

WELCOME
TO THE 2021
NDACAN
SUMMER
TRAINING
SERIES!

- **The session will begin at 12pm EST.**
- **Please submit questions to the Q&A box.**
- **This session is being recorded.**

NDACAN SUMMER TRAINING SERIES

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect
Cornell University & Duke University



Children's Bureau

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families



DATA STRATEGIES FOR THE STUDY OF CHILD WELFARE

NDACAN SUMMER TRAINING SERIES SCHEDULE

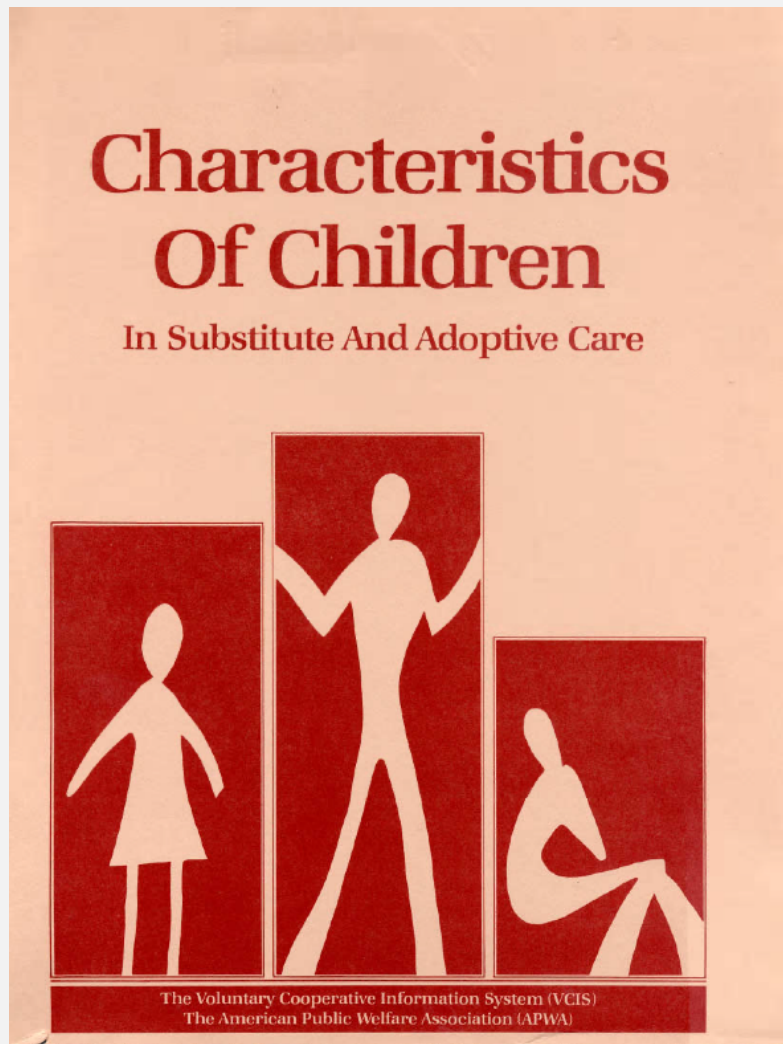
- July 7, 2021 - Introduction to NDACAN
- July 14, 2021 - Survey Based Data
- July 21, 2021 - Administrative Data and Linking
- **July 28, 2021 - VCIS Data and Special Populations**
- August 4, 2021 - Multilevel Modeling Workshop
- August 11, 2021 - Latent Class Analysis Workshop

SESSION AGENDA

- **Overview of VCIS foster care data**
- **Using VCIS data to study AIAN children in foster care**

