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Disproportionality Rates for Children of Color in Foster Care

(Fiscal Year 2015)

Technical Assistance Bulletin

September 2017

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This report is a publication of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Juvenile Law Program. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges wishes to acknowledge that this material is made possible by Cooperative Agreement No. 2015-CT-FX-K001 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view or opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice or the National Council of Juvenile and Family Courts Judges.

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Disproportionality Rates for Children of Color in Foster Care

Children of color are disproportionately[1] represented in the United States foster care system. In most states, there are higher proportions of African American/Black and American Indian children in foster care than in the general child population. Data vary at the county (or other local jurisdiction) level, with some counties experiencing more disproportionality than is evident statewide. This Technical Assistance Bulletin (TAB) presents disproportionality rates for all 50 states, as well as Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico.

In 2000, African American/Black children represented 38% of the foster care population while they comprised only 16% of the general child population (i.e., ages 0 through 17), indicating a disproportionality index of 2.5 (i.e., African American/Black children were disproportionately represented in foster care at a rate 2.5 times their rates in the general child population). American Indian children represented 1.9% of the foster care population, yet only encompassed 1.3% of the general child population. Hispanic/Latino children, although not overrepresented nationally, were disproportionately represented in 7 states. Table 1 (page 3) illustrates the 2000 and 2014 disproportionality rates for children in foster care for each state and nationally.

In addition to calculating the rate of disproportionality for children in care, this document begins to explore other decision points where there may be differences based on race or ethnicity. In particular, this TAB examines differences in the median number of placements for children, the current placement type (relative, foster care, congregate care) and the time to achieving permanency, presented as a survival curve. This allows for further exploration of data points in child welfare court process where there may be differences in outcomes for children of color.

What's New

This FY 2015 Disproportionality Technical Assistance Bulletin (TAB) includes new graphs that portray differences in placement and outcomes for children of color in foster care. In addition to in care disproportionality rates, this year's TAB also includes (by race/ethnicity):

- Median number of placements
- Current placement type
- Time to permanency

[1] Disproportionality is the level at which groups of children are present in the child welfare system at higher or lower percentages or rates than in the general population. An index of 1.0 reflects no disproportionality. An index of greater than 1.0 reflects overrepresentation. An index of less than 1.0 reflects underrepresentation.

Using This Report

In May 2011, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) published its first *Disproportionality Rates for Children of Color in Foster Care Technical Assistance Bulletin*. Since that time, the report has gained national attention. The information provided by the report has been used in a number of ways and by a broad spectrum of stakeholders and interested parties. Delineated below are some of the ways that this information may helpful to states, courts, policy makers, professional stakeholders, and academics who are interested in racial disproportionality and child welfare. These examples provide a few illustrations of the many ways that this report can be used in informing ongoing discussion and research of this important issue.

Evidence or Reference. In October of 2011, National Public Radio (NPR) used the report for its series on *Native Foster Care: Lost Children, Shattered Families*, citing the report as evidence supporting their position and drawing national attention to the issue, and pointing out behavior in one state in particular. NPR used data from the report to create an interactive map on its website that focused specifically on disproportionality rates of Native youth.[2]

Foundation for Further Research. The report has also been used in scholarly research. The journal *Race and Social Problems* published a paper on "Race and Child Welfare Policy: State-Level Variations in Disproportionality."[3] The paper used data from the report to explore how state African American populations relate to disproportionality rates. The paper finds that states with larger African American populations have dramatically lower levels of racial disproportionality among their children in foster care.

Means of Extending Dialogue. Individual states have also used the report to explore their own disproportionality score trends and inconsistencies between AFCARS and internal data. In past reports, Oregon, for example, noted that their internal state data appeared to be different from the data used for the reports. Through a series of dialogues with Oregon stakeholders, differences were identified in how mixed-race children are counted and categorized in AFCARS data, in U.S. Census data, and in Oregon state data. These differences in how racial groups are defined, counted, and assigned to data categories can have significant effects on a state's disproportionality profile and may explain discrepancies between data. Results of this discussion and analysis were presented in a NCJFCJ Research Memo available on the NCJFCJ website.[4]

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[2] Sullivan, L., & Walters, A. (October 25, 2011). *Native Foster Care: Lost Children, Shattered Families.* National Public Radio. Available online at http://www.npr.org/2011/10/25/141672992/native-foster-care-lost-children-shattered-families. Interactive map for American Indian disproportionality available online at http://www.npr.org/2011/10/25/141475618/disproportionality-rates-of-native-american-children-in-foster-care.

[3] Foster, C.H. 2012. Race and child welfare policy: State-level variations in disproportionality. *Race and Social Problems*, http://www.springerlink.com/content/q102663736113101/.

[4] National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. (April, 2012). Oregon State Disproportionality Profiles. *PPCD Research Memo.* Available online at http://ncjfcj.org/sites/default/files/Disproportionality%20in%20Oregon%20Research%20Memo.pdf

Table 1:

Disproportionality Index of Children in Foster Care by Race/Ethnicity[5] and State for 2000 and 2015[6]

	African American/ Black		Caucasian/White		Hispanic/Latino		Asian/Pacific Islander		American Indian/ Alaska Native	
STATE	**2000**	**2015**	**2000**	**2015**	**2000**	**2015**	**2000**	**2015**	**2000**	**2015**
Alabama	1.7	1.1	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1
Alaska	**2.7**	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.3	**3.0**	**2.6**
Arizona	**3.6**	1.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.9
Arkansas	2	1.1	0.8	1.1	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3
California	**4.8**	**3.1**	0.8	0.6	0.8	1.4	0.2	0.1	**2.3**	1.6
Colorado	**3.7**	**2.5**	0.7	0.7	1.1	1.9	0.3	0.3	**2.9**	1.0
Connecticut	**3.4**	**2.3**	0.5	0.5	1.7	1.7	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.7
Delaware	**2.7**	**2.3**	0.5	0.6	1.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
Florida	**2.2**	**2.2**	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.7
Georgia	1.7	1.4	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Hawaii	1.3	1.3	0.7	1.1	0.1	0.4	1.6	1.4	**6.3**	**2.4**
Idaho	**6.4**	1.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.3	0.2	0.2	**6.6**	**3.3**
Illinois	**4.0**	**3.4**	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.3
Indiana	**4.1**	**2.1**	0.6	0.9	0.6	1.3	0.1	0.1	1.4	0.2
Iowa	**3.8**	**3.5**	0.8	0.8	0.9	**2.0**	0.6	0.4	**5.7**	**4.9**
Kansas	**3.2**	**2.0**	0.9	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.2	0.1	1.0	1.3
Kentucky	**2.3**	1.4	0.8	0.9	0.4	1.7	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2
Louisiana	1.6	1.4	0.6	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5
Maine	**2.0**	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.7	**9.0**	0.6	0.1	1.6	0.8
Maryland	**2.4**	1.9	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2
Massachusetts	1.1	**2.3**	0.3	0.7	1.8	1.8	0.4	0.2	0.9	1.2
Michigan	0.0	**2.0**	0.0	0.8	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.9
Minnesota	**4.4**	1.9	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.2	0.3	0.3	**8.1**	**13.1**
Mississippi	1.3	1.0	0.8	1.1	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
Missouri	**2.9**	1.3	0.7	1.0	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.4
Montana	**3.7**	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.2	0.3	0.1	**3.6**	**3.5**

[5] See Appendix A for detailed definitions

[6] States with disproportionality indexes of 2.0 or higher are indicated in **bold.**

STATE	African American/ Black		Caucasian/White		Hispanic/Latino		Asian/Pacific Islander		American Indian/ Alaska Native	
	2000	2015	2000	2015	2000	2015	2000	2015	2000	2015
Nebraska	**3.2**	**2.4**	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.3	0.2	**6.6**	**7.7**
Nevada	**2.8**	**2.5**	1.0	1.1	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.7	1.3
New Hampshire	**3.0**	1.7	0.9	1.0	1.8	1.9	0.2	0.2	1.0	1.2
New Jersey	**4.0**	**3.0**	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.9	0	0.1	**2.9**	0.1
New Mexico	**3.8**	1.6	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.5	1.0
New York	**2.5**	**3.2**	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.8
North Carolina	1.9	1.4	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.2	0.1	1.5	**2.0**
North Dakota	**2.5**	1.2	0.7	0.7	1.3	1.3	1.6	0.6	**4.0**	**3.7**
Ohio	**3.3**	**2.0**	0.6	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.2
Oklahoma	**2.1**	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.4	1.5	0.4	0.1	1.5	0.8
Oregon	**5.0**	1.4	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.1	**3.2**	**3.3**
Pennsylvania	**4.1**	**2.9**	0.5	0.6	1.6	1.3	0.2	0.1	1.1	0.3
Rhode Island	**3.8**	1.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.3	0.6	0.3	**2.3**	1.1
South Carolina	1.7	1.2	0.6	0.9	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5
South Dakota	**2.2**	1.5	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.5	0.3	0.3	**4.7**	**4.0**
Tennessee	1.8	1.1	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.8	0.6
Texas	**2.3**	1.7	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.1	0.1	1.3	0.3
Utah	**4.6**	**2.3**	0.7	0.9	1.3	1.3	0.5	0.4	**4.2**	**2.6**
Vermont	**2.6**	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.1
Virginia	**2.2**	1.6	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3
Washington	**3.4**	1.5	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.0	0.2	0.2	**4.9**	**3.6**
West Virginia	**2.2**	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3
Wisconsin	**8.3**	**3.3**	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.3	1.4	**4.9**
Wyoming	**6.2**	1.4	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.2	0.8	0.1	1.1	0.9
Washington, D.C.	**2.0**	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	**3.4**	0.1	0.0	0.0
Puerto Rico[7]		0.2		0.1		**2.0**		0.3		1.0
United States	**2.5**	**1.7**	**0.6**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**0.9**	**0.3**	**0.1**	**1.5**	**2.7**

[7] Puerto Rico data are not available for children in care for the year 2000.

CALCULATING DISPROPORTIONALITY & BEYOND

Disproportionality is defined as the level at which groups of children are present in the child welfare system at higher or lower percentages or rates than in the general child population. Hill[7] developed the "disproportionality index" as an indicator of the degree a given jurisdiction is disproportionate. The disproportionately index is calculated by taking the proportion of children in foster care for a given race and dividing it by the proportion of the same racial group in the child population.

This creates a ratio where scores ranging from 0.00 to 0.99 are indicative of *underrepresentation*, scores of 1.0 indicate *no disproportionality*, and scores of 1.1 and greater indicate *overrepresentation*. For example, in a community where 40% of the children entering foster care are African American, and only 20% of the child population is African American, the disproportionality index would be 2.0, indicating African Americans are twice as represented in foster care as they are in the general child population. Disproportionality scores are calculated for the number of children "in care" at the end of the fiscal year. This calculation requires (1) the *child population* (*by race*) for any given state or jurisdiction, available from census data; and (2) the *number of children in the child welfare system (by race),* available from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS).

DATA SOURCES		
Data Element	**Available From**	**Most Recent Date**
Child Population (by Race)	Easy Access to Juvenile Populations (EZAPOP) Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2016). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2015." Online. Available: http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/	2015
Number of Children In Care (by Race)	National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect's Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) www.ndacan.cornell.edu	2015

In addition to disproportionality rates, this Brief explores additional race differences in placement and outcomes. The report explores time to permanency, median number of placements, and type of placement (relative, foster care, congregate care) by race. An explanation of how these variables are reported, including limitations of these methods follows.

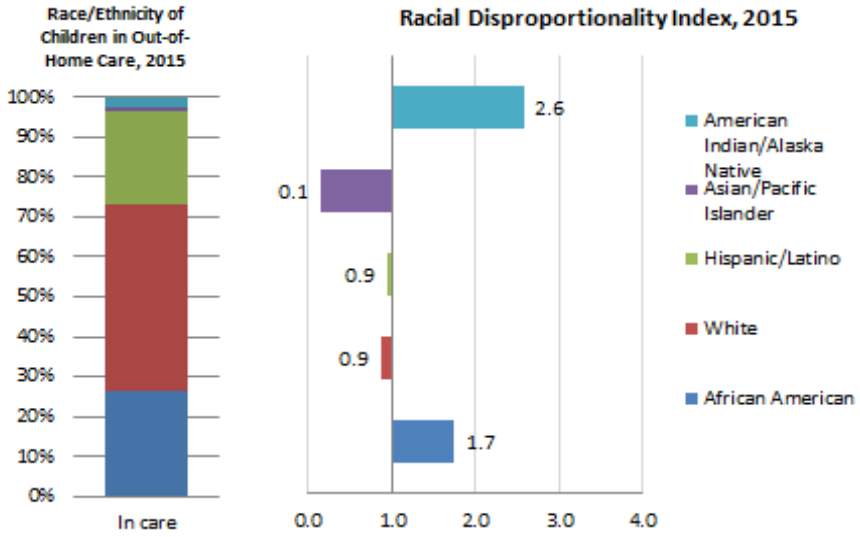
[7] Hill, R. B. (2006). Synthesis of research on disproportionality in child welfare: An update. *Casey-CSSP Alliance for Racial Equity in the Child Welfare System.* Available online from http://www.racemattersconsortium.org/docs/BobHillPaper_FINAL.pdf

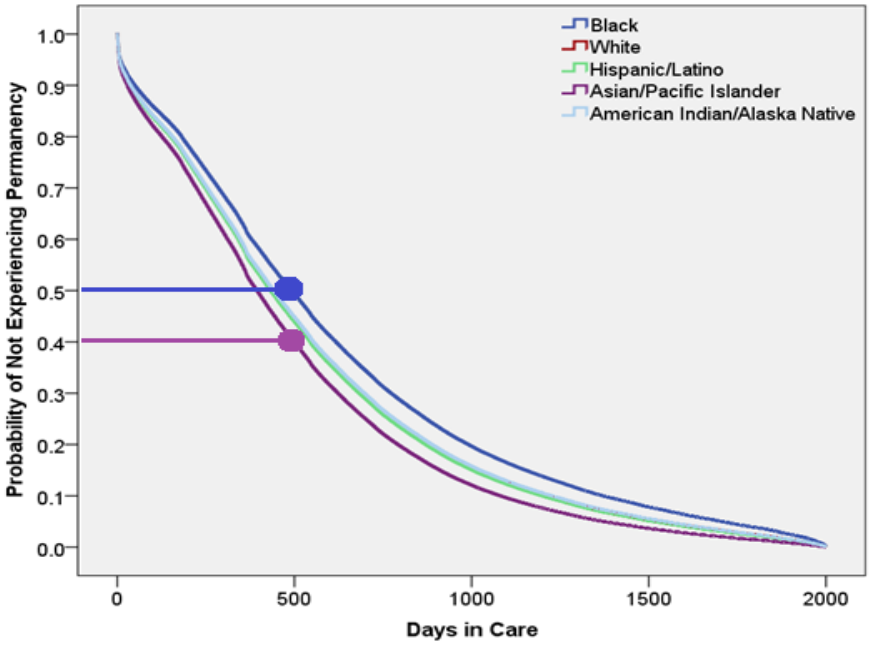
Interpreting the Data

No. of Children In Care and Disproportionality

The results of these disproportionality calculations are presented graphically. The graphs to the right portray the percentage of each racial group in foster care in 2015 and the disproportionality scores for each race in terms of in care rates. The graph to the left shows the breakdown of the percentage of children of each race/ethnicity who are in foster care (i.e. 23% of children in foster care are Hispanic/Latino).

Bars moving to the right of 1.0 indicate overrepresentation; bars moving to the left of 1.0 demonstrate underrepresentation. For example, in the United States, American Indian/Alaska Native children make up 1% of the total child population and they make up 2.6% of the children in foster care. Therefore, American Indian/Alaska Native children were disproportionately represented at 2.6 times their rates in the general child population.





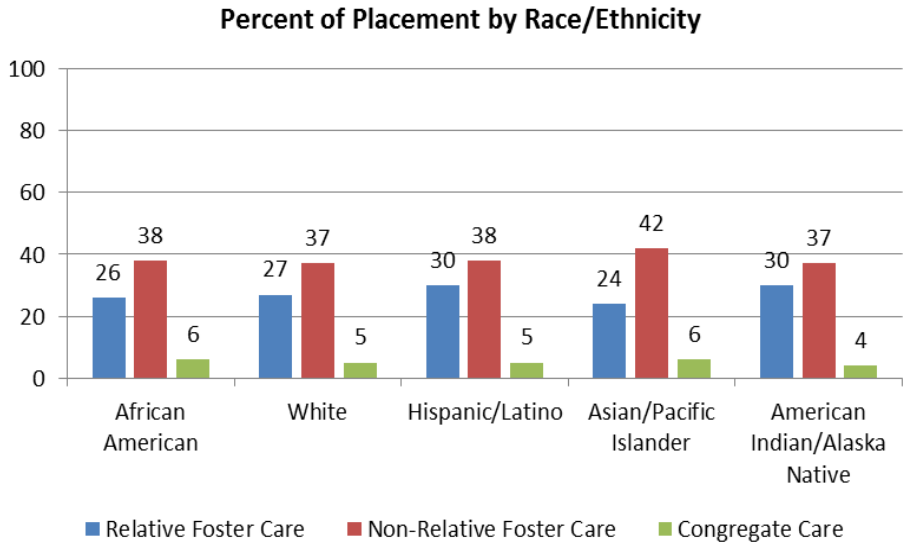
Time to Permanency

The graph to the left is known as a "survival curve." The x-axis (horizontal) indicates the number of days in care. The y-axis (vertical) indicates the probability of "surviving," or not experiencing the event of interest. In the current report, the event of interest is permanency for a child. Therefore, "surviving" implies that a child has not experienced permanency.

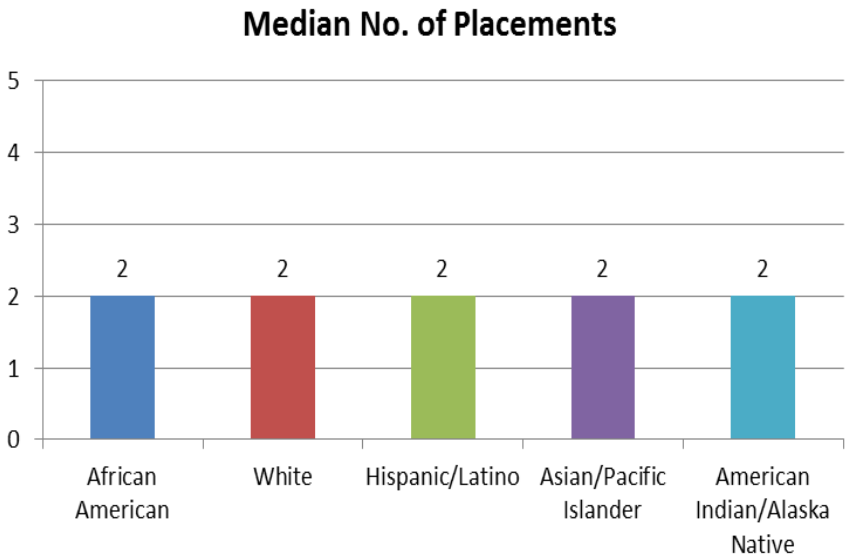
A point on the survival line corresponds to the probability of not experiencing permanency after a specified number of days in care. For example, the purple dot on the graph indicates that after 500 days in care, the probability that Asian/Pacific Islander children will not experience permanency is approximately 40%. In other words, this group has a 60% probability of experiencing permanency after 500 days in care. Similarly, the blue dot on the graph indicates that Black children have a 50% probability of experiencing (or not experiencing) permanency after the same number of days in care.

Placement Percentages.

The graph on the right indicates the percent of placement type by race/ethnicity. The graph has been separated into three placement types: **relative foster care, non-relative foster care, and congregate care**[8]. The numbers in the graph do not equal 100% as there are other placement types (e.g., trial home visit, runaway, etc., that are not displayed in this graph). As shown, during the 2015 period, Hispanic/Latino and American Indian/Alaska Native children had the highest percentage (30% each) of relative foster care placements, followed by White children (27%), African American/Black children (26%), and Asian/Pacific Islander children (24%).



In looking at congregate care placements, it is important to consider what this graph won't tell you - how placement in congregate care is divided by race. It only shows how placements are divided by type (e.g., you cannot say that white children make up 6% of kids in congregate care, you can only say 6% of white children are placed in congregate care).



Median Placements.

The graph on the left indicates the median (i.e., middle value) number of placements during the 2015 period for a given race/ethnicity. The median is used instead of the average because the median is not adversely affected by extreme values. For example, if 8 of 10 children in care had two placements and the remaining two children had eight placements, the average number of placements would be three. Using the median, however, the number of placements would be two.

The graph indicates that the median number of placements for all races/ethnicities is 2. It is important to note that the median number of placements cannot tell you whether the moves were beneficial to the youth, only that the youth moved. Youth may have moved from congregate care to a foster home or relative placement. Looking closer at placement can give you more contextual information about placement moves.

[8] Relative foster care includes all placements with a relative. Non-relative foster care includes all placements with individuals who are not a relative Congregate care includes placements in a group home or an institution. See Appendix A for detailed list of definitions.

Thinking Critically about Disproportionality Rates

Limitations

The disproportionality data reported in the *Technical Assistance Bulletin* have a variety of uses, but it is also important to consider the limitations of the numbers and think about not only what they may mean for your jurisdiction, but what they ***do not*** mean.

Rates are only as good as the data reported. The disproportionality rates are only as good as the data reported to Census and AFCARS. As such, if states are inconsistent in how they capture and report race, this may lead to inconsistencies in the data.

Not Disparity. Disproportionality and disparity are not the same thing. Disparity compares outcomes between two groups, whereas disproportionality compares only to a set reference category (e.g., population). These numbers will not tell you if children of color have worse outcomes than Caucasian children, they can only provide a starting point for examining the numbers. *Disproportionality (as we have defined it) makes no comparisons between races.* The graphs in this document do illustrate differences in placement and outcomes by race providing you an opportunity to start to explore whether and where disparities may exist.

Multiple Calculation Methods. Both disproportionality and disparity can be calculated in multiple ways. It is important to consider where this information comes from. This is a comparison of rates in care to rates in the general child population. Other calculations may use different numerators or denominators, creating a variable that explains something different than what we are discussing herein.

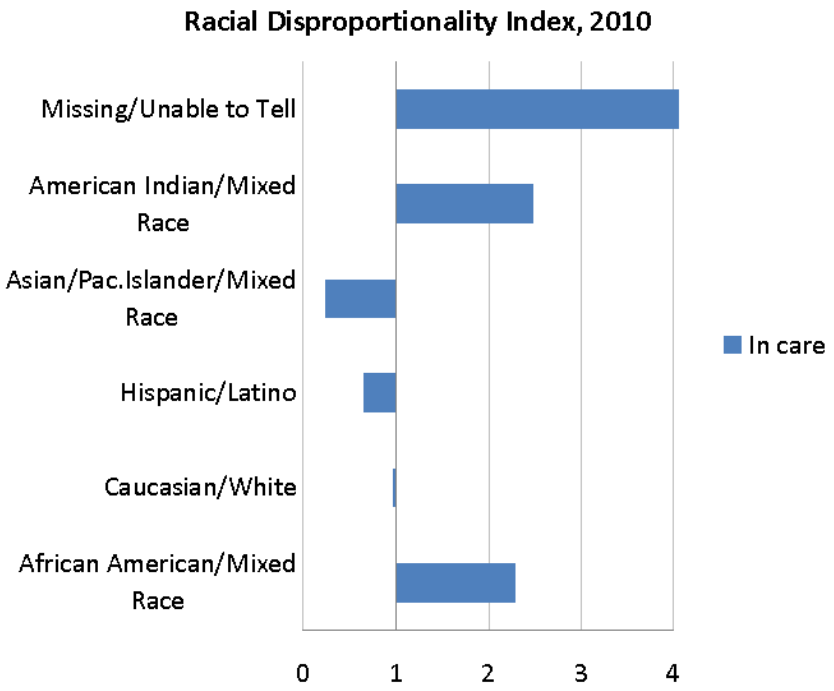
Race/ethnicity breakdowns

	Population	Entries	In care	Exits
African American/Black	15.2%	24.7%	26.5%	24.6%
Caucasian/White	53.5%	49.7%	46.8%	48.9%
Hispanic/Latino	24.6%	22.0%	23.3%	23.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	5.7%	1.0%	0.8%	0.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.0%	2.6%	2.6%	2.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Small sample size. It is also important to pay attention to sample size. In some jurisdictions the number of children of a particular race may be really small, but compared to the general child population, this number may be inflated. For example, in Hawaii, there were 8 American Indian/Alaska Native youth who entered foster care in 2015. This represents .7% of the foster care population (of 1.110 kids). However, because the child population is .3% American Indian/Alaska Native, they have a disproportionality rate of 2.4.

If sample sizes are small, even a small change could inflate the numbers. For cases like this, it is important to examine trends over time (See page 17). This is also true for the other race data presented herein. Consider congregate numbers, for example, if there are only 3 American Indian children in foster care and 2 are placed in congregate care, then 67% are in congregate care. If there is only 1 child of a specific race, then that may make it seem like all children are placed in a specific type. It is important to consider this when interpreting the data.

More than one race. A final consideration is the more than one race variable. This is a major limitation of the current methodology. At present, disproportionality is calculated *only using children identified as one race*. The more than one race category is often disproportionate, but *not* reported in the graphs. While it is beyond the scope of these efforts to disaggregate all more than one race children, it is important to consider how this could affect your data. Take Oregon, for example. In 2011, when the first disproportionality Technical Assistance Bulletin was published, Oregon showed no American Indian disproportionality, which was contrary to their high rate reported in the 2007 GAO report. When more than one race was disaggregated to include American Indian and another race or African American and another race, clear patterns of disproportionality emerged. As you can tell from the graph (right) there was still a disproportionate number of children of color in care. If more than one race numbers are disproportionate, it is important to think about how to disaggregate the data to better learn what these numbers actually mean.



Thinking Critically about Disproportionality Rates

What Does It Mean?

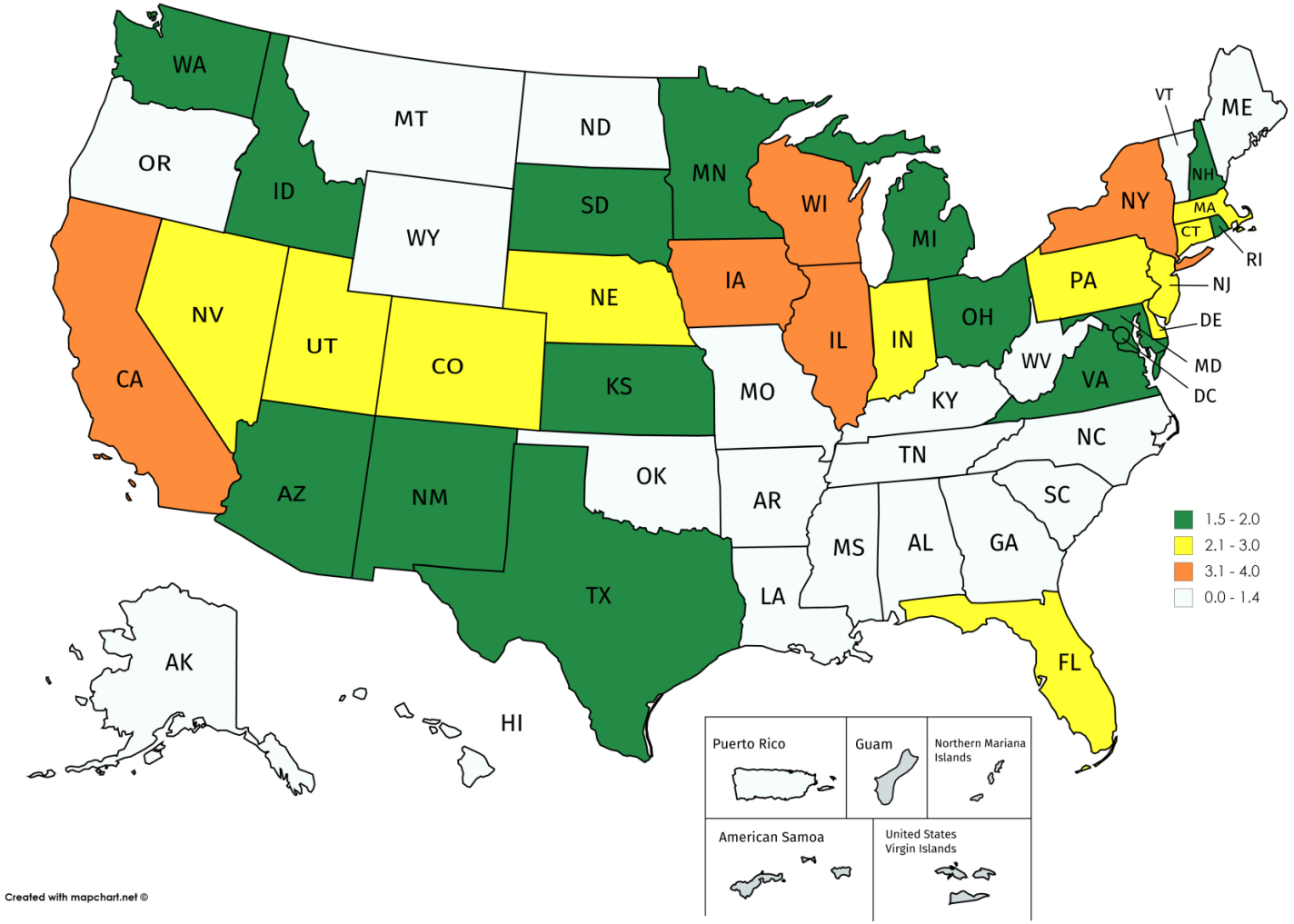
Data are only as good as the questions you ask. To help think critically about your data, here are some guiding questions for you to ask yourself as you look at the data presented in this report. These questions can be used as a starting point in thinking about and/or discussing your data.

Data Related Questions	Challenging Existing Notions	Digging Deeper
• How is race/ethnicity captured in your state? How does it align with the way it's captured in Census and/or AFCARS? • How is it captured on a more local level (county/ jurisdictional)? • Is there a system in place to ensure data reported to CENSUS and/or AFCARS is accurate and consistent? • Do you need more data to make proper inferences from the data?	• Do the data presented align with your own knowledge of the breakdown of children of difference races/ethnicities? If no, where and why do you think there is a difference? • Do the data presented change your view of disproportionality in your state? If yes, how so?	• What could be potential reasons for disprorportionality in your state? • How could you explore these potential reasons further? • What other information would you like to have and how will that help with evaluating disproportionality in your state? • What does disproportionality look like in your state compared to the national data? Or to other states? • Who should you be talking to about disproportionality? Who else should be looking at this data?

Comparisons of Disproportionality by State
African American/Black

African American/Black children are the most overrepresented racial group for children in care in the United States. Nearly every state has a disproportionate number of African American/Black children in foster care. The map below illustrates the varying degrees of disproportionality of African American children in foster care throughout the United States. Colors on the map range from White (no disproportionality) to red (a score greater than 4.0 or 4 times the rate in the general population).

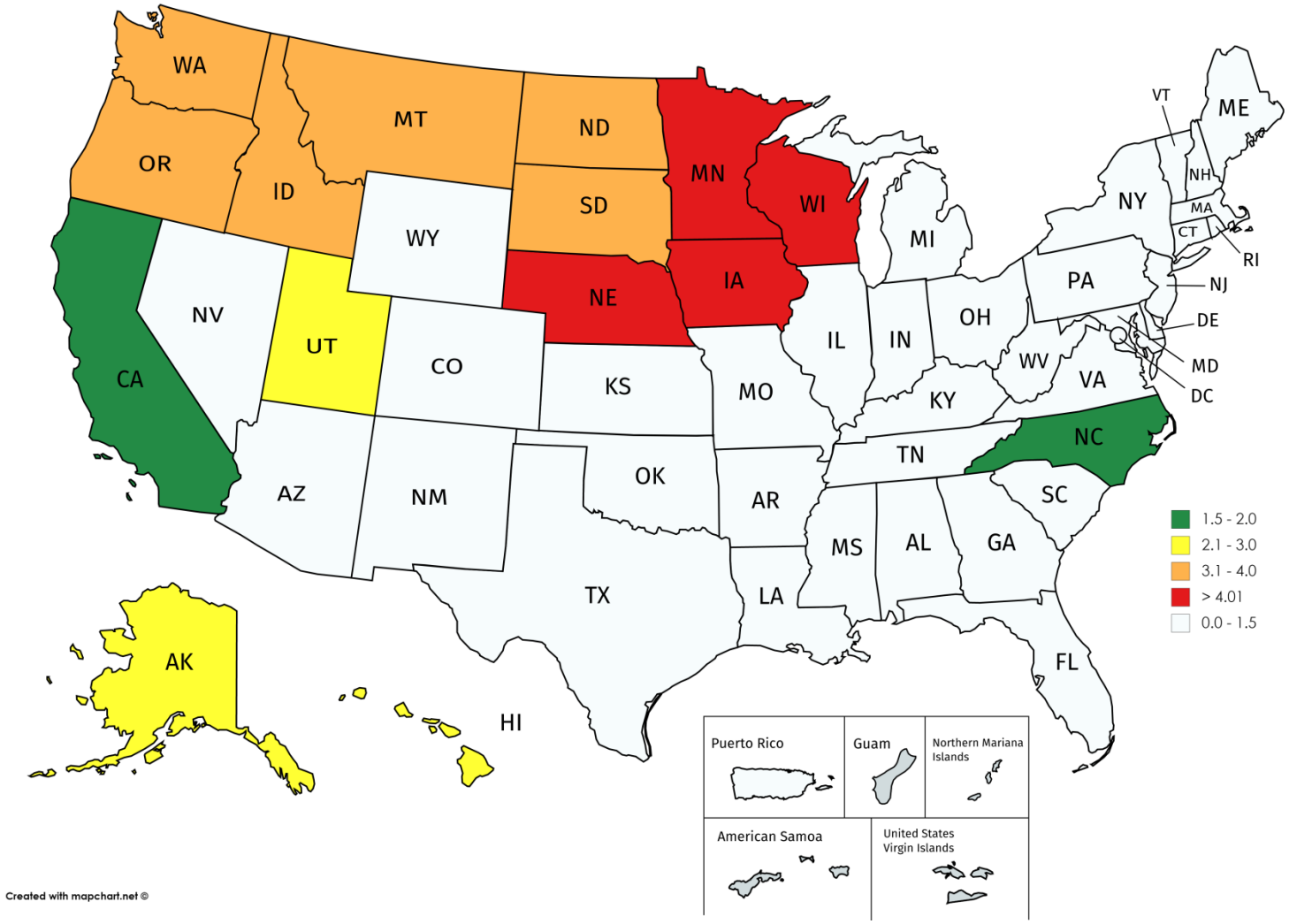
Rates of African American Disproportionality in Foster Care



Comparisons of Disproportionality by State
American Indian/Alaska Native

Across the United States, American Indian/Alaska Native children are overrepresented in foster care at a rate of 2.6 times their rate in the general child population. While not all states show disproportionality, several states do have some overrepresentation. In Minnesota, the disproportionality is index 13.9, in Nebraska it is 7.7.

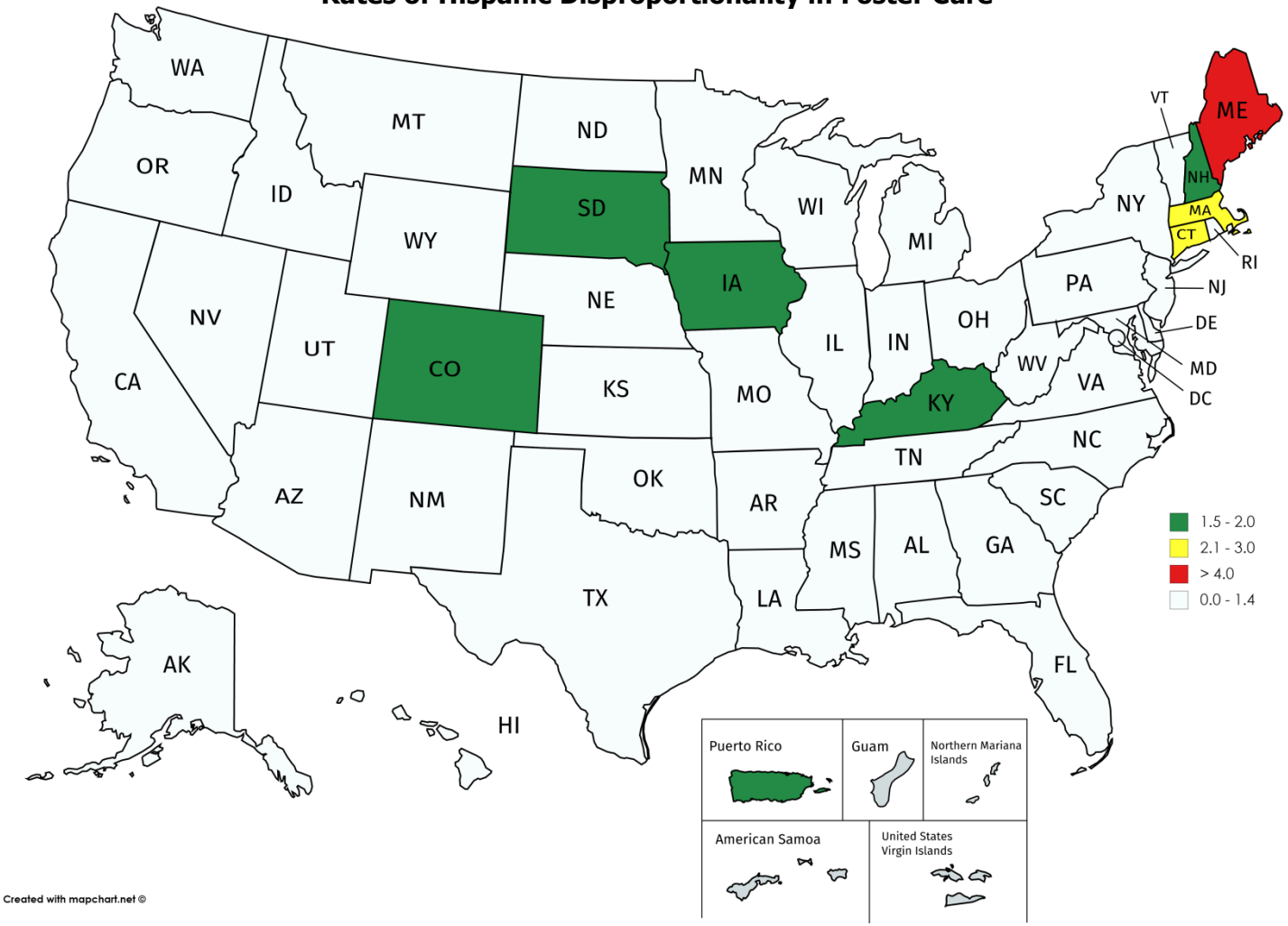
Rates of American Indian Disproportionality in Foster Care



Comparisons of Disproportionality by State
Hispanic/Latino

The rates of Hispanic/Latino overrepresentation in care across the country are less pronounced. Only a handful of states demonstrate an overrepresentation of Hispanic/Latino children. Overrepresentation rates vary from 1.5 to 9.0. Maine is the only state that has a disproportionality index score of greater than two (9.0). There may be, however, more overrepresentation at the county or court jurisdiction level. It is important to examine state and jurisdiction disproportionality indexes to gain a more in-depth understanding of how disproportionality rates vary by location.

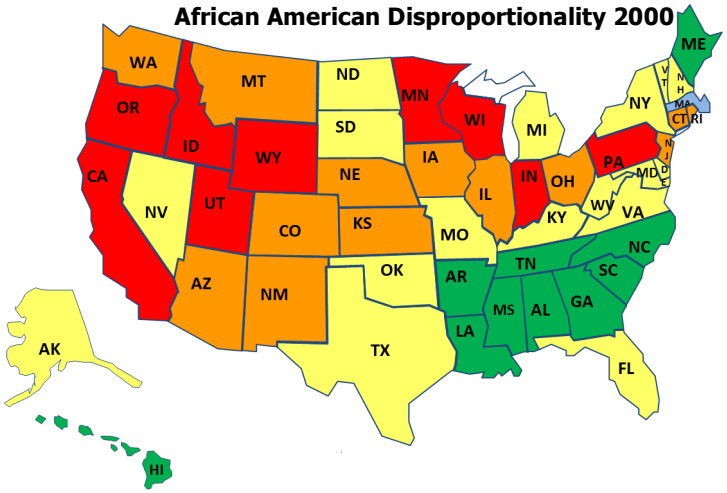
Rates of Hispanic Disproportionality in Foster Care



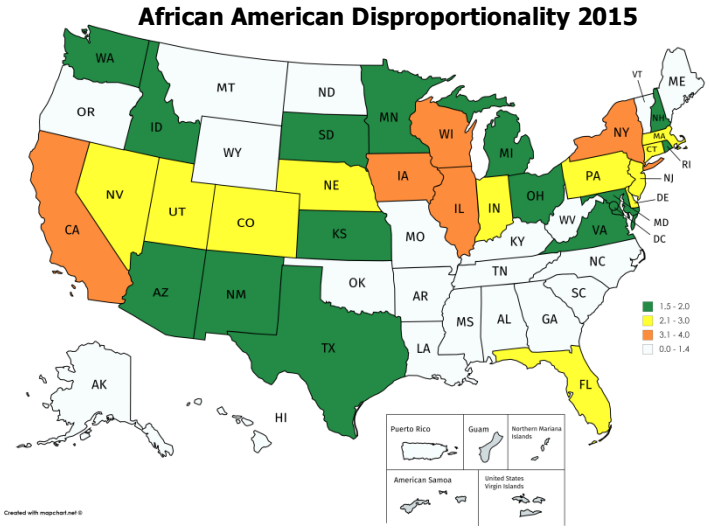
Changes in Disproportionality

As illustrated in Table 1, disproportionality indexes have changed since 2000. The first set of maps portrays the African American/Black disproportionality in the United States in 2000 (left) and 2015 (right). The reduction in disproportionality is illustrated by fewer orange and red states (highest disproportionality), decreases in the yellow states (which represent disproportionality at rates of 3.0 or lower), as well as increases in white states which show little to no disproportionality.

African American Disproportionality 2000

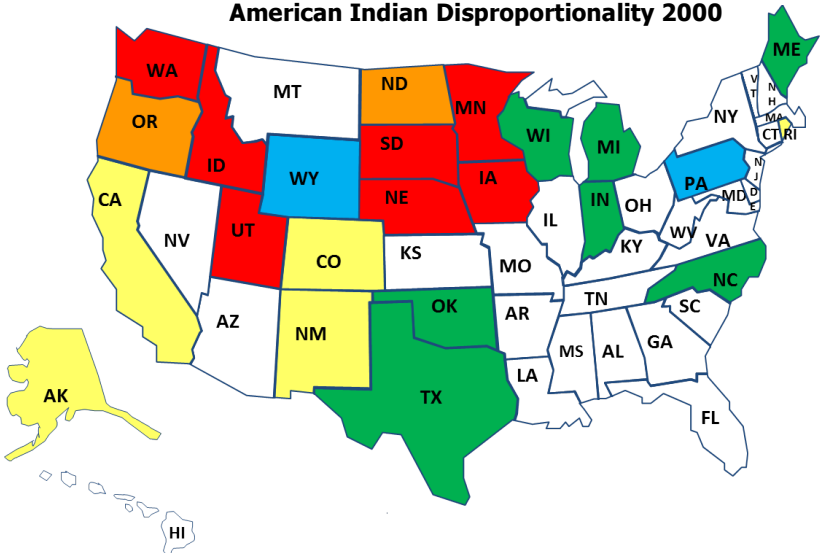


African American Disproportionality 2015

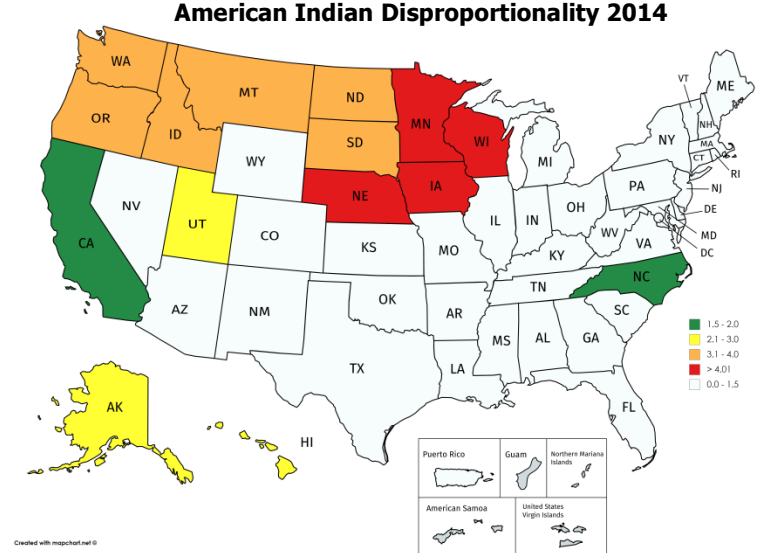


The second set of maps illustrates the disproportionality of American Indian children in foster care for the year 2000 (left) and the year 2015 (right). The number of states that show disproportionality has decreased since 2000. However, many of the "red" states remain high, particularly states like Minnesota, whose disproportionality rate for American Indian children has risen dramatically in the last decade.

American Indian Disproportionality 2000



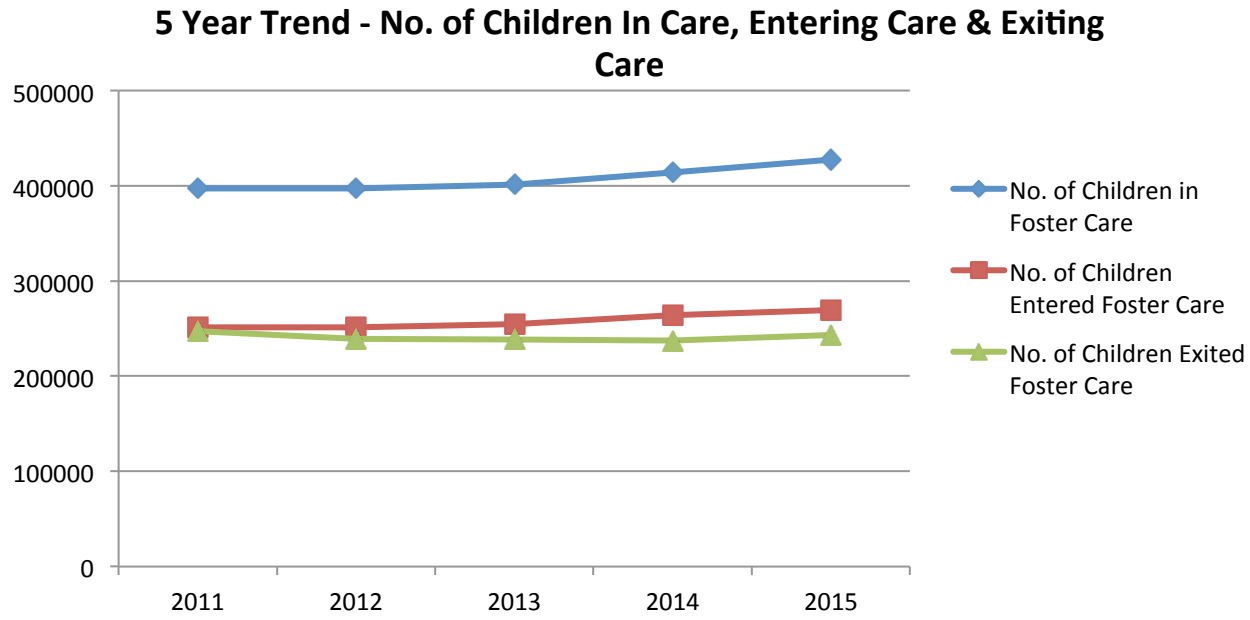
American Indian Disproportionality 2014



National Trend Data

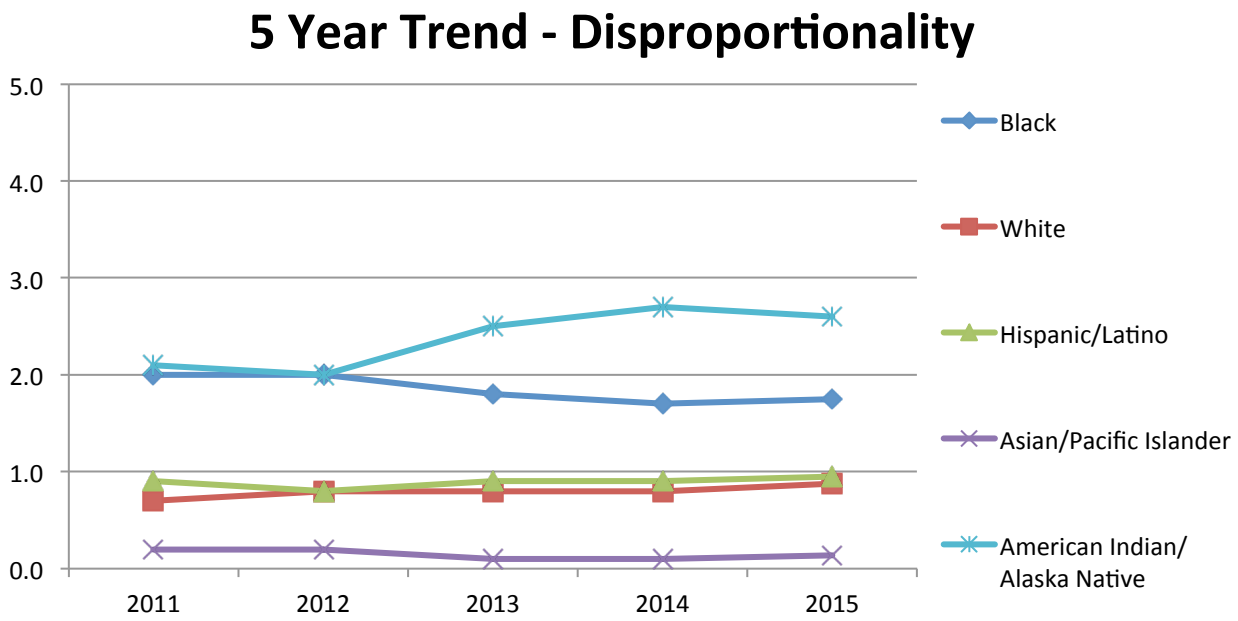
The maps on the previous pages illustrate changes in disproportionality over time but not recent trends.. The following graphs illustrate trend data for the federal fiscal years 2011 through 2015 in regards to number of children in care, placement, and disproportionality.

Looking at trend data often portrays a different picture than point in time estimates.. Comparing numbers over time allows for a better understanding of trends and also can demonstrate any anomalies in data. From the data we have to date, there does appear to be a trend for reduction for some children in care and increases for others. Understanding why this is occurring will be an important next step in the process.



Year	No. of Children in Foster Care	No. of Children Entered Foster Care	No. of Children Exited Foster Care
2011	397,605	251,450	247,543
2012	397,301	251,354	239,535
2013	401,213	254,712	238,930
2014	414,429	264,555	237,554
2015	427,910	269,509	243,060

The graph above shows the number of children who have entered foster care, exited foster care and remained in foster care over the last 5 fiscal years.As seen in the graph, the overall number of children in foster care has increased from 2011. Furthermore, the number of children entering foster care increased during this period, while the number of children exiting foster care, has decreased from 2011. These trend data reflect the fact that the number of children in care increased during this 5-year period. The table above shows the corresponding numbers associated with each of the points on the graph above.

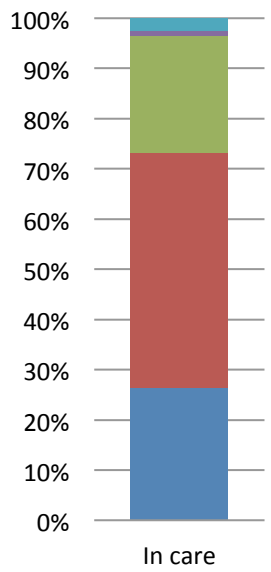


The graph to the right, displays disproportionality rates of the different races/ethnicities over the five- year period. The graph shows that during this time, the number of African American/Black and American Indian/Alaska Native children in care has remained disproportionate. However, from 2013 the disproportionality rate of African American/Black children in care, while still disproportionatley represented, has decreased. Conversely, the disproportionality rate of American Indian/Alaska Native children in care has steadily increased since 2013.

