



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Children and Family Services

**Minnesota Child Welfare
Disparities Report**

February 2010



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Executive Summary

The Minnesota Child Welfare Disparities Report is written in response to continuing concern for disproportional representation of children by race and ethnicity in the public child welfare system and the resulting child outcomes. Significant child welfare reforms occurred in Minnesota over the past decade, advancing strength-based and family-centered practice. Strategies to reduce disparities have also been underway during this time period. Despite these multiple efforts, disproportionate representation by race and ethnicity continues. Yet, positive impact can be obtained by sustaining collaborative efforts on supports and services that allow for early intervention, improved service integration and cultural competency. If this direction is maintained, Minnesota's children will grow up in loving, stable, healthy homes with families who have what they need to safely care for them.

Accomplishing positive outcomes for all children involves acknowledgment that the disparity between racial and ethnic child welfare child populations has not reduced over the past four years. This report provides an overview of how children are faring, by race and ethnicity, along key decision points in the public child welfare system. The state of children involved along the child welfare continuum during 2008 is described in the areas of child maltreatment assessment or investigation, out-of-home care and adoption. In some instances, trends are provided, covering 2005 through 2008. Data from the Social Service Information System (SSIS) was utilized to examine disproportional representation and related disparities for children.

When compared to White children, children of color and tribally affiliated children, with the exception of Asian/Pacific Islander children, are over-represented and experience a higher rate of involvement in child protective services, out-of-home placement and adoption. All children of color and tribally affiliated children were more likely than White children to receive a determination of child maltreatment, have an opening for case management services, or undergo a slower rate of adoption.

The greatest level of over-representation is experienced by American Indian and African American children who are represented along the continuum at the highest rates, despite the variation of measures examined. Of the two groups, American Indian children experience the greatest disproportionality along the continuum, and the rates of over-representation are expanding.

As compared to White children, American Indian and African American children are over-represented in rate of:

- Contact with the child protection system – American Indian and African American children were as high as six and four times more likely to be subjects of child protection assessments and investigations.
- Experiencing neglect – American Indian children were more than eight times more likely to be a subject of a neglect report; with African American children nearly five times more likely.
- Recurrence of child maltreatment – American Indian and African American children have consistently higher rates of repeat child maltreatment. This has grown or remained constant while the rates for White children appear to be declining.
- Out-of-home care – American Indian children were placed in out-of-home care for one or more days in 2008 at a rate more than twice that of any other group, and were 12 times more

likely than a White child to spend time in placement. African American children were the next highest risk group at 5.3 times the rate of placement.

- Placement stability – the longer American Indian and African American children remained in out-of-home care, the more they experienced multiple moves in placement settings.
- Aging out of care – American Indian and African American youth have high rates of reaching the age of majority when in placement for long periods of time.

Overall, for all children, Minnesota has low recurrence of child maltreatment, provides placement stability and reunifies at high rates. However, the level of re-entry into foster care is high. For children achieving permanency through adoption, the process generally occurs in a timely manner. For other permanency situations, however, Minnesota continues to have challenges regarding establishing permanency for older children and for those in care for long periods of time. Minnesota is dedicated to achieving positive outcomes for children through the implementation of the Minnesota Child Welfare Practice Model, developed to maintain child safety, permanency and well-being while acknowledging the need to respectfully engage and partner with families and communities to achieve positive outcomes.

The practice model is informed by the lessons learned from multiple child welfare reform efforts. Family Assessment Response, Parent Support Outreach Program, Family Group Decision Making and Minnesota Family Investment Program/Family Connections are illustrations of implemented programs that:

- Build upon the strengths of families and communities.
- Promote fair and equitable access and provision of services.
- Maintain community and cultural connections for children.
- Seek to engage the family and their support system in a partnership to protect children, assure the continuity of care arrangements, and attend to child and family well-being.

The department is committed to addressing disparities within child welfare and holds a common vision that all Minnesota children grow up in loving, stable, healthy homes with families who have what they need to safely care for them. This report provides a foundation to guide the next steps necessary to work together to accomplish the vision. Next steps include:

- Persistent attention to the data and evaluation of initiatives to increase transparency and inform practice strategy implementation at the state and local levels.
- Sustained efforts to impact front door entrance into the public child welfare system by holding fast to the advancement of prevention and early intervention supports and services to assist families and children.
- Provision of family and community supports within a culturally competent service array that maintains community and cultural connections for children.
- Integration of the knowledge and importance of culture and the protective factors.
- Provision and enhancement of training on practice skill requirements to assure work is conducted within a context of cultural respect and competence in accordance with the Minnesota Child Welfare Practice Model.
- Continued partnership and dialogue at the state, county, tribal and community level to pursue strategies and resources that build upon the strengths of families and communities.

**Minnesota
Child Welfare Disparities
Report**

Table of Contents		Page
Introduction		5
Framing of Disparities		5
Technical Notes		6
Presentation of Data		9
Child Maltreatment Reports: Assessments and Investigations		10
Figure 1	Percent of Minnesota Children Living in Poverty, 2006-2008	10
Table 1	Child Subjects of Maltreatment Reports to Child Protection, Rate per Thousand in the Minnesota Child Population, 2005-2008	11
Figure 2	Child Subjects of Maltreatment Reports, Rate per Thousand in the Minnesota Child Population by Allegation Type, 2008	12
Figure 3	Response Type for Maltreatment Reports, 2008	13
Figure 4	Reason for Assignment to Family Investigation Response, Percents for Mandatory Reasons and Discretionary Reasons, 2008	14
Table 2	Reasons for Family Investigation (FI) Assignment, Percent Distribution Within Race, 2008	15
Figure 5	Timeliness of Child Observation by a Child Protection Worker, 2008	16
Figure 6	Maltreatment Determinations for Children in Family Investigations, 2008	17
Figure 7	SDM–Family Risk Assessment Results, 2008	18
Figure 8	Referrals to Ongoing Protective or Preventative Services, Post–Family Assessment or Family Investigation, 2008	19
Tables 3 and 4	Six and 12-month Maltreatment Recurrence, 2005-2008	20
Tables 5 and 6	Six and 12-month Maltreatment Re-reporting, 2005-2008	20
Out-of-home Care		21
Figure 9	Children Placed in Out-of-home Care, Rates per Thousand, 2008	21
Table 7	Reasons for Removal, Percent Distribution Within Race and Across Reasons, 2008	22
Figure 10	Children Placed Out-of-home Care During a Child Protection Assessment or Investigation, 2008	23
Table 8	Social Service Program Areas With Children in Out-of-home Care, 2008	24
Figure 11	Placement Settings, All Children Placed in Out-of-home Care, 2008	25
Figure 12	Foster Family Placement Settings, Percent of Children in a Relative Foster Home, 2008	26
Figure 13	Median Months in Out-of-home Care for Children Discharged in 2008	27
Figure 14	Children Reunified in Fewer Than 12 Months from the Date of Latest Removal from Home, 2008	28
Figure 15	Children Who Re-entered Out-of-home Care Within 12 Months of Discharge, 2008	29
Figure 16	Children with Two or Fewer Placement Settings in Less Than 12 Months, 12-24 Months, and 24 or More Months, 2008	30

Child Well-being		31
Figure 17	Percent of Non-exempted Children with a Mental Health Screening, 2008	31
Figure 18	Reasons Exempted from Receiving Mental Health Screening, 2008	32
Figure 19	Children in Out-of-home Care with a Physical Examination During FFY 2008	33
Figure 20	Monthly Social Worker Visits for Children in Out-of-home Care, Percent Seen for Every Full Month in Care, 2008	34
Permanency		35
Figure 21	Children Who Have a Transfer of Legal/Physical Custody Transferred to a Relative, Percent Completed Within 12 Months of Removal from Home, 2008	35
Figure 22	Representation in the Minnesota Population of Children Entering into Guardianship, Ratio to White Children, 2005-2009	36
Figure 23	Children Adopted in Fewer Than 24 Months from Time of Latest Removal, 2008	37
Figure 24	Average Number of Days from Guardianship to the Commissioner to Finalized Adoption, 2008	38
Figure 25	Children Who Reach the Age of Majority in Out-of-home Care, Percent in Care Three or More Years, 2008	39
Next Steps		40
Appendix		41
Appendix A. Minnesota Disparities Study Abstracts		42
Appendix B. Raw Data Used for Report Figures and Tables		46
Reference: Figure 1. Percent of Minnesota Children Living in Poverty, 2006-2008 (Page 10)		46
Reference: Table 1. Child Subjects of Maltreatment Reports to Child Protection, Rate per Thousand in the Minnesota Child Population, 2005-2008 (Page 11)		46
Reference: Figure 2. Child Subjects of Maltreatment Reports, Rate per Thousand in the Minnesota Child Population by Allegation Type, 2008 (Page 12)		46
Reference: Figure 3. Response Type for Maltreatment Reports, 2008 (Page 13)		47
Reference: Figure 4. Percent of Children in Family Investigations for Mandatory Reasons and Discretionary Reasons, 2008 (Page 14)		47
Reference: Table 2. Reasons for Family Investigation (FI) Assignment, Percent Distribution Within Race, 2008 (Page 15)		48
Reference: Figure 5. Timeliness of Child Observation by a Child Protection Worker, 2008 (Page 16)		49
Reference: Figure 6. Maltreatment Determinations for Children in Family Investigations, 2008 (Page 17)		49
Reference: Figure 7. SDM–Family Risk Assessment Results, 2008 (Page 18)		49
Reference: Figure 8. Referrals to Child Protection, Child Welfare or Adoption/Guardianship Ongoing Services Post–Family Assessment or Family Investigation, 2008 (Page 19)		50
Reference: Tables 3-6. Six and 12-Month Maltreatment Recurrence or Re-reporting, 2005-2006 (Page 20)		51
Reference: Figure 9. Children Placed in Out-of-home Care, Rater per Thousand, 2008 (Page 21)		52
Reference: Table 7. Reasons for Removal, Percent Distribution Within Race and Across Reasons, 2008 (Page 22)		52

Reference: Figure 10. Children Placed in Out-of-home Care During a Child Protection Assessment or Investigation, 2008 (Page 23)	53
Reference: Table 8. Social Service Program Areas Placing Children in Out-of-home Care, 2008 (Page 24)	53
Reference: Figure 11. part I. Placement Settings, All Children Placed in Out-of-home Care, 2008 (Page 25)	54
Reference: Figure 11. part II. Hennepin County Placement Setting Code Impact on Statewide Data, 2008 (Page 25)	54
Reference: Figure 12. Foster Family Placement Settings, Percent of Children in a Relative Foster Home, 2008 (Page 26)	55
Reference: Figure 13. Median Months in Out-of-home Care for Children Discharged in 2008 – data table not applicable (Page 27)	55
Reference: Figure 14. Children Reunified in Fewer Than 12 Months from the Date of Latest Removal from Home, 2008 (Page 28)	55
Reference: Figure 15. Children Who Re-entered Out-of-home Care Within 12 Months of Discharge, 2008 (Page 29)	56
Reference: Figure 16. Children with Two or Fewer Placement Settings in Fewer Than 12 Months, 12-24 Months and 24 or More Months, 2008 (Page 30)	56
Reference: Figure 17. Percent of Non-exempted Children with a Mental Health Screening, 2008 (Page 31)	56
Reference: Figure 18. Reasons Exempted from Receiving Mental Health Screening, 2008 (Page 32)	57
Reference: Figure 19. Children in Out-of-home Care with a Physical Examination During FFY 2008 – data table not applicable (Page 33)	57
Reference: Figure 20. Monthly Social Worker Visits for Children in Out-of-home Care, Percent Seen for Every Full Month in Care, 2008 (Page 34)	57
Reference: Figure 21. Children Who Have a Transfer of Legal/Physical Custody to a Relative, Percent Completed Within 12 Months of Removal from Home, 2008 (Page 35)	58
Reference: Figure 22. Representation in the Minnesota Population of Children Entering Guardianship, Ratio to White Children, 2005-2009 (Page 36)	58
Reference: Figure 23. Children Adopted in Fewer Than 24 Months from Time of Latest Removal, 2008 (Page 37)	58
Reference: Figure 24. Average Number of Days from Guardianship to the Commissioner to Finalized Adoption, 2008 (Page 38)	59
Reference. Figure 25. Children Adopted by Age of Caregiver, 2008 (Page 39)	59
Reference: Figure 26. Children Who Reach the Age of Majority in Out-of-home Care, Percent in Care Three or More Years, 2008 (Page 40)	58

Introduction

The over-representation of children by race and ethnicity results in varied outcomes within the public child welfare system. Reporting of data by race and ethnicity is one of several strategies necessary to reduce disparities. The presence of disparities is in all systems, health care, corrections, education and child welfare. Disparities within the child welfare system are therefore disappointingly consistent with the experiences of other service systems. In addition, system overlap occurs, as children in the child welfare system may also be involved in the juvenile justice system. Several components influence disparities externally from the child welfare system: potential bias in identification and reporting; the impact of historical trauma thrust upon American Indian and African American families; socioeconomic factors, including inequitable outcomes in education, health and corrections; the impact of poverty; institutional racism and discriminatory practices; and the everyday stress related to experiencing prejudicial micro-aggressive behaviors in interactions with others.

While the child welfare system must work to assure experiences are fair and equitable once children are involved, there is also a concurrent need to implement strategies that will impact the entry of children disproportionately to the system. The child population entering the child welfare system often comes with one or more risk factors. The most common risk children experience is living in financial hardship or poverty. An analysis of census data regarding poverty rates for children in Minnesota reveals that, of all children, African American and American Indian children live in families with the highest levels of poverty, yet poverty alone cannot explain this overrepresentation.

Renewed efforts are needed to impact the entrance into the system. Essential partnerships can contribute to systemic change in the areas of health care, corrections, chemical health, mental health, disabilities, early childhood education and child welfare – all systems similarly and frequently connected to the same families. The exploration of culture and protective factors, as well as advancing prevention and early interventions, can assist families in meeting needs prior to the occurrence of child maltreatment. Once children are connected with the child welfare system, the system should, at the very least, do no harm. In the end, the public child welfare system should not put children at further risk for poor outcomes.

The key research questions spurring this report are two-fold:

- What does the data reveal about the experience of children in Minnesota’s public child welfare system based on race and ethnicity?
- How do key decision points related to these experiences compare over time?

Framing of Disparities

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) has a priority of reducing disparities. Across all department programs, recipients from all racial and ethnic groups should have an equal opportunity to achieve successful outcomes. While this is a state and local expectation, it is also a federal performance expectation. The federal government sets normative performance standards that are intended for all children to fairly and equitably achieve positive outcomes regarding safety, permanency and well-being. DHS is committed to identifying disparities in

service access and outcomes; setting goals to cause a decline in the states' racial and ethnic disparities; and implementing targeted and coordinated strategies.

DHS programs cannot achieve intended outcomes if there is inequitable access to programs, disparate outcomes for clients, and disproportionate representation of racial or ethnic populations as compared to the general population. Identifying and following trends regarding disparate outcomes better enables department staff to understand the factors or barriers causing disparities, and subsequently track the effectiveness of interventions intended to reduce such disparities.

This report responds to the department's strategy to identify and follow trends in racial and ethnic disparities in program access and outcomes. The following data analysis is a resource to support coordination and enhancement of actions needed to address barriers that prohibit improved outcomes based on race and ethnicity. Throughout 2008 and 2009, the Children and Family Services Administration conducted focused activities in disparities reduction efforts. These activities occurred within three designated internal workgroups: Minnesota Family Investment Program/Child Welfare Practices Workgroup, Tribal Disparities Workgroup and the Disparities Data Workgroup.

In addition to internal activities, multiple practice and program strategies have been underway for several years with the goal of reducing disparities. Minnesota has experienced an evolution of child welfare changes over the past decade, many of which have addressed fairness and equity within the public child welfare system. Family-centered, strength-based practices seek to engage the family and their support system in a partnership to protect children, assure the continuity of care arrangements, and attend to the well-being of children and their families. Programs implementing such practices include Family Assessment Response, Parent Support Outreach Program, Family Group Decision Making and Minnesota Family Investment Program/Family Connections. Other efforts focused on increased collaboration between child welfare and the judicial branch, and increased cross-system collaboration in such areas as services to children with disabilities, child maltreatment prevention and public/private adoption. In 2007, the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative with Leech Lake and White Earth Bands of Ojibwe began, with tribes directly providing child welfare and child protection interventions for children and families on their respective reservations.

Each of these reform efforts have contributed to the formal development of the Minnesota Child Welfare Practice Model, which incorporates the lessons learned and practice shifts that have occurred. The Practice Model states that families are best served by interventions that engage their protective capacities and recognize and employ family strengths; maintain community and cultural connections; and address immediate safety concerns and ongoing risks of child maltreatment. One desired outcome of the model is for children and families to be supported to achieve equitable outcomes regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or tribal status.

Technical Notes

Race and ethnicity definitions. The 2000 census changed the manner in which race and ethnicity data are reported. Individuals may indicate they belong to more than one race. Hispanic ethnicity is specified separately from race. This report organizes data in the same

manner as the census. For example, children may be counted in their racial group or as having more than one race. They may also claim Hispanic ethnicity.

Throughout the report, the race and ethnicity of children are characterized with the following categories: (1) African American/Black; (2) American Indian/Alaskan Native; (3) Asian/Pacific Islander; (4) Two or more races; and (5) White. Hispanic ethnicity is identified separately and can be identified with any race category. Immigrant or citizenship status is not identified within the report. Persons with missing race data or are included in the appendix tables, however, are not included in report graphs or charts.

Children identified in the “two or more races” category are a growing population within the child welfare system, and currently represent 3.5 percent of Minnesota’s population. For example, 8 percent (1,827) of the 22,921 subjects of child protection reports in 2008 identified more than one race. Of these children, 87.5 percent (1,598) identified White as one of their two or more races, followed by African American/Black with 67.6 percent (1,235), American Indian with 43.2 percent (790), and Asian/Pacific Islander with 0.7 percent (151). The establishment of future sub-groupings within the “two or more races” child data category would be beneficial to secure a more accurate reflection of disproportional representation related to bi-cultural children.

Limitations also exist within the data regarding robust identification of immigrant child status. Many immigrant children served by the child welfare system are likely recent or second-generation immigrants. Current data collection procedures across broad racial/ethnic data categories do not provide sufficient information to effectively identify immigrant child populations served, as such, it is difficult to identify potential disparities among this population group. The Social Service Information System (SSIS) collects subcategory information for persons who are of Asian, Pacific Islander and American Indian ethnicity races. There are no subcategories for persons who are African American/Black. However, there is potential in collecting citizenship status and primary language as proxies for this information if the data were consistently entered for all persons who are recent immigrants. Currently, social workers are only required to enter supplementary data regarding tribal affiliation for children who are of American Indian heritage.

Key race and ethnicity data are best followed as trends over time to document the progress toward disparities reduction. In future Minnesota Child Welfare Reports a specified set of data will be followed annually for such purposes. Data parameters for this report include calendar years 2005 through 2008. Data from 2005 forward are more robust than earlier years, given significant child welfare reform regarding multiple child protection responses occurring just prior to 2005. Therefore, data included in this report differs from other data analyzed for the *Comparison of African American and White Children: Child Welfare Measures for 2000 and 2006*, prepared and presented to the 2007 Legislature.

This report provides state aggregate data by race/ethnicity. An accurate representation of race and ethnicity at the county/tribal level is not applicable, given the small numbers, particularly when viewed by separate racial and ethnic data categories. In addition, there is no updated individual county/tribal census data available by both race/ethnicity and by child population.

Disparities and disproportionality definitions. The following definitions guide the disparities reduction efforts across the Department of Human Services, used to provide context to this report:

- Racial and/or ethnic disparities – are differences in DHS program outcomes, service quality, access, utilization or participation rates that are considered to be unfair, unjust, or inequitable.
- Disproportionality or disproportionate representation – means the percentage of children, families or individuals of a subgroup participating in the Department of Human Services’ programs is higher or lower than their representation in the general population. For example, African American and American Indian children make up a larger proportion of the child welfare population relative to their representation in the overall Minnesota child population.
- Disparity Index – for this report analysis, a disparity index is utilized that sets out factors which, when viewed by race/ethnicity, reflect a disproportionate experience when compared to that of White children, as the normative experience.

