

Presentation to the Kalamazoo City Commission on Poverty in Kalamazoo

Timothy Ready

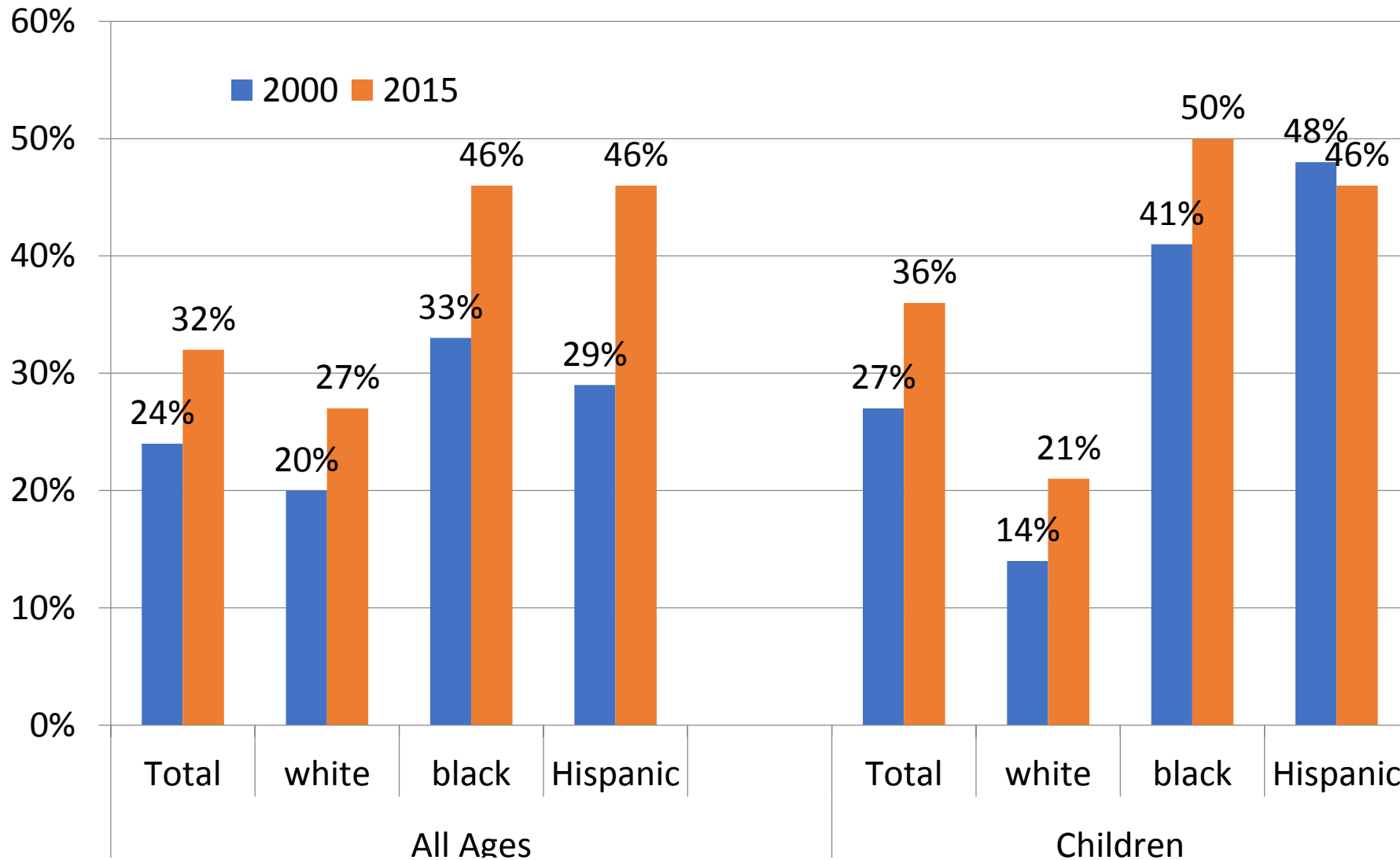
Director, Lewis Walker Institute for the Study of

Race and Ethnic Relations

Western Michigan University

March 27, 2017

Poverty in Kalamazoo: 2000 and 2015*



* Data for Hispanics are estimated.

