New York State | Office of Children and Family Services

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PART IV

Disproportionate Minority Representation (DMR) in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems

Prepared by

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Disproportionate Minority Representation (DMR) in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems[1]

Disproportionate Minority Representation (DMR) or disproportionality occurs when a particular racial/ethnic minority group's involvement with a system is significantly higher or lower than that group's representation in the general population. This attachment considers DMR at various decision points in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. In the case of child welfare, the decision points discussed include child protective services reports made to the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR), the indication of an SCR report for abuse or maltreatment, foster care placement of any children involved in the child welfare system, and length of time to discharge for any foster children. In the case of the juvenile justice system, decision points reviewed include arrest, detention, placement of juvenile delinquents (JDs) and juvenile offenders (JOs) in OCFS facilities or voluntary agencies, and length time to community release for JDs admitted to OCFS facilities. For both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, a variety of measures are used to describe DMR at these decision points, including:

- the racial/ethnic distribution of children/youth at different decision points;
- the rate per 1,000 children in the population: a measure of how many children/youth have contact with various decision points in comparison with their representation in the overall population;
- the disparity index: a ratio that represents the likelihood that a particular non-white racial/ethnic group is represented at any decision point of the system as compared to whites;
- the relative rate index: a ratio that compares the rate of activity at a given decision point of the system with the activity of a previous stage; and
- a comparison of the cumulative time from placement to discharge or release across the different racial/ethnic groups.

Collectively, the data demonstrate that DMR occurs in both the child welfare and the juvenile justice systems. However, the degree of disproportionality differs by decision point, race/ethnicity (black vs. Hispanic), and location (New York City vs. Rest of State).
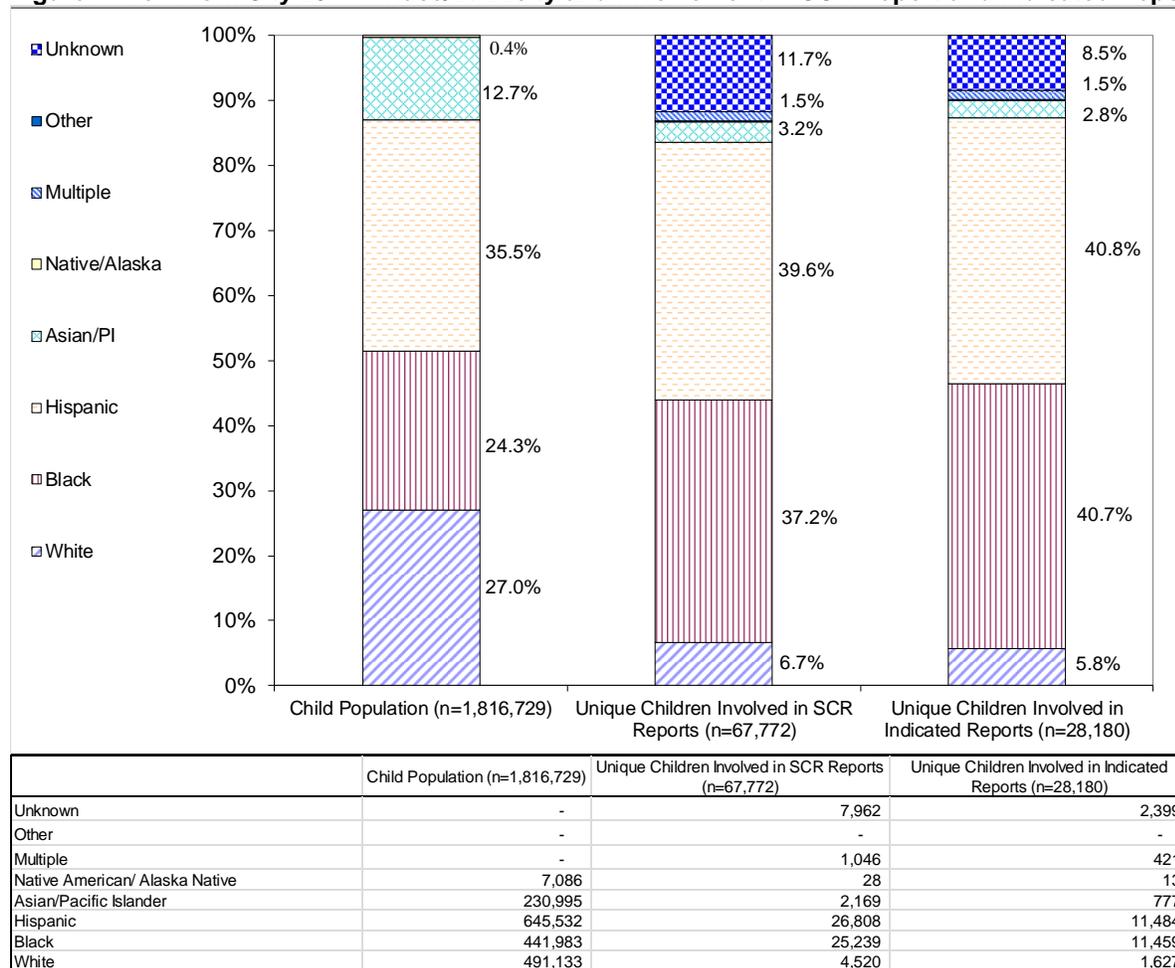
DMR in the Child Welfare System

This section examines DMR at various decision points in the child welfare system using the above measures, separately for children living in New York City (NYC) and for children living in the Rest of New York State (ROS).

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[1] If you have any questions regarding this attachment, please contact Vajeera Dorabawila, Ph.D., Bureau of Research, Evaluation and Performance Analytics, New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

Involvement at Various Decision Points in the Child Welfare System by Race/Ethnicity
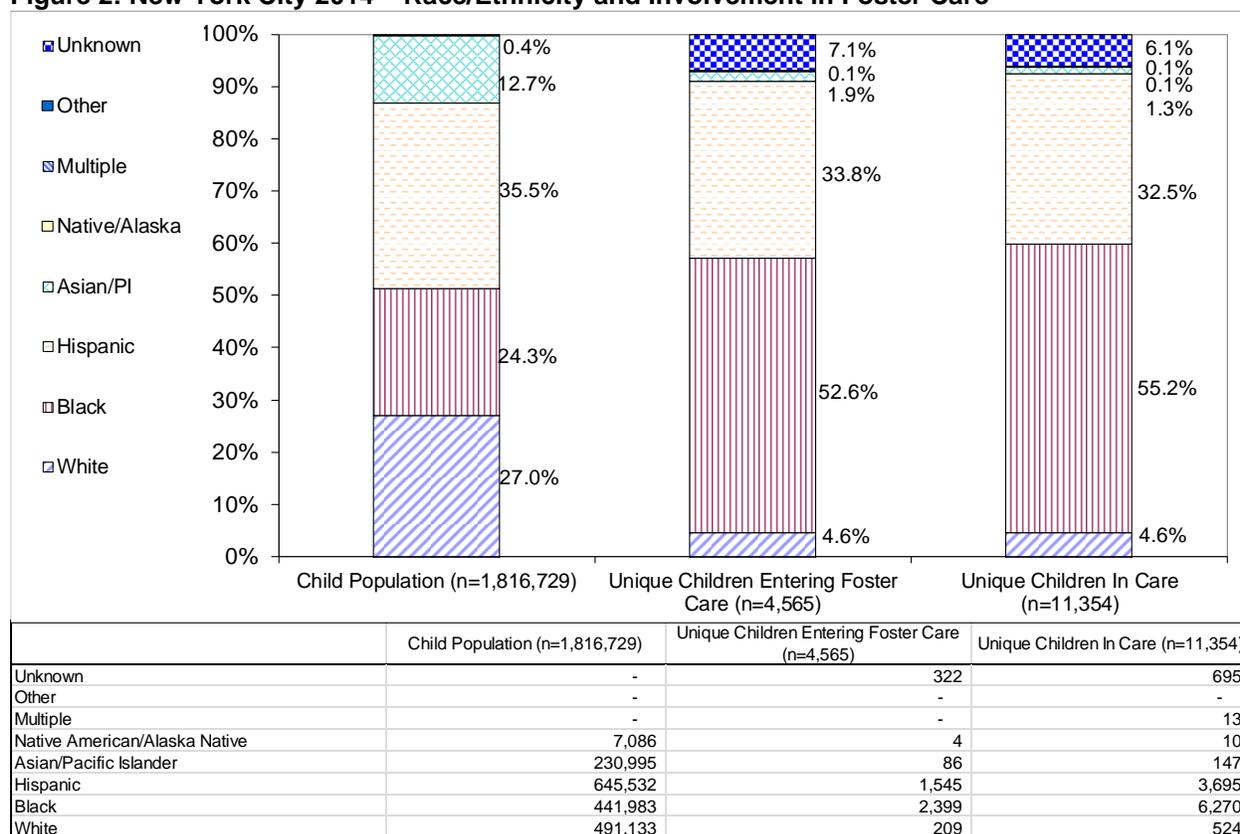
Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the racial/ethnic distribution of children at various decision points of the child welfare system in NYC. Figure 1 depicts the percent and number of unique children of a given race/ethnicity in the population, children involved in SCR reports and children involved in indicated SCR reports during the 2014 calendar year. Figure 2 shows the percent and number of unique children of a given race/ethnicity in the population, and the number and percent of children entering foster care for any reason and the number of children in foster care at the end of 2014. (Note: The statistics for children in foster care included in this section are not limited to children who entered foster care as a result of abuse or neglect. They include children who entered foster care through voluntary placements or surrenders, persons in need of supervision or JD petitions, termination of parental rights, or for any other reason). In both figures, the percentage of whites occupies the bottom segment of the graph; the percentage of black children is represented by the next segment from the bottom, and the percentage of Hispanic children is included in the third segment from the bottom. The remaining racial/ethnic groups are identified in the key on the left hand side of the figures and may or may not appear in the graph depending on their prevalence.

Figure 1: New York City 2014 – Race/Ethnicity and Involvement in SCR Report and Indicated Reports

	Child Population (n=1,816,729)	Unique Children Involved in SCR Reports (n=67,772)	Unique Children Involved in Indicated Reports (n=28,180)
Unknown	-	7,962	2,399
Other	-	-	-
Multiple	-	1,046	421
Native American/ Alaska Native	7,086	28	13
Asian/Pacific Islander	230,995	2,169	777
Hispanic	645,532	26,808	11,484
Black	441,983	25,239	11,459
White	491,133	4,520	1,627

In NYC, black children make up an increasingly higher percentage of the population at each successive decision point in the child welfare system (Figures 1 and 2). As shown in Figure 1, black children represent 24.3% of the child population, but represent 37.2% of those involved in an SCR report and 40.7% of those involved in an indicated report. Figure 2 illustrates that black children represent 52.6% of all children entering foster care and 55.2% of children in care. The representation of Hispanic children at the various decision points examined indicates a different pattern. Hispanic children account for 35.5% of the total children below 18 years in the population. At the SCR report and indication stages (Figure 1), however, their percentages are 39.6% and 40.8% respectively. At the foster care entry stage (Figure 2), the proportion of Hispanic children is 33.8%, which is close to their proportion in the population. It declines further at the in care stage, where their proportion is 32.5% of the children in care.

