



Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA)

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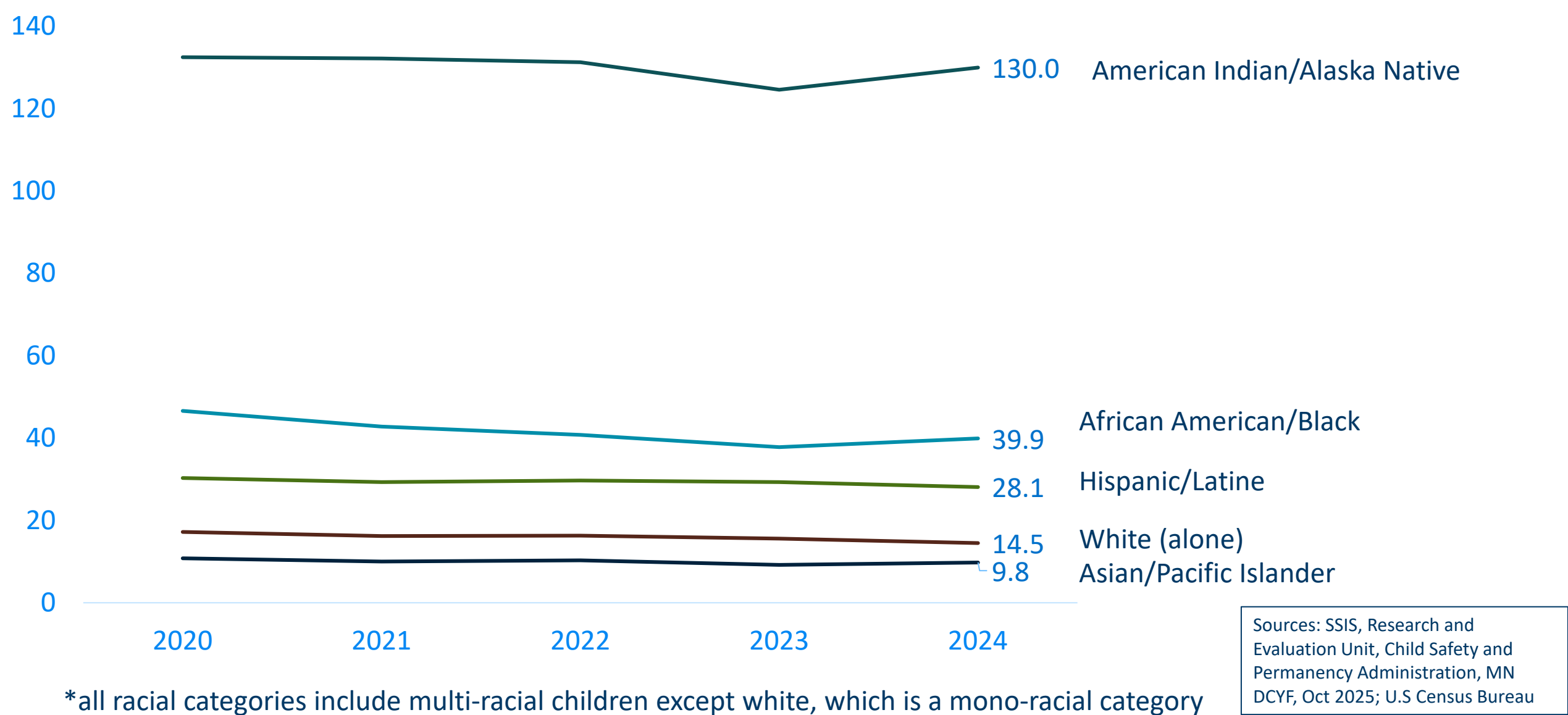
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Presentation Outline

- Background
 - Disproportionalities and child welfare
 - MAAFPCWDA
- Disproportionality 101
- Disproportionate child definitions
 - “Two or more races”
- Disproportionalities by region
- Unknown race SSIS data entry





Child Protection Involvement in MN, rate per 1000 by race*

Racial Disparities in Child Welfare: A Historical Context

CONT....

“Friendly Visitors”: The beginning of social work as a profession

- Primarily upper- and middle-class white women sent to poor, immigrant, Indigenous, and Black families’ homes.
- Black and Indigenous families were rarely offered resources and support. However, they were heavily scrutinized due to socioeconomic status.
- Mainly focused on assimilation, surveillance, and control
- Margolin (1997) critiques the very purpose of social work, arguing that its mission functions as a form of social control:
“Despite superficial shifts in claims and style, the basic practice is the same: people from one social class go into the homes of others... they judge what is normal and abnormal; they call it doing good” (p. 9).

Racial Disparities in Child Welfare: A Historical Context

- Colonization, slavery, genocide, and state-sanctioned violence
 - Laws and policies that have fostered the repetitive “othering” of entire civilizations of people and deemed them as less than human.
 - Indian Civilization Act (1819) – Established state and federal control over Native family life.
 - Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857) – Declared that neither free nor enslaved Black people had a claim to legal rights or citizenship.
 - Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) – Upheld 'separate but equal,' legalizing racial segregation across public systems.
 - Lone Wolf v. Hitchcock (1903) – Gave the federal government power to unilaterally change treaties, granting control over Native land, governance, and family decisions.
 - Buck v. Bell (1927) – Upheld forced sterilization of people deemed 'unfit,' disproportionately affecting poor women and women of color.
 - Loving v. Virginia (1967) – Legalized interracial marriage nationwide, overturning state bans rooted in white supremacy.

The purposes of the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA) are to:

- (1) protect the best interests of African American and disproportionately represented children;
- (2) promote the stability and security of African American and disproportionately represented children and their families by establishing minimum standards to prevent the arbitrary and unnecessary removal of African American and disproportionately represented children from their families; and
- (3) improve permanency outcomes, including family reunification, for African American and disproportionately represented children.

Signed into law May 2024, statewide implementation Jan 2027

- Services and requirements for children and families for whom the Act applies:
 - Active efforts to prevent out-of-home placement and reunify families
 - Limiting use of emergency removals, foster care placements, and terminations of parental rights
 - Stronger language to contact and involve non-custodial parents and relatives
- Established the African American Child Well-being Unit and Advisory Council
- Family Preservation grant program, with annual appropriation of \$1 million
- Cultural competency trainings for case workers, supervisors

MAAFPCWDA and Disproportionality

- Sec. 3. [260.63] DEFINITIONS.
- Subd. 10. **Disproportionately represented child.** "Disproportionately represented child" means a person who is under the age of 18 and who is a member of a community whose *race, culture, ethnicity, disability status, or low-income socioeconomic status* is disproportionately encountered, engaged, or identified in the **child welfare system** as compared to the representation in the **state's total child population**, as determined on an annual basis by the commissioner.
- Subd. 9. **Disproportionality.** "Disproportionality" means the **overrepresentation** of African American children and other disproportionately represented children in Minnesota's child welfare system population as compared to the representation of those children in Minnesota's total child population.

