



# Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

**Commissioner**  
*Jaime Masters, MS, MFT*

## Fiscal Year 2021 Disproportionality and Disparity Analysis

Pursuant to DFPS Rider 33, General Appropriations Act, 87th Legislature, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) shall provide the number of children removed from their homes by child protective services and the number of children investigated, by race and ethnic group, in the seven largest urban regions of the state during the preceding fiscal year. This report analyzes disproportionality and disparities within Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, Hidalgo, Travis, and El Paso Counties<sup>1</sup> and presents the prevalence of racial and ethnic disproportionately and disparity at DFPS.

Disproportionality means a particular race or cultural group makes up a proportion of those experiencing some event that is greater or smaller than that group's proportion of the population. Disparity refers to a comparison of an event occurring for one group to another group. A disparity index<sup>2</sup> was calculated to compare the level of representation of African American children, Hispanic children, and children of other race/ethnicities<sup>3</sup> to Anglo children. A disparity index of one means a race/ethnic group is represented the same as Anglo children at that decision point.

### Statewide Analysis

At the state level, there was a higher proportion of African American children at all the different stages of DFPS involvement than the proportion of African American children in the statewide population. A higher proportion of children in the "other" race/ethnicity category were reported as alleged victims at intake than in the statewide population. This may be because the "other" category includes when the race and ethnicity of the child are unknown, which is more likely to happen at the point of report. The proportion of children in the "other" race/ethnicity category who were investigated or removed was similar to the general population. Hispanic children made up a slightly smaller proportion than in the general population across the three DFPS service stages.

The statewide results look nearly identical to last fiscal year. Statewide, the largest disparity was seen in African American children, who are 1.7 times more likely to be reported, 1.9 times more likely to be investigated, and 1.5 times more likely to be

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<sup>1</sup> As the data was retrieved from the IMPACT database before the end-of-the-year refresh, this data may differ slightly from a finalized version.

<sup>2</sup> Shaw, T. V., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Magruder, J., & Needell, B. (2008). Measuring racial disparity in child welfare. *Child welfare*, 87(2).

<sup>3</sup> Other includes children who are not African American, Anglo, or Hispanic, as well as children who do not have a race or ethnicity recorded (missing).

removed than Anglo children. Additionally, compared to Anglo children, African American children are 0.1 times less likely than last fiscal year to be removed. Children of "other" races/ethnicities were 2.2 times more likely to be reported to Statewide Intake by the community but had a similar likelihood of being investigated or removed than Anglo children. Hispanic children had similar outcomes to Anglo children for each decision point.

## County Analysis

Each of the seven largest urban counties in the state have very different racial and ethnic makeups. For instance, in Harris County, African American children compose 18% of the child population and 41% of the children removed in the county. In comparison, African American children represent 6% of children in Bexar County and 10% of the removal population in fiscal year 2021. All seven counties had some disproportionality across the different categories of DFPS involvement.

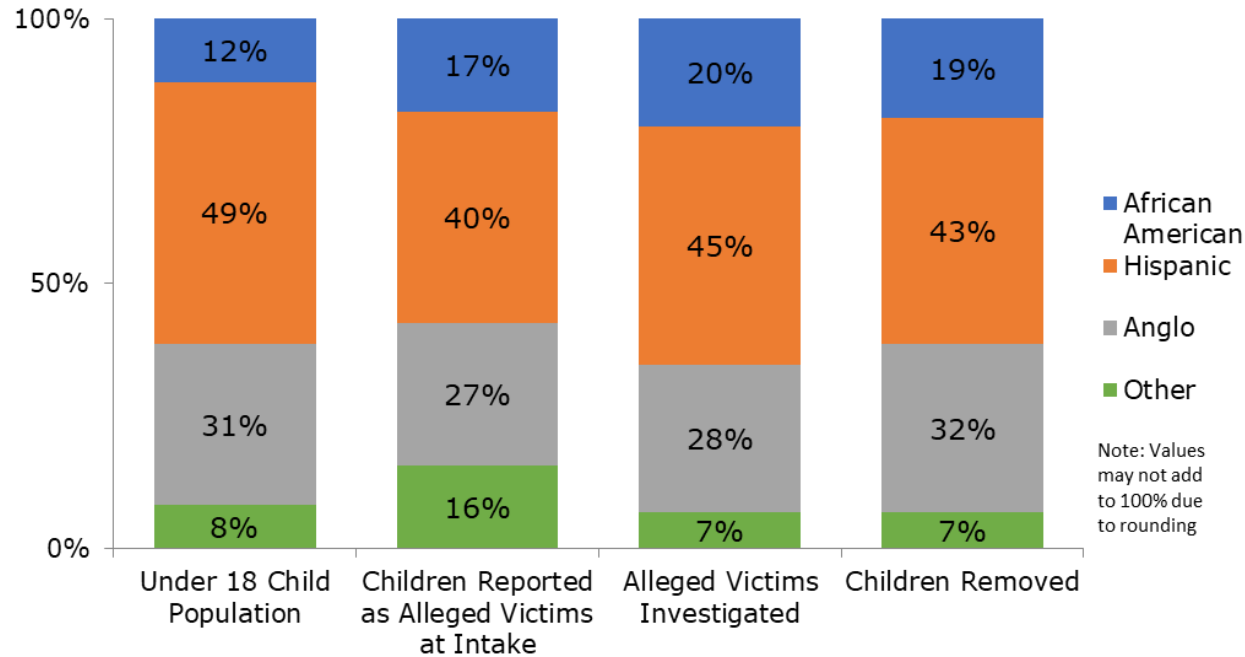
The disparity index provides a way to standardize the disproportionality observed across the counties with different racial and ethnic compositions. Apart from removals in Hidalgo County, African American children were more likely than Anglo children to be reported, investigated, and removed in each county and statewide. The magnitude differed by county; Travis County showed the largest disparities of the seven largest counties, with African American children 4.3 times more likely to be reported, 5.0 times more likely to be investigated, and 6.4 times more likely to be removed than Anglo children.

Hispanic children had similar or better outcomes compared to Anglo children across many counties, as reflected in the statewide disparity indices. Yet, Bexar, El Paso, Hidalgo, Travis, and to a lesser extent, Dallas, had negative disparities for Hispanic children compared to Anglo children. It should be noted these disparities were less pronounced than the disparities observed for African American children.

