

Characteristics of Children Receiving Child Welfare Services

January 2002

Prepared by:
Arnita Paige

California Department of Social Services
Research and Development Division
Data Analysis and Publications Branch
Children's Team
May 2002



Purpose:

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of information found in the Comprehensive Children's Annual Report. This report was developed to respond to the demand for statistical information that encompasses all areas of child welfare from stakeholders, program staff, legislature and policy makers.

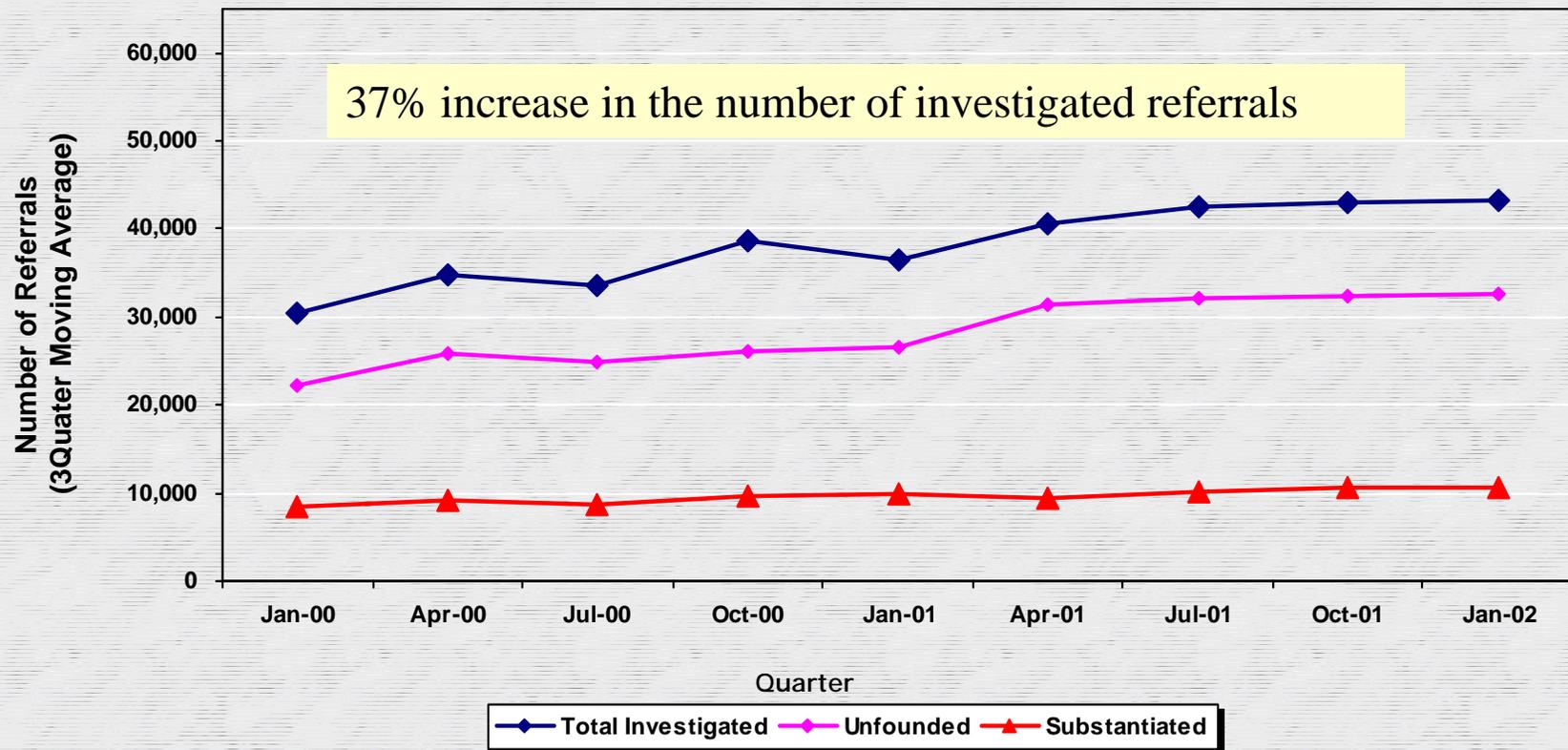
Data Source

- The Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)
- The Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program Caseload Movement Report (CA237FG)
- Department of Finance population demographics (1999, 2000)

Summary of Findings for Referral Outcomes

- Outcomes from referrals for child welfare services are comparable by gender and for all ethnic groups.
- Children ages 0-10 years represent a higher proportion of the investigated referrals than their share of California's children.
- From 2000 to 2001 the number of investigated referrals increased by 37% and the number of substantiated referrals increased by 25%.
- Over two-thirds of the investigated and substantiated referrals came from professionals, law enforcement and school personnel.

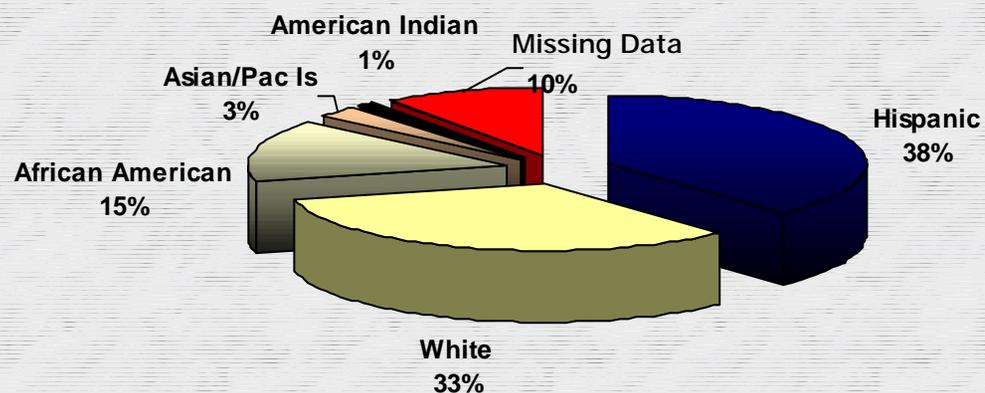
The number of investigated referrals is on an upward trend from January 2000 - January 2002.