“Disproportionately represented”

- Proportion \approx percentage
 - Any fraction of a whole population
- Proportionate = when two percentages are the same
- Disproportionate = when two percentages are not the same
 - Does not specify which percentage is larger than the other
- Overrepresented = when one percentage/proportion is larger than a comparison percentage/proportion
 - Underrepresented = when one percentage/proportion is smaller than another

The whole population

All children in Minnesota, 2024
1,299,057 children
Census data

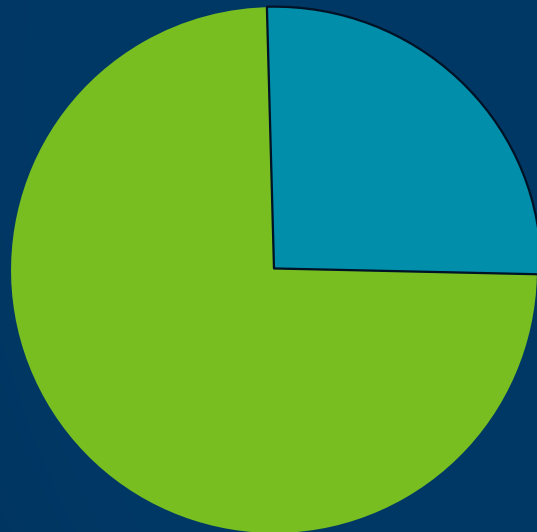


Children in Child Protection in Minnesota, 2024
29,216 children
SSIS data



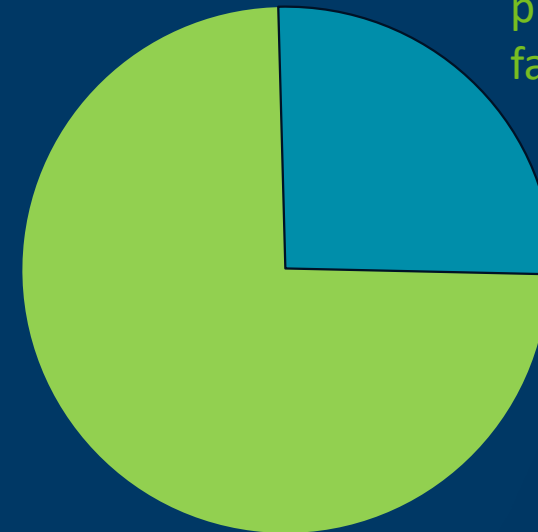
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25% of children in
Minnesota say their
favorite color is blue

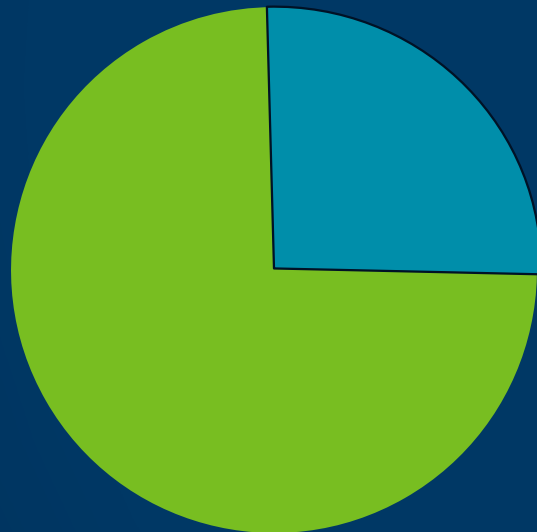
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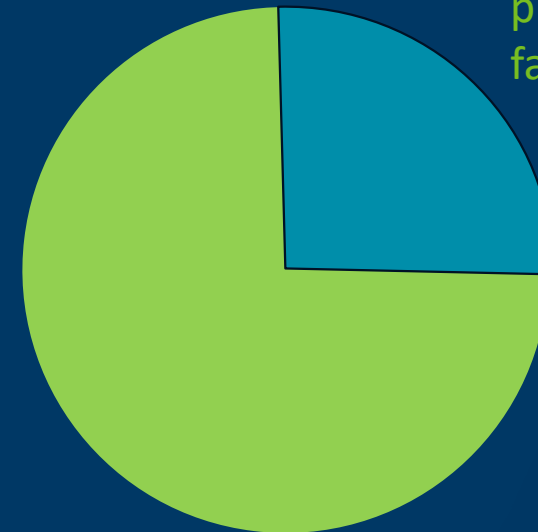
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→ Proportionate

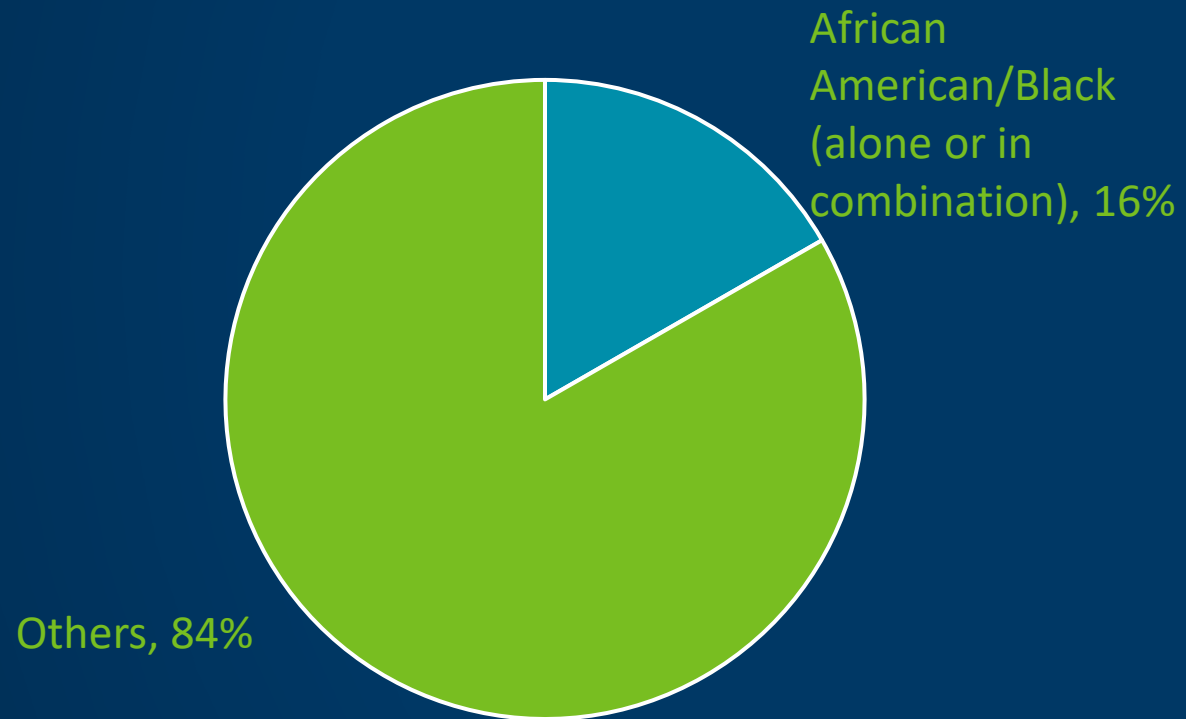
Assessing disproportionality for MAAFPCWDA

