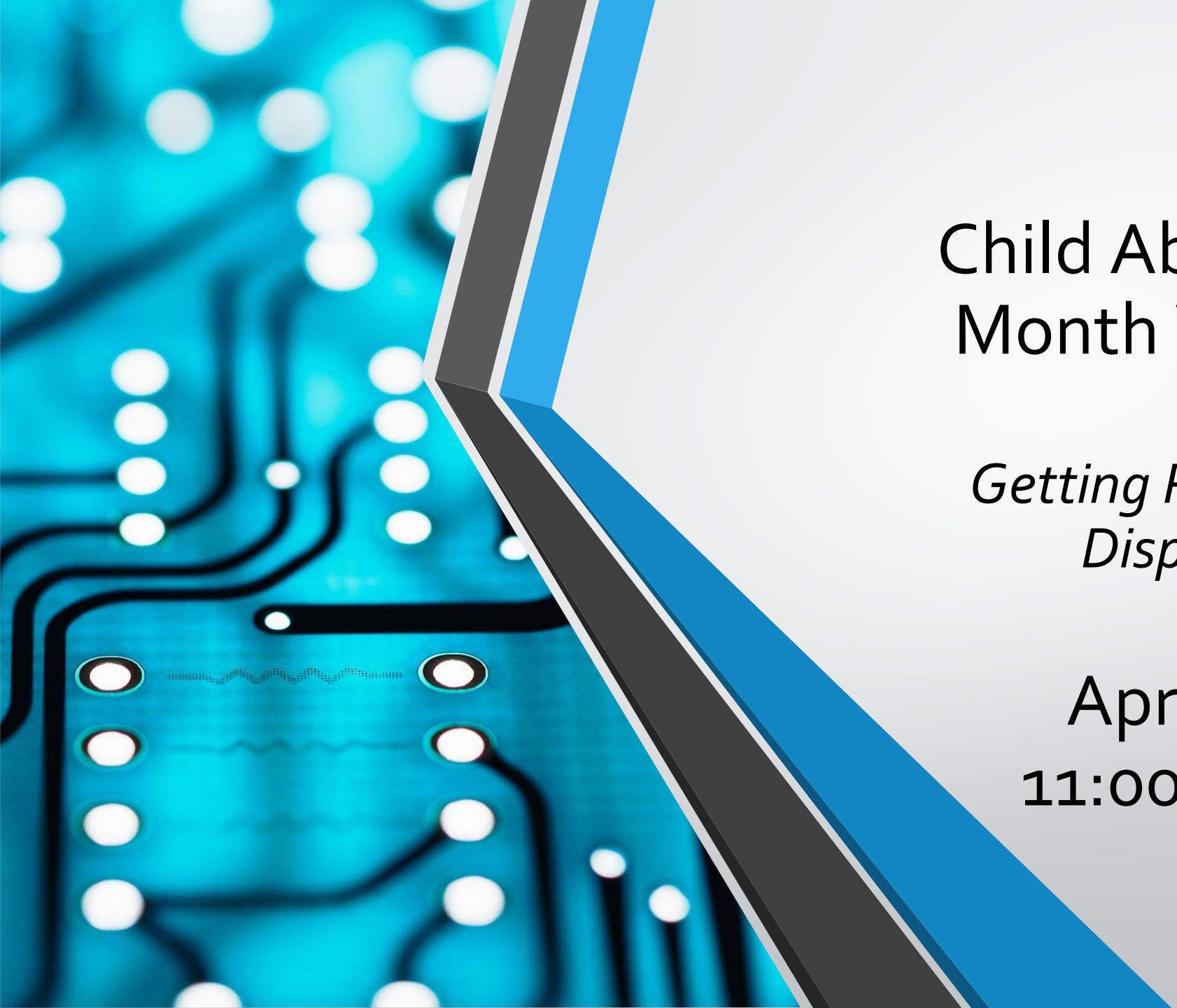


Child Abuse Prevention Month Webinar Series

Getting Real with Data and Disproportionality

April 12th, 2023
11:00am-12:30pm

Agenda

- Welcome
- Presentation by UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project
- Presentation by Chapin Hall
- Closing

MANDATED REPORTING TO COMMUNITY SUPPORTING

Daniel Webster, California Child Welfare Indicators Project

Child Neglect Definition

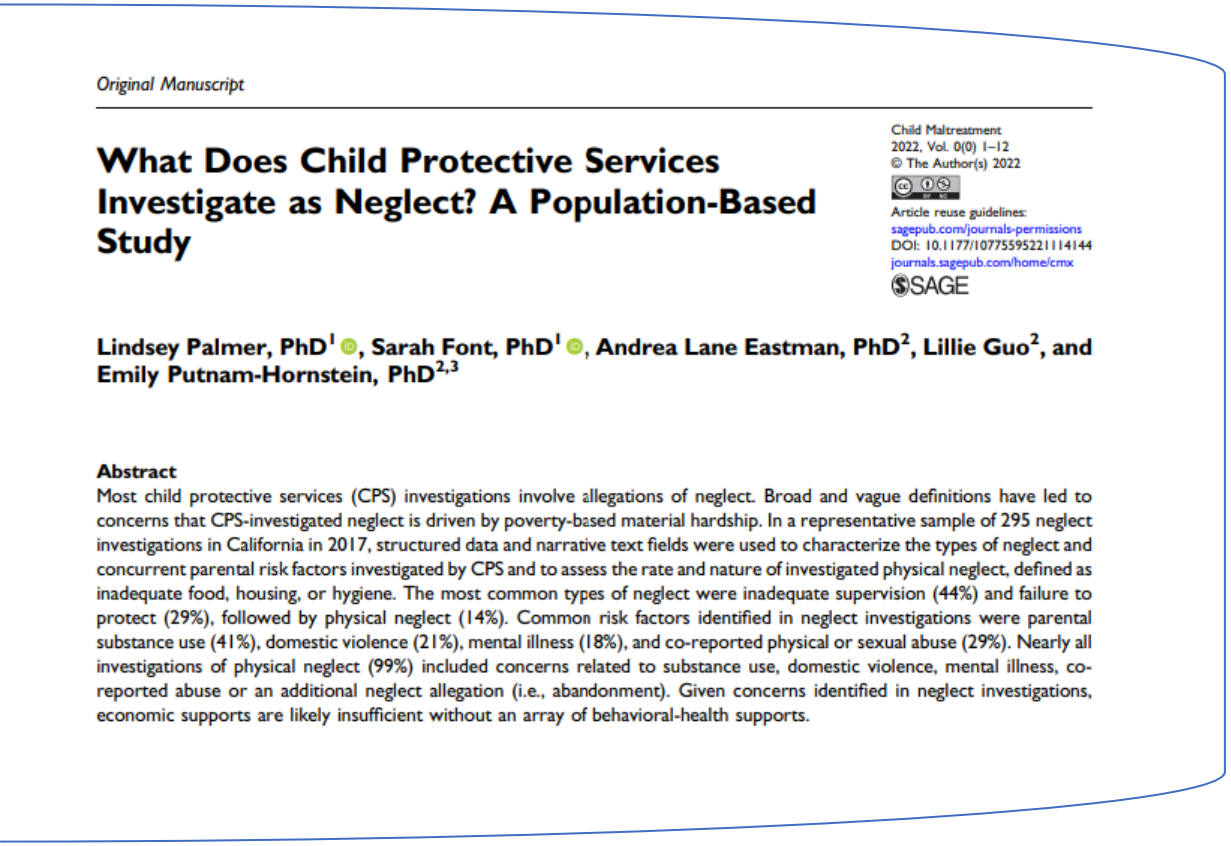
California Penal Code § 270:

when a parent or legal guardian willfully (and without lawful excuse) fails to provide necessities such as clothing, food, shelter or medical attendance, or other remedial care…

Neglect is a vague, broad term that may be conflated with poverty, and which obscures complex, concurrent risk factors such as parental substance use, domestic violence, and mental illness.

What is Investigated as Neglect?

In a representative sample of 295 neglect investigations from California, structured data and narrative text fields were used to characterize the most common types of neglect (inadequate supervision, failure to protect, physical neglect) and to document concurrent parental risk factors investigated by the child protection system.



Original Manuscript

What Does Child Protective Services Investigate as Neglect? A Population-Based Study

Child Maltreatment
2022, Vol. 0(0) 1–12
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DOI: 10.1177/10775595221114144
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SAGE

Lindsey Palmer, PhD[1], Sarah Font, PhD[1], Andrea Lane Eastman, PhD[2], Lillie Guo[2], and Emily Putnam-Hornstein, PhD[2,3]

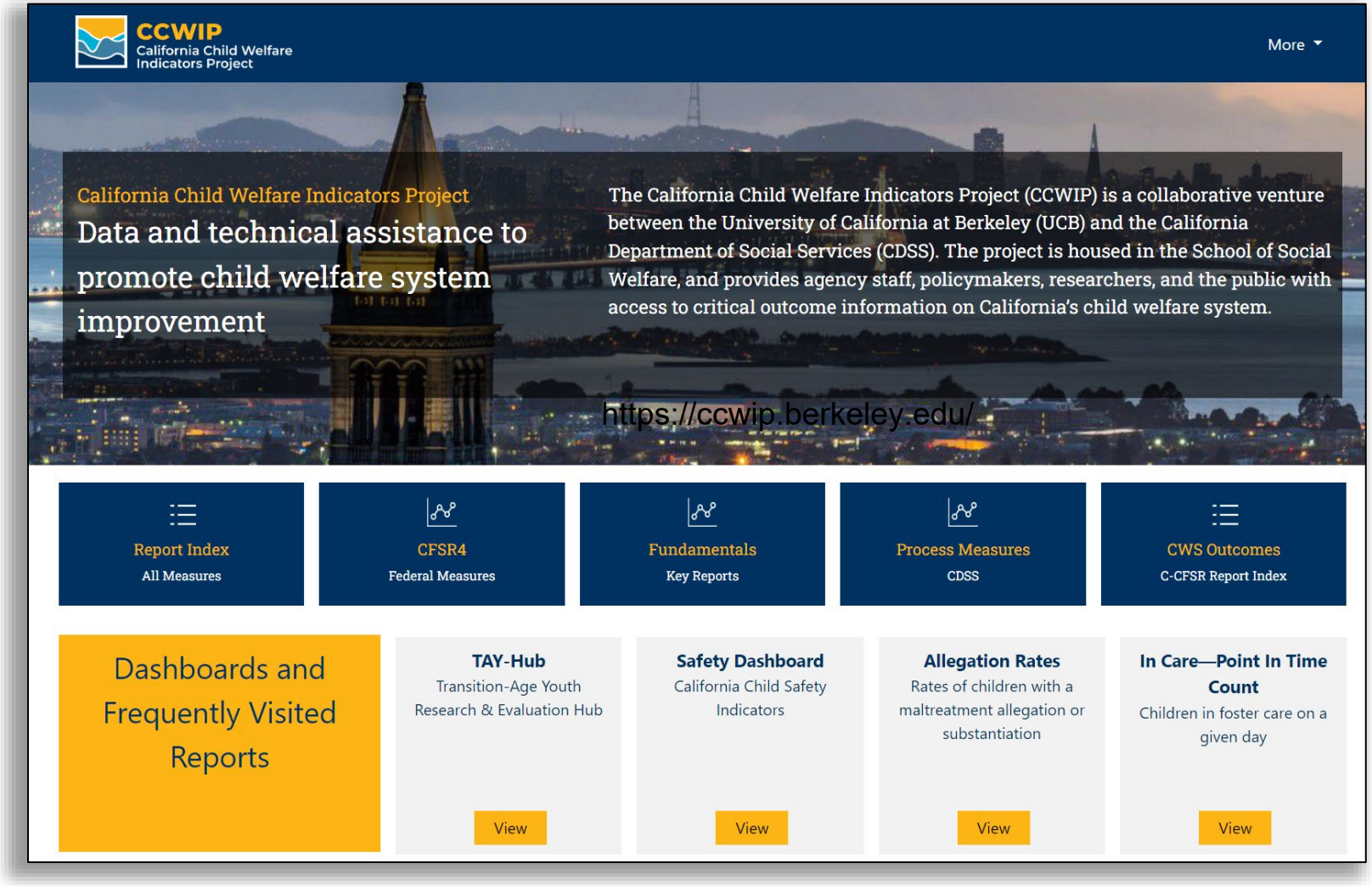
Abstract

Most child protective services (CPS) investigations involve allegations of neglect. Broad and vague definitions have led to concerns that CPS-investigated neglect is driven by poverty-based material hardship. In a representative sample of 295 neglect investigations in California in 2017, structured data and narrative text fields were used to characterize the types of neglect and concurrent parental risk factors investigated by CPS and to assess the rate and nature of investigated physical neglect, defined as inadequate food, housing, or hygiene. The most common types of neglect were inadequate supervision (44%) and failure to protect (29%), followed by physical neglect (14%). Common risk factors identified in neglect investigations were parental substance use (41%), domestic violence (21%), mental illness (18%), and co-reported physical or sexual abuse (29%). Nearly all investigations of physical neglect (99%) included concerns related to substance use, domestic violence, mental illness, co-reported abuse or an additional neglect allegation (i.e., abandonment). Given concerns identified in neglect investigations, economic supports are likely insufficient without an array of behavioral-health supports.

Parental substance use, mental illness, domestic violence, and co-reported abuse were present in more than three quarters of all investigations, regardless of neglect type.

