



BIAS-FREE CHILD REMOVAL PILOT

FACT SHEET | 2022

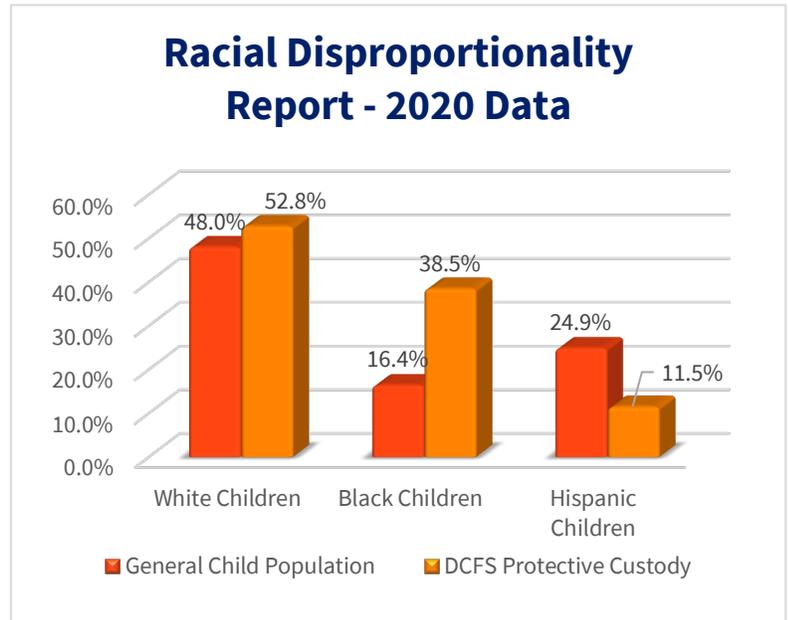
Addressing racial disproportionality in the child welfare system

Program Background & Facts

Removing a child from their family is a traumatic incident for everyone involved in the incident, not only for the child, but also for the parent(s) and any other family members. In Illinois, black children are disproportionately represented in the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) child welfare system.

By implementing a Bias-Free Child Removal strategy, Illinois can reduce biased decision making in the removal process, whether implicit or explicit. This legislation will require:

- ⇒ Establishing a diverse steering committee responsible for successful implementation of the pilot program.
- ⇒ Initiating a 3-year pilot in DCFS Field Offices located in Cook County, Champaign County, and St. Clair County
- ⇒ Creating a Bias-Free Case Review Team to review investigations
 - Removing name, race, socioeconomic status, education level of parents, address, and in certain cases, religion, ethnicity, and sexual orientation, is removed.
 - Focusing on evidence, safety factors, risk elements, and family strengths.



*According to [Racial Disproportionality Report](#) by the University of Illinois' Children and Family Research Center, 2021

Solution

Implementation of a 3-year, Bias-Free Child Removal pilot program in Cook County, Champaign County, and St. Clair County, for the **purpose of addressing racial disproportionality in the child welfare system**. This will begin the work of identifying and reducing biased decision-making in the child removal process. DCFS will be **required to submit an annual evaluation of the pilot** programs' effectiveness to the Illinois General Assembly.



CALL TO ACTION

Support **SB3720/HB4299**, which reduces biased decision-making in the child removal process.



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