

Family Permanency and Well-Being in the Context of Community Sangamon County

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**Illinois Permanency Enhancement Project (PEP)
Central Region 2024**

Illinois Permanency Enhancement Project (PEP)



Who We Are

Statewide Partnerships

- DCFS African American Advisory Council
- DCFS Office of Racial Equity Practice
- Illinois Courts (AOIC)
- Child Welfare/ Human Service Agencies
- Concerned Citizens/Advocates
- State universities: ISU, NIU, SIUE, UIC



PEP Goals

- ▶ **COMMUNITY DRIVEN SOLUTIONS:** Engage with local stakeholders to identify community-driven solutions that advance family permanency and child well-being among DCFS-involved children and youth
- ▶ **IDENTIFY BARRIERS:** Engage with local stakeholders to identify the systemic barriers that disproportionately impact family permanency outcomes among BIPOC children
- ▶ **DATA-INFORMED:** Implement data-informed solutions to improve child welfare outcomes among minoritized children and youth
- ▶ **Partnerships:** Leverage local resources and partnerships to support the well-being of minoritized children and their families

Agency-Related Barriers to Permanency:

(Identified by PEP focus groups)

- ▶ Cumbersome, disjointed child welfare policies and procedures
- ▶ Lack of culturally responsive family engagement practices among some agency staff
- ▶ Lack of collaboration with courts
- ▶ Lack of sufficient linkages to community-based resources
- ▶ Lack of service providers in rural communities
- ▶ Lack of front-line staff input before new policies are initiated

Court-Related Barriers to Permanency:

(Identified by PEP focus groups)

- ▶ Inconsistent decision making across jurisdictions
- ▶ Lack of appreciation for the emotional trauma caused by parent-child separation
- ▶ Unrealistic “middle class expectations” for parents
- ▶ Lack of awareness about cultural differences among diverse family types
- ▶ Lack of respect for worker’s expertise and experience (e.g. overriding worker’s recommendations)

Community-Related Barriers to Permanency:

(Identified by PEP focus groups)

- ▶ Lack of local, culturally responsive services for domestic violence treatment, substance abuse treatment, parent education, mental health intervention, and legal advocacy
- ▶ Lack of community ownership and investment in resources to support struggling families
- ▶ Misperception that DCFS is the primary source of support for families in crisis
- ▶ Insufficient cross-systems collaboration

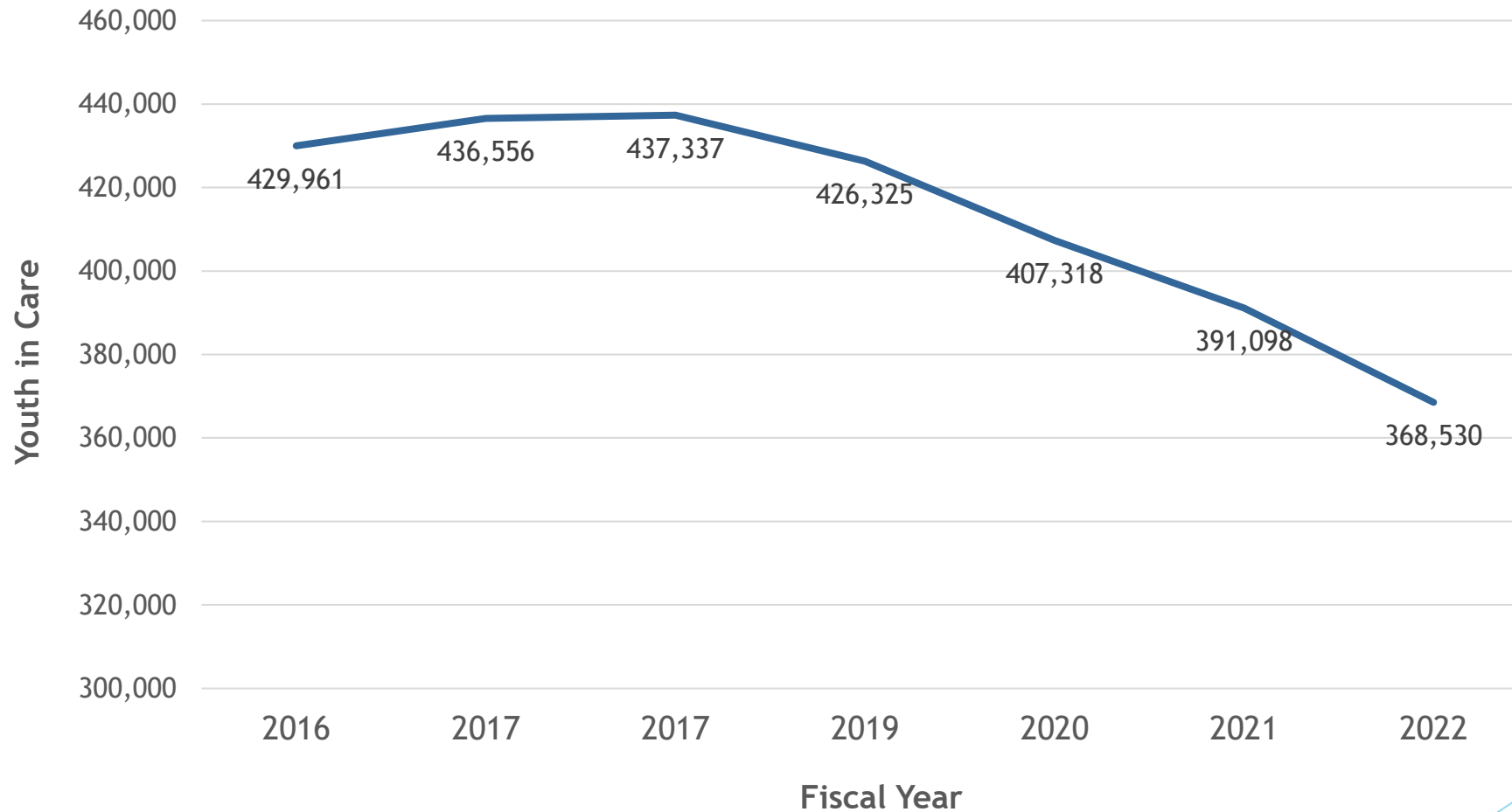
Long-Term Outcomes:



National Child Welfare Trends

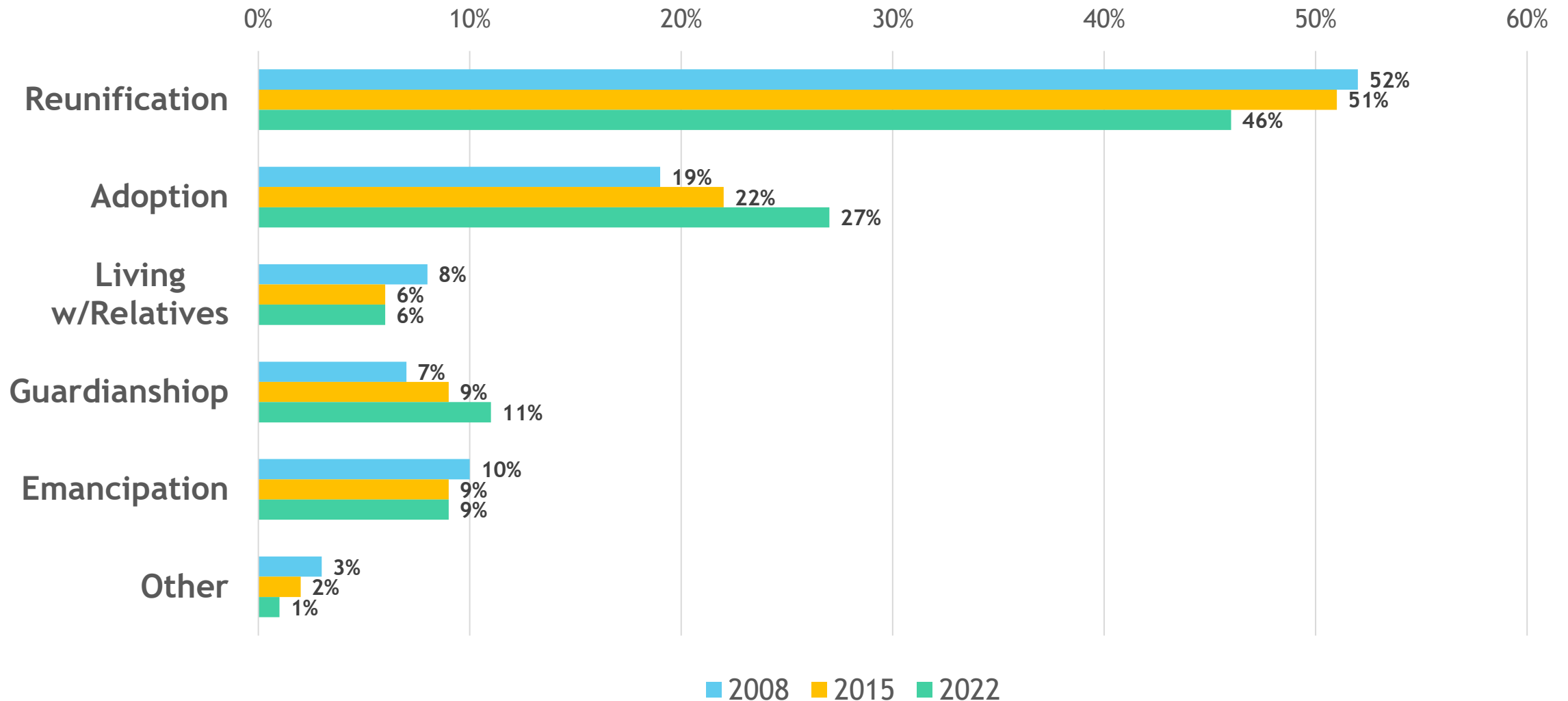
The background features a complex, abstract design of overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The shapes are primarily triangles and quadrilaterals, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall composition is clean and modern, typical of a professional report or presentation cover.

