

Native Americans in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile

Presentation to Portland City Council
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Portland State
UNIVERSITY



Outline

- Introducing Research Project, the Coalition, Native community participation
- Synthesis of Findings
 - Depth and breadth of research findings
 - 27 systems & institutions studied
 - Approx. 60% is new research and 40% from existing studies
 - Comparisons with Seattle, USA, different points in time
- Summary
- Recommendations

Research Project – Community-based Participatory Research (2008-2011)

- Partnership between PSU's School of Social Work, the Coalition of Communities of Color and Native Community
- Funding from:
 - City of Portland
 - Multnomah County
 - Northwest Health Foundation
 - Kaiser Community Foundation
 - Coalition of Communities of Color (In-kind contributions)
 - Portland State University

Native American Community Participation

- **The Portland Indian Leaders Roundtable**

An alliance of 28 local Native American organizations, tribal organizations and Native focused programs in larger institutions, took lead role in implementation of Native research.

- **Elders**

Provided knowledge and historical context.

Reviewed the report and gave feedback.

Our main priority is to advocate for policy decisions that improve outcomes for the Native American community.



Synthesis of Findings

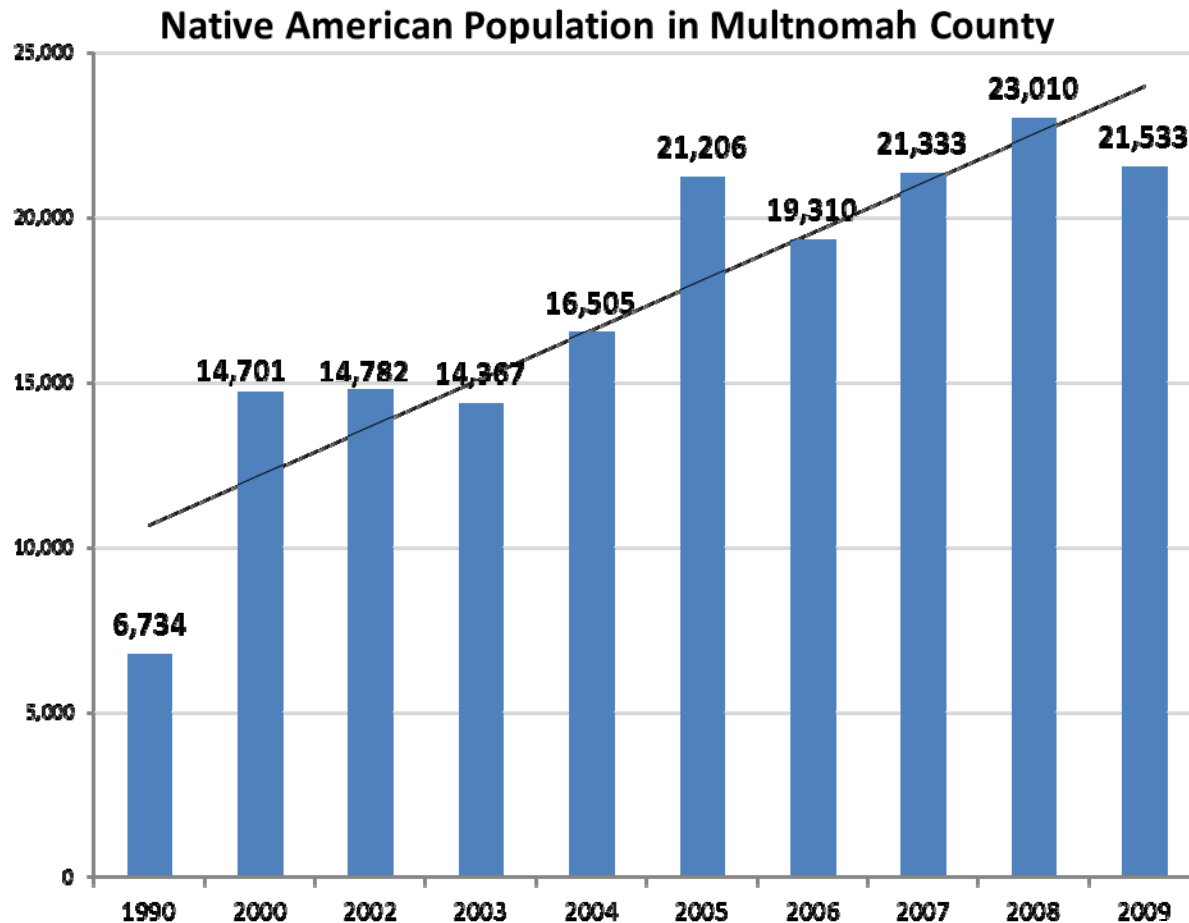


Synthesis of findings

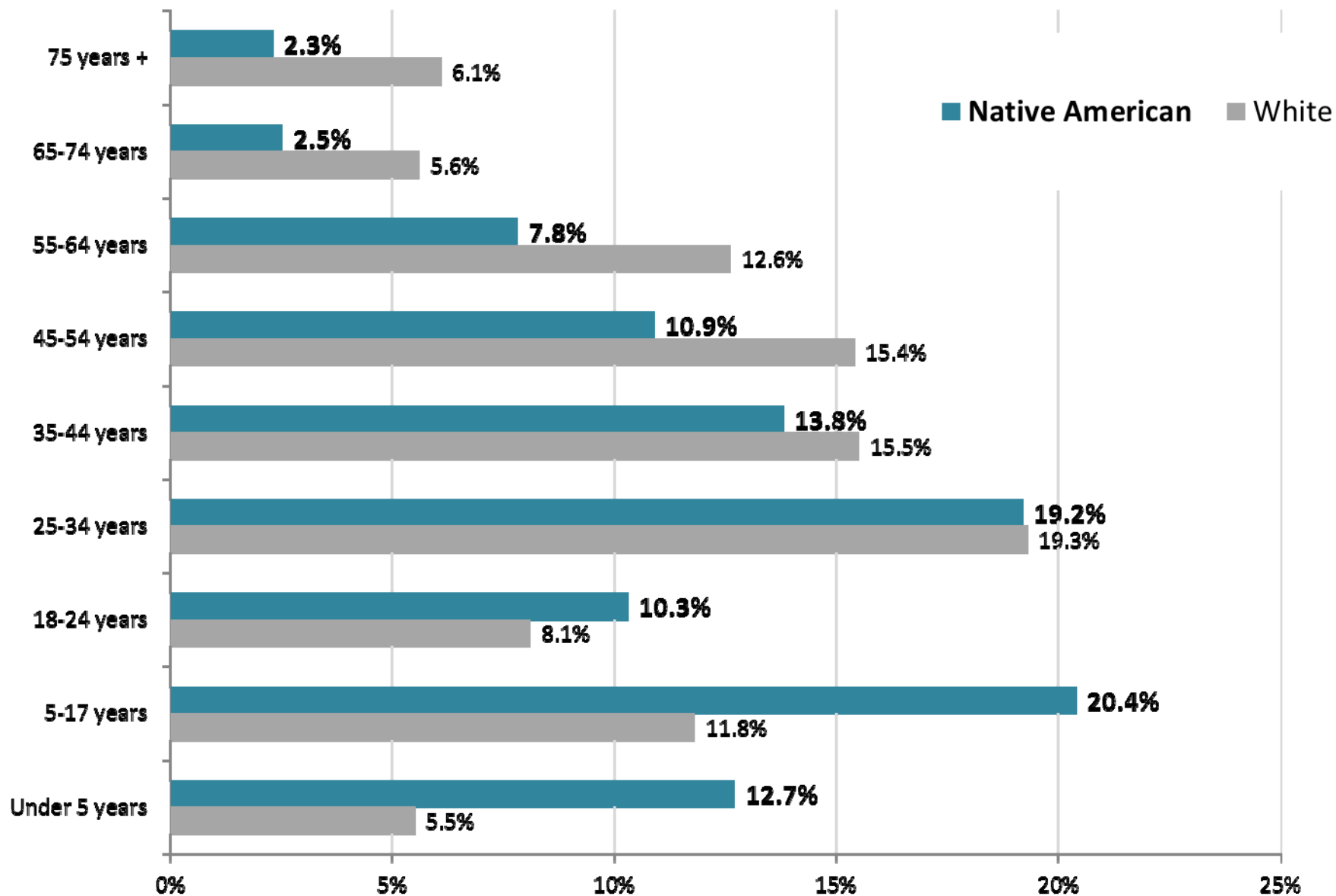
- Native Americans are **sizeable and growing** in numbers
 - But are rendered less visible by undercounts that we are solving in several ways
- There are **huge disparities** across all systems and institutions between Native Americans and Whites
- It is **worse here than in King County** (home to Seattle)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

Key Findings:

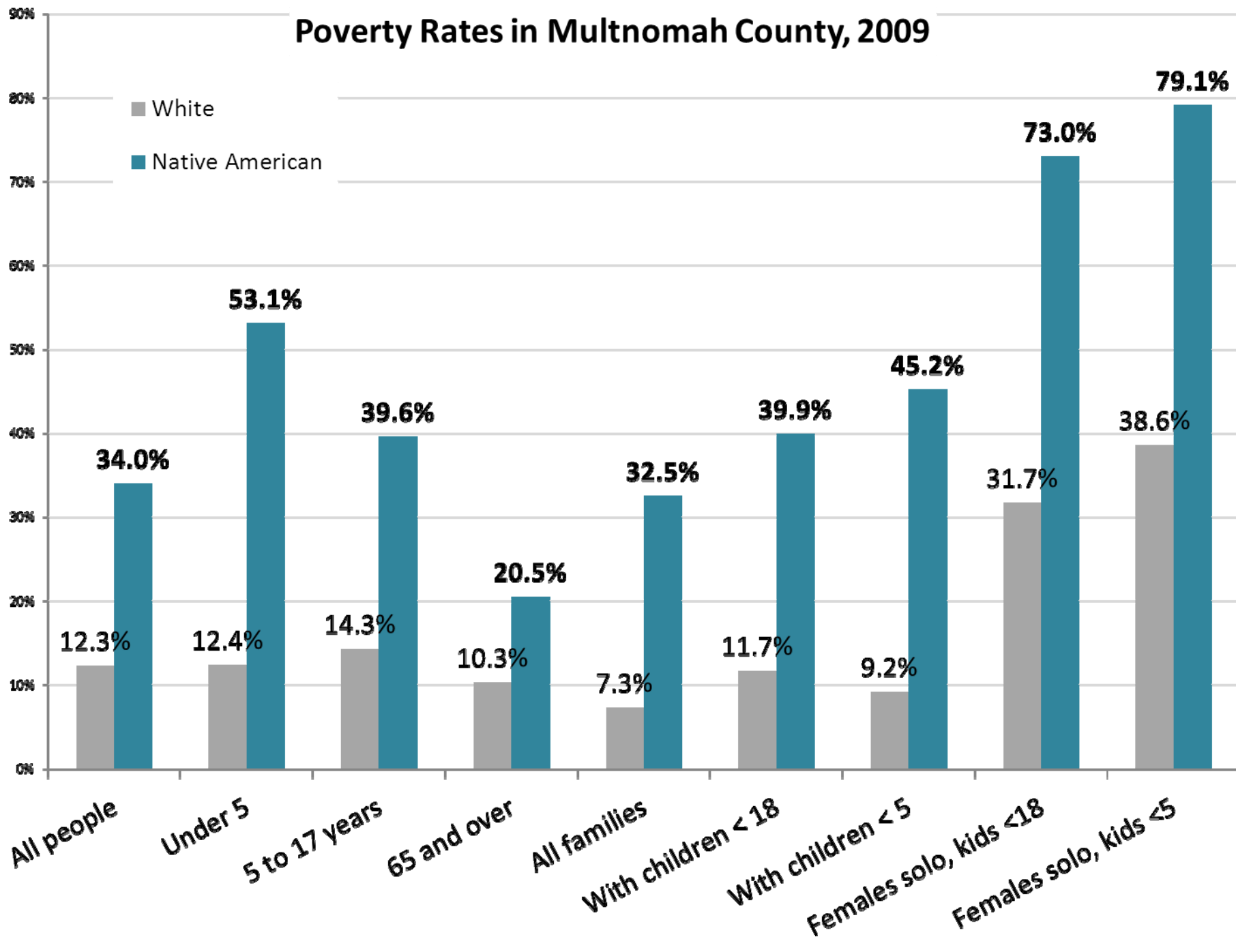
- **Culturally-verified Population Count = 40,783**
Native Americans in 2010
- Official count (through American Cty Survey 2009)....



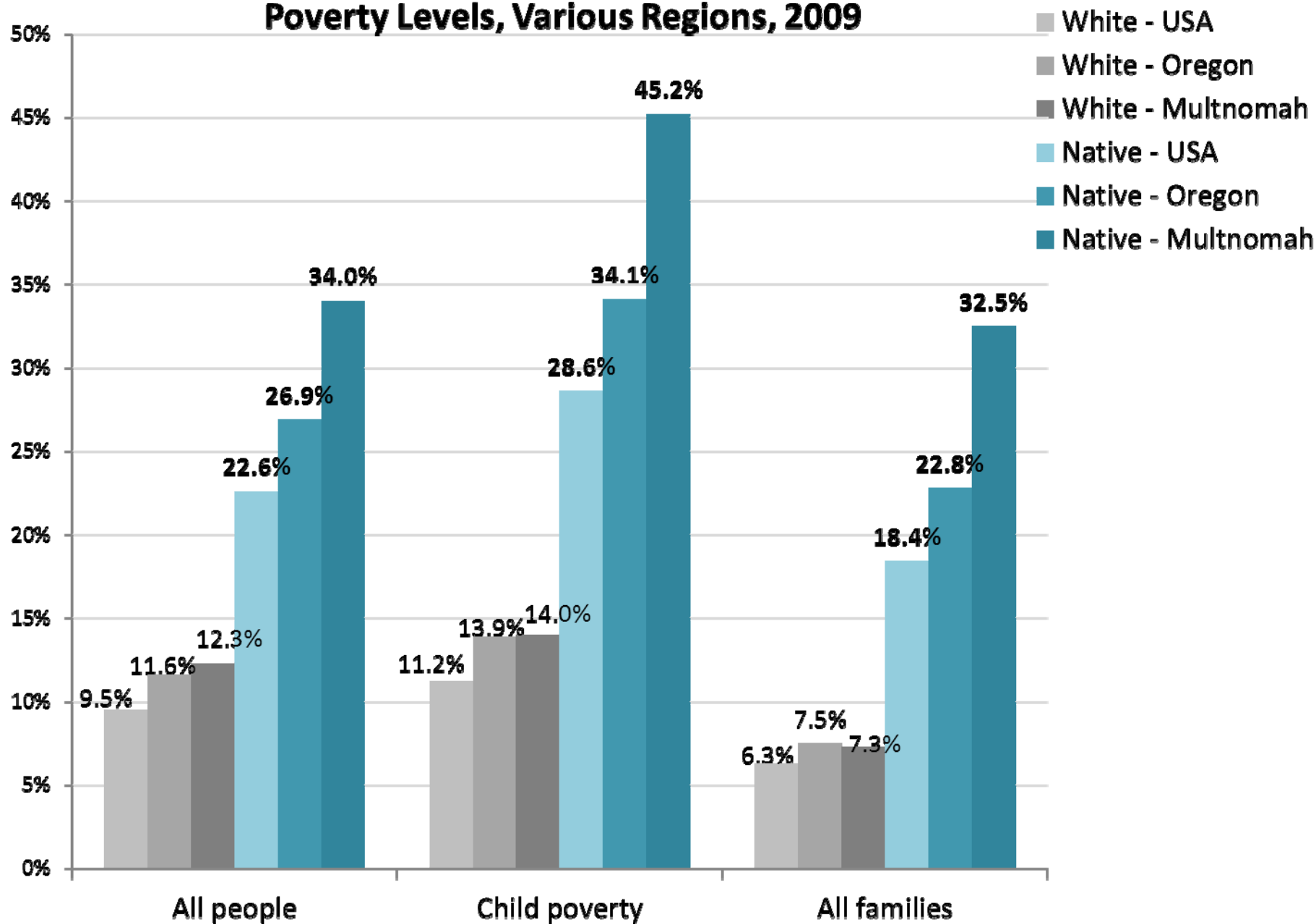
Age distribution, Multnomah County, 2009



