



Child Welfare by the Numbers in Travis County, 2018-2021 Data Analysis and Mapping Report

- The Child Welfare Race Equity Collaborative (CWREC) was founded in 2018 directly in response to data from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) showing that Travis County had disproportionate outcomes for minors identified as Black or African American compared to those identified as white. This included reporting of possible abuse and neglect, complete investigations and "confirmed" investigation outcomes, and separation of families at rates far above statewide figures.
- Current CWREC initiatives focus on sustaining continued change in point of family separation impacts, community engagement, training for mandated reporters, and data sharing.
- To help guide this ongoing work, CWREC has analyzed data obtained from DFPS on CPS-involved minors from 2018 to 2021.





Data Analysis and Mapping Report

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Analysis Methods

Aggregated data was obtained from DPFS. Data is by State Fiscal Year (SFY) which goes from September 1 of the previous year through August 31.

Counts of fewer than 5 were masked to protect individual privacy. We masked small counts by assigning a value of 3 to any subgroup count less than 5 but greater than one.

Data was obtained regarding:

- 1) **Stages of CPS involvement**, by zip code and race/ethnicity of the minor
- Number of minors involved in reports where an investigation was completed
- Number of minors with a report classified as "confirmed" by CPS after investigation
- Number of minors separated from their families through investigation or Family-Based Safety Services
- 2) **Type of report**, by zip code and race/ethnicity of the minor
- physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglectful supervision, medical neglect, physical neglect, abandonment, refusal of parental responsibility, labor trafficking, sex trafficking, and suicidal thoughts
- 3) **Profession of the reporter**, by race/ethnicity of oldest minor in the report
- medical professionals including doctors, nurses, EMS/EMT, & medical facility staff; school personnel; mental health professionals including therapists, psychologists/ psychiatrists; and law enforcement including parole & probation officers



Data Analysis and Mapping Report

How are race and ethnicity defined in this report?

While race and ethnicity have no biological significance, racism has profound effects on a person's health, life experiences, and risk of involvement with institutions such as law enforcement and child welfare. We acknowledge that racial and ethnic identity is personal and complex, while also recognizing that valuable insights can be gained by looking at child welfare data using available categories. In keeping with how DFPS provides data, all minors reported to be of Hispanic ethnicity are shown as Hispanic. Among non-Hispanic minors, data is reported for white and Black/African American. Minors identified by DFPS as Native American, Asian, or Other* are grouped as "Smaller Populations."

How do we report Disproportionality and Disparity?

<u>Disproportionality</u> means minors of a particular race or ethnicity make up a proportion of those with CPS involvement that is different that that group's proportion of the total population.

<u>Disparity</u> means there is a different level of CPS involvement for minors of different races and ethnicities. The <u>Disparity Index (DI)</u> provides a way to *compare* the rate of CPS involvement at a given stage between minors of different reported races and ethnicities. This index is created by dividing the number of minors with CPS involvement by the race-specific population size. These rates are then compared. A DI of 1.0 would mean the rate of CPS involvement was the same between the two groups being compared.

Sample Disparity Index (DI) calculation:

112 minors reported as Black, separated from family / 23,791 Black child population under 18 75 minors reported as white, separated from family / 102,667 white child population under 18

= 0.00471 / 0.00073 = 6.4

Interpretation:

Minors identified as Black/African American were 6.4 times more likely than those identified as white to be separated from their families by CPS in Travis County.

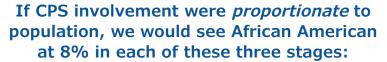
*Some populations such as Asian and Native American are relatively small, especially at the scale of a single zip code, making our analysis limited. Additionally, DFPS reports minors of multiple races who are not Hispanic under the category of "Other". It is important to remember that there may be important differences within the grouping of Smaller Populations that we miss by combining them.

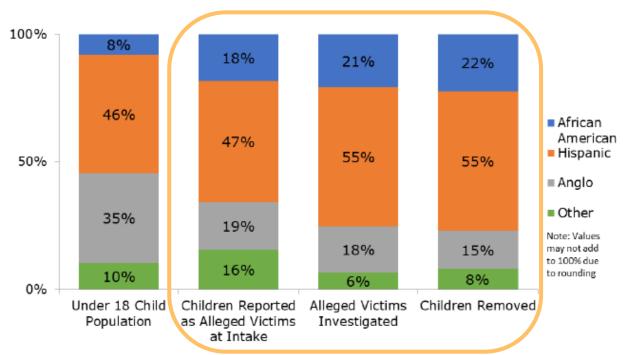


Disproportionality Overview

Framing the Problem in Travis County

Annual reports by DFPS show that in Travis County each year, minors identified as Black/African American or Hispanic are overrepresented at all stages of CPS involvement, in relation to their share of the population under 18 years of age. These stages range from reports made to CPS to family separation. Among the 7 most populated counties in Texas, Travis County had the largest disparity for African American minors in SFY 2021 and 2022.





Note: This graphic is taken directly from a DFPS report, thus "Other" = Smaller Populations including Native American, Asian and people of unknown or multiple race/ethnicities.

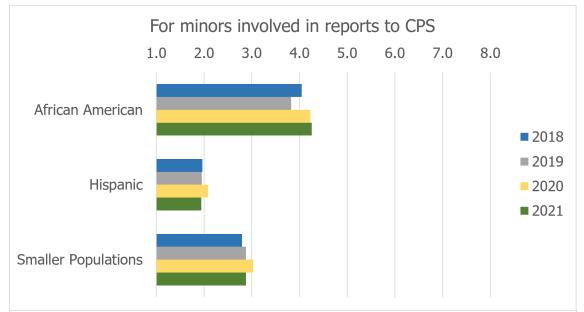
Fiscal Year 2021 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #99942. Population Data Source - Population Estimates and Projections Program, Texas State Data Center, Office of the State Demographer and the Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio. Current population estimates and projections data as of December 2020. Children removed include both Stages of Service - Investigation and Family Based Safety Services.

