



# Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Commissioner  
Stephanie Muth

## Fiscal Year 2023 Disproportionality and Disparity Analysis

Pursuant to DFPS Rider 33, General Appropriations Act, 88th 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 to White children<sup>3</sup>. A disparity index of one means a race/ethnic group is represented the same as White children at that decision point.

### Key Takeaways

- Across Texas, racial/ethnic disparities looked similar between FY22 and FY23. While the disparity between African American children and White children remained the same for community reporting between these fiscal years, the disparity is slightly higher in investigation and removals. Travis County continues to show the largest disparities of the seven largest counties.
- Statewide, compared to White children, African American children are:
  - 1.9 times more likely to be reported,
  - 2.1 times more likely to be investigated, and
  - 1.8 times more likely to be removed.
- Statewide, Hispanic children had slightly similar or better outcomes compared to White children.
- Most of the largest urban counties showed that Hispanic children had some disparity compared to White children; however, it should be noted these

---

<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> Previous reporting used the term "Anglo" instead of "White" but the data can be interpreted as the same racial group. "Other" includes children who are not African American, White, or Hispanic, as well as multiracial children and children who do not have a race or ethnicity recorded (missing).

disparities were less pronounced than the disparities observed for African American children.

## **Statewide Analysis**

At the state level, African American children make up a larger proportion of children being reported by the community than their proportion in the population, and this trend increases through investigation and removals. A higher proportion of children in the "other" race/ethnicity category were reported as alleged victims at intake than 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 children whose race/ethnicity are unknown and if the intake is closed without an investigation, then race/ethnicity may not be ascertained. 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.

Statewide, the largest disparity was seen in African American children, who are 1.9 times more likely to be reported, 2.1 times more likely to be investigated, and 1.8 times more likely to be removed than White children. The disparity between African American children and White children is slightly higher in FY2023 compared to FY2022. For African American children investigated or removed, the disparity index increased by 0.1 from FY2022 to FY2023.

Children of "other" races/ethnicities were 2.3 times more likely to be reported to Statewide Intake by the community but had a similar likelihood of being investigated or removed than White children. Hispanic children had similar outcomes to White 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 Dallas County, African American children compose 22% of the child population and 44% of the children removed in the county. In comparison, in El Paso County, African American children represent 5% of the child population and less than 5% of El Paso's removal population in fiscal year 2023. 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 and El Paso counties, African American children were more likely than White children to be reported, investigated, and removed in each county and statewide. The magnitude of disparity 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, 5.7 times more likely to be investigated, and 11.3 times more likely to be removed than White children. Travis

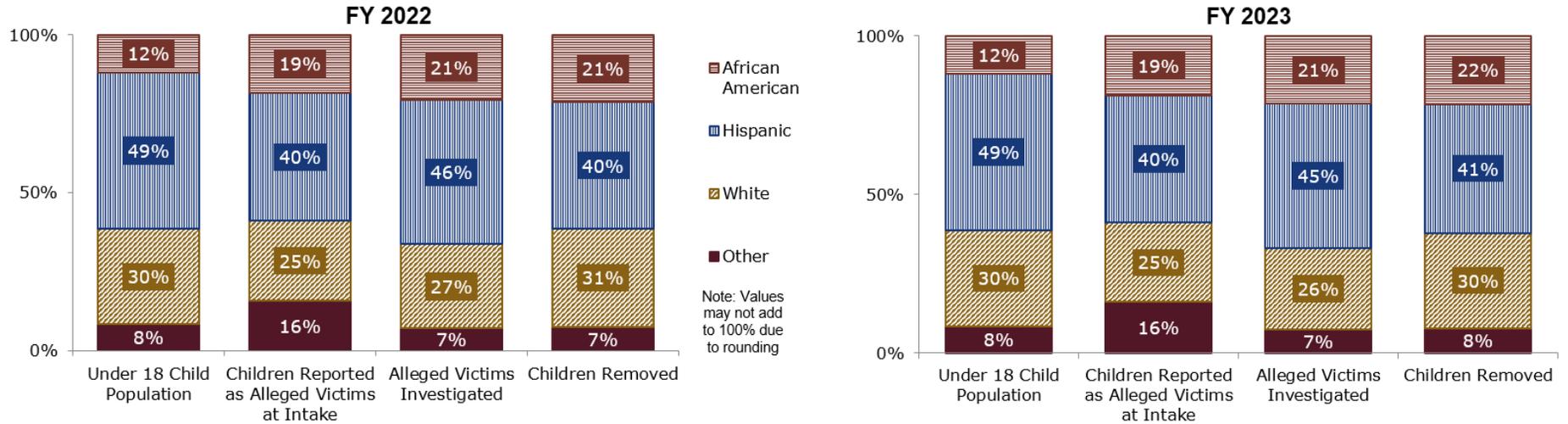
County also had the greatest disparity increase from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2023, with African American children 7.2 times more likely than White children to be removed in fiscal year 2022, a disparity that has grown to 11.2 times more likely in fiscal year 2023.

Statewide, Hispanic children had similar or slightly better outcomes compared to White children. Yet, most of the largest urban counties Hispanic children were over-represented compared to White children at all decision points. These disparities were pronounced for Bexar County, where Hispanic children were 1.4 to 1.6 times more likely at each decision point than White children and Travis County where Hispanic children were 1.9 to 2.6 more likely. It should be noted these disparities were less pronounced than the disparities observed for African American children.

