

**13 FACTS ABOUT  
BLACK & WHITE  
POVERTY IN ST.  
PETERSBURG**

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# ABOUT THIS RESEARCH

This document is one of many published by the 2020 Plan Taskforce to shed light on the dynamics of poverty in South St. Petersburg – an area recognized by officials as the largest of five poverty zones in Pinellas County, Florida.

The 2020 Plan is a 5-Year Initiative to reduce the poverty rate by 30% in South St. Petersburg by the year 2020.

Research by Gypsy C. Gallardo

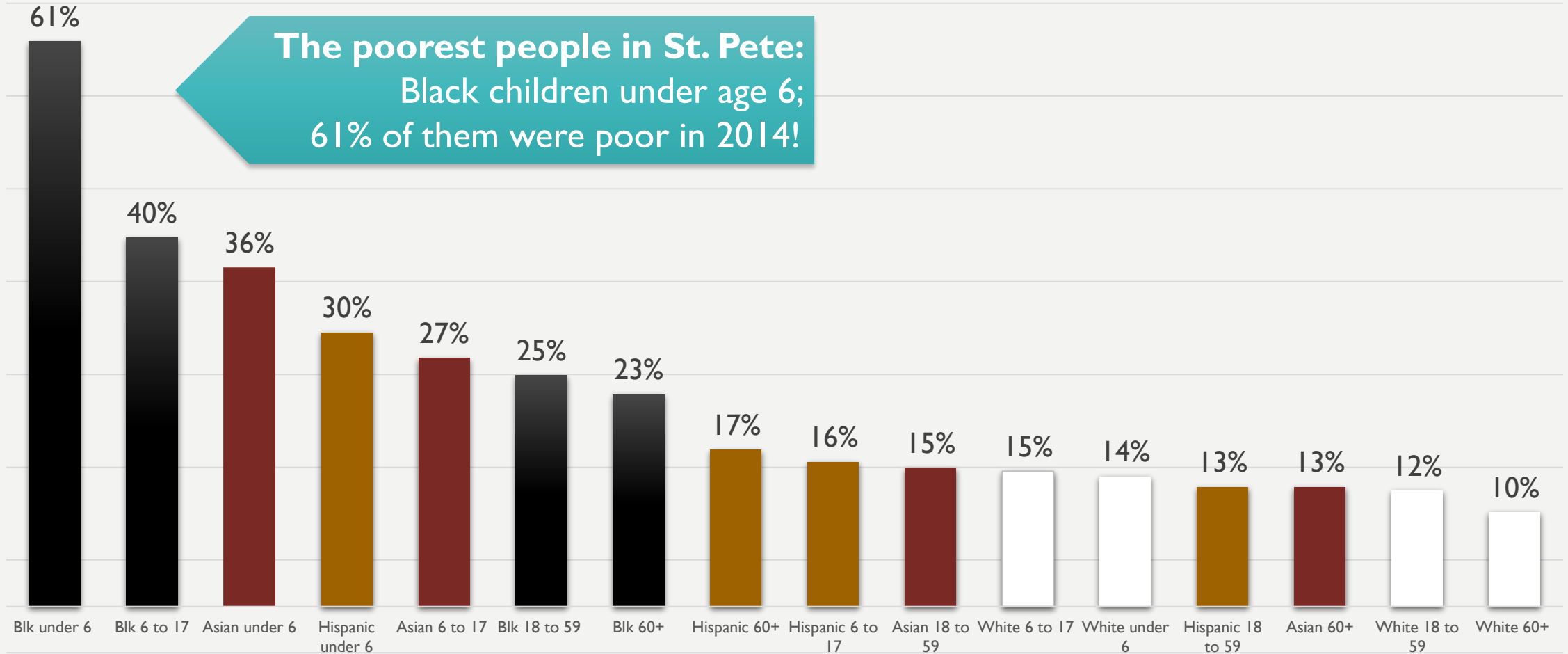
## SOURCES:

- Data are sourced from the U.S. Census, including data from 2000 Summary File 1, 2005 American Community Survey, 2007 3-Year Estimates, 2010, 2013 3-Year & 5-Year Estimates and 2014 5-Year Estimates.
- State prison population data are calculated using the Florida Department of Corrections Inmate Population and Community Supervision Population 2013 data.

#1

# AFRICAN AMERICANS HAVE HIGHEST POVERTY RATES; WHITES HAVE LOWEST POVERTY RATES

Poverty Rates by race/age groups in St. Petersburg 2014



#2

# WHITE POVERTY RATE CONSTANT OVER LIFE CYCLE; BLACK POVERTY EXTREME IN CHILDREN

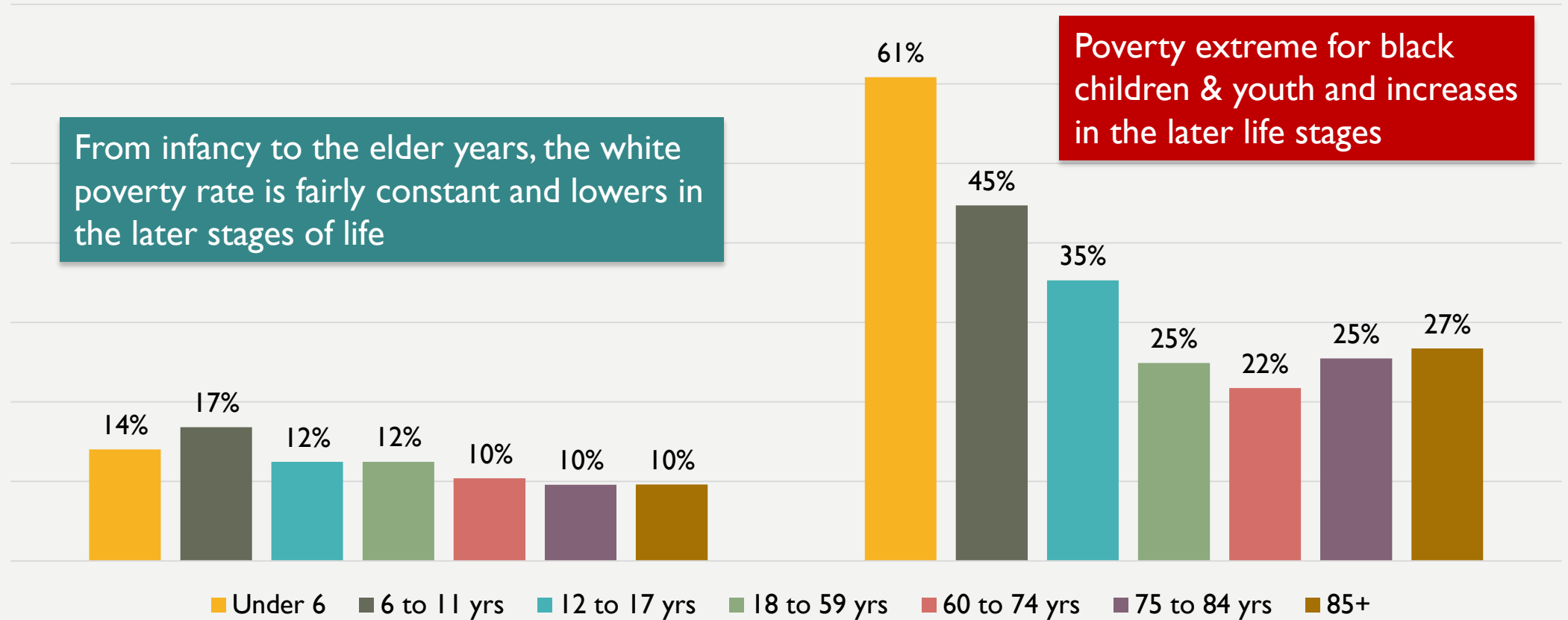
Poverty Rates by race/age groups in St. Petersburg 2014

