

**Report for U.S. House of Representatives Committee
on Ways and Means
Sub-Committee on Income Security and Family
Support**

Testimony of Marian S. Harris, Ph.D., ACSW, LICSW

**Co-Chair, Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory
Committee**

July 31, 2008

Washington State Racial Disproportionality Overview

In 2007 the legislature passed **SHB 1472** creating an advisory committee convened by DSHS Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams to report on racial disproportionality in the Child Welfare System by June 1, 2008 and create a remediation plan by December 1, 2008.

This committee is comprised of:

- Five representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Five representatives appointed by the Senate Majority Leader.
- Five representatives appointed by DSHS.

According to the report:

- Racial disproportionality exists in the child welfare system in Washington.
- The greatest disproportionality for children of color occurs when:
 - The initial referral to CPS is made.
 - The decision to remove the child from home is made.
 - A child is in care for over two years.
- In Washington :
 - Indian children are almost three times as likely to be referred to CPS as White children.
 - Black children are almost twice as likely to be referred to CPS as opposed to their White counterparts.
 - Hispanic children are 1.3 times as likely to be referred to CPS as White children.
- The data shows that compared to White children referred to CPS, after referrals:
 - Indian children are:
 - 1.6 times as likely to be removed from home.
 - 2.2 times as likely to remain in care for over two years.
 - Black children are:
 - 1.2 times more likely to be removed from home.
 - 1.5 times more likely to remain in care for over two years.
 - Hispanic children are:
 - No more likely to be removed from home.
 - No more likely to remain in care for over two years.
 - Asian children are:
 - No more likely to be removed from home.
 - Less likely to remain in care for over two years.
- Children from low income families are more likely to be in the Washington State Child Welfare system than children from affluent backgrounds.
- Children of single-parent families are more likely to be in the Washington State Child Welfare System than children from two-parent households.
- Lengths of stay in foster care differ for children of color as compared to White children with:
 - Indian and Black children having less favorable outcomes.
 - Asian and Hispanic children having outcomes similar to White children.

- Once children are referred to CPS certain decisions appear to contribute to disproportionality, including:
 - For Indian children as compared to White children, Indian children are:
 - More likely to be removed from home.
 - Less likely to reunify with parents within two years.
 - Less likely to be adopted within two years.
 - For Black children as compared to White children, Black children are:
 - More likely to have an accepted referral.
 - As likely to reunify with parents within two years.
 - Less likely to be adopted within two years.

June 25, 2008- The Advisory Committee presented the formal committee report to Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams. The Committee and the secretary provided their joint vision for how the Committee will move into the remediation planning phase.

July 2008-November 2008- The Committee will receive recommendations from the regions and statewide community. In conjunction with the secretary, the committee will create the remediation plan.

Executive Summary

In 2007, Substitute House Bill 1472 (SHB 1472) created the Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee to determine if racial disproportionality exists in Washington State.¹ The legislation directed the Committee to answer the following questions:

Racial disproportionality occurs when the population of children of color in any system including the child welfare system is higher than the population of children of color in the general population.

These are the findings:

- 1. Does racial disproportionality exist in the Washington State Child Welfare System?*
Yes, racial disproportionality does exist in the Washington State Child Welfare System.

- 2. What points in the Washington State Child Welfare System reflect the highest level of disproportionality for children of color?*

The greatest disproportionality for children of color occurs when:

- The initial referral to Child Protective Services (CPS) is made.
- The decision to remove the child from home is made.
- A child is in care for over two years.

Compared with White children referred to CPS, after referrals:

- Indian children are 1.6 times as likely to be removed from home and twice as likely to remain in foster care for over two years.
- Black children are 1.2 times more likely to be removed from home and 1.5 times more likely to remain in care for over two years.
- Hispanic children were no more likely to be removed from home or to remain in care for over two years.
- Asian children were no more likely to be removed from home and less likely to remain in care for over two years.

- 3. Are children from low-income backgrounds more likely to be in the Washington State Child Welfare System than children from more affluent backgrounds?*

Yes, children from low income families are more likely to be in the Washington State Child Welfare System than children from affluent backgrounds.

- 4. Are children from single-parent families more likely to be in the Washington State Child Welfare System than children from two-parent households?*

Yes, children of single-parent families are more likely to be in the Washington State Child Welfare System than children from two-parent households.