Children in Foster Care Nationwide



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2022). [The AFCARS Report: Preliminary FY 2021 Estimates as of May 9, 2023, No. 30.](#)

Children in Foster Care have less than 50/50 Chance of Returning Home (National Outcomes)



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2022). [The AFCARS Report: Preliminary FY 2021 Estimates as of May 9, 2023, No. 30.](#)

Foster Care and Childhood Trauma



Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)¹

Abuse/Neglect

Parent who's an alcoholic

Mother who's a domestic violence survivor

Family member in jail

Family member diagnosed with a mental illness

Disappearance/Loss of a parent through divorce, death, abandonment, foster care

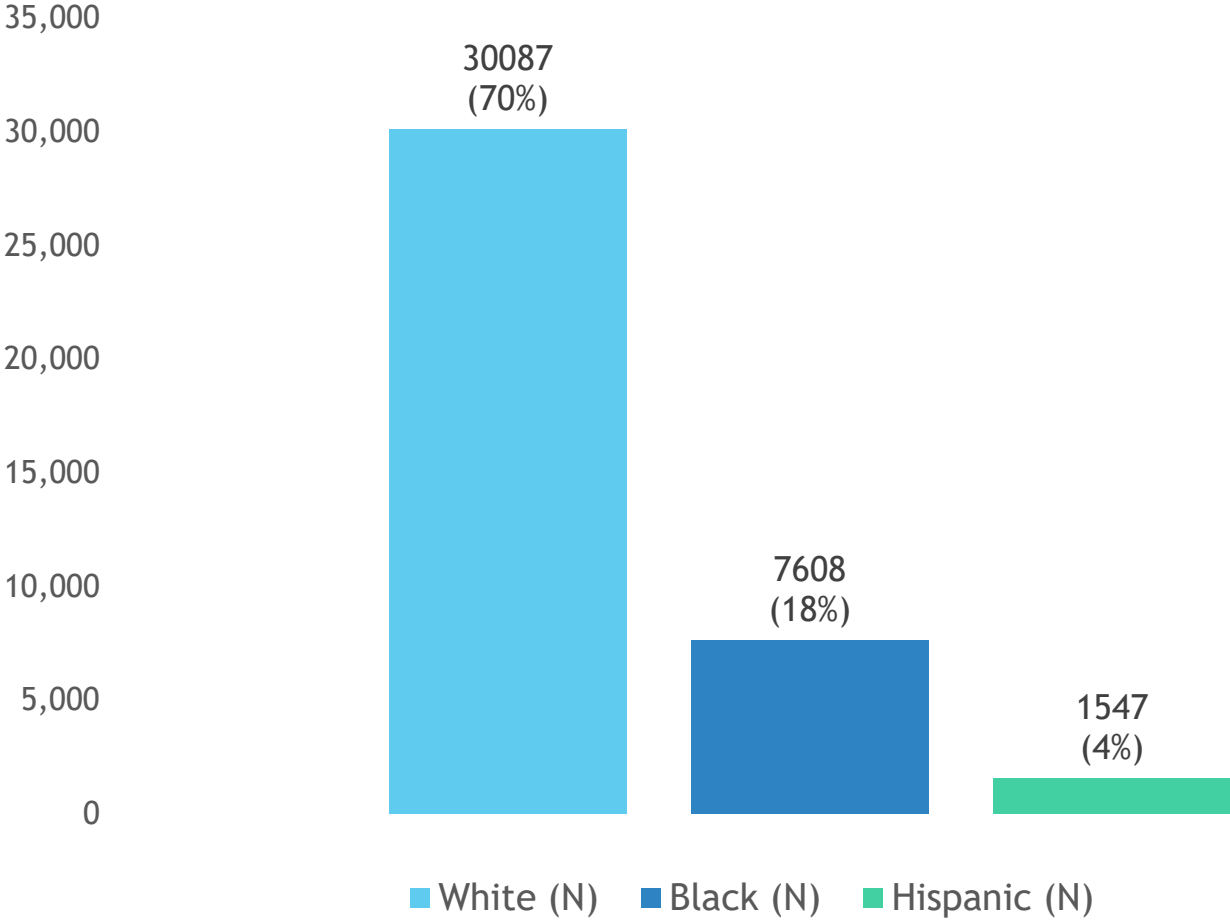
Gun violence





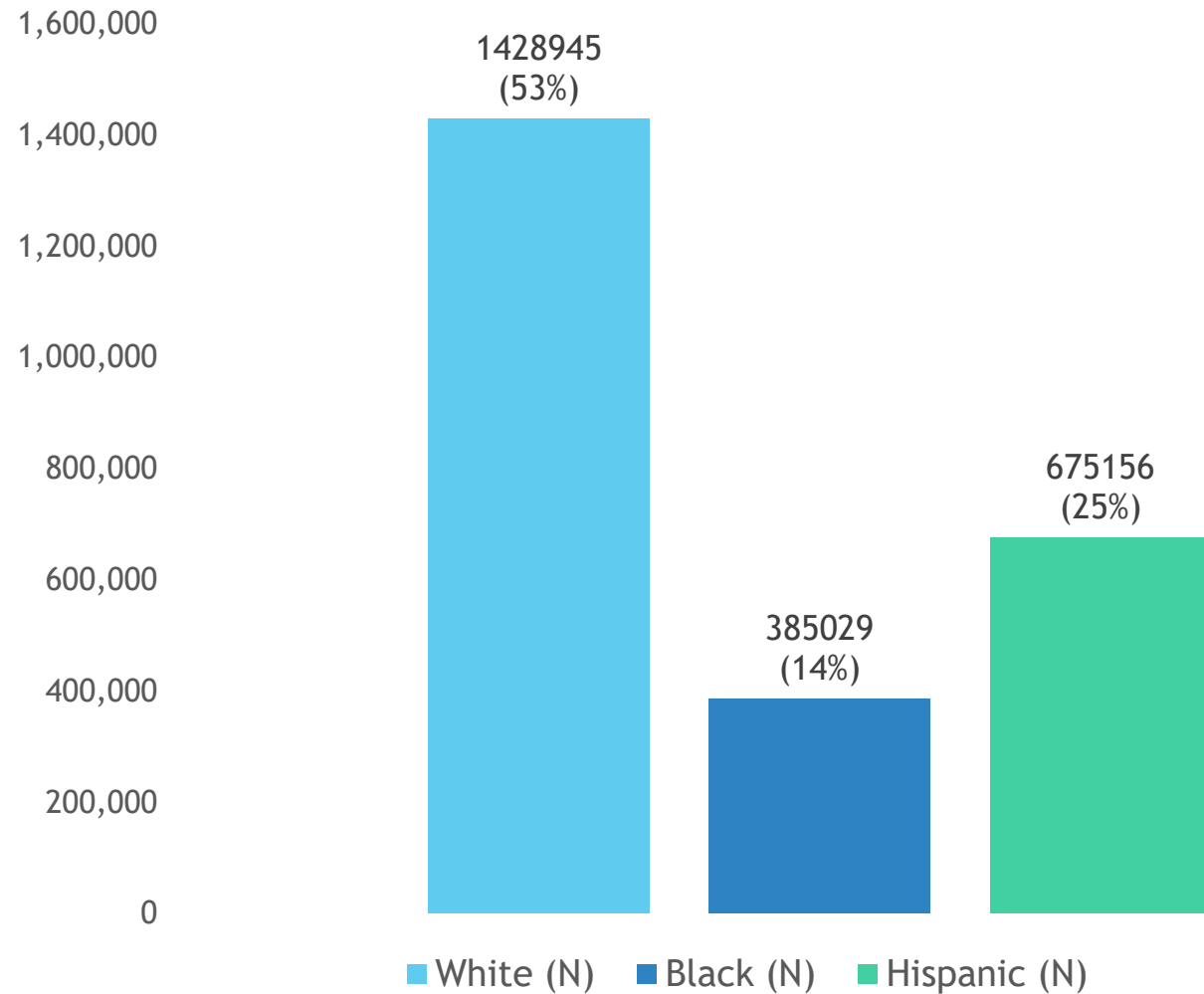
Sangamon County Child Characteristics

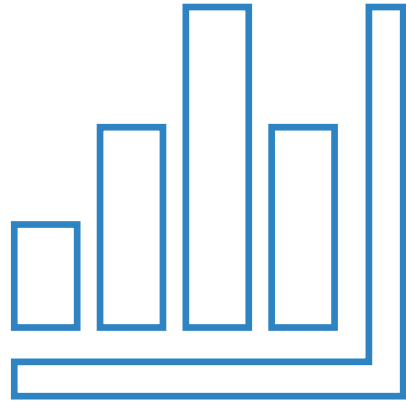
Child Population by Race/Ethnicity: Sangamon County



