


King County
COMMUNITIES COUNT:
Tracking Social Determinants of Health



2004 Community Indicators Conference
Reno, Nevada

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Sandy Ciske, MN
Kathryn Horsley, DrPH


Public Health-Seattle & King County

Mission



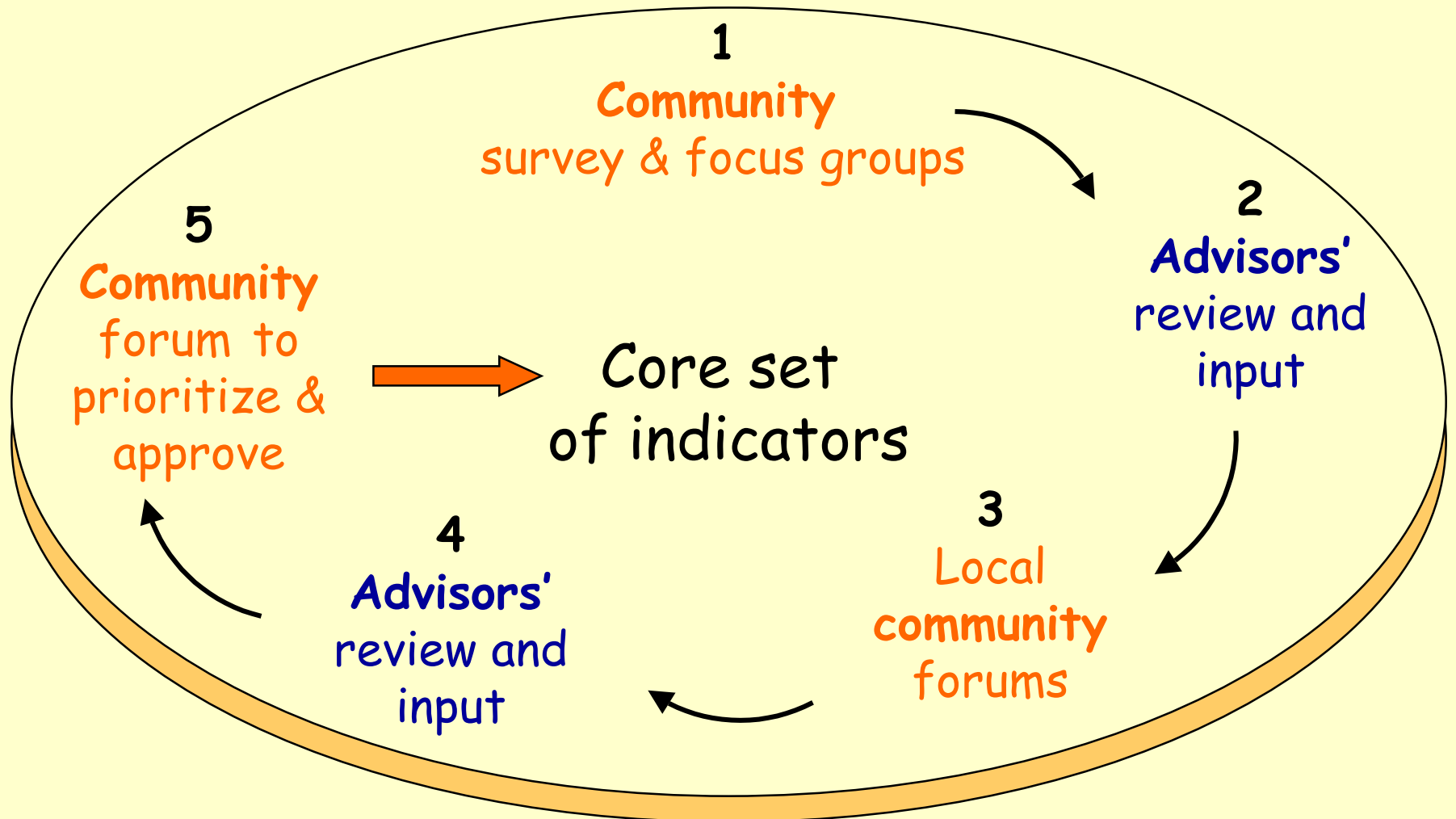
Communities Count is committed to improving community conditions through information advocacy -- providing accurate and timely reports on the conditions that matter to King County families and communities in order to stimulate action

Partners




- City of Bellevue, Parks & Com. Services
- City of Seattle Human Services Dept.
- City of Seattle Office of Sustainability
- King County Children and Family Commission
- King County Dept. of Comm.& Human Services
- Public Health - Seattle & King County
- Sustainable Seattle
- United Way

Indicator development




Social determinants of health



Features of the social environment that shape health and well-being

- social hierarchy
 - income distribution, social class
- social relationships
 - social support, discrimination, social capital
- public policies
 - housing, education, employment
- cultural norms

