

Coalition of
Communities of
Color

Presentation to Portland City Council
May 6, 2010



Portland State
UNIVERSITY



Overview

- Introduction to this project & the Coalition
- Synthesis of findings
- Population counts
- Selected findings on disparities
- Comparison data
- Community-specific findings
 - Asian/Pacific Islander
 - Slavic
 - African Immigrant & Refugee
 - African American
 - Hispanic
 - Native American
- Recommendations



Coalition of Communities of Color

The Coalition's mission is:

- To address the socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism, and inequity of services experienced by our families, children and communities
- To organize our communities for collective action resulting in social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice and prosperity





Coalition of Communities of Color

- Formed in 2001
- Membership
 - Culturally-specific community based organizations, including
 - El Programa Hispano
 - Urban League of Portland
 - Native American Youth and Family Center
 - Asian Family Center
 - Latino Network
 - Self Enhancement Inc.
 - Africa House
 - Slavic Coalition of Oregon





Introduction to this project

- Partnership between PSU's School of Social Work & the Coalition of Communities of Color
- Funding from:
 - Multnomah County (\$100,000 for one year, FY09)
 - City of Portland (\$50,000 for one year, 2009)
 - Northwest Health Foundation (\$180,000 spread over three years, 2009-2011)
 - Coalition of Communities of Color (In-kind contribution of \$36,000/year)
 - Portland State University (In-kind research contribution of \$27,800 in FY09 & through 2011, and grant of \$9,400 for 2010)



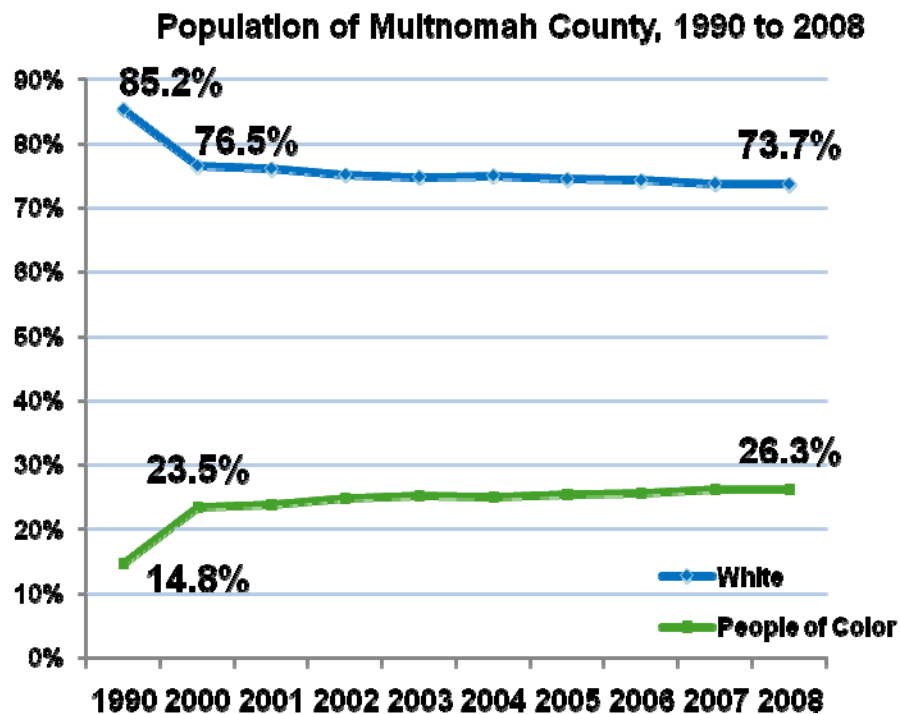
Synthesis of our work

- We are sizeable and growing in numbers
 - We are rendered less visible by undercounts that we are solving in several ways
- There are **huge disparities** across all systems and institutions between Communities of Color and Whites
- It is **worse here than in King County** (home to Seattle) for communities of color
- It is **worse here for communities of color than USA averages**
- These disparities are **worsening over time**
- These comparisons show that **policy can influence outcomes**
 - The policy landscape is failing our communities
 - We can and must reverse these trends



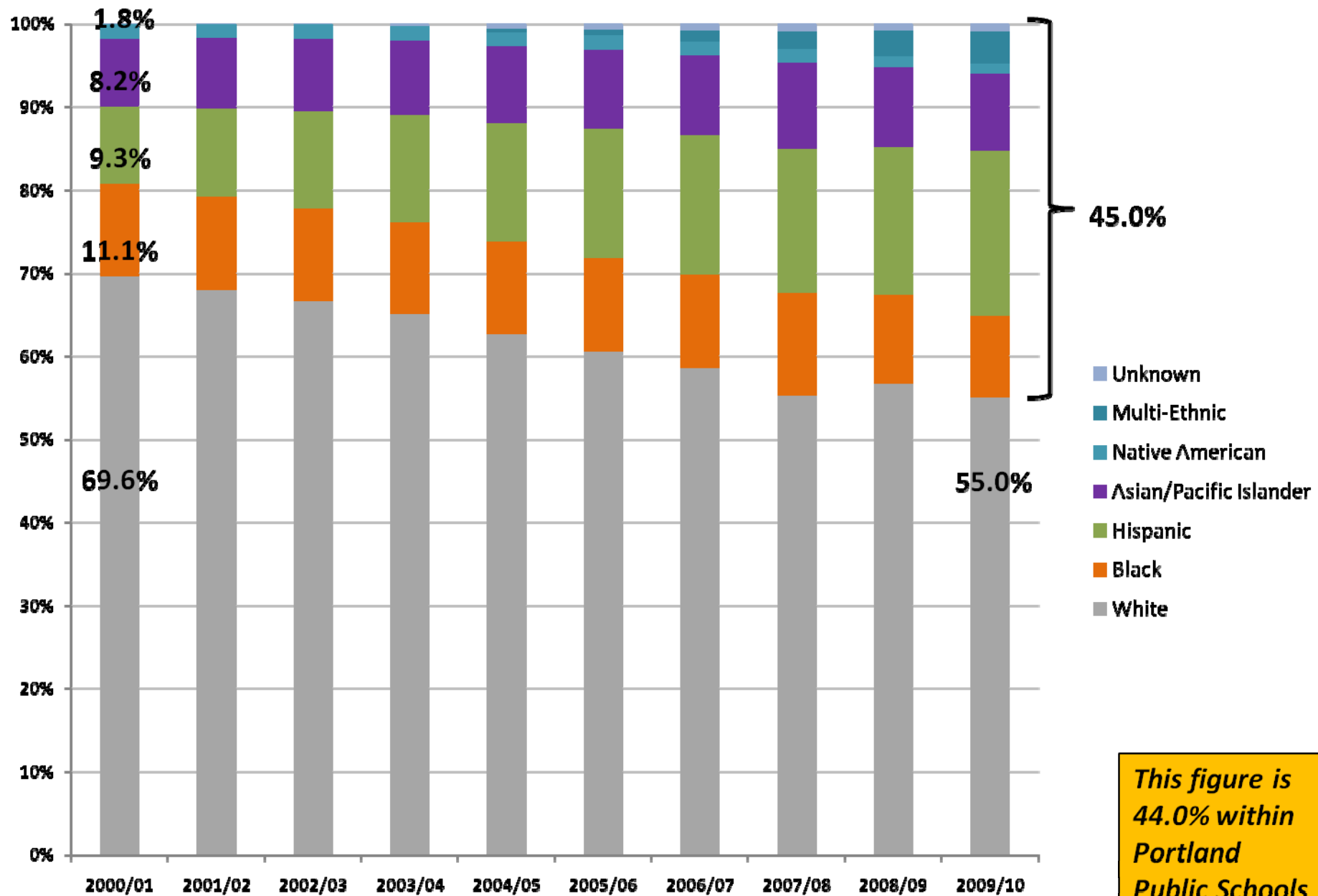
Communities of color in Multnomah County

- Communities of color make up a significant portion of Multnomah County's population



- And in the City of Portland, this figure is 26.2% people of color
- Our communities are young and growing quickly. We make up 45.0% of local public school students

Race/Ethnicity of Students in Public Schools, Multnomah County

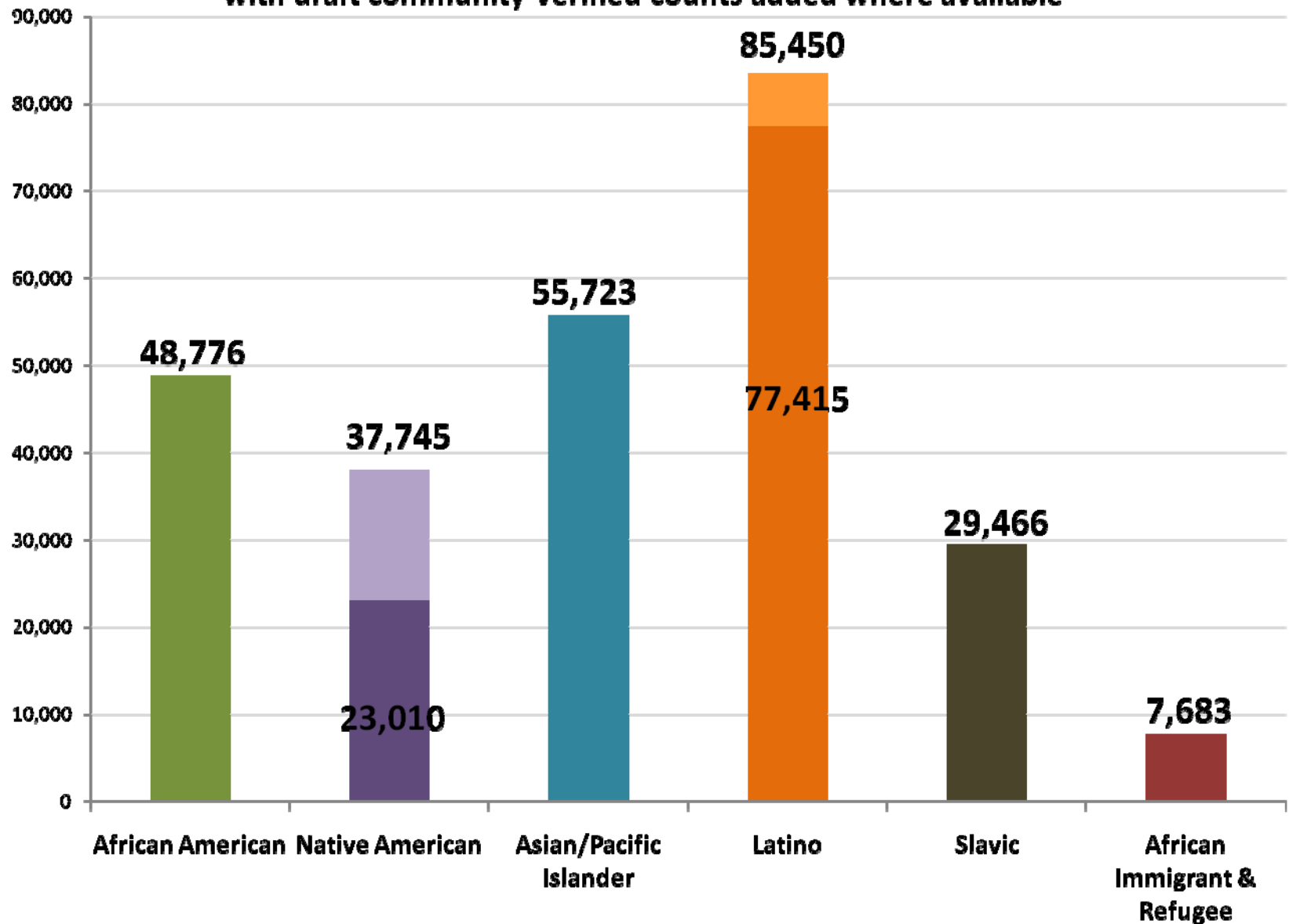


*This figure is
44.0% within
Portland
Public Schools*

How many are we? Several ways to “count”

- Very important issue since tied to visibility, status, funding and power
 - American Community Survey, 2008
 - “Alone” figures
 - “Alone or in combination” (AOIC) with other races
 - “Alone or in combination, with or without Hispanic”
 - Census 2010
 - We have been active here to increase turnout
 - Two of our communities will be invisible (only short form administered)
 - African Immigrant & Refugee
 - Slavic

**Population Counts of Communities of Color – Conventional sources, 2008
with draft community-verified counts added where available**



We do know that this results in an “overcount” of 7.7% as per conventional numbers, but...

