

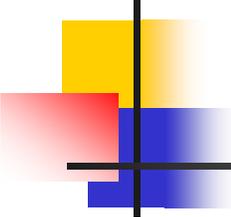
Executive Summary

Minority Over-representation in Child Welfare Services Study

Marian C. Bussey, Ph.D.

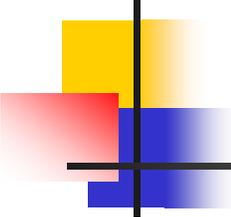
Cathryn C. Potter, Ph.D.

September 2, 2002



Study Data

- Based on 6 years of CWEST data, 1995-2000
- There were 195,747 unique children in the original dataset, selected to 159,911 cases that opened in the years 1995 through 2000:
 - 22,573 Youth in Conflict (YIC) cases
 - 129,300 Child Protection (CPS) cases
 - 8,038 Special Needs (PA VI) cases

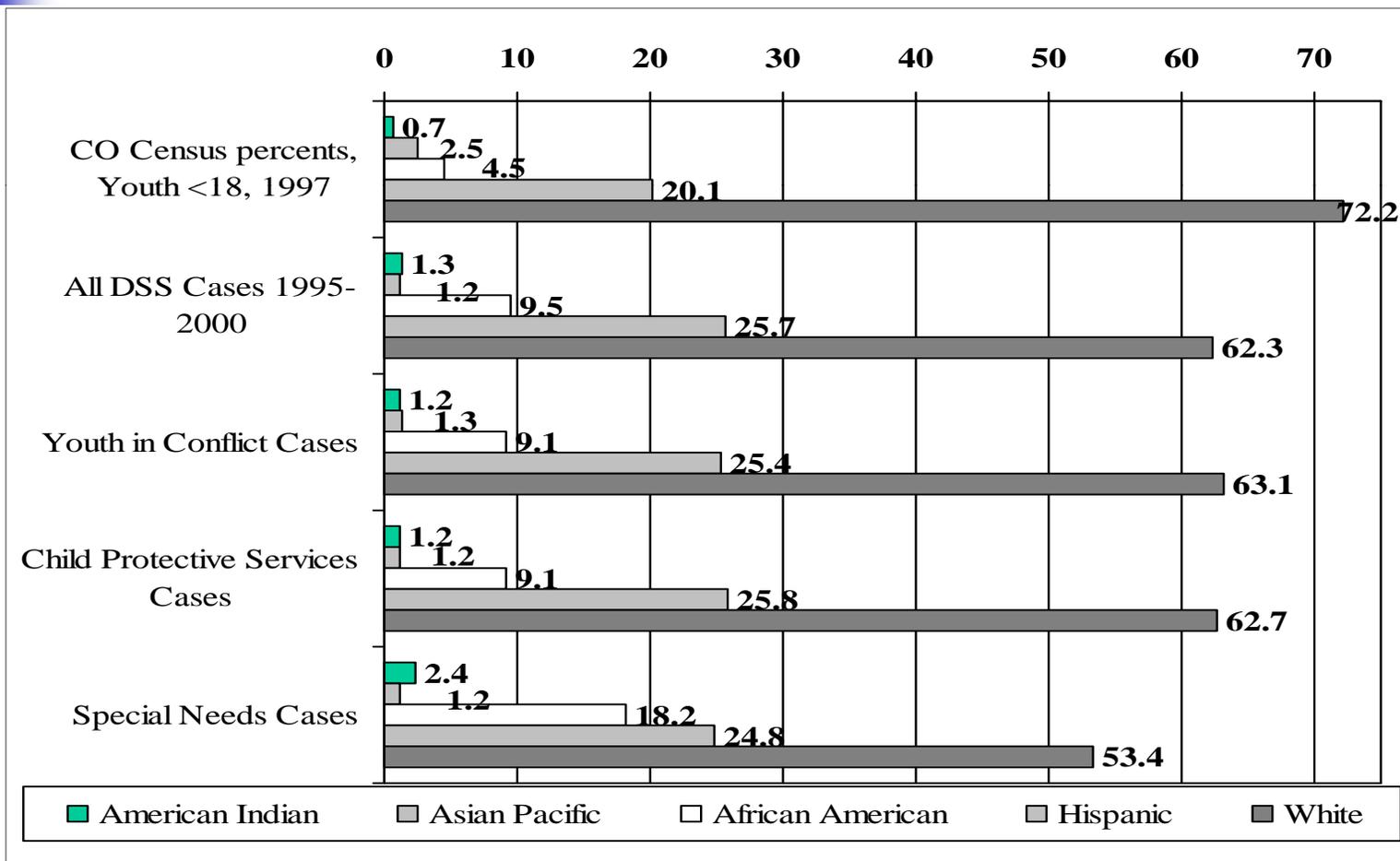


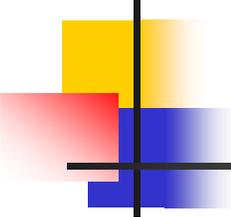
Study Methodology

Looked at over-representation at 2 levels:

- Comparing ethnicity of cases opened with Colorado youth census rates –
 - over-representation at this level may indicate differential referral into services, and parallels national trends in child welfare, juvenile justice, and special education
- Comparing target areas, legal status, and service patterns –
 - overrepresentation at this level may indicate differential decision-making within child welfare

