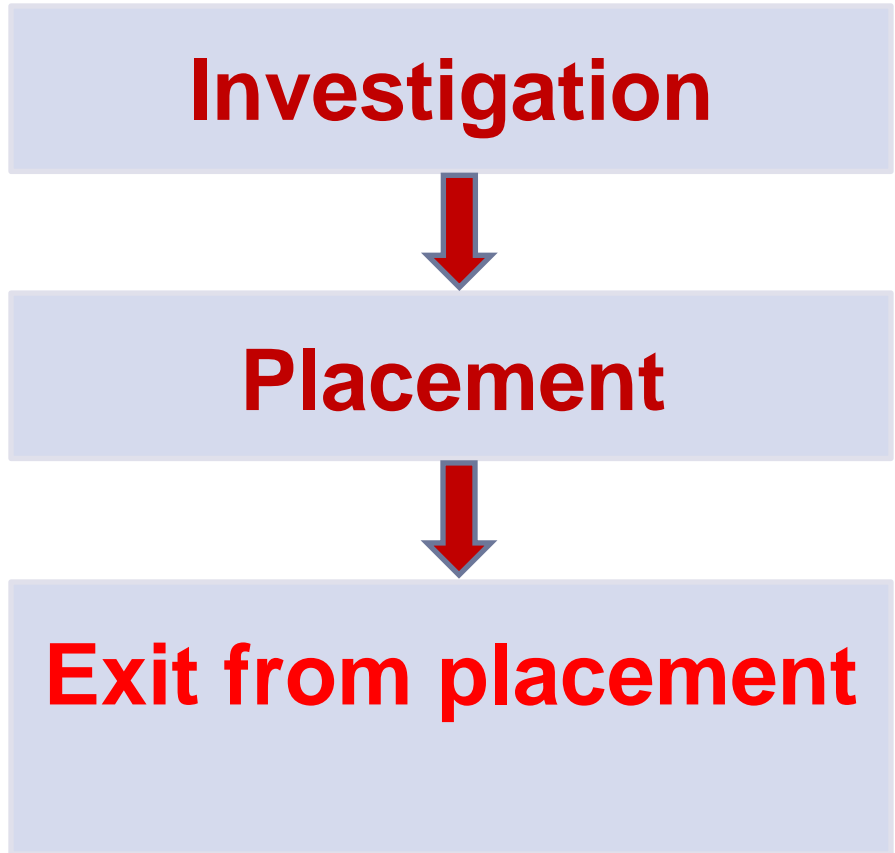# KEY DATA FINDINGS

Coalition for Race Equity in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

May 21, 2014

Jane Zehnder-Merrell, data group chair
Kids Count in Michigan project director
Michigan League for Public Policy

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Key Decision Points in Child Welfare

Investigation

↓

Placement

↓

Exit from placement

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Decision Points in Child Welfare