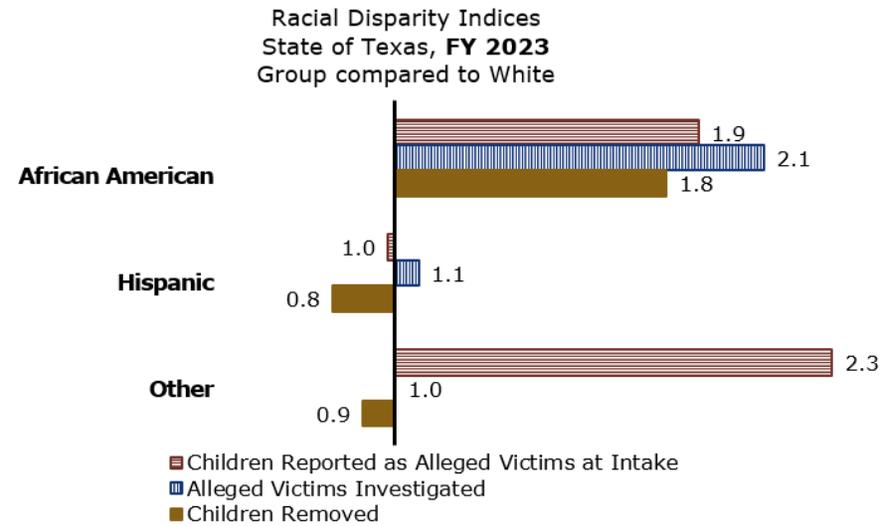
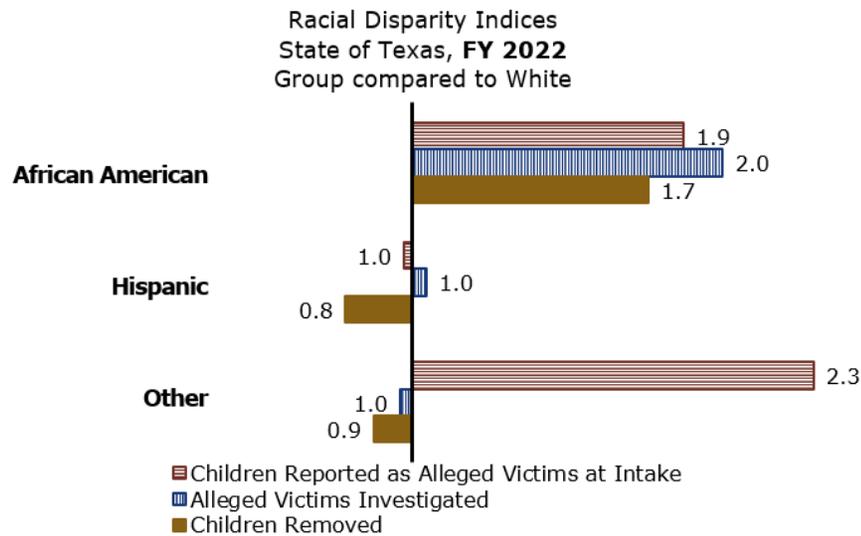
Across the seven largest counties and statewide, children in the "other" race/ethnicity category were at least 2 times more likely to be reported than White children. Children of "other" race/ethnicities in the seven counties were between 1.1 and 1.7 times more likely to be reported than White children; however, these children were equally or slightly less likely to be investigated and removed statewide.

Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2023<sup>1</sup>  
State of Texas

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	7,757,746	927,124	3,839,288	2,332,313	659,021
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	376,181	70,652	151,246	93,630	60,653
Alleged Victims Investigated	268,755	57,599	122,215	69,290	19,651
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	9,945	2,148	4,033	2,996	768



<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Year 2023 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #110845. Fiscal Year 2022 data is from DRIT #103755.  
<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 2022.  
<sup>3</sup> Children removed include both Stages of Service - Investigation and Family Based Safety Services.

