



# WASHINGTON STATE DCYF RACIAL DISPARITY INDICES REPORT (2018)

FOR COHORTS FROM CY 2011 THROUGH CY 2017



WASHINGTON STATE  
**Department of**  
**Children, Youth, and Families**



# WASHINGTON STATE Department of Children, Youth, and Families

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March 2019

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## General Introduction

This report summarizes trends in racial disparities for children referred to Washington State Children's Administration (CA) and children placed in out-of-home care by CA. Though CA was recently incorporated into the newly formed state agency, the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), during the period reported herein CA was still a part of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

Section One of this report compares population rates and describes racial disproportionality relative to the general population of Washington state, while Section Two presents indicators of racial disparity relative to the CA population at intake or placement (the Disparity Index After Intake [DIAI] and the Disparity Index After Placement [DIAP] metrics, respectively).

The purpose of the DIAI and DIAP is to control for whatever disproportionality (of reports) or disparity (within the system) may be present as a legacy of the earlier stages in the process by which children/youth come to the attention of, and may become involved with, Child Protective Services (CPS) and move through the system.

Another difference between the two sections is that the disparity indices in Section Two are computed with reference to expanded racial categories (within which the "multiracial" category is further detailed). We cannot report population-based rates of occurrence or disparity indices at this finer level of race detail because census-based population estimates from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) are not classified in a way that allows these racial categories to be distinguished as such. For this reason, in Section One we report rates of occurrence and disparity indices with reference to the more basic racial distinctions (i.e. having just one "multiracial" category).

As in recent years, changes and corrections made in the current report are detailed in Appendix A. Readers are referred to Appendix B for tables of the base data behind the results presented herein, and to Appendix C for a full list of prior reports.

We refer readers who are interested in the evolution of the disproportionality/disparity metrics used by CA and in other methodological changes to those prior reports, which are available upon request.

## Methodological Introduction

### Metric Definitions and Analysis Groups

#### Metric Definitions

- Rate of Occurrence (**Rate per Thousand**):
  - $N \text{ children/youth at a decision point} \div N \text{ in the general population} \times 1000$
- Disproportionality Index (**DI**):
  - $\text{Children and youth of color group Rate of Occurrence} \div \text{White Rate of Occurrence}$
- Disproportionality Index after Intake (**DIAI**):
  - $\text{Children and youth of color group Rate of Occurrence (relative to Intake)} \div \text{White Rate of Occurrence (relative to Intake)}$
- Disproportionality Index after Placement (**DIAP**):
  - $\text{Children and youth of color group Rate of Occurrence (relative to Placement)} \div \text{White Rate of Occurrence (relative to Placement)}$  Placement in the denominator used for the DIAP rates is of placements lasting 8 days or more

#### Analysis Groups and Associated Metrics

**Group 1** – Entry cohort of victims identified at intake, follow-up period of 12 months, annual reporting periods:

- Victims identified at screened-in CPS intakes (Division of Licensed Resources [DLR] excluded)
- Victims in cohort placed within 12 months of intake (three days before to 365 after

**Group 2** – Entry cohort of children entering placement, follow-up period 12 months, annual reporting periods:

- Children not initially placed with relatives/kin
- Children moved twice or more in their first 12 months in care (initial mobility)
- Children reunified within 12 months of placement entry

**Group 3** – Same entry cohort as Group 2, follow-up period 24 months:

- Children in care for more than two years
- Children in care for more than two years, moved during their previous 12 months in the current (or final) placement setting (ongoing mobility)

*Note that changes in placement setting with a length of stay <31 days that occur as an intermediate setting between two settings with the same business ID are not counted as “moves” for the purposes of this metric.*



## Interpretation of the Figures Presenting Disproportionality/Disparity Indices

Readers may appreciate an introduction to the interpretation of the main kind of graphs that are presented in this report. The graphs of *rates per thousand* that are included in Section One are not uncommon, but there is less general familiarity with graphs of the *disproportionality and disparity indices* that represent the report's main results.

The disproportionality and disparity indices presented in this report are one form of what is generally known as *relative rates*. The indices differ somewhat across the decision points, specifically in the comparison groups that are used in the denominators to compute the rates, but the general form of the indices is simply the *Rate of Children and Youth of Color Group* divided by the *Rate of White Group*. The result, or index, represents the degree of difference in the rate of a children and youth of color group compared to the rate of whites.

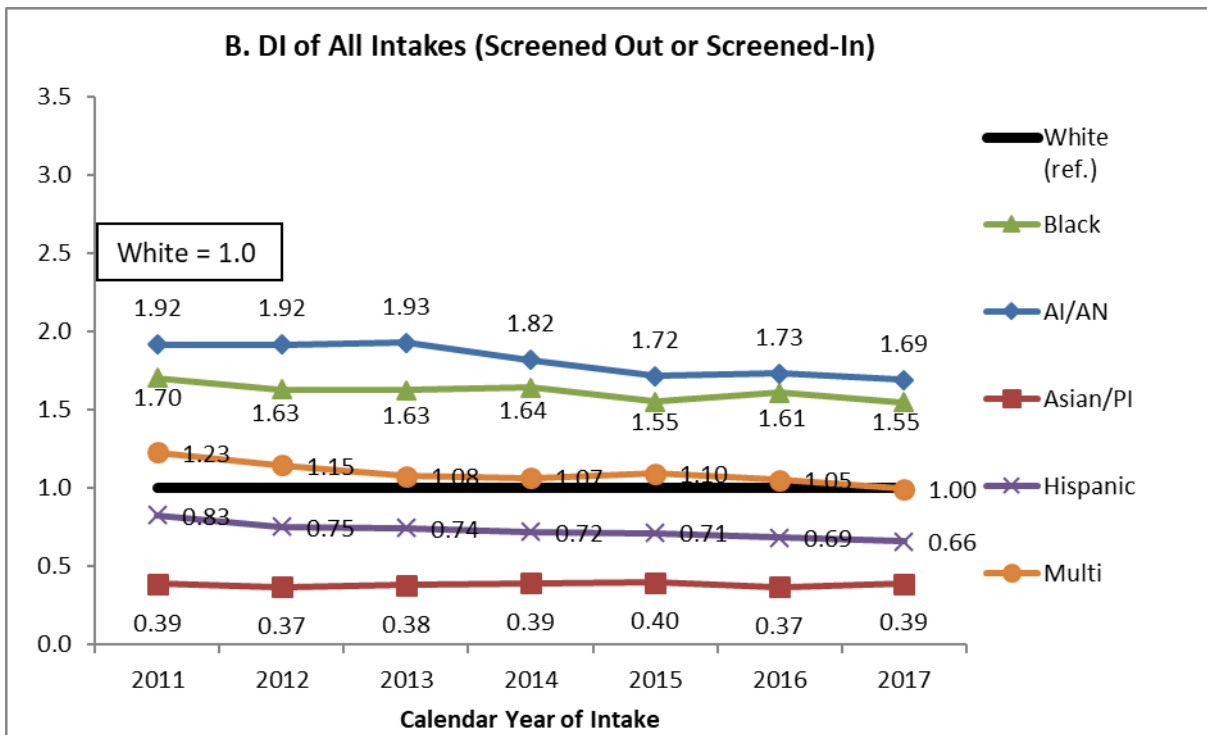
Because the metrics in this report are scaled in the direction that generally is problematic, a *higher* rate of a children and youth of color group (indicated by an index value *greater* than one) indicates some problematic disproportionality or disparity for that group, whereas a *lower* rate of a children and youth of color group (indicated by a positive index value *less* than one) indicates that the children and youth of color group generally is faring better than whites in that regard.

The size of the disproportionality or disparity index (to the extent that it diverges from the reference value of 1.0) represents the degree to which the children and youth of color are faring worse or better, i.e. the extent to which the decision making at that stage is disproportional or disparate.

For example, a disparity index of 2.0 would show that the rate of a children and youth of color group is twice as great as that of whites; in other words, the event under consideration would be twice as likely to happen for the children/youth of color of the group under consideration compared to their white counterparts. Indexes between zero and one are a bit trickier to interpret because the degree of difference in rates is found by computing the *reciprocal* of the index, i.e. one divided by the index value. For instance, an index of 0.4 means that children/youth of the children and youth of color group have a rate 2.5 times less ( $1.0/0.4$ ) than the rate for white children/youth. The reference trend in all such graphs is the cross-year trend line for whites, which is always exactly 1.0 (i.e. the rate of whites compared to itself,  $1.0/1.0$ ).

The following figure (p. 4) is an example of the type of graphs under consideration. It is the disproportionality index (DI) for All Intakes (these are intakes associated with victims and are unduplicated by victim).

Example Figure: Trends in Rate of Occurrence and Disproportionality Index for All Intakes (DI)



In this graph, the reference trend is the (horizontal) line for whites, which is 1.0 for all years. The rates that are compared are based upon the number of intakes for each racial group over the (estimated) number of children/youth of that race in the general population of Washington state. So, for example, in 2011, American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) children/youth were almost twice as likely (DI = 1.92, i.e. 92% more likely) to be reported to CPS as were white children/youth, and in 2017 they were 69% more likely (DI = 1.69), which is a reduction, but still disproportionate. In contrast, multiracial children/youth in 2011 were 23% more likely (DI = 1.23) to have a CPS intake, but by 2017 they were no more likely to have an intake than were white children/youth (DI = 1.0), which is the culmination of a decreasing multi-year trend in disproportionality that goes back to 2007 (at which time there was a DI of 1.68 for multiracial children/youth).

On the other hand, Asian/Pacific Islander (Asian/PI) children/youth throughout the period 2011-2017 had DIs that were *less* than one, indicating that the rates of intakes for Whites were *higher* than for Asian/PI children/youth. These ranged from a DI of 0.37, 2.7 times less, in 2012 and 2016, to a DI of .40, 2.5 times less, in 2015. The DIs for Hispanic children youth also were less than 1.0 during this period, indicating that Hispanic children/youth had fewer intakes than whites (both groups having been adjusted for their representation in the Washington population), and that disparity (in the direction of whites being *overrepresented* in intakes compared to Hispanics) increased during the period (from 0.83, 1.2 times less, in 2011 to 0.66, 1.5 times less, in 2017).