All children in Minnesota, 2024



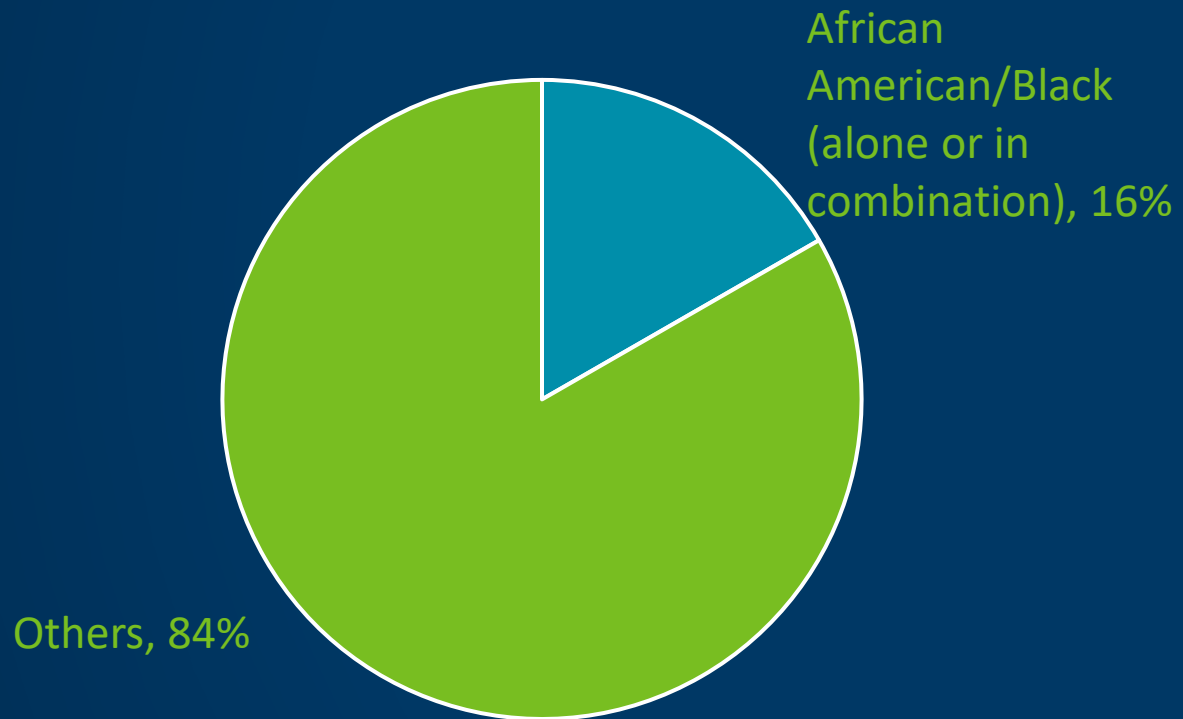
Assessing disproportionality for MAAFPCWDA

