

★ The African American Community in Multnomah County

An Unsettling Profile

with Ciera, Hunter, Nick, Olivia, Serge, and Sydney

★ Economic Opportunity and Vitality

- Stable employment and income are critical to maintaining decent housing and are closely related to educational attainment and health.
- The relatively poor status of African-Americans in the local economy is not merely a result of the current global recession.
- African Americans have faced economic discrimination in Multnomah County as early as the 1940's.

★ Economic Opportunity and Vitality

- African Americans working in the Kaiser shipyards along the Columbia River faced heavy discrimination from local labor unions.
- They had no voice in contract negotiations, and could only file complaints through a White steward.
- African American defense workers faced segregation at other sites, including Commercial Iron Works, Union Pacific's Albina yard, and on Portland's docks.



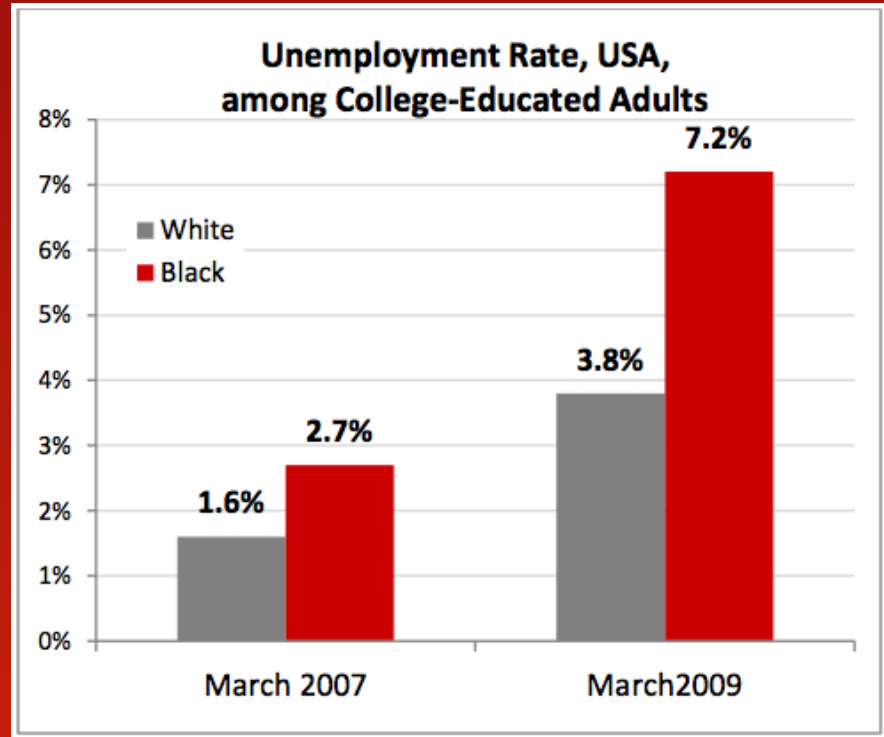
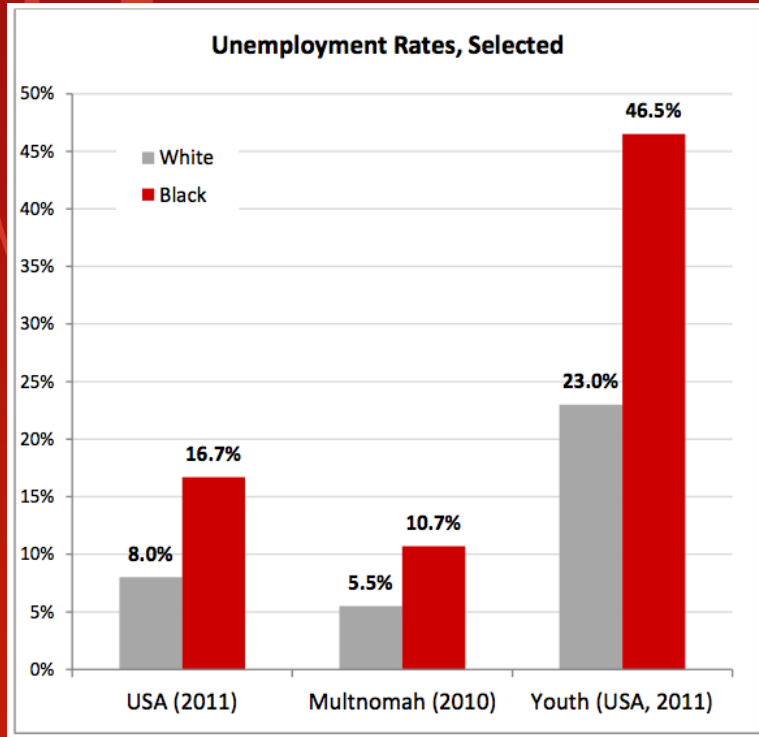
★ Economic Opportunity and Vitality

- High unemployment rates have been a condition for the community since the late 1970s, and some families are experiencing multiple generations of unemployed adults.
- African Americans face not only higher unemployment rates, but longer stretches of unemployment and more frequent periods of unemployment.
- African-Americans are more likely to be unemployed than Whites and less likely to be “protected” from unemployment by a college education.