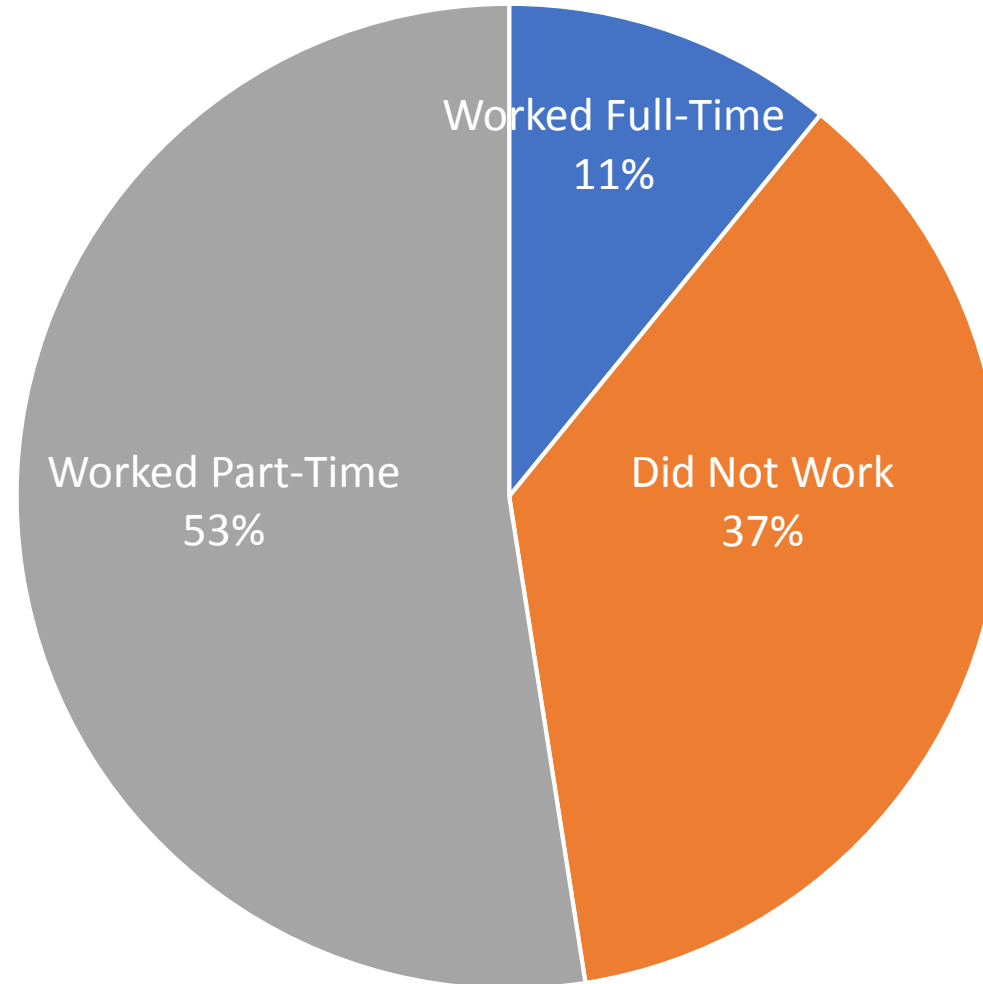
Generational Poverty?

Kalamazoo Families Work Hard!

- 85 percent of all families with children under six years of age are headed by parents who work;
- This places Kalamazoo at the 99th percentile in the U.S. for the workforce participation of parents of young children.