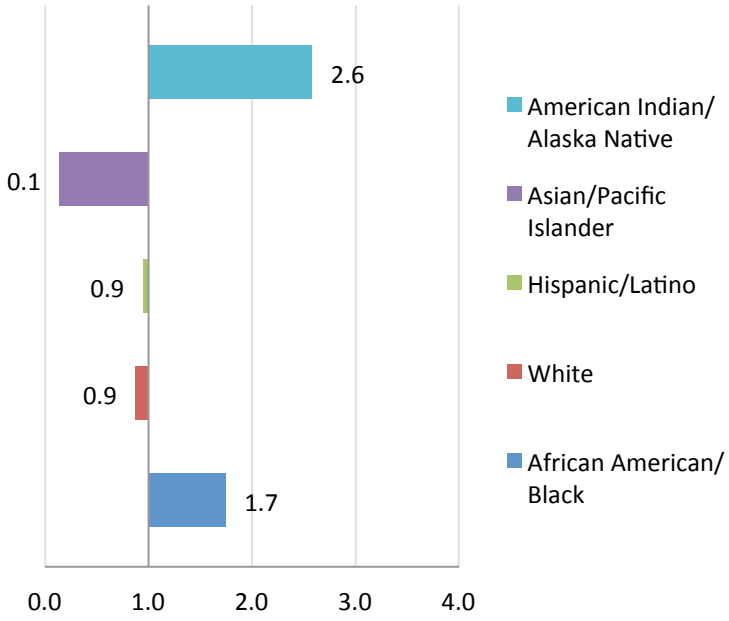
National Disproportionality Graphs
(Fiscal Year 2015)