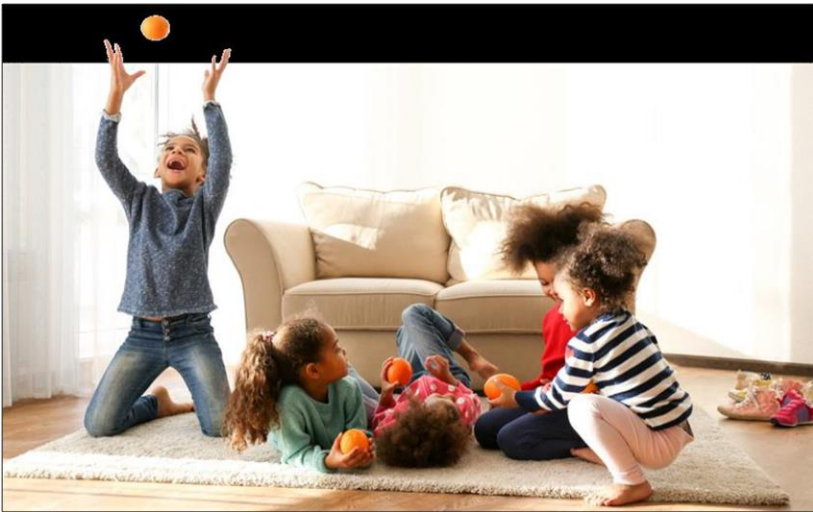
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Child Characteristics, [2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#). Table S0901.

Child Population by Race/Ethnicity: ILLINOIS





What do the Numbers Tell Us about Child Well-Being and Demographic Differences in our Community?

