

Permanency Enhancement Project:  
Southern Region  
**\*FINAL REPORT\***  
**FY 2018 Report**

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# Profile of the Southern Region

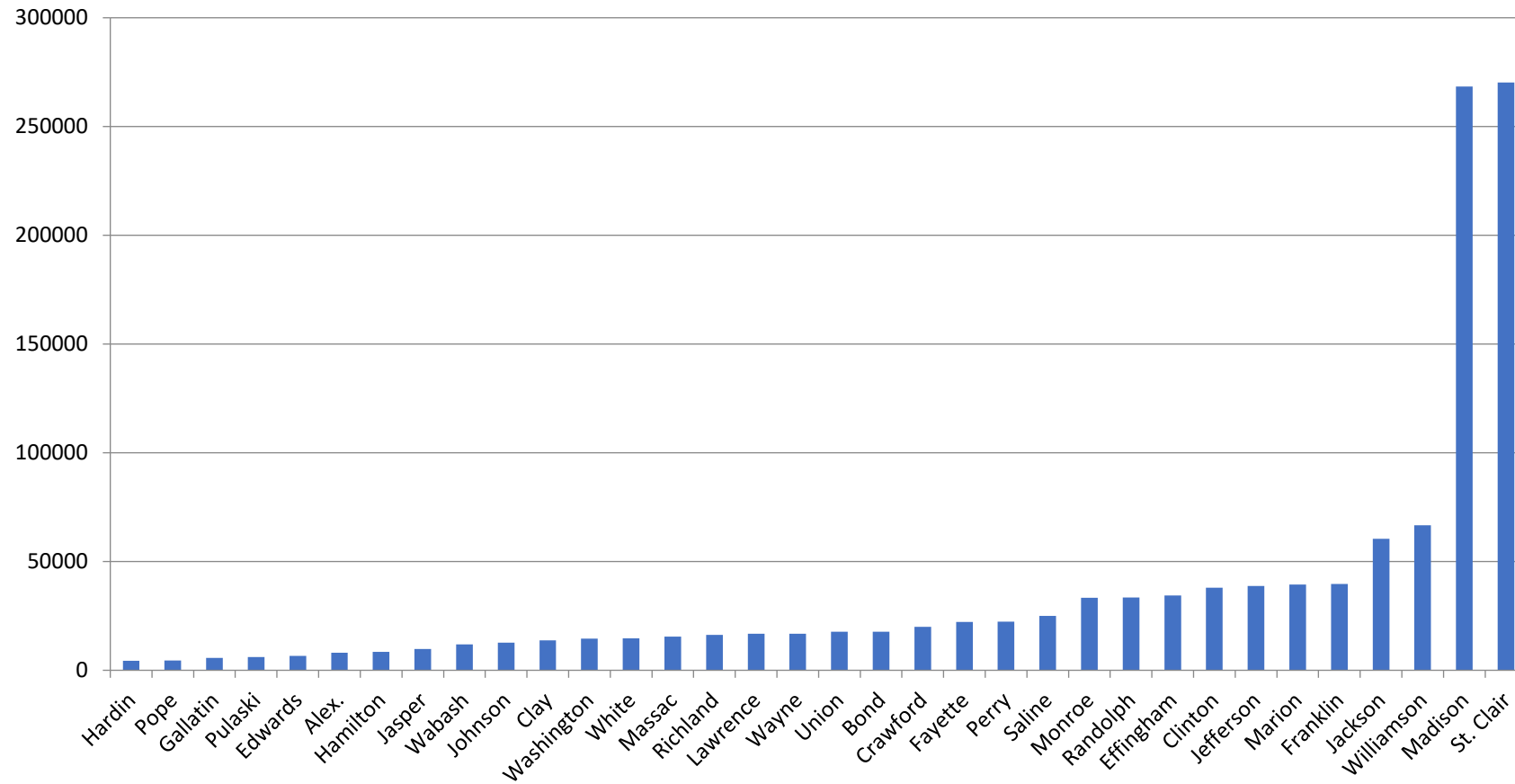
# About the Southern Region

- Geographically located in the southern part of the state of Illinois
- Services provided through 17 area offices :
  - Alton Area (62002)
  - Anna Area (62906)
  - Belleville Area (62223)
  - Cairo Area (62914)
  - Carlyle Area (62231)
  - East St Louis Area (62201)
  - Effingham Area (62401)
  - Granite City Area (62040)
  - Harrisburg Area (62946)
  - Marion Area (62959)
  - Metropolis Area (62960)
  - Mt. Vernon Area (62864)
  - Murphysboro Area (62966)
  - Olney Area (62450)
  - Sparta Area (62286)
  - Wood River Area (62095)

# Southern Region: Represented by 34 Counties

- Alexander
- Bond
- Clay
- Clinton
- Crawford
- Edwards
- Effingham
- Fayette
- Franklin
- Gallatin
- Hamilton
- Hardin
- Jackson
- Jasper
- Jefferson
- Johnson
- Lawrence
- Madison
- Marion
- Massac
- Monroe
- Perry
- Pope
- Pulaski
- Randolph
- Richland
- Saline
- St. Clair
- Union
- Wabash
- Washington
- Wayne
- White
- Williamson

## Southern Region Population by County



### County Demographics:

Rural & small mid-size metropolitan areas

Population ranges from less than 10,000 to over 250,000

Southern Region Population = 1.23 million

# Predictors of Child Abuse & Neglect *within* the Southern Region

# Common Predictors

## ***\*\*Challenges for Child & Family Well-being***

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Poverty

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Unemployment

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Violence (including Intimate Partner and Domestic Violence)

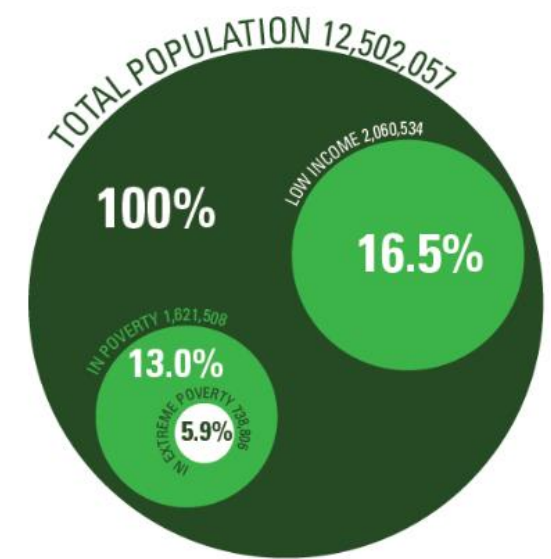
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...other key predictors are child, parent and family background traits and availability and access to community resources



# Poverty *within* State of Illinois

Scale of Illinois poverty, 2016 <sup>1</sup>





# Poverty *within* State of Illinois, by race

- The highest percentages of poverty are among persons of color (Blacks & Latinos/as) across various groupings.
  - *The percent of children of color (Blacks and Latino/a) in poverty is more than double that of other children*
  - *Among working class adults, Blacks have higher percentages of poverty, especially among men.*
  - *Working Latina women have high poverty percentages just under Black women and the percentages of both groups are double those of other race groups*
  - *There are also higher percentages of poverty among older adults of color (Blacks and Latino/a)*



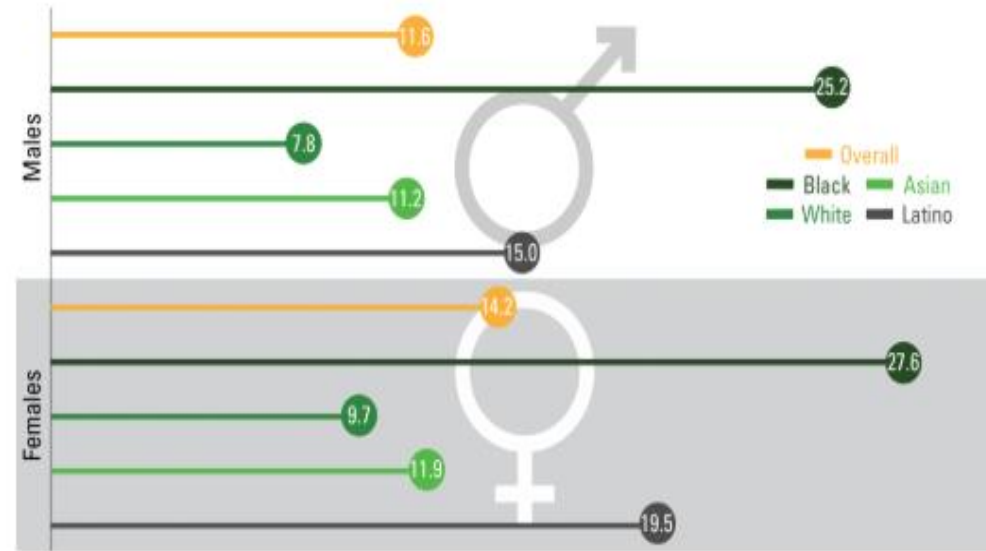
Percent of Illinoisans in Poverty by Race, Ethnicity, Age, and Gender, 2016 <sup>4</sup>



