

2018 Dependency Case Filings Rates for Children Aged Birth to Three in Washington State

Sources: Washington State Center for Court Research
Washington State Office of Financial Management, Forecasting and Research Division

This document will review infant and toddlers' involvement in Washington's child welfare system, through the measurement of dependency case filing rates in 2018. Dependency case filing rates will be used as a measure of child welfare involvement as Washington courts and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) collect yearly data on dependency case filings for children 0-2, disaggregated by race. This data will then be compared to total 0-2 child population estimates, provided by the Washington State Office of Financial Management. All data provided will be pulled from the year 2018.

High-Level Overview of Dependency Case Filings in Washington State

- In 2018, **42%** of dependency cases filed in Washington were for children aged 0-2
- Children of color make up approximately **49.4%** of the total 0-2 population, and White (Non-Hispanic) children 0-2 make up approximately **50.6%** of the 0-2 population
- Children of color made up **48.7%** of the total 0-2 dependency case filings, while White (Non-Hispanic) made up **51%** of the total 0-2 dependency case filings

Racial Disproportionality in Dependency Case Filings

American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) and Black children aged 0-2 were overrepresented in the child welfare system in 2018.

- AI/AN children made up approximately **2.4%** of the total 0-2 population in WA, and **4.3%** of dependency case filings
- Black children made up approximately **4.9%** of the total 0-2 population in WA, and **6.4%** of dependency case filings
- Hispanic (White) children made up approximately **20.2%** of the total 0-2 population in WA, and **12.9%** of dependency case filings
- White (Non-Hispanic) children made up approximately **50.6%** of the total 0-2 population in WA, and **51.0%** of dependency case filings
- Multiracial* children aged 0-2 made up an additional **23.6%** of dependency case filings (*It is not possible to accurately compare the overall state data to the dependency case filings, as the organizations categorize "Multiracial" differently. Each Multiracial group is defined in Figure 2 below.*)
- Asian/Pacific Islander (PI)* children aged 0-2 made up **1.5%** of dependency case filings (*It is not possible to accurately compare the overall state data to the dependency case filings, as the organizations categorize "Asian/PI" differently.*)

