

Poverty, Quality of Life and Child Development Data for Kalamazoo

Prepared by Tim Ready

Director, Walker Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnic Relations

Western Michigan University

September 26, 2016

History

The idea of creating a Kalamazoo County Poverty Reduction Initiative began after the **November 2001** Kalamazoo city elections sparked a heated debate about a proposed living wage ordinance.

Although the proposed ordinance was defeated, the campaign raised community awareness about the prevalence of poverty and the need to address this issue in a comprehensive and focused manner with clear lines of accountability.

A group of concerned individuals and 14 organizations, including the Community Task Force on Poverty and the Coalition for a Living Wage, came together with the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of taking measures to address the issue of poverty. The resultant joint effort raised significant questions about:

1. What should be done short-term and long-term?
2. How should an effort be organized?
3. Who is accountable?
4. How can the effort be sustained?
5. How can impact be assured and measured?



Meanwhile, 15 years later...

...here we are asking ourselves the same questions, as Kalamazoo's poverty and inequality have gotten worse and...

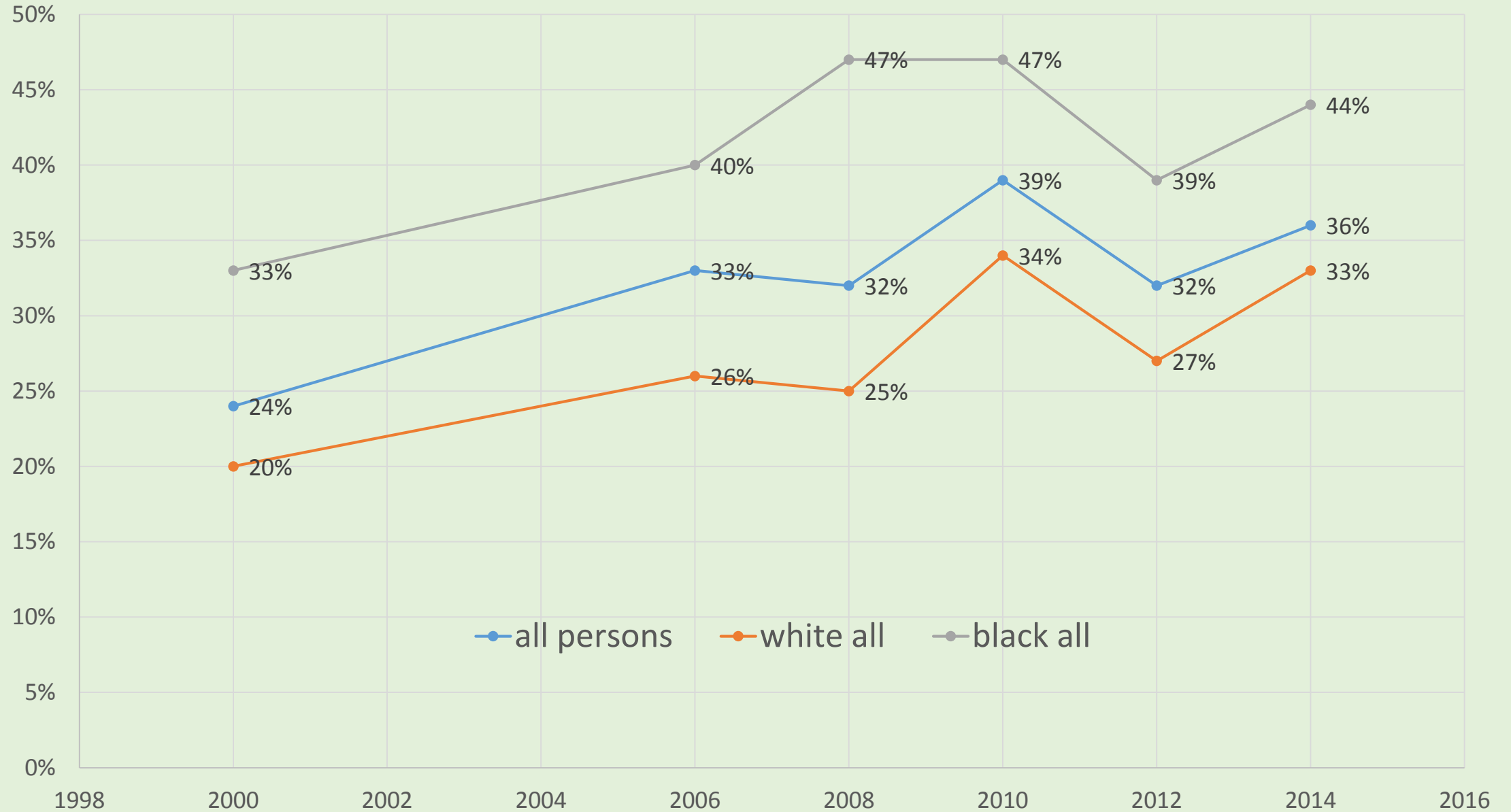
...our quality of life indicators and youth development outcomes have barely budged.