Data sources. Information in this report parallels *Minnesota’s Child Welfare Report, 2008, Report to the 2009 Minnesota Legislature* that analyzes the same data, however, not fully from the view of race and ethnicity and related disproportional representation. Data used in both reports are collected from SSIS, a case management data collection system used by child welfare social workers in all 87 counties and Leech Lake and White Earth Bands of Ojibwe. In the first half of 2008, the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative tribes (Leech Lake and White Earth Bands of Ojibwe) began entering data into SSIS for children served regarding reports and responses to child maltreatment concerns, out-of-home care and guardianship/adoption circumstances. Accessing SSIS for this purpose is new for Initiative members and covers only a portion of 2008. Therefore, data should be considered preliminary and will become increasingly more robust over time. All data pertaining to Minnesota population rates are from the U.S. Census Bureau estimates from 2005 through 2008.

Data for report graphs and charts. All counts and percentages in the report’s graphs and charts are taken from tables provided in the Appendix. Generally, tables are not provided within the report body. This provides a streamlined view of the full account of disproportional overrepresentation of children of color and tribally affiliated children.

Demographics on child subjects. The study population analyzed for this report includes child protection program data related to accepted child maltreatment reports and responses, and includes all child-related program areas regarding out-of-home care, guardianship and adoption. The phrase “child welfare data” includes all program areas serving children, unless otherwise specified. These program areas include child protection, general child welfare, developmental disabilities, children’s mental health and corrections. Approximately one third of all counties/tribes include data related to out-of-home placements as a result of involvement in juvenile delinquency and corrections. Therefore, placements that are made due to juvenile delinquency court interventions are included in the state aggregate data.

Presentation of Data

The following analysis reveals a compelling narrative of disproportionate over-representation of American Indian and African American children. While other children are also over-represented as compared to White children, American Indian and African American children experience the most disparate involvement and outcomes along the continuum when examining key child-related experiences related to child maltreatment, out-of-home care, guardianship and adoption. It is important to note that one cannot extrapolate information from child maltreatment data to out-of-home placement and adoption data. Children who were maltreated may or may not have entered out-of-home care or been adopted. Children who were in out-of-home care may have been in care for reasons other than maltreatment, such as meeting special needs. Not all children adopted have been maltreated. Additionally, in several counties, juvenile delinquency or corrections placements of youth are included in the out-of-home care data. Data is presented at the statewide level aggregately. County or tribal specific data is not outlined in this report.

It is an expectation that all children have fair and equitable experiences across the intervention and service points of child welfare. It should be noted that the differences outlined in associations within the data cannot determine causation or infer specific practices that are implicated in the disproportionality of specific populations. In order to arrive at causation a controlled study design and case analysis design would be required. Despite this causation limitation, the data analysis reveals points for future analysis and exploration of strategies.

This report highlights the presence of differences being experienced by children within the child welfare continuum based on the race and ethnicity of child populations. However, analysis also revealed points within the continuum in which uneven representation based on race and ethnicity is not prevalent. For example, disproportionate over-representation is not dramatically reflected in the distribution of accepted child maltreatment reports between the response categories of Family Assessment and Family Investigation. Additionally, relative and kinship placement rates are improving. Though they were placed at higher rates when family foster care was needed, African American, American Indian, Hispanic and children of two or more races were more likely to be placed with relatives or kin rather than in non-relative foster homes.

By far, neglect is the most common maltreatment occurrence for Minnesota children. Neglect by caretakers is defined as the failure to provide for a child's basic needs "when reasonably able to do so." At times, conditions of poverty create circumstances in which a child may be neglected due to the parents' lack of financial resources. Under these circumstances, local child welfare agencies work to assist the parents in correcting the conditions of neglect to meet the protective needs of their child, but do not define their behavior as neglectful. Quite often the role of poverty is not understood at the time a child maltreatment report is made, and is established later during the process. A finding of maltreatment should not occur when it is determined that reports of neglect are based solely on conditions due to poverty. Children of color and tribally affiliated children are disproportionately referred by community reporters to the public child welfare system. National and local research indicates that some disproportionate representation may be due to factors other than true differences in maltreatment occurrence.

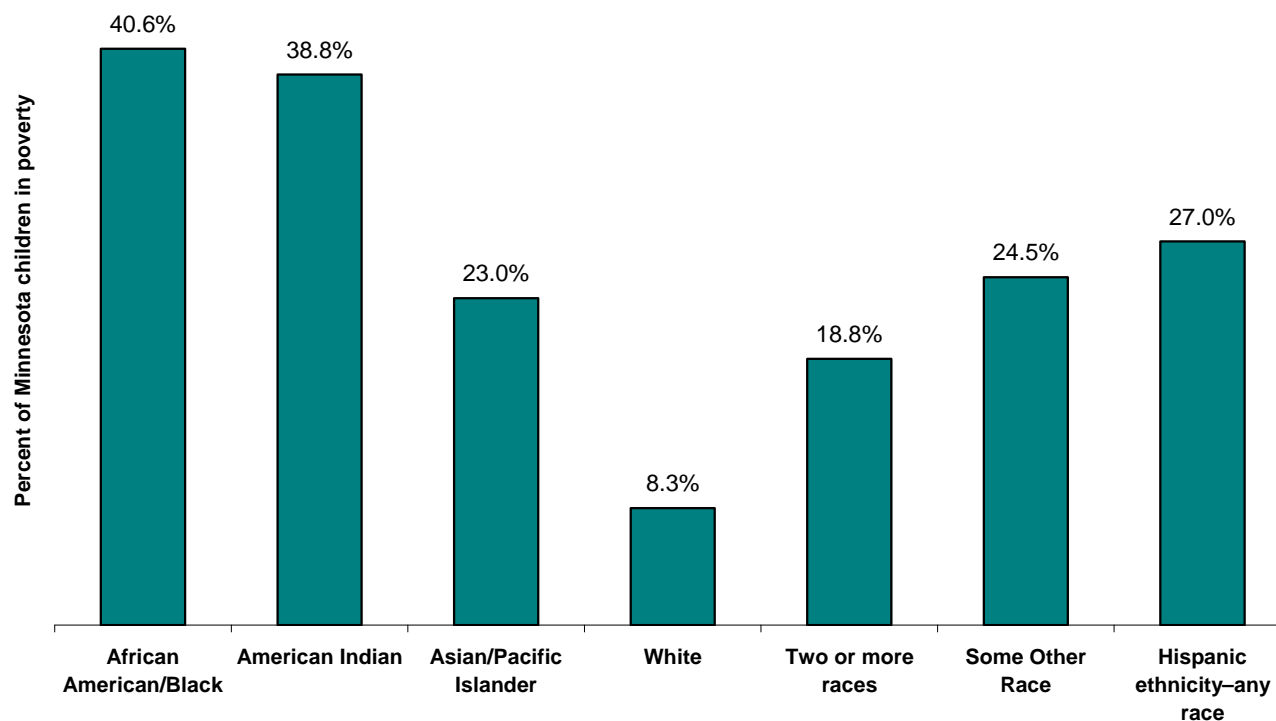
Child Maltreatment Reports: Assessments and Investigations

Poverty is widely considered a risk factor for involvement in the child protection system. Rod Plotnick (2000) identified four theories as to why child abuse and neglect are correlated with poverty:

- Low income creates greater family stress, which may lead to higher chances of maltreatment.
- Parents with low incomes have fewer resources to provide for basic needs such as adequate housing, food, clothing and safe child care.
- Other factors are causing both poverty and risk of child maltreatment, e.g., chemical dependence, mental illness, single parenting or teen parenting.
- Suspected child maltreatment in poor families is reported to child protection more frequently because they are under greater scrutiny by those who are legally mandated to report suspected child maltreatment.¹

According to the National Center for Children in Poverty, Minnesota has the 12th lowest child poverty rate in the country; however, wide racial disparities exist for all children of color compared to White children. African American and American Indian children are almost five times as likely to be living in families with incomes below the poverty level. The federal poverty level for a family of four with two children was \$22,050 in 2009.

Figure 1. Percent of Minnesota Children Living in Poverty, 2006-2008



Source: American Community Survey (ACS): Public Use Microdata Sample: 2006-2008

¹ Plotnik, R. (2000). Economic security for families with children. In P. J. Pecora, J. K. Whittaker, A. N. Maluccio, and R. P. Barth (Eds.), *The child welfare challenge: Policy, practice, and research* (2nd ed., pp. 95-127). New York, NY: Aldine de Gruyter.

Once a concern of child maltreatment is reported, a screener reviews the initial information about the concern and decides whether or not the report meets the statutory criteria for a child protection response. If it does, the agency determines if the allegations require a Family Assessment (FA) or a Family Investigation (FI). State law indicates a Family Assessment response is preferred practice, except in situations that include alleged egregious harm, sexual abuse and/or maltreatment in a child daycare or foster care home. The screener also considers a history of past reports and level of cooperation from a family. In a Family Investigation, county/tribal child protection workers interview persons involved with the report, including the alleged victims, alleged offenders and family members. If there is a preponderance of evidence that a child has been a victim of maltreatment and the harm was caused by an act, or failure to act, by a person responsible for the child’s care, the county/tribal child protection worker makes a determination whether maltreatment has occurred. In a Family Assessment no determination of maltreatment is made. In these situations, a county worker meets with all family members together to discuss and assess child safety concerns, and reviews the family’s strengths and needs.

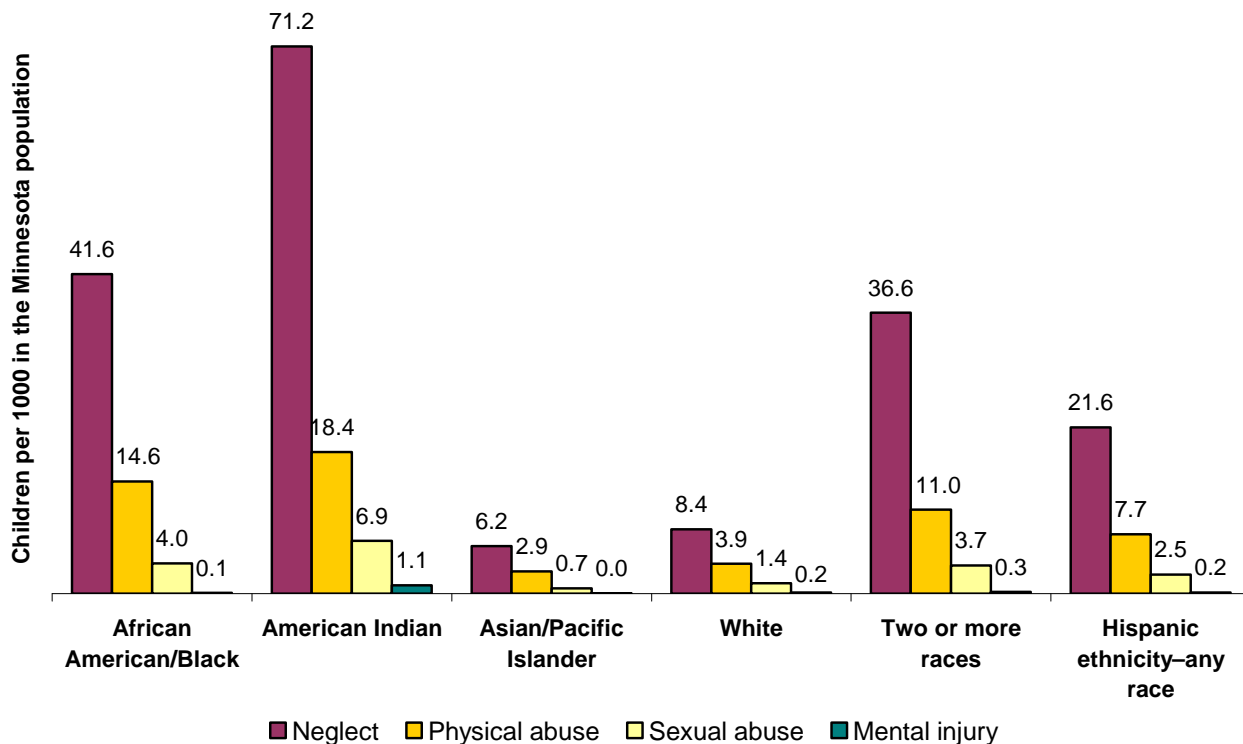
Table 1 shows that with the exception of Asian/Pacific Islander children, all other children of color were reported to child protection at dramatically higher rates than white children in the years 2005-2008. African American and American Indian children were as high as four and six times more likely to be subjects of child protection assessments and investigations than a White child. Child protection reporting rates declined in the last four years for African American, Asian/Pacific Islander and White children while all others stayed relatively stable.

Table 1. Child Subjects of Maltreatment Reports to Child Protection, Rate per Thousand in the Minnesota Child Population, 2005-2008

Race/Ethnicity	2005	2006	2007	2008
African American/Black	62.8	63.8	57.9	51.0
American Indian	73.3	75.2	73.3	78.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	11.5	10.6	9.7	8.6
White	13.6	13.6	12.9	11.9
Two or more races	43.6	43.2	41.7	42.0
Hispanic ethnicity–any race	31.3	30.7	28.8	27.7

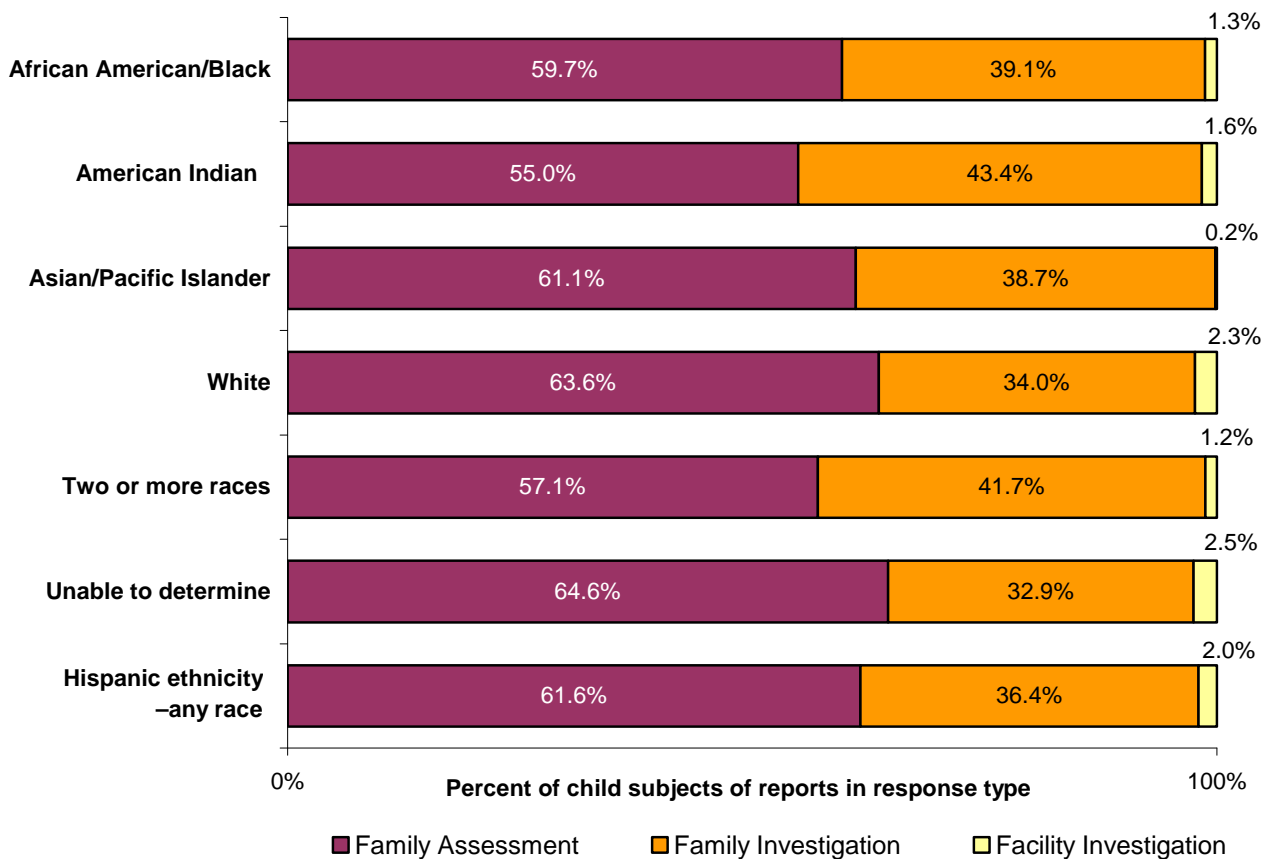
Children are reported to child protective services out of concern for neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and/or mental injury. The graph in Figure 2 illustrates these reasons. Neglect is the most common reason across all races; however, reports concerning neglect were much more prevalent among American Indian children. An American Indian child in Minnesota was more than eight times more likely than a White child to be the subject of a neglect report; African American children were nearly five times more likely to be the subjects of a neglect report. The neglect category includes emotional neglect, physical neglect (food, clothing and shelter), disregard for safety, inadequate supervision, abandonment, expulsion from home, prenatal exposure to alcohol or drugs, educational neglect, endangerment, failure to thrive, and chronic chemical abuse. A similar pattern of prevalence across races exists for physical abuse and sexual abuse, but disparities are not as dramatic as those for neglect.

Figure 2. Child Subjects of Maltreatment Reports, Rate per Thousand in the Minnesota Child Population by Allegation Type, 2008



Once a report of child maltreatment is accepted, a decision is made regarding use of the Family Assessment Response or the Family Investigation Response. Minnesota state statute indicates a Family Assessment Response is preferred practice for non-egregious harm situations. Figure 3 illustrates what response type families received in 2008. While the majority of children are referred for a Family Assessment Response, African American, American Indian and children of two or more races are more likely than others to have a Family Investigation, which is a more confrontational approach that focuses on gathering evidence to support a maltreatment determination. A Family Assessment enables a social worker to try to engage families by identifying family strengths that serve as protective factors for children.

Figure 3. Response Type for Maltreatment Reports, 2008



Family Investigations are designed to respond to the most serious reports of harm and neglect to children. Reports of child maltreatment that allege substantial child endangerment must receive a Family Investigation. Minnesota statutes define substantial child endangerment to include categories of egregious harm, physical and sexual abuse, and reports of high risk neglect. However, the county/tribe may also provide a Family Investigation Response for discretionary reasons, typically involving compelling safety concerns for a child. Figure 4 illustrates the percent of children in Family Investigations (FI) who were assigned to that response based on legal mandatory reasons, and the percent assigned for reasons that are at the discretion of the local child welfare agency. Children identifying two or more races were the most likely to be assigned to Family Investigation Response for discretionary reasons, followed by African American and American Indian children.