¹ SHB 1472, Chapter 465, Laws of 2007.

5. *How do outcomes for children of color differ from the outcomes of White children?* For outcomes such as length of stay, Indian and Black children have less favorable outcomes than White children. Asian and Hispanic children are as likely as White children to remain in foster care. Additionally, when statistically controlling for poverty, family structure and case characteristics, the patterns of disproportionality did not change for Black, Hispanic, or Asian children. For Indian children, however, disproportionality after referral was reduced by about 25 percent.

In Washington State:

- Indian children are almost three times as likely to be referred to CPS as White children.
- Black children are almost twice as likely to be referred to CPS as opposed to their White counterparts.
- Hispanic children are 1.3 times as likely to be referred to CPS as White children.

For Indian children, after referral certain decisions appear to contribute to disproportionality. Compared to White children, Indian children are:

- More likely to have a high-risk tag at intake.
- More likely to be removed from home.
- Less likely to reunify with parents within two years.
- Less likely to be adopted within two years.

The situation is not much better for Washington State's Black children. After referral, when compared to White children Black children are:

- More likely to have a referral accepted.
- More likely to be assessed high-risk at intake.
- As likely to reunify with parents within two years.
- Less likely to be adopted within two years.

Hispanic children have a greater likelihood of referral than White children. Asian children have a lesser likelihood of referral than White children. If Hispanic and Asian children enter the Washington State Child Welfare System, disproportionality does not increase at future decision points.²

Mandated Reporters

Our Washington State study shows that children of color are referred to CPS at disproportionate rates. In 2004, mandated reporters submitted about 60 percent of all referrals to CPS. Eighty percent of children who were removed from home were referred by mandated reporters.

Mandated Reporters usually are people that have frequent contact with children. They include: educators, medical providers, law enforcement, Department of Corrections' employees, mental health professionals, foster care providers, DSHS employees, social service professionals, and child care providers.

Informal Reporters include: friends, neighbors, relative, parents, guardians, and victims.

²Although some members of the Advisory Committee wanted statistics for Pacific Islanders separate from the Asian racial category, WSIPP concluded the numbers were too small (one percent of children referred to CPS were Pacific Islander) to be meaningful.

Disproportionality in Indian, Black, and Hispanic populations does not seem to be related to the type of referrer (i.e. non-mandated or mandated reporter). However, children from Black and Native American families are more likely to be poor; therefore more likely to be exposed to mandated reporters as they turn to the public social service system for support in times of need.³ Ultimately, disproportionality will continue to exist if referral rates are not addressed.

Single-Parent Families

Children in households headed by single parents are more likely to be in foster care. According to the 2000 census, 25 percent of children in Washington live in a household headed by a single parent.

In Washington State, the percent of children in foster care who were living in single-parent homes at the time of out-of-home placement are as follows by race:

- 62 percent for Asian children.
- 88 percent for Black children.
- 74 percent of White children in foster care.

Children living in two-parent households are more likely to have an accepted referral and less likely to have the referral result in an out-of-home placement. However, children living with an unmarried couple are more likely to be in an out-of-home placement for over 60 days.

Children living with single fathers are:

- Less likely to have a referral accepted.
- More likely to have an out-of-home placement.
- Less likely to be in out-of-home care for over 60 days.

Low Income Families

Families of color who live in poverty are no more likely to abuse or neglect their children. Children whose birth family is Black, American Indian and Hispanic are almost three times as likely to be poor as children whose birth families are White and Asian.⁴ For children in all age groups, their parent's income level was the major determinant of whether or not they were removed from home.⁵

Children from two-parent families were returned home faster than children from single-parent homes, regardless of the gender of the single parent. *Harris and Courtney (2003).*

³ Cahn, K., & Harris, M. S. (2005). Where have all the children gone? A review of the literature on factors contributing to disproportionality: Five key child welfare decision points. *Protecting Children*, 20(1), 4-14.