Across the seven largest counties and statewide, children in the "other" race/ethnicity category group were more likely to be reported than Anglo children. For the other outcomes of investigation and removal, children of "other" race/ethnicities were sometimes less likely and sometimes more likely than Anglo children, dependent on county and outcome.

Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2021<sup>1</sup>  
 State of Texas

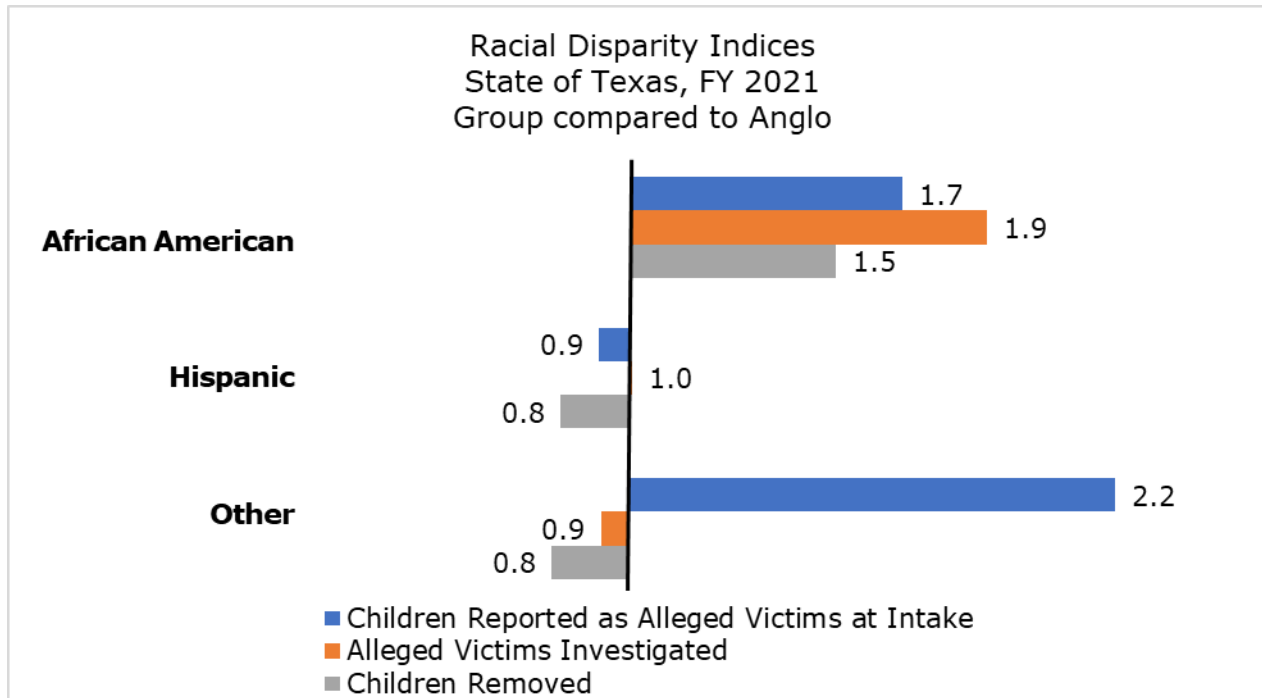
Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	7,594,941	902,468	3,754,305	2,322,156	616,012
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	416,763	72,858	166,840	111,668	65,397
Alleged Victims Investigated	262,427	53,387	118,389	72,718	17,933
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	15,963	2,989	6,807	5,079	1,088



<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Year 2021 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #99942.

<sup>2</sup> Population Data Source - Population Estimates and Projections Program, Texas State Data Center, Office of the State Demographer and the Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio. Current population estimates and projections data as of December 2020.

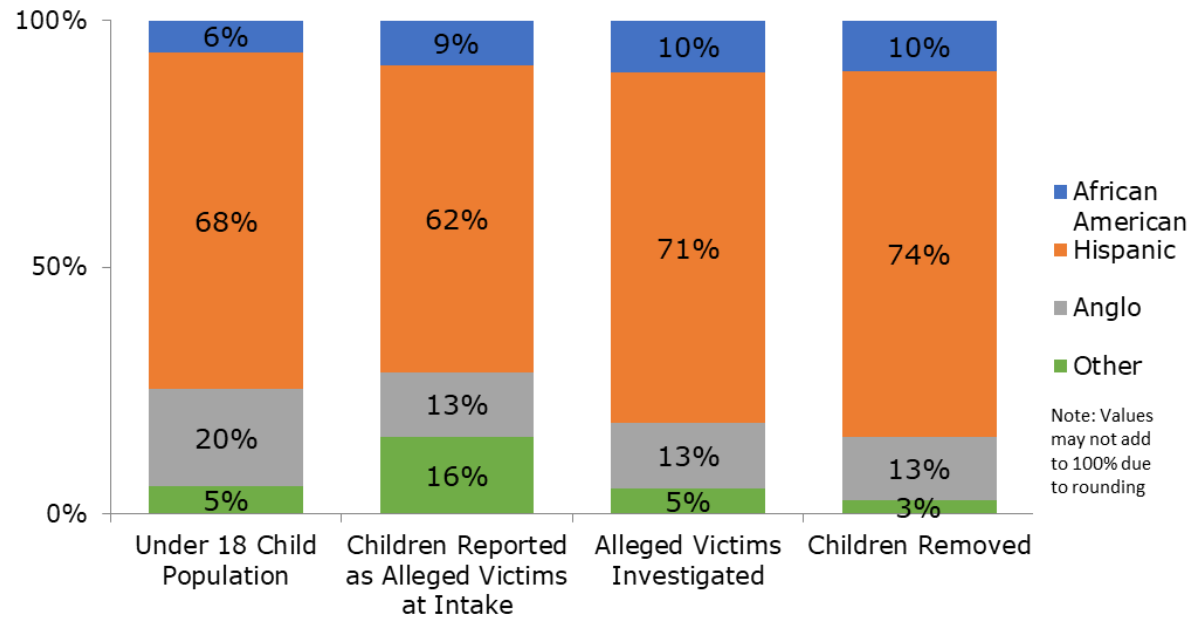
<sup>3</sup> Children removed include both Stages of Service - Investigation and Family Based Safety Services.