Figure 4. Reason for Assignment to a Family Investigation Response, Percents for Mandatory Reasons and Discretionary Reasons, 2008

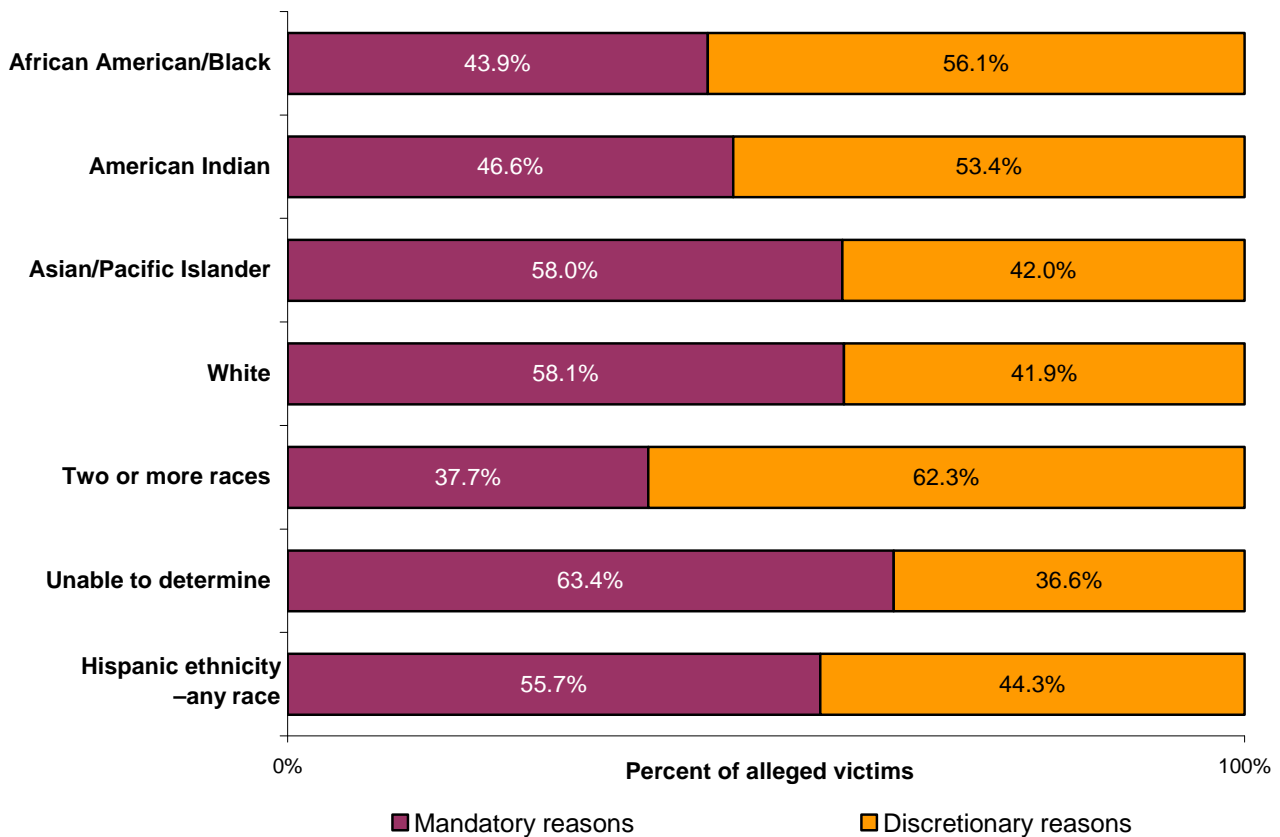


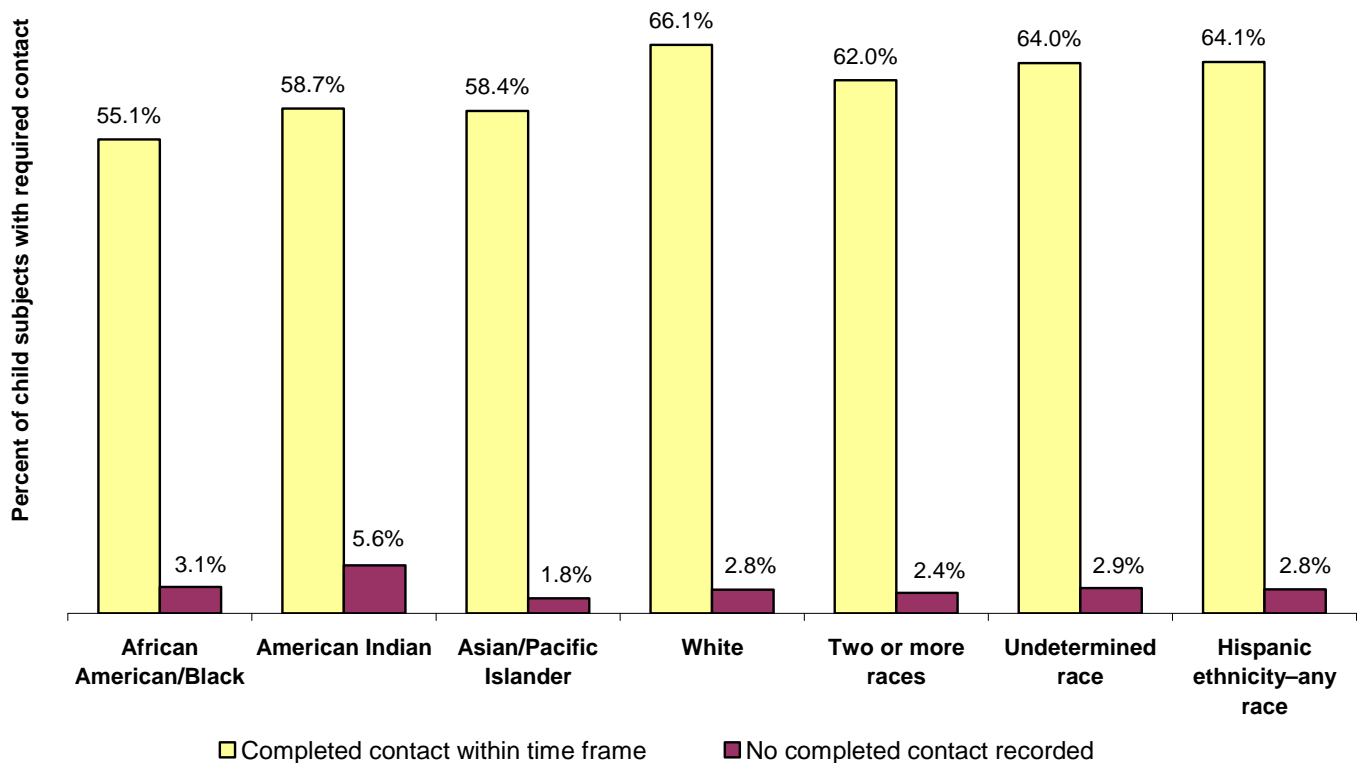
Table 2 details the reasons for assignment to a Family Investigation. The most common reason for White children to be assigned to a Family Investigation is alleged sexual abuse or exploitation. For African American, American Indian, children of two or more races, and those who are of Hispanic ethnicity, the recency or frequency of child protection reports is the most common reason cited for referral to Family Investigation. African American children and Asian/Pacific Islander children are more likely than others to be assigned to Family Investigation because the agency believed the parents or guardians were unwilling or unable to achieve child safety.

Table 2. Reasons for Family Investigation (FI) Assignment, Percent Distribution Within Race, 2008

	Reason for Family Investigation	African American/ Black	American Indian	Asian/ Pacific Islander	White	Two or more races	Unable to determine	Hispanic ethnicity—any race
Mandatory FI	Sexual abuse or exploitation	17.1	14.1	22.8	27.5	18.5	20.2	23.6
	Malicious punishment, neglect or endangerment	18.6	25.8	26.0	25.6	15.2	34.4	25.1
	Egregious harm	0.9	2.0	5.0	1.5	0.9	2.7	2.6
	Abandonment	2.6	1.5	0.0	0.8	1.8	1.6	1.2
	Assault in the first, second or third degree	3.1	1.7	1.4	1.7	0.7	2.8	1.8
	Homicide	0.4	0.1	2.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4
Discretionary FI	Recent or frequent prior child protection (CP) reports	26.8	32.6	11.0	23.3	34.3	17.6	25.5
	Currently open for CP services	5.5	2.9	6.8	2.3	3.9	1.4	2.6
	Legal intervention needed due to violent activities in home	2.4	3.9	2.3	2.6	2.4	2.4	3.1
	Parent is unwilling/unable to achieve child safety	21.1	13.5	21.9	13.2	19.9	14.6	12.6
	Other	1.5	1.8	0.0	1.3	2.4	2.3	1.3
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

When a concern of child maltreatment is reported to child protective services, Minnesota statutes require the child be seen immediately (up to 24 hours) for reports involving alleged substantial child endangerment.² For all other allegations reported, the child must be seen within five days. Figure 5 shows how often children in child protection assessments and investigations were seen by a social worker within statutory time frames. White children were more likely to have timely face-to-face contact with a social worker than other children. African American children were the least likely to have timely contact, and American Indian children were the most likely to have no recorded face-to-face contact with a social worker. One possible explanation for this disparity is that in the first half of 2008, the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative tribes from the Leech Lake and White Earth Bands of Ojibwe began entering data into SSIS for children served regarding reports and responses to child maltreatment concerns, out-of-home care and guardianship/adoption circumstances. Accessing SSIS for this purpose is new for Initiative members and covers only a portion of 2008. Contacts with children may not have been recorded completely.

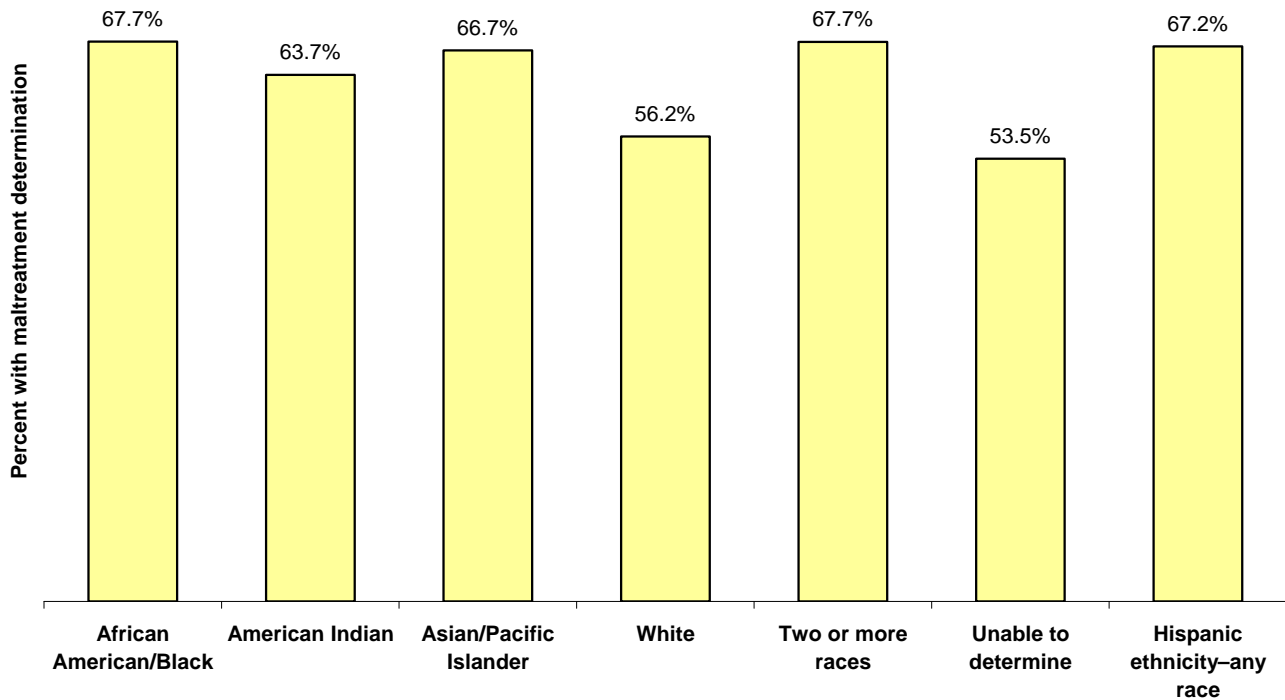
Figure 5. Timeliness of Child Observation by a Child Protection Worker, 2008



²Allegations that are considered “substantial child endangerment” requiring a face-to-face contact with a social worker are: egregious harm, sexual abuse, abandonment, neglect due to failure to thrive, murder or manslaughter, assault in the first, second or third degree, criminal sexual conduct, solicitation of a child to engage in sexual conduct, malicious punishment/neglect/endangerment, use of a minor in a sexual performance, solicitation or promotion of prostitution, parental behavior, status or condition mandating a termination of parental rights (TPR) filing.

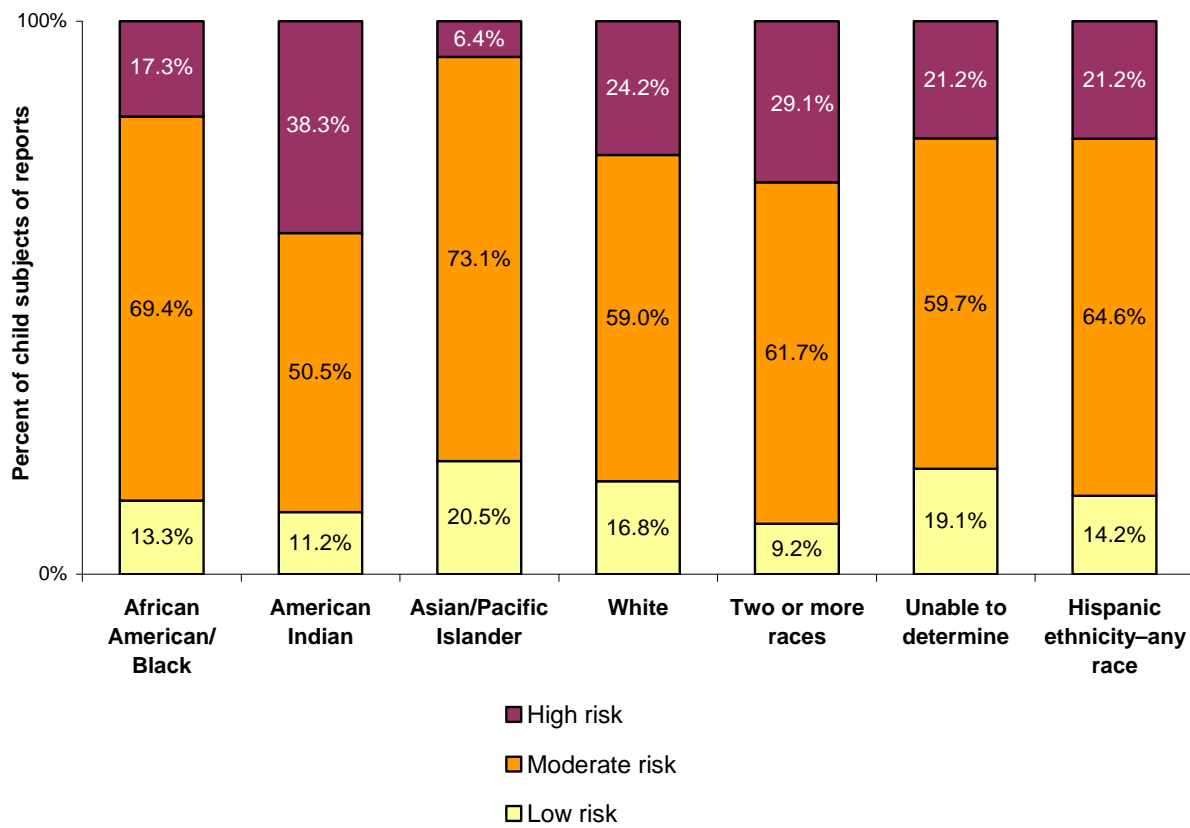
At the conclusion of a Family Investigation, a decision must be made by the local child welfare agency as to whether or not child maltreatment occurred. This decision is called a determination of child maltreatment. Figure 6 shows that, based on a preponderance of evidence in Family Investigations, maltreatment allegations of non-White children had a higher determination rate than those of White children.

Figure 6. Maltreatment Determinations for Children in Family Investigations, 2008



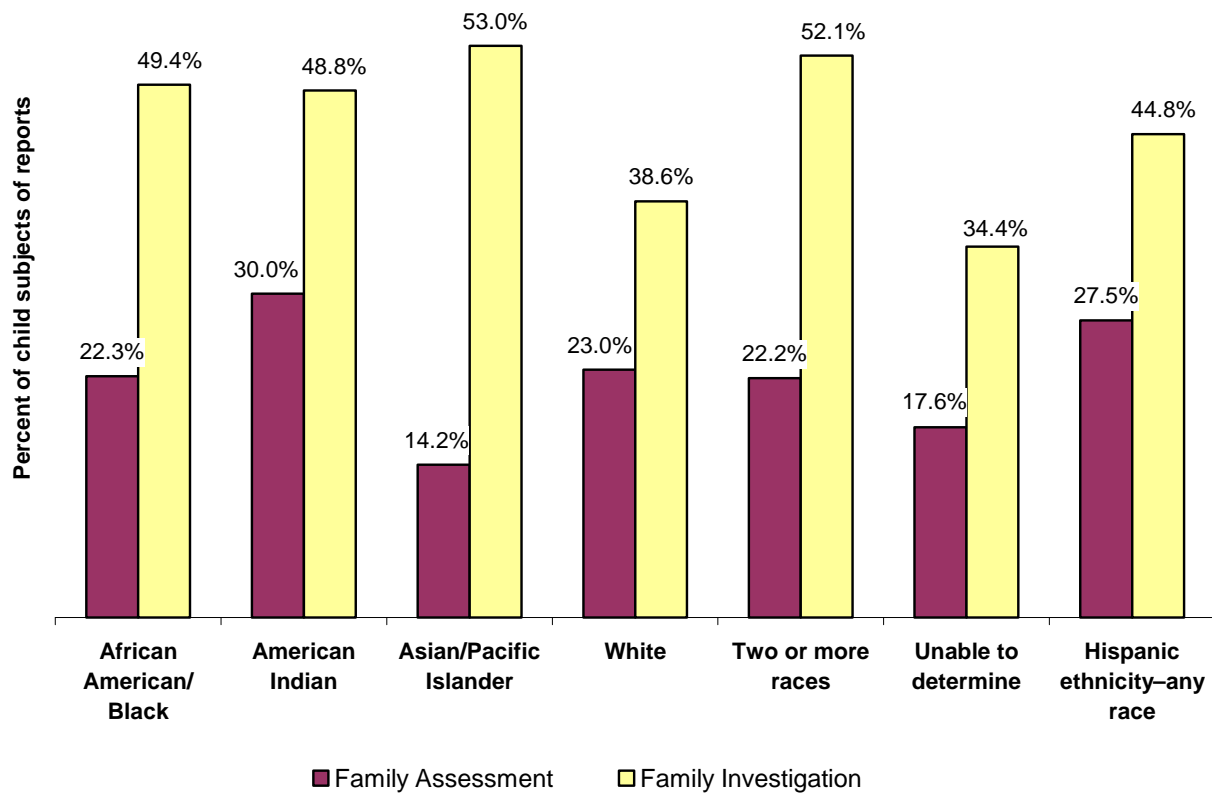
The assessment/investigation process includes use of the Structured Decision Making–Family Risk Assessment (SDM–FRA) instrument to determine the potential risk of future child maltreatment in the family. This risk is determined based on quantifying and weighting observations of family conditions such as past child protection involvement, parental characteristics, domestic violence and vulnerability of the child. The purpose of the risk assessment is to determine the family’s need for ongoing services or monitoring. American Indian children were much more likely than other children to be in families for which the SDM–FRA instrument identified in the high risk category. African American and Asian/Pacific Islander children appeared more often in the moderate and low risk categories.

Figure 7. SDM–Family Risk Assessment Results, 2008



Those families with histories of extensive child protection involvement or serious child safety issues to address tended to be in Family Investigations rather than Family Assessments. As a result, they were more likely to be referred for either voluntary or court-ordered ongoing services. Within this group, non-White children’s families participated in voluntary and court-ordered case management services more often than White children. Asian/Pacific Islander children appeared to be the most likely to have ongoing services after a Family Investigation, however, were the least likely to take part in services after a Family Assessment.

Figure 8. Referrals to Ongoing Protective or Preventative Services Post-Family Assessment or Family Investigation, 2008



There are two ways in which Minnesota measures whether child maltreatment is being reduced over time: recurrence of child maltreatment and re-reporting of child maltreatment. Tables 3 and 4 show rates of maltreatment recurrence for determined victims in Family Investigations within six and 12 months in the years 2005 to 2008. This is measured by the presence of one or more subsequent reports to child protection that resulted in a maltreatment determination within six or 12 months of a prior child maltreatment report. Recurrence rates for African American and American Indian and children of two or more races have been consistently higher than for White children, while Asian/Pacific Islander children showed the lowest maltreatment recurrence rates. Disparities for African American and American Indian children appeared to be growing as recurrence rates in those groups were either staying flat or increasing slightly, while those for White and Hispanic children appeared to be declining slightly. These percentages should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers. Refer to the Appendix for raw data.