Figure 2: New York City 2014 – Race/Ethnicity and Involvement in Foster Care

	Child Population (n=1,816,729)	Unique Children Entering Foster Care (n=4,565)	Unique Children In Care (n=11,354)
Unknown	-	322	695
Other	-	-	-
Multiple	-	-	13
Native American/Alaska Native	7,086	4	10
Asian/Pacific Islander	230,995	86	147
Hispanic	645,532	1,545	3,695
Black	441,983	2,399	6,270
White	491,133	209	524

Similar to the first two figures, Figures 3 and 4 show the racial/ethnic distribution of children at various decision points in the child welfare system for ROS. The percentage of white children in the ROS population (69.1%) is much greater than in the NYC population (27.0%), and consequently, the representation of white children at various decision points of the child welfare system is considerably greater than what was observed in NYC. The patterns of DMR for black and Hispanic children in ROS are quite similar to those observed in NYC, even though black and Hispanic children represent a much smaller percentage of the population in ROS. While black children comprise 10.2% of the ROS population, 17.3% of the children involved in SCR reports
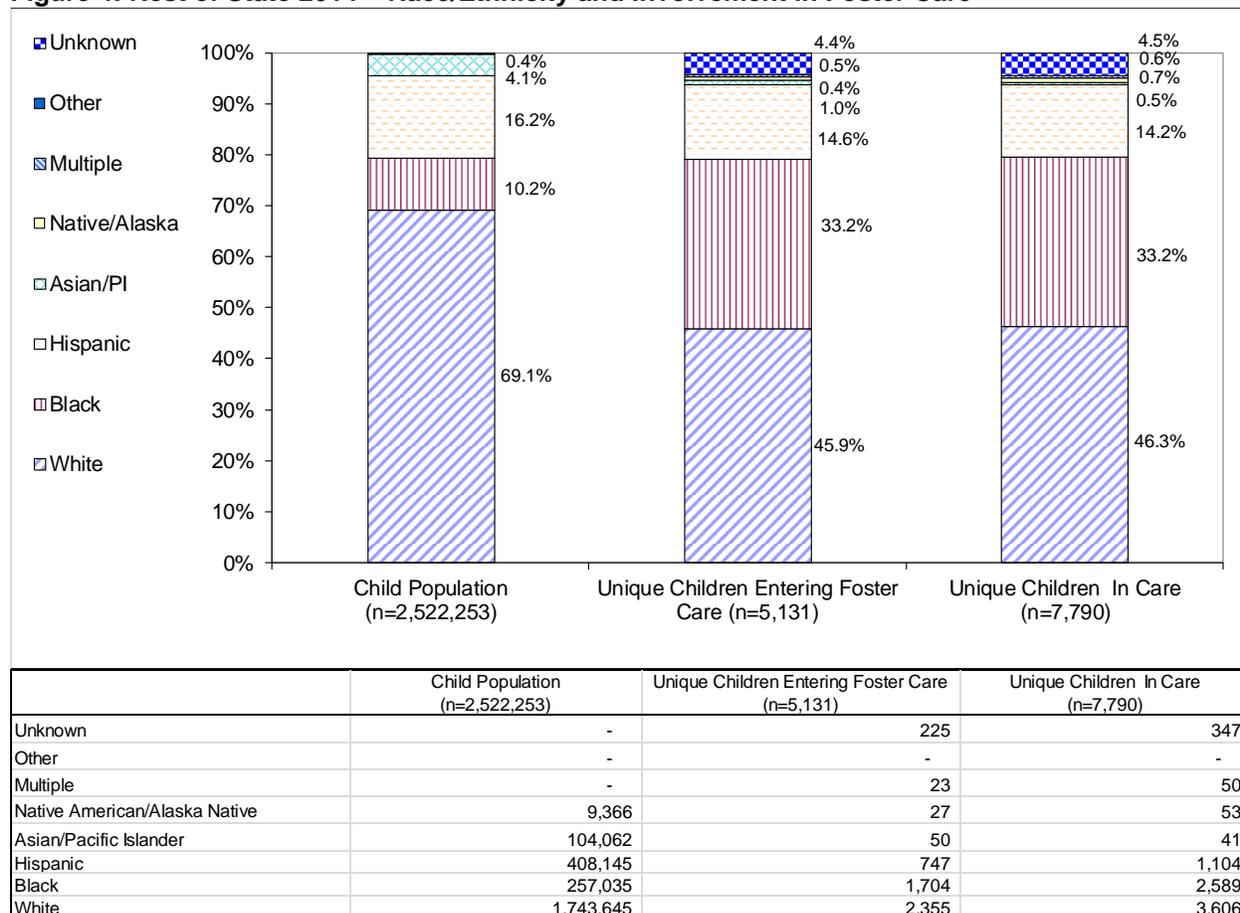
are black (Figure 3) and 17.8% of those involved in indicated reports are black. About one-third (33.2%) of children entering foster care are black and the same percentage (33.2%) of the children in foster care at the end of the year are black (Figure 4). Differing from NYC, Hispanic children in ROS represent a slightly lower proportion of children involved in SCR reports (13.0%) or involved in indicated reports (13.4%) than the proportion of Hispanic children in the population (16.2%) (Figure 3). Similarly, as shown in Figure 4, Hispanic children represent a slightly lower proportion of children entering or in foster care, 14.6% and 14.2%, respectively.

Figure 3: 2014 Rest of State – Race/Ethnicity and Involvement in SCR Reports and Indicated Reports
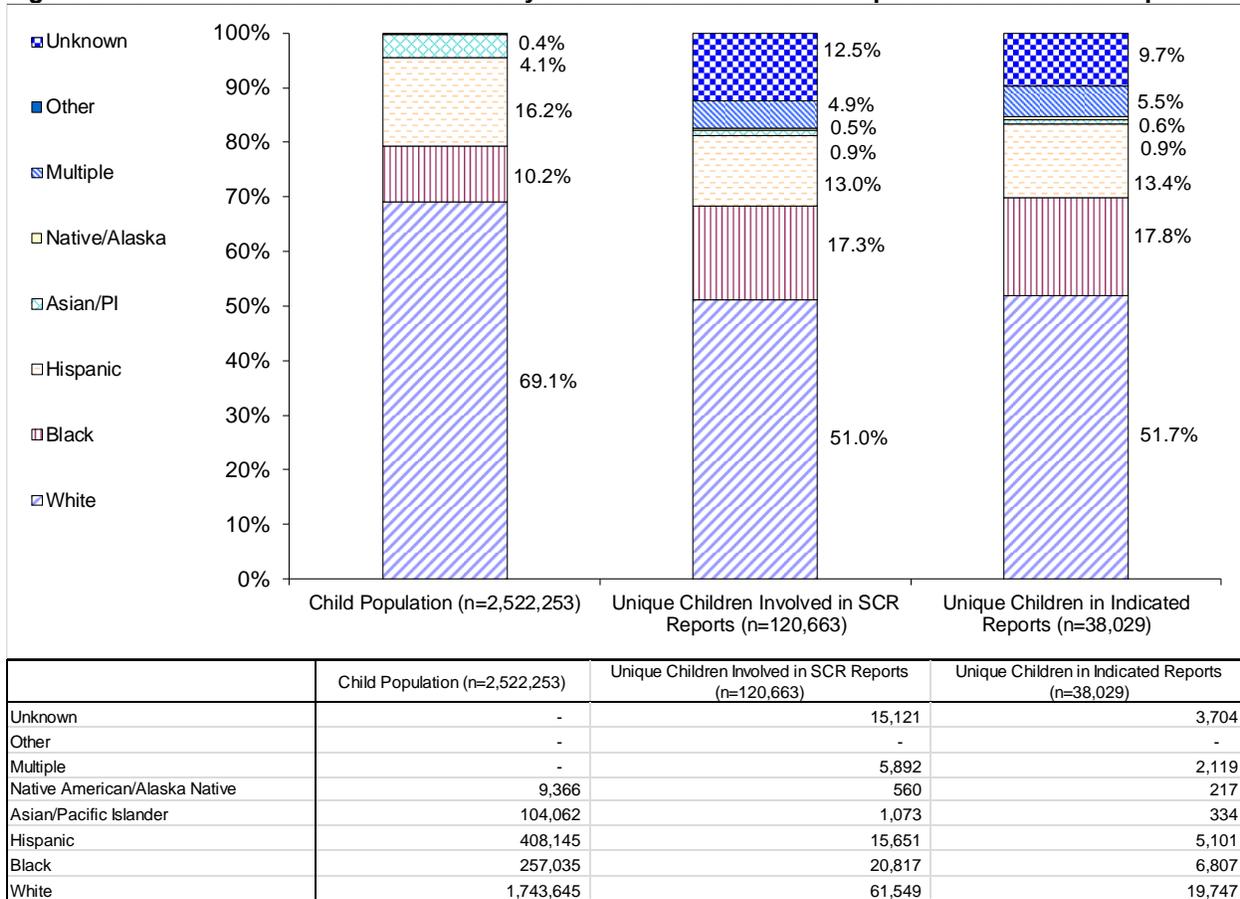
	Child Population (n=2,522,253)	Unique Children Involved in SCR Reports (n=120,663)	Unique Children in Indicated Reports (n=38,029)
Unknown	-	15,121	3,704
Other	-	-	-
Multiple	-	5,892	2,119
Native American/Alaska Native	9,366	560	217
Asian/Pacific Islander	104,062	1,073	334
Hispanic	408,145	15,651	5,101
Black	257,035	20,817	6,807
White	1,743,645	61,549	19,747

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Figure 4: Rest of State 2014 – Race/Ethnicity and Involvement in Foster Care


	Child Population (n=2,522,253)	Unique Children Entering Foster Care (n=5,131)	Unique Children In Care (n=7,790)
Unknown	-	225	347
Other	-	-	-
Multiple	-	23	50
Native American/Alaska Native	9,366	27	53
Asian/Pacific Islander	104,062	50	41
Hispanic	408,145	747	1,104
Black	257,035	1,704	2,589
White	1,743,645	2,355	3,606

Rate per 1,000 Children in the Population

The rate per 1,000 is an indicator of how many children from each specific racial/ethnic group have contact with the child welfare system (at various decision points) compared to their representation in the general population. For example, the rate per 1,000 for children involved in SCR reports for a particular racial/ethnic group is calculated by dividing the number of children in the particular group involved in SCR reports by the number of children under age 18 in the particular group in the overall population and then multiplying that quotient by 1,000. The rate per 1,000 provides a standard metric for comparing the rates for different racial/ethnic groups. In the current case, we calculated and compared rates per 1,000 for three racial/ethnic groups: whites, blacks, and Hispanics. These rates were computed separately for children living in NYC and for children living in ROS. In general, as measured by the rate per 1,000 children in the particular population, black children are more likely than Hispanic children, and Hispanic children are more likely than white children to be involved in an SCR report or involved in an indicated report, as well as to be admitted to foster care or in care (Figure 5 and 6). However, the degree of racial/ethnic differences varied between NYC and ROS.

