

Child Welfare in North Carolina: Ethnic and Racial Disproportionality and Disparity

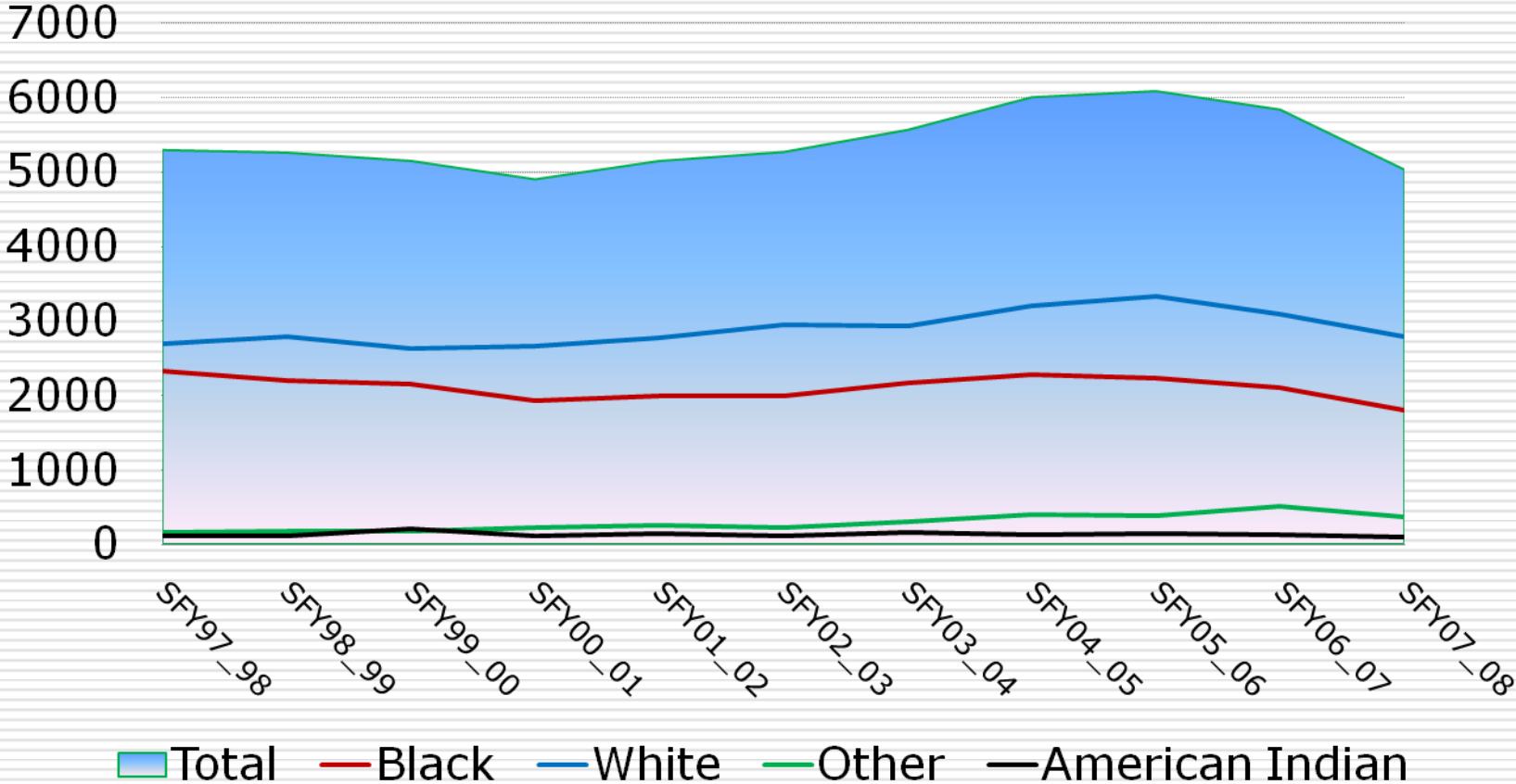
by
D. F. Duncan
UNC-CH School of Social Work
June 10, 2009

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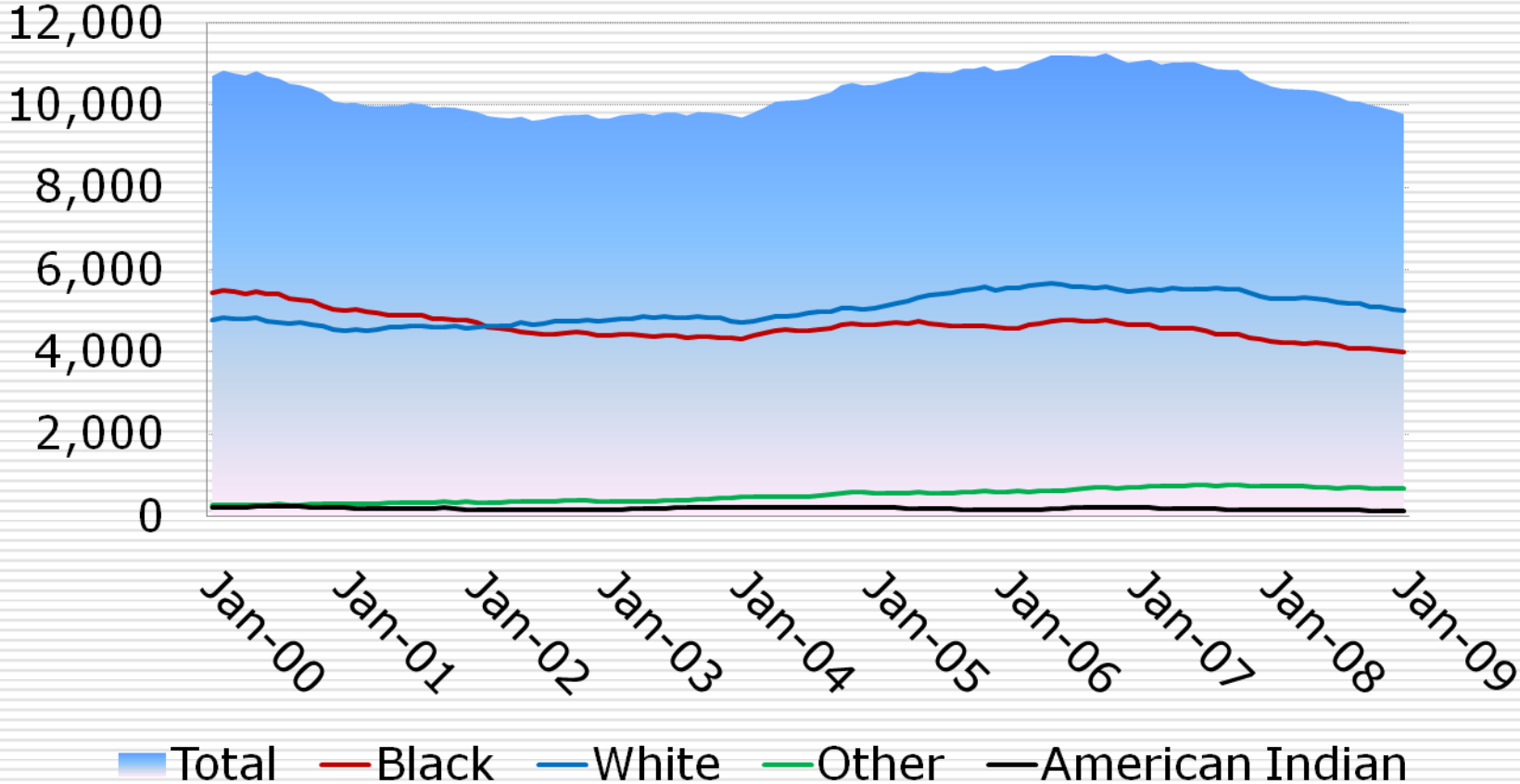
- The approach in this presentation is drawn from a similar presentation developed by Emily Putnam-Hornstein made by Barbara Needell from the Center for Social Services Research at the University of California at Berkeley
- The data are drawn from the US Census Bureau and a set of longitudinal files maintained by researchers at UNC-CH School of Social Work



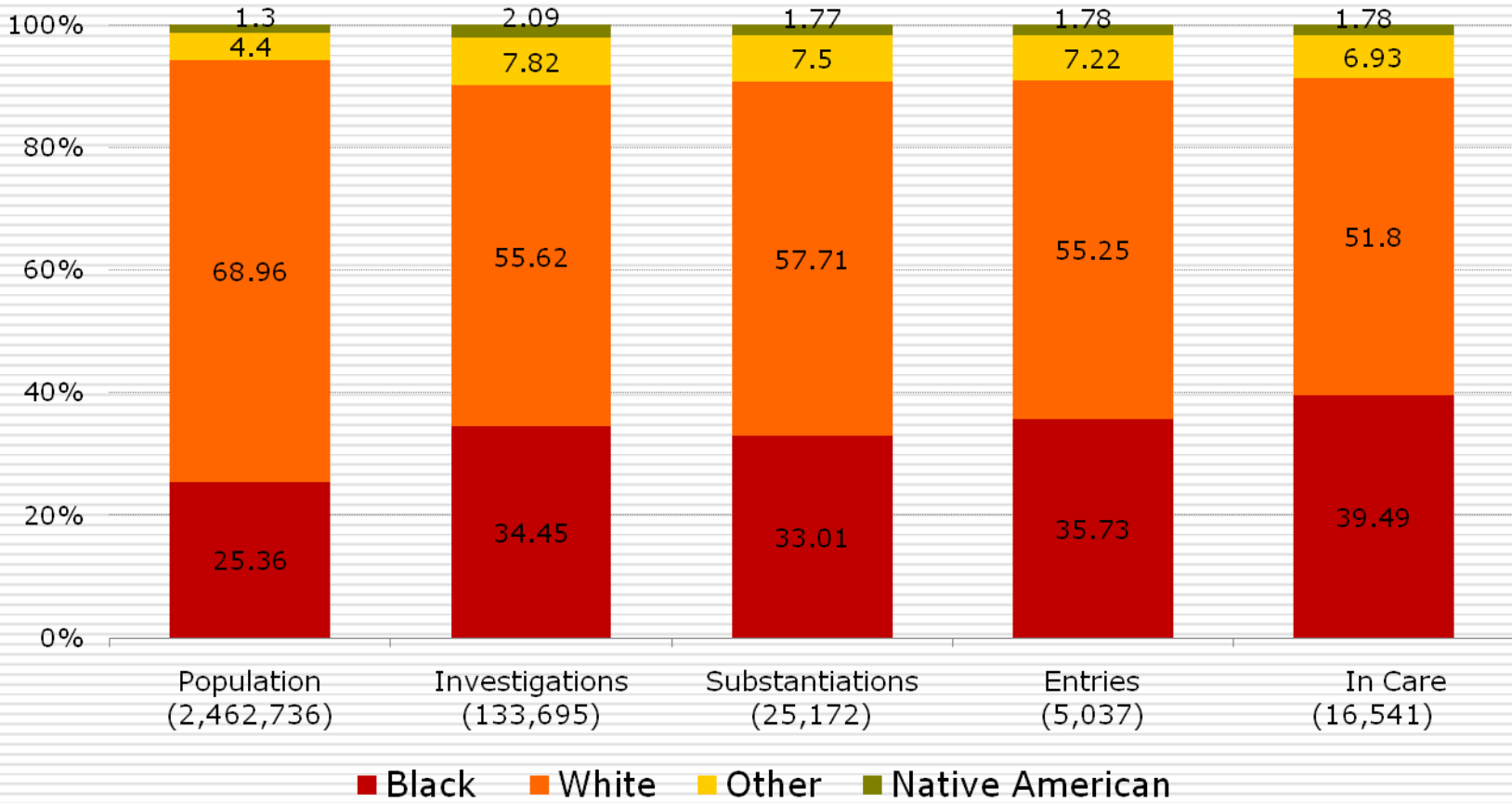
North Carolina: First Entries to Foster Care by Race



North Carolina: Foster Care Caseload by Race



North Carolina: Race and Path Through the Child Welfare System



Definitions

- Overrepresentation: situations in which a number or quantity (such as children, in this case) is disproportionately high or low.¹

¹Chapin Hall Center for Children. (2008). "Racial and Ethnic Disparity and Disproportionality in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice: A Compendium," Chicago: Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago.



