

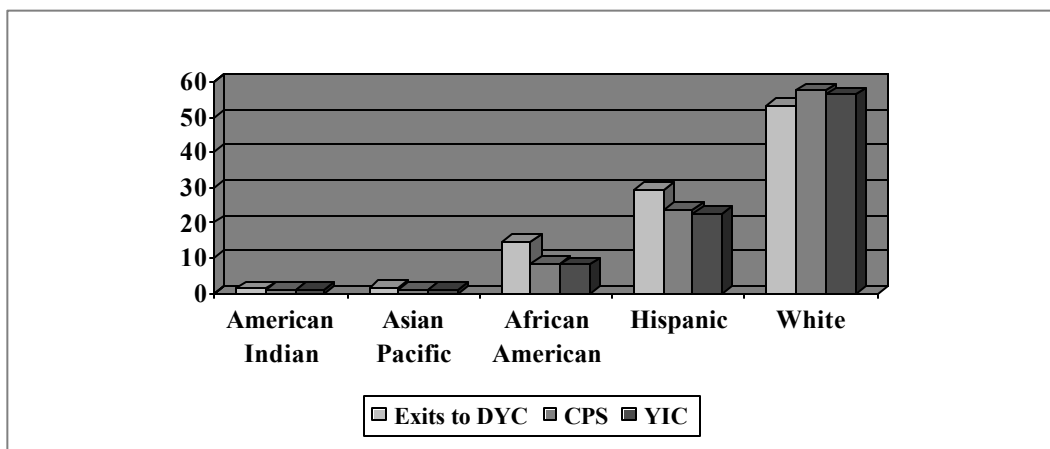
Chapter 5: Leaving the Child Welfare System: Exits to DYC and to Independent Living

Here we examine two subsets of youth at the point they exit the child welfare system from a first, second or third case. Our focus is on the nature of ethnic group differences across a few variables that describe both the child and the service package. First we examine those youth who exit to the Division of Youth Corrections, followed by an examination of youth who exit at age 18 to emancipation.

Exits to DYC

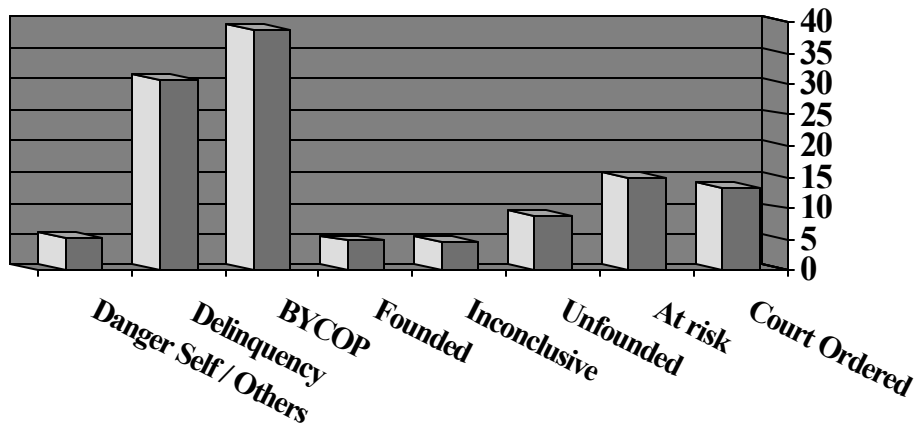
A total of 2,341 youth exited the child welfare system to a closing residence in a DYC facility over the course of a first, second and/or third child welfare case. This includes 1,748 youth who entered the child welfare system as YIC clients and 593 who entered as CPS clients. The ethnic group distribution among this cohort of youth is similar to that of the two primary groups we have previously examined: youth who enter as CPS cases and those who enter as YIC cases, save that African American and Hispanic youth are over-represented in this cohort relative to the other two service groups.

Figure 5.1: Exits to DYC Compared to General CPS and YIC Populations, All CPS Cases 1995 – 2000, Percents



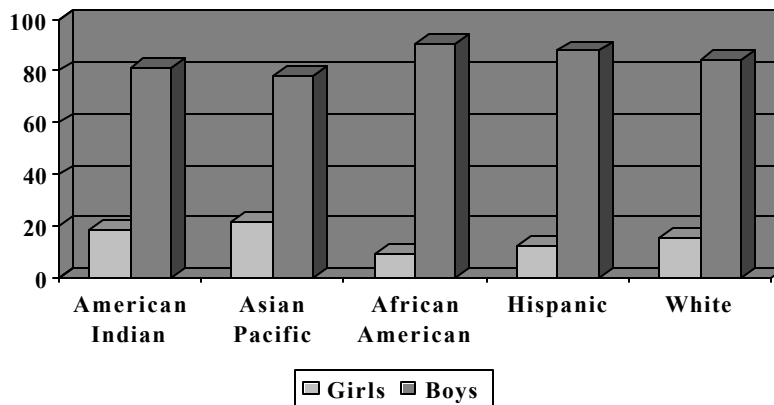
Youth are most likely to enter a CPS case with a program target of Beyond Control of Parent or for committing acts that might lead to delinquency adjudication. Among those entering as CPS cases, the “at risk – requesting services” category is most often present.

