



Coalition of
Communities of
Color



Portland State
UNIVERSITY



***The African American Community in
Multnomah County:
An Unsettling Profile...***

Special Thanks To:

Coalition of Communities of Color

Portland State University

Multnomah County

City of Portland

United Way

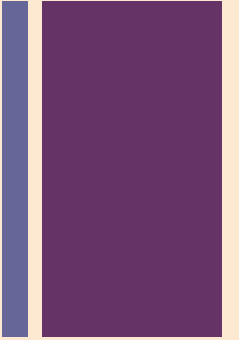
Northwest Health Foundation

Dr. Lisa K. Bates

Dr. Ann Curry-Stevens



And Thanks to These Community Groups



- **Portland African American Leadership Forum**

- **Urban League of Portland**

- **PCRI**

- **SEI**

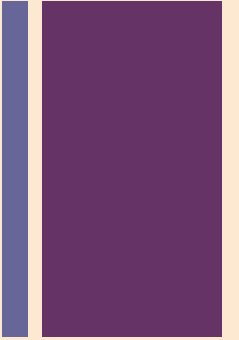
- **BPI**

- ***And to many others in our community, who have also signed onto***

our report letter...



The African American Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile...



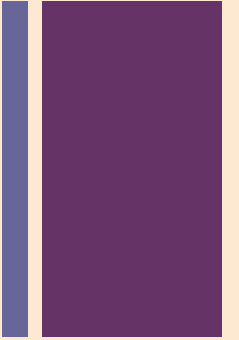
“It’s all right to tell a man to lift himself by his own bootstraps, but it is cruel just to say to a bootless man that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps.”

“We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there "is" such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.”

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



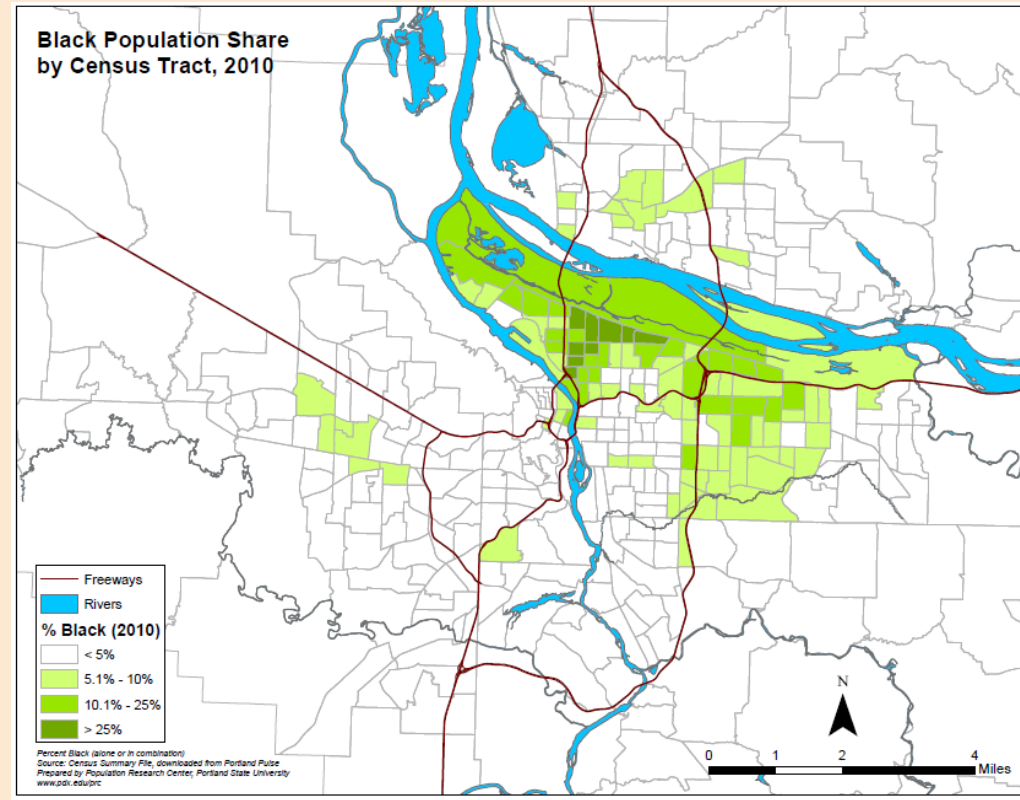
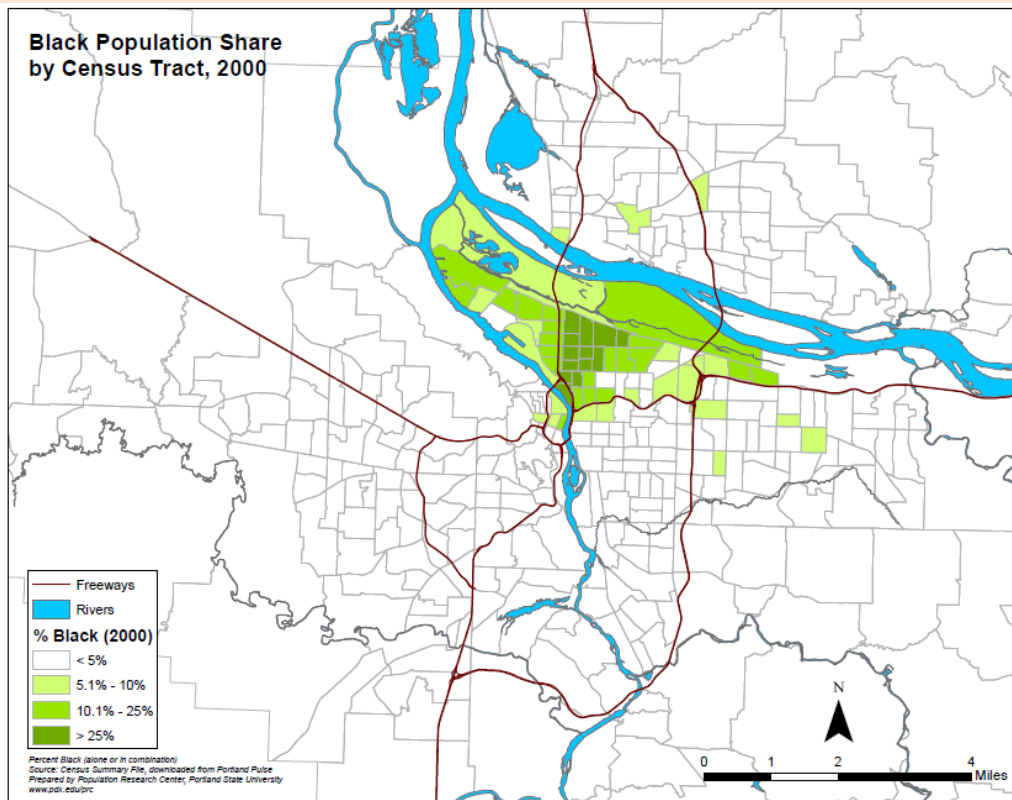
African-American community profile



- Data assembled on a range of indicators in key policy areas
 - Economic opportunity, housing, education, child welfare, health, the criminal justice system, and civic engagement
- Data show disparities that must be addressed through an equity lens, using strategies that are specific to the needs of African Americans and other vulnerable populations
- Data are often not sufficient for policy development, implementation, and evaluation



