



# Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Commissioner  
Stephanie Muth

## Fiscal Year 2024 Disproportionality and Disparity Analysis

Pursuant to DFPS Rider 33, General Appropriations Act, 88th 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 Counties<sup>1</sup> and presents the prevalence of racial and ethnic disproportionality 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 index<sup>2</sup> was calculated to compare the level of representation of African American children, Hispanic children, and children of other race/ethnicities to White children<sup>3</sup>. A disparity index of one means a race/ethnic group is represented the same as White children at that decision point.

### Key Takeaways

- Across Texas, racial/ethnic disparities followed similar trends between FY 2023 and FY 2024. While the disparity between African American children and White children remained similar for community reporting between these fiscal years, the disparity in removals varied by county. Travis County remains the county with the highest disparity across all stages.
- Statewide, compared to White children, African American children are:
  - 1.9 times more likely to be reported,
  - 2.2 times more likely to be investigated, and
  - 2.1 times more likely to be removed.
- Statewide, Hispanic children had similar outcomes compared to White children.
- Most of the largest urban counties showed Hispanic children had some disparity compared to White children; however, it should be noted these

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> Previous reporting used the term "Anglo" instead of "White" but the data can be interpreted as the same racial group. "Other" includes children who are not African American, White, or Hispanic, as well as multiracial children and children who do not have a race or ethnicity recorded (missing).

disparities were less pronounced than the disparities observed for African American children.

- Because there is disproportional reporting of African American children, this drives the disparities in outcomes. Once an alleged victim case is progressed from the intake stage to an investigation, the percentage of children by race/ethnicity that result in a removal are similar.

## **Statewide Analysis**

Statewide, the largest disparity was seen in African American children, who are 1.9 times more likely to be reported, 2.2 times more likely to be investigated, and 2.1 times more likely to be removed than White children. The disparity between African American children and White children in reporting and investigations are similar in FY 2023 compared to FY 2024, however the disparity in removals increased from 1.8 in FY 2023 to 2.1 in FY 2024.

Children of "other" races/ethnicities were 2.1 times more likely to be reported to Statewide Intake by the community but had a similar likelihood of being investigated or removed than White children. This may be because the "other" category includes children whose race/ethnicity are unknown and if the intake is closed without an investigation, then race/ethnicity may not be ascertained. Hispanic children had similar outcomes to White children for each decision point.

From FY 2020 to FY 2024, the statewide disparity indices for African American children steadily trends higher. In contrast, the disparity indices for children of Hispanic or "other" race/ethnicities has followed a consistent trend.

## **County Analysis**

The largest racial/ethnic group for children under 18 in these seven counties is Hispanic, while the smallest is "other". However, the racial and ethnic composition for children reported, investigated, and removed varies from that of the population. For instance, in Dallas County, African American children make up 22% of the child population and 46% of the children removed in the county. In comparison, in El Paso County, African American children represent 5% of the child population and less than 5% of El Paso's removal population in FY 2024. All seven counties had some level of disparity 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 White children to be reported, investigated, and removed in each county and statewide. The magnitude of disparity differed by county; Travis County showed the largest disparities of the seven largest counties, with African American children 4.8 times more likely to be reported, 5.6 times more likely to be investigated, and 6.1 times more likely to be removed than White children; however, Travis County also showed the largest decrease in disparity for African

American children removed, from 10.1 in FY 2023 to 6.1 in FY 2024. This decrease may be largely attributed to the intentional focus in Travis County of multi-system community partnerships, including judicial, educational and child welfare partners, which impact child welfare outcomes.

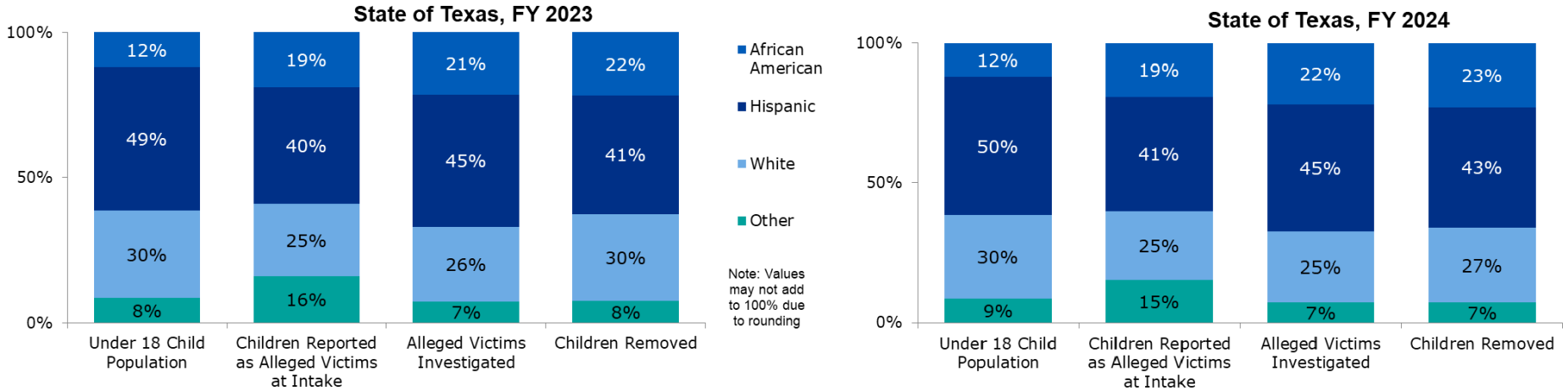
Hispanic children were over-represented compared to White children, indicated by a disparity index of more than 1, at most decision points in each of the seven counties. These disparities were especially pronounced for Hidalgo County, where Hispanic children were 1.7 to 2 times more likely to be involved at each decision point than White children and Travis County where Hispanic children were 2.1 to 2.6 times more likely. It should be noted these disparities were less pronounced than the disparities observed for African American children in those counties.

Across the seven largest counties and statewide, children in the "other" race/ethnicity category were between 2.1 and 14.1 times more likely to be reported than White children. Children of "other" race/ethnicities in the seven counties were between 1.1 and 2.1 times more likely to be investigated than White children; however, these children were equally or less likely to be removed.

The trend of disparity indices from FY 2020 to FY 2024 varies for each of the counties. Bexar and Tarrant counties have disparity indices for all DFPS involvement that trend up over the years for African American children. In contrast, Travis County – the county with the largest disparities – has a stark drop in the disparity index for African American children removed from FY 2023 to FY 2024. El Paso and Hidalgo counties have similar disparity indices, that stay relatively steady over the years for children of African American, Hispanic, and "other" races/ethnicities. The disparity index for African American children removed in Harris County decreased from FY 2020 to FY 2022 and then increased in FY 2024 to a level higher than that of FY 2020. The distinct trends in each county's disparity indices from FY 2020 to FY 2024 are due to a variety of reasons, both societal and systemic, which impact outcomes for children across the state.

Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2024<sup>1</sup>  
State of Texas

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	7,843,350	939,258	3,883,787	2,338,055	682,250
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	403,522	77,650	164,367	99,478	62,027
Alleged Victims Investigated <sup>3</sup>	234,819	51,545	106,728	59,275	17,271
Children Removed <sup>4</sup>	9,199	2,109	3,958	2,458	674

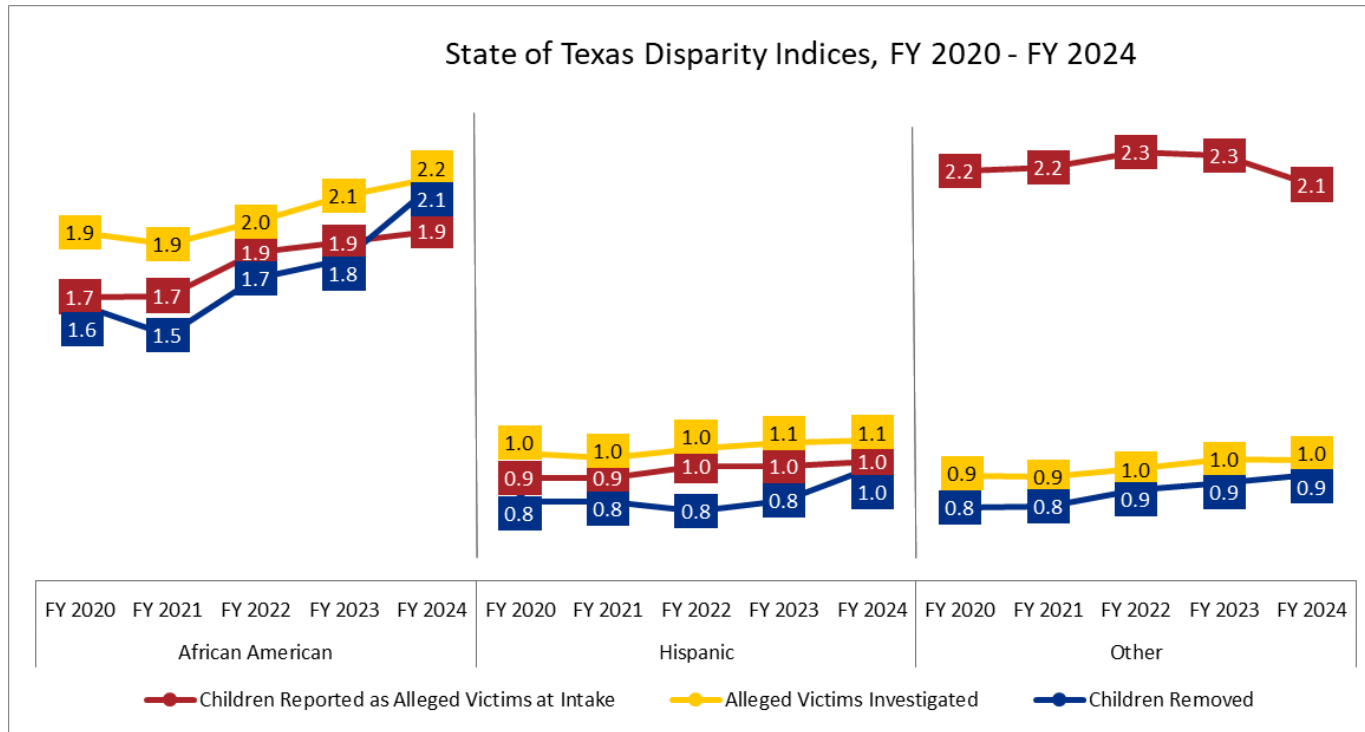


<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Year 2024 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #110912. Fiscal Year 2023 data has changed due to updates in the data refresh – this data is from DRIT #114891.

<sup>2</sup> 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 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Because there is disproportional reporting of African American children, this drives the disparities in outcomes. Once an alleged victim case is progressed from the intake stage to an investigation, the percentage of children by race/ethnicity that result in a removal are similar.

<sup>4</sup> Children removed include both Stages of Service - Investigation and Family Based Safety Services.

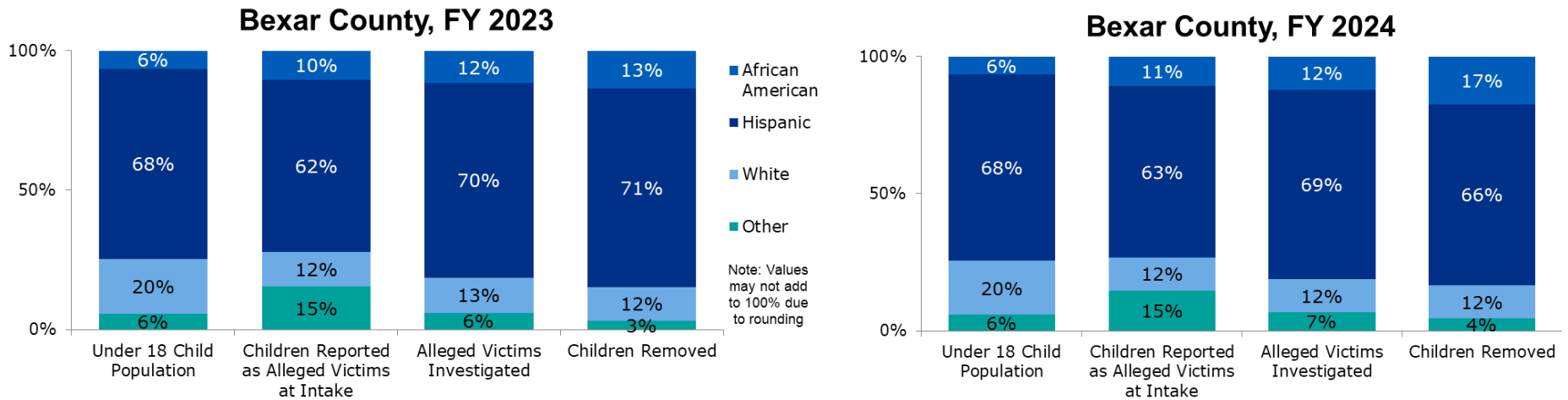


A disparity index of one means a race/ethnic group is represented the same as White children at that decision point. A disparity index greater than one means the comparison race/ethnic group is more represented compared to White children, while a disparity index of less than one means White children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

- Statewide, African American children are 1.9 times more likely to be reported, 2.2 times more likely to be investigated, and 2.1 times more likely to be removed than White children. This underscores that the disparity index is greatly impacted by community reporting.
- Hispanic children are similarly represented at each decision point as White children.
- 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.