Figure 5.2: Program Target, Exits to DYC, 1995 – 2000, Percents



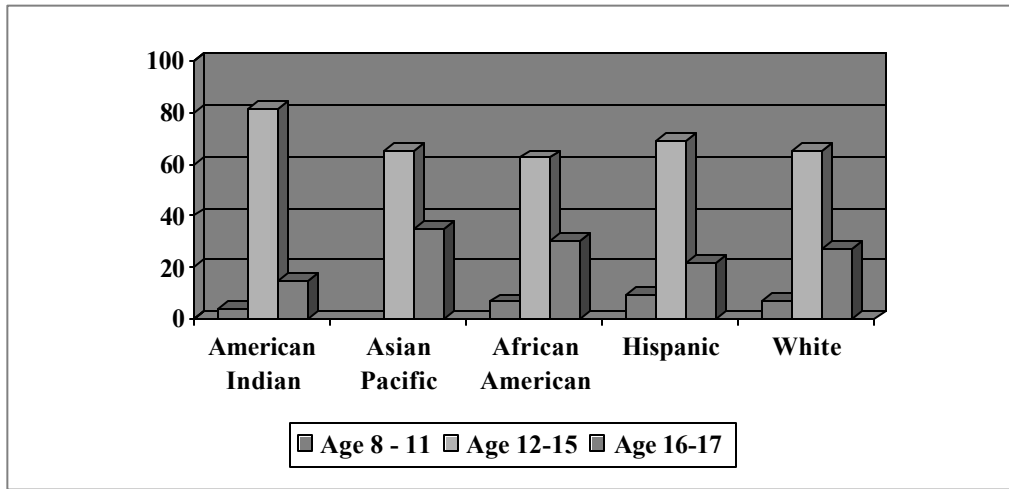
Youth exiting to DYC are most likely to be male, however American Indian and Asian Pacific girls are more likely than those of other groups to be living in a DYC facility at case closure.

Figure 5.3: Gender by Ethnic Group, Exits to DYC, 1995 – 2000, Percents



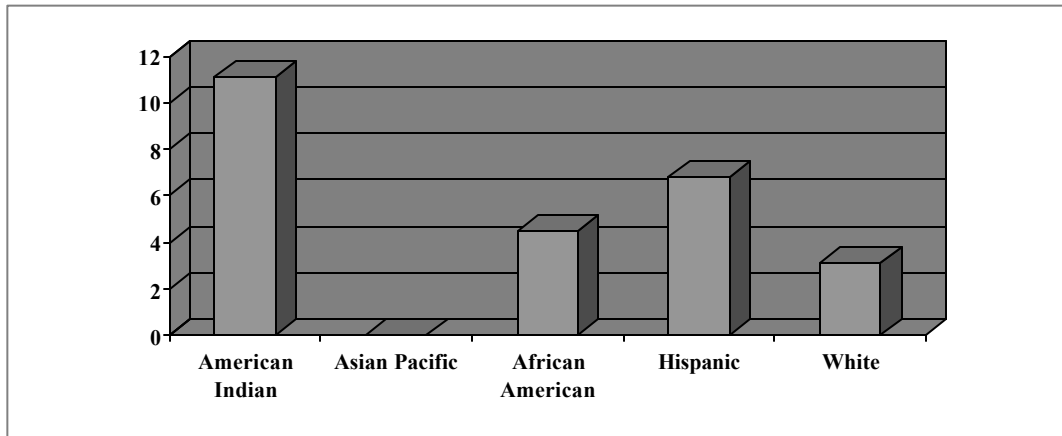
Most youth who exit to DYC entered the child welfare system at ages between 11 and 16. African American and Asian Pacific youth are the most likely to have entered at an older age.

Figure 5.4: Age by Ethnic Group, Exits to DYC, 1995 – 2000, Percents



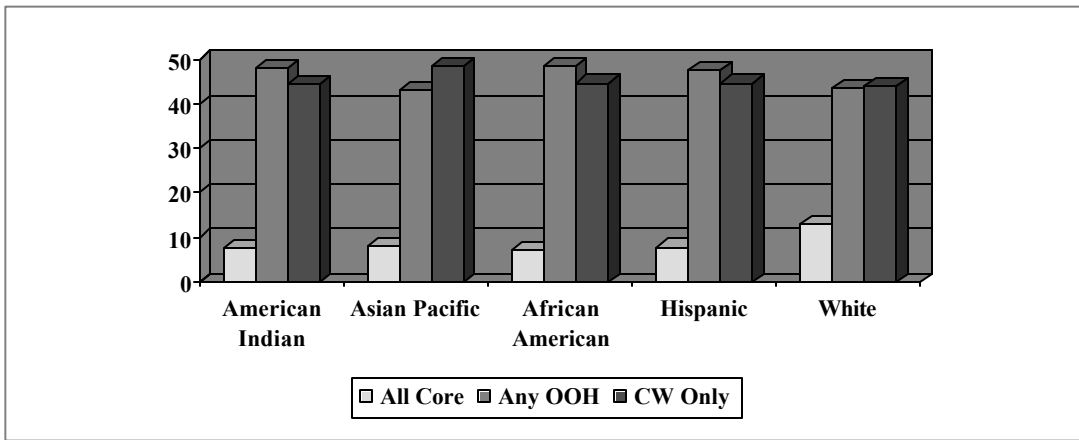
American Indian, Hispanic and African American youth are more likely than Whites to be found among the extremely poor. American Indian youth are 4 times more likely than White youth to be extremely poor; Hispanic youth are twice as likely.