## Section One: Rates and Disproportionality Relative to the General Population

### *Rates of Occurrence and Section One Disparity Indices' Definitions:*

**All Intakes:** These are unduplicated counts of children who were identified as potential victims in CPS intakes received during the cohort period, whether screened out or screened in, excluding intakes from and investigations of licensed facilities (DLR cases). A small proportion (<0.5%) of cases identified as DLR at intake are later changed to a CPS case upon investigation; these children are included in the intake counts. If children are identified in multiple intakes during the cohort period, the first *founded* intake is selected;<sup>1</sup> if there are only unfounded intakes, the *earliest* unfounded intake in the cohort period is selected; if there are only screened-out intakes, the earliest one of those is selected. The intent is to select the *most serious* of multiple intakes occurring during the cohort period.<sup>2</sup>

**Screened-In CPS Intake:** These are unduplicated counts of children identified as at-risk or potential victims in CPS intakes received during the cohort period, and accepted for Family Assessment Response (FAR) or CPS investigation (whether actually investigated or not), excluding intakes from and investigations of licensed facilities (DLR cases). As noted above, a small proportion (<0.5%) of cases identified as DLR at intake are later changed to a CPS case upon investigation; children in these intakes are included in the counts. If children are identified in multiple intakes during the cohort period, the *first founded* intake is selected;<sup>3</sup> if there are only unfounded intakes, the *earliest* unfounded intake in the cohort period is selected.

**Placement within 12 Months of Intake:** These are unduplicated counts of children placed into foster care up to three days *before* intake<sup>4</sup> (unless the placement episode closes before intake), to 12 months after intake. First, children in intakes are unduplicated as described above; then, the placement episode occurring closest to the date of intake is selected. Placement episodes of any length of stay are counted (unless they end before the intake date). *All* qualifying intakes (i.e. Department of Child and Family Services [DCFS] intakes associated with one or more victims) are included when identifying placements for the purposes of rate calculation (not just *screened-in/accepted* intakes) because some legitimate index placements otherwise would be excluded. (This refers to the set of intakes that are entered into the deduplication procedure.) Non-DCFS placements<sup>5</sup> are not included, and children/youth under the jurisdiction of Tribal Courts have a Placement Care and Authority (PCA) of Non-DCFS, so *tribal payments only* placements are excluded (unless, that is, the child returned to the care of DCFS).

<sup>1</sup> Founded is used here as the best proxy of the most serious intake occurring during the cohort period.

<sup>2</sup> It is necessary to select a particular intake for reference by later metrics (such as *Placement within 12 Months of Intake*).

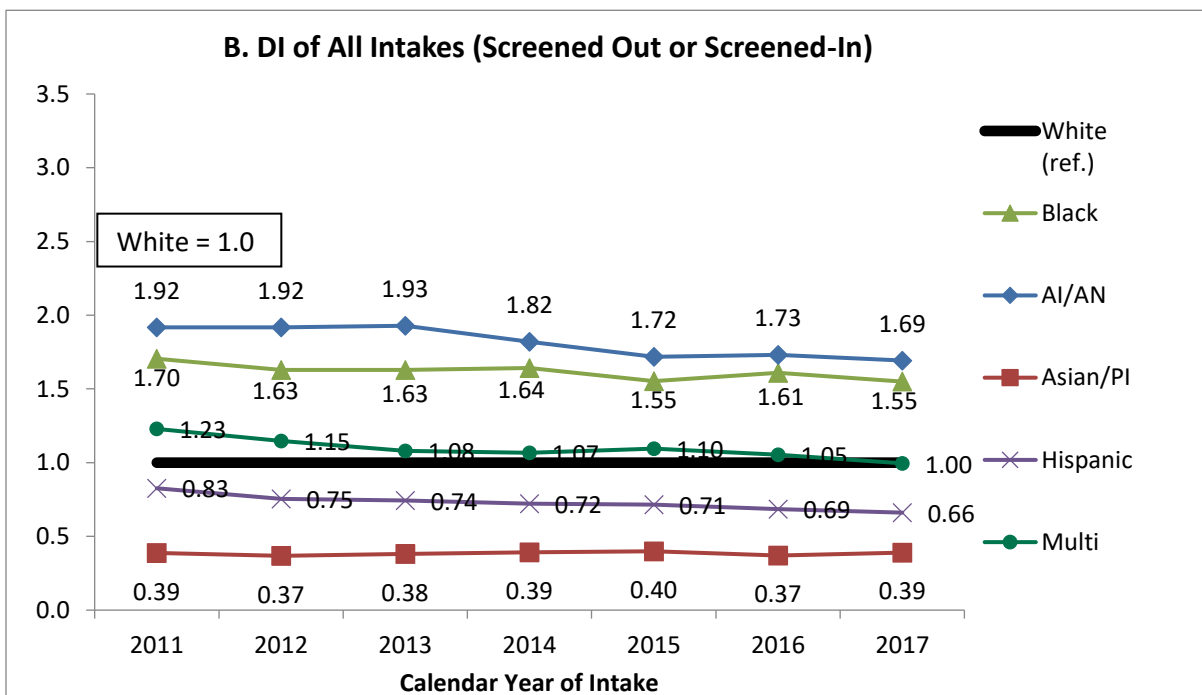
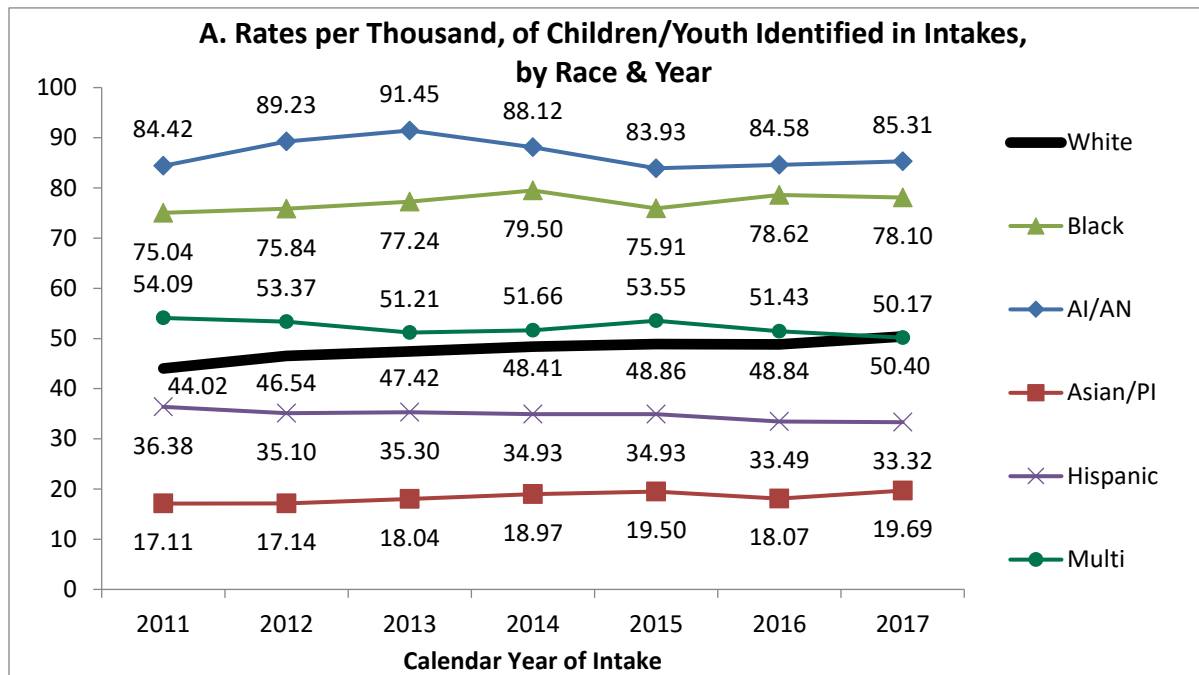
<sup>3</sup> Again, founded is used here as the best proxy of the most serious intake occurring during the cohort period.

<sup>4</sup> It was found that in practice there are a cluster of cases where there has been an emergency placement, followed by entry of intake information into the system up to a few days later. In these situations, it would be inappropriate to not count such cases as 'resulting' in placement.

<sup>5</sup> These are those with the most recent PCA of Non-DCFS (either the current PCA, if an open placement, or last PCA prior to discharge, if closed).