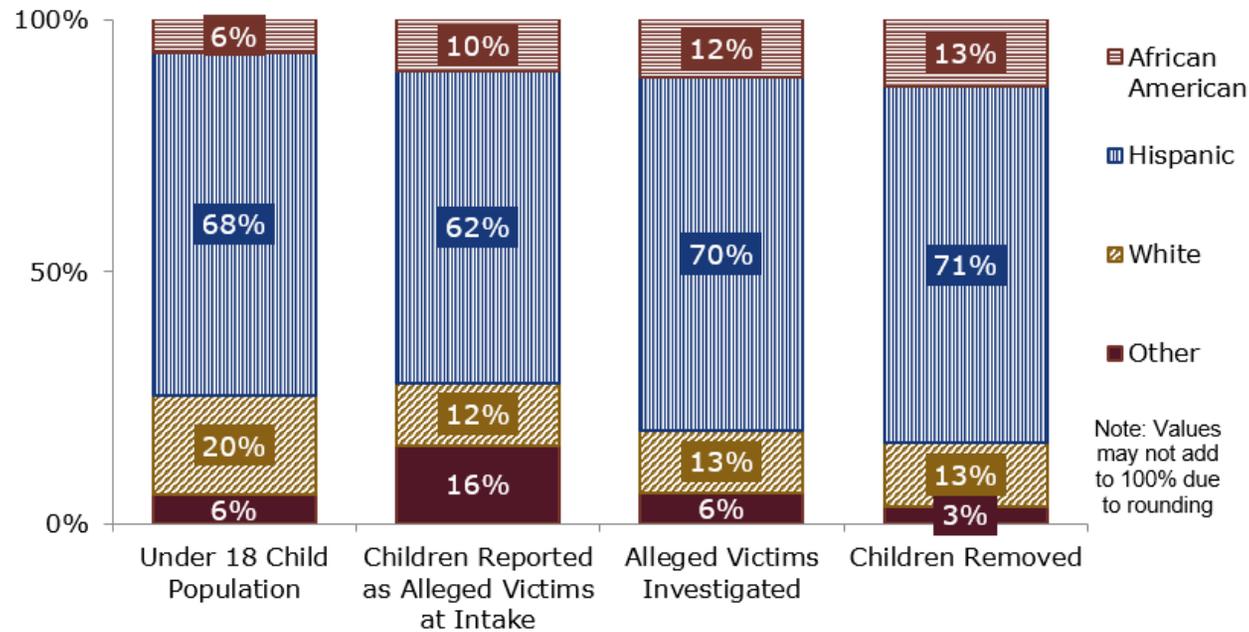


A disparity index of one means a race/ethnic group is represented the same as White children at that decision point. A disparity index greater than one means the comparison race/ethnic group is more represented compared to White children, while a disparity index of less than one means White children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

- Statewide, African American children are 1.9 times more likely to be reported, 2.1 times more likely to be investigated, and 1.8 times more likely to be removed than White children. This underscores that the disparity index is greatly impacted by community reporting.
- Hispanic children are similarly represented at each decision point as White children, and slightly less represented in the population of children removed.
- 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.

Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2023<sup>1</sup>  
 Bexar County - Region 08 - County Number 015

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	559,105	36,230	380,907	110,040	31,928
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	31,439	3,233	19,407	3,888	4,911
Alleged Victims Investigated	21,909	2,529	15,292	2,763	1,325
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	983	131	694	124	34

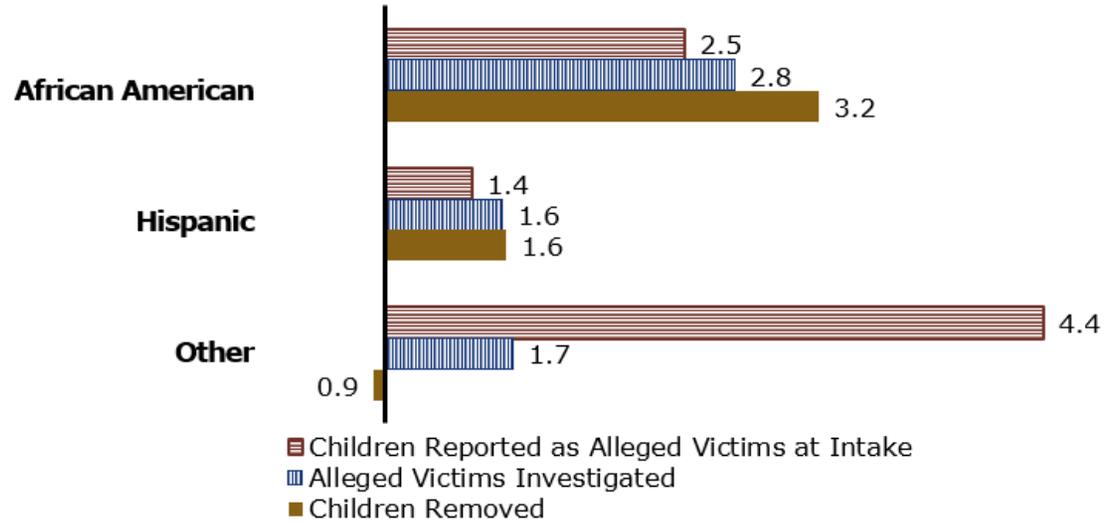


<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Year 2023 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #110845.

<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 2022.

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

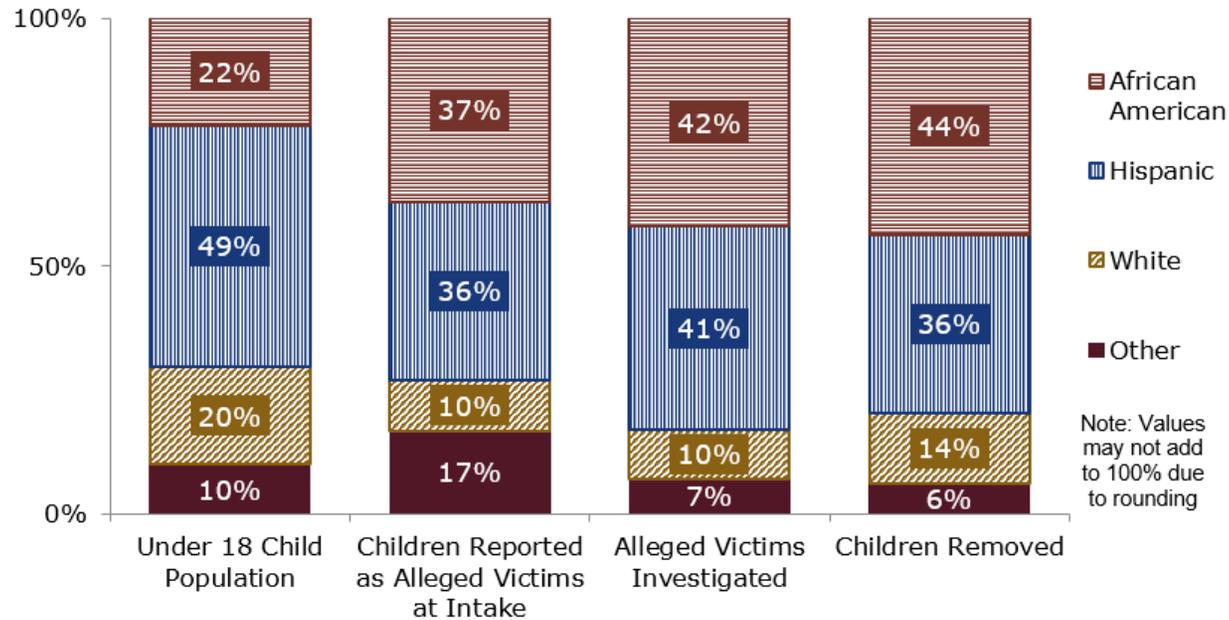
Racial Disparity Indices  
 Bexar County, FY 2023  
 Group compared to White