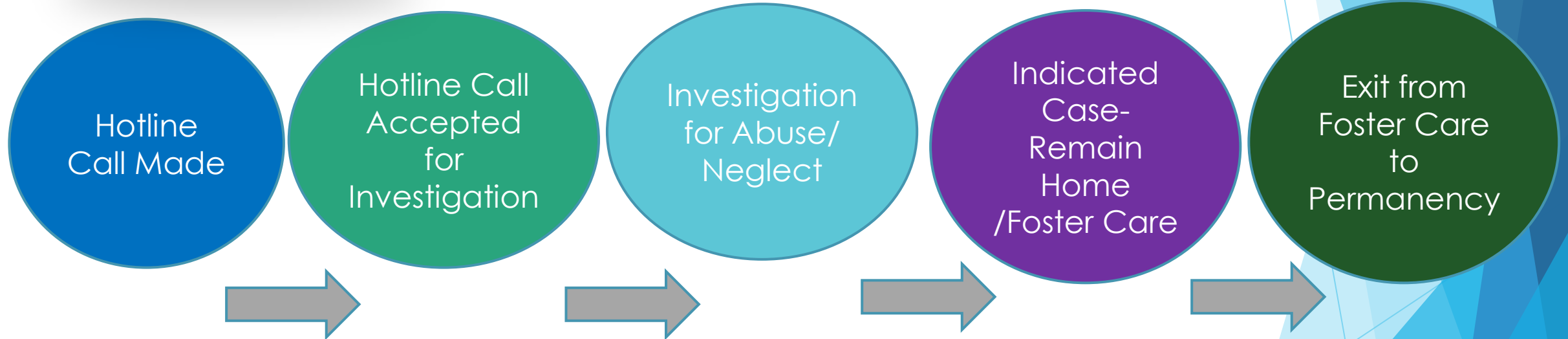


Child Welfare Outcomes



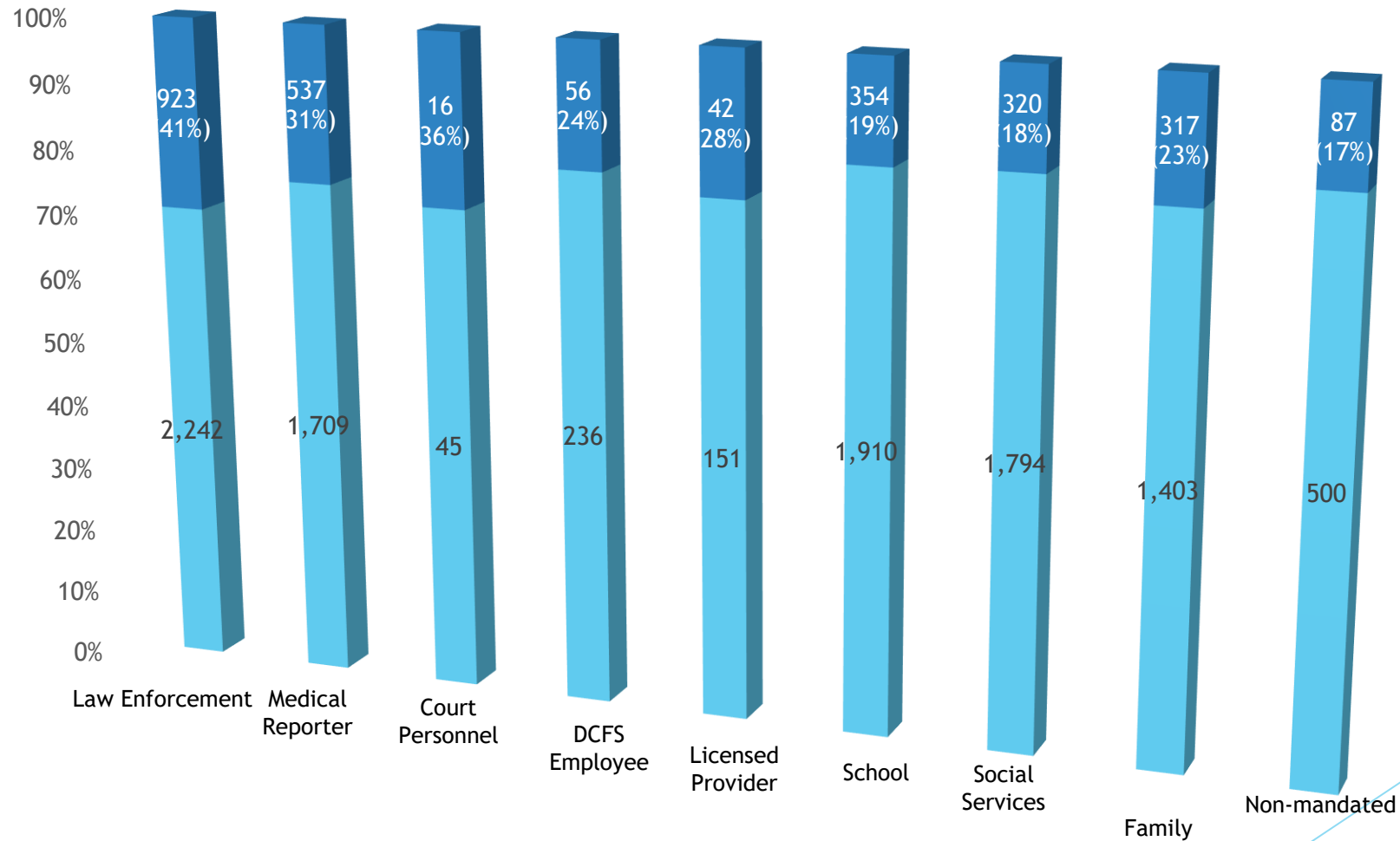


Child Welfare Services Continuum of Decision Points



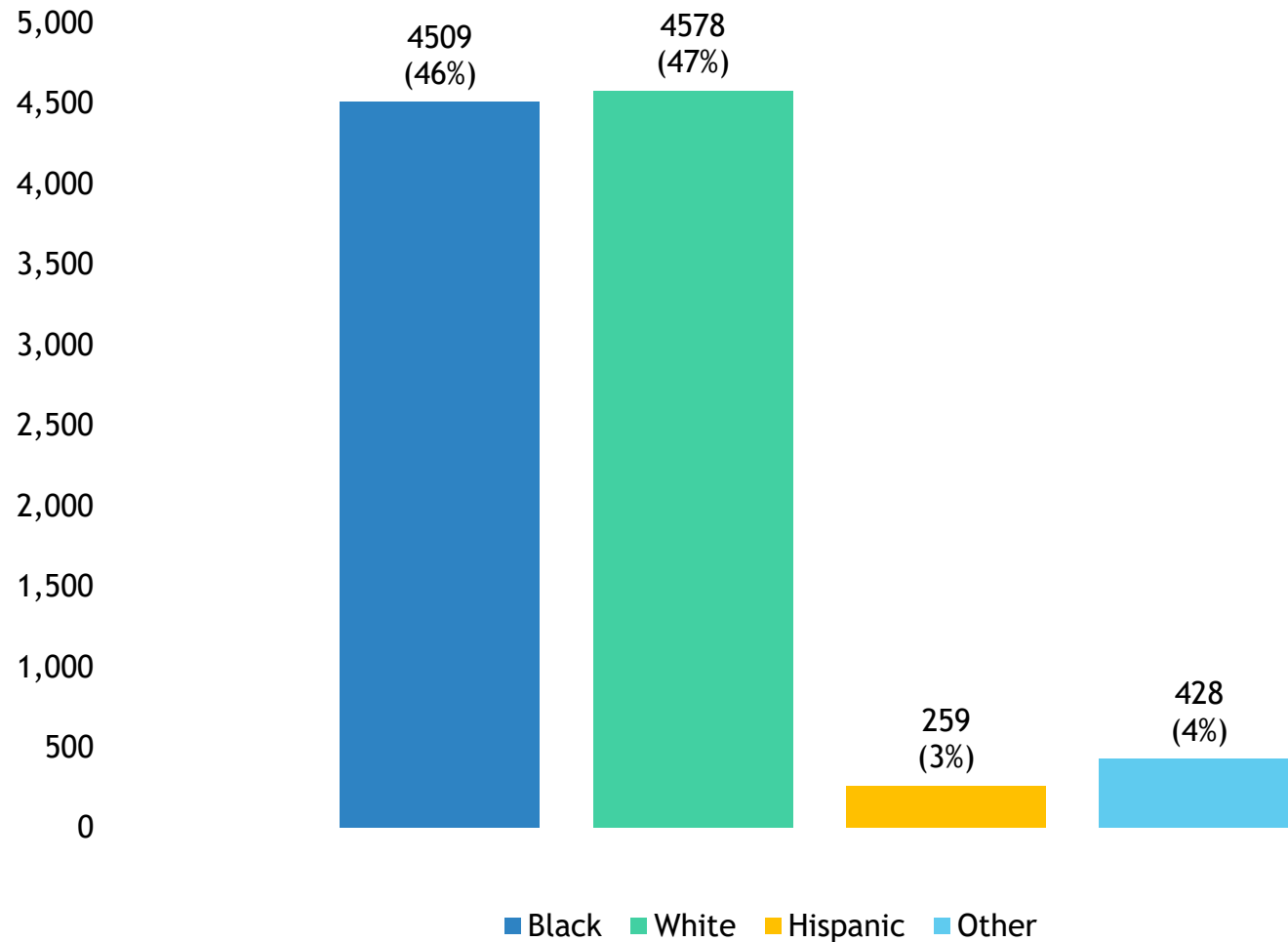
Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline Reports Made by County

Sangamon County: Reports Made vs. Indicated by Source



■ Reported ■ Indicated

Accepted Reports by Race: Sangamon County



Child Population

Wh= 70%

AA= 18%

Hsp= 4%

Racial Disproportionality

Adapted from: Rolock, N., Dettlaff, A. J., Wilder, J. R., & Jantz, I. (2011). Disparities and disproportionality in child welfare: Trends in Illinois. Chicago, IL: Child Welfare Research Collaborative at the Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois at Chicago .

RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITY (within group comparison)...

Disproportionality: The percent of children in foster care is *out of proportion* when compared with their percentage of the population.

Example...

AA children = 30% of Population



AA children = 60% of Youth in Care



$$60\% / 30\% = 2.0$$

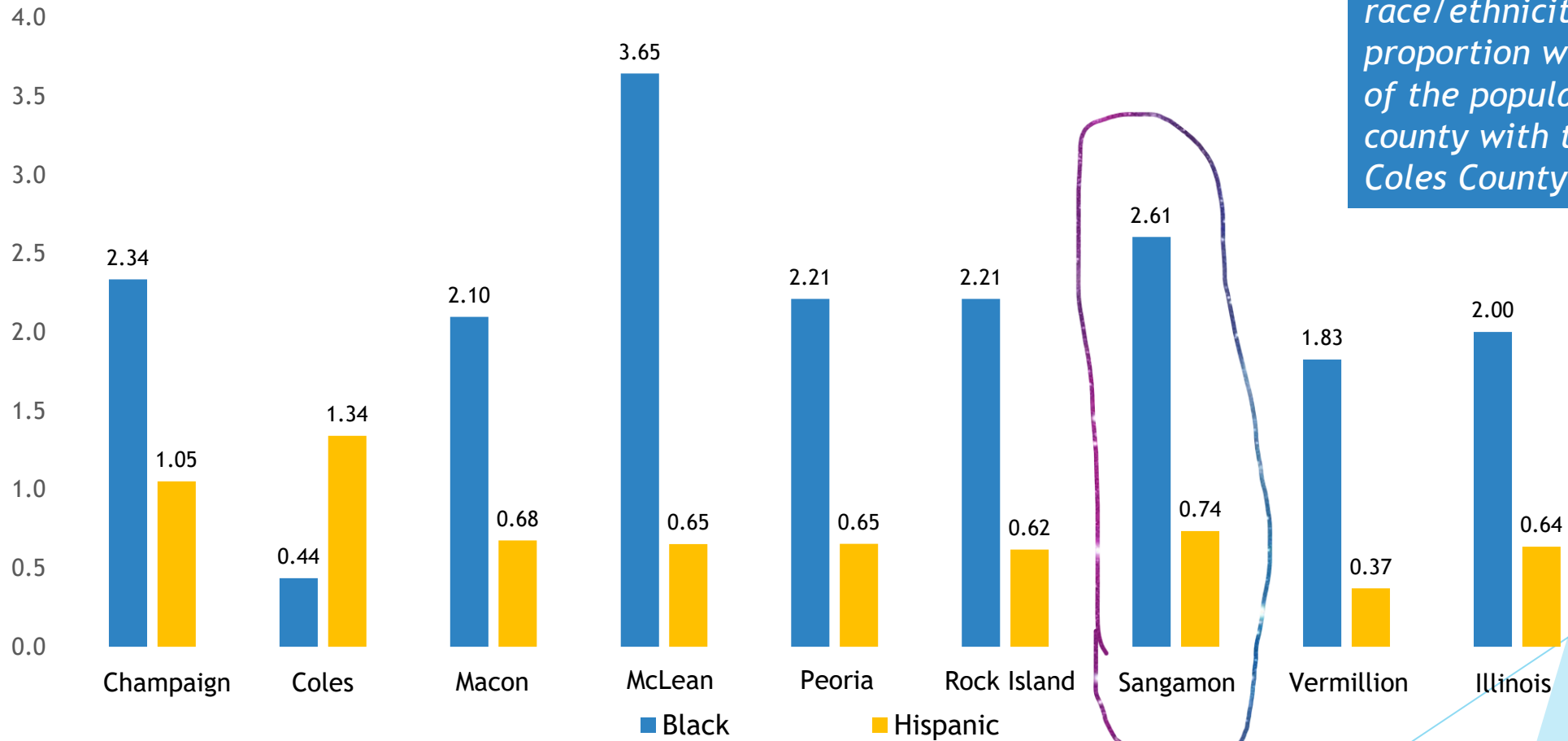
Conclusion:

AA children in care are *OVERREPRESENTED* when compared with their representation in the population

