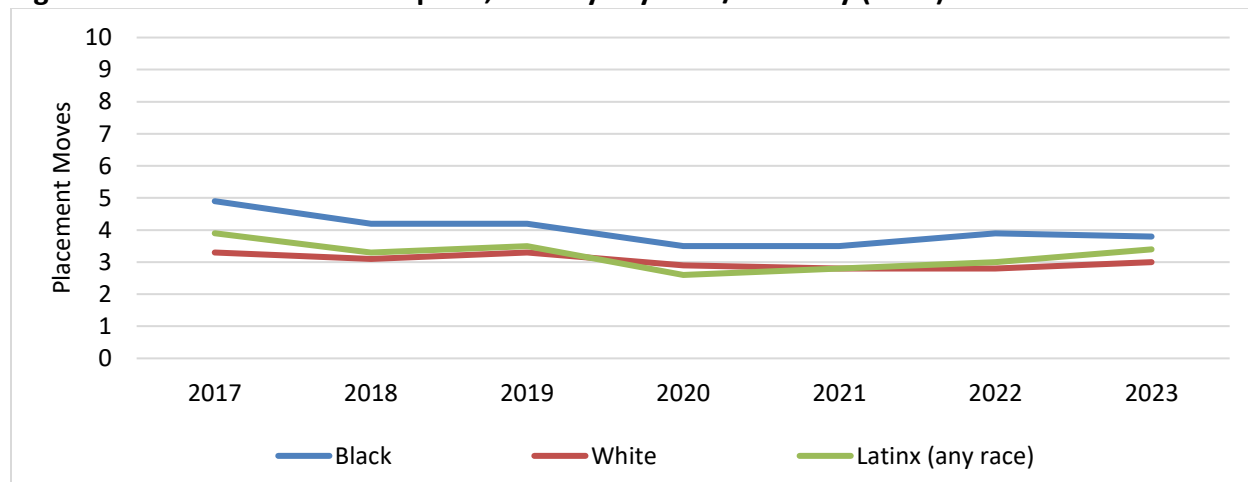
Consistent with past research,<sup>16</sup> placement stability in Illinois decreases as child age increases (see Figure 2.13 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.E). In 2023, the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days for children 0 to 2 years was 2.5 compared to 5.3 for youth 12 to 17 years. However, placement stability among youth age 12 to 17 has improved in the past several years, with the number of placement moves decreasing from 7.6 in 2017 to 5.3 in 2023.

**Figure 2.13 Placement Moves per 1,000 Days by Age (CFSR)**



Although the difference has decreased over the past few years, Black children experience less placement stability (3.8 moves per 1,000 days in 2023) compared to White children (3.0 moves per 1,000 days) and Latinx children (3.4 moves per 1,000 days; see Figure 2.14 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.E).

**Figure 2.14 Placement Moves per 1,000 Days by Race/Ethnicity (CFSR)**

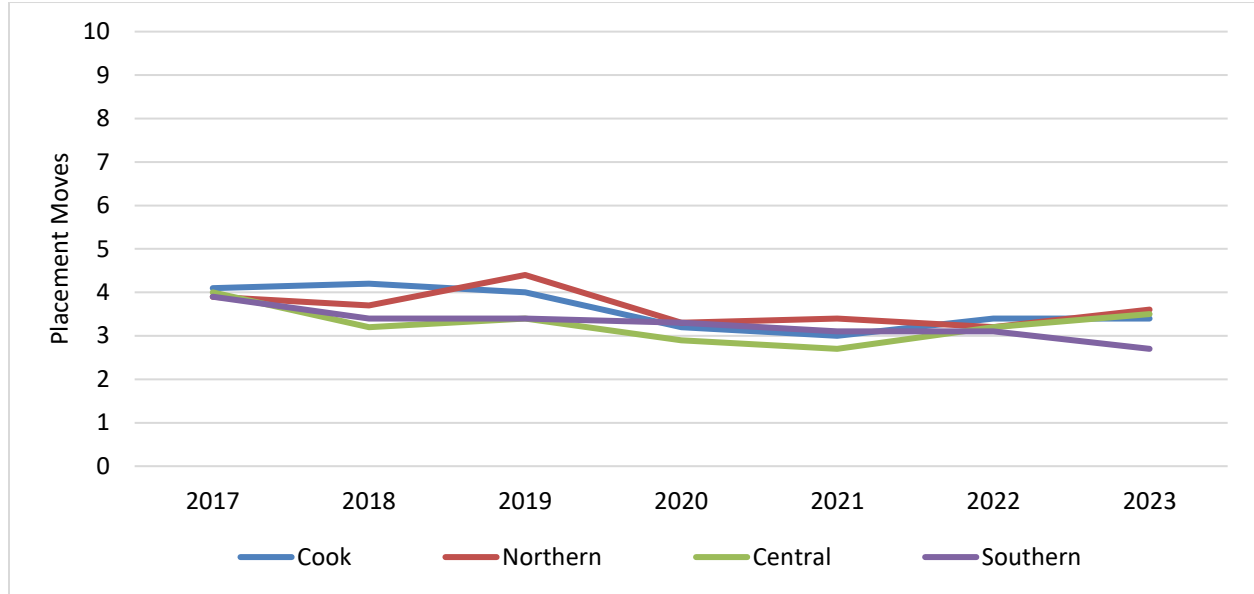


<sup>16</sup> Barth, R. P, Lloyd, E. C., Green, R. L., James, S., Leslie, L. K., & Landsverk, J. (2007). Predictors of placement moves among children with and without emotional and behavioral disorders. *Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders*, 15, 46-55.



In recent years, rates of placement stability in the regions have been similar (see Figure 2.15 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.E).

**Figure 2.15 Placement Moves per 1,000 Days by Region (CFSR)**



**Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care**

The nature of runaways from substitute care is different from typical runaways.<sup>17</sup> Most are running away to live with others, usually family or friends.<sup>18</sup> Running away puts children at risk for victimization, sexual exploitation, and substance abuse. It also limits their access to school and services such as counseling, medication, and substance abuse treatment. Children who run away are more likely to do so early in their placement, often in their first few months in care. Placement instability increases the likelihood of children running away from care. For example, children who have two placements are 70% more likely to run away than those who are in their first placement.<sup>19</sup>



<sup>17</sup> Gambon, T. B. & O’Brien, J. R. G. (2021). Runaway Youth: Caring for the Nation’s Largest Segment of Missing Children. *Pediatrics*, 145, 1-14. Pergamit, M. R., Ernst, M., Benoit-Bryan J., & Kessel, J. (2010). *Why they run: An in-depth look at America’s runaway youth*. Chicago, IL: the National Runaway Switchboard.

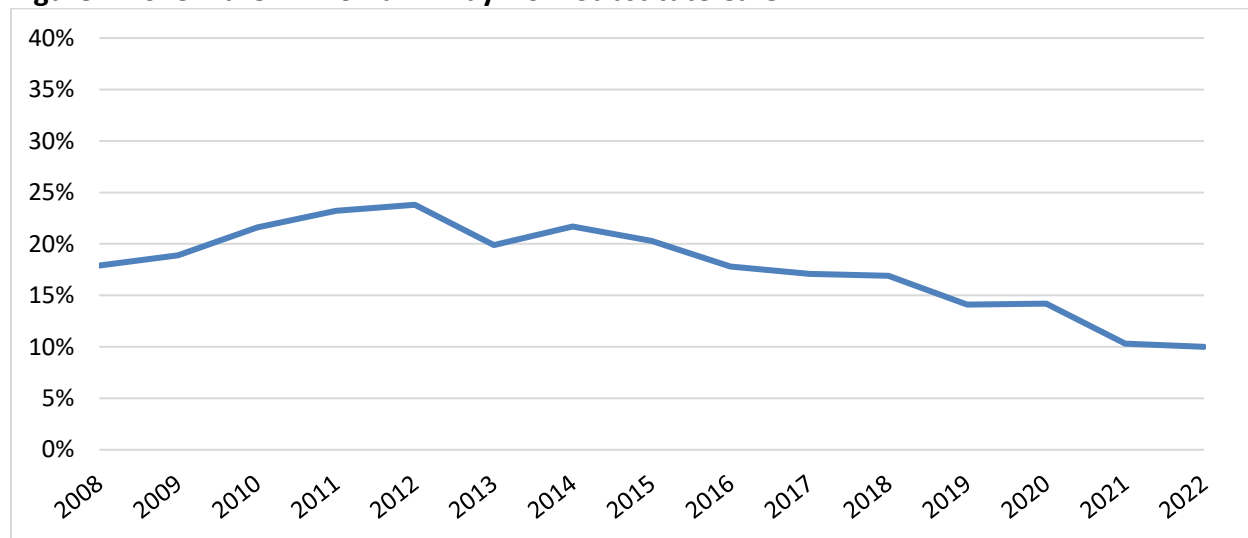
<sup>18</sup> Crosland, K., Joseph, R., Slattery, L., Hodges, S., & Dunlap, G. (2018). Why youth run: Assessing run function to stabilize foster care placement. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 85, 35-42. Crosland, K., & Dunlap, G. (2015). Running away from foster care: What do we know and what do we do? *Journal of Child & Family Studies*, 24, 1697-1706. Pergamit, M. R., & Ernst, M. (2011). *Running Away from Foster Care: Youths’ Knowledge and Access of Services*. Chicago, IL: National Runaway Switchboard. Nesmith A. (2006). Predictors of running away from family foster care. *Child Welfare*, 85, 585-609.

<sup>19</sup> Courtney, M. E. & Zinn, A. (2009). Predictors of running away from out-of-home care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 31, 1298-1306.

## CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

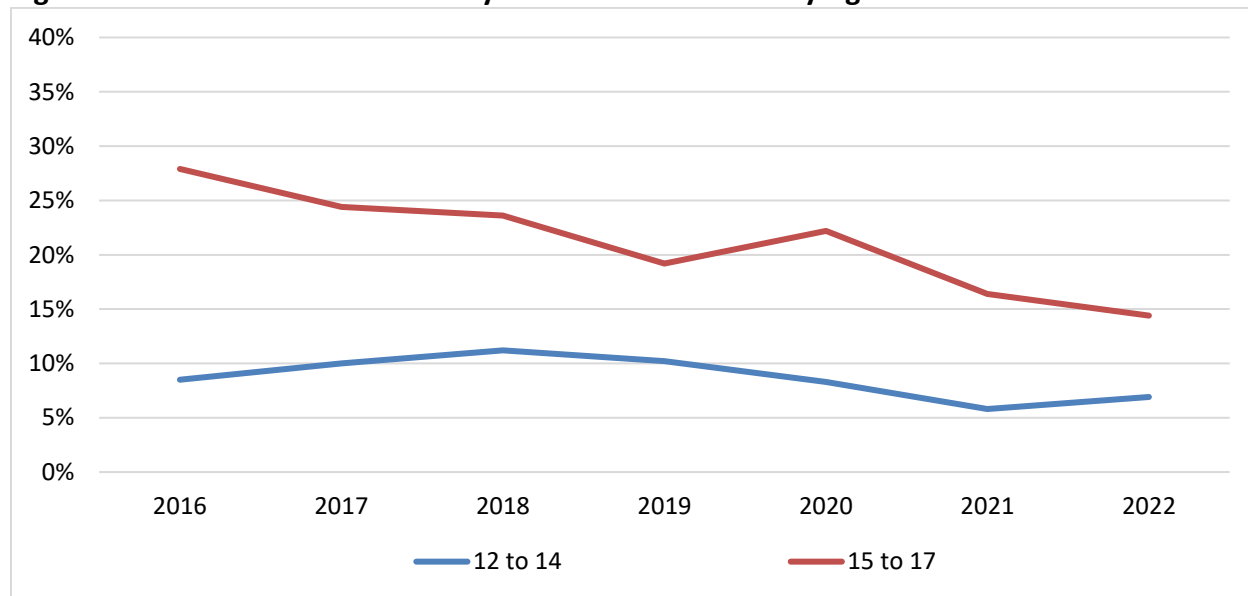
This chapter examines the percentage of youth who run away within one year of entry into substitute care. Since running away occurs most frequently among older children, this indicator includes youth who are 12–17 years old when they enter care. In the past 15 years, the percentage of children who run away reached its highest point in 2012 (23.8%) and decreased to its lowest point of 10.0% in 2022 (see Figure 2.16 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.F).

**Figure 2.16 Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care**

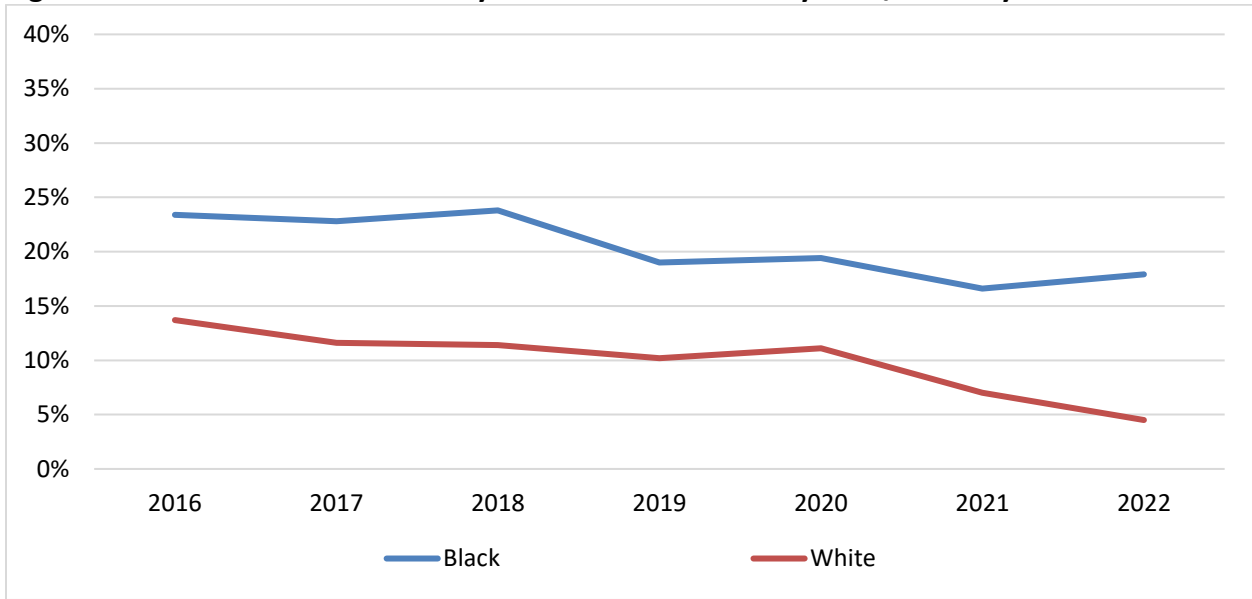


The percentage of youth who run away from substitute care differs by age and race/ethnicity, with a higher percentage of older youth (Figure 2.17) and Black youth (Figure 2.18) running away within their first year in care (see Appendix B, Indicator 2.F). However, the percentage of youth ages 15 to 17 that run away has decreased from 27.9% in 2016 to 14.4% in 2022.

**Figure 2.17 Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care by Age**

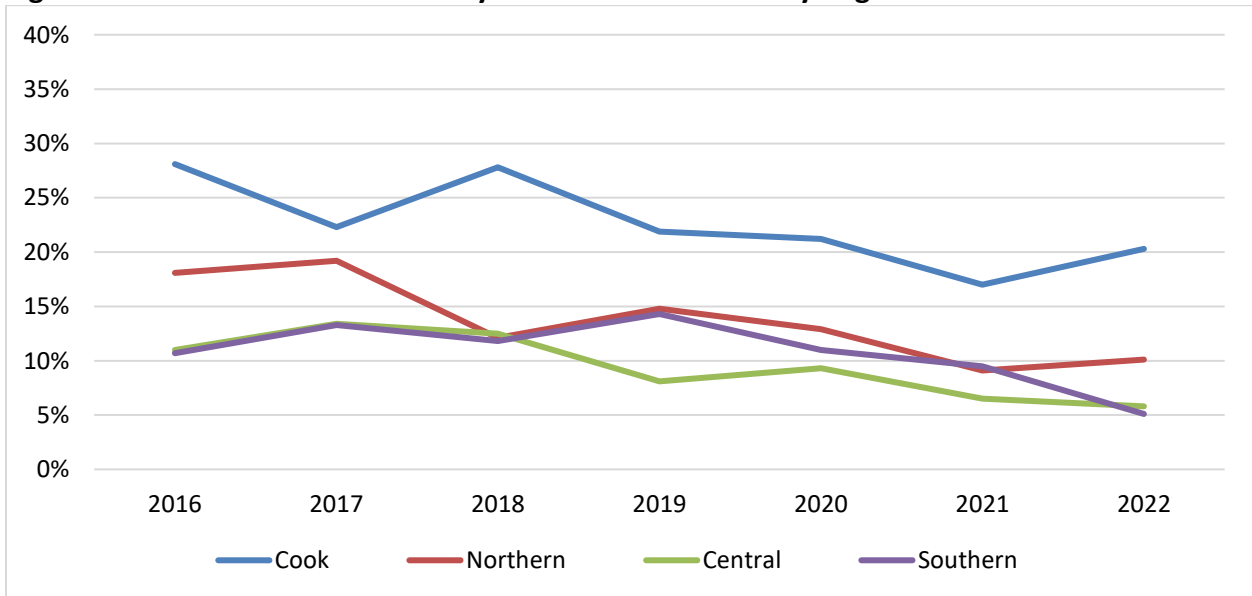


**Figure 2.18 Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care by Race/Ethnicity**



Youth in the Cook region were more likely to run away from their placements than those in other regions. Among youth entering substitute care in the Cook region in 2022, 20.3% ran away during their first year, compared to 10.1% in the Northern region, 5.8% in the Central region, and 5.1% in the Southern region (see Figure 2.19 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.F).

**Figure 2.19 Children Who Run Away from Substitute Care by Region**

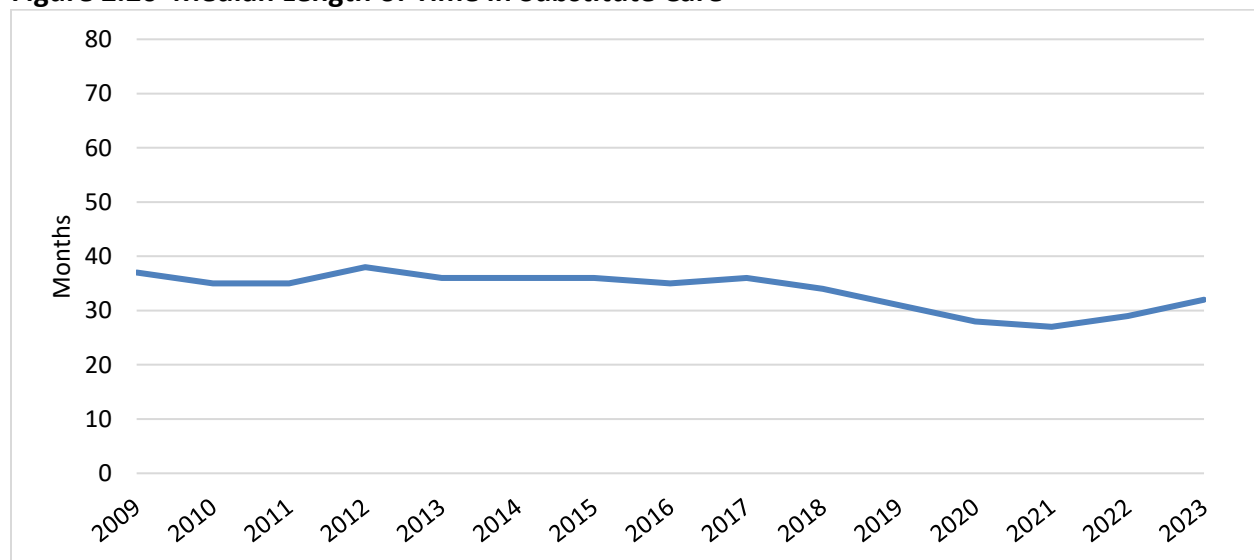


## Length of Time in Substitute Care

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

This report measures the median length of time in care for all children who exited care during the fiscal year. The median length of stay is the number of months it takes for 50% of children to exit substitute care. If the child had more than one spell during the fiscal year, the most recent spell was selected. This indicator also includes youth ages 18 and older because some can stay in substitute care up to their 21st birthday.<sup>20</sup> The median length of stay for all children who exited substitute care decreased from 37 months in 2009 to 27 months in 2021, but has increased since then to 32 months in 2023, a 19% relative increase in the last two years (see Figure 2.20 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.G).

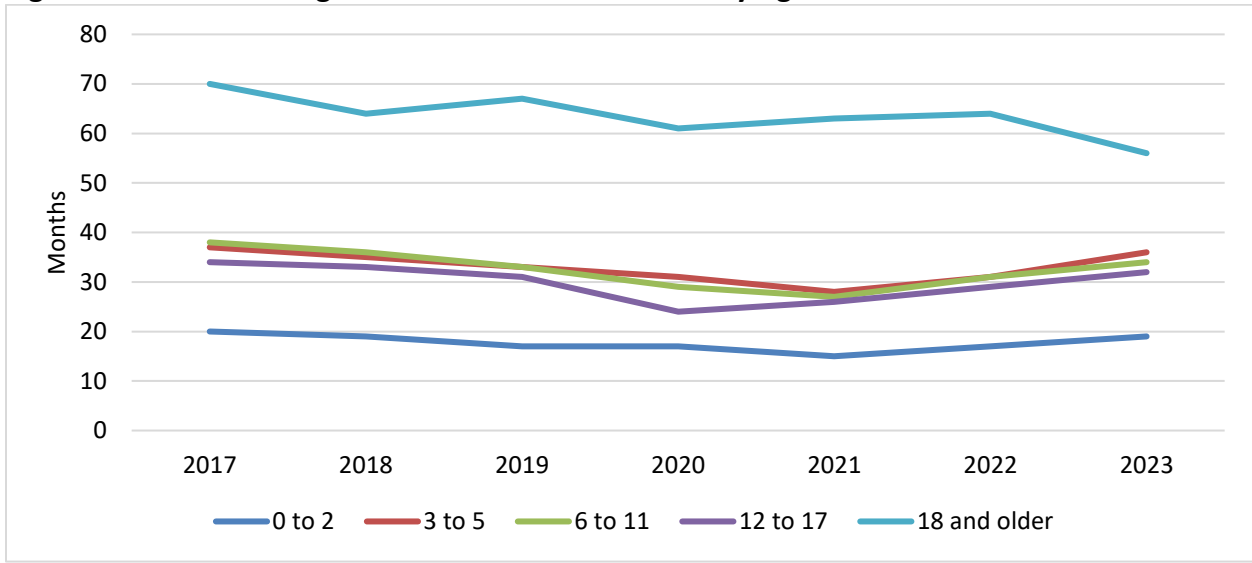
**Figure 2.20 Median Length of Time in Substitute Care**



Compared to other age groups, youth age 18 and older had the longest stay and children ages 0 to 2 had the shortest stay. The median length of stay for youth 18 years and older was 56 months among those who exited care in 2023, compared to 19 months for children age 0 to 2. The recent increase in median length of stay was observed for all age groups except youth 18 years and older; length of stay decreased for these youth from 64 months in 2022 to 56 months in 2023 (see Figure 2.21 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.G).

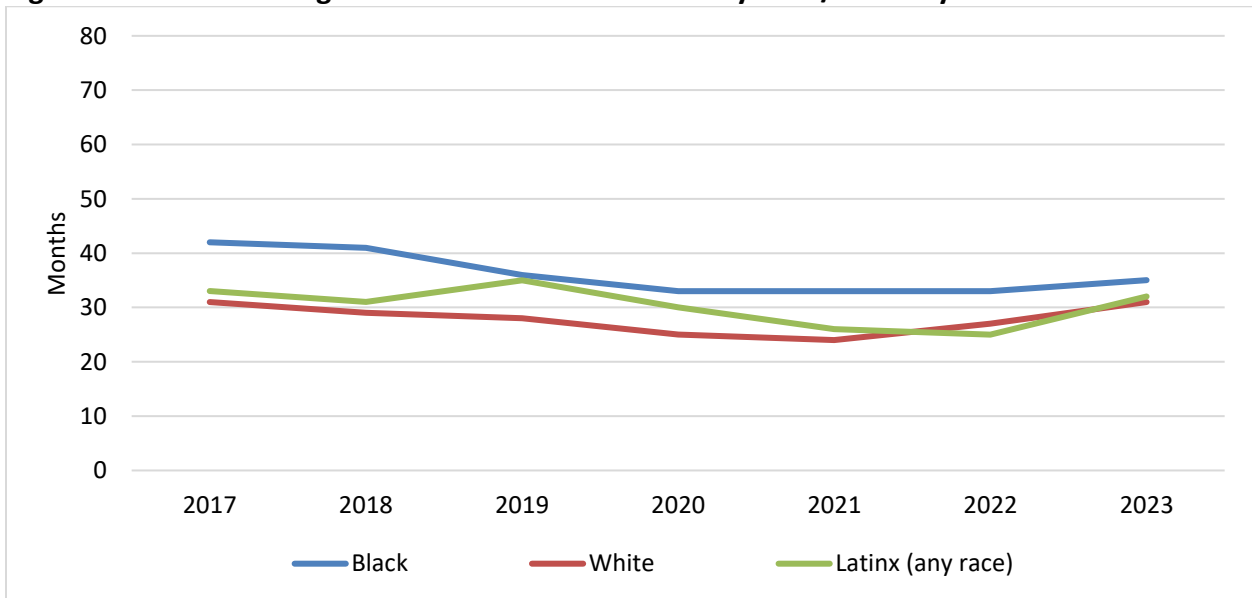
<sup>20</sup> Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (June, 2021). *Procedures 301 Placement and Visitation Services*. Springfield, IL: Author.

**Figure 2.21 Median Length of Time in Substitute Care by Age**



The median length of stay varies by race/ethnicity and was slightly higher for Black children (35 months) compared to White children (31 months) and Latinx children (32 months) who exited care in 2023. However, the difference between Black, White, and Latinx children has decreased in the last year because the median length of stay for White and Latinx children has increased (see Figure 2.22 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.G).

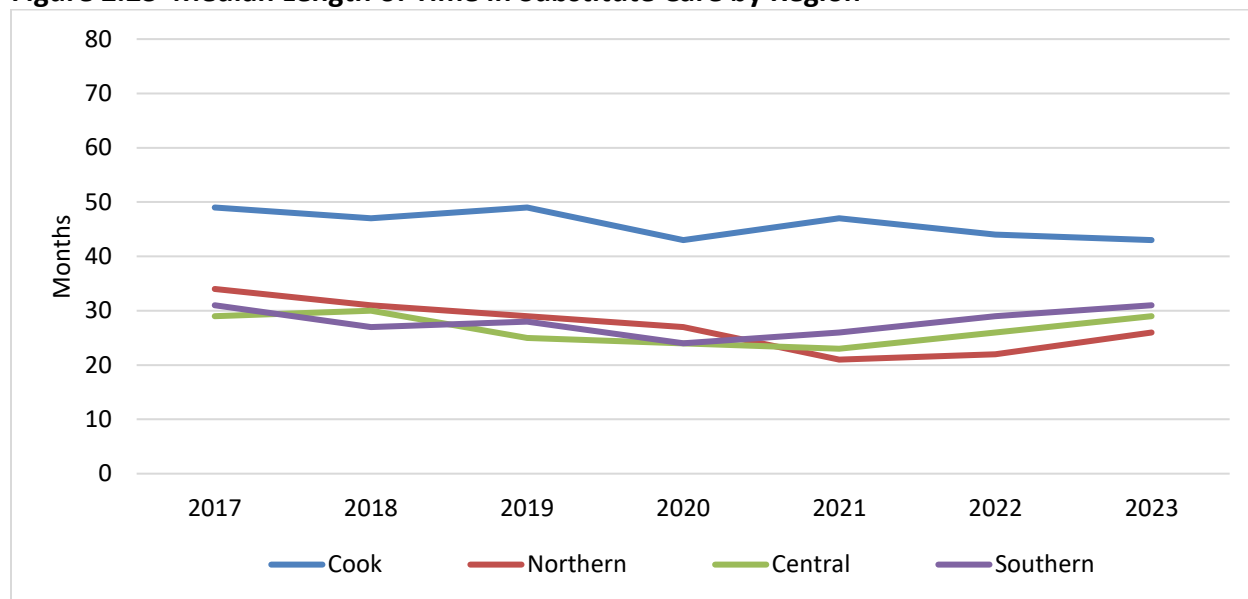
**Figure 2.22 Median Length of Time in Substitute Care by Race/Ethnicity**



## CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

There are regional differences in the median length of stay (see Figure 2.23 and Appendix B, Indicator 2.G). Children in the Cook region spent substantially more time in substitute care (43 months for children who exited care in 2023) than children who resided in other regions (Northern region: 26 months; Central region: 29 months; Southern region: 31 months). However, over the last two years the median length of stay decreased for children in the Cook region and increased for children in all other regions.

**Figure 2.23 Median Length of Time in Substitute Care by Region**



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

Once the state decides to take legal custody of children to protect them from harm, the child welfare system has a responsibility to provide the children in its care with safe and stable substitute living arrangements and ensure they maintain connections with their family members. In FY2018, after many years of relative stability, the number of children entering substitute care increased significantly, from 4,737 in FY2017 to 7,382 in FY2020 (see Figure 2.1). Although this trend shifted in FY2022 and the number of children entering care has decreased to 5,582 in FY2023, it is important to monitor the impact of the increase in children entering care and the quality of substitute care placements. In the past, when the number of children entering care increased rapidly, it led to an increased number of children being placed in emergency shelters, emergency foster homes, group homes, and institutions, especially in their initial placements. Examination of the percentage of children initially placed in these placement types since FY2018 does not show an increase in their use and, in fact, shows the opposite. The percentage of children initially placed in emergency shelters and emergency foster homes has decreased since 2018 and was 1.1% in FY2023. The decrease in the use of initial placements in group homes and institutions for children 12-17 years is especially noteworthy; rates in this age group fell from 19.6% in 2017 and to 11.6% in FY2023.

Several other indicators have also shown improvement. For example, the percentage of children 12 to 17 initially placed in kinship homes increased and was 69.2% in FY2023. The percentage of youth ages 12 to 17 who were placed in institutions at the end of the fiscal year decreased from 19.3% in 2017 to 13.0% in 2023. The percentage of children who run away has decreased continuously, especially for youth ages 15 to 17, from 27.9% in FY2016 to 14.4% in FY2022.

Although these improvements are encouraging and should be commended, an ongoing concern for many years has been the lengthy amount of time that children spend in substitute care in Illinois, particularly those who reside in the Cook region. After several years of consistent decreases in the statewide median length of stay, the numbers have increased for the past two years from 27 months in 2021 to 32 months in 2023. During this time period, the lengths of stay have increased in each region of the state except for the Cook region, where the numbers have dropped from 47 months in 2021 to 43 months in 2023. Additional data collection about the factors that are related to the increases in lengths of stay would aid in identifying potential strategies for intervention.







### Chapter 3

# Legal Permanence: Reunification, Adoption, and Guardianship

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

**Reunification** with parents is the preferred method for achieving permanence for children in substitute care, and it is the most common way that children exit care, accounting for 47% of exits nationwide.<sup>1</sup> Reunification is possible if parents are able to rectify the issues that endangered their children, often with the help of child welfare and other services. In some cases, parents are not able to provide a safe, nurturing home for their children, even with the aid of services. In these instances, child welfare professionals must find alternative permanent placements for children as quickly as possible. A second permanency option is **adoption**, in which kin or non-kin adoptive parents legally commit to care for children. Adoptive parents have identical rights and responsibilities as biological parents; they may also receive financial support from the state. In 2022, adoptions made up 27% of foster care exits nationally,<sup>2</sup> and many children wait each year for adoption. **Guardianship** is a third permanency option which

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2024). *The AFCARS report: Preliminary FY 2022 estimates*. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/afcars-report-30.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

allows caregivers, usually kin, to assume legal custody and permanent care of children while not requiring the termination of the parental rights of the biological parent(s), one of whom is typically a close relative of the guardian. Legal guardians typically, but not always, receive financial support from the state. Guardianship is less common than reunification and adoption, accounting for 11% of foster care exits nationally in 2022.<sup>3</sup>

### Measuring Legal Permanence

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

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

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Children's Bureau (n.d.). *CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicator Series: Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Foster Care*. Retrieved <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/resources/cfsr-r4-swdi-permanency-in-12-mos-entering-care>

<sup>5</sup> Children's Bureau (n.d.). *CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicator Series: Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 12 to 23 Months*. Retrieved from <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/resources/cfsr-r4-swdi-permanency-in-12-mos-in-care-12-23-mos>

<sup>6</sup> Children's Bureau (n.d.). *CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicator Series: Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 24 Months or More*. Retrieved from <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/resources/cfsr-r4-swdi-permanency-24mos>

<sup>7</sup> Children's Bureau (n.d.). *CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicator Series: Re-Entry to Foster Care*. Retrieved from <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/resources/cfsr-r4-swdi-reentry-to-foster-care>

<sup>8</sup> Please note that although we have adapted the CFSR measures for use in this report, we do not use the same data extraction method for computing the results, nor do we apply any risk adjustment strategies used by the Children's Bureau to calculate state performance. Therefore, the results in this report may not be comparable to those produced in the federal child welfare outcomes reports.

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

Child welfare systems strive to find permanent homes for all children in care, but this goal is not achieved for all children. Many children remain in care for much longer than 36 months, and others exit substitute care without a legally permanent parent or guardian—they run away, they are incarcerated, and they emancipate or “age out” of the child welfare system. In an effort to monitor the permanency outcomes of all children in substitute care, this chapter also examines “other exits” from care and pays special attention to those children who remain in care longer than 36 months.

## Changes in Legal Permanence at a Glance

### Children Achieving Permanence (CFSR)

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that achieved permanence within 12 months decreased from 18.5% in 2021 to 16.7% in 2022 (-10% change).

↑ Of all children who had been in care between 12 and 23 months on the first day of the fiscal year, the percentage that achieved permanence within 12 months increased from 24.9% in 2022 to 26.2% in 2023 (+5% change).

↔ Of all children who had been in care 24 months or more on the first day of the fiscal year, the percentage that achieved permanence within 12 months remained stable and was 29.6% in 2023.

3

<sup>9</sup> The report also includes an indicator of the percentage of children who are reunified within 12 months. Because adoptions and guardianships are seldom finalized within 12 months of a child’s entry into care, the 12-month rate is only used for reunifications. Please also note that, because entry cohorts are used to examine permanency rates over time, the most recent entry cohort available to examine permanence within 36 months is the 2020 entry cohort.

## LEGAL PERMANENCE

↑ Of all children who achieved permanence within 12 months, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of discharge increased from 9.8% of children who exited care in 2020 to 10.8% of children who exited care in 2021 (+10% change).

↑ Of all children who achieved permanence after living in substitute care between 12 and 23 months, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of discharge increased from 4.2% of children who exited care in 2021 to 4.7% of children who exited care in 2022 (+12% change).

↑ Of all children who achieved permanence after living in substitute care 24 months or more, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of discharge increased from 1.7% of children who exited care in 2021 to 1.9% of children who exited care in 2022 (+12% change).

### Children Achieving Reunification

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 12 months decreased from 17.3% of children who entered care in 2021 to 15.7% of children who entered care in 2022 (-9% change).

↑ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 24 months increased from 31.8% of children who entered care in 2020 to 35.0% of children who entered care in 2021 (+10% change).

↑ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 36 months increased from 38.7% of children who entered care in 2019 to 42.3% of children who entered care in 2020 (+9% change).

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at one year post-reunification remained stable and was 92.9% of children who were reunified in 2022.

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at two years post-reunification remained stable and was 89.0% of children who were reunified in 2021.

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at five years post-reunification remained stable and was 84.5% of children who were reunified in 2018.

↔ Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage living with their family at ten years post-reunification remained stable and was 82.4% of children who were reunified in 2013.

### Children Achieving Adoption

↑ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was adopted within 24 months increased from 1.8% of children who entered care in 2020 to 2.4% of children who entered care in 2021 (+33% change).

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was adopted within 36 months decreased from 9.5% of children who entered care in 2019 to 7.7% of children who entered care in 2020 (-19% change).

↔ Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage living with their family at two years post-adoption remained stable and was 99.0% of children who were adopted in 2021.

↔ Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage living with their family at five years post-adoption remained stable and was 98.1% of children who were adopted in 2018.

↔ Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage living with their family at ten years post-adoption remained stable and was 95.2% of children who were adopted in 2013.

### Children Achieving Guardianship

↔ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that attained guardianship within 24 months remained stable and was 1.0% of children who entered care in 2021.

↓ Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that attained guardianship within 36 months decreased from 2.3% of children who entered care in 2019 to 2.0% of children who entered care in 2020 (-13% change).

↔ Of all children who attained guardianship during the year, the percentage living with their family at two years post-guardianship remained stable and was 94.3% of children who attained guardianship in 2021.

↔ Of all children who attained guardianship during the year, the percentage living with their family at five years post-guardianship remained stable and was 94.2% of children who attained guardianship in 2018.

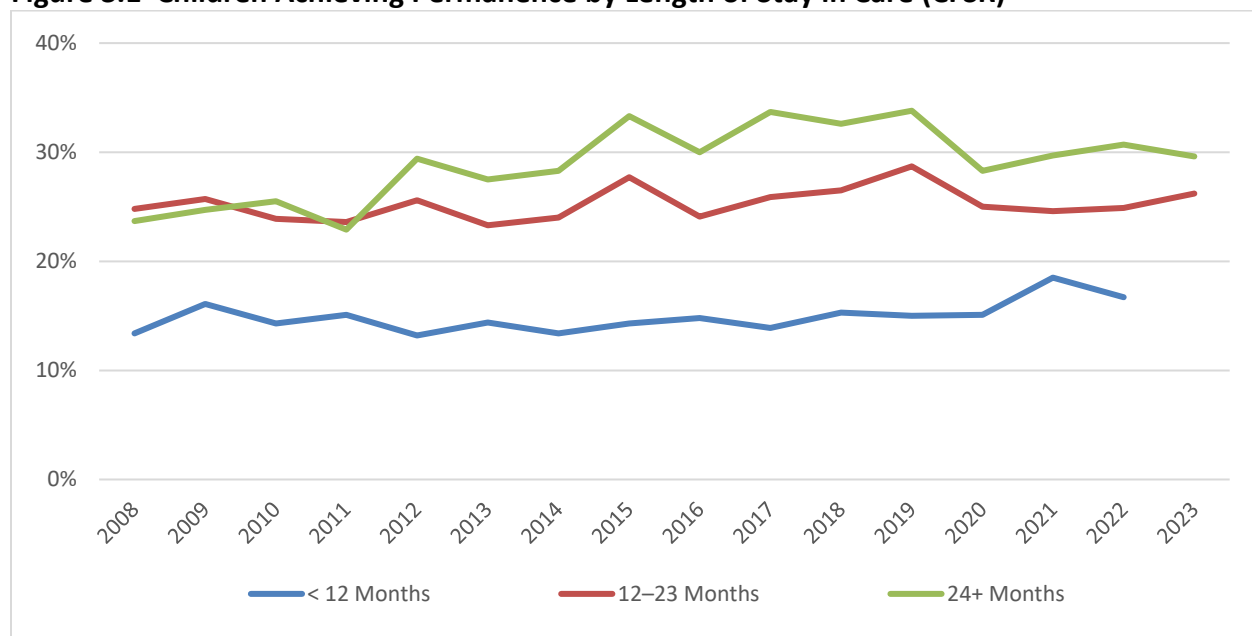
↑ Of all children who attained guardianship during the year, the percentage living with their family at ten years post-guardianship increased from 88.0% of children who attained guardianship in 2012 to 92.0% of children who attained guardianship in 2013 (+5% change)

## Children Achieving Permanence (CFSR)

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

Between 13-19% of children who entered substitute care during the year achieved permanence within 12 months of entering care (blue line in Figure 3.1), and there was a slight decrease between the 2021 and 2022 cohorts. The permanency rate among children who had been in care for 12 to 23 months (red line) has fluctuated between 23-29% since 2008. Permanency rates for children in substitute care for 24 or more months (green line) increased from 22.9% in 2011 to a peak of 33.8% in 2019; it was 29.6% in 2023.

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

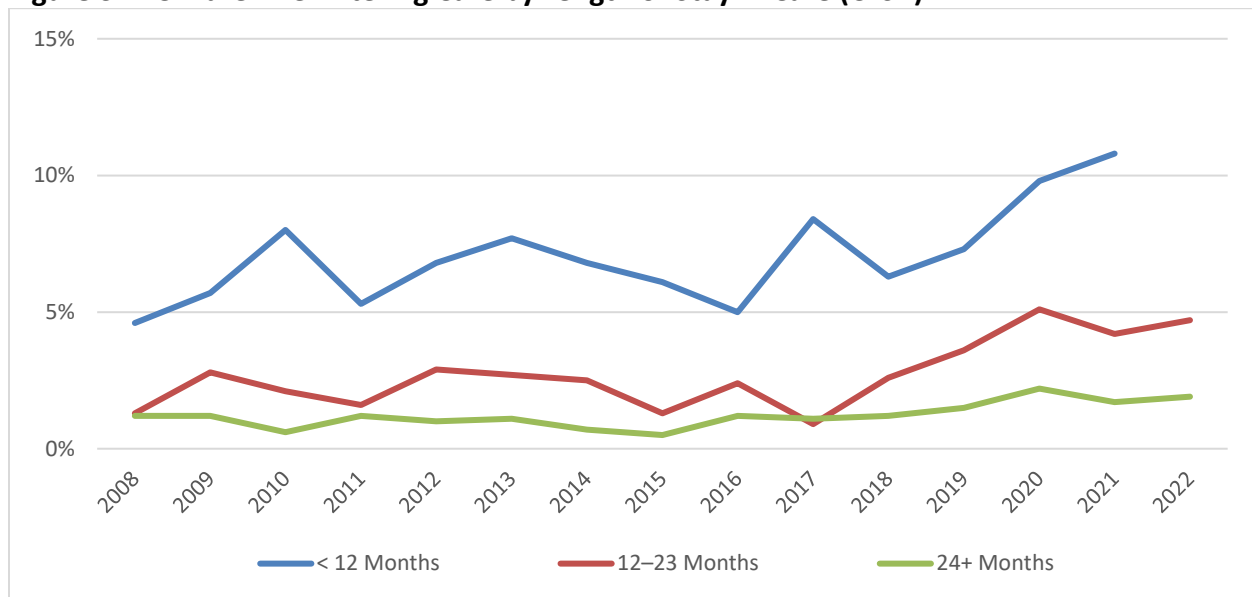


The percentages of children in each of these three groups that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of their exit are shown in Figure 3.2 (see Appendix B, Indicators 3.J, 3.K, and 3.L). Children in care less than 12 months prior to achieving permanence (blue line) have the highest rates of re-entry into substitute care compared to the other two groups of children;

<sup>10</sup> Children’s Bureau. (May 13, 2015). *Executive Summary of the Final Notice of Statewide Data Indicators and National Standards for Child and Family Service Reviews*. Accessed from [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/round3\\_cfsr\\_executive\\_summary.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/round3_cfsr_executive_summary.pdf)

10.8% of the children who achieved permanence in 2021 re-entered substitute care within 12 months; re-entry rates for this group have more than doubled in the past six years. Children who were in substitute care for 12 to 23 months (red line) and 24 months or more (green line) prior to achieving permanence had much lower rates of re-entry into substitute care compared to children in care less than 12 months prior to achieving permanence. Re-entry rates for children in these two groups have over the past also increased in recent years.