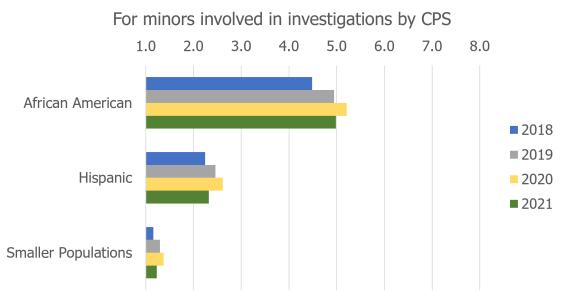
Source: https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About_DFPS/Reports_and_Presentations/Rider_Reports/documents/2021/2021-10-01_Rider_33_Report.pdf



Disparity Index by Stage of CPS Involvement and State Fiscal Year in Travis County

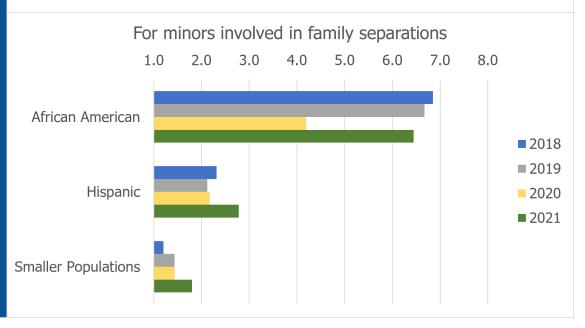
Disparity Index (DI) Changes over Time





Forgot what DI means? See Page 4

Data
Sources:
DFPS Rider
Reports
and Texas
Demographic
Center
Population
Projections
obtained
September
2022.





The Burden of Family Separation

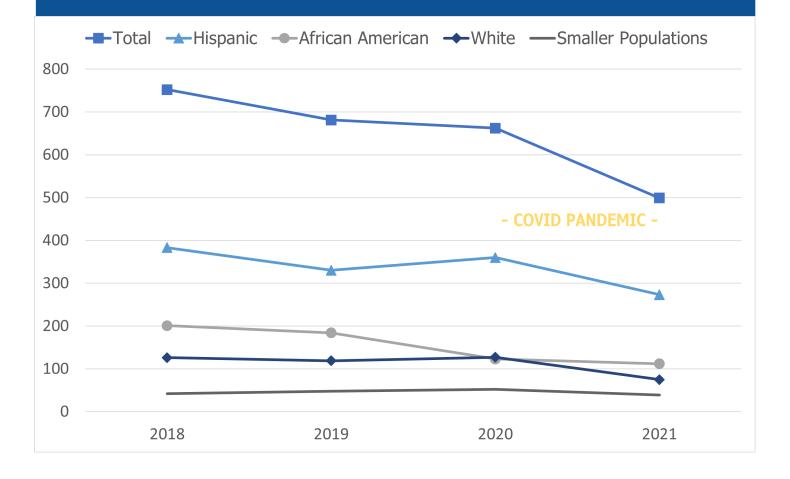
Separating Families

Family separation inflicts trauma on all involved. Sustaining ongoing change is vitally important to reduce the occurrence and impacts of family separations.

Separations over Time

The number of minors separated from their families by CPS in Travis County

- Through Investigation or Family-Based Safety Services
- By Reported Race/Ethnicity





Mapping CPS Involvement in Travis County

Geographic Variation in CPS Involvement

The number of minors involved in an investigation by CPS varies depending on zip code and reported race/ethnicity. The maps in this section show where the largest numbers of minors reside at each stage of CPS involvement.

Top Zip Codes for CPS Investigations 2019-2021

Number of Minors Involved in Completed Investigations, by race/ethnicity

Zip code	Total	Zip Code	Black	Zip Code	Hispanic	Zip Code	White
78753	2025	78660	486	78744	1447	78641	806
78744	1839	78753	434	78753	1316	78613	620
78660	1762	78724	377	78741	1082	78664	419
78741	1541	78723	367	78758	954	78660	415
78664	1481	78721	335	78724	807	78634	317
78641	1375	78664	328	78617	784	78654	289
78758	1338	78741	305	78745	750	78610	232
78724	1286	78728	281	78660	701	78745	201
78613	1234	78702	279	78664	617	78729	197
78745	1166	78744	210	78723	599	78621	192
78723	1134	78758	206	78748	493	78748	190
78617	1008	78653	196	78702	483	78753	167
78702	839	78754	157	78621	461	78620	165
78748	824	78613	156	78610	458	78612	144
78621	801	78745	144	78704	447	78750	132
78728	792	78621	124	78653	403	78734	126
78610	784	78752	107	78641	384	78645	121
78634	749	78634	104	78728	349	78749	118
78653	742	78641	93	78613	341	78617	115
78704	661	78729	90	78752	329	78744	115
78721	658	78704	84	78612	328	78669	114
78754	566	78726	78	78754	297	78717	114
78654	552	78748	78	78634	291	78723	110
78752	518	78727	77	78747	291	78758	108
78612	508	78617	71	78721	271	78727	107
78729	492	78759	60	78654	211	78741	105
78747	395	78725	49	78729	164	78728	104
78750	312	78610	45	78725	155	78738	98



Mapping CPS Involvement in Travis County

Maps by Stage of CPS Involvement

This section of the report includes a series of maps that shows which areas of Travis County had the highest number of children at each of three stages of the CPS process - reported victims in completed investigations, confirmation/ substantiation that maltreatment was a concern after a completed investigation, and children separated from their families. Each stage is mapped for the total of all children, and then by race/ethnicity for Black/African American, Hispanic and white/Anglo children.

Data was obtained from DFPS on the number of children involved with CPS at different stages, by race and ethnicity, and by zip code. The following information is helpful to understand the maps of this data.