Basic Needs and Social Well-Being



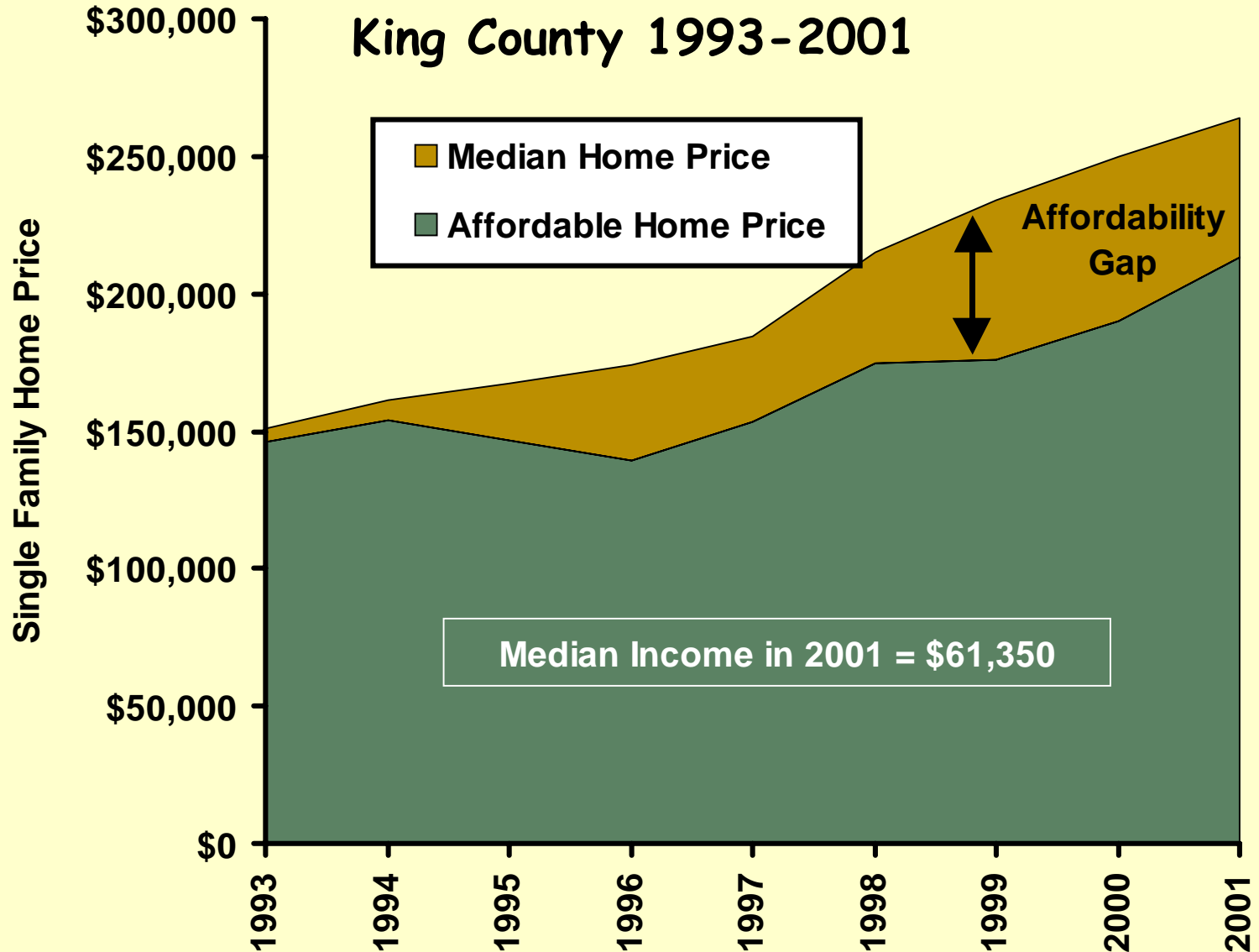
- Adequate food
- Affordable housing
- Living-wage income
- Income distribution
- Social support
- Freedom from discrimination

