



Promoting Parity of Children of Minorities
Kansas Child Welfare: 2008 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. On November 25, 2008, Governor Kathleen Sebelius announced a new effort, under the direction of her Health and Human Services Subcabinet team, to assure racial and ethnic equity is a standard outcome across all Kansas child welfare and juvenile justice programs.

Reports, Resources and Promising Practices

Casey-CSSP Alliance for Racial Equity in Child Welfare

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 ⁱ	Kansas	JJA Custody	SRS Custody
% American Indian and Alaska Native	1.0%	2%	.97%
% Asian	2.2%	1%	.36%
% Black/ African American	6.0%	28%	21.47%
% White/Caucasian	89.1%	68%	76.35%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	.1%	.1%	.16%

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 2008 (entry cohort).

Table 2

	Total # of Races for Children Removed SFY08 (SRS)	# of Black/ African American races Indicated SFY08 (SRS)	Disproportionality Metric (DM) ⁱⁱ
Kansas	3,710	723	3.2

- Statewide in SFY08, African American / Black children entered foster care are at a rate 3 times their presence in the general population (DM = 3.24). In 2007, the statewide Disproportionality Metric for children in the custody of the Secretary of SRS was 2.94.
- There are many indices of disproportionality and disparity. Using calculation from U.C. Berkeley, current data indicates thirteen counties in Kansas have moderate to extreme disproportionate representation of African American / Black children in foster care. ⁱⁱⁱ
- Table 3 reflects disproportionality metrics of Kansas counties with (a) at least fifty children removed into care during SFY 08 and (b) five children of one minority race in that removal cohort.

Table 3: Summary of Kansas Counties Foster Care Race Disproportionality, Ranked by Metric

Kansas County	Total # of Children Removed	# of Black/ African American Children Removed	Disproportionality Metric	Class ^{iv}
Ellis ^v	52	5	9.66	Extreme
Johnson	221	42	4.78	
Shawnee	412	168	4.38	
Leavenworth	89	31	3.55	
Lyon	84	8	3.53	
Labette	83	14	3.19	High
Sedgwick	691	198	2.98	
Riley	63	12	2.51	
Crawford	98	5	2.33	Mod.
Reno	133	9	2.27	
Saline	68	5	2.21	
Wyandotte	268	140	2.02	
Geary	74	23	1.7	

ⁱ Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County Quick Facts. Data derived from Population Estimates, Last Revised: Wednesday, 25-Jul-2008. Kansas Census information is reported as a percentage of all persons. Race information for JJA is youth in custody, SFY 2008. SRS data is children in out of home placement, SFY08 .

ⁱⁱ Methodology source is U.C Berkeley , Disproportionality and Disparity Tool
http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/dynamics/disprop/Disproportionality_Disparity_Methods.htm

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^{iv} 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)

^v For Ellis county, the DM is impacted by the small number of children who enter cared care in SFY08. By way of historical comparison, 50 children entered custody in SFY07, one of whom had a race of African American, yielding a DM of 2.0 for Ellis county in SFY07.