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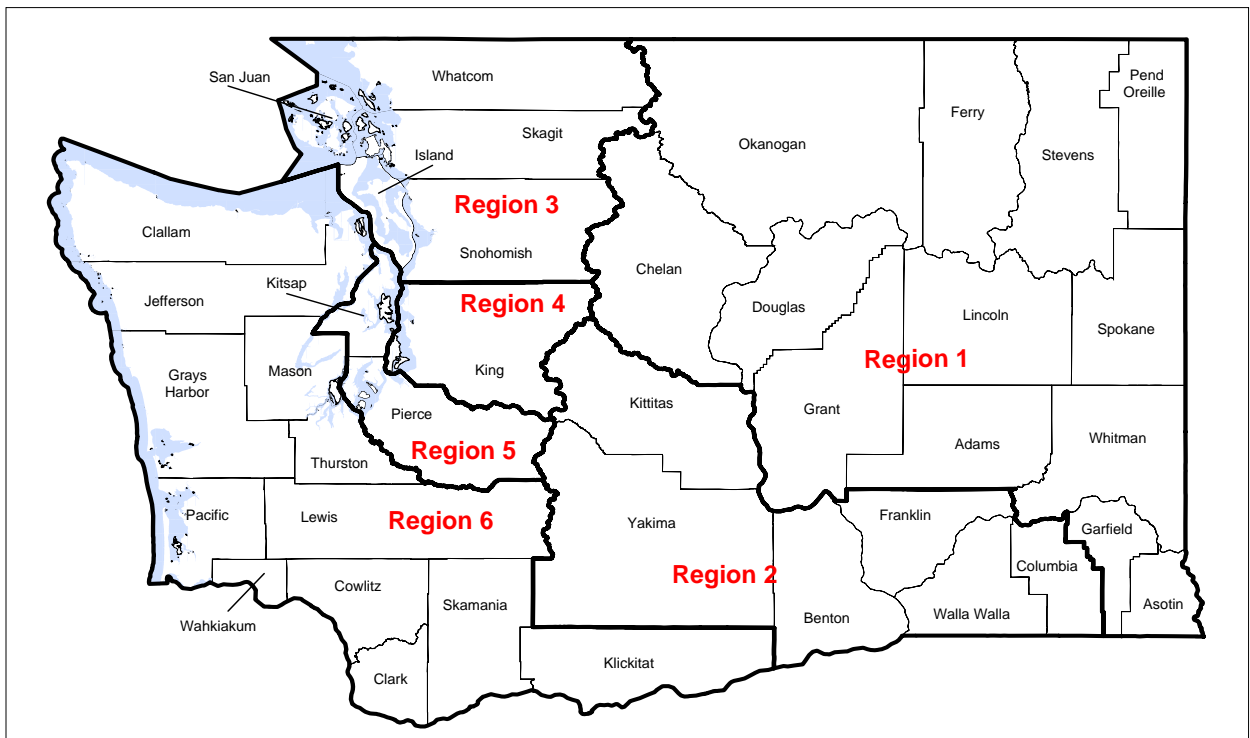
⁵ Courtney, M.E., Barth, R.P., Berrick, J.D., Brooks, D., Needell, B., & Park, L. (1996). Race and child welfare services: Past research and future directions. *Child Welfare* 75(2), 99-137.

Poverty is generally considered to be a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. For the purposes of this study, poverty is operationally defined on the basis of eligibility to receive food stamps.

In 2004, about one in four children (24 percent) in Washington State received food stamps. In 2004, 38 percent of the total referrals to CPS came from families that received food stamps. This means out of the 58,005 referrals to CPS, 22,619 of the children came from families that received food stamps. The 22,619 children represent seven percent of Washington State's total food stamp population.

At a Glance: Washington State Regions

The legislation directed the Committee to separate results by geographical region. In 2004, large differences in disproportionality, especially for Indian and Black children existed across the six DSHS-Children's Administration regions.



As compared to White children referred to CPS:

Region 1

- Indian children are more likely to be removed from home and to remain in care for over two years.
- Black children are more likely to be removed from home and to remain in care over for two years.
- Hispanic children are more likely to be in care for over two years.

Region 2

- Indian children are more likely to be removed from home and to remain in out-of-home care for over 60 days.
- Black children are less likely to be in care for over 60 days.
- Hispanic children are less likely to be in care for over 60 days or in care for over two years.

Region 3

- Indian children are more likely to be removed from home and to remain in care for over two years.
- Black children are more likely to be removed from home and to remain in care for over two years.
- Hispanic children are as likely to be removed from home. Hispanic children are less likely to be in care for over 60 days or in care for over two years.