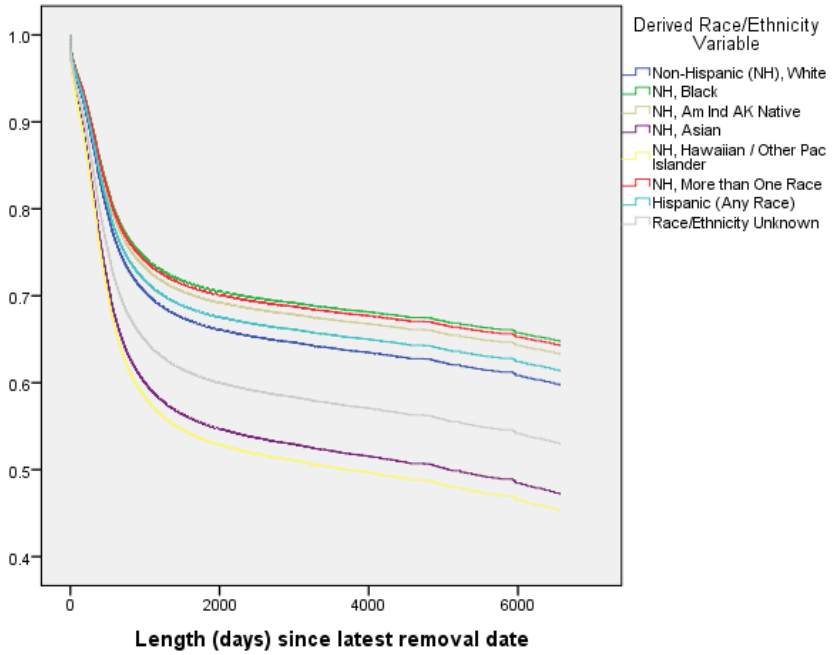
United States

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

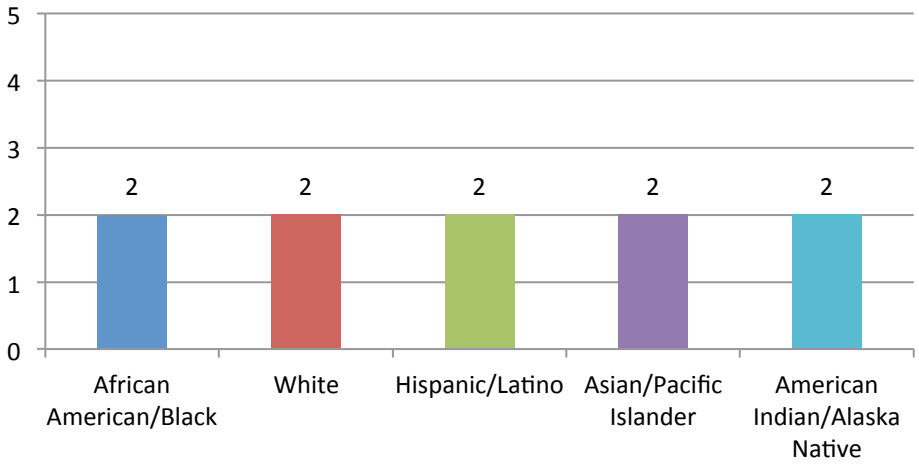


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

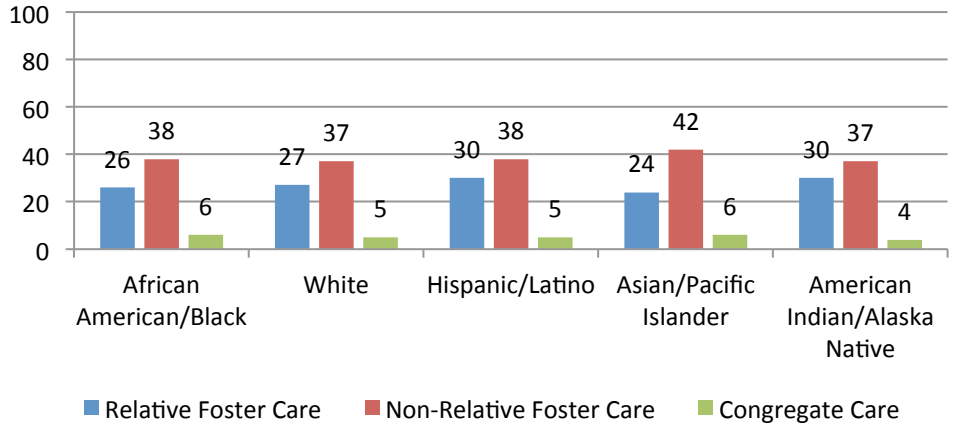




Median No. of Placements

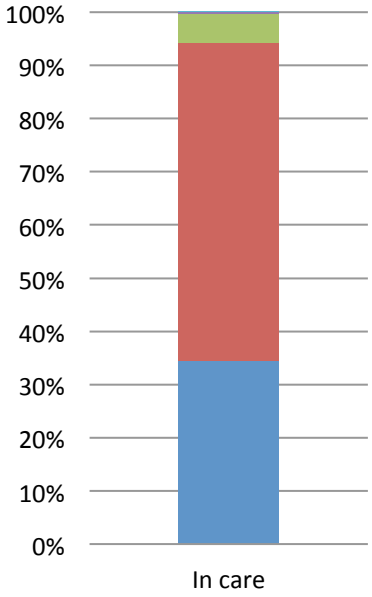


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

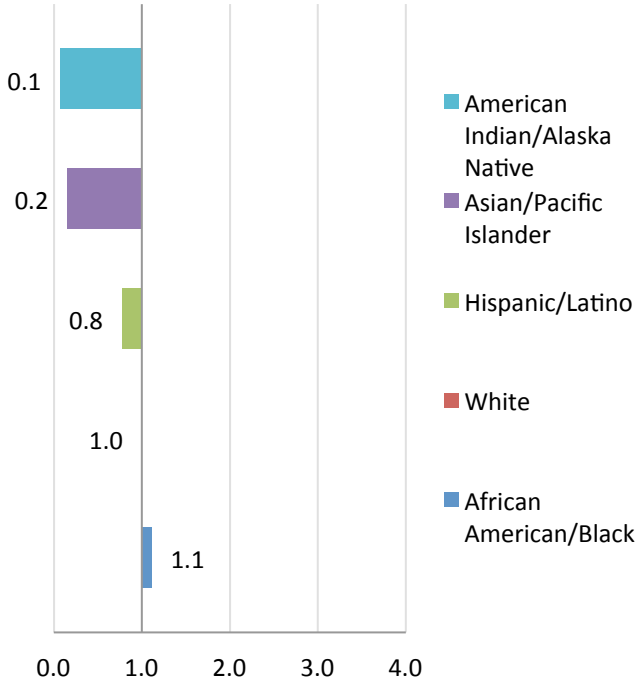


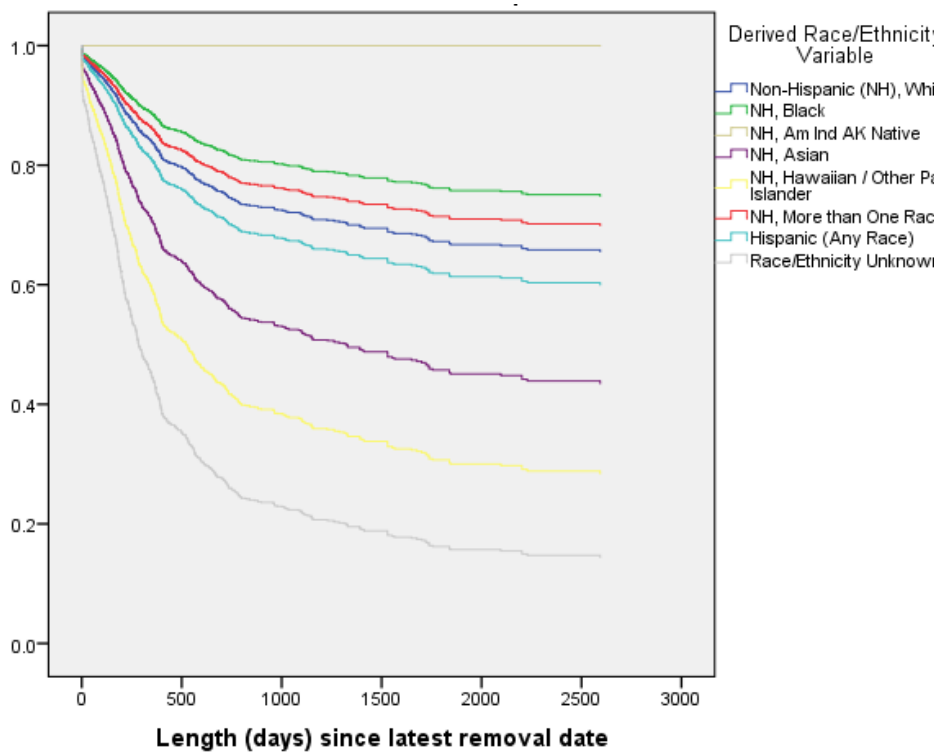
Alabama

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

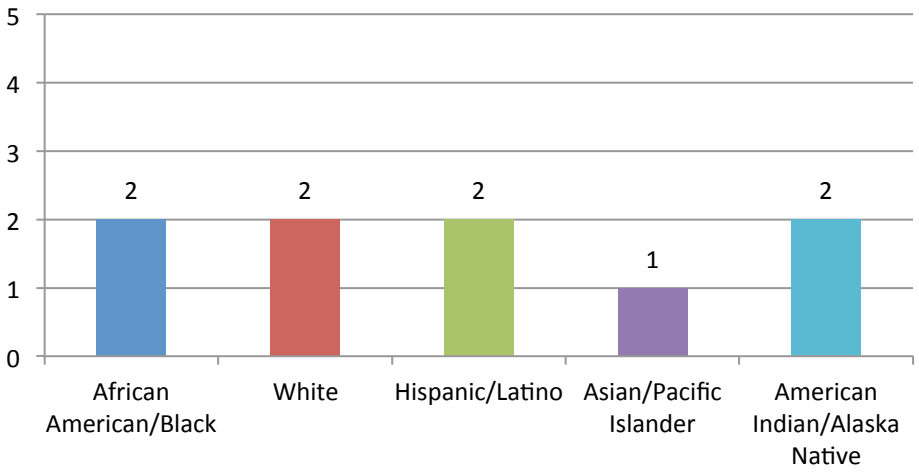


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

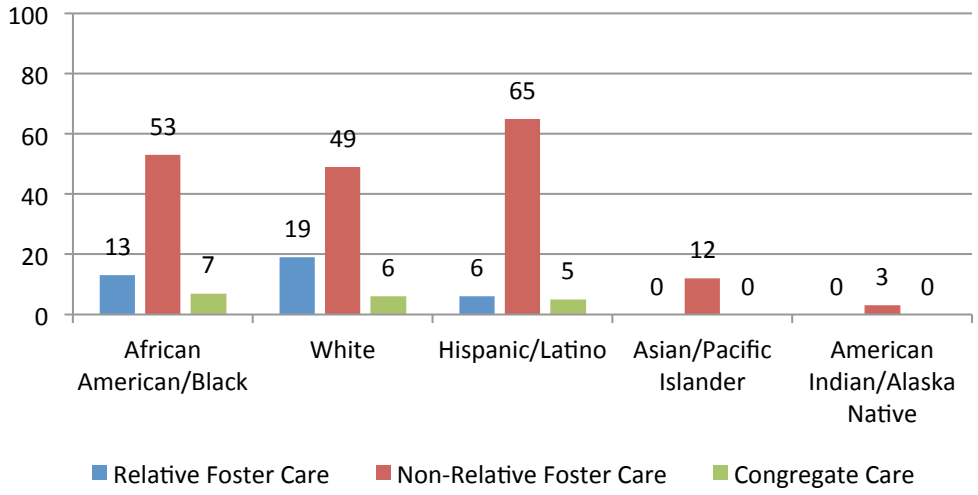




Median No. of Placements

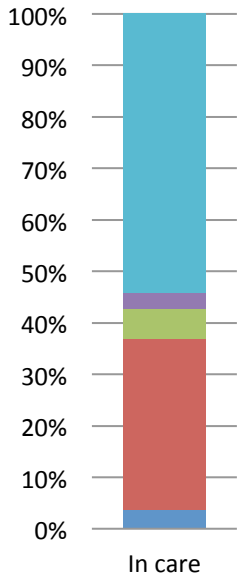


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

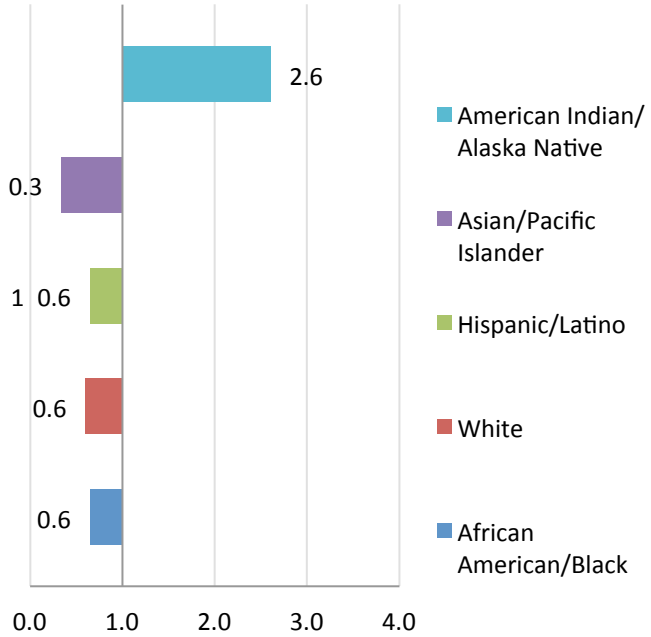


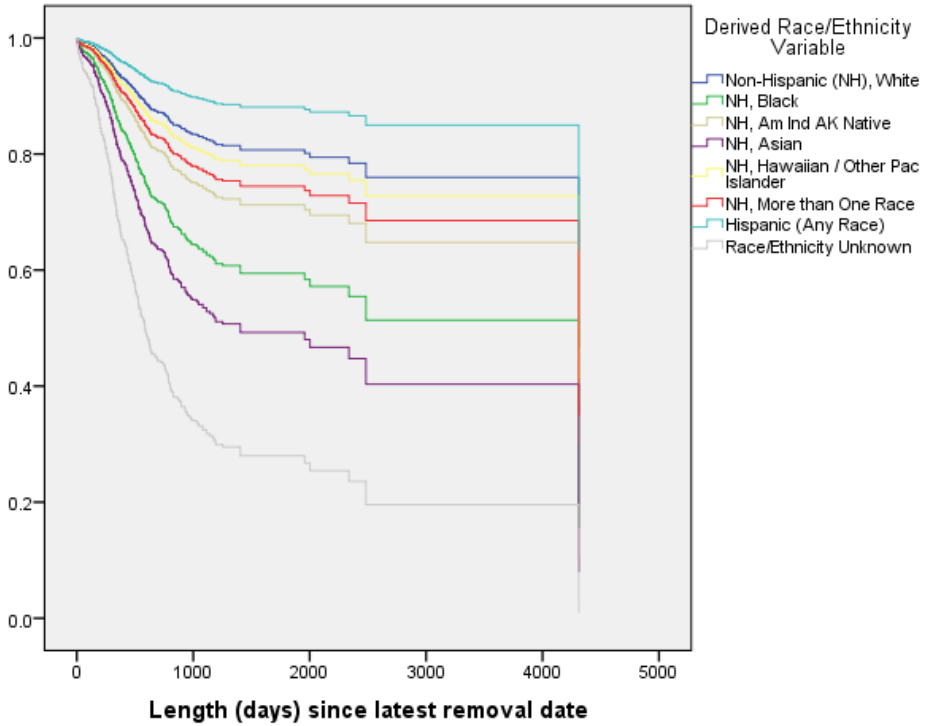
Alaska

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2014

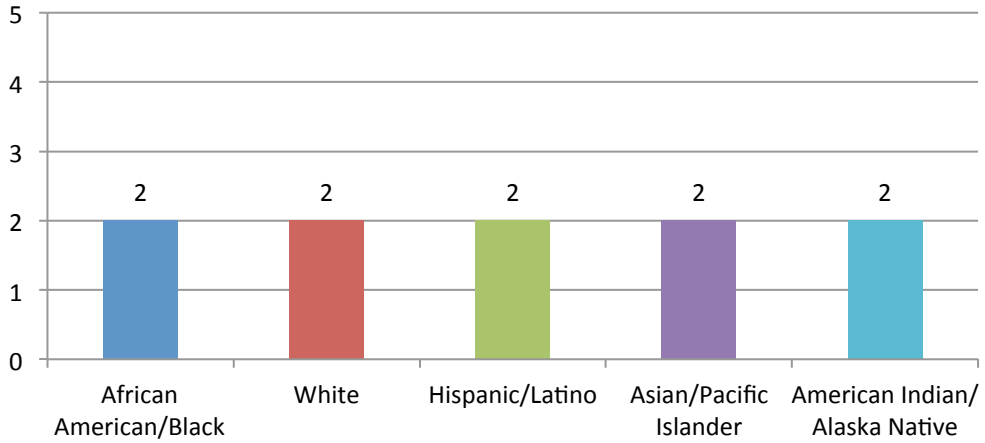


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

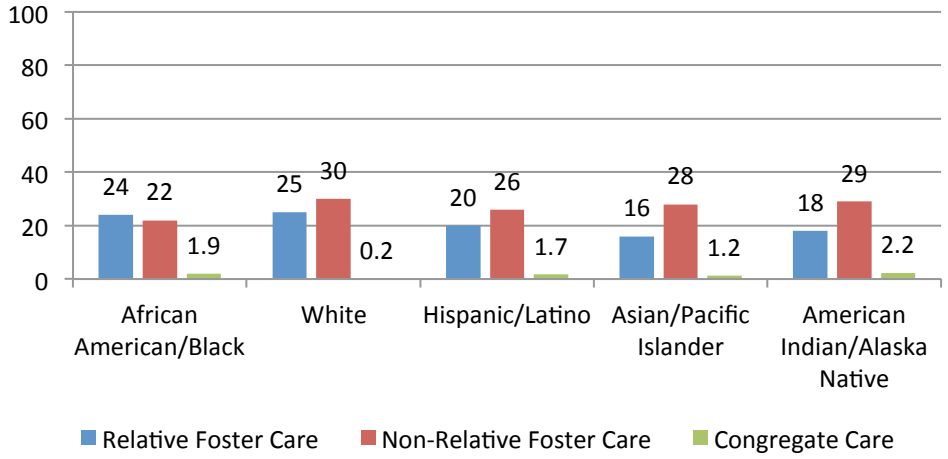




Median No. of Placements

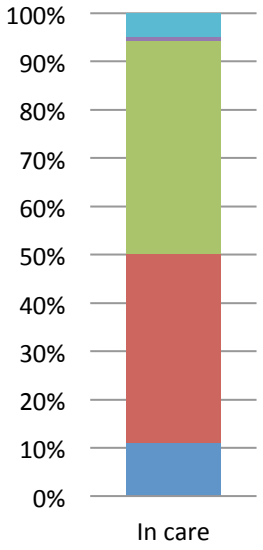


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

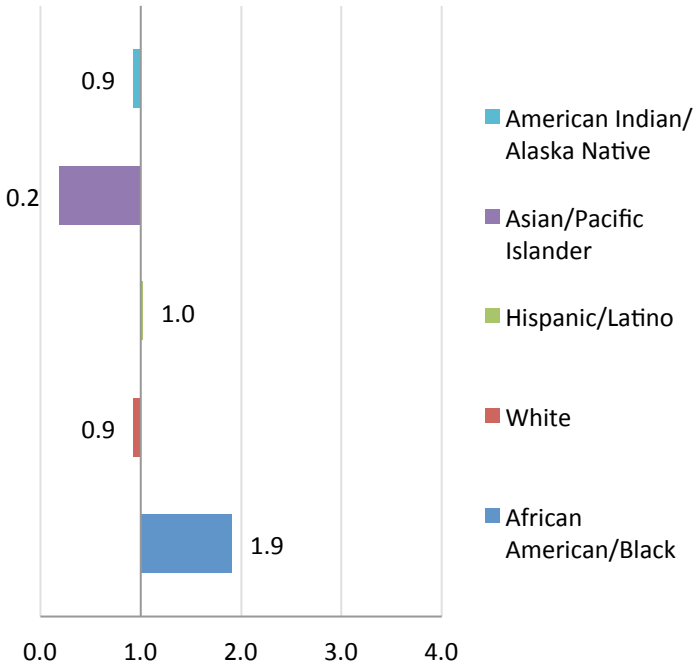


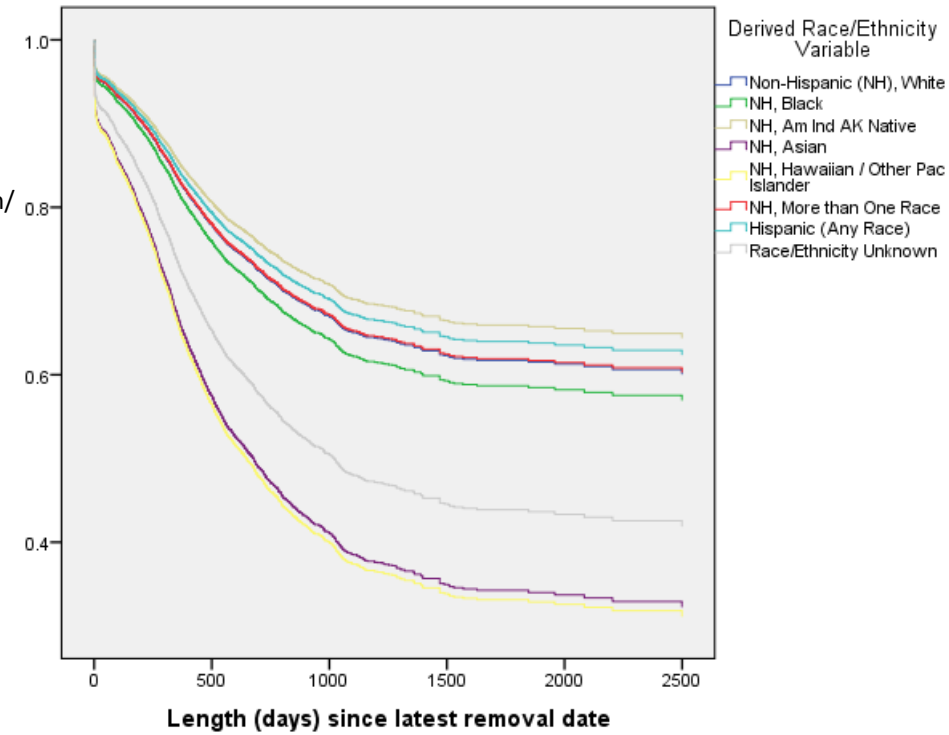
Arizona

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

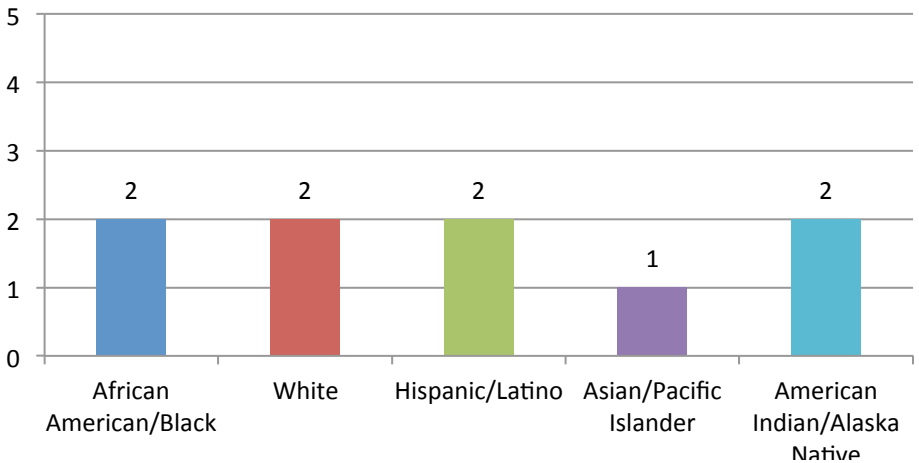


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

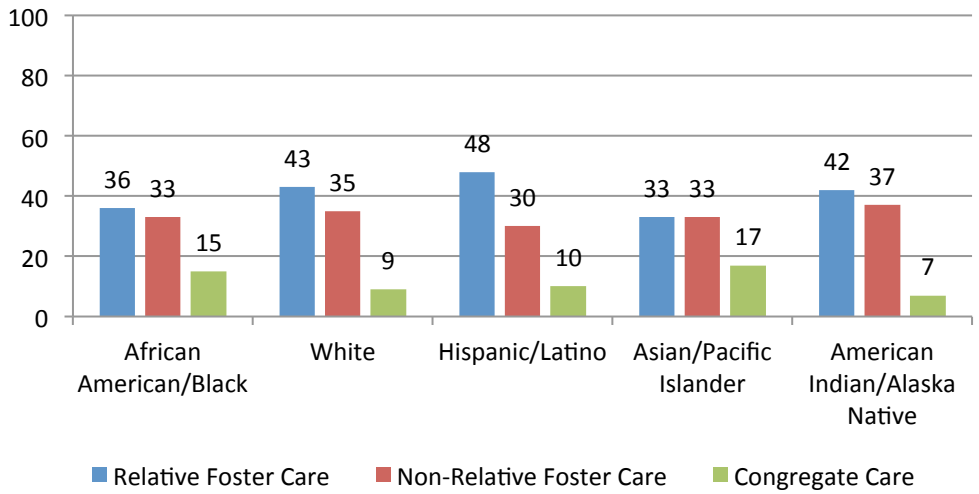




Median No. of Placements

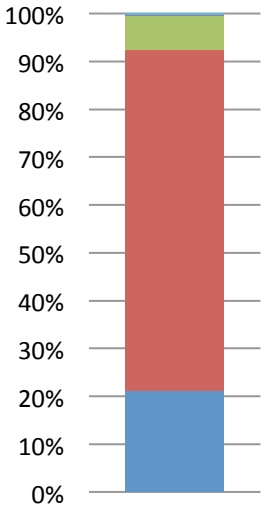


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

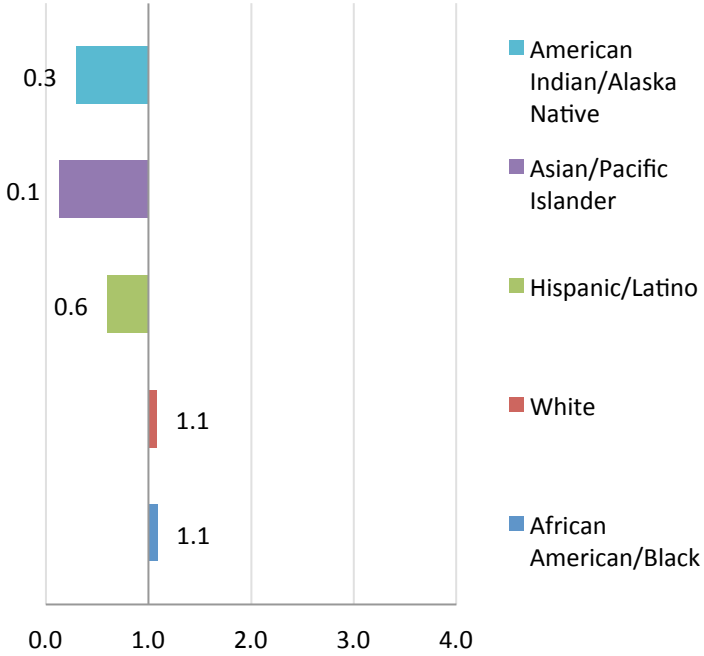


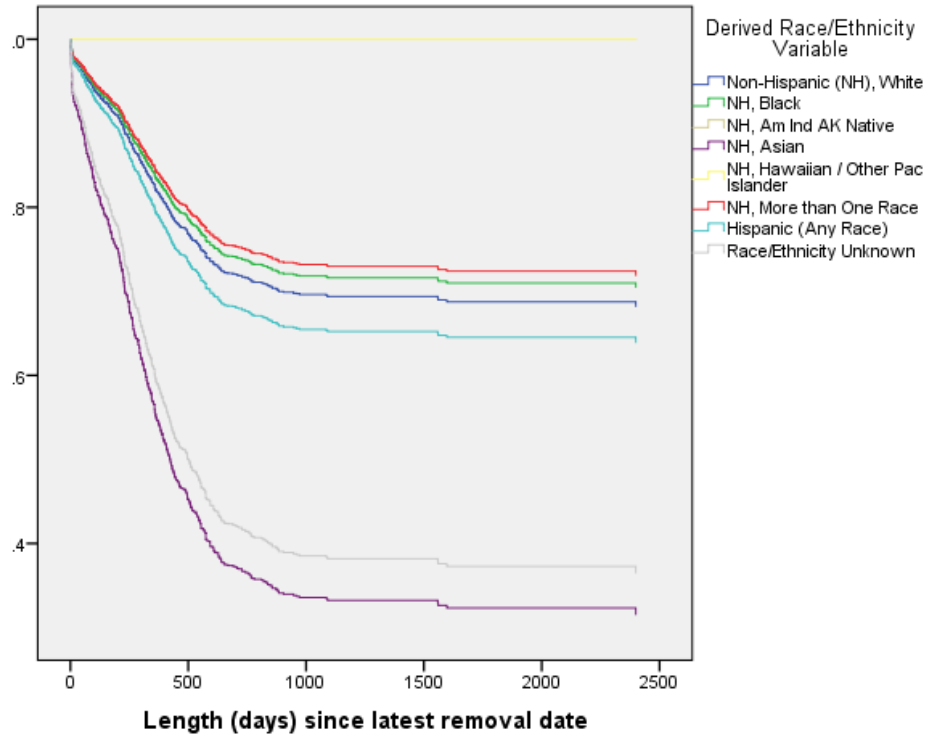
Arkansas

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

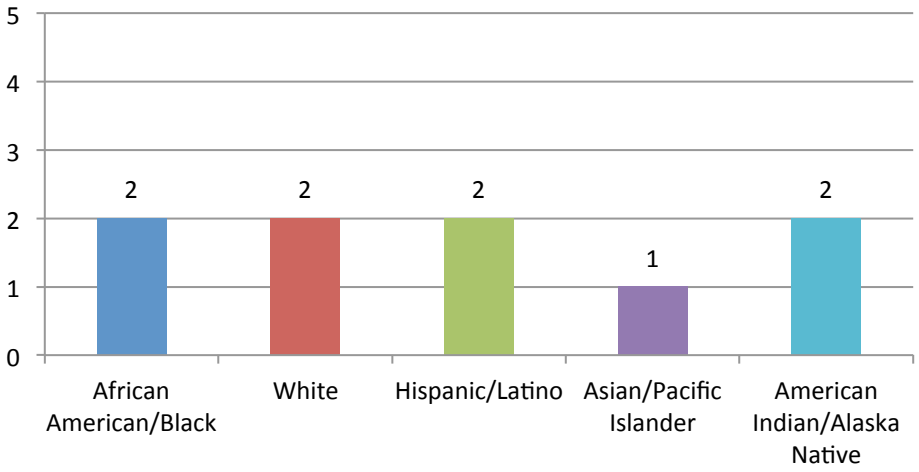


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

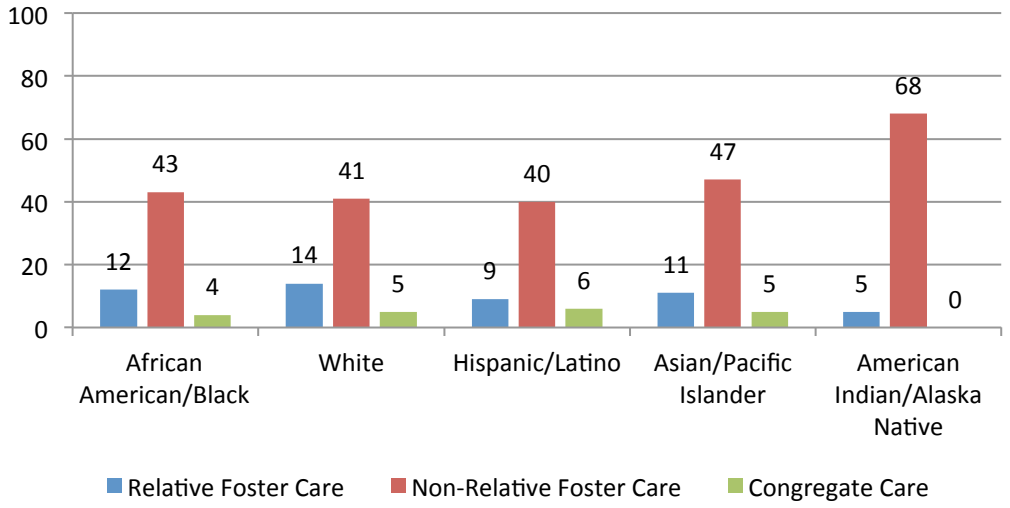




Median No. of Placements

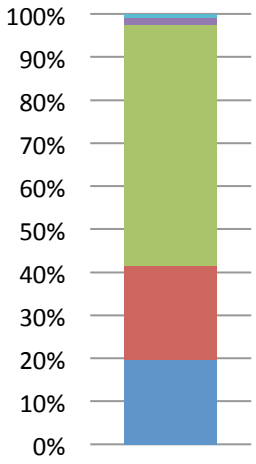


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

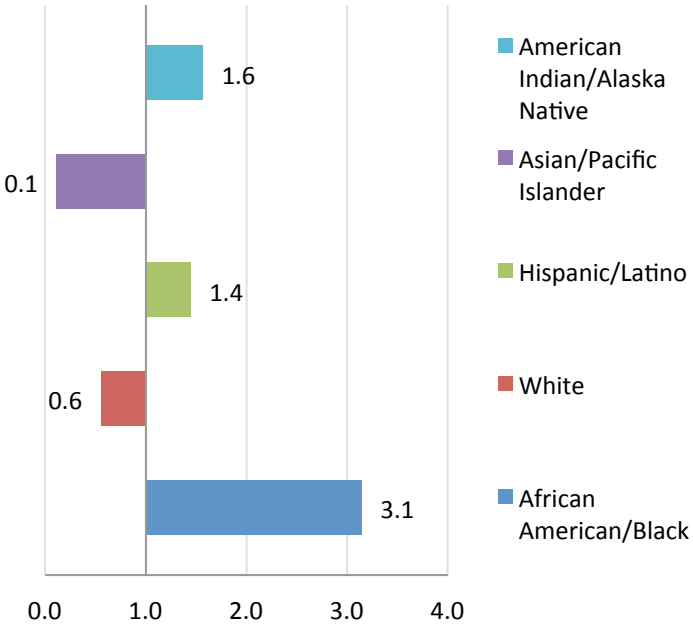


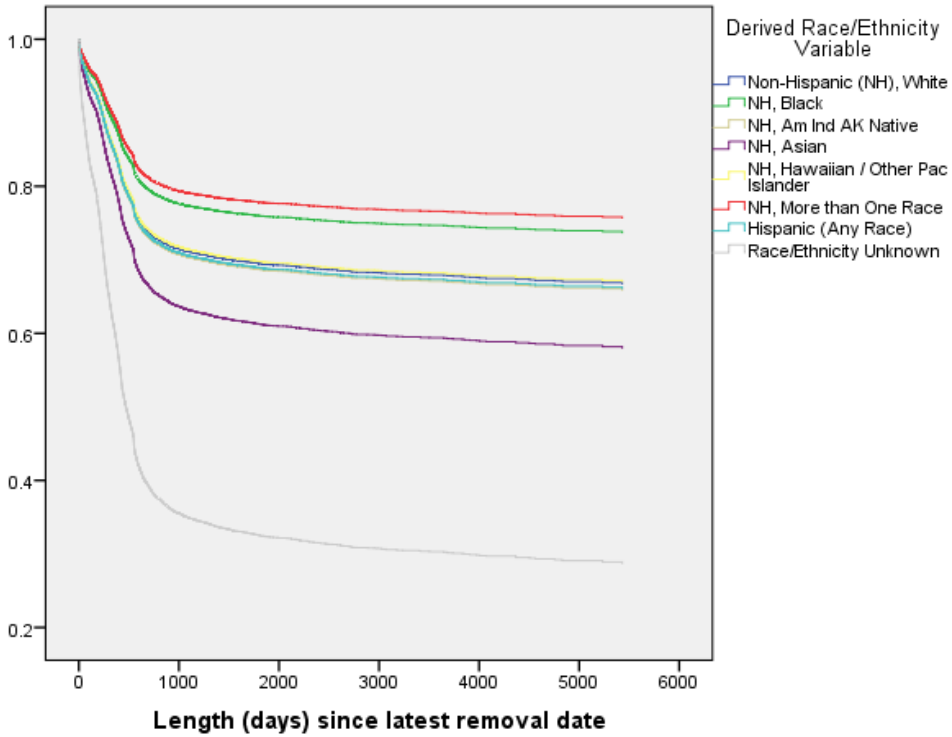
California

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

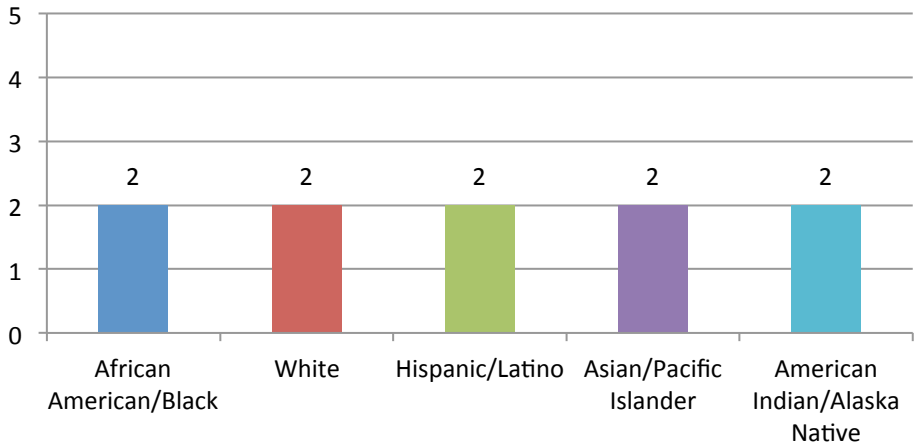


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

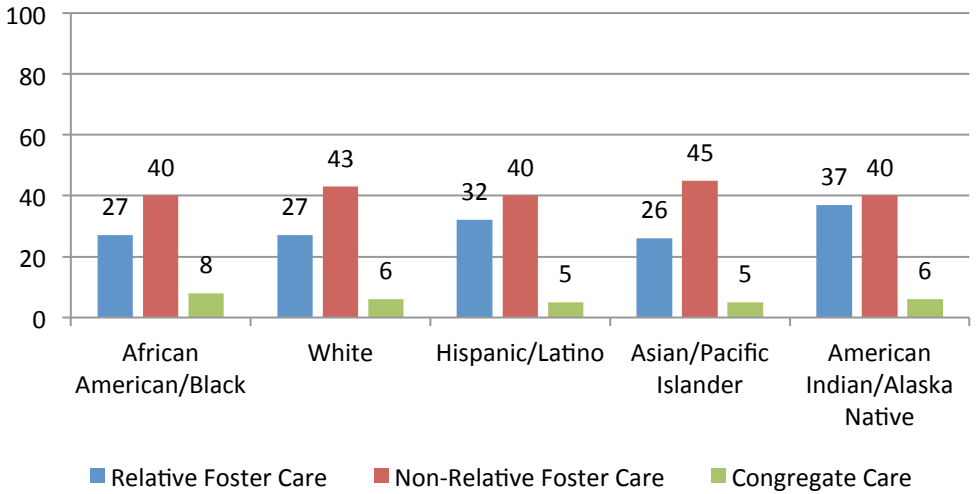




Median No. of Placements

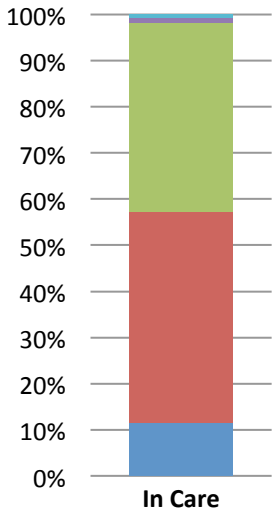


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

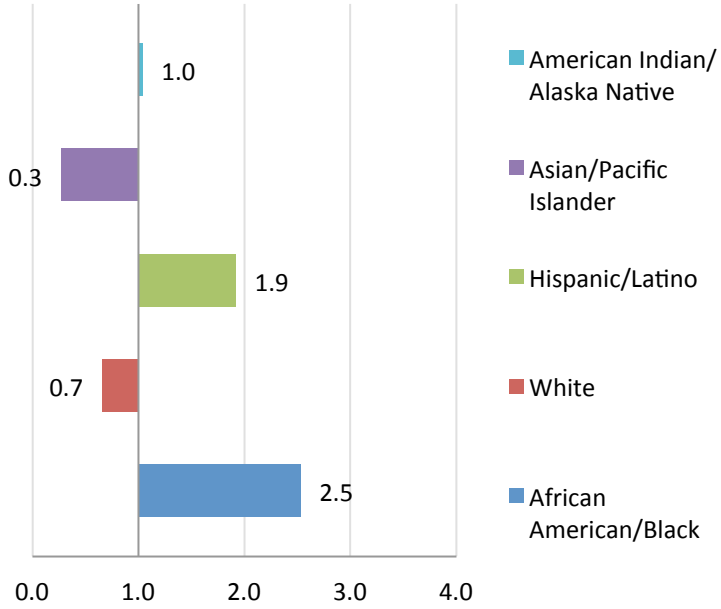


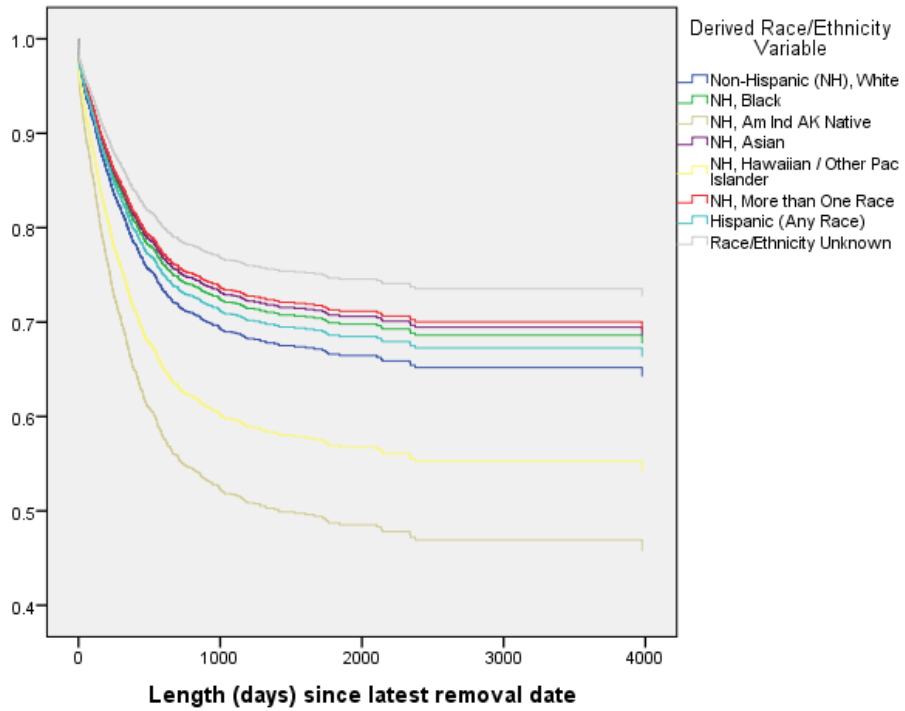
Colorado

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

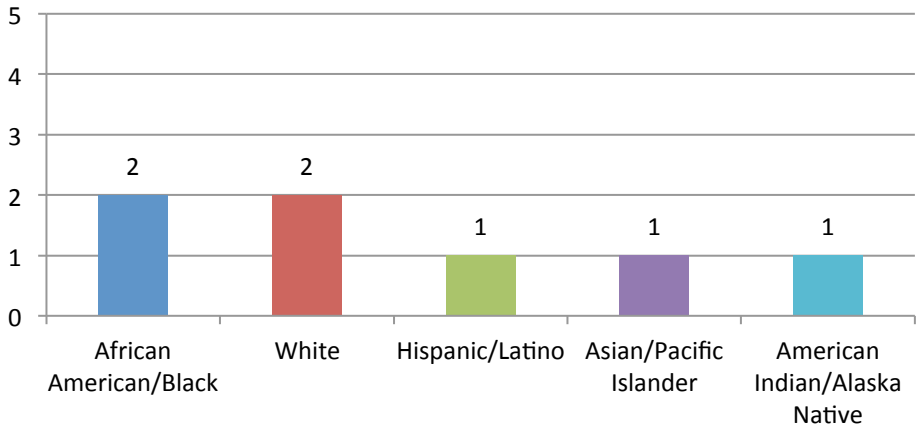


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

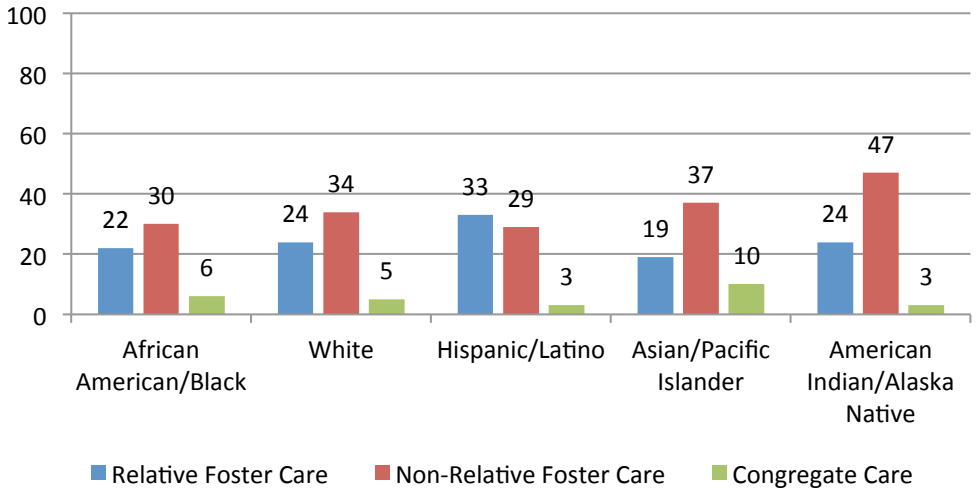




Median No. of Placements

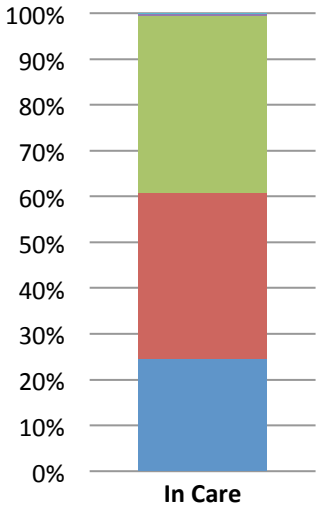


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

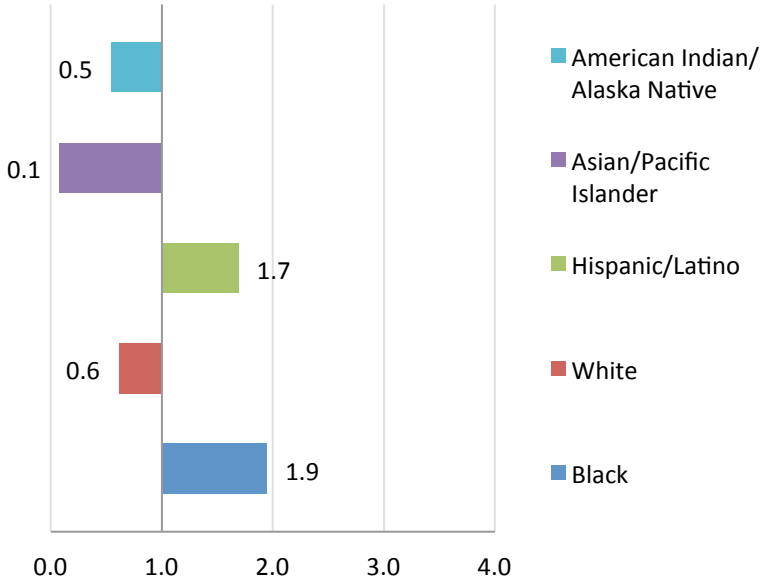


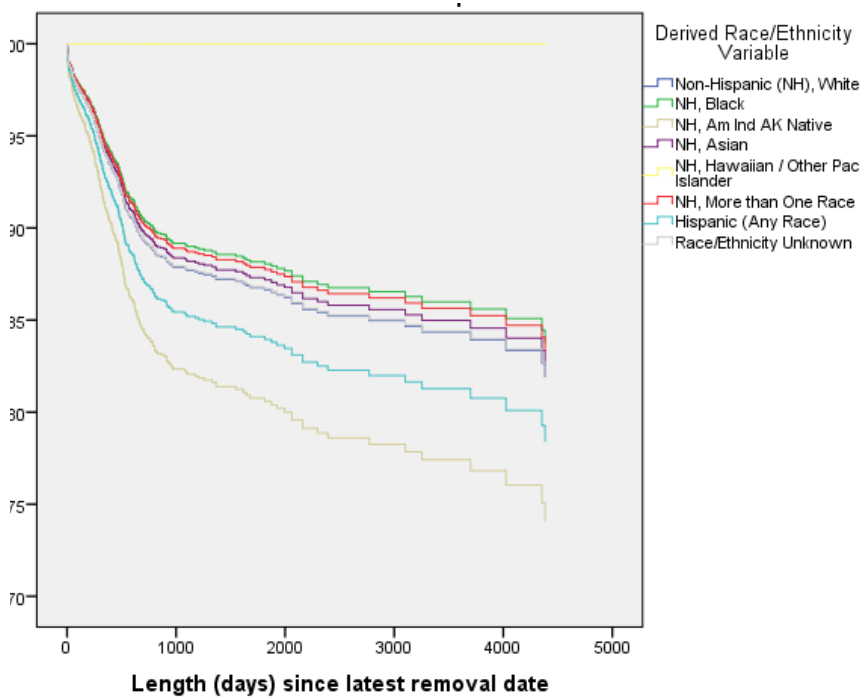
Connecticut

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

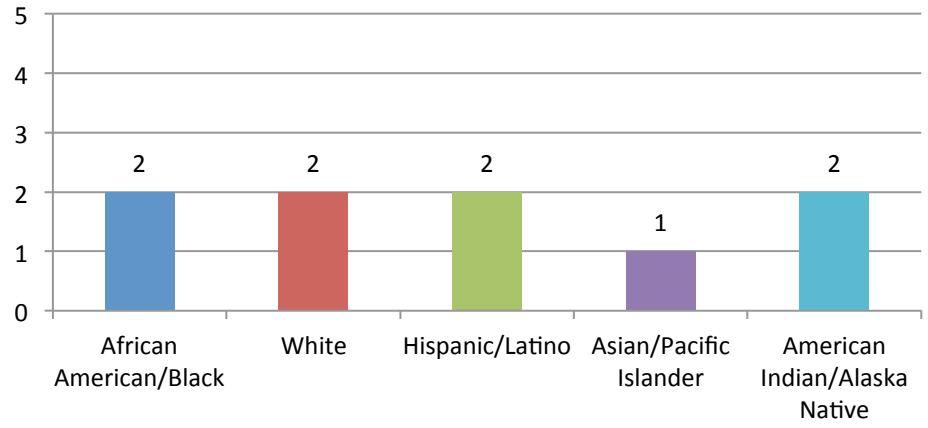


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

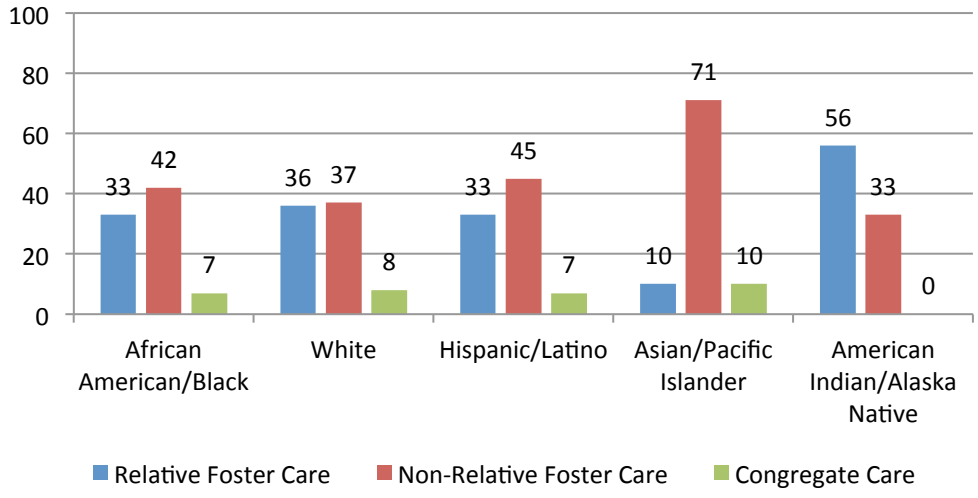




Median No. of Placements

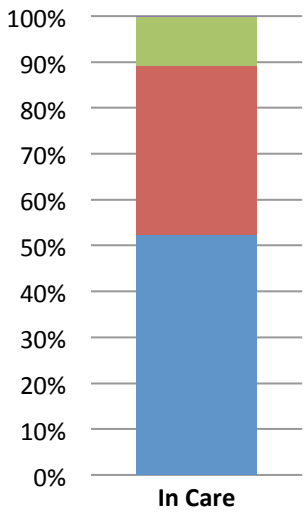


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

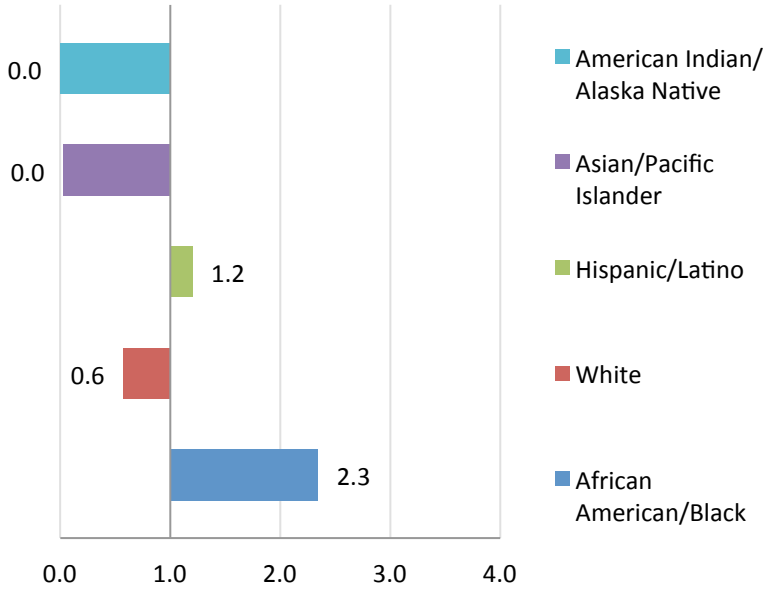


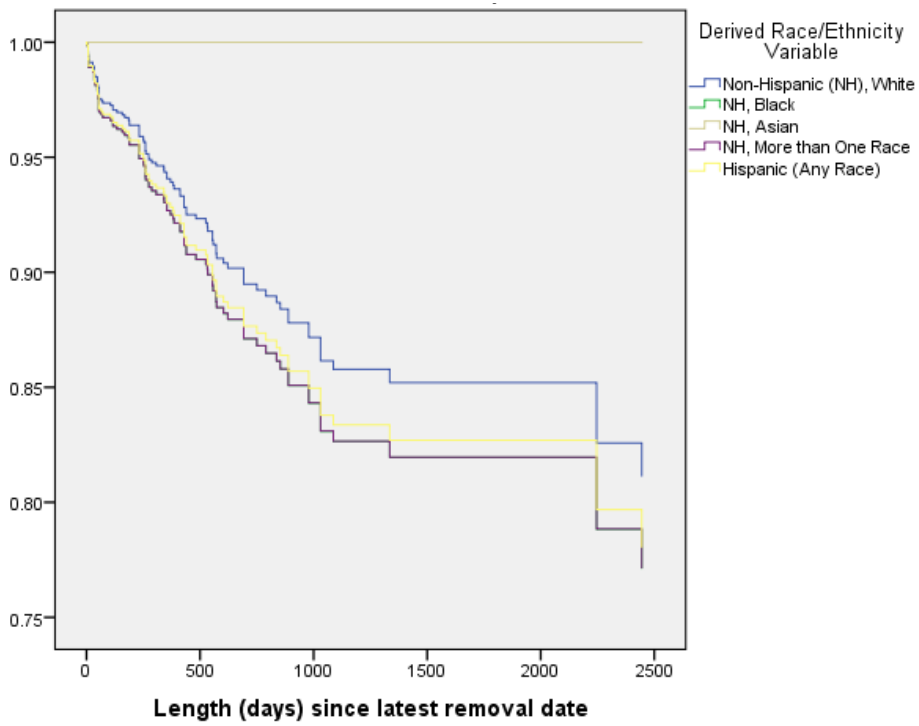
Delaware

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

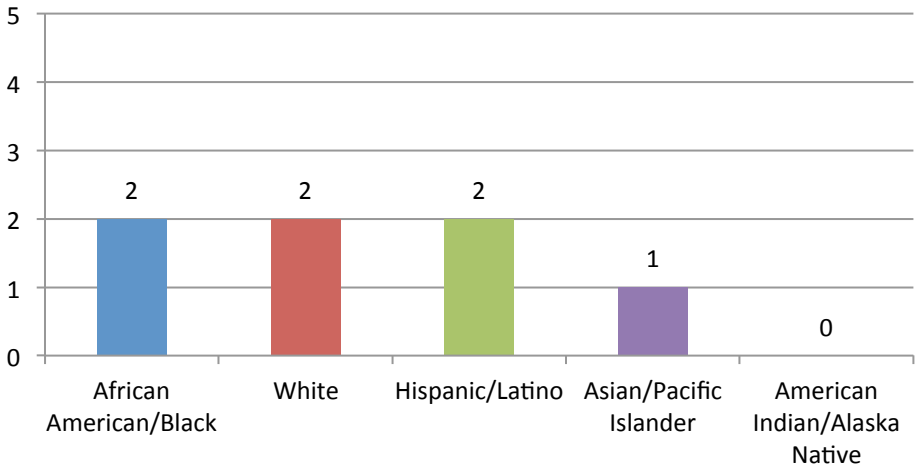


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

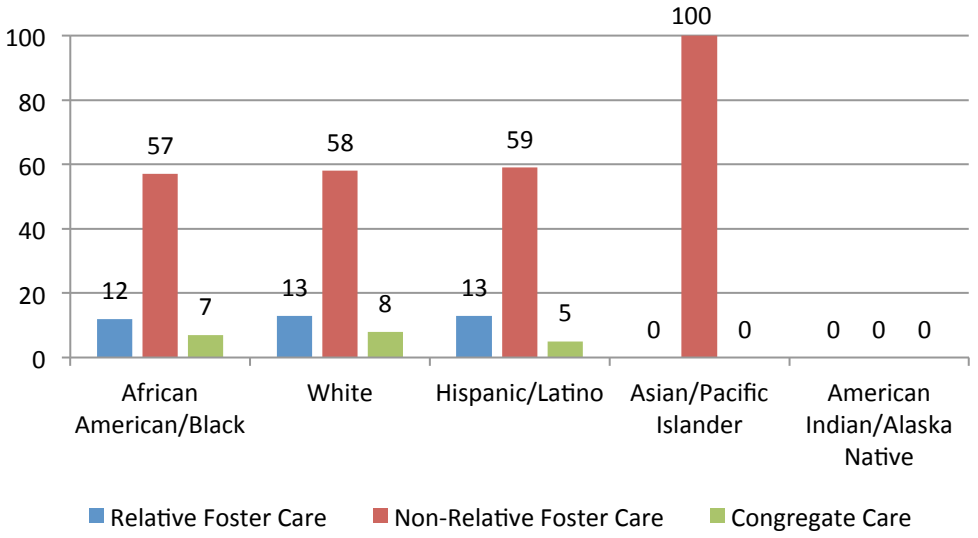




Median No. of Placements

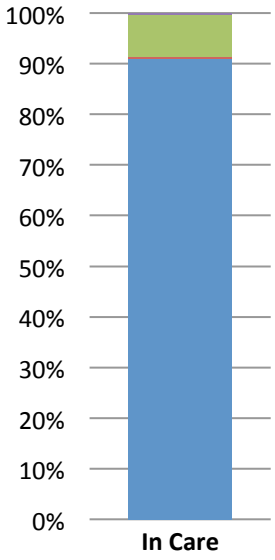


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

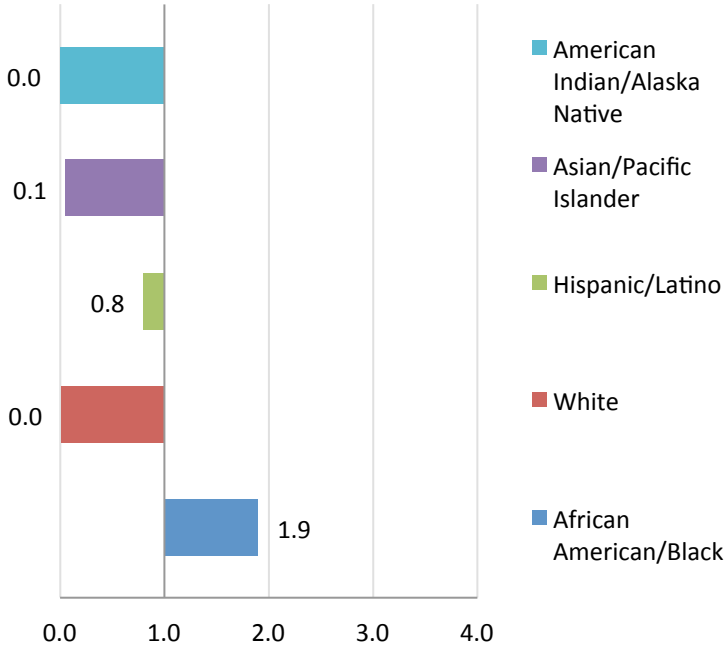


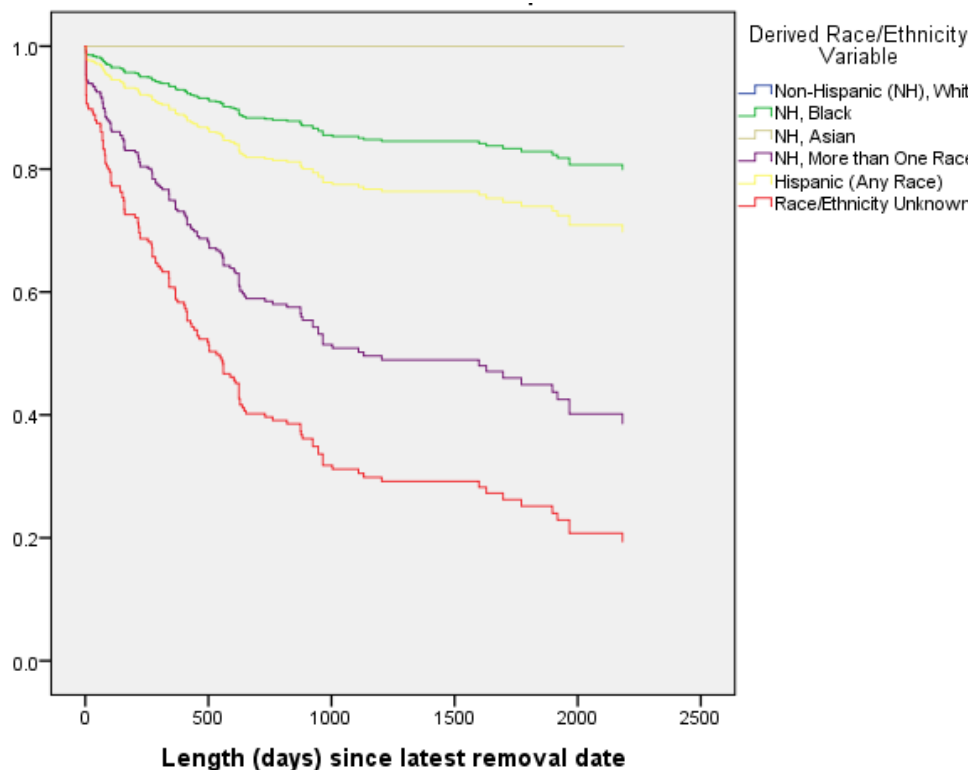
District of Columbia

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

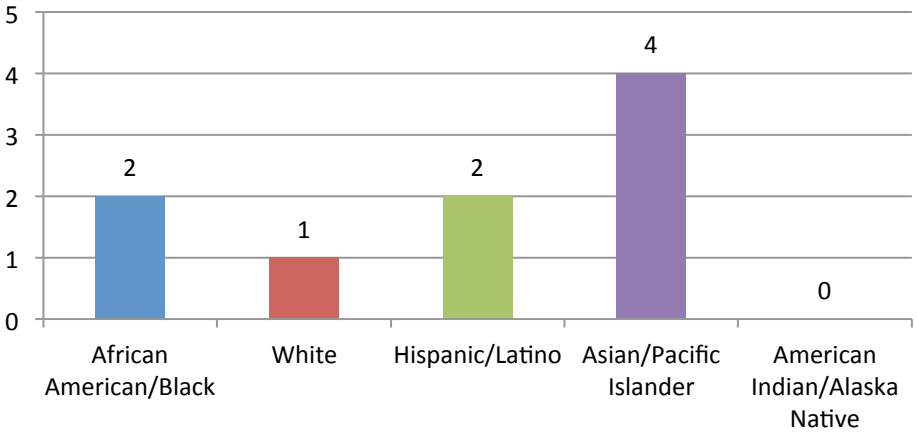


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

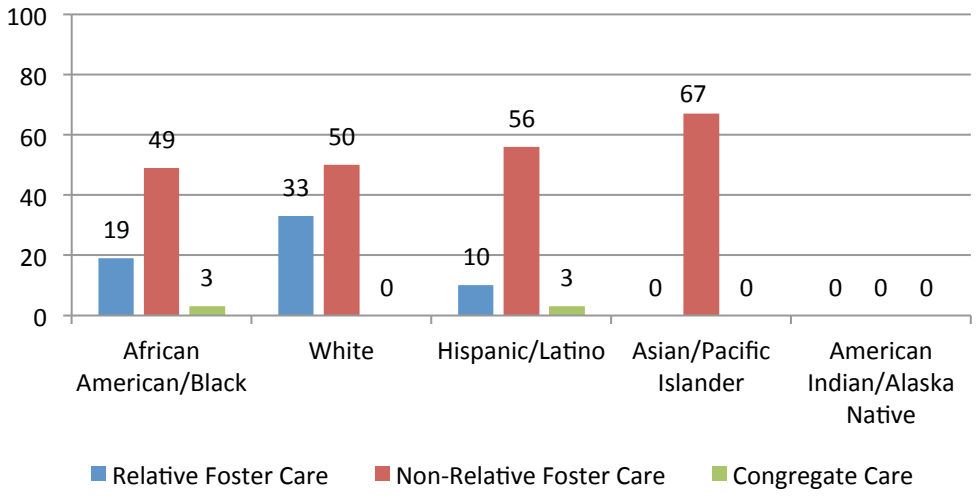




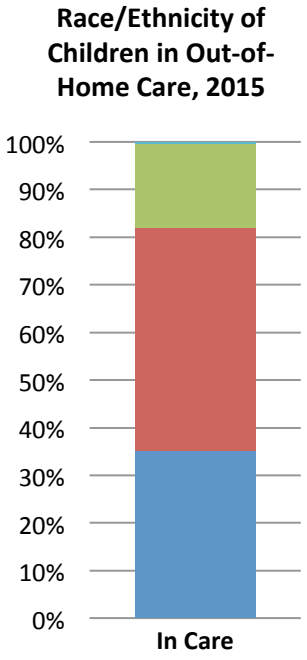
Median No. of Placements

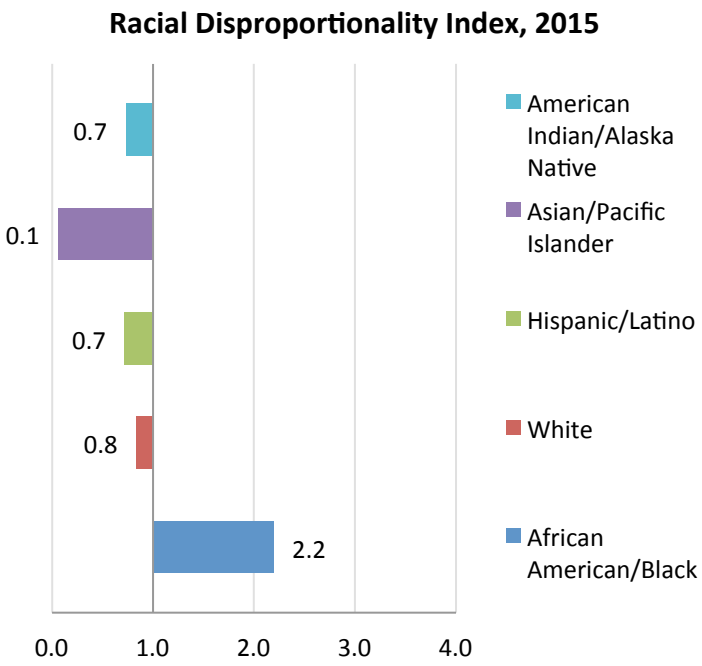


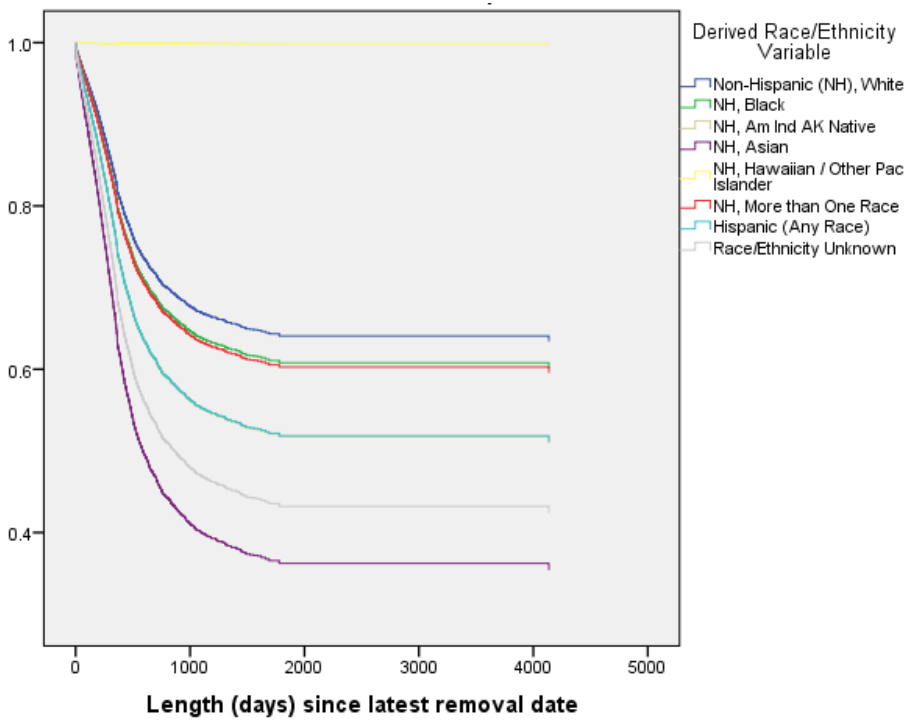
Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

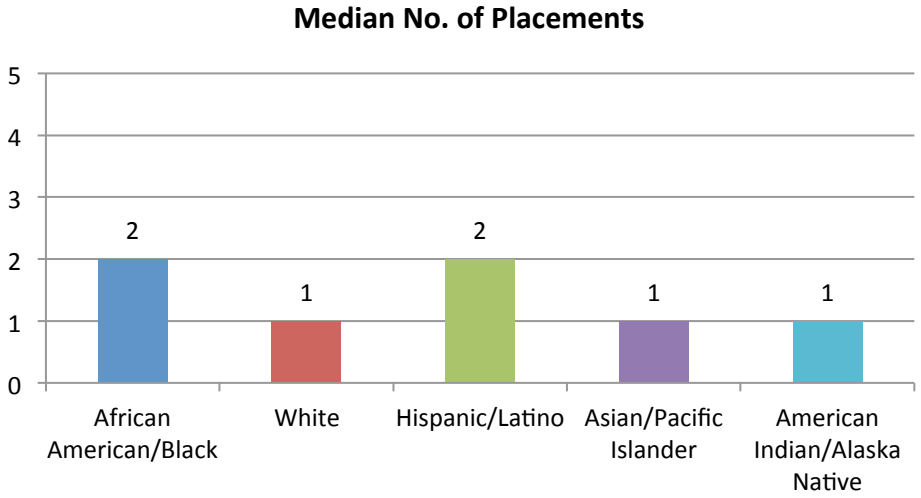


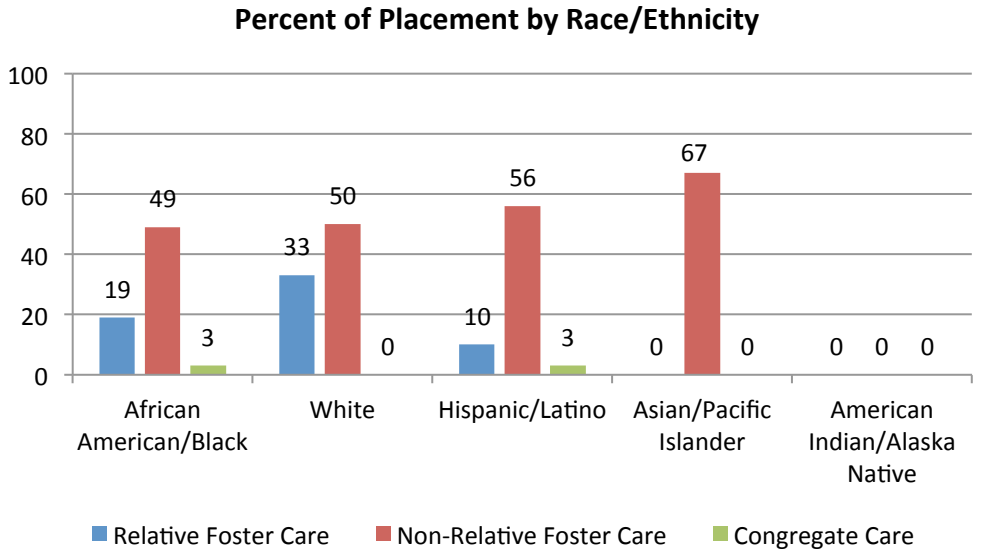
Florida


Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
In Care


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015
0.7
0.1
0.7
0.8
2.2
0.0
1.0
2.0
3.0
4.0
American Indian/Alaska Native
Asian/Pacific Islander
Hispanic/Latino
White
African American/Black

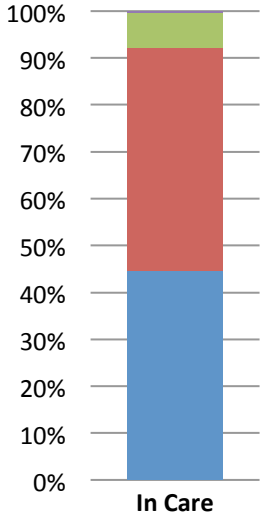

1.0
0.8
0.6
0.4
0
1000
2000
3000
4000
5000
Length (days) since latest removal date
Derived Race/Ethnicity Variable
Non-Hispanic (NH), White
NH, Black
NH, Am Ind AK Native
NH, Asian
NH, Hawaiian / Other Pac Islander
NH, More than One Race
Hispanic (Any Race)
Race/Ethnicity Unknown


Median No. of Placements
5
4
3
2
1
0
2
1
2
1
1
African American/Black
White
Hispanic/Latino
Asian/Pacific Islander
American Indian/Alaska Native

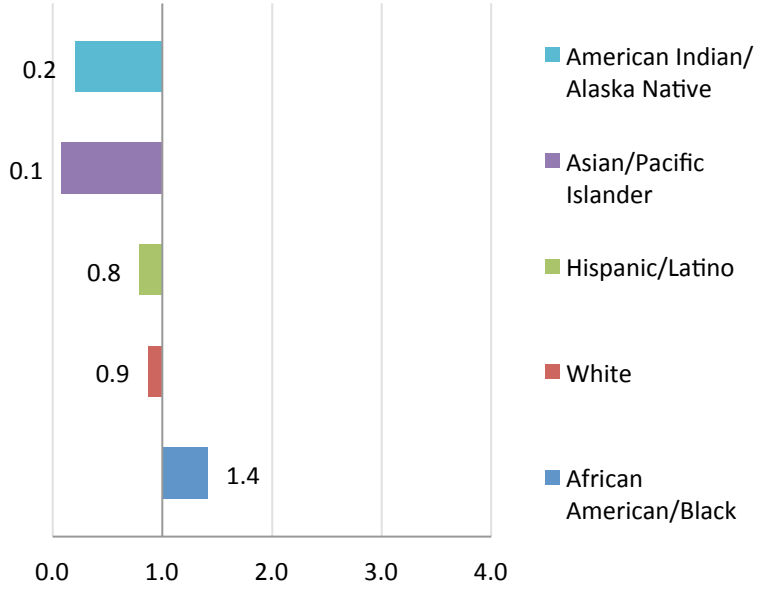

Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity
100
80
60
40
20
0
19
49
3
33
50
0
10
56
3
0
67
0
0
0
0
African American/Black
White
Hispanic/Latino
Asian/Pacific Islander
American Indian/Alaska Native
Relative Foster Care
Non-Relative Foster Care
Congregate Care

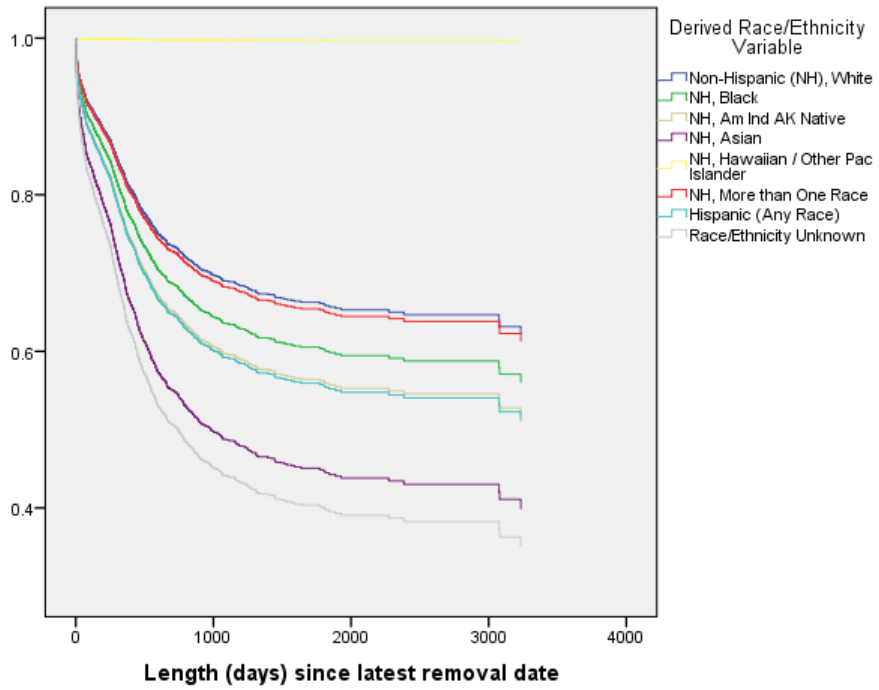
Georgia

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

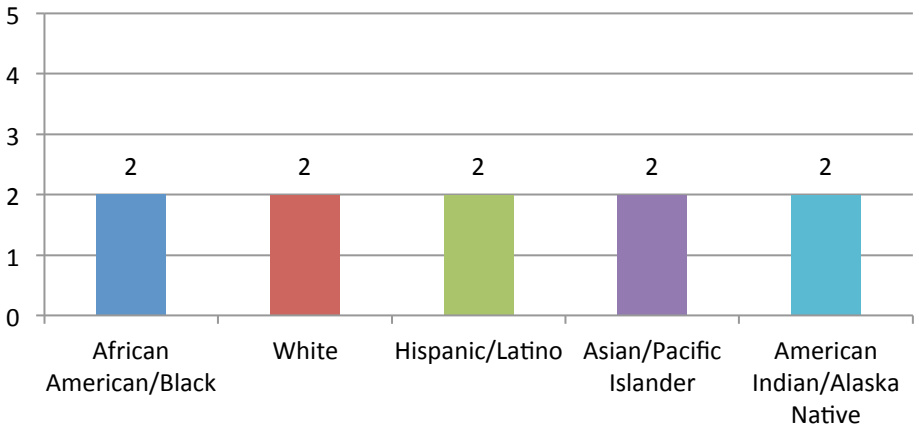


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

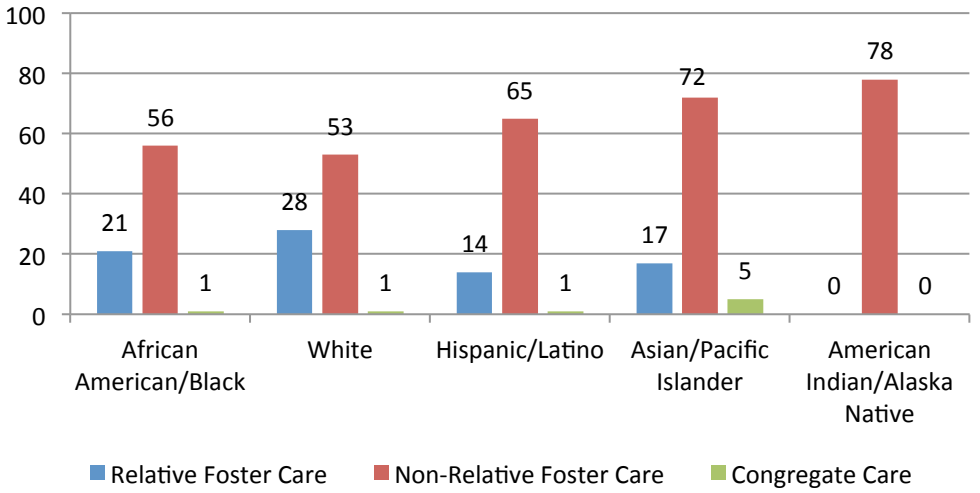




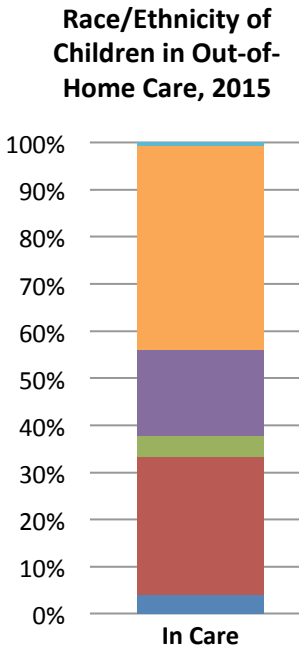
Median No. of Placements

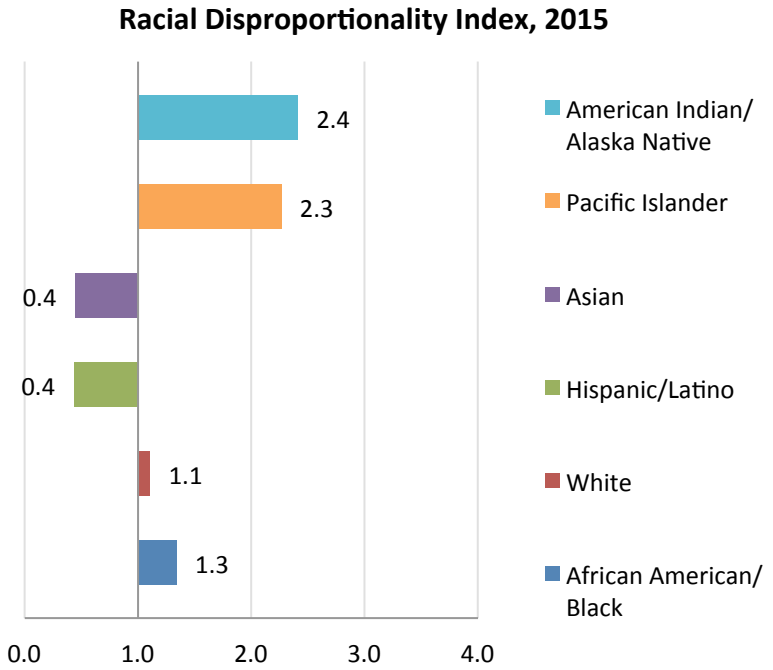


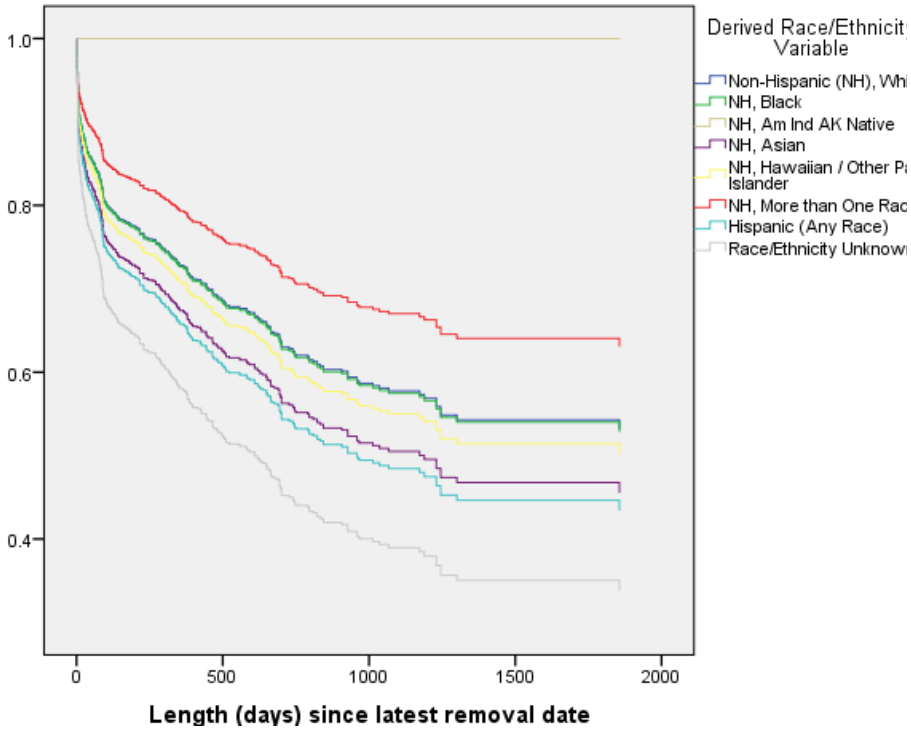
Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

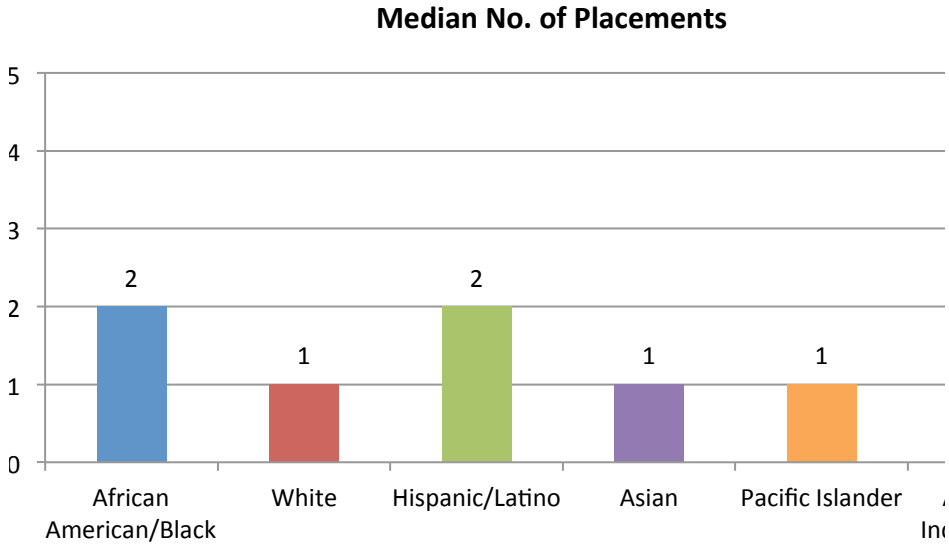


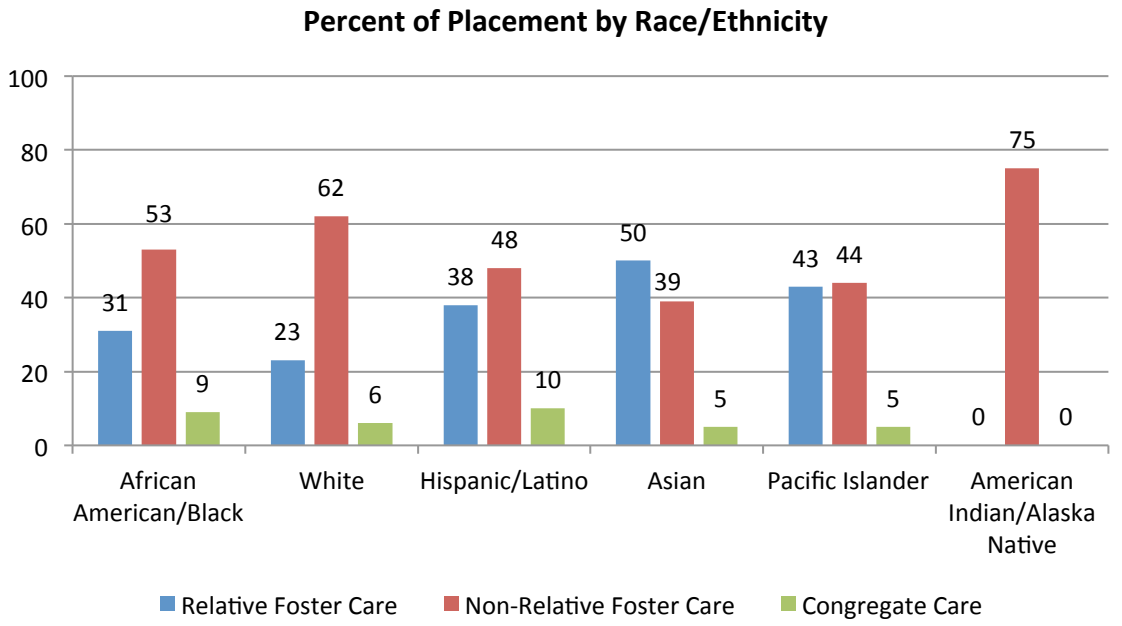
Hawaii


Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
In Care


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015
2.4
2.3
0.4
0.4
1.1
1.3
0.0
1.0
2.0
3.0
4.0
American Indian/ Alaska Native
Pacific Islander
Asian
Hispanic/Latino
White
African American/ Black

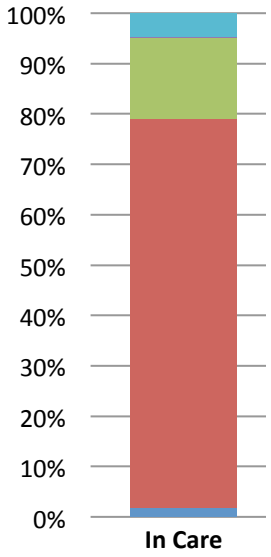

1.0
0.8
0.6
0.4
0
500
1000
1500
2000
Length (days) since latest removal date
Derived Race/Ethnicit Variable
Non-Hispanic (NH), Whi
NH, Black
NH, Am Ind AK Native
NH, Asian
NH, Hawaiian / Other P Islander
NH, More than One Rac
Hispanic (Any Race)
Race/Ethnicity Unknow


Median No. of Placements
5
4
3
2
1
0
2
1
2
1
1
African American/Black
White
Hispanic/Latino
Asian
Pacific Islander

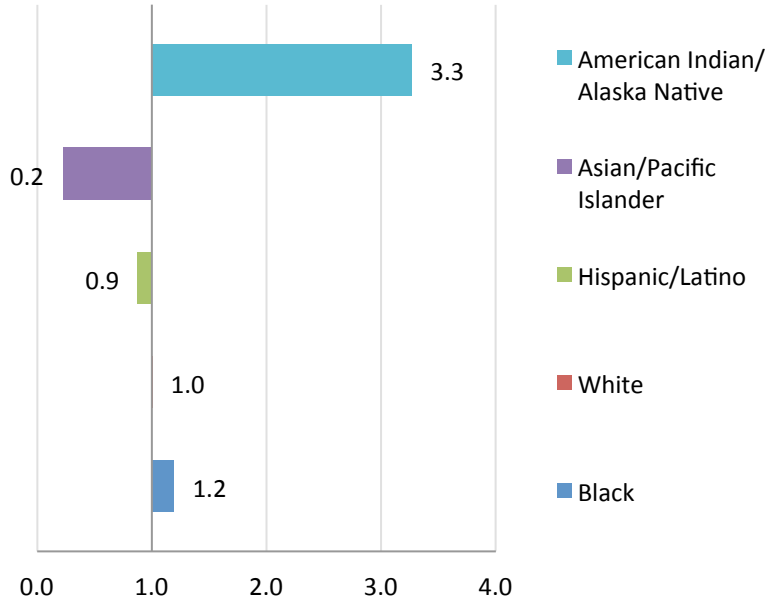

Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity
100
80
60
40
20
0
31
53
9
23
62
6
38
48
10
50
39
5
43
44
5
0
75
0
African American/Black
White
Hispanic/Latino
Asian
Pacific Islander
American Indian/Alaska Native
Relative Foster Care
Non-Relative Foster Care
Congregate Care