Figure 5.5: Extreme Poverty by Ethnic Group, Exits to DYC, 1995 – 2000, Percents



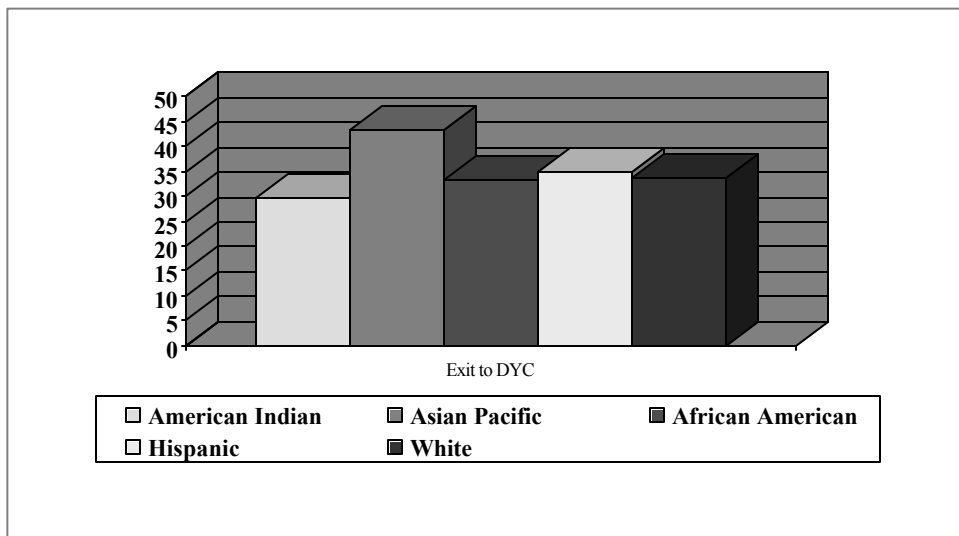
Service disparities among ethnic groups are less pronounced for this cohort of youth. Still, American Indian, African American and Hispanic youth are more likely than White youth to have been placed during the first service, while White youth are more likely to have received all Core services.

Figure 5.6: Broad Service Pattern During the First Case by Ethnic Group, Exits to DYC, 1995 – 2000, Percents



Between 30% and 45% of all groups exit to DYC at the end of the first CW case. Asian Pacific youth are most likely to do so.

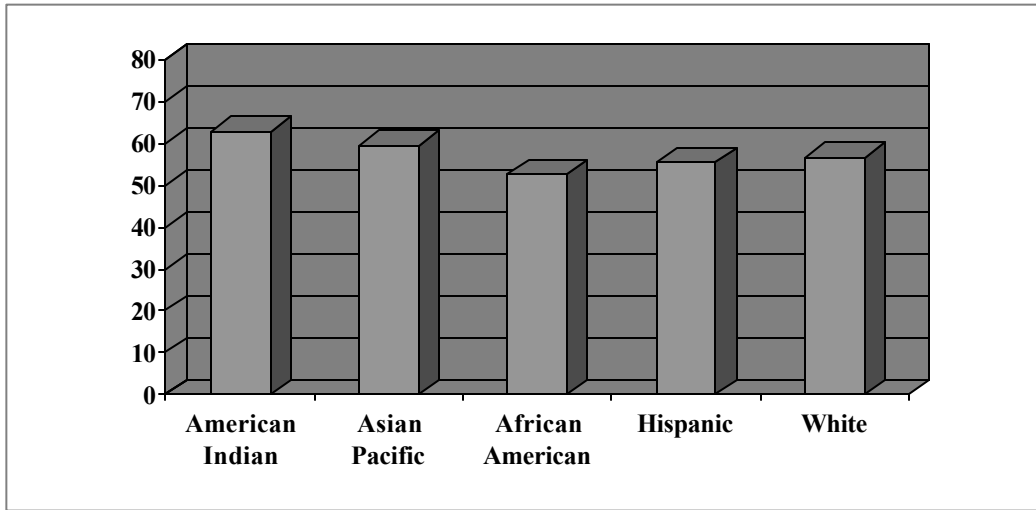
Figure 5.7: Exit to DYC Following the First Case by Ethnic Group, Exits to DYC, 1995 – 2000, Percents



Between 50% and 60% of youth returned to child welfare for a second case.

