

# **Native Americans in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile**

Presentation to Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

**February 9, 2012**

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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
  - 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 (2008-2011)**

- Partnership between PSU's School of Social Work, the Coalition of Communities of Color and Native Community
- Funding from:
  - Multnomah County
  - City of Portland
  - 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.*



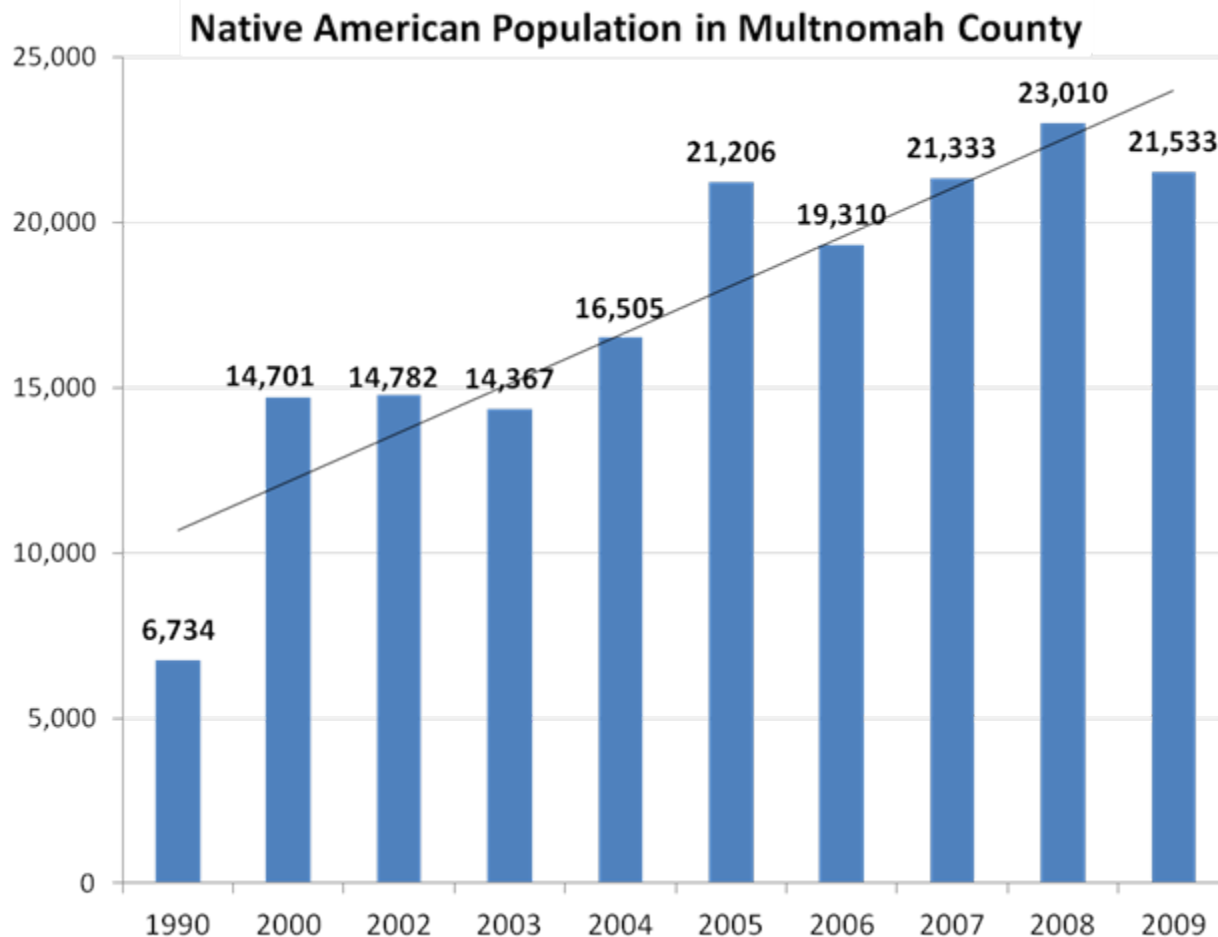


# Synthesis of findings

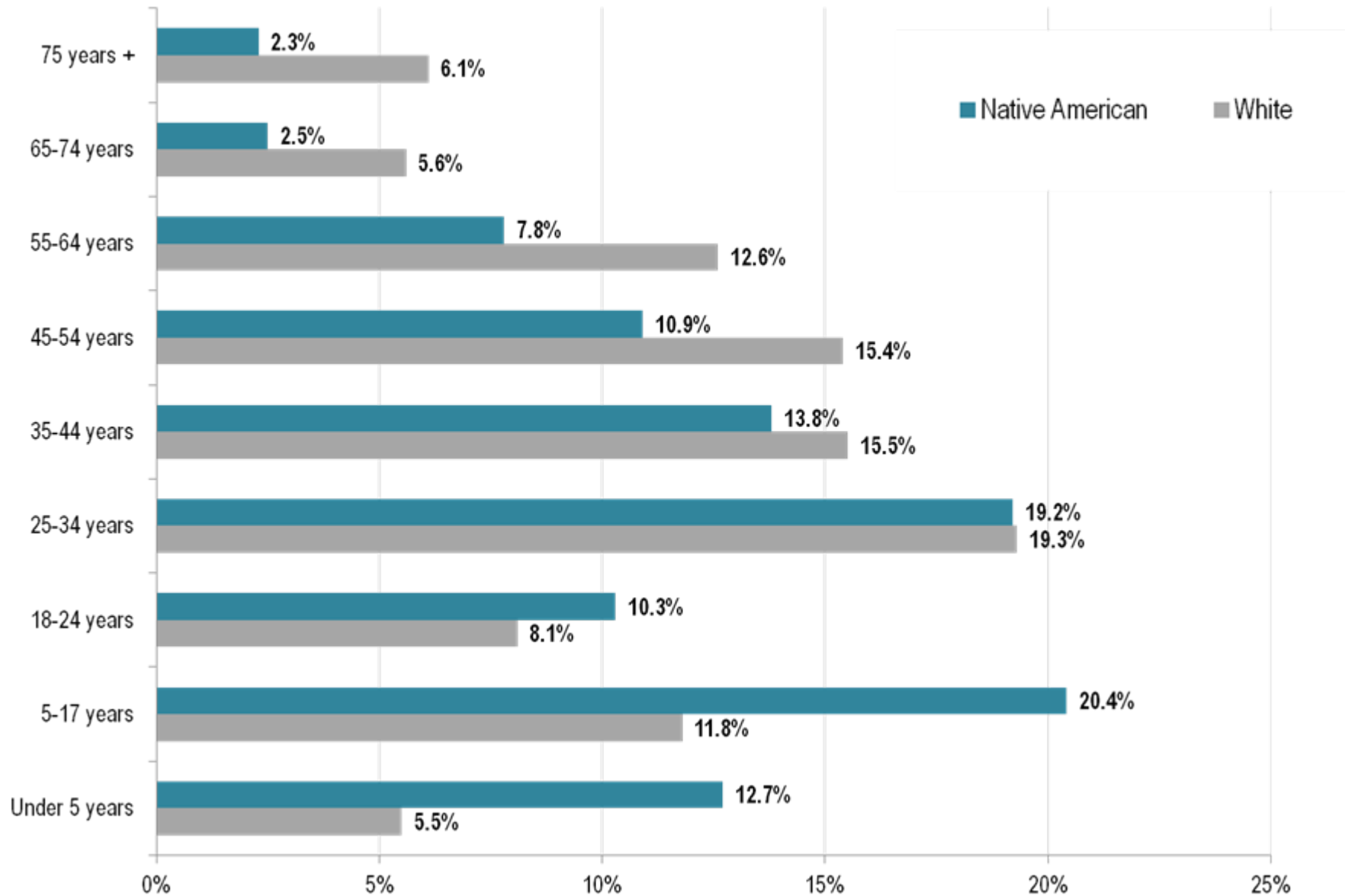
- Native Americans are **sizeable and growing** in numbers
  - But are rendered less visible by undercounts that we are solving in several ways
- There are **huge disparities** across all systems and institutions between Native Americans and Whites
- It is **worse here than in King County** (home to 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:

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



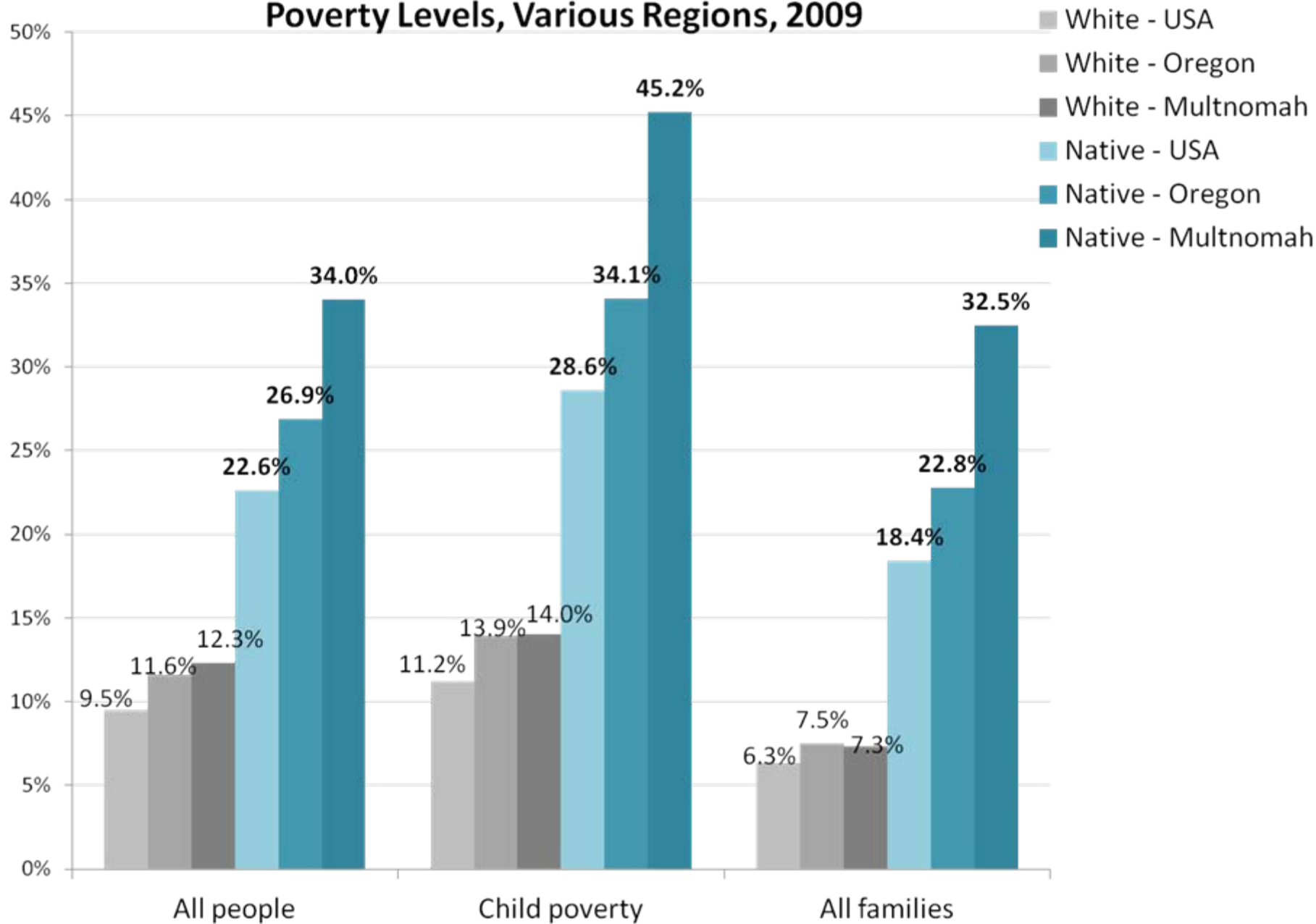
## Age distribution, Multnomah County, 2009