A disparity index of one means a race/ethnic group is represented the same as Anglo children at that decision point. A disparity index greater than one means the comparison race/ethnic group is more represented compared to Anglo children, while a disparity index of less than one means Anglo children are more represented at that decision point.

Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2021<sup>1</sup>  
 Bexar County - Region 08 - County Number 015

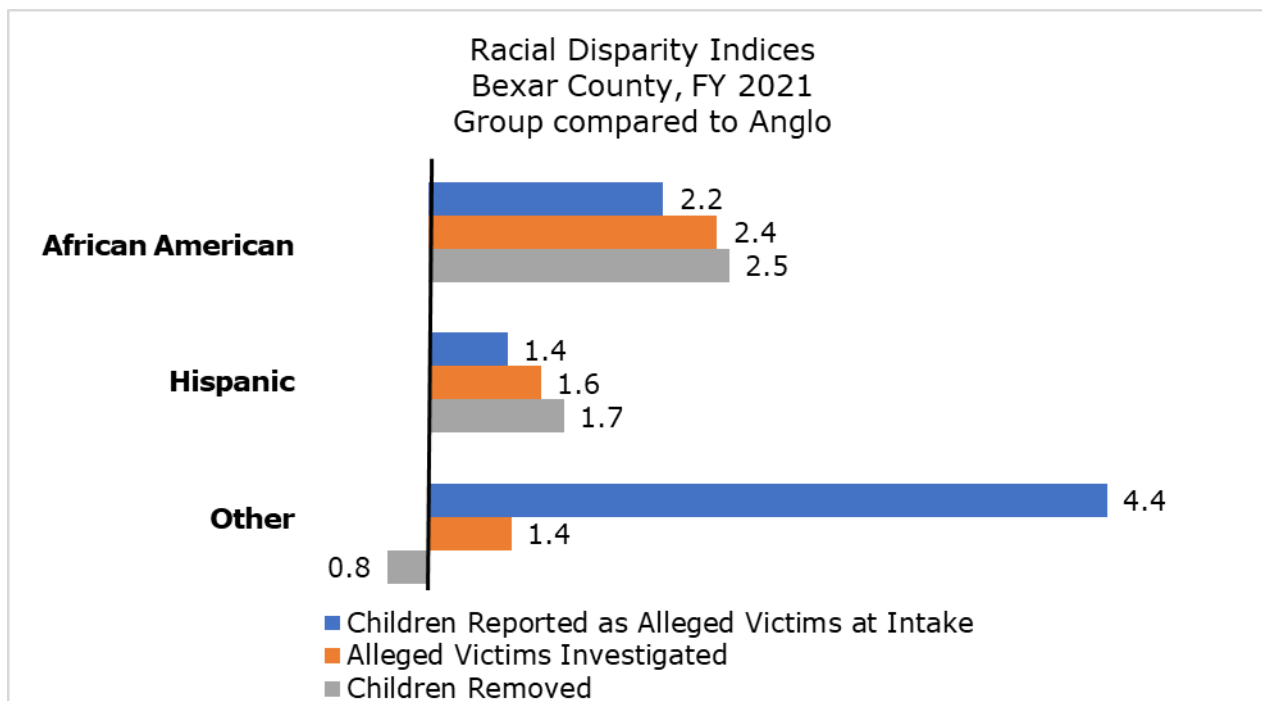
Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	541,891	34,932	370,155	107,225	29,579
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	35,136	3,211	21,887	4,548	5,490
Alleged Victims Investigated	21,177	2,220	15,066	2,800	1,091
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	1,711	178	1,266	219	48



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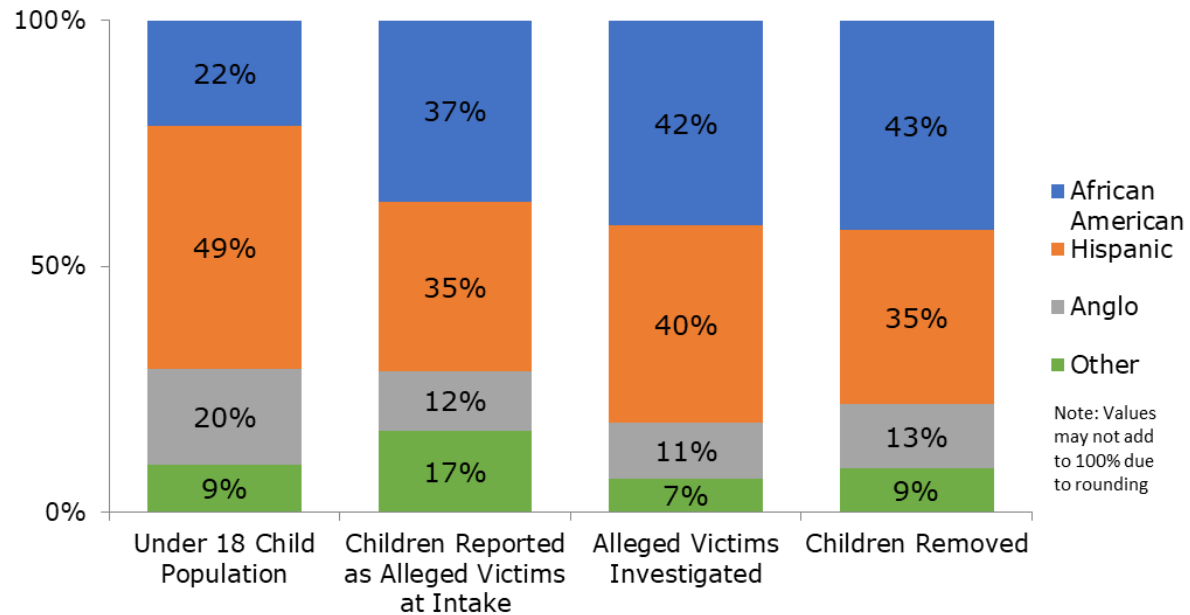
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 Dallas County - Region 03 - County Number 057