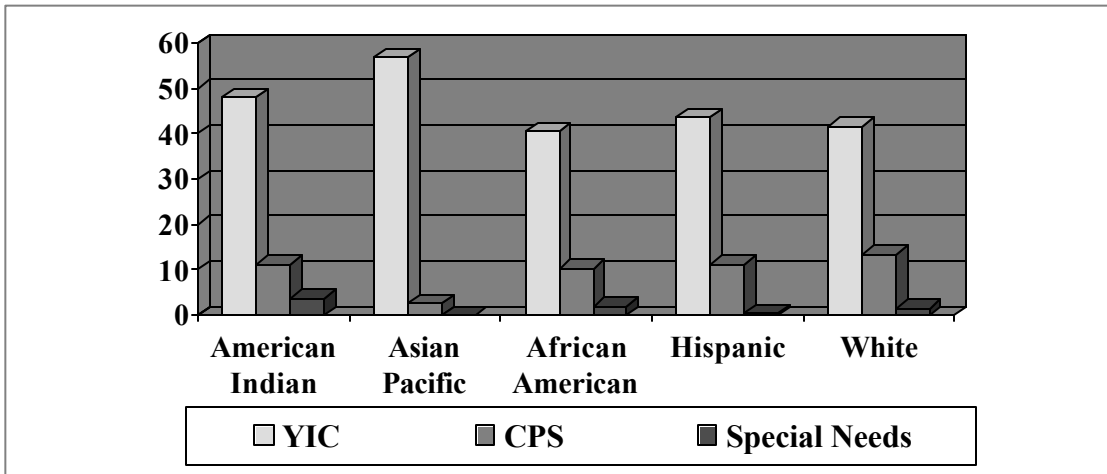
American Indian and Asian Pacific youth are slightly more likely than White youth to be served in a second case. A total of 954 youth in this cohort returned.

Figure 5.8: Return for a Second Case by Ethnic Group, Exits to DYC, 1995 – 2000, Percents



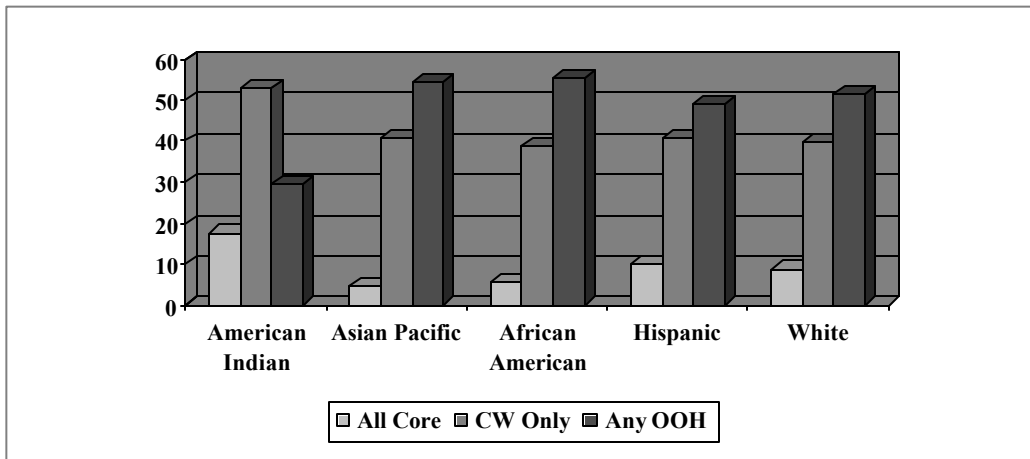
Most youth who return for a second case return in the YIC program area, however this is not always the case, with some 10% of youth returning for a second, CPS case. Asian Pacific youth are the exception to the pattern and are much more likely to return to the YIC program area.

Figure 5.9: Program Area for the Second Case by Ethnic Group, Exits to DYC, 1995 – 2000, Percents



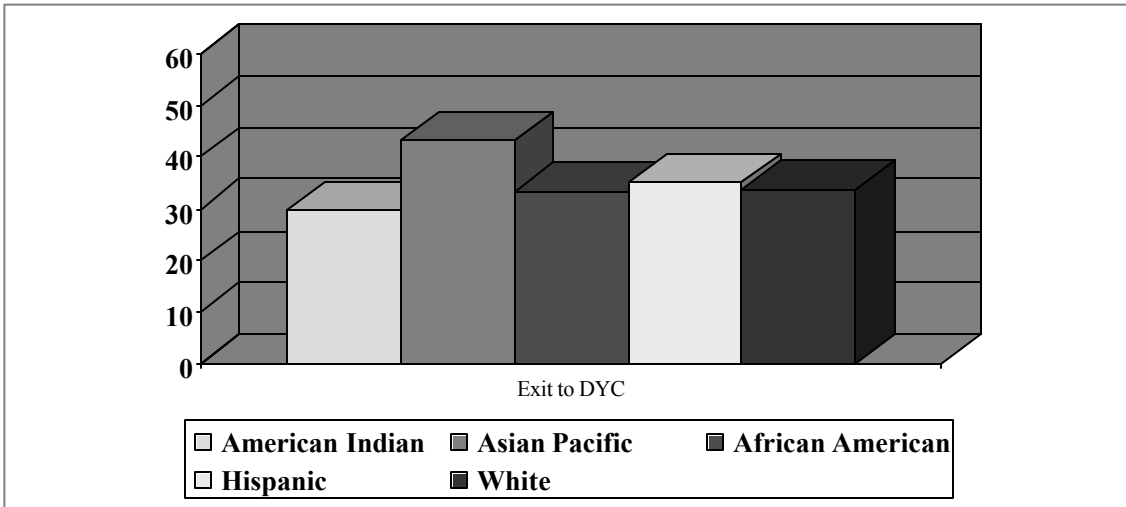
Placement is often used for youth in this cohort during their second child welfare case, with greater than 50% of most groups being placed during the second case. It is most likely to be used for Asian Pacific and African American youth and much less likely to be used with American Indian youth.

