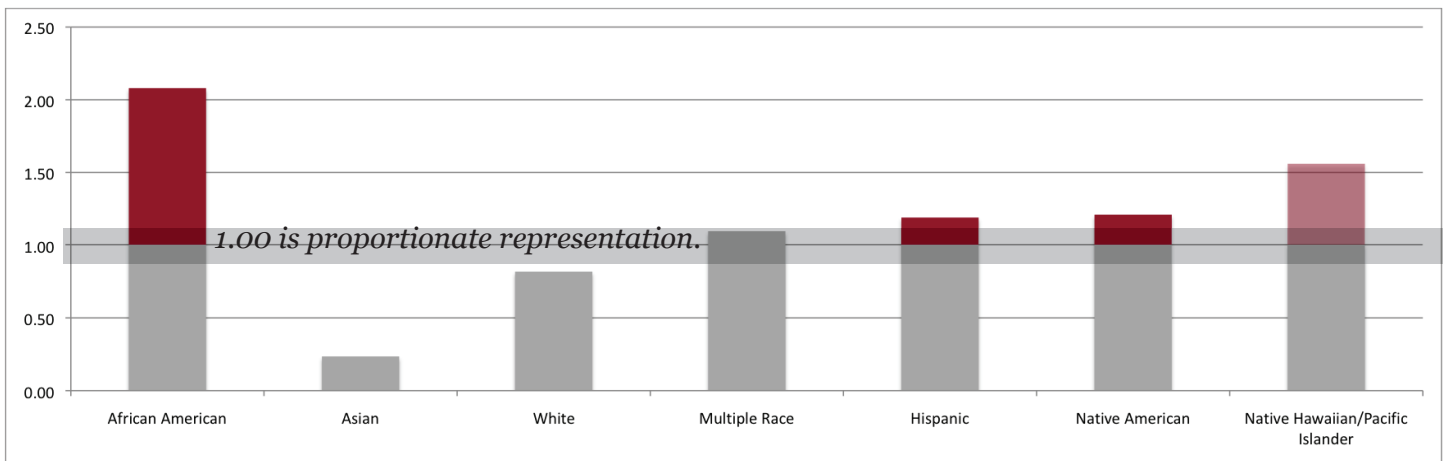


Disproportionality of Minority Children in Colorado Child Welfare Investigations

The following graph is based on 2016 data from the Children’s Bureau’s Child Maltreatment 2016 report. An index number below 1.00 indicates an under-representation of that ethnicity/race in the “maltreatment” child population, while a number above 1.00 indicates an over-representation. Indices > 1.10 with > 30 in the “maltreatment” child population are shaded dark red; lighter red indicates indices > 1.10 with > 10 but < 30 in the “maltreatment” child population.



2.08 In 2016, **African American children** in Colorado were “substantiated for maltreatment” at a rate 2.08 times more than their proportions in Colorado’s child population.

1.19 In 2016, **Hispanic children** in Colorado were “substantiated for maltreatment” at a rate 1.19 times more than their proportions in Colorado’s child population.

1.21 In 2016, **Native American children** in Colorado were “substantiated for maltreatment” at a rate 1.21 times more than their proportions in Colorado’s child population.

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Data & Notes

	A. Total Child Population %	B. “Maltreatment” Child Population	C. “Maltreatment” Child Population %	D. Disproportionality Index
African American	4.3	994	8.9	2.08
Asian	3.0	78	0.7	0.24
White	56.6	5,200	46.3	0.82
Multiple Race	4.2	520	4.6	1.09
Hispanic	31.2	4,161	37.1	1.19
Native American	0.6	82	0.7	1.21
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0.1	25	0.2	1.56
Unknown	N/A	166	1.5	
<i>TOTAL</i>		<i>11,226</i>		

Highlighted rows show disproportionality indices of at least 1.10. (Note: If the “maltreatment” child population is between 10-30, the row is highlighted in lighter gray because even slight variation at such low numbers can easily affect the index; rows with “maltreatment” child population < 10 are not highlighted.) An index number below 1.00 indicates an under-representation of that ethnicity/race in the “maltreatment” child population, while a number above 1.00 indicates an over-representation. Native American includes Alaska Native/Native American/American Indian.

“Maltreatment” child population refers to the population of children that a child welfare agency believes have been maltreated. *Substantiated* means only that a child welfare agency believes maltreatment occurred. *Maltreatment* refers to abuse or neglect. They are in quotations since the federal government has acknowledged that racial bias often plays a part in these determinations.*

The term *disproportionality index* and its explanations were adapted from Appendix II of the GAO report.* See “Choosing a Metric” on page 7 for details.

Source for Column A: Children’s Bureau, *Child Maltreatment 2016*, (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families), <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.pdf>, Appendix C; retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research>.

Source for Column B: Ibid., Table 3-7.

Column C: State “maltreatment” population for that ethnicity/race (B) divided by the total state “maltreatment” population (B-TOTAL).

Column D: Portion of state “maltreatment” population (C) divided by portion of total state child population (A).

* U.S. Government Accountability Office, *Report to the Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives: African American Children in Foster Care* (Washington, DC: 2007), 4, 73–76, <https://www.gao.gov/new.items/do7816.pdf>.