Racial Disproportionality Ratios among Accepted Reports

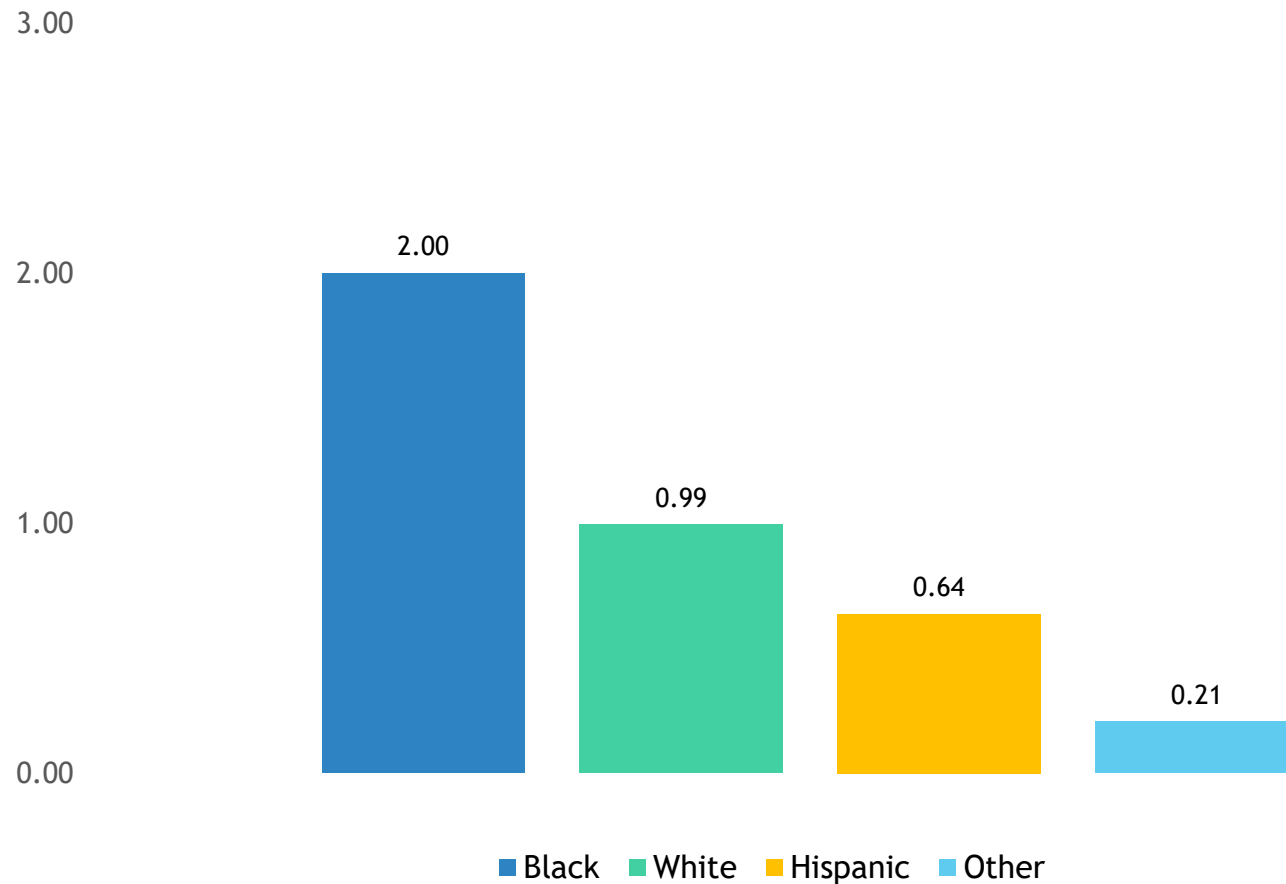
Disproportionality: The percent of children in foster care is *out of proportion* when compared with their percentage of the population.

Disproportionality Ratio for Accepted Reports by County



Disproportionality: The percent of accepted reports by race/ethnicity are out of proportion with the percentage of the population for every county with the exception of Coles County

Disproportionality Ratio for Accepted Reports: ILLINOIS Statewide



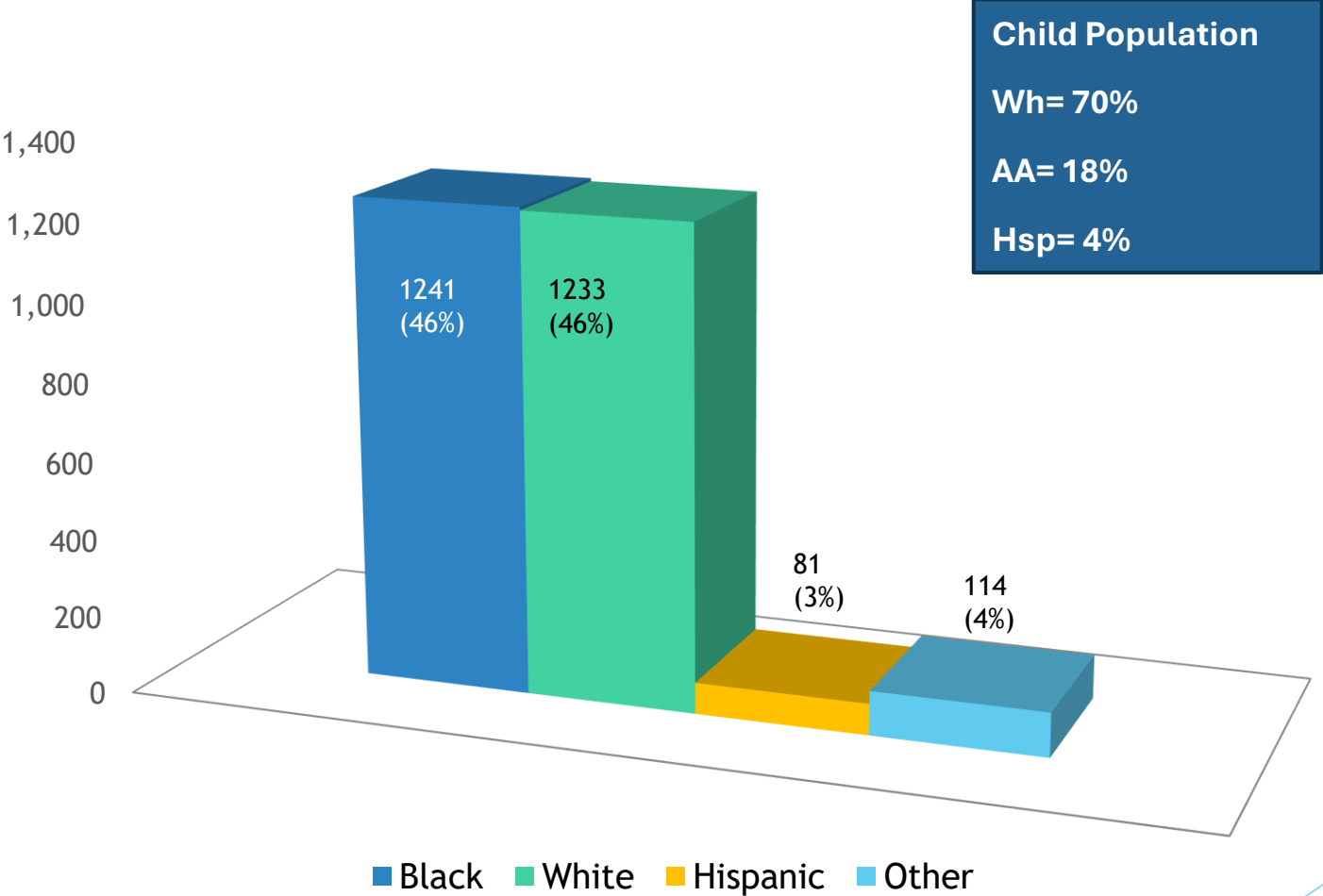
Sources: Central Region DCFS | Chapin Hall Data FY 23

U.S. Census Bureau, Child Characteristics, [2022 U. S. Census Table S0901 | Children Characteristics](#)

Indicated Reports of Abuse/Neglect by Race/Ethnicity

Indicated = a finding of abuse and/or neglect following a child protection investigation

