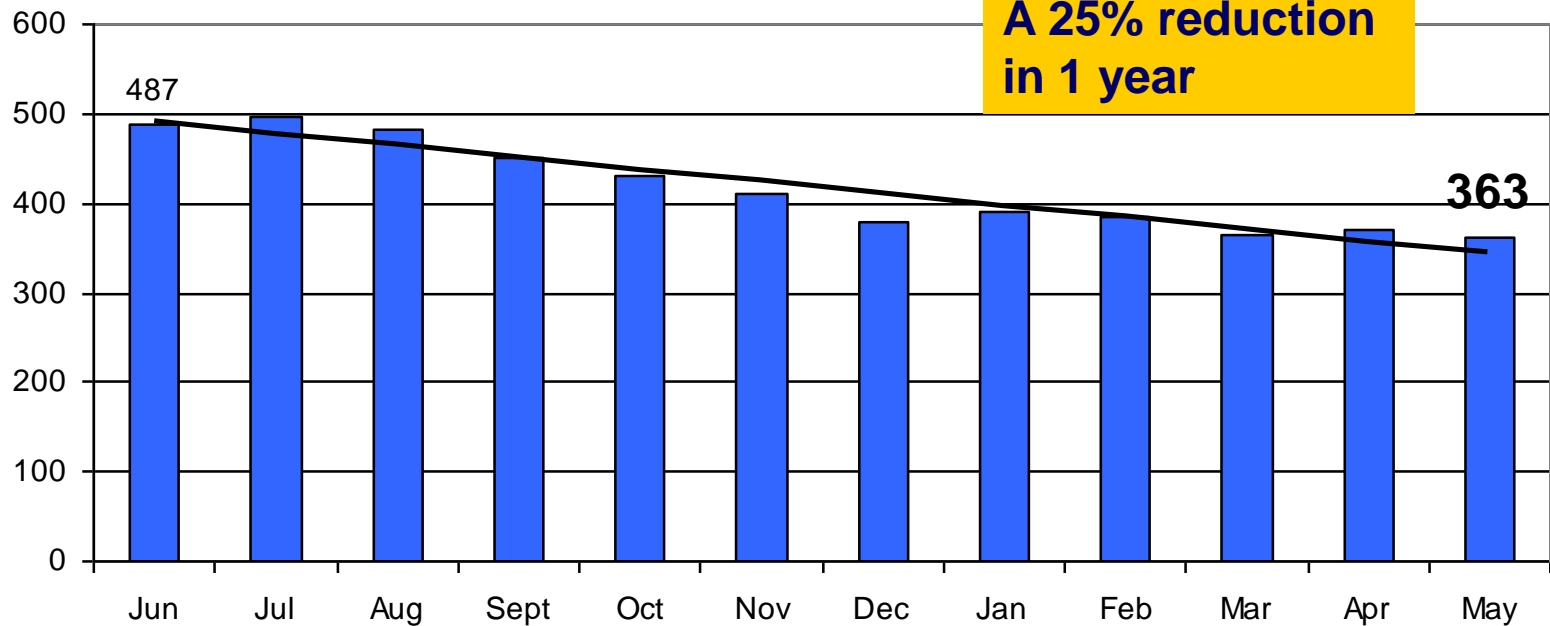


Foster Care Redesign to Keep Children Safe & Home: Progress in Alachua County

Alachua County - Children in Out of Home Care

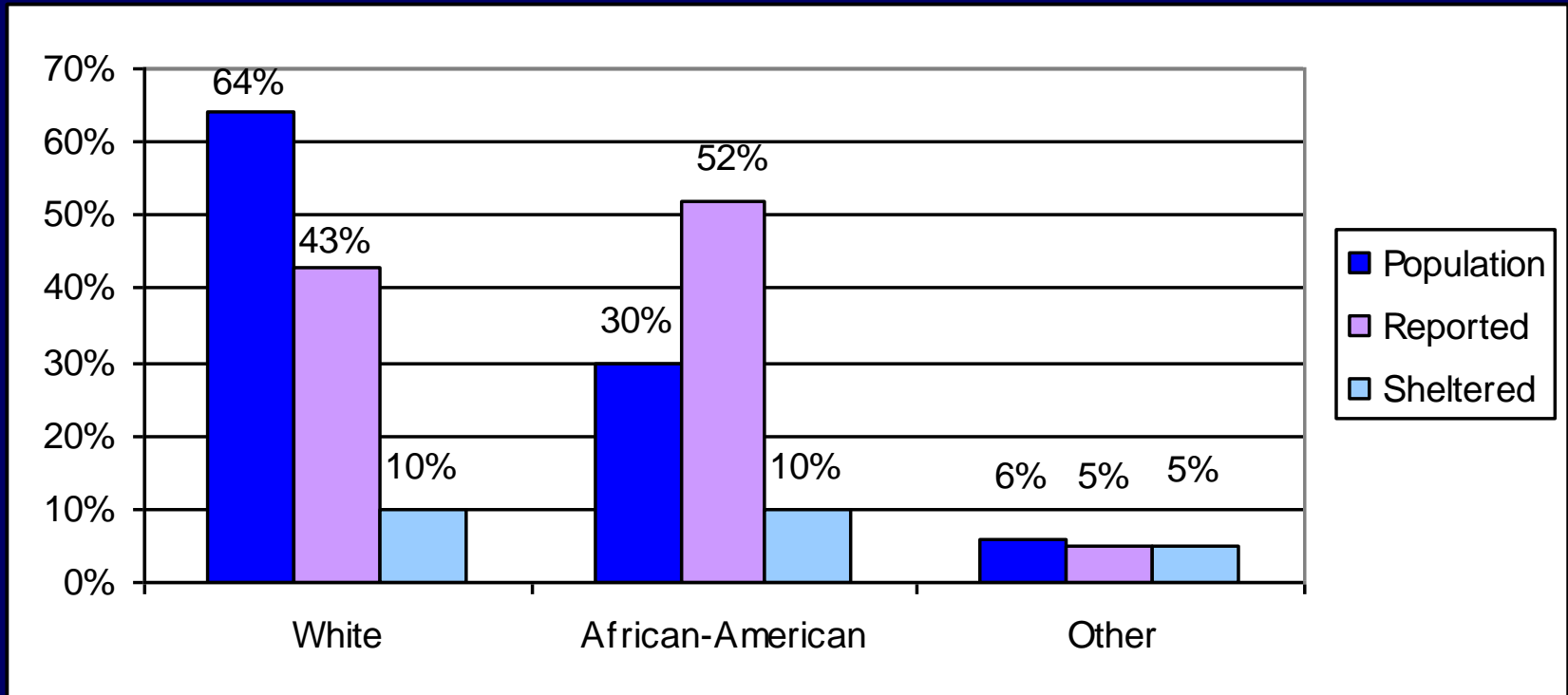




Progress –Except for the Racial Disparity in Children Sheltered

- ❑ Research shows no racial differences in abuse rates
 - ❑ Yet, nationwide – more reports of abuse, more sheltered in out-of-home placements, longer lengths of stay
 - ❑ Florida mirrors national picture – as does Alachua County
-

Percentages by Child Population, Reports to Child Abuse Hotline & Children Sheltered Out of Home - 2007