How to read the maps

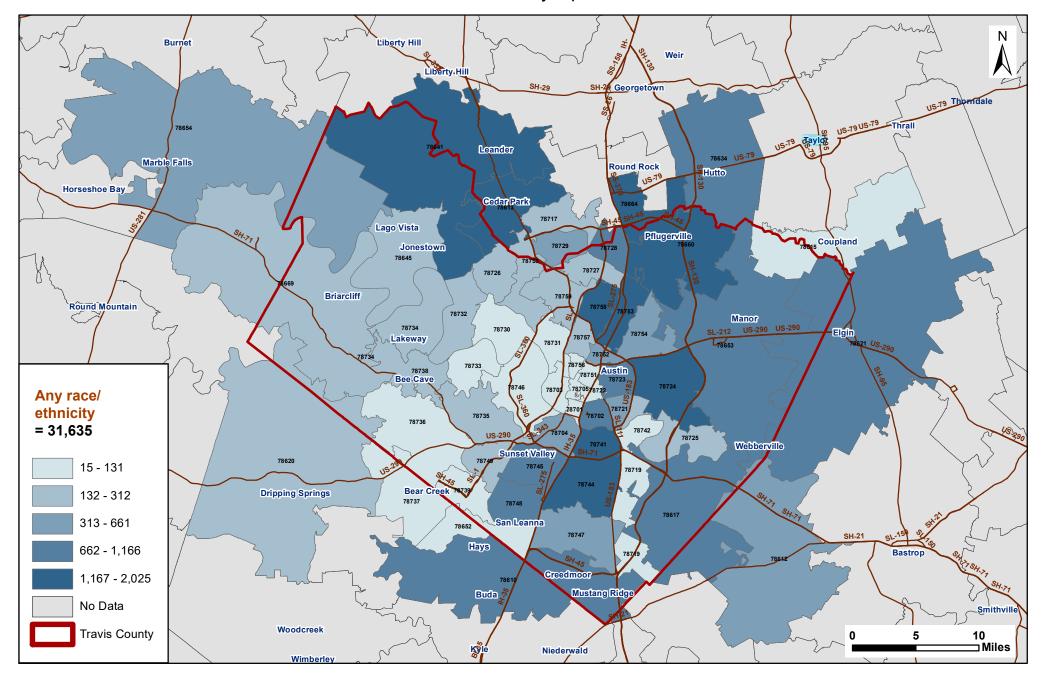
Darker areas on maps represent higher numbers of children with CPS involvement. One map should not be directly compared to another because each map uses a different scale (i.e., the darkest blue on a map of Black/African American children represents a different number of children than the darkest blue on a map of Hispanic children). Rather, these maps are designed to identify areas of greatest impact, to facilitate community engagement so that we can better understand the risk and protective factors unique to each area.

About Zip Code Tabulation Areas & Limitations of this Method

The maps in this report use ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs). ZCTAs are different from the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) ZIP codes used for mail service. ZCTAs are approximate geographic area representations of USPS ZIP Code service areas, created by the US Census Bureau. In most cases, the ZCTA code is the same as the ZIP Code for an area. Zip codes are more often changed by the post office, but ZCTAs change less often. ZIP Codes assigned only to businesses, or to a single delivery point address, will not necessarily appear as ZCTAs.

Unlike Census Blocks, ZCTAs often cross county lines. The focus of this report is Travis County, so we have included any ZCTA that at least partially falls within Travis County on the maps. The main advantage of using ZCTA mapping is easy availability of the data. Mapping based on individual addresses would be more accurate, and could be produced using methods that protect individual privacy. However, this would be more resource-intensive than the current report and may be a future endeavor. While this method of mapping helps identify areas with higher levels of CPS involvement, we should not assume that the numbers are evenly distributed within each ZCTA. There may be a small area of high concentration of cases within a ZCTA, and this will make the entire ZCTA look like it's high.

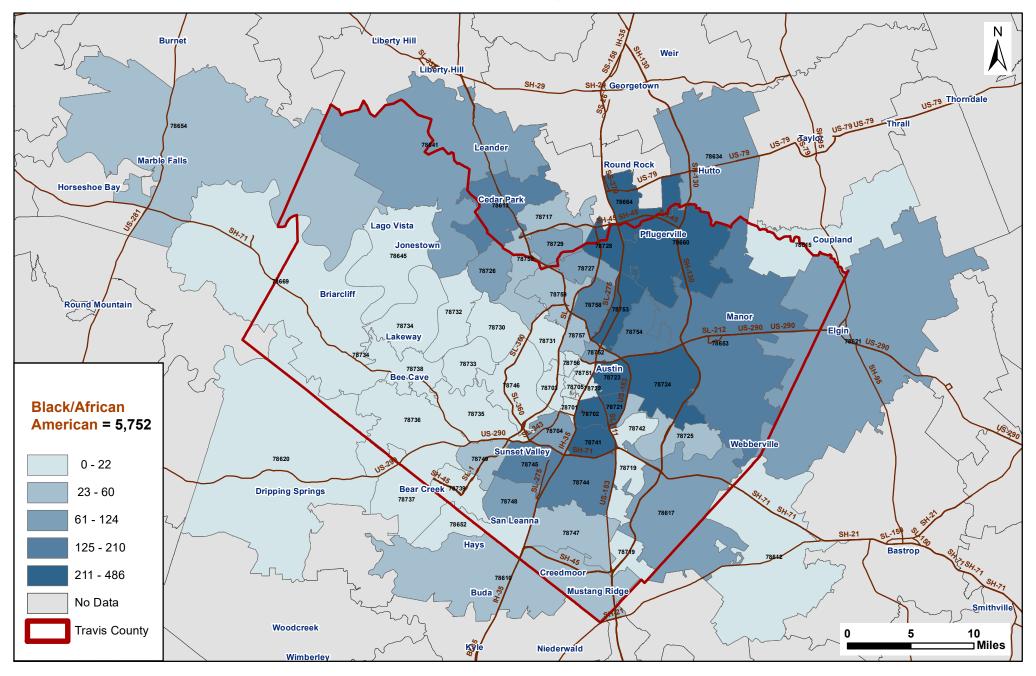
This method of mapping also does not take into account the population size of children of a particular race living within each ZCTA. In the future, additional methods of mapping may be helpful and would require additional data from CPS.