Illinois Poverty by Race, Ethnicity, and Age, 2016 <sup>5</sup>

Group	Number	Rate
Total	1,621,508	13.0%
Children	511,679	17.7%
Working Age	943,685	12.1%
Seniors	166,144	9.2%
White	677,086	8.8%
Black	458,785	26.5%
Latino	368,886	17.2%
Asian	77,595	11.6%

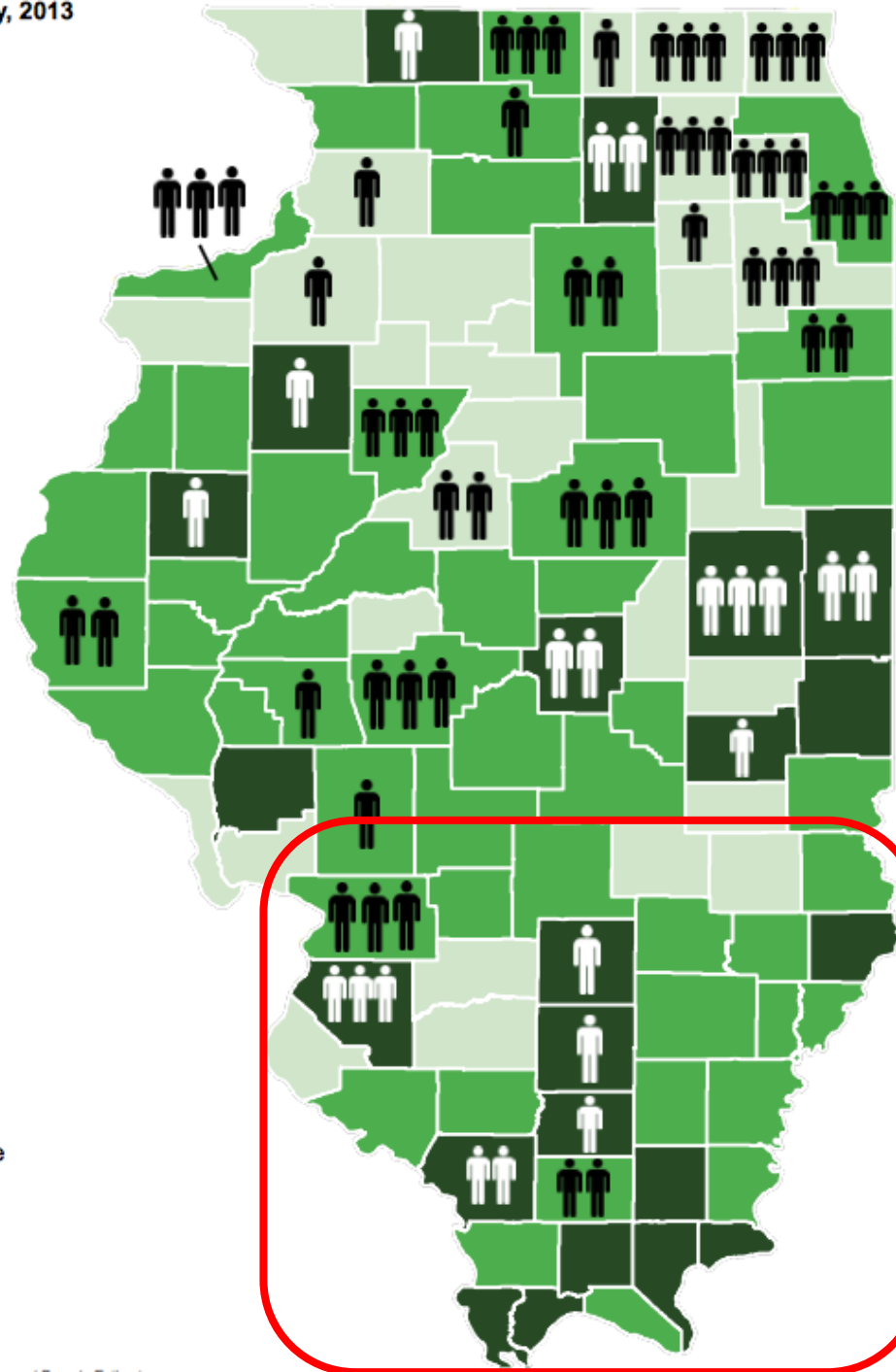
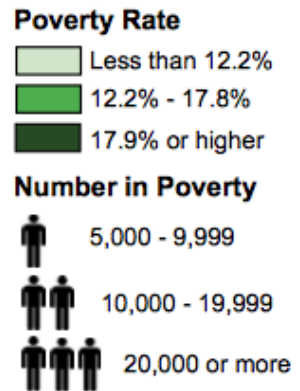
Percent of Illinoisans in Poverty by Race, Ethnicity, and Gender, 2016 <sup>6</sup>



# Poverty *within* State of Illinois, by gender

Women of all subgroups have higher poverty rates and this is amplified within groups of color (Black, Latino/a)

# Poverty *within* the Southern Region



# Child Poverty Rates by County

*(Southern Region)*

*Illinois Child Poverty Rate = 17.7%*



County & Child Poverty Rate	County & Child Poverty Rate	County & Child Poverty Rate
Hardin – 35%	Washington – 13.3%	Randolph – 19.4%
Pope – 29.3%	White – 23.3%	Effingham – 15.0%
Franklin – 27.2%	Richland – 19.7%	Clinton – 12.2%
Massac – 28.1%	Lawrence – 24.8%	Jefferson – 25.4%
Gallatin – 31%	Union – 24.7%	Marion – 25.1%
Pulaski – 33.5%	Bond – 18.4% (2016)	Franklin – 27.2%
Edwards – 15.8%	Wayne – 21.6%	Jackson – 27.5%
Alexander – 48.6%	Crawford – 20.1%	Williamson – 22.3%
Hamilton – 21.9%	Fayette – 22.9%	Madison – 18%
Massac – 28.1%	Perry – 21.9%	St. Clair – 23%
Johnson – 18.1%	Saline – 30.5%	Wabash-18.6%
Clay – 21.1%	Monroe – 5.3%	

# Child Poverty *within the* Southern Region

## Child Poverty

- 7 out of 9 Illinois counties with the highest child poverty rates are located in the Southern Region
- 20.6% of children in Illinois are experiencing poverty. *(2015 Illinois Report on Poverty)*
  - Of these - 38.4 % of these children are African American (compared to 22% of Hispanic, 8.2% of White, 6.8% of Asian children)
  - 21.6% of children in Illinois experienced food insecurity in 2012. Illinois is the 21<sup>st</sup> of 51 states for child food insecurity.
  - 2.1% of students in Illinois are experiencing homelessness. Illinois is the 28<sup>th</sup> of 51 states for students experiencing homelessness.

# Unemployment *within the* Southern Region

## Unemployment & Under-Employment

- Since economic recession, unemployment has doubled in Southern Region
- Southern Illinois lags behind the nation in recovering from the recession
- Median Income for families with children in Franklin and Jackson Counties (Southern Region) has dropped by 21.8% and 26.4% respectively in 2011 (Illinois Kids Count, 2013 Report)

# Family Structure *within the* Southern Region

## Single Parenthood

- The percentage of single parent households was 34% in 2014 (n = 965,000)
- Single parent household are at a greater risk than dual parent households for poverty, low wage, and familial stress.
- In Southern Region, the single parent household rate in St. Clair, Clinton, Effingham, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Madison, Marion, Randolph, and Williamson all exceed 25%.

# The Permanency Enhancement Project (PEP)



# Goals of Permanency Enhancement Project

1. Improve permanency
2. Reduce racial disproportionality
3. Reduce racial disparities
4. Reduce overrepresentation of African Americans in the child welfare system

# Collaborative Effort to address Permanency

## The University Partner: *Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE)*

- University Partner consists of Faculty and research personnel (*e.g. Research assistants/Community Liaisons*) who help supervise and monitor efforts of each Action Team in the Southern Region
- Ongoing consults and engagement to
  - ✓ Review service data trends and assist teams in using data for action team goal development
  - ✓ Provide ‘Technical Support’ (i.e. assistance) with action team activity and development, as needed
  - ✓ Evaluate progress on action team goals/outcomes.

