



Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Commissioner
Jaime Masters

Fiscal Year 2022 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 Counties¹ 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 index² was calculated to compare the level of representation of African American children, Hispanic children, and children of other race/ethnicities³ to Anglo children. A disparity index of one means a race/ethnic group is represented the same as Anglo children at that decision point.

Key Takeaways

- Across Texas, racial/ethnic disparities looked similar between FY21 and FY22. The disparity between African American children and Anglo children is slightly higher compared to last fiscal year, a trend that starts with community reporting and remains through investigation and removals. Travis County showed the largest disparities of the seven largest counties.
- Statewide, compared to Anglo children, African American children are:
 - 1.9 times more likely to be reported,
 - 2.0 times more likely to be investigated, and
 - 1.7 times more likely to be removed.
- Hispanic children had similar or better outcomes compared to Anglo children across many counties but not all counties statewide.
- Most of the largest urban counties had negative disparities for Hispanic children compared to Anglo children; however, it should be noted these disparities were less pronounced than the disparities observed for African American children.

¹ 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.

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

³ 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).

- Across the state, the overall rate of decline in child removals was 40% between FY21 to FY22, and the rate of decline was highest for Hispanic children (44%) and lowest for African American children (31%).

Statewide Analysis

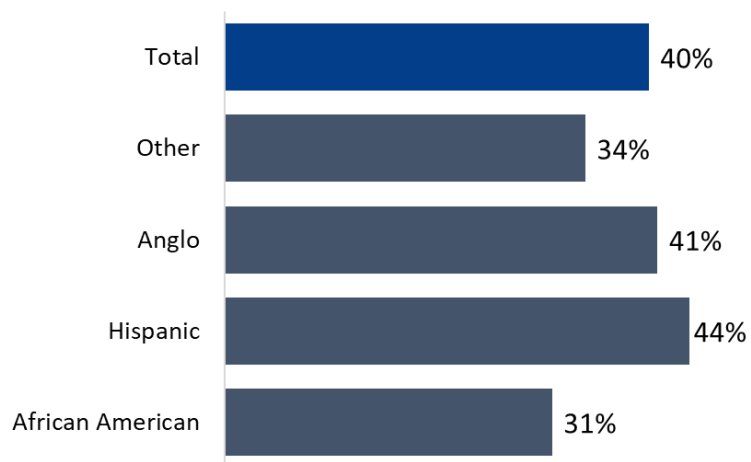
At the state level, African American children make up a larger proportion of children being reported by the community and this trend remains through investigation and removals. A higher proportion of children in the "other" race/ethnicity category were reported as alleged victims at intake than in the statewide population. 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.

Statewide, the largest disparity was seen in African American children, who are 1.9 times more likely to be reported, 2.0 times more likely to be investigated, and 1.7 times more likely to be removed than Anglo children. The disparity between African American children and Anglo children is slightly higher compared to last fiscal year. African American children are 0.2 times more likely than last fiscal year to be reported or removed compared to Anglo children.

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 Anglo children. Hispanic children had similar outcomes to Anglo children for each decision point.

Due to legislative changes implemented beginning in FY22, there were fewer removals of children in FY22 than in FY21. The overall rate of decline in child removals was 40% between FY21 to FY22, and the rate of decline was highest for Hispanic children (44%) and lowest for African American children (31%).

Rate of Decline in Removals by Race/Ethnicity
FY21 to FY22



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, African American children represent 5% of children in El Paso County and 4% of the removal population in fiscal year 2022. All seven counties had some disproportionality across the different categories of DFPS involvement.

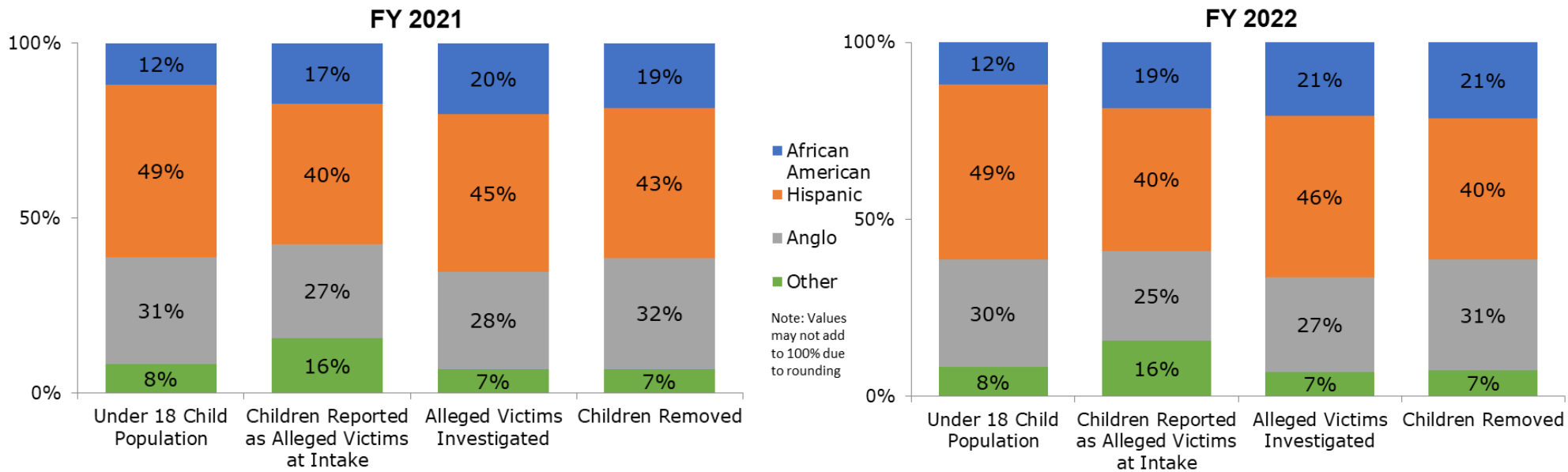
The disparity index provides a way to standardize the disproportionality observed across the counties with different racial and ethnic compositions. Apart from removals in Hidalgo and El Paso counties, African American children were more likely than Anglo children to be reported, investigated, and removed 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 4.6 times more likely to be reported, 5.4 times more likely to be investigated, and 7.2 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, most of the largest urban counties had negative disparities for Hispanic children compared to Anglo children. These disparities were pronounced for Bexar and Travis counties. It should be noted these disparities were less pronounced than the disparities observed for African American children.

