# An Analysis Of Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality and Disparity at the National, State, and County Levels

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# ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

In 2004, the Casey-CSSP Alliance for Racial Equity in Child Welfare was established to develop and implement a national, multiyear campaign to address racial disparities and reduce the disproportionate representation of children from certain racial or ethnic communities in the nation's child welfare system.

The Alliance includes the Annie E. Casey Foundation and its direct service agency, Casey Family Services, Casey Family Programs, the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, the Marguerite Casey Foundation, the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP), and parents and alumni of foster care. The Race Matters Consortium and Black Administrators in Child Welfare (BACW) are also partners in this work.

The efforts of the Alliance to reduce disparities and the disproportionate number of children and youth of color in the care of child welfare agencies are ultimately aimed at improving the outcomes for all children in care by:

• Learning what works to achieve race equity in child welfare services, in partnership with states and local communities

• Developing and disseminating new knowledge to the field

• Promoting effective federal and state policy through education about policy options

• Designing and implementing data collection, research, and evaluation methods that document evidence-based practices and strategies

• Ensuring that birth parents and foster youth and alumni are leaders in helping child welfare agencies achieve race equity in child welfare services and programs

**For more information, go to www.cssp.org/major_initiatives/racialEquity.html.**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Disproportionality[1] and the disparate treatment[2] of children of color in the child welfare system is a phenomenon that is gaining a great deal of attention today. Previous analyses have shown us that black children are overrepresented in the child welfare system in every state. Native American/American Indian[3] and Alaska Native children are all overrepresented in the jurisdictions in which they reside. Hispanic children are overrepresented in more than 10 states, and their representation in the child welfare system is on the rise.[4] At the same time, Asian/Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander children tend to be underrepresented in the child welfare system. While a significant body of research has been executed to better understand this phenomenon for black children in the child welfare system, many questions remain. Additionally, much less work has been done to understand what is going on for children of other racial and ethnic groups in this country.[5]

This study expands the knowledge of this phenomenon in the field of child welfare through the further examination of racial and ethnic disproportionality and disparities for children within five racial and ethnic groups at the national, state, and county levels:

- American Indians/Native Americans/Alaska Natives

- Asian Americans/Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders

- Blacks

- Hispanics

- Whites

Through an analysis of child welfare system participation using two national data sets, the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), the participation of children by race and ethnicity is examined at the following three child protection decision-making stages: child protection investigations (investigation), substantiated investigations (substantiation), and placement into foster care (placement).

Two measures were used for the analysis: the disproportionality rate[6] and the disparity ratio.[7] The former compares children within a race or ethnic group, and the latter compares the information across racial and ethnic groups to better understand how the representation of one group compares to another.

### DISPROPORTIONALITY RATES AND DISPARITY RATIOS: THE NATIONAL PICTURE

This study confirms that both black children and Native American children are overrepresented disproportionately within the foster care system at the national level. This disproportionality is seen at each of the three decision-making stages outlined above. Both groups have been observed at twice their representation in the general population at both investigation and substantiation, and two to three times their proportion in the general population while they

are in care. The treatment of both black and Native American children also shows increasing disparities compared to the treatment of white children as they progress through gateways into the child welfare system, with the disparity ratios of Native American children increasing to a much higher rate than black children. This can be compared to Asian/Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and white children who are each disproportionately represented at lower rates at each of the decision stages than they are in the general population. Interestingly, children of all racial and ethnic groups, except white children, have increasing percentages of representation at progressive stages, whereas the proportion of white children decreases as they advance farther into the decision-making stages of the child welfare system.

## STATE- AND COUNTY-LEVEL ANALYSES OF DISPROPORTIONALITY RATES AND DISPARITY RATIOS

County-level data were analyzed for five counties in which promising practices to reduce racial disproportionality and promote racial equity were identified in a national scan commissioned by the Casey-CSSP Alliance for Racial Equity in Child Welfare[8]:

- Bexar County, Texas

- Guilford County, North Carolina

- King County, Washington

- Ramsey County, Minnesota

- Wake County, North Carolina

State-level data were gathered for these four states, providing a vehicle for observing similarities and differences in racial disproportionality at each of the levels of data collection.

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# INTRODUCTION

The primary objective of this study is to describe disproportional representation and disparate treatment across racial/ethnic groups for children who make contact with the child welfare system at various child protection decision-making stages. Toward this purpose, analyses were conducted at the national, state, and county levels using the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data sets for 2003, the latest year available for this analysis. The scope and utility of each data set will now be briefly described.

### NCANDS

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System is a child abuse and neglect reporting program based on state participation. It was designed in response to the Child Abuse Prevention, Adoption and Family Services Act of 1988, which created Section 6 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and required the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) to establish a national data collection and analysis program on child maltreatment. Consequently, the NCANDS has become a primary source of national information on abused and neglected children reported to state child protective service agencies. Unfortunately, since reporting is not mandatory, the NCANDS received reports from only 22 states and the District of Columbia in 2003. Findings from the NCANDS data are published by the U. S. Children's Bureau each year in its *Child Maltreatment* report series.

The NCANDS is a cross-sectional database that is composed of three files: the Child File, the Agency File, and the Summary Data Component. The present analysis is based on the Child File, which includes case-level data on all children who have received a disposition from an investigation or assessment for allegations of maltreatment during the reporting year. The Child File represents a census of all child protective services investigations or assessments conducted in the states that contributed to the NCANDS. Investigations or assessments for 1.4 million child abuse and neglect referrals that had a disposition between January 1, 2003, and December 31, 2003, are included in this data set. Since the NCANDS is one of the few nationwide data sets to collect data at the early decision-making stages of the CPS maltreatment processes, we have incorporated into this analysis two NCANDS data elements: investigation and substantiation.

### AFCARS

In 1986 Congress approved an amendment to Title IV-E of the Social Security Act requiring the establishment of an advisory committee charged with preparing a report to Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with recommendations for establishing, administering, and financing a system for collecting data on adoption and foster care in the United States. The advisory committee submitted a final report detailing recommendations for a mandatory system that would collect data on all children placed in foster care and adoption. On September 27, 1990, HHS published a proposed federal regulation to

implement the data collection system, which has become known as the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). On December 22, 1993, the final rule implementing AFCARS appeared in the *Federal Register*.

The purpose of AFCARS is twofold. First, it is designed to address policy development and program management issues at both the state and federal levels. Second, the data are useful for research aimed at analyzing various characteristics of children and families in foster care and adoption. However, since AFCARS must rely on states to provide their data, it suffers from a number of imperfections in the quality of the data collected. For example, states submit data elements according to terms and concepts that are defined or classified very differently from state to state. Another major weakness of AFCARS is that it provides only cross-sectional data on foster and adopted children. In fact, the Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSRs) have been widely criticized for requiring states to use point-in-time AF-CARS data, when longitudinal data provides more appropriate measures of performance. Nevertheless, significant improvement in data quality and completeness occurred after 1998 as states enhanced their information systems and more financial penalties were levied for poor quality data. Most importantly, a major advantage of AFCARS is that, as a mandatory reporting system, it has been obtaining data from all states in recent years. For example, in 2003, AFCARS received reports from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

AFCARS makes available data in two files: an adoption file and a foster care file. Under the final AFCARS rule, states are required to collect case-specific data on all adopted children who were placed by the state child welfare agency, by private agencies under contract with the public welfare agency, or by private adoptions voluntarily reported during the given reporting period. States are also required to provide case-level information for all children in foster care for whom the state child welfare agency has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision, regardless of eligibility for Title IV-E funds. Because this analysis focuses on the 800,000 children who were in foster care during 2003, it incorporates the AFCARS data element of foster care placement. In sum, this study focuses on racial/ethnic dispropor-tionality and disparity at three child protection decision-making stages: 1) investigation, 2) substantiation (from the NCANDS), and 3) placement into foster care (from AFCARS).[9]

# METHODOLOGY

**Racial/Ethnic Groups**. This study examines disproportionality and disparity among five racial/ethnic groups: whites, blacks, American Indians/Alaskan Natives, Asians/Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics. Since the Census Bureau classifies Hispanics as solely an ethnic group, however, they are also included within the four racial groups as per the Census. In order to merge the two groups into one race/ethnic measure that eliminates double-counting we have removed the Hispanics from each of the four racial groups and considered them as a separate ethnic category. Consequently, this analysis focuses on the following five racial/ethnic groups: non-Hispanic whites; non-Hispanics blacks; non-Hispanic American Indians/Alaskan Natives; non-Hispanic Asians/Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders; and all Hispanics. Although we will use the short-hand terms of whites, blacks, American Indians, and Asians and Pacific Islanders in this study, it should be understood that we are actually referring to whites, blacks, Native Americans/Alaskan Natives, and Asians/Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders who are *non-Hispanic.*

**Level of Analysis**. These analyses will be conducted at several levels of geography. The first level will be nationwide in order to provide national-level data on disproportionality and disparity for the five racial/ethnic groups at the different decision-making stages. While the NCANDS, unlike AFCARS, does not have data from all of the states, its aggregate totals for 22 states will be treated as nationally representative for the purposes of this analysis, since it includes many states with sizable numbers of children in the child welfare system. Selected states comprise the second level of analysis, and selected counties the third level.

We were able to obtain data from the NCANDS and AFCARS for five counties in which promising practices were identified through a national scan by the Casey-CSSP Alliance: Ramsey County, Minnesota; King County, Washington; Guilford and Wake Counties, North Carolina; and Bexar County, Texas.[9] Consequently, our analysis will focus on the four states (Minnesota, Washington, North Carolina, and Texas) in which these five counties are located. The key cities in each of those five counties appear in Table A below. Other promising-practices sites identified in the scan included the state of Illinois; San Francisco City and County; Sioux City, Iowa; and the state of Michigan. Unfortunately, this study was not able to examine disproportionality for these other promising-practices sites because not all of these data were available at the time of the analysis. Some of these data were unavailable for Guilford County, North Carolina, and Woodbury County, Iowa, because states have some flexibility in their data collection and have the opportunity to collect data with different data bases. Guilford County data were not available in the AFCARS report, Woodbury County in neither AFCARS nor NCANDS. An addendum to this report is being prepared, however, that will display data from these counties as well as two other Casey-CSSP Alliance promising-practices sites, where work is being done in collaboration with the Alliance.[10]

Table A: Locations of Selected Casey–CSSP Alliance Promising Practices Sites[a]

| State | County | Key City |
|---|---|---|
| Minnesota | Ramsey County | St. Paul |
| Washington | King County | Seattle |
| North Carolina | Guilford County | Greensboro |
| North Carolina | Wake County | Raleigh |
| Texas | Bexar County | San Antonio |

[a]   Jones, E. (2006). *Places to watch: Promising practices to address racial disproportionality in child welfare services.* Casey-CSSP Alliance for Racial Equity in the Child Welfare System.

