Data Explainer Series

Week 4: Removal of Children from Home - Office Hours

CalMHSA
California Mental Health Services Authority

Series Schedule

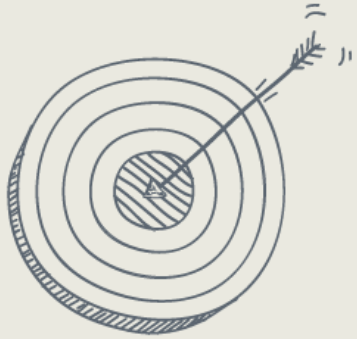
Webinar Date	Office Hours Date	Webinar Title
7/29/2025	8/1/2025	Introduction to Statewide Goals & Access to Care
8/5/2025	8/8/2025	Homelessness
8/12/2025	8/15/2025	Justice-Involvement
8/19/2025	**8/22/2025**	**Removal of Children from the Home** ← *You Are Here*
8/26/2025	8/29/2025	Overdoses and Suicides
9/2/2025	9/5/2025	Untreated Behavioral Health Conditions, Prevention and Treatment of Co-Occurring Physical Health Conditions
9/9/2025	9/12/2025	Care Experience, Quality of Life, Social Connection
9/15/2025	9/19/2025	Engagement in School and Work
9/23/2025	9/26/2025	Institutionalization
9/30/2025	9/30/2025	Collaborating with Local Planning Processes

Housekeeping

- Each week we have a new webinar topic and corresponding office hours
- The aim of office hours is to dive a bit deeper and respond to questions
- All webinars will be recorded and placed on our website *(office hours will not be recorded)*
- Utilize the Q&A for questions

Office Hours Grounding

20-30 minutes



Brief reminder of important context

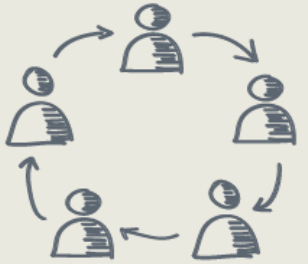
- Statewide Behavioral Health Removal of Children from Home Goal

Data Snacks

- Dashboard Overview
- Assessing Disparities for Action

Application of Concepts

- Drafting your Integrated Plan
- Yolo County Example



Q&A: Structured and Open

- Anything else?

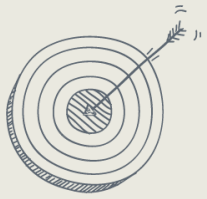
The Largest Picture

The vision for Behavioral Health Transformation is that all Californians have access to behavioral health services...

... this leads to improved health and happiness for individuals, better overall outcomes and reduced disparities.

The More Immediate Picture: Integrated Plan

- Locate and review publicly available data for each measure
- Analyze and understand your data; Identify disparities
- Develop hunches; Engage in your Community Planning Process
- Draft your initial BHSA Integrated Plan



Removal of Children from Home

Priority Goal

BHT Population Health Strategy

Use county performance on the six priority goals and choose one additional goal to inform the Community Planning Process and complete the BHSA Integrated Plan.

Priority Goals

1. Access to Care
2. Homelessness
3. Institutionalization
4. Justice-Involvement
5. Removal of Children from the Home
6. Untreated Behavioral Health Conditions

Choose at least one

Additional Goals

1. Care Experience
2. Engagement in School
3. Engagement in Work
4. Overdoses
5. Prevention and Treatment of Co-occurring Physical Health Conditions
6. Quality of Life
7. Social Connection
8. Suicides

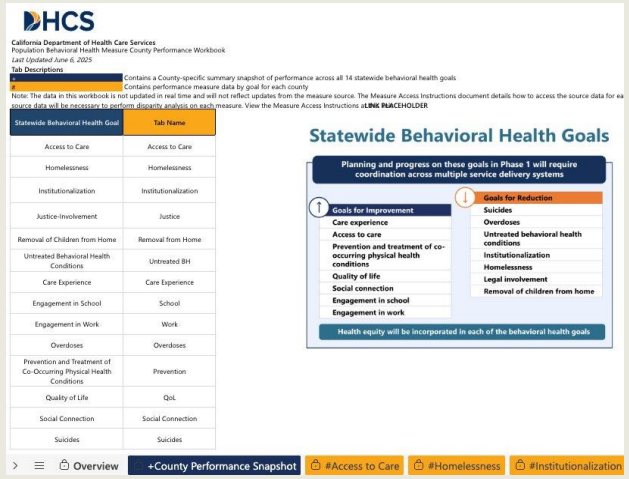
Removal of Children from Home

- Refers to when children with a child welfare status are removed due to abuse and/or neglect.
- Providing early intervention and intensive behavioral health services to children, parents and other members of the family unit living with a behavioral health condition can help prevent family disruption and improve child welfare outcomes.
- With appropriate supports, children are less likely to be exposed to early childhood trauma and placed in foster care.

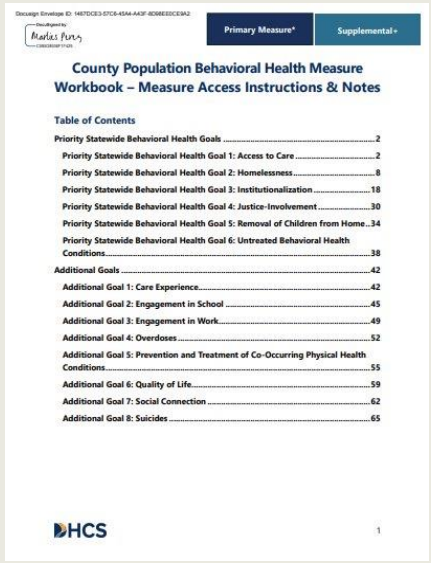
Dashboard

Removal of Children from Home

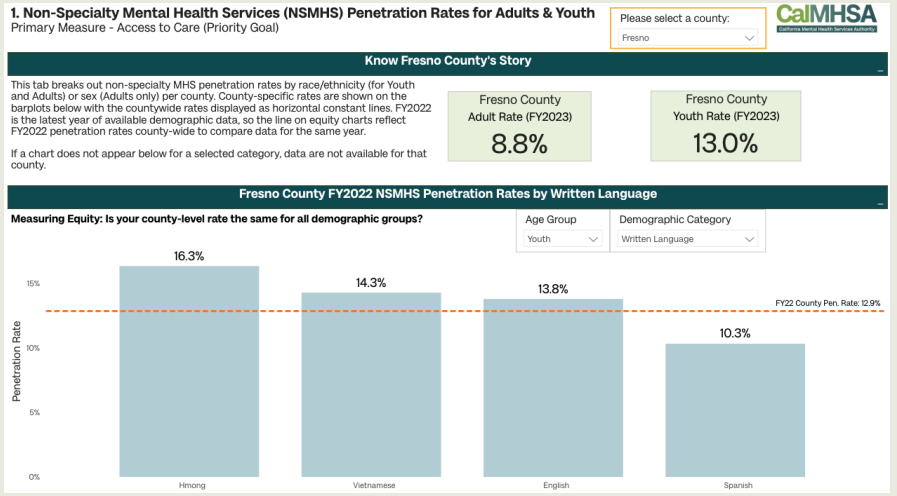
What are the Sources for CalMHSA's Dashboards?



