


# How the AFCARS and NCANDS Can Provide Insight Into Linked Administrative Data

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Cornell University

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<sup>1</sup>The collector of the original data, the funder, the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, and Cornell University and their agents or employees bear no responsibility for the analyses or interpretations herein. 

# My argument

## Has two parts

- ▶ The first is that the AFCARS and NCANDS data can be used to show just how common various stages of CPS contact are.
- ▶ The second is that doing this presents some problems. And cross-state data linkages, which we talk about far, far less than cross-system linkages, could resolve these problems.

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# Part one

# I make this argument

- ▶ Using the AFCARS and NCANDS data.
- ▶ And synthetic cohort life tables (which I will explain).
- ▶ I use confirmed maltreatment for the example but also present estimates for investigations, foster care placement, and TPR.

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# NCANDS

## ▶ National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System.

▶ According to the Children's Bureau, the NCANDS is a voluntary data collection system that gathers information from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S.C. territories about child abuse and neglect. The data is used to identify national trends in child abuse and neglect, to inform policy, and to guide research. Although voluntary, 44 states have reported data since 2014. Used for investigation and criminal prosecution activities.

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## ► Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.

- According to the Children's Bureau, the AFCARS system contains detailed information on all children in foster care for whom state and Tribal child welfare agencies have responsibility for placement, care, management, and reporting submitted to the website of the State or Tribal Child Welfare Agency. Reporting is not voluntary. All 50 states since 2010.
- Used for foster care placement and termination statistics.



# AFCARS

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# Synthetic cohort (or period) life tables

- ▶ Tells us what proportion of a hypothetical cohort of children would ever experience confirmed maltreatment if they were subjected to any given year's age-specific first-confirmed maltreatment rates at each age from birth through age 18.

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# Building a synthetic cohort life table

Cumulative Risk of Confirmed Maltreatment by Age 10, 2005

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1						
2						
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1	1,997					
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3	1,001					
4	957					
5	924					
6	937					
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2	1,071	4,098,288				
3	1,001	4,058,368				
4	957	4,049,968				
5	924	4,052,579				
6	937	3,931,274				
7	905	3,885,471				
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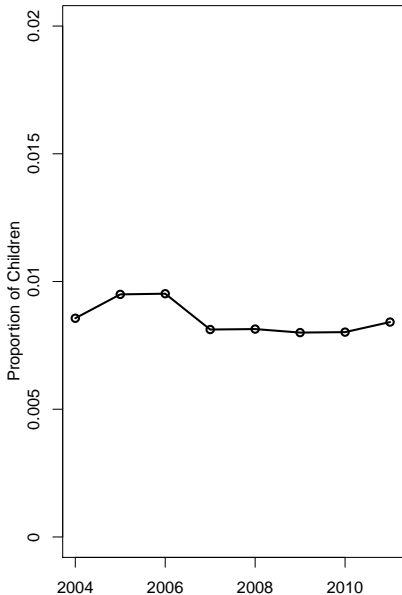
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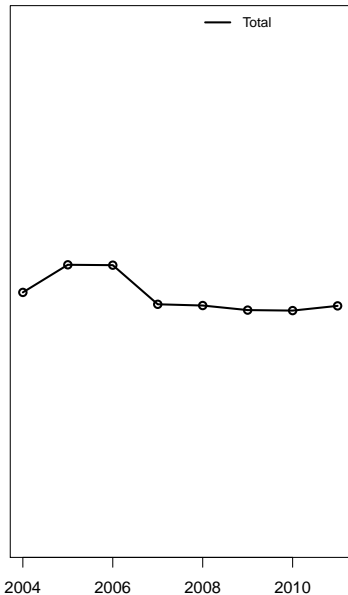
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# Proportion of Children with Confirmed Maltreatment