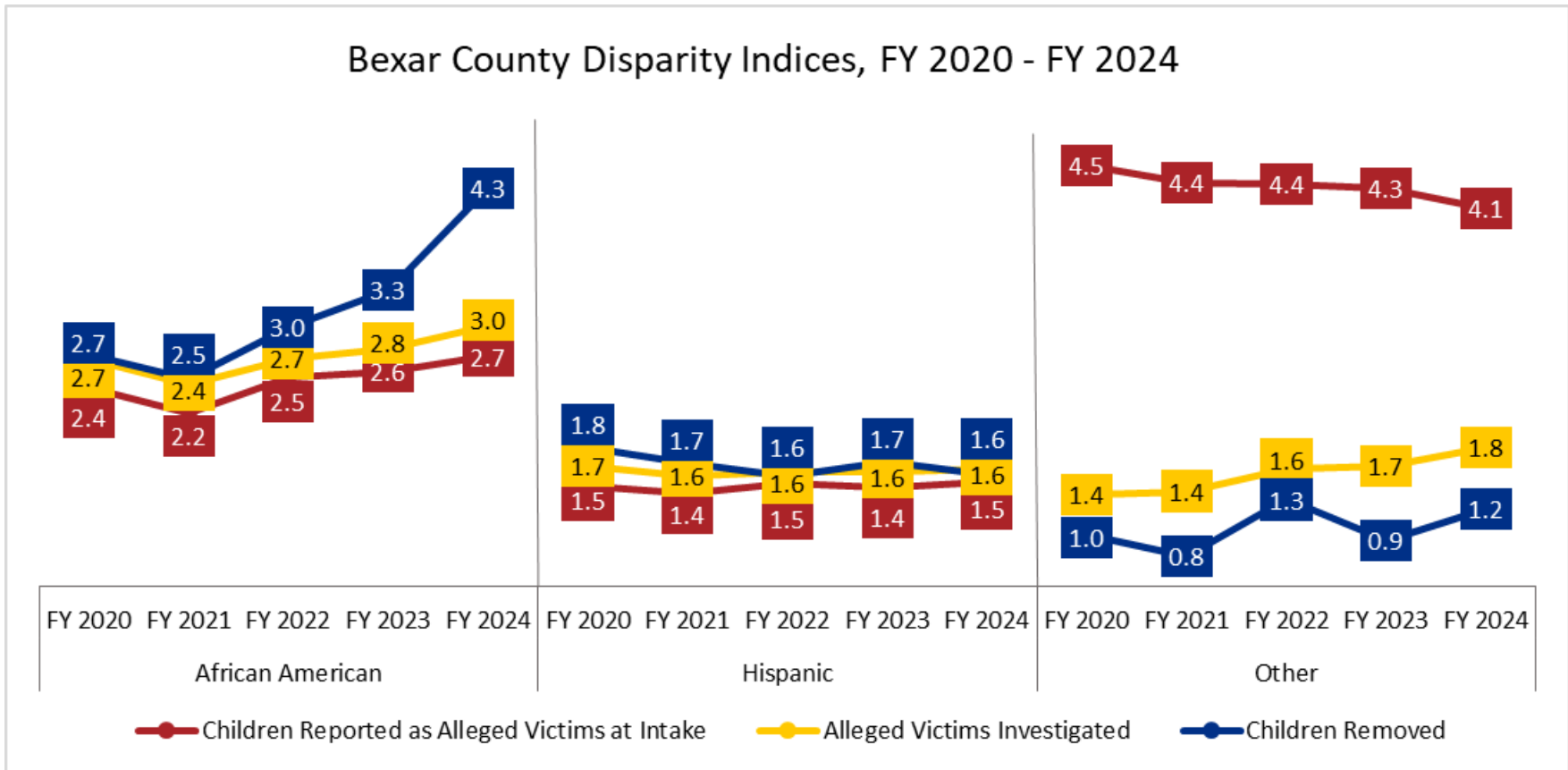
Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2024<sup>1</sup>  
 Bexar County - Region 08 - County Number 015

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	567,782	36,847	386,453	111,363	33,119
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	33,323	3,579	20,838	4,000	4,906
Alleged Victims Investigated	19,996	2,416	13,807	2,440	1,333
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	1,005	174	664	122	45



<sup>1</sup>Fiscal Year 2024 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #110912. Fiscal Year 2023 data has changed due to updates in the data refresh – this data is from DRIT #114891.  
<sup>2</sup> 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 2023.  
<sup>3</sup> Children removed include both Stages of Service - Investigation and Family Based Safety Services.

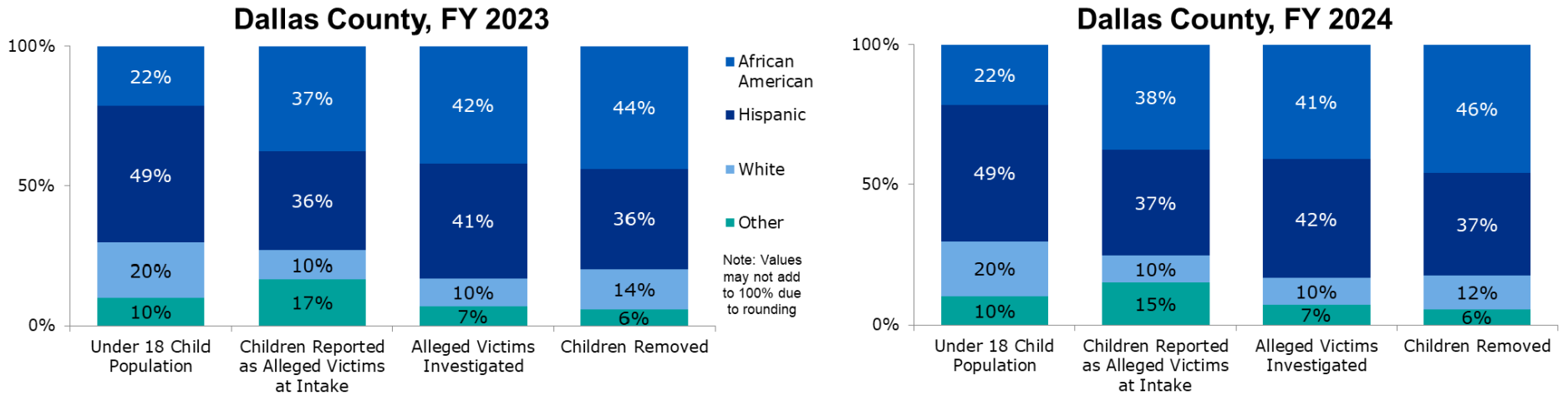
### Bexar County Disparity Indices, FY 2020 - FY 2024



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

Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2024<sup>1</sup>  
 Dallas County - Region 03 - County Number 057

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	755,741	162,972	366,849	148,144	77,776
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	30,878	11,613	11,563	3,030	4,672
Alleged Victims Investigated	18,590	7,617	7,835	1,813	1,325
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	766	351	280	92	43