# Southern Region Action Teams

Cairo (Alexander & Pulaski)

Carbondale (Jackson, Franklin, Perry, Williamson)

Carlyle (Bond, Clinton)

Sparta (Monroe, Randolph, Washington)

Effingham (Effingham, Fayette, Jasper)

Madison (Madison)

Metropolis (Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope)

Mt. Vernon (Jefferson, Marion)

Olney (Crawford, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash)

St. Clair (St. Clair)

# Southern Region

## Action Team Chairs & University Support Staff



	Action Team	Name	University Support Research Assistant
1	Cairo	Trina Mayfield	Meghan Miller
2	Metropolis	Esther Mead	Meghan Miller
3	St. Clair Immersion Site	James Tooles	Meghan Miller
		Dianne Parker	Meghan Miller
4	Carbondale	Michelle (Shelly) Glasco	Meghan Miller
5	Effingham	Kelli Hegarty	Meghan Miller
6	Olney	Lindsey Tompson	Meghan Miller
		Aundrea Brooks	Meghan Miller
7	Mt. Vernon	Jay Reeves	Meghan Miller
		Stacey Weatherford	Meghan Miller
8	Carlyle	Vacant	Meghan Miller
9	Sparta	Tina Simpson	Meghan Miller
10	Madison	Shiela Reed	Meghan Miller

# County Population Comparison

County	Action Team	Population	Family/Child
Bond	Carlyle	16948	3237
Clinton		37614	37614
Franklin	Carbondale	39041	8745
Jackson		58284	10724
Perry		21285	4129
Williamson		67328	14744
Jasper	Effingham	9578	2174
Fayette		21784	4531
Effingham		34132	8089
Wabash	Olney	11489	2516
Richland		15901	3641
Lawrence		16168	3039
Edwards		6486	1459
Crawford		18961	3773

County	Action Team	Population	Family/Child
Monroe	Sparta	34097	7637
Randolph		32423	6225
Washington		14030	3016
Alexander	Cairo	6315	1885
Pulaski		5509	1405
Madison	Madison	265428	61246
Hardin	Metropolis	4046	876
Johnson		12900	2241
Massac		14344	351
Pope		4325	814
Jefferson	Mt.Vernon	38179	8576
Marion		37902	9238
St.Clair	St.Calir	262479	68588

# Service Data & Child Permanency Trends

# Service Data & Child Permanency Trends

The following Slides will highlight service data trends for All the Action teams

- *Indicated unfounded-Cases* – Slide (Insert 24 and 25)
- *Indicated Perp* – Slide (Insert 26)
- *Reporter Types* – Slide (Insert 27)
- *Child Data by Race* – Slide (Insert 28)
- *Child Gender by Race* – Slide (Insert 29)
- *Child Age by Race* - Slide (Insert 30)
- *Openings by Race* - Slide (Insert 31)
- *Placement Type* - Slide (Insert 32)
- *Child Goal* - Slide (Insert 33)
- *Permanency by Race* - Slide (Insert 34)

# Indicated-Unfounded Cases

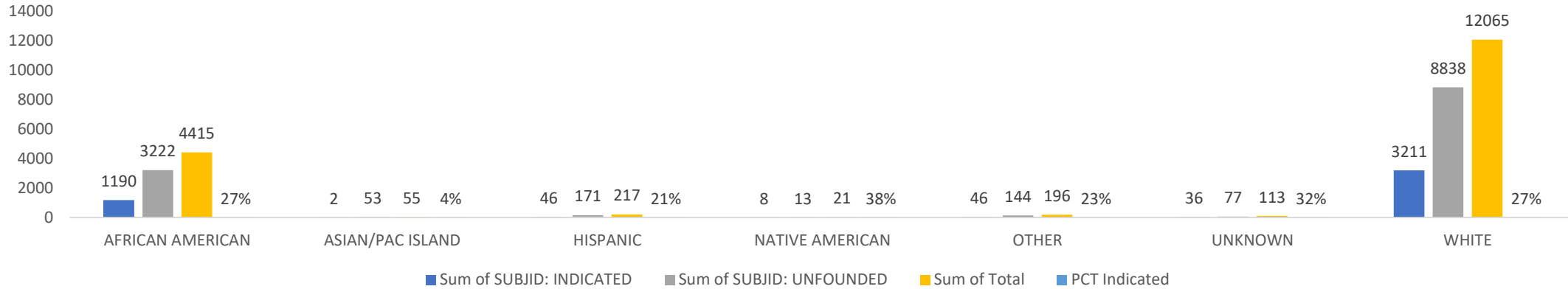
RACE	SUBJID: INDICATED	SUBJID: PENDING	SUBJID: UNFOUNDED	TOTAL	PCT INDICATED
AFRICAN AMERICAN	1190	3	3222	4415	27%
ASIAN/PAC ISLAND	2	0	53	55	4%
HISPANIC	46	0	171	217	21%
NATIVE AMERICAN	8	0	13	21	38%
OTHER	46	6	144	196	23%
UNKNOWN	36	0	77	113	32%
WHITE	3211	16	8838	12065	27%
Grand Total	5729	28	15740	21497	27%

- Unknown race = youth whose race is not identified or assessed
- Other race = identified for youth who do not represent other race categories (e.g. AfAm, AAPI, Hispanic, NA or Unknown)
- There was a total of 5729 indicated cases, with most of them being White and African American
- Other racial groups had low numbers of indicated cases, this is fitting to the population rate of other minority groups in the area
- Whites and African Americans had the highest numbers of indicated cases: 3211 and 1190 respectively
- The highest percentages of Indicated Cases were among Native American (38%) and unknown (32%) populations

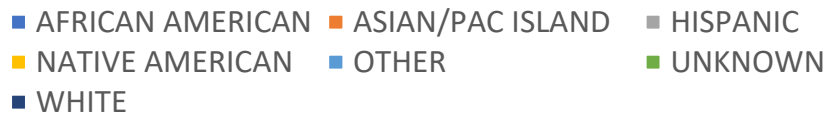
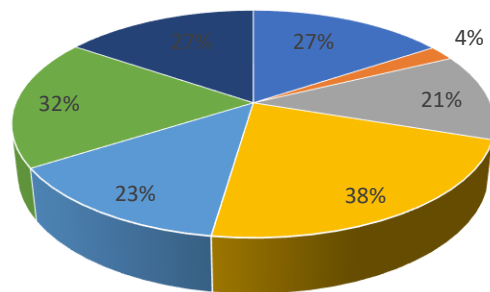