Child population

↓

CPS Complaint

↓

Complaint Accepted for Investigation

Children of color in Michigan are more likely to live in families investigated for abuse/neglect.
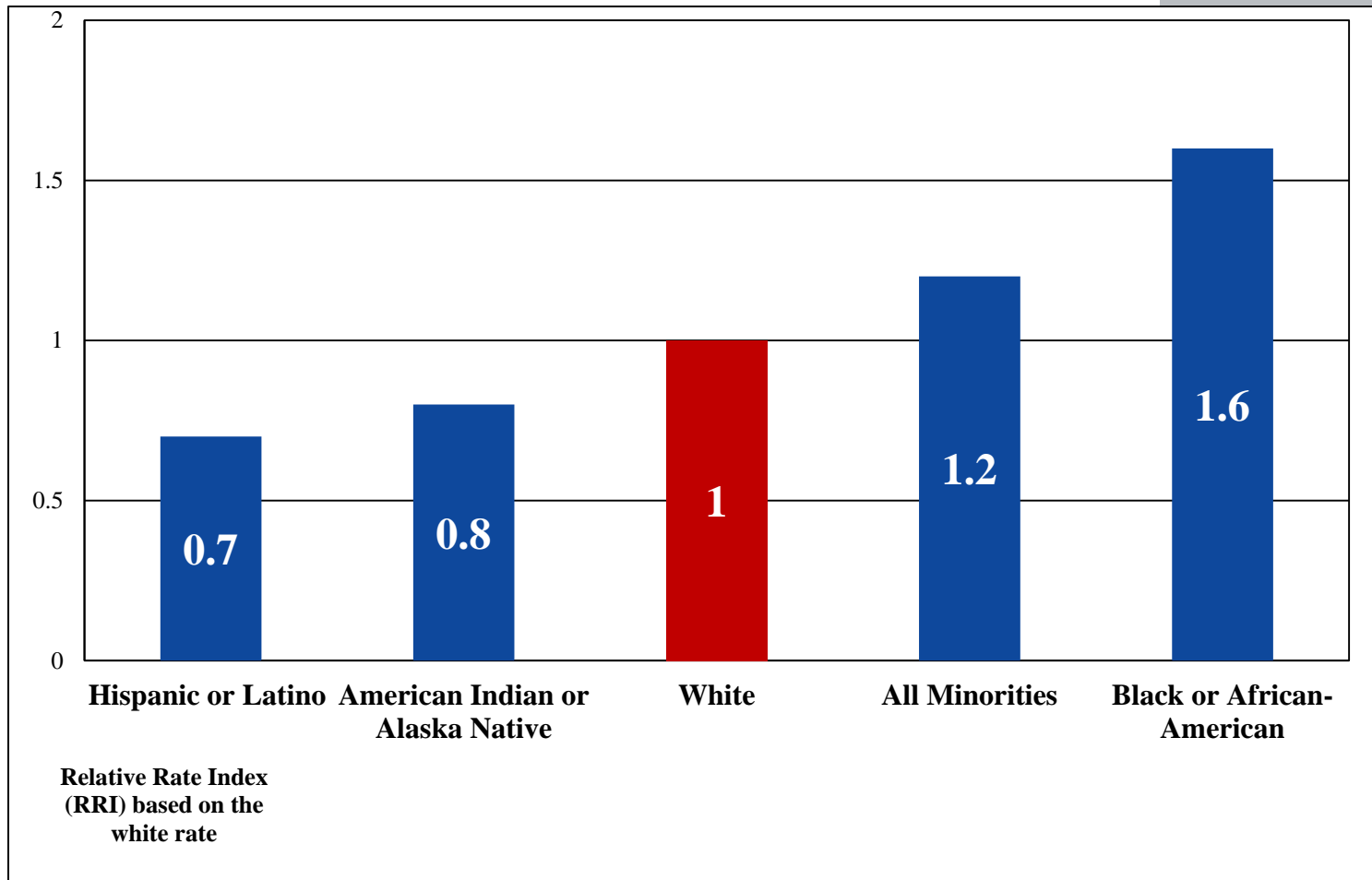
Causes of abuse or neglect

- Substance abuse – mental health
- Economic stress, increased child poverty
- Weakening safety net
- Domestic violence
- Expansion of mandated reporters
- Decreased funding for prevention