★ Economic Opportunity and Vitality

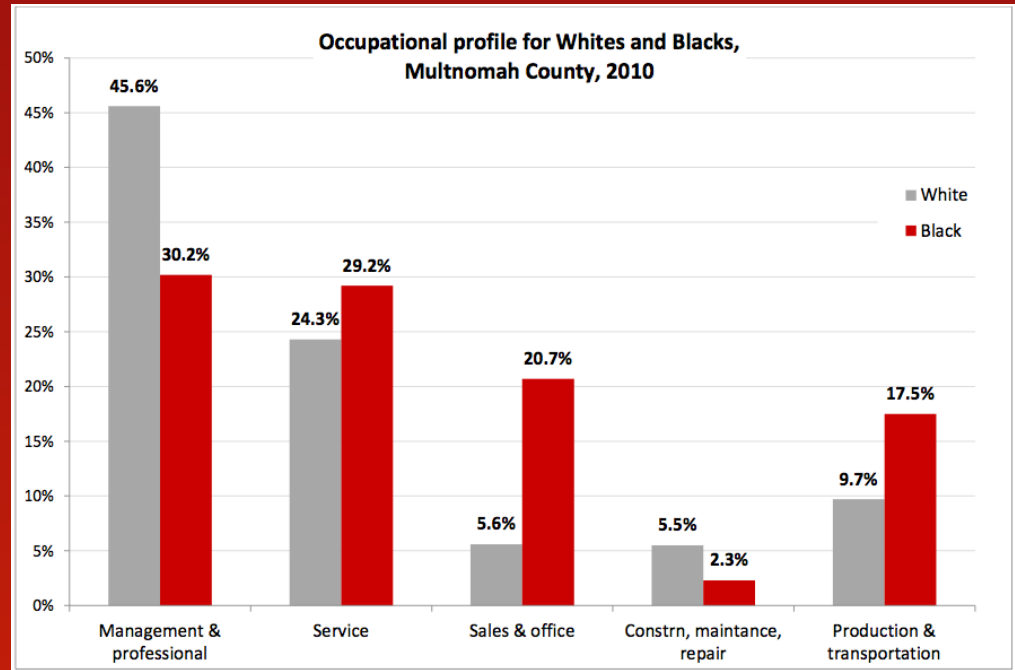
Unemployment Rates & Black-White Ratios, Portland and United States, 1970-2006						
	<i>Portland</i>			<i>United States</i>		
Males	White	Black	B/W Ratio	White	Black	B/W Ratio
1970	7.4%	11.9%	1.6	3.6%	6.3%	1.8
1980	6.2%	15.2%	2.5	5.9%	12.3%	2.1
1990	5.9%	15.0%	2.5	5.3%	13.7%	2.6
2000	6.6%	15.6%	2.4	4.4%	12.3%	2.8
2006	6.2%	16.6%	2.7	5.0%	13.4%	2.7
Females						
1970	5.4%	8.1%	1.5	4.8%	7.7%	1.6
1980	5.1%	13.4%	2.6	5.7%	11.3%	2.0
1990	5.2%	10.6%	2.1	5.0%	12.2%	2.4
2000	4.9%	11.5%	2.4	4.3%	10.9%	2.6
2006	4.8%	10.4%	2.2	5.1%	11.9%	2.3

★ Economic Opportunity and Vitality



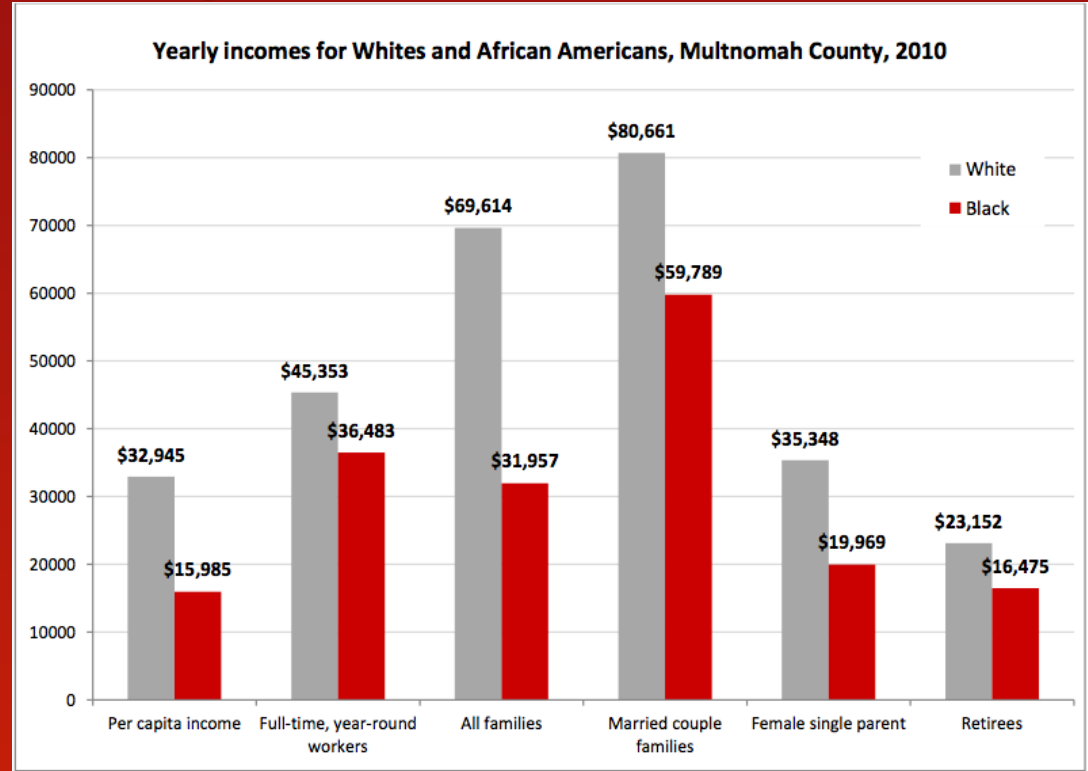
★ Economic Opportunity and Vitality

- Employed African-Americans are more likely to work in the service sector—with its low-wage, part-time, and seasonal jobs—and much less likely to hold management or professional positions in Multnomah County.