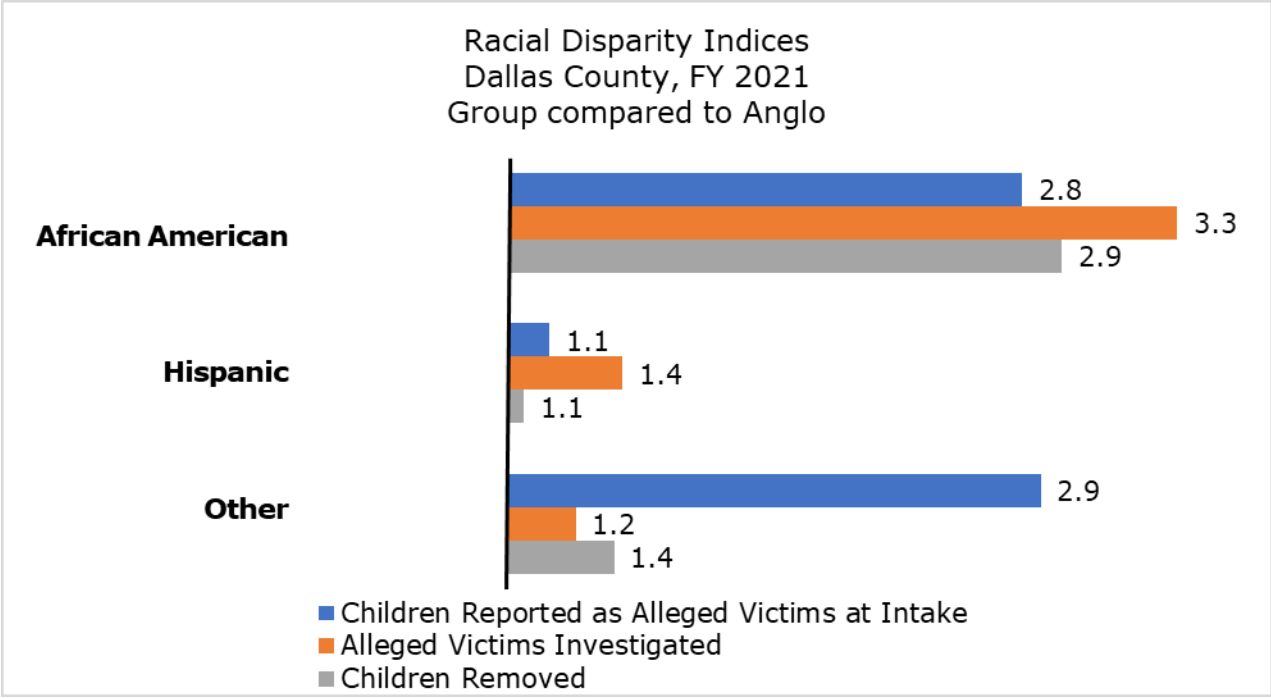
Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	735,723	158,676	363,390	143,799	69,858
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	33,887	12,482	11,722	4,058	5,625
Alleged Victims Investigated	20,608	8,598	8,266	2,341	1,403
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	1,126	481	397	149	99



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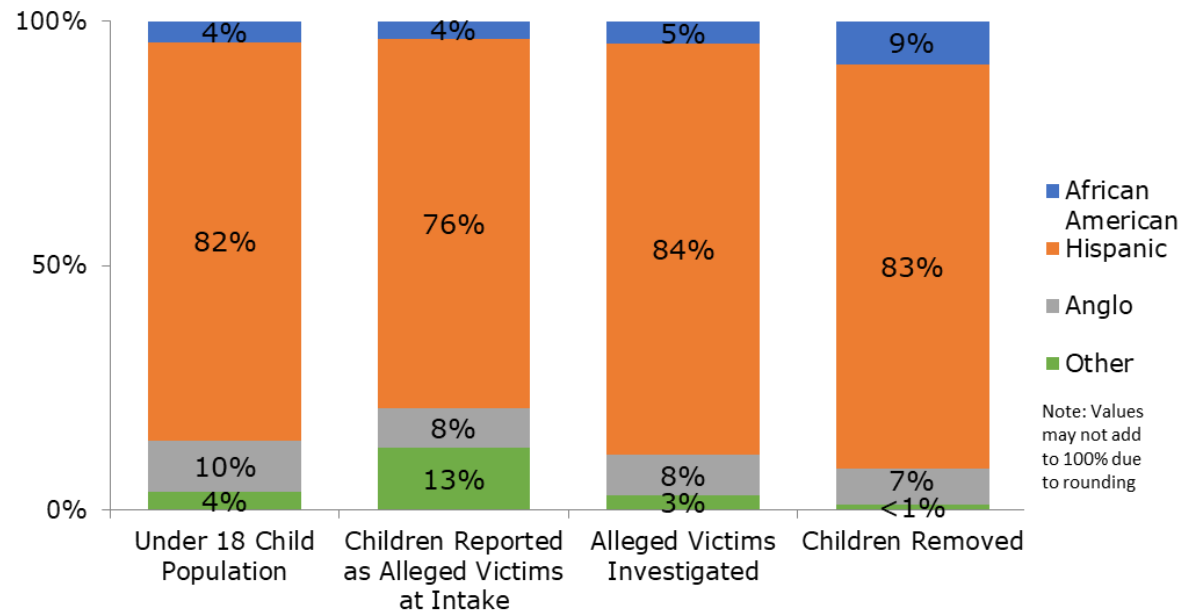


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Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2021<sup>1</sup>  
 El Paso County - Region 10 - County Number 071