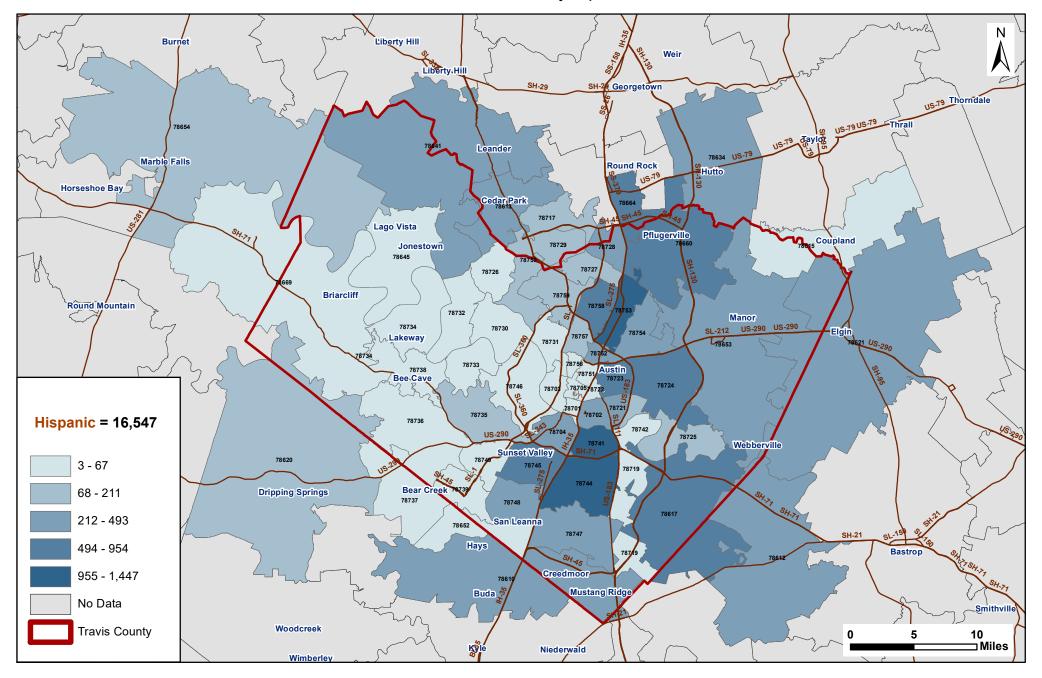


Number of Minors Involved in a Report with Completed CPS Investigations

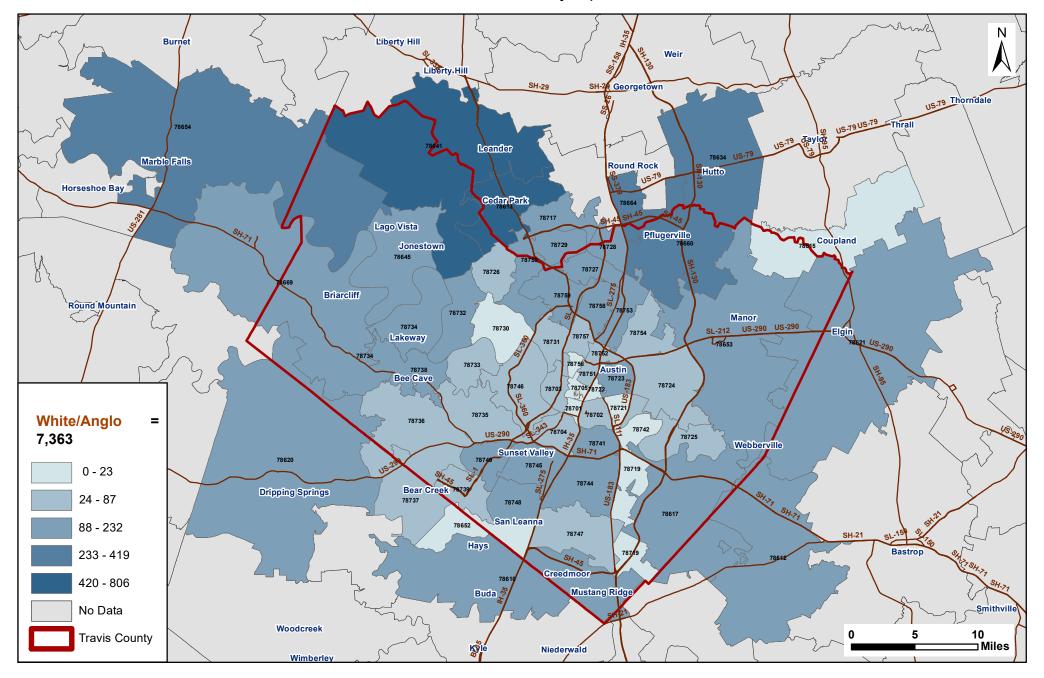
State Fiscal Year 2019-2021, By Zip Code Tabulation Area