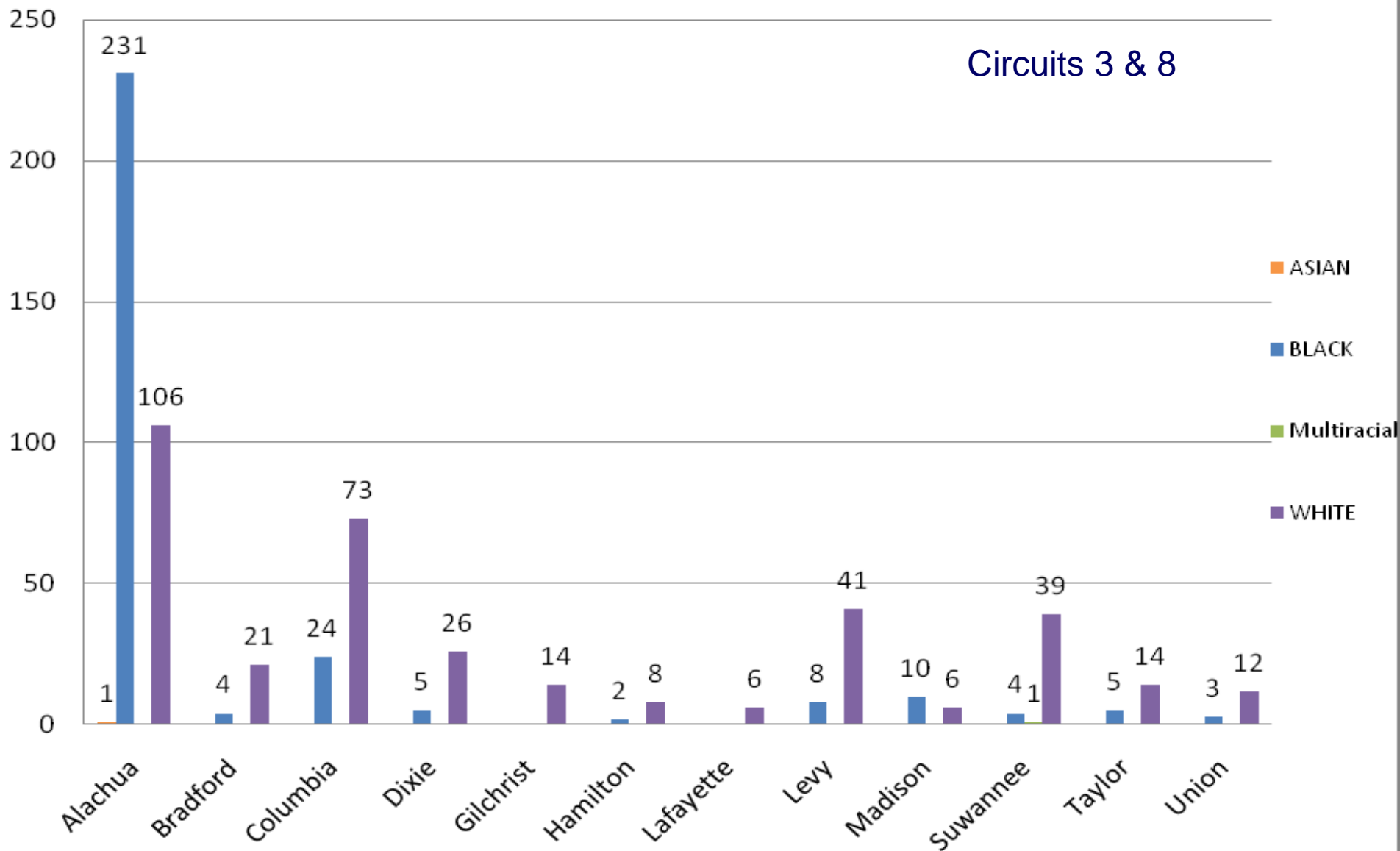


**Blue Column - 45,836 children under age 18 for 2007 in Alachua Co.
Lavender Column - 5,356 Reports to Hotline were investigated**