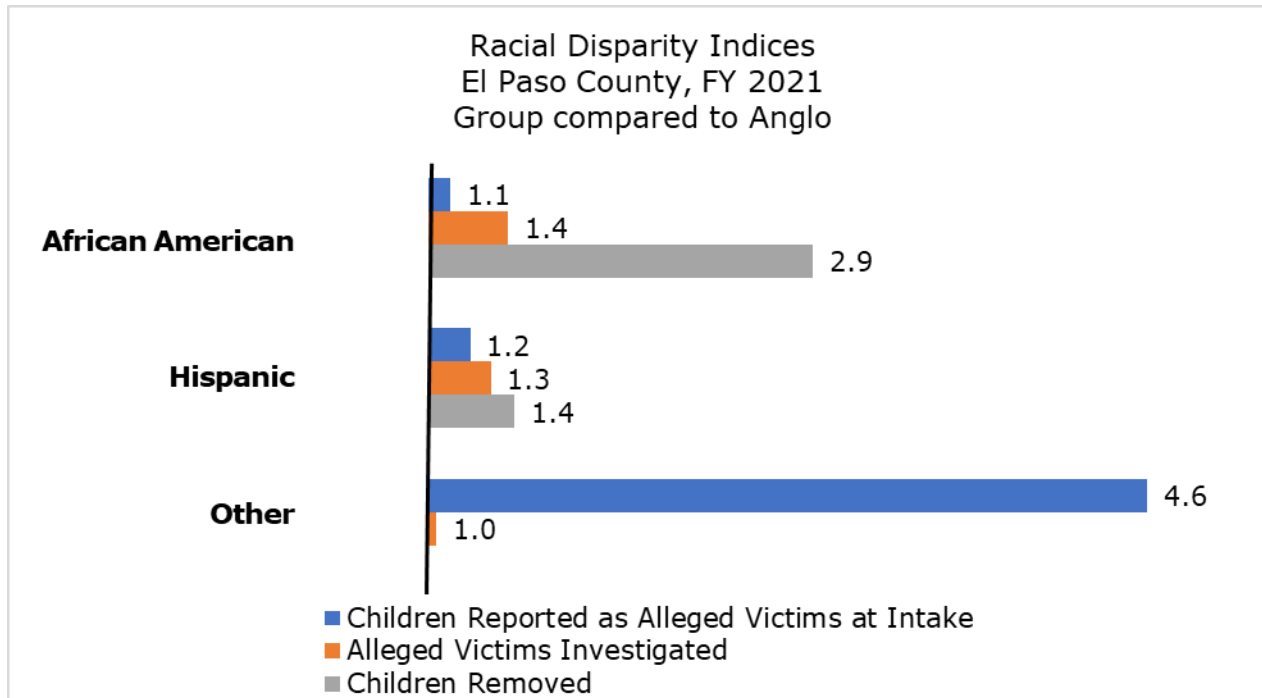
Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	243,497	10,396	198,796	25,505	8,800
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	10,973	399	8,302	881	1,391
Alleged Victims Investigated	6,628	311	5,575	546	196
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	215	19	178	16	<5



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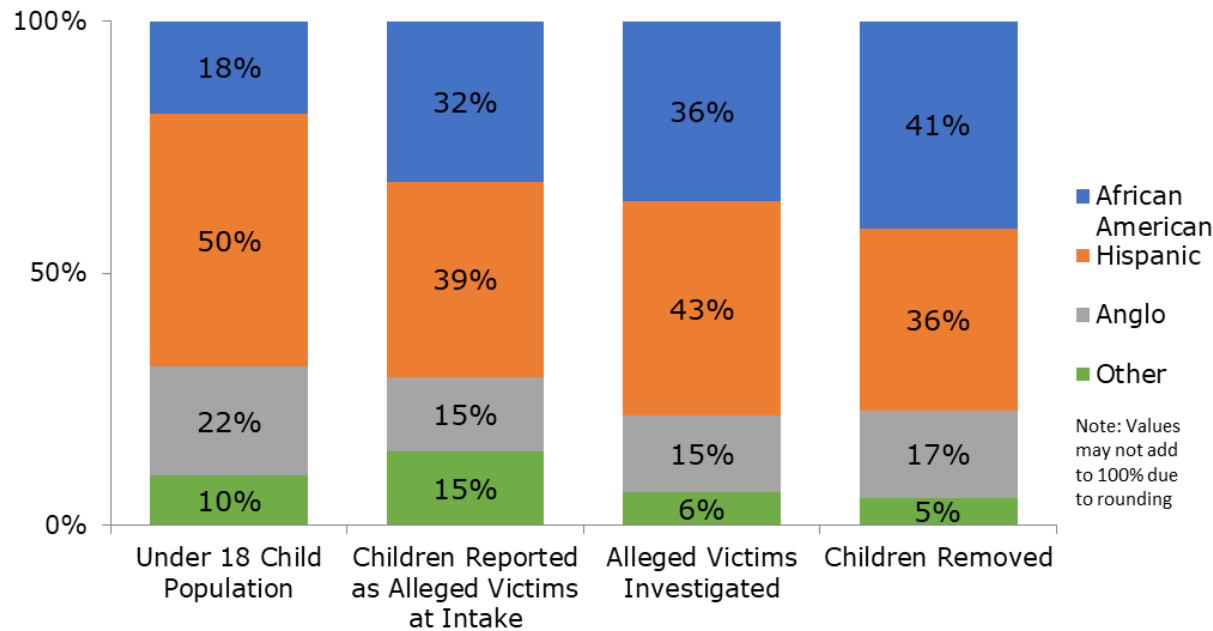


Note: Children of other races/ethnicities are excluded from children removed analysis due to small N size.

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 Harris County - Region 06 - County Number 101