Minority Over-representation Compared to Colorado Youth Census Rates



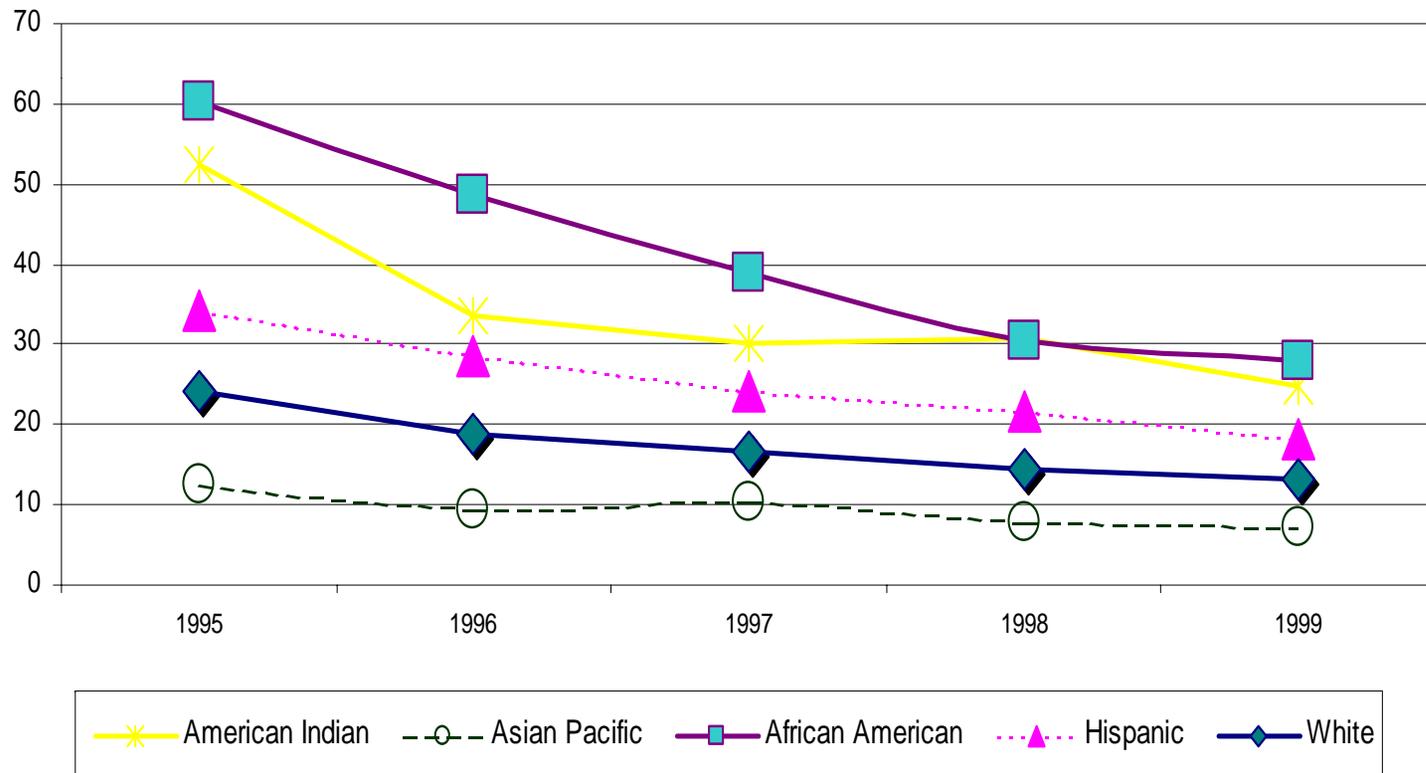


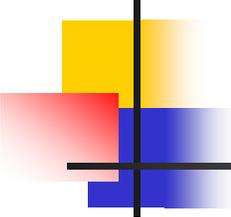
Over-representation in Child Protective Service Cases -- Openings

- Analysis based on 118,238 cases opened:
 - 1.2% American Indian
 - 1.2% Asian Pacific Islander
 - 9.1% African American
 - 25.8% Hispanic
 - 62.7% White
- Rates of CPS case openings per thousand child population:
 - declined for all groups from 1995 to 1999, but rates for American Indian, African American and Hispanic rates were higher each year than rates for White and Asian Pacific children

CPS Entry Rates by Ethnic Group Over Time

CPS Cases Opened, Children 0-17, 1995-1999, rates per thousand





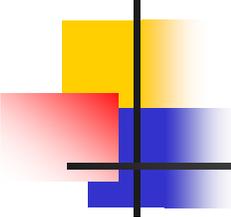
CPS Cases: Demographics and Referral

■ Age and Gender Differences:

- Girls slightly more likely to be opened for American Indian, Asian Pacific and Hispanic children (52%-53% for each group)
- Very young children zero to three more likely to be opened for American Indian, African American and Hispanic children (above 30% for each group)

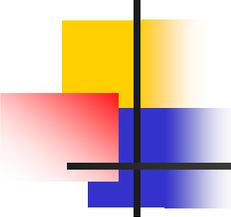
■ Referral Source Differences:

- For all groups, legal and school personnel were the most likely referral sources
- More medical referrals for American Indian, African American and Hispanic children



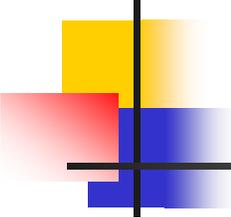
CPS Cases: Substantiation and Program Target Area

- Substantiation rates per thousand children in the population (the way it is measured in NCANDS publications) are similar to national patterns: higher rates for American Indian and African American children
- Percentages of CPS cases substantiated range from 22% to 17%, in order from highest to lowest:
 - Asian Pacific, American Indian, African American, White, Hispanic
- Percentages where Court Orders Services (cases thought to have a strong need for intervention) range from 10% to 4%, in order from highest to lowest:
 - American Indian, African American, Hispanic, Asian Pacific, White