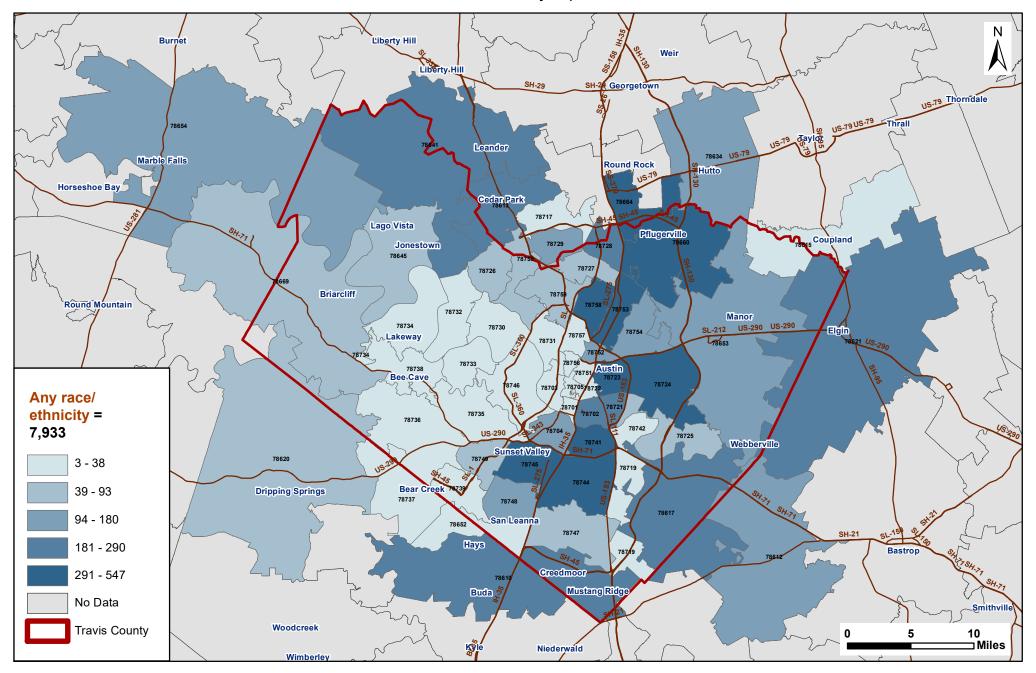


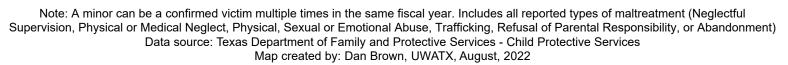




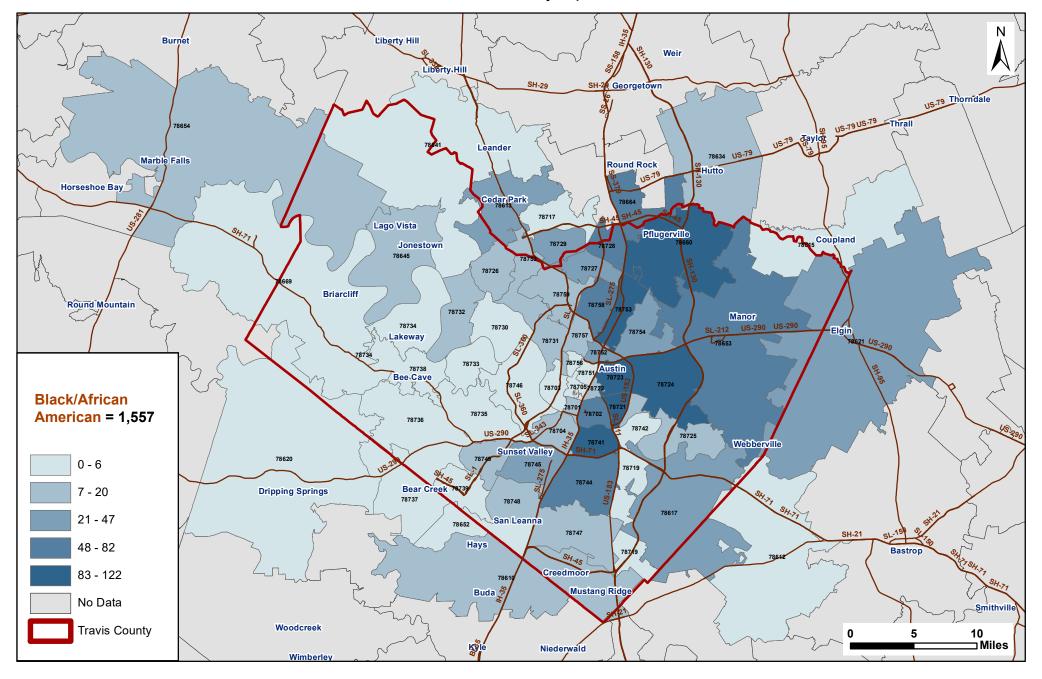


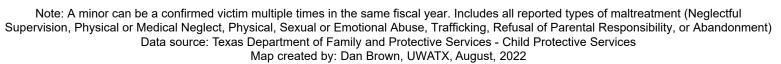




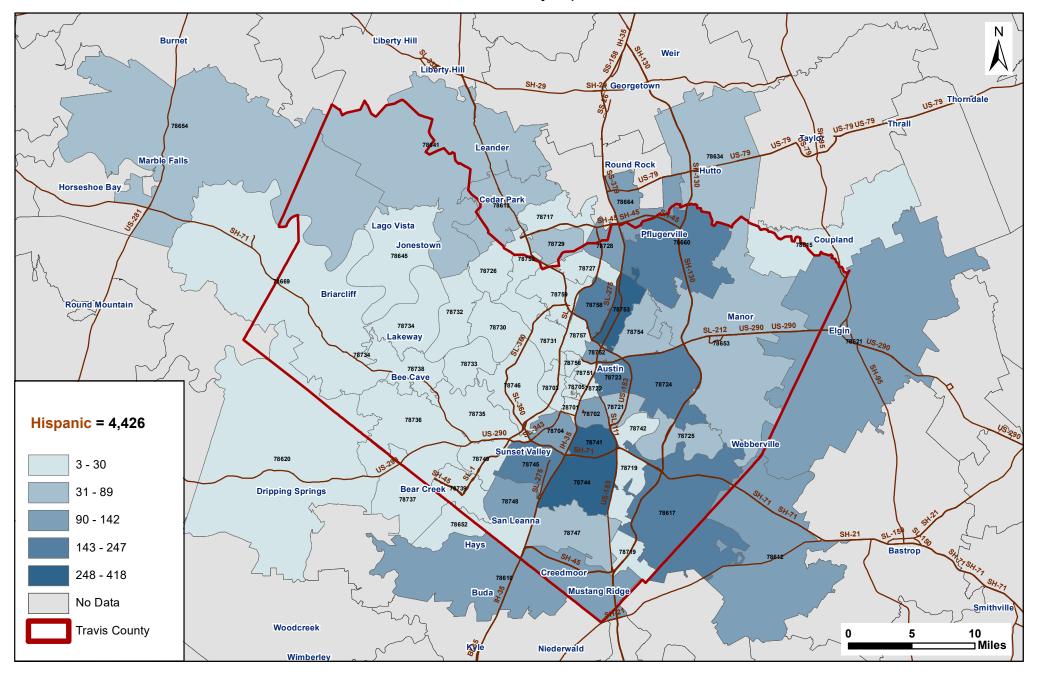


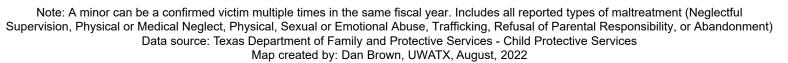




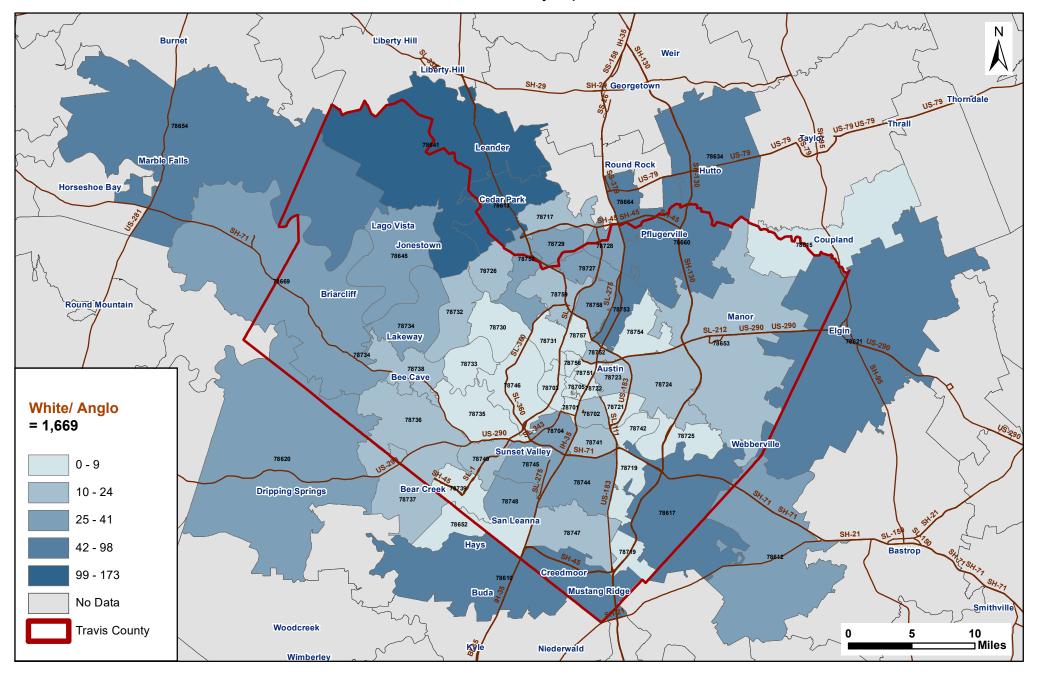


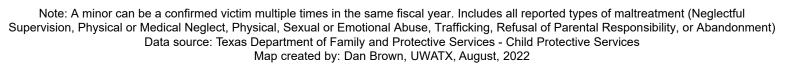




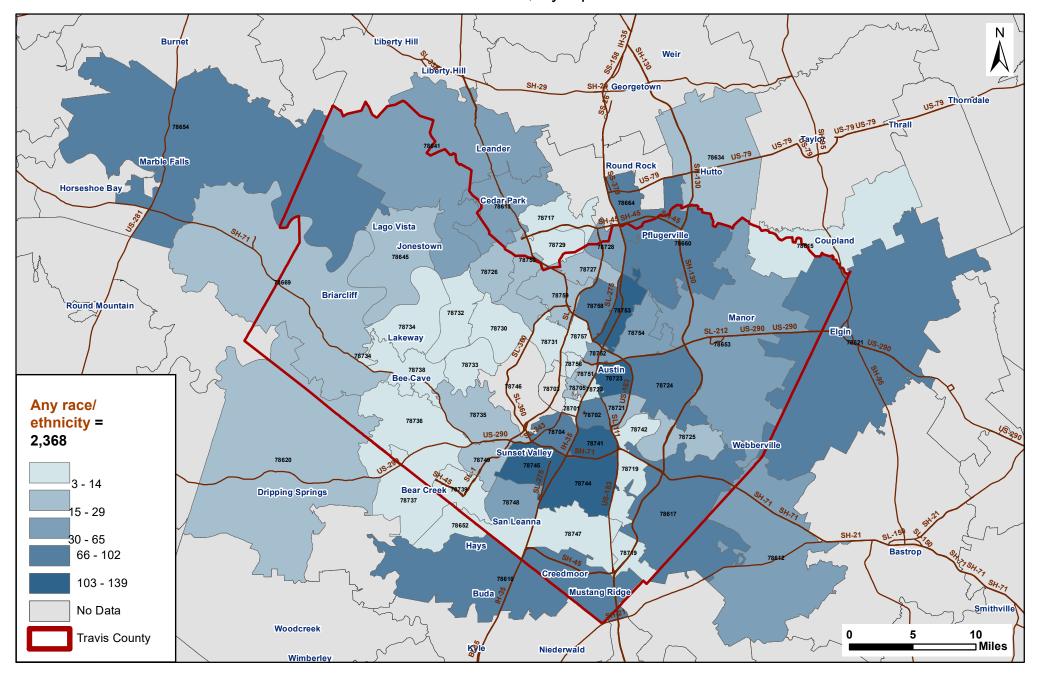




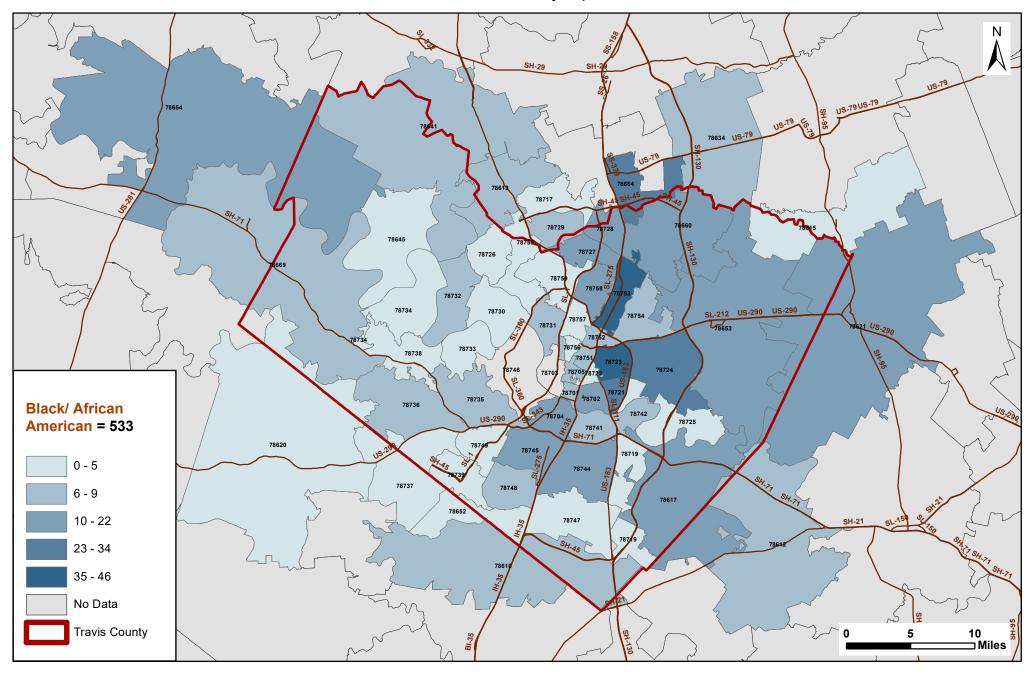


