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
Key Decision Points in Child Welfare

Investigation

Placement

Exit from placement
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Relative Rate Index (RRI) based on the white rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Minorities</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African-American</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Disposition

CONFIRMED

Category I
Category II
Category III

NOT CONFIRMED

Category IV
Category V
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.

![Graph showing Relative Rate Index (RRI) based on the white rate](chart.png)

**Relative Rate Index (RRI) based on the white rate**
- White: 1
- All Minorities: 1.3
- Black or African-American: 1.3
- Hispanic or Latino: 1.4
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 1.5
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.
Foster Care Exits in 2013

**White**
- Reunification: 51%
- Adoption: 30%
- Aged Out: 10%
- Relatives: 2%
- Permanent Guardianship: 7%

**African American**
- Reunification: 44%
- Adoption: 25%
- Aged Out: 20%
- Relatives: 4%
- Permanent Guardianship: 7%
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

Phase I: Orientation

Phase II: Identification

Phase III: Assessment/Diagnosis

Phase IV: Intervention

Phase V: Evaluation/Performance Measurement

Phase VI: Monitoring
Key 2012 Saginaw County Findings

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

<table>
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Key 2012 Saginaw County Findings

Figure 5. Children of color in Saginaw County are more likely to be removed from their home due to abuse/neglect than white children.

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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