



# **Latinos in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile**

Presentation to Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

**February 23, 2012**

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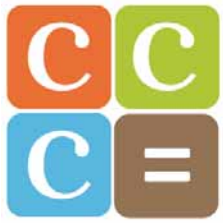
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Dr. Ann Curry-Stevens, Portland State University



**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

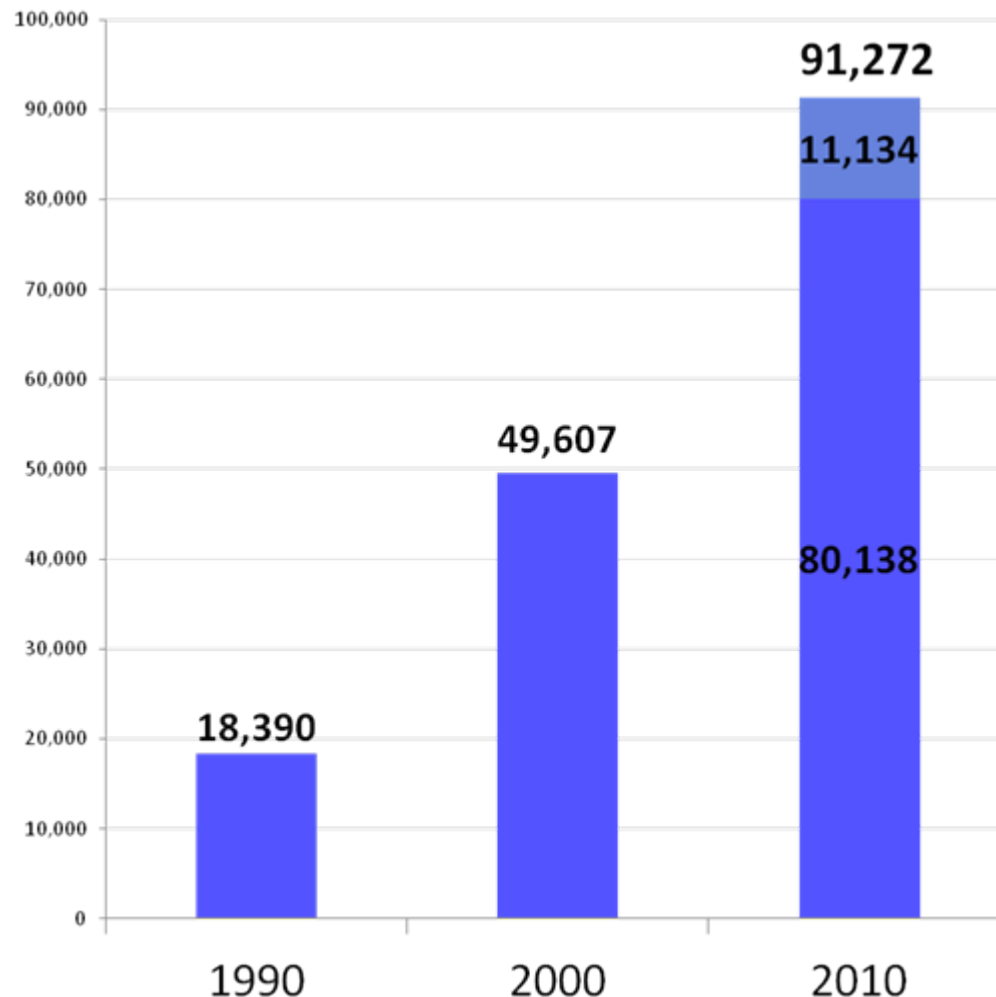


# Synthesis of findings

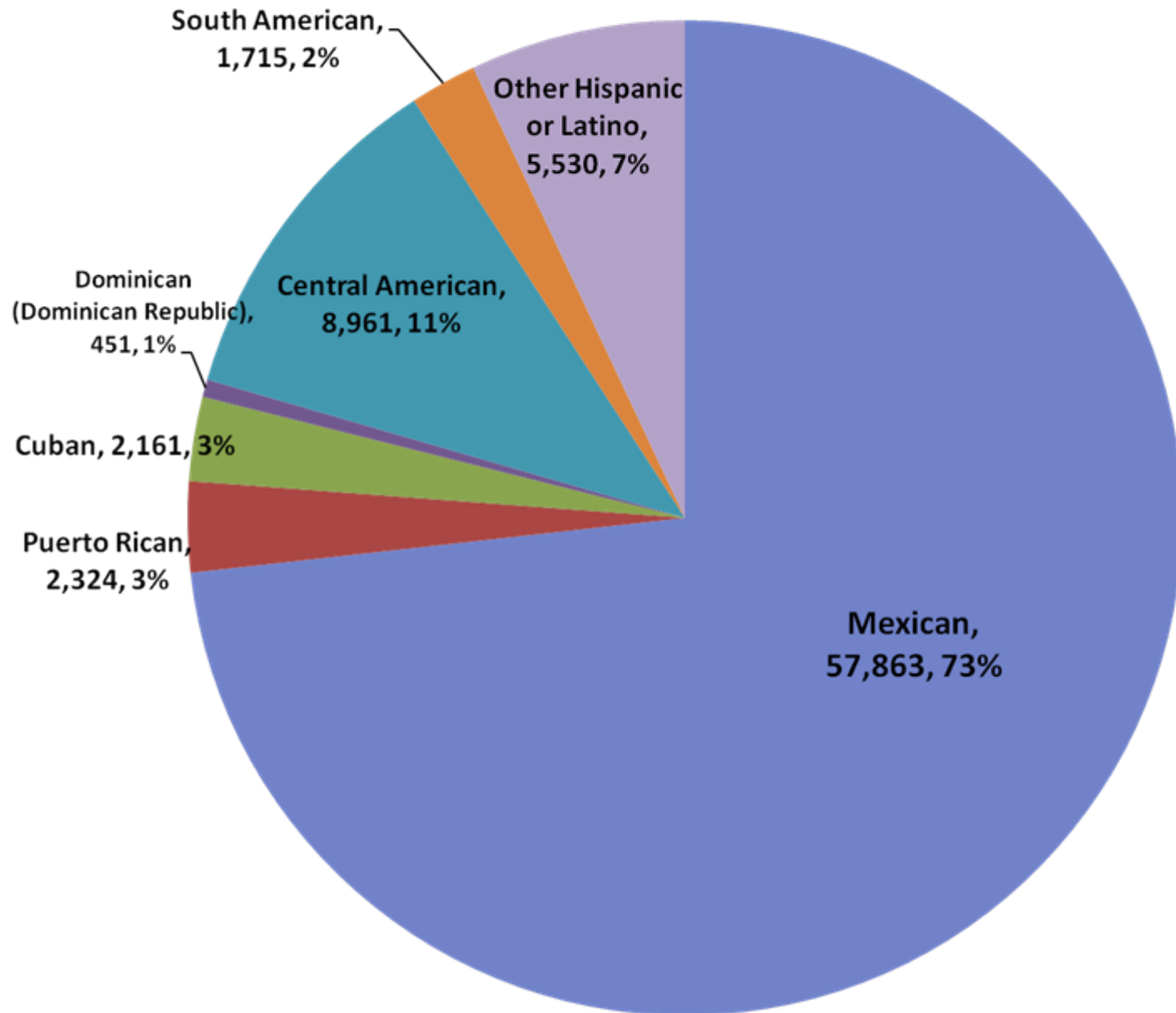
- We are **sizeable and growing** in numbers
- There are **huge disparities** across all systems and institutions between Latinos and Whites
- It is **worse here than in King County** (home to Seattle) for Latinos
- It is **worse here for Latinos than USA averages**
- These comparisons show that **policy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

# Key Finding: Culturally-verified population counts

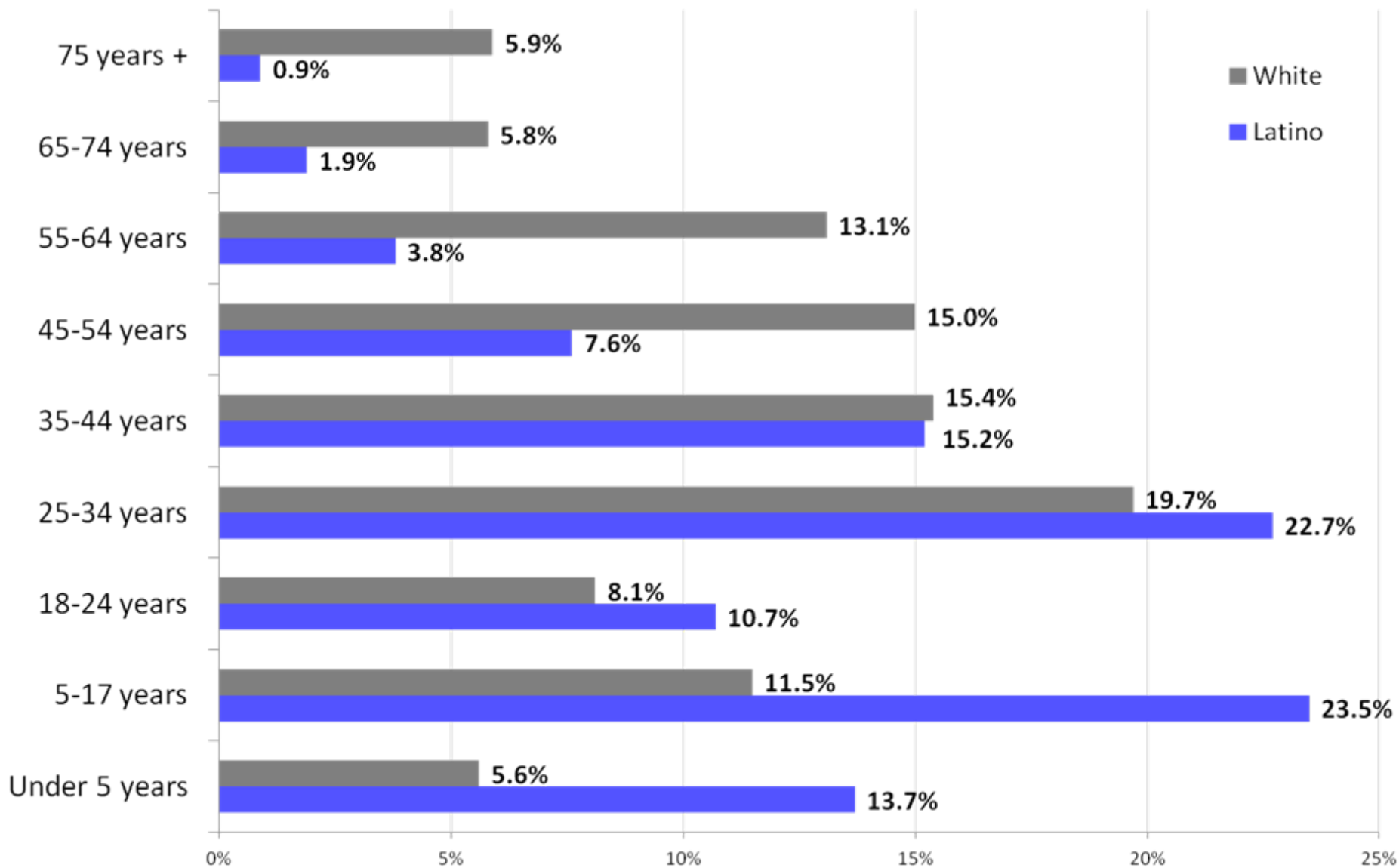
- **Culturally-verified count** = **91,272 Latinos** in 2010  
= 12.4% of population