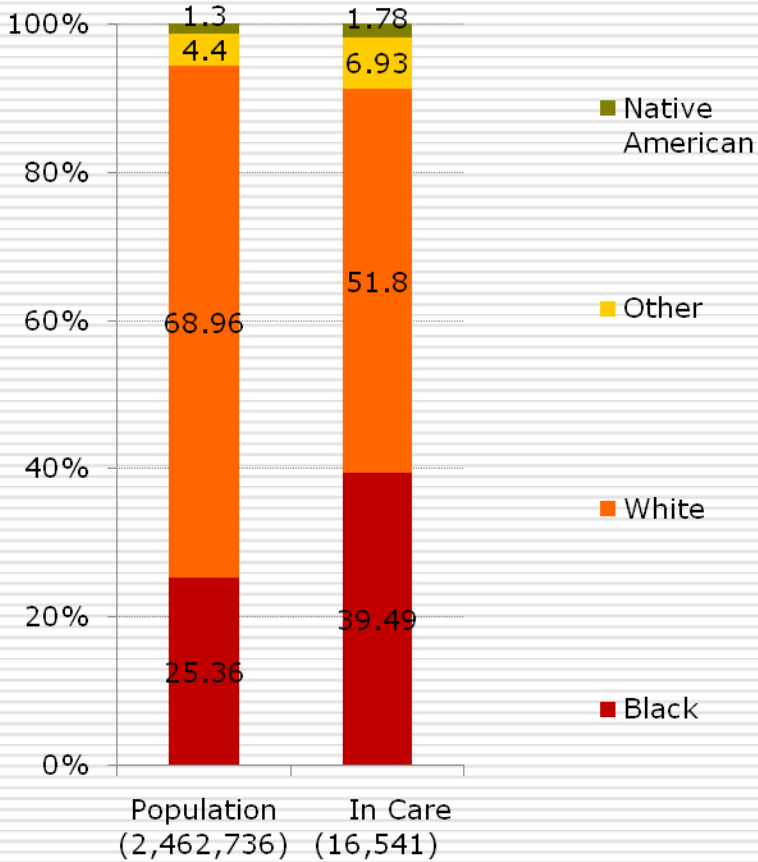
Definitions

- Disproportionality: the state of being disproportional. ... disproportionality and over- and underrepresentation are used with regard to a reference population. If more than one group represents more than its share of the total, another group will necessarily account for less.¹
- Disparity: a comparison of one group (e.g, regarding disproportionality, services, outcomes) to another group.²

²Needell, Barbara. "Child Welfare in California: Ethnic/Racial Disproportionality and Disparity."