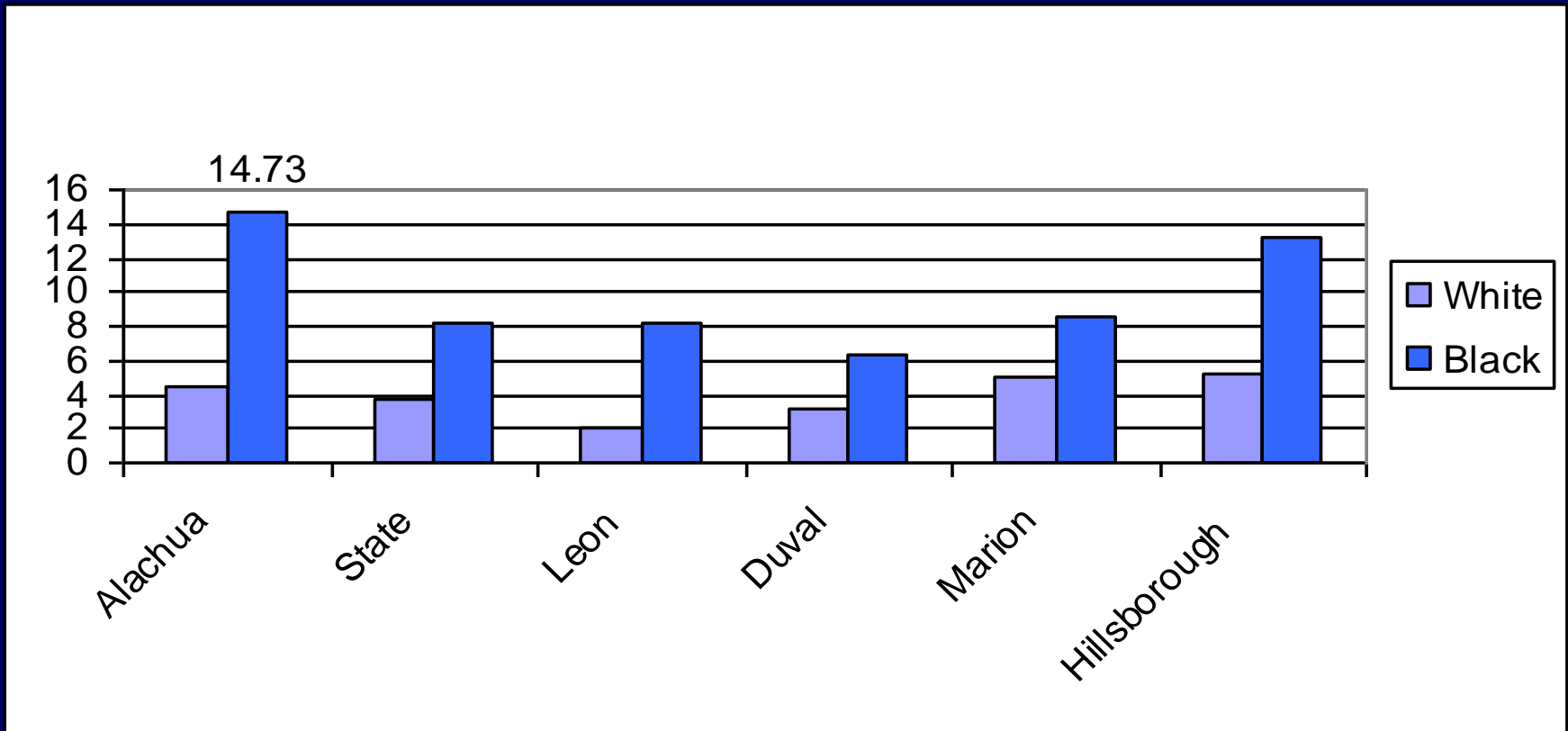
Light Blue – Children Sheltered

All Children in Out of Home Care by County and Race as of May 25, 2009

Circuits 3 & 8



Alachua County in Comparison Rate per 1,000 Children in Population who are in Out of Home Care by Race