All children in Minnesota, 2024

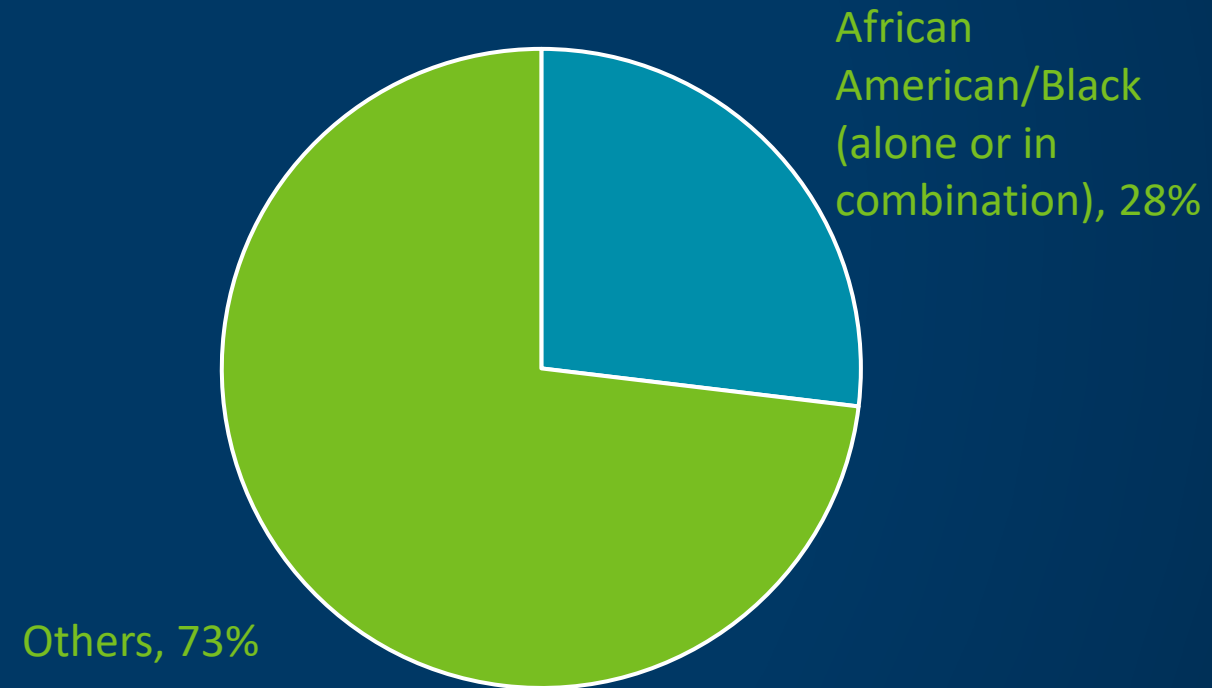


Assessing disproportionality for MAAFPCWDA

All children in Minnesota, 2024

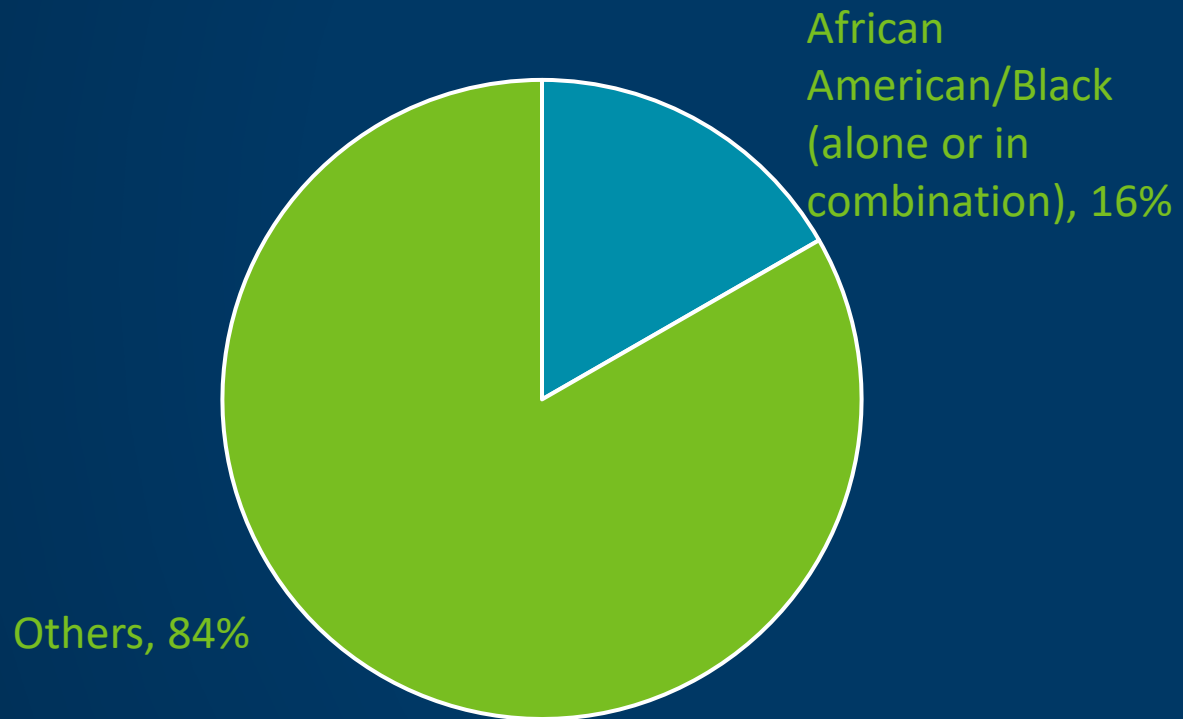


Children in Child Protection in Minnesota, 2024

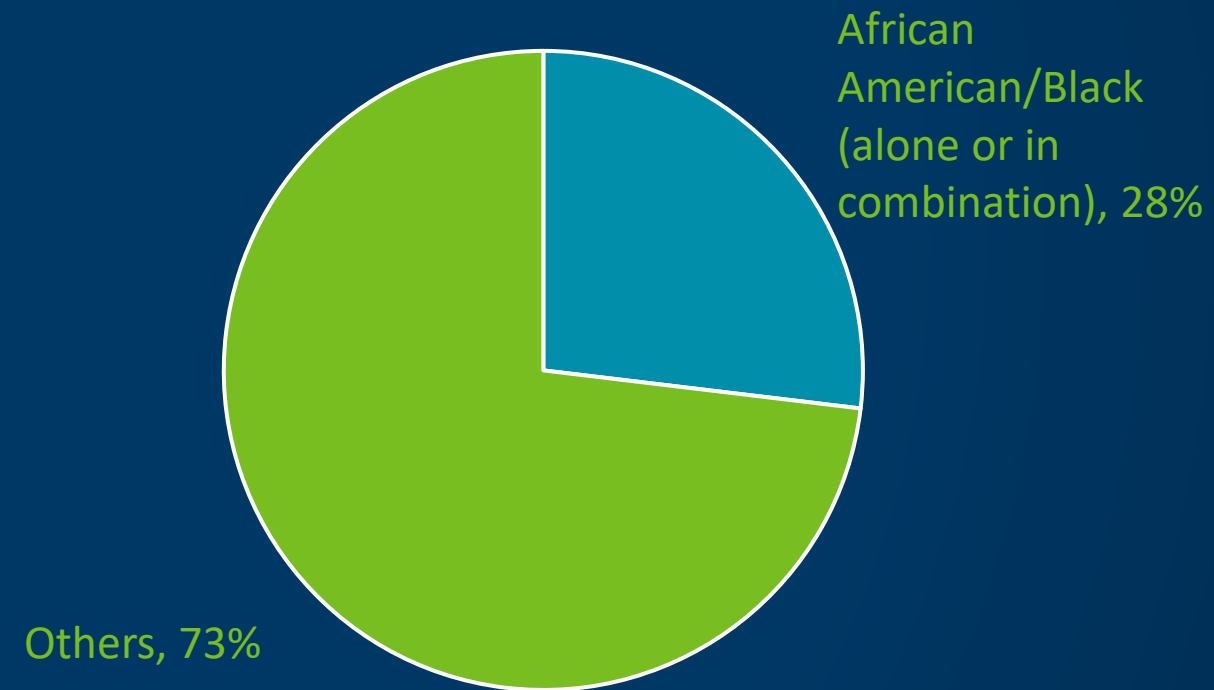


Assessing disproportionality for MAAFPCWDA

All children in Minnesota, 2024

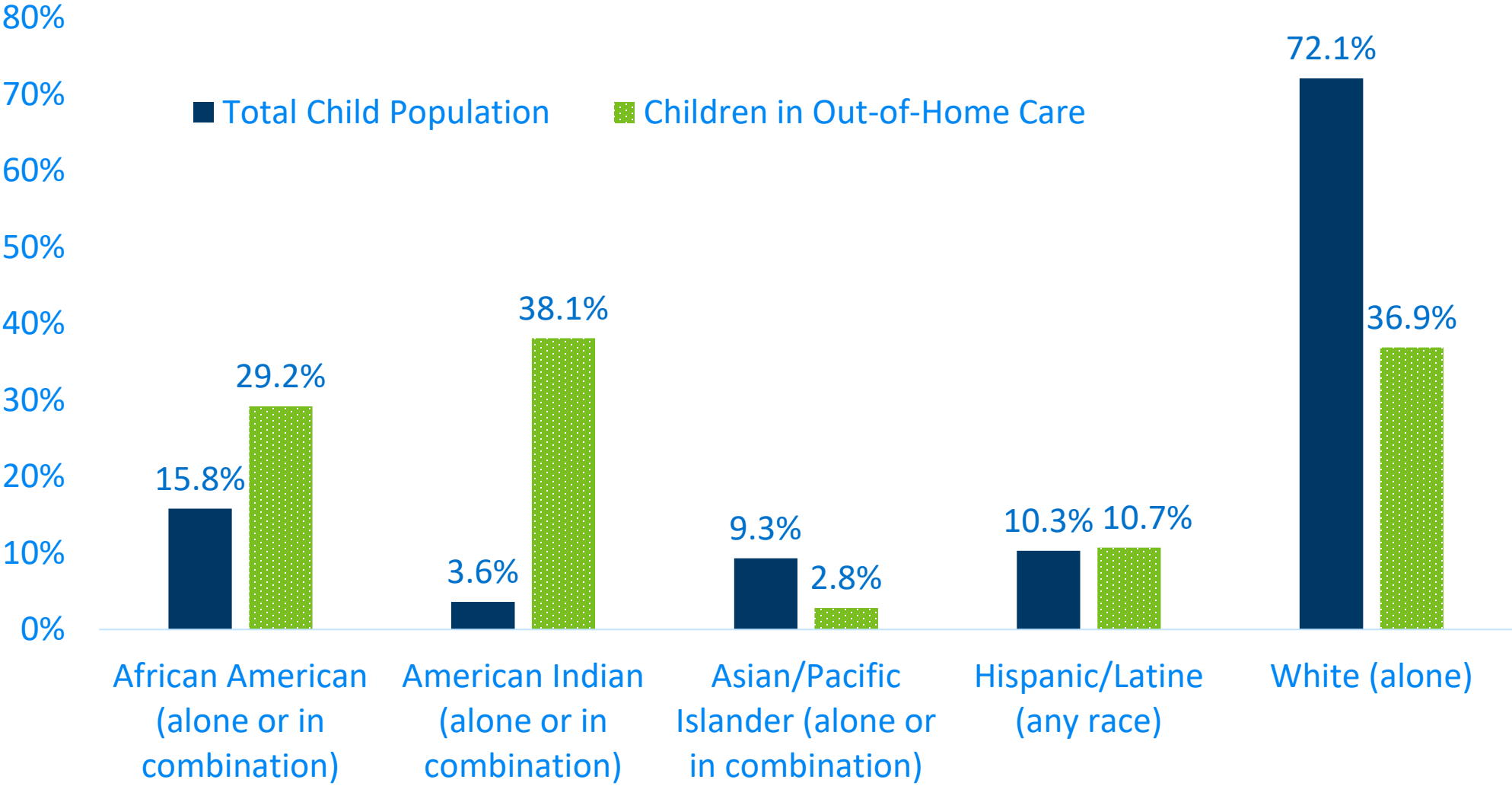


Children in Child Protection in Minnesota, 2024

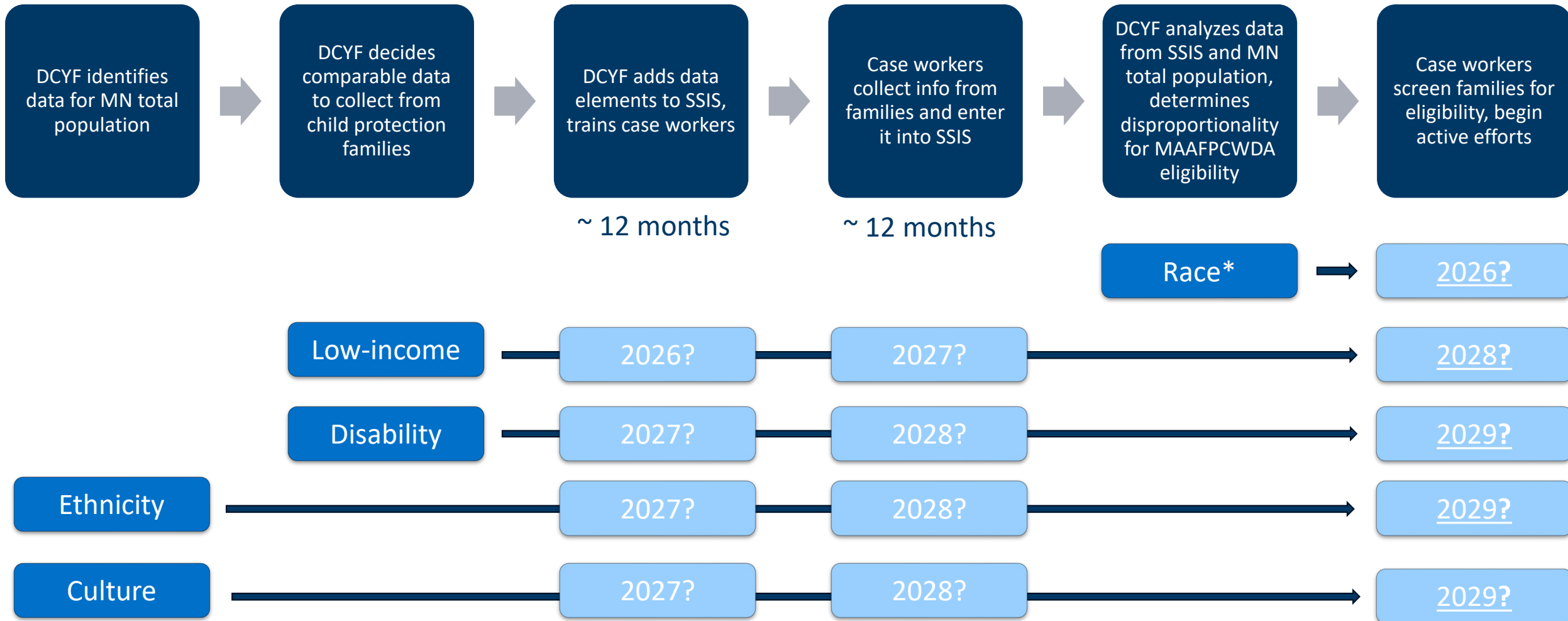


→ African American/Black children are disproportionately represented (overrepresented) in Minnesota's child protection system compared to the statewide population.

Minnesota, 2024



Timeline to determine disproportionality and eligibility



Guiding principles for defining disproportionate populations

Definitions/measurements/operationalizations must:

1. Have a comparable measure available for all children in Minnesota.
 - Section 3, Subdivision 10, Disproportionately represented child
2. Be recorded in SSIS for all children with child protection involvement.
 - Section 16, Disaggregate Data
3. Be reported by the child, child's parent or guardian (race, culture, ethnicity).