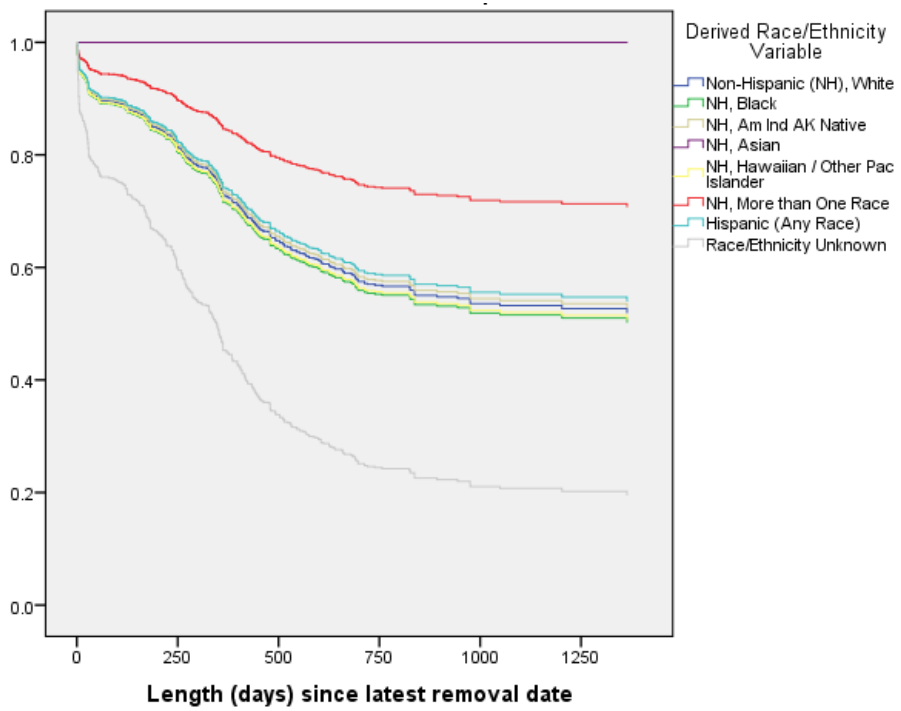
Idaho

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

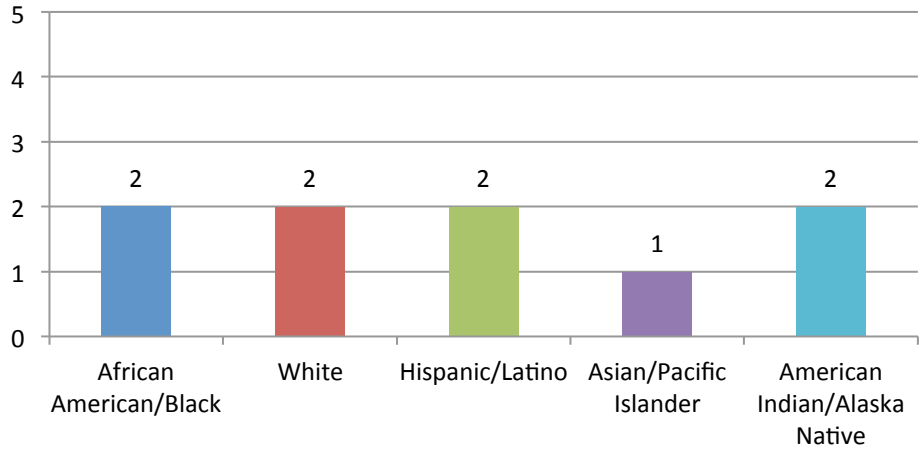


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

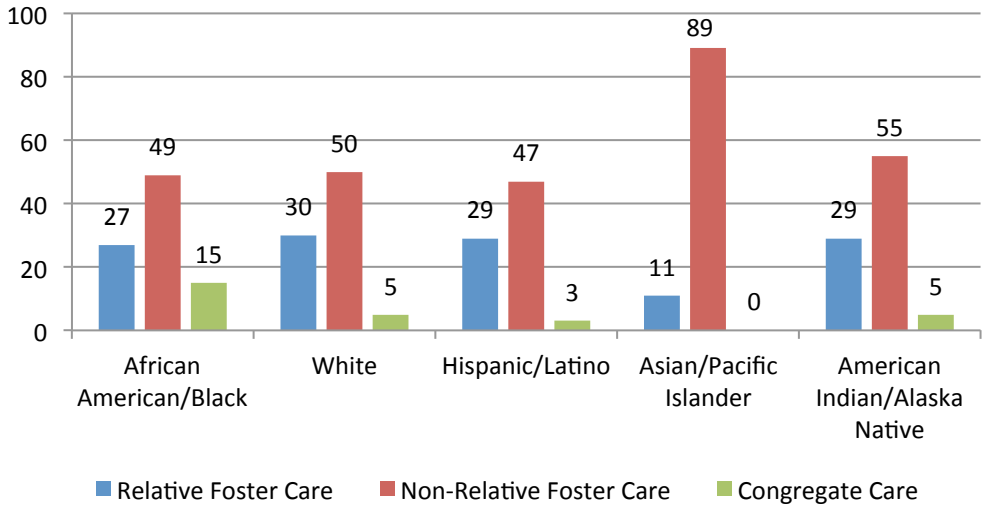




Median No. of Placements

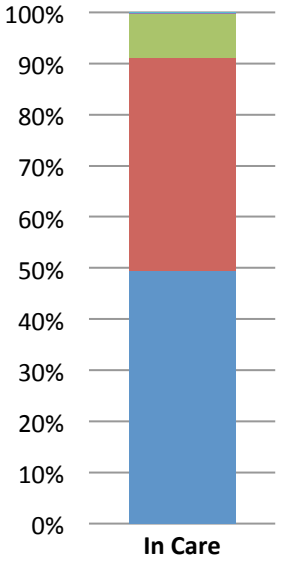


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

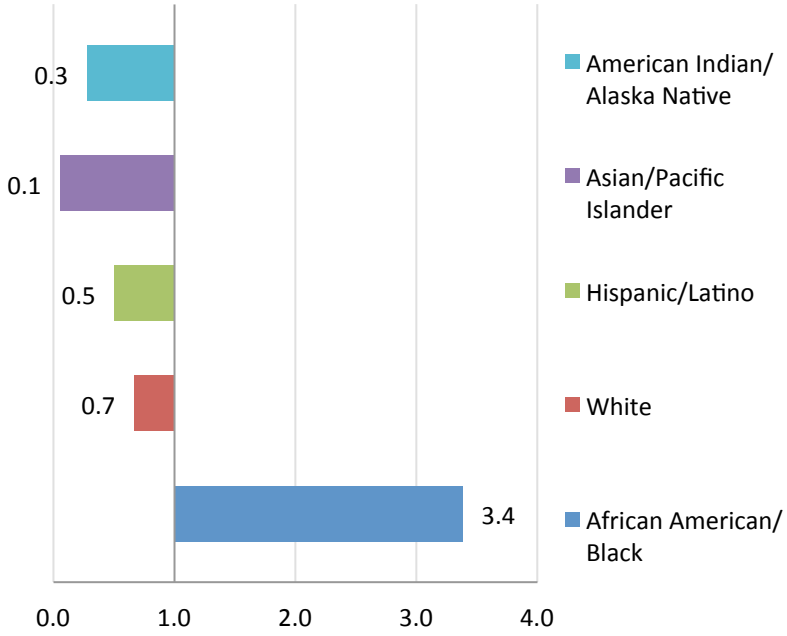


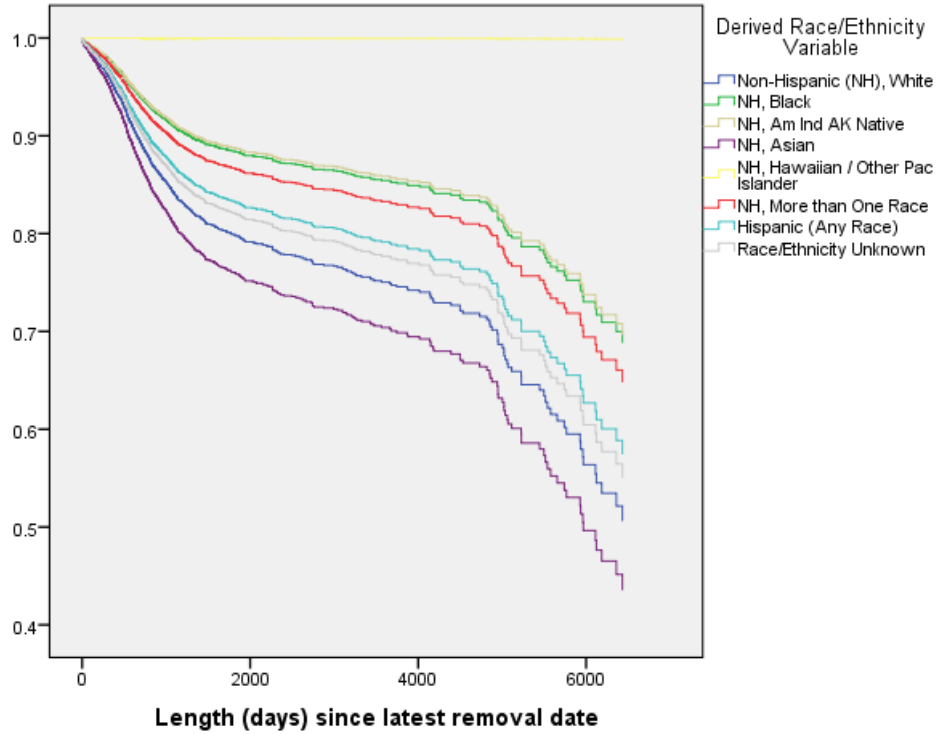
Illinois

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

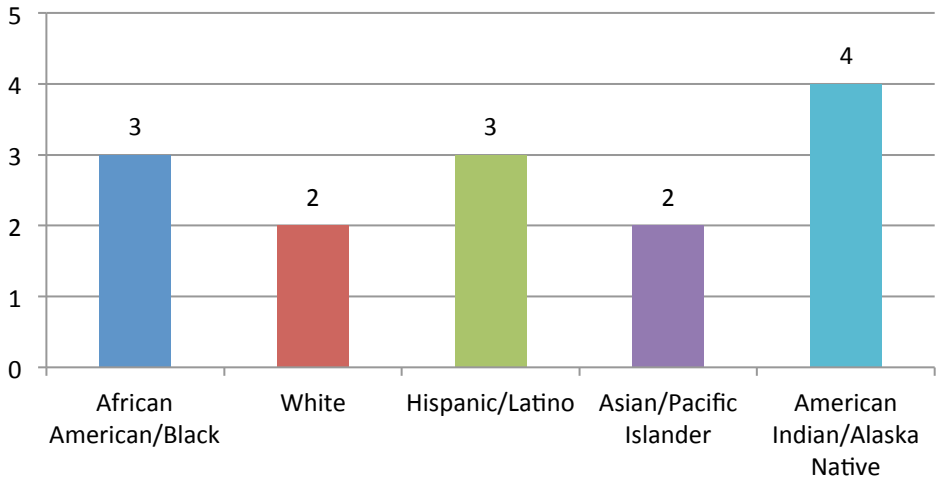


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

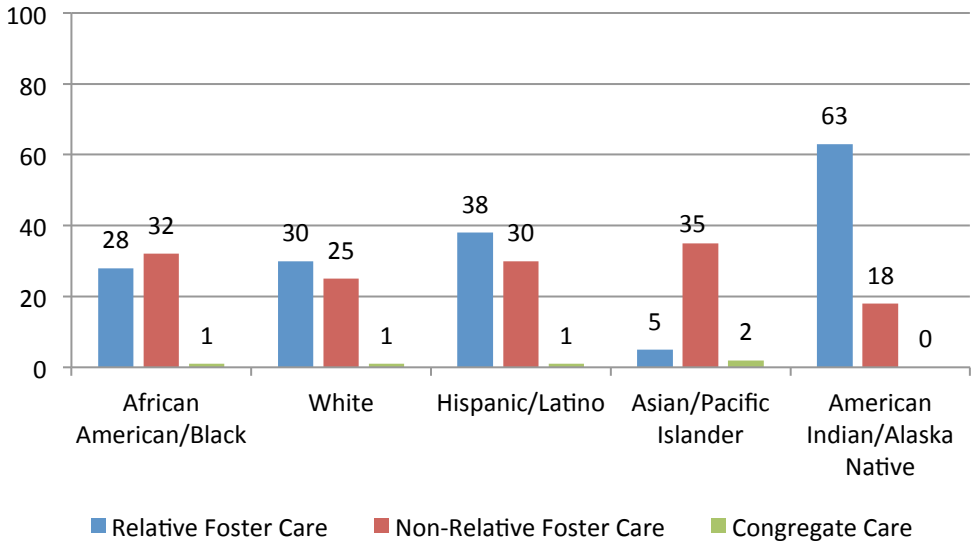




Median No. of Placements

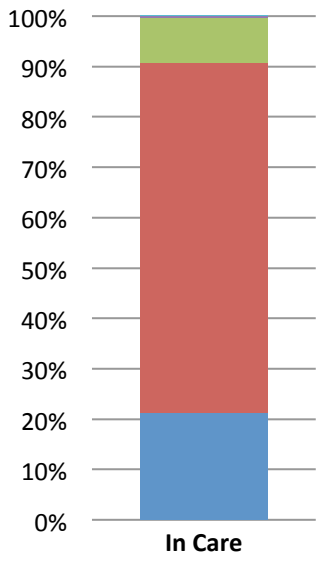


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

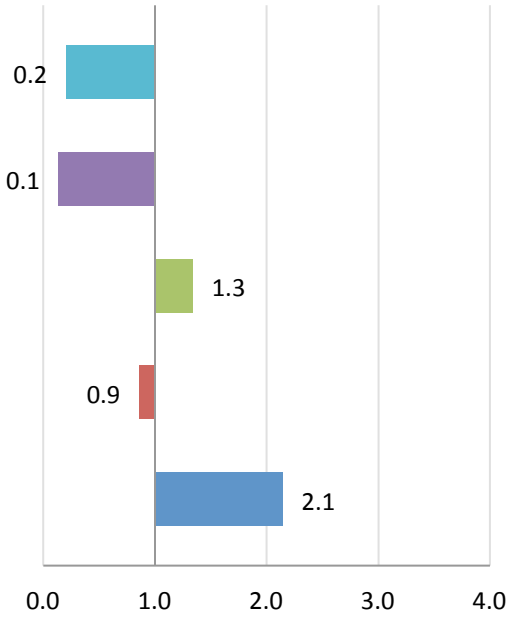


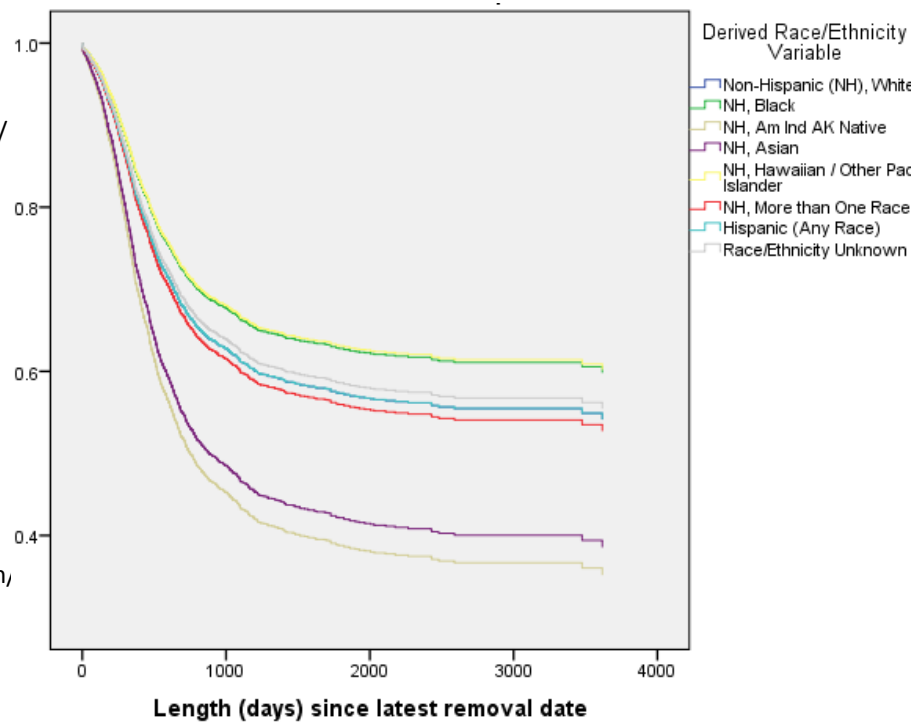
Indiana

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

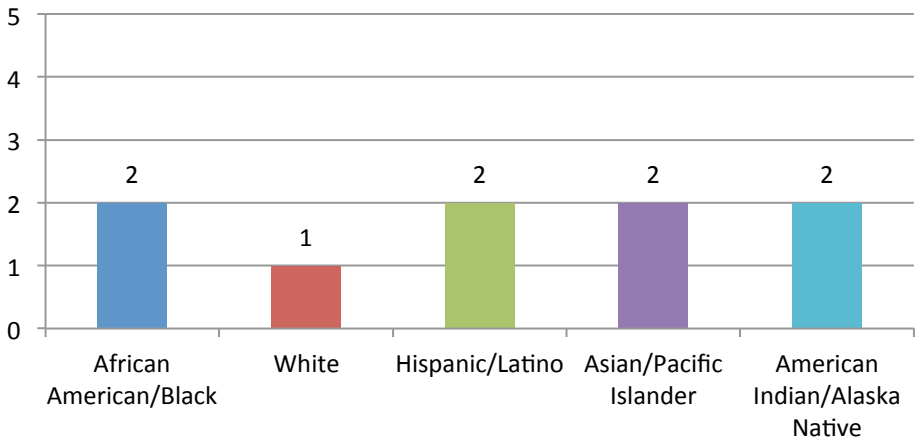


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

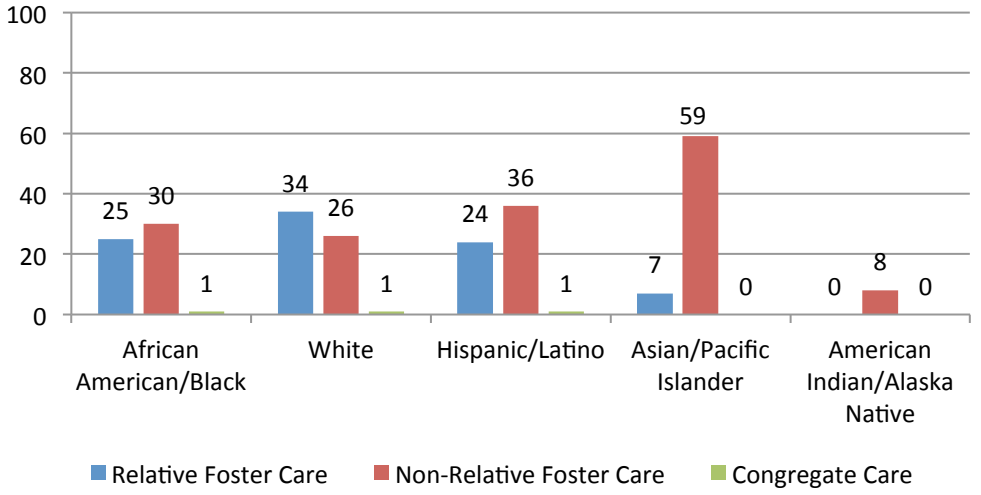




Median No. of Placements

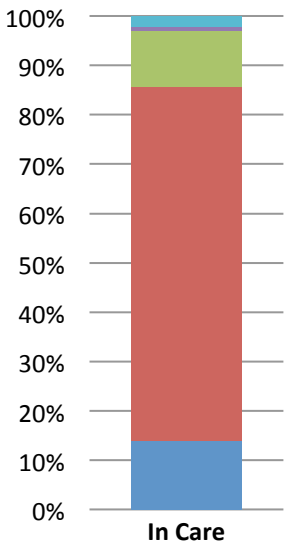


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

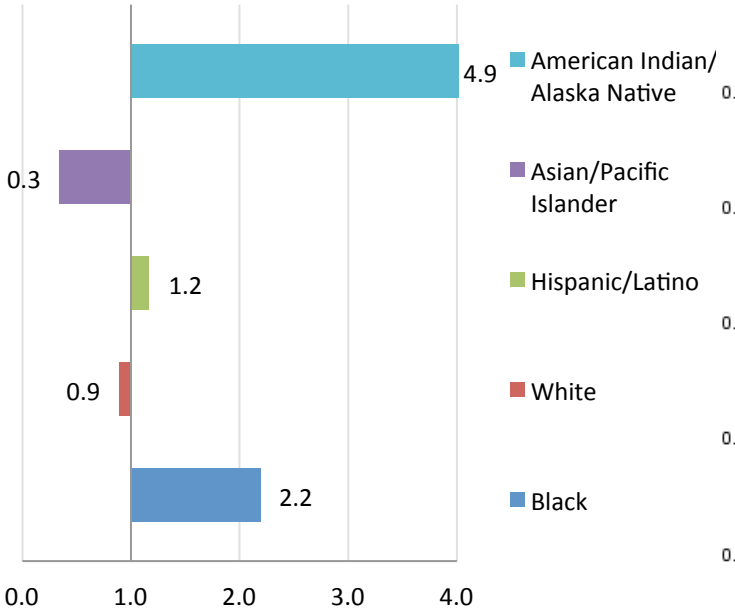


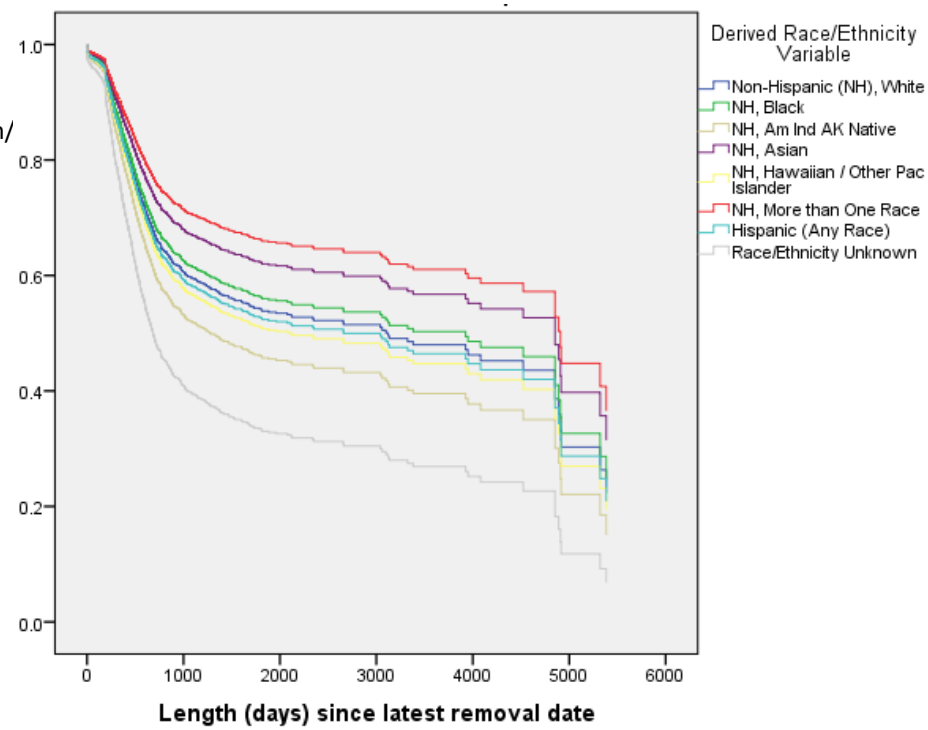
Iowa

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

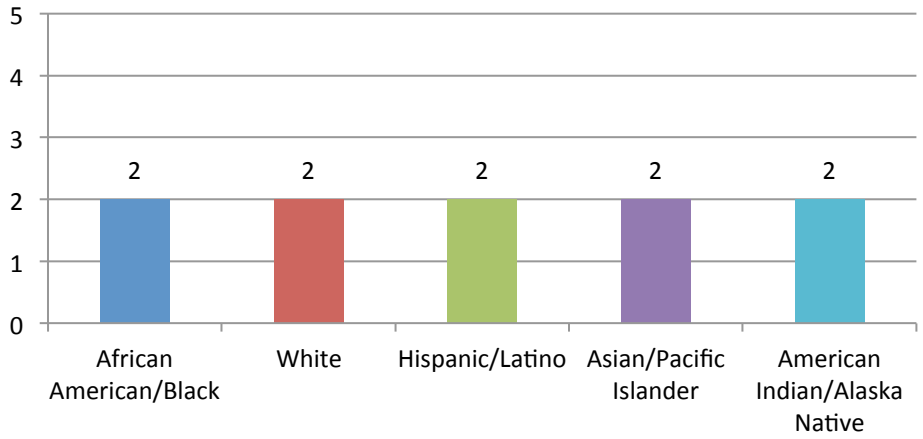


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

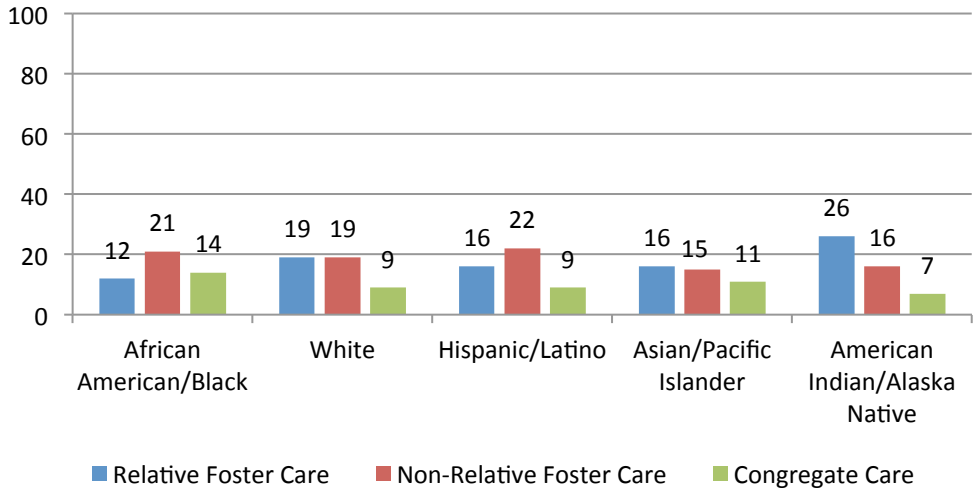




Median No. of Placements

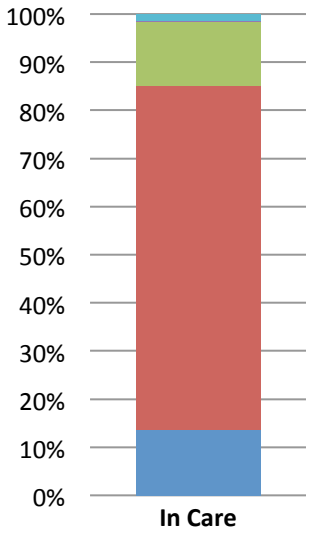


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

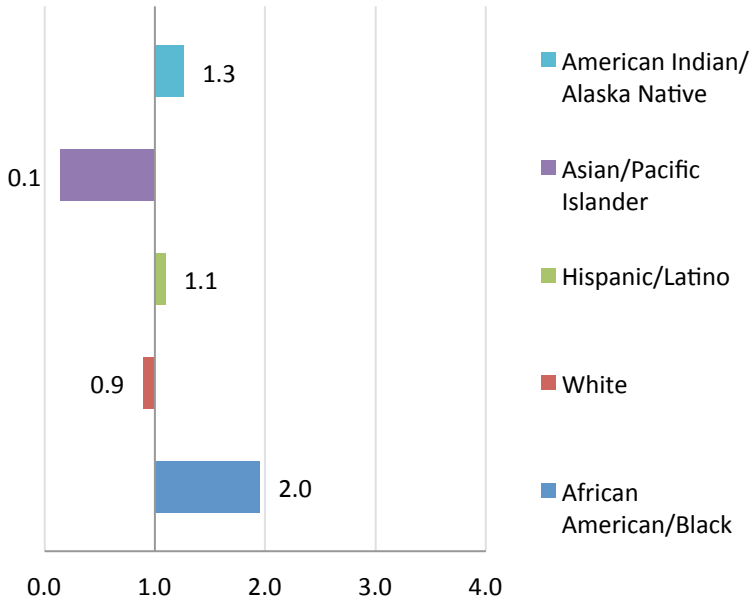


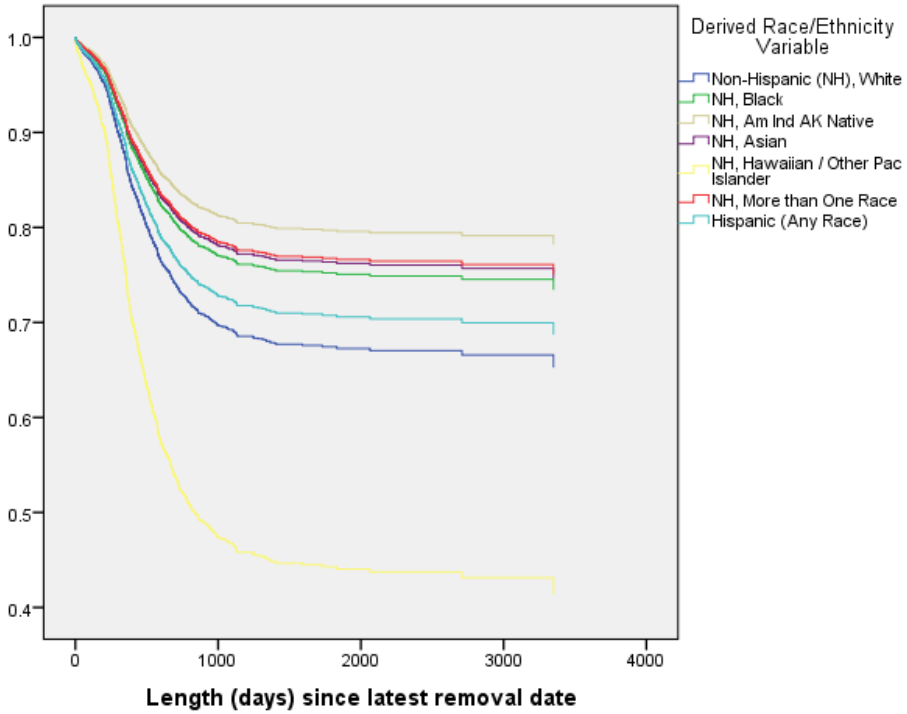
Kansas

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

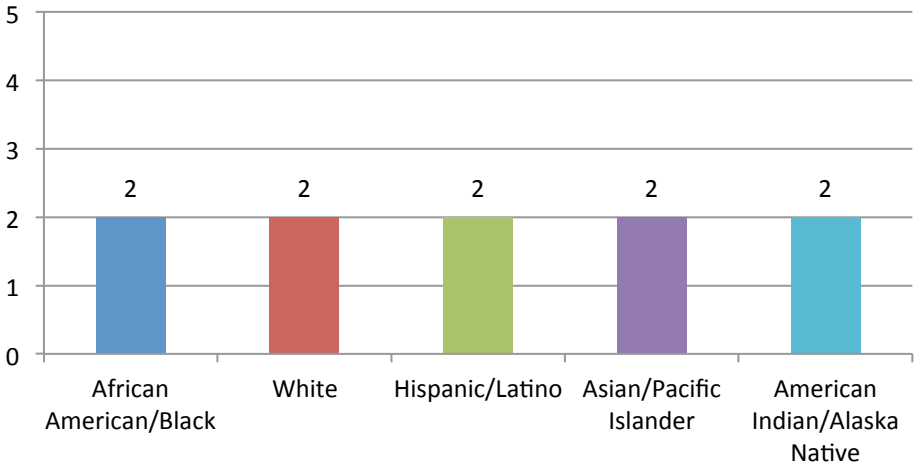


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

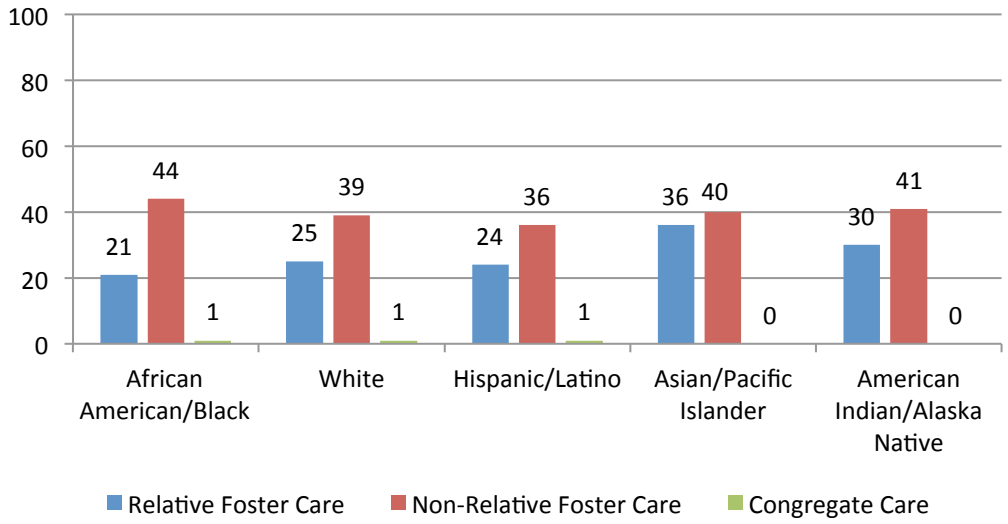




Median No. of Placements

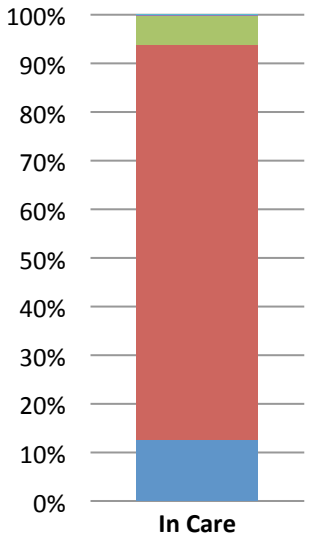


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

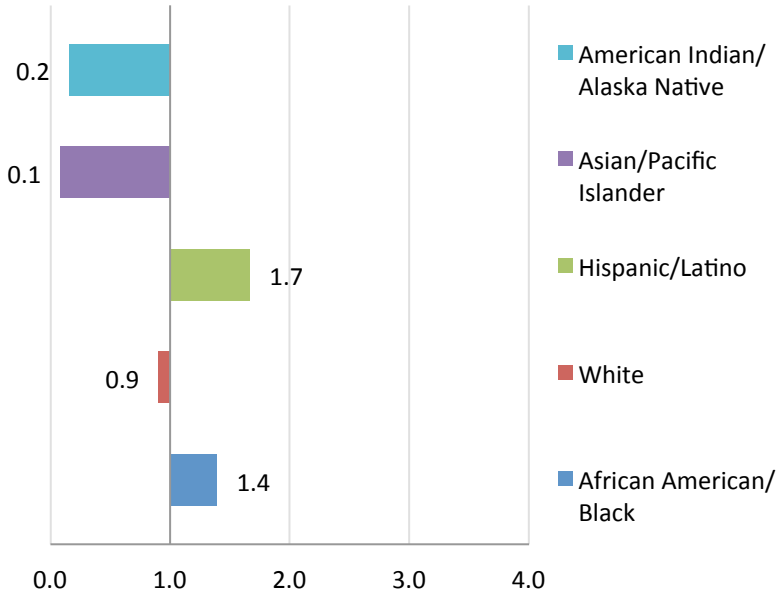


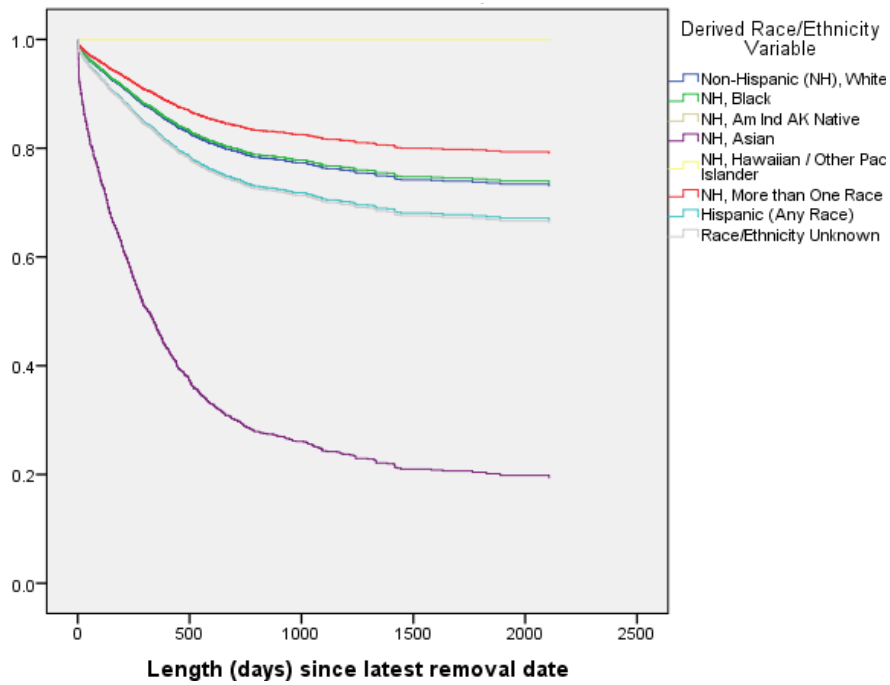
Kentucky

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

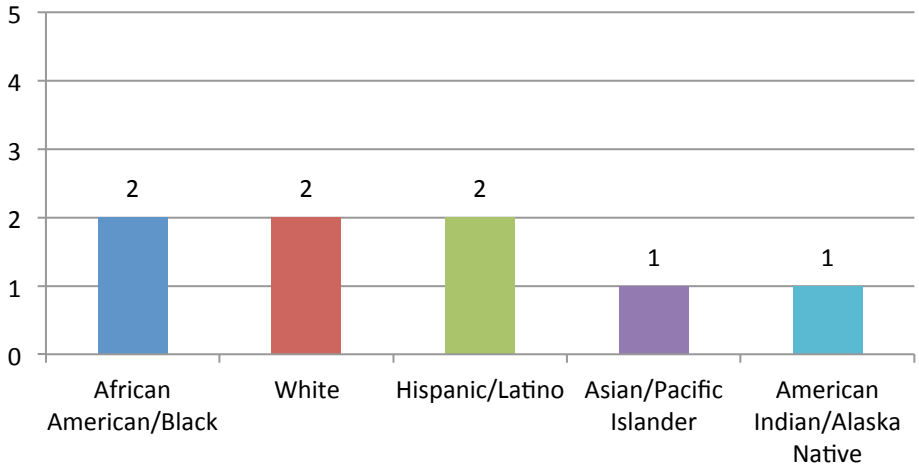


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

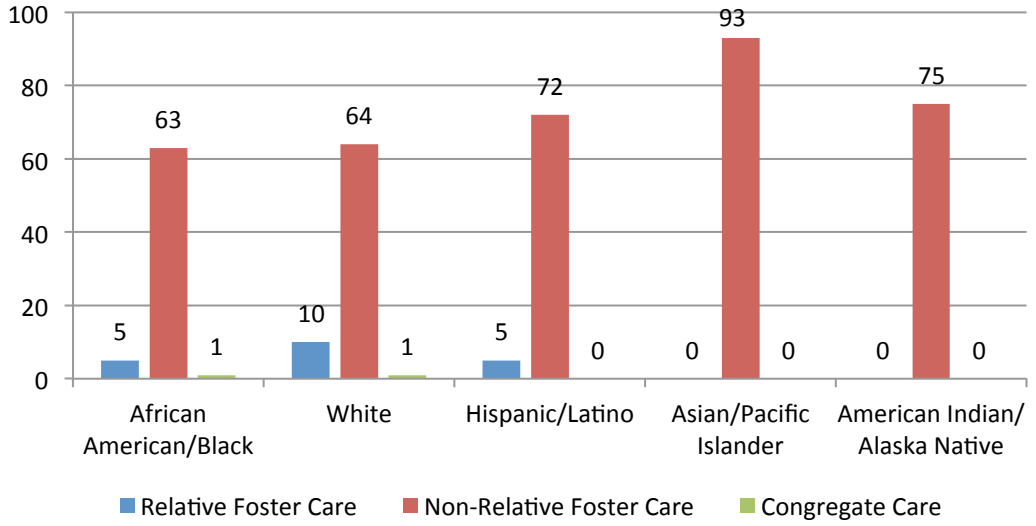




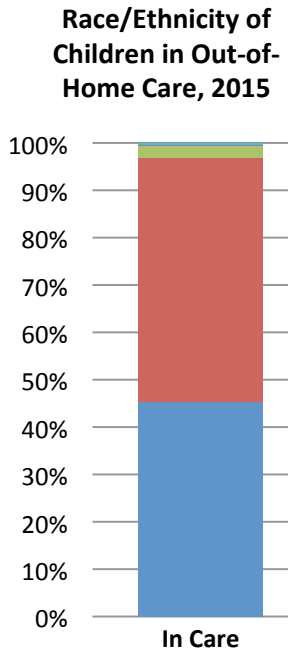
Median No. of Placements

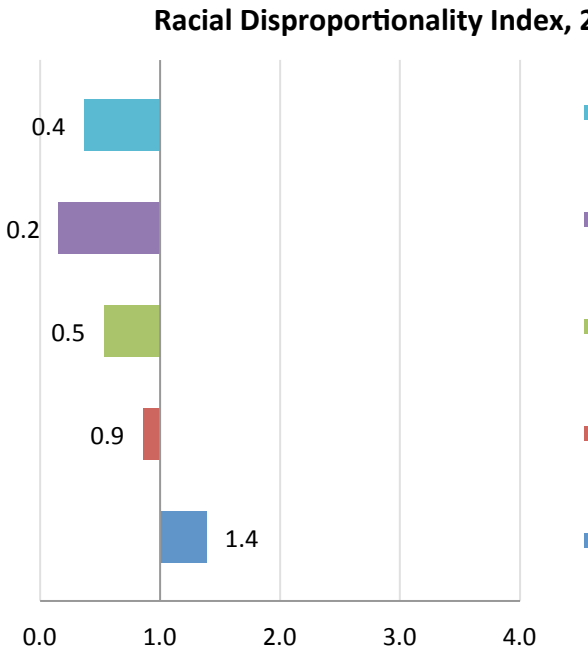


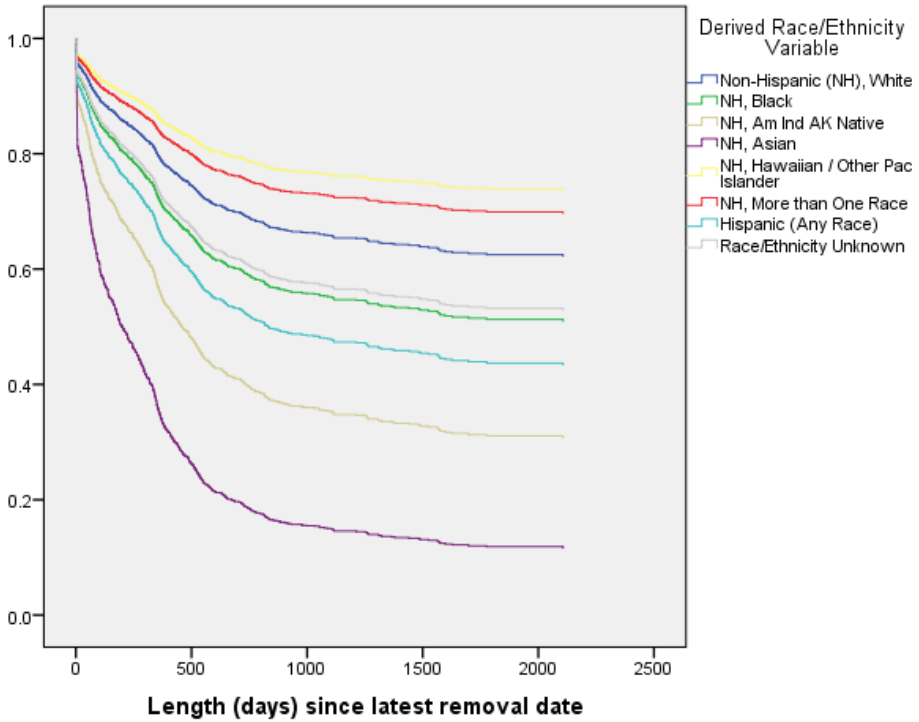
Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

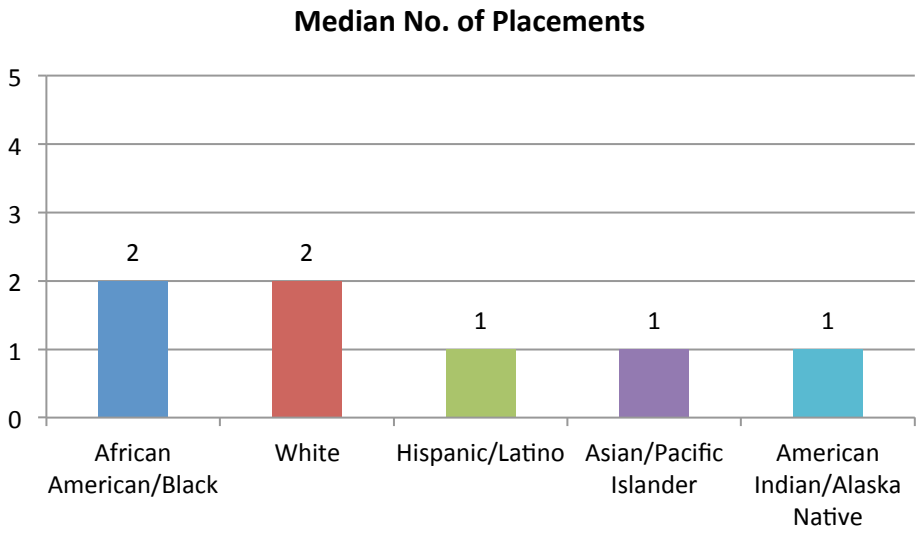


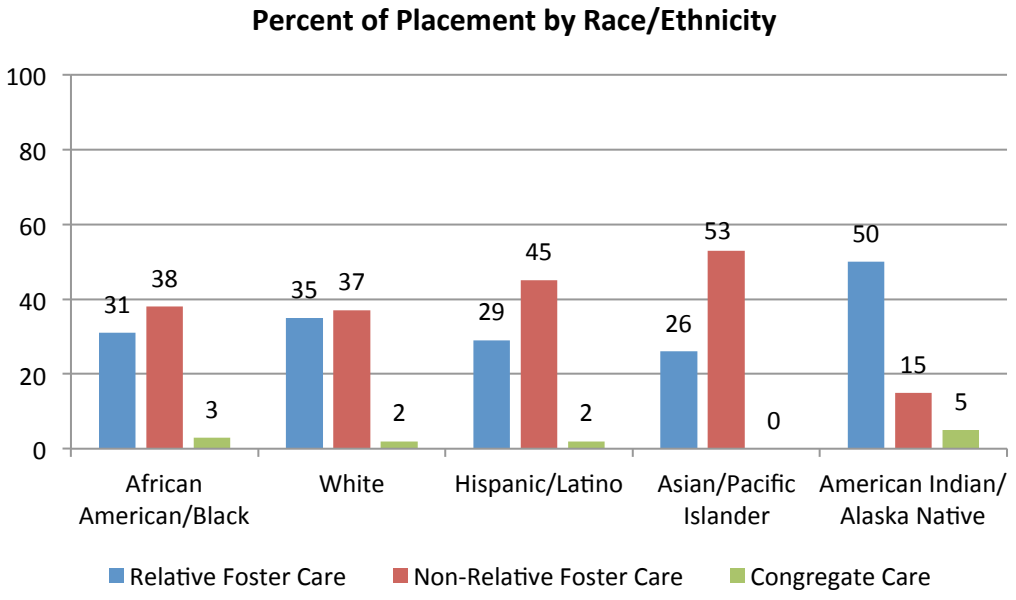
Louisiana


Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
In Care


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015
0.4
0.2
0.5
0.9
1.4
0.0
1.0
2.0
3.0
4.0
American Indian/ Alaska Native
Asian/Pacific Islander
Hispanic/Latino
White
African American/ Black

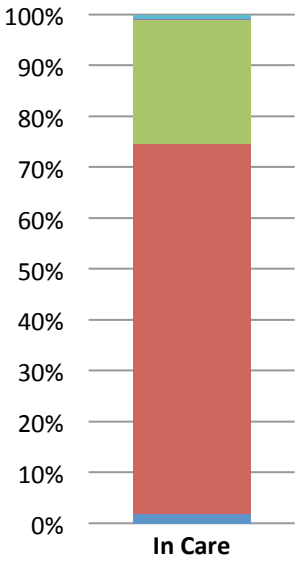

1.0
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0.0
0
500
1000
1500
2000
2500
Length (days) since latest removal date
Derived Race/Ethnicity Variable
Non-Hispanic (NH), White
NH, Black
NH, Am Ind AK Native
NH, Asian
NH, Hawaiian / Other Pac Islander
NH, More than One Race
Hispanic (Any Race)
Race/Ethnicity Unknown


Median No. of Placements
5
4
3
2
1
0
2
2
1
1
1
African American/Black
White
Hispanic/Latino
Asian/Pacific Islander
American Indian/Alaska Native

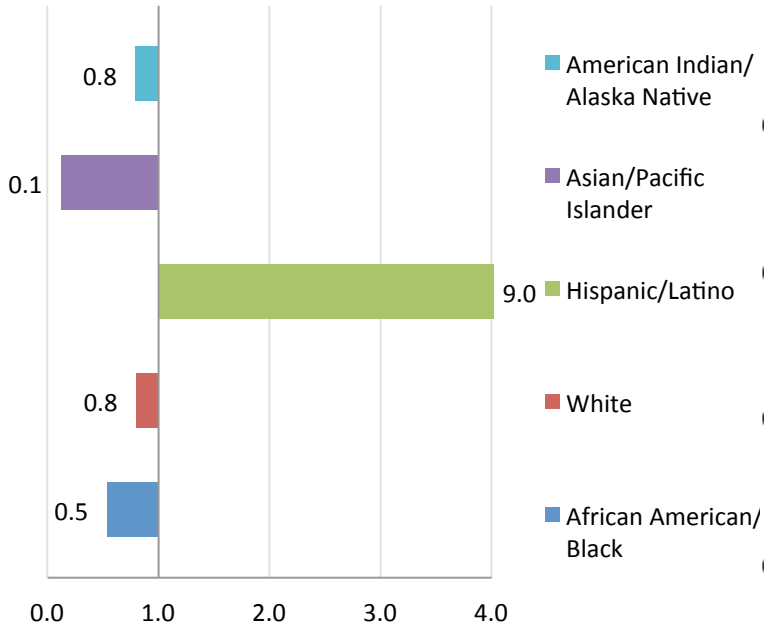

Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity
100
80
60
40
20
0
31
38
3
35
37
2
29
45
2
26
53
0
50
15
5
African American/Black
White
Hispanic/Latino
Asian/Pacific Islander
American Indian/ Alaska Native
Relative Foster Care
Non-Relative Foster Care
Congregate Care