For Males



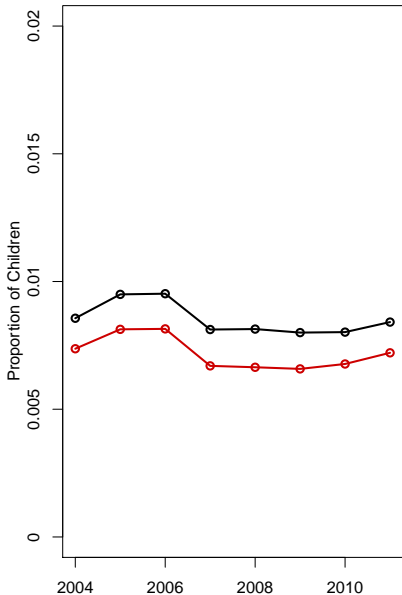
For Females



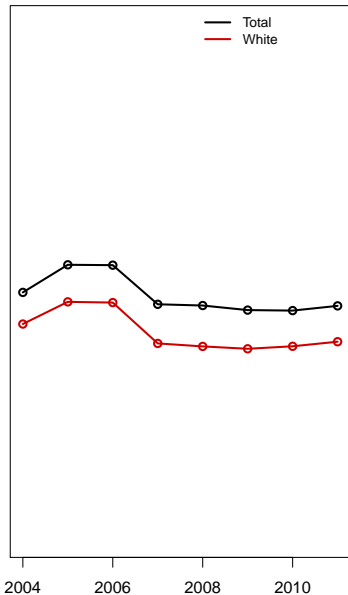
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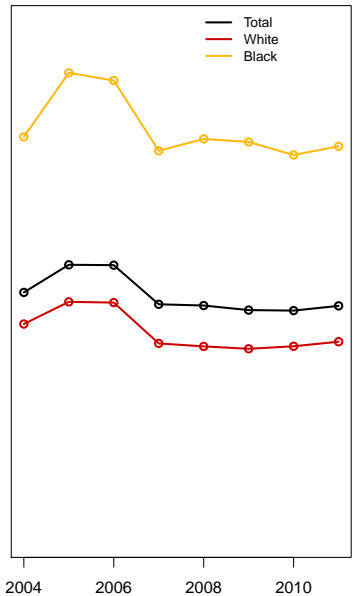
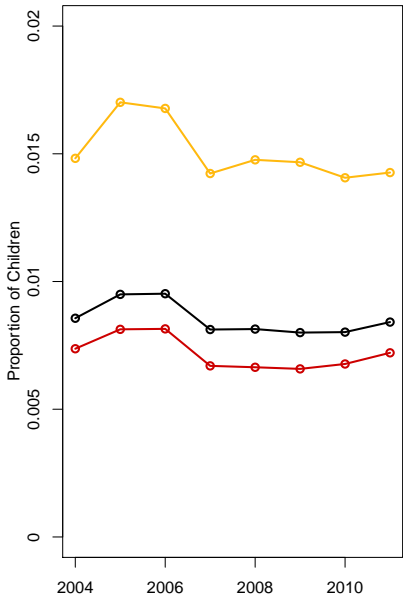
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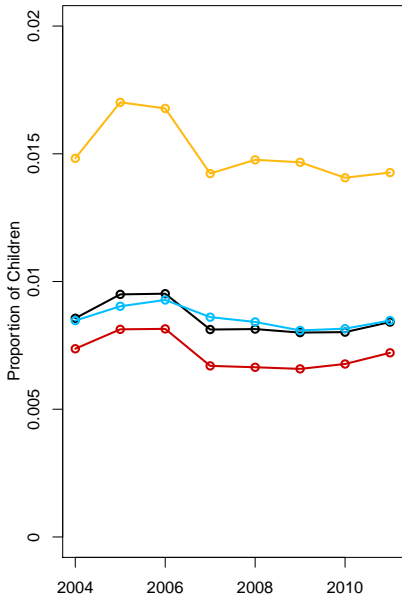
For Females