 - Section 3, Subdivision 10, Disproportionately represented child
4. Be feasible for case workers to quickly assess with families.

Draft decisions about MAAFPCWDA disproportionality category definitions

Definitions based on American Community Survey (ACS), U.S. Census Bureau

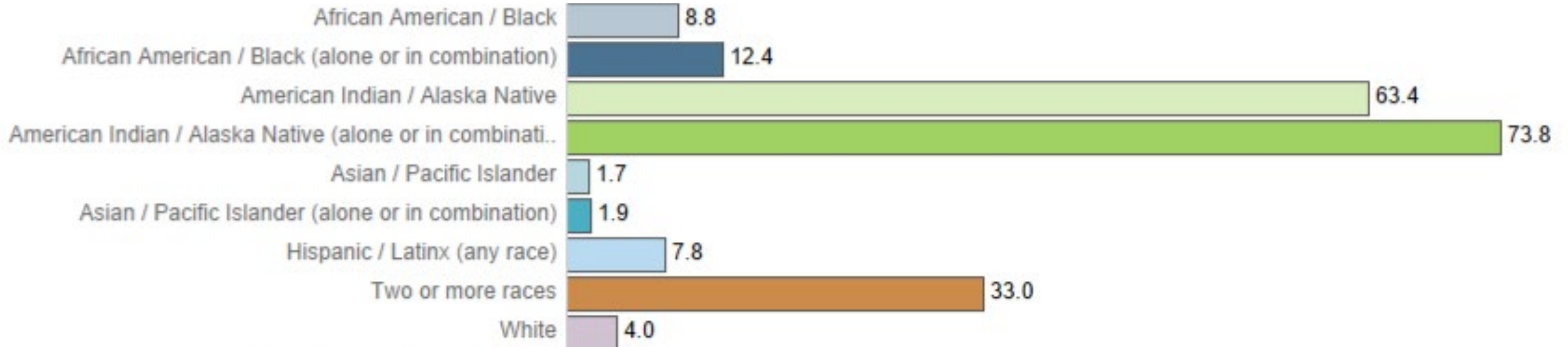
- Race: Hispanic/Latine, white, Black (alone or in combo), Asian Pacific Islander (alone or in combo), American Indian (alone or in combo)
- Low-income socioeconomic status: Household income in last 12 months 299% of federal poverty guidelines and below (3 tiers)
- Disability: vision difficulty, hearing difficulty, cognitive difficulty (aged 5 and older), ambulatory difficulty (aged 5 and older), self-care difficulty (aged 5 and older)
- Ethnicity: In each race category, top 6 most populous ethnicities in U.S., plus one additional Minnesota-specific ethnicity

Culture

Removing “two or more races” as a MAAFP CWDA category

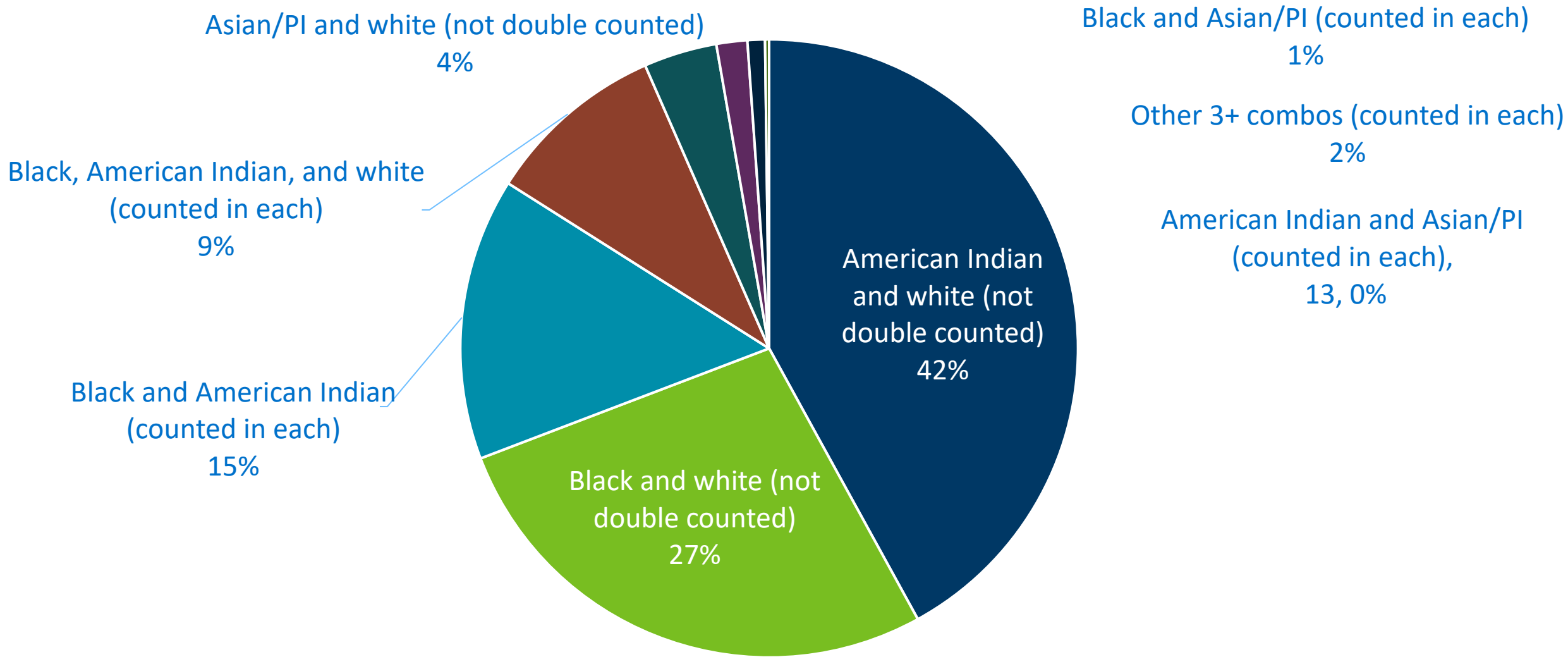
What does Out-of-home Care Involvement per 1,000 look like for all race/ethnicities? (click agency, above, to filter)