There are no significant differences when comparing referral outcomes by ethnicity.

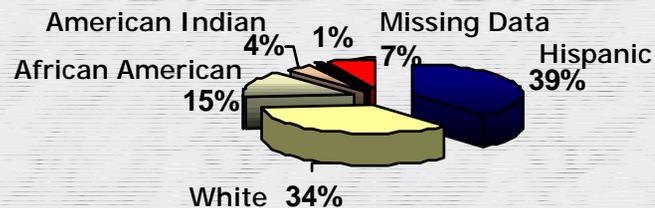
January 2002

Total Investigated

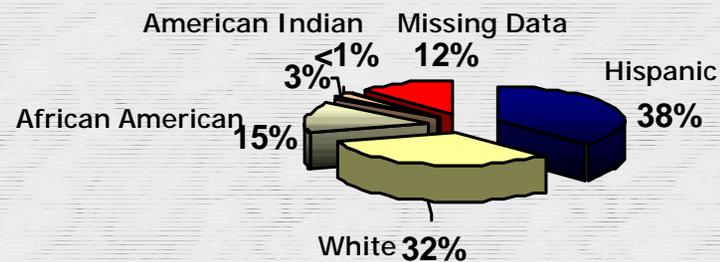


Of the 43,200 investigated referrals, 10,591 were substantiated and 32,609 unfounded.

Substantiated



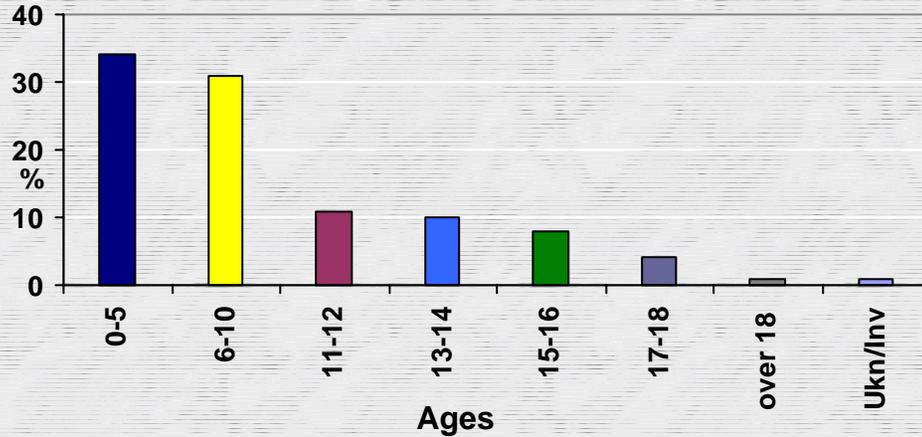
Unfounded



Children ages 0-10 years represented 65% of the investigated referrals, and 59% of California's child population.

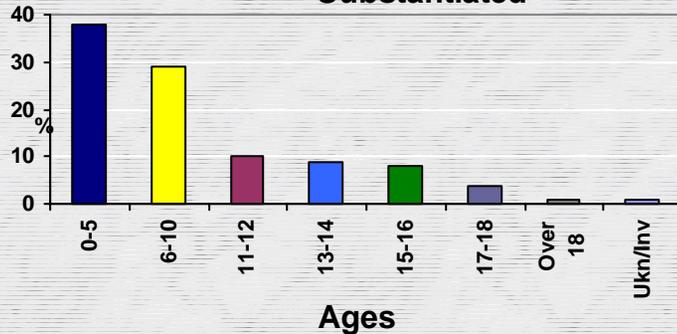
January 2002

Total Investigated

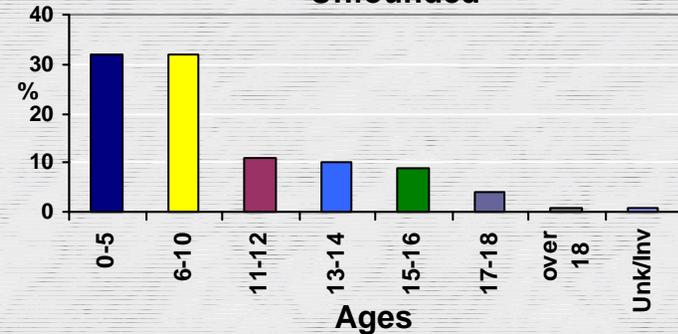


-Total substantiated referrals for children ages 0-10 was 4,000 (67%).
 -Total unfounded referrals for children ages 0-10 was 10,582 (64%).
 -Total California population for children ages 0-10 was 5,803,063 (59%).

