

RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITY in Oregon's Child Welfare System

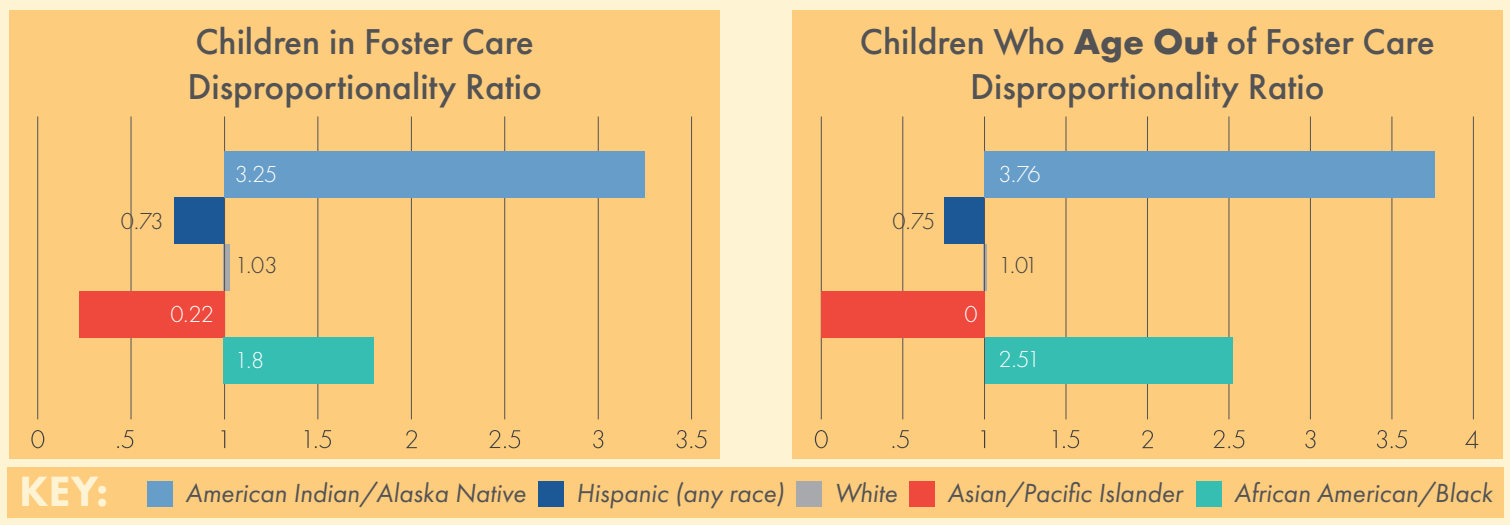
February 8, 2018

WHAT IS DISPROPORTIONALITY?

Racial disproportionality is defined as the overrepresentation of children of color in the child welfare system, compared to their numbers in the population. This is calculated by taking the percentage by race for children served in foster care and dividing it by the percent by race in Oregon's child population. **Values less than 1 mean underrepresentation** and **values greater than 1 mean overrepresentation**.

WHO IS AFFECTED?

DHS's most recent [Child Welfare Data Book](#) and [ROM Reports](#) show that in 2016, African American and Black children as well as American Indian and Alaska Native children were overrepresented in Oregon's foster care population and in the population of children who age out of the system without a family.



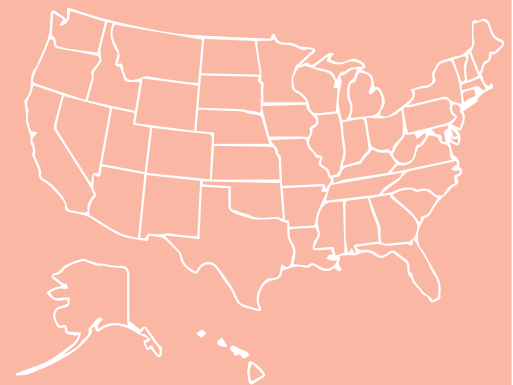
HOW DO WE COMPARE?

Oregon's rates are above the national averages.

According to the [National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#), in 2015 the national foster care disproportionality ratio for African American and Black children was **1.7**, for American Indian and Alaska Native children it was **2.6**.

In fact, Oregon's disproportionality ratio ranks 44th for American Indian and Alaska Native children.*

* Tied with ID



United States Of America by Luissa Iborra from the Noun Project

HOW DO WE FIX IT?



The first policy recommendation of the [Governor's Task Force on Disproportionality in Child Welfare Final Report](#) was to **"transform child welfare from a child rescue system of supports to a preventative and family preservation-based system that leverages community-based resources that are culturally specific to support families."** HB 4009 makes two small changes in the law that bring Oregon closer to this goal.

Family by Oksana Latysheva from the Noun Project

Questions?

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