Affordable Housing

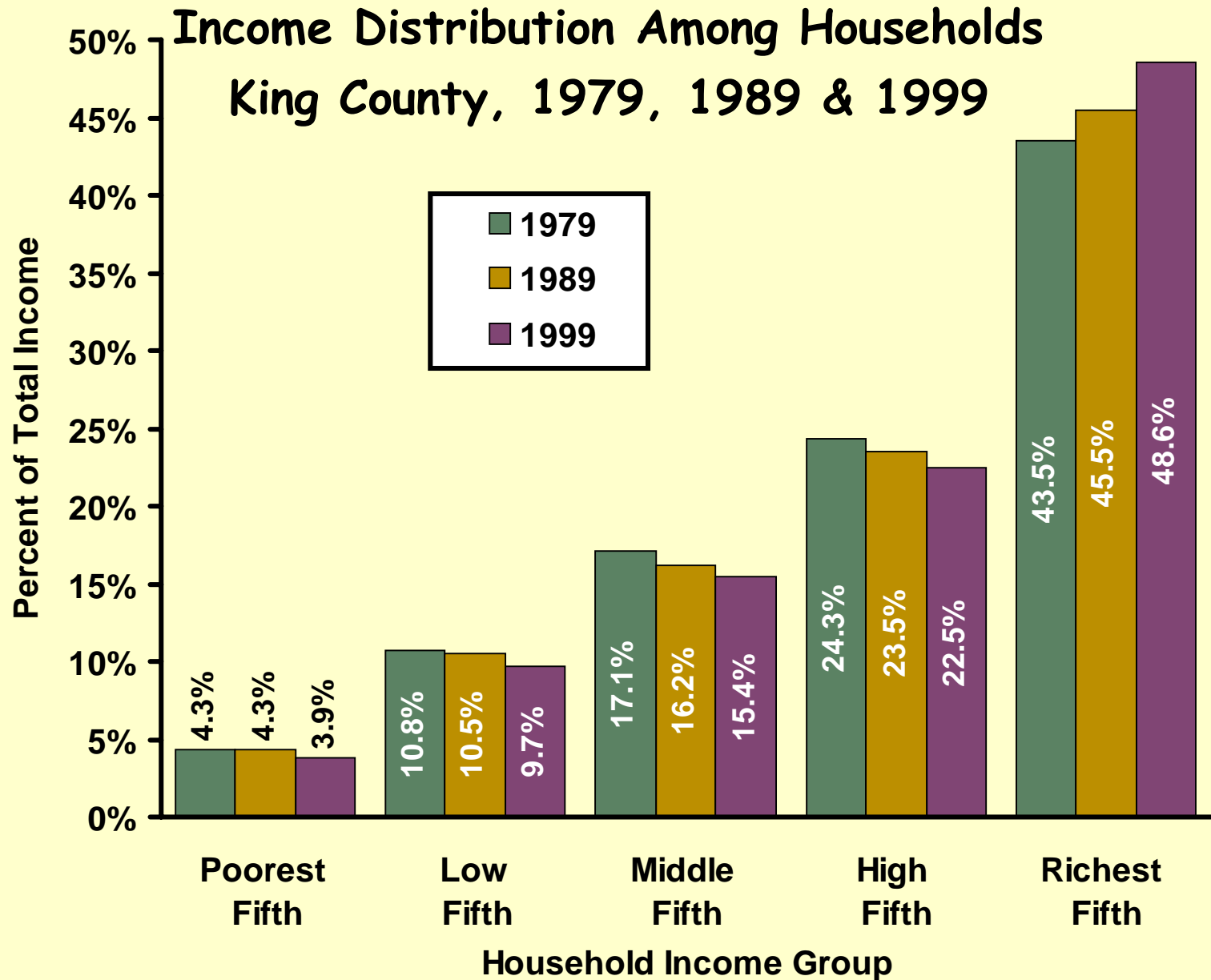
Housing Affordability Gap

For Median Income Home Buyers

King County 1993-2001



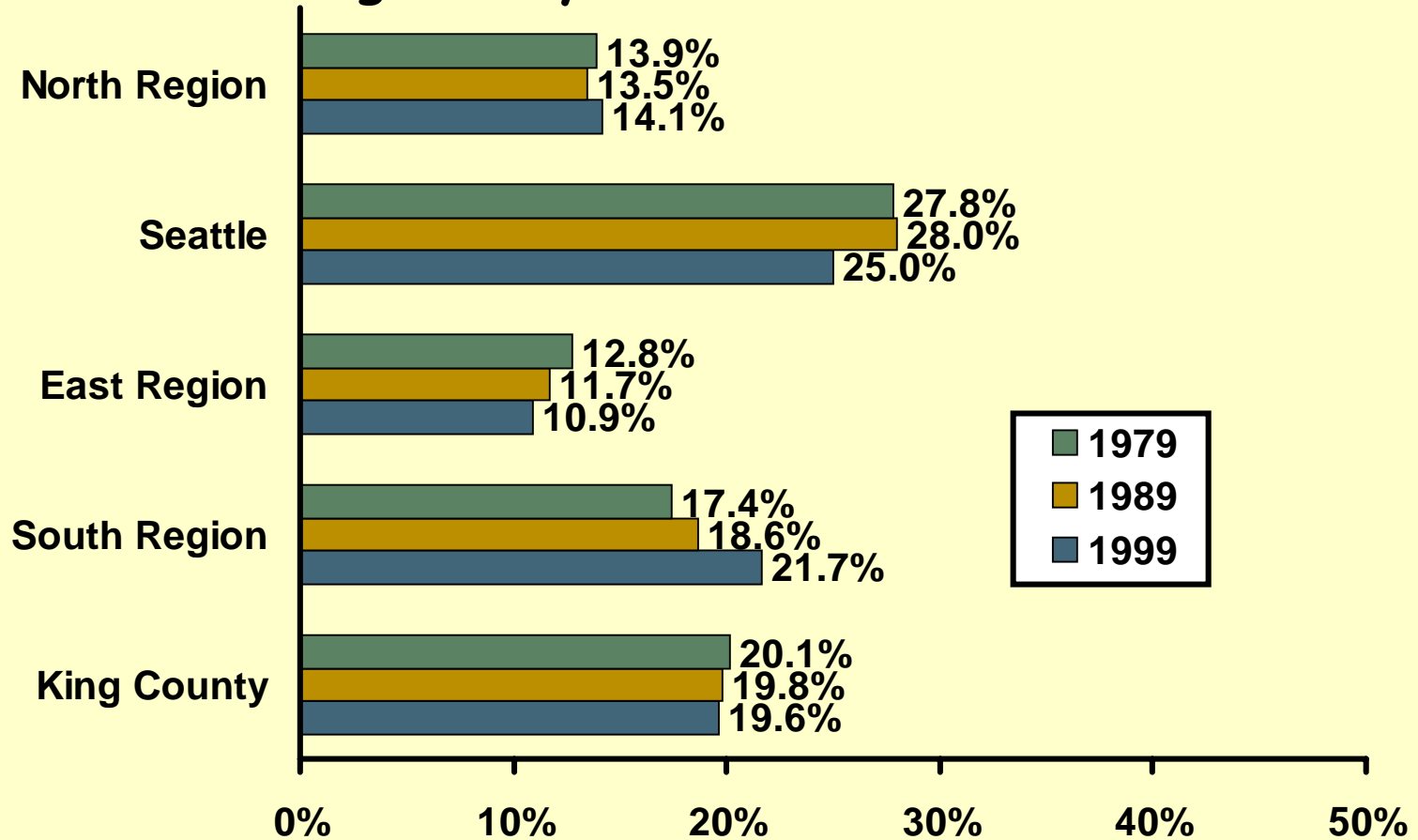
Income Distribution



Living Wage Income

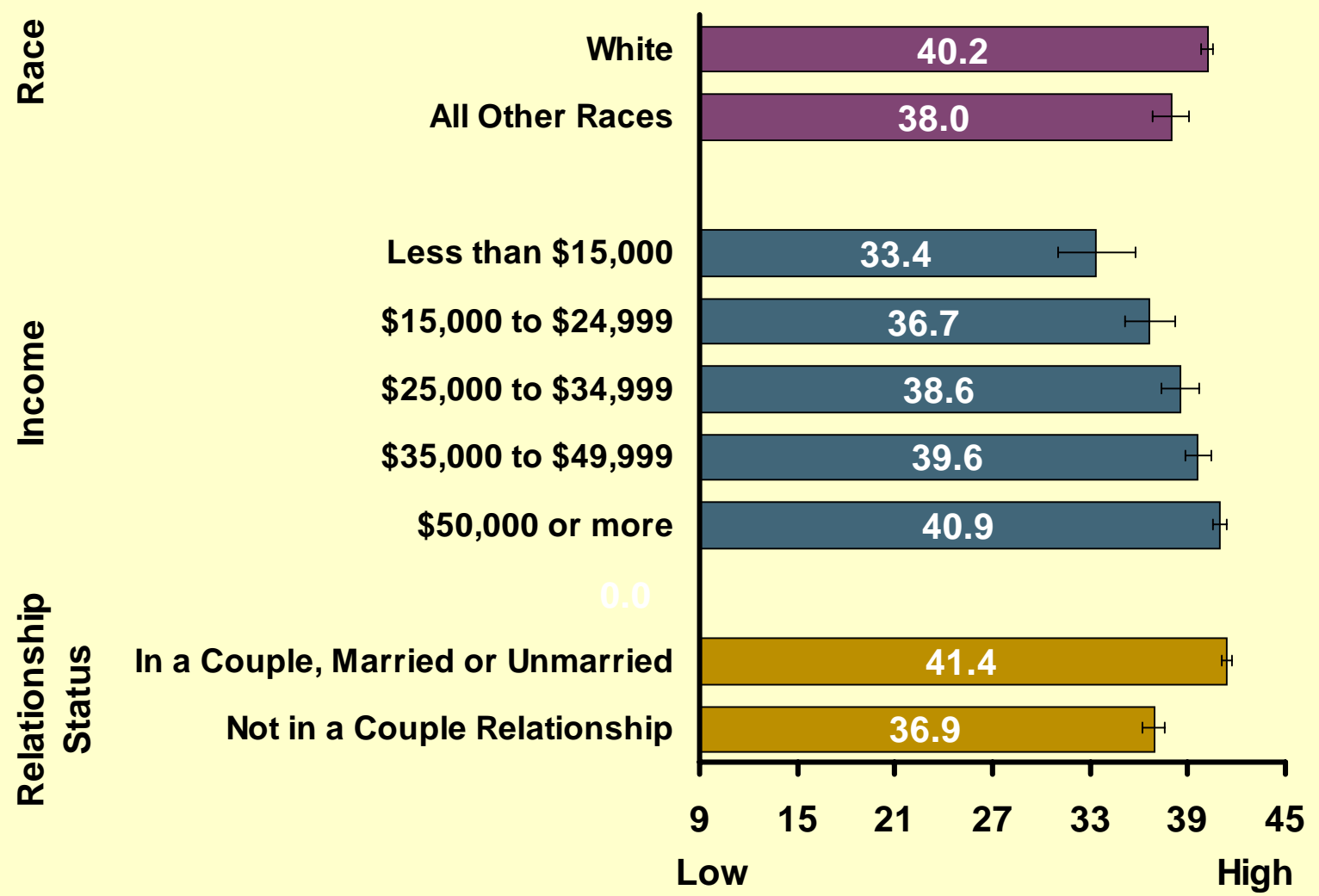
Percent Living Below 200% of Federal Poverty Level

King County, 1979, 1989 & 1999



Social Support

Average Level
By Race, Income and Relationship Status