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Disposition

Category I	Category II	Category III

CONFIRMED

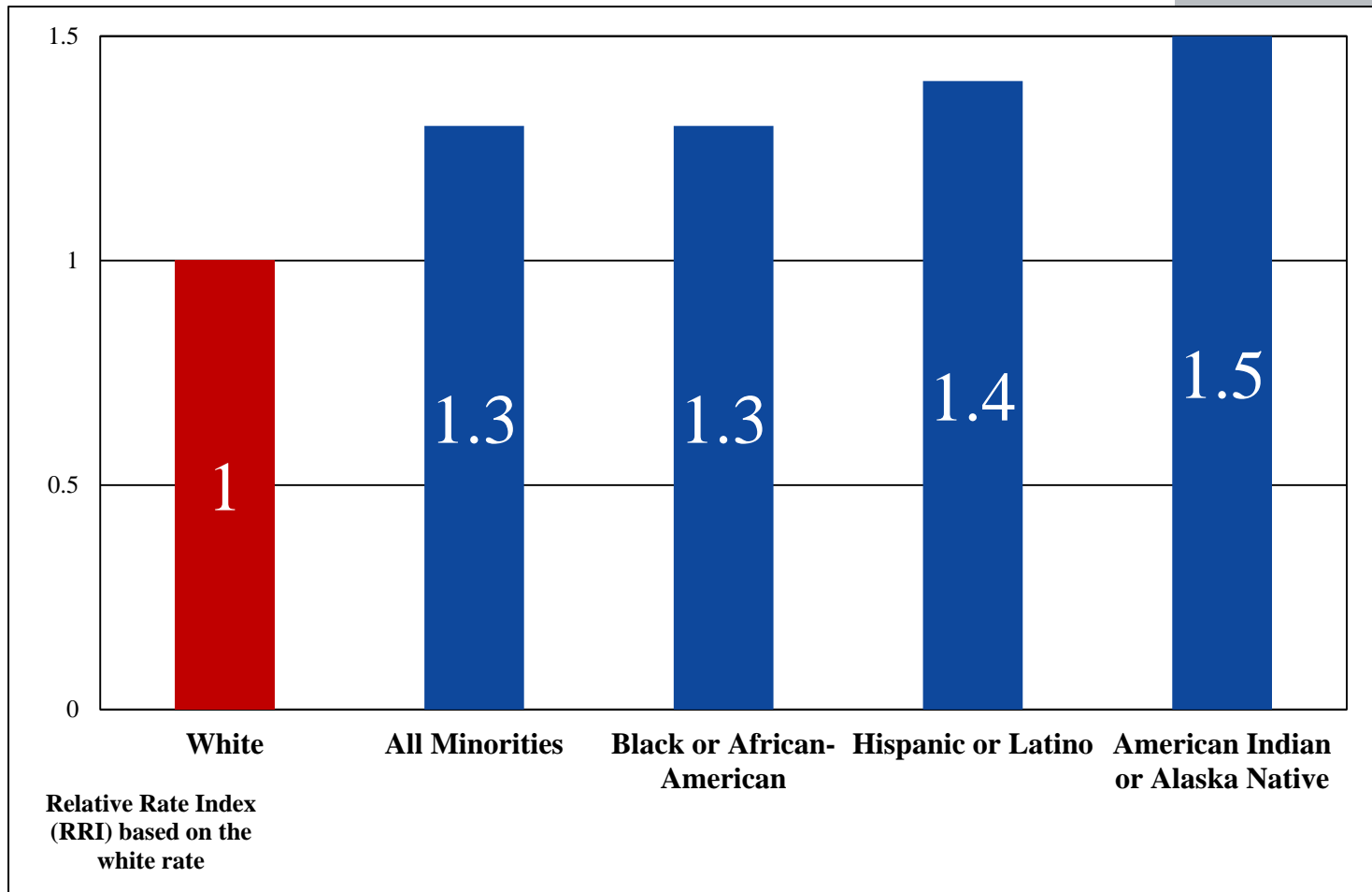| Category IV	Category V

NOT CONFIRMED