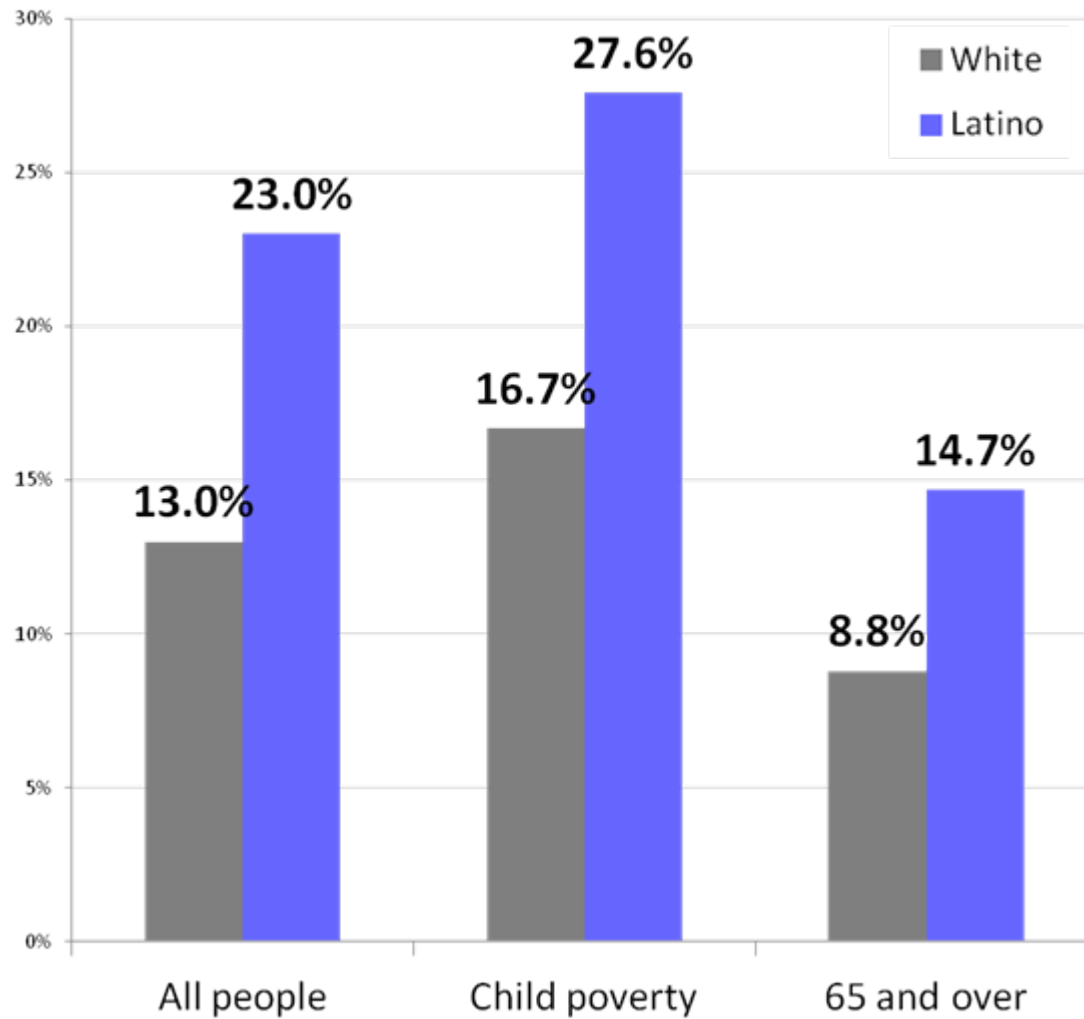
## Latino composition, Multnomah County, 2009



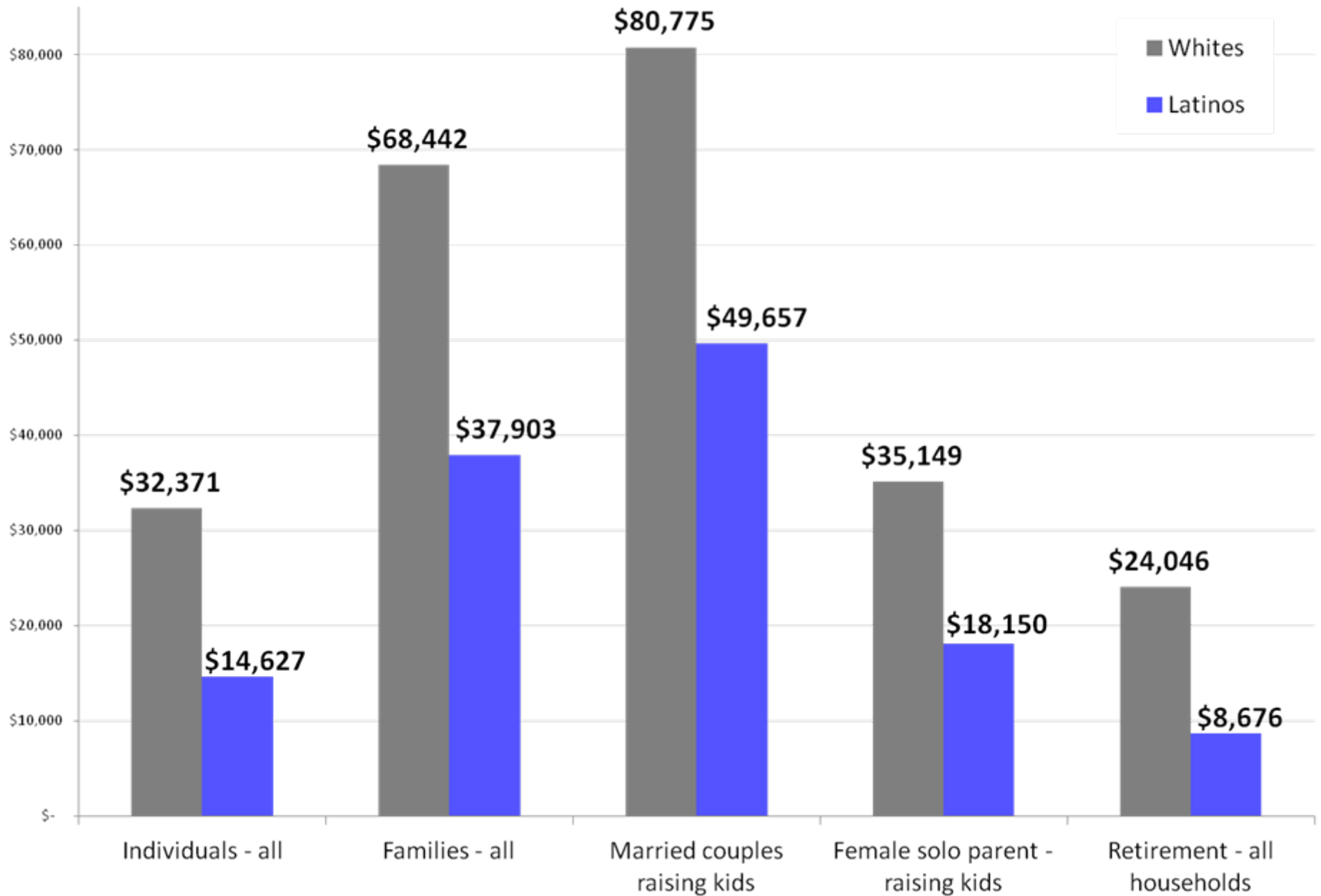
## Age Distribution, 2009, Multnomah County



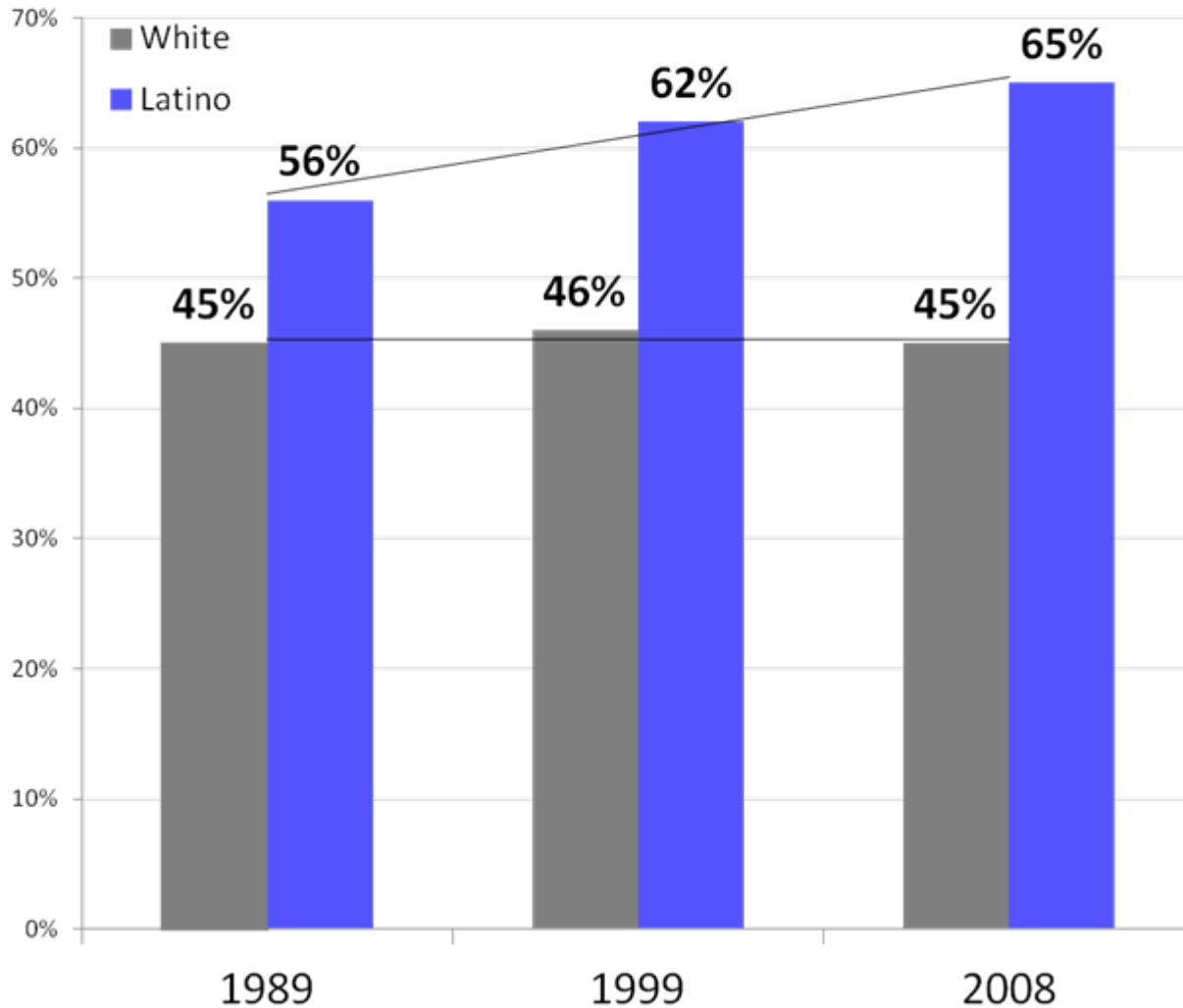
## Poverty rates, Multnomah County, 2009