CPS Cases: Service Patterns

- First Service – casework supervision only is the most common first service for all groups (ranging from 60-80%)
 - Out of home placement as a first service is more likely for American Indian and African American children
- Last Paid Service before case closure for cases that had paid services other than supervision only:
 - White and Hispanic children were more likely to end with a Core service, American Indian, African American and Asian Pacific more likely to end with a placement
- Legal Status – American Indian and African American children were more likely to have D&Ns and TPRs filed and be in the custody of DSS

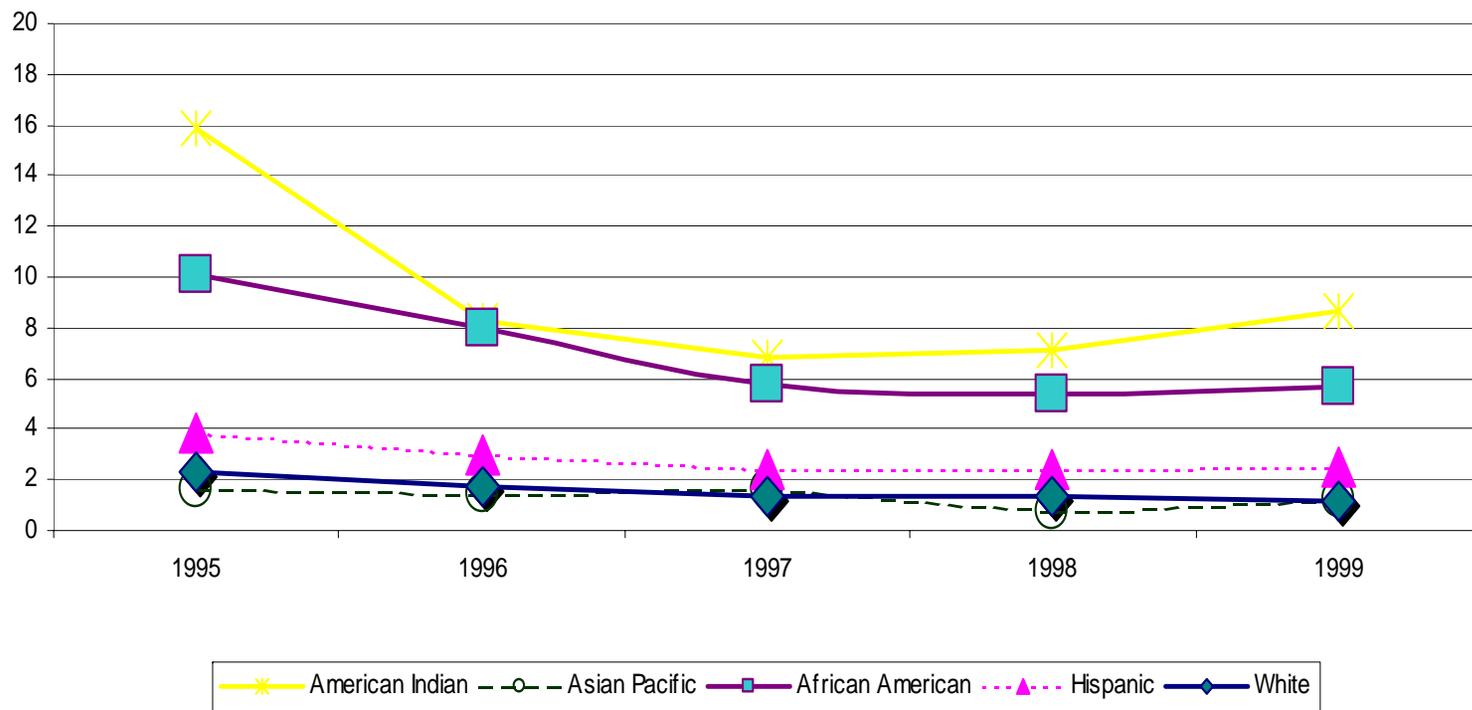


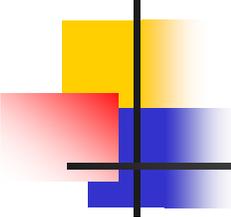
CPS Cases: Broad Service Patterns

- What percent of cases featured supervision only, Core services only, or a combination that included any out of home?
 - American Indian and African American child two to three times as likely to have a pattern including placement (27% and 17% respectively, compared to 9% of White children)
 - White, Hispanic and American Indian children slightly more likely to have had Core only (~10% for each, compared to 8% for African American and Asian Pacific Island children)

CPS Placement Rates by Ethnic Group Over Time

Children Ever Placed in First Case*, CPS Cases, 1995-1999, rates per thousand
(*refers to first case opened between 1995 and 2000)





CPS: Predicting Placement – Ethnicity an Important Factor (Percent of Variance Explained: 28%)

Ethnicity (compared to White children):

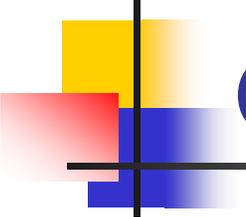
- American Indian children 2.8 times more likely
- Asian American children 1.8 times (80%) more likely
- African American children 1.8 times (80%) more likely
- Hispanic children 1.3 times (30%) more likely

■ **Program target** (compared to founded cases):

- Unfounded cases 86% less likely
- Inconclusive or reported cases 79% less likely
- At risk cases 48% less likely
- Court ordered cases 3 times more likely

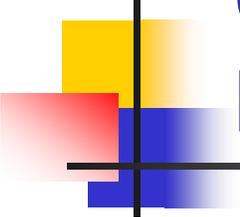
- **Extreme Poverty:** 44 times more likely

