

Racial Disparities in Multnomah County

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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





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!

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- The full Coalition reports can be downloaded for free from:
 - <u>www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org</u>

