



# Disproportionality in Child Welfare & What the Data Tells Us

July 2020

Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services

## DISPROPORTIONALITY

"In December 2019, the U.S. Census Bureau released data from the American Community Survey (ACS) covering five-year averages from 2014 to 2018.

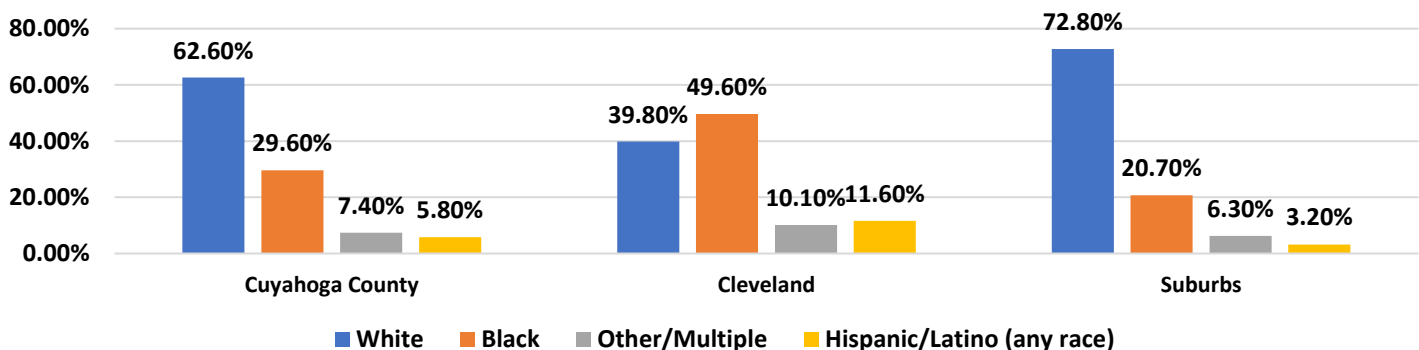
### Total population

In 2014-2018, Cuyahoga County had 1,253,783 residents, just under a third lived (387,398) in Cleveland and 866,385 lived in the suburbs.

### Race and ethnicity

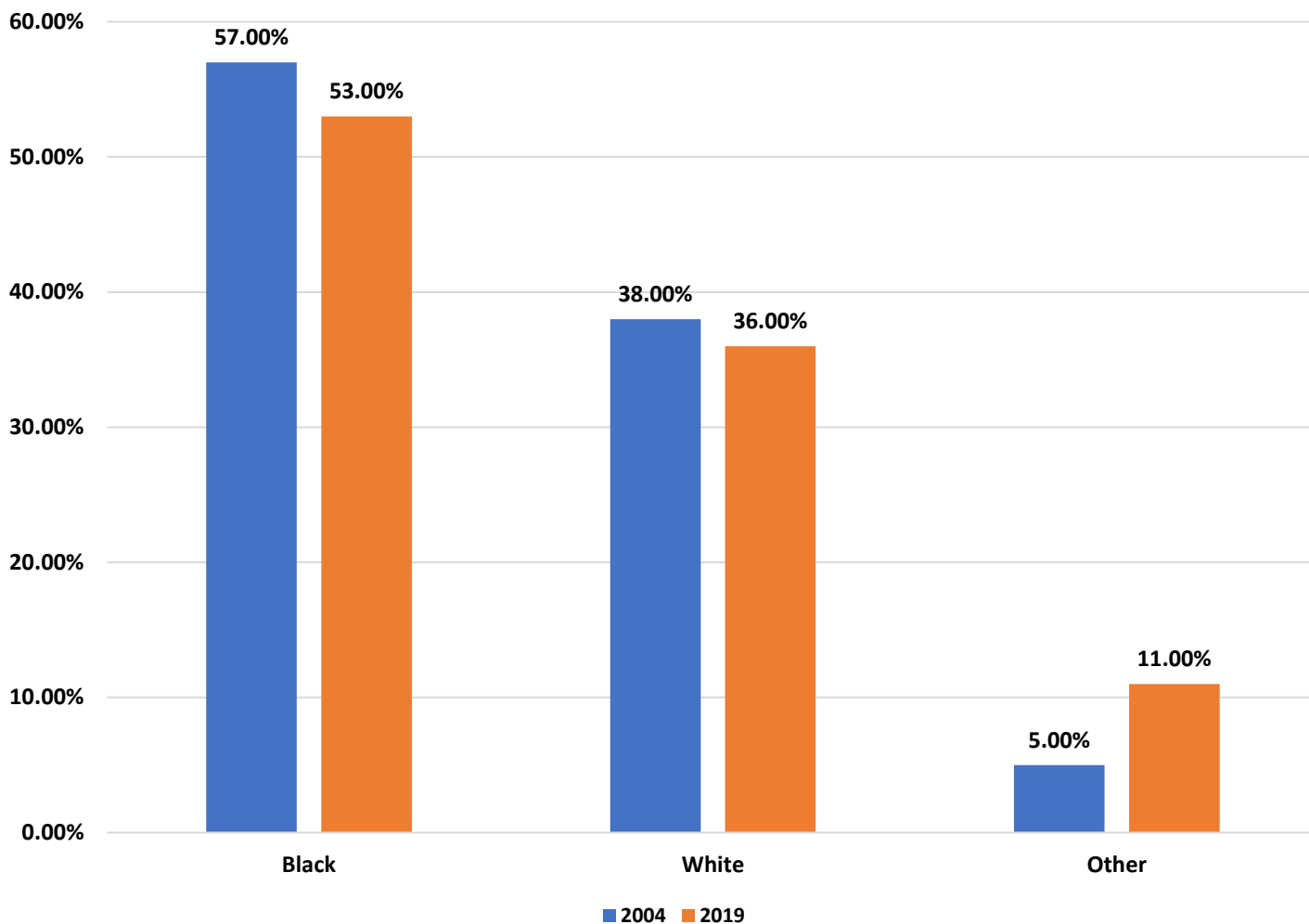
Sixty-three percent of county residents were white, 30 percent were African-American and 7 percent were 'other' or multiple races. The county remains deeply segregated, as African-Americans make up half of Cleveland residents but only one-fifth of suburbanites. Latinx people of any race made up 6 percent of the county, 12 percent of Cleveland and 3 percent of the suburbs."