Poverty Trends

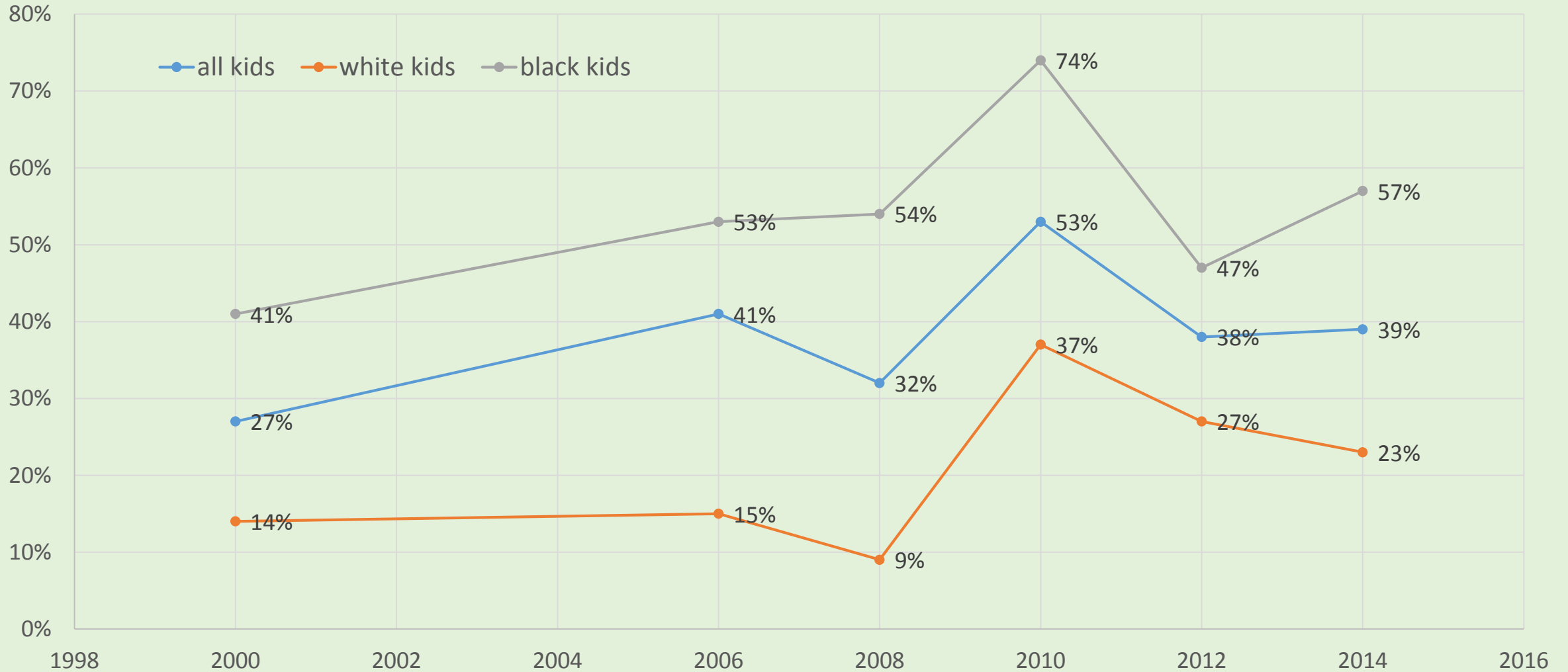
2000 to 2014*

Note that the latest poverty data for Kalamazoo from the 2015 American Community Survey show some improvement over, 2014, consistent with national trends. However, over the past several years, Kalamazoo has consistently had higher rates of poverty than about 90% of cities in the US.

Kalamazoo Residents in Poverty: Total and by Race, 2000 to 2014



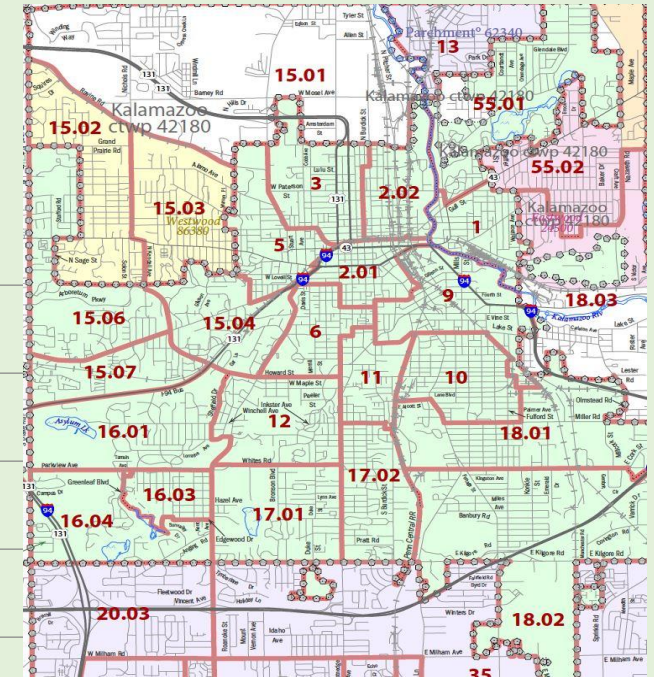
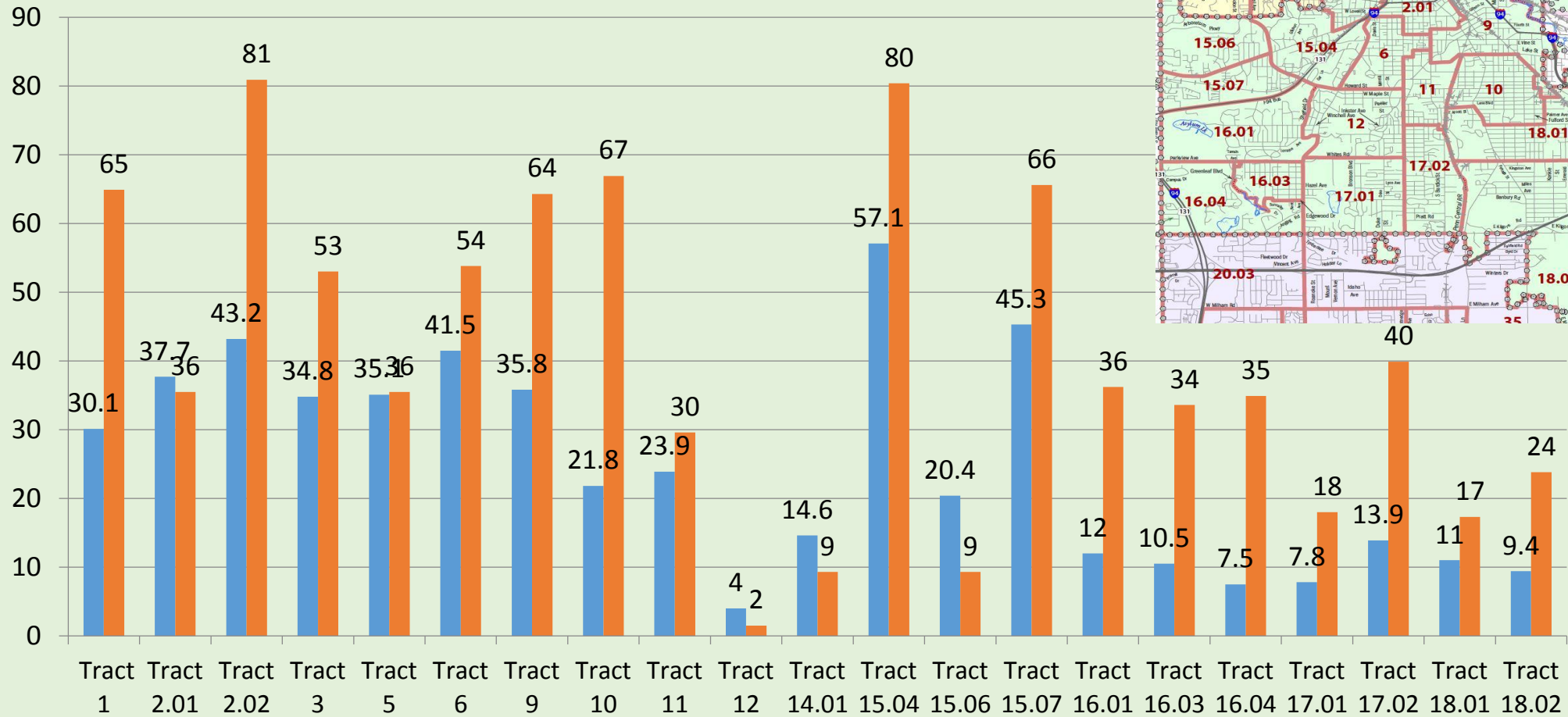
Kalamazoo Kids in Poverty: Total and by Race: 2000 to 2014