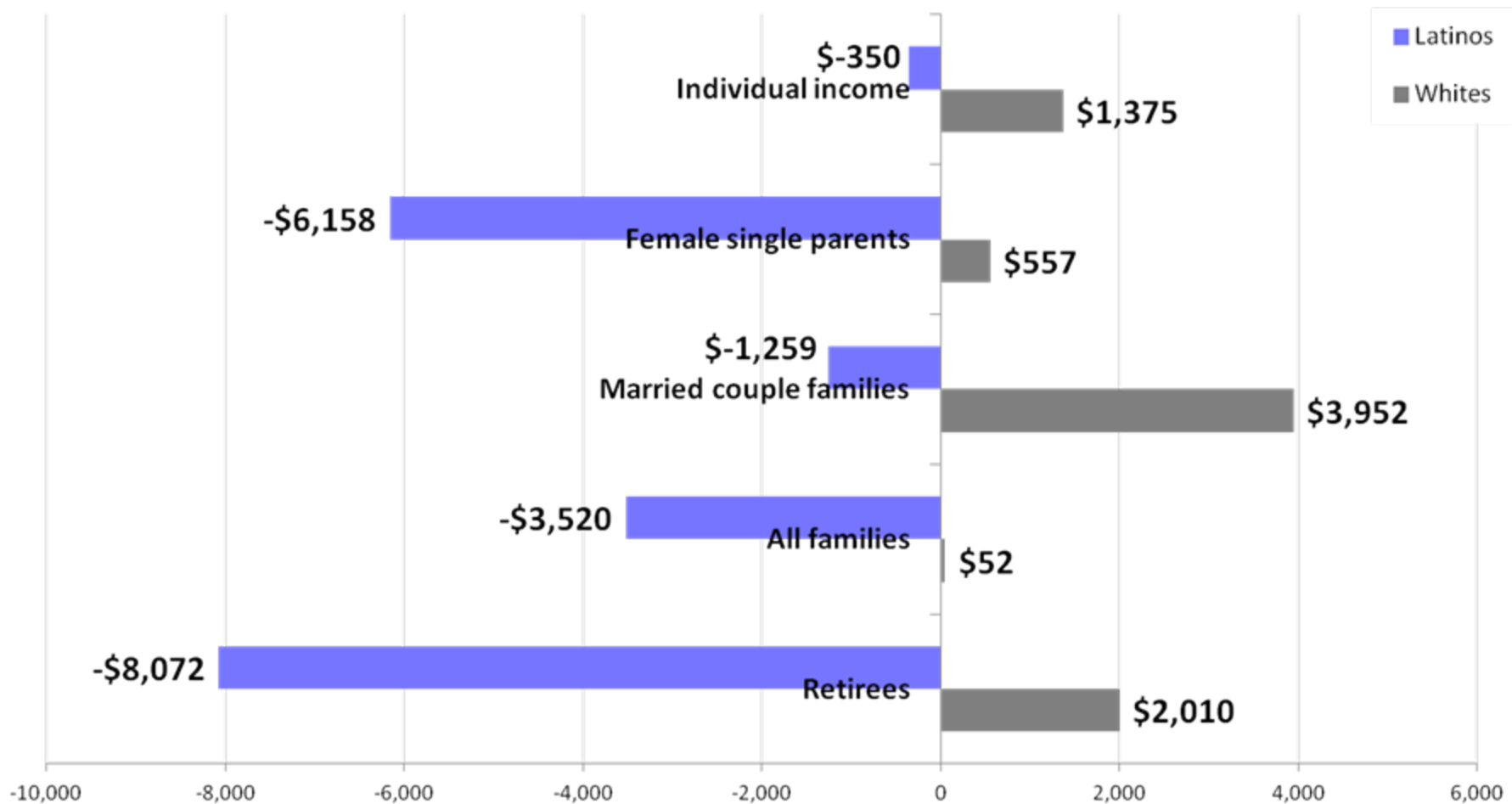
## Annual incomes, Multnomah County, 2009



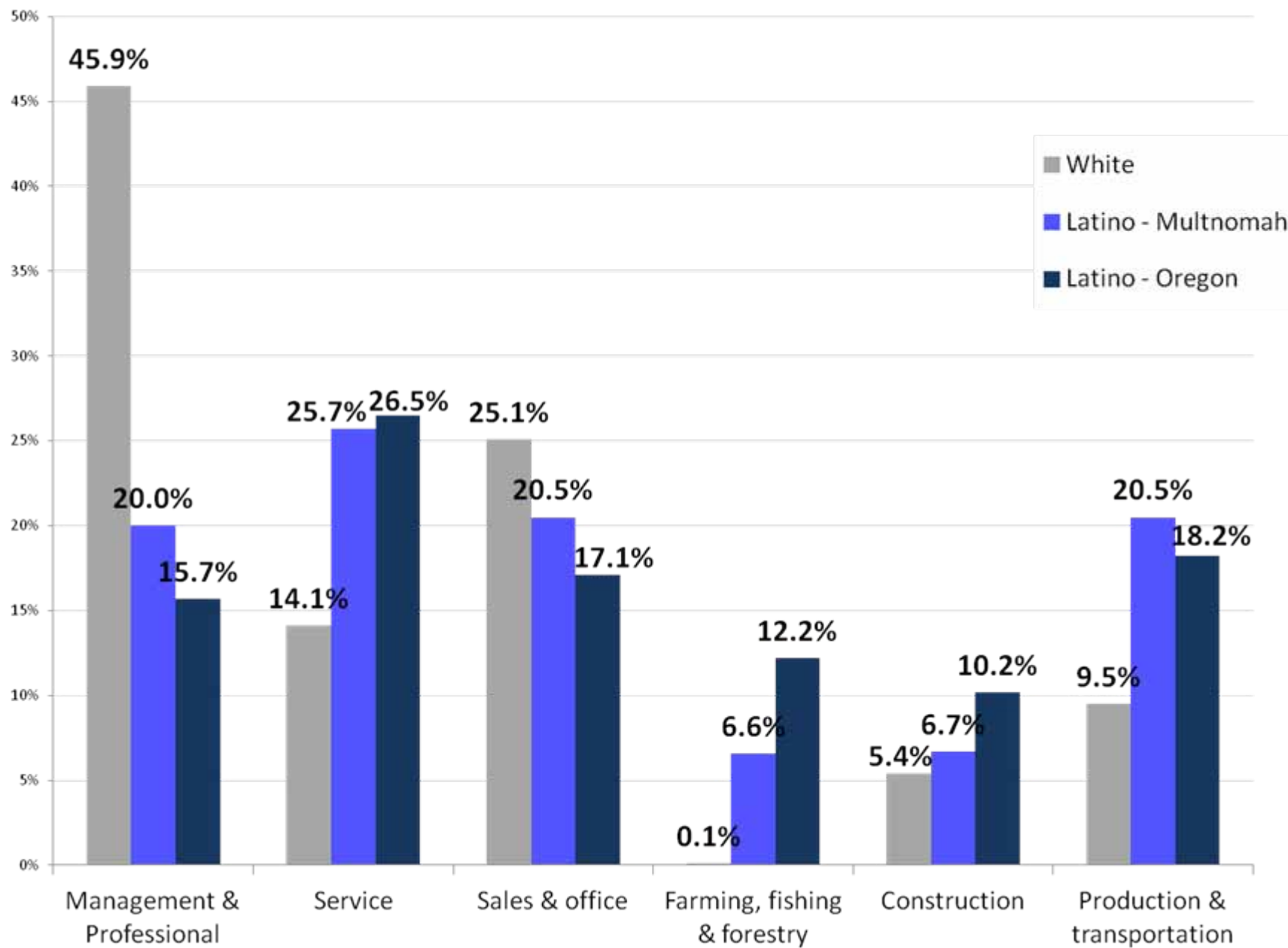
## Households Earning Below Average Incomes in Multnomah County



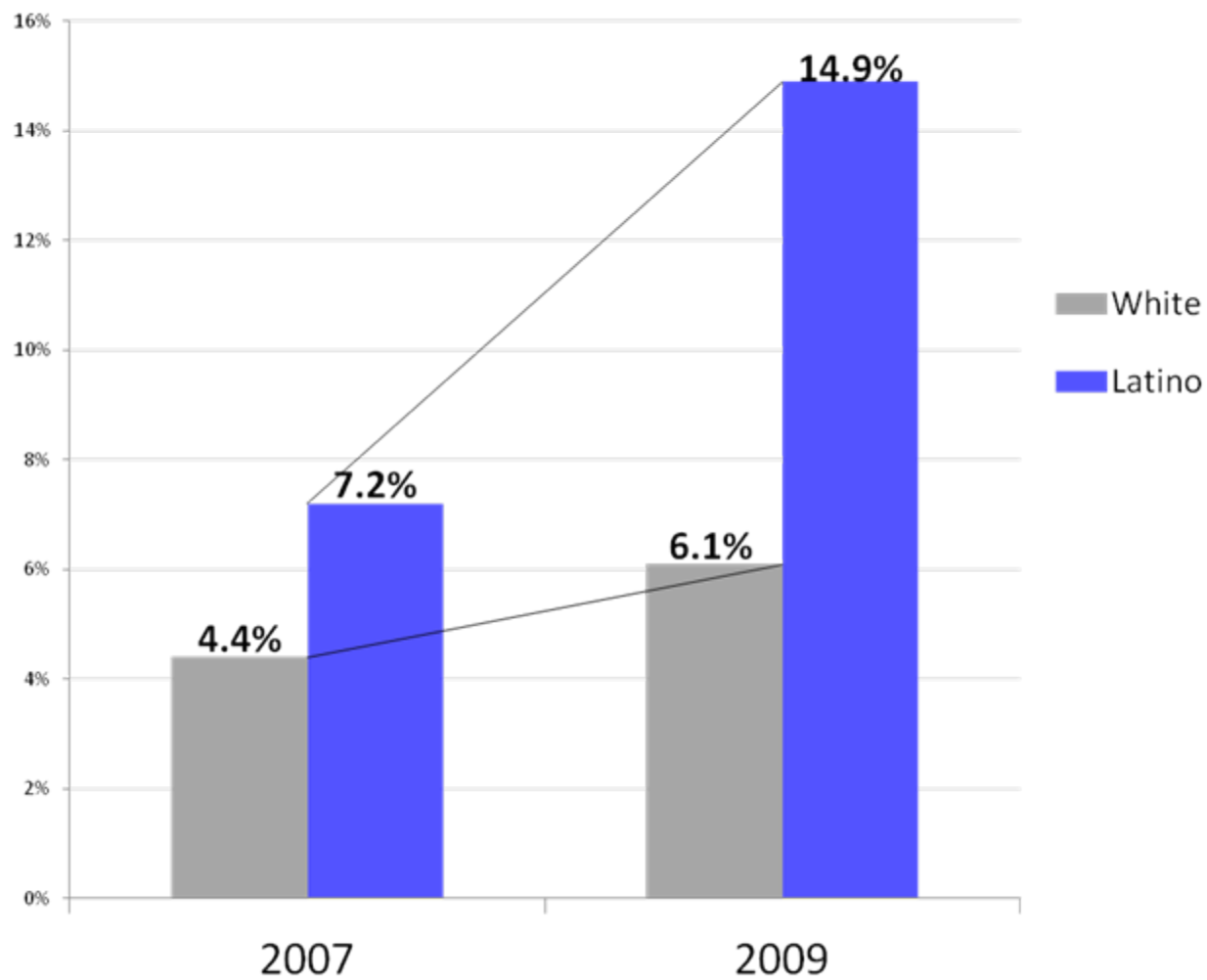
## Impact on income of living in Multnomah County, 2009