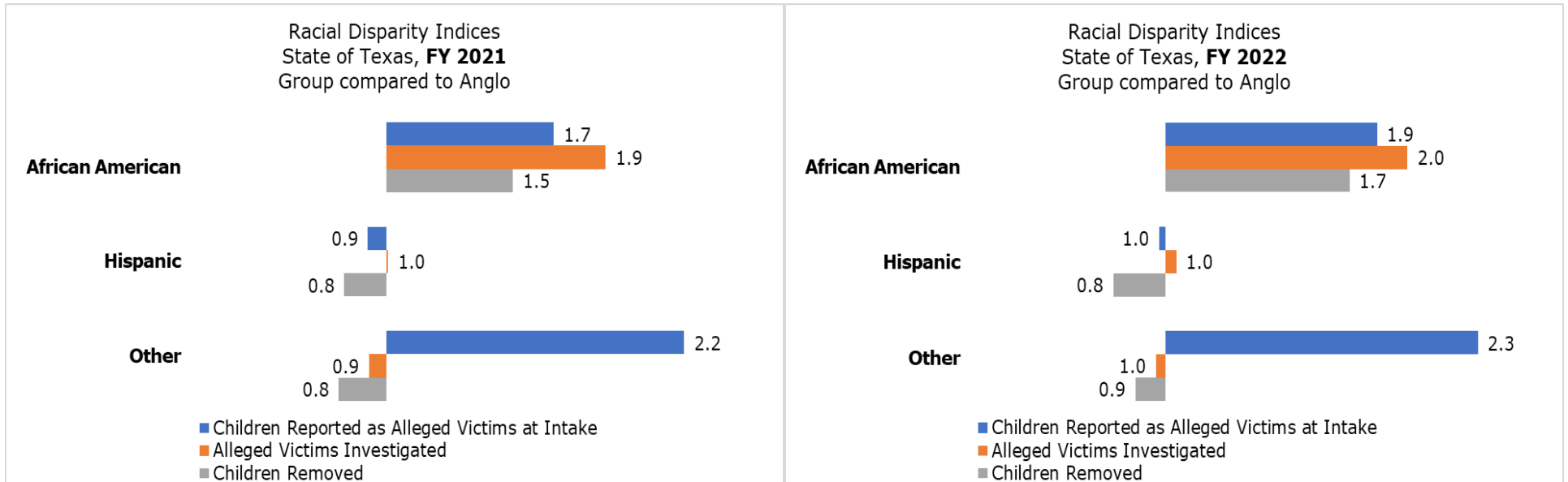
Across the seven largest counties and statewide, children in the "other" race/ethnicity category group were more likely to be reported than Anglo children. For the other outcomes of investigation and removal, children of "other" race/ethnicities were sometimes less likely and sometimes more likely than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

Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2022¹
State of Texas

| Category | Total | African American | Hispanic | Anglo | Other |
|--|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Under 18 Child Population ² | 7,675,490 | 914,704 | 3,797,022 | 2,326,803 | 636,961 |
| Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake | 443,608 | 82,247 | 178,890 | 112,540 | 69,931 |
| Alleged Victims Investigated | 271,020 | 56,346 | 123,343 | 72,281 | 19,050 |
| Children Removed ³ | 9,589 | 2,049 | 3,842 | 2,981 | 717 |



¹ Fiscal Year 2022 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #103755. Fiscal Year 2021 data is from DRIT #99942.
² 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 2021.
³ Children removed include both Stages of Service - Investigation and Family Based Safety Services.

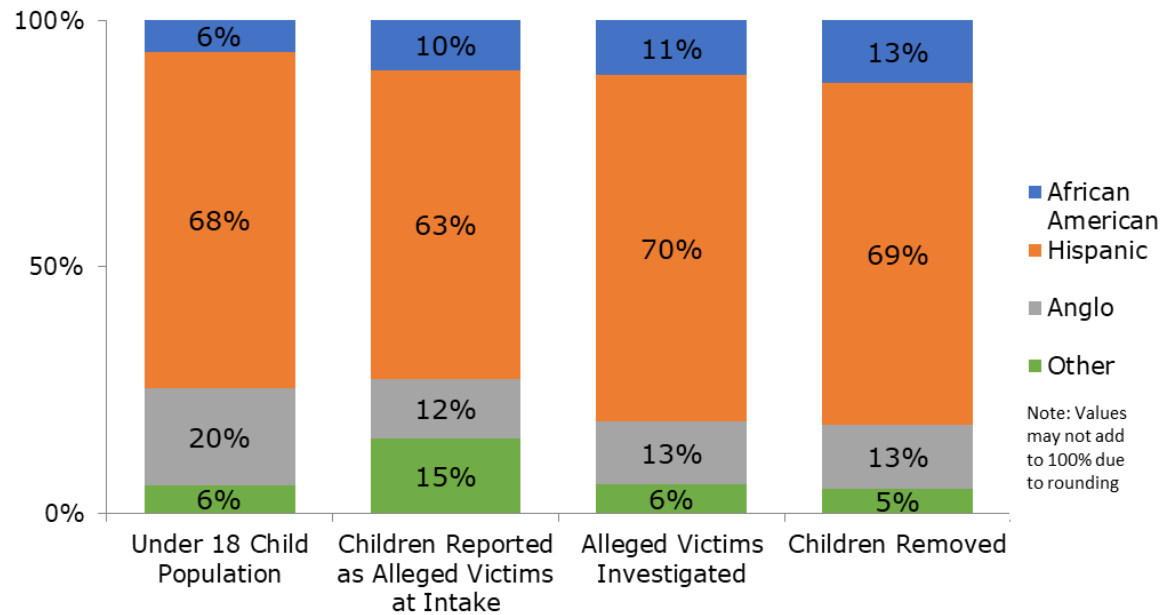


A disparity index of one means a race/ethnic group is represented the same as Anglo children at that decision point. A disparity index greater than one means the comparison race/ethnic group is more represented compared to Anglo children, while a disparity index of less than one means Anglo children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

- Statewide, African American children are 1.9 times more likely to be reported, 2.0 times more likely to be investigated, and 1.7 times more likely to be removed than Anglo children. This underscores that the disparity index is greatly impacted by community reporting.
- Hispanic children are similarly represented at each decision point as Anglo 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 2022¹
 Bexar County - Region 08 - County Number 015