# Indicated-Unfounded Cases

Case status



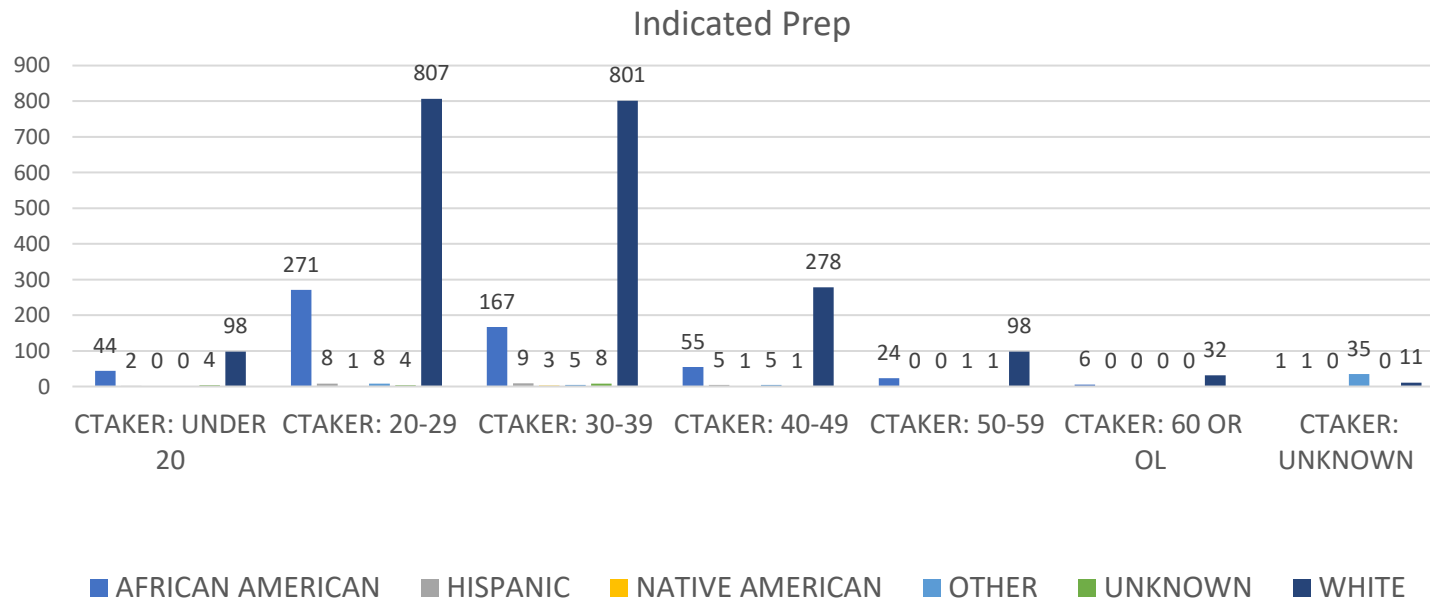
PCT Indicated



- Unknown race = youth whose race is not identified or assessed
- Other race = identified for youth who do not represent other race categories (e.g. AfAm, AAPI, Hispanic, NA or Unknown)
- Totals of Whites are 12065 and African American being 4415
- The highest percentages of Indicated Cases were among Native American(38%) and Unknown (32%) populations

# Indicated-Perp

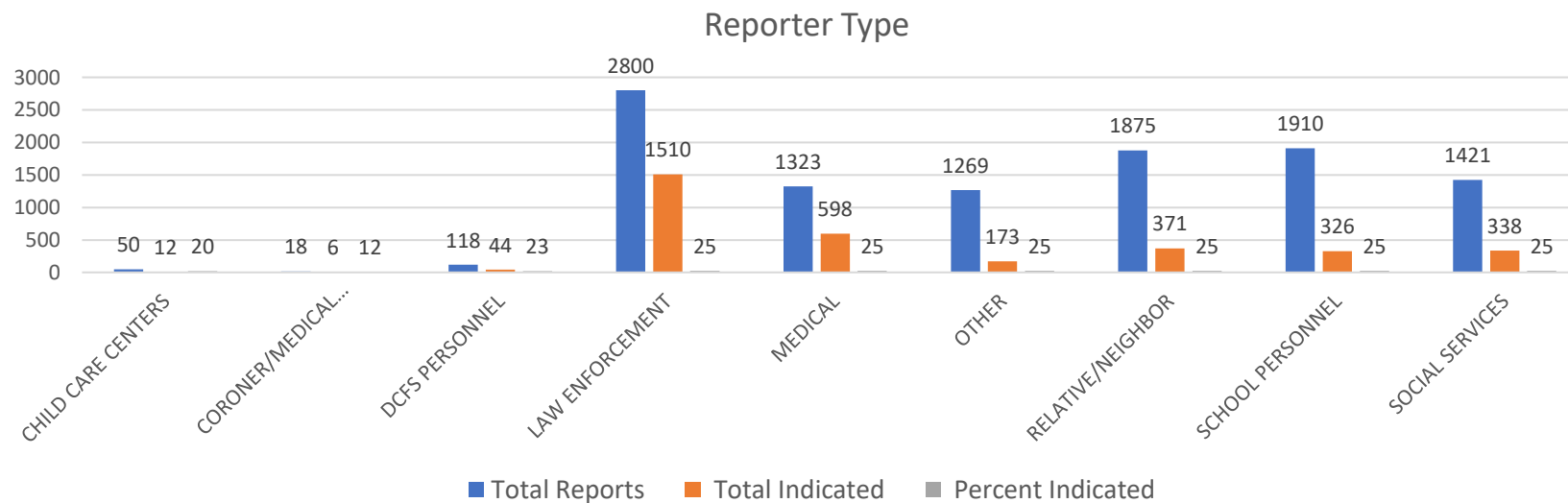
RACE	CTAKER: UNDER 20	CTAKER: 20-29	CTAKER: 30-39	CTAKER: 40-49	CTAKER: 50-59	CTAKER: 60 OR OL	CTAKER: UNKNOWN
AFRICAN AMERICAN	44	271	167	55	24	6	1
ASIAN/PAC ISLAND	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
HISPANIC	2	8	9	5	0	0	1
NATIVE AMERICAN	0	1	3	1	0	0	0
OTHER	0	8	5	5	1	0	35
UNKNOWN	4	4	8	1	1	0	0
WHITE	98	807	801	278	98	32	11
Grand Total	148	1099	995	345	124	39	48



- Whites dominated the number Ctakers 20-29 with a significant number of 807 followed by African-Americans with 271
- Similar trend continues with Ctaker 30-39 with whites 801 and African American 167
- The rest had a negligible number of Ctakers

# Reporter Type

Report Type	Total Reports	Total Indicated	Percent Indicated
CHILD CARE CENTERS	50	12	24%
CORONER/MEDICAL EXAMINER	18	6	33%
DCFS PERSONNEL	118	44	37%
LAW ENFORCEMENT	2800	1510	53%
MEDICAL	1323	598	45%
OTHER	1269	173	14%
RELATIVE/NEIGHBOR	1875	371	20%
SCHOOL PERSONNEL	1910	326	17%
SOCIAL SERVICES	1421	338	24%
Grand Total	10784	3378	31.32%

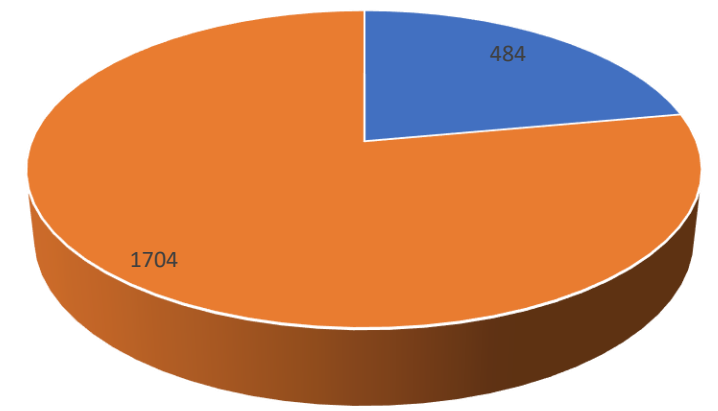


- Law Enforcement dominated the number reports with 53% of their cases being indicated followed by Medical with 45% of total their cases indicated .
- However, the percentage indicated was derived from the Total number cases reported as against the Total number cases indicated for each reporter type. Thus, the percentage indicated is relative to each reporter type.

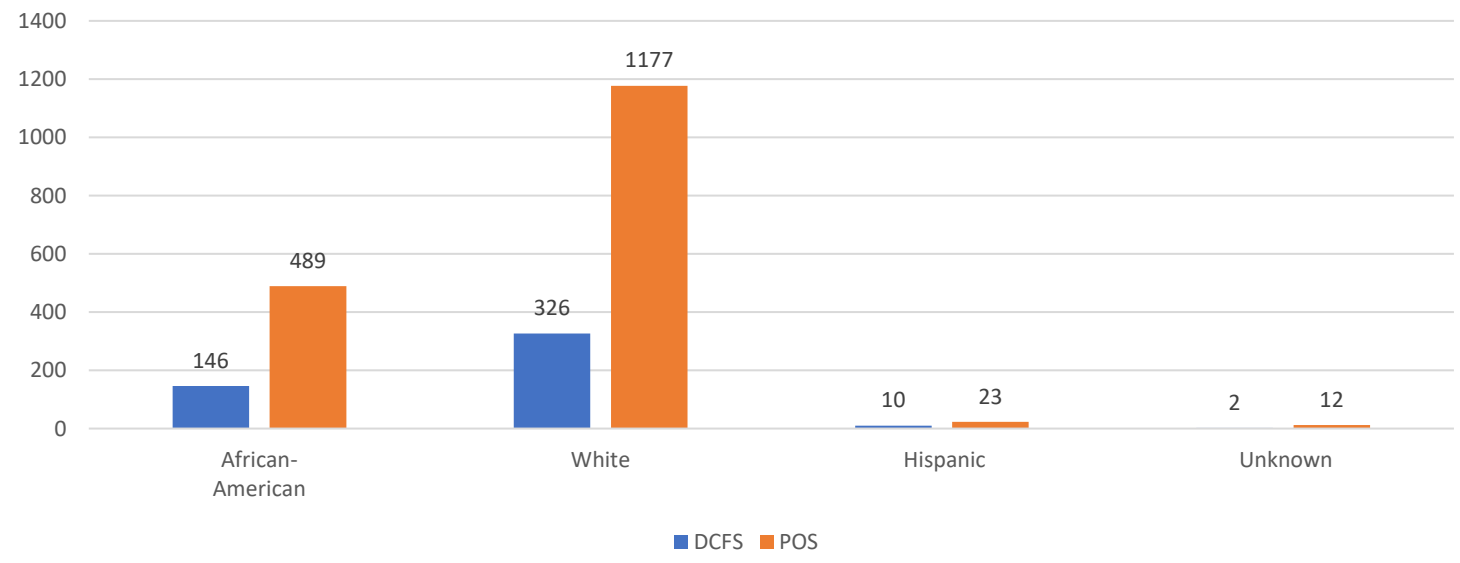
# Child Data, by Race

Total

Agency Type	African-American	White	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	Native American	Unknown	Total
DCFS	146	326	10	0	0	2	484
POS	489	1177	23	1	2	12	1704
Grand Total	635	1503	33	1	2	14	2188



