

At a Glance: Disproportionality and Disparity in Foster Care Placements

Definitions:

Disproportionality: Compares a racial or ethnic group to the general population.

Example: 15% of the general population is in the XYZ ethnic group. 20% of the general population is in the ABC ethnic group.

Disparity: Compares one racial or ethnic group with another racial or ethnic group.

Example: People in the XYZ ethnic group are 3 times more likely to have a specific outcome than people in the ABC ethnic group.

Statewide Results: 2000, 2006, and 2009

1. Of all the African-American children who were less than 1 year old in Ohio in 2000, **4.3%** were placed in foster care for the first time. In 2006, **3.5%** were placed in foster care. In 2009, **2.1%** were placed in foster care.
2. Of all the Caucasian children who were less than 1 year old in Ohio in 2000, **0.7%** were placed in foster care for the first time. In 2006, **1%** were placed in foster care. In 2009, **0.8%** were placed in foster care.
3. This means that in 2000, African-American children who were less than 1 year old were **6** times more likely to be placed in foster care for the first time. By 2006, African-American children who were less than 1 year old were **4.2** times more likely to be placed in foster care than Caucasian children were. In 2009, African-American children were **2.6** times more likely to be placed in foster care.
4. Disparity rate of **2.6** fluctuates slightly between birth and age 13, then increases to near 4 at the age of 14 and remains steady through the age of 17.
5. Although the statewide rate of disparity hovers 2.6 from birth through age 13, county specific rates are more volatile.

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