OVERVIEW OF VCIS FOSTER CARE DATA

VCIS: PREDECESSOR TO AFCARS



VALUE AND USES OF HISTORICAL DATA

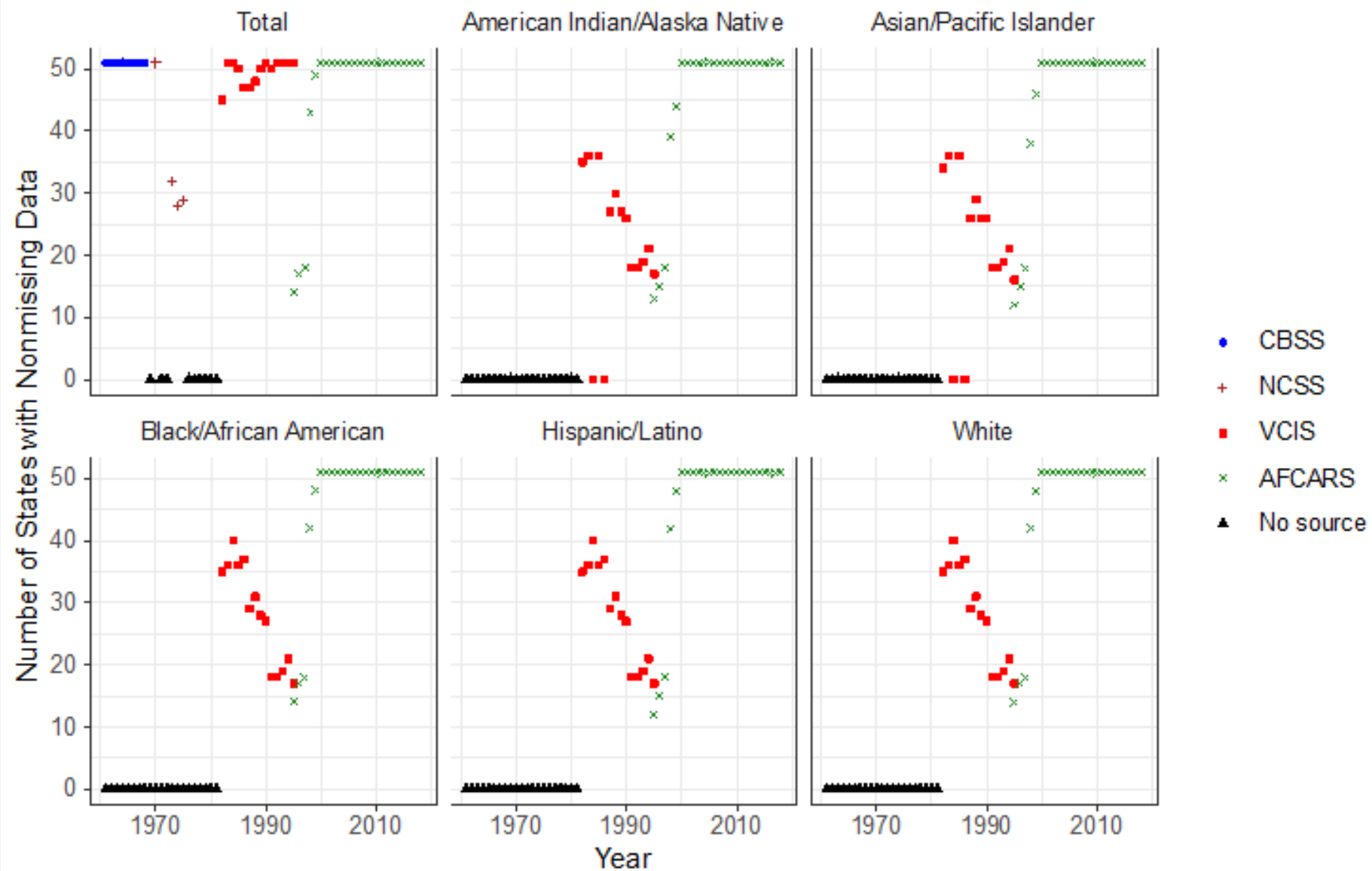
- Contextualizes current levels, trends, disparities
- Expands menu of natural experiments to study