- **Age and Gender:** No differences



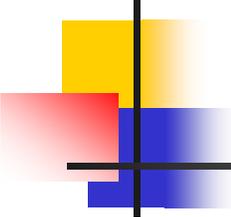
CPS Cases: Case Closure

- Both overall length of case and time spent in out of home care highest for American Indian and African American children
- American Indian and African American children slightly less likely to return to parents, more likely to exit to kin/guardian homes
- Percentages of children adopted or in long-term foster care are very small (<2%), but of that small group, more are American Indian and African American



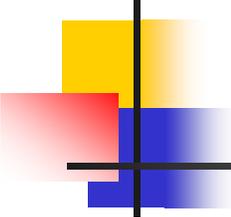
CPS: Predicting 2nd Case—Few differences by ethnicity, low predictive power

- **Ethnicity** (compared to White children):
 - American Indian children no difference
 - Asian American children 45% less likely
 - African American children 10% more likely
 - Hispanic children no difference
- **Program target** (compared to founded cases):
 - Unfounded cases 40% more likely
 - Inconclusive or reported cases 1.3 times (30%) more likely
 - At risk cases 1.4 times (40%) more likely
 - Court ordered cases no difference
- **Extreme Poverty:** 20% more likely
- **Age and Gender:** Minimal differences



CPS: County and Regional Patterns

- Given a wide variation in resources across the state, and the differing percentages of minority children in the population, there are still some differences seen by ethnicity within regions, for example:
 - while more Core services are given to both American Indian and White children in the Four Corners region than in Denver, in both areas American Indian children are also more likely to be placed out of home during the case



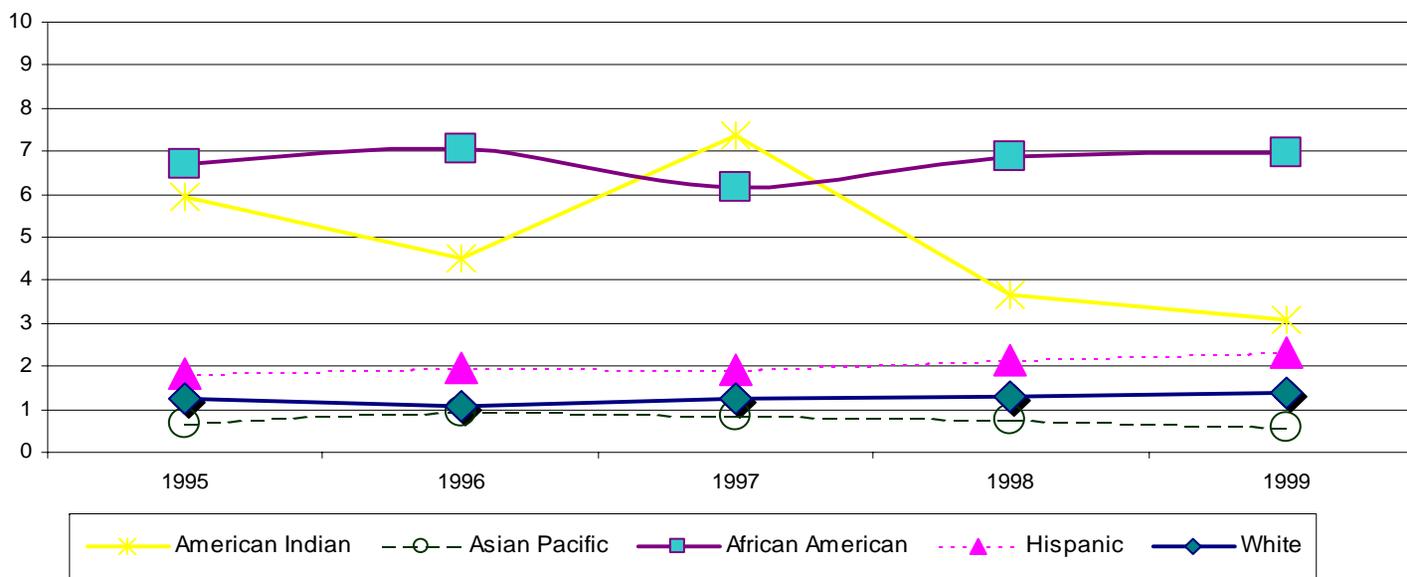
CPS: Conclusions

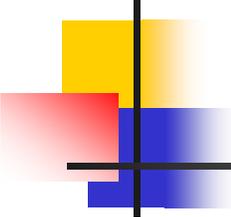
- CPS cases show a pattern of minority over-representation at the level of percent opened compared to census figures for three groups: African American, American Indian & Hispanic children
- The pattern of minority over-representation at the level of case patterns is seen most for African American and American Indian children. Patterns for Asian Pacific and Hispanic children of case services given, length of stay, etc. are often very similar to those for White children

Special Needs Cases

- Cases in Program Area VI open for reasons of reunification failure, special needs adoption, and Medicaid only. The most significant over-representation seen is for African American children, whose case opening rates per 1,000 have not dropped over time, and American Indian children, whose rates have dropped:

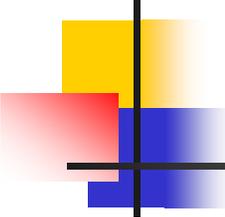
Special Needs Case Openings, 1995-2000, Rates per 1,000