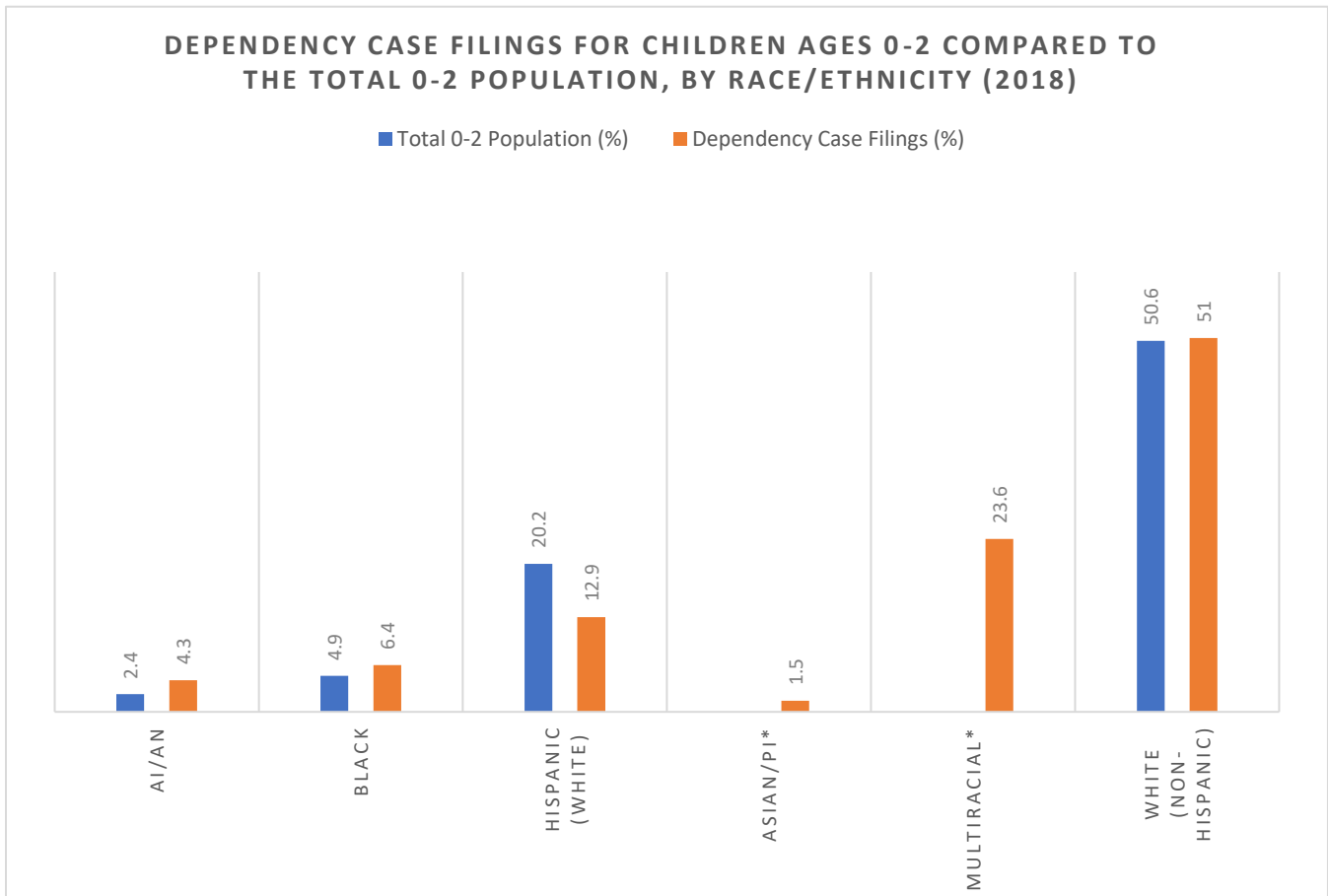


Figure 1

*For children identified as “Asian/PI” or “Multiracial,” it is not possible to accurately compare the overall state data (from the OFM) to the dependency case filings, as the organizations categorize “Multiracial” and “Asian/PI” differently.

Multiracial Children

Dependency Case filings define “Multiracial” children in the following breakout:

Dependency Case Filings on Multiracial Children Aged 0-2	
Race	Dependency Case Filings (%)
AI/AN - Multi	11.4%
Black - Multi	9.8%
Other – Multi	2.4%

Figure 2

Washington Dependency Case Filing Breakout

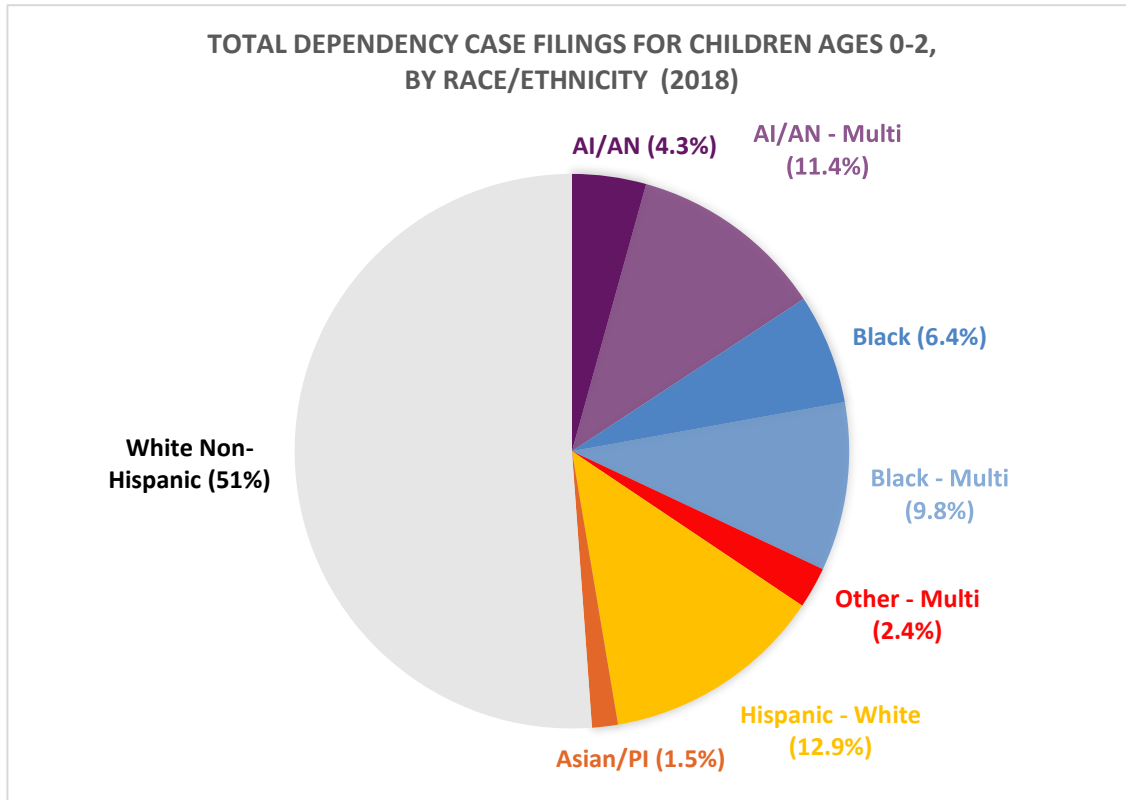


Figure 3