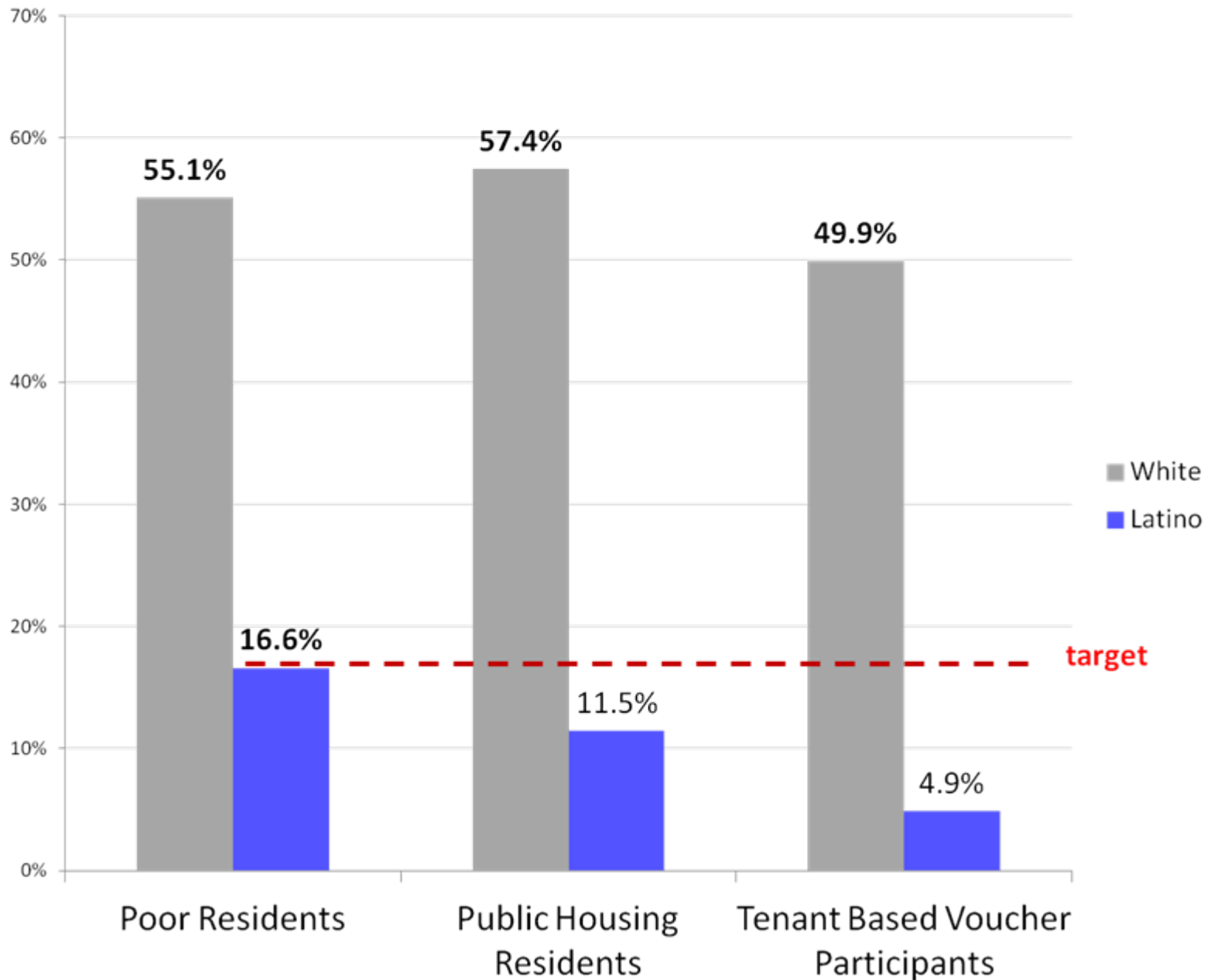
## Occupations, Multnomah County & Oregon, 2009



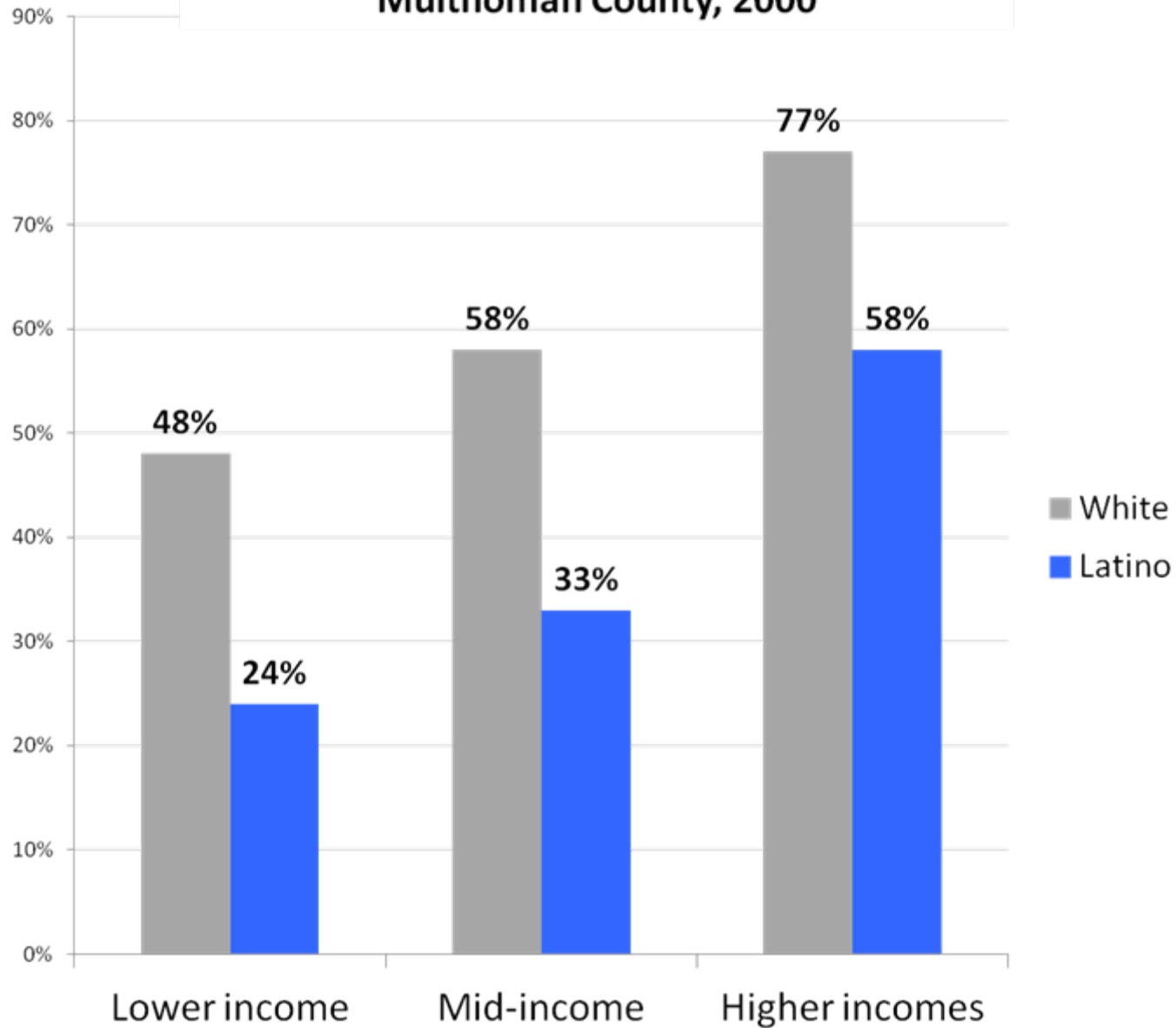
## Unemployment Rate, Multnomah County, 2007 & 2009



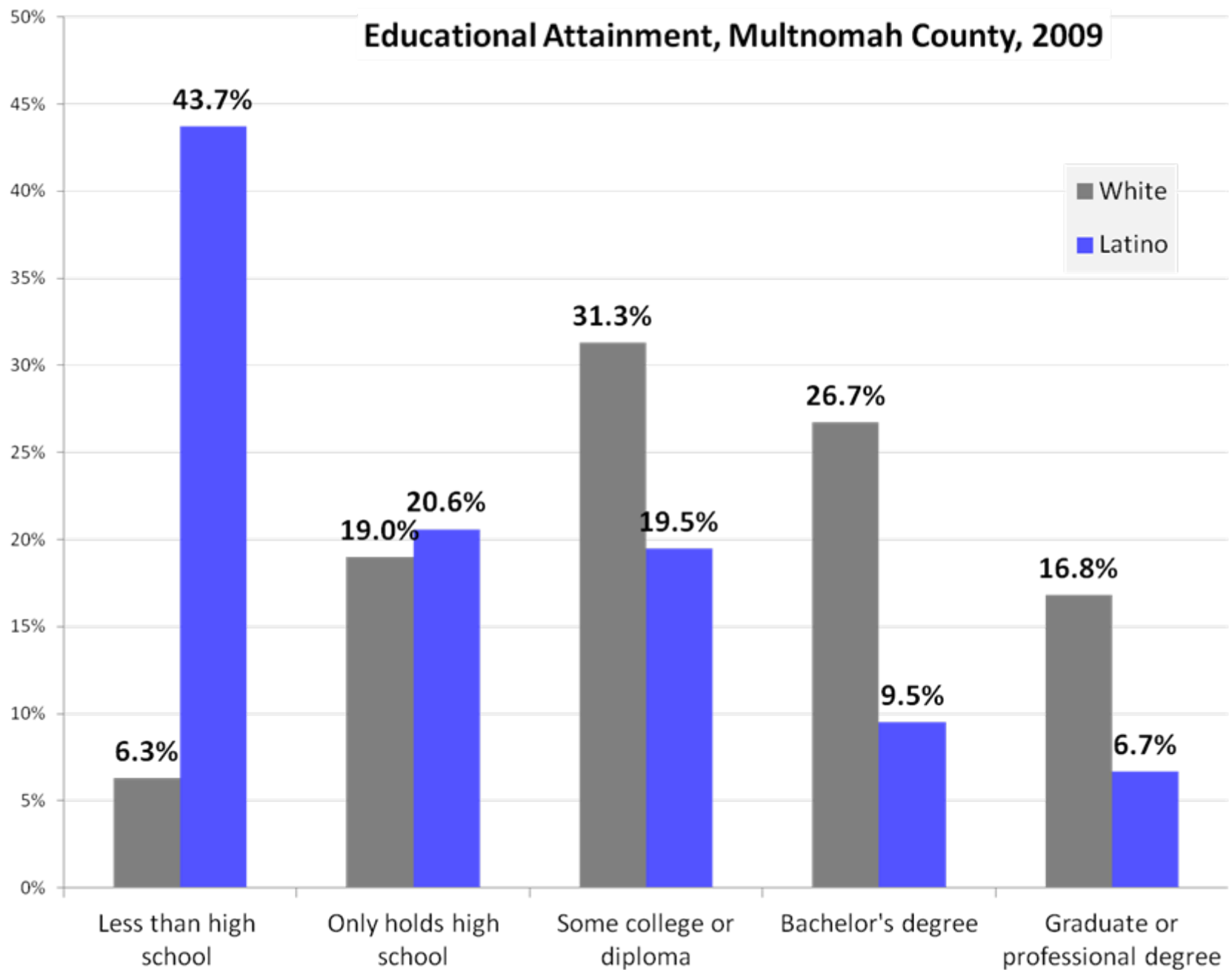
# Poverty levels compared to access to housing support programs, Multnomah County, August 2010