# Section One Indicators (Disproportionality)

## 1. Trends in Rate of Occurrence and Disproportionality Index for All Intakes (DI)

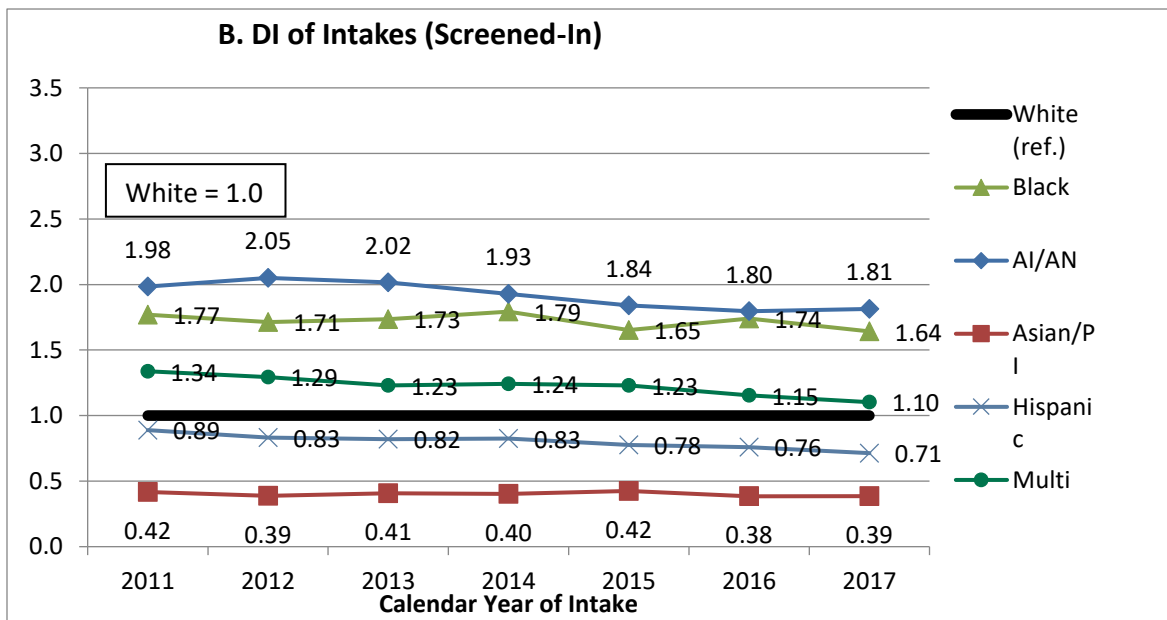
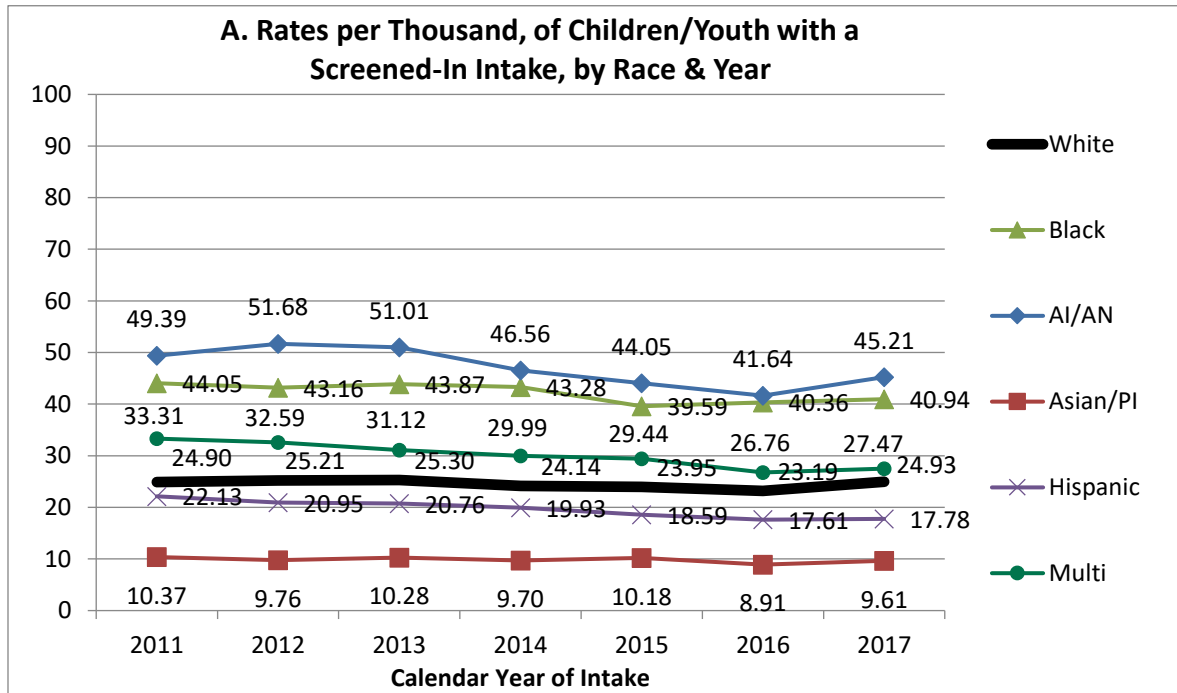




The rates of intakes for American Indian/Alaska Native and black children/youth have remained elevated relative to whites across the reporting period (on the order of just above one and a half times, for blacks, to just less than double for AI/AN), though for AI/AN there was a slight decrease from a high in 2013 to the less elevated level that has been roughly constant from 2015 through 2017. In contrast, the rate of intakes for multiracial children/youth has *decreased* throughout the reporting period (continuing a decreasing trend that started in 2007), and in 2017 it was virtually equal to that of whites. Rates of intake for Asian/Pacific Islanders and (to a lesser extent) Hispanics have been lower than that of whites throughout the reporting period, and the rate for Hispanic children/youth has modestly decreased during that time (continuing a decreasing trend dating from at least 2006 when the intake rate for Hispanics was 36.4 *per* thousand, with a corresponding DI of 1.12).

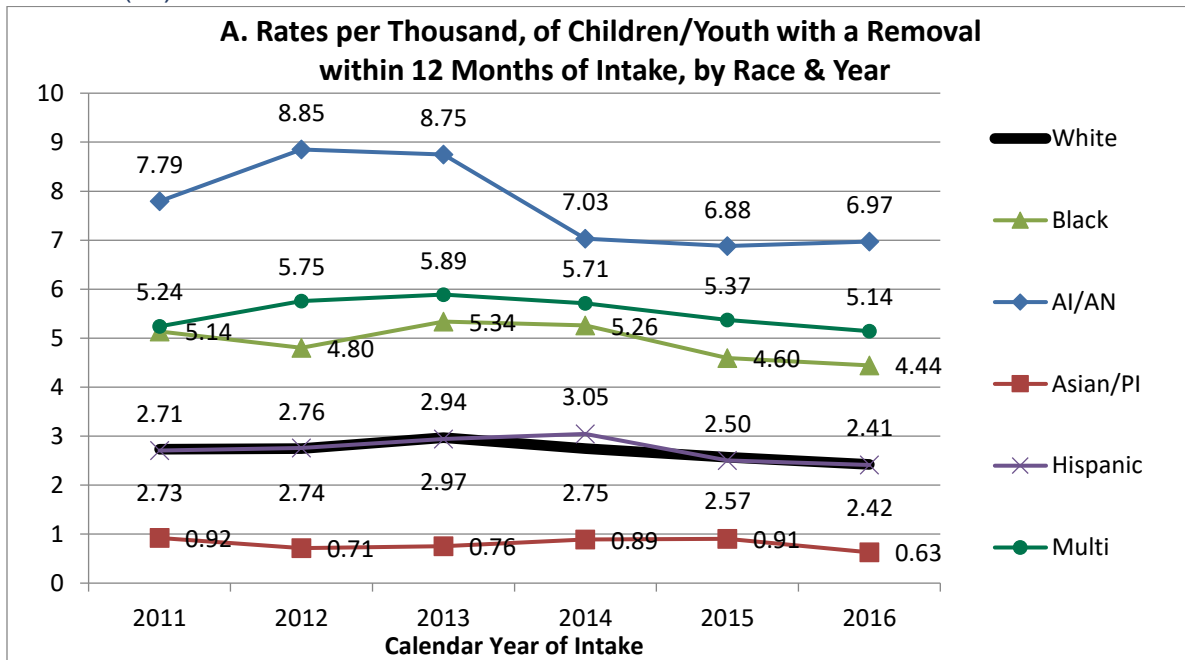
Some additional details regarding the *All Intake* DI graph are described above, in the *Methodological Introduction*.

## 2. Trends in Rate of Occurrence and Disproportionality Index for Screened-In Intakes (DI)

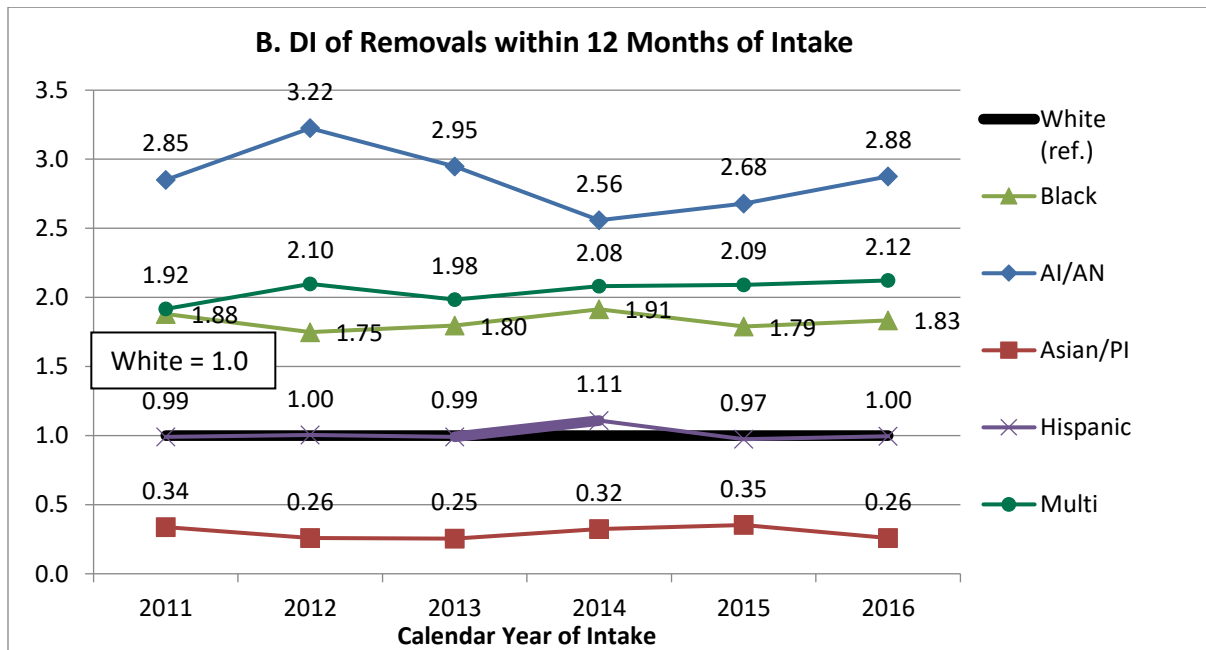


The patterns of rates and DI of *screened-in intakes* generally reflect the rates of *all intakes*, though the absolute level of the rates of screened-in intakes are of course lower (roughly half as much as that of all intakes). Compared to the corresponding rates and DI of all intakes, the numbers of screened-in intakes for children and youth of color look slightly elevated in the first of these graphs, but it is in order to provide a clearer view of this possibility that the DIAI metric is employed in Section Two (see p. 12), the effect of which is to adjust for the general rates of intakes in considering the possibly disparity contributed by the screening decision.

### 3. Trends in Rate of Occurrence and Disproportionality Index for Placement After Intake (DI)



Due to a necessary 12-month follow-up window, the figure is updated with a one-year lag.



Due to a necessary 12-month follow-up window, the figure is updated with a one-year lag.