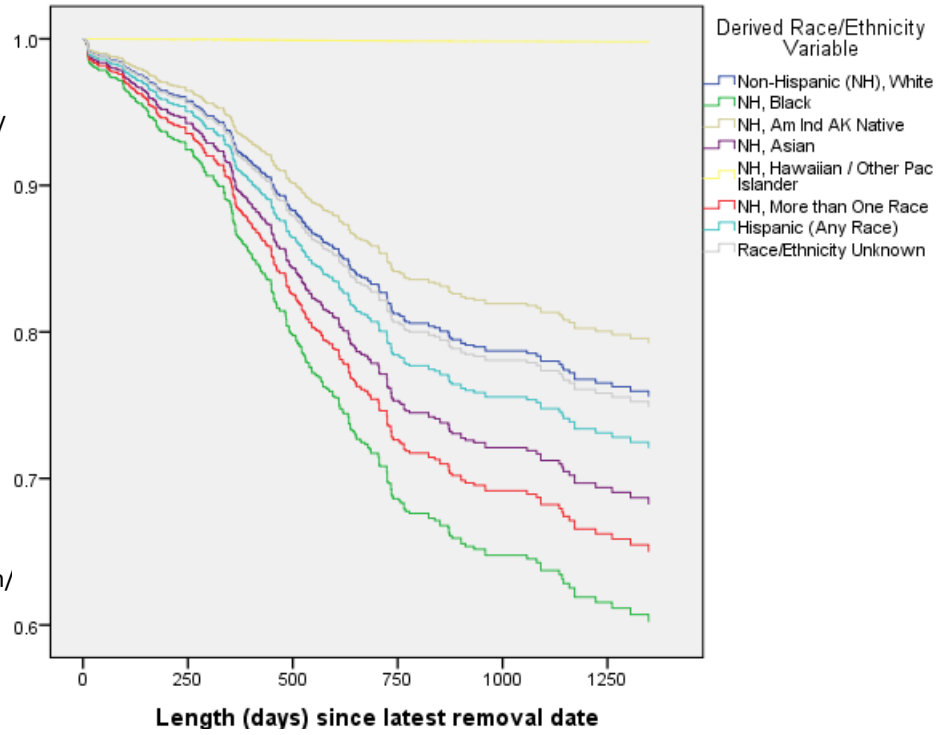
Maine

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

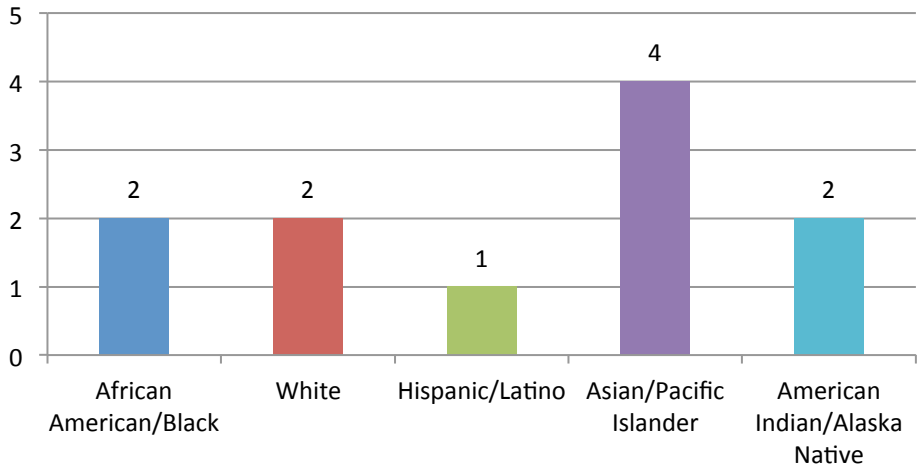


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

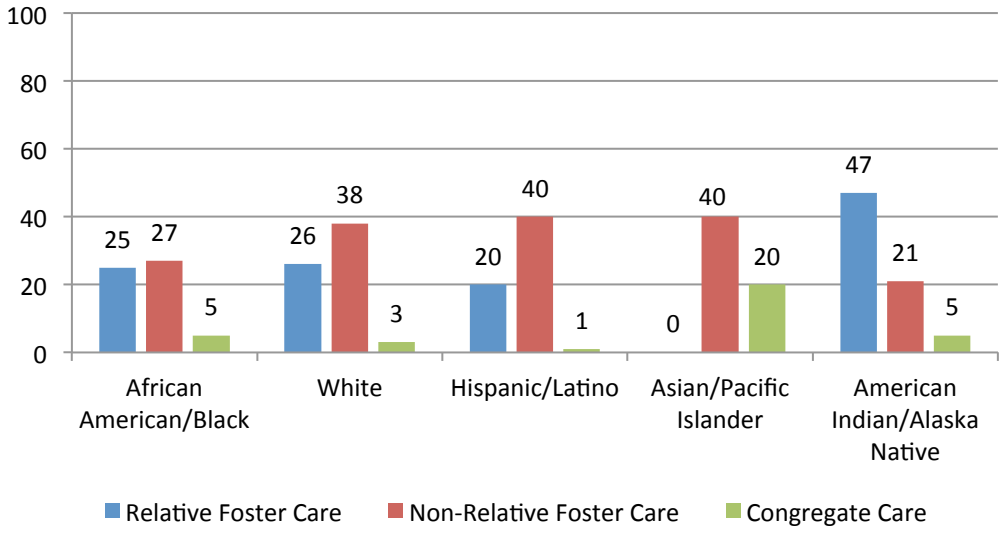




Median No. of Placements

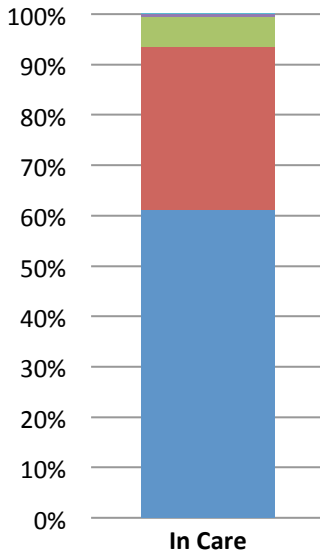


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

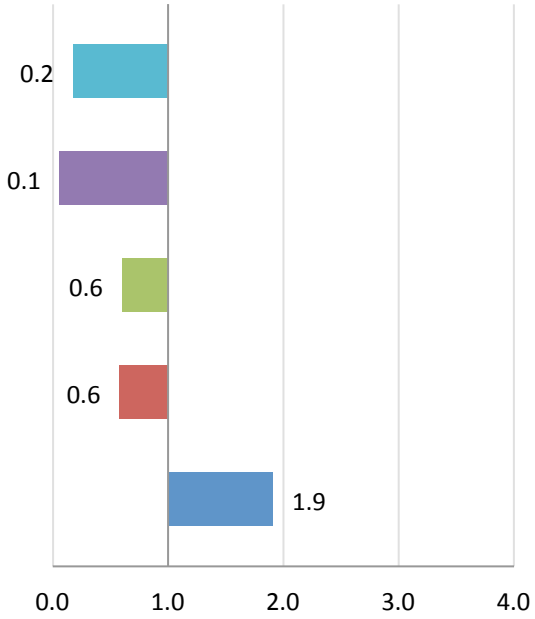


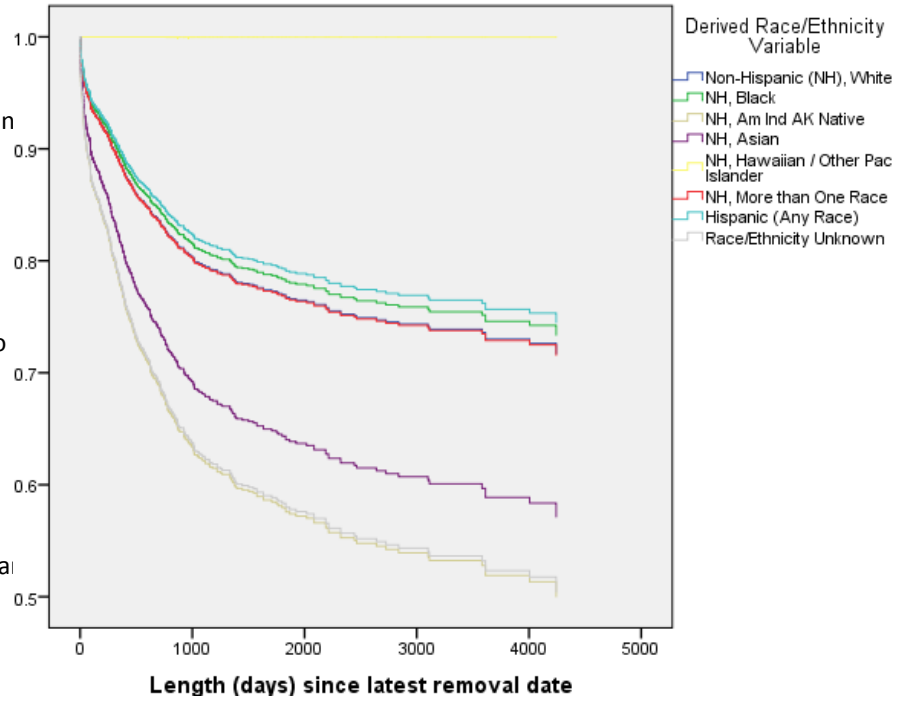
Maryland

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

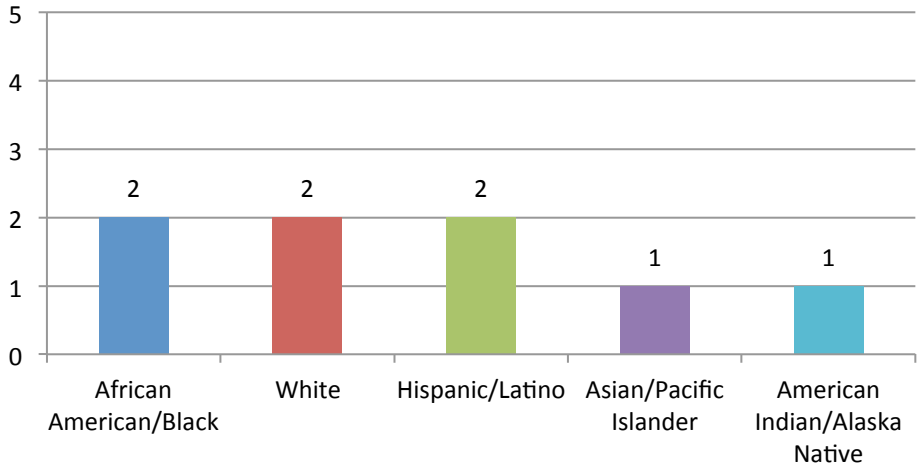


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

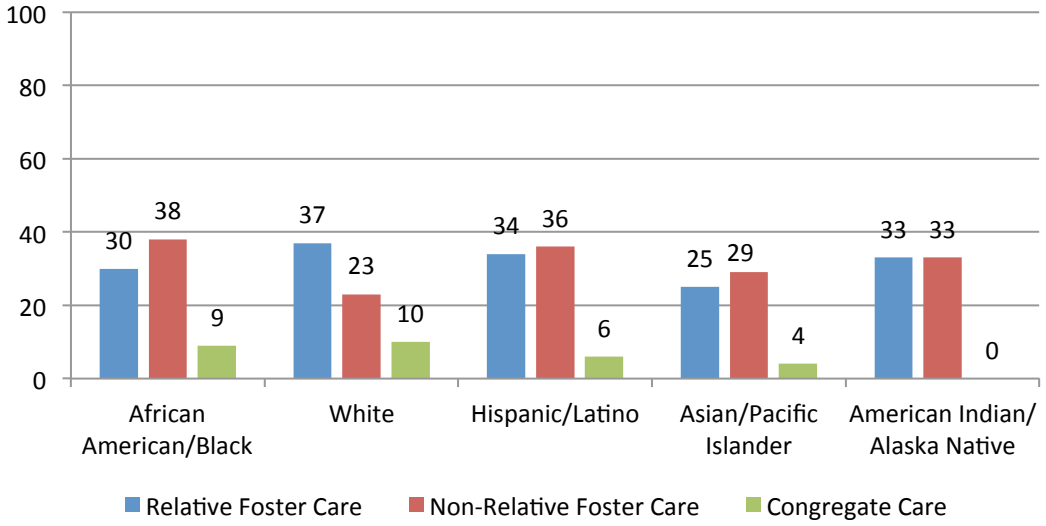




Median No. of Placements

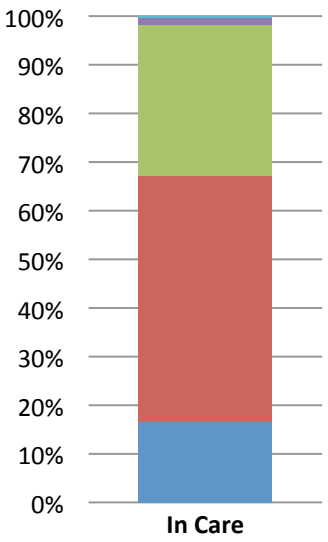


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

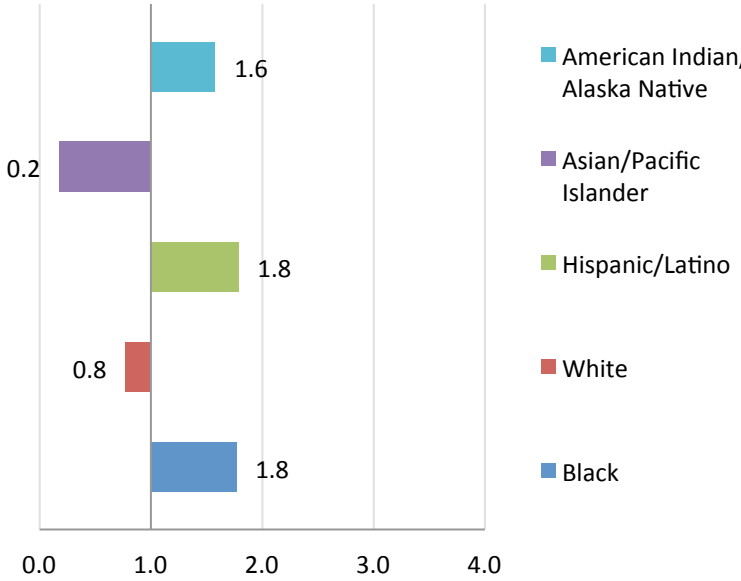


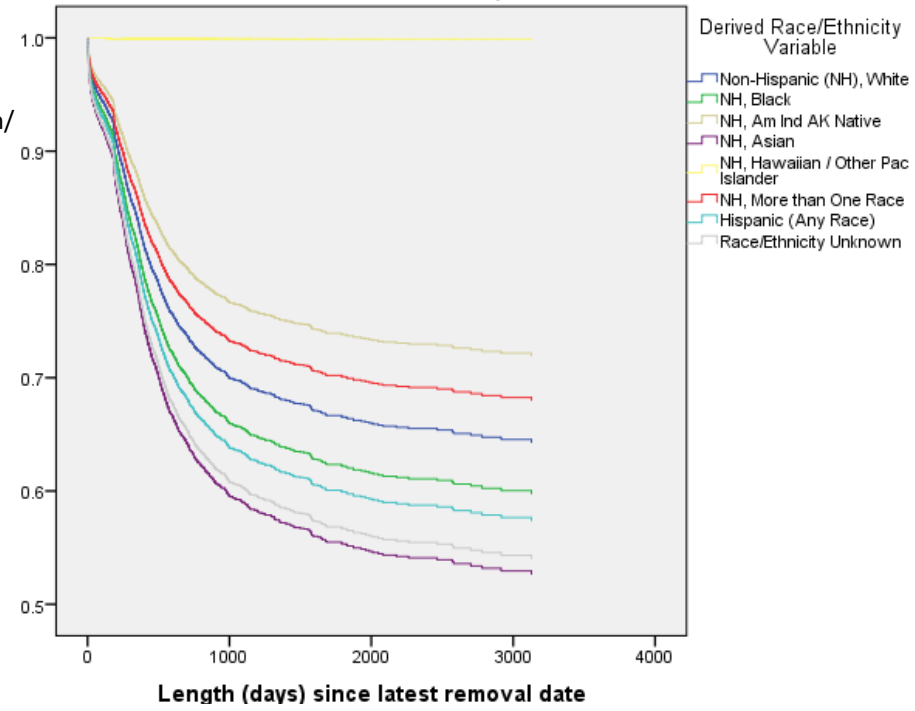
Massachusetts

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

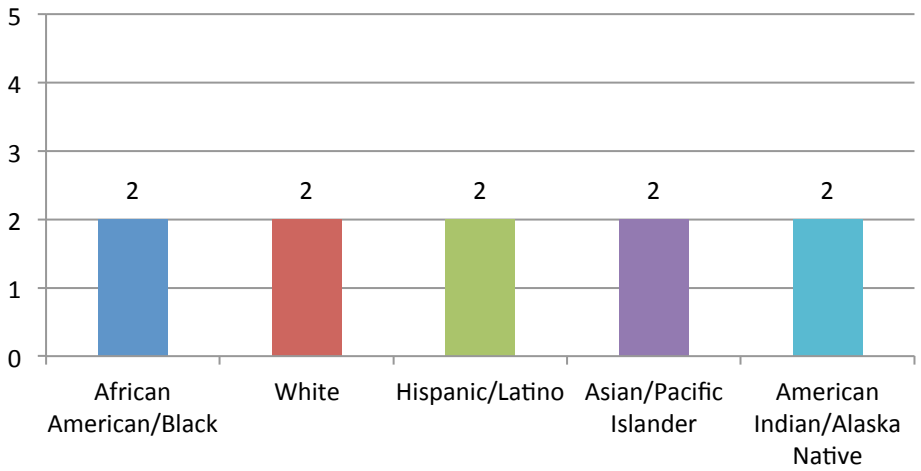


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

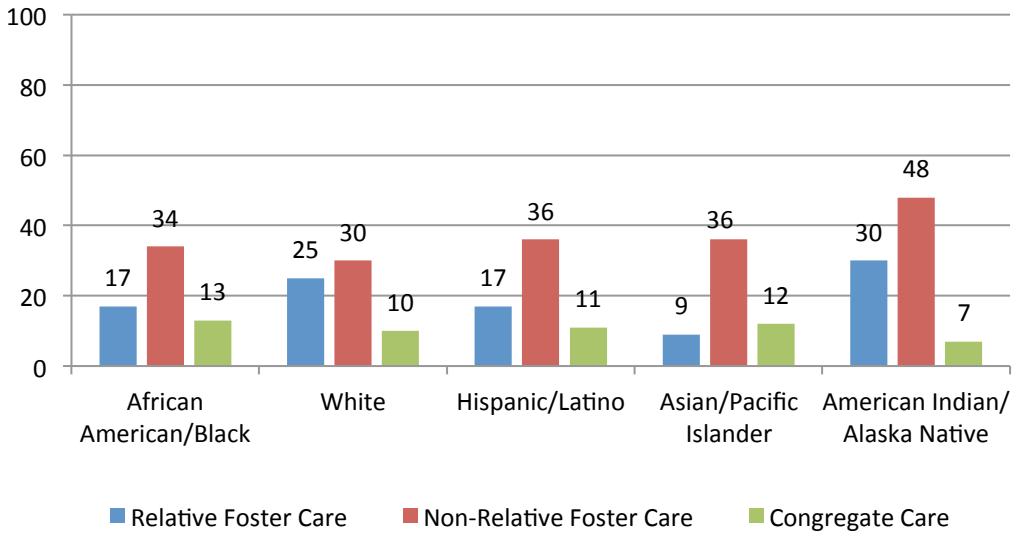




Median No. of Placements

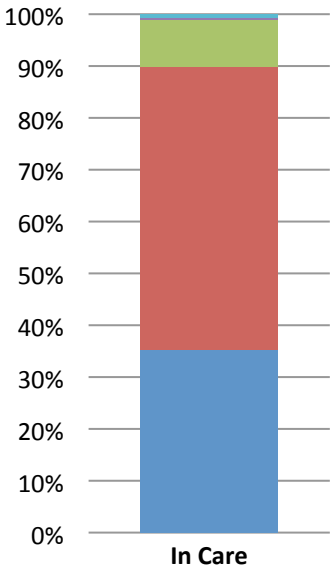


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

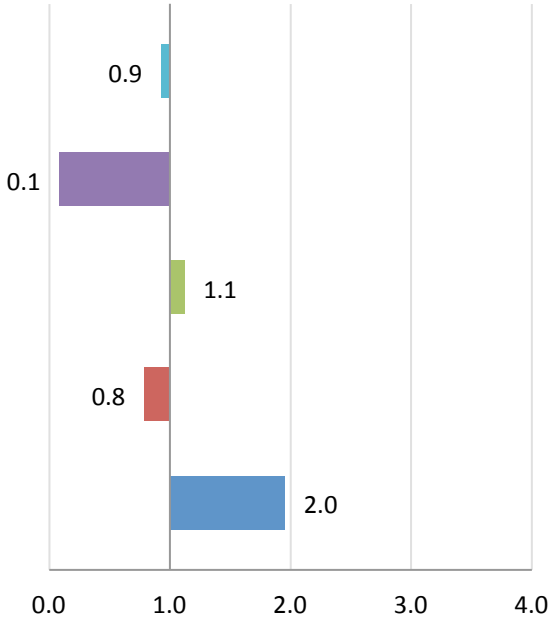


Michigan

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015



Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015



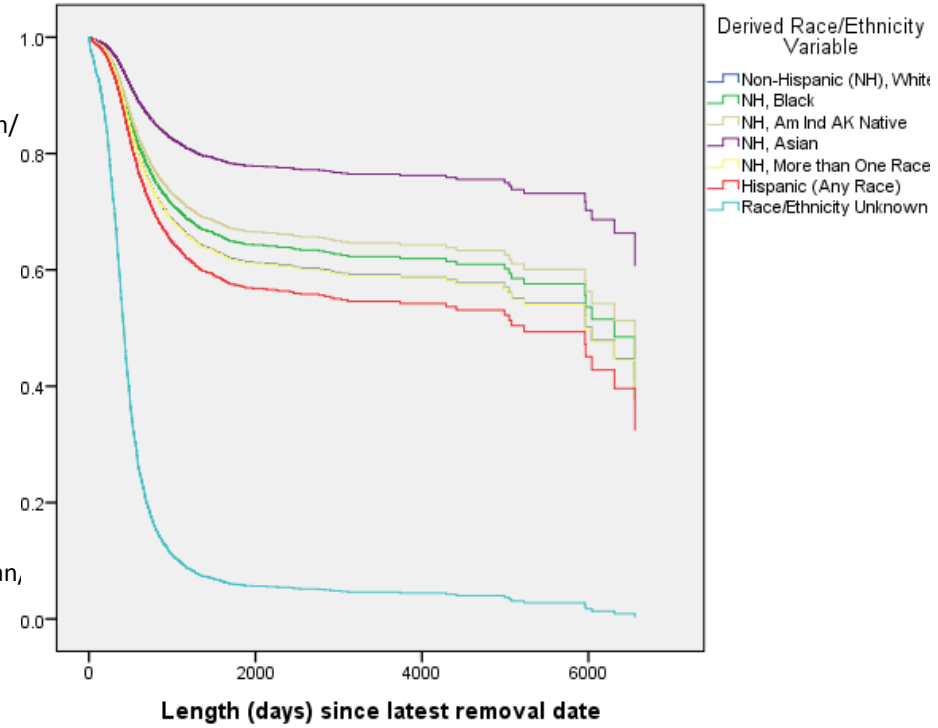
American Indian/ Alaska Native

Asian/Pacific Islander

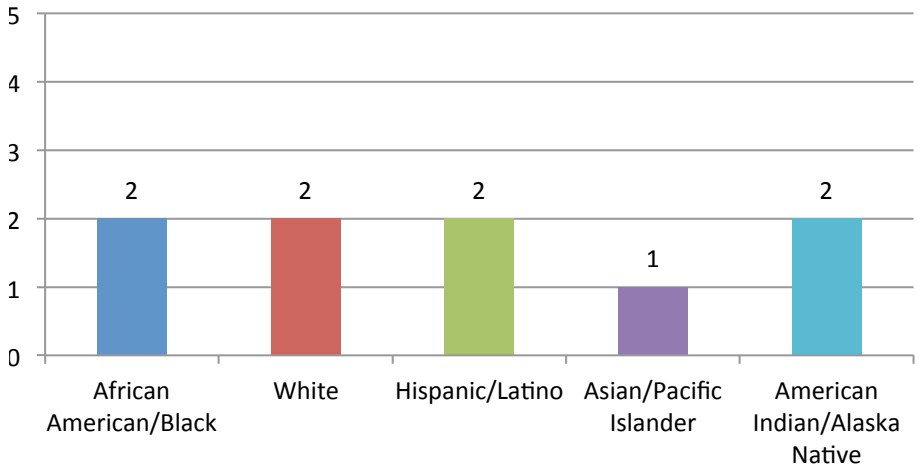
Hispanic/Latino

White

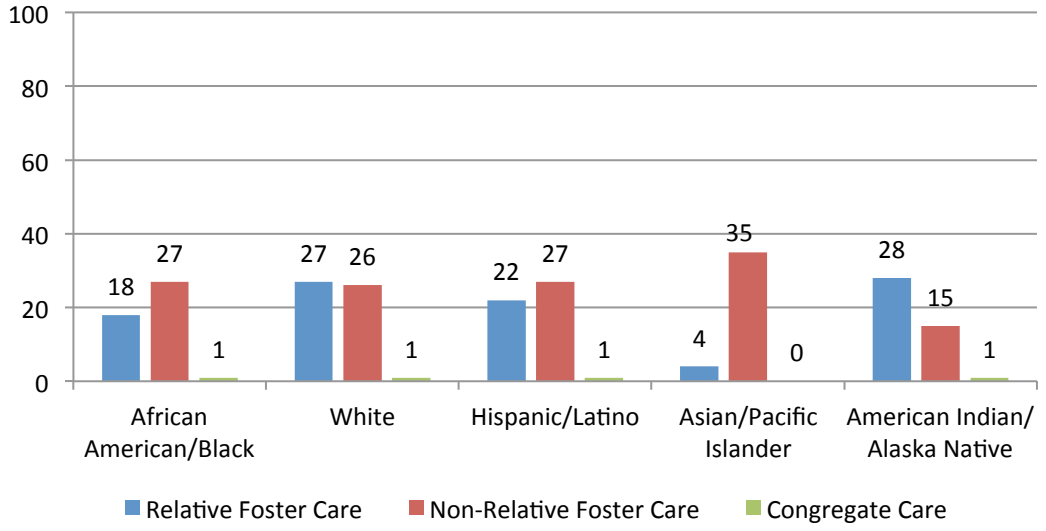
African American, Black



Median No. of Placements

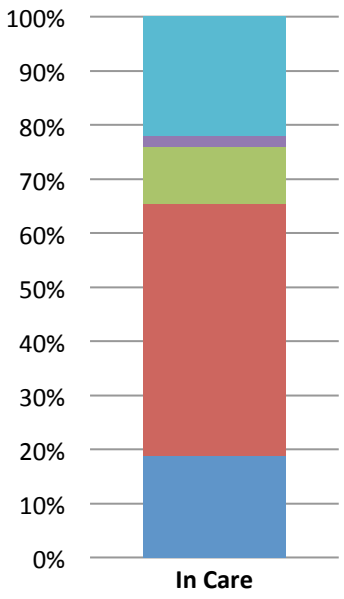


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

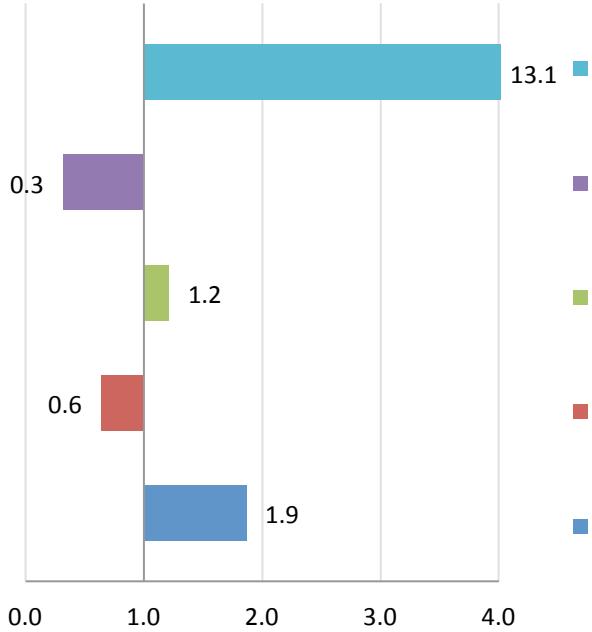


Minnesota

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015



Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015



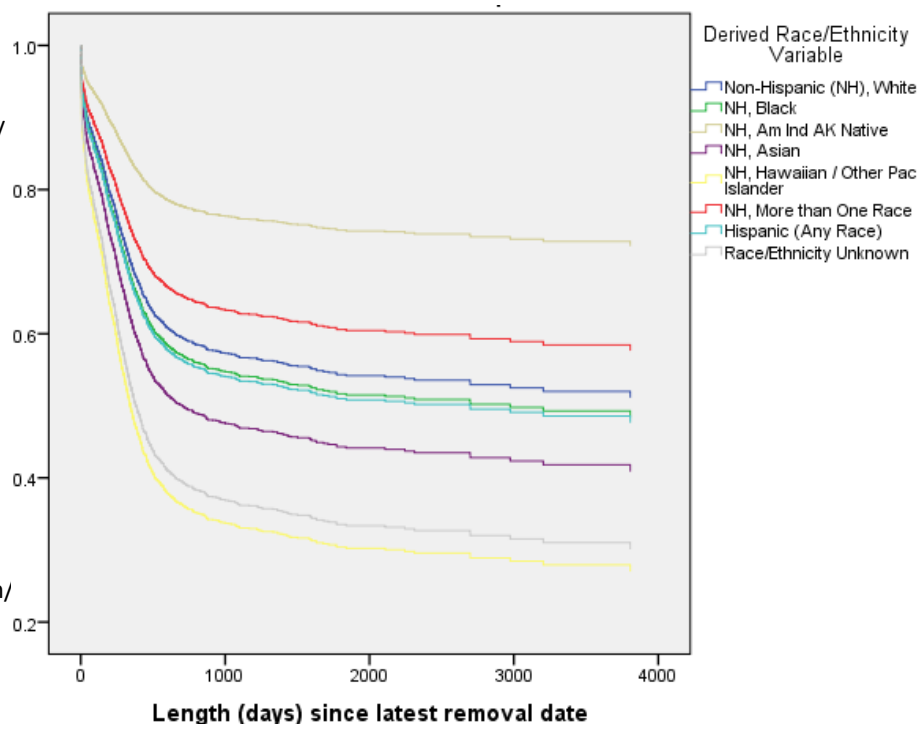
American Indian/ Alaska Native

Asian/Pacific Islander

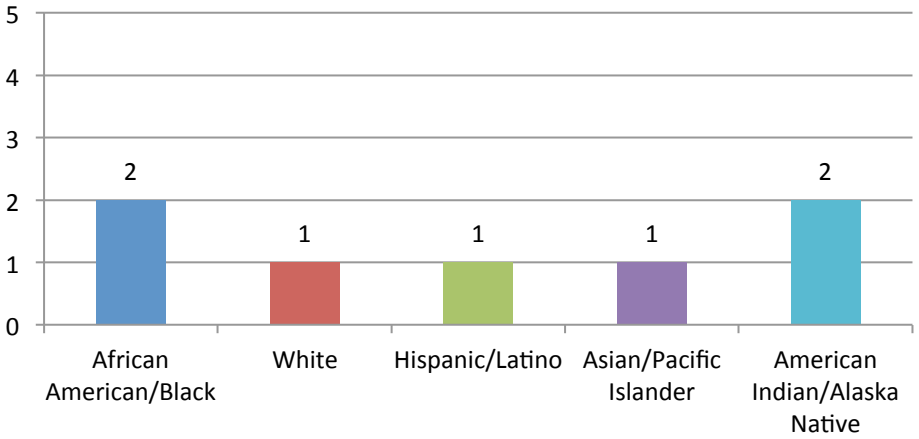
Hispanic/Latino

White

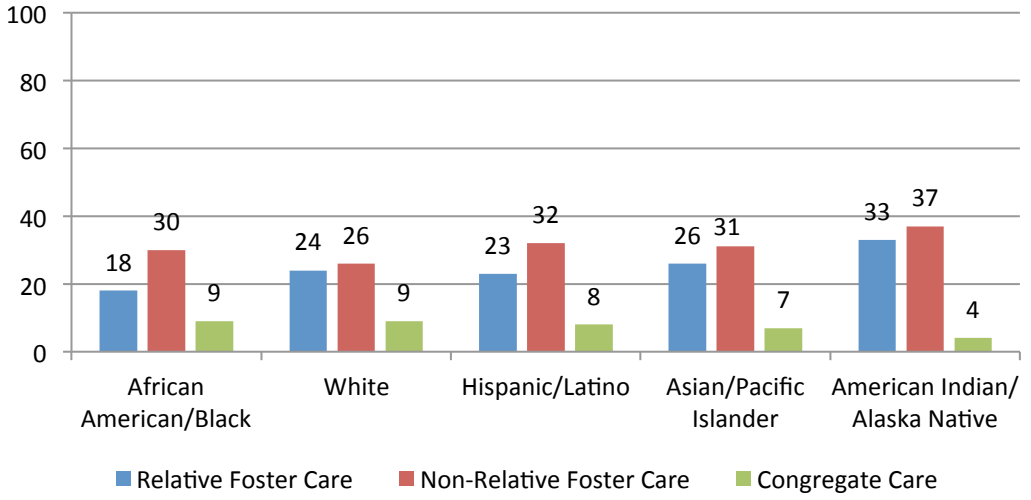
African American/ Black



Median No. of Placements

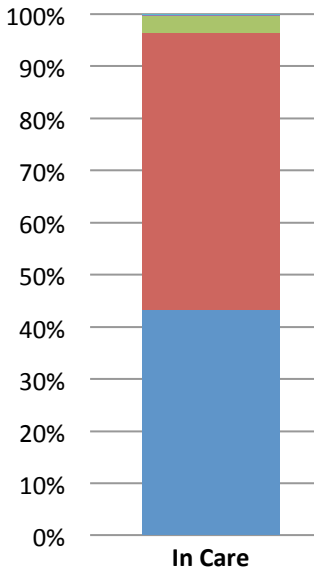


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

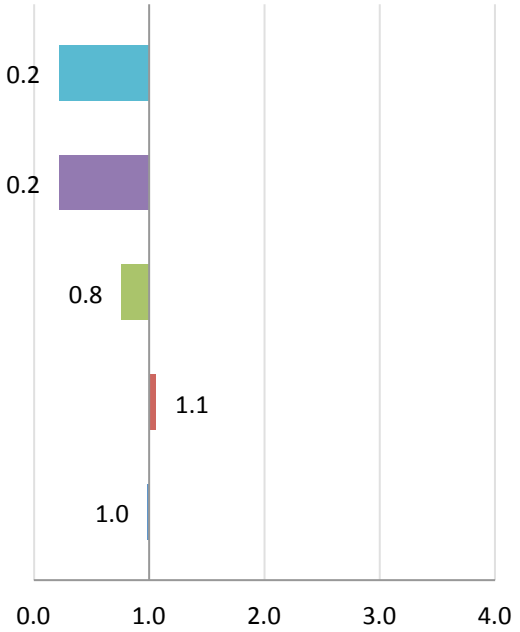


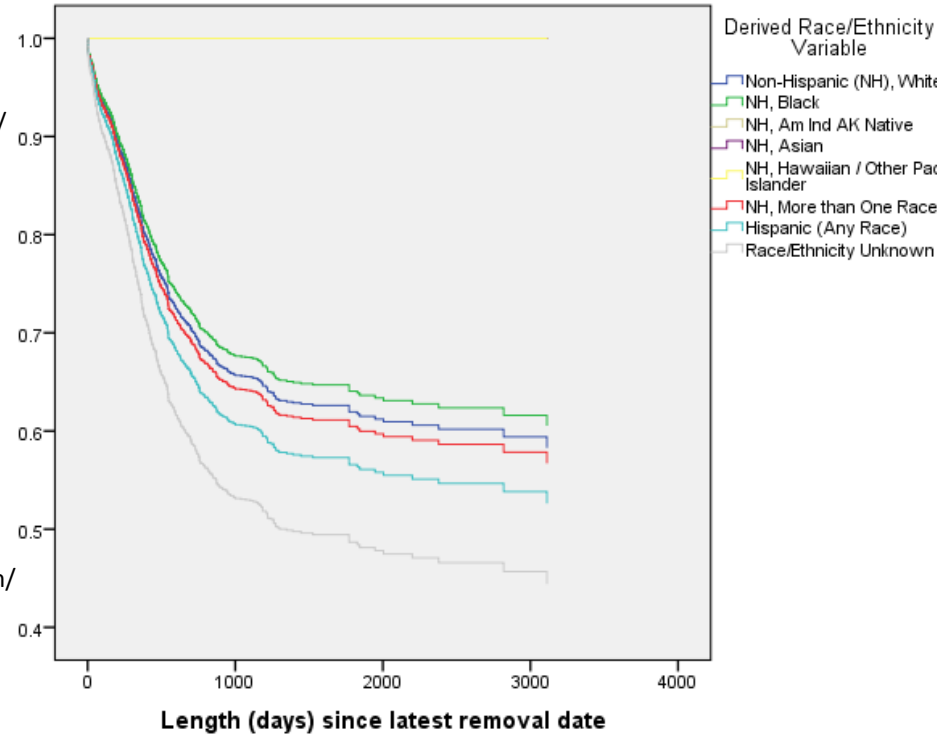
Mississippi

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

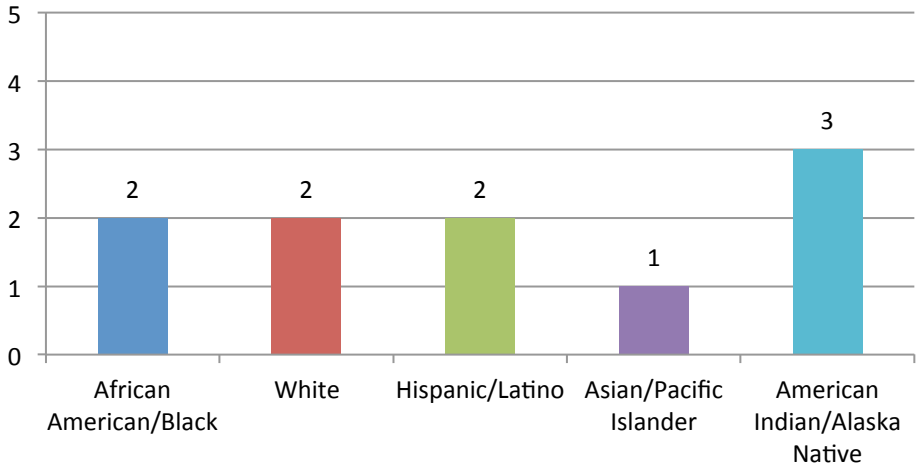


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

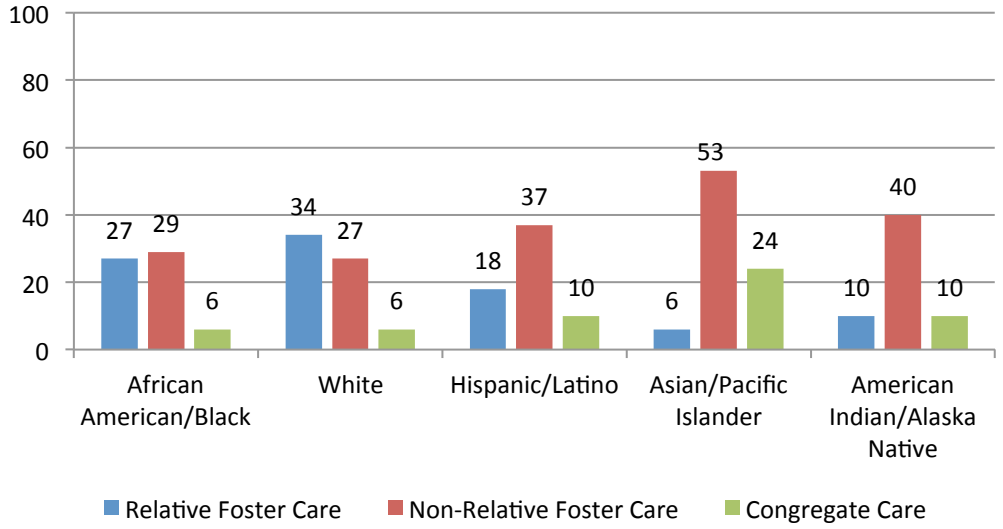




Median No. of Placements

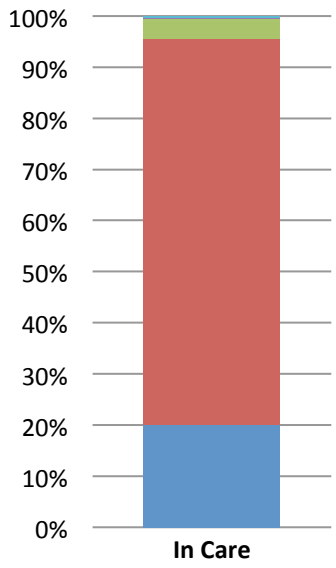


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

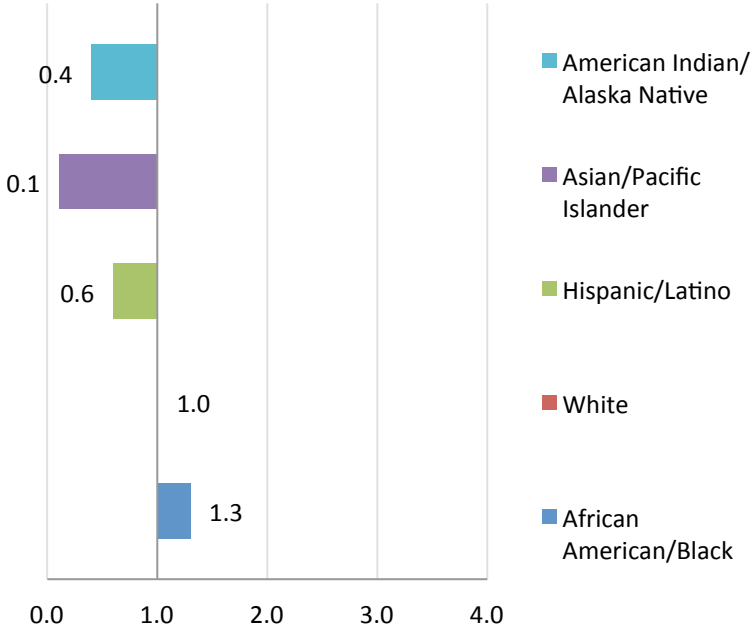


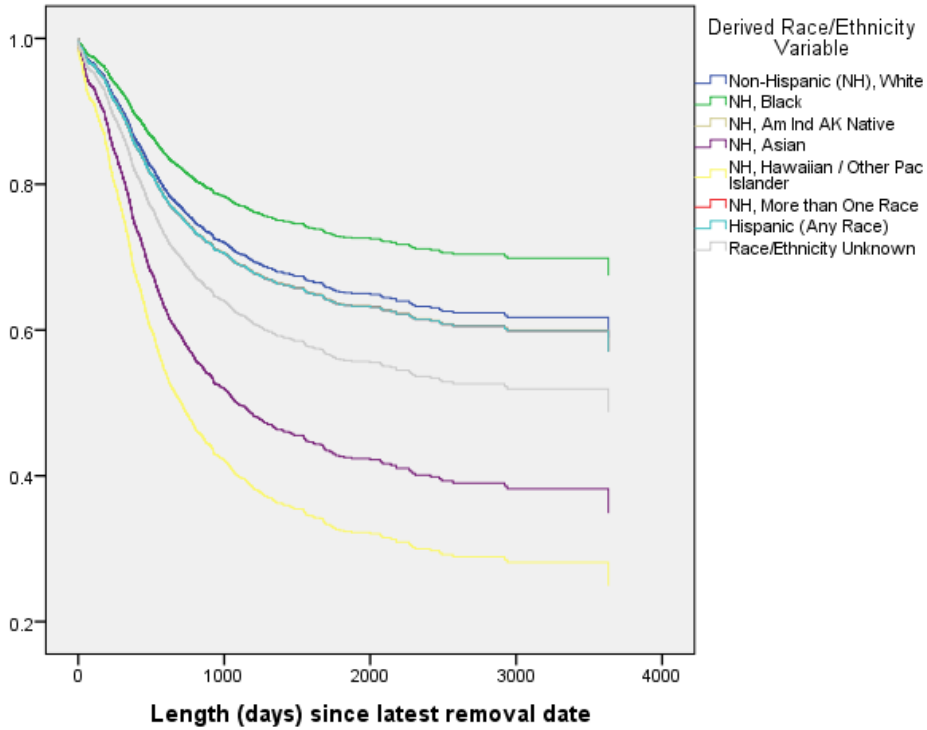
Missouri

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

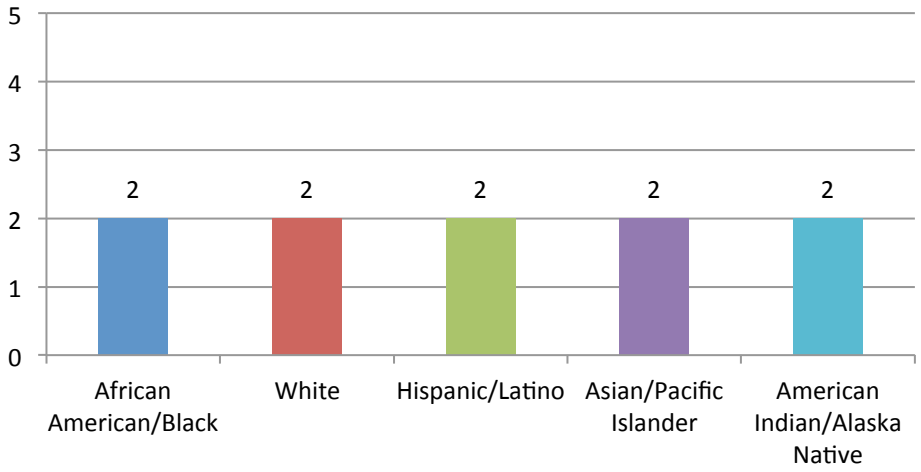


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

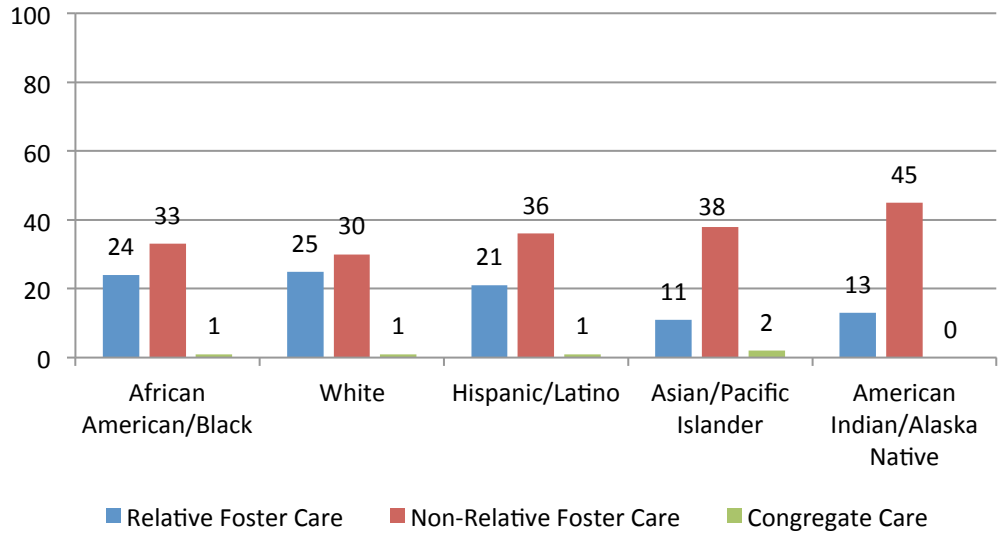




Median No. of Placements

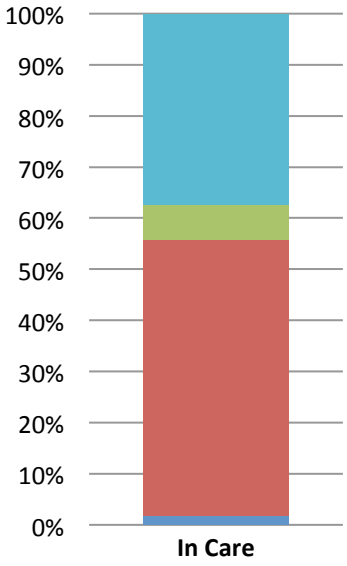


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

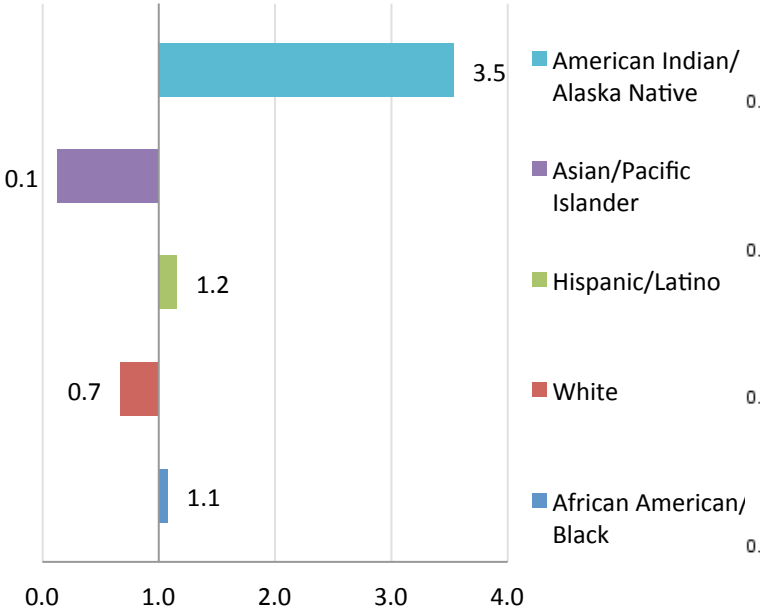


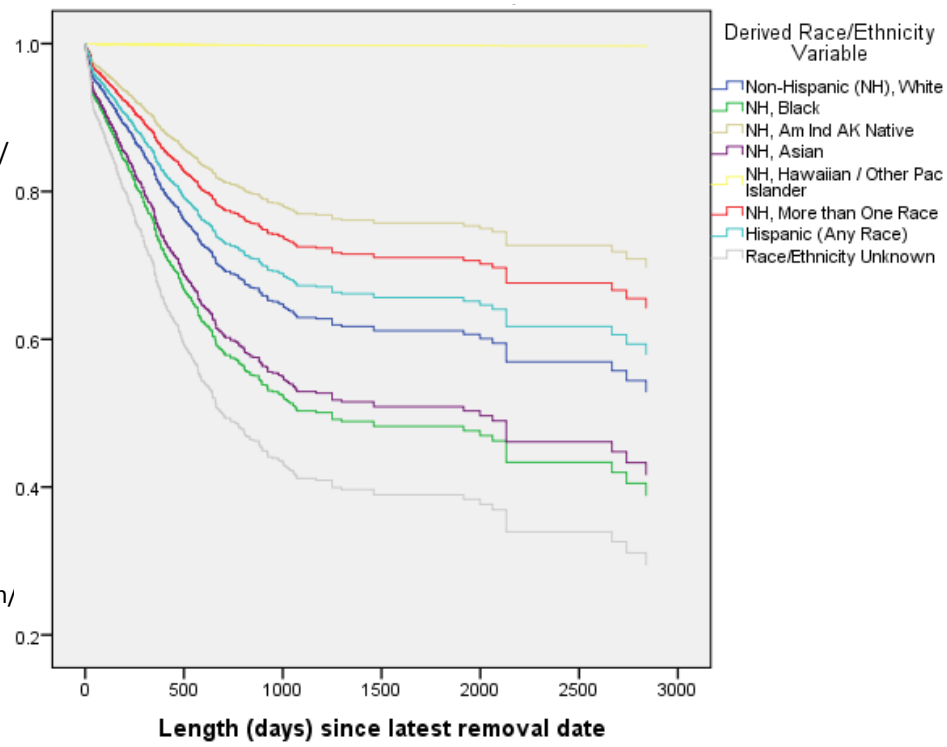
Montana

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

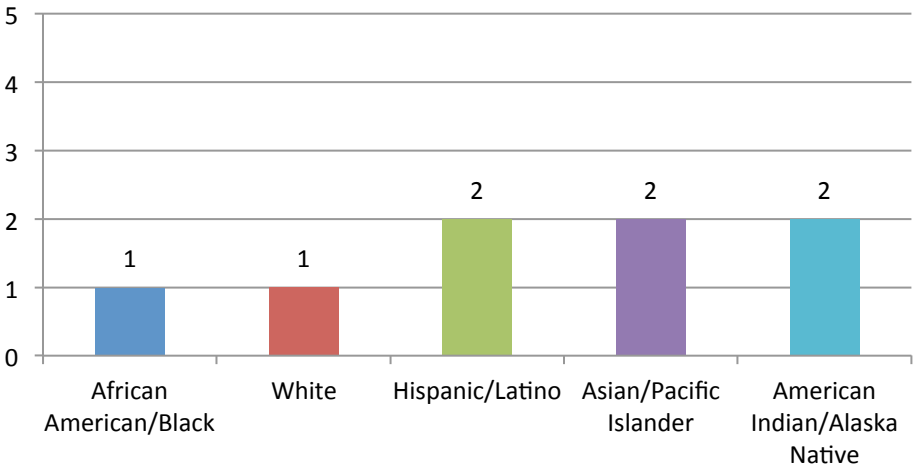


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

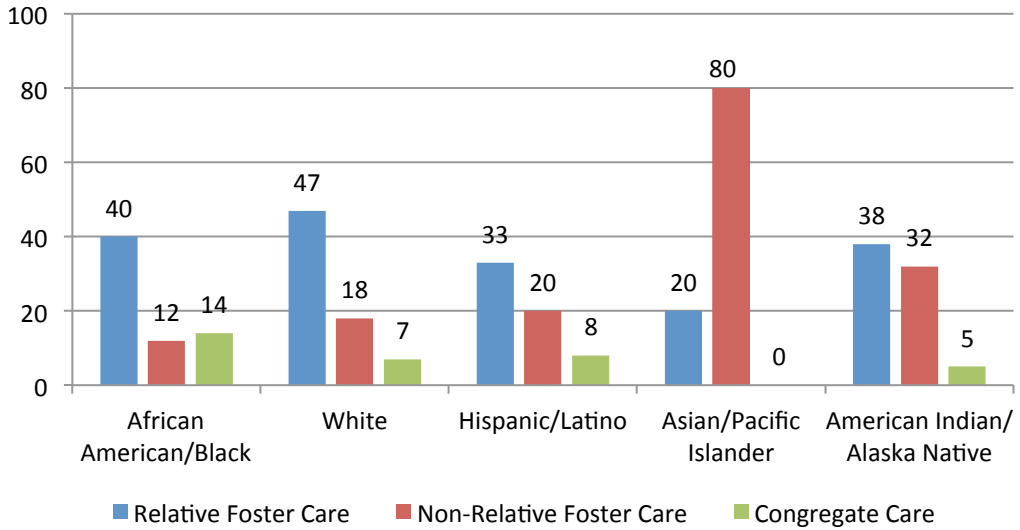




Median No. of Placements

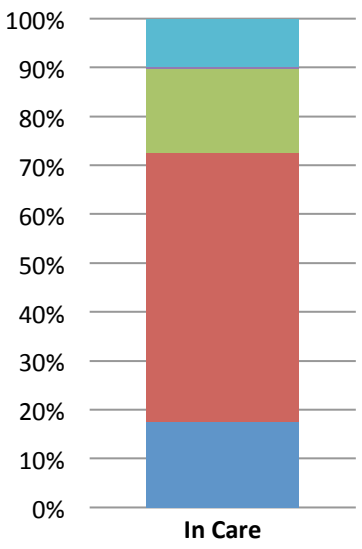


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

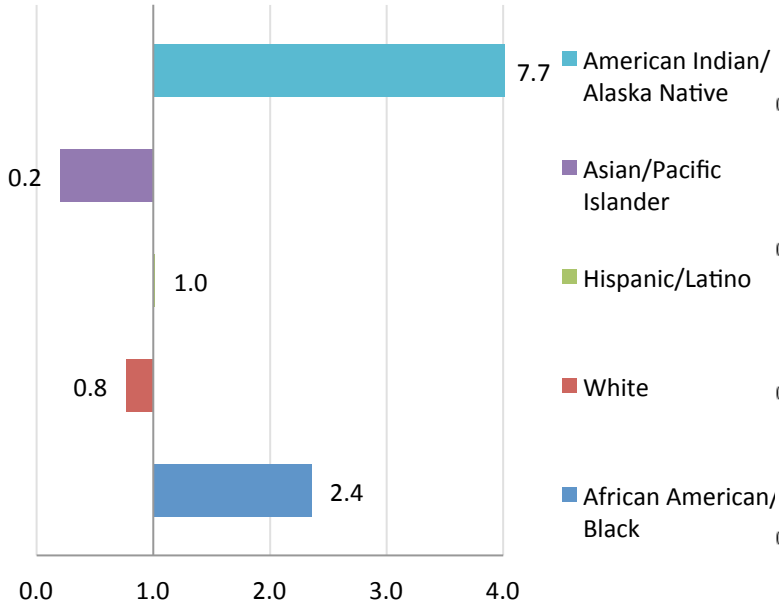


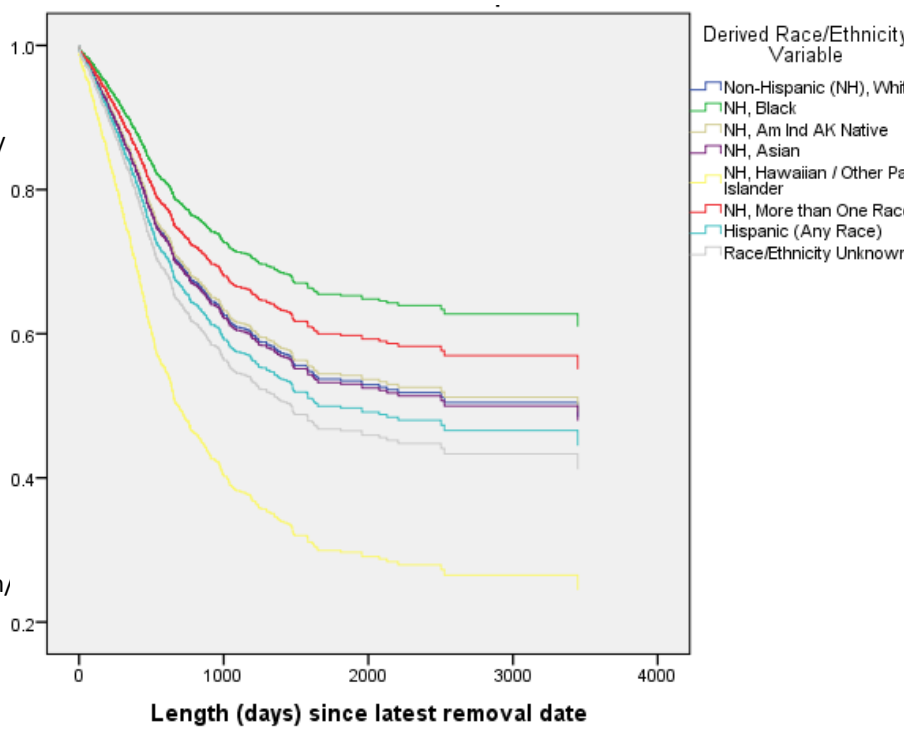
Nebraska

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

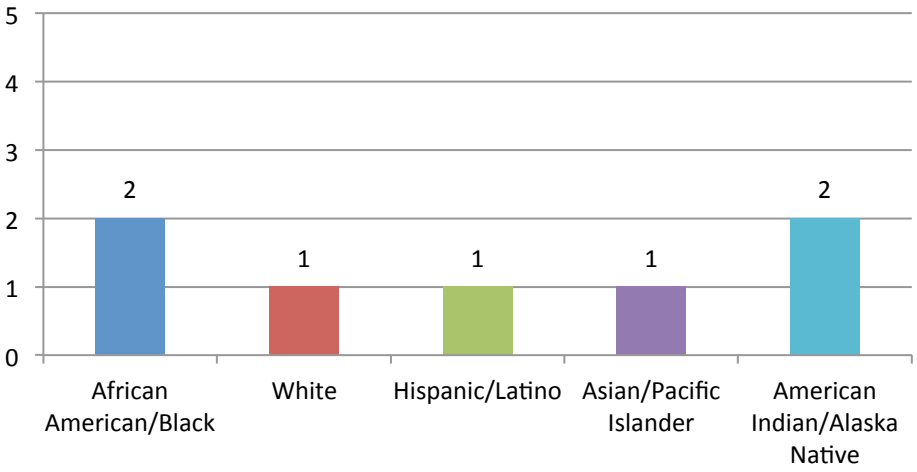


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

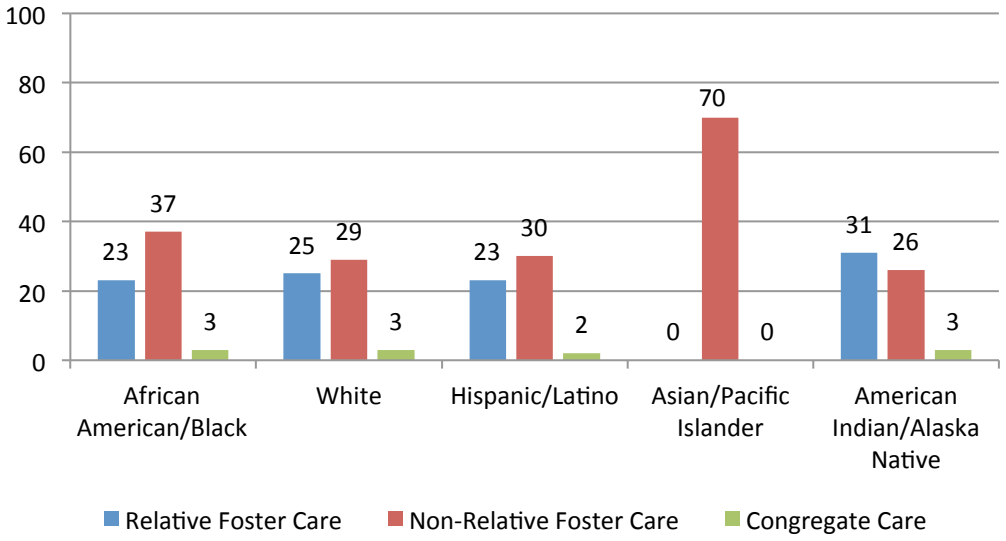




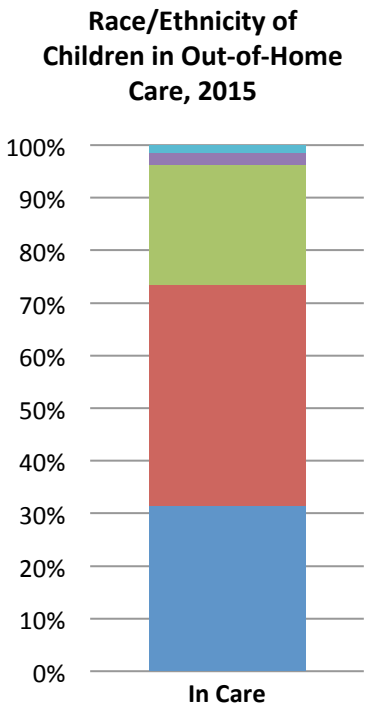
Median No. of Placements

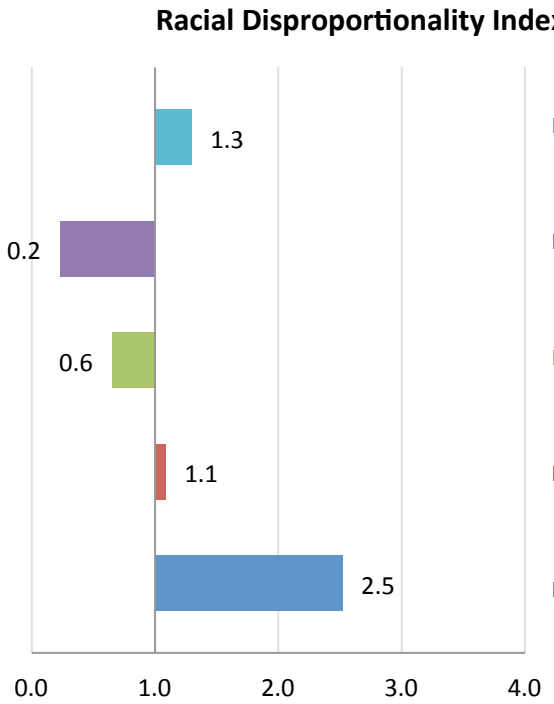


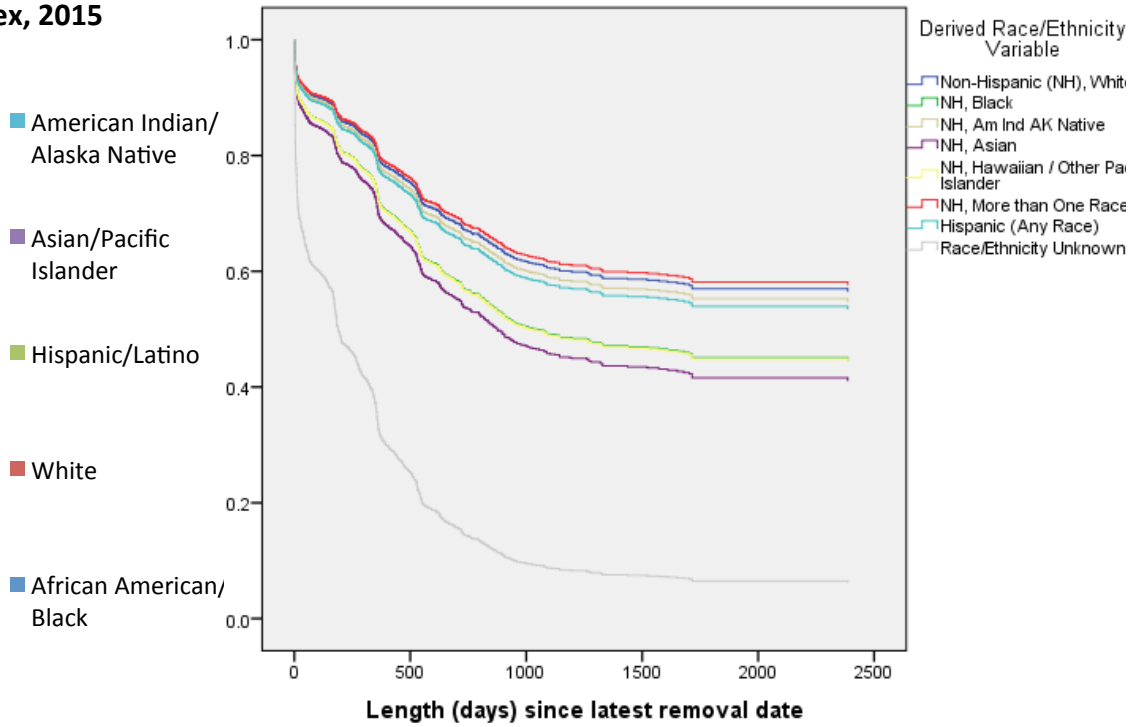
Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity



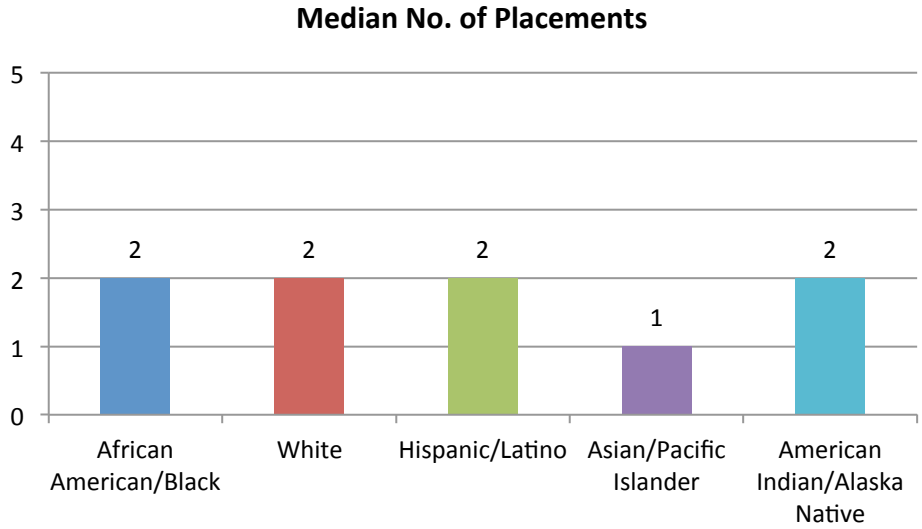
Nevada

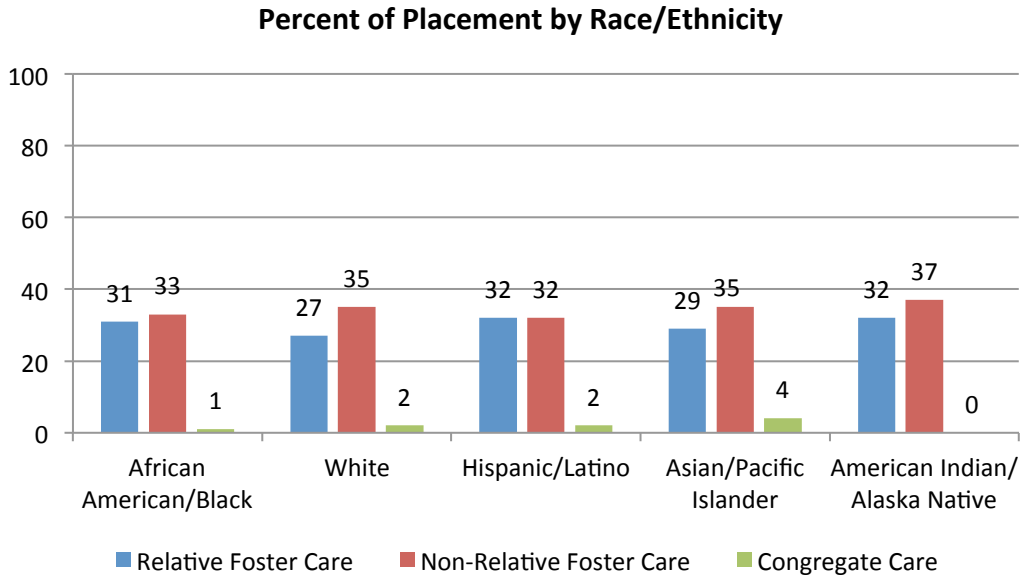

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
In Care


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015
1.3
0.2
0.6
1.1
2.5
0.0
1.0
2.0
3.0
4.0

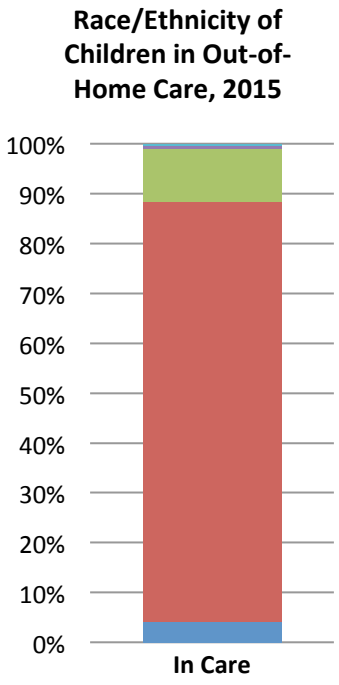

American Indian/ Alaska Native
Asian/Pacific Islander
Hispanic/Latino
White
African American/ Black

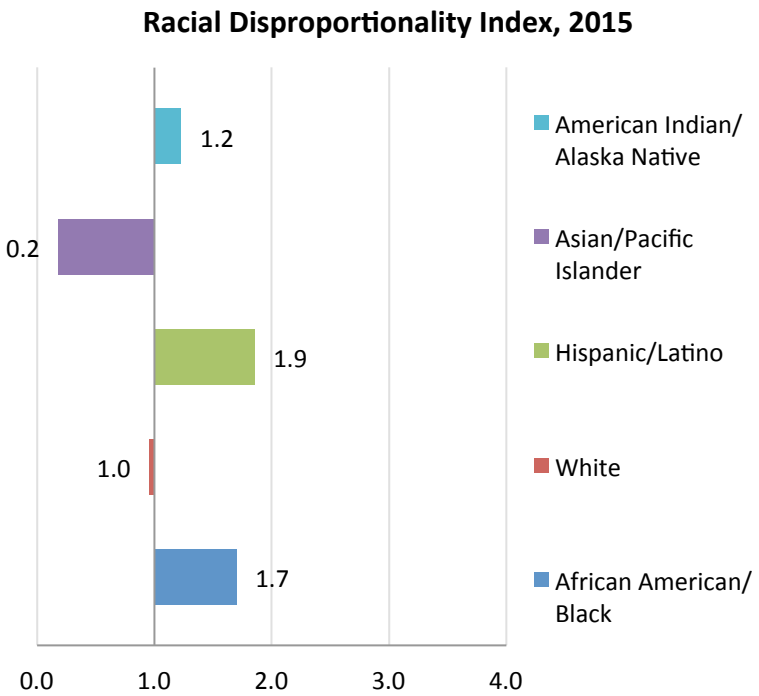
1.0
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0.0
0
500
1000
1500
2000
2500
Length (days) since latest removal date
Derived Race/Ethnicity Variable
Non-Hispanic (NH), White
NH, Black
NH, Am Ind AK Native
NH, Asian
NH, Hawaiian / Other Pac Islander
NH, More than One Race
Hispanic (Any Race)
Race/Ethnicity Unknown

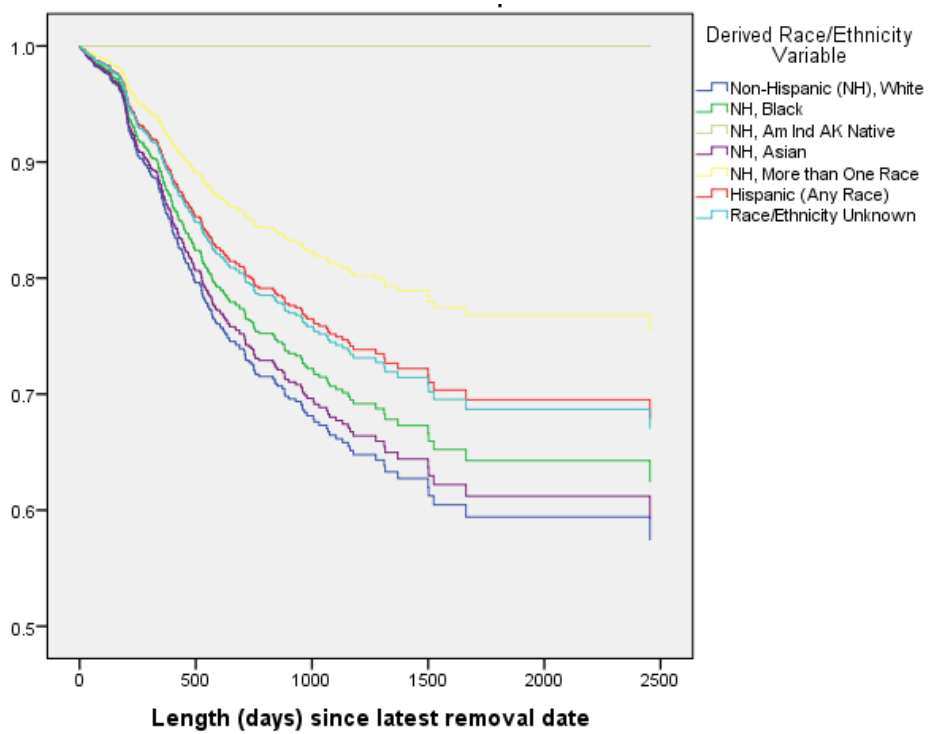

Median No. of Placements
5
4
3
2
1
0
2
2
2
1
2
African American/Black
White
Hispanic/Latino
Asian/Pacific Islander
American Indian/Alaska Native

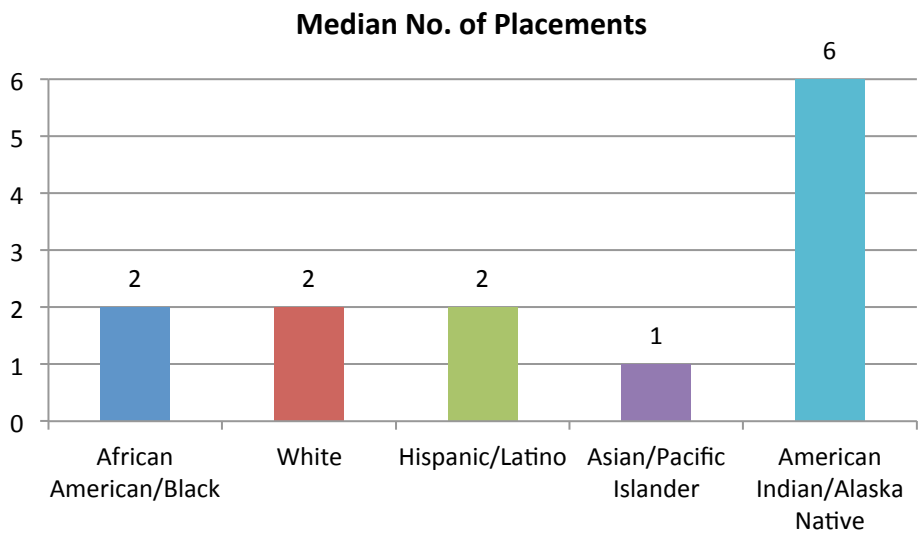

Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity
100
80
60
40
20
0
31
33
1
27
35
2
32
32
2
29
35
4
32
37
0
African American/Black
White
Hispanic/Latino
Asian/Pacific Islander
American Indian/ Alaska Native
Relative Foster Care
Non-Relative Foster Care
Congregate Care