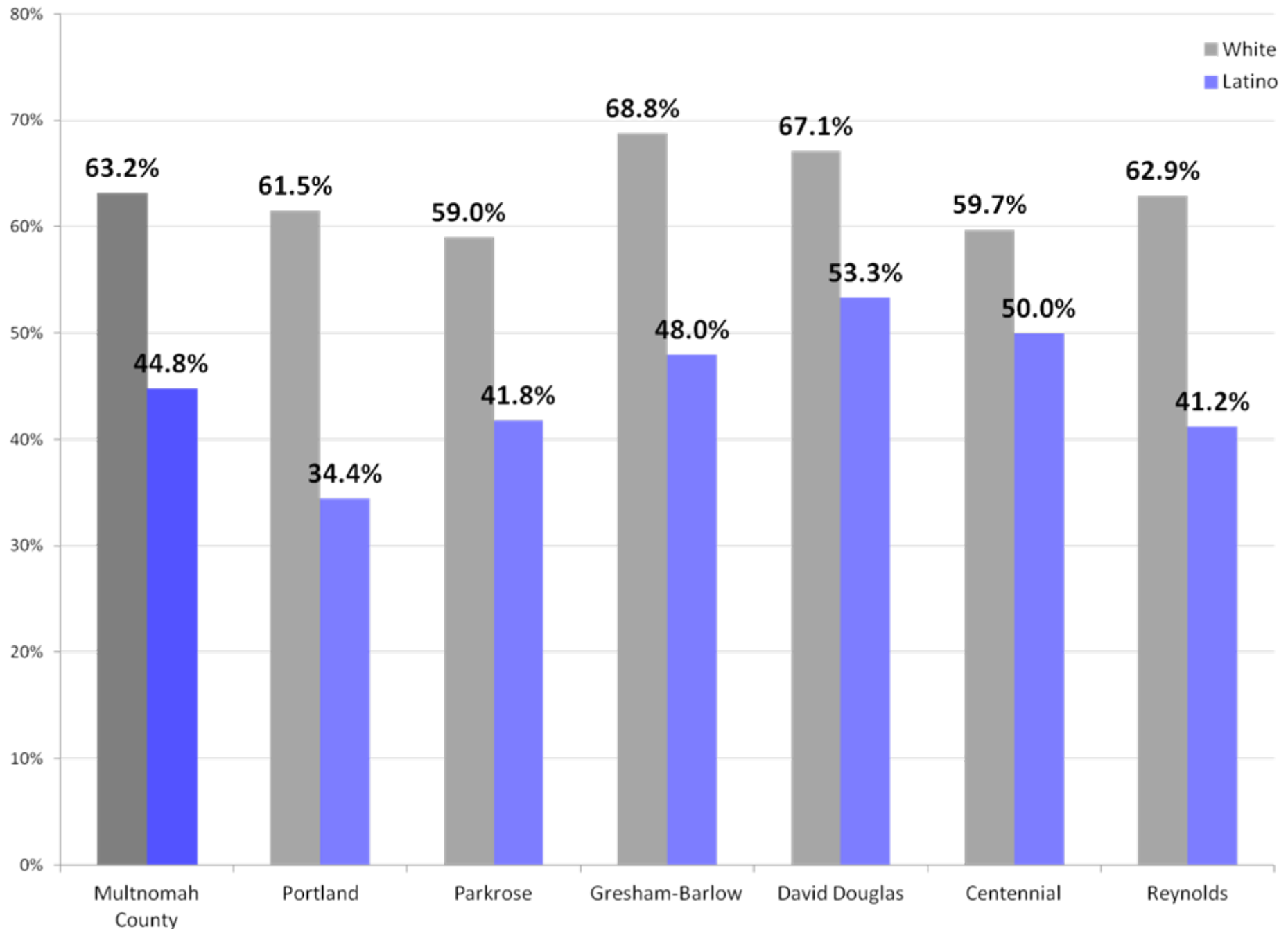
**Homeownership rates at various income levels,  
Multnomah County, 2000**



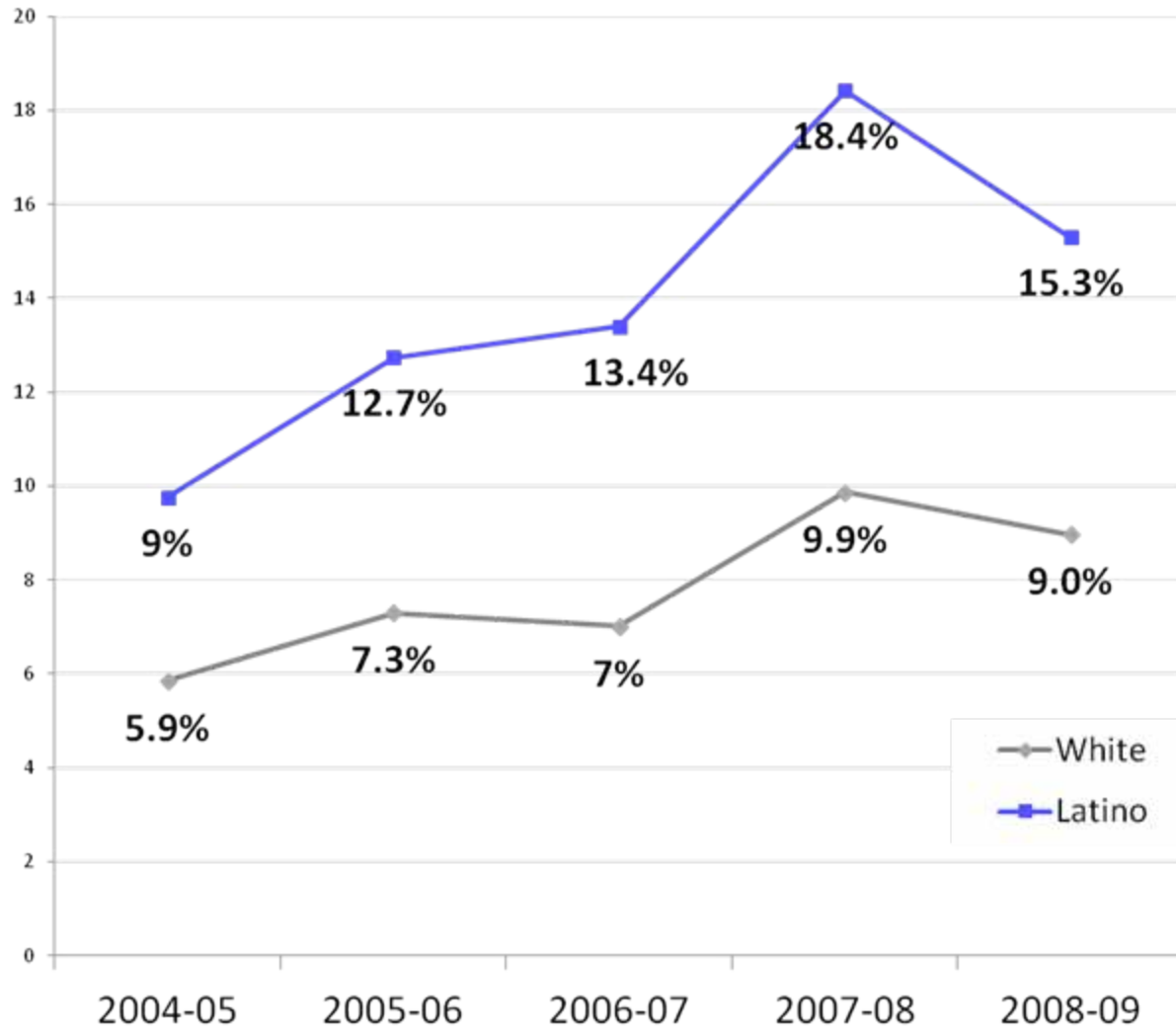
## Educational Attainment, Multnomah County, 2009



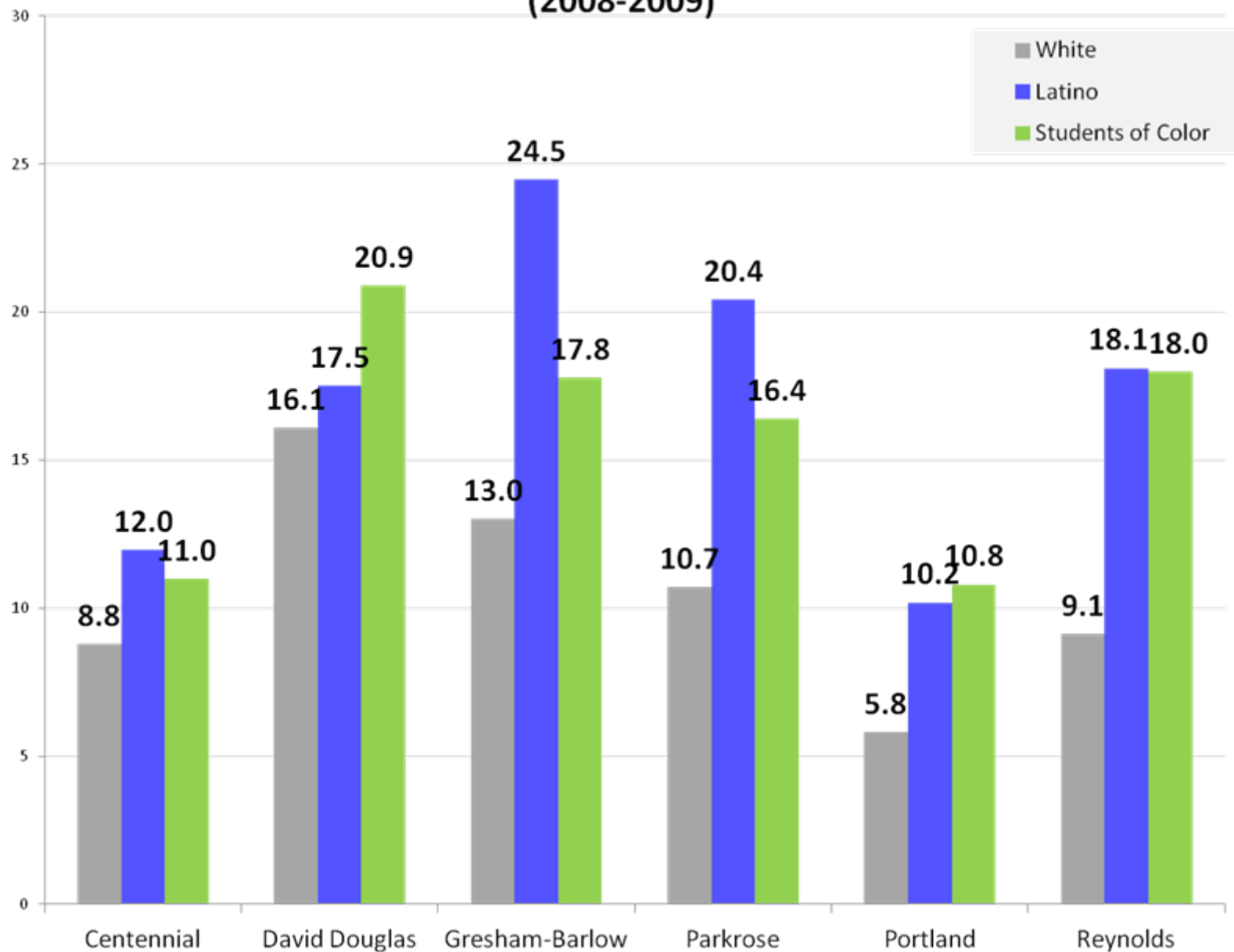
**Cohort Graduation Rates, Multnomah County Districts (2010 Cohort)**