King County, 2001



Positive Development through Life Stages



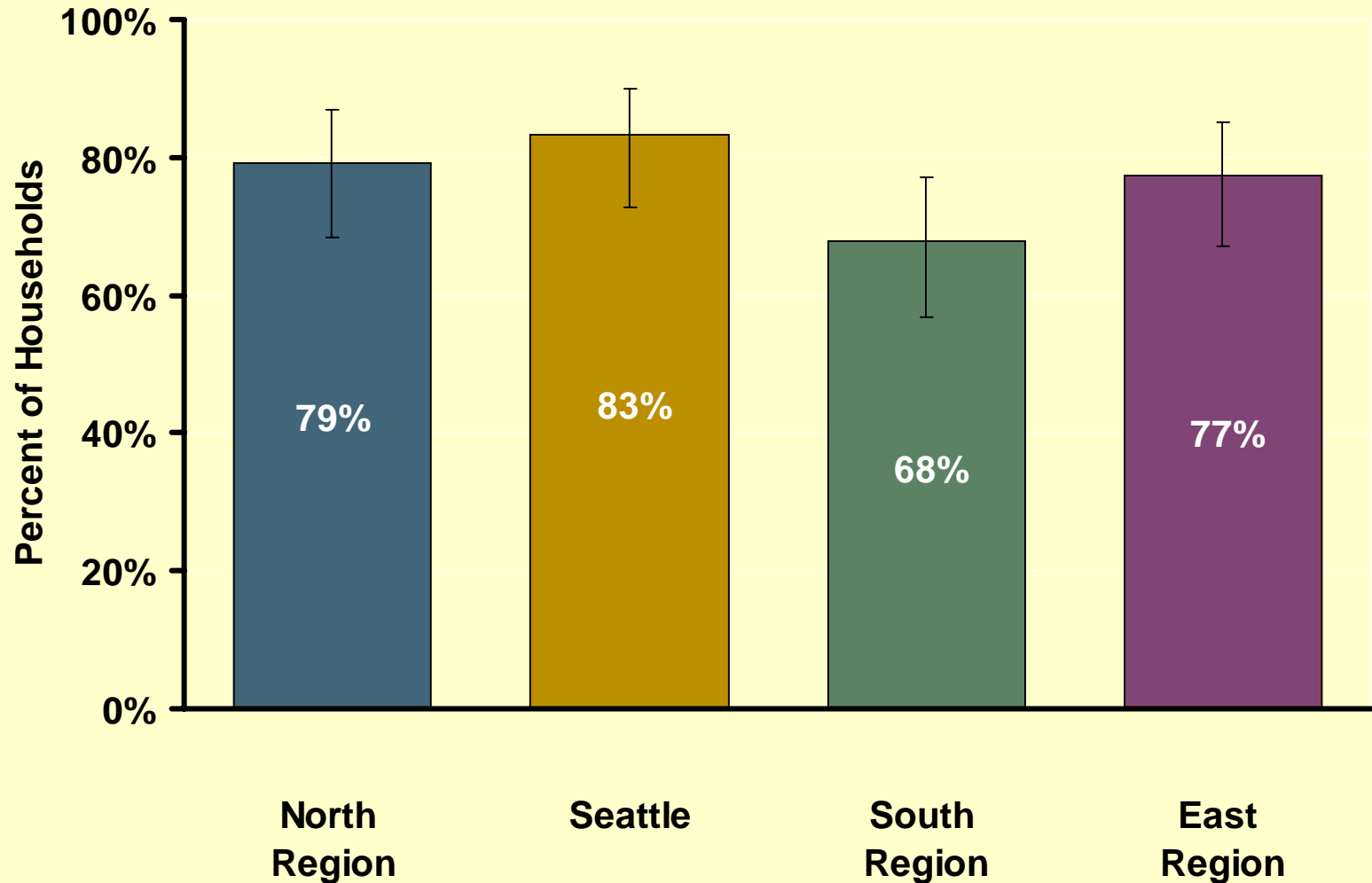
- Family friendly employment
- Parent/guardian involvement in child's learning
- Quality, affordable childcare
- Academic achievement
- Developmental assets/ Risk and protective factors in youth
- Positive social beliefs & behavior in youth
- Participation in life-enriching activities