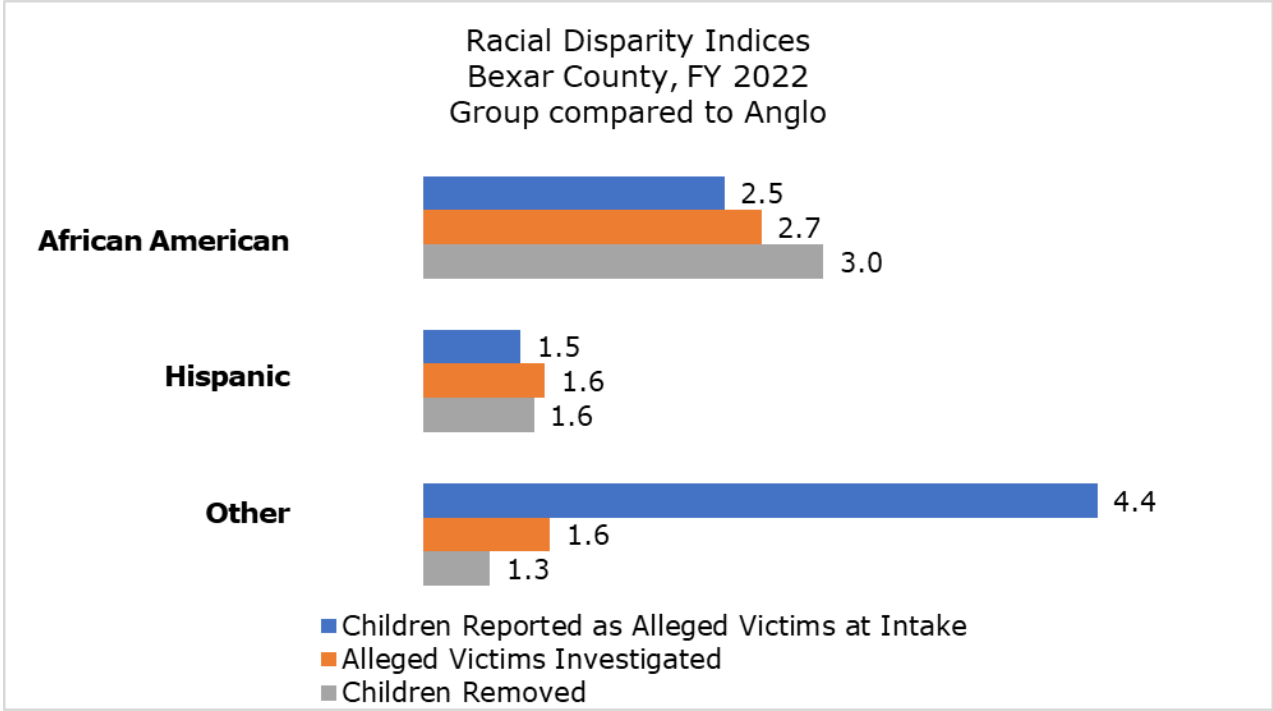
| Category | Total | African American | Hispanic | Anglo | Other |
|--|---------|------------------|----------|---------|--------|
| Under 18 Child Population ² | 550,297 | 35,536 | 375,419 | 108,607 | 30,735 |
| Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake | 37,636 | 3,760 | 23,608 | 4,601 | 5,667 |
| Alleged Victims Investigated | 22,229 | 2,475 | 15,632 | 2,821 | 1,301 |
| Children Removed ³ | 1,065 | 135 | 740 | 138 | 52 |



¹ Fiscal Year 2022 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #103755.

² 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 2021.

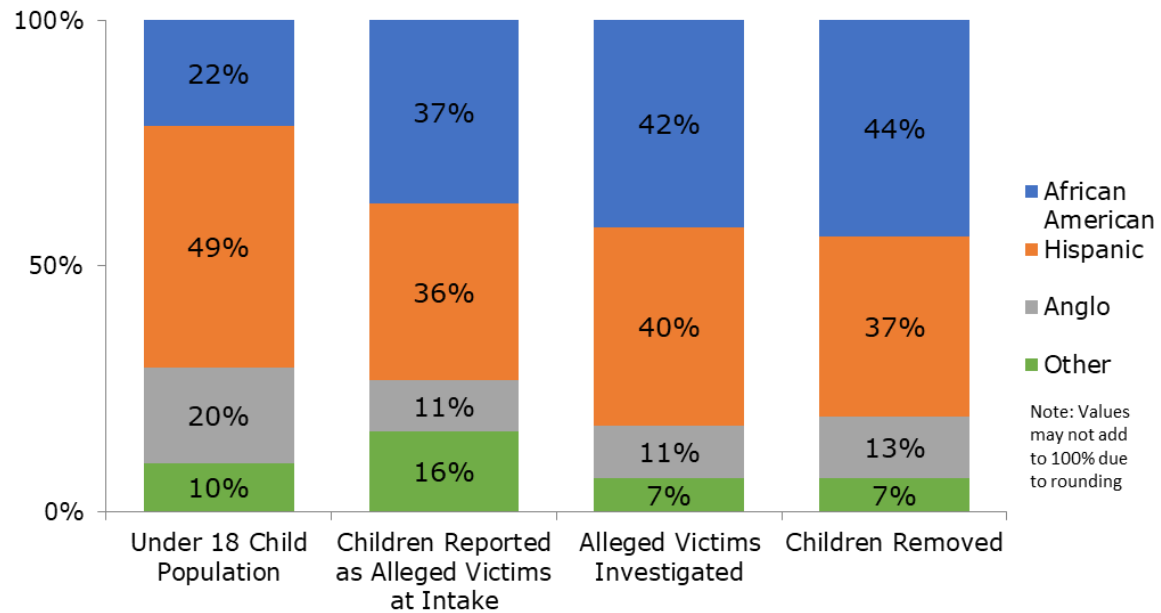
³ Children removed include both Stages of Service - Investigation and Family Based Safety Services.