"…preventing or alleviating harm due to neglect requires a detailed understanding of both how and why a child's needs were unmet." (p.7)

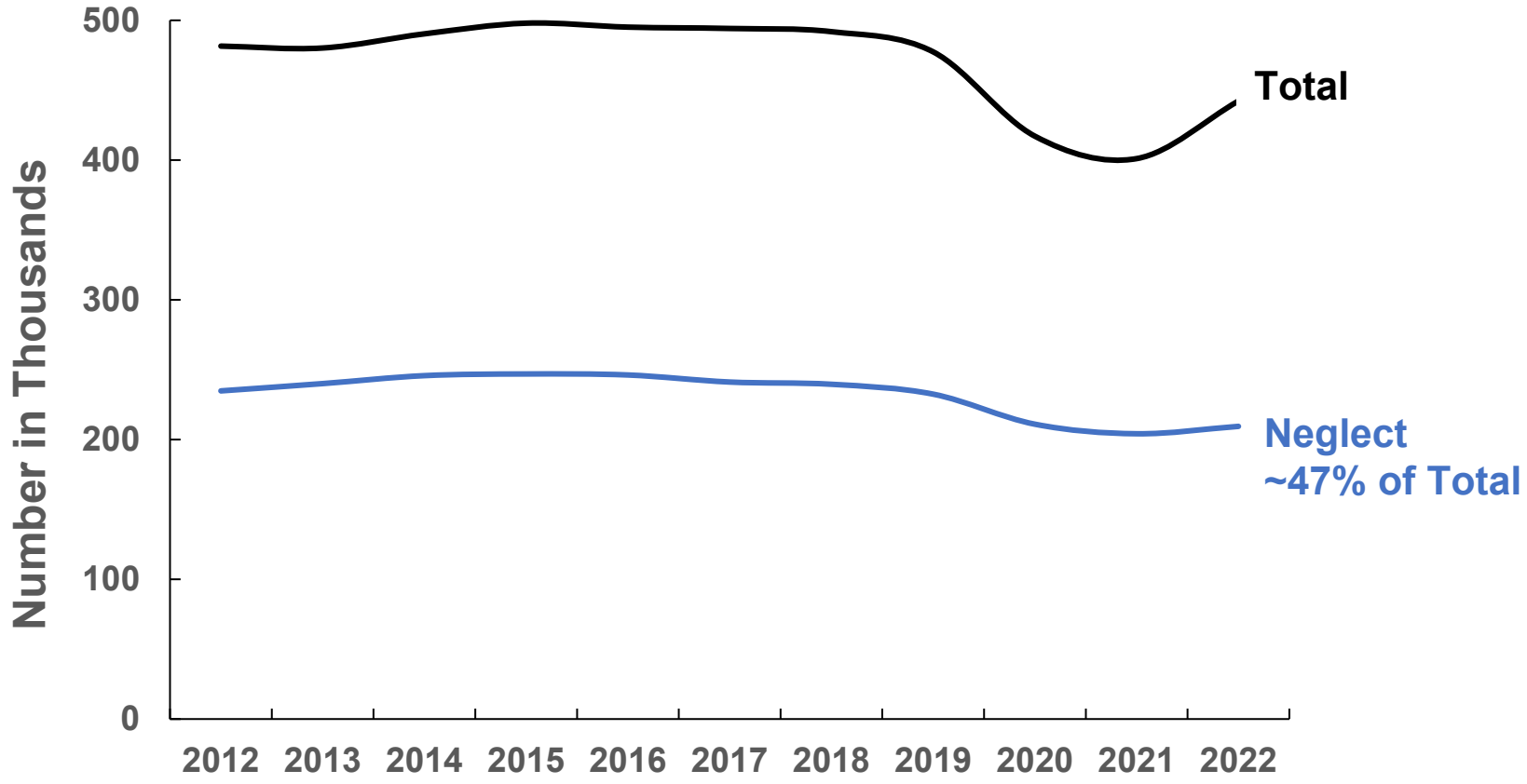
Data for all Graphs:
California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP)



https://ccwip.berkeley.edu/

Children with an Allegation of Abuse or Neglect

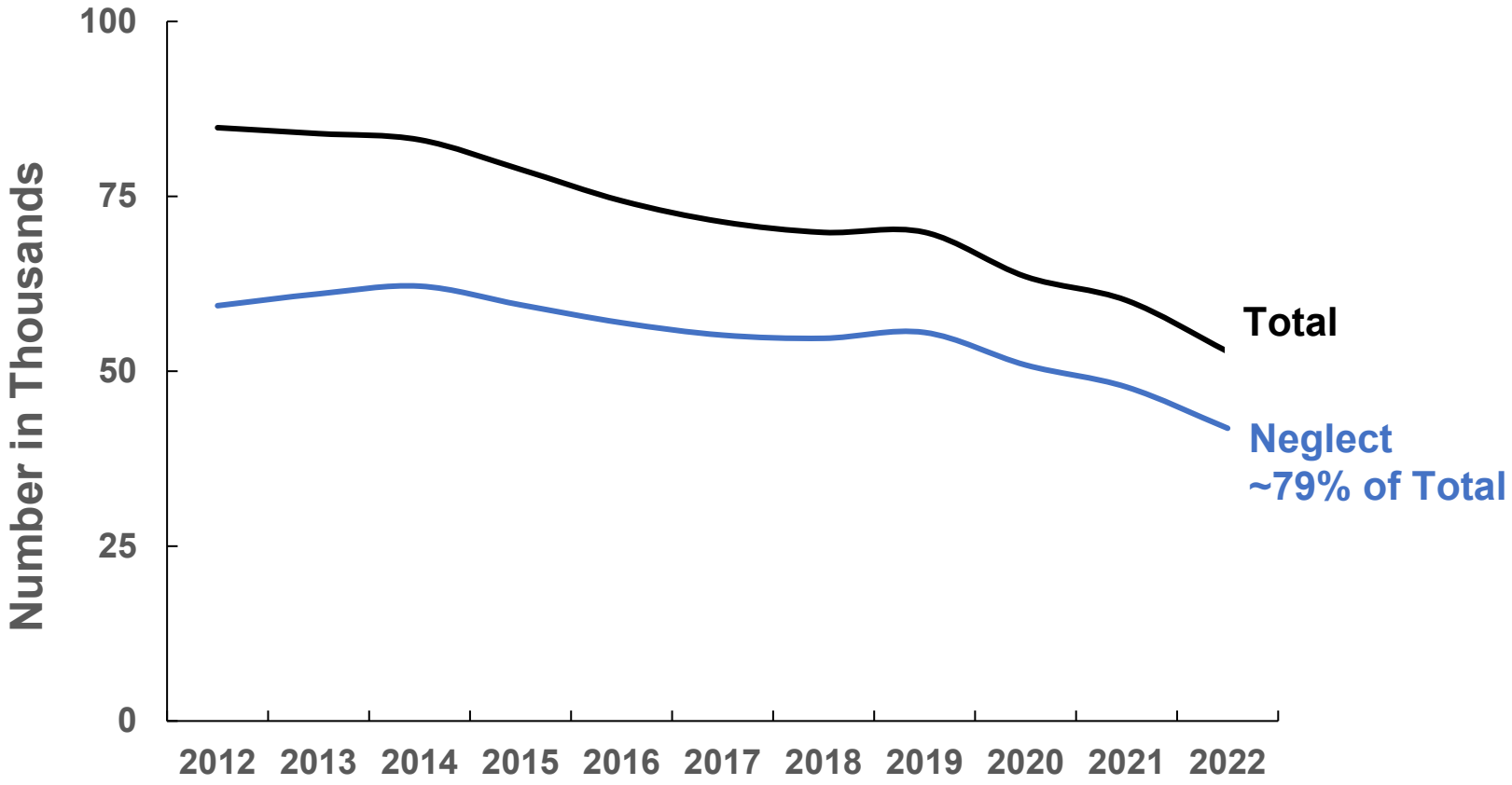
Almost half a million children each year are the subject of an allegation, and over 200k of these children (47%) are reported under the vague 'neglect' category.



Source: Children with an Allegation of Abuse of Neglect, California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), CDSS / U.C. Berkeley

Children with a Substantiated Allegation

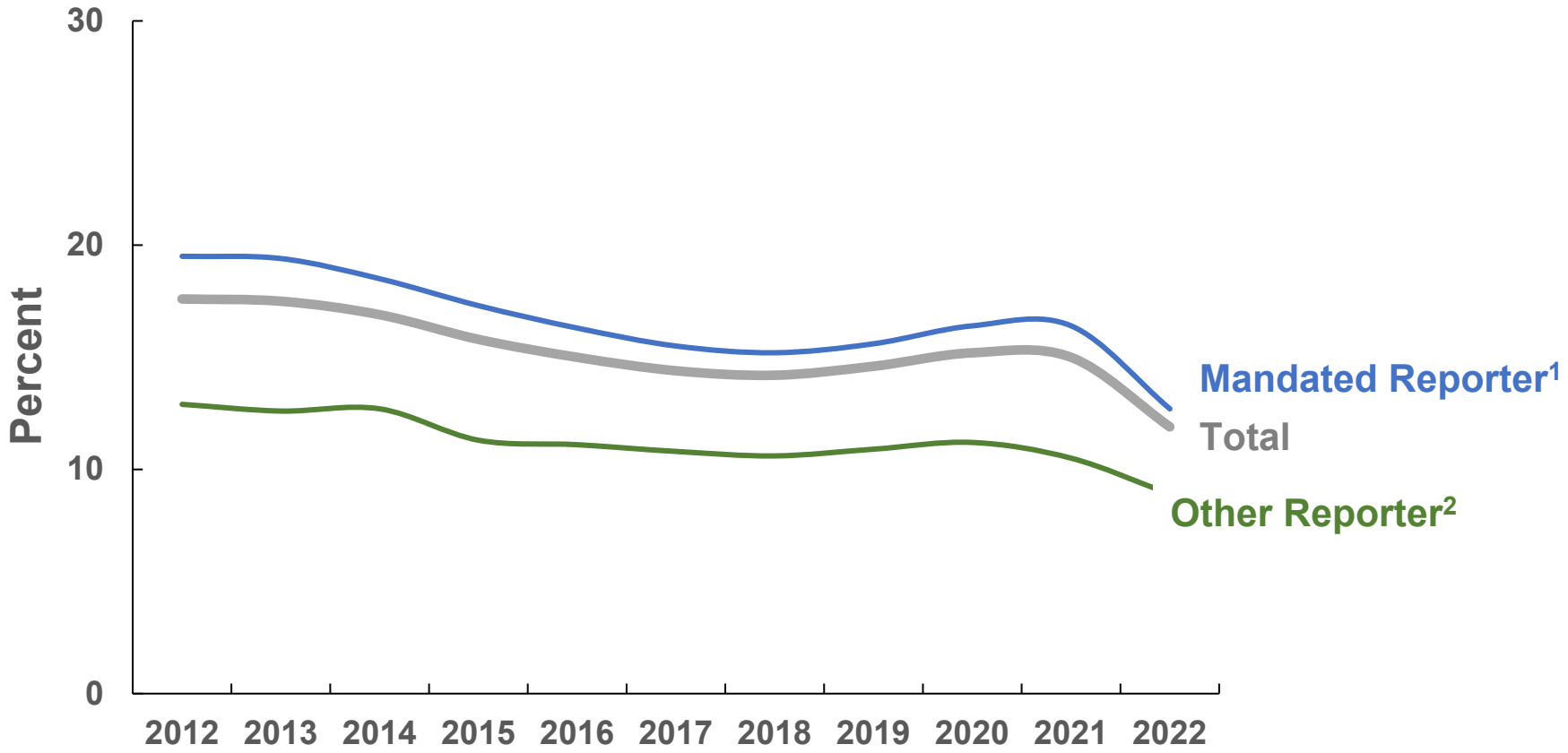
Neglect comprises an even larger proportion of children who are system-involved the further you go along the child welfare continuum-—accounting for over three fourths of children each year whose allegations are substantiated.



Source: Children with a Substantiated Allegation, California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), CDSS / U.C. Berkeley

Substantiations as Percent of Allegations

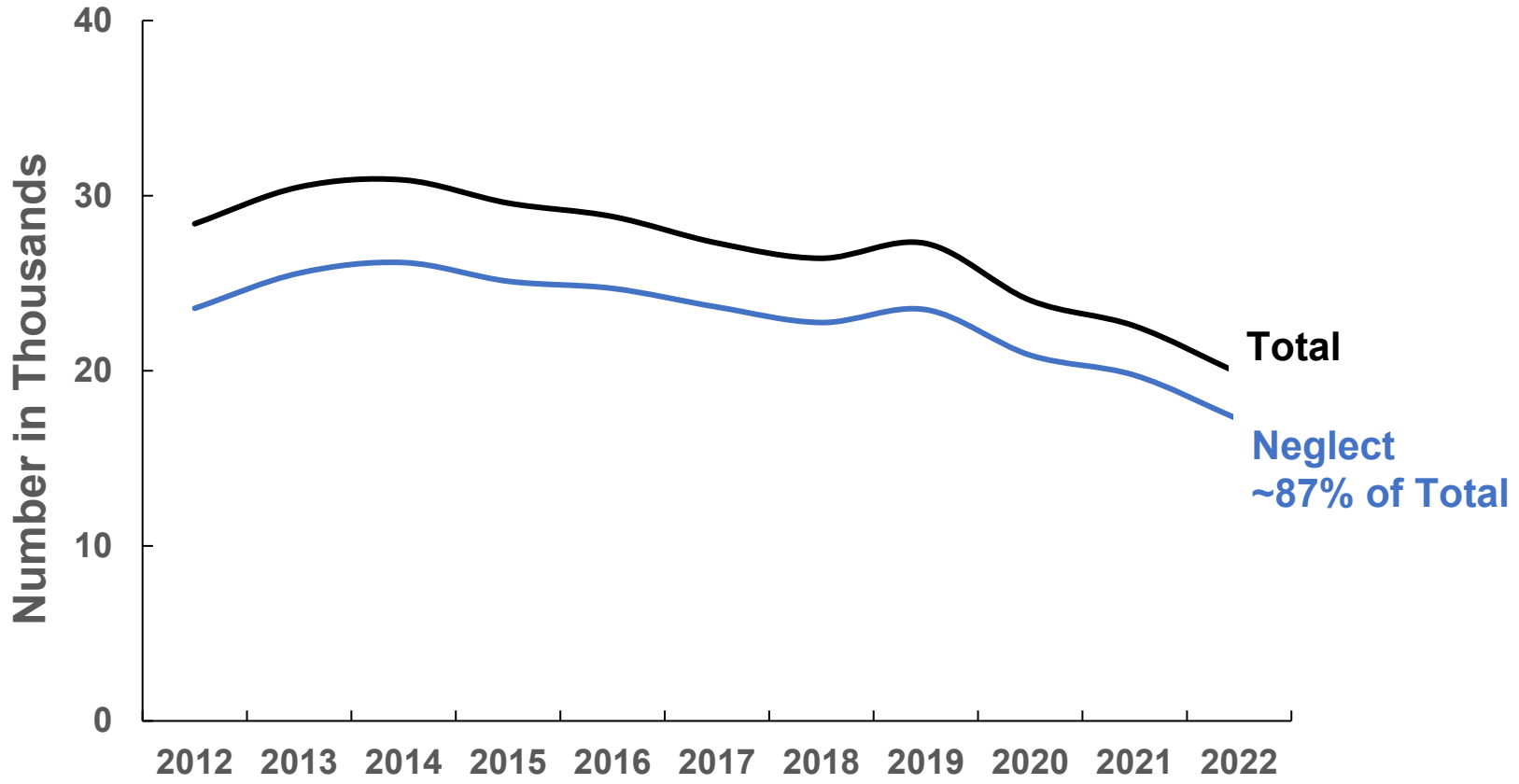
Of all the children with an allegation each year, about 12% are found to be substantiated as victims; this proportion is higher for mandated reporters than for other reporter types.