Indicated Reports by Race/Ethnicity: Sangamon County



Source: Central Region | DCFS Chapin Hall Data FY 23

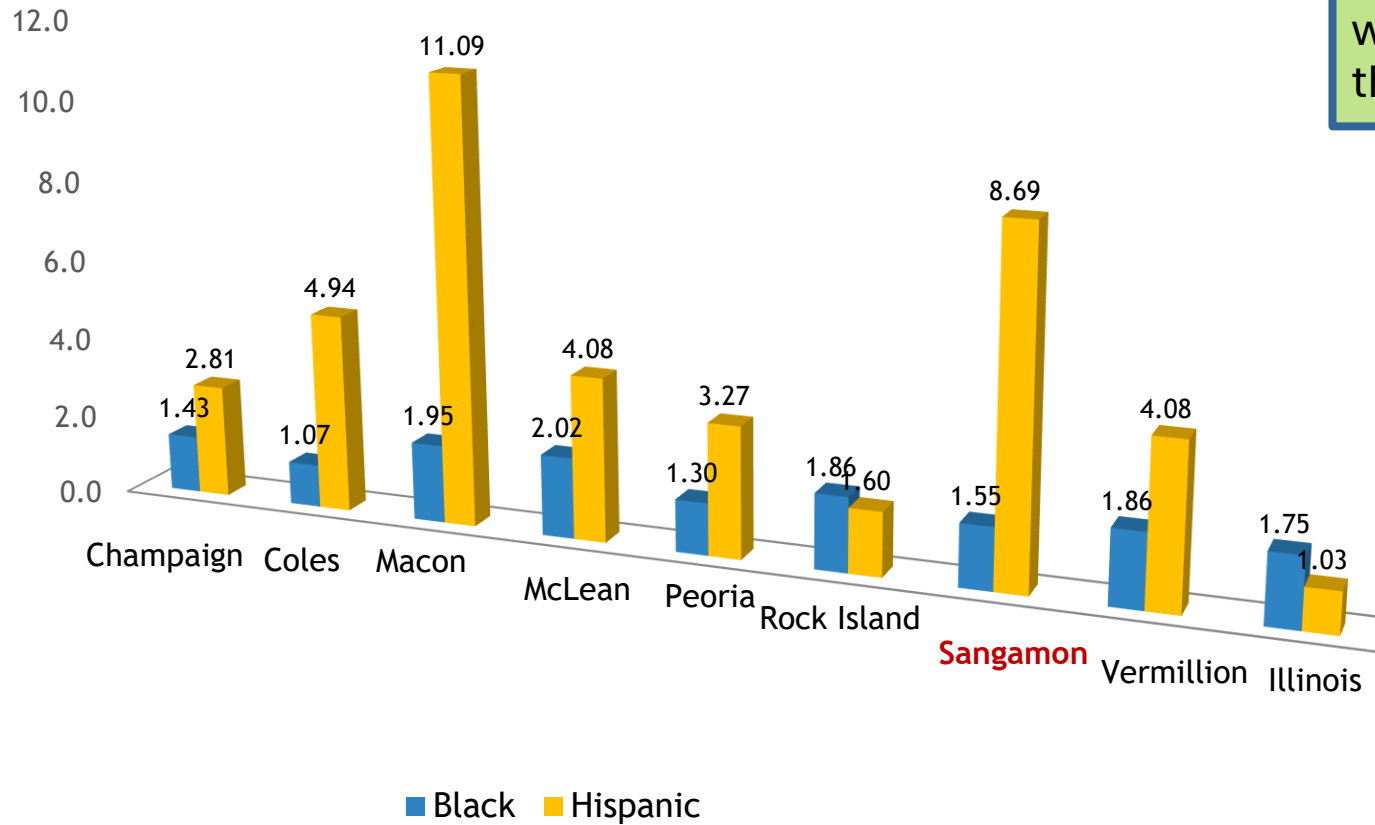
Note: Rates specify the number indicated reports by the total number of reports for each race/ethnicity.

Disproportionality Ratios for Indicated Reports of Abuse/Neglect

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Disproportionality Ratio for Indicated Reports by County

Disproportionality: The % of indicated reports for Hispanic children is *out of proportion* when compared with their % of the population.



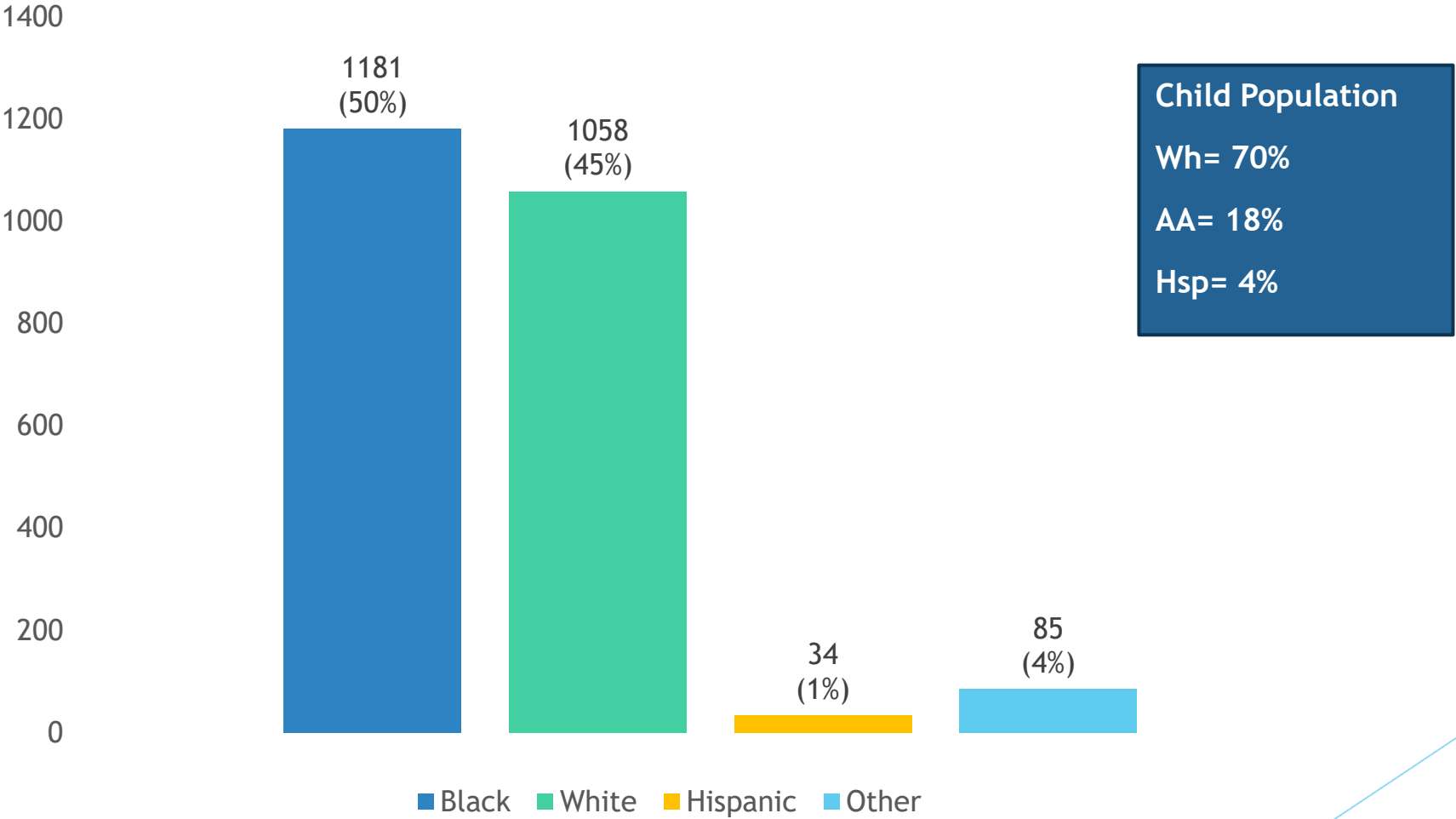
Sources: Central Region DCFS | Chapin Hall Data FY 23

U.S. Census Bureau, Child Characteristics, [2022 U. S. Census Table S0901](#) | Children Characteristics

