

Social Equity
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
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Local

Disproportionality of African-Americans in Public Child Welfare Services

Friday 11:00 am; Panel 3

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Abstract: Nationally, the number of African American children in foster care is disproportional to the number of African American children in the general population. There have been various studies of the causes of and contributors to this disproportionality, but there are no definitive answers and the disproportionality continues. This presentation will describe one jurisdiction's systematic approach to improving quality of services to abused children and their families through implementation of identified best practices and the resulting lack of impact on that jurisdiction's disproportionality. While the best practices implementation resulted in lower rates of children entering foster care, shorter stays in foster care, and dramatically lower foster care rates overall, the disparity rate of African American children in foster care when compared to White children in foster care remained relatively steady at about 3:1. If best practices resulted in improvements but did not affect disproportionality, what is the answer?