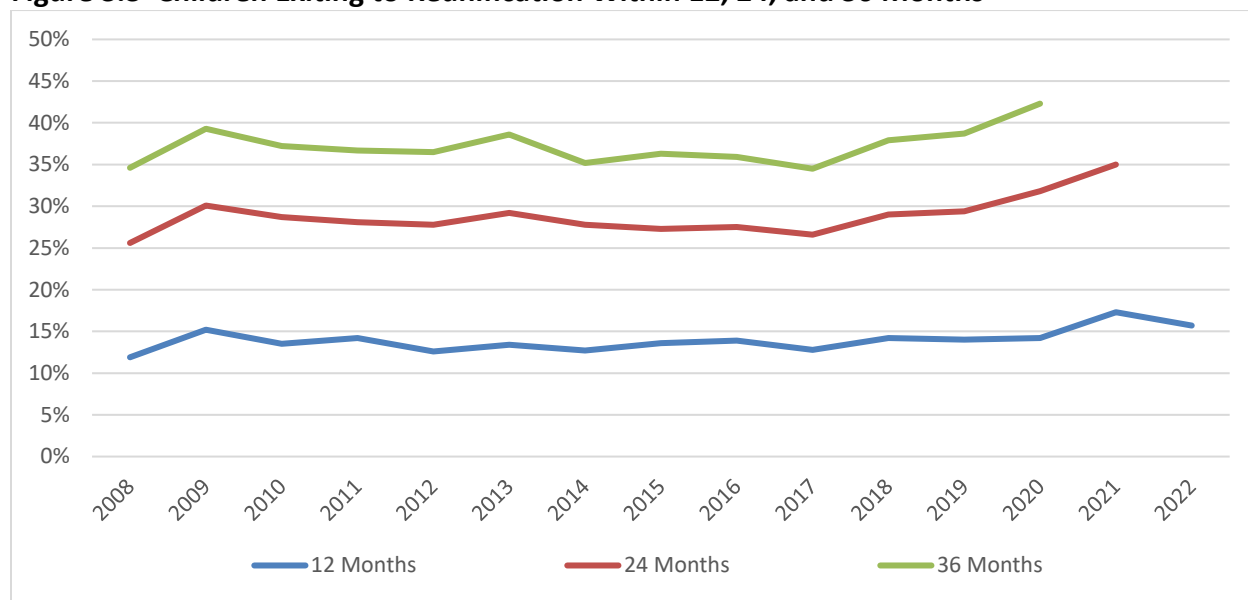
**Figure 3.2 Children Re-Entering Care by Length of Stay in Care (CFSR)**



### Children Achieving Reunification

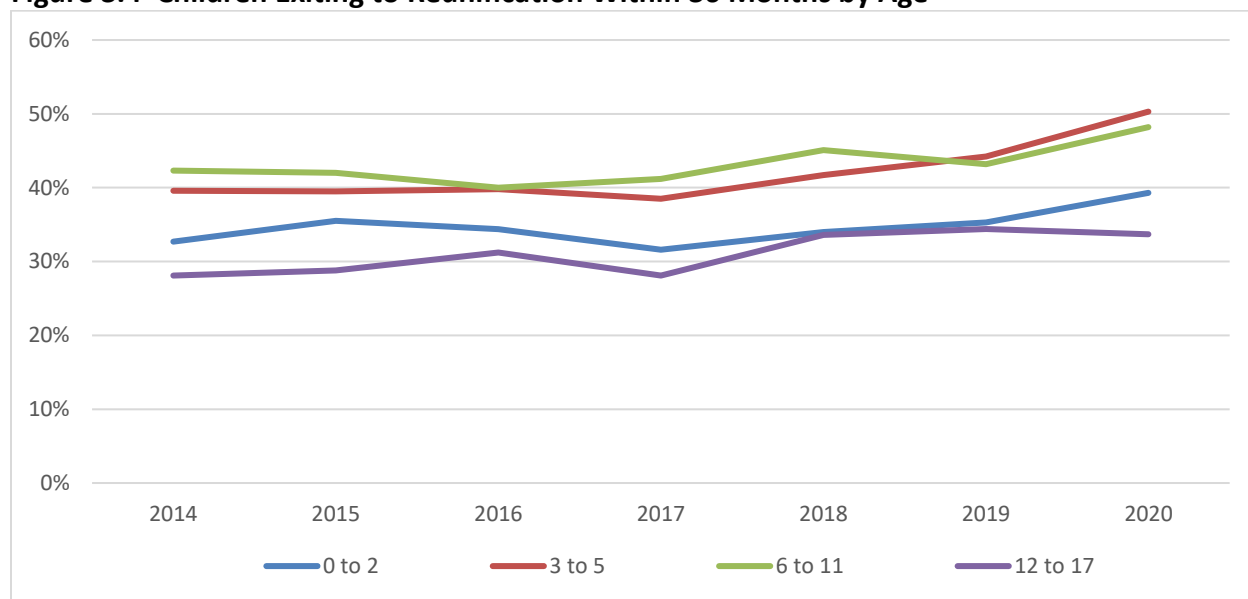
Figure 3.3 examines the percentage of children exiting substitute care to reunification within 12, 24, and 36 months of their entry into care (see Appendix B, Indicators 3.A.1, 3.A.2, and 3.A.3). For the 2022 entry cohort, 15.7% of children were reunified within 12 months, which was a slight decrease from the prior year. Rates of reunification within 24 months have been increasing for several years, from 26.6% of children who entered care in 2017 to 35.0% of children who entered care in 2021. Similarly, rates of reunification within 36 months have increased from 34.5% of the 2017 entry cohort to 42.3% of the 2020 entry cohort.

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



One factor that is associated with a child’s likelihood of reunification within 36 months is their age (see Figure 3.4 and Appendix B, Indicator 3.A.3). Children ages 3 to 11 years old when they entered care were more likely to be reunified—50.3% of children ages 3 to 5 years old and 48.2% of children 6 to 11 who entered care in 2020 were reunified within 36 months. Children ages 0 to 2 and youth ages 12 to 17 years old were less likely to be reunified—39.3% of children ages 0 to 2 and 33.7% of those ages 12 to 17 who entered care in 2020 were reunified within 36 months.

**Figure 3.4 Children Exiting to Reunification Within 36 Months by Age**





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

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

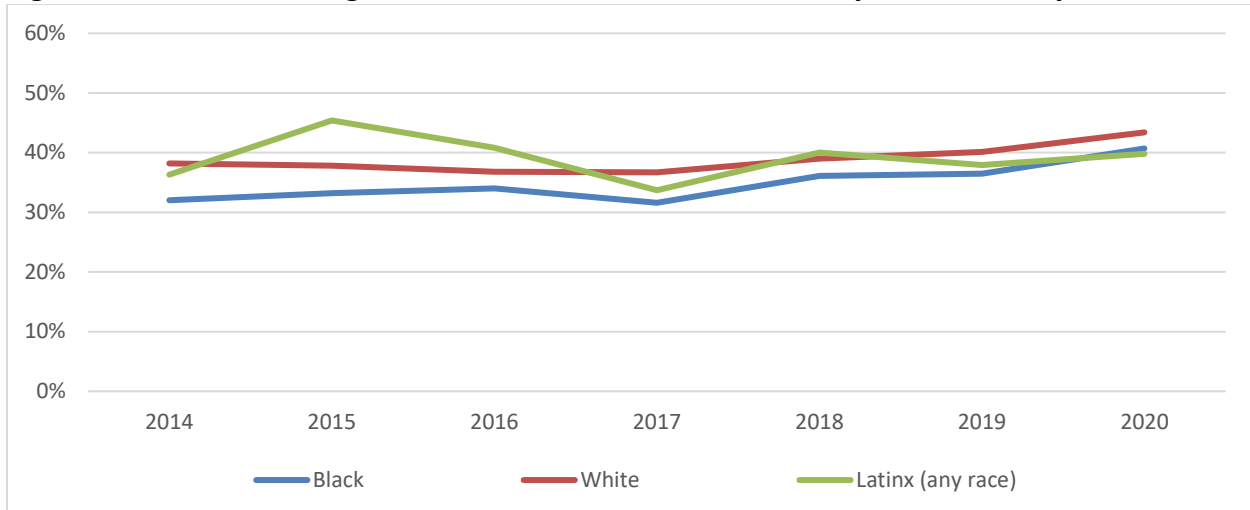
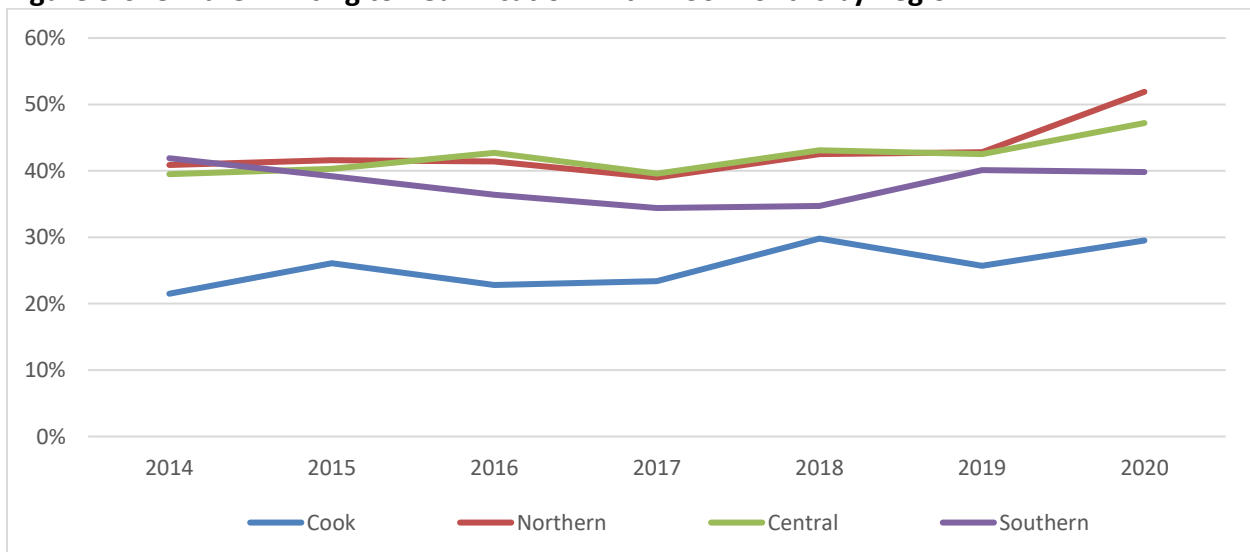


Figure 3.6 shows the 36-month reunification rate by region (see Appendix B, Indicator 3.A.3). Reunification rates in the Cook region are much lower than in any other region. Only 29.5% of children who entered care in the Cook region in 2020 were reunified with their families within 36 months, compared to 51.9% of children in the Northern region, 47.2% of children in the Central region, and 39.8% of children in the Southern region. However, the 36-month reunification rate in the 2020 cohort for the Cook region increased a relative 15% from the previous year’s cohort. Reunification rates also increased in the Northern and Central regions in the most recent entry cohorts, while rates in the Southern region remained stable.

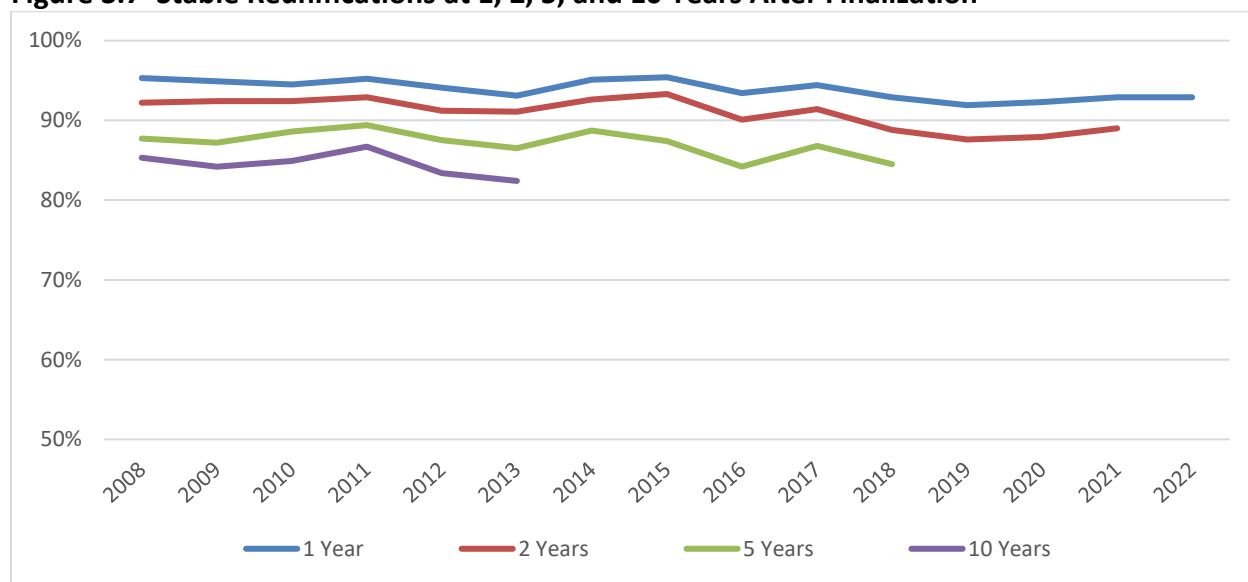
**Figure 3.6 Children Exiting to Reunification Within 36 Months by Region**



### Stability of Reunification

Reunification is only considered permanent if children can remain safely in their homes and are not removed and taken into DCFS custody again. Figure 3.7 displays the percentages of children that remain stable in their homes (and do not re-enter substitute care) within 1, 2, 5, and 10 years following reunification with their parents (see Appendix B, Indicators 3.B.1, 3.B.2, 3.B.3, and 3.B.4). As expected, the stability of reunifications decreases over time. For example, of the children who were reunified in 2013, 93.1% remained at home one year after reunification, while only 82.4% remained at home after ten years. There has been little fluctuation in the stability of reunifications over the past decade.

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



### Children Achieving Adoption

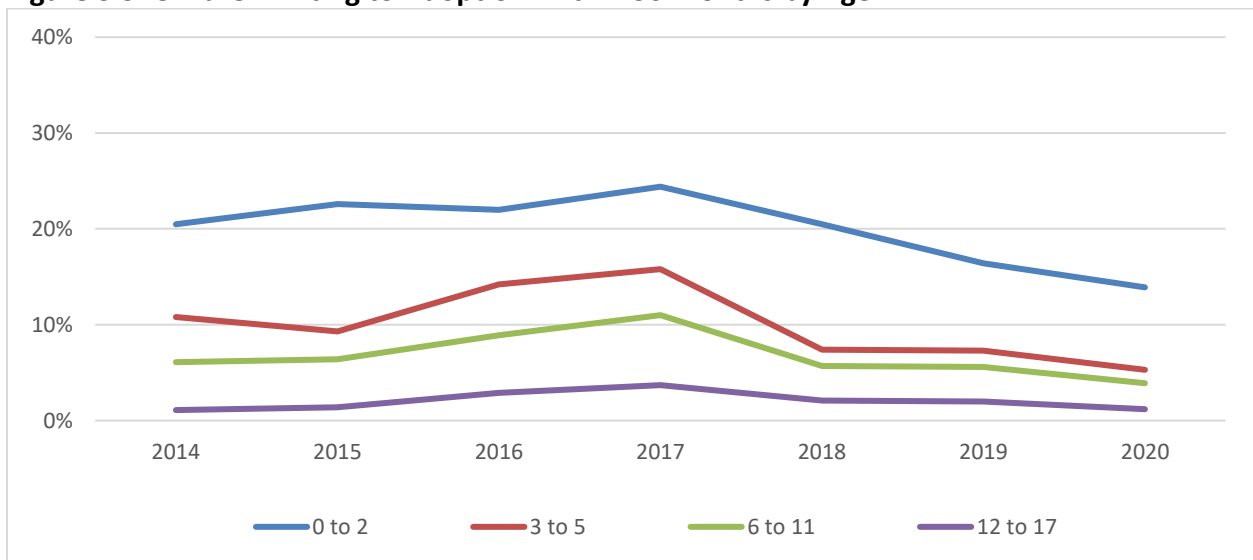
Adoption, in which a child’s biological parents’ rights are terminated and new adults assume this role, is another form of legal permanence available to children in substitute care. Adoption is only available after reasonable efforts to achieve reunification have failed or become impossible. As such, it is unlikely to occur within 12 months of entry into care, and Figure 3.8 shows the percentages of children adopted within 24 and 36 months of entry into care (see Appendix B, Indicators 3.C.1 and 3.C.2). While the 24-month adoption rate has been relatively stable, the 36-month adoption rate has shown consistent decline over the past four years, from 15.9% in the 2017 entry cohort to 7.7% in the 2020 entry cohort.

**Figure 3.8 Children Exiting to Adoption Within 24 and 36 Months**



Age plays an important role in understanding the children most likely to be adopted; children from birth to 2 years of age are more likely to exit care to adoption than older children. Figure 3.9 shows the 36-month adoption rates by age group (see Appendix B, Indicator 3.C.2) and highlights the gap between the adoption rate for children 0 to 2 and all other age groups—13.9% of children ages 0 to 2 entering care in 2020 were adopted within 36 months, compared to 5.3% of children ages 3 to 5 years old, 3.9% of children ages 6 to 11 years old, and 1.2% of youth ages 12 to 17 years old. The recent declines in the 36-month adoption rates have occurred across all age groups, but most noticeably among children ages 0 to 11. This is because rates of adoption among children ages 12 to 17 have always been low.

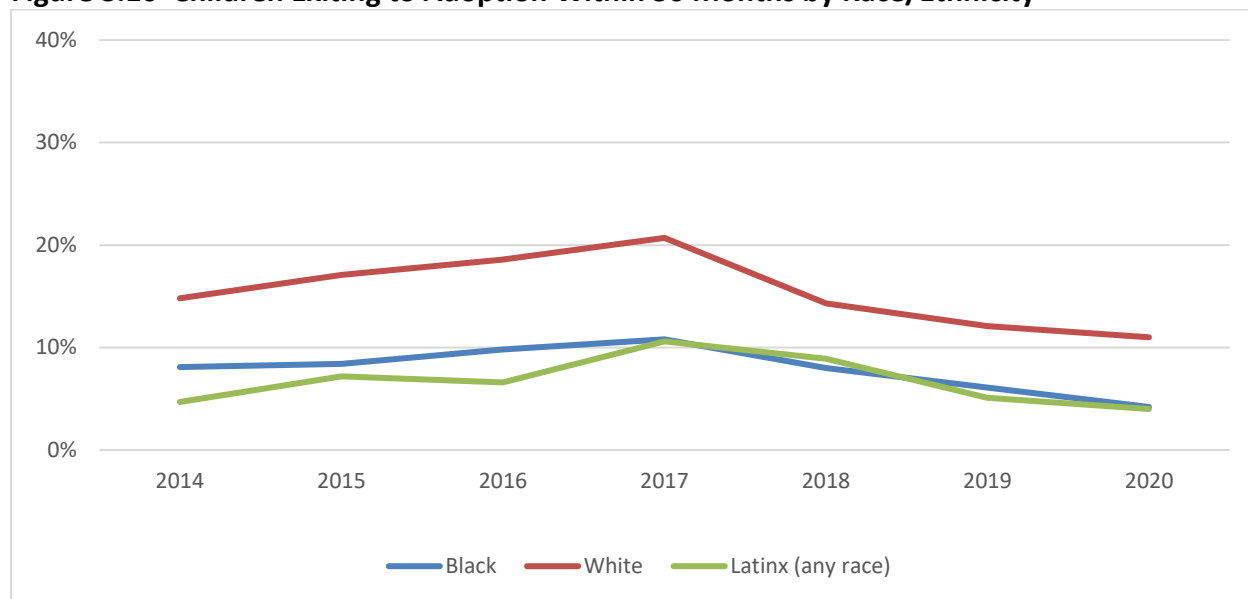
**Figure 3.9 Children Exiting to Adoption Within 36 Months by Age**



## LEGAL PERMANENCE

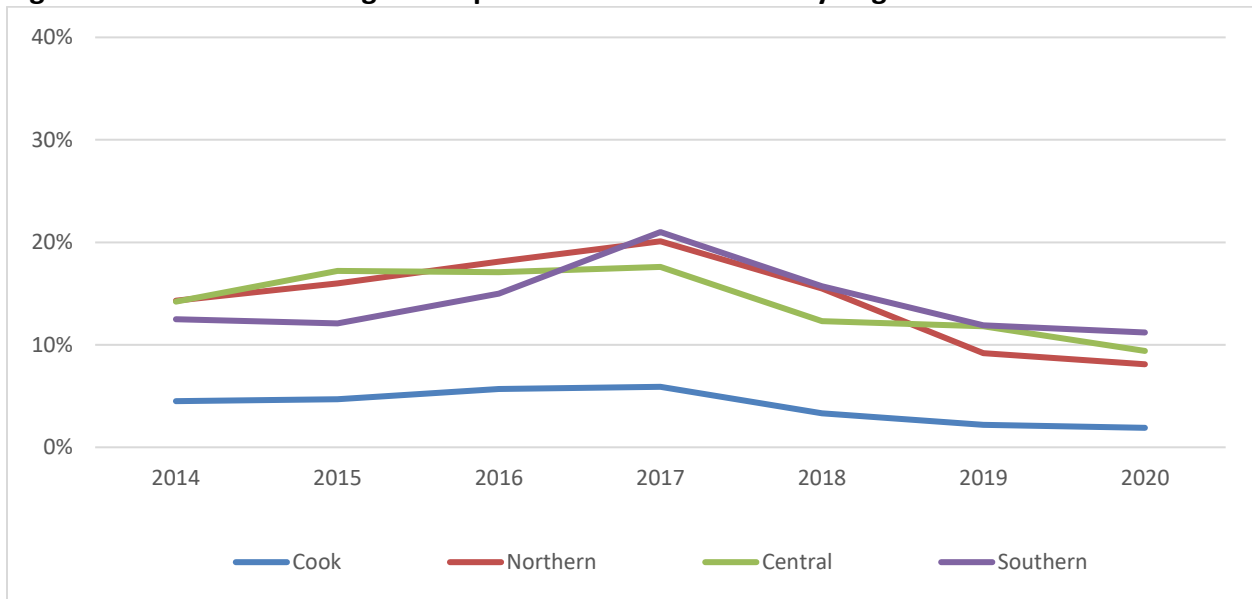
Race and ethnicity are other factors that are associated with the likelihood of adoption. White children are consistently more likely to exit care to adoption within 36 months than are Black and Latinx children, as shown in Figure 3.10 (see also Appendix B, Indicator 3.C.2). For White children entering care in 2020, 11.0% exited care to adoption within 36 months, compared to 4.2% of Black children and 4.0% of Latinx children. Adoption rates have decreased for all racial groups in the past three years.

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



Adoption rates by region are shown in Figure 3.11 (see also Appendix B, Indicator 3.C.2). As with reunifications, adoption rates in the Cook region are markedly lower than other regions; only 1.9% of children who entered care in the Cook region in 2020 were adopted within 36 months, compared to 8.1% of children in the Northern region, 9.4% of children in the Central region, and 11.2% of children in the Southern region. Adoption rates have decreased in all regions over the past several years.

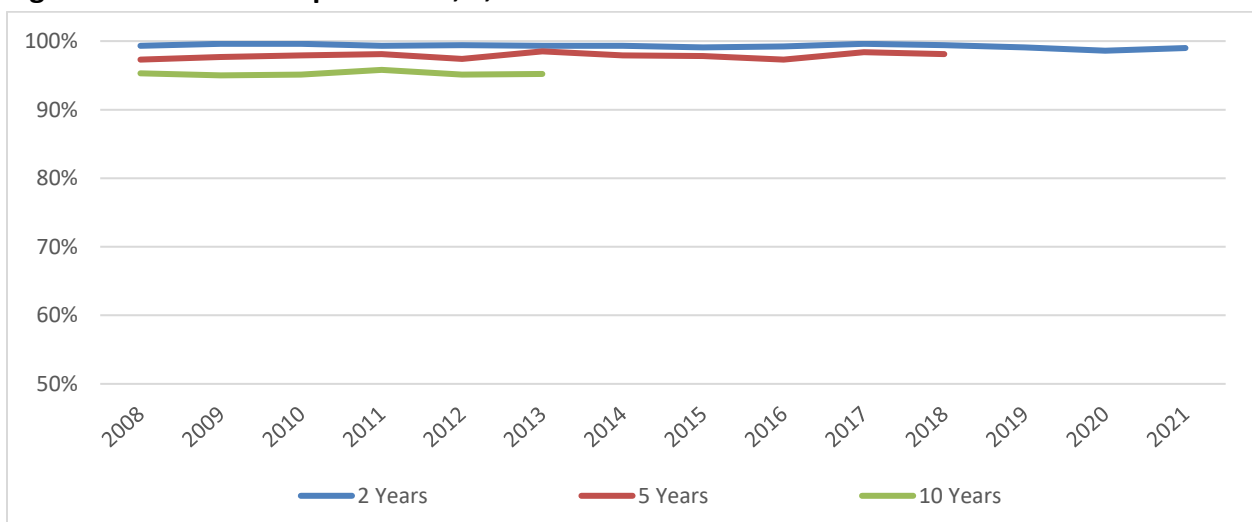
**Figure 3.11 Children Exiting to Adoption Within 36 Months by Region**



### Stability of Adoption

Rates of post-adoption stability after 2, 5, and 10 years are shown in Figure 3.12 (see Appendix B, Indicators 3.D.1, 3.D.2, and 3.D.3). Of children adopted in 2013, 99.3% of them remained in their adoptive homes after 2 years, 98.5% after 5 years, and 95.2% after 10 years. There has been little variability in the stability of adoptions over the past several years.

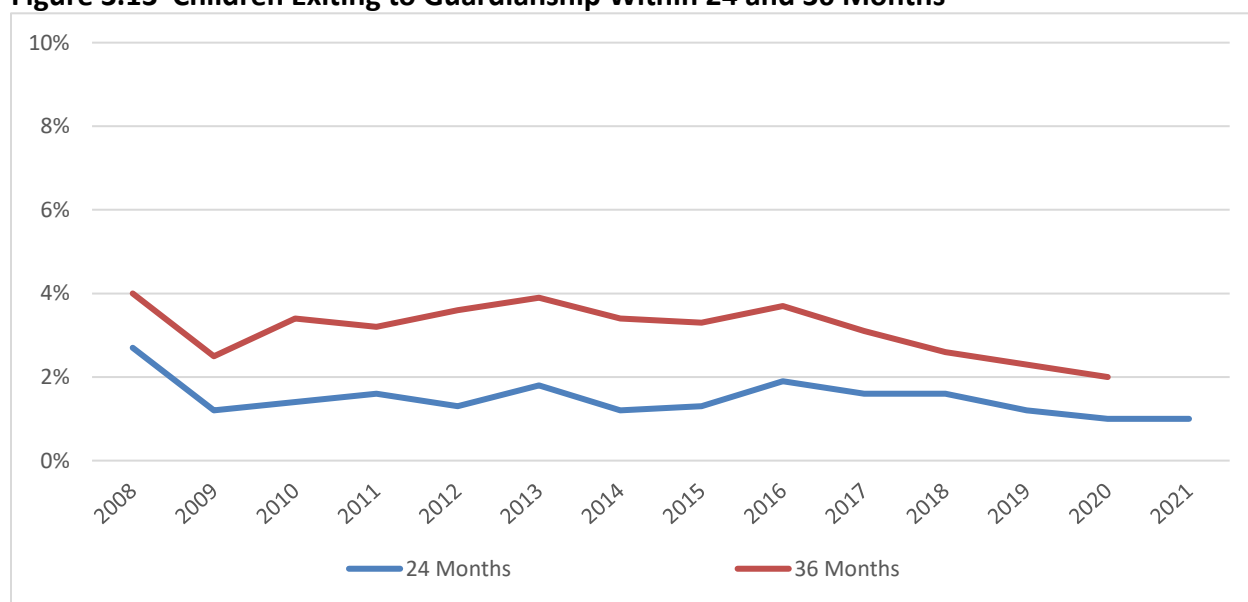
**Figure 3.12 Stable Adoptions at 2, 5, and 10 Years After Finalization**



## Children Achieving Guardianship

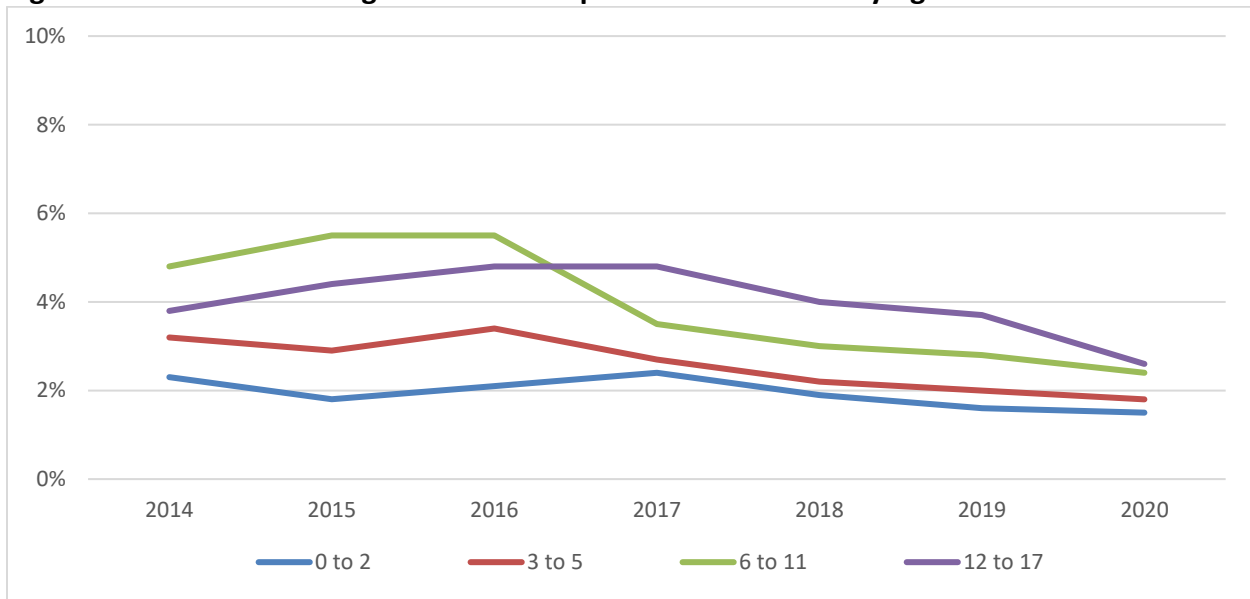
A third type of permanence is guardianship, in which an adult or adults other than the child’s biological parents assume legal guardianship of the child and may receive support from the state to help pay for that child’s care. As with adoption, guardianships generally are considered as an option for permanence only after attempts at reunification have been exhausted; rates of guardianship after 24 and 36 months of entering care are shown in Figure 3.13 (see Appendix B, Indicators 3.E.1 and 3.E.2). Exits to guardianships within 24 months of entry are rare and have ranged between 1.0-2.7% over the observed period. The percentage of children exiting to guardianship within 36 months has decreased in recent years to a new low of 2.0% in the most recent entry cohort.

**Figure 3.13 Children Exiting to Guardianship Within 24 and 36 Months**



Unlike adoption, which is most likely to occur among the youngest children in care, guardianship within 36 months is most likely to occur among children who enter care between 6 and 17 years old and least likely to occur among children 0 to 5 years (see Figure 3.14 and Appendix B, Indicator 3.E.2). The percentages of children exiting substitute care to guardianship have been decreasing over the past several years for all age groups.

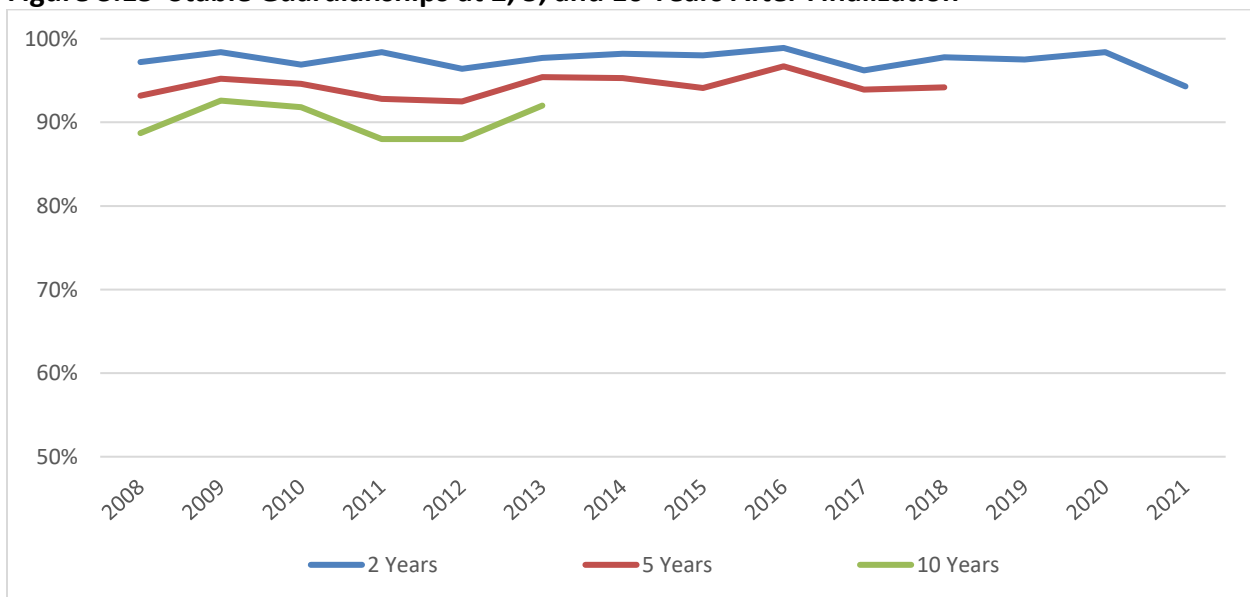
**Figure 3.14 Children Exiting to Guardianship Within 36 Months by Age**



### Stability of Guardianship

The stability of guardianship after 2, 5, and 10 years is shown in Figure 3.15 (see Appendix B, Indicators 3.F.1, 3.F.2, and 3.F.3). Of children who exited care to guardianship in 2013, 97.7% remained with their guardian after 2 years; 95.4% after 5 years; and 92.0% after 10 years. There have been small fluctuations in the rates of stability over time, with a slightly larger decrease in the 2-year stability rate in the most recent entry cohort (from 98.4% to 94.3%).

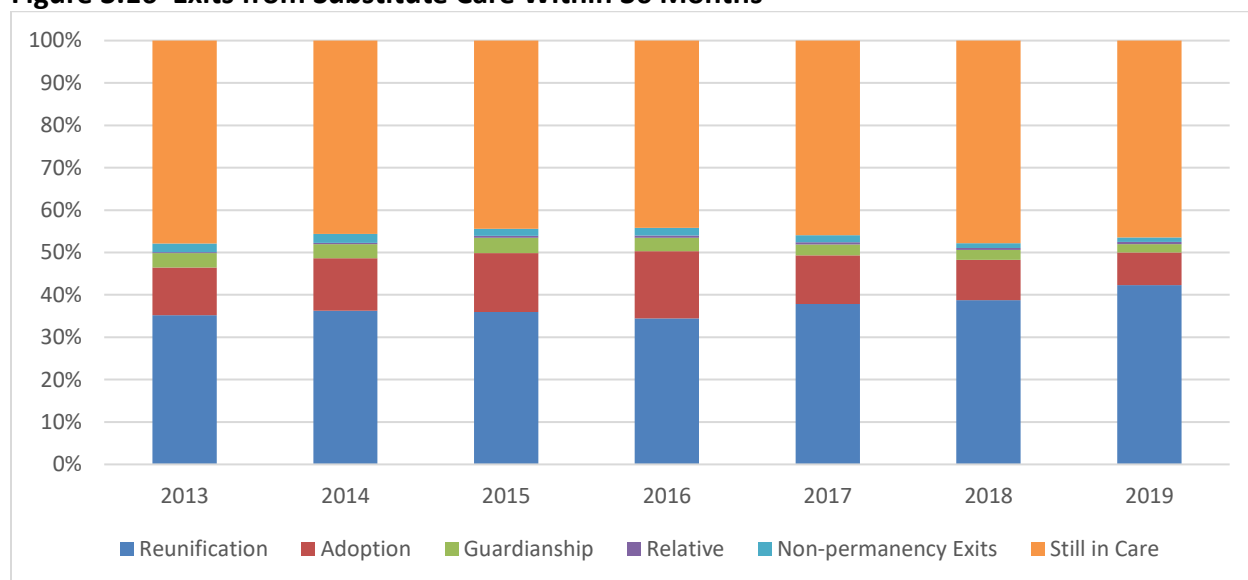
**Figure 3.15 Stable Guardianships at 2, 5, and 10 Years After Finalization**



## Children Who Do Not Achieve Legal Permanence

The previous sections explored children’s exits to legal permanence through reunification, adoption, and guardianship. More than half (52.0%) of the children in the 2020 entry cohort exited care within 36 months to one of these permanency options. Figure 3.16 shows the permanency outcomes for children in each entry cohort over the past seven years. From 2014 to 2020, between 44.2% and 47.9% of children remained in care more than 36 months. A small percentage of each entry cohort (between 1.1% and 2.1%) exited substitute care within 36 months without ever achieving legal permanence; these “non-permanency exits” include aging out, incarceration, and running away.

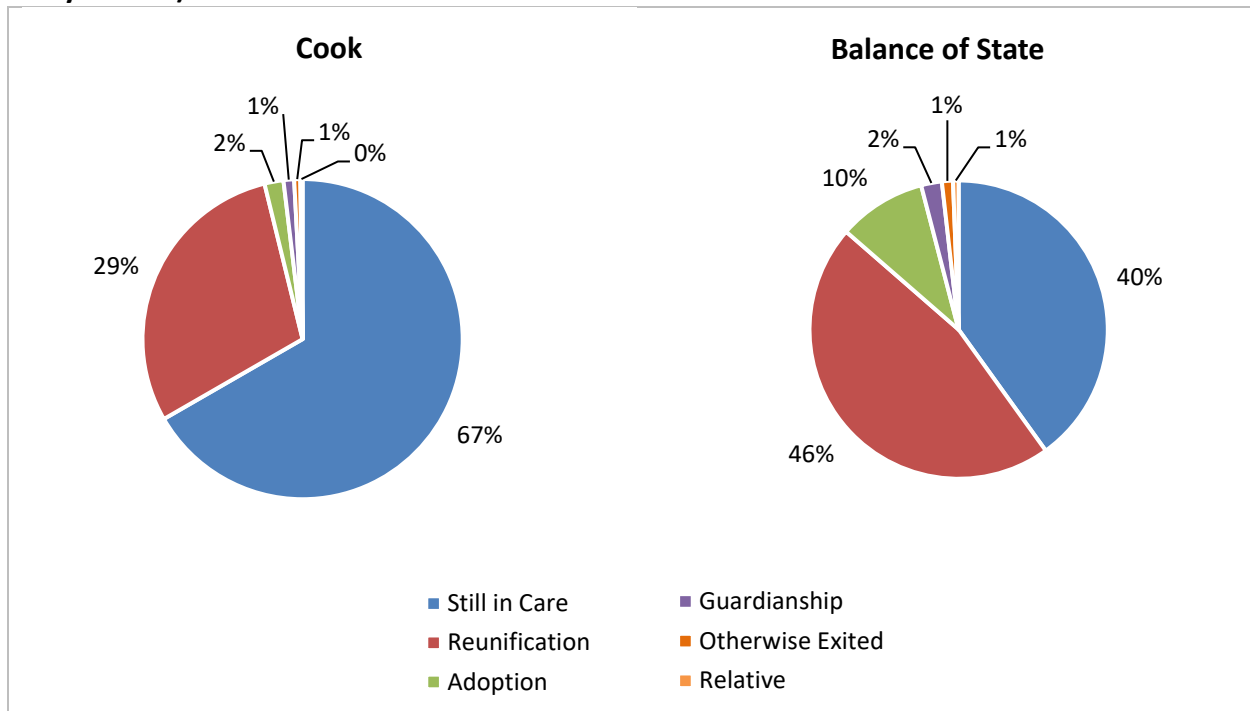
**Figure 3.16 Exits from Substitute Care Within 36 Months**



There are large regional differences in the achievement of timely permanence for children in care. Figure 3.17 compares the outcomes for children in care after 36 months in the Cook region versus the rest of the state. Approximately 66.7% of children in care in the Cook region remain in care after 36 months, 29.5% are reunified, 1.9% are adopted, and 1.9% exit to guardianships. In the rest of the state, 40.1% of children are still in care after 36 months, 46.3% are reunified, 9.5% are adopted, and 2.3% exit to guardianships.



**Figure 3.17 Exits from Substitute Care Within 36 Months: Cook versus Balance of State (2020 Entry Cohort)**



## Discussion and Conclusions: Legal Permanence

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

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

In Illinois, there continue to be large regional differences in the achievement of timely permanence for children in care. Nearly 67% of children in the 2020 cohort taken into substitute care in the Cook region can expect to stay there longer than three years. In contrast, 40% of children in other regions of the state stay in care longer than three years. Another noticeable regional difference was adoption: only 1.9% of the children who entered substitute care in the Cook region in FY2020 were adopted by the end of FY2023, as compared to 9.5% of children in the rest of state. There were large regional differences in reunification as well— 30%

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of children who entered care in 2020 in the Cook region exited to reunification within 36 months compared to around 46% for the rest of the regions in the state.

One positive trend is that reunification rates within 24 or 36 months have continued to increase over the past several years. Unfortunately, most of the other trends related to legal permanence are more worrisome and deserve additional attention. There were notable decreases in the percentages of children who exited care to adoption within 24 or 36 months over the past several years. This mirrors a national trend in a decrease in the number of adoptions over the past several years.<sup>11</sup> The Child Welfare League of America suggested that the historic drop in numbers of adoptions that occurred across several states may have been related to court delays that occurred during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>12</sup> In addition, the percentage of children exiting to guardianship within 24 or 36 months remains low; children exiting to guardianship within 36 months reached a new low of 2.0% for the most recent entry cohort.

Another worrisome trend is seen related to re-entry into substitute care. Rates of re-entry within a year among children in care less than 12 months (CFSR measure) have doubled in the last few years, from 5.0% of children who entered care in 2016 to 10.8% of children who entered care in 2021.

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<sup>11</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2024). *Trends in Foster Care and Adoption: FY 2013 – 2021*. Retrieved from: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/trends-foster-care-adoption>

<sup>12</sup> Sciamanna, J. (n.d.). *New AFCARS Data See Drop in Numbers, Maybe Freeze in Courts or Systems*. Retrieved from <https://www.cwla.org/new-afcars-data-see-drop-in-numbers-maybe-freeze-in-courts-or-systems/>



## Chapter 4

# Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality

Child welfare systems across the nation share the concern that children from some racial and ethnic groups are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system compared to their representation in the general population.<sup>1</sup> Since 2016, it has been a goal of DCFS to track racial equity within the child welfare system to help inform planning and decision-making. This chapter provides information relevant to that goal by examining racial and ethnic disproportionality for eight child welfare outcomes:

- A. investigations
- B. protective custodies
- C. indicated investigations
- D. intact family services
- E. substitute care entries
- F. placement instability
- G. length of stay in substitute care
- H. exits from foster care to permanence

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## Measuring Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality

Racial and ethnic disproportionality refer to the over- or under-representation of a racial or ethnic group in the child welfare system compared to that group's representation in a relevant base 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 within a child welfare indicator is divided by that group's percentage in the 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 percentage within the child welfare indicator is divided by that group's percentage of the general child population. The same denominator (percentage of the racial/ethnic group in the child population) is used when calculating absolute RDI for each indicator. This report calculates absolute RDI for five indicators: investigations, protective custodies, indicated investigations, intact family services, and substitute care entries. To calculate the absolute RDI, data on race and ethnicity for the Illinois child population were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division.<sup>2</sup>

A second measure of disproportionality is the "relative RDI," which is calculated by dividing a racial or ethnic group's percentage within a child welfare indicator by that group's percentage within a prior child welfare indicator. For example, the denominator for calculating the relative RDI for children in protective custodies is the percentage of children in the racial/ethnic group who were investigated. Please see Appendix A for the definitions of the RDI for each indicator in this chapter; Appendix C for the RDI data for the state and each DCFS administrative region (Cook, Northern, Central, and Southern) for 2017-2023; and Appendix D for the number and percentage of children in each racial and ethnic group in the Illinois child population and in the child welfare system (2017-2023).