Substantiated

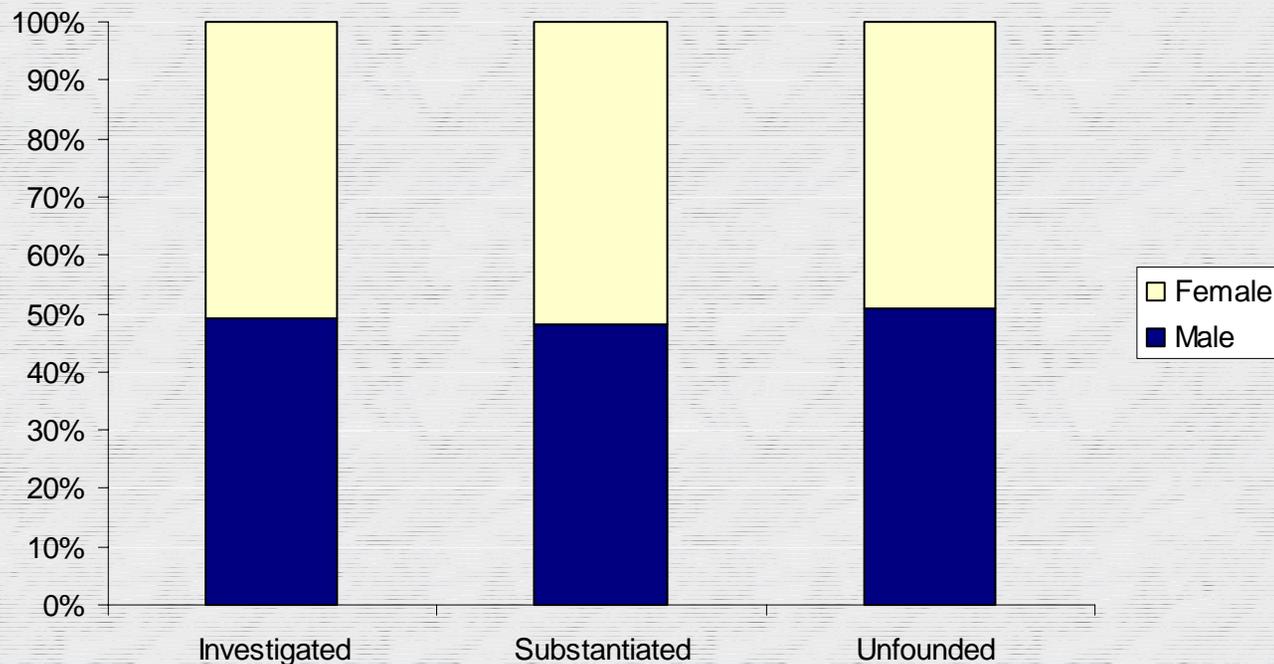


Unfounded



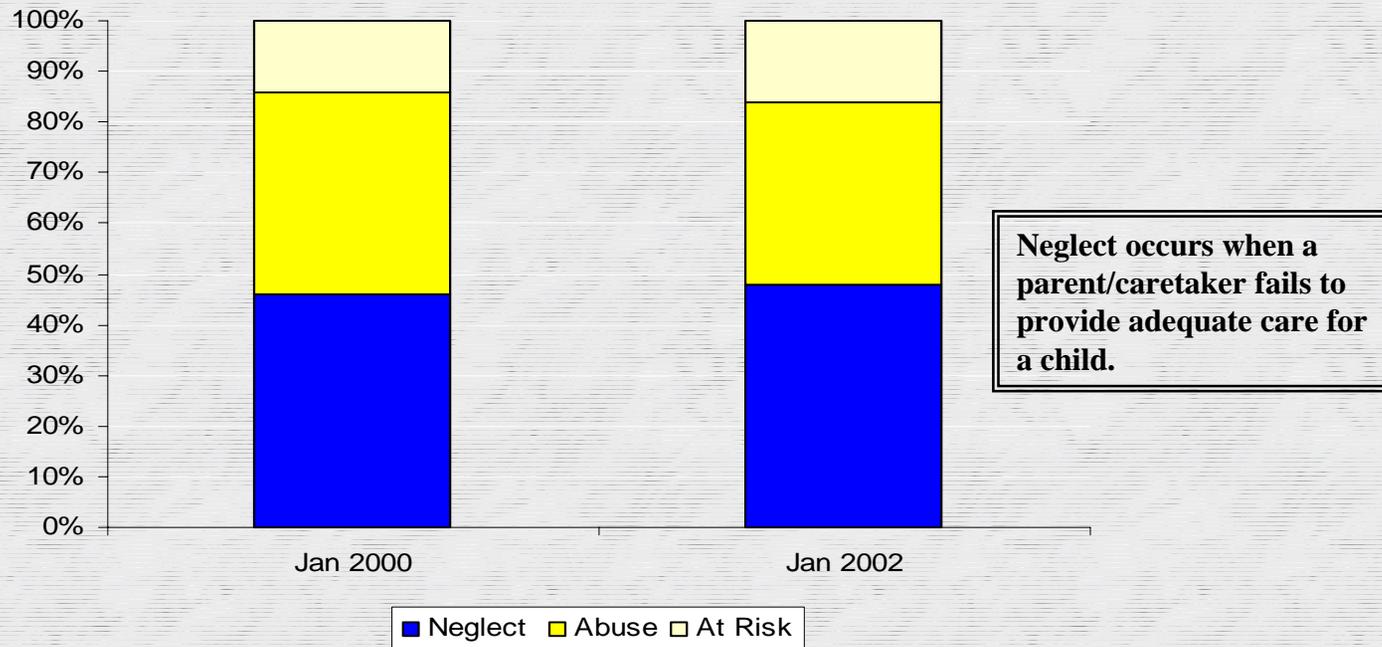
There are no significant differences when comparing referral outcomes by gender.