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 2022¹
 Dallas County - Region 03 - County Number 057

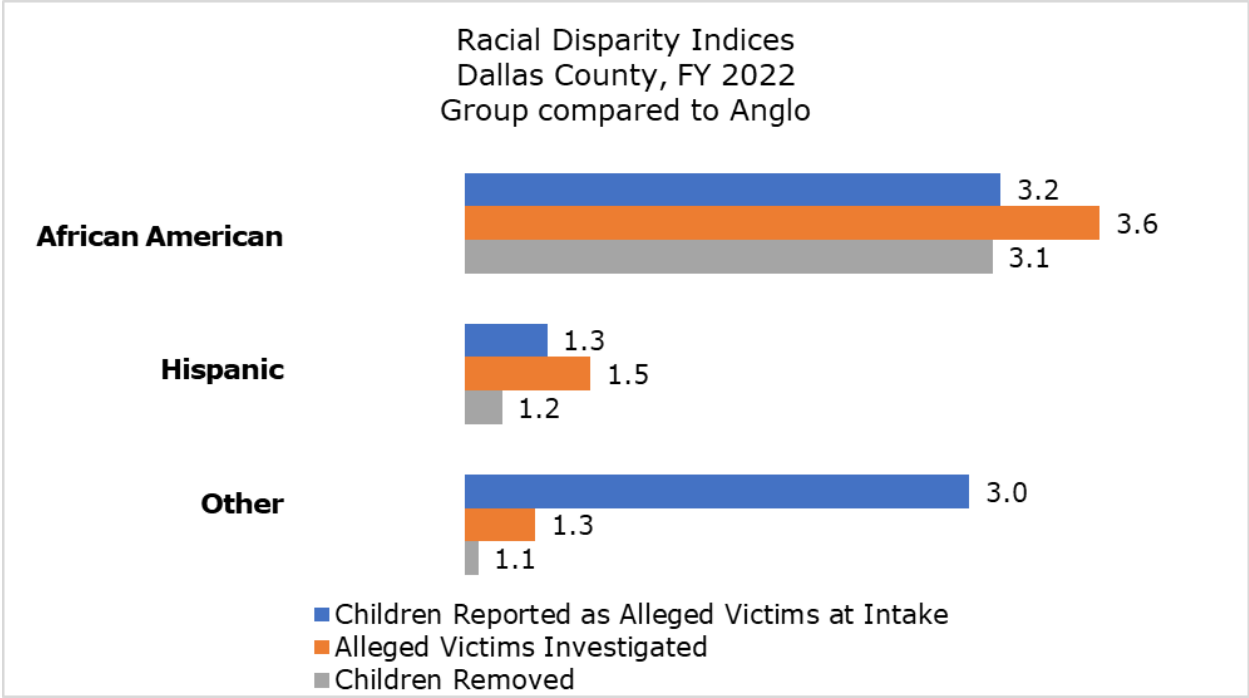
| Category | Total | African American | Hispanic | Anglo | Other |
|--|---------|------------------|----------|---------|--------|
| Under 18 Child Population ² | 742,965 | 160,255 | 364,866 | 145,376 | 72,468 |
| Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake | 36,599 | 13,669 | 13,093 | 3,906 | 5,931 |
| Alleged Victims Investigated | 22,909 | 9,627 | 9,272 | 2,442 | 1,568 |
| Children Removed ³ | 733 | 322 | 269 | 93 | 49 |



¹ Fiscal Year 2022 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #103755.

² 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 2021.

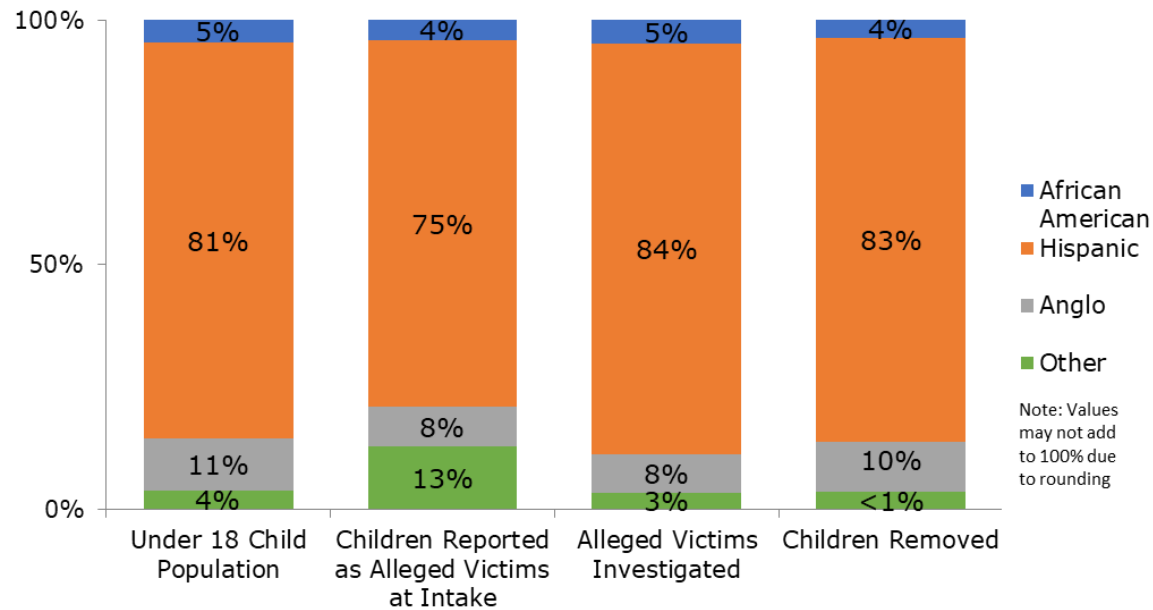
³ Children removed include both Stages of Service - Investigation and Family Based Safety Services.



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 2022¹
 El Paso County - Region 10 - County Number 071