Appendix A also provides information on the creation of the race and ethnicity variables using data in the Statewide Automated Child Welfare System (SACWIS) and the Child and Youth Centered Information System (CYCIS). In this chapter, RDI are reported for three mutually exclusive racial and ethnic groups: White (non-Latinx), Black (non-Latinx), and Latinx (any race). For children of Latinx origin, race/ethnicity is defined as Latinx regardless of race, and the other race categories do not include children of Latinx origin. RDI for the other racial groups (Asian American, Multiracial, Native American, and Pacific Islander) are not reported in this chapter because the numbers of children from these groups in the child welfare system in Illinois are fairly small, which can lead to problems when calculating RDI. However, Appendix D provides

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<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division (2020). *CC-EST2020-ALLDATA6-17: Annual county resident population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: April 1, 2010, to July 1, 2019; April, 2020; and July 1, 2020*. Retrieved from <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2010-2020/counties/asrh/>; U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division (2023). *CC-EST2022-ALLDATA-17: Annual county resident population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2022*. Retrieved from <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2020-2022/counties/asrh/>

the numbers and percentages of children from these smaller racial and ethnic groups for the Illinois child population and for each sub-population involved in the child welfare system. If the number of children in a racial/ethnic group for any indicator was 20 or fewer, the RDI and the percentages used to compute the RDI were not included in the chapter figures and corresponding appendix tables because percentages based on small numbers are unreliable.

## Interpreting Racial Disproportionality Indices

Absolute RDI values less than 1.0 indicate under-representation compared to the general child population. For example, an RDI of 0.5 means that children are represented half as much at that indicator as they are in the general population. 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 compared to the general population. For example, an RDI of 2.0 for an indicator means that children in that group are represented at twice the rate they are in the general population.

Absolute RDI provide useful information about how children in different racial/ethnic groups are represented in the child welfare system compared to their representation in the general population. However, they do not provide information about whether disproportionality increases or decreases as children move through the child welfare system. The relative RDI provides this information by comparing a group's representation at one child welfare indicator to their representation in a previous part of the child welfare system. The relative RDI tells us if the amount of over-representation at an indicator increases or decreases *relative to* the amount that was present in the comparison population. Therefore, when interpreting the meaning of a relative RDI, the amount of disproportionality in the comparison population must also be taken into consideration.

To provide a concrete example for interpreting absolute and relative RDI, we can 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 (33.6% in 2023) by the percentage of Black children in the Illinois child population (15.3% in 2023), which results in an absolute RDI of 2.2. This means that Black children entered substitute care at more than two times their representation in the child population; they were over-represented among substitute care entries in 2023. The relative RDI for this indicator is calculated by dividing the percentage of Black children entering substitute care (33.6% in 2023) by the percentage of Black children in investigations (32.8% in 2023) to find a relative RDI of 1.0. This means that the amount of disproportionality in substitute care entries did not increase or decrease for Black children in 2023 compared to the amount of disproportionality present in investigations. However, a relative RDI of 1.0 does not mean that disproportionality does not exist among Black children entering substitute care. We know from the absolute RDI of 2.2 that Black children are over-represented in substitute care entries; the relative RDI tells us that the amount of over-representation did not increase at this point.

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

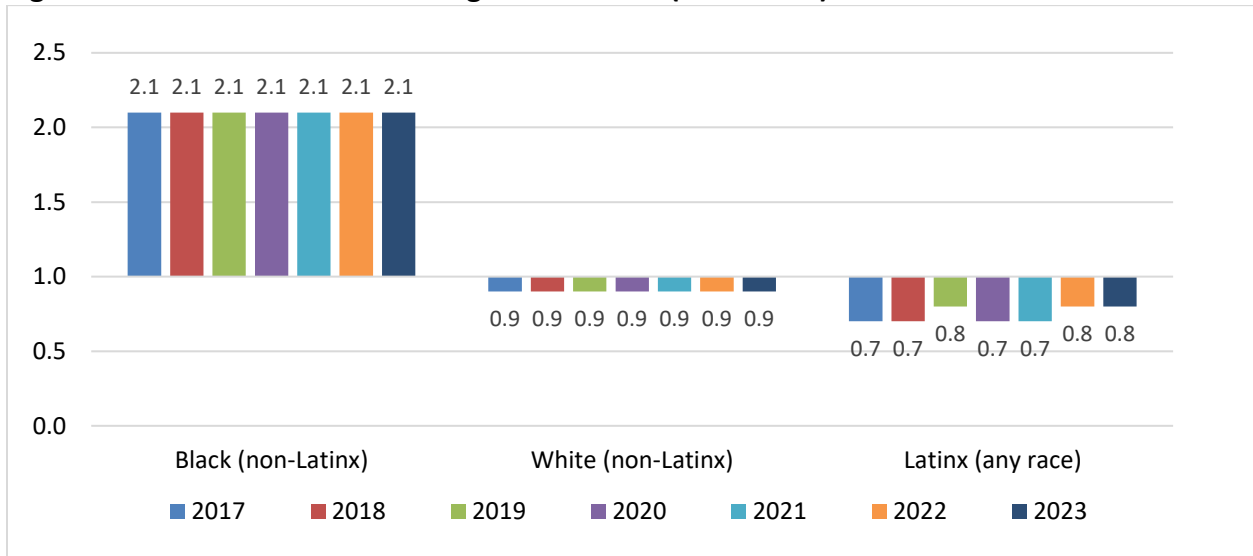
This chapter includes figures to show the differences in RDI among racial/ethnic groups. Because an RDI of 1.0 indicates no disproportionality, 1.0 is set as the baseline in the figures. The length of the bar in the figure directly corresponds to the amount of disproportionality for that group (i.e., longer bars equate to greater disproportionality). In this report, we interpret absolute RDI greater than 1.2 to show over-representation and absolute RDI less than 0.8 to show under-representation.

Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality at a Glance						
	Black		White		Latinx	
	<i>Absolute RDI</i>	<i>Relative RDI</i>	<i>Absolute RDI</i>	<i>Relative RDI</i>	<i>Absolute RDI</i>	<i>Relative RDI</i>
Investigations	2.1	-	0.9	-	0.8	-
Protective Custodies	2.2	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.5	0.6
Indicated Investigations	2.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.0
Intact Service Services	2.1	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.9
Substitute Care Entries	2.2	1.0	1.1	1.2	0.4	0.5
Placement Instability		1.3		0.9		0.8
Length of Stay ≥ 48 Months		1.2		0.9		1.0
Permanence		0.9		1.1		1.0

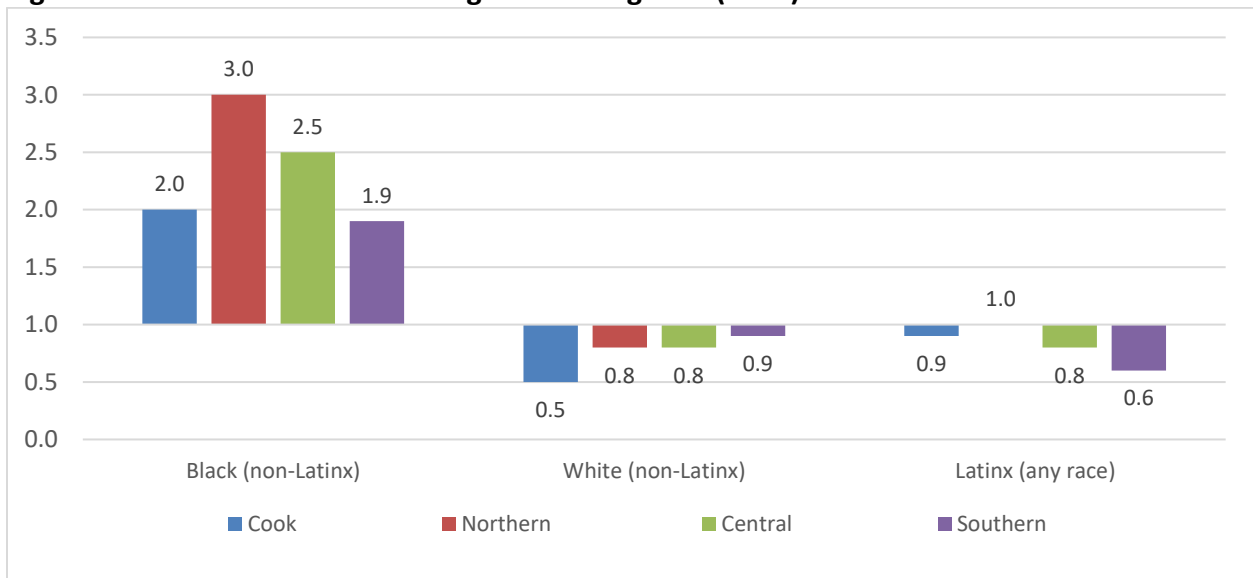
## Investigation Indicators

### *Investigations*

The first indicator examined is investigations. 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 investigations or screened out and no further child welfare actions are taken. Figure 4.1 shows the absolute RDI for children in investigations in Illinois from 2017-2023 (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.A.1). For each of the past seven years, Black children were over-represented among children in investigations compared to their representation in the Illinois population (RDI = 2.1), White children were proportionally represented (RDI = 0.9), and Latinx children were under-represented (RDI = 0.7) or proportionately represented (RDI = 0.8).

**Figure 4.1 Absolute RDI for Investigations—State (2017-2023)**

When the absolute RDI for investigations in 2023 are examined by region, a few regional differences stand out (see Figure 4.2). Black children were over-represented among investigations in all regions, but the absolute RDI in the Northern region (3.0) was greater than in any other region. White children were under-represented in the Cook region (RDI = 0.5) but were proportionally represented in all other regions. Latinx children were proportionally represented in the Cook, Northern, and Central regions and under-represented in the Southern region. The regional RDI for investigations have been consistent over the last seven years (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.A.2).

**Figure 4.2 Absolute RDI for Investigations—Regional (2023)**

### Protective Custodies

During an investigation, a child protective services worker can take temporary protective custody of a child if they believe there is an immediate and urgent threat to the child’s safety. If the child is believed to be unsafe, they can be taken into care for up to 48 hours (excluding weekends) until a shelter hearing is convened.<sup>3</sup> Figure 4.3 shows the absolute RDI for protective custodies in Illinois from 2017-2023 (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.B.1). In 2023, Black children were over-represented at 2.2 times their percentage in the Illinois child population. The absolute RDI for Black children taken into protective custody decreased over the past seven years from 2.6 in 2017 and 2018 to 2.2 in 2023. White children were proportionately represented and Latinx children were under-represented among protective custodies compared to their representation in the Illinois population over the past seven years.

**Figure 4.3 Absolute RDI for Protective Custodies—State (2017-2023)**

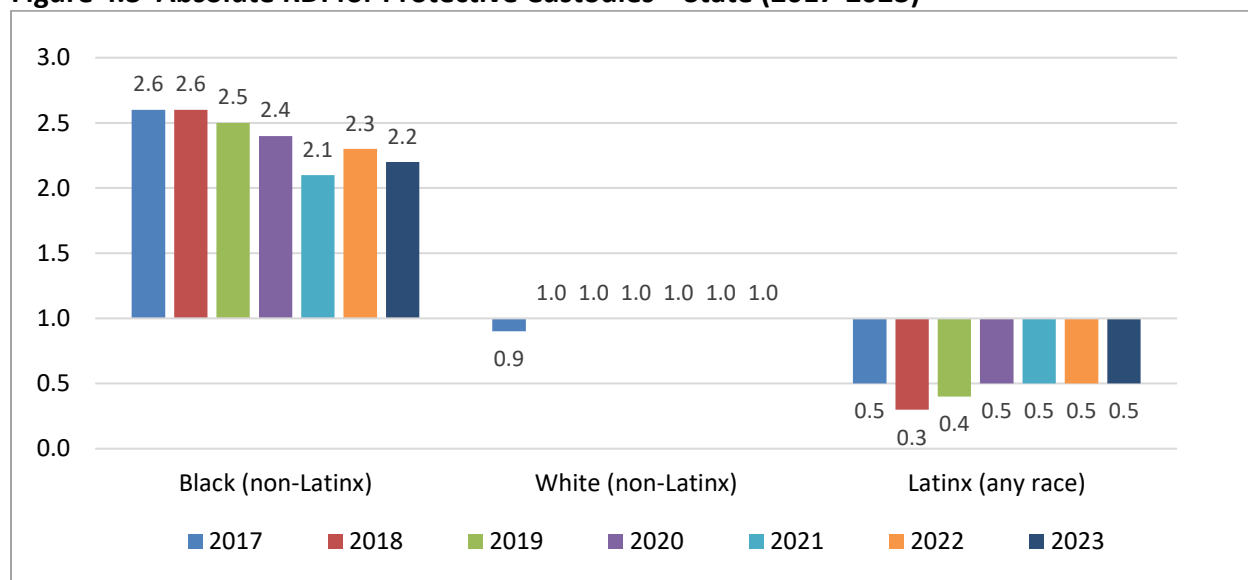
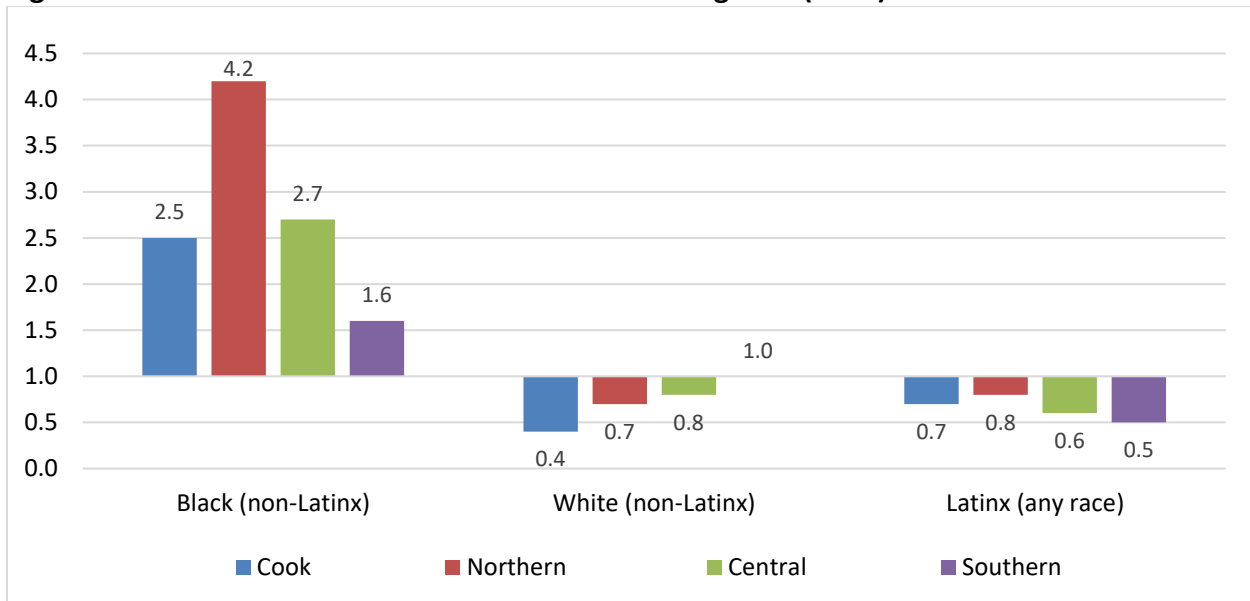


Figure 4.4 shows the absolute RDI for children in protective custodies in 2023 by region (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.B.2). There are large regional differences for Black children; the amount of over-representation in the Northern region (RDI = 4.2) was much larger than that in other regions (Central = 2.7, Cook = 2.5, Southern = 1.6). However, the RDI for Black children in the Northern region have decreased from 5.2 in 2017 to 4.2 in 2023. White children were under-represented in protective custodies in the Cook (RDI = 0.4) and Northern (RDI = 0.7) regions, and proportionally represented in the Central (RDI = 0.8) and Southern (RDI = 1.0) regions. In 2023, Latinx children were under-represented in the Cook, Central, and Southern regions and proportionately represented in the Northern region.

<sup>3</sup> Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (October, 2015). *Procedures 300 Section 120 Taking Children into Protective Custody*. [https://www2.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/notices/Documents/rules\\_300.pdf](https://www2.illinois.gov/dcf/aboutus/notices/Documents/rules_300.pdf)

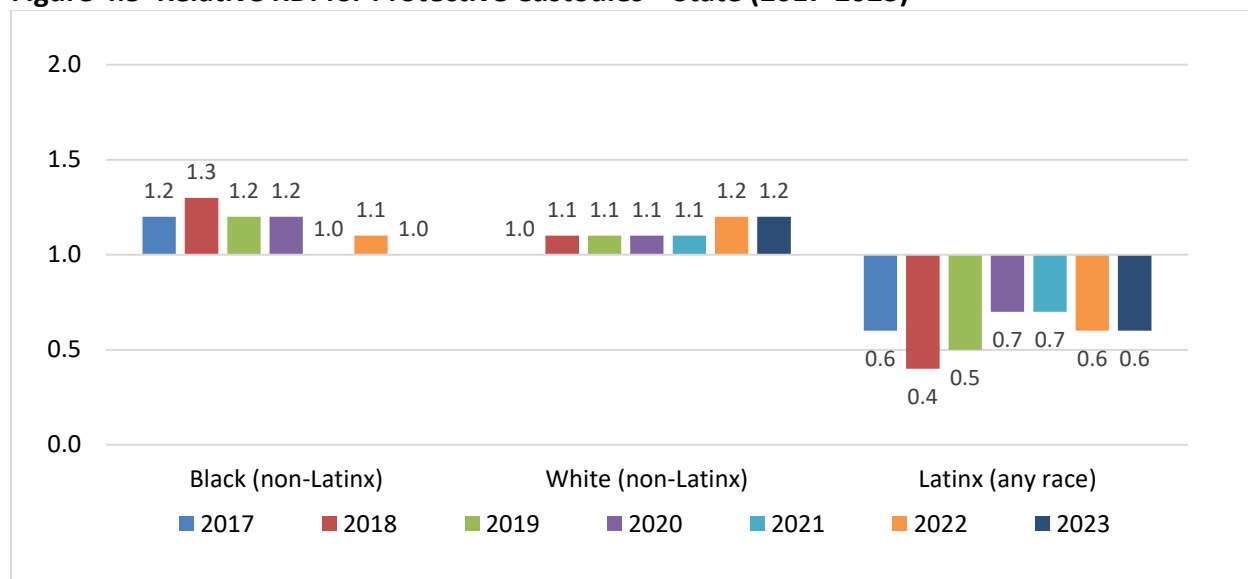


**Figure 4.4 Absolute RDI for Protective Custodies—Regional (2023)**

The relative RDI for protective custodies are calculated by dividing the percentage of children in each racial and ethnic group taken into protective custody by their percentage in investigations. Figure 4.5 shows the relative RDI for protective custodies from 2017-2023 at the state level (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.B.3). In 2021 and 2023, the relative RDI for Black children was 1.0, which means that the amount of over-representation of Black children in protective custodies did not increase or decrease when compared to investigated reports. In the other five years, however, the amount of over-representation of Black children in protective custodies increased when compared to that in investigations. The relative RDI greater than 1.0 for White children in 2018- 2023 mean that their under-representation decreased for protective custodies compared to investigated reports. The relative RDI less than 1.0 for Latinx children mean that their under-representation in protective custodies increased when compared to their under-representation in investigations.

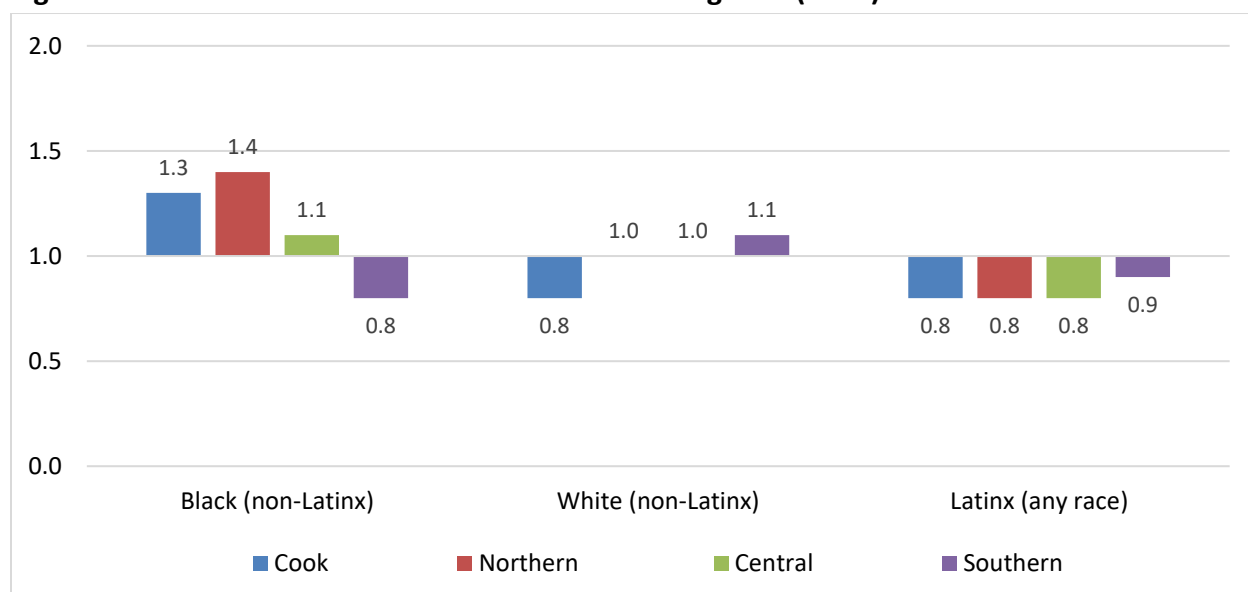
DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Figure 4.5 Relative RDI for Protective Custodies—State (2017-2023)**



Regional relative RDI for children in protective custodies in 2023 are shown in Figure 4.6 and the RDI for the last seven years are in Appendix C, Indicator 4.B.4. The over-representation of Black children in protective custodies increased compared to that in investigations in the Cook (relative RDI = 1.3), Northern (relative RDI = 1.4) and Central (relative RDI = 1.1) regions. The relative RDI in the Southern region (relative RDI = 0.8) indicates that disproportionality decreased for Black children in protective custodies compared to investigations. The RDI less than 1.0 for Latinx children in all four regions mean that the amount of under-representation increased for this group compared to the amount of under-representation in investigations. The RDI for White children in the Cook region (relative RDI = 0.8) means that the amount of under-representation increased compared to their under-representation in investigations.

**Figure 4.6 Relative RDI for Protective Custodies—Regional (2023)**



### Indicated Investigations

Once an investigation is screened in, the child protection specialist must collect information to make a determination about whether the alleged abuse or neglect occurred. The required actions are outlined in DCFS Procedures 300<sup>4</sup> and include performing background checks on all adults in the household; interviewing the alleged victims, perpetrator, and all adults in the household; observing the home environment; and performing a structured safety assessment. At the conclusion of the investigation, the child protection specialist determines if there is credible evidence that the alleged abuse or neglect occurred; if so, then the allegation is indicated. Figure 4.7 shows the absolute RDI for children in indicated investigations for each racial/ethnic group in 2017-2023. The RDI for Black children in 2023 was 2.1, which means that Black children were represented among indicated investigations at over twice the rate that they were represented in the Illinois child population. White and Latinx children were proportionately represented in indicated investigations compared to their percentage in the Illinois child population in 2023. The trends for all three racial and ethnic groups were consistent over the past seven years (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.C.1).

**Figure 4.7 Absolute RDI for Indicated Investigations—State (2017-2023)**

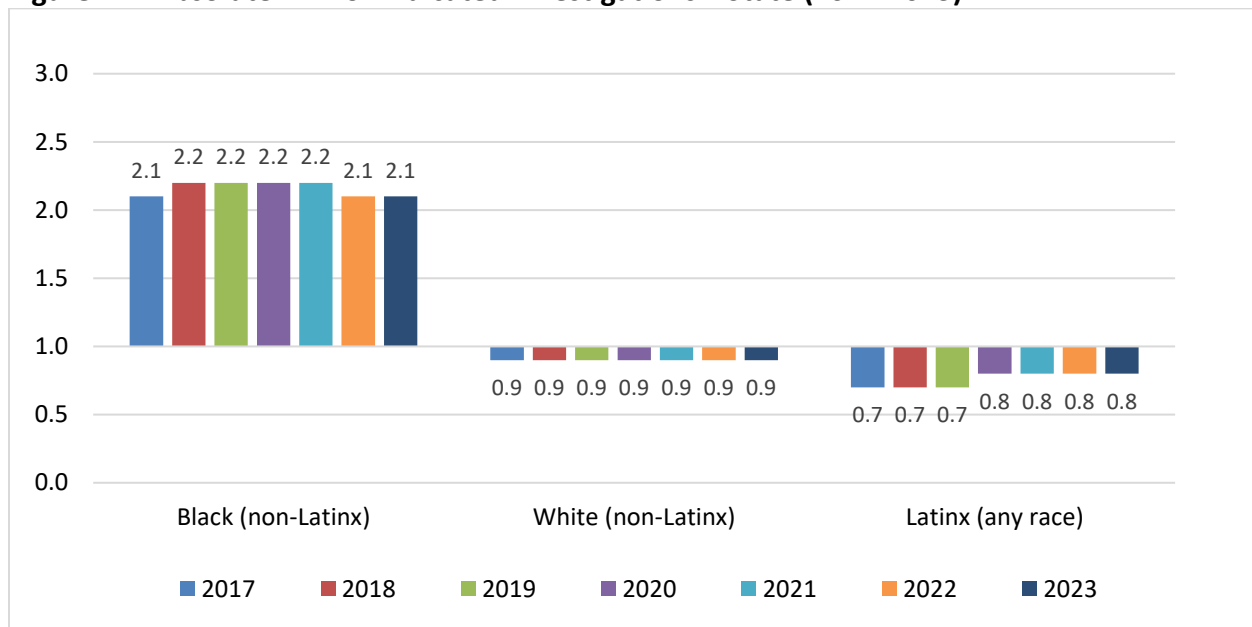


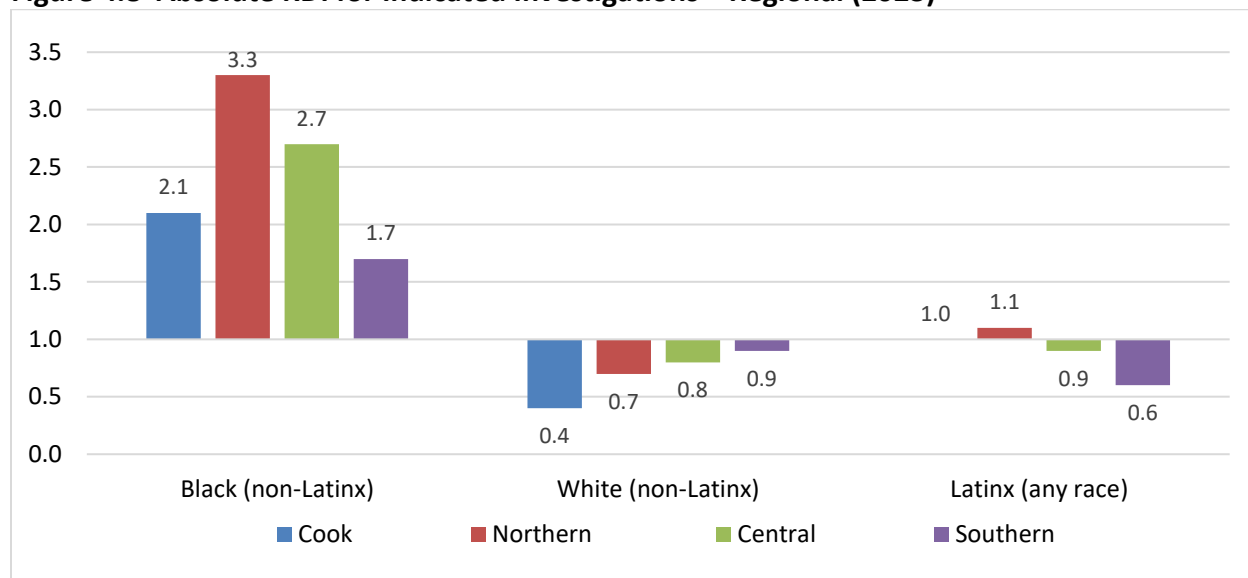
Figure 4.8 shows the absolute RDI for children in indicated investigations by region in 2023 (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.C.2). Black children were over-represented in all regions, with the largest disproportionality in the Northern region (RDI = 3.3). White children were proportionately represented among children in indicated investigations in the Central and Southern regions and under-represented in the Cook and Northern regions. Latinx children were under-represented

<sup>4</sup> Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (October, 2015). *Procedures 300 Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect*. <https://dcfs.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dcfs/documents/about-us/policy-rules-and-forms/documents/procedures/procedures-300.pdf>

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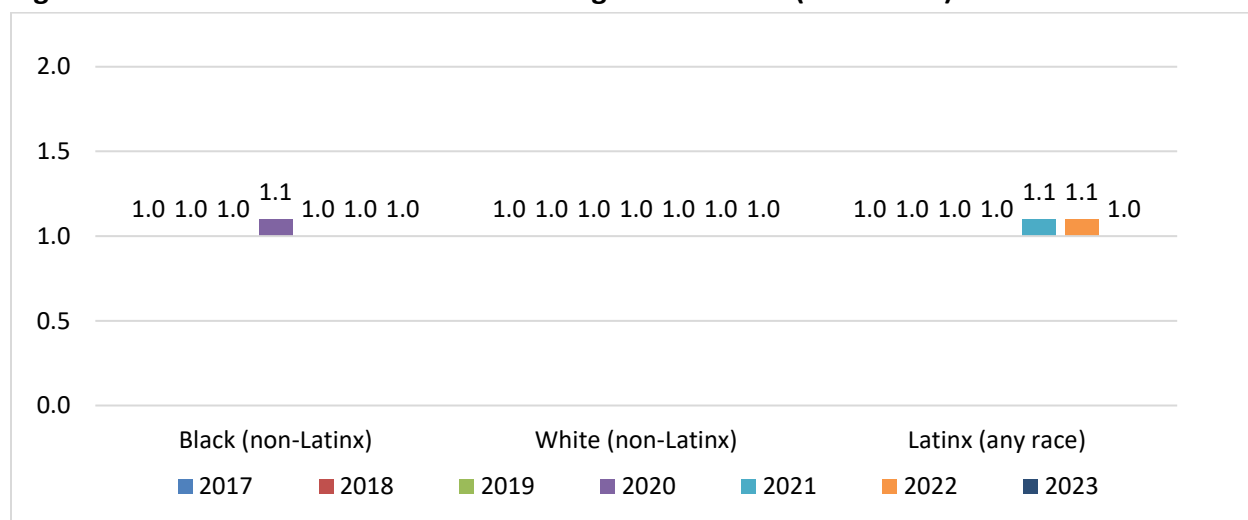
in the Southern region (RDI = 0.6) and proportionately represented in the other regions. These regional RDI have been consistent over the past seven years.

**Figure 4.8 Absolute RDI for Indicated Investigations—Regional (2023)**



The relative RDI for indicated investigations were calculated by dividing the percentage of children in indicated investigations by the percentage of children in investigated reports for each racial/ethnic group. Figure 4.9 shows the relative RDI for children with indicated reports in 2017-2023. In 2023, the relative RDI was 1.0 for each of the three racial and ethnic groups, which means that the amount of over-representation of Black children and the under-representation of White and Latinx children did not change compared to investigations. These relative RDI have been stable over the past seven years (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.C.3).

**Figure 4.9 Relative RDI for Indicated Investigations—State (2017-2023)**



The regional relative RDI for this indicator for the past seven years can be found in Appendix C, Indicator 4.C.4. The regional values for some racial groups show some slight variations, but for the most part are similar to the relative RDI at the state level.

### ***Intact Family Services***

At the conclusion of the investigation, the family may be referred for intact family services, in which the children remain at home while the family receives supportive services.<sup>5</sup> Figure 4.10 shows the absolute RDI for children receiving intact family services in 2017-2023 (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.D.1). Black children were over-represented, White children were proportionally represented, and Latinx children were under-represented compared to their percentages of the Illinois child population. The RDI values for each group have been consistent for the past seven years.

**Figure 4.10 Absolute RDI for Intact Family Services—State (2017-2023)**

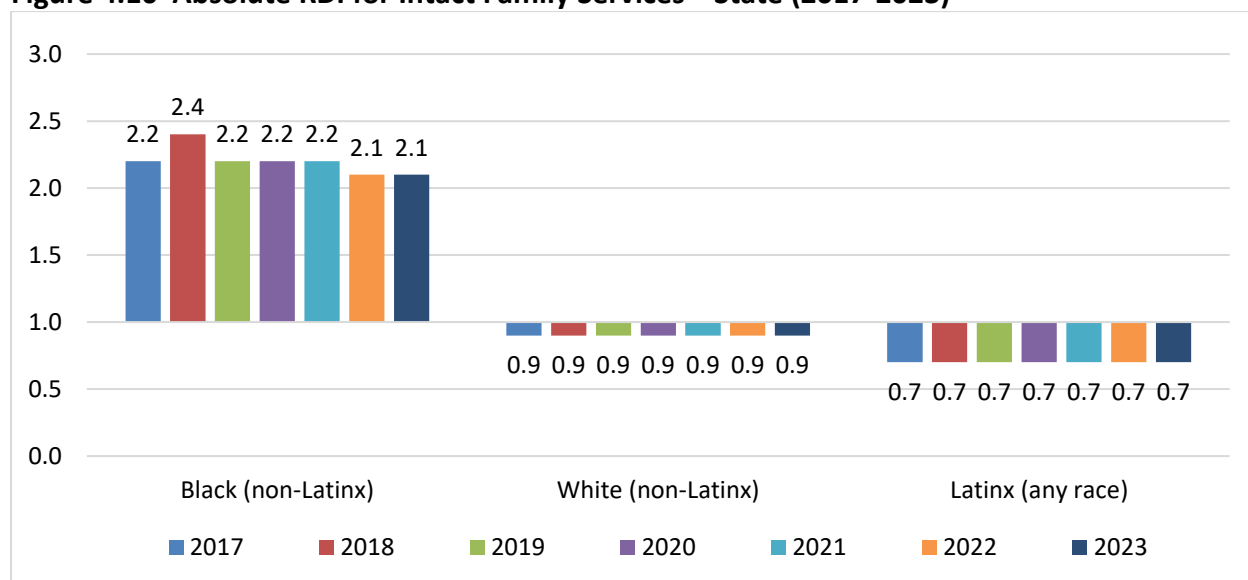
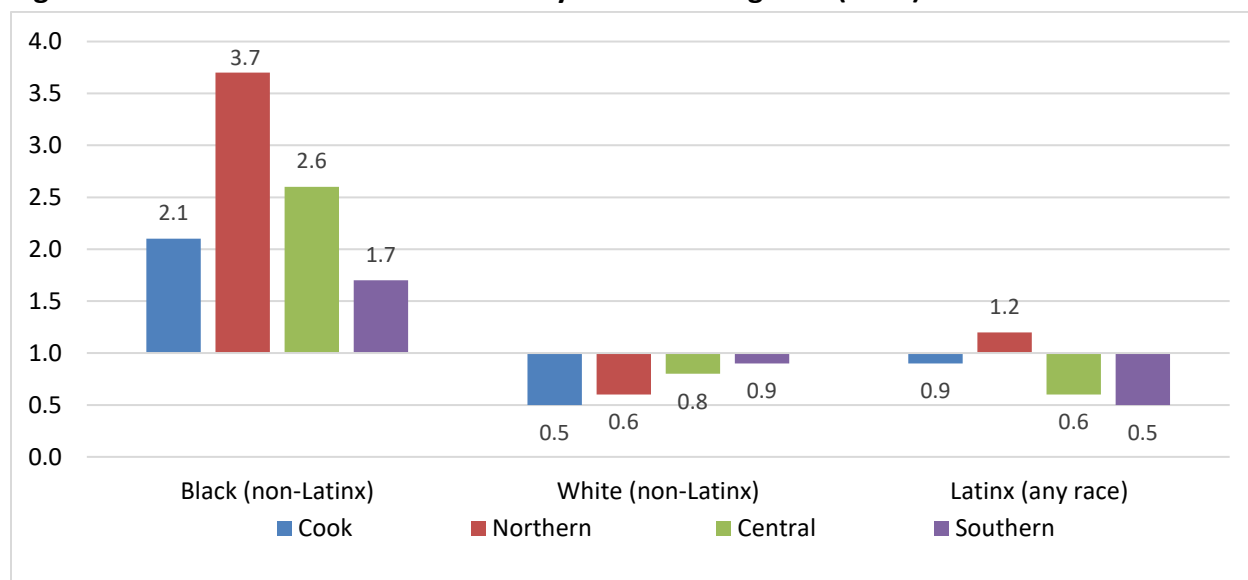


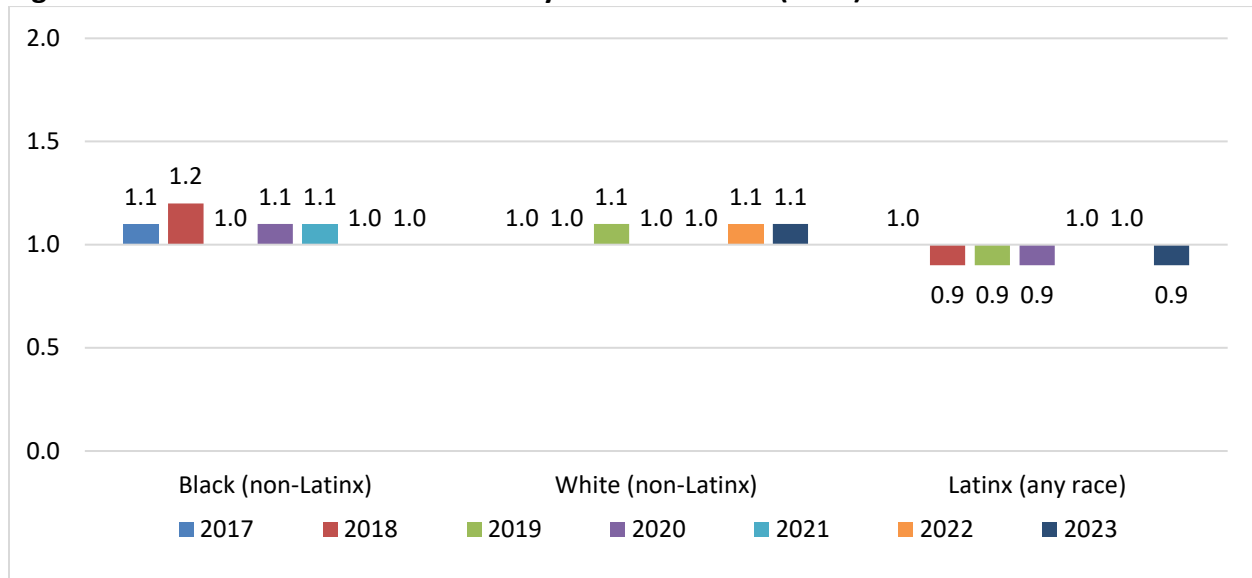
Figure 4.11 shows the absolute RDI for intact family services at the regional level in 2023. Black children were over-represented in all regions, with the largest over-representation in the Northern region (RDI = 3.7) and the lowest in the Southern region (RDI = 1.7). White children were under-represented in the Cook and Northern regions and were proportionally represented in the Central and Southern regions. Latinx children were proportionally represented in the Cook and Northern regions and under-represented in the Central and Southern regions (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.D.2).

<sup>5</sup> <https://dcfs.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dcfs/documents/about-us/policy-rules-and-forms/documents/procedures/procedures-302-subpart-c.pdf>

**Figure 4.11 Absolute RDI for Intact Family Services—Regional (2023)**

The relative RDI for intact family services was calculated by comparing the percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group receiving intact family services to their percentage in investigations. Figure 4.12 shows the relative RDI for children in intact family services in 2017-2023 (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.D.3). The relative RDI of 1.0 in 2023 for Black children means that their level of over-representation among children receiving intact family services was equal to their level of over-representation among children who were investigated. This varied over the previous six years; in four of those years, the over-representation of Black children who received intact family services was greater than that in investigations.

The relative RDI of 1.1 in 2023 for White children means that the amount of under-representation in this group decreased for intact services compared to investigated reports. The RDI of 0.9 for Latinx children in 2023 means that the amount of under-representation increased for Latinx children receiving intact family services compared to those who were investigated.

**Figure 4.12 Relative RDI for Intact Family Services—State (2023)**

The regional relative RDI for this indicator for the past seven years can be found in Appendix C, Indicator 4.D.4.

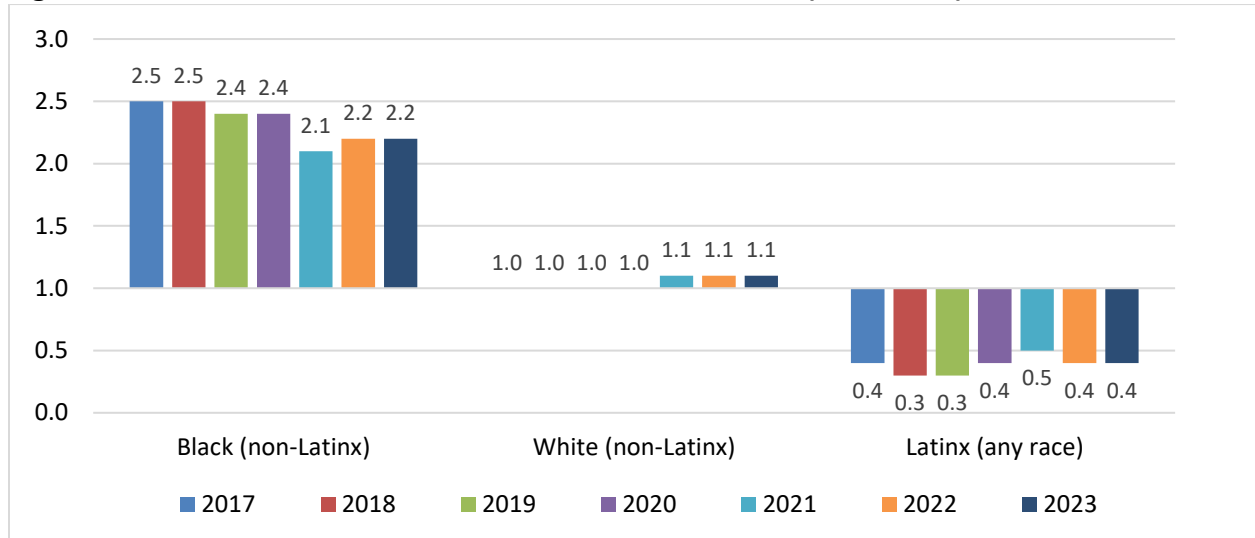
### ***Substitute Care Entries***

At the conclusion of the investigation, if the child welfare worker believes that "there are safety threats that cannot be controlled or mitigated through the service provision,"<sup>6</sup> the child may be removed from their home and placed into substitute care. The absolute RDI for substitute care entries in 2017-2023 are shown in Figure 4.13 (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.E.1). In 2023, Black children entered substitute care at a rate over two times higher than their percentage in the Illinois child population. However, the RDI for Black children entering substitute care decreased from 2.5 in 2017 to 2.2 in 2023. White children were proportionately represented (RDI = 1.1) in 2023 and in the preceding six years. Latinx children were under-represented compared to their percentage in the Illinois child population in 2023 and the previous six years.