County Rates directly from DHCS Workbook



County-specific Equity Data extracted from DHCS-recommended data sources



An all-in-one resource for you to complete your IP

Tips: The DHCS Workbook and IP Requirements

- ✓ When more recent data are not available, appropriate to use the most recent year of data available for the IP
- ✓ If publicly-available or local data are not available, can note on IP "None Available"
- ✓ Use locally available data to supplement publicly-available sources
- ✓ Phase 1 is focused on median and mean as benchmarks for planning rather than evaluation

Data Bite: Dashboard Orientation

CalMHSA is hosting an educational series through Sept. 30 to support counties in advancing California's statewide behavioral health goals and population-level measures under the Behavioral Health Services Act. The webinars and corresponding office hours will help counties incorporate these goals into Integrated Plans and strengthen data-informed strategies that improve population health outcomes. *Please note: Live participation in the series is only for county behavioral health staff.*

Visit this web page for links to recordings of each webinar, printable resource materials, and data dashboards as they are developed.

Each week's offering will focus on one or a related grouping of statewide goals and measures and examine them through:

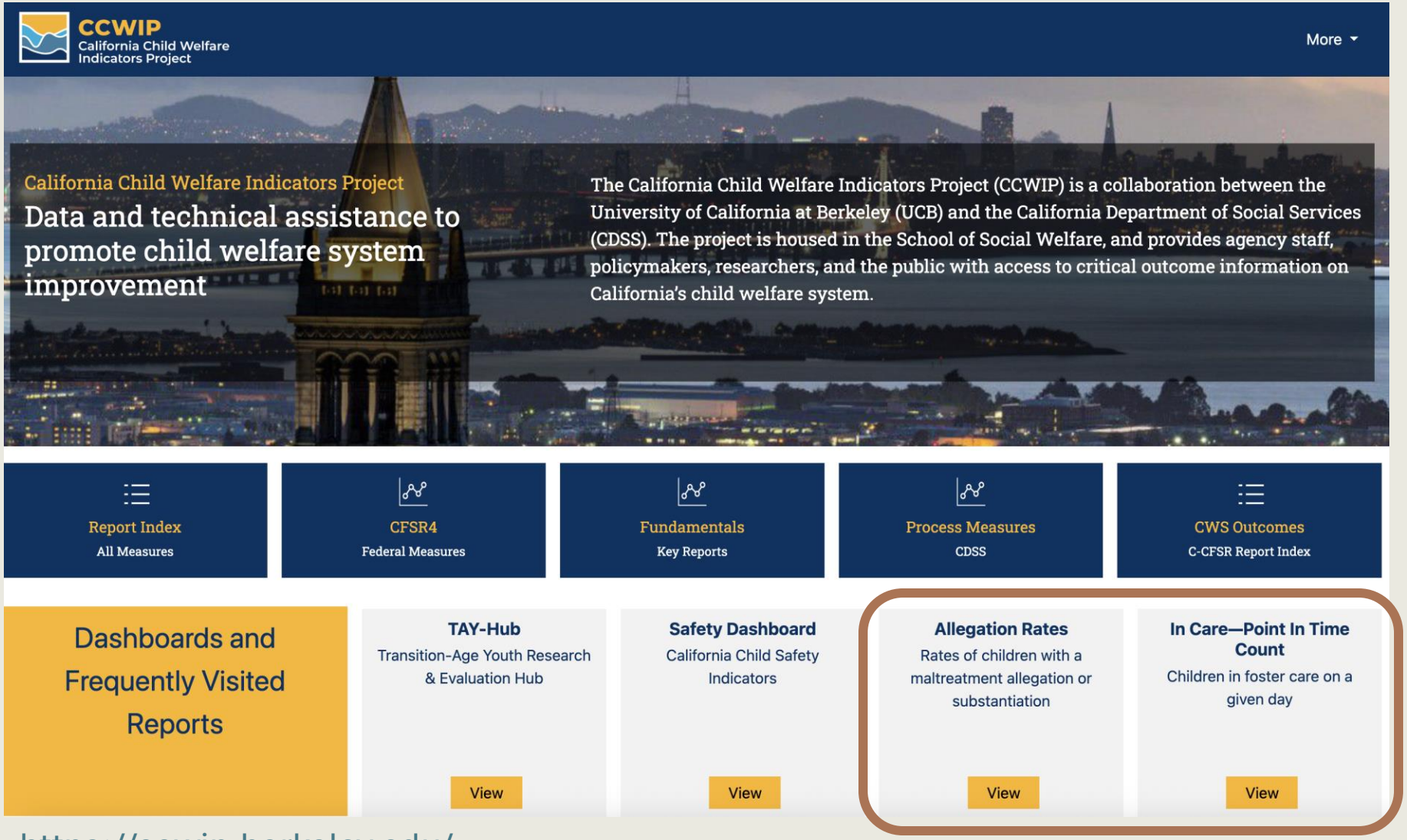
- **Webinars (Tuesdays, 12-1 p.m.):** Focused on understanding the data, including statewide performance metrics, system context, and county health equity and disparity considerations
- **Office Hours (Fridays, 12-1 p.m.):** A collaborative, open forum for discussion and cross-county learning

CONTENTS

Webinars
Data Dashboards
BHT Planning Documents

www.calmhsa.org/data-explainer-series

California Child Welfare Indicators Project



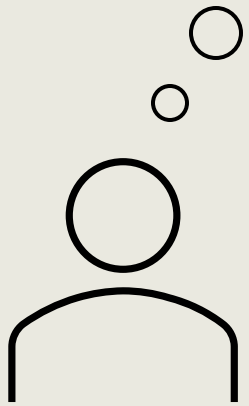
https://ccwip.berkeley.edu/

Assessing Disparities for Action

A difference does not always mean there is an inequity that needs to be addressed

… but it can!

Questions to Assess Disparities

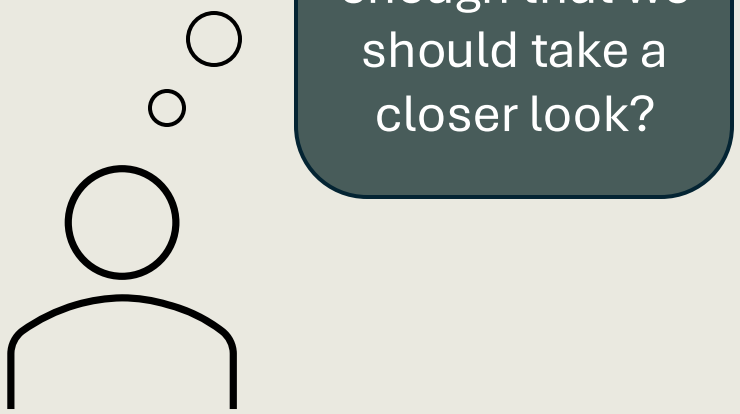


Are these different enough that we should take a closer look?