Minnesota



Source: SSIS, Research and Evaluation Unit, Child Safety and Permanency Administration, MN Dept. of Children, Youth, and Families

Data updated: 09/06/2024



Makeup of multi-racial children in MN child protection, 2023

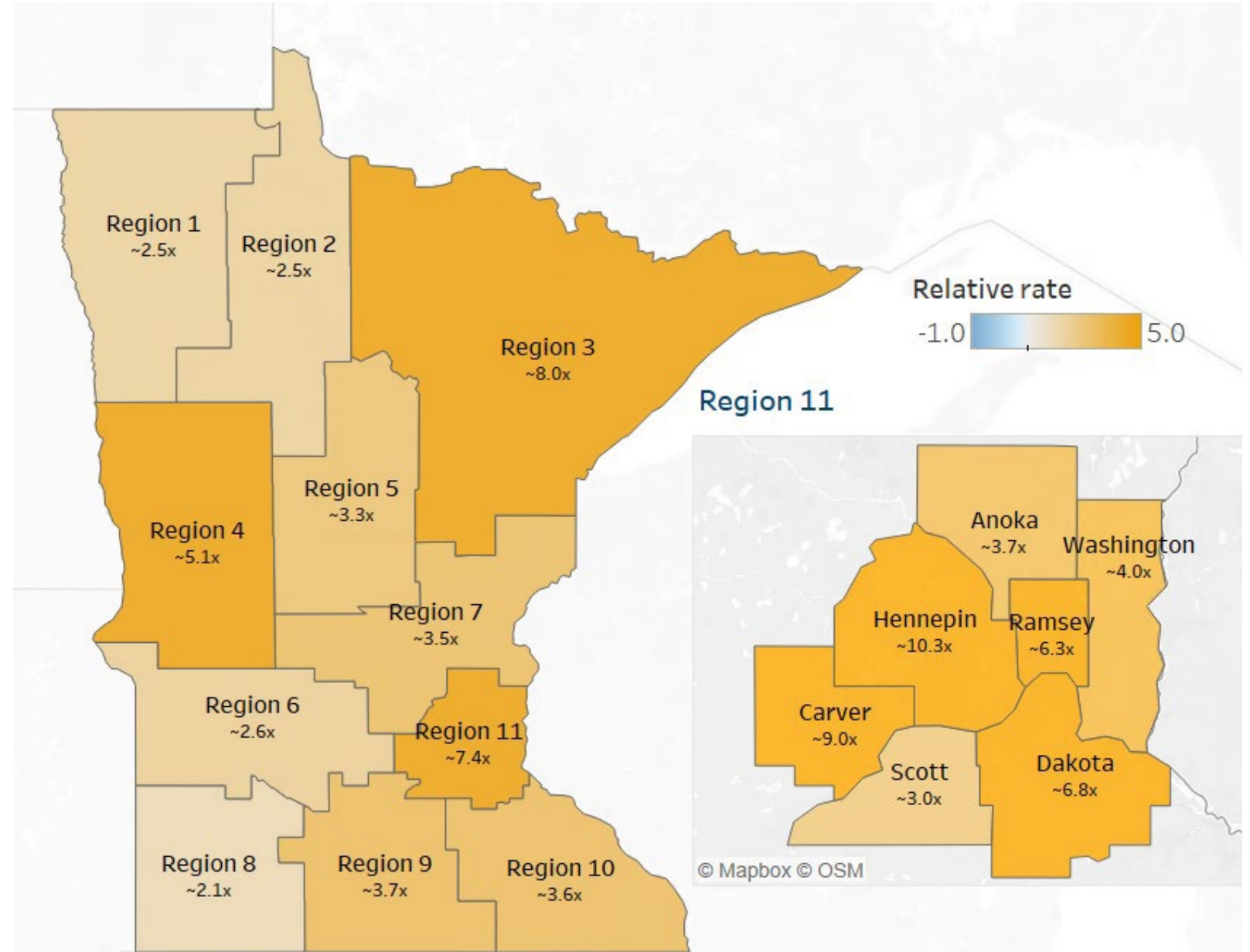
Family Preservation Grants

- Sec. 13. [260.693] AFRICAN AMERICAN AND DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED FAMILY PRESERVATION GRANTS.
- (b) The commissioner may specify the priority of an activity and service based on its success in furthering these goals. The commissioner shall give preference to programs and service providers that are located in or serve counties with the highest rates of child welfare disproportionality for African American and other disproportionately represented children and their families and employ staff who represent the population primarily served.

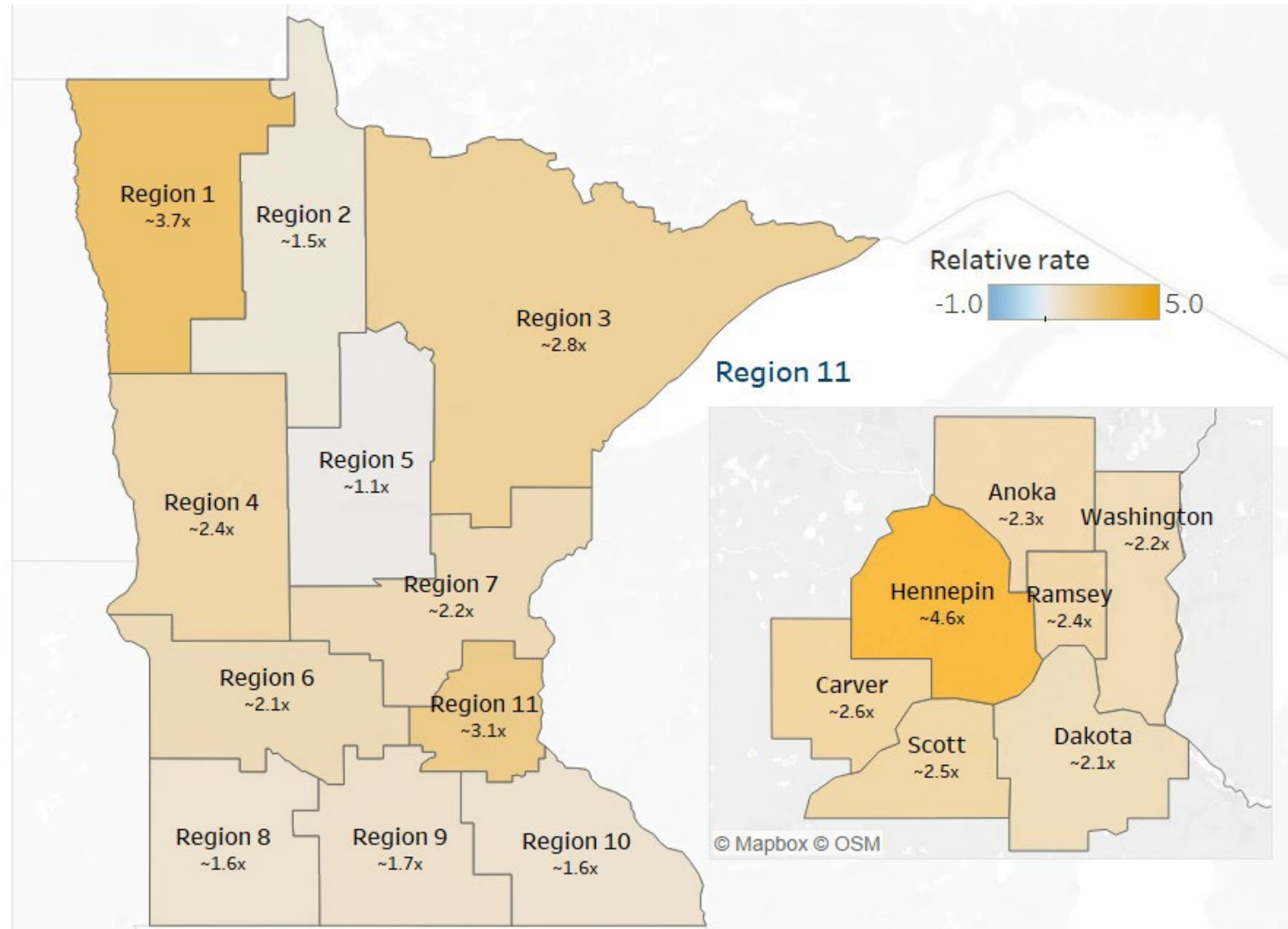
Out-of-home care disproportionality for Black/African American children compared to white children in 2024