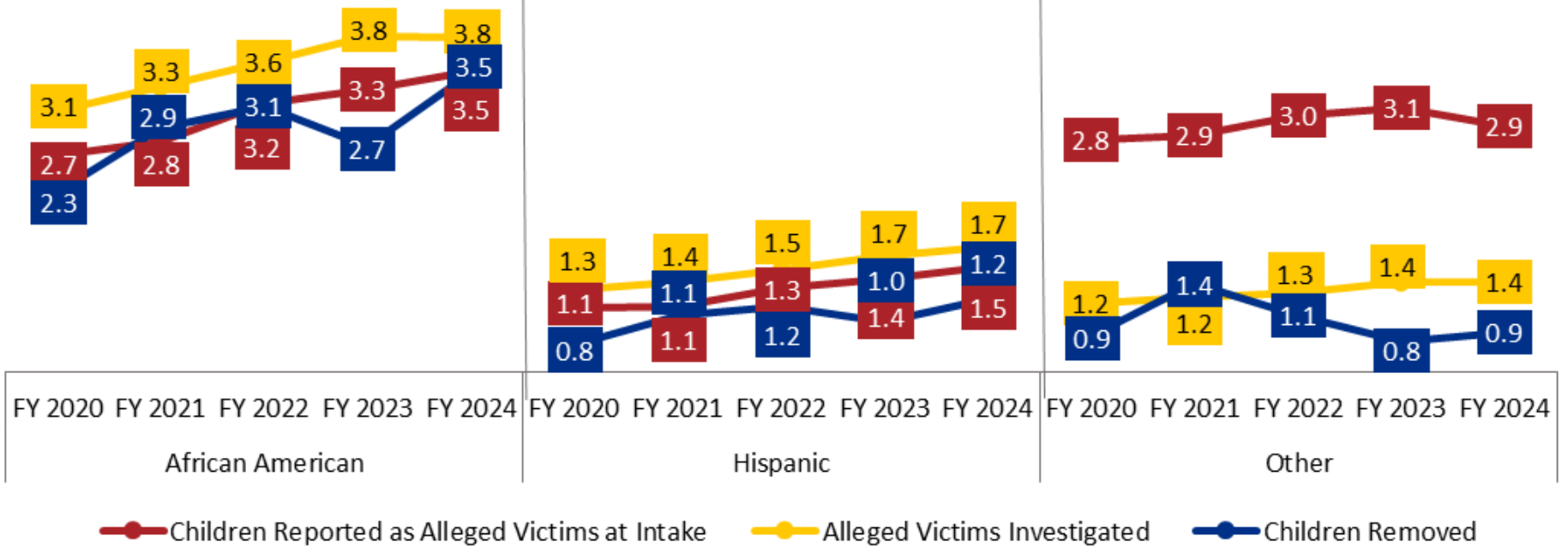
<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Year 2024 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data from DRIT #110912. Fiscal Year 2023 data has changed due to updates in the data refresh – this data is from DRIT #114891.

<sup>2</sup> 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 2023.

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



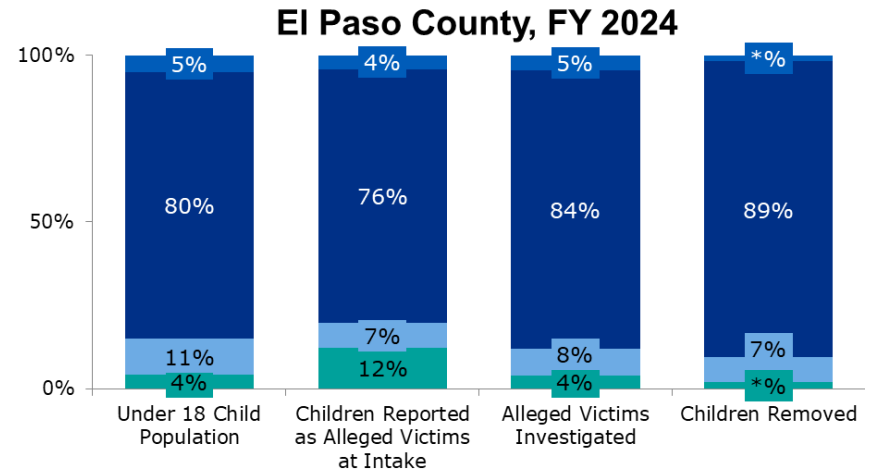
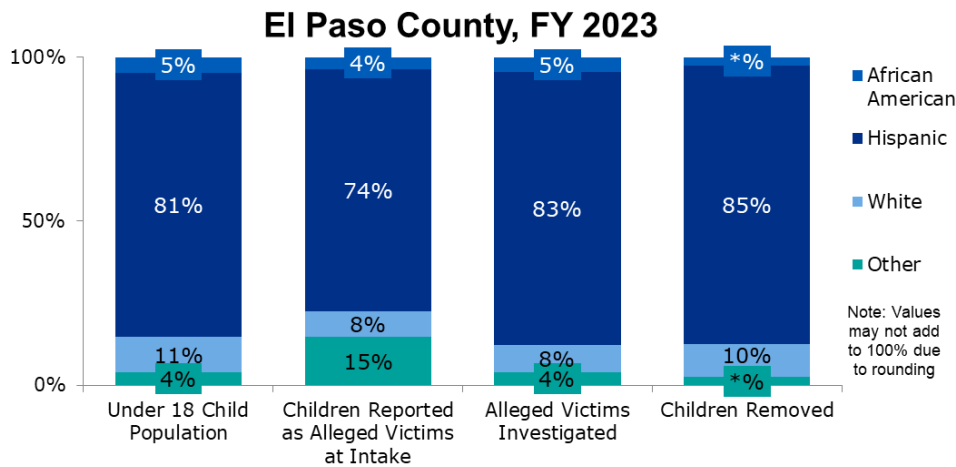
## Dallas County Disparity Indices, FY 2020 - FY 2024



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

Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2024  
 El Paso County - Region 10 - County Number 071

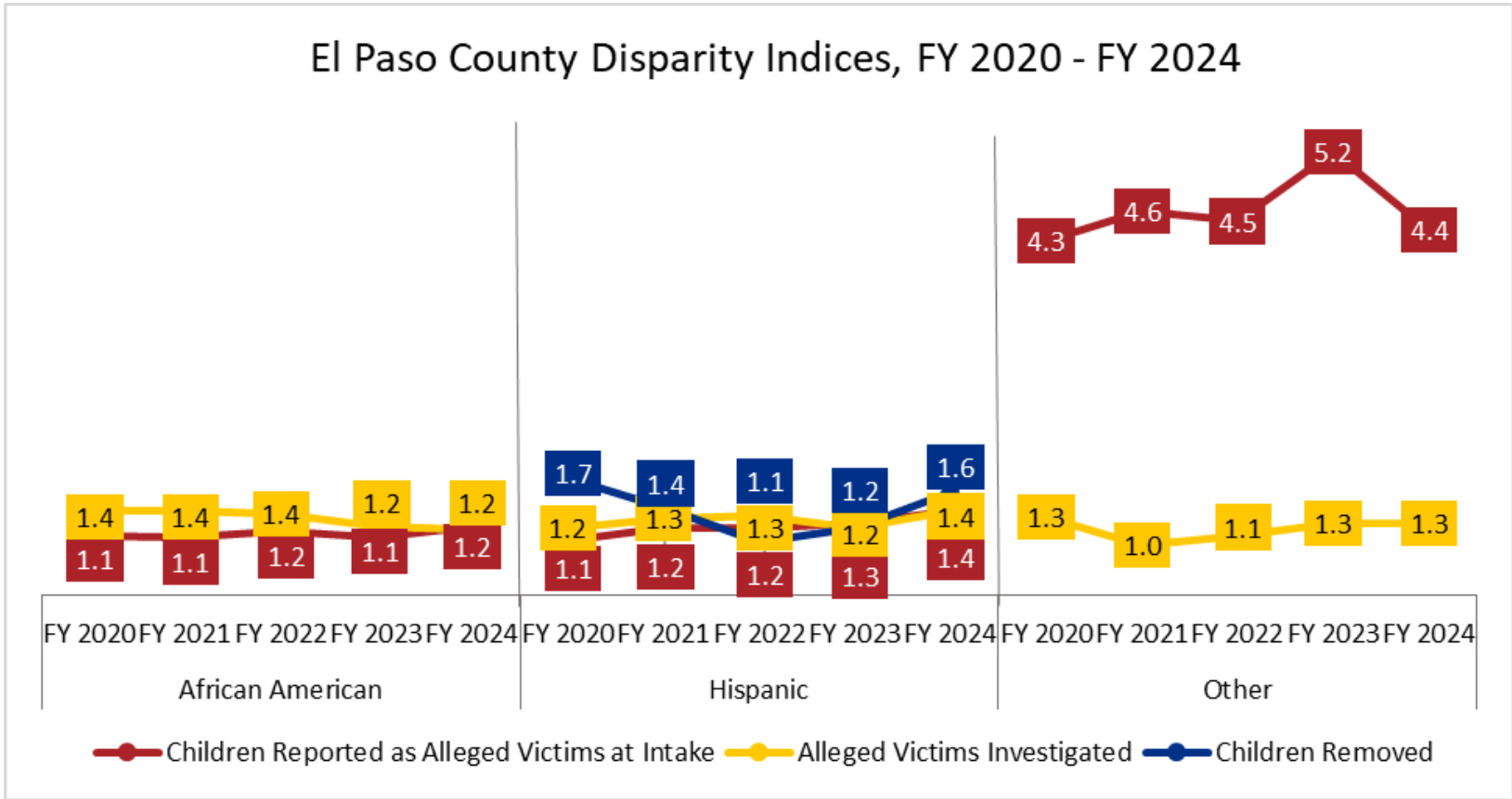
Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>1</sup>	247,446	12,531	197,961	26,738	10,216
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	12,246	519	9,322	899	1,506
Alleged Victims Investigated	6,255	284	5,225	502	244
Children Removed <sup>2</sup>	107	<5	95	8	<5



