

OVERVIEW
Disproportionate Minority Representation
(DMR)
in OCFS Service Delivery
May 2009

Disproportionate Minority Representation (DMR) or disproportionality occurs when the percentage for the representation of a particular minority group (racial, ethnic) involved with a service system, is significantly higher or lower than that group's percentage or representation in the general population. The following overview depicts DMR data related to OCFS's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. However, it must be noted that disproportionality has implications across all services administered by OCFS, i.e. child care, youth development, blind and visually handicapped, and workforce development. In some of these service categories disproportionality manifests itself by over-representation of racial/ethnic groups, and in other service categories it is manifested by under-representation of racial/ethnic groups.

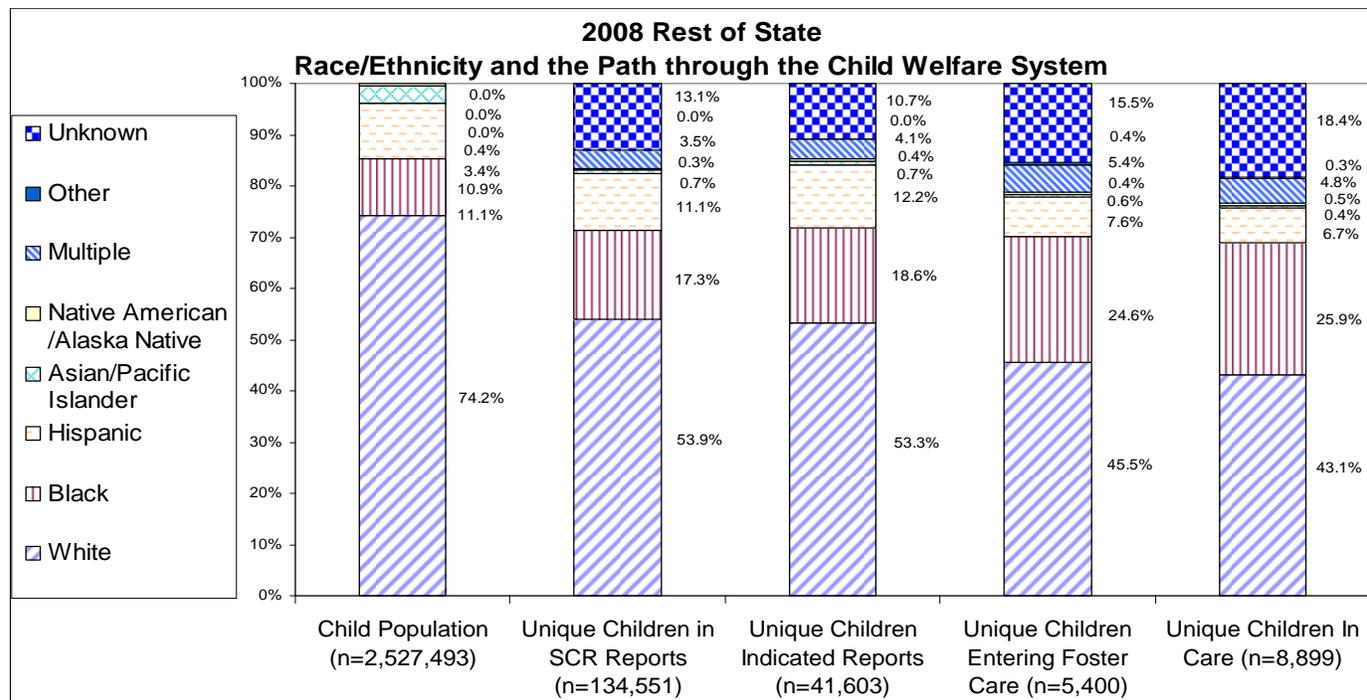
Child Welfare

Currently, in NYS: 2 black children are reported to the SCR for every white child reported, and 1.5 Hispanic children are reported for every white child reported; 2.5 black children are indicated for every white child indicated and 1.9 Hispanic children are indicated for every white child indicated; 5.3 black children enter care for every 1 white child that enters care, and 2.3 Hispanic children enter care for every white child; and finally 6.6 black children are in care for every white child in care and 2.8 Hispanic children are in care for every white child in care. Child welfare professionals need to ask, "why?"