**Disproportionality Rates.** A key measure in this study is the *disproportionality rate*, which is derived by dividing the percentage of children in a racial/ethnic group at a specific decision-making stage (i.e., investigation, substantiation, foster care placement) in the child welfare system by the percentage of children in that same racial/ethnic group in the census population. Our figures for the child welfare populations rely on the year 2003 from both the NCANDS and AFCARS, since that is the latest year in which data were available for this study. But our census figures for the national and state child populations are based on 2005 data from the CWLA's National Data Analysis System (NDAS). The U.S. Census Bureau provided the NDAS with special tabulations of the counts for children under 18 by race/ethnicity for all states based on the 2005 Current Population Survey (CPS). We relied on 2000 Census data, however, for our census population figures for children under 18 at the county level, since no reliable updated census data were available for those counties. In this study, we consider disproportionality rates that are higher than 1.00 to indicate overrepresentation, while disproportionality rates below 1.00 are characterized as underrepresentation.

**Disparity Ratios.** A second measure in this study is the *disparity ratio*, which is derived by dividing the disproportionality rates for specific nonwhite groups at various CPS decision-making stages by the disproportionality rates for whites. Some researchers have found it useful to compute disparity ratios in which nonwhite groups (such as blacks) might be compared to other nonwhites (such as Native Americans). However, for the purposes of this study, non-Hispanic whites were used as the primary comparison group for deriving disparity ratios for nonwhites.

Disproportionality rates and the disparity ratios developed from them are only two of several choices of measures for analysis that could be used to examine disproportionality and disparities. These methods of analysis were chosen for this report because they are measures that have been widely used in the fields of child welfare and juvenile justice. A discussion of different methods and the advantages of each can be found in the addendum to this document.

# NATIONAL-LEVEL ANALYSES

What are the disproportionality rates and disparity ratios for the various racial/ethnic groups at the different decision-making stages at the national level? First, it is important to examine the census population distribution for all racial/ethnic children under age 18 in 2005. The data in Table 1 reveal that non-Hispanic whites comprised 60 percent of all children in the United States in 2005, non-Hispanic blacks comprised 15 percent, non-Hispanic American Indians comprised 1 percent, non-Hispanic Asians and Pacific Islanders comprised 4 percent, and Hispanics comprised 20 percent.

How do the shares of the different racial/ethnic groups change at the national level as one goes through the three stages of CPS decision making? The data in Table 2 reveal that the proportion of whites declined from 59 percent at investigation to 57 percent at substantiation to 42 percent at placement. On the other hand, the proportion of blacks increased from 25 percent at investigation to 27 percent at substantiation to 36 precent at placement. Clearly, the concentration of blacks markedly increases as children go further into the child welfare system. Among American Indians, the proportions rose from 2 percent at investigation and substantiation to 3 percent at placement. The number of Asians and Pacific Islanders also rose from 1 percent at investigation and substantiation to 2 percent at placement. Hispanics also showed a sharp increase from 13 percent at investigation and substantiation to 17 percent at placement. Thus, all racial/ethnic groups, except for whites, experienced increases in their involvement in child welfare as they went deeper into the system.

Although the proportions of all nonwhite groups had increases in their child welfare involvement, how do their disproportionality rates compare with one another? The data in Table 3 reveal that at the stage of investigation, blacks (1.67) and American Indians (2.00) have disproportionality rates of about 2, which means they are twice as likely to be investigated as they are in the national child population. On the other hand, whites (0.98), Asians and Pacific Islanders (0.25), and Hispanics (0.65) have disproportionality rates of less than 1, which means they are less likely to be investigated than they are in the child population. The stage of substantiation reveals similar results. Blacks (1.80) and American Indians (2.00) are twice as likely to be substantiated as they are in the national child population, while all other groups are less likely to be substantiated than they are in the national child population.

These findings are more dramatic at the stage of placement into foster care. While black children are 2.4 times more likely to have a foster care placement than they are in the national child population, American Indian children are 3.0 times more likely. On the other hand, Hispanic (0.85), white (0.70), and Asian and Pacific Islander children (0.50) are less likely to be placed in foster care than they are in the national child population. It is important to note that at all three decision-making stages, the disproportionality rates of Hispanic children are close to those of white children, while the rates among Asians and Pacific Islander children are much lower than either group. But the highest rates of disproportionality are among black and American Indian children at all three stages.

How do the racial disparity ratios vary among the different racial/ethnic groups? The data in Table 3 and 4 reveal that blacks and American Indians are about twice as likely to be investigated or substantiated than whites, while Asians and Pacific Islanders and Hispanics are much less likely than white children to be investigated or substantiated. However, at the decision-making stage of placement into foster care, the data in Table 5 reveal that Hispanic children (1.2) are somewhat more likely than white children to be placed into foster care, but black (3.4) and American Indian children (4.3) are three or four more times more likely than white children to be placed in foster care.

In sum, at the national level, blacks and American Indians are twice as likely to be investigated or substantiated than they are in the general child population, but they are two or three times more likely to be placed in foster care than they are in the general child population. On the other hand, white and Asians and Pacific Islanders are less likely to be investigated, substantiated, or placed in foster care than they are in the national child population. Regarding disparity ratios, blacks and American Indians are twice as likely as whites to be investigated or substantiated but three or four times more likely than white children to be placed in foster care. Hispanics, however, are less likely than whites to be investigated or substantiated, but they are somewhat more likely than white children to be placed in foster care. In contrast, Asian and Pacific Islanders are much less likely to be investigated, substantiated, or placed in foster care than whites.

| Table 1: 2005 National Race/Ethnic Child Population (under 18)[a] | | |
|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[b] | Number | Percent |
| White | 42,784,346 | 59.7 |
| Black | 10,799,242 | 15.1 |
| American Indian | 665,151 | 0.9 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 2,932,513 | 4.1 |
| Hispanic | 14,460,390 | 20.2 |
| Total | 71,641,642 | 100.0 |

[a]   CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

[b]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. In each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

**Table 2: 2003 National Race/Ethnic Distribution of Child Participation at Three Child Welfare Decision-Making Stages**

| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Child Welfare Decisions | | | 2005 Child Population[d] % Distribution |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Investigation[b] % Distribution | Substantiation[b] % Distribution | Placed in Foster Care[c] % Distribution | |
| White | 59 | 57 | 42 | 60 |
| Black | 25 | 27 | 36 | 15 |
| American Indian | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Hispanic | 13 | 13 | 17 | 20 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[a] Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b] Source: Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c] Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[d] Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

**Table 3: 2003 National Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios**
**Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Investigation**

| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Investigation[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| White | 59 | 60 | 0.98 | |
| Black | 25 | 15 | 1.67 | 1.7 |
| American Indian | 2 | 1 | 2.00 | 2.0 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 1 | 4 | 0.25 | 0.3 |
| Hispanic | 13 | 20 | 0.65 | 0.7 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a] Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. In each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b] Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c] Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 4: 2003 National Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Substantiation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Substantiation[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 57 | 60 | 0.95 | |
| Black | 27 | 15 | 1.80 | 1.9 |
| American Indian | 2 | 1 | 2.00 | 2.1 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 1 | 4 | 0.25 | 0.3 |
| Hispanic | 13 | 20 | 0.65 | 0.7 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]  Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. In each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]  Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]  Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 5: 2003 National Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios Children Placed in Foster Care | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Children Placed in Foster Care[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 42 | 60 | 0.70 | |
| Black | 36 | 15 | 2.40 | 3.4 |
| American Indian | 3 | 1 | 3.00 | 4.3 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 2 | 4 | 0.50 | 0.7 |
| Hispanic | 17 | 20 | 0.85 | 1.2 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. In each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]  Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[c]  Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

# STATE-LEVEL ANALYSES

**OVERVIEW**

We now examine patterns of disproportionality and disparity among racial/ethnic groups at the different decision-making stages for four states: Minnesota, Washington, North Carolina, and Texas.

**MINNESOTA**

Unlike at the national level, the data in Table 6A for the State of Minnesota do not reveal consistent declines or increases among the different racial/ethnic groups as a child goes deeper into the child welfare system. For example, white children in Minnesota are about as likely to be investigated (54%) as they are to be placed in foster care (53%) and somewhat less likely to be substantiated (49%). Similarly, black children are about as likely to be investigated (25%) as they are to be placed in foster care (24%) but somewhat more likely to be substantiated (28%).

On the other hand, the proportion of American Indians steadily increases as a child goes from investigation (9%) to substantiation (11%) to foster care placement (14%). But the proportion of Asian and Pacific Islanders declines slightly from investigation (4%) and substantiation (4%) to placement into foster care placement (3%). Similarly, the proportion of Hispanics declines from investigation (8%) and substantiation (8%) to placement into foster care (6%). Thus, American Indians are the only racial/ethnic group in the State of Minnesota that show a steady increase from investigation through substantiation to placement into foster care.

What are the disproportionality rates among the different racial/ethnic groups at the various decision-making stages for the State of Minnesota? The data in Table 6B reveal that American Indian children (9.00) are nine times more likely and black children (4.17) are four times more likely to be investigated than they are represented in the state child population. On the other hand, Hispanics (1.33) are slightly more likely to be investigated than they are in the state child population, while Asians and Pacific Islanders (0.80) and whites (0.66) are less likely to be investigated than they are in the state child population. Somewhat similar patterns hold at the stage of substantiation for the State of Minnesota.

The data in Table 6C reveal that American Indian children (11.00) are 11 times more likely and black children (4.67) are nearly 5 times more likely to be substantiated than they are in the state child population. On the other hand, Hispanics (1.33) are slightly more likely to be substantiated than they are represented in the state child population, while Asians and Pacific Islanders (0.80) and whites (0.60) are less likely to be substantiated than they are in the state child population.

Similar results occur at the stage of placement into foster care for the State of Minnesota. The data in Table 6D reveal that American Indian children (14.00) are 14 times more likely and black children (4.00) are 4 times more likely to be substantiated than they are represented in the state child population. On the other hand, Hispanics (1.00) are just as likely to be placed in foster care as they are in the state child population, while Asian and Pacific Islander children (0.60) and white children (0.65) are less likely to be placed in foster care than they are in the state child population. The racial disparity ratios yield similar results.