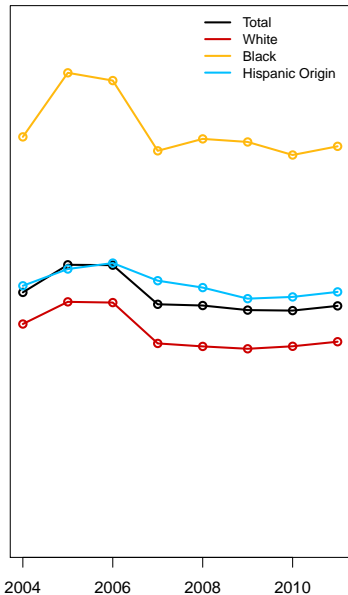
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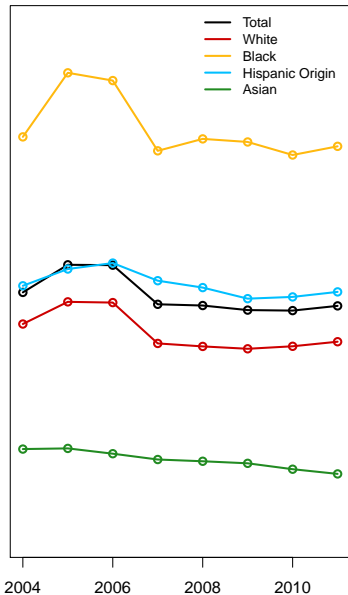
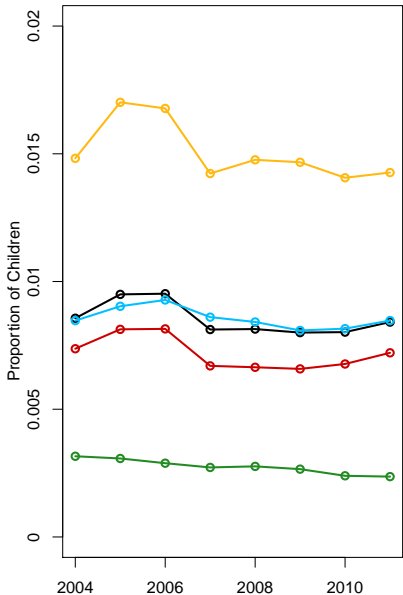
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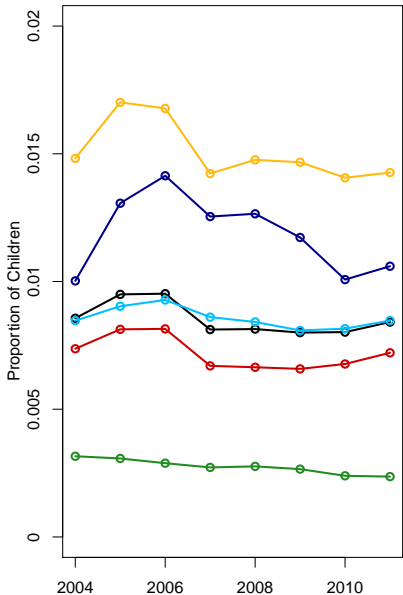
For Males

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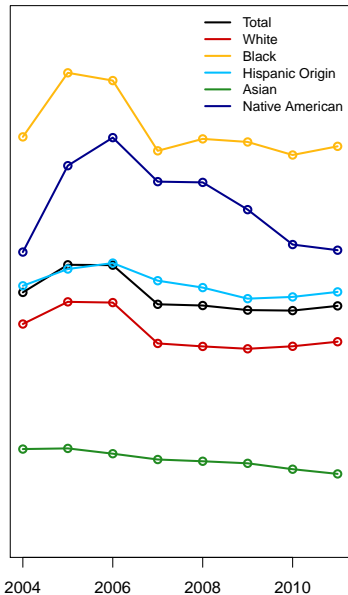