# Suspension & Expulsion Rates, Multnomah County, 2004-2009



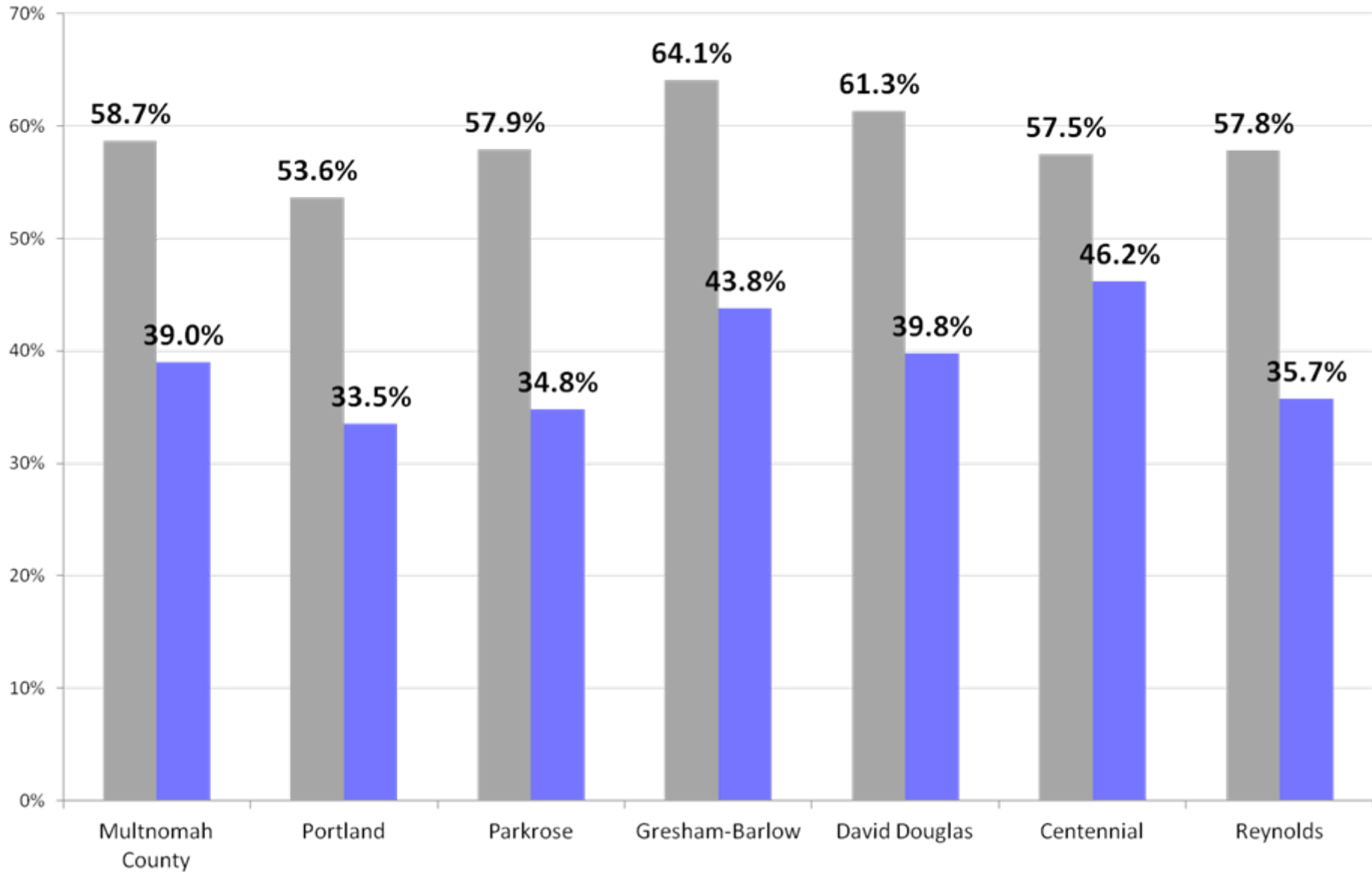
**Percent of Students with Suspension & Expulsions, by District  
(2008-2009)**



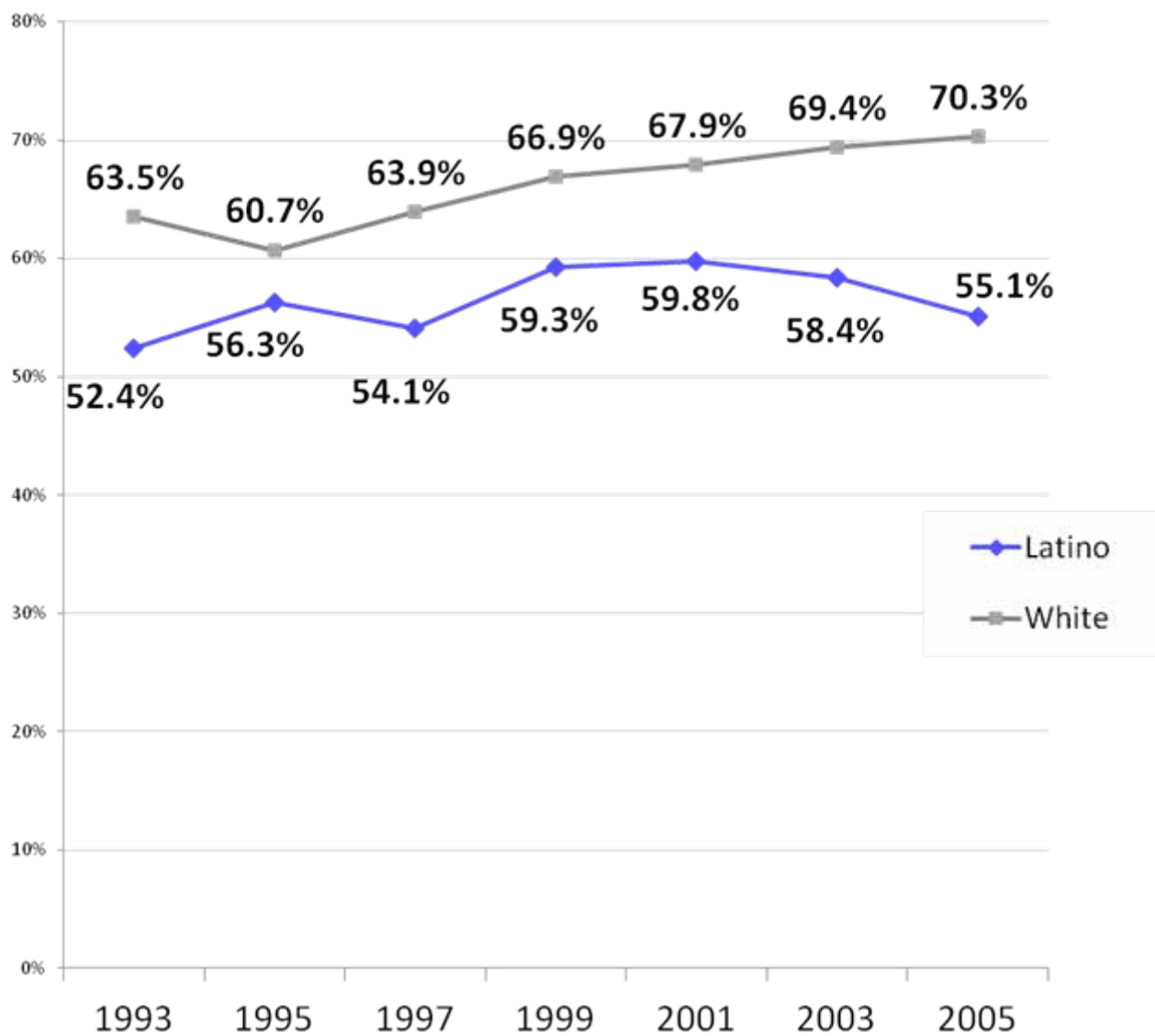
## Cohort Graduation Rate, 2010, Limited English Proficiency

