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# Colorado Interim Study Committee

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW THEMES

# DISPROPORTIONALITY IN CHILD WELFARE

## Race Remains one of the Biggest Predictors of Child and Family Experiences and Outcomes in the United States.

In the United States, median household income varies considerably by race. Non-white and Hispanic/Latine children are more likely to live in extreme poverty.

American Indian, Black, and Hispanic/Latine children are most likely to live in extreme poverty.

50% of Black children will be investigated for child abuse or neglect.

For the 100 largest metropolitan areas combined, the Child Opportunity Score for White children is 73 compared with 72 for Asian and Pacific Islander children, 33 for Hispanic children, and 24 for Black children.

# DISPROPORTIONALITY IN CHILD WELFARE

## In Colorado, Non-White and Hispanic/Latine Children Experience Greater Barriers to Well-Being.

Hispanic children represent 33% of the Child Population, but 45% of the children living in families with incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level.

Only 5% of Colorado's children are non-Hispanic mixed race but represent 35% of the children living in families with incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level.

Black (23%) and Hispanic/Latine (24%) children are more likely than white children (15%) to experience two or more adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) including: frequent socioeconomic hardship, parental divorce or separation, parental death, parental incarceration, family violence, neighborhood violence, living with someone who was mentally ill or suicidal, living with someone who had a substance abuse problem or racial bias. **Statewide, 18% of Colorado's children have experienced two or more ACEs.**

# DISPROPORTIONALITY IN CHILD WELFARE

## LGBTQ+ Youth Have Poorer Child Welfare Experiences and Outcomes

LGBTQ+ youth are overrepresented in child welfare systems, even though they are likely to be underreported because they risk harassment and abuse if their LGBTQ+ identity is disclosed.

Studies have found that about **30 percent of youth in foster care identify as LGBTQ+** and 5 percent as transgender, in comparison to 11 percent and 1 percent of youth not in foster care.

**LGBTQ+ youth of color are disproportionately overrepresented** in the child welfare system and **stay longer** in child welfare systems, while also having an **increased risk** of experiencing **discrimination and violence** compared to their peers.