★ Economic Opportunity and Vitality

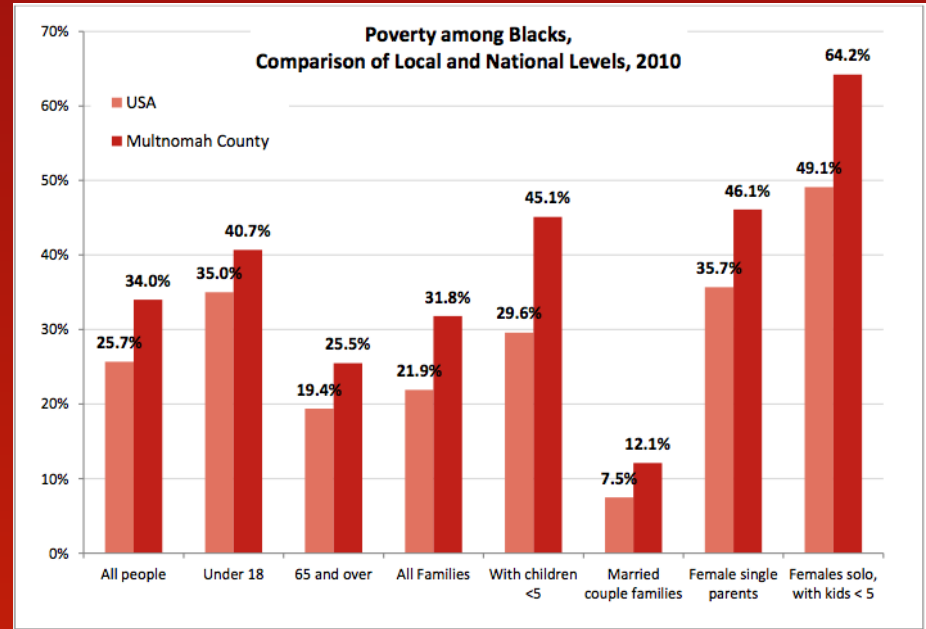
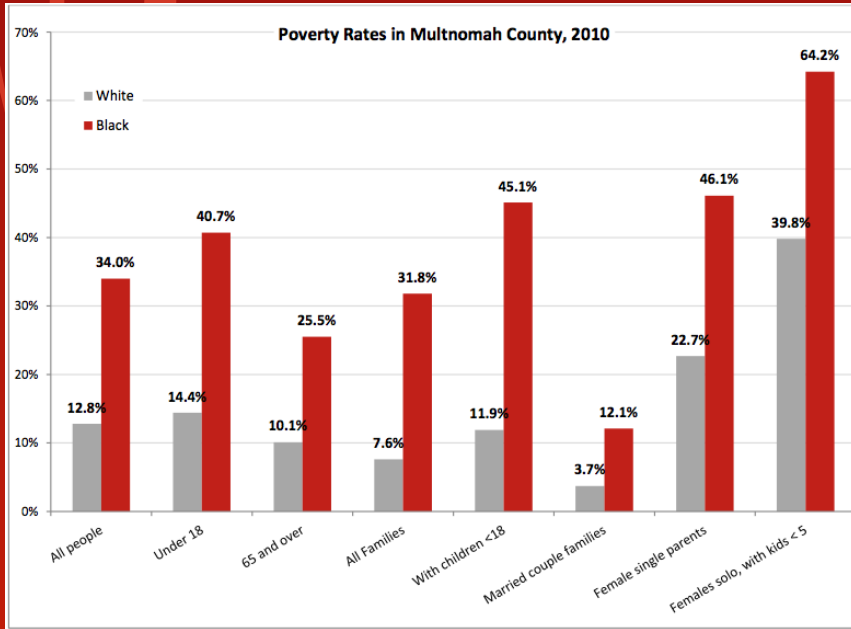
There are substantial income differences between Black and White workers.



★ Economic Opportunity and Vitality

- African-Americans in Multnomah County are disproportionately poor compared to Whites.
- One of every three African-American individuals live in poverty in this County, while only one of eight Whites are poor.
- If you are a single African-American mother with school aged children, your family has a two-in-five chance of living in poverty – if your children are under five, this ratio rises, giving you a three-in-five chance of living in poverty.
- Nationwide, poverty disproportionately affects African-Americans. However, racial disparity in poverty rates is greater in Multnomah County than the national average.

★ Economic Opportunity and Vitality

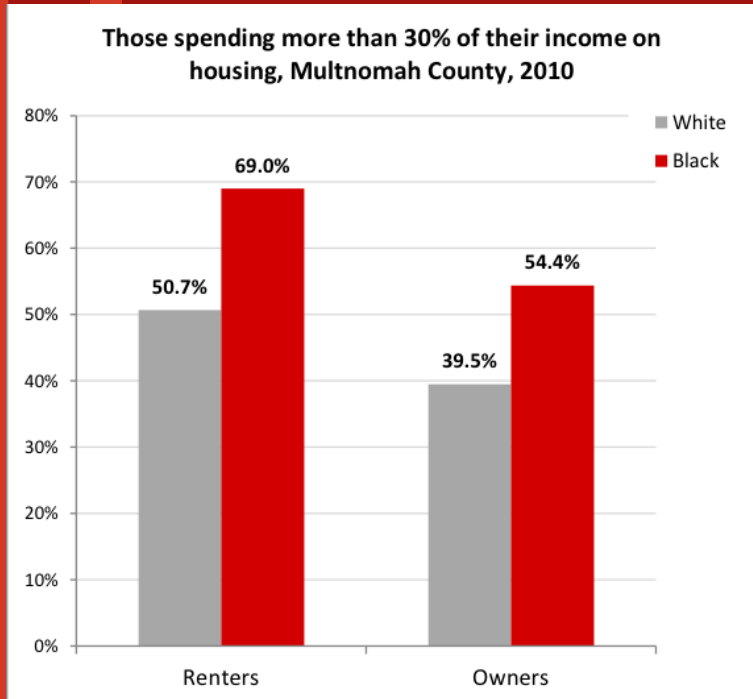


★ Housing and Neighborhood Opportunity

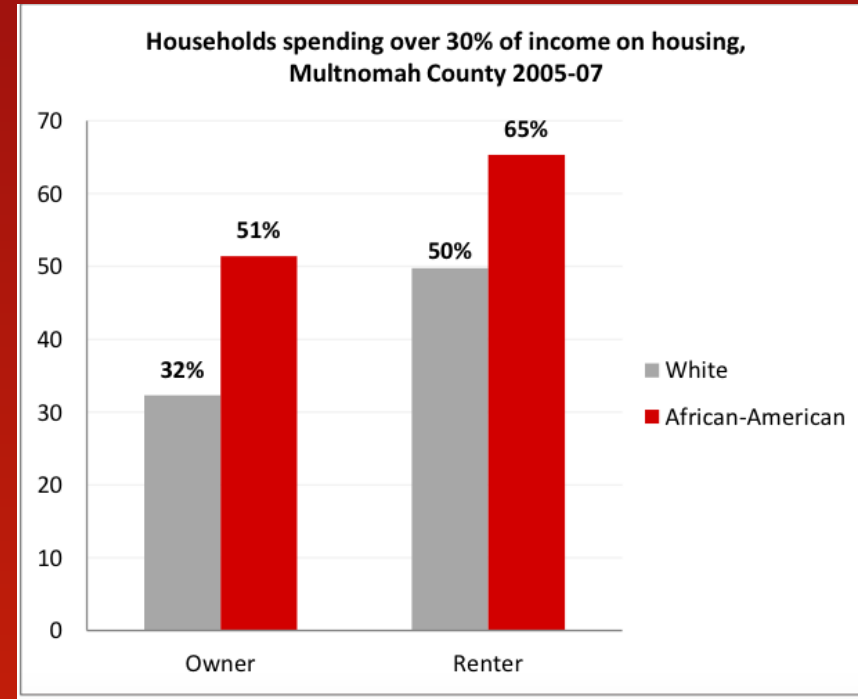
Housing Costs & Affordability

- Housing is usually the first claim on income
- Households spending more than 30% of their income on housing are considered cost burdened
- 28% of Blacks homeowners spending more than half their monthly income on housing costs.
- 40% of Black renters are severely burdened.
- African Americans make up 14.3% of those living in poverty

★ Housing and Neighborhood Opportunity



Source: American Community Survey, 2010



Source: Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy data, ACS 2005-07.

