

Latinos in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile

Presentation to Portland City Council

March 14 , 2012



Portland State
UNIVERSITY



Outline

- Introducing Research Project and the Coalition of Communities of Color
- Synthesis of Findings
 - Depth and breadth of research findings
 - 28 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 (2008-2012)

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



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

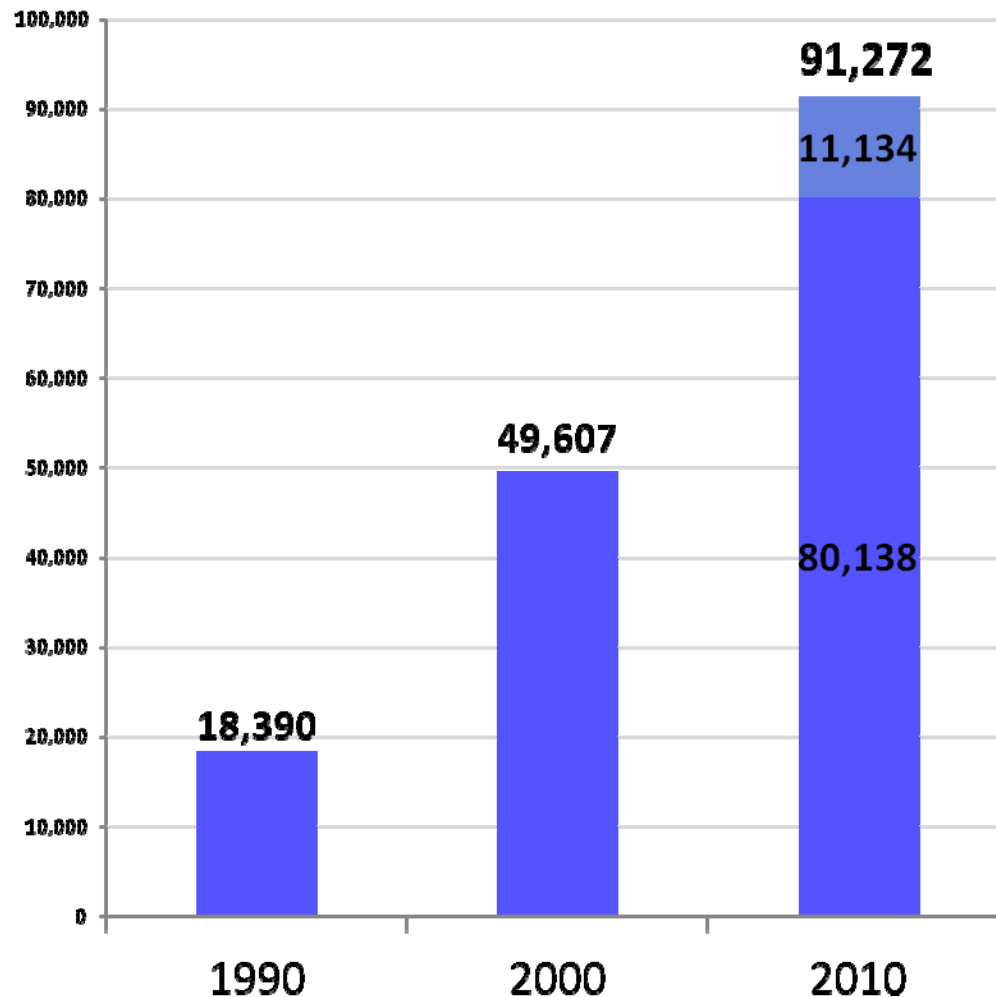


Synthesis of findings

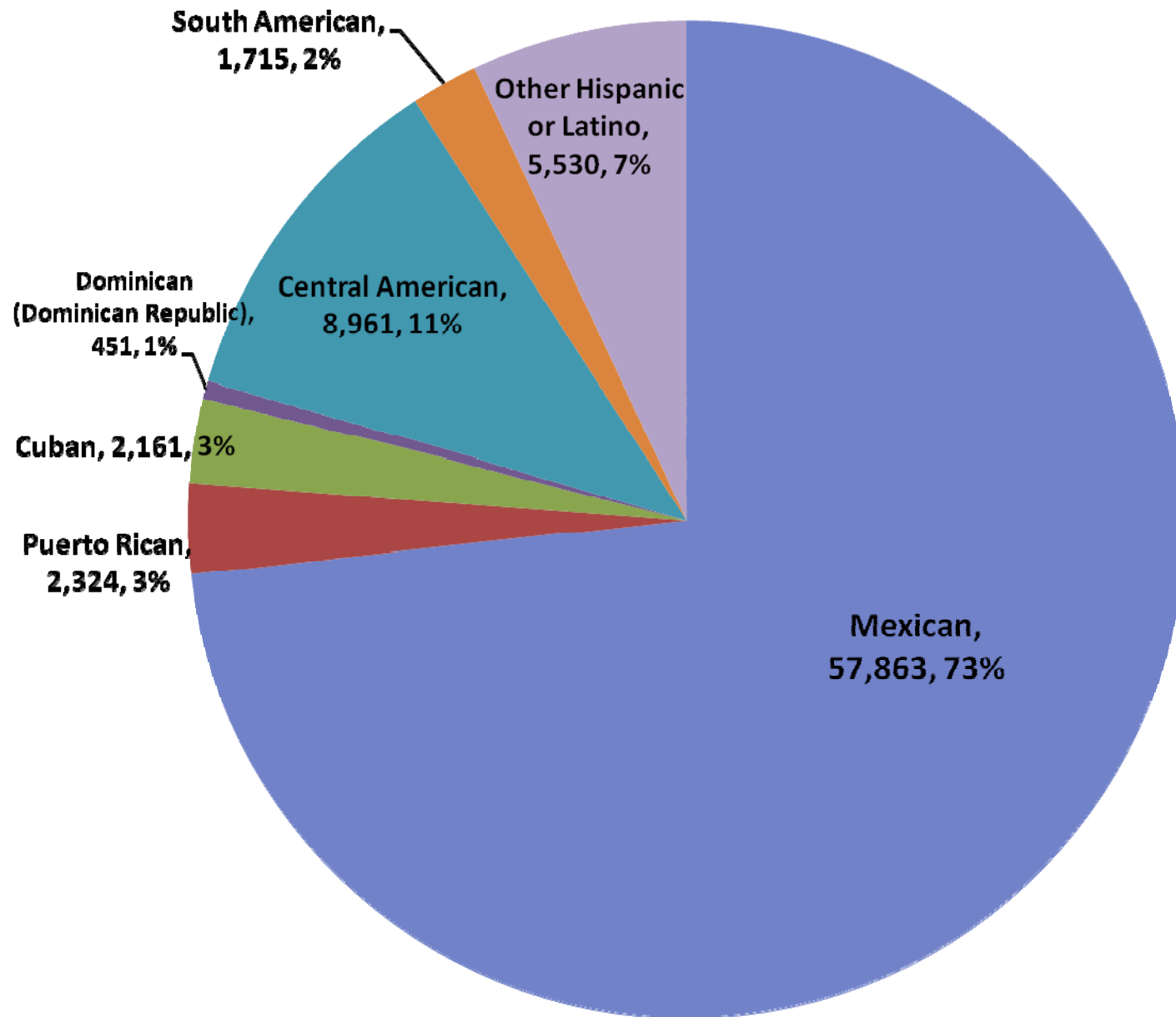
- We are **sizeable and growing** in numbers
- There are **huge disparities** across all systems and institutions between Latinos and Whites
- It is **worse here than in King County** (home to Seattle) for Latinos
- It is **worse here for Latinos than USA averages**
- These comparisons show that **policy can influence outcomes**
 - The policy landscape is failing our communities
 - We can and must reverse these trends

Key Finding: Culturally-verified population counts

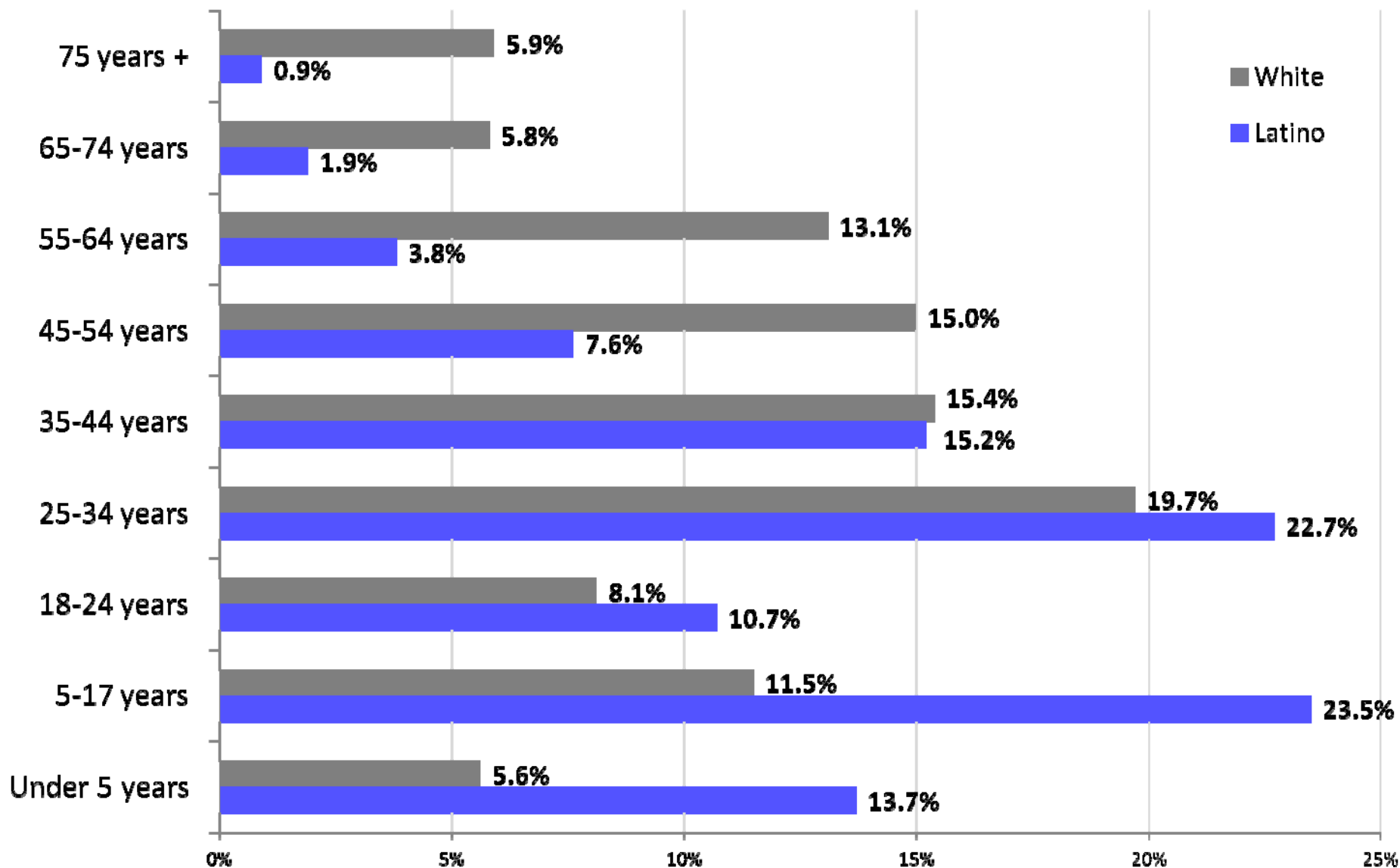
- **Culturally-verified count** = **91,272 Latinos** in 2010
= 12.4% of population