What do these differences tell us?

How can we work with our partners to understand **both** what the data “means” and how we might do something to intervene?

Disparity 1: Child Maltreatment Substantiations by Race/Ethnicity



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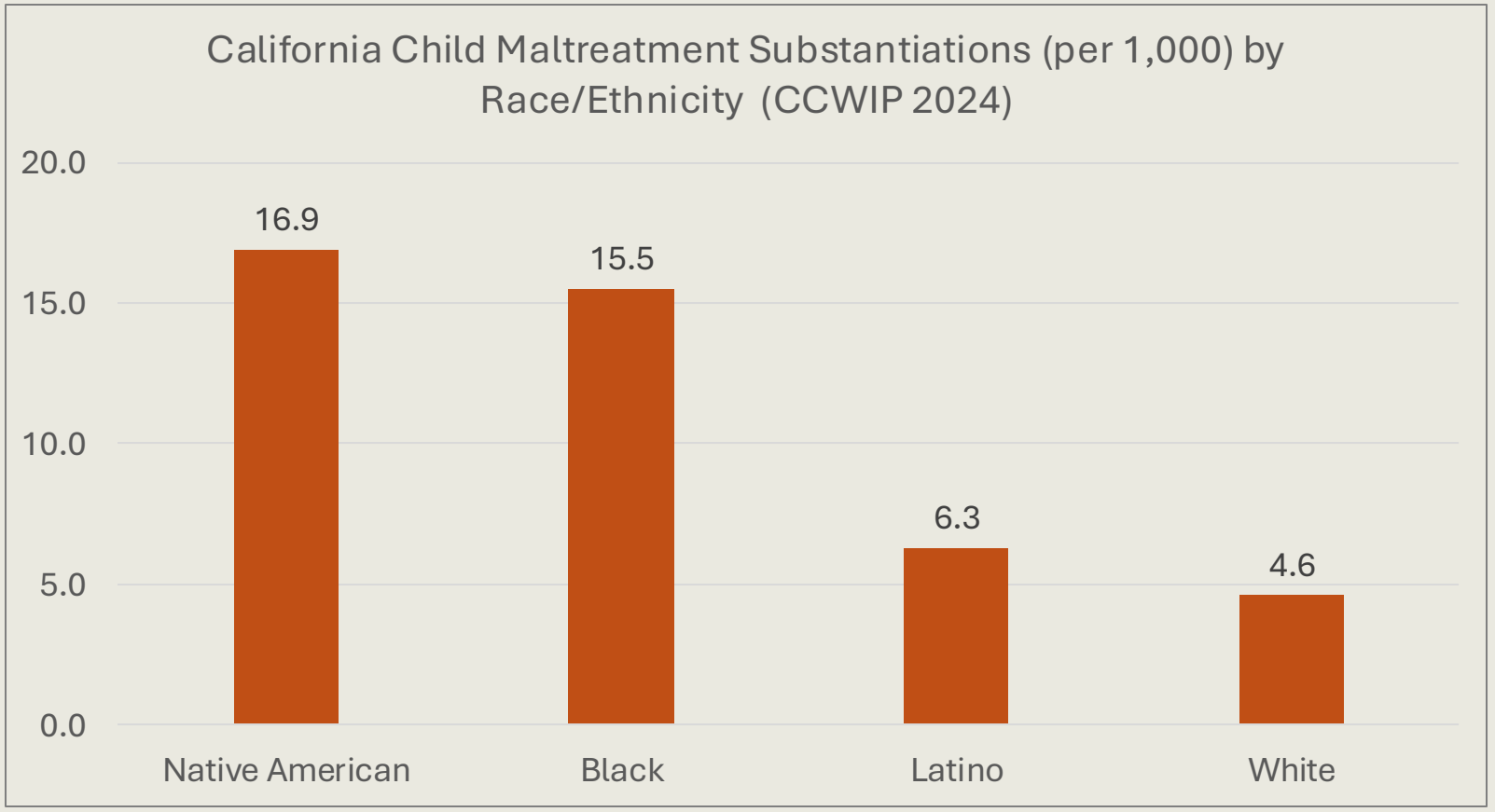

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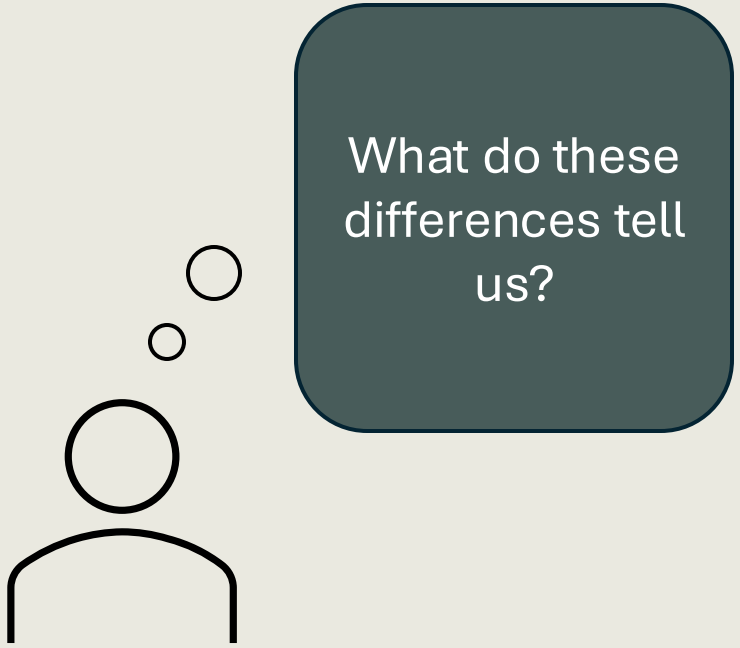