The data in Tables 6B, 6C, and 6D reveal that black children are 6 to 8 times more likely to be investigated (6.3), substantiated (7.8), or placed in foster care (6.2) than white children. But American Indian children are 14 to 22 times more likely to be investigated (13.6), substantiated (18.3), or placed in foster care (21.5) than whites, while Asian and Pacific Islanders are about as likely as whites to be investigated (1.2), substantiated (1.3), or placed in foster care (0.9). Hispanic children, on the other hand, are twice as likely as whites to be investigated (2.0) or substantiated (2.2) and 1.5 times more likely than whites to be placed in foster care. Apparently, in the State of Minnesota, we have a very rare finding of Hispanic disparity: Hispanics are about twice as likely as white children to be investigated, substantiated, or placed in foster care.

| Table 6A: 2003 Minnesota Race/Ethnic Distribution of Child Participation at Three Child Welfare Decision-Making Stages | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Child Welfare Decisions | | | 2005 Child Population[d] % Distribution |
| | Investigation[b] % Distribution | Substantiation[b] % Distribution | Placed in Foster Care[c] % Distribution | |
| White | 54 | 49 | 53 | 82 |
| Black | 25 | 28 | 24 | 6 |
| American Indian | 9 | 11 | 14 | 1 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 4 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| Hispanic | 8 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. In each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]   Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]   Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[d]   Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 6B: 2003 Minnesota Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Investigation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Investigation[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 54 | 82 | 0.66 | |
| Black | 25 | 6 | 4.17 | 6.3 |
| American Indian | 9 | 1 | 9.00 | 13.6 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 4 | 5 | 0.80 | 1.2 |
| Hispanic | 8 | 6 | 1.33 | 2.0 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]  Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. In each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]  Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]  Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 6C: 2003 Minnesota Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Substantiation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Substantiation[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 49 | 82 | 0.60 | |
| Black | 28 | 6 | 4.67 | 7.8 |
| American Indian | 11 | 1 | 11.00 | 18.3 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 4 | 5 | 0.80 | 1.3 |
| Hispanic | 8 | 6 | 1.33 | 2.2 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]  Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. In each of the other designations (racial), only   non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]  Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]  Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 6D: 2003 Minnesota Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios<br>Children Placed in Foster Care | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Children Placed in Foster Care[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] %Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 53 | 82 | 0.65 | |
| Black | 24 | 6 | 4.00 | 6.2 |
| American Indian | 14 | 1 | 14.00 | 21.5 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 3 | 5 | 0.60 | 0.9 |
| Hispanic | 6 | 6 | 1.00 | 1.5 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. In each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]   Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[c]   Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

## WASHINGTON

Unlike Minnesota, the data in Table 7A for the State of Washington reveal consistent declines or increases among various racial/ethnic groups at different stages of the child welfare system similar to those at the national level. The data in Table 7A reveal that the proportion of white children declines from 68 percent at investigation to 66 percent at substantiation to 61 percent at placement. On the other hand, the proportion of black children increases from 9 percent at investigation to 10 percent at substantiation to 14 percent at placement. Similarly, the proportion of American Indian children increases from 7 percent at investigation to 8 percent at substantiation to 12 percent at placement. Clearly, the concentration of blacks and American Indians markedly increases as a child goes further into the child welfare system. The numbers of Asian and Pacific Islander children fall from 3 percent at investigation and substantiation to 2 percent at foster care placement. Similarly, the proportion of Hispanic children falls from 13 percent at investigation and 14 percent at substantiation to 11 percent at foster care placement. Similar to the national trends, the number of black and American

Indian children in the State of Washington exhibited steady increases as the child moves deeper into the child welfare system, while white, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Hispanic children exhibit steady declines.

How do their disproportionality rates compare with one another for the State of Washington? The data in Table 7D reveal that at the stage of investigation, black children (2.25) and American Indian children (3.50) are about two to four times more likely to be investigated than they are in the state child population. On the other hand, whites (0.93), Asians and Pacific Islanders (0.50), and Hispanics (0.87) are less likely to be investigated than they are in the child population. The stage of substantiation reveals similar results. Blacks (2.50) and American Indians (4.00) are two to four times more likely to be substantiated than they are in the state child population, while all other groups are less likely to be substantiated than they are in the state child population.

Somewhat similar findings occur at the stage of foster care placement. While black children are 3.5 times more likely to be placed in foster care than they are in the state child population, American Indian children are also 3.5 times more likely. On the other hand, Hispanic (0.73), white (0.84), and Asian and Pacific Islander children (0.33) are less likely to be placed in foster care than they are in the state child population. It is important to note that, at all three decision-making stages for the State of Washington, the disproportionality rates of Hispanic children are close to those of white children, while the rates among Asian and Pacific Islander children are much lower than either group. But the highest rates of disproportionality are among black and American Indian children at all three stages of child protection decision making.

How do the disparity ratios vary among the different racial/ethnic groups in the State of Washington? The data in Tables 7B, 7C, and 7D reveal that black children are 2 to 3 times more likely and American Indian children 2 to 4 times more likely to be investigated or substantiated than whites, while Hispanics are just (0.9 and 1.0, respectively) as likely as whites to be investigated or substantiated, and Asians and Pacific Islanders are much less likely than whites to be investigated or substantiated. However, at the stage of foster care placement, black children are 4.2 times more likely and American Indian children are 7.1 times more likely than white children to be placed in foster care. Hispanic children are just as likely as white children to be placed in foster care, while Asian and Pacific Islander children are much less likely than white children to be placed in foster care.

| Table 7A: 2003 Washington Race/Ethnic Distribution of Child Participation at Three Child Welfare Decision-Making Stages | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Child Welfare Decisions | | | 2005 Child Population[d] % Distribution |
| | Investigation[b] % Distribution | Substantiation[b] % Distribution | Placed in Foster Care[c] % Distribution | |
| White | 68 | 66 | 61 | 73 |
| Black | 9 | 10 | 14 | 4 |
| American Indian | 7 | 8 | 12 | 2 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 3 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| Hispanic | 13 | 14 | 11 | 15 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. In each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]   Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]   Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[d]   Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 7B: 2003 Washington Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Investigation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Investigation[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 68 | 73 | 0.93 | |
| Black | 9 | 4 | 2.25 | 2.4 |
| American Indian | 7 | 2 | 3.50 | 3.8 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 3 | 6 | 0.50 | 0.5 |
| Hispanic | 13 | 15 | 0.87 | 0.9 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. In each of the other designations (racial), only non- Hispanic members are included.

[b]   Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]   Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 7C: 2003 Washington Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Substantiation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Substantiation[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 66 | 73 | 0.90 | |
| Black | 10 | 4 | 2.50 | 2.8 |
| American Indian | 8 | 2 | 4.00 | 4.4 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 3 | 6 | 0.50 | 0.6 |
| Hispanic | 14 | 15 | 0.93 | 1.0 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. In each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]   Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]   Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 7D: 2003 Washington Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios Children Placed in Foster Care | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Children Placed in Foster Care[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 61 | 73 | 0.84 | |
| Black | 14 | 4 | 3.50 | 4.2 |
| American Indian | 12 | 2 | 6.00 | 7.1 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 2 | 6 | 0.33 | 0.4 |
| Hispanic | 11 | 15 | 0.73 | 0.9 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]   Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[c]   Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

## NORTH CAROLINA

The data for the State of North Carolina reveal somewhat similar disproportionality and disparity patterns as the data for the State of Washington. The data in Table 8A reveal that the proportion of white children declines from 54 percent at investigation and substantiation to 47 percent at foster care placement. On the other hand, the proportion of black children increases from 35 percent at investigation and substantiation to 44 percent at placement. Among, American Indian children, however, the proportion remains at 2 percent at all three stages. But among Asian and Pacific Islander children, the proportions decline from 2 to 1 percent, and among Hispanic children the proportions decline from 7 to 6 percent from investigation to placement. The concentration of blacks markedly increases as a child goes further into the child welfare system.

How do their disproportionality rates compare among the various racial/ethnic groups for the State of North Carolina? The data in Table 8B reveal that at the stage of investigation, black children (1.35) and American Indian children (2.00) are one to two times more likely to be investigated than they are in the state child population. On the other hand, whites (0.87), and Hispanics (0.78) are less likely to be investigated than they are in the child population. But North Carolina is one of the few states in which Asians and Pacific Islanders (1.00) are just as likely to be investigated as they are in the state child population. The substantiation stage reveals similar results. Blacks (1.35) and American Indians (2.00) are one to two times more likely to be substantiated than they are in the state child population, while whites (0.87) and Hispanics (0.78) are less likely to be substantiated than they are in the national child population. But, once again, Asians and Pacific Islanders (1.00) are just as likely to be substantiated as they are in the state child population.

Somewhat different findings occur at the stage of foster care placement. While black (1.69) and American Indian children (2.00) are twice as likely to be placed in foster care as they are in the state child population, white (0.76) and Hispanic children (0.67) are less likely to be placed in foster care than in the state child population. But, at this stage, Asians and Pacific Islander children are also much less likely to be placed in foster care than they are represented in the state child population.