★ Housing and Neighborhood Opportunity

Homeownership and Lending

- According to the State of the Nation's Housing 2011 report:
- overall homeownership rates stand at 66.9%
- White homeownership in 2010 was over 73%
- The national 2010 homeownership rates for households of color were
 - Latinos 47.5%
 - African-Americans 45.9%
 - Asians 58.2%
 - Other race 48.9%

★ Housing and Neighborhood Opportunity

Homeownership and lending

- Black homeownership rates are 40% worse locally than the national homeownership rates for the community.
- In 2000, Black homeownership in Multnomah County was over 37%; as of the 2010 Census, it was 31%

★ Housing and Neighborhood Opportunity

Homeownership and Lending

- homeownership disparities involve both historical and current-day policies and practices
- rates at which mortgages are granted
- Loan denial rates
- In 2003 through 2005, loan denial rates for Blacks were double those of Whites

Loan Denial by Race and Income, 2004 HMDA

	Home Ownership Rate			Loan Application Denial Rate		
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
White	77%	58%	48%	7%	10%	11%
African-American	67%	45%	33%	15%	19%	18%

Source: Housing and Development Corporation, City of Portland, 2004⁴⁶ Definitions for the terms used are:

Tier 1 = households with incomes 95% of the median income

Tier 2 = households with incomes 80-95% of the median income

Tier 3 = households with incomes 50-80% of the median income

★ Housing and Neighborhood Opportunity

Homelessness

- Homelessness is the most severe housing problem
- African-Americans are overrepresented in most aspects of the population of homeless
- According to the 2009 Multnomah homeless count, African-Americans make up 18% of the homeless population

★ Housing and Neighborhood Opportunity

Fair Housing and Discrimination

- The Oregon Fair Housing Council in Portland
- 25 tests of rental housing with African-Americans
- illegal discriminatory acts in 60% of the tests

★ Housing and Neighborhood Opportunity

Neighborhood gentrification and displacement

- *Redlining*
- *Root Shock*
- *Negative Health effects*

★ Health Care

African Americans: Health Care

- Formerly Incarcerated Males access to Health care
- Disparities in Health Care Access
- Discrimination in Health care

★ Health and Its Barriers

- Access to Health Care in Different Parts of the Community
- Fair Cost of Healthcare to the African American Community compared to all other Communities

★ Disparities In Health Care

- African Americans: Less likely to have private employment based health insurance.
- Their jobs don't provide health care
- Due to lack of health care, mortality rates rise.

★ Disparities In Health Care

- African American males that were convicted of crime in the past are most likely not eligible for health care.
- They are not eligible for food stamps = no food = malnutrition, and they still can't get health care

★ Solutions to Health Care Disparities

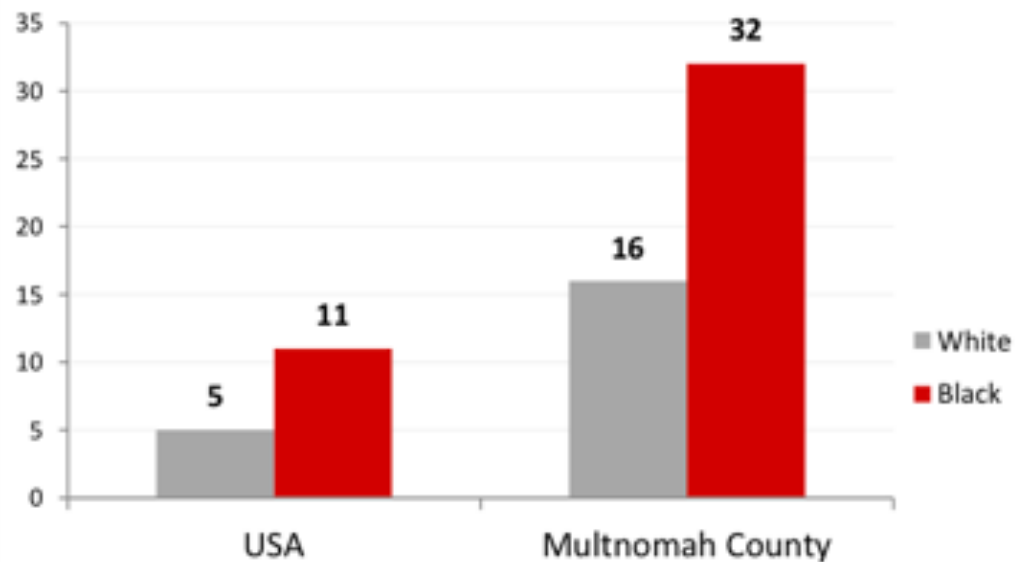
- Educating the African Community on the Benefits they deserve for Health Care
- Keep them informed with new laws that are put in place about health care
- Creating a public advisory board to help families choose the best health care insurance for them.
- Increasing culturally-specific types of health care.
- Making sure health care clinics or offices are not far for the community