<sup>6</sup> Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (October, 2015). Procedures 300 Section 130 Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect. <https://casetext.com/regulation/illinois-administrative-code/title-89-social-services/part-300-reports-of-child-abuse-and-neglect/section-30010-purpose>

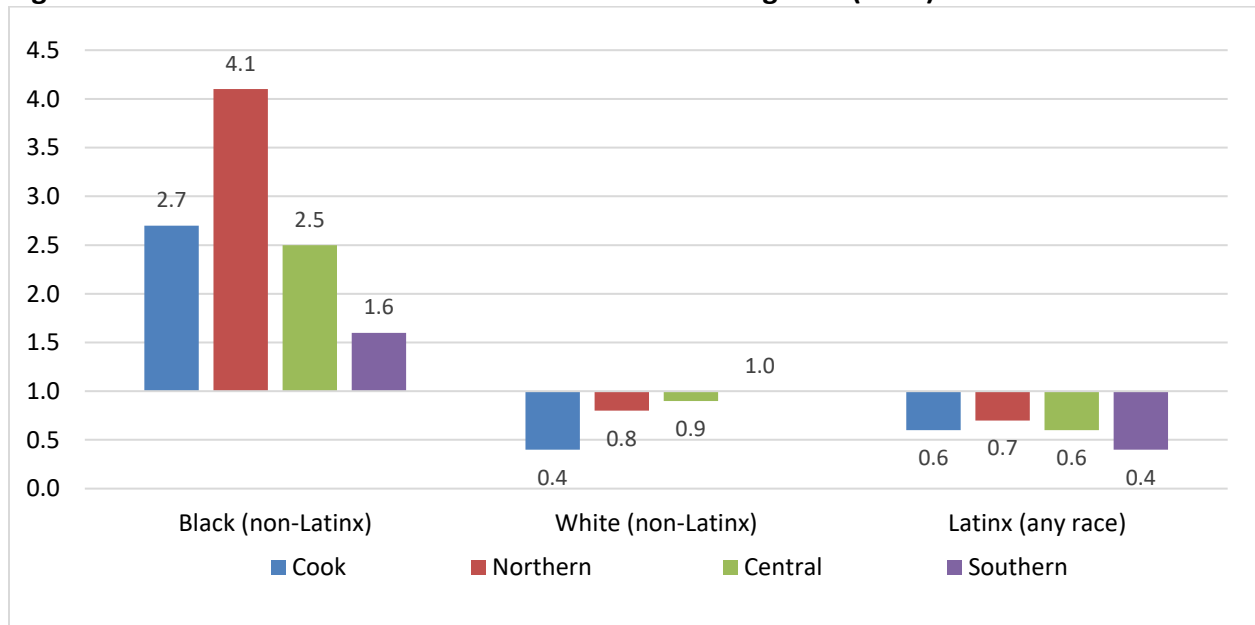
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**Figure 4.13 Absolute RDI for Substitute Care Entries—State (2017-2023)**



When the absolute RDI for substitute care entries are examined by region, there are large differences for Black children (see Figure 4.14). In 2023, the Northern region had the highest RDI (4.1), followed by the Cook (RDI = 2.7), Central (RDI = 2.5), and Southern (RDI = 1.6) regions. Although the RDI for Black children entering substitute care in the Northern region were significantly higher than those in the other regions, the RDI in this region have decreased from 4.9 in 2017 to 4.1 in 2023 (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.E.2). White children were under-represented in substitute care entries in the Cook region in 2023 (RDI = 0.4) and were proportionally represented in the other regions. Latinx children were under-represented in all four regions.

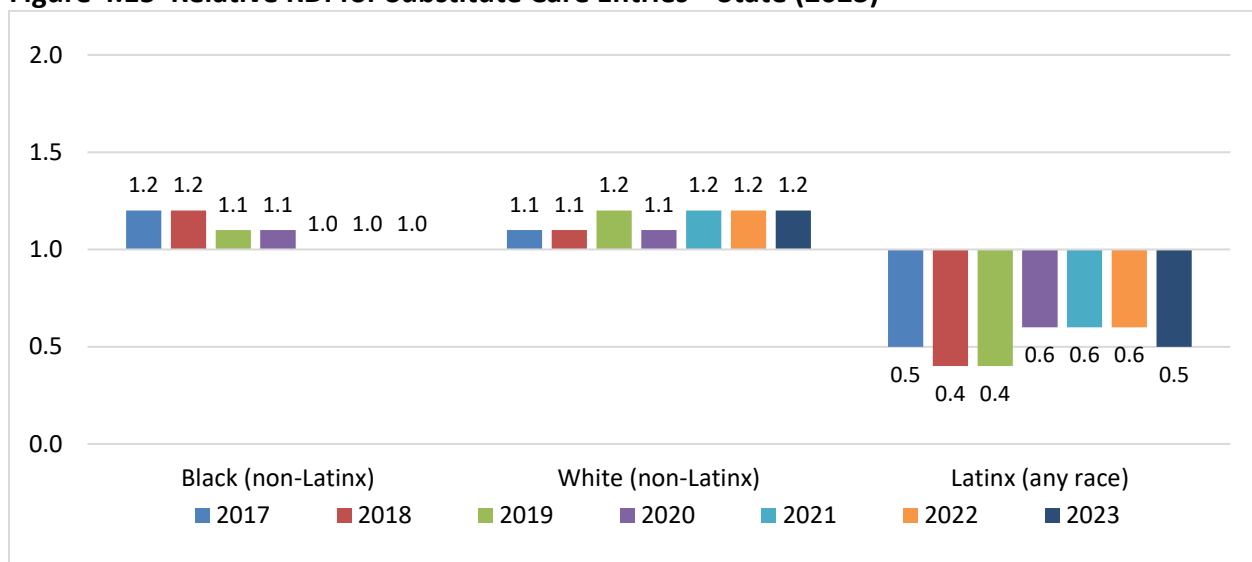
**Figure 4.14 Absolute RDI for Substitute Care Entries—Regional (2023)**



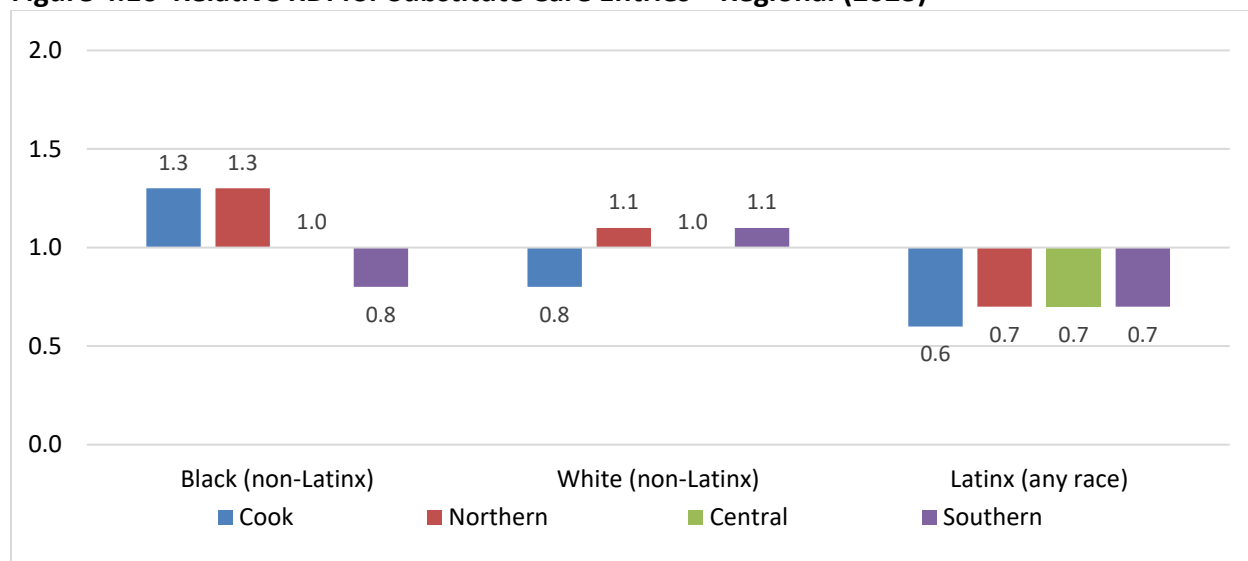


The relative RDI for substitute care entries were calculated by comparing the percentage of children in each racial and ethnic group entering substitute care to their percentage in investigations. The relative RDI for 2017-2023 are shown in Figure 4.15 (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.E.3). The relative RDI of 1.0 for Black children in 2021-2023 means that the level of over-representation among children entering substitute care did not increase or decrease compared to their over-representation in investigated reports. However, in previous years (2017-2020), the RDI are greater than 1.0, meaning that their over-representation increased at this decision point. The relative RDI of 1.2 for White children in 2023 means that the amount of under-representation in this group decreased for substitute care entries when compared to investigated reports. The relative RDI less than 1.0 for Latinx children mean that their under-representation increased at this indicator compared to investigations.

**Figure 4.15 Relative RDI for Substitute Care Entries—State (2023)**



Regional relative RDI for children who entered substitute care in 2023 are shown in Figure 4.16 (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.E.4). In the Cook and Northern regions, relative RDI of 1.3 indicate that the over-representation of Black children increased among children entering substitute care compared to that in investigations. The relative RDI in the Southern region (relative RDI = 0.8) indicates that disproportionality decreased for Black children entering substitute care compared to investigations. The relative RDI for Latinx children indicate that the amount of under-representation increased for substitute care entries compared to the level of under-representation in investigations. This was true across all regions and across all seven years.

**Figure 4.16 Relative RDI for Substitute Care Entries—Regional (2023)**

## Substitute Care Indicators

We examine the racial/ethnic proportionality of three outcomes for children in substitute care, including placement instability, length of time in care, and the achievement of family permanence through reunification, adoption, or guardianship. For each of these outcomes, a relative RDI is computed that compares the percentage of each racial/ethnic group that experiences the outcome to the percentage of children in that group who entered or were in substitute care during that year.

### *Placement Instability*

To examine the racial/ethnic proportionality of placement instability in substitute care, we compared the percentage of children from each racial/ethnic group with three or more placements in their first year of care to the percentage of children who entered substitute care that year (see Figure 4.17 and Appendix C, Indicator 4.F.1). In 2023, Black children were over-represented among those who had three or more placements in their first year in care compared to their already disproportionate representation in substitute care (relative RDI = 1.3). This over-representation of Black children among children experiencing placement instability was true across all seven years. Conversely, White and Latinx children were both under-represented among children with three or more placements in their first year in care relative to their representation among children who entered substitute care.

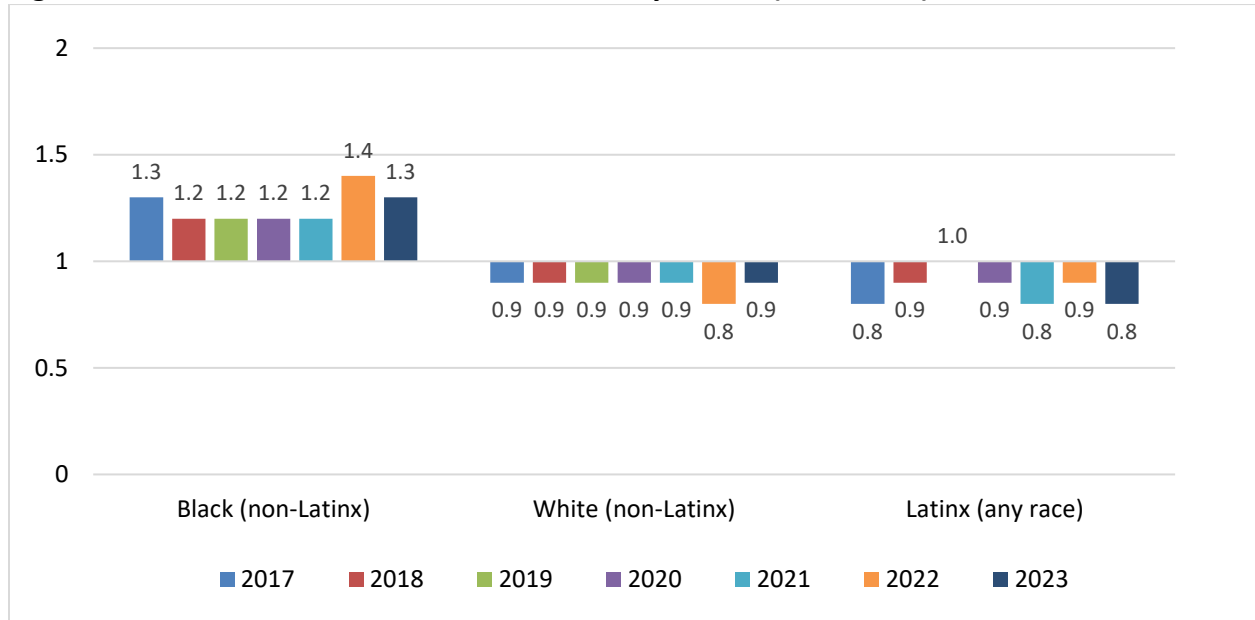
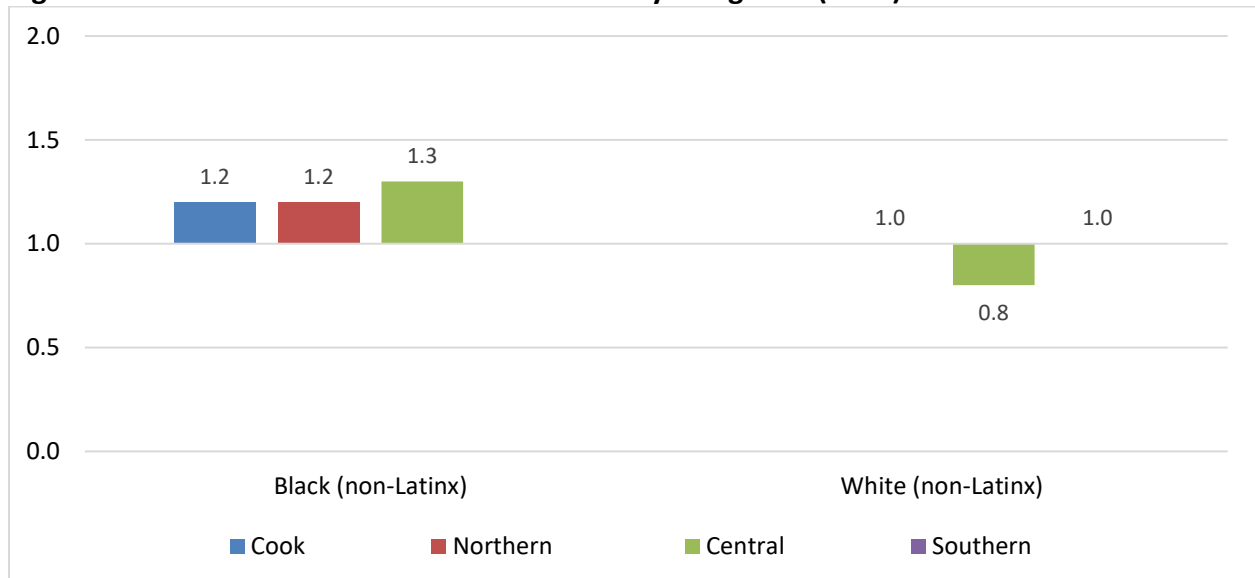
**Figure 4.17 Relative RDI for Placement Instability—State (2017-2023)**

Figure 4.18 shows the 2023 regional relative RDI for placement instability in substitute care. The amount of over-representation for placement instability among Black children was greatest in the Central region (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.F.2).

**Figure 4.18 Relative RDI for Placement Instability—Regional (2023)**

Note. If the number of children in a racial/ethnic group was 20 or fewer, the RDI are not shown.

### ***Length of Time in Substitute Care***

Children should not languish in foster care. The state may need to take custody of children to keep them safe, but they should not be raised in a substitute care setting for long periods of time. Once a child is placed in substitute care, the goal is to move them out of care as quickly as it is safe and reasonable to do so. To examine the length of time that children spend in substitute care, this indicator examines the percentage of children who remained in care for 48 months or more before achieving legal permanence through reunification, adoption, or guardianship. The relative RDI compares the percentage of each racial/ethnic group in substitute care for 48 months or more to the percentage in substitute care during the year (see Figure 4.19 and Appendix C, Indicator 4.G.1). The results indicate that Black children were over-represented among children who remained in care 48 months or more before exiting compared to their percentage in substitute care across all seven years (relative RDI = 1.2-1.3). White children were under-represented relative to their representation among children in substitute care (relative RDI = 0.7-0.9). The relative RDI for length of time in substitute care for Latinx children were variable over the past seven years.

**Figure 4.19 Relative RDI for Children in Care for 48 Months or More Before Exiting—State (2017-2023)**

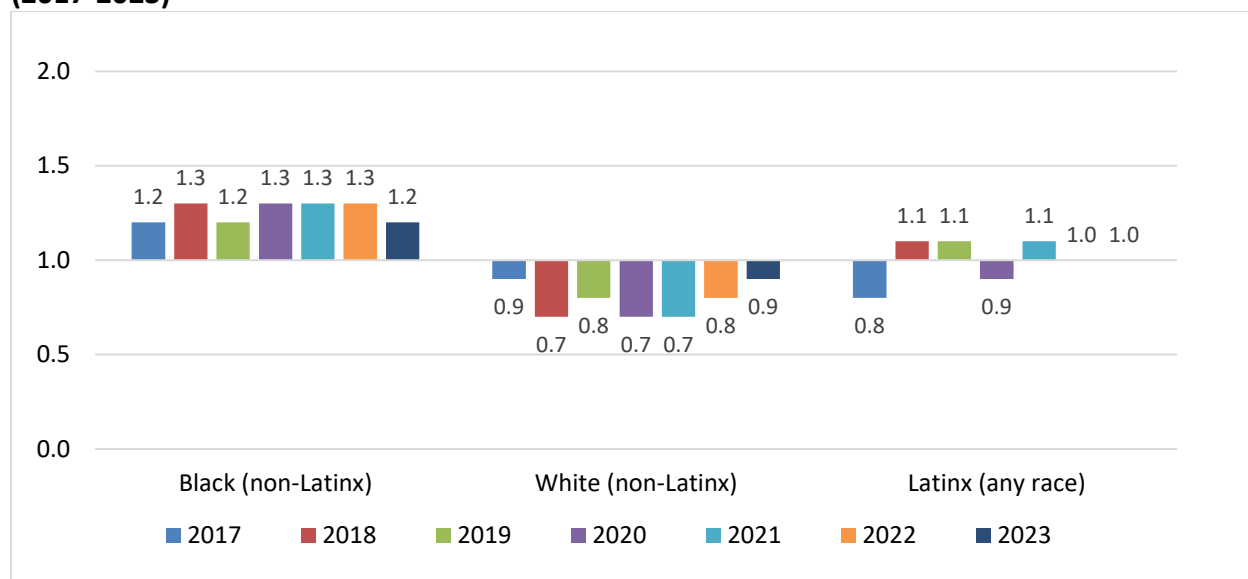
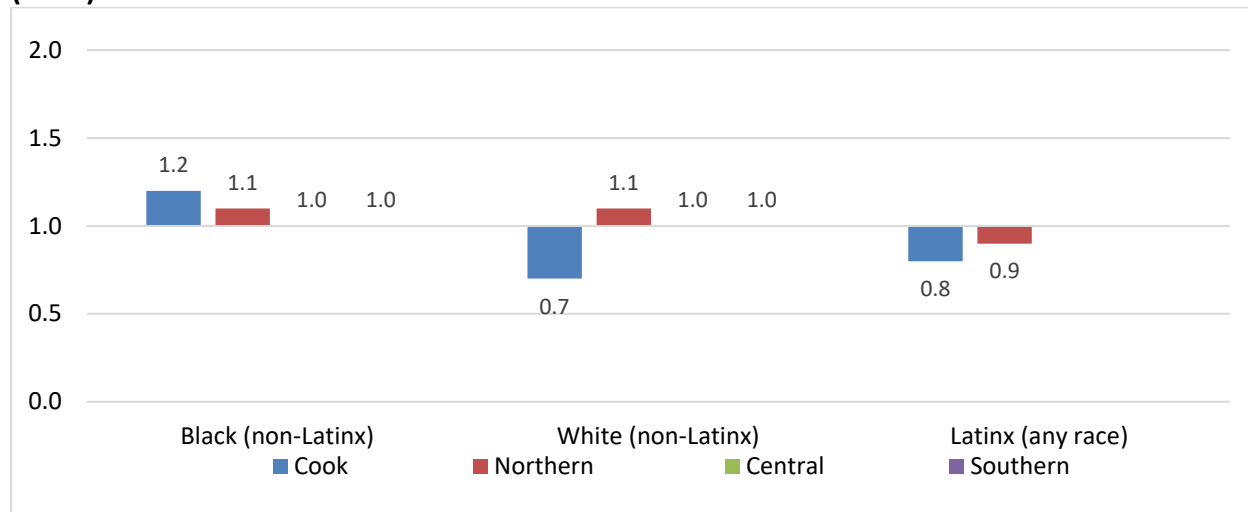


Figure 4.20 shows that in 2023, the regional relative RDI for children in care for at least 48 months showed some variation by region (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.G.2).

**Figure 4.20 Relative RDI for Children in Care for 48 Months or More Before Exiting—Regional (2023)**



Note. If the number of children in a racial/ethnic group was 20 or fewer, the RDI are not shown.

### **Children Achieving Permanence**

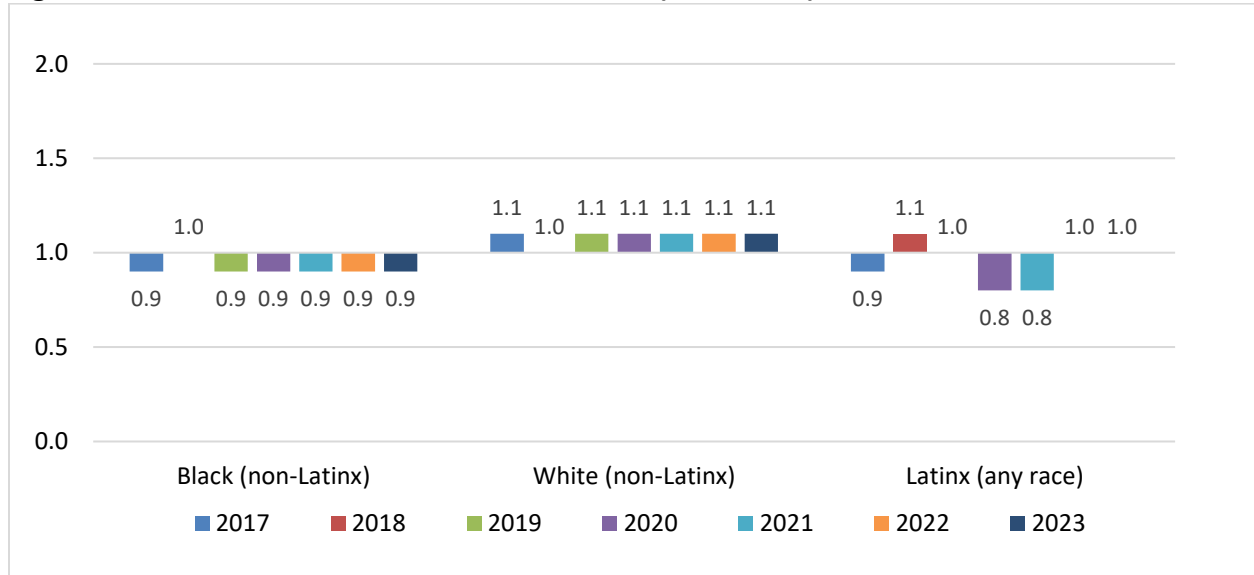
All children deserve permanent homes. Although abuse and neglect sometimes make it necessary to place children temporarily in substitute care, federal and state child welfare policies mandate that permanency planning should begin at the time of placement and that children should be placed in safe, nurturing, permanent homes within a reasonable timeframe. In Illinois, there are three processes through which children can exit substitute care to a permanent home: reunification with parents, adoption, and guardianship. *Reunification* with parents is the preferred method for achieving permanence for children in substitute care, and it is the most common way that children exit care. Reunification is possible if parents can rectify the issues that endangered their children, often with the help of child welfare and other services. In some cases, parents are not able to provide a safe, nurturing home for their children, even with the aid of services. In these instances, child welfare professionals must find alternative placements for children as quickly as possible. A second permanency option is *adoption*, in which kin or non-kin adoptive parents legally commit to care for children. Adoptive parents have identical rights and responsibilities as biological parents; they may also receive financial support from the state. *Guardianship* is a third permanency option which allows caregivers, usually kin, but also fictive kin, to assume legal custody and permanent care of children. Guardianship does not require the termination of the parental rights of the biological parent, who is often a close relative of the guardian. Legal guardians typically, but not always, receive financial support from the state.

Figure 4.21 contains the state-level data for children who achieved permanence in 2017-2023 (see Appendix C, Indicator 4.H.1). This indicator compares the percentage of children in each

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racial/ethnic group who achieved permanence through reunification, adoption or guardianship with their percentage among children in substitute care during the same year. In 2023, Black children were under-represented among those who achieved permanence compared to their representation among children in care, White children were over-represented among those who achieved permanence, and Latinx children were proportionately represented. Data on the regional relative RDI for permanence through reunification are provided in Appendix C, Indicator 4.H.2.

**Figure 4.21 Relative RDI for Permanence—State (2017-2023)**



## Discussion and Conclusions: Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality

Absolute RDI compare the percentage of children in a racial/ethnic group within a child welfare indicator to their percentage in the Illinois child population. In FY2023, Black children were over-represented at every indicator including investigations, protective custodies, indicated investigations, intact family services, and substitute care entries. For each of these investigation indicators, the absolute RDI for Black children were over 2.0, which means that the percentages of Black children involved in each part of an investigation were more than two times their percentage in the Illinois child population (15.3% in FY2023). Analyses by region reveal that the over-representation of Black children for all indicators is highest in the Northern region and lowest in the Southern region.

Relative RDI for investigations compare the percentage of children in a racial/ethnic group in protective custodies, indicated investigations, intact family services, and substitute care entries to their percentage in investigations; the results tell us if disproportionality increases or decreases at each decision point compared to that in investigations. In 2023, the relative RDI for Black children in each of the investigation indicators were 1.0, which means that there were no increases or decreases in the amount of over-representation at these indicators when

compared to the amount in investigations. This does not mean that there is no disproportionality for Black children at these later investigation decisions; we know from the absolute RDI that Black children are over-represented in investigations over two times their percentage in the Illinois child population. Also, examination of relative RDI at the regional level reveals that in 2023, the over-representation of Black children did increase at each investigation indicator in the Northern region; the relative RDI was 1.4 for protective custodies, 1.1 for indicated investigations, 1.2 for intact family services, and 1.3 for substitute care entries. The over-representation of Black children in protective custodies also increased in the Cook region (relative RDI = 1.3) and Central region (relative RDI = 1.1), and over-representation increased for Black children entering substitute care in the Cook region (relative RDI = 1.3).

Examination of the relative RDI for the substitute care indicators identifies two areas where Black children are over-represented compared to the percentage of Black children in care. The first is placement instability, which was measured by looking at the percentage of children who experienced three or more placements during their first year in substitute care. In FY2023, the relative RDI for placement instability among Black children was 1.3, which means that the percentage of Black children who experienced placement instability was 30% higher than the percentage of Black children who entered substitute care. The second indicator where Black children were over-represented was length of stay in substitute care. When children are removed from their homes, the goal is to move them out of substitute care as soon as it is safe and reasonable to do so. The current report examined this indicator by looking at the percentage of children who remained in care 48 months or more before exiting to permanence. The results show that Black children were over-represented among those who remained in care 48 months or more in FY2023 (RDI = 1.2). Conversely, Black children were slightly under-represented among exits from substitute care to permanence when compared to their representation among children in substitute care during 2023 (RDI = 0.9).

The results in this chapter reveal that White children were proportionately represented for all the investigation indicators. For the substitute care indicators, White children were under-represented among children who experienced placement instability and substitute care stays of 48 months or longer. They were over-represented among children who achieved permanence as compared to their percentage in substitute care.

Latinx families are historically under-represented in child welfare systems despite having similar socioeconomic issues as Black families;<sup>7</sup> the findings in this chapter regarding Latinx children in the Illinois child welfare system are similar. Latinx children were under-represented in all the investigation indicators and were also under-represented among children in care who experienced placement instability. They were proportionately represented among children with substitute care stays 48 months or more and children who achieved permanence, when compared to their percentage in substitute care.

<sup>7</sup> Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2021). *Child welfare practice to address racial disproportionality and disparity*. Available online: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/issue-briefs/racial-disproportionality/>







## Appendix A

# Indicator and Variable Definitions

The first section of this appendix provides definitions for each of the outcome indicators used in the four chapters of this report. All indicators were calculated based on the state fiscal year, which spans the 12-month period from July 1 to June 30. All indicators excluded youth 18 years and older, except for Indicator 2.G (Median Length of Stay in Substitute Care). Indicators used in the Child and Family Service Reviews are designated by (CFSR) in the indicator title. For indicators involving children in substitute care, a child is defined as in substitute care if they were in a legal spell (see the definition of legal spell in the second section of this appendix). The second section of this appendix provides the operational definitions of race/ethnicity, placement type, and legal spell used in this report.

## Indicator Definitions for Chapters 1 – 4

### Chapter 1: Child Safety

#### **Indicator 1.A: Maltreatment Recurrence (CFSR)<sup>1</sup>**

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

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

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

*Exclusions:*

- Subsequent reports of maltreatment within 14 days of the initial report; and
- Multiple reports on the same incident date.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusions:*

- Intact family cases open seven days or fewer;
- Intact family cases with any child who enters substitute care within 30 days of case open date;
- Multiple reports on the same incident date; and
- Maltreatment reports in childcare facilities, including day care facilities, foster home, group homes, and residential treatment centers.

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<sup>1</sup> Information on all seven of the CFSR statewide data indicators can be found here: <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/focus-areas/cqi/cfsr-data-syntax-toolkit/>

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

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

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

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

*Exclusions:*

- Subsequent reports of maltreatment within 14 days of the initial report; and
- Multiple reports on the same incident date.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusions:*

- Substitute care episodes less than eight days;
- If a youth turned age 18 while in care, the time in care and maltreatment reports that occurred after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday;
- Maltreatment reports that occurred within the first seven days of removal;
- Subsequent reports that occurred within one day of the initial report; and
- Maltreatment reports if the incident date did not occur during the substitute care spell.

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

The placement type for Indicators 2.A.1 through 2.D is determined by two fields from the database in the Child and Youth Centered Information System: service code and child living arrangement code. The placement type definition in the second part of this appendix describes how the service codes and child living arrangements were used to determine each placement type (see Table A.1).

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Numerator:* The number of children placed in kinship foster homes at the end of the fiscal year.

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

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

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

*Numerator:* The number of children placed in traditional foster homes at the end of the fiscal year.

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

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

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

*Numerator:* The number of children placed in specialized foster homes at the end of the fiscal year.

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

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

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

*Numerator:* The number of children placed in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes at the end of the fiscal year.

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

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

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

*Numerator:* The number of children placed in group homes at the end of the fiscal year.

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

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

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

*Numerator:* The number of children placed in institutions at the end of the fiscal year.

### **Indicator 2.C: Initial Placement with Siblings**

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

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

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

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

*Exclusions:*

- Children with no siblings in substitute care; and
- Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

### **Indicator 2.D: End of Year Placement with Siblings**

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children with no siblings in substitute care.

**Indicator 2.E: Placement Stability (CFSR)**

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

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

*Numerator:* The number of placement moves during the fiscal year. The initial removal from the home was not counted as a placement move.

*Exclusions:*

- Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer;
- For youth who entered at age 17 and turned 18 during the period, any time in substitute care beyond the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or placement changes after that date;
- Placements for which the provider's ID was missing;
- Deceased children;
- Children who ran away, including Runaway, Abducted, and Whereabouts Unknown; and
- If the placement type was respite care (defined as a placement of less than 30 days where the child returns to the same placement), it was not counted as a placement move.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

*Population:* The number of children who exited substitute care during the fiscal year.

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

#### **Indicator 3.A.1: Reunification Within 12 Months**

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

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

*Numerator:* The number of children who were reunified within 12 months of the date of entry into substitute care.

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

#### **Indicator 3.A.2: Reunification Within 24 Months**

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

#### **Indicator 3.A.3: Reunification Within 36 Months**

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

*Denominator:* The number of children reunified during the fiscal year.

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

*Exclusion:* Children who re-entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.



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

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

*Denominator:* The number of children reunified during the fiscal year.

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

*Exclusion:* Children who re-entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

*Denominator:* The number of children reunified during the fiscal year.

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

*Exclusion:* Children who re-entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

*Denominator:* The number of children reunified during the fiscal year.

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

*Exclusion:* Children who re-entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

**Indicator 3.C.1: Adoption Within 24 Months**

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

**Indicator 3.C.2: Adoption Within 36 Months**

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

## INDICATOR DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who re-entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who re-entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who re-entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

### **Indicator 3.E.1: Guardianship Within 24 Months**

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

### **Indicator 3.E.2: Guardianship Within 36 Months**

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who re-entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who re-entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who re-entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusions:*

- Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer; and
- Youth who turned age 18 while in care and were discharged to permanency at age 18.

## INDICATOR DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Youth who turned age 18 while in care and were discharged to permanency at age 18 or older.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Youth who turned age 18 while in care and were discharged to permanency at age 18 or older.

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

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

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

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

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer were excluded from the denominator.

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Denominator:* The number of children in substitute care on the first day of the fiscal year who had been in care for 24 months or more and were discharged to permanency (reunification, adoption, or guardianship) within 12 months.

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

## Chapter 4: Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality

### Indicator 4.A: Children in Investigations<sup>2</sup>

*Numerator:* The percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group who had at least one maltreatment report during the fiscal year.

*Denominator for Absolute RDI:* The percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group in the Illinois child population (0-19).

### Indicator 4.B: Children in Protective Custodies

*Numerator:* The percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group who had at least one maltreatment report during the fiscal year and were taken into protective custody.

*Denominator for Absolute RDI:* The percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group in the Illinois child population (0-19).

*Denominator for Relative RDI:* The percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group with at least one maltreatment report during the fiscal year.

### Indicator 4.C: Children in Indicated Investigations<sup>3</sup>

*Numerator:* The percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group who had at least one indicated maltreatment report during the fiscal year.

*Denominator for Absolute RDI:* The percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group in the Illinois child population (0-19).

*Denominator for Relative RDI:* The percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group with at least one maltreatment report during the fiscal year.

### Indicator 4.D: Children in Intact Family Services

*Numerator:* The percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group who received intact family services during the fiscal year.

*Denominator for Absolute RDI:* The percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group in the Illinois child population (0-19).

*Denominator for Relative RDI:* The percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group with at least one maltreatment report during the fiscal year.

*Exclusions:*

- Children with intact case opened seven days or fewer; and
- Intact family cases with any child who entered substitute care within 30 days of case open date.

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<sup>2</sup> If a child had more than one maltreatment report, they were only counted once. In other words, the counts are unduplicated.

<sup>3</sup> If a child had more than one indicated maltreatment report, they were only counted once.

**Indicator 4.E: Children Who Entered Substitute Care**

*Numerator:* The percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group who entered substitute care during the fiscal year (i.e., had a legal substitute care entry date).

*Denominator for Absolute RDI:* The percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group in the Illinois child population (0-19).

*Denominator for Relative RDI:* The percentage of children with at least one maltreatment report during the fiscal year.

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

**Indicator 4.F: Placement Instability**

*Numerator:* The percentage of children who had three or more placements within their first year in substitute care.

*Denominator for Relative RDI:* The percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group who entered substitute care during the fiscal year.

*Exclusions:*

- Children who entered care and stayed for less than a year;
- Deceased children;
- Children who ran away, including Abducted and Whereabouts Unknown; and
- If the placement type was respite care (defined as a placement of less than 30 days where the child returns to the same placement), it was not counted as a placement move.

**Indicator 4.G: Children in Substitute Care 48 Months or More Before Exiting**

*Numerator:* The percentage of children in substitute care for 48 or more months who exited care to achieve legal permanence through reunification, adoption, or guardianship during the fiscal year.

*Denominator for Relative RDI:* Percentage of children who were in substitute care during the fiscal year.

*Exclusion:* Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer.

**Indicator 4.H: Children Who Achieved Permanence**

*Numerator:* The percentage of children who exited substitute care and achieved legal permanence through reunification, adoption, or guardianship during the fiscal year.

*Denominator for Relative RDI:* The percentage of children who were in substitute care during the fiscal year.

*Exclusions:*

- Children who entered care and stayed seven days or fewer; and
- Youth who turned age 18 while in care and were discharged to permanency at age 18.

## Operational Definitions of Variables

### Race/Ethnicity

The race/ethnicity variable used in this report was created from several data fields in the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and the Child and Youth Centered Information System (CYCIS): primary race, ethnicity, secondary race flag, and additional race related fields. The ethnicity variable includes several codes designating Hispanic origin, including Hispanic South American, Hispanic Cuban, Hispanic Mexican, Hispanic Puerto Rican, Hispanic Spanish Descent, Hispanic Dominican, Hispanic Central American, and Hispanic Other. If the individual's ethnicity was coded as any of these, their race/ethnicity in this report was coded as "Latinx" regardless of the primary race code.

The secondary race flag field was coded as yes or no to indicate whether the child had a secondary race. If the child's ethnicity was not Latinx and the secondary race was coded as yes, their race/ethnicity was defined as multiracial.

If the individual's ethnicity was not Latinx and the secondary race was coded as no, then their race/ethnicity in this report was determined using the code in the primary race variable contained in SACWIS and CYCIS. Values of the primary race variable include White, Black, Native American/Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders.

In Chapters 1 through 3 and Appendix B, four racial/ethnic groups are reported:

- Latinx (any race)
- (Non-Latinx) Black/African American
- (Non-Latinx) White
- Other Race

Categories other than White, Black/African American, and Latinx were combined into one category labeled as "Other Race" in Chapters 1 through 3. If the value of primary race was "could not be verified," "unknown," "declined to identify," or missing (null), it was treated as missing and excluded from the analysis when indicators were reported by race/ethnicity.

In Chapter 4 and Appendix C, three racial/ethnic groups are reported:

- Latinx (any race)
- (Non-Latinx) Black/African American
- (Non-Latinx) White



In Appendix D, which includes Illinois child population and child welfare population data, seven racial/ethnic groups are reported:

- Latinx (any race)
- (Non-Latinx) Black/African American
- (Non-Latinx) White
- (Non-Latinx) Asian American
- (Non-Latinx) Native American/Alaska Native
- (Non-Latinx) Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- (Non-Latinx) Multiracial

**Placement Type**

Table A.1 shows how the service codes and child living arrangements were used to define each placement type. In constructing each placement type, the service code was given priority over the child living arrangement type. There were cases where the service code was not available, and in those cases the child living arrangement code was used to define the placement type.

**Table A.1 Definition of Placement Type**

Placement Type	Service Code	Child Living Arrangement
Home of Parents	<i>Service code was not used to define this placement type.</i>	Home of Parents (HMP)
Kinship Foster Home	Home of Relative or Kinship Foster Home	Delegated Relative Authority (DRA) Home of Relative Applicant (HRA) Home of Relative (HMR) Home of Fictive Kin (HFK)
Traditional Foster Home	Traditional Foster Home	Foster Home Adoption (FHA) Foster Home Boarding DCFS (FHB) Foster Home Boarding Private Agency (FHP)
Specialized Foster Home	Specialized Foster Home	Foster Home Specialized (FHS) Therapeutic Foster Home (TFH)
Emergency Shelter/Emergency Foster Home	Emergency Shelter or Emergency Foster Home	Emergency Foster Care (EFC) Youth Emergency Shelters (YES)
Group Home	Group Home	Group Home (GRH)
Institution	Institutional Care Facility	Detention Facility/Jail (DET) Institute Private Shelter (IPS) Institution DCFS (ICF) Institution Department of Corrections (IDC) Institution Department of Mental Health (IMH) Institution Private Child Care Facility (IPA) Institution Rehabilitation Services (IRS) Nursing Care Facility (NCF)

## VARIABLE DEFINITIONS

### Legal Spell

A legal spell is defined as the period a child is in DCFS legal custody during an open child placement case. In other words, it is the time period that a child *legally* enters substitute care until the child *legally* exits care. For outcome indicators 1.D through 3.L, the child is defined as in substitute care if the child was in legal spell.

Legal custody information was obtained from the “*cftvcm9400*” table in the Child and Youth Centered Information System. From this table, the legal status code and the legal entry and exit dates were used to define the legal spell. If a child’s legal status was “adoptive rights (AR),” “guardianship (GO),” “protective custody (PC),” “surrender both parents (SB),” or “temporary custody with right to consent or without rights to consent (TR TW),” they were defined as being in DCFS legal custody, and the initial date for the child’s legal status was coded as the legal entry date. If the legal status code was “NO (no legal),” then the legal custody ended on the date shown in the *lgl\_stat\_date* field. There were a small number of cases where the case closing date was available but there was no information on when legal custody ended. In these situations, it was assumed that DCFS custody ended on the case closing date.

Table A.2 describes how the legal entry and exit dates have been operationally defined since the FY2022 *B.H.* monitoring report for each outcome indicator by substitute care cohort type. There are three substitute care cohort types used to generate the outcome indicators 1.D through 3.L: (a) entry cohort; (b) exit cohort; and (c) cross-sectional counts of active substitute care cases. An entry cohort consists of the children who enter substitute care during a fiscal year and an exit cohort consists of the children who leave substitute care during a fiscal year by achieving legal permanencies (reunification, adoption, and guardianship). The cross-sectional count of active substitute care cases includes children whose cases are open and make up the active caseload during the fiscal year.

**Table A.2 Legal Spell Definitions by Cohort Type**

Cohort Type	Definition	Outcome Indicator*
<b>Entry cohort</b>	The legal substitute care entry date was used to define the beginning of the legal spell. Prior to FY2022, the case opening date was used to define the beginning of the spell.	2.A.1-2.A.6, 2.C, 2.E, 2.F, 3.A.1-3.A.3, 3.C.1-3.C.3, 3.E.1-3.E.3, 3.G
<b>Exit cohort</b>	The legal substitute care exit date and the last placement type code were used. Prior to FY2022, the legal substitute care exit date and the last permanency type were used to define reunification; the last placement type only was used to define adoption and guardianship cases.	2.G, 3.B.1-3.B.4, 3.D.1-3.D.3, 3.F.1-3.F.3, 3.J-3.L
<b>Cross-sectional counts</b>	Both the legal entry and exit dates were used to define the legal spell. Prior to FY2022, the case opening and closing dates were used to define the spell.	1.D, 2.B.1-2.B.7, 2.D, 3.H, 3.I

\*See the first section of Appendix A for the corresponding list of indicator numbers and definitions.

An additional adjustment was made to the definitions of the permanency stability outcome indicators, including Indicators 3.B (stability of reunification), 3.D (stability of adoption), and 3.F (stability of guardianship). Prior to FY2022, re-entry into care was counted when the child was placed in one of the following placement types:

- Home of relative;
- Specialized foster home;
- Traditional foster home;
- Group home; and
- Institution (excluding hospital facilities).

Beginning in FY2022, a child was counted as re-entering substitute care regardless of the placement type as long as the child returned to DCFS legal custody.





## Appendix B

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

Appendix B provides data on each of the outcome indicators included in Chapters 1-3 and defined in Appendix A. For each indicator, data are presented for the state, followed by breakdowns by DCFS administrative region, child gender, age, and race/ethnicity. The data used to compute these indicators come from two Illinois DCFS data systems: Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and Child and Youth Centered Information System (CYCIS). Both the SACWIS and CYCIS data were extracted on December 31, 2023. All indicators are calculated based on the state fiscal year, which spans the 12-month period from July 1 to June 30.