How do the disparity ratios vary among the different racial/ethnic groups in the State of North Carolina? The data in Tables 8B and 8C reveal that black (1.6) and American Indian children (2.3) are two times more likely to be investigated or substantiated than whites, while Hispanics (0.9) and Asians and Pacific Islanders (1.1) are just as likely as whites to be investigated or substantiated. However, at the stage of foster care placement, the data in Table 8D reveal that black children are 2.2 times more likely and American Indian children are 2.6 times more likely than white children to be placed in foster care. But Hispanic children (0.9) are just as likely as white children to be placed in foster care, while Asians and Pacific Islander children (0.7) are less likely than white children to be placed in foster care.

| Table 8A: 2003 North Carolina Race/Ethnic Distribution of Child Participation at Three Child Welfare Decision-Making Stages | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Child Welfare Decisions | | | 2005 Child Population[d] % Distribution |
| | Investigation[b] % Distribution | Substantiation[b] % Distribution | Placed in Foster Care[c] % Distribution | |
| White | 54 | 54 | 47 | 62 |
| Black | 35 | 35 | 44 | 26 |
| American Indian | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Hispanic | 7 | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[a]     Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]     Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]     Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[d]     Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 8B: 2003 North Carolina Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Investigation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Investigations[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child % Population[c] | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 54 | 62 | 0.87 | |
| Black | 35 | 26 | 1.35 | 1.6 |
| American Indian | 2 | 1 | 2.00 | 2.3 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 2 | 2 | 1.00 | 1.1 |
| Hispanic | 7 | 9 | 0.78 | 0.9 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]     Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]     Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]     Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 8C: 2003 North Carolina Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios<br>Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Substantiation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Substantiation[b]<br>% Distribution | 2005 Child<br>Population[c]<br>% Distribution | Disproportionality<br>Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 54 | 62 | 0.87 | |
| Black | 35 | 26 | 1.35 | 1.6 |
| American Indian | 2 | 1 | 2.00 | 2.3 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 2 | 2 | 1.00 | 1.1 |
| Hispanic | 7 | 9 | 0.78 | 0.9 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]  Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]  Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]  Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 8D: 2003 North Carolina Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios<br>Children Placed in Foster Care | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Children Placed<br>in Foster Care[b]<br>% Distribution | 2005 Child<br>Population[c]<br>% Distribution | Disproportionality<br>Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 47 | 62 | 0.76 | |
| Black | 44 | 26 | 1.69 | 2.2 |
| American Indian | 2 | 1 | 2.00 | 2.6 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 1 | 2 | 0.50 | 0.7 |
| Hispanic | 6 | 9 | 0.67 | 0.9 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]  Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]  Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[c]  Source: Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

## TEXAS

The data for the State of Texas reveal somewhat similar disproportionality and disparity patterns as the data for North Carolina and Washington. The data in Table 9A reveal that the proportion of white children declines steadily from 39 percent at investigation to 37 percent at substantiation to 33 percent at foster care placement. On the other hand, the proportion of black children increases from 19 percent at investigation to 20 percent at substantiation to 29 percent at placement. Among American Indian children, however, the proportion remains at 1 percent at all three stages. Similarly, among Asian and Pacific Islander children, the proportions also remain at 1 percent at all three stages. But, among Hispanic children, the proportions fall from 40 percent at investigation and 41 percent at substantiation to 36 percent at foster care placement. In Texas, blacks are the only racial group whose proportions increase as a child goes from investigation to foster care placement.

How do their disproportionality rates compare among the various racial/ethnic groups for the State of Texas? The data in Tables 9B, 9C, and 9D reveal that at all three stages, black children have higher disproportionality rates than American Indian children. Blacks are two times more likely to be investigated (1.58), substantiated (1.67), or placed in foster care (2.42) than they are represented in the state child population, while American Indians (1.00) are just as likely to be investigated, substantiated, or placed in foster care as they are in the state child population. On the other hand, whites (0.98, 0.93, and 0.83, respectively) and Hispanics (0.91, 0.93, and 0.82, respectively) are also just as likely to be investigated, substantiated, or placed in foster care as they are represented in the state child population, while Asians and Pacific Islanders (0.33) are much less likely to be investigated, substantiated, or placed in foster care than they are represented in the state child population. In sum, Texas is the only one of the four states studied in which black children have higher disproportionality rates than American Indian children.

How do the disparity ratios vary among the different racial/ethnic groups in the State of Texas? The data in Tables 9B, 9C, and 9D reveal that black children are at least twice as likely to be investigated, substantiated, or placed in foster care as whites. But Hispanics are just as likely as whites to be investigated, substantiated, or placed in foster care, while Asians and Pacific Islanders are much less likely than whites to be investigated, substantiated, and placed in foster care. Interestingly, blacks have higher disproportionality rates and disparity ratios at all three stages than American Indians. While the concentration of black children is greater than American Indian children as these children go deeper into the child welfare system, the gap between whites and blacks is also much greater than between whites and American Indians at all three stages in Texas.

| Table 9A: 2003 Texas Race/Ethnic Distribution of Child Participation at Three Child Welfare Decision-Making Stages | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Child Welfare Decisions | | | 2005 Child Population[d] % Distribution |
| | Investigation[b] % Distribution | Substantiation[b] % Distribution | Placed in Foster Care[c] % Distribution | |
| White | 39 | 37 | 33 | 40 |
| Black | 19 | 20 | 29 | 12 |
| American Indian | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Hispanic | 40 | 41 | 36 | 44 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[a]  Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]  Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]  Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[d]  Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 9B: 2003 Texas Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios<br>Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Investigation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Investigation[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 39 | 40 | 0.98 | |
| Black | 19 | 12 | 1.58 | 1.6 |
| American Indian | 1 | 1 | 1.00 | 1.0 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 1 | 3 | 0.33 | 0.3 |
| Hispanic | 40 | 44 | 0.91 | 0.9 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]  Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only  non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]  Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]  Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 9C: 2003 Texas Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Substantiation** | | | | |
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Substantiation[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 37 | 40 | 0.93 | |
| Black | 20 | 12 | 1.67 | 1.8 |
| American Indian | 1 | 1 | 1.00 | 1.1 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 1 | 3 | 0.33 | 0.4 |
| Hispanic | 41 | 44 | 0.93 | 1.0 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]     Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]     Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]     Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 9D: 2003 Texas Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Children in Placed in Foster Care** | | | | |
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Children Placed in Foster Care[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 33 | 40 | 0.83 | |
| Black | 29 | 12 | 2.42 | 2.9 |
| American Indian | 1 | 1 | 1.00 | 1.2 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 1 | 3 | 0.33 | 0.4 |
| Hispanic | 36 | 44 | 0.82 | 1.0 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]     Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]     Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[c]     Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

# COUNTY-LEVEL ANALYSES

**OVERVIEW**

We will now examine patterns of disproportionality and disparity among racial/ethnic groups at the different decision-making stages for five counties: Ramsey County, Minnesota; King County, Washington; Guilford and Wake Counties, North Carolina; and Bexar County, Texas.

**RAMSEY COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

The data in Table 10A for Ramsey County, Minnesota reveal somewhat similar patterns among various racial/ethnic groups at the different stages of the child welfare system as those in most of the four states in this study. Black children exhibit a steady increase in their proportion as they move deeper into the child welfare system. The proportion of black children rises from 44 percent at investigation to 46 percent at substantiation to 49 percent at placement. Likewise, the proportion of American Indian children rises from 5 percent at investigation to 7 percent at substantiation and placement. The proportion of whites, on the other hand, remains relatively the same at investigation (31 percent), substantiation (30 percent), and placement (30 percent). But the proportion of Asians and Pacific Islanders falls sharply between investigation (10 percent) and placement (7 percent), while Hispanics have a more modest decline between investigation (9 percent) and placement (7 percent).

How do their disproportionality rates compare with one another for Ramsey County, Minnesota? The data in Table 10B reveal that at the stage of investigation, black (3.67) and American Indian children (5.00) are about four to five times more likely to be investigated than they are in the county child population. On the other hand, white (0.50) and Asian and Pacific Islander children (0.59) are less likely to be investigated than they are in the child population. But, interestingly, Hispanics (1.13) are somewhat *more* likely to be investigated than they are in the county child population. The stage of substantiation in Table 10C reveals similar, but stronger, results. Blacks are 3.83 times more likely and American Indians are 7.00 times more likely to be substantiated than they are in the county child population. Whites (0.48) and Asians and Pacific Islanders (0.41), on the other hand, are much less likely to be substantiated than they are in the county child population. Once again, however, Hispanics (1.25) are *more* likely to be substantiated than they are in the county child population.

Slightly different findings occur at the stage of foster care placement. While blacks are 4.08 times more likely and American Indians are 7.00 times more likely to be placed in foster care than they are in the county child population, whites (0.48) and Asians and Pacific Islanders (0.41) are much less likely to be placed than they are in the county child population. At this stage, Hispanics (0.88) are *less* likely to be placed in foster care than they are in the county child population. Hispanic children in Ramsey County are overrepresented at the stages of

investigation and substantiation but underrepresented at placement, while black and American Indian chidren are overrepresented at all three stages. But American Indians have markedly higher disproportionality rates than blacks in Ramsey County.

How do the disparity ratios vary among the different racial/ethnic groups in Ramsey County? The data in Tables 10B, 10C, and 10D reveal that, while black children are seven times more likely and American Indian children are 10 times more likely to be investigated than whites, blacks are at least 8 times more likely and American Indians are 15 times more likely to be substantiated or placed in foster care than whites. Interestingly, while Asians and Pacific Islanders (0.9 and 0.8, respectively) are less likely to be substantiated or placed in foster care than whites, Asians and Pacific Islanders (1.2) are more likely to be investigated than whites. And, unexpectedly, Hispanics are two to three times more likely than whites to be investigated (2.3), substantiated (2.6), or placed in foster care (1.8). Ramsey County is one of the few jurisdictions in this study in which there are wide gaps between Hispanics and whites at all three stages of CPS decision making. In addition, American Indian children have much higher disproportionality rates and disparity ratios than black children at all three decision-making stages in Ramsey County.

| Table 10A: 2003 Ramsey County, MN Race/Ethnic Distribution of Child Participation at Three Child Welfare Decision-Making Stages | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Child Welfare Decisions | | | 2005 Child Population[d] % Distribution |
| | Investigation[b] % Distribution | Substantiation[b] % Distribution | Placed in Foster Care[c] % Distribution | |
| White | 31 | 30 | 30 | 62 |
| Black | 44 | 46 | 49 | 12 |
| American Indian | 5 | 7 | 7 | 1 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 10 | 7 | 7 | 17 |
| Hispanic | 9 | 10 | 7 | 8 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]   Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]   Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[d]   Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 10B: 2003 Ramsey County, MN Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Investigation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Investigation[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 31 | 62 | 0.50 | |
| Black | 44 | 12 | 3.67 | 7.3 |
| American Indian | 5 | 1 | 5.00 | 10.0 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 10 | 17 | 0.59 | 1.2 |
| Hispanic | 9 | 8 | 1.13 | 2.3 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]    Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]    Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]    Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 10C: 2003 Ramsey County, MN Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Substantiation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Substantiation[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 30 | 62 | 0.48 | |
| Black | 46 | 12 | 3.83 | 8.0 |
| American Indian | 7 | 1 | 7.00 | 14.6 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 7 | 17 | 0.41 | 0.9 |
| Hispanic | 10 | 8 | 1.25 | 2.6 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]    Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]    Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]    Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 10D: 2003 Ramsey County, MN Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios Children Placed in Foster Care | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Children Placed in Foster Care[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 30 | 62 | 0.48 | |
| Black | 49 | 12 | 4.08 | 8.5 |
| American Indian | 7 | 1 | 7.00 | 14.6 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 7 | 17 | 0.41 | 0.8 |
| Hispanic | 7 | 8 | 0.88 | 1.8 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]   Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[c]   Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

## KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The data in Table 11A for King County, Washington reveal somewhat similar patterns among various racial/ethnic groups as those for Ramsey County. Black children exhibit a steady increase in their proportion as they go deeper into the child welfare system. The proportion of blacks rises from 10 percent at investigation to 12 percent at substantiation, and it jumps to 33 percent at placement. Likewise, the proportion of American Indian children rises from 6 percent at investigation to 8 percent at substantiation, and it soars to 33 percent at placement. The proportion of white children, on the other hand, steadily declines from 67 percent at investigation to 63 percent at substantiation to 42 percent at placement in foster care. But the proportion of Asian and Pacific Islander children (3 percent and 5 percent, respectively) rises from investigation to placement, while the proportion of Hispanic children (14 percent and 9 percent, respectively) falls between those two stages.

