DISPROPORTIONALITY: The number of African American children referred to and in custody is disproportionate to the number of African American children living in Cuyahoga County.

The Front Door of the Agency

African American children living in Cuyahoga County comprise 35% of the county’s overall child population while 57% of calls coming into the Hotline in 2004 involved an African American child.

In 2004, for Hotline referrals on all children living in CUYAHOGA COUNTY, 36% of callers report that they were a family member, relative or wished to remain anonymous. Schools and medical or hospitals were the next highest callers, followed by police at 10%.

In 2004, for Hotline referrals on all children living in the CITY OF CLEVELAND, 23% of referents were from medical facilities followed by 20% who reported they were family or a relative of the child. Police and schools reported at a rate of 13%.
In 2004, Hotline referrals involving African American children were set up for investigated at a lower rate than Caucasian or other races of children.

“REFERRALS THAT WERE SET UP FOR INVESTIGATION”

In 2004, investigations involving African American children were 3% more likely to be found “SUBSTANTIATED”. There was only a 1% difference on “INDICATED” finding for African American children compared to Caucasian children.

“INVESTIGATIONS FOUND TO BE SUBSTANTIATED OR INDICATED”
In 2004, Initial Safety Assessment scores found African American children were about 7% less likely to be assessed as “SAFE” (75%) compared to Caucasian children (82%) or other races (84%).

In contrast, African American children were about 5% more likely to be assessed as “CONDITIONALLY SAFE” (21%) compared to Caucasian children (16%) or other races (15%).

Initial Safety Assessments scores found African American children were about 2% more likely to be assessed as “UNSAFE” (4%) compared to Caucasian children (2%) or other races (1%).
In 2004, Risk Assessment scores showed that African American children were more likely to be assessed at a "MODERATE RISK" (40%) or "HIGH RISK" (27%) than children of other races.

In 2004, African American children were staffed at a rate of 3 to 1. Rates for Hotline calls and other DCFS internal decision points for African American children was 2 to 1.
In 2004, African American children were actually taken into custody at a higher rate than Caucasian children.

Questions for Discussion

1. What does the data show? Are there any trends in the data?
2. Are there any internal factors such as changes in practice or policy that may be affecting the data?
   - What internal strategies might be attempted to impact the data?
3. Are there any external factors that may be affecting the data?
4. Are there any strategies currently being worked that might have a positive impact on this data?
5. As a Worker, Supervisor or Manager, what “best practice” activities are you doing or could you begin doing to impact the data?
6. As a neighborhood partner, private provider or other key stakeholder, what activities are you doing or could you begin doing to impact the data?
7. Discuss and develop an action plan for “Next Steps”