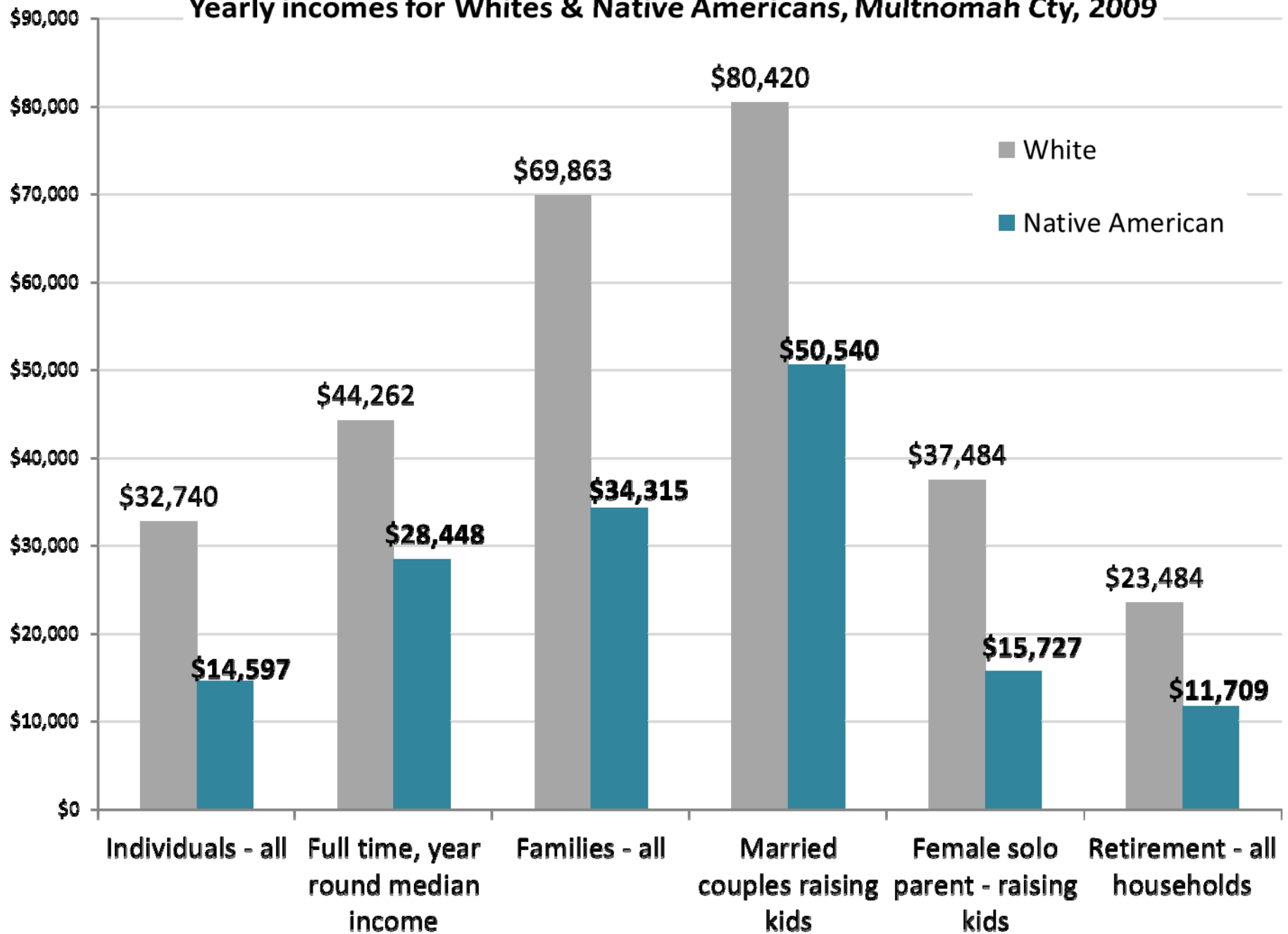
Poverty Rates in Multnomah County, 2009



Poverty Levels, Various Regions, 2009

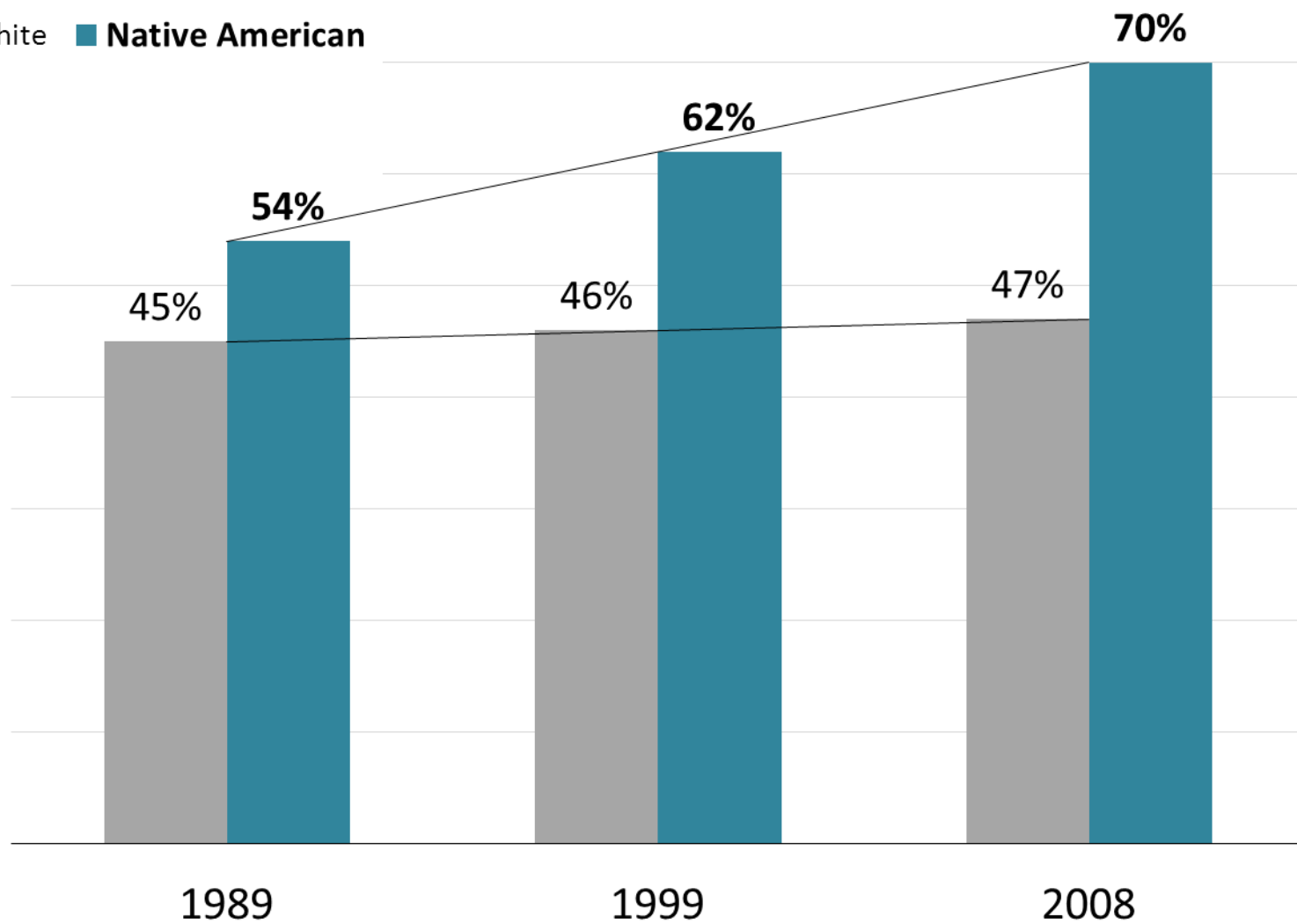


Yearly incomes for Whites & Native Americans, Multnomah Cty, 2009

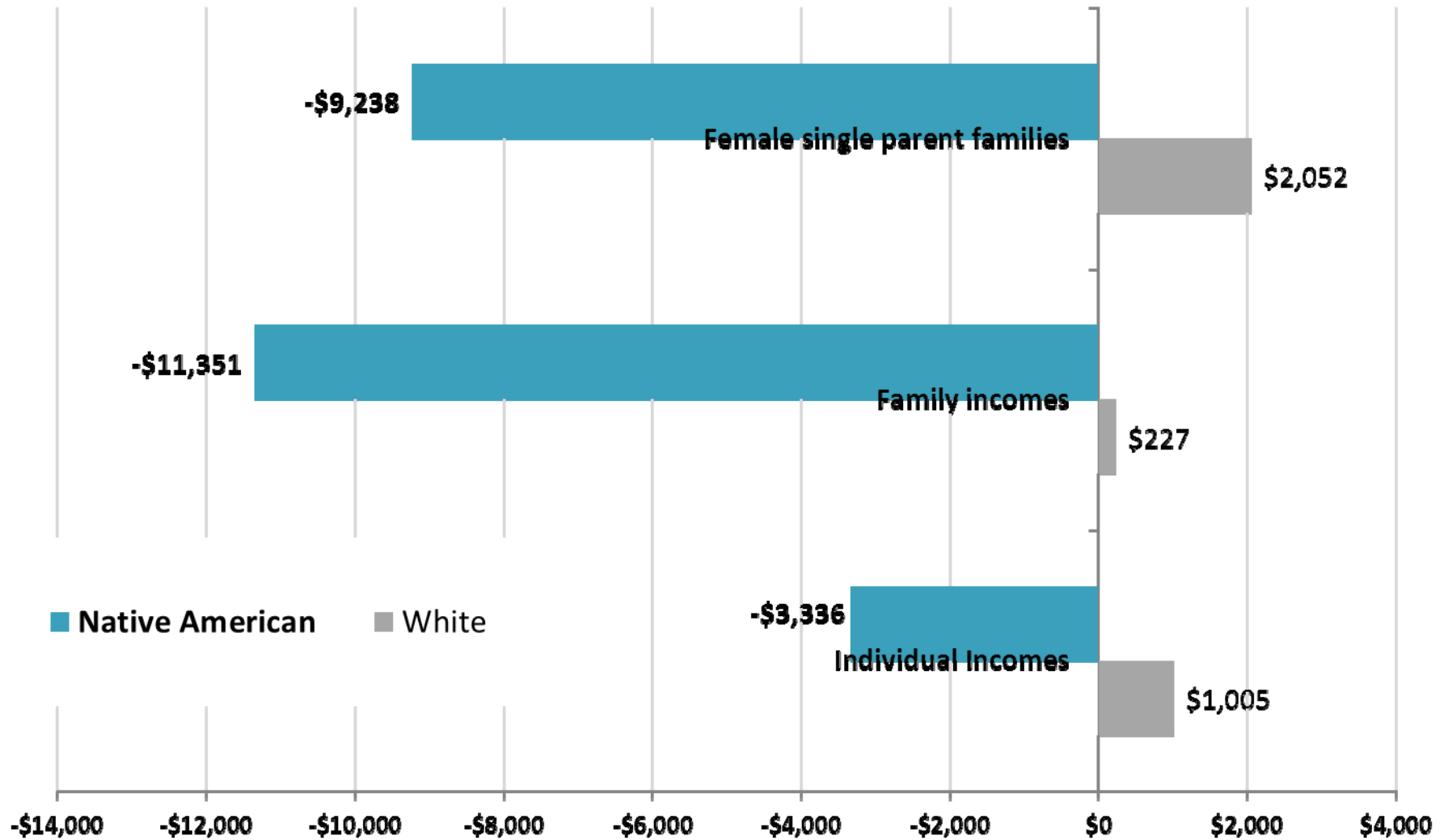


Households Earning Below Average Incomes in Multnomah County

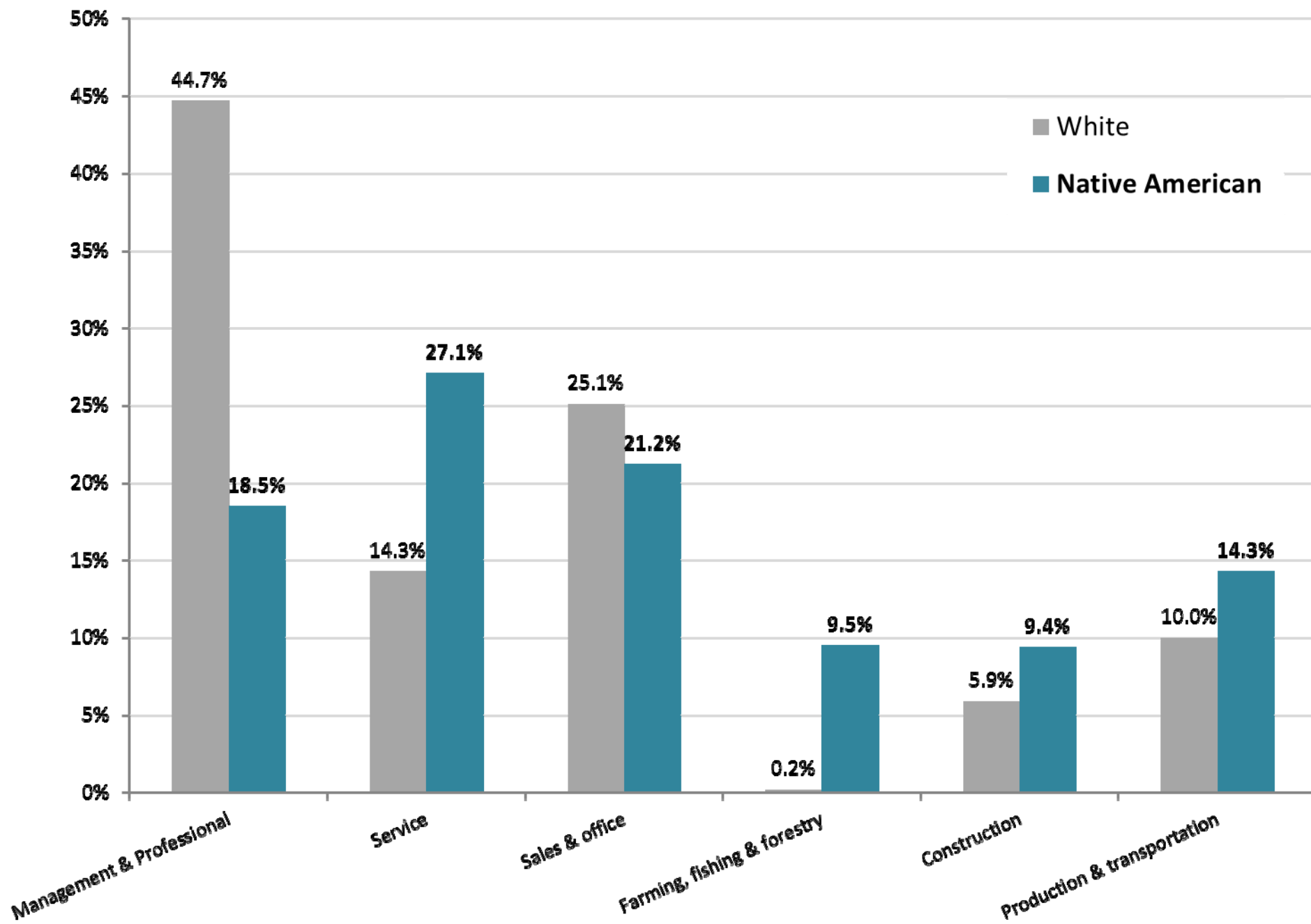
■ White ■ Native American



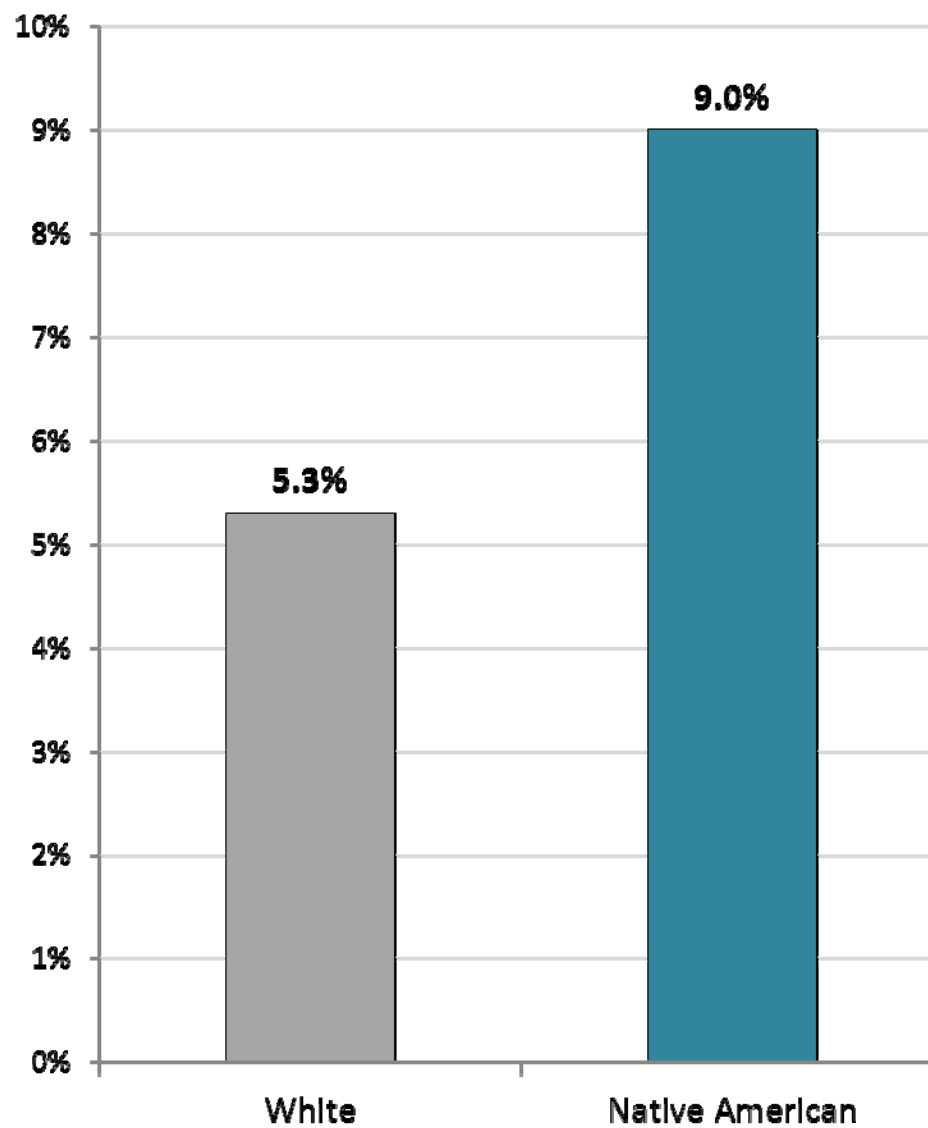
**"Cost" or "benefit" of living in Multnomah County
(when compared with national data), 2009**



