



# KNOWLEDGE IS POWER SUMMIT

MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup>

USING DATA TO ADVANCE RACIAL EQUITY FOR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

EXECUTIVE OFFICE



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
COMMISSION FOR  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SUMMIT SPONSORS

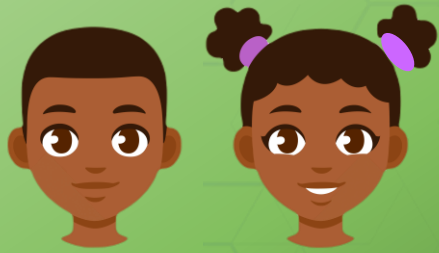


Center for  
Strategic  
Partnerships



The Barry  
and Wendy  
Meyer  
Foundation





**7.6%** of LA County's  
general population

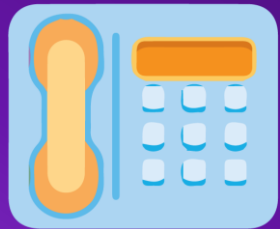


**5x** as likely to enter foster care  
as White children

**27.2%** of the foster care  
population on any given day



**37.6%** of the children  
who age out of foster care



**19.3%** of all allegations  
made to the Child  
Protection Hotline

# Knowledge is Power Summit Story



What **services** do our families receive?

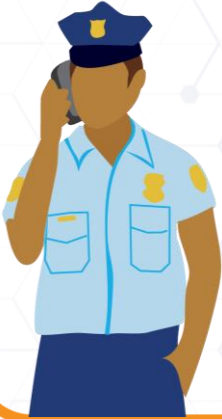
How does **general neglect** impact our families?



How do **maltreatment allegations** impact our families?



How does **mandated reporting** impact our families?



Who are our families?

Where are our families from?





## Data **Accessibility**

LA County-Specific  
Disaggregated by Race  
Contextualized

## **Humanize** Data

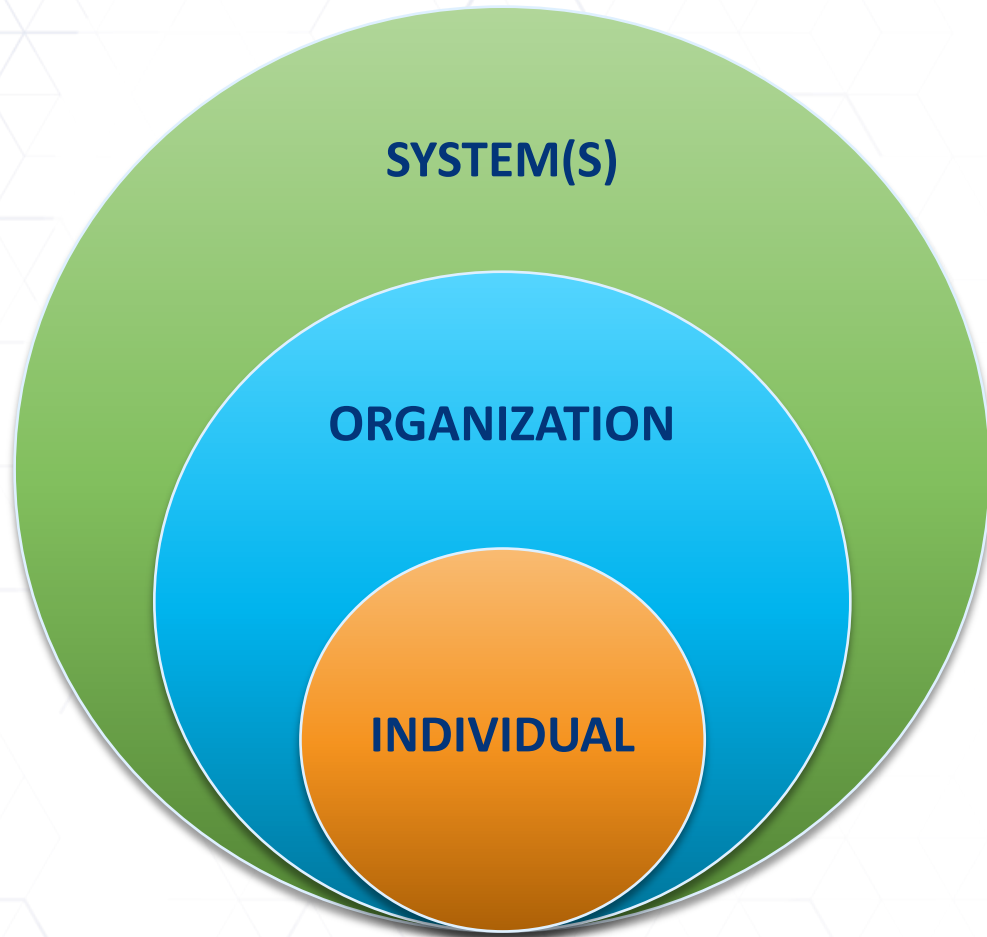
Lived experience  
narrative **IS** data

Numbers = human  
experiences

## Data **Actionability**

Foster individual,  
organizational, systems-  
level action

# CALLS TO ACTION



## Action Plan Template

May 23-24<sup>th</sup> 2022



This template is designed to help you capture ideas and commitments for **taking action at the individual, organizational, and systems level.**

There is space for you to **capture your ideas and commitments** from each day of the Knowledge is Power Summit. You can use this document throughout the convening – and afterwards – to take what you learn and apply it. You will also find additional space on subsequent pages to take notes throughout the Summit for each key topic area.

### Knowledge is Power Summit Day 1

#### Individual Actions and Commitments

Click or tap here to enter text.

#### Organizational Level Actions and Commitments

Click or tap here to enter text.

#### Systems Level Actions and Commitments

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# Who are our Families?

Dr. Cheryl Grills, Loyola Marymount University

Dr. Wendy Wiegmann, California Child Welfare  
Indicators Project

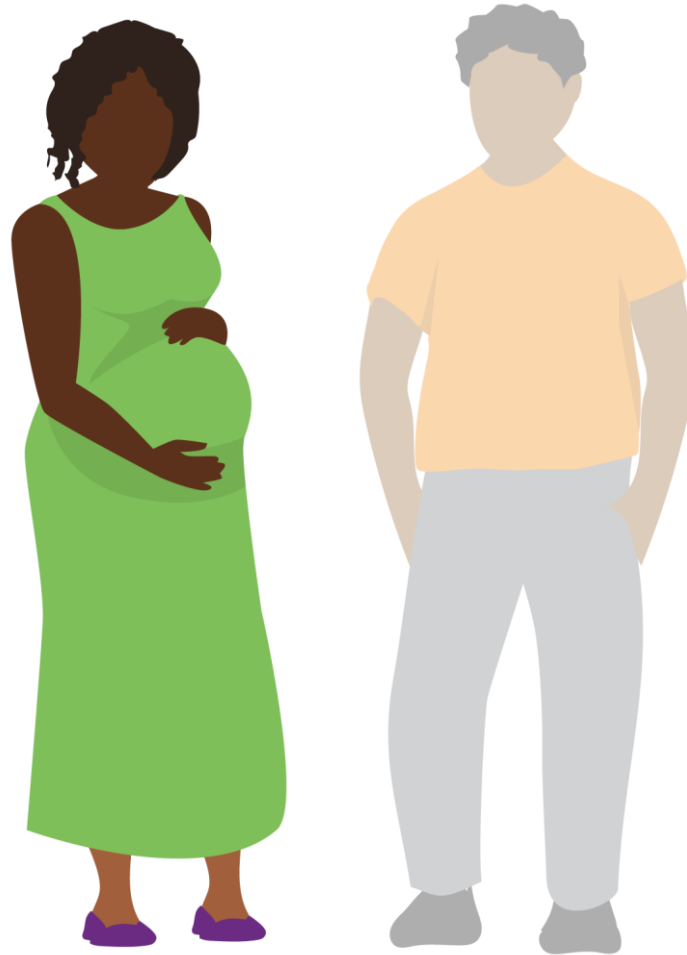
Zaid Gayle, Peace4Kids & Commission for  
Children and Families

Ericka Glenn, Parent Advocate

# Parent Profile

Parents tend to be younger

**Mothers** often did not complete high school and often had late to no prenatal care



**Fewer fathers** are identified

**5x**  
More likely to enter foster care

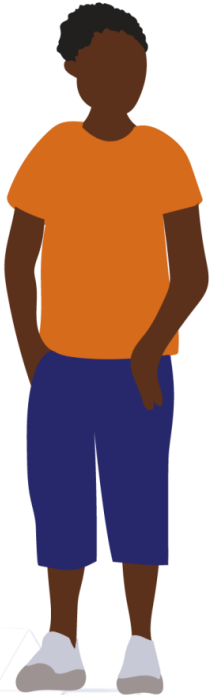
Touched by many systems:

- Medi-Cal
- WIC
- CalFresh
- CalWORKS
- Developmental Services



# Child Profile

Children tend to be younger, **under 2 years old**



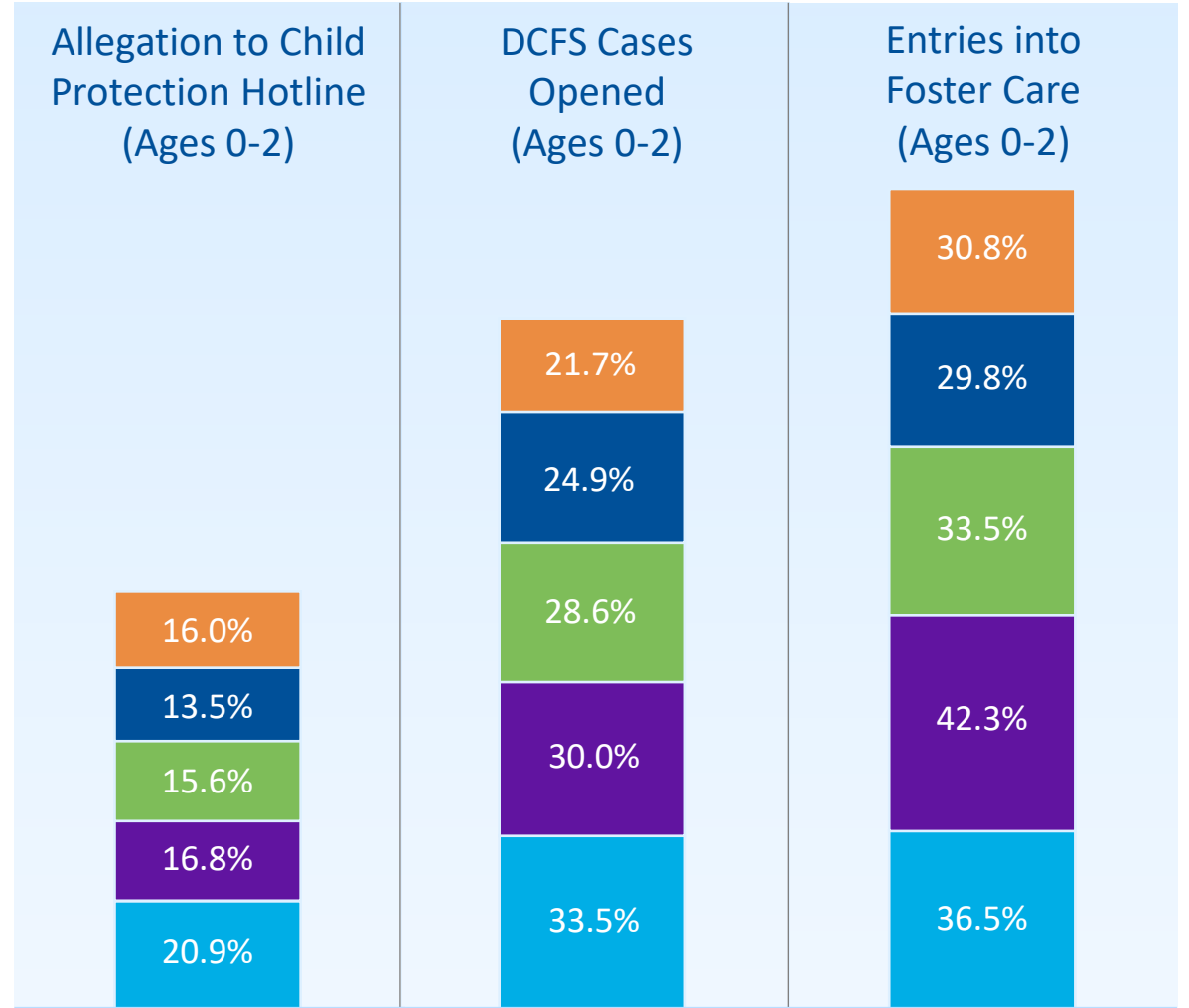
**2/3**

of youth have **touched the juvenile justice system**

**28.5%**

of youth in foster care **identifying as LGBTQ+ were Black**

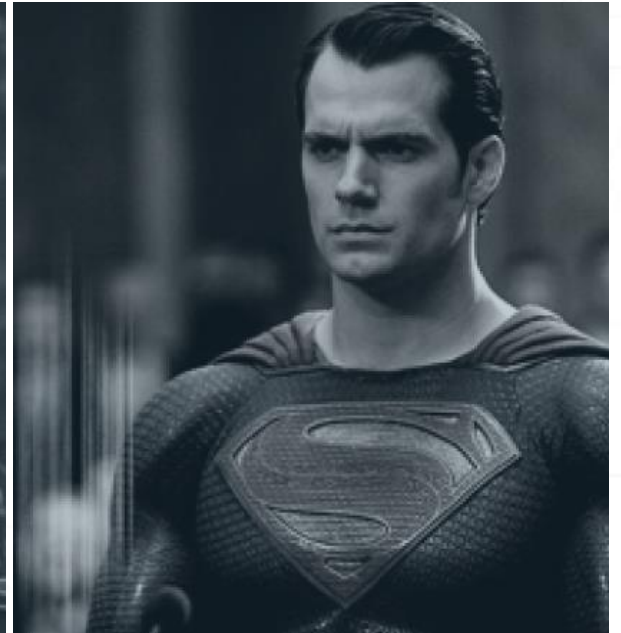
## Allegations by Child Race/Ethnicity (Los Angeles: 2020)



■ BLACK
 ■ WHITE
 ■ HISPANIC
 ■ ASIAN
 ■ NATIVE AMERICA

# The Hero's Way

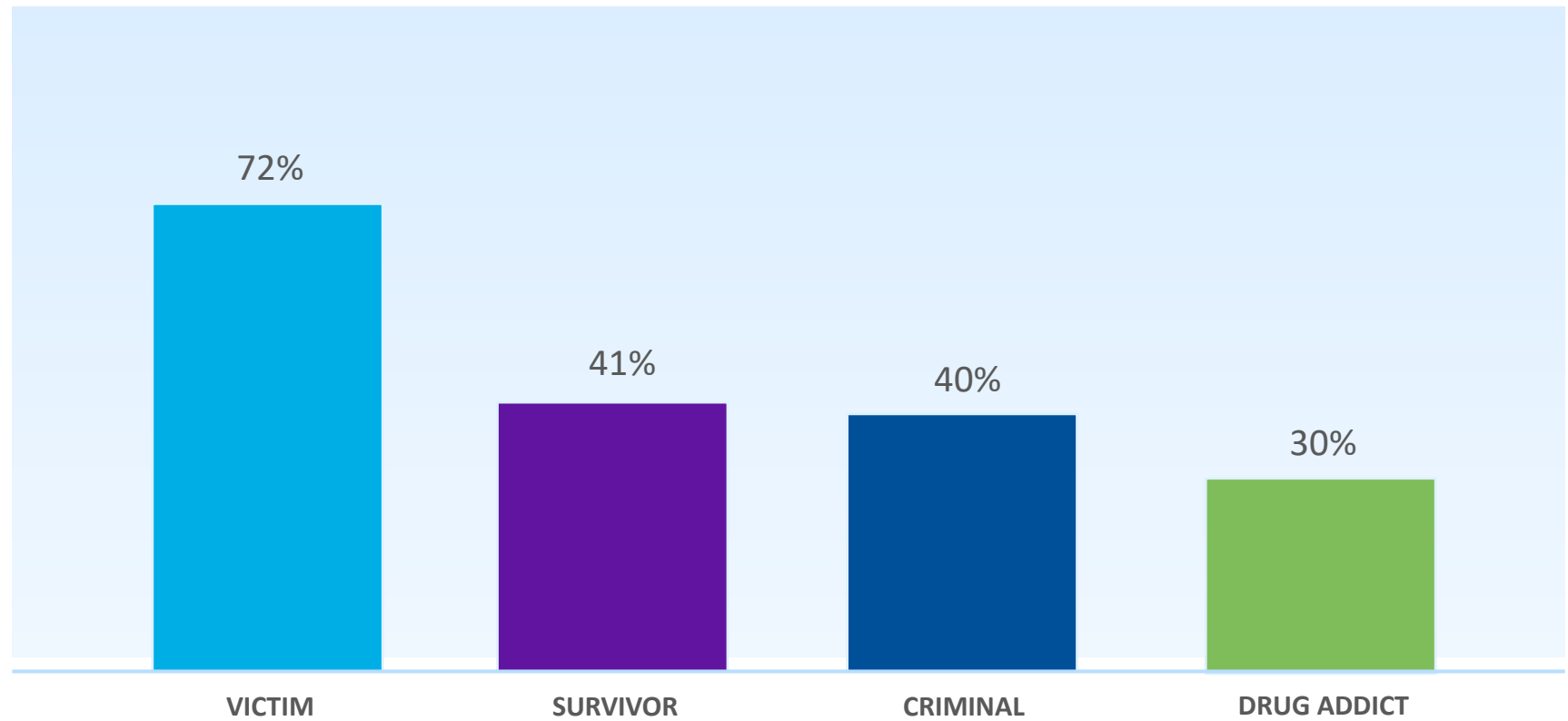
What are the first one or two words that come to mind when you see these superheroes?



## FAMILIES

Los Angeles County survey published in 2020  
**2,488** respondents

### Media Portrayals of Foster Youth

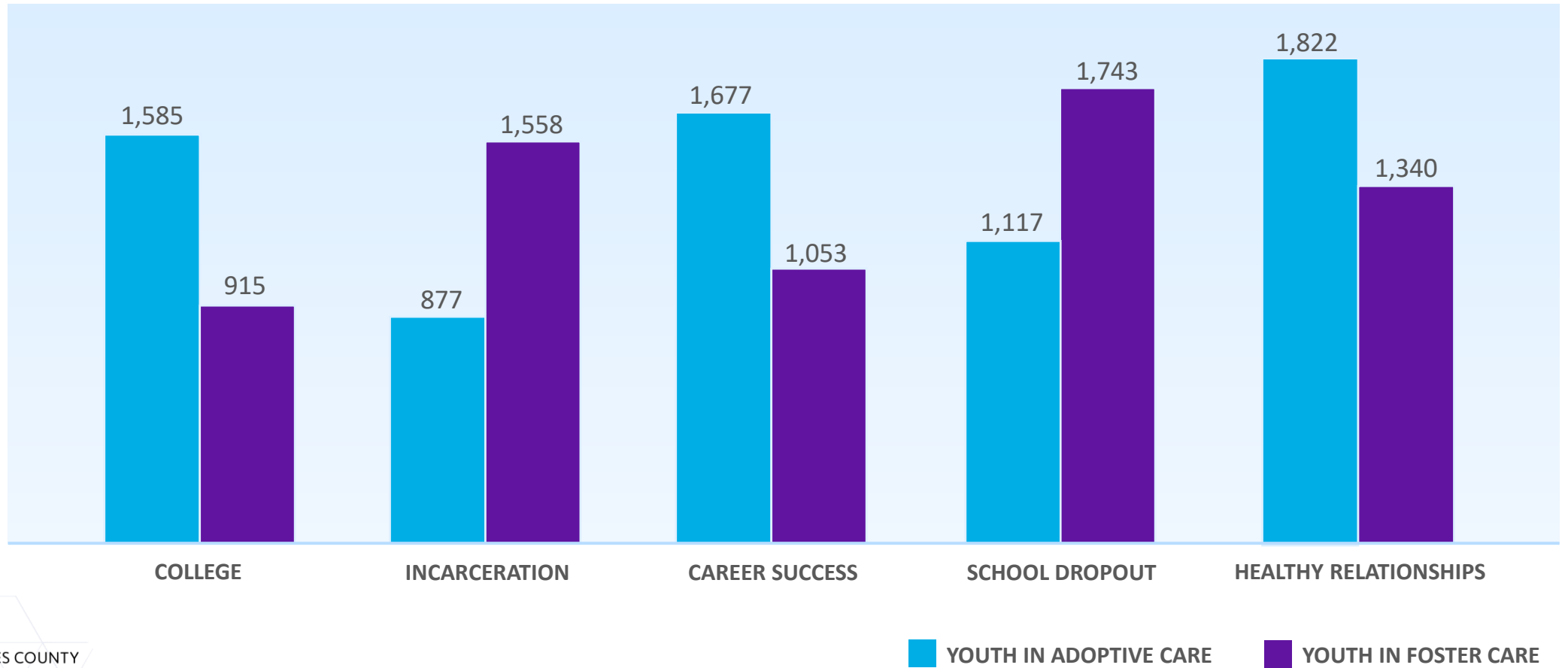


## FAMILIES

National survey published in 2021

**2,487** respondents

### Perceptions of Foster Youths' Life Outcomes





# Where are our families from?

David Noble, Alliance for Children's Rights  
Dr. D'Artagnan Scorza, Los Angeles County Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative  
Tiffany Boyd, Commission for Children and Families