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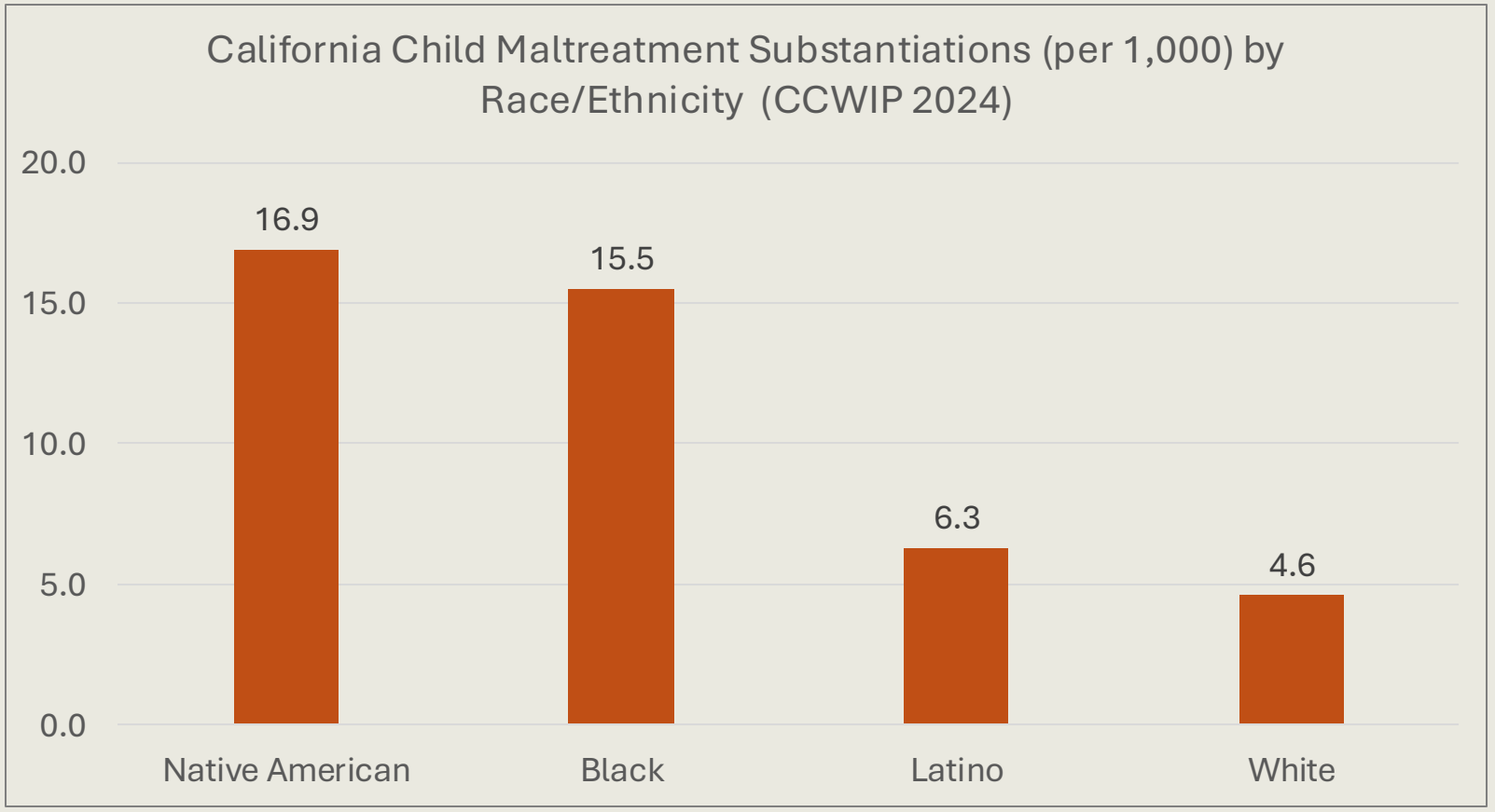

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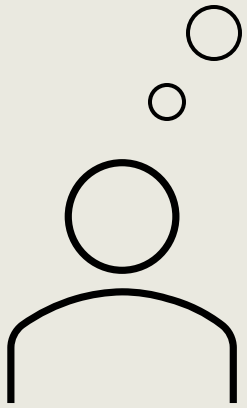