Occupations for Whites & Native Americans, Multnomah County, 2009

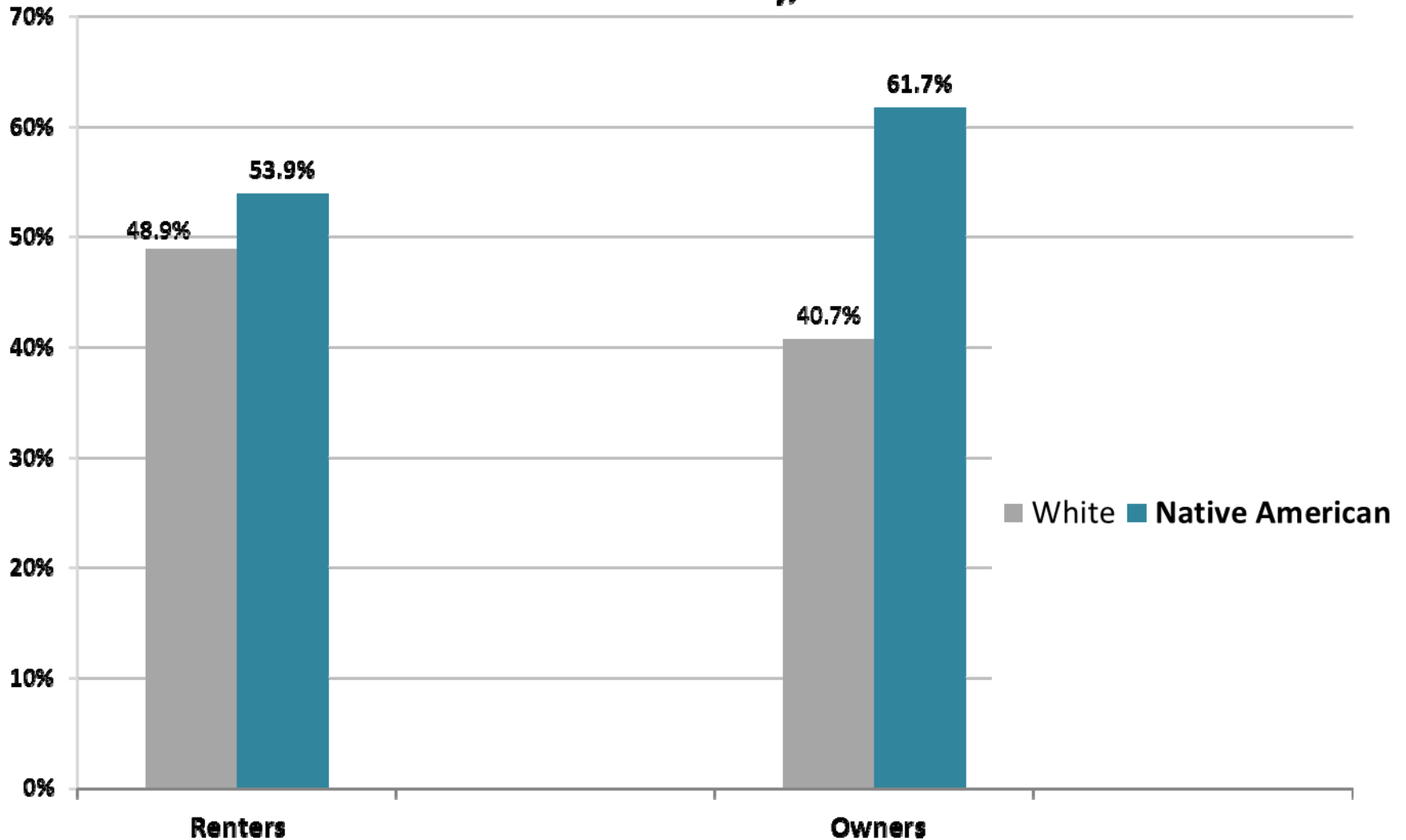


Unemployment, Multnomah County, 2009



Housing

**Those spending more than 30% of their income on housing,
Multnomah County, 2009**



Home Ownership Rate Loan Application Denial Rate

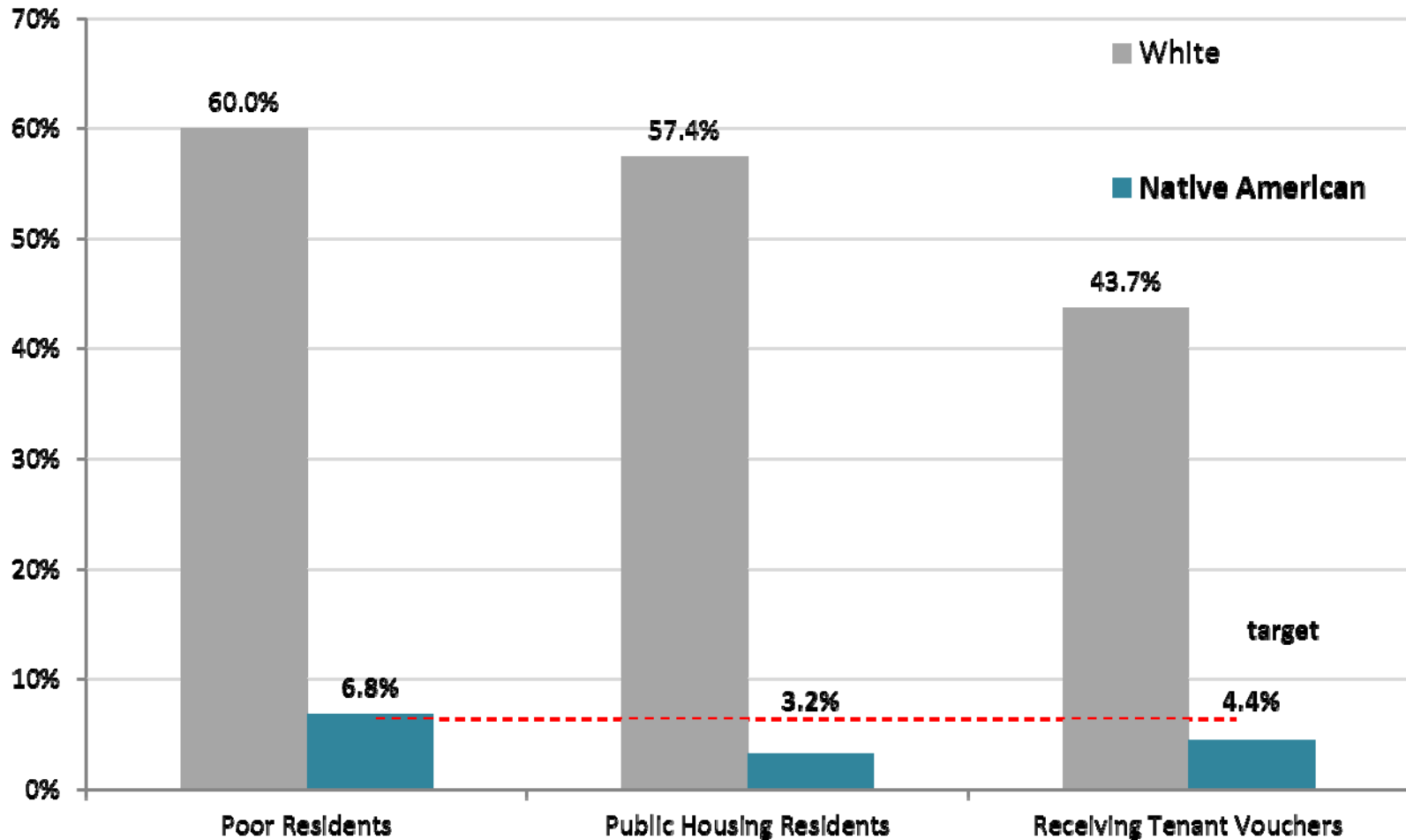
	Home Ownership Rate			Loan Application Denial Rate		
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
White	77%	58%	48%	7%	10%	11%
Native American	62%	50%	29%	13%	20%	16%