★ Child Welfare

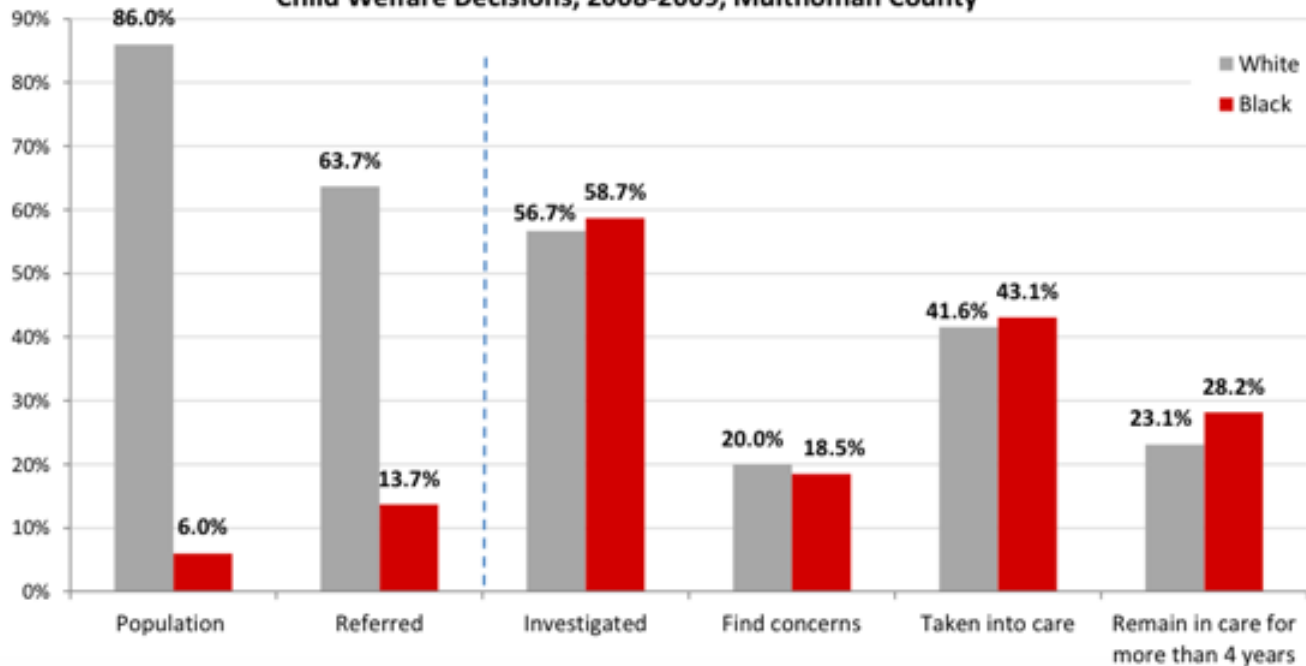
What has been done so far

- Child Welfare Equity Task Force, established in executive order by Governor Kulongoski in 2009
- Department of Human Services (DHS), Multnomah County Juvenile Courts, State and local Commission of Children, Families, and Community, and Casey Family Programs

Foster Care Rates, Comparison of Local and National Level, 2009, (rate is # per 1000 children)



Child Welfare Decisions, 2008-2009, Multnomah County



★ Child Welfare

3 Reasons these Disparities Occur

Structural inequalities such as policy/practice, budget deficits, staffing challenges and culturally biased decision-making inside the juvenile dependency system;

External disparities such as poverty, access to health care, inadequate education and the related consequences. These risks and stressors outside the child welfare system, impact child safety and family stability and lead to an increased need for state intervention in various communities; and

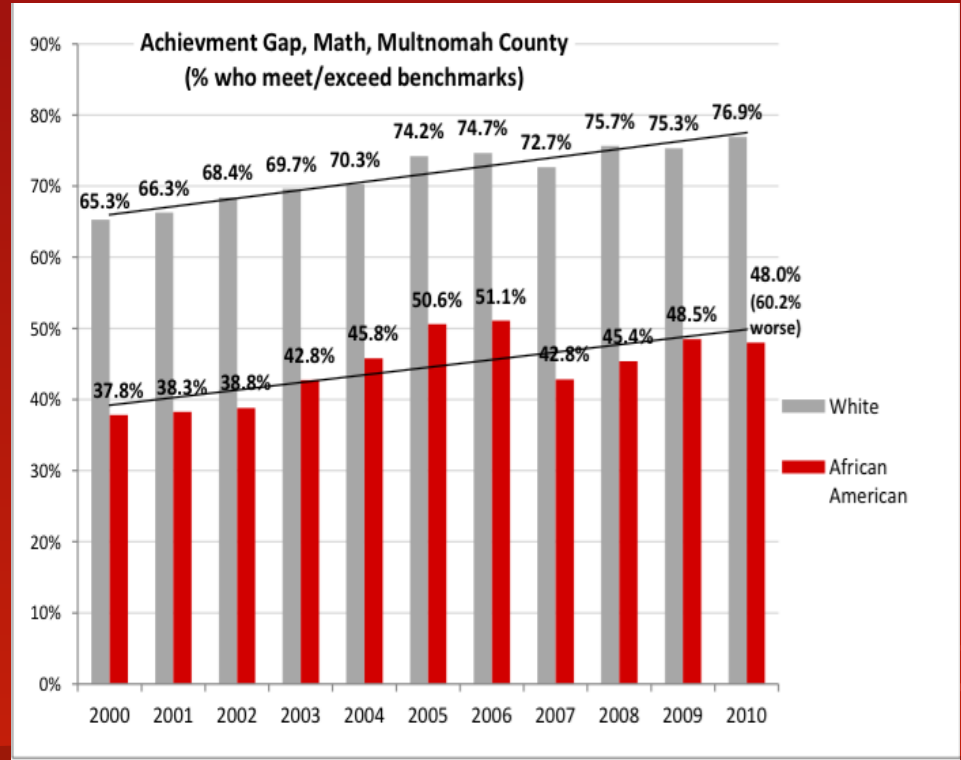
Lack of a diverse workforce, training and accountability for existing policies and mandates designed to improve the cultural responsiveness of the system and eliminate disparities.

★ Policy Recommendations in Regards to Child Welfare

- *Shift from intervention to prevention model*, committed to internal system improvement including data- based decision-making.
- Build community resources for African-American families, and collaborate with established family networks and community resources.
- *Address cultural competency as a core component of DHS workforce development*
- *Ensure accountability and enforcement protection* (protection through the enforcement of laws, policies, and agreements) by creating a plan for accountability and infrastructure

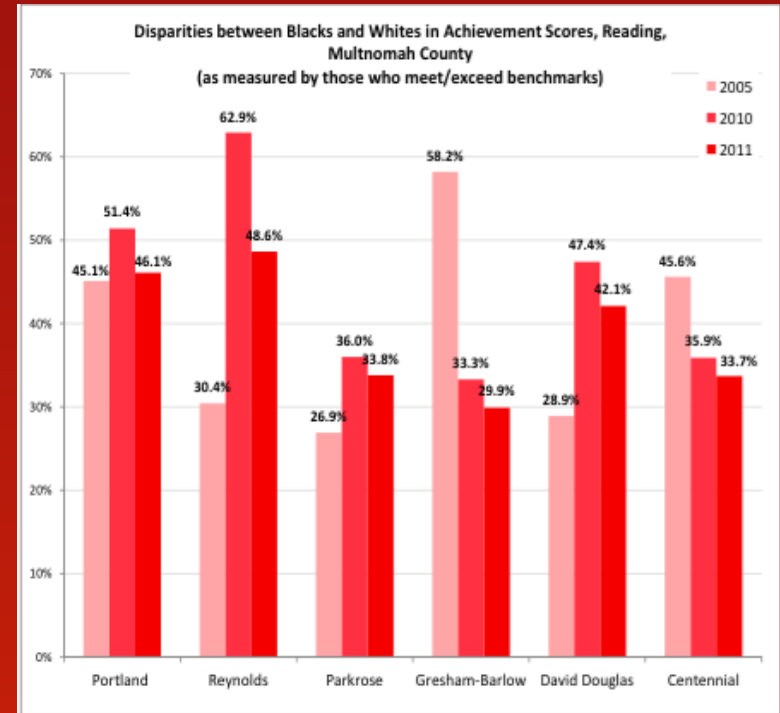
★ Education: Achievement Gaps

- As of 2010, only 48% of Black Students in Multnomah County met math achievement benchmarks
- Reading disparities are less than math disparities, however they significant