Special Needs Cases

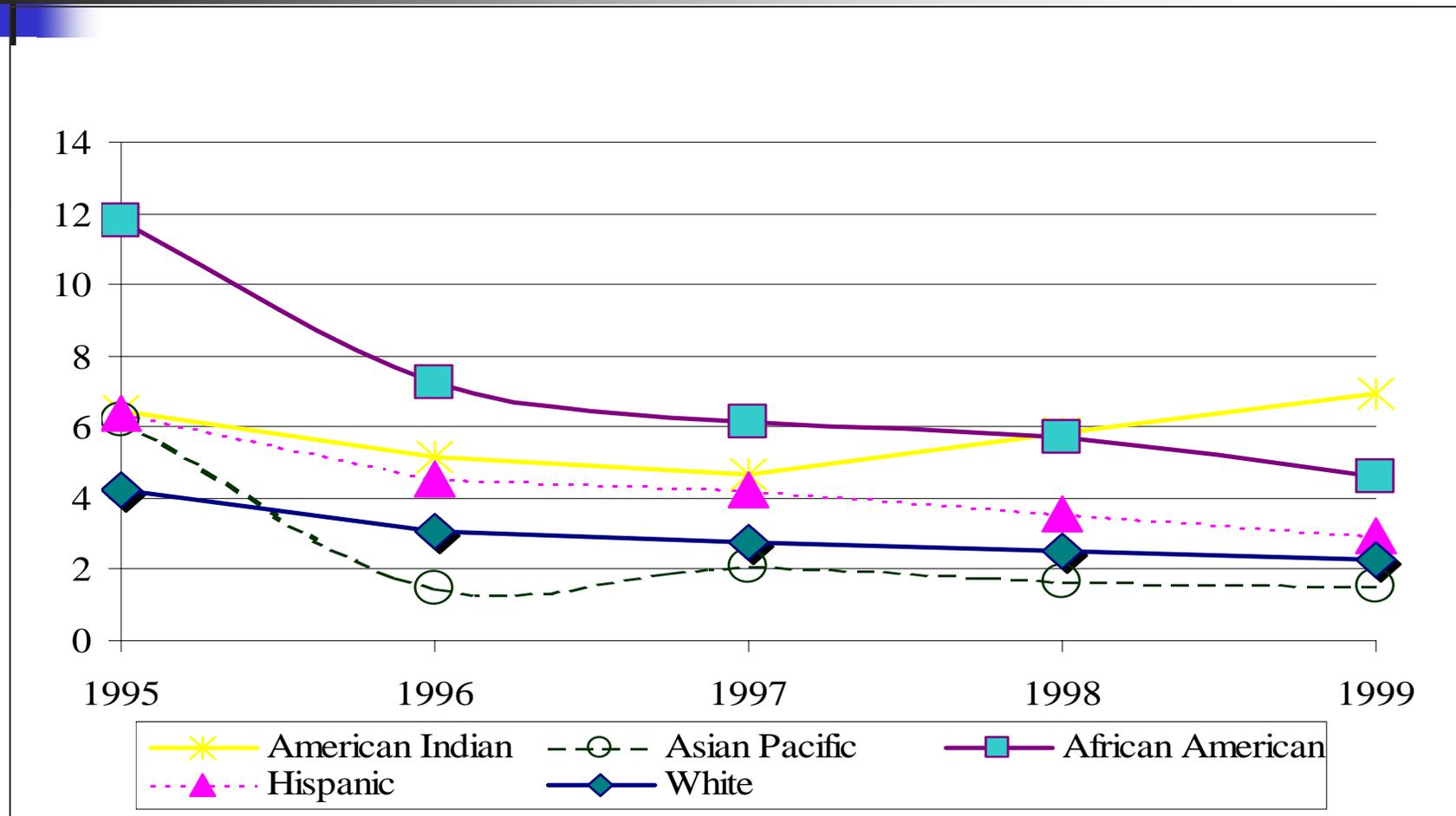
- Most children in this program area have at least one out of home placement (~95%), with little variation by ethnicity
- Lengths of stay for Special Needs cases are all longer than for other child welfare cases. Both Hispanic and African American children have significantly longer average lengths of stay than others – 699 and 684 days, respectively, versus 649 for American Indian children, 618 for White children and 610 days for Asian Pacific Islander children

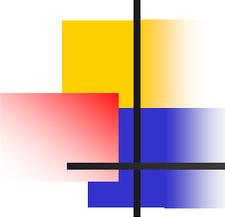


Youth in Conflict Cases

- Youth served in this program area have problems functioning in home and community settings, such as:
 - severe conflict with parents, community and school behavior problems, delinquent behavior, and danger to self or others
- African American, American Indian and Hispanic Youth have the highest entry rates per thousand
- African American youth have the highest entry rates. Although the disparity relative to White youth is declining over time, rates are still over twice those of White youth
- Entry rates for American Indian youth have been increasing since 1997, and in 1999 were the highest for any ethnic group

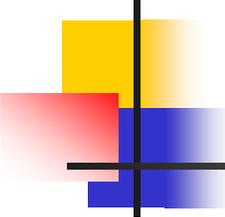
YIC Entry Rates by Ethnic Group Over Time





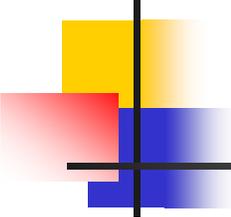
YIC: Demographic Characteristics

- For all groups boys are most likely to be served. African American boys are more likely to be served than are boys from other groups.
- For all groups, youth aged 12 to 15 are most likely to be served. Asian Pacific and African American youth are most likely to be older (16-18) while American Indian youth are most likely to be younger (8 – 11).
- American Indian youth are 9 times more likely than White youth to be extremely poor. Compared to White youth African American and Hispanic youth are between 1.5 and 2 times more likely to be extremely poor.