Source: Substantiations as Percent of Allegations, California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), CDSS / U.C. Berkeley

Children Entering Foster Care

Among children entering foster care, the proportion removed from their families for reasons of neglect approaches 90% (and, more than half of children removed for reasons of neglect were age 5 and under).

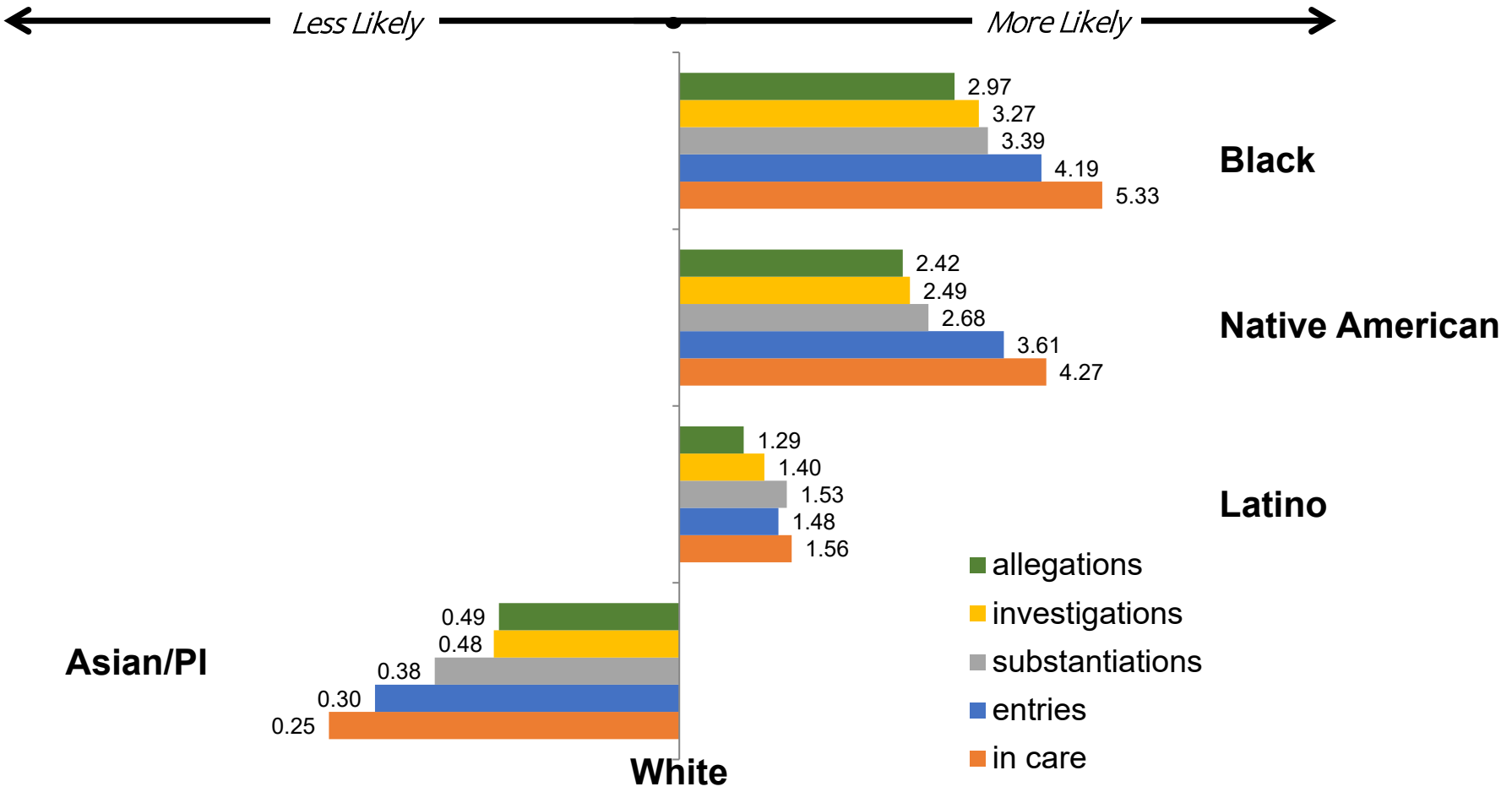


Source: Children Entering Foster Care, California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), CDSS / U.C. Berkeley

Racial Disparity Indices (General Population)

Ethnic Group Disparity Compared with White Children along CW Continuum

Some ethnic groups (especially African American and Native American Children) are much more likely to experience CWS involvement, which becomes more pronounced at deeper levels along the continuum.

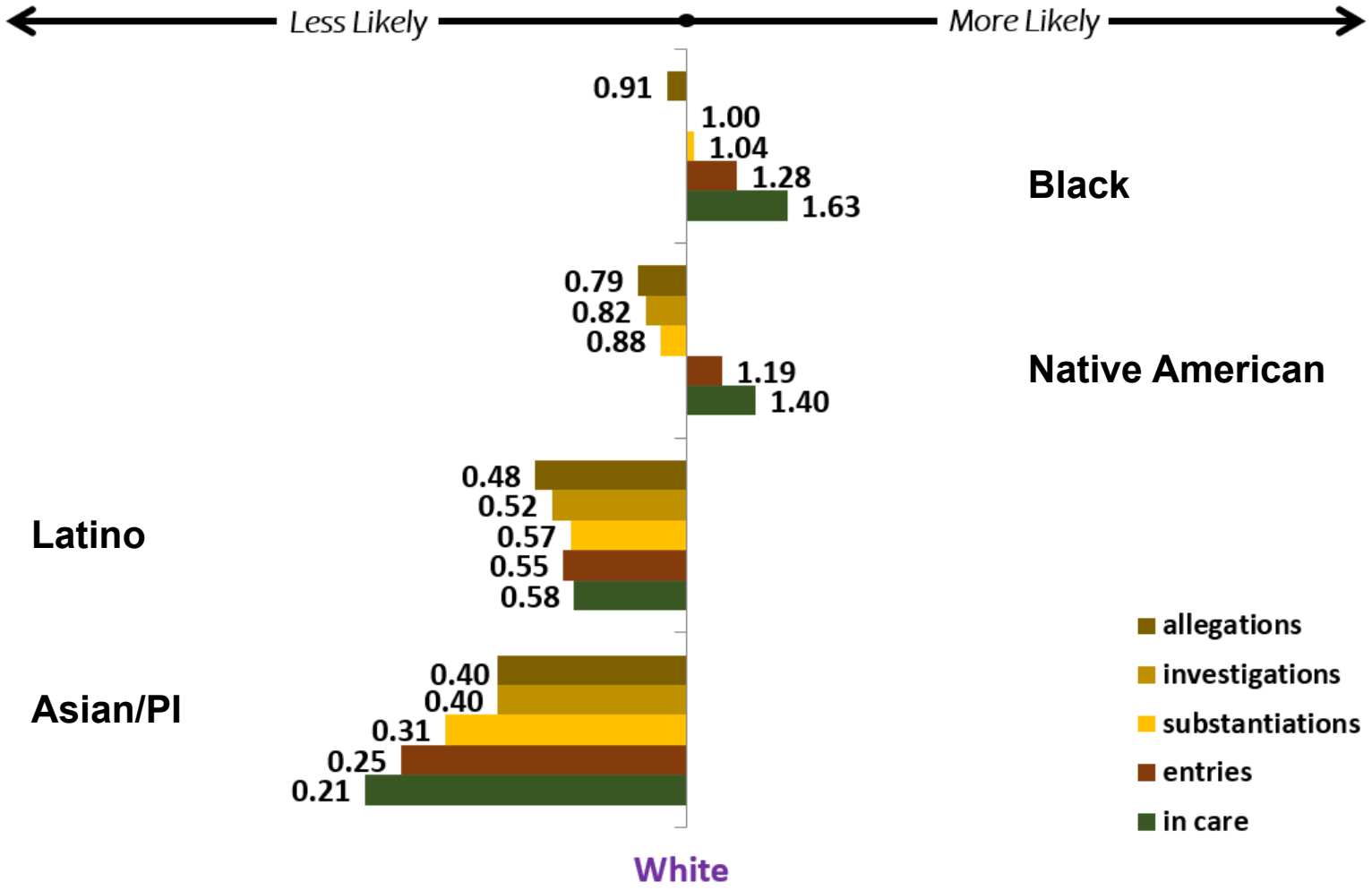


Source: Racial Disparity Indices (General Population), California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), CDSS / U.C. Berkeley

Racial Disparity Indices (Poverty Population)

Ethnic Group Disparity Compared with White Children along CW Continuum

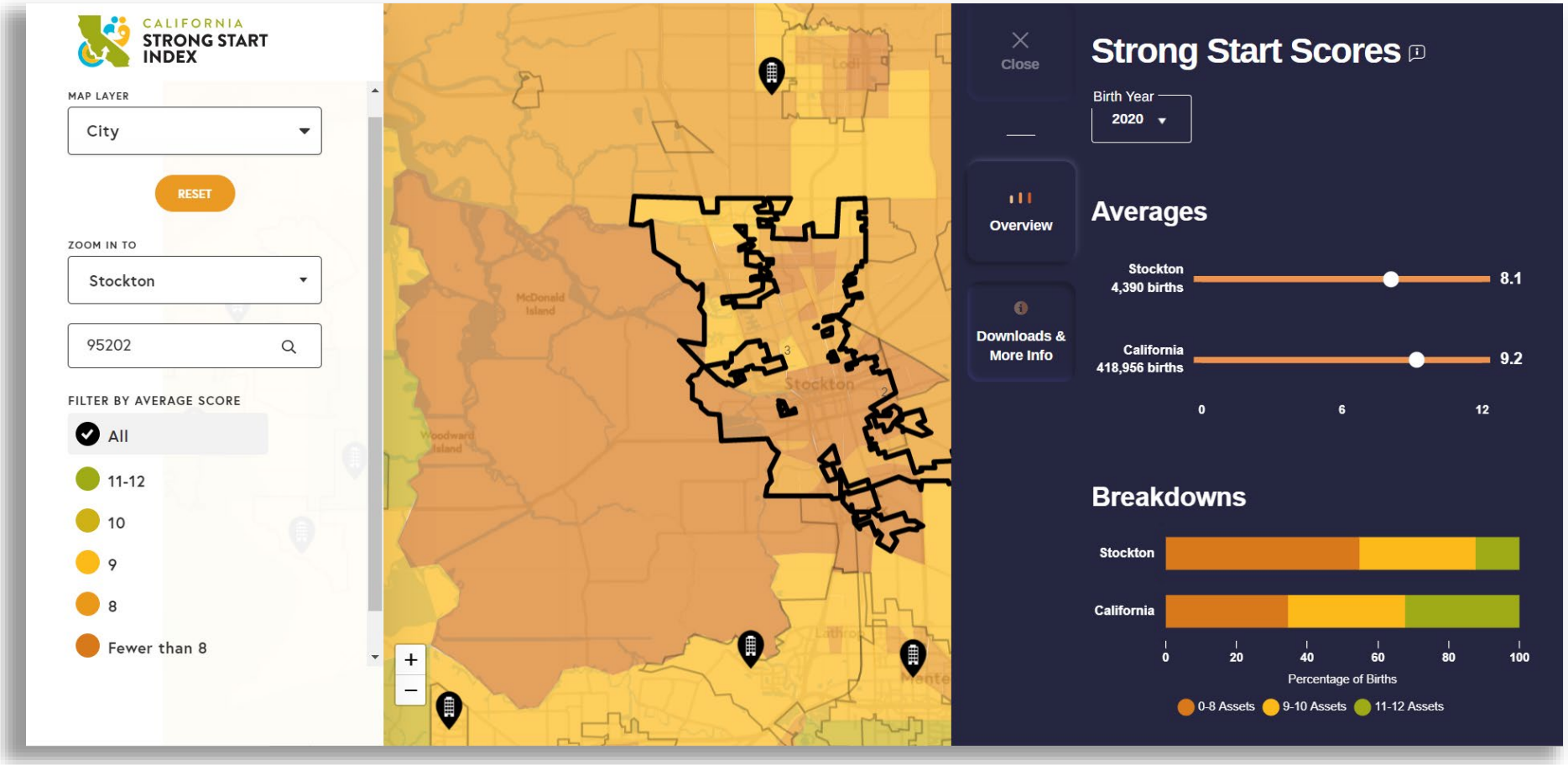
Even when controlling for poverty, disparity of system involvement is notably larger for African Americans and Native Americans than for other children.