We dispute these “official” counts

- Undercounting legacy, due to:
 - Whiteness bias in conventional surveys
 - Unwillingness to fill out forms
 - History of genocide, persecution & fear
 - Distrust of governments
 - Have acculturated to deny one’s identity – desiring whiteness is commonplace
 - Lack of inclusion
 - English capacity as 5.1% of the county population cannot communicate in either English or Spanish
 - Poverty-related causes (eg. moving, phones)
- So, conventional methods undercount our communities

Results of Undercounting

- Invisibility & tokenistic responses to needs
- Financial
 - Estimated that each person undercounted results in a loss of \$1,439/year in funding for the region
- Political
 - Determining political representation levels
- Research
 - Census figures serve to set standards for “inclusion” and “representativeness” in research, so undercounting weakens all research (though few researchers are aware of this)

Community-Verified Counting Method

- Our own community-verified counts (developed within community-based participatory research methods)
 - Native American: Has collected data on tribal registry numbers
 - Latino: Using secondary research on the number of undocumented people, and the proportion who do not complete Census/ACS forms
 - Asian/Pacific Islander: Comparing Census counts for smaller communities with local network estimates of, for example, the Hmong and Burmese residents
 - Similar approach with African Immigrants & Refugees
- A post-Census 2010 survey of those who did not complete the form could shed light on this issue

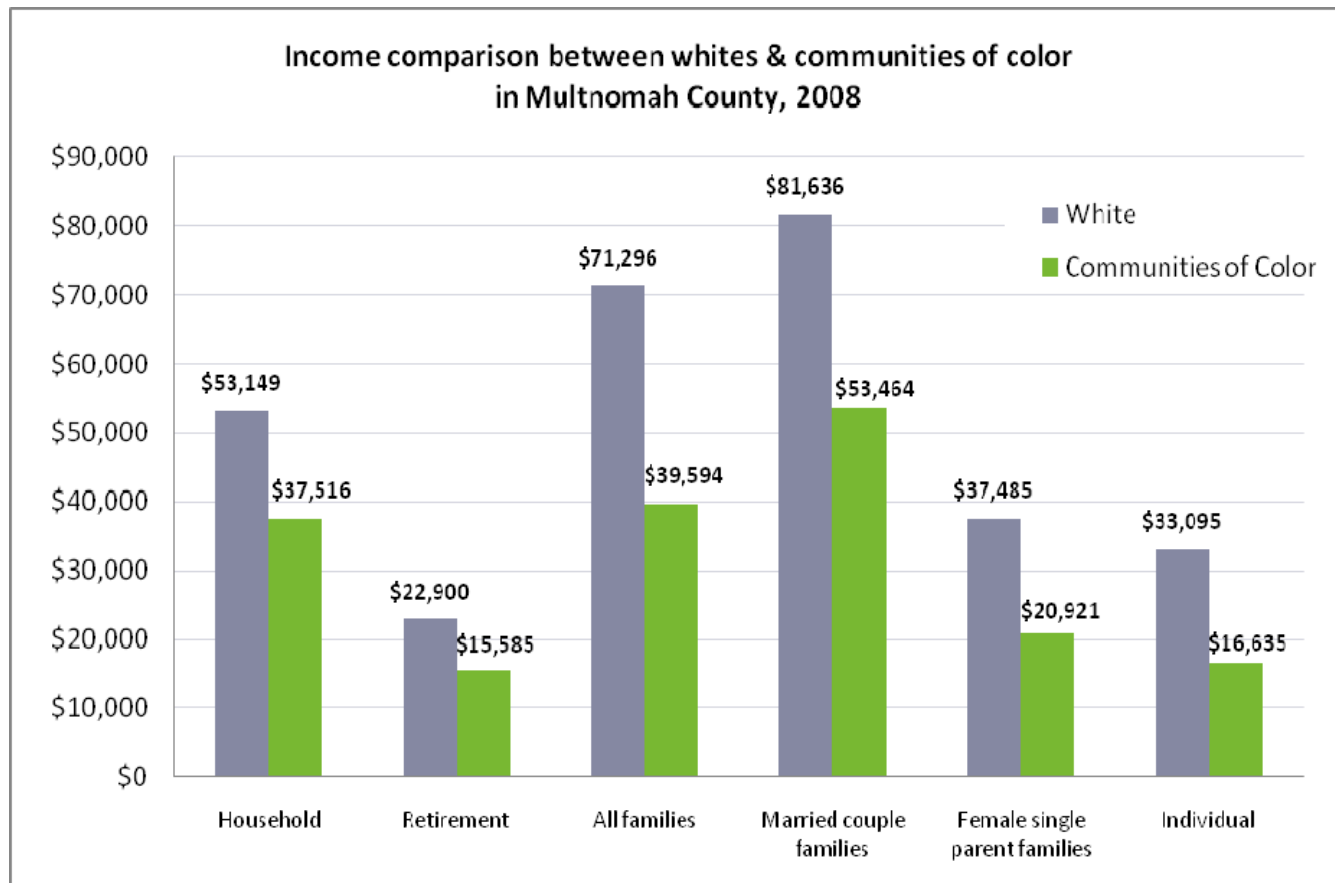
Our position

- Use the “Alone or in combination with or without Hispanic” numbers for determining the size of our communities (as immediate response), and use these numbers from 2008 ACS until the next round of data is released
- When finalized, use the community-verified counts

How are we doing?

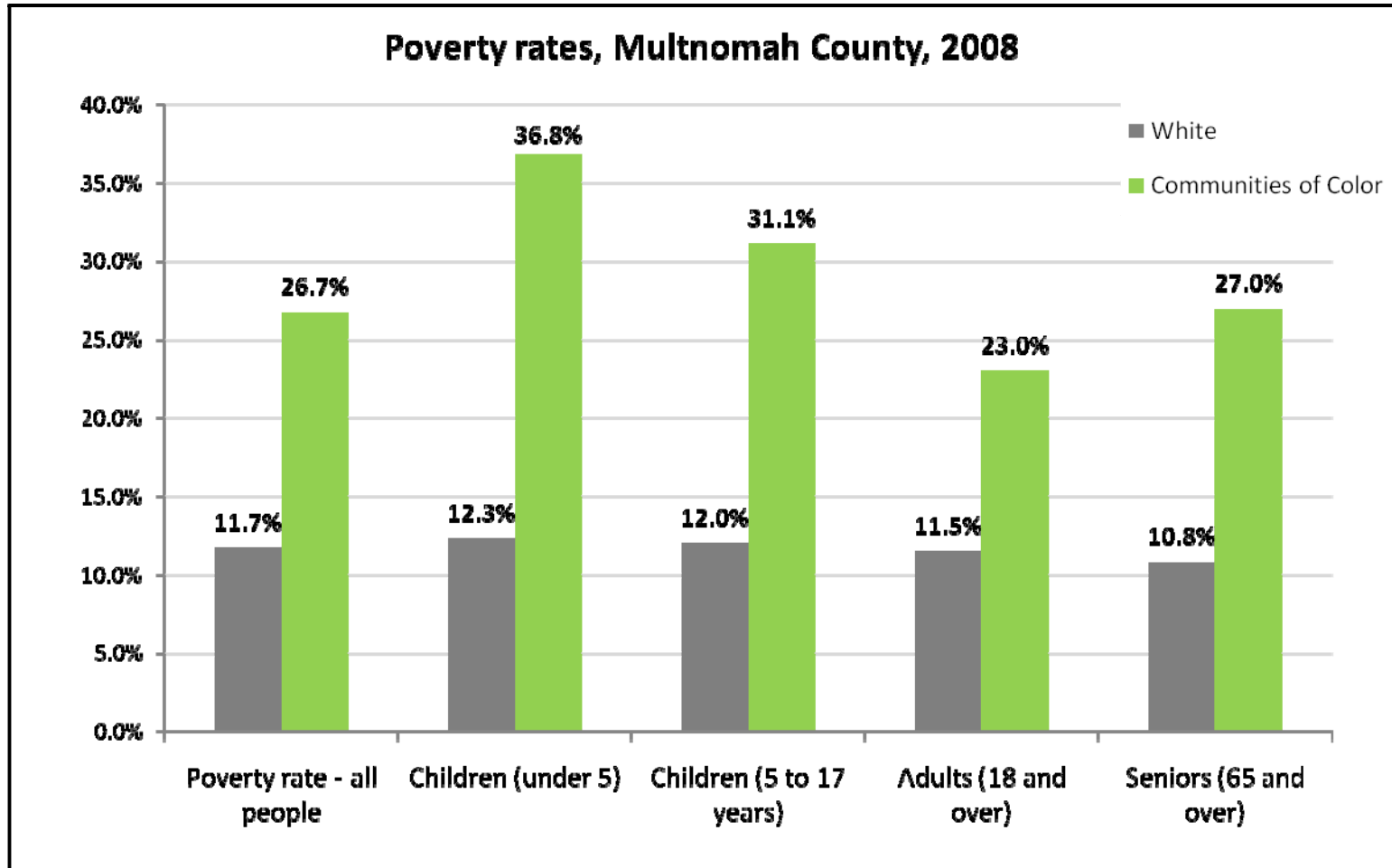
- *“Communities of Color in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile”* (May 2010)
 - The first of a series of seven research reports
 - Remaining six reports to address community-specific issues
- Disparities exist across all institutions addressed in the report. The magnitude of these disparities is alarming. Consider some of these data...

- Communities of color earn **half** the incomes of Whites, earning \$16,636 per year, while White people earn \$33,095 annually.