January 2002



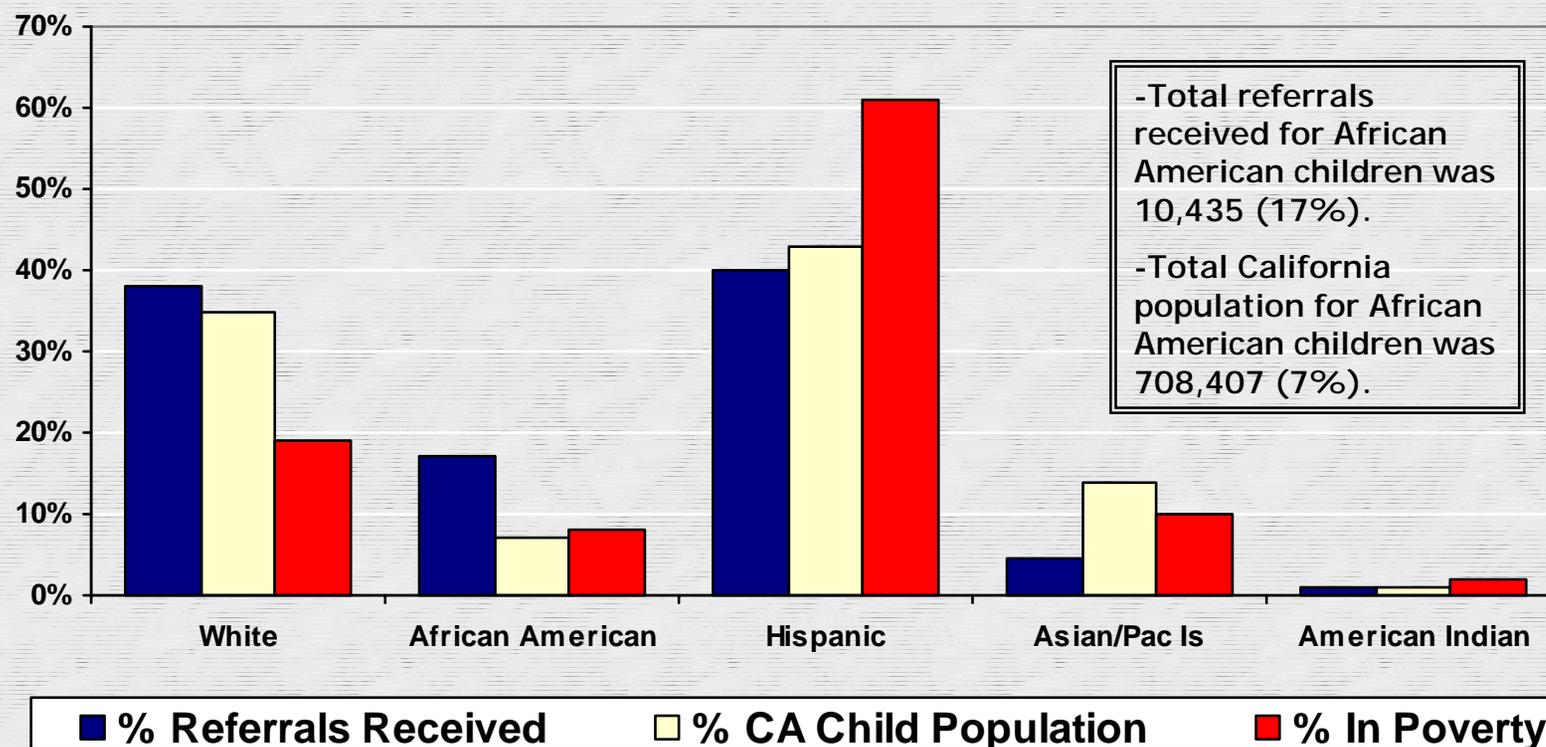
Neglect was the most common form of abuse reported for children referred for Child Welfare Services.

Reasons for referrals were consistent between 2000-2002.



African American children represented 17% of the referrals received and 7% of California's total child population.

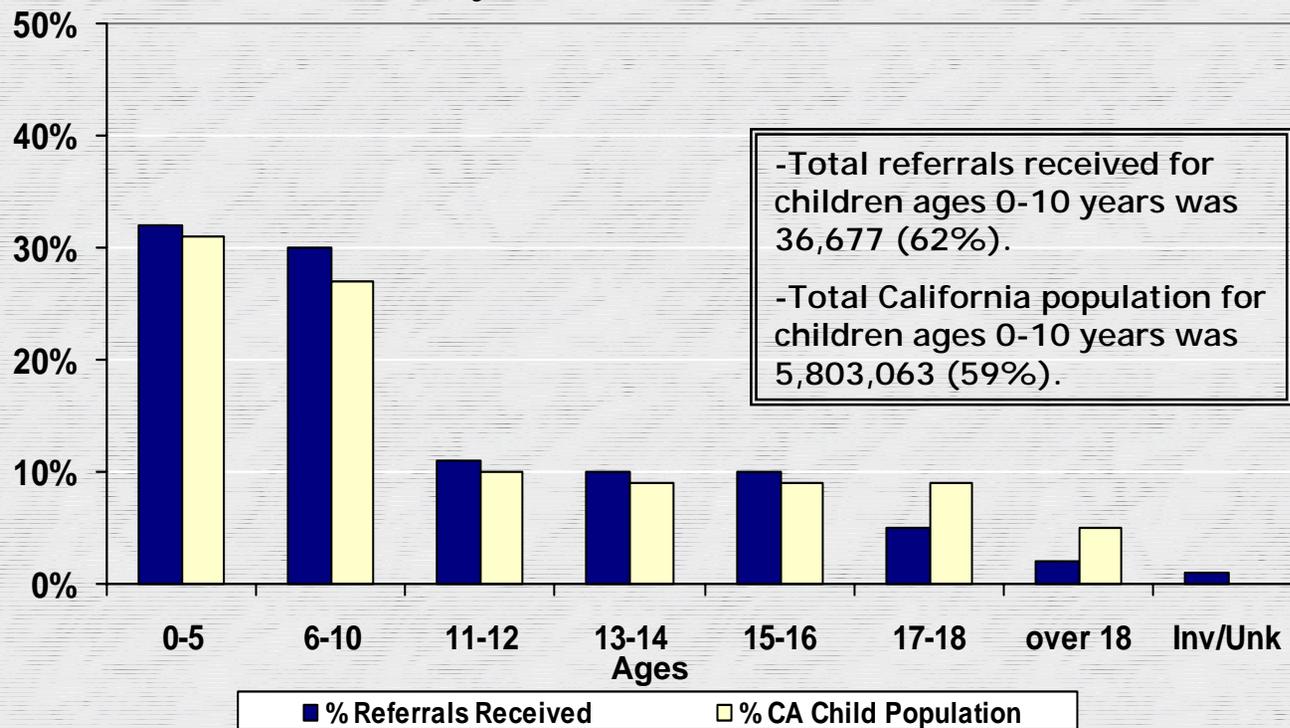
January 2002 (Total 61,380)



* 11% (6,769) of the children do not have ethnicity identification on CWS/CMS.