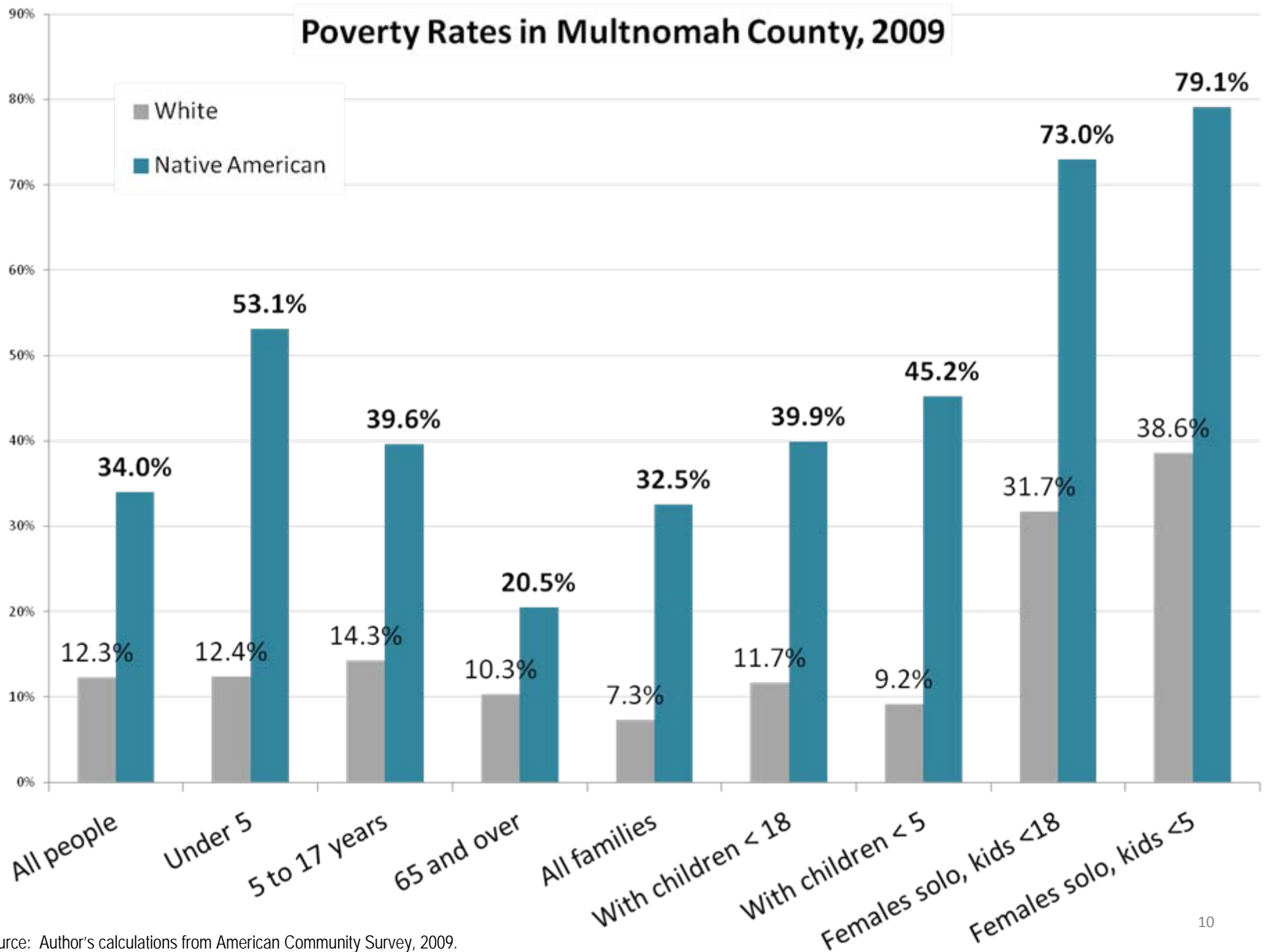
Source: Author's calculations from American Community Survey, 2009.



## Poverty Levels, Various Regions, 2009

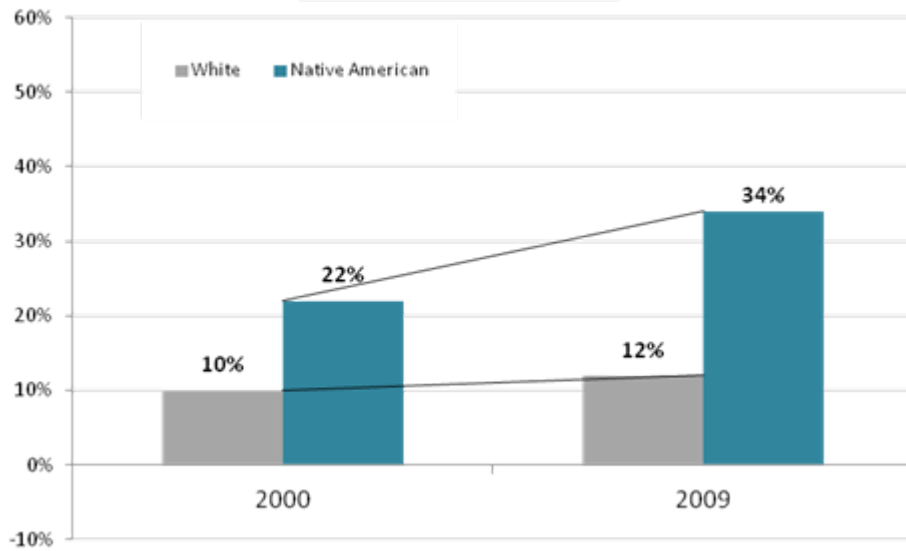


## Poverty Rates in Multnomah County, 2009

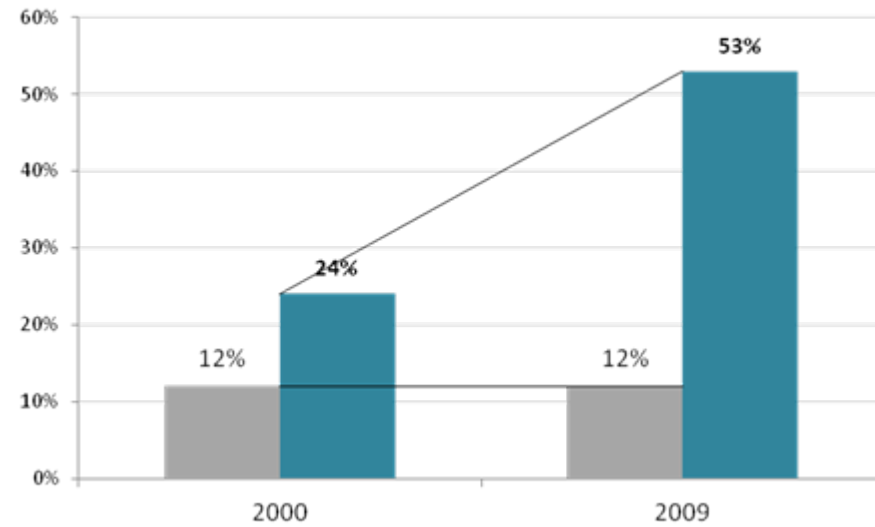


Source: Author's calculations from American Community Survey, 2009.

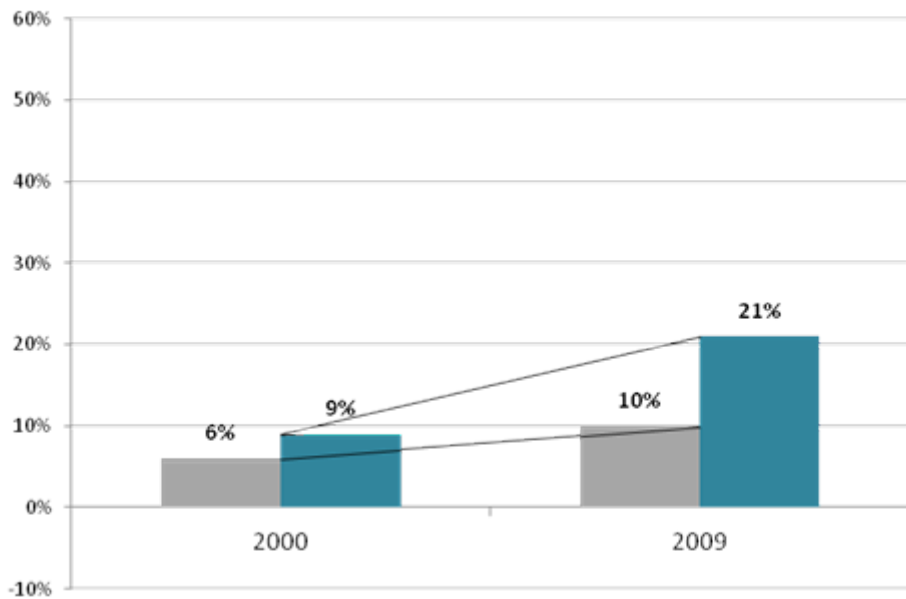
**Poverty Rates - All persons,  
Multnomah County**



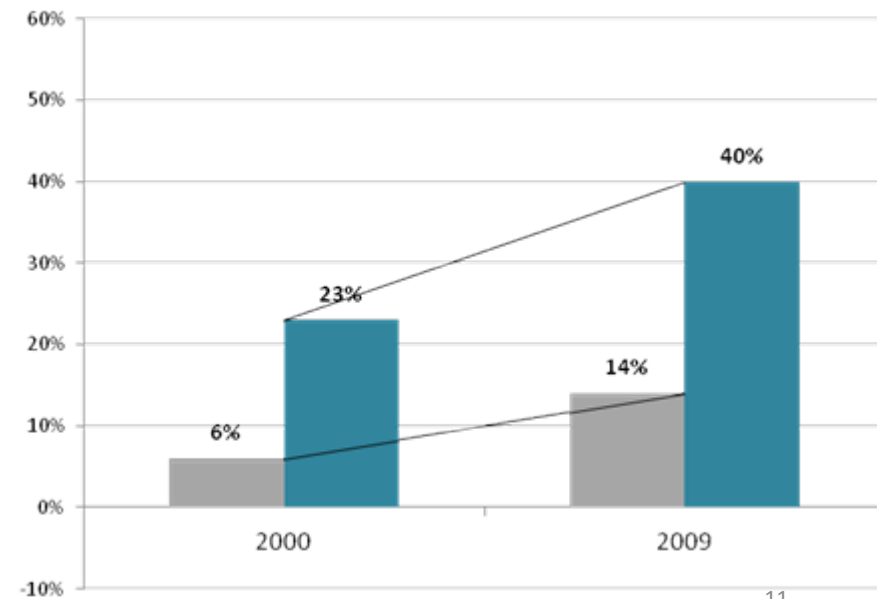
**Poverty Rates - Children under 5  
Multnomah County**