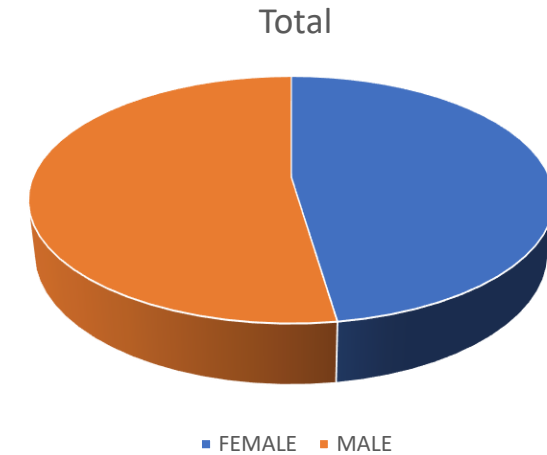
Child Data by Race



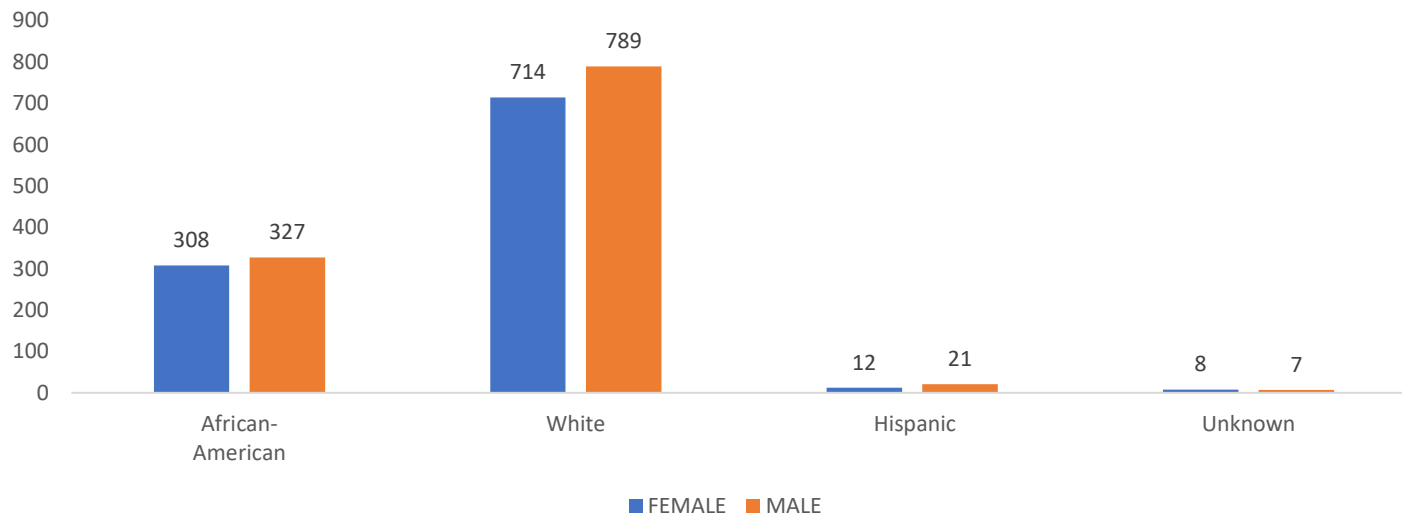
- Unknown race = youth whose race is not identified or assessed
- White population in DCFS and POS is high as 326 and 1177 respectively.
- African American population being 146 and 489 respectively.
- Total population in POS is high as 1704.
- The number of other races is negligible.

# Child Gender by Race

Gender	African-American	White	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	Native American	Unknown	Total
FEMALE	308	714	12	0	1	8	1043
MALE	327	789	21	1	0	7	1145
Grand Total	635	1503	33	1	1	15	2188



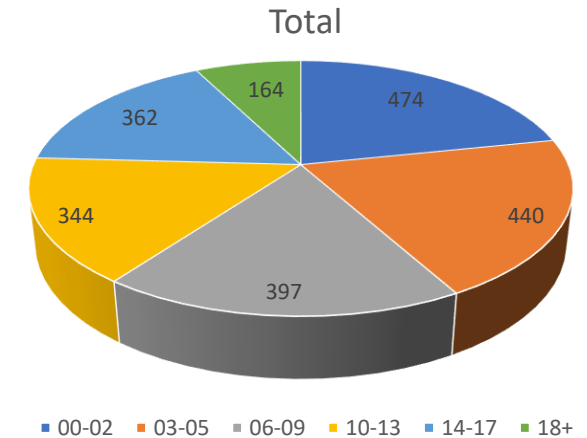
Child Gender by Race



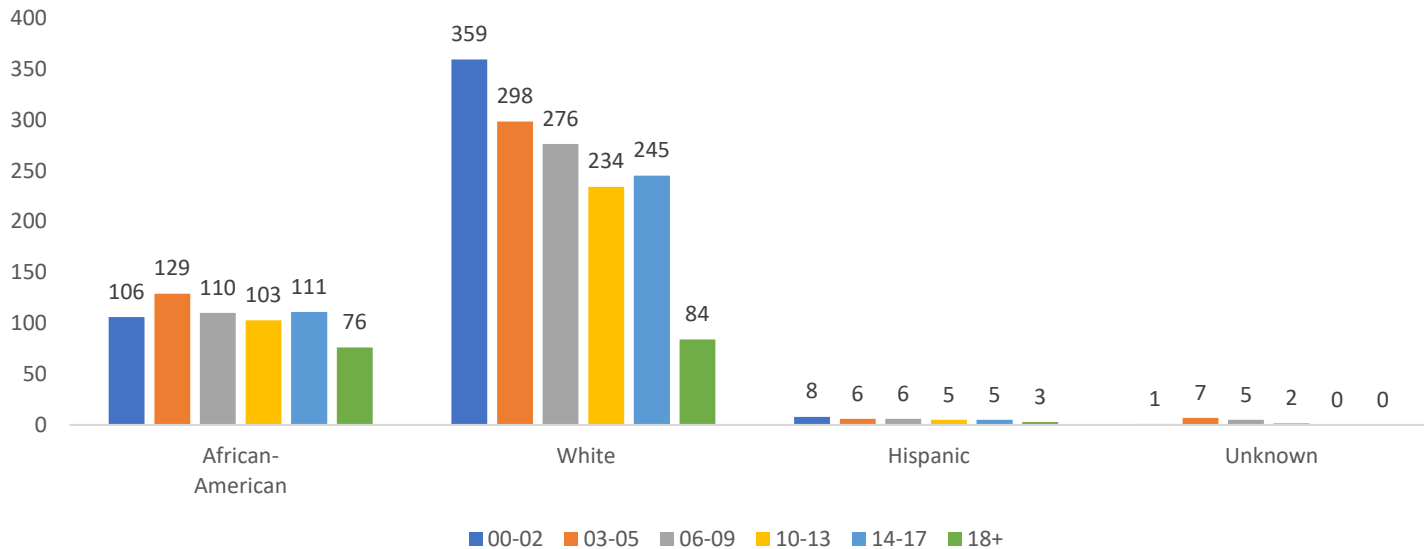
- Unknown race = youth whose race is not identified or assessed
- White male (789) dominated the race followed by Male African American (327).
- The male population overall is slightly high as 1145 and female being 1043
- The rest of the race had a low representation