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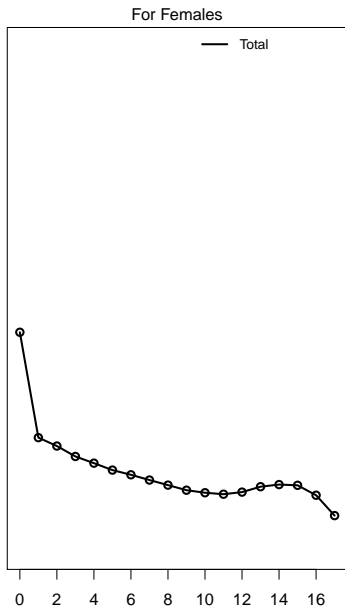
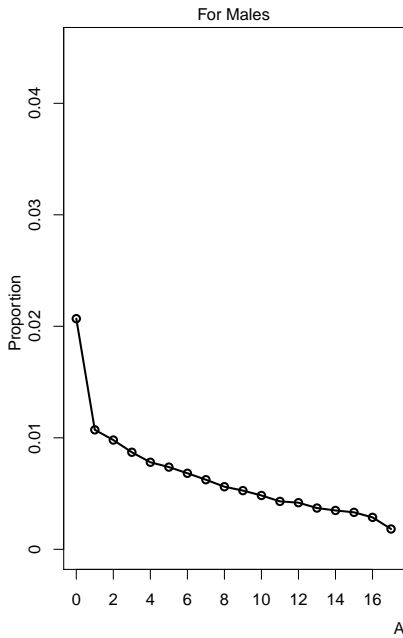
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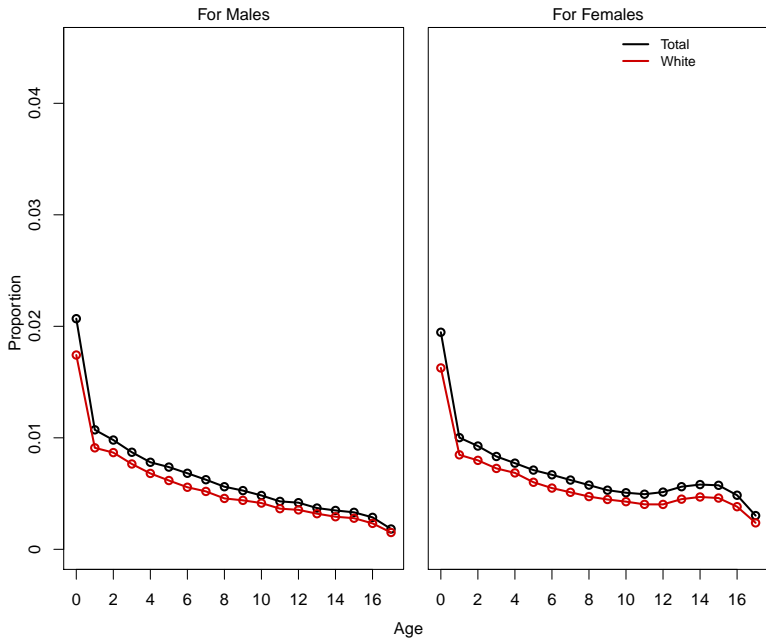