CHILD SAFETY

**Indicator 1.A Maltreatment Recurrence (CFSR)**

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

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Children with a substantiated maltreatment report	29,356	28,533	31,621	32,993	35,148	37,161	32,215
Children with another substantiated report within 12 months	3,583	3,805	4,158	4,670	5,130	5,421	4,788
Percent	12.2%	13.3%	13.1%	14.2%	14.6%	14.6%	14.9%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	722	9.3%	780	10.4%	880	9.9%	1,076	11.3%	1,179	11.4%	1,245	12.2%	851	10.5%
Northern	894	10.8%	794	10.9%	888	11.6%	1,032	12.3%	1,289	13.8%	1,414	12.8%	1,336	13.9%
Central	1,221	14.0%	1,413	15.7%	1,561	15.4%	1,611	16.3%	1,866	17.7%	1,909	17.9%	1,726	18.1%
Southern	746	16.3%	813	17.2%	829	16.6%	946	18.2%	796	16.0%	852	16.2%	875	17.5%

Male	1,790	12.3%	1,992	14.1%	2,031	13.0%	2,374	14.4%	2,549	14.6%	2,724	14.9%	2,370	14.8%
Female	1,792	12.1%	1,811	12.7%	2,123	13.4%	2,294	14.0%	2,579	14.7%	2,696	14.3%	2,415	15.0%

0 to 2	1,178	13.9%	1,246	15.0%	1,340	14.7%	1,462	15.9%	1,657	16.6%	1,680	16.3%	1,465	16.7%
3 to 5	776	13.3%	820	14.7%	884	14.4%	973	15.0%	1,080	15.5%	1,183	15.9%	1,035	15.8%
6 to 11	1,147	12.0%	1,206	13.0%	1,297	12.7%	1,498	13.9%	1,516	13.7%	1,674	14.3%	1,489	14.5%
12 to 17	478	8.8%	529	9.9%	636	10.5%	731	11.2%	874	12.4%	875	11.4%	792	12.0%

Black	1,044	11.1%	1,137	12.2%	1,200	11.3%	1,540	14.0%	1,601	13.3%	1,737	14.1%	1,424	13.5%
White	2,007	14.7%	2,070	15.5%	2,277	15.5%	2,394	16.0%	2,567	16.7%	2,688	16.7%	2,414	17.2%
Latinx (any race)	445	8.2%	502	10.1%	559	10.4%	612	10.3%	820	12.5%	844	11.5%	800	12.4%
Other Race	82	12.5%	87	12.8%	114	15.1%	115	14.4%	128	13.7%	135	11.9%	136	14.6%

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

Of all children served in intact family cases during the fiscal year, the percentage that had a substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months.							
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Children in intact family cases	10,280	11,699	12,901	14,416	15,123	14,903	14,135
Children with substantiated reports	1,414	1,940	2,084	2,612	2,729	2,698	2,379
Percent	13.8%	16.6%	16.2%	18.1%	18.0%	18.1%	16.8%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	348	9.0%	477	12.5%	464	10.5%	580	12.7%	523	12.6%	566	14.4%	420	12.2%
Northern	292	13.2%	367	13.5%	364	15.6%	506	18.6%	576	17.8%	590	15.7%	540	16.2%
Central	417	17.2%	646	21.9%	769	20.3%	966	21.6%	1,089	22.0%	945	21.8%	896	19.8%
Southern	357	20.1%	450	20.4%	487	20.5%	560	20.9%	541	19.3%	597	20.6%	523	18.4%

Male	705	13.6%	1,004	16.8%	1,046	16.0%	1,321	17.9%	1,396	18.2%	1,379	18.3%	1,207	16.8%
Female	709	13.9%	936	16.4%	1,038	16.3%	1,291	18.4%	1,333	17.9%	1,318	17.9%	1,172	16.9%

0 to 2	456	16.6%	651	20.3%	699	20.1%	816	21.7%	880	22.9%	843	21.5%	709	20.8%
3 to 5	303	14.8%	412	18.3%	432	16.8%	575	19.2%	611	19.7%	558	18.6%	519	18.3%
6 to 11	477	13.5%	628	15.9%	672	15.2%	843	17.3%	805	15.7%	900	18.3%	743	15.5%
12 to 17	178	9.2%	249	10.9%	281	11.6%	378	13.5%	433	14.2%	397	12.9%	408	13.1%

Black	393	10.8%	603	15.0%	631	13.2%	786	16.2%	842	16.2%	825	16.4%	728	15.8%
White	838	18.2%	1,054	19.5%	1,169	20.2%	1,477	21.6%	1,466	20.8%	1,430	21.0%	1,216	18.8%
Latinx (any race)	164	8.9%	243	12.2%	230	11.3%	295	12.7%	352	14.2%	350	13.5%	365	14.1%
Other Race	18	11.8%	30	14.8%	48	21.5%	47	15.8%	62	18.8%	81	22.8%	59	15.8%

CHILD SAFETY

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

Of all children with a substantiated report who did not receive intact family or substitute care services, the percentage that had another substantiated report within 12 months.							
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Children receiving no services	21,291	19,649	21,574	22,046	23,509	26,124	22,971
Children with substantiated reports	2,279	2,190	2,354	2,664	2,875	3,258	3,092
Percent	10.7%	11.1%	10.9%	12.1%	12.2%	12.5%	13.5%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	469	8.2%	491	9.3%	518	8.1%	716	10.1%	809	10.4%	889	10.9%	602	9.3%
Northern	617	9.5%	470	8.7%	571	9.7%	665	10.5%	814	11.6%	902	10.7%	976	12.9%
Central	833	13.3%	821	13.4%	899	13.7%	846	14.3%	933	15.1%	1,058	15.9%	1,020	16.8%
Southern	360	12.9%	404	14.5%	366	13.3%	434	16.1%	319	12.6%	408	14.5%	494	17.3%

Male	1,139	10.9%	1,151	11.9%	1,141	10.8%	1,368	12.5%	1,412	12.2%	1,619	12.9%	1,503	13.3%
Female	1,139	10.6%	1,037	10.5%	1,209	11.1%	1,294	11.7%	1,461	12.3%	1,638	12.2%	1,586	13.7%

0 to 2	707	13.1%	652	13.4%	667	12.8%	744	14.5%	829	14.9%	932	15.3%	895	16.6%
3 to 5	495	11.6%	470	12.1%	480	11.4%	558	12.9%	606	13.1%	718	13.8%	651	13.9%
6 to 11	756	10.4%	722	10.7%	772	10.5%	877	11.5%	882	11.2%	1,019	11.7%	981	12.8%
12 to 17	317	7.3%	344	8.3%	435	9.1%	480	9.8%	556	10.3%	584	9.6%	560	10.8%

Black	676	9.8%	710	10.8%	725	9.9%	962	12.4%	956	11.4%	1,100	12.2%	948	12.2%
White	1,269	13.1%	1,136	12.8%	1,226	12.8%	1,228	13.4%	1,321	13.9%	1,517	14.6%	1,517	16.3%
Latinx (any race)	282	6.8%	291	8.0%	334	8.2%	407	9.2%	527	10.9%	564	9.8%	538	10.7%
Other Race	47	9.9%	46	10.3%	64	13.1%	61	11.8%	62	10.6%	71	9.2%	77	11.9%



**Indicator 1.D Maltreatment in Substitute Care (CFSR)**

Of all children in substitute care during the fiscal year, the rate of maltreatment per 100,000 days of substitute care.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Children in substitute care during the fiscal year	19,064	19,763	21,247	23,422	25,480	25,169	24,399
Days in substitute care	5,249,903	5,359,857	5,671,257	6,390,258	7,059,529	7,106,230	6,882,389
Substantiated maltreatment reports	754	755	1,020	1,254	1,341	1,167	1,088
Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days	14.4	14.1	18.0	19.6	19.0	16.4	15.8

	Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days	Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days	Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days	Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days	Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days	Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days	Maltreatment rate per 100,000 days
Cook	13.8	13.6	18.1	18.8	15.3	15.5	10.8
Northern	12.3	11.2	16.7	19.0	19.1	13.3	13.6
Central	15.2	15.2	18.6	21.0	22.8	19.2	19.5
Southern	16.5	16.0	17.8	19.3	18.8	15.9	18.9

Male	13.3	13.7	16.9	19.2	18.0	14.8	15.4
Female	15.6	14.5	19.1	20.1	20.0	18.1	16.2

0 to 2	9.8	10.7	11.1	13.9	13.6	13.2	13.5
3 to 5	15.4	16.4	21.9	23.2	22.1	17.2	18.2
6 to 11	18.4	15.8	22.8	21.7	22.2	18.5	17.5
12 to 17	15.3	15.2	19.6	23.2	21.4	18.4	15.2

Black	14.3	14.5	19.2	20.3	17.9	15.9	16.1
White	14.2	14.9	18.3	18.1	19.8	17.2	15.8
Latinx (any race)	16.7	8.6	12.0	22.7	20.6	14.4	13.5
Other Race	11.4	9.9	14.2	21.7	13.8	18.2	22.0

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

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

Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in the home of their parent(s) in their first placement.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Children entering substitute care	4,737	5,702	6,448	7,382	7,090	5,742	5,582
Children placed in home of parents	170	176	212	238	233	190	151
Percent	3.6%	3.1%	3.3%	3.2%	3.3%	3.3%	2.7%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	9	0.8%	7	0.5%	6	0.5%	41	2.3%	14	1.1%	11	1.1%	5	0.5%
Northern	8	0.9%	0	0.0%	10	0.9%	8	0.6%	13	0.8%	9	0.7%	1	0.1%
Central	118	6.7%	103	4.8%	133	5.4%	129	4.6%	146	5.5%	117	5.5%	98	4.4%
Southern	35	3.6%	66	5.0%	63	3.9%	60	4.0%	60	3.9%	53	4.0%	47	3.7%

Male	89	3.6%	87	2.9%	112	3.5%	128	3.4%	122	3.4%	96	3.3%	77	2.7%
Female	81	3.5%	89	3.2%	100	3.1%	110	3.0%	111	3.2%	94	3.3%	74	2.7%

0 to 2	38	2.0%	37	1.6%	49	1.9%	60	2.0%	58	2.0%	25	1.1%	28	1.3%
3 to 5	30	3.6%	39	4.2%	50	4.2%	48	3.7%	44	3.6%	41	4.1%	30	3.1%
6 to 11	61	5.4%	60	4.3%	71	4.5%	67	3.9%	82	5.0%	62	4.5%	59	4.3%
12 to 17	41	4.6%	40	3.9%	42	3.7%	63	4.6%	49	3.9%	62	6.0%	34	3.4%

Black	57	3.2%	56	2.5%	83	3.6%	75	2.8%	78	3.4%	46	2.4%	50	2.7%
White	99	4.2%	105	3.6%	109	3.2%	135	3.7%	137	3.6%	134	4.4%	89	3.0%
Latinx (any race)	10	2.3%	10	2.7%	9	1.8%	18	2.3%	12	1.5%	4	0.7%	7	1.3%
Other Race	3	2.6%	5	3.9%	10	6.3%	5	2.8%	4	1.8%	5	3.0%	3	1.5%

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

Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in kinship foster homes in their first placement.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Children entering substitute care	4,737	5,702	6,448	7,382	7,090	5,742	5,582
Children placed in kinship foster homes	3,015	3,745	4,592	5,403	5,407	4,306	4,219
Percent	63.6%	65.7%	71.2%	73.2%	76.3%	75.0%	75.6%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	698	59.8%	771	57.1%	790	63.4%	1,256	70.7%	963	73.8%	711	70.3%	641	68.9%
Northern	586	69.0%	648	70.9%	798	71.2%	994	74.6%	1,260	78.0%	968	76.6%	881	78.2%
Central	1,098	62.6%	1,392	65.5%	1,768	71.1%	2,046	73.6%	1,992	75.2%	1,590	74.5%	1,712	76.5%
Southern	633	65.4%	934	71.1%	1,236	77.5%	1,107	74.2%	1,192	78.3%	1,037	77.8%	985	76.6%

Male	1,520	62.2%	1,909	64.7%	2,272	70.1%	2,711	72.3%	2,740	75.3%	2,110	72.6%	2,115	75.2%
Female	1,495	65.2%	1,836	66.8%	2,320	72.3%	2,691	74.1%	2,667	77.3%	2,196	77.5%	2,104	76.0%

0 to 2	1,187	62.6%	1,515	64.0%	1,695	67.2%	2,097	70.1%	2,144	72.6%	1,630	70.0%	1,562	69.8%
3 to 5	597	72.1%	646	69.8%	907	75.6%	1,039	79.6%	1,016	82.7%	814	82.0%	802	83.1%
6 to 11	800	71.0%	1,013	73.0%	1,245	78.7%	1,378	80.9%	1,357	82.8%	1,131	81.8%	1,164	84.3%
12 to 17	431	48.6%	570	55.9%	745	65.2%	889	64.3%	890	70.0%	731	70.6%	691	69.2%

Black	1,074	59.8%	1,364	61.4%	1,524	65.6%	1,941	71.7%	1,680	74.2%	1,397	73.0%	1,396	74.4%
White	1,581	66.6%	2,044	69.3%	2,542	74.4%	2,707	73.8%	2,908	77.3%	2,291	75.3%	2,250	76.7%
Latinx (any race)	279	64.4%	225	60.8%	391	77.1%	602	76.9%	628	76.6%	483	79.7%	393	75.6%
Other Race	71	62.3%	92	71.9%	103	64.4%	124	70.1%	173	78.6%	127	75.6%	138	70.8%

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

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

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

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Children entering substitute care	4,737	5,702	6,448	7,382	7,090	5,742	5,582
Children placed in traditional foster homes	1,147	1,337	1,305	1,323	1,131	1,016	977
Percent	24.2%	23.4%	20.2%	17.9%	16.0%	17.7%	17.5%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	237	20.3%	315	23.3%	263	21.1%	270	15.2%	199	15.3%	201	19.9%	192	20.6%
Northern	208	24.5%	207	22.6%	270	24.1%	268	20.1%	265	16.4%	229	18.1%	188	16.7%
Central	462	26.4%	561	26.4%	519	20.9%	528	19.0%	439	16.6%	389	18.2%	388	17.3%
Southern	240	24.8%	254	19.3%	253	15.9%	257	17.2%	228	15.0%	197	14.8%	209	16.3%

Male	595	24.4%	696	23.6%	653	20.1%	682	18.2%	586	16.1%	563	19.4%	477	17.0%
Female	552	24.1%	641	23.3%	652	20.3%	641	17.7%	545	15.8%	453	16.0%	500	18.1%

0 to 2	630	33.2%	758	32.0%	738	29.3%	787	26.3%	709	24.0%	642	27.6%	627	28.0%
3 to 5	184	22.2%	215	23.2%	224	18.7%	196	15.0%	145	11.8%	120	12.1%	122	12.6%
6 to 11	215	19.1%	242	17.4%	218	13.8%	214	12.6%	167	10.2%	161	11.6%	137	9.9%
12 to 17	118	13.3%	122	12.0%	125	10.9%	126	9.1%	110	8.6%	93	9.0%	91	9.1%

Black	436	24.3%	556	25.0%	528	22.7%	475	17.5%	354	15.6%	358	18.7%	326	17.4%
White	568	23.9%	650	22.0%	644	18.9%	686	18.7%	585	15.6%	529	17.4%	502	17.1%
Latinx (any race)	100	23.1%	90	24.3%	80	15.8%	119	15.2%	153	18.7%	98	16.2%	94	18.1%
Other Race	34	29.8%	28	21.9%	44	27.5%	34	19.2%	34	15.5%	31	18.5%	43	22.1%

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

Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in specialized foster homes in their first placement.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Children entering substitute care	4,737	5,702	6,448	7,382	7,090	5,742	5,582
Children placed in specialized foster homes	105	131	95	62	69	58	39
Percent	2.2%	2.3%	1.5%	0.8%	1.0%	1.0%	0.7%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	82	7.0%	93	6.9%	65	5.2%	37	2.1%	38	2.9%	18	1.8%	18	1.9%
Northern	7	0.8%	14	1.5%	8	0.7%	11	0.8%	9	0.6%	16	1.3%	2	0.2%
Central	11	0.6%	15	0.7%	14	0.6%	9	0.3%	11	0.4%	8	0.4%	10	0.4%
Southern	5	0.5%	9	0.7%	8	0.5%	5	0.3%	11	0.7%	16	1.2%	9	0.7%

Male	51	2.1%	57	1.9%	55	1.7%	33	0.9%	36	1.0%	32	1.1%	13	0.5%
Female	54	2.4%	74	2.7%	40	1.2%	29	0.8%	33	1.0%	26	0.9%	26	0.9%

0 to 2	29	1.5%	43	1.8%	34	1.3%	22	0.7%	31	1.1%	18	0.8%	14	0.6%
3 to 5	11	1.3%	20	2.2%	14	1.2%	5	0.4%	11	0.9%	12	1.2%	8	0.8%
6 to 11	25	2.2%	30	2.2%	14	0.9%	10	0.6%	8	0.5%	10	0.7%	5	0.4%
12 to 17	40	4.5%	38	3.7%	33	2.9%	25	1.8%	19	1.5%	18	1.7%	12	1.2%

Black	67	3.7%	87	3.9%	53	2.3%	37	1.4%	43	1.9%	21	1.1%	13	0.7%
White	18	0.8%	29	1.0%	28	0.8%	19	0.5%	18	0.5%	30	1.0%	17	0.6%
Latinx (any race)	16	3.7%	14	3.8%	12	2.4%	5	0.6%	4	0.5%	4	0.7%	6	1.2%
Other Race	3	2.6%	1	0.8%	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	3	1.4%	2	1.2%	3	1.5%

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

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

Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes in their first placement.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Children entering substitute care	4,737	5,702	6,448	7,382	7,090	5,742	5,582
Children placed in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes	93	75	54	84	56	36	61
Percent	2.0%	1.3%	0.8%	1.1%	0.8%	0.6%	1.1%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	35	3.0%	42	3.1%	38	3.0%	55	3.1%	25	1.9%	19	1.9%	26	2.8%
Northern	16	1.9%	13	1.4%	10	0.9%	9	0.7%	16	1.0%	6	0.5%	16	1.4%
Central	12	0.7%	8	0.4%	5	0.2%	5	0.2%	10	0.4%	5	0.2%	7	0.3%
Southern	30	3.1%	12	0.9%	1	0.1%	15	1.0%	5	0.3%	6	0.5%	12	0.9%

Male	53	2.2%	49	1.7%	32	1.0%	44	1.2%	35	1.0%	21	0.7%	35	1.2%
Female	40	1.7%	26	0.9%	22	0.7%	40	1.1%	21	0.6%	15	0.5%	25	0.9%

0 to 2	1	0.1%	3	0.1%	1	0.0%	14	0.5%	4	0.1%	2	0.1%	0	0.0%
3 to 5	2	0.2%	2	0.2%	2	0.2%	8	0.6%	1	0.1%	2	0.2%	0	0.0%
6 to 11	7	0.6%	14	1.0%	12	0.8%	16	0.9%	1	0.1%	10	0.7%	6	0.4%
12 to 17	83	9.4%	56	5.5%	39	3.4%	46	3.3%	50	3.9%	22	2.1%	55	5.5%

Black	39	2.2%	35	1.6%	35	1.5%	46	1.7%	29	1.3%	21	1.1%	25	1.3%
White	43	1.8%	27	0.9%	14	0.4%	25	0.7%	21	0.6%	12	0.4%	23	0.8%
Latinx (any race)	10	2.3%	12	3.2%	5	1.0%	7	0.9%	3	0.4%	2	0.3%	7	1.3%
Other Race	1	0.9%	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	6	3.4%	3	1.4%	1	0.6%	4	2.1%

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

Of all children entering substitute care, the percentage that was placed in group homes or institutions in their first placement.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Children entering substitute care	4,737	5,702	6,448	7,382	7,090	5,742	5,582
Children placed in group homes or institutions	207	238	190	272	194	136	135
Percent	4.4%	4.2%	2.9%	3.7%	2.7%	2.4%	2.4%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	106	9.1%	122	9.0%	85	6.8%	118	6.6%	65	5.0%	51	5.0%	49	5.3%
Northern	24	2.8%	32	3.5%	25	2.2%	43	3.2%	52	3.2%	35	2.8%	38	3.4%
Central	52	3.0%	46	2.2%	46	1.9%	63	2.3%	50	1.9%	26	1.2%	24	1.1%
Southern	25	2.6%	38	2.9%	34	2.1%	48	3.2%	27	1.8%	24	1.8%	24	1.9%

Male	135	5.5%	154	5.2%	117	3.6%	153	4.1%	120	3.3%	85	2.9%	94	3.3%
Female	72	3.1%	84	3.1%	73	2.3%	119	3.3%	74	2.1%	51	1.8%	41	1.5%

0 to 2	11	0.6%	13	0.5%	6	0.2%	11	0.4%	6	0.2%	13	0.6%	7	0.3%
3 to 5	4	0.5%	3	0.3%	3	0.3%	9	0.7%	11	0.9%	4	0.4%	3	0.3%
6 to 11	18	1.6%	28	2.0%	22	1.4%	19	1.1%	23	1.4%	9	0.7%	9	0.7%
12 to 17	174	19.6%	194	19.0%	159	13.9%	233	16.9%	154	12.1%	110	10.6%	116	11.6%

Black	122	6.8%	124	5.6%	99	4.3%	133	4.9%	80	3.5%	72	3.8%	66	3.5%
White	65	2.7%	93	3.2%	79	2.3%	97	2.6%	91	2.4%	46	1.5%	51	1.7%
Latinx (any race)	18	4.2%	19	5.1%	10	2.0%	32	4.1%	20	2.4%	15	2.5%	13	2.5%
Other Race	2	1.8%	1	0.8%	2	1.3%	8	4.5%	3	1.4%	2	1.2%	4	2.1%

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

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

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

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Children in substitute care at end of year	13,833	14,565	15,775	18,085	19,105	18,487	17,967
Children in home of parents	695	786	869	866	1,001	854	798
Percent	5.0%	5.4%	5.5%	4.8%	5.2%	4.6%	4.4%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	126	2.7%	127	2.8%	150	3.3%	98	1.9%	60	1.1%	64	1.3%	62	1.3%
Northern	52	2.0%	60	2.4%	73	2.8%	86	2.9%	103	3.1%	79	2.5%	46	1.5%
Central	326	7.9%	401	8.7%	437	8.4%	416	6.8%	586	8.9%	478	7.5%	451	7.2%
Southern	191	8.0%	198	7.0%	209	6.2%	266	7.1%	252	6.5%	233	6.0%	239	6.2%

Male	385	5.3%	410	5.4%	448	5.5%	456	4.9%	501	5.1%	444	4.7%	406	4.4%
Female	310	4.7%	376	5.4%	421	5.5%	410	4.6%	499	5.4%	410	4.6%	392	4.4%

0 to 2	147	4.6%	179	5.0%	191	4.8%	172	3.7%	219	4.5%	188	4.2%	156	3.9%
3 to 5	165	5.5%	178	5.7%	209	6.1%	228	5.7%	252	5.8%	214	5.1%	200	4.8%
6 to 11	241	5.8%	272	6.3%	310	6.6%	276	5.2%	331	5.9%	288	5.2%	280	5.1%
12 to 17	142	4.0%	157	4.5%	159	4.3%	190	4.6%	199	4.6%	164	3.8%	162	3.8%

Black	251	4.0%	282	4.4%	350	5.3%	322	4.3%	306	4.1%	264	3.7%	211	3.1%
White	376	6.3%	428	6.5%	448	6.1%	480	5.7%	578	6.3%	509	5.8%	520	6.0%
Latinx (any race)	57	4.6%	49	4.2%	44	3.5%	40	2.4%	81	4.1%	54	2.8%	41	2.2%
Other Race	8	3.3%	24	8.1%	25	6.9%	15	3.6%	30	6.3%	22	4.6%	24	4.7%



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

Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in kinship foster homes.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Children in substitute care at end of year	13,833	14,565	15,775	18,085	19,105	18,487	17,967
Children in kinship foster homes	6,701	7,359	8,483	10,432	11,294	11,167	10,733
Percent	48.4%	50.5%	53.8%	57.7%	59.1%	60.4%	59.7%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	2,136	45.5%	2,094	45.9%	2,175	47.3%	2,783	53.7%	3,018	56.8%	2,880	57.3%	2,552	54.6%
Northern	1,240	47.0%	1,208	47.4%	1,267	48.4%	1,569	52.2%	1,779	54.0%	1,787	55.5%	1,797	56.9%
Central	2,037	49.5%	2,395	51.9%	2,903	55.6%	3,692	60.0%	3,974	60.3%	4,011	63.0%	3,978	63.2%
Southern	1,288	54.1%	1,662	58.5%	2,138	63.9%	2,388	63.8%	2,523	64.7%	2,489	64.2%	2,406	62.7%

Male	3,299	45.4%	3,657	48.1%	4,224	51.9%	5,154	55.7%	5,683	57.7%	5,554	58.3%	5,300	58.0%
Female	3,402	51.7%	3,702	53.2%	4,259	55.8%	5,277	59.8%	5,611	60.7%	5,613	62.7%	5,433	61.6%

0 to 2	1,735	54.4%	2,015	55.8%	2,256	56.6%	2,786	59.9%	2,981	61.6%	2,713	61.1%	2,417	60.0%
3 to 5	1,600	53.4%	1,699	54.4%	1,977	57.9%	2,439	60.9%	2,628	60.8%	2,602	61.9%	2,549	61.5%
6 to 11	2,127	51.6%	2,289	53.2%	2,672	57.1%	3,180	60.2%	3,399	60.8%	3,460	62.8%	3,442	62.7%
12 to 17	1,239	35.1%	1,356	38.4%	1,578	42.7%	2,027	48.8%	2,286	52.5%	2,392	55.2%	2,325	54.0%

Black	2,784	44.1%	2,946	46.2%	3,201	48.1%	3,922	52.7%	4,092	55.0%	4,023	56.3%	3,852	56.1%
White	3,094	52.1%	3,637	54.9%	4,359	58.9%	5,184	61.3%	5,613	61.6%	5,553	62.8%	5,356	62.2%
Latinx (any race)	651	52.7%	588	50.0%	671	53.1%	1,028	61.4%	1,253	62.9%	1,266	64.6%	1,193	63.5%
Other Race	131	53.9%	149	50.2%	200	55.6%	251	60.2%	290	60.5%	299	62.0%	278	54.8%

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

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

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

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Children in substitute care at end of year	13,833	14,565	15,775	18,085	19,105	18,487	17,967
Children in traditional foster homes	3,550	3,522	3,463	3,733	3,795	3,669	3,452
Percent	25.7%	24.2%	22.0%	20.6%	19.9%	19.8%	19.2%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	1,147	24.4%	1,077	23.6%	994	21.6%	1,001	19.3%	1,005	18.9%	990	19.7%	894	19.1%
Northern	752	28.5%	677	26.6%	621	23.7%	632	21.0%	692	21.0%	687	21.3%	660	20.9%
Central	1,035	25.2%	1,118	24.2%	1,171	22.4%	1,334	21.7%	1,326	20.1%	1,213	19.0%	1,146	18.2%
Southern	616	25.9%	650	22.9%	677	20.2%	766	20.5%	772	19.8%	779	20.1%	752	19.6%

Male	1,811	24.9%	1,801	23.7%	1,723	21.2%	1,872	20.2%	1,910	19.4%	1,849	19.4%	1,712	18.7%
Female	1,739	26.5%	1,721	24.7%	1,740	22.8%	1,861	21.1%	1,885	20.4%	1,820	20.3%	1,739	19.7%

0 to 2	1,159	36.3%	1,231	34.1%	1,301	32.6%	1,454	31.3%	1,397	28.9%	1,329	29.9%	1,228	30.5%
3 to 5	944	31.5%	961	30.8%	921	27.0%	967	24.1%	1,045	24.2%	994	23.6%	946	22.8%
6 to 11	984	23.9%	913	21.2%	845	18.1%	928	17.6%	956	17.1%	916	16.6%	865	15.8%
12 to 17	463	13.1%	417	11.8%	396	10.7%	384	9.2%	397	9.1%	430	9.9%	413	9.6%

Black	1,698	26.9%	1,607	25.2%	1,546	23.2%	1,565	21.0%	1,478	19.9%	1,462	20.5%	1,304	19.0%
White	1,453	24.4%	1,515	22.9%	1,514	20.5%	1,734	20.5%	1,831	20.1%	1,730	19.6%	1,648	19.1%
Latinx (any race)	298	24.1%	297	25.2%	298	23.6%	321	19.2%	372	18.7%	372	19.0%	360	19.2%
Other Race	67	27.6%	76	25.6%	79	21.9%	85	20.4%	93	19.4%	92	19.1%	119	23.5%

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

Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in specialized foster homes.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Children in substitute care at end of year	13,833	14,565	15,775	18,085	19,105	18,487	17,967
Children in specialized foster homes	1,964	1,978	2,031	2,152	2,149	1,998	2,135
Percent	14.2%	13.6%	12.9%	11.9%	11.2%	10.8%	11.9%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	974	20.7%	973	21.3%	953	20.7%	986	19.0%	941	17.7%	824	16.4%	880	18.8%
Northern	413	15.6%	415	16.3%	486	18.6%	522	17.4%	528	16.0%	503	15.6%	477	15.1%
Central	437	10.6%	421	9.1%	430	8.2%	466	7.6%	469	7.1%	448	7.0%	503	8.0%
Southern	140	5.9%	169	5.9%	162	4.8%	178	4.8%	211	5.4%	223	5.8%	275	7.2%

Male	1,166	16.1%	1,137	15.0%	1,168	14.3%	1,218	13.2%	1,227	12.5%	1,166	12.2%	1,201	13.1%
Female	798	12.1%	841	12.1%	863	11.3%	934	10.6%	922	10.0%	832	9.3%	934	10.6%

0 to 2	144	4.5%	183	5.1%	237	5.9%	232	5.0%	233	4.8%	200	4.5%	215	5.3%
3 to 5	280	9.3%	280	9.0%	297	8.7%	358	8.9%	386	8.9%	380	9.0%	436	10.5%
6 to 11	652	15.8%	703	16.3%	707	15.1%	765	14.5%	788	14.1%	740	13.4%	788	14.4%
12 to 17	888	25.2%	812	23.0%	790	21.4%	797	19.2%	742	17.0%	678	15.7%	696	16.2%

Black	1,113	17.6%	1,109	17.4%	1,107	16.6%	1,199	16.1%	1,137	15.3%	1,013	14.2%	1,114	16.2%
White	623	10.5%	619	9.3%	675	9.1%	661	7.8%	725	8.0%	702	7.9%	715	8.3%
Latinx (any race)	186	15.0%	196	16.7%	191	15.1%	225	13.4%	224	11.2%	220	11.2%	226	12.0%
Other Race	30	12.3%	35	11.8%	41	11.4%	50	12.0%	48	10.0%	55	11.4%	72	14.2%

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

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

Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Children in substitute care at end of year	13,833	14,565	15,775	18,085	19,105	18,487	17,967
Children in emergency shelters or emergency foster homes	33	42	27	37	41	75	86
Percent	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	16	0.3%	11	0.2%	10	0.2%	13	0.3%	18	0.3%	25	0.5%	34	0.7%
Northern	6	0.2%	9	0.4%	3	0.1%	9	0.3%	8	0.2%	9	0.3%	23	0.7%
Central	4	0.1%	10	0.2%	7	0.1%	6	0.1%	11	0.2%	18	0.3%	13	0.2%
Southern	7	0.3%	12	0.4%	7	0.2%	9	0.2%	4	0.1%	23	0.6%	16	0.4%

Male	17	0.2%	27	0.4%	20	0.2%	24	0.3%	24	0.2%	45	0.5%	50	0.5%
Female	16	0.2%	15	0.2%	7	0.1%	13	0.1%	17	0.2%	30	0.3%	36	0.4%

0 to 2	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	0.0%
3 to 5	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.1%	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	5	0.1%	3	0.1%
6 to 11	3	0.1%	4	0.1%	7	0.1%	7	0.1%	3	0.1%	18	0.3%	21	0.4%
12 to 17	30	0.9%	38	1.1%	17	0.5%	29	0.7%	36	0.8%	51	1.2%	61	1.4%

Black	21	0.3%	20	0.3%	9	0.1%	13	0.2%	20	0.3%	31	0.4%	37	0.5%
White	8	0.1%	19	0.3%	15	0.2%	20	0.2%	14	0.2%	38	0.4%	40	0.5%
Latinx (any race)	3	0.2%	1	0.1%	3	0.2%	4	0.2%	6	0.3%	2	0.1%	9	0.5%
Other Race	1	0.4%	2	0.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	4	0.8%	0	0.0%

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

Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in group homes.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Children in substitute care at end of year	13,833	14,565	15,775	18,085	19,105	18,487	17,967
Children in group homes	101	101	119	96	103	93	92
Percent	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	36	0.8%	33	0.7%	43	0.9%	28	0.5%	32	0.6%	34	0.7%	29	0.6%
Northern	23	0.9%	24	0.9%	26	1.0%	35	1.2%	24	0.7%	13	0.4%	16	0.5%
Central	34	0.8%	34	0.7%	32	0.6%	26	0.4%	33	0.5%	36	0.6%	30	0.5%
Southern	8	0.3%	10	0.4%	18	0.5%	7	0.2%	14	0.4%	10	0.3%	17	0.4%

Male	61	0.8%	64	0.8%	70	0.9%	62	0.7%	67	0.7%	58	0.6%	56	0.6%
Female	40	0.6%	37	0.5%	49	0.6%	34	0.4%	36	0.4%	35	0.4%	36	0.4%

0 to 2	2	0.1%	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
3 to 5	3	0.1%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%
6 to 11	12	0.3%	11	0.3%	15	0.3%	10	0.2%	10	0.2%	9	0.2%	2	0.0%
12 to 17	84	2.4%	89	2.5%	101	2.7%	86	2.1%	93	2.1%	83	1.9%	90	2.1%

Black	46	0.7%	48	0.8%	52	0.8%	39	0.5%	44	0.6%	40	0.6%	34	0.5%
White	46	0.8%	49	0.7%	59	0.8%	51	0.6%	49	0.5%	44	0.5%	49	0.6%
Latinx (any race)	8	0.6%	4	0.3%	5	0.4%	4	0.2%	8	0.4%	7	0.4%	7	0.4%
Other Race	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	3	0.8%	2	0.5%	2	0.4%	2	0.4%	2	0.4%

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

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

Of all children in substitute care at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed in institutions.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Children in substitute care at end of year	13,833	14,565	15,775	18,085	19,105	18,487	17,967
Children in institutions	789	777	783	769	722	631	671
Percent	5.7%	5.3%	5.0%	4.3%	3.8%	3.4%	3.7%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	262	5.6%	249	5.5%	270	5.9%	273	5.3%	239	4.5%	206	4.1%	223	4.8%
Northern	154	5.8%	153	6.0%	140	5.4%	154	5.1%	163	4.9%	141	4.4%	137	4.3%
Central	242	5.9%	235	5.1%	237	4.5%	214	3.5%	195	3.0%	165	2.6%	176	2.8%
Southern	131	5.5%	140	4.9%	136	4.1%	128	3.4%	125	3.2%	119	3.1%	135	3.5%

Male	520	7.2%	506	6.7%	491	6.0%	475	5.1%	442	4.5%	417	4.4%	420	4.6%
Female	269	4.1%	271	3.9%	292	3.8%	294	3.3%	280	3.0%	214	2.4%	251	2.8%

0 to 2	2	0.1%	4	0.1%	1	0.0%	4	0.1%	8	0.2%	8	0.2%	9	0.2%
3 to 5	3	0.1%	6	0.2%	7	0.2%	12	0.3%	13	0.3%	8	0.2%	10	0.2%
6 to 11	103	2.5%	109	2.5%	121	2.6%	113	2.1%	100	1.8%	81	1.5%	91	1.7%
12 to 17	681	19.3%	658	18.7%	654	17.7%	640	15.4%	601	13.8%	534	12.3%	561	13.0%

Black	407	6.4%	361	5.7%	385	5.8%	379	5.1%	357	4.8%	312	4.4%	320	4.7%
White	343	5.8%	362	5.5%	332	4.5%	320	3.8%	299	3.3%	267	3.0%	289	3.4%
Latinx (any race)	33	2.7%	42	3.6%	51	4.0%	53	3.2%	48	2.4%	40	2.0%	43	2.3%
Other Race	5	2.1%	11	3.7%	12	3.3%	14	3.4%	15	3.1%	8	1.7%	12	2.4%

**Indicator 2.C Initial Placement with Siblings**

Of all children entering substitute care and initially placed in kinship or traditional foster homes, the percentage that was placed with their siblings in their initial placement.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Kinship Foster Care</b>	<b>1-2 siblings</b>						
Children with 1-2 siblings	1,437	1,803	2,273	2,507	2,591	2,041	1,887
Children initially placed with all siblings	1,147	1,460	1,870	2,018	2,167	1,678	1,513
Percent	79.8%	81.0%	82.3%	80.5%	83.6%	82.2%	80.2%
<b>Traditional Foster Care</b>	<b>1-2 siblings</b>						
Children with 1-2 siblings	445	482	502	477	379	302	344
Children initially placed with all siblings	289	305	318	245	218	174	177
Percent	64.9%	63.3%	63.3%	51.4%	57.5%	57.6%	51.5%
<b>Kinship Foster Care</b>	<b>3 or more siblings</b>						
Children with 3 or more siblings	642	764	1,025	1,392	1,148	890	1,029
Children initially placed with all siblings	284	422	592	719	584	519	511
Percent	44.2%	55.2%	57.8%	51.7%	50.9%	58.3%	49.7%
<b>Traditional Foster Care</b>	<b>3 or more siblings</b>						
Children with 3 or more siblings	205	254	238	231	142	151	117
Children initially placed with all siblings	20	34	27	17	17	16	13
Percent	9.8%	13.4%	11.3%	7.4%	12.0%	10.6%	11.1%

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

**Indicator 2.D End of Year Placement with Siblings**

Of all children in kinship or traditional foster homes at the end of the fiscal year, the percentage that was placed with their siblings.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Kinship Foster Care</b>	<b>1-2 siblings</b>						
Children with 1-2 siblings	3,354	3,691	4,305	5,189	5,645	5,623	5,321
Children placed with all siblings at end of year	2,410	2,673	3,074	3,652	4,039	3,950	3,649
Percent	71.9%	72.4%	71.4%	70.4%	71.6%	70.2%	68.6%
<b>Traditional Foster Care</b>	<b>1-2 siblings</b>						
Children with 1-2 siblings	1,707	1,694	1,612	1,808	1,811	1,761	1,704
Children placed with all siblings at end of year	1,020	1,019	946	1,035	1,000	937	869
Percent	59.8%	60.2%	58.7%	57.2%	55.2%	53.2%	51.0%
<b>Kinship Foster Care</b>	<b>3 or more siblings</b>						
Children with 3 or more siblings	1,629	1,752	2,028	2,649	2,693	2,631	2,669
Children placed with all siblings at end of year	575	552	661	1,004	967	913	858
Percent	35.3%	31.5%	32.6%	37.9%	35.9%	34.7%	32.1%
<b>Traditional Foster Care</b>	<b>3 or more siblings</b>						
Children with 3 or more siblings	969	963	987	1,037	1,051	981	825
Children placed with all siblings at end of year	84	117	109	102	141	116	61
Percent	8.7%	12.1%	11.0%	9.8%	13.4%	11.8%	7.4%



**Indicator 2.E Placement Stability (CFSR)**

Of all children who entered substitute care during the fiscal year, the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days of care.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Children entering substitute care	4,559	5,509	6,228	7,109	6,836	5,490	5,383
Days in substitute care	749,984	906,532	1,001,009	1,235,945	1,175,407	926,864	895,280
Placement moves	2,987	3,244	3,687	3,888	3,557	2,980	2,989
Placement moves per 1,000 days in substitute care	4.0	3.6	3.7	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.3

	Moves per 1,000 days	Moves per 1,000 days	Moves per 1,000 days	Moves per 1,000 days	Moves per 1,000 days	Moves per 1,000 days	Moves per 1,000 days
Cook	4.1	4.2	4.0	3.2	3.0	3.4	3.4
Northern	3.9	3.7	4.4	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.6
Central	4.0	3.2	3.4	2.9	2.7	3.2	3.5
Southern	3.9	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.1	2.7

Male	4.0	3.6	3.7	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.3
Female	3.9	3.6	3.7	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.4

0 to 2	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5
3 to 5	3.3	3.0	3.4	2.9	3.1	2.8	3.2
6 to 11	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.2	3.0	3.5	3.6
12 to 17	7.6	6.8	6.4	5.4	4.9	5.2	5.3

Black	4.9	4.2	4.2	3.5	3.5	3.9	3.8
White	3.3	3.1	3.3	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.0
Latinx (any race)	3.9	3.3	3.5	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.4
Other Race	4.5	4.2	3.2	3.3	2.6	3.8	4.4

CONTINUITY AND STABILITY IN CARE

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

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

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Children entering substitute care between age 12 to 17	930	887	1,020	1,143	1,382	1,272	1,036
Children who run away during their first year	166	152	172	161	196	131	104
Percent	17.8%	17.1%	16.9%	14.1%	14.2%	10.3%	10.0%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	85	28.1%	61	22.3%	85	27.8%	61	21.9%	98	21.2%	53	17.0%	50	20.3%
Northern	32	18.1%	30	19.2%	22	12.1%	31	14.8%	29	12.9%	27	9.1%	23	10.1%
Central	31	11.0%	39	13.4%	41	12.5%	32	8.1%	41	9.3%	26	6.5%	19	5.8%
Southern	18	10.7%	22	13.3%	24	11.8%	37	14.3%	28	11.0%	25	9.5%	12	5.1%

Male	74	15.8%	76	17.2%	87	16.9%	82	15.1%	97	15.2%	56	9.3%	51	11.1%
Female	92	19.9%	76	17.0%	85	16.9%	79	13.2%	99	13.3%	75	11.2%	53	9.2%

12 to 14	41	8.5%	45	10.0%	62	11.2%	67	10.2%	66	8.3%	43	5.8%	41	6.9%
15 to 17	125	27.9%	107	24.4%	110	23.6%	94	19.2%	130	22.2%	88	16.4%	63	14.4%

Black	94	23.4%	87	22.8%	104	23.8%	87	19.0%	110	19.4%	74	16.6%	67	17.9%
White	59	13.7%	45	11.6%	56	11.4%	57	10.2%	68	11.1%	45	7.0%	24	4.5%
Latinx (any race)	11	13.1%	19	20.2%	11	16.9%	14	13.9%	16	9.4%	12	7.6%	10	9.2%
Other Race	1	12.5%	1	4.8%	1	4.2%	1	6.7%	2	8.3%	0	0.0%	1	5.6%

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

The median length of stay in substitute care of all children who exited substitute care during the fiscal year.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Children exiting substitute care	5,128	5,086	5,392	5,091	6,229	6,422	6,234
Median length of stay (in months)	36	34	31	28	27	29	32

	N	Months	N	Months	N	Months	N	Months	N	Months	N	Months	N	Months
Cook	1,470	49	1,571	47	1,463	49	1,251	43	1,338	47	1,355	44	1,384	43
Northern	1,132	34	1,048	31	1,011	29	964	27	1,277	21	1,332	22	1,208	26
Central	1,698	29	1,592	30	1,854	25	1,801	24	2,228	23	2,396	26	2,315	29
Southern	828	31	875	27	1,064	28	1,075	24	1,386	26	1,339	29	1,327	31

Male	2,647	36	2,636	34	2,814	31	2,632	28	3,176	27	3,261	28	3,260	32
Female	2,481	35	2,450	34	2,578	31	2,459	27	3,053	26	3,160	29	2,974	32

0 to 2	773	20	784	19	905	17	904	17	1,102	15	1,066	17	1,049	19
3 to 5	1,159	37	1,148	35	1,188	33	1,131	31	1,423	28	1,563	31	1,467	36
6 to 11	1,502	38	1,442	36	1,552	33	1,457	29	1,769	27	1,942	31	1,850	34
12 to 17	817	34	817	33	918	31	853	24	1,073	26	1,110	29	1,081	32
18 and Older	877	70	895	64	829	67	746	61	862	63	741	64	787	56

Black	2,284	42	2,251	41	2,159	36	1,962	33	2,395	33	2,280	33	2,200	35
White	2,349	31	2,287	29	2,667	28	2,601	25	3,135	24	3,300	27	3,219	31
Latinx (any race)	380	33	439	31	427	35	377	30	496	26	631	25	622	32
Other Race	73	24	80	29	105	21	134	20	190	20	193	21	181	28

LEGAL PERMANENCE

**Indicator 3.A.1 Reunification Within 12 Months**

Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 12 months.							
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Children entering substitute care	4,599	4,737	5,702	6,448	7,382	7,090	5,742
Children reunified within 12 months	638	607	812	901	1051	1224	899
Percent	13.9%	12.8%	14.2%	14.0%	14.2%	17.3%	15.7%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	57	4.7%	64	5.5%	132	9.8%	85	6.8%	132	7.4%	105	8.1%	75	7.4%
Northern	165	18.3%	150	17.7%	170	18.6%	197	17.6%	278	20.9%	422	26.1%	260	20.6%
Central	284	17.9%	270	15.4%	324	15.2%	395	15.9%	401	14.4%	460	17.4%	352	16.5%
Southern	132	15.0%	123	12.7%	186	14.2%	224	14.0%	240	16.1%	237	15.6%	212	15.9%