White

Black

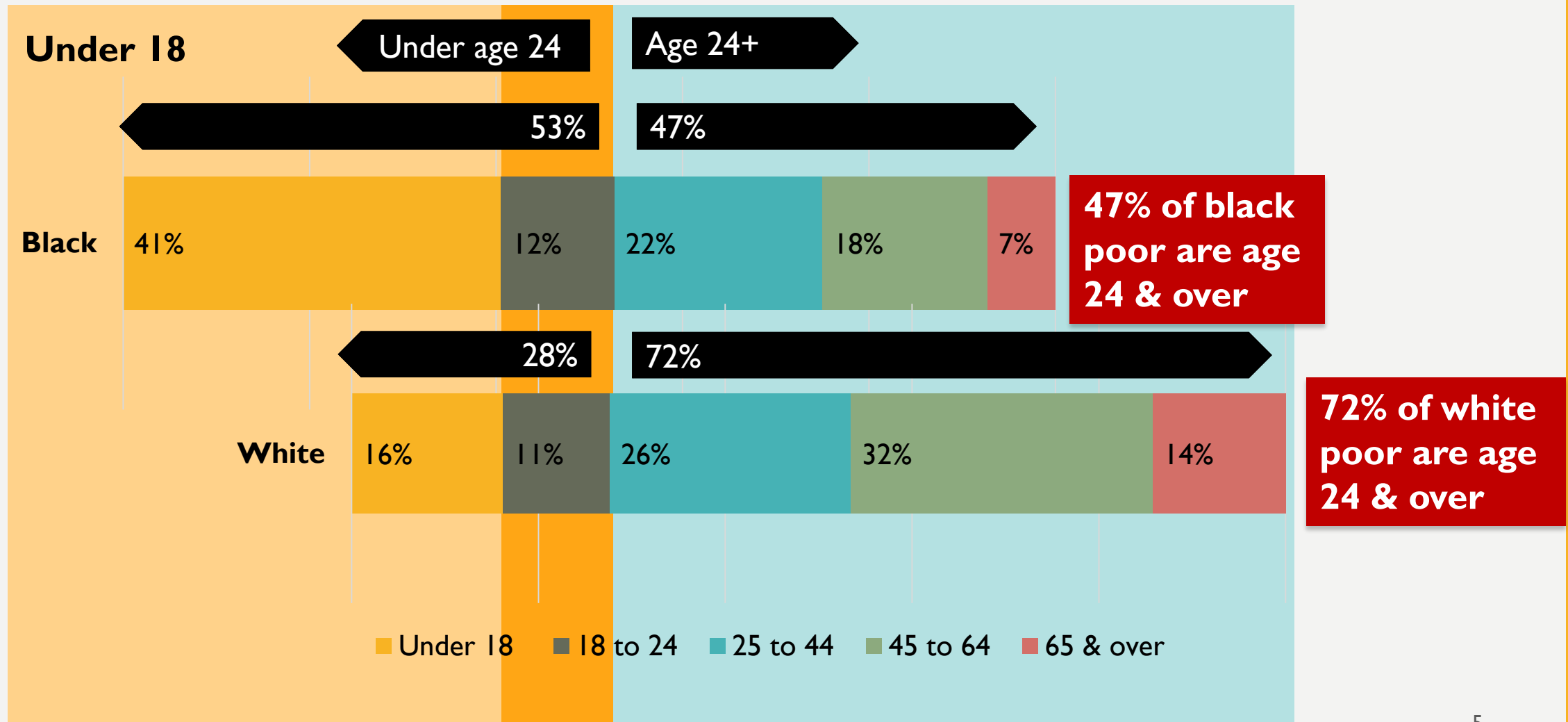
From infancy to the elder years, the white poverty rate is fairly constant and lowers in the later stages of life

Poverty extreme for black children & youth and increases in the later life stages



