



## Promoting Parity of Children of Minorities

### Kansas Child Welfare: Summary Data

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#### **Background:**

In July 2007, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released its report entitled, *African American Children in Foster Care: Additional HHS Assistance Needed to Help States Reduce the Proportion in Care*-(GAO -07-816). Among the findings, the report reflects:

- African American children were over-represented in foster care nationally at a rate of more than twice their proportions in the U.S. child population.
- Minority children enter the system at disproportionately high rates: specifically, compared to Caucasian children, African American children are four times more likely to be placed in the state's care

Various recent reports highlight the need for Kansas to engage a rigorous analysis to understand the jurisdictions that face issues of racial disparity across service points of child welfare.

#### **Reports, Resources and Promising Practices**

Casey-CSSP Alliance for Racial Equity in Child Welfare

[http://www.cssp.org/major\\_initiatives/racialEquity.html](http://www.cssp.org/major_initiatives/racialEquity.html)

The Center for Social Services Research (CSSR), School of Social Welfare U. C. Berkeley

<http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/dynamics/disprop/>

["Places to Watch: Promising Practices to Address Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare Services"](#)

["An Analysis of Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality and Disparity at the National, State and County Levels"](#)

#### **Defining Terms**

"Racial disproportionality" refers to the level to which groups of children are present in the child welfare system at higher or lower rates than their presence in the general population. "Racial disparity" occurs when the rate of disproportionality of one racial group (e.g., African Americans) exceeds that of a comparison group (e.g., White Americans).

**Kansas Demographic Profile:**

Table 1

Persons Race Information <sup>i</sup>	Kansas	JJA Custody	SRS Custody
% American Indian and Alaska Native	1.01%	1.8%	.85%
% Asian	2.24%	1.1%	.41%
% Black/ African American	6.06%	26.2%	20.7%
% White/Caucasian	90.63%	70.7%	76.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	.07%	.1%	.15%

To gain knowledge of Kansas communities and populations of disproportionality and disparity in child welfare, county level data was pulled from the SRS FACTS system regarding children removed into out of home placement during State Fiscal year 2007 (entry cohort).

Table 2

	Total # of Races for Children Removed SFY07 (SRS)	# of Black/ African American races Indicated SFY07 (SRS)	Disproportionality Metric (DM) <sup>ii</sup>
Kansas	4,006	706	2.94

- Statewide, African American / Black children in foster care are present in the child welfare system at rate nearly 3 times their presence in the general population (DM = 2.94).
- There are many indices of disproportionality and disparity. Using calculation from U.C. Berkeley, current data indicates eleven counties in Kansas have moderate to extreme disproportionate representation of African American / Black children in foster care.<sup>iii</sup>
- Table 3 reflects disproportionality metrics of Kansas counties with (a) at least fifty children removed into care during FY 07 and (b) five children of one minority race in that removal cohort.<sup>iv</sup> With one exception, the race of disproportionality of counties in this table is Black/ African American.<sup>v</sup>

Table 3: Summary of Kansas Counties Foster Care<sup>vi</sup> Race Disproportionality, Ranked by Metric

Kansas County	Total # of Children Removed	# of Black/ African American Children Removed	Disproportionality Metric	Class <sup>vii</sup>
Crawford	140	17	5.60	Extreme
Johnson	254	56	5.43	
Shawnee	430	140	3.52	
Reno	144	14	3.26	High
Leavenworth	79	25	3.22	
Bourbon	58	6	3.07	
Riley	62	14	3.03	
Labette	69	11	3.02	
Lyon	66	5	2.86	
Sedgwick	875	218	2.59	
Wyandotte	289	135	1.78	Mod.

<sup>i</sup> Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County Quick Facts. Data derived from Population Estimates, Last Revised: Wednesday, 02-Jan-2008. Kansas Census information is reported as a percentage of all persons. Race information for JJA is youth in custody, SFY 2006. SRS data is children in out of home placement, SFY08 .

<sup>ii</sup> Methodology source is U.C Berkeley , Disproportionality and Disparity Tool  
[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/dynamics/disprop/Disproportionality\\_Disparity\\_Methods.htm](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/dynamics/disprop/Disproportionality_Disparity_Methods.htm)

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[http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/dynamics/disprop/Disproportionality\\_Disparity\\_Methods.htm](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/dynamics/disprop/Disproportionality_Disparity_Methods.htm)

<sup>iv</sup> Butler county :4 children of American Indian/ Native Alaskan race and 4 children of African American/ Black race removed with respective disproportionality rates for those races of 4.9 and 3.2

<sup>v</sup> Lyon county removal cohort data reflects disproportionality metric of 4.3 with Asian children (n= 5 children) and 2.9 with African American children (n=5 children)

<sup>vi</sup> Children in the custody of the Secretary who were removed into out of home placement during SFY07

<sup>vii</sup> Classification : Comparable Representation (rates under 1.50); Moderate Disproportion (rates between 1.50-2.49); High Disproportion (rates between 2.50-3.49); and Extreme Disproportion (rates of 3.50 and over)