

Statewide Demographic Data

As mentioned in the opening video, Oklahoma CASA evaluates the demographic data of children in foster care as compared to the general population annually.

The data set used is “a day in time,” meaning the Department of Human Services pulls the demographics for children in care on a random day. This is done under the assumption the data is representative of the average day in Oklahoma. Oklahoma CASA then pulls program data regarding children served by CASA on the same date as the data received from DHS. This data is pulled both statewide and by county, which is provided to each program

Next, we look at the composition of CASA programs: staff, volunteers, and board members. Below is a statewide compilation of CASA program demographics in November of 2020. The goal is for the organization to reflect its client population. What does this chart tell you?

State	2019 Population in service area	11/19/2020 Kids In Care in service area	# Volunteers	% Volunteers	# Board Members State-wide	% Board Members State-wide	# Staff State-wide	% Staff State-wide
Total	3,956,971	5,739	960	-	207	-	95	-
White	74.0%	58.7%	790	82.3%	147	71.0%	72	75.8%
Black	7.8%	15.9%	48	5.0%	14	6.8%	7	7.4%
Native	9.4%	26.2%	90	9.4%	27	13.0%	14	14.7%
Asian	2.4%	0.2%	2	0.2%	1	0.5%	1	1.1%
Pacific Isl	2.0%	0.3%	1	0.1%	2	1.0%	0	0.0%
Hispanic	11.1%	18.1%	27	2.8%	4	1.9%	1	1.1%

Below is data regarding the race and ethnicity of children in DHS custody on November 19, 2020 as compared to Oklahoma’s child population. You will then see the demographic breakdown of children served by CASA statewide on the same day:

State	2019 Population in service area	11/19/2020 Kids In Care in service area	11/19/2020 Kids in Care %	11/19/2020 Kids with CASA	# Kids with CASA
Total	3,956,971	5739	-	2078	-
White	74.0%	3367	58.7%	1148	55.25%
Black	7.8%	913	15.9%	296	14.24%
Native	9.4%	1505	26.2%	514	24.74%
Asian	2.4%	10	0.2%	0	0.00%
Pacific Isl	2.0%	19	0.3%	6	0.29%
Hispanic	11.1%	1038	18.1%	83	3.99%

The trends revealed by the 11-9-2020 data are consistent with what we find both here in Oklahoma as well as nationally: minority children are over-represented in the foster care system. The breakdown by race will vary to a degree state to state, depending on the composition of the population. For example, in Oklahoma, Native American children comprise only 9.4 % of the population, yet the percentage of native children in care is almost *three times* that of the general population.

This is what we mean by **disproportionality**: the over-representation of a certain demographic in a particular system.