■ White

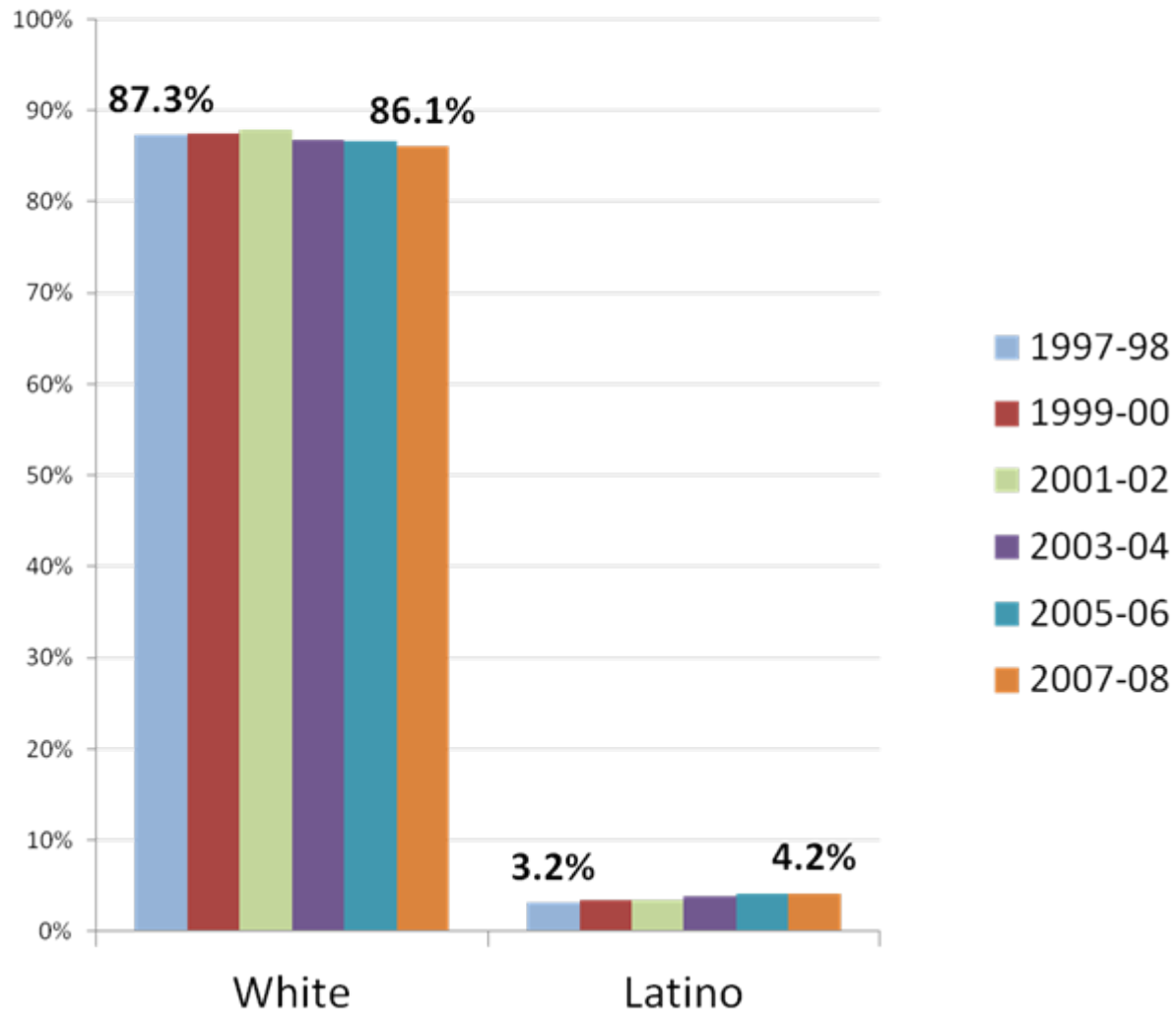
■ Limited English Proficiency



## High School Graduates Entering College, Oregon

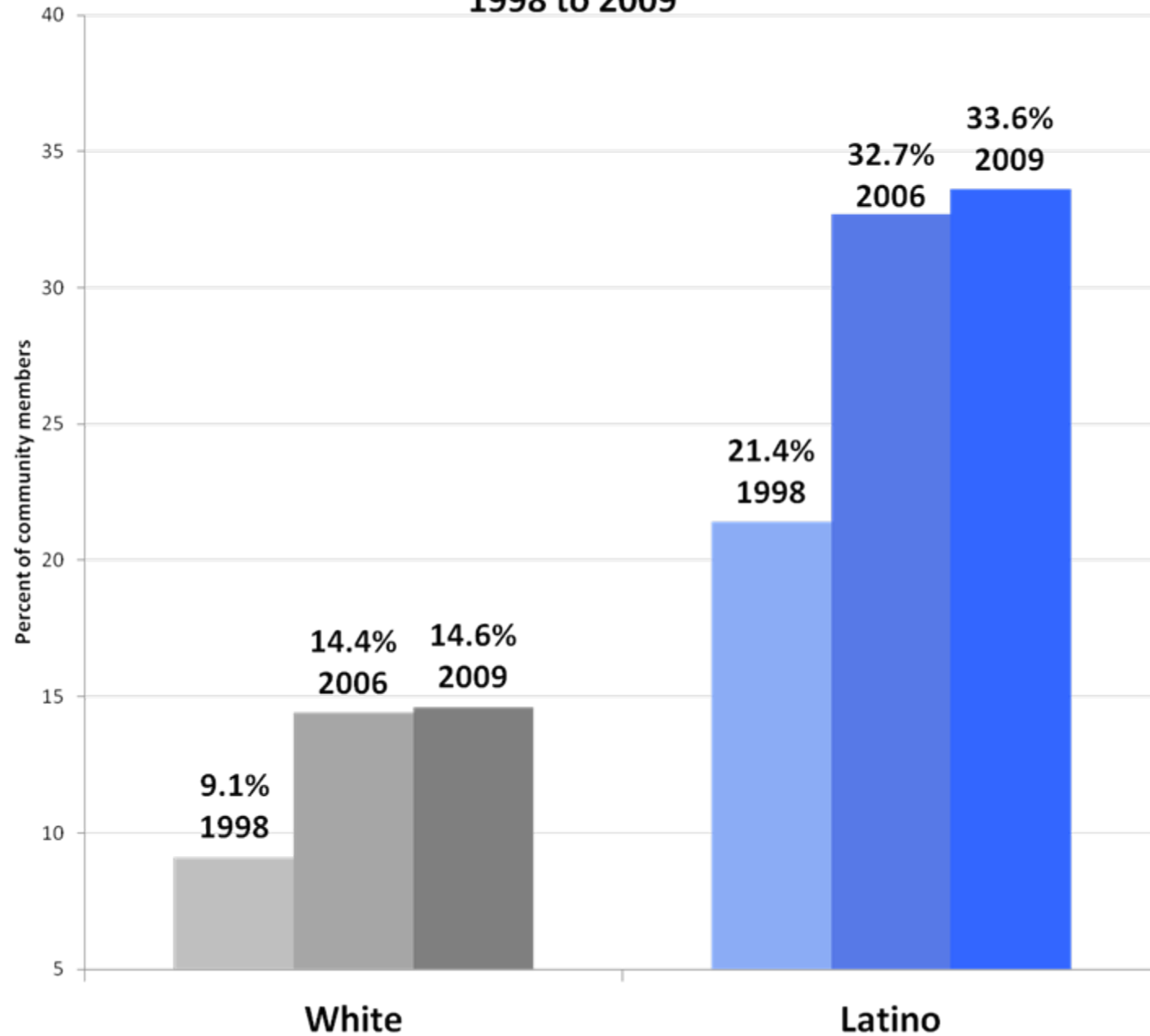


## Degrees Awarded by Oregon's Public Universities, 1998 to 2008

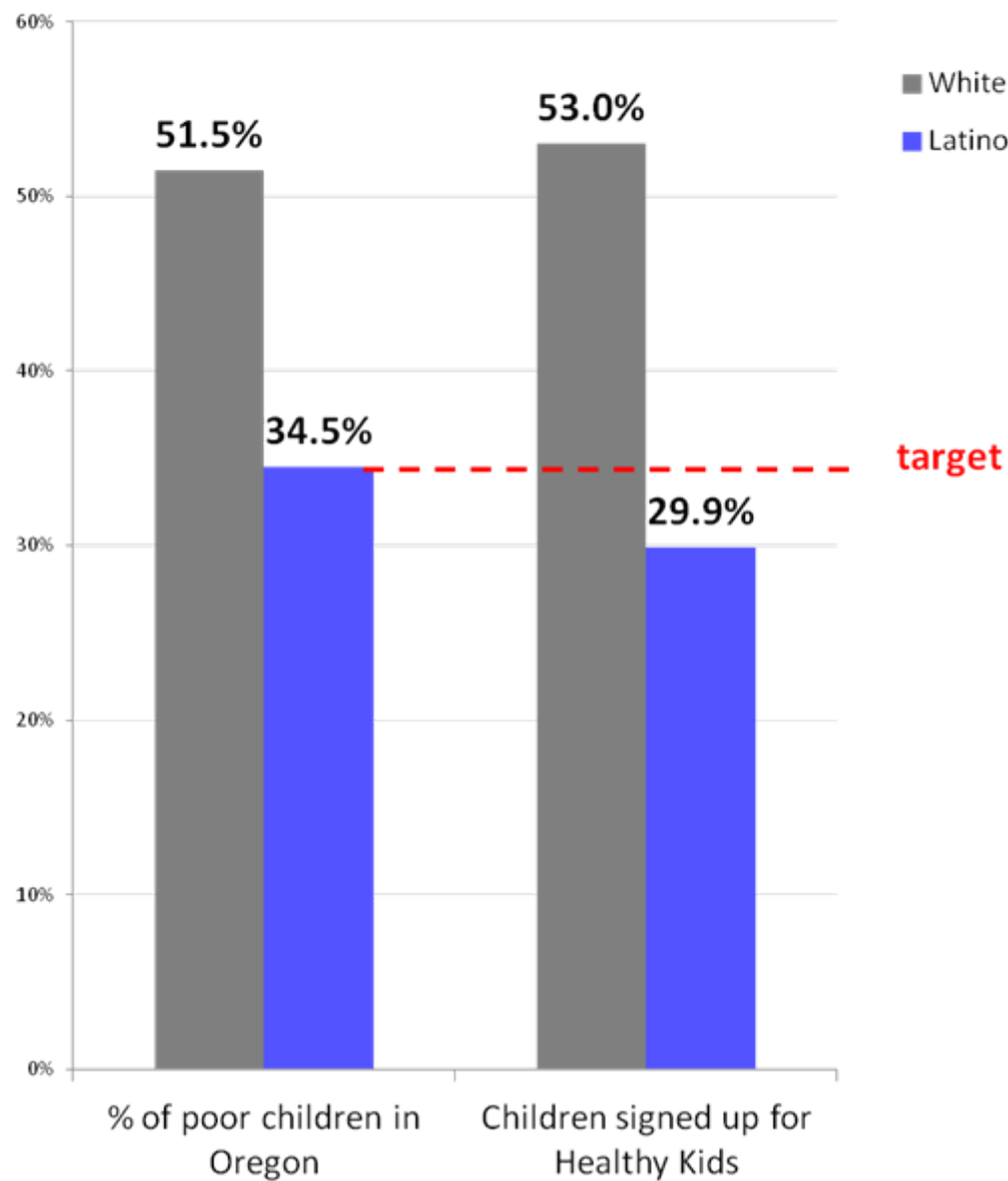


***But Latinos in 2008 are 11.0% of Oregon's population (and 8.0% in 2000)  
... so disparity is worsening!***

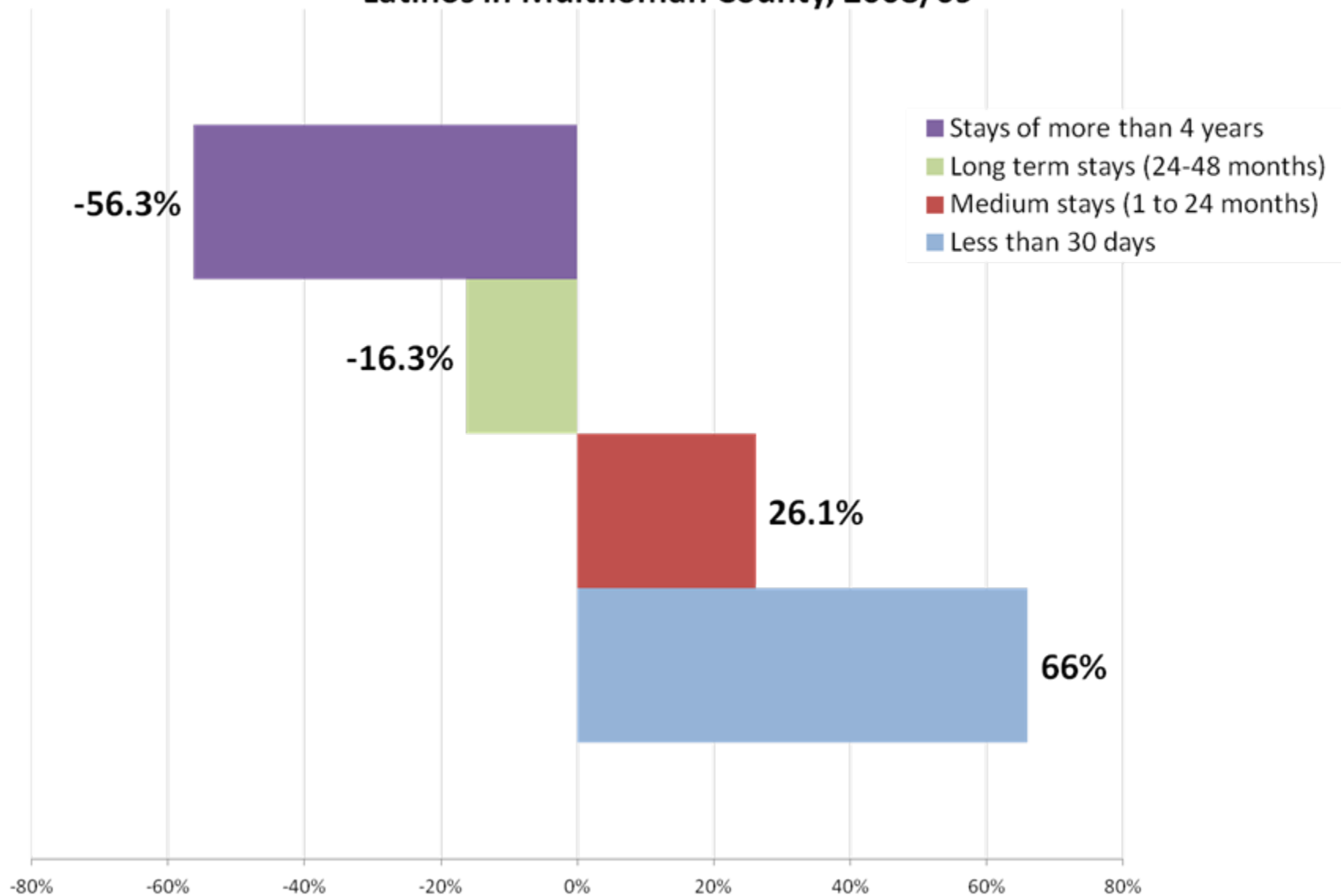
# Percent of Oregonians Without Health Insurance, 1998 to 2009



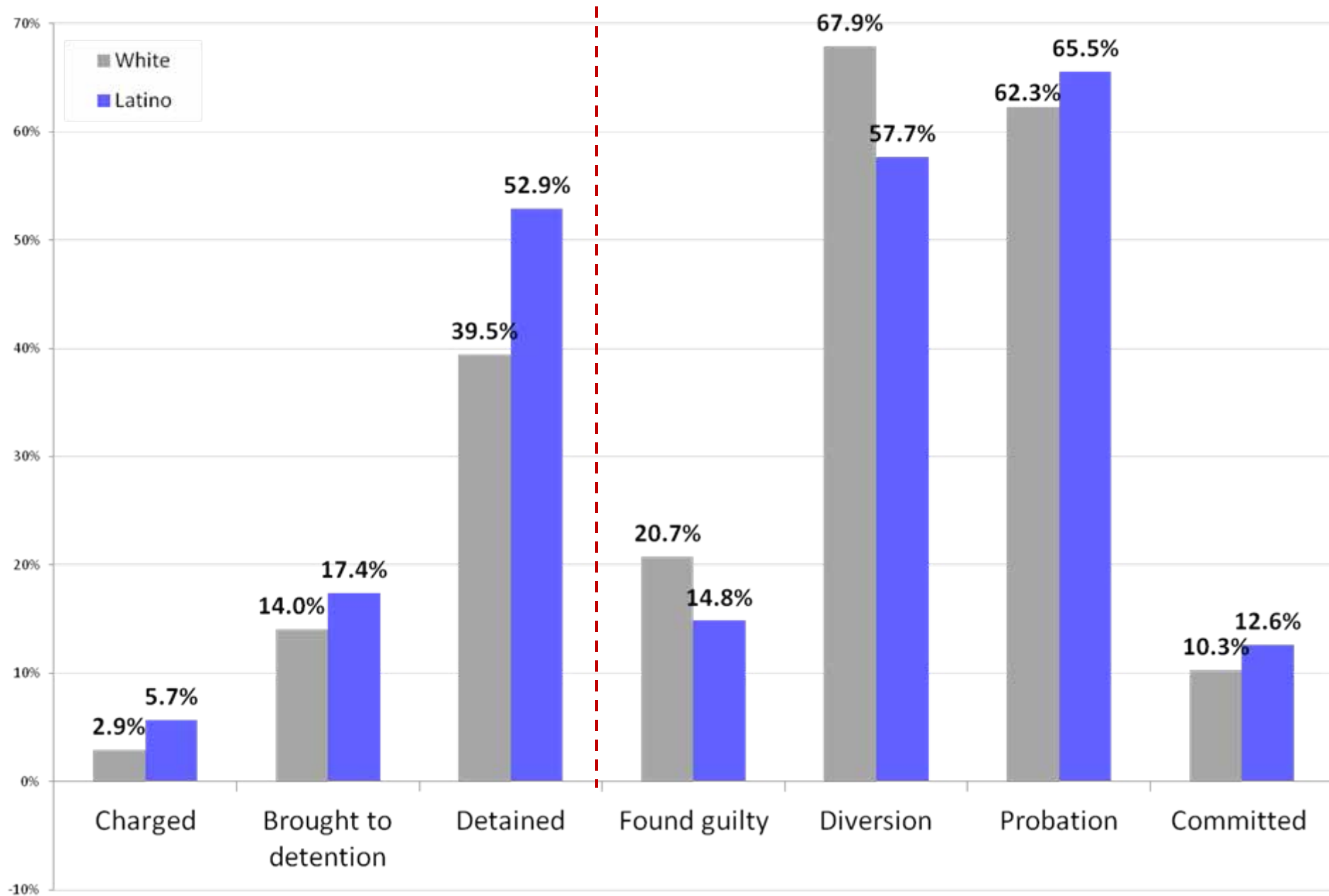
## Enrollment in Healthy Kids, Oregon, September 2010