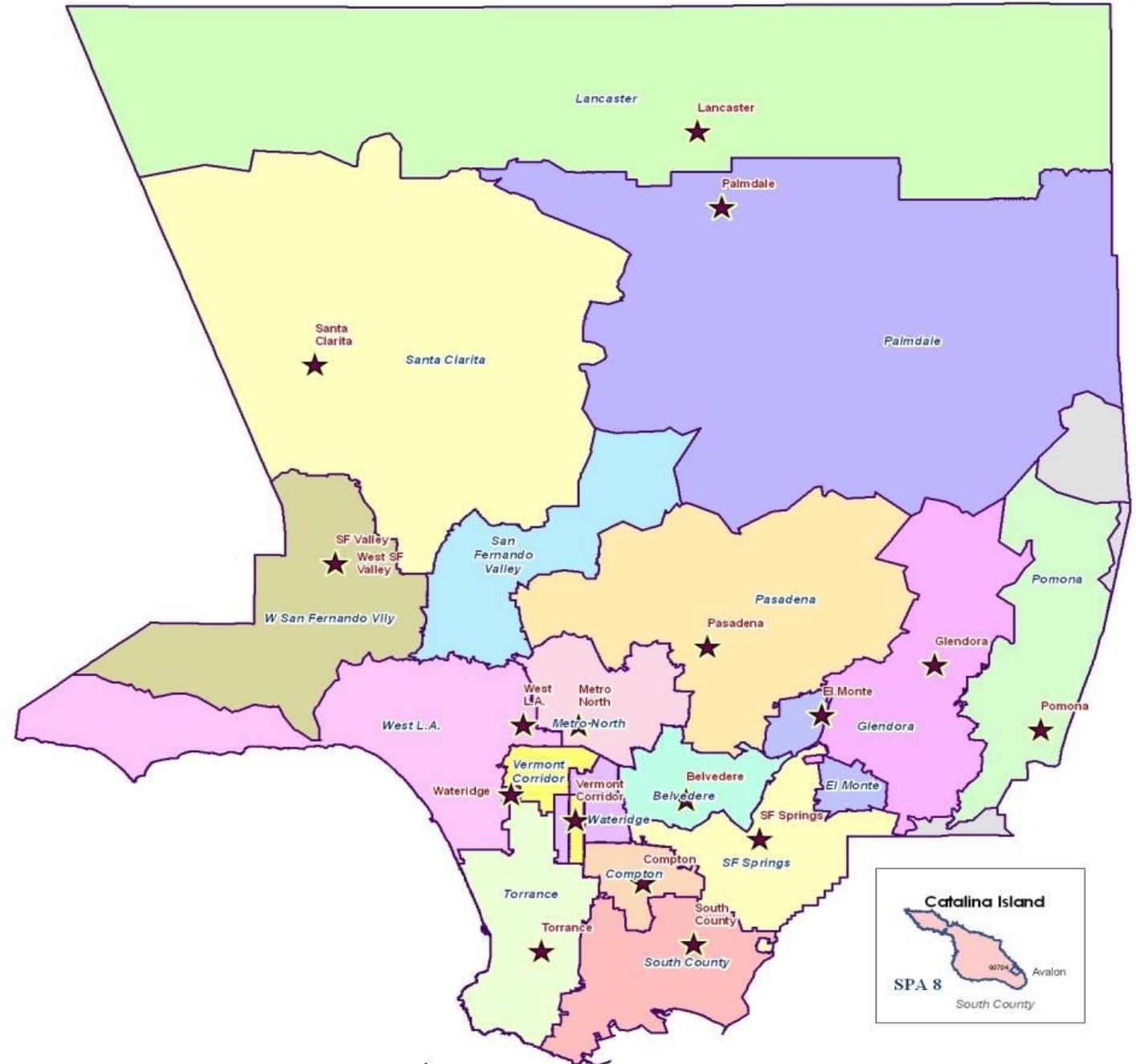
## WHERE ARE OUR FAMILIES FROM?

What are the top three (3) DCFS offices with the highest rates of involvement with Black families?

*\*Involvement is described as maltreatment allegations, investigations, & entries into care*

### Answers:

- Lancaster
- Palmdale
- Vermont Corridor



# How does mandated reporting impact our families?



Charity Chandler-Cole, CASA of Los Angeles & Commission for Children and Families

Wendy Wiegmann, California Child Welfare Indicators Project

Detective Ria Garcenila, Los Angeles Police Department

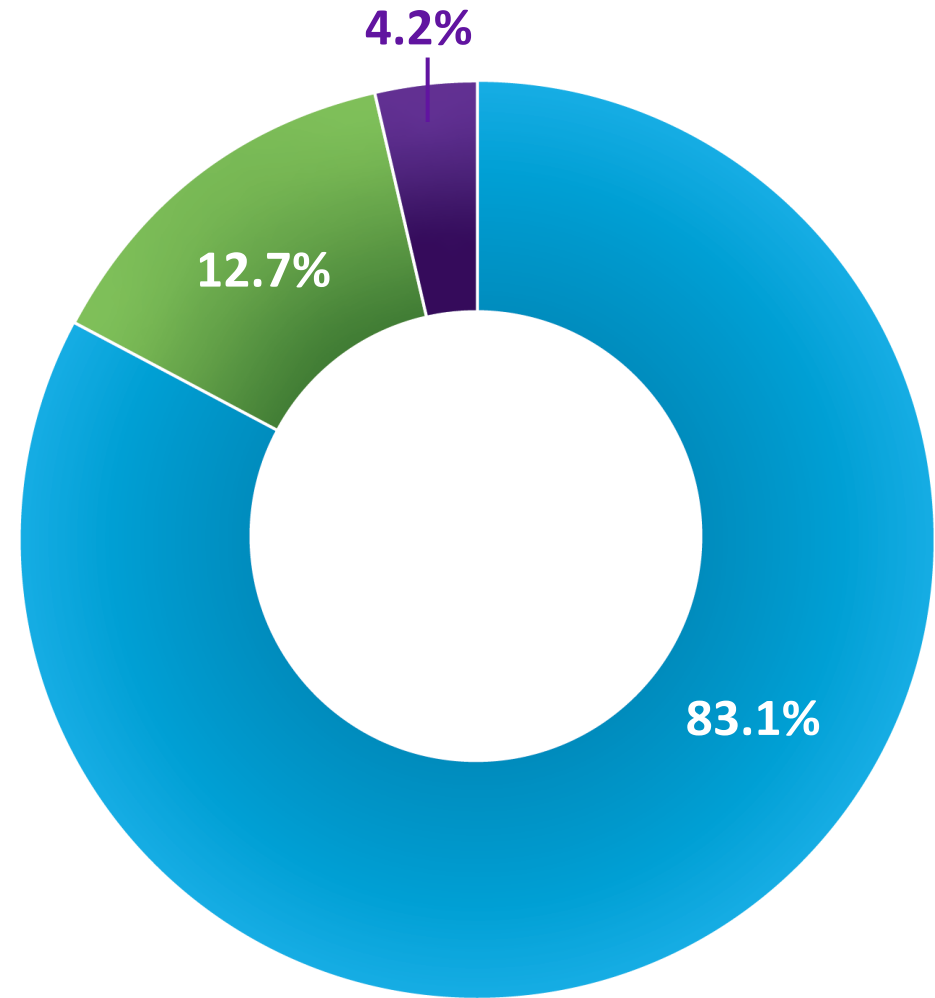
Alicia Garoupa, Los Angeles County Office of Education