African-American Presence in Multnomah County: Remarks from Authors



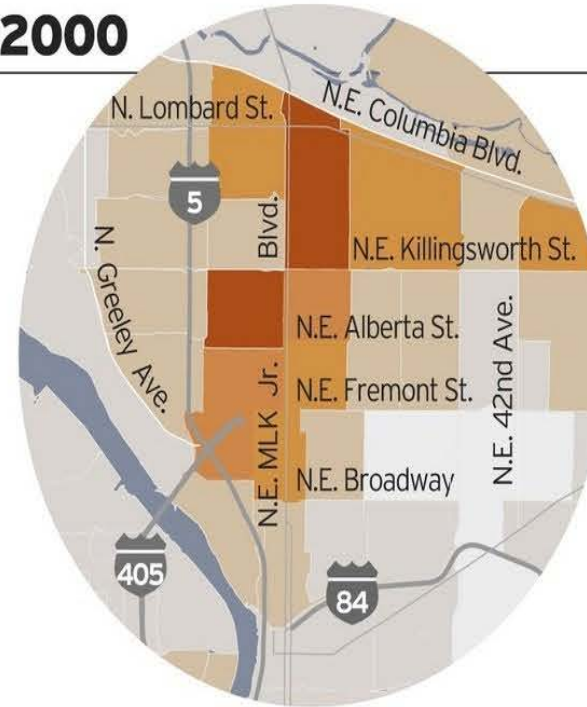
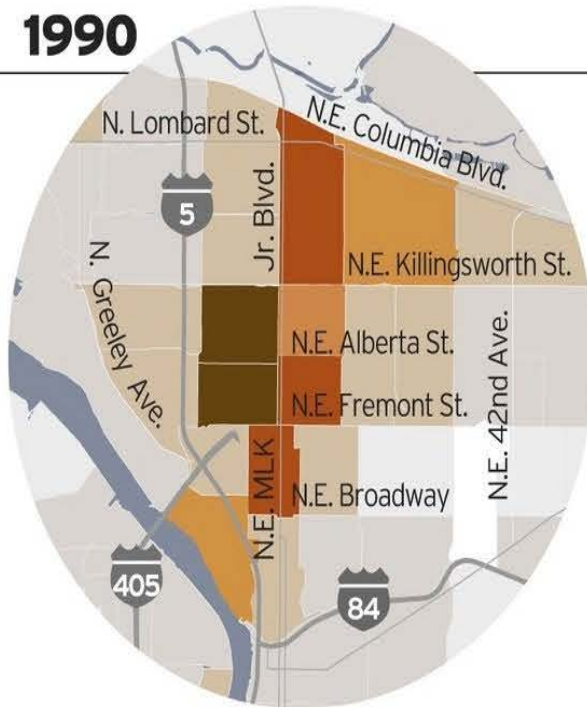
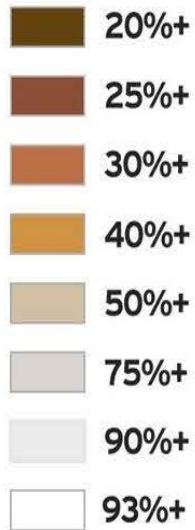
+ African-American Presence in Multnomah County

Percent white in
Northeast Portland

1990

2000

2010



Source: U.S. Census

DAN AGUAYO/THE OREGONIAN

No neighborhood in Northeast Portland remains majority Black as of 2010

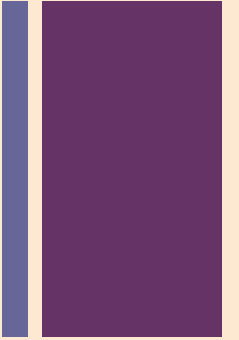
+ African-American Presence in Multnomah County: an overview



- Black unemployment is persistently high and employment recovers slowly after recession
 - Average 17.5% for 2009-2011
- Black wealth building is further limited by very low homeownership rates
 - 32% of Black households are homeowners
 - Homeownership is a bulwark against gentrification



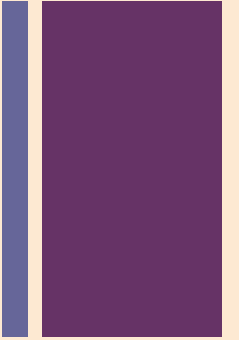
African-American Presence in Multnomah County: an overview



- Black children and youth are not thriving in local institutions
 - Serious disparities in school achievement, graduation
 - Exclusionary discipline disparities of 3.5-to-1 are strongly related to Black high school drop out
 - Juvenile justice policies like Measure 11 can derail young people's potential with adult convictions



African-American Presence in Multnomah County: an overview



- Black well-being is threatened by health disparities in areas from diabetes to maternal care
 - Relates to environmental justice in neighborhoods
- Black community has far too many negative encounters with police and the criminal justice system
 - Ongoing organizing against racial profiling and sentencing disparities

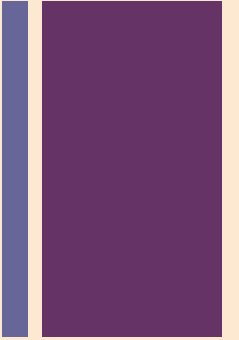


Housing

Maxine Fitzpatrick: Executive Director, PCRI



From the Report:



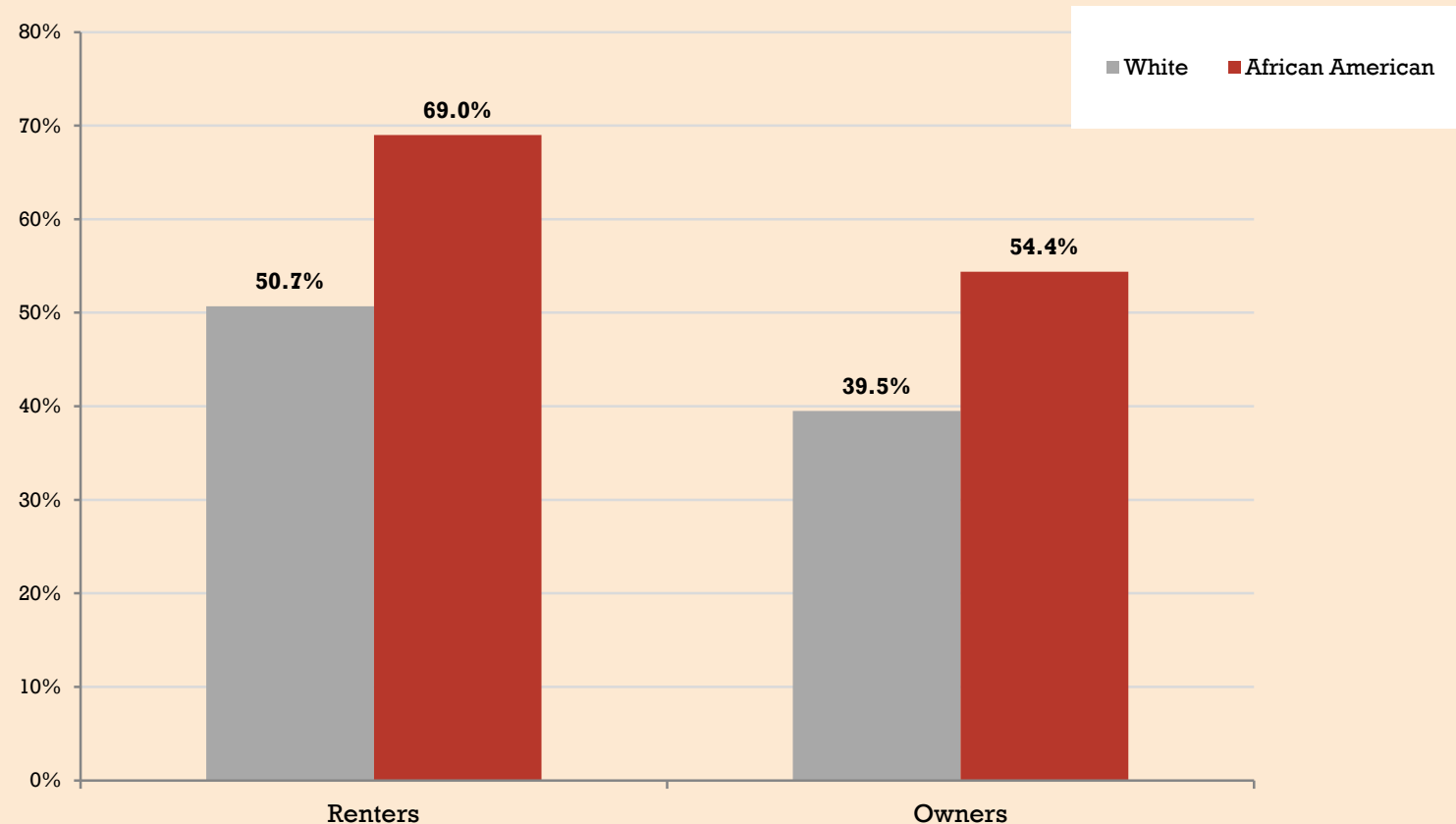
- *Despite over fifty years of Fair Housing law, African-Americans continue to face serious disparities as described here in terms of housing affordability, homeownership and access to mortgages, homelessness, and discrimination.*
- *In Portland, as in other cities, strong and cohesive Black neighborhoods were formed out of segregation, but were partially dismantled by highway and redevelopment construction and redlined, or systematically denied credit and investment, leading to decline.*
- *As policymakers targeted these neighborhoods in the Albina district, market pressures quickly escalated, causing another displacement for African-Americans from well-situated neighborhoods with new amenities to more distant, less accessible and amenity-poor neighborhoods in the mid-County.*