Percent of Children in Poverty for City Census

Tracts, 2000 and 2008-12

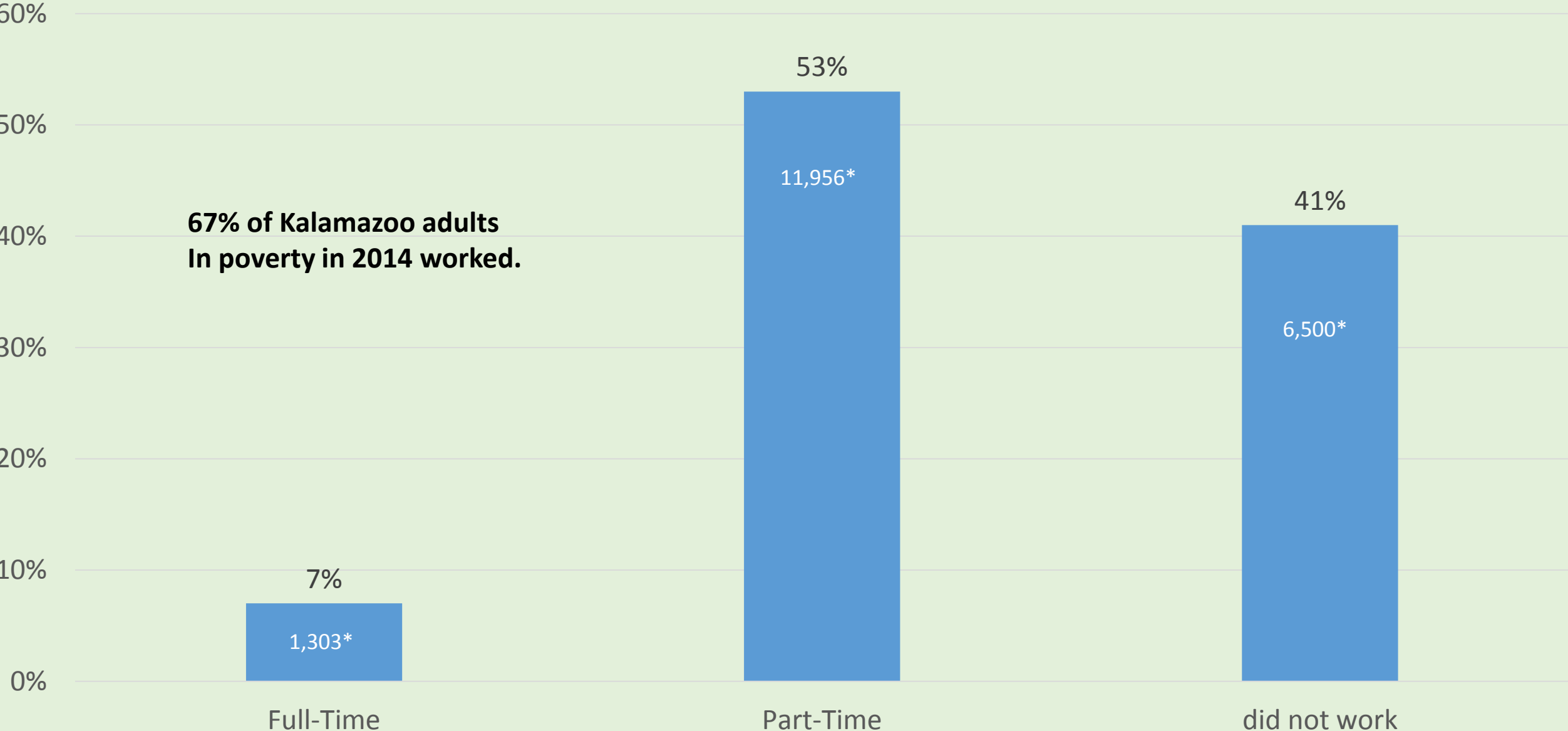
Percent



Access to Well-Paying Jobs

(Following is one chart among many important facts that could be assembled)

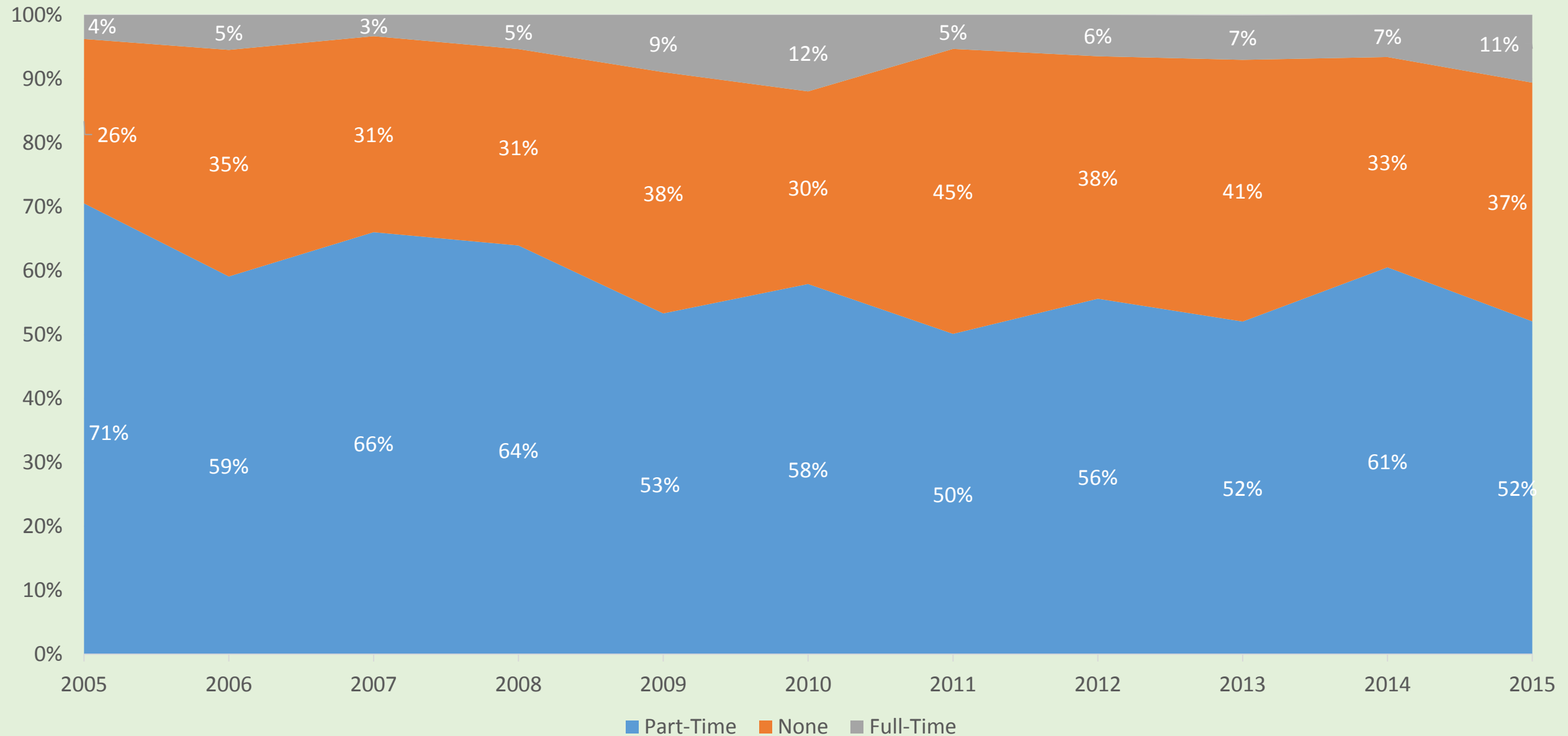
Poverty Rate of Kalamazoo Adults by Work Status, 2014