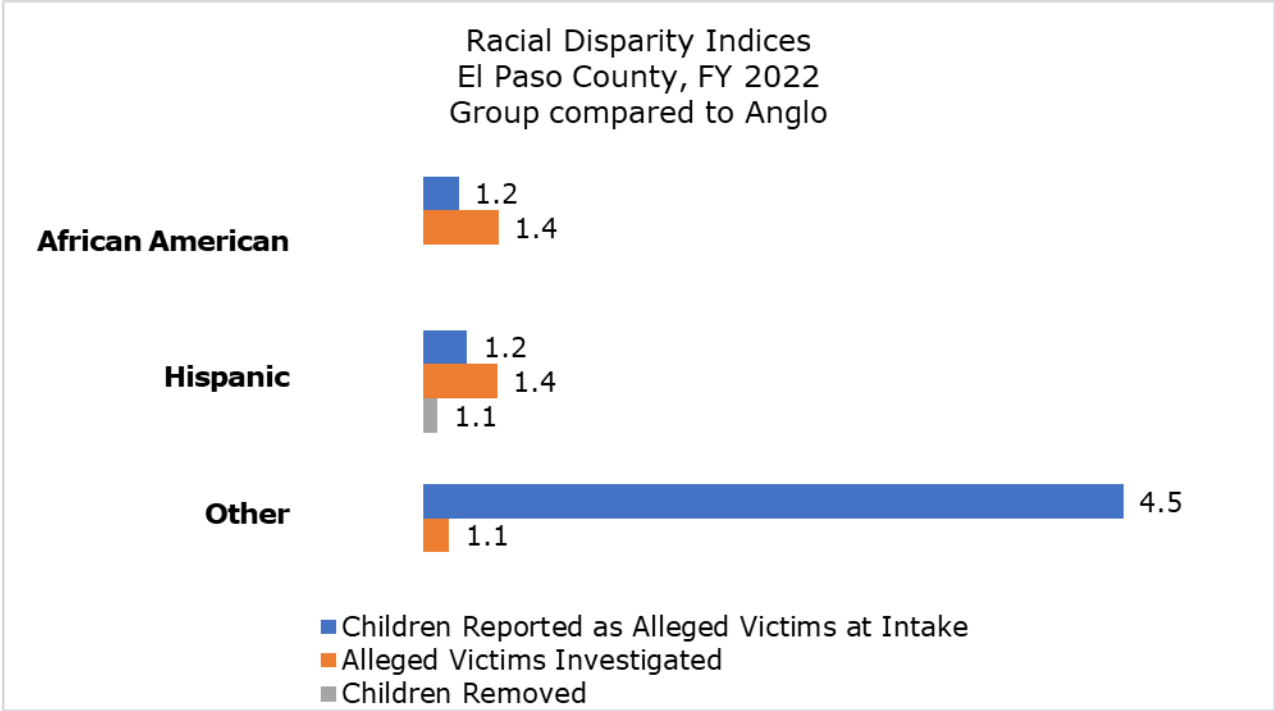
| Category | Total | African American | Hispanic | Anglo | Other |
|--|---------|------------------|----------|--------|-------|
| Under 18 Child Population ² | 244,894 | 11,104 | 198,528 | 25,993 | 9,269 |
| Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake | 12,450 | 505 | 9,337 | 1,005 | 1,603 |
| Alleged Victims Investigated | 7,534 | 356 | 6,327 | 607 | 244 |
| Children Removed ³ | 168 | 6 | 139 | 17 | 6 |



¹ Fiscal Year 2022 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #103755.

² 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 2021.

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

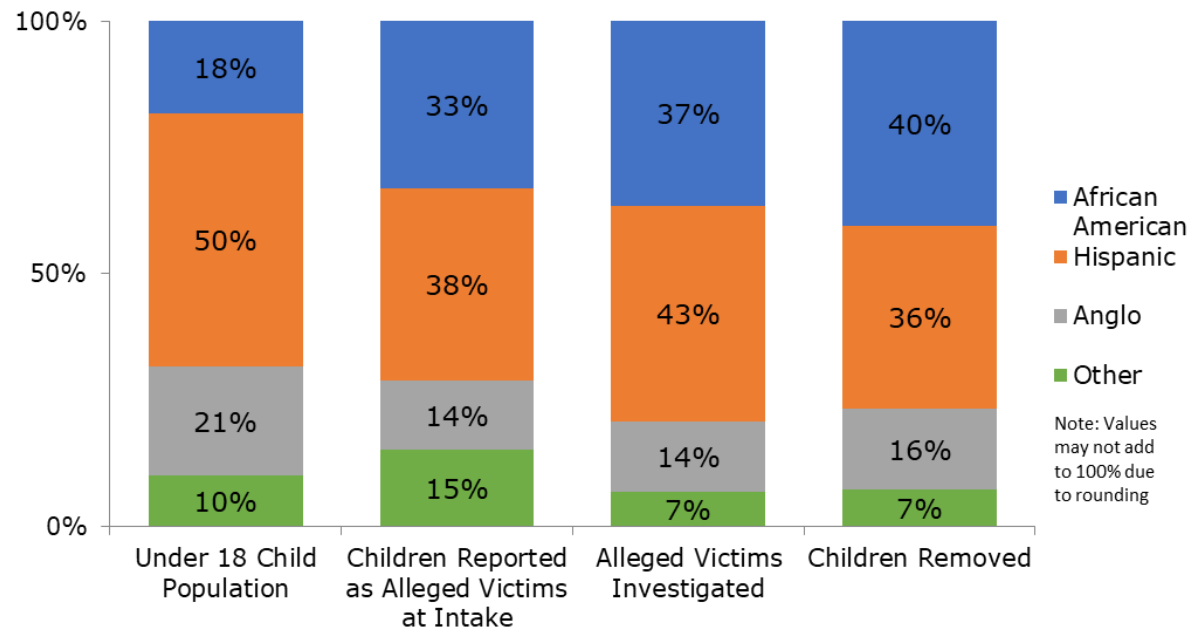


Note: Children of African American and other races/ethnicities are excluded from children removed analysis due to small N size.

A disparity index of one means a race/ethnic group is represented the same as 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 2022¹
 Harris County - Region 06 - County Number 101

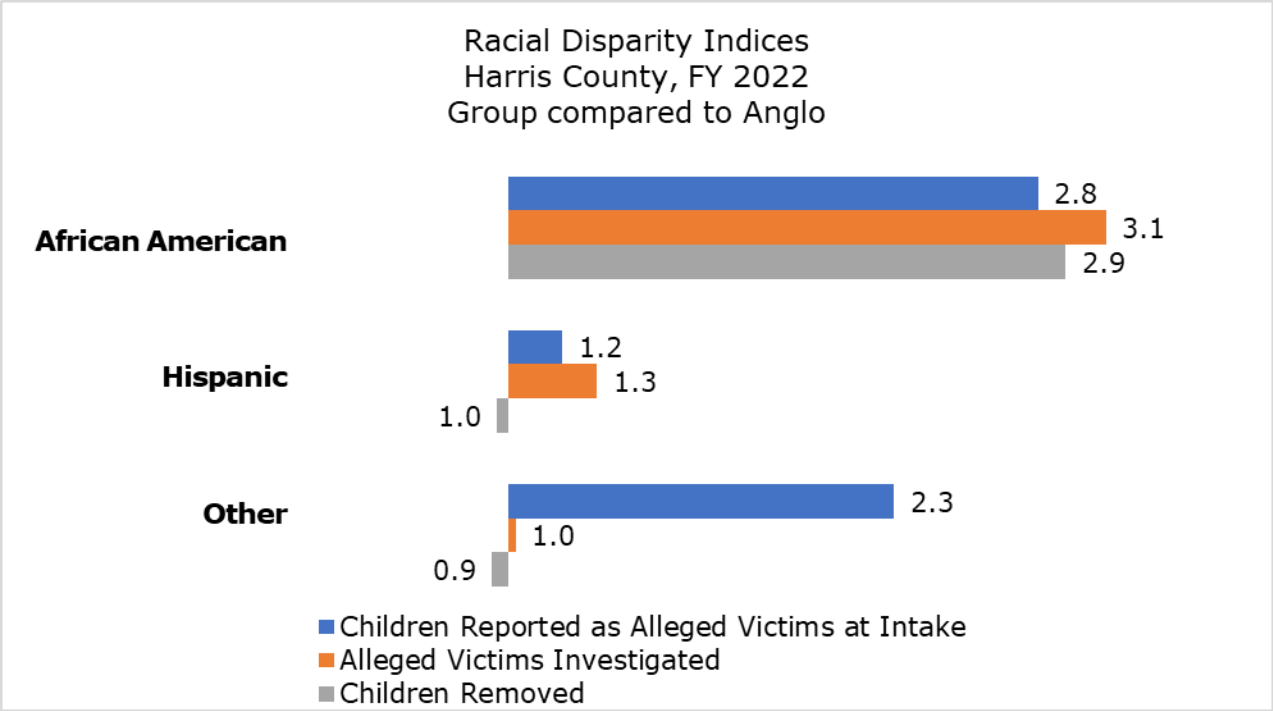
| Category | Total | African American | Hispanic | Anglo | Other |
|--|-----------|------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| Under 18 Child Population ² | 1,368,422 | 250,360 | 685,451 | 294,159 | 138,452 |
| Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake | 61,083 | 20,253 | 23,228 | 8,375 | 9,227 |
| Alleged Victims Investigated | 36,762 | 13,463 | 15,673 | 5,139 | 2,487 |
| Children Removed ³ | 557 | 225 | 202 | 90 | 40 |