# Age-Specific Risk for First Confirmed Maltreatment, 2005

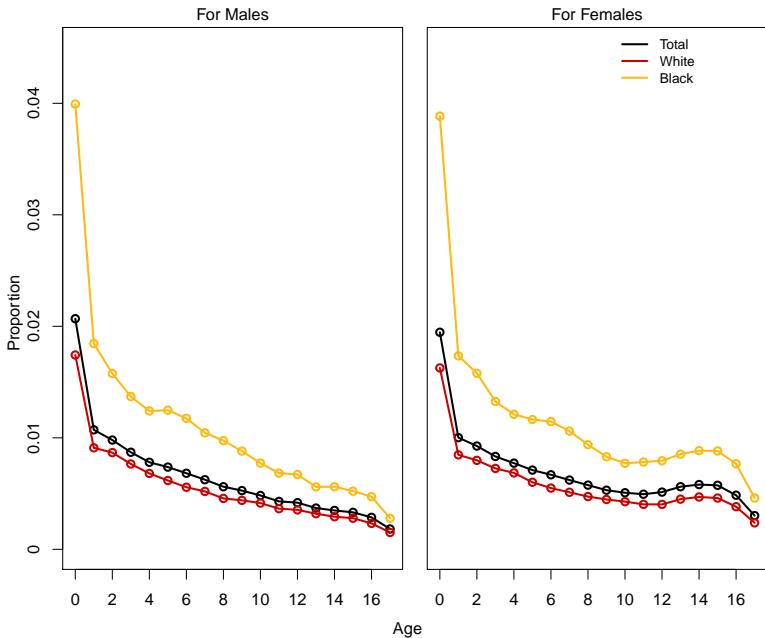




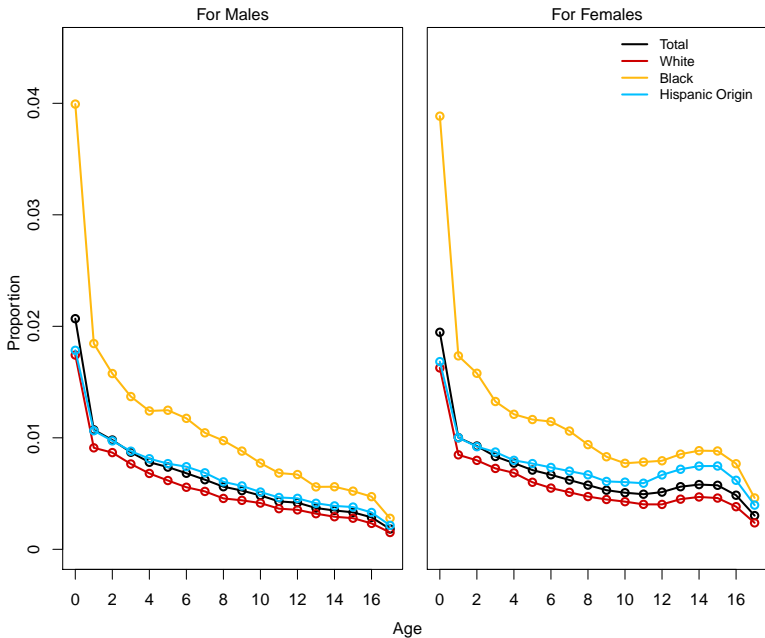
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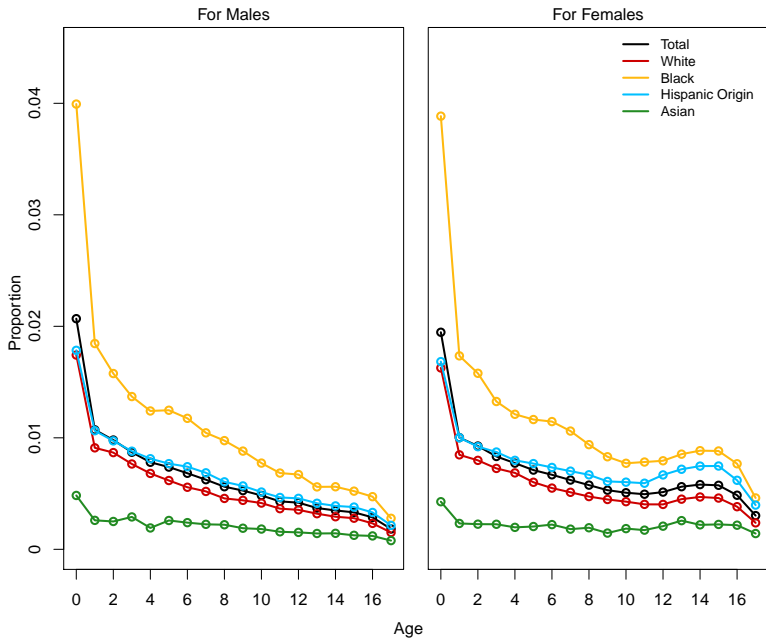
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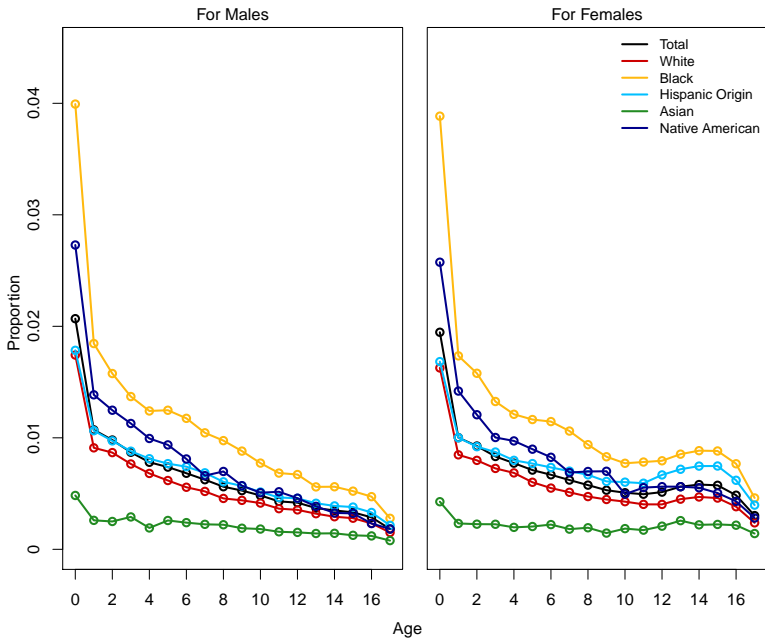
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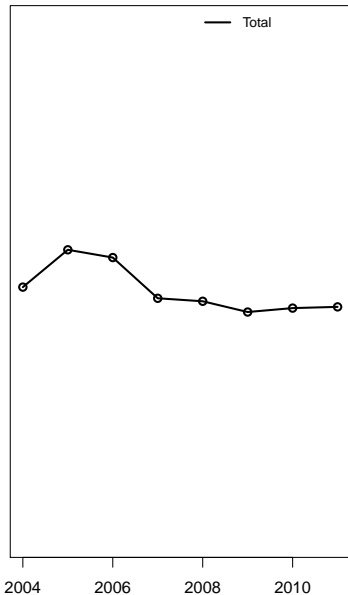
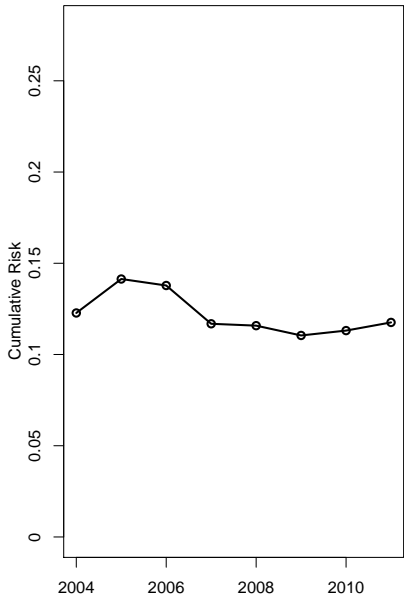
# Age-Specific Risk for First Confirmed Maltreatment, 2005



