



Disproportionality & Disparate Outcomes

Children in Foster Care, by Race/Ethnicity

Rate of children in foster care per 1,000

	Los Angeles County	Sacramento County	Placer County
Black	28	19.1	<20
Native/American Indian	19.6	23	<20
Hispanic/Latino	6.9	4.4	3.4
White	4.4	4.8	2.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	1.9	<20
Total	7.6	5.4	2.5

Source: [Kidsdata.org](https://kidsdata.org) (2018)

Child Welfare Practice to Address Racial Disproportionality and Disparity

- In 2019, nationally: Black children were 14% of the national child population, but 23% of foster care population; Native children were 1% of the national child population, but 2% of the foster care population; White children were 50% of the national child population, but 44% of the foster care population.
- Black families are overrepresented in reports of suspected maltreatment and subject to CPS investigations at higher rates than other families.
- Black or Native children are at greater risk than other children of being confirmed for maltreatment and placed in out-of-home care.
- Black children spend more time in foster care, less likely to reunify with their families, and compared to White children, are less likely to receive services. They are also more likely to be removed from their homes and experience termination of parental rights.

Source: Children's Bureau, "[Child Welfare Practice to Address Racial Disproportionality and Disparity](#)" (April 2021)

California Child Welfare Indicators Project - CWS/CMS Reports

	Black	White	Hispanic/Latino	Asian/PI	Native
% of population	5.6	30.9	51.2	11.8	.4
% of in care	21.2	22	53.7	1.9	1.3
% of allegations	14.2	26.5	53.8	4.6	.9
% of investigations	14.7	25	55.1	4.3	.9
% of substantiations	15	24.1	56.6	3.3	1.0
% of entries	17.9	23.6	54.6	2.6	1.3

Disparity Indexes:

- Black children are 4x more likely to enter care than White children, 5x more likely than White children to be in care, 3x more likely to have allegations substantiated, 3x more likely to have an investigation, and 3x more likely to have an allegation made regarding them than White children
- Native children are 4x more likely to enter care than White children, 4x more likely than White children to be in care, 3x more likely to have allegations substantiated, 3x more likely to have an investigation, and 2.5x more likely to have an allegation made than White children

Source: School of Social Welfare, University of California Berkeley, [CWS/CMS Reports: Presentations](#). California Statewide Specific Data. (2020)

National Foster Care Facts

- Nationally, 53% of all Black children and their parents will experience a child abuse or neglect investigation before their 18th birthday. Black and Native children experience higher rates of placement disruptions, longer times to permanency, and more frequent re-entry than their White counterparts.¹
- National Data: Black children spend an average of 29 months in out-of-home placement, Hispanic/Latino children an average of 23 months, and White children an average of 18 months.²

Los Angeles County Specific: Black Youth in Foster Care

- More than twice as likely to be chronically absent compared to the county average
- Suspended at a rate of 17% compared with overall county rate of 2%
- Highest representation in special education placement – 37%
- Only 51% of Black foster youth graduated on time during 2018-2019 school year
- Only 12% were eligible to attend a UC or CSU campus upon completing high school in the same year

Source: UCLA Black Male Institute Study [UCLA Study Details Educational Experiences of Black Youth in Foster Care](#)

Fostering Youth Connections

2+ foster care episodes	Black	White	Latino
California	41%	35%	36%
United States	35%	30%	31%

3+ foster care placements	Black	White	Latino
California	52%	52%	47%
United States	55%	49%	55%

- In California: 71% of Black youth aged out of foster care without permanence, compared to 67% of White youth. Nationwide: it was 53% of Black youth, compared to 48% of White youth.
- In California: 29% of Black youth still in care on 19th birthday, vs. 17% of White youth.

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, [“Fostering Youth Transitions”](#). California Specific Data (2018)

¹ Bryan Samuels, Chapin Hall, “Addressing Systemic Racism in our Child Welfare System,” (2020) [Addressing Systemic Racism in Our Child Welfare System \(imprintnews.org\)](#)

² American Bar Association, “Better Outcomes for Older Youth of Color in Foster Care” (2015) [Better Outcomes for Older Youth of Color in Foster Care \(americanbar.org\)](#)