



Racial Disparities in Multnomah County

Ann Curry-Stevens

Associate Professor, School of Social Work



Portland State
UNIVERSITY



Coalition of Communities of Color

The Coalition's mission is:

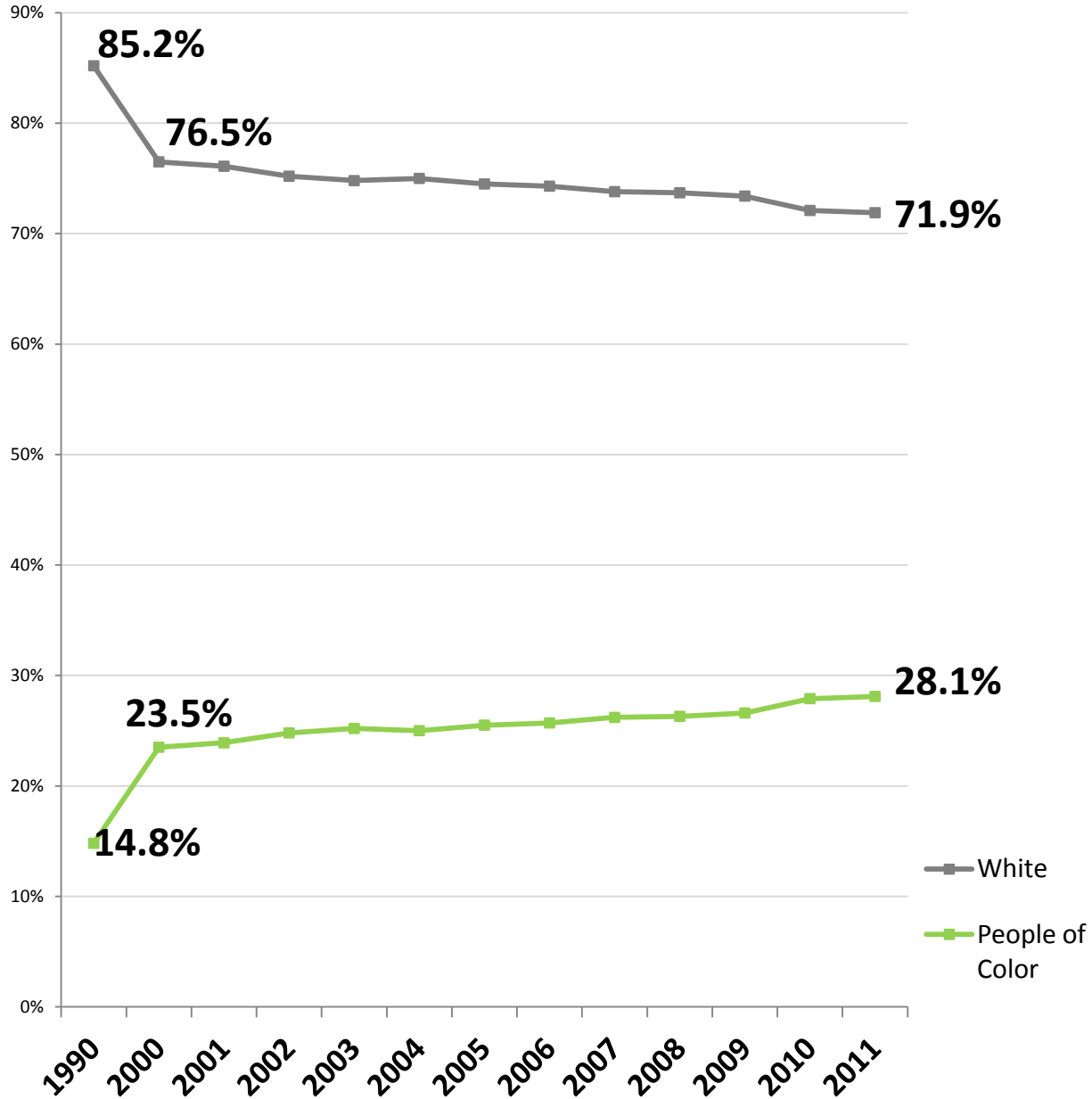
- To address the socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism, and inequity of services experienced by our families, children and communities
- To organize our communities for collective action resulting in social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice and prosperity