¹ Fiscal Year 2022 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #103755.

² 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 2021.

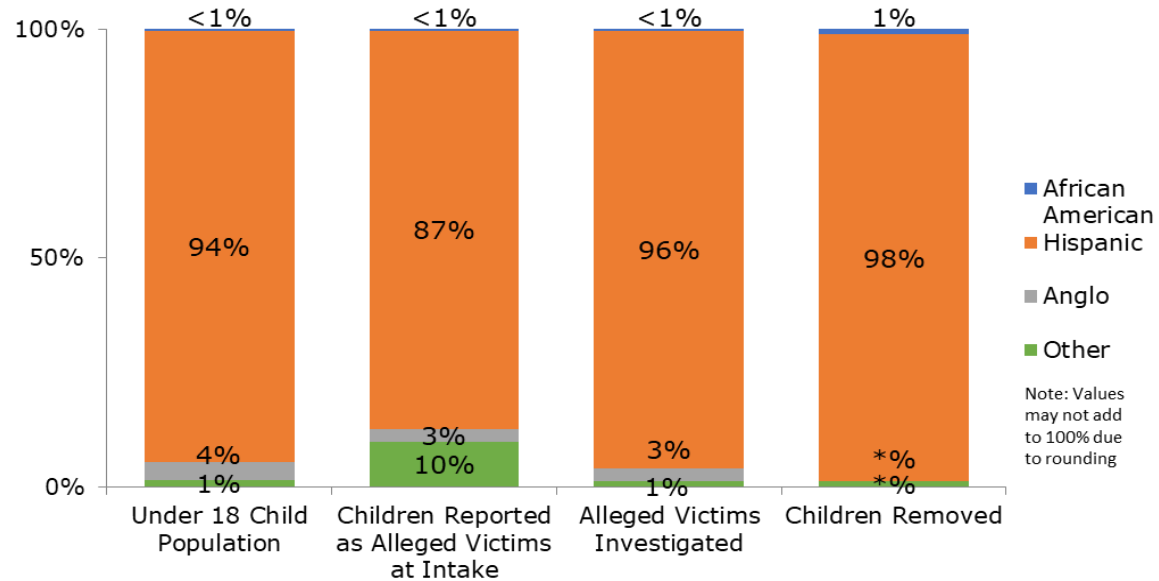
³ Children removed include both Stages of Service - Investigation and Family Based Safety Services.



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Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2022¹
Hidalgo County - Region 11 - County Number 108

| Category | Total | African American | Hispanic | Anglo | Other |
|--|---------|------------------|----------|--------|-------|
| Under 18 Child Population ² | 257,379 | 636 | 242,799 | 10,413 | 3,531 |
| Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake | 13,763 | 41 | 11,980 | 381 | 1,361 |
| Alleged Victims Investigated | 8,663 | 21 | 8,299 | 232 | 111 |
| Children Removed ³ | 88 | < 5 | 86 | 0 | < 5 |

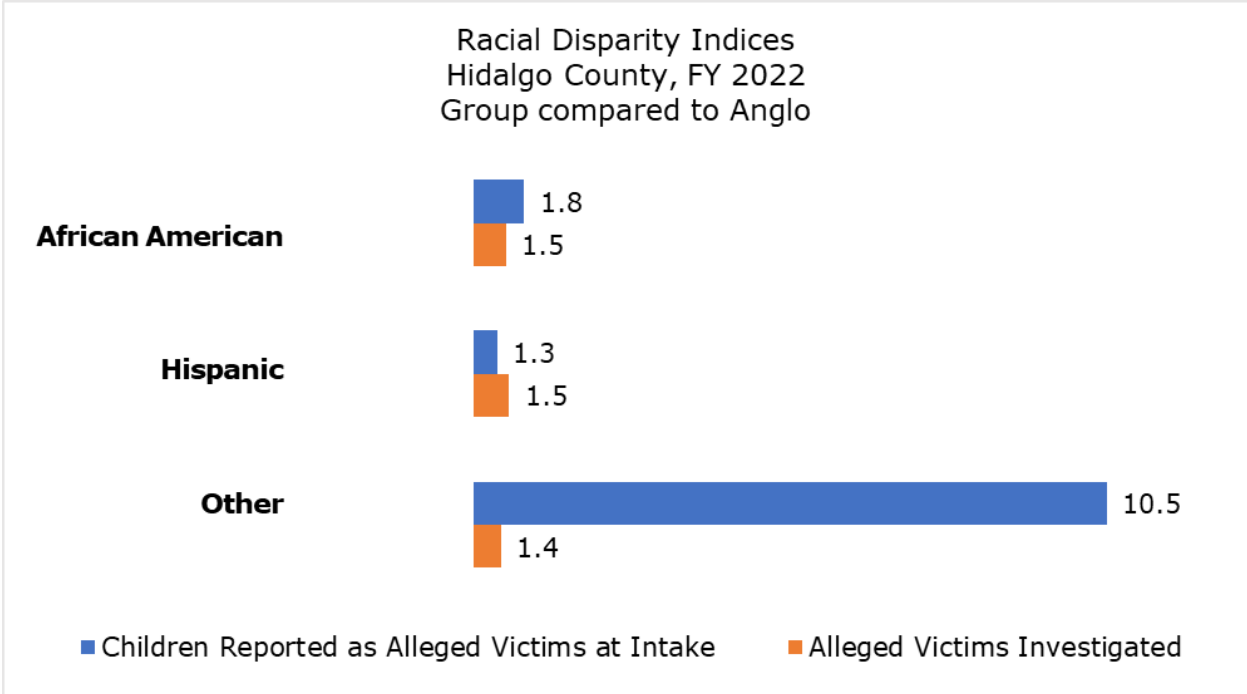


*The percentage of Anglo and children of other races/ethnicities are excluded due to small N size.