\*The percentage of African American, White, and children of other races/ethnicities are excluded from children removed due to small N size.

<sup>1</sup> 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 2023.  
<sup>2</sup> Children removed include both Stages of Service - Investigation and Family Based Safety Services.

## El Paso County Disparity Indices, FY 2020 - FY 2024

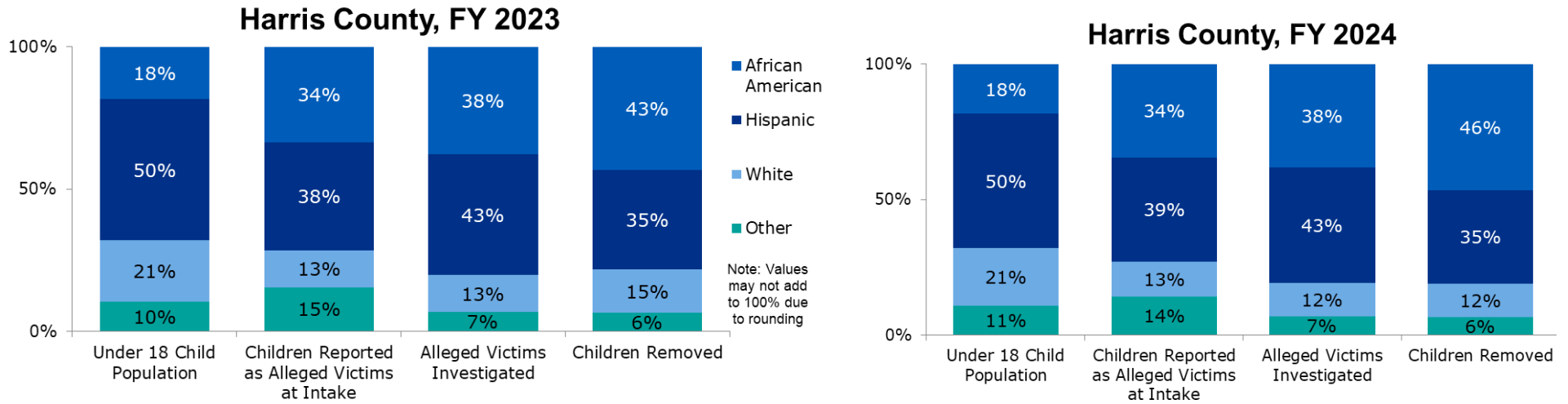


Note: Children of African American and "other" race/ethnicity are excluded from children removed analysis due to small N size.

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

Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2024<sup>1</sup>  
 Harris County - Region 06 - County Number 101

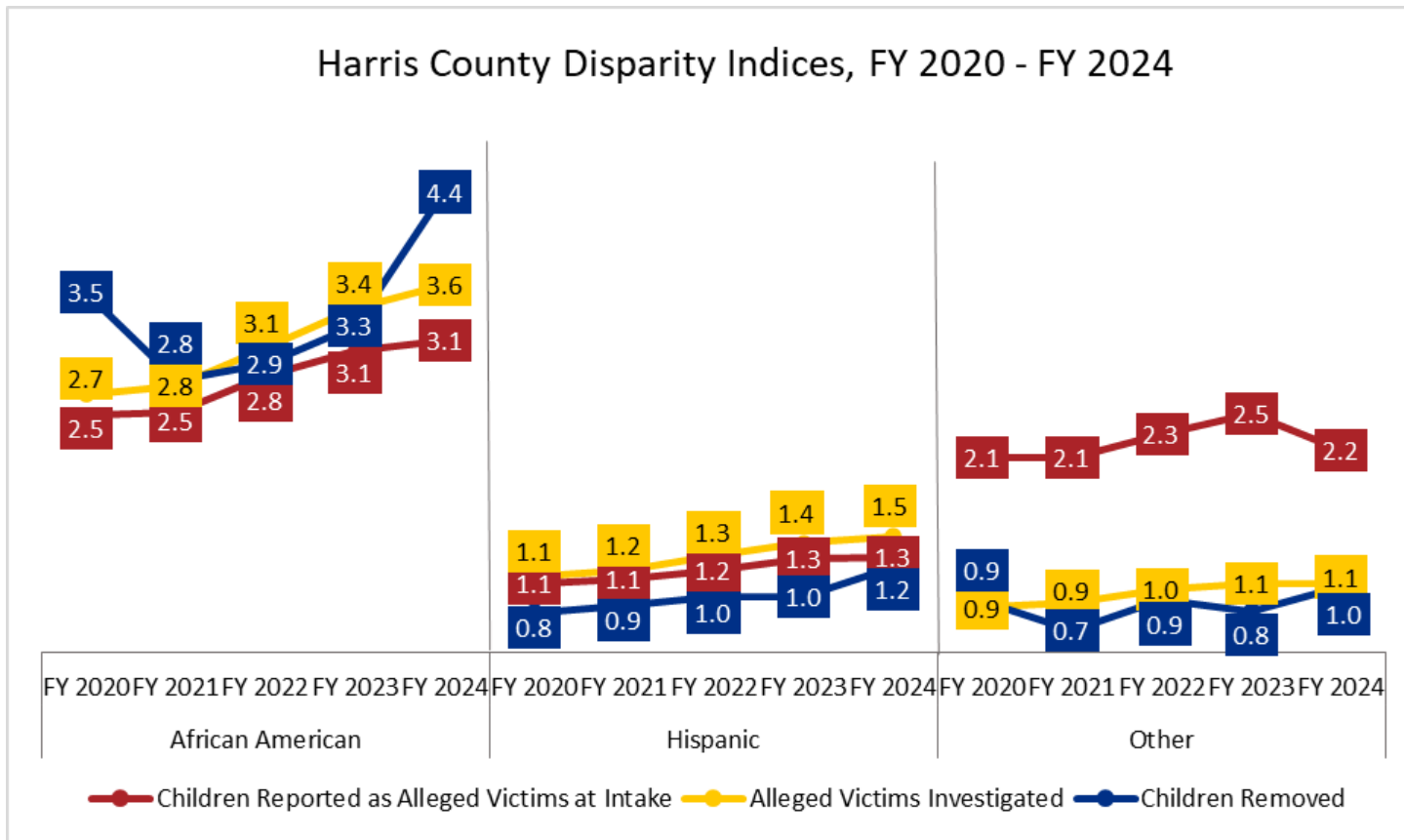
Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	1,405,608	257,177	697,242	301,362	149,827
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	54,573	18,777	21,077	7,018	7,701
Alleged Victims Investigated	33,421	12,797	14,225	4,160	2,239
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	557	259	193	69	36