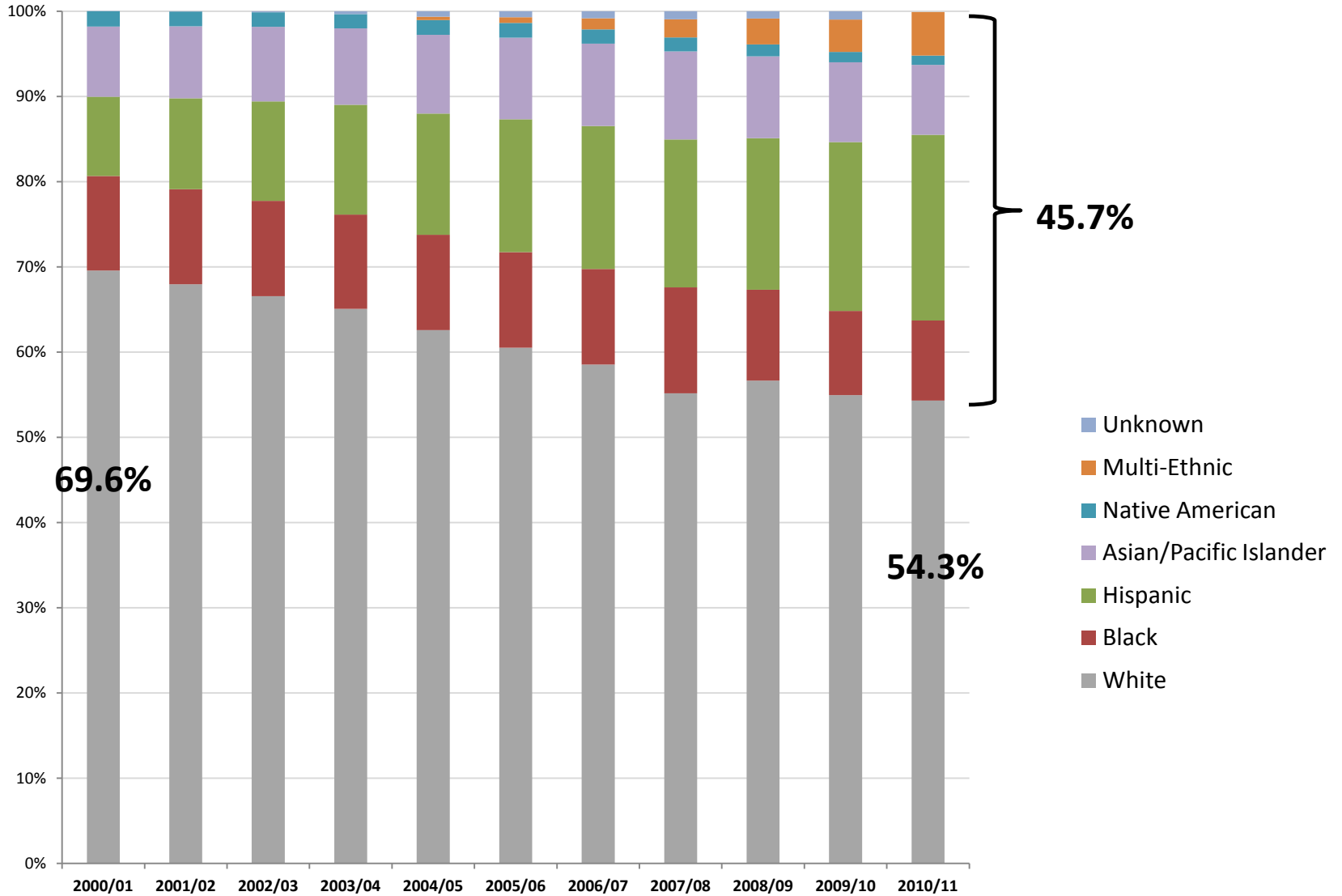
Research Findings

- Broad and deep disparities across 28 various systems and institutions, such as
 - Education... early, public school, higher education
 - Income, employment & unemployment
 - Justice... juvenile, adult, policing
 - Child welfare
 - Health & health insurance
 - Public sector employment & protected contracting
 - Housing
- Disparities mostly deteriorating across time
- Worse here than USA averages and than in King County (home to Seattle)