- Region 3 (Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, St Louis)

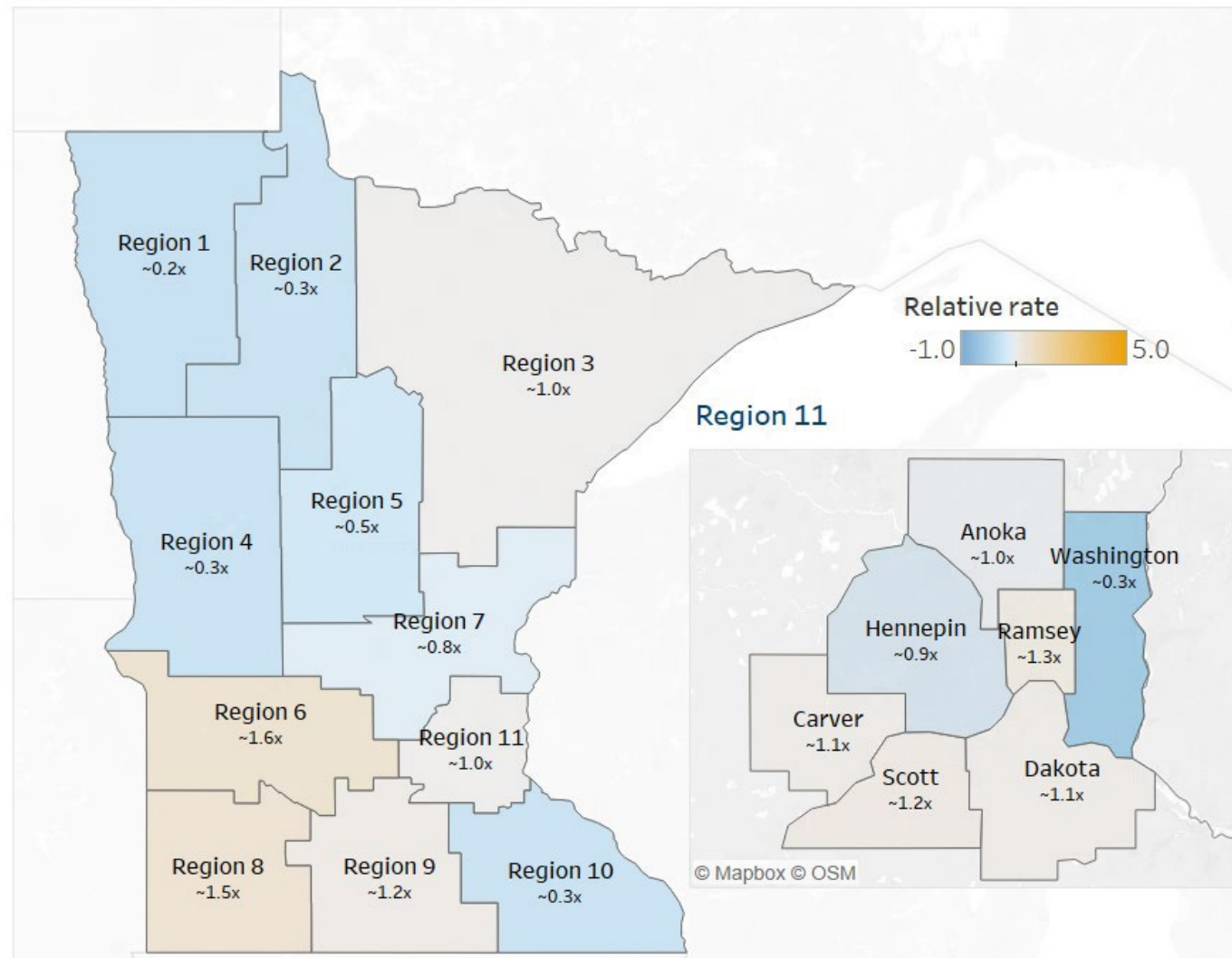
Sources: SSIS, Research and Evaluation Unit, Child Safety and Permanency Administration, MN DCYF, Oct 2025; U.S Census Bureau



Out-of-home care disproportionalities for Hispanic/Latine compared to white children in 2024