<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Year 2024 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data is from DRIT #110912. Fiscal Year 2023 data has changed due to updates in the data refresh – this data is from DRIT #114891.

<sup>2</sup> 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 2023.

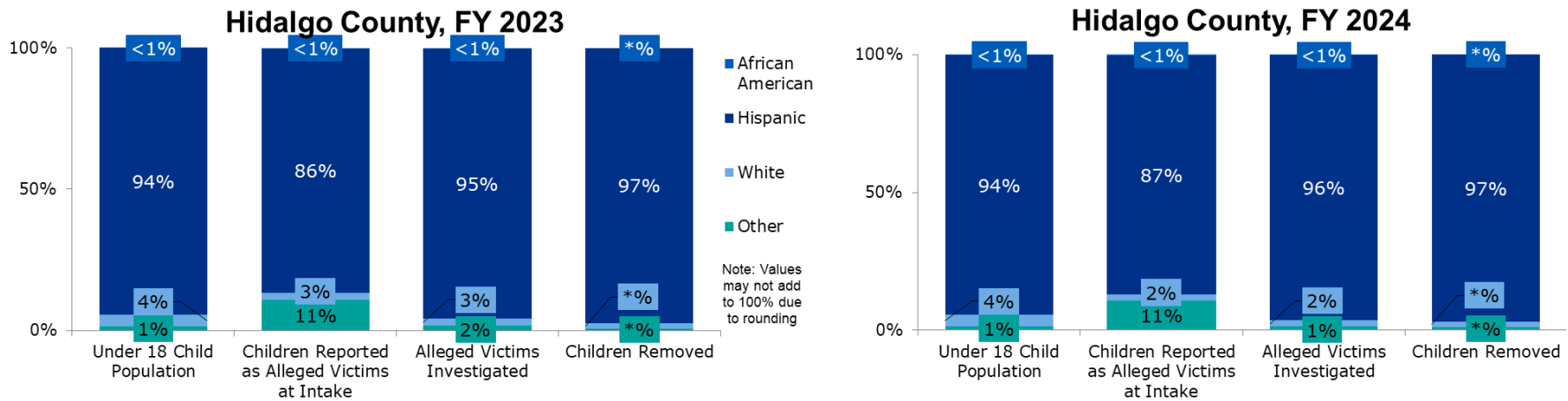
<sup>3</sup> Children removed include both Stages of Service - Investigation and Family Based Safety Services.



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Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2024  
Hidalgo County - Region 11 - County Number 108

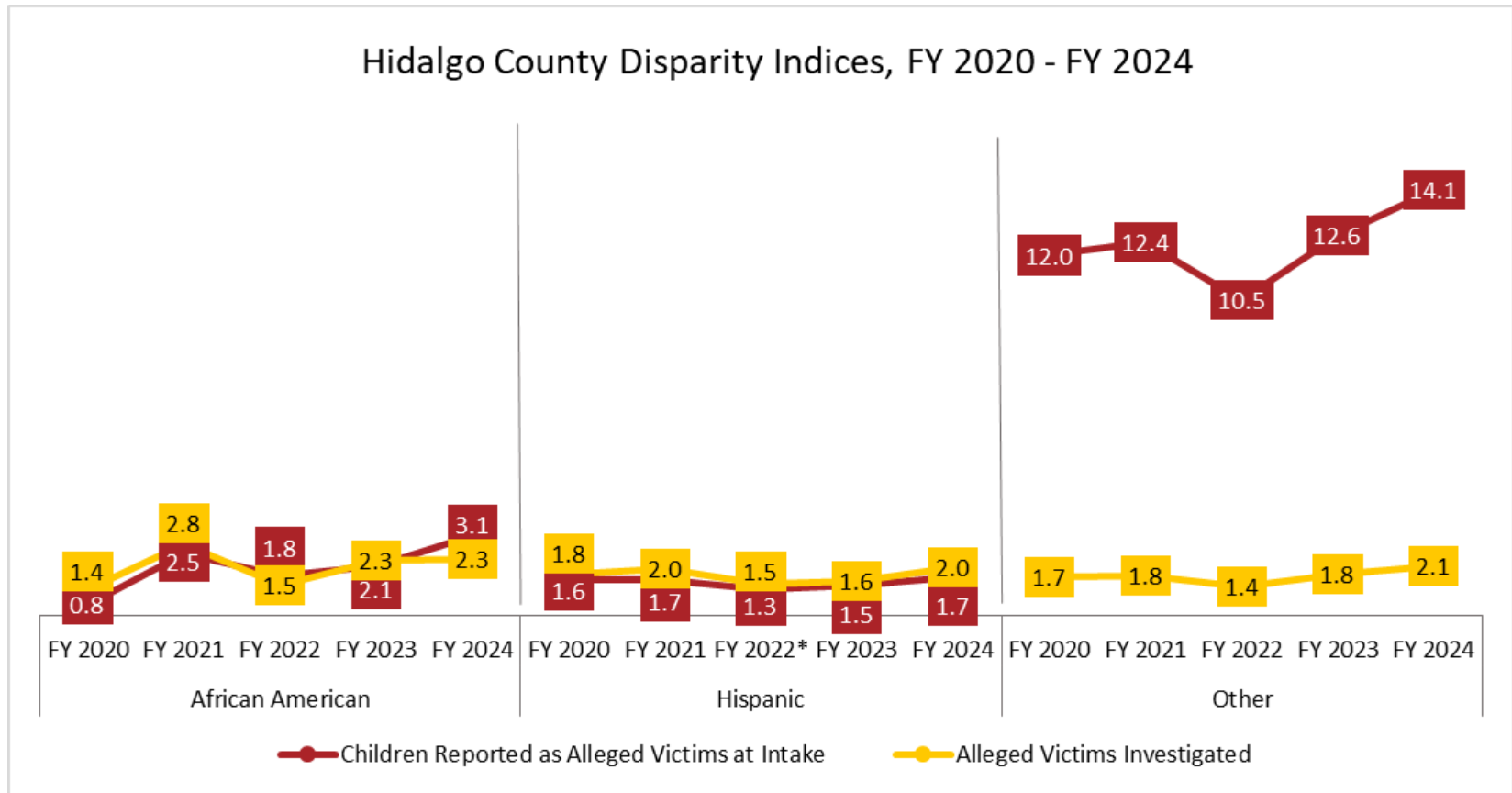
Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>1</sup>	256,718	625	241,821	10,579	3,693
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	12,823	51	11,100	283	1,389
Alleged Victims Investigated	7,183	20	6,908	148	107
Children Removed <sup>2</sup>	165	<5	160	<5	<5



\*The percentage of African American, White, and children of other races/ethnicities are excluded from children removed due to small N size.