Tables 3 and 4. Six and 12-month Maltreatment Recurrence, 2005-2008

Percent with maltreatment recurrence within six months

Race/Ethnicity	2005	2006	2007	2008
African American/Black	6.5	4.6	7.0	8.1
American Indian	4.7	5.5	8.6	5.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.6	0.0	2.4	3.9
White	4.7	3.9	3.3	3.7
Two or more races	7.9	6.7	3.8	6.6
Unable to determine	4.7	6.2	2.2	4.2
Total	5.3	4.4	4.5	5.1
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	4.6	2.8	4.4	3.6

Percent with maltreatment recurrence within 12 months

Race/Ethnicity	2005	2006	2007	2008
African American/Black	11.4	8.5	10.5	13.1
American Indian	9.4	8.2	12.1	14.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.6	1.1	3.6	3.9
White	8.2	7.0	6.4	5.8
Two or more races	12.8	10.4	6.9	11.7
Unable to determine	7.4	7.8	6.2	5.4
Total	9.2	7.5	7.7	8.5
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	10.1	5.1	7.0	5.7

Family Assessment does not result in a determination of maltreatment; therefore, the above safety performance measure of repeat maltreatment did not apply to more than half of the children who received a Family Assessment in response to a report alleging abuse or neglect. Tables 5 and 6 refer to the percentage of children who were re-reported to child protection within six and 12 months, regardless of response or maltreatment determination. Re-reporting within 12 months has declined for all child population groups.

Tables 5 and 6. Six and 12-month Maltreatment Re-reporting, 2005-2008

Percent re-reported to child protection within six months

Race/Ethnicity	2005	2006	2007	2008
African American/Black	11.3	10.6	10.6	9.6
American Indian	13.8	12.0	14.3	11.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	7.5	3.4	3.7	9.4
White	8.6	8.5	7.9	8.0
Two or more races	14.8	12.9	12.2	12.3
Unable to determine	5.9	8.3	5.4	7.1
Total	9.6	9.3	8.9	8.8
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	8.8	10.0	9.7	8.1

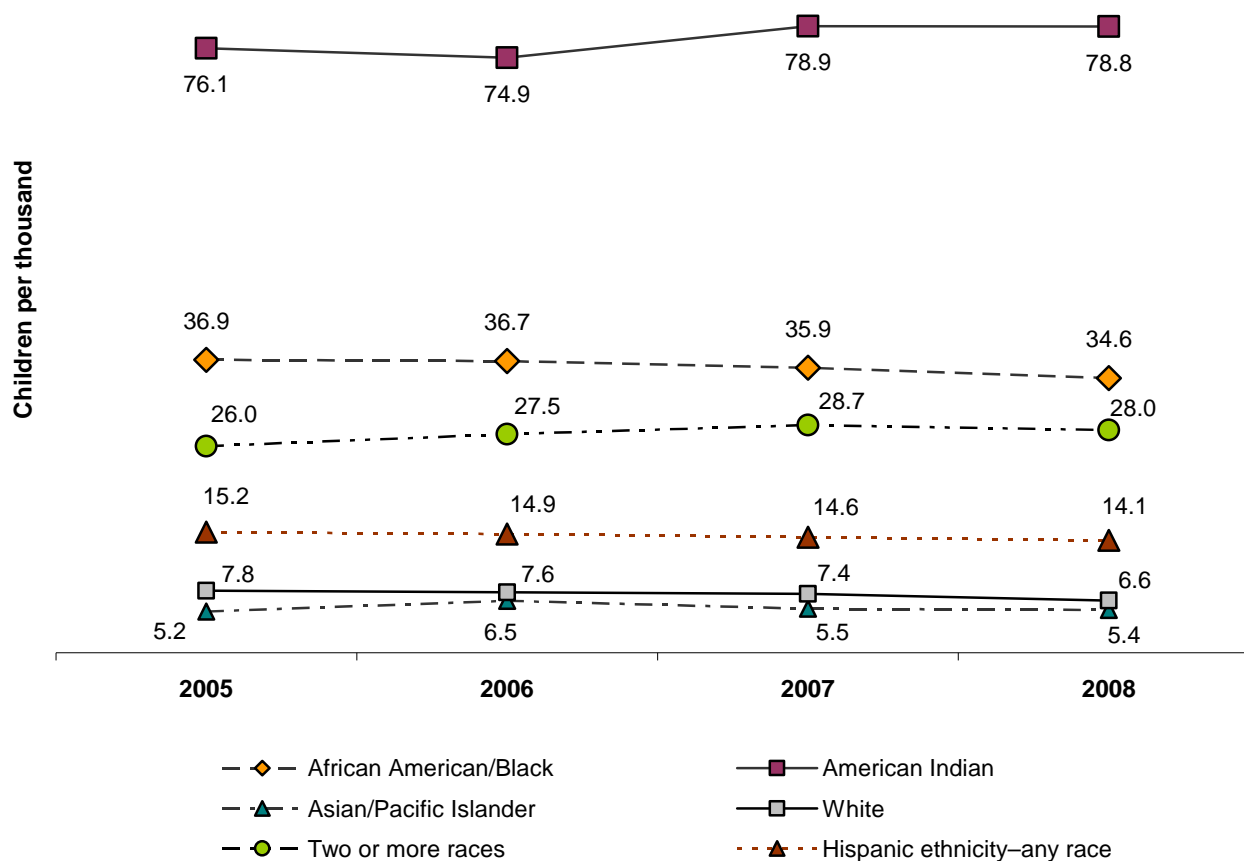
Percent re-reported to child protection within 12 months

Race/Ethnicity	2005	2006	2007	2008
African American/Black	19.6	18.4	18.0	16.7
American Indian	21.7	19.1	21.3	20.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	12.1	8.1	6.4	11.2
White	15.3	14.7	14.4	13.9
Two or more races	23.3	21.1	21.8	18.8
Unable to determine	12.6	13.9	12.2	11.1
Total	16.8	16.0	15.8	15.1
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	15.7	16.3	16.3	12.5

Out-of-home Care

The disparity between specific racial/ethnic child populations as compared to White children has not reduced over the past four years. American Indian children were placed in out-of-home care for one or more days in 2008 at a rate more than twice that of any other group, and were 12 times more likely than a White child to spend time in placement. African American children were the next highest risk group at 5.3 times the rate of placement than White children. Only children identified as Asian/Pacific Islander were slightly less likely than White children to be placed in out-of-home care. Since 2005, rates of placement have declined for White children and children of Hispanic ethnicity, but have changed very little for other groups.

Figure 9. Children Placed in Out-of-home Care Rates per Thousand, 2005-2008



Children are placed in out-of-home care for many reasons³. Table 7 shows that White and Asian/Pacific Islander children tended to be in out-of-home care for reasons related to their own behavior or disability, while African American, American Indian, multi-racial children, and those with Hispanic ethnicity have reasons more often parent-related. More than half of the reasons for placement of an American Indian child had to do with alleged neglect or parental drug or alcohol abuse.

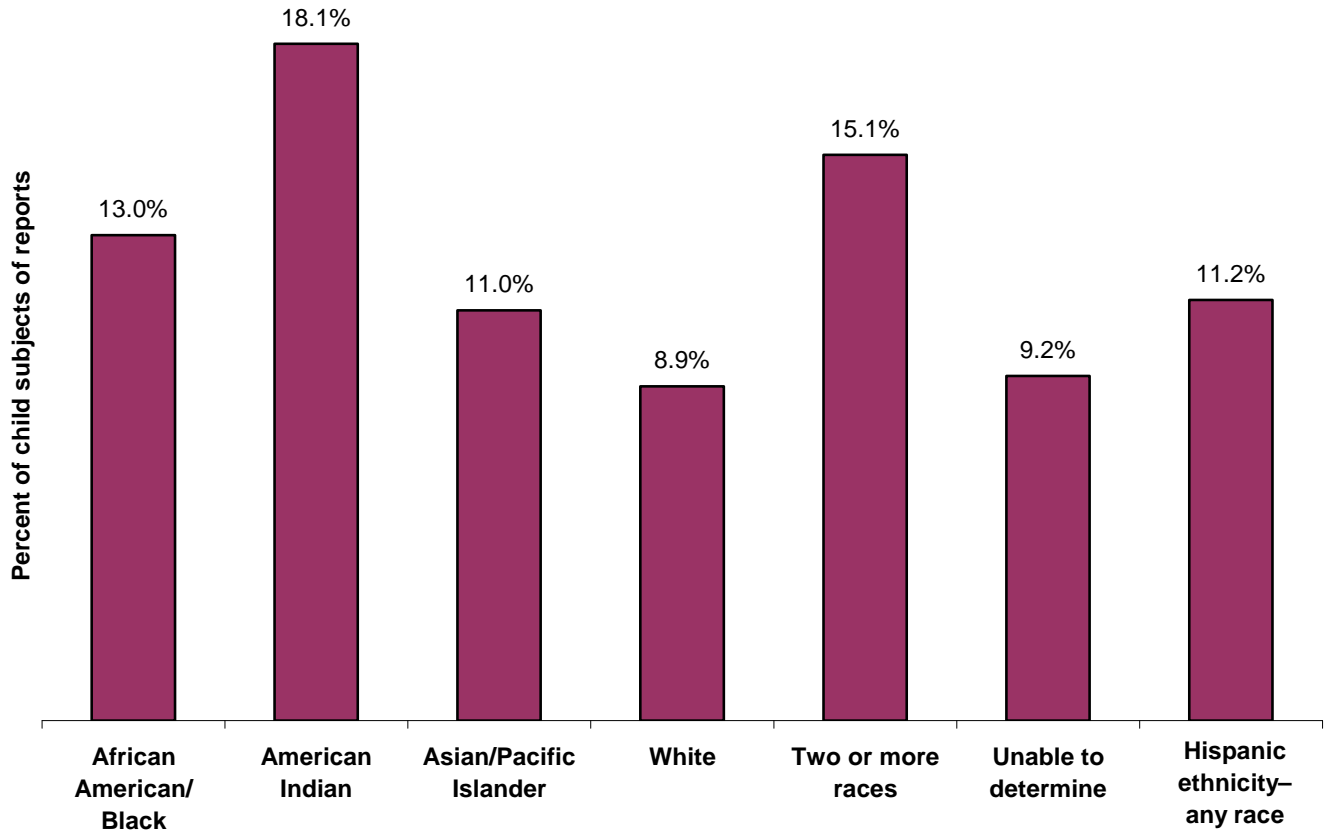
Table 7. Reasons for Removal, Percent Distribution Within Race and Across Reasons, 2008

Reason for removal	African American/ Black	American Indian	Asian/ Pacific Islander	White	Two or more races	Unable to determine	Hispanic ethnicity– any race
Abandonment	4.2	4.8	1.7	2.3	3.9	4.5	5.2
Alleged neglect	20.9	24.7	18.5	16.0	23.5	22.9	21.0
Alleged physical abuse	11.8	4.6	10.6	5.4	8.1	7.3	7.8
Alleged sexual abuse	2.6	3.5	7.0	3.6	2.8	3.8	5.0
Caretaker's inability to cope	8.2	7.9	8.5	11.8	10.0	10.9	9.2
Child alcohol abuse	0.5	1.5	0.0	1.9	0.8	0.8	1.6
Child drug abuse	1.3	1.6	1.5	3.1	1.0	1.3	2.4
Child's behavior problem	24.7	13.5	30.6	28.2	17.5	21.4	19.8
Child's disability	2.4	1.5	4.5	6.0	2.6	1.9	2.7
Death of parent(s)	0.3	0.2	1.1	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.7
Inadequate housing	2.5	3.1	3.6	3.4	2.9	3.4	2.7
Incarceration of parents	4.8	4.3	2.3	3.3	3.7	5.6	5.3
Parental alcohol abuse	4.0	13.0	0.6	3.7	7.7	4.3	4.5
Parental drug abuse	10.0	15.1	8.9	9.6	13.3	10.5	10.6
Termination of parental rights	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.2
Missing data	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

³ Data includes juvenile corrections-related placements occurring in 2008 for 32 of 87 counties.

During a child protection intervention, children are placed in out-of-home care if they are found to be unsafe in the parent/caregiver’s home. American Indian children and those with two or more races were the most likely to be removed from their home during the course of a child protection Family Assessment or Family Investigation. Once reported to child protection, an American Indian child was twice as likely as a White child to be removed from his home and placed in out-of-home care for one or more days.

Figure 10. Children Placed in Out-of-home Care During a Child Protection Assessment or Investigation, 2008



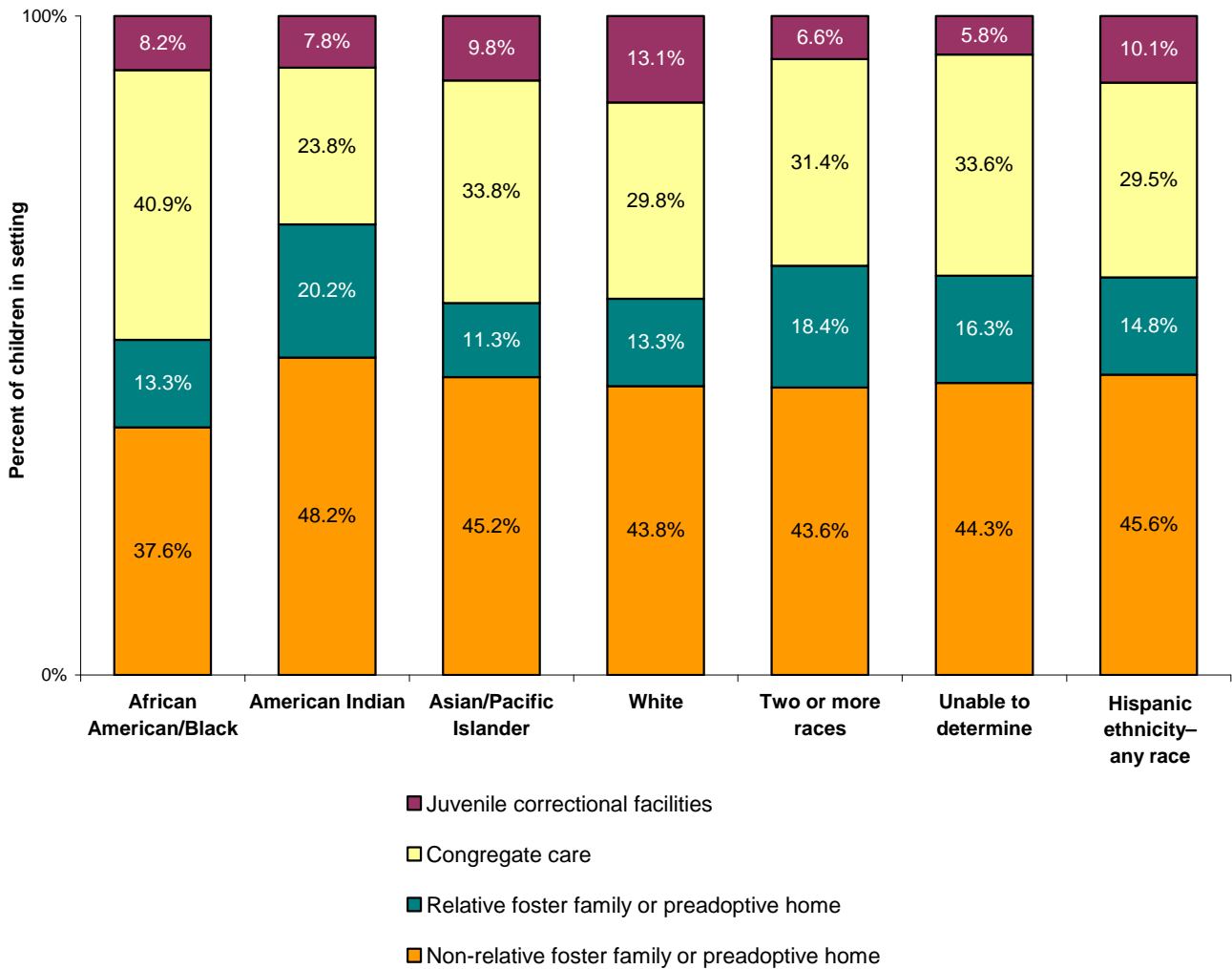
Children in out-of-home care may be involved in one or more program service areas. Table 8 shows the proportion of each race within the five main program areas that were responsible for placing children in out-of-home care. Overall, African American children comprised more than 20 percent of children in all placements. African American children comprised a higher proportion (29.7 percent) of children in placements managed by the adoption/guardianship program area. White children comprised nearly 50 percent of all placements, but had a much higher than expected representation in placements under supervision of children’s mental health and developmental disabilities, 75.3 percent and 71.2 percent, respectively.

Table 8. Social Service Program Areas With Children in Out-of-home Care, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Total	Adoption/ Guardianship	Children's Mental Health	Child Protective Services	Child Welfare (General)	Developmental Disabilities (General)
African American/Black	21.6	29.7	10.1	20.0	24.5	13.1
American Indian	13.2	8.0	5.3	19.0	11.5	5.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.4	1.4	1.1	2.5	3.2	3.9
White	49.7	46.0	75.3	42.9	49.3	71.2
Two or more races	8.9	12.5	7.1	10.0	6.7	5.0
Unable to determine	4.2	2.4	1.1	5.5	4.7	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	9.1	9.2	6.7	10.4	8.6	4.2

African American children had the highest rate of placement in congregate care settings. These settings included group homes, residential treatment, corporate foster care with shift staff, and intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded (ICF–MR). This disparity is influenced by how metro area emergency shelter stays are recorded within the data system.⁴ American Indian children had a high rate of placement in foster family homes, with a particularly large percentage in relative foster family homes.

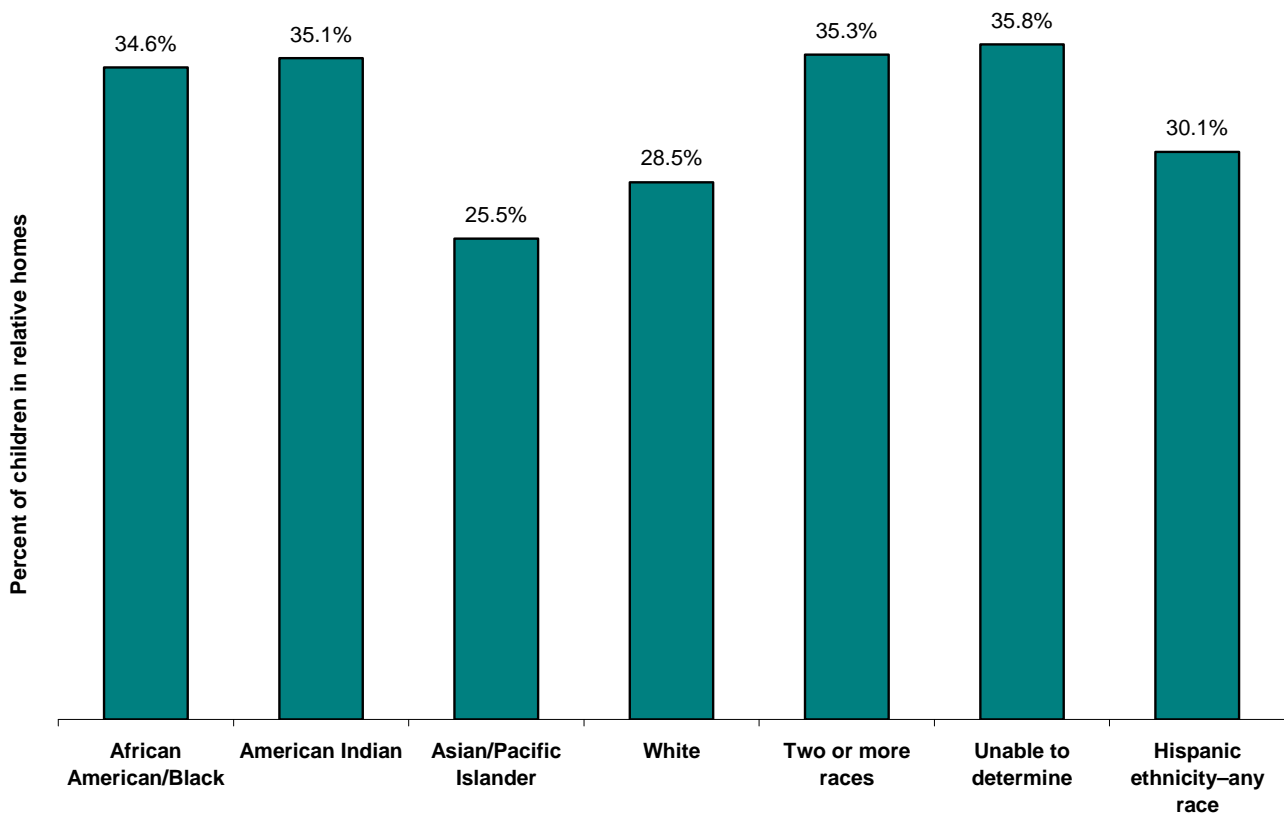
Figure 11. Placement Settings, All Children Placed in Out-of-home Care, 2008



⁴ Hennepin County documents shelter care entries of children differently than other counties. All children entering shelter care experience an intake process at St. Joseph’s Home for Children, coded as a congregate care setting in SSIS. Many children are moved to shelter family home placement settings, following an intake process. See the Appendix for more detail on this effect.