Figure 5.10: Broad Service Pattern for the Second Case by Ethnic Group, Exits to DYC, 1995 – 2000, Percents



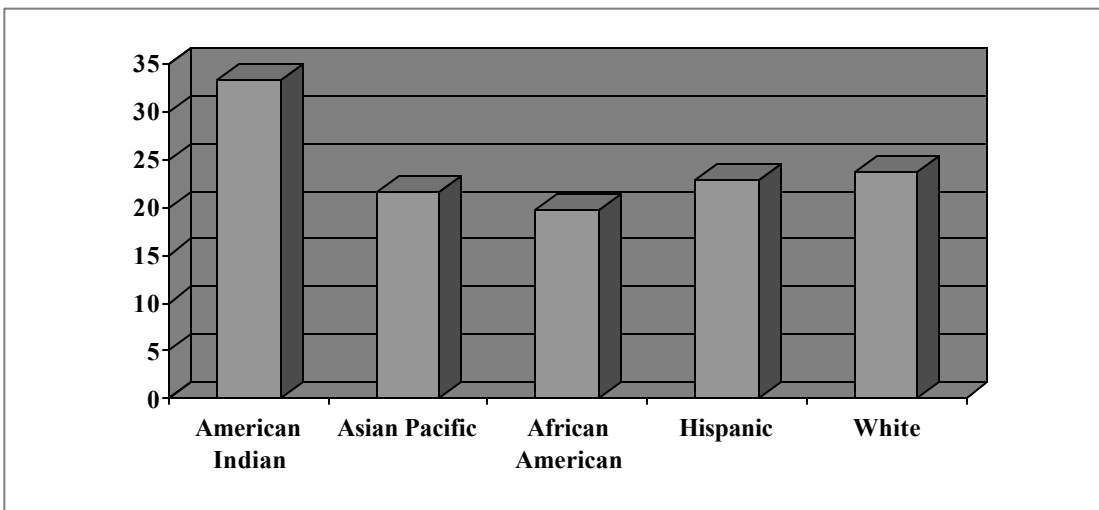
Thirty to forty percent of youth served in a second case exit to DYC at the end of that case.

Figure 5.11: Exit to DYC at the Close of the Second Case by Ethnic Group, Exits to DYC, 1995 – 2000, Percents



American Indian youth, less likely to exit to DYC at the end of the second case are, not surprisingly, most likely to return for a third case.

Figure 5.12: Third Cases by Ethnic Group, Exits to DYC, 1995 – 2000, Percents

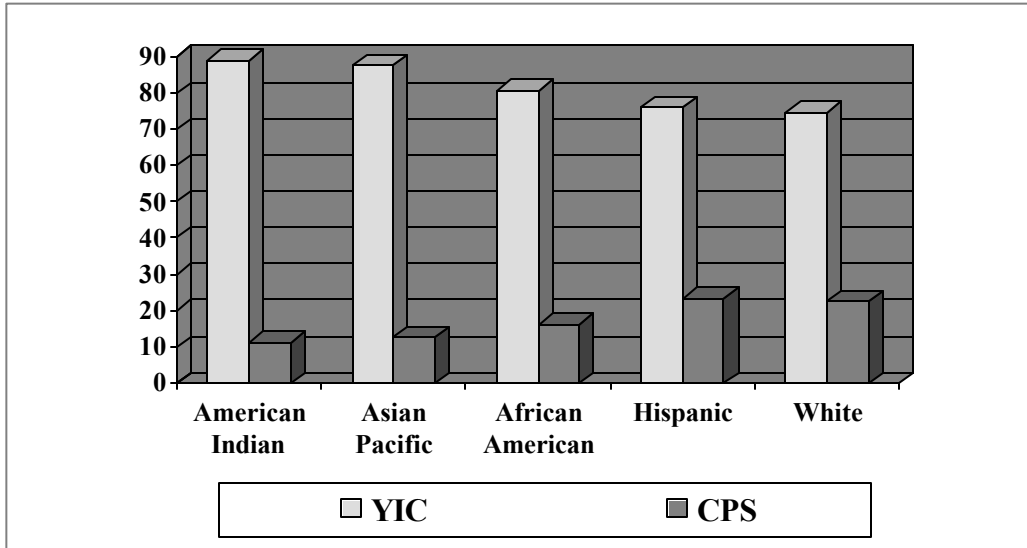


Most youth who return for a third case return in the YIC program area, but as with second cases, some 10% to 20% return for Child Protection services. American Indian,

Asian Pacific and African American youth are most likely to return to YIC services.