### Population by Race/Ethnicity 2014-2018



\*The Center for Community Solutions March 9, 2020

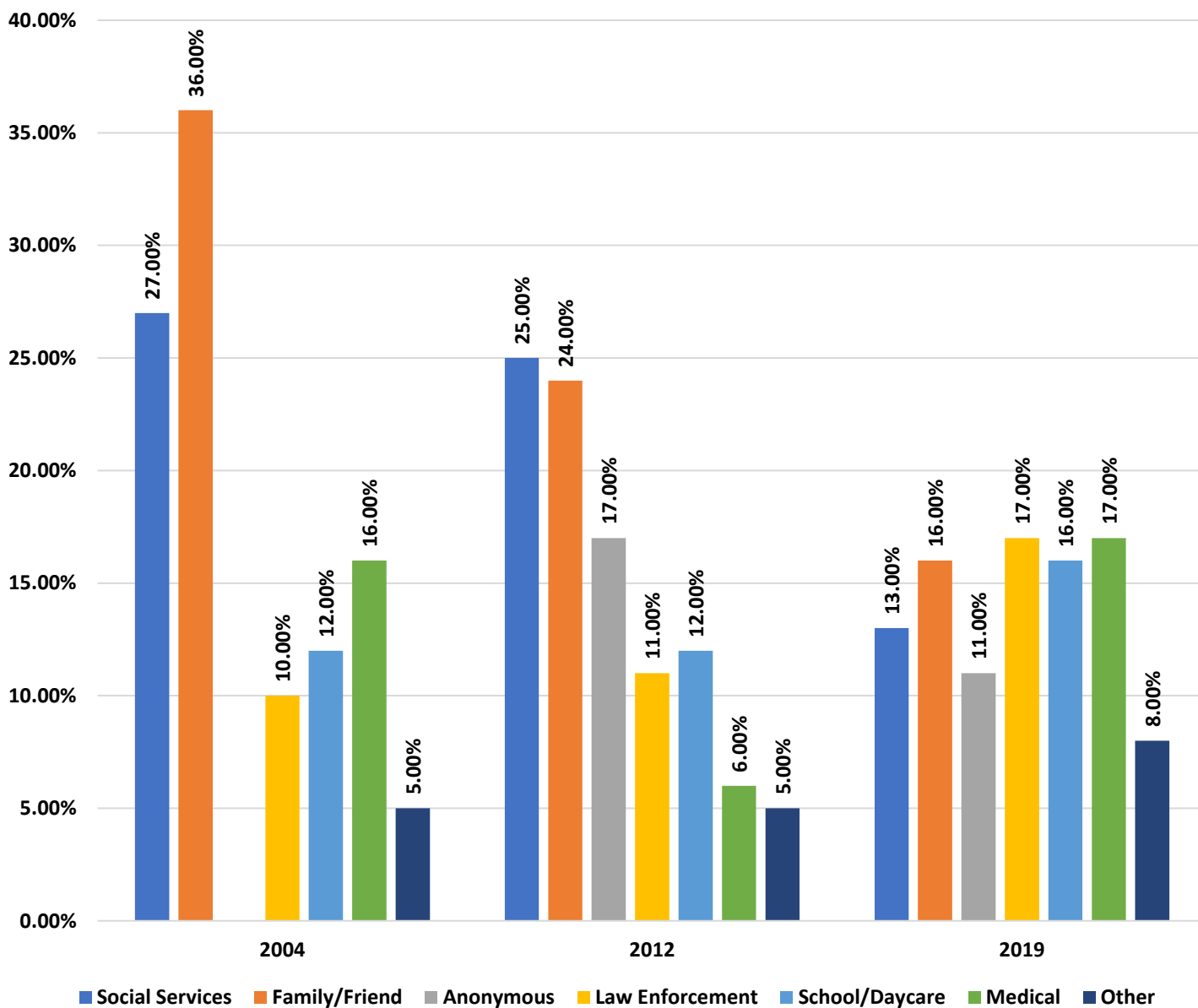
### Calls Coming Into the Hotline



*\*call data for 2012 unavailable*

Black families living in Cuyahoga County comprise approximately 30% of the county's overall population while their children represent 53% of the calls coming into the Hotline in 2019.

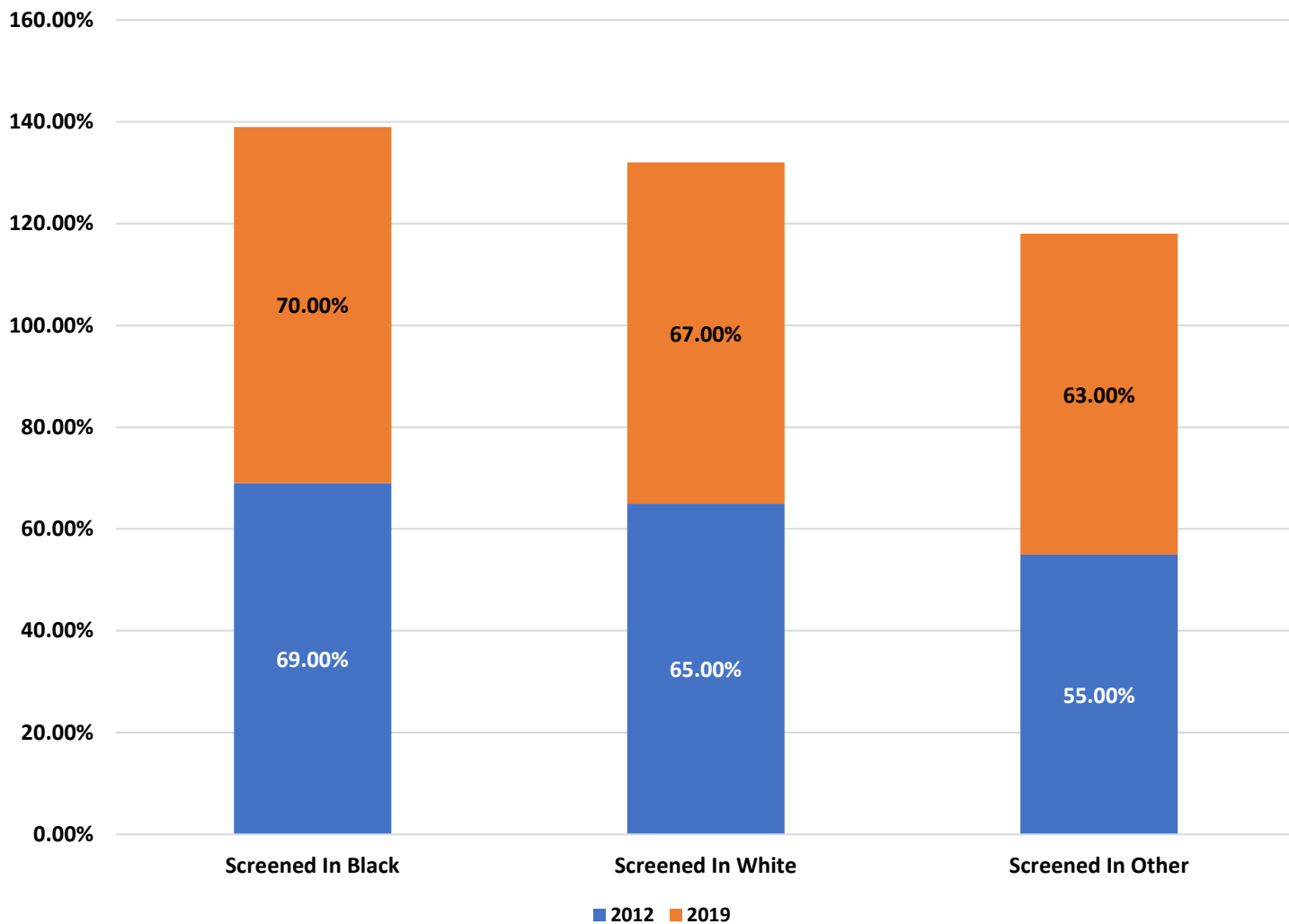
## Referent Type for Screened-In Reports