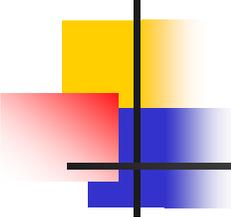
YIC: Entry to Service

- Most youth of all groups have a permanency goal of remain home or return home. American Indian and African American youth are least likely to have this goal (80% compared to 96% for Whites).
- There are ethnic group differences for those with other goals:
 - American Indian youth are much more likely to have a goal of long term foster care than are youth from other groups.
 - American Indian, African American and Hispanic youth are more likely to have a goal of living with relatives than are White or Asian / PI youth.
 - Hispanic and White youth are least likely to have a goal of emancipation.



YIC: Presenting Problems

- Asian Pacific, African American and Hispanic youth are most likely to have a program target indicating possible delinquent behavior.
- American Indian and White youth are most likely to have a program target indicating they pose a danger to self or others.



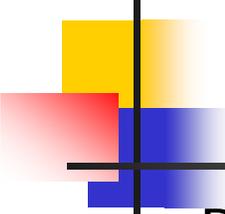
YIC: Service Patterns

■ First Services

- Youth of all minority groups are more likely to receive an out of home placement as a first service than are whites. More than 50% of American Indian youth are placed as a first service compared to 25% of white youth.
- White and Asian Pacific youth are more likely to receive a first Core service than are youth from other groups.
- American Indian youth are less likely to receive casework supervision only as a first service.

■ Last Services

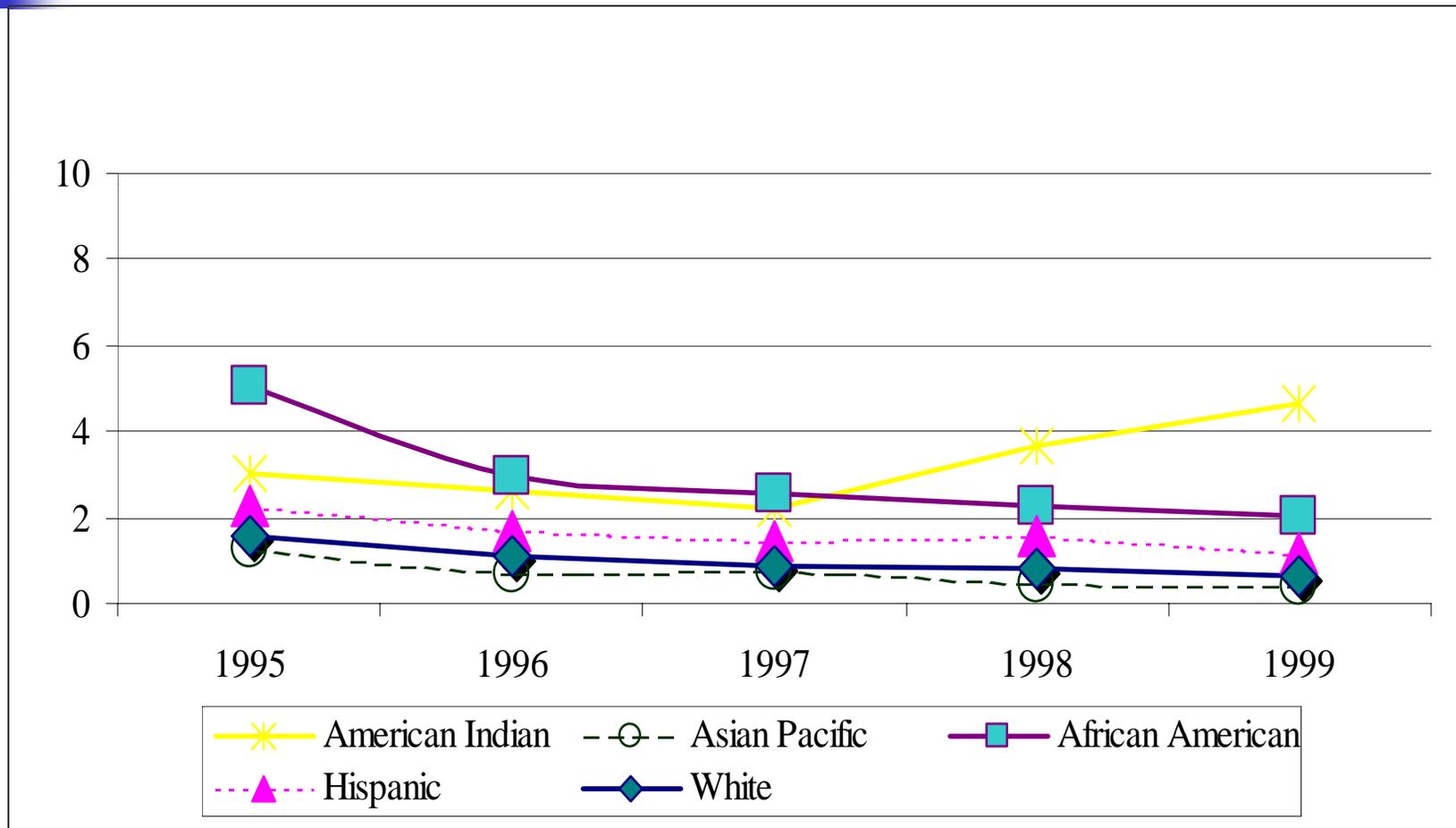
- White and Asian Pacific youth are most likely to end the first case with a Core service.
- American Indian, African American and Hispanic youth are most likely to end the first case with a placement.

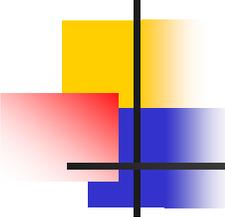


YIC: Service Patterns

- Broad Service Patterns
 - White and Asian Pacific youth are more likely to have received all Core services.
 - Minority youth are more likely than whites to have been placed at least once during the first case. Almost 60% of American Indian youth are placed at least once compared to 31% of white youth and 42% of African American youth.
- Group Care, RCCF, and RTC Placements
 - American Indian and African American youth are more likely than other youth to be placed in these more restrictive settings.
- Placement Rates
 - American Indian, African American and Hispanic youth are over-represented in placement
 - The placement rate for American Indian youth is rising substantially over time.