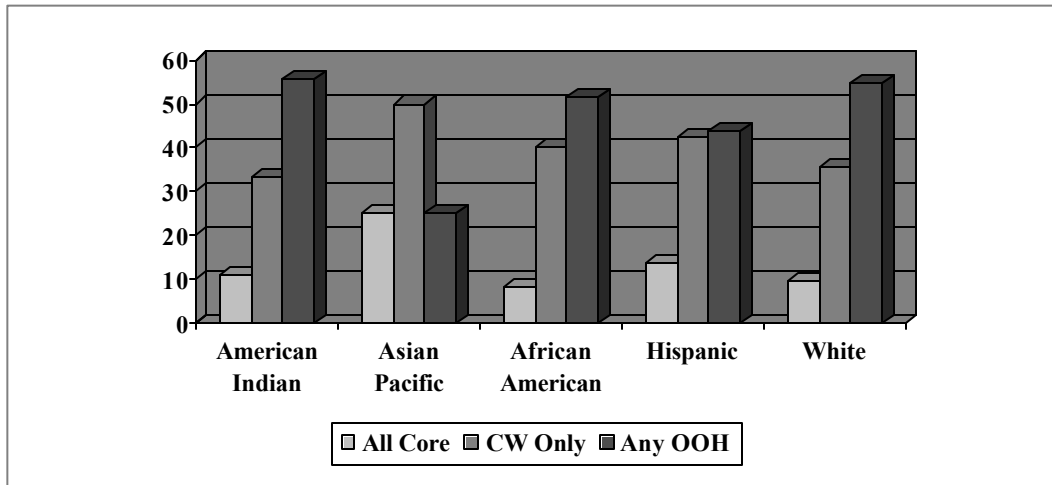
Hispanic and White youth are more likely than other groups to return as a CPS case.

Figure 5.13: Program Area for the Third Case by Ethnic Group, Exits to DYC, 1995 – 2000, Percents



By the third case, disparities in service patterns are more evident. American Indian, African American and White youth are most likely to be placed as part of the third case service package, while Asian Pacific youth are most less likely to be placed. Patterns for American Indian and Asian Pacific youth should be interpreted with caution because they are based on a very small number of youth, (9 and 8 respectively) in the third case.

Figure 5.14: Broad Service Pattern for the Third Case by Ethnic Group, Exits to DYC, 1995 – 2000, Percents



Summary

African American and Hispanic youth exit to DYC in higher percentages than they represent in both the CPS and YIC service populations. Closer examination of those youth who exit to DYC found less dramatic ethnic differences in presenting characteristics and service patterns than has been seen in earlier groups of youth. One exception lies in the area of extreme poverty where American Indian youth remain over-represented relative to other groups. Service patterns are also more similar. Still, out-of-home placement is still used more heavily for all ethnic groups relative to whites during the first child welfare case, and for some ethnic groups in both the second and third cases.

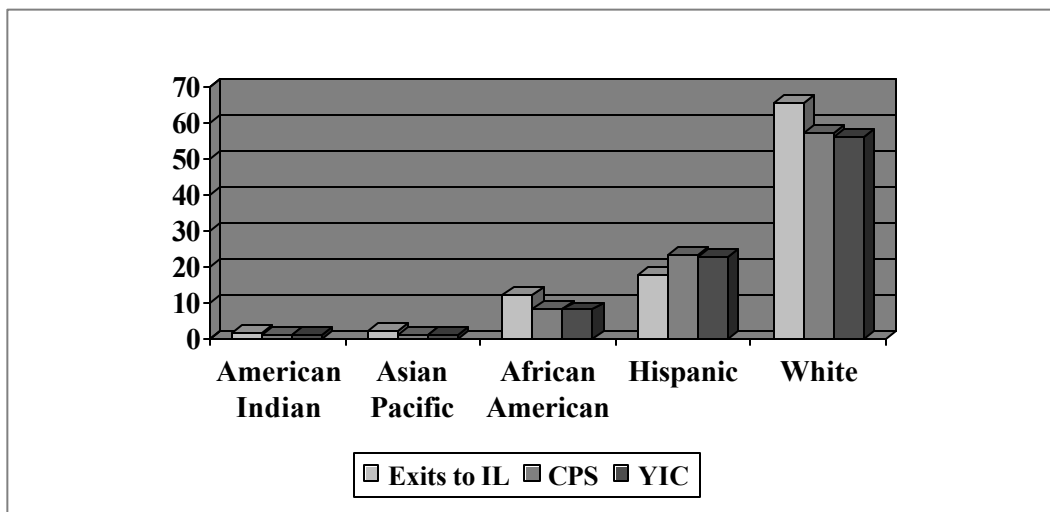
Exits to Independent Living

In order to examine this group, we first selected youth who turned 18 during the course of an open first, second or third case in either the CPS or YIC program area. We then selected those youth whose cases had closed and who whose closing residence was

“on own.” Some 80.4% of these youth had been placed at some point during their first, second or third cases. Of these 565 youth, 545 have known ethnicities. Very small numbers of American Indian and Asian Pacific youth make interpretation of patterns difficult and most differences are not statistically significant due to low numbers.

There are no significant ethnic group differences between those youth who exit to independent living and those who exit to other residences. However, when we examine the percentage of youth in this cohort relative to all youth served in CPS and YIC, we find that White and African American youth are more likely to exit to independent living than their numbers in the general service population would lead us to expect.