Tier 1 = households with incomes more than 95% above the median income (wealthiest)

Tier 2 = households with incomes 80-95% over the median income (mid-range)

Tier 3 = households with incomes 50-80% over the median income (poorest homeowners)

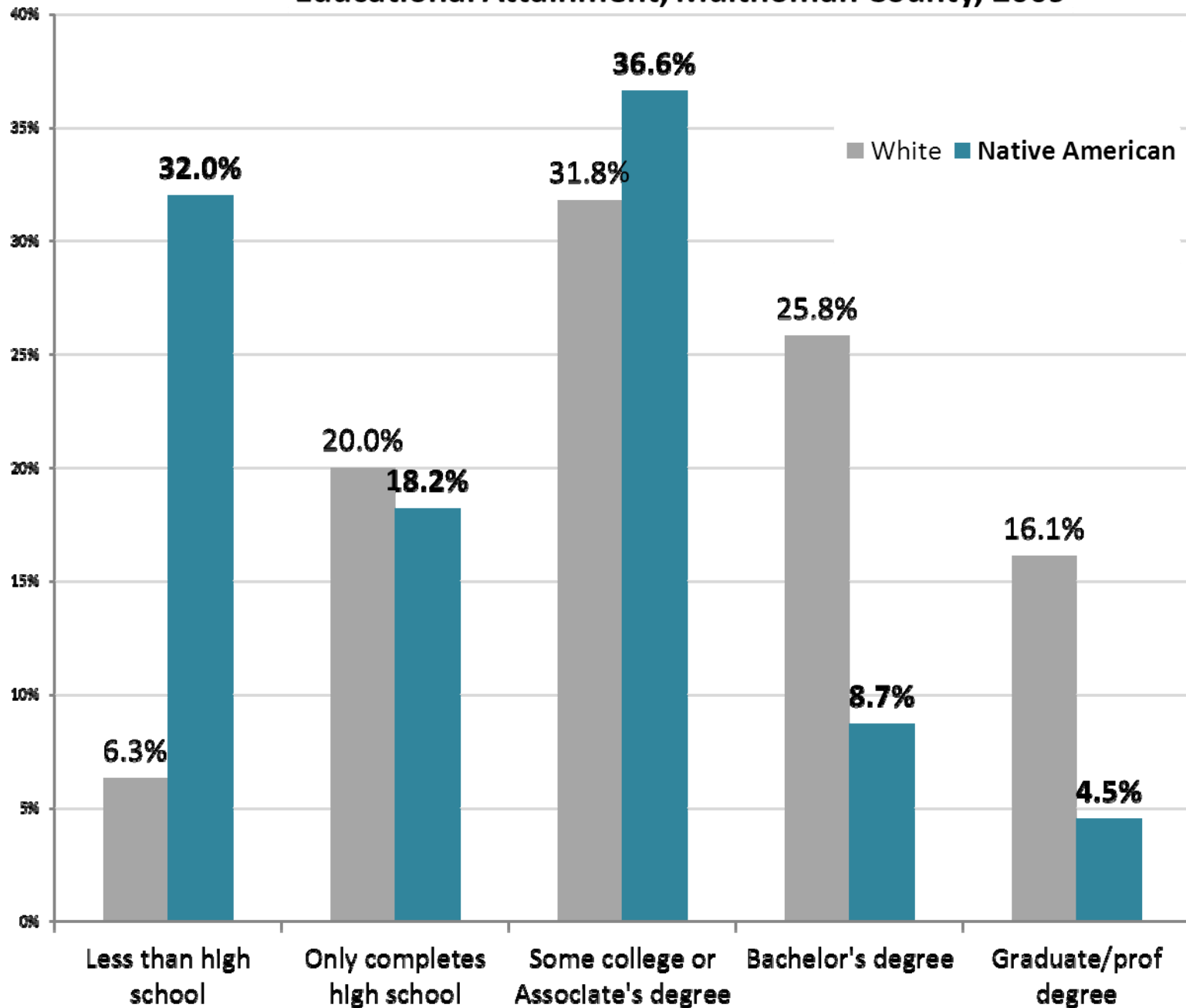
Poverty levels compared to access to housing support programs, Multnomah County, August 2010



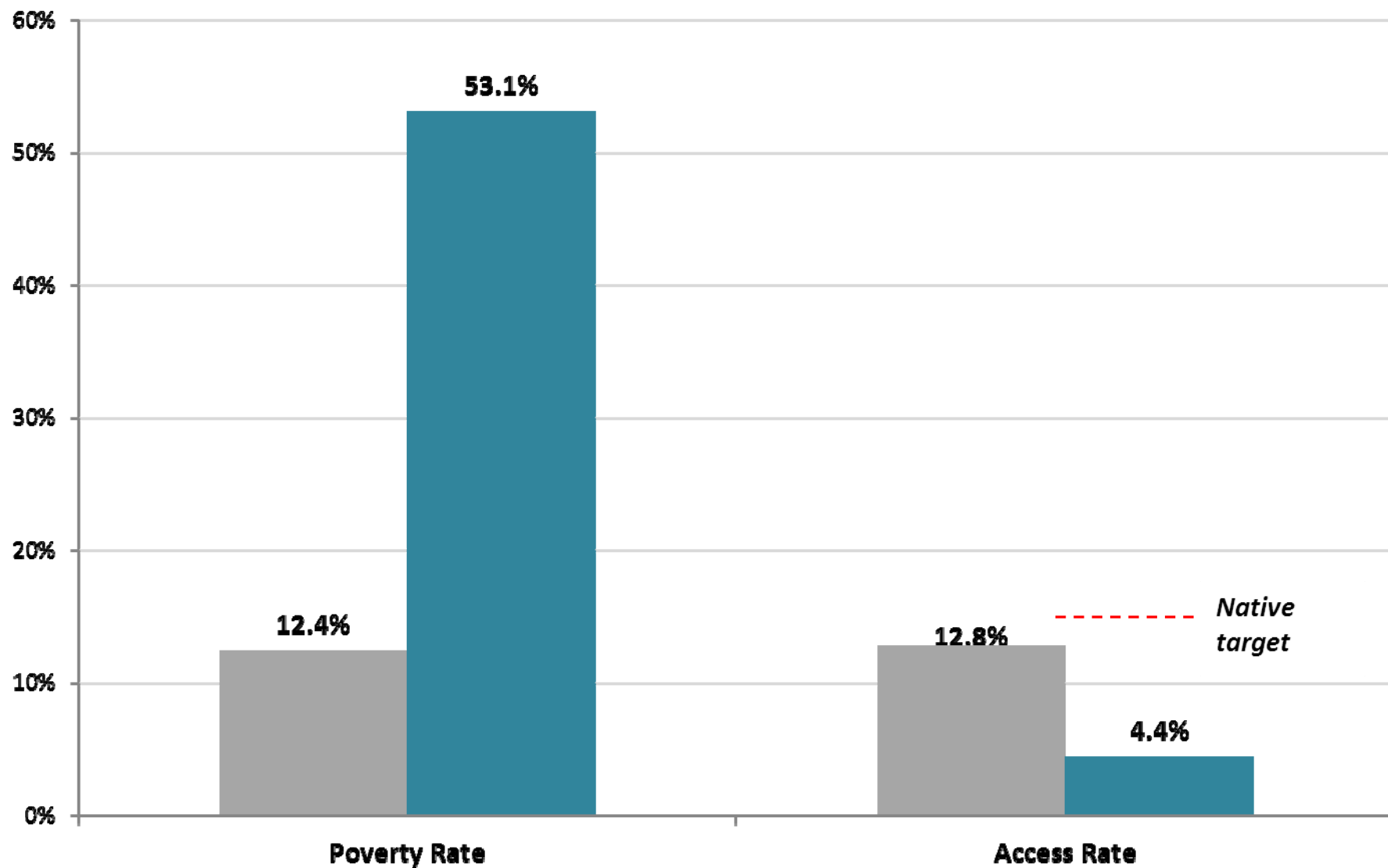
Homelessness in Multnomah County

- 9% are Native American (up from 8.6%)
- We are **overrepresented** among the homeless at levels 350% higher than our numbers warrant, while Whites are underrepresented among the homeless by 21%.