+ Housing: Affordability

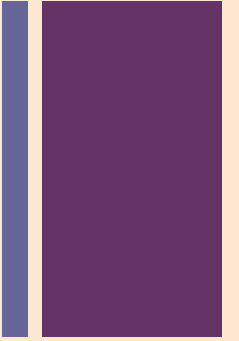
Households
spending
more than
30% of their
income on
housing

Source: ACS 2010

**Those spending more than 30% of their income on housing,
Multnomah County, 2010**



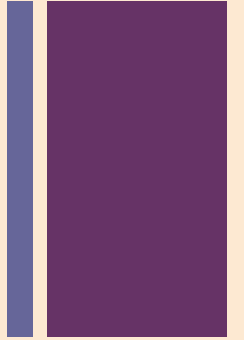
+ Housing: Homeownership



- Just 32% of Black households in Multnomah County are homeowners.
- The Black-White homeownership gap is 27 percentage points.



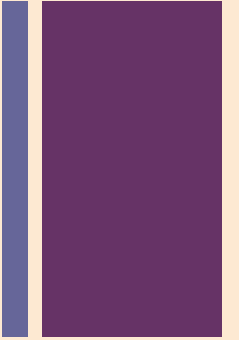
Housing: Policy Recommendations



- **Dedicate resources to research homelessness in the African-American community, and dedicate resources to the African American homeless, perhaps per the County's input into the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.**
- **Address the homeownership and stability of African-American seniors by funding projects that support homeownership retention and culturally specific rental housing such as the redevelopment of Kafoury Court which converts 4 units into 42 units.**
- **Support the full implementation of the City of Portland's homeownership program, *Operation HOME*, created to mitigate the minority homeownership gap by creating 3,500 new African-American homeowners over a 10 year period.**
- **Mitigate the displacement of African-Americans in accordance with the Interstate Urban Renewal Area Housing Strategy aimed at minimizing displacement per a commitment made by the City of Portland in 2002 and never honored.**



Housing: Policy Recommendations Cont'd.



- **Dedicate “watchdog” staff to legislated Section 8 Voucher non-discrimination, for African American clients specifically.**
- **Allocate direct County funds to The DDSD Housing Assistance Program, and allocate more County money to any rental assistance programs.**
- **Increase penalties for landlords that refuse to comply with the Healthy Homes Program, and find best ways to support staff to address underline offenses as soon as they occur.**
- **Make a public a statement outlining how county services are undermined by urban renewal and TIF, to underline the County’s perspective on the budget impact of urban renewal policies as presently implemented.**

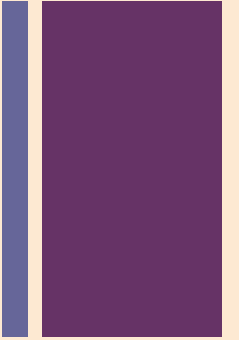


Child Welfare and Education

**Kali Thorne Ladd: Executive Director, KairosPdx
Board Member, Portland Community College**



The Status of Children in Homes & Schools



- **CHILD WELFARE:**

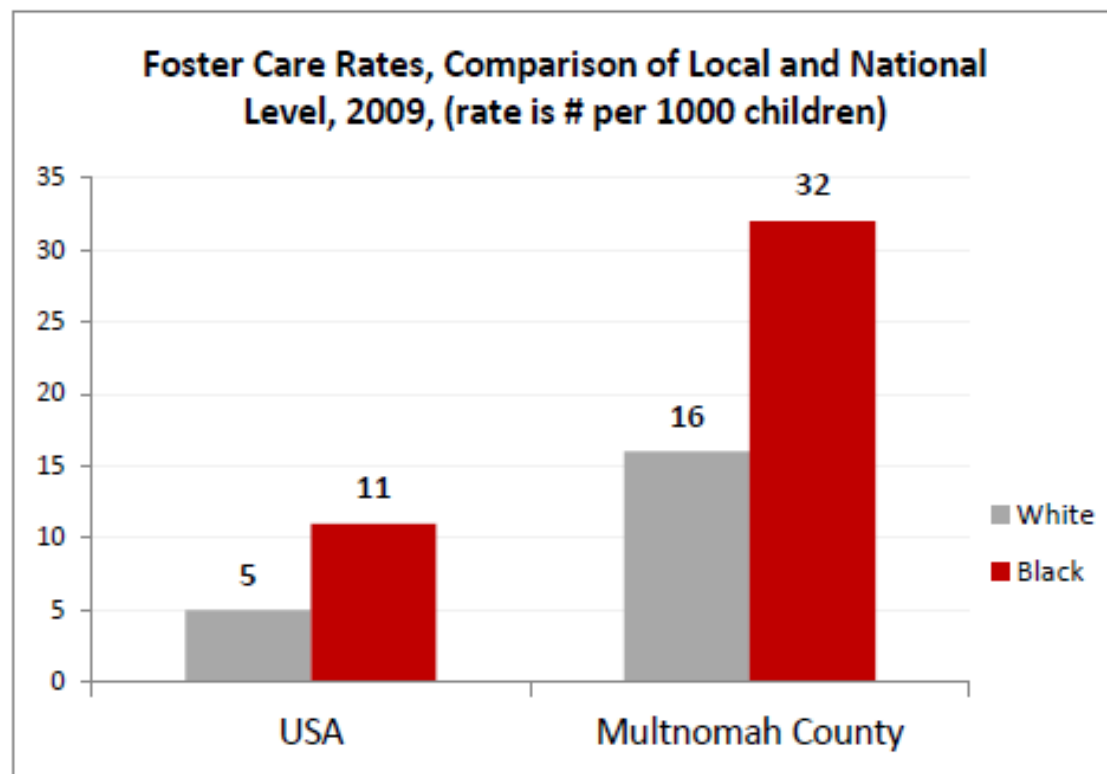
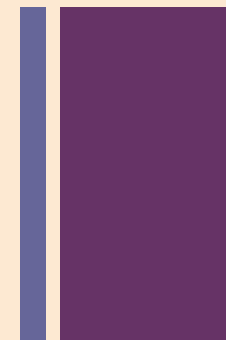
Racial disproportionality and disparity in state child welfare systems have been of growing concern in the state of Oregon. This issue rose to the level of an executive order from then-Governor Kulongoski in 2009 establishing a Child Welfare Equity Task Force charged with reducing racial disproportionality in the state system.

- **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT:**

The racial achievement gap is perpetuated by policies that fail to acknowledge the limited access to early childhood programs, housing, health care, and economic opportunities that impact families over generations. The long standing problems for education in the African-American community are illustrated in the current profile of educational attainment for adults