North Carolina: Disparity Index for SFY 07-08



Black Disproportionality

$$\frac{39.49\%}{25.36\%} = 1.56$$

White Disproportionality

$$\frac{51.8\%}{68.96\%} = 0.75$$

Disparity Index

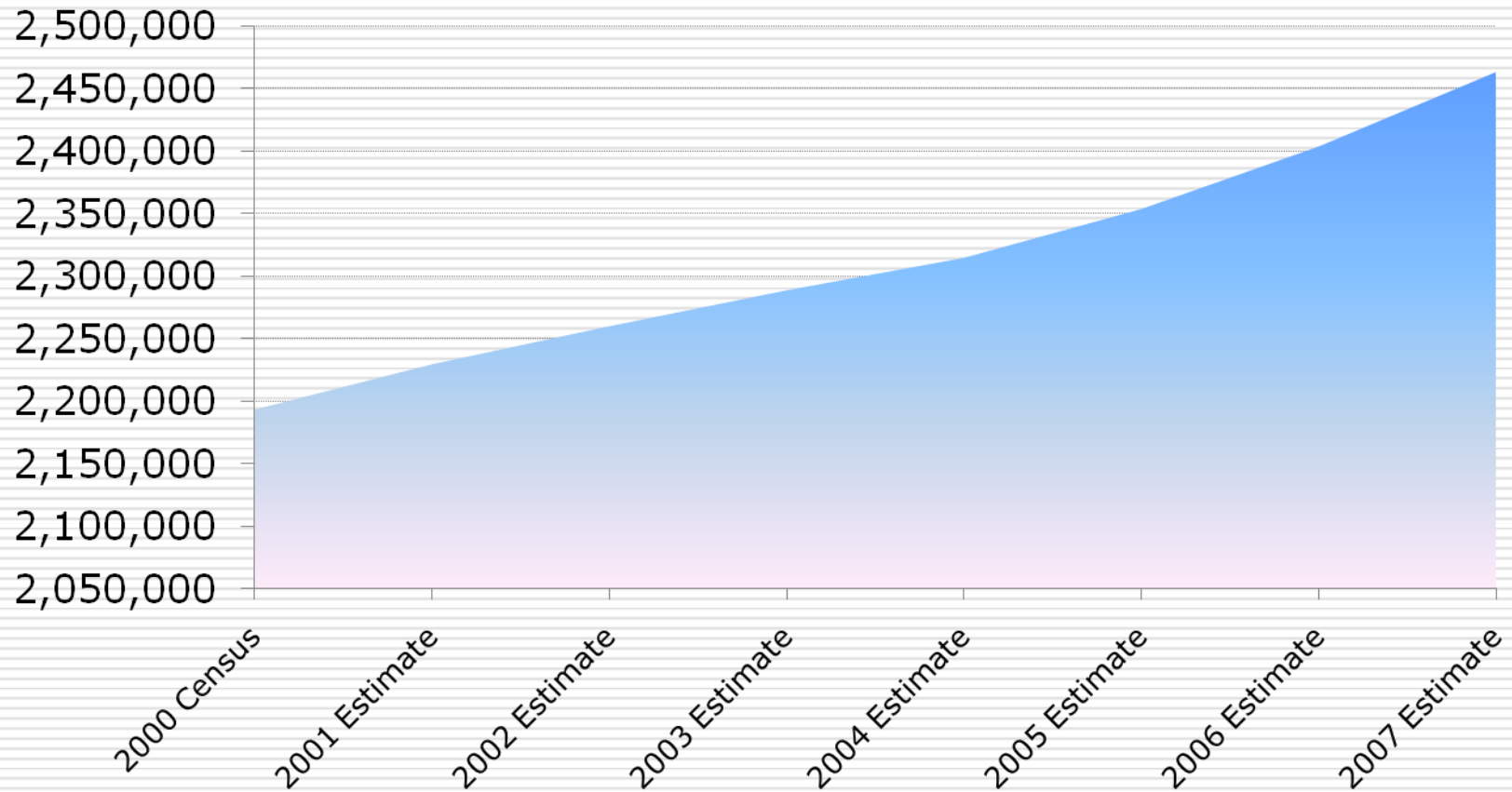
$$\frac{1.56}{0.75} = 2.08$$



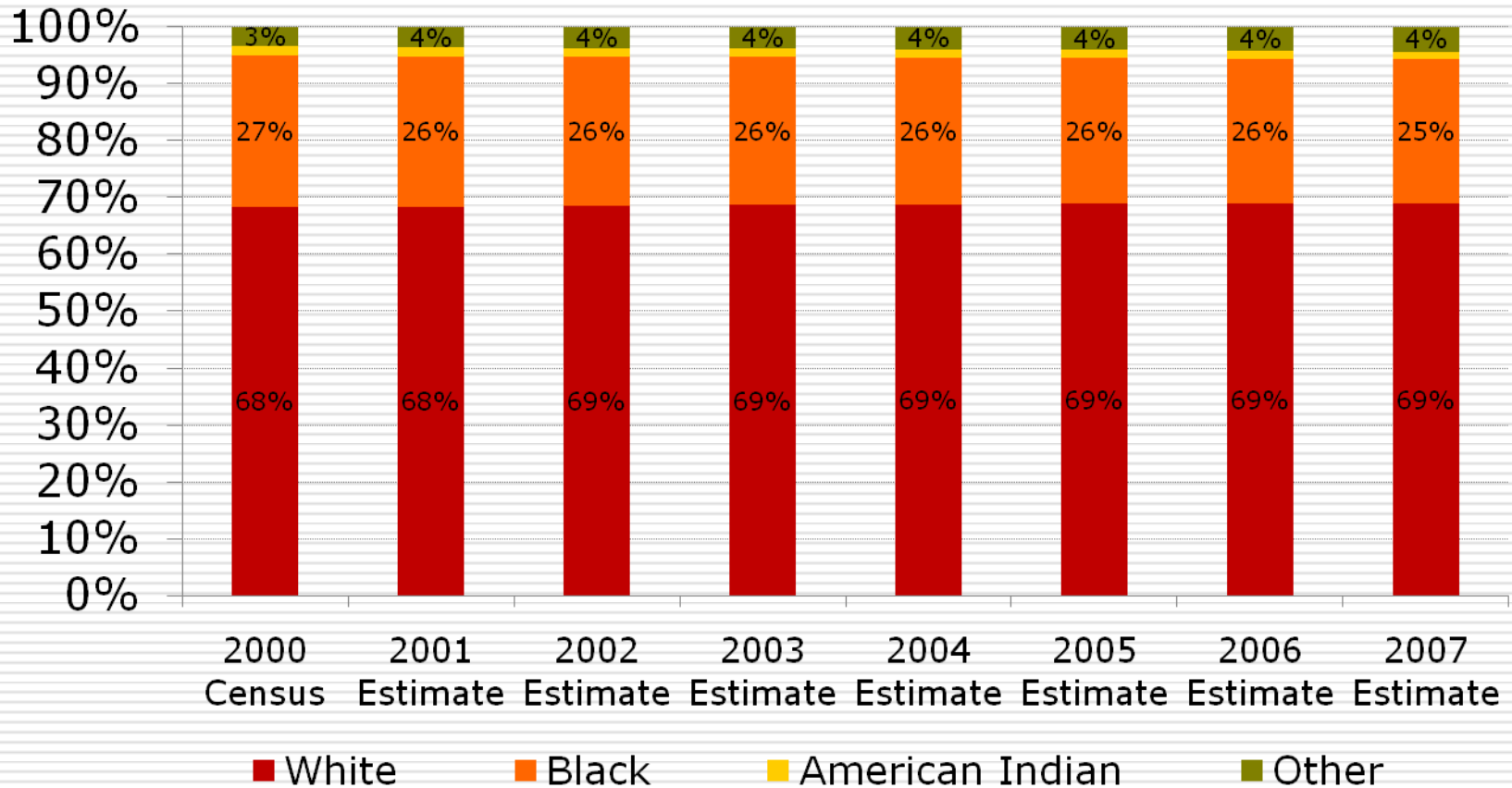
Issues with Census Data



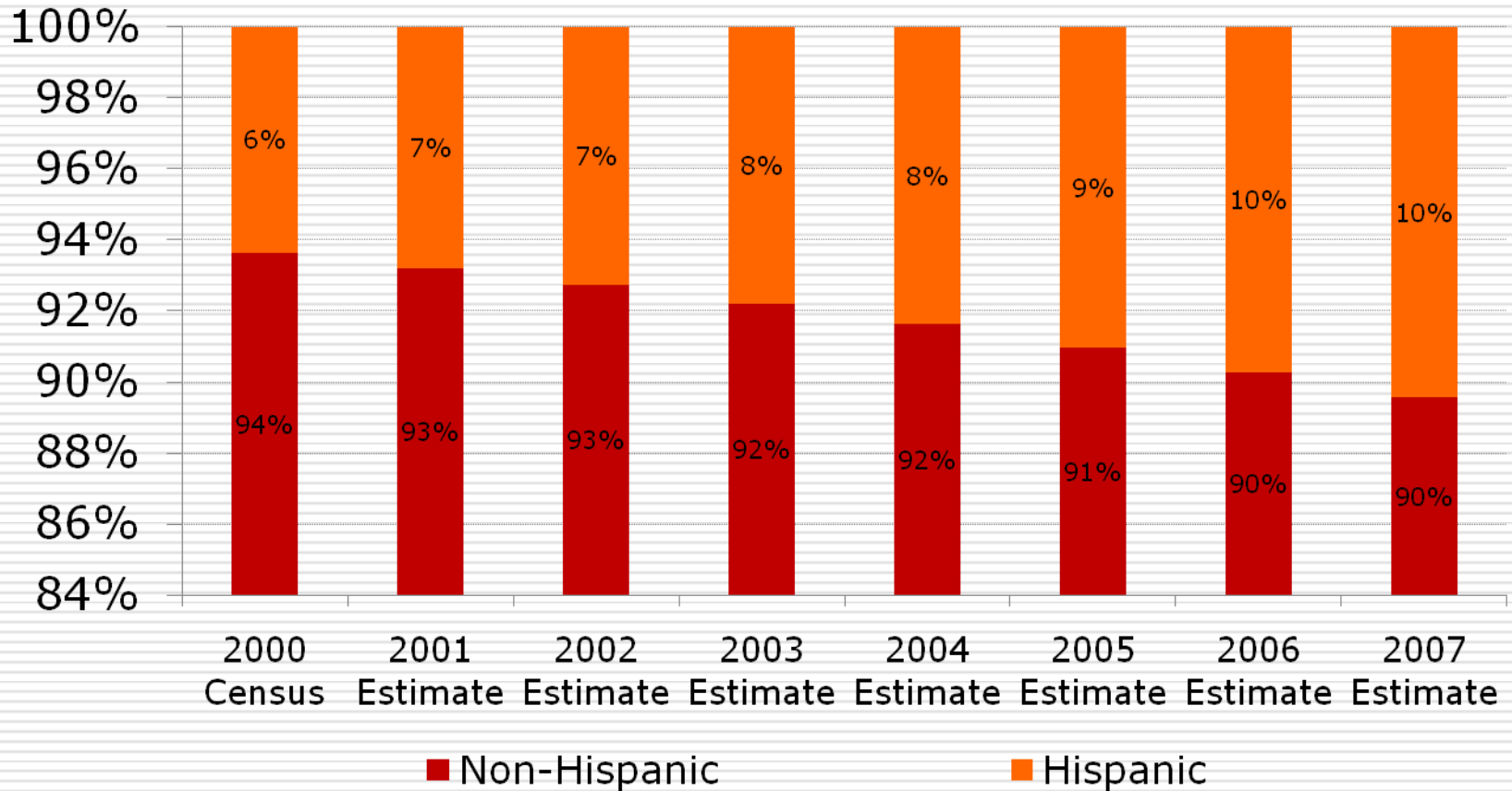
Changes in the Number of Children in North Carolina Over Time



Composition of North Carolina's Child Population by Race



Composition of North Carolina's Child Population by Ethnicity

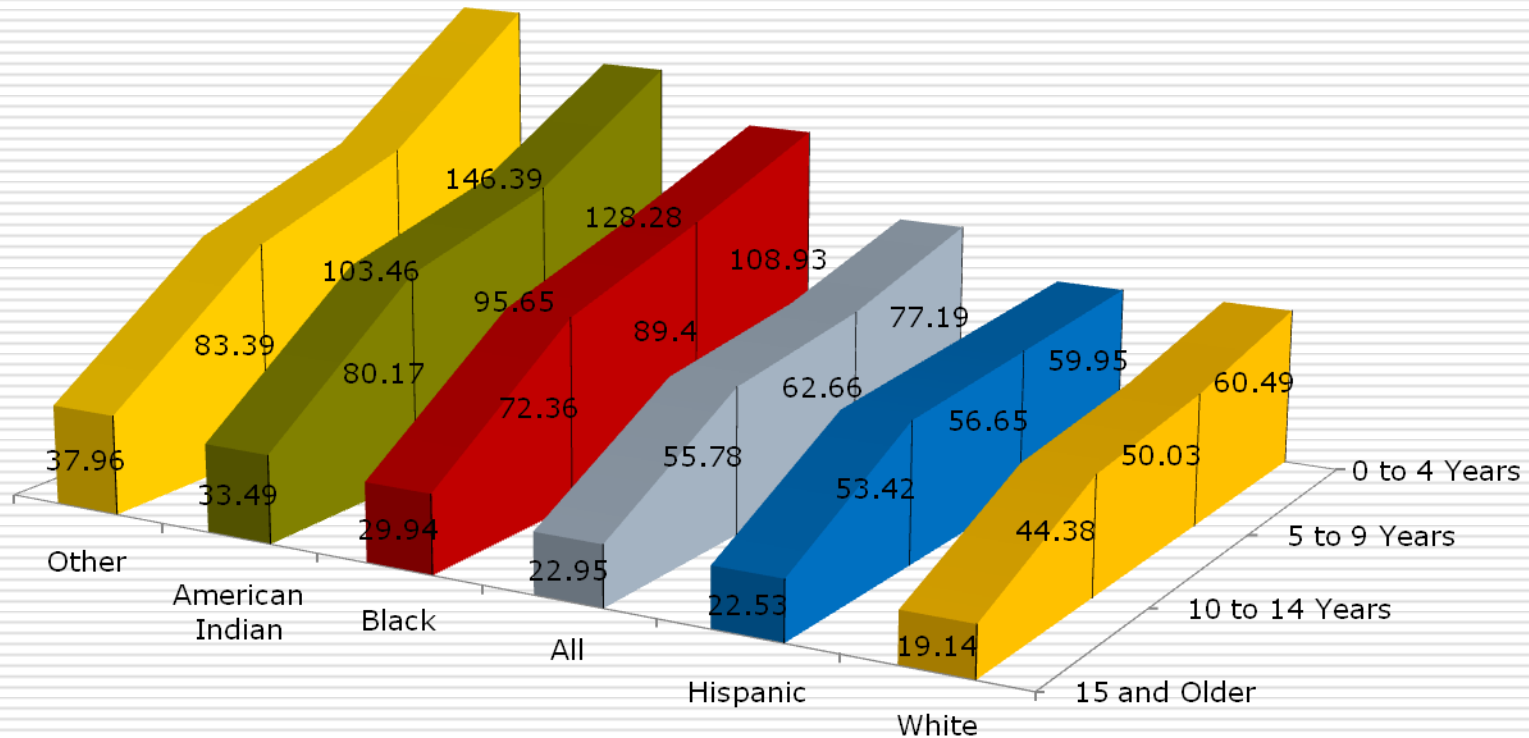


Issues With Census Data

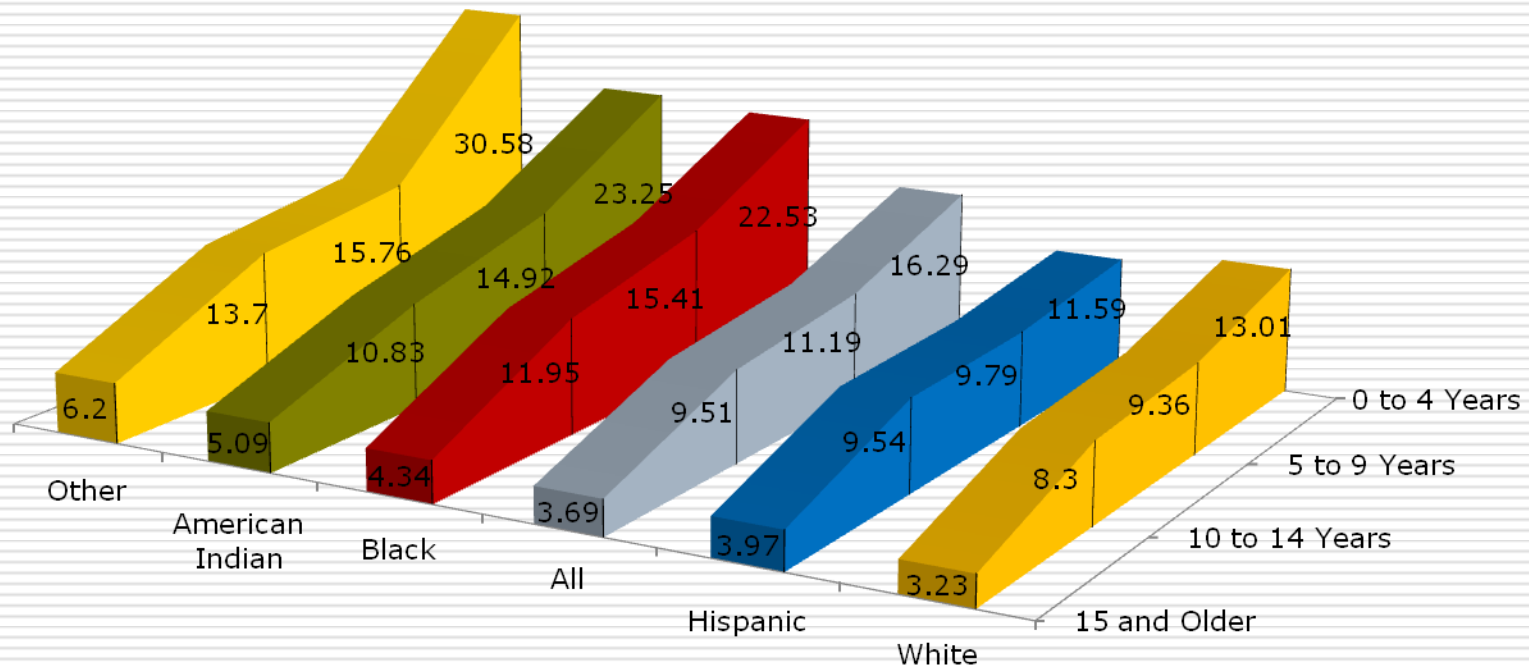
- ❑ The 2000 Census provided a count of each child by age, race, and ethnicity at the state and county level
- ❑ The yearly estimates of population at the county level provide race and ethnicity but age is grouped 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, and 15-19.
- ❑ There are tradeoffs in using these yearly estimates