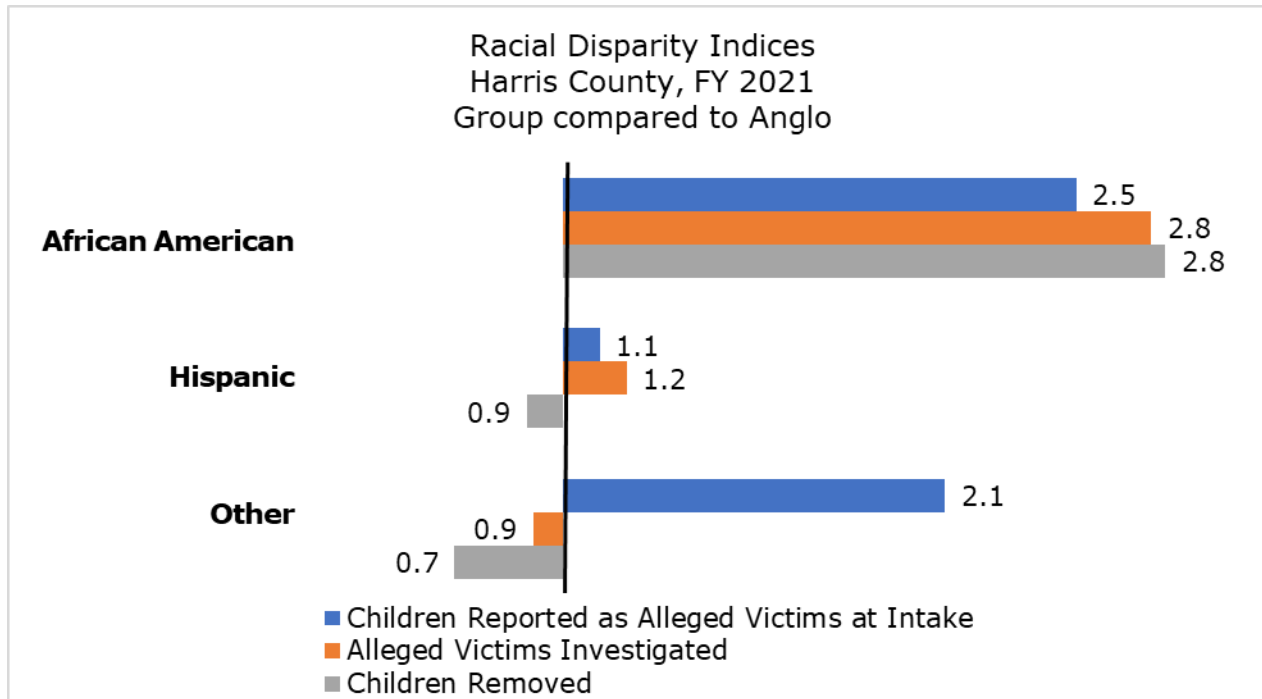
Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	1,349,783	246,706	679,428	290,681	132,968
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	54,468	17,407	21,037	8,096	7,928
Alleged Victims Investigated	38,818	13,876	16,533	5,933	2,476
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	970	399	351	168	52



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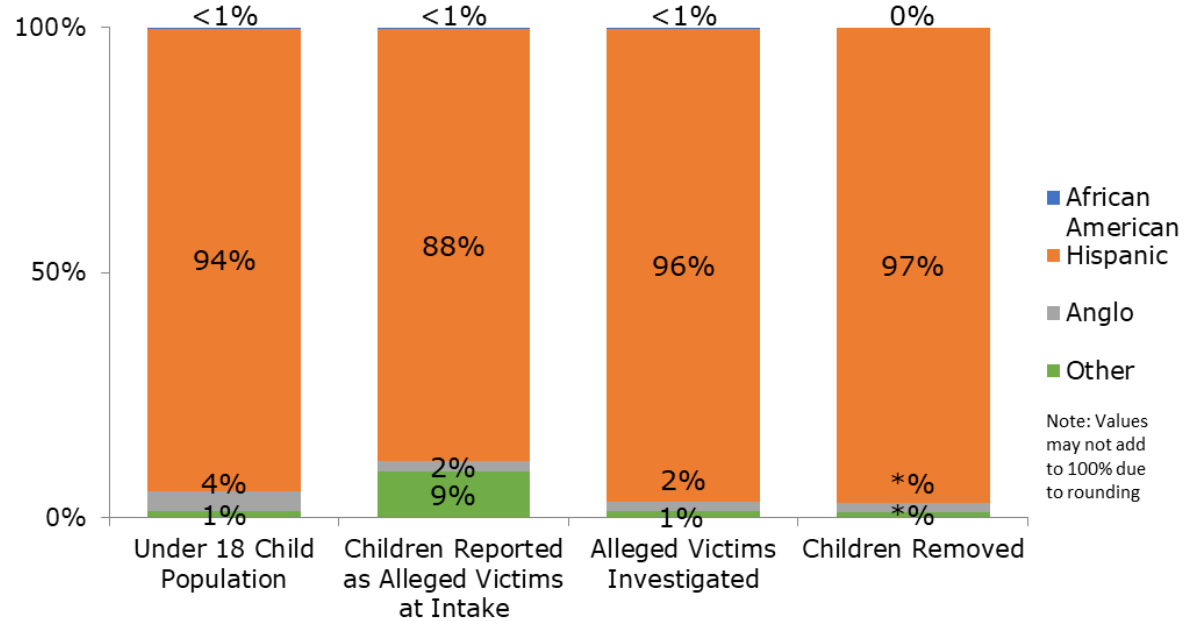
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Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2021<sup>1</sup>  
 Hidalgo County - Region 11 - County Number 108

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	257,655	625	243,285	10,309	3,436
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	12,437	42	10,965	279	1,151
Alleged Victims Investigated	8,127	28	7,836	165	98
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	207	0	201	<5	<5