The patterns of rates and DIs of *removal/placement within 12 months* also in part reflect the rates of *all* intakes, though the absolute level of these rates naturally are even less than those of screened-in intakes. However, it is evident from a comparison of the DIs in the graph 3B (*DI of Removals within 12 Months of Intake*) to the graphs for DIs of *all* intakes and

*screened-in intakes* that the disproportionality for AI/AN, Multiracial, and Black children/youth is even more elevated for *placements within a year of intake*. It can be seen in the two graphs immediately above that the trend lines for Hispanics and whites (except for the 2014 cohort) are indistinguishable, whereas the placement rates for AI/AN children/youth are highly elevated, for multiracial and black children/youth also quite elevated, and for Asian/PI much lower than those of white children/youth. Again, to get a view of the *disparity* of the placement decision, in contrast to the *disproportionality* presented in the graph immediately above (i.e. placement rates relative to the racial/ethnic composition of the general population of Washington state), the DIAI is employed in Section Two in order to adjust for the general rates of intakes (see p. 13).

## Section Two: Disparity Relative to Intake and Placement Populations

### Meaning of DIAI and DIAP and Rationales for Their Use

The Disparity Index After Intake (DIAI) is a measure of disparity relative to the racial/ethnic composition of (unduplicated) children reported to the agency as being at-risk or possibly victims in CPS intakes (specifically, those for whom child race information was recorded), regardless of whether or not the intake was screened in (accepted for services or investigation) or not. This is the group of children who enter the system to any extent (even if only to be screened out).

Using DIAIs to monitor changes in racial<sup>6</sup> disparity has the important advantage of factoring out racial disparity in general social conditions and the sources of referrals (such as possible demographic differences in maltreatment risk factors, differences in visibility of families to mandated reporters, and the potential racial bias of *reporters* of child abuse and neglect). While these all are important factors to consider, they are ones over which the agency has little control. The use of DIAIs allows for the tracking of changes in disparity after children are identified in CPS intakes, as they move through the intake-screening process, possibly are investigated, and for some children/youth after they are removed from their homes and have stays in foster care (after which the DIAPs are more appropriate, because they use the group of children put in placement as the comparison group).

Similarly, using a Disparity Index After Placement (DIAP) factors out whatever racial disparity there may be at placement itself (as well as at earlier stages). This enables focusing on whatever disparity is specific to post-placement stages of care, in order that agency efforts to decrease disparity during foster care can be most effectively directed. For purposes of the DIAIs and DIAPs, *all intakes*, *screened-in intakes*, and *placements within 12 months* are defined as described above (in Section One). Note that for all measurement points, a DIAI or a DIAP value above one indicates greater problematic disparity compared to whites, whereas a DIAI or a DIAP value less than one indicates that a given group generally is doing better than whites in terms of that metric (because all of the indices are scaled in the direction that generally is not preferable).

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<sup>6</sup> In using “racial” in this discussion, it is meant in the broad sense of racial/ethnic, given that Hispanic is one of the categories used in the “race” classification detailed below.

## Race Categories

The following race categories reflect the intent to distinguish single-race children from multiracial children in the client population in a reasonably detailed way, neither ignoring possible differences between the experience and treatment of multiracial *versus* single-race children nor lumping all multiracial children together. At the same time, we cannot (for practical reasons) track very small groups of children (as would result from even more refined multiracial categories). The categories that follow represent those distinctions that the *CA Racial Disparity Working Group* identified as most important to monitor.<sup>7</sup>

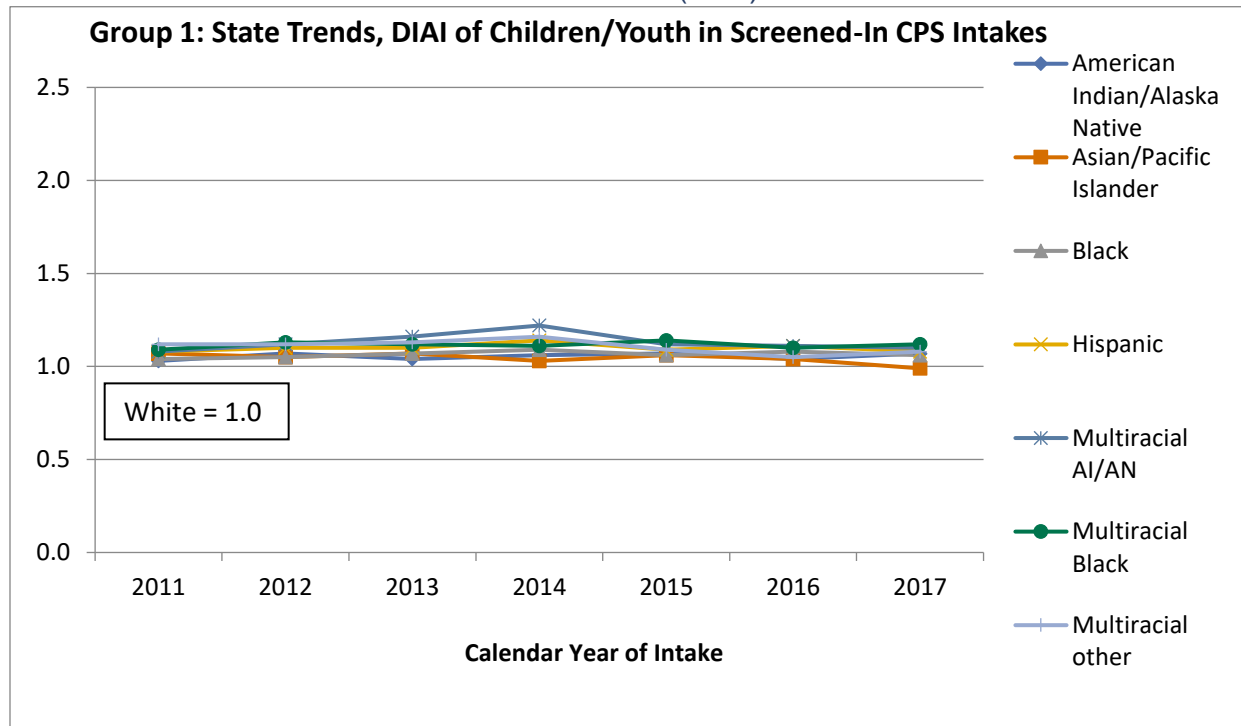
- American Indian/Alaska Native (just one race/ethnicity indicated)
- Asian/Pacific Islander (just one race/ethnicity indicated)
- Black (just one race/ethnicity indicated)
- White (just one race, Hispanic not indicated)
- Hispanic (white race only or unknown race only). *Multiracial* Hispanics are included in the appropriate other multiracial categories
- Multiracial American Indian/Alaska Native (any American Indian/Alaska Native indicated as well as another race/ethnicity)
- Multiracial Black (any black indicated as well as another race/ethnicity *except* American Indian/Alaska Native)
- Multiracial other (all other combinations, with no indication of American Indian/Alaska Native or Black). This category includes Asian/Pacific Islander/White and Asian/Pacific Islander/Hispanic
- Unknown (no race indicated) - not included in the figures below (but included in the Appendix B tables of base data). *Section Two Indicators (Disparity)*

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<sup>7</sup> As reflected in decisions made by the *CA Racial Disparity Working Group* chaired by Judy Hall at the meeting of August 17th, 2011 and in subsequent communications. These are the categories used since the 2011 report.



## 4. Children/Youth in Screened-In CPS Intakes (DIAI)

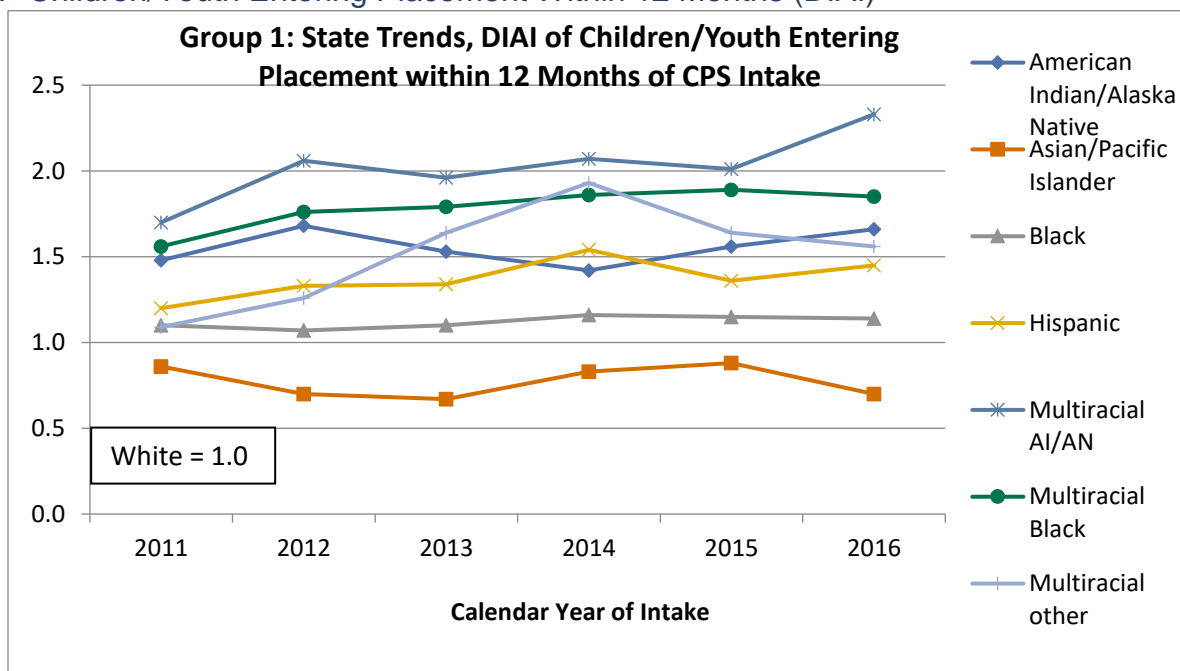


The graph above, which presents the DIAI for *screened-in intakes*, shows evidence of only slight disparity. The maximum of DI = 1.22 for multiracial AI/AN children in 2014 was an outlier; other than that all of the DIs were 1.16 or less, representing at most a 16% higher rate of screened-in intakes (controlling for the general rate of all intakes); most of these DIs are much less than 1.16 (the average, including the 1.22 maximum, is only 1.1).