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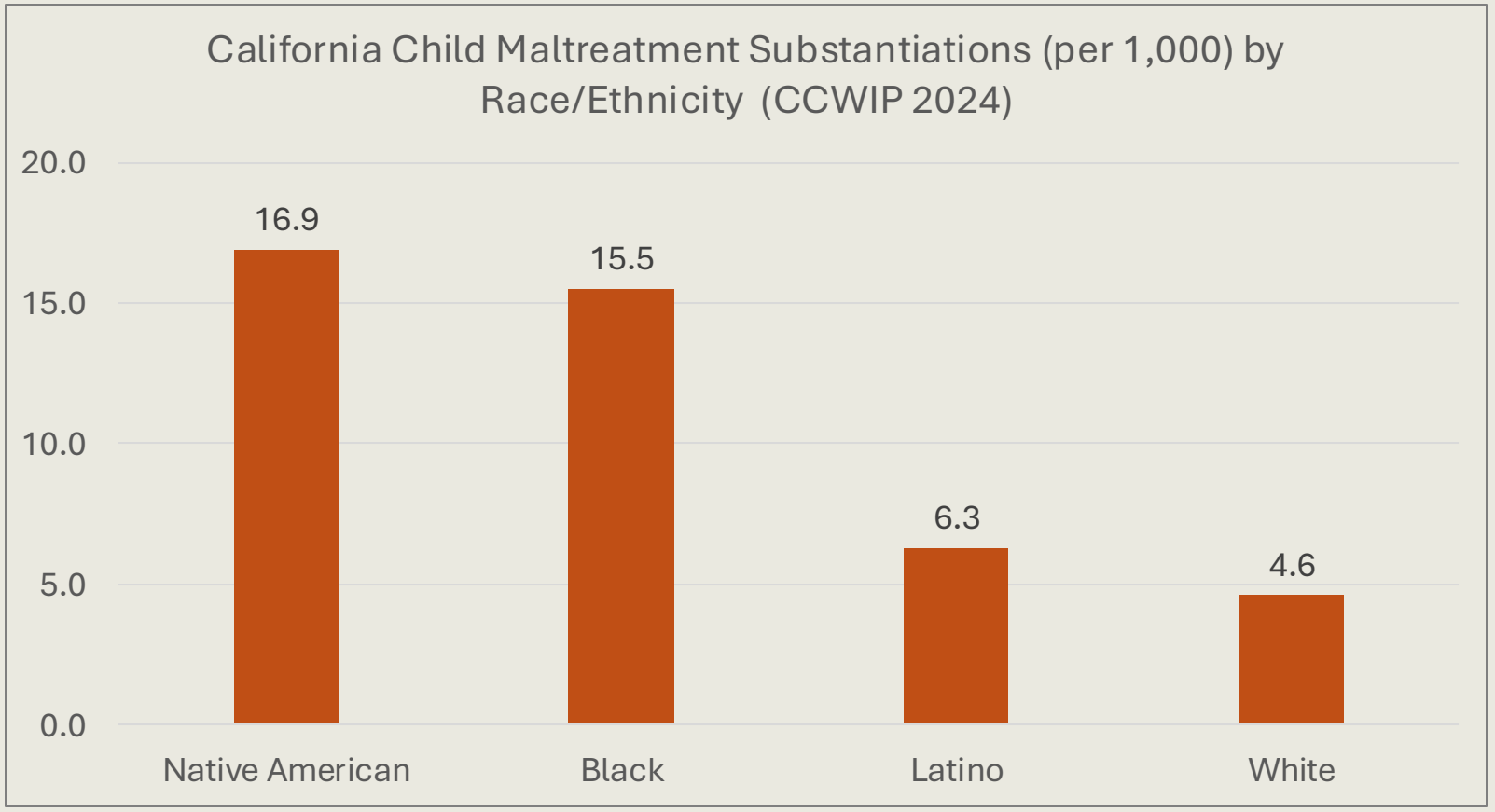
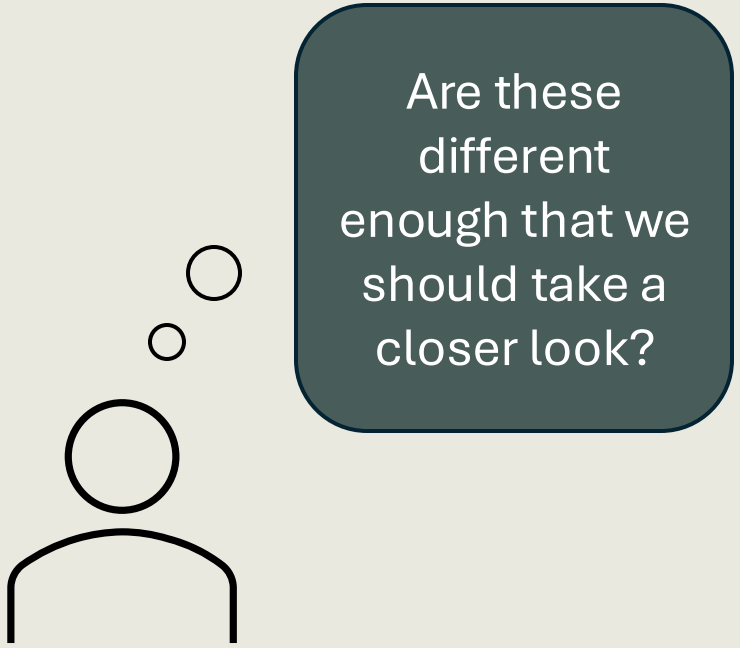
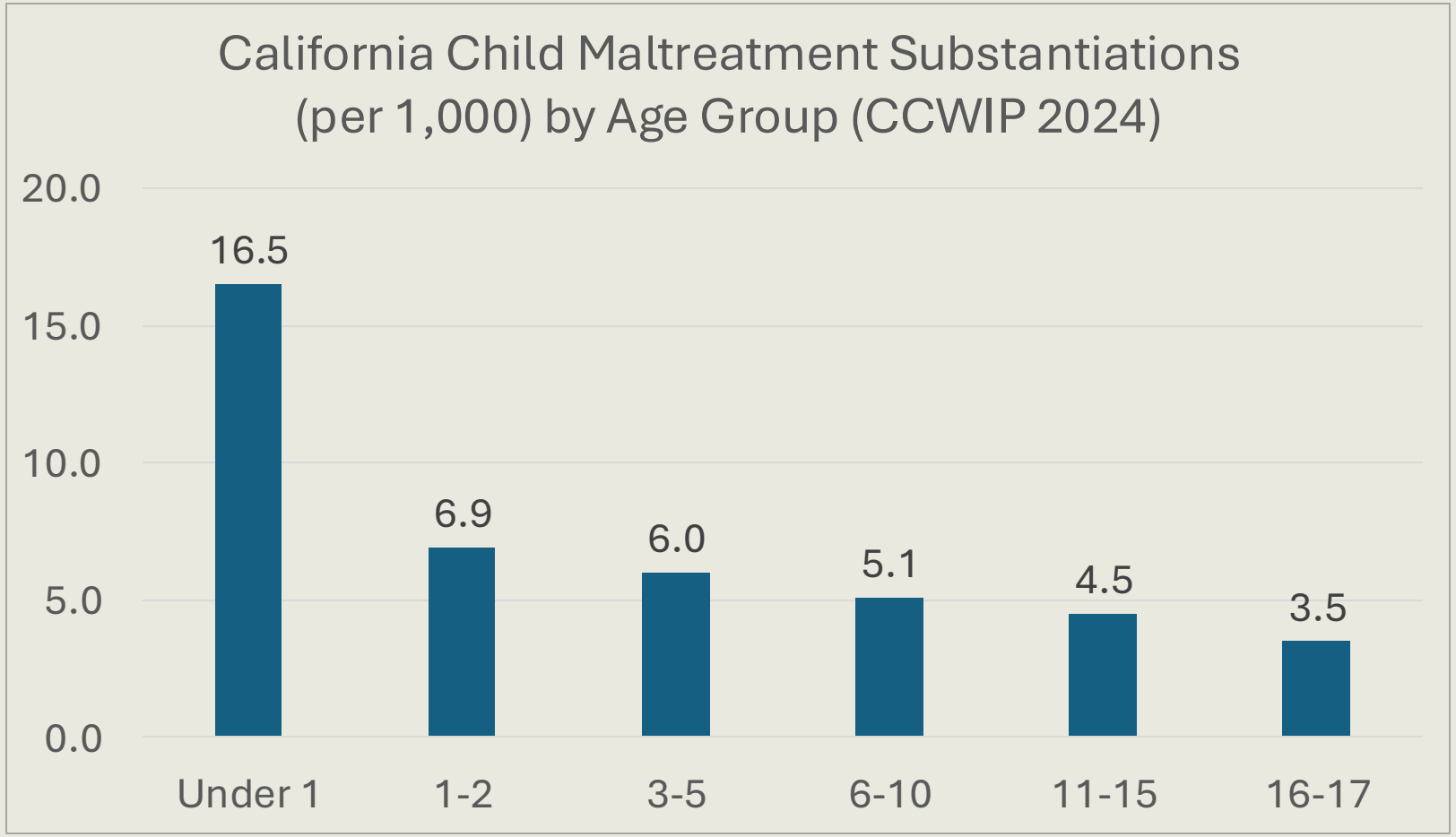


Disparity 2: Child Maltreatment Substantiations by Age





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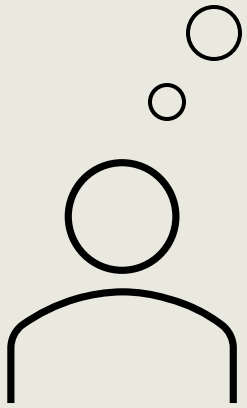