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

Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2023<sup>1</sup>  
 Dallas County - Region 03 - County Number 057

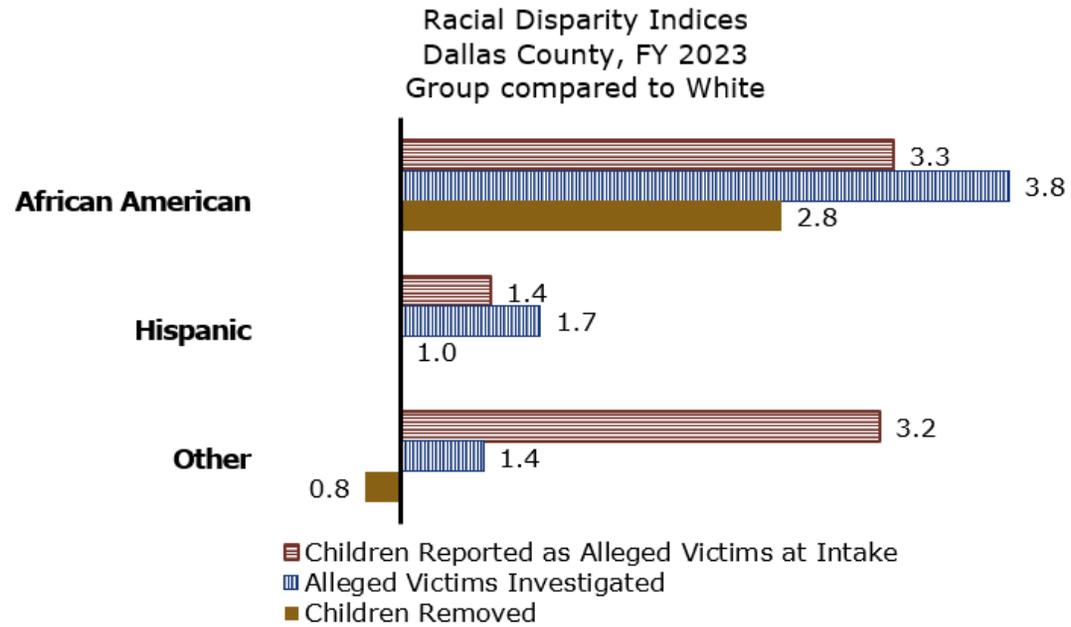
Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	749,657	161,732	365,962	146,798	75,165
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	30,785	11,379	11,092	3,129	5,185
Alleged Victims Investigated	22,250	9,352	9,115	2,212	1,571
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	719	315	257	103	44



<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Year 2023 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #110845.

<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 2022.

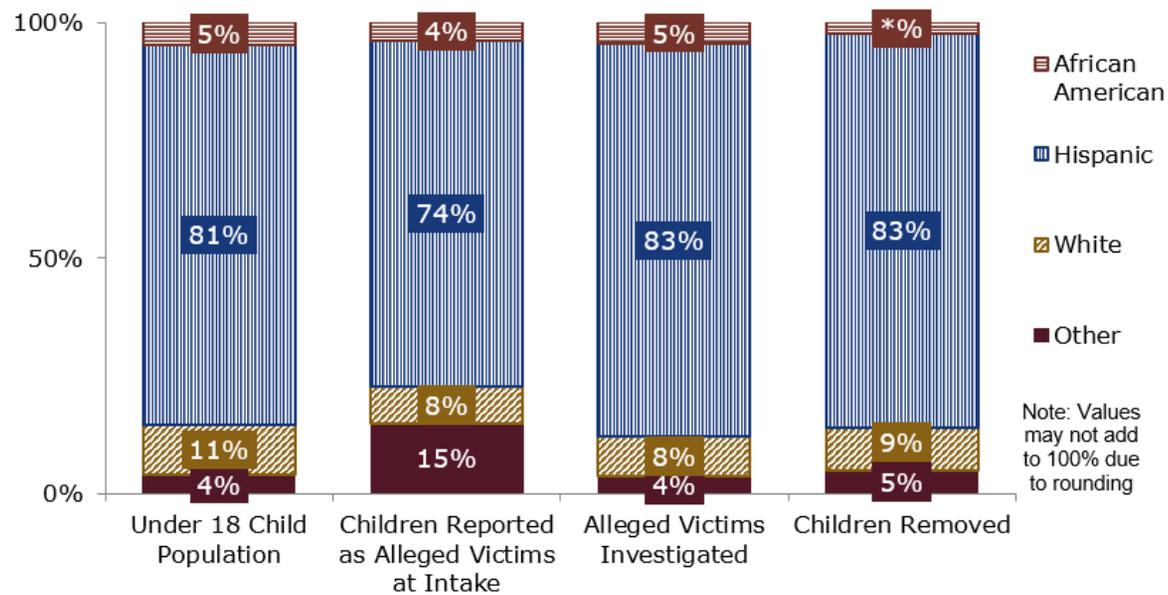
<sup>3</sup> Children removed include both Stages of Service - Investigation and Family Based Safety Services.