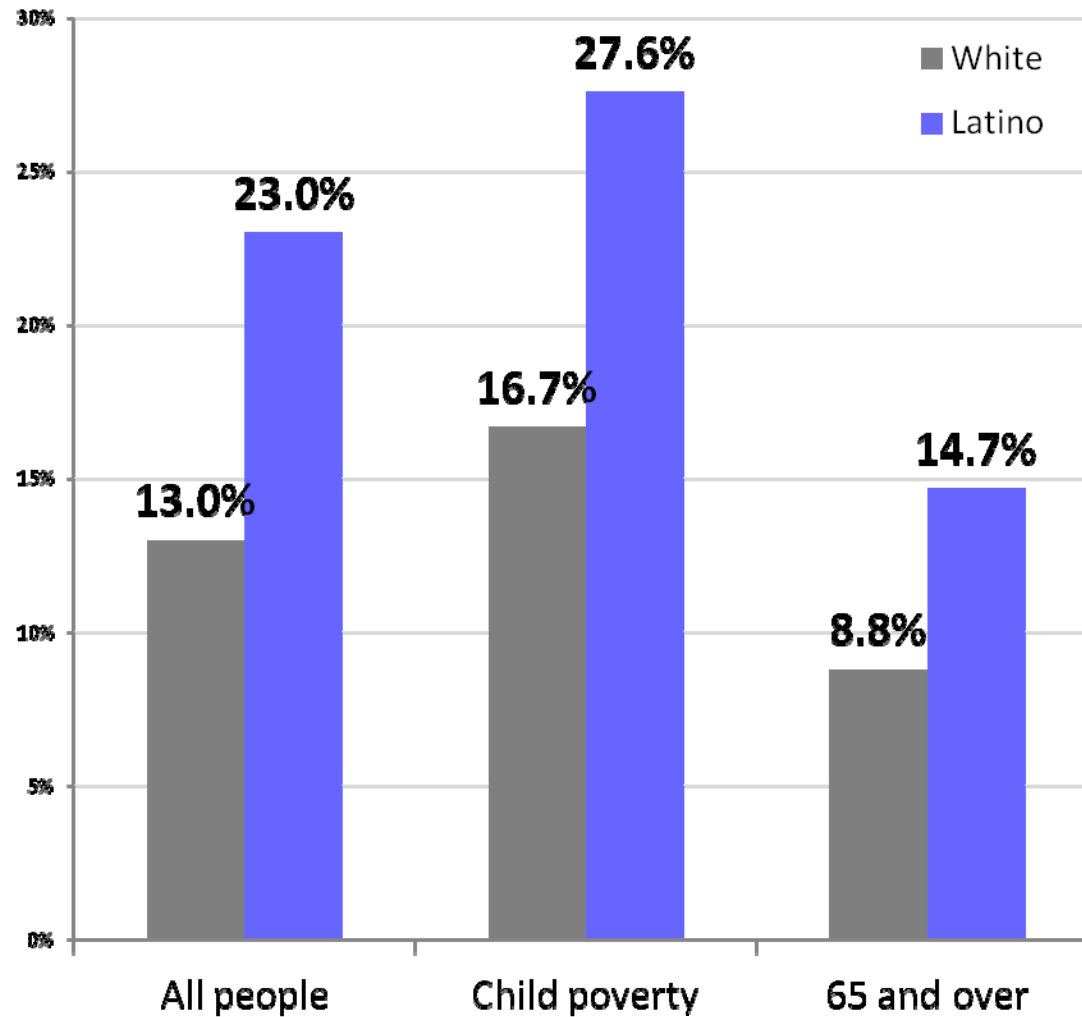
Latino composition, Multnomah County, 2009



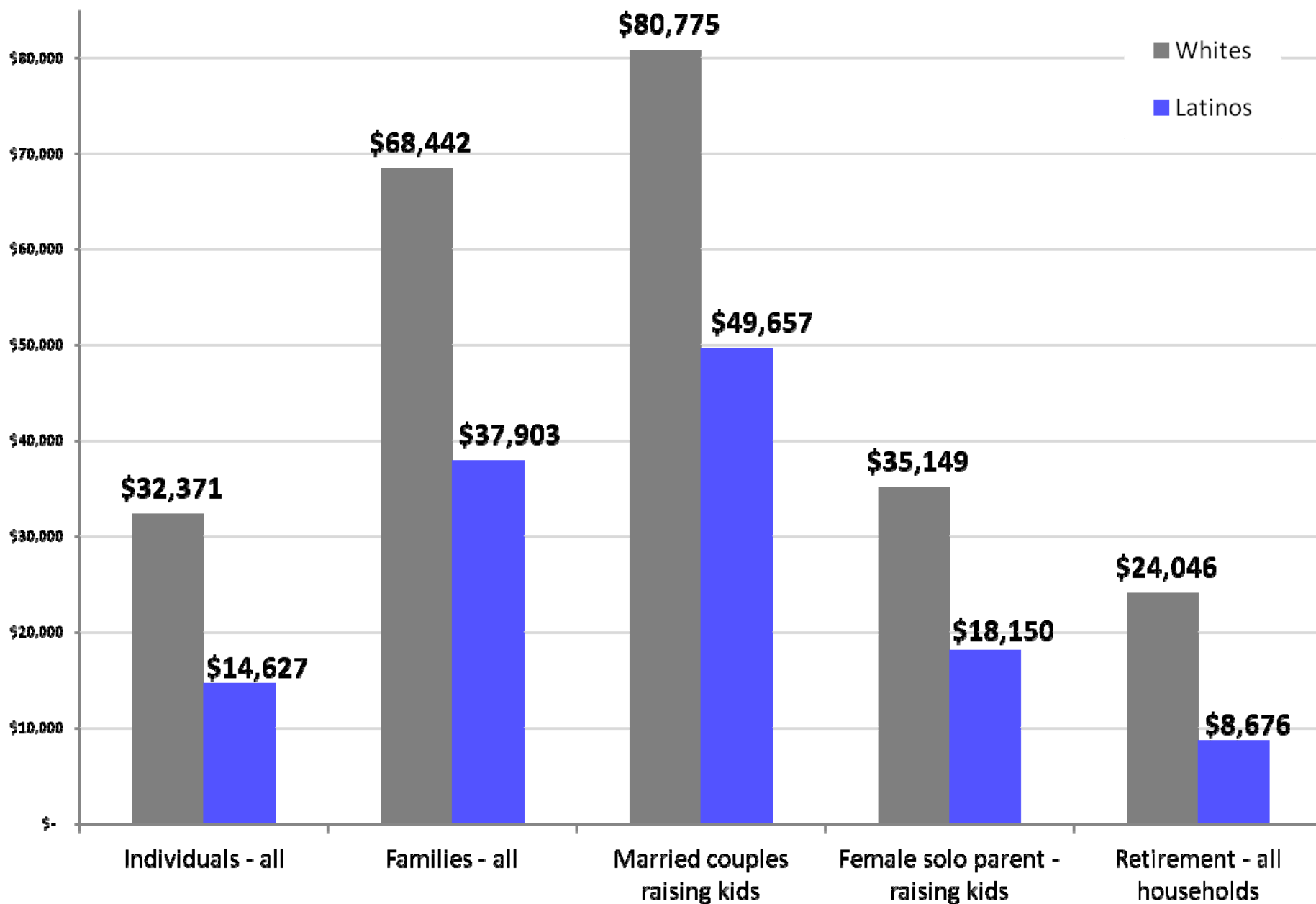
Age Distribution, 2009, Multnomah County