<sup>1</sup> 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 2023.

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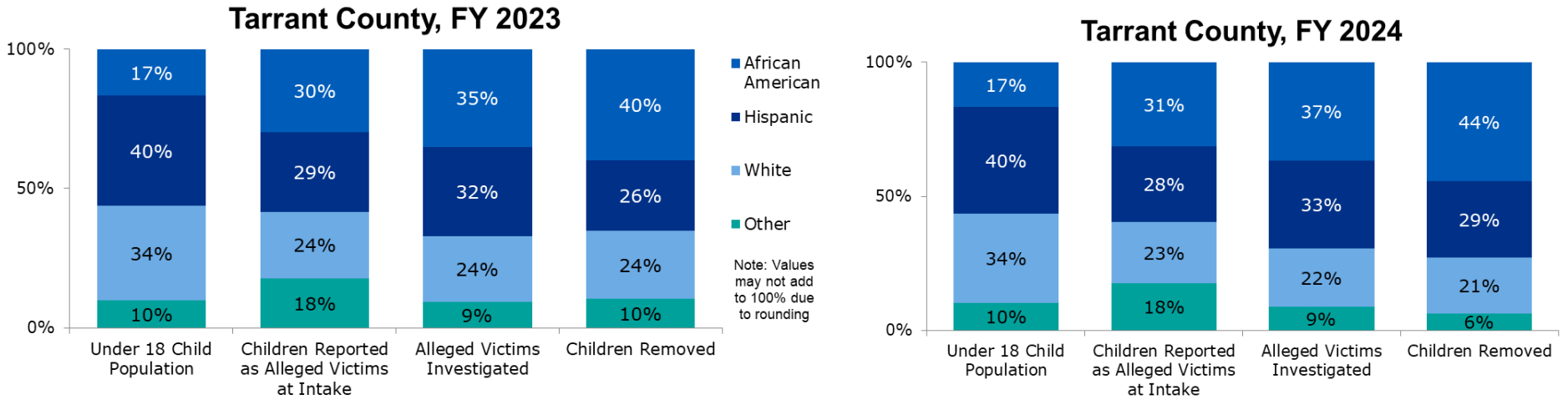


Note: The children removed analysis is excluded due to small N size across all race/ethnicities.

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Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2024<sup>1</sup>  
 Tarrant County - Region 03 - County Number 220

Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	556,607	93,294	220,513	186,638	56,162
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	31,149	9,804	8,740	7,144	5,461
Alleged Victims Investigated	17,331	6,361	5,656	3,803	1,511
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	645	286	184	134	41



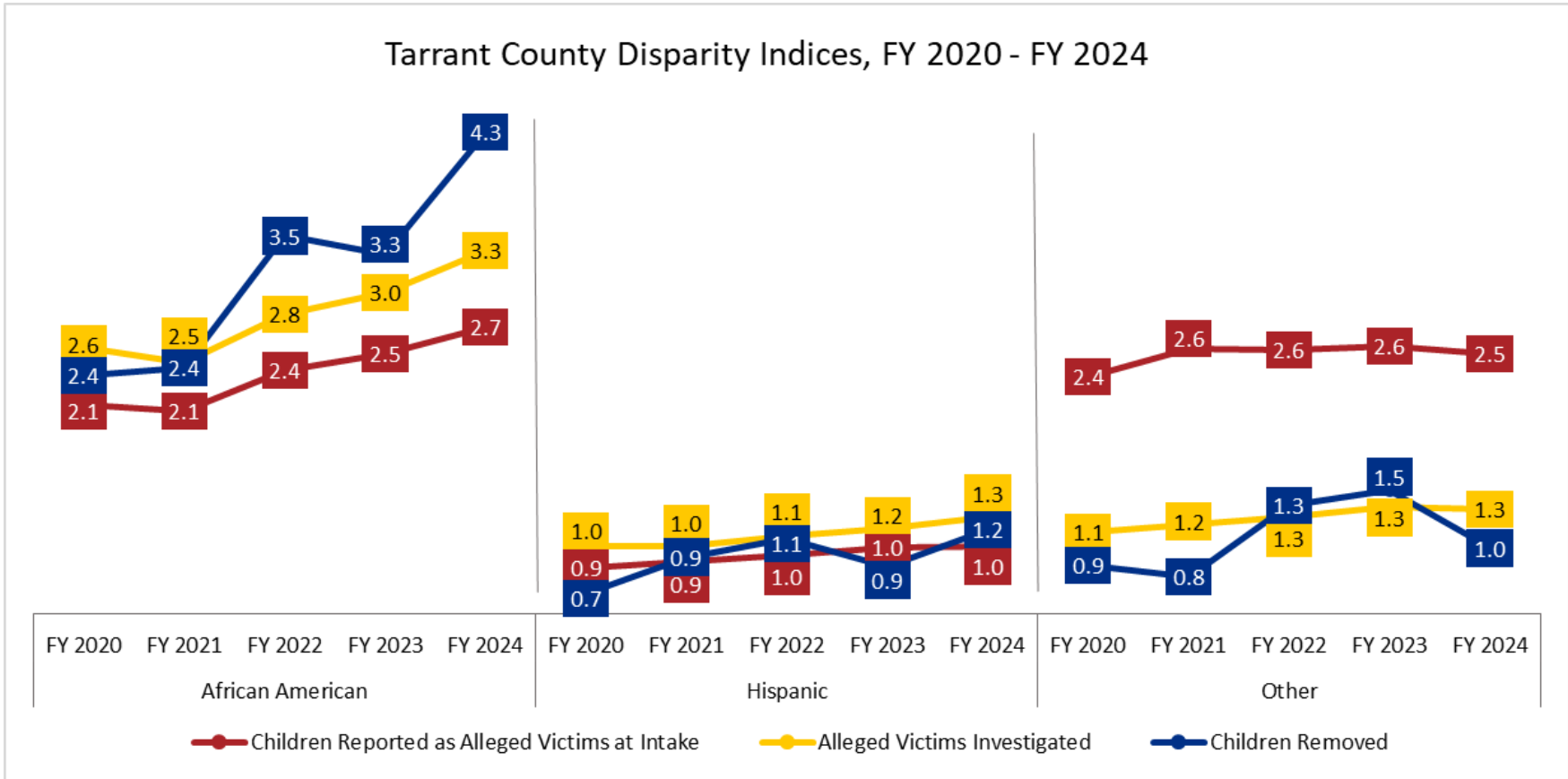
<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Year 2024 data is subject to change pending the end-of-year data refresh. Data is from DRIT #110912. Fiscal Year 2023 data has changed due to updates in the data refresh – this data is from DRIT #114891.