# Child Age, by Race

Age Group	African-American	White	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Native American	Unknown	Total
00-02	106	359	8	0	0	1	474
03-05	129	298	6	0	0	7	440
06-09	110	276	6	0	0	5	397
10-13	103	234	5	0	0	2	344
14-17	111	245	5	0	1	0	362
18+	76	84	3	1	0	0	164
Grand Total	635	1496	33	1	1	15	2181



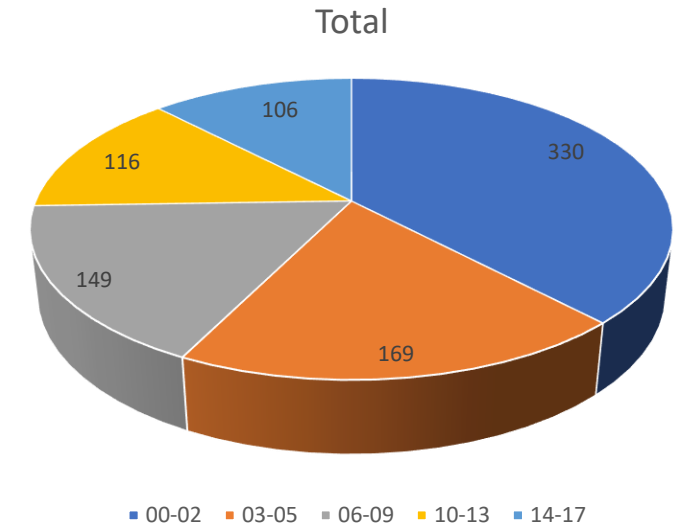
Child Age by Race



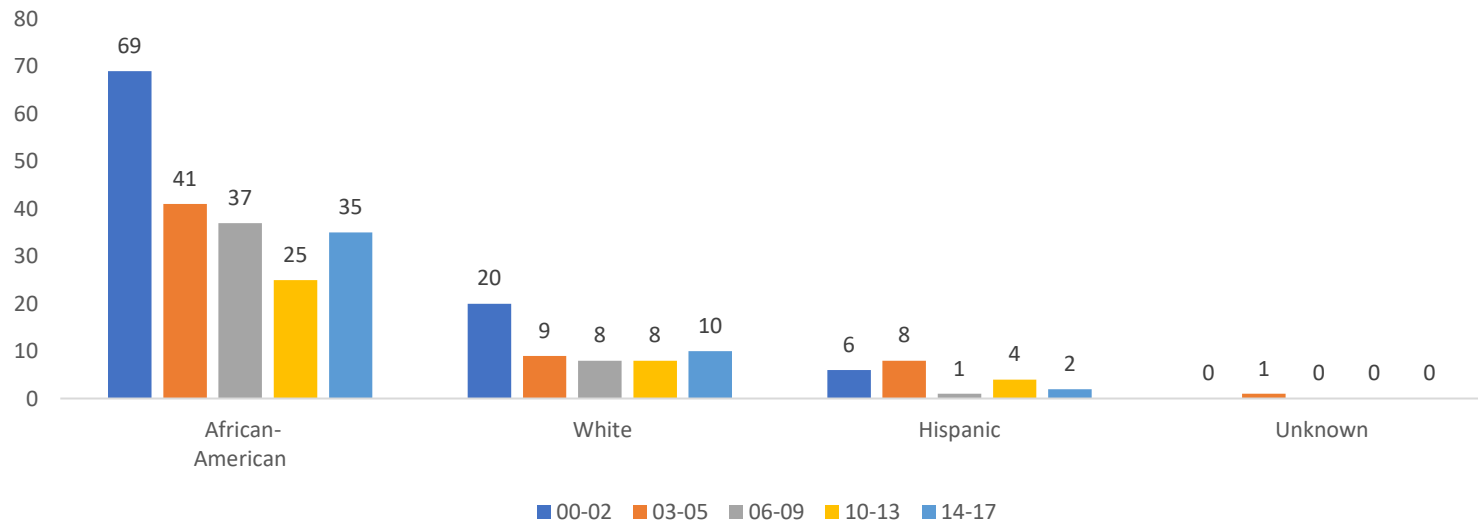
- Unknown race = youth whose race is not identified or assessed
- White children dominated age by race with 1496 followed by African- American with 635.
- The rest of the race had a low representation.
- Age groups of 00-02 and 03-05 show high numbers in totals with 474 and 440 respectively.

# Openings, by Race

Row Labels	African-American	White	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Native American	Unknown	Total
00-02	69	20	6	0	0	0	330
03-05	41	9	8	0	0	1	169
06-09	37	8	1	0	0	0	149
10-13	25	8	4	0	0	0	116
14-17	35	10	2	0	0	0	106
Grand Total	207	55	21	0	0	1	870



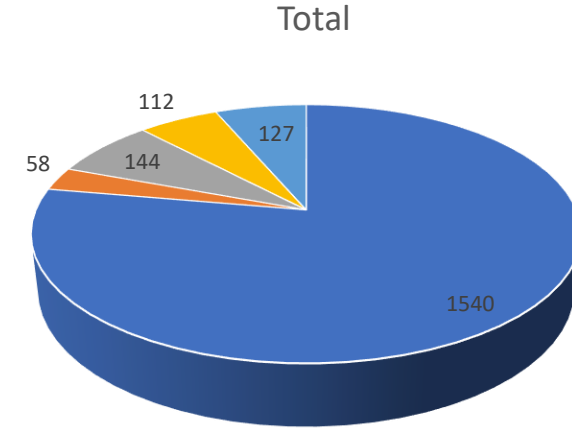
Openings by Race



- Unknown race = youth whose race is not identified or assessed
- African-American largely dominated opening by race with 207 cases followed by whites with 55 cases.
- The rest of the race had negligible representation.

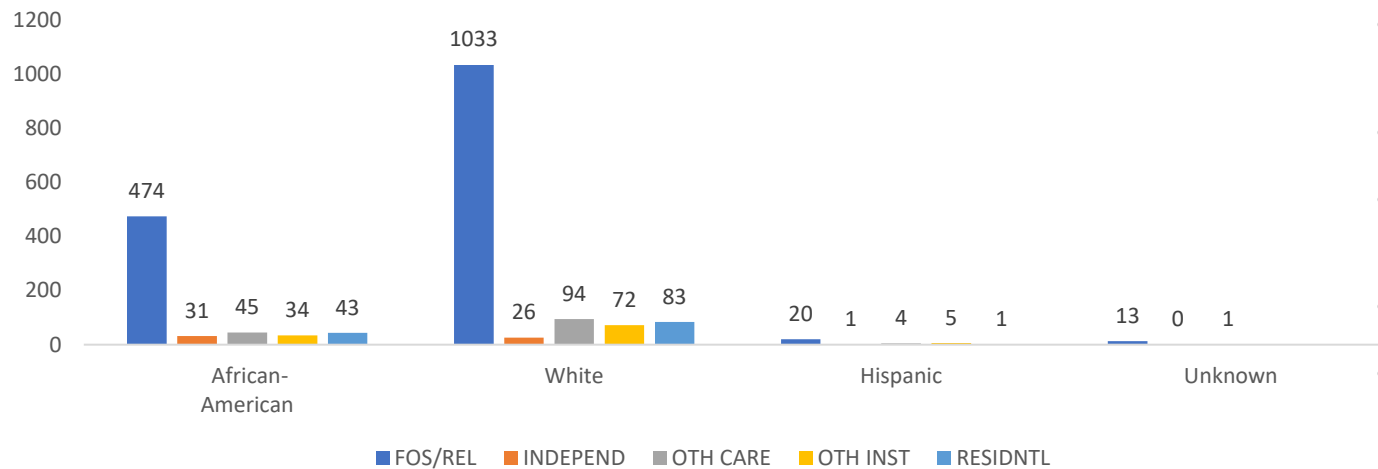
# Placement Type

Row Labels	African-American	White	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Native American	Unknown	Total
FOS/REL	474	1033	20	0	0	13	1540
INDEPEND	31	26	1	0	0	0	58
OTH CARE	45	94	4	0	0	1	144
OTH INST	34	72	5	0	1	0	112
RESIDNTL	43	83	1	0	0	0	127
Grand Total	627	1308	31	0	1	14	1981