OCFS has included several views (different indicators for different age groups and years) of DMR data in this section. The data will initially create more questions about why children of color often go on to higher levels of care within the child welfare system, and what policies and practice impact this trend. This analysis will ultimately help formulate key practice and policy decisions to reduce DMR and disparity.

Disproportionate Minority Representation

The graph and table below illustrates the race/ethnic distribution of children as they move through each of the decision points in the child protective system. It gives the percent and number of unique children of given race/ethnicity in population, in SCR Reports, in Indicated Reports, entering foster care, and in-care during calendar year 2008.



	Child Population (n=2,527,493)	Unique Children in SCR Reports (n=134,551)	Unique Children in Indicated Reports (n=41,603)	Unique Children Entering Foster Care (n=5,400)	Unique Children In Care (n=8,899)
Unknown	-	17,627	4,464	837	1,635
Other	-	-	-	21	26
Multiple	-	4,769	1,698	291	425
Native American/Alaska Native	10,439	420	171	21	42
Asian/Pacific Islander	86,395	958	287	30	36
Hispanic	275,880	14,961	5,067	412	596
Black	279,663	23,277	7,732	1,331	2,305
White	1,875,116	72,539	22,184	2,457	3,834

In ROS, black and Hispanic children made up an increasingly higher percentage of the population at each subsequent decision point in the child welfare system.

While 74.2% of the children in the ROS population were white, only 53.9% of unique children involved in SCR reports were white; and 45.5% of the children entering foster care were white.

Black children comprised 11.1% of the ROS population, 17.3% of the children involved in SCR Reports were black. Of the children entering foster care, nearly ¼ (24.6%) were black.

The progression of Hispanic children was similar to black children: 10.9% of the children in the ROS population were Hispanic; 11.1% of the children involved in an SCR Report were Hispanic. Hispanic children represented 7.6% of all children who entered foster care in 2008.

Data Definitions and Sources

Unique children

Children reported, indicated, entered foster care, or in foster care multiple times during a calendar year was counted only once.

Definition of Indicators

Reports: These are unique children under 18 years of age for whom intakes were made during a given calendar year. Age utilized is age at intake.

Indications: These are unique children under 18 years of age with indicated allegations made during a given calendar year. Thus, the determination was made during the calendar year of interest, not necessarily the report. Age utilized is age at intake. Only indicated children are included -non indicated children in indicated reports are excluded.

Foster care entries: These are unique children under 18 years that entered foster care during the calendar year. Age utilized is age at placement. Admissions with length of stay less than 8 days are excluded. Children returning from trial discharges lasting more than 30 days are treated as new entries and are included.

Children in care: These are unique children under 18 years of age, in care on the last day of the calendar year. Age utilized is age on December 31. Children in care for less than 8 days are excluded. Children that have been on a trial discharge for more than 30 days are considered not in care.

Race/Ethnicity Definition and Data Sources

Woods & Poole Economics Inc. Race/ethnicity data for the population were obtained from Woods and Poole Economics Inc. They provided population estimates and projections up to year 2030 in the following race/ethnicity categories in one data element (5 mutually exclusive categories): Black, White, Hispanic and Native American/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander.