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CATEGORY I:
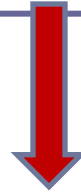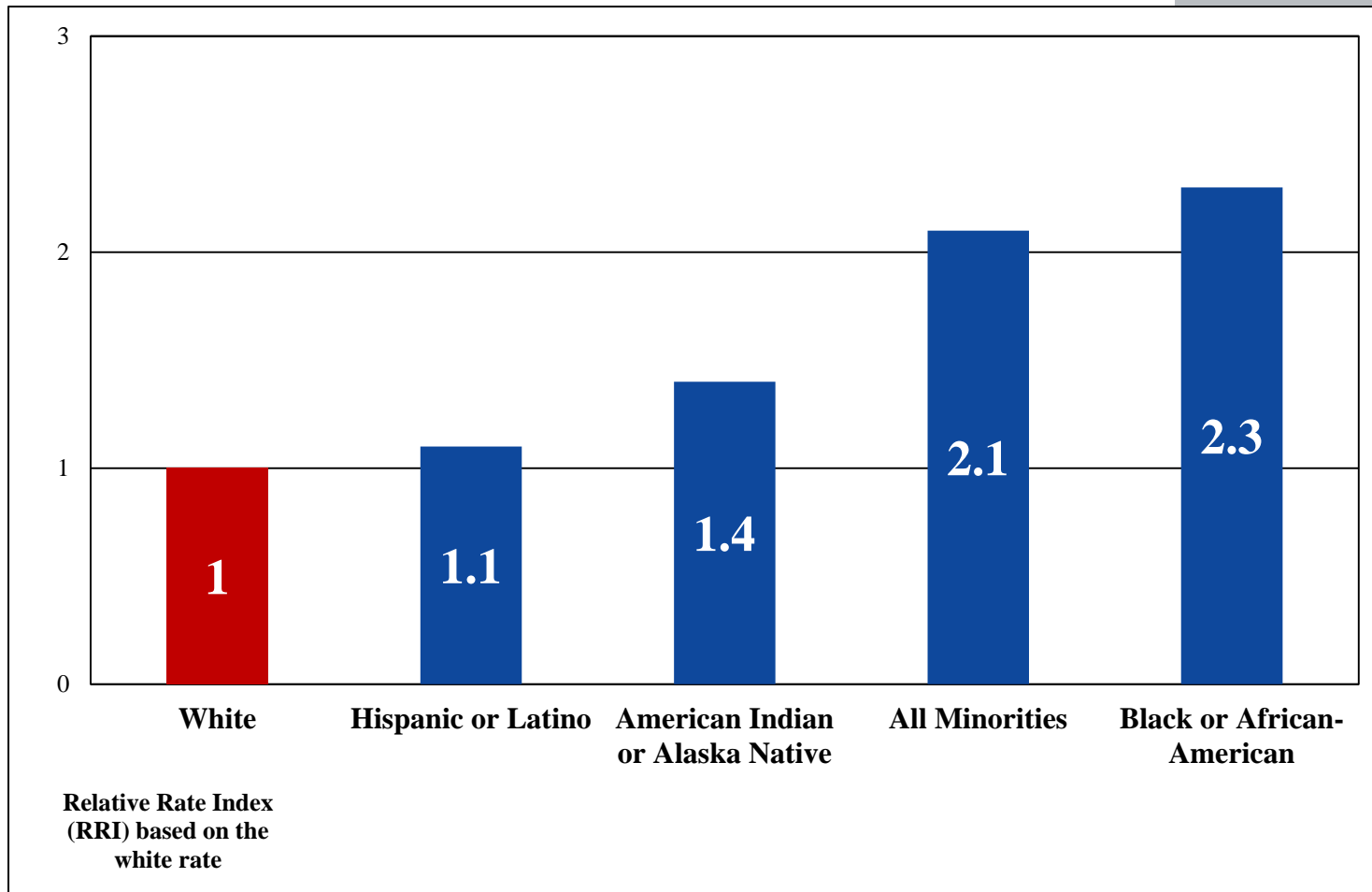
Out-of-Home Placement
(foster care)