# Cumulative Risk of Confirmed Maltreatment by Demographic Group

For Males

For Females

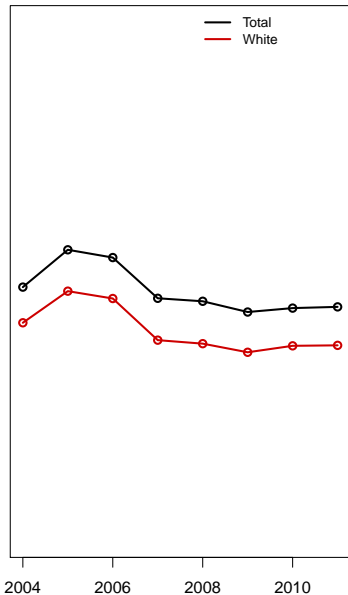
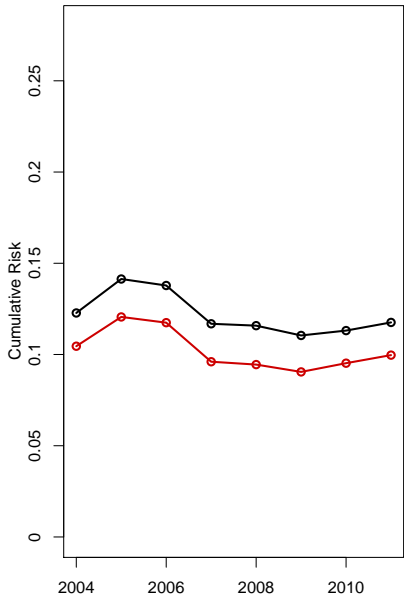