Region 4

- Indian children are more likely to be removed from home and to remain in care for over two years.
- Black children are as likely to be removed from home and to remain in care for over 60 days. Black children are more likely to remain in care for over two years.
- Hispanic children are more likely to be removed from home.

Region 5

- Indian children are more likely to be removed from home and remain in care for over two years.
- Black children are more likely to be in placement for over 60 days.
- Hispanic children are more likely to remain in care for over two years.

Region 6

- Indian children are more likely to be in an out-of-home placement and to remain in care for over two years.
- Black children are more likely to be in an out-of-home placement and to remain in care for over two years.
- Hispanic children are as likely to be removed from home. Hispanic children are more likely to be in care for over 60 days.

Recommendations

Although we recognize formal administrative and legislative recommendations will be provided in the remediation plan, as we move forward we would like to identify two areas of consideration.

1. Consult with other states, such as Texas, Wisconsin, and Michigan, which have undertaken statewide efforts to reduce disproportionality.

DSHS is not embarking on this journey alone. Currently, there are states tackling the very issues we are now examining. As we move forward, gaining knowledge and lessons learned from other states will be a tremendous asset.

2. Study issues surrounding the Indian Child Welfare Act and American Indian racial disproportionality.

Substantial amounts of racial disproportionality exist within the Washington State American Indian population. Emphasis on Indian Child Welfare compliance will be a priority. Also, an in-depth look at how racial disproportionality varies between the Reservation Indians, Rural Indians and Urban Indians will be examined.

SHB 1472

At a Glance: American Indian Children in Washington State

Taken from the Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee Report

Racial disproportionality exists in the Washington State Child Welfare System.

The greatest disproportionality for American Indian children occurs when:

- The initial referral to Child Protective Services (CPS) is made.
- The decision to remove the child from home is made.
- A child is in care for over two years.

In 2004, mandated reporters submitted about 60 percent of all referrals to CPS. 80 percent of children removed from home were referred by mandated reporters.

Disproportionality is consistently greater for mandated reporters such as health care workers, educators, police officers and court officials. But it is observed even among non-mandatory reporters who are most often relatives, friends or neighbors.

Compared with White children referred to CPS in 2004, after referrals:

- American Indian children were 1.6 times as likely to be removed from home.
- American Indian children were 2.2 times as likely to remain in foster care for over two years.

For American Indian children, after referral certain decisions appear to contribute to disproportionality. Compared to White children, American Indian children are:

- More likely to be removed from home.
- Less likely to reunify with parents within two years.
- Less likely to be adopted within two years.

In 2004, 80 percent of American Indian children in the foster care were living in single-parent homes at the time of out-of-home placement.

At the point of removal from home, 25% of the disproportionality for American Indian children can be statistically accounted for by poverty, family structure, and case characteristics.

This information is based on Children's Administration data from 2004.

SHB 1472

At a Glance: Black Children in Washington State

Taken from the Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee Report

Racial disproportionality exists in the Washington State Child Welfare System.

Black children are almost twice as likely to be referred to Child Protective Services (CPS) as opposed to White children.

The greatest disproportionality for Black children occurs when:

- The initial referral to CPS is made.
- A child is in care for over two years.

In 2004, mandated reporters submitted about 60 percent of all referrals to CPS. 80 percent of children removed from home were referred by mandated reporters.

Disproportionality is consistently greater for mandated reporters such as health care workers, educators, police officers and court officials. But it is observed even among non-mandatory reporters who are most often relatives, friends or neighbors.

Compared with White children referred to CPS in 2004, after referrals:

- Black children were 1.2 times more likely to be removed from home.
- Black children were 1.5 times more likely to remain in care for over two years.

After referral, when compared to White children Black children are:

- More likely to have a referral accepted.
- As likely to reunify with parents within two years.
- Less likely to be adopted within two years.

In 2004, 88 percent of Black children in the foster care were living in single-parent homes at the time of out-of-home placement.

This information is based on Children's Administration data from 2004.

SHB 1472

At a Glance: Hispanic Children in Washington State

Taken from the Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee Report

Racial disproportionality exists in the Washington State Child Welfare System.