How do their disproportionality rates compare with one another for King County, Washington? The data in Table 11B reveal that, at the stage of investigation, black children are 1.43 times more likely and American Indians (6.00) are six times more likely to be investigated than they are in the county child population. On the other hand, whites (0.56) and Asians and Pacific Islanders (0.23) are less likely to be investigated than they are in the county child population. But Hispanics are 1.56 times *more* likely to be investigated than they are in the county child population. The stage of substantiation in Table 11C reveals similar results.

Blacks are 1.71 times more likely and American Indians are 8.00 times more likely to be substantiated than they are in the county child population. Whites (0.90) and Asians and Pacific Islanders (0.23), on the other hand, are much less likely to be substantiated than they are in the county child population. Once again, however, Hispanics (1.56) are *more* likely to be substantiated than they are in the county child population

Slightly different findings occur at the stage of foster care placement. While black children are 4.71 times more likely and American Indian children are 11.00 times more likely to be placed in foster care than they are in the county child population, white (0.60) and Asian and Pacific Islander children (0.38) are much less likely to be placed in foster care than they are in the county child population. And Hispanic children (1.00) are no more likely to be placed in foster care than they are in the county child population. Hispanics in King County are over-represented at the stages of investigation and substantiation but not at the stage of foster care placement, while blacks and American Indians are overrepresented at all three stages. Yet American Indians have markedly higher disproportionality rates than blacks in King County.

How do the disparity ratios vary among the different racial/ethnic groups in King County? The data in Tables 11B, 11C, and 11D reveal that while black children are twice as likely to be investigated (1.5) and substantiated (1.9) as whites, they are 7.9 times more likely to be placed in foster care than whites. But American Indian children have much higher disparity ratios. They are 6.3 times more likely than whites to be investigated, they are 8.9 times more likely than whites to be substantiated, and they are 18.3 times more likely than whites to be placed in foster care. While Asians and Pacific Islanders (0.2, 0.3, and 0.6, respectively) are less likely than whites to be investigated, substantiated, or placed in foster care, Hispanics (1.6, 1.7, and 1.7, respectively) are more likely than whites to be investigated, substantiated, or placed in foster care. Like Ramsey County, King County is one of the few jurisdictions in this study in which wide gaps remain between Hispanics and whites at all three stages of CPS decision making. Moreover, American Indians have much higher disproportionality rates and disparity ratios than blacks at all three decision-making stages in King County.

| Table 11A: 2003 King County, WA Race/Ethnic Distribution of Child Participation at Three Child Welfare Decision-Making Stages | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Race/Ethnicity[a]** | **Child Welfare Decisions** | | | **2005 Child Population[d] % Distribution** |
| | **Investigation[b] % Distribution** | **Substantiation[b] % Distribution** | **Placed in Foster Care[c] % Distribution** | |
| White | 67 | 63 | 42 | 70 |
| Black | 10 | 12 | 33 | 7 |
| American Indian | 6 | 8 | 11 | 1 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 3 | 3 | 5 | 13 |
| Hispanic | 14 | 14 | 9 | 9 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[a]  Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only  non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]  Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]  Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[d]  Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 11B: 2003 King County, WA Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Investigation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Race/Ethnicity[a]** | **Investigation[b] % Distribution** | **2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution** | **Disproportionality Rate** | **Disparity Ratio** |
| White | 67 | 70 | 0.96 | |
| Black | 10 | 7 | 1.43 | 1.5 |
| American Indian | 6 | 1 | 6.00 | 6.3 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 3 | 13 | 0.23 | 0.2 |
| Hispanic | 14 | 9 | 1.56 | 1.6 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]  Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]  Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]  Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 11C: 2003 King County, WA Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios<br>Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Substantiation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Substantiation[b]<br>% Distribution | 2005 Child<br>Population[c]<br>% Distribution | Disproportionality<br>Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 63 | 70 | 0.90 | |
| Black | 12 | 7 | 1.71 | 1.9 |
| American Indian | 8 | 1 | 8.00 | 8.9 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 3 | 13 | 0.23 | 0.3 |
| Hispanic | 14 | 9 | 1.56 | 1.7 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]  Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]  Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]  Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 11D: 2003 King County, WA Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios<br>Children Placed in Foster Care | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Children Placed<br>in Foster Care[b]<br>% Distribution | 2005 Child<br>Population[c]<br>% Distribution | Disproportionality<br>Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 42 | 70 | 0.60 | |
| Black | 33 | 7 | 4.71 | 7.9 |
| American Indian | 11 | 1 | 11.00 | 18.3 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 5 | 13 | 0.38 | 0.6 |
| Hispanic | 9 | 9 | 1.00 | 1.7 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]  Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]  Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]  Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

## GUILFORD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Unfortunately, since AFCARS does not have data for Guilford or Wake County, North Carolina, it will not be possible to examine disproportionality and disparity patterns at the stage of foster care placement for those counties. As the data in Table 12A for Guilford County reveal, we will only be able to examine the stages of investigation and substantiation. Contrary to prior trends, the proportion of black children *declines* from 55 percent at investigation to 52 percent at substantiation. But the proportions for American Indian children remain at 1 percent at both stages. On the other hand, the proportion of white children edges up from 36 percent at investigation to 38 percent at substantiation, while the proportion of Hispanic children also rises from 5 percent at investigation to 7 percent at substantiation. But the proportion of Asian and Pacific Islander children remains unchanged at 3 percent at both stages. Interestingly, in Guilford County, the numbers of blacks decline as the children go from investigation to substantiation, while numbers of whites and Hispanics increase between those two stages. Yet the proportions for American Indians and Asian and Pacific Islanders remain the same at both stages.

How do their disproportionality rates compare with one another for Guilford County? The data in Table 12B reveal that, at the stage of investigation, although blacks are 1.53 times more likely to be investigated than they are in the county child population, American Indians (1.00) are no more likely to be investigated than they are in the county child population. Interestingly, Hispanics (1.00) and Asians and Pacific Islanders (1.00) are also just as likely to be investigated as they are in the county child population. Only white children (0.65) are much less likely to be investigated than they are in the county child population. Similar results occur at the stage of substantiation. While black children are 1.44 times more likely to be substantiated than they are in the county child population, American Indians (1.00), once again, are no more likely to be substantiated than they are in the county child population.

Yet while Asians and Pacific Islanders (1.00) are just as likely to be substantiated as they are in the county child population, Hispanics (1.40) are much more likely to be substantiated than they are in the county child population. Similar to the situation in Ramsey County and King County, Hispanics in Guilford County are also overrepresented at the stage of substantiation. Moreover, while blacks are overrepresented at both investigation and substantiation, American Indians are not overrepresented at either stage.

How do the disparity ratios vary among the different racial/ethnic groups in Guilford County? The data in Tables 12B and 12C reveal that, while black children are 2.4 times more likely to be investigated and 2.1 times more likely to be substantiated than whites, American Indians are only 1.5 times more likely to be investigated and 1.4 times more

likely to be substantiated than whites. Interestingly, Asians and Pacific Islanders are 1.5 times more likely to be investigated and 1.4 times more likely to be substantiated than whites. Once again, Hispanics are 1.5 times more likely to be investigated and 2.0 times more likely to be substantiated than whites. Similar to the situations in Ramsey County and King County, not only are Hispanics in Guilford County overrepresented at the stage of substantiation, but there are wide gaps between white children and Hispanic children at both investigation and substantiation. Unlike the other two counties, however, blacks in Guilford County have higher disproportionality rates and disparity ratios than American Indians at investigation and substantiation.

| Table 12A: 2003 Guilford County, NC Race/Ethnic Distribution of Child Participation at Three Child Welfare Decision-Making Stages | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Child Welfare Decisions | | | 2005 Child Population[d] % Distribution |
| | Investigation[b] % Distribution | Substantiation[b] % Distribution | Placed in Foster Care[c] % Distribution | |
| White | 36 | 38 | na[e] | 55 |
| Black | 55 | 52 | na[e] | 36 |
| American Indian | 1 | 1 | na[e] | 1 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 3 | 3 | na[e] | 3 |
| Hispanic | 5 | 7 | na[e] | 5 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[a]  Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]  Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]  Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[d]  Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

[e]  na=data not available.

| Table 12B: 2003 Guilford County, NC Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Investigation** | | | | |
| **Race/Ethnicity[a]** | **Investigation[b] % Distribution** | **2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution** | **Disproportionality Rate** | **Disparity Ratio** |
| White | 36 | 55 | 0.65 | |
| Black | 55 | 36 | 1.53 | 2.4 |
| American Indian | 1 | 1 | 1.00 | 1.5 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 3 | 3 | 1.00 | 1.5 |
| Hispanic | 5 | 5 | 1.00 | 1.5 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. Each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]   Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]   Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 12C: 2003 Guilford County, NC Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Substantiation** | | | | |
| **Race/Ethnicity[a]** | **Substantiation[b] % Distribution** | **2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution** | **Disproportionality Rate** | **Disparity Ratio** |
| White | 38 | 55 | 0.69 | |
| Black | 52 | 36 | 1.44 | 2.1 |
| American Indian | 1 | 1 | 1.00 | 1.4 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 3 | 3 | 1.00 | 1.4 |
| Hispanic | 7 | 5 | 1.40 | 2.0 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. Each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]   Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]   Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

## WAKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Similar to Guilford County, as indicated by the data in Table 13A, we are only able to examine the stages of investigation and substantiation for Wake County. Contrary to the trends in Guilford County, the proportion of black children remains relatively unchanged at either investigation (54%) or substantiation (53%). Similarly, the proportions of white children (35% and 36%, respectively), Asian and Pacific Islander children (4% and 5%, respectively), and Hispanic children (6% and 6%, respectively) also remain about the same at both stages. Since no data were available for American Indians at the substantiation stage, we are not able to observe any trends for that group. None of the four racial/ethnic groups had substantive changes in their proportions between investigation and substantiation in Wake County.