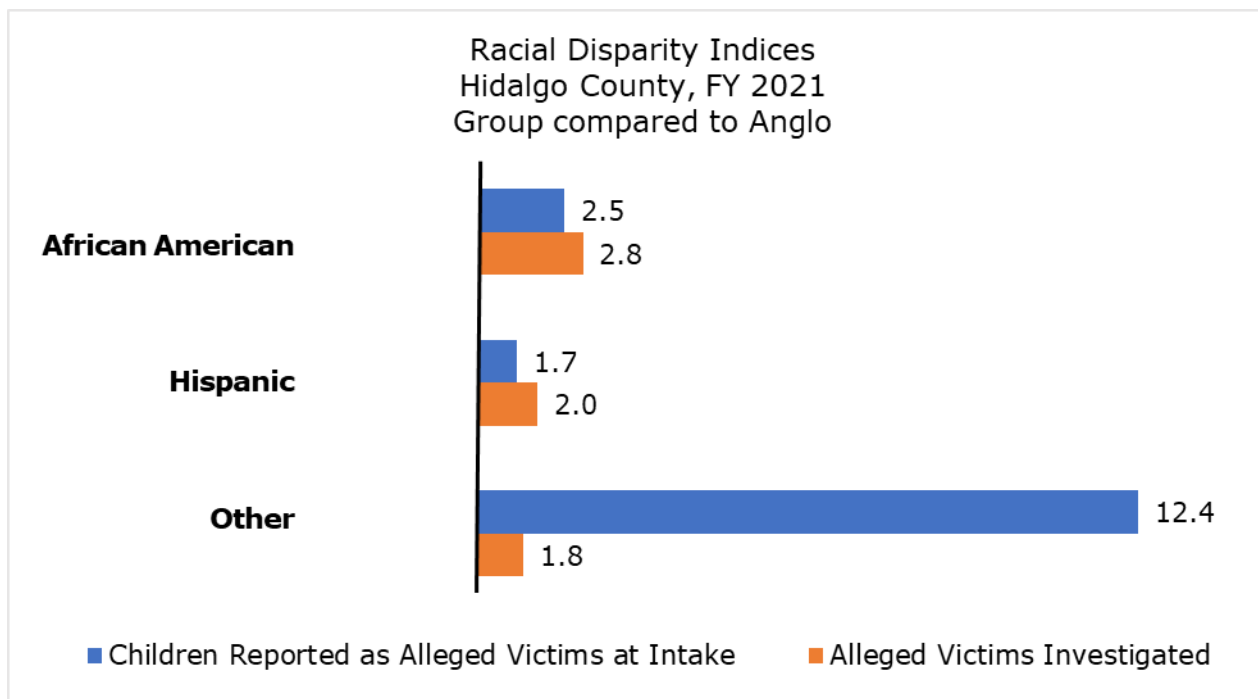


\*The percentage of Anglo and children of other races/ethnicities are excluded due to small N size.

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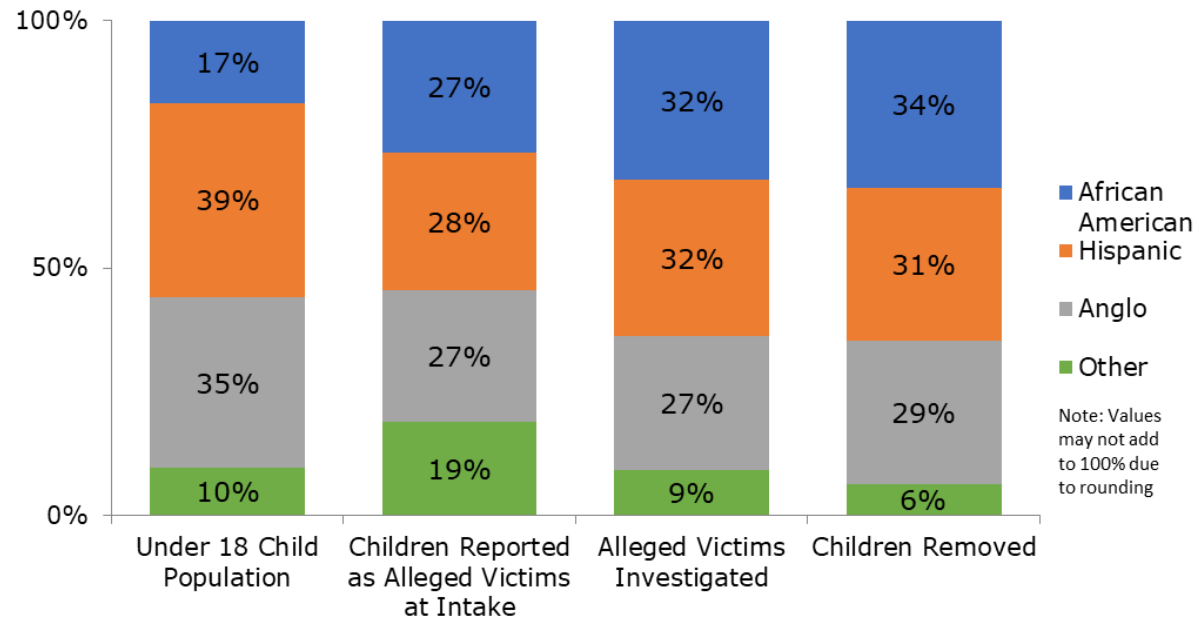


Note: The children removed analysis is excluded due to small N size across all race/ethnicities besides Hispanic.

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 Tarrant County - Region 03 - County Number 220

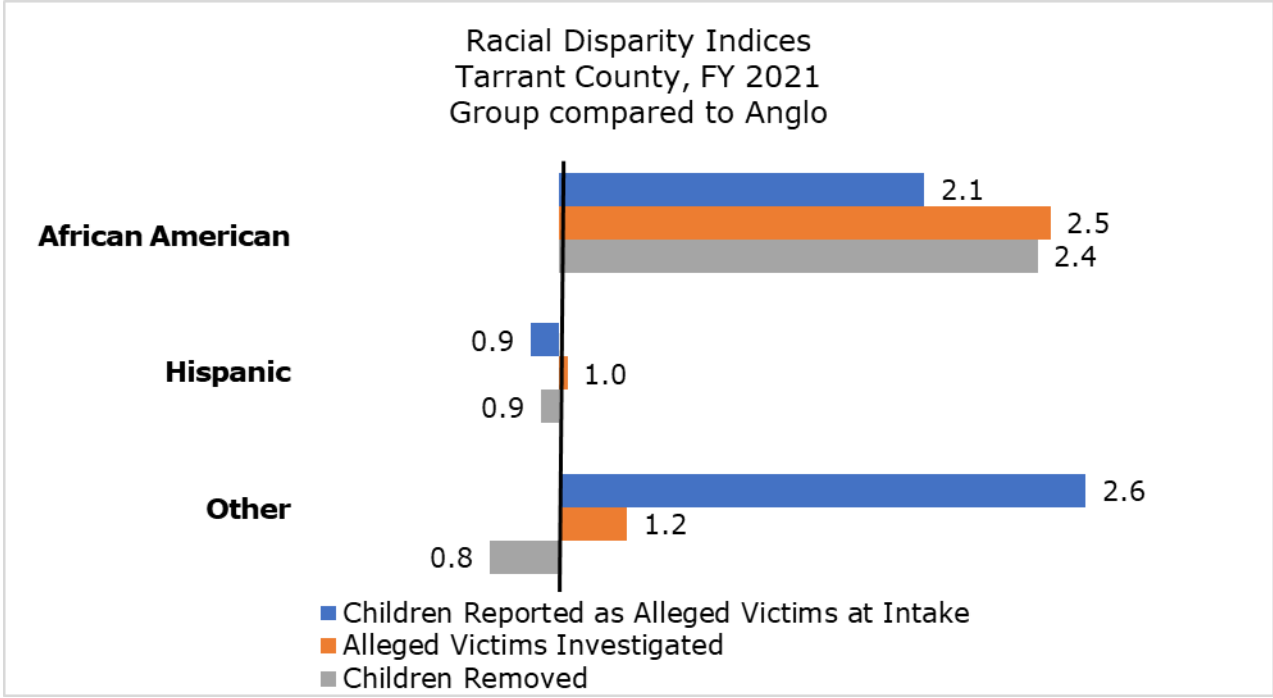
Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	545,169	90,790	213,891	188,276	52,212
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	31,895	8,548	8,821	8,475	6,051
Alleged Victims Investigated	19,244	6,206	6,082	5,214	1,742
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	645	218	200	186	41