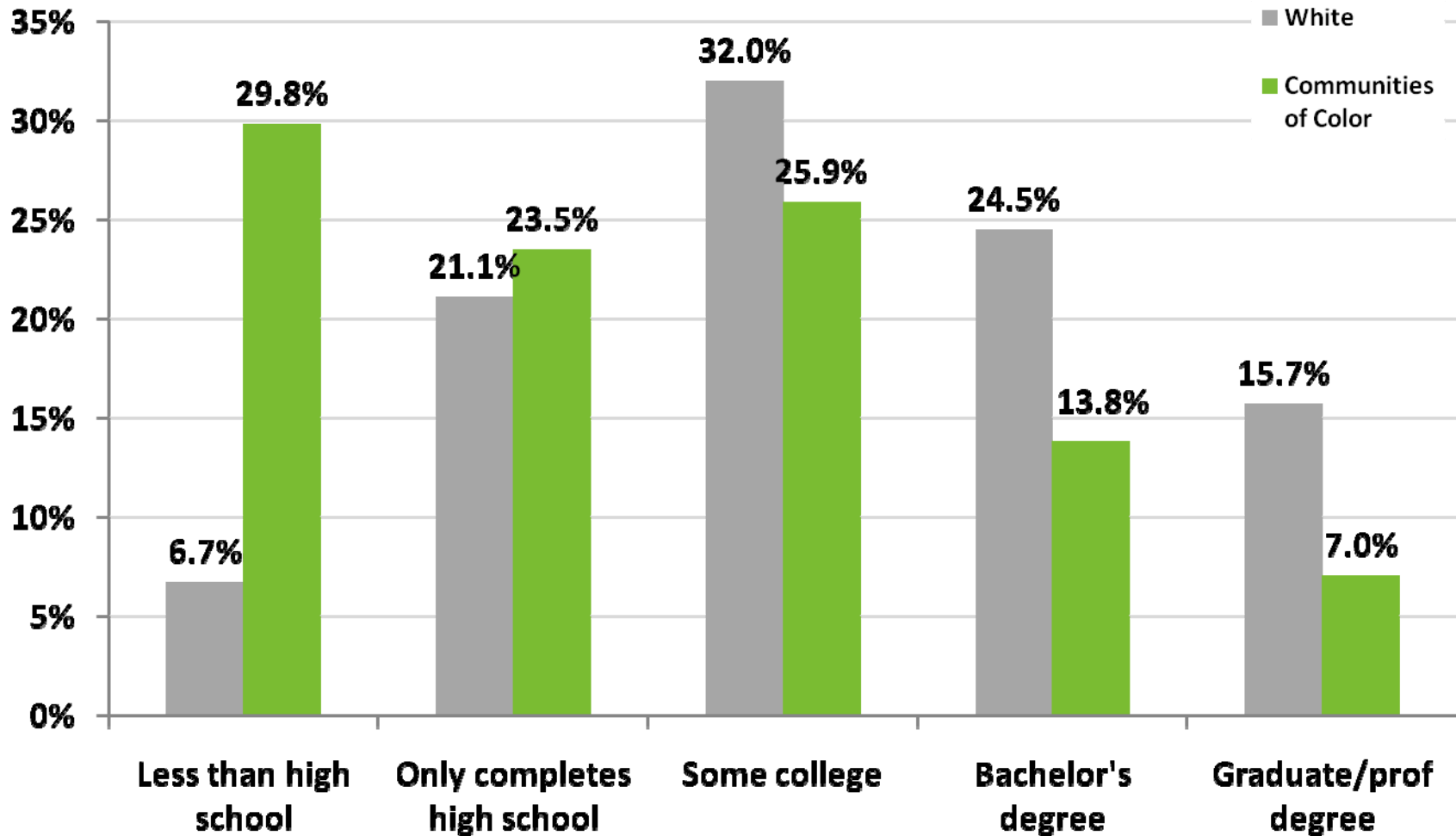
- Disparities close to this magnitude exist regardless of one's family and household configuration

- Poverty levels among our communities are at levels at least double those of Whites.



- Our child poverty rate, collectively, is 33.3%, while that of White children is 12.5%.

Educational attainment, Multnomah County, 2008

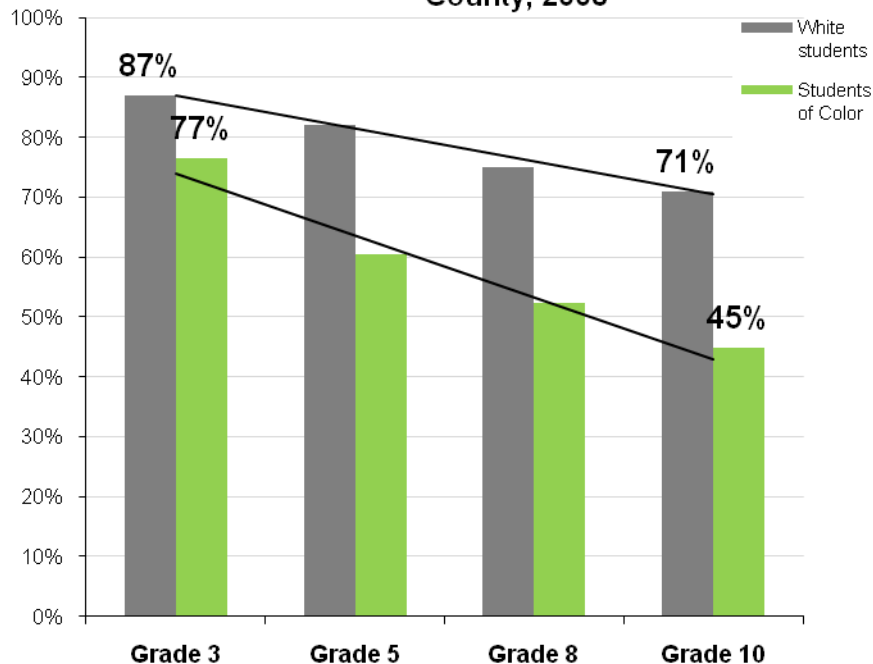


- If White, have 1/14 chance of not graduating high school. If a person of color, almost 1/3 don't graduate high school.
- Chance of having a degree? 40.2% for Whites, and 20.8% for people of color.

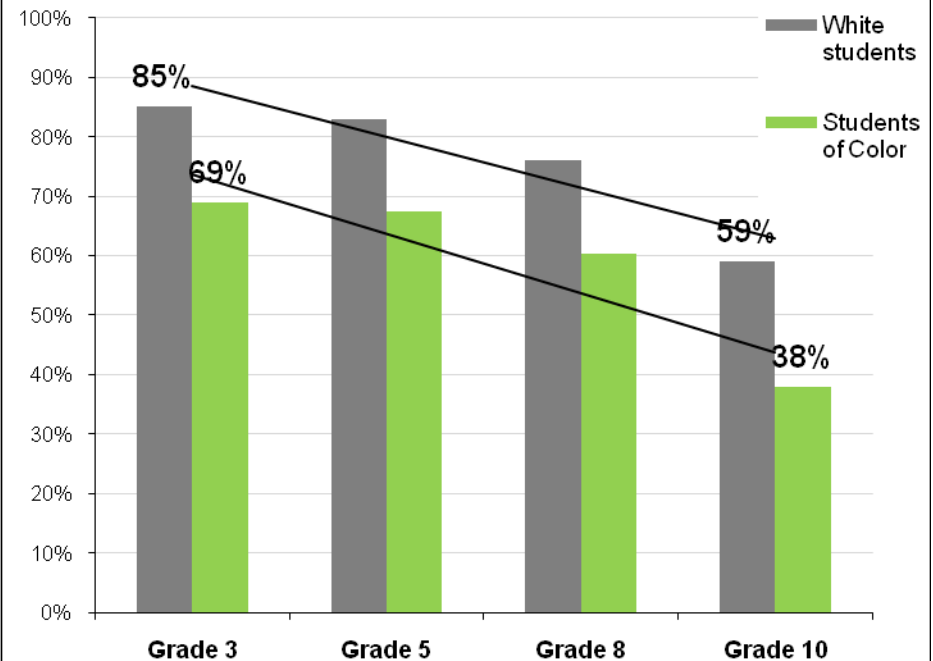
Schooling & the Achievement Gap

- Educational disparities in our local public schools are deeply entrenched; gains made earlier in the decade have been lost, and the achievement gap is widening.