Children of color in Michigan are more likely to be removed from their home for abuse/neglect.
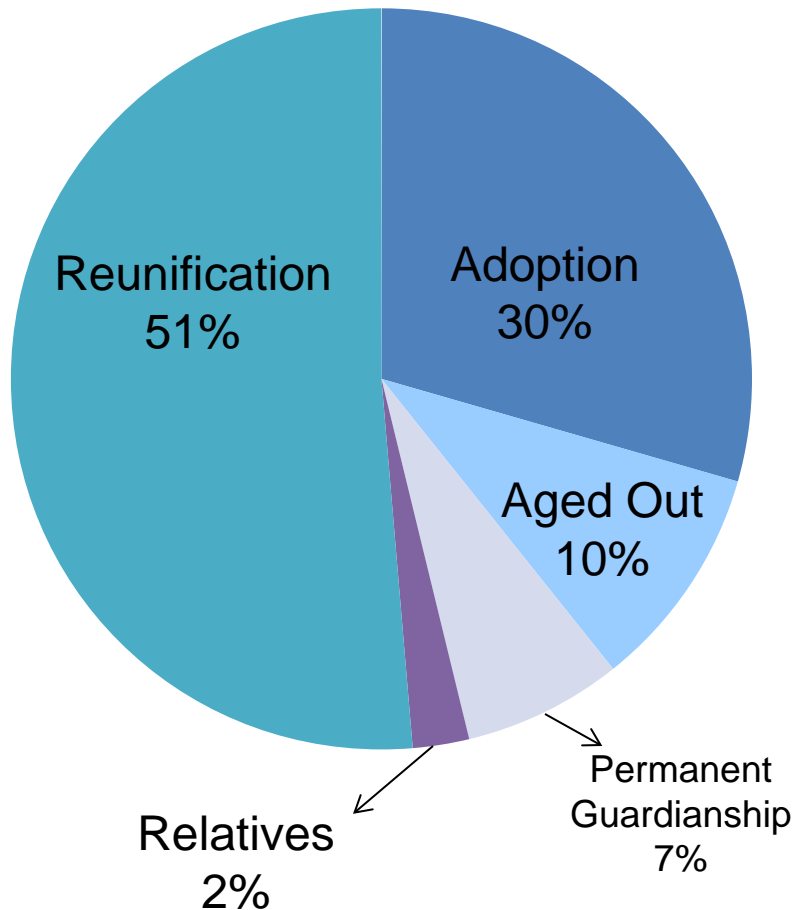
Foster Care Exit Options

- Reunification
- Adoption
- Guardianship
- Relatives
- Age out

African American youth in Michigan are more than twice as likely as their white counterparts to age out of foster care.
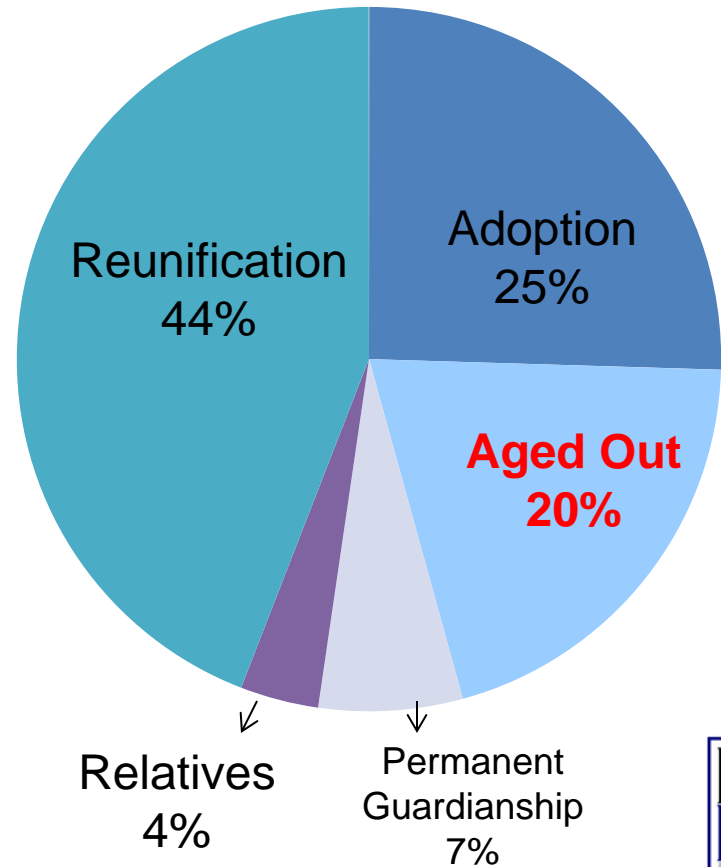

Relative Rate Index (RRI) based on the white rate

Foster Care Exits in 2013

White

Reunification 51%
Adoption 30%
Aged Out 10%
Permanent Guardianship 7%
Relatives 2%