Foster Care Entries

Foster Care Entries by Race/Ethnicity

Foster Care Entries by Race: Sangamon County

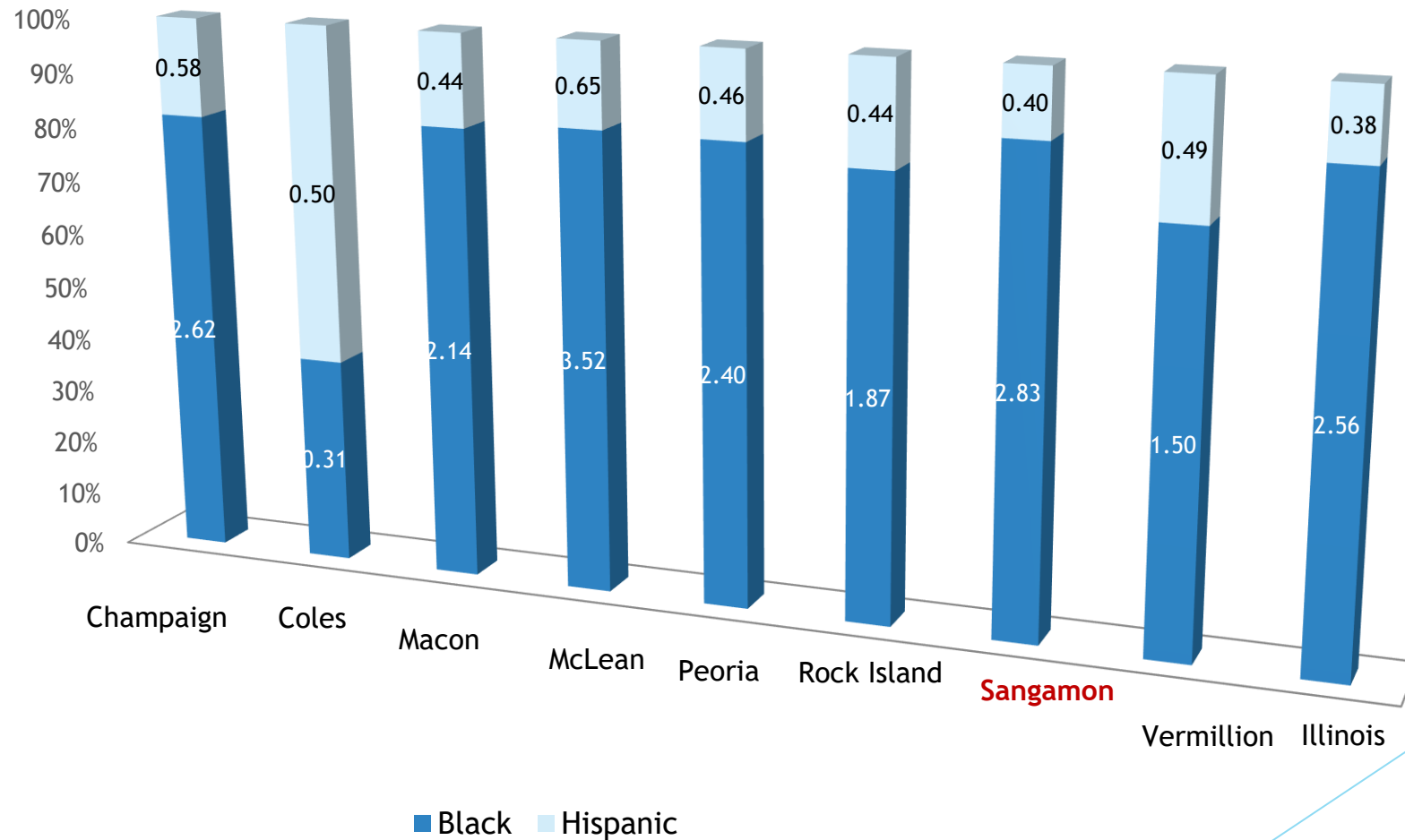


Source: Central Region DCFS | Chapin Hall Data FY 23

Foster Care Entry Disproportionalities

Disproportionality: The percent of children in foster care is *out of proportion* when compared with their percentage of the population.

Disproportionality Ratio for Foster Care Entries by County

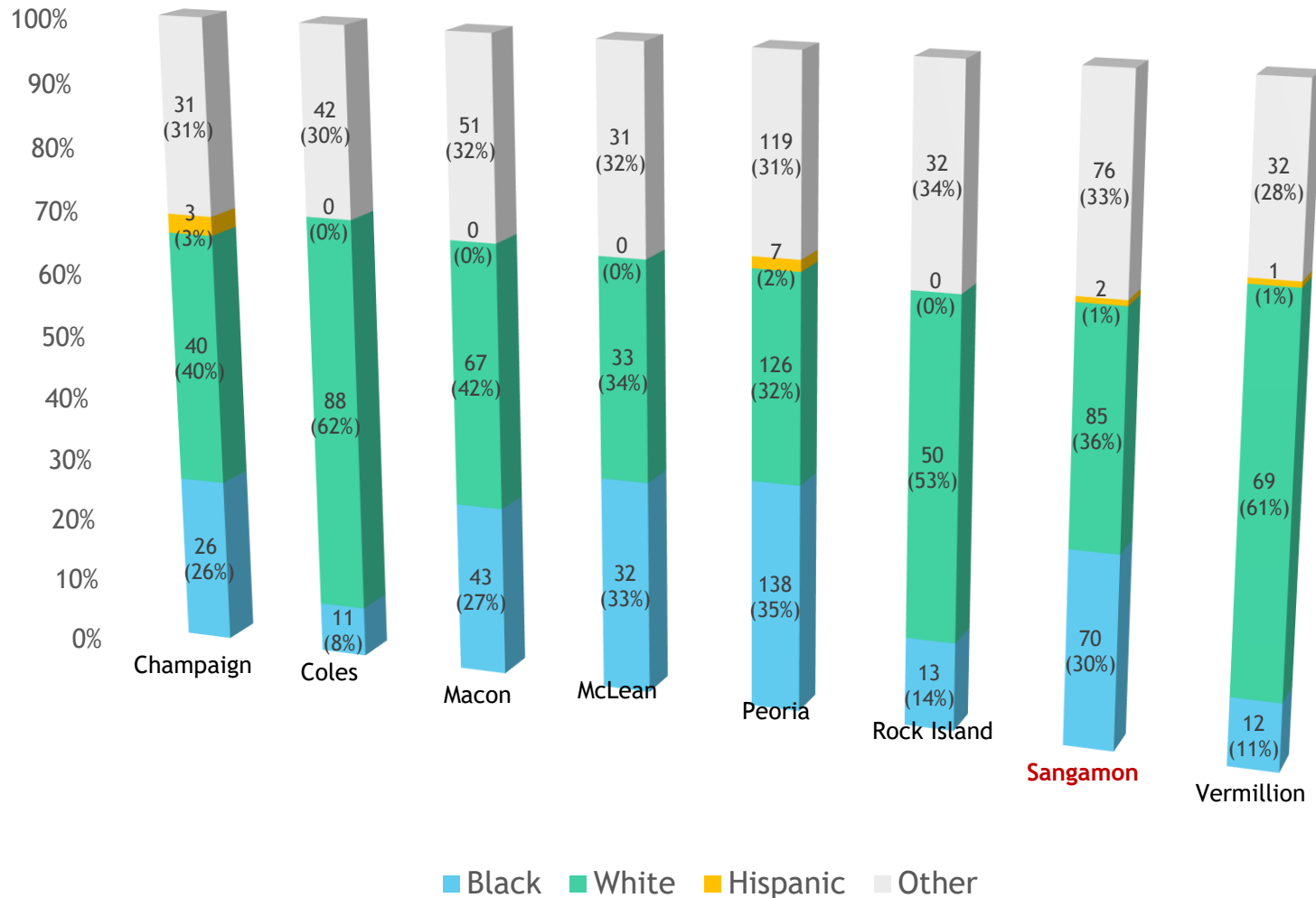


When compared with their proportion of the population, Black children are overrepresented, while Hispanic children are underrepresented in FC entries in Sangamon County

Sources: Central Region DCFS | Chapin Hall Data FY 23
 U.S. Census Bureau, Child Characteristics, [2022 U. S. Census Table S0901 | Children Characteristics](#)

Permanencies by Type

Adoption Permanencies by Race



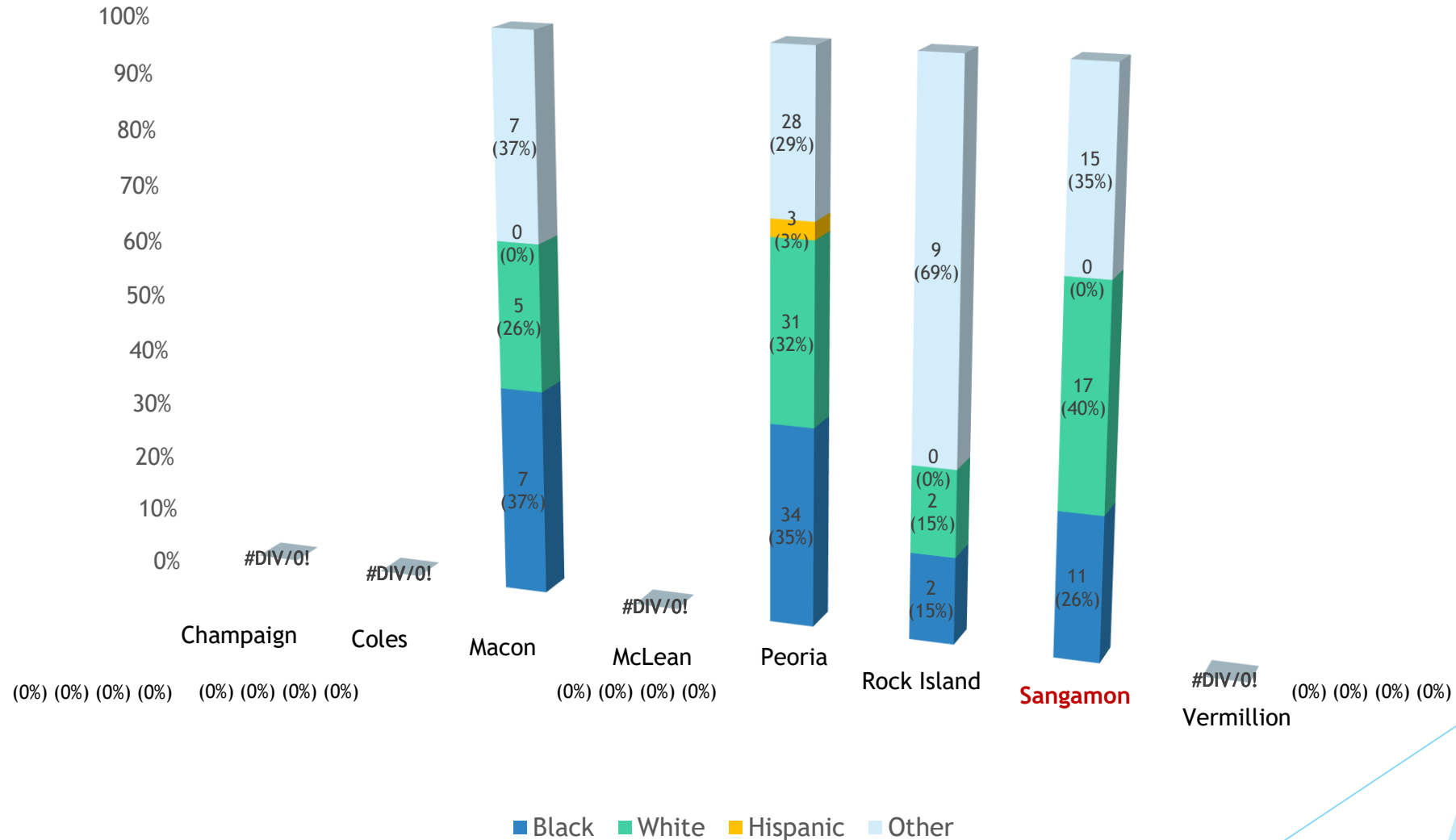
Source: Central Region DCFS | Chapin Hall Data FY 23