¹ Fiscal Year 2022 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #103755.

² 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 2021.

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

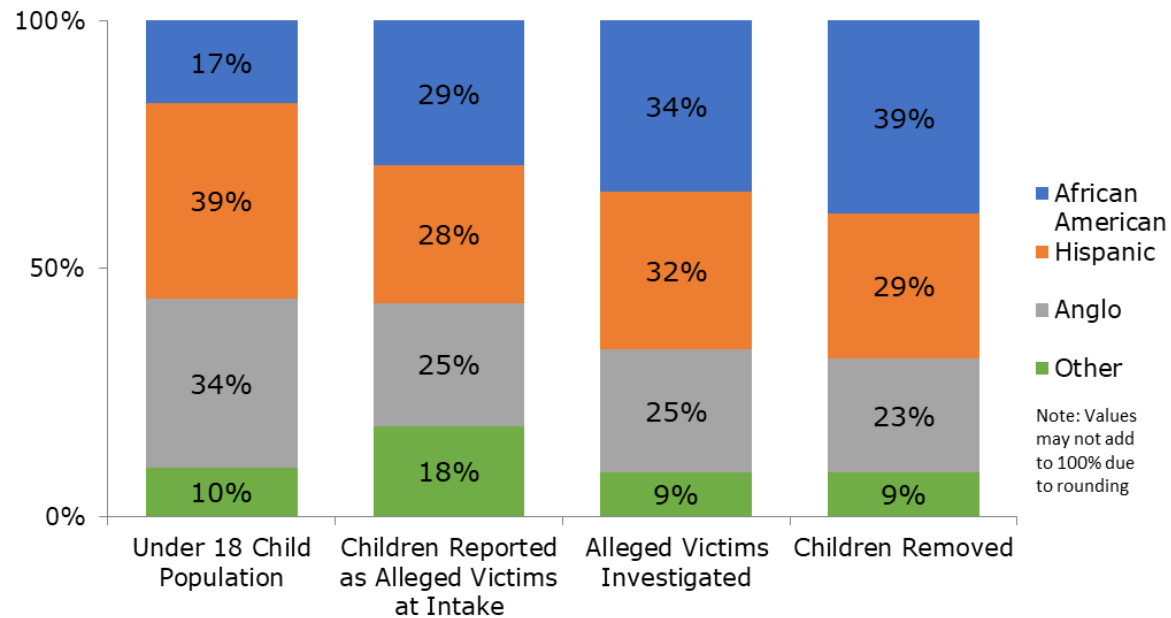


Note: The children removed analysis is excluded due to small N size across all race/ethnicities besides Hispanic.

A disparity index of one means a race/ethnic group is represented the same as 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 2022¹
 Tarrant County - Region 03 - County Number 220

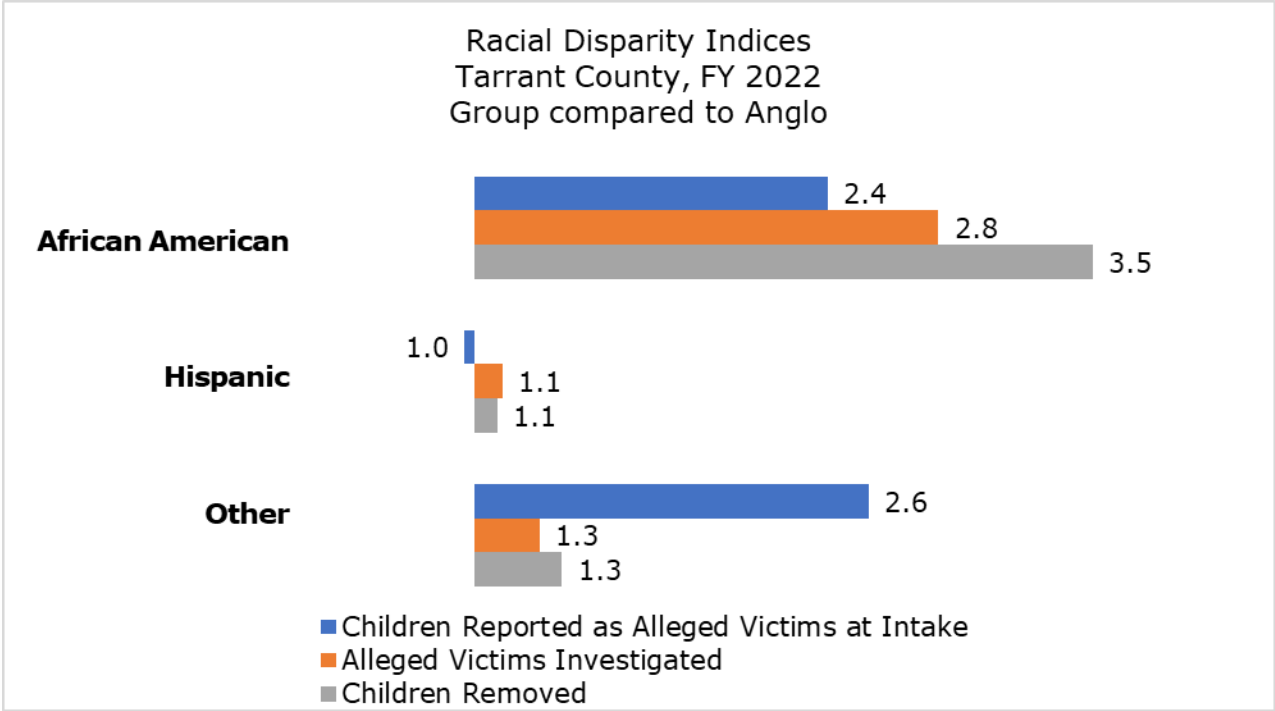
| Category | Total | African American | Hispanic | Anglo | Other |
|--|---------|------------------|----------|---------|--------|
| Under 18 Child Population ² | 548,523 | 91,603 | 215,934 | 187,697 | 53,289 |
| Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake | 34,266 | 10,021 | 9,471 | 8,546 | 6,228 |
| Alleged Victims Investigated | 21,407 | 7,381 | 6,802 | 5,319 | 1,905 |
| Children Removed ³ | 554 | 216 | 161 | 128 | 49 |



¹ Fiscal Year 2022 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #103755.