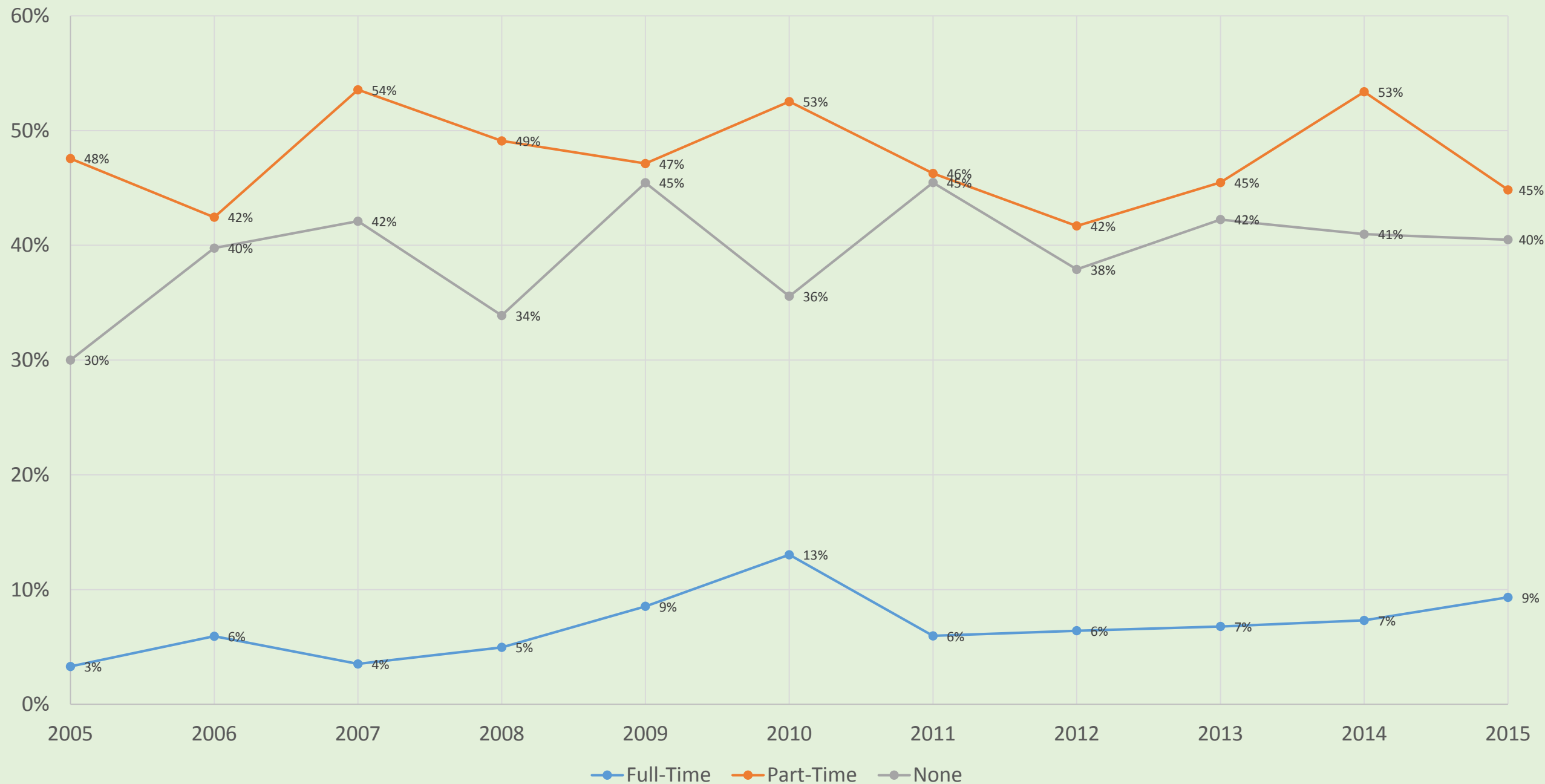
**67% of Kalamazoo adults
In poverty in 2014 worked.**

* Number of individuals in poverty.