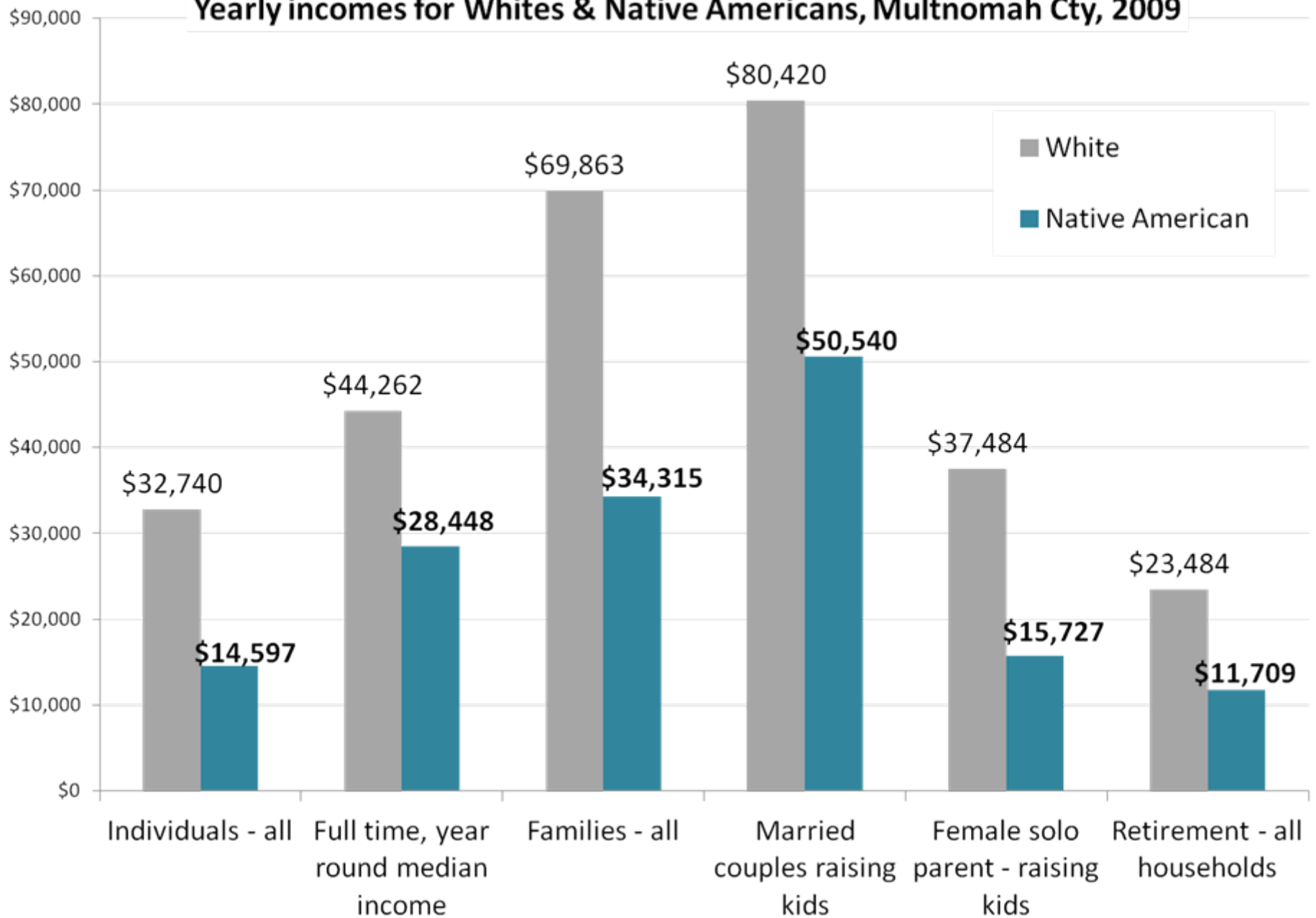
**Poverty Rates - Elders (over 65 years), Multnomah County**



**Poverty Rates - Children 5 to 17 years, Multnomah County**

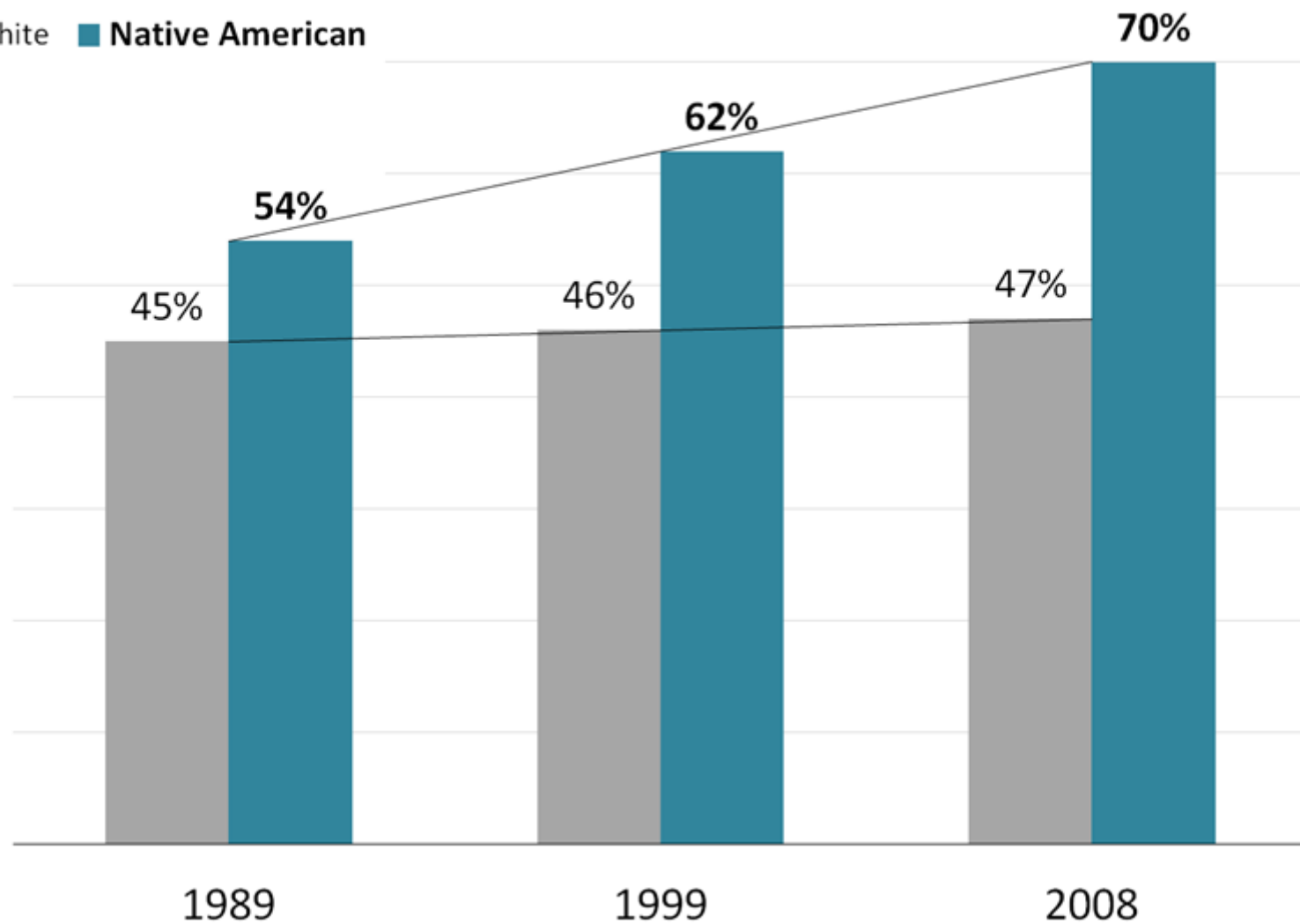


## Yearly incomes for Whites & Native Americans, Multnomah Cty, 2009



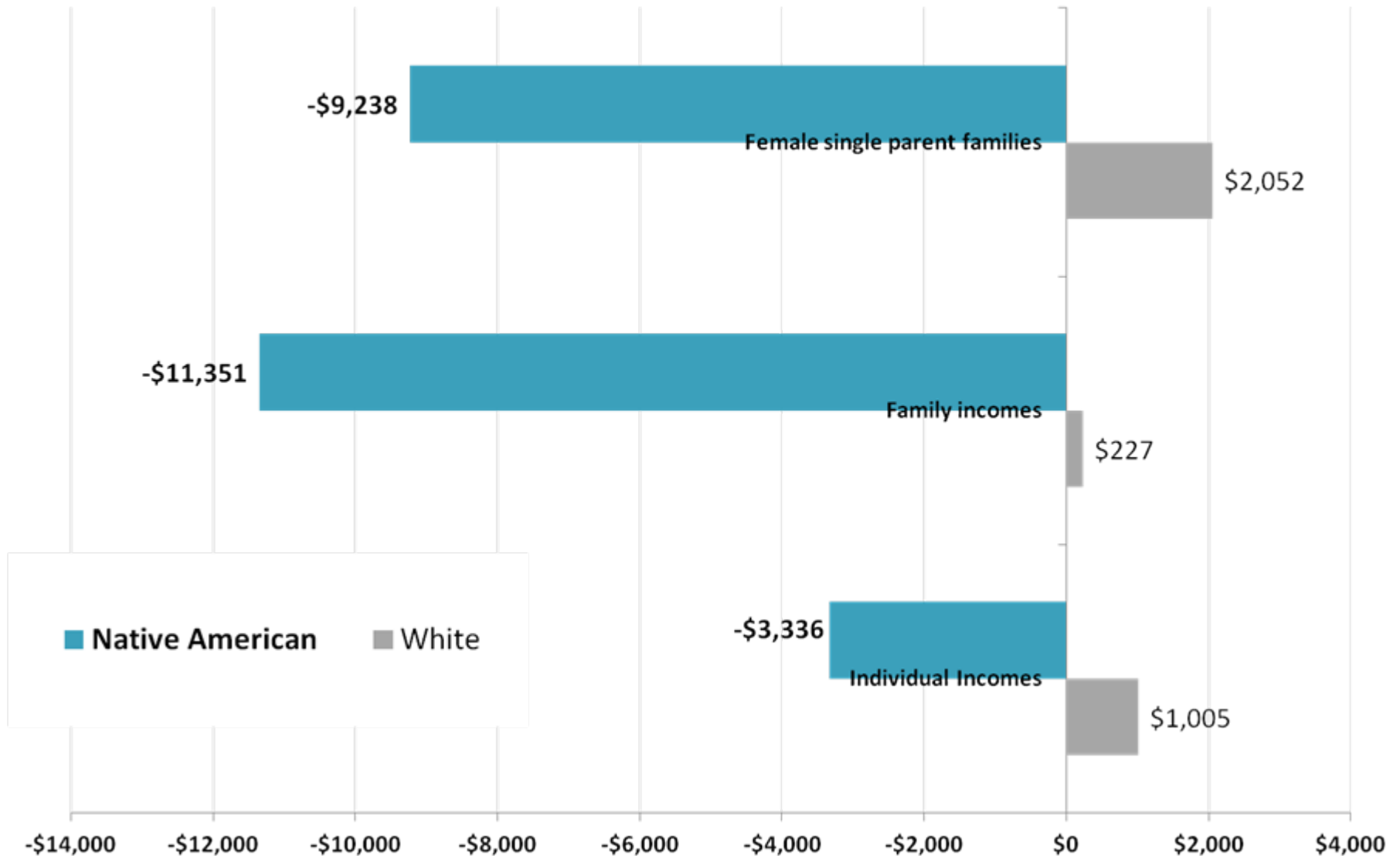
## Households Earning Below Average Incomes in Multnomah County

■ White ■ Native American



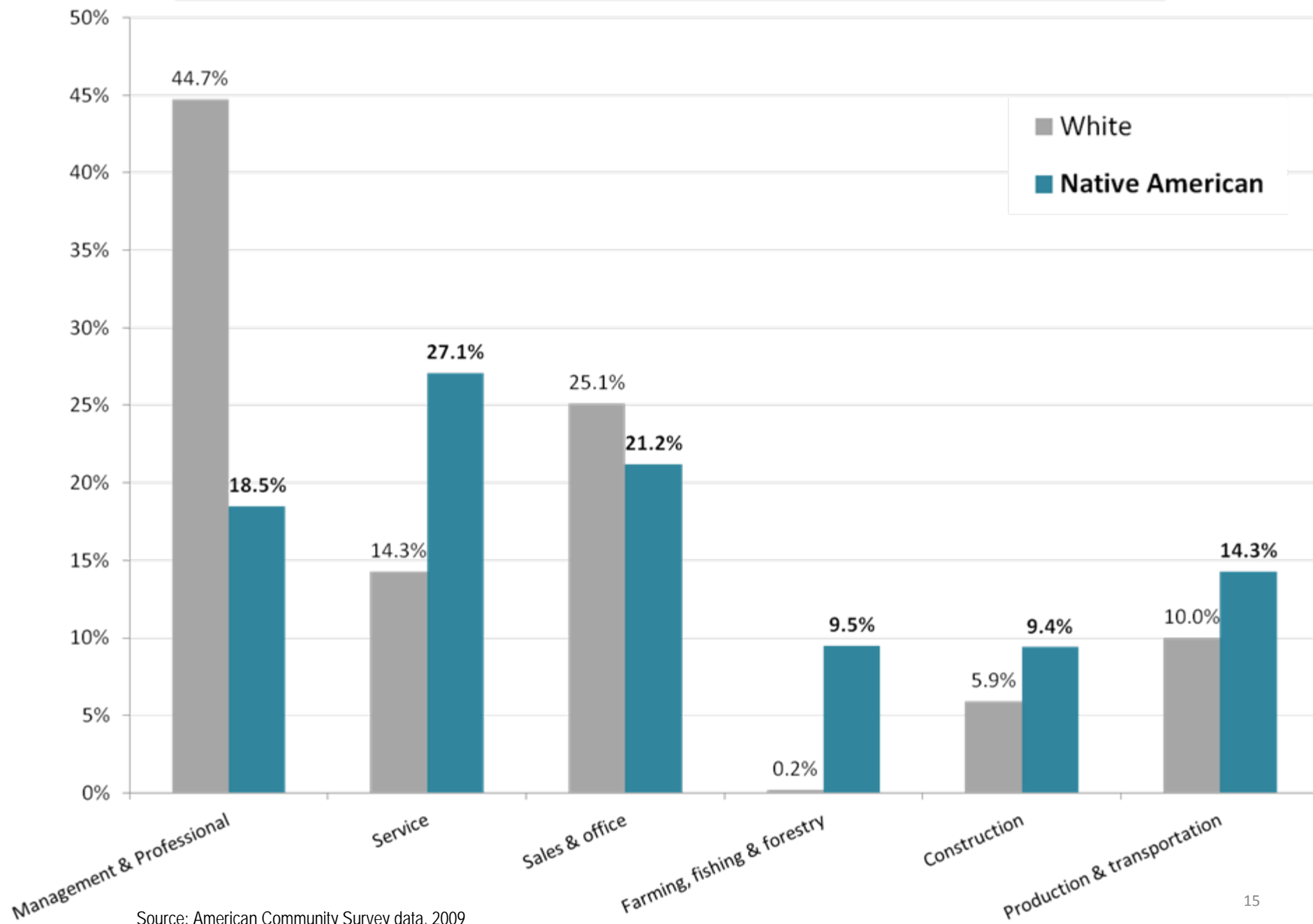
Source: Author's calculations of Census 1990, Census 2000, and American Community Survey, 2008.