<sup>2</sup> 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 2023.

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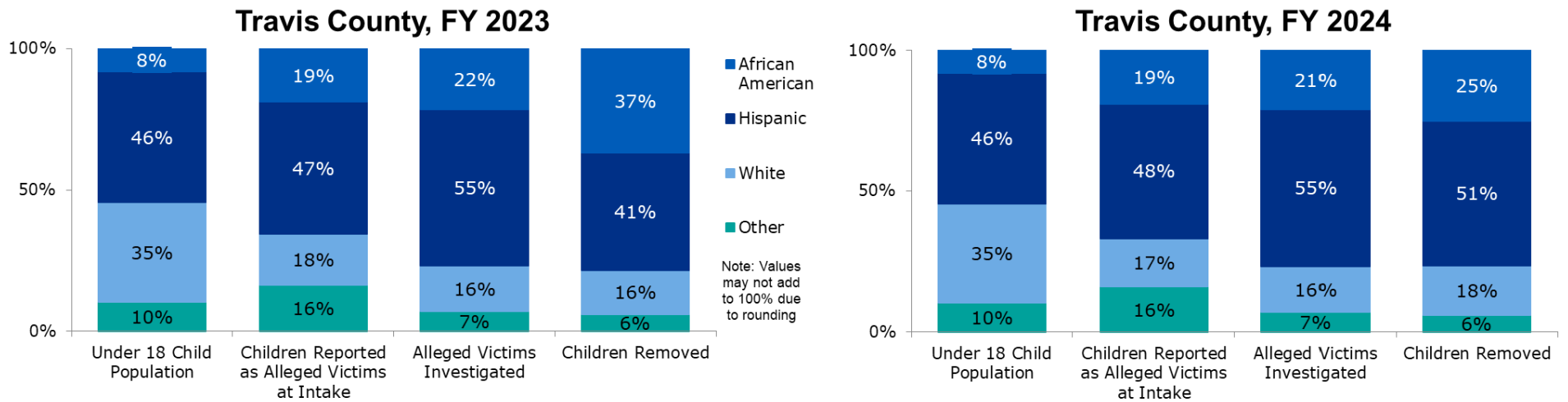
Tarrant County Disparity Indices, FY 2020 - FY 2024



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Rider 33 - Child Population, Reports, Investigations, and Removals by Race and Ethnicity Report for FY 2024<sup>1</sup>  
 Travis County - Region 07 - County Number 227

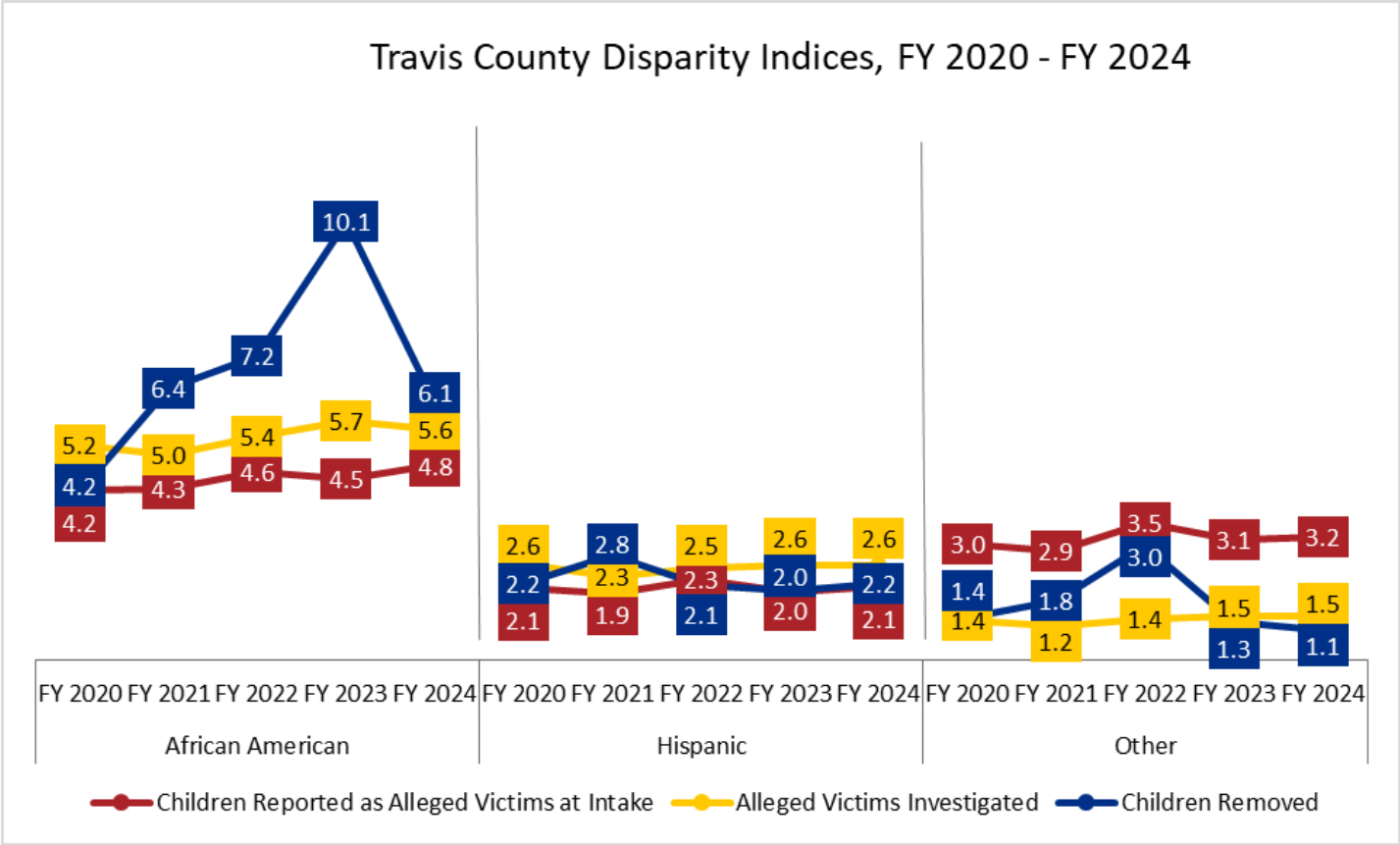
Category	Total	African American	Hispanic	White	Other
Under 18 Child Population <sup>2</sup>	298,284	24,489	137,982	104,697	31,116
Children Reported as Alleged Victims at Intake	15,025	2,864	7,147	2,575	2,439
Alleged Victims Investigated	7,667	1,624	4,248	1,249	546
Children Removed <sup>3</sup>	265	67	135	47	16



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