Figure 5: New York City 2014 – Race/Ethnicity Rate per 1,000 Children < 18 Population
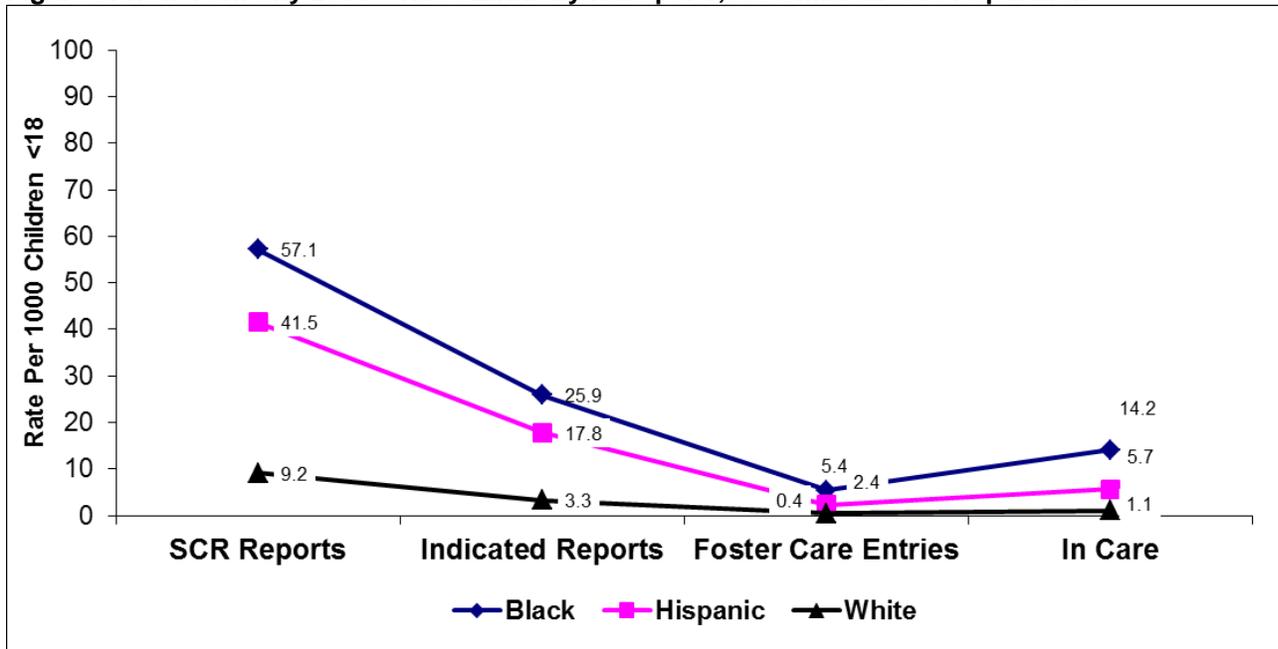
In NYC, for every 1,000 black children in the population, 57.1 are involved in an SCR report, as compared to 41.5 for Hispanic children, and 9.2 for white children (Figure 5). Similar patterns exist for children involved in an indicated SCR report, entering foster care, and in care.

Figure 6: Rest of State 2014 – Race/Ethnicity Rate per 1000 Children < 18 Population
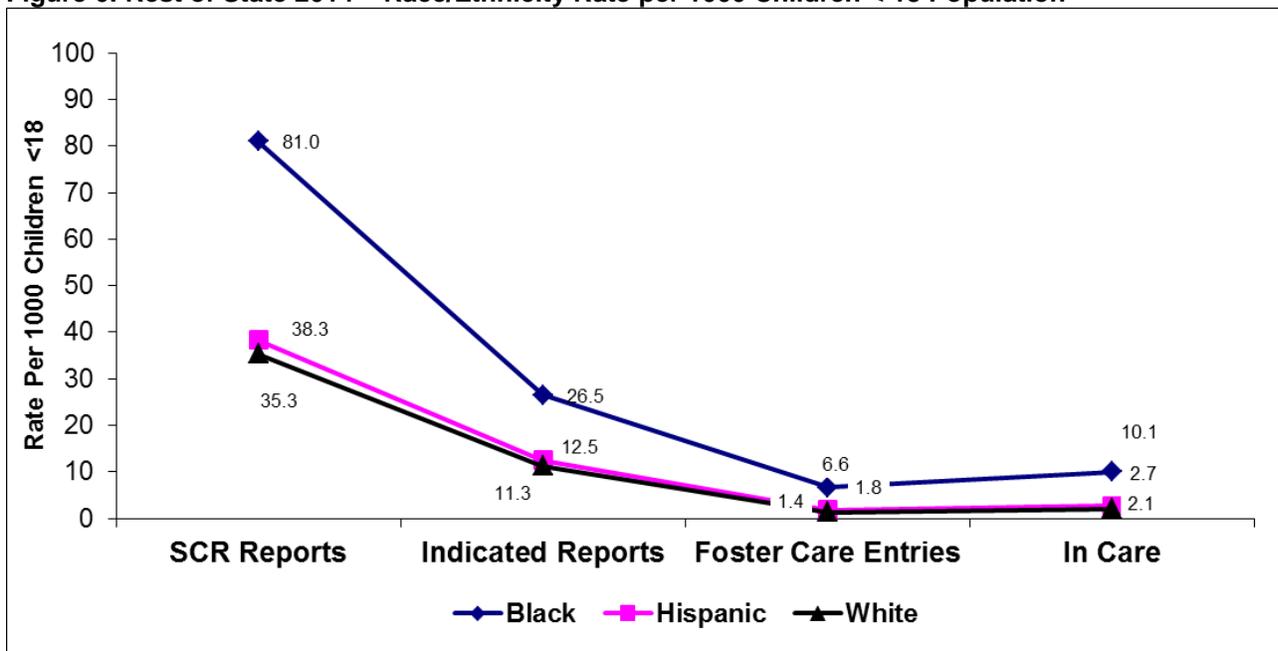
Racial/ethnic differences in the rate per 1,000 for ROS again reveal that black children have the highest rates and Hispanic children have the second highest rates at each

decision point (Figure 6). However, the gap in the rate per 1,000 between Hispanic and white children is nominal in ROS as compared to NYC, with the rates for Hispanic and white children being very close.

Disparity Index
Disparity refers to lack of equality among racial/ethnic groups in the likelihood of being involved in an SCR report, involved in an indicated report, or admitted to or in foster care. The Disparity Index is the ratio of the rate of involvement in a given stage of the child welfare system per 1,000 children in the general population for black children (or Hispanic children) relative to the rate for white children (see example below). A Disparity Index of 1 means no disparity exists, and the farther the Disparity Index moves above a value of 1, the greater the disparity. The estimates for NYC and ROS are presented separately.

Race/Ethnicity	Foster Care Admission Rate per 1,000 Children in NYC
Black	6.629
White	1.350

Black Disparity Index

$$\frac{6.629}{1.350} = 4.9$$

In NYC, for each decision point examined, black children are more likely to be involved in the child welfare system than white children (Figure 7). For example, black children are 6.2 times more likely to be involved in an SCR report than white children, 7.8 times more likely to be involved in an indicated report, 12.8 times more likely to be admitted to foster care than white children, and 13.3 times more likely to be in foster care. The change in black Disparity Index is slight from involvement in an SCR report to involvement in an indicated report. However, the change from involvement in an indicated report to foster care entries is substantial. Then it remains stable and high from foster care entries to in care.

Similar to black children, Hispanic children in NYC are more likely to be involved in different points of the system (Figure 7). Although the Disparity Index for Hispanic children is high (4.5) and similar to that of black children at the decision point regarding involvement in SCR reports, the rate of disparity for Hispanic children is relatively constant for the other decision points. For example, the Hispanic Disparity Index is 5.4, 5.6, and 5.4, respectively, for involvement in indicated reports, foster care entries, and in care.

Overall, the disparity indices are consistently lower for ROS than for NYC, for both black and Hispanic children (Figures 7 and 8). In ROS, black children are 2.3 times more likely to be involved in an SCR report than white children, 2.3 times more likely to be involved in an indicated report, 4.9 times more likely to be admitted to foster care than white children, and 4.9 times more likely to be in foster care.

Figure 7: New York City 2014 – Disparity Index for Black and Hispanic Children versus White Children, Total <18 Population
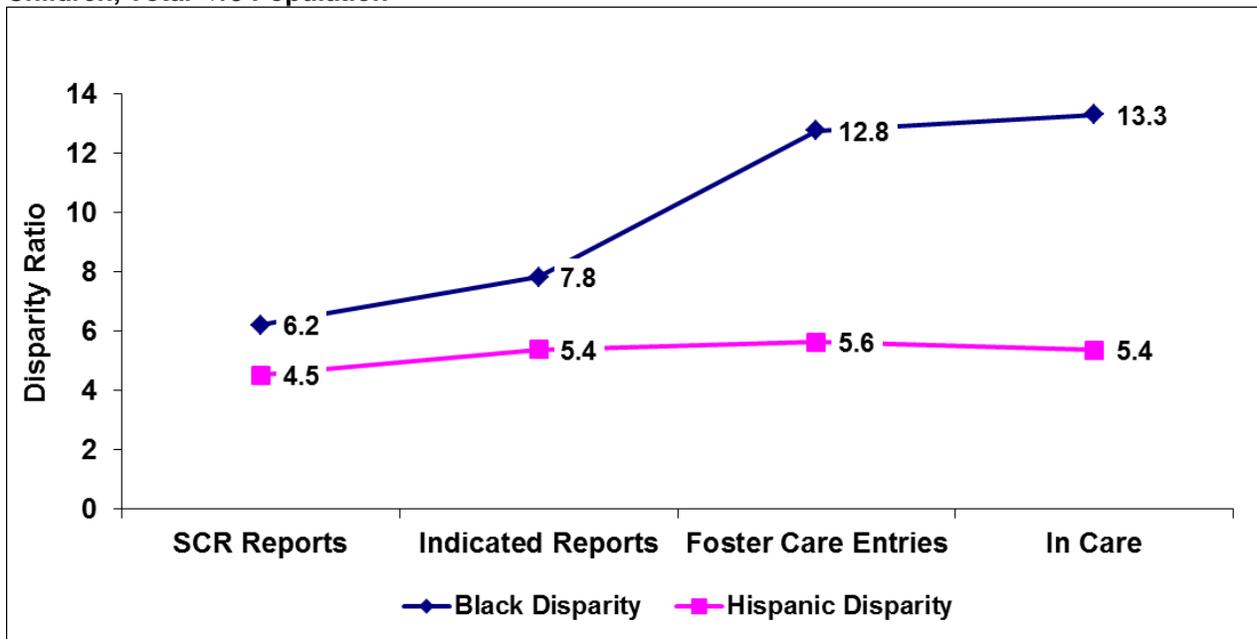
The Disparity Index for Hispanic children in ROS is lower than that for black children (Figure 8). Hispanic children are 1.1 times more likely than white children to be involved in an SCR report, and 1.1 times more likely to be involved in an indicated report. They are only 1.4 times more likely to enter foster care, and 1.3 times more likely to be in foster care. For these decision points, the Disparity Index is close to a value of one, which suggests that for Hispanic children, disparity is very low.