Percent of All Persons 16 and Older in Kalamazoo who Are Poor by Work Status

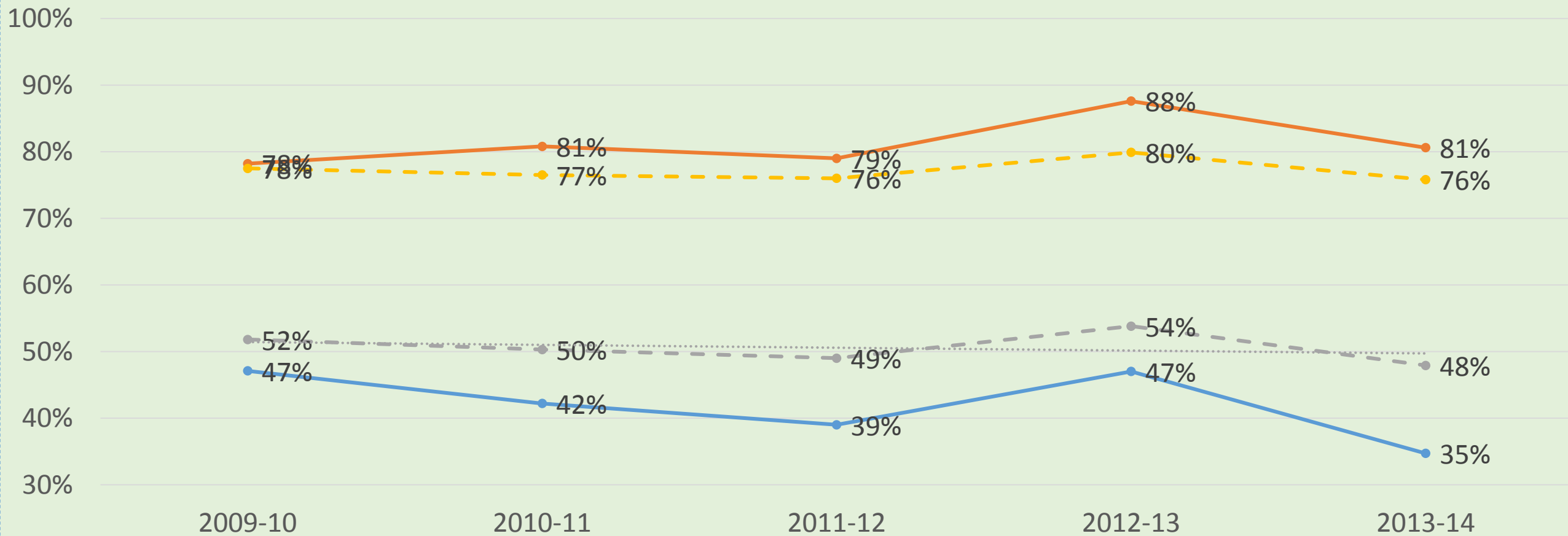


poverty rate by work experience for Kalamazoo Residents, 16 and Older



Youth Development

Third Graders in Kalamazoo and Statewide who are Proficient in Reading by Economic Status*, 2009-10 to 2013-14



* In 2013-14, 74% of KPS third graders * were economically disadvantaged, compared to 51% statewide.

—●— Kalamazoo Disadvantaged

—●— Kalamazoo Not Disadvantaged

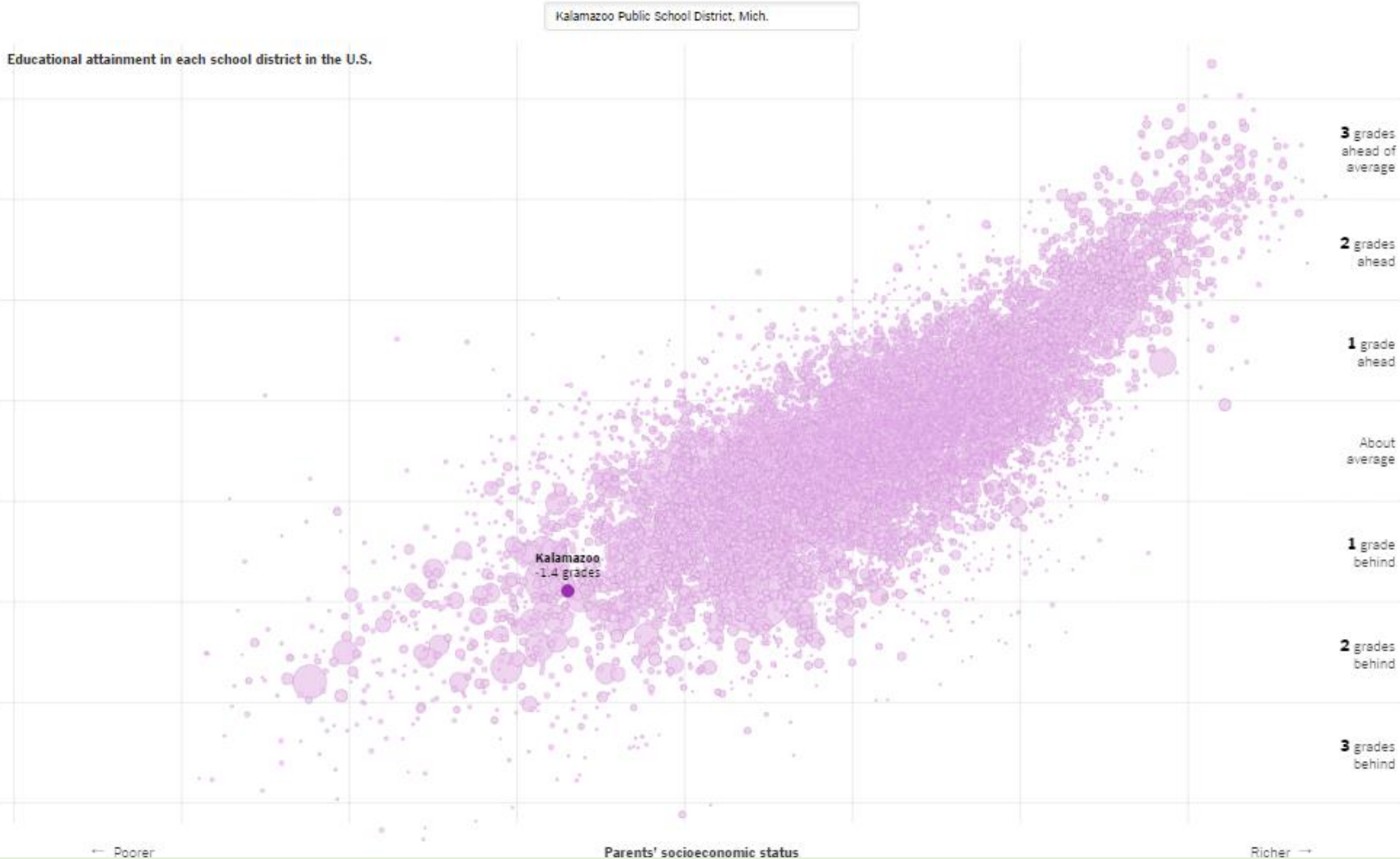
—●— State Disadvantaged

—●— State Not Disadvantaged

Money, Race and Success: How Your School District Compares

By MOTOKO RICH, AMANDA COX and MATTHEW BLOCH APRIL 29, 2016

Sixth graders in the richest school districts are four grade levels ahead of children in the poorest districts.