Source: California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), CDSS / U.C. Berkeley
https://ccwip.berkeley.edu/childwelfare/reports/PovertyDispInd/STSG/r/rts/s

Other Important Factors: Data on Community Attributes

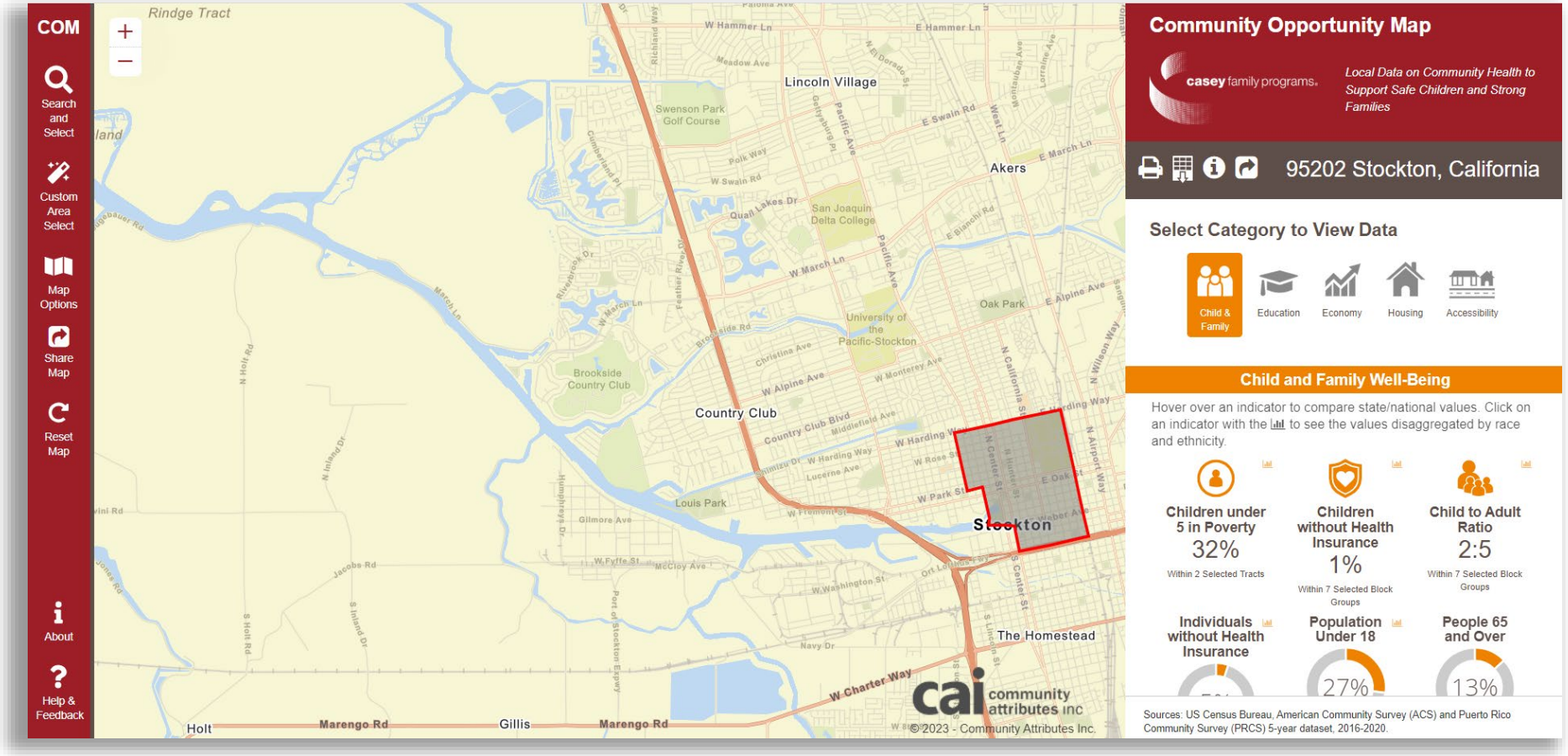
Children's Data Network -- California Strong Start Index



https://strongstartindex.org/

Other Important Factors:
Data on Community Attributes

Casey Family Programs -- Community Opportunity Map



https://community-opportunity-map.casey.org/

Data, measurement, and engagement strategies for community support

California Child Abuse Prevention Month Webinar

April 12, 2023

CHAPIN HALL
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Yolanda Green-Rogers, MSW, Senior Policy Analyst
Leanne Heaton, Ph.D., Senior Researcher

Presentation goals

- Share best practices for collecting data and using it to measure disproportional involvement of certain families in the child welfare system
- Discuss how to use the data to engage local communities and stakeholders system in transformation efforts

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Green-Rogers, Y., Carpenter, C., Leicht, C., Miller, S., Phillips, C., Rudlang-Perman, K., Hickenbottom, A., Moore, E., Santos, C., & Day, A. G. (2022). Applying race equity strategies throughout the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process. Chicago, IL; Seattle, WA; Reston, VA; Arlington, VA, and Tampa, FL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, Casey Family Programs, ICF, Capacity Building Center for States, James Bell Associates, and the University of South Florida. Chapinhall.org/equitydocuments

IDENTIFYING AND ENGAGING PARTNERS

Gather the foundational information needed to effectively engage local leaders, lived experts and the workforce.

- Acknowledge the agency's role in this work
- Consider how the community would want to be approached
- Seek the community's perspective on the issues and the right language to use

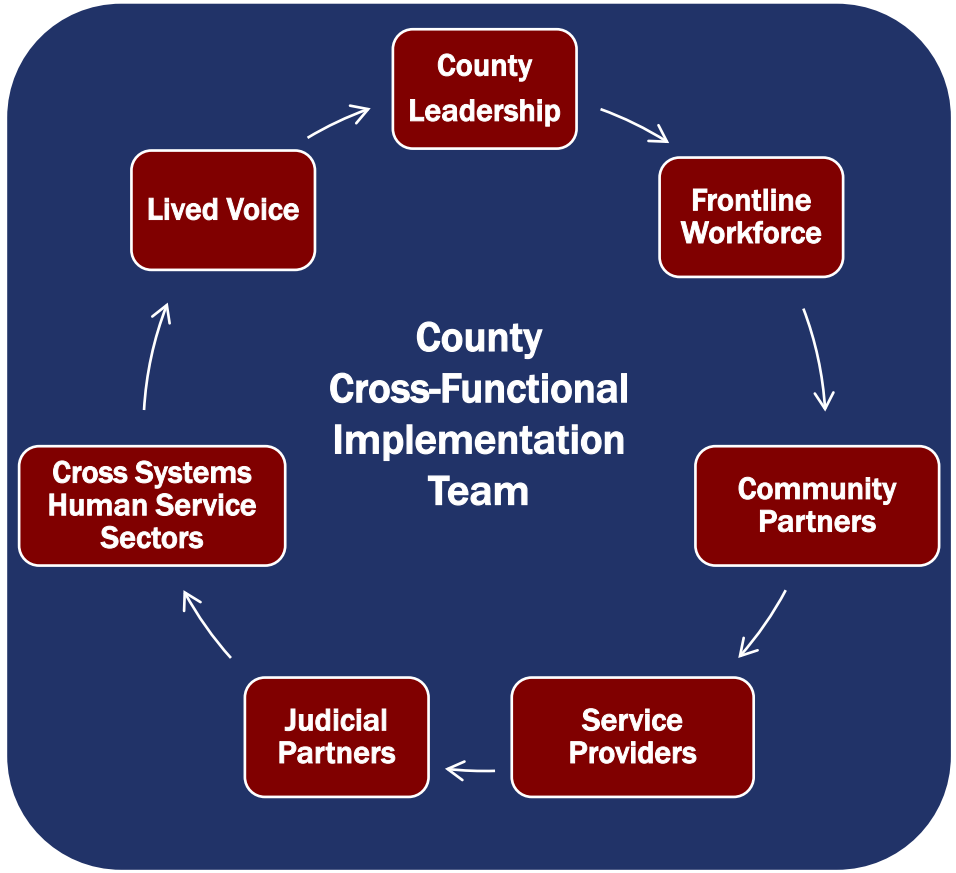
IDENTIFYING AND ENGAGING PARTNERS

Ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to support respectful and meaningful involvement of stakeholders

- Investment of time and effort
- Compensation
- Leadership support and resources

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATION PATHWAYS

- In what forums will performance data and evidence be discussed, root causes identified and improvement strategies co-developed?
  - Front-line staff and supervisory team meetings
  - Meetings with service providers
  - Comprehensive CQI meetings that bring everyone together
  - Community meetings
- How often will meetings take place?
- Who are the key participants in those discussions?



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AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

What is the biggest challenge with engaging the community in prevention planning?

Using data & evidence to advance race equity and inform prevention planning

nearly 85%

of families investigated by child protective services have incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line

($49,720 for a family of 3 in 2023)

(Dolan, 2011 - *National Survey of Child & Adolescent Well-Being II Baseline Report*)
(HHS Poverty Guidelines, 2023)

almost 70%

of families with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line report experiencing a material hardship in the past year
(difficulty paying for housing, utilities, food or medical care)

Of these families:
61% experienced a financial shock in the past year

(Urban Institute, 2018)

What Current & Historic Systemic Inequities Put Families of Color at Disproportionate Risk of Economic Hardship?

Some examples include:

- Exclusion from homeownership via red-lining
- Denial of access to mortgages, banking & financial services
- Lending discrimination
- Exclusionary zoning policies
- Discriminatory federal housing poli
- Residential segregation
- Racially restrictive covenants & laws
- Denial of access to quality housing
- Discrimination in labor markets & commerce
- Inequitable hiring practices
- Denial of access to quality educatio
- Lack of access to health care
- Discriminatory law enforcement & criminal legal system policies
- Political disenfranchisement

(AB 3121 Task Force Report, 2022)

USING DATA AND EVIDENCE TO:

- Understand the degree of disproportionality and disparity
- Engage people in interpretation and analysis of the data
- Track and monitor progress

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MEASUREMENT DEFINITIONS – 3 D'S

- Disaggregate: Data broken down by sub-categories, for example by race or ethnic group.

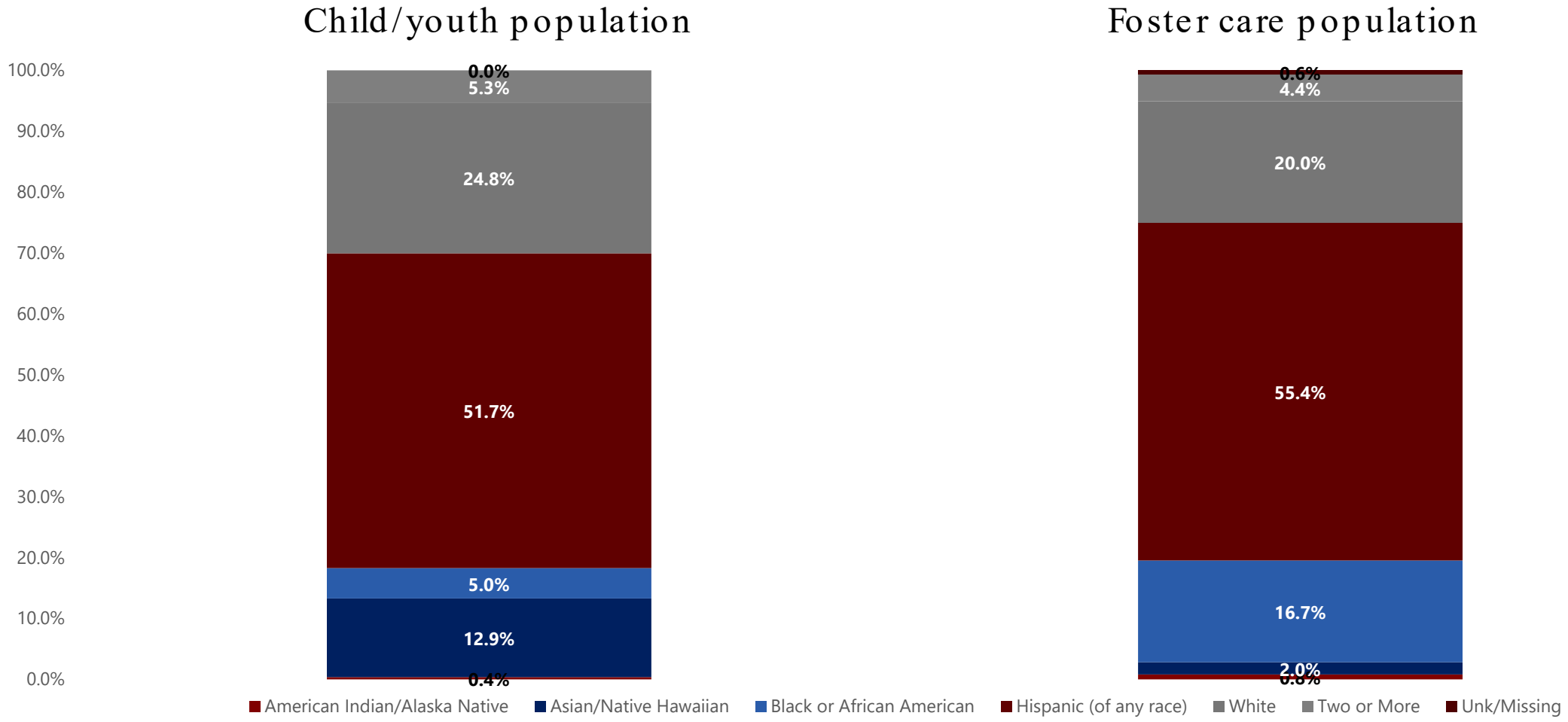
- Disproportionality: The underrepresentation or overrepresentation of a racial or ethnic group compared to its percentage in the total population (i.e., one group is proportionately larger/overrepresented or smaller/underrepresented than in the general child population).

- Disparity: The unequal outcomes of one racial or ethnic group as compared to outcomes for another racial/ethnic group.