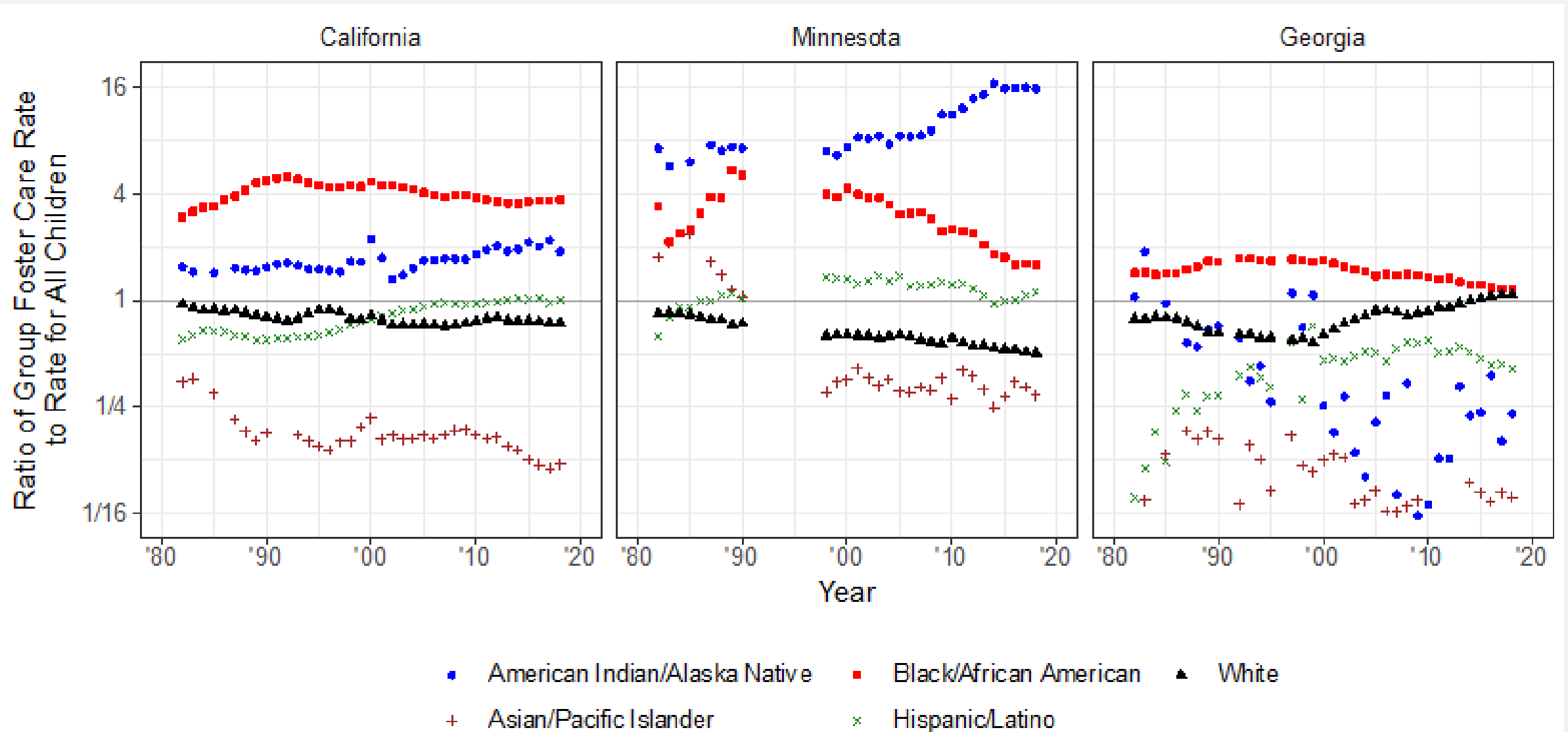
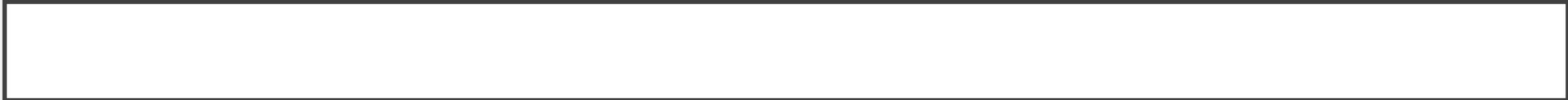
WHAT THE VCIS INCLUDES

- Counts of children *in, entering, exiting foster care*, by state and year, 1982–1995
- Cross-tabulated by *sex, age group, race/ethnicity*
- Also by *reason for entering/exiting care, living arrangement, duration in care*

WHAT THE VCIS DOESN'T INCLUDE

- Population data for construction of rates
 - Requires combination with census data
- Measures reliable with other sources
 - Comparing VCIS/AFCARS counts
- Reliable measures across states, years
 - Clean vs. raw files
- Complete data
 - Analysis, aggregation requires appropriate missing data strategy





USING VCIS DATA TO STUDY AIAN CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

HOW HAVE AIAN FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS CHANGED POST ICWA (1978)?

- The Indian Child Welfare Act was designed with the intent of ending the crisis of the routine separation of American Indian and Alaska Native children from their families into foster and adoptive white families
- The Association on American Indian Affairs estimated that about 1 in 4 AIAN children had been in foster care in the mid-1970s; cumulative risk today is about 1 in 8.
- How did exposure to foster care and adoption change following the passage of ICWA?

THE COMPLEXITIES OF HISTORICAL DATA

- VCIS extends the time series available from AFCARS. Previously 2000 – 2019; now 1982 – 2019 are available in part.
- For measuring exposure over time, population denominators are key
- But Census methods for enumerating race have shifted: Census shifted to self-identification and to multiple race identification.
- The population identifying as AIAN in the Census has grown dramatically since 1970 (Passel 1997; Nagel 1995), not explainable due to demography alone.
- The addition of VCIS provides rich information, but historical knowledge of data collection is critical

QUESTIONS?

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NEXT WEEK...

Date:

August 4th

Presenters:

Sarah Sernaker and Frank Edwards

Topic:

Multilevel Modeling