Hispanic children are 1.3 times as likely to be referred to Child Protective Services as White children.

In 2004, mandated reporters submitted about 60 percent of all referrals to CPS. 80 percent of children removed from home were referred by mandated reporters.

Disproportionality is consistently greater for mandated reporters such as health care workers, educators, police officers and court officials. But it is observed even among non-mandatory reporters who are most often relatives, friends or neighbors.

Compared with White children referred to CPS in 2005, after referral:

- Hispanic children were no more likely to be removed from home.
- Hispanic children were no more likely to remain in care for over two years.
- Disproportionality does not increase at future decision points.

In 2004, 80 percent of Hispanic children in the foster care were living in single-parent homes at the time of out-of-home placement.

This information is based on Children's Administration data from 2004.

SHB 1472

At a Glance: Asian Children in Washington State

Taken from the Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee Report

“Asian children are underrepresented...Asian children are represented at rates significantly lower than White children. The overall disproportionality does not change with increased involvement in the system (page 47, Committee Report).”

Compared to White children:

- Asian children are half as likely to be referred to Child Protective Services (CPS).
- At each decision point and outcome after referral, Asian children are underrepresented in the Washington State Child Welfare System.

If Asian American children are referred, they are more likely to be referred by a mandated reporter. In 2004, 72 percent of Asian children referred to CPS were submitted by mandated reporters. 86 percent of children removed from home were referred by mandated reporters.

Disproportionality is consistently greater for mandated reporters such as health care workers, educators, police officers and court officials. But it is observed even among non-mandatory reporters who are most often relatives, friends or neighbors.

In 2004, 62 percent of Asian children in the foster care were living in single-parent homes at the time of out-of-home placement.

This information is based on Children’s Administration data from 2004.

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 - Hispanic children are 1.3 times as likely to be referred to CPS as White children.
- The data shows that compared to White children referred to CPS, after referrals:
 - Indian children are:
 - 1.6 times as likely to be removed from home.
 - 2.2 times as likely to remain in care for over two years.
 - Black children are:
 - 1.2 times more likely to be removed from home.
 - 1.5 times more likely to remain in care for over two years.
 - Hispanic children are:
 - No more likely to be removed from home.
 - No more likely to remain in care for over two years.
 - Asian children are:
 - No more likely to be removed from home.
 - Less likely to remain in care for over two years.
- Children from low income families are more likely to be in the Washington State Child Welfare system than children from affluent backgrounds.
- Children of single-parent families are more likely to be in the Washington State Child Welfare System than children from two-parent households.
- Lengths of stay in foster care differ for children of color as compared to White children with:
 - Indian and Black children having less favorable outcomes.
 - Asian and Hispanic children having outcomes similar to White children.

- Once children are referred to CPS certain decisions appear to contribute to disproportionality, including:
 - For Indian children as compared to White children, Indian children are:
 - More likely to be removed from home.
 - Less likely to reunify with parents within two years.
 - Less likely to be adopted within two years.
 - For Black children as compared to White children, Black children are:
 - More likely to have an accepted referral.
 - As likely to reunify with parents within two years.
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June 25, 2008- The Advisory Committee presented the formal committee report to Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams. The Committee and the secretary provided their joint vision for how the Committee will move into the remediation planning phase.

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Executive Summary

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Racial disproportionality occurs when the population of children of color in any system including the child welfare system is higher than the population of children of color in the general population.

These are the findings:

6. *Does racial disproportionality exist in the Washington State Child Welfare System?*
Yes, racial disproportionality does exist in the Washington State Child Welfare System.

7. *What points in the Washington State Child Welfare System reflect the highest level of disproportionality for children of color?*

The greatest disproportionality for children of color occurs when:

- The initial referral to Child Protective Services (CPS) is made.
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Compared with White children referred to CPS, after referrals:

- Indian children are 1.6 times as likely to be removed from home and twice as likely to remain in foster care for over two years.
- Black children are 1.2 times more likely to be removed from home and 1.5 times more likely to remain in care for over two years.
- Hispanic children were no more likely to be removed from home or to remain in care for over two years.
- Asian children were no more likely to be removed from home and less likely to remain in care for over two years.

8. *Are children from low-income backgrounds more likely to be in the Washington State Child Welfare System than children from more affluent backgrounds?*

Yes, children from low income families are more likely to be in the Washington State Child Welfare System than children from affluent backgrounds.