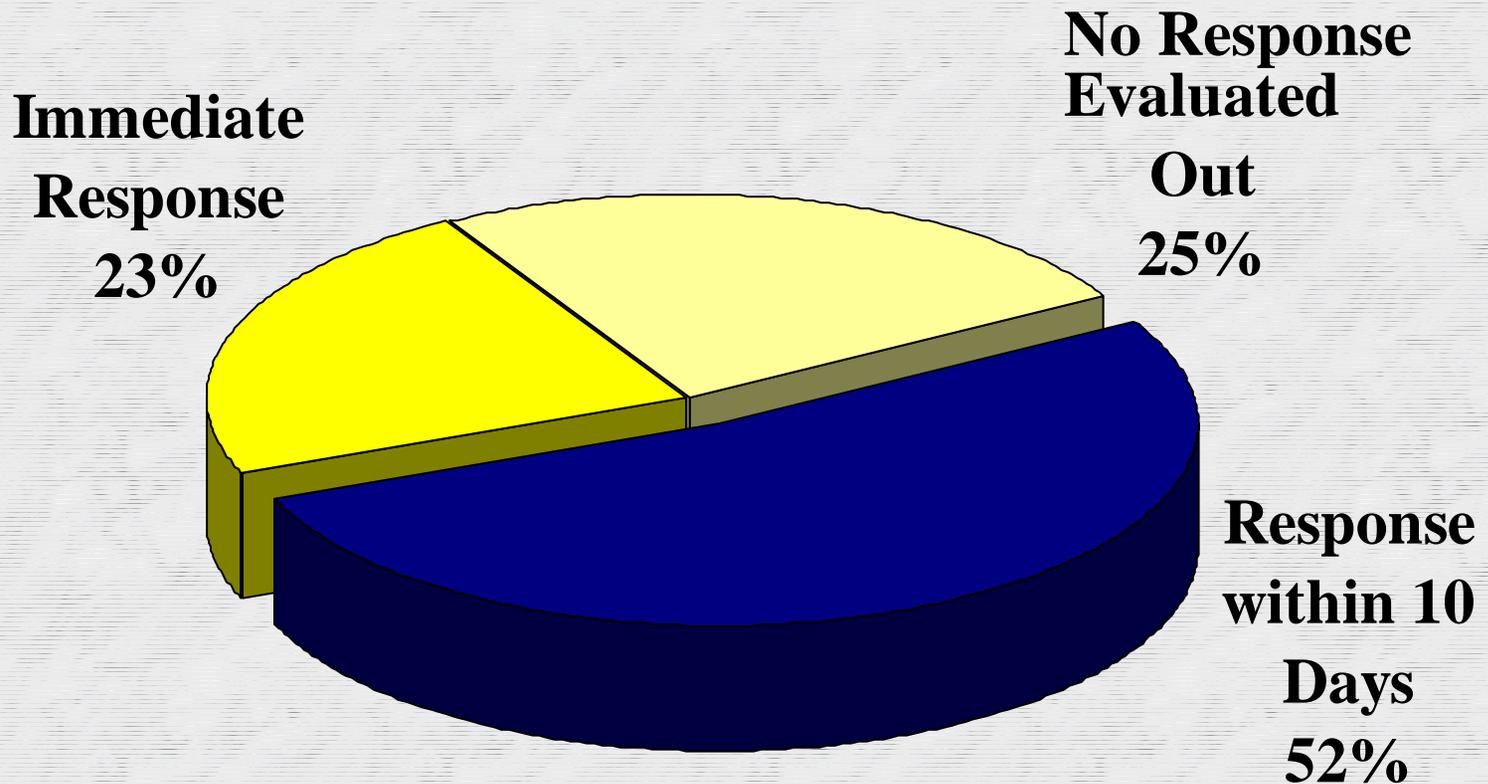
Children ages 0 to 10 years represented 62% of the referrals received and 59% of California's total child population.

January 2002 (Total 61,380)



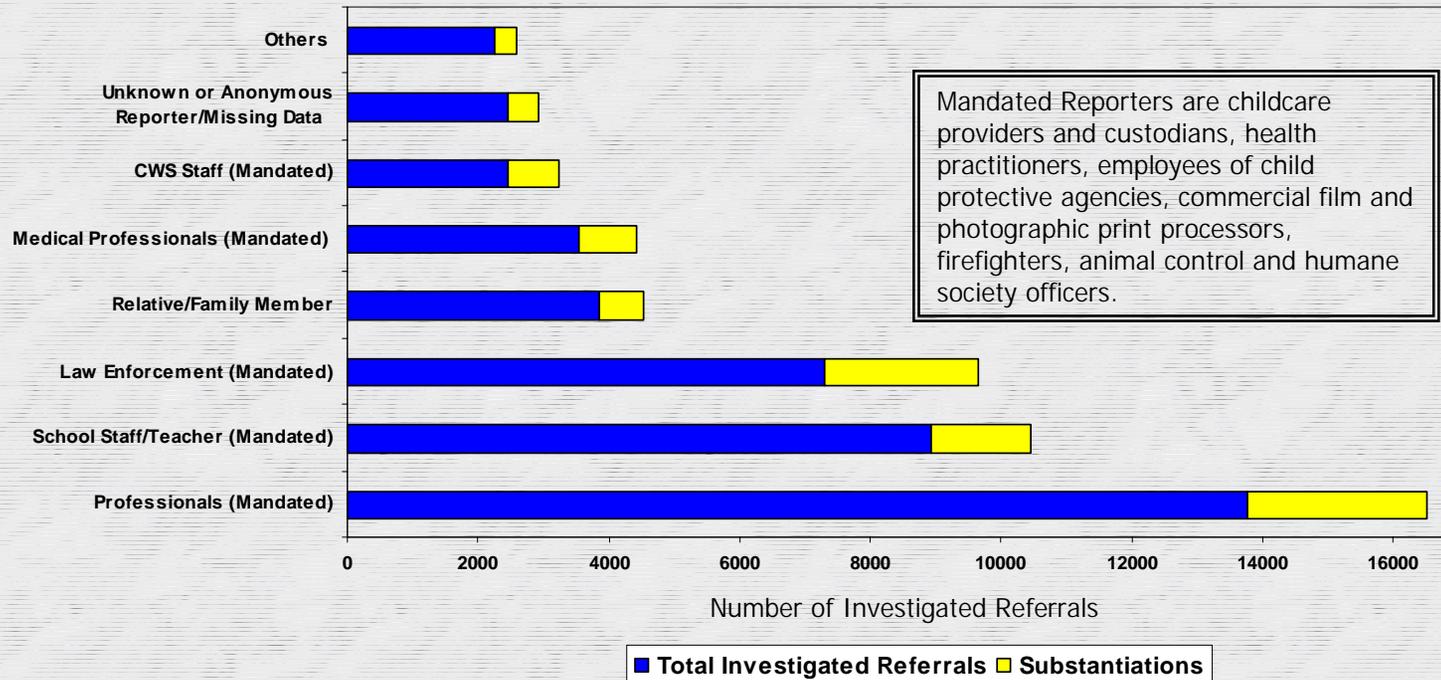
Nearly one-quarter of the investigated referrals were serious enough to require an immediate response and one-quarter required no response.