Population of Multnomah County

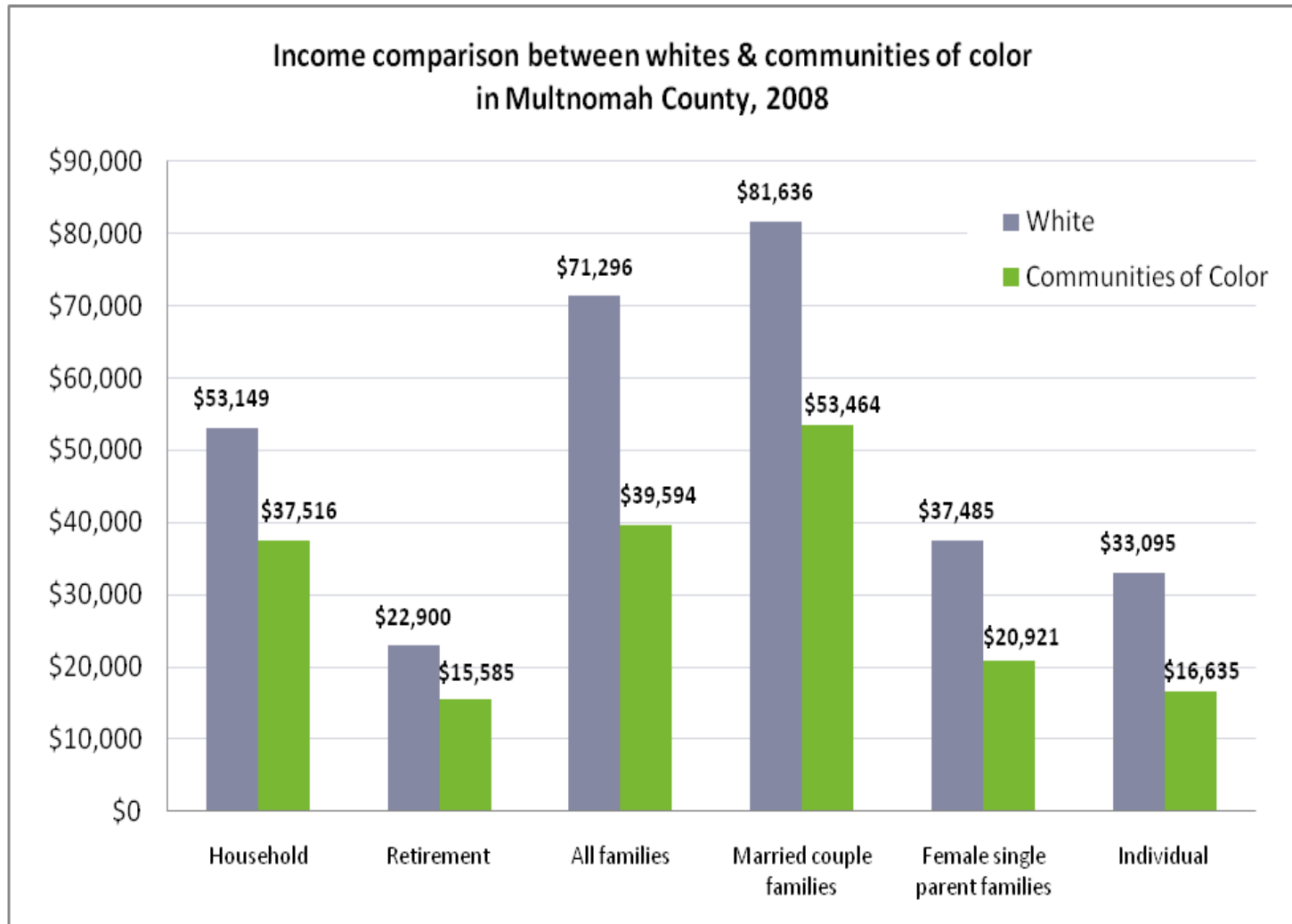


Race/Ethnicity of Students in Public Schools, Multnomah County