Percent of Kalamazoo Adults* in Poverty by Employment Status, 2015

Nearly two-thirds (64%)
of Kalamazoo adults
in poverty worked

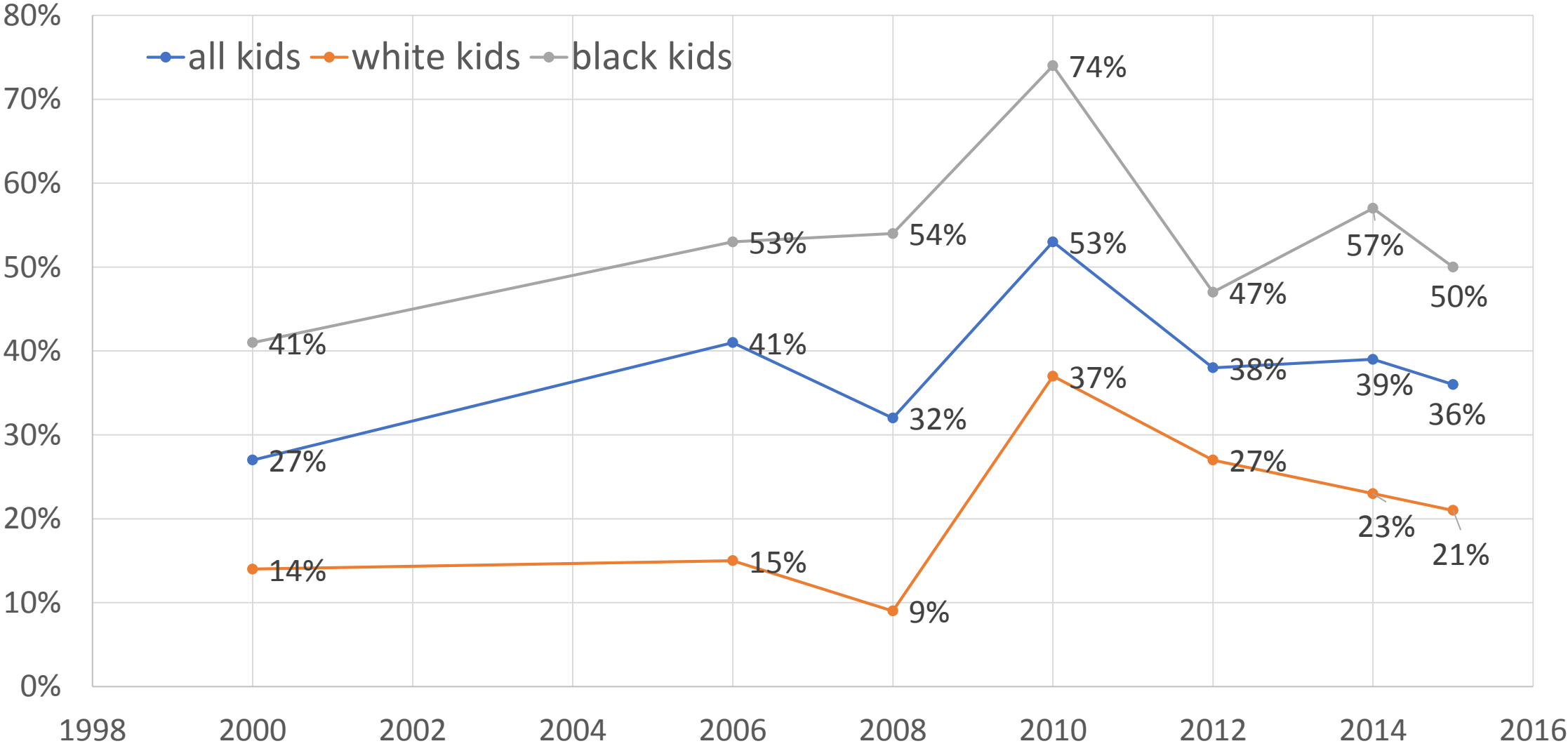


Percent of All Adults 16 and Older who Worked:

Full-Time: 35%
Part-Time: 36%
Not At All: 29%

* Persons 16 Years and Older

Percent of Kalamazoo's Children who Are Poor, Total, White and Black: 2000 to 2015