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

Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2023<sup>1</sup>  
 El Paso County - Region 10 - County Number 071

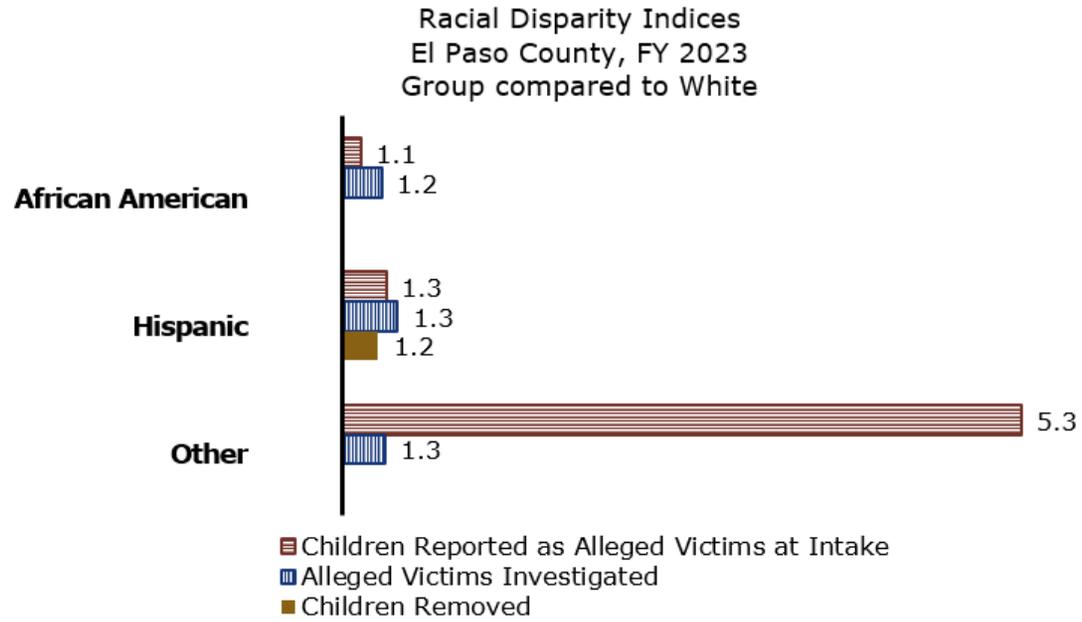
Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	246,183	11,794	198,267	26,363	9,759
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	10,730	410	7,888	826	1,606
Alleged Victims Investigated	7,821	358	6,516	645	302
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	121	<5	101	11	6



<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Year 2023 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #110845.

<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 2022.

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

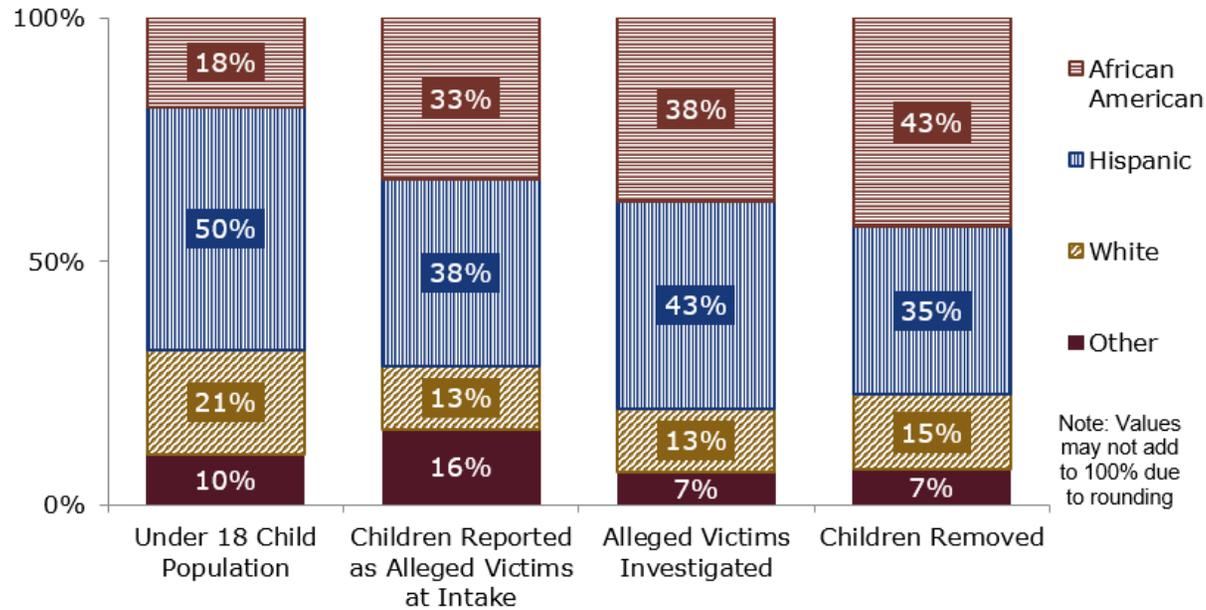


Note: Children of African American and "other" race/ethnicity are excluded from children removed analysis due to small N size.