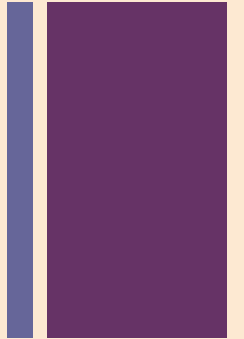
Child welfare: Foster Care Rates



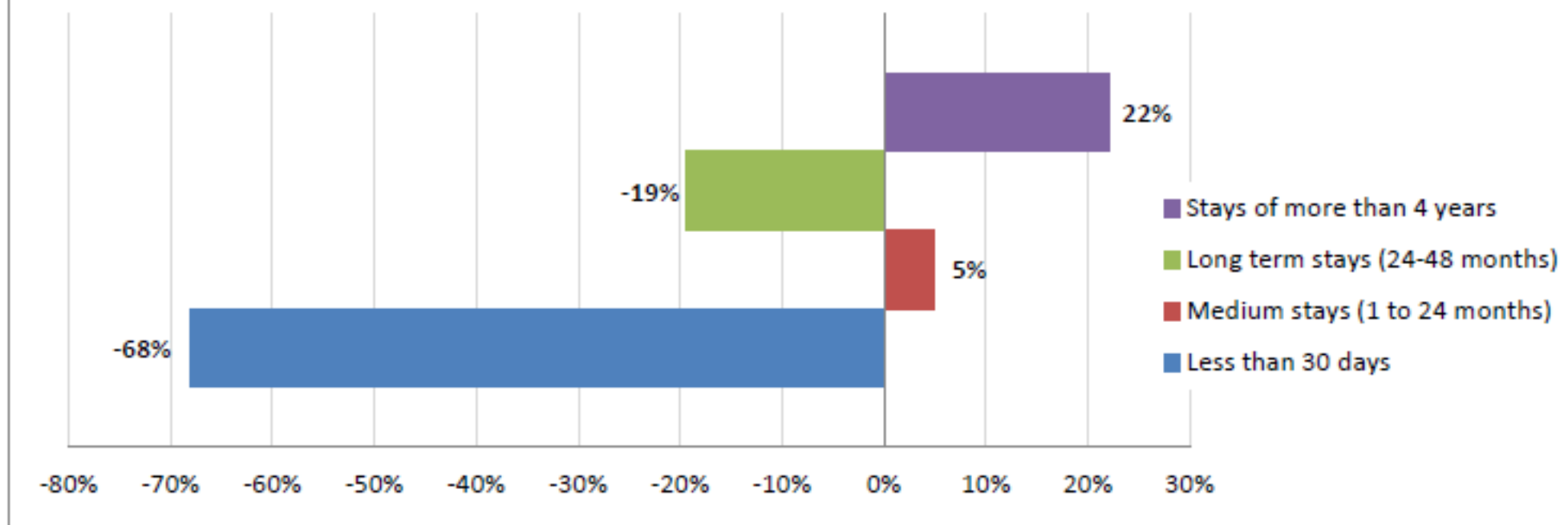
Source: Curry-Stevens' calculations for Multnomah County from data from Miller et al. (2009); for national data, see Child Welfare League of America (2008).



Child Welfare: Stays In Foster Care

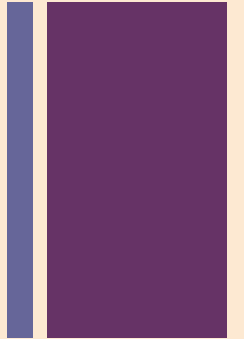


**Disproportionality in Foster Care Length of Stay,
Blacks in Multnomah County, 2008/09**

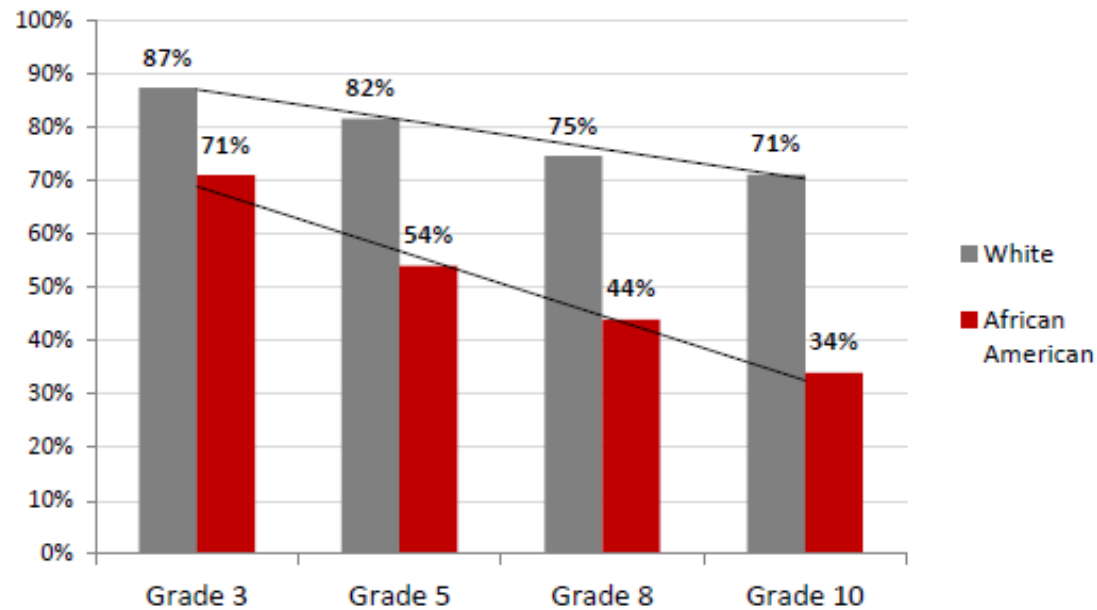




Education: Achievement Testing Gaps

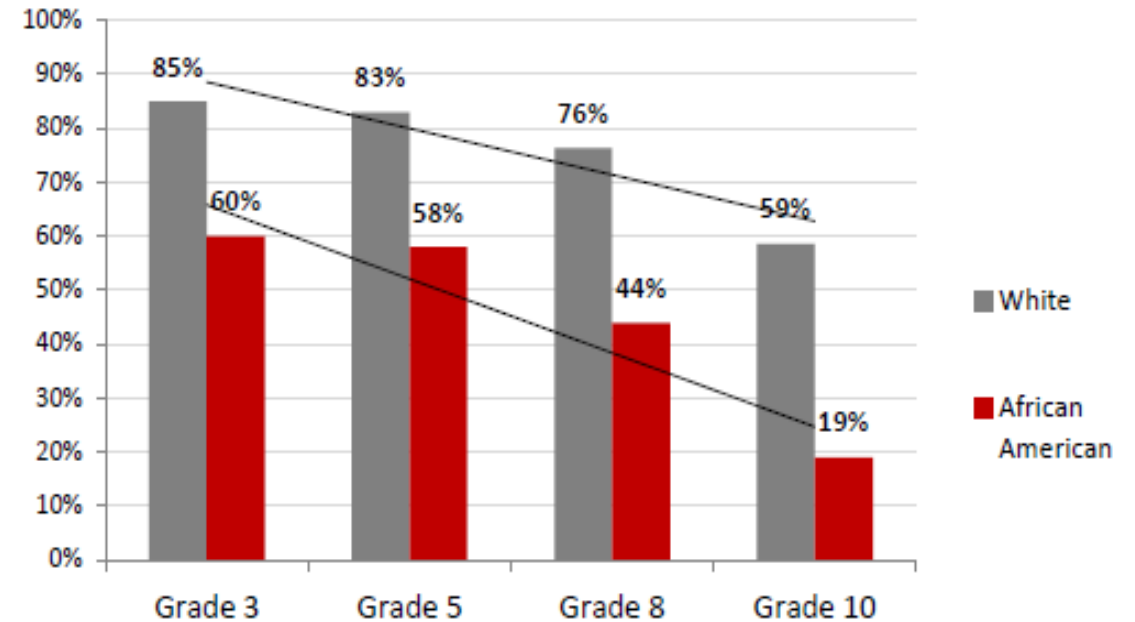


Reading/Literature Scores, Multnomah County, 2008
(% who meet/exceed benchmarks)