African American

Reunification 44%
Adoption 25%
Aged Out 20%
Relatives 4%
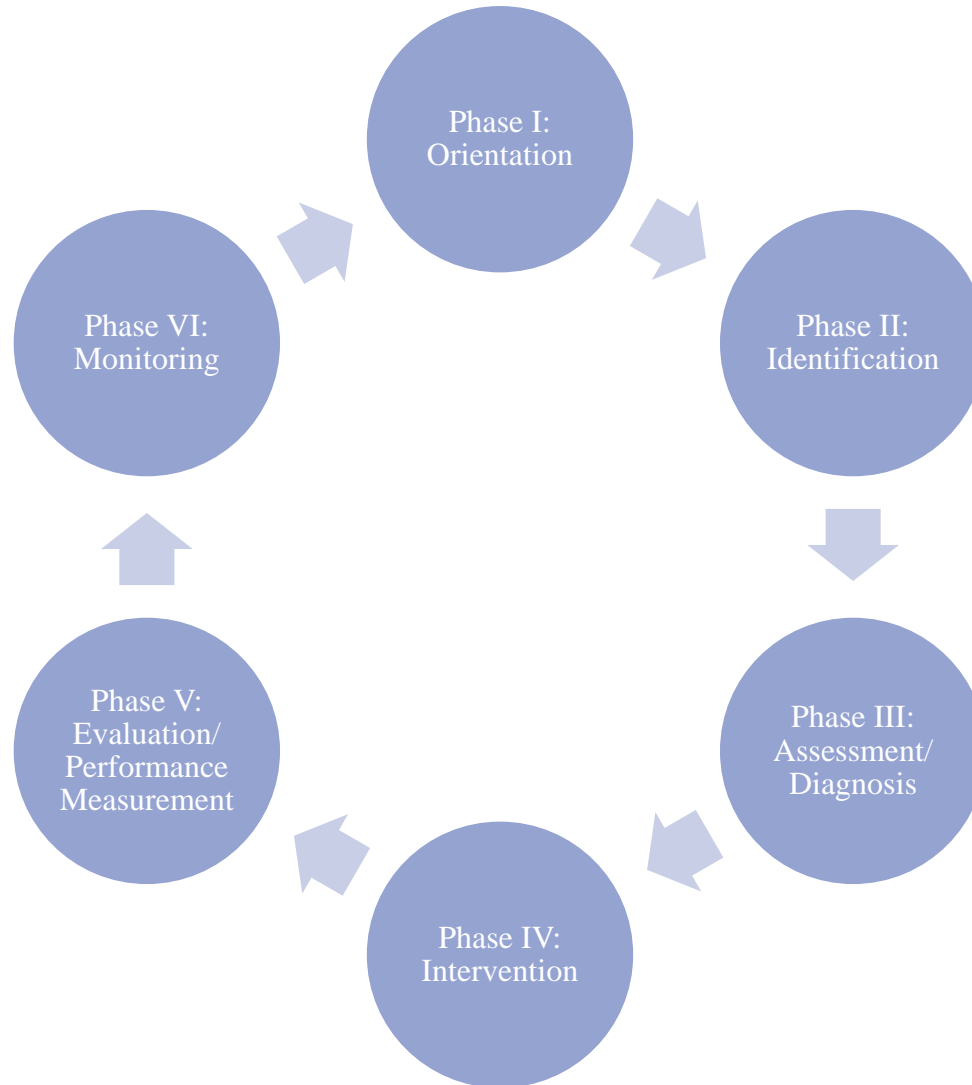Permanent Guardianship 7%

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Saginaw County Demonstration Site