Achivement Gap, Reading & Literature, Multnomah County, 2008

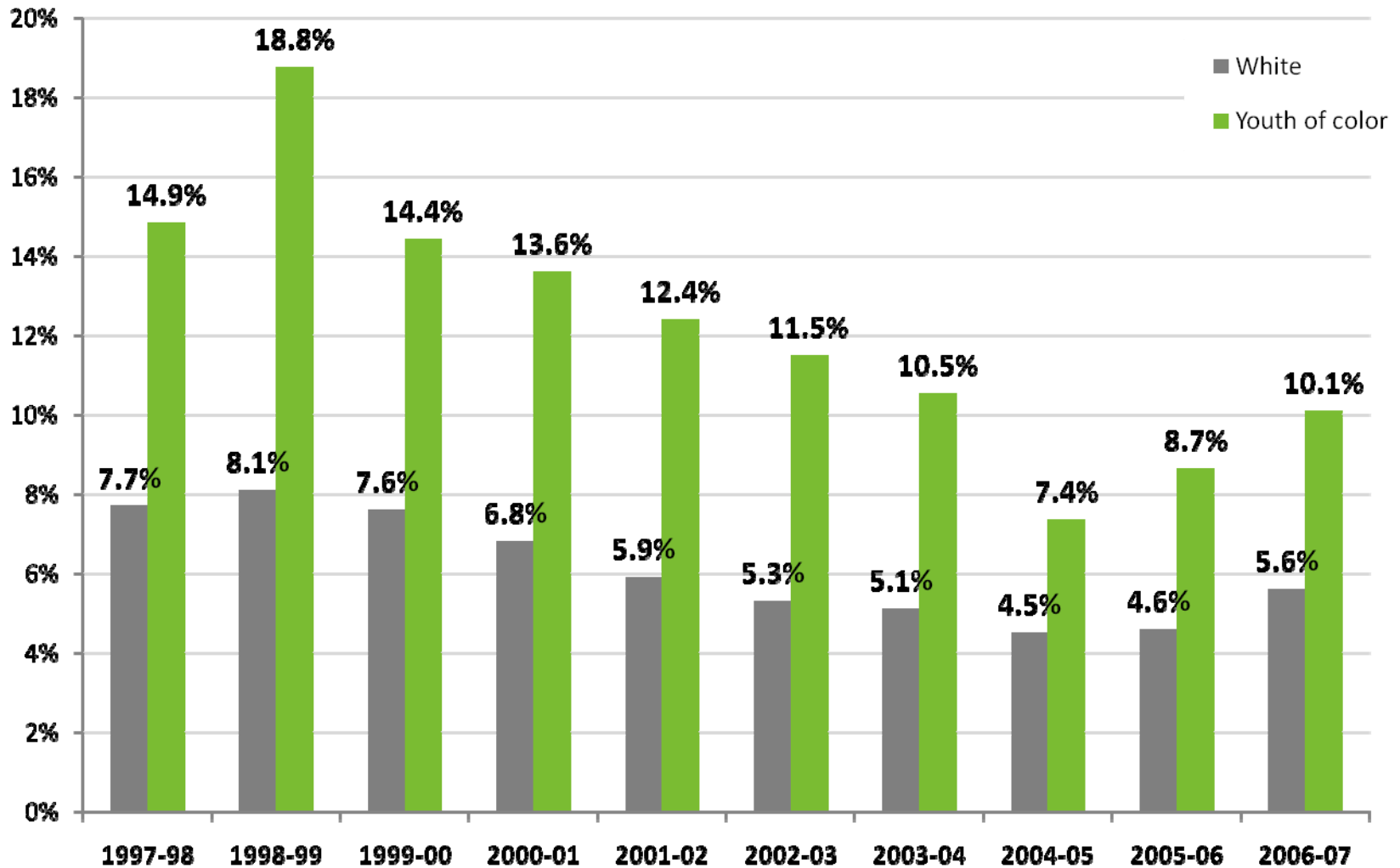


Achievement Gap, Math, Multnomah County, 2008

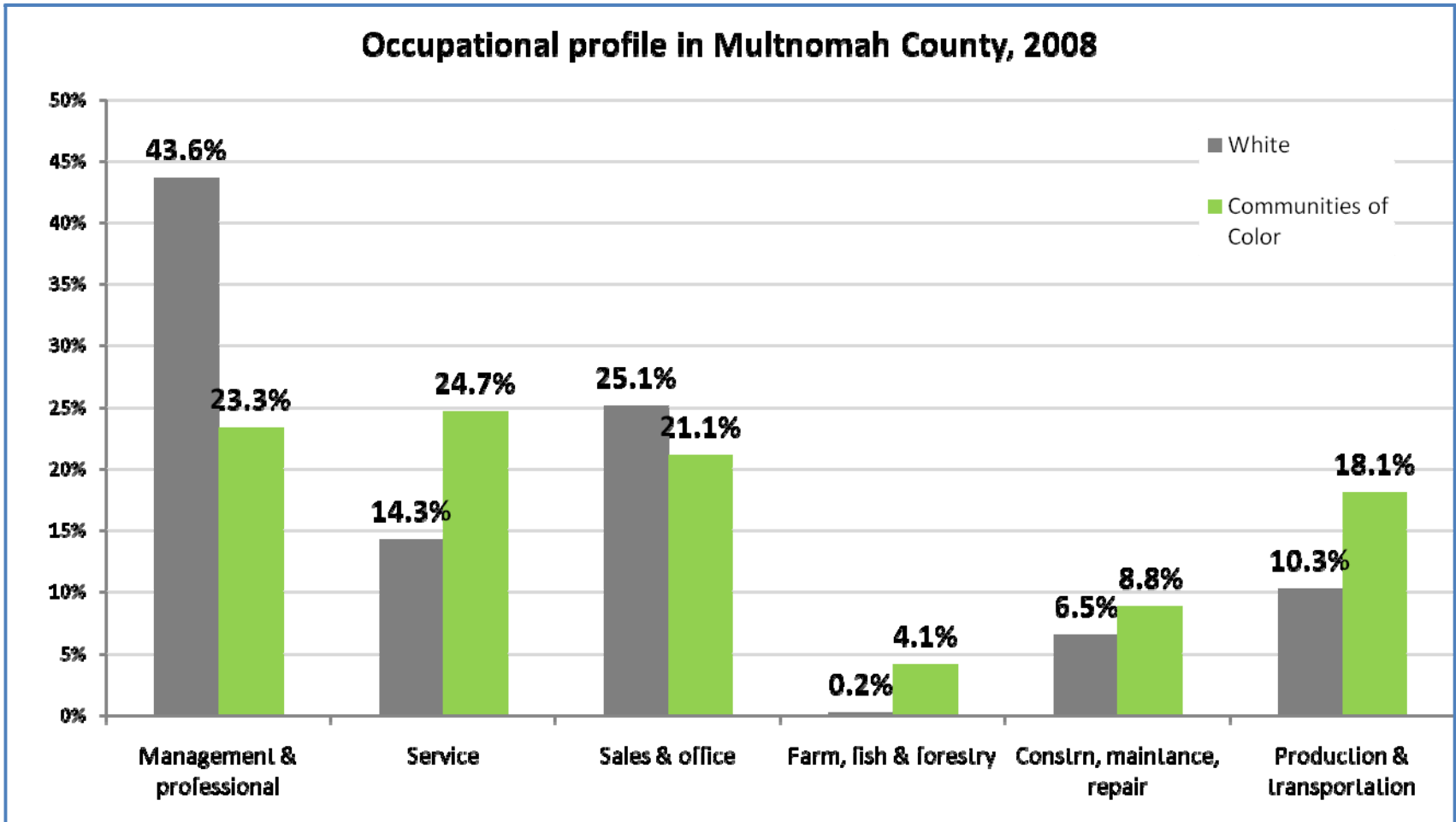


- **Preschool Disparities**
 - By the time children enter kindergarten, there is a disparity that, depending on the measure, averages between 5% and 15% in “readiness for learning” scores
- **Discipline disparities**
 - Students of color fare much worse than Whites in major suspensions & expulsions
 - In 2007 in PPS, $\frac{1}{4}$ African American middle school students had been suspended or expelled. Only $\frac{1}{14}$ White students received such punishment
- **Dropout rates**
 - Students of color drop out of school (or are “pushed out”) much more frequently than Whites
 - While only 7% of Whites do not graduate high school, 30% of communities of color do not

Dropout rates of youth in Multnomah County (grades 9 to 12, 1997 to 2007)



- The labor market is ripe with disparities. Communities of color access management and professional positions at **half** the levels of Whites.



- One of every two Whites** access high status and high paid work, while less than **one of every four people of color** access these positions.

Additional Disparities

- Unemployment
 - Communities of color have unemployment rates that are 35.7% higher than Whites
- Hiring in public service
 - City: 16.6% employees of color, when 23.3% would be parity and indicate that no barriers to employment exist (but improved since 13.4% in 1999)
 - County: 21.0% of employees are people of color while 24.3% is the appropriate target
- City contracts
 - Construction contracts
 - Minority-owned businesses received \$80,749 of \$91 million (less than 0.1%)
 - Portland's sheltered market program
 - White men get 51% of awards
 - Share of Portland total contracting dollars (of \$276 million) is about 5% in 2007/08, but then only ¼ of this is ultimately received by minority-owned businesses

- Health disparities, while unevenly distributed across communities of color, average out to result in significant disproportionality. Low birth weights among communities of color are 37% worse than for Whites.
- The child welfare system disproportionately removed children of color from each community at some point in the child welfare process.
- African American and Native American children are grossly overrepresented foster care. Once in care, African American and Native American children are likely to stay in care longer than other children.

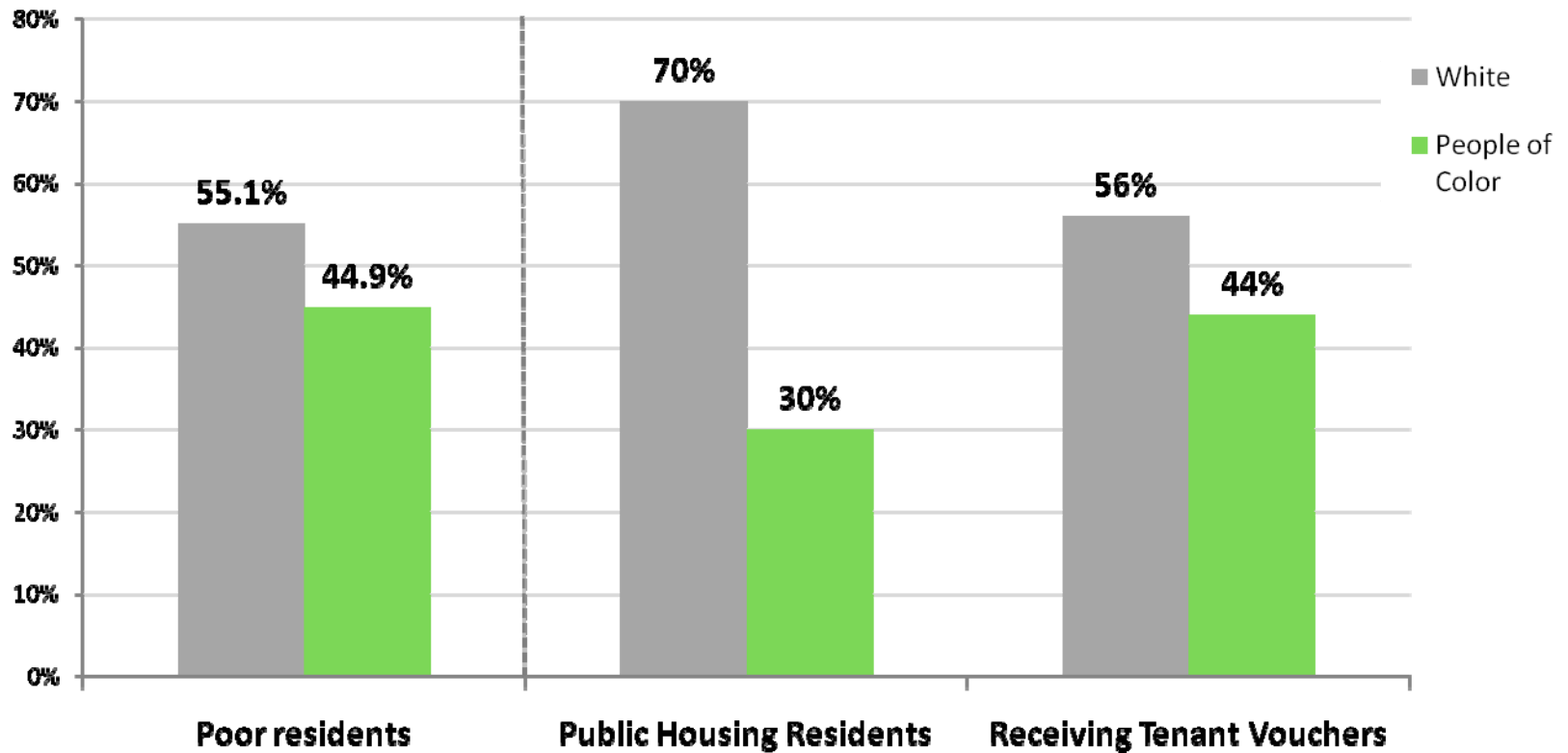
Children in Foster Care		Number of children per 1,000 population
USA - all		6.3
Oregon - all		10.2
Multnomah County		15.2
	White	11
	People of Color	16
	Native American	218
	African American	32