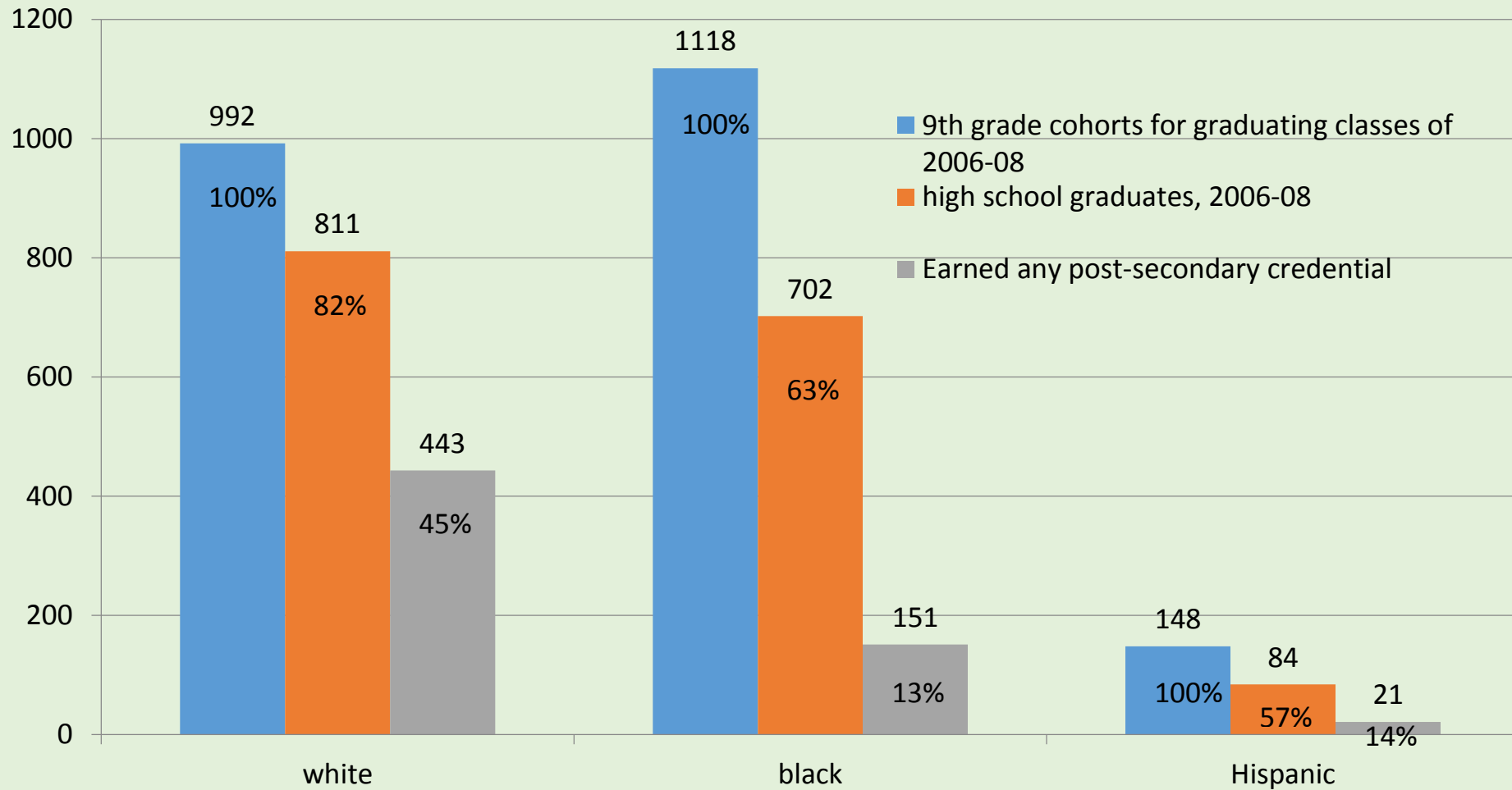
School District Compares

By MOTOKO RICH, AMANDA COX and MATTHEW BLOCH APRIL 29, 2016

Sixth graders in the richest school districts are four grade levels ahead of children in the poorest districts.



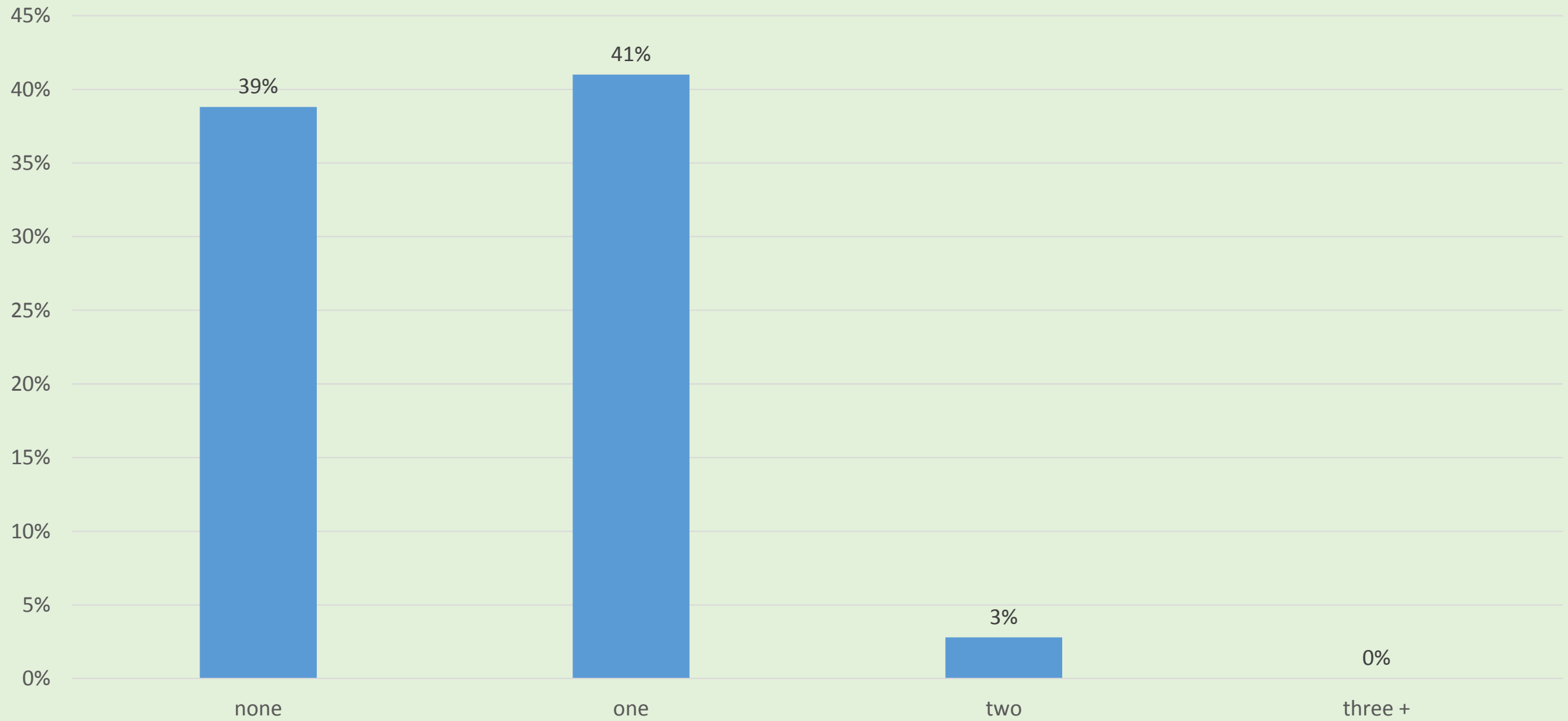
Figure 3. Progression of Cohort of First-time Ninth Graders through High School to Attainment of Any Postsecondary Credential, Six or More Years after Graduation, for Kalamazoo High School Classes of 2006-2008