The Michigan Race Equity Coalition Race Equity Coalition: Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice
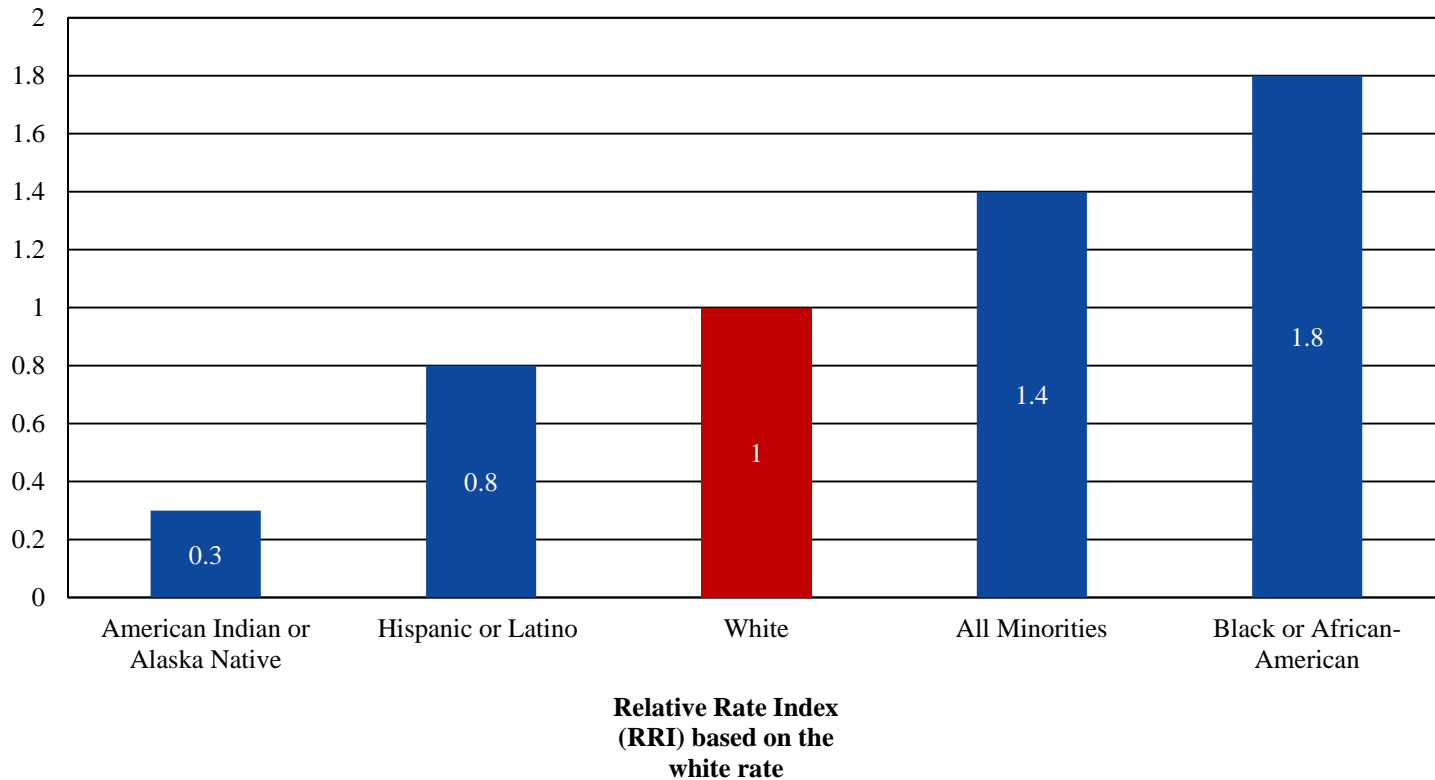
May 21, 2014

**Michael McMillan,
Court Administrator 10th Judicial Circuit Court**

Saginaw DMC Reduction Process

Key 2012 Saginaw County Findings

Figure 4. Children of Color in Saginaw County are more likely to live in families investigated for abuse/neglect.