Figure 8: Rest of State 2014 – Disparity Index for Black and Hispanic Children versus White Children, Total <18 Population
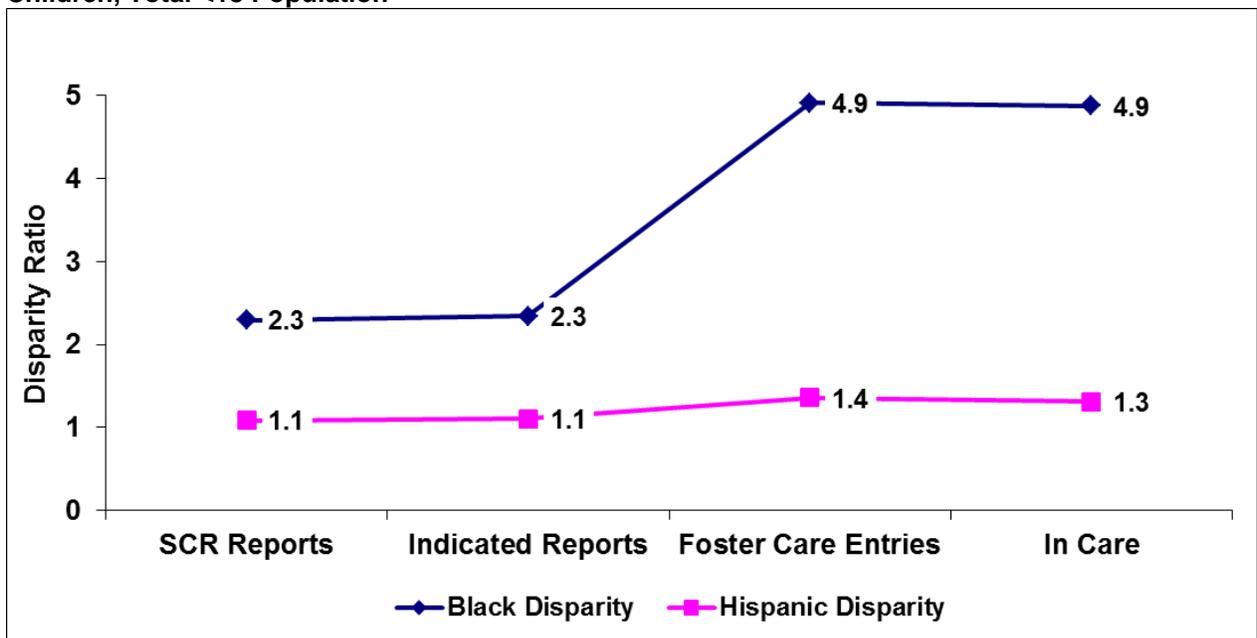
Relative Rate Index

The Relative Rate Index (RRI) compares the rate of activity (number of events) for a particular decision point of the child welfare system to the rate of activity in a preceding point. This comparison allows us to examine when disparities intensify or diminish across different decision points. As with the Disparity Index, an RRI of 1 means no disparity exists, and the farther the RRI moves above a value of 1, the greater the disparity. Similar to the earlier sections, we focus on the RRI for black and Hispanic children relative to white children. Below is an example of how the RRI is calculated for black children in NYC involved in Indicated SCR reports.

Race/ Ethnicity	Children in NYC SCR Reports	Children in NYC Indicated Reports	Rate per 1,000 Children Reported
Black	25,239	11,459	454.0
White	4,520	1,627	359.9

Black Relative Rate Index

$$\frac{454.0}{359.9} = 1.3$$

Figure 9: Disparity Index Compared to Relative Rate Index for Involvement in Indicated SCR Reports in New York City and Rest of State 2014
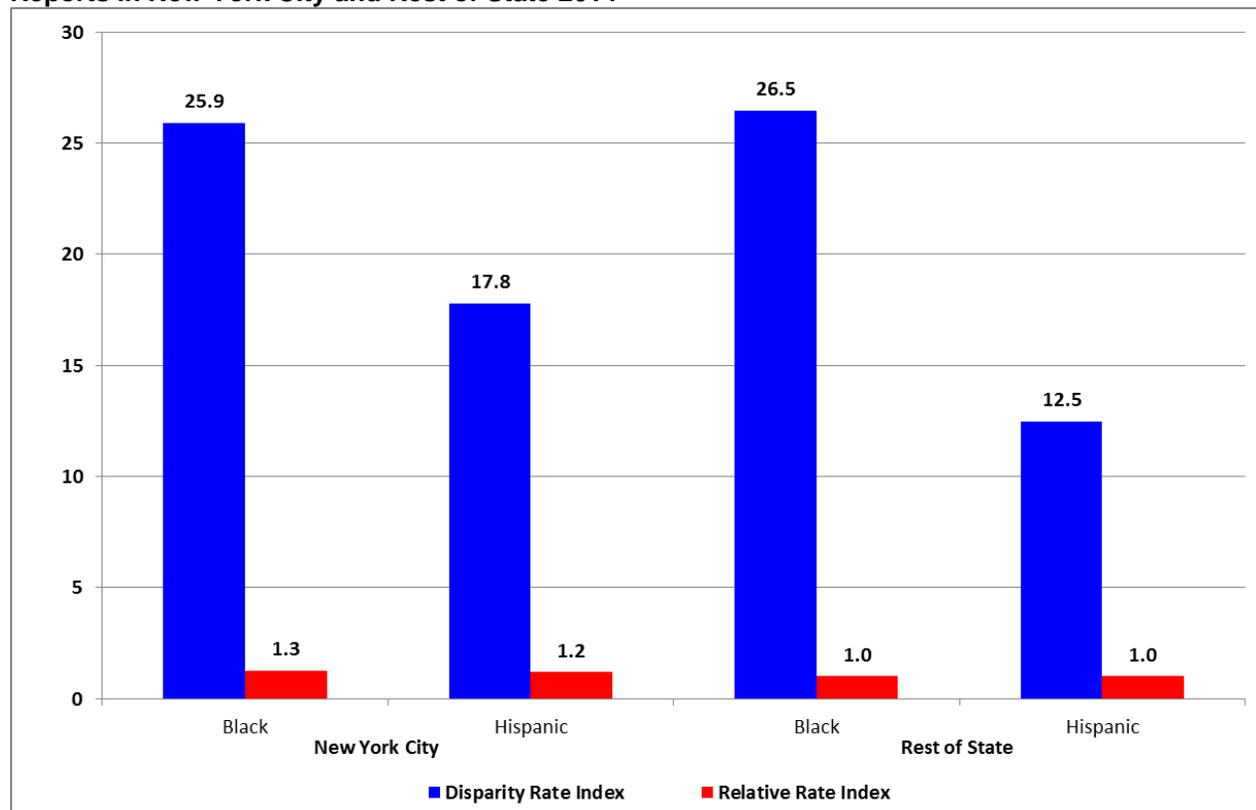
As is shown in Figure 9, the RRI is much lower than the Disparity Index for both black and Hispanic children in NYC. Although black children in NYC are 25.9 times as likely as white children to be indicated (Disparity Index), black children who are reported are only 1.3 times as likely as white children who are reported to be indicated (RRI). Similarly, while Hispanic children in NYC are 17.8 times as likely as white children to be

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indicated, Hispanic children who are reported are 1.2 times as likely as white children who are reported to be indicated. A different pattern is observed in ROS, where the RRI for involvement in indicated reports is 1.0 for both black children and Hispanic children, compared to disparity rates of 26.5 for blacks and 12.5 for Hispanics. Thus, when the rate of involvement in SCR reports is taken into account, Hispanic and black children have about the same likelihood of being indicated relative to white children. In other words, black and Hispanic children are more likely than white children to be indicated primarily because they are more likely than white children to be reported.

Cumulative Time to Discharge

Figures 10 and 11 display the cumulative time to discharge, through reunification or adoption, for all children first admitted to foster care in 2009. The figures reveal distinct patterns for NYC and ROS. In both NYC and ROS, the cumulative proportion discharged from foster care over time is significantly higher for white children compared to black children (Figure 11). This indicates that white children were typically discharged earlier from foster care than black children. In contrast, the difference between white and Hispanic children varies by location. For NYC, discharge pattern for Hispanic children is similar to that for white children, while for ROS that for Hispanic children is similar to that for black children in ROS. This means that white children spend less time in foster care than their black counterparts in NYC, and less time in foster care compared to Hispanic and black children in ROS.

Figure 10: New York City – Cumulative Proportion of Children Discharged to Reunification or Adoption over Time for Calendar Year 2009 First Admission Cohort
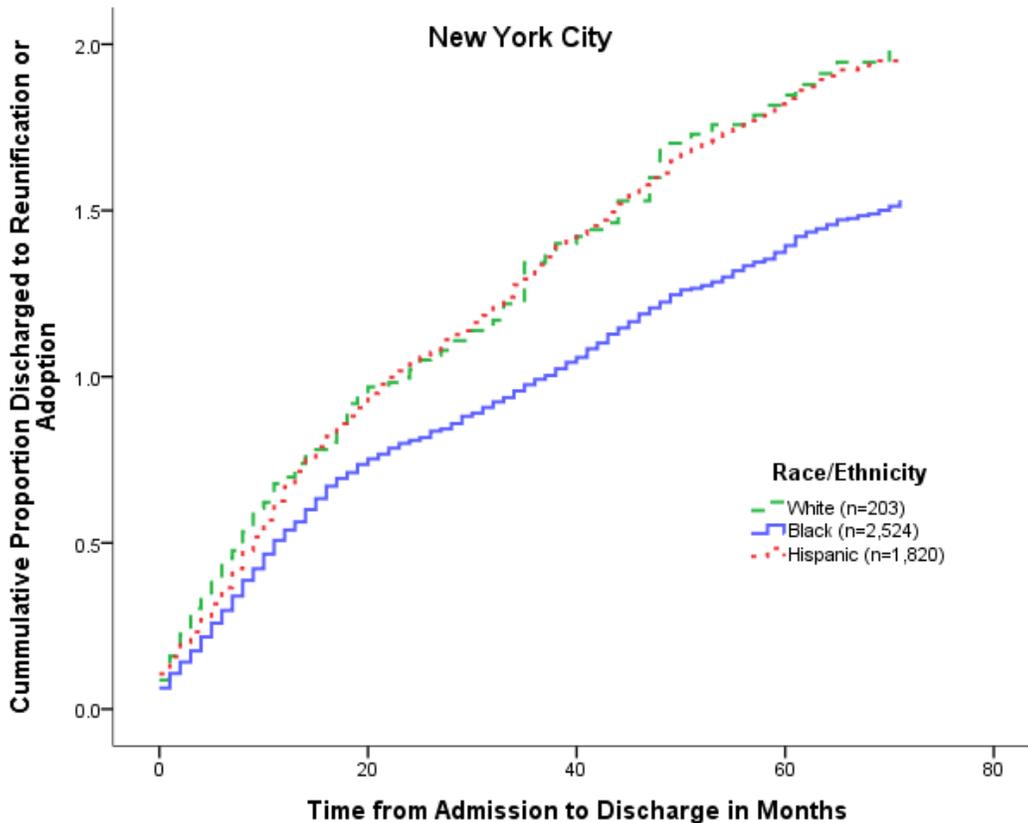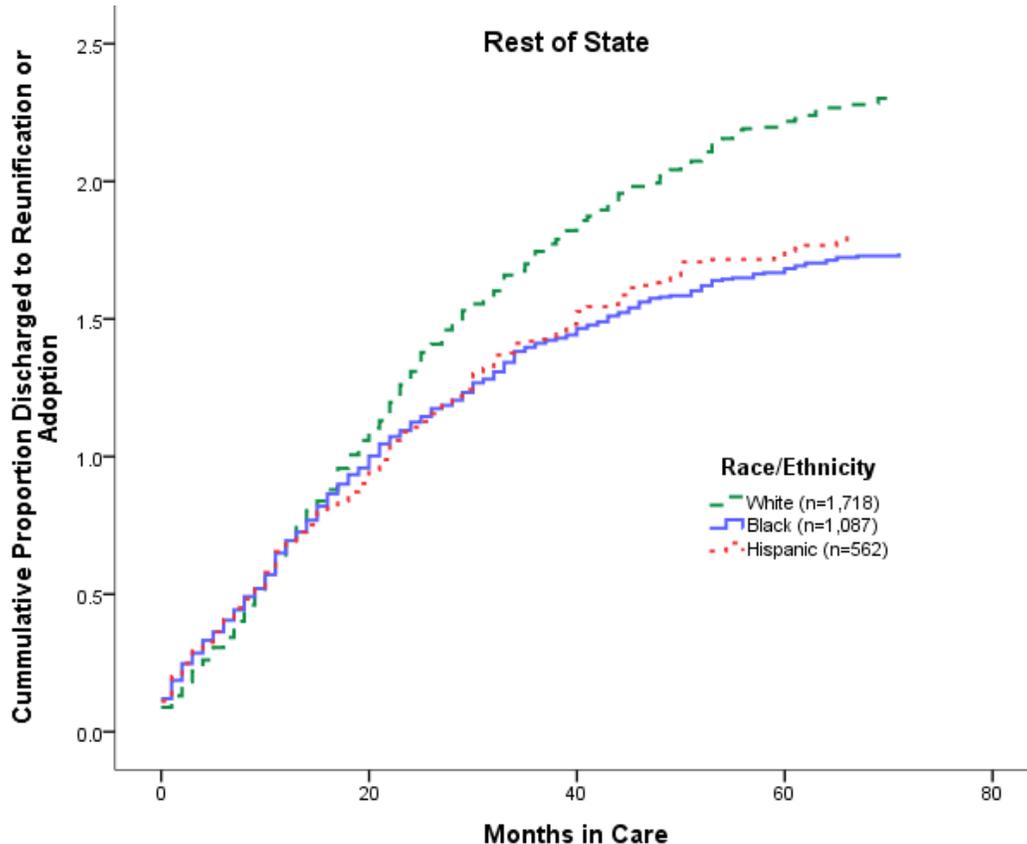