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

Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2023<sup>1</sup>  
 Harris County - Region 06 - County Number 101

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	1,386,883	253,824	691,185	297,780	144,094
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	51,037	16,951	19,576	6,537	7,973
Alleged Victims Investigated	36,727	13,836	15,667	4,751	2,473
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	747	320	258	115	54

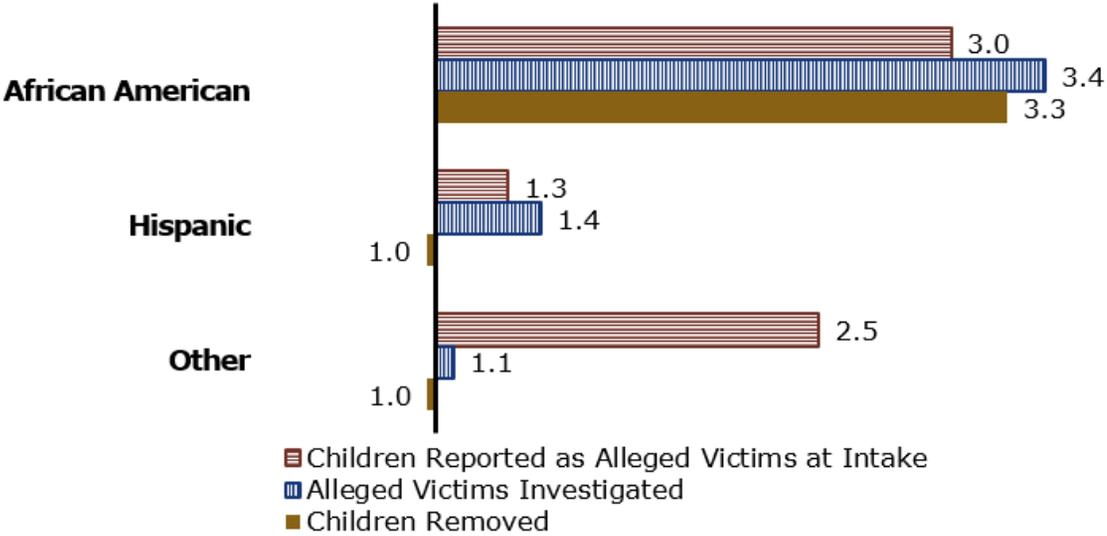


<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Year 2023 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #110845.

<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 2022.

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

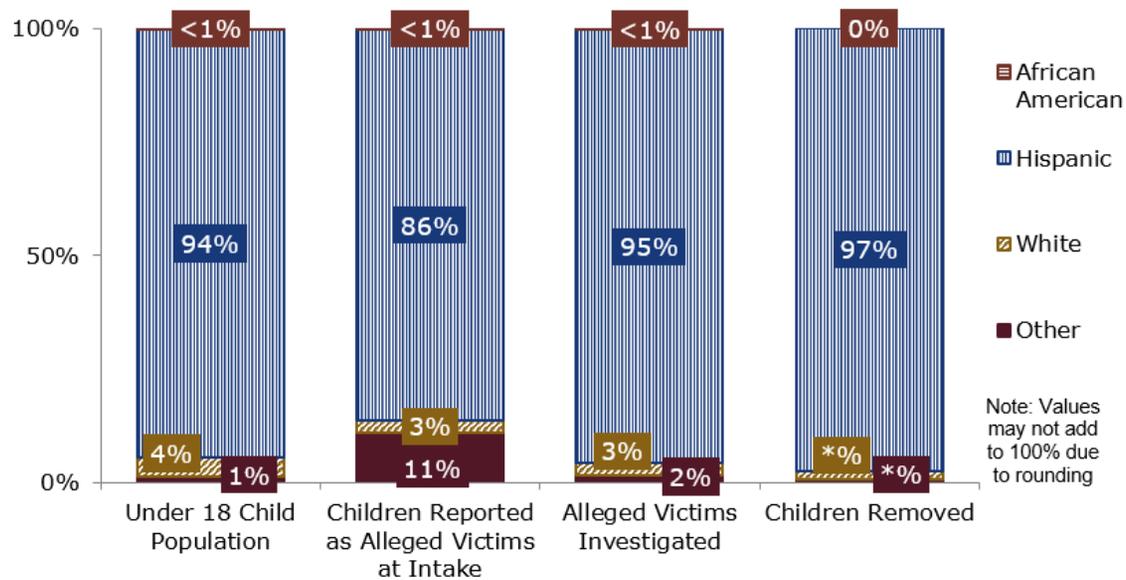
Racial Disparity Indices  
Harris County, FY 2023  
Group compared to White



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

Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2023<sup>1</sup>  
Hidalgo County - Region 11 - County Number 108

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	256,879	633	242,104	10,529	3,613
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	12,090	37	10,408	309	1,336
Alleged Victims Investigated	8,667	31	8,266	227	143
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	155	0	151	<5	<5