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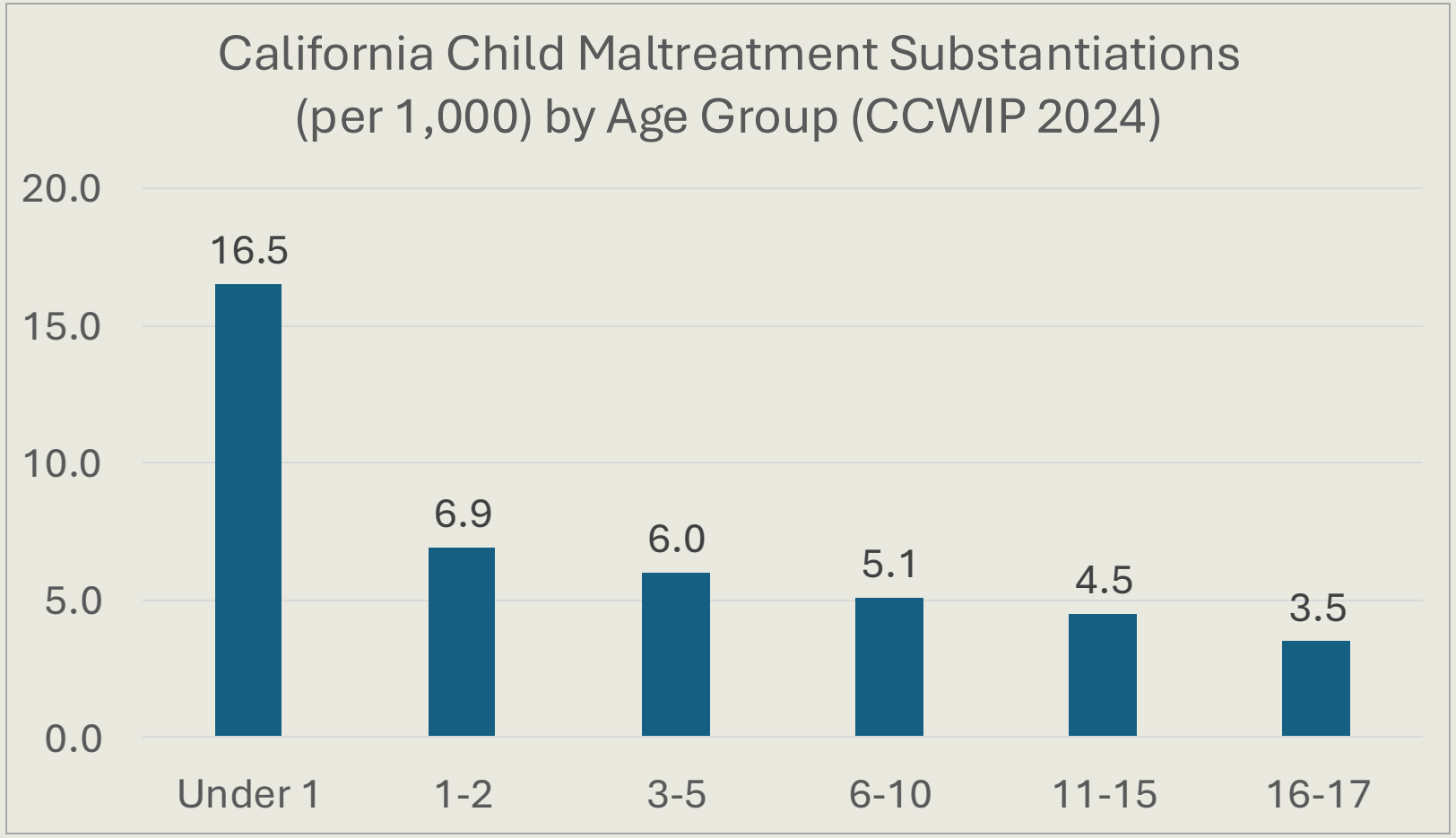

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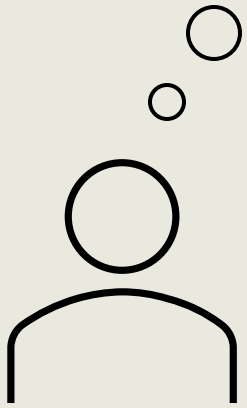