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



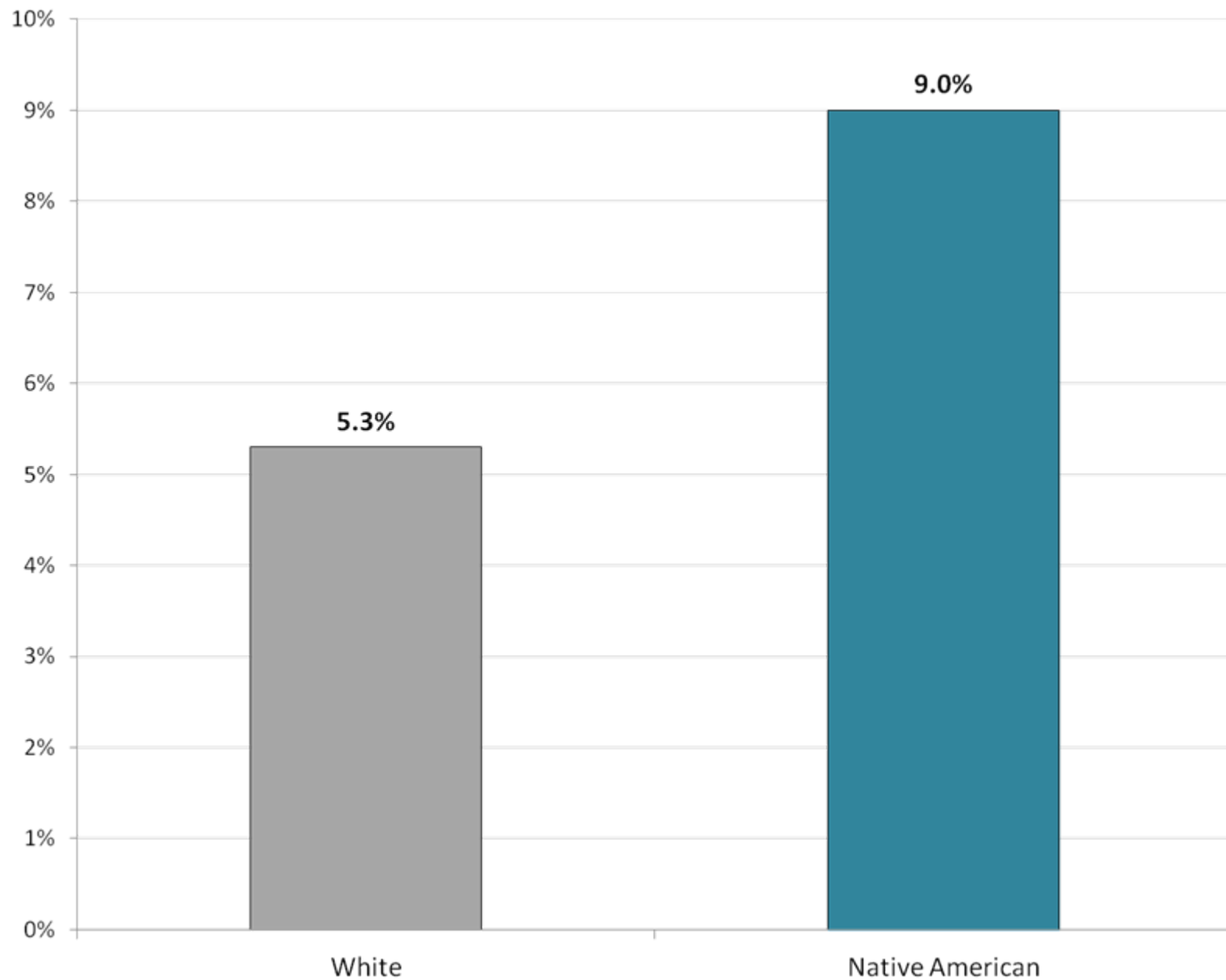
Source: Author's calculations of American Community Survey, 2009.

## Occupations for Whites & Native Americans, Multnomah County, 2009



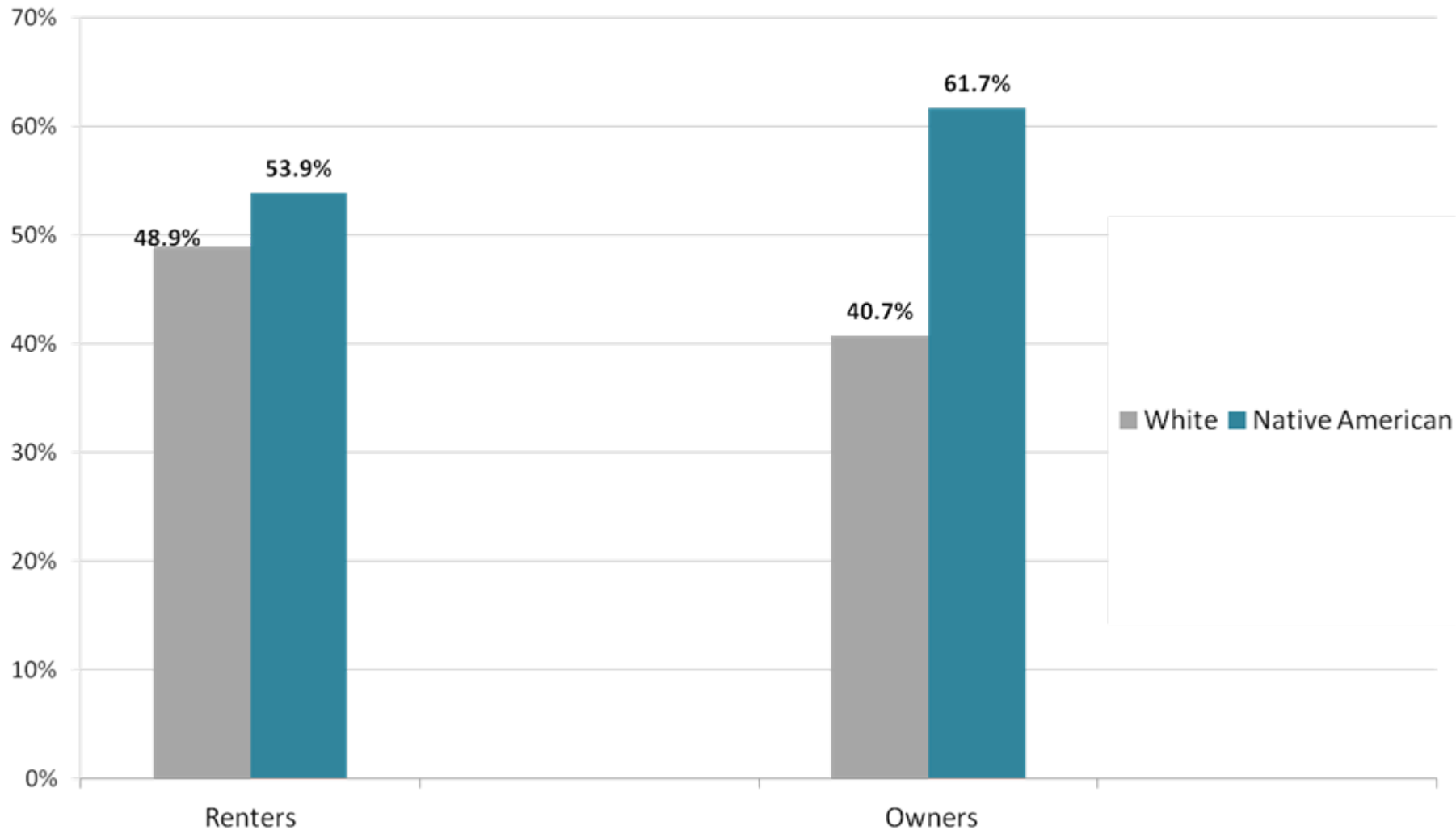
Source: American Community Survey data, 2009