For all children in family placement settings, Figure 12 shows the percent who are in a relative foster home. Asian/Pacific Islander and White children have lower rates of placement in relative foster family homes compared to all children in family foster care settings. For children requiring out-of-home care, those placed in relative/kin homes have significantly fewer placements than children placed in non-relative foster family homes.⁵ When children must enter foster care, relatives and kin are sought to care for them. Preserving relationships with family members is crucial to a child’s sense of safety and well-being.

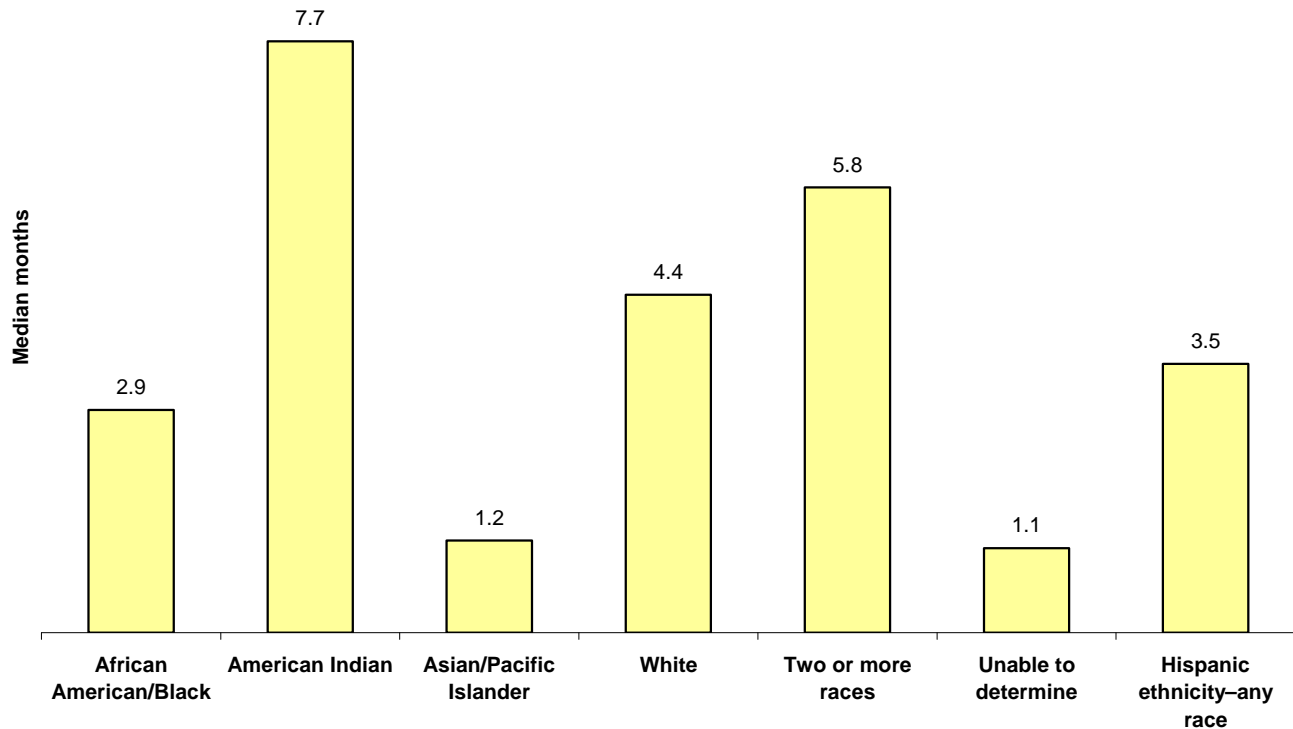
Figure 12. Foster Family Placement Settings, Percent of Children in a Relative Foster Home, 2008



⁵ Matched Comparison of Children in Kinship Care and Foster Care on Child Welfare Outcomes; Winokur, Crawford, Longobardi, and Valentine; Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services, 2008.

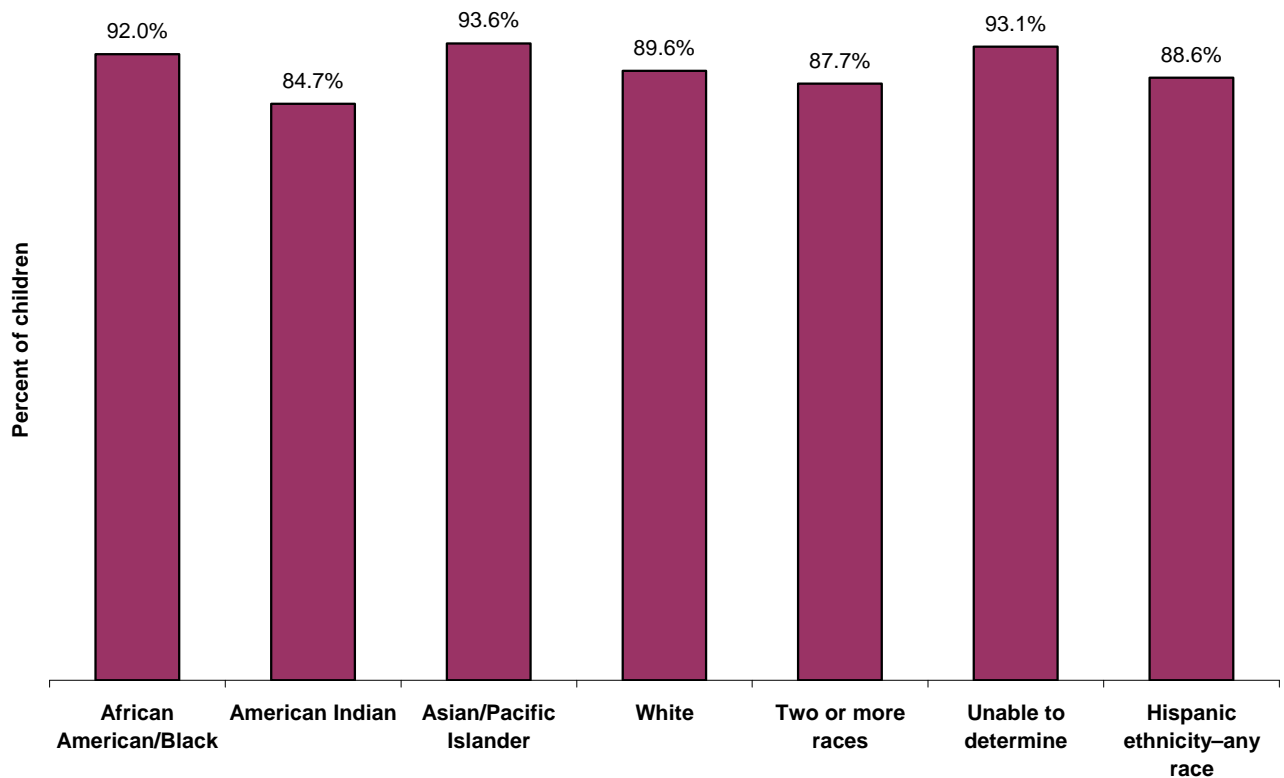
American Indian children had a longer median length of time spent in care from removal to discharge than other children, with half spending more than 7.7 months in out-of-home care. Children of two or more races followed with a median stay of under six months. Asian/Pacific Islander children had the lowest median stay, along with children of undetermined race, with just over a month median length of stay in care.

Figure 13. Median Months in Out-of-home Care for Children Discharged, 2008



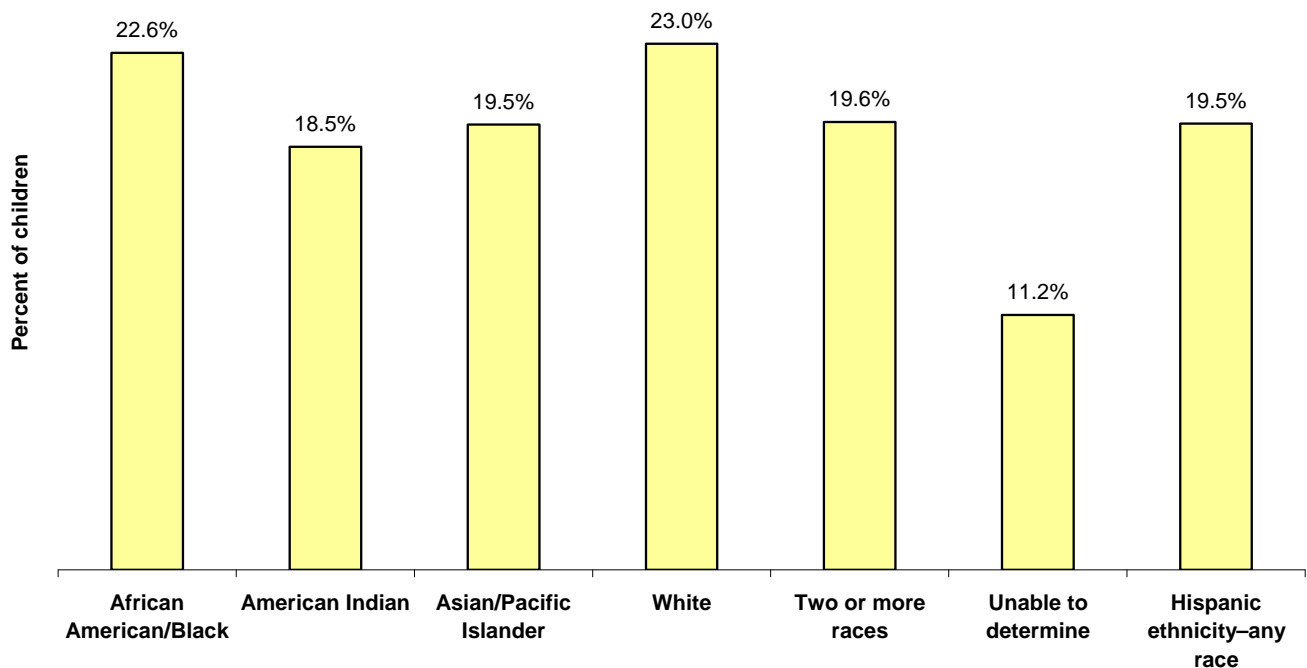
There are not dramatic disparities in the rate at which children were reunified with their primary caretakers in less than a year. American Indian children were the least likely to reunify, with 15.3 percent of children remaining in out-of-home care after a year from the date of removal from home. Asian/Pacific Islander, African American, and undetermined race had the highest rates of reunification, less than 12 months. This data may have been influenced by a number of factors besides efforts to hasten reunification of children in placement, including higher or lower rates of short-term emergency placements, or children in long-term care for disabilities.

Figure 14. Children Reunified in Fewer Than 12 Months from the Date of Latest Removal from Home, 2008



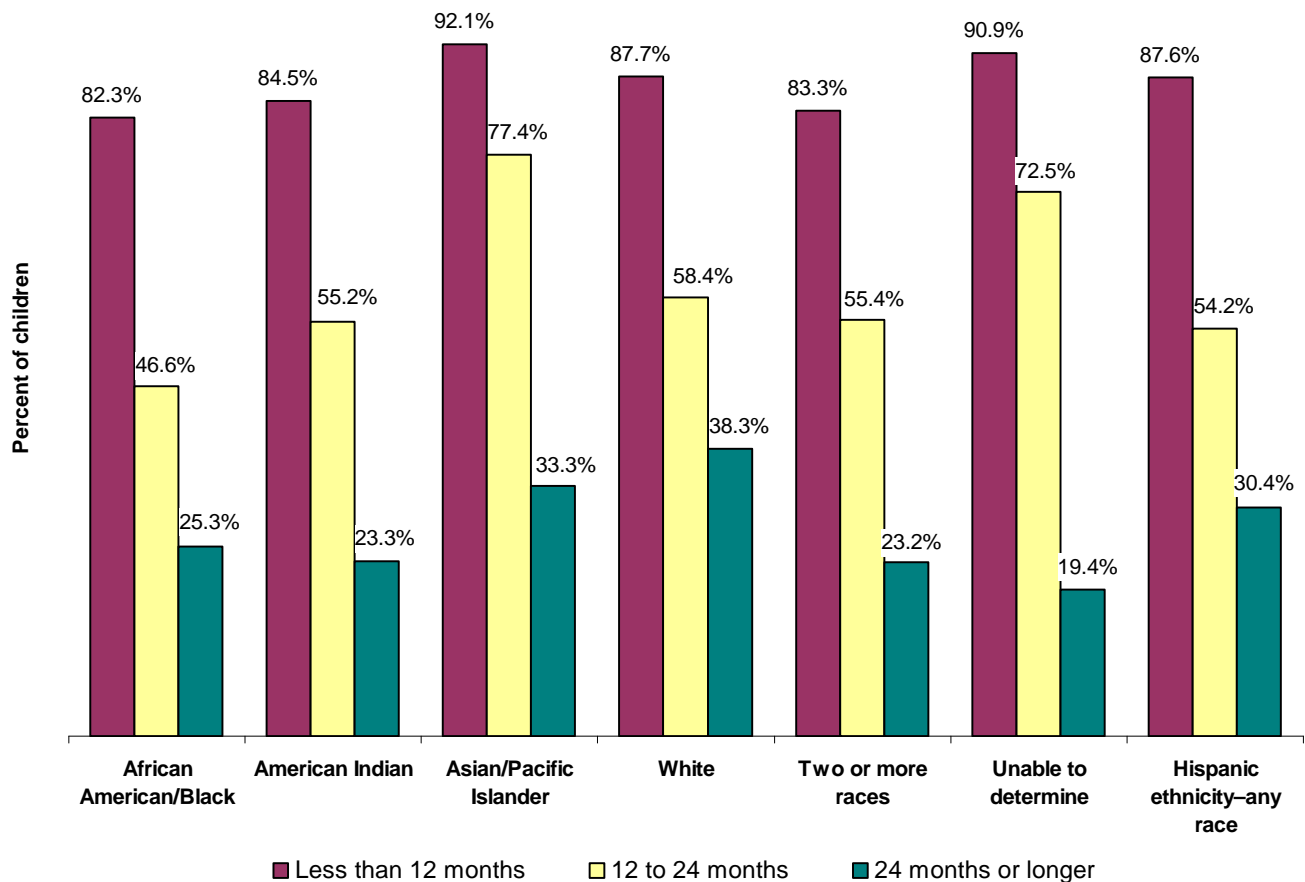
When a child re-enters out-of-home care it can disrupt family and social relationships, and can lead to educational and emotional instabilities. Figure 15 presents the out-of-home care re-entry rate for all children who entered care. Re-entry means that a child who entered out-of-home care in 2008 had a prior episode in the previous 12 months. White children had the highest re-entry rate, while American Indian and those with undetermined race had the lowest. A likely explanation for this apparent disparity is that if a child is exposed to services for either a longer period of time or multiple times (as in re-entry into foster care), the likelihood is higher that a race/ethnicity will be identified and documented regarding that child. The re-entry rate may have been influenced by the reunification rate (see previous page). If a group of children were reunified at a slower rate, or were less likely to be reunified with primary caretakers, they had less risk of multiple entries, as was the case for American Indian children.

Figure 15. Children Who Re-entered Out-of-home Care Within 12 Months of Discharge, 2008



If a child must be removed from their home, a key factor in ensuring their well-being is to provide stability in their living situation until reunification or other permanency options are achieved. Figure 16 shows that there were few pronounced racial disparities in placement stability, particularly for placements under one year. Asian/Pacific Islander children appeared to have more stability than other races when placed for under two years. African American and American Indian children began to fall behind children of other races in placements of more than one year in their access to stable care.

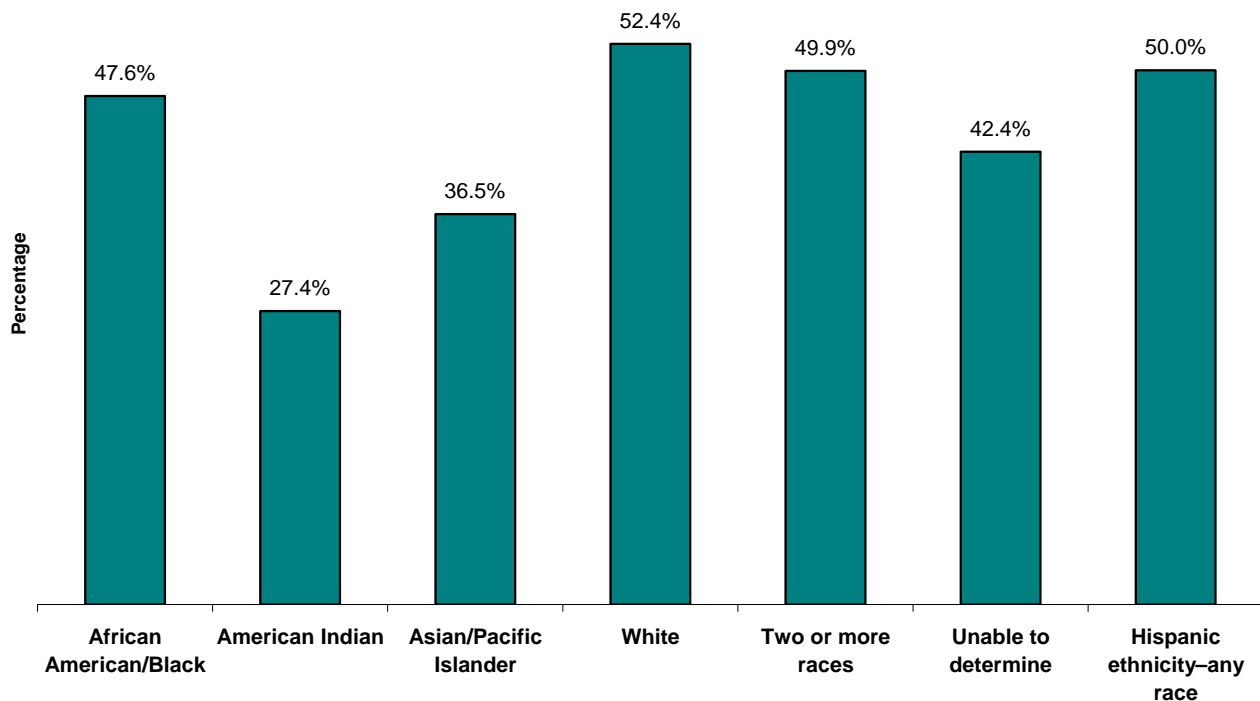
Figure 16. Children with Two or Fewer Placement Settings in Less Than 12 Months, 12-24 Months, and 24 or More Months, 2008



