



CHILDREN OF COLOR IN FOSTER CARE

What Does Disproportionality Look
Like in the Five Southern Counties?



PREMISE

- While disproportionality of children of color in California foster care is well documented, county by county analysis may provide us with insight into variations of how disproportionality actuality exhibits itself within different communities.
- There is no blanket “silver bullet” solution for this problem. Potential solutions will have to be tailored to fit the face of disproportionality in each county.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES

➤ IMPERIAL COUNTY

➤ SAN DIEGO COUNTY

➤ RIVERSIDE COUNTY

➤ ORANGE COUNTY

➤ SAN BERNADINO COUNTY

RESEARCH METHODS

➤ INTERVIEWS

- Social Workers
- Children in Foster Homes
- Former Juvenile Court Judge

➤ FOCUS GROUPS

- Foster Parents
- Cultural Representatives

➤ RANDOM SELF-SELECTION

- Questionnaire Completion by Social Workers at PCWTA Training Sites



INTERVIEWS WITH SOCIAL WORKERS

➤ AVERAGE ABOUT 9 INTERVIEWS PER COUNTY

➤ 13 INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- How do you define children of color? How does your agency define children of color?
- Why are there so many children of color in foster care?
- Define "Cultural Competency" for a child protection worker?
- Are there any groups of children of color not in foster care?

➤ COMMON THEMES

CHILDREN OF COLOR IN FOSTER CARE

- CALIFORNIA YOUTH CONNECTION
- CHILDREN IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM
- 12 INTERVIEW QUESTIONS
 - Do you live in a culturally different foster home?
 - What is something that you feel is unique about your culture?
 - What would be your ideal placement?
 - Do you feel comfortable expressing your values or beliefs within your foster family and/or with your social worker?

FORMER JUDGE



➤ JUVENILE COURT

➤ 8 INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- Can you provide a local historical perspective on how this issue has manifested itself over the past three decades?
- What systemic attempts have been made to address the problem of children of color in foster care?
- What have been the successes and failures on those attempts?
- What is your perception on why this is still a challenge to effectively address?
- What do you recommend that needs to change in order to ensure that children of color maintain their identity when placed in foster care?

FOSTER PARENTS

- FOSTER PARENT CONFERENCE and COUNTY FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATIONS
- 14 INTERVIEW QUESTIONS
 - Have you received any cultural training?
 - How many children of color do you have placed in your home?
 - How do you expose children of color to their cultural background?
 - What factors do you think social workers should consider when placing children of color?

CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVES

- AFRICAN
- HISPANIC
- VIETNAMESE
- NATIVE AMERICAN
- AFRICAN AMERICAN



LITERATURE REVIEW

- COUNTY SELF-ASSESSMENTS
- ARTICLES
- EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES
- INTERNET RESOURCES



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- INTRODUCTION
- METHODOLOGY
- FINDINGS
- ANALYSIS
- RECOMMENDATIONS
- PRESENTATION



MORE INFORMATION

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