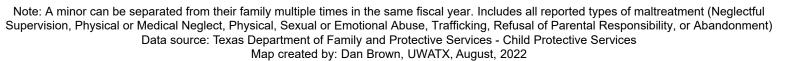




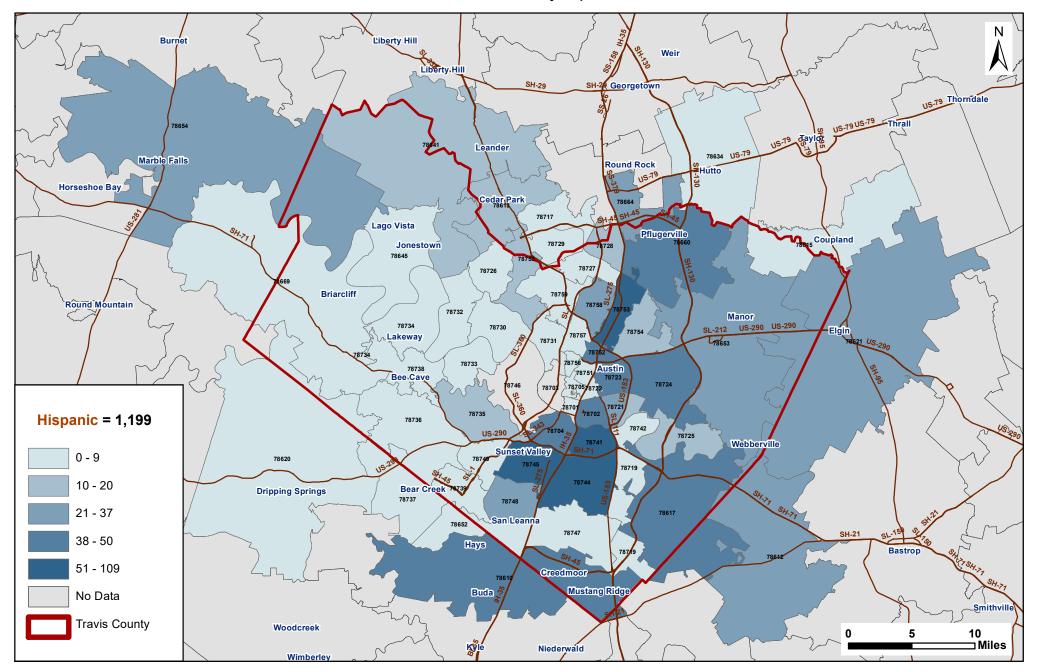




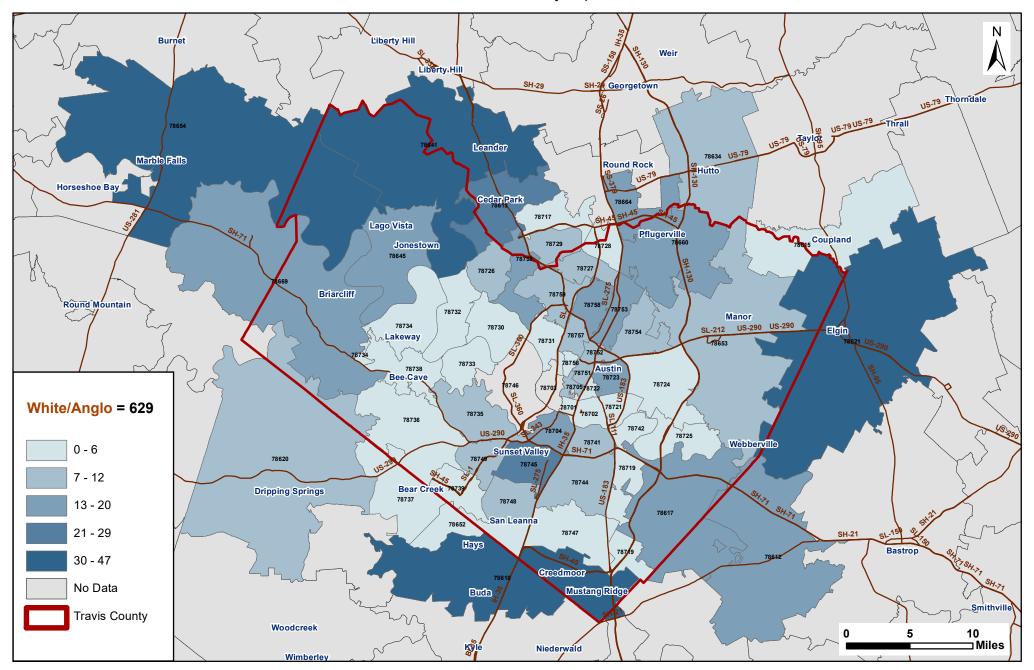


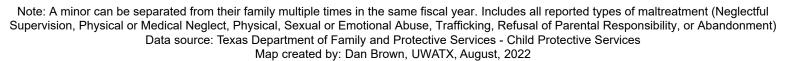












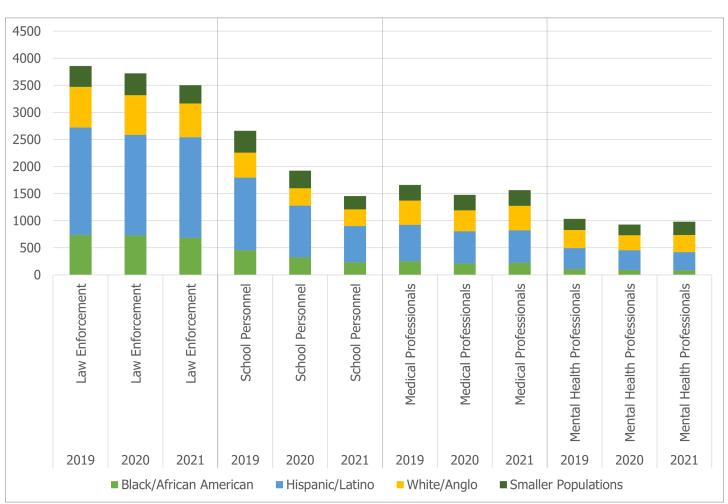




Disparities by Profession of Person Reporting

In Texas, anyone who has reasonable cause to believe that a child is being abused or neglected has a legal obligation to report it. A professional reporter is anyone licensed or certified by the state, or who works for an agency or facility licensed or certified by the state, and has contact with children as result of their normal duties. Disparities differ by the reporter's profession. This section takes a deep dive into those differences and allows comparison of reports made by law enforcement, school personnel, medical, and mental health professionals.