9. *Are children from single-parent families more likely to be in the Washington State Child Welfare System than children from two-parent households?*

Yes, children of single-parent families are more likely to be in the Washington State Child Welfare System than children from two-parent households.

¹ SHB 1472, Chapter 465, Laws of 2007.

10. *How do outcomes for children of color differ from the outcomes of White children?* For outcomes such as length of stay, Indian and Black children have less favorable outcomes than White children. Asian and Hispanic children are as likely as White children to remain in foster care. Additionally, when statistically controlling for poverty, family structure and case characteristics, the patterns of disproportionality did not change for Black, Hispanic, or Asian children. For Indian children, however, disproportionality after referral was reduced by about 25 percent.

In Washington State:

- Indian children are almost three times as likely to be referred to CPS as White children.
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- Hispanic children are 1.3 times as likely to be referred to CPS as White children.

For Indian children, after referral certain decisions appear to contribute to disproportionality. Compared to White children, Indian children are:

- More likely to have a high-risk tag at intake.
- More likely to be removed from home.
- Less likely to reunify with parents within two years.
- Less likely to be adopted within two years.

The situation is not much better for Washington State's Black children. After referral, when compared to White children Black children are:

- More likely to have a referral accepted.
- More likely to be assessed high-risk at intake.
- As likely to reunify with parents within two years.
- Less likely to be adopted within two years.

Hispanic children have a greater likelihood of referral than White children. Asian children have a lesser likelihood of referral than White children. If Hispanic and Asian children enter the Washington State Child Welfare System, disproportionality does not increase at future decision points.²

Mandated Reporters

Our Washington State study shows that children of color are referred to CPS at disproportionate rates. In 2004, mandated reporters submitted about 60 percent of all referrals to CPS. Eighty percent of children who were removed from home were referred by mandated reporters.

Mandated Reporters usually are people that have frequent contact with children. They include: educators, medical providers, law enforcement, Department of Corrections' employees, mental health professionals, foster care providers, DSHS employees, social service professionals, and child care providers.

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Single-Parent Families

Children in households headed by single parents are more likely to be in foster care. According to the 2000 census, 25 percent of children in Washington live in a household headed by a single parent.

In Washington State, the percent of children in foster care who were living in single-parent homes at the time of out-of-home placement are as follows by race:

- 62 percent for Asian children.
- 88 percent for Black children.
- 74 percent of White children in foster care.

Children living in two-parent households are more likely to have an accepted referral and less likely to have the referral result in an out-of-home placement. However, children living with an unmarried couple are more likely to be in an out-of-home placement for over 60 days.

Children living with single fathers are:

- Less likely to have a referral accepted.
- More likely to have an out-of-home placement.
- Less likely to be in out-of-home care for over 60 days.

Low Income Families

Families of color who live in poverty are no more likely to abuse or neglect their children. Children whose birth family is Black, American Indian and Hispanic are almost three times as likely to be poor as children whose birth families are White and Asian.⁴ For children in all age groups, their parent's income level was the major determinant of whether or not they were removed from home.⁵