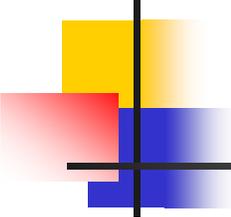
YIC Placement Rates by Ethnic Group Over Time





YIC: Closing the First Case

- Length and Number of Services
 - White youth have more Core services than do African Americana and Hispanic youth.
 - American Indian, African American and Hispanic youth have more Out of Home placements than do White youth.
 - American Indian youth have longer length of case than do Whites.
- Residence at Case Closure
 - Most youth from all ethnic groups live with parents or relatives at case closure.
 - A small proportion of youth are living in DYC facilities at case closure. African American, Asian pacific and Hispanic youth are more likely than White youth to be living in a DYC facility.



YIC: Predicting Placement in the First Case

Ethnicity (compared to White)

American Indian	2.29 times more likely
Asian / Pacific Islander	no difference
African American	1.42 times more likely
Hispanic	1.18 times more likely

Program Target (Compared to Beyond Control of Parent)

Delinquent Acts	1.17 times more likely
Danger to Self or Others	1.22 times more likely

Extreme Poverty

52 times more likely

Gender

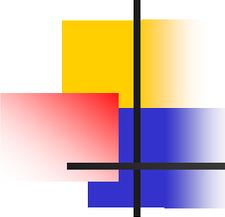
no difference

Age

8% more likely for each additional year

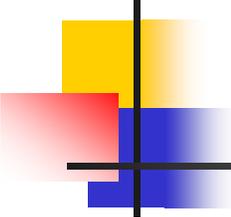
Percent of Variance Explained: 7%

(This is very small, indicating that these variables are not the most powerful predictors of placement)



YIC: Second Cases

- Overall some 30.5% of youth have a second case.
 - American Indian and African American are more likely than youth from other groups to have a second case.
- First Service of the Second Case
 - Patterns are similar to patterns in the first case. White youth are less likely to be placed and more likely to receive a first, Core service.
- Placement
 - American Indian, Asian Pacific and African American youth are more likely to be placed during the second case than are White and Hispanic youth. However, disparity is less than in the first case.



YIC: Predicting a Second Case

Ethnicity (compared to White)

American Indian	no difference
Asian / Pacific Islander	no difference
African American	1.15 times more likely
Hispanic	no difference

Program Target (Compared to Beyond Control of Parent)

Delinquent Acts	16.4% less likely
Danger to Self or Others	14.5% less likely

Extreme Poverty

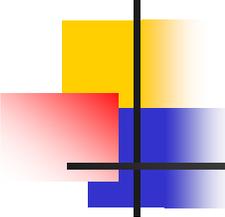
no difference

Gender

Boys 6.5% less likely

Age

11% less likely for each year older

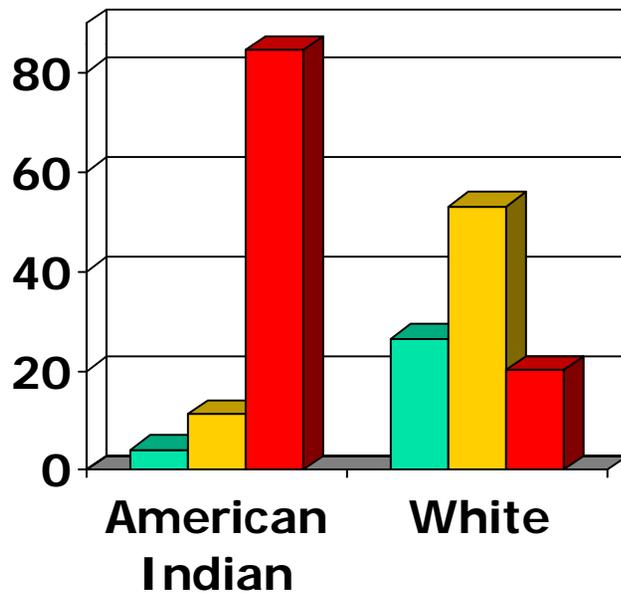


YIC: County and Regional Patterns

- There are considerable county and regional differences in minority over-representation patterns and in the things that predict placement and second cases.
- Understanding and responding to disparities will require a focus on local patterns and issues.
- For example, while American Indian youth are more likely than White youth to be placed as a first service in both the Metro Denver area and in the Four Corners, the pattern is quite different in these two regions.

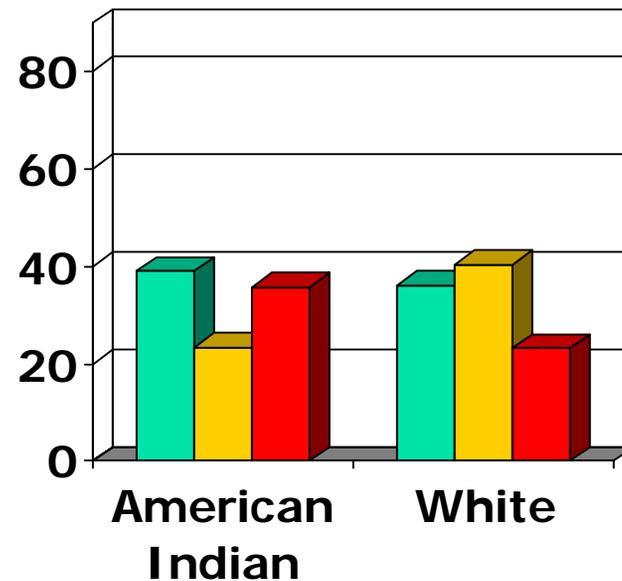
YIC: First Service of the First Case: American Indian Youth, Metro Denver and Four Corners Regions

