

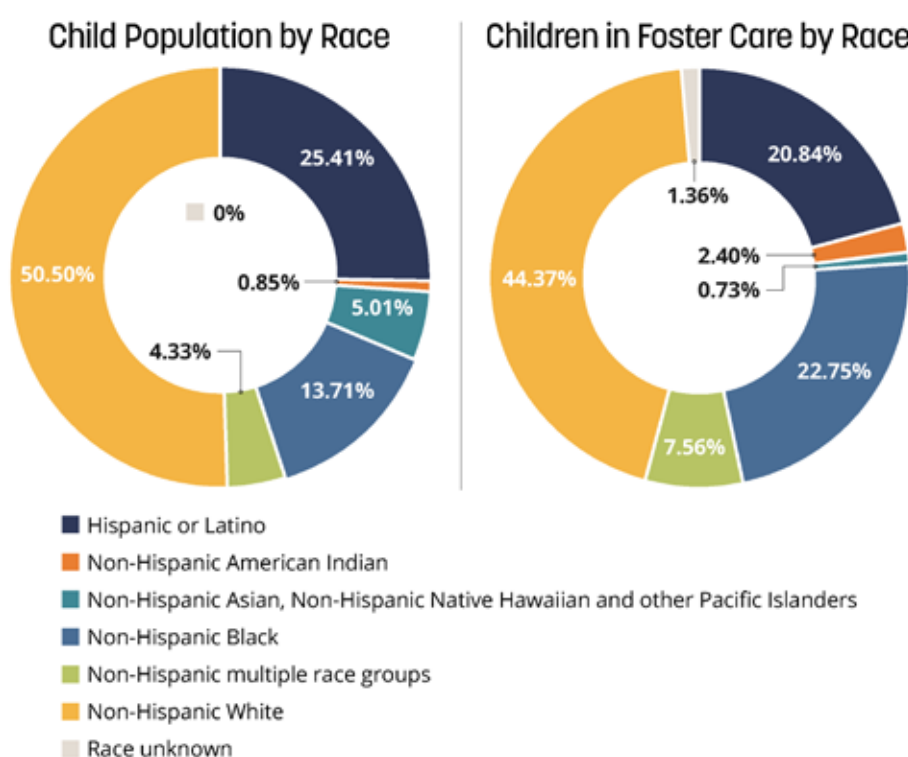
BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL FEATURE

African Americans and the Foster Care System

THE FACTS:

- Despite making up only 13% of the U.S. population, black children make up 23% of children in foster care.
- African American children are disproportionately overrepresented in child welfare and are 2.5 times more likely to be placed in foster care.
- Once in foster care, Black foster youth stay longer and are far less likely to be adopted.
- Children of color are more likely to experience multiple placements.
- Less likely to be reunited with their birth families.
- Less likely to establish a permanent placement.
- More likely to experience poor social, behavioral, and educational outcomes.

"At SOS Children's Villages Florida, currently 90% of our children are African American, and while this number fluctuates with children entering care, and leaving through adoptions, reunifications, and aging out at 18, the above listed facts hold true. Of all adoption placements, our African American teen males are the most overlooked by potential adoptive families." **Sandra Wallace, SOS Chief Operations Officer**



Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count Data Center, 2018

Black History Month is a time of reflection on the brilliance and resilience of the African American community.

The African American foster care community has made unforgettable contributions to society. They have proven that a difficult past does not mean there is no chance for a bright future.

EDDIE MURPHY

When he was only eight years old, Eddie Murphy's father, a police officer, was murdered. Just a year later Eddie's mother became seriously ill and was unable to take care of him and his brother, so they were put in foster care while she recovered.



ALONZO MOURNING

Alonzo Mourning, played most of his career with the Miami Heat. He was so successful, in fact, that he was the first player from that team to ever have his number retired.

After his parents' divorce, home life wasn't easy on Alonzo. At the age of 12, he went to live with a family friend who had extensive experience fostering children.



COLIN KAEPERNICK

Kaepernick, the youngest of three siblings, was put into foster care and then adopted.



MADAM C.J. WALKER

Born in 1867, she is the first female self-made millionaire in America who made her fortune by developing and marketing a line of cosmetics and hair care products for black women. She was orphaned at the age of seven when her mother died in 1872, from cholera.



SIMONE BILES

Five-time Olympic medalist Simone Biles was 6 when she and her sister were adopted by her grandfather and his wife after spending three years in and out of foster care. The gymnast's mother, Shanon Biles, struggled with drug and alcohol abuse and was unable to care for her children.



LANGSTON HUGHES

American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist. Hughes is best known as a leader of the Harlem Renaissance. He grew up in a series of Midwestern small towns after his father left shortly after he was born. His mother had to travel to seek employment, leaving him to be raised by his maternal grandmother.