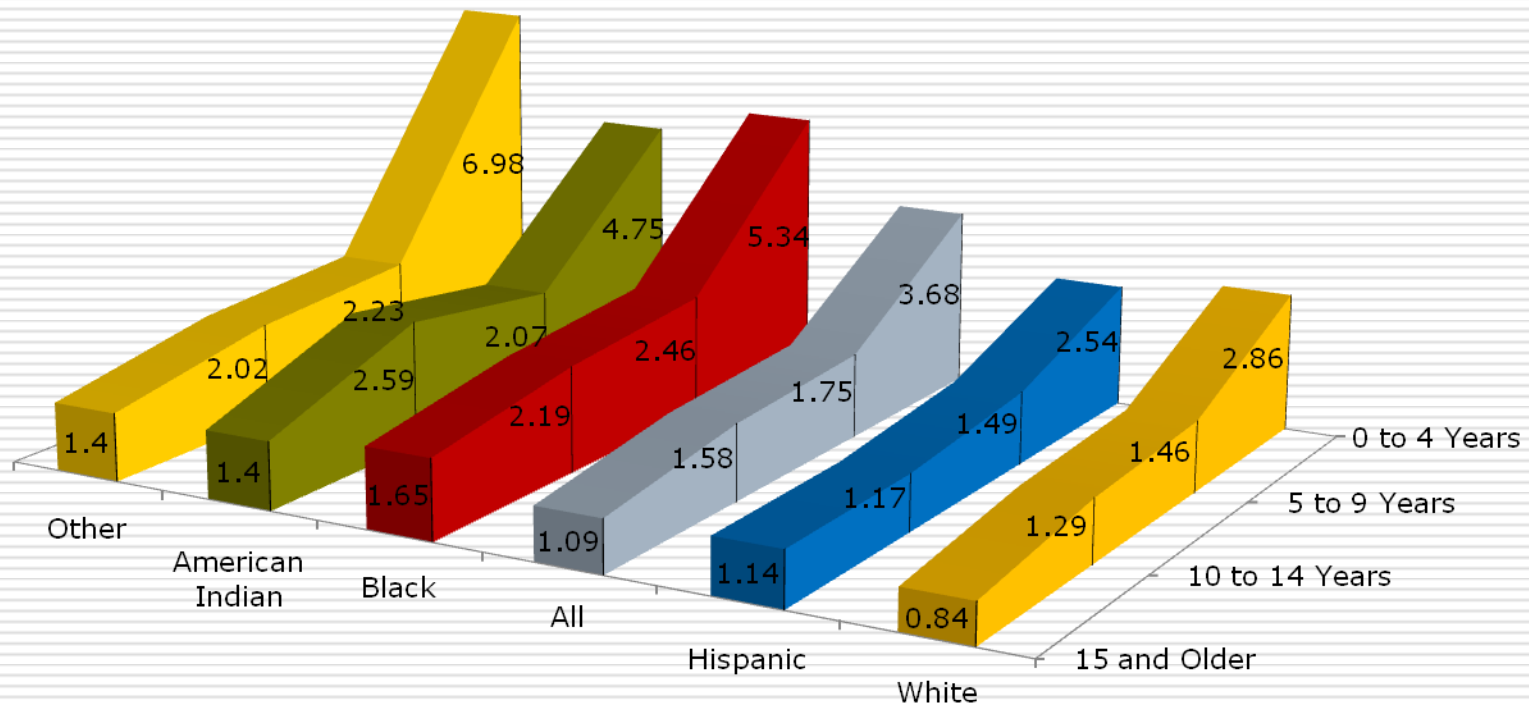
North Carolina: Investigations per 1,000 by Age and Race



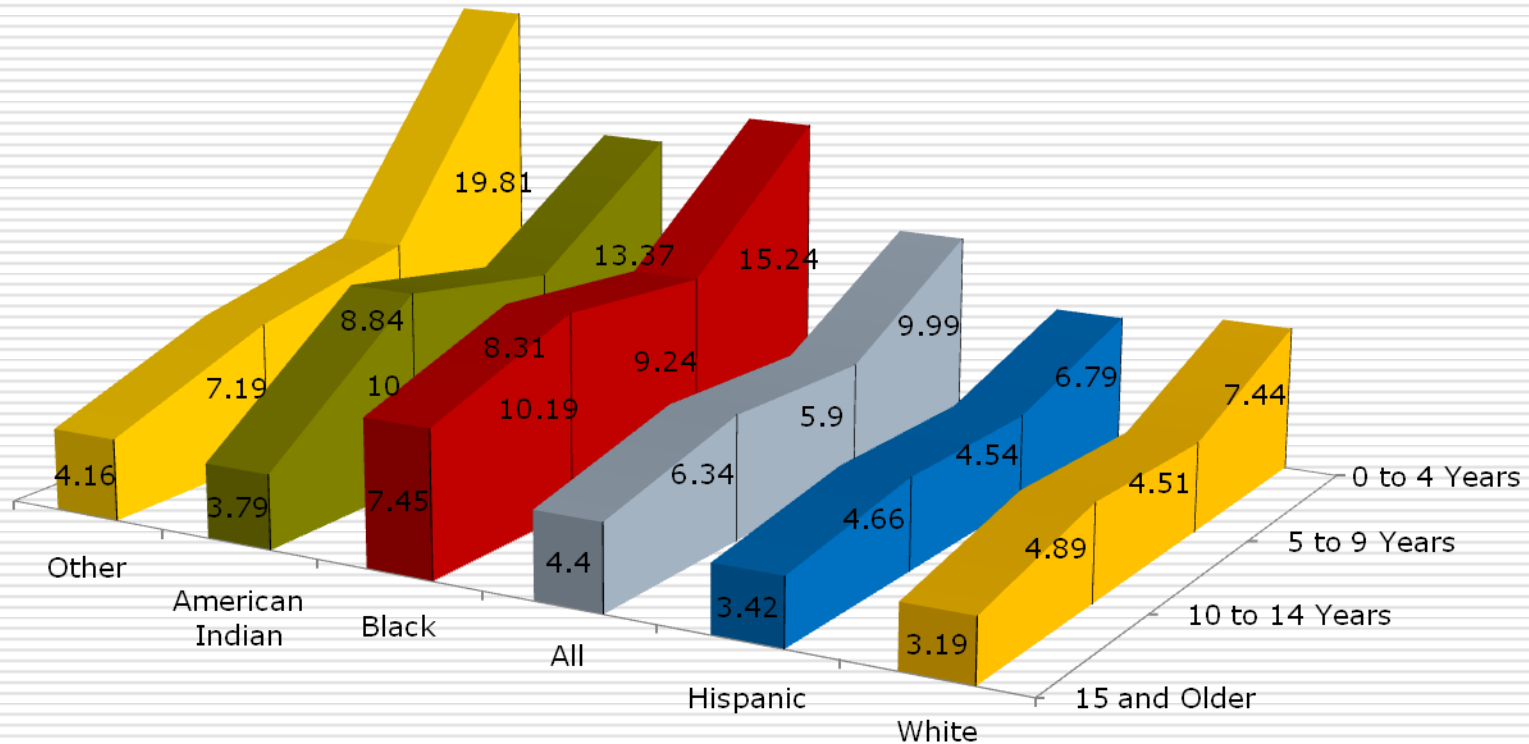
North Carolina: Substantiations per 1,000 by Age and Race



North Carolina: Entries to Foster Care per 1,000 by Age and Race

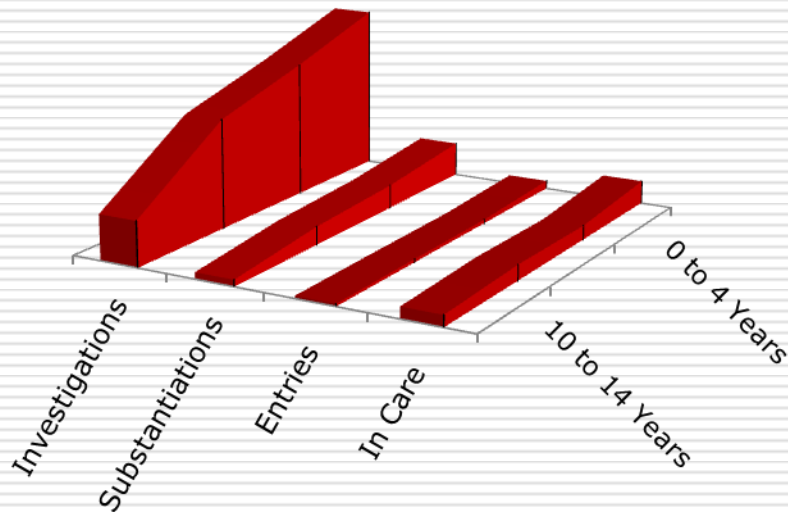


North Carolina: Children in Foster Care per 1,000 by Age and Race

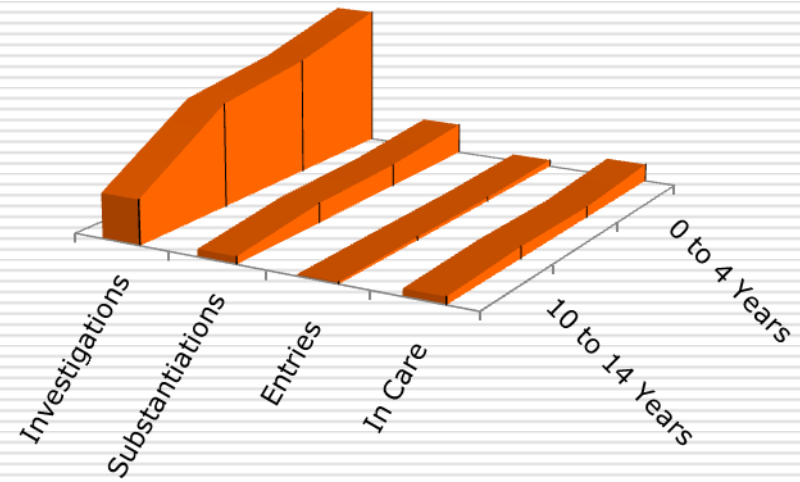


North Carolina: Investigations, Substantiations, Entries, and In Care Rates per 1,000 by Age

Black Children

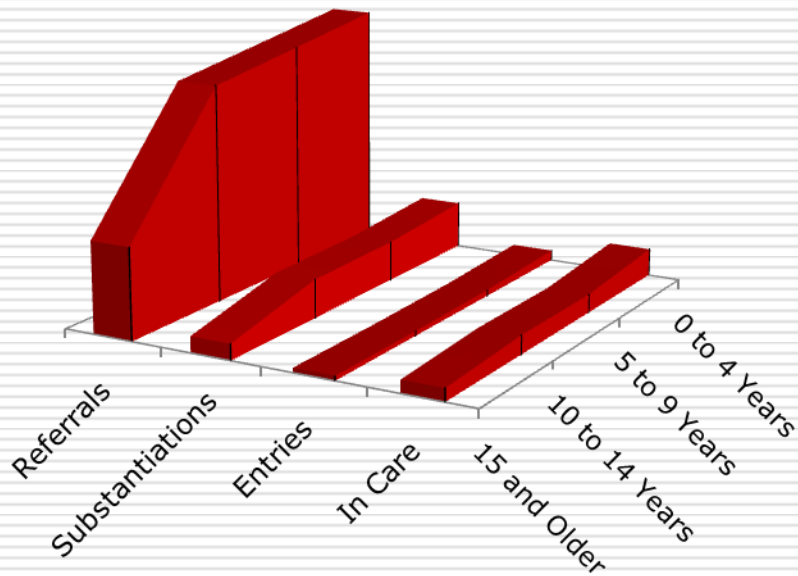


White Children

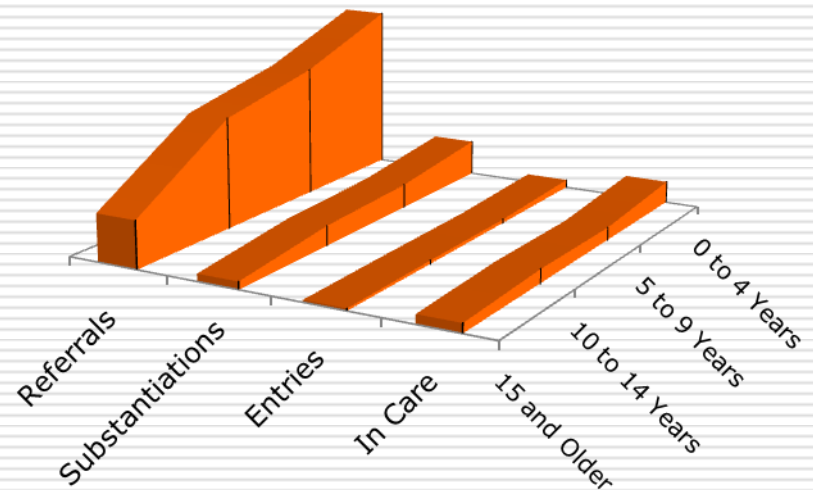


North Carolina: Referrals, Substantiations, Entries, and In Care Rates per 1,000 by Age