## Unemployment, Multnomah County, 2009

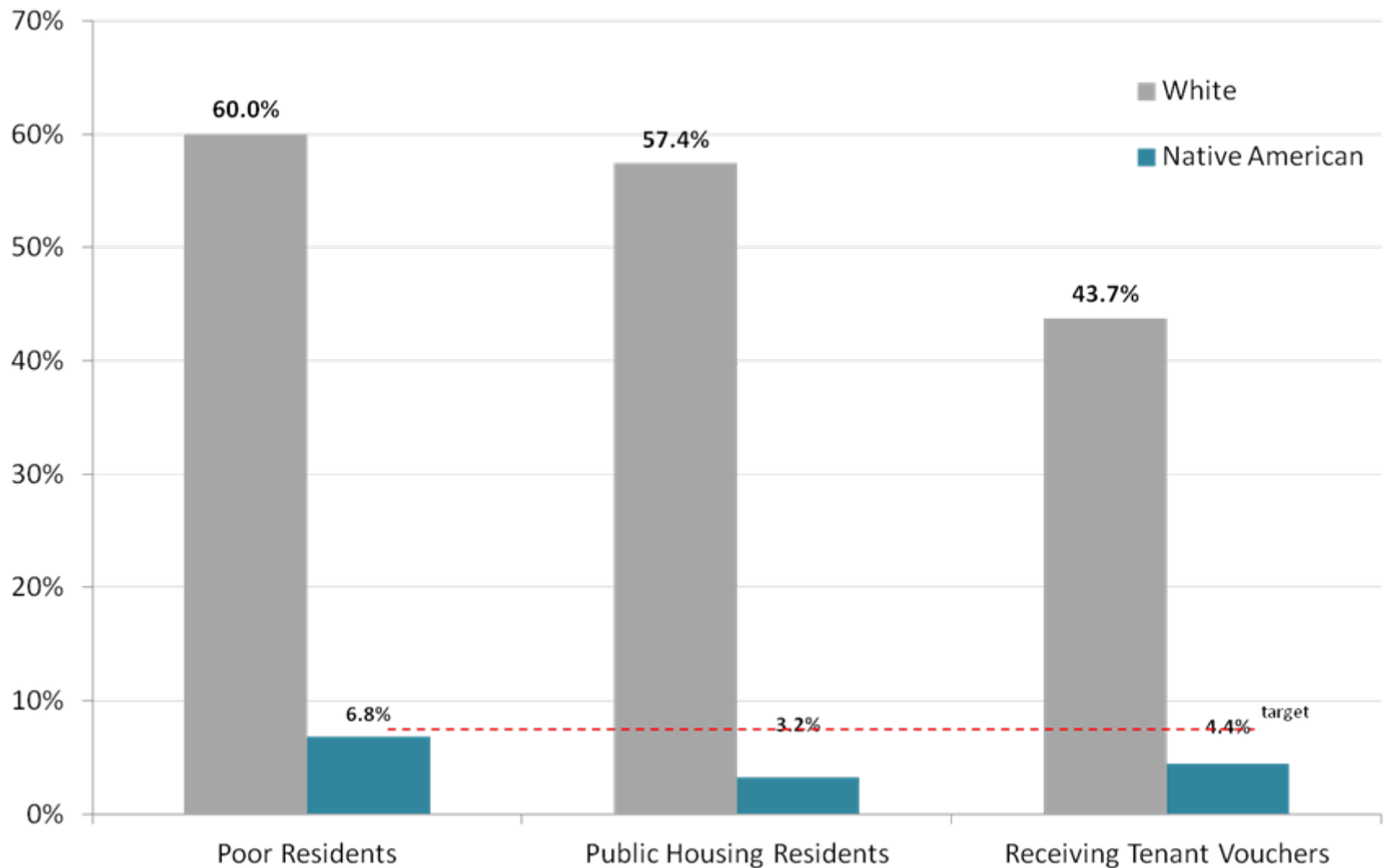




## Those spending more than 30% of their income on housing, Multnomah County, 2009



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



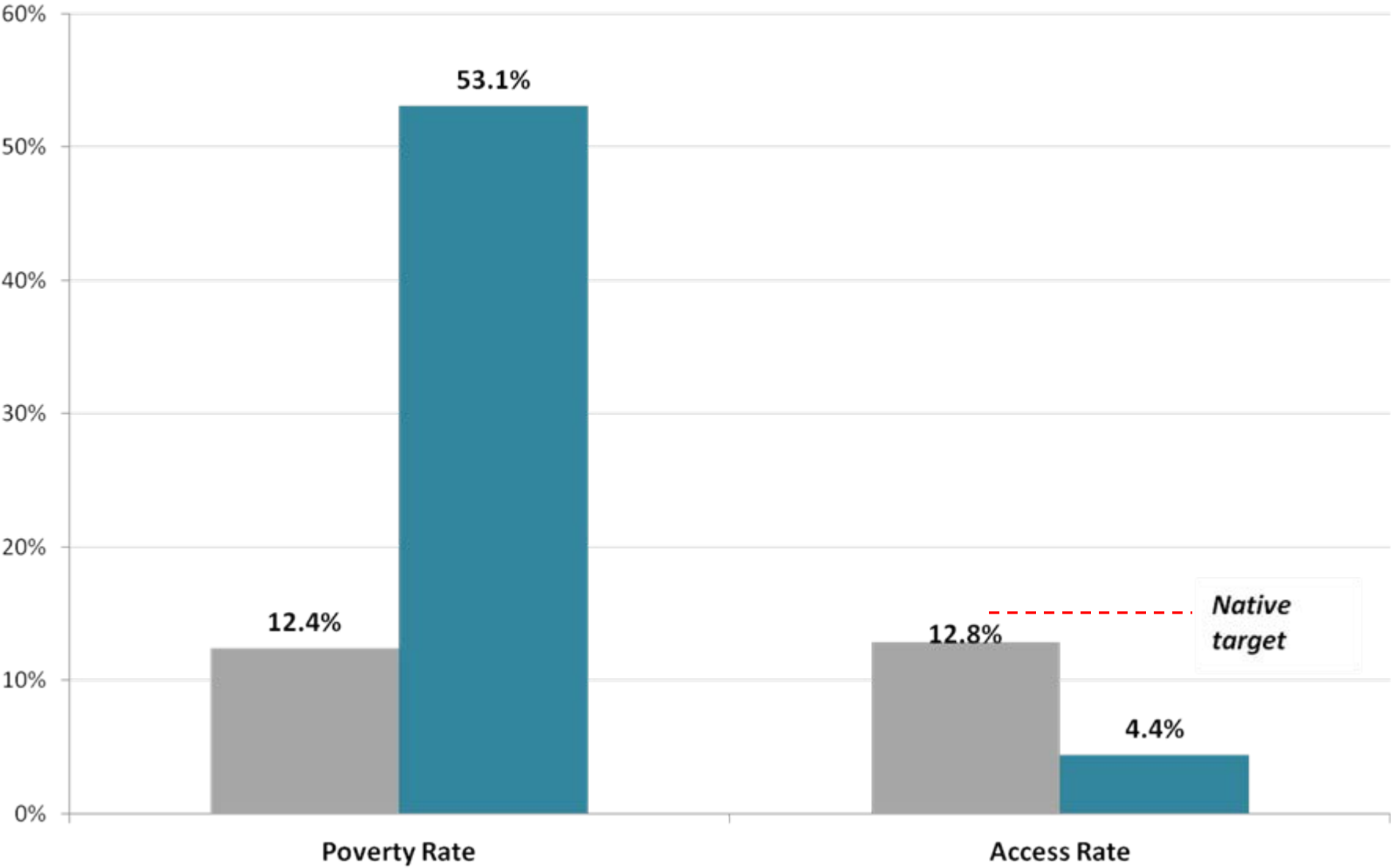
# Homelessness in Multnomah County

- **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%.
- **Services for homeless NA are inadequate**
  - centered in Downtown Portland, while our community is in peripheral locations in the county (ie SE, Gresham, St. Johns, Lents)
- **Inaccuracies in Homeless count –**
  - due to reluctance in disclosing identity
  - doesn't collect data for those who are w/o housing and staying with friends and/or family and “Doubled up”

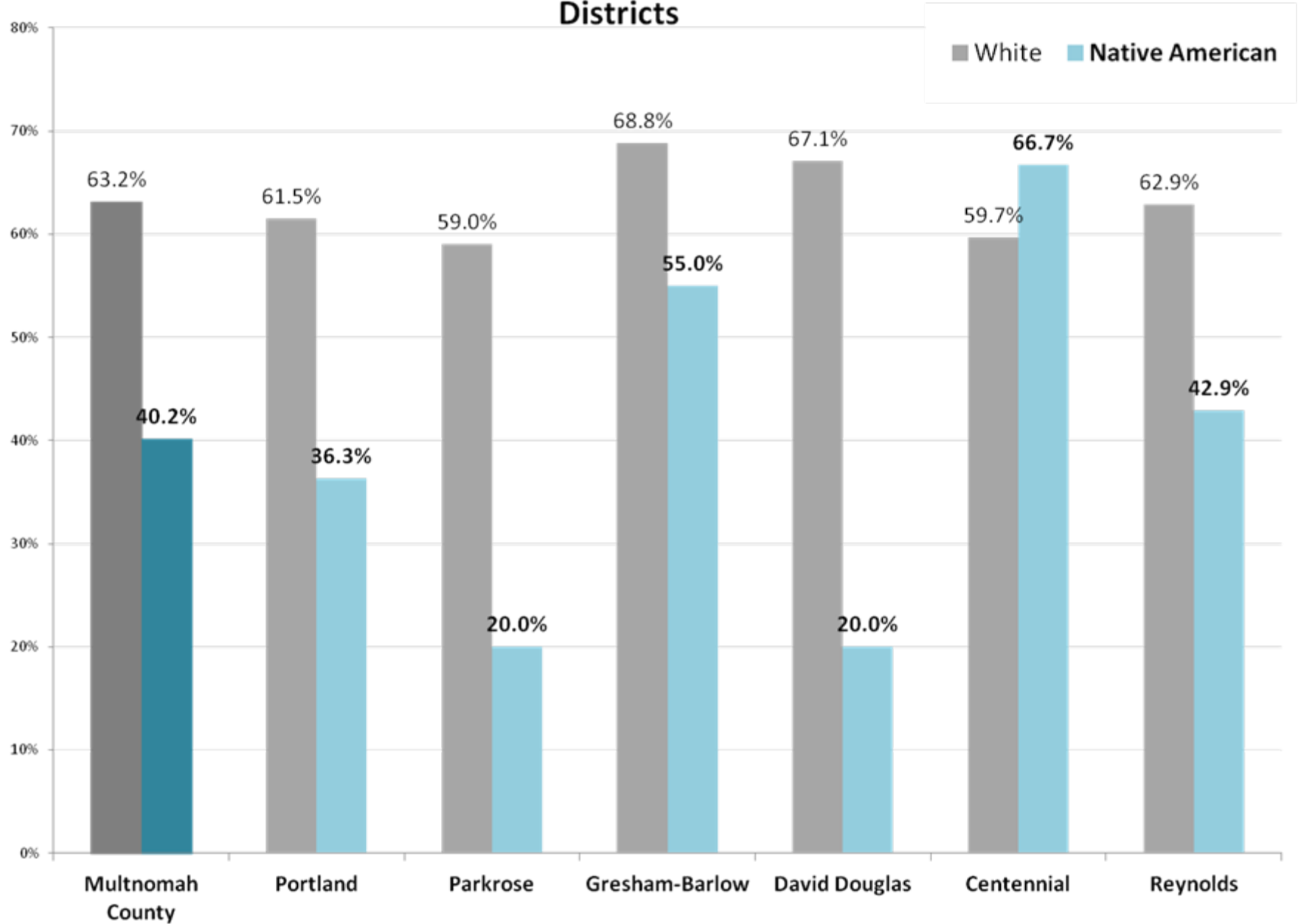
# Food Security & Other Basic Needs

- **20% NA Community experiences hunger on a regular basis.**
  - 7.7% go without food at some point everyday or at least once a week
  - 13.2% go without food at least once a month
- **Hunger among Native Elders is skyrocketing.**
  - Poverty level of 21% among NA Elders in 2009
  - Ave. income \$11,709/year
  - 69% of Native American Elders reported not having enough of the kinds of food they want to eat
- **1-in-5 Native Americans are unable to cover utility costs routinely.**
  - 15.9% go without utilities monthly

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



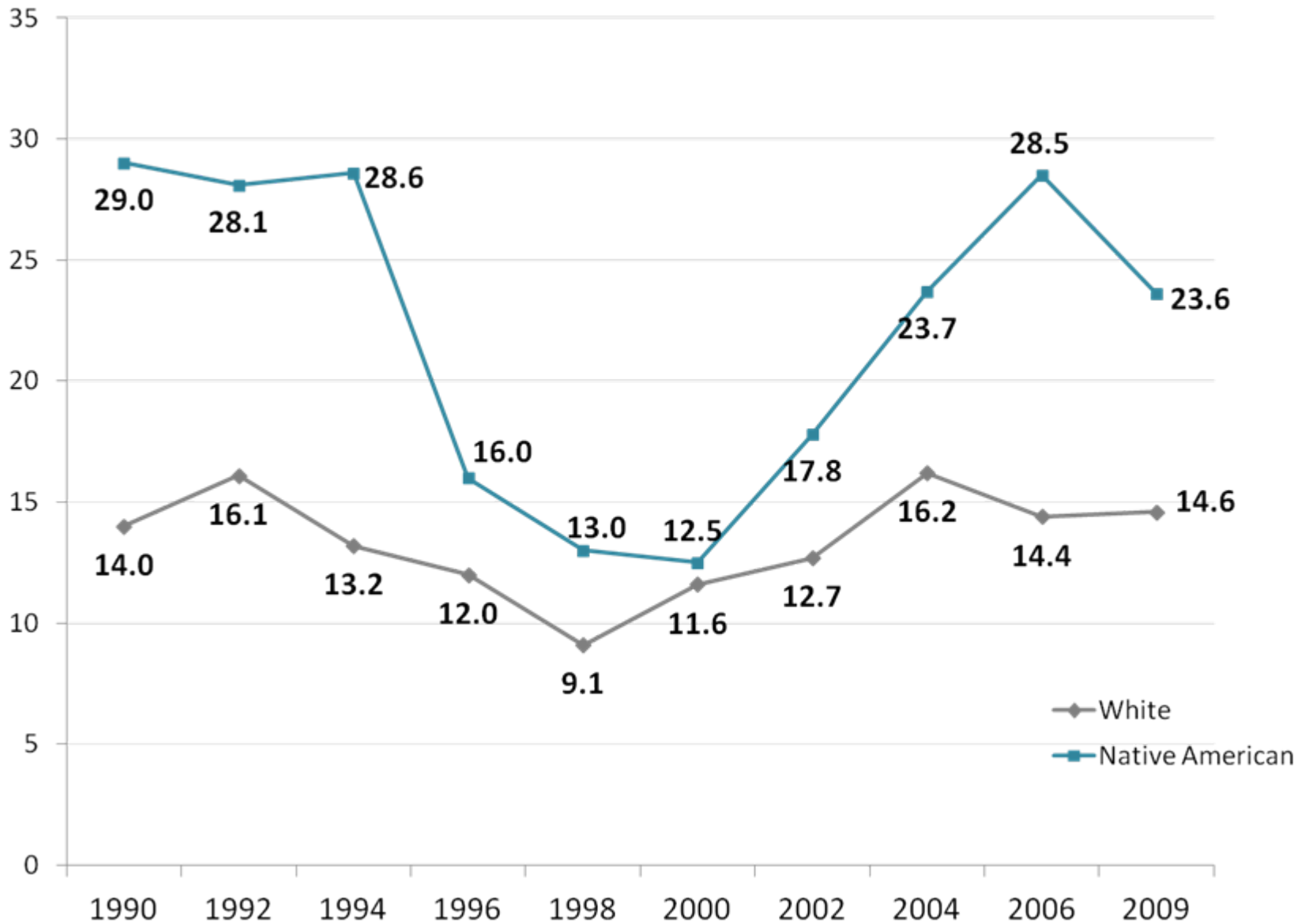
## Cohort Graduation Rates, 2010, Multnomah County and its School Districts