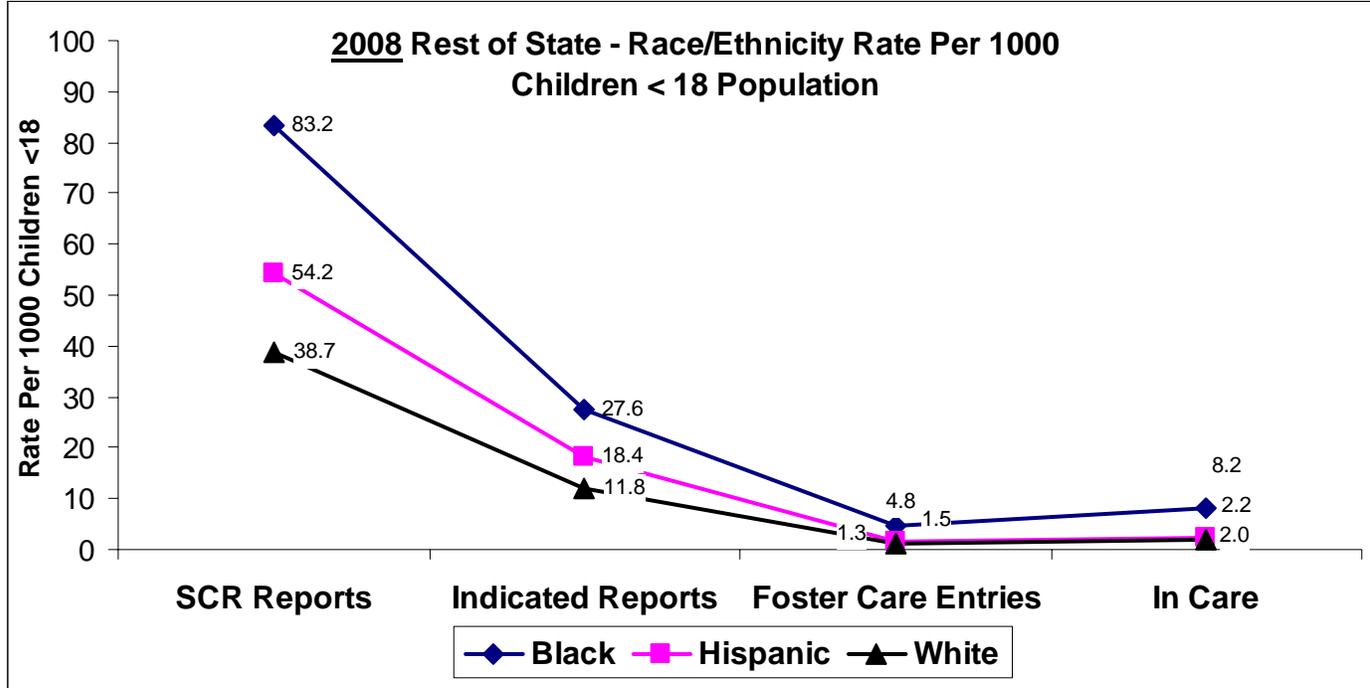
Connections Database: Report and indication data were obtained from Connections. In Connections, race/ethnicity data were available separately as two separate data elements – a separate race element and an ethnicity element. Thus, unlike with Woods and Poole these two data elements had to be combined to construct mutually exclusive race/ethnicity categories. Furthermore, connections included the two other options –multiple and unknown-- in the race element. If a child was identified as Hispanic in the ethnicity category, regardless of what race category, then the child was classified as Hispanic. Other race categories were classified as black, white, Native American/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, multiple and unknown.

CCRS: Foster care entry and children in care data were obtained from CCRS. Similar to connections, in CCRS race/ethnicity data were available separately as two separate data elements and thus had to be combined to construct mutually exclusive race and ethnicity categories. CCRS contained three additional race categories compared to Woods and Poole – multiple, other and unknown. If a child was identified as Hispanic in the ethnicity category, regardless of what race category, then the child was classified as Hispanic. Other race categories were classified as black, white, Native American/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, multiple, other and unknown.

Rate per 1,000 Children in Population

How many black/Hispanic children have contact with the child welfare system (at various decision points), compared to their representation in the population?

The graph below demonstrates that as measured by rate per 1,000 children in the population, black children are more likely than Hispanic Children, and Hispanic children are more likely than white children, to be reported to SCR, indicated for abuse/neglect, admitted to foster care and be in care.



For every 1,000 black children in the population, 83.2 were involved in a SCR Report; 27.6 were involved in Indicated CPS Reports, 4.8 entered foster care, and 8.2 were in care in 2008.

For every 1,000 Hispanic children in the population, 54.2 were involved in a SCR Report; 18.4 were involved in Indicated CPS Reports, 1.5 entered foster care, and 2.2 were in care in 2008.

For every 1,000 white children in the population, 38.7 were involved in a SCR Report; 11.8 were involved in Indicated CPS Reports, 1.3 entered foster care, and 2.0 were in care in 2008.

Disparity Ratio Index. The rest of this section provides disparity ratio data. The disparity ratio index is a key measure to determine if significant differences exist across groups, in examining DMR in Rest of State (ROS).