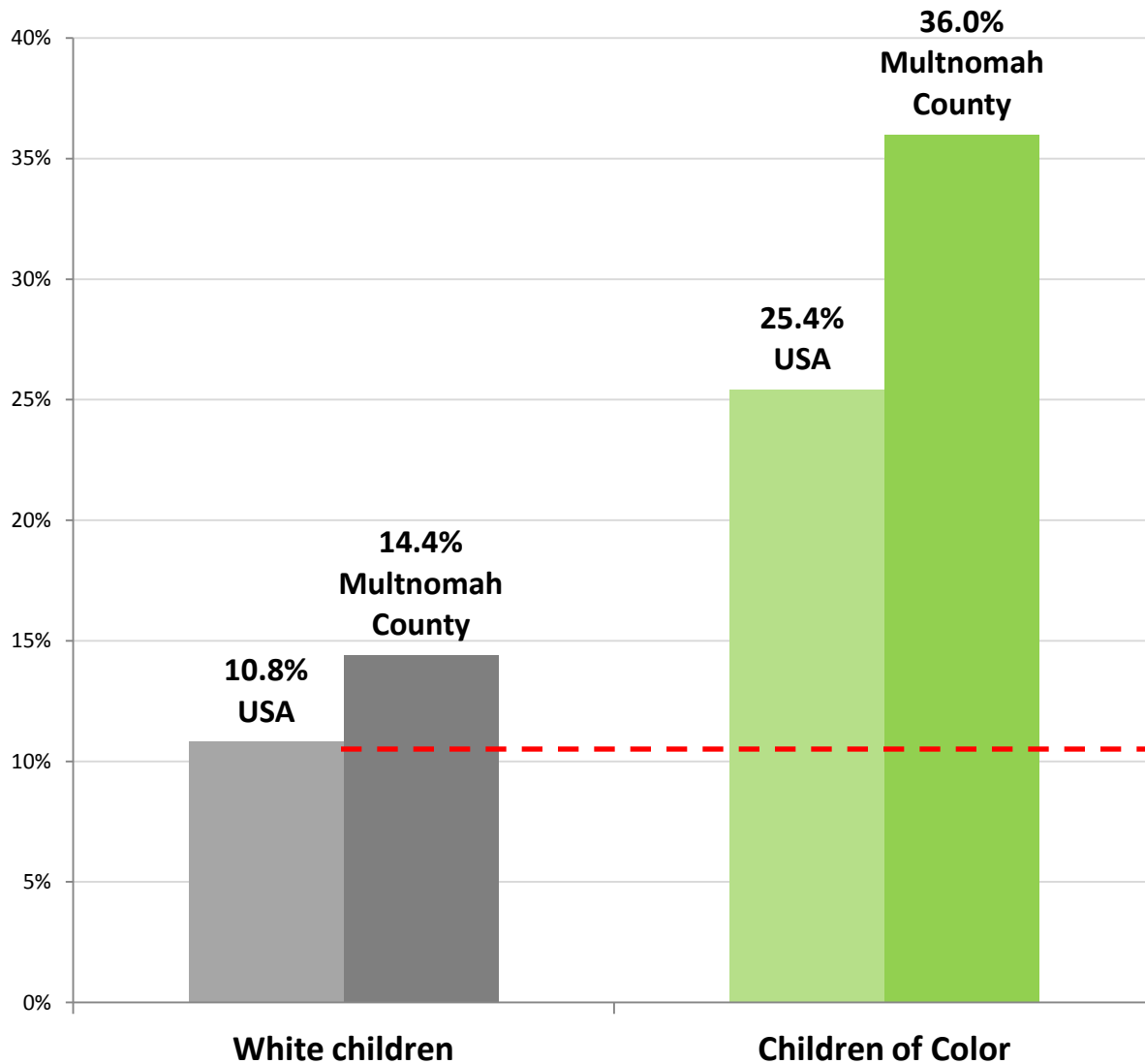


Across Oregon, the population of people of color is 21.5% yet 33% of Oregon's public school students.