Relative Rate Index (RRI) based on the white rate

Category	RRI
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.3
Hispanic or Latino	0.8
White	1
All Minorities	1.4
Black or African-American	1.8

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Key 2012 Saginaw County Findings[1]

Figure 5. Children of color in Saginaw County are more likely to be removed from their home due to abuse/neglect than white children.
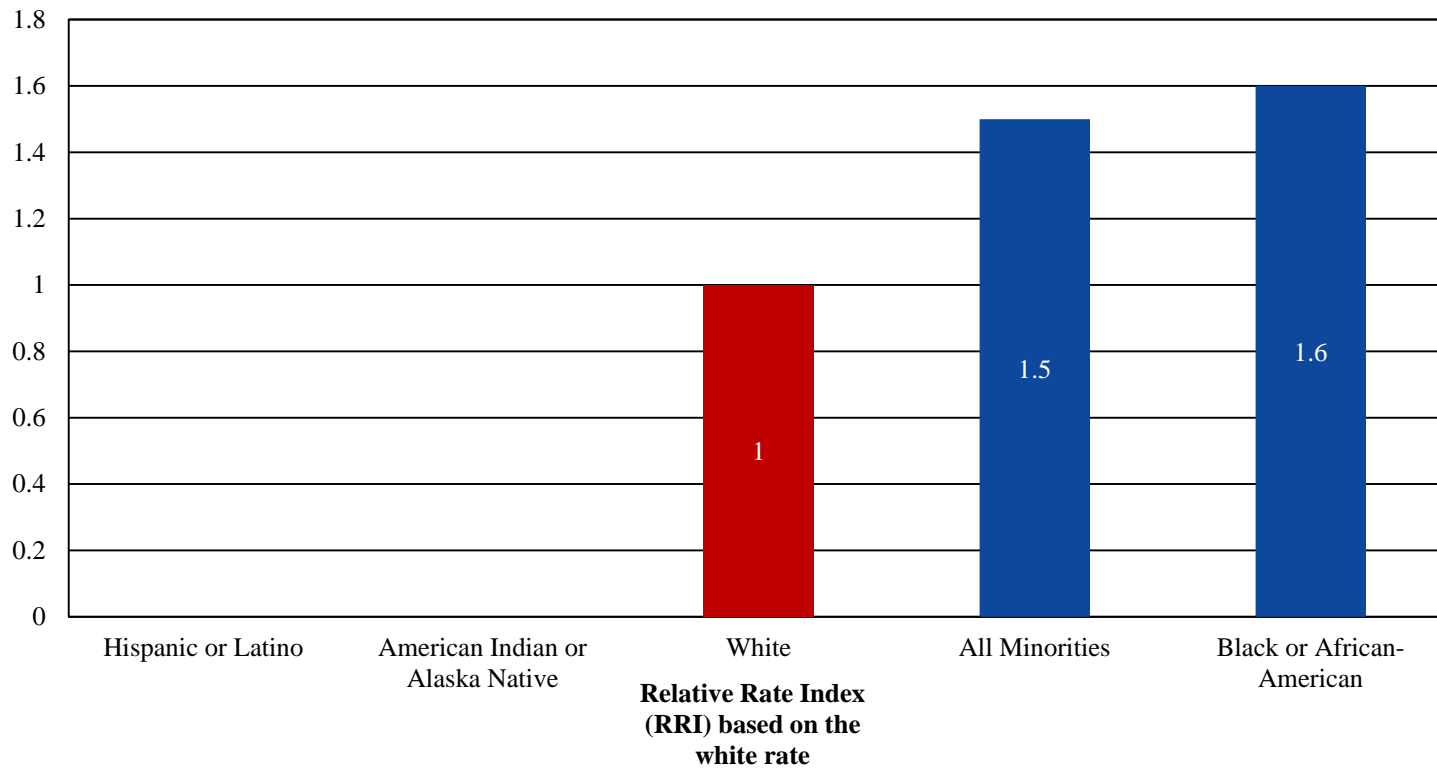
[1]There was an insufficient number of cases to compute an RRI for "American Indian or Alaskan Native" and "Hispanic or Latino" Children Placed Out of Home.

Saginaw County Preliminary DMC Reduction Recommendations

- Training
  - Accurate identification of potential abuse/neglect for professionals who are mandated to report
  - Effective police interactions with youth
  - Cultural competency

- Programming
  - Implement parent support partner program
  - Expand "Strengthening Families"
  - Increase diversion programming

- Systems Change
  - Expand implementation of "Team Decision Making"
  - Establish use of objective risk and needs assessment

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