



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

COMMISSIONER  
H. L. Whitman, Jr.

September 28, 2017

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Office of the Governor  
P. O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Jane Nelson  
Chair, Senate Committee on Finance  
Texas Senate  
P. O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711-2068

The Honorable John Zerwas  
Chair, House Committee on Appropriations  
Texas House of Representatives  
P. O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768

Ms. Ursula Parks  
Director, Legislative Budget Board  
1501 North Congress Avenue, 5th Floor  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Governor Abbott, Chair Nelson, Chair Zerwas, and Ms. Parks:

I am pleased to submit for your review the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Rider 15 Report on minority child removals. Pursuant to Rider 15 in the 2016-2017 General Appropriations Act, 84th Legislature, the DFPS reports data on the number and percentage of each race and ethnicity represented in the following categories:

- general child population for the state;
- children who are reported to Statewide Intake for abuse or neglect; and
- children whom Child Protective Services (CPS) investigates and removes.

The data is provided for the seven largest urban Texas counties: Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, Hidalgo, Travis and El Paso. DFPS has produced similar reports each year from 2009-2016.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Rachel Nicholson, External Relations Director, serves as the lead on this matter and can be reached by email at [Rachel.Nicholson@dfps.state.tx.us](mailto:Rachel.Nicholson@dfps.state.tx.us) or by phone at (512) 438-3979.

Sincerely

H. L. Whitman, Jr.

Attachments



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

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### **FY 2017 Disproportionality Analysis**

Pursuant to DFPS Rider 15 of the 2016-2017 General Appropriations Act, 84th Legislature, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) provides information on the racial and ethnic breakdown of children who are reported to Statewide Intake Division within the seven largest counties in the state. This breakdown highlights any disproportionality that may occur within Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, Hidalgo, Travis and El Paso Counties.

#### **Analysis**

The analysis uses the Origination Disparity Index (ODI) for African Americans, Hispanics, and others. Overall, disproportionality was most pronounced for African American children. Although there was some localized disproportionality for every race and ethnicity, the general nature, extent and magnitude differed.

Based on statewide data collected in FY2017, African American children are 1.7 times more likely to be reported than Anglo children, increasing steadily every year from 1.5 times more likely in 2013. African American children are 1.9 times more likely to be investigated, up steadily every year from 1.6 times more likely in 2013. African American children are 1.6 times more likely to be removed, which has remained steady since 2013. Hispanic children are slightly less likely than Anglo children to be reported, investigated or removed, while other children are 2.3 times more likely to be reported, but equally likely to be investigated or removed compared to Anglo children. Overall, disproportionality for Hispanic and Other children<sup>1</sup> has remained relatively steady since 2013.

#### **County Analysis**

African American children are 4.6 times more likely than Anglo children to have an allegation, 5.8 times more likely to be investigated, and 6.2 times more likely to be removed in Travis County, which is far above the state figures. Harris, Dallas, Tarrant and Bexar counties show slightly higher disproportionality than the state for African American children reported and investigated, though African American children are three times more likely to be removed than Anglo children in Harris and Tarrant counties, and 2.3 times more likely to be removed in Dallas County. Because 96% of the population in Hidalgo County is Hispanic, the figures are erratic. A higher proportion of Anglo children are removed than Hispanic children in El Paso County.

## FY 2017 Disproportionality Analysis

While Hispanic children were less likely to be reported, investigated or removed across the state, Hispanic children were more than two times more likely to receive an allegation or an investigation, and were 1.9 times more likely to be removed than Anglo children in Travis County. Bexar and Hidalgo Counties were the only other counties where Hispanic children were more likely than Anglo children to be reported, investigated, or removed.