Child Well-being

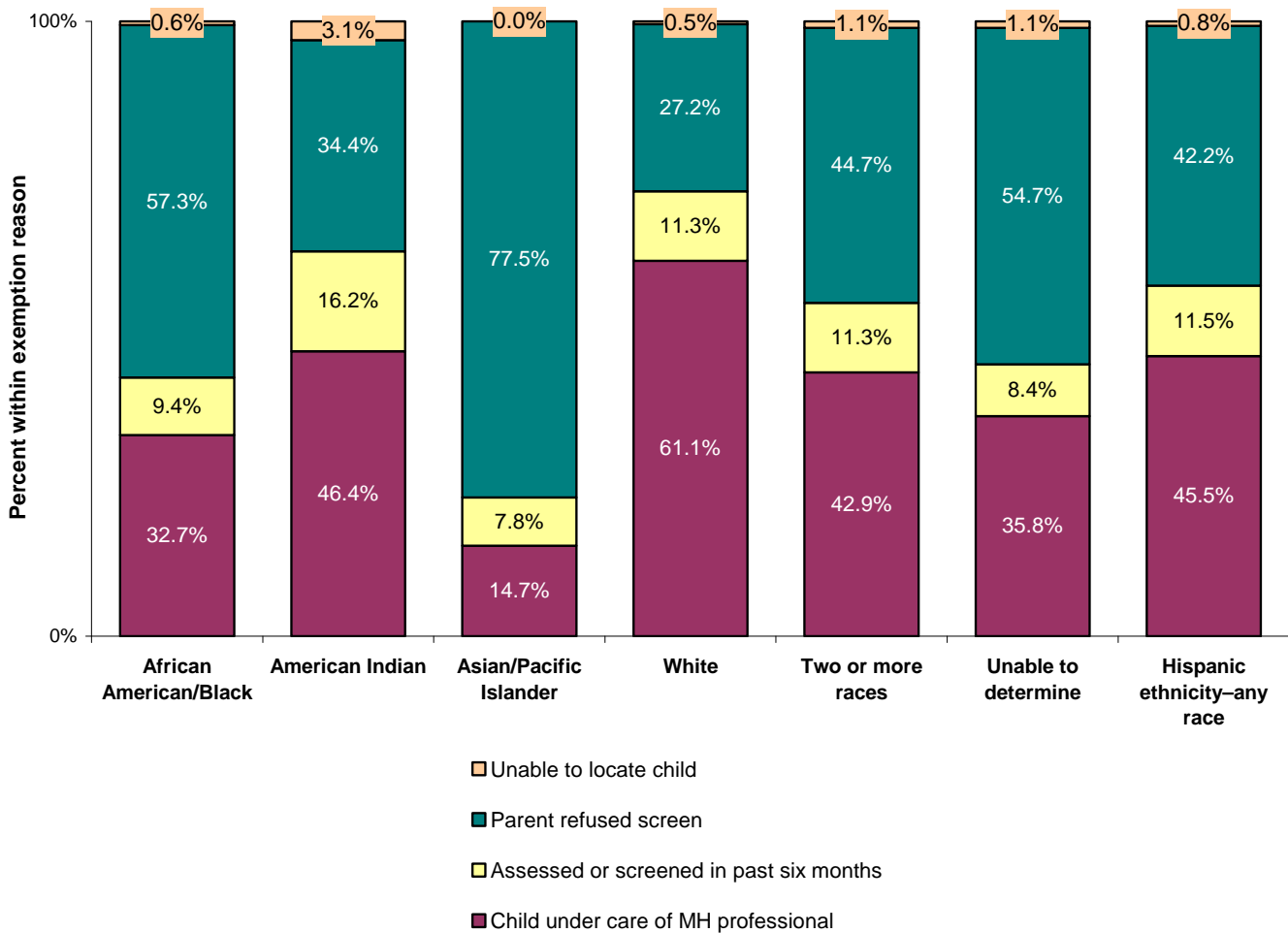
An assessment of child well being includes screening children for their mental health status and providing an assessment and related services, if indicated. Children who received child protection case management services or who were in out-of-home care for 30 days or longer were required to have an offer of a mental health screening to determine if they needed further assessment by a mental health professional for services. Some children were exempted from this screening requirement because their parent/guardian refused, they were currently receiving mental health services or they had been assessed or screened within the previous six months. Of the children who were not exempted from this screening, about half of all White children, African American children, children with two or more races, and Hispanic children received a screening. In comparison, about a third of Asian/Pacific Islander and a quarter of American Indian children received a screening.

Figure 17. Percent of Non-exempted Children with a Mental Health Screening, 2008



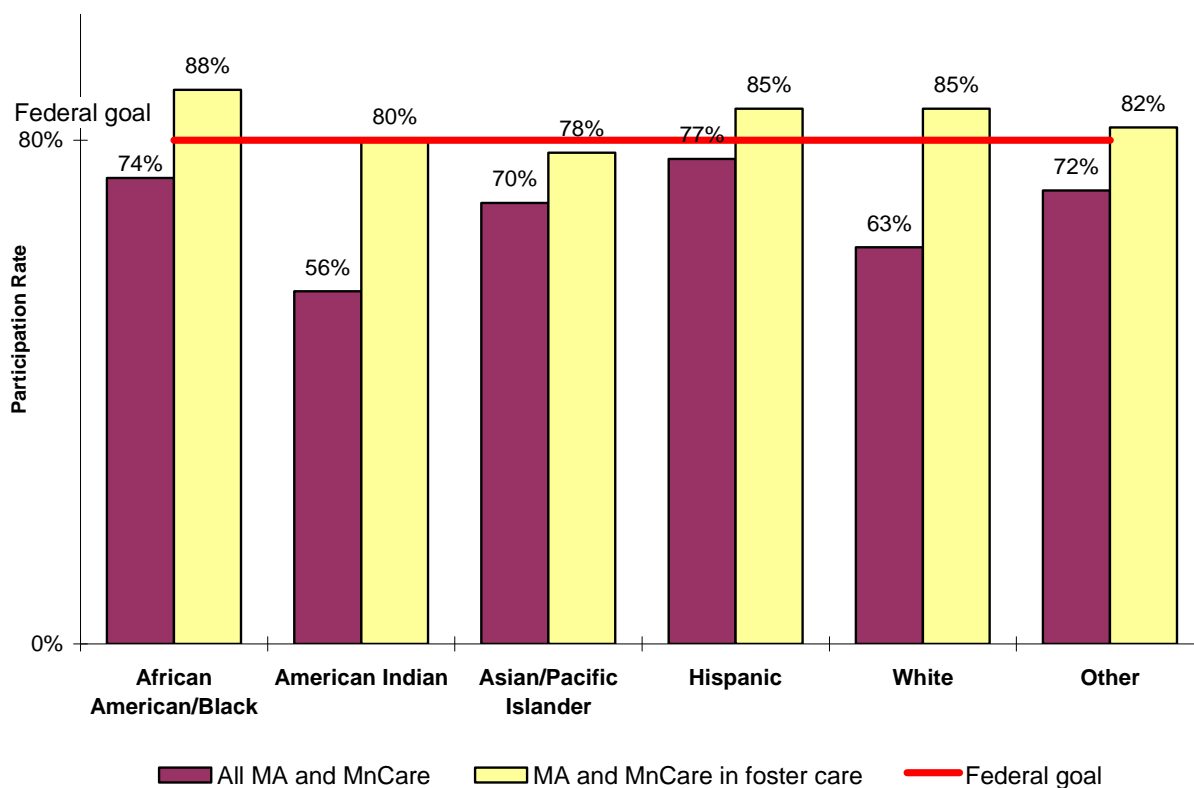
Some children, as mentioned earlier, did not receive a mental health screening due to an exemption as documented by the social worker. Figure 18 illustrates the differences in exemption reasons given by race and ethnicity. White children were, by far, the most likely to be currently under the care of a mental health professional. For Asian/Pacific Islander children and African American children, the most frequent reason for exemption was parental objection to the screening. Social service agencies have been largely successful in engaging White families, and to a slightly lesser extent American Indian families, in screening for or addressing the service needs related to children’s mental health. However, there is opportunity for improvement in addressing the mental health status for other child populations.

Figure 18. Reasons Exempted from Receiving Mental Health Screening, 2008



Another important component of assuring child well-being is regular medical care. Figure 19 shows data from a report on children receiving annual medical checkups who were receiving Medical Assistance (MA) or MinnesotaCare (MnCare), compared to recipients who spent time in foster care during federal fiscal year 2008. All children in out-of-home care accessed the annual physical examination more often than children who were not placed outside the home, but who also received public program health care from MA or MnCare. With the exception of Asian/Pacific Islander children, all other child population groups in out-of-home care met the federal performance standard of 80 percent.

Figure 19. Children in Out-of-home Care with a Physical Examination During FFY 2008

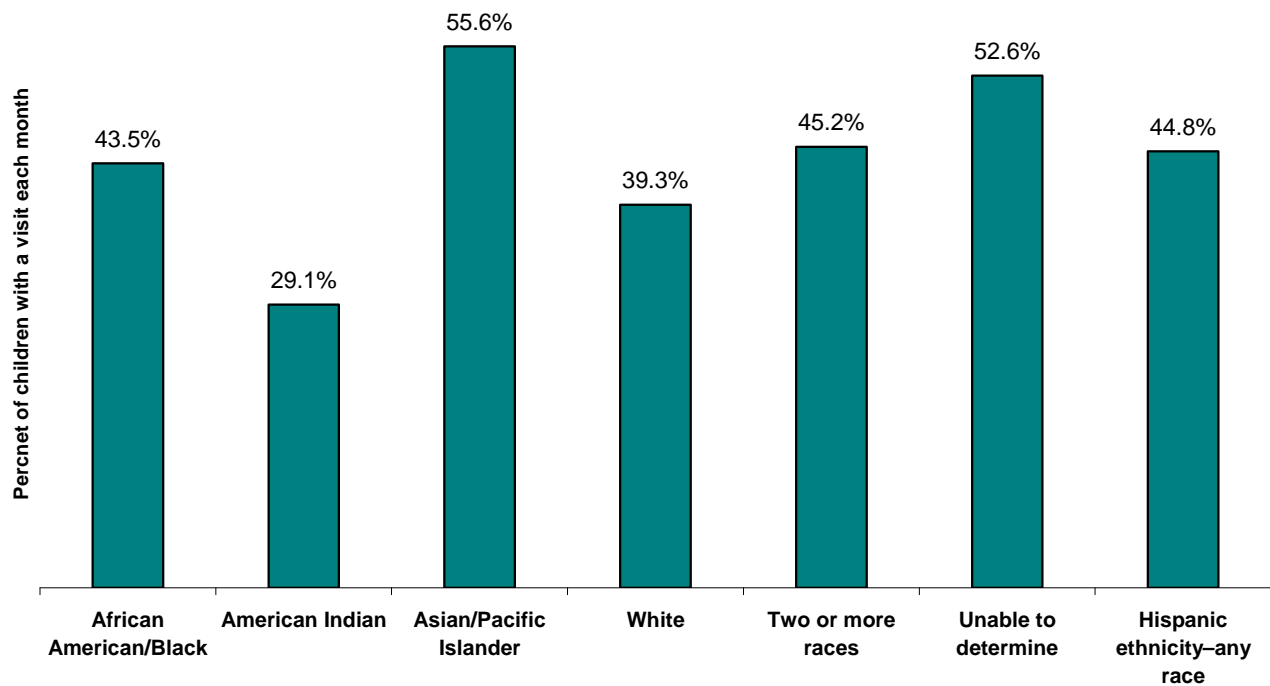


Source: CMS-416 FFY 2008 Child & Teen Checkup Participation Report by Race/Ethnicity.

Note: Racial categories are different than those used elsewhere in this report due to different reporting systems. "Hispanic" is treated as a race, rather than an ethnicity in this analysis.

Every child in out-of-home care must receive a monthly face-to-face visit from their placing social worker each and every month they are in placement. This monthly visit is to occur sometime between the first of each month to the last day of each month the child is in out-of-home care. Monthly social worker visits with children in out-of-home care is a relatively recent federal requirement. During 2008, rates of monthly visits were low for all children, however, fewer than one-third of American Indian children had a visit with a social worker recorded for each and every full month they were in placement. Overall, data entry and the requirement to travel long distances were barriers to achieving higher rates.

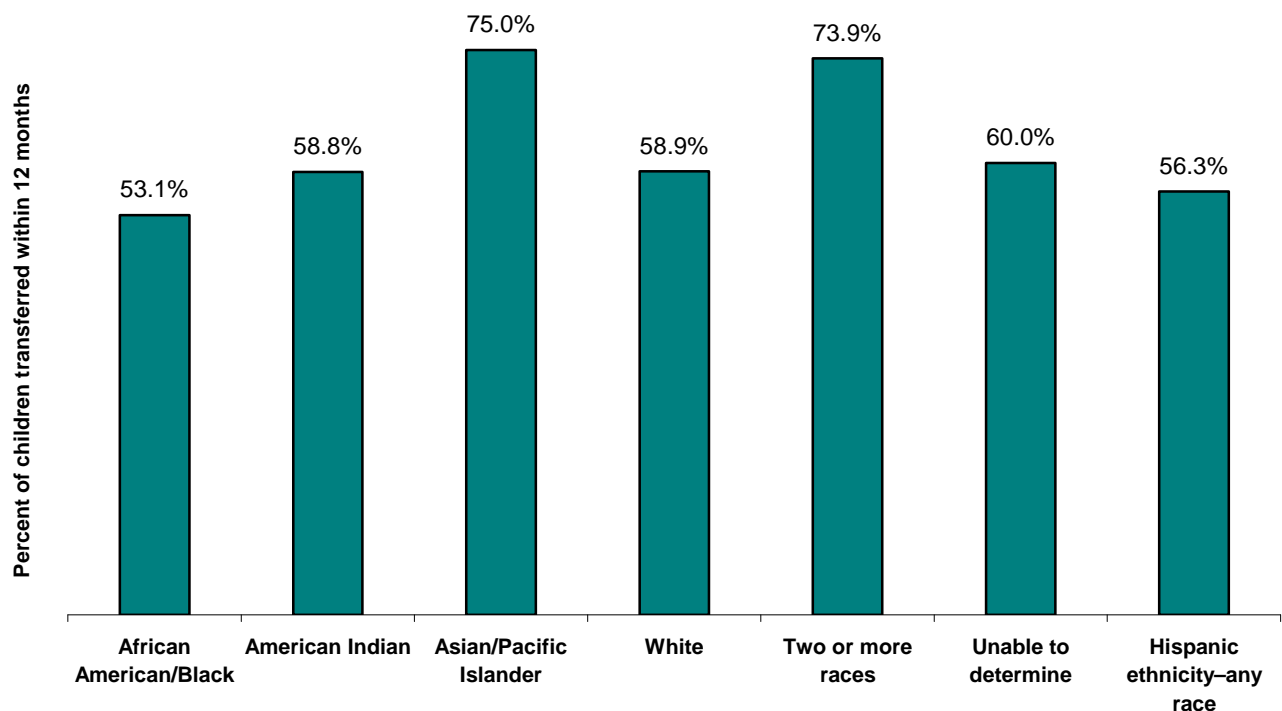
Figure 20. Monthly Social Worker Visits for Children in Out-of-home Care, Percent Seen for Every Full Month in Care, 2008



Permanency

Children’s optimal ability to thrive is with their families. Family preservation efforts are provided to prevent out-of-home care whenever possible. Most often, out-of-home care is temporary and children are reunited with their parents within a short time. For those children who are unable to be reunited, efforts are made to identify relatives/kin with whom the child can reside permanently. The local child welfare agency seeks to identify relatives/kin and to facilitate the transfer of legal and physical custody in a timely manner. Figure 21 shows the percentage of all children who had a transfer of legal and physical custody to a relative, and who completed the transfer in less than 12 months from the date of their last removal from home. Asian/Pacific Islander children and children of two or more races had the highest percentages of having their custody permanently transferred to a relative in less than 12 months from their last removal from home. African American children were the least likely to have a permanent transfer of custody occur in less than 12 months. Differences across races should be examined with the raw data (see appendix) as numbers are very small.

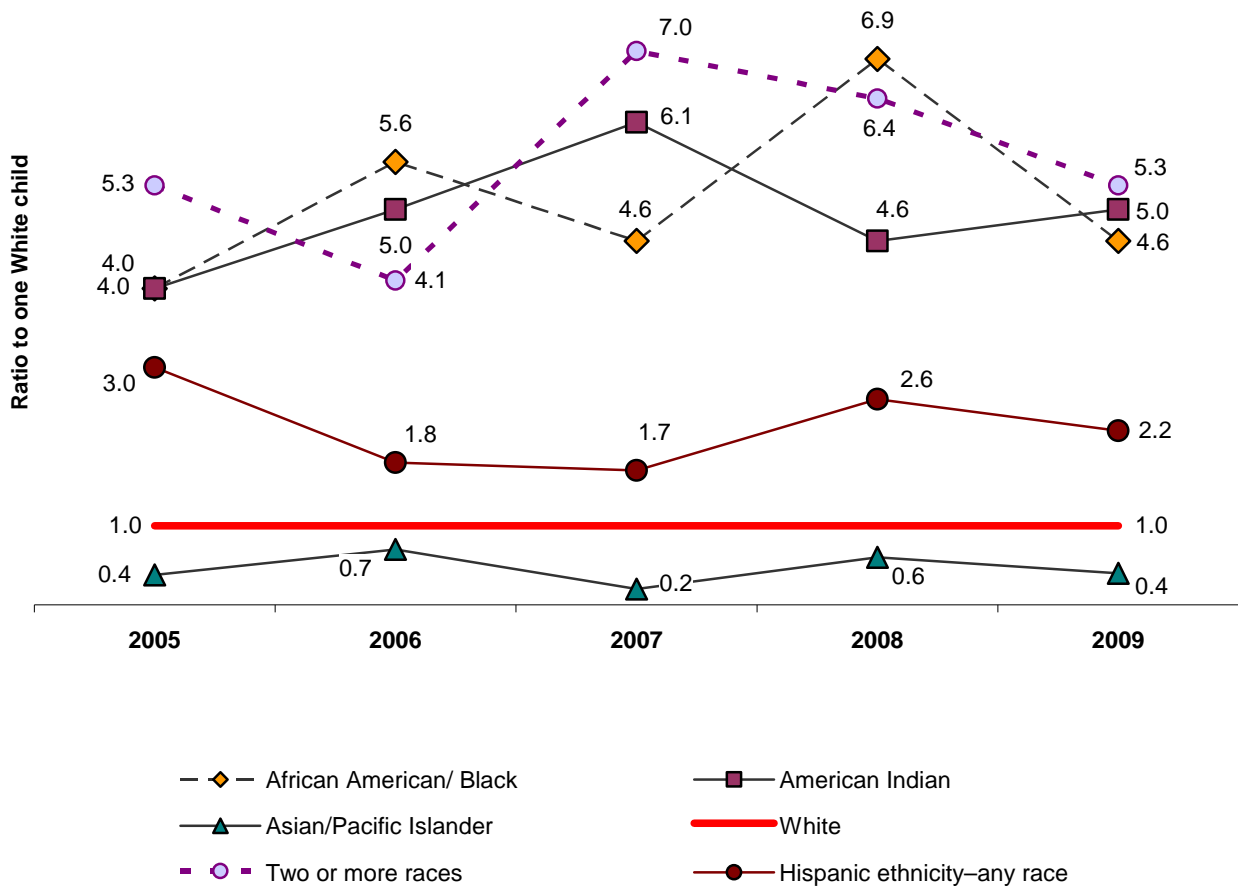
Figure 21. Children Who Have a Transfer of Legal/Physical Custody to a Relative, Percent Completed Within 12 Months of Removal from Home, 2008



In addition to transfer of legal and physical custody, adoption is a permanency option when reunification is not possible. Children are available to be adopted only after they become state wards and enter guardianship status through a court order. While disparity rates for children entering guardianship oscillated from 2005 to 2009, the significant decreases between 2008 and 2009 are most notable. Figure 22 shows the representation of children of color and tribally affiliated children entering state ward status in the years 2005 to 2008, as compared to the experience of White children entering state ward status during those same years. Preliminary data from 2009 is also included. In 2009, a child with two or more races was 5.3 times more likely to enter state ward guardianship status than a White child; the largest disparity found across races in that year. In contrast, Asian/Pacific Islander children were consistently under represented as compared to White children. In 2009, a White child was more than twice as likely to enter state ward guardianship status as an Asian/Pacific Islander child (1.0/0.4).