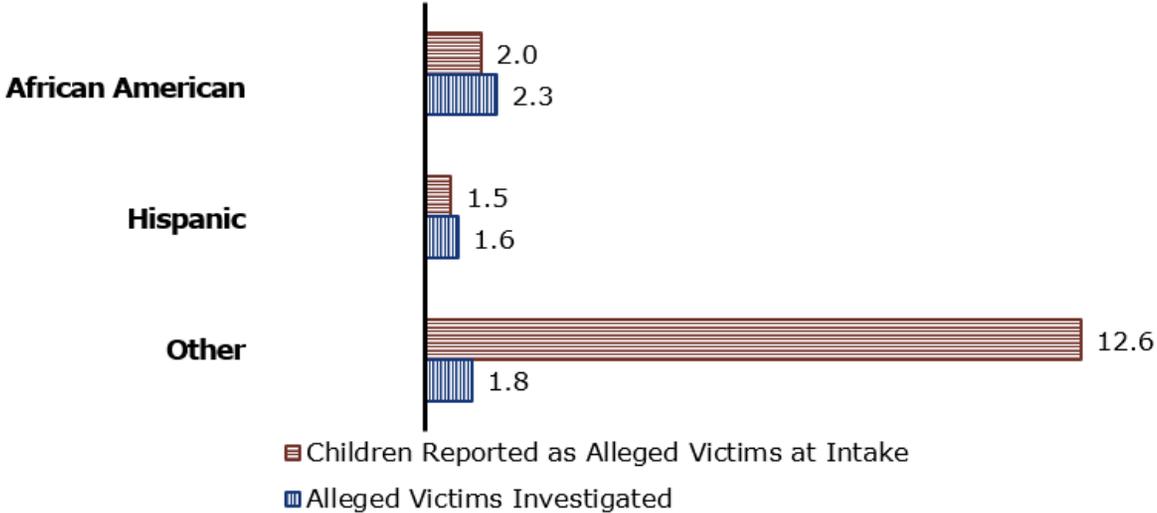
\*The percentage of White and children of other races/ethnicities are excluded due to small N size.

<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Year 2023 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #110845.

<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 2022.

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

Racial Disparity Indices  
Hidalgo County, FY 2023  
Group compared to White

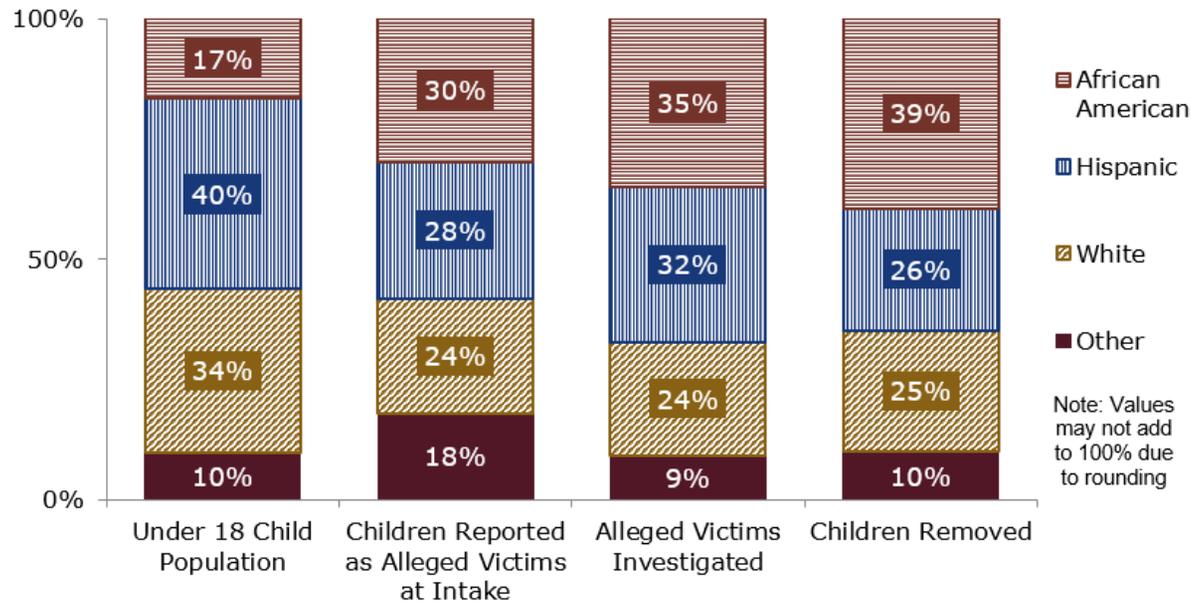


Note: The children removed analysis is excluded due to small N size across all race/ethnicities besides Hispanic.

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

Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2023<sup>1</sup>  
Tarrant County - Region 03 - County Number 220

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	552,414	92,395	218,247	187,104	54,668
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	28,850	8,597	8,190	6,856	5,207
Alleged Victims Investigated	20,470	7,176	6,581	4,825	1,888
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	490	193	125	123	49

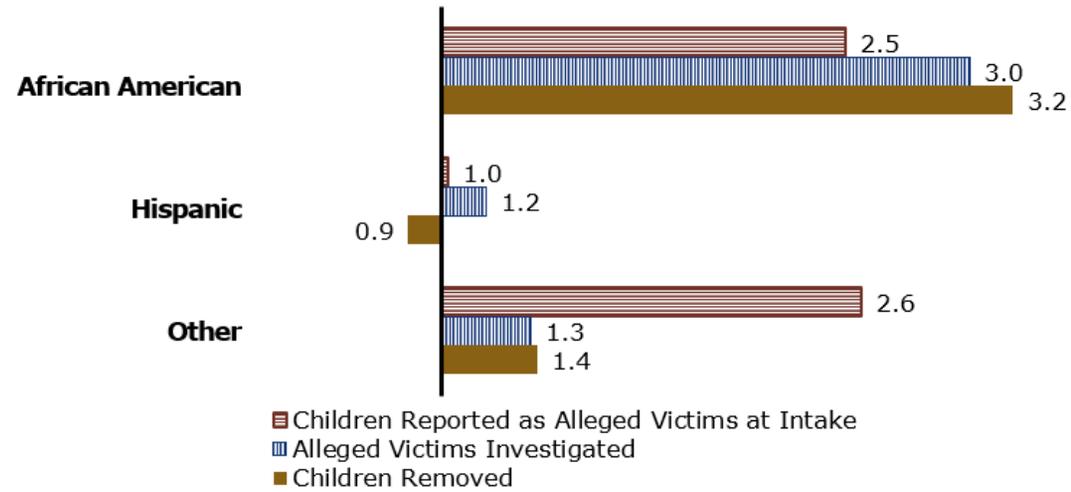


<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Year 2023 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #110845.