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Figure 11: Rest of State – Cumulative Proportion of Children Discharged to Reunification or Adoption over Time for Calendar Year 2009 First Admission Cohort

Summary
In both NYC and ROS, black children have higher rates of involvement in each stage of the child welfare system than white children, and disparity rates for black children are substantially higher at the foster care stage than at the investigation stage of the system. Disparity rates for black children at both the investigation and foster care stages are more pronounced in NYC than in ROS. Black children admitted to foster care in both NYC and ROS spend more time in care compared to white children. Hispanic children experience lower disparity rates at each stage of the system than black children, in both NYC and ROS. Disparity for Hispanic children is substantially higher in NYC than in ROS, where it is virtually non-existent. However, for time to discharge from foster care, there is no difference between Hispanic and white children in NYC but there is in ROS, where white youth spend less time in foster care than Hispanic youth.

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Child Welfare Data Definitions and Sources

Unique children
A child who was named in more than one SCR report or indicated SCR report, who entered foster care more than once, or who was in foster care multiple times during a calendar year was counted only once for each decision point.

Definition of Indicators
Reports: These are unique children under 18 years of age who were named in an SCR report that was accepted during a given calendar year. Age utilized is the child's age at the time the report was made.
Indications: These are unique children under 18 years of age who were determined to be abused or maltreated in an SCR report that was indicated during a given calendar year. The information was based on whether the determination was made during the calendar year of interest, which may not be the same year the report was made to the SCR. Age utilized is the child's age at the time the report was made. Only children who were determined to be abused or maltreated in an indicated SCR report are included; children who are named in an indicated SCR report but who were not determined to have been abused or maltreated are excluded.
Foster care entries: These are unique children under 18 years of age who entered foster care during a given calendar year. Age utilized is the child's age at the time the child entered foster care. 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 who were in foster care on the last day of a given calendar year. Age utilized is the child's age on December 31st of the given year. 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 foster care.

Race/Ethnicity Definition and Data Sources
Woods & Poole Economics Inc. Race/ethnicity data for the population was obtained from Woods and Poole Economics Inc., which provides population estimates for 2014 in the following race/ethnicity categories in one data element (5 mutually exclusive categories): black, white, Hispanic, Native American/Alaska Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander.

CONNECTIONS Database: The information on children named in an SCR report, children named in an indicated SCR report, foster care entry and children in foster care was obtained from CONNECTIONS. In CONNECTIONS, race/ethnicity data was available as two separate data elements – a race element and a separate ethnicity element. Thus, unlike with the Woods and Poole source, these two data elements had to be combined to construct mutually exclusive race/ethnicity categories. Furthermore, CONNECTIONS includes two other options –multiple and unknown-- in the race element. If a child was identified as Hispanic in the ethnicity category, regardless of the 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, or unknown.

Child Care Review Service (CCRS): System of record for foster care was CCRS prior to January 2014, while race/ethnicity was collected in CCRS. Consequently, if race/ethnicity was missing for a children in Connections, that it CCRS was utilized. Similar to CONNECTIONS, CCRS race/ethnicity data was available as two separate data elements and, thus, had to be combined to construct mutually exclusive race and ethnicity categories. CCRS contains 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 the 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, or unknown

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DMR in the Juvenile Justice System

This section discusses racial/ethnic differences among youth under 16 years of age who were involved in the juvenile justice system. The decision points within the juvenile justice system that are examined here are arrest, detention, admission, in care, and time to release. Detention data include all youth in secure and non-secure detention in ROS and NYC. Admission and in care data include both youth adjudicated as juvenile delinquents (JDs) and juvenile offenders (JOs) placed with OCFS and admitted either to OCFS facilities or voluntary agencies. The data does not include JDs who are placed with a local social services department. The analysis of time to release is limited to youth adjudicated as JDs who were admitted to OCFS facilities. It does not include JDs placed with OCFS who were admitted to voluntary agencies. As with the child welfare system, DMR within the juvenile justice system is examined using the following measures: (a) racial/ethnic distribution of youth at different decision points in the juvenile justice system; (b) rate per 1,000 youth at various decision points; (c) Disparity Index; (d) Relative Rate Index; and (e) cumulative time to release for JDs that were admitted to an OCFS facility in a given year. The following sections provide an overview of racial/ethnic differences of youth in both NYC and ROS.

Involvement at Various Decision Points in the Juvenile Justice System by Race/Ethnicity

There are differences in how black and Hispanic youth are represented in the juvenile justice system. Overall, black youth make up a substantially higher percentage of the juvenile justice population than their share of the general population of youth less than 16 years of age (Figures 12 and 13). This situation exists in both NYC and in ROS and is evident at various stages of the juvenile justice system. The pattern for Hispanic youth, however, differs considerably for NYC and ROS. In NYC, the percentage of Hispanic youth represented at each decision point examined is similar to that of the general population, with the exception of youth in detention and the voluntary agency in care population (Figure 12). In contrast, the proportion of Hispanic youth in ROS is substantially higher at the detention decision point than the percent they represent in the general population and is slightly higher or about the same for most other system points (Figure 13). In ROS, Hispanic youth accounted for 14.9% of the population, while among those in OCFS custody, Hispanic youth accounted for 13.8% of youth in OCFS facilities and 17.2% of OCFS youth in voluntary agencies; however, Hispanic youth in ROS accounted for 30.2% of all detention admissions and only 10.2% of arrests for youth ages 10 to 15 years of age.

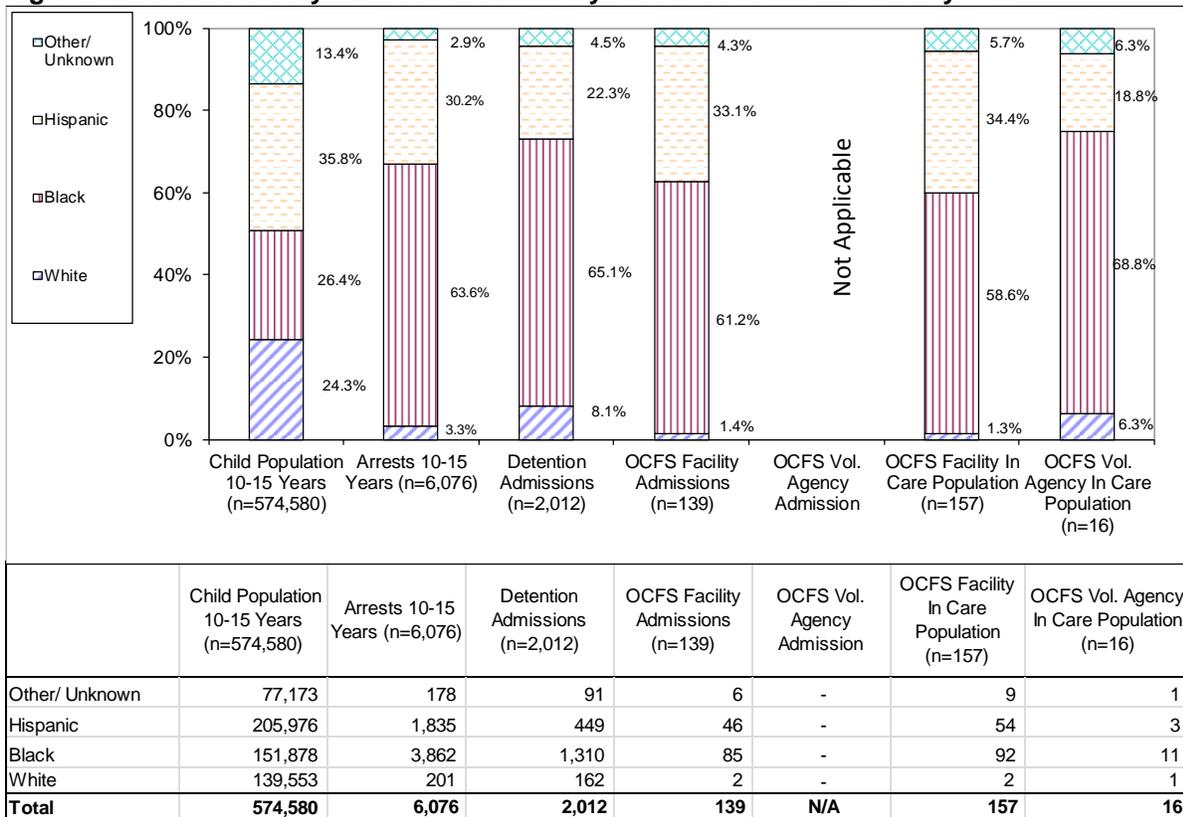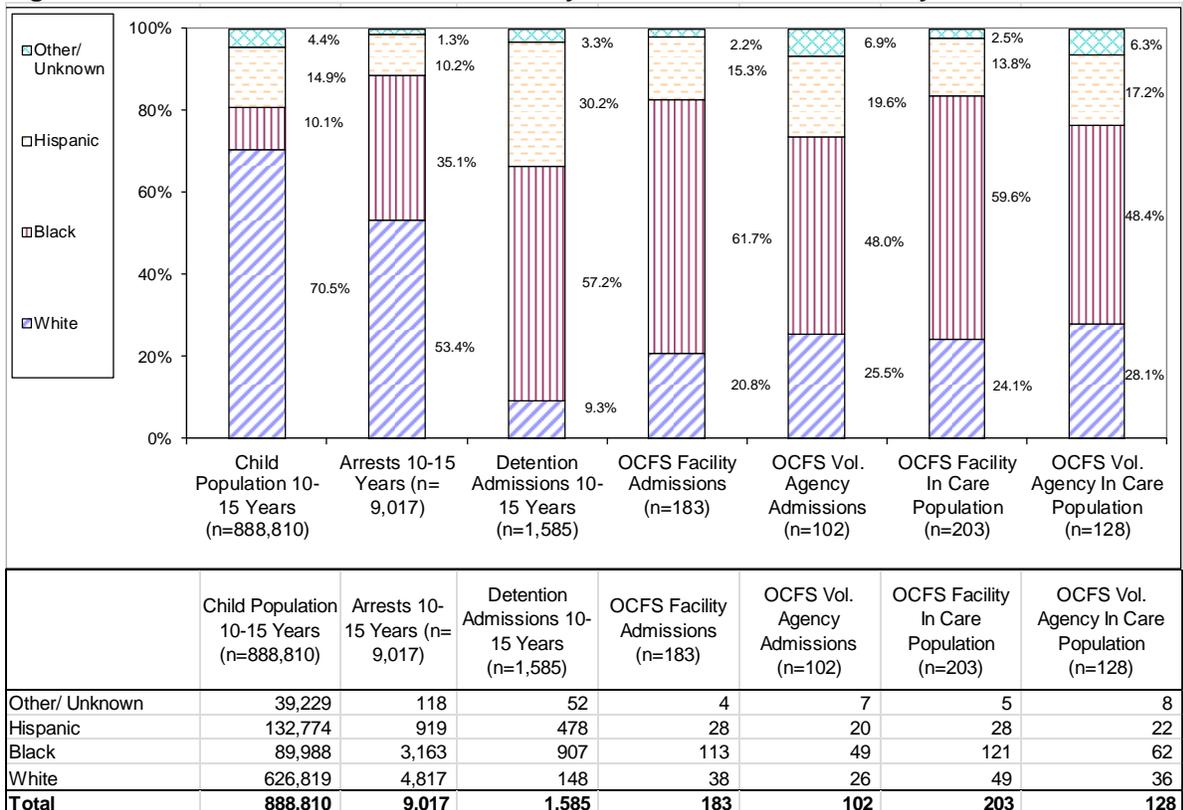**Figure 12: New York City – 2014 Race/Ethnicity and the Juvenile Justice System**