■ FOS/REL ■ INDEPEND ■ OTH CARE ■ OTH INST ■ RESIDNTL

Placement Type

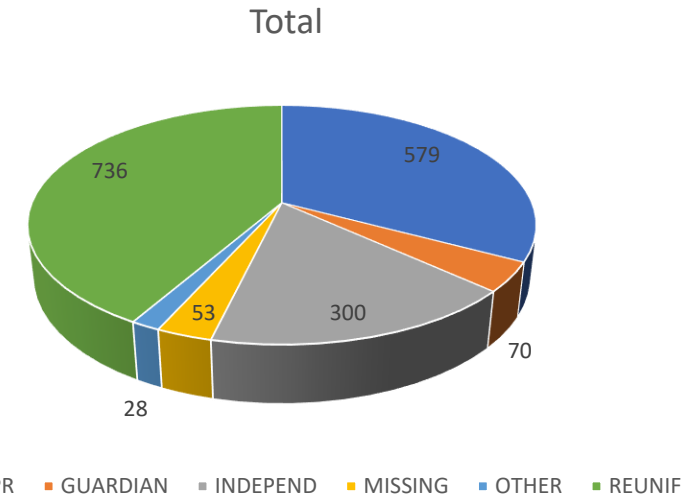


- African-American and white had 474 and 1033 respectively in FOS/REL.
- OTH CARE had 45 African American and 94 white
- RESIDNTL placement type had 43 African-America and 83 whites
- OTH INST had only 34 African-American and 72 whites.
- The rest of the race had low representation

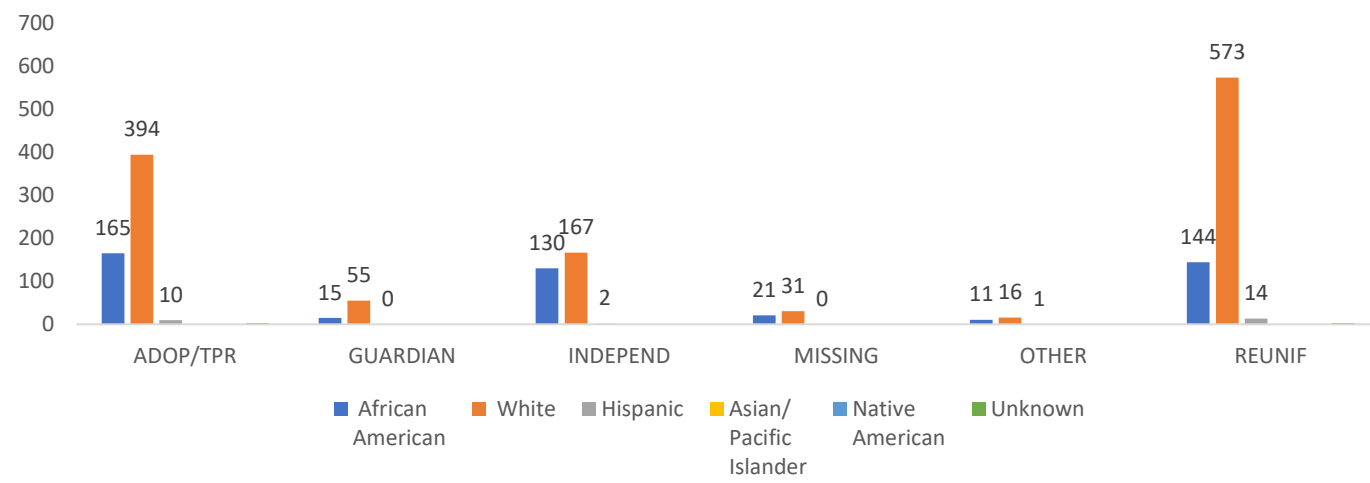


# Child Goal

Goal Category	African American	White	Hispanic	Asian/Pacific Islander	Native American	Unknown	Total
ADOP/TPR	165	394	10	0	1	3	579
GUARDIAN	15	55	0	0	0	0	70
INDEPEND	130	167	2	0	0	1	300
MISSING	21	31	0	0	0	0	53
OTHER	11	16	1	0	0	0	28
REUNIF	144	573	14	0	0	3	736
Grand Total	486	1236	27	0	1	7	1766



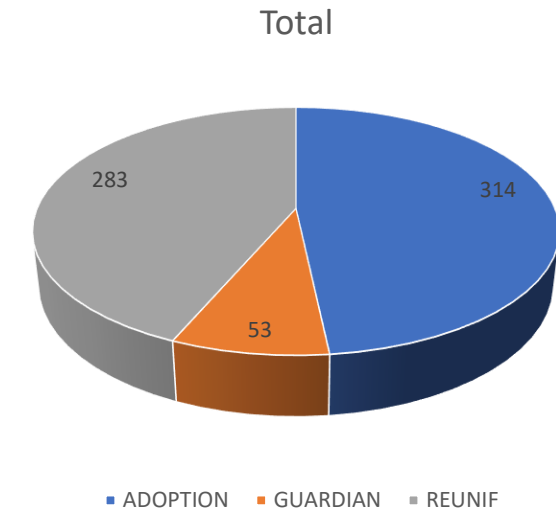
Child Goals by Race



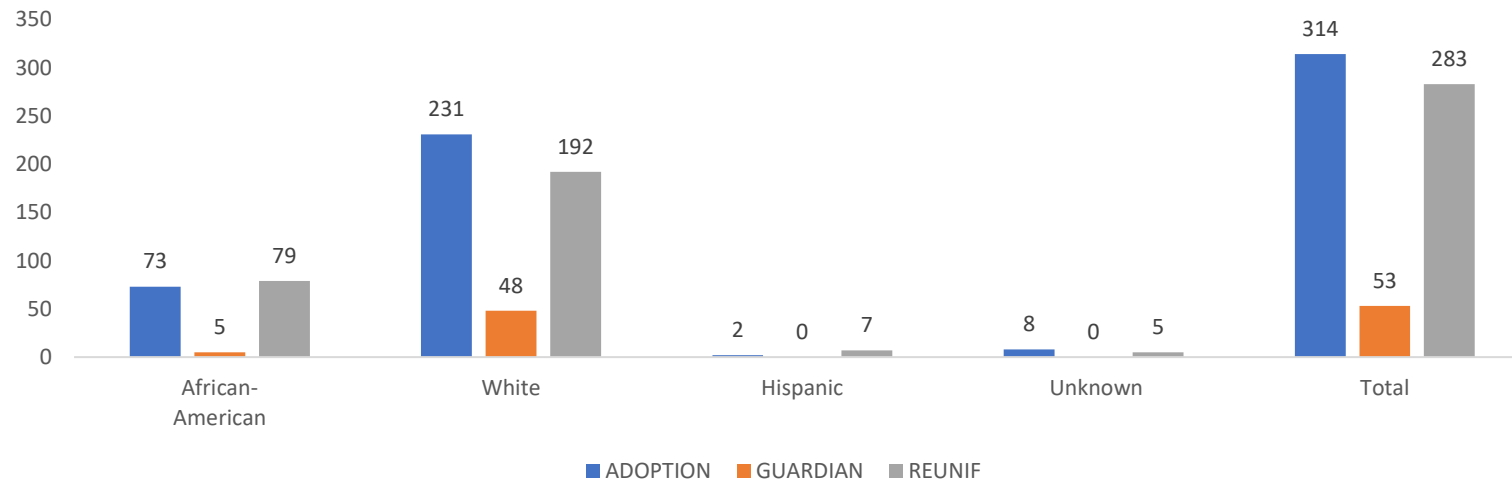
- African-American 144 and 573 White were REUNIF
- 165 African-American and 394 White were ADOPT/TPR under the goal category
- There are 130 African American and 167 Whites were independent.
- The rest of the race has zero representation

# Permanency Placement Type

Permanency	African-American	White	Hispanic	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Native American	Unknown	Total
ADOPTION	73	231	2	0	0	8	314
GUARDIAN	5	48	0	0	0	0	53
REUNIF	79	192	7	0	0	5	283
Grand Total	157	471	9	0	0	13	650



Permanency by Race



- 231 White were adopted.
- 192 White were REUNIF.
- 48 whites had guardian.
- The rest of the race had low representation in all the permanency type.

# Disproportionality & Disparity

## **Disproportionality** –

Occurs when the percentage of a group of children in a population is different from the percentage of the same group in the child welfare system.