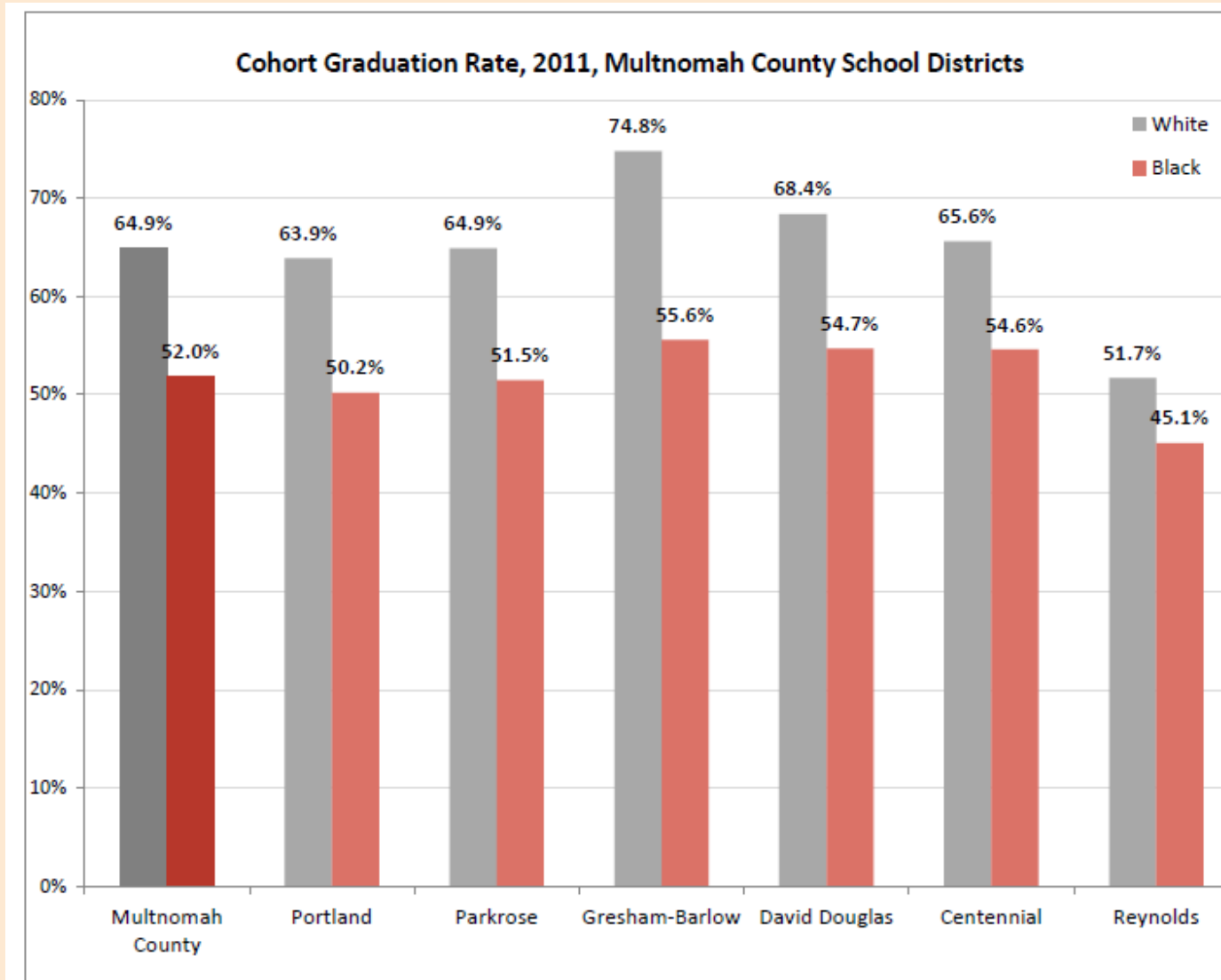
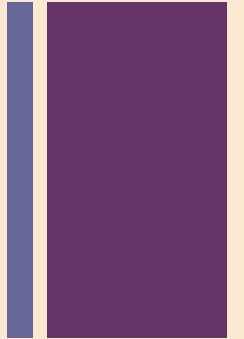
Source: Author's calculations from Oregon Department of Education data tallied by Pat Burk.

Mathematics Scores, Multnomah County, 2008
(% who meet/exceed adequacy)





Education: High School Graduation

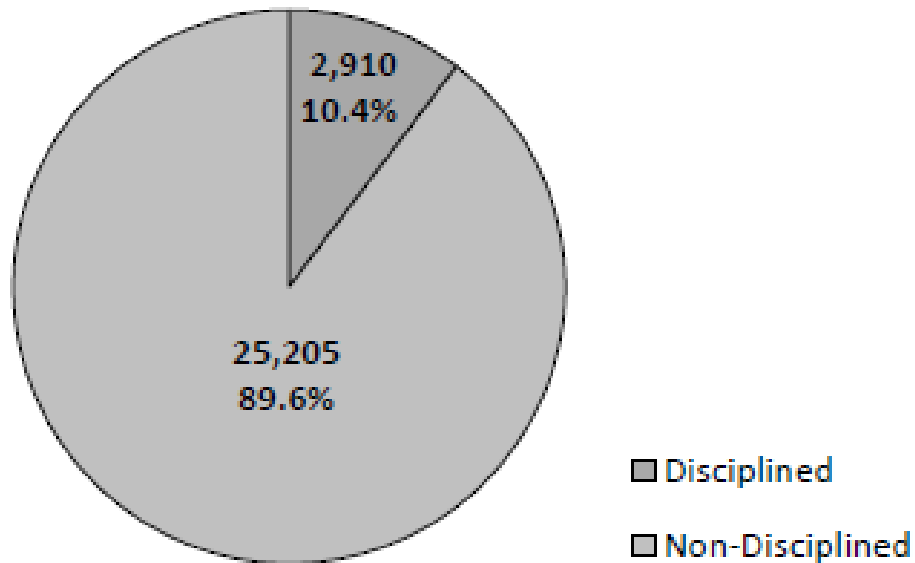


Source: Curry-Stevens' calculations of Oregon Department of Education's data on the Cohort Graduation Rate.

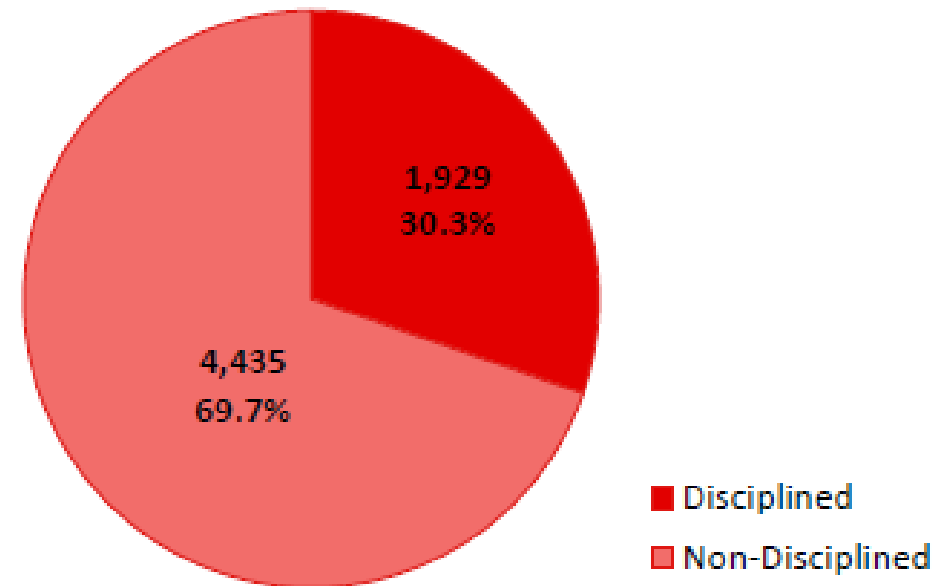


Education: Discipline Disparities

Approx. Discipline levels among White students Multnomah County, 2010



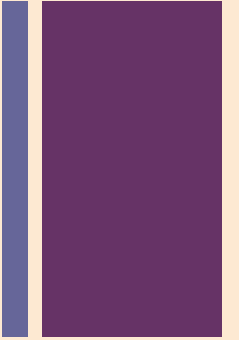
Approx. Discipline levels among Black students, Multnomah County, 2010



Source: Adapted from Multnomah County Commission on Children, Families and Communities, 2012.⁹² Levels have been adjusted by using approximate values for the number of discipline incidents per student who faces discipline.



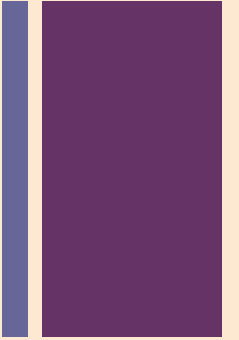
Child Welfare & Education: Policy Recommendations



- Recruit African American foster and adoptive homes by implementing targeted recruitment and support strategies. Expand racially and culturally diverse pool of relative and non-relative foster and adoptive resources.
- Enhance equity through the adoption of specific practices such as community partnerships, family group decision-making and structured decision-making that can minimize bias where discretion exists.
- When the County reauthorizes its Schools Uniting Neighborhoods contracts and grant allocations, prioritize investments in African-American CBOs who can work in schools with high Suspension/Expulsion track records to decrease that rate and decrease the prison pipeline.
- When SUN is making allocations, in addition to the Poverty Index, the County should apply an equity index that looks at the Racial Achievement Gap to determine where resources are invested.
- Have SUN Linkages program invests in strategic partnerships with more organizations that serve young African-American children in the region to provide training and resources for families and caregivers, such as foster parents and culturally specific Parent Coordinators.