Child Poverty in Kalamazoo:*

Percentile Ranking among All US Cities with at Least 65,000 People

Percent Poor

National Percentile Rank for Poverty

All Children: 36% 85th Percentile

White Children 21% 87th Percentile

Black Children 50% 84th Percentile

Hispanic Children** 46%** 78th percentile

• American Community Survey, 2015

** Estimate. Comparable data for 2015 unavailable for Hispanic children in Kalamazoo

Poverty in Kalamazoo in National Perspective*

National Percentile Rank

32 percent of all of city residents in poverty

97th Percentile

46 percent of all black residents of the city

99th Percentile

27 percent of all white residents of the city

97th Percentile

29% of all families with children under18

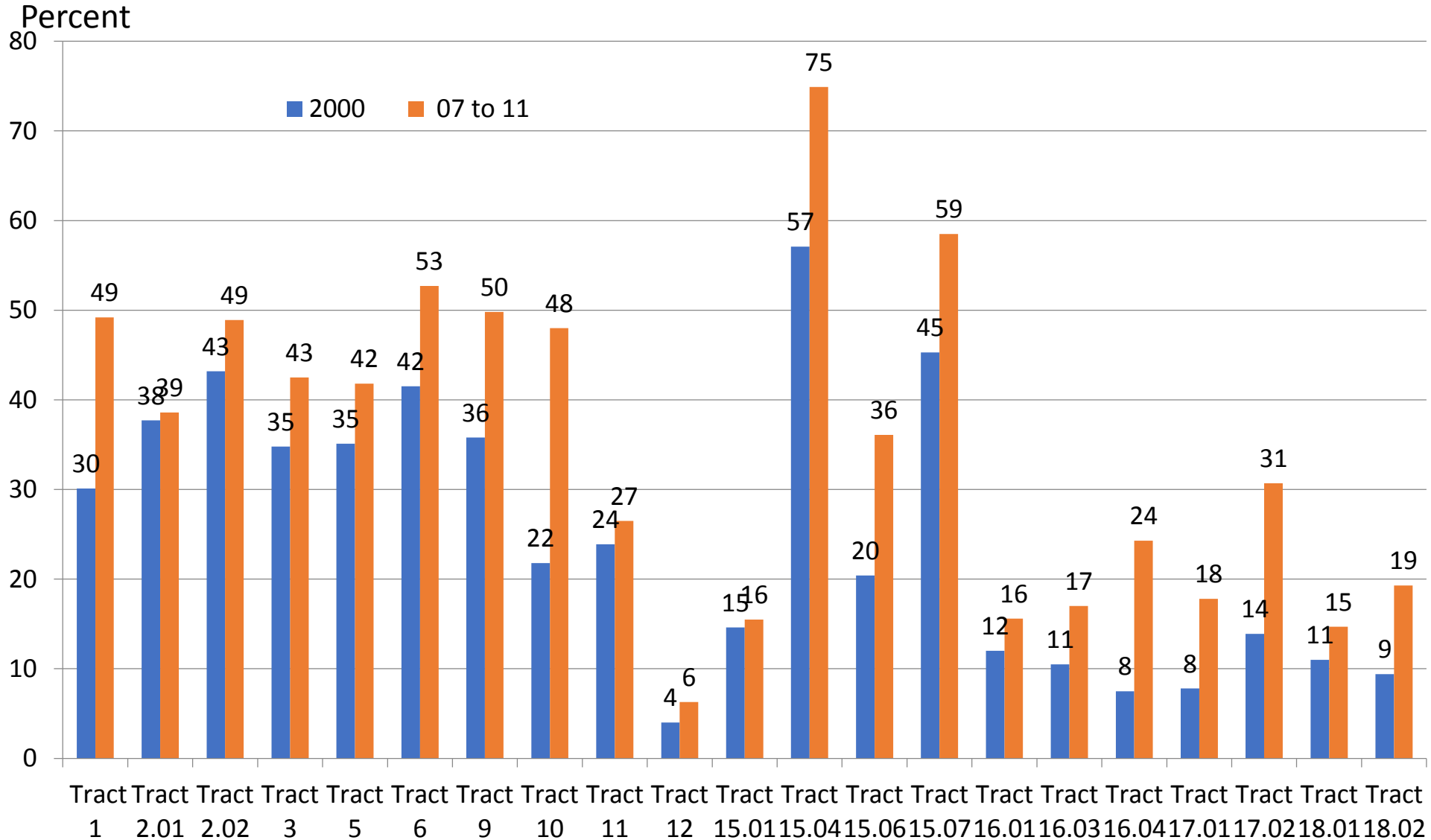
83rd Percentile

* 2015 American Community Survey

High Poverty Neighborhoods

- Concentrated Poverty (not just individual and family poverty):
 - Is hazardous to health
 - Undermines education outcomes
 - Increases the risk of involvement in criminal justice system
- 12 of 25 Kalamazoo Census Tracts Have Concentrated Poverty (at Least 30 Percent of Residents in Poverty)

Percent of Persons in Poverty in Kalamazoo Census Tracts, 2000 and 2011-15



Twelve of the 25 Census Tracts in the City Have Concentrated Poverty (poverty rate of at least 30 percent)

Percent of All Persons in Poverty

Tract 1	53%	Tract 15.04	70%
Tract 2.01	48%	Tract 15.06	42%
Tract 2.02	39%	Tract 15.07	59%
Tract 3	51%	Tract 16.01	13%
Tract 5	36%	Tract 16.03	26%
Tract 6	42%	Tract 16.04	24%
Tract 9	51%	Tract 17.01	21%
Tract 10	41%	Tract 17.02	16%
Tract 11	30%	Tract 18.01	15%
Tract 12	5%	Tract 18.02	23%
		Tract 55.01	16%