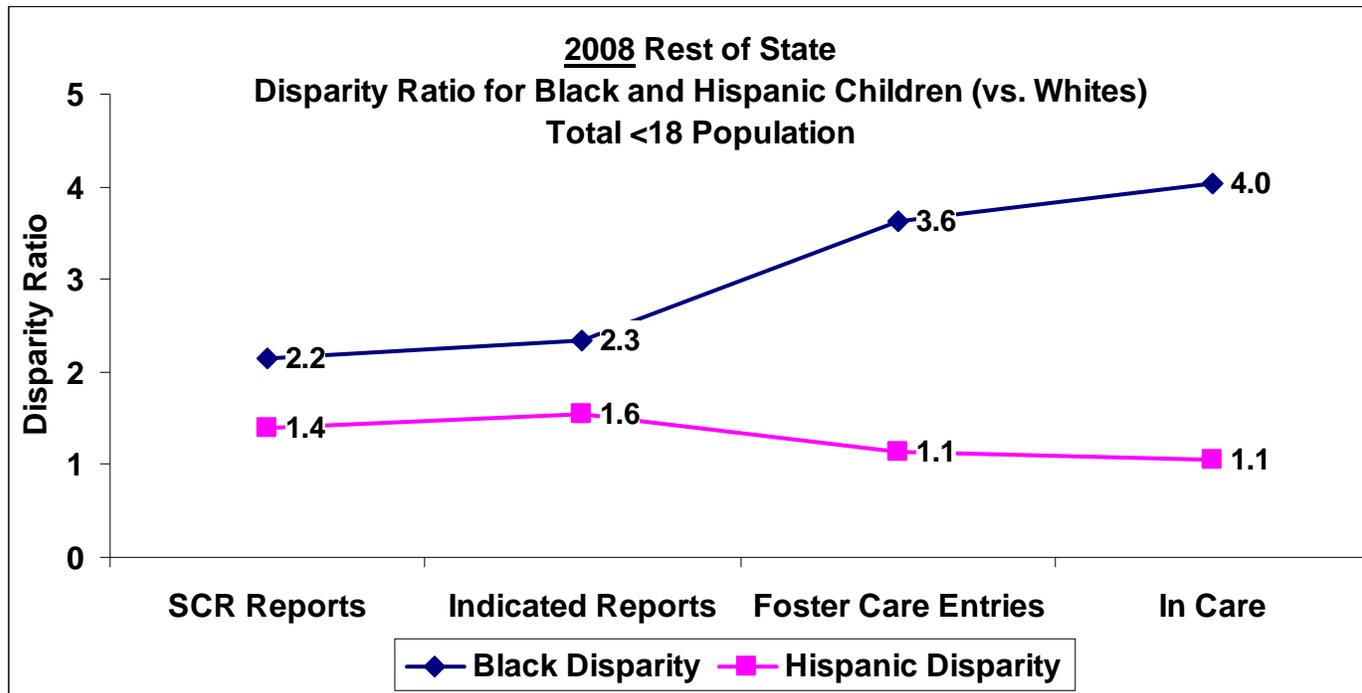
Disparity ratio is the ratio of rate per 1,000 black children (or Hispanics) relative to rate for white children. It is estimated as given below:

Race/Ethnicity	Foster Care Admission Rate per 1,000 Children
Black	4.759
White	1.310

$\frac{4.759}{1.310} = 3.632$	4
-------------------------------	---

Disparity Ratio Index

How many black/Hispanic children have contact with the child welfare system (at various decision points), compared to white children?