While disparity elevated even by 12% is concerning, as for multiracial black children/youth in 2017 (with a DIAI of 1.12) in contrast to the ideal (i.e. DIAI = 1), relative to the disparity evident at some later decision-making stages (e.g. placement, mobility) the degree of disparity at screening evidently is slight, especially when viewed as a whole. In fact, this chart can be used as a kind of baseline for comparison for the later graphs, because the disparity seen in it is so little.

It is worth noting that just because disparity is present to some degree does not necessarily imply that the decision-making of a given stage is biased or otherwise unfair, because a) there is some “natural” variation in rates, and b) there may be differences in risk factors, and consequently events, that legitimately warrant decisions (“screened-in” decisions in this instance) to be made at different rates. To the extent that there *is* disparity evident, however, the data raise the question of to what extent this is appropriate given the circumstances or, conversely, to what extent racial or other bias may be playing a part in the decision making. That said, at the stage of screening of intakes, more than a slight degree of any such disparity is not apparent.

## 5. Children/Youth Entering Placement Within 12 Months (DIAI)

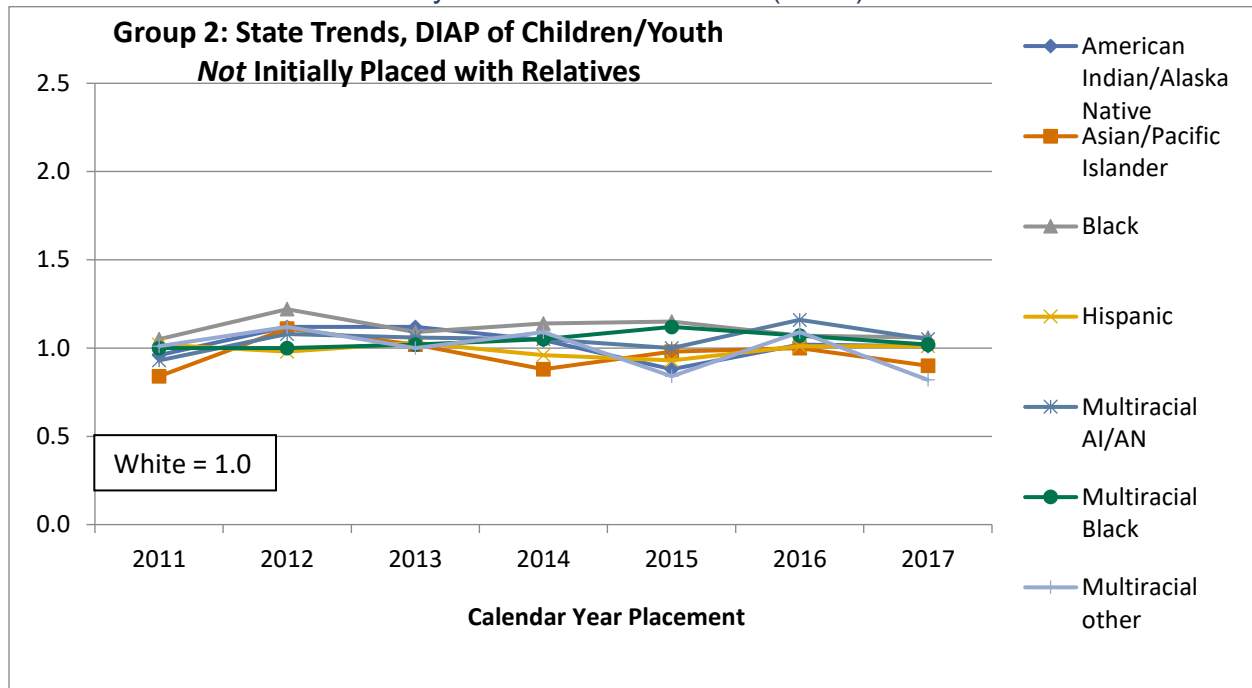


Due to a necessary 12-month follow-up window, the figure is updated with a one-year lag.

In contrast to the graph of DIAIs for *screening*, the DIAI chart for *children entering placement within 12 months* evidences obvious disparity, most so for the three multiracial groups and AI/AN. In contrast, the DIAIs for the placement decision are only slightly elevated for black children/youth—ranging from 1.07 (2012 cohort) to 1.16 (2014 cohort). For the whole period, Asian/PI children/youth were *less* likely compared to whites to be placed within a year (controlling for the different rates of intake), with a range from 10% (2015 Asian/PI cohort) to 50% (2013 Asian/PI cohort) less likely to be placed. The Placement DIAIs are highest across the years for multiracial AI/AN, followed by multiracial black, and (with the slight exception of the 2014 cohort) AI/AN. The trend for multiracial other is different from the other multiracial groups in that it rose from a low level (DIAI = 1.09) for the 2011 multiracial other cohort that was about the same as that of blacks to a high (DIAI = 1.93) just above that of the multiracial black 2014 cohort, and then decreased again for the 2015 and 2016 multiracial other cohorts (though it remained elevated, at DIAI = 1.56, for the multiracial other 2016 cohort). In contrast, the trend for AI/AN during this window reached a minimum (DIAI = 1.42) for the AI/AN 2014 cohort, and then rose for the 2015 and 2016 AI/AN cohorts (to DIAI = 1.66).

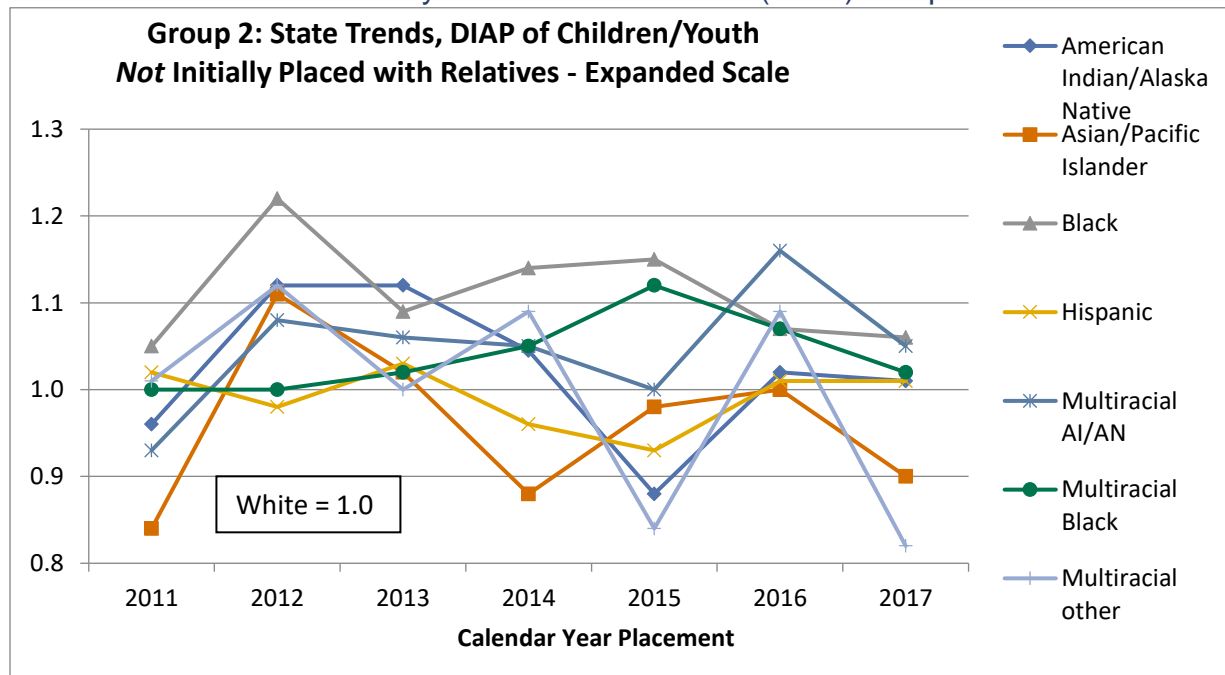
That the Placement DIAI for both AI/AN and, even more dramatically, multiracial AI/AN increased from the 2015 to 2016 cohorts is concerning, and should be a matter of ongoing attention. To put those numbers in a longer historical context, both are at the maximum for the entire period of 2006 through 2016 cohorts (the only data point slightly more extreme was a DIAI of 1.68 for the AI/AN 2012 cohort). Relative to the degree of disparity evident at the other stages of decision making considered in this report, disparity of removal/placement is the clearest, and also removal is the key early stage of children's/youth's involvements in the CPS system. As such, agency efforts to understand the reasons for the disparity at this stage of decision making and to appropriately address it will be well placed to advance the overall goal of reducing disparity in the system.

## 6a. Children/Youth Not Initially Placed with Relatives (DIAP)

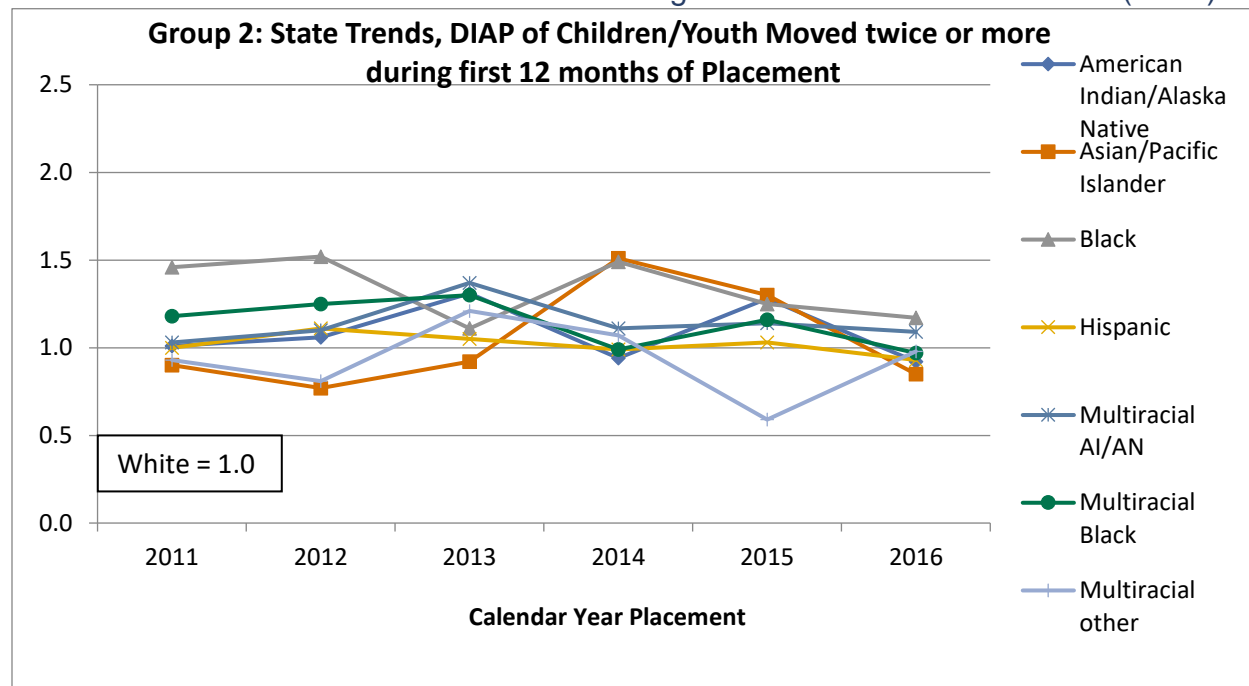


Compared to the DIAs of placement, there is only slight racial/ethnic disparity evident in the DIAP trends of children not initially placed with relatives. Another indication of a lack of systematic disparity is that the DIAP values in this graph are distributed both above and below the reference line of 1.0 (see Figure 6b). The maximum *greater-than-one* disparity for this metric is the DIAP of 1.22 for black children/youth of the 2012 cohort.