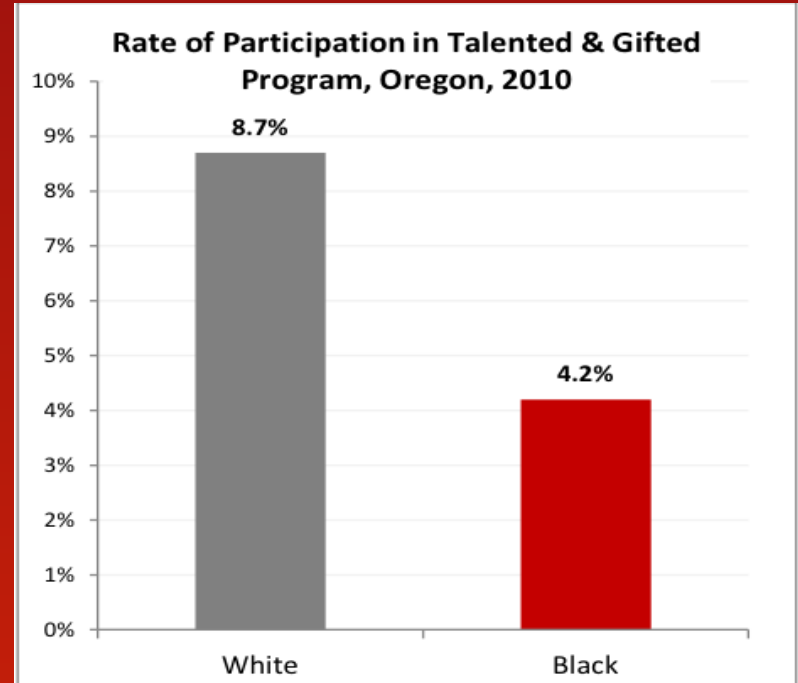
★ Education: Achievement Gaps

- The Gresham-Barlow district, and Centennial were the only schools to lower achievement gaps from both 2005-2010 and 2010-2011
- These districts are also the farthest southeast of any of the school districts looked at



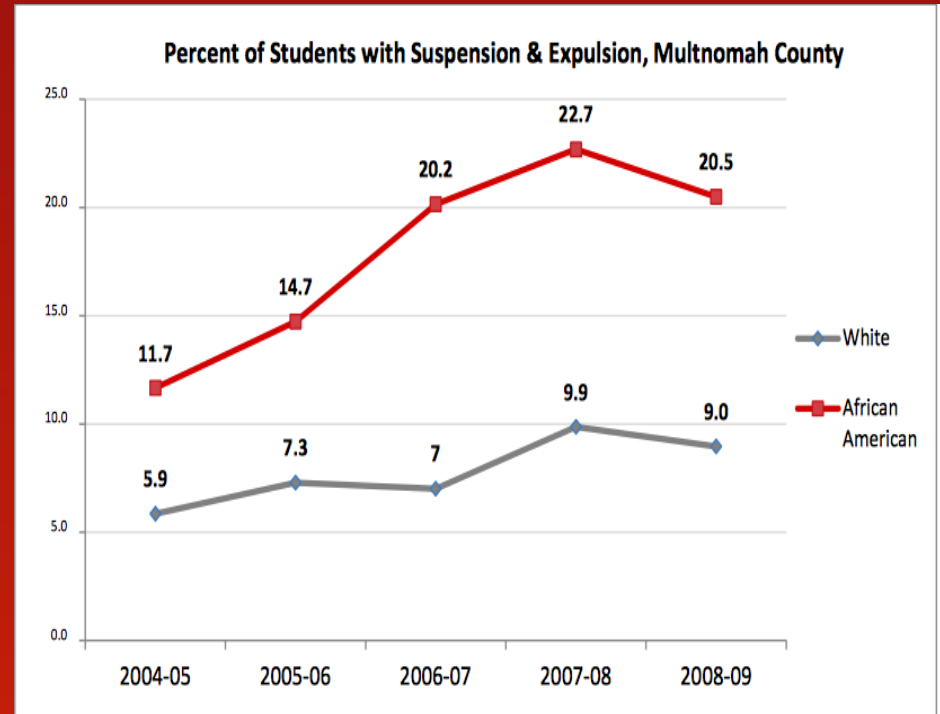
★ Education: Talented and Gifted

- There is a 4.5% difference in the rate of participation in the TAG Program as of 2010
- White students are placed in TAG programs at twice the rate of African-American students