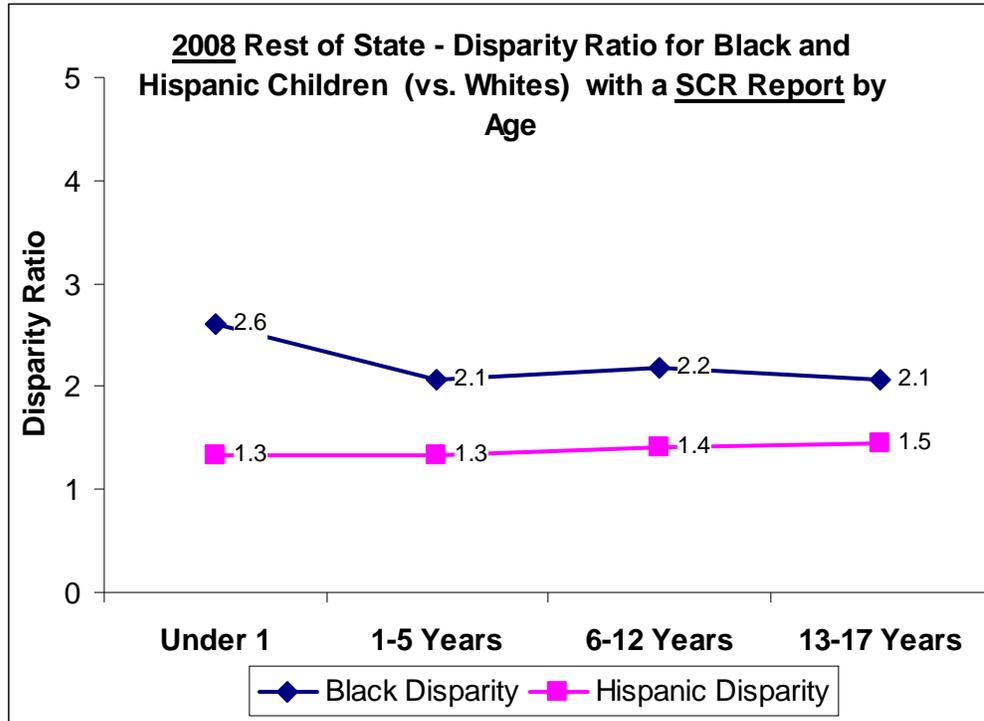


In ROS in 2008, (see chart above) the black disparity ratio index for SCR Reports was 2.2. This means that, in 2008, black children were: 2.2 times more likely to be in a SCR report than white children; 2.3 times more likely to be in an indicated report; 3.6 times likely to be admitted to foster care than white children; and 4 times likely be in foster care. The black disparity ratio increased significantly at foster care entries from 2.3 to 3.6.

Disparity ratio index for Hispanic children was lower than that for black children. However, in comparison with white children, Hispanic children were more likely to be involved in each stage of the child welfare system. In 2008, (chart above) Hispanic children were: 1.4 times more likely than white children to be involved in an SCR report; and 1.6 times more likely to in an indicated report. There is virtually no disparity for Hispanic children entering foster care and those in care – 1.1 Hispanic children were likely to enter foster care and be in care compared to white children in 2008.

Disproportionate Minority Representation in SCR Reports and Indicated Reports, by Age

Is disproportionate minority representation more acute for children from particular age groups?



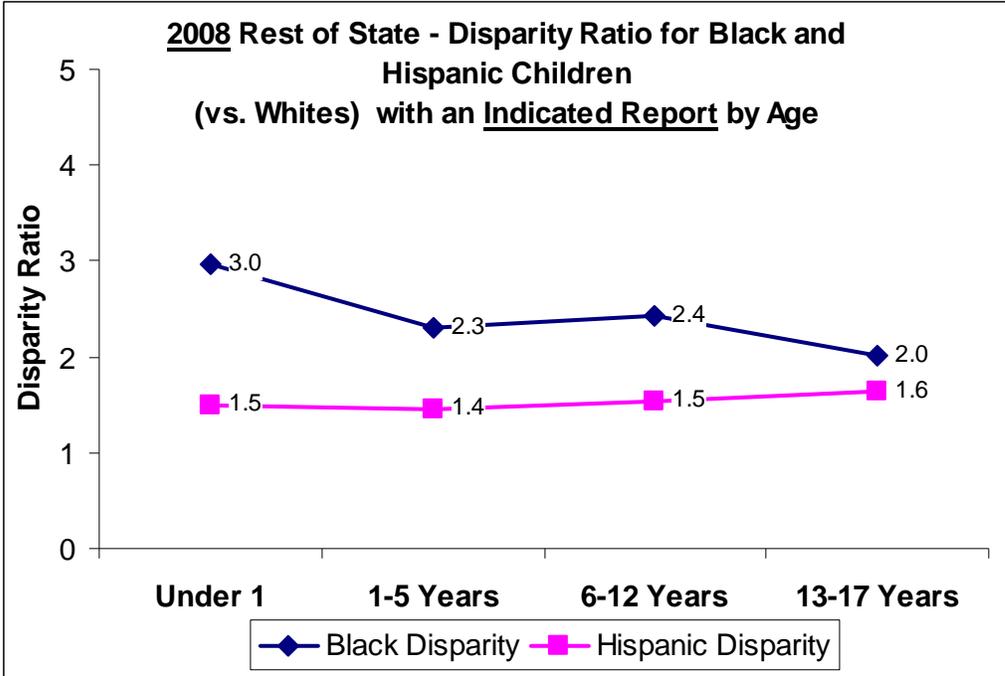
In ROS, black babies (under one year old) were most likely to be involved in a CPS Report than any other group -- black, white or Hispanic children, regardless of age. A black baby was 2.6 times more likely than a white baby (under age 1) to be involved in a CPS Report.