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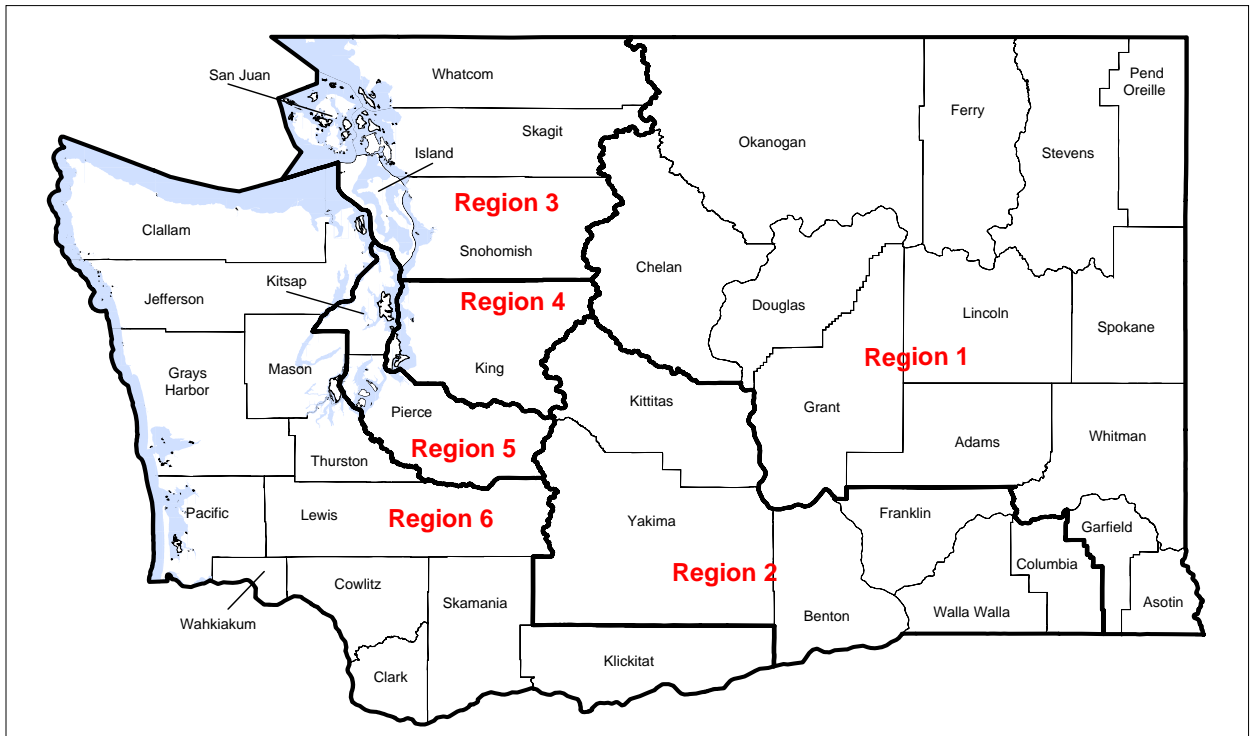
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At a Glance: Washington State Regions

The legislation directed the Committee to separate results by geographical region. In 2004, large differences in disproportionality, especially for Indian and Black children existed across the six DSHS-Children's Administration regions.



As compared to White children referred to CPS:

Region 1

- Indian children are more likely to be removed from home and to remain in care for over two years.
- Black children are more likely to be removed from home and to remain in care over for two years.
- Hispanic children are more likely to be in care for over two years.

Region 2

- Indian children are more likely to be removed from home and to remain in out-of-home care for over 60 days.
- Black children are less likely to be in care for over 60 days.
- Hispanic children are less likely to be in care for over 60 days or in care for over two years.

Region 3

- Indian children are more likely to be removed from home and to remain in care for over two years.
- Black children are more likely to be removed from home and to remain in care for over two years.
- Hispanic children are as likely to be removed from home. Hispanic children are less likely to be in care for over 60 days or in care for over two years.

Region 4

- Indian children are more likely to be removed from home and to remain in care for over two years.
- Black children are as likely to be removed from home and to remain in care for over 60 days. Black children are more likely to remain in care for over two years.
- Hispanic children are more likely to be removed from home.

Region 5

- Indian children are more likely to be removed from home and remain in care for over two years.
- Black children are more likely to be in placement for over 60 days.
- Hispanic children are more likely to remain in care for over two years.

Region 6

- Indian children are more likely to be in an out-of-home placement and to remain in care for over two years.
- Black children are more likely to be in an out-of-home placement and to remain in care for over two years.
- Hispanic children are as likely to be removed from home. Hispanic children are more likely to be in care for over 60 days.

Recommendations

Although we recognize formal administrative and legislative recommendations will be provided in the remediation plan, as we move forward we would like to identify two areas of consideration.

2. Consult with other states, such as Texas, Wisconsin, and Michigan, which have undertaken statewide efforts to reduce disproportionality.

DSHS is not embarking on this journey alone. Currently, there are states tackling the very issues we are now examining. As we move forward, gaining knowledge and lessons learned from other states will be a tremendous asset.

2. Study issues surrounding the Indian Child Welfare Act and American Indian racial disproportionality.

Substantial amounts of racial disproportionality exist within the Washington State American Indian population. Emphasis on Indian Child Welfare compliance will be a priority. Also, an in-depth look at how racial disproportionality varies between the Reservation Indians, Rural Indians and Urban Indians will be examined.