Parent Involvement in Child's Learning

Households With Children Age 2-5 Years

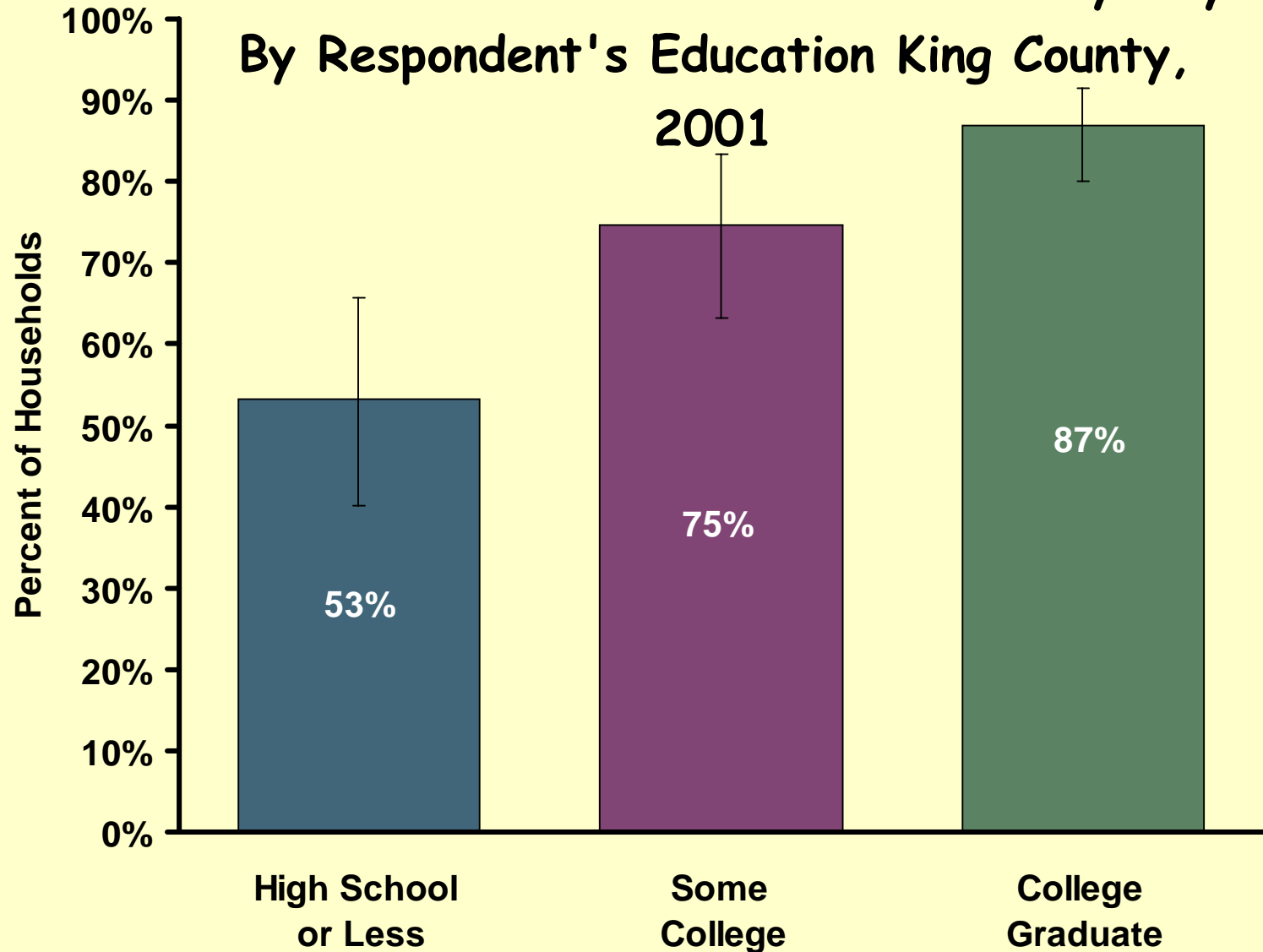
Where Children Were Read or Told

Stories Every Day King County, 2001




Parent Involvement in Child's Learning

Households With Children Age 2-5 Where
Child Was Read or Told Stories Every Day
By Respondent's Education King County,