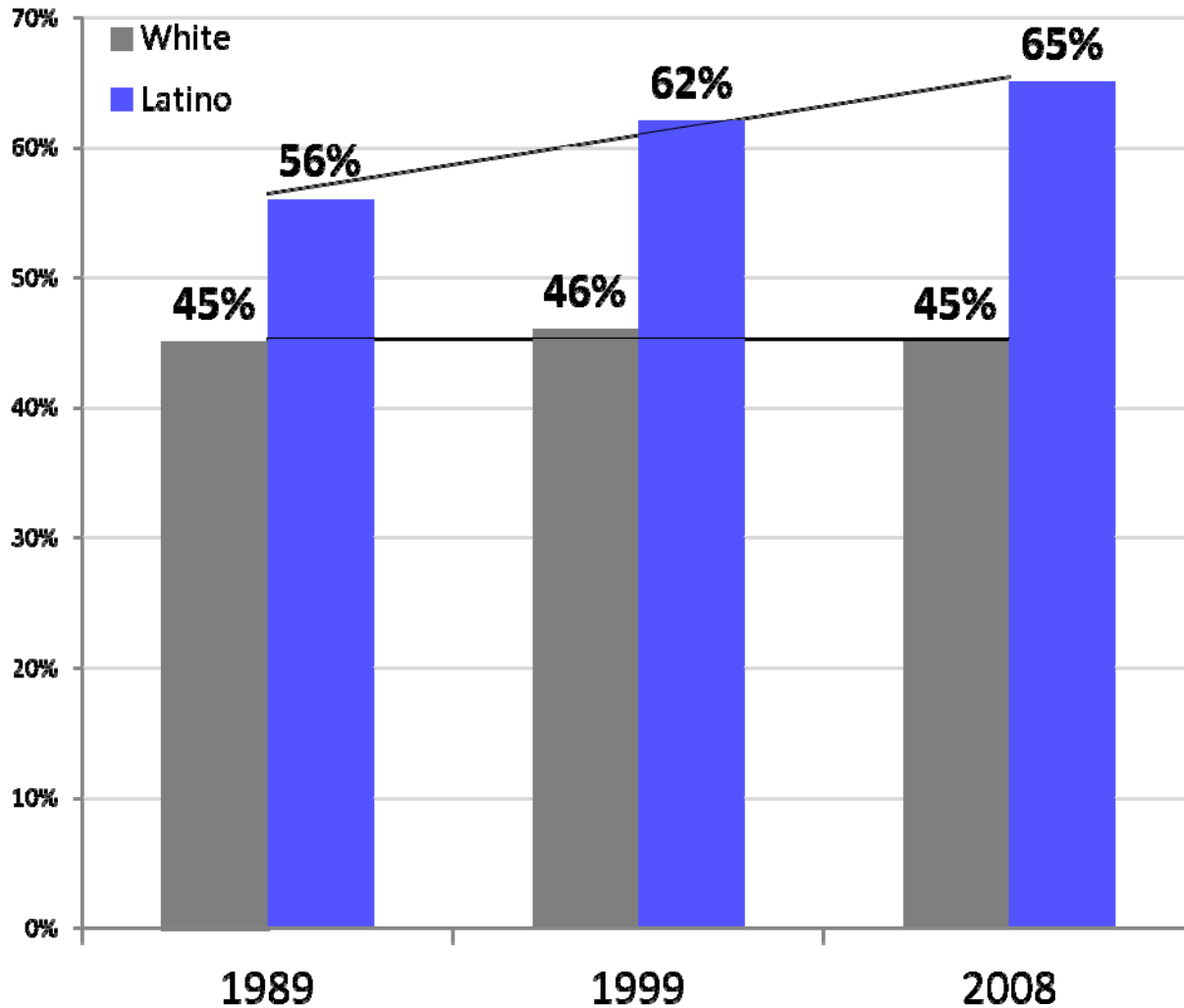
Poverty rates, Multnomah County, 2009



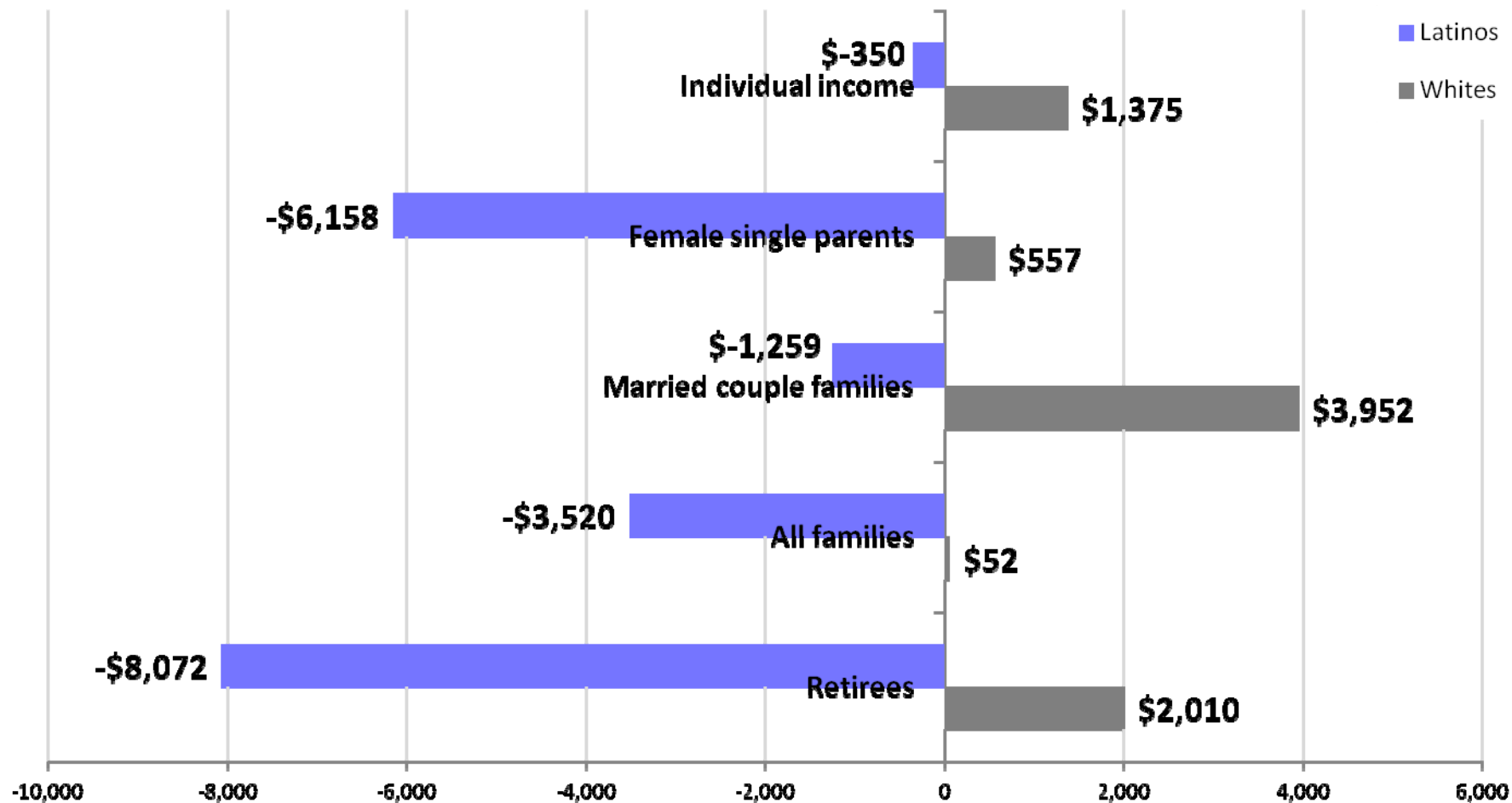
Annual incomes, Multnomah County, 2009



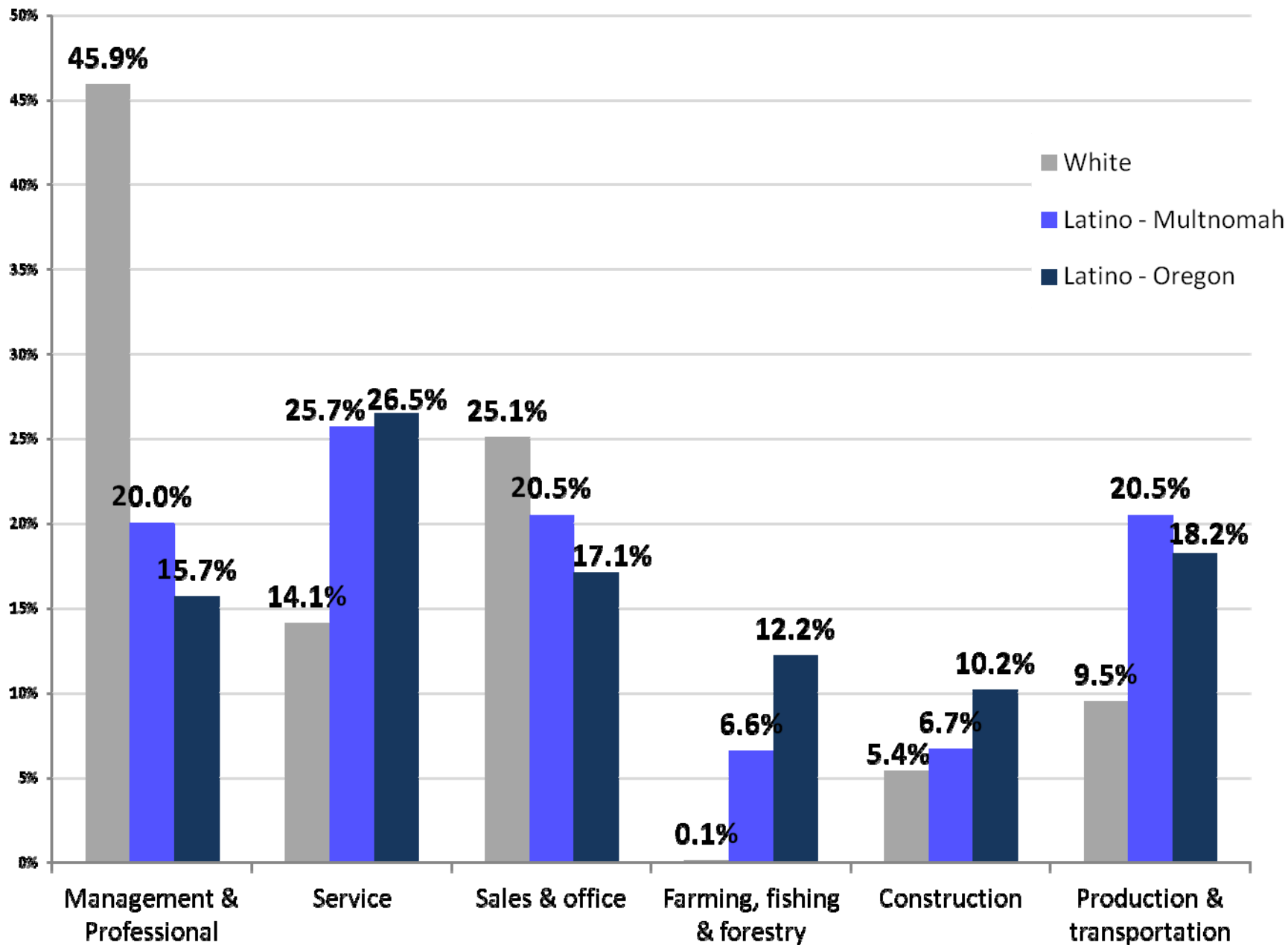
Households Earning Below Average Incomes in Multnomah County