Housed Precariously

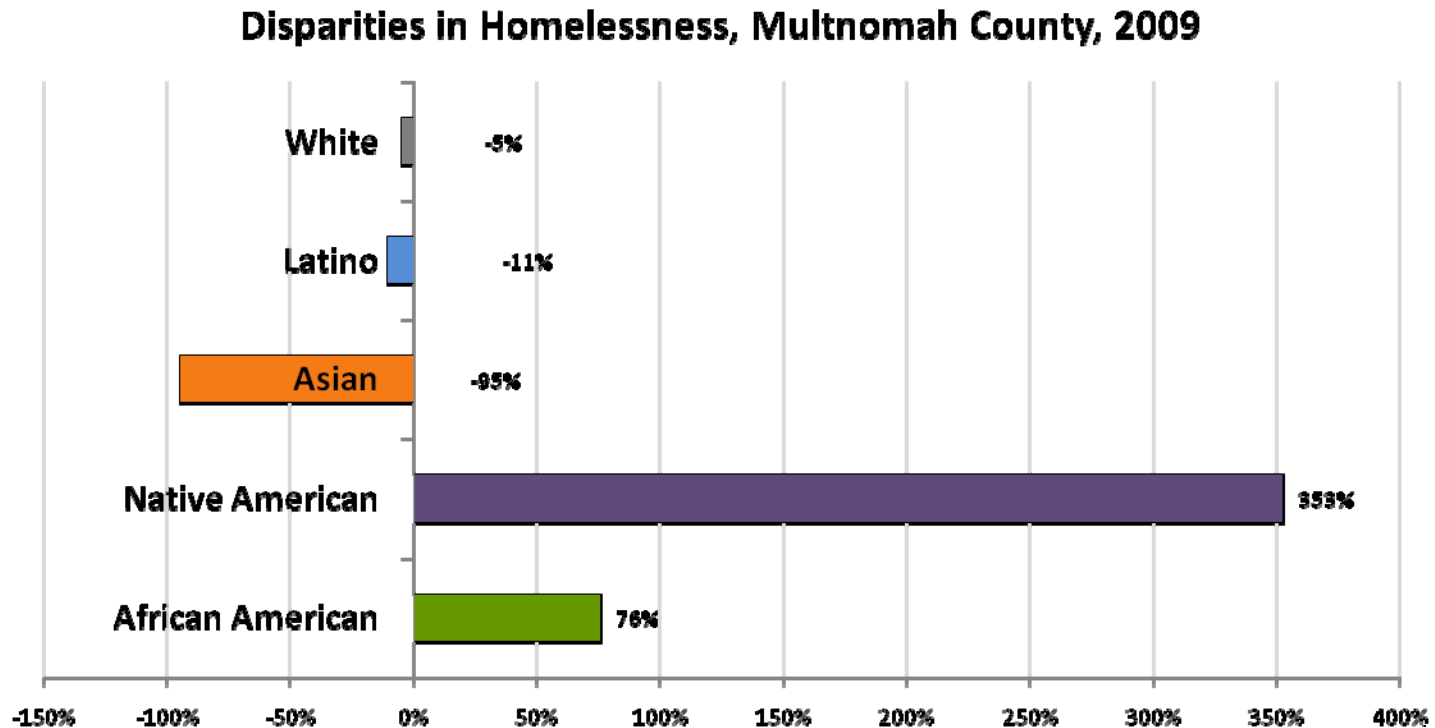
- More people of color are burdened by their housing costs (spend more than 30% of income on housing)
- People of color often can't purchase homes (a major factor in accumulating wealth)
 - 62% of Whites own homes compared to 45% people of color
- More people of color are in the subprime mortgage market and defaulting on loans
 - In 2006, 50% of mortgages were high cost for people of color, but only 18% were high cost for Whites (USA data)
 - Locally, inequities exist
 - People of color are denied loans at levels about 50% higher even at the same income levels.

Access to Housing Support Programs

**Poverty levels compared to access to housing support programs
Multnomah County, 2008**



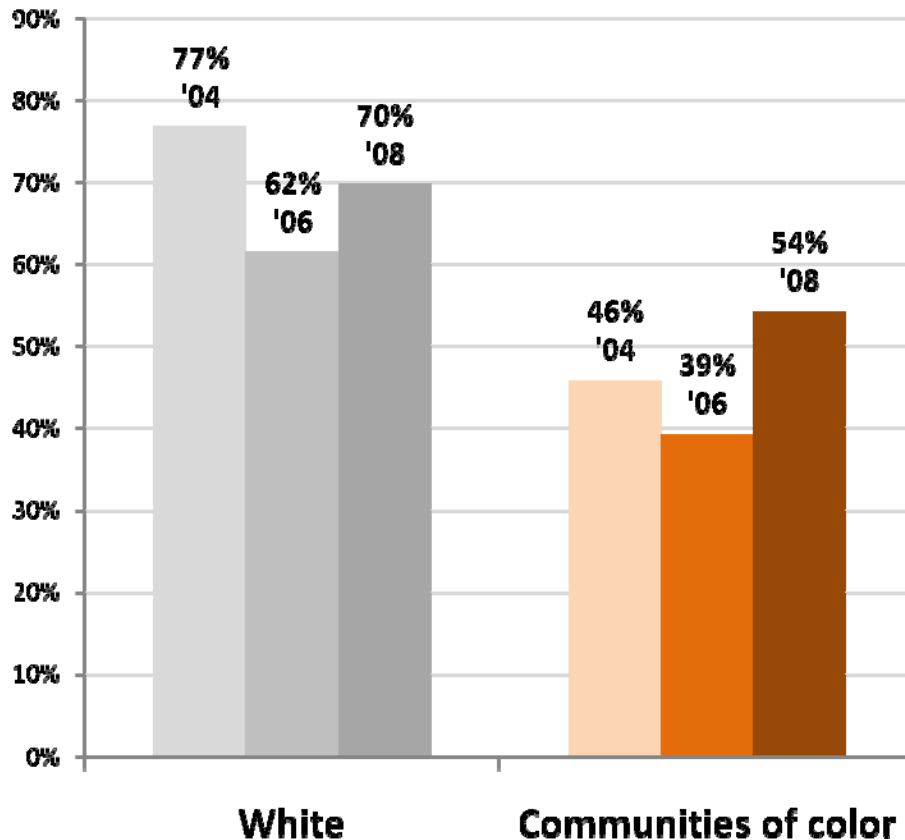
Homelessness



- The Latino and Asian figures likely have undercounted their housing security.
- Access to homeless services is disproportionate.

Bright Spot – Voter Turnout

Voting Patterns in Oregon, 2004 to 2008



The presence of a candidate of color is believed essential to improving the turnout of communities of color in the 2008 election.



Comparison Data

1. With King County (home to Seattle)
2. With national averages across the USA
3. Here, looking at incomes across the last generation
4. Here, looking at the last two years



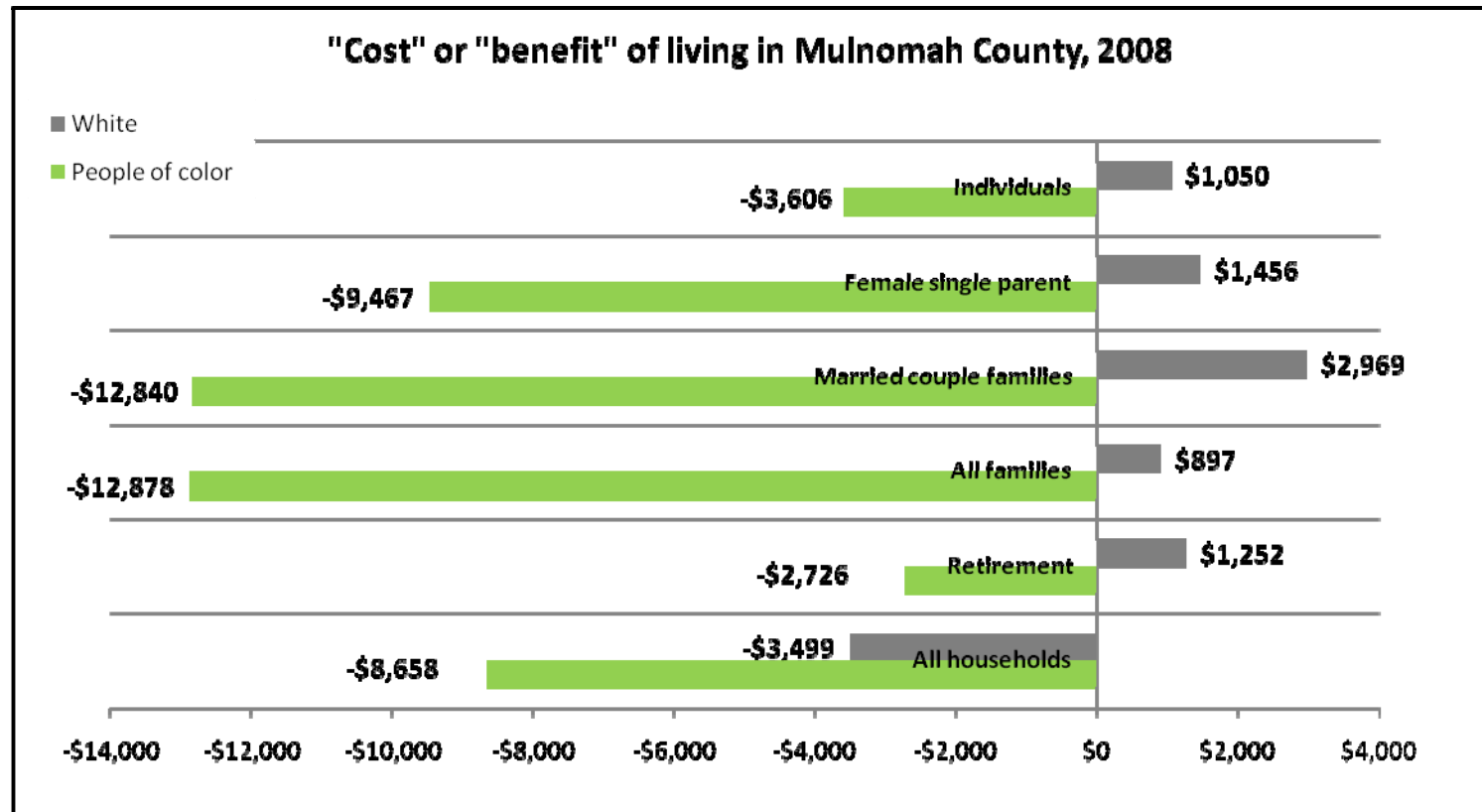
1. Comparison with King County

- In comparison with King County (home to Seattle), we have worse disparities and worse outcomes on every measure examined....

Child poverty	54.7%	worse
Rent burden	21.8%	worse
Individual incomes	30.8%	worse
Better occupations	31.3%	worse
University degrees	27.6%	worse
<i>Average "worse"</i>	33.2%	

2. Comparison with National averages

- In the measures explored in this report (incomes, poverty, occupation and education), communities of color have between 15% and 20% worse outcomes. It is more difficult to get ahead here in Multnomah County than it is more generally across the USA.
- More in-depth look at annual incomes...