Four Corners

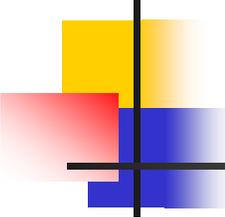


Supervision CORE
Out of Home

Denver Metro

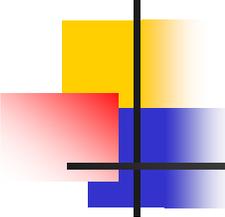


Supervision CORE
Out of Home



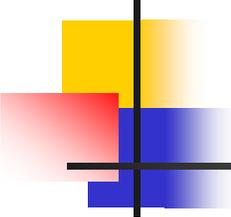
YIC: Conclusions

- Minority youth are over-represented in the YIC service population. While the difference between most groups and whites is lessening, American Indian youth are entering the YIC program area at increasing rates.
- There is clear disparity in service patterns and return to care based on ethnicity.
 - In general, minority youth are more likely to receive placement and less likely to receive casework supervision only or core services.
 - American Indian and African American youth are the most likely to receive more intensive, out of home services.
- There are large differences between the 10 largest counties and between regions of the state in terms of these patterns and case outcomes.



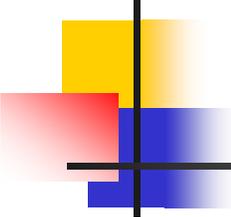
The Road from CPS to YIC

- 4,030 youth returned from a first CPS case to a second YIC case. 3,797 had known ethnicities.
- White, Hispanic and African American youth are slightly more likely to be in this group compared to the general CPS population.
- For American Indian, Asian Pacific and African American youth, girls are most likely to return. For Hispanic and white youth, boys are much more likely to return.
- Again, American Indian youth are much more likely than others to be extremely poor.



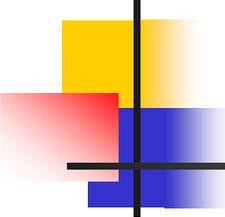
CPS to YIC: Service Patterns in the First CPS Case

- Most youth have a goal of reunify or remain home, however, again, American Indian youth are least likely to have one of these goals.
- American Indian, Asian Pacific and African American youth are more likely to have a first service of out of home placement. American Indian and African American youth are most likely to have been placed at least once during the first case.
- White and Hispanic youth are most likely to have received casework supervision only as a first service.
- At the end of the first, CPS case African American and Hispanic youth are most likely to be residing in a DYC facility.



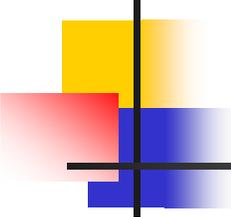
CPS to YIC: The Second, YIC Case

- Service patterns in the second case vary considerably by ethnic group.
- American Indian, African American and Hispanic youth are more likely to be placed immediately at the beginning of the second case. They are less likely to receive Core services.
- At the close of the second, YIC case, minority youth, except for American Indian youth are more likely than Whites to reside in a DYC facility.



CPS to YIC: Third Cases

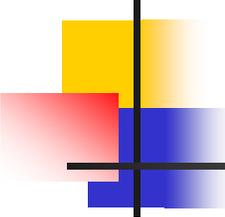
- 35% (1349) of youth have a third case.
- Asian Pacific and African American youth are most likely to return. American Indian youth are the least likely.
- Most youth return with a YIC case, however 20% to 30% of youth return with a CPS case.
- More than 40% of youth are placed during this third case. American Indian youth are more likely than all others to be placed (greater than 60%).
- At the end of the third case, American Indian, African American and Hispanic youth are most likely to be living in DYC facilities.



Exits to DYC

We looked at all youth who exited to a DYC facility from either the CPS or YIC samples (2,341).

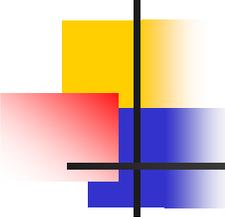
- African American, Hispanic and Asian American youth are more likely than Whites to exit to DYC.
- More than 80% of all groups are boys.
- American Indian youth are most likely to be younger, and far more likely to be extremely poor.
- Service disparities among groups are much less pronounced for this cohort. Still, White youth are most likely to have received core services and less likely to have been placed.



Exits to Independent Living

565 youth left the child welfare system at age 18, from either CPS or YIC programs, having been placed at least once and with a closing residence of living on their own.

- There are no significant ethnic group differences between these youth and those served in the CPS or YIC program areas.
- American Indian and Asian Pacific youth are most likely to be girls. For other groups boys are in the majority.
- American Indian youth are much more likely to have entered child welfare services at a younger age. This indicates longer lengths of stay.
- Minority youth, except for Asian Pacific youth are more likely than Whites to have had more than one open case.
- The data indicates that few youth (14.7%) were served by the AliveE independent living program



Questions for Further Exploration

- The greatest disparities lie between American Indian and African American youth and their White counterparts. How might the child welfare system approach examination of the reasons for this?
 - Are there differences in the decision to screen in versus screen out CPS cases (data not available in CWEST)?
 - Do similar patterns of risk factors (such as maltreatment or behavioral severity, child or parent characteristics) predict similar patterns of service for all groups?
 - Are longer lengths of stay for American Indian children associated with ICWA mandates, such as Tribal notification?
- There are many substantial county and regional differences. How should the work-group's plan promote local examination of data and case practice?