*\*In 2004 Family/Friends included Anonymous referents*

In 2019, Medical and Law Enforcement reported at a rate of 17%. Both entities are reporting at higher rates than previous years. Family/Friends has dropped over time from 36% in 2004 to 16% in 2019.

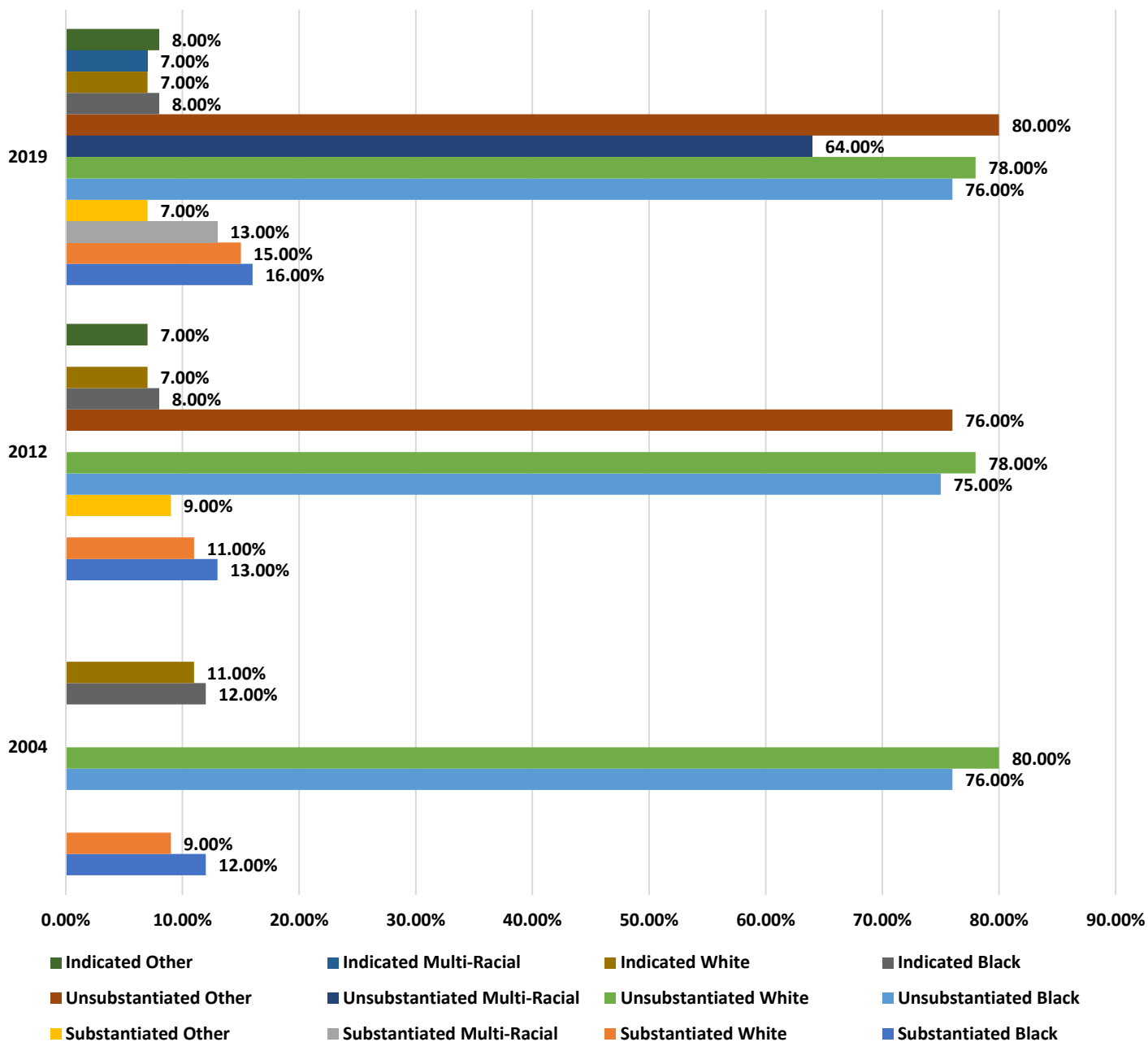
### Screening Decision for CA/N Reports



*\*2004 screening data was pulled differently and could not be compared to these data points.*

In 2012 and 2019, Hotline referrals involving black children were set up at a higher rate than white or other races of children.