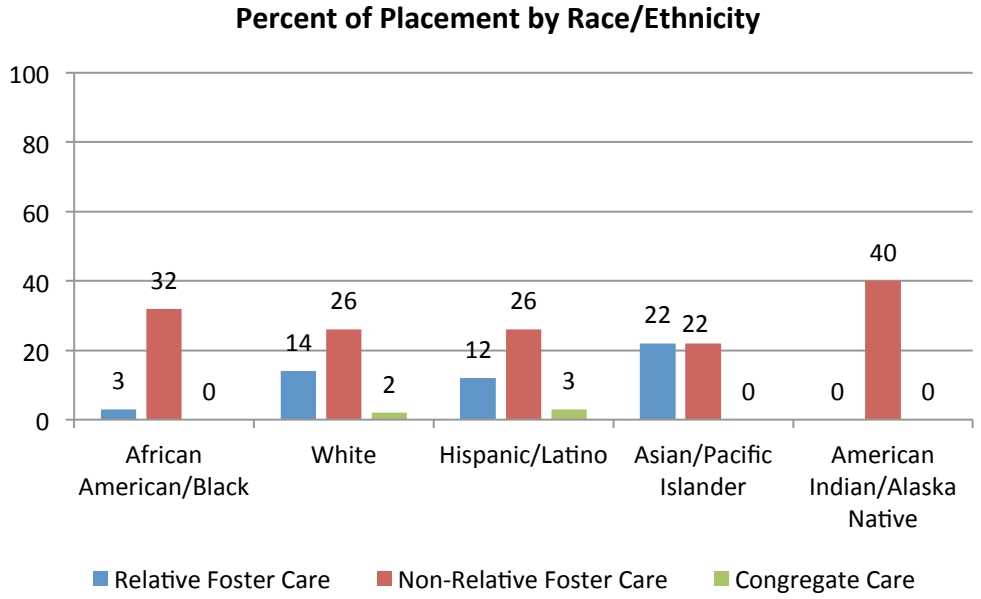
New Hampshire





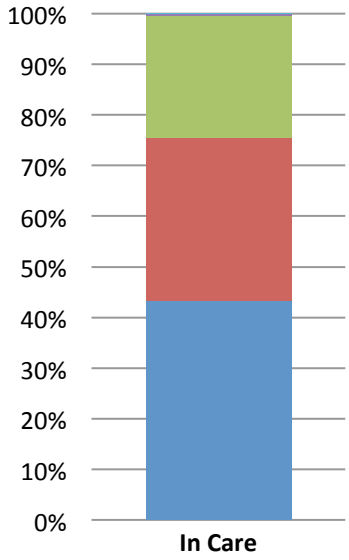




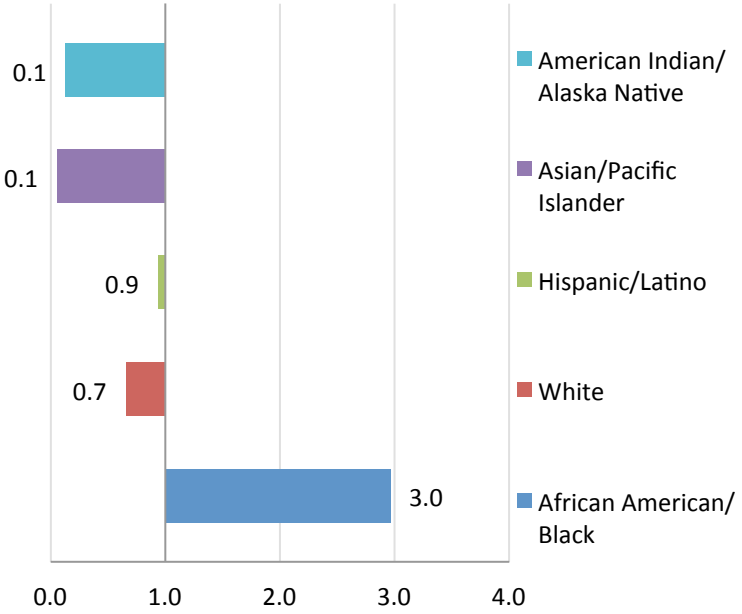


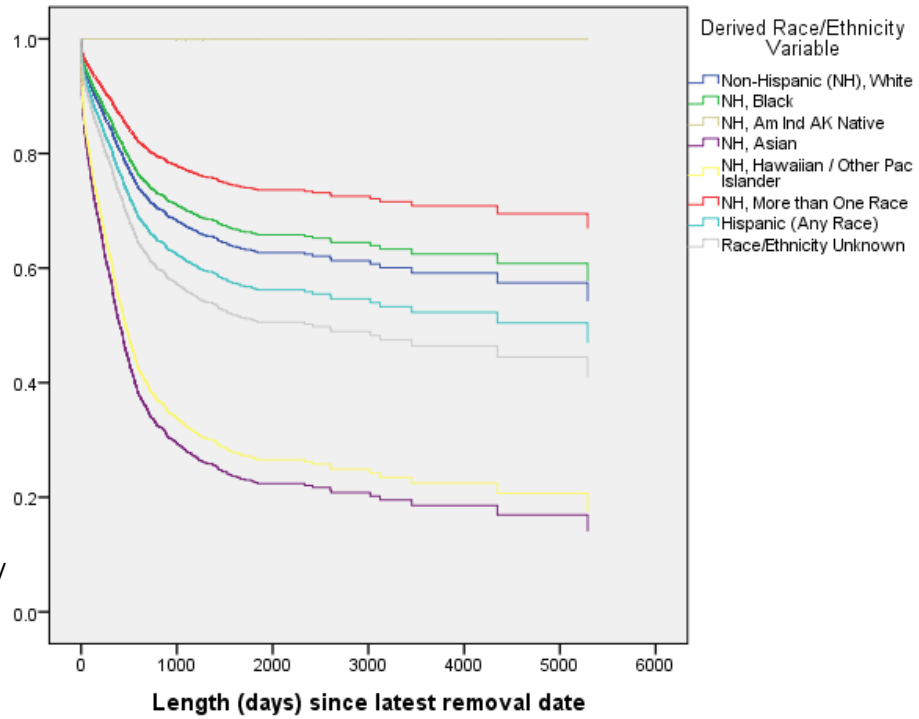
New Jersey

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

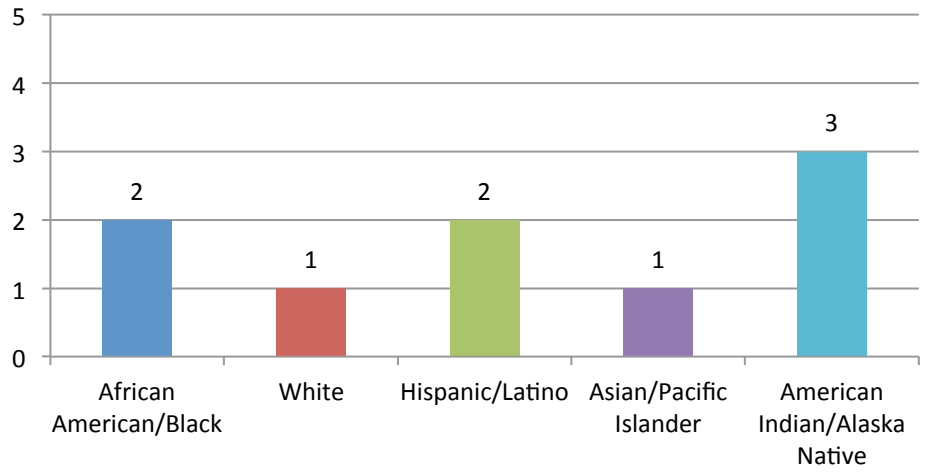


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

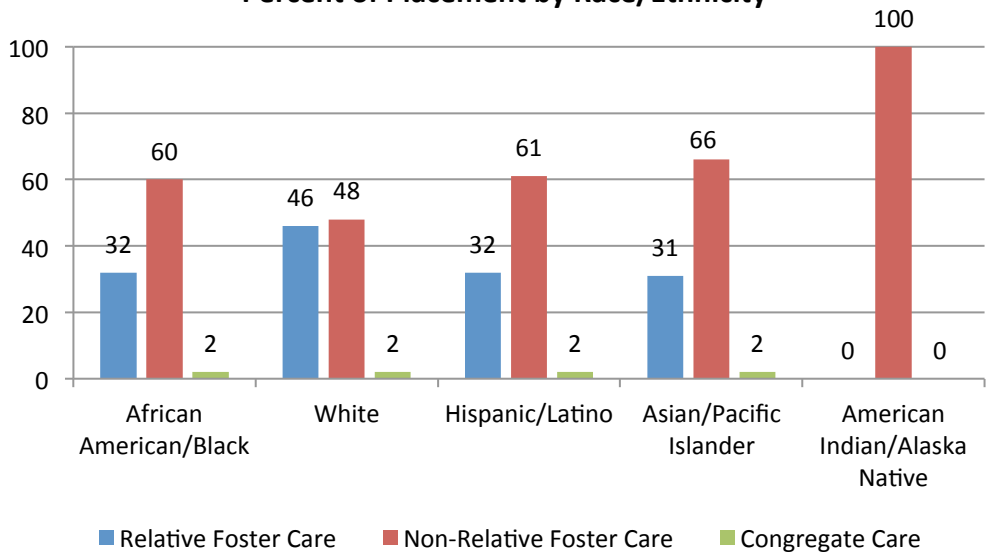




Median No. of Placements

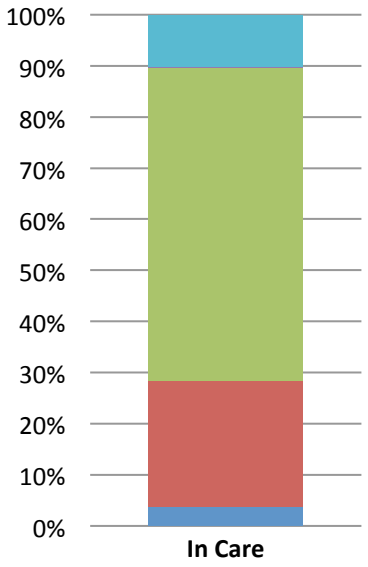


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

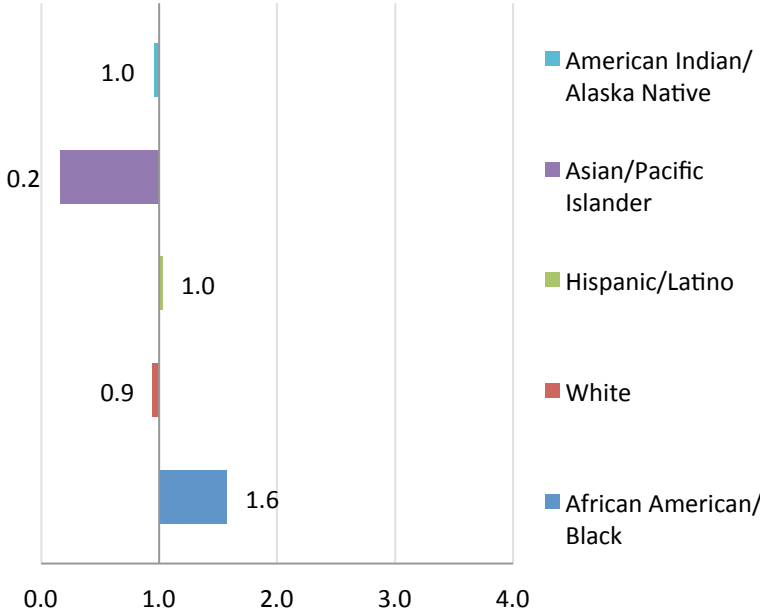


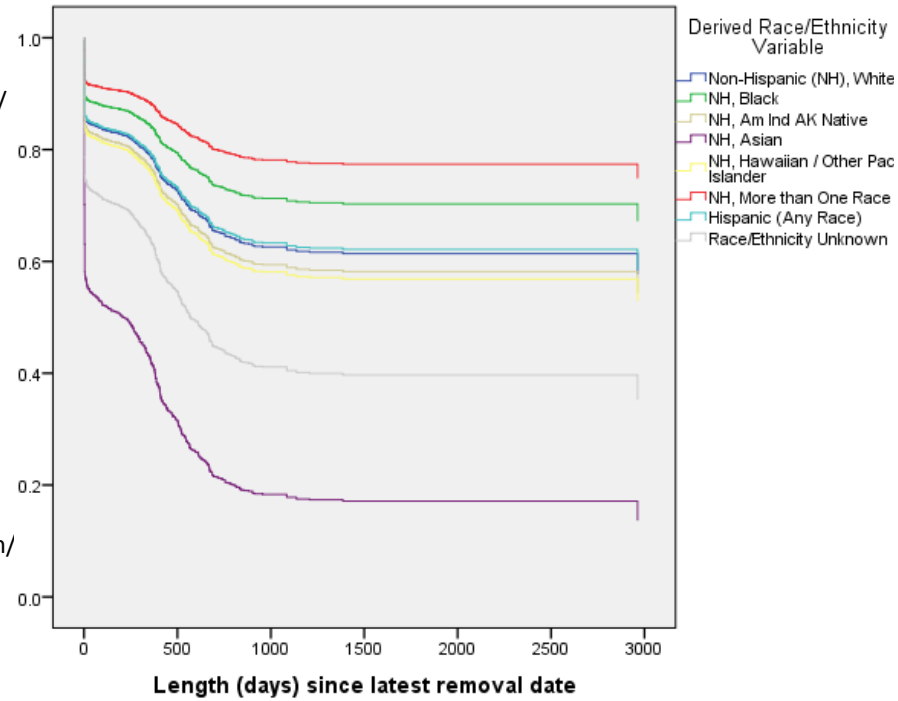
New Mexico

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

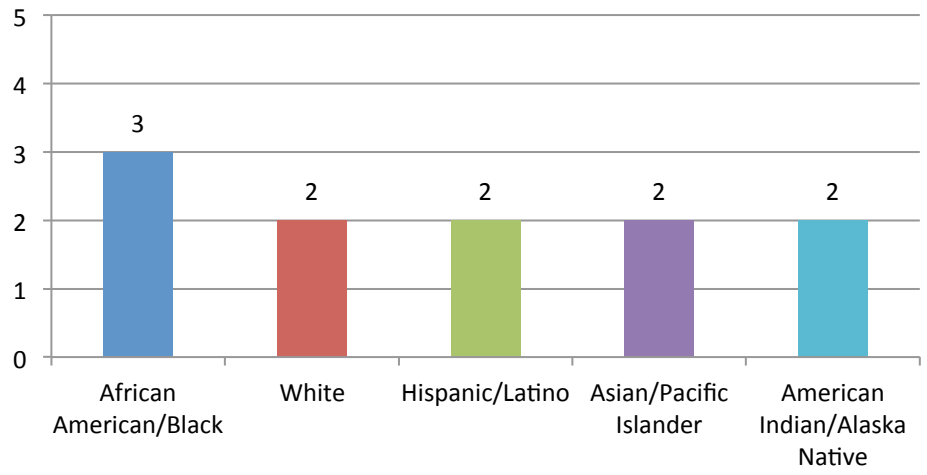


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

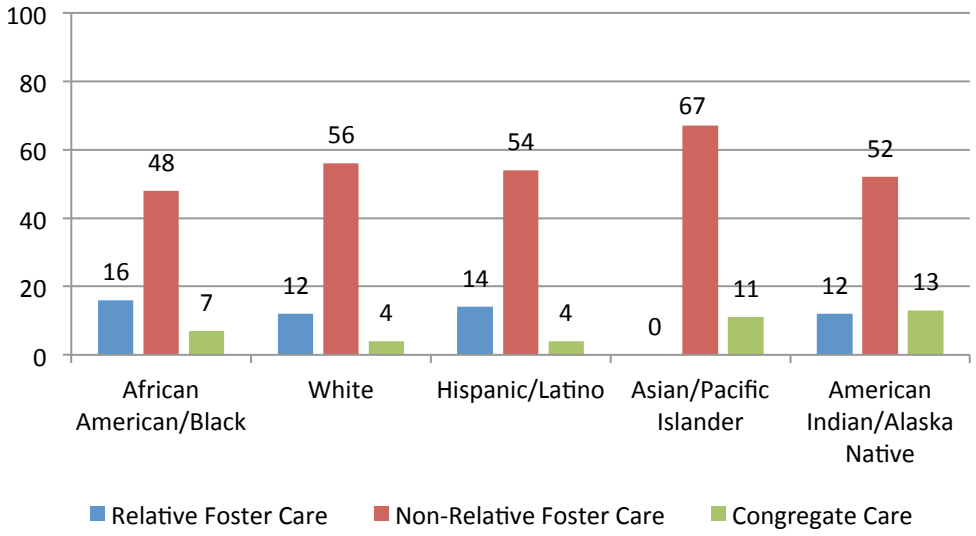




Median No. of Placements

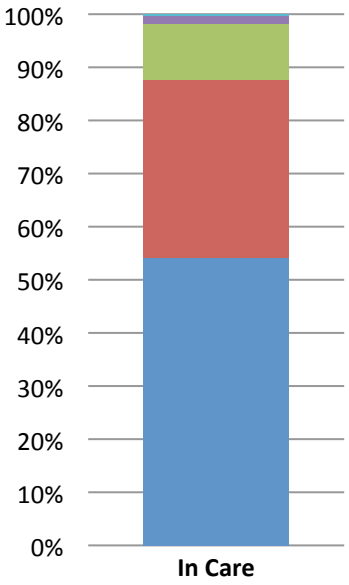


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

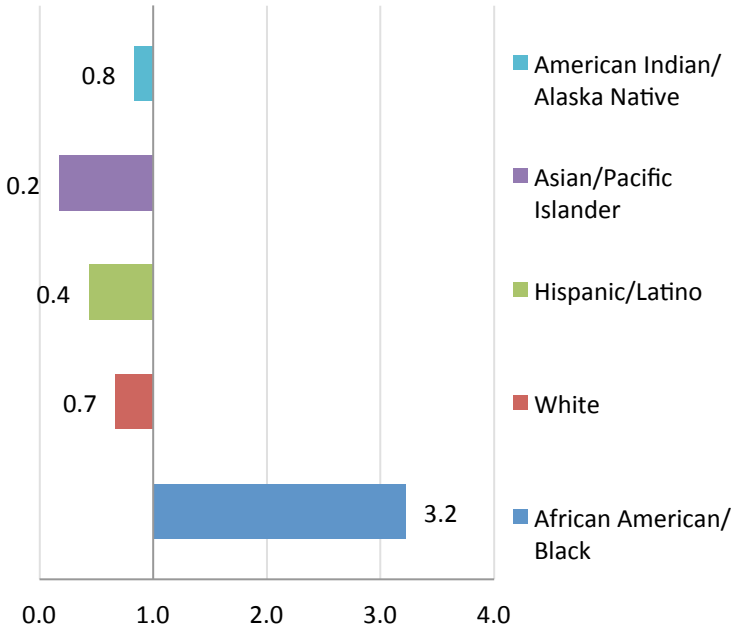


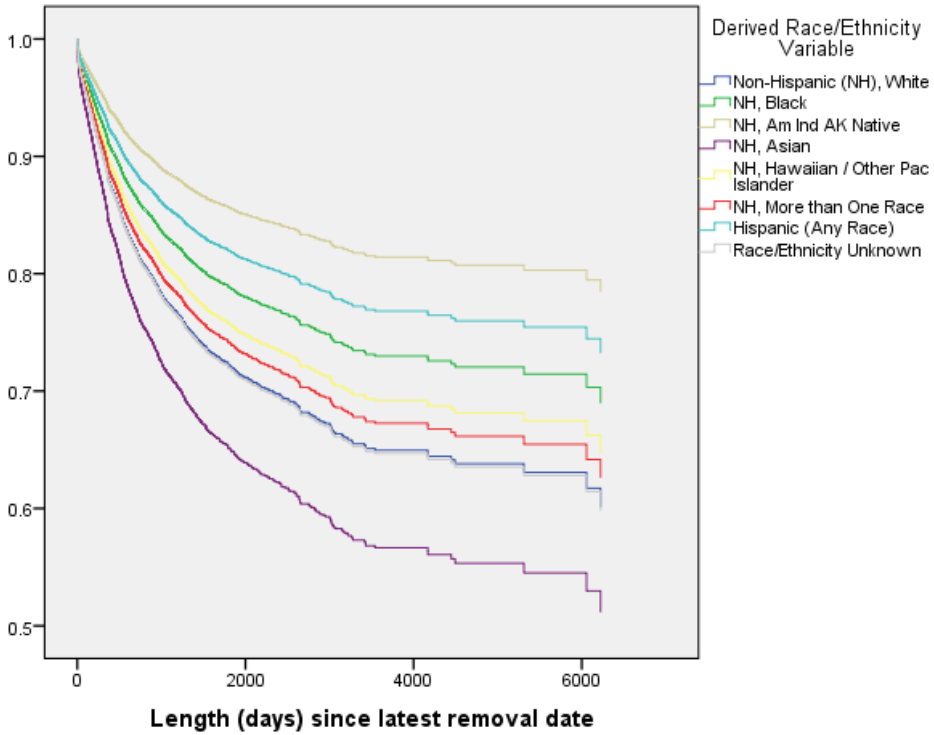
New York

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

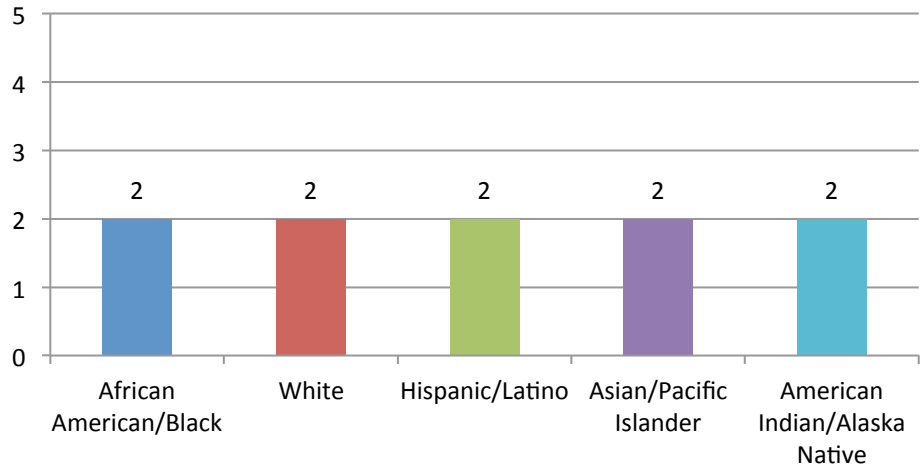


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

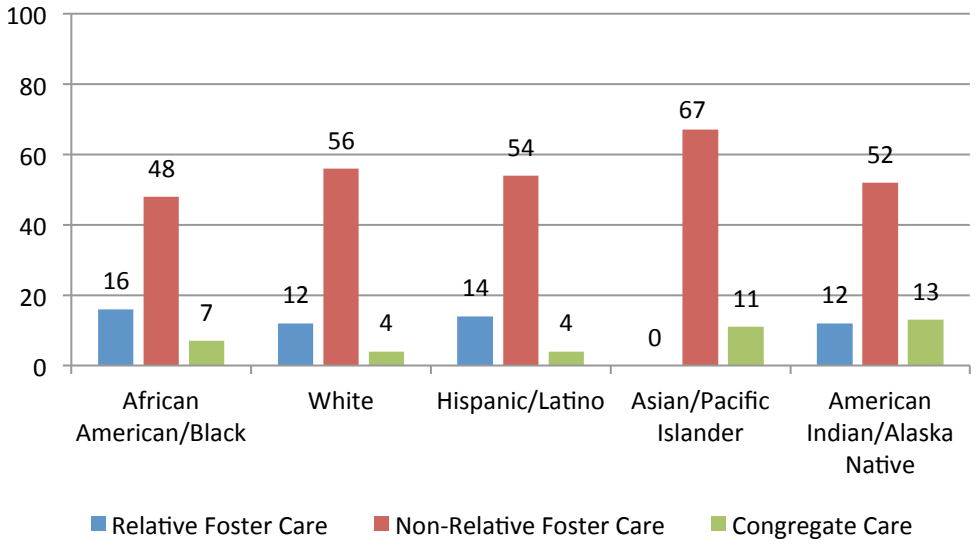




Median No. of Placements

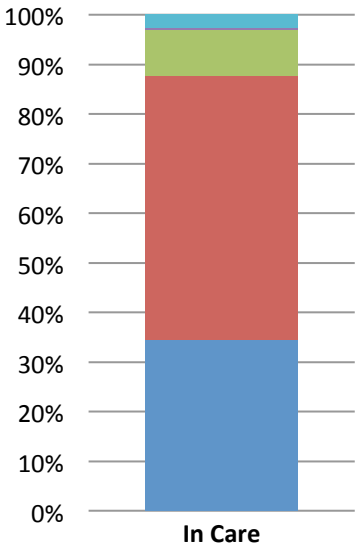


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

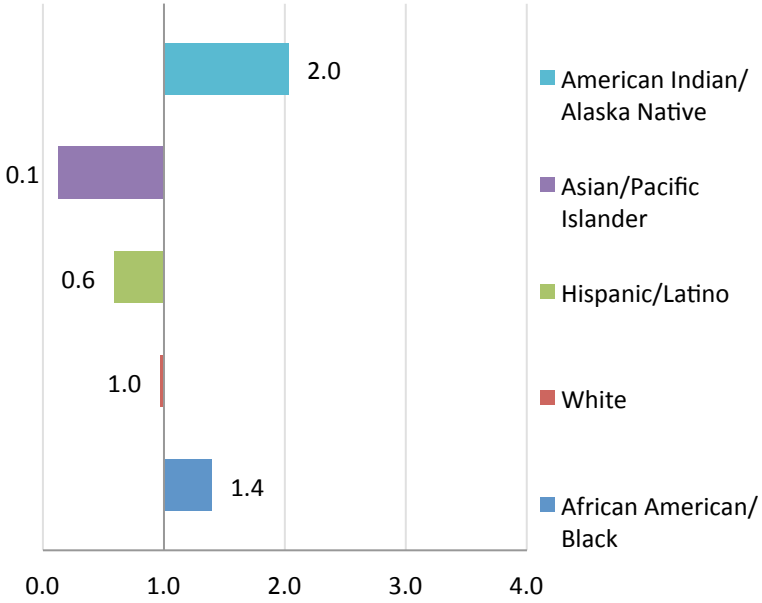


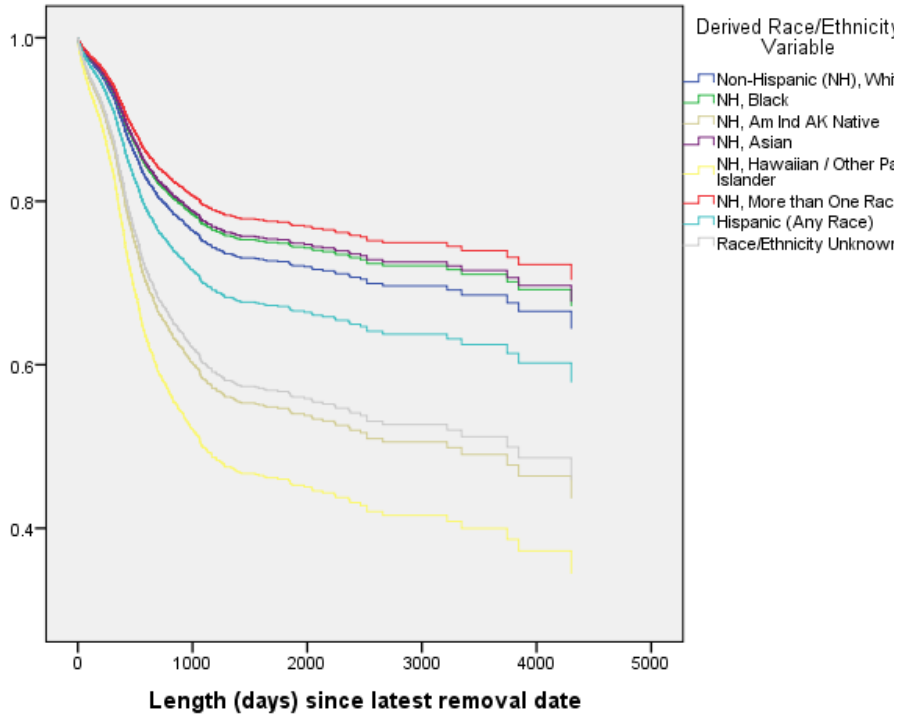
North Carolina

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

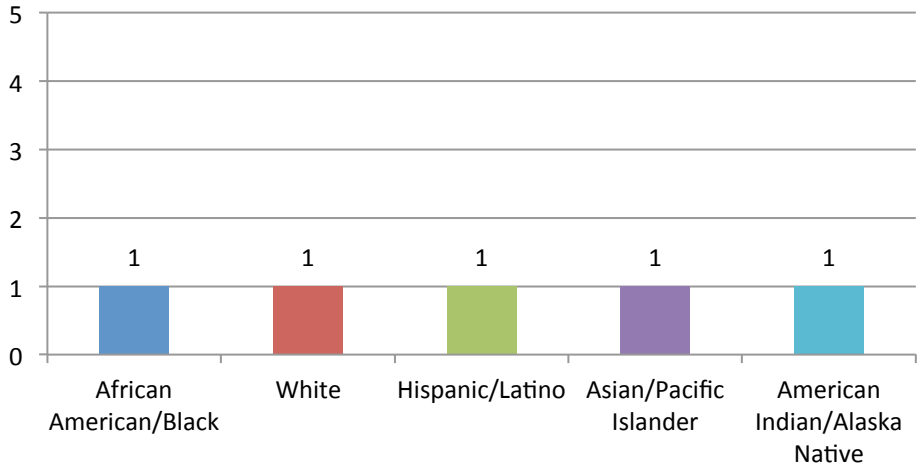


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

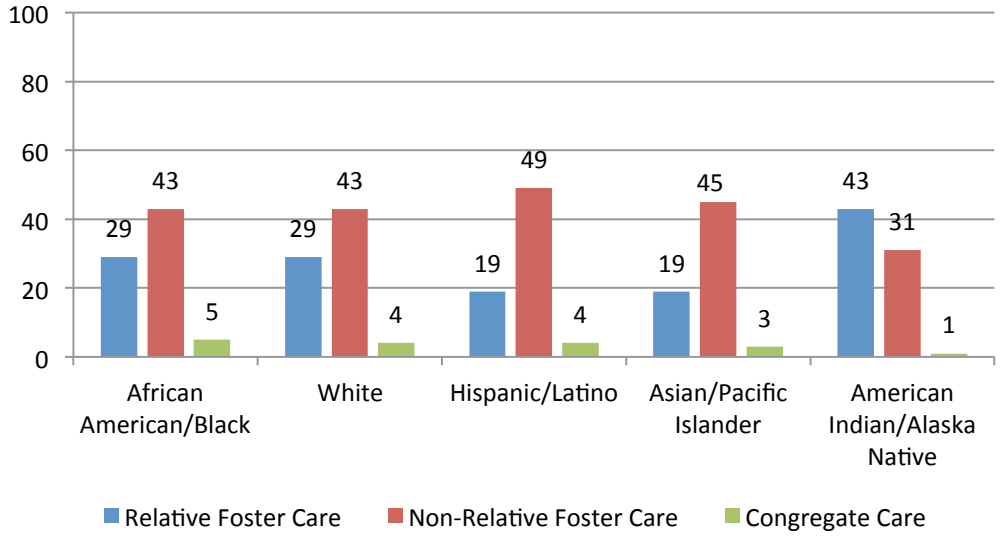




Median No. of Placements

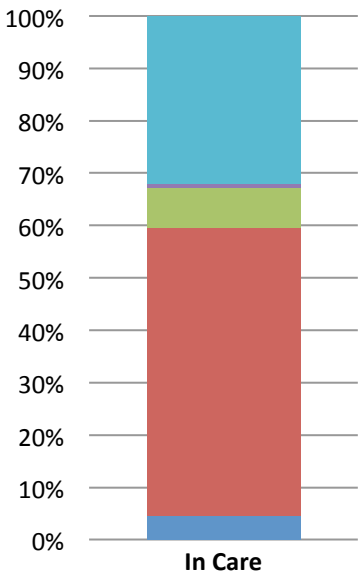


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

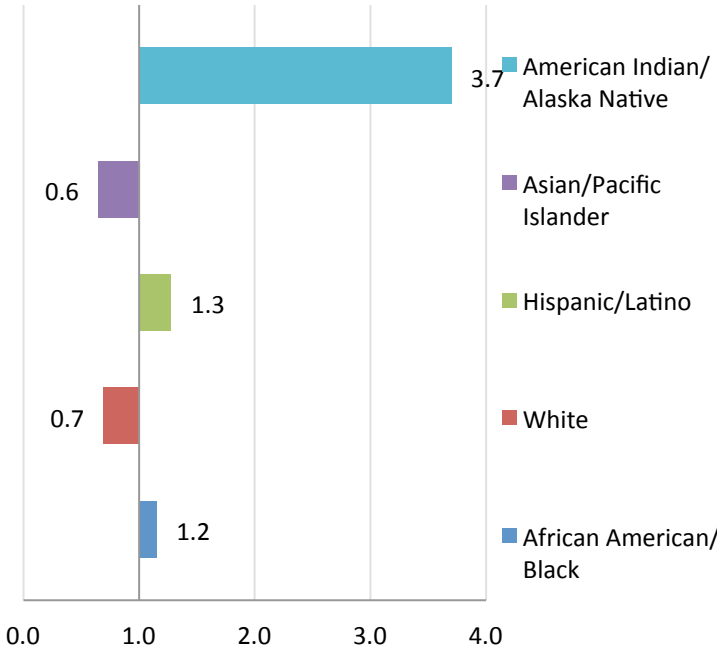


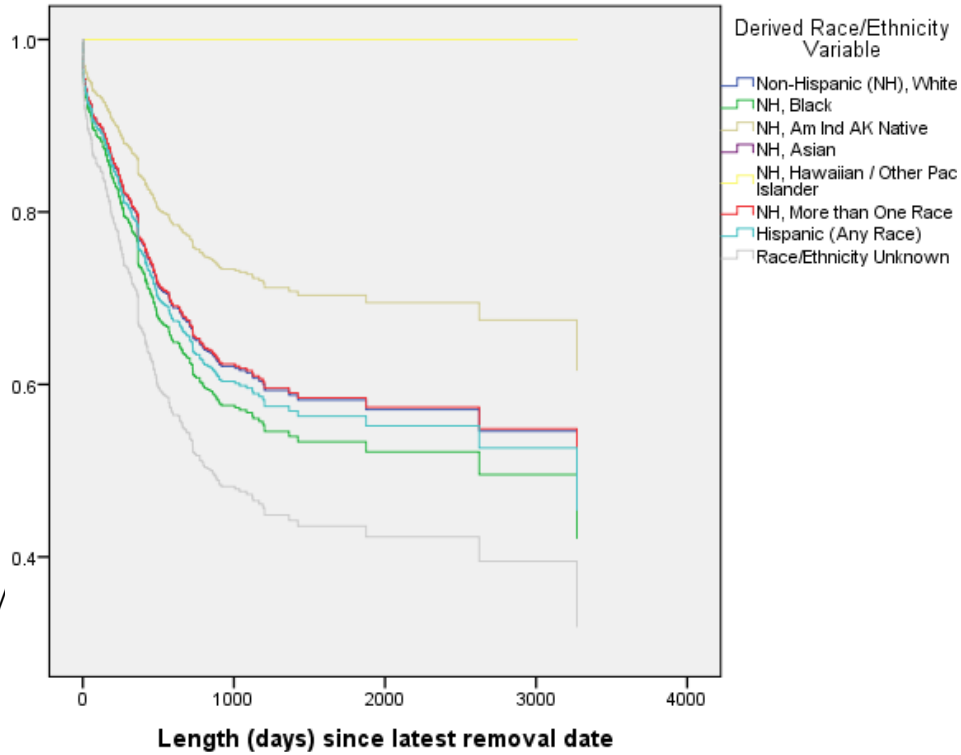
North Dakota

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

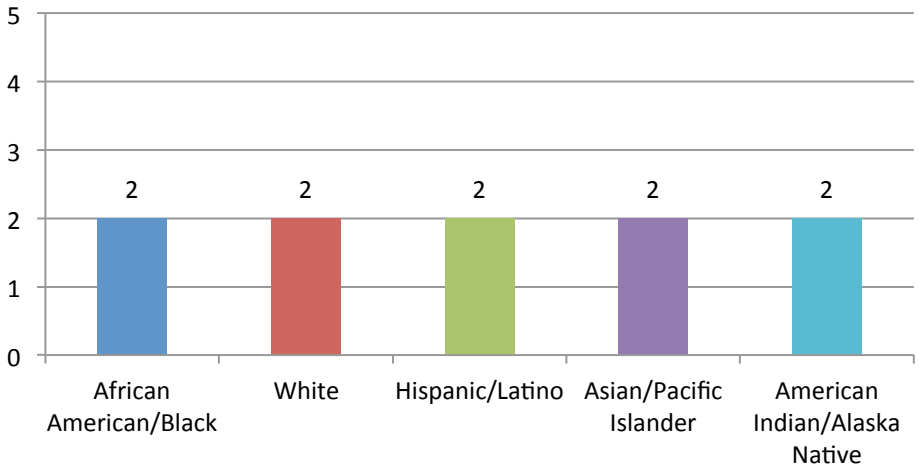


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

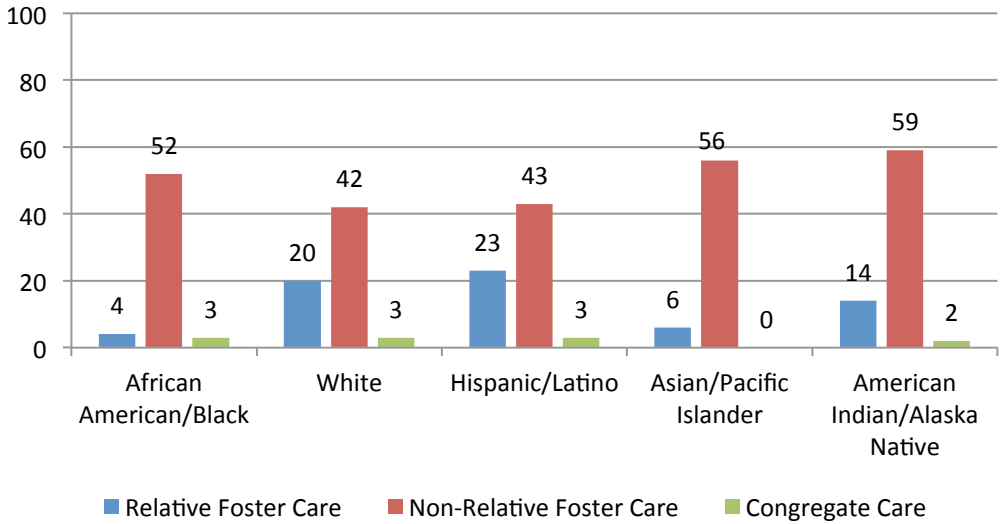




Median No. of Placements

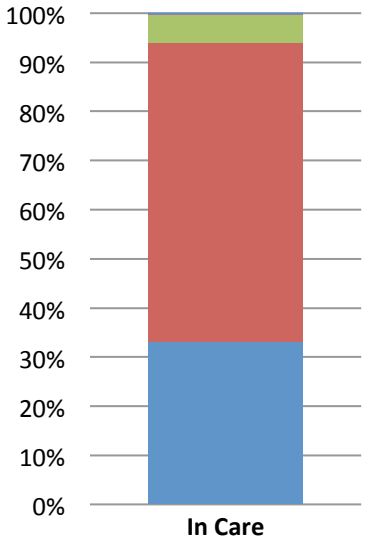


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

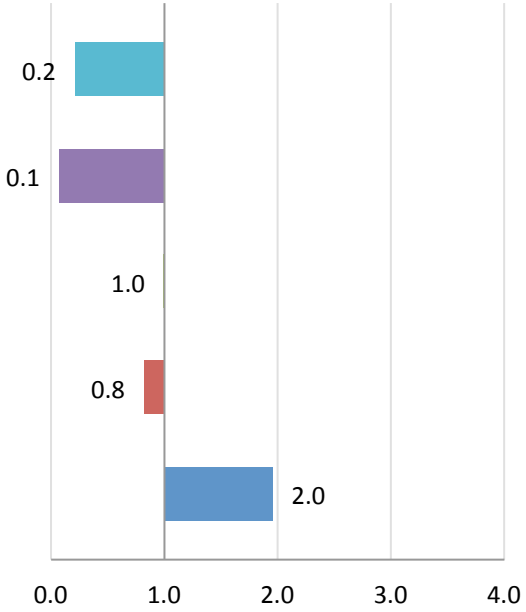


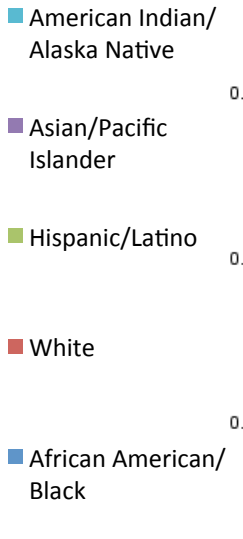
Ohio

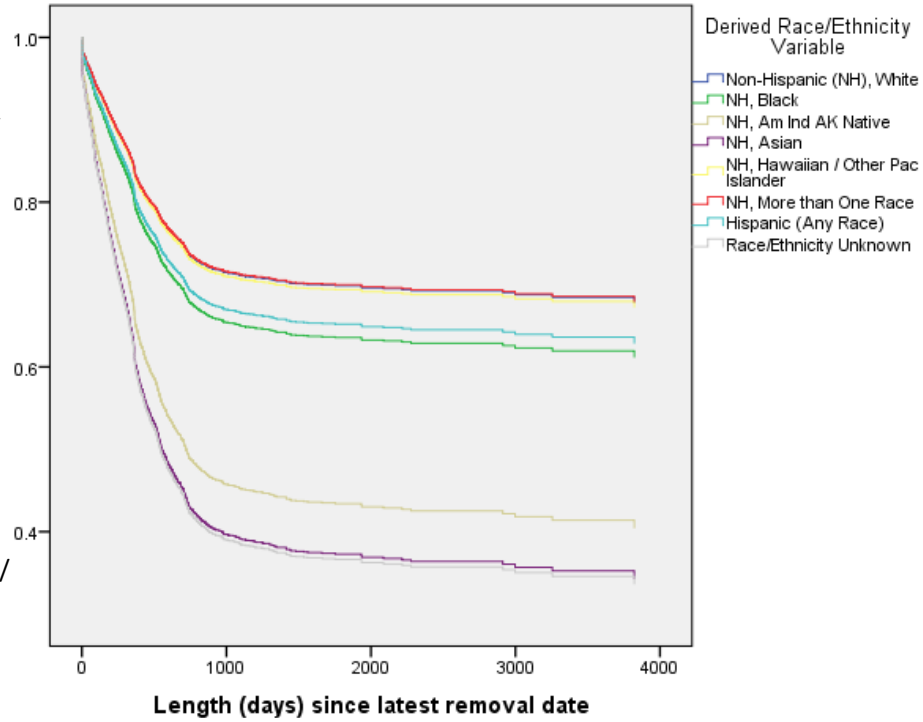
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015



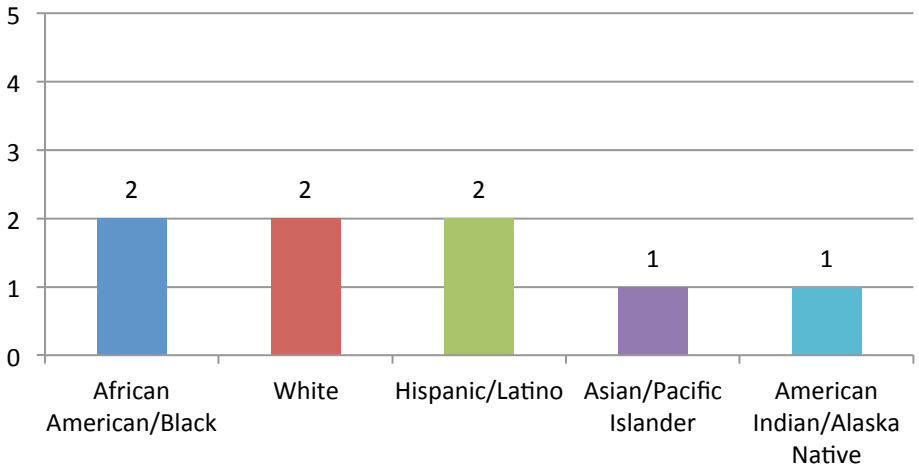
Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015