How do their disproportionality rates compare with one another for Wake County? The data in Tables 13B and 13C reveal that black chidlren are twice as likely to be investigated (2.35) or substantiated (2.30) as they are represented in the county child population. Unexpectedly, Asians and Pacific Islanders are also *more* likely to be investigated (1.33) and more likely to be substantiated (1.67) than they are in the county child population. On the other hand, Hispanic children are no more likely to be investigated (1.00) or substantiated (1.00) than they are in the county child population. But whites are much less likely to be investigated (0.52) or substantiated (0.54) than they are in the county child population.

Apparently, Wake County is one of the few jurisdictions in this study in which Asian and Pacific Islander children are overrepresented at both investigation and substantiation, while American Indians are not overrepresented at either stage. Yet as was true in most areas studied, blacks continued to be overrepresented at both investigation and substantiation.

How do the disparity ratios vary among the different racial/ethnic groups in Wake County? The data in Tables 13B and 13C reveal that, while blacks are 2.4 times more likely to be investigated and 2.3 times more likely to be substantiated than whites, American Indians are 1.9 times more likely to be investigated than whites. Interestingly, Asians and Pacific Islanders are three times *more* likely to be investigated (2.6) or substantiated (3.1) than whites. Similarly, Hispanics are twice as likely as whites to be investigated (1.9) or substantiated (1.9). Thus, Asian and Pacific Islander and Hispanic children, in addition to black children, have large disparities at the stages of investigation and substantiation with whites in Wake County. And blacks in Wake County have higher disproportionality rates and disparity ratios than American Indians at the investigation stage.

| Table 13A: 2003 Wake County, NC Race/Ethnic Distribution of Child Participation at Three Child Welfare Decision-Making Stages | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Child Welfare Decisions | | | 2005 Child Population[d] % Distribution |
| | Investigation[b] % Distribution | Substantiation[b] % Distribution | Placed in Foster Care[c] % Distribution | |
| White | 35 | 36 | | 67 |
| Black | 54 | 53 | | 23 |
| American Indian | 1 | | | 1 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 4 | 5 | | 3 |
| Hispanic | 6 | 6 | | 6 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]   Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]   Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[d]   Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 13B: 2003 Wake County, NC Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Investigation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Investigation[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 35 | 67 | 0.52 | |
| Black | 54 | 23 | 2.35 | 4.5 |
| American Indian | 1 | 1 | 1.00 | 1.9 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 4 | 3 | 1.33 | 2.6 |
| Hispanic | 6 | 6 | 1.00 | 1.9 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]   Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]   Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

| Table 13C: 2003 Wake County, NC Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios<br>Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Substantiation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Substantiations[b]<br>% Distribution | 2005 Child<br>Population[c]<br>% Distribution | Disproportionality<br>Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 36 | 67 | 0.54 | |
| Black | 53 | 23 | 2.30 | 4.3 |
| American Indian | | 1 | | |
| Asian/Pacifc<br>Islander | 5 | 3 | 1.67 | 3.1 |
| Hispanic | 6 | 6 | 1.00 | 1.9 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]    Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]    Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]    Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

## BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

The major city within Bexar County is San Antonio. The data in Table 14A reveal sharp changes between investigation and foster care placement for only black and white children. While the proportion of blacks increased from 11 percent at investigation and substantiation to 14 percent at foster care placement, the proportion of whites fell from 17 percent at investigation and substantiation to 13 percent at placement. On the other hand, the proportion of Hispanics at all three stages remained unchanged at 71 percent, while the proportion of Asian and Pacific Islanders remained at 1 percent at all three stages. Since no data for American Indians were available at either investigation or substantiation, we are not able to assess any movement to 1 percent at the stage of foster care placement. Overall, except for blacks and whites, none of the remaining racial/ethnic groups had substantive changes in their proportions between investigation and foster care placement in Bexar County.

How do their disproportionality rates compare with one another for Bexar County? The data in Tables 14B and 14C reveal that black children are 1.57 times more likely to be investigated or substantiated than they are represented in the county child population, while whites are less likely to be investigated (0.63) or substantiated (0.63) than they are in the county child population. As was true in Ramsey County and King County, Hispanics in Bexar County are also *more* likely to be investigated (1.13) and more likely to be substantiated (1.13) than they are in the county child population. But Asians and Pacific Islanders are much less likely to be investigated (0.50) or substantiated (0.50) than they are in the county child population.

What are the disproportionality rates for children in foster care placement? The data in Table 14D reveal that black children are twice as likely to be placed in foster care (2.00) as they are in the county child population, while Hispanic children are also more likely to be in foster care (1.13) than they are in the county child population. On the other hand, American Indian children are no more likely to be placed in foster care (1.00) than they are in the county child population, while white children are much less likely to be placed in foster care (0.48) than they are in the county child population. Apparently, in Bexar County, Hispanic and black children are overrepresented at investigation, substantiation, and foster care placement, while white and Asian and Pacific Islander children are underrepresented at all three stages.

How do the disparity ratios vary among the different racial/ethnic groups in Bexar County? The data in Tables 14B, 14C, and 14D reveal that black children are 2.5 times more likely to be investigated and substantiated but 4.2 times more likely to be placed in foster care than white children. Hispanic children are 1.8 times more likely to be investigated and substantiated and 2.4 times more likely to be placed in foster care than white children. Asian and Pacific Islander children are 0.8 times *as* likely to be investigated and substantiated and equally likely to be placed in foster care as white children.

| Table 14A: 2003 Bexar County, TX Race/Ethnic Distribution of Child Participation at Three Child Welfare Decision-Making Stages | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Child Welfare Decisions | | | 2005 Child Population[d] % Distribution |
| | Investigation[b] % Distribution | Substantiation[b] % Distribution | Placed in Foster Care[c] % Distribution | |
| White | 17 | 17 | 13 | 27 |
| Black | 11 | 11 | 14 | 7 |
| American Indian | na[e] | na[e] | 1 | 1 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Hispanic | 71 | 71 | 71 | 63 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]   Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]   Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[d]   Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

[e]   na=data not available.

| Table 14B: 2003 Bexar County, TX Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios <br> Child Protection Decision Stage: Investigation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Investigation[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 17 | 27 | 0.63 | |
| Black | 11 | 7 | 1.57 | 2.5 |
| American Indian | na[d] | 1 | na[d] | 1.5 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 1 | 2 | 0.50 | 0.8 |
| Hispanic | 71 | 63 | 1.13 | 1.8 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]    Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]    Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]    Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

[d]    na=data not available.

| Table 14C: 2003 Bexar, TX Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios <br> Child Protection Decision-Making Stage: Substantiation | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Substantiation[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 17 | 27 | 0.63 | |
| Black | 11 | 7 | 1.57 | 2.5 |
| American Indian | na[d] | 1 | na[d] | 1.5 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 1 | 2 | 0.50 | 0.8 |
| Hispanic | 71 | 63 | 1.13 | 1.8 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]    Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]    Percentages calculated with 2003 NCANDS Child File, which includes all completed investigations or assessments between 1/1/2003 and 12/31/2003.

[c]    Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

[d]    na=data not available.

| Table 14D: 2003 Bexar, TX Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios Children Placed in Foster Care | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Children Placed in Foster Care[b] % Distribution | 2005 Child Population[c] % Distribution | Disproportionality Rate | Disparity Ratio |
| White | 13 | 27 | 0.48 | |
| Black | 14 | 7 | 2.00 | 4.2 |
| American Indian | 1 | 1 | 1.00 | 2.1 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 1 | 2 | 0.50 | 1.0 |
| Hispanic | 71 | 63 | 1.13 | 2.4 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | | |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]   Percentages calculated with data from the 2003 AFCARS foster care placement data element.

[c]   Percentages calculated with CWLA National Data Analysis System based on unpublished 2005 Current Population Survey data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

# COMPARATIVE DISPROPORTIONALITY AND DISPARITY

In order to review the major findings of this study, we will now focus on data in Tables 15–20 that compare disproportionality rates and disparity ratios at the national level and in the five counties in this study for each of the racial/ethnic groups.

## NATIONAL LEVEL

The data in Table 15 reveal that black children (1.67 and 2.40, respectively) and American Indian children (2.00 and 3.00, respectively) had increases in disproportionality rates from investigation to foster care placement, while white children (0.98 and 0.70, respectively) had steady declines. However, among Asian and Pacific Islander children (0.25 and 0.50, respectively) and Hispanic children (0.65 and 0.85, respectively), the disproportionality rates also increased between investigation and foster care placement.

While blacks and American Indians are overrepresented at all three stages, whites, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics are underrepresented. Similarly, blacks (1.70 and 3.43, respectively) and American Indians (2.04 and 4.29, respectively) had strong increases in disparity ratios as children went from investigation to foster care placement. But the disparity ratios also increased among Asians and Pacific Islanders (0.26 and 0.71, respectively) and Hispanics (0.66 and 1.21, respectively) between investigation and placement. In sum, at the national level, American Indians have higher disproportionality rates and disparity ratios than blacks at all three stages of CPS decision making. Although Hispanic children are underrepresented at all three stages, they have wide disparities with white children at the stage of foster care placement.

## COUNTY LEVEL

**Ramsey County, Minnesota.** The data in Table 16 reveal that black children (3.67 and 4.08, respectively) and American Indian children (5.00 and 7.00, respectively) had steady increases in disproportionality rates between investigation and foster care placement. On the other hand, white children (0.50 and 0.48, respectively), Asian and Pacific Islander children (0.59 and 0.41, respectively), and Hispanic children (1.13 and 0.88, respectively) had declines in disproportionality rates between investigation and foster care placement. Consequently, blacks and American Indians were overrepresented at all three stages, while whites and Asians and Pacific Islanders were underrepresented. Somewhat similar patterns held among the disparity ratios. Blacks (7.3 and 8.5, respectively) and American Indians (10.0 and 14.6, respectively) had disparity ratios that steadily rose from investigation to foster care placement, while the disparity ratios among Hispanics (2.3 and 1.8, respectively) and Asians and Pacific Islanders (1.2 and 0.8, respectively) fell between investigation and foster care placement. Moreover, American Indians had much higher disproportionality rates and disparity ratios than blacks at all three stages. Although the disparity ratios among Hispanics declined from investigation to placement, Hispanic children were still twice as likely as white children to be at each of the three stages of CPS decision making.