Male	346	14.5%	311	12.7%	423	14.3%	438	13.5%	542	14.4%	630	17.3%	474	16.3%
Female	292	13.2%	296	12.9%	389	14.1%	463	14.4%	509	14.0%	594	17.2%	425	15.0%

0 to 2	232	12.5%	215	11.3%	283	11.9%	291	11.5%	352	11.8%	455	15.4%	288	12.4%
3 to 5	114	15.0%	110	13.3%	149	16.1%	185	15.4%	215	16.5%	231	18.8%	183	18.4%
6 to 11	174	16.5%	179	15.9%	236	17.0%	258	16.3%	296	17.4%	337	20.6%	262	18.9%
12 to 17	118	12.7%	103	11.6%	144	14.1%	167	14.6%	188	13.6%	201	15.8%	166	16.0%

Black	226	12.1%	203	11.3%	304	13.7%	300	12.9%	360	13.3%	347	15.3%	270	14.1%
White	338	15.1%	339	14.3%	429	14.6%	495	14.5%	576	15.7%	679	18.1%	501	16.5%
Latinx (any race)	58	14.3%	51	11.8%	54	14.6%	72	14.2%	77	9.8%	145	17.7%	93	15.3%
Other Race	14	19.2%	12	10.5%	21	16.4%	29	18.1%	25	14.1%	46	20.9%	33	19.6%

**Indicator 3.A.2 Reunification Within 24 Months**

Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 24 months.							
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Children entering substitute care	5,023	4,599	4,737	5,702	6,448	7,382	7,090
Children reunified within 24 months	1,371	1,264	1,258	1,653	1,895	2,351	2,482
Percent	27.3%	27.5%	26.6%	29.0%	29.4%	31.8%	35.0%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	236	16.1%	178	14.5%	193	16.5%	287	21.3%	209	16.8%	298	16.8%	243	18.6%
Northern	348	33.6%	316	35.0%	261	30.7%	320	35.0%	380	33.9%	571	42.8%	767	47.5%
Central	524	31.7%	529	33.3%	558	31.8%	712	33.5%	823	33.1%	1,023	36.8%	985	37.2%
Southern	263	30.2%	241	27.4%	246	25.4%	334	25.4%	483	30.3%	459	30.8%	487	32.0%

Male	690	27.0%	672	28.2%	647	26.5%	869	29.4%	943	29.1%	1,211	32.3%	1,315	36.1%
Female	681	27.6%	592	26.7%	611	26.6%	784	28.5%	952	29.7%	1,139	31.4%	1,167	33.8%

0 to 2	534	26.2%	479	25.8%	453	23.9%	587	24.8%	656	26.0%	853	28.5%	925	31.3%
3 to 5	253	30.3%	227	29.9%	240	29.0%	295	31.9%	398	33.2%	497	38.1%	511	41.6%
6 to 11	348	30.9%	332	31.5%	368	32.7%	503	36.3%	520	32.9%	631	37.0%	676	41.3%
12 to 17	236	23.0%	226	24.3%	197	22.2%	268	26.3%	321	28.1%	370	26.8%	370	29.1%

Black	537	24.4%	467	25.1%	446	24.8%	600	27.0%	638	27.5%	815	30.1%	724	32.0%
White	652	29.2%	654	29.3%	660	27.8%	891	30.2%	1,051	30.8%	1,245	33.9%	1,367	36.4%
Latinx (any race)	148	32.3%	117	28.7%	118	27.3%	114	30.8%	138	27.2%	198	25.3%	292	35.6%
Other Race	24	24.5%	21	28.8%	27	23.7%	40	31.3%	50	31.3%	70	39.5%	83	37.7%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

**Indicator 3.A.3 Reunification Within 36 Months**

Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was reunified with their parents within 36 months.							
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Children entering substitute care	4,787	5,023	4,599	4,737	5,702	6,448	7,382
Children reunified within 36 months	1,686	1,821	1,653	1,632	2,160	2,497	3,121
Percent	35.2%	36.3%	35.9%	34.5%	37.9%	38.7%	42.3%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	287	21.5%	382	26.1%	279	22.8%	273	23.4%	402	29.8%	320	25.7%	524	29.5%
Northern	440	40.9%	431	41.6%	374	41.4%	331	39.0%	388	42.5%	480	42.8%	692	51.9%
Central	610	39.5%	667	40.3%	679	42.7%	695	39.6%	915	43.1%	1,057	42.5%	1,311	47.2%
Southern	349	41.9%	341	39.2%	321	36.4%	333	34.4%	455	34.7%	640	40.1%	594	39.8%

Male	841	34.4%	946	37.0%	880	36.9%	833	34.1%	1,137	38.5%	1,242	38.3%	1,616	43.1%
Female	845	36.1%	875	35.5%	773	34.9%	799	34.8%	1,023	37.2%	1,255	39.1%	1,504	41.4%

0 to 2	595	32.7%	724	35.5%	639	34.4%	600	31.6%	805	34.0%	890	35.3%	1,176	39.3%
3 to 5	305	39.6%	330	39.5%	302	39.8%	319	38.5%	386	41.7%	530	44.2%	657	50.3%
6 to 11	498	42.3%	472	42.0%	422	40.0%	464	41.2%	626	45.1%	684	43.2%	822	48.2%
12 to 17	288	28.1%	295	28.8%	290	31.2%	249	28.1%	343	33.6%	393	34.4%	466	33.7%

Black	675	32.0%	730	33.2%	633	34.0%	567	31.6%	803	36.1%	847	36.5%	1,103	40.7%
White	856	38.2%	843	37.8%	822	36.8%	871	36.7%	1,149	39.0%	1,371	40.1%	1,594	43.4%
Latinx (any race)	125	36.3%	208	45.4%	166	40.8%	146	33.7%	148	40.0%	192	37.9%	312	39.8%
Other Race	10	31.3%	28	28.6%	27	37.0%	37	32.5%	50	39.1%	62	38.8%	84	47.5%

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

Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at one year.							
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Children reunified	1,983	1,893	1,976	2,284	2,489	3,269	3,520
Children stable at one year	1,853	1,787	1,835	2,098	2,298	3,036	3,269
Percent	93.4%	94.4%	92.9%	91.9%	92.3%	92.9%	92.9%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	341	93.7%	365	95.1%	456	92.9%	409	93.0%	395	88.8%	405	89.2%	538	92.1%
Northern	438	93.8%	392	93.8%	374	93.7%	378	90.2%	447	92.0%	712	92.2%	755	90.5%
Central	742	93.3%	706	94.9%	633	92.0%	860	91.7%	937	93.6%	1,245	94.2%	1,338	93.6%
Southern	332	93.0%	324	93.4%	372	93.5%	451	92.6%	519	93.2%	674	93.5%	638	94.9%

Male	987	94.4%	934	94.6%	994	93.8%	1,067	91.0%	1,193	92.6%	1,565	93.8%	1,672	92.2%
Female	866	92.4%	853	94.2%	841	91.8%	1,031	92.8%	1,105	92.0%	1,471	91.9%	1,596	93.6%

0 to 2	424	91.8%	371	91.6%	402	90.1%	472	90.1%	522	89.8%	685	89.7%	691	90.1%
3 to 5	420	94.2%	436	96.2%	460	94.3%	480	90.9%	531	92.3%	760	93.9%	845	93.4%
6 to 11	604	94.1%	590	95.3%	602	94.1%	708	93.8%	781	94.2%	976	94.3%	1,114	94.8%
12 to 17	405	93.5%	390	93.8%	371	92.3%	438	91.8%	464	92.1%	615	93.0%	619	92.0%

Black	781	93.0%	709	95.0%	742	91.0%	799	92.2%	798	90.9%	1,076	93.0%	1,063	91.7%
White	873	93.6%	869	94.5%	849	93.2%	1,084	91.6%	1,237	92.7%	1,587	92.4%	1,724	94.4%
Latinx (any race)	156	95.7%	167	91.8%	215	98.6%	164	92.7%	176	94.6%	262	94.6%	359	89.3%
Other Race	43	91.5%	42	93.3%	29	90.6%	51	91.1%	87	96.7%	111	94.1%	123	93.2%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

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

Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at two years.							
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Children reunified	2,150	1,983	1,893	1,976	2,284	2,489	3,269
Children stable at two years	2,006	1,786	1,731	1,754	2,001	2,188	2,908
Percent	93.3%	90.1%	91.4%	88.8%	87.6%	87.9%	89.0%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	380	89.8%	337	92.6%	356	92.7%	446	90.8%	398	90.5%	387	87.0%	391	86.1%
Northern	578	94.3%	426	91.2%	374	89.5%	345	86.5%	354	84.5%	429	88.3%	665	86.1%
Central	688	94.4%	705	88.7%	684	91.9%	611	88.8%	822	87.6%	883	88.2%	1,202	90.9%
Southern	360	93.5%	318	89.1%	317	91.4%	352	88.4%	427	87.7%	489	87.8%	650	90.2%

Male	1,009	93.3%	949	90.7%	899	91.1%	944	89.1%	1,021	87.0%	1,140	88.5%	1,502	90.0%
Female	997	93.3%	837	89.3%	832	91.8%	810	88.4%	980	88.2%	1,048	87.3%	1,406	87.9%

0 to 2	434	91.8%	397	85.9%	355	87.7%	377	84.5%	439	83.8%	490	84.3%	643	84.2%
3 to 5	465	92.8%	404	90.6%	424	93.6%	439	90.0%	455	86.2%	505	87.8%	727	89.9%
6 to 11	696	94.8%	588	91.6%	571	92.2%	582	90.9%	687	91.0%	743	89.6%	945	91.3%
12 to 17	411	93.0%	397	91.7%	381	91.6%	356	88.6%	420	88.1%	450	89.3%	593	89.7%

Black	832	93.4%	758	90.2%	689	92.4%	711	87.2%	770	88.8%	776	88.4%	1,032	89.2%
White	965	93.0%	835	89.5%	839	91.2%	809	88.8%	1,020	86.1%	1,158	86.7%	1,515	88.2%
Latinx (any race)	171	93.4%	152	93.3%	161	88.5%	205	94.0%	161	91.0%	170	91.4%	251	90.6%
Other Race	38	100.0%	41	87.2%	42	93.3%	29	90.6%	50	89.3%	84	93.3%	110	93.2%



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

Of all children who were reunified during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at five years.							
	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Children reunified	2,156	1,994	1,993	2,150	1,983	1,893	1,976
Children stable at five years	1,887	1,724	1,767	1,880	1,670	1,643	1,670
Percent	87.5%	86.5%	88.7%	87.4%	84.2%	86.8%	84.5%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	309	85.1%	311	89.4%	316	91.3%	367	86.8%	333	91.5%	341	88.8%	431	87.8%
Northern	468	84.0%	406	86.6%	480	89.4%	557	90.9%	411	88.0%	363	86.8%	331	83.0%
Central	742	92.1%	587	84.8%	609	87.8%	638	87.5%	644	81.0%	638	85.8%	570	82.8%
Southern	368	85.6%	420	86.6%	362	87.0%	318	82.6%	282	79.0%	301	86.7%	338	84.9%

Male	956	86.6%	898	86.9%	955	88.9%	943	87.2%	878	83.9%	859	87.0%	904	85.3%
Female	929	88.5%	826	86.0%	812	88.4%	937	87.7%	792	84.5%	784	86.5%	766	83.6%

0 to 2	359	85.9%	311	81.6%	355	83.9%	400	84.6%	364	78.8%	329	81.2%	358	80.3%
3 to 5	473	88.4%	438	87.4%	431	88.7%	434	86.6%	369	82.7%	403	89.0%	415	85.0%
6 to 11	628	86.0%	619	86.0%	611	89.6%	650	88.6%	549	85.5%	538	86.9%	543	84.8%
12 to 17	427	90.3%	356	90.8%	370	92.0%	396	89.6%	388	89.6%	373	89.7%	354	88.1%

Black	720	84.3%	606	85.4%	653	88.7%	799	89.7%	719	85.6%	669	89.7%	690	84.7%
White	1,005	89.3%	951	86.5%	947	87.7%	884	85.2%	764	81.9%	785	85.3%	762	83.6%
Latinx (any race)	122	91.7%	126	90.6%	119	93.7%	160	87.4%	147	90.2%	150	82.4%	191	87.6%
Other Race	40	90.9%	41	91.1%	48	96.0%	37	97.4%	40	85.1%	39	86.7%	27	84.4%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

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

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

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Children reunified	1,920	1,907	2,006	2,095	2,241	2,156	1,994
Children stable at ten years	1,645	1,627	1,690	1,778	1,942	1,798	1,643
Percent	85.7%	85.3%	84.2%	84.9%	86.7%	83.4%	82.4%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	376	84.3%	276	88.2%	349	88.4%	315	84.5%	341	89.7%	300	82.6%	308	88.5%
Northern	372	84.5%	329	89.2%	383	84.7%	393	83.4%	451	86.1%	452	81.1%	396	84.4%
Central	556	86.7%	681	83.6%	681	81.9%	768	87.5%	782	85.7%	704	87.3%	548	79.2%
Southern	341	86.8%	341	83.2%	277	84.5%	302	81.0%	368	86.6%	342	79.5%	391	80.6%

Male	858	85.5%	858	85.4%	884	84.8%	904	86.3%	998	87.6%	908	82.2%	859	83.2%
Female	787	85.8%	765	85.3%	801	83.6%	874	83.4%	941	85.6%	888	84.6%	784	81.6%

0 to 2	273	80.1%	319	80.4%	320	80.6%	358	80.6%	370	82.4%	337	80.6%	293	76.9%
3 to 5	352	83.4%	374	85.0%	377	80.7%	414	82.0%	495	87.5%	435	81.3%	404	80.6%
6 to 11	556	87.1%	509	84.3%	586	84.7%	575	84.6%	646	86.2%	599	82.1%	590	81.9%
12 to 17	464	89.4%	425	91.2%	407	90.4%	431	92.5%	431	90.4%	427	90.3%	356	90.8%

Black	654	82.2%	568	84.4%	630	82.0%	706	84.9%	793	86.5%	691	80.9%	583	82.1%
White	850	87.7%	883	84.9%	875	84.6%	918	84.2%	978	86.4%	950	84.4%	900	81.8%
Latinx (any race)	88	89.8%	112	90.3%	140	90.3%	97	88.2%	124	87.3%	118	88.7%	122	87.8%
Other Race	53	93.0%	64	91.4%	45	91.8%	57	90.5%	47	94.0%	39	88.6%	38	84.4%

**Indicator 3.C.1 Adoption Within 24 Months**

Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was adopted within 24 months.							
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Children entering substitute care	5,023	4,599	4,737	5,702	6,448	7,382	7,090
Children adopted within 24 months	159	204	212	212	164	134	170
Percent	3.2%	4.4%	4.5%	3.7%	2.5%	1.8%	2.4%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	16	1.1%	16	1.3%	18	1.5%	14	1.0%	13	1.0%	1	0.1%	7	0.5%
Northern	45	4.3%	50	5.5%	55	6.5%	45	4.9%	35	3.1%	35	2.6%	44	2.7%
Central	63	3.8%	93	5.8%	88	5.0%	92	4.3%	71	2.9%	52	1.9%	63	2.4%
Southern	35	4.0%	45	5.1%	51	5.3%	61	4.6%	45	2.8%	46	3.1%	56	3.7%

Male	81	3.2%	112	4.7%	105	4.3%	110	3.7%	77	2.4%	71	1.9%	72	2.0%
Female	78	3.2%	92	4.2%	107	4.7%	102	3.7%	87	2.7%	63	1.7%	98	2.8%

0 to 2	127	6.2%	144	7.8%	154	8.1%	169	7.1%	129	5.1%	113	3.8%	127	4.3%
3 to 5	12	1.4%	26	3.4%	27	3.3%	16	1.7%	16	1.3%	8	0.6%	14	1.1%
6 to 11	15	1.3%	20	1.9%	18	1.6%	18	1.3%	13	0.8%	5	0.3%	19	1.2%
12 to 17	5	0.5%	14	1.5%	13	1.5%	9	0.9%	6	0.5%	8	0.6%	10	0.8%

Black	48	2.2%	47	2.5%	53	3.0%	58	2.6%	33	1.4%	20	0.7%	37	1.6%
White	104	4.7%	146	6.5%	133	5.6%	137	4.6%	115	3.4%	104	2.8%	118	3.1%
Latinx (any race)	5	1.1%	7	1.7%	15	3.5%	11	3.0%	5	1.0%	8	1.0%	12	1.5%
Other Race	2	2.0%	2	2.7%	7	6.1%	3	2.3%	11	6.9%	0	0.0%	3	1.4%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

**Indicator 3.C.2 Adoption Within 36 Months**

Of all children who entered substitute care during the year, the percentage that was adopted within 36 months.							
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Children entering substitute care	4,787	5,023	4,599	4,737	5,702	6,448	7,382
Children adopted within 36 months	538	624	638	751	654	615	569
Percent	11.2%	12.4%	13.9%	15.9%	11.5%	9.5%	7.7%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	60	4.5%	68	4.7%	70	5.7%	69	5.9%	45	3.3%	28	2.2%	34	1.9%
Northern	154	14.3%	166	16.0%	164	18.1%	171	20.1%	142	15.5%	103	9.2%	108	8.1%
Central	220	14.2%	285	17.2%	272	17.1%	308	17.6%	261	12.3%	294	11.8%	260	9.4%
Southern	104	12.5%	105	12.1%	132	15.0%	203	21.0%	206	15.7%	190	11.9%	167	11.2%

Male	276	11.3%	312	12.2%	331	13.9%	390	16.0%	328	11.1%	309	9.5%	303	8.1%
Female	262	11.2%	312	12.6%	307	13.9%	361	15.7%	326	11.9%	306	9.5%	266	7.3%

0 to 2	372	20.5%	460	22.6%	409	22.0%	463	24.4%	485	20.5%	415	16.4%	417	13.9%
3 to 5	83	10.8%	78	9.3%	108	14.2%	131	15.8%	68	7.4%	88	7.3%	69	5.3%
6 to 11	72	6.1%	72	6.4%	94	8.9%	124	11.0%	79	5.7%	89	5.6%	67	3.9%
12 to 17	11	1.1%	14	1.4%	27	2.9%	33	3.7%	21	2.1%	23	2.0%	16	1.2%

Black	170	8.1%	186	8.4%	183	9.8%	193	10.8%	177	8.0%	142	6.1%	114	4.2%
White	332	14.8%	381	17.1%	415	18.6%	491	20.7%	422	14.3%	414	12.1%	404	11.0%
Latinx (any race)	16	4.7%	33	7.2%	27	6.6%	46	10.6%	33	8.9%	26	5.1%	31	4.0%
Other Race	8	25.0%	19	19.4%	9	12.3%	16	14.0%	15	11.7%	27	16.9%	15	8.5%

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

Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at two years.							
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Children adopted	1,850	1,563	1,850	1,716	1,850	1,511	1,669
Children stable at two years	1,833	1,550	1,842	1,705	1,833	1,490	1,652
Percent	99.1%	99.2%	99.6%	99.4%	99.1%	98.6%	99.0%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	493	100.0%	394	99.0%	421	99.1%	401	99.5%	412	98.6%	308	97.2%	310	98.7%
Northern	405	98.5%	394	99.0%	474	99.8%	431	99.5%	409	98.3%	304	99.3%	304	99.7%
Central	575	99.3%	497	99.2%	640	99.7%	593	99.3%	618	99.7%	529	99.1%	592	99.0%
Southern	360	98.1%	265	99.6%	307	99.7%	280	98.9%	394	99.5%	349	98.6%	446	98.7%

Male	927	99.1%	779	98.9%	951	99.4%	858	99.0%	945	99.3%	779	98.2%	824	99.0%
Female	906	99.0%	769	99.5%	891	99.8%	847	99.8%	888	98.9%	711	99.0%	828	98.9%

0 to 2	270	100.0%	249	99.2%	325	100.0%	289	99.0%	337	99.4%	287	99.7%	301	99.7%
3 to 5	662	99.7%	505	99.0%	627	99.8%	579	99.8%	577	99.5%	496	98.8%	554	98.6%
6 to 11	715	98.9%	621	99.4%	669	99.3%	625	99.0%	663	99.3%	505	98.2%	558	98.8%
12 to 17	186	96.4%	175	98.9%	221	99.1%	212	99.5%	256	97.3%	202	97.6%	239	99.6%

Black	768	99.4%	649	98.9%	760	99.5%	696	99.3%	641	98.8%	526	98.3%	577	98.5%
White	947	98.9%	787	99.2%	930	99.7%	855	99.3%	992	99.2%	829	98.7%	900	99.1%
Latinx (any race)	71	100.0%	81	100.0%	100	100.0%	108	100.0%	141	99.3%	88	98.9%	118	100.0%
Other Race	13	100.0%	9	100.0%	17	94.4%	30	100.0%	35	100.0%	35	100.0%	46	100.0%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

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

Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at five years.							
	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Children adopted	1,739	1,482	1,525	1,850	1,563	1,850	1,716
Children stable at five years	1,694	1,460	1,493	1,809	1,521	1,820	1,683
Percent	97.4%	98.5%	97.9%	97.8%	97.3%	98.4%	98.1%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	446	97.8%	380	99.0%	313	97.8%	485	98.4%	389	97.7%	417	98.1%	392	97.3%
Northern	335	98.8%	290	99.7%	359	98.6%	398	96.8%	389	97.7%	466	98.1%	427	98.6%
Central	624	96.0%	530	98.1%	540	97.5%	572	98.8%	485	96.8%	633	98.6%	587	98.3%
Southern	289	98.3%	260	97.4%	281	97.9%	354	96.5%	258	97.0%	304	98.7%	277	97.9%

Male	880	97.2%	727	98.6%	793	98.6%	916	98.0%	761	96.6%	937	97.9%	851	98.2%
Female	812	97.6%	733	98.4%	700	97.1%	893	97.6%	758	98.1%	883	98.9%	832	98.0%

0 to 2	241	98.8%	210	100.0%	212	99.5%	269	99.6%	248	98.8%	325	100.0%	284	97.3%
3 to 5	609	98.4%	534	99.3%	547	99.3%	657	98.9%	503	98.6%	626	99.7%	576	99.3%
6 to 11	644	96.0%	547	97.9%	547	97.0%	703	97.2%	603	96.5%	650	96.4%	615	97.5%
12 to 17	200	97.6%	169	96.6%	187	94.9%	180	93.3%	167	94.4%	219	98.2%	208	97.7%

Black	754	96.7%	647	98.8%	610	97.4%	756	97.8%	631	96.2%	752	98.4%	681	97.1%
White	825	98.0%	712	98.1%	787	98.4%	936	97.7%	776	97.9%	916	98.2%	848	98.5%
Latinx (any race)	96	99.0%	70	100.0%	57	95.0%	70	98.6%	81	100.0%	100	100.0%	108	100.0%
Other Race	2	100.0%	8	100.0%	11	100.0%	13	100.0%	9	100.0%	17	94.4%	30	100.0%

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

Of all children who were adopted during the year, the percentage that remained with their family at ten years.							
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Children adopted	1,762	1,562	1,422	1,363	1,198	1,739	1,482
Children stable at ten years	1,700	1,488	1,351	1,296	1,148	1,654	1,411
Percent	96.5%	95.3%	95.0%	95.1%	95.8%	95.1%	95.2%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	664	95.5%	561	97.2%	506	95.3%	451	96.6%	325	95.0%	439	96.3%	372	96.9%
Northern	307	96.8%	280	95.9%	205	96.2%	278	95.2%	199	97.5%	330	97.3%	283	97.3%
Central	524	96.3%	479	93.0%	448	94.1%	409	95.3%	414	96.5%	607	93.4%	514	95.2%
Southern	205	99.5%	168	94.4%	192	95.0%	158	90.3%	210	94.2%	278	94.6%	242	90.6%

Male	884	95.9%	763	94.7%	669	94.1%	672	95.9%	554	96.2%	859	94.9%	706	95.8%
Female	815	97.1%	723	95.9%	677	96.0%	618	94.2%	593	95.5%	793	95.3%	705	94.6%

0 to 2	335	98.8%	301	98.7%	272	98.6%	235	99.2%	181	100.0%	239	98.0%	209	99.5%
3 to 5	628	97.5%	504	96.6%	472	96.5%	468	95.7%	424	96.8%	600	96.9%	517	96.1%
6 to 11	540	94.6%	520	92.4%	455	90.3%	445	92.1%	409	93.0%	615	91.7%	516	92.3%
12 to 17	197	94.7%	163	94.8%	152	99.3%	148	96.1%	134	96.4%	200	97.6%	169	96.6%

Black	877	95.3%	759	95.5%	718	94.5%	655	94.0%	498	94.3%	734	94.1%	625	95.4%
White	683	98.3%	591	94.7%	525	95.1%	553	96.2%	574	96.8%	807	95.8%	687	94.6%
Latinx (any race)	93	96.9%	88	98.9%	73	98.6%	62	95.4%	62	98.4%	95	97.9%	68	97.1%
Other Race	4	100.0%	13	92.9%	4	100.0%	2	100.0%	5	100.0%	2	100.0%	8	100.0%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

**Indicator 3.E.1 Guardianship Within 24 Months**

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

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children entering substitute care	5,023	4,599	4,737	5,702	6,448	7,382	7,090
Children taken into guardianship within 24 months	64	89	75	92	80	73	73
Percent	1.3%	1.9%	1.6%	1.6%	1.2%	1.0%	1.0%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	11	0.8%	10	0.8%	2	0.2%	9	0.7%	9	0.7%	4	0.2%	12	0.9%
Northern	22	2.1%	26	2.9%	20	2.4%	29	3.2%	14	1.2%	12	0.9%	21	1.3%
Central	20	1.2%	28	1.8%	28	1.6%	26	1.2%	27	1.1%	28	1.0%	21	0.8%
Southern	11	1.3%	25	2.8%	25	2.6%	28	2.1%	30	1.9%	29	1.9%	19	1.2%

Male	32	1.3%	41	1.7%	45	1.8%	40	1.4%	39	1.2%	30	0.8%	35	1.0%
Female	32	1.3%	48	2.2%	30	1.3%	52	1.9%	41	1.3%	43	1.2%	38	1.1%

0 to 2	13	0.6%	19	1.0%	25	1.3%	36	1.5%	28	1.1%	22	0.7%	25	0.8%
3 to 5	8	1.0%	17	2.2%	12	1.4%	12	1.3%	12	1.0%	8	0.6%	11	0.9%
6 to 11	16	1.4%	23	2.2%	20	1.8%	20	1.4%	17	1.1%	22	1.3%	17	1.0%
12 to 17	27	2.6%	30	3.2%	18	2.0%	24	2.4%	23	2.0%	21	1.5%	20	1.6%

Black	21	1.0%	15	0.8%	21	1.2%	27	1.2%	19	0.8%	7	0.3%	27	1.2%
White	40	1.8%	67	3.0%	42	1.8%	58	2.0%	60	1.8%	60	1.6%	31	0.8%
Latinx (any race)	1	0.2%	5	1.2%	9	2.1%	4	1.1%	1	0.2%	6	0.8%	10	1.2%
Other Race	1	1.0%	1	1.4%	3	2.6%	2	1.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	2.3%



**Indicator 3.E.2 Guardianship Within 36 Months**

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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Children entering substitute care	4,787	5,023	4,599	4,737	5,702	6,448	7,382
Children taken into guardianship within 36 months	163	167	168	149	147	151	145
Percent	3.4%	3.3%	3.7%	3.1%	2.6%	2.3%	2.0%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	44	3.3%	49	3.4%	45	3.7%	23	2.0%	16	1.2%	25	2.0%	19	1.1%
Northern	31	2.9%	42	4.1%	31	3.4%	33	3.9%	39	4.3%	31	2.8%	25	1.9%
Central	55	3.6%	50	3.0%	55	3.5%	50	2.9%	44	2.1%	51	2.1%	47	1.7%
Southern	33	4.0%	26	3.0%	37	4.2%	43	4.4%	48	3.7%	44	2.8%	54	3.6%

Male	88	3.6%	69	2.7%	81	3.4%	87	3.6%	69	2.3%	72	2.2%	65	1.7%
Female	75	3.2%	98	4.0%	87	3.9%	62	2.7%	78	2.8%	79	2.5%	80	2.2%

0 to 2	42	2.3%	36	1.8%	39	2.1%	45	2.4%	45	1.9%	41	1.6%	44	1.5%
3 to 5	25	3.2%	24	2.9%	26	3.4%	22	2.7%	20	2.2%	24	2.0%	24	1.8%
6 to 11	57	4.8%	62	5.5%	58	5.5%	39	3.5%	41	3.0%	44	2.8%	41	2.4%
12 to 17	39	3.8%	45	4.4%	45	4.8%	43	4.8%	41	4.0%	42	3.7%	36	2.6%

Black	60	2.8%	55	2.5%	46	2.5%	45	2.5%	42	1.9%	40	1.7%	31	1.1%
White	90	4.0%	98	4.4%	108	4.8%	81	3.4%	93	3.2%	98	2.9%	100	2.7%
Latinx (any race)	12	3.5%	11	2.4%	11	2.7%	19	4.4%	6	1.6%	9	1.8%	10	1.3%
Other Race	0	0.0%	2	2.0%	1	1.4%	4	3.5%	5	3.9%	2	1.3%	4	2.3%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

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

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

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children taken into guardianship	495	367	475	464	406	315	406
Children stable at two years	485	363	457	454	396	310	383
Percent	98.0%	98.9%	96.2%	97.8%	97.5%	98.4%	94.3%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	203	99.0%	122	100.0%	178	96.7%	181	97.8%	164	98.2%	89	96.7%	141	93.4%
Northern	94	94.9%	97	99.0%	102	92.7%	97	96.0%	54	100.0%	68	98.6%	65	90.3%
Central	98	98.0%	85	96.6%	115	98.3%	114	99.1%	113	95.8%	92	100.0%	94	94.0%
Southern	90	98.9%	59	100.0%	62	96.9%	62	98.4%	65	97.0%	61	98.4%	83	100.0%

Male	252	97.3%	185	97.9%	237	95.2%	220	97.3%	208	96.3%	163	97.6%	189	94.0%
Female	233	98.7%	178	100.0%	220	97.3%	234	98.3%	188	98.9%	147	99.3%	194	94.6%

0 to 2	29	100.0%	24	100.0%	29	93.5%	35	94.6%	33	89.2%	30	100.0%	29	87.9%
3 to 5	97	98.0%	64	100.0%	72	94.7%	78	98.7%	76	98.7%	50	98.0%	46	95.8%
6 to 11	192	98.5%	135	99.3%	201	98.5%	166	99.4%	123	96.9%	104	96.3%	156	94.0%
12 to 17	167	97.1%	140	97.9%	155	94.5%	175	96.7%	164	99.4%	126	100.0%	152	95.6%

Black	256	97.0%	152	99.3%	201	95.3%	201	96.6%	178	97.3%	133	98.5%	166	91.7%
White	192	99.0%	178	98.9%	202	96.7%	191	98.5%	173	97.2%	144	99.3%	175	97.2%
Latinx (any race)	30	100.0%	27	96.4%	44	97.8%	44	100.0%	38	100.0%	27	96.4%	33	97.1%
Other Race	4	100.0%	1	100.0%	6	100.0%	13	100.0%	6	100.0%	2	66.7%	9	81.8%

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

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

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Children taken into guardianship	358	389	387	495	367	475	464
Children stable at five years	331	371	369	466	355	446	437
Percent	92.5%	95.4%	95.3%	94.1%	96.7%	93.9%	94.2%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	115	89.1%	130	93.5%	126	96.9%	192	93.7%	121	99.2%	169	91.8%	176	95.1%
Northern	63	95.5%	61	98.4%	84	95.5%	89	89.9%	92	93.9%	101	91.8%	94	93.1%
Central	111	94.9%	110	98.2%	87	92.6%	98	98.0%	84	95.5%	114	97.4%	108	93.9%
Southern	42	91.3%	70	92.1%	72	96.0%	87	95.6%	58	98.3%	62	96.9%	59	93.7%

Male	178	92.2%	202	95.7%	194	97.0%	238	91.9%	183	96.8%	234	94.0%	211	93.4%
Female	153	92.7%	169	94.9%	175	93.6%	228	96.6%	172	96.6%	212	93.8%	226	95.0%

0 to 2	33	100.0%	28	96.6%	18	94.7%	26	89.7%	24	100.0%	28	90.3%	34	91.9%
3 to 5	87	94.6%	80	96.4%	91	97.8%	93	93.9%	63	98.4%	72	94.7%	75	94.9%
6 to 11	125	94.0%	157	95.7%	140	94.6%	185	94.9%	130	95.6%	194	95.1%	161	96.4%
12 to 17	86	86.0%	106	93.8%	120	94.5%	162	94.2%	138	96.5%	152	92.7%	167	92.3%

Black	148	91.4%	167	94.4%	168	92.8%	247	93.6%	149	97.4%	194	91.9%	193	92.8%
White	164	94.3%	179	95.7%	171	97.2%	186	95.9%	173	96.1%	199	95.2%	183	94.3%
Latinx (any race)	17	89.5%	20	100.0%	23	100.0%	26	86.7%	27	96.4%	43	95.6%	43	97.7%
Other Race	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	2	100.0%	4	100.0%	1	100.0%	6	100.0%	13	100.0%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

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

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

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Children taken into guardianship	583	468	499	515	249	358	389
Children stable at ten years	541	415	462	473	219	315	358
Percent	92.8%	88.7%	92.6%	91.8%	88.0%	88.0%	92.0%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	253	89.7%	170	85.4%	230	91.6%	185	86.9%	90	81.1%	107	82.9%	126	90.6%
Northern	75	97.4%	63	90.0%	77	89.5%	105	94.6%	46	88.5%	62	93.9%	59	95.2%
Central	146	94.8%	114	90.5%	121	96.0%	129	95.6%	47	95.9%	105	89.7%	105	93.8%
Southern	67	95.7%	68	93.2%	34	94.4%	54	96.4%	36	97.3%	41	89.1%	68	89.5%

Male	281	92.1%	210	89.0%	247	93.2%	255	92.1%	111	89.5%	167	86.5%	194	91.9%
Female	260	93.5%	203	88.3%	215	91.9%	218	91.6%	108	86.4%	148	89.7%	164	92.1%

0 to 2	38	97.4%	32	82.1%	36	100.0%	29	100.0%	32	91.4%	32	97.0%	28	96.6%
3 to 5	90	93.8%	76	96.2%	86	92.5%	84	96.6%	48	88.9%	79	85.9%	77	92.8%
6 to 11	180	88.7%	138	83.6%	159	89.3%	180	89.1%	81	82.7%	118	88.7%	147	89.6%
12 to 17	233	95.1%	169	91.4%	181	94.3%	180	91.4%	58	93.5%	86	86.0%	106	93.8%

Black	327	92.1%	232	85.6%	257	89.9%	242	88.3%	117	85.4%	139	85.8%	159	89.8%
White	194	94.2%	150	92.6%	182	95.8%	181	95.3%	91	92.9%	157	90.2%	174	93.0%
Latinx (any race)	10	90.9%	29	100.0%	19	100.0%	34	97.1%	8	72.7%	17	89.5%	20	100.0%
Other Race	3	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%

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

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

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Children entering substitute care	4,612	4,748	5,713	6,464	7,404	7,147	5,775
Children discharged to permanency within 12 months	682	658	874	969	1,120	1,320	966
Percent	14.8%	13.9%	15.3%	15.0%	15.1%	18.5%	16.7%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	61	5.0%	67	5.7%	137	10.1%	96	7.6%	143	8.0%	126	9.5%	92	9.0%
Northern	182	20.0%	166	19.5%	194	21.2%	203	18.1%	293	21.9%	450	27.5%	278	21.8%
Central	297	18.7%	284	16.2%	338	15.9%	422	17.0%	425	15.3%	485	18.3%	372	17.4%
Southern	142	16.1%	141	14.5%	205	15.6%	248	15.5%	259	17.3%	259	16.9%	224	16.8%

Male	364	15.2%	338	13.8%	452	15.3%	479	14.7%	575	15.3%	671	18.3%	507	17.3%
Female	318	14.3%	320	13.9%	422	15.3%	490	15.3%	545	15.0%	649	18.7%	459	16.1%

0 to 2	247	13.3%	237	12.5%	312	13.1%	321	12.7%	379	12.6%	496	16.7%	317	13.5%
3 to 5	123	16.2%	118	14.2%	160	17.3%	198	16.5%	225	17.2%	244	19.8%	195	19.6%
6 to 11	183	17.3%	193	17.1%	249	17.9%	270	17.0%	314	18.4%	361	21.9%	272	19.6%
12 to 17	129	13.8%	110	12.4%	153	15.0%	180	15.7%	202	14.6%	219	16.9%	182	17.3%

Black	236	12.7%	215	11.9%	326	14.6%	315	13.5%	374	13.8%	388	16.9%	299	15.5%
White	367	16.4%	370	15.6%	466	15.8%	548	16.0%	619	16.9%	713	18.9%	530	17.4%
Latinx (any race)	62	15.2%	57	13.1%	57	15.4%	71	13.9%	88	11.1%	162	19.5%	101	16.5%
Other Race	14	17.9%	14	12.3%	21	16.4%	30	18.6%	26	14.5%	50	22.6%	35	20.8%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

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

Of all children in care on the first day of the fiscal year who had been in care between 12 and 23 months, the percentage that was discharged to permanency within 12 months.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Children in care on the first day of the fiscal year who had been in care between 12 and 23 months	3,697	3,335	3,535	4,177	4,859	5,259	4,891
Children discharged to permanency within 12 months	959	884	1,015	1,046	1,197	1,307	1,279
Percent	25.9%	26.5%	28.7%	25.0%	24.6%	24.9%	26.2%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	190	15.8%	174	17.1%	157	16.1%	164	15.2%	164	15.1%	243	16.4%	170	16.1%
Northern	210	31.0%	188	31.5%	206	35.1%	166	28.2%	213	26.7%	242	30.0%	318	34.6%
Central	395	33.0%	366	33.9%	427	33.8%	490	32.2%	484	27.0%	561	29.0%	506	27.6%
Southern	164	26.4%	156	24.4%	225	31.7%	226	22.9%	336	28.5%	261	25.3%	285	26.4%

Male	493	26.1%	461	26.6%	531	29.2%	529	24.6%	577	23.7%	655	24.5%	652	26.0%
Female	466	25.7%	423	26.4%	484	28.2%	517	25.6%	620	25.5%	651	25.2%	627	26.3%

0 to 2	376	32.4%	345	32.9%	380	34.1%	386	28.6%	385	26.5%	449	26.3%	457	28.7%
3 to 5	211	27.8%	183	26.9%	225	29.8%	217	25.0%	276	25.7%	300	27.8%	271	25.7%
6 to 11	236	24.4%	236	26.1%	267	28.5%	289	26.0%	344	25.8%	355	26.0%	356	29.0%
12 to 17	136	16.9%	120	17.0%	143	19.6%	154	18.1%	192	19.2%	203	18.3%	195	19.2%

Black	334	20.2%	312	22.4%	332	23.9%	335	20.2%	383	21.2%	402	20.6%	349	21.8%
White	527	32.7%	487	30.9%	584	33.9%	630	29.3%	686	27.4%	714	28.2%	734	28.5%
Latinx (any race)	75	22.5%	73	24.4%	70	21.9%	51	19.8%	84	21.2%	139	22.6%	143	26.0%
Other Race	16	20.8%	11	21.6%	24	26.1%	21	23.1%	33	28.4%	41	31.1%	46	31.1%

**Indicator 3.1 Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 24 Months or More (CFSR)**

Of all children in care on the first day of the fiscal year who had been in care 24 months or more, the percentage that was discharged to permanency within 12 months.							
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Children in care on the first day of the fiscal year who had been in care 24 months or more	6,440	6,349	6,074	5,945	6,773	7,795	8,759
Children discharged to permanency within 12 months	2,169	2,072	2,055	1,683	2,010	2,390	2,593
Percent	33.7%	32.6%	33.8%	28.3%	29.7%	30.7%	29.6%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	669	24.4%	748	27.0%	670	25.8%	516	20.6%	582	21.7%	590	21.2%	682	21.2%
Northern	519	41.0%	392	36.0%	365	36.9%	292	32.8%	314	34.1%	370	34.0%	383	32.3%
Central	654	40.5%	629	38.8%	632	41.3%	525	33.2%	656	34.3%	872	36.5%	936	34.6%
Southern	327	39.8%	303	34.9%	388	40.5%	350	36.3%	458	36.3%	558	36.5%	592	35.7%

Male	1,134	33.0%	1,075	31.9%	1,055	32.9%	895	28.5%	1,021	28.8%	1,191	29.5%	1,372	30.1%
Female	1,035	34.5%	997	33.4%	1,000	34.8%	788	28.1%	989	30.6%	1,199	31.9%	1,221	29.1%

0 to 2	230	46.9%	226	44.9%	216	47.3%	175	37.9%	220	34.9%	255	37.2%	318	37.6%
3 to 5	679	45.1%	656	43.9%	613	42.6%	529	37.3%	633	37.4%	753	36.8%	846	37.4%
6 to 11	869	39.4%	809	37.3%	813	38.4%	669	32.0%	753	32.1%	912	33.3%	947	31.3%
12 to 17	391	17.5%	381	17.5%	413	20.0%	310	15.7%	404	19.2%	470	20.2%	482	18.3%

Black	1,024	29.5%	999	29.4%	857	27.4%	707	23.4%	850	25.5%	887	24.7%	928	23.3%
White	935	40.2%	829	36.8%	970	42.9%	787	35.6%	939	35.0%	1,230	37.2%	1,330	36.3%
Latinx (any race)	155	30.1%	189	34.1%	180	33.2%	138	24.3%	162	28.1%	198	29.3%	262	29.5%
Other Race	16	36.4%	33	37.9%	28	31.1%	36	30.3%	49	34.8%	56	33.1%	63	33.0%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

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

Of all children who entered foster care during the fiscal year and attained permanency within 12 months, the percentage that re-entered substitute care within 12 months of their discharge.							
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Children who entered care and exited to permanency within 12 months	721	682	658	874	969	1,120	1,320
Children re-entering substitute care within 12 months	44	34	55	55	71	110	143
Percent	6.1%	5.0%	8.4%	6.3%	7.3%	9.8%	10.8%

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Cook	11	10.3%	6	9.8%	6	9.0%	14	10.2%	12	12.5%	16	11.2%	26	20.6%
Northern	7	3.7%	7	3.8%	10	6.0%	10	5.2%	17	8.4%	26	8.9%	64	14.2%
Central	18	7.0%	11	3.7%	28	9.9%	23	6.8%	25	5.9%	38	8.9%	41	8.5%
Southern	8	4.7%	10	7.0%	11	7.8%	8	3.9%	17	6.9%	30	11.6%	12	4.6%

Male	21	5.9%	18	4.9%	31	9.2%	26	5.8%	29	6.1%	52	9.0%	73	10.9%
Female	23	6.3%	16	5.0%	24	7.5%	29	6.9%	42	8.6%	58	10.6%	70	10.8%

0 to 2	21	7.6%	11	4.5%	19	8.0%	20	6.4%	22	6.9%	48	12.7%	59	11.9%
3 to 5	6	4.7%	9	7.3%	5	4.2%	13	8.1%	17	8.6%	28	12.4%	23	9.4%
6 to 11	8	4.3%	4	2.2%	20	10.4%	9	3.6%	16	5.9%	19	6.1%	39	10.8%
12 to 17	9	7.0%	10	7.8%	11	10.0%	13	8.5%	16	8.9%	15	7.4%	22	10.0%

Black	29	10.4%	13	5.5%	20	9.3%	31	9.5%	33	10.5%	28	7.5%	49	12.6%
White	12	3.3%	16	4.4%	28	7.6%	22	4.7%	35	6.4%	71	11.5%	69	9.7%
Latinx (any race)	2	3.8%	5	8.1%	5	8.8%	1	1.8%	3	4.2%	9	10.2%	17	10.5%
Other Race	1	7.1%	0	0.0%	2	14.3%	1	4.8%	0	0.0%	2	7.7%	7	14.0%



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

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

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Children who exited to permanency within 12 and 23 months	845	959	884	1,015	1,046	1,197	1,307
Children who re-entered substitute care within 12 months	20	9	23	37	53	50	61
Percent	2.4%	0.9%	2.6%	3.6%	5.1%	4.2%	4.7%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	9	5.5%	3	1.6%	4	2.3%	3	1.9%	16	9.8%	16	9.8%	18	7.4%
Northern	2	1.2%	4	1.9%	5	2.7%	12	5.8%	13	7.8%	6	2.8%	7	2.9%
Central	7	2.0%	0	0.0%	10	2.7%	16	3.7%	14	2.9%	13	2.7%	30	5.3%
Southern	2	1.2%	2	1.2%	4	2.6%	6	2.7%	10	4.4%	15	4.5%	6	2.3%

Male	8	1.8%	5	1.0%	11	2.4%	23	4.3%	27	5.1%	24	4.2%	30	4.6%
Female	12	2.9%	4	0.9%	12	2.8%	14	2.9%	26	5.0%	26	4.2%	31	4.8%

0 to 2	6	1.9%	1	0.3%	9	2.6%	12	3.2%	17	4.4%	13	3.4%	24	5.3%
3 to 5	1	0.6%	2	0.9%	4	2.2%	6	2.7%	10	4.6%	13	4.7%	13	4.3%
6 to 11	7	3.0%	1	0.4%	5	2.1%	9	3.4%	12	4.2%	10	2.9%	11	3.1%
12 to 17	6	4.4%	5	3.7%	5	4.2%	10	7.0%	14	9.1%	14	7.3%	13	6.4%

Black	13	4.3%	3	0.9%	6	1.9%	13	3.9%	22	6.6%	31	8.1%	27	6.7%
White	6	1.3%	5	0.9%	16	3.3%	20	3.4%	25	4.0%	19	2.8%	20	2.8%
Latinx (any race)	0	0.0%	1	1.3%	1	1.4%	0	0.0%	3	5.9%	0	0.0%	11	7.9%
Other Race	1	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	16.7%	3	14.3%	0	0.0%	2	4.9%

LEGAL PERMANENCE

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

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

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Children who exited to permanency after 24 months or more in care	1,923	2,169	2,072	2,055	1,683	2,010	2,390
Children who re-entered substitute care within 12 months	23	24	24	31	37	34	46
Percent	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%	1.5%	2.2%	1.7%	1.9%

	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cook	4	0.7%	11	1.6%	12	1.6%	10	1.5%	12	2.3%	9	1.5%	11	1.9%
Northern	3	0.6%	4	0.8%	3	0.8%	11	3.0%	3	1.0%	9	2.9%	9	2.4%
Central	9	1.5%	6	0.9%	7	1.1%	10	1.6%	14	2.7%	10	1.5%	18	2.1%
Southern	7	2.4%	3	0.9%	2	0.7%	0	0.0%	8	2.3%	6	1.3%	8	1.4%

Male	10	1.0%	14	1.2%	12	1.1%	16	1.5%	23	2.6%	14	1.4%	25	2.1%
Female	13	1.4%	10	1.0%	12	1.2%	15	1.5%	14	1.8%	20	2.0%	21	1.8%

0 to 2	2	1.0%	1	0.4%	2	0.9%	2	0.9%	4	2.3%	2	0.9%	6	2.4%
3 to 5	5	0.8%	3	0.4%	7	1.1%	7	1.1%	7	1.3%	11	1.7%	13	1.7%
6 to 11	9	1.1%	7	0.8%	7	0.9%	15	1.8%	16	2.4%	11	1.5%	17	1.9%
12 to 17	7	2.1%	13	3.3%	8	2.1%	7	1.7%	10	3.2%	10	2.5%	10	2.1%

Black	12	1.3%	10	1.0%	21	2.1%	20	2.3%	16	2.3%	15	1.8%	20	2.3%
White	10	1.2%	11	1.2%	2	0.2%	9	0.9%	19	2.4%	16	1.7%	21	1.7%
Latinx (any race)	1	0.9%	2	1.3%	1	0.5%	2	1.1%	1	0.7%	2	1.2%	4	2.0%
Other Race	0	0.0%	1	6.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%	1	2.0%	1	1.8%



## Appendix C

# Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Data

Appendix C provides data for the racial/ethnic disproportionality analyses included in Chapter 4. For each indicator, data are presented for the state and the four DCFS administrative regions for the past seven fiscal years. The data used in this appendix come from three sources. Illinois child population data was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>1</sup> The 2022 Illinois child population data was used to calculate RDIs in FY2022 and FY2023. Child welfare data was obtained from the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and the Child and Youth Centered Information System (CYCIS). Both the SACWIS data and the CYCIS data were extracted on December 31, 2023.