January 2002 (Total 43,200)



Over two-thirds of the investigated referrals were reported by professionals, law enforcement and/or school personnel.

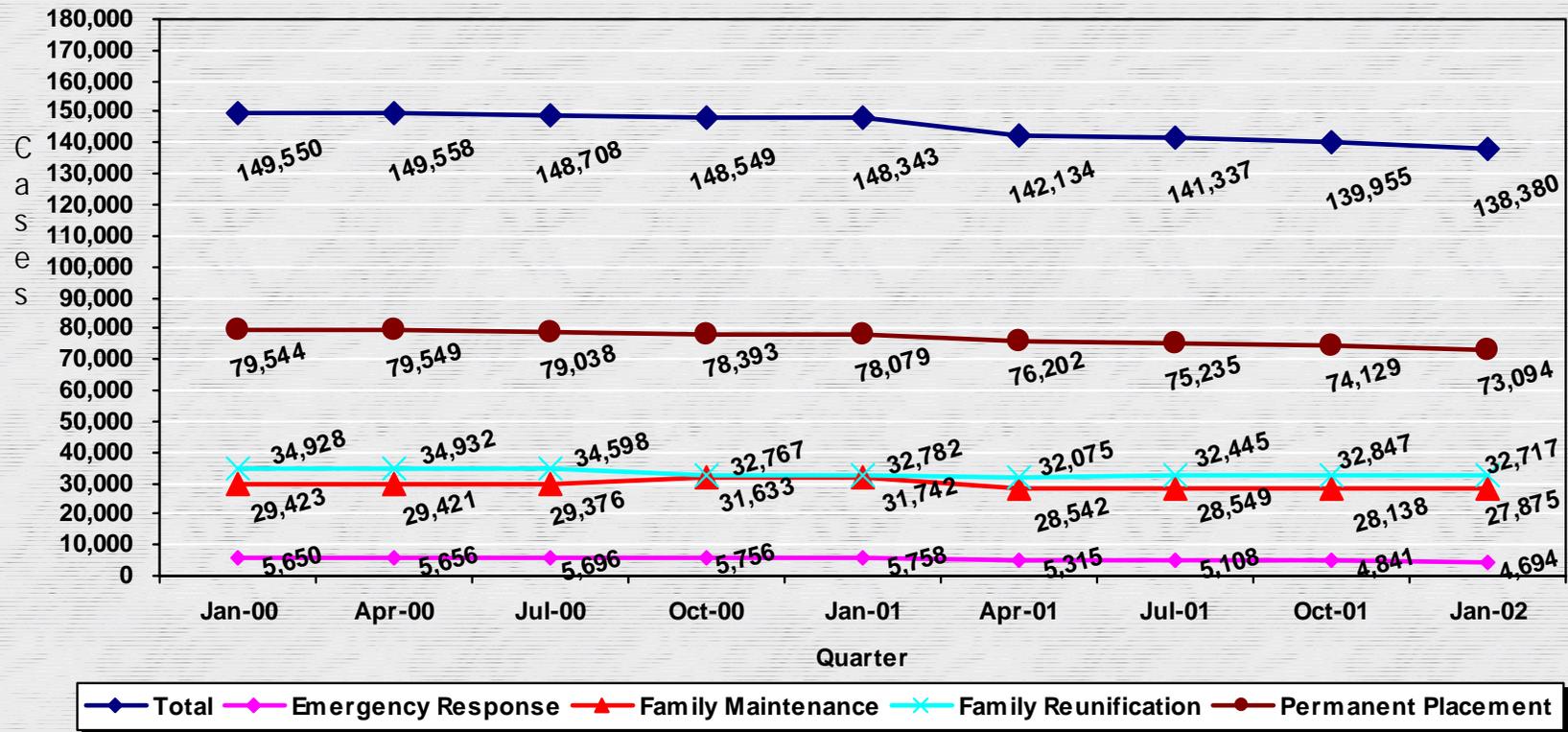
January 2002 (Total 43,200)



Summary of Findings Child Welfare Caseload (CWS)

- The child welfare services caseload decreased approximately 8% from 2000-2001. This decline is partly due to 9,200 children exiting to the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program (Kin-GAP).
- African American children represent a higher proportion of the CWS caseload when compared to their proportion of the general population.
- Native American children represent a higher proportion of the CWS caseload when compared to their proportion of the general population.
- Children ages 0-10 years represent a higher proportion of the CWS caseload.

Between 2000 and 2002 the child welfare services caseload declined by 11,170 cases.