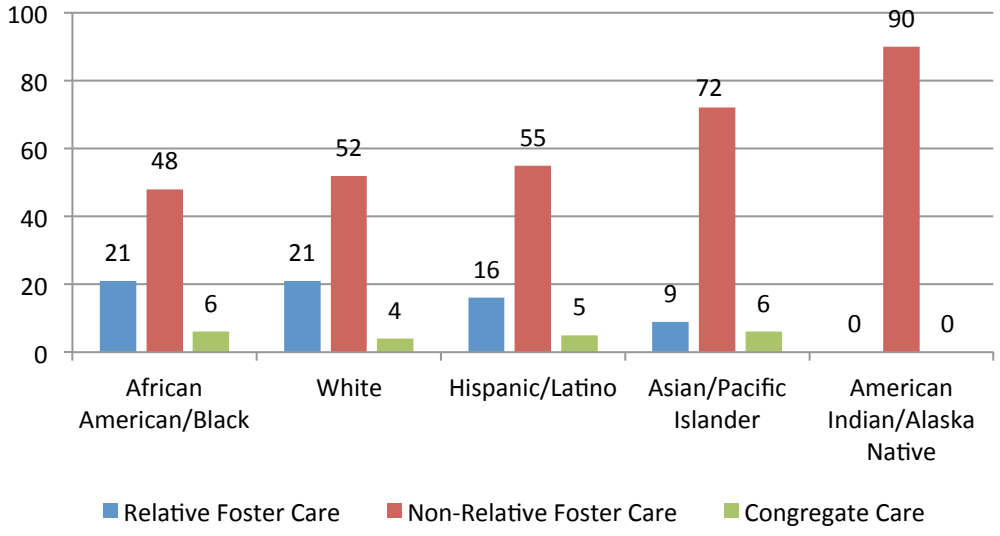




Median No. of Placements

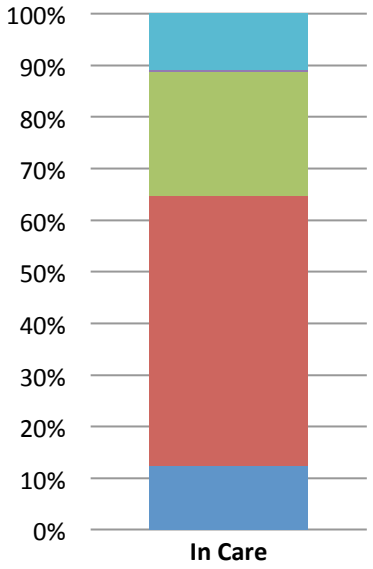


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

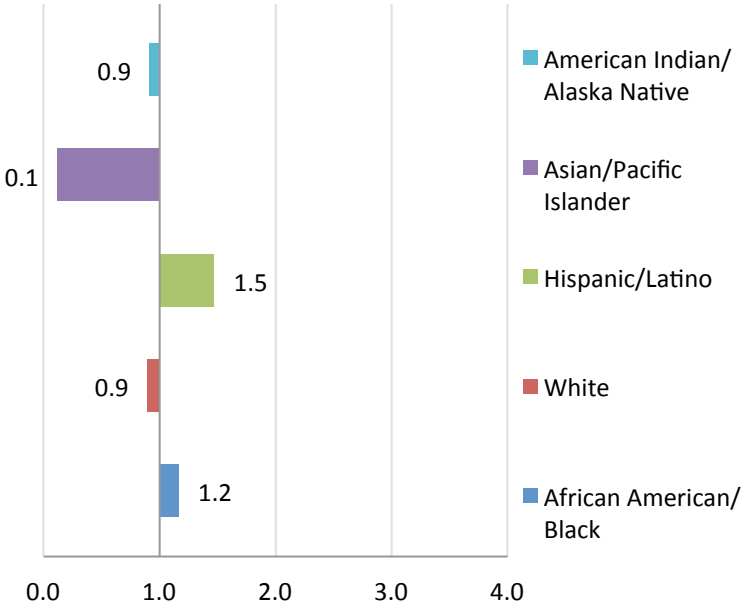


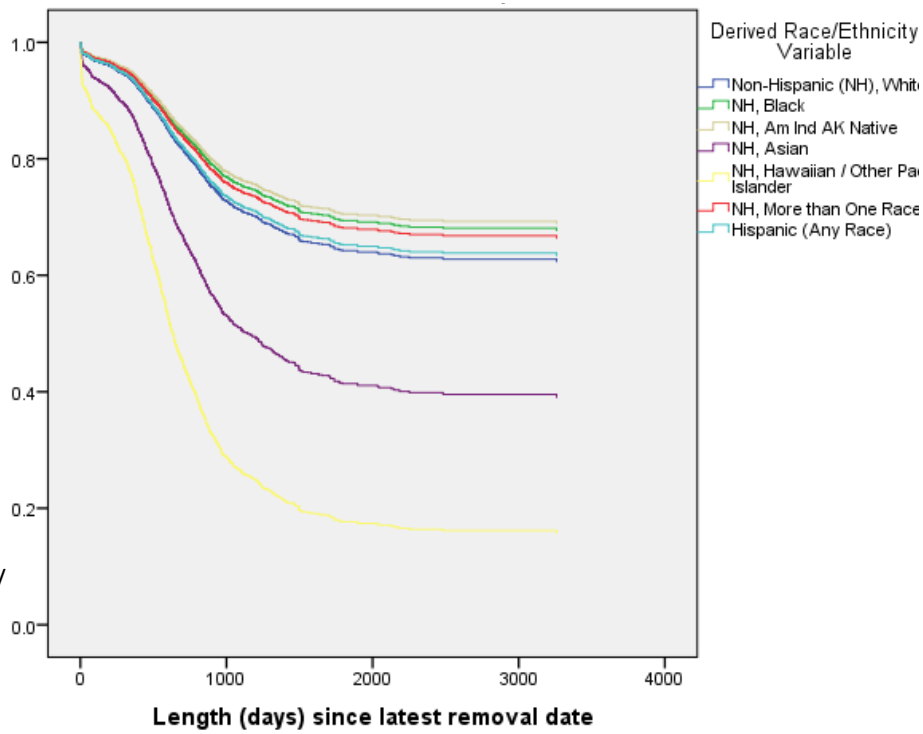
Oklahoma

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

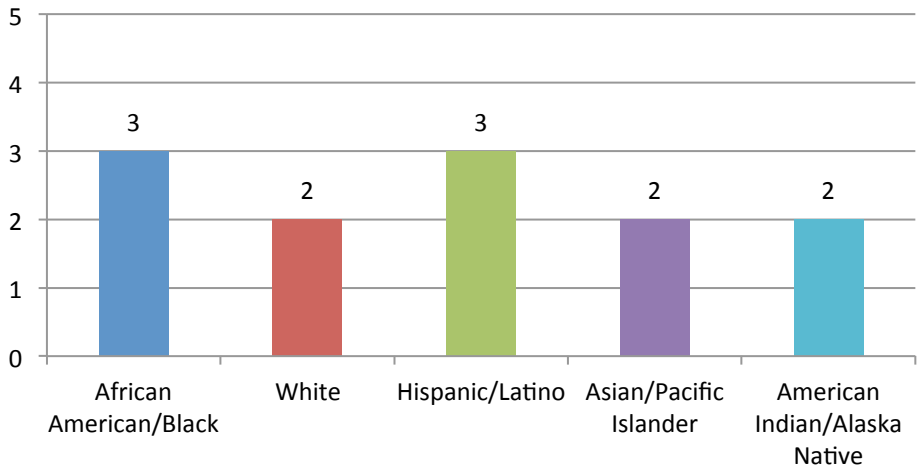


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

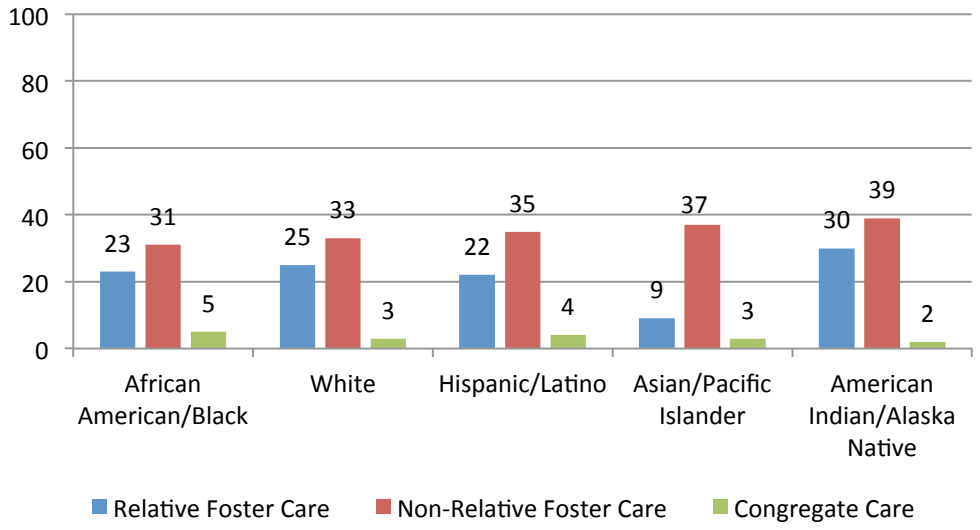




Median No. of Placements

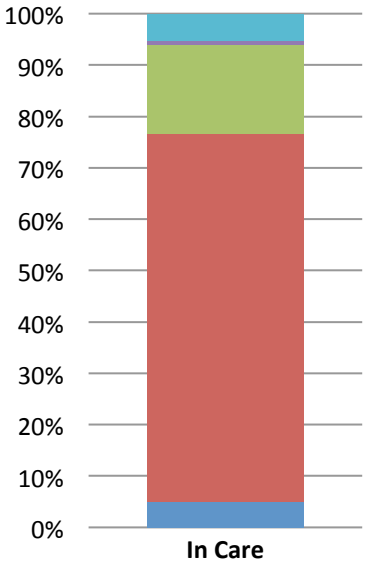


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

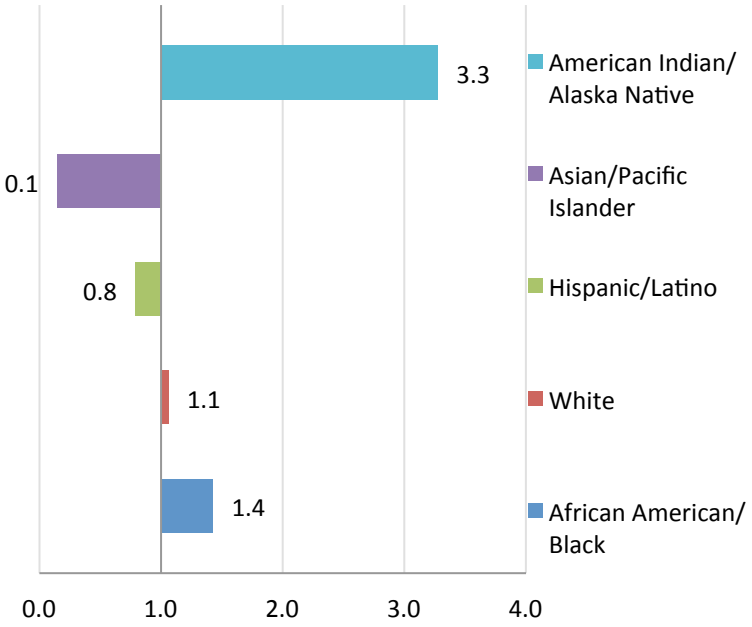


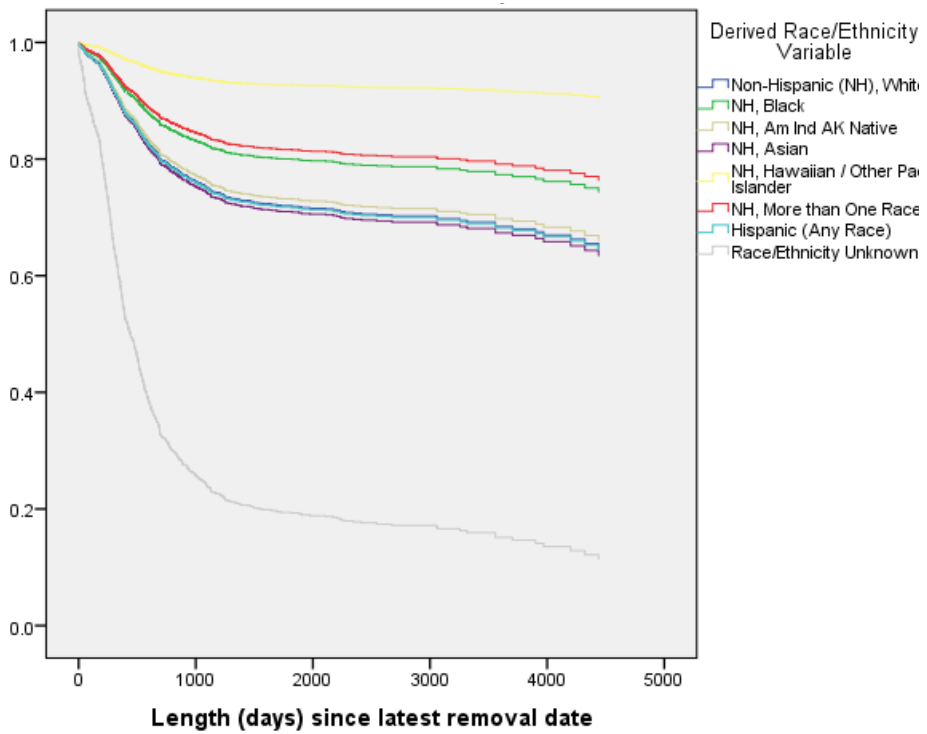
Oregon

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

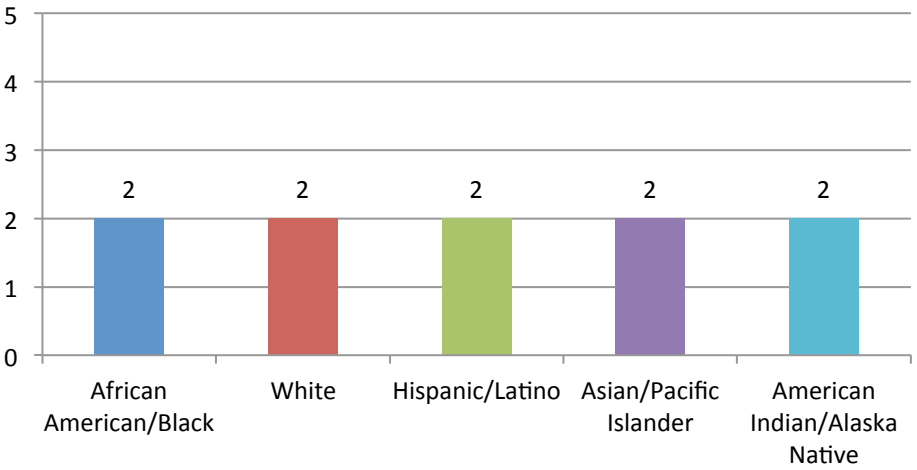


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

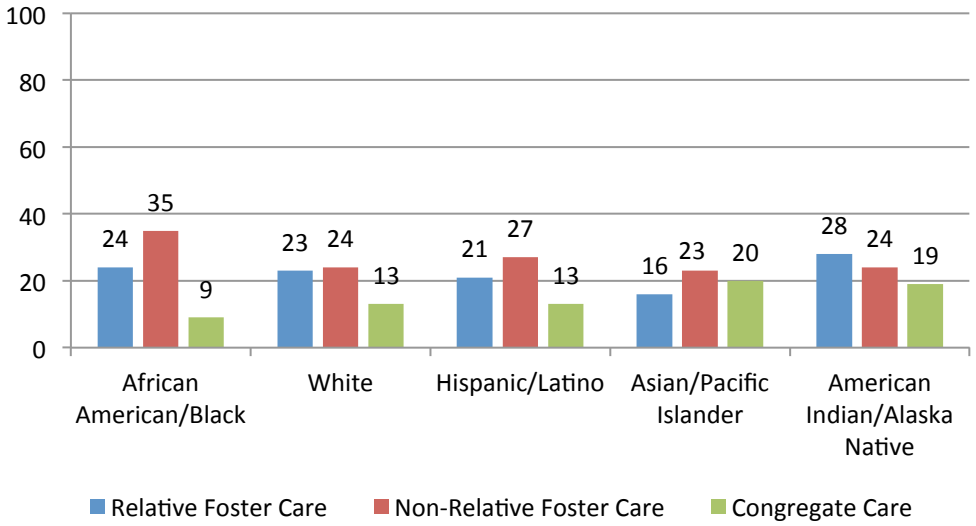




Median No. of Placements

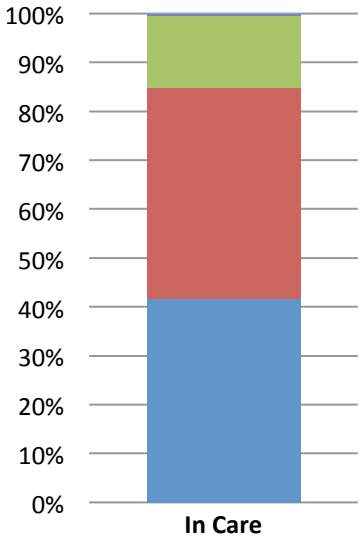


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

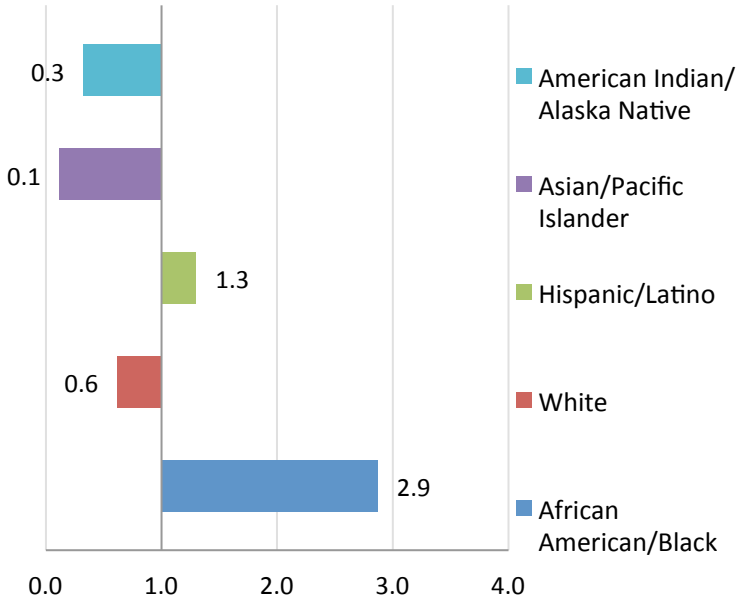


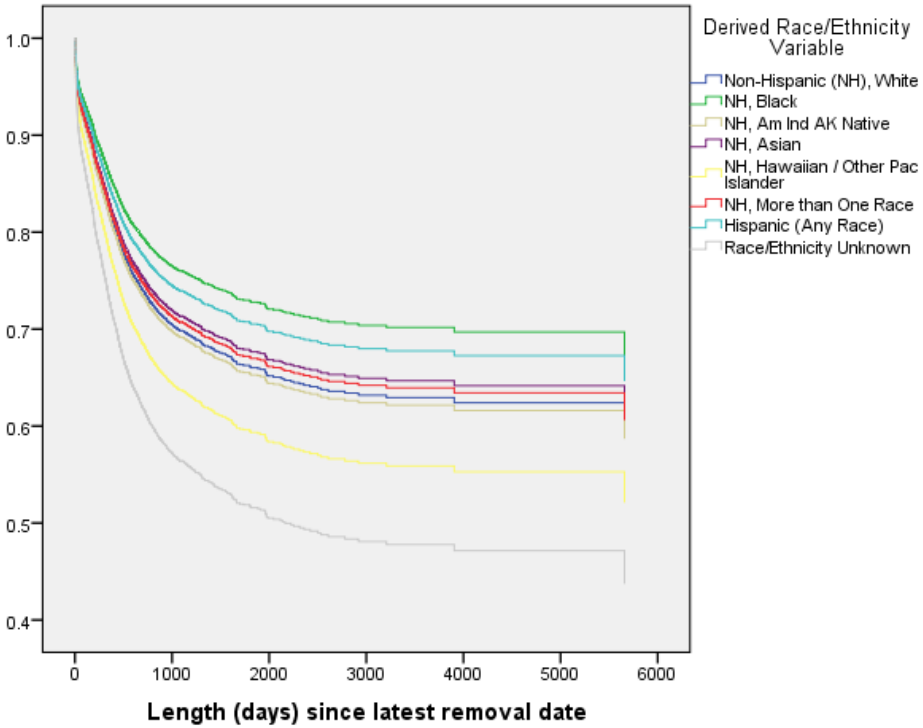
Pennsylvania

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

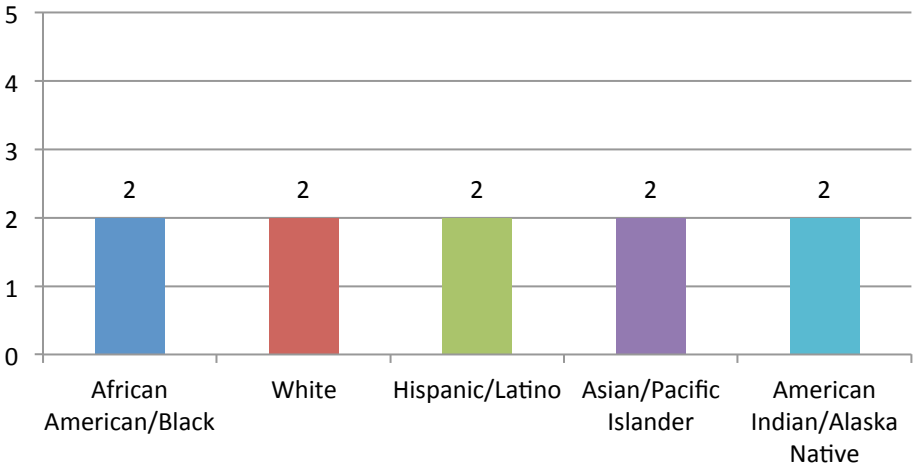


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

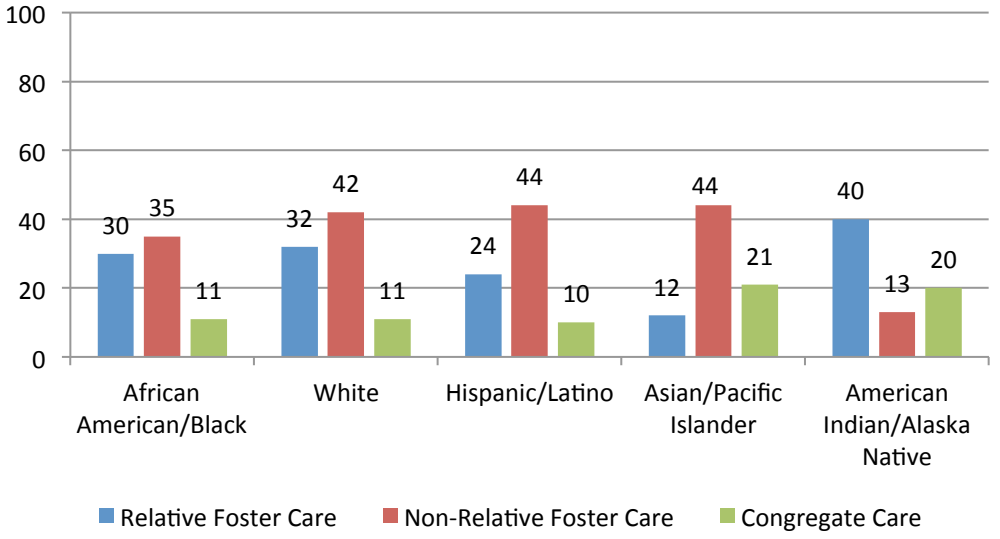




Median No. of Placements

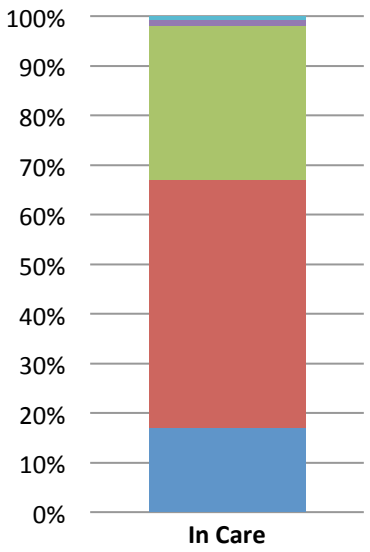


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

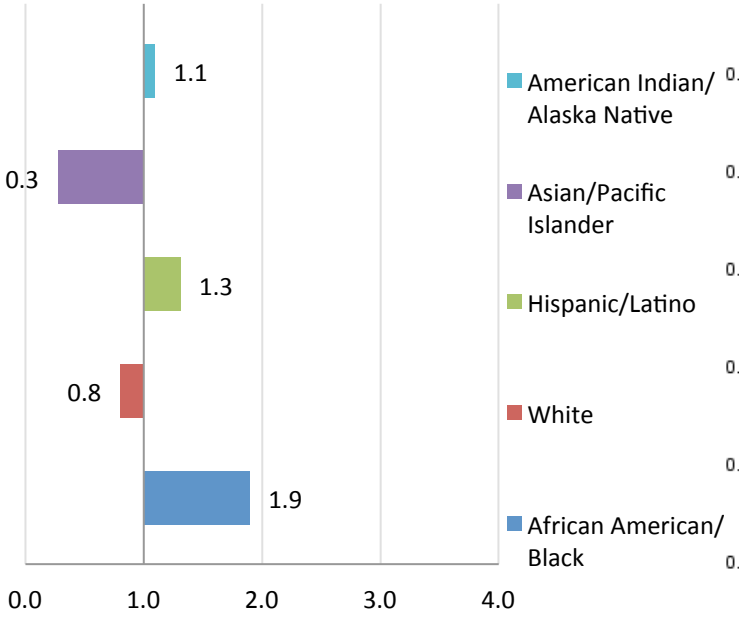


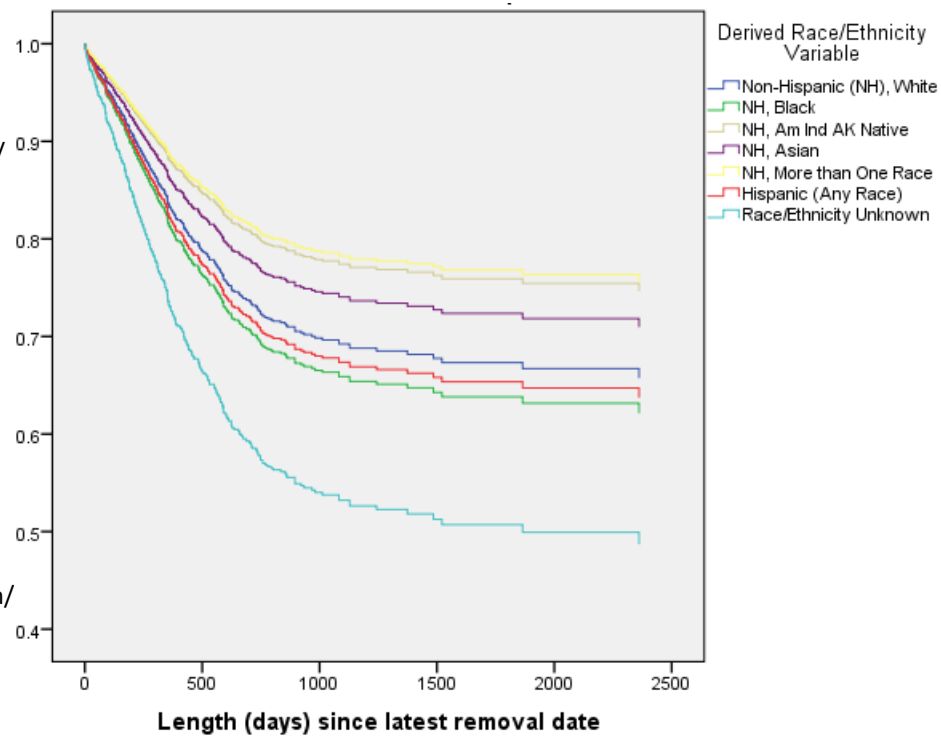
Rhode Island

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

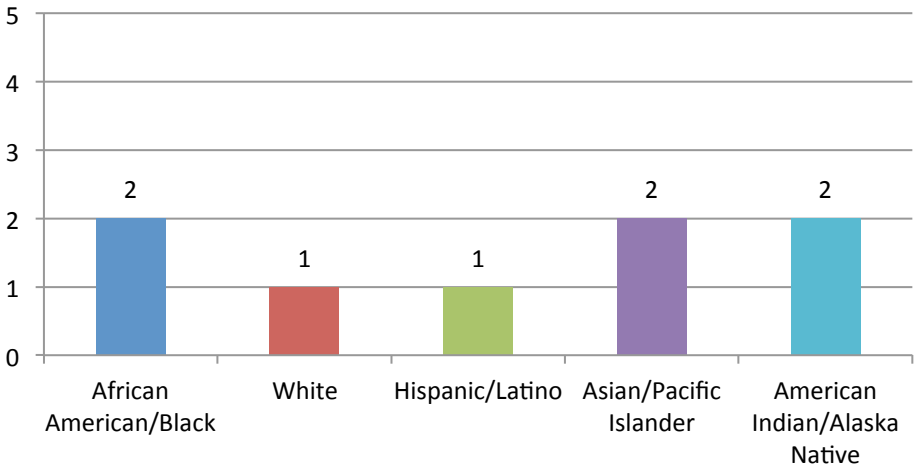


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

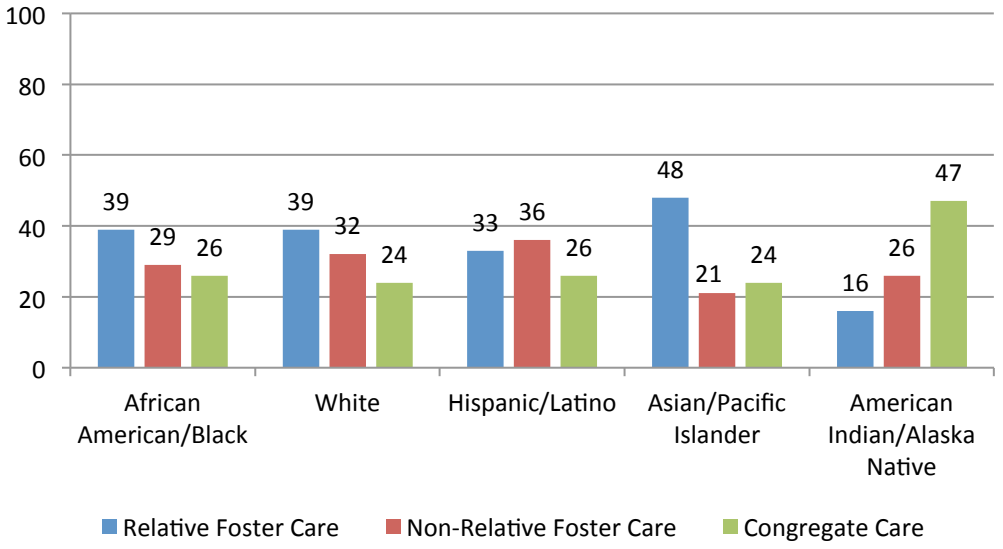




Median No. of Placements

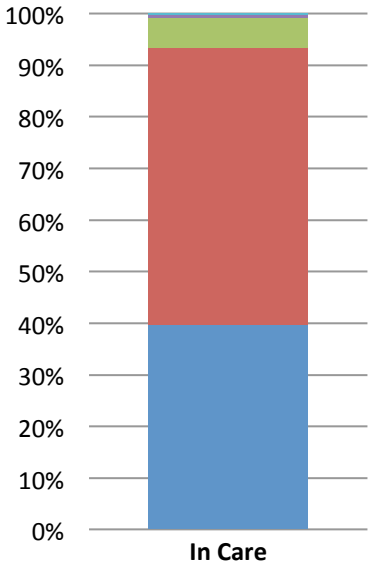


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

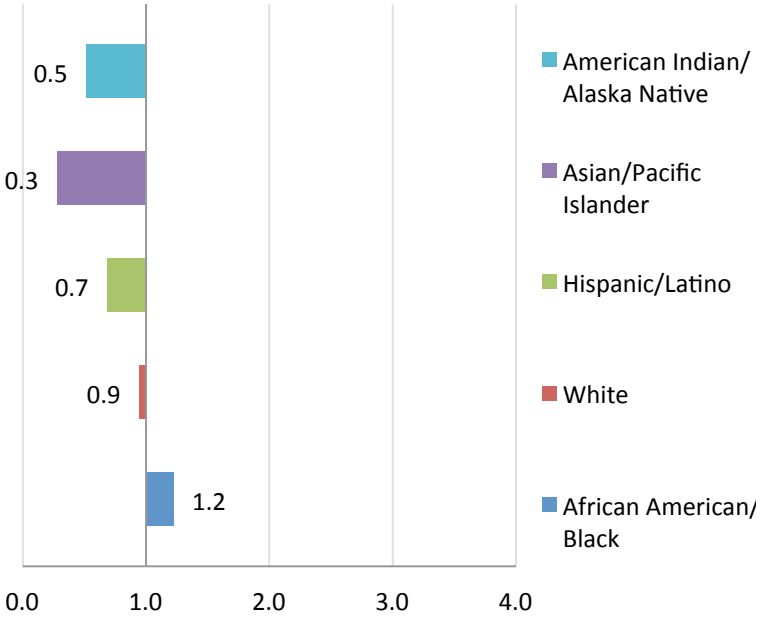


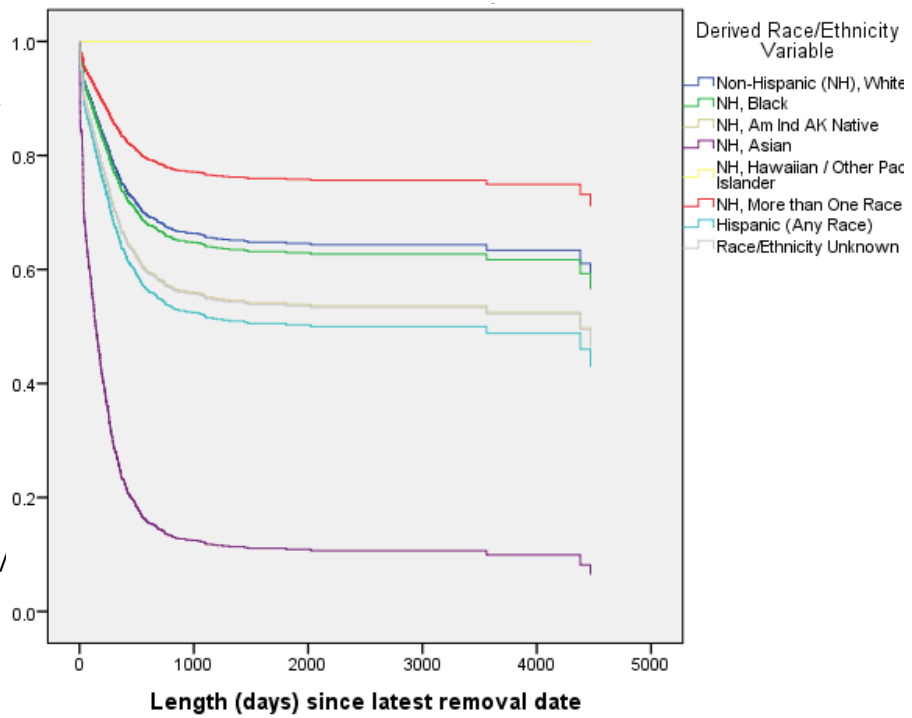
South Carolina

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

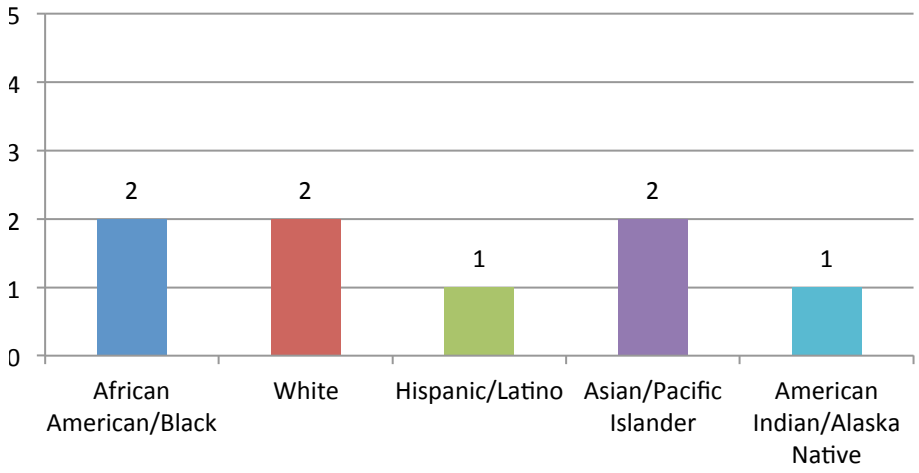


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

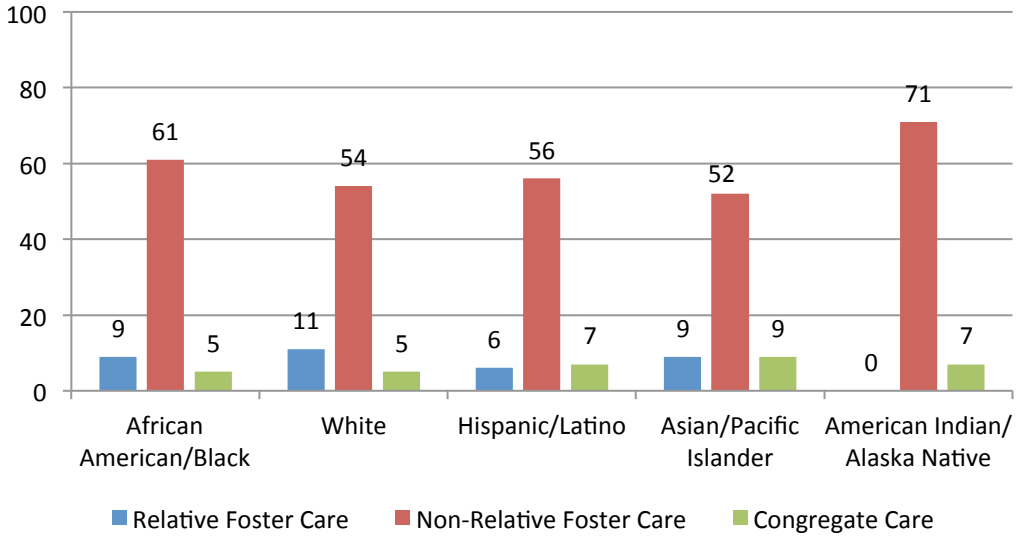




Median No. of Placements

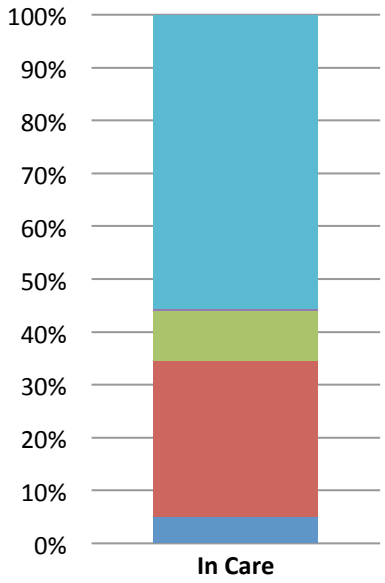


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

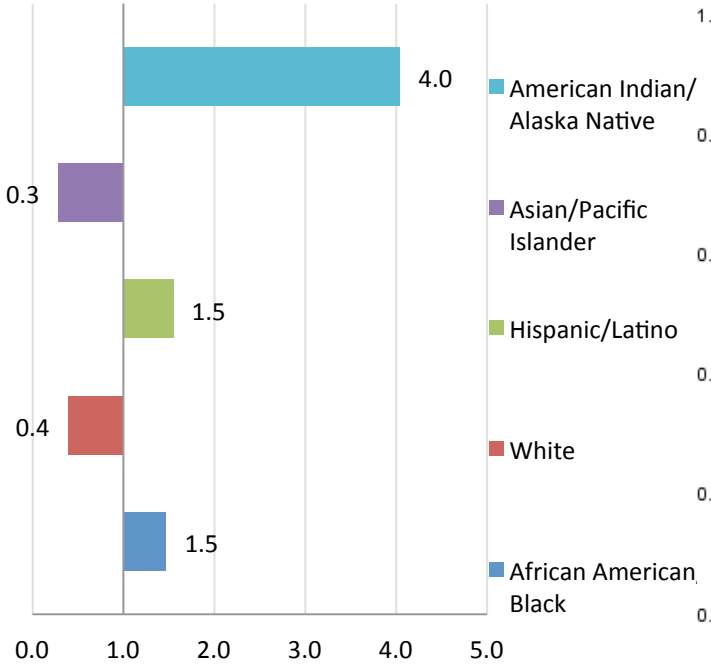


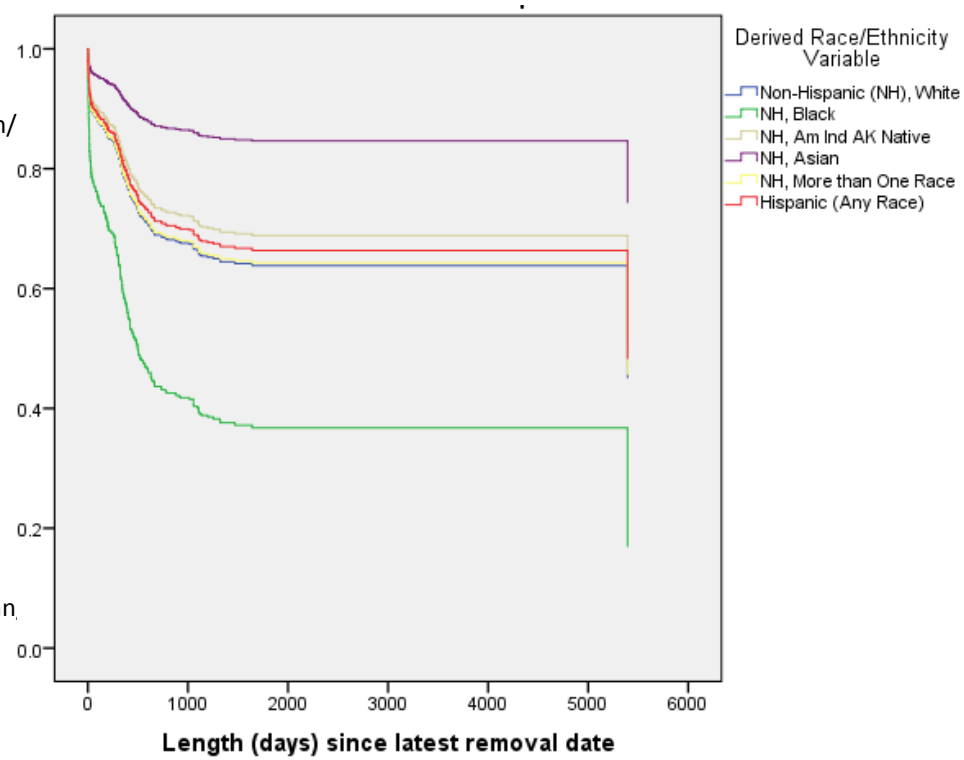
South Dakota

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

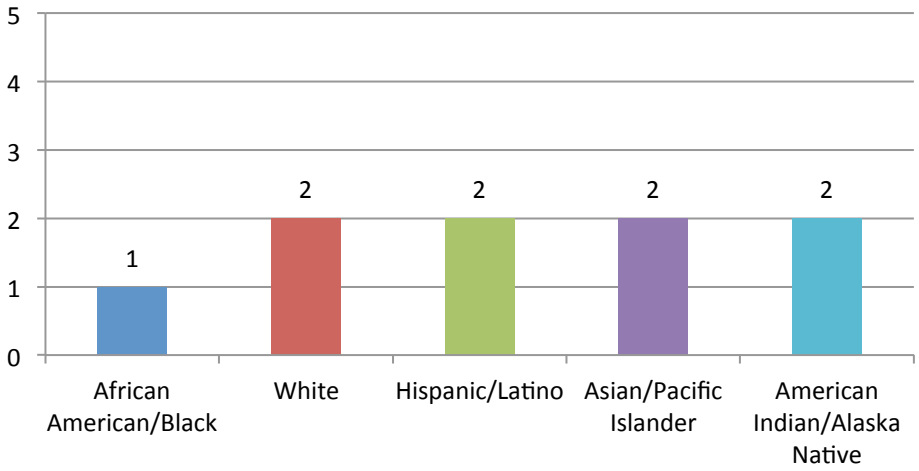


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

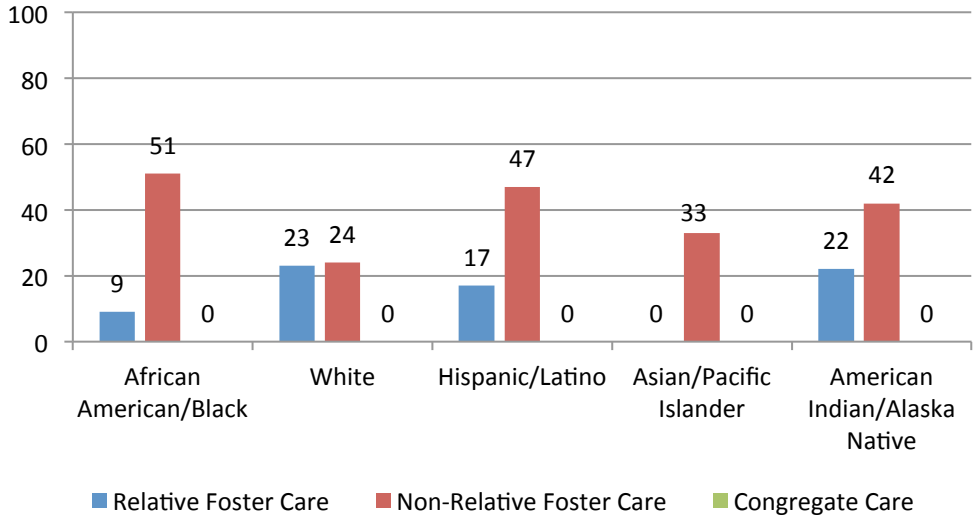




Median No. of Placements

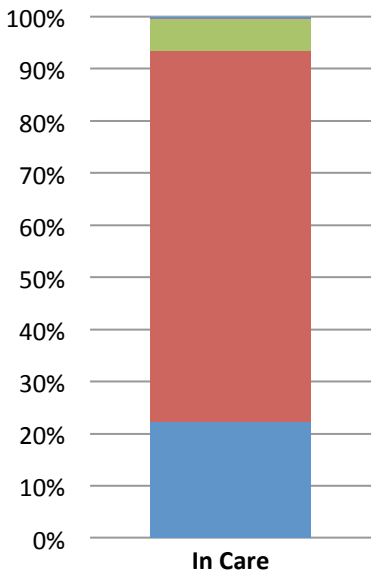


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

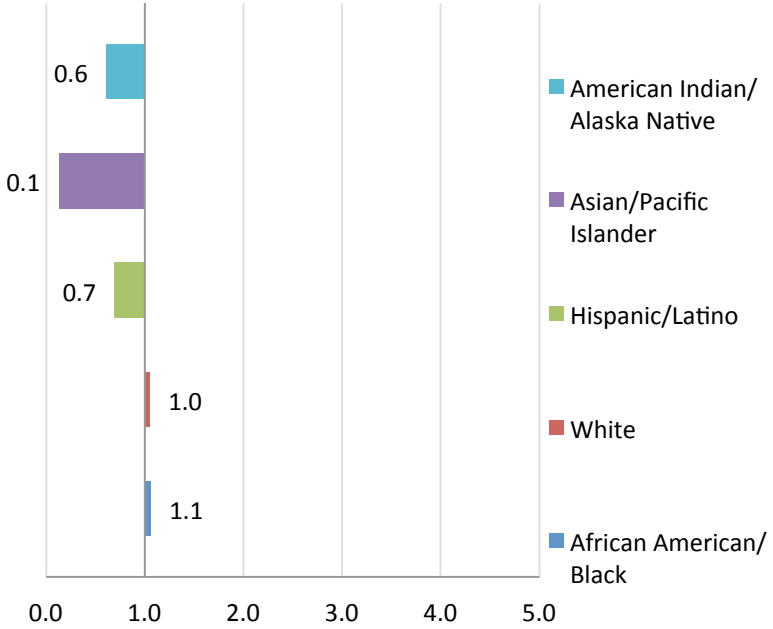


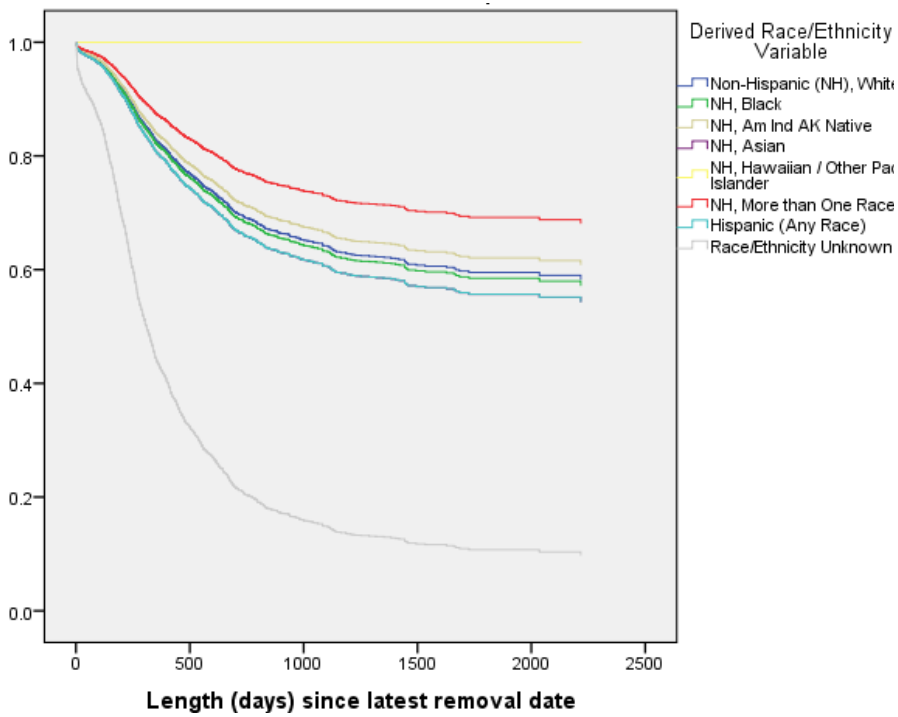
Tennessee

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

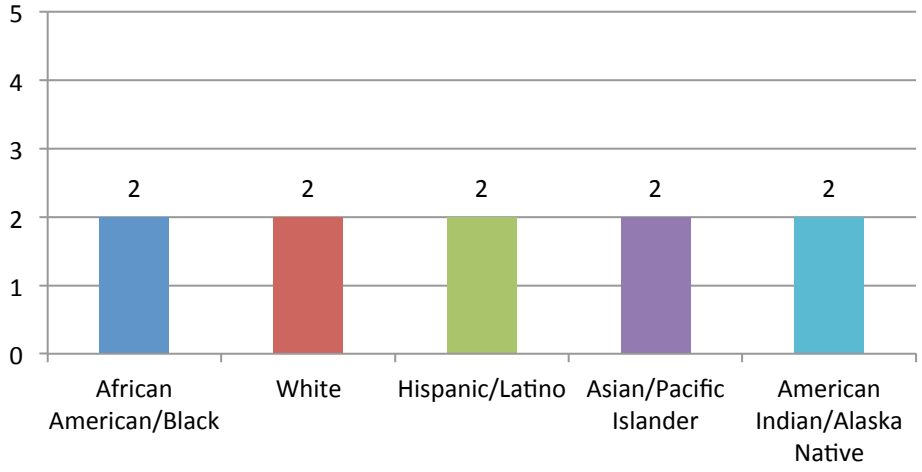


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

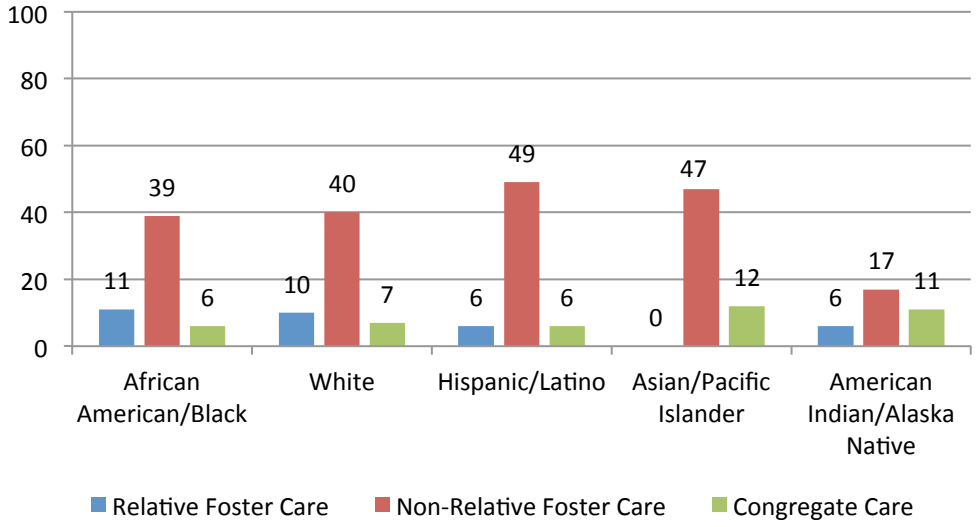




Median No. of Placements

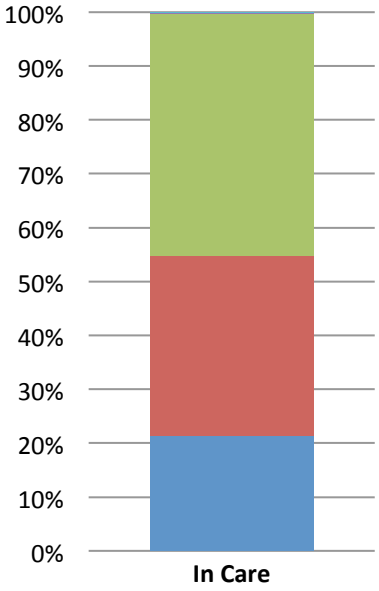


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

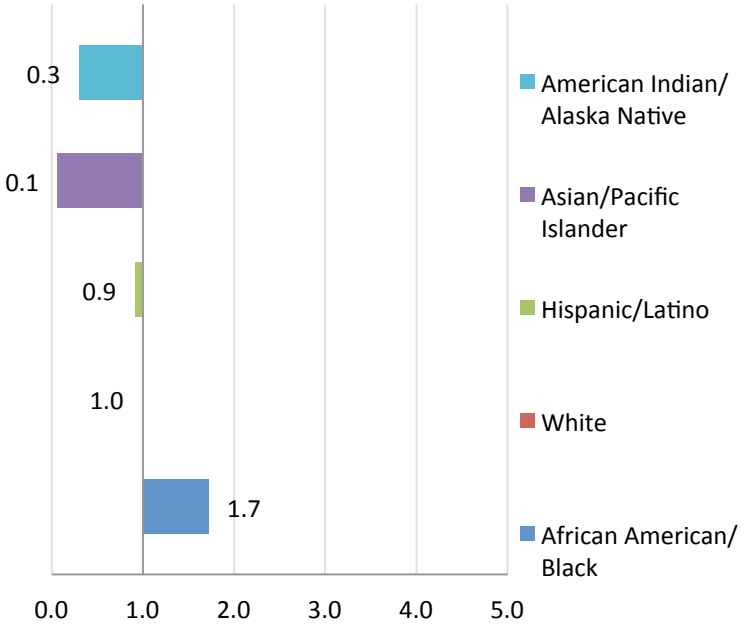


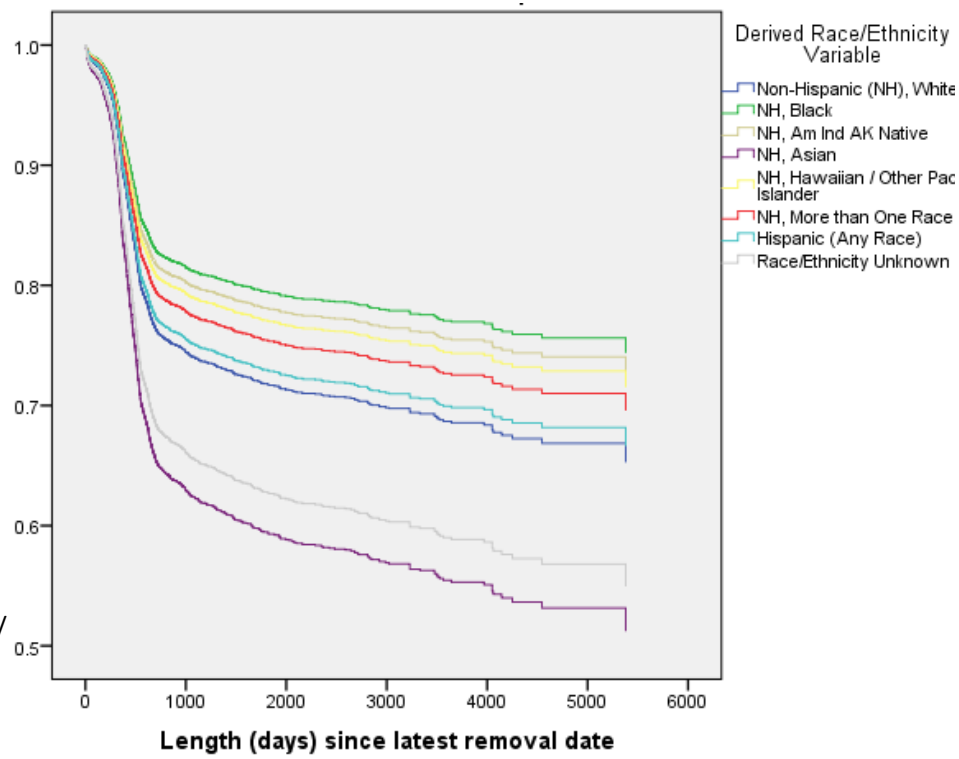
Texas

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

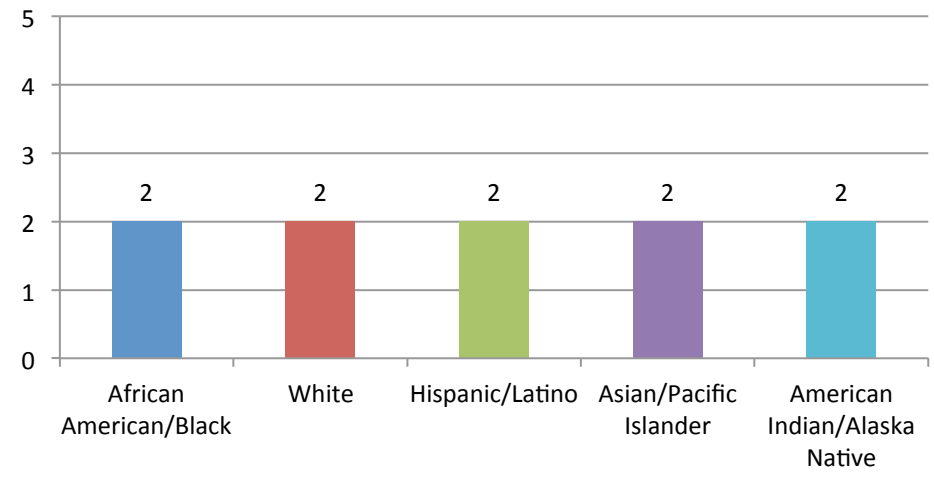


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

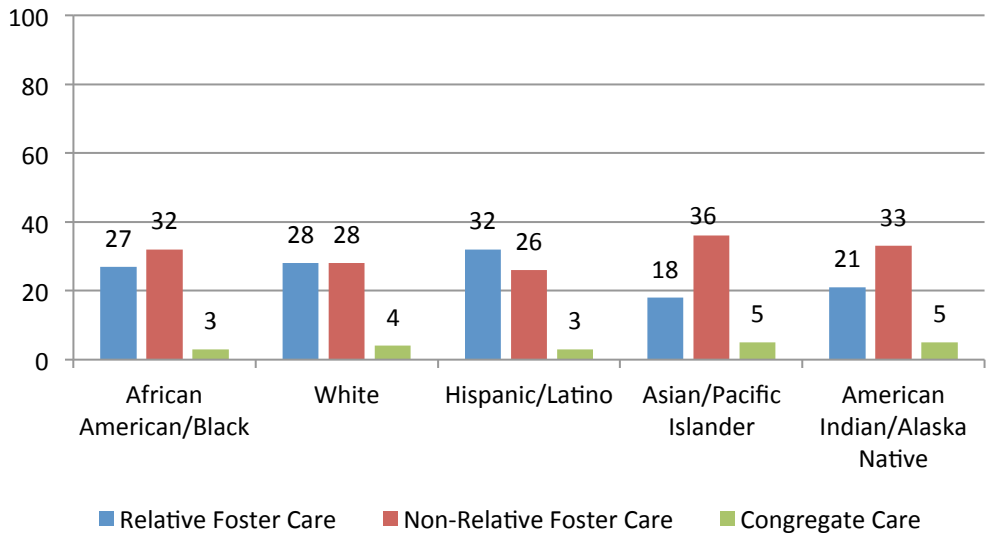




Median No. of Placements

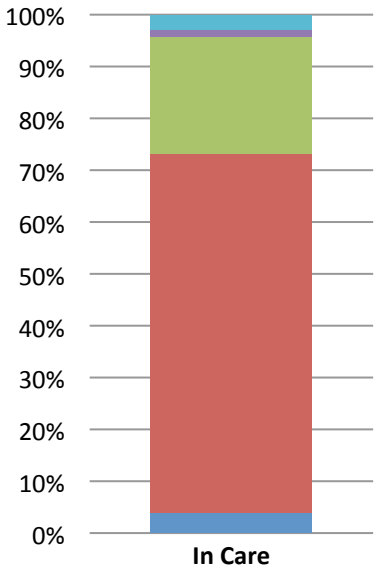


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

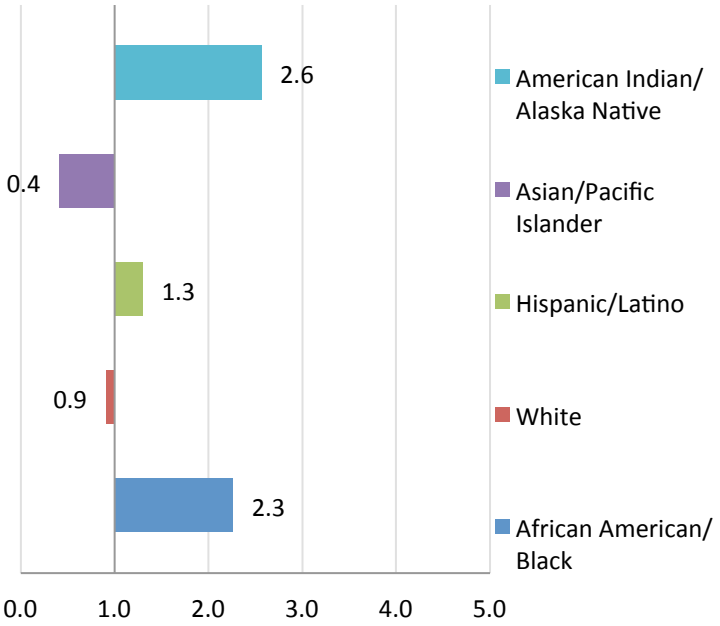


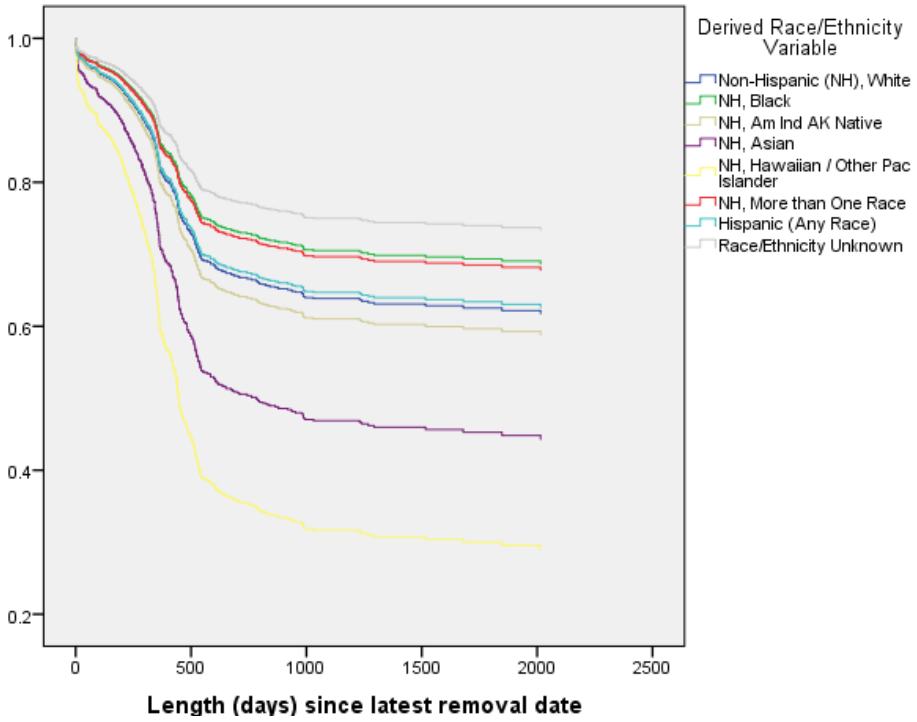
Utah

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

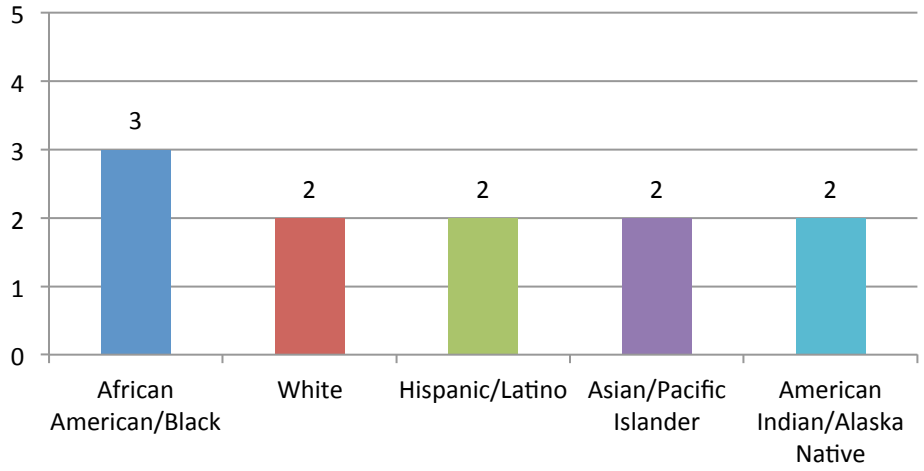


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

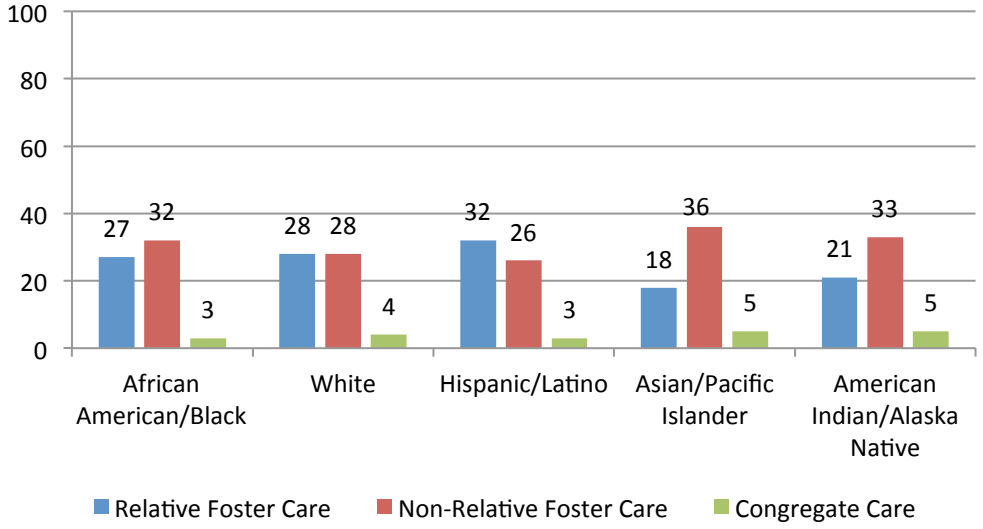




Median No. of Placements

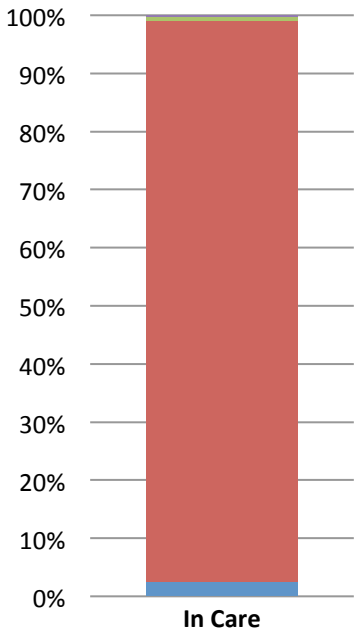


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

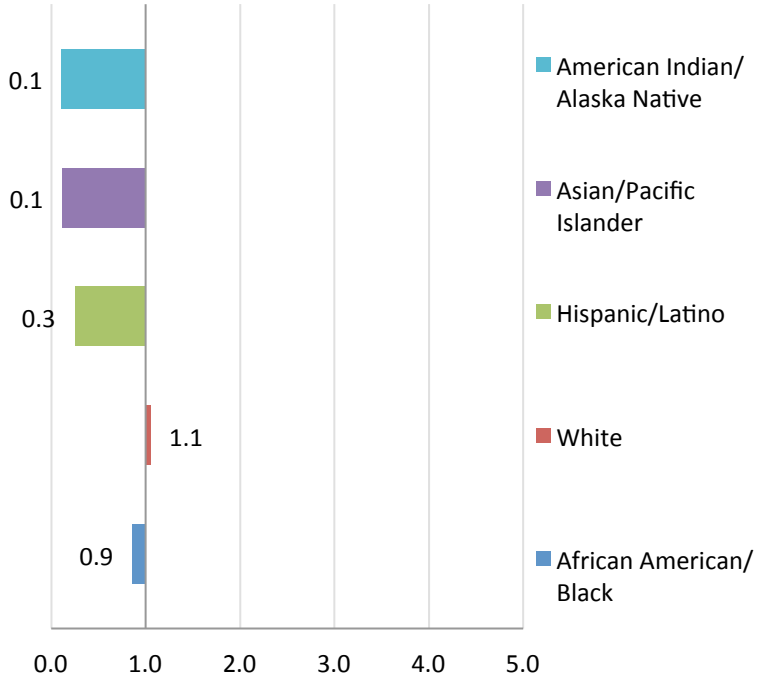


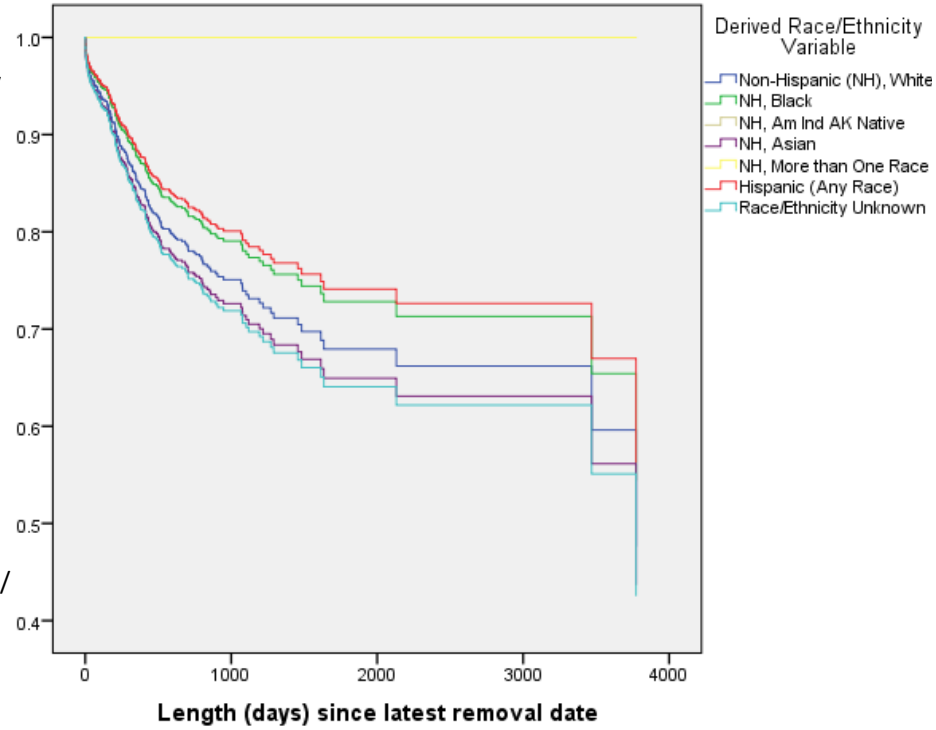
Vermont

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

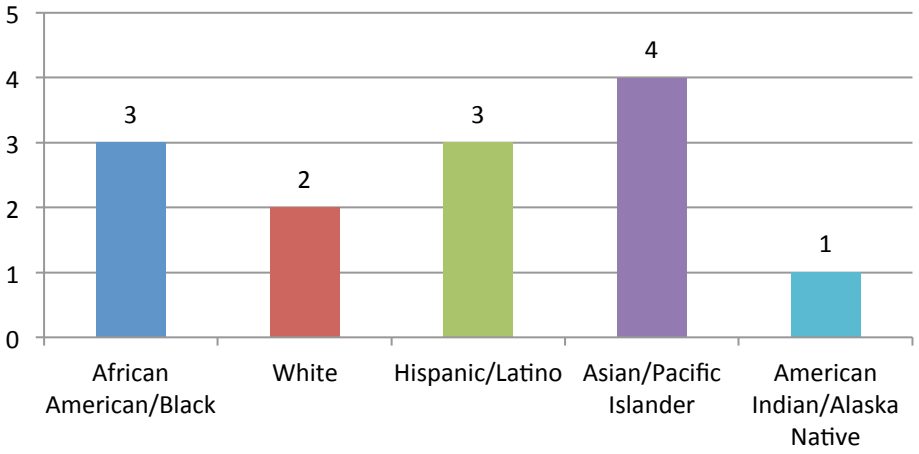


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

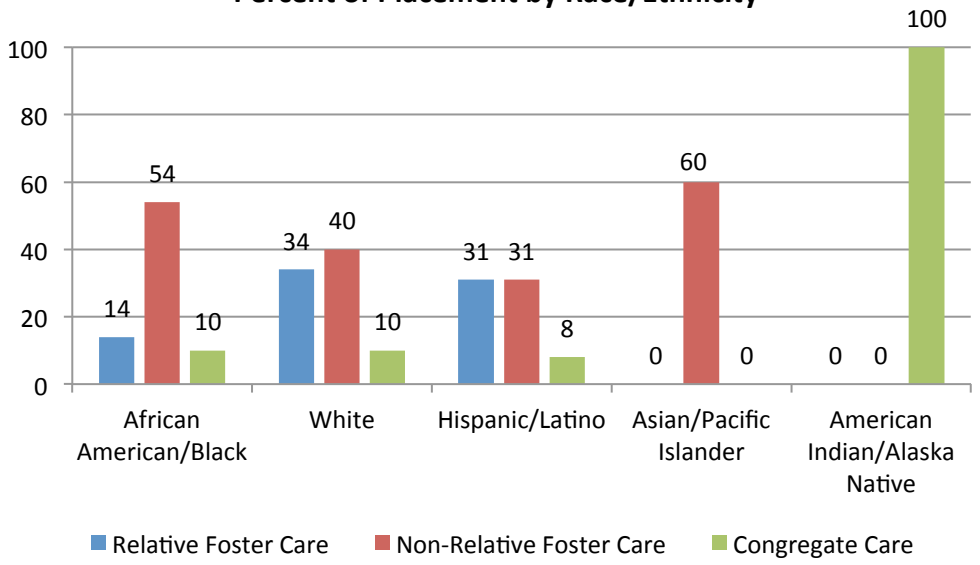




Median No. of Placements

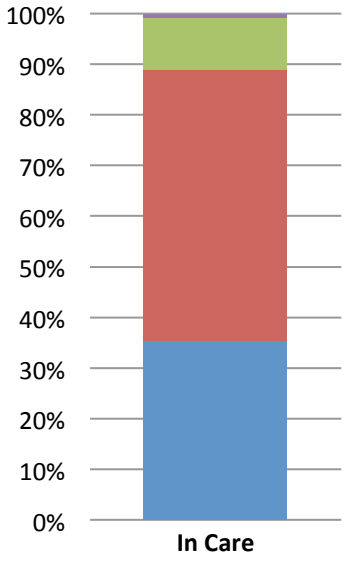


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

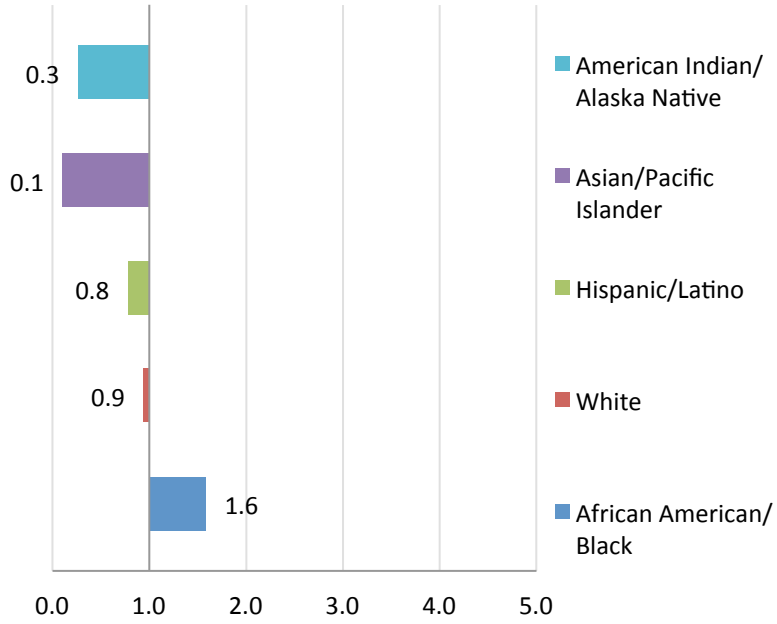


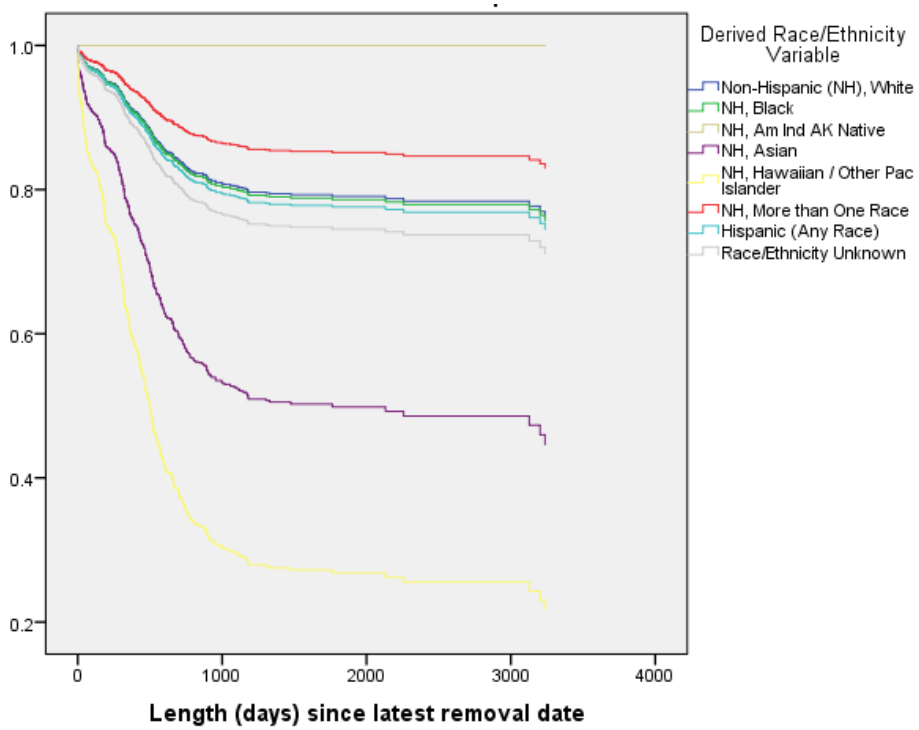
Virginia

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

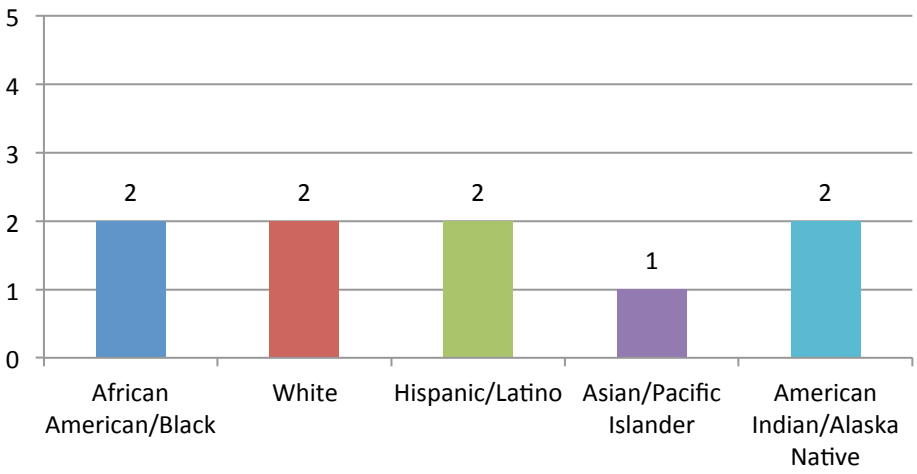


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

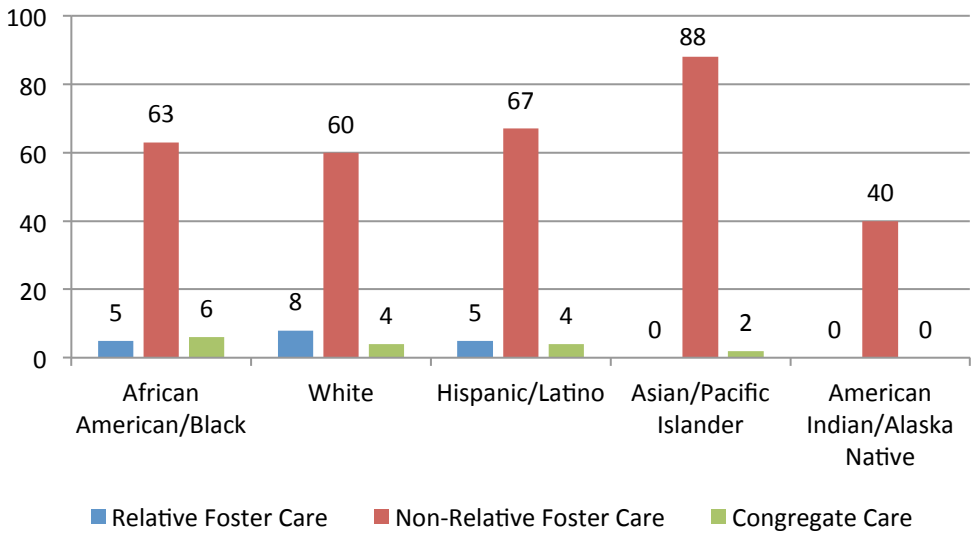




Median No. of Placements

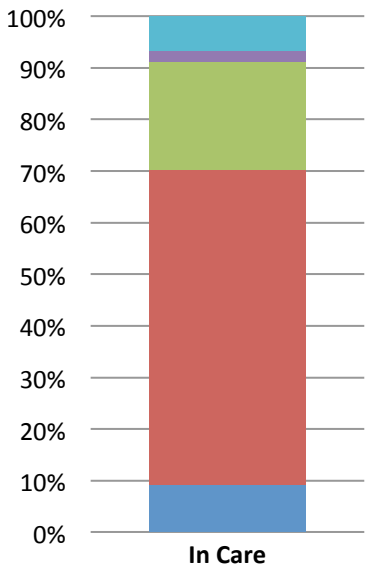


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

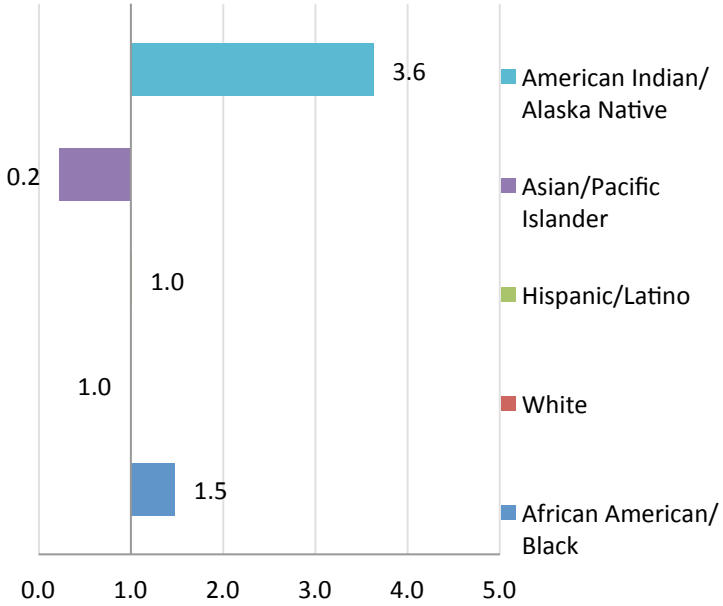


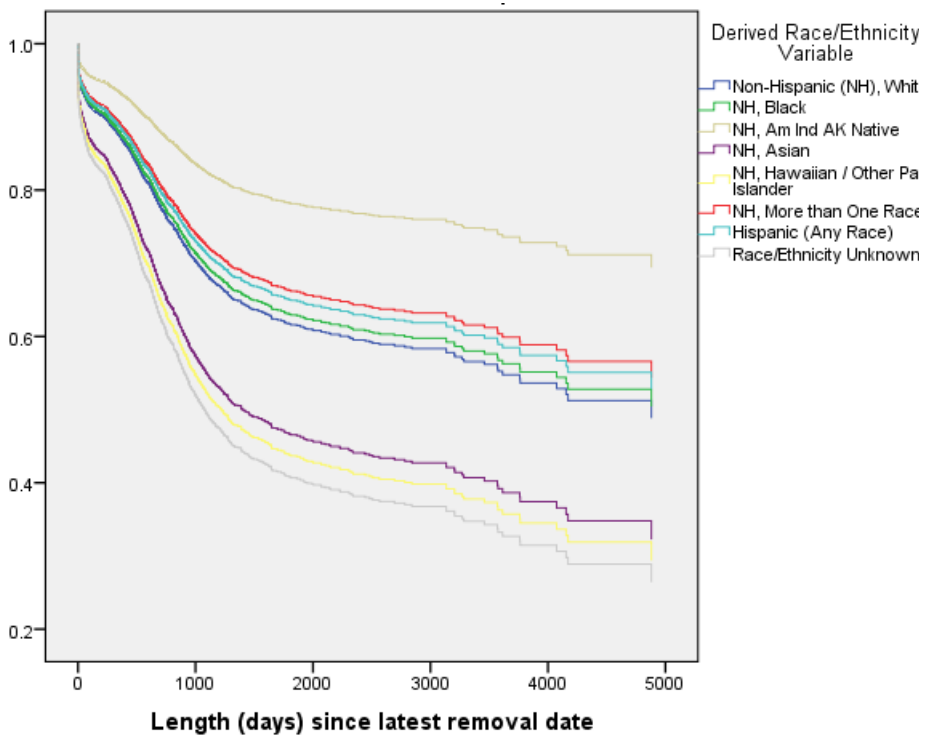
Washington

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