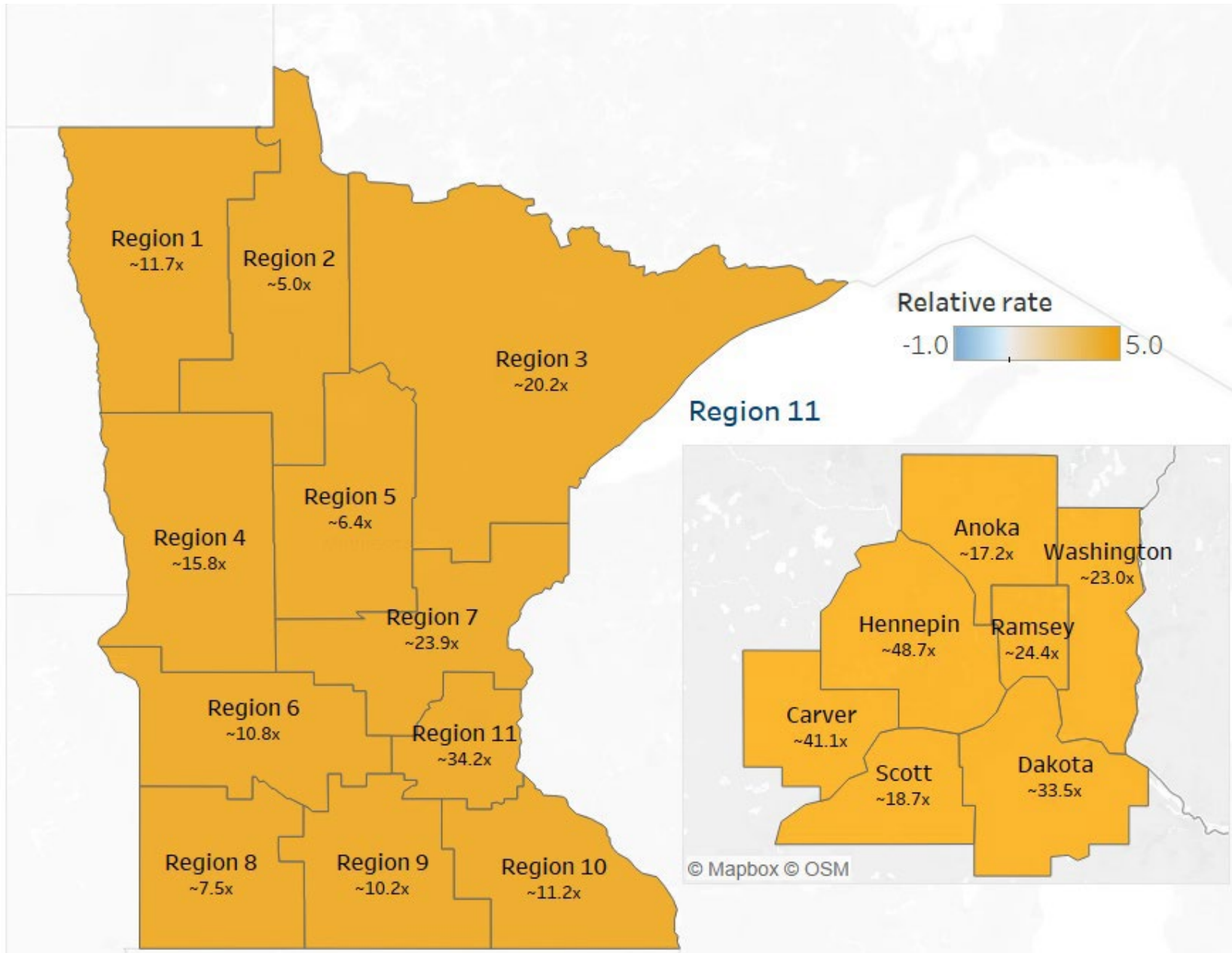


Sources: SSIS, Research and Evaluation Unit, Child Safety and Permanency Administration, MN DCYF, Oct 2025; U.S Census Bureau



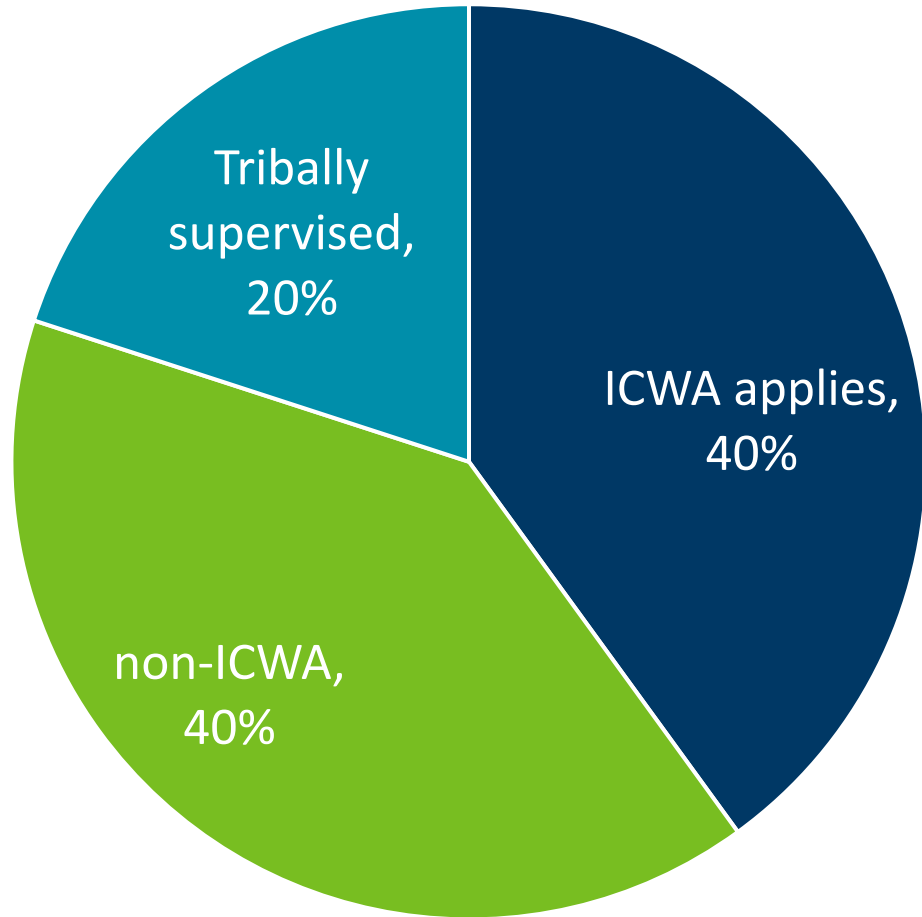
Out-of-home care disproportionalities for Asian/Pacific Islander compared to white children in 2024

Out-of-home care disproportionalities for American Indian/Alaska Native compared to white children in 2024



Sources: SSIS, Research and
Evaluation Unit, Child Safety and
Permanency Administration, MN
DCYF, Oct 2025; U.S Census Bureau

What percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native children in out-of-home care in 2024 in Minnesota did ICWA apply to?



Source: SSIS, Research and Evaluation Unit, Child Safety and Permanency Administration, MN DCYF, Oct 2025



Missing race/ethnicity, completed CP assessments and investigations finalized in 2024

County	Percentage missing
Washington	21%
Dakota	21%
Wright	14%
Minnesota average	4.7%
Ramsey	2.9%
Hennepin	1.8%
Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Benton, Carlton, Clay, Cook, Faribault-Martin, Hubbard, Itasca, Kittson, Lac qui Parle, Mahnommen, Marshall, Morrison, Norman, Pennington, Red Lake, Sibley, Swift, Traverse, Watonwan	1% or less

Source: SSIS, Research and Evaluation Unit, Child Safety and Permanency Administration, MN Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Data retrieved August 2025

2023 Annual Reports now available:

12/9/2025



DHS Home Bulletins A-Z Topics PartnerLink Home eDocs

County Reports/Results DHS Program Resources DHS Systems & IT Updates Fiscal Reporting & Accounting Manuals

Performance Management

Basic Sliding Fee
Child Protection
Child and Teen Checkups
GA
Managed care enrollment totals
MHCP eligibility and payments
MFIP
MSA
MN SNAP

> County Reports/Results

County reports

DHS gathers information and publishes reports about Minnesota counties regarding p services programs that are funded by the state and federal governments.

Biennial Service Agreements Summary

[Summary of the 2018-2019 Minnesota Family Investment Program Biennial Service Ag](#)
[Summary of the 2016-2017 Minnesota Family Investment Program Biennial Service Ag](#)

County performance reports

Permanency Composite 1: [Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification \(PDF\)](#)
Permanency Composite 2: [Timeliness of Adoptions \(PDF\)](#)
Permanency Composite 3: [Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care \(PDF\)](#)
Permanency Composite 4: [Placement Stability \(PDF\)](#)
[Safety Indicators \(PDF\)](#)

Child protection

[Minnesota's Out-of-home care and Permanency Report 2023 DHS-5408Pa \(PDF\)](#)
[Minnesota's Out-of-home care and Permanency Report 2022 DHS-5408Oa \(PDF\)](#)
[Minnesota's Out-of-home care and Permanency Report 2021 DHS-5408Na \(PDF\)](#)
[Minnesota's Out-of-home care and Permanency Report 2020, DHS-5408Ma \(PDF\)](#)
[Minnesota's Out-of-home Care and Permanency Report 2019, DHS-5408La \(PDF\)](#)
[Minnesota's Out-of-home Care and Permanency Report 2018, DHS-5408Ka \(PDF\)](#)
[Minnesota's Out-of-home Care and Permanency Report 2017, DHS-5408Ja \(PDF\)](#)
[Minnesota's Out-of-home Care and Permanency Report 2016 DHS-5408Ia \(PDF\)](#)
[Minnesota's Out-of-home Care and Permanency Report 2015 \(PDF\)](#)
[Minnesota's Child Maltreatment Report 2023 DHS-5408P \(PDF\)](#)
[Minnesota's Child Maltreatment Report 2022 DHS-5408O \(PDF\)](#)
[Minnesota's Child Maltreatment Report 2021 DHS-5408N \(PDF\)](#)

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