SHB 1472

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- The decision to remove the child from home is made.
- A child is in care for over two years.

In 2004, mandated reporters submitted about 60 percent of all referrals to CPS. 80 percent of children removed from home were referred by mandated reporters.

Disproportionality is consistently greater for mandated reporters such as health care workers, educators, police officers and court officials. But it is observed even among non-mandatory reporters who are most often relatives, friends or neighbors.

Compared with White children referred to CPS in 2004, after referrals:

- American Indian children were 1.6 times as likely to be removed from home.
- American Indian children were 2.2 times as likely to remain in foster care for over two years.

For American Indian children, after referral certain decisions appear to contribute to disproportionality. Compared to White children, American Indian children are:

- More likely to be removed from home.
- Less likely to reunify with parents within two years.
- Less likely to be adopted within two years.

In 2004, 80 percent of American Indian children in the foster care were living in single-parent homes at the time of out-of-home placement.

At the point of removal from home, 25% of the disproportionality for American Indian children can be statistically accounted for by poverty, family structure, and case characteristics.

This information is based on Children's Administration data from 2004.

SHB 1472

At a Glance: Black Children in Washington State

Taken from the Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee Report

Racial disproportionality exists in the Washington State Child Welfare System.

Black children are almost twice as likely to be referred to Child Protective Services (CPS) as opposed to White children.

The greatest disproportionality for Black children occurs when:

- The initial referral to CPS is made.
- A child is in care for over two years.

In 2004, mandated reporters submitted about 60 percent of all referrals to CPS. 80 percent of children removed from home were referred by mandated reporters.

Disproportionality is consistently greater for mandated reporters such as health care workers, educators, police officers and court officials. But it is observed even among non-mandatory reporters who are most often relatives, friends or neighbors.

Compared with White children referred to CPS in 2004, after referrals:

- Black children were 1.2 times more likely to be removed from home.
- Black children were 1.5 times more likely to remain in care for over two years.

After referral, when compared to White children Black children are:

- More likely to have a referral accepted.
- As likely to reunify with parents within two years.
- Less likely to be adopted within two years.

In 2004, 88 percent of Black children in the foster care were living in single-parent homes at the time of out-of-home placement.

This information is based on Children's Administration data from 2004.

SHB 1472

At a Glance: Hispanic Children in Washington State

Taken from the Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee Report

Racial disproportionality exists in the Washington State Child Welfare System.

Hispanic children are 1.3 times as likely to be referred to Child Protective Services as White children.

In 2004, mandated reporters submitted about 60 percent of all referrals to CPS. 80 percent of children removed from home were referred by mandated reporters.

Disproportionality is consistently greater for mandated reporters such as health care workers, educators, police officers and court officials. But it is observed even among non-mandatory reporters who are most often relatives, friends or neighbors.

Compared with White children referred to CPS in 2005, after referral:

- Hispanic children were no more likely to be removed from home.
- Hispanic children were no more likely to remain in care for over two years.
- Disproportionality does not increase at future decision points.

In 2004, 80 percent of Hispanic children in the foster care were living in single-parent homes at the time of out-of-home placement.

This information is based on Children's Administration data from 2004.

SHB 1472

At a Glance: Asian Children in Washington State

Taken from the Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee Report

“Asian children are underrepresented...Asian children are represented at rates significantly lower than White children. The overall disproportionality does not change with increased involvement in the system (page 47, Committee Report).”

Compared to White children:

- Asian children are half as likely to be referred to Child Protective Services (CPS).
- At each decision point and outcome after referral, Asian children are underrepresented in the Washington State Child Welfare System.

If Asian American children are referred, they are more likely to be referred by a mandated reporter. In 2004, 72 percent of Asian children referred to CPS were submitted by mandated reporters. 86 percent of children removed from home were referred by mandated reporters.

Disproportionality is consistently greater for mandated reporters such as health care workers, educators, police officers and court officials. But it is observed even among non-mandatory reporters who are most often relatives, friends or neighbors.

In 2004, 62 percent of Asian children in the foster care were living in single-parent homes at the time of out-of-home placement.

This information is based on Children’s Administration data from 2004.