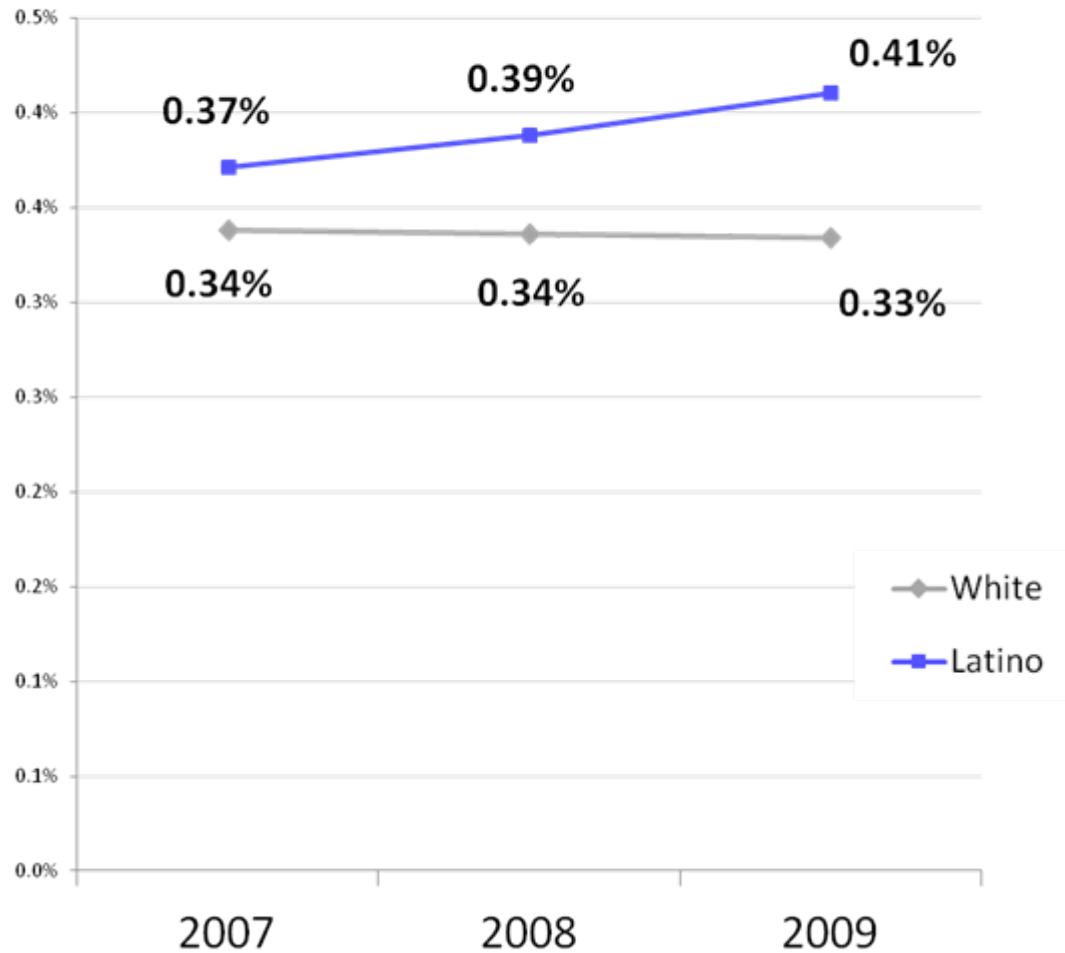
## Disproportionality in Foster Care Length of Stay Latinos in Multnomah County, 2008/09



## Juvenile Justice Decisions, Multnomah County, 2009



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



# Secure Communities

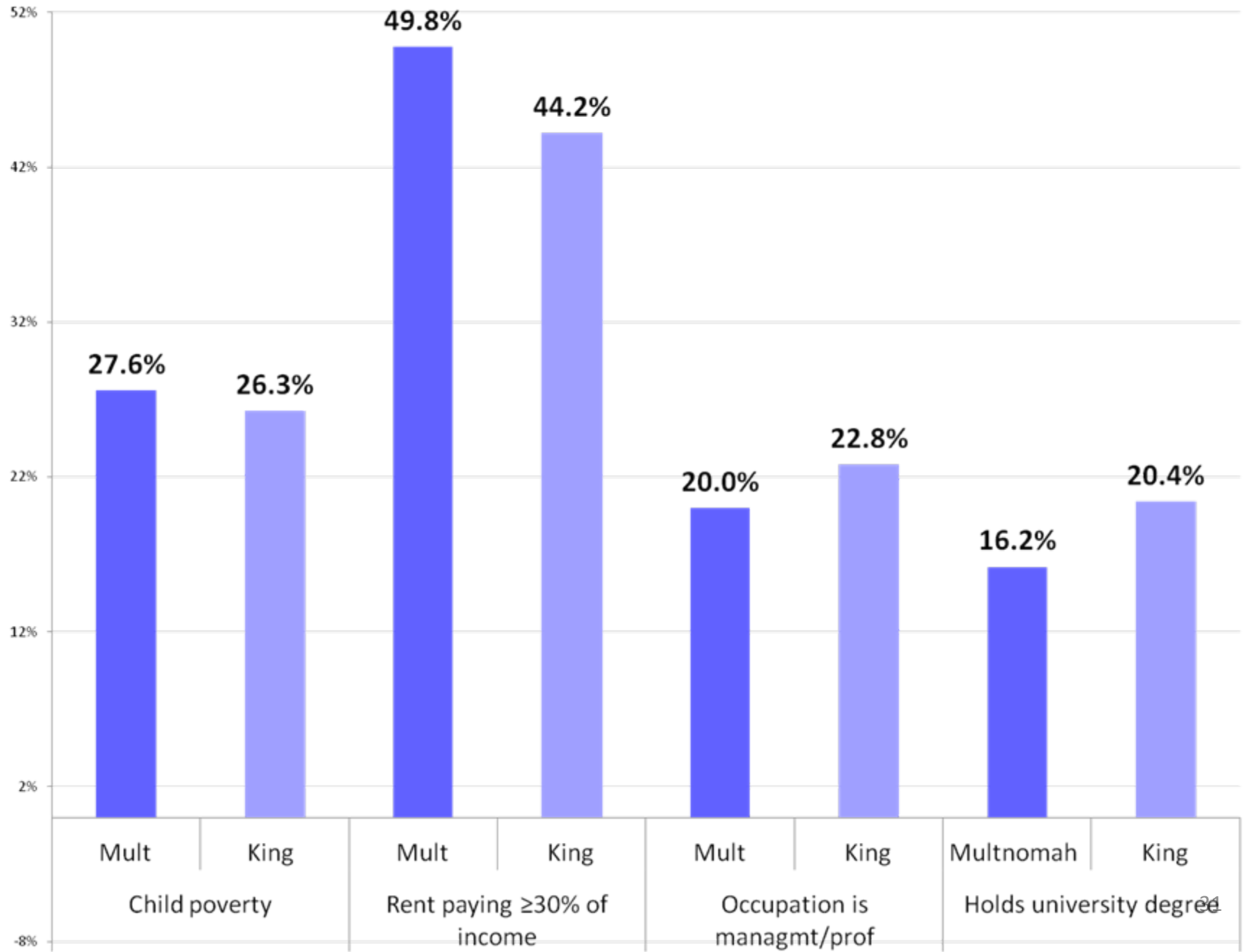
- In 2010, Multnomah County implemented this program with the purpose of identifying & deporting “criminal aliens”
  - All people charged have fingerprint scans compared with Homeland Security’s database
  - If a match exists, ICE is notified to arrange deportation
- By the end of 2011, Secure Communities
  - Multnomah County deported 127 people
  - 35% had **no** criminal record
- Stated objectives of removing dangerous criminals is in deep question
- The net has widened beyond its purpose in ways that harm our community
- And vulnerable to other anti-immigrant legislation such as IMAGE and REAL ID Act

# Under-resourcing Latinos (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%
	Latinos	11.0%	1.6%

- Latinos fare even worse when reflecting the numbers in poverty

## Latinos, Comparison of Multnomah and King Counties, 2009



	Size of Disparity 2007	Size of Disparity 2009	Direction of Change
	% worse for Latinos	% worse for Latinos	from 2007 to 2009
<b>Occupation</b>			
Management & professional jobs	84.7%	29.5%	↑
Service jobs	91.6%	82.2%	↑
<b>Poverty</b>			
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%	↑
<b>Housing</b>			
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%	↓
<b>Education</b>			
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%	↑
<b>Incomes</b>			
Individual	137.0%	121.3%	↑
Family	87.3%	80.6%	↑
Retirement	37.9%	177.2%	↓
Female single parent	66.8%	93.7%	↓
<b>Health</b>			
Health insurance	127.1%	130.1%	↓
<b>Unemployment</b>			
Unemployment rate	63.6%	106.9%	↓
<b>Criminal &amp; Juvenile Justice</b>			
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%	↓
<b>Comparison with King County</b>			
Composite of 5 measures***	2.5%	-56.8%	↑

# Bright Spots

- We affirm efforts 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 efforts to advance the Visibility Initiative. This 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

- Expand support for culturally-specific programs
  - Early childhood
  - Seniors
  - Health education
  - Efforts to address teen pregnancy
- Community verified data
- Engage with the community to truly understand the impact of discriminatory policies and legislation, and identify alternatives, including Secure Communities, REAL ID and IMAGE programs

# Next Steps . . .

- We want a commitment from the Board of Commissioners that you will meet with the CCC to discuss
  - A public commitment to racial equity
  - Culturally-appropriate data and research practices
  - The allocation of resources for culturally-specific programs
- Chair & Commissioners schedule a community dialogue with Latino community leaders and organizations and create an action plan to address disparities
- Make time to visit our Latino nonprofits and neighborhood centers to better understand the issues we work on and to better know our community

# *Thank you!*

- For more information
  - Julia Meier, CCC,  
[info@coalitioncommunitiescolor.org](mailto:info@coalitioncommunitiescolor.org)
  - The report is available online at  
[www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org](http://www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org)