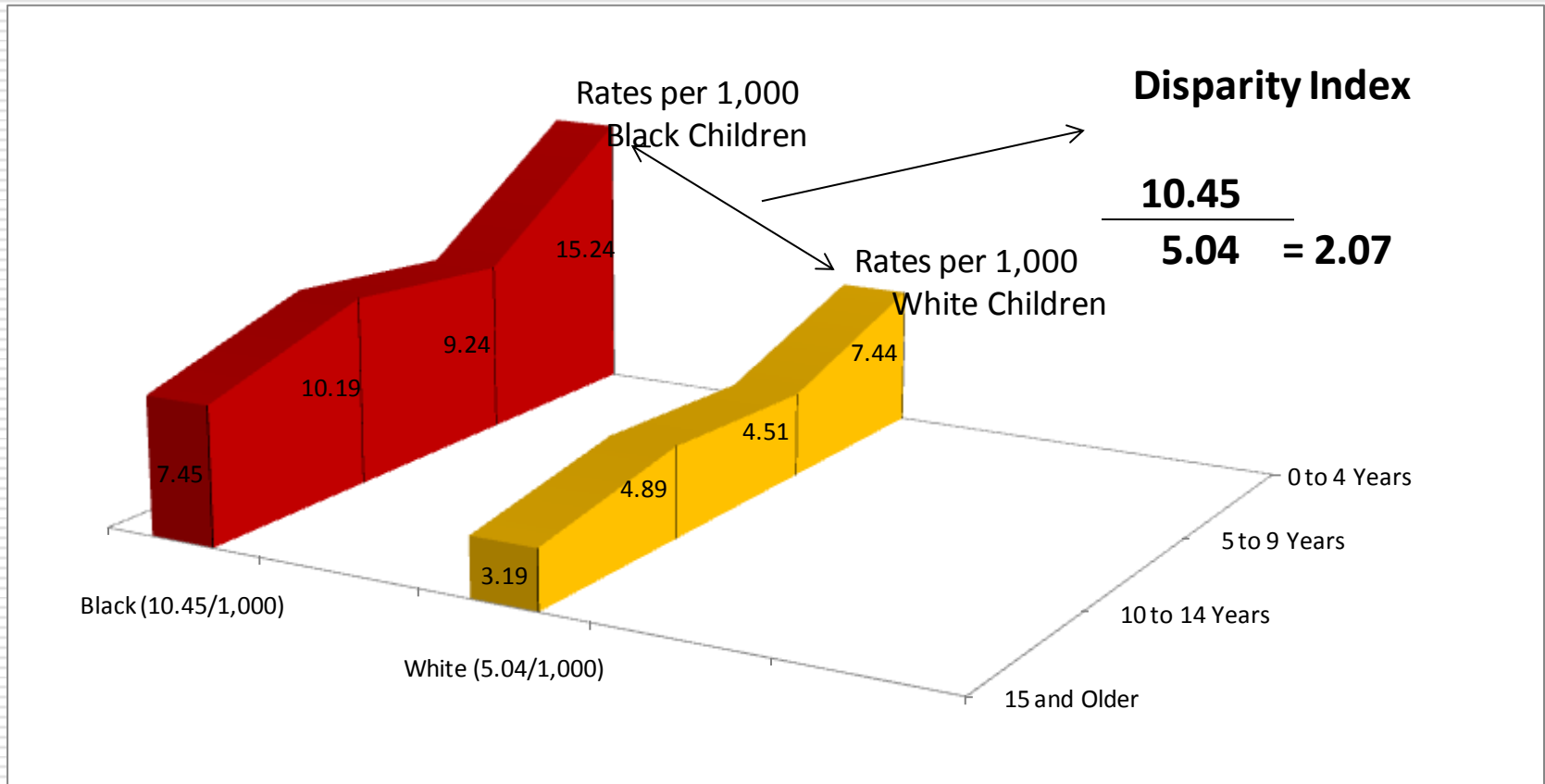
Hispanic Children



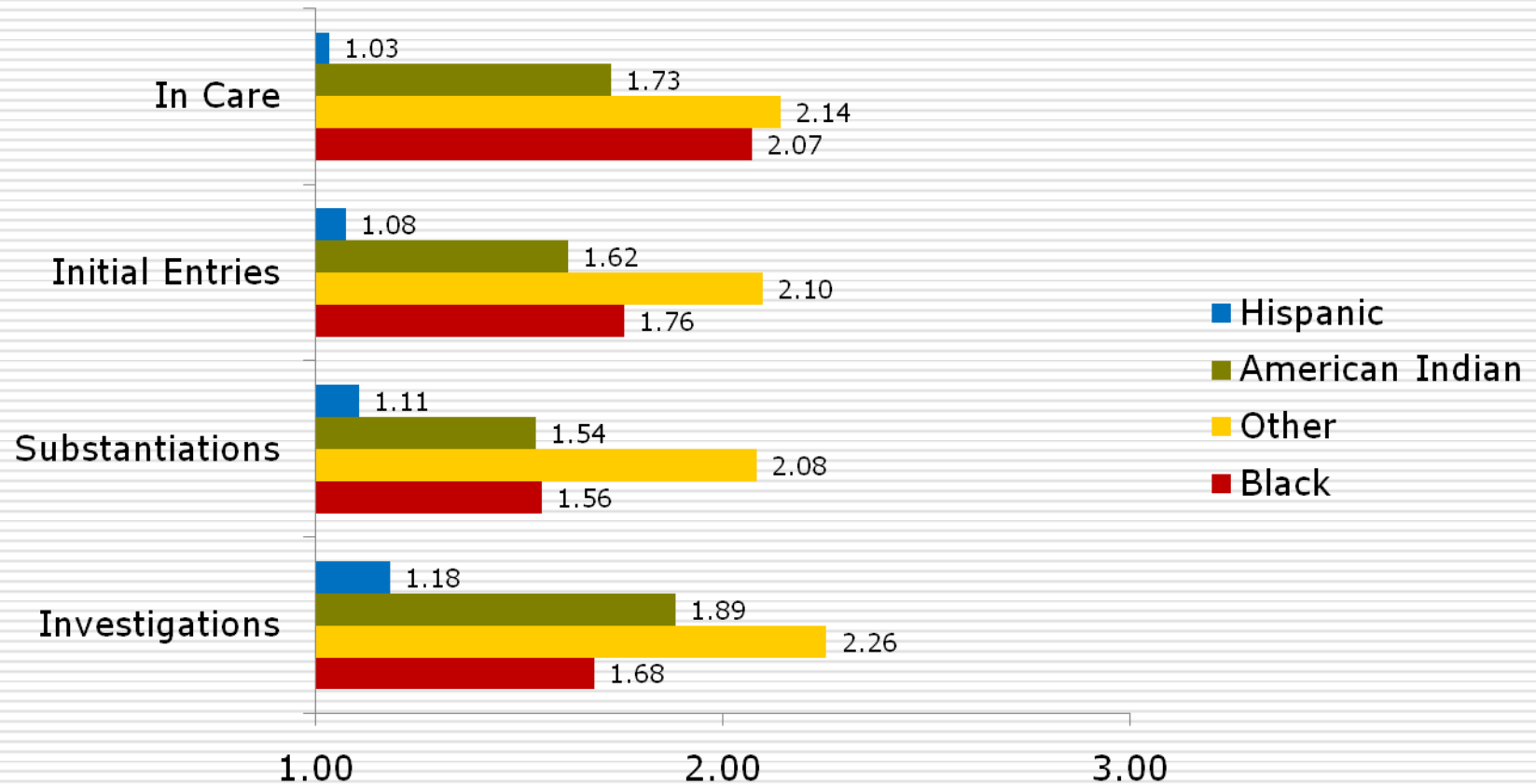
Non-Hispanic Children



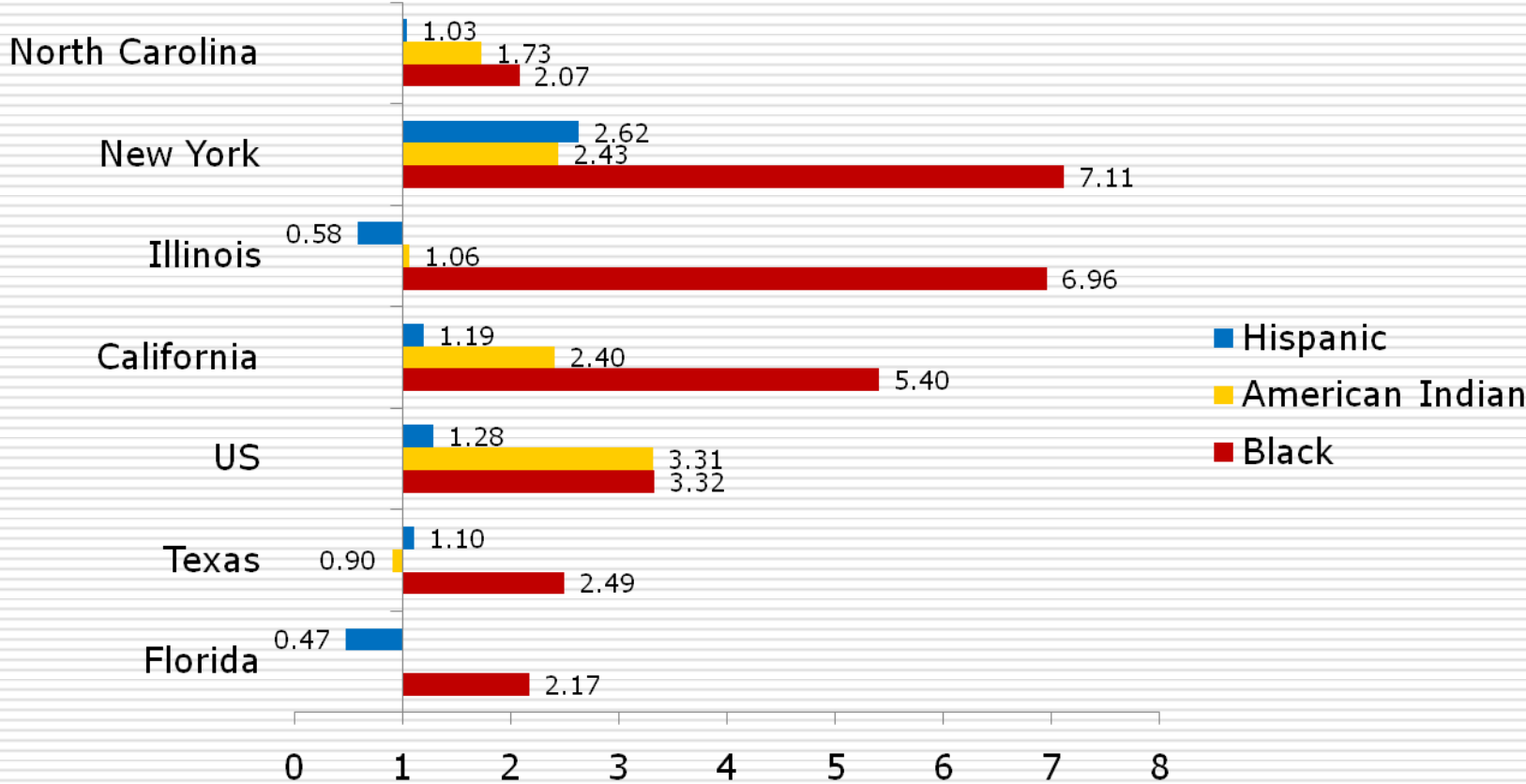
North Carolina: Children in Foster Care per 1,000 by Age and Race



