

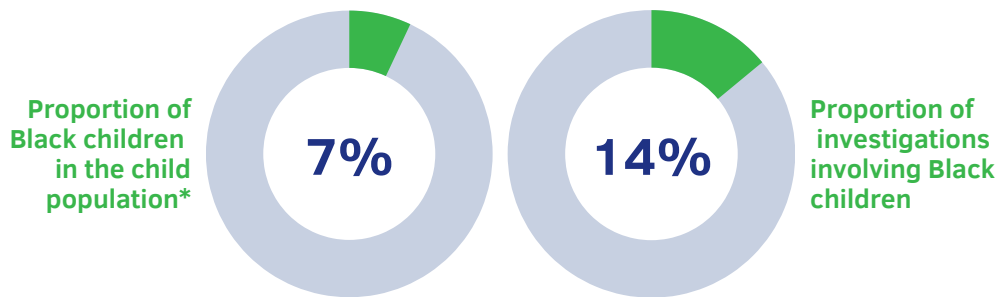


# The Over-Representation of Black Children in Ontario Child Welfare

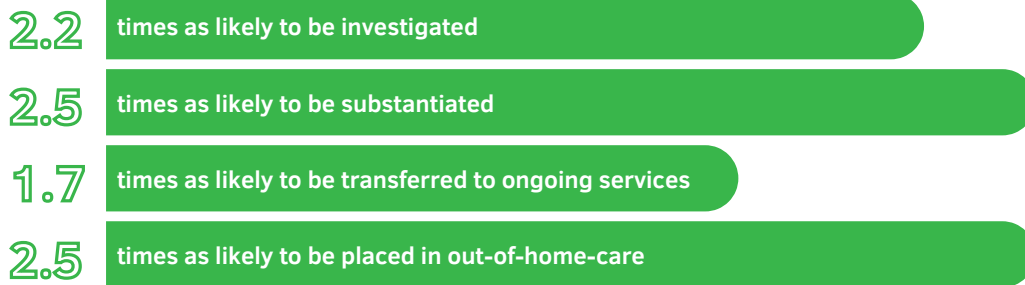
MAPPING DISPARITIES FOR BLACK FAMILIES PROJECT  
INFORMATION SHEET # 1

## INTRODUCTION

These analyses present data from the Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2018 (OIS-2018), the sixth provincial study of maltreatment-related investigations conducted in Ontario. Below we describe investigations conducted in Ontario in 2018 that involved Black children, comparing them to Black children's representation in the child population of Ontario and to investigations involving white children.



Compared to white children, Black children in Ontario in 2018 were:



## DISPROPORTIONAL & DISPARATE REPRESENTATION

Disproportionality measures assess the extent to which specific groups are over- or under-represented. The first figure describes the over-representation of Black children involved in a child welfare investigation compared to the proportion of Black children in the total child population in Ontario.\* Black children represent seven percent of the child population but represent nearly 14 percent of the investigation population.

Disparity measures compare the proportion of the population of children from one ethno-racial group who experienced a specific child welfare outcome to the proportion of the child population of another ethno-racial group (usually white) that experienced the same outcome. The second figure describes the disparate representation of Black children compared to white children in investigations and across key dispositions during those investigations.

\*Resource: Statistics Canada, Special tabulation, based on 2016 Census of Population. Reproduced and distributed on an "as is" basis with the permission of Statistics Canada.

Our full report, [Understanding the Over-representation of Black Children in Ontario Child Welfare Services](#), provides more context and details for these analyses, as well as additional information about child welfare investigations involving Black children in Ontario.

Suggested citation: Bonnie, N., Facey, K., King, B., Fallon, B., Patrick-Drakes, V., Evi, A., Edwards, T., Joh-Carnella, N., & Black, T. (2023). *The Over-Representation of Black Children in Ontario Child Welfare*. Mapping Disparities for Black Families Project Information Sheet #1. Toronto, ON: Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies.

## INFORMATION SHEET HIGHLIGHTS

Black children are over-represented in Ontario child welfare investigations.

There are differences in investigation rates and outcomes for Black and white children in Ontario.

Black children are more likely to experience an investigation than white children.

Compared to white children, Black children are also more likely to be substantiated, transferred to ongoing services, and placed in out-of-home care during an investigation.

*The Mapping Disparities for Black Families Project is a collaboration between One Vision One Voice and the University of Toronto. The goal is to document the extent and dynamics of disparities in experience and outcomes for Black children, youth, and families involved with Ontario's child welfare system.*