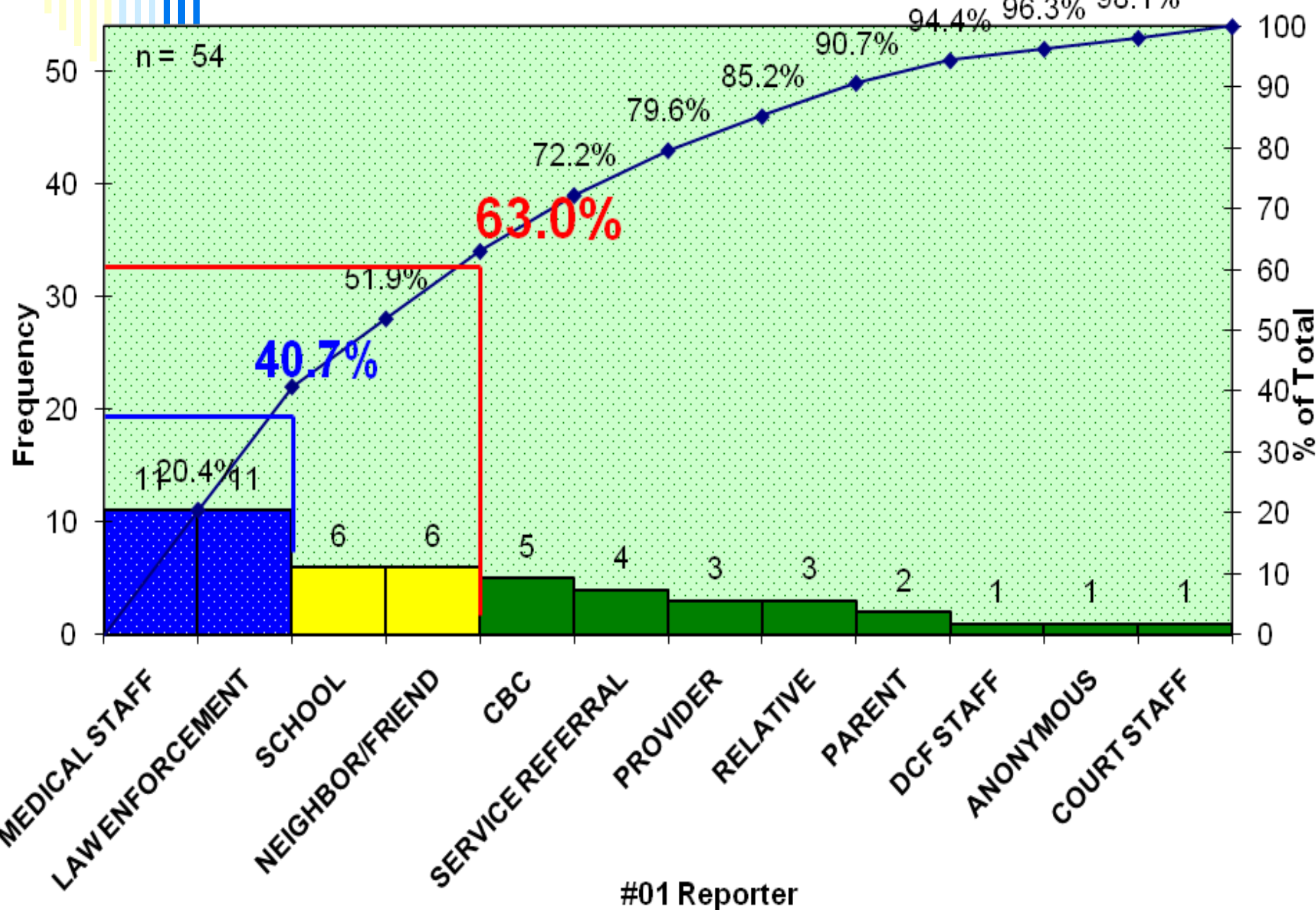




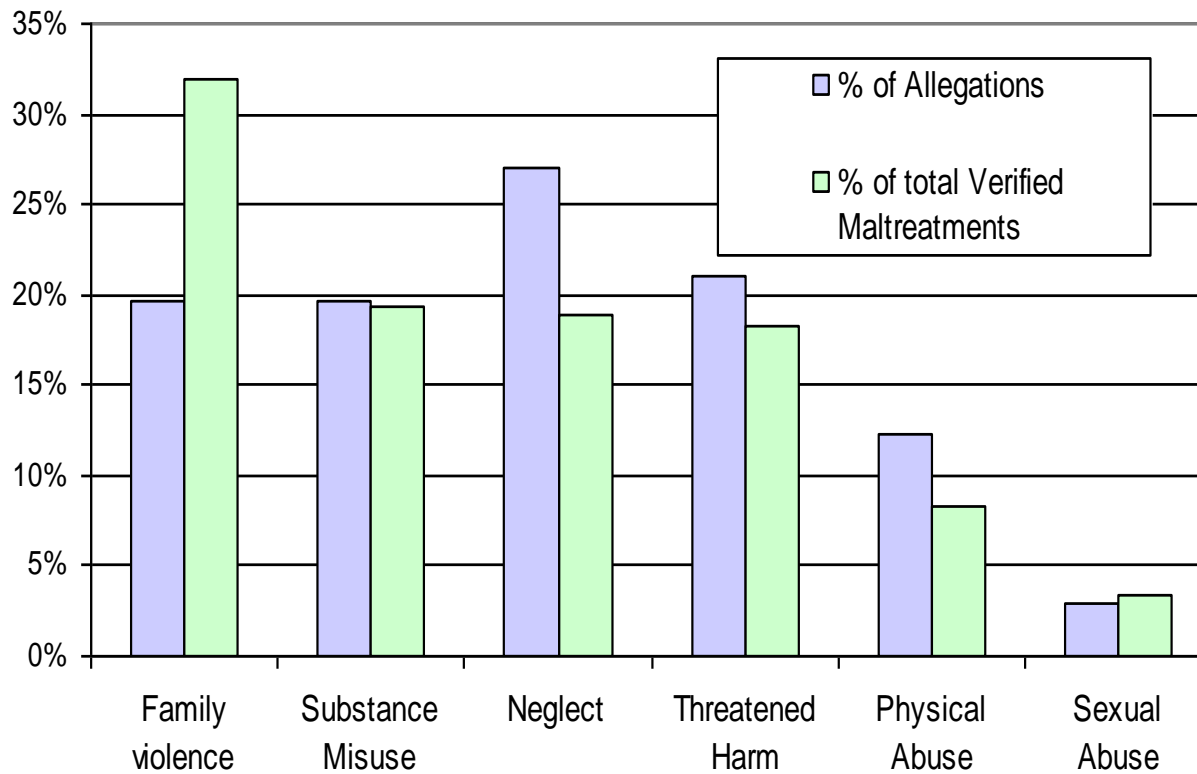
So, What Else Do We Know?