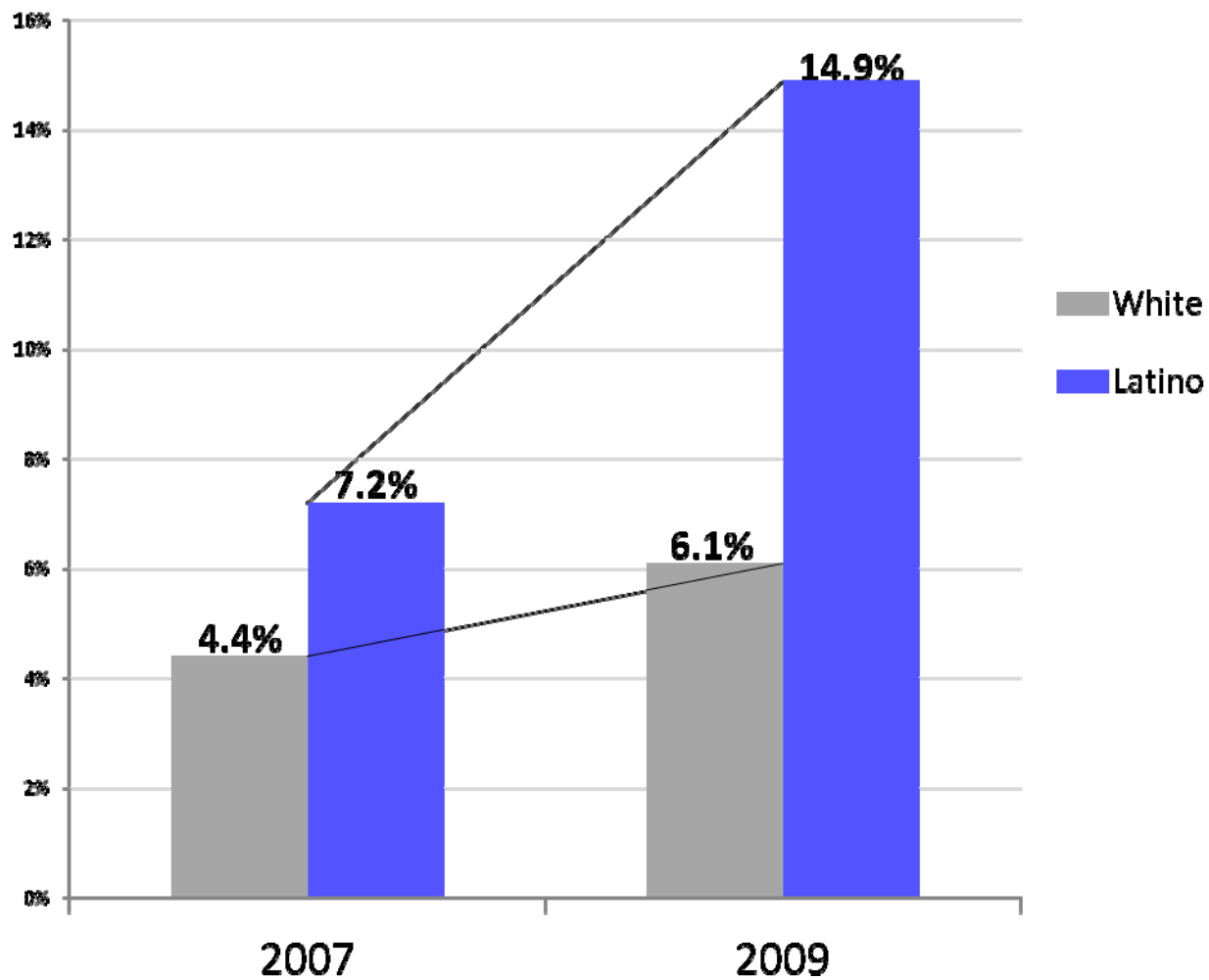
Impact on income of living in Multnomah County, 2009



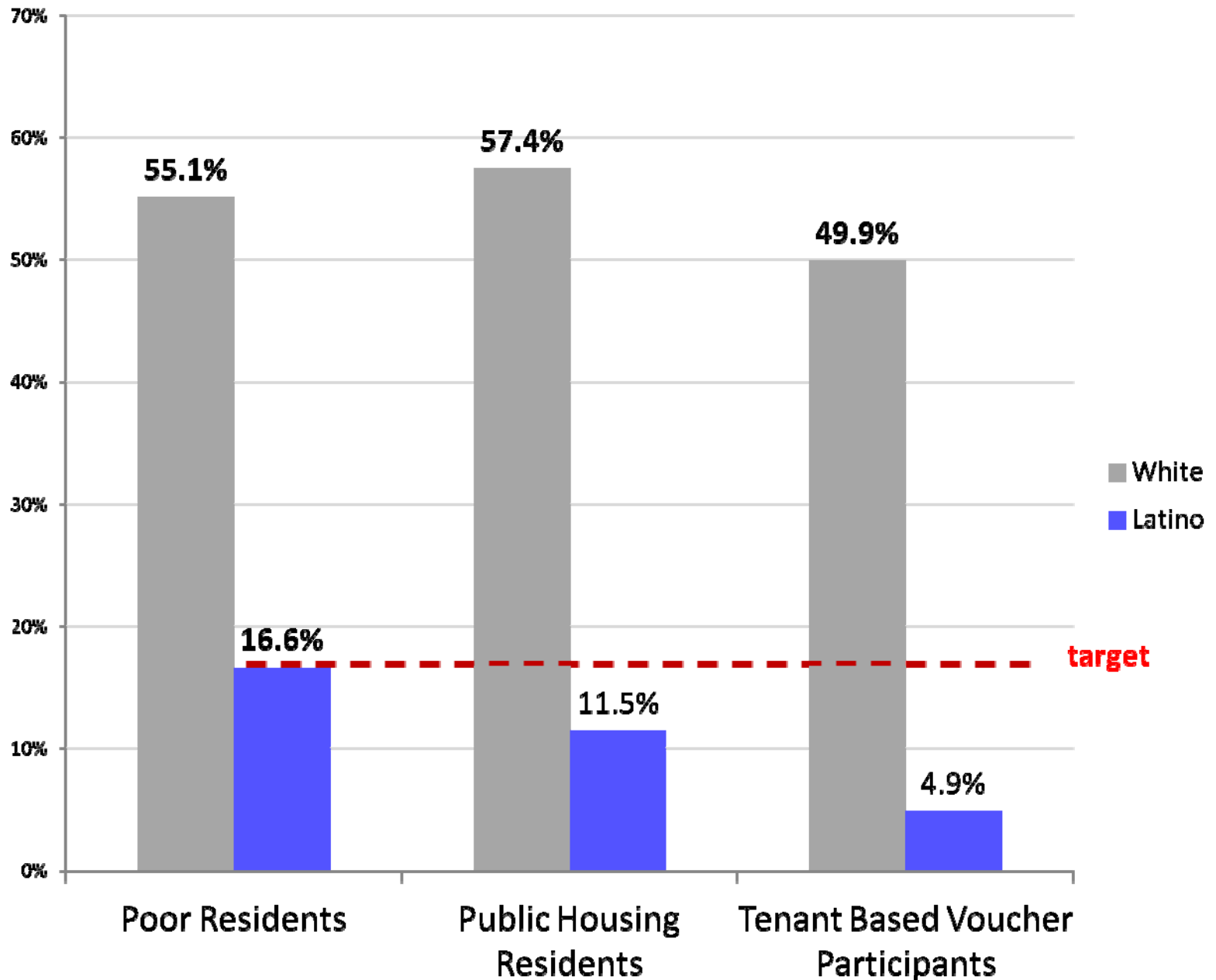
Occupations, Multnomah County & Oregon, 2009



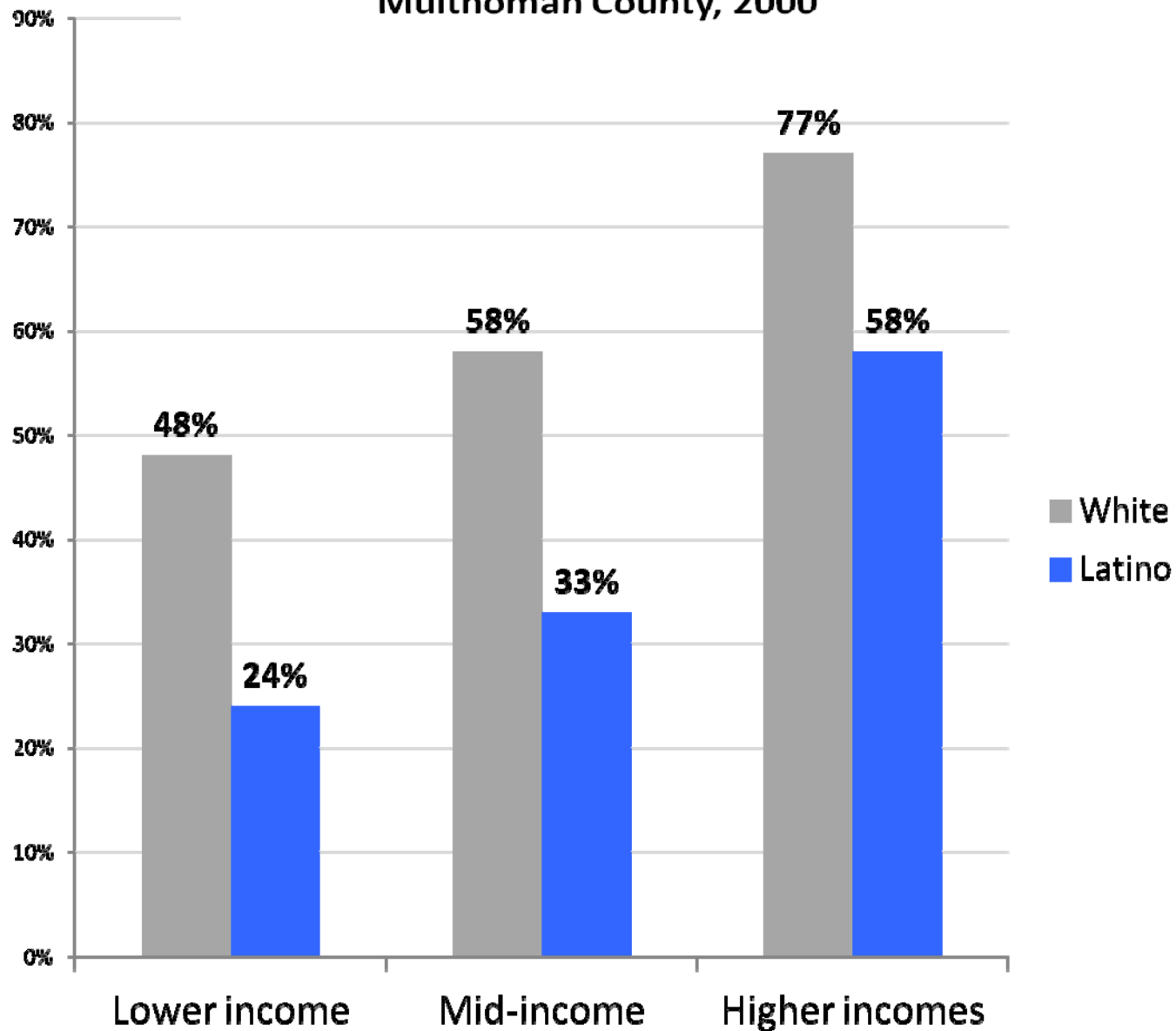
Unemployment Rate, Multnomah County, 2007 & 2009