## 6b. Children/Youth Not Initially Placed with Relatives (DIAP) – Expanded Scale



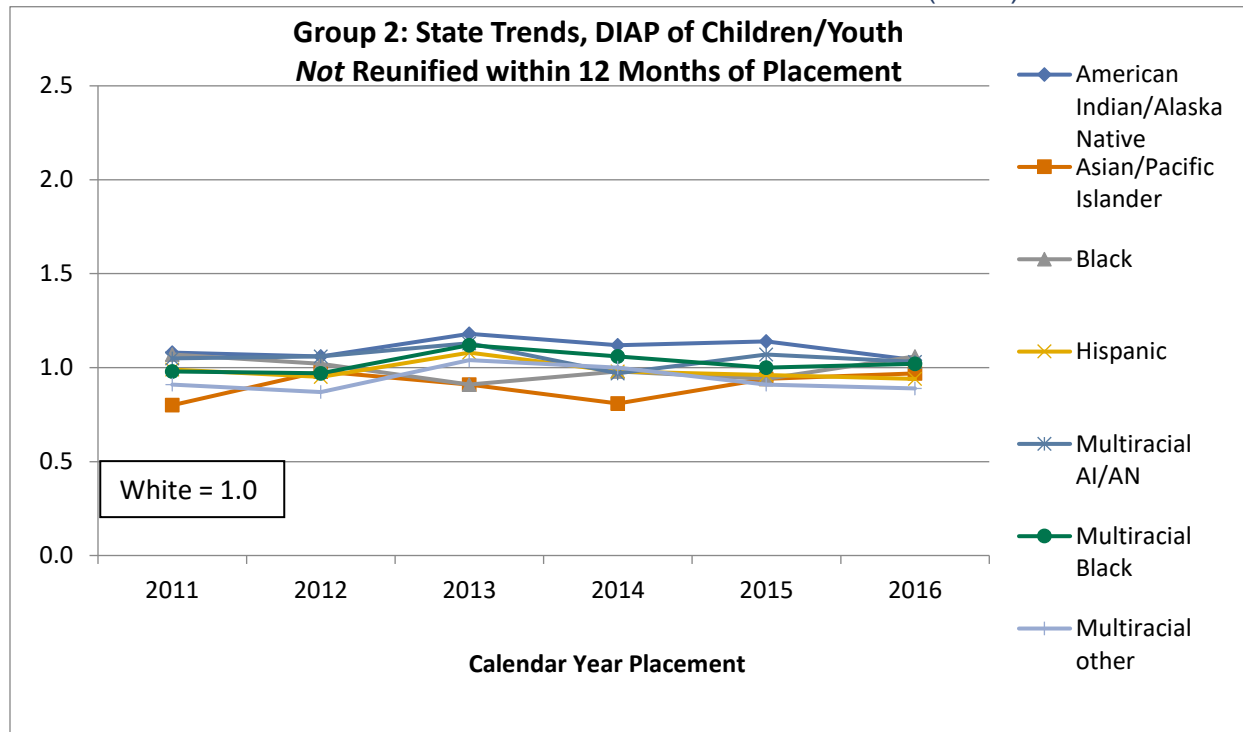
## 7. Children/Youth Moved Twice or More During First 12 Months of Placement (DIAP)



Due to a necessary 12-month follow-up window, the figure is updated with a one-year lag.

There is some disparity evident in the graph of DIAP values in the graph of *children moved twice or more during the first 12 months of placement*, but it is inconsistent across the years. Though the DIAP values for black children/youth were relatively high (~1.5) for the 2011, 2012, and 2014 cohorts, by the time of the 2016 cohort there was only slight (DIAP = 1.17) disparity evident for them relative to whites. And though the trend for Asian/PI reached a similar peak (DIAP = 1.51) for the 2014 cohort, for the 2016 cohort it was less than one. Overall, for the 2016 cohort, there was very little disparity evident regarding this metric; all of the DIAP values were within the range .85 (Asian/PI) to 1.17 (black), representing a difference from whites of only 17-18%.

## 8. Children/Youth Not Reunified Within 12 Months of Placement (DIAP)

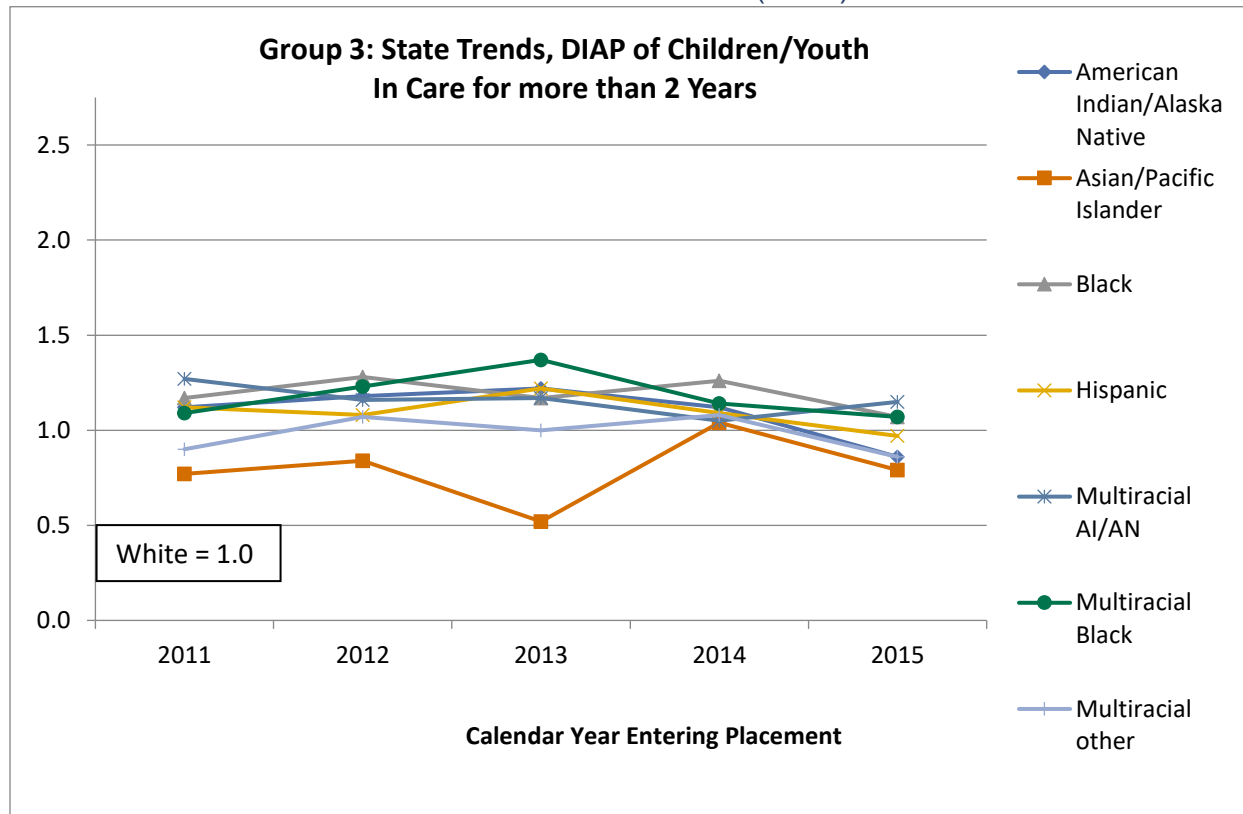


Due to a necessary 12-month follow-up window, the figure is updated with a one-year lag.

The graph of DIAP values for children/youth not reunified with 12 months of placement also shows only slight disparity (and it also is distributed both above and below the reference line of 1.0), and by the time of the 2016 cohort the overall disparity of this metric is at a minimum; it ranges from a DIAP of 0.89 to a DIAP of 1.06, which represents only 7.1% variation from the rates of reunification for whites. Over the entire span of cohorts presented above, the maximum above-one DIAP value is only 1.18 (for the AI/AN 2013 cohort), which represents only slight disparity relative to that seen at other stages of decision making within the system (removal/placement being the primary example). Even so, given that the trend lines became even more compressed for the 2016 cohorts, it will be interesting to see going forward if this remains the case, i.e. whether or not it represents a lasting reduction in disparity of lack of reunification. In any case, if there were changes to policy or programs that recently reduced the modest degree of disparity seen in previous years, it would be valuable for the agency to understand to which factors the improvement is attributable.