² 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 2021.

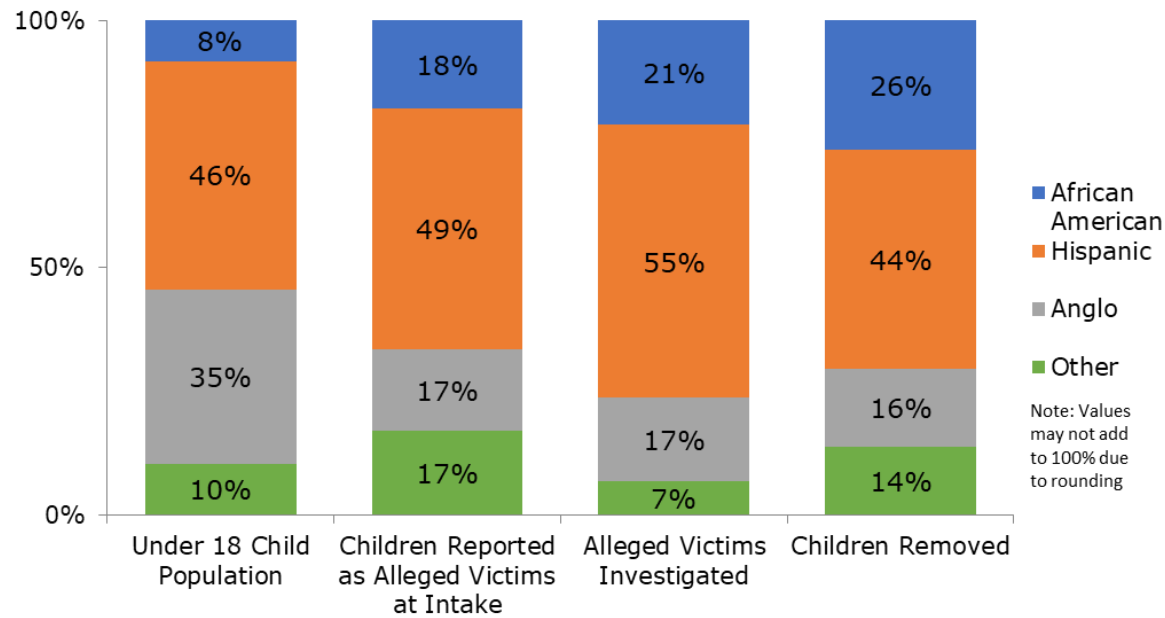
³ Children removed include both Stages of Service - Investigation and Family Based Safety Services.



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Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2022¹
 Travis County - Region 07 - County Number 227

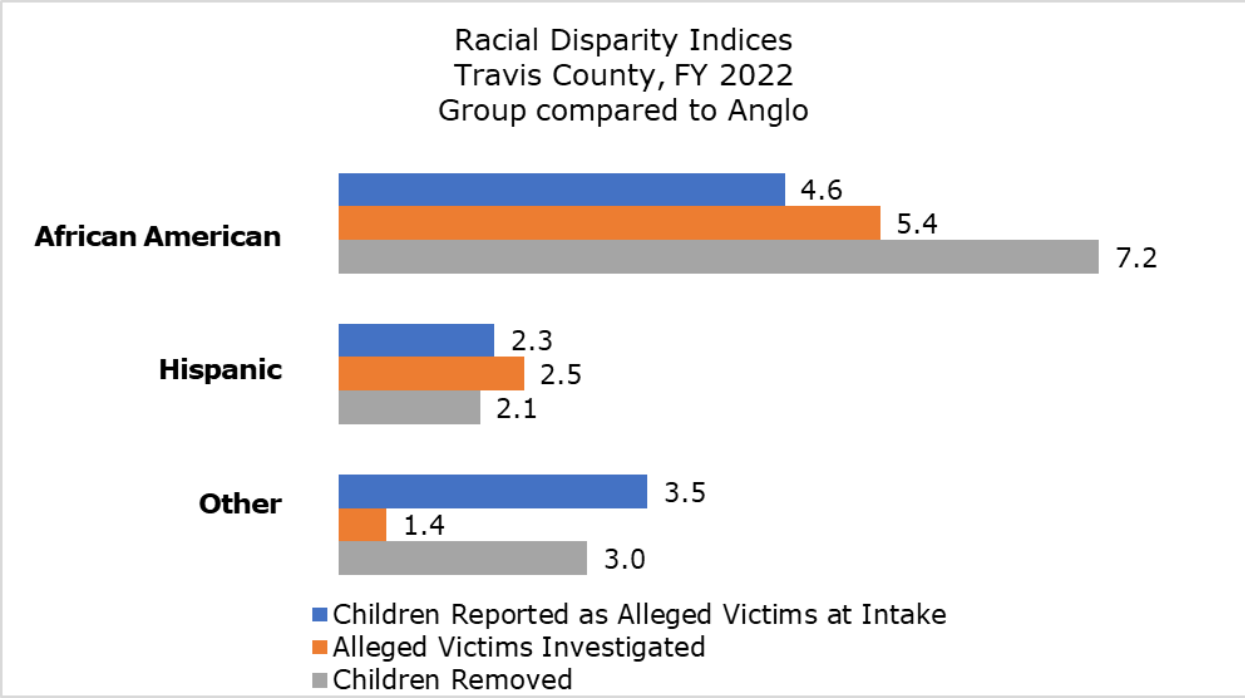
| Category | Total | African American | Hispanic | Anglo | Other |
|--|---------|------------------|----------|---------|--------|
| Under 18 Child Population ² | 293,347 | 24,078 | 135,562 | 103,462 | 30,245 |
| Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake | 16,477 | 2,920 | 8,051 | 2,720 | 2,786 |
| Alleged Victims Investigated | 8,350 | 1,763 | 4,611 | 1,406 | 570 |
| Children Removed ³ | 267 | 70 | 118 | 42 | 37 |



¹ Fiscal Year 2022 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #103755.

² 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 2021.

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



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