

USA: Nation-At-A-Glance

General Overview of African American Child Welfare Dynamics and Outcomes

- In 2009, there were approximately 11.25 million African American children in the United States. Approximately 128,000 African American children were in out-of-home care (foster care) at the end of Fiscal Year 2009.
- While African American children comprised just over 15% of this nation's child population in 2009, they accounted for approximately 30% of children in out-of-home care (foster care).
- Approximately 14,000 African American children were adopted from foster care in Fiscal Year 2009, accounting for approximately 25% of this nation's public agency adoptions.
- Just under 34,000 African American children were waiting to be adopted at the end of Fiscal Year 2009, accounting for approximately 30% of this nation's "waiting children."

A Summary of Racial Disproportionality and Disparity in the United States of America

- African American children were approximately 2.1 times more likely than Caucasian children to enter out-of-home care during Fiscal Year 2009.
- African American children were approximately 2.8 times more likely than Caucasian children to be in out-of-home care at the end of Fiscal Year 2009.
- In 2009, African American children were approximately 2.1 times more likely than Caucasian children to experience adoption as their permanency outcome as a result of their experience with the foster care system.
- African American children were approximately 2.9 times more likely than Caucasian children to be waiting for adoption at the end of Fiscal Year 2009.

Table 1: General Child Population in 2009

What size was the approximate child population in 2009? ¹

African American		Caucasian		National Total	
Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
11,250,000	15.1%	41,200,000	55.3%	74,500,000	(100%)

Table 2: Child Maltreatment in 2008

How many child maltreatment victims were there in 2008? ²

African American		Caucasian		National Total	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
160,243	21.9%	329,776	45.1%	731,853	(100%)

Table 3: Children Entering Out-of-Home Care During Fiscal Year 2009

How many children entered out-of-home care during Fiscal Year 2009? ³					
African American		Caucasian		State Total	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
64,690	25%	110,933	43%	255,418	(100%)
Racial Disproportionality and Disparity Rates					
African American			Caucasian		
(A) % in Pop.	(B) % Entering	(C) Disprop. Rate = (B) / (A)	(A) % in Pop.	(B) % Entering	(C) Disprop. Rate = (B) / (A)
15.1%	25%	1.66	55.3%	43%	0.78
<i>Moderate Over Representation</i>			<i>Under Representation</i>		
Disparity Rate = AA Disproportionality Rate / Caucasian Disproportionality Rate = 1.66 / 0.78 African American—Caucasian Disparity Rate = 2.13 (Moderate Disparity)					

Table 4: Children Exiting Out-of-Home Care During Fiscal Year 2009

How many children exited out-of-home care during Fiscal Year 2009? ³					
African American		Caucasian		National Total	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
74,264	27%	118,422	43%	276,266	(100%)

Table 5: Children in Out of Home Care at End of Fiscal Year 2009

How many children were in out-of-home care at the end of Fiscal Year 2009? ³					
African American		Caucasian		National Total	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
127,821	30%	167,235	40%	423,773	(100%)
Racial Disproportionality and Disparity Rates					
African American			Caucasian		
(A) % in Pop.	(B) % in Care	(C) Disprop. Rate = (B) / (A)	(A) % in Pop.	(B) % in Care	(C) Disprop. Rate = (B) / (A)
15.1%	30%	1.99	55.3%	40%	0.72
<i>Moderate Over Representation</i>			<i>Under Representation</i>		
Disparity Rate = AA Disproportionality Rate / Caucasian Disproportionality Rate = 1.99 / 0.72 African American—Caucasian Disparity Rate = 2.76 (High Disparity)					

Table 6: Children Adopted During Fiscal Year 2009					
How many children were adopted from the public child welfare system during Fiscal Year 2009? ³					
African American		Caucasian		State Total	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
14,211	25%	25,418	44%	57,466	(100%)
Racial Disproportionality and Disparity Rates					
African American			Caucasian		
(A) % in Pop.	(B) % Adopted	(C) Disprop. Rate = (B) / (A)	(A) % in Pop.	(B) % Adopted	(C) Disprop. Rate = (B) / (A)
15.1%	25%	1.66	55.3%	44%	0.80
<i>Moderate Over Representation</i>			<i>Under Representation</i>		
Disparity Rate = AA Disproportionality Rate / Caucasian Disproportionality Rate = 1.66 / 0.80 African American—Caucasian Disparity Rate = 2.08 (Moderate Disparity)					

Table 7: Children Waiting to be Adopted at End of Fiscal Year 2009					
How many children were waiting to be adopted from the public child welfare system at the end of Fiscal Year 2009? ³					
African American		Caucasian		National Total	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
34,088	30%	43,918	38%	114,556	(100%)
Racial Disproportionality and Disparity Rates					
African American			Caucasian		
(A) % in Pop.	(B) % Waiting	(C) Disprop. Rate = (B) / (A)	(A) % in Pop.	(B) % Waiting	(C) Disprop. Rate = (B) / (A)
15.1%	30%	1.99	55.3%	38%	0.69
<i>Moderate Over Representation</i>			<i>Under Representation</i>		
Disparity Rate = AA Disproportionality Rate / Caucasian Disproportionality Rate = 1.99 / 0.69 African American—Caucasian Disparity Rate = 2.88 (High Disparity)					

Racial Disproportionality and Disparity Rate Information

- **Racial disproportionality** exists when a racial group makes up a proportion of those in an event (e.g. foster care) that is different than that same group's proportion of the comparison population (e.g. children in the country). *Over representation* exists when a racial group makes up a proportion of those in an event that is *greater than* that same group's proportion of the comparison population. *Under representation* exists when a racial group makes up a proportion of those in an event that is *less than* that same group's proportion of the comparison population.
- **Racial disparity** occurs when one racial group's experience with an event (e.g. involvement with the foster care system, adoption, etc.) is different from that of another racial group.
- **Notes about Disproportionality and Disparity Rates:** A Disproportionality Rate of 0.90 - 1.10 indicates that a group of children are represented at a rate *Comparable* to their presence in the total child population. A Disproportionality Rate less than 0.90 indicates that a group of children are *Under Represented* relative to their presence in the total child population, while a disproportionality rate greater than 1.10 indicates that a group of children are *Over Represented* relative to their presence in the total child population. Levels of Over Representation: *Moderate* Over Representation = 1.11 - 2.49; *High* Over Representation = 2.50 - 3.49; *Extreme* Over Representation = 3.50 and Above. A similar classification scheme (moderate, high, extreme) can be used to describe Levels of Disparity. [This approach is similar to that used by Dr. Robert B. Hill in *Overrepresentation of Children of Color in Foster Care in 2000 Working Paper*, prepared for the Race Matters Consortium in March 2005.]
- **Note:** All disproportionality and disparity rate calculations should be interpreted within the context of the size and racial composition of the general population. Use caution when comparing one state to another.

Fact Sheet Data Sources and Information

- **Primary Data Sources:** (1) Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. *America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2010*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. (2) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Administration for Children and Families; Administration on Children, Youth and Families; Children's Bureau. (2010). *Child Maltreatment 2008*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. (3) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Administration for Children and Families; Administration on Children, Youth and Families; Children's Bureau. (2010). *Preliminary Estimates for FY 2009 as of July 2010*. Washington, DC: Children's Bureau.
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