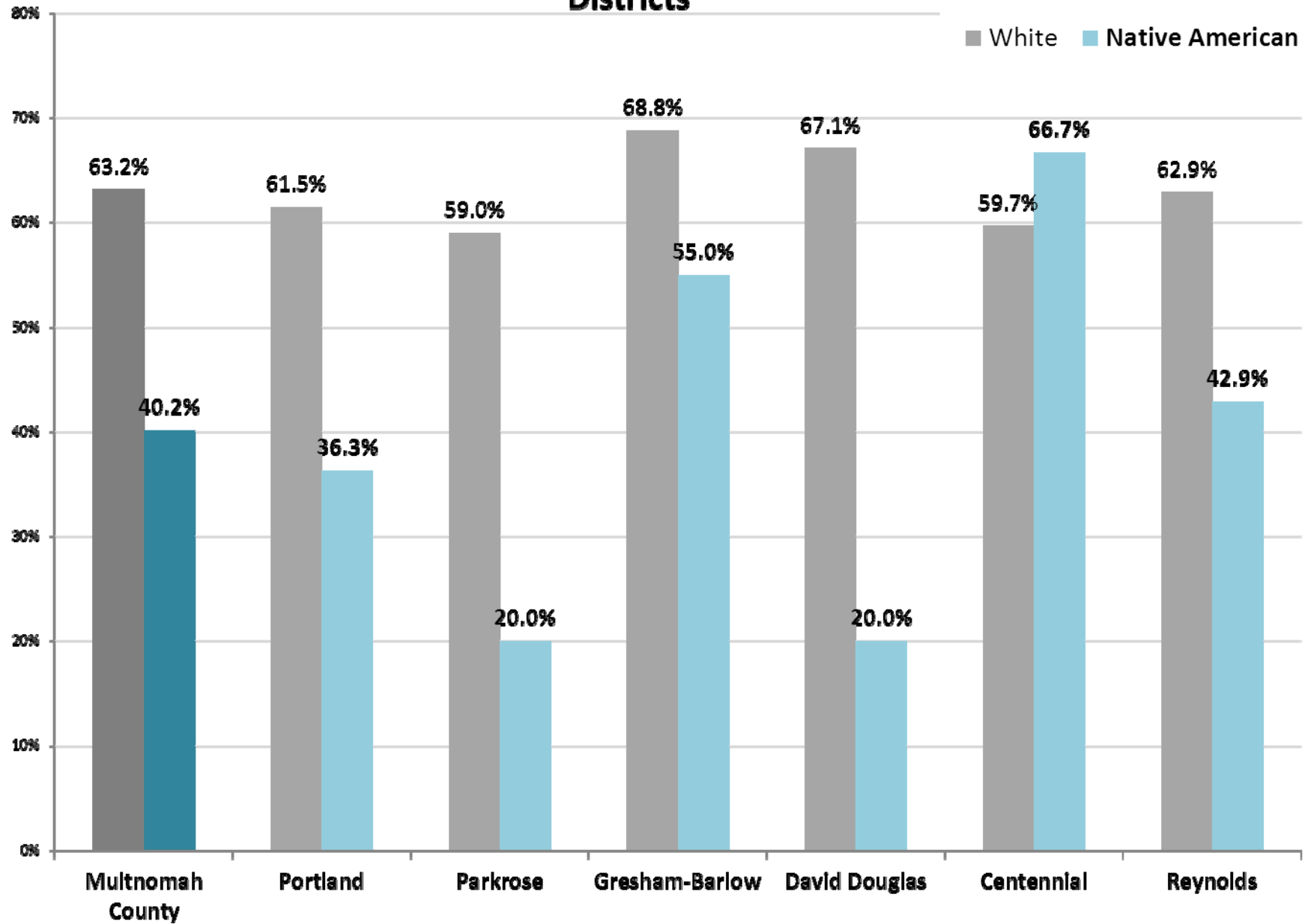
Educational Attainment, Multnomah County, 2009



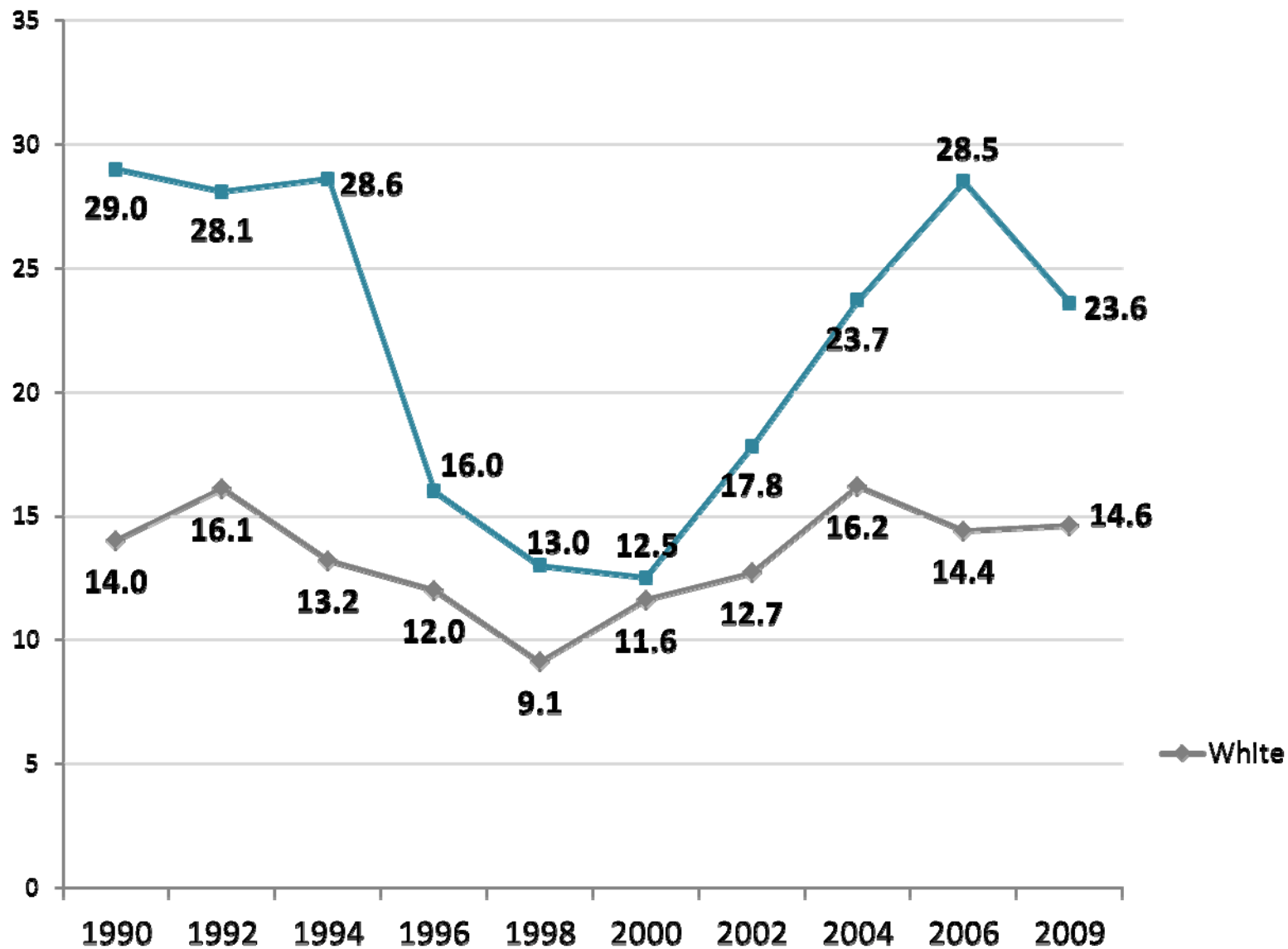
Portland Public Schools, Head Start Participation, Native American & White, 2010



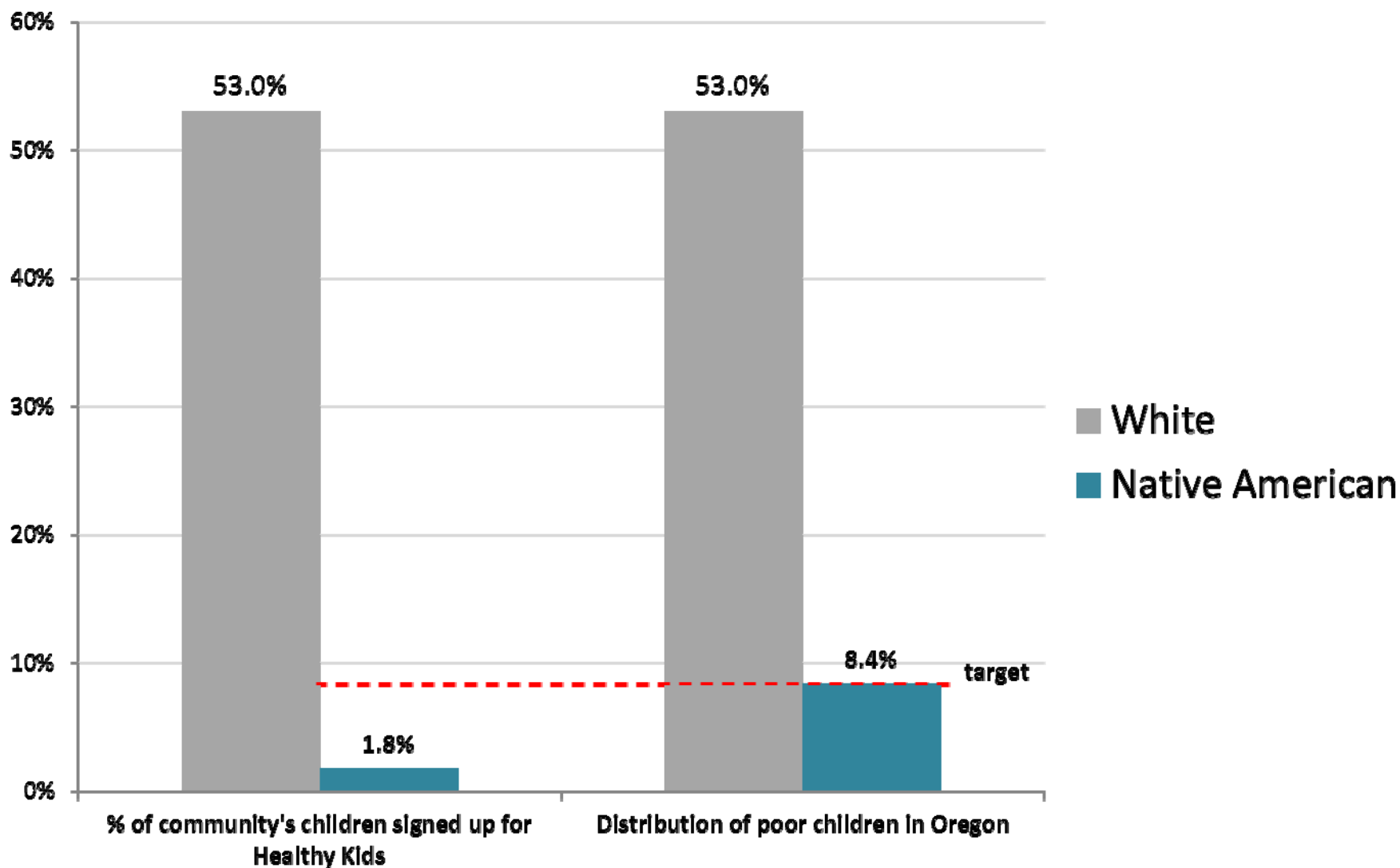
Cohort Graduation Rates, 2010, Multnomah County and its School Districts