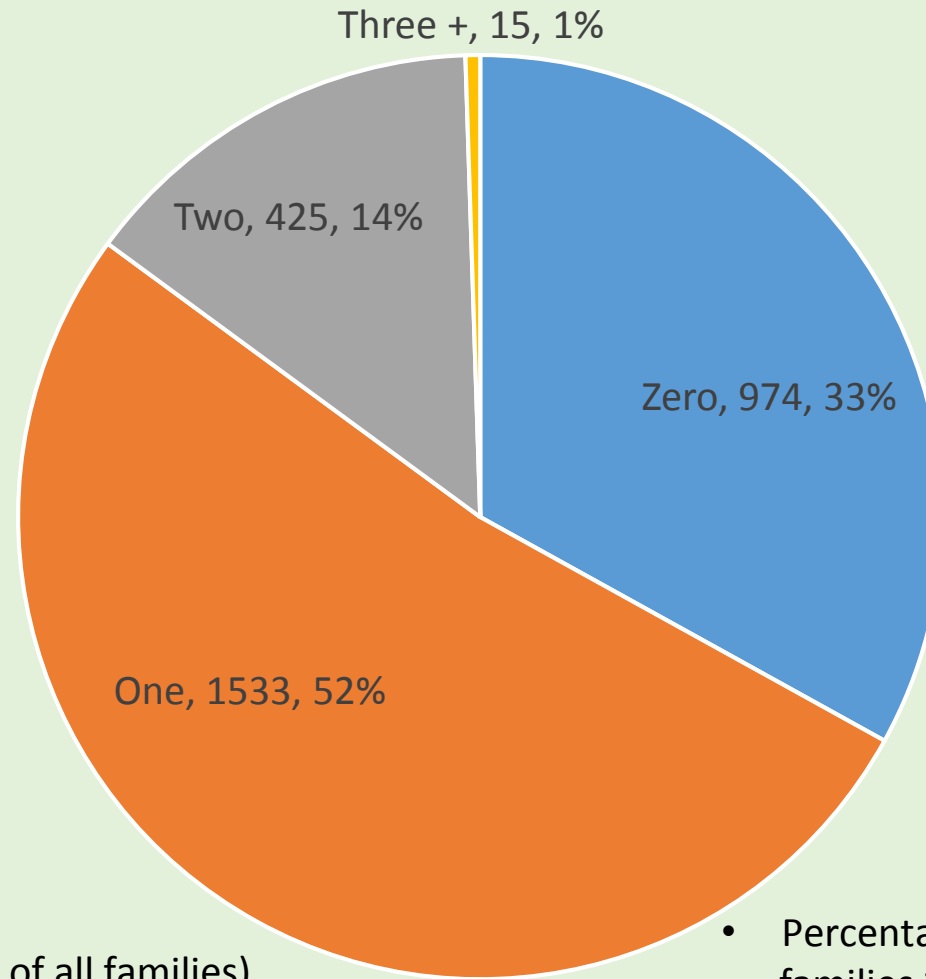
Ninth grade enrollment data from Michigan Department of Education. High school and post-secondary completion data from the Kalamazoo Promise. Data compiled by T. Ready from mischooldata.org and from the Kalamazoo Promise, 2015

Strong, Economically Secure
Families

Family Poverty Rate by the Number of Workers in Family, 2014



Number and Percent* of Kalamazoo Families in Poverty by Number of Workers in the Family, 2014

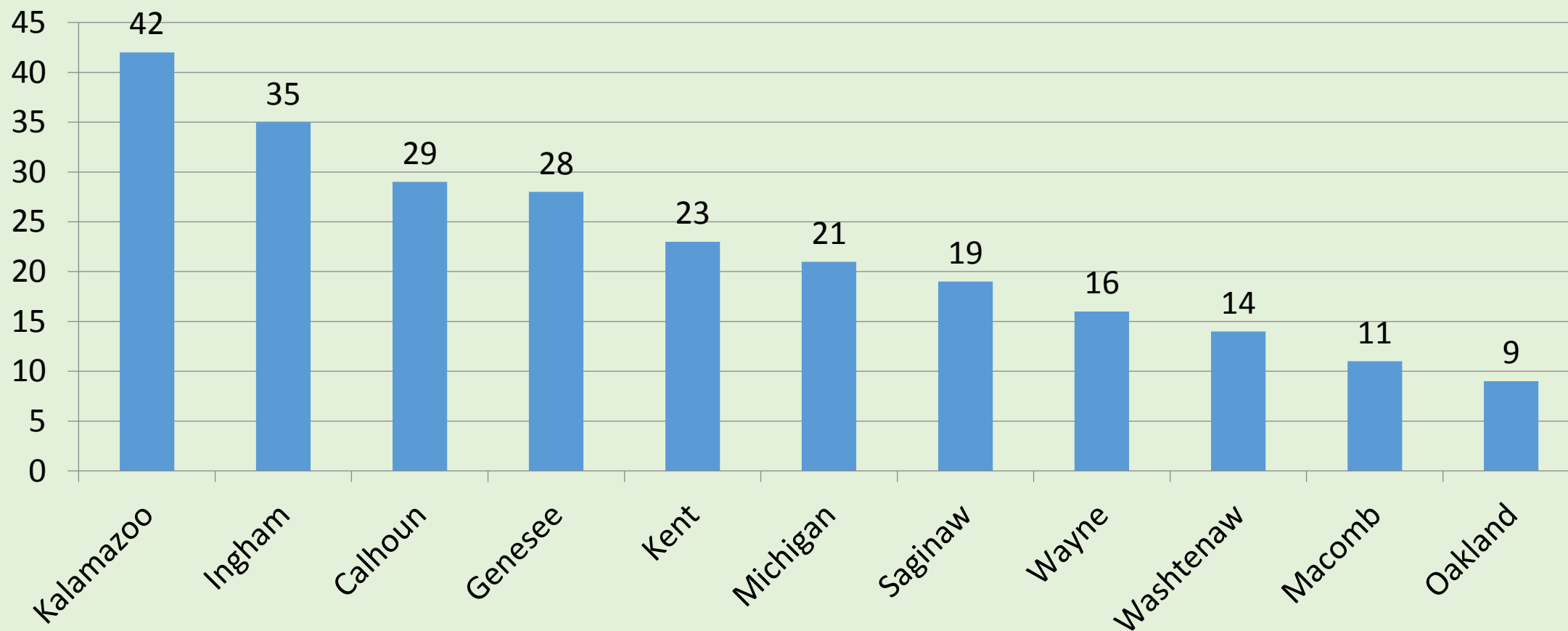


Number of Families in Poverty: 2,947 (23% of all families)

Number of Families with Children in Poverty: 2,354 (36% of all families with children)

- Percentages in pie chart refer to the percent of all families in poverty.