- Who makes reports to hotline?
 - Maltreatments reported and verified
 - Reasons children are sheltered
 - In home services to families
 - Impact of poverty?
 - Review our plan to address the disparity
-

Frequency of Reporter Types by Case from Feb. 2009 to April 2009 (Shelter and VPS Cases transferred to Services)



FY07-08 Summary of Hotline Investigations, Alachua County

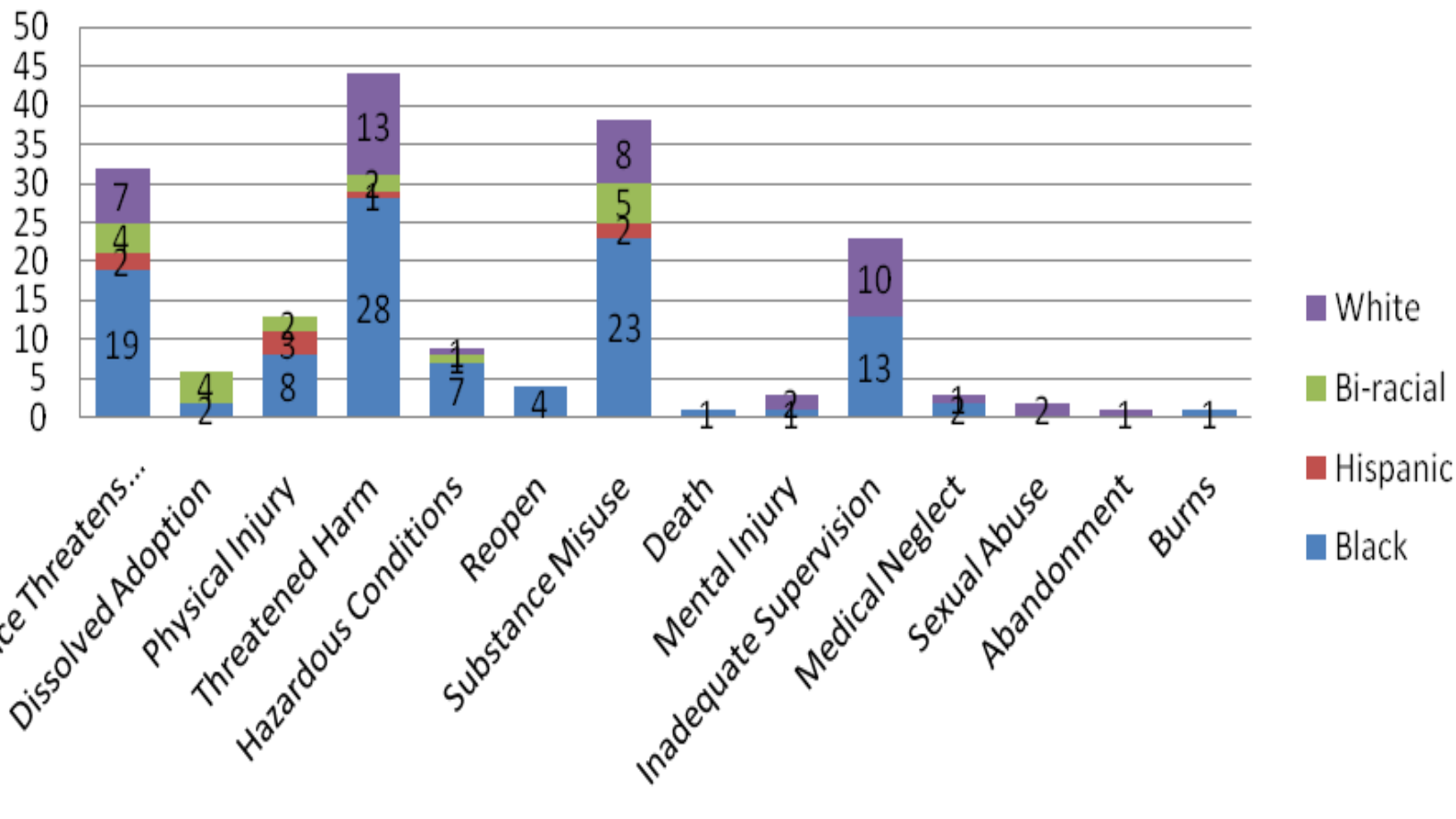


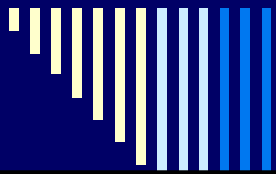
Total Allegations Investigated - 7335 on 4499 children during the year.