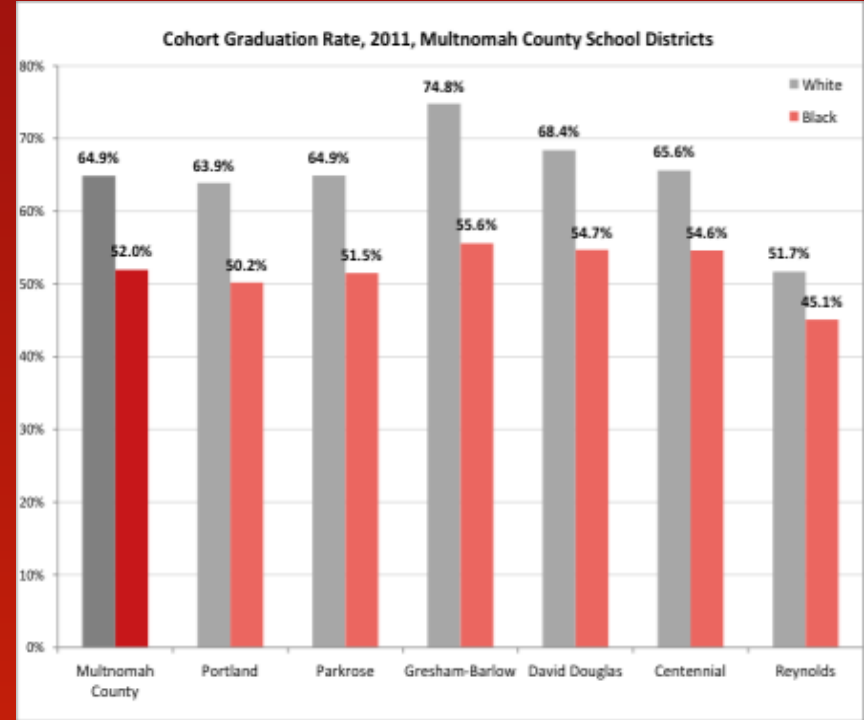
★ Education: Discipline Levels

- All districts disciplined African American students at levels at least twice as high as White students
- PPS has been singled out for racial disparities in disciplining African American students



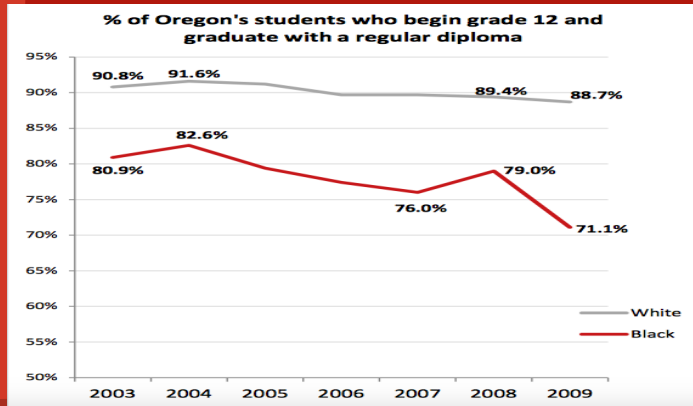
★ Education: Graduation Rates

- 47% of Black youth entering 9th grade did not successfully complete high school on time in 2008
- Dropout rates for African American student dropout rates have been approximately 7% as of 2011, this figure has improved over the past decade

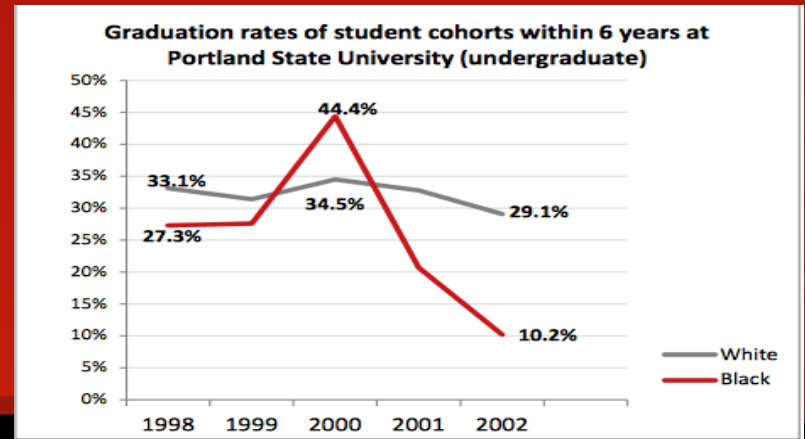


★ Education: Graduation Rates

- Of the Black students who enter 12th grade, affluent Blacks have a graduation rate of 71.8% while poorer Blacks graduate at a rate of 70.7%



- At PSU, six-year graduation rates show African American graduation rates have been significantly lower than Whites



★ The Criminal Justice System: Policing, Racial Profiling, and Brutality

- The 1994 Supreme Court of Oregon's audit of racial bias concluded that "people of color are more likely to be arrested, charged, convicted and incarcerated, and less likely to be released on bail or out on probation."
- "drug-free zones"
- In 2006, the Portland Police Bureau confirmed that racial profiling existed within the force. In the police bureau, white officers hold 86% of all jobs, even though whites are only 77.9% of the population in Portland.
- In the last 10 years, 26 people in Portland have been killed by deadly force. 30% (8/26) were people of color, mostly all African Americans.

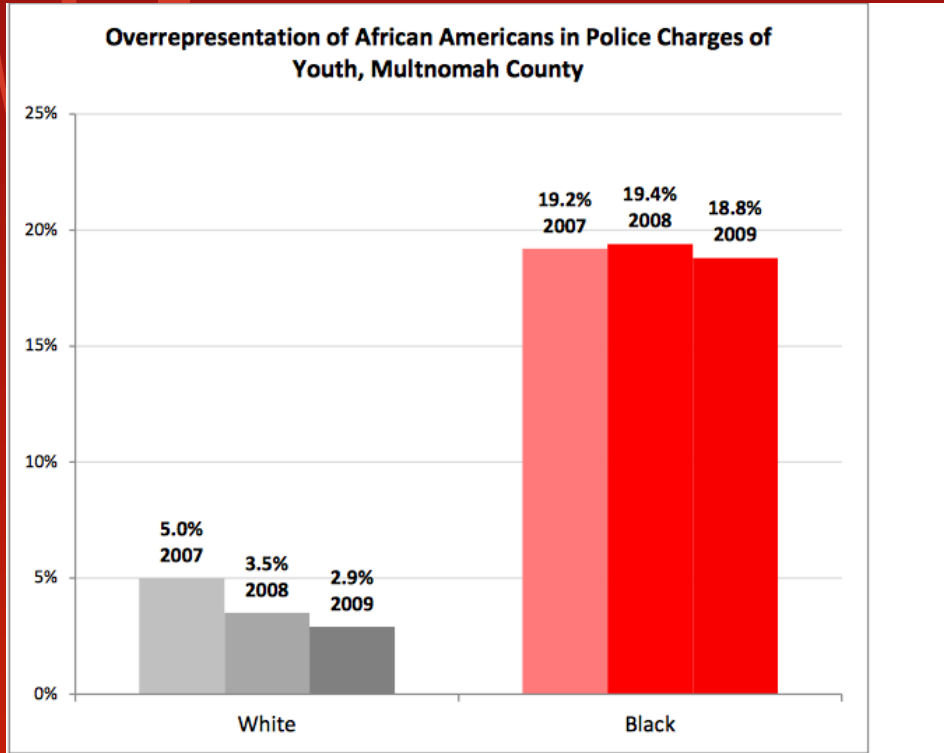
★ The Criminal Justice System: Crime and Adult Corrections

- African Americans make up less than 10% of the pop. in Multnomah County, yet account for 21.7% of the Justice Department's active adult caseload.
- African Americans are often given harsher sentences- 6 times more likely to be incarcerated than whites in the state of Oregon.
- 3% of the African American adult population in Oregon is imprisoned, while only 0.4% of the White adult population is imprisoned.