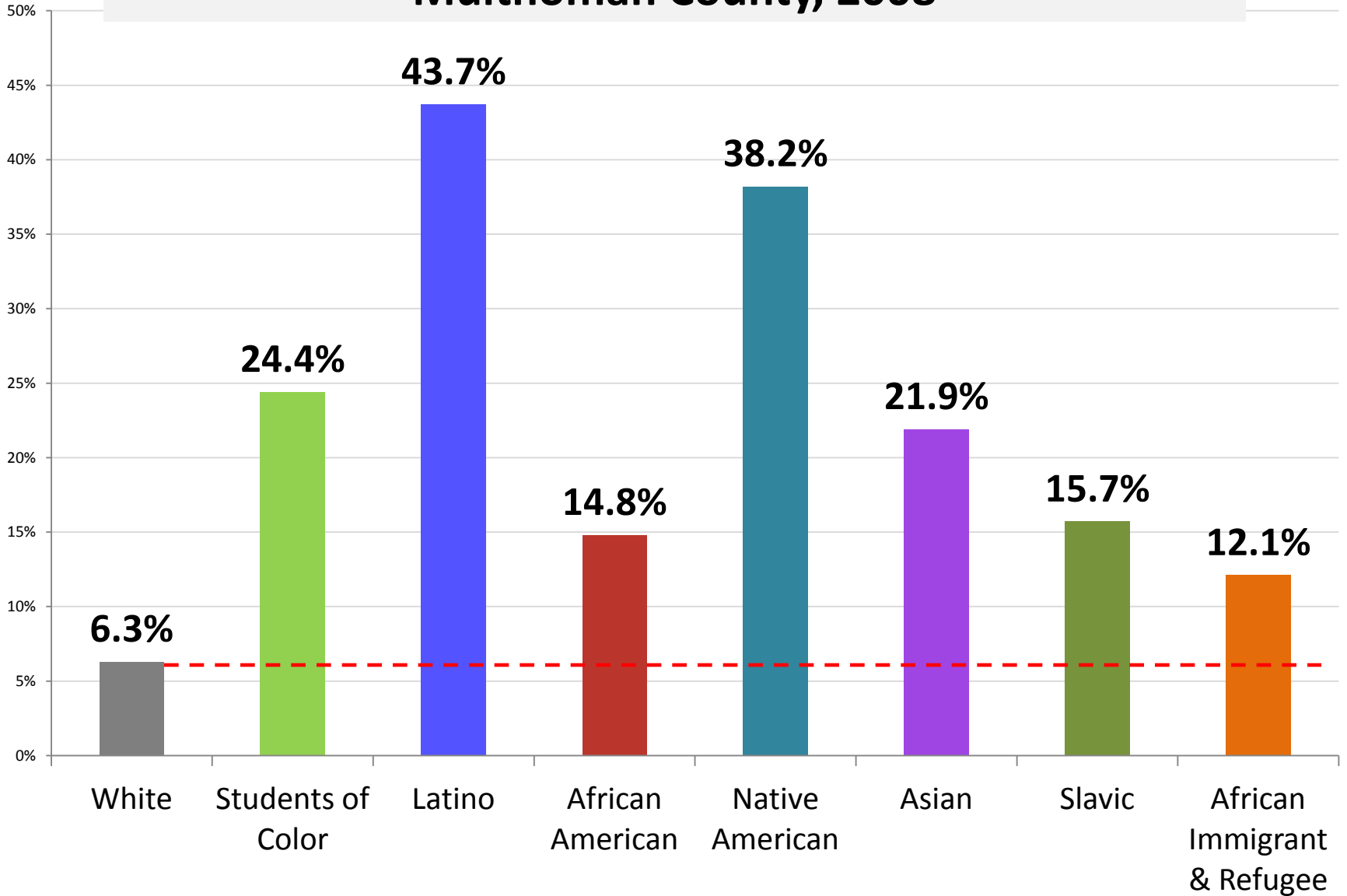
- Communities of color earn **half** the incomes of Whites, earning \$16,636 per year, while White people earn \$33,095 annually.