Dr. Tyrone Howard, UCLA Pritzker Center for Strengthening Families

**MANDATED REPORTING**

# Allegations by Mandated Reporter Type (Los Angeles: 2019)

**Largest category of reporters to the Child Protection Hotline**



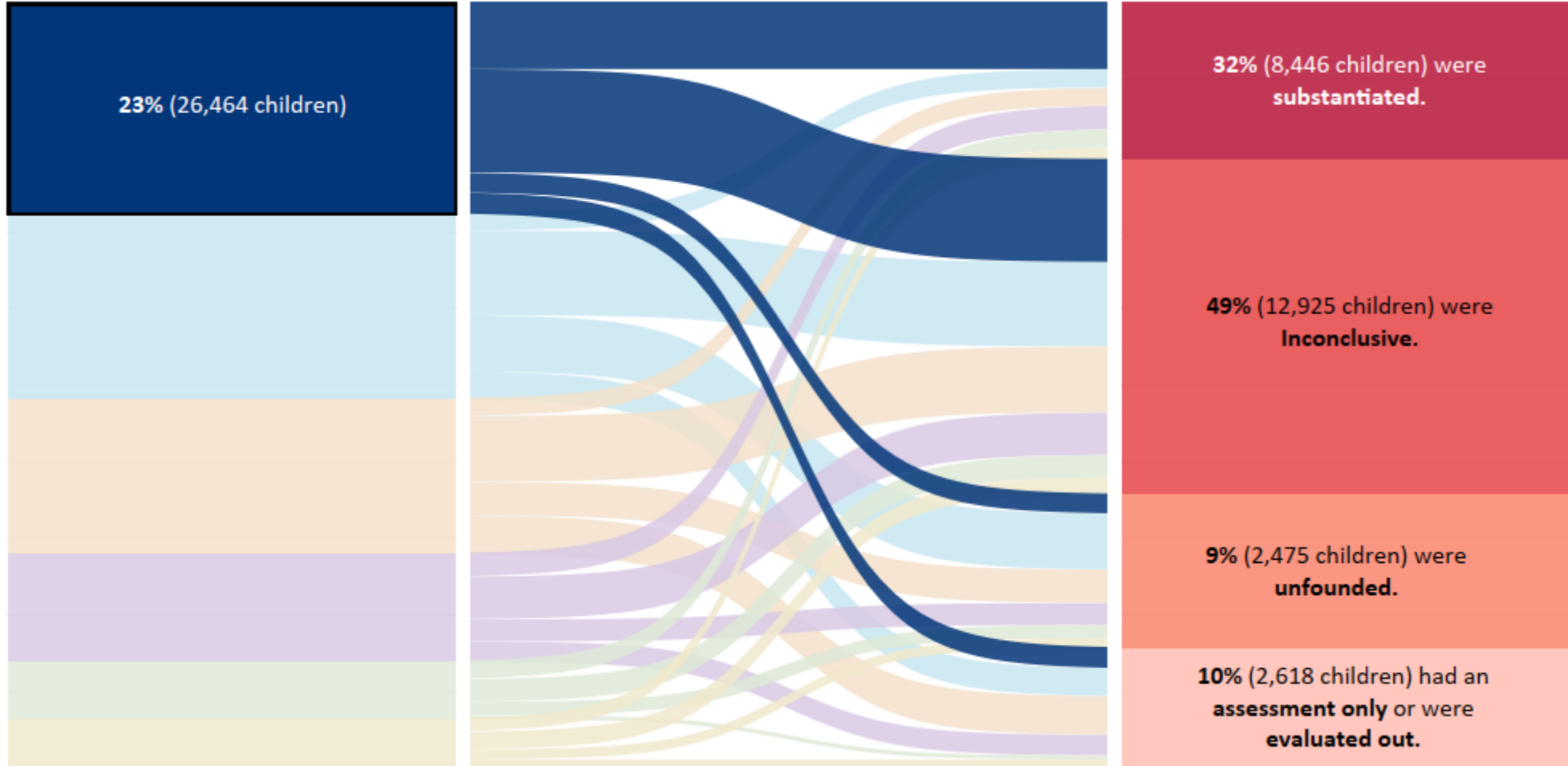
## REPORTERS

- MANDATED REPORTERS: 83.1%
- FAMILY/FRIENDS/NEIGHBORS: 4.2%
- MISSING/UNKNOWN/OTHER: 12.7%



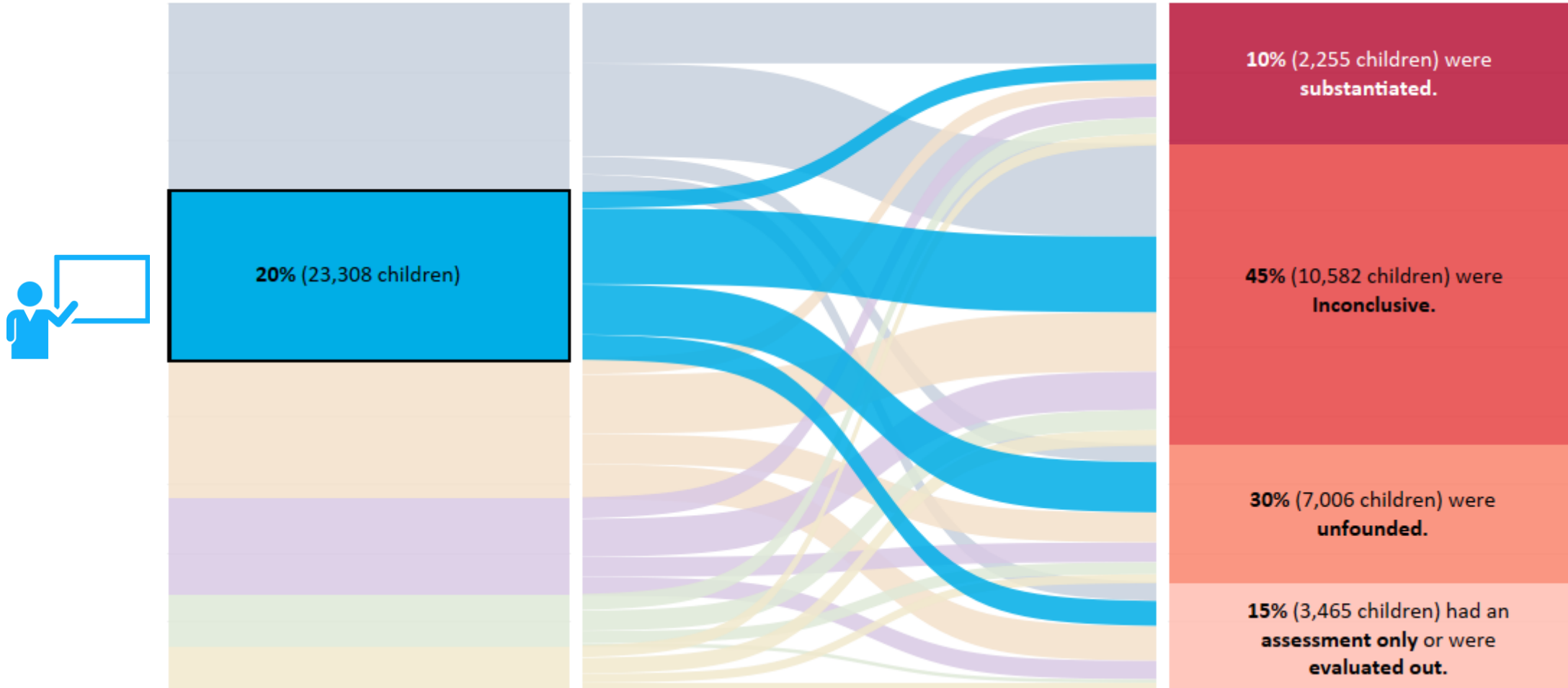
MANDATED REPORTING

# All Children referred to child protection by Law Enforcement (Los Angeles: 2019)

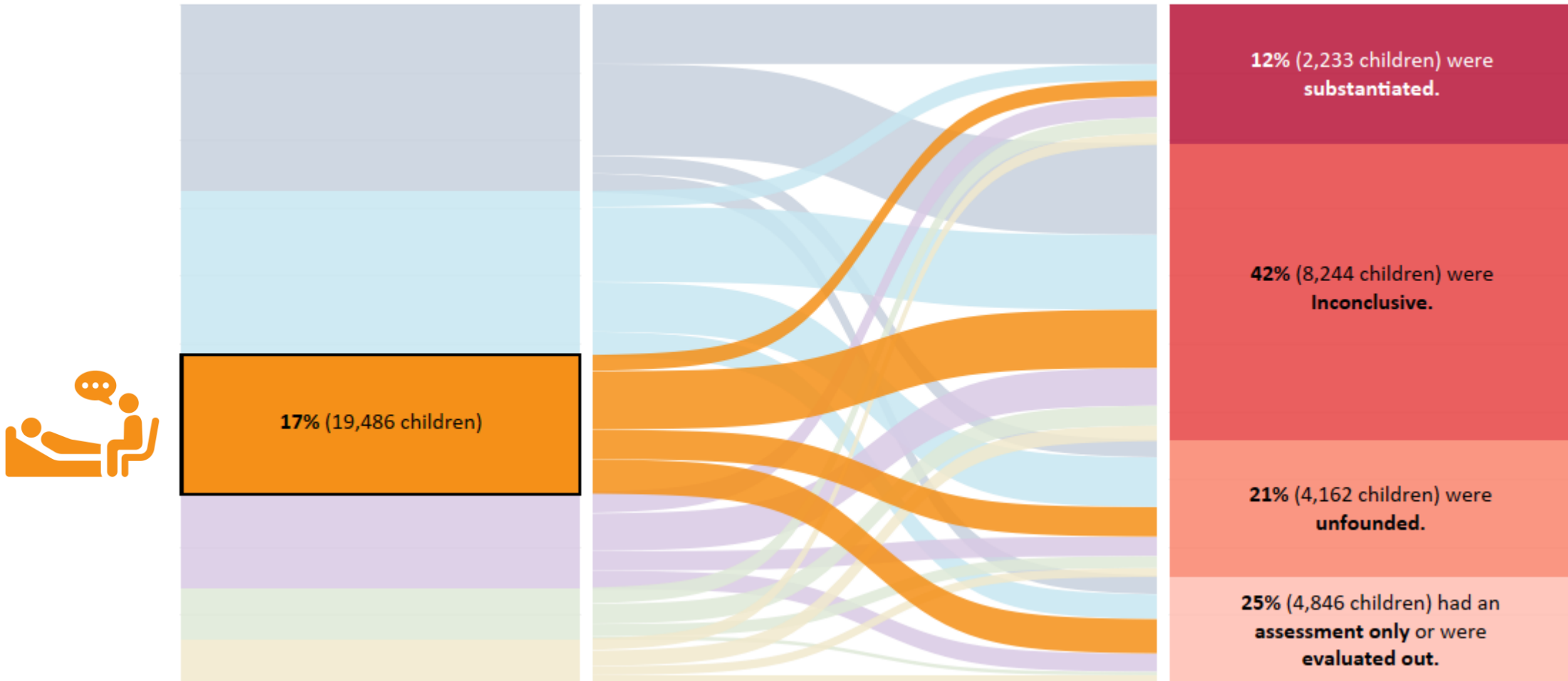


## MANDATED REPORTING

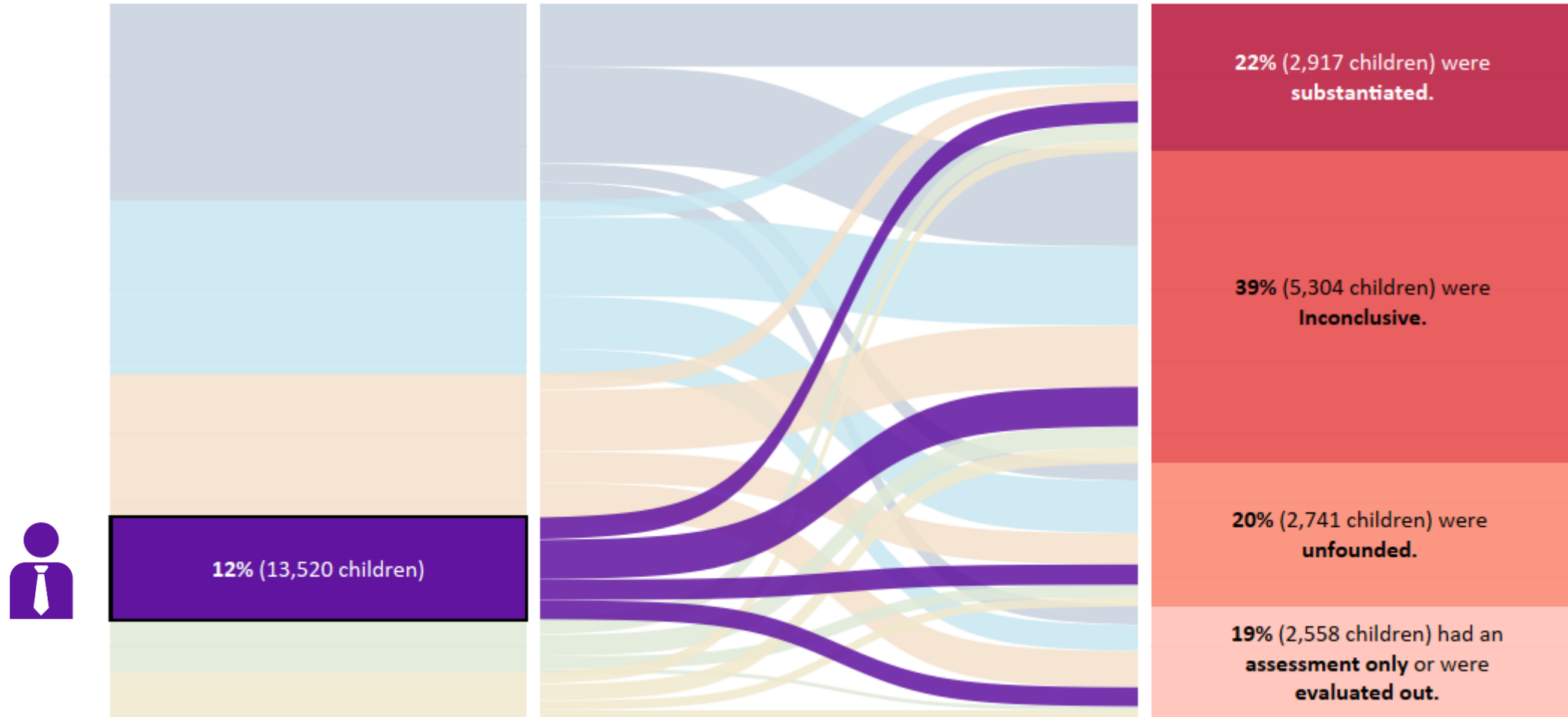
# All Children referred to child protection by **Educators** (Los Angeles: 2019)