	Child Population 10-15 Years (n=574,580)	Arrests 10-15 Years (n=6,076)	Detention Admissions (n=2,012)	OCFS Facility Admissions (n=139)	OCFS Vol. Agency Admission	OCFS Facility In Care Population (n=157)	OCFS Vol. Agency In Care Population (n=16)
Other/ Unknown	77,173	178	91	6	-	9	1
Hispanic	205,976	1,835	449	46	-	54	3
Black	151,878	3,862	1,310	85	-	92	11
White	139,553	201	162	2	-	2	1
Total	**574,580**	**6,076**	**2,012**	**139**	**N/A**	**157**	**16**

Figure 13: Rest of State – 2014 Race/Ethnicity and the Juvenile Justice System

	Child Population 10-15 Years (n=888,810)	Arrests 10-15 Years (n= 9,017)	Detention Admissions 10-15 Years (n=1,585)	OCFS Facility Admissions (n=183)	OCFS Vol. Agency Admissions (n=102)	OCFS Facility In Care Population (n=203)	OCFS Vol. Agency In Care Population (n=128)
Other/ Unknown	39,229	118	52	4	7	5	8
Hispanic	132,774	919	478	28	20	28	22
Black	89,988	3,163	907	113	49	121	62
White	626,819	4,817	148	38	26	49	36
Total	**888,810**	**9,017**	**1,585**	**183**	**102**	**203**	**128**

Rate per 1,000 Youth in the Population

The rate per 1,000 youth under age 16 in the population also indicates that black youth in both NYC and ROS are disproportionately represented at various stages of the juvenile justice system (Figures 14 and 15). Overall, black youth are more likely than Hispanic youth, and Hispanic youth are more likely than white youth, to be arrested, admitted to detention, admitted to OCFS facilities or voluntary agencies, and in care at OCFS facilities or voluntary agencies.

Figure 14: New York City 2014 – Rate of Youth Arrested, Admitted to Detention, Placed With OCFS, and In Care per 1,000 Youth < 16 in Population

Note: "OCFS Voluntary Agency Admisisons" has been omitted from this graph, as there are no NYC youth in that category due to the Close to Home Initiative.
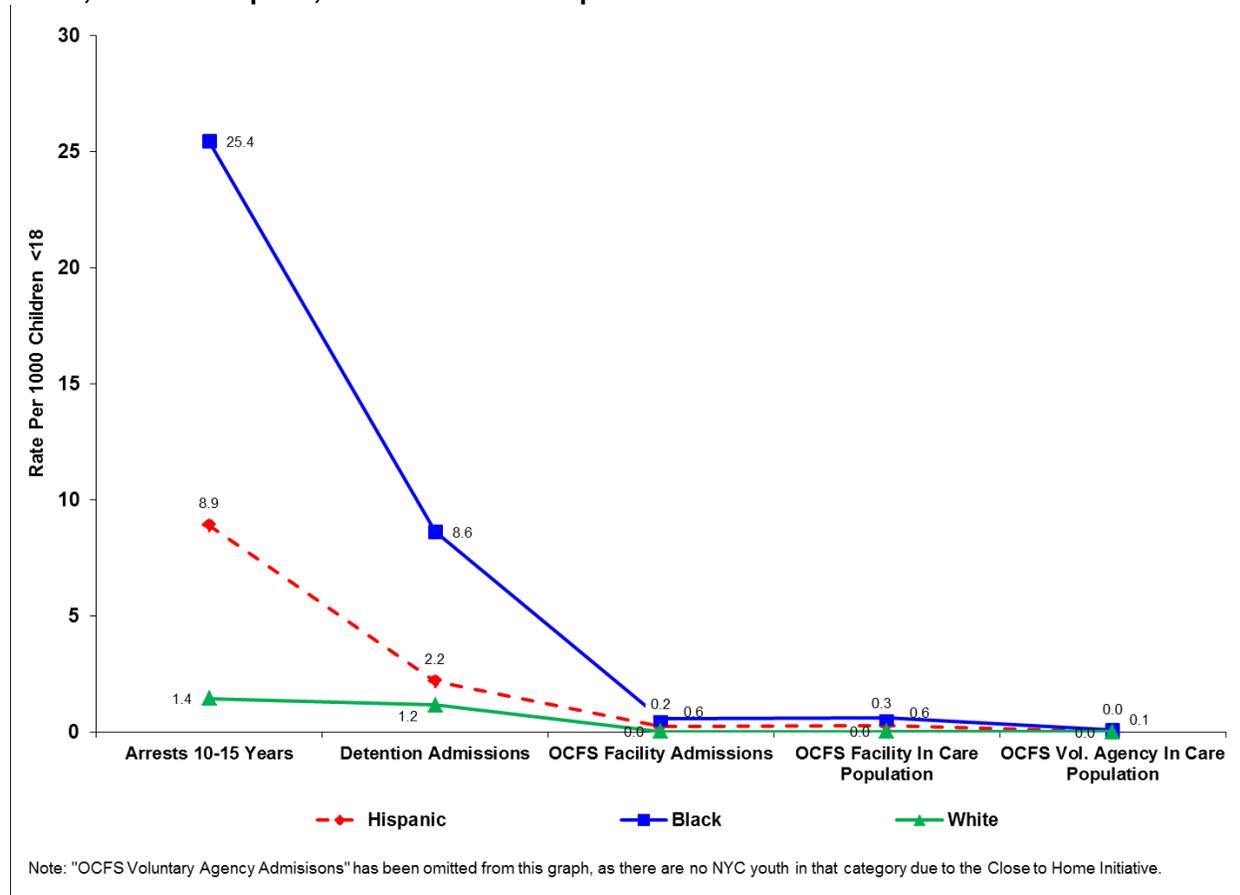
Figure 15: Rest of State 2014 – Rate of Youth Arrested, Admitted to Detention, Placed With OCFS, and In Care per 1,000 Youth < 16 in Population
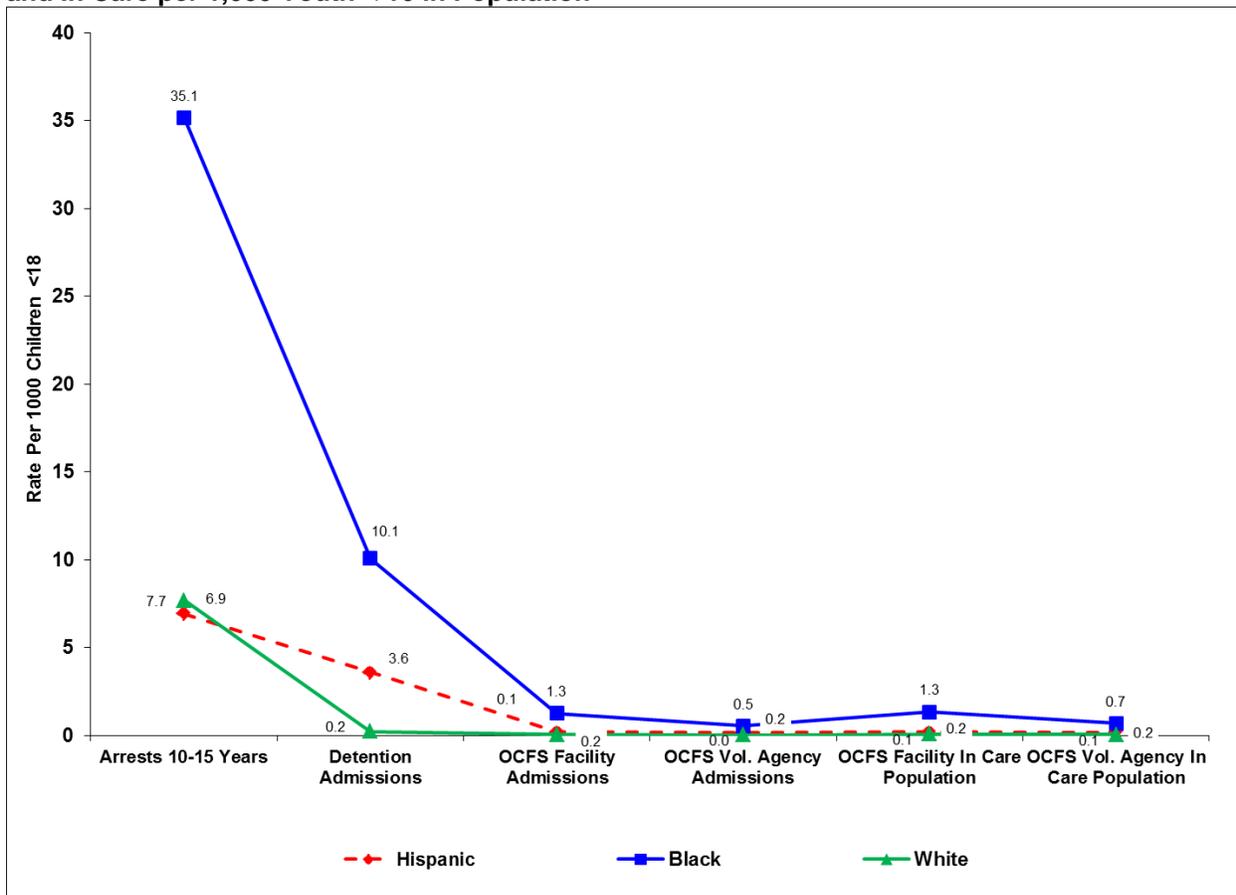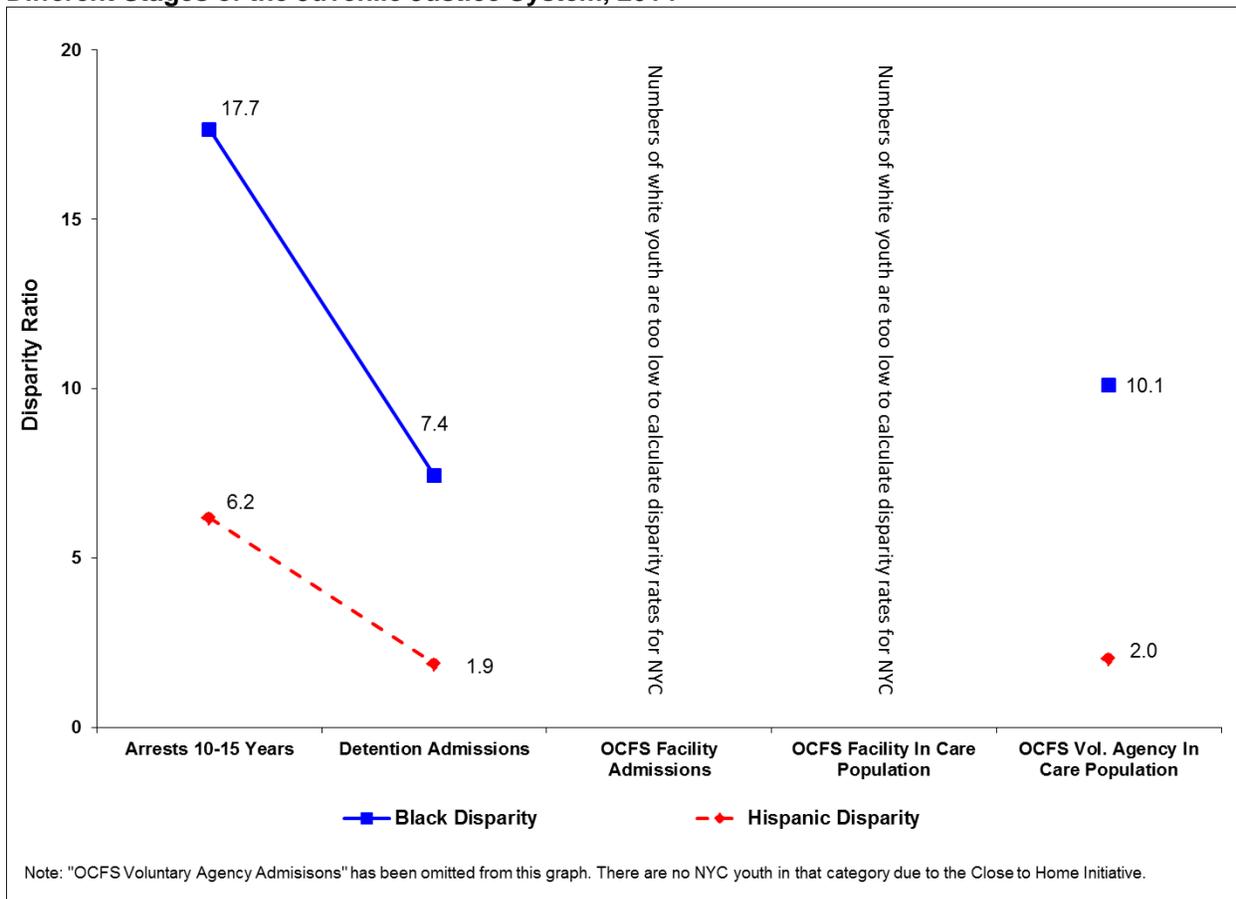