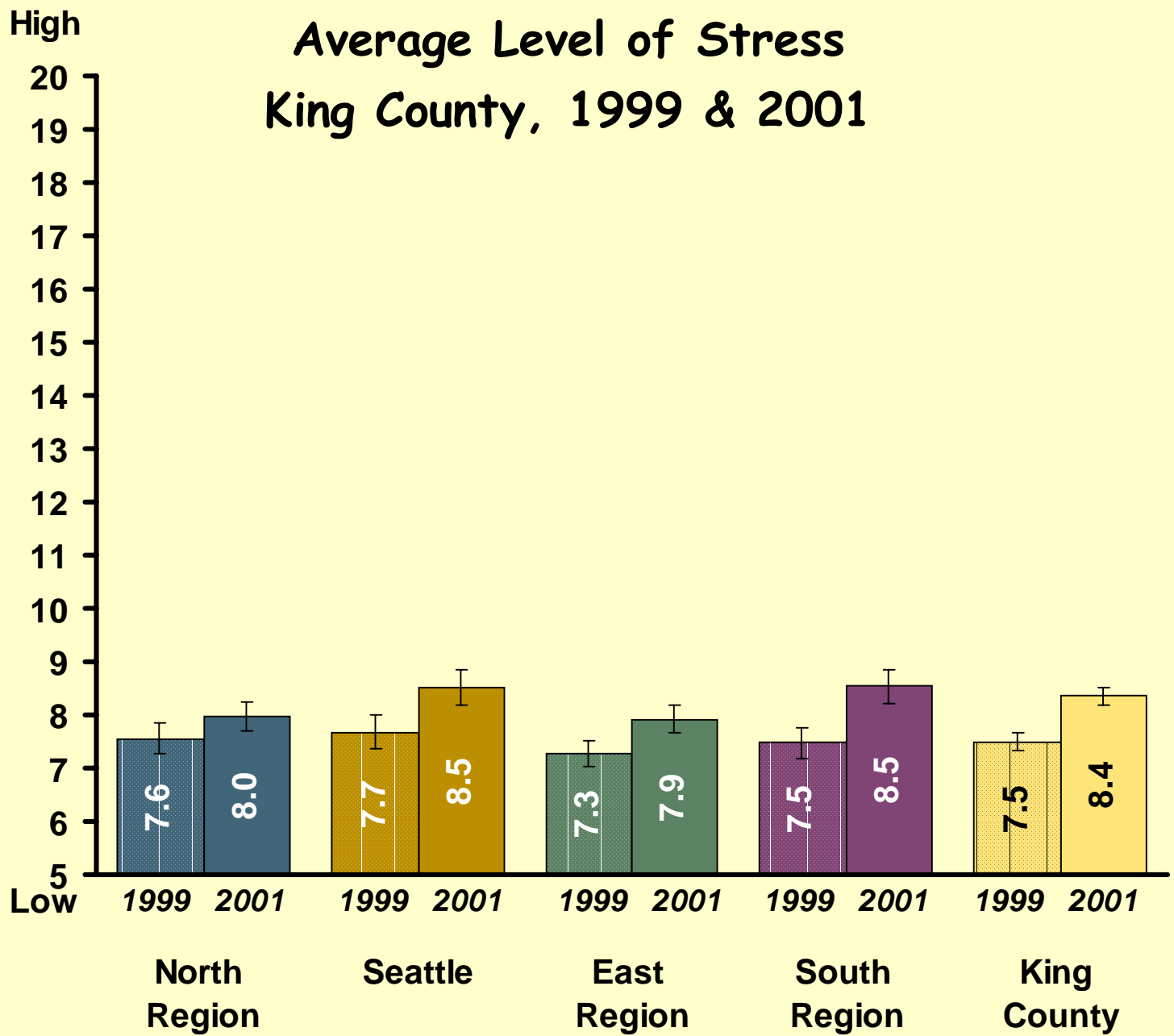
Safety and Health



- Perceived neighborhood safety
- Crime
- Motor vehicle injuries and deaths
- Pollution in neighborhoods
- Family violence
- Infant mortality
- Teen births
- Stress
- Tobacco & alcohol use
- Physical activity and weight
- Restricted activity due to physical/ mental health
- Health insurance coverage and access