***Note: Some children may be counted multiple times if more than one report was called to Hotline.**

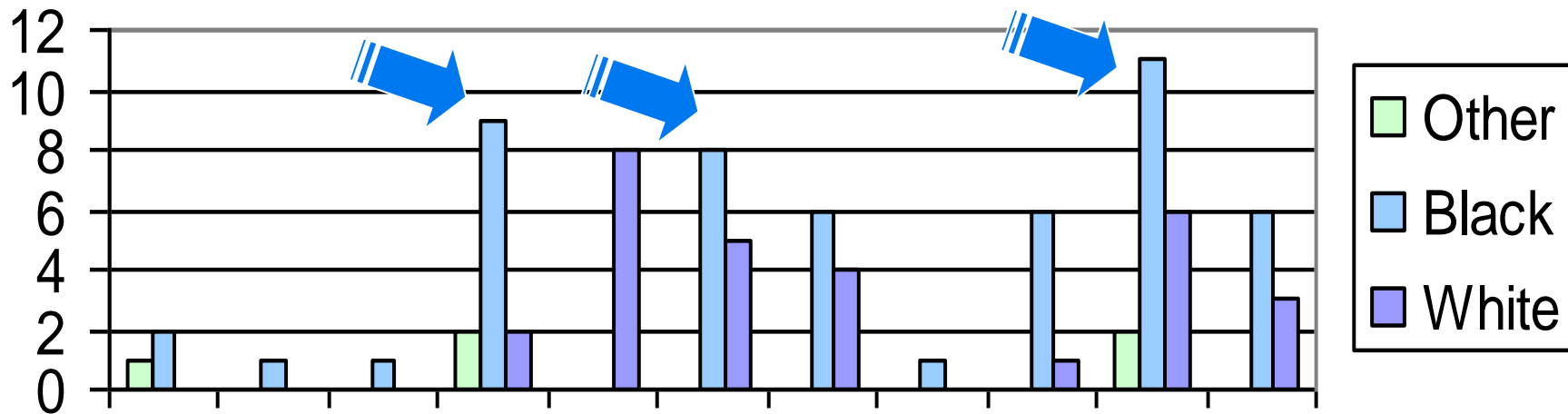
Allegations verified on 51% of children in reports

Children Transferred to Services by Maltreatment in Alachua County Feb 2009 to April 2009





Reasons Children Were Sheltered

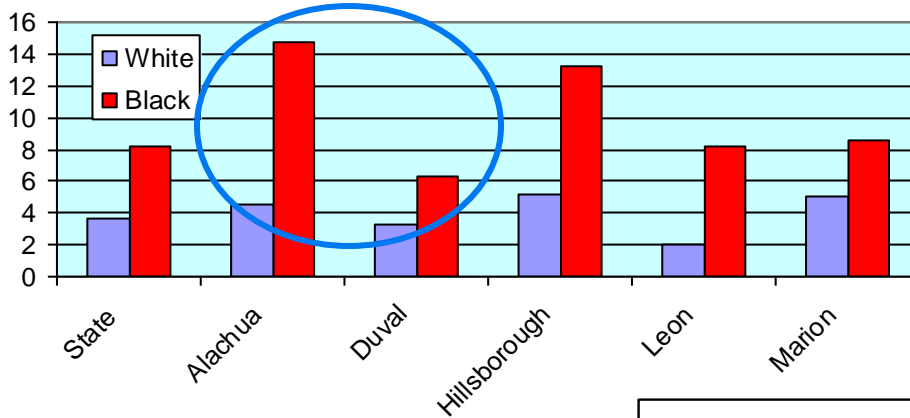


Abandonment
Bizarre Punishment
Bone Fracture
Environmental Haz...
Failure to Protect
Family Violence Thr...
Inadequate Superv...
Medical Neglect
Physical Injury
Substance Misuse
Threatened Harm