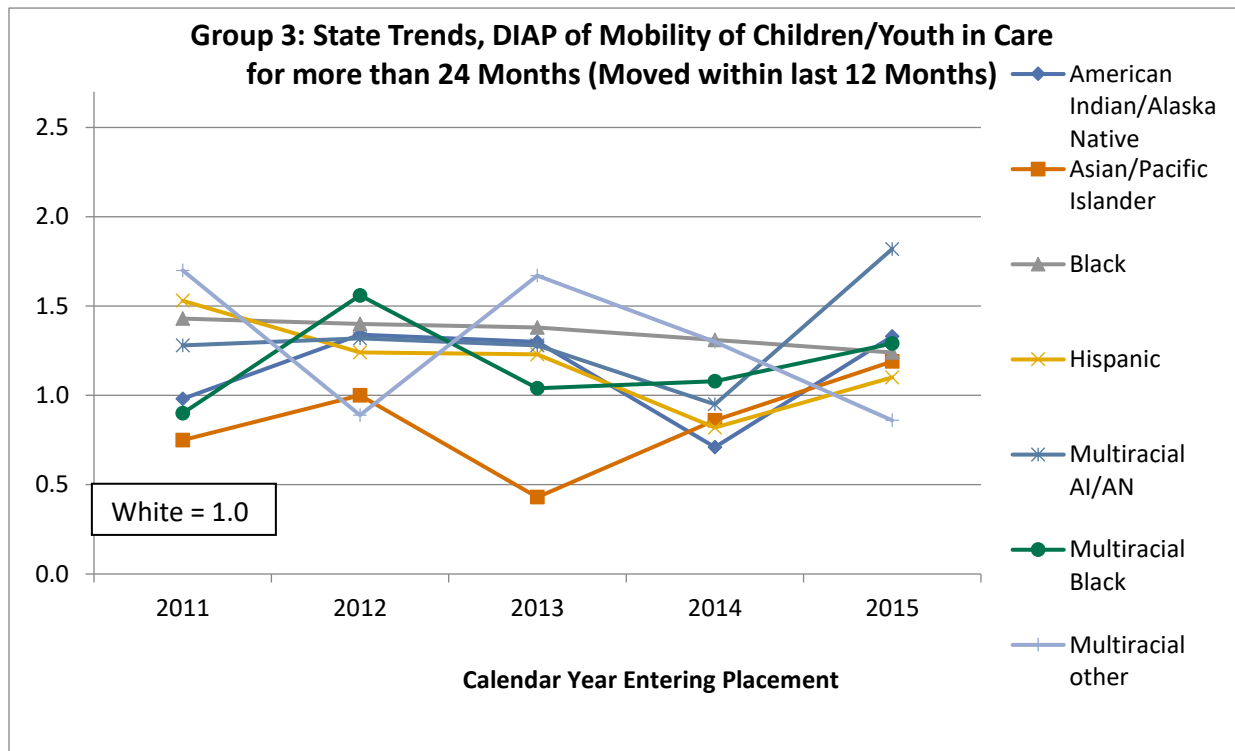
## 9. Children/Youth in Care for More Than Two Years (DIAP)



Due to a necessary 24-month follow-up window, the figure is updated with a two-year lag.

The DIAP metric of children/youth in care for more than two years reveals some disparity, though at a modest level (compared to that of children/youth entering placement within 12 months, for instance). The maximum greater-than-one DIAP value is 1.37 for the multiracial black children/youth 2013 cohort. Though the trend for Asian/PI children was below 1.0 for most cohorts, especially for the 2013 cohort (DIAP = 0.52), for the 2014 cohort it was near the reference line (DIAP = 1.04), and for the 2015 Asian/PI cohort again not far below the reference line (DIAP = 0.86). The maximum and minimum DIAP values both being for 2013 cohorts may give a visual impression that the DIAP trend lines for this metric are more dispersed than they actually are; in fact, 80% of the DIAP values are within the range +/- 23% (i.e. having DIAPs between .81 and 1.23).

# 10. Mobility of Children/Youth in Care for More Than 24 Months (Moved Within Last 12 Months) (DIAP)



Due to a necessary 24-month follow-up window, the figure is updated with a two-year lag.

The graph of the DIAP values of the metric mobility of children/youth in care for more than 24 months includes some greater-than-one extremes (which, relative to the other graphs, we regard as DIAP values over 1.5). Though, as with the earlier metric children moved twice or more during first 12 months of placement, the trend lines bounce around somewhat, for the 2015 cohort the DIAP values are within a relatively narrow range (0.86 to 1.33, or within -16% to +33% difference), with the exception of the extreme DIAP value of 1.82 for multiracial AI/AN children/youth. From the 2012 cohort on, the trend lines for AI/AN and Hispanic are similar, decreasing from 1.24 or 1.34 (2012 cohort Hispanic and AI/AN groups, respectively) to 0.71 or 0.82 (AI/AN and Hispanic groups, respectively, for the 2014 cohort), and then rising for the 2015 cohort back over 1.0 (DIAPs = 1.10 Hispanic and 1.33 AI/AN, respectively). Whereas the DIAP trend for black children/youth decreases modestly but linearly from the 2011 cohort to the 2015 cohort (from 1.43 to 1.24), the trend line for multiracial other (which, as a relatively small group, would be expected to have greater volatility) from its peak for the 2011 cohort (1.70) bounces down (0.89), up (1.67), and down again (1.30 [2014 cohort]), and then down below 1.0 0.86 [2015 cohort] for subsequent cohorts. The trend line for multiracial black children/youth also bounces around, but in the opposite direction—from under 1.0 (DIAP = 0.9) for the 2011 cohort to above 1.5 (DIAP = 1.56) for the 2012 cohort, then back to near 1.0 (DIAP = 1.04) for the 2013 cohort, from which point it rose slightly for the 2014 cohort (1.08) and more for the 2015 cohort (to 1.29). The trend line for Asian/PI also was unstable, going from below one (DIAP = 0.75) for the 2011 cohort to exactly 1.0 for the 2012 cohort, far below 1.0 (DIAP = 0.43) for the 2013

cohort, then back approaching 1.0 (0.86) for the 2014 cohort, and above it (1.19) for the 2015 cohort.

As can be seen in the base data included in Appendix B, the group of children/youth in care for greater than two years is relatively small, and the subgroup that moved within the past 12 months is even smaller, especially of the Asian/PI and multiracial other groups. Given this, a relatively higher degree of volatility in the latter-stage graphs, especially for those groups, is unsurprising. Of more concern is the question of why the DIAP value for AI/AN children/youth went from DIAP = 0.95 for the 2014 cohort to DIAP = 1.82 for the 2015 cohort—an increase of 87% relative to no disparity relative to whites. If the AI/AN DIAP values for this metric remain elevated in subsequent cohorts it will raise the possibility that there has been some systemic change.

## Appendix A

### Changes and Corrections in the 2018 Racial Disparity Report

As of the 2016 report, revisions to each year's report are detailed in an Appendix to the report. Additional revisions made to this 2018 report are as follows:

- All possible disproportionality and disparity metrics were updated for CY2015, CY2016, and CY2017, as was the corresponding base data in Appendix B.
- Data from CY2010 were dropped from the graphs, and the table of base data for CY2010 was not included in the current year's report. Our intention for subsequent reports is to have a minimum five-year reporting window, each year dropping the oldest year and adding a new one.
- Base data table cells with  $N > 0$  and  $N < 10$  were redacted (so as to minimize possible identifiability), as indicated by an 'X.'
- As of July 1, 2018, the Omak and Wenatchee offices moved from Region 1 South (CA sub-region 2) back to Region 1 North (CA sub-region 1).
- The label 'Native American' was replaced with 'American Indian/Alaska Native' (abbreviated as 'AI/AN').
- Wording was revised to reflect the fact that "screened-in" children include those with risk only and those routed to FAR for services.
- The basis of identifying DLR intakes as such was changed from ID\_PRVD\_ORG\_INTAKE to CD\_INTAKE\_TYPE\_DERIVED. This affects only intakes from October 20, 2013, on. Judging from CY2015 data, changes to the disproportionality/disparity indexes as a result of this modification are infinitesimally small (the largest absolute value of a difference between indexes was 0.0055), because relatively few intakes are associated with DLR.
- The list of past reports, which formerly preceded the Table of Contents, was moved to Appendix C.
- Descriptive text was added to the figures. In order to allow space for the text while still having the graph(s) to which it pertained be on the same page, the report's paper size was changed from Letter to Legal.
- "Non-white children/youth" was replaced with "children and youth of color."
- Authorship was specified, and DCYF Contact and Suggested Citation information were added to the end of the report.

## Appendix B

### Base Data for the 2018 Report (2011 – 2017)

CY2011

Cohort<sup>8</sup>

Updated 6/26/17

Updated  
9/25/17

	Group 1 Indicators			Group 2 Indicators			Group 3 Indicators		Groups 2 & 3 Denominator
Race Category	All Intakes (Including Screened Out)	Screened In CPS Intake	Placed w/in 12 months of Intake	NOT initially placed w/ relatives	> 1 move in first 12 months	NOT Reunified w/in 12 months	In Care > 2 years	Ongoing (in)stability (moved w/in last 12 months)	Children/Youth in Placement > 7 days
American Indian/Alaska Native only	3,157	1,845	291	106	38	111	60	14	158
Asian/PI only	2,078	1,257	111	52	19	46	23	X	88
Black only	5,307	3,114	364	246	117	235	133	43	335
Hispanic (White or unknown race)	9,276	5,641	690	477	160	434	255	92	670
Multiracial American Indian/Alaska Native	3,607	2,211	381	227	86	239	150	40	349
Multiracial Black except American Indian/Alaska Native	3,029	1,865	294	218	87	199	115	25	310
Multiracial Other	948	600	64	51	16	43	22	11	72
Unknown	6,894	2,723	14	X	0	X	0	0	X
White only	41,769	23,627	2,595	1,698	579	1584	823	218	2,425
Total	76,065	42,883	4,804	3,079	1102	2,893	1,581	449	4,412

<sup>8</sup> The columns of this table are not mutually exclusive.