Child Welfare & Education: Policy Recommendations Cont'd.



- The Early Learning HUB should invest in a Community Education Worker model that builds on the existing Community Health worker model and contracts with culturally specific organization to work with families with children 0-6.
- SUN schools consider partnership with Alternative and/or Charter schools that are serving a majority of underrepresented students.
- Fund an update to the report *Disproportionate Discipline Data* released in 2012.

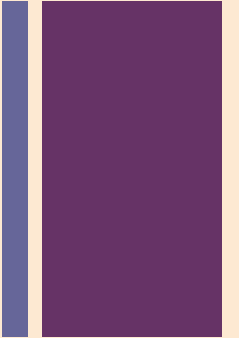


Health

**Lamar Tillman: Community Outreach
Coordinator, Planned Parenthood Columbia
Willamette**



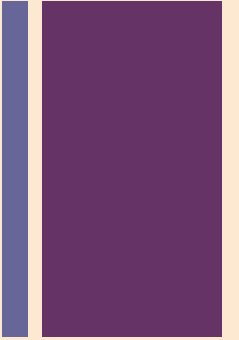
Existing Health Threats



- Health outcome disparities for African Americans in Multnomah County are severe for some indicators. African Americans have the highest rate of homicide mortality among all racial groups—a rate more than six times higher for African Americans than for Whites.
- In Multnomah County, African Americans are more than twice as likely as Whites to die of diabetes. This fits with national trends showing African Americans are diagnosed with diabetes at double the rate of Whites. Diabetes is associated with an increased risk for a number of serious, sometimes life-threatening complications. African Americans are almost 50% more likely to develop diabetic retinopathy (blindness) as Whites and almost three times as likely to suffer from lower-limb amputations.
- STD's, particularly gonorrhea remain a preventable disease that is chronic in African American communities.



In Multnomah County there are two other significant disparities:



■ **Low Birth Rates for African American Children:**

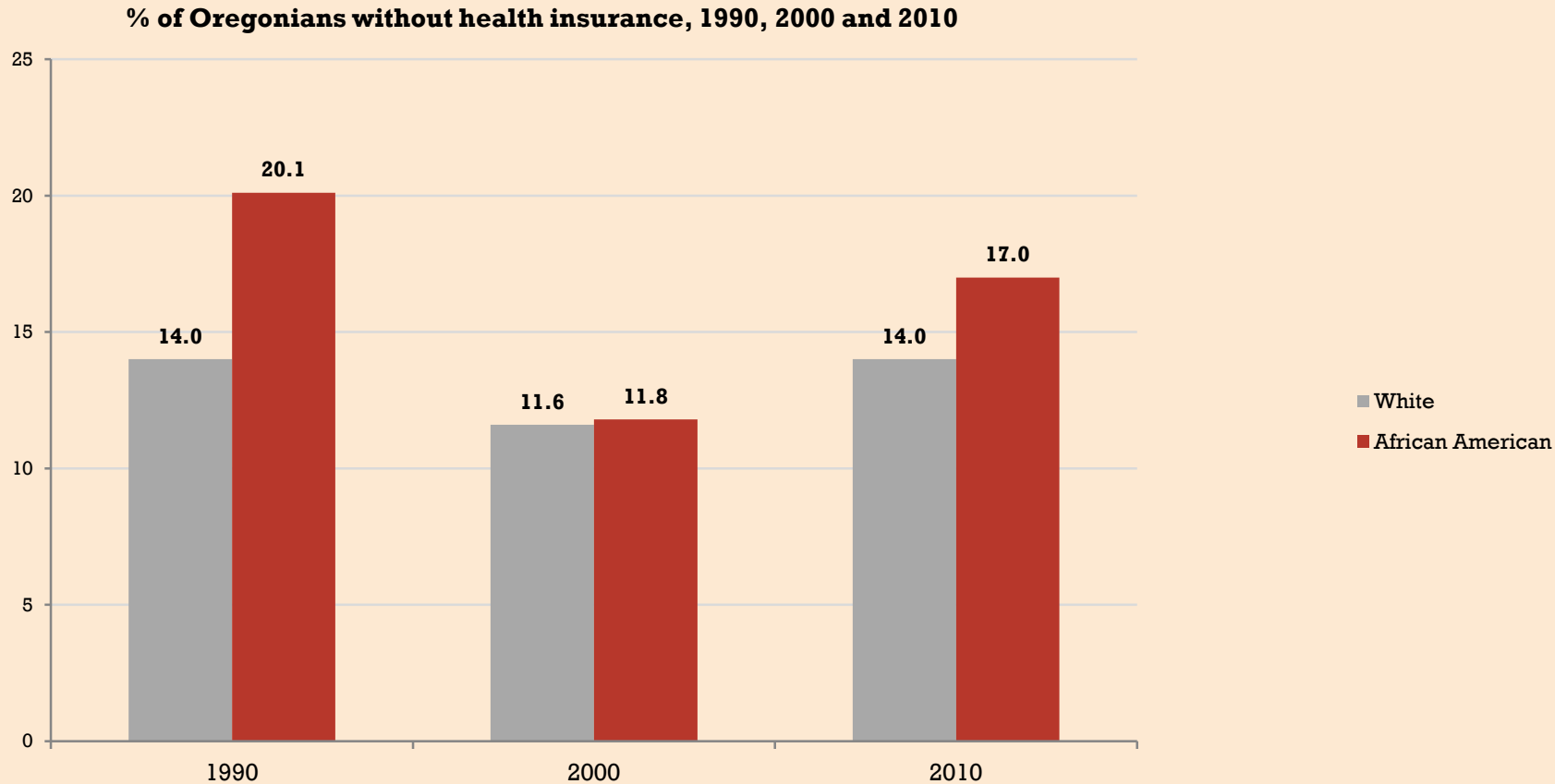
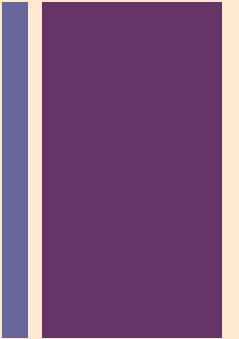
- In Multnomah county, African American mothers are almost twice as likely than Whites to give birth to low birth weight (LBW) babies.

■ **And access to Health Insurance:**

- With the Affordable Care Act there is a chance to ensure that African Americans with pre-existing conditions can have access to health insurance.
- For local children, it is noted that African-American children are not getting signed up for Healthy Kids. Black children represent 6.5% of poor children in Oregon, but only 4% of those covered under Healthy Kids.



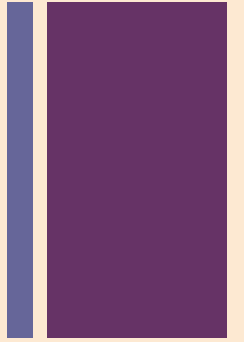
Health insurance disparities before Affordable Care Act