The numbers in this appendix are rounded to two decimal places for display purposes. If the number of children in a racial/ethnic group for an indicator was 20 or fewer, the RDI and the percentages used to compute the RDI are masked with an asterisk (\*) because percentages based on small numbers are unreliable.

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<sup>1</sup>The data source for the Illinois child population from FY2017-2019 was the following:  
U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. (2020). CC-EST2020-ALLDATA6-17: Annual county resident population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019. Retrieved from <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2010-2020/counties/asrh/> .  
The data source for the Illinois child population from FY2020-2022 was the following:  
U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. (2023). CC-EST2022-ALLDATA-17: Annual county resident population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022. Retrieved from <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2020-2022/counties/asrh/> .

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.A.1 Absolute RDI for Children in Investigations**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Black</b>							
Children in investigated reports (%)	32.54	32.31	32.42	32.41	32.04	32.49	32.82
Total child population (%)	15.43	15.38	15.33	15.33	15.31	15.31	15.31
Absolute RDI	2.11	2.10	2.12	2.11	2.09	2.12	2.14
<b>White</b>							
Children in investigated reports (%)	46.45	45.98	45.02	45.41	45.27	43.62	42.68
Total child population (%)	51.50	51.23	51.00	50.56	50.37	50.13	50.13
Absolute RDI	0.90	0.90	0.88	0.90	0.90	0.87	0.85
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in investigated reports (%)	17.46	17.96	18.54	18.10	18.22	19.13	19.52
Total child population (%)	24.27	24.41	24.53	24.84	24.90	24.98	24.98
Absolute RDI	0.72	0.74	0.76	0.73	0.73	0.77	0.78

**Indicator 4.A.2 Absolute RDI for Children in Investigations by Region**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in investigated reports (%)	50.42	49.20	48.79	49.85	49.27	48.39	48.01
Total child population (%)	24.66	24.42	24.25	24.02	23.87	23.74	23.74
Absolute RDI	2.05	2.02	2.01	2.08	2.06	2.04	2.02
<b>White</b>							
Children in investigated reports (%)	16.25	15.98	15.44	15.95	15.53	15.14	14.97
Total child population (%)	30.91	30.93	30.96	30.92	30.97	31.02	31.02
Absolute RDI	0.53	0.52	0.50	0.52	0.50	0.49	0.48
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in investigated reports (%)	29.45	30.81	31.04	29.50	29.99	31.06	31.52
Total child population (%)	34.98	34.98	34.94	35.09	35.04	35.00	35.00
Absolute RDI	0.84	0.88	0.89	0.84	0.86	0.89	0.90
<b>Northern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in investigated reports (%)	25.11	25.71	25.59	25.03	25.29	25.27	25.58
Total child population (%)	7.92	8.00	8.06	8.10	8.21	8.34	8.34
Absolute RDI	3.17	3.21	3.18	3.09	3.08	3.03	3.07
<b>White</b>							
Children in investigated reports (%)	46.15	44.96	44.25	44.34	43.66	42.57	41.10
Total child population (%)	56.56	55.91	55.34	54.80	54.22	53.50	53.50
Absolute RDI	0.82	0.80	0.80	0.81	0.81	0.80	0.77
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in investigated reports (%)	24.85	24.85	25.86	26.18	26.18	26.93	27.76
Total child population (%)	25.71	26.07	26.39	26.71	27.02	27.38	27.38
Absolute RDI	0.97	0.95	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.98	1.01
<b>Central</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in investigated reports (%)	25.38	24.86	25.33	25.81	25.80	26.97	27.62
Total child population (%)	10.27	10.37	10.42	10.48	10.75	10.99	10.99
Absolute RDI	2.47	2.40	2.43	2.46	2.40	2.46	2.51
<b>White</b>							
Children in investigated reports (%)	66.22	66.38	65.56	64.64	64.42	62.75	61.58
Total child population (%)	75.08	74.72	74.46	74.15	73.58	73.01	73.01
Absolute RDI	0.88	0.89	0.88	0.87	0.88	0.86	0.84
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in investigated reports (%)	5.13	5.50	5.58	5.99	6.01	6.17	6.37
Total child population (%)	7.35	7.53	7.67	7.84	7.98	8.17	8.17
Absolute RDI	0.70	0.73	0.73	0.76	0.75	0.76	0.78

(continues)

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.A.2 (continued)**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in investigated reports (%)	24.01	24.99	24.51	24.64	23.61	25.23	26.06
Total child population (%)	13.67	13.75	13.69	13.55	13.61	13.69	13.69
Absolute RDI	1.76	1.82	1.79	1.82	1.74	1.84	1.90
<b>White</b>							
Children in investigated reports (%)	70.32	69.38	69.74	69.22	69.74	67.82	66.96
Total child population (%)	76.65	76.39	76.16	76.13	75.87	75.52	75.52
Absolute RDI	0.92	0.91	0.92	0.91	0.92	0.90	0.89
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in investigated reports (%)	2.92	2.79	2.87	2.97	3.31	3.31	3.15
Total child population (%)	4.63	4.74	4.91	5.03	5.15	5.29	5.29
Absolute RDI	0.63	0.59	0.58	0.59	0.64	0.63	0.60

**Indicator 4.B.1 Absolute RDI for Children in Protective Custodies**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Black</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	39.73	40.37	37.84	37.22	31.99	34.48	34.12
Total child population (%)	15.43	15.38	15.33	15.33	15.31	15.31	15.31
Absolute RDI	2.58	2.63	2.47	2.43	2.09	2.25	2.23
<b>White</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	46.08	48.76	49.15	47.97	51.52	50.39	50.92
Total child population (%)	51.50	51.23	51.00	50.56	50.37	50.13	50.13
Absolute RDI	0.90	0.95	0.96	0.95	1.02	1.01	1.02
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	10.98	7.67	9.87	11.77	12.78	11.92	11.20
Total child population (%)	24.27	24.41	24.53	24.84	24.90	24.98	24.98
Absolute RDI	0.45	0.31	0.40	0.47	0.51	0.48	0.45

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.B.2 Absolute RDI for Children in Protective Custodies by Region**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	66.33	70.78	70.78	63.02	58.23	63.12	60.14
Total child population (%)	24.66	24.42	24.25	24.02	23.87	23.74	23.74
Absolute RDI	2.69	2.90	2.92	2.62	2.44	2.66	2.53
<b>White</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	11.07	12.26	12.51	11.61	14.08	12.32	11.95
Total child population (%)	30.91	30.93	30.96	30.92	30.97	31.02	31.02
Absolute RDI	0.36	0.40	0.40	0.38	0.46	0.40	0.39
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	20.28	14.84	21.15	22.48	24.87	21.17	24.72
Total child population (%)	34.98	34.98	34.94	35.09	35.04	35.00	35.00
Absolute RDI	0.58	0.42	0.61	0.64	0.71	0.61	0.71
<b>Northern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	41.18	38.32	41.27	34.81	29.47	33.72	34.72
Total child population (%)	7.92	8.00	8.06	8.10	8.21	8.34	8.34
Absolute RDI	5.20	4.79	5.12	4.30	3.59	4.05	4.17
<b>White</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	42.05	43.04	38.10	41.05	41.05	38.06	39.64
Total child population (%)	56.56	55.91	55.34	54.80	54.22	53.50	53.50
Absolute RDI	0.74	0.77	0.69	0.75	0.76	0.71	0.74
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	14.14	14.85	17.55	20.77	23.60	24.24	21.22
Total child population (%)	25.71	26.07	26.39	26.71	27.02	27.38	27.38
Absolute RDI	0.55	0.57	0.67	0.78	0.87	0.89	0.78
<b>Central</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	29.14	29.64	27.91	29.44	28.34	28.92	29.96
Total child population (%)	10.27	10.37	10.42	10.48	10.75	10.99	10.99
Absolute RDI	2.84	2.86	2.68	2.81	2.64	2.63	2.73
<b>White</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	62.73	62.92	63.52	61.47	62.65	62.99	61.00
Total child population (%)	75.08	74.72	74.46	74.15	73.58	73.01	73.01
Absolute RDI	0.84	0.84	0.85	0.83	0.85	0.86	0.84
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	4.38	3.54	4.20	5.56	4.92	5.24	5.16
Total child population (%)	7.35	7.53	7.67	7.84	7.98	8.17	8.17
Absolute RDI	0.60	0.47	0.55	0.71	0.62	0.64	0.63

(continues)



**Indicator 4.B.2 (continued)**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	24.43	20.54	22.10	19.94	19.53	22.59	21.25
Total child population (%)	13.67	13.75	13.69	13.55	13.61	13.69	13.69
Absolute RDI	1.79	1.49	1.62	1.47	1.44	1.65	1.55
<b>White</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	70.45	74.94	71.60	75.45	74.24	71.22	72.34
Total child population (%)	76.65	76.39	76.16	76.13	75.87	75.52	75.52
Absolute RDI	0.92	0.98	0.94	0.99	0.98	0.94	0.96
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	4.81	*	3.75	2.37	2.99	3.02	2.81
Total child population (%)	4.63	*	4.91	5.03	5.15	5.29	5.29
Absolute RDI	1.04	*	0.76	0.47	0.58	0.57	0.53

*Note.* If the number of children is 20 or fewer, the RDI and the percentages used to compute the RDI are masked with an asterisk (\*) and are not reported.

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.B.3 Relative RDI for Children in Protective Custodies**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Black</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	39.73	40.37	37.84	37.22	31.99	34.48	34.12
Children in investigations (%)	32.54	32.31	32.42	32.41	32.04	32.49	32.82
Relative RDI	1.22	1.25	1.17	1.15	1.00	1.06	1.04
<b>White</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	46.08	48.76	49.15	47.97	51.52	50.39	50.92
Children in investigations (%)	46.45	45.98	45.02	45.41	45.27	43.62	42.68
Relative RDI	0.99	1.06	1.09	1.06	1.14	1.16	1.19
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	10.98	7.67	9.87	11.77	12.78	11.92	11.20
Children in investigations (%)	17.46	17.96	18.54	18.10	18.22	19.13	19.52
Relative RDI	0.63	0.43	0.53	0.65	0.70	0.62	0.57

**Indicator 4.B.4 Relative RDI for Children in Protective Custodies by Region**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	66.33	70.78	70.78	63.02	58.23	63.12	60.14
Children in investigations (%)	50.42	49.20	48.79	49.85	49.27	48.39	48.01
Relative RDI	1.32	1.44	1.45	1.26	1.18	1.30	1.25
<b>White</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	11.95	12.26	12.51	11.61	14.08	12.32	11.95
Children in investigations (%)	16.25	15.98	15.44	15.95	15.53	15.14	14.97
Relative RDI	0.74	0.77	0.81	0.73	0.91	0.81	0.80
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	20.28	14.84	21.15	22.48	24.87	21.17	24.72
Children in investigations (%)	29.45	30.81	31.04	29.50	29.99	31.06	31.52
Relative RDI	0.69	0.48	0.68	0.76	0.83	0.68	0.78
<b>Northern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	41.18	38.32	41.27	34.81	29.47	33.72	34.72
Children in investigations (%)	25.11	25.71	25.59	25.03	25.29	25.27	25.58
Relative RDI	1.64	1.49	1.61	1.39	1.17	1.33	1.36
<b>White</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	42.05	43.04	38.10	41.05	42.96	38.06	39.64
Children in investigations (%)	46.15	44.96	44.25	44.34	43.66	42.57	41.10
Relative RDI	0.91	0.96	0.86	0.93	0.98	0.89	0.97
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	14.14	14.85	17.55	20.77	23.60	24.24	21.22
Children in investigations (%)	24.85	24.85	25.86	26.18	26.18	26.93	27.76
Relative RDI	0.57	0.60	0.68	0.79	0.90	0.90	0.77
<b>Central</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	29.14	29.64	27.91	29.44	28.34	28.92	29.96
Children in investigations (%)	25.38	24.86	25.33	25.81	25.80	26.97	27.62
Relative RDI	1.15	1.19	1.10	1.14	1.10	1.07	1.09
<b>White</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	62.73	62.92	63.52	61.47	62.65	62.99	61.00
Children in investigations (%)	66.22	66.38	65.56	64.64	64.42	62.75	61.58
Relative RDI	0.95	0.95	0.97	0.95	0.97	1.00	0.99
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	4.38	3.54	4.20	5.56	4.92	5.24	5.16
Children in investigations (%)	5.13	5.50	5.58	5.99	6.01	6.17	6.37
Relative RDI	0.85	0.64	0.75	0.93	0.82	0.85	0.81

(continues)

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.B.4 (continued)**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	21.99	20.54	22.10	19.94	19.53	22.59	21.25
Children in investigations (%)	24.01	24.99	24.51	24.64	23.61	25.23	26.06
Relative RDI	0.92	0.82	0.90	0.81	0.83	0.90	0.82
<b>White</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	70.45	74.94	71.60	75.45	74.24	71.22	71.22
Children in investigations (%)	70.32	69.38	69.74	69.22	69.74	67.82	66.96
Relative RDI	1.00	1.08	1.03	1.09	1.07	1.05	1.06
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in protective custodies (%)	4.81	*	3.75	2.37	2.99	3.02	2.81
Children in investigations (%)	2.92	*	2.87	2.97	3.31	3.31	3.15
Relative RDI	1.65	*	1.31	0.80	0.91	0.91	0.89

*Note.* If the number of children is 20 or fewer, the RDI and the percentages used to compute the RDI are masked with an asterisk (\*) and are not reported.

**Indicator 4.C.1 Absolute RDI for Children in Indicated Investigations**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Black</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	32.81	33.54	33.39	34.23	33.20	32.65	32.62
Total child population (%)	15.43	15.38	15.33	15.33	15.31	15.31	15.31
Absolute RDI	2.13	2.18	2.18	2.23	2.17	2.13	2.13
<b>White</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	46.80	46.50	45.55	43.87	43.36	43.60	43.96
Total child population (%)	51.50	51.23	51.00	50.56	50.37	50.13	50.13
Absolute RDI	0.91	0.91	0.89	0.87	0.86	0.87	0.88
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	17.52	16.97	18.04	18.68	19.80	20.02	19.48
Total child population (%)	24.27	24.41	24.53	24.84	24.90	24.98	24.98
Absolute RDI	0.72	0.70	0.74	0.75	0.80	0.80	0.78

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

## Indicator 4.C.2 Absolute RDI for Children in Indicated Investigations by Region

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	50.63	52.31	51.40	53.23	50.40	48.28	48.87
Total child population (%)	24.66	24.42	24.25	24.02	23.87	23.74	23.74
Absolute RDI	2.05	2.14	2.12	2.22	2.11	2.03	2.06
<b>White</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	14.64	14.04	14.13	13.75	14.11	13.67	13.08
Total child population (%)	30.91	30.93	30.96	30.92	30.97	31.02	31.02
Absolute RDI	0.47	0.45	0.46	0.44	0.46	0.44	0.42
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	31.51	30.96	31.40	29.92	31.52	34.18	34.16
Total child population (%)	34.98	34.98	34.94	35.09	35.04	35.00	35.00
Absolute RDI	0.90	0.89	0.90	0.85	0.90	0.98	0.98
<b>Northern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	26.98	27.04	28.21	26.99	26.69	28.10	27.57
Total child population (%)	7.92	8.00	8.06	8.10	8.21	8.34	8.34
Absolute RDI	3.41	3.38	3.50	3.33	3.25	3.37	3.31
<b>White</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	42.74	43.67	40.93	40.65	39.62	37.16	38.05
Total child population (%)	56.56	55.91	55.34	54.80	54.22	53.50	53.50
Absolute RDI	0.76	0.78	0.74	0.74	0.73	0.70	0.71
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	27.26	25.73	27.51	29.04	29.71	30.49	29.89
Total child population (%)	25.71	26.07	26.39	26.71	27.02	27.38	27.38
Absolute RDI	1.06	0.99	1.04	1.09	1.10	1.11	1.09
<b>Central</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	28.24	26.87	26.14	28.74	29.15	29.36	29.95
Total child population (%)	10.27	10.37	10.42	10.48	10.75	10.99	10.99
Absolute RDI	2.75	2.59	2.51	2.74	2.71	2.67	2.73
<b>White</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	63.63	64.85	65.78	61.83	61.13	61.02	59.10
Total child population (%)	75.08	74.72	74.46	74.15	73.58	73.01	73.01
Absolute RDI	0.85	0.87	0.88	0.83	0.83	0.84	0.81
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	5.30	5.06	5.04	5.85	6.34	6.13	7.07
Total child population (%)	7.35	7.53	7.67	7.84	7.98	8.17	8.17
Absolute RDI	0.72	0.67	0.66	0.75	0.80	0.75	0.87

(continues)

**Indicator 4.C.2 (continued)**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	21.89	23.59	22.38	19.95	21.14	22.19	23.09
Total child population (%)	13.67	13.75	13.69	13.55	13.61	13.69	13.69
Absolute RDI	1.60	1.72	1.64	1.47	1.55	1.62	1.69
<b>White</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	72.68	71.59	72.40	74.89	72.94	71.57	70.73
Total child population (%)	76.65	76.39	76.16	76.13	75.87	75.52	75.52
Absolute RDI	0.95	0.94	0.95	0.98	0.96	0.95	0.94
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	3.24	2.62	2.79	2.67	3.07	3.24	3.04
Total child population (%)	4.63	4.74	4.91	5.03	5.15	5.29	5.29
Absolute RDI	0.70	0.55	0.57	0.53	0.60	0.61	0.58

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.C.3 Relative RDI for Children in Indicated Investigations**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Black</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	32.81	33.54	33.39	34.23	33.20	32.65	32.62
Children in investigations (%)	32.54	32.31	32.42	32.41	32.04	32.49	32.82
Relative RDI	1.01	1.04	1.03	1.06	1.04	1.01	0.99
<b>White</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	46.80	46.50	45.55	43.87	43.36	43.60	43.96
Children in investigations (%)	46.45	45.98	45.02	45.41	45.27	43.62	42.68
Relative RDI	1.01	1.01	1.01	0.97	0.96	1.00	1.03
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	17.52	16.97	18.04	18.68	19.80	20.02	19.48
Children in investigations (%)	17.46	17.96	18.54	18.10	18.22	19.13	19.52
Relative RDI	1.00	0.95	0.97	1.03	1.09	1.05	1.00



**Indicator 4.C.4 Relative RDI for Children in Indicated Investigations by Region**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	50.63	52.31	51.40	53.23	50.40	48.28	48.87
Children in investigations (%)	50.42	49.20	48.79	49.85	49.27	48.39	48.01
Relative RDI	1.00	1.06	1.05	1.07	1.02	1.00	1.02
<b>White</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	14.64	14.04	14.13	13.75	14.11	13.67	13.08
Children in investigations (%)	16.25	15.98	15.44	15.95	15.53	15.14	14.97
Relative RDI	0.90	0.88	0.92	0.86	0.91	0.90	0.87
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	31.51	30.96	31.40	29.92	31.52	34.18	34.16
Children in investigations (%)	29.45	30.81	31.04	29.50	29.99	31.06	31.52
Relative RDI	1.07	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.05	1.10	1.08
<b>Northern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	26.98	27.04	28.21	26.99	26.69	28.10	27.57
Children in investigations (%)	25.11	25.71	25.59	25.03	25.29	25.27	25.58
Relative RDI	1.07	1.05	1.10	1.08	1.06	1.11	1.08
<b>White</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	42.74	43.67	40.93	40.65	39.62	37.16	38.05
Children in investigations (%)	46.15	44.96	44.25	44.34	43.66	42.57	41.10
Relative RDI	0.93	0.97	0.93	0.92	0.91	0.87	0.93
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	27.26	25.73	27.51	29.04	29.71	30.49	29.89
Children in investigations (%)	24.85	24.85	25.86	26.18	26.18	26.93	27.76
Relative RDI	1.10	1.04	1.06	1.11	1.14	1.13	1.08
<b>Central</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	28.24	26.87	26.14	28.74	29.15	29.36	29.95
Children in investigations (%)	25.38	24.86	25.33	25.81	25.80	26.97	27.62
Relative RDI	1.11	1.08	1.03	1.11	1.13	1.09	1.08
<b>White</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	63.63	64.85	65.78	61.83	61.13	61.02	59.10
Children in investigations (%)	66.22	66.38	65.56	64.64	64.42	62.75	61.58
Relative RDI	0.96	0.98	1.00	0.96	0.95	0.97	0.96
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	5.30	5.06	5.04	5.85	6.34	6.13	7.07
Children in investigations (%)	5.13	5.50	5.58	5.99	6.01	6.17	6.37
Relative RDI	1.03	0.92	0.90	0.98	1.06	0.99	1.11

(continues)

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.C.4 (continued)**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	21.89	23.59	22.38	19.95	21.14	22.19	23.09
Children in investigations (%)	24.01	24.99	24.51	24.64	23.61	25.23	26.06
Relative RDI	0.91	0.94	0.91	0.81	0.90	0.88	0.89
<b>White</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	72.68	71.59	72.40	74.89	72.94	71.57	70.73
Children in investigations (%)	70.32	69.38	69.74	69.22	69.74	67.82	66.96
Relative RDI	1.03	1.03	1.04	1.08	1.05	1.06	1.06
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in indicated investigations (%)	3.24	2.62	2.79	2.67	3.07	3.24	3.04
Children in investigations (%)	2.92	2.79	2.87	2.97	3.31	3.31	3.15
Relative RDI	1.11	0.94	0.97	0.90	0.93	0.98	0.97

**Indicator 4.D.1 Absolute RDI for Children in Intact Family Services**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Black</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	34.39	37.01	33.64	34.27	33.79	32.58	32.52
Total child population (%)	15.43	15.38	15.33	15.33	15.31	15.31	15.31
Absolute RDI	2.23	2.41	2.20	2.24	2.21	2.13	2.12
<b>White</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	46.16	44.90	47.50	46.68	45.76	45.77	46.40
Total child population (%)	51.50	51.23	51.00	50.56	50.37	50.13	50.13
Absolute RDI	0.90	0.88	0.93	0.92	0.91	0.91	0.93
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	17.07	15.81	16.12	16.40	17.40	18.30	17.26
Total child population (%)	24.27	24.41	24.53	24.84	24.90	24.98	24.98
Absolute RDI	0.70	0.65	0.66	0.66	0.70	0.73	0.69

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.D.2 Absolute RDI for Children in Intact Family Services by Region**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	51.20	54.83	51.23	49.02	53.42	47.17	49.87
Total child population (%)	24.66	24.42	24.25	24.02	23.87	23.74	23.74
Absolute RDI	2.08	2.25	2.11	2.04	2.24	1.99	2.10
<b>White</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	15.30	12.17	14.10	13.55	14.36	15.15	13.81
Total child population (%)	30.91	30.93	30.96	30.92	30.97	31.02	31.02
Absolute RDI	0.50	0.39	0.46	0.44	0.46	0.49	0.45
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	30.71	31.55	31.12	34.43	29.42	34.34	32.57
Total child population (%)	34.98	34.98	34.94	35.09	35.04	35.00	35.00
Absolute RDI	0.88	0.90	0.89	0.98	0.84	0.98	0.93
<b>Northern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	27.87	30.81	27.77	31.11	26.24	27.29	31.21
Total child population (%)	7.92	8.00	8.06	8.10	8.21	8.34	8.34
Absolute RDI	3.52	3.85	3.45	3.84	3.20	3.27	3.74
<b>White</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	45.67	47.01	46.03	43.88	40.52	37.76	33.82
Total child population (%)	56.56	55.91	55.34	54.80	54.22	53.50	53.50
Absolute RDI	0.81	0.84	0.83	0.80	0.75	0.71	0.63
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	24.00	18.99	23.62	22.65	29.92	31.80	32.78
Total child population (%)	25.71	26.07	26.39	26.71	27.02	27.38	27.38
Absolute RDI	0.93	0.73	0.90	0.85	1.11	1.16	1.20
<b>Central</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	29.97	28.44	26.70	28.67	28.73	29.21	28.97
Total child population (%)	10.27	10.37	10.42	10.48	10.75	10.99	10.99
Absolute RDI	2.92	2.74	2.56	2.74	2.67	2.66	2.64
<b>White</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	63.75	64.49	66.63	63.57	62.68	61.30	60.76
Total child population (%)	75.08	74.72	74.46	74.15	73.58	73.01	73.01
Absolute RDI	0.85	0.86	0.90	0.86	0.85	0.84	0.83
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	3.73	3.83	4.21	5.27	5.68	5.96	4.88
Total child population (%)	7.35	7.53	7.67	7.84	7.98	8.17	8.17
Absolute RDI	0.51	0.51	0.55	0.67	0.71	0.73	0.60

(continues)

**Indicator 4.D.2 (continued)**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	19.14	23.61	21.23	26.03	24.57	26.48	23.01
Total child population (%)	13.67	13.75	13.69	13.55	13.61	13.69	13.69
Absolute RDI	1.40	1.72	1.55	1.92	1.81	1.93	1.68
<b>White</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	76.79	72.43	73.91	68.98	69.77	67.43	70.82
Total child population (%)	76.65	76.39	76.16	76.13	75.87	75.52	75.52
Absolute RDI	1.00	0.95	0.97	0.91	0.92	0.89	0.94
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	2.72	2.53	2.84	2.24	2.42	2.78	2.70
Total child population (%)	4.63	4.74	4.91	5.03	5.15	5.29	5.29
Absolute RDI	0.59	0.53	0.58	0.45	0.47	0.53	0.51

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.D.3 Relative RDI for Children in Intact Family Services**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Black</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	34.39	37.01	33.64	34.27	33.79	32.58	32.52
Children in investigations (%)	32.54	32.31	32.42	32.41	32.04	32.49	32.82
Relative RDI	1.06	1.15	1.04	1.06	1.06	1.00	0.99
<b>White</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	46.16	44.90	47.50	46.68	45.76	45.77	46.40
Children in investigations (%)	46.45	45.98	45.02	45.41	45.27	43.62	42.68
Relative RDI	0.99	0.98	1.06	1.03	1.01	1.05	1.09
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	17.07	15.81	16.12	16.40	17.40	18.30	17.26
Children in investigations (%)	17.46	17.96	18.54	18.10	18.22	19.13	19.52
Relative RDI	0.98	0.88	0.87	0.91	0.96	0.96	0.89

**Indicator 4.D.4 Relative RDI for Children in Intact Family Services by Region**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	51.20	54.83	51.23	49.02	53.42	47.17	49.87
Children in investigations (%)	50.42	49.20	48.79	49.85	49.27	48.39	48.01
Relative RDI	1.02	1.11	1.05	0.98	1.08	0.98	1.04
<b>White</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	15.30	12.17	14.10	13.55	14.36	15.15	13.81
Children in investigations (%)	16.25	15.98	15.44	15.95	15.53	15.14	14.97
Relative RDI	0.94	0.76	0.91	0.85	0.92	1.00	0.92
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	30.71	31.55	31.12	34.43	29.42	34.34	32.57
Children in investigations (%)	29.45	30.81	31.04	29.50	29.99	31.06	31.52
Relative RDI	1.04	1.02	1.00	1.17	0.98	1.11	1.03
<b>Northern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	27.87	30.81	27.77	31.11	26.24	27.29	31.21
Children in investigations (%)	25.11	25.71	25.59	25.03	25.29	25.27	25.58
Relative RDI	1.11	1.20	1.09	1.24	1.04	1.08	1.22
<b>White</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	45.67	47.01	46.03	43.88	40.52	37.76	33.82
Children in investigations (%)	46.15	44.96	44.25	44.34	43.66	42.57	41.10
Relative RDI	0.99	1.05	1.04	0.99	0.93	0.89	0.82
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	24.00	18.99	23.62	22.65	29.92	31.80	32.78
Children in investigations (%)	24.85	24.85	25.86	26.18	26.18	26.93	27.76
Relative RDI	0.97	0.76	0.91	0.87	1.14	1.18	1.18
<b>Central</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	29.97	28.44	26.70	28.67	28.73	29.21	28.97
Children in investigations (%)	25.38	24.86	25.33	25.81	25.80	26.97	27.62
Relative RDI	1.18	1.14	1.05	1.11	1.11	1.08	1.05
<b>White</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	63.75	64.49	66.63	63.57	62.68	61.30	60.76
Children in investigations (%)	66.22	66.38	65.56	64.64	64.42	62.75	61.58
Relative RDI	0.96	0.97	1.02	0.98	0.97	0.98	0.99
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	3.73	3.83	4.21	5.27	5.68	5.96	4.88
Children in investigations (%)	5.13	5.50	5.58	5.99	6.01	6.17	6.37
Relative RDI	0.73	0.70	0.76	0.88	0.94	0.97	0.77

(continues)

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.D.4 (continued)**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	19.14	23.61	21.23	26.03	24.57	26.48	23.01
Children in investigations (%)	24.01	24.99	24.51	24.64	23.61	25.23	26.06
Relative RDI	0.80	0.95	0.87	1.06	1.04	1.05	0.88
<b>White</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	76.79	72.43	73.91	68.98	69.77	67.43	70.82
Children in investigations (%)	70.32	69.38	69.74	69.22	69.74	67.82	66.96
Relative RDI	1.09	1.04	1.06	1.00	1.00	0.99	1.06
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in intact family services (%)	2.72	2.53	2.84	2.24	2.42	2.78	2.70
Children in investigations (%)	2.92	2.79	2.87	2.97	3.31	3.31	3.15
Relative RDI	0.93	0.91	0.99	0.76	0.73	0.84	0.86



**Indicator 4.E.1 Absolute RDI for Children Who Entered Substitute Care**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Black</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	37.89	38.97	36.01	36.67	31.93	33.35	33.61
Total child population (%)	15.43	15.38	15.33	15.33	15.31	15.31	15.31
Absolute RDI	2.46	2.53	2.35	2.39	2.09	2.18	2.20
<b>White</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	50.12	51.70	52.98	49.70	53.03	52.98	52.53
Total child population (%)	51.50	51.23	51.00	50.56	50.37	50.13	50.13
Absolute RDI	0.97	1.01	1.04	0.98	1.05	1.06	1.05
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	9.14	6.49	7.86	10.61	11.57	10.55	9.32
Total child population (%)	24.27	24.41	24.53	24.84	24.90	24.98	24.98
Absolute RDI	0.38	0.27	0.32	0.43	0.47	0.42	0.37

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.E.2 Absolute RDI for Children Who Entered Substitute Care by Region**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	64.52	72.82	68.81	62.75	61.20	64.69	64.45
Total child population (%)	24.66	24.42	24.25	24.02	23.87	23.74	23.74
Absolute RDI	2.62	2.98	2.84	2.61	2.56	2.73	2.72
<b>White</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	13.45	12.67	12.11	12.61	13.19	13.25	12.35
Total child population (%)	30.91	30.93	30.96	30.92	30.97	31.02	31.02
Absolute RDI	0.44	0.41	0.39	0.41	0.43	0.43	0.40
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	19.97	12.07	17.24	22.79	23.85	19.88	19.76
Total child population (%)	34.98	34.98	34.94	35.09	35.04	35.00	35.00
Absolute RDI	0.57	0.35	0.49	0.65	0.68	0.57	0.57
<b>Northern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	38.99	37.20	40.59	37.43	27.80	31.91	33.84
Total child population (%)	7.92	8.00	8.06	8.10	8.21	8.34	8.34
Absolute RDI	4.92	4.65	5.04	4.62	3.39	3.83	4.06
<b>White</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	45.47	46.17	42.91	42.99	46.13	42.84	43.61
Total child population (%)	56.56	55.91	55.34	54.80	54.22	53.50	53.50
Absolute RDI	0.80	0.83	0.78	0.78	0.85	0.80	0.82
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	12.13	13.13	13.65	16.43	21.61	22.41	18.30
Total child population (%)	25.71	26.07	26.39	26.71	27.02	27.38	27.38
Absolute RDI	0.47	0.50	0.52	0.62	0.80	0.82	0.67
<b>Central</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	29.78	30.21	27.77	29.17	27.49	26.93	27.83
Total child population (%)	10.27	10.37	10.42	10.48	10.75	10.99	10.99
Absolute RDI	2.90	2.91	2.66	2.78	2.56	2.45	2.53
<b>White</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	63.72	63.29	64.59	62.09	64.35	65.25	62.44
Total child population (%)	75.08	74.72	74.46	74.15	73.58	73.01	73.01
Absolute RDI	0.85	0.85	0.87	0.84	0.88	0.89	0.86
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	3.42	3.25	3.58	4.68	4.19	4.26	4.47
Total child population (%)	7.35	7.53	7.67	7.84	7.98	8.17	8.17
Absolute RDI	0.47	0.43	0.47	0.60	0.53	0.52	0.55

(continues)

**Indicator 4.E.2 (continued)**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	19.53	19.57	20.00	18.90	18.98	21.23	21.15
Total child population (%)	13.67	13.75	13.69	13.55	13.61	13.69	13.69
Absolute RDI	1.43	1.42	1.46	1.40	1.40	1.55	1.55
<b>White</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	73.76	76.92	73.92	76.81	74.79	73.07	72.16
Total child population (%)	76.65	76.39	76.16	76.13	75.87	75.52	75.52
Absolute RDI	0.96	1.01	0.97	1.01	0.99	0.97	0.96
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	3.82	*	3.14	1.94	3.22	2.33	2.33
Total child population (%)	4.63	*	4.91	5.03	5.15	5.29	5.29
Absolute RDI	0.83	*	0.64	0.39	0.62	0.44	0.44

*Note.* If the number of children is 20 or fewer, the RDI and the percentages used to compute the RDI are masked with an asterisk (\*) and are not reported.

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.E.3 Relative RDI for Children Who Entered Substitute Care**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Black</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	37.89	38.97	36.01	36.67	31.93	33.35	33.61
Children in investigations (%)	32.54	32.31	32.42	32.41	32.04	32.49	32.82
Relative RDI	1.16	1.21	1.11	1.13	1.00	1.03	1.02
<b>White</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	50.12	51.70	52.98	49.70	53.03	52.98	52.53
Children in investigations (%)	46.45	45.98	45.02	45.41	45.27	43.62	42.68
Relative RDI	1.08	1.12	1.18	1.10	1.17	1.21	1.23
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	9.14	6.49	7.86	10.61	11.57	10.55	9.32
Children in investigations (%)	17.46	17.96	18.54	18.10	18.22	19.13	19.52
Relative RDI	0.52	0.36	0.42	0.59	0.64	0.55	0.48

**Indicator 4.E.4 Relative RDI for Children Who Entered Substitute Care by Region**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	64.52	72.82	68.81	62.75	61.20	64.69	64.45
Children in investigations (%)	50.42	49.20	48.79	49.85	49.27	48.39	48.01
Relative RDI	1.28	1.48	1.41	1.26	1.24	1.34	1.34
<b>White</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	13.45	12.67	12.11	12.61	13.19	13.25	12.35
Children in investigations (%)	16.25	15.98	15.44	15.95	15.53	15.14	14.97
Relative RDI	0.83	0.79	0.78	0.79	0.85	0.88	0.83
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	19.97	12.07	17.24	22.79	23.85	19.88	19.76
Children in investigations (%)	29.45	30.81	31.04	29.50	29.99	31.06	31.52
Relative RDI	0.68	0.39	0.56	0.77	0.80	0.64	0.63
<b>Northern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	38.99	37.20	40.59	37.43	27.80	31.91	33.84
Children in investigations (%)	25.11	25.71	25.59	25.03	25.29	25.27	25.58
Relative RDI	1.55	1.45	1.59	1.50	1.10	1.26	1.32
<b>White</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	45.47	46.17	42.91	42.99	46.13	42.84	43.61
Children in investigations (%)	46.15	44.96	44.25	44.34	43.66	42.57	41.10
Relative RDI	0.99	1.03	0.97	0.97	1.06	1.01	1.06
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	12.13	13.13	13.65	16.43	21.61	22.41	18.30
Children in investigations (%)	24.85	24.85	25.86	26.18	26.18	26.93	27.76
Relative RDI	0.49	0.53	0.53	0.63	0.83	0.83	0.66
<b>Central</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	29.78	30.21	27.77	29.17	27.49	26.93	27.83
Children in investigations (%)	25.38	24.86	25.33	25.81	25.80	26.97	27.62
Relative RDI	1.17	1.22	1.10	1.13	1.07	1.00	1.01
<b>White</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	63.72	63.29	64.59	62.09	64.35	65.25	62.44
Children in investigations (%)	66.22	66.38	65.56	64.64	64.42	62.75	61.58
Relative RDI	0.96	0.95	0.99	0.96	1.00	1.04	1.01
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	3.42	3.25	3.58	4.68	4.19	4.26	4.47
Children in investigations (%)	5.13	5.50	5.58	5.99	6.01	6.17	6.37
Relative RDI	0.67	0.59	0.64	0.78	0.70	0.69	0.70

(continues)

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.E.4 (continued)**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	19.53	19.57	20.00	18.90	18.98	21.23	21.15
Children in investigations (%)	24.01	24.99	24.51	24.64	23.61	25.23	26.06
Relative RDI	0.81	0.78	0.82	0.77	0.80	0.84	0.81
<b>White</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	73.76	76.92	73.92	76.81	74.79	73.07	72.16
Children in investigations (%)	70.32	69.38	69.74	69.22	69.74	67.82	66.96
Relative RDI	1.05	1.11	1.06	1.11	1.07	1.08	1.08
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children entering substitute care (%)	3.82	*	3.14	1.94	3.22	2.33	2.33
Children in investigations (%)	2.92	*	2.87	2.97	3.31	3.31	3.15
Relative RDI	1.31	*	1.09	0.65	0.97	0.70	0.74

*Note.* If the number of children is 20 or fewer, the RDI and the percentages used to compute the RDI are masked with an asterisk (\*) and are not reported.

**Indicator 4.F.1 Relative RDI for Placement Instability**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Black</b>							
Children with three or more placements in their first year in care (%)	47.91	46.42	43.87	42.37	39.44	44.91	42.71
Children who entered substitute care (%)	37.79	38.72	36.15	36.83	32.20	33.32	33.91
Relative RDI	1.27	1.20	1.21	1.15	1.23	1.35	1.26
<b>White</b>							
Children with three or more placements in their first year in care (%)	41.22	43.62	44.92	44.07	48.18	41.07	44.53
Children who entered substitute care (%)	48.58	50.30	52.22	48.40	51.81	51.83	51.58
Relative RDI	0.85	0.87	0.86	0.91	0.93	0.79	0.86
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children with three or more placements in their first year in care (%)	7.89	7.16	8.33	10.83	10.41	10.17	8.07
Children who entered substitute care (%)	10.28	7.70	8.58	11.72	12.58	11.65	10.46
Relative RDI	0.77	0.93	0.97	0.92	0.83	0.87	0.77

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.F.2 Relative RDI for Placement Instability by Region**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children with three or more placements in their first year in care (%)	75.32	70.14	76.00	67.22	70.70	74.30	77.14
Children who entered substitute care (%)	63.84	72.07	68.08	62.47	60.43	64.29	64.45
Relative RDI	1.18	0.97	1.12	1.08	1.17	1.16	1.20
<b>White</b>							
Children with three or more placements in their first year in care (%)	*	13.54	9.20	11.92	*	13.97	*
Children who entered substitute care (%)	*	11.04	11.47	11.26	*	12.46	*
Relative RDI	*	1.23	0.80	1.06	*	1.12	*
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children with three or more placements in their first year in care (%)	14.89	14.93	12.80	19.21	19.54	*	*
Children who entered substitute care (%)	21.77	14.07	18.20	24.09	25.00	*	*
Relative RDI	0.68	1.06	0.70	0.80	0.78	*	*
<b>Northern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children with three or more placements in their first year in care (%)	39.86	49.32	47.39	43.37	37.27	37.71	40.74
Children who entered substitute care (%)	39.11	35.89	40.77	37.43	27.86	31.04	33.48
Relative RDI	1.02	1.37	1.16	1.16	1.34	1.22	1.22
<b>White</b>							
Children with three or more placements in their first year in care (%)	42.66	38.36	39.57	38.27	40.00	36.00	41.98
Children who entered substitute care (%)	42.17	44.86	41.48	40.66	44.33	41.17	41.47
Relative RDI	1.01	0.86	0.95	0.94	0.90	0.87	1.01
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children with three or more placements in their first year in care (%)	*	*	10.87	14.29	18.64	25.71	*
Children who entered substitute care (%)	*	*	14.81	18.83	23.28	24.94	*
Relative RDI	*	*	0.73	0.76	0.80	1.03	*

(continues)



**Indicator 4.F.2 (continued)**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Central</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children with three or more placements in their first year in care (%)	41.04	38.25	32.06	36.44	32.38	37.90	36.97
Children who entered substitute care (%)	29.84	30.54	28.33	29.57	28.32	27.45	28.27
Relative RDI	1.38	1.25	1.13	1.23	1.14	1.38	1.31
<b>White</b>							
Children with three or more placements in their first year in care (%)	51.47	58.60	58.82	54.80	62.86	53.68	51.52
Children who entered substitute care (%)	62.58	61.65	63.98	61.12	62.92	64.12	61.90
Relative RDI	0.82	0.95	0.92	0.90	1.00	0.84	0.83
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children with three or more placements in their first year in care (%)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Children who entered substitute care (%)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Relative RDI	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Southern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children with three or more placements in their first year in care (%)	26.97	18.29	22.32	15.71	20.38	32.93	*
Children who entered substitute care (%)	19.63	19.65	20.13	19.30	19.37	21.38	*
Relative RDI	1.37	0.93	1.11	0.81	1.05	1.54	*
<b>White</b>							
Children with three or more placements in their first year in care (%)	69.74	73.14	69.20	77.62	74.41	53.89	70.59
Children who entered substitute care (%)	73.14	76.09	73.29	75.87	74.39	72.09	72.01
Relative RDI	0.95	0.96	0.94	1.02	1.00	0.75	0.98
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children with three or more placements in their first year in care (%)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Children who entered substitute care (%)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Relative RDI	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Note. If the number of children is 20 or fewer, the RDI and the percentages used to compute the RDI are masked with an asterisk (\*) and are not reported.