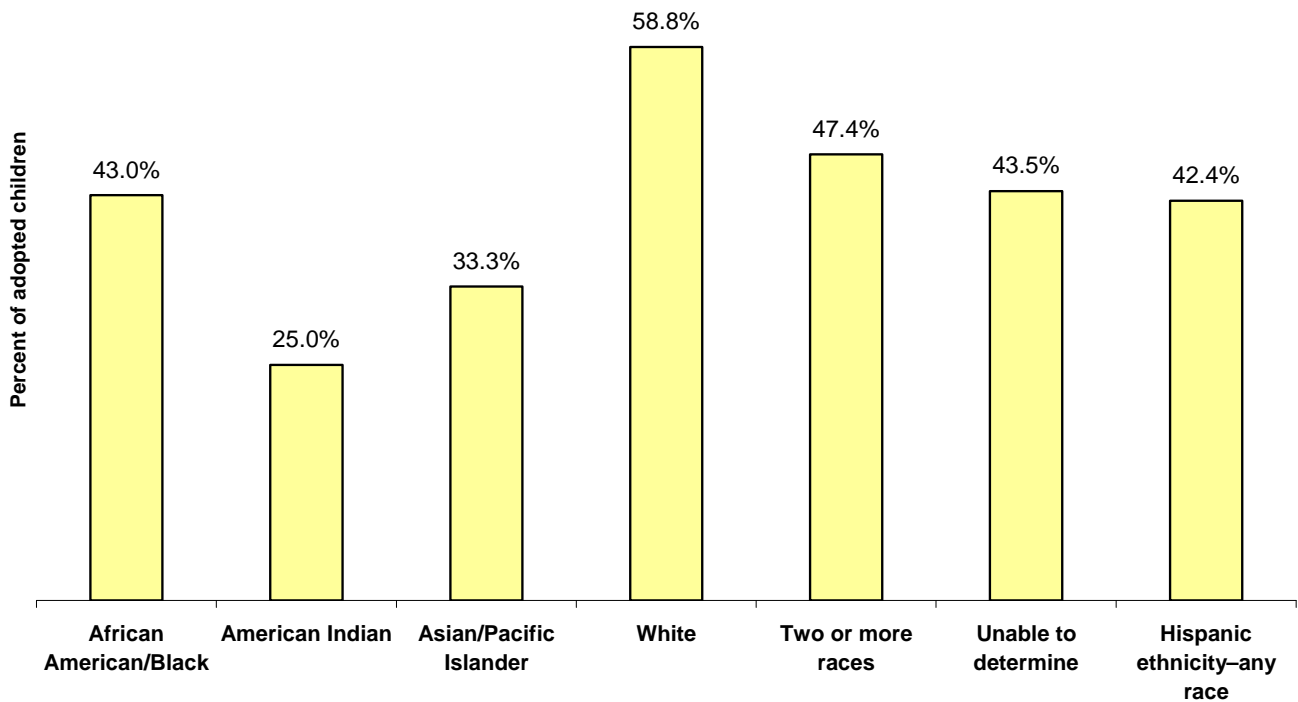
A downward trend in some children entering guardianship is evident. There was a 33 percent drop in the African American disparity rate between 2008 and 2009, and a 17 percent drop for children with two or more races over the same time period.

Figure 22. Representation in the Minnesota Population of Children Entering Guardianship, Ratio to White Children, 2005-2009



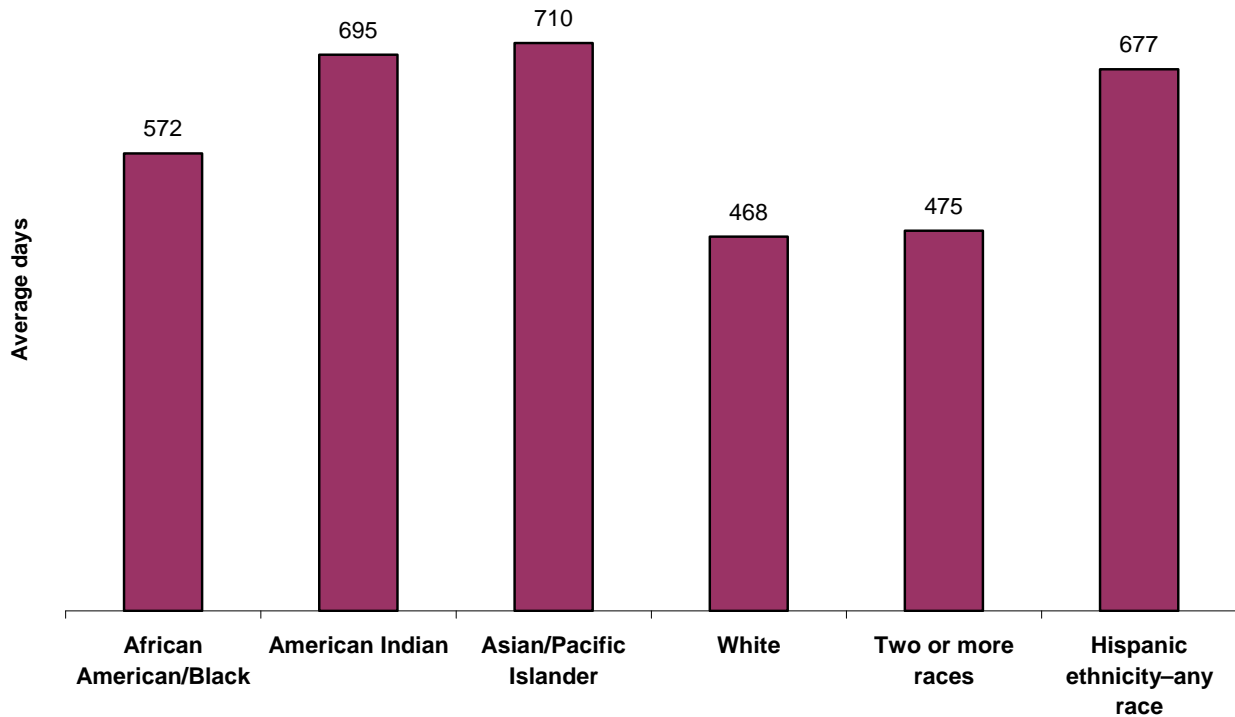
Timely adoption of children contributes to their stability. Figure 23 shows that White children who are adopted are more often adopted within two years of removal from home than other children. White children who were state wards adopted in 2008 were more than twice as likely as American Indian children to be adopted within two years of their removal from home. Asian/Pacific Islander children had lower rates of timely adoption as well, however, small numbers may influence this analysis. Refer to the raw data in the Appendix for context.

Figure 23. Children Adopted in Fewer Than 24 Months from Time of Latest Removal, 2008



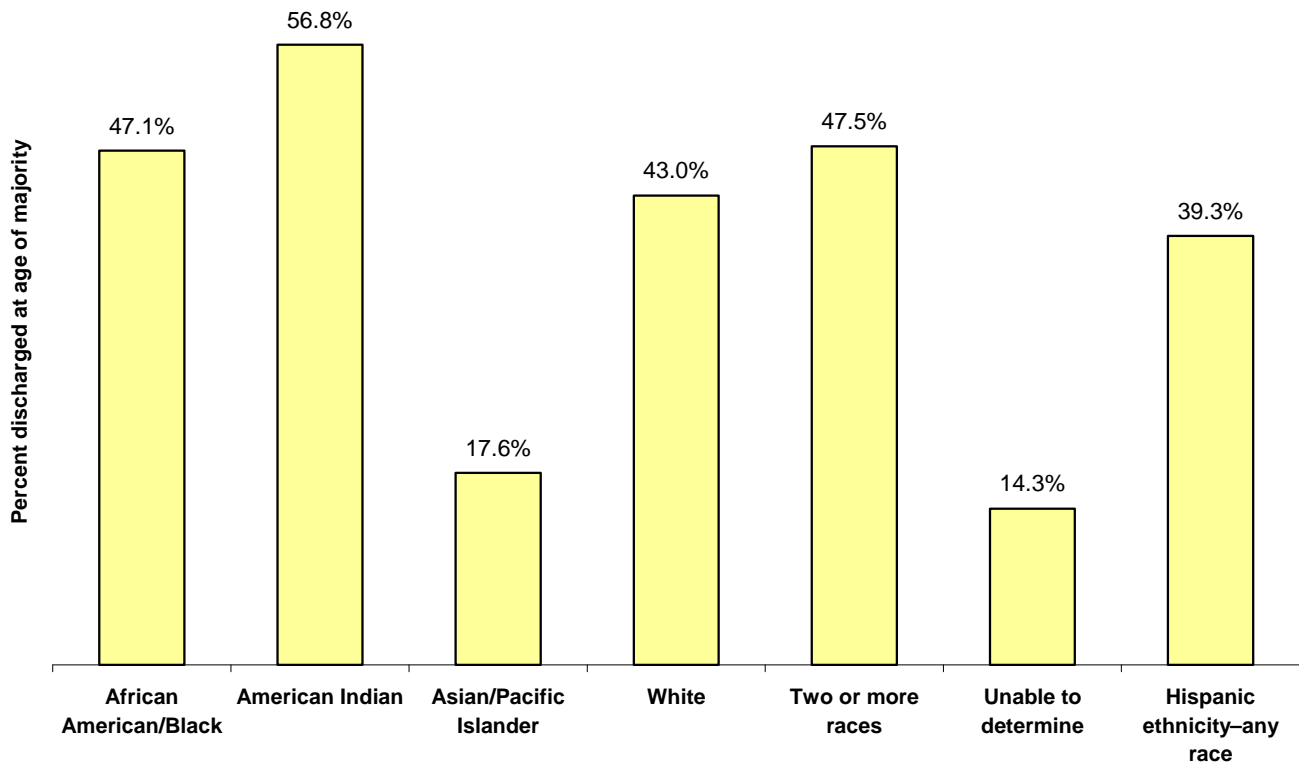
When compared to White adopted children, the average number of days to a finalized adoption was 20 percent longer for African American children and about 50 percent longer for American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander and children with Hispanic ethnicity. Small numbers may influence this analysis. Refer to the Appendix for raw data.

Figure 24. Average Number of Days from Guardianship to the Commissioner to Finalized Adoption, 2008



For some youth, permanency is not achieved and they turn age 18 while still in foster care.⁶ Youth who enter adulthood directly from out-of-home care have additional challenges, including sustaining family connections, stable living arrangements, continuing their education or finding adequate employment. Of young adults who reached the age of majority (age 18) while in care, American Indian youths were the most likely to have been in care for more than three continuous years. Asian/Pacific Islander children were far less likely than all others to have been in long-term placements. Refer to the Appendix for raw data.

Figure 25. Children Who Reached the Age of Majority in Out-of-home Care, Percent in Care Three or More Years, 2008



⁶ Some youth remain in out-of-home care up through age 21.

Next Steps

The department is committed to addressing disparities within child welfare. Therefore, future annual Minnesota Child Welfare reports will include a section dedicated to disparities in which specific measures will be followed annually through the lens of race and ethnicity. Persistent attention to the data can assist in informing practice strategy implementation at the state and local levels.

Outcomes for children can improve with continued earlier intervention, and the provision of family and community supports within a culturally competent service array. Disparities can be reduced for children of color and tribally affiliated children in the public child welfare system through a commitment to persistent practice improvements informed by data. This report provides the foundation for future dialogue and collaboration with county local social services and tribal agencies, community agencies, parent leaders, and other representatives from communities of color and tribal communities. All social services professionals must continue to work together as state, county, tribal and community partners to pursue strategies that build upon the strengths of families and communities, promote fair and equitable access and provision of services, and maintain community and cultural connections for children.

Appendix

Appendix A. Minnesota Disparities Study Abstracts⁷

Title: *Racial Reporting Bias and Child Maltreatment*

Author: Sheila D. Ards, Samuel L. Myers Jr., Chanjin Chung, Allan Malkis, Brian Hagerty

Year: August 2001

Summary intent: The two national data sets on child abuse and neglect offer conflicting visions of the racial composition of abused and neglected populations. The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System indicates African Americans are over-represented among reported and substantiated abuse and neglect cases. This data set consistently reveals a disproportionate number of African American children among those who are reported to child protection services. The other data set, the National Incidence Study (NIS) of Child Abuse and Neglect data collected in 1980, 1986 and 1993, shows no apparent over-representation of children of color. The report examines these two disparate findings and offers an explanation as to why there are more African American children in the child protection system, while there are no racial differences in the occurrences of child maltreatment.

Target/sample population: Several examples and NIS data were used for this study.

Summary of results: The higher reported maltreatment rates for African Americans than Whites do not arise due to higher report rates for African Americans than Whites, but rather from higher actual maltreatment rates for welfare recipients (both African American and White) than those not on welfare. This is combined with a higher likelihood of African Americans being welfare assistance recipients than Whites. This is the problem of aggregation. Another type of aggregate bias is combining abuse and neglect cases. There is minuscule racial difference in reported abuse cases. There are no statistically significant differences in report rates between welfare and non-welfare recipients or between African Americans and Whites. But researchers found statistically and significantly higher actual abuse among White welfare recipients compared to White non-welfare recipients. Since there are fewer White welfare recipients, this does not reverse the overall finding of no significant racial difference in abuse. The reason for overall higher rates of neglect for African Americans than for Whites is higher welfare participation rates for African Americans, combined with higher rates of neglect among welfare recipients than non-welfare recipients. Aggregation creates an illusion of racial disproportionality when none may really exist.

Recommendations/implications: Recommend accounting for aggregate bias as an influence on reporting bias.

Title: *Study of Outcomes for African American Children in Minnesota's Child Protection*

System: *Report to the 2002 Minnesota Legislature*

Author: Minnesota Department of Human Services

Year: April 2002

⁷ Minnesota Disparities Study Abstracts: Abstracts of reports completed by other Minnesota organizations has many abstracts on Minnesota in the fields of criminal justice, housing, unemployment, homelessness, children, families and communities, health, racial disparities, programs and services and Minnesota Accounting and Procurement Systems (MAPS).

Summary intent: This study was undertaken to understand the causes of disparities and to draft action plans that will improve the lives of African American children and their families in Minnesota's child welfare system. An African American Disparity Committee was convened in 2001 to study the disproportionate representation of African American children in out-of-home care, to understand disparity in outcomes, and examine why these outcomes differ by race.

Target/sample population: Four counties (Anoka, Hennepin, Olmsted and Ramsey) comprising 89 percent of Minnesota's African American population in 2000.

Summary of results: The committee found that African American children were 16.3 times more likely to be placed in out-of-home care compared to White children. Racial disparities were found in the entire process, from initial reporting and assessment to discharge from the system.

Recommendations/implications: The committee discussed the responsibility of the Minnesota Legislature to ensure equity for all citizens by adopting a statewide vision, commitment and action plan to eradicate the over-representation of African American children in the child protection system. State and county administrators, state legislators, community members and others must gather all their resources to address the issue of racial disparity. High quality, culturally appropriate, family-centered services were recommended. Department staff should review, monitor and evaluate the impact of new initiatives such as use of Structured Decision Making instruments, Alternative Response, Family Group Conferencing and Concurrent Permanency Planning on disparities and outcomes for African American children. In addition, department staff should develop cultural competency training, pursue new intervention strategies, explore alternate funding sources, partner with the African American community, and participate in development of socio-economic support systems needed by African American families.

Title: *Outcomes for American Indian Children in Child Protection Services in 2000*

Author: Misty Lee Heggeness

Year: May 2002

Summary intent: This study uses Chamber's framework of social problem causal chain which allows policymakers to understand the roots of a policy problem and possible areas for improvements. Applying the framework to the issue of disparities in the child welfare system permits analysis of where and how potential positive changes can reduce racial disparities.

Target/sample population: U. S. Census data from Census Bureau and Minnesota child protection from 2000 SSIS data were used.

Summary of results: In Minnesota, American Indian children are entering the child protection system with a high disparity ratio, and are leaving the system with a disparity ratio that is even higher than when they entered. Disparity increased for American Indian children in non-metro counties and in counties without reservations, but not for children in metro areas. In counties with reservations, where maltreatment is not determined, American Indian children are placed three times more often than White children.

Recommendations/implications: Reshape programs and services that practice institutional racism and provide culturally competent workers to diminish personal worker bias. Make published information and financial allocations for American Indian children accessible to tribes. Also, the department should intentionally allocate a portion of staff energy and funding to meet the needs of American Indian families. In an effort to diminish disparities in other sectors, it was also recommended that collaboration occur between tribes, DHS staff, tribal courts and other social service agencies and community entities.

Title: *African American Comparative Case Review Study Report*

Author: Minnesota Department of Human Services

Year: December 2006

Summary intent: The study was undertaken by the Minnesota DHS upon recommendation of the African American Disparity Committee. The goal and purpose of the case review was to take a closer look at case practice and service delivery for African American families as compared to White families by examining the level, type and delivery of services.

Target/sample population: Case review was conducted using SSIS 2001 data. Four counties were involved: Anoka, Hennepin, Olmsted and Ramsey. Matched pairs of 103 African American and White children were created using factors of age-group, county, gender and type of neglect.

Summary of results: In most cases, there were no statistically significant differences between African American and White children in case services and outcomes at assessment, case management in the home and reunification services. However, there were differences in case and family characteristics during the assessment process. The study also found that race interacts with other case characteristics in a way that is predictive of some case dispositions.

Recommendations/implications: The study recommends that workers be aware that specific case characteristics such as age of the child, mother's drug problem, or mother's financial problem may interact with race to influence perception and decision-making. Potential bias may affect child protective services. Targeted, systematic and ongoing attention should be paid to staff development and education of the community and mandated reporters about special services available for African American families. Increasing the use of family-centered and culturally supportive practices such as Family Group Decision Making for reunification or permanency planning for African American families was recommended. The study recommended implementation of these changes, as well as ongoing evaluation of progress and outcomes at the state and county levels.

Title: *Racial Disparity in Minnesota's Child Protection System in Child Welfare*, pp 5-20.⁸

Author: Erik P. Johnson, Sonja Clark, Matthew Donald, Rachel Pederson, Catherine Pichotta

Year: July-August 2007

⁸ An earlier version of this paper was titled "Investigating Racial Disparity in Minnesota's Child Welfare System: St. Olaf College Mathematics Practicum," January 2003, available at www.dhs.state.mn.us.

Summary intent: This study was conducted to determine at which of the six decision points in Minnesota's child protection system racial disparities are statistically significant.

Target/sample population: 2001 SSIS data was used for this study.

Summary of results: Racial disparity remains unexplained in Minnesota's Child Protection System after inclusion of possible explanatory factors such as family conditions, concentration of poverty and type of maltreatment. No minority group had significantly greater odds of progressing to the next decision point than White children at every decision point.

Recommendations/implications: Recommends use of variables not used in this analysis, such as initial reports of maltreatment, data on family size and marital status, and inclusion of a child more than once if they were recorded in different counties. The impact of factors leading to earlier entry of these children in the child protection system was not taken into consideration, as it was not available. The study suggests that accuracy in record keeping and precision in data analysis would benefit the statewide identification system.

Title: *Addressing Disproportionality in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice.*

Author: Shay Bilchick (Center for Juvenile Justice Reform), Dennette Derezotes (Center for Study of Social Policy), Clinton Lacey (The W. Haywood Burns Institute), Center for Juvenile Justice Reform.

Year: January 2009 PowerPoint presentation

Summary intent: This presentation focus was on core strategies to address racial and ethnic disparities in child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Decision points in both systems are different, yet are used as a starting point to measure disproportionality and create a way to "speak the same language" between systems and adopt similar disparity reduction approaches.

Target/sample population: Ramsey County juvenile justice and child welfare systems are highlighted as model case studies.

Summary of results: County workers were able to eliminate disparate treatment and outcomes in the juvenile justice system and child welfare system at all the decision points – from entry to exit. This was accomplished through five intervention strategies: (1) increasing transparency; (2) re-engineering structure and procedures; (3) changing organizational culture; (4) mobilizing political leadership; and (5) partnering in developing community and family resources. Culturally responsive policies and rehabilitative approaches resulted in fewer youth of color entering detention, probation and out-of-home care placements in Ramsey County.

Recommendations/implications: The work involved efforts from the juvenile justice and child welfare systems as well as cooperation from the state and county. They suggested that disproportionality should be addressed collaboratively by experts identifying areas of overlap and points where collaboration can begin, including development of a cross system discussion group.

Appendix B. Raw Data Used for Report Figures and Tables

Reference: Figure 1. Percent of Minnesota Children Living in Poverty, 2006-2008

Race/Ethnicity	Total child population*	Children living in poverty
African American/Black	76,379	31,027
American Indian	14,996	5,820
Asian	57,213	13,186
White	1,011,637	83,516
Two or more races	52,182	9,792
Some other race	25,379	6,225
Total	1,237,786	149,566
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	82,281	22,244

Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 2006-2008

*Population totals from the ACS may differ from annual population estimates used elsewhere in this report.