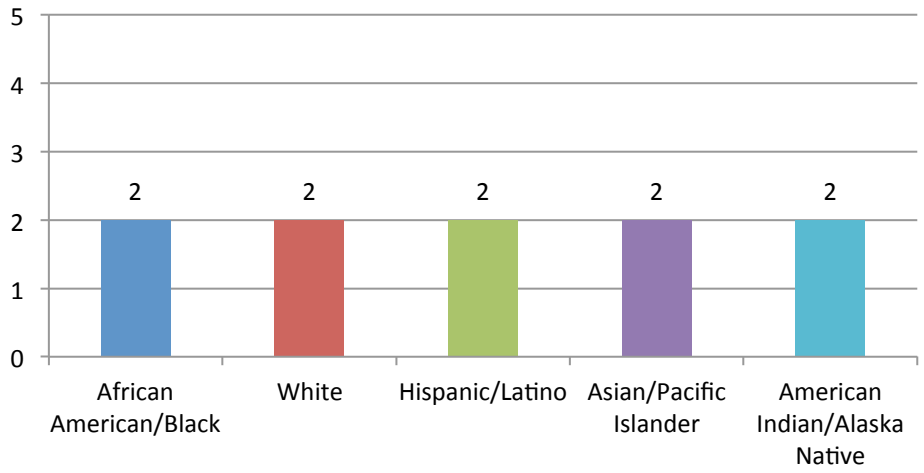


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

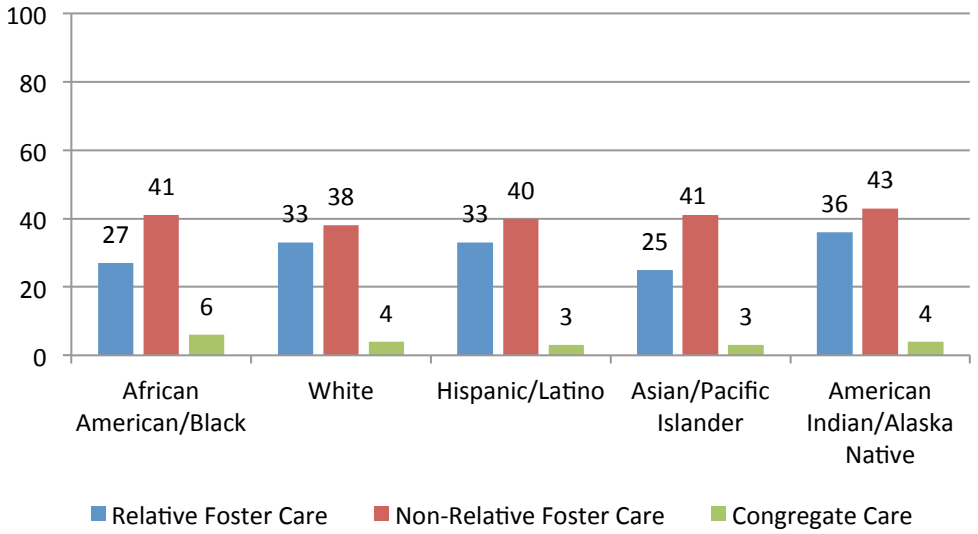




Median No. of Placements

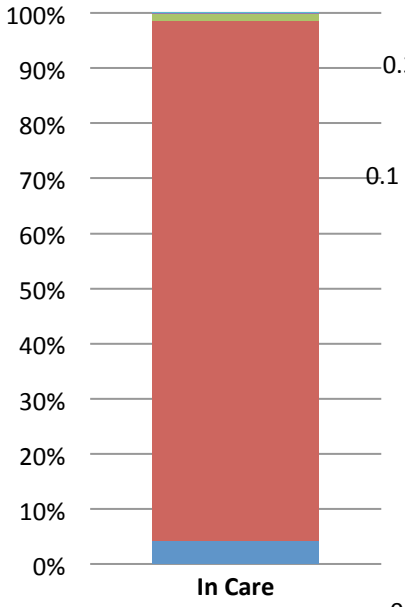


Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

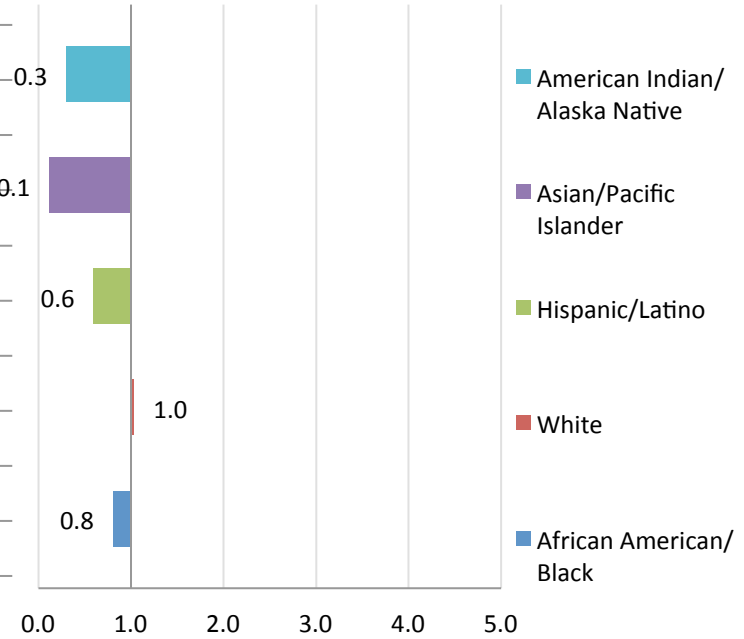


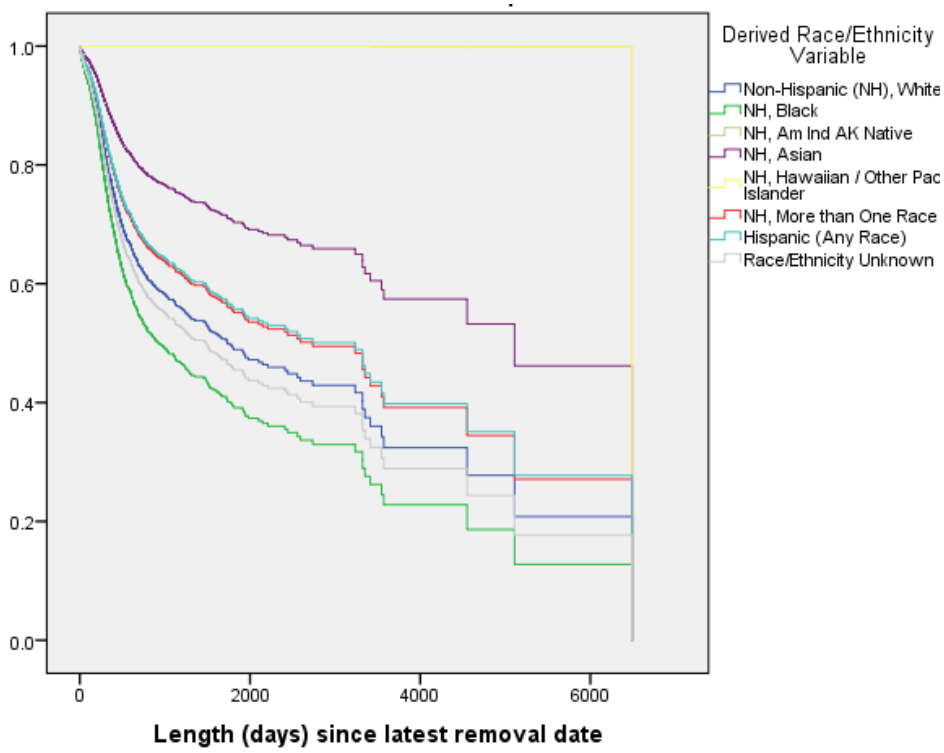
West Virginia

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

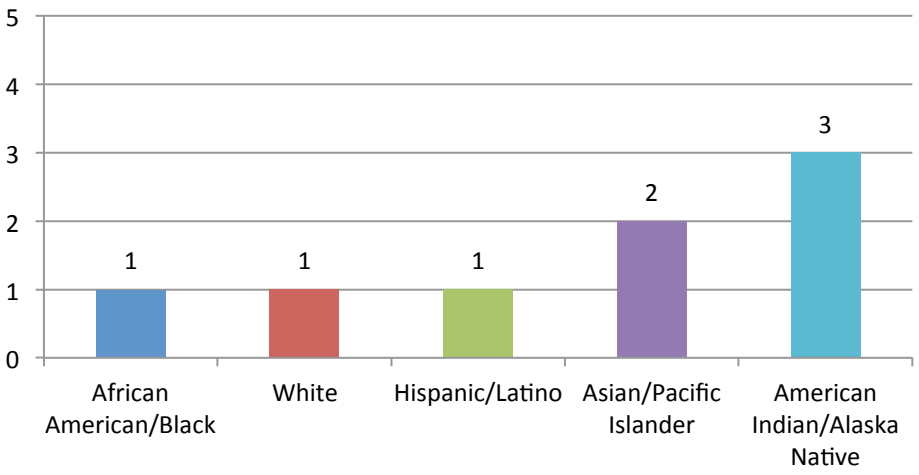


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

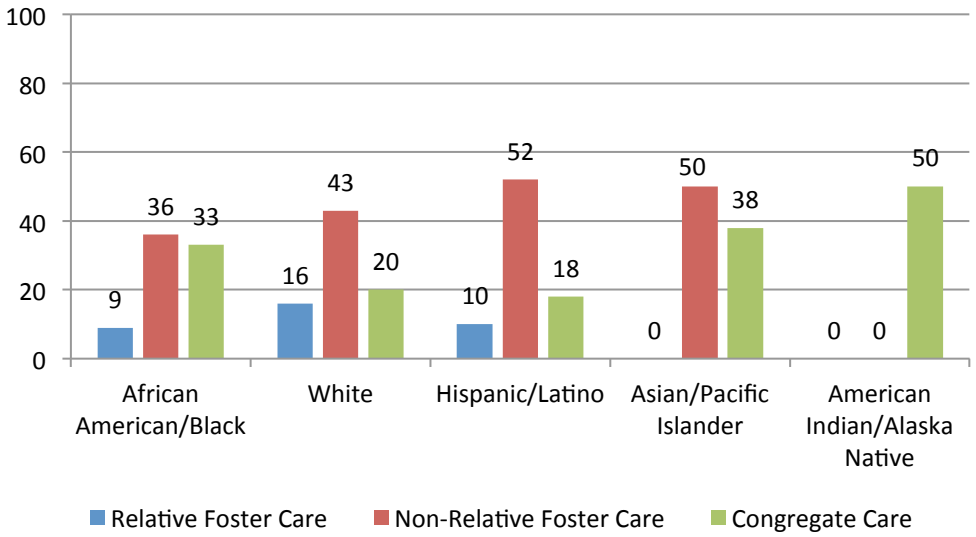




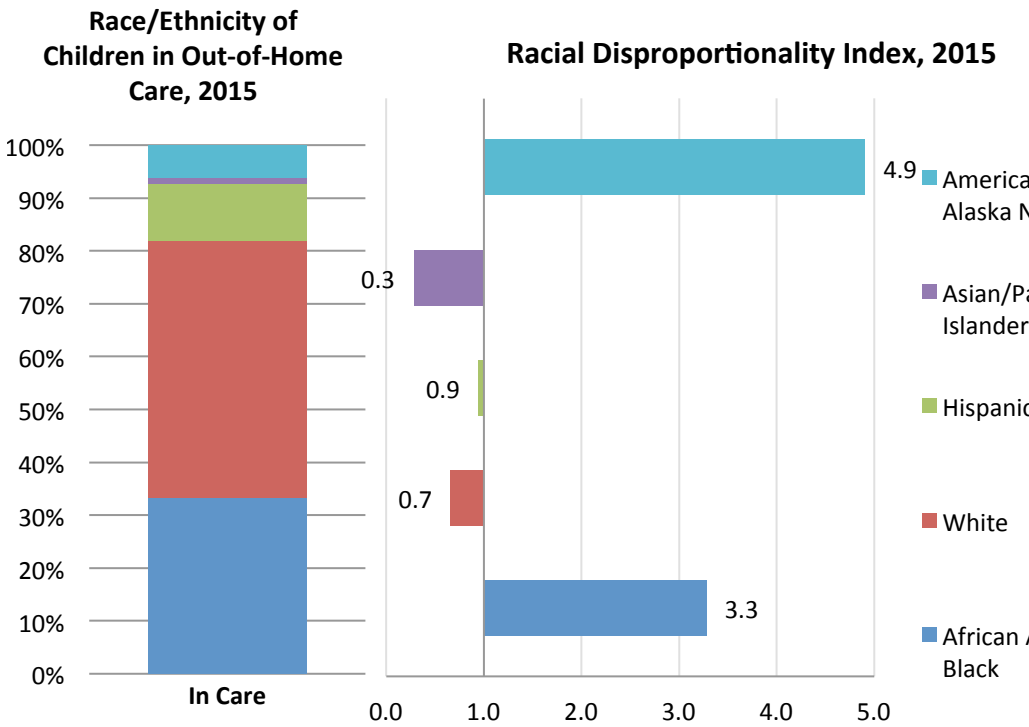
Median No. of Placements



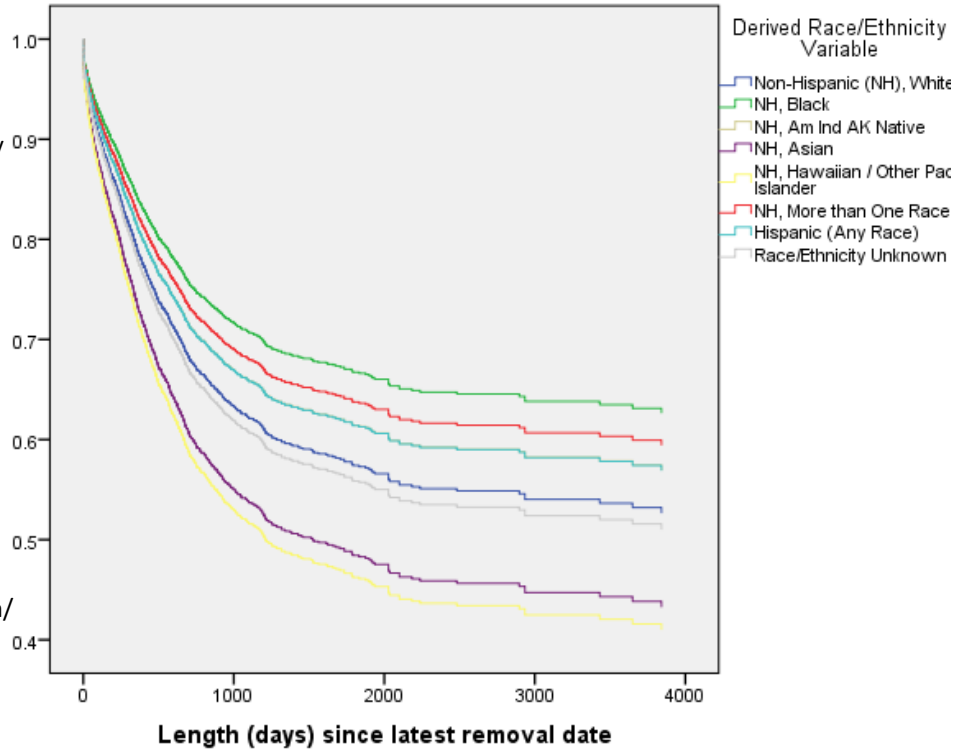
Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity

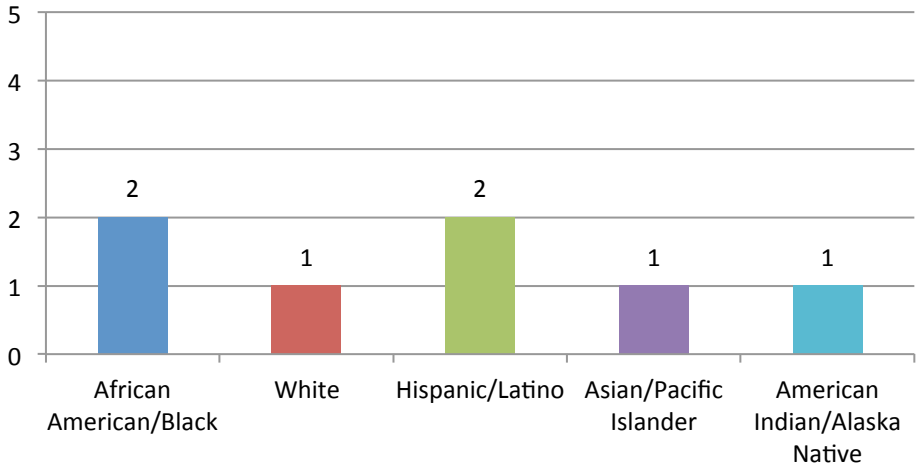


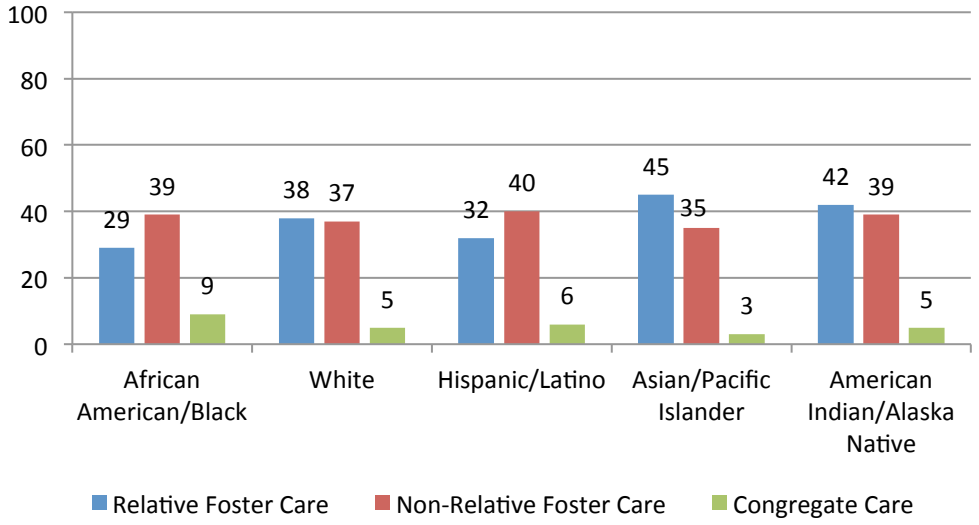
Wisconsin


Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
In Care

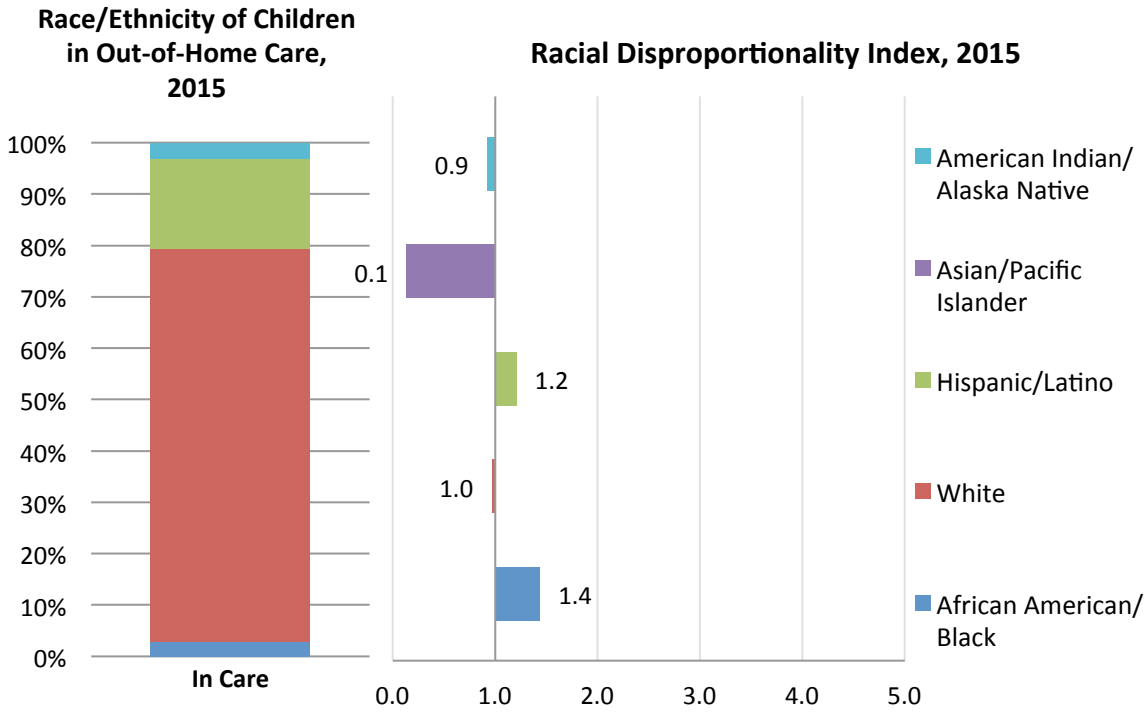
Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015
4.9
0.3
0.9
0.7
3.3
0.0
1.0
2.0
3.0
4.0
5.0
American Indian/ Alaska Native
Asian/Pacific Islander
Hispanic/Latino
White
African American/ Black


1.0
0.9
0.8
0.7
0.6
0.5
0.4
0
1000
2000
3000
4000
Length (days) since latest removal date
Derived Race/Ethnicity Variable
Non-Hispanic (NH), White
NH, Black
NH, Am Ind AK Native
NH, Asian
NH, Hawaiian / Other Pac Islander
NH, More than One Race
Hispanic (Any Race)
Race/Ethnicity Unknown

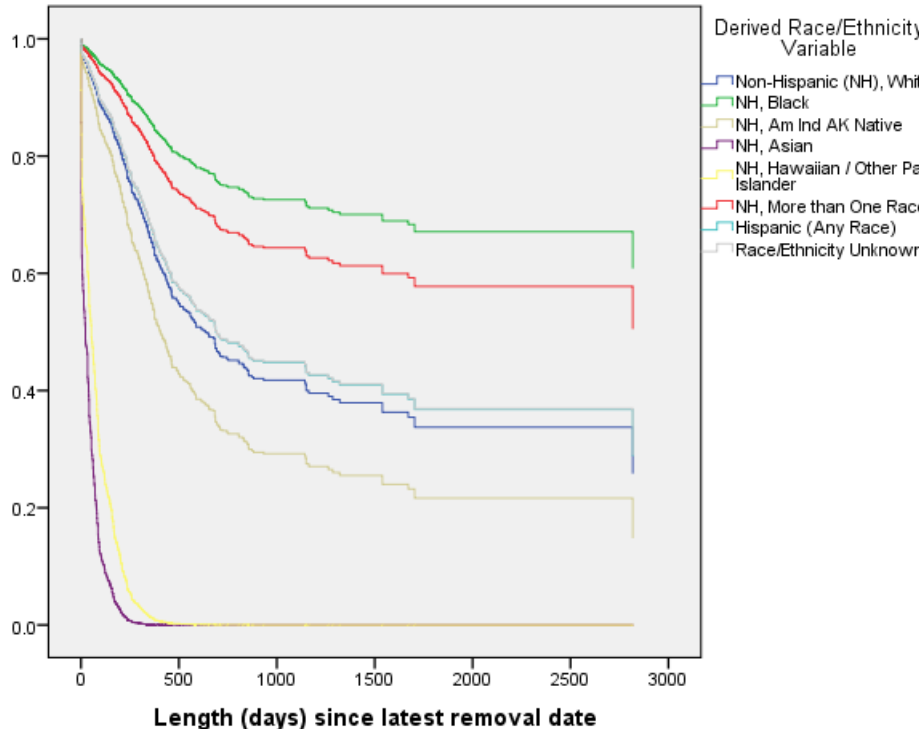

Median No. of Placements
5
4
3
2
1
0
2
1
2
1
1
African American/Black
White
Hispanic/Latino
Asian/Pacific Islander
American Indian/Alaska Native

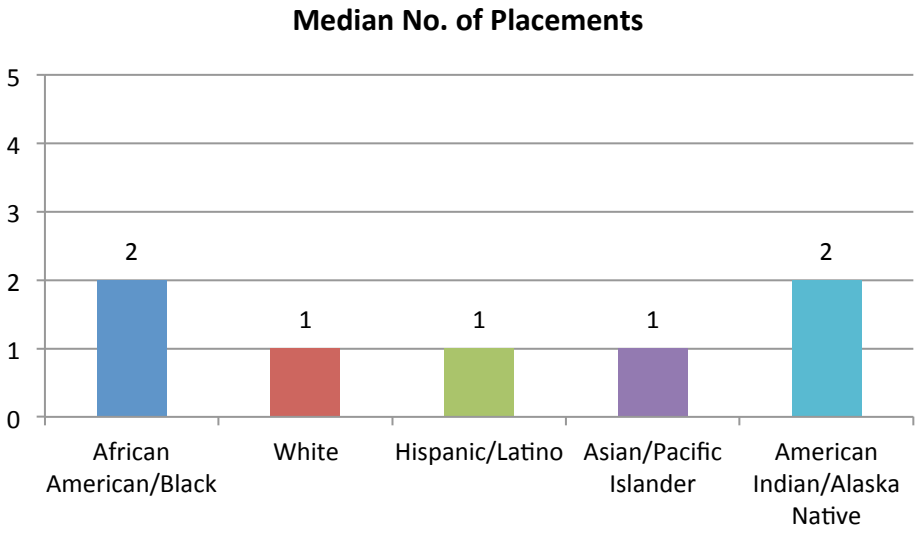

Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity
100
80
60
40
20
0
29
39
9
38
37
5
32
40
6
45
35
3
42
39
5
African American/Black
White
Hispanic/Latino
Asian/Pacific Islander
American Indian/Alaska Native
Relative Foster Care
Non-Relative Foster Care
Congregate Care

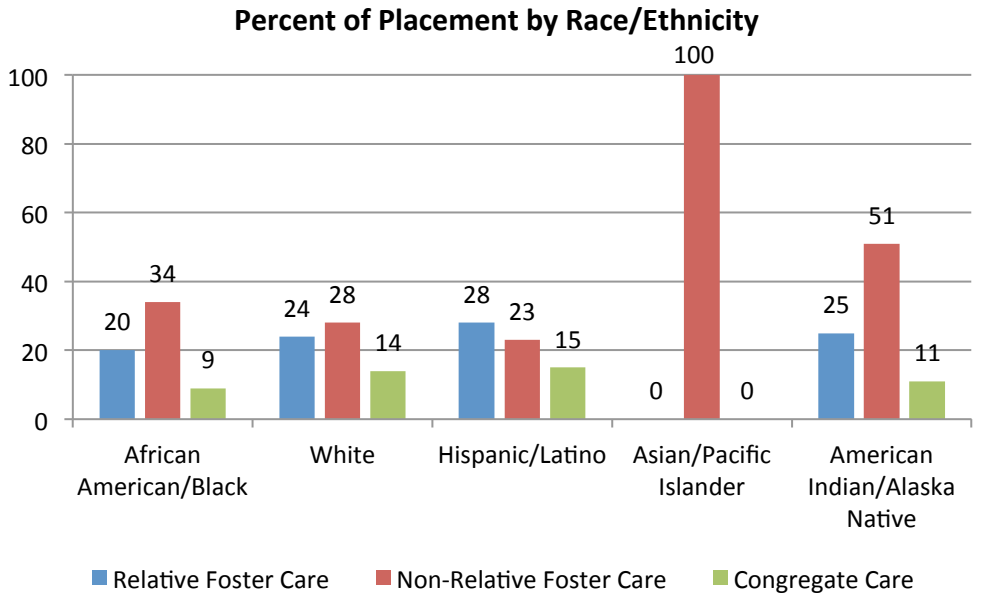
Wyoming


Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
In Care

Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015
0.9
0.1
1.2
1.0
1.4
0.0
1.0
2.0
3.0
4.0
5.0
American Indian/ Alaska Native
Asian/Pacific Islander
Hispanic/Latino
White
African American/ Black

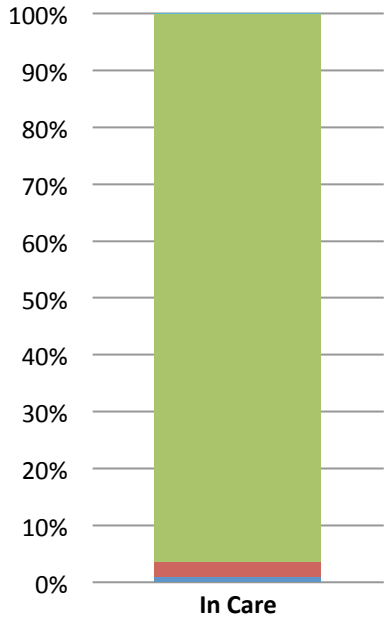

1.0
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
0.0
0
500
1000
1500
2000
2500
3000
Length (days) since latest removal date
Derived Race/Ethnicity Variable
Non-Hispanic (NH), Whit
NH, Black
NH, Am Ind AK Native
NH, Asian
NH, Hawaiian / Other Pa Islander
NH, More than One Rac
Hispanic (Any Race)
Race/Ethnicity Unknowr


Median No. of Placements
5
4
3
2
1
0
2
1
1
1
2
African American/Black
White
Hispanic/Latino
Asian/Pacific Islander
American Indian/Alaska Native

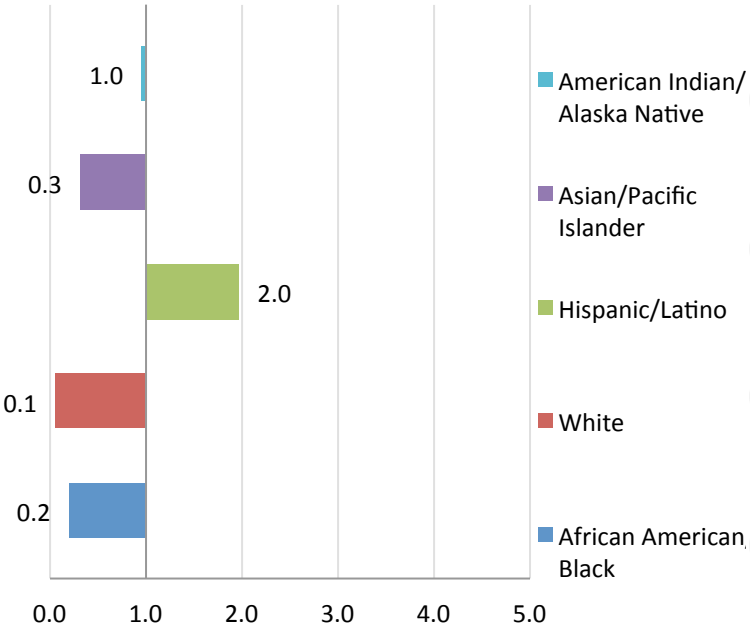

Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity
100
80
60
40
20
0
20
34
9
24
28
14
28
23
15
0
100
0
25
51
11
African American/Black
White
Hispanic/Latino
Asian/Pacific Islander
American Indian/Alaska Native
Relative Foster Care
Non-Relative Foster Care
Congregate Care

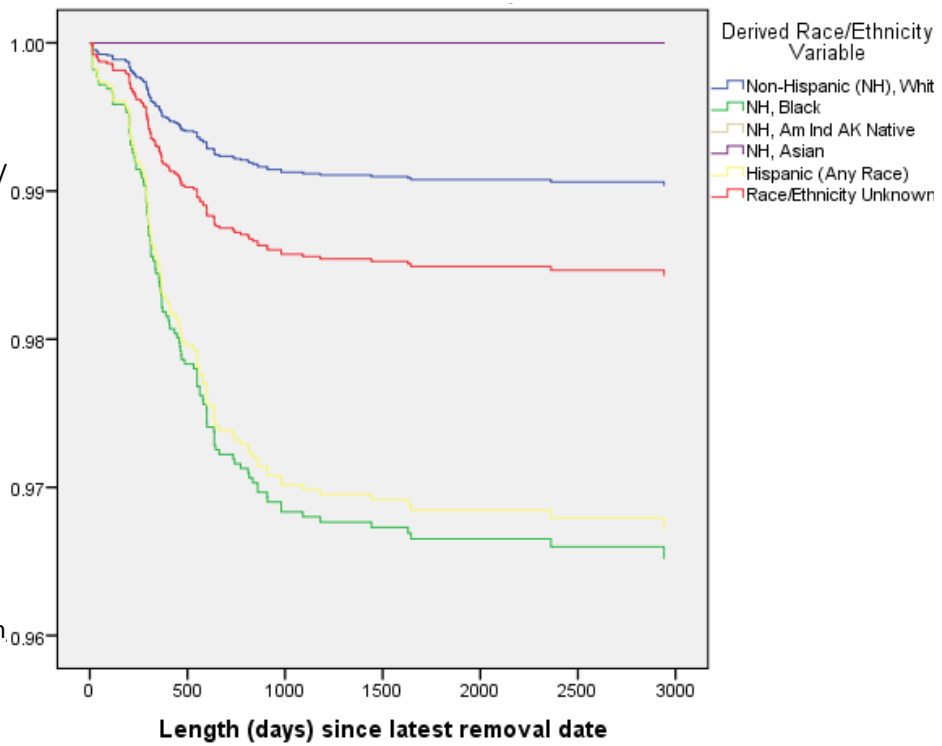
Puerto Rico

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2015

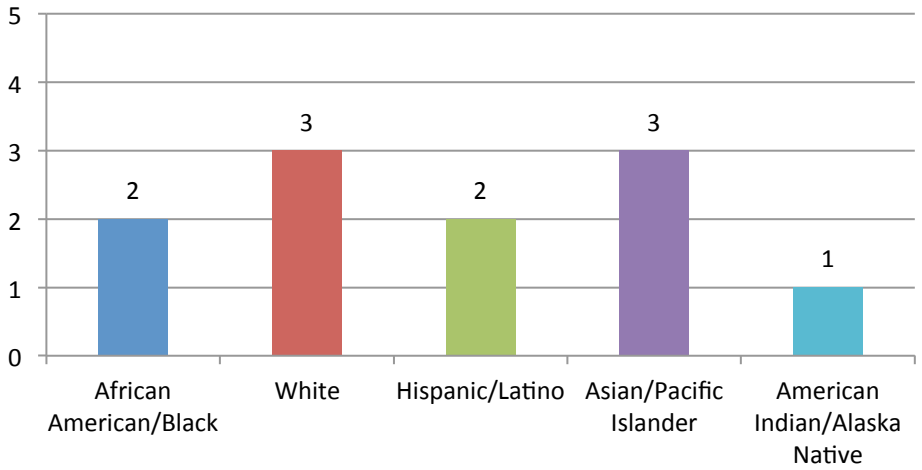


Racial Disproportionality Index, 2015

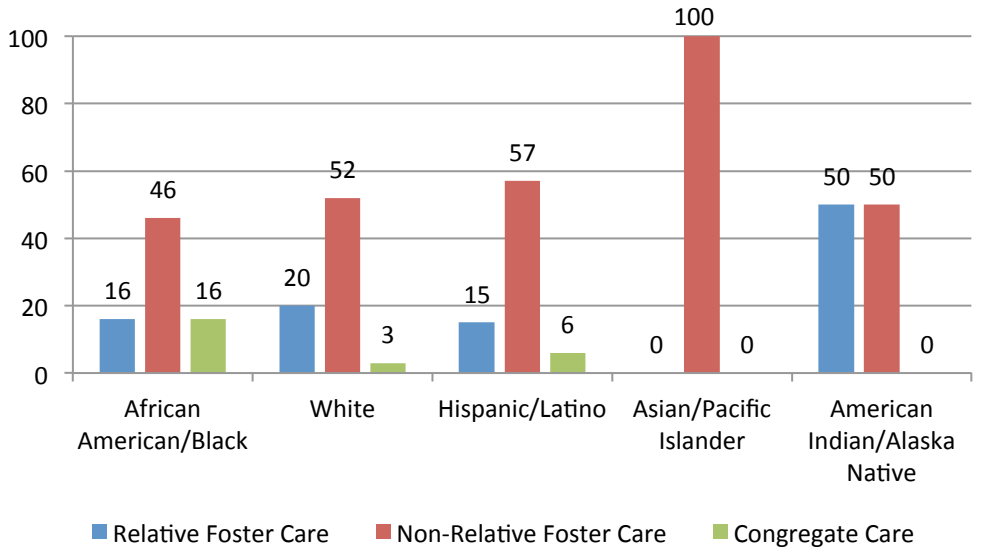




Median No. of Placements



Percent of Placement by Race/Ethnicity



Appendix A – Definitions

Term	Definition[9]
Race/Ethnicity	
American Indian/Alaska Native	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.
Asian/Pacific Islander	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam./ A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
African American/Black	A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.
White	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.
Hispanic/Latino	The child is of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American origin, or a person of other Spanish cultural origin. Whether or not a person is Hispanic or Latino is determined by how they define themselves or by how others define them. In the case of young children, parents determine the ethnicity of the child. This can be view as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.

[9] All definitions are taken from AFCARS Foster Care File Code Book (Revise 2/1/2016)

Placements	
Relative Foster Care	A licensed or unlicensed home of the child's relatives regarded by the state as a foster care living arrangement for the child.
Non-Relative Foster Care	A licensed or unlicensed home of the child's relatives regarded by the state as a foster care living arrangement for the child.
Congregate Care	A licensed or approved home providing 24-hour care for children in a small group setting that generally has from seven to twelve children.
Number of Placements	The number of places the child has lived, including the current setting, during the current removal episode.