# All Children referred to child protection by **Mental Health Professionals** (Los Angeles: 2019)

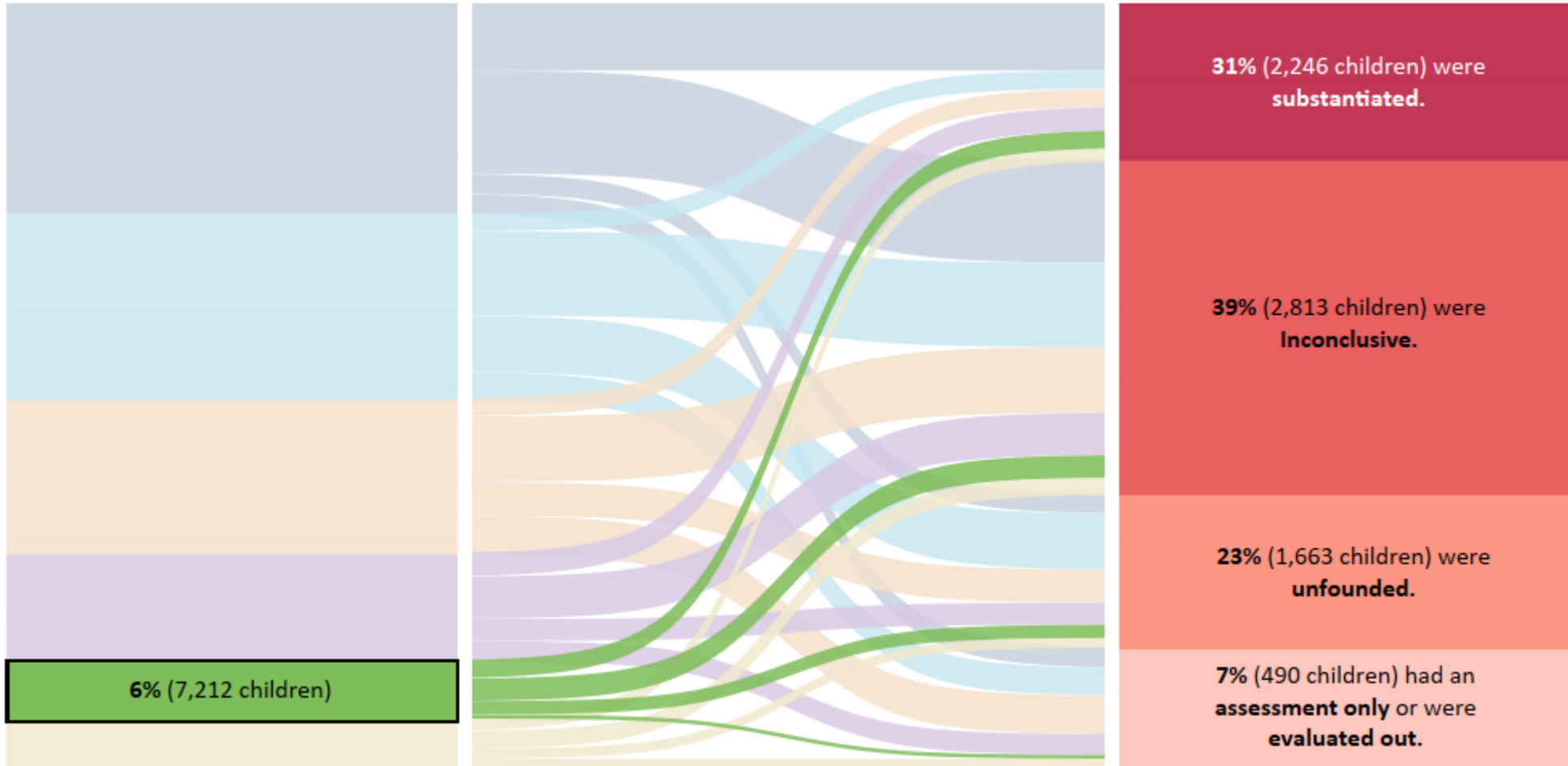


# All Children referred to child protection by Other Professionals (Los Angeles: 2019)



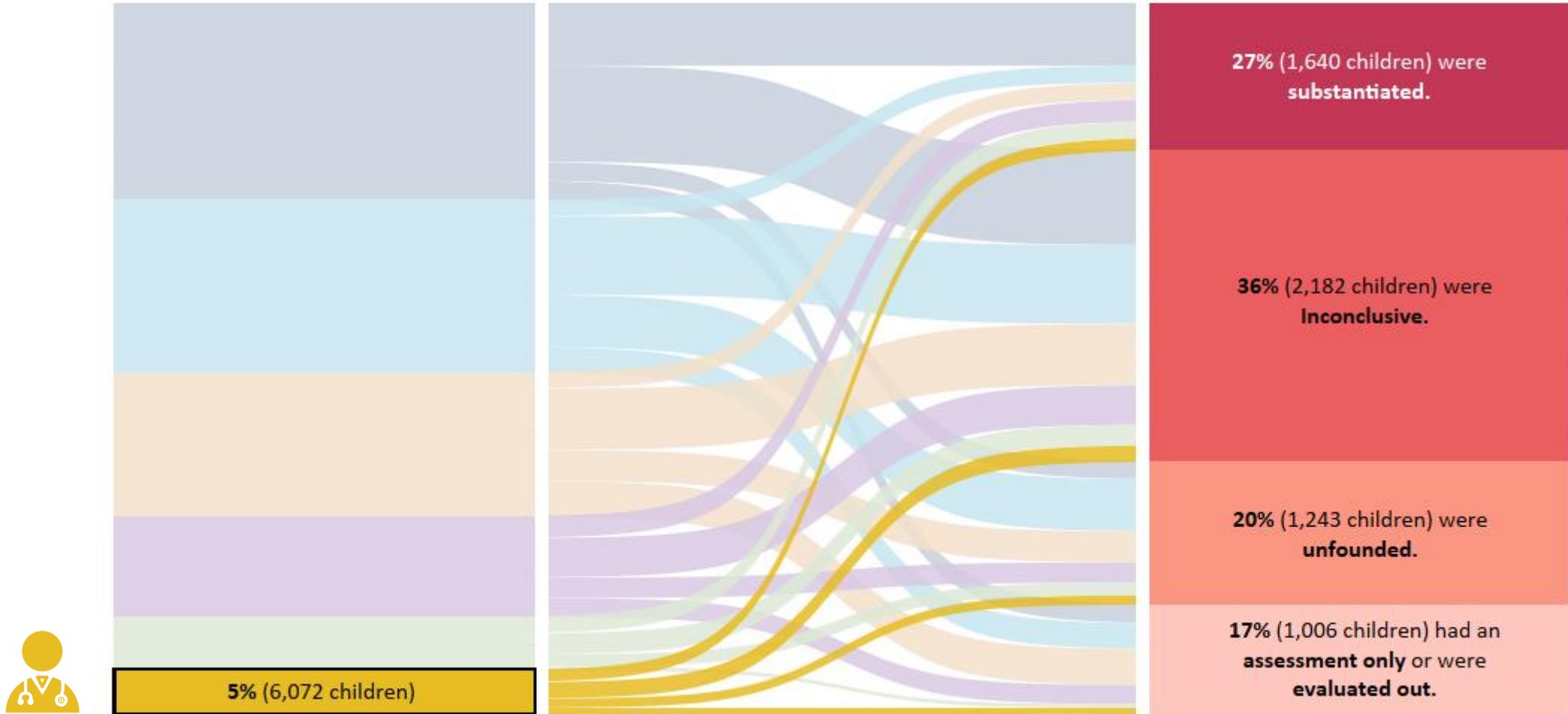
MANDATED REPORTING

# All Children referred to child protection by CWS Personnel (Los Angeles: 2019)



MANDATED REPORTING

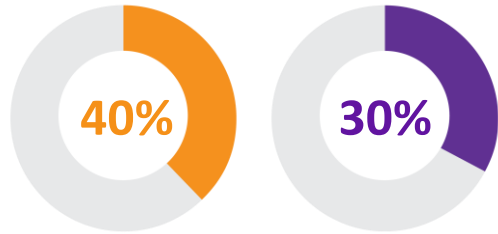
All Children referred to child protection by **Medical Personnel** (Los Angeles: 2019)



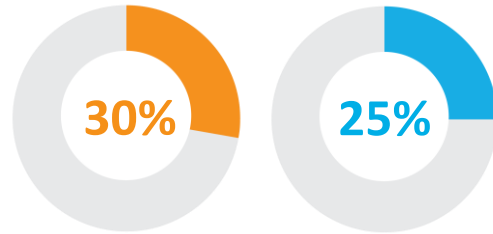
5% (6,072 children)

MANDATED REPORTING

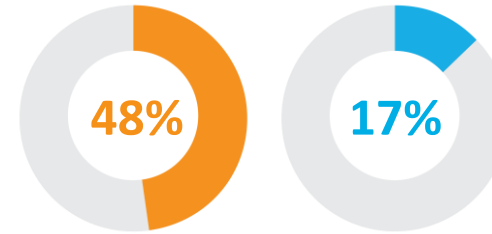
# Top Allegations Regarding Black Children by Mandated Reporter Type (Los Angeles: 2019)



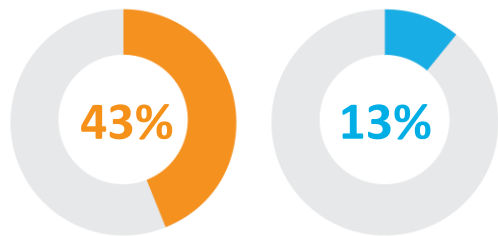
LAW ENFORCEMENT



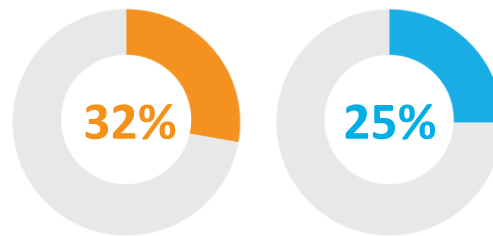
COUNSELORS/THERAPISTS



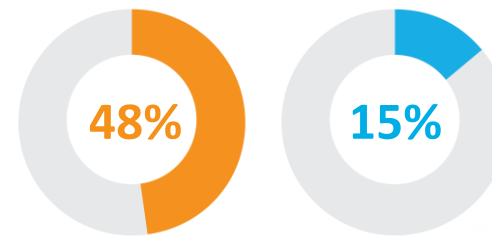
CHILD WELFARE STAFF



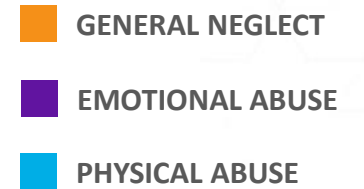
MEDICAL STAFF



EDUCATORS



OTHER PROFESSIONALS



“If we are to dismantle unjust systems, we must educate ourselves on how they work.”