Capacity Building Center for States. (2022). Diversity, racial equity, and inclusion in child welfare: Terms and definitions. Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/resources/rei-terms-and-definitions
https://www.policylink.org/our-work/community/health-equity/data-disaggregation

DISAGGREGATED

CA Child/Youth Population & Foster Care Entries, 2020



Data source: https://datacenter.kidscount.org

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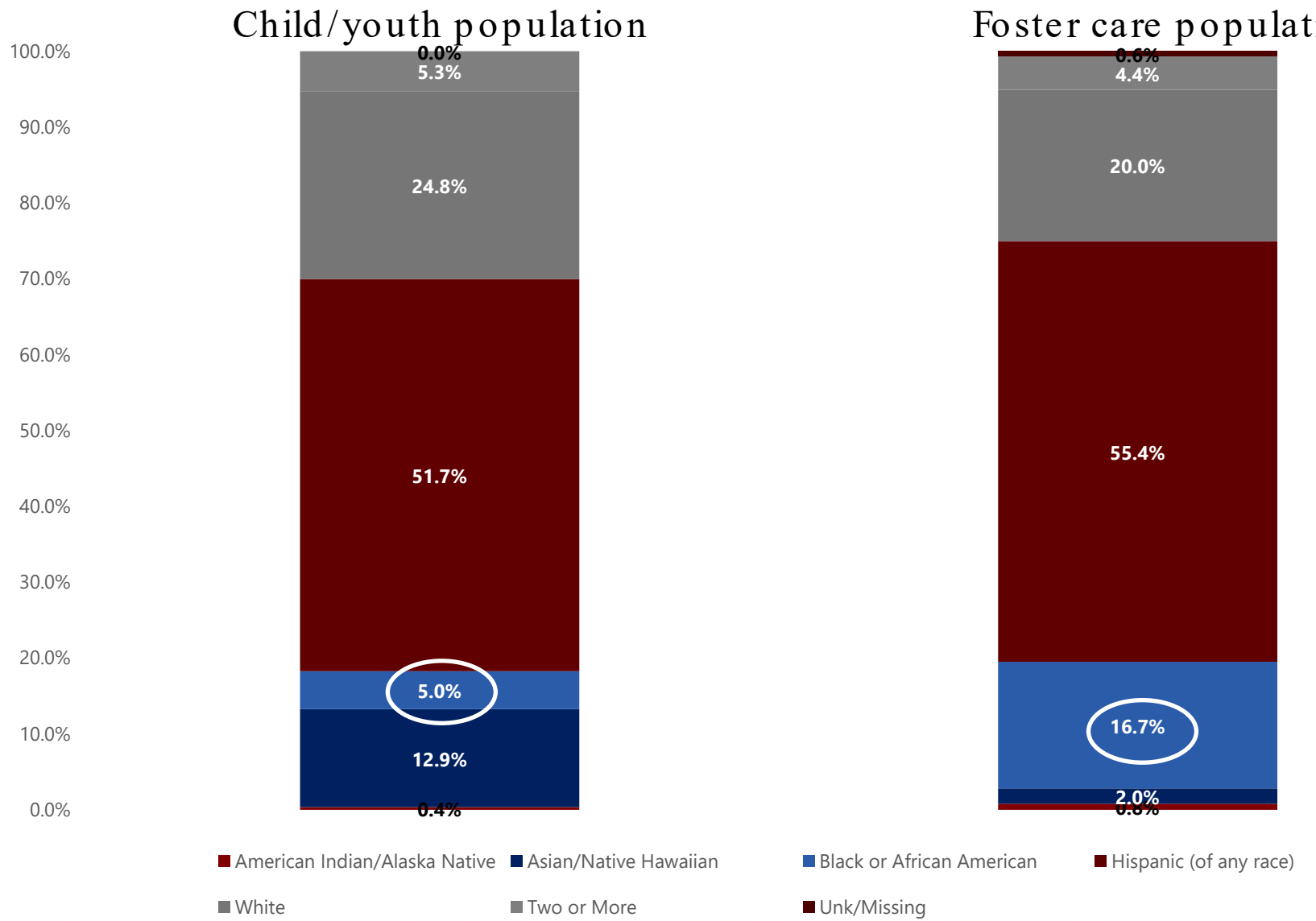
DISPROPORTIONALITY

CA Child/Youth Population & Foster Care Entries, 2020



16.7% / 5.0% = **3.34**

Black Disproportionality rate
> 1 = over representation
< 1 = under representation

Data source: https://datacenter.kidscount.org

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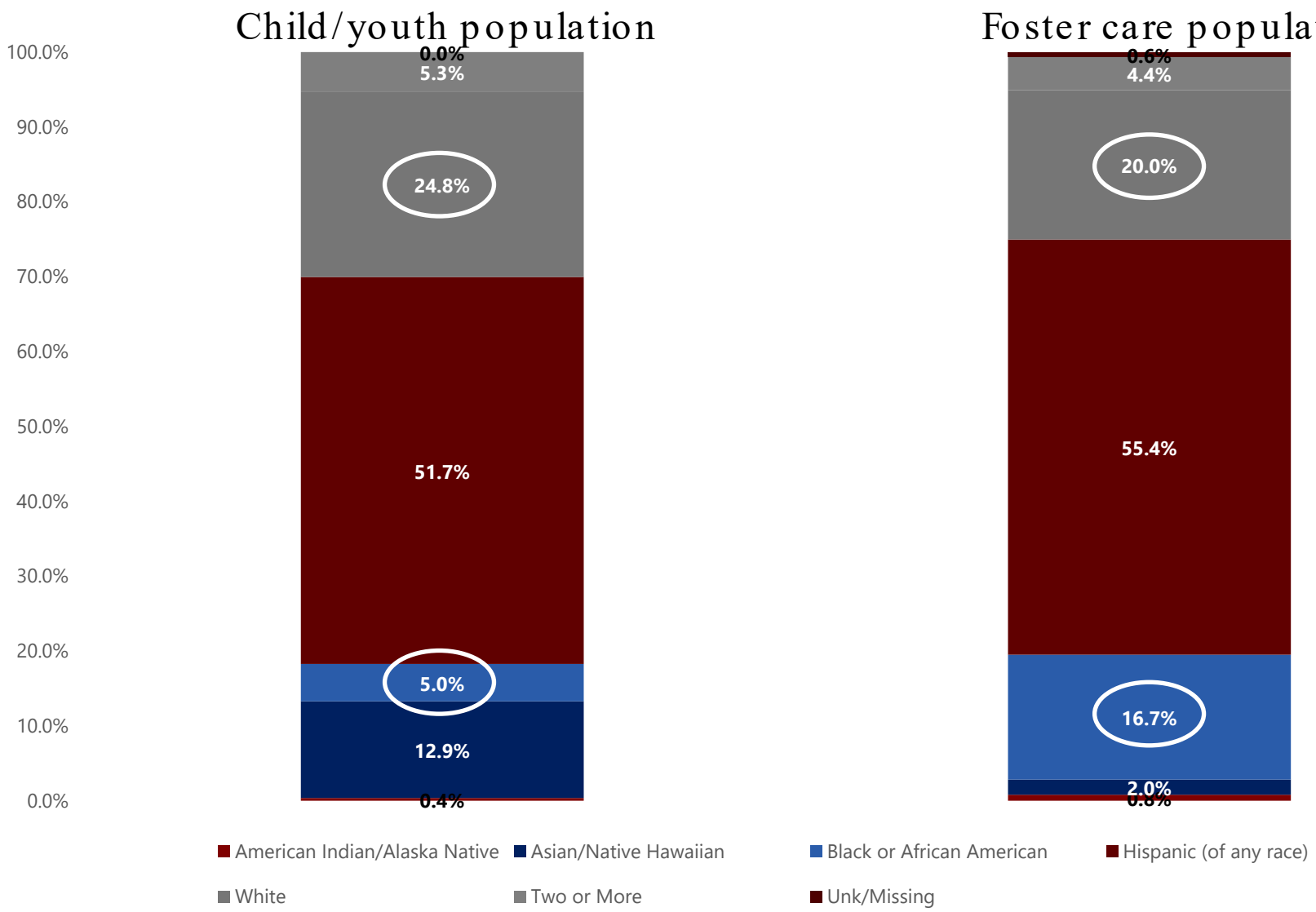
DISPARITY

CA Child/Youth Population & Foster Care Entries, 2020



16.7% / 5.0% = **3.34**
Black Disproportionality rate

20.0%/24.8% = **.80**
White Disproportionality rate

3.34/.80 = 4.2
Black Disparity rate compared to White

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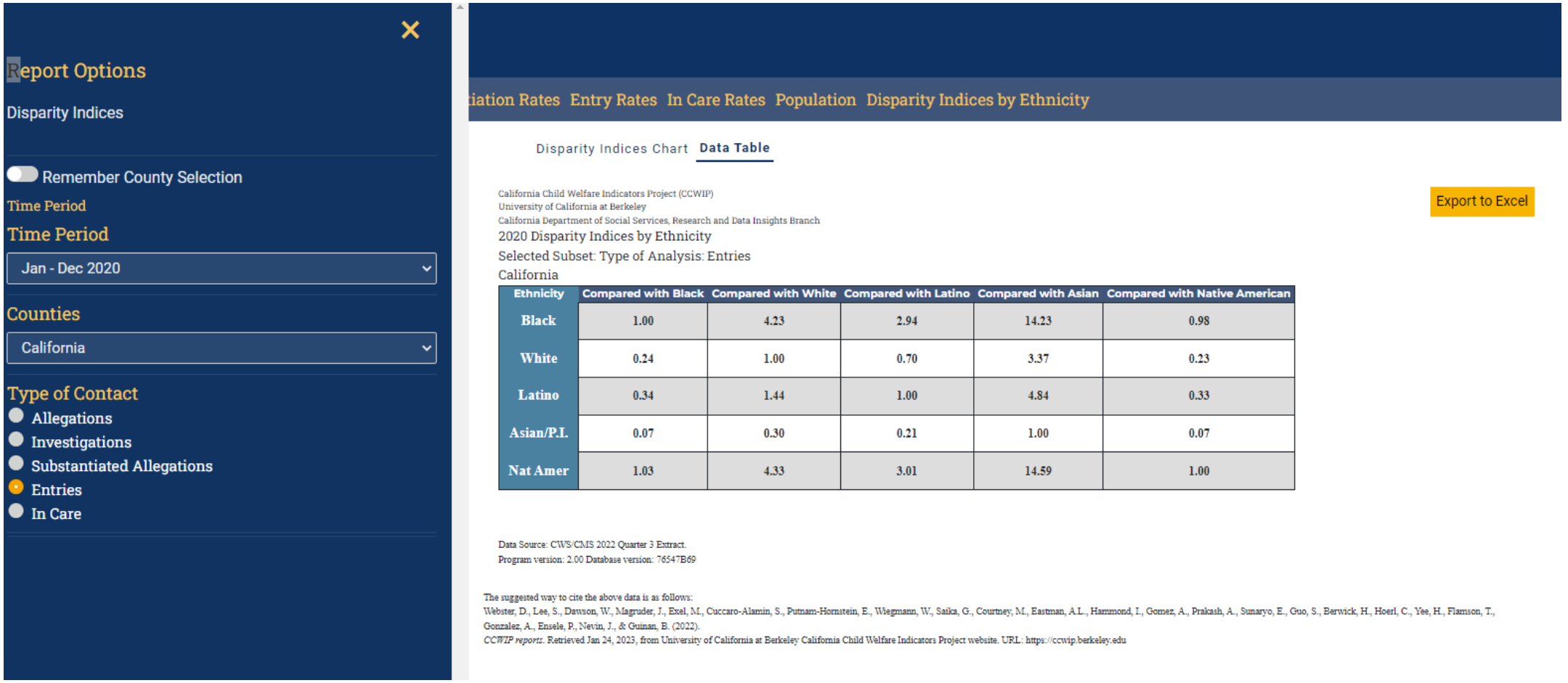
CA DISPARITY DATA DASHBOARD



https://ccwip.berkeley.edu/childwelfare/reports/DisparityIndices/STSG/r/rts/s

CHAPIN HALL
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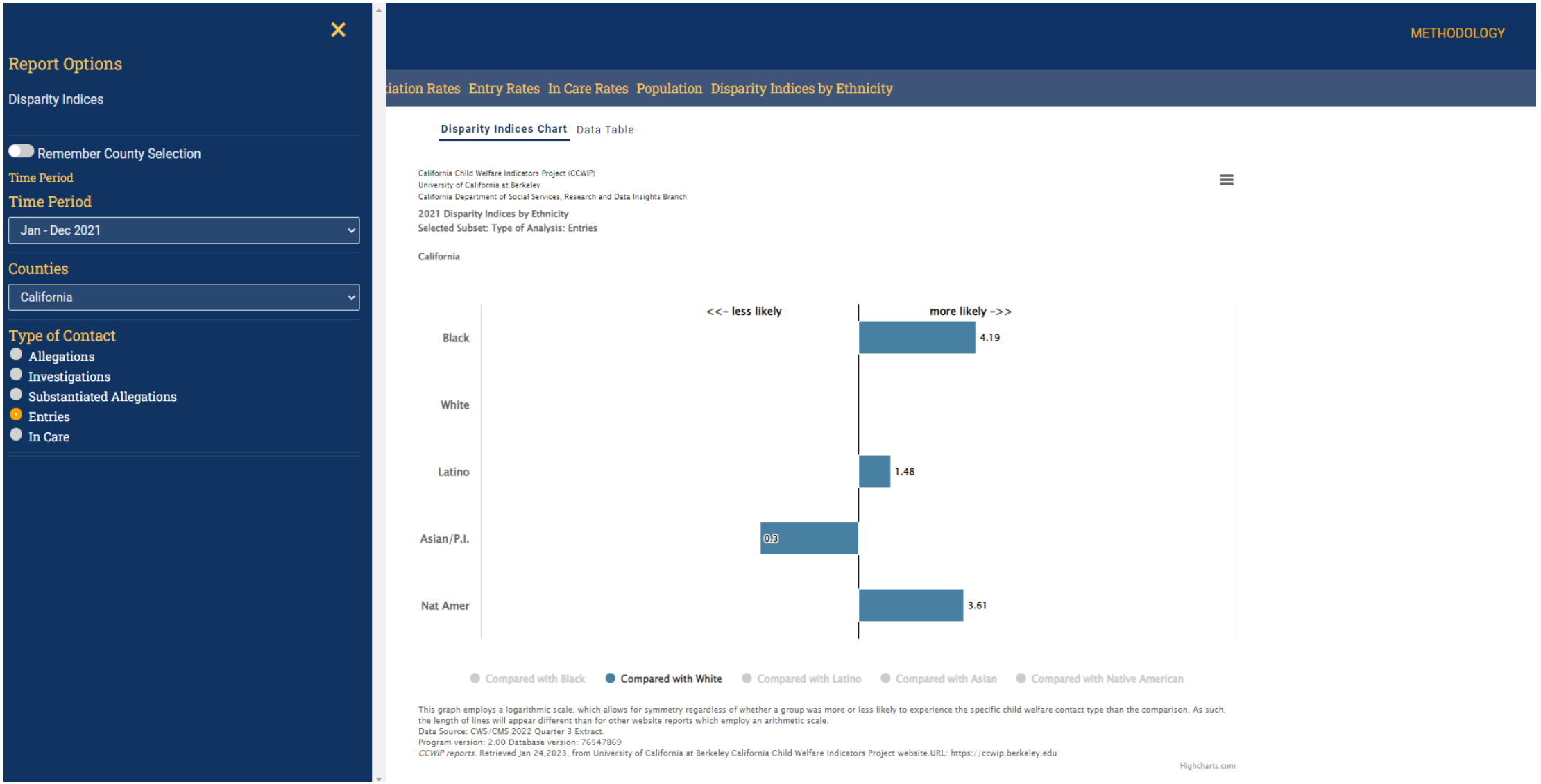
CA DISPARITY DATA DASHBOARD



https://ccwip.berkeley.edu/childwelfare/reports/DisparityIndices/STSG/r/rts/s

HALL
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Are you looking at your data by race and ethnicity?