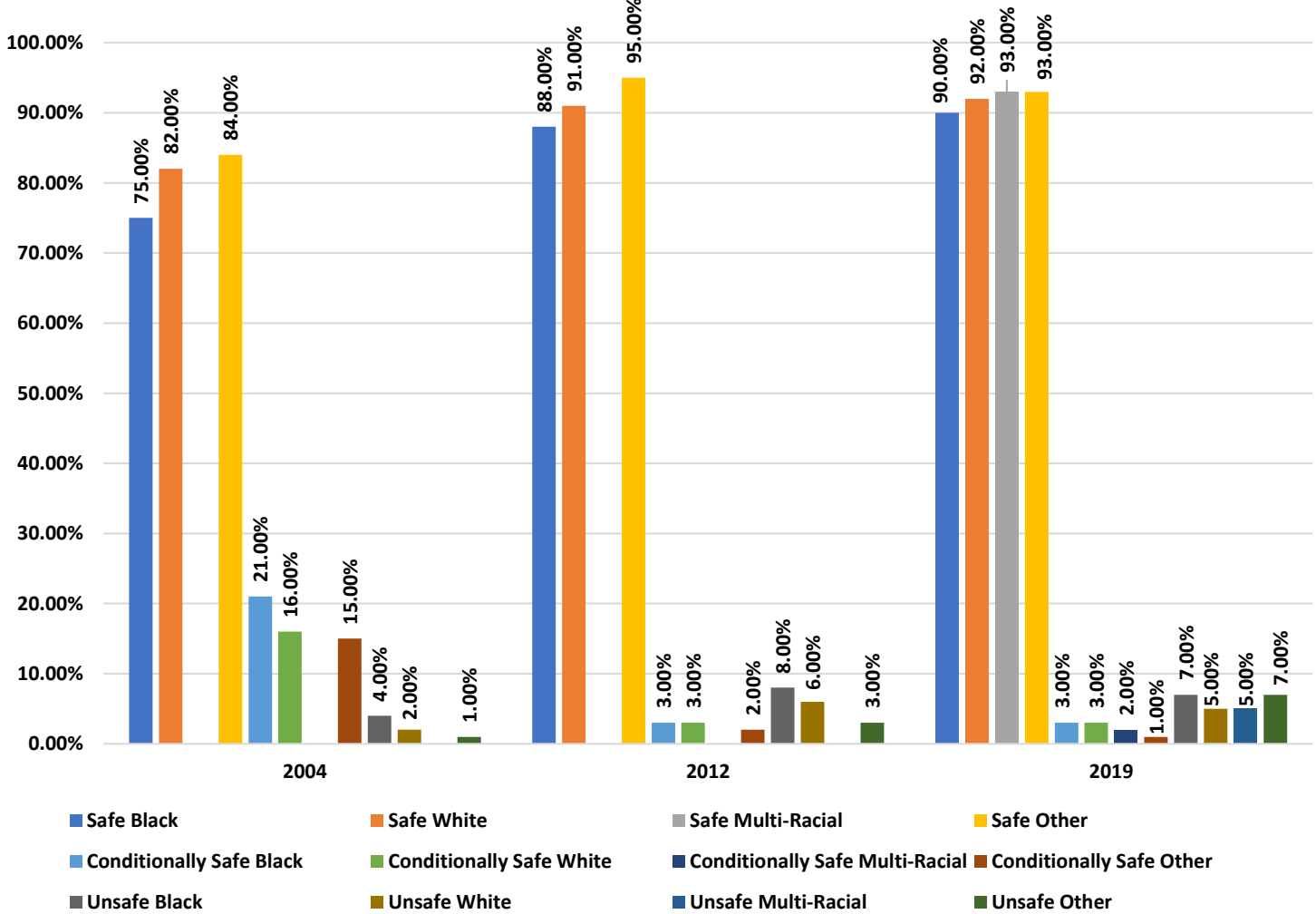
## Disposition



*\*In 2019, Multi-Racial was broken out as a separate category, in prior years it is included in the "other" category. Unsubstantiated includes "can't locate" and "incomplete/family moved".*

In 2019, there was only a 1% difference on "substantiated" and "indicated" findings for Black children compared to White children.

## Initial Safety Assessment



### "SAFE"

In 2019, Black children were 2% less likely to be assessed as "safe" (90%) compared to White children (92%).

### "CONDITIONALLY SAFE"

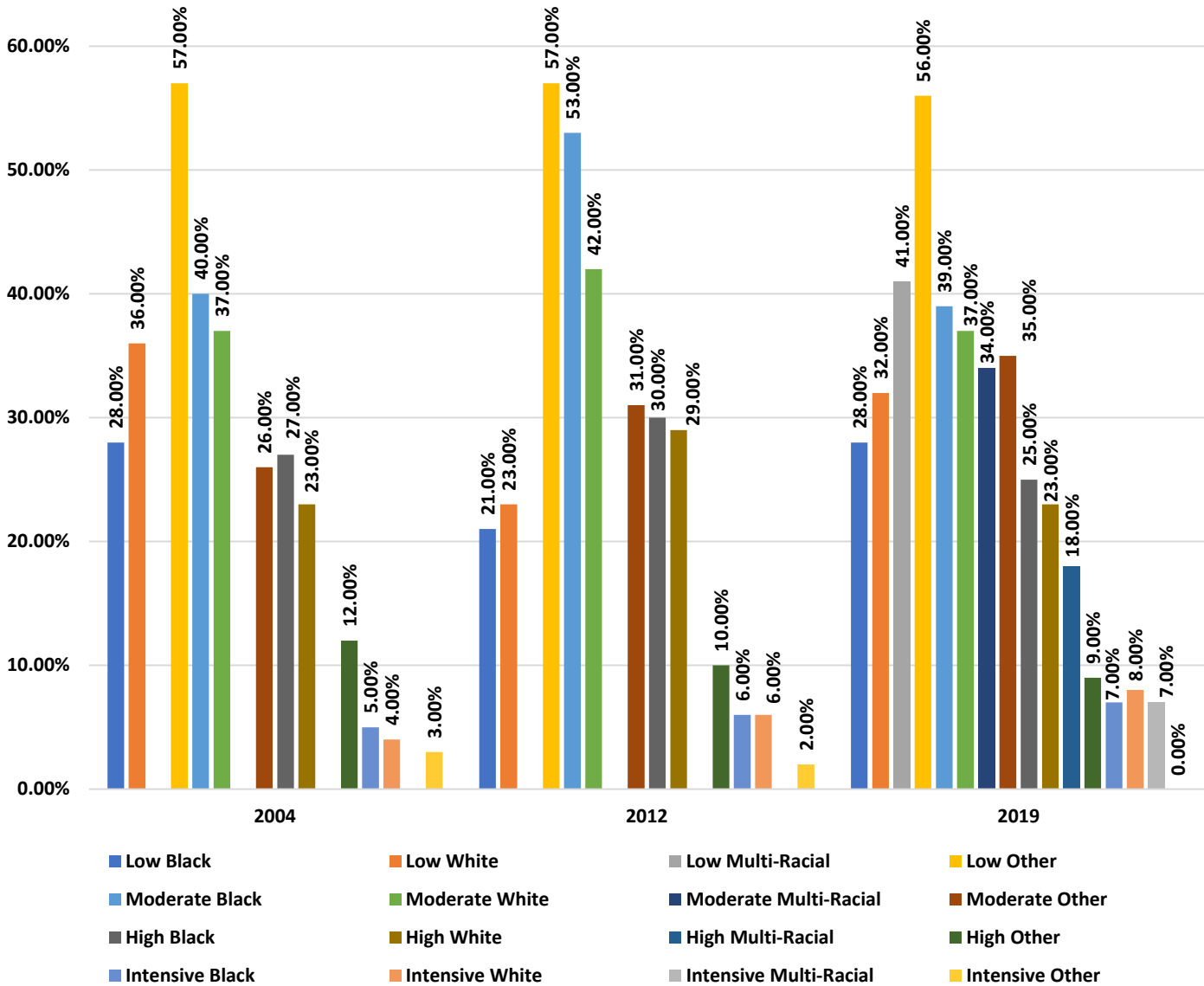
Both Black and White children were assessed to be "conditionally safe" 3% of the time.