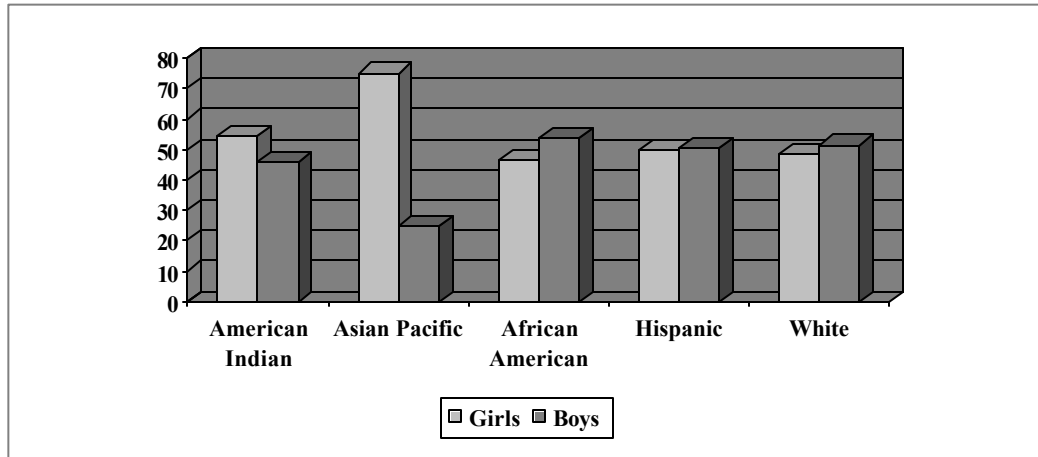
Figure 5.15: Exits to Independent Living Compared to General CPS and YIC Populations, 1995 – 2000, Percents



Gender distributes similarly across ethnic groups except for Asian Pacific youth where girls are over-represented. This difference is not statistically significant because of the low numbers of youth involved (12).

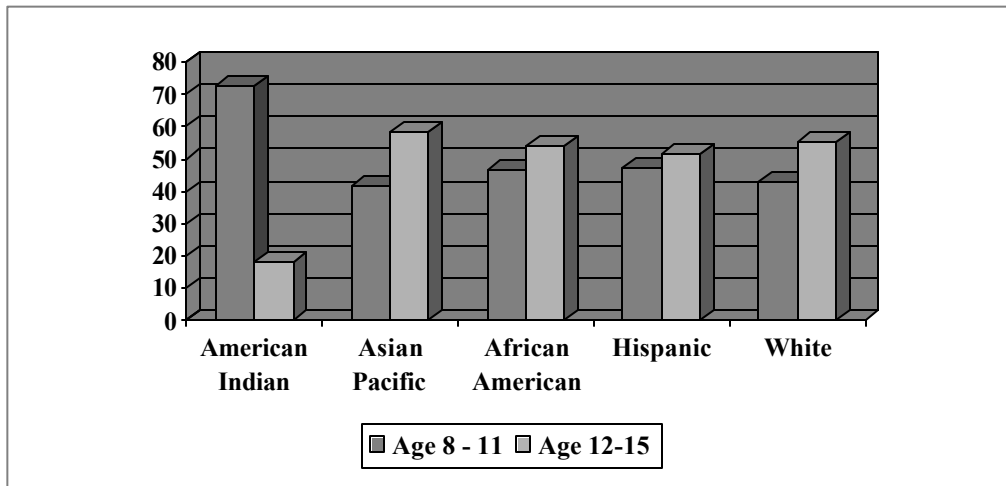
Figure 5.16: Gender by Ethnic Group, Exits to Independent Living,

1995 – 2000, Percents



Similarly, age at entry to the child welfare system does not vary significantly by ethnic group. Again, the small number of American Indian youth in this sample (11) makes statistical interpretation of their pattern difficult.

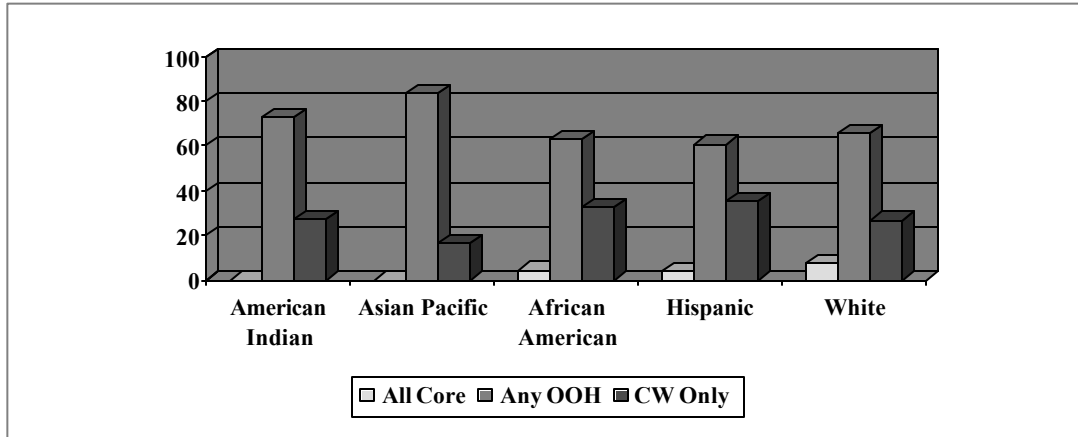
Figure 5.17: Age by Ethnic Group, Exits to Independent Living,