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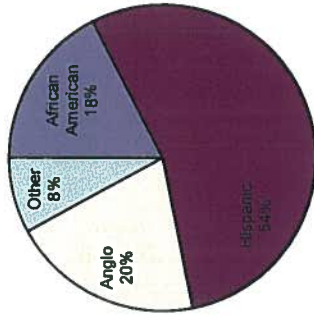
<sup>i</sup> Children who are not African American, Anglo, or Hispanic

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

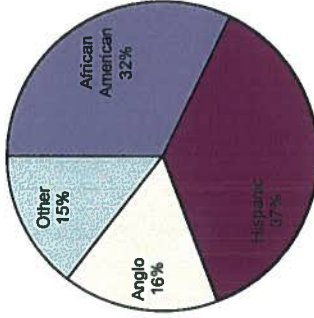
Rider 15 - Minority Child Removals Report for FY2017 - Current Ethnicity  
Harris County - Region 06 - County Number 101

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Population*	1,222,771	213,543	664,821	246,471	97,936
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	56,156	17,999	20,904	9,054	8,199
Alleged Victims Investigated	40,539	14,107	16,704	6,888	2,840
Children Removed**	1,768	818	529	302	119

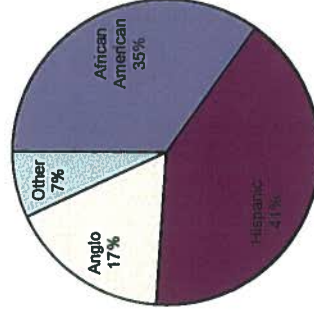
Under 18 Child Population



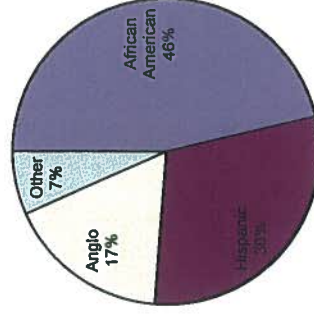
Alleged Victims at Intake



Alleged Victims Investigated



Children Removed



\* Population is based on the 2010 census data.

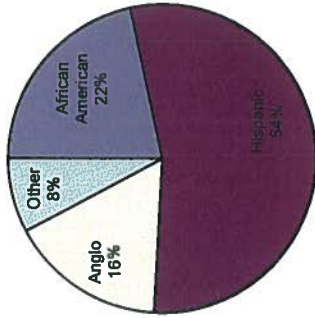
\*\* Children removed include both Stages of Service - Investigation and Family Based Safety Services

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

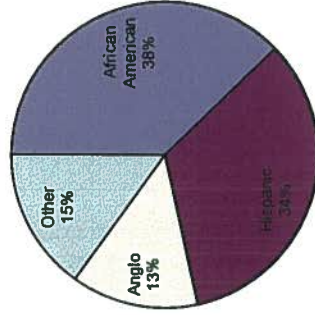
Rider 15 - Minority Child Removals Report for FY2017 - Current Ethnicity  
Dallas County - Region 03 - County Number 057

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Population*	694,665	149,833	376,695	113,820	54,317
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	37,157	14,023	12,545	4,988	5,601
Alleged Victims Investigated	25,091	10,222	9,546	3,311	2,012
Children Removed**	1,535	695	485	233	122

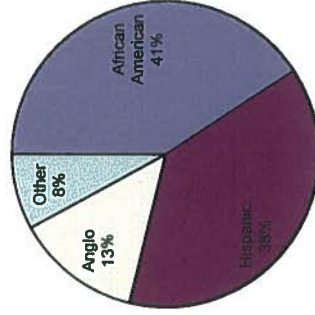
Under 18 Child Population



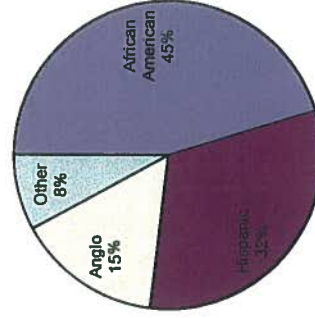
Alleged Victims at Intake



Alleged Victims Investigated



Children Removed



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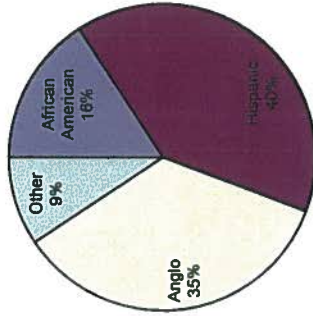
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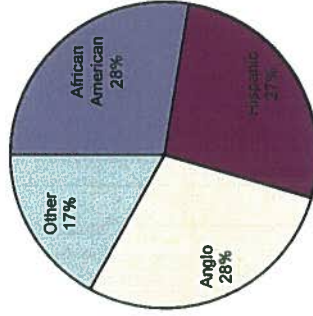
Rider 15 - Minority Child Removals Report for FY2017 - Current Ethnicity  
Tarrant County - Region 03 - County Number 220