*For example, if 25% of the children in a county were African American, then 25% of those in foster care should be African American, all things being equal. That would be proportional. If these percentages differ there is disproportionality.*

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*For example, if 25% of the children in a county were African American, then 25% of those in foster care should be African American, all things being equal. That would be proportional. If these percentages differ there is disproportionality.*

Disparity & Disproportionality examined at 4 critical points:

- Indicated Cases
- Entries into Care (Child Data, by race)
- Child Goal
- Permanencies

# Racial Disparity: Case Indications

Disparity Ratio for Indications [Yearly Comparison]						
County	FY12-13	FY13-14	FY14-15	FY15-16	FY16-17	FY17-18
Franklin				1.03	1.03*	1.03*
Jackson				1.03	1.03*	1.03*
Perry				1.03	1.03*	1.03*
Williamson				1.03	1.03*	1.03*
Bond				1.29	1.29*	1.29*
Clinton				1.29	1.29*	1.29*
Effingham				1.09	1.09*	1.09*
Fayette				1.09	1.09*	1.09*
Jasper				1.09	1.09*	1.09*
Monroe				1	1*	1*

County	FY12-13	FY13-14	FY14-15	FY15-16	FY16-17	FY17-18
Randolph				1	1*	1*
Washington				1	1*	1*
Crawford				0.91	0.91*	0.91*
Edwards				0.91	0.91*	0.91*
Lawrence				0.91	0.91*	0.91*
Richland				0.91	0.91*	0.91*
Wabash				0.91	0.91*	0.91*
Cairo				0.29	0.29*	0.29*
Madison				2.18	2.18*	2.18*
Metropolis				2.18	2.18*	2.18*
Mt Vernon				1.23	1.23*	1.23*
St Clair				1.05	1.05*	1.05*

\*The research team did not receive updated data for the period 2016-2018, thus the calculated ratios only reflect trends in the 2016 fiscal year

# Racial Disparity: Child Goal

Disparity Ratio for Indications [Yearly Comparison] child goal			
County	Child goal	FY15-16	FY16-17
Carbondale	Adoption	0.813	0.813
	Guardian	0.8	0.8
	Independent	1	1
	Missing	3	3
	Other	3	3
	Reunification	1	1
Carlye	Adoption	0.384	0.384
	Guardian	0	0
	Independent	0.89	0.89
	Missing	0	0
	Other	0	0
	Reunification	1.086	1.086
Effingham	Adoption	0.47	0.47
	Guardian	0	0
	Independent	0	0
	Missing	2.66	2.66
	Reunification	1.14	1.14
Sparta	Adoption	1.25	1.25
	Guardian	0	0
	Independent	6.33	6.33
	Missing	0	0
	Other	0	0
	Reunification	0	0
Olney	Adoption	0	0
	Guardian	0	0
	Independent	0	0
	Missing	0	0
	Other	NA	NA
	Reunification	0.31	0.31

Cairo	<b>Adoption</b>	<b>1.97</b>	<b>1.97</b>
	Guardian	0.97	0.97
	Independent	2.12	2.12
	Reunification	-	-
	Other	0.06	0.06
	Adoption	0.94	0.94
Madison	Guardian	0	0
	Independent	2.04	2.04
	Reunification	0.8	0.8
	Other	10.32	10.32
	Adoption	0	0
Metropolis	Guardian	-	-
	Independent	0	0
	Reunification	1.39	1.39
	Other	-	-
	Adoption	1.2	1.2
Mt.Vernon	Guardian	0.69	0.69
	Independent	0.43	0.43
	Reunification	0.68	0.68
	Other	0.61	0.61
	Adoption	1.97	1.97
St.Calir	Guardian	0.97	0.97
	Independent	2.12	2.12
	Reunification	-	-
	Other	0.06	0.06
	Adoption	1.97	1.97

Disparity ratio on this variable = (number of African American children achieving goal divided by number of African American children who enter care) over (number of White children achieving goal by the number of White children who enter care).

# Racial Disparity: Permanency

Disparity Ratio for Indications [Yearly Comparison] permanency						
County	FY12-13	FY13-14	FY14-15	FY15-16	FY16-17	FY17-18
Franklin				1.33	1.33*	1.33*
Jackson				1.33	1.33*	1.33*
Perry				1.33	1.33*	1.33*
Williamson				1.33	1.33*	1.33*
Bond				0	0*	0*
Clinton				0	0*	0*
Effingham				0.33	0.33*	0.33*
Fayette				0.33	0.33*	0.33*
Jasper				0.33	0.33*	0.33*
Monroe				0	0*	0*
Randolph				0	0*	0*

County	FY12-13	FY13-14	FY14-15	FY15-16	FY16-17	FY17-18
Washington				0	0*	0*
Crawford				0	0*	0*
Edwards				0	0*	0*
Lawrence				0	0*	0*
Richland				0	0*	0*
Wabash				0	0*	0*
Cairo				0.99	0.99*	0.99*
Madison				0.75	0.75*	0.75*
Metropolis				1.32	1.32*	1.32*
Mt Vernon				0.75	0.75*	0.75*
St Clair				0.99	0.99*	0.99*

\*The research team did not receive updated data for the period 2016-2018, thus the calculated ratios only reflect trends in the 2016 fiscal year

*Disparity ratio on this variable = (number of African American children achieving permanency divided by number of African American children who enter care) over (number of White children achieving permanency by the number of White children who enter care).*

# Action Team Development: *Activities, Goals, Outcomes*

# *Action Team Partners (FY18)*

Most common Action Team partners are listed below

- POS Agencies
- Court Systems
- Bethany Christian Services
- Mary Cleveland Adoption Unit
- Family advocacy centers



# Key Goals of Action Teams (FY18)

- All Action Teams are expanding the network with private organizations and community stake holders
- Few Action teams' goal is to reconstruct the action team and the action teams' membership.
- All Action Teams' aims in expanding programs/ services/ for parenting, substance abuse, violence prevention, youth, opioid hostile, head start, home based things related to B-3services.
- Most of the action teams want to build the partnerships with different providers in the community. Providers include the Family Advocacy Center and Hope unlimited.
- All Action teams are trying to address the permanency and children from birth to three years old
- Few Action teams are continuing to expand the resources for foster care parents
- Action team continues conducting online training to foster care parents
- All Action teams wanted to explore innovative ways of communication with the membership

# Annual Activities (FY18)

- St.Clair Action Team focused on development/Implementation of Trainings and Conferences (i.e. LGBTQ Conference, CFTM training, Core practice FTF training, Procedures 315 training).
- Sparta Action Team is focusing on potential online trainings for foster parents and efforts towards community engagement to encourage foster parent recruitment.
- Olney Action Team is implementing survey to assess support needs of 'Action Team' to garner ongoing specified support from University partner which will further specify work with local community.
- Mt.Vernon Team is working on Youth Coalitions/looking to improve foster parent consistency and improve proper connections for parents in the system regarding their needs.
- Most of the Teams are conducting meetings with community partners for expansion of their teams.
- Few teams are working on rebuilding the Action team membership

## Concerns/Barriers

- Closure of public housing unit (implications for other systems of care, youth/families)
  - Reduction in Action team membership
- Large area covered with three rural counties
- Identification of community partners to help enhance action team efforts



## RESPONSE to Concerns/Barriers

- Partnering with new Family Advocacy Center and other community supports including schools to provide families support
- Re-constituting action team and renewing membership by partnering with community providers
- Considering more targeted approach to address logistic challenges (i.e. focus on one county at a time; create Action Team Subcommittee for regions if necessary)
- Exploring innovative methods of communication to reach community providers for membership

# Future Directions (FY18)

- All Action teams want to sustain the Action Team Membership as well as attendance
- Most teams are planning to identify action team partners
- Most teams want grow Action Team membership focused on region, court subcommittees, etc.
- All the teams want to maintain ongoing meetings and action team participation
- Few teams want continue partnership with Family Advocacy Center
- Few teams are planning to engage other Systems of Care to seek support (ex- Cairo team Plans to engage Cairo High School Principal for the African American Advisory Council Conference and support of permanency efforts)
- All teams was working to explore use of innovative communication strategies (i.e. phone conference call or video conference meetings such as Skype to overcome barriers with traveling time and accessibility).
- All teams are interested in expanding programs/ services/ for parenting, substance abuse, violence prevention, youth, opioid hostile, head start, home based things related to B-3services

# *Other Activities of Merit (FY18)*

- Created Youth Coalition of parenting providers in the area that collaborate with DCFS. Directors of these programs are a part of the coalition and subgroups are made for the actual providers so they can report needs, gaps in services, progression, accomplishments, etc. (Mt.Vernon)
- Created sample for Lifebooks (Mt.Vernon)
- LGBTQ support groups by St.Clair
- Interviews of foster Kids(St.Clair)