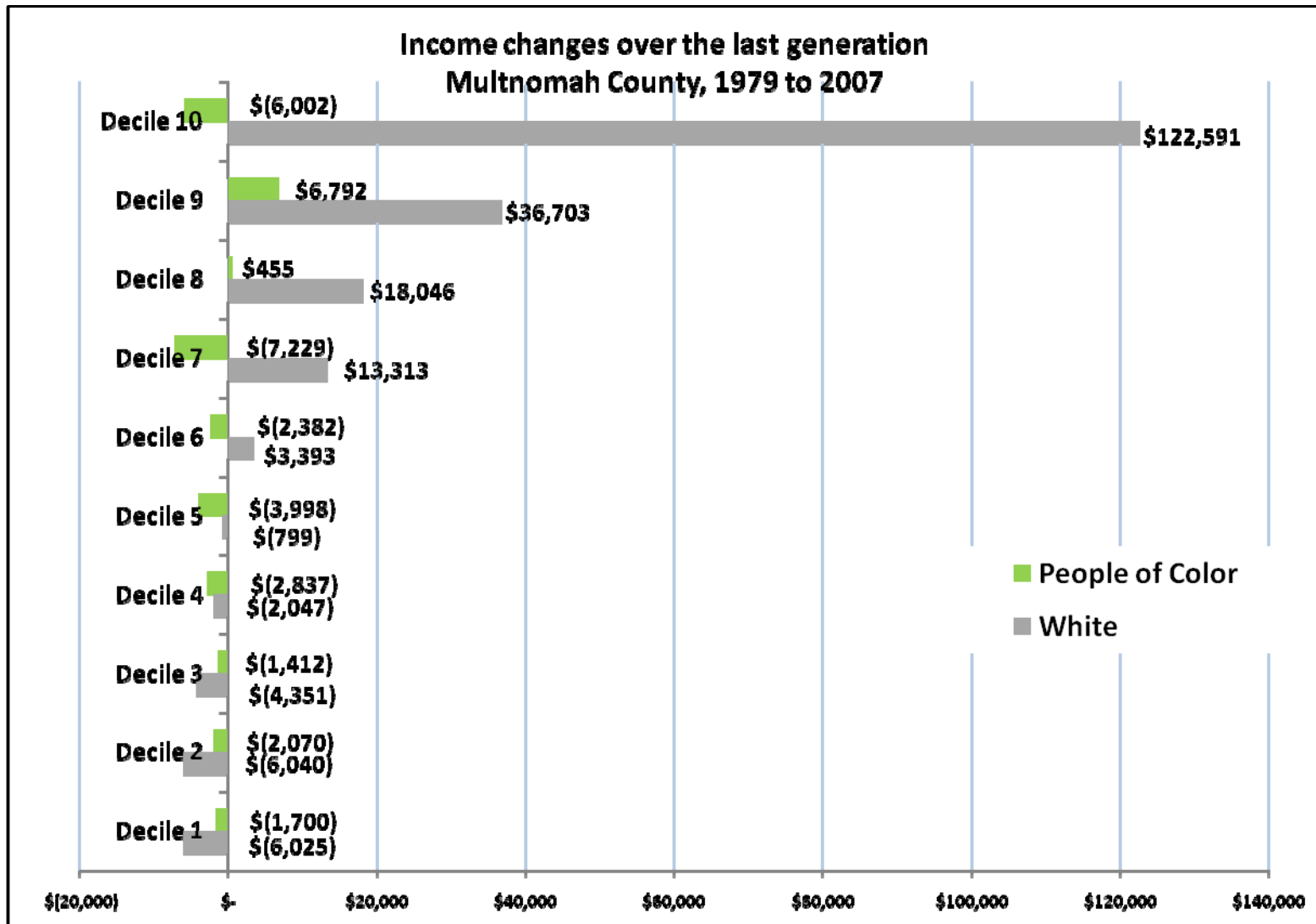
- This inequity does not hold true for White people. On average, one's income is enhanced by living in Multnomah County.

3. Are local conditions improving or deteriorating for communities of color?

- Looking at this in two ways, we found...
 - Intergenerational income research
 - Comparing incomes of Whites and communities of color shows communities of color have not fared well
 - Changes between 2007 to 2008 on 26 measures
 - 16 measures are worse
 - 6 are better
 - 4 stayed the same



- Only the wealthiest 40% of Whites have gained significant ground over the last generation (at an average of \$47,663/year) while that same grouping among people of color have lost income (facing an average loss of \$1,496 per year).



4. Comparisons across 26 measures

- 16 measures have deteriorated
 - Crucial measures of incomes, obtaining a university degree, poverty, education and health insurance had all deteriorated
- 4 remained constant
- 6 are improving, but...
 - Four of these are due to more rapidly deteriorating conditions for Whites
 - This is NOT the type of disparity reduction we desire
- In summary, only two improved outcomes of 26 for communities of color over the last 2 years
 - These are homeownership rates and voter turnout

Specific Community Findings



The Asian/Pacific Islander Experience

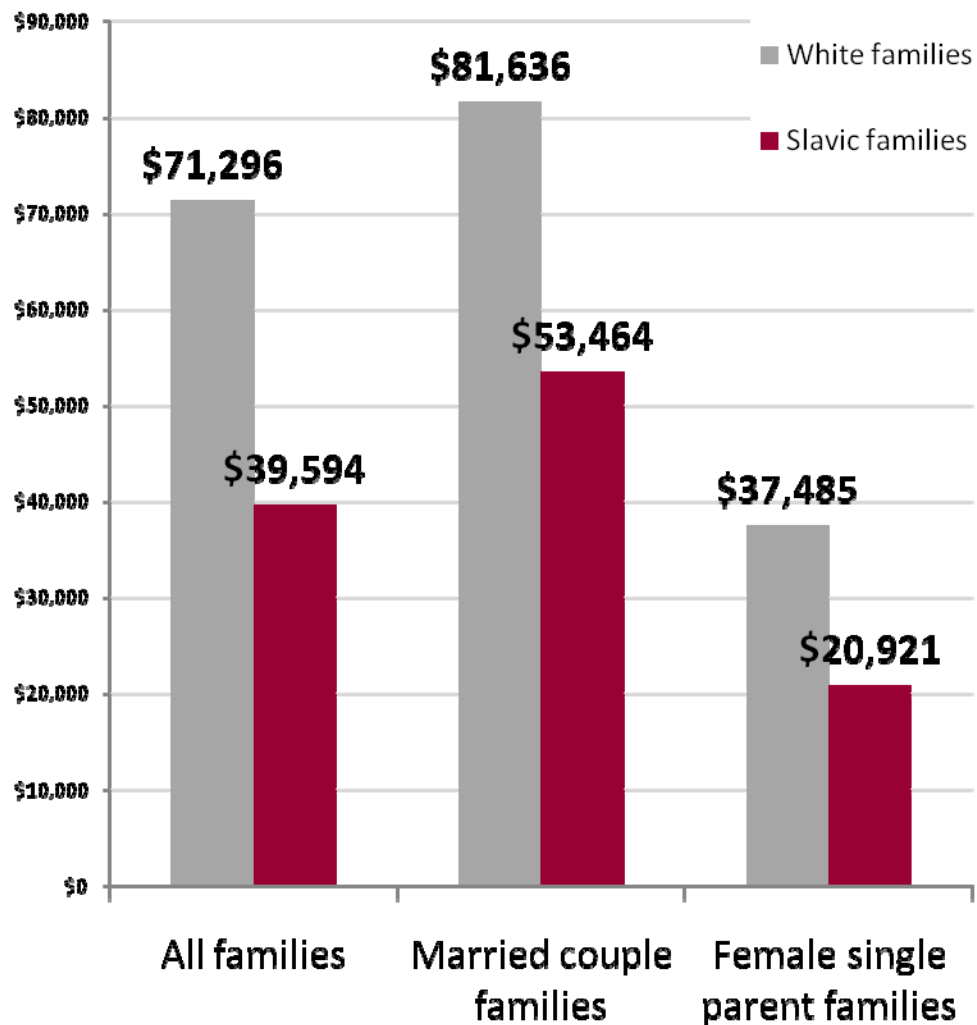
- We have learned an important lesson about our Asian communities.
 - Asian communities typically outperform Whites in national studies on measures such as incomes, occupations, education, poverty and housing.
 - This does not occur in Multnomah County.
 - Here, the characteristics of the Asian community much more closely resemble those of other communities of color than they do of Whites.

2008		Multnomah County	
		Whites	Asian/PI
Educational Attainment			
	Less than high school	6.7%	22.0%
	Graduate/professional degree	15.7%	11.5%
Occupations			
	Management & professions	43.2%	35.2%
	Service	14.3%	20.2%
Incomes			
	Individuals	\$33,095	\$22,070
Poverty rate			
	Married couple families	3.1%	7.3%
	Child poverty	14.4%	22.5%

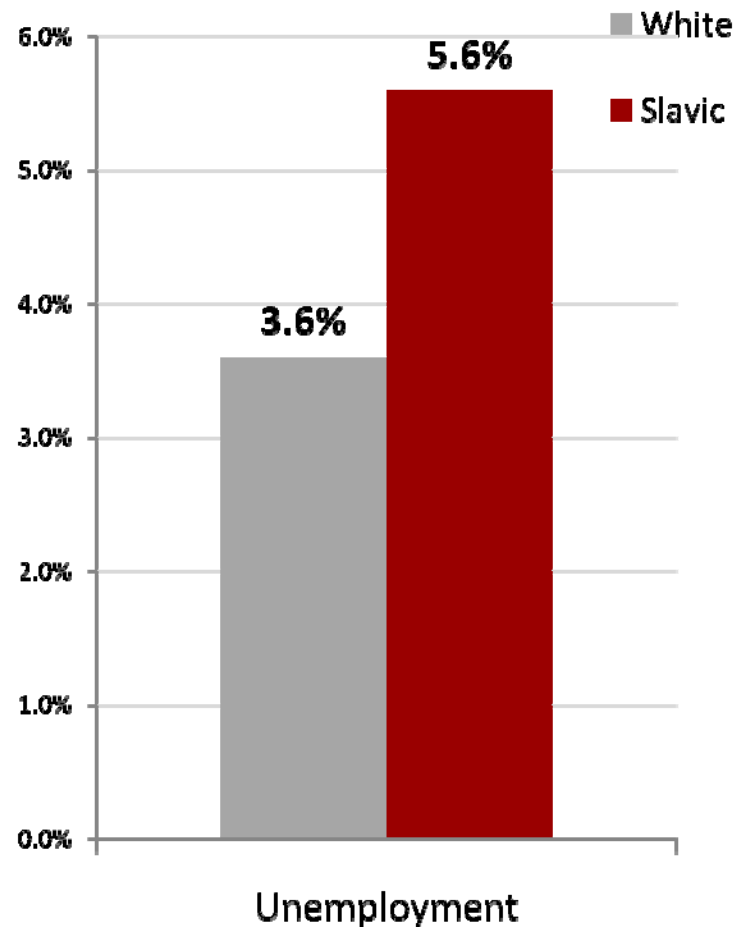
The Slavic Experience

- First time any specific data on this community is available
- Education is very high with 39.3% having a university degree
 - Yet those who do not graduate high school are high, outnumbering by 2:1 those Whites who don't graduate high school
- Poverty – in every measure, have worse poverty rates than Whites
- This very highly educated community is unable to protect itself from poverty & unemployment