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Population*	538,318	84,973	214,938	187,859	50,548
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	32,846	9,040	8,864	9,351	5,591
Alleged Victims Investigated	21,895	6,979	6,654	6,188	2,074
Children Removed**	693	241	210	178	64

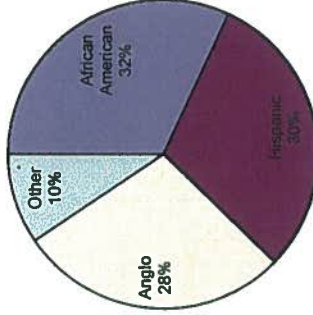
Under 18 Child Population



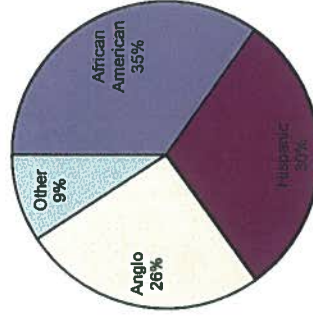
Alleged Victims at Intake



Alleged Victims Investigated



Children Removed



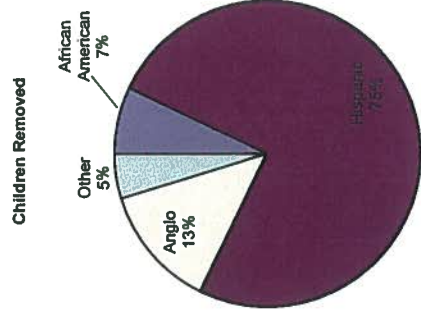
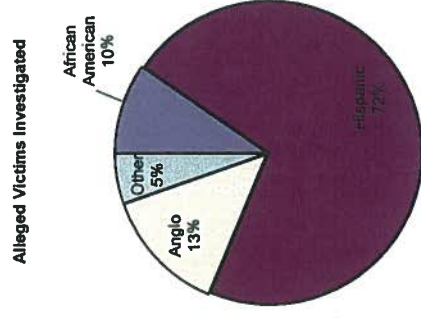
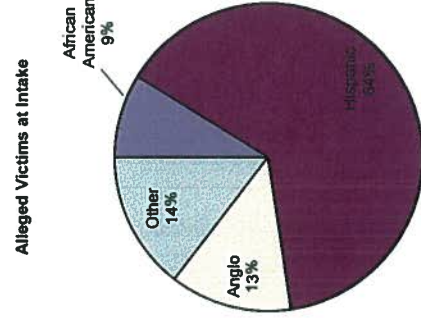
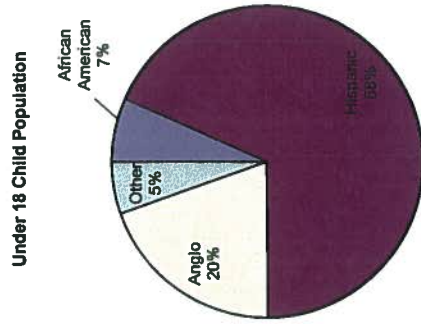
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Rider 15 - Minority Child Removals Report for FY2017 - Current Ethnicity  
Bexar County - Region 08 - County Number 015

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Population*	509,938	33,692	348,070	100,686	27,490
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	38,678	3,401	24,682	4,969	5,626
Alleged Victims Investigated	25,776	2,470	18,489	3,443	1,374
Children Removed**	2,349	165	1,767	306	111