1995 – 2000, Percents

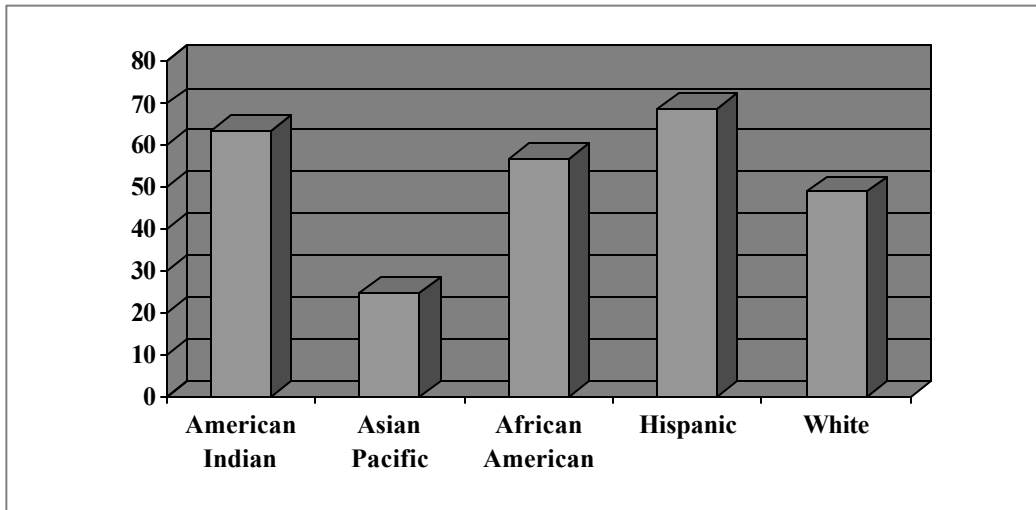
The broad pattern of services in the first case does vary by ethnicity. Most ethnic groups (all save Asian Pacific) are more likely to have experienced placement. American Indian and Asian Pacific youth are most likely to have received all Core services.

Figure 5.18: Broad Service Pattern During the First Case by Ethnic Group, Exits to Independent Living, 1995 – 2000, Percents



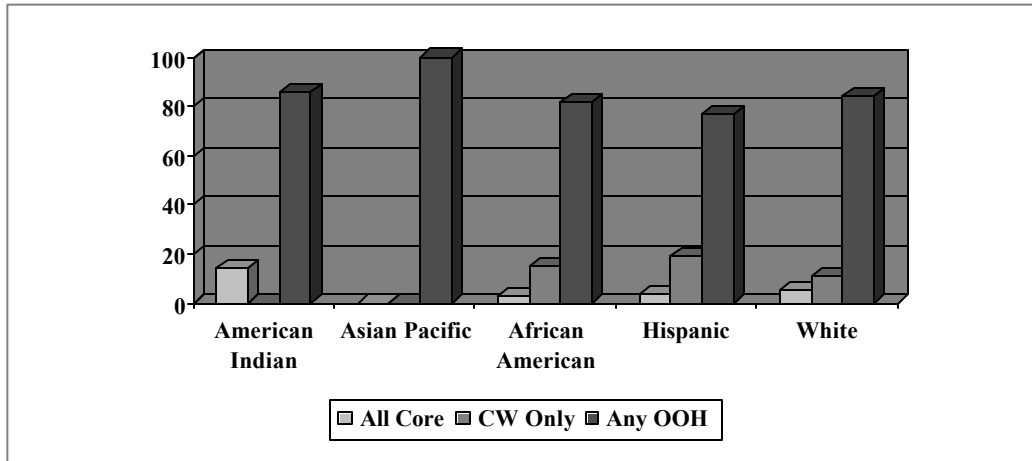
Hispanic youth are more likely than Whites to have had a second case.

Figure 5.19: Return for a Second Case by Ethnic Group, Exits to Independent Living, 1995 – 2000, Percents



Broad service patterns in the second case do not vary by ethnic group, with most youth having received placement in the second case.

Figure 5.20: Broad Service Pattern for the Second Case by Ethnic Group, Exits to Independent Living, 1995 – 2000, Percents



Only 76 youth in this cohort (13.9%) had a third case making examination of patterns by ethnic group difficult. The vast majority of youth who exit to independent living have had only 1 or 2 cases, during which they were placed at least once.

Only 85 of 465 youth (14.7%) are indicated as participating in the AliveE program for independent living. However, very large amounts of missing data make interpretation of this difficult. Of these 85 youth, most (50) received the AliveE program only, with no additional program components reported.

Summary

White youth are over represented in the cohort of youth with a history of placement who exit to life on their own at age 18. Closer examination of ethnic group differences in service patterns for these youth does not reveal substantial differential patterns. Clearly few youth in need of independent living services are receiving them through the AliveE program.