Hispanic babies in ROS were only slightly more likely (1.3 times more likely compared to white babies) to be involved in an SCR Report. However, while the difference was minimal, the disparity rate was the highest for Hispanic children aged 13 to 17 years.

Indication disparity ratio for black and Hispanic children, for each age group, was slightly higher than that at the report stage (only exception for black children 13 to 17 years). For example, while 2.6 black children for each white child were reported, 3 black children for each white child were indicated.

As with reports, indication disparity was highest for black babies compared to any other age or race group. As black children get older the disparity ratio was in general lower.

Similar to reports, among Hispanic children, indication disparity was highest for the older children aged 13 to 17 years. However, in contrast to black children, the indication disparity does not differ much by age.



Definitions and Rules in Constructing Indicators^{1,2}

Following rules were utilized in estimating rate per 1,000 and disparity ratios.

Rate per 1,000: If the child population for the race/ethnicity (age group where applicable) was less than 50, then the rates per 1,000 were not calculated. If the number of children a decision point (for example reports, indications, foster care entries, in care and age group where applicable) was less than 6 children, then the rate per 1,000 was not calculated.

Disparity ratio index: If the rate per 1,000 for the group of interest (black or Hispanic) or white children was not estimated (due to the rules for estimating rate per 1,000), then disparity ratios were not estimated.

These rules were applied at the county level. You can determine if these rules apply to any of the groups in your county by examining the table “Race/Ethnicity and Path through the Child Welfare System” produced for all the counties. Thus, if the above rules apply to children in your county (numbers are below the above thresholds), the applicable indicators were not estimated and will not be available.

Definition for disparity ratio categories in county comparisons

- ***No or Little Disparity:*** Disparity ratio is less than 1.5
- ***Moderate Disparity:*** Disparity ratio is 1.5 or more and less than 2.5
- ***High Disparity:*** Disparity ratio is 2.5 or more and less than 3.5
- ***Extreme Disparity:*** Disparity ratio is 3.5 or more

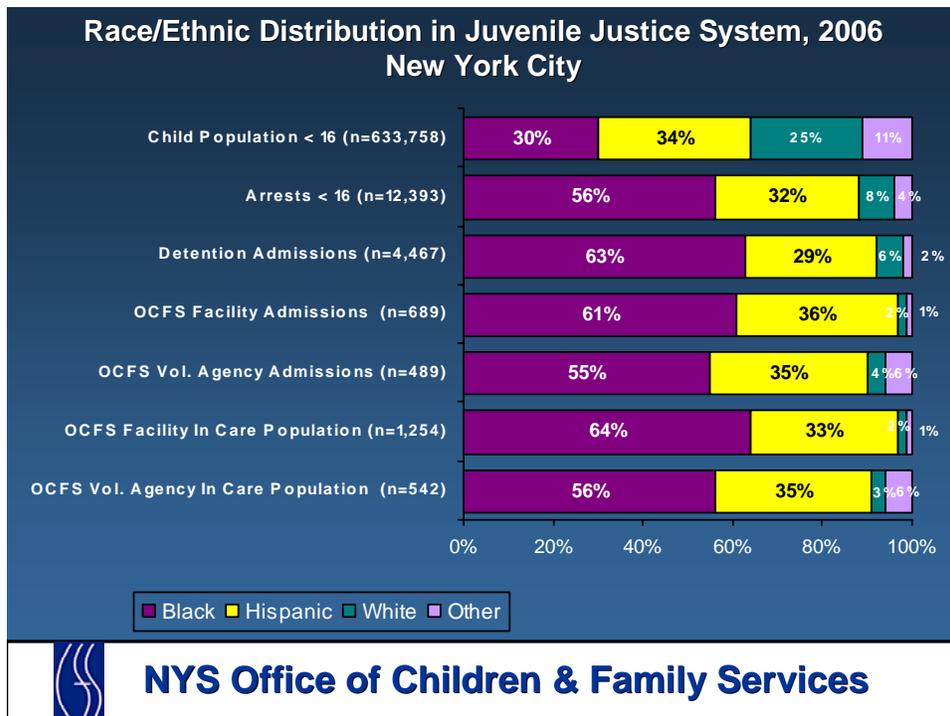
¹ Source: Disproportionate Minority Contact Technical Assistance Manual. 2006. US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Washington, DC.