### "UNSAFE"

Initial Safety Assessment Scores found Black children were about 2% more likely to be assessed as "unsafe" (7%) compared to White children (5%).

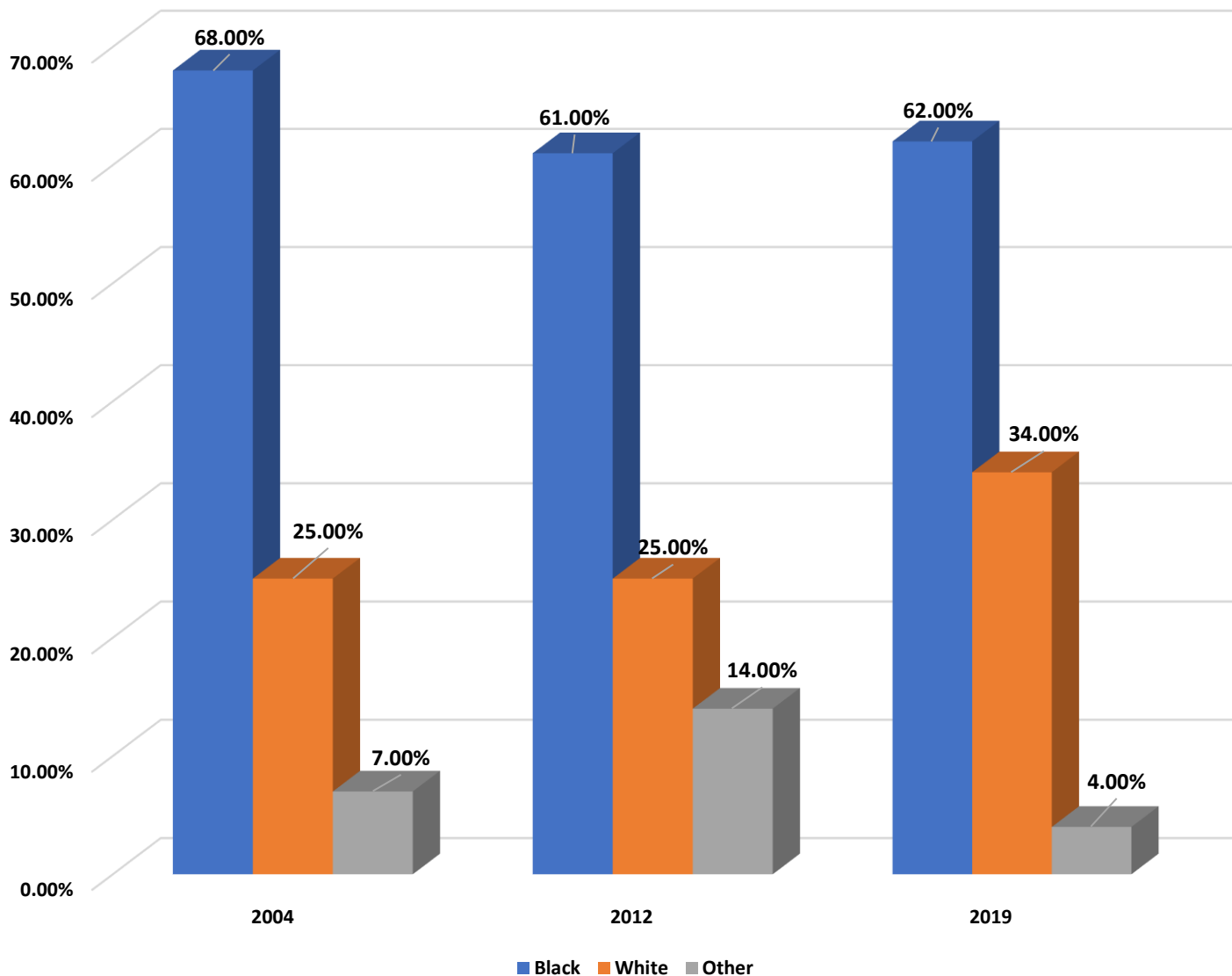
*\*The Safety Assessment tool used in 2019 differs from the tools used in 2004 & 2012. The category for "conditionally safe" was broken out into two categories "out-of-home safety plan" and "in-home safety plan". Both of these new categories are included in the "conditionally safe" category. In 2019, "Multi-Racial" and "Other" were broken out into separate categories, in prior years both were included in the "other" category.*

### Risk Assessment



In 2019, Risk Assessment scores showed that Black children were more likely to assessed as “moderate risk” (39%) or “high risk” (25%) than White children. In contrast, Black children were 1% less likely (7%) to be scored as “intensive risk” than White children (8%).