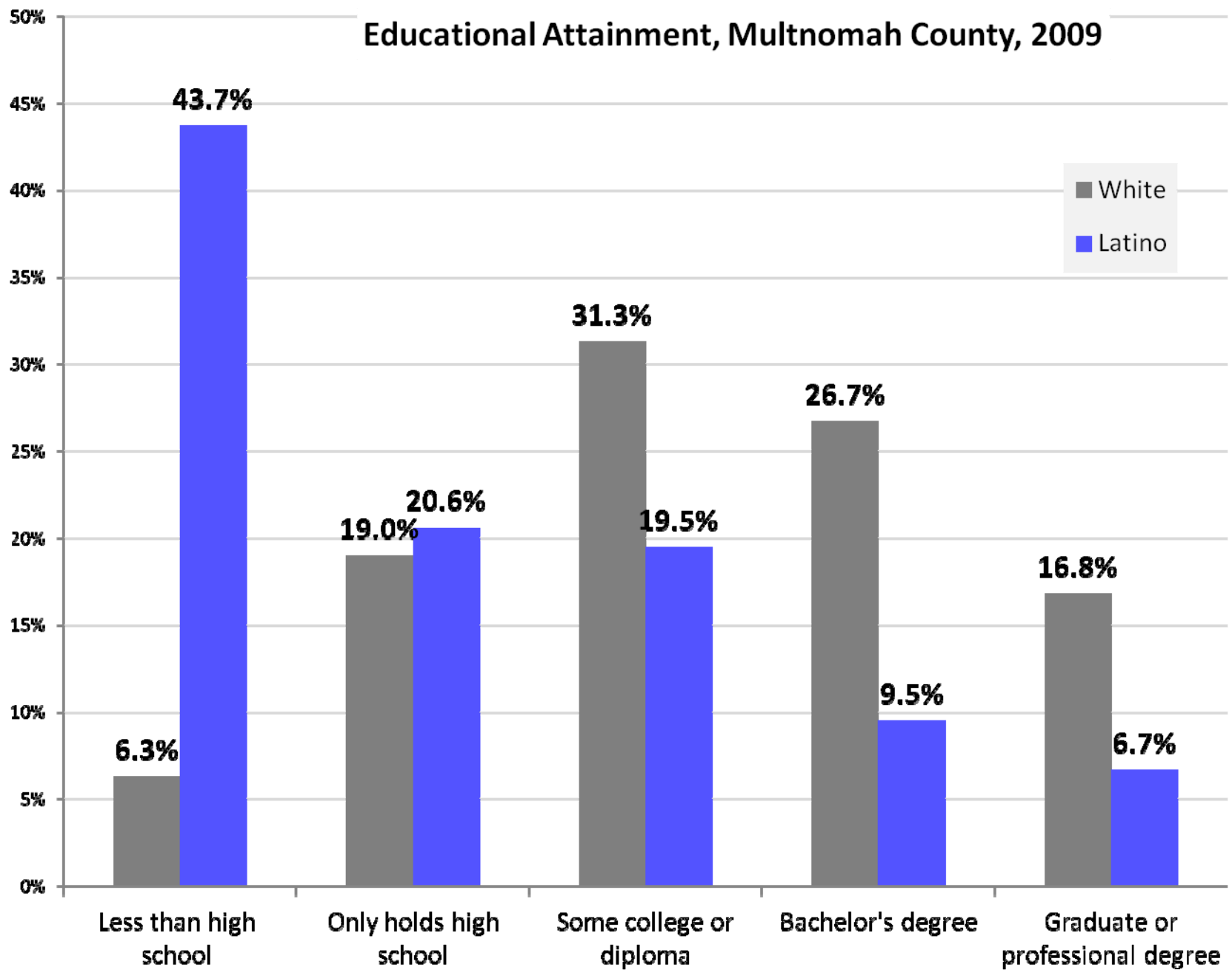
Poverty levels compared to access to housing support programs, Multnomah County, August 2010



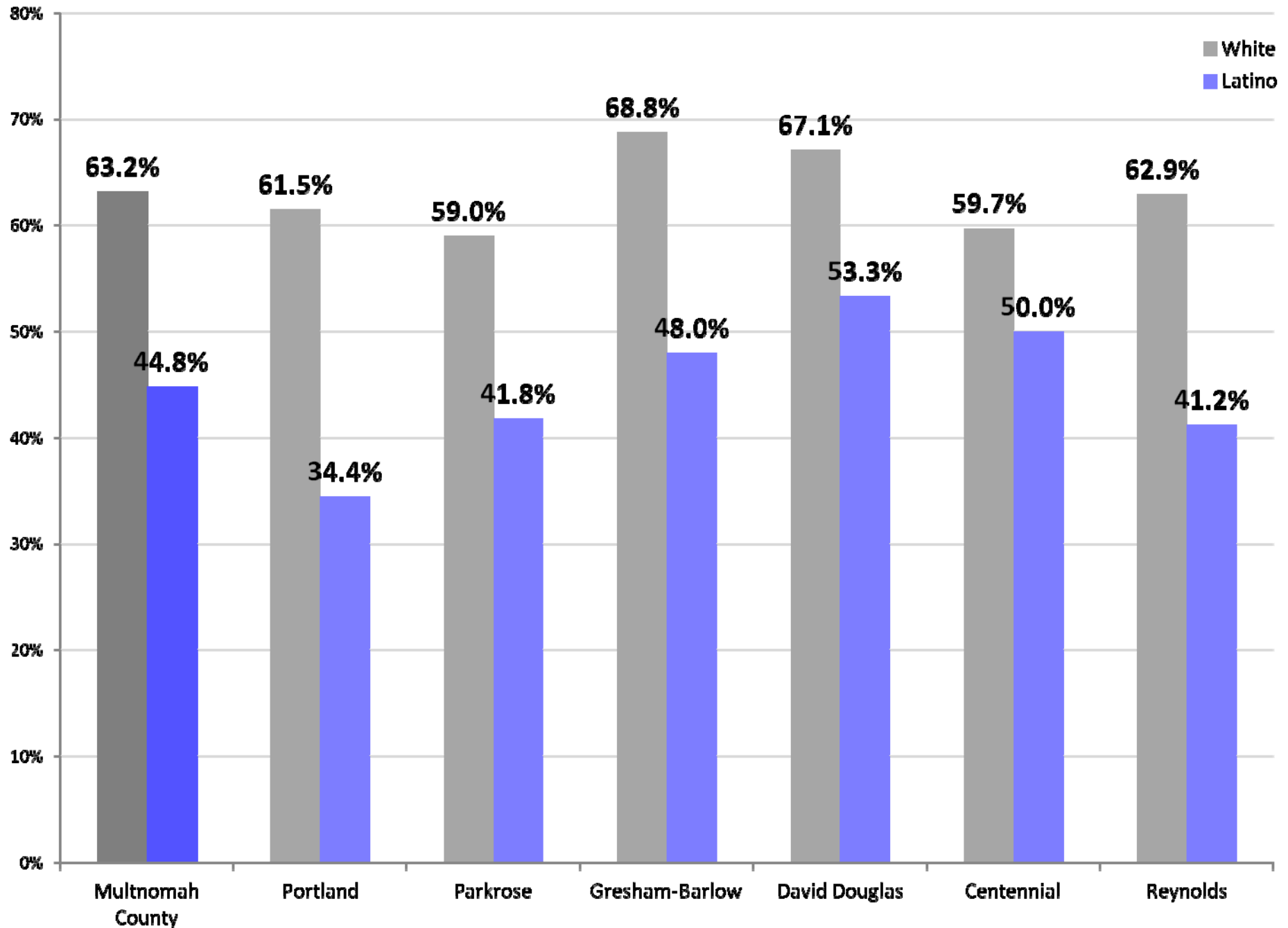
**Homeownership rates at various income levels,
Multnomah County, 2000**



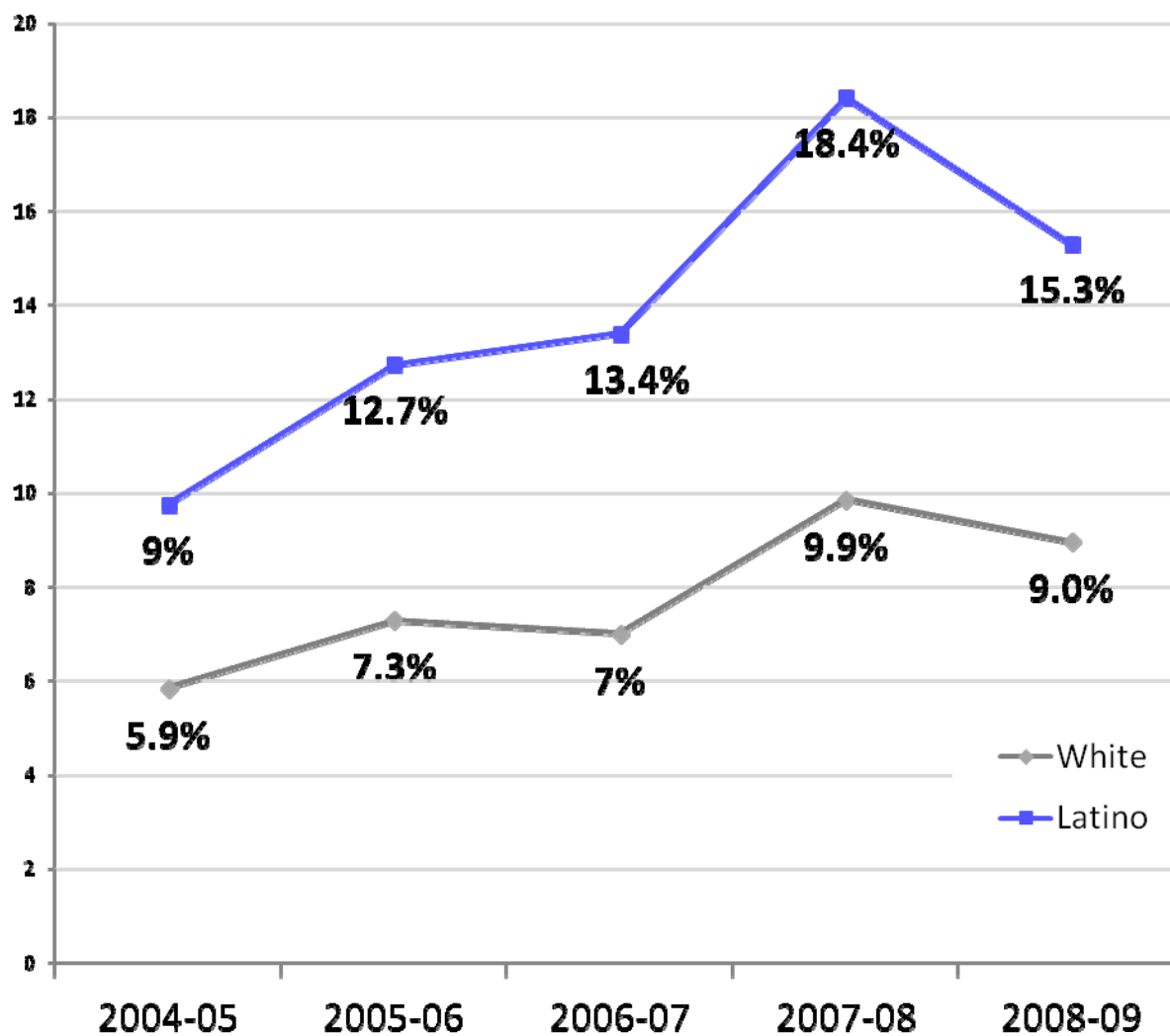
Educational Attainment, Multnomah County, 2009