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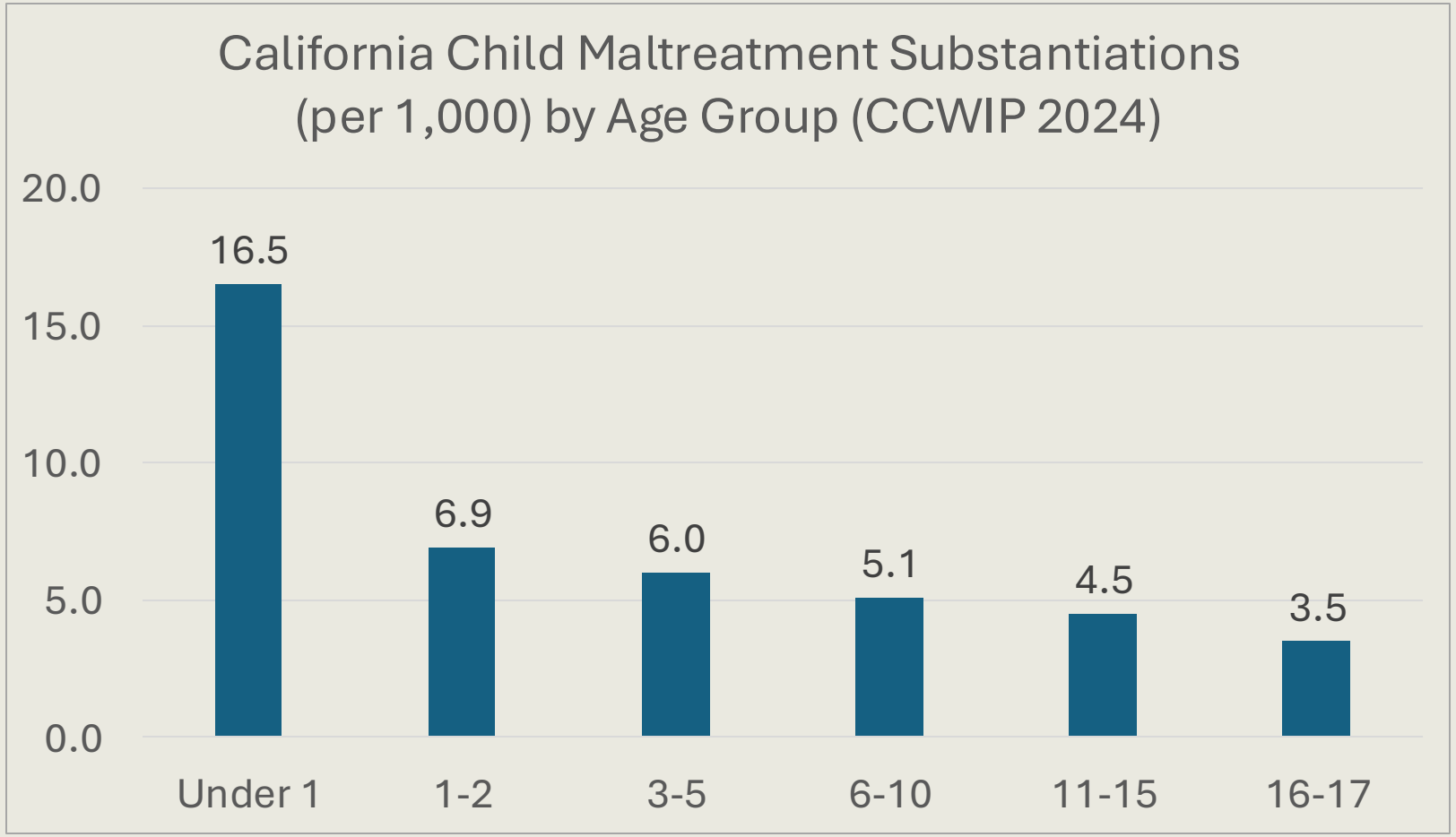
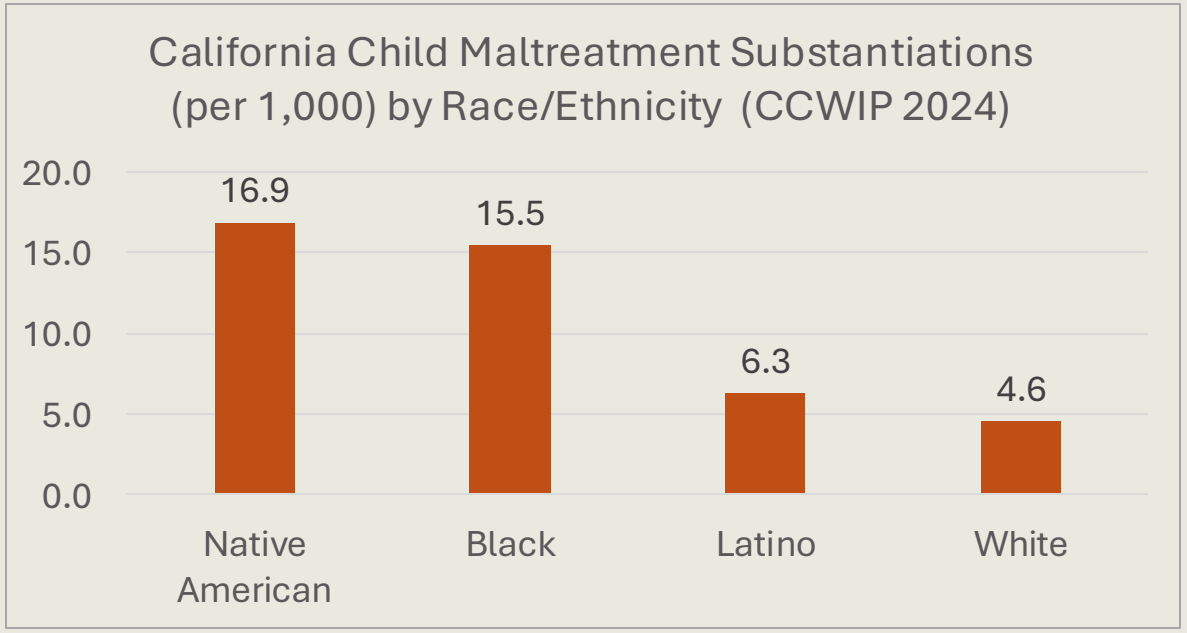


Disparity Identification → Action

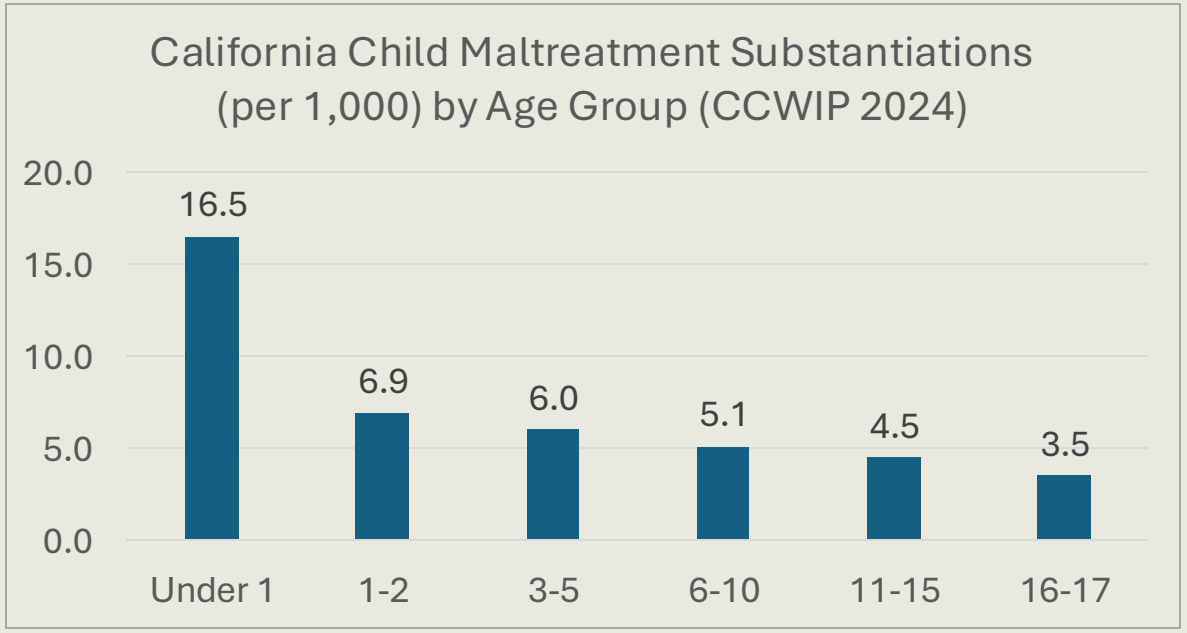
Disparity 1: Child Maltreatment Substantiations by Race/Ethnicity