<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 2022.

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

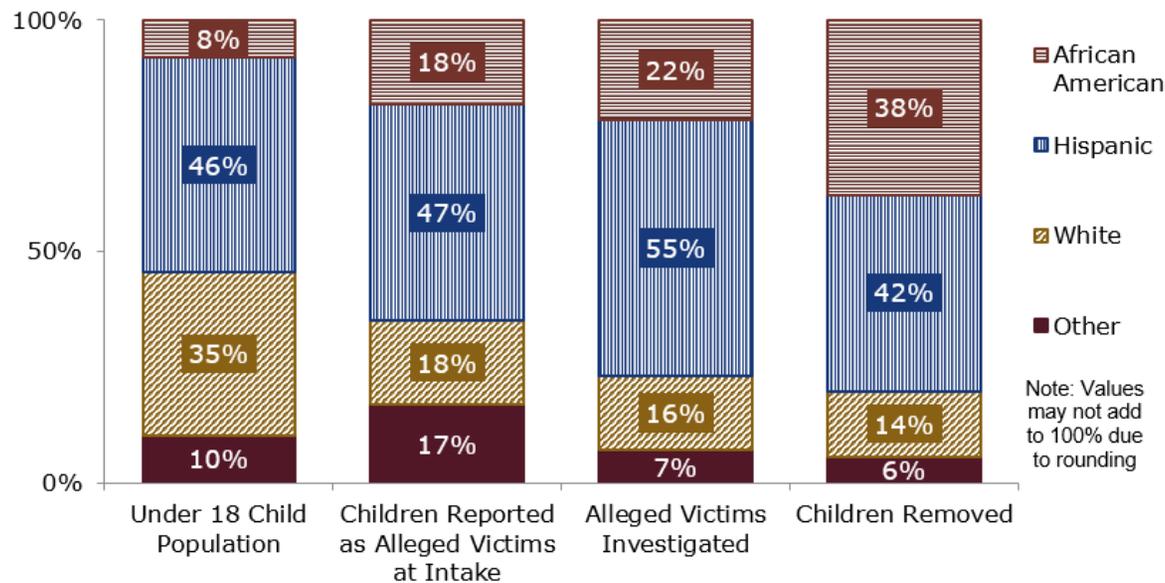
Racial Disparity Indices  
Tarrant County, FY 2023  
Group compared to White



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

Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2023<sup>1</sup>  
 Travis County - Region 07 - County Number 227

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	295,952	24,298	136,739	104,238	30,677
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	13,659	2,505	6,364	2,490	2,300
Alleged Victims Investigated	8,493	1,838	4,680	1,379	596
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	196	74	83	28	11

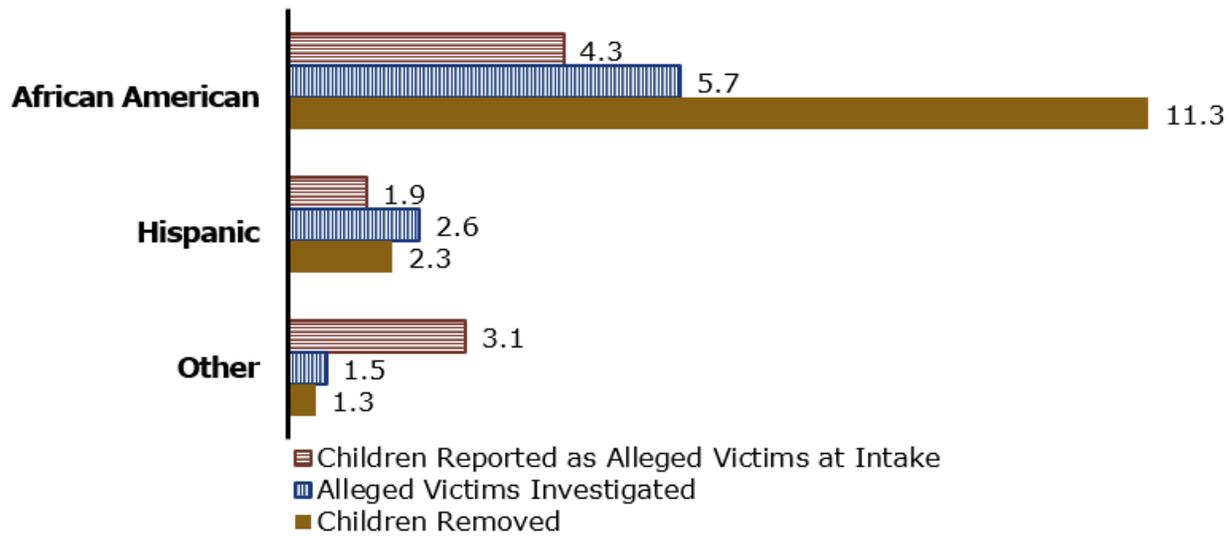


<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Year 2023 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #110845.

<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 2022.

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

Racial Disparity Indices  
Travis County, FY 2023  
Group compared to White



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