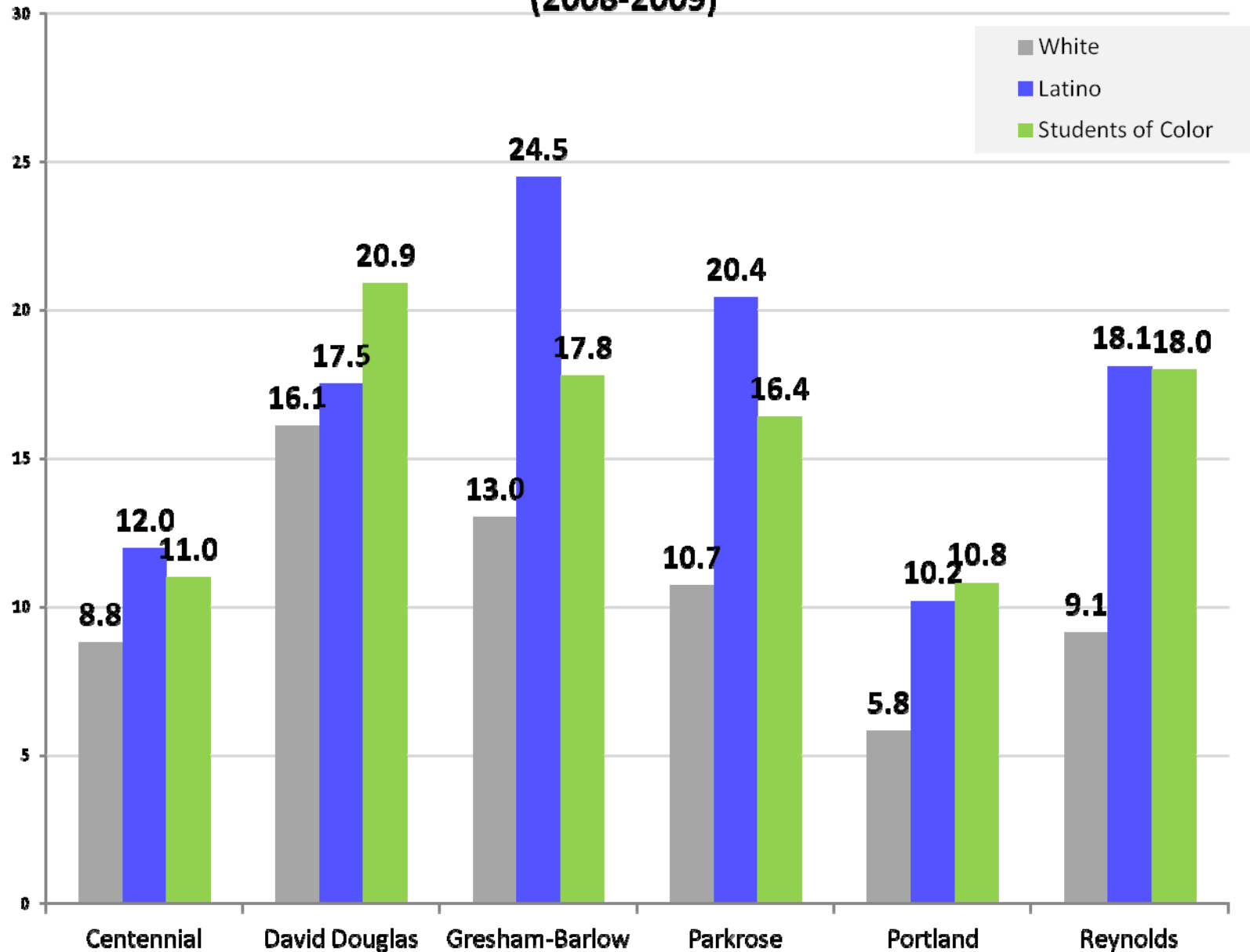
Cohort Graduation Rates, Multnomah County Districts (2010 Cohort)



Suspension & Expulsion Rates, Multnomah County, 2004-2009



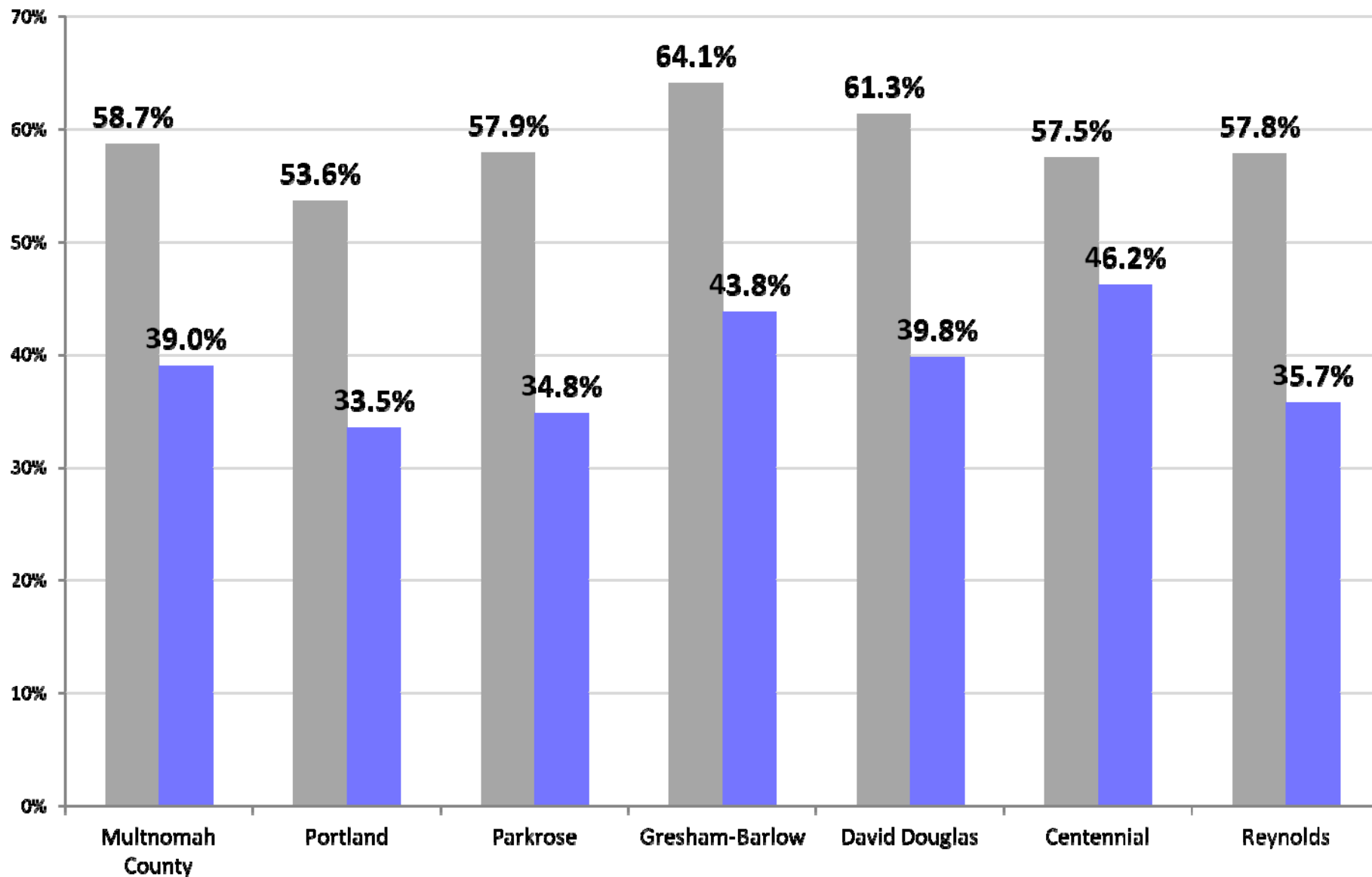
Percent of Students with Suspension & Expulsions, by District (2008-2009)