# Health

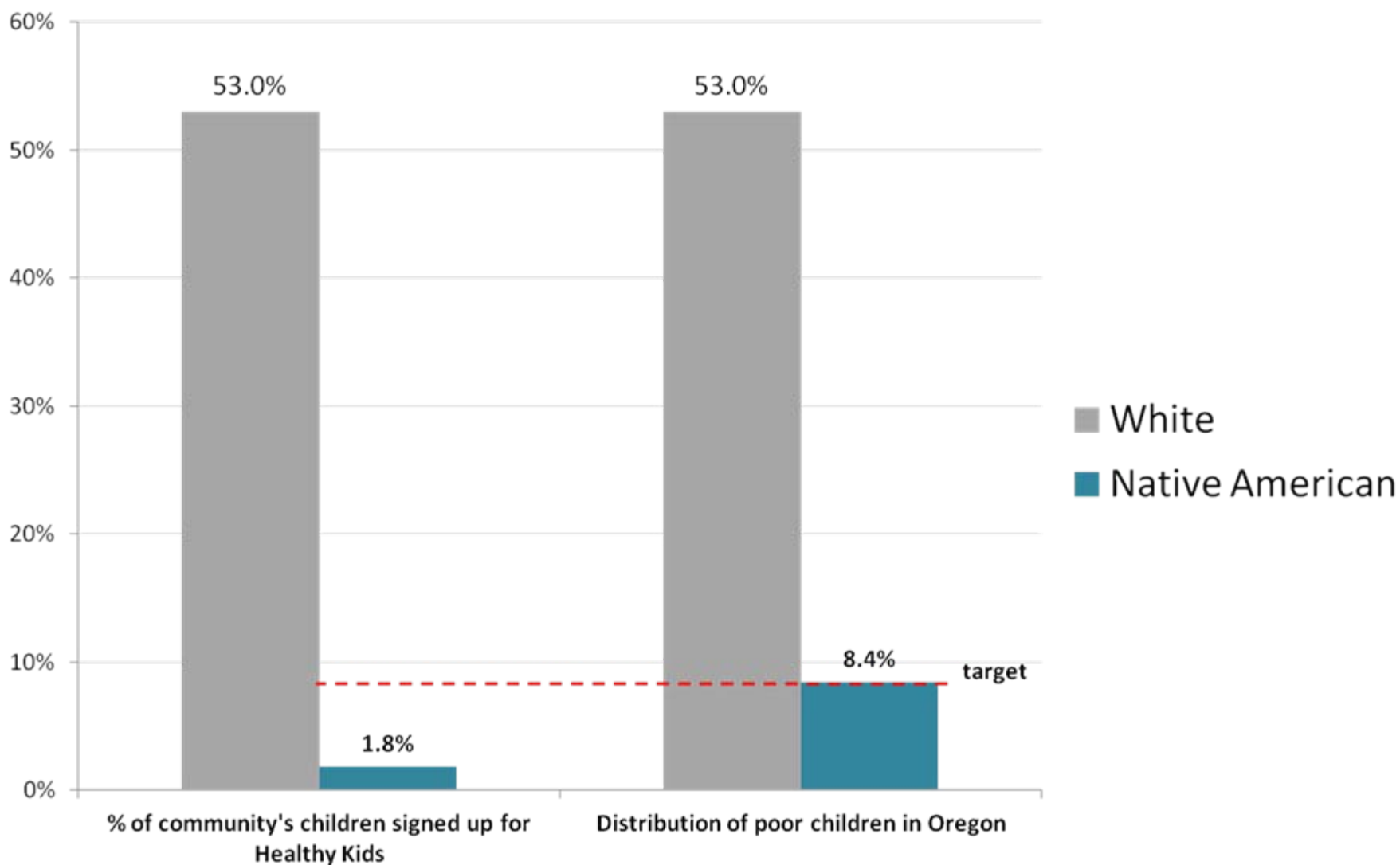
- In Multnomah County...
  - Native American women are **twice as likely NOT to receive prenatal care** in the first trimester or pregnancy than White women
  - **Low birth rate babies** are born to Native Americans at rates **42% higher** than whites
  - Native American **teen births** were **almost twice** the rates of Whites
  - **Infant mortality rates** are **twice as high** for Native American infants than White infants.

## Percent of Oregonians Without Health Insurance, 1990 to 2009

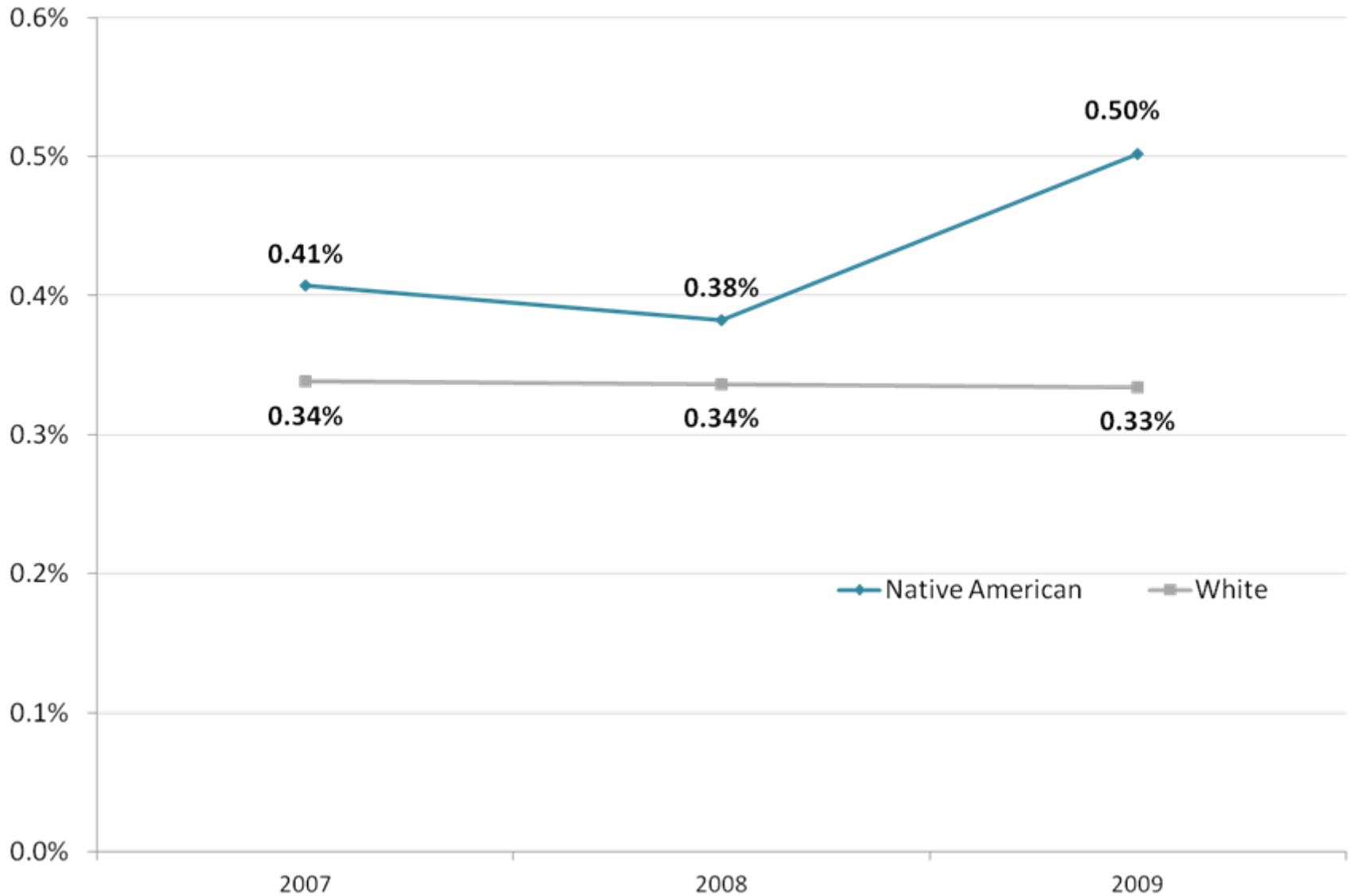




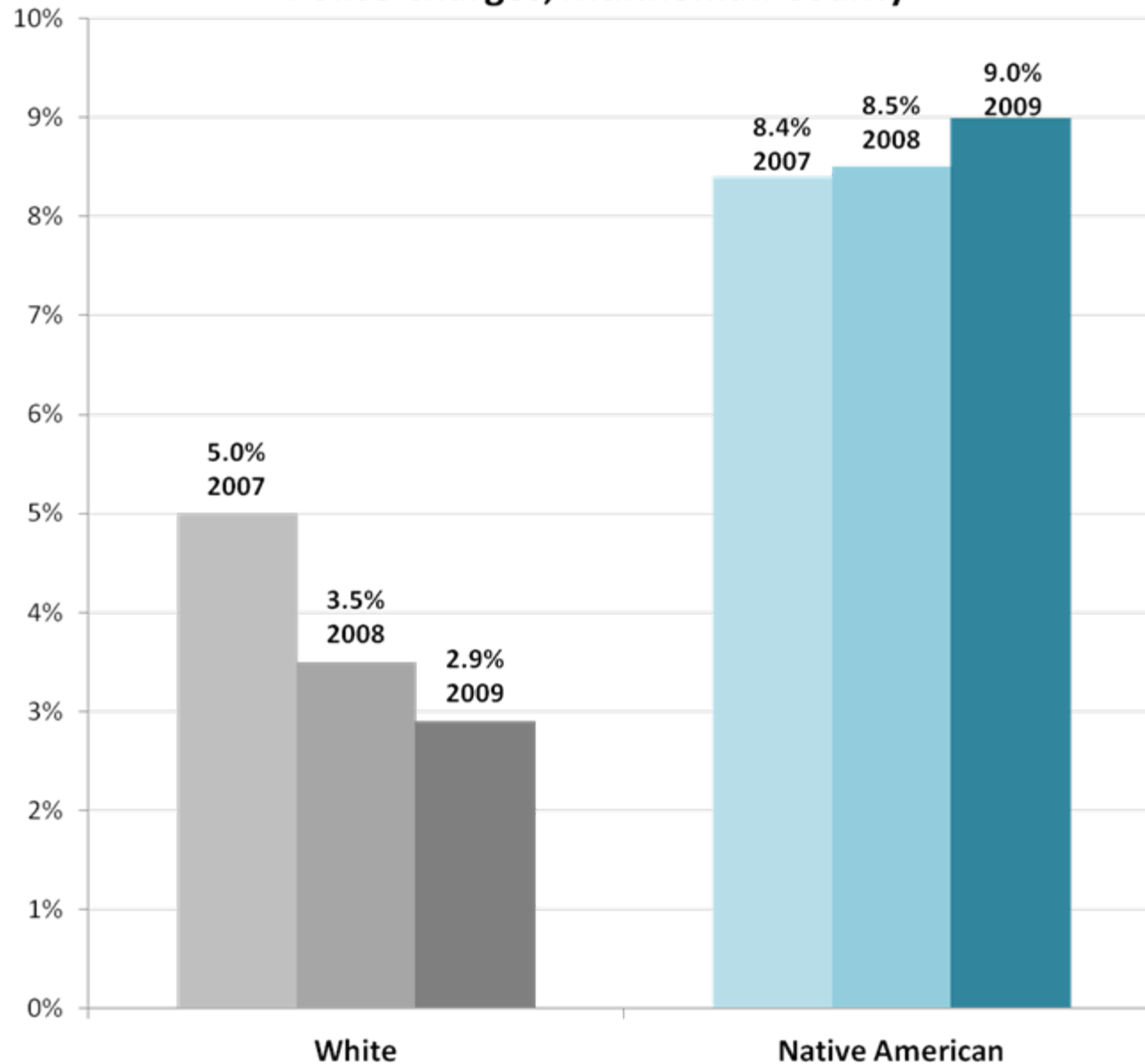
## Enrollment in Healthy Kids, Oregon, September 2010