Child Poverty Rates, 2008, Local and National

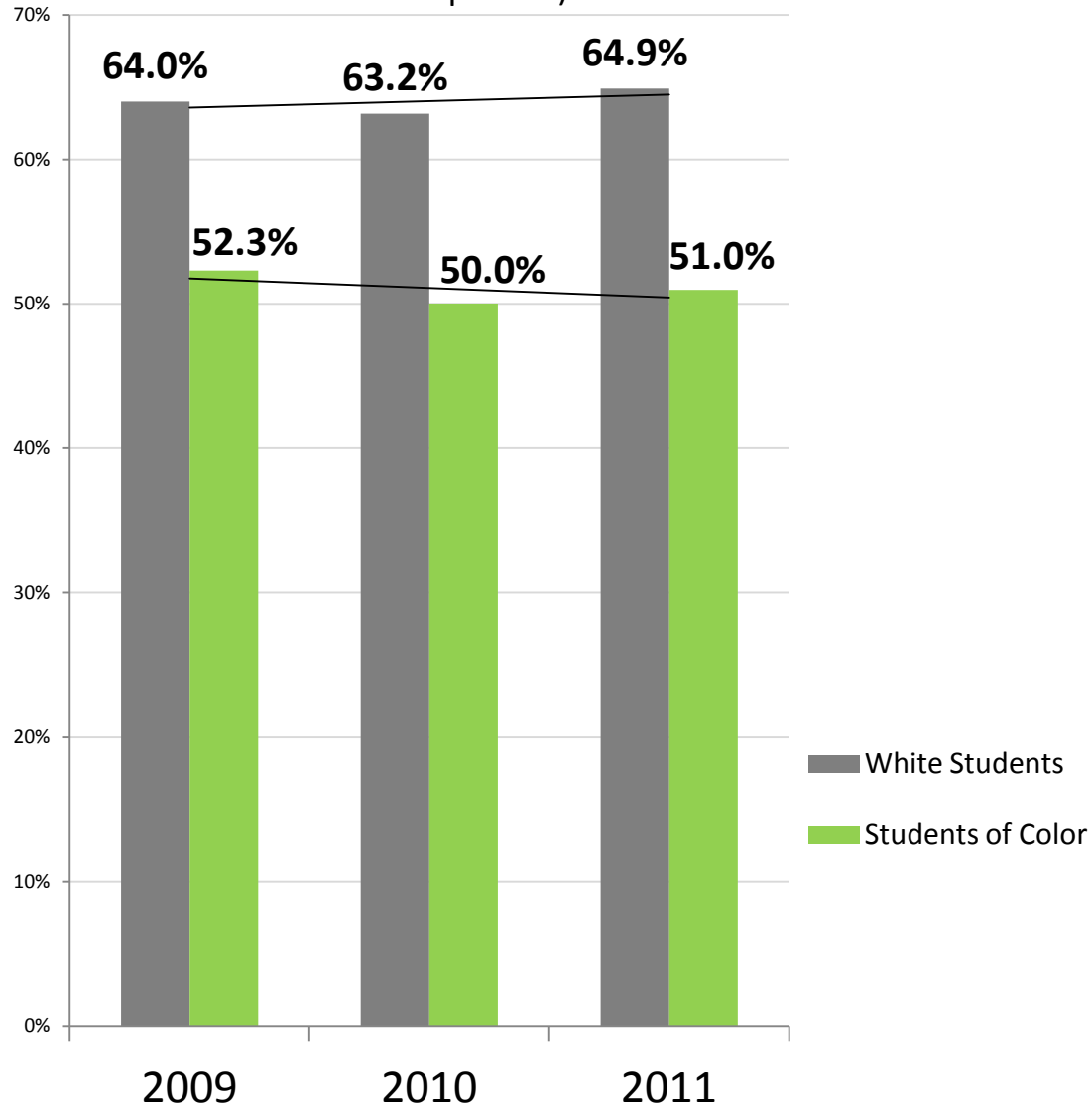


Size of community that has not completed high school, Multnomah County, 2008



Graduation Rate, Multnomah County

(% of g.9 students who graduate on time with regular diplomas)



And across Oregon, we have fourth worst rate in the nation.

Recommendations

- **Eliminate disparities**

- At all levels of government and academic institutions
- Clear benchmarks, timelines and measurable outcomes
 - Developed in real partnership with communities of color
 - Ending tokenistic involvement of communities of color
- Accountability structures... internal & external
- Entrenched in policy (not in goodwill)
- To be made a public priority

- **Visibility of disparities**

- Accurate & transparent identification of people of color, disparities & inequities
- Standardized across the region

- **Build same requirements into contracts, grants & subcontracts**

- **Name racism and white privilege**

Thank you!

- Ann Curry-Stevens, Principle Investigator
 - currya@pdx.edu
 - 503-725-5315
- The full Coalition reports can be downloaded for free from:
 - www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org