DEFINING THE PROBLEM…

THEN EXAMINE THE

3 W's

WHO

WHY

WHERE

DEFINING THE PROBLEM…

Number of CPS referrals & foster care entries

https://strongstartindex.org/map?bt=beststart&qt=1&z=6&lat=36.80048816579081&lng=-117.29003906250001&reset=1&cy[]=2020&sc=1

WHO

- **Ages of children/youth**
- **Race/ethnicity**

WHY

Reasons:

- **Neglect?**
- **Child behavior problems?**

DEFINING THE PROBLEM…

Number of CPS referrals & foster care entries

WHERE

CALIFORNIA STRONG START INDEX

MAP LAYER

Best Start

RESET

ZOOM IN TO

Select a Best Start Community

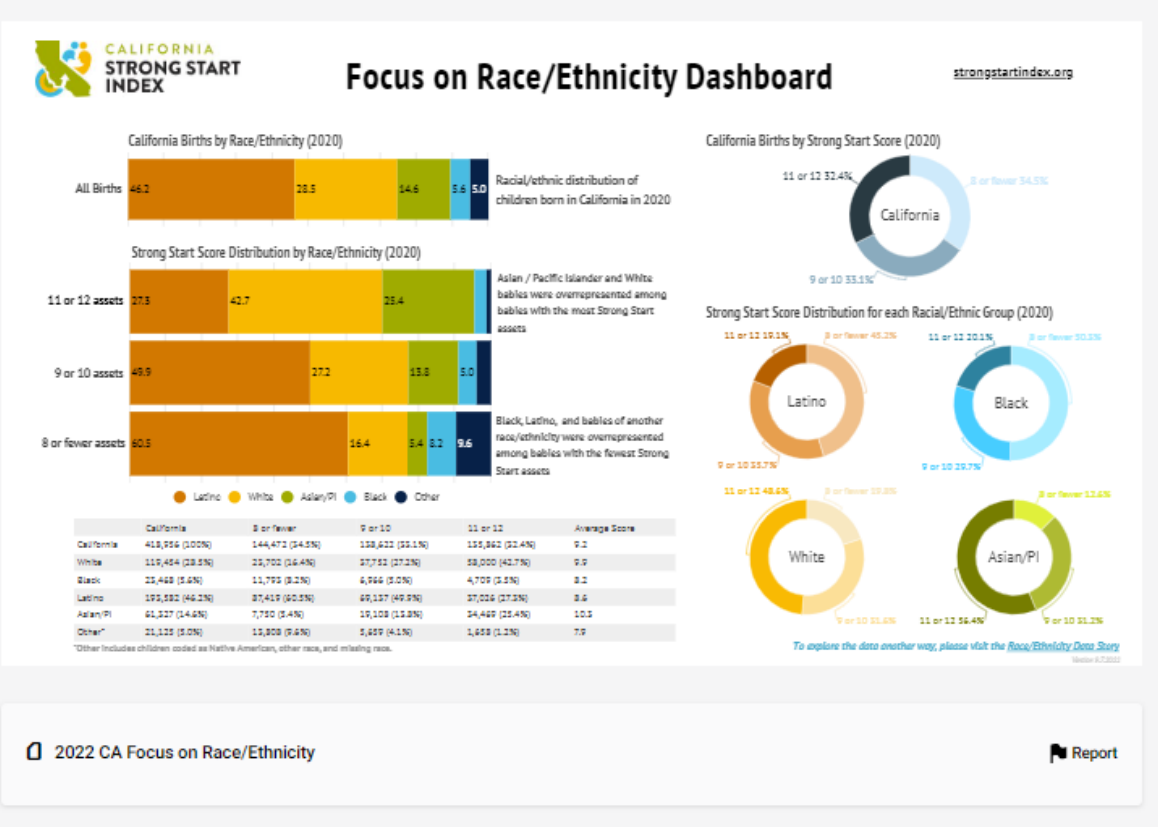
Type in a ZIP code

FILTER BY AVERAGE SCORE

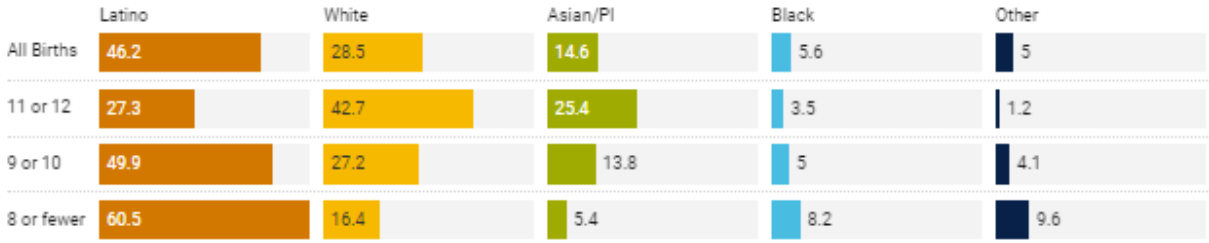
- All
- 11-12
- 10
- 9
- 8
- Fewer than 8

https://strongstartindex.org/map?bt=beststart&qt=1&z=6&lat=36.80048816579081&lng=-117.29003906250001&reset=1&cy[]=2020&sc=1

Use Strong Start Data:
to prioritize communities for investment…
to examine racial/ethnic disparities…



In other words, the graphs above focused on comparisons *within* specific racial/ethnic groups. We also can plot the data to see how each racial/ethnic group contributes to the total percentage for each asset bucket: 0-8, 9-10, and 11-12. Here are those breakdowns:



https://strongstartindex.org/map?bt=beststart&qt=1&z=6&lat=36.80048816579081&lng=-117.29003906250001&reset=1&cy[]=2020&sc=1

APPLIED EXAMPLE

PREVENTING FOSTER CARE ENTRIES

PROBLEM: *FOSTER CARE ENTRIES*

22%

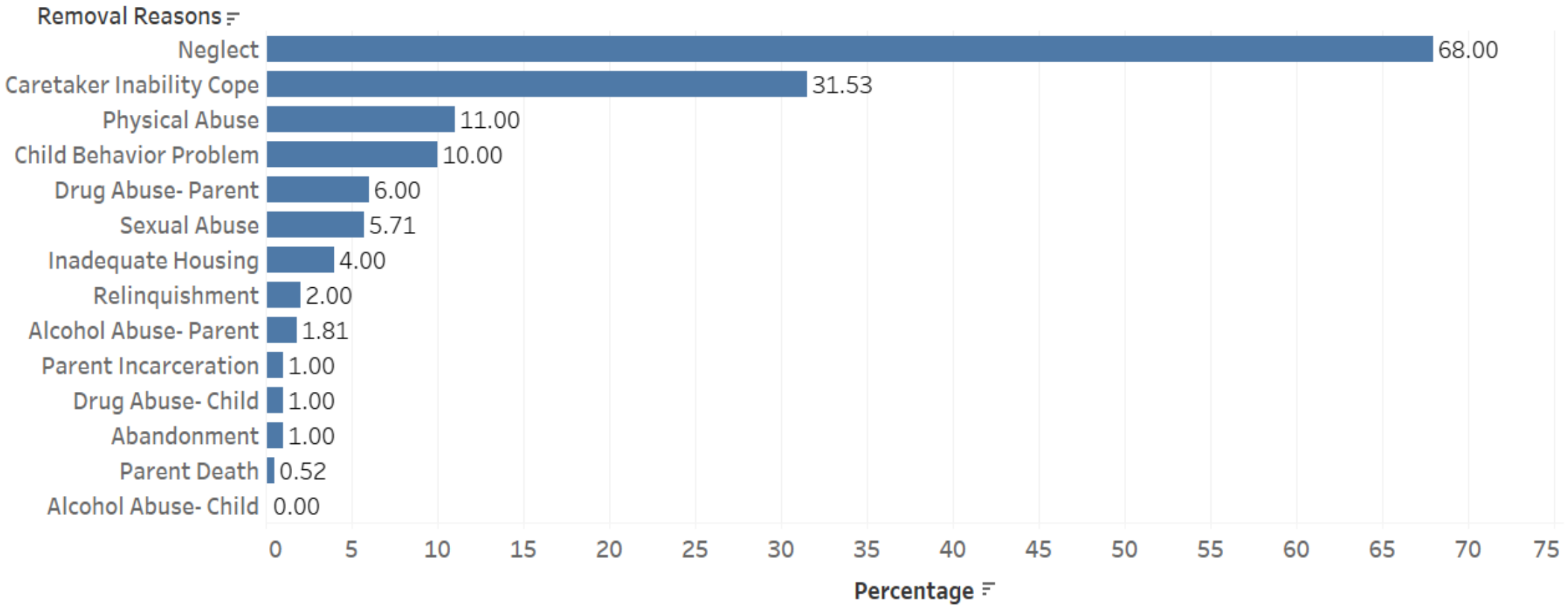
- OF ALL CA **FOSTER CARE ENTIRES** ARE **YOUTH AGES 12-17**

- CONSISTENT TREND OVER THE LAST **6 YEARS**

WHY ARE YOUTH 12-17 ENTERING FOSTER CARE?

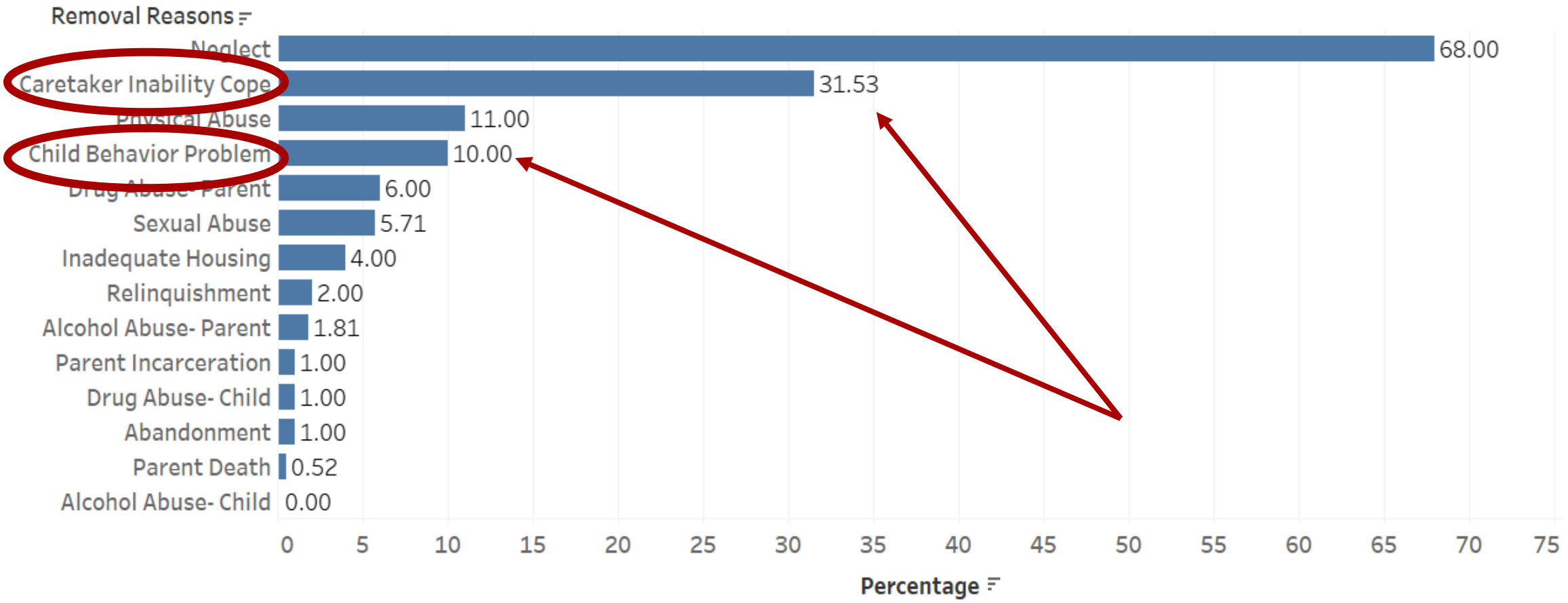
ARE THERE DIFFERENCES BY RACE AND ETHNICTY?