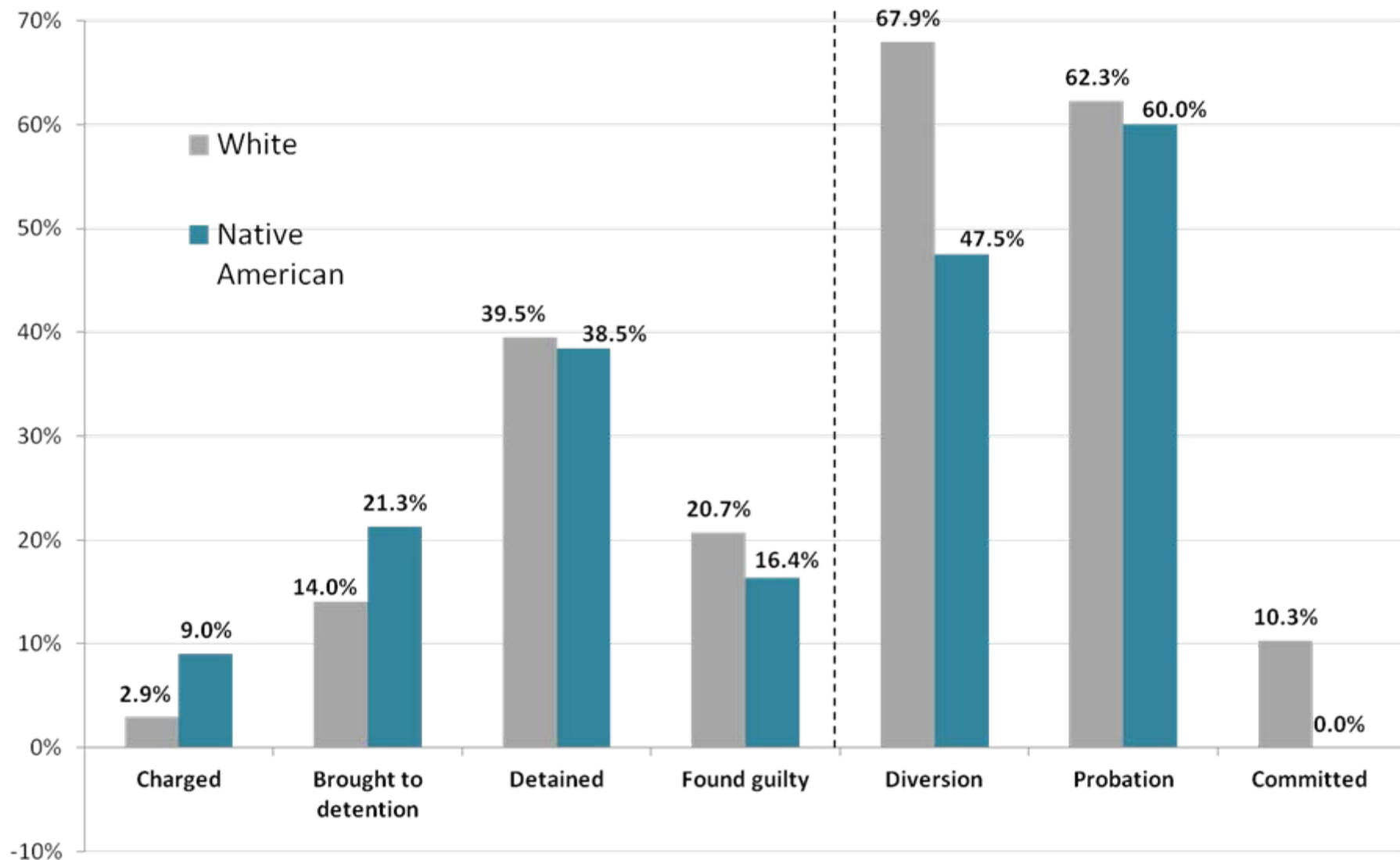
## Incarceration rates as a % of the population, Oregon



## Native American Juvenile Overrepresentation in Police Charges, Multnomah County



## Juvenile Justice Decisions, 2009, Multnomah County



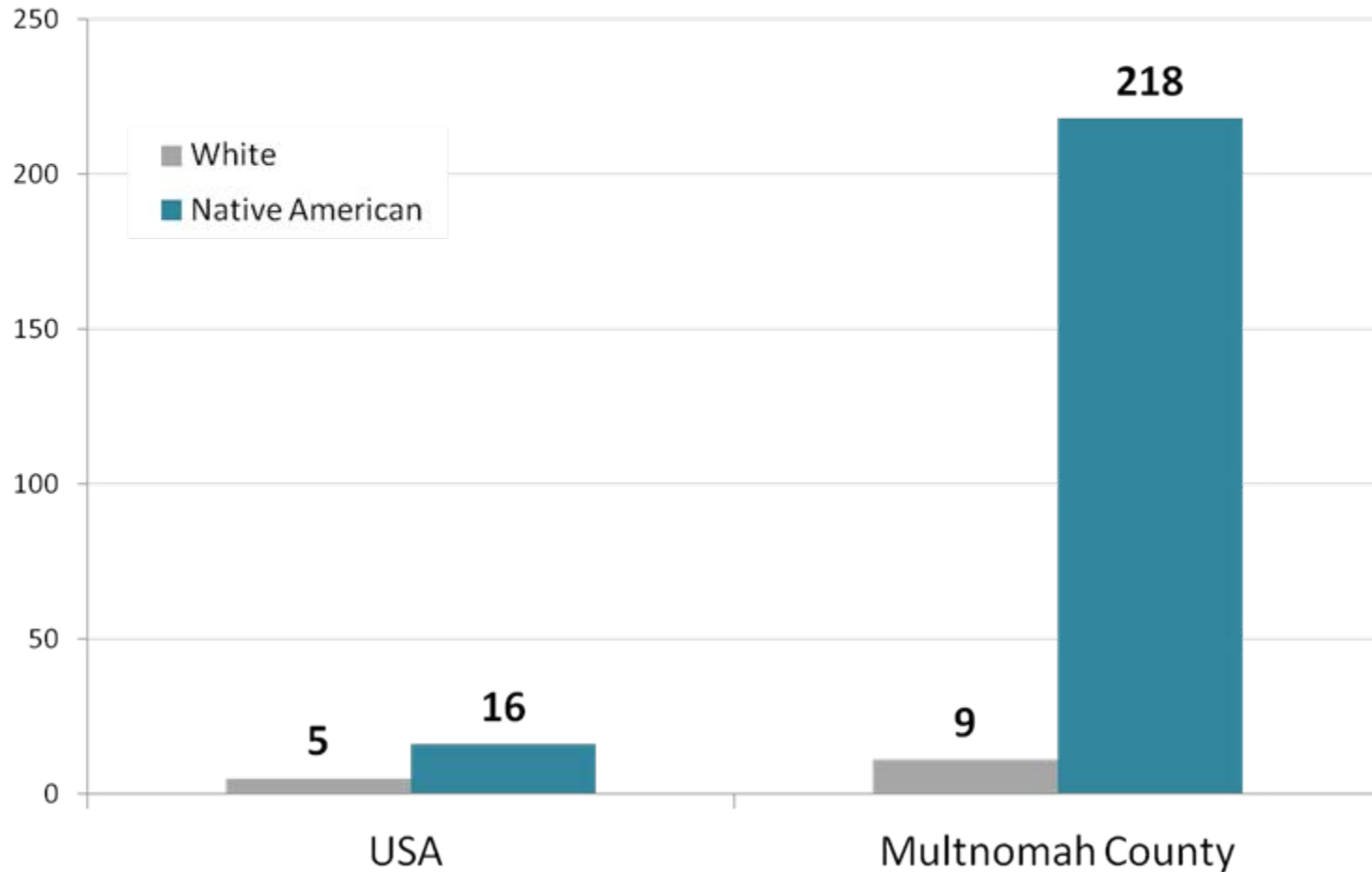
# Child Welfare

- 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...

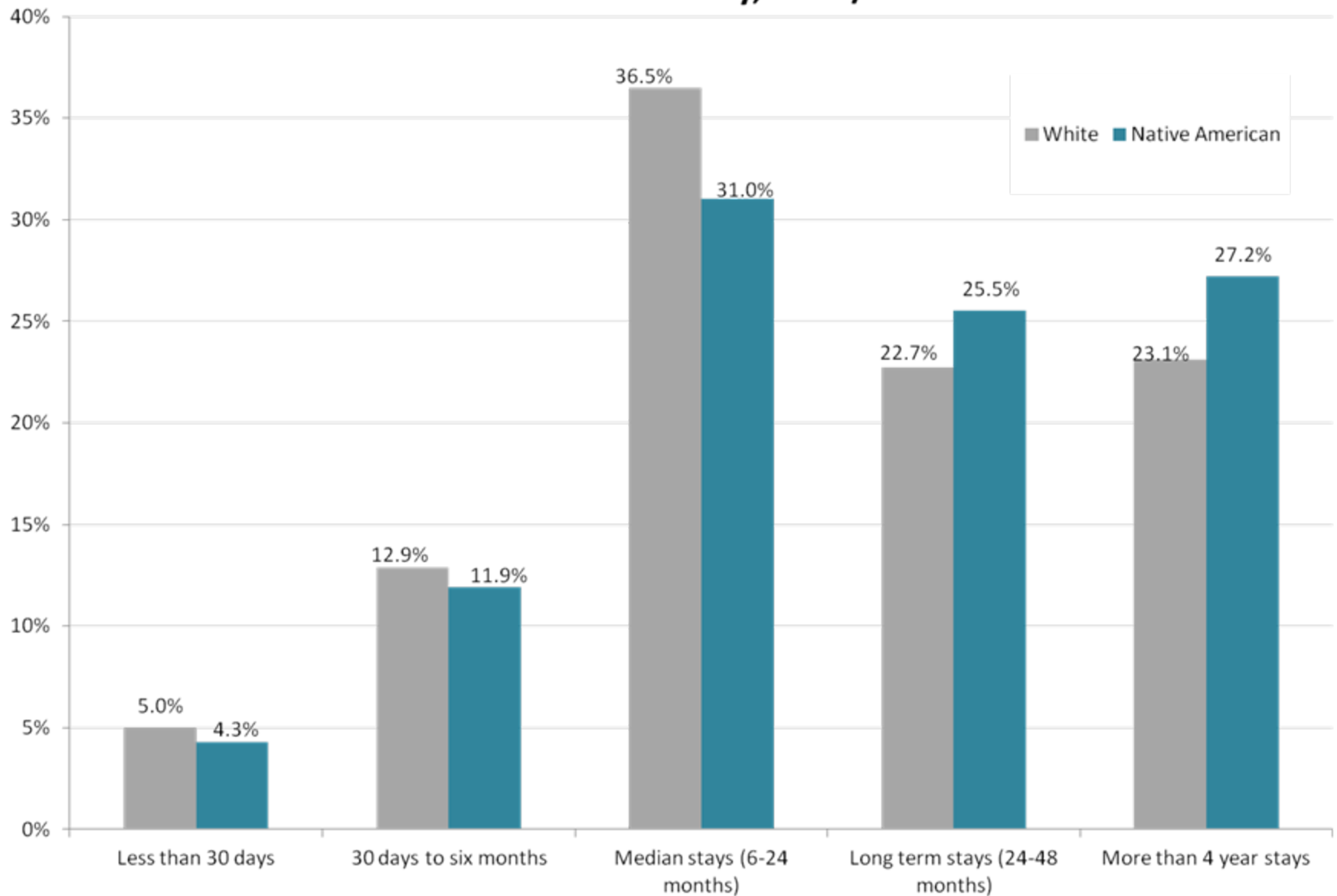
Children in Foster Care	Number of children per 1,000 population
USA - all	6
White	5
Native American	16
Oregon - all	13
White	10
Native American	56
Multnomah County	15
White	9
Native American	218