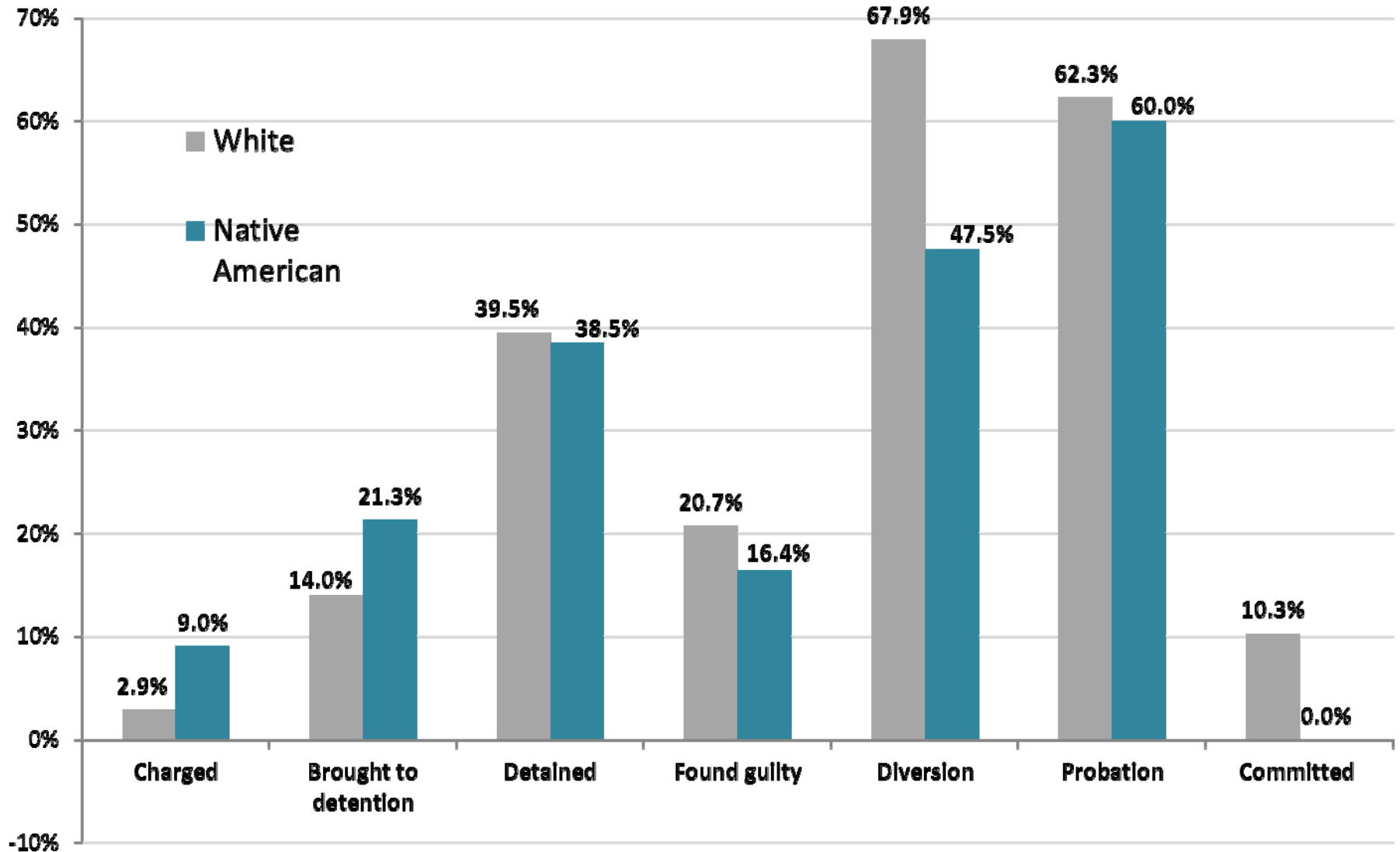
Percent of Oregonians Without Health Insurance, 1990 to 2009



Enrollment in Healthy Kids, Oregon, September 2010



Juvenile Justice Decisions, 2009, Multnomah County



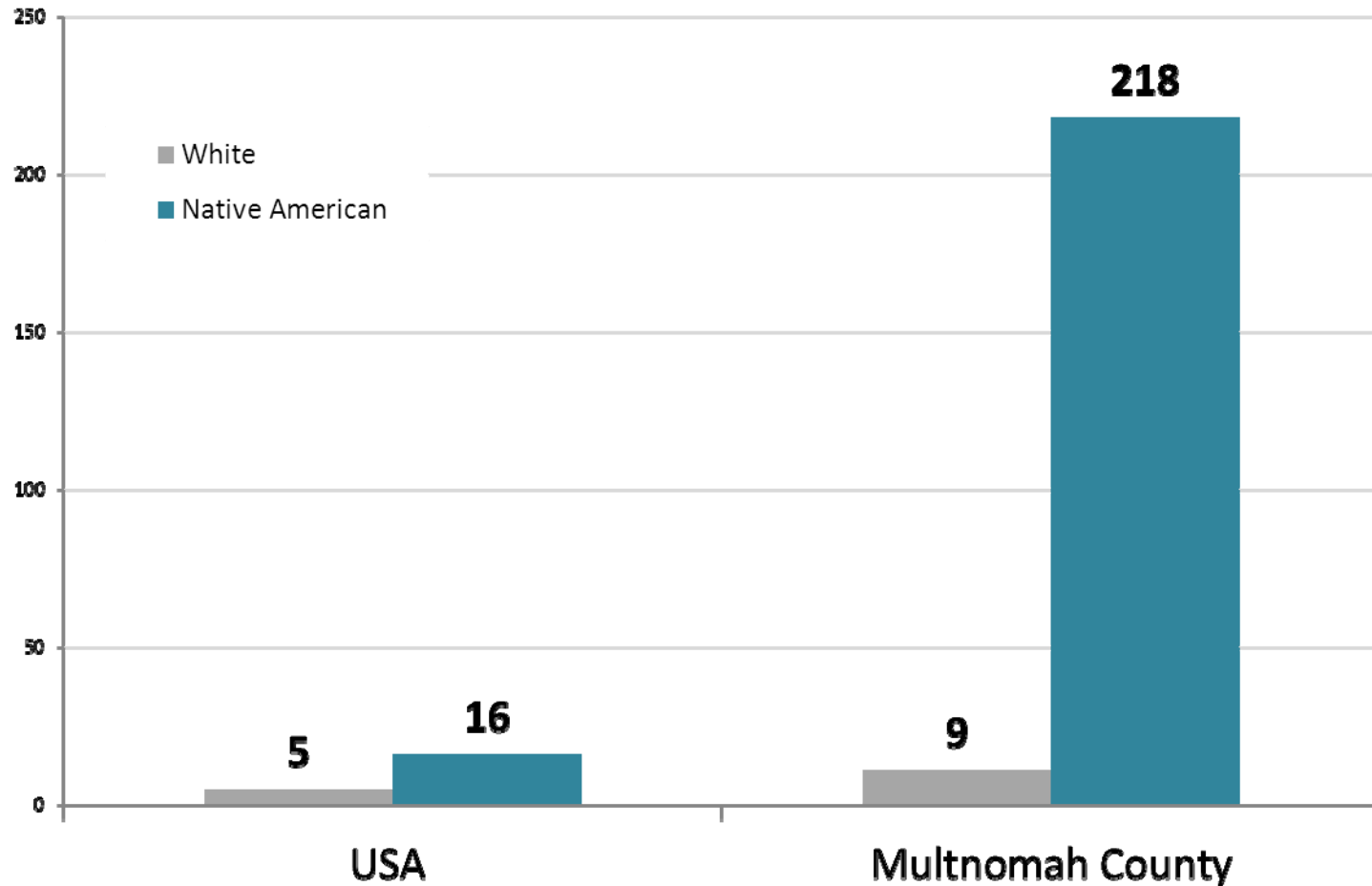
Child Welfare

- Native American families are disproportionately reported to Child Protective Services hotline/intake, at rates double their population size
- Native American children are also grossly overrepresented foster care...