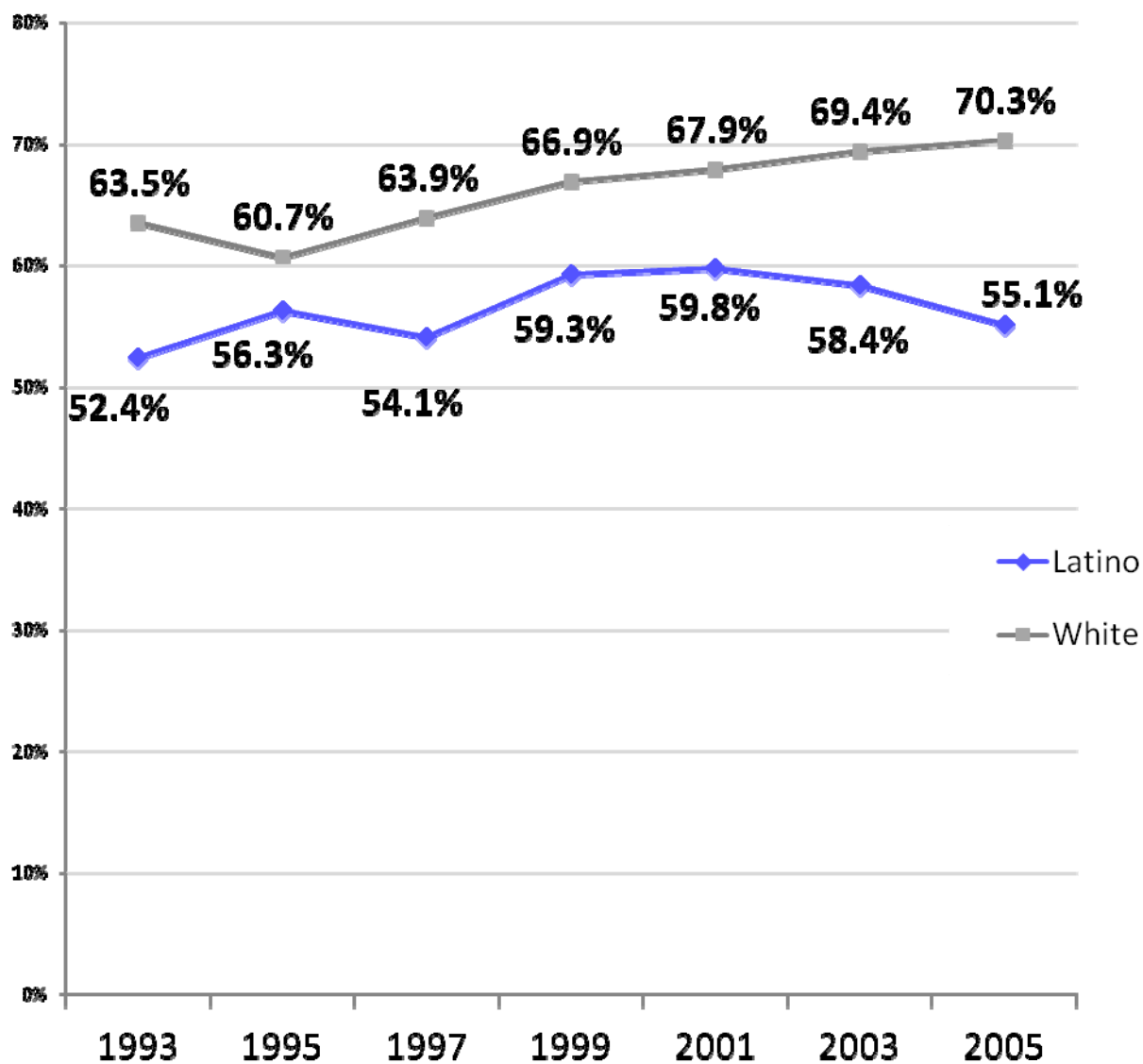
Cohort Graduation Rate, 2010, Limited English Proficiency