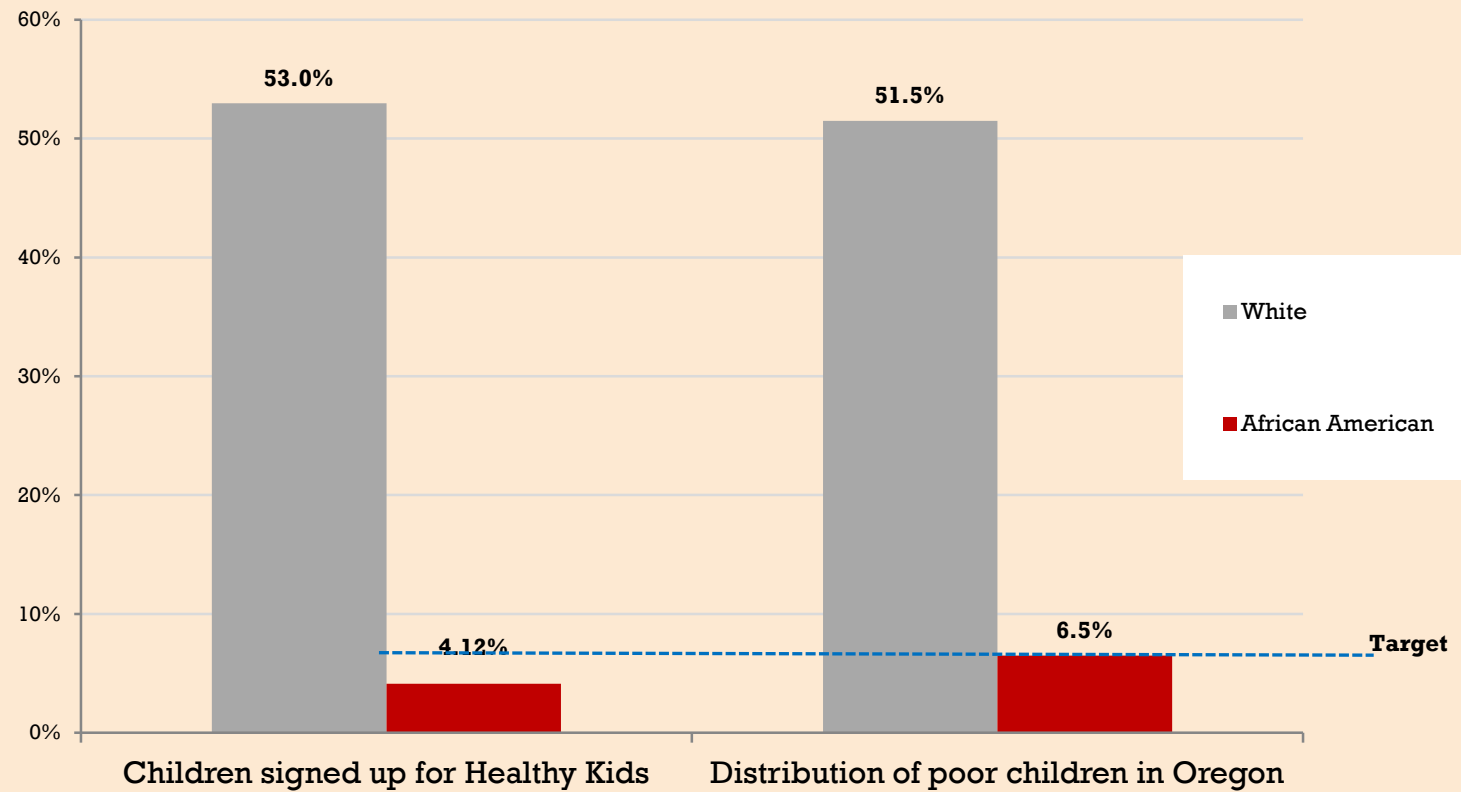
Source: Oregon Population Survey, Oregon Health Policy & Research, 1990-2006. Data for 2010 is from the American Community Survey Oregon Population Survey, Oregon Health Policy & Research



Health insurance disparities before Affordable Care Act

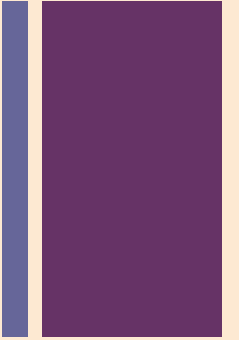


Enrollment in Healthy Kids, Oregon, September 2010





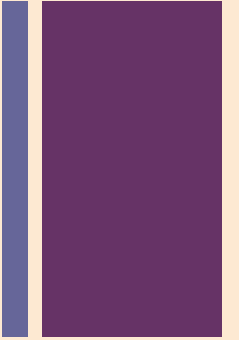
Health: Policy Recommendations



- Work with the Oregon Health Authority to develop and fund more culturally specific service delivery for African Americans, particularly for HIV/STD programs, addictions and mental health, and Maternal Child Health.
- Create and utilize strategies for culturally specific Community Health Workers, doulas (traditional childbirth attendants), and other traditional health workers to implement health promotion and treatment strategies such as
 - chronic disease self-management programs in community, corrections and clinical settings.
 - education and access to screening and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, such as gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and HIV.



Health: Policy Recommendations Cont'd.



- Increase support for and expand the impact of County programs that have demonstrated their ability to ensure the health of African Americans, such as the Healthy Birth Initiative and the Health Equity Initiative.
- Reinforce policies that restrict disproportionate exposure to, and marketing of, tobacco products, alcohol, and unhealthy food in low income communities and African American neighborhoods.
- Promote the upstream determinants of African American health by
 - addressing racism as an underlining contributor to health inequity and premature death,
 - supporting programs that reduce African American poverty and increasing access to wealth
 - supporting African American access to healthy housing and neighborhood stability,
 - supporting environmental justice-oriented work to reduce disproportionate exposure to hazards,
 - ensuring access to transit and parks and recreation opportunities.

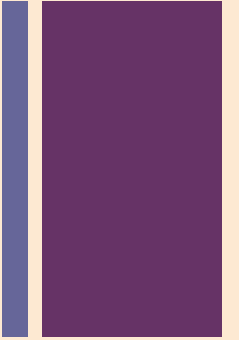


Criminal and Juvenile Justice

Midge Purcell: Director of Policy & Advocacy, Urban League of Portland



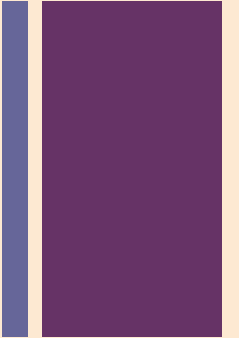
Overrepresentation in the System



- African-Americans have long been active on issues of bias in criminal justice, but the issue was raised to the level of statewide attention in the 1994 Supreme Court of Oregon's audit of racial bias. It concluded that "people of color are more likely to be arrested, charged, convicted and incarcerated, and less likely to be released on bail or put on probation."
- There is a lengthy history of policing practices in Multnomah County that treat people differently by race. Portland's controversial "drug-free zones" were used from 1992-1997 to ban people from neighborhoods based on suspicion—not conviction—of drug possession or sale. The exclusions were most likely to be enforced against African-Americans, representing nearly two-thirds of all violations and exclusions. In contrast, overwhelmingly White methamphetamine – related arrestees were rarely excluded. Due to this racial bias, the practice was terminated.

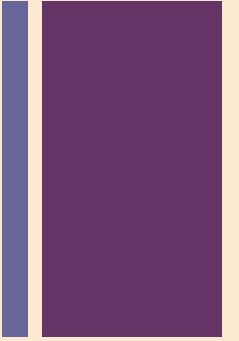


The County System



- A 2000 analysis of patterns of arrest, prosecution, sentencing and supervision in Multnomah County revealed over-representation of racial/ethnic minorities permeated most crime categories. Disparities exist at each stage of the criminal justice system: arrest, prosecution, verdicts, and sentencing.
- African Americans had the highest degree of over-representation in arrests for drug crimes, but were also disproportionately represented in other categories as well. While African Americans made up less than ten percent of the population of Multnomah County, they accounted for 21.7% of the Justice department's active adult caseload. At that time, African Americans in the County were over three times more likely to be represented in the Justice system than they were represented in the population as a whole.
- In addition, disparity existed in terms of supervision. In Multnomah County in 2009, Black, non-Hispanic adults made up 5.2% of the population and 24.11% of the population under supervision; White, non-Hispanic adults made up 73.35% of the population and 65.47% of the population under supervision. Additionally, African Americans were assessed at high risk to re-offend more often than Whites. Whites were more often assessed at limited risk to re-offend than other groups.

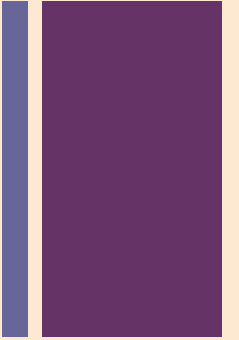
+ Criminal Justice: Adults



- Black adults make up 27% of the 'under supervision' population of Multnomah County, but only 5% of the population.
- More likely to be policed, charged, and sentenced.