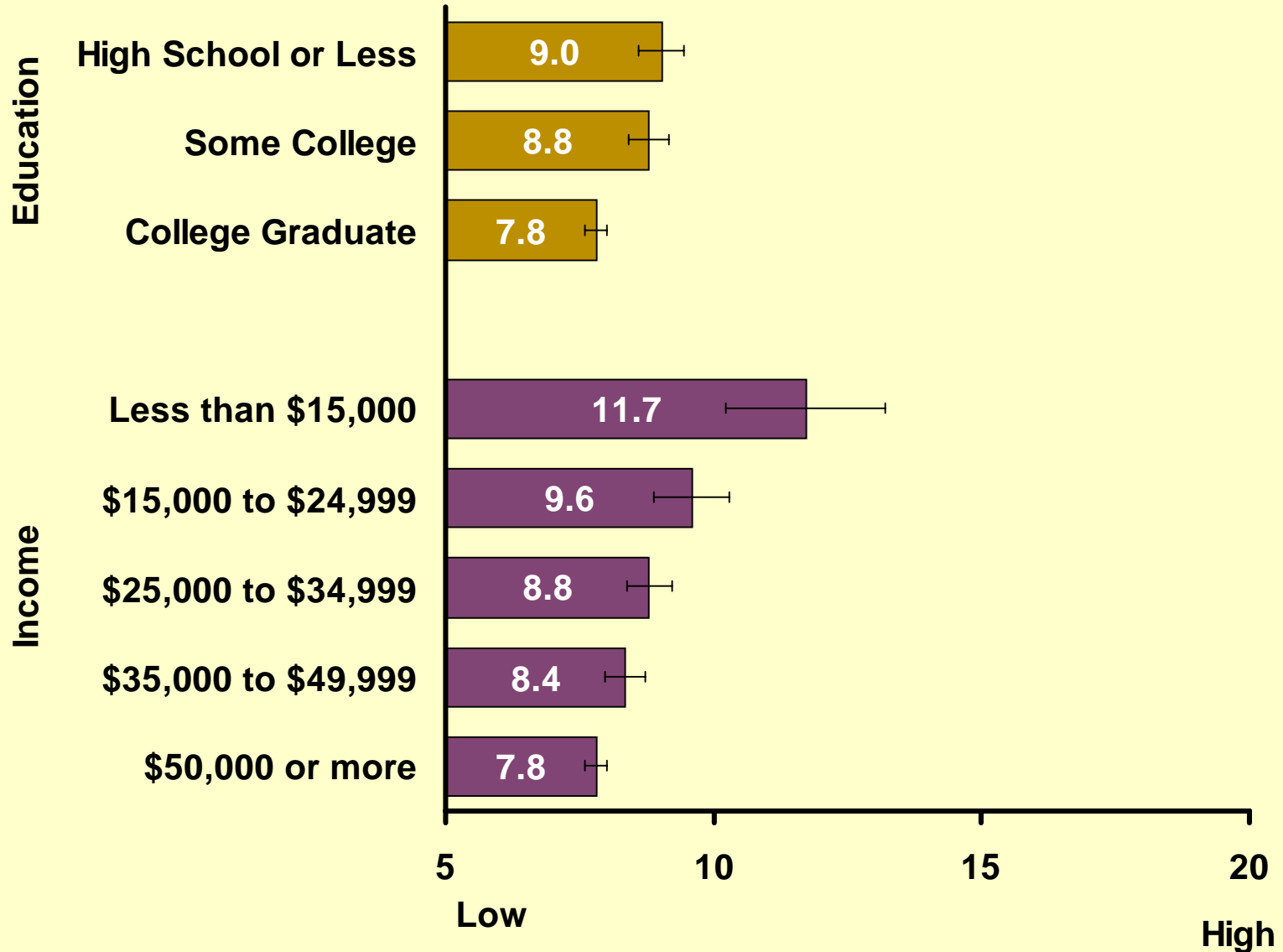
Stress

Average Level of Stress King County, 1999 & 2001



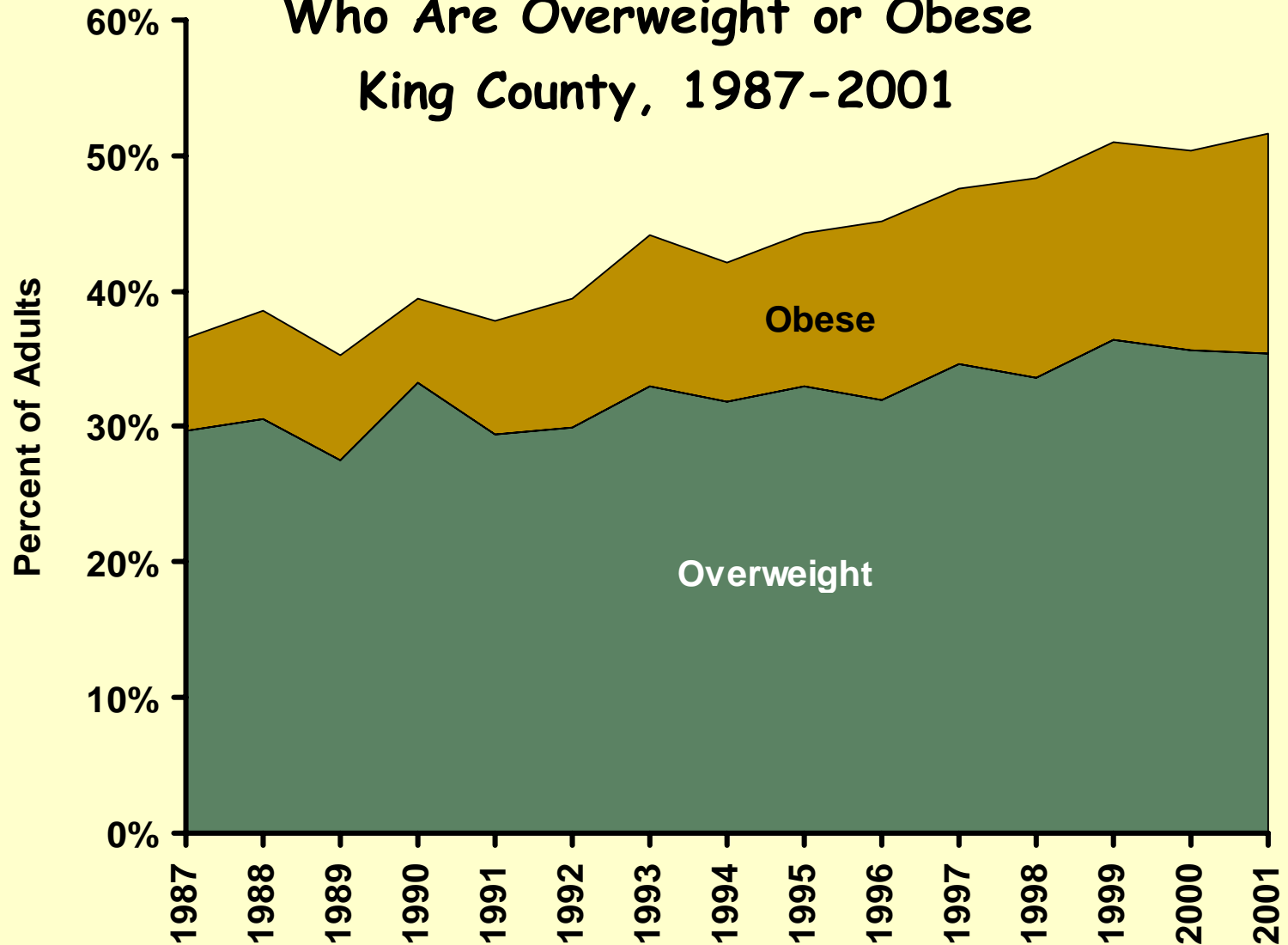
Stress

Average Level of Stress By Education and Income King County, 2001



Weight

Percent of Adults Age 18+
Who Are Overweight or Obese
King County, 1987-2001



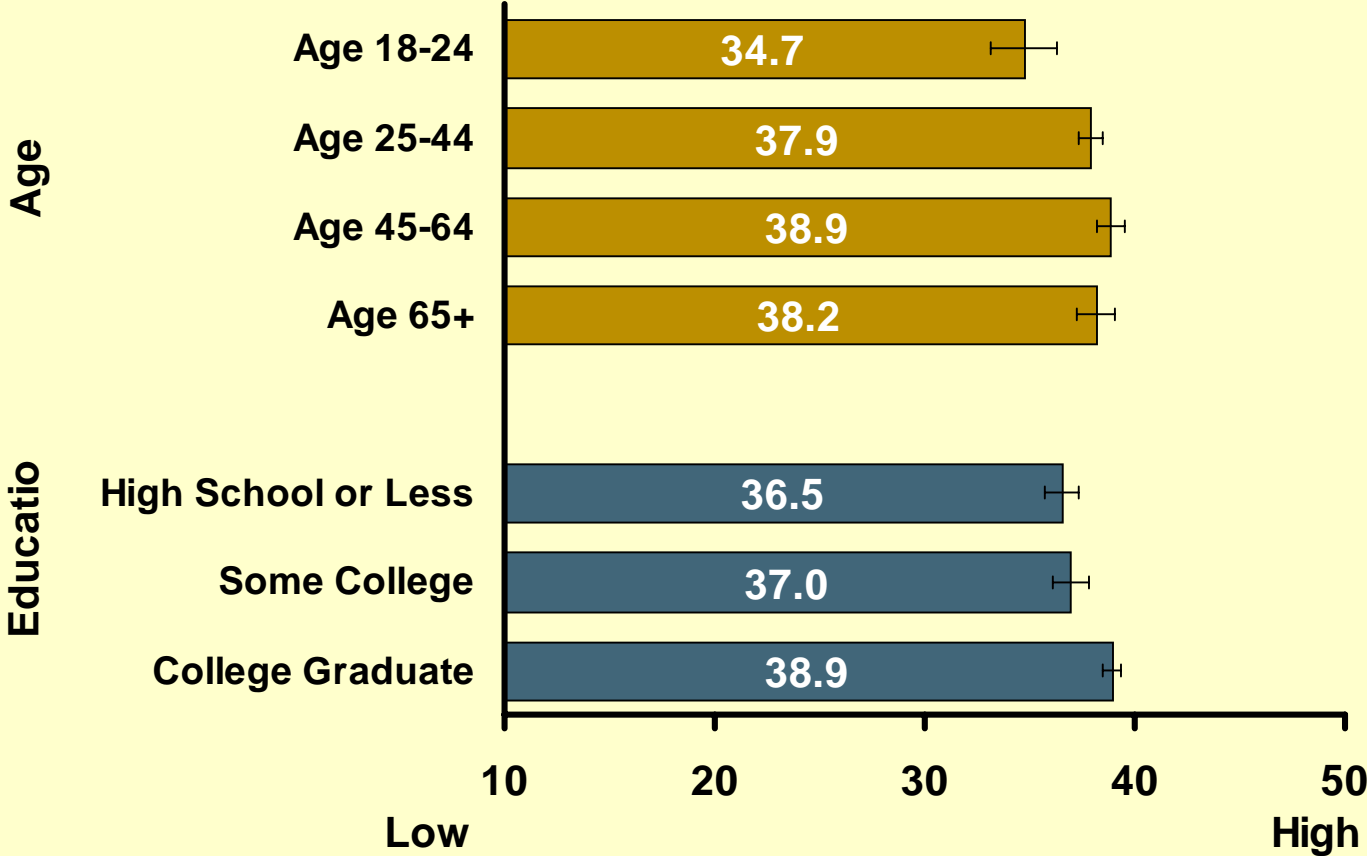
Community Strength



- Neighborhood social cohesion
- Involvement in community organizations
- Institutional support for community service
- Ease of access to shops and services

Neighborhood Social Cohesion

Average Level
By Age and Education
King County, 2001



Data Collection Partnerships

255
participants in
29 focus groups

- **English speakers (11 groups)**
 - **Low Income people (8)** Statewide Poverty Action Network
(2 with Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition)
 - **African Americans (3)** Center for Multicultural Health
- **Spanish speakers (6 groups)**
Center for Human Services
- **Russian speakers (3 groups)**
International Counseling and Community Services
- **Somali speakers (3 groups)**
Somali Women and Children Skills for Change
- **Vietnamese speakers (6 groups)**
Ruth Dykeman Children's Center, Refugee Assistance Program

Summary



- There are many strengths in King County
- This picture is not equal for all
- Differences exist by income, education, race and gender.

Accomplishments



- Report disseminated widely
- Website: <http://www.communitiescount.org>
- Building support for actions and funding from public and private sectors to address indicators of concern
- Update report every 3 years to follow our communities' progress over time

Accomplishments



- Examples of actions in response to *Communities Count* Reports
 - Budget decision in response to findings
 - Program developed in response to a region concern
 - Indicators used to guide allocation and contracting

Next Steps: from data to action

- Build a County-wide agenda to address the persistent inequalities across King County
- Institutionalize use of indicators by multiple stakeholders
- Add special focus on readiness to learn and housing/homelessness
- Develop a web-specific version