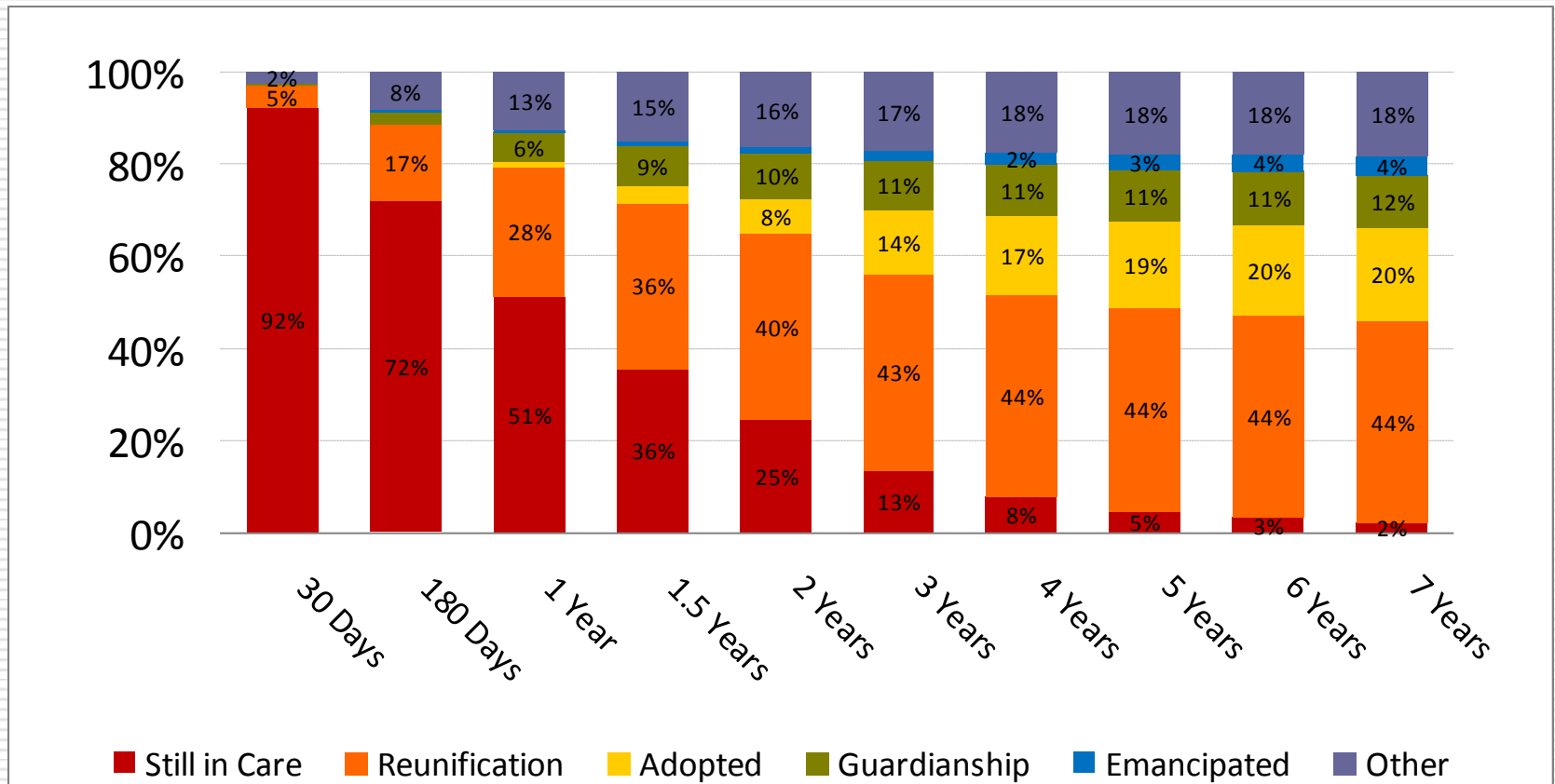
North Carolina: Disparity Indices for Race and Ethnicity



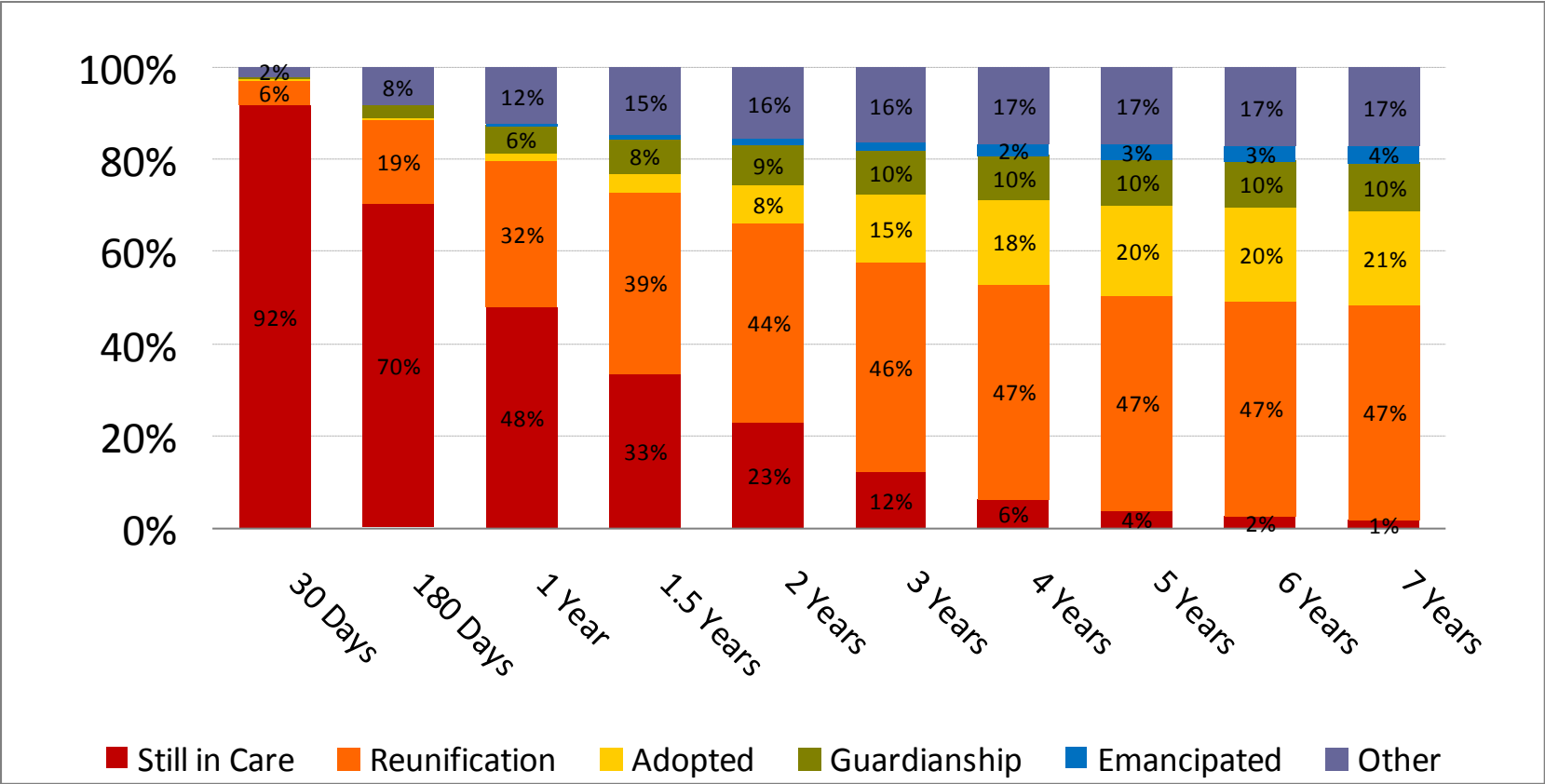
National Data: Racial and Ethnic Disparity Indices



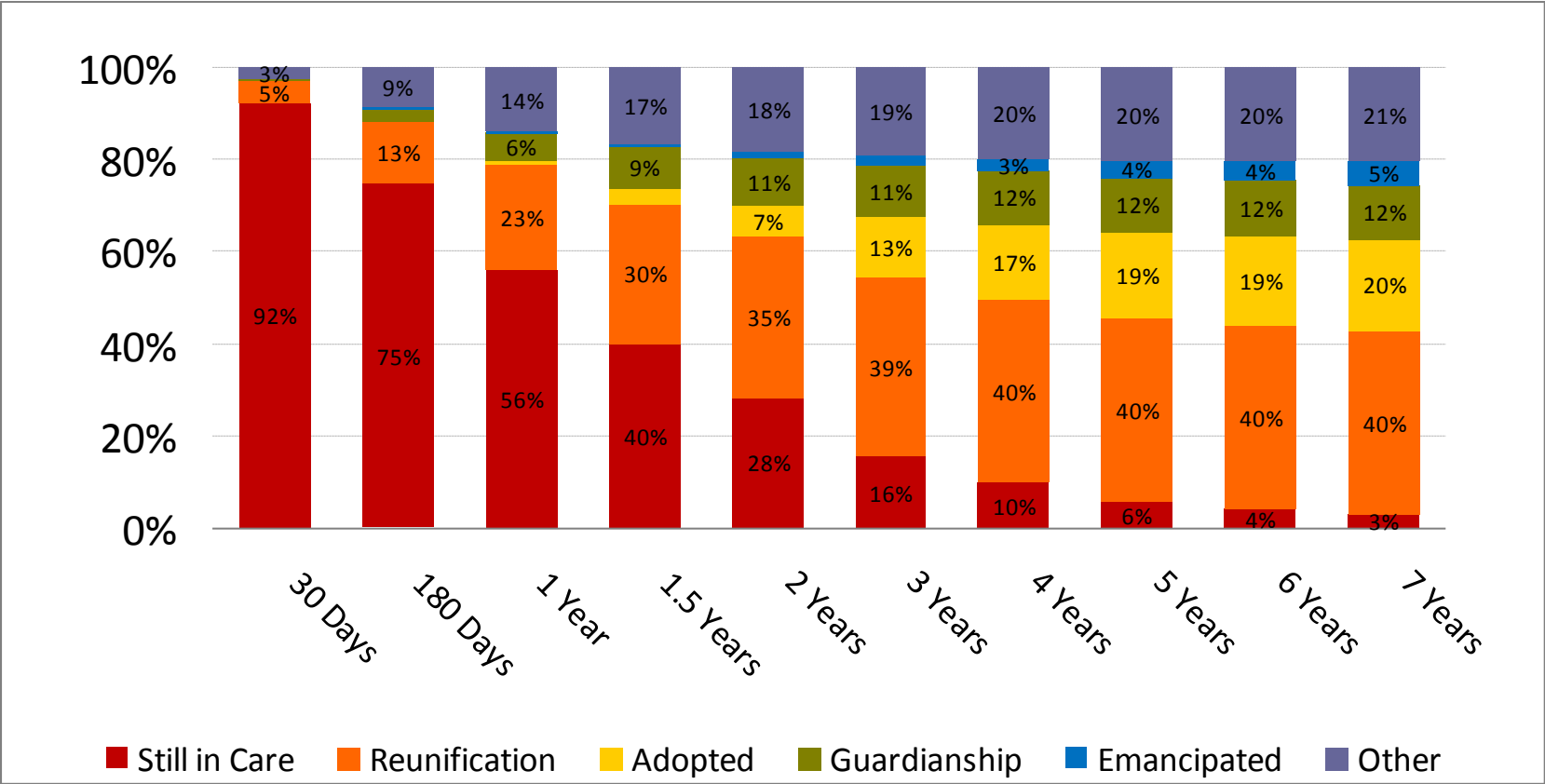
North Carolina: Exits From Care For 84 Months From Entry For All Children (2000-2001 Entry Cohort)