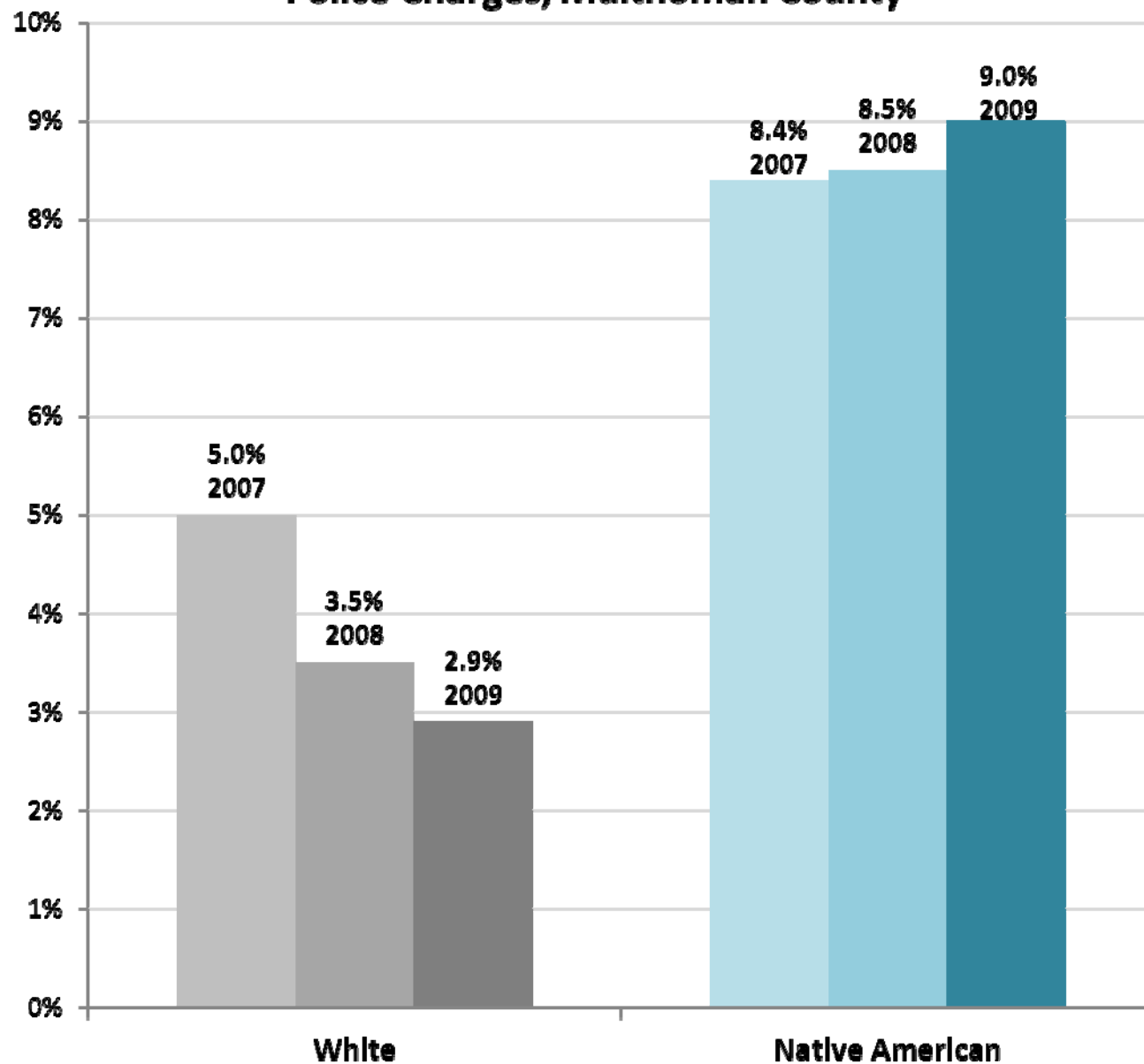
Children in Foster Care	Number of children per 1,000 population
USA - all	6
White	5
Native American	16
Oregon - all	13
White	10
Native American	56
Multnomah County	15
White	9
Native American	218

- Once in care, Native American children are likely to stay in care longer than White children.

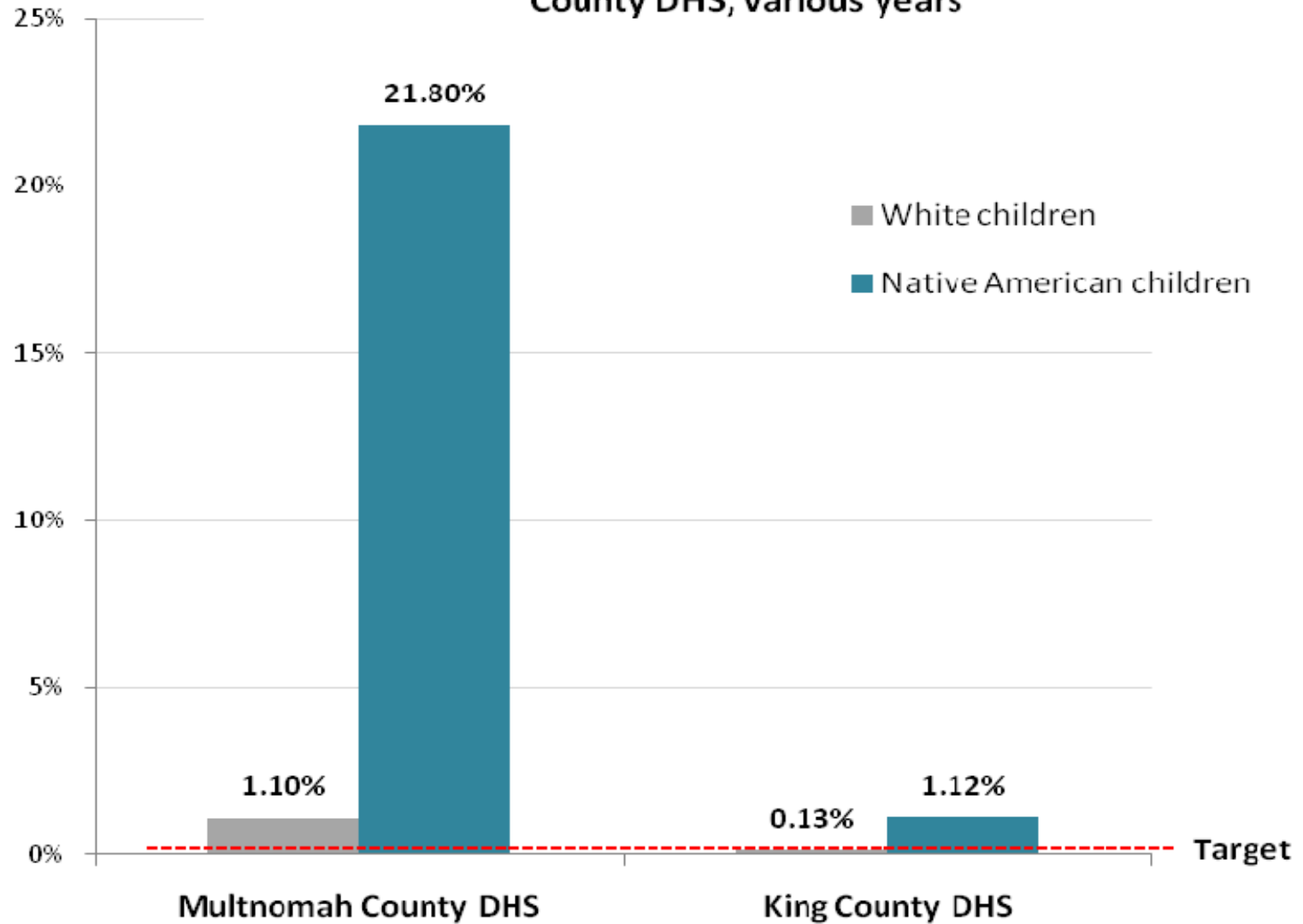
**Foster Care Rates:
Comparison of Local & National Levels
(measured by number of children in foster care
per 1000 children)**



Native American Juvenile Overrepresentation in Police Charges, Multnomah County



Children taken into foster care, as measured by % of each community's child population, Multnomah County DHS and King County DHS, various years



Under-resourcing Native Americans (and over-resourcing White communities)





























Oregon 2008		Size of Population	Amount of Foundation Funding
Whites		80.4%	90.4%
Communities of Color		19.6%	9.6%
	Native Americans	3.3%	0.7%

- Native Americans fare even worse when reflecting the numbers in poverty

Comparison between Multnomah County & King County

2008	Child Poverty		Rent Burden (paying 30% or more)		Individual median Income		Occupation as management/prof		Hold a university degree	
	MultCo	King	MultCo	King	MultCo	King	MultCo	King	MultCo	King
White	12.5%	6.0%	49.9%	43.9%	\$33,095	\$45,237	43.6%	50.5%	40.2%	47.7%
Native American	45.7%	21.1%	56.0%	55.1%	\$15,477	\$24,192	16.6%	36.7%	15.7%	24.0%

“Average” amount worse? 41.8%

Size of Disparities	2007 % worse for Native Americans	2009 % worse for Native Americans	Direction of Change from 2007 to 2009
Occupation			
Management & professional jobs	157%	142%	
Service jobs	21%	90%	
Poverty			
All Individuals	136%	176%	
Child poverty	162%	223%	
Elders (65+)	107%	99%	
Family poverty, kids <18	239%	343%	
Female single parent, kids <18	89%	132%	
Female single parent, kids <3	86%	103%	
Housing			
Rent Burden	13%	-9%	
Mortgage Burden	34%	52%	
Homeownership	23%	62%	
Home value (owners only)	59%	31%	
Education			
Attainment of a university degree	139%	408%	
Drop out rate ^a	127%	131%	
Discipline rate	28%	30%	
High School graduation rate ^a	37%	37%	
Academic test scores - Math ² ^a	21%	21%	
Academic testing - reading/literature ^a	18%	22%	
Incomes			
Individual	107%	124%	
Family	104%	106%	
Retirement	62%	101%	
Female single parent	109%	138%	
Health			
Health insurance ^a	46%	38%	
Unemployment			
Unemployment rate	29%	41%	
Criminal & Juvenile Justice			
Frequency of juvenile detentions	69%	-3%	
Frequency of youth being criminally charged	103%	210%	
Adult incarceration rate ^a	14%	30%	
Comparison with King County			
Composite of 5 measures	34%	36%	

¹ Please note that these rates are for the prior two years (2009 & 2010)

² A drop of more or less than one percentage point is deemed to have remained constant

^a Data for 2006 and 2009 were used for these two time periods

^a Data for 2008 and 2009 were used here

^a Data for 2008 and 2010 were used here



Indicates disparities are improving, but due to the worsening conditions of Whites

Summary

- *Disparities are...*
 - *Massive*
 - *Reach across all systems*
 - *Worsening*
 - *Worse than other regions & national averages*
- *What is to be done?*
 - *Change, Social Justice and Racial Equity*
 - *True Partnerships with the Native community*



Recommendations:

- **Long term vision and action plan for Racial Equity.**
 - Establish firm timelines and policy commitments.
 - Include Accountability structures.
 - Focus budget in a targeted way to eliminate disparities.
- **Increase the number of Native American employees at the City of Portland and employment opportunities city-wide.**
 - Increase access to jobs at the managerial and professional categories.
 - A strong representation of Native Americans at the City will positively impact our access to services, strengthen decision making
- **Economic Development**
 - PDC Economic Development Strategy & URA investments
 - Develop culturally specific ways to involve the Native community
- **City Bureaus**
 - All Bureaus must be held to a high standard of authentic community engagement and input and include more diverse voices in their planning efforts.

Recommendations

- **Housing**

- **Culturally specific, decentralized services.** All Native Americans deserve culturally-specific housing support services that are built on cultural values, and these services should be decentralized into the Native American community based on models that have proved effective in the Native American community.
- **Equal Access.** Native Americans should be equitably represented amongst those receiving housing services and support in a way that reflects need. Administrators of such programs should prioritize removing barriers to Native Americans receiving such services.
- **Representative decision making.** Native Americans must have representation on all governmental decision-making bodies related to housing

- **View our community as an asset and part of the cultural fabric of the City.**

- **Parks & Recreation**

- Portland rests on traditional Native village sites and has great historical significance. Involve the Native community in cultural resource planning in the Parks.

For more information

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- The full report can be downloaded from
www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org

Thank you!