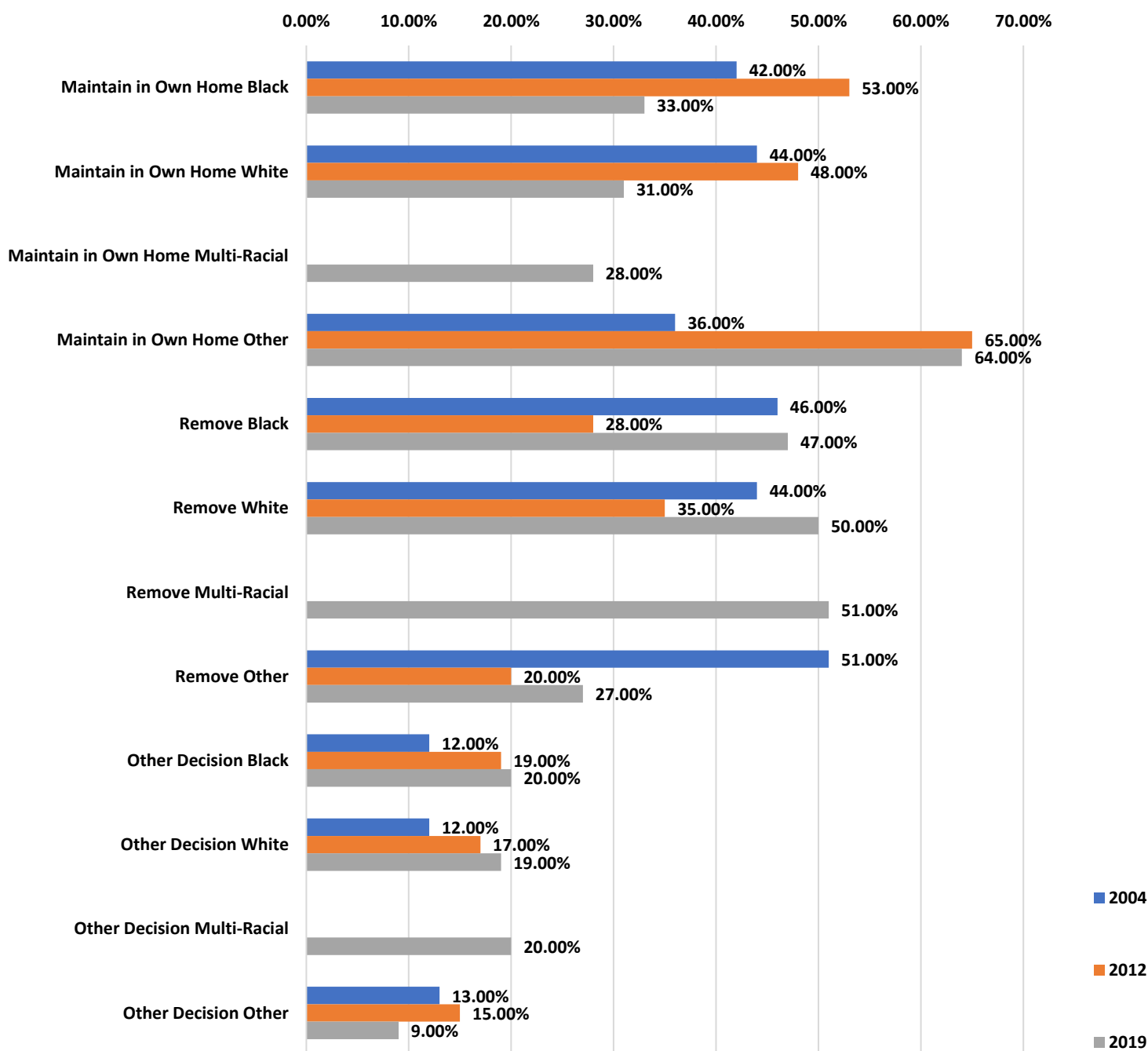
### TDM Held



In 2019, of all the Initial Custody Team Decision Making Meetings held, 62% involved Black children, compared to 34% White children.



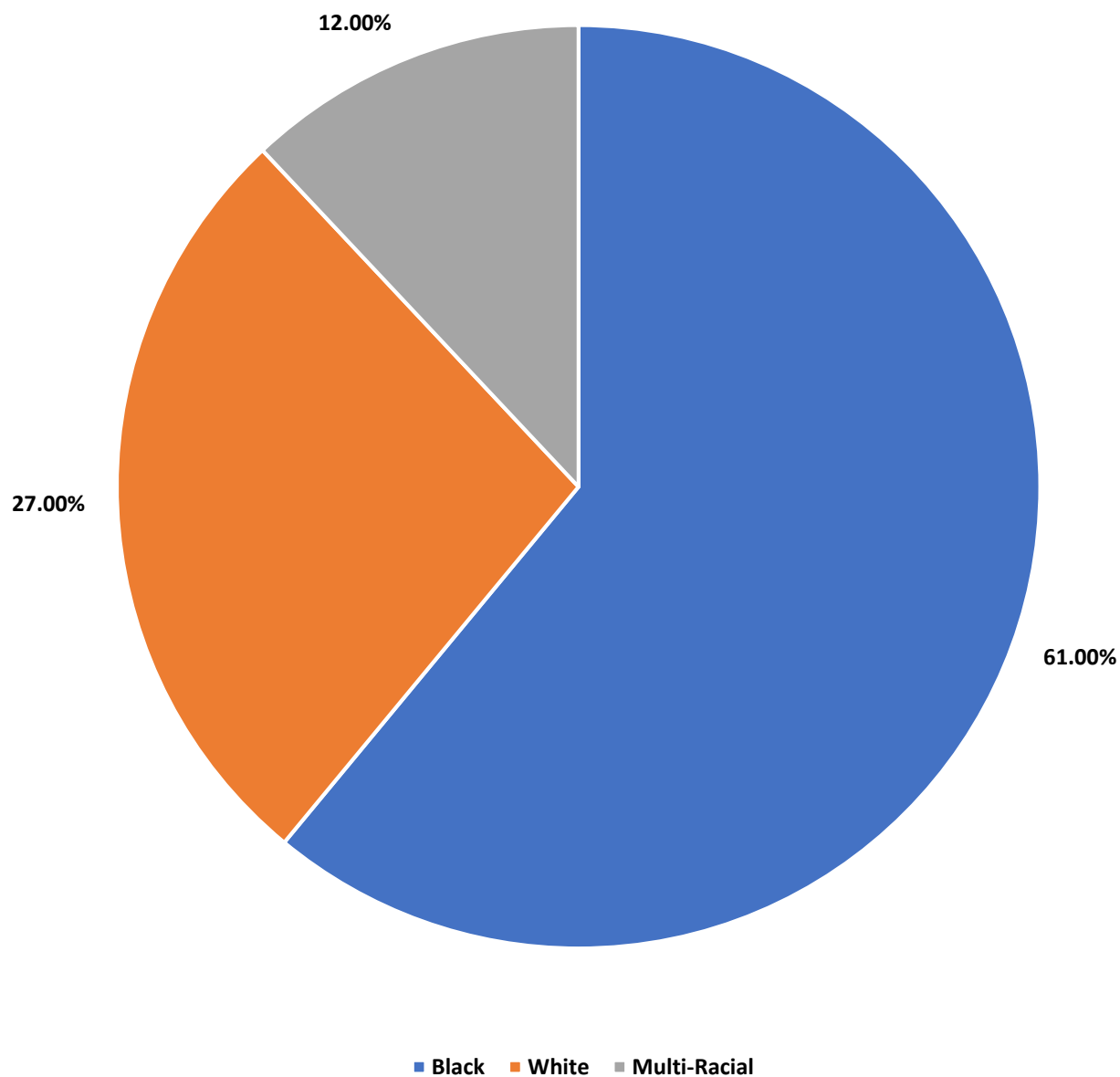
## Recommendation At Initial Custody TDM



\*Prior to 2019, "multi-racial" was included in the "other" category.