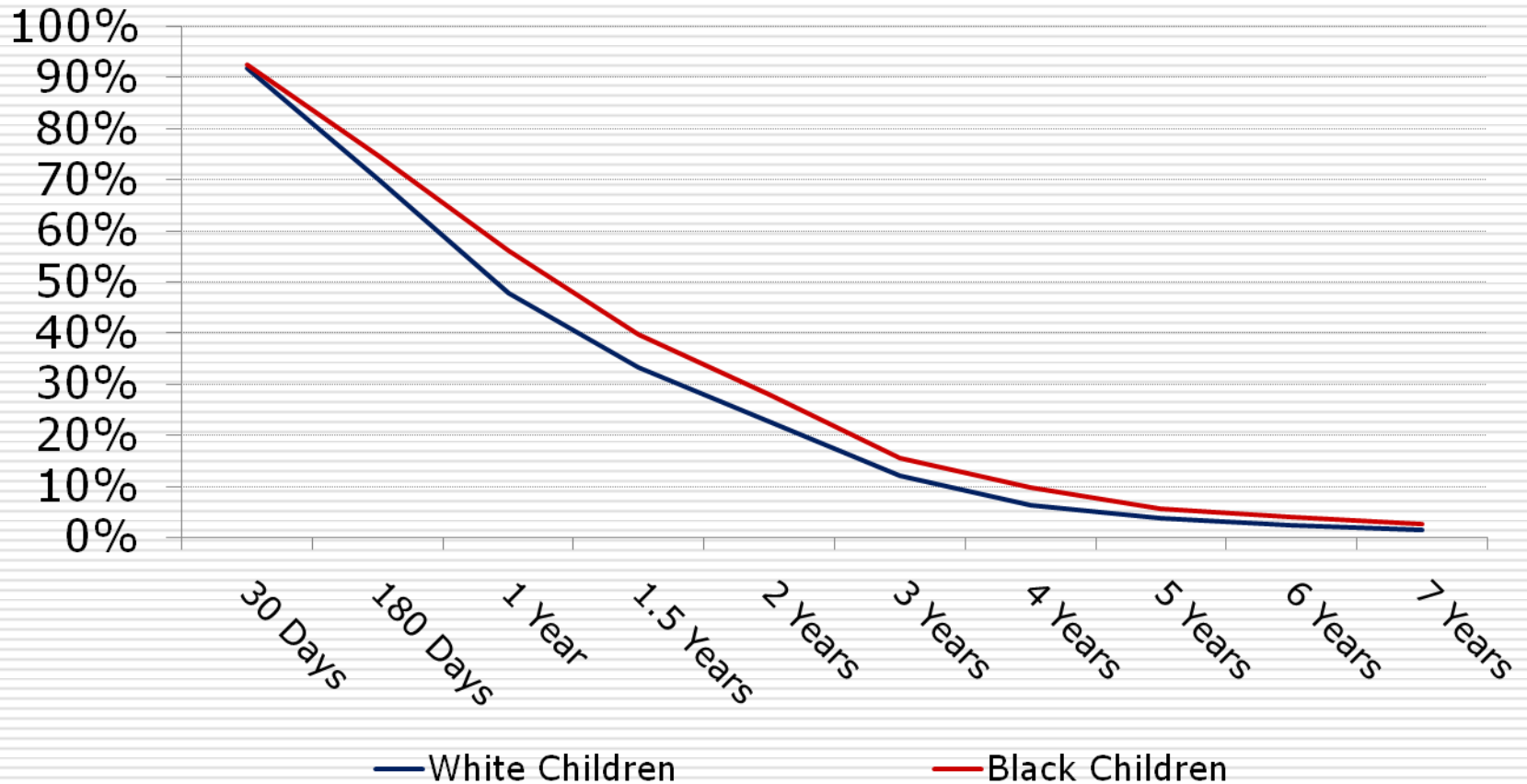
North Carolina: Exits From Care For 84 Months From Entry for White Children (2000-2001 Entry Cohort)



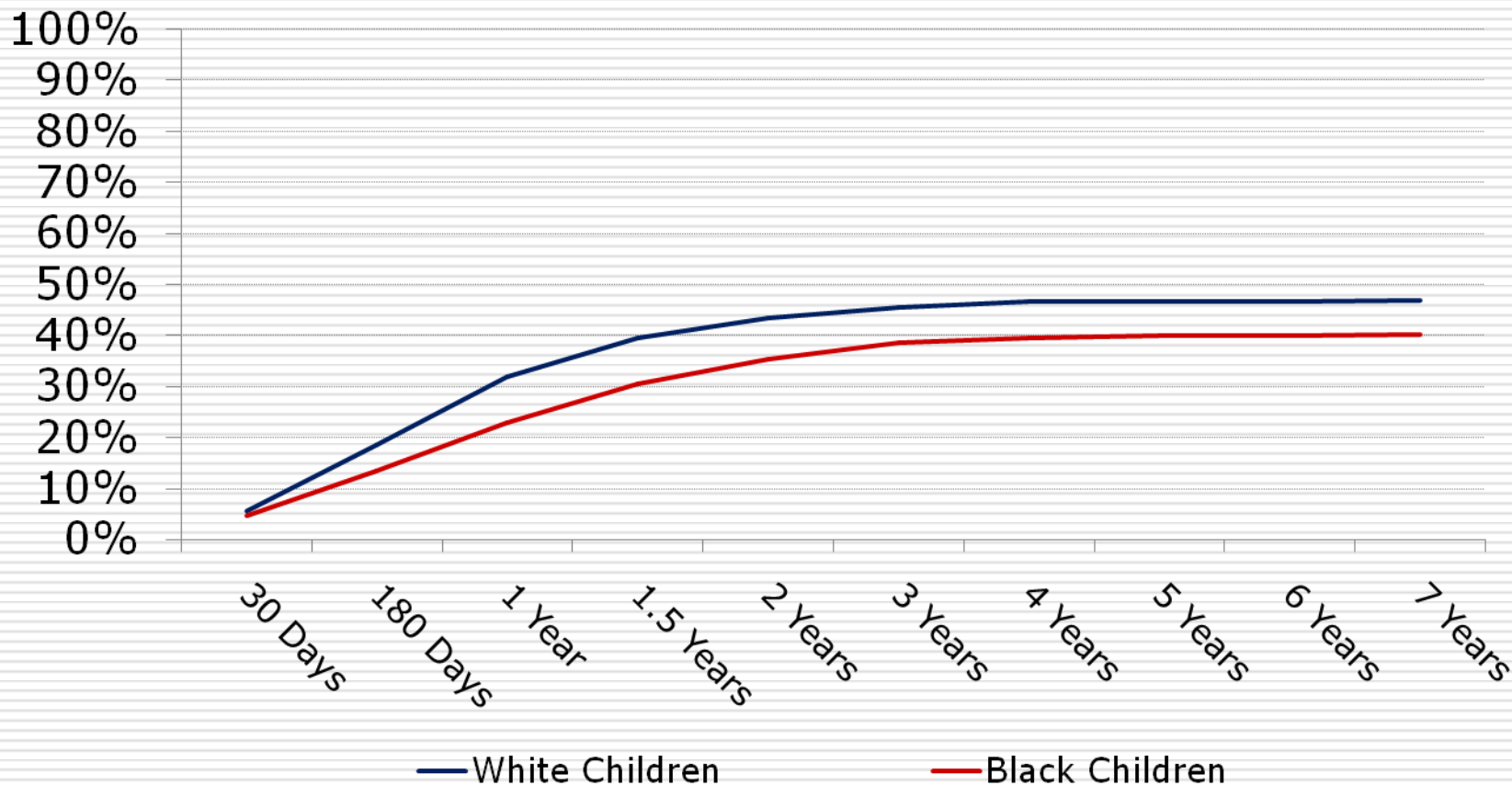
North Carolina: Exits From Care For 84 Months From Entry for Black Children



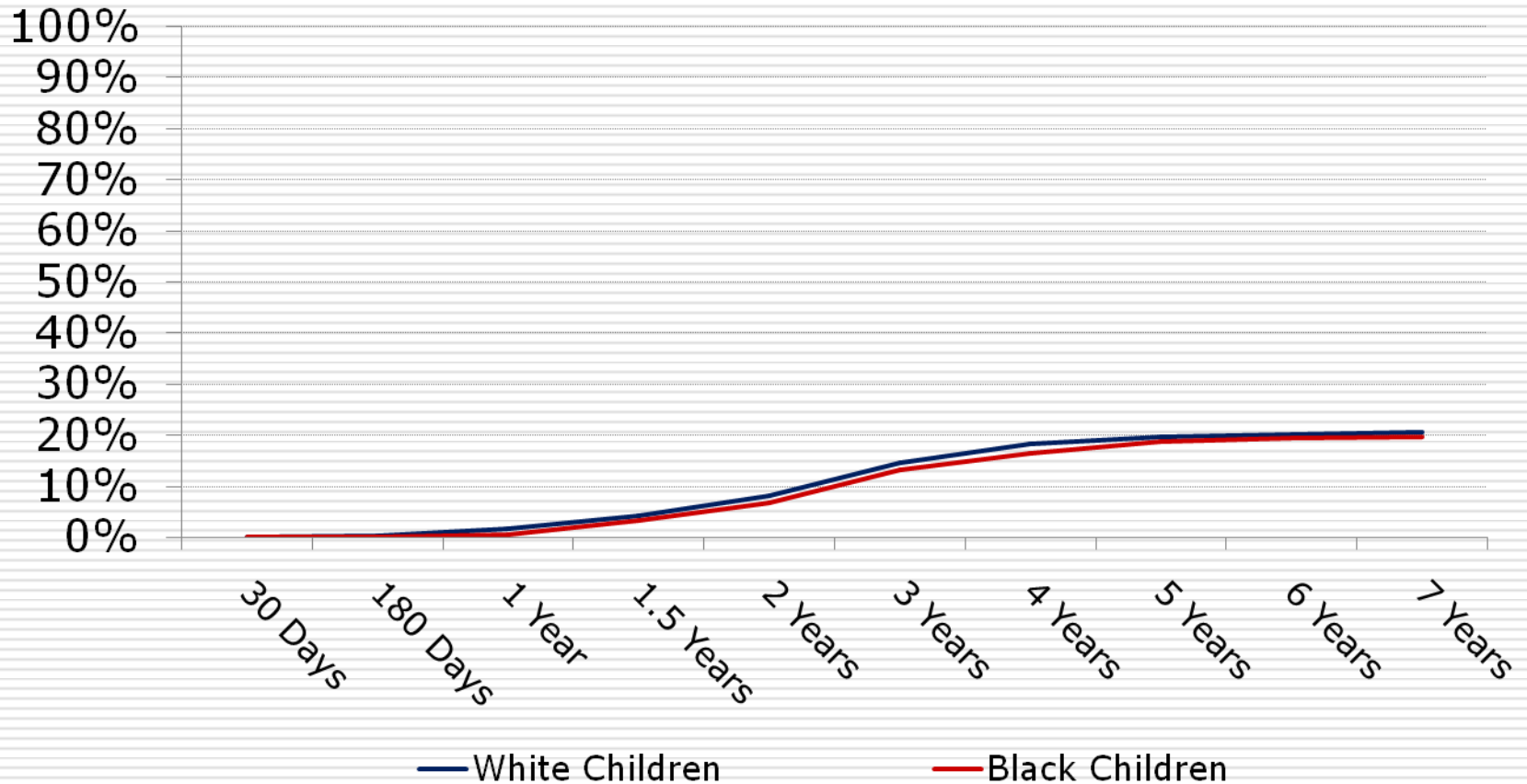
North Carolina: Percentage Remaining in Care for White and Black Children (2000-2001 Entry Cohort)



North Carolina: Percentage Reunified for White and Black Children (2000-2001 Entry Cohort)



North Carolina: Percentage Exiting to Adoption for White and Black Children (2000-2001 Entry Cohort)