CALIFORNIA: CIRCUMSTANCES OF INITIAL REMOVAL: YOUTH AGES 12-17



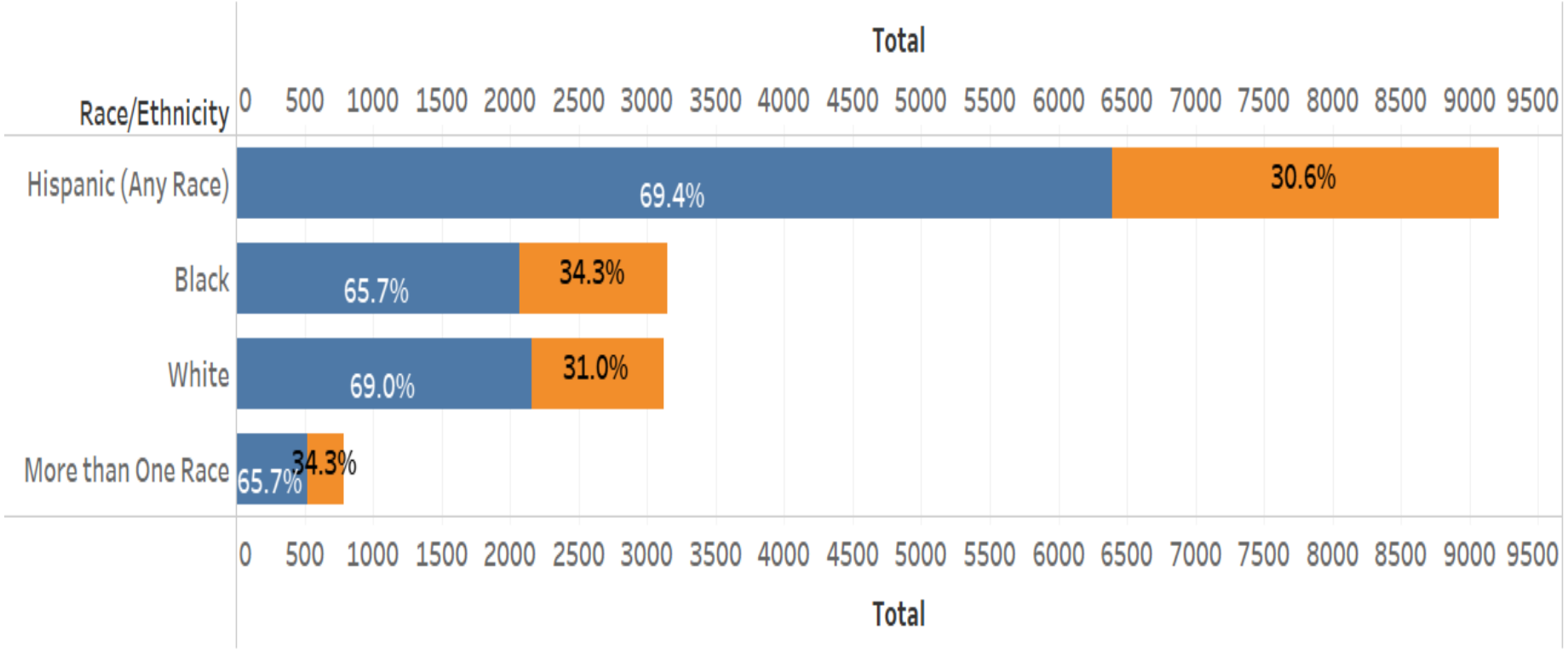
Data source: AFCARS FFY 2015-2020

CALIFORNIA: CIRCUMSTANCES OF INITIAL REMOVAL: YOUTH AGES 12-17



Data source: AFCARS FFY 2015-2020

CIRCUMSTANCES OF INITIAL REMOVAL: CARETAKER INABILITY TO COPE, YOUTH AGES 12-17 DISAGGREGRATED BY RACE & ETHNICITY



Similar patterns

- 34.3% Black
- 34.3% More than one race
  31.0% White
- 30.6% Hispanic

NO

YES

Data source: AFCARS FFY 2015-2020

CIRCUMSTANCES OF INITIAL REMOVAL: CARETAKER INABILITY TO COPE, YOUTH AGES 12-17 DISAGGREGRATED BY RACE & ETHNICITY

Mostly similar patterns

- 35.5% Unknown
- 31.0% Asian
- 30.6% Hawaiian/OPI*
- **17.1%** AI/AK

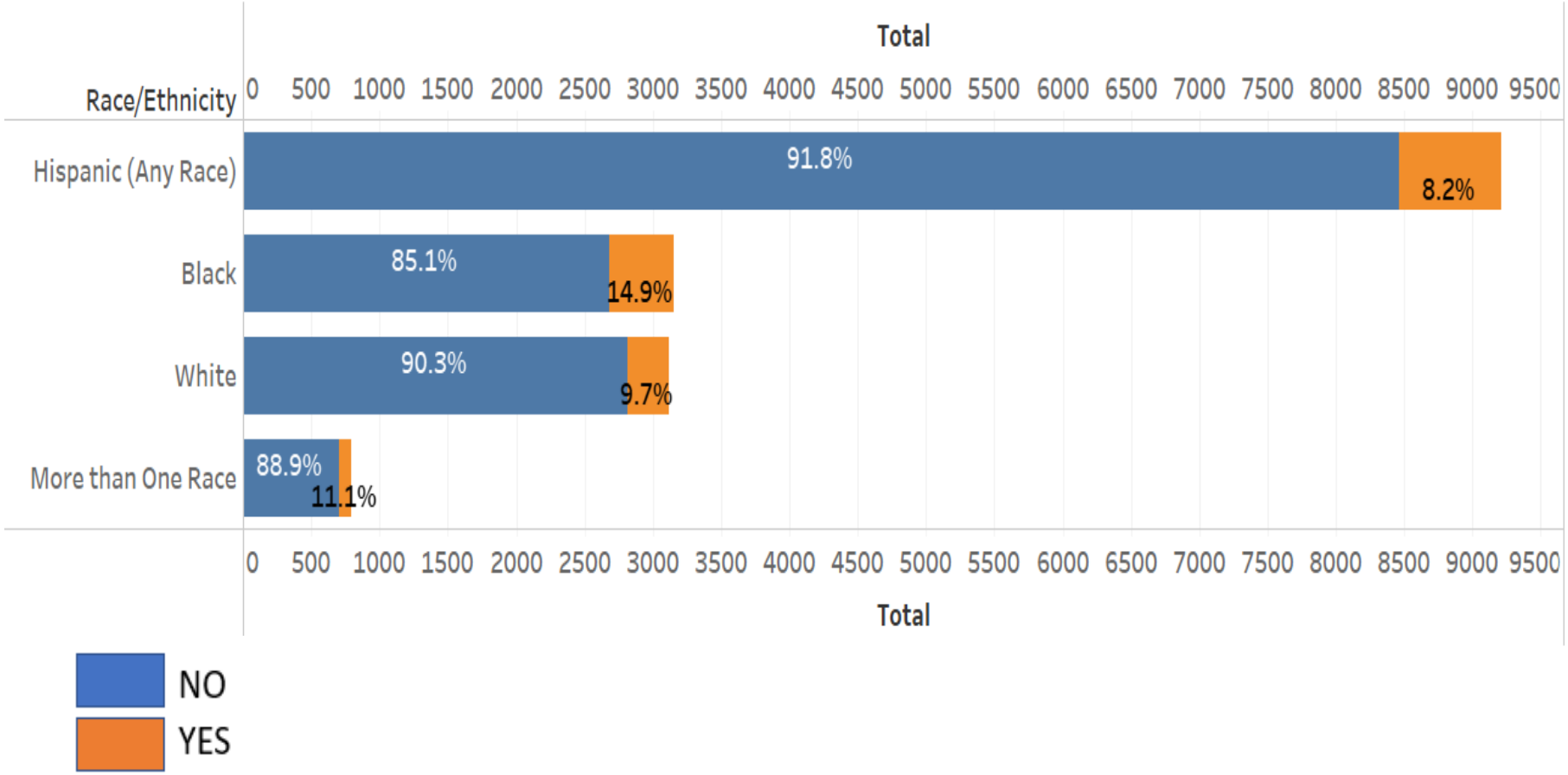
- *Note: pay attention to missing data for race/ethnicity*

NO
YES

Data source: AFCARS FFY 2015-2020

*Small numbers may inflate interpretation of percentages

CIRCUMSTANCES OF INITIAL REMOVAL: BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS, YOUTH AGES 12-17 DISAGGREGRATED BY RACE & ETHNICITY



Different patterns

- 14.9% Black
- 11.1% More than one race
- 9.7% White
- 8.2% Hispanic

Data source: AFCARS FFY2015-2020

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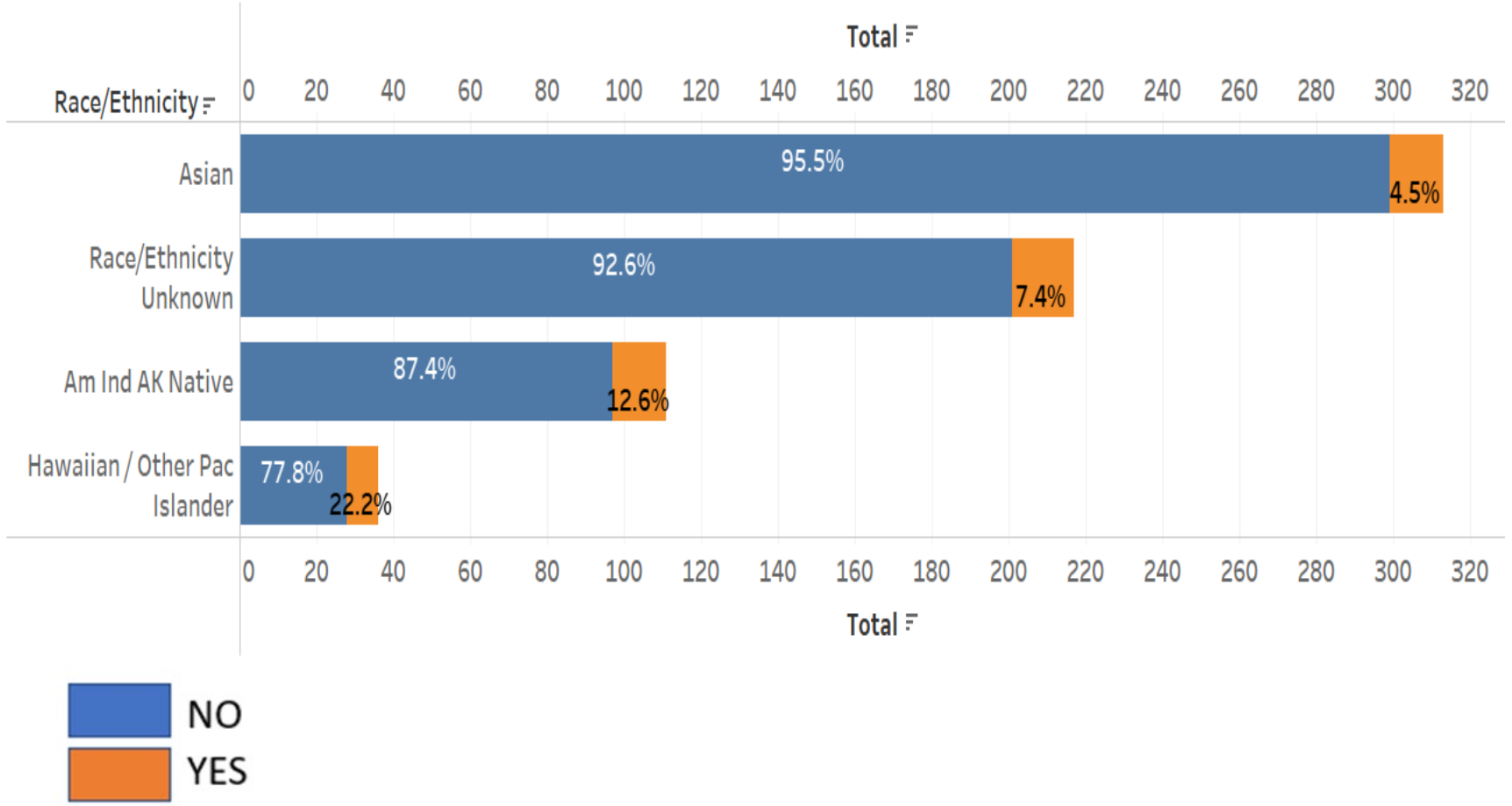
CIRCUMSTANCES OF INITIAL REMOVAL: BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS, YOUTH AGES 12-17 DISAGGREGRATED BY RACE & ETHNICITY



Different patterns

- 22.2% Hawaiian/OPI*
- 12.6% AI/AK
- 7.4% Unknown
- 4.5% Asian

Data source: AFCARS FFY2015-2020

*Small numbers may inflate interpretation of percentages

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EQUITY IMPLICATIONS

- CROSS SYSTEM COORDINATED PREVENTION SERVICES CAN BE PROVIDED TO REDUCE YOUTH FROM ENTERING CARE DUE TO CAREGIVER INABILITY TO COPE AND FOR BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS
- REDUCING ALL YOUTH FROM ENTERING CARE WILL REDUCE DISPORPORTIONALITY AND DISPARITY
- SOME POPULATIONS MORE LIKELY TO BE LABELED AS HAVING BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS WHICH IS A DRIVER OF SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT
- PREVENTION STRATEGIES FOR SUBPOPULATIONS NEED TO BE DRIVEN BY THEIR COMMUNITIES

EXAMINE THE NUMBERS OF YOUTH 12 TO 17 ENTERING FOSTER CARE IN YOUR COUNTY AND/OR LOCALITY

NEXT STEPS FOR THOSE LISTENING TODAY…

WHO

WHY

WHERE

PREVENTION-FOCUSED POLICY SOLUTION

Upstream prevention efforts through Medicaid and Title IV-E are needed to support youth with complex behavioral health needs in their families and communities

- Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Familias Unidas
- Strong African American Families (SAAF)

MEDICAID

In 2021: California updated its Medicaid (Medi-Cal) for non-specialty mental health services

- Young people under the age of 21 are eligible for this benefit based on a mental health diagnosis or any of the following life experiences:
- Separation from a parent/guardian due to incarceration or immigration
- Death of a parent/guardian
- Foster home placement
- Food insecurity, housing instability
- Exposure to domestic violence or other traumatic events
- Maltreatment
- Severe and persistent bullying
- Experience of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, learning differences, or disability

https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/publications/masters-mtp/part2/nonspecmental.pdf) to clarify eligibility for family therapy.