**King County, Washington.** The data in Table 17 reveal that both black children (1.43 and 4.71, respectively) and American Indian children (6.00 and 11.00, respectively) had steady increases in disproportionality rates between investigation and placement. On the other hand, white children (0.96 and 0.60, respectively) and Hispanic children (1.56 and 1.00, respectively) had disproportionality rates that declined between investigation and placement, while Asian and Pacific Islander children (0.23 and 0.38, respectively) had increases. Consequently, although blacks and American Indians were overrepresented at all three stages, whites and Asian and Pacific Islanders were underrepresented. It is important to note that although Hispanics were not overrepresented or underrepresented at the stage of placement, they were overrepresented at both investigation and substantiation.

Somewhat different patterns held among the disparity ratios. Although blacks (1.5 and 7.9, respectively) and American Indians (6.3 and 18.3, respectively) had disparity ratios that sharply rose from investigation to placement, the disparity ratios among Asians and Pacific Islanders (0.2 and 0.6, respectively) and Hispanics (1.6 and 1.7, respectively) also had modest increases between investigation and placement. In King County, American Indians had much higher disproportionality rates and disparity ratios than blacks at all three stages. However, although the disparity ratios among Hispanics remain relatively unchanged from investigation to placement, Hispanics were still twice as likely as whites to be at each of the three stages of CPS decision making. It should be noted that new longitudinal data for King County illustrate the utility of tracking disproportionality rates for different child welfare service stages over time.[11]

**Guilford County, North Carolina.** As noted above, foster care data were not available for Guilford County, so in Table 18 we were only able to examine movements between the stages of investigation and substantiation. Contrary to other locales, the disproportionality rates rose among white children (0.65 and 0.69, respectively) between investigation and substantiation but declined among black children (1.53 and 1.44, respectively).

Moreover, American Indian children (1.00 at both stages) and Asian and Pacific Islander children (1.00 at both stages) were no more likely to be investigated or substantiated than they were in the county child population, while the disproportionality rates rose among Hispanic children (1.00 and 1.40, respectively) at both stages. Although blacks were overrepresented at both stages, whites were underrepresented. While Hispanics were underrepresented at investigation, however, they were overrepresented at substantiation.

Somewhat similar patters occurred regarding disparity ratios. While the disparity ratios fell among black children, they rose among Hispanic children between investigation and substantiation. On the other hand, among American Indians (1.5 and 1.4, respectively) and Asians and Pacific Islanders (1.5 and 1.4, respectively), the disparity ratios remained about the same at both stages. While blacks were twice as likely as whites to be investigated or substantiated, Hispanics were twice as likely as whites to be substantiated in Guilford County.

**Wake County, North Carolina.** Again, foster care data were not available for Wake County and we were only able to examine movements between the stages of investigation and substantiation. Similar to Guilford County, the disproportionality rates fell among black children (2.35 and 2.30, respectively) between investigation and substantiation but rose somewhat among white children (0.52 and 0.54, respectively). They also rose among Asian and Pacific Islander children (1.33 and 1.67, respectively) between investigation and substantiation. On the other hand, Hispanic children (1.00 at both stages) were no more likely to be investigated or substantiated than they were in the county child population, while American Indian children (1.00) were no more likely to be investigated than they were in the county child population. It was not possible to observe movements between the two stages among American Indians, since no data were available for that group at the stage of substantiation. Not only were blacks overrepresented at investigation and substantiation, but Asians and Pacific Islanders were also overrepresented at both stages. Wake County is one of the few counties in this study in which Asians and Pacific Islanders were overrepresented at the various stages of CPS decision making.

Similar patterns occurred regarding disparity ratios. While the disparity ratios declined among blacks (4.52 and 4.26, respectively) and Hispanics (1.92 and 1.85, respectively) between investigation and substantiation, those ratios increased among Asians and Pacific Islanders (2.56 and 3.09, respectively). Large gaps existed between whites and all of the other racial/ethnic groups. While blacks were four times more likely than whites to be investigated or substantiated, Asians and Pacific Islanders were three times more likely than whites, and Hispanics were twice as likely as whites at both stages. And American Indians were twice as likely as whites to be investigated. In Wake County, Asians and Pacific Islanders were not only overrepresented at investigation and substantiation, but they had wide disparities with whites at both stages.

**Bexar County, Texas.** The data in Table 20 reveal that in Bexar County, black children (1.57 and 2.00, respectively) had increases in disproportionality rates between investigation and foster care placement, while white children (0.63 and 0.48, respectively) had decreases. The disproportionality rates remained unchanged between investigation and placement among Asian and Pacific Islander children (0.50) and Hispanic children (1.13).

American Indian children (1.00) were no more likely to be in foster care than they were in the county child population. It was not possible to observe any movements among American Indians at prior stages, however, since no data were available for this group at investigation or substantiation. Both blacks and Hispanics were overrepresented at all three stages, while whites and Asians and Pacific Islanders were underrepresented.

Somewhat similar patterns occurred regarding disparity ratios. The disparity ratios increased between investigation and placement among blacks (2.5 and 4.2, respectively), Asians and

Pacific Islanders (0.8 and 1.0, respectively), and Hispanics (1.8 and 2.4, respectively). While black children were two to four times as likely as white children to be investigated or placed in foster care, Hispanic children were twice as likely as whites to be at all three stages. In Bexar County, large disparities with whites exist among blacks and Hispanics at the three stages of CPS decision making.

| Table 15: National Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios for Investigation, Substantiation, and Children Placed in Foster Care | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Disproportionality Rates | | | Disparity Ratios | | |
| | Investigation | Substantiation | Placed in Foster Care | Investigation | Substantiation | Placed in Foster Care |
| White | 0.98 | 0.95 | 0.70 | | | |
| Black | 1.67 | 1.80 | 2.40 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 3.4 |
| American Indian | 2.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 4.3 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.50 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.7 |
| Hispanic | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.85 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1.2 |

[a] Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non Hispanic members are included.

| Table 16: Ramsey County, MN Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios for Investigation, Substantiation, and Children Placed in Foster Care | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Disproportionality Rates | | | Disparity Ratios | | |
| | Investigation | Substantiation | Placed in Foster Care | Investigation | Substantiation | Placed in Foster Care |
| White | 0.50 | 0.48 | 0.48 | | | |
| Black | 3.67 | 3.83 | 4.08 | 7.3 | 8.0 | 8.5 |
| American Indian | 5.00 | 7.00 | 7.00 | 10.0 | 14.6 | 14.6 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 0.59 | 0,41 | 0.41 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Hispanic | 1.13 | 1.25 | 0.88 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 1.8 |

[a] Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

| Table 17: King County, WA Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios for Investigation, Substantiation, and Children Placed in Foster Care | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Disproportionality Rates | | | Disparity Ratios | | |
| | Investigation | Substantiation | Placed in Foster Care | Investigation | Substantiation | Placed in Foster Care |
| White | 0.96 | 0.90 | 0.60 | | | |
| Black | 1.43 | 1.71 | 4.71 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 7.9 |
| American Indian | 6.00 | 8.00 | 11.00 | 6.3 | 8.9 | 18.3 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.38 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.6 |
| Hispanic | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.00 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.7 |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non Hispanic members are included.

| Table 18: Guilford County, NC Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios for Investigation, Substantiation, and Children Placed in Foster Care | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Disproportionality Rates | | | Disparity Ratios | | |
| | Investigation | Substantiation | Placed in Foster Care | Investigation | Substantiation | Placed in Foster Care |
| White | 0.65 | 0.69 | na[b] | | | na[b] |
| Black | 1.53 | 1.44 | na[b] | 2.4 | 2.1 | na[b] |
| American Indian | 1.00 | 1.00 | na[b] | 1.5 | 1.4 | na[b] |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 1.00 | 1.00 | na[b] | 1.5 | 1.4 | na[b] |
| Hispanic | 1.00 | 1.40 | na[b] | 1.5 | 2.0 | na[b] |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]   na=data not available.

| Table 19: Wake County, NC Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios for Investigation, Substantiation, and Children Placed in Foster Care | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Disproportionality Rates | | | Disparity Ratios | | |
| | Investigation | Substantiation | Placed in Foster Care | Investigation | Substantiation | Placed in Foster Care |
| White | 0.52 | 0.54 | na[b] | | | na[b] |
| Black | 2.35 | 2.30 | na[b] | 4.5 | 4.3 | na[b] |
| American Indian | 1.00 | | na[b] | 1.9 | -- | na[b] |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 1.33 | 1.67 | na[b] | 2.6 | 3.1 | na[b] |
| Hispanic | 1.00 | 1.00 | na[b] | 1.9 | 1.9 | na[b] |

[a]  Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]  na=data not available.

| Table 20: Bexar County, TX Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Rates and Disparity Ratios for Investigation, Substantiation, and Children Placed in Foster Care | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Race/Ethnicity[a] | Disproportionality Rates | | | Disparity Ratios | | |
| | Investigation | Substantiation | Placed in Foster Care | Investigation | Substantiation | Placed in Foster Care |
| White | 0.63 | 0.63 | 0.48 | | | |
| Black | 1.57 | 1.57 | 2.00 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 4.2 |
| American Indian | na[b] | na[b] | 1.00 | na[b] | na[b] | 2.1 |
| Asian/Pacifc Islander | 0.50 | 0,50 | 0.50 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Hispanic | 1.13 | 1.13 | 1.13 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.4 |

[a]   Data are gathered on Hispanics as an ethnicity, apart from racial identity. For each of the other designations (racial), only non-Hispanic members are included.

[b]  na=data not available.

# SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

This study makes several important contributions to this nation's understanding of dispro-portionality and disparity in the child welfare system. First, while most studies focus on com-parisons between blacks and whites, this analysis incorporates other communities, namely American Indians, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics. Second, while most studies examine disproportionality at only one geographic level, this analysis describes racial/ethnic disproportionality and disparity at three levels—national, state, and county. We will now summarize highlights at each of those levels.

## NATIONAL LEVEL

At the national level, the disproportionality rates among black children and American Indian children rise as the child goes deeper into the child welfare system—from investigation through substantiation to foster care placement. On the other hand, the disproportional-ity rates also increase among Asian and Pacific Islander children and Hispanic children. But American Indians have much higher disproportionality rates than blacks. While blacks and American Indians are overrepresented at all three stages of CPS decision making, Asians and Pacific Islanders are underrepresented at all three stages. Although blacks and American Indians are two to four more times more likely than whites to be at one of those stages, Asians and Pacific Islanders are less likely than whites to be investigated, substantiated, or placed in foster care. While Hispanics are less likely than whites to be investigated or sub-stantiated, they are more likely than whites to be placed in foster care.