#3

# WHITE POVERTY POPULATION MOSTLY ADULTS; BLACK POOR MOSTLY CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS





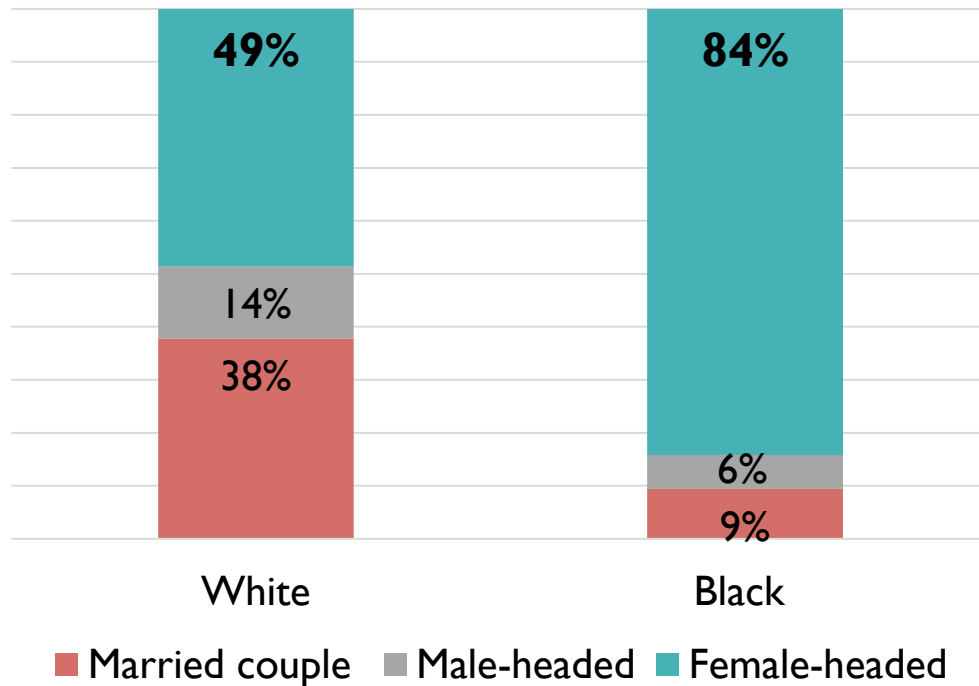
**VAST DIFFERENCES  
IN CAUSES &  
CONCENTRATIONS OF  
BLACK VS. WHITE  
POVERTY**

#4

# BLACK POVERTY HIGHLY CONCENTRATED IN SINGLE-HEADED FAMILIES

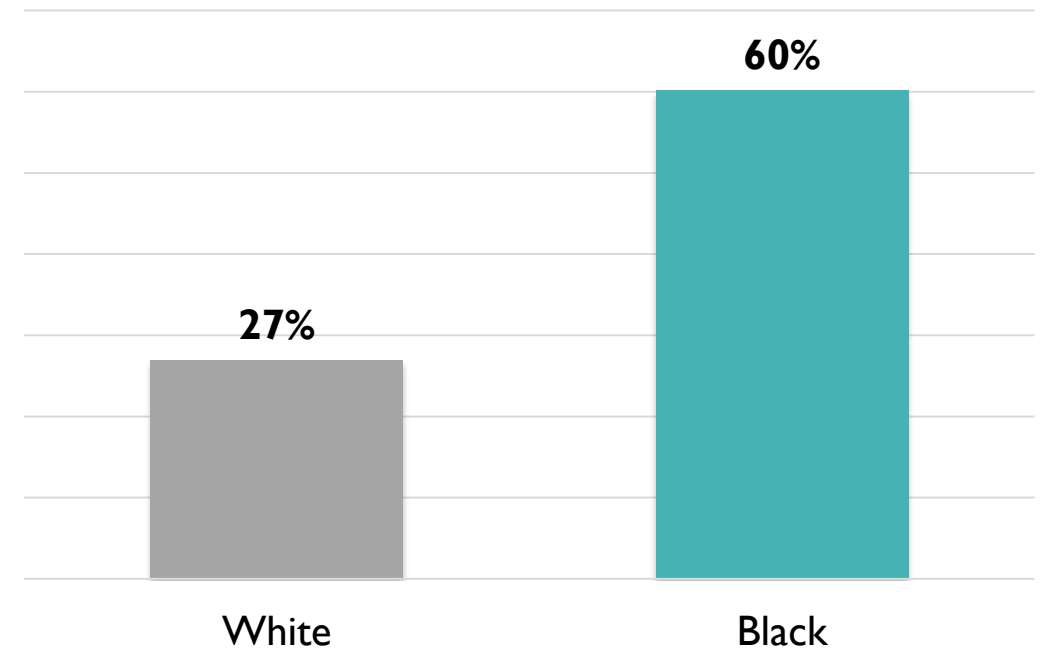
Female-headed families account for 84% of black families in poverty vs 49% of white families in poverty

Share of families in poverty 2013



60% of the black poverty population lives in families led by single heads of household vs 27% of the white poor

