Latinos in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile
Presentation to Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

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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

- Mexican, 57,863, 73%
- Central American, 8,961, 11%
- Other Hispanic or Latino, 5,530, 7%
- Puerto Rican, 2,324, 3%
- Cuban, 2,161, 3%
- Dominican (Dominican Republic), 451, 1%
- South American, 1,715, 2%
Poverty rates, Multnomah County, 2009

- All people: 13.0%
- Child poverty: 27.6%
- 65 and over: 14.7%
Annual incomes, Multnomah County, 2009

- Individuals - all: $32,371
- Families - all: $68,442
- Married couples raising kids: $80,775
- Female solo parent - raising kids: $49,657
- Retirement - all households: $24,046
Impact on income of living in Multnomah county, 2009

- **Female single parents**
  - Latinos: -$6,158
  - Whites: $557

- **Married couple families**
  - Latinos: -$1,259
  - Whites: $3,952

- **All families**
  - Latinos: -$3,520
  - Whites: $52

- **Retirees**
  - Latinos: -$8,072
  - Whites: $2,010
Unemployment Rate, Multnomah County, 2007 & 2009

- **2007**
  - White: 4.4%
  - Latino: 7.2%

- **2009**
  - White: 6.1%
  - Latino: 14.9%
Poverty levels compared to access to housing support programs, Multnomah County, August 2010

- Poor Residents: 55.1% White, 16.6% Latino
- Public Housing Residents: 57.4% White, 11.5% Latino
- Tenant Based Voucher Participants: 49.9% White, 4.9% Latino

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

- Lower income: 48% (White) 24% (Latino)
- Mid-income: 58% (White) 33% (Latino)
- Higher incomes: 77% (White) 58% (Latino)
Suspension & Expulsion Rates, Multnomah County, 2004-2009

- White:
  - 2004-05: 5.9%
  - 2005-06: 7.3%
  - 2006-07: 7%
  - 2007-08: 9.9%
  - 2008-09: 9.0%

- Latino:
  - 2004-05: 9%
  - 2005-06: 12.7%
  - 2006-07: 13.4%
  - 2007-08: 18.4%
  - 2008-09: 15.3%
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

- **White**
  - 1998: 9.1%
  - 2006: 14.4%
  - 2009: 14.6%

- **Latino**
  - 1998: 21.4%
  - 2006: 32.7%
  - 2009: 33.6% (=130% worse)
Disproportionality in Foster Care Length of Stay
Latinos in Multnomah County, 2008/09

- Stays of more than 4 years
- Long term stays (24-48 months)
- Medium stays (1 to 24 months)
- Less than 30 days

-56.3%
-16.3%
26.1%
66%
Incarceration rates as a % of the adult population, Oregon

- 2007: 0.37%
- 2008: 0.39%
- 2009: 0.41%

For comparison:

- White: 0.34% (2007, 2008, 2009)

Legend:
- White
- Latino
# Under-resourcing Latinos (and over-resourcing White communities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oregon 2008</th>
<th>Size of Population</th>
<th>Amount of Foundation Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
<td>90.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communities of Color</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Latinos fare even worse when reflecting the numbers in poverty
Latinos, Comparison of Multnomah and King Counties, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Multnomah</th>
<th>King</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child poverty</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent paying ≥30% of income</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation is managmt/prof</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holds university degree</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Size of Disparity 2007</td>
<td>Size of Disparity 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Occupation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; professional jobs</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service jobs</td>
<td>91.6%</td>
<td>82.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Poverty</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Individuals</td>
<td>118.0%</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child poverty</td>
<td>166.7%</td>
<td>65.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elders (65+)</td>
<td>110.1%</td>
<td>113.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family poverty, kids &lt;18</td>
<td>165.0%</td>
<td>151.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married couple families</td>
<td>512.9%</td>
<td>135.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female single parent, kids &lt;18</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Housing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent Burden</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage Burden</td>
<td>50.7%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeownership</td>
<td>75.5%</td>
<td>92.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home value (owners only)</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Attainment of a university degree</td>
<td>174.5%</td>
<td>168.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dropout rate</td>
<td>206.5%</td>
<td>162.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discipline rate</td>
<td>91.4%</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School graduation rate*</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic test scores - Math**</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic testing - reading/literature**</td>
<td>79.0%</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incomes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>137.0%</td>
<td>121.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>87.3%</td>
<td>80.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>177.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female single parent</td>
<td>66.8%</td>
<td>93.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health insurance</td>
<td>127.1%</td>
<td>130.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unemployment</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>106.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criminal &amp; Juvenile Justice</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Frequency of youth being criminally charged</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>96.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of youth receiving custody sentence</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult incarceration rate</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Comparison with King County</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Composite of 5 measures**</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>-56.8%</td>
</tr>
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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 DHS efforts – the Visibility Initiative holds promise to general sufficient information on the status of disparities, assess progress and shortcomings, and to involve us in advising on priorities for improvements
Recommendations

• Culturally-specific programs
  – Early childhood
  – Seniors
  – Youth violence prevention

• Our community defines itself as an ethnic group and we do not organize ourselves around the western world view of geography equaling community

• Community verified data
Recommendations (cont’d)

• Public statement from the Board committing to the advancement of racial equity and the elimination of racial disparities
  – With timelines, policies and resource allocation

• Policy advancing culturally-appropriate data and research practices across the County that makes disparities facing the Latino community visible

• Budgets & funding – meet with the CCC to find ways to focus existing resources to address these disparities
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 organizations and community members and create an action plan to address disparities
Thank you!

• For more information
  – Julia Meier, CCC, info@coalitioncommunitiescolor.org
  – The report is available online at www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org