N= 85 Shelter Cases
African-American Children: 51
White Children: 29
Other and/or Multi-Race Children: 5

Rate per 1,000 Children in Population in Out of Home Care by Race & Percent Children on Free / Reduced Lunch

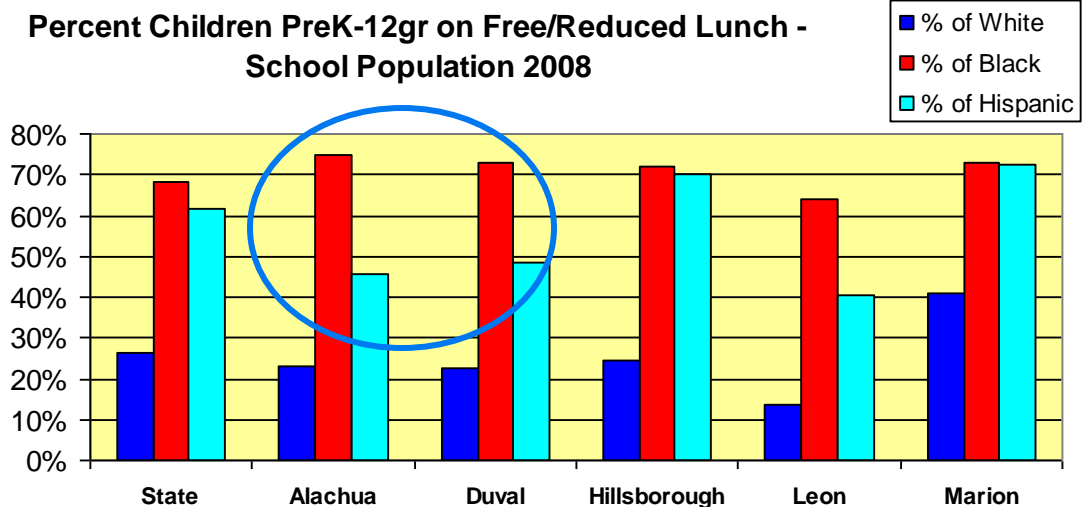
May 2009 - Rate of OOH Per 1,000 Children in Pop.



Is there a connection
between poverty and
placement in OOH Care?

Alachua & Duval have similar percent of children on free & reduced lunch, but disparity in OOH care is much greater in Alachua

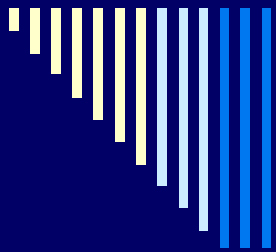
Percent Children PreK-12gr on Free/Reduced Lunch -
School Population 2008





Conclusions from Data Analysis

- ❑ In the 13 counties of Circuits 3&8, African American children are disproportionate in only one - **Alachua.**
 - ❑ Reviewed Factors: poverty, worker bias, and agency policies and practices associated with the problem elsewhere
 - ❑ High poverty rates and limited social services but no disproportionality in other counties.
 - ❑ CPI's in Alachua County mirror the demographics of the community
 - ❑ Review of shelters by worker and unit did not reveal any bias patterns
 - ❑ The median length of stay in care for African American children in Alachua County is actually shorter than the median for white children.
 - ❑ The one factor that seems to be driving the over-representation is the **high rate of reports on African American families to the abuse hotline.**
 - ❑ Further analysis of this pattern is necessary for us to determine why this disparity exists.
-



Strategies to Address Factors

Factors to Overcome

1. Bias in Decision Making
2. Lack of Access to Support Services
3. Challenges in finding permanent homes
4. Lack of focused attention

Strategies to Mitigate Factors:

1. Involve family in Decision Making
 Train cross cultural competency
 Outreach to Mandated Reporters
 Culturally competent staff
Use Risk Assessment/ culturally valid
2. Collaborate with neighborhood
 Interagency Agreements
 Provide services to families not shelter
Use differential response to cases
3. Search for fathers/kin
 Recruit African American adoptive families
Provide financial support to non-relative guardians
4. Establish Councils
 Continue research on best-practice, data analysis, work with Casey Family Programs
Provide prevention services to African American families
Establish contractual requirements to address disparity