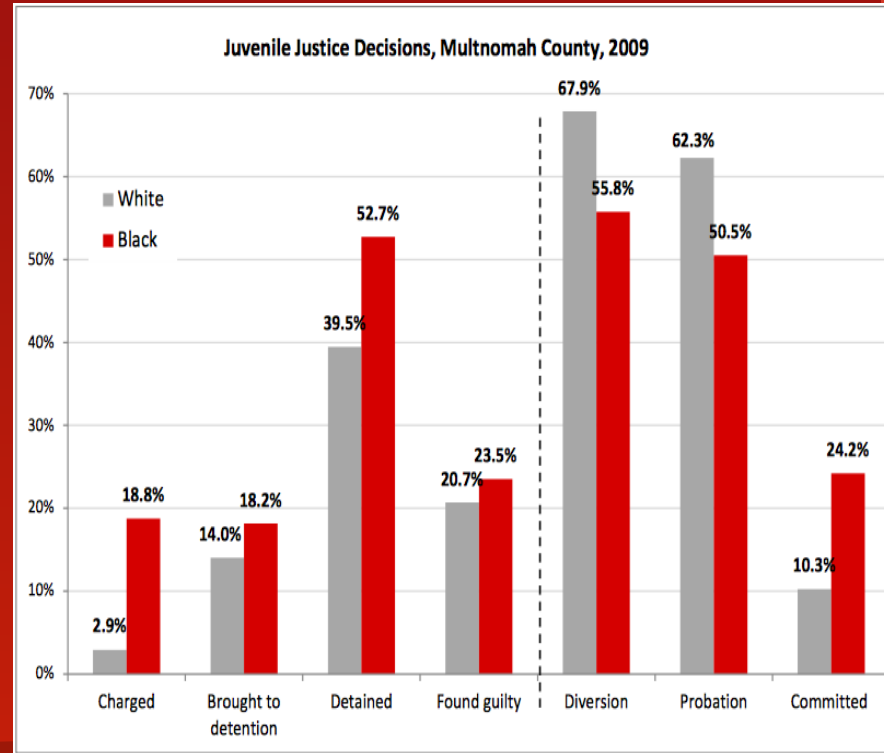
★ The Criminal Justice System: Juvenile Justice

- Portland Police are 6.5 times more likely to charge an African American youth after arrest compared to White youths.
- Only 23% of African American youth referrals are dismissed, not petitioned or not adjudicated, compared to 54% of White youths in 2008.
- African American youth are more likely to be charged, more likely to be brought to detention, more likely to be detained, and more likely to found guilty. (compared to White youth and other POC)
- African American youth are also less likely to be steered out of the justice system into diversion programs.
- 60% of the total custody sentences for the youth in Multnomah County are given to African Americans, despite making up less than 10% of the youth population.

★ The Criminal Justice System: Juvenile Justice Cont.



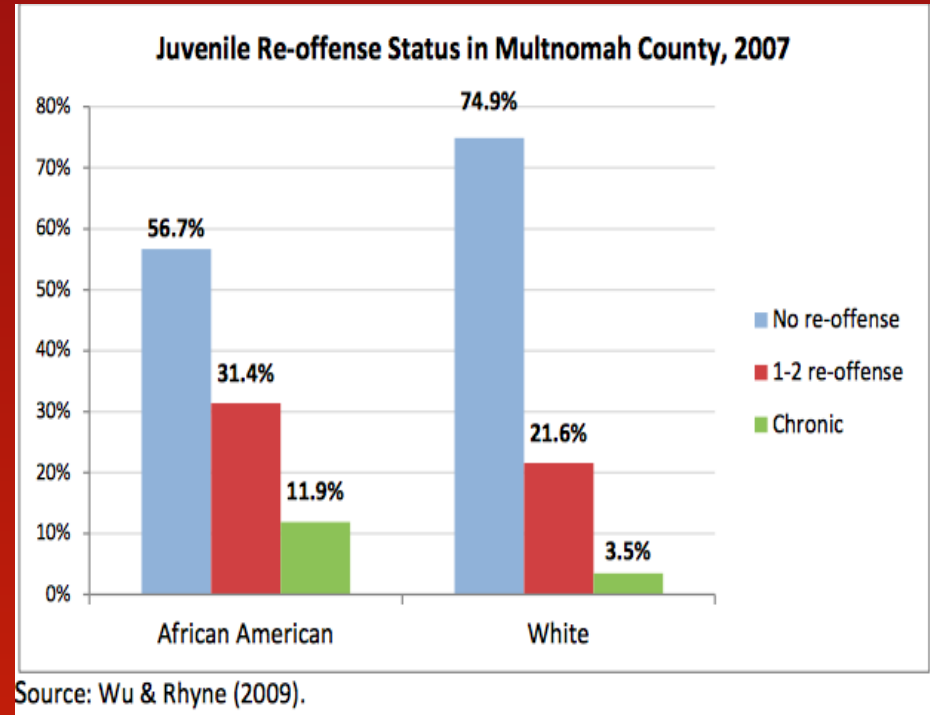
Sources: Rhyne & Pascual (2009) for 2007 & 2008 data¹¹⁸ and Wu & Rhyne (2010) for 2009 data.



Source: Curry-Stevens' calculations based on data from Wu & Rhyne (2010).¹¹⁹

★ The Criminal Justice System: At-Risk Youth

- African American youth continue to have higher recidivism rates and higher chronic offense rates than any other group (compared to Whites, African American youth are much more likely to reoffend)
- “No matter how well you behave, how hard you try, being Black means that you will always be considered one of the ‘usual suspects’.”



★ The Criminal Justice System: Policy Recommendations

- Change practices that contribute to disparities/ disproportionate representation of African Americans and other minorities in Oregon State Prisons.
- Reduce recidivism and increase cost-effective crime prevention through stronger non-prison and post-prison programs.

★ Conclusion

In conclusion, the most effective way to move forward at this point, is for the leaders of Multnomah County to name the racism in the community and implement policies to end these disparities.

Thank you!

Questions? Comments?