



# Racial Disparities Report

FACT SHEET | 2021

Identify Racial Disparities and Inequities in the Child Welfare System

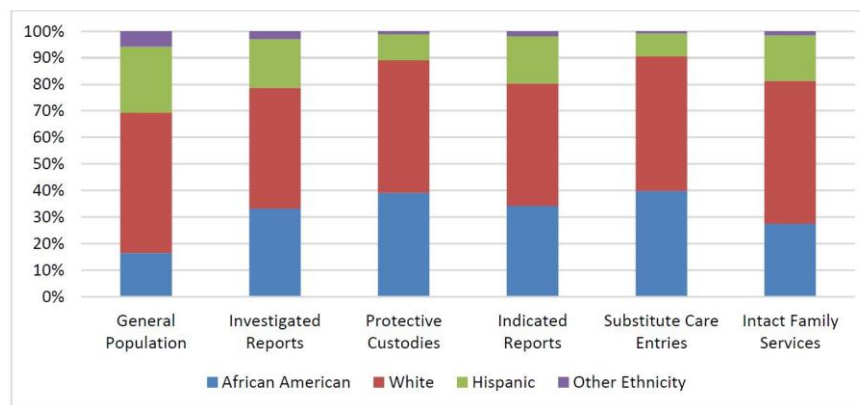
## Program Background & Facts

Racial disparities and inequities are present throughout the child welfare system. These disparities impact the services, treatment, and, ultimately, the outcomes of families of color in the Illinois' child welfare system. The purpose of this system is to promote safety and harm reduction. However, a system that is plagued by disparities and inequities can promote a significant amount of harm.

This legislation would require the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to produce an **annual report and analysis** of the following data, **disaggregated by race and ethnicity**, for children and families involved in the child welfare system:

- ⇒ Educational Success
- ⇒ Health
- ⇒ Housing
- ⇒ Jobs or Economic Justice
- ⇒ Criminal Justice
- ⇒ Those in a Safety Plan
- ⇒ Instances where DCFS took protective custody
- ⇒ Investigations of each allegation of abuse and neglect
- ⇒ Findings of such investigations
- ⇒ Number of court cases DCFS recommended to be filed in court for each allegation type
- ⇒ Other key metrics that serve as indicators of child and family well-being

Racial Distributions of Children by Child Welfare Decision Points<sup>1</sup>



## Problem & Solution

Racial disparities and inequities are present throughout the Illinois' child welfare system. The initial report will serve as a baseline and then year-over a year analysis will allow us to examine progress toward eliminating racial disparities.



### CALL TO ACTION

Support **HB2914/SB2406** which would require DCFS to produce an annual report and analysis of those impacted by the child welfare system in Illinois with data disaggregated by race and ethnicity.

<sup>1</sup> [https://cfr.illinois.edu/pubs/rp\\_20201022\\_RacialDisproportionalityInTheIllinoisChildWelfareSystem.pdf](https://cfr.illinois.edu/pubs/rp_20201022_RacialDisproportionalityInTheIllinoisChildWelfareSystem.pdf)



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