Family Incomes, Multnomah County, 2008



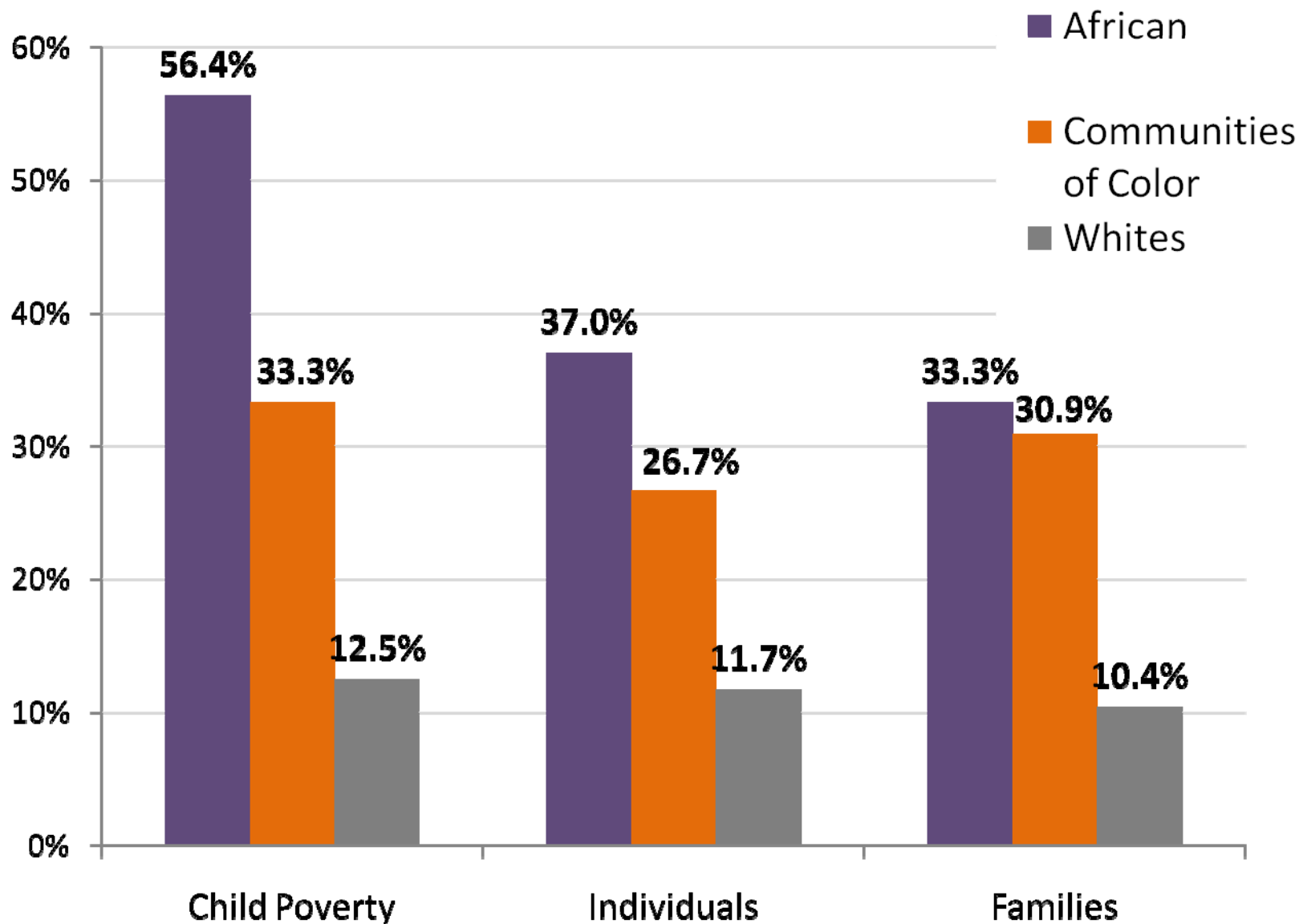
Unemployment Rates, Multnomah County, 2008



The African Immigrant & Refugee Experience

- First time any specific data on this community is available
- Education
 - Again, very high levels with $\frac{1}{4}$ having a graduate degree
- Poverty levels 3- to 4-fold higher than Whites
- Across the African community, poverty is deep
 - For the African immigrant and refugee community, the child poverty rate is 56.4%

Poverty Rates, Multnomah County, 2008

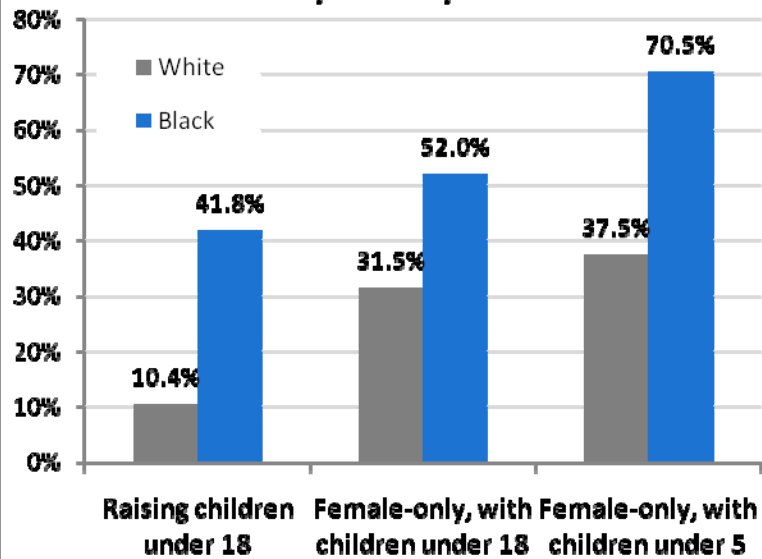


The African American Experience

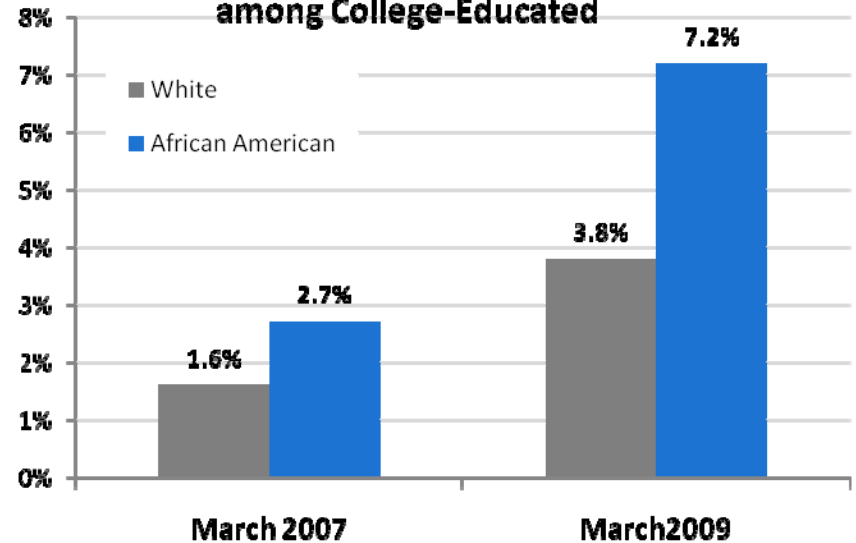
- The State of Black Oregon explored the state-wide experience. We look at the county-level data...



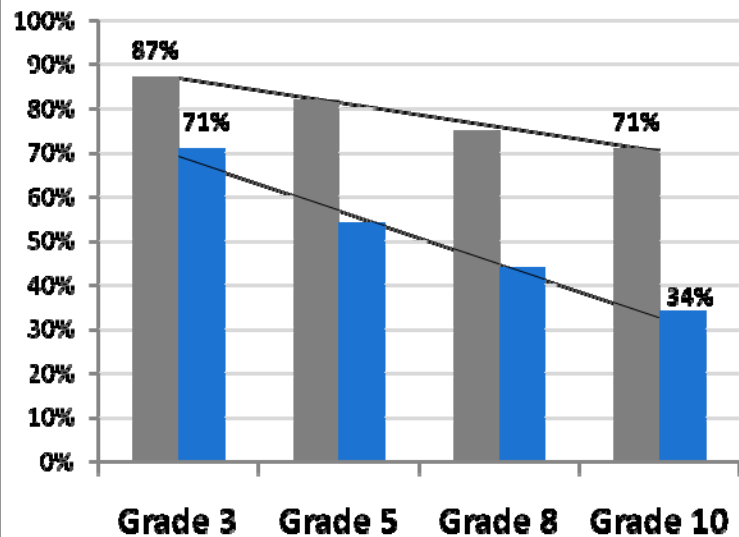
Family Poverty Rates



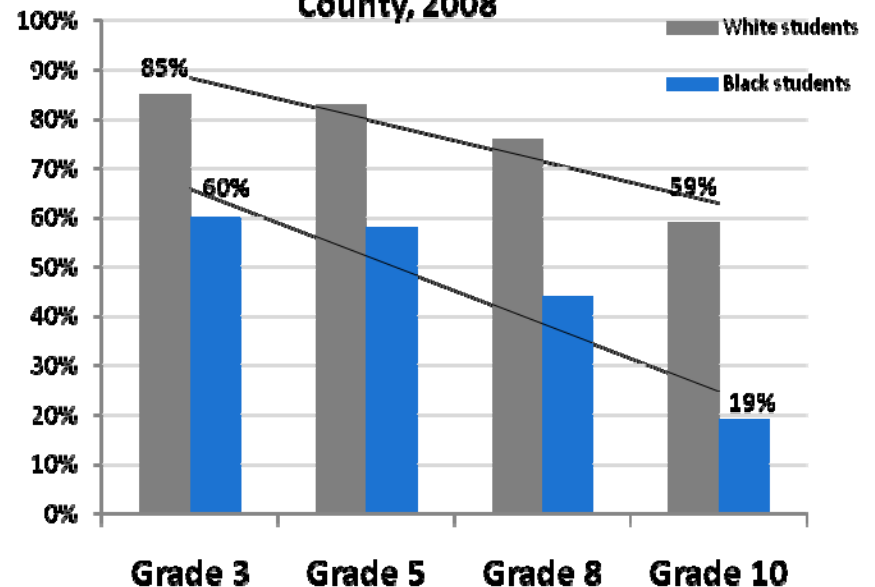
Unemployment Rate, USA, among College-Educated



Achievement Gap in Reading & Literature, Multnomah County, 2008



Achievement Gap in Math, Multnomah County, 2008



The African American Experience (cont'd)