Disparity Index

As was discussed in the section on child welfare, the Disparity Index represents the ratio of the rate per 1,000 for black or Hispanic youth within any given decision point of the system to the rate per 1,000 for white youth at that same decision point. Data in the following section are presented for black and Hispanic youth as compared to white youth, and for NYC and ROS.

In NYC, disparity indices could not be calculated for admissions and in care populations given the small number of white youth in these stages. For arrest and detention where it was calculated, rates are very high for both black and Hispanic youth in the juvenile justice system, but are more pronounced for black youth (Figure 16). For black youth in NYC, disparity indices were a low of 7.4 for detentions to a high of 17.7 for detention. Disparity indices for Hispanic youth in NYC were a low of 1.9, also for detentions, to a high of 6.2 for arrests.

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Figure 16: New York City – Disparity Indices for Black and Hispanic Youth (Versus White Youth) at Different Stages of the Juvenile Justice System, 2014

The disparity indices for black and Hispanic youth in ROS are high in all decision points in the juvenile justice system is more pronounced for black youth (Figure 17). Only exception was arrests for Hispanic youth. Most pronounced difference between black and Hispanic youth is in detention admissions where disparity rate for black youth was 42.7 compared to 15.2 for Hispanic youth.

Figure 17: Rest of State - Disparity Indices for Black and Hispanic Youth (Versus White Youth) at Different Stages of Juvenile Justice System, 2014
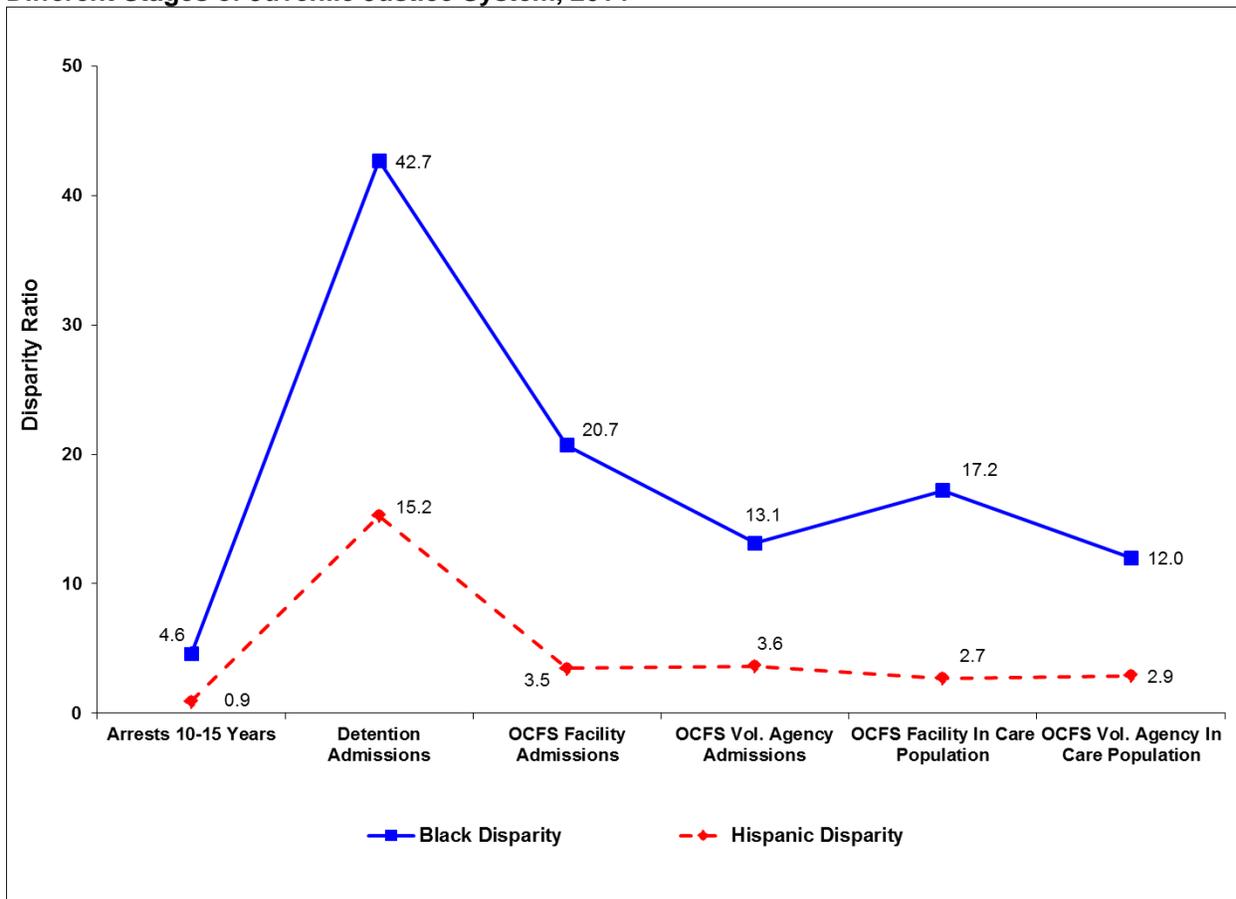

Relative Rate Index

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 youth relative to white youth. An example of how this is calculated was demonstrated previously in the child welfare discussion.

Figure 18 presents the RRI and disparity indices for ROS for youth admitted to OCFS facilities and that for NYC is not calculated given the small number of white youth. The relevant previous stage for the RRI is arrest[2]. The RRI is much lower than the Disparity Index for black youth in ROS. Black youth in ROS are 20.7 times as likely as white youth to be admitted to OCFS facilities; black youth who are arrested are 4.5 times as likely as white youth who are arrested to be admitted to OCFS facilities. For Hispanic youth, both the disparity rate is RRI is about the same. This is primarily due to differences in the rate of arrest per 1,000 children for Hispanic and black children. For Hispanic children (figure 15) there were 7.7 arrests per 1,000 children while that was much higher at 35.1 per 1,000 for black children.

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[2] Detention is not an appropriate previous stage given that some children in detention are not waiting adjudication/petitions such as those that have run away from a placement. In addition, some children who will eventually be placed in a residential facility do not spend time in detention.

Figure 18: Rest of State Disparity Index and Relative Rate Index for 2014 OCFS Admissions
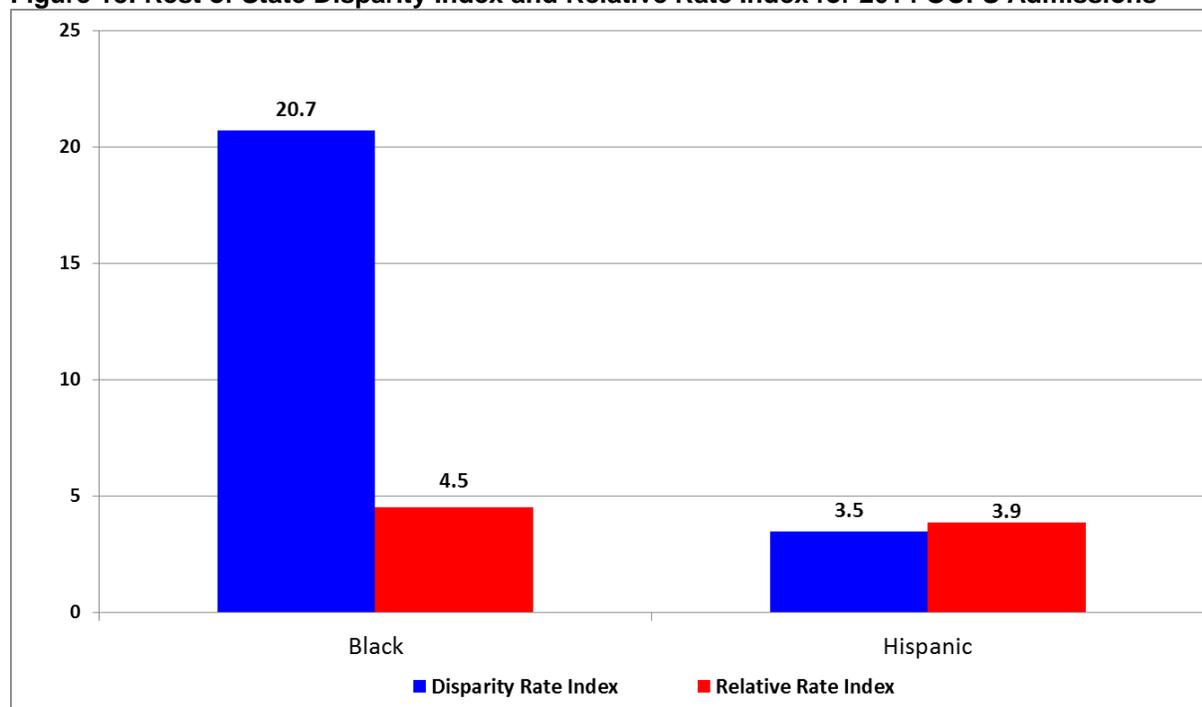

While disparity indices are substantially lower for Hispanic youth than black youth, the Hispanic RRI is similar to the black RRI for OCFS facility admissions in Rest of State. That is, when the rate of arrest is taken into account, Hispanic youth have about the same likelihood as black youth of being placed with OCFS and admitted to an OCFS facility, relative to white youth.