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.G.1 Relative RDI for Children in Substitute Care 48 Months or More Before Exiting**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Black</b>							
Children in care in 48 or more months (%)	53.04	55.52	50.62	54.04	51.77	47.58	44.40
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	45.21	43.90	41.72	40.61	38.85	37.91	37.95
Relative RDI	1.17	1.27	1.21	1.33	1.33	1.26	1.17
<b>White</b>							
Children in care in 48 or more months (%)	37.65	33.33	38.50	33.92	35.23	38.45	43.30
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	43.76	45.29	47.45	47.58	48.18	48.63	48.36
Relative RDI	0.86	0.74	0.81	0.71	0.73	0.79	0.90
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in care in 48 or more months (%)	6.96	8.70	8.87	8.08	10.40	10.82	9.82
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	8.67	8.27	8.04	8.89	9.93	10.45	10.35
Relative RDI	0.80	1.05	1.10	0.91	1.05	1.04	0.95

**Indicator 4.G.2 Relative RDI for Children in Substitute Care 48 Months or More by Region**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in care in 48 or more months (%)	74.87	71.85	68.46	72.14	70.89	69.87	73.15
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	66.54	67.09	65.69	63.46	62.49	63.59	63.90
Relative RDI	1.13	1.07	1.04	1.14	1.13	1.10	1.15
<b>White</b>							
Children in care in 48 or more months (%)	14.36	13.09	15.39	12.86	12.13	10.67	11.33
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	16.79	16.78	18.33	19.07	18.53	16.46	15.89
Relative RDI	0.86	0.78	0.84	0.67	0.66	0.65	0.71
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in care in 48 or more months (%)	8.21	12.59	14.36	12.86	15.90	16.27	14.04
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	14.65	14.07	14.05	15.53	17.23	17.97	18.22
Relative RDI	0.56	0.90	1.02	0.83	0.92	0.91	0.77
<b>Northern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in care in 48 or more months (%)	44.93	41.57	37.27	54.68	42.40	40.28	36.88
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	41.53	40.31	41.21	40.83	36.51	35.26	35.03
Relative RDI	1.08	1.03	0.90	1.34	1.16	1.14	1.05
<b>White</b>							
Children in care in 48 or more months (%)	39.13	41.01	50.93	30.22	36.00	35.42	43.75
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	43.40	43.51	42.35	40.91	42.04	41.89	41.50
Relative RDI	0.90	0.94	1.20	0.74	0.86	0.85	1.05
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in care in 48 or more months (%)	13.53	12.36	*	*	16.80	20.14	17.50
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	12.19	12.89	*	*	17.69	19.51	19.99
Relative RDI	1.11	0.96	*	*	0.95	1.03	0.88
<b>Central</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in care in 48 or more months (%)	41.11	45.66	41.70	41.79	40.97	35.77	26.30
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	34.08	32.67	30.95	30.70	29.87	27.67	27.45
Relative RDI	1.21	1.40	1.35	1.36	1.37	1.29	0.96
<b>White</b>							
Children in care in 48 or more months (%)	54.44	51.60	52.47	47.02	52.42	60.16	64.29
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	60.22	61.24	62.42	61.78	62.35	64.25	63.99
Relative RDI	0.90	0.84	0.84	0.76	0.84	0.94	1.01
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in care in 48 or more months (%)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Relative RDI	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

(continues)

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.G.2 (continued)**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children in care in 48 or more months (%)	29.41	34.74	26.50	26.56	23.58	24.06	21.76
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	23.23	22.66	21.21	20.11	20.33	21.32	22.86
Relative RDI	1.27	1.53	1.25	1.32	1.16	1.13	0.95
<b>White</b>							
Children in care in 48 or more months (%)	65.36	63.16	71.80	70.31	72.36	67.91	73.15
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	72.67	73.52	73.92	75.19	74.09	73.24	71.37
Relative RDI	0.90	0.86	0.97	0.94	0.98	0.93	1.03
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children in care in 48 or more months (%)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Relative RDI	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

*Note.* If the number of children is 20 or fewer, the RDI and the percentages used to compute the RDI are masked with an asterisk (\*) and are not reported.

**Indicator 4.H.1 Relative RDI for Children Who Achieved Permanence**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Black</b>							
Children who achieved permanence (%)	40.80	41.48	37.42	35.88	36.00	33.19	33.94
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	45.21	43.90	41.72	40.61	38.85	37.91	37.95
Relative RDI	0.90	0.95	0.90	0.88	0.93	0.88	0.89
<b>White</b>							
Children who achieved permanence (%)	48.89	47.31	52.03	53.77	52.5	53.44	52.89
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	43.76	45.29	47.45	47.58	48.18	48.63	48.36
Relative RDI	1.12	1.04	1.10	1.13	1.09	1.10	1.09
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children who achieved permanence (%)	7.75	8.90	7.86	7.02	8.03	9.89	9.95
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	8.67	8.27	8.04	8.89	9.93	10.45	10.35
Relative RDI	0.9	1.08	0.98	0.79	0.81	0.95	0.96

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

**Indicator 4.H.2 Relative RDI for Children Who Achieved Permanence by Region**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children who achieved permanence (%)	68.08	66.17	64.78	67.80	66.70	62.93	65.71
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	66.54	67.09	65.69	63.46	62.49	63.59	63.90
Relative RDI	1.02	0.99	0.99	1.07	1.07	0.99	1.03
<b>White</b>							
Children who achieved permanence (%)	14.50	14.27	15.12	16.63	13.71	13.47	12.68
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	16.79	16.78	18.33	19.07	18.53	16.46	15.89
Relative RDI	0.86	0.85	0.83	0.87	0.74	0.82	0.80
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children who achieved permanence (%)	13.80	16.87	18.05	13.23	17.63	20.85	19.02
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	14.65	14.07	14.05	15.53	17.23	17.97	18.22
Relative RDI	0.94	1.20	1.29	0.85	1.02	1.16	1.04
<b>Northern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children who achieved permanence (%)	39.98	39.01	37.12	40.19	33.33	34.10	33.61
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	41.53	40.31	41.21	40.83	36.51	35.26	35.03
Relative RDI	0.96	0.97	0.90	0.98	0.91	0.97	0.96
<b>White</b>							
Children who achieved permanence (%)	45.07	45.98	48.03	42.04	48.65	44.67	40.79
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	43.40	43.51	42.35	40.91	42.04	41.89	41.50
Relative RDI	1.04	1.06	1.13	1.03	1.16	1.07	0.98
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children who achieved permanence (%)	12.76	12.33	11.47	13.94	14.01	17.21	22.10
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	12.19	12.89	13.06	14.80	17.69	19.51	19.99
Relative RDI	1.05	0.96	0.88	0.94	0.79	0.88	1.11
<b>Central</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children who achieved permanence (%)	34.07	33.36	29.65	28.09	35.23	28.07	26.38
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	34.08	32.67	30.95	30.70	29.87	27.67	27.45
Relative RDI	1.00	1.02	0.96	0.92	1.18	1.02	0.96
<b>White</b>							
Children who achieved permanence (%)	60.88	60.57	63.96	63.80	57.25	63.47	66.16
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	60.22	61.24	62.42	61.78	62.35	64.25	63.99
Relative RDI	1.01	0.99	1.03	1.03	0.92	0.99	1.03
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children who achieved permanence (%)	3.19	3.86	3.34	3.50	3.41	4.60	3.69
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	3.01	3.03	3.10	3.53	3.81	4.30	4.24
Relative RDI	1.06	1.28	1.08	0.99	0.90	1.07	0.87

(continues)

**Indicator 4.H.2 (continued)**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>							
<b>Black</b>							
Children who achieved permanence (%)	18.36	24.06	21.90	17.06	17.20	16.67	19.75
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	23.23	22.66	21.21	20.11	20.33	21.32	22.86
Relative RDI	0.79	1.06	1.03	0.85	0.85	0.78	0.86
<b>White</b>							
Children who achieved permanence (%)	76.63	71.91	74.53	79.96	76.75	77.50	75.80
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	72.67	73.52	73.92	75.19	74.09	73.24	71.37
Relative RDI	1.06	0.98	1.01	1.06	1.04	1.06	1.06
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>							
Children who achieved permanence (%)	*	*	*	*	2.95	2.96	1.93
Children in substitute care during the year (%)	*	*	*	*	2.76	2.57	2.35
Relative RDI	*	*	*	*	1.07	1.15	0.82

*Note.* If the number of children is 20 or fewer, the RDI and the percentages used to compute the RDI are masked with an asterisk (\*) and are not reported.







## Appendix D

# Child Population and Child Welfare Population Data

Appendix D provides Illinois child population data at the state and regional level for seven racial and ethnic groups of children. Illinois child population data were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>1,2</sup> The 2022 Illinois child population data were used to calculate racial disproportionality indices in FY2022 and FY2023.

Appendix D also provides the number and percentage of children ages 0-17 in these racial and ethnic groups who are involved in the Illinois child welfare system in the following areas:

- Investigations;
- Protective custodies;
- Indicated investigations;
- Substitute care entries; and
- Substitute care stays during the year.

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<sup>1</sup>The data source for the Illinois child population from FY2017-2019 was:  
U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. (2020). CC-EST2020-ALLDATA6-17: Annual county resident population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019. Retrieved from <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2010-2020/counties/asrh/>.

The data source for the Illinois child population from FY2020-2022 was:  
U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. (2023). CC-EST2022-ALLDATA-17: Annual county resident population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022. Retrieved from <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2020-2022/counties/asrh/>.

<sup>2</sup> Census data for children ages 0-17 were not available at the county level for all the racial/ethnic groups included in Chapter 4. Therefore, Census data for children ages 0-19 were used to compute the number and percentage of children in each racial/ethnic group in these tables.

These data were used for the indicators in Chapter 4 – Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality. Definitions for each of these indicators can be found in Appendix A. The data related to the Illinois child welfare system come from two Illinois DCFS data systems: the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and the Child and Youth Centered Information System (CYCIS). Both the SACWIS and the CYCIS data were extracted on December 31, 2023. Note that the numbers in the tables are rounded to two decimal places for display purposes.

**Table D.1 Illinois Child Population**

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	497,620	489,948	482,000	487,072	475,432	465,445	465,445
	<b>%</b>	15.43	15.38	15.33	15.33	15.31	15.31	15.31
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	1,660,629	1,632,177	1,603,986	1,606,480	1,564,092	1,523,865	1,523,865
	<b>%</b>	51.50	51.23	51.00	50.56	50.37	50.13	50.13
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	782,644	777,846	771,605	789,296	773,044	759,497	759,497
	<b>%</b>	24.27	24.41	24.53	24.84	24.90	24.98	24.98
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	169,625	171,199	172,009	176,343	174,402	173,346	173,346
	<b>%</b>	5.26	5.37	5.47	5.55	5.62	5.70	5.70
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	108,759	109,578	110,175	112,667	112,657	112,526	112,526
	<b>%</b>	3.37	3.44	3.50	3.55	3.63	3.70	3.70
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	4,579	4,507	4,472	4,445	4,349	4,264	4,264
	<b>%</b>	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	883	882	896	922	945	917	917
	<b>%</b>	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03

<sup>a</sup>The 2022 Illinois child population data were used to calculate the RDI for FY2022 and FY2023.

## CHILD POPULATION

Table D.2 Illinois Child Population by Region

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Cook</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	312,724	305,300	298,899	303,337	292,185	282,181	282,181
	<b>%</b>	24.66	24.42	24.25	24.02	23.87	23.74	23.74
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	391,885	386,710	381,705	390,460	379,132	368,782	368,782
	<b>%</b>	30.91	30.93	30.96	30.92	30.97	31.02	31.02
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	443,506	437,266	430,696	443,039	429,011	416,069	416,069
	<b>%</b>	34.98	34.98	34.94	35.09	35.04	35.00	35.00
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	82,760	83,443	83,817	86,656	84,895	83,190	83,190
	<b>%</b>	6.53	6.67	6.80	6.86	6.93	7.00	7.00
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	35,413	35,773	36,035	37,452	37,327	36,993	36,993
	<b>%</b>	2.79	2.86	2.92	2.97	3.05	3.11	3.11
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	1,497	1,492	1,475	1,514	1,450	1,376	1,376
	<b>%</b>	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	195	200	199	182	194	169	169
	<b>%</b>	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
<b>Northern</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	87,678	87,599	87,035	87,647	87,023	86,881	86,881
	<b>%</b>	7.92	8.00	8.06	8.10	8.21	8.34	8.34
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	625,999	611,947	597,768	592,835	574,970	557,560	557,560
	<b>%</b>	56.56	55.91	55.34	54.80	54.22	53.50	53.50
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	284,556	285,291	284,998	288,992	286,546	285,378	285,378
	<b>%</b>	25.71	26.07	26.39	26.71	27.02	27.38	27.38
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	68,671	69,648	70,187	71,864	71,881	72,704	72,704
	<b>%</b>	6.20	6.36	6.50	6.64	6.78	6.98	6.98
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	38,114	38,335	38,429	38,769	38,428	38,096	38,096
	<b>%</b>	3.44	3.50	3.56	3.58	3.62	3.66	3.66
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	1,436	1,415	1,412	1,382	1,351	1,323	1,323
	<b>%</b>	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	292	294	303	331	312	319	319
	<b>%</b>	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
<b>Central</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	57,375	57,317	56,960	57,242	57,803	58,284	58,284
	<b>%</b>	10.27	10.37	10.42	10.48	10.75	10.99	10.99
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	419,390	412,794	406,886	404,920	395,744	387,384	387,384
	<b>%</b>	75.08	74.72	74.46	74.15	73.58	73.01	73.01
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	41,081	41,580	41,888	42,831	42,933	43,342	43,342
	<b>%</b>	7.35	7.53	7.67	7.84	7.98	8.17	8.17
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	15,389	15,327	15,203	15,005	14,872	14,760	14,760
	<b>%</b>	2.75	2.77	2.78	2.75	2.77	2.78	2.78
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	24,038	24,154	24,218	24,775	25,147	25,440	25,440
	<b>%</b>	4.30	4.37	4.43	4.54	4.68	4.79	4.79
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	1,091	1,051	1,044	1,023	1,030	1,056	1,056
	<b>%</b>	0.20	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.20	0.20
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	243	247	252	271	307	299	299
	<b>%</b>	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.06

(continues)

Table D.2 (continued)

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Southern</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	39,843	39,732	39,106	38,846	38,421	38,099	38,099
	<b>%</b>	13.67	13.75	13.69	13.55	13.61	13.69	13.69
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	223,355	220,726	217,627	218,265	214,246	210,139	210,139
	<b>%</b>	76.65	76.39	76.16	76.13	75.87	75.52	75.52
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	13,501	13,709	14,023	14,434	14,554	14,708	14,708
	<b>%</b>	4.63	4.74	4.91	5.03	5.15	5.29	5.29
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	2,805	2,781	2,802	2,818	2,754	2,692	2,692
	<b>%</b>	0.96	0.96	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	11,194	11,316	11,493	11,671	11,755	11,997	11,997
	<b>%</b>	3.84	3.92	4.02	4.07	4.16	4.31	4.31
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	555	549	541	526	518	509	509
	<b>%</b>	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	153	141	142	138	132	130	130
	<b>%</b>	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05

<sup>a</sup> 2022 Illinois child population data were used to calculate the RDI for FY2022 and FY2023.

## CHILD WELFARE POPULATION

Table D.3 Children in Investigations

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Black	N	32,471	35,225	37,113	35,246	37,362	39,800	40,159
	%	32.52	32.33	32.43	32.43	32.06	32.47	32.82
White	N	46,394	50,085	51,490	49,328	52,762	53,452	52,221
	%	46.47	45.97	45.00	45.39	45.27	43.61	42.68
Latinx (any race)	N	17,432	19,564	21,217	19,667	21,233	23,453	23,878
	%	17.46	17.96	18.54	18.10	18.22	19.13	19.52
Asian American	N	1,180	1,401	1,543	1,419	1,609	1,876	1,834
	%	1.18	1.29	1.35	1.31	1.38	1.53	1.50
Multiracial	N	1,111	1,335	1,433	1,461	1,659	1,809	1,931
	%	1.11	1.23	1.25	1.34	1.42	1.48	1.58
Native American	N	69	95	101	82	95	79	102
	%	0.07	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.08
Pacific Islander	N	63	64	54	62	65	65	67
	%	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06

Table D.4 Children in Investigations by Region

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	14,933	15,815	16,924	15,768	16,397	17,339	17,285
	<b>%</b>	50.40	49.20	48.85	49.90	49.32	48.42	48.07
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	4,812	5,126	5,347	5,026	5,166	5,412	5,371
	<b>%</b>	16.24	15.95	15.43	15.91	15.54	15.11	14.94
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	8,727	9,904	10,753	9,324	9,969	11,121	11,336
	<b>%</b>	29.45	30.81	31.04	29.51	29.99	31.06	31.52
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	576	660	786	710	796	888	872
	<b>%</b>	1.94	2.05	2.27	2.25	2.39	2.48	2.43
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	179	196	222	235	238	244	278
	<b>%</b>	0.60	0.61	0.64	0.74	0.72	0.68	0.77
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	21	20	26	18	32	19	37
	<b>%</b>	0.07	0.06	0.08	0.06	0.10	0.05	0.10
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	8	21	13	15	27	18	15
	<b>%</b>	0.03	0.07	0.04	0.05	0.08	0.05	0.04
<b>Northern</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	6,897	7,777	8,141	7,687	8,421	9,051	9,028
	<b>%</b>	25.11	25.73	25.59	25.06	25.32	25.21	25.47
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	12,671	13,594	14,073	13,588	14,510	15,279	14,568
	<b>%</b>	46.13	44.97	44.23	44.29	43.62	42.56	41.10
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	6,827	7,512	8,224	8,031	8,712	9,663	9,836
	<b>%</b>	24.86	24.85	25.85	26.18	26.19	26.92	27.75
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	444	583	576	542	670	806	788
	<b>%</b>	1.62	1.93	1.81	1.77	2.01	2.25	2.22
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	286	359	366	404	475	496	532
	<b>%</b>	1.04	1.19	1.15	1.32	1.43	1.38	1.50
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	15	33	32	24	23	27	20
	<b>%</b>	0.06	0.11	0.10	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.06
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	16	19	22	26	16	20	29
	<b>%</b>	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.05	0.06	0.08
<b>Central</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	7,111	7,644	7,937	7,843	8,410	8,966	9,310
	<b>%</b>	25.46	24.94	25.43	25.89	25.80	26.97	27.61
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	18,514	20,350	20,448	19,568	20,994	20,856	20,799
	<b>%</b>	66.28	66.40	65.51	64.59	64.40	62.73	61.68
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	1,433	1,687	1,740	1,813	1,960	2,053	2,145
	<b>%</b>	5.13	5.50	5.57	5.98	6.01	6.18	6.36
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	121	122	145	129	115	145	152
	<b>%</b>	0.43	0.40	0.47	0.43	0.35	0.44	0.45
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	425	516	540	554	654	718	762
	<b>%</b>	1.52	1.68	1.73	1.83	2.01	2.16	2.26
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	20	29	33	36	30	26	31
	<b>%</b>	0.07	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.09	0.08	0.09
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	24	12	15	12	10	11	16
	<b>%</b>	0.09	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.05

(continues)

## CHILD WELFARE POPULATION

Table D.4 (continued)

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	3,540	3,955	4,050	3,934	4,061	4,399	4,474
	<b>%</b>	24.00	24.92	24.33	24.51	23.54	25.16	26.12
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	10,355	10,997	11,618	11,115	12,031	11,851	11,466
	<b>%</b>	70.21	69.29	69.79	69.26	69.73	67.79	66.93
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	431	442	477	477	570	579	540
	<b>%</b>	2.92	2.79	2.87	2.97	3.30	3.31	3.15
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	32	37	39	39	38	40	38
	<b>%</b>	0.22	0.23	0.23	0.24	0.22	0.23	0.22
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	221	259	267	263	295	332	362
	<b>%</b>	1.50	1.63	1.60	1.64	1.71	1.90	2.11
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	13	18	12	9	10	12	13
	<b>%</b>	0.09	0.11	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.08
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	16	10	5	10	11	17	7
	<b>%</b>	0.11	0.06	0.03	0.06	0.06	0.10	0.04



**Table D.5 Children in Protective Custodies**

		<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	1,865	2,180	2,367	2,682	2,276	2,019	1,840
	<b>%</b>	39.55	40.30	37.91	37.22	32.04	34.41	33.80
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	2,177	2,650	3,071	3,447	3,666	2,963	2,781
	<b>%</b>	46.16	48.98	49.19	47.84	51.61	50.49	51.08
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	518	418	618	846	909	692	611
	<b>%</b>	10.98	7.73	9.90	11.74	12.80	11.79	11.22
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	22	25	18	39	41	32	24
	<b>%</b>	0.47	0.46	0.29	0.54	0.58	0.55	0.44
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	111	117	138	151	172	137	158
	<b>%</b>	2.35	2.16	2.21	2.10	2.42	2.34	2.90
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	7	1	4	4	10	3	1
	<b>%</b>	0.15	0.02	0.06	0.06	0.14	0.05	0.02
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	3	2	1	0	6	1	0
	<b>%</b>	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.00

## CHILD WELFARE POPULATION

Table D.6 Children in Protective Custodies by Region

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	856	1,067	989	1,115	751	673	573
	<b>%</b>	66.41	70.62	64.73	63.28	58.13	63.07	59.38
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	141	186	192	204	182	135	115
	<b>%</b>	10.94	12.31	12.57	11.58	14.09	12.65	11.92
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	264	227	320	391	325	225	240
	<b>%</b>	20.48	15.02	20.94	22.19	25.16	21.09	24.87
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	9	11	8	21	20	16	11
	<b>%</b>	0.70	0.73	0.52	1.19	1.55	1.50	1.14
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	12	14	13	21	9	9	16
	<b>%</b>	0.93	0.93	0.85	1.19	0.70	0.84	1.66
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	3	0	1	3	1	0	0
	<b>%</b>	0.23	0.00	0.07	0.17	0.08	0.00	0.00
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
	<b>%</b>	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00
<b>Northern</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	331	332	465	476	545	467	407
	<b>%</b>	41.27	38.16	40.97	34.05	29.72	33.69	34.58
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	333	333	436	573	789	534	468
	<b>%</b>	41.52	41.52	38.41	40.99	43.02	38.53	39.76
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	248	127	202	292	430	333	248
	<b>%</b>	21.07	14.60	17.80	20.89	23.45	24.03	21.07
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	15	13	7	10	17	11	15
	<b>%</b>	1.27	1.49	0.62	0.72	0.93	0.79	1.27
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	12	22	22	41	45	33	32
	<b>%</b>	1.30	2.53	1.94	2.93	2.45	2.38	2.72
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
	<b>%</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.14	0.00
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	<b>%</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00
<b>Central</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	460	573	650	806	722	629	653
	<b>%</b>	28.63	29.39	28.24	29.69	28.45	28.62	29.59
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	1,014	1,231	1,456	1,655	1,592	1,383	1,348
	<b>%</b>	63.10	63.13	63.25	60.96	62.73	62.92	61.08
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	70	72	72	153	125	114	114
	<b>%</b>	4.36	3.69	3.69	5.64	4.93	5.19	5.17
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	8	2	5	8	8	8	1
	<b>%</b>	0.50	0.10	0.22	0.30	0.30	0.36	0.05
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	45	65	77	74	79	56	82
	<b>%</b>	2.80	3.33	3.35	2.73	3.11	2.55	3.72
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	4	0	3	1	8	0	1
	<b>%</b>	0.25	0.00	0.13	0.04	0.32	0.00	0.05
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	1	2	1	0	0	1	0
	<b>%</b>	0.06	0.10	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00

(continues)

Table D.6 (continued)

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	191	245	332	289	306	319	269
	<b>%</b>	21.93	20.54	22.18	20.10	19.62	22.88	20.95
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	614	906	1,076	1,088	1,156	991	938
	<b>%</b>	70.49	75.94	71.88	75.66	74.10	71.09	73.05
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	42	20	56	33	47	47	36
	<b>%</b>	4.82	1.68	3.74	2.30	3.01	3.01	2.80
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
	<b>%</b>	0.00	0.08	0.07	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	20	17	26	19	41	39	31
	<b>%</b>	2.30	1.43	1.74	1.32	2.63	2.80	2.41
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
	<b>%</b>	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
	<b>%</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.00

CHILD WELFARE POPULATION

**Table D.7 Children in Indicated Investigations**

		<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	9,593	10,880	11,275	12,366	12,668	10,801	10,495
	<b>%</b>	32.80	33.59	33.34	34.31	33.19	32.66	32.57
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	13,684	15,049	15,409	15,829	16,537	14,395	14,166
	<b>%</b>	46.79	46.46	45.57	43.91	43.33	43.53	43.97
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	5,124	5,495	6,099	6,732	7,558	6,620	6,276
	<b>%</b>	17.52	16.97	18.04	18.68	19.80	20.02	19.48
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	247	264	312	355	432	373	362
	<b>%</b>	0.85	0.82	0.92	0.99	1.13	1.13	1.12
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	399	467	459	514	625	581	572
	<b>%</b>	1.36	1.44	1.36	1.43	1.64	1.76	1.78
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	26	25	34	22	38	14	19
	<b>%</b>	0.09	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.10	0.04	0.06
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	15	13	6	18	18	12	17
	<b>%</b>	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.05

Table D.8 Children in Indicated Investigations by Region

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>								
<b>Black</b>	N	3,921	4,750	5,016	5,637	5,331	4,035	3,714
	%	50.65	52.26	51.33	53.18	50.41	48.30	48.73
<b>White</b>	N	1,133	1,285	1,383	1,455	1,489	1,134	995
	%	14.64	14.14	14.15	13.73	14.08	13.57	13.06
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	N	2,439	2,814	3,068	3,171	3,333	2,856	2,605
	%	31.51	30.96	31.40	29.92	31.52	34.19	34.18
<b>Asian American</b>	N	128	122	164	177	225	173	155
	%	1.65	1.34	1.68	1.67	2.13	2.07	2.03
<b>Multiracial</b>	N	55	52	59	83	72	59	56
	%	0.71	0.57	0.60	0.78	0.68	0.71	0.74
<b>Native American</b>	N	9	7	17	5	16	3	5
	%	0.12	0.08	0.17	0.05	0.15	0.04	0.07
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	N	3	2	1	3	6	1	4
	%	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.06	0.01	0.05
<b>Northern</b>								
<b>Black</b>	N	2,016	2,120	2,425	2,592	3,023	2,777	2,611
	%	26.97	26.96	28.22	27.03	26.68	28.24	27.81
<b>White</b>	N	3,195	3,437	3,517	3,886	4,493	3,664	3,571
	%	42.74	43.71	40.93	40.52	39.66	37.26	38.03
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	N	2,038	2,023	2,364	2,785	3,367	2,998	2,806
	%	27.26	25.73	27.51	29.04	29.72	30.49	29.88
<b>Asian American</b>	N	80	98	106	108	170	158	163
	%	1.07	1.25	1.23	1.13	1.50	1.61	1.74
<b>Multiracial</b>	N	94	133	109	143	190	159	133
	%	1.26	1.69	1.27	1.49	1.68	1.62	1.42
<b>Native American</b>	N	3	5	4	8	4	6	1
	%	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.08	0.04	0.06	0.01
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	N	4	7	4	4	3	5	9
	%	0.05	0.09	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.10
<b>Central</b>								
<b>Black</b>	N	2,593	2,783	2,643	3,098	3,163	2,849	2,978
	%	28.26	26.90	26.10	28.71	29.08	29.26	29.84
<b>White</b>	N	5,846	6,719	6,668	6,690	6,644	5,934	5,900
	%	63.71	64.94	65.86	62.00	61.08	60.94	59.11
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	N	486	523	510	631	690	597	706
	%	5.30	5.06	5.04	5.85	6.34	6.13	7.07
<b>Asian American</b>	N	33	33	33	57	35	27	31
	%	0.36	0.32	0.33	0.53	0.32	0.28	0.31
<b>Multiracial</b>	N	167	222	190	240	262	249	260
	%	1.82	2.15	1.88	2.22	2.41	2.56	2.61
<b>Native American</b>	N	7	9	10	10	12	3	8
	%	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.11	0.03	0.08
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	N	6	3	1	7	2	1	3
	%	0.07	0.03	0.01	0.07	0.02	0.01	0.03

(continues)

## CHILD WELFARE POPULATION

Table D.8 (continued)

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	1,056	1,203	1,182	1,018	1,127	1,141	1,198
	<b>%</b>	21.81	23.65	22.27	20.16	20.99	22.23	22.92
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	3,519	3,641	3,844	3,782	3,908	3,673	3,697
	<b>%</b>	72.68	71.59	72.42	74.91	72.78	71.57	70.73
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	157	133	148	135	165	166	159
	<b>%</b>	3.24	2.62	2.79	2.67	3.07	3.24	3.04
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	6	5	9	7	4	12	6
	<b>%</b>	0.12	0.10	0.17	0.14	0.07	0.23	0.12
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	68	73	89	75	116	105	126
	<b>%</b>	1.40	1.44	1.68	1.49	2.16	2.05	2.41
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	6	5	2	0	5	1	5
	<b>%</b>	0.12	0.10	0.04	0.00	0.09	0.02	0.10
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	2	1	0	3	7	4	1
	<b>%</b>	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.06	0.13	0.08	0.02

Table D.9 Children Who Entered Substitute Care

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	1,795	2,222	2,322	2,707	2,264	1,915	1,876
	<b>%</b>	37.89	38.97	36.01	36.67	31.93	33.35	33.61
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	2,374	2,948	3,416	3,669	3,760	3,042	2,932
	<b>%</b>	50.12	51.70	52.98	49.70	53.03	52.98	52.53
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	433	370	507	783	820	606	520
	<b>%</b>	9.14	6.49	7.86	10.61	11.57	10.55	9.32
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	15	22	15	27	32	26	19
	<b>%</b>	0.32	0.39	0.23	0.37	0.45	0.45	0.34
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	93	102	140	142	171	138	172
	<b>%</b>	1.96	1.79	2.17	1.92	2.41	2.40	3.08
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	4	4	4	7	7	4	2
	<b>%</b>	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.04
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	2	0	1	1	10	0	2
	<b>%</b>	0.04	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.14	0.00	0.04

## CHILD WELFARE POPULATION

Table D.10 Children Who Entered Substitute Care by Region

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	753	983	858	1,115	798	654	600
	<b>%</b>	64.52	72.82	68.81	62.75	61.20	64.69	64.45
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	157	171	151	224	172	134	115
	<b>%</b>	13.45	12.67	12.11	12.61	13.19	13.25	12.35
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	233	163	215	405	311	201	184
	<b>%</b>	19.97	12.07	17.24	22.79	23.85	19.88	19.76
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	4	11	6	14	15	11	10
	<b>%</b>	0.34	0.82	0.48	0.79	1.15	1.09	1.07
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	14	13	10	8	3	9	8
	<b>%</b>	1.20	0.96	0.80	0.45	0.23	0.89	0.86
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
	<b>%</b>	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
	<b>%</b>	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00
<b>Northern</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	331	340	455	499	449	403	381
	<b>%</b>	38.99	37.20	40.59	37.43	27.80	31.91	33.84
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	386	422	481	573	745	541	491
	<b>%</b>	45.47	46.17	42.91	42.99	46.13	42.84	43.61
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	103	120	153	219	349	283	206
	<b>%</b>	12.13	13.13	13.65	16.43	21.61	22.41	18.30
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	5	9	3	5	13	8	8
	<b>%</b>	0.59	0.99	0.27	0.38	0.81	0.63	0.71
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	21	16	22	32	48	25	24
	<b>%</b>	2.47	1.75	1.96	2.40	2.97	1.98	2.13
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	0	1	0	2	1	1	1
	<b>%</b>	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.15	0.06	0.08	0.09
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	0	0	0	0	4	0	2
	<b>%</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.18
<b>Central</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	522	642	690	811	728	575	623
	<b>%</b>	29.78	30.21	27.77	29.17	27.49	26.93	27.83
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	1,117	1,345	1,605	1,726	1,704	1,393	1,398
	<b>%</b>	63.72	63.29	64.59	62.09	64.35	65.25	62.44
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	60	69	89	130	111	91	100
	<b>%</b>	3.42	3.25	3.58	4.68	4.19	4.26	4.47
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	6	2	5	6	4	7	1
	<b>%</b>	0.34	0.09	0.20	0.22	0.15	0.33	0.05
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	37	56	75	78	83	63	100
	<b>%</b>	2.11	2.64	3.02	2.81	3.13	2.95	4.47
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	3	0	4	3	6	2	1
	<b>%</b>	0.17	0.00	0.16	0.11	0.23	0.09	0.05
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
	<b>%</b>	0.06	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00

(continues)



Table D.10 (continued)

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	189	257	319	282	289	283	272
	<b>%</b>	19.53	19.57	20.00	18.90	18.98	21.23	21.15
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	714	1,010	1,179	1,146	1,139	974	928
	<b>%</b>	73.76	76.92	73.92	76.81	74.79	73.07	72.16
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	37	18	50	29	49	31	30
	<b>%</b>	3.82	1.37	3.14	1.94	3.22	2.33	2.33
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
	<b>%</b>	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	21	17	33	24	37	41	40
	<b>%</b>	2.17	1.30	2.07	1.61	2.43	3.08	3.11
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	0	3	0	0	0	1	0
	<b>%</b>	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
	<b>%</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.00

## CHILD WELFARE POPULATION

**Table D.11 Children in Substitute Care During the Year**

		<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	8,618	8,675	8,864	9,511	9,899	9,542	16,771
	<b>%</b>	45.21	43.90	41.72	40.61	38.85	37.91	37.95
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	8,343	8,951	10,082	11,143	12,276	12,240	21,371
	<b>%</b>	43.76	45.29	47.45	47.58	48.18	48.63	48.36
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	1,652	1,634	1,709	2,083	2,529	2,629	4,574
	<b>%</b>	8.67	8.27	8.04	8.89	9.93	10.45	10.35
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	49	62	56	65	86	88	132
	<b>%</b>	0.26	0.31	0.26	0.28	0.34	0.35	0.30
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	223	284	373	442	517	531	1,060
	<b>%</b>	1.17	1.44	1.76	1.89	2.03	2.11	2.40
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	24	24	23	28	29	28	40
	<b>%</b>	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.09
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	6	4	4	2	12	9	14
	<b>%</b>	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.05	0.04	0.03

Table D.12 Children in Substitute Care During the Year by Region

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Cook</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	4,514	4,529	4,451	4,719	4,773	4,558	7,903
	<b>%</b>	66.54	67.09	65.69	63.46	62.49	63.59	63.90
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	1,139	1,133	1,242	1,418	1,415	1,180	1,965
	<b>%</b>	16.79	16.78	18.33	19.07	18.53	16.46	15.89
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	994	950	952	1,155	1,316	1,288	2,253
	<b>%</b>	14.65	14.07	14.05	15.53	17.23	17.97	18.22
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	19	23	21	30	47	45	77
	<b>%</b>	0.28	0.34	0.31	0.40	0.62	0.63	0.62
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	36	54	61	63	48	59	100
	<b>%</b>	0.53	0.80	0.90	0.85	0.63	0.82	0.81
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	9	5	3	4	2	3	1
	<b>%</b>	0.13	0.07	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.01
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	3	2	2	0	1	1	0
	<b>%</b>	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
<b>Northern</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	1,424	1,345	1,401	1,512	1,544	1,520	2,547
	<b>%</b>	41.53	40.31	41.21	40.83	36.51	35.26	35.03
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	1,488	1,452	1,440	1,515	1,778	1,806	3,017
	<b>%</b>	43.40	43.51	42.35	40.91	42.04	41.89	41.50
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	418	430	444	548	748	841	1,453
	<b>%</b>	12.19	12.89	13.06	14.80	17.69	19.51	19.99
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	18	27	19	15	20	21	29
	<b>%</b>	0.53	0.81	0.56	0.41	0.47	0.49	0.40
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	45	48	60	76	105	101	169
	<b>%</b>	1.31	1.44	1.77	2.05	2.48	2.34	2.33
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	7	10	9	11	9	9	11
	<b>%</b>	0.20	0.30	0.27	0.30	0.21	0.21	0.15
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	0	0	0	0	4	2	7
	<b>%</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.05	0.10
<b>Central</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	1,960	1,987	2,110	2,348	2,551	2,377	4,232
	<b>%</b>	34.08	32.67	30.95	30.70	29.87	27.67	27.45
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	3,464	3,725	4,256	4,725	5,325	5,520	9,867
	<b>%</b>	60.22	61.24	62.42	61.78	62.35	64.25	63.99
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	173	184	211	270	325	369	653
	<b>%</b>	3.01	3.03	3.10	3.53	3.81	4.30	4.24
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	12	12	15	17	17	22	26
	<b>%</b>	0.21	0.20	0.22	0.22	0.20	0.26	0.17
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	102	138	178	225	256	253	544
	<b>%</b>	1.77	2.27	2.61	2.94	3.00	2.95	3.53
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	7	5	7	9	15	15	28
	<b>%</b>	0.12	0.08	0.10	0.12	0.18	0.18	0.18
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	3	2	1	2	3	2	0
	<b>%</b>	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.00

(continues)

## CHILD WELFARE POPULATION

Table D.12 (continued)

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Southern</b>								
<b>Black</b>	<b>N</b>	720	814	902	932	1,031	1,087	2,089
	<b>%</b>	23.23	22.66	21.21	20.11	20.33	21.32	22.86
<b>White</b>	<b>N</b>	2,252	2,641	3,144	3,485	3,758	3,734	6,522
	<b>%</b>	72.67	73.52	73.92	75.19	74.09	73.24	71.37
<b>Latinx (any race)</b>	<b>N</b>	67	70	102	110	140	131	215
	<b>%</b>	2.16	1.95	2.40	2.37	2.76	2.57	2.35
<b>Asian American</b>	<b>N</b>	0	0	1	3	2	0	0
	<b>%</b>	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.07	0.04	0.00	0.00
<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>N</b>	40	44	74	78	108	118	247
	<b>%</b>	1.29	1.23	1.74	1.68	2.13	2.32	2.70
<b>Native American</b>	<b>N</b>	1	4	4	4	3	1	0
	<b>%</b>	0.03	0.11	0.09	0.09	0.06	0.02	0.00
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>N</b>	0	0	1	0	4	4	7
	<b>%</b>	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.08	0.08	0.08



## Appendix E

# Data Adjustments

Appendix E describes four data adjustments made to indicators in this year's *B.H.* monitoring report. They are:

- 1) Corrections to the calculation of months for legal permanence indicators (Chapter 3);
- 2) Corrections to the calculation of years for permanency stability indicators (Chapter 3);
- 3) Adjustments in the definition of re-entry to substitute care indicators (Chapter 3); and
- 4) Changes to the indicator for racial disproportionality in legal permanence (Chapter 4).

### 1. Corrections to Calculation of Months in the Legal Permanence Indicators

Several indicators in Chapter 3 examine the percentage of children who achieve legal permanence through reunification (Indicators 3.A.1-3.A.3), adoption (Indicators 3.C.1 and 3.C.2), and guardianship (Indicators 3.E.1 and 3.E.2). These indicators examine the percentage of children who achieve each type of permanence within 12 (reunification only), 24, and 36 months to monitor the timeliness of permanence.

A rounding issue was discovered in the calculation of the number of months it took for a child to achieve legal permanence. The formula was incorrectly rounding down some periods of time to the nearest month, which impacted the number and percentage of children to achieve reunification, adoption, and guardianship within 12, 24, and 36 months. For example, if it took a child 12 months and 20 days to achieve reunification, the formula rounded it down to 12 months. Therefore, the child would be considered to have achieved reunification within 12 months even though they actually achieved it in the 13<sup>th</sup> month. Consequently, the percentages of children who exited substitute care and achieved reunification, adoption, and guardianship were slightly overestimated in prior reports. The new formula corrects this rounding issue.

### 2. Corrections to Calculation of Years in the Permanency Stability Indicators

A similar rounding issue was identified in the calculation of the permanency stability indicators; specifically those used to calculate the stability of children's reunifications (Indicators 3.B.1-3.B.3), adoptions (Indicators 3.D.1-3.D.3), and guardianships (Indicators 3.F.1-3.F.3) after 2, 5, and 10 years (i.e., 24, 60, and 120 months). The formula converted years to months and then rounded the results to determine if a child's placement was stable for 2, 5, and 10 years. A rounding issue occurred which added a month to the stability criteria. For example, a child would have to remain in a placement for 25 months to be considered stable at 2 years/24 months. Consequently, the formula was under-counting the number and percentage of children who remained stable in their placements. The new formula corrects this rounding issue.

### 3. Adjustments to Re-Entry to Substitute Care Indicators

One of the CFSR Round 4 amendments was not to exclude children in care whose foster care episode(s) lasted less than eight days.<sup>1</sup> Based on this change, we modified who was excluded from Indicator 3.J (Re-Entry to Substitute Care Among Children in Care Less Than 12 Months). The numerator for this CFSR measure is the number of children who re-entered substitute care within 12 months of discharge (see Appendix A for the definition of this indicator). Prior to FY2024, those who re-entered foster care and stayed seven or fewer days were excluded from the numerator. For the FY2024 report, this exclusion was no longer applied. The same change was made to the other two indicators related to re-entry: 3.K (Re-Entry to Substitute Care

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau. (August, 2021). *Child and Family Services Review Technical Bulletin #13A*. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cfsr-technical-bulletin-13.pdf>

Among Children in Care 12 to 23 Months) and 3.L (Re-Entry to Substitute Care Among Children in Care 24 Months or More).

#### **4. Changes to Indicators of Racial Disproportionality in Legal Permanence**

The indicators related to legal permanence were changed in Chapter 4—Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality. In the FY2023 *B.H.* monitoring report, we reported the relative RDIs for the three permanency types (reunification, adoption, and guardianship) separately. However, the number of children who achieved permanence through guardianship was very small, particularly for Latinx children. This meant that RDI could not be calculated for this indicator in any region except for Cook. Therefore, the three types of permanence were combined into a single Indicator 4.H—Children Who Achieved Permanence.



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