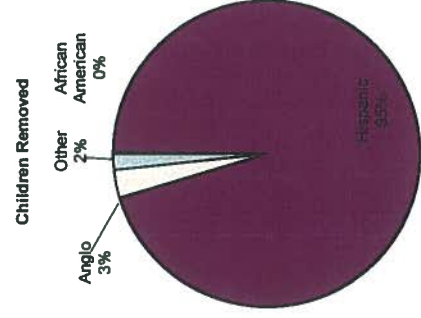
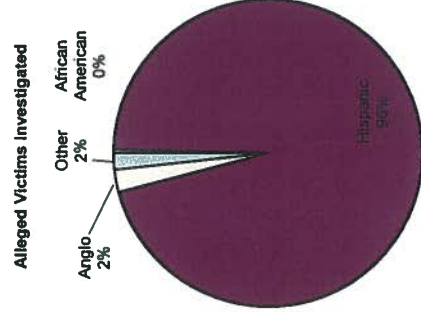
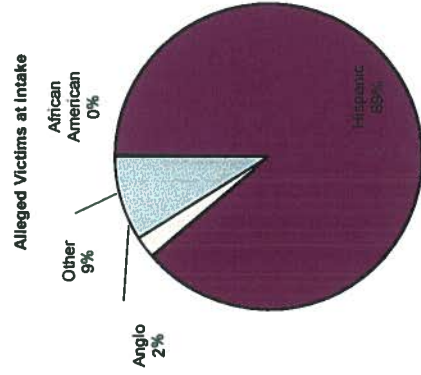
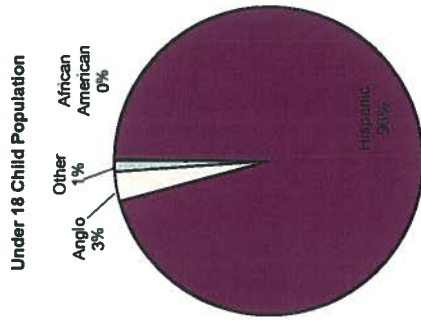
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Rider 15 - Minority Child Removals Report for FY2017 - Current Ethnicity  
Hidalgo County - Region 11 - County Number 108

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Population*	293,916	721	280,804	9,123	3,268
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	13,648	35	12,080	311	1,222
Alleged Victims Investigated	9,417	38	8,993	222	164
Children Removed**	474	1	451	14	8



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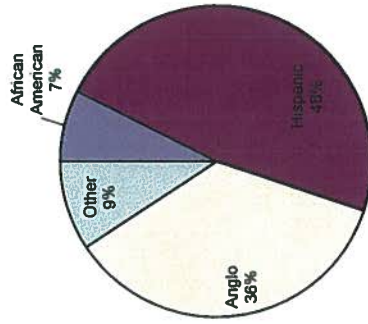


Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

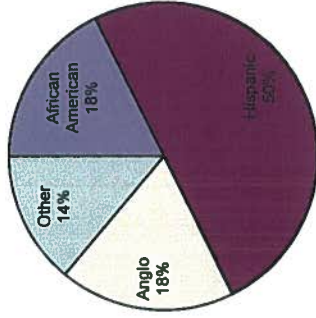
Rider 15 - Minority Child Removals Report for FY2017 - Current Ethnicity  
Travis County - Region 07 - County Number 227

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Population*	291,482	21,728	139,039	103,640	27,075
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	20,402	3,611	10,204	3,742	2,845
Alleged Victims Investigated	10,811	2,232	6,072	1,844	663
Children Removed**	689	175	342	134	38