In 2019, Black children were more likely to have a TDM decision to "maintained in their own home" (33%) compared to White children (31%) and less likely for the decision to "remove" (47% Black) compared to White children (50%).

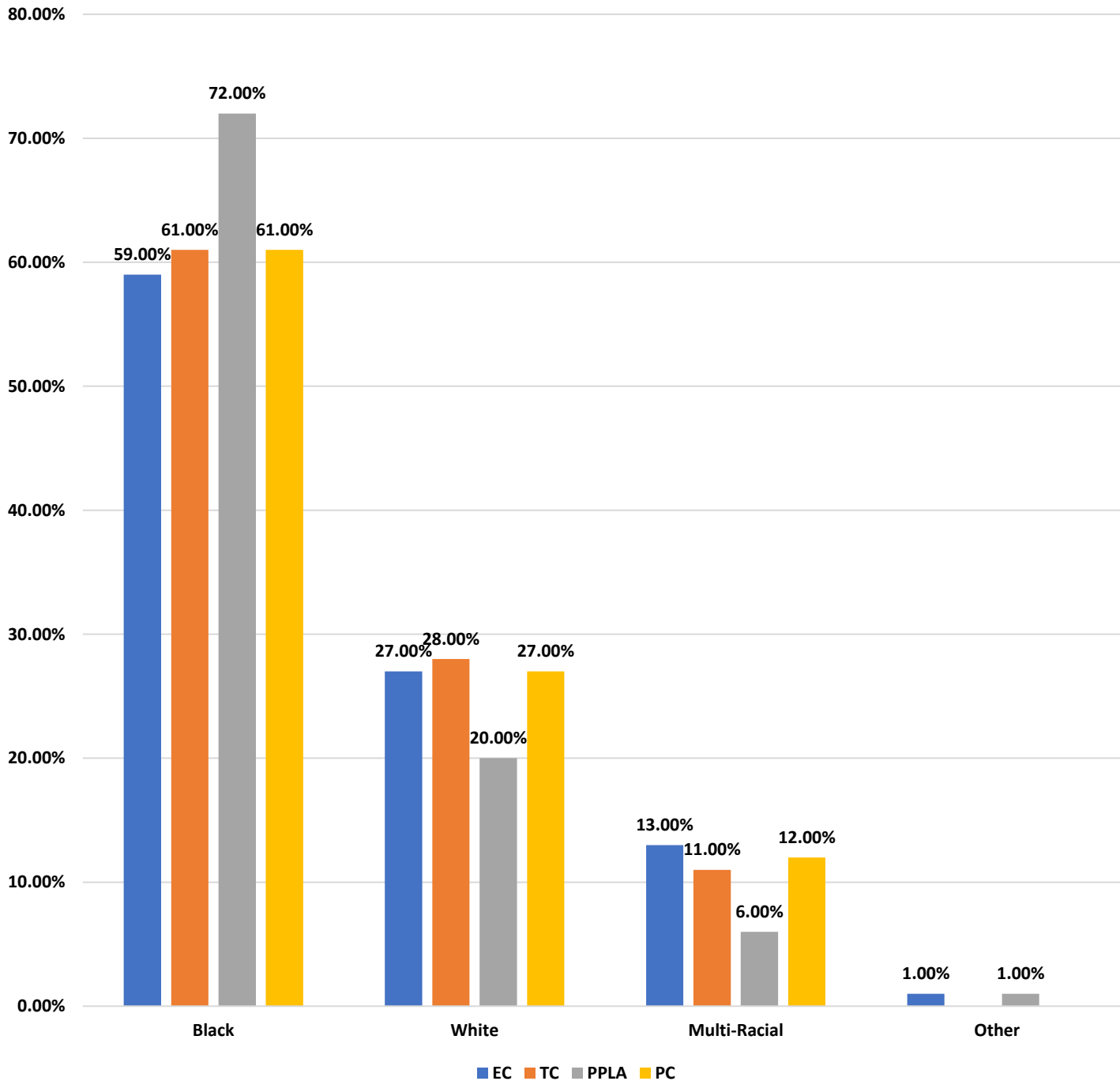
## Children in Care



*\*point in time data as of 7/27/20*

Black children represent approximately 2/3 of the custody population however, they only represent 1/3 of the population in the county.