**CY2012**  
**Cohort<sup>9</sup>**

Updated 6/26/17

Updated  
9/25/17

	Group 1 Indicators			Group 2 Indicators			Group 3 Indicators		Groups 2 & 3 Denominator
Race Category	All Intakes (Including Screened Out)	Screened In CPS Intake	Placed w/in 12 months of Intake	NOT initially placed w/ relatives	> 1 move in first 12 months	NOT Reunified w/in 12 months	In Care > 2 years	Ongoing (in)stability (moved w/in last 12 months)	Children/Youth in Placement > 7 days
American Indian/Alaska Native only	3,334	1,929	330	159	53	155	89	28	221
Asian/PI only	2,101	1,197	87	45	11	41	18	X	63
Black only	5,393	3,069	342	262	115	224	145	44	333
Hispanic (White or unknown race)	9,107	5,436	717	387	154	385	225	72	612
Multiracial American Indian/Alaska Native	3,652	2,226	443	279	100	281	159	50	400
Multiracial Black except American Indian/Alaska Native	3,078	1,892	319	200	88	199	130	46	310
Multiracial Other	1005	609	75	51	13	41	26	X	71
Unknown	7,072	2,579	X	X	0	X	0	0	X
White only	43,580	23,612	2,571	1,605	566	1651	851	237	2,494
Total	78,322	42,549	4,893	2,991	1100	2,979	1,643	489	4,508

<sup>9</sup> The columns of this table are not mutually exclusive.

**CY2013**  
**Cohort<sup>10</sup>**

Updated 6/26/17

Updated  
9/25/17

	Group 1 Indicators			Group 2 Indicators			Group 3 Indicators		Groups 2 & 3 Denominator
Race Category	All Intakes (Including Screened Out)	Screened In CPS Intake	Placed w/in 12 months of Intake	NOT initially placed w/ relatives	> 1 move in first 12 months	NOT Reunified w/in 12 months	In Care > 2 years	Ongoing (in)stability (moved w/in last 12 months)	Children/Youth in Placement > 7 days
American Indian/Alaska Native only	3,434	1,913	329	168	77	176	93	26	242
Asian/PI only	2,249	1,283	94	54	19	48	14	X	85
Black only	5,554	3,158	384	252	101	210	137	42	372
Hispanic (White or unknown race)	9,379	5,513	785	472	188	489	282	74	734
Multiracial American Indian/Alaska Native	3,555	2,205	437	293	148	310	164	46	444
Multiracial Black except American Indian/Alaska Native	3,105	1,853	347	207	104	226	141	28	327
Multiracial Other	1014	612	104	59	28	61	30	13	95
Unknown	8,580	3,208	17	X	0	X	X	0	X
White only	43,893	23,420	2,748	1,714	671	1703	867	225	2,753
Total	80,763	43,165	5,245	3,226	1336	3,224	1,729	457	5,060

<sup>10</sup> The columns of this table are not mutually exclusive.

WASHINGTON STATE DCYF RACIAL DISPARITY INDICES REPORT (2018)

**CY2014  
Cohort<sup>11</sup>**

**Updated 6/22/17**

**Updated  
9/12/17**

	Group 1 Indicators			Group 2 Indicators			Group 3 Indicators		Groups 2 & 3 Denominator*
Race Category	All Intakes (Including Screened Out)	Screened In CPS Intake	Placed w/in 12 months of Intake	NOT initially placed w/ relatives	> 1 move in first 12 months	NOT Reunified w/in 12 months	In Care > 2 years	Ongoing (in)stability (moved w/in last 12 months)	Children/Youth in Placement > 7 days
American Indian/Alaska Native only	3,356	1,774	270	154	59	169	89	16	239
Asian/PI only	2,434	1,247	114	60	44	56	38	X	110
Black only	5,835	3,182	385	277	156	243	166	49	394
Hispanic (White or unknown race)	9,503	5,422	830	512	226	534	315	67	863
Multiracial American Indian/Alaska Native	3,573	2,172	420	246	112	232	132	34	377
Multiracial Black except American Indian/Alaska Native	3,274	1,806	345	250	101	257	145	39	382
Multiracial Other	1167	674	128	81	34	76	44	15	122
Unknown	9,614	3,311	17	X	0	X	0	0	X
White only	44,462	22,177	2,524	1,600	685	1633	862	245	2,583
Total	83,218	41,765	5,033	3,185	1417	3,204	1791	474	5,078

\* The Denominator will differ slightly for Group 2, due to the numbers being updated about three months earlier.

<sup>11</sup> The columns of this table are not mutually exclusive.

**CY2015**  
**Cohort<sup>12</sup>**

**Updated 9/12/18**

	Group 1 Indicators			Group 2 Indicators			Group 3 Indicators		Groups 2 & 3 Denominator
Race Category	All Intakes (Including Screened Out)	Screened In CPS Intake	Placed w/in 12 months of Intake	NOT initially placed w/ relatives	> 1 move in first 12 months	NOT Reunified w/in 12 months	In Care > 2 years	Ongoing (in)stability (moved w/in last 12 months)	Children/Youth in Placement > 7 days
American Indian/Alaska Native only	3,220	1,690	264	119	79	160	73	27	205
Asian/PI only	2,581	1,347	120	82	50	82	42	15	127
Black only	5,681	2,963	344	247	123	210	145	40	326
Hispanic (White or unknown race)	9,843	5,237	705	475	240	510	310	84	771
Multiracial American Indian/Alaska Native	3,800	2,082	401	278	145	309	202	76	421
Multiracial Black except American Indian/Alaska Native	3,648	2,035	363	302	142	279	182	52	407
Multiracial Other	1207	642	104	65	21	73	42	10	117
Unknown	8,963	3,046	27	X	X	X	X	0	X
White only	44,647	21,883	2347	1,659	759	1,727	1,047	249	2,515
Total	83,590	40,925	4675	3,233	1560	3,355	2,044	553	4,897

<sup>12</sup> The columns of this table are not mutually exclusive.

**CY2016**  
**Cohort<sup>13</sup>**

Updated 9/12/18

	Group 1 Indicators			Group 2 Indicators			Group 3 Indicators*		Groups 2 & 3 Denominator
Race Category	All Intakes (Including Screened Out)	Screened In CPS Intake	Placed w/in 12 months of Intake	NOT initially placed w/ relatives	> 1 move in first 12 months	NOT Reunified w/in 12 months	In Care > 2 years	Ongoing (in)stability (moved w/in last 12 months)	Children/Youth in Placement > 7 days
American Indian/Alaska Native only	3,301	1,625	272	136	52	135			205
Asian/PI only	2,500	1,232	87	61	22	58			94
Black only	6,033	3,097	341	240	111	231			344
Hispanic (White or unknown race)	9,733	5,119	701	482	189	436			734
Multiracial American Indian/Alaska Native	3,723	1,966	430	350	140	303			465
Multiracial Black except American Indian/Alaska Native	3,582	1,865	329	263	101	243			377
Multiracial Other	1266	629	98	94	36	75			133
Unknown	9,824	3,266	25	X	X	0			11
White only	44,658	21,201	2,215	1,645	696	1600			2,527
Total	84,620	40,000	4,498	3,278	1354	3081			4,890

\* Due to a necessary 24-month follow-up window, the greyed-out data are not yet available.

<sup>13</sup> The columns of this table are not mutually exclusive.



## WASHINGTON STATE DCYF RACIAL DISPARITY INDICES REPORT (2018)

**CY2017**  
**Cohort<sup>14</sup>**

**Updated 9/12/18**

	Group 1 Indicators			Group 2 Indicators			Group 3 Indicators*		Groups 2 & 3 Denominator
Race Category	All Intakes (Including Screened Out)	Screened In CPS Intake	Placed w/in 12 months of Intake*	NOT initially placed w/ relatives	> 1 move in first 12 months*	NOT Reunified w/in 12 months*	In Care > 2 years	Ongoing (in)stability (moved w/in last 12 months)	Children/Youth in Placement > 7 days
American Indian/Alaska Native only	3,351	1,776		109					159
Asian/PI only	2,810	1,372		83					136
Black only	6,191	3,245		250					349
Hispanic (White or unknown race)	9,937	5,303		517					831
Multiracial American Indian/Alaska Native	3,822	2,084		342					479
Multiracial Black except American Indian/Alaska Native	3,600	2,000		278					402
Multiracial Other	1265	673		79					143
Unknown	11,469	3,928		12					16
White only	46,209	22,856		1,708					2,520
Total	88,654	43,237		3,378					5,035

\* Due to minimum 12-month or 24-month follow-up windows, the greyed-out data are not yet available.

<sup>14</sup> The columns of this table are not mutually exclusive.

## Appendix C

### Past Reports

DSHS Children's Administration Technology Services. *Racial Disparity Indices Report – Part 1 (Statewide, September 2017) and Part 2 (Regional, November 2017), for Cohorts from CY 2010 through CY 2016*. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

DSHS Children's Administration Technology Services (2016, September). *Racial Disparity Indices Report – Part 1 (Statewide), and Part 2 (Regional), for Cohorts from CY 2010 through CY 2015*. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

DSHS Children's Administration Technology Services (2015, September). *Racial Disparity Indices Report – Part 1 (Statewide), For Cohorts from CY 2006 through CY 2014*. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.

DSHS Children's Administration Technology Services (2014, September). *Racial Disparity Indices Report – Part 1 (Statewide), For Cohorts from CY 2006 through CY 2013*. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.

DSHS Children's Administration Technology Services (2013, October). *Racial Disparity Indices Report for Cohorts from CY 2006 through CY 2012*. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.

DSHS Children's Administration Technology Services (2012, September). *Racial Disparity Indices Report for Cohorts from CY 2006 through CY 2011*. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.

Marshall, D. B. (2011, September). *Racial Disparity Indices Report for Cohorts from CY 2006 through SFY 2010 or SFY 2011*. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.

Graham, J. C. (2011, January). *Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Children's Administration Racial Disproportionality Tracking Report: 2004-2009 (Statewide FamLink Baseline), TECHNICAL REPORT*. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.

Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee and the Department of Social and Health Services (2010). *Racial Disproportionality in Washington State: Report to the Legislature*. Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee and the Department of Social and Health Services.

Marshall, D. B. (2009). *Racial Disproportionality Tracking Report*. In Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee and the Department of Social and Health Services (2010), Appendix A. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.

Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee and the Department of Social and Health Services (2008). *Racial Disproportionality in Washington State Child Welfare – Remediation Plan* (Committee Report to DSHS Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams). Olympia, WA: Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee and the Department of Social and Health Services.

Miller, M. (2008). *Racial Disproportionality in Washington State's Child Welfare System*. Olympia, WA: Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Document No. 08-06-3901.

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*Suggested Citation:* Graham, J. Christopher (2019). *Washington State DCYF Racial Disparity Indices Report (2018)*. Olympia, WA: Department of Children, Youth, and Families.