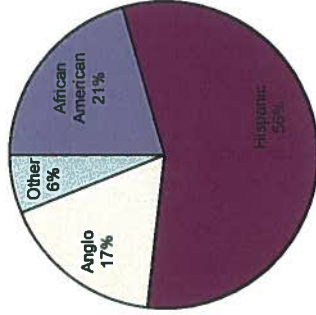
Under 18 Child Population



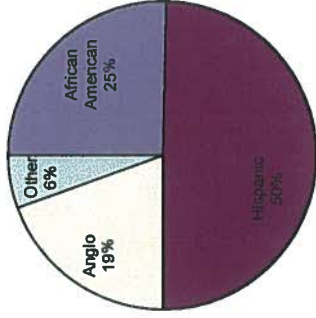
Alleged Victims at Intake



Alleged Victims Investigated



Children Removed



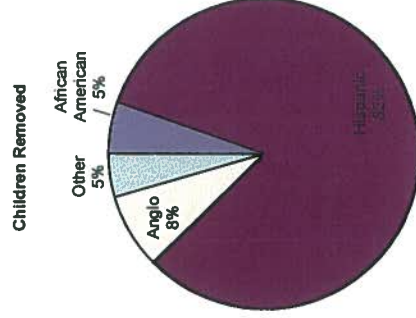
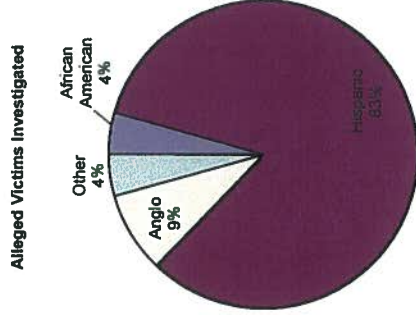
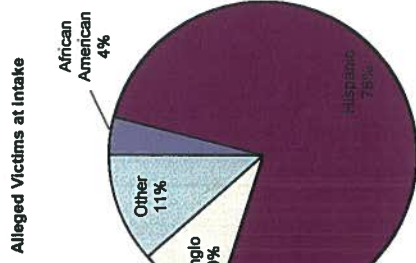
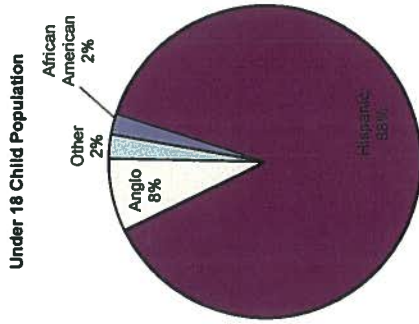
\* Population is based on the 2010 census data.

\*\* Children removed include both Stages of Service - Investigation and Family Based Safety Services

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Rider 15 - Minority Child Removals Report for FY2017 - Current Ethnicity  
El Paso County - Region 10 - County Number 071

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Population*	253,072	5,476	222,122	19,182	6,292
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	12,192	485	9,253	1,045	1,409
Alleged Victims Investigated	8,329	363	6,895	706	365
Children Removed**	243	13	200	19	11



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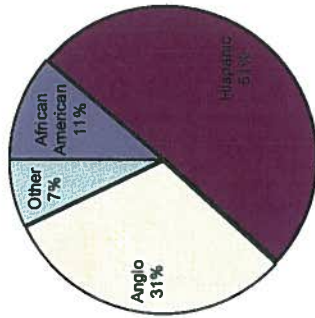
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Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

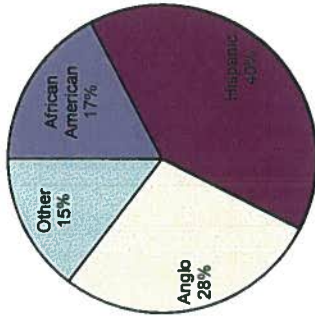
Rider 15 - Minority Child Removals Report for FY2017 - Current Ethnicity  
State of Texas

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	Anglo	Other
Population*	7,500,272	839,363	3,786,940	2,338,787	535,182
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	433,500	74,937	174,156	120,767	63,640
Alleged Victims Investigated	289,855	56,097	129,795	83,093	20,870
Children Removed**	19,700	3,665	8,226	6,414	1,395

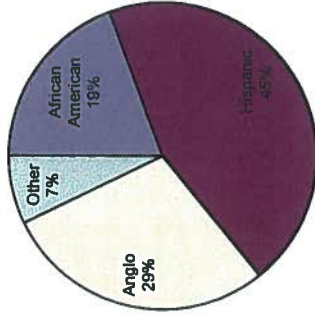
Under 18 Child Population



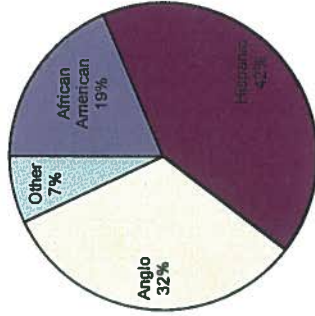
Alleged Victims at Intake



Alleged Victims Investigated



Children Removed



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