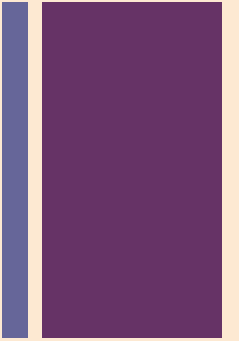
Criminal Justice: Juveniles and Measure 11



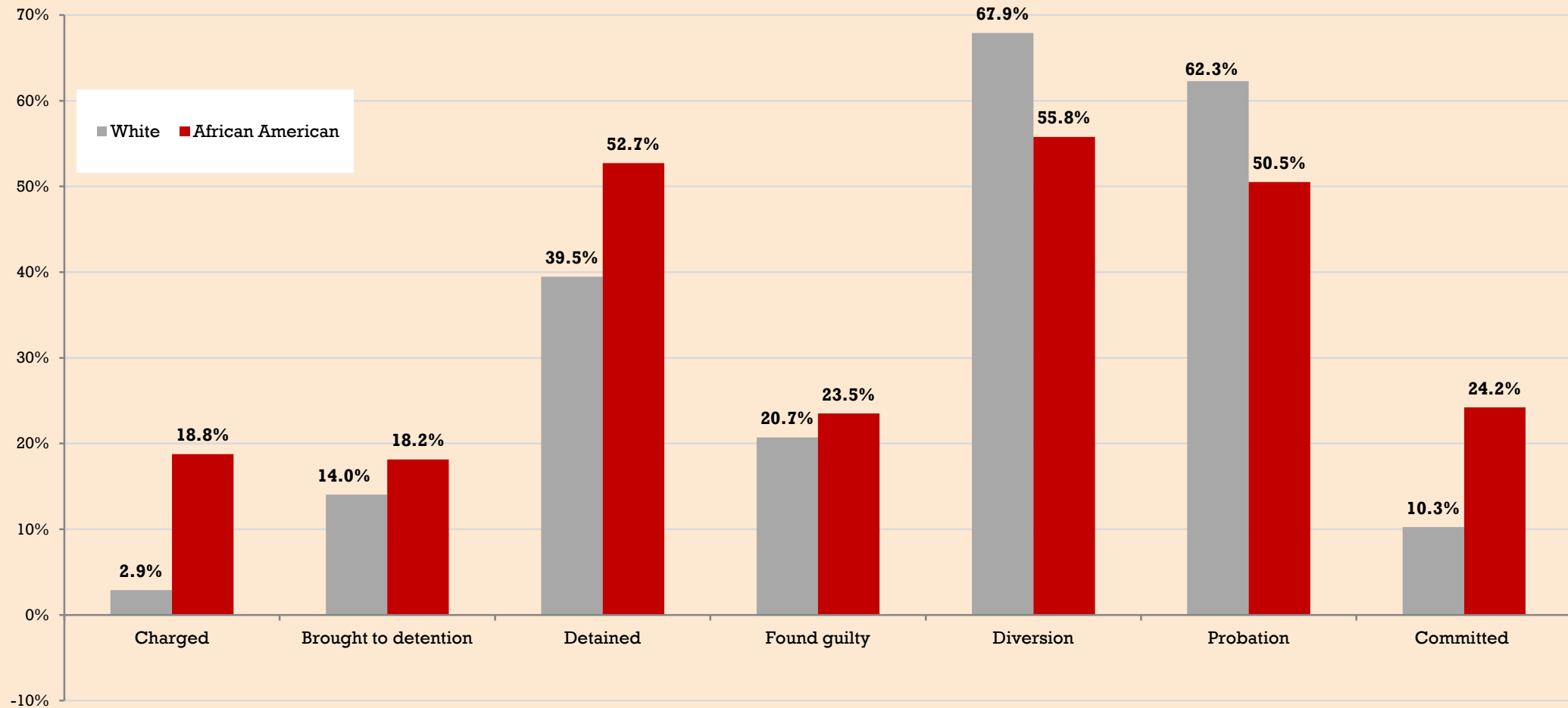
- Youth are over-represented in the juvenile justice system and more likely to be given custodial sentences.
- Youth charged under Measure 11 enter the adult system
 - African-Americans are 11% of the youth population, but 45% of the Measure 11 indictments.
 - But Black youth are less likely to be convicted.



Juvenile Justice:

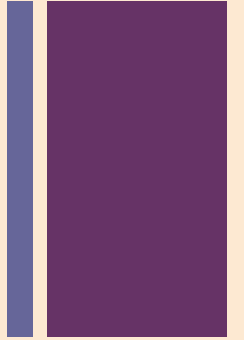


Juvenile Justice Decisions, Multnomah County, 2009





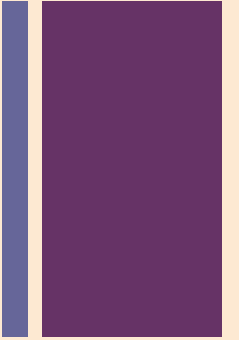
Criminal and Juvenile Justice: Policy Recommendations



- Prevent New Mandatory Minimum Sentences, which have a disproportionate impact on African Americans and other people of color.
- Evaluate the charging and sentencing practices relating to African American youth and Measure 11 and make changes to reduce their disproportionate representation in the criminal justice system.
- Remove the barriers to successful community re-entry faced by formerly incarcerated people. Strengthen investments in prison programs that reduce recidivism: programs that actually help prisoners succeed when they return to their communities, such as education, job training, mental health, and family support services. Release state prisoners back to the communities where they have the strongest support systems, rather than the county where they were convicted.
- Support legislation and programs that enable people to successfully transition from prison to the community. Enact antidiscrimination legislation that prevents employers from dismissing job applicants based solely on arrest and conviction history.
- Champion the County's decision to "ban the box" from its applications and expand its scope.
- Expand programs like "Project Clean Slate," which helps to navigate barriers by providing assistance with driver's licenses, job training, etc.



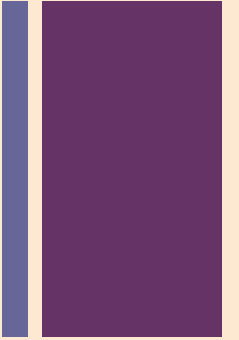
Criminal and Juvenile Justice: Policy Recommendations Cont'd.



- Invest in targeted, culturally specific and responsive programs, services and models that achieve measurable outcomes for African Americans—high-risk African American offenders specifically. Resources dedicated for justice Reinvestment through HB3194 should help fund these programs and services.
- Determine how African Americans focused and other culturally-specific organizations can best do business with the County, access county resources and be strong advocates and partners for systemically addressing disproportionality and over-representation in social services systems—criminal justice in particular (youth and adult).
- Name Racial Profiling as a tool to mark out African American citizens, and to namely label them as threats rather than citizens within the County.



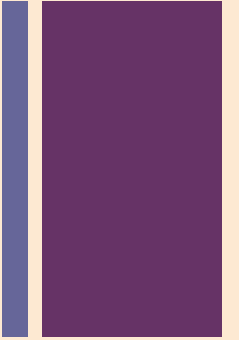
Opportunities for Multnomah County



- ***Name racism.*** Before us are both the challenge and the opportunity to become engaged with issues of race, racism and whiteness. Racial experiences are a feature of daily life whether we are on the harmful end of such experience or on the beneficiary end of the spectrum. The first step is to stop pretending race and racism does not exist.
- ***Disaggregated data.*** Multnomah County should require that all service providers and the county itself to provide data that is disaggregated. We also so want qualitative data that helps us understand who is being served, how they are being served, and what outcomes are being achieved.
- ***Disclose race and ethnicity data for mainstream service providers.*** Mainstream service providers and government providers continue to have the largest role in service delivery. Accounting for the outcomes of these services for communities of color is essential. We expect each level of service provision to increasingly report on both service usage and service outcomes for communities of color.



Opportunities for Multnomah County Cont'd.



- ***Expand funding for culturally-specific services.*** Designated funds are required, and these funds must be adequate to address needs. 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.
- ***Apply the equity lens internally.*** The county must apply the equity lens internally and hold upper management accountable for its implementation.
- ***Contract with minority businesses.*** The county purchases millions of dollars annually for goods and services with very little going to communities of color. Creative options need to be developed that will enable the resources to flow communities of color.
- ***Equity should be reflected in your budget.*** If equity is not clearly reflected in your budget, you don't mean it.



THANK YOU!