- Dr. Kimberly Narain



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COMMISSION FOR  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES





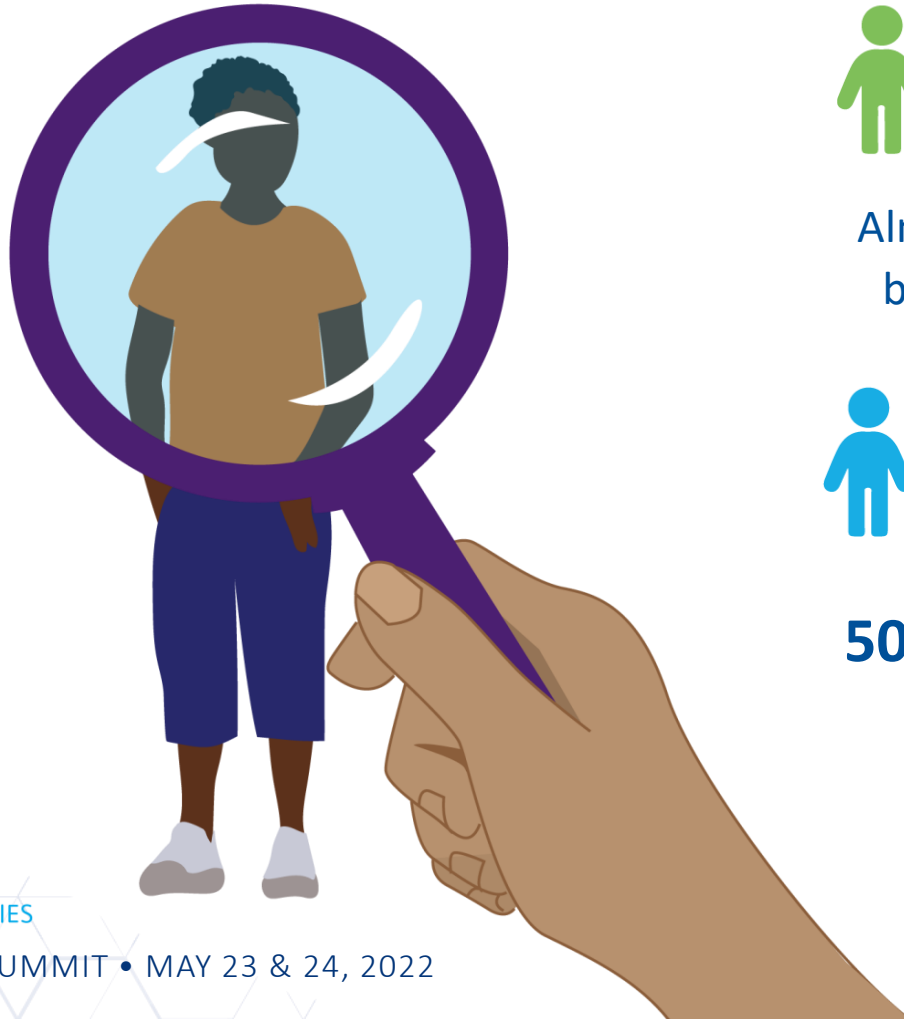
# How do maltreatment allegations impact our families?



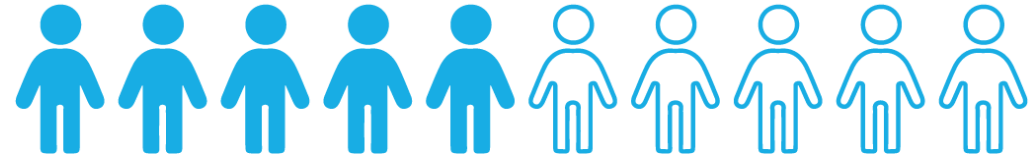
Dr. Alan Michael Graves, Good+ Foundation  
Tiffany Boyd, Commission for Children and Families

## MALTREATMENT ALLEGATIONS

Allegations of maltreatment for Black children are the **most likely to be investigated**



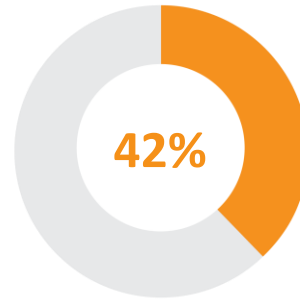
Almost **25% of White children** in the California birth cohort were investigated by CPS by age 18



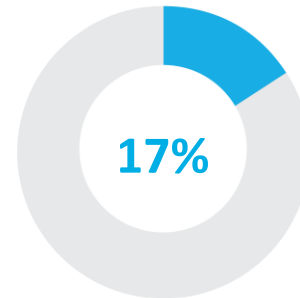
This compares to roughly **50% of Black and Native American children**

# MALTREATMENT ALLEGATIONS

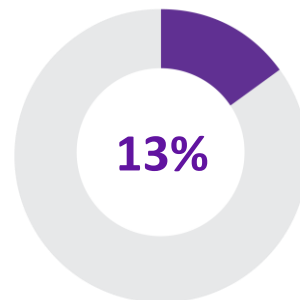
(Los Angeles: 2019)



**GENERAL NEGLECT**  
is an allegation in 42.4% of all referrals



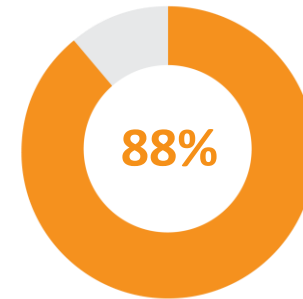
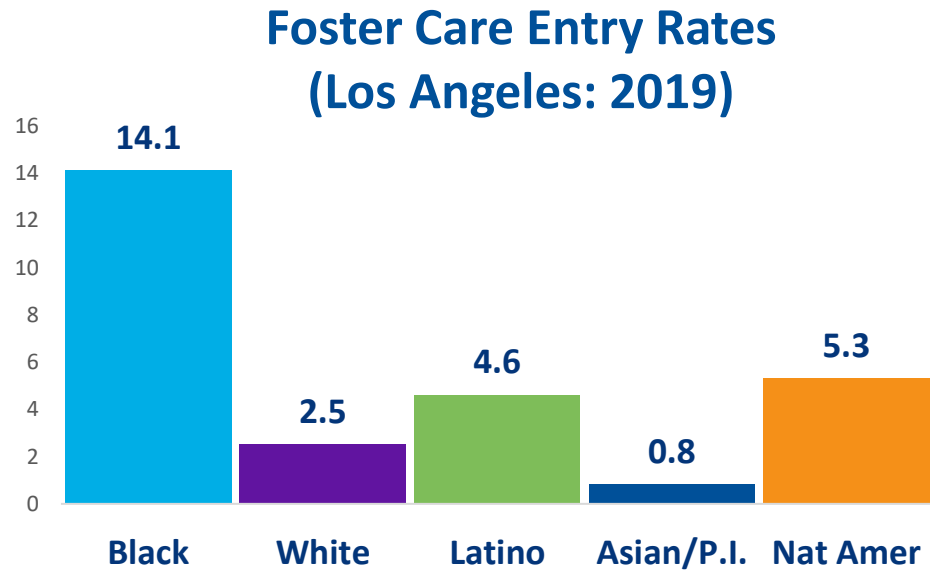
**PHYSICAL ABUSE**  
is an allegation in 17.2% of all referrals



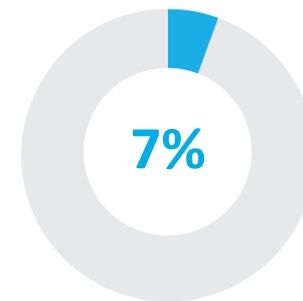
**EMOTIONAL ABUSE**  
is an allegation in 12.5% of all referrals

## MALTREATMENT ALLEGATIONS

Black children are the **most likely to be placed in foster care**



**GENERAL NEGLECT**  
was a removal reason in  
87.6% of removals



**PHYSICAL ABUSE**  
was a removal reason in  
7.0% of removals

# How does — general neglect impact our Families?



Luciana Svidler, Children's Law Center

Dr. Chereese Phillips, Casey Family Programs

Maral Karaccusian, Fourth Supervisorial District

Katherine Buckley, Parent Advocate

Dr. Wendy Wiegmann, California Child Welfare Indicator's Project

Jessica Wade, Mighty Little Giants

Phyllis Stricklan, Children's Law Center

Judge Ernestine Gray (Retired), Orleans Parish, Louisiana

# What comes to mind when you think of general neglect?

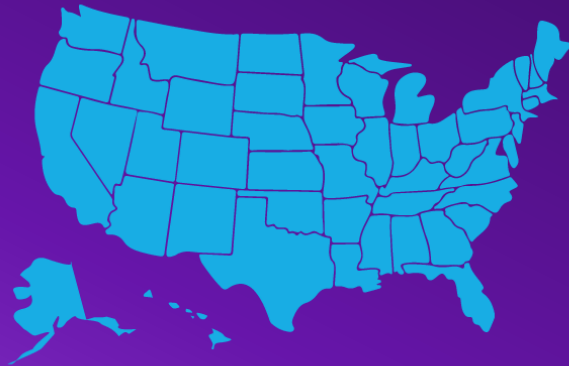




**Neglect** is the most common form of child maltreatment, comprising **75% of child maltreatment cases** in the US

General neglect lacks a standard definition

Every state has its own statutory definition



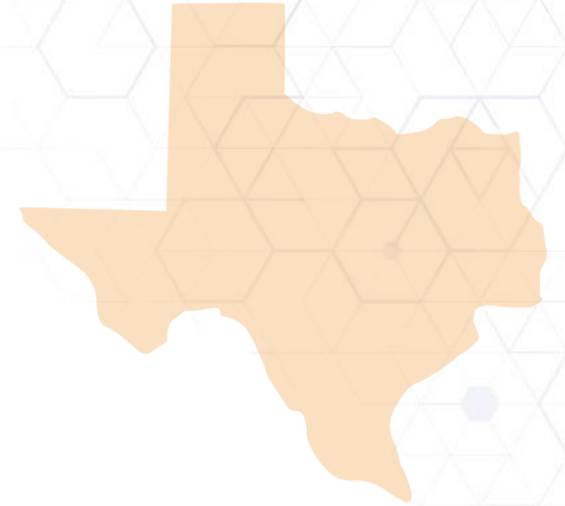
**California** is one of five states with an expanded definition of neglect.