Year

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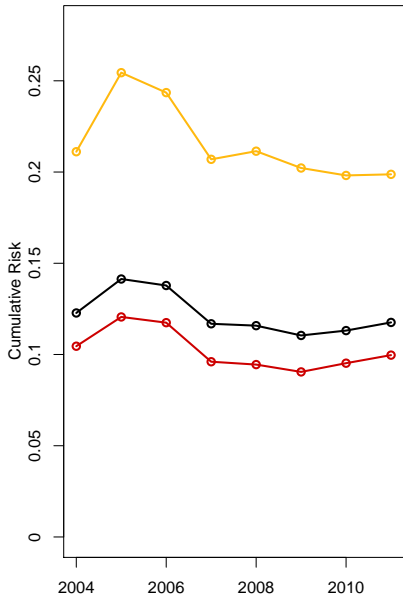
For Females



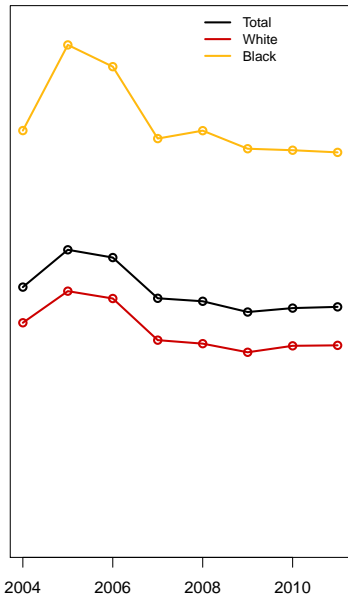
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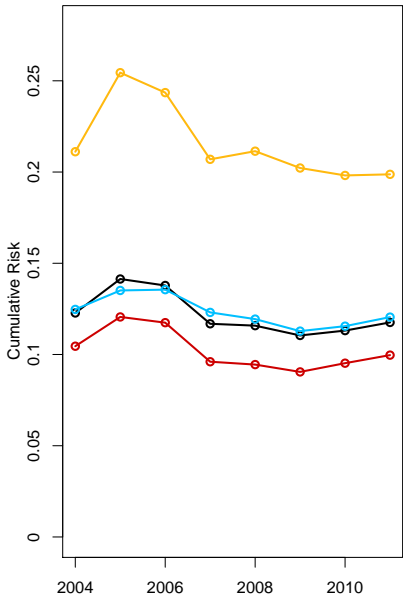


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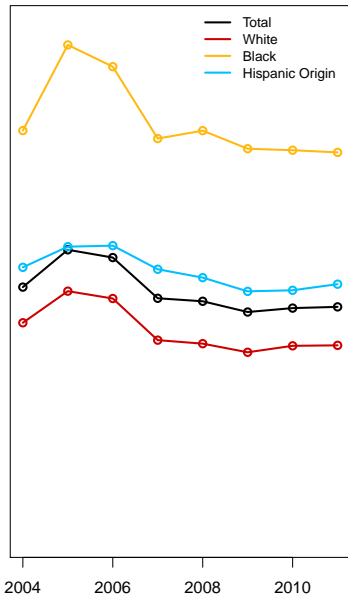


