

Racial and Ethnic Impact Statement

Child Welfare Data

African American and Native American children are overrepresented in many states across the nation, including Oregon. In 2009 the Child Welfare Equity Task Force was established (*Executive Order 09-02 and Senate Bill 630*) to identify and analyze the causes of disproportionality in Oregon's child welfare system. One of the key findings of the task force report showed about 20 percent of all children in foster care during the study period were children of color, despite the fact that children of color made up only 11 percent of Oregon's general child population¹. Since that time, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has continued to identify strategies to reduce disproportionality and disparities in Oregon.

Foster Care

The 2013 Child Welfare Data book provides data specific to Oregon's foster care population². During FFY 2013, 12,113 children spent at least one day in foster care. Below is a race comparison for Oregon children to children served in foster care.

Race	% of Oregon's children*	% of children served in foster care
African American	3.3%	7.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	5.1%	1.2%
Caucasian	68.8%	68.6%
Hispanic (any race)	21.2%	16.4%
Native American	1.6%	4.5%
Unknown/Not Recorded	n/a	2.2%

*2012 Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2012 Online

This shows that children of color, in particular African American and Native American children are in foster care at higher rates than other children. Native American children were over 2.5 times more likely and African American children 2 times more likely to be represented in Oregon's foster care population than represented in Oregon's general population.

Entries/Exits

The number of children entering foster care during FFY 2013 declined by 9.9 percent from the FFY 2012 level. The number of children leaving foster care has increased by 5.4 percent in the same time period.

¹ <http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/docs/tf-report.pdf>

² <http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/abuse/docs/2013%20Data%20Book.pdf>

	Entries	Exits
2009	4557	4674
2010	4736	4213
2011	4398	4112
2012	4140	3615
2013	3730	3810

When the number of exits is greater than the number of entries in a year a state will see a reduction in their overall foster care population. Though Oregon has seen a reduction in the foster care population both African American and Native American children continue to be overrepresented, with a slight increase in foster care population from FFY 2012 to FFY 2013.

Race	SFY 2011	FFY 2012	FFY 2013
African American	8.2%	6.8%	7.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.6%	1.1%	1.2%
Caucasian	64.4%	66.5%	68.6%
Hispanic (any race)	14.4%	14.8%	16.4%
Native American	5.9%	3.8%	4.5%
Unknown/Not Recorded	5.5%	7.0%	2.2%

Data Analysis

By examining data – by race and ethnicity- Oregon will be able to examine patterns which can impact disproportionality and disparities. One example is the race comparison of children in Oregon to children with an in home case (*excluding trial home visits*).

Race	% of Oregon's children*	% of Children Served In Home
African American	3.3%	7.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	5.1%	0.8%
Caucasian	68.8%	61.8%
Hispanic (any race)	21.2%	17.0%
Native American	1.6%	3.7%
Unknown/Not Recorded	n/a	9.5%

*2012 Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2012 Online

In FFY 2013 African American and Native American children totaled only 11% of the in home case population. Monitoring such data will assist Oregon in planning and identifying systemic barriers to reducing disproportionality.