



## **CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**

*A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families*

For Immediate Release

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### **Children's Alliance comments on racial disproportionality report**

**June 25, 2008 (Olympia)** – A report released today demonstrates that Native American and black children are more likely to enter Washington's child welfare system than white children, and stay in the system longer.

The report looked at the level of racial disproportionality at key decision points along the child welfare spectrum using comprehensive data from 58,005 children referred to Child Protective Services (CPS) in 2004.

The report was prepared by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy for the statewide Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee. In 2007, the Legislature passed Substitute House Bill 1472 which created the Advisory Committee and tasked the members to determine to what degree disproportionality exists in Washington's child welfare system, and to come up with a remediation plan to reduce disproportionality.

Paola Maranan, executive director of the Children's Alliance and a member of the Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee, had the following statement to make about the report:

“We've known for a long time that African American and Native American children were not being served well by Washington's child welfare system. This is despite the fact that national studies have demonstrated there is no greater incidence of abuse or neglect in these communities. The data released today further demonstrates that there's no great reduction in disproportionality even when researchers controlled for poverty and family structure. Today's report gives us the detailed data we need to develop a smart, effective plan for addressing the problem of disproportionality. We have hard work ahead of us to hone in on the strategies, the programs and the actions needed to fix the child welfare system in this state—particularly as it affects children of color. The Children's Alliance firmly believes that if we can fix the child welfare system for children of color we'll go a long ways towards fixing the system for all children.”

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*For twenty-five years, the Children's Alliance has advocated for children, youth and families in Washington. The Alliance has 120 organizational members, and more than 8,500 individual members statewide.*

For a [list of member organizations](#) and to learn more about the Children's Alliance, go to:  
[www.childrensalliance.org](http://www.childrensalliance.org)