*Expanded in definition, includes:*

- (a) Emotional neglect**
- (b) Physical neglect**
- (c) Threat of harm**

*Expanded: includes more circumstances that constitute neglect, but also restrict the state's ability to intervene*

## SPOTLIGHT: Texas' General Neglect Reform



Texas passed legislation effective 9/1/2021 (H.B. 567) making **several changes** to its neglect statute

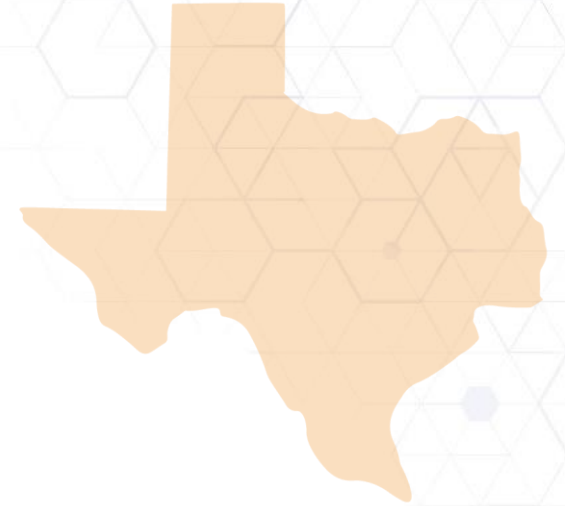
H.B. 567 changed the statutory definition of neglect which now stipulates that the caregiver must have "**blatant disregard**" for the safety of the child, which means **their actions or failure to act are deliberate**

Substantively, in the statute, the standard of "**substantial risk**" is raised to "**immediate danger**"





# SPOTLIGHT: Texas' General Neglect Reform



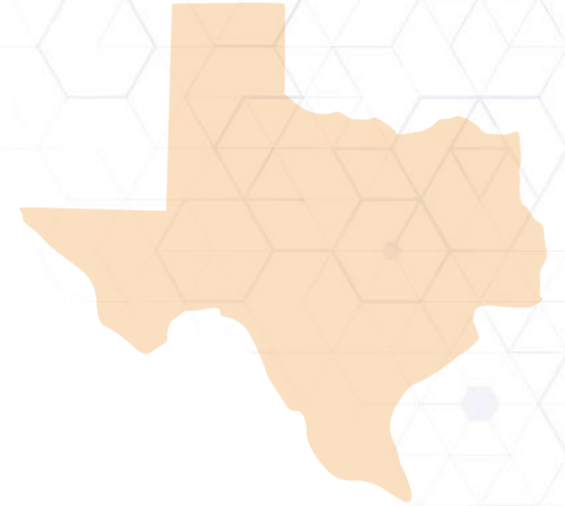
"Neglect" means an act or failure to act by a person responsible for a child's care, custody, or welfare evidencing the person's blatant disregard for the consequences of the act or failure to act that results in harm to the child or that creates an immediate danger to the child's physical health or safety..."

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.261.htm>

# SPOTLIGHT: Texas' General Neglect Reform

Immediately preceding and after the change in statute, entries into out-of-home care in Texas **began to decrease**

Early data suggest this reform is **contributing** to a reduction in removals



## GENERAL NEGLECT

### Structured Decision Making (SDM)

SDM is tool used in CA to assist social workers with consistent decision making based on California's child welfare statute



### Unpacking Allegations with Specific SDM Hotline Data

ITEM	BLACK CHILDREN	ALL OTHER CHILDREN
<b>GENERAL NEGLECT</b>	<b>44.4%</b>	<b>39.0%</b>
Inadequate food	3.8%	2.2%
<b>Inadequate clothing/hygiene</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
<b>Inadequate/hazardous shelter</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
<b>Inadequate supervision</b>	<b>24.7%</b>	<b>21.8%</b>
Caregiver absence/abandonment	3.8%	1.6%
<b>Threat of neglect</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
Prenatal substance abuse	3.2%	1.8%

## GENERAL NEGLECT

A **California** study found that **investigated** neglect allegations often include:

**41%**

Substance Use

**21%**

Domestic Violence

**18%**

Mental Illness

**29%**

Co-Reported Physical  
or Sexual Abuse

**75%**

of cases reviewed  
had one or more  
concern



## GENERAL NEGLECT

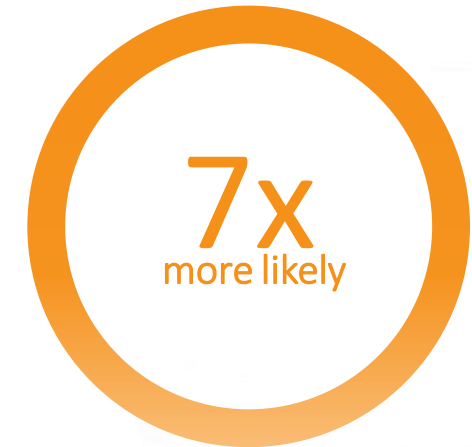
### THREAT OF NEGLECT: Prenatal Substance Abuse



A 2018 analysis of investigations of allegations of general neglect **alone** indicated:

Infants exposed to drugs during pregnancy – where there is an indication that the mother will continue to use – are **7 times more likely** to be placed in foster care

This pattern is true for Black families, and across all races



**“Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor.”**

**- James Baldwin**

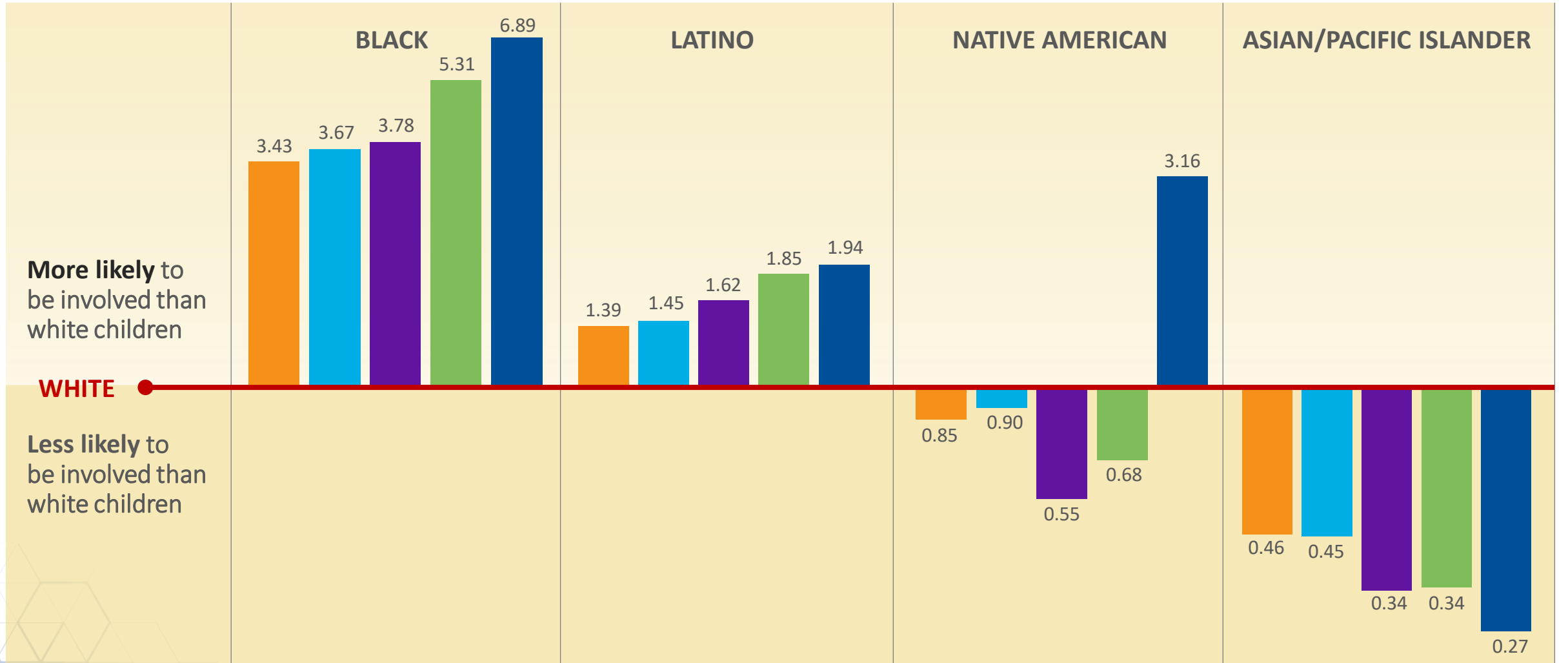


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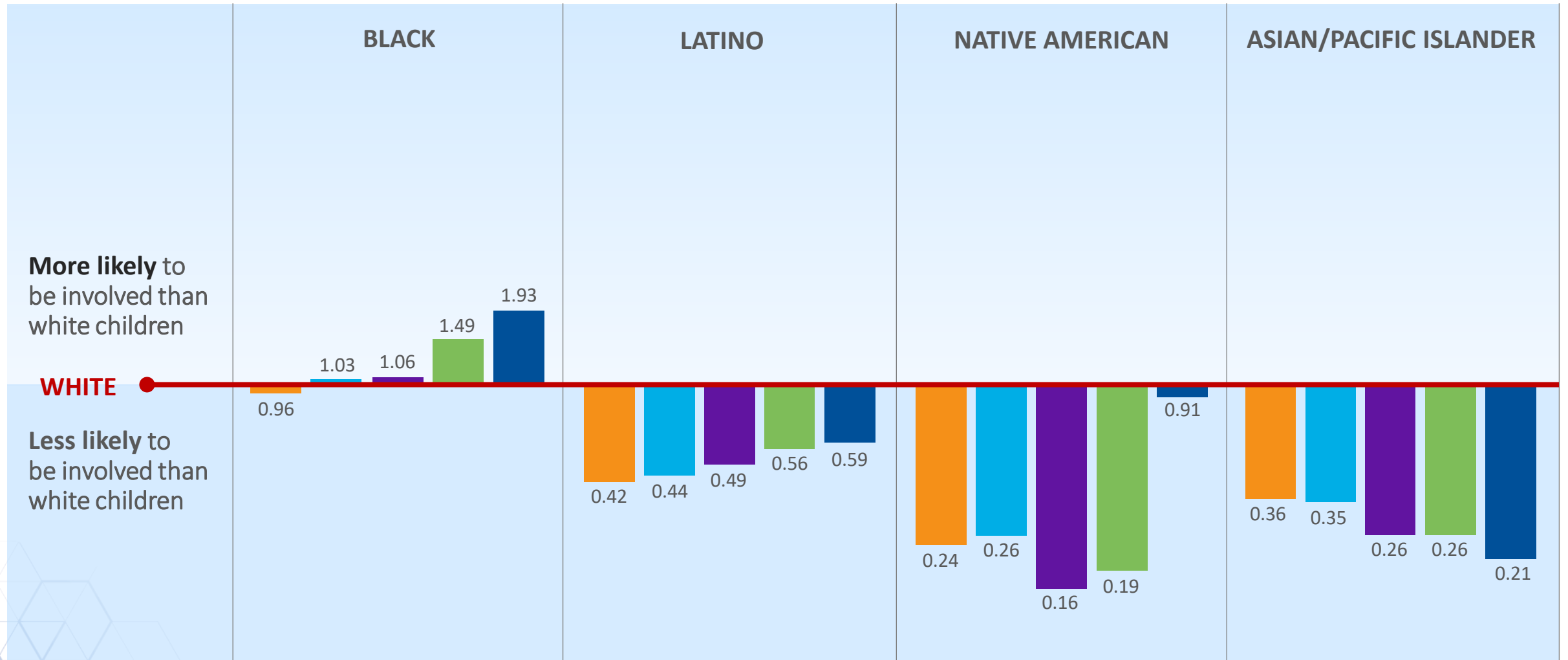
GENERAL NEGLECT

# General Population Racial Disparity Indices: Los Angeles 2021



GENERAL NEGLECT

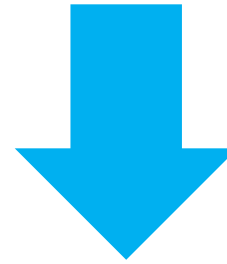
Population in Poverty Racial Disparity Indices: Los Angeles 2021



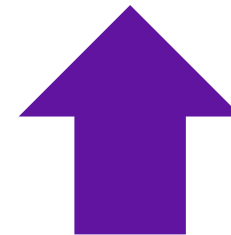


## JUVENILE DEPENDENCY COURT

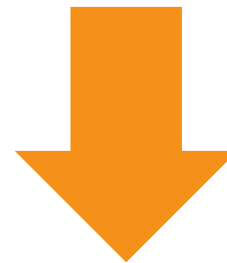
Between 2011 and 2017  
in Orleans Parish,  
Louisiana



**89%**  
reduction in children  
placed in foster care



**8%**  
increase in foster care  
placements, nationally



**91%**  
Reduction in days  
separated from family

“ If foster care was the answer-the panacea, we’d have better outcomes.”