² Source: Race + Child Welfare Project. 2004. Center for the Study of Social Policy. Casey-CSSP Alliance for Racial Equity in Child Welfare (Alliance), Washington, DC.

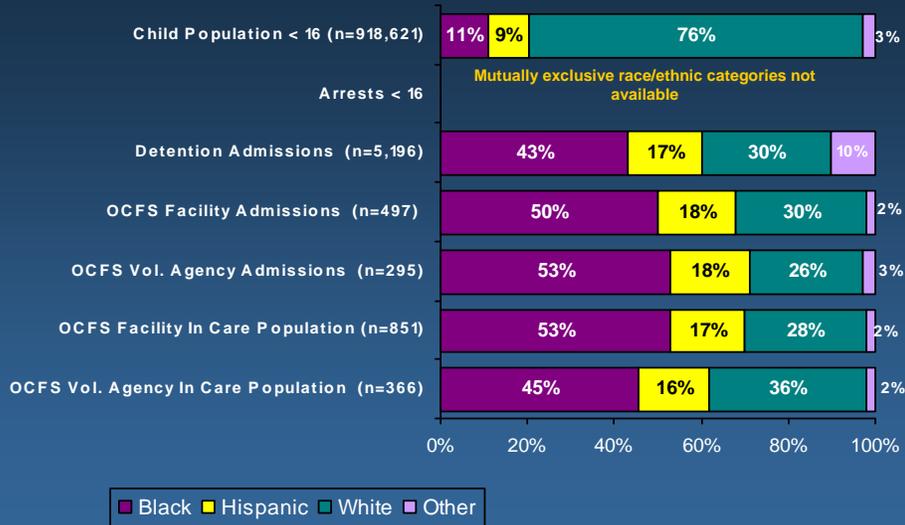
Juvenile Justice

May 15, 2009

Much has been written over the last 15 years about the number and percentage of youth of color in the juvenile justice system in our country. A wealth of data compiled by numerous sources, including the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Child Welfare League of America has documented an emerging problem. In summary, in most states in the country where Caucasian youth and Black and Latino youth are present in the juvenile justice and foster care systems, Black and Latino youth are over-represented in population. This phenomenon is recurrent even when arrests rates for these groups are identical. The following data provides an overview of OCFS's juvenile detention population and identifies key areas of disproportionality.



Race/Ethnic Distribution in Juvenile Justice System, 2006 Rest of State



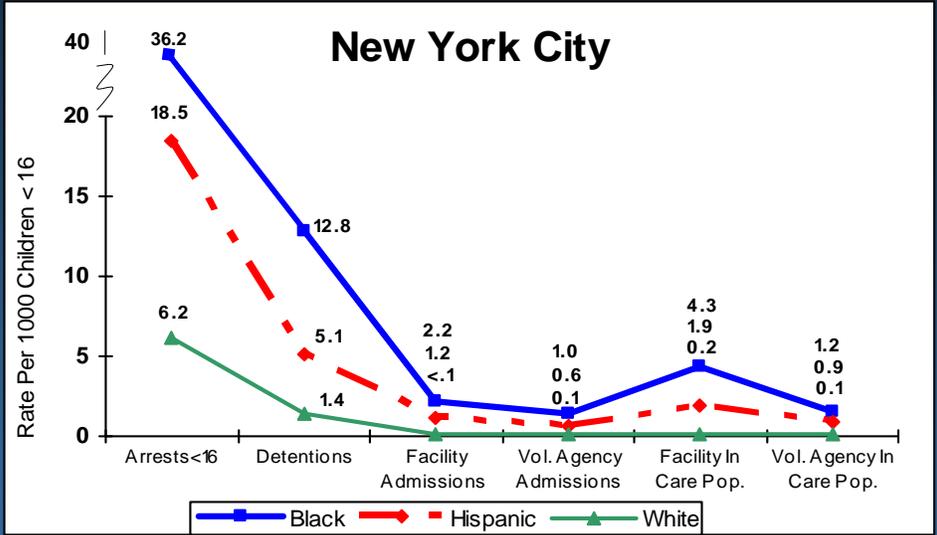
NYS Office of Children & Family Services