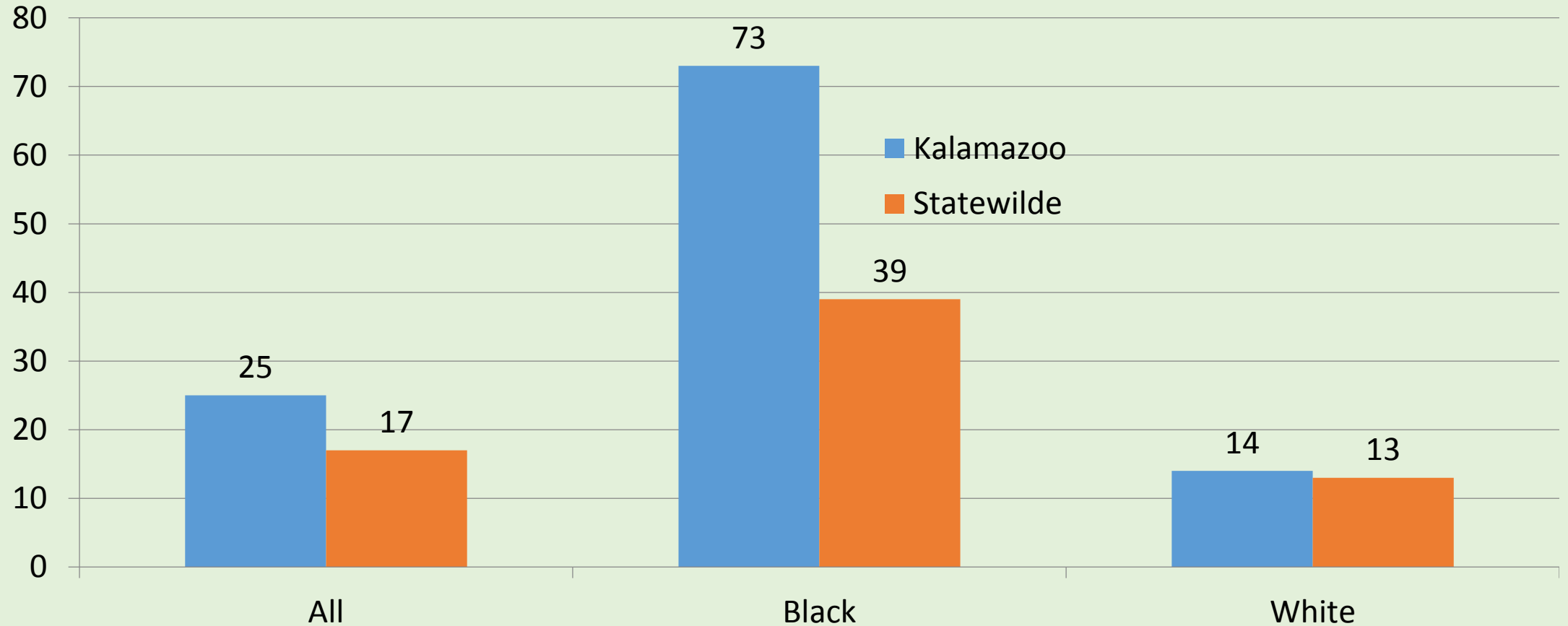
Confirmed Cases of Abuse and/Or Neglect*, Ages 0 to 8, for Michigan Urban Counties, 2013



* Rate per 1,000

Source: Child Protective Services, Michigan Dept. of Human Services, as reported by Michigan League for Public Policy

Arrest Rate per 1,000 Juveniles, 2012, for Kalamazoo and Statewide



Violent Crime in Kalamazoo*

- Kalamazoo consistently is above the 90th percentile for violent crime among Michigan cities.
- In 2010, there were 1,005 violent crimes per 100,000 residents, placing Kalamazoo's among the highest crime rates in the state for homicide, robbery, aggravated assault and rape.

* Source: Uniform Crime Reports of the FBI, as compiled by the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety.

Kalamazoo Poverty in National Perspective

2014 data

All Residents

92nd Percentile All Families with children in poverty

- 2,354 or 36% of all Kalamazoo families with children are in poverty
- Only 44 of 564 cities of at least 65,000 people have higher poverty rates for families with children

98th Percentile All Individuals in Poverty

- 2,4695 or 36% of all residents of Kalamazoo are in poverty
- Only 12 of 484 US cities of at least 65,000 higher poverty rates for individuals

90th Percentile All Children in Poverty

- 1,799 or 40% of all children in Kalamazoo are in poverty
- Only 55 of 584 US cities of at least 65,000 have higher child poverty

Black Residents

72nd Percentile Black Families with Children in Poverty

- 1,257 or 45% of black families with children in Kalamazoo are in poverty
- Only 70 of 253 cities of at least 65,000 and sizeable black populations have higher poverty rates for black families with children

92nd Percentile Black Individuals in Poverty

- 7,126 or 44% of all black residents of Kalamazoo are in poverty
- Only 18 of 224 cities with at least 15,000 black residents have higher poverty rates for black individuals

85th Percentile Black Children in Poverty

- 2,395 or 57% of black children in Kalamazoo are in poverty
- Only 33 of 224 US cities with at least 15,000 black residents have higher poverty rates for black children

White Residents

95th Percentile White (not Hispanic) Families with Children in poverty Family

- 1,012 or 28% of non-Hispanic white families with children are in poverty
- Only 26 of 516 US cities of at least 65,000 have higher poverty rates for non-Hispanic white families than Kalamazoo

99th Percentile White (not Hispanic) Individuals in Poverty

- 13,898 or 33% of non-Hispanic white residents of Kalamazoo are in poverty
- Only 5 of 570 cities of at least 65,000 have higher poverty rates for non-Hispanic white individuals

87th Percentile White (not Hispanic) Children in Poverty

- 1,421 or 23% of non-Hispanic white children in Kalamazoo are in poverty
- Only 75 of 570 cities of at least 65,000 people have a higher percentage of non-Hispanic white children in poverty