Share of poverty population that lives in single-headed households 2013

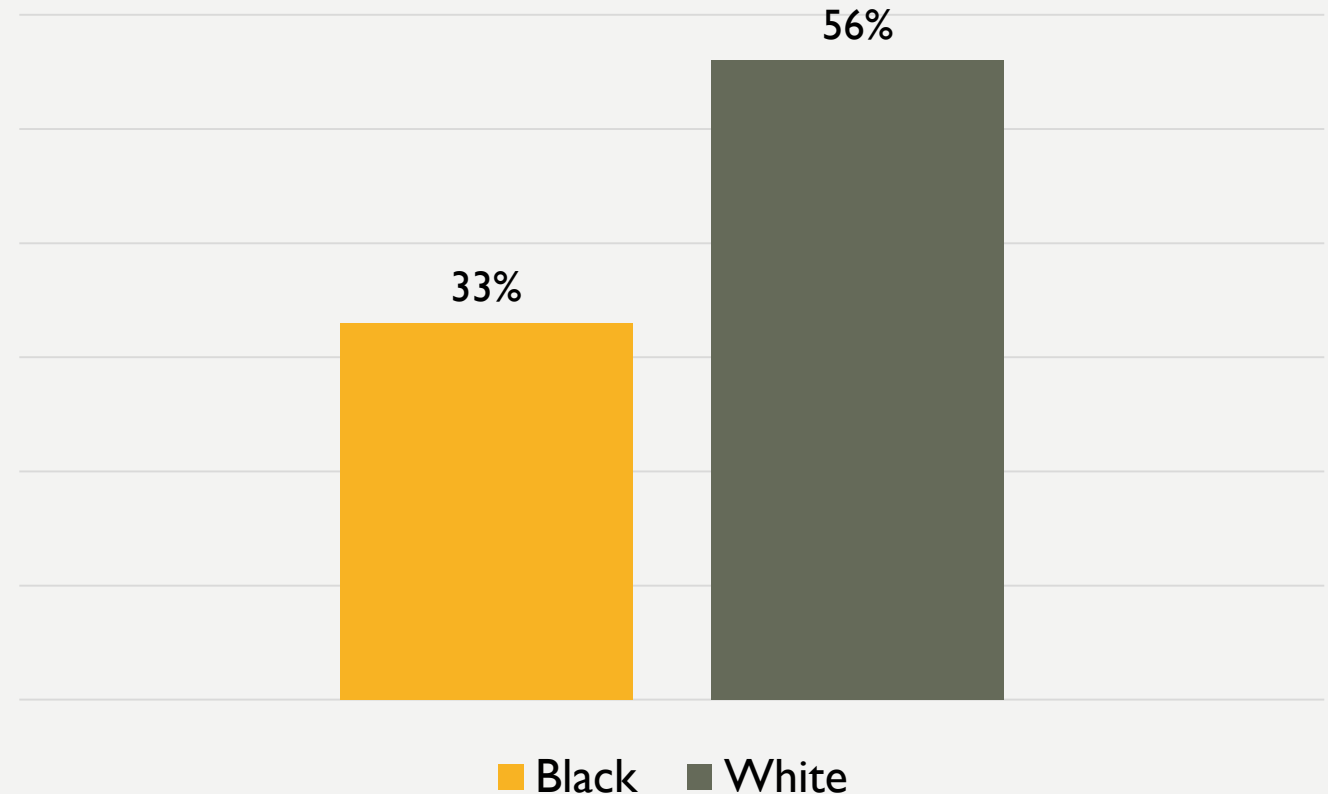


#5

# WHITE POVERTY CONCENTRATED AMONG INDIVIDUALS IN NON-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS

A much larger share of the white poverty population is comprised of adults living outside of family households – either alone or with other adults.

Share of the Poor in **Non-Family** Households

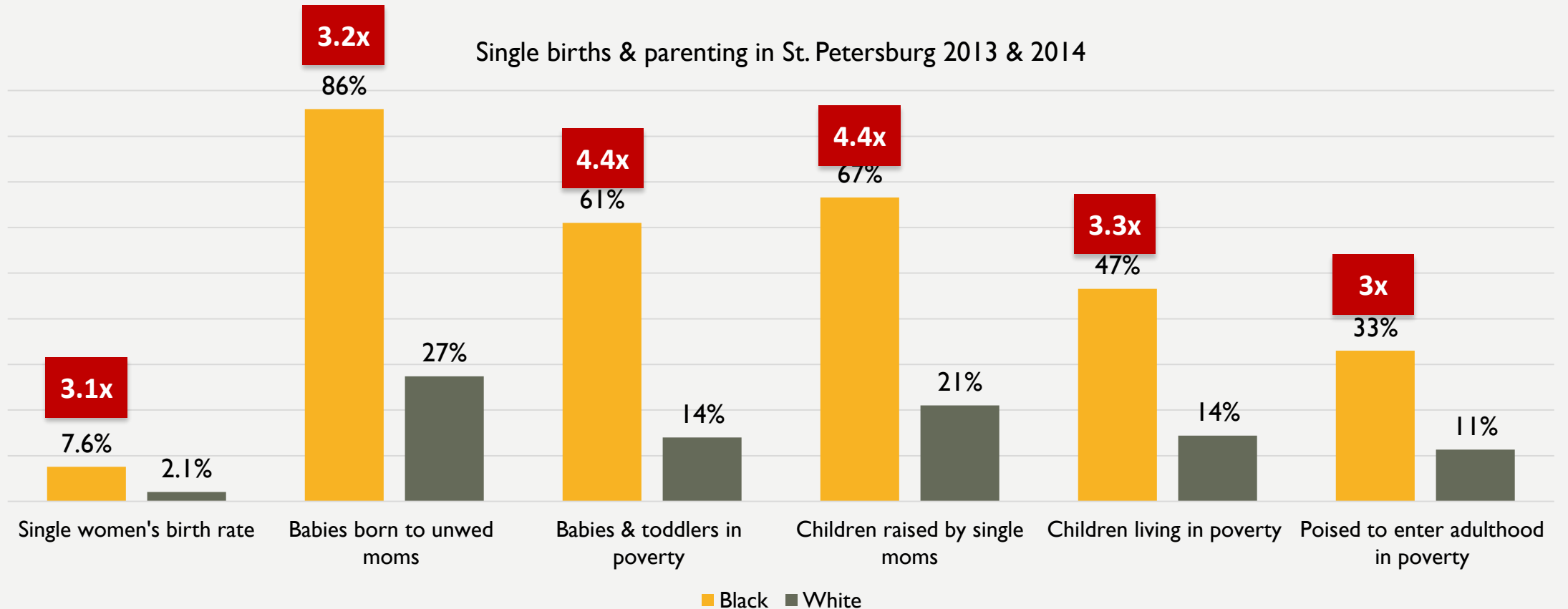




#6

# BLACK POVERTY FUELED BY BREAKDOWN OF “FAMILY” STRUCTURE

The fact that the poverty rate is 3.3 times higher for black versus white children is fueled by the reality that 3.2 times more black children are born to and raised by single mothers.