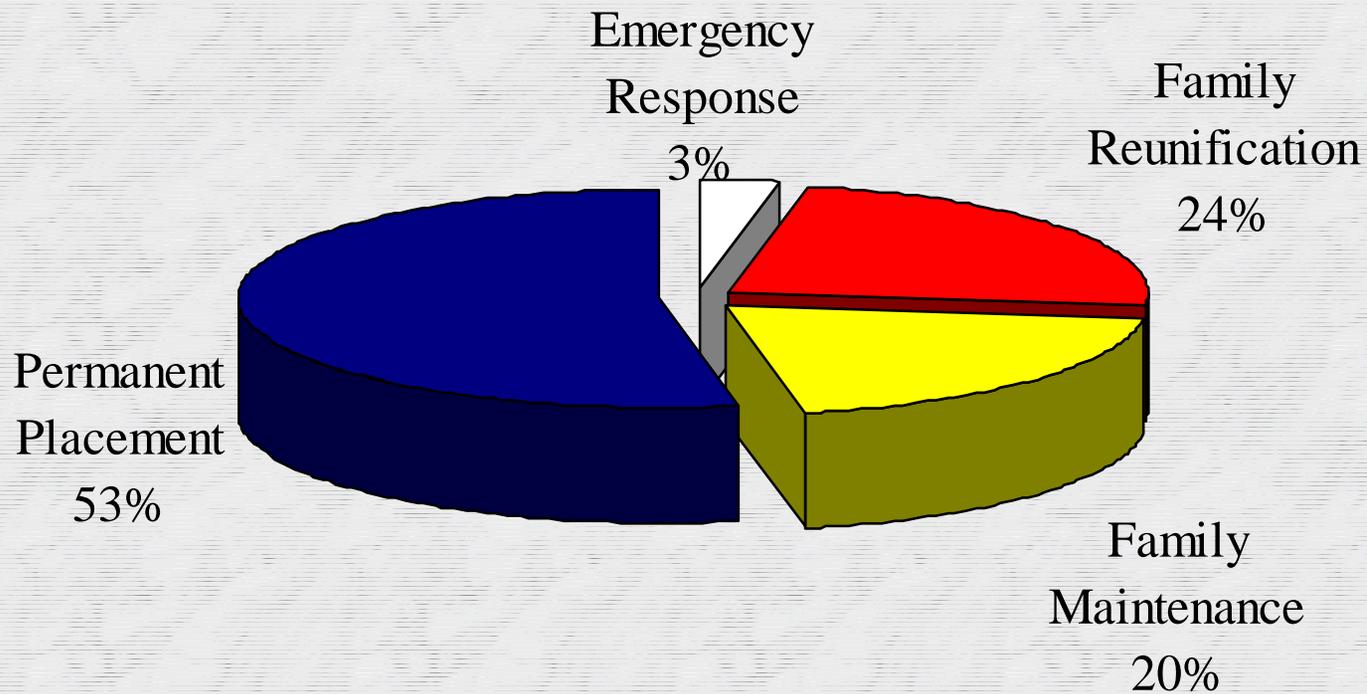


ER consists of a response system providing in-person, 24 hours a day, seven days a week coverage to receive and respond to reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
 FM provides in-home protective services to prevent or remedy neglect, abuse, or exploitation, for the purpose of preventing separation of children living with their families.
 FR provides time-limited foster care services to prevent or remedy abuse, neglect, or exploitation, when the child cannot safely remain at home, and needs temporary foster care, while services are provided to reunite the family.
 PP provides an alternative permanent family structure for children who, because of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, cannot safely remain at home and who are unlikely to ever return home.

Over one-half of those children receiving services are in permanent placement because they cannot safely remain at home.