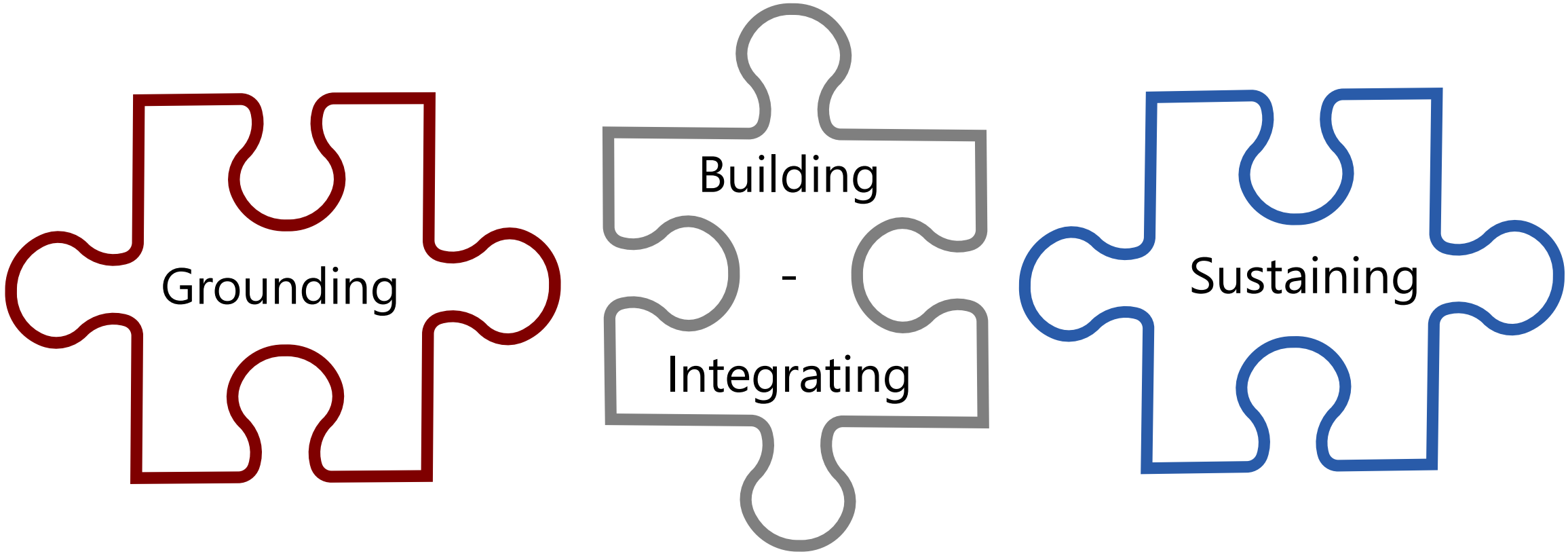
COMMUNITY PATHWAY: *CALIFORNIA (SUBMITTED)*

Proposed Community Pathway Entry Points & Referrals

- DCFS
- Schools
- Family self-referral
- Family Resource Center
- Community-based organization
- Behavioral health agency
- Friend/ neighbor
- Tribe
- Healthcare provider
- Faith-based organization
- Local organization

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES IN A CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CONTEXT

OVERARCHING ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES



Self-Reflection

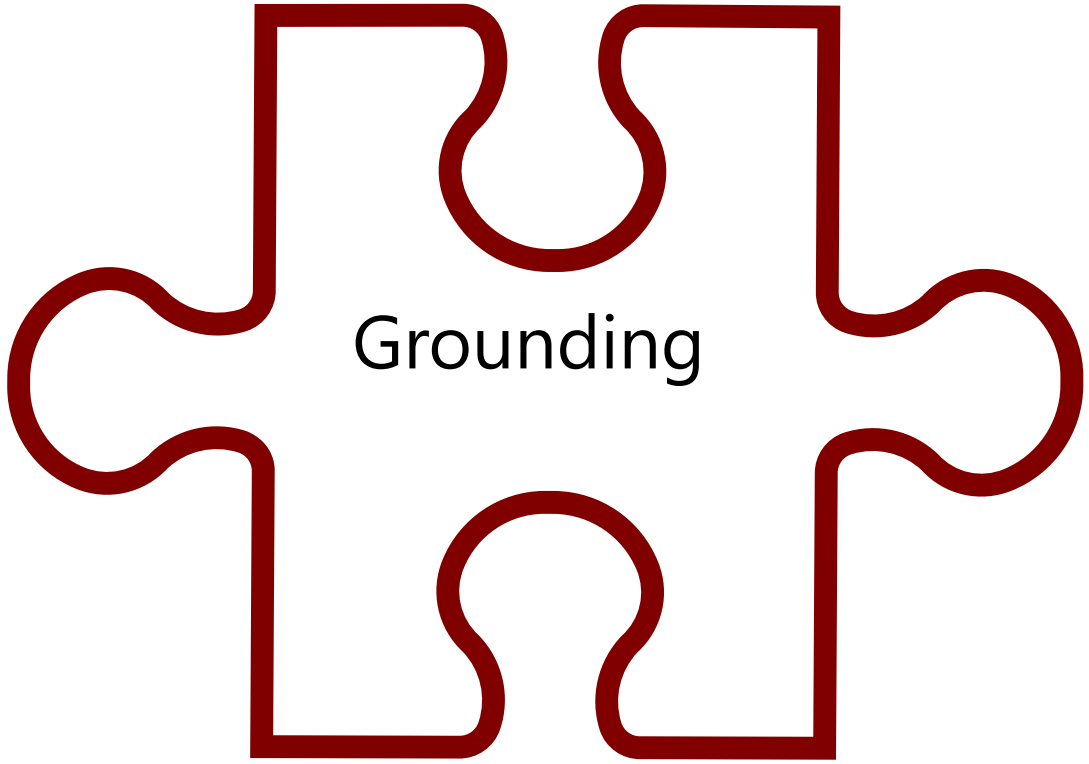
- Examine how your background, biases and values influence your attitudes, worldview, and ways of working (prejudicial and not) (PPA, 2015).

Money & Time

- Invest assets in relationship building with community participants for co-designing and testing instruments, planning, data collection, and dissemination (Center for Evaluation Innovation et al., 2017).

Collective Understanding

- CQI leaders and process participants need shared understanding of race equity and inclusion principle (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2018).

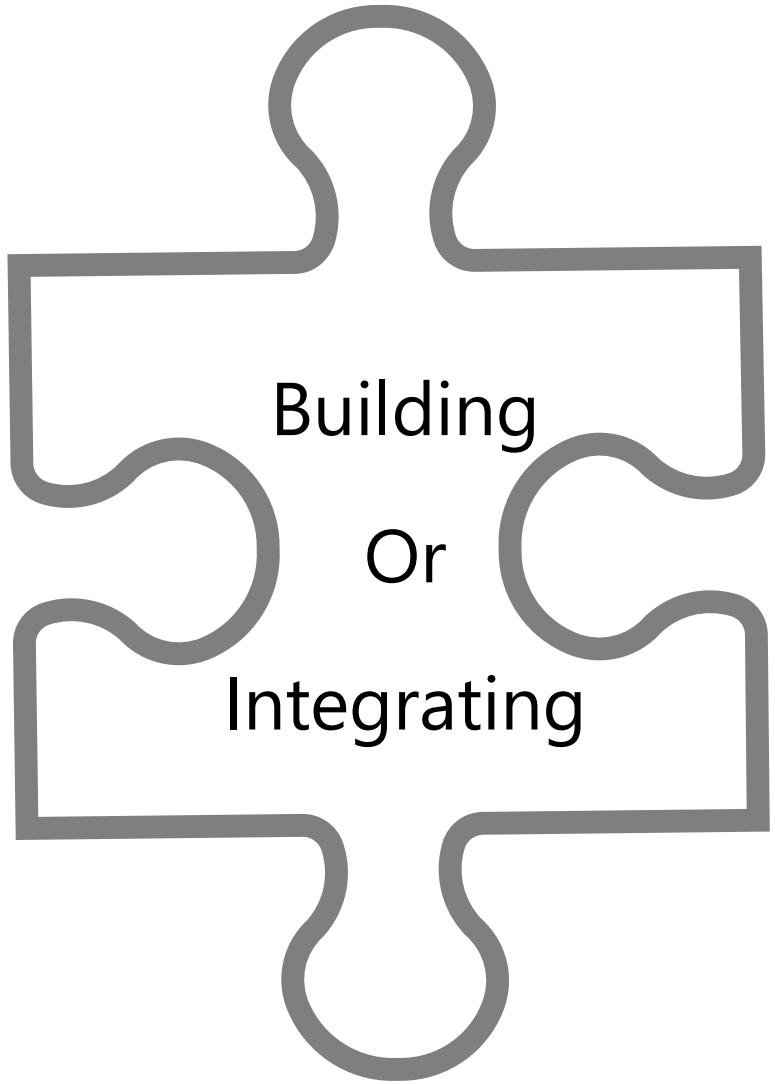


Center Communities of Color

- Center the interests/values/desired outcomes Black, Brown & Native communities in CQI and evaluation efforts (Dean-Coffey et al., 2014 & Center for Evaluation Innovation et al., 2017).

Establish Lived Experience

- Create an advisory board dedicated to youth and family voice that includes multiple perspectives.
- Have an existing board? Integrate youth and family voices in an intentional, inclusive and non-tokenizing way (Daya et al., 2020).



Cross System Partnerships

- Build and expand partnerships across organizations to increase collective impact.

Continued Funding

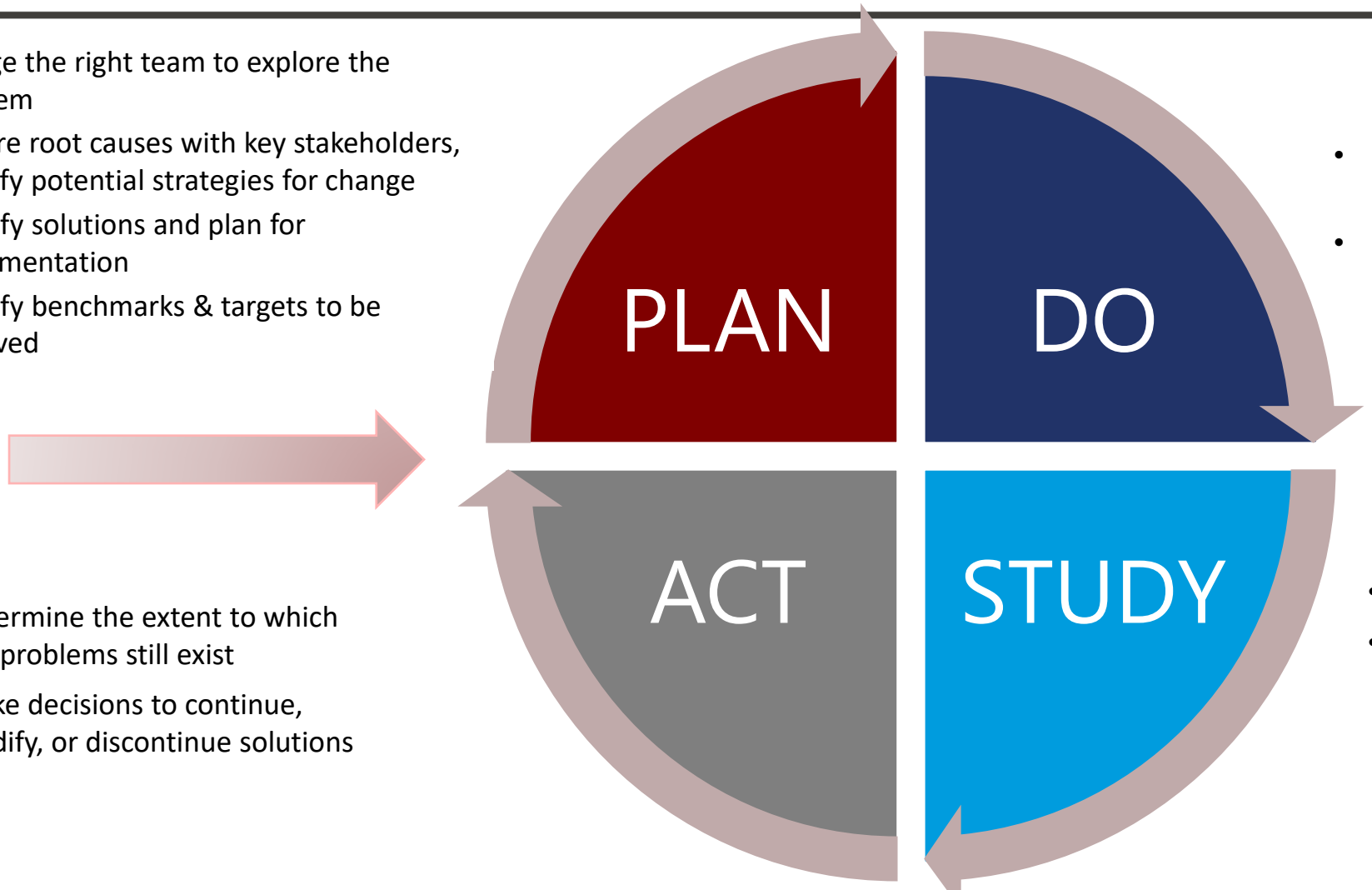
- Sustain funding for continued and expanded participation of diverse community experts w/ lived experience

ENGAGEMENT IN IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

- Engage the right team to explore the problem
- Explore root causes with key stakeholders, identify potential strategies for change
- Identify solutions and plan for implementation
- Identify benchmarks & targets to be achieved

Data Sources:

- Administrative
- Case review
- Surveys, focus groups, interviews



- Implement solution & build capacity
- Monitor implementation

- Review ongoing data
- Talk to stakeholders and decision-makers about progress and impact

- Determine the extent to which the problems still exist
- Make decisions to continue, modify, or discontinue solutions

BENEFITS OF CENTERING RACE EQUITY IN CQI

Green-Rogers, Y., Carpenter, C., Leicht, C., Miller, S., Phillips, C., Rudlang-Perman, K., Hickenbottom, A., Moore, E., Santos, C., & Day, A. G. (2022). Applying race equity strategies throughout the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process. Chicago, IL; Seattle, WA; Reston, VA; Arlington, VA, and Tampa, FL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, Casey Family Programs, ICF, Capacity Building Center for States, James Bell Associates, and the University of South Florida. Chapinhall.org/equitydocuments

How ready is your organization to apply the principles and strategies you've heard about today?

RESOURCES

- Green-Rogers, Y., Carpenter, C., Leicht, C., Miller, S., Phillips, C., Rudlang-Perman, K., Hickenbottom, A., Moore, E., Santos, C., & Day, A. G. (2022). Applying race equity strategies throughout the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process. Chicago, IL; Seattle, WA; Reston, VA; Arlington, VA, and Tampa, FL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, Casey Family Programs, ICF, Capacity Building Center for States, James Bell Associates, and the University of South Florida. Chapinhall.org/equitydocuments
- Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2018). Race Equity Crosswalk Tool. Annie E. Casey Foundation. https://www. aecf.org/m/blogdoc/aecf-raceequitycrosswalk-2018.pdf
- Applying Race Equity Strategies in CQI Processes_FINAL.pdf
- https://www.researchgate.net/publication/23639829_Understanding_and_Addressing_RacialEthnic_Disproportionality_in_the_Front_End_of_the_Child_Welfare_System
- Child Welfare Practice to Address Racial Disproportionality and Disparity
- System-Transformation-Toolkit.pdf
- Tips-Engaging-Diverse-Partners.pdf
- https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Economic-and-Concrete-Supports.pdf
- https://www.chapinhall.org/project/a-key-connection-economic-stability-and-family-well-being/
- https://www.chapinhall.org/research/economic-supports-child-welfare/
- https://ccwip.berkeley.edu/childwelfare/reports/DisparityIndices/STSG/r/rts/s
- Data source: https://datacenter.kidscount.org

THANK YO U!

Thank you!

Be sure not to miss the upcoming webinars throughout April by registering in advance.

Next Webinar:

"Community Supporting: County Perspectives"

Presented by:

Humboldt County

Tulare County

Ventura County

April 19th, 2023

11:00am-12:30pm PST

Link to register and webinar series flyer is in the chat!

Please contact us at KidsDay@dss.ca.gov with any questions.