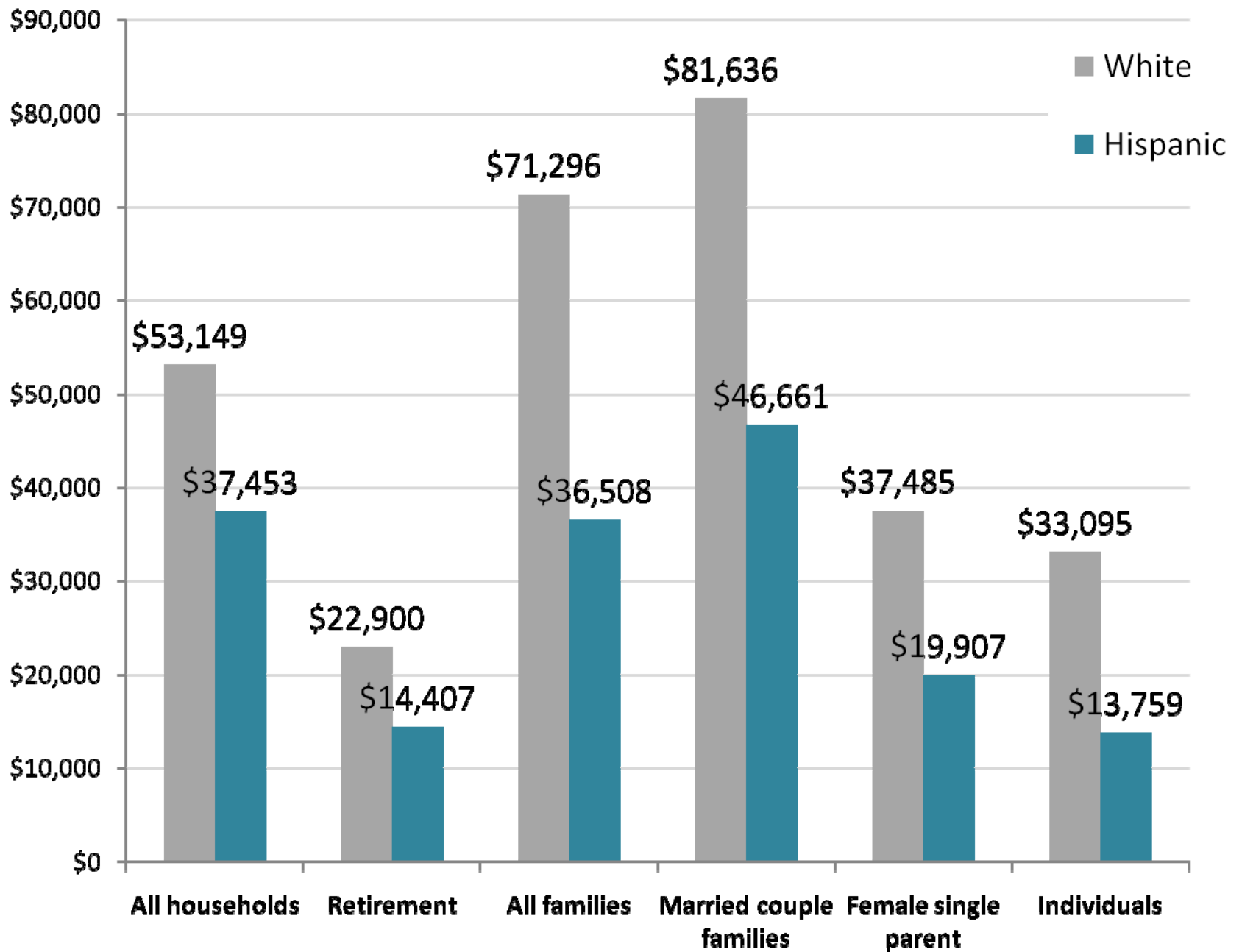
- Child poverty
 - At a rate of 40.9%
(instead of 12.5% for Whites)
- Juvenile justice
 - Are 5½ times more likely to get referred into the justice system (instead of warnings and diversion)



The Hispanic Experience

- Education
 - 44.4% of our community did not graduate high school (compared with 7.6% for Whites)
 - Despite being 10.8% of the Multnomah county's population, we graduate from OUS post-secondary institutions at just 4.2% of degrees awarded
- Incomes
 - Our individual incomes are close to 1/3 those of Whites

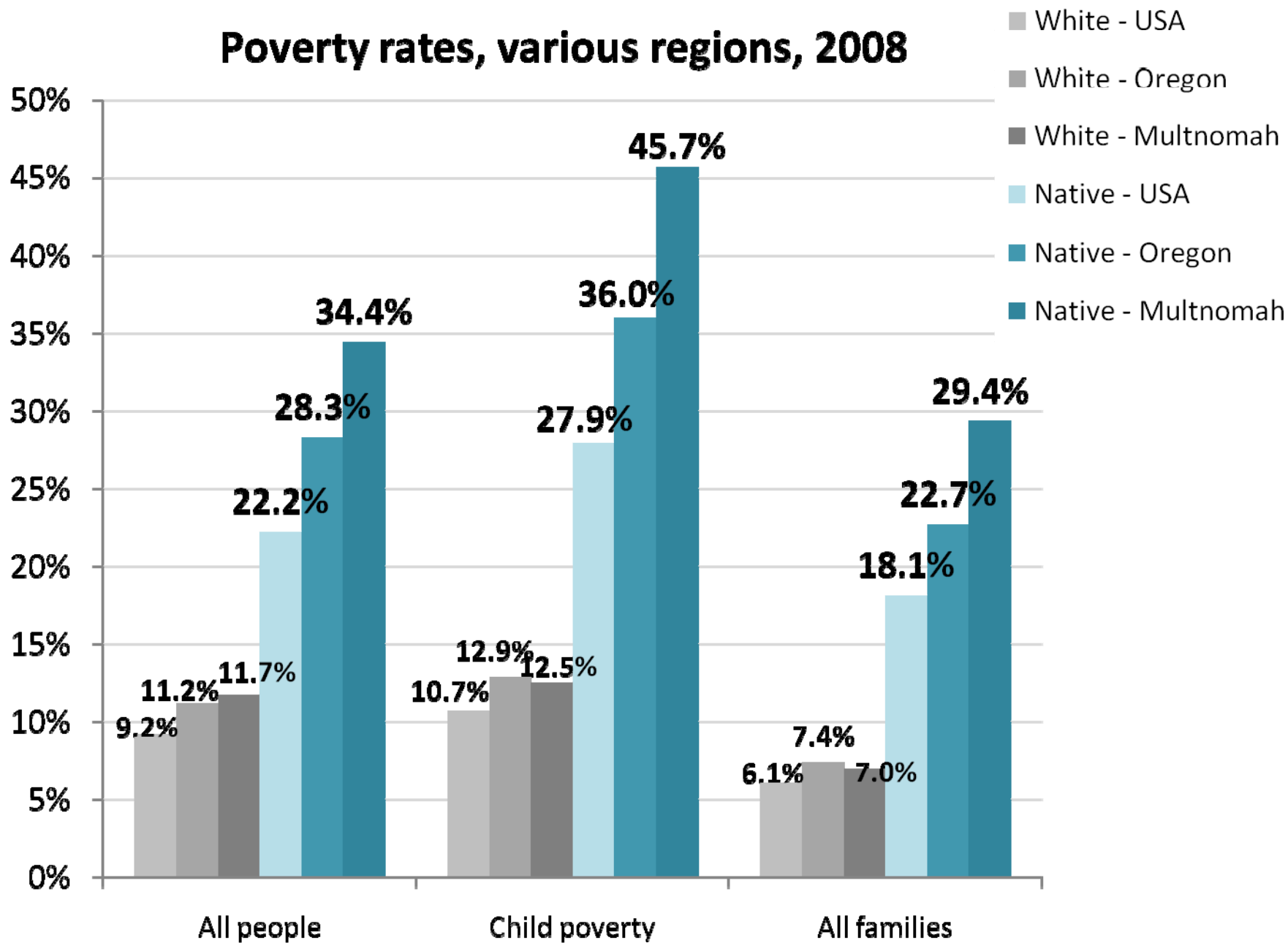
Incomes in Multnomah County, 2008



The Native American Experience

- Disastrous poverty rates
 - Child poverty rate of 45.7%
 - 100% of female-led mothers raising children under 5 live in poverty
- Poverty, unemployment, dropout rates, incomes, occupation have significant disparities
 - And it's worse here than elsewhere in the USA...

Poverty rates, various regions, 2008



Summary

- *Disparities are...*
 - *Massive*
 - *Reach across all systems*
 - *Worsening*
 - *Worse than other regions & national averages*
- *We are a uniquely toxic place for people of color*
- *What is to be done?*
 - *Change, social justice and racial equity*

Affirming...

Affirm culturally-specific funding.

- We affirm and appreciate programs like Multnomah County's dedicated funding pool within the DHS, SUN Service System, and seek to expand these commitments, urging all funding units in all levels of government to make such allocations a priority.

Support equity initiatives at City-level.

- The work of the Human Rights Commission and the Diversity and Civic Leadership program hold promise to raise expectations to reduce disparities and increase citizen engagement to press for changes.

Recommendations

1. Implement funding for culturally-specific services.

- Designated funds are required. Allocation must recognize the size of communities of color, must compensate for the undercounts that exist in population estimates, and must be sufficiently robust to address the complexity of need that are tied to communities of color.

Recommendations

2. Implement need-based funding for communities of color.

- We urge funding bodies to begin implementing a needs-based funding allocation that seeks to ameliorate some of the challenges that exist in resourcing communities of color.

3. Emphasize poverty reduction strategies.

- Poverty reduction must be an integral element of meeting the needs of communities of color. A dialogue is needed immediately to kick-start economic development efforts that hold the needs of communities of color high in policy implementation.

Recommendations

4. Reduction of disparities with firm timelines, policy commitments & resources.

- The Coalition urges the State, County and City governments to establish firm timelines with measurable outcomes to assess disparities each and every year.
- Plans for disparities reduction must be developed in every institution & be developed in partnership with communities of color.
- External accountability must feature into these advances.



Recommendations

5. Count communities of color.

- Immediately, we demand the use of the most current data available and use the “alone or in combination with other races, with or without Hispanics.”
- When available, use the community-verified counts to define the size of these communities.

6. Prioritize education and early childhood services.

- The Coalition prioritizes education and early childhood services as a significant pathway out of poverty and social exclusion, and urges that disparity reduction in achievement, dropout, post-secondary education and early education be prioritized.

Recommendations

7. Implement research practices that make the invisible visible.

- Implement research practices across institutions that are transparent, easily accessible and accurate in the representation of communities of color.

8. Fund community development.

- Build line items into state, county and city budgets for communities of color to self-organize, develop pathways to greater social inclusion, and provide leadership within and outside their own communities.

Recommendations

9. Disclose race & ethnicity data for mainstream service providers.

- We expect that mainstream and government providers reveal service provision data to increasingly report on both service usage and service outcomes for communities of color.

10. Name racism.

- It is time to stop pretending that Portland is an enclave of progressivity. Communities of color face tremendous discrimination and inequities that are getting worse. This must become unacceptable for everyone.

Next Steps

- Within the next two months, a meeting between the City Councilors and the Coalition to develop an action agenda to implement these recommendations.
 - We envision a policy-driven approach to implement these recommendations.
- Presentation to City Council of the community-specific reports as they are released.

For more information

- **Lee Cha**, Director, Asian Family Center
 - leec@mail.irco.org
 - 503-235-9396
- **Djimet Dogo**, Program Coordinator, Africa House
 - djimetd@mail.irco.org
 - 503-802-0082
- **Victoria Libov**, Co-Chair, Slavic Coalition of Oregon
 - victorial@mail.irco.org
 - 503-234-1541 x106
- **Nichole Maher**, Executive Director, NAYA
 - nicholem@nayapdx.org
 - 503-288-8177 x201
- **Marcus Mundy**, President/CEO, Urban League
 - mmundy@ulpdx.org
 - 503-280-2632
- **Carmen Rubio**, Executive Director, Latino Network
 - carmen@latnet.org
 - 503.283.6881
- **Gloria Wiggins**, Division Manager, El Programa Hispano
 - gwiggins@catholiccharitiesoregon.org
 - 503-489-6800
- **Julia Meier**, Coordinator, Coalition of Communities of Color
 - juliam@nayapdx.org
 - 503-288-8177 x295
- **Ann Curry-Stevens**, Principle Investigator, PSU
 - currya@pdx.edu
 - 503-725-5315

Thank you!