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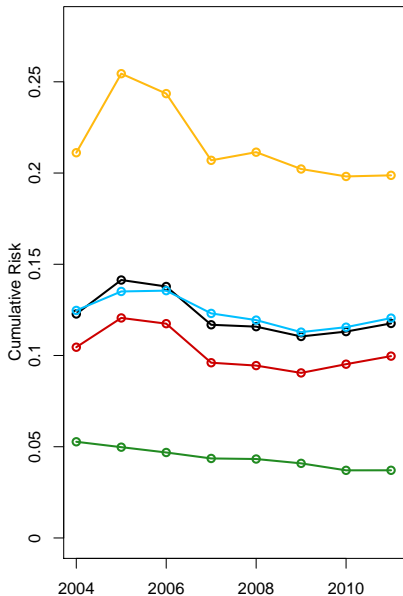
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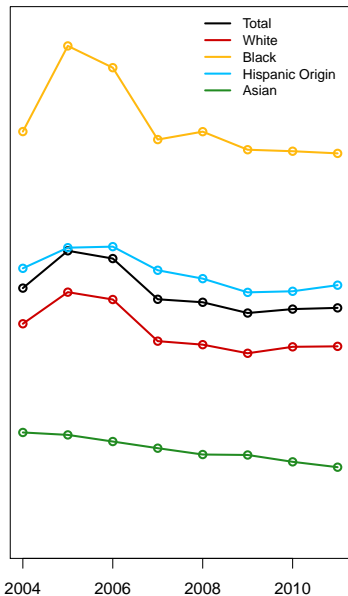
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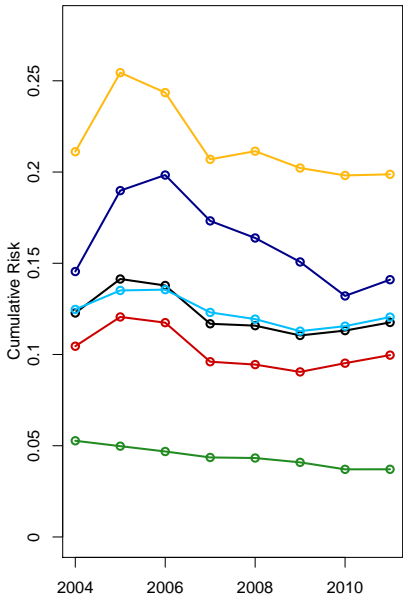


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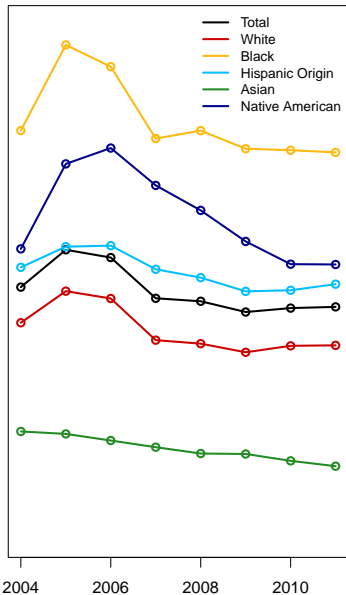


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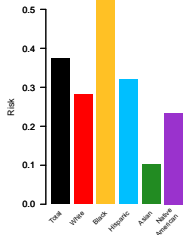
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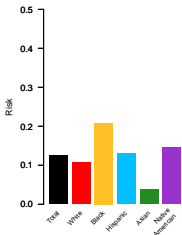
# Inequality in the Cumulative Prevalence of Child Welfare System Contact

## Cumulative Prevalence by Race

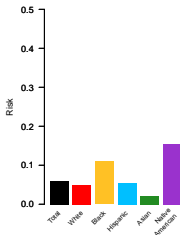
### Maltreatment Investigation



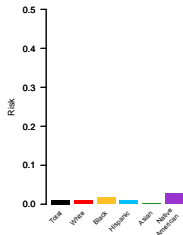
### Confirmed Maltreatment



### Foster Care Placement

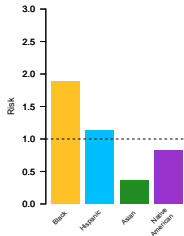


### Termination of Parental Rights

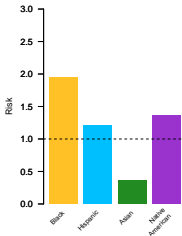


## Inequality in Risk by Race (Compared to White Children)

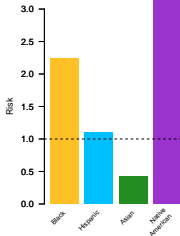
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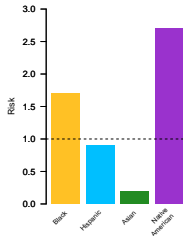
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### Termination of Parental Rights



## Part two

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Thanks so much for your time