■ White

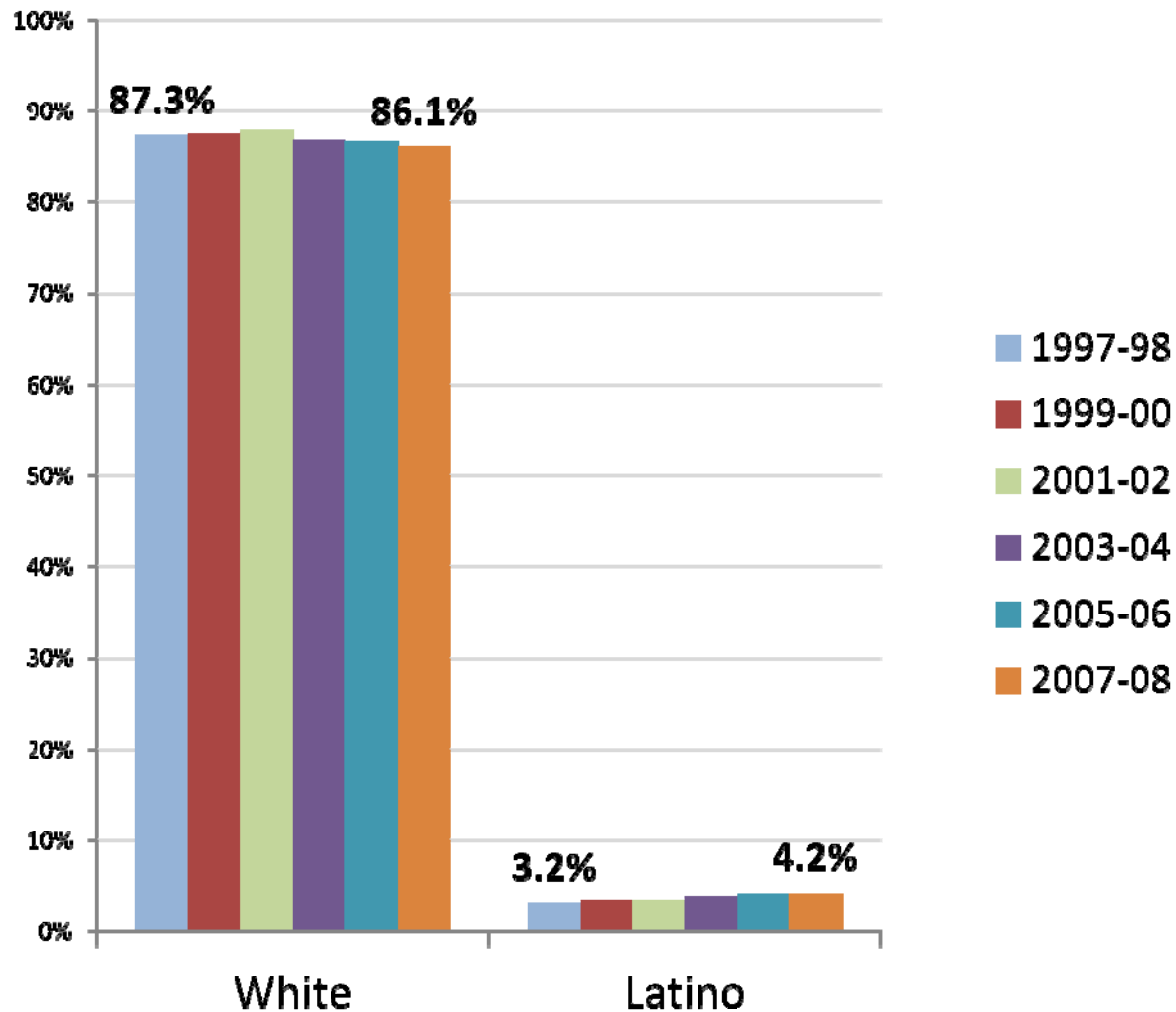
■ Limited English Proficiency



High School Graduates Entering College, Oregon

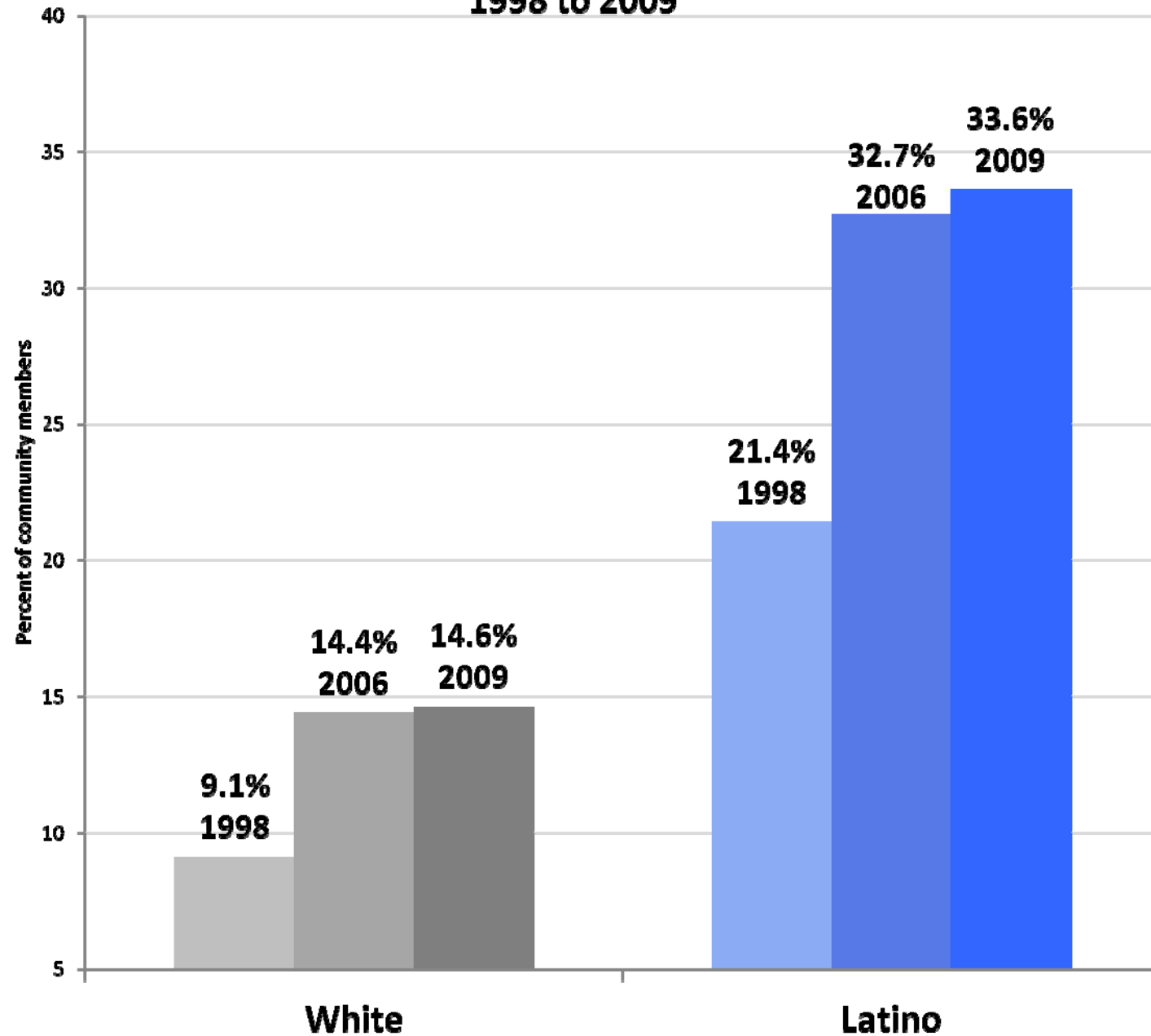


Degrees Awarded by Oregon's Public Universities, 1998 to 2008

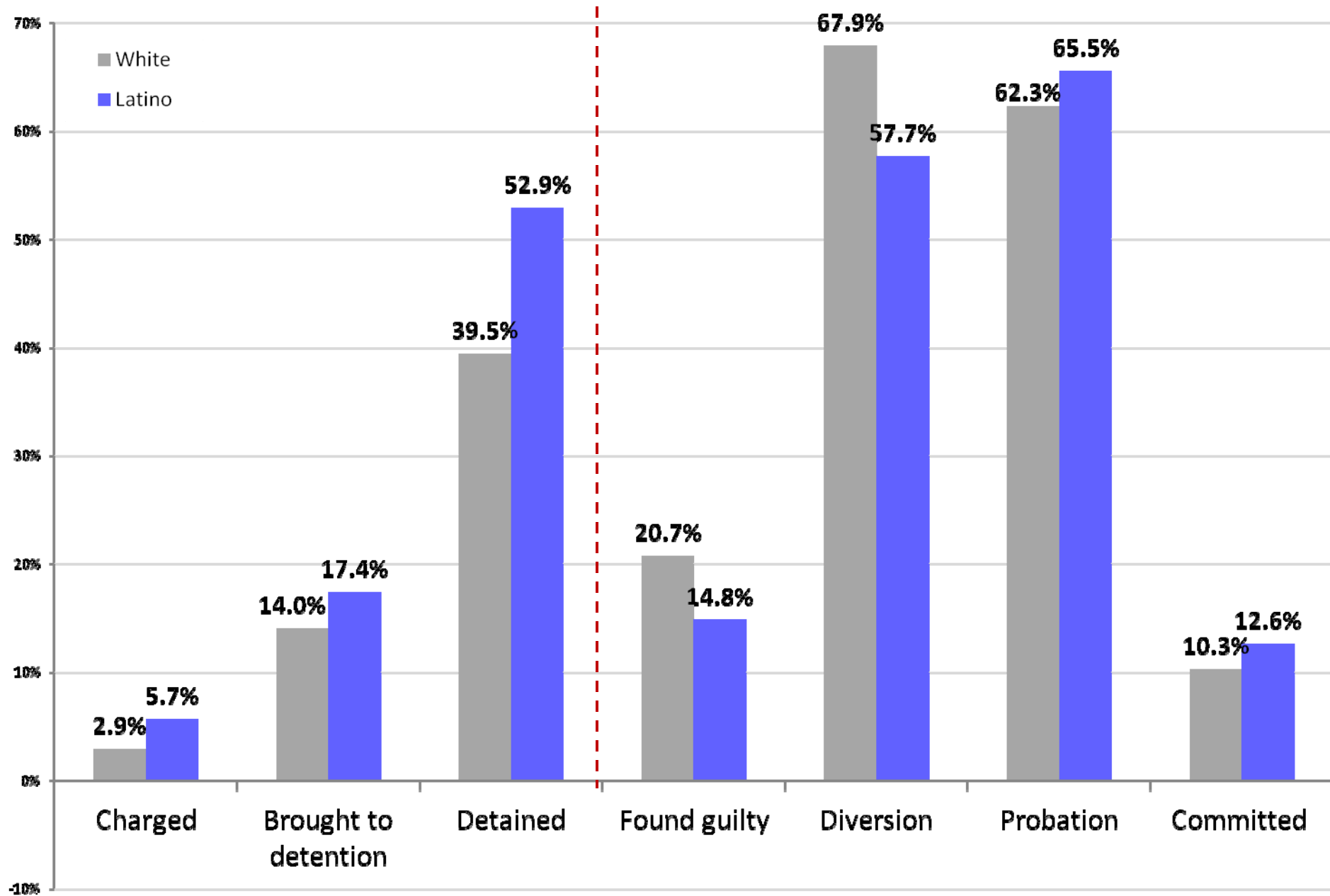


***But Latinos in 2008 are 11.0% of Oregon's population (and 8.0% in 2000)
... so disparity is worsening!***

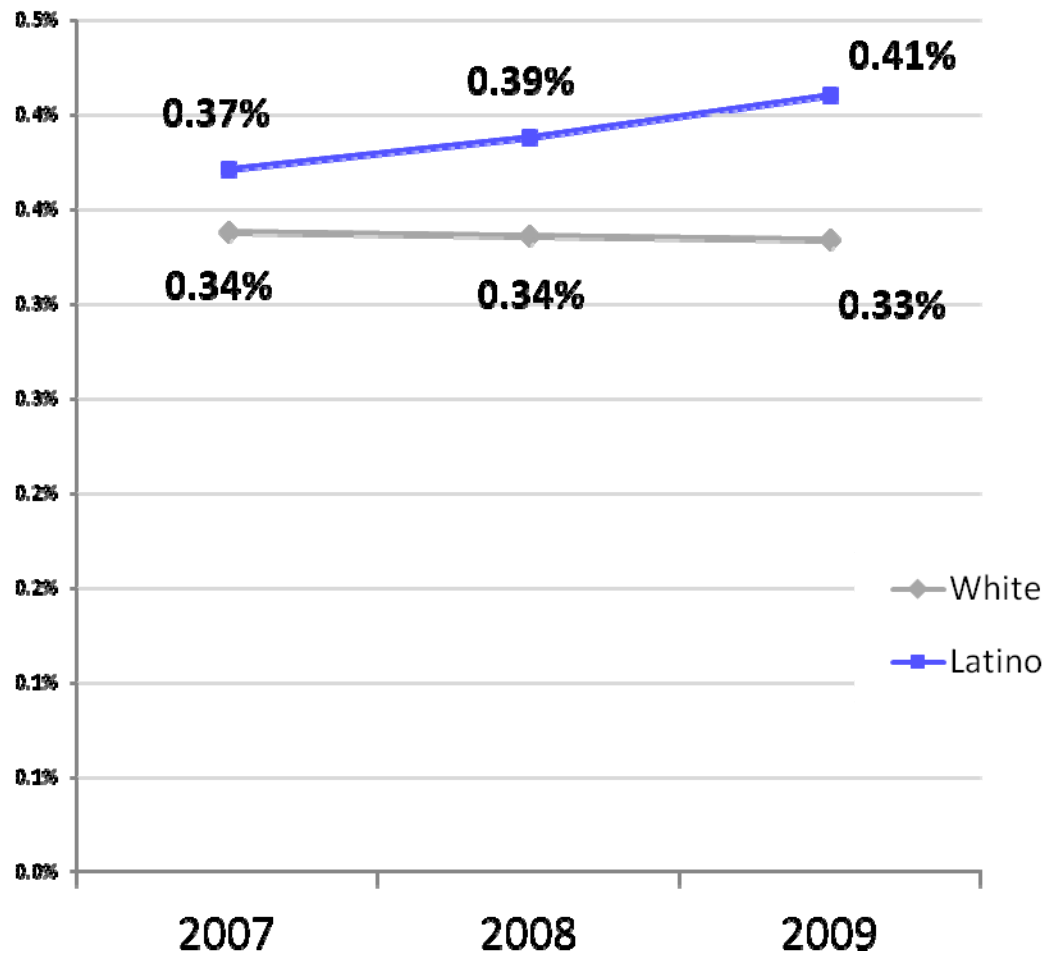
Percent of Oregonians Without Health Insurance, 1998 to 2009





























Juvenile Justice Decisions, Multnomah County, 2009



Incarceration rates as a % of the adult population, Oregon



	Size of Disparity 2007	Size of Disparity 2009	Direction of Change
	% worse for Latinos	% worse for Latinos	from 2007 to 2009
Occupation			
Management & professional jobs	84.7%	29.5%	
Service jobs	91.6%	82.2%	
Poverty			
All Individuals	118.0%	76.9%	
Child poverty	166.7%	65.3%	
Elders (65+)	110.1%	113.4%	
Family poverty, kids <18	165.0%	151.9%	
Married couple families	512.9%	135.3%	
Female single parent, kids <18	36.6%	27.4%	
Housing			
Rent Burden	11.1%	32.4%	
Mortgage Burden	50.7%	10.4%	
Homeownership	75.5%	92.1%	
Home value (owners only)	18.8%	20.6%	
Education			
Attainment of a university degree	174.5%	168.5%	
Dropout rate	206.5%	162.5%	
Discipline rate	91.4%	70.0%	
High School graduation rate*	47.5%	41.1%	
Academic test scores - Math**	53.4%	30.1%	
Academic testing - reading/literature**	79.0%	35.4%	
Incomes			
Individual	137.0%	121.3%	
Family	87.3%	80.6%	
Retirement	37.9%	177.2%	
Female single parent	66.8%	93.7%	
Health			
Health insurance	127.1%	130.1%	
Unemployment			
Unemployment rate	63.6%	106.9%	
Criminal & Juvenile Justice			
Frequency of youth being criminally charged	16.0%	96.6%	
Frequency of youth receiving custody sentence	5.6%	22.3%	
Adult incarceration rate	8.8%	24.2%	
Comparison with King County			
Composite of 5 measures***	2.5%	-56.8%	

Bright Spots

- Investment in Latino engagement through ONI's Diversity and Civic Leaders and Portland Plan with BPS
- East Portland Action Plan
- Recent movement to increase equity in arts funding
- Improved outreach during Census 2010 and current outreach for the homeless count
- Effort by Housing Bureau to integrate an equity lens into their work

Recommendations and Call to Action

Our recommendations include:

1. Set mandates to increase Latinos and other communities of color in management, policy and other positions in proportion to city population.
2. Implement bilingual pay differential for critical city positions.
3. Prioritize projects in high poverty areas to create economic opportunity.
4. Continue the Ninth Grade Counts, Future Connect and C3 (College and Career Connections) initiatives.
4. Expand the Diverse Civic Leadership initiative.
6. Invest in SUN community schools with larger Latino populations

Continuing the dialogue, taking action:

1. We want a commitment from City Commissioners that you will meet with Latino leadership to discuss:
 - An ongoing commitment to address racial equity for all
 - our communities in all City departments.
 - Culturally-appropriate data and research practices that account for the
 - uniqueness of our community.
 - The allocation of resources for culturally-specific programs that
 - acknowledges where disparities are greatest.
 - Creation of equity lens language and policies.
2. Create a City-wide Action Plan to address the disparities in partnership with Latino community leaders and organizations.
3. Work with and visit our Latino non-profits, neighborhood centers, and businesses to better understand the challenges faced by Latino community members.
4. Approach the development of community solutions to these disparities from a “strength-based” perspective and that it be part of any equity lens that is applied to City policies.
5. Utilize the information contained in this report as a useful tool in enhancing the livability of our City.



Thank you!

For more information

- info@coalitioncommunitiescolor.org
- The report is available online at www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org