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

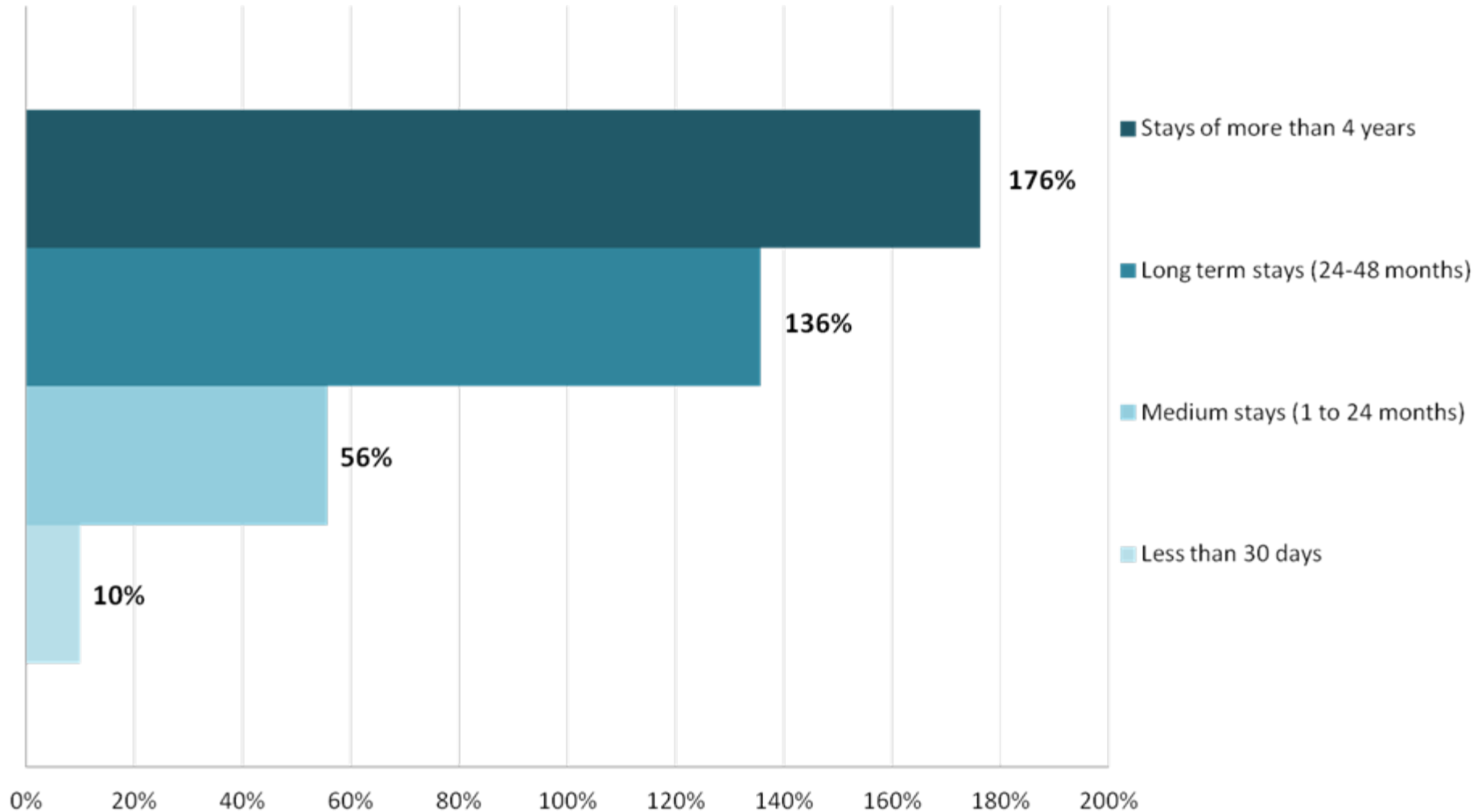
**Foster Care Rates:  
Comparison of Local & National Levels  
(measured by number of children in foster care  
per 1000 children)**



## Length of stay among foster care children, Multnomah County, 2008/2009

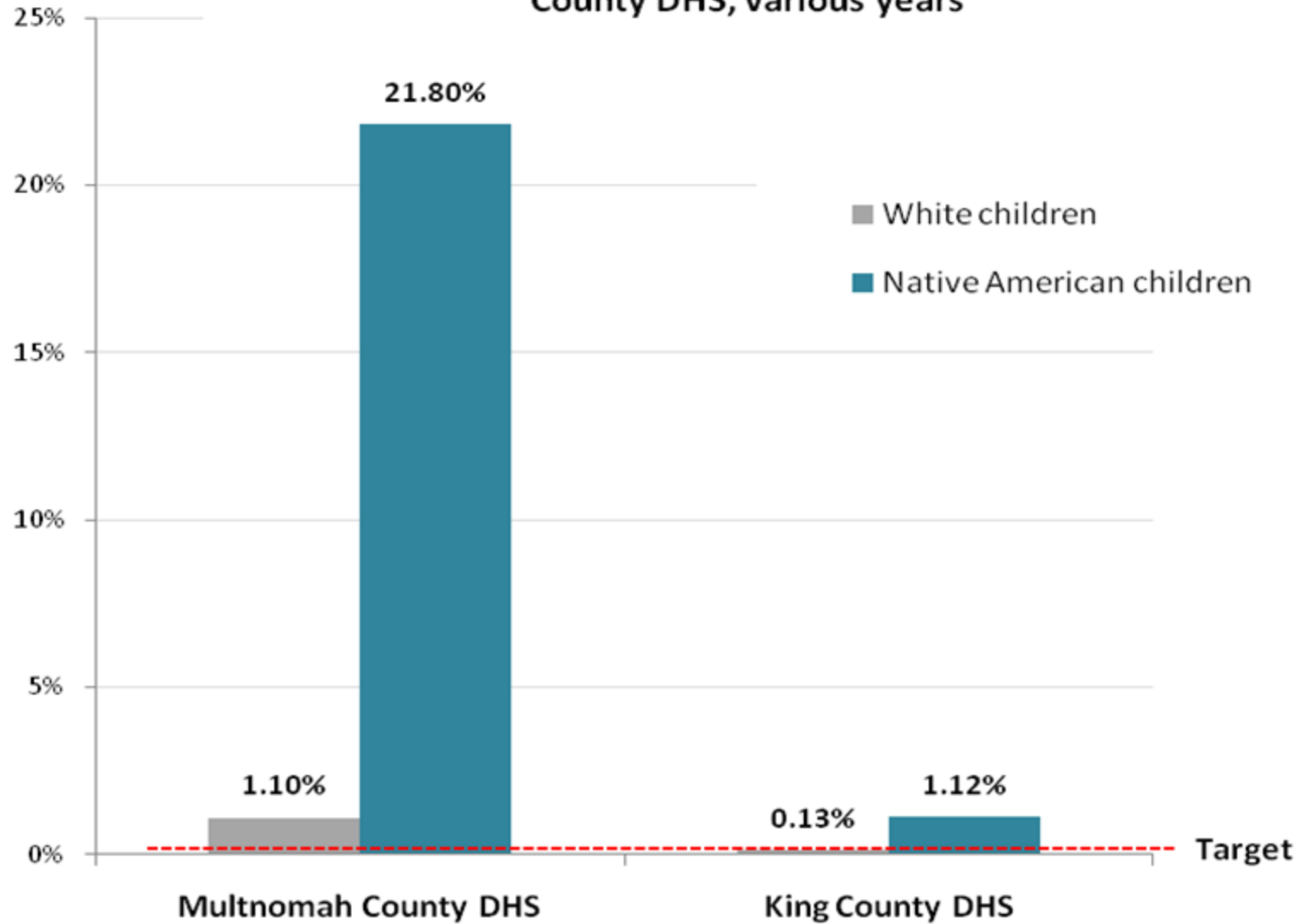


## Disproportionality in Foster Care Length of Stay Native Americans in Multnomah County, 2008/09





**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%
	<b>Native Americans</b>	3.3%	<b>0.7%</b>

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































- Philanthropy & Communities of Color in OR:  
*from strategic investment to assessable impacts  
amidst growing racial and ethnic diversity*

# 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
<b>Occupation</b>			
Management & professional jobs	157%	142%	
Service jobs	21%	90%	
<b>Poverty</b>			
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%	
<b>Housing</b>			
Rent Burden	13%	-9%	
Mortgage Burden	34%	52%	
Homeownership	23%	62%	
Home value (owners only)	59%	31%	
<b>Education</b>			
Attainment of a university degree	139%	408%	
Drop out rate <sup>a</sup>	127%	131%	
Discipline rate	28%	30%	
High School graduation rate <sup>a</sup>	37%	37%	
Academic test scores - Math <sup>2</sup> <sup>a</sup>	21%	21%	
Academic testing - reading/literature <sup>a</sup>	18%	22%	
<b>Incomes</b>			
Individual	107%	124%	
Family	104%	106%	
Retirement	62%	101%	
Female single parent	109%	138%	
<b>Health</b>			
Health insurance <sup>a</sup>	46%	38%	
<b>Unemployment</b>			
Unemployment rate	29%	41%	
<b>Criminal &amp; Juvenile Justice</b>			
Frequency of juvenile detentions	69%	-3%	
Frequency of youth being criminally charged	103%	210%	
Adult incarceration rate <sup>a</sup>	14%	30%	
<b>Comparison with King County</b>			
Composite of 5 measures	34%	36%	

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

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

<sup>a</sup> Data for 2006 and 2009 were used for these two time periods

<sup>a</sup> Data for 2008 and 2009 were used here

<sup>a</sup> Data for 2008 and 2010 were used here



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

# Bright spots

- We affirm effort to introduce culturally-specific funding into Multnomah County's SUN Service System.
- Efforts to improve outreach during Census 2010 and current outreach efforts for the homeless count are also improved.
- Multnomah County's DHS efforts – the Visibility Initiative holds promise to generate sufficient information on the status of disparities, assess progress and shortcomings, and to involve us in advising on priorities for improvements.

# Recommendations

- Culturally specific programs for Elders
- Early Childhood
- Our community defines itself as an ethnic group and we do not organize ourselves around the western world view of geography equaling community.
- Community Verified Data

# Recommendations

- Health & the Native community
- Public Statement from the Board of Commissioners for the advancement of racial equity and the reduction of racial disparities
  - with Timelines, Policies and Resource Allocation
- Budget & Cuts – meet with the Coalition to find ways to focus existing resources to address these disparities

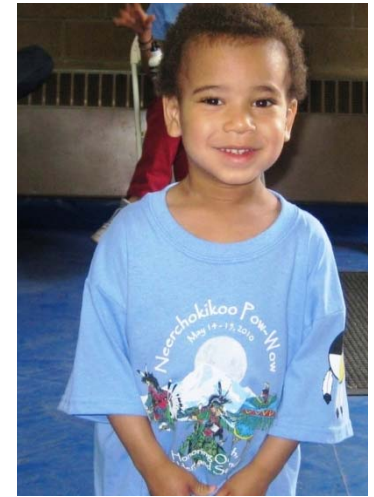
## **Next steps...**

- We want a commitment from the Board of Commissioners that you will meet with Coalition of Communities of Color to discuss the allocation of resources for culturally specific programs.
- Chair & Commissioners schedule a community dialogue with Native organizations and community members and create an action plan to address disparities.



# Closing Statement

- *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*



# For more information

- Nichole Maher, Co-Chair, Coalition of Communities of Color  
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503-288-8177
- Julia Meier, Coordinator, Coalition of Communities of Color  
[juliam@nayapdx.org](mailto:juliam@nayapdx.org)  
503-288-8177 x295
- Ann Curry-Stevens, Principle Investigator  
[currya@pdx.edu](mailto:currya@pdx.edu)  
503-725-5315
- The full report can be downloaded from  
[www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org](http://www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org)

# ***Thank you!***