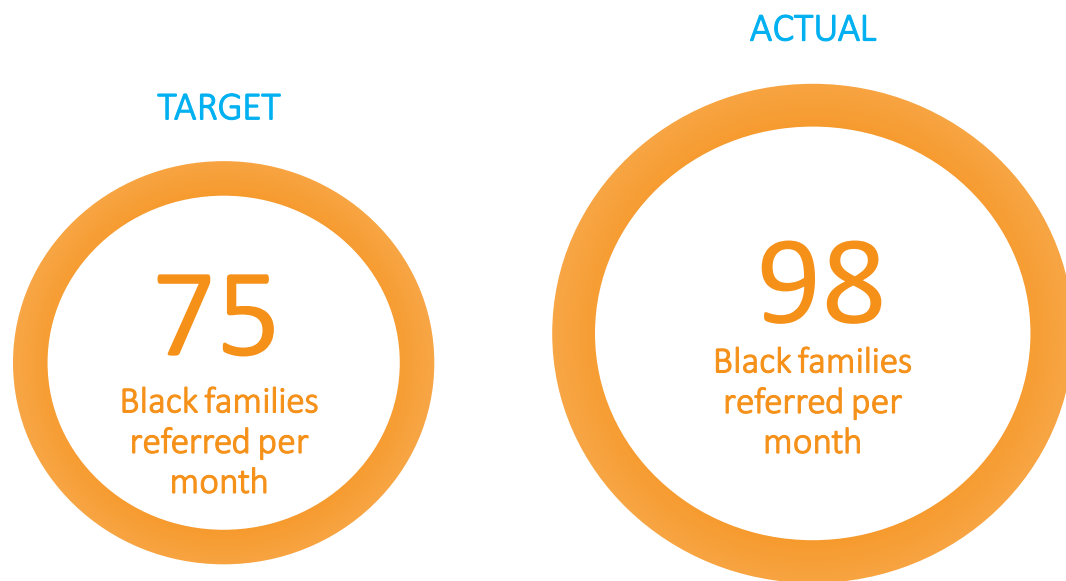
- Judge (RET) Ernestine Gray



# What services do families receive?



# Community Prevention Linkages Program



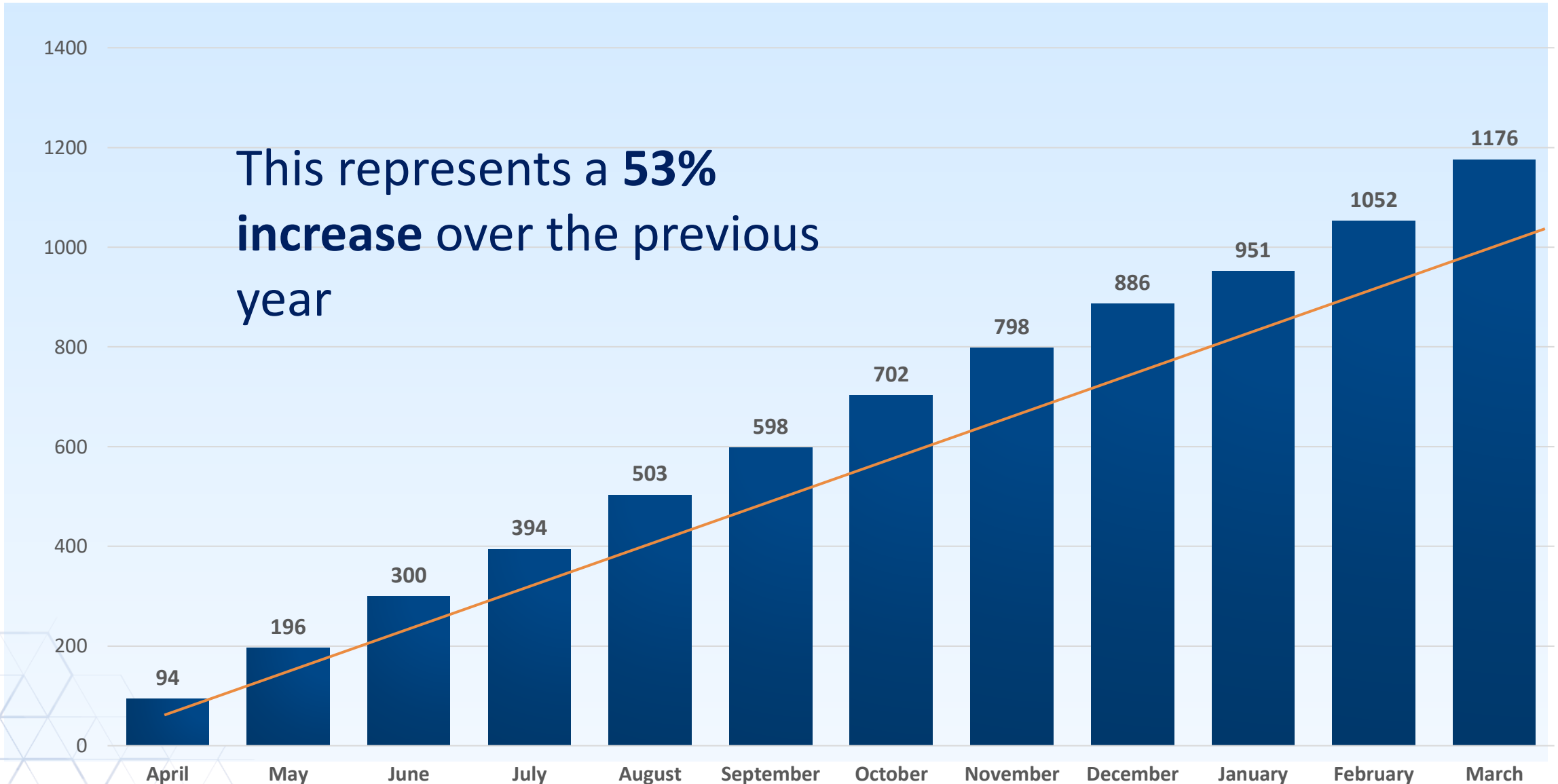
Ramped up our efforts to address the disproportionality that **starts** with the report to the Child Protection Hotline

Safely defer Black families from DCFS to supportive services in communities

Core strategies include **enhanced** staff training and coaching

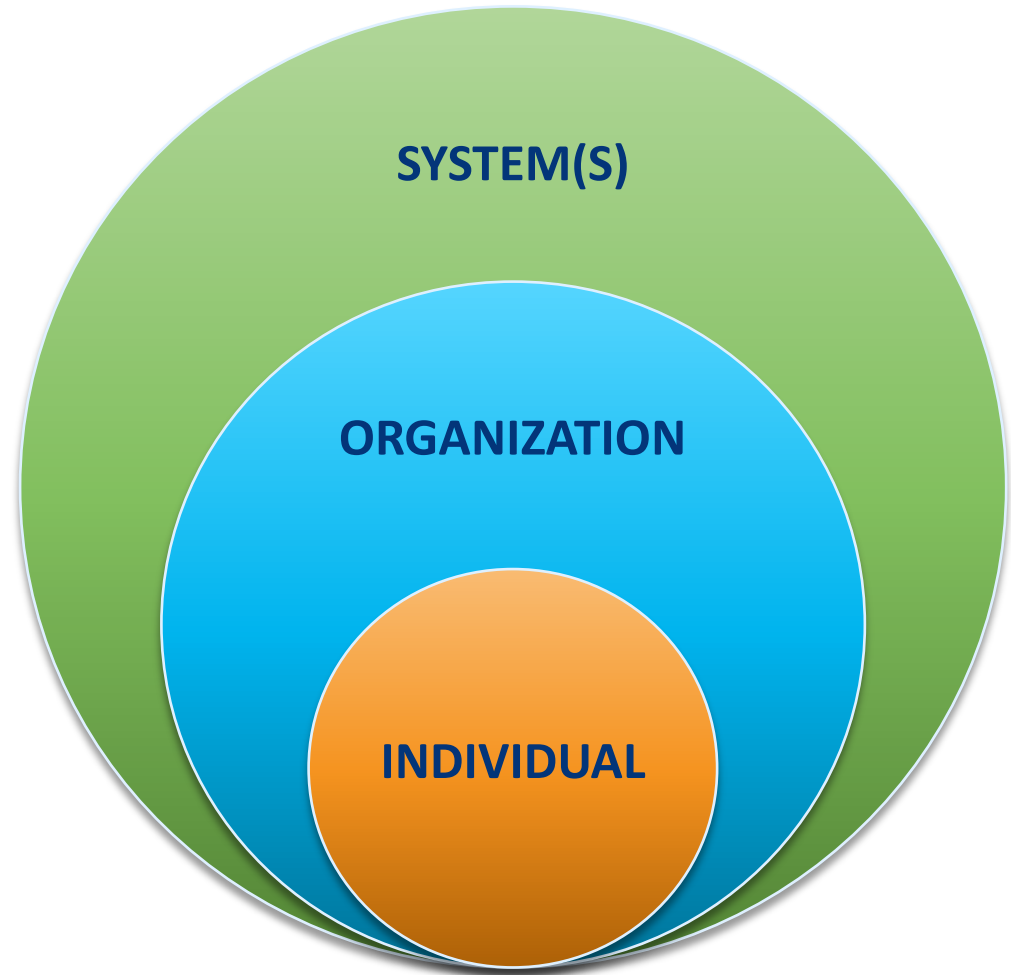
**Goal was to increase by 20% - from 62 Black families referred per month to 75**

## Community Prevention Linkages: Black Families Safely Deferred to Community-Based Services (2021/2022)





# CALLS TO ACTION



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
COMMISSION FOR  
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