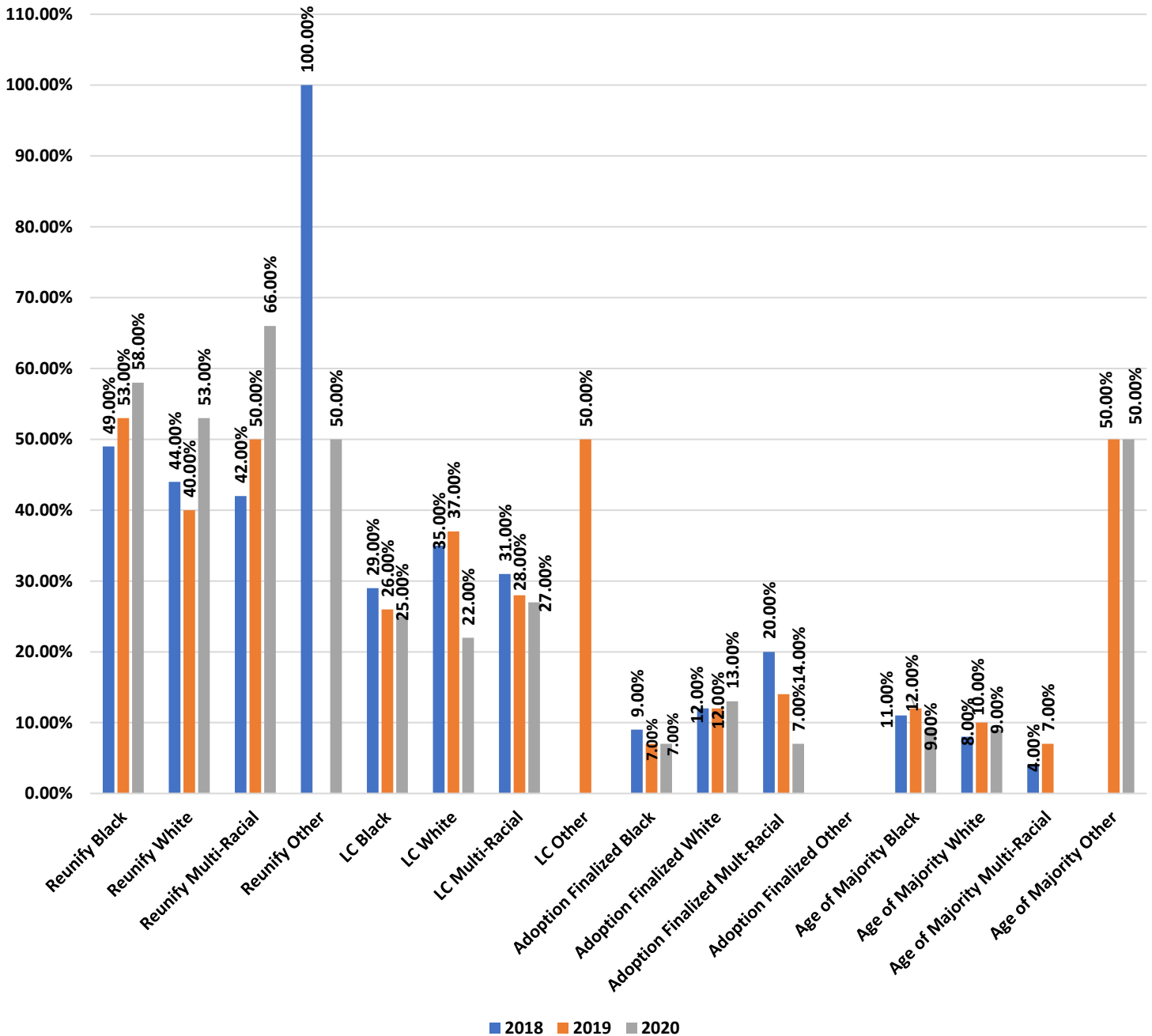
## Custody Type



*\*point in time data as of 7/27/20*

**Black children are overrepresented in all custody types.**

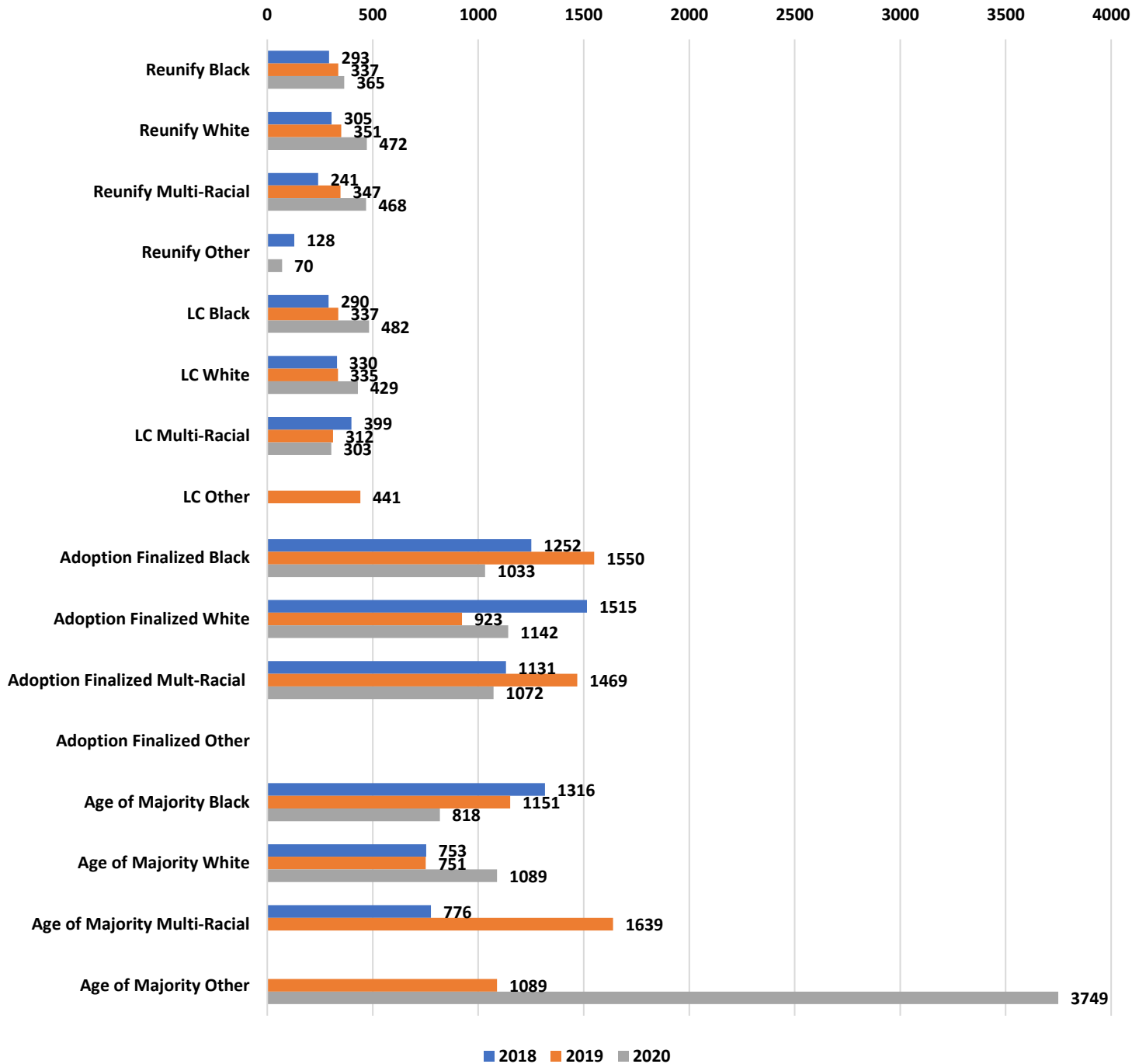
## Termination Type



\*The population in the "other" category is very small, 3 children in 2018 and 2 children in both 2019 & 2020)

Black children are reunified at a higher rate than white children (58% compared to 53%) for all three years. White children are adopted at a higher rate than black children. For 2019, there were 71 black children adopted and 42 white. Currently, 64% of the children available for adoption are black, this data shows that our black children will linger in care longer waiting to be adopted.

## Days in Care by Termination Type



White children spend more days in care before they are reunified, compared to all other races. Length of stay for reunifications and legal custody in 2020 has increased due to the courts closing due to COVID-19. The courts were only hearing emergency hearings and terminations were not considered a priority. For 2019, black children waited longer for their adoptions to be finalized.