What does the RRI tell us? Compared to white youth, a large portion of the disparity in the rate at which black and Hispanic youth in custody are admitted to OCFS facilities and voluntary agencies is introduced at point of arrest. That is, black and Hispanic youth are far more likely than whites to be arrested, and therefore, more likely to be placed with OCFS. However, even when the higher arrest rates for black and Hispanic youth are considered, black and Hispanic youth still have a noticeably higher likelihood of being admitted to OCFS facilities and voluntary agencies than white youth. This indicates that some disparity continues to occur later in the process, such as at adjudication or sentencing.

**Cumulative Time to Community Release**
Figures 19 and 20 show the length of time from admission to an OCFS facility to release to the community for youth adjudicated as JDs and admitted to an OCFS facility in 2013. In both, NYC black JDs spent significantly less time in OCFS facilities compared to Hispanic JDs and the number of white JDs was too small to make any comparisons. In ROS, black and Hispanic JDs spent about the same amount of time in OCFS facilities as white JDs. However, after about a year, black JDs seem to be discharged quicker as compared to white JDs.

Figure 19: New York City – Juvenile Delinquents Admitted to OCFS Custody in Calendar Year 2013: Cumulative Proportion Released to Community over Time
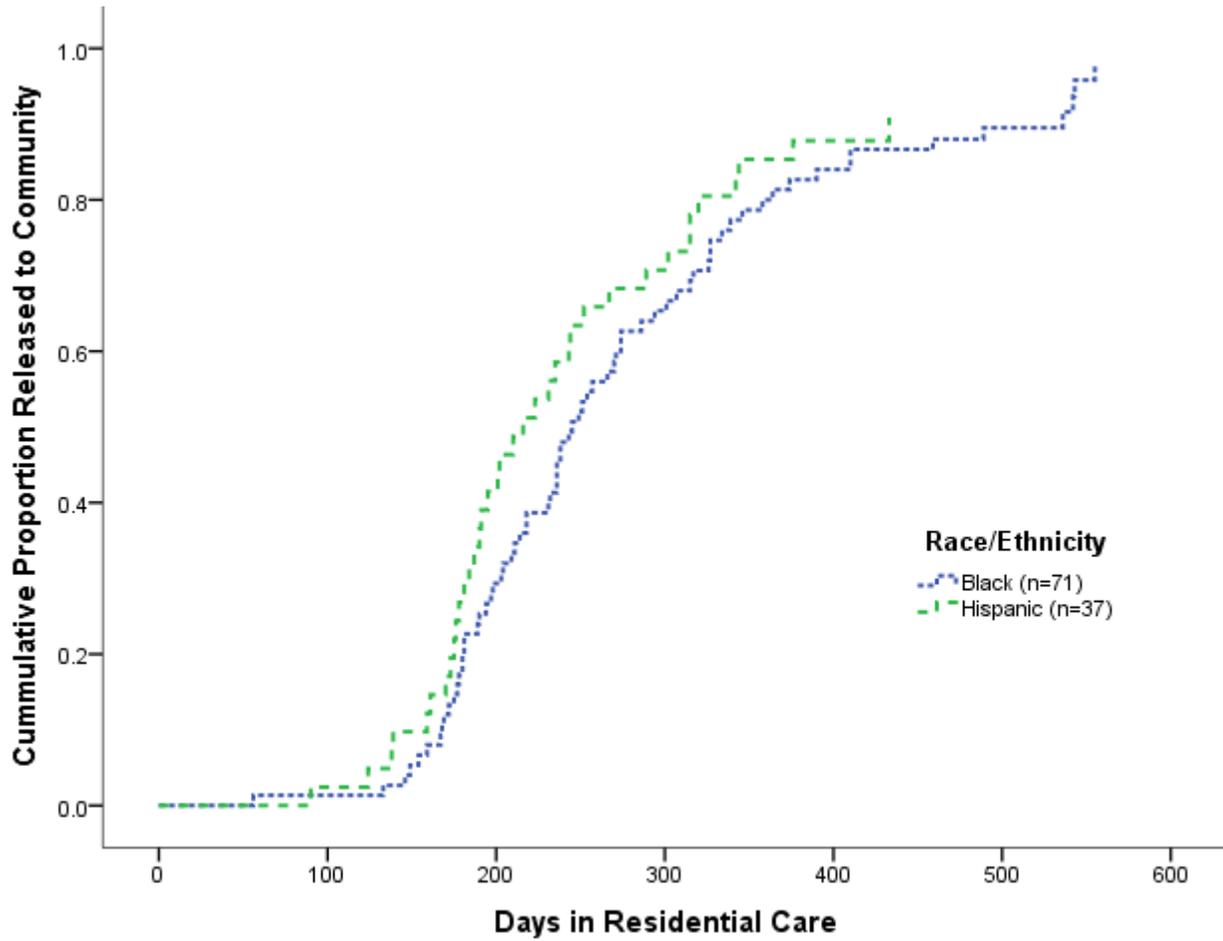
Note: The "White" category (n=1) has been omitted from this graph.

Figure 20: Rest of State – Juvenile Delinquents Admitted to OCFS Custody in Calendar Year 2013: Cumulative Proportion Released to Community over Time
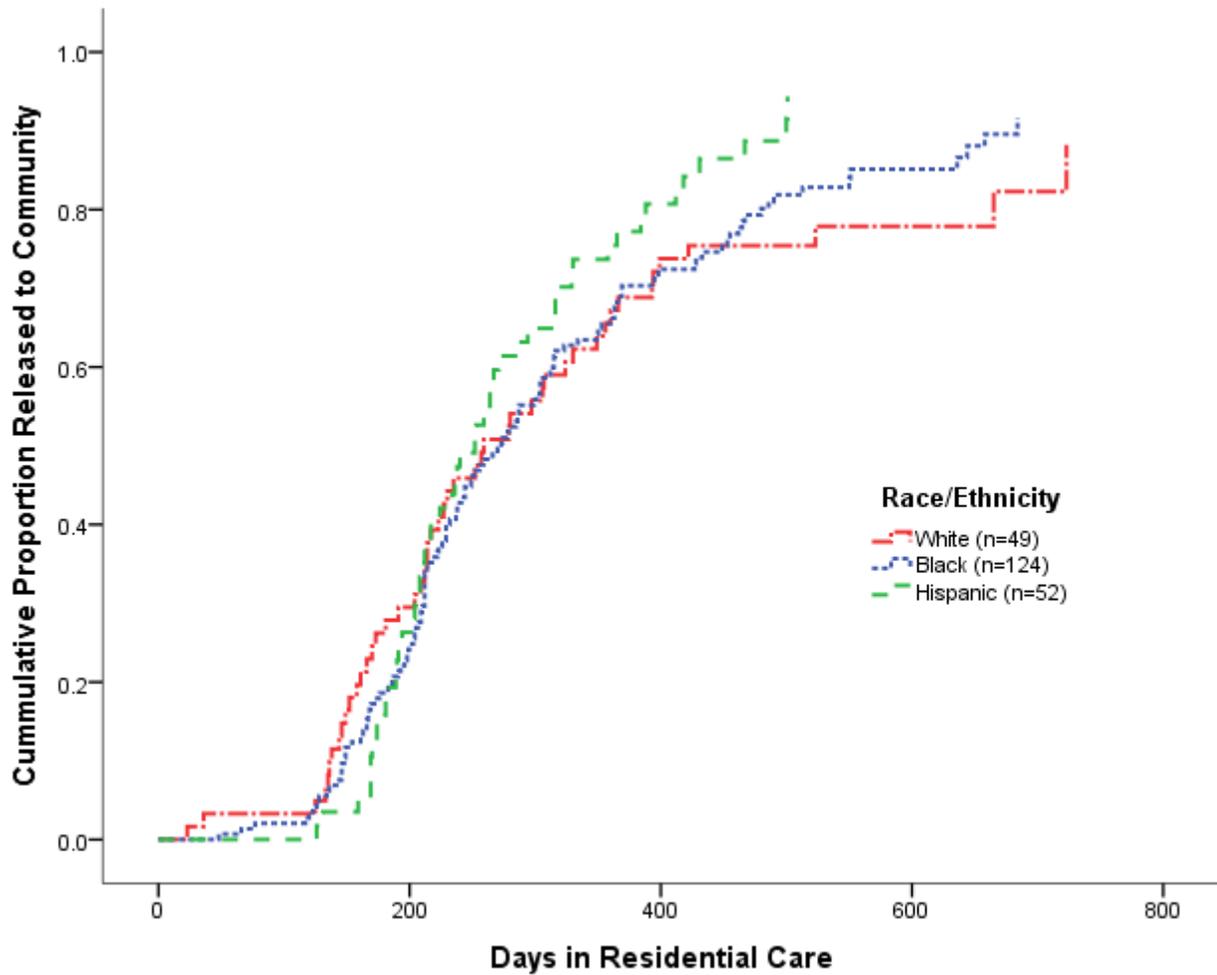
Summary

Both black youth and Hispanic youth experience high rates of disparity at every stage of the juvenile justice system with the exception of length of stay in residential care, in NYC as well as ROS. Disparity rates could not be calculated for admission and in care populations given the low number of white youth in those stages. Disparity rates are more pronounced for black youth than for Hispanic youth and for NYC (where calculated) than for ROS.

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Juvenile Justice Data Definitions and Sources

Unique youth

A youth who was admitted to detention, placed with OCFS or was admitted to an OCFS facility or voluntary agency multiple times during a calendar year was counted only once (unique youth). Arrests are an exception; if a youth was arrested multiple times, each arrest was counted.

Definition of Indicators

Arrests: Arrests are for youth aged 10 to 15. Each arrest of a youth during calendar year 2014 was counted and is not a unique youth.

Detentions: These are detentions for all unique youth aged 10 to 15 years admitted to detention during calendar year 2014. Detention information includes youth held in secure and non-secure detention facilities prior to disposition, youth held in secure and non-secure detention awaiting placement following a court disposition, and youth that were picked up on an absent without leave (AWOL) warrant awaiting residential placement.

OCFS placements (admitted to OCFS or voluntary agencies): These are all unique youth adjudicated as juvenile delinquents (JDs) or juvenile offenders (JOs) placed with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and admitted either to OCFS facilities or voluntary agencies during calendar year 2014.

In OCFS Care (OCFS or voluntary agencies): These are all unique youth adjudicated as JDs or JOs placed with OCFS and who were in care either at OCFS facilities or voluntary agencies on December 31, 2014.

Race/Ethnicity Definition and Data Sources

Woods & Poole Economics Inc. Race/ethnicity data for the population was obtained from Woods and Poole Economics Inc., which provides population estimates for 2014 in the following race/ethnicity categories in one data element (5 mutually exclusive categories): black, white, Hispanic, Native American/Alaska Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander.

New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS): Arrest data was provided by the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).

New York State Juvenile Detention Admission System (JDAS): Detention data for was extracted from the New York State Juvenile Detention Admission System (JDAS) maintained by OCFS. In JDAS, race/ethnicity data was available as two separate data elements – a race element and a separate ethnicity element. Thus, these two data elements were combined to construct mutually exclusive race/ethnicity categories. If a youth was identified as Hispanic in the ethnicity category, regardless of the race category, then the youth was classified as Hispanic. Other race categories were classified as black, white and other. JDAS facilitated a unique count of youth in detention in ROS.

New York State Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS): Data on youth placements with OCFS was extracted from New York State Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) maintained by OCFS. As with JDAS, race/ethnicity data was available as two separate data elements – a race element and a separate ethnicity element. Thus, these two data elements were combined to construct mutually exclusive race/ethnicity categories. If a youth was identified as Hispanic in the ethnicity category, regardless of the race category, then the youth was classified as Hispanic. Other race categories were classified as black, white and other.

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