Number of reports in SFY 2019-2021, by reporter, year, and race/ ethnicity of the oldest minor involved, Travis County



More than 80% of reports by medical professionals are from staff at medical facilities such as hospitals, with the remainder from nurses, doctors, and EMS. Mental health professionals include therapists, psychologists/psychiatrists. Parole & probation officers make up <5% of law enforcement reports.



Disparities by Profession of Person Reporting

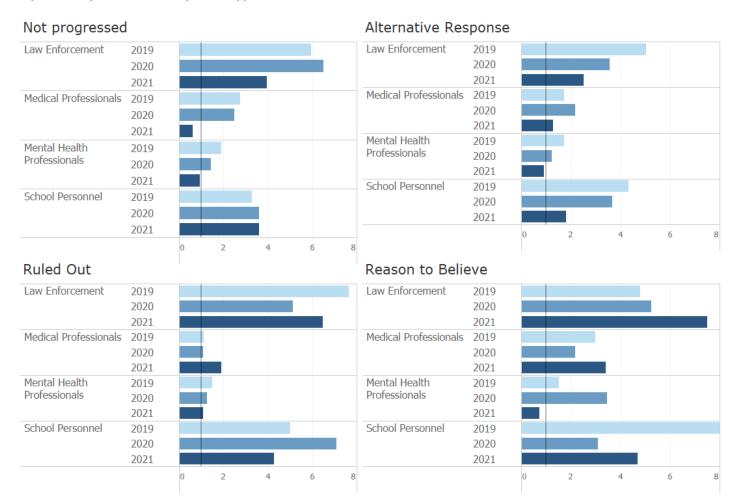
Median Disparity Index

by Reporter Type and Race/Ethnicity of Oldest Minor Involved in the Report

	Black/African American minors	Hispanic minors
Law Enforcement	5.3	2.1
School Personnel	3.7	1.9
Medical Professionals	2.0	1.1
Mental Health Professionals	1.2	0.9

Median Disparity Index - Black/ African American minors

by CPS Disposition and Reporter Types





Black/African American

Hispanic

CPS Disposition by Reporter Type and Race and Ethnicity in Travis County SFY 2019-2021

The disposition of reports by CPS differs depending on which profession made the report. This could be related to the type or severity of reported maltreatment commonly seen in these different professions but our current data is limited and unable to completely explain these differences.

"Not progressed from Intake" or "Ruled Out," mean that CPS concluded there was no abuse/neglect.

"Progressed to Alternative Response" (AR) or "Reason to Believe" categories mean that CPS had at least some concern for abuse or neglect. AR represents a philosophical shift in the response to certain cases of alleged abuse and neglect, based on factors such as the type and severity of the alleged maltreatment, the number and sources of previous reports, and the family's ability to participate in services.

Reporter Types	Not Progressed from Intake	Ruled Out - Abuse/Neglect Did Not Occur	Progressed to Alternative Response at Intake	Reason to Believe Abuse/Neglect Occurred	Other Disposition (Closed, Unable to Complete/ Determine)	Grand Total
Law Enforcement	249	614	278	533	474	2,148
	11.59%	28.58%	12.94%	24.81%	22.07%	100.00%
Medical Professionals	96	188	71	165	172	692
	13.87%	27.17%	10.26%	23.84%	24.86%	100.00%
Mental Health Professionals	84	65	70	12	59	290
	28.97%	22.41%	24.14%	4.14%	20.34%	100.00%
School Personnel	183	328	278	43	180	1,012
	18.08%	32.41%	27.47%	4.25%	17.79%	100.00%
Law Enforcement	669	852	1,524	1,012	1,645	5,702
Law Enforcement	11.73%	14.94%	26.73%	17.75%	28.85%	100.00%
Medical Professionals	351	245	315	435	521	1,867
	18.80%	13.12%	16.87%	23.30%	27.91%	100.00%
Mental Health Professionals	389	216	61	169	247	1,082
	35.95%	19.96%	5.64%	15.62%	22.83%	100.00%
School Personnel	685	746	110	484	946	2,971
	23.06%	25.11%	3.70%	16.29%	31.84%	100.00%
	270					
Law Enforcement	279	450	413	418	547	2,107
	13.24%	21.36%	19.60%	19.84%	25.96%	100.00%
Medical Professionals	205	209	221	284	361	1,280
	16.02%	16.33%	17.27%	22.19%	28.20%	100.00%
Mental Health Professionals	319	211	35	156	202	923
	34.56%	22.86%	3.79%	16.90%	21.89%	100.00%
School Personnel	229	356	36	191	272	1,084
	21.13%	32.84%	3.32%	17.62%	25.09%	100.00%



Disproportionality by Reason for Report to CPS

Disproportionality exists to varying degrees depending on the reason a report was made to CPS.

Number and percent of reports in SFY 2019-2021, by reason and race/ethnicity of the oldest minor involved, Travis County

Percentages in orange are higher than expected based on population, those in green are lower than expected.

		Populati	and Travis	Oltra Street of	hedical hed	Ject Physical Alb	ise Sexual Aduse	
	Number	23,791	3031	330	241	1065	480	
Black/African American	Percent	8%	21%	23%	20%	22%	14%	
White/Anglo	Number Percent	102,667 35%	2546 15%	309 21%	313 26%	843 17%	609 17%	
Willte/Allgio	Number	134,264	9706	665	486	2544	2189	
Hispanic/Latino	Percent	46%	57%	46%	41%	52%	62%	
riispanicy Ladiro	Number	29,667	1050	128	144	437	243	
Smaller Populations	Percent	10%	6%	00/-	120/-	00/-	70/-	
Number 23.791 15 156 108 12 0								
-1.11.5.	Number	23,791	15	130	100	12	0	
Black/African American	Percent	8%	14%	18%	32%	20%	0%	
White / A p.al.o	Number	102,667	18	205	78	3	0 0%	
White/Anglo	Percent Number	35% 134,264	16% 69	24% 348	23% 120	5% 39	18	
Hispanic/Latino	Percent	46%	62%	41%	36%	65%	86%	
r napanicy Launo	Number	29,667	9	136	30	6	3	
Smaller Populations	Percent	10%	8%	16%	9%	10%	14%	