Note: Blank spaces (0%) indicate no data were available

Guardianship

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Guardianship Permanencies by Race/Ethnicity



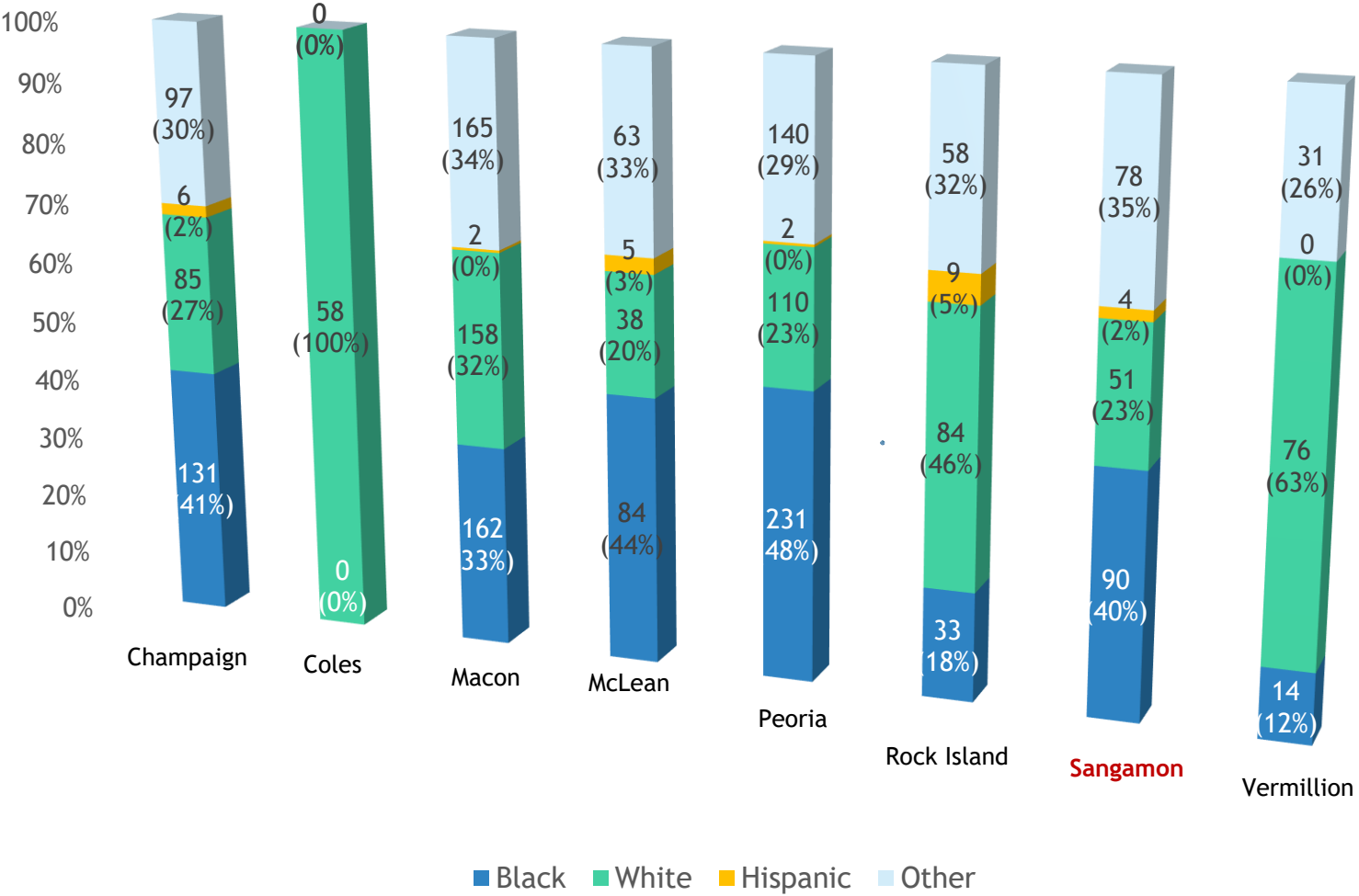
Source: Central Region DCFS | Chapin Hall Data FY 23

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Reunification

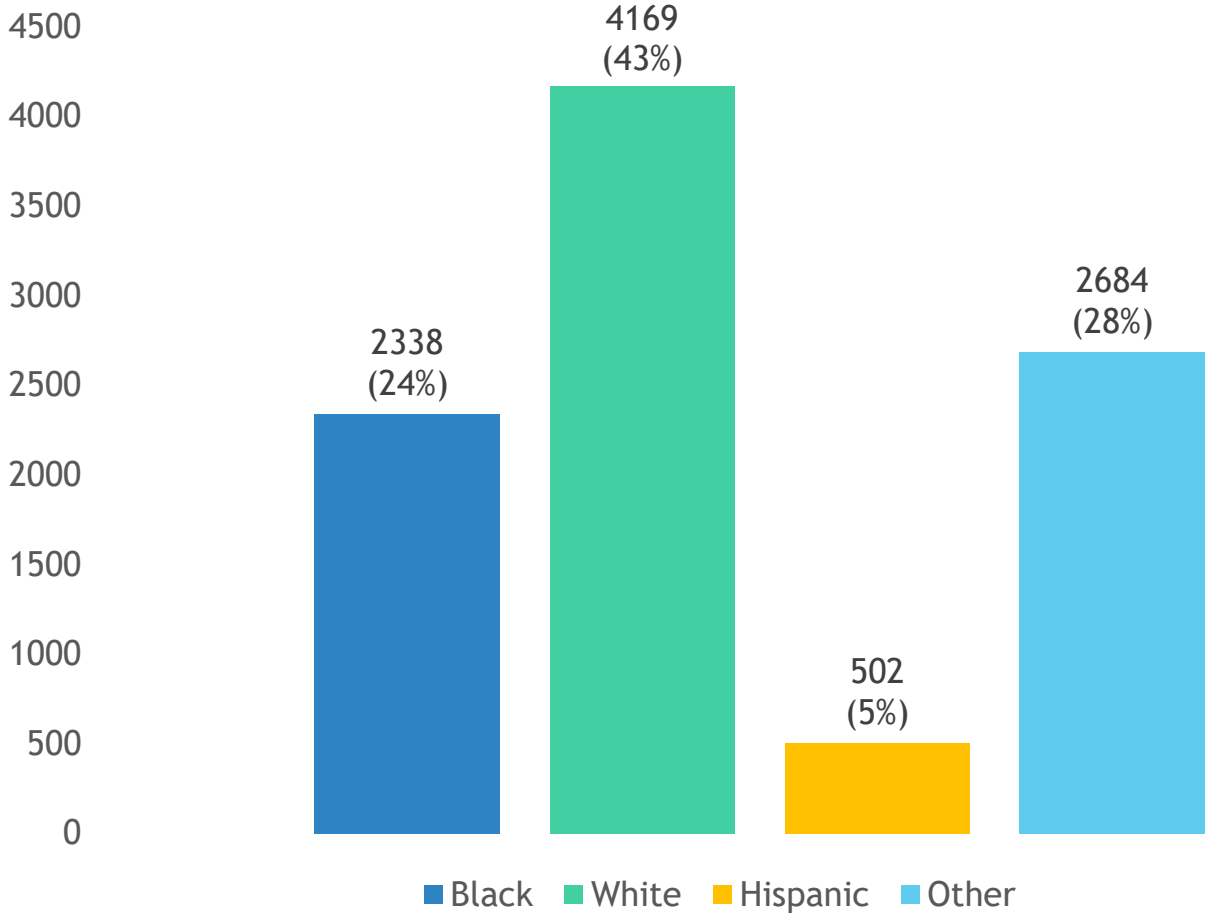
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Reunification Permanencies by Race



Source: Central Region DCFS | Chapin Hall Data FY 23
 Note: Blank spaces (0%) indicate no data was available

Reunification Permanencies by Race: ILLINOIS Statewide



Source: Central Region DCFS | Chapin Hall Data FY 23

Let's talk about it!

1. What are the “Stories behind the Numbers?” e.g. conditions in the community that contribute to the demographic differences and outcomes?
2. Who needs to be at the table with you to address these issues?
3. What resources does your community need?
4. What information do you need?

Next Steps



Thank You!