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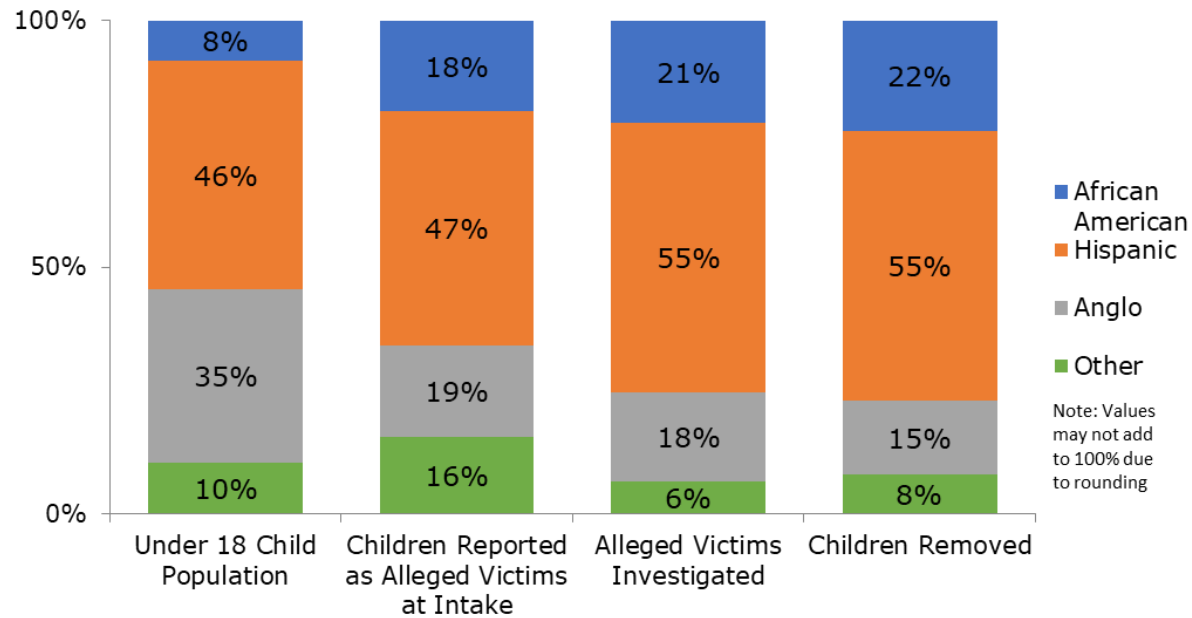


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 Travis County - Region 07 - County Number 227

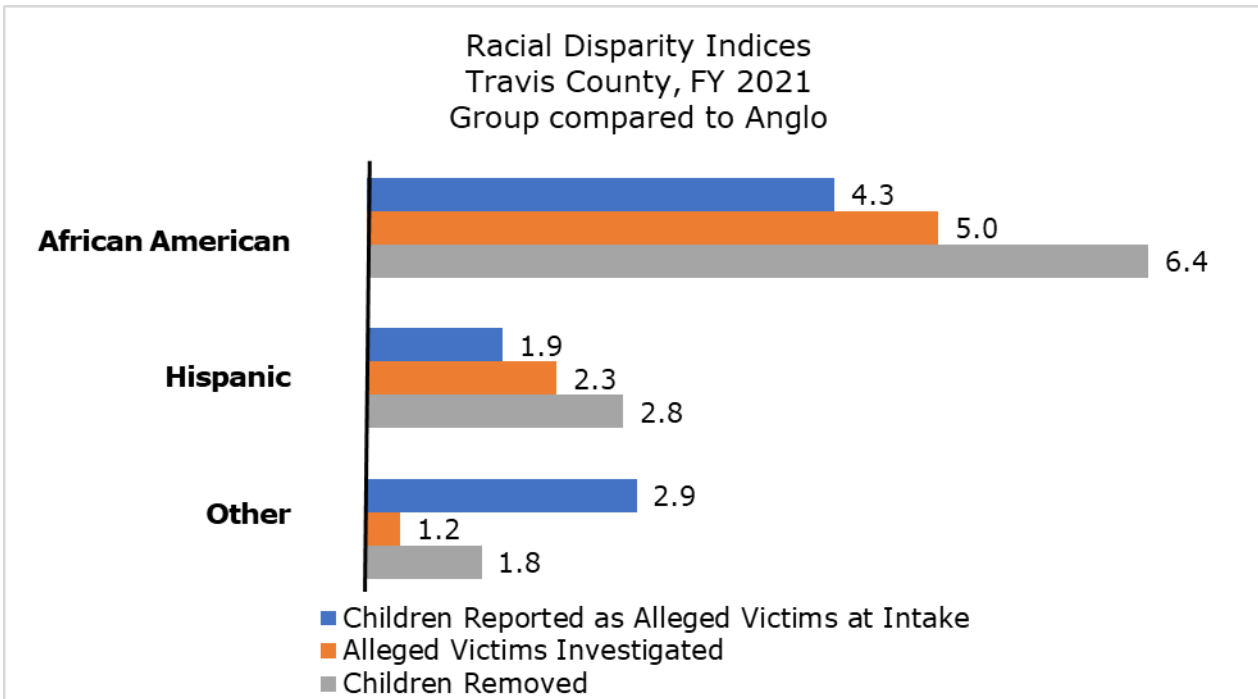
Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	290,389	23,791	134,264	102,667	29,667
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	15,380	2,829	7,297	2,868	2,386
Alleged Victims Investigated	8,006	1,667	4,381	1,444	514
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	499	112	273	75	39



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