Reference: Table 1. Child Subjects of Maltreatment Reports to Child Protection, Rate per Thousand in the Minnesota Child Population, 2005-2008

Race/Ethnicity	Child population (estimated)				Number of unique child subjects			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
African American/Black	79,888	83,338	85,542	85,309	5,018	5,313	4,952	4,354
American Indian	22,288	22,936	23,023	22,810	1,633	1,724	1,687	1,791
Asian/Pacific Islander	59,195	60,255	61,091	61,549	681	640	592	531
White	1,059,592	1,051,566	1,045,732	1,041,446	14,370	14,311	13,470	12,409
Two or more races	39,953	41,152	42,404	43,530	1,742	1,777	1,768	1,827
Unable to determine	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,215	1,389	1,670	2,009
Total	1,260,916	1,259,247	1,257,792	1,254,644	24,659	25,154	24,139	22,921
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	76,013	80,829	84,934	88,366	2,382	2,485	2,446	2,446

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2005-2008 population estimates

Reference: Figure 2. Child Subjects of Maltreatment Reports, Rate per Thousand in the Minnesota Child Population by Allegation Type, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Child population	Neglect	Physical abuse	Sexual abuse	Mental injury and emotional harm
African American/Black	85,309	3,549	1,247	337	9
American Indian	22,810	1,625	420	157	25
Asian/Pacific Islander	61,549	381	179	43	2
White	1,041,446	8,704	4,063	1,409	174
Two or more races	43,530	1,593	477	159	11
Unable to determine	NA	1,563	523	168	16
Missing data	NA	6	1		
Total children	1,254,644	17,421	6,910	2,273	237
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	88,366	1,913	684	220	14

Reference: Figure 3. Response Type for Maltreatment Reports, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Total child subjects	Family Assessment	Family Investigation	Facility investigation
African American/Black	4,824	2,878	1,884	62
American Indian	2,043	1,123	887	33
Asian/Pacific Islander	566	346	219	1
White	13,535	8,612	4,606	317
Two or more races	2,087	1,191	870	26
Unable to determine	2,142	1,384	704	54
Missing data	7	3	2	2
Total	25,204	15,537	9,172	495
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	2,681	1,762	889	30

Reference: Figure 4. Percent of Children in Family Investigations for Mandatory Reasons and Discretionary Reasons, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Total in Family Investigations	Mandatory reasons	Discretionary reasons
African American/Black	1,884	827	1,057
American Indian	887	413	474
Asian/Pacific Islander	219	127	92
White	4,606	2,678	1,928
Two or more races	870	328	542
Unable to determine	704	446	258
Missing data	2	2	0
Total	9,172	4,821	4,351
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	889	495	394

Reference: Table 2. Reasons for Family Investigation (FI) Assignment, Percent Distribution Within Race, 2008

Reason for Family Investigation	African American/Black	American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	White	Two or more races	Unable to determine	Missing data	Total	Hispanic ethnicity—any race
Sexual abuse or exploitation	323	125	50	1,265	161	142		2,066	210
Malicious punishment, neglect or endangerment	350	229	57	1,177	132	242	1	2,188	223
Egregious harm	17	18	11	71	8	19		144	23
Abandonment	49	13	0	38	16	11		127	11
Assault in the first, second or third degree	58	15	3	78	6	20		180	16
Homicide	8	1	6	11	0	0		26	4
Recent or frequent prior child protection (CP) reports	504	289	24	1,072	298	124		2,311	227
Currently open for CP services	104	26	15	106	34	10	1	296	23
Legal intervention needed due to violent activities in home	45	35	5	122	21	17		245	28
Parent is unwilling/unable to achieve child safety	398	120	48	608	173	103		1,450	112
Other	28	16	0	58	21	16		139	12
Total	1,884	887	219	4,606	870	704	2	9,172	889

Reference: Figure 5. Timeliness of Child Observation by a Child Protection Worker, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Total child subjects	Within time frame	After time frame	No contact
African American/Black	4,605	2,538	1,925	142
American Indian	1,676	984	598	94
Asian/Pacific Islander	570	333	227	10
White	12,637	8,356	3,930	351
Two or more races	2,007	1,244	715	48
Unable to determine	2,010	1,286	665	59
Missing data	12	2	3	7
Total	23,517	14,743	8,063	711
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	2,576	1,652	852	72

Note: Totals do not match other analyses as the timeliness of contact information is based on child protection reports that were entered during the calendar year. Other analyses are based on assessments and investigations that were concluded during the calendar year.

Reference: Figure 6. Maltreatment Determinations for Children in Family Investigations, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Total alleged victims	Determined	Undetermined
African American/Black	1,884	1,276	608
American Indian	887	565	322
Asian/Pacific Islander	219	146	73
White	4,606	2,590	2,016
Two or more races	870	589	281
Unable to determine	704	378	326
Missing data	2	0	2
Total	9,172	5,544	3,628
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	889	597	292

Reference: Figure 7. SDM—Family Risk Assessment Results, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Total in FA/FI	SDM Risk Level			Missing SDM—RA
		Low	Moderate	High	
African American/Black	4,762	492	2,559	1,710	1
American Indian	2,010	174	768	1,068	
Asian/Pacific Islander	565	97	303	161	4
White	13,218	1,988	6,796	4,415	19
Two or more races	2,061	151	951	959	
Unable to determine	2,088	367	1,130	589	2
Missing data	5	0	4	1	
Total	24,709	3,269	12,511	8,903	26
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	2,651	321	1,433	892	5

Reference: Figure 8. Referrals to Child Protection, Child Welfare or Adoption/Guardianship, Ongoing Services, Post-Family Assessment or Family Investigation, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Child subjects of reports			Child subjects of reports opened for child protection, child welfare or adoption/guardianship, ongoing services		
	Total	Family Assessment	Family Investigation	Total	Family Assessment	Family Investigation
African American/Black	4,762	2,878	1,884	1,573	643	930
American Indian	2,010	1,123	887	770	337	433
Asian/Pacific Islander	565	346	219	165	49	116
White	13,218	8,612	4,606	3,755	1,979	1,776
Two or more races	2,061	1,191	870	717	264	453
Unable to determine	2,088	1,384	704	486	244	242
Missing data	5	3	2	1	0	1
Total	24,709	15,537	9,172	7,467	3,516	3,951
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	2,651	1,762	889	883	485	398

Reference: Tables 3-6. Six and 12-month Maltreatment Recurrence or Re-reporting, 2005-2008

	Race/Ethnicity	Maltreatment determination recurrence within six and 12 months			Re-reported to child protection within six and 12 months		
		Determined victims*	Six-month recurrence	12-month recurrence	Total child subjects of reports*	Re-reported within six months	Re-reported within 12 months
2008	African American/Black	654	53	86	2,386	229	399
	American Indian	207	12	30	835	92	173
	Asian/Pacific Islander	79	3	3	276	26	31
	White	1,575	59	91	6,738	542	938
	Two or more races	257	17	30	909	112	171
	Unable to determine	166	7	9	871	62	97
	Total 2008	2,938	151	249	12,015	1,063	1,809
	Hispanic ethnicity—any race	332	12	19	1,297	105	162
2007	African American/Black	697	49	73	2,435	258	438
	American Indian	314	27	38	834	119	178
	Asian/Pacific Islander	83	2	3	295	11	19
	White	1,863	62	119	7,042	556	1,014
	Two or more races	320	12	22	902	110	197
	Unable to determine	178	4	11	704	38	86
	Total 2007	3,455	156	266	12,212	1,092	1,932
	Hispanic ethnicity—any race	341	15	24	1,248	121	203
2006	African American/Black	801	37	68	2,485	264	458
	American Indian	291	16	24	827	99	158
	Asian/Pacific Islander	94	0	1	320	11	26
	White	2,341	92	163	7,540	641	1,106
	Two or more races	299	20	31	962	124	203
	Unable to determine	193	12	15	653	54	91
	Total 2006	4,019	177	302	12,787	1,193	2,042
	Hispanic ethnicity—any race	392	11	20	1,189	119	194
2005	African American/Black	896	58	102	2,223	251	435
	American Indian	318	15	30	762	105	165
	Asian/Pacific Islander	110	4	4	306	23	37
	White	2,086	98	171	6,716	577	1,028
	Two or more races	305	24	39	744	110	173
	Unable to determine	256	12	19	809	48	102
	Total 2005	3,971	211	365	11,560	1,114	1,940
	Hispanic ethnicity—any race	348	16	35	1,042	92	164

* Denominators are determined victims and child subjects of all reports in the second half of the prior calendar year.

Reference: Figure 9. Children Placed in Out-of-home Care, Rates per Thousand, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Child population (estimated)				Unique children in care			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
African American/Black	79,888	83,338	85,542	85,309	2,945	3,058	3,071	2,950
American Indian	22,288	22,936	23,023	22,810	1,696	1,718	1,816	1,798
Asian/Pacific Islander	59,195	60,255	61,091	61,549	307	394	339	333
White	1,059,592	1,051,566	1,045,732	1,041,446	8,291	8,009	7,770	6,839
Two or more races	39,953	41,152	42,404	43,530	1,039	1,132	1,215	1,220
Unable to determine	NA	NA	NA	NA	361	5	525	576
Missing data	NA	NA	NA	NA	84	454	64	39
Total	1,260,916	1,259,247	1,257,792	1,254,644	14,723	14,770	14,800	13,755
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	76,013	80,829	84,934	88,366	1,153	1,207	1,237	1,250

Reference: Table 7. Reasons for Removal, Percent Distribution Within Race and Across Reasons, 2008

Reason for removal	African American/Black	American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	White	Two or more races	Unable to determine	Total	Hispanic ethnicity—any race
Abandonment	176	145	8	241	74	36	680	99
Alleged neglect	884	744	87	1,705	450	183	4,062	397
Alleged physical abuse	498	140	50	575	156	58	1,480	147
Alleged sexual abuse	109	105	33	381	54	30	713	95
Caretaker's inability to cope	346	239	40	1,260	191	87	2,165	174
Child alcohol abuse	22	45	0	206	15	6	294	30
Child drug abuse	56	47	7	332	19	10	471	45
Child's behavior problem	1,045	408	144	3,007	335	171	5,130	374
Child's disability	100	46	21	638	50	15	872	52
Death of parent(s)	13	6	5	36	16	0	76	13
Inadequate housing	105	93	17	363	56	27	662	52
Incarceration of parents	204	130	11	350	71	45	811	100
Parental alcohol abuse	170	393	3	391	148	34	1,140	85
Parental drug abuse	421	456	42	1,028	256	84	2,291	201
Termination of parental rights	52	10	1	95	17	6	181	22
No reason	30	11	1	53	10	6	112	6
Total	4,231	3,018	470	10,661	1,918	798	21,140	1,892

Reference: Figure 10. Children Placed in Out-of-home Care During a Child Protection Assessment or Investigation, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Placed during an assessment or investigation	Total child subjects of child protection reports
African American/Black	625	4,824
American Indian	369	2,043
Asian/Pacific Islander	62	566
White	1,207	13,535
Two or more races	315	2,087
Unable to determine	197	2,142
Missing data	0	7
Total	2,775	25,204
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	301	2,681

Reference: Table 8. Social Service Program Areas With Children in Out-of-home Care, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Total	Adoption/Guardianship	Children's Mental Health	Child Protective Services	Child Welfare (general)	Developmental Disabilities
African American/Black	2,934	632	152	1,097	1,006	47
American Indian	1,789	171	80	1,046	473	19
Asian/Pacific Islander	333	30	16	141	132	14
White	6,752	979	1,135	2,356	2,027	255
Two or more races	1,215	266	107	547	277	18
Unable to determine	573	52	17	304	195	5
Total	13,596	2,130	1,507	5,491	4,110	358
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	1,237	196	101	573	352	15

Reference: Figure 11 part I. Placement Settings, All Children Placed in Out-of-home Care, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Relative foster family or pre-adoptive home	Non-relative foster family or pre-adoptive home	Congregate care*	Juvenile correctional facilities**	Total settings
African American/Black	705	1,996	2,174	436	5,311
American Indian	618	1,471	726	239	3,054
Asian/Pacific Islander	54	217	162	47	480
White	1,464	4,829	3,284	1,444	11,021
Two or more races	394	932	670	140	2,136
Unable to determine	139	379	287	50	855
Missing data	3	9	30	3	45
Total	3,377	9,833	7,333	2,359	22,902
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	302	932	604	207	2,045

Reference: Figure 11 part II. Hennepin County Placement Setting Code Impact on Statewide Data, 2008

Non-Hennepin Counties

Race/Ethnicity	Relative foster family or pre-adoptive home	Non-relative foster family or pre-adoptive home	Congregate care*	Juvenile correctional facilities**	Total settings
African American/Black	11.9%	48.5%	27.3%	12.3%	100.0%
American Indian	20.3%	51.5%	18.8%	9.5%	100.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	10.8%	49.6%	27.4%	12.2%	100.0%
White	12.5%	46.1%	27.1%	14.3%	100.0%
Two or more races	16.1%	50.8%	23.8%	9.2%	100.0%
Unable to determine	17.9%	57.5%	18.0%	6.6%	100.0%
Missing race data	17.6%	23.5%	41.2%	17.6%	100.0%
Total	13.9%	48.0%	25.5%	12.7%	100.0%
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	12.9%	52.1%	21.8%	13.2%	100.0%

Hennepin County

Race/Ethnicity	Relative foster family or pre-adoptive home	Non-relative foster family or pre-adoptive home	Congregate care*	Juvenile correctional facilities**	Total settings
African American/Black	14.7%	26.4%	54.9%	4.0%	100.0%
American Indian	20.2%	38.4%	38.4%	3.0%	100.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	13.2%	30.2%	55.7%	0.9%	100.0%
White	20.3%	22.1%	55.8%	1.8%	100.0%
Two or more races	21.6%	33.9%	41.6%	2.9%	100.0%
Unable to determine	12.4%	12.4%	71.2%	4.0%	100.0%
Missing race data	0.0%	17.9%	82.1%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	17.4%	27.8%	51.6%	3.2%	100.0%
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	19.4%	29.6%	48.5%	2.5%	100.0%

*Includes: group home, residential treatment center, foster care with shift staff, and intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded.

**Includes 37 instances of placements in supervised independent living settings. These may or may not have been placements for corrections reasons.

Reference: Figure 12. Foster Family Placement Settings, Percent of Children in a Relative Foster Home, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Children placed in a foster family home setting	Children placed in a relative foster family home
African American/Black	1,725	597
American Indian	1,379	484
Asian/Pacific Islander	194	49
White	4,181	1,192
Two or more races	853	301
Unable to determine	335	120
Missing data	21	9
Total children	8,688	2,752
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	777	234

Reference: Figure 13. Median Months in Out-of-home Care for Children Discharged in 2008 – data table not applicable

Reference: Figure 14. Children Reunified in Fewer Than 12 Months from the Date of Latest Removal from Home, 2008

Race	Total reunified	Reunified in fewer than 12 months
African American/Black	1,115	1,026
American Indian	426	361
Asian/Pacific Islander	156	146
White	2,501	2,241
Two or more races	382	335
Unable to determine	291	271
Missing data	16	15
Total children	4,887	4,395
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	472	418

Reference: Figure 15. Children Who Re-entered Out-of-home Care Within 12 Months of Discharge, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Children entering care	Discharge from care within prior 12 months
African American/Black	1,547	350
American Indian	880	163
Asian/Pacific Islander	200	39
White	3,585	826
Two or more races	622	122
Unable to determine	421	47
Missing race	32	1
Total children	7,287	1,548
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	727	142

Reference: Figure 16. Children with Two or Fewer Placement Settings in Fewer Than 12 Months, 12-24 Months, and 24 or More Months, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Placed fewer than 12 months		Placed from 12 to 24 months		Placed more than 24 months	
	Total	Two or fewer placement settings	Total	Two or fewer placement settings	Total	Two or fewer placement settings
African American/Black	1,286	1,058	485	226	700	177
American Indian	988	835	310	171	476	111
Asian/Pacific Islander	177	163	53	41	39	13
White	3,515	3,084	1,265	739	1,384	530
Two or more races	609	507	231	128	272	63
Unable to determine	331	301	69	50	36	7
Missing data	22	20	4	2	3	1
Total children	6,928	5,968	2,417	1,357	2,910	902
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	670	587	212	115	217	66

Reference: Figure 17. Percent of Non-exempted Children with a Mental Health Screening, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Children requiring a mental health screening*	Screened	Not screened
African American/Black	2,100	999	1,101
American Indian	1,337	367	970
Asian/Pacific Islander	219	80	139
White	4,887	2,563	2,324
Two or more races	837	418	419
Unable to determine	621	263	358
Missing data	32	2	30
Total children	10,033	4,692	5,341
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	1,286	643	643

Reference: Figure 18. Reasons Exempted from Receiving Mental Health Screening, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Child under care of mental health professional	Assessed or screened in past six months	Parent refused screen	Unable to locate child	Total
African American/Black	318	91	557	6	972
American Indian	166	58	123	11	358
Asian/Pacific Islander	15	8	79	0	102
White	1,330	246	592	10	2,178
Two or more races	163	43	170	4	380
Unable to determine	68	16	104	2	190
Missing data	1	0	2		3
Total	2,061	462	1,627	33	4,183
Hispanic ethnicity–any race	179	45	166	3	393

Reference: Figure 19. Children in Out-of-home Care with a Physical Examination During FFY 2008 – data table not available

Reference: Figure 20. Monthly Social Worker Visits for Children in Out-of-home Care, Percent Seen for Every Full Month in Care, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Total children in care for one or more full calendar months	Children with visits each and every month
African American/Black	1,697	739
American Indian	960	279
Asian/Pacific Islander	180	100
Two or More Races	862	390
White	4,530	1,780
Unable to determine	293	154
Missing data	13	6
Total	8,535	3,448
Hispanic ethnicity–any race	784	351

Reference: Figure 21. Children Who Have a Transfer of Legal/Physical Custody to a Relative, Percent Completed Within 12 Months of Removal from Home, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Transferred to the legal custody of a relative	Transferred in less than 12 months
African American/Black	113	60
American Indian	102	60
Asian/Pacific Islander	16	12
White	241	142
Two or more races	46	34
Unable to determine	25	15
Missing data	0	0
Total	543	323
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	48	27

Reference: Figure 22. Representation in the Minnesota Population of Children Entering Guardianship, Ratio to White Children, 2005-2009

Race/Ethnicity	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009*
African American/Black	130	191	163	173	110
American Indian	36	47	58	27	26
Asian/Pacific Islander	9	16	6	11	8
White	427	432	434	307	291
Two or more races	85	69	125	82	63
Unable to determine	11	0	8	17	31
Missing data	6	11	21	23	5
Total	704	766	815	640	534
Hispanic-ethnicity—any race	91	58	58	67	50

*Preliminary data are through December 18, 2009.

Reference: Figure 23. Children Adopted in Fewer Than 24 Months from Time of Latest Removal, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Total children adopted	Children adopted in fewer than 24 months
African American/Black	165	71
American Indian	64	16
Asian/Pacific Islander	12	4
White	393	231
Two or more races	95	45
Unable to determine	23	10
Missing data	0	0
Total	752	377
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	66	28

Reference: Figure 24. Average Number of Days from Guardianship to the Commissioner to Finalized Adoption, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	Children adopted	Average days from guardianship to adoption
African American/Black	158	572
American Indian	62	695
Asian/Pacific Islander	11	710
White	396	468
Two or more races	92	475
Unable to determine	11	487
Missing data	27	352
Total	757	512
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	63	677

Reference: Figure 25. Children Who Reach the Age of Majority in Out-of-home Care, Percent in Care Three or More Years, 2008

Race/Ethnicity	All lengths of stay at discharge or on 12/31/2008	Children with stays of three years or more at discharge or on 12/31/2008
African American/Black	226	105
American Indian	111	61
Asian/Pacific Islander	17	2
White	553	231
Two or more races	58	28
Unable to determine	20	3
Missing data	5	0
Total	990	430
Hispanic ethnicity—any race	62	23



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