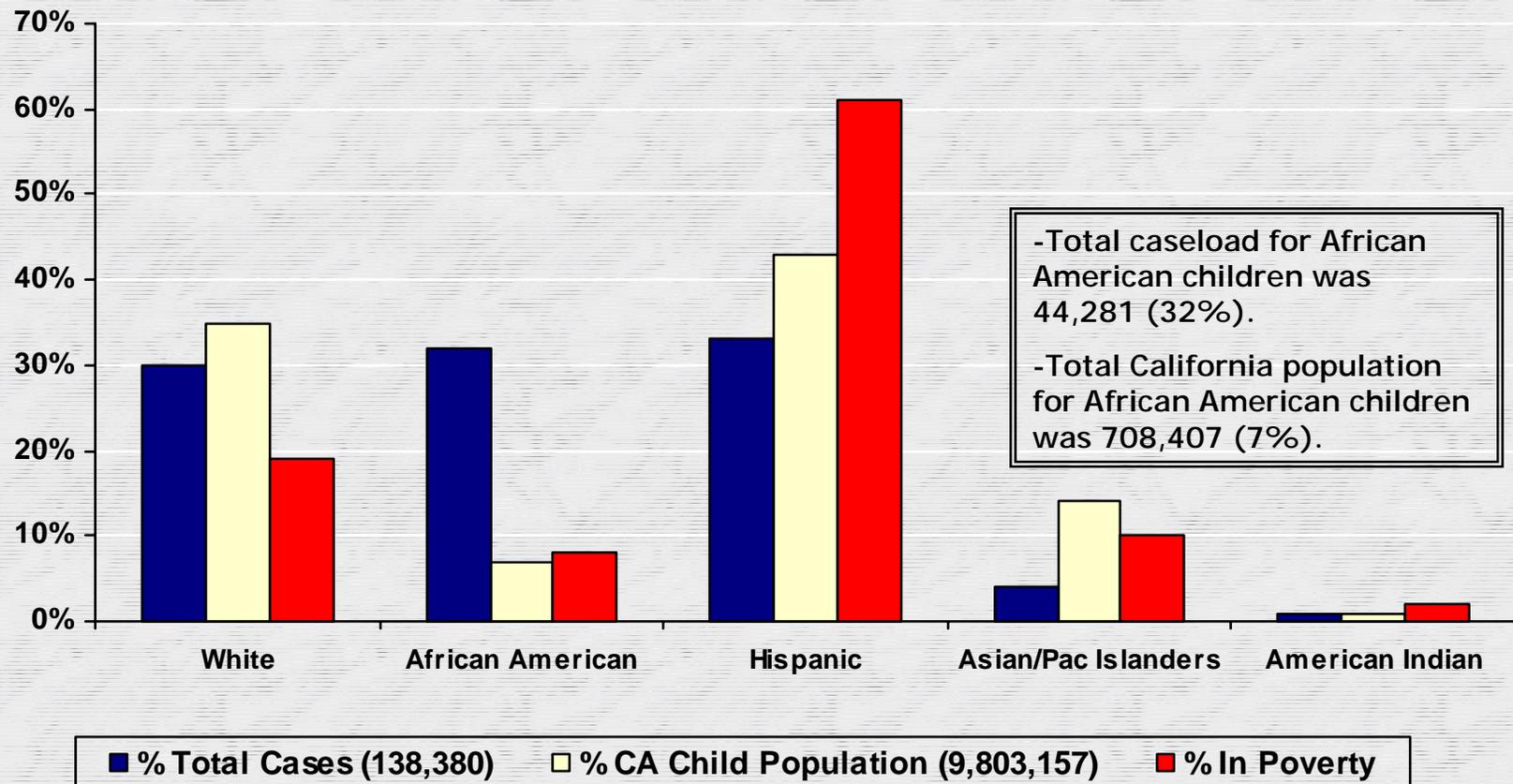
Caseload by Service Component

January 2002 (Total 138,380)



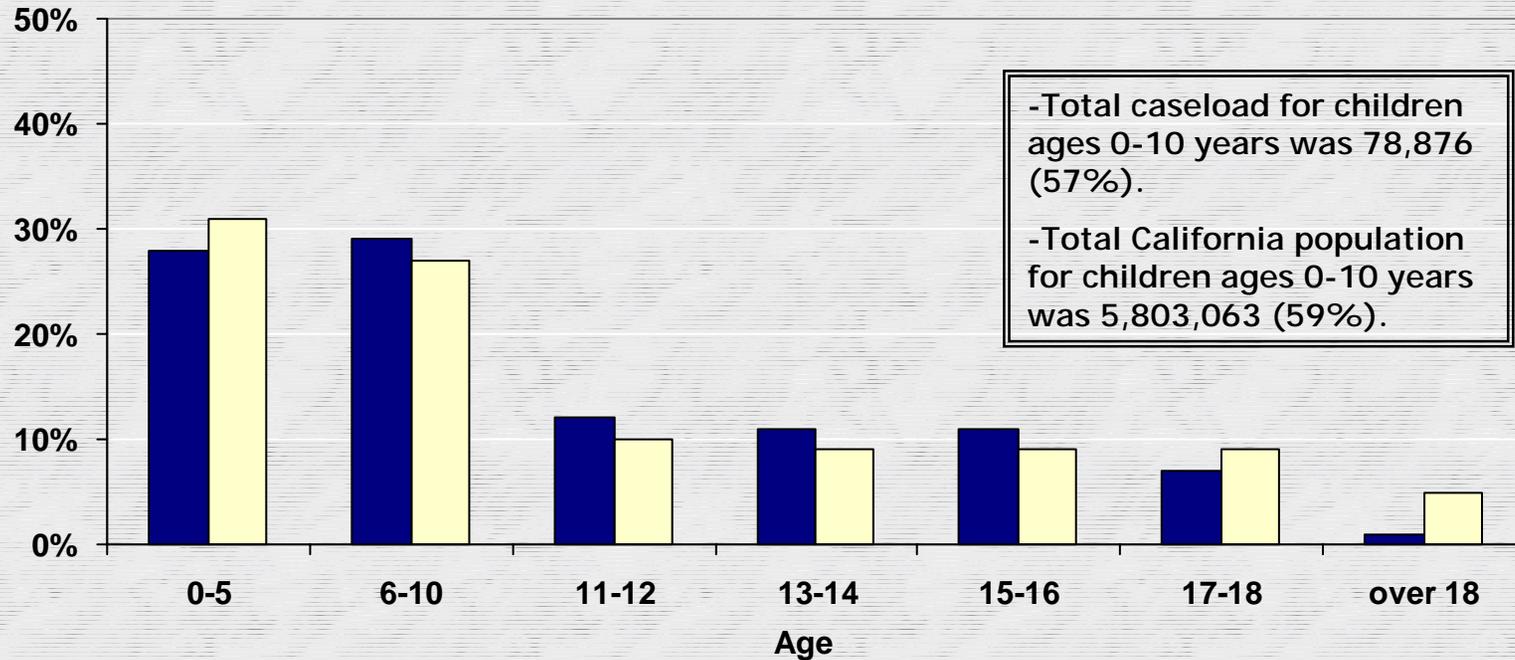
African American children represented 32% of the total caseload and 7% of California's total child population.

January 2002 (Total 138,380)



Children ages 0-10 years comprised 57% of the child welfare services caseload and 59% of the total child population.

January 2002 (Total 138,380)



-Total caseload for children ages 0-10 years was 78,876 (57%).
 -Total California population for children ages 0-10 years was 5,803,063 (59%).

■ % Total Cases (138,380) □ % CA Child Population (9,803,157)

Questions regarding the contents of this publication should be addressed to:

Arnita Paige, *Staff Services Manager I*
Data Analysis and Publication Branch
(916) 653-6480
apaige@dss.ca.gov

or

Mary Tran, *Chief*
Data Analysis and Publication Branch
(916) 657-2519
mary.tran@dss.ca.gov



State of California

Gray Davis, Governor

Health and Human Services Agency

Grantland Johnson, Secretary

Department of Social Services

Rita Saenz, Director