- This disparity highlights an **inequity that needs to be addressed.**



Disparity 2: Child Maltreatment Substantiations by Age

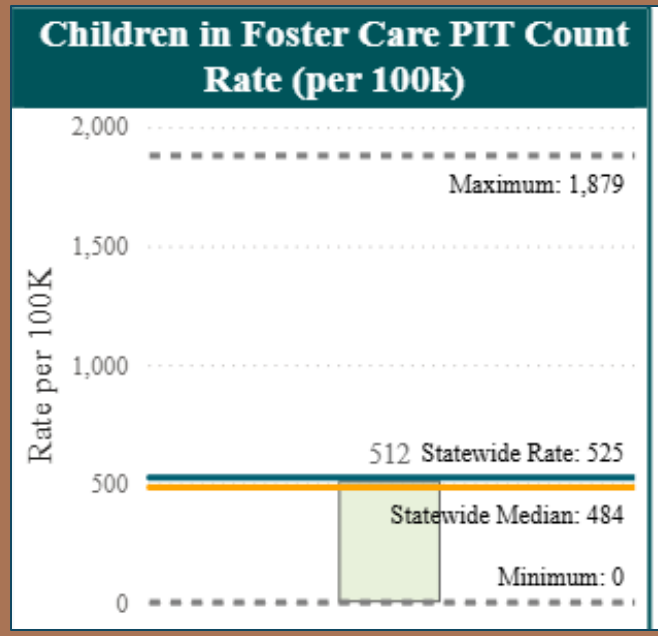
- This disparity highlights important **system context**

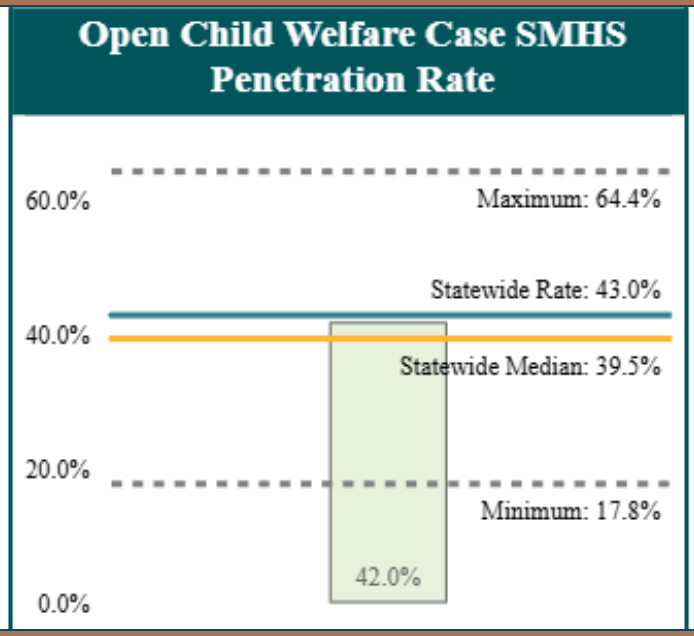


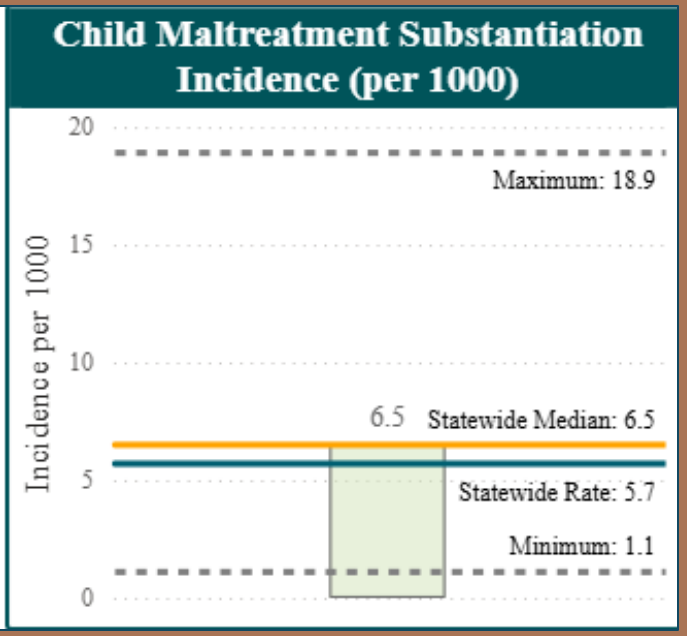
County Example

Yolo County

County Example: Yolo County







Measuring Equity

Why might we be seeing this result?

Removal of Children From Home Measures: Yolo County

Measure	State Rate	Yolo County Rate	Equity-Stratified Data
Children in Foster Care (PIT Count)	525.1	511.9	Under 1 (1163.4), 1-2 (735.7), 3-5 (422.2), 6-10 (387.2), 16-17 (325.3), 11-15 (309.8), 18-21 (116.2)
Open Child Welfare Case SMHS Penetration Rates	43%	42%	Other (47.2%), White (44.5%), (Black 42.1%), Hispanic (39.5%)
Child Maltreatment Substantiations	5.7	6.5	Black (45), Latino (6.6), White (6.6), Asian/Pacific Islander (.1), Native American (.1), Multi-Race (0)

Measuring Equity

Why might we be seeing this result?

Observation:

Yolo County's foster care rate is 512 per 100,000 children—slightly below statewide rate (525) but above the median (484). The county's maltreatment substantiation rate (6.5 per 1,000 children) is also above the statewide rate of 5.7.

Disaggregated data reveal significant disparities, with Black children experiencing substantiation of maltreatment at disproportionately higher rates.

Children under age 3 are dramatically overrepresented in foster care placements, with infants under 1 experiencing rates more than double the overall foster care rate, highlighting how the youngest children face the greatest risk of removal from the home.

Hunches & Strategies

Prompts for Generating Hunches

Start with the Data

Center Community Insight

Look at System Gaps and Breakdowns

Build from What's Working

Prompts for Generating Hunches

Start with the Data

- What patterns or disparities stand out?
- Which populations appear most impacted — and why might that be?
- Are there high-need populations being missed?
- Who isn’t showing up in your data — and what might explain their absence?

Look at System Gaps and Breakdowns

- Where are people falling through the cracks?
- Where might access, trust, or system design be contributing to inequity?
- What parts of your system feel like missed opportunities for earlier support or prevention?

Prompts for Generating Hunches

Center Community Insight

- What do frontline staff, peers, or people with lived experience say is happening?
- Who are your underutilized community-based partners?
- Are there specific neighborhoods, institutions, or settings where outcomes are worse?

Build from What's Working

- What programs or partnerships are already working?
- What would it take to scale what's working?
- Where might small shifts lead to outsized impact?

Reminder: There are Six Priority Goals and One Additional Goal

Designing strategies that address more than one goal/measure at once will work in your favor!

Office Hours Q&A

Turning Data Into Action with Yolo County

Discussion Question

Based on your child welfare and SMHS data, what hunches do you have about what might be driving these outcomes?

What's Next?

Please fill out the survey in the chat!

BHT Data Explainer Series: Office Hours Experience Survey

Data Explainer Week 5: Overdoes and Suicides

Tuesday 8/26, 12-1 p.m.

Questions:

managedcare@calmhsa.org

Thank You!

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CalMHSA
California Mental Health Services Authority