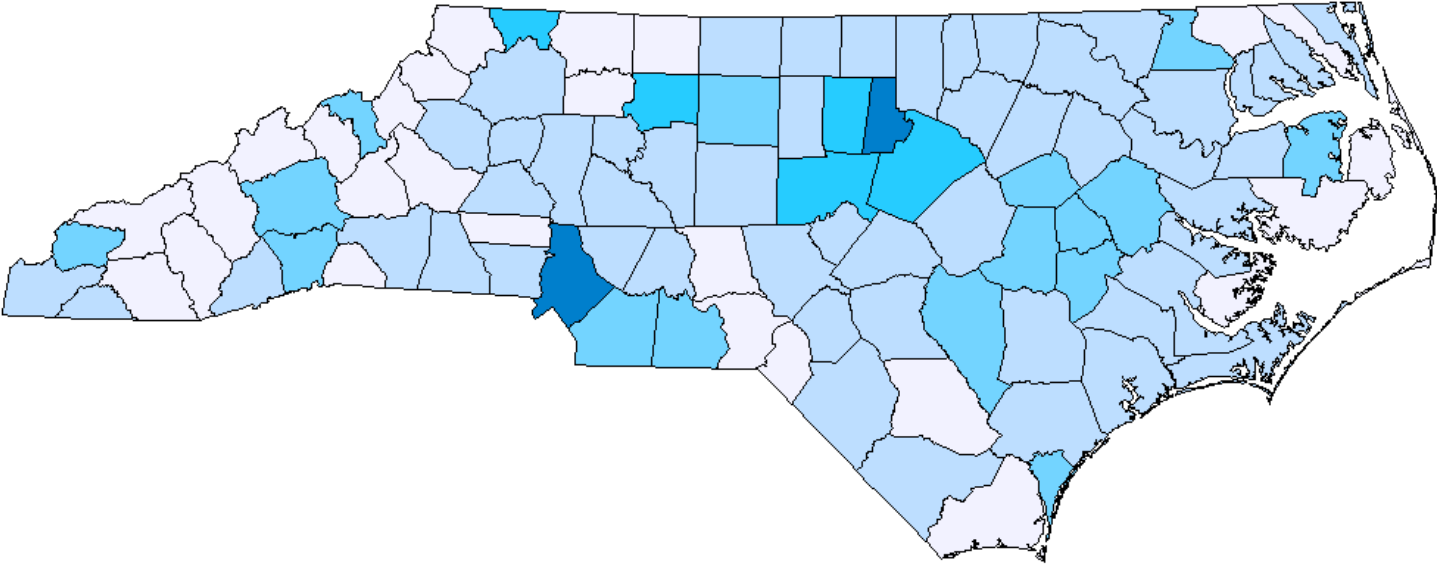


Disparity Indices for Counties



Disparity Indices for Counties

The Disparity Index for Investigations for Black Youth
For SFY 2007-2008



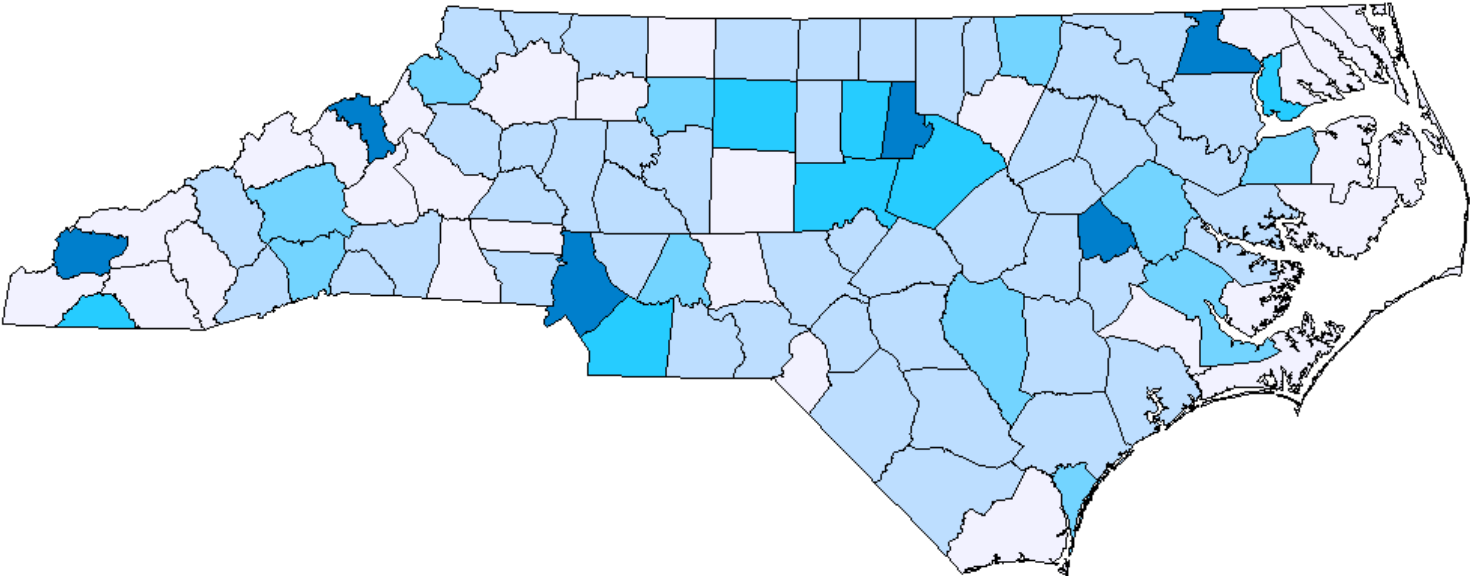
disparity No Disparity 1 to 2 2 to 3 3 to 4 Greater than 4



Disparity Indices for Counties

The Disparity Index for Substantiations for Black Youth

For SFY 2007-2008



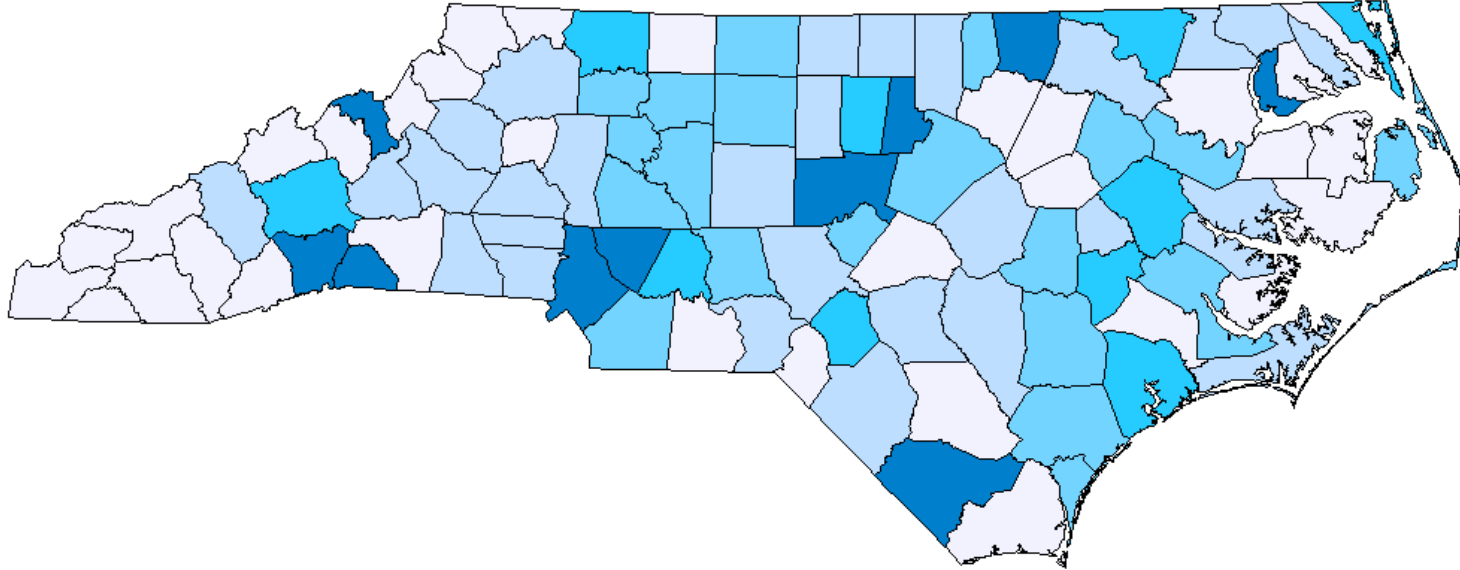
disparity No Disparity 1 to 2 2 to 3 3 to 4 Greater than 4

Includes Abuse, Neglect, Dependency and Services Needed



Disparity Indices for Counties

The Disparity Index for Entries into Care by Black Youth
For SFY 2007-2008

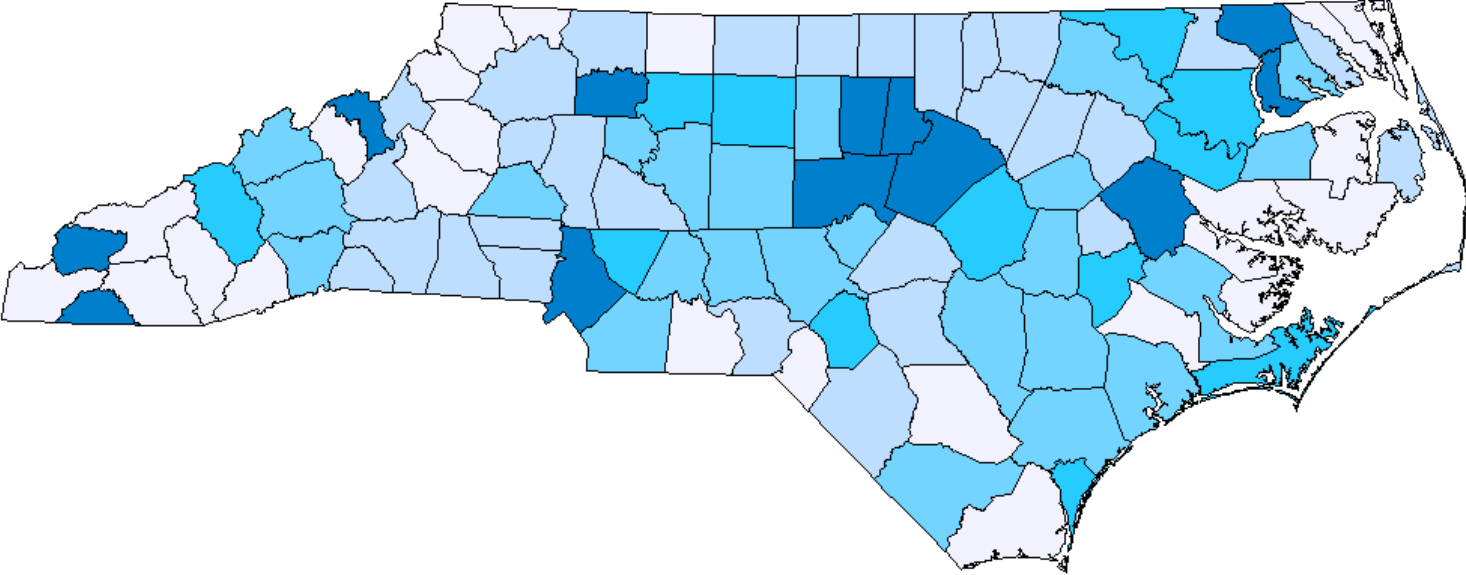


disparity No Disparity 1 to 2 2 to 3 3 to 4 Greater than 4



Disparity Indices for Counties

The Disparity Index for Black Youth In Care
For SFY 2007-2008



disparity No Disparity 1 to 2 2 to 3 3 to 4 Greater than 4



Disparity Indices for Counties

- ❑ Disparity in the current caseload can be due to many factors
- ❑ It can reflect past instead of current practices
- ❑ It also is due to difficulties in finding permanency for children who are in care



Disparity Indices for Counties

- Recent studies (Drake et al., 2009; Jonson-Reid et al., 2009) suggest that poverty is a confounding factor in examining disproportionality
- In future analysis we will explore the role of poverty



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