- **In both NYC and Rest of State (ROS), black and Hispanic children make up a substantially higher percentage of the juvenile justice population at each stage in the process than their share of the general population of children under 16.**



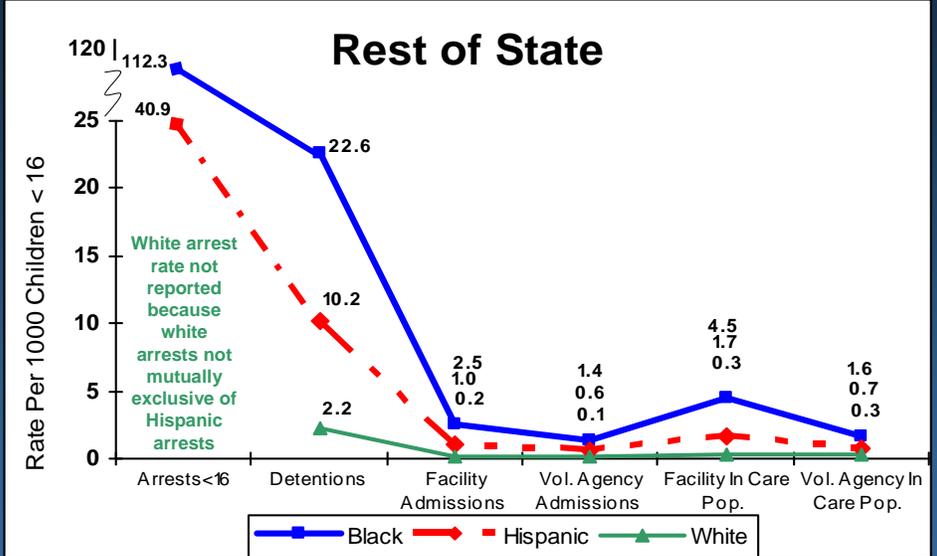
NYS Office of Children & Family Services

Rate of Children Arrested, Admitted to Detention, Placed With OCFS, and In Care Per 1,000 Children < 16 in Population



NYS Office of Children & Family Services

Rate of Children Arrested, Admitted to Detention, Placed With OCFS, and In Care Per 1,000 Children < 16 in Population



NYS Office of Children & Family Services

Rates of Arrests, Detention, Placement, and In Care Highest for Black Children

- As measured by rate per 1000 children in population, black children are more likely than Hispanic children, and Hispanic children are more likely than white children, to be arrested, admitted to detention, admitted to OCFS facilities and voluntary agencies, and in care.
- Black and Hispanic children in ROS are arrested at more than twice the rate of NYC black and Hispanic children, and are detained at almost twice the rate of NYC black and Hispanic children.



NYS Office of Children & Family Services

Disparity Rate Index

Disparity refers to the lack of equality among racial/ethnic groups in the likelihood of being arrested, admitted to detention, admitted to OCFS facilities and voluntary agencies, and in care. The Disparity Rate Index (DRI) is the ratio of rate per 1000 for black (or Hispanic) children relative to rate for white children.

Race/ Ethnicity	Facility Admission Rate per 1,000 Children in NYC	Black Disparity Rate
Black	2.2	$\frac{2.2}{.07} = 31.8$
White	.07	



NYS Office of Children & Family Services

Disparity Rate Findings

- Disparity rates are very high for both black and Hispanic children, but are more pronounced for black children across all stages of the juvenile justice system.
- Black and Hispanic disparity rates are considerably higher in NYC than in ROS at every point in the system except for voluntary agency admissions.
- In NYC, black children are 31.8 times as likely, and Hispanic children are 16.4 times as likely, as white children to be placed in OCFS facilities. In contrast, in ROS, black children are 11.5 times likelier and Hispanic children are 4.8 times likelier than white children to be admitted to facilities.



NYS Office of Children & Family Services

Relative Rate Index

The Relative Rate Index (RRI) compares the rate of activity (number of events) in a given stage of the juvenile justice system to the rate of activity in a preceding stage, for black and Hispanic children relative to white children.

Race/ Ethnicity	NYC Arrests	NYC OCFS Facility Admissions	Rate per 1,000 Arrests
Black	6984	421	60.281
White	966	11	11.387

**Black Relative Rate
Index**

$$\frac{60.281}{11.387} = 5.3$$



NYS Office of Children & Family Services