## STATE LEVEL

The disproportionality trends in Washington and Minnesota are somewhat similar to those at the national level. In Washington, for example, the disproportionality rates rise among blacks and American Indians from investigation to foster care placement, and they decline among Asians and Pacific Islanders and Hispanics. But those disproportionality rates are higher among American Indians than blacks. While blacks and American Indians are over-represented at all three stages, Asians and Pacific Islanders are underrepresented. Moreover, while blacks and American Indians are more likely than whites to be at any of the three stages, Asians and Pacific Islanders are less likely than whites to be at any of the three stages. On the other hand, not only are Hispanics overrepresented at all three stages, they are twice as likely as whites to be investigated, substantiated, or placed in foster care in the State of Washington.

In Minnesota, however, while the disproportionality rates steadily rise among American Indians from investigation to foster care placement, they decline among blacks. But the disproportionality rates are higher among American Indians than blacks. While blacks and American Indians are overrepresented at all three stages, Asians and Pacific Islanders are underrepresented. Moreover, while blacks and American Indians are more likely than whites to be at all three stages, Asians and Pacific Islanders, surprisingly, are more likely than whites to undergo investigation and substantiation. Not only are Hispanics overrepresented at the stages of investigation and substantiation, but they are twice as likely as whites to be at all three stages in Minnesota.

On the other hand, the disproportionality trends in North Carolina and Texas appear similar to each other. In North Carolina, for example, while the disproportionality rates among black children rise from investigation to foster care placement, they remain unchanged among American Indian children, but they decline among Asian and Pacific Islander children and Hispanic children. In addition, American Indians have higher disproportionality rates than blacks. While blacks and American Indians are overrepresented at all three stages, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders are underrepresented. Although blacks and American Indians are two to three times more likely than whites to be investigated, substantiated, or placed in foster care, Asians and Pacific Islanders are more likely than whites to be at any of the three stages. Hispanics are less likely than whites to be at any of the three stages in North Carolina.

Similarly, in Texas, while the disproportionality rates among blacks rise from investigation to foster care placement, they remain unchanged among American Indians and Asians and Pacific Islanders but decline among Hispanics. But blacks have higher disproportionality rates than American Indians. Blacks are the only racial/ethnic group to be overrepresented at all three stages, while Asians and Pacific Islanders are underrepresented, and American Indians are no more likely to be overrepresented or underrepresented than they are in the county child population. However, blacks are two to three times more likely than whites to be at all three stages, while Asians and Pacific Islanders are less likely than whites in Texas.

### COUNTY

The disproportionality trends in Ramsey County, Minnesota, and King County, Washington, are somewhat similar to those at the national level. In Ramsey County, for example, the disproportionality rates increase among blacks and American Indians from investigation to foster care placement but decline among Asians and Pacific Islanders and Hispanics. American Indians have higher disproportionality rates than blacks. While blacks and American Indians are overrepresented at all three stages, Asians and Pacific Islanders are underrepre-

sented. Interestingly, Hispanics are overrepresented at investigation and substantiation but underrepresented at foster care placement. While blacks and American Indians are 7 to 15 times more likely than whites to be at one of the three stages, Hispanics are twice as likely as whites to be at any of the three stages in Ramsey County.

In King County, however, while the disproportionality rates increase among black and American Indian children from investigation through substantiation to foster care placement, they also rise among Asians and Pacific Islanders and Hispanics. But American Indians have higher disproportionality rates than blacks. While blacks and American Indians are overrepresented at all three stages, Hispanics are overrepresented at investigation and substantiation and Asians and Pacific Islanders are underrepresented at all three stages. Similar to Ramsey County, Hispanic children in King County are also overrepresented at investigation and substantiation but not at foster care placement. While blacks and American Indians are 1 to 18 times more likely than whites to be at one of the three stages, Hispanics are twice as likely as whites to be at any of the three stages in King County.

The disproportionality trends in Guilford County, Wake County, and Bexar County appear to be similar to each other. For example, in Guilford County, the disproportionality rates among blacks *decline*, unexpectedly, between investigation and substantiation but remain unchanged (at 1.00) among American Indians. And blacks have higher disproportionality rates than American Indians. While blacks are overrepresented at both stages, American Indians are not overrepresented or underrepresented. Although Asians and Pacific Islanders are no more likely to be investigated or substantiated than they are in the county child population, they are 1.4 to 1.5 times more likely than whites to be investigated or substantiated. Although Hispanics are overrepresented at the stage of substantiation, they are about 1.5 to 2.0 times more likely than whites to be investigated or substantiated in Guilford County.

Similarly, in Wake County, the disproportionality rates among blacks also *decline* between investigation and substantiation, while among American Indians they remain at 1.00 at the stage of investigation. Once again, blacks have higher disproportionality rates than American Indians. While blacks are overrepresented at both stages, American Indians are not overrepresented or underrepresented at the stage of investigation. Although Hispanics are no more likely to be investigated or substantiated than they are in the county child population, Asians and Pacific Islanders are overrepresented at both stages. While blacks are about five times more likely than whites to be investigated, American Indians are twice as likely as whites to be investigated. Yet, surprisingly, while Hispanics are twice as likely as whites to be investigated or substantiated, Asians and Pacific Islanders are about three times as likely as whites to be investigated or substantiated in Wake County.

In Bexar County, the disproportionality rates among blacks rise between investigation and foster care placement, while they remain at 1.00 among American Indians at the stage of placement—the only stage in which data are available for them. In this instance, black children have higher disproportionality rates than American Indian children. While blacks are overrepresented at all three stages, Asians and Pacific Islanders are underrepresented at all three stages, and American Indians are not overrepresented or underrepresented at the stage of foster care placement. On the other hand, Hispanics are overrepresented at investigation, substantiation, and placement. While blacks are 2 to 4 times more likely than whites to be at one of the three stages, American Indians are twice as likely as whites to be placed in foster care. Yet, surprisingly, while Hispanics are twice as likely as whites to be at any of the three stages, Asians and Pacific Islanders are less likely than whites to be investigated or substantiated in Bexar County.

In conclusion, a more comprehensive picture of racial disproportionality and disparity is obtained through analysis of the data at national, state, and county geographic levels, and we suspect, at the large neighborhood level in major U.S. cities, as illustrated by the new King County longitudinal data. These analyses are further enhanced by trend data over two or more years.

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# ENDNOTES

1   *Disproportionality* is an under- or overrepresentation of children under age 18 of a particular racial or ethnic group experiencing a particular child welfare event compared to their representation in the general U.S. population.

2   *Disparate treatment* refers to the unequal treatment or services provided to minority children as compared to those provided to similarly situated white children.

3   The terms *American Indian* and *Native American* are used interchangeably throughout this document as per communications with representatives of the related communities throughout the country. Each has been chosen as a preference in different areas.

4   Hill, R. B. (March 2005). *Overrepresentation of children of color in the child welfare system in 2000.* The Race Matters Consortium.

5   Hill, R.B. (October 2006). *Synthesis of research on disproportionality in child welfare: An update.* Casey-CSSP Alliance for Racial Equity in Child Welfare.

6   The *Disproportionality Rate* is derived by dividing the number of children in a racial/ethnic group at a specific decision-making stage in the child welfare system by the number of children in that same racial/ethnic group in the census population.

7   The *Disparity Ratio* is derived by dividing the disproportionality rates for specific nonwhite groups at various CPS decision making stages by the disproportionality rates for whites.

8   This report uses the total number of children who were placed in foster care throughout 2003, a total of 800,000. This report uses only the following four variables from AFCARS:

    (a)  Race, which used the following five data elements: AMIAKN (American Indian), ASIAN (Asian), HAWAII PI (Hawaiian and Pacific Islander), BLKAFRAM (black/African American), and WHITE (white)

    (b)  Ethnicity, which used the data element HISORGIN for Hispanic origin

    (c)  State, which used the data element STATE for the 50 states and DC

    (d)  County, which used the data element FIPSCODES for specific counties

    There is no separate variable for "placement in foster care," since the data comprise the entire number (800,000) of children who were placed in foster care in 2003.

9   Jones, E. (2006). *Places to watch: Promising practices to address racial disproportionality in child welfare services.* Casey-CSSP Alliance for Racial Equity in the Child Welfare System.

10  Hill & Derezotes, 2007. NEED FULL CITATION HERE

11   For more information, contact the King County Children's Administration, Department of Social and Health Services.

# Casey-CSSP Alliance for Racial Equity in Child Welfare

**CSSP** is a nonprofit public policy organization that develops and promotes policies and practices that support and strengthen families and help communities to produce equal opportunities and better futures for all children. We work in partnership with federal, state and local government, and communities and neighborhoods—from politicians who can craft legislation, state administrators who can set and implement policy and practice, and networks of peers, community leaders, parents and youth to find workable solutions to complex problems.
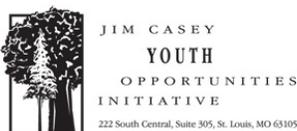
**Casey Family Programs** is the largest national foundation whose sole mission is to provide and improve—and ultimately prevent the need for—foster care. The foundation draws on its 40 years of experience and expert research and analysis to improve the lives of children and youth in foster care in two important ways: by providing direct services and support to foster families and promoting improvements in child welfare practice and policy. The Seattle-based foundation was established in 1966 by UPS founder Jim Casey and currently has an endowment of $2 billion.
**www.casey.org**

The **Marguerite Casey Foundation** was created by Casey Family Programs in 2001 to help expand Casey's outreach and further enhance its 37-year record of leadership in child welfare. Based in Seattle, the Marguerite Casey Foundation is a private, independent grant-making foundation dedicated to helping low-income families strengthen their voice and mobilize their communities.
**www.caseygrants.org**

**Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative** was created in 2001 by Casey Family Programs and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Based in St. Louis, the Initiative is a major national effort to help youth in foster care make successful transitions to adulthood.
**www.jimcaseyyouth.org**

The **Annie E. Casey Foundation** is a private charitable organization dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children in the United States. It was established in 1948 by Jim Casey, one of the founders of United Parcel Service, and his siblings, who named the Foundation in honor of their mother. The primary mission of the Foundation is to foster public policies, human-service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families. In pursuit of this goal, the Foundation makes grants that help states, cities, and neighborhoods fashion more innovative, cost-effective responses to these needs.
**www.aecf.org**

**Casey Family Services** was established by United Parcel Service founder Jim Casey in 1976 as a source for high-quality, long-term foster care. Casey Family Services today offers a broad range of programs for vulnerable children and families throughout the Northeast and in Baltimore, Maryland. The direct service agency of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Casey Family Services operates from administrative headquarters in New Haven, Connecticut, and eight program divisions in Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
**www.caseyfamilyservices.org**