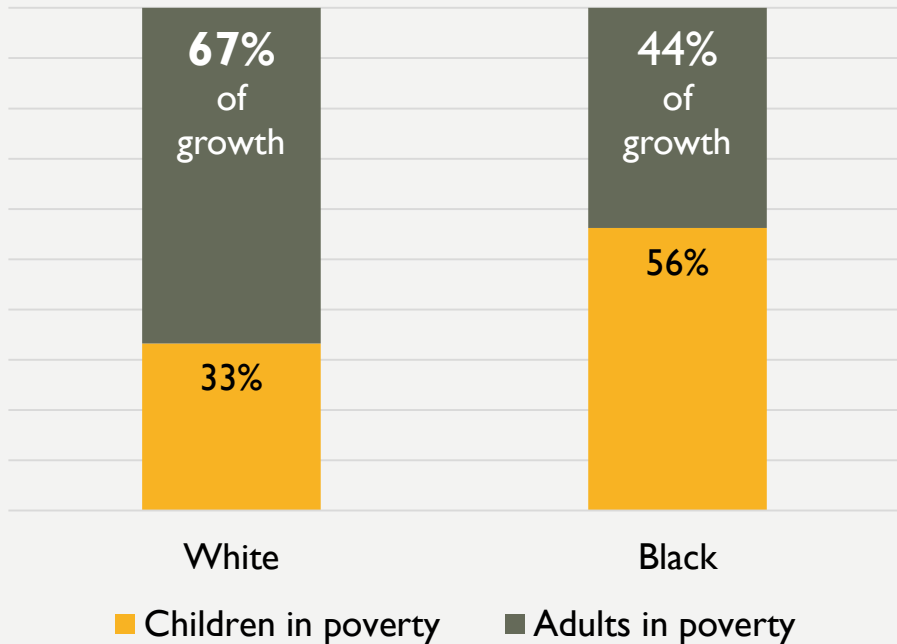
#7

# WHITE POVERTY FUELED PRIMARILY BY THE RECESSION\*

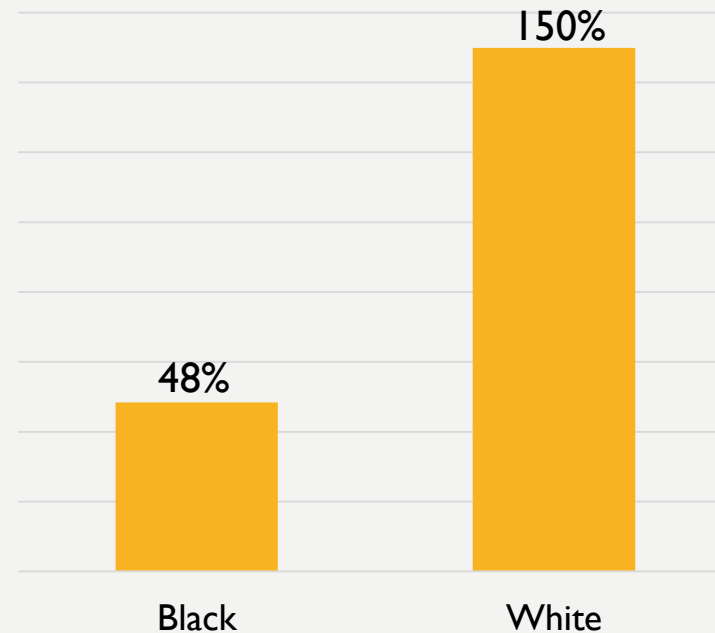
Comparing pre-recession to post-recession, “working age” adults accounted for over two-thirds of white poverty population growth from 2005 to 2014

From 2005 to 2014, the black unemployment rate grew by half (from 10% to 15%), while the white unemployment rate more than doubled (from 3% to 8%) & the number of unemployed white workers grew 150%

Share of growth in poverty population 2005 to 2014



Growth in no. of unemployed workers 2005 to 2014



\*The recession appears to be the biggest factor in white poverty growth, but there are at least 2 other smaller contributing factors: family disintegration & migration patterns.

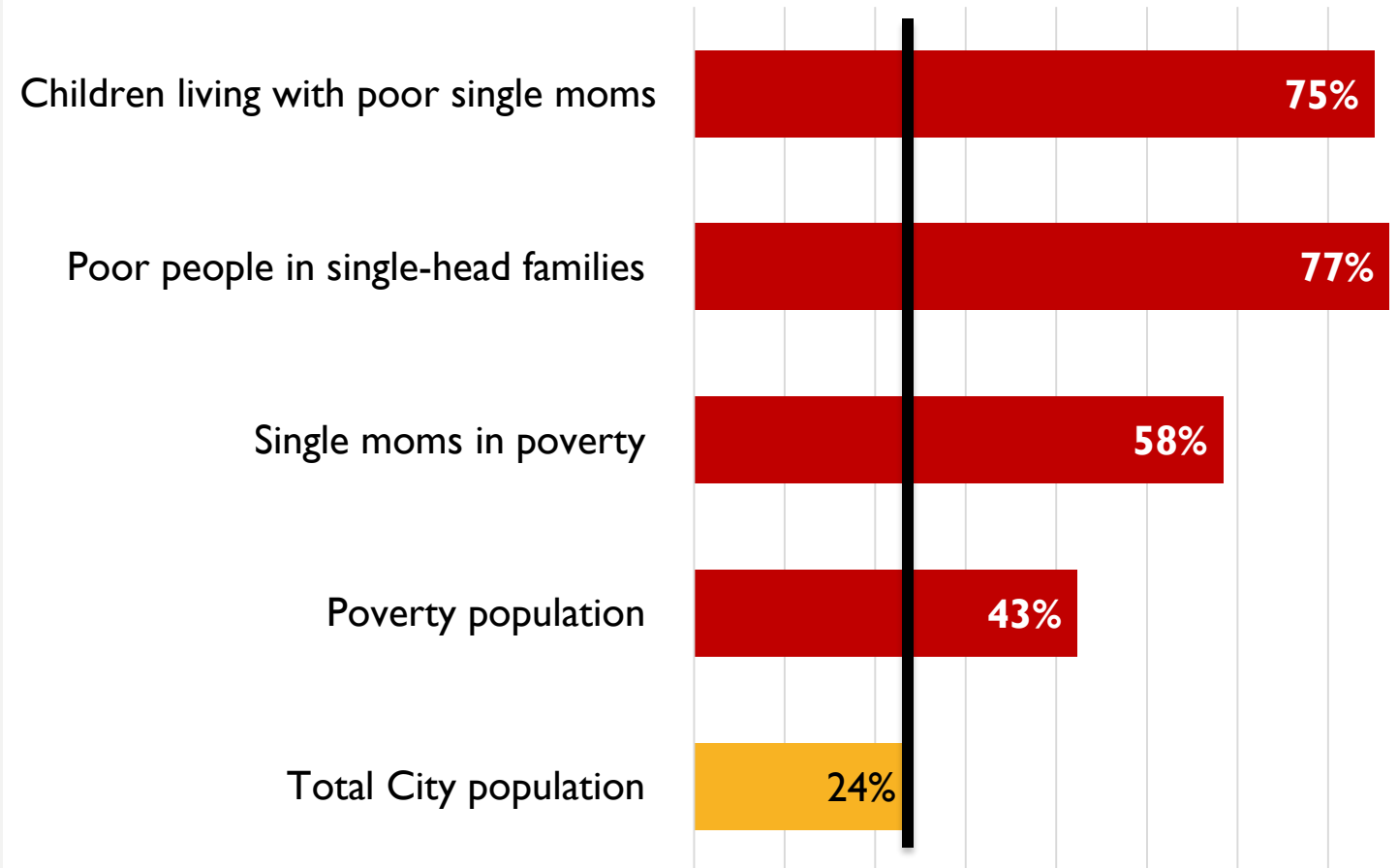
#8

# BLACKS ARE HUGELY DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF CITY'S TOTAL POVERTY IN FAMILIES

Though African Americans are only 24% of St. Petersburg's total population, and 43% of the City's poverty population, they are.....

- ✘ 75% of all children living with single moms
- ✘ 77% of poor people living in single headed-households
- ✘ 58% of single mothers in poverty

African Americans' share of citywide totals





# **CONSEQUENCES & SOLUTIONS**

#9

# AFRICAN AMERICANS HAVE TO EARN MORE TO EXIT POVERTY THAN WHITES

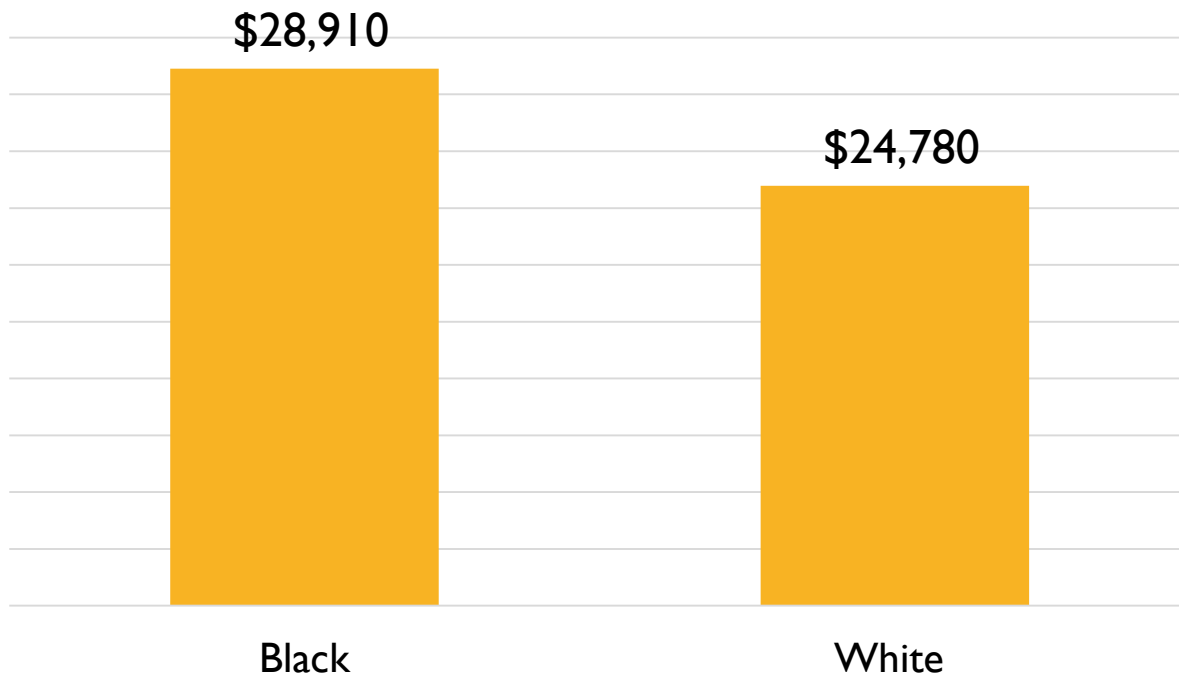
Because African Americans have larger families, the average poor black single parent has to earn \$28,910 to exit poverty vs. \$24,780 for their white peers

Over half of poor white adults can exit poverty by working for minimum wage full-time\* (if able to work, and if enough jobs were available)

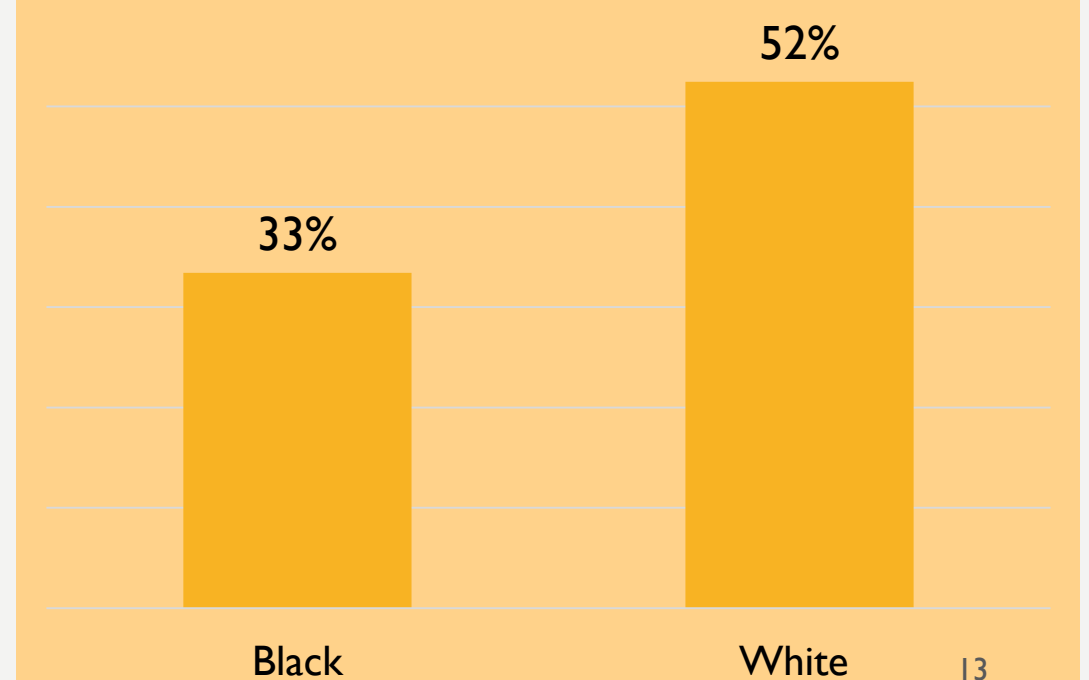
\*Exit Poverty = Income of 150% or more of federal poverty level

\*Full-time = 35 hrs/week, 52 weeks

Earnings Needed for Avg Single Parent to Exit Poverty\*



Poor adults who can exit poverty by earning minimum wage full-time\*

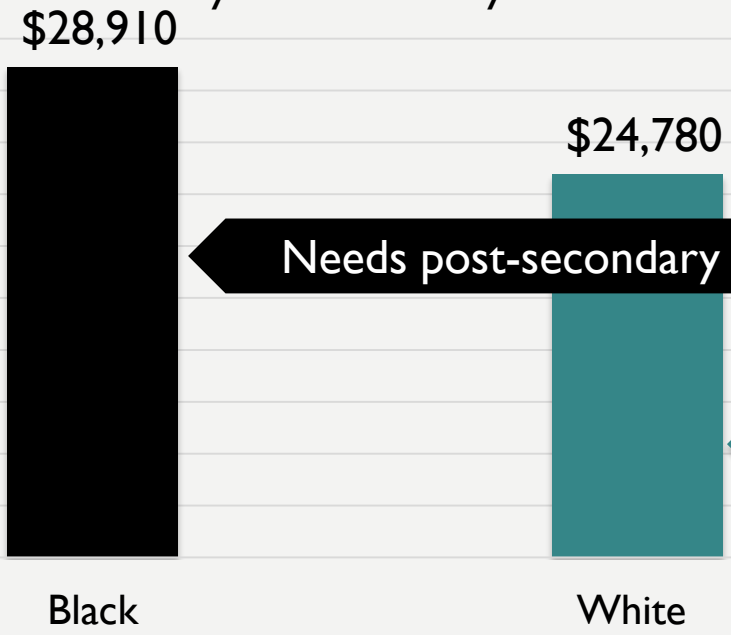


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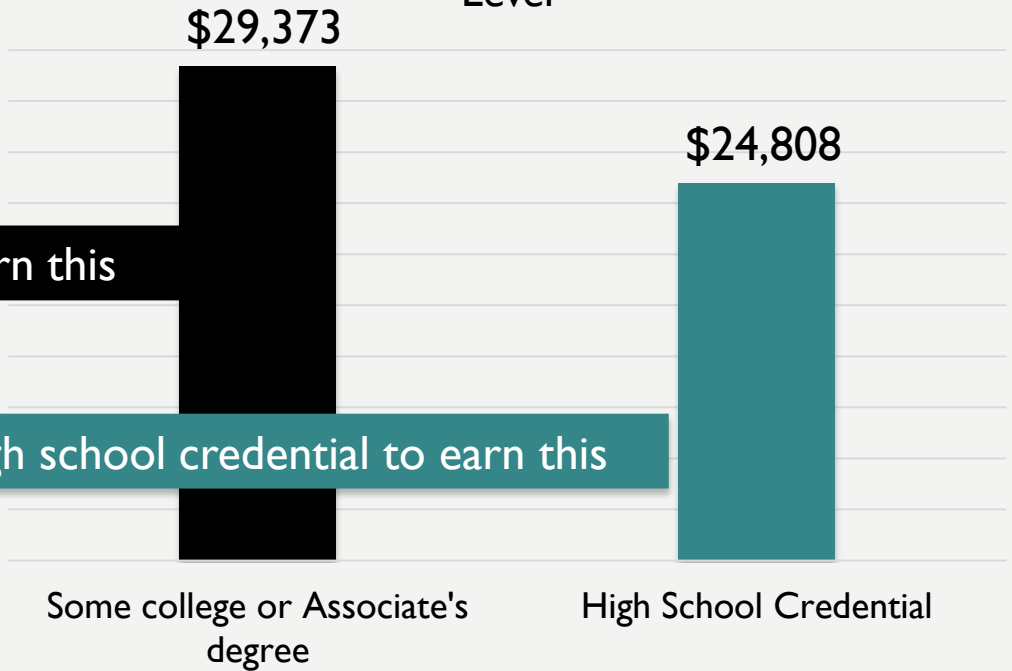
# SOLVING BLACK POVERTY WILL REQUIRE MORE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION & TRAINING

Due to larger family size, the average black single mom in poverty would need to have post-secondary education or training to earn enough to raise her family out of poverty

Earnings Needed for Avg Single Parent to Lift Family Above Poverty Line\*



Median Earnings for Women by Education Level



Needs post-secondary training to earn this

Needs high school credential to earn this

\*Above poverty line = 150% or more of federal poverty level

#11

# BLACK SINGLE PARENTS HAVE LONGER, MORE EXPENSIVE ROAD TO EXIT POVERTY

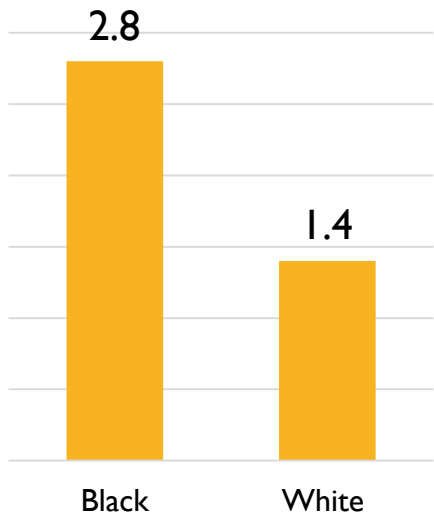
Single black parents in poverty have more kids, which means they need to earn more than their white peers to exit poverty

Black women earn less than white women at every education level, which means they need more education to earn the same amount

Family size & pay disparities mean black women need more time to start and finish post-secondary training and secure better paying jobs

Not counting tuition, it can cost black women 5 times more to exit poverty for added childcare and transportation costs, even when relying on family & friends for childcare

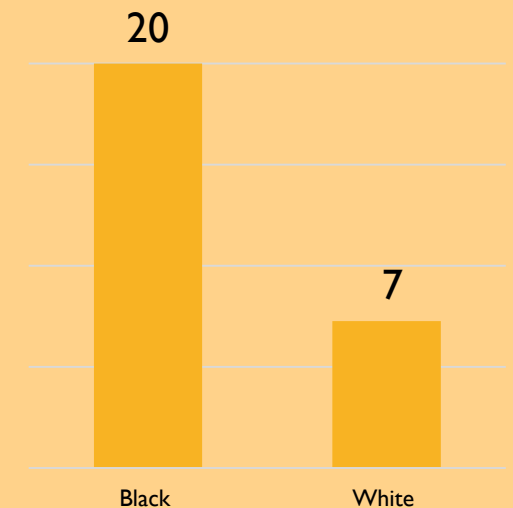
Avg children for poor single parents



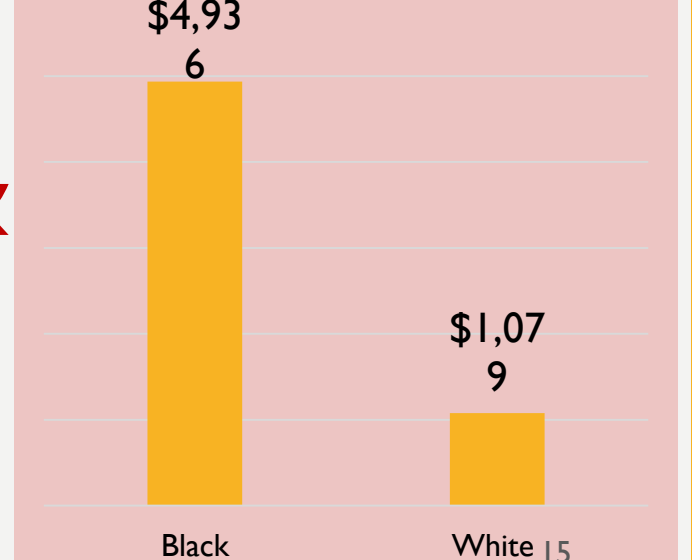
Black women earn **\$0.68** on the dollar, compared to white women in St. Petersburg



Months Needed to Exit Poverty



Cost to exit poverty



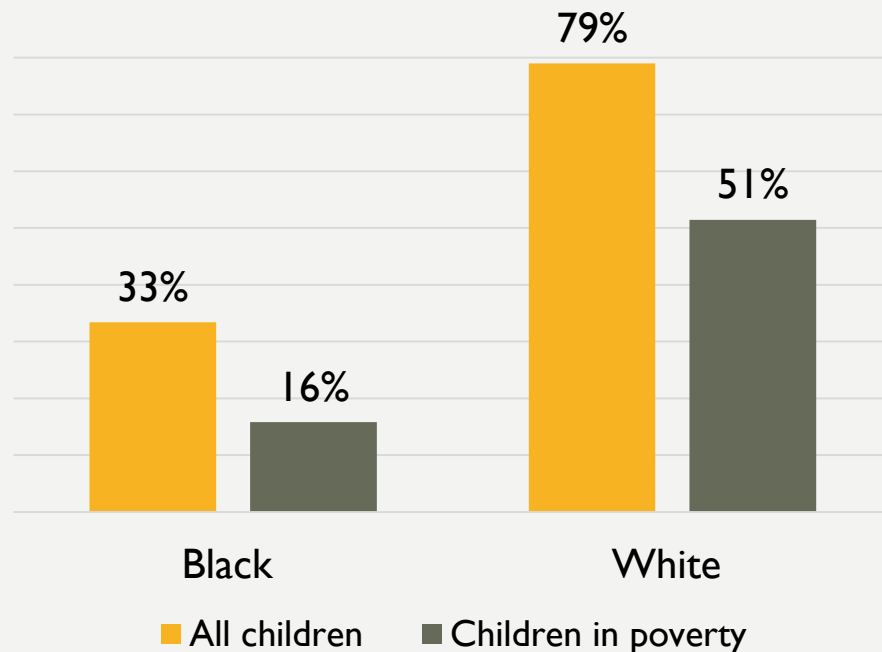
#12

# SOLVING BLACK POVERTY WILL REQUIRE FATHERS BEING PRESENT, ACTIVE

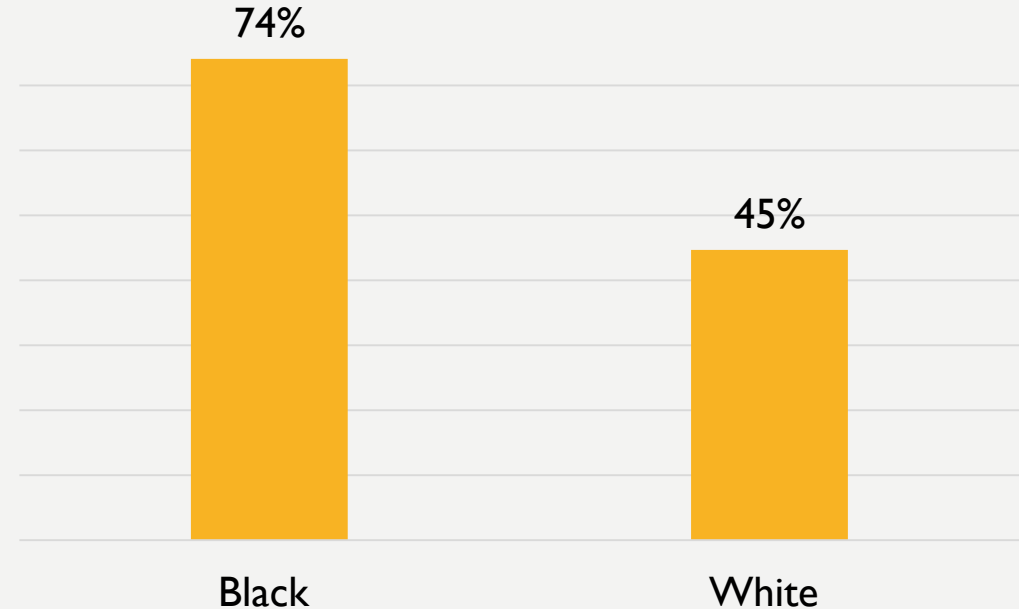
The absence of fathers is a huge factor in African American poverty. Four out of 5 white children have dads at home; vs. only a third of black children.

Nearly three-quarters of poor black families could exit poverty if there were a man at home earning \$10/hour full-time\*, even if mom were earning minimum wage.

Children with a dad or man at home



Share of poor families who could exit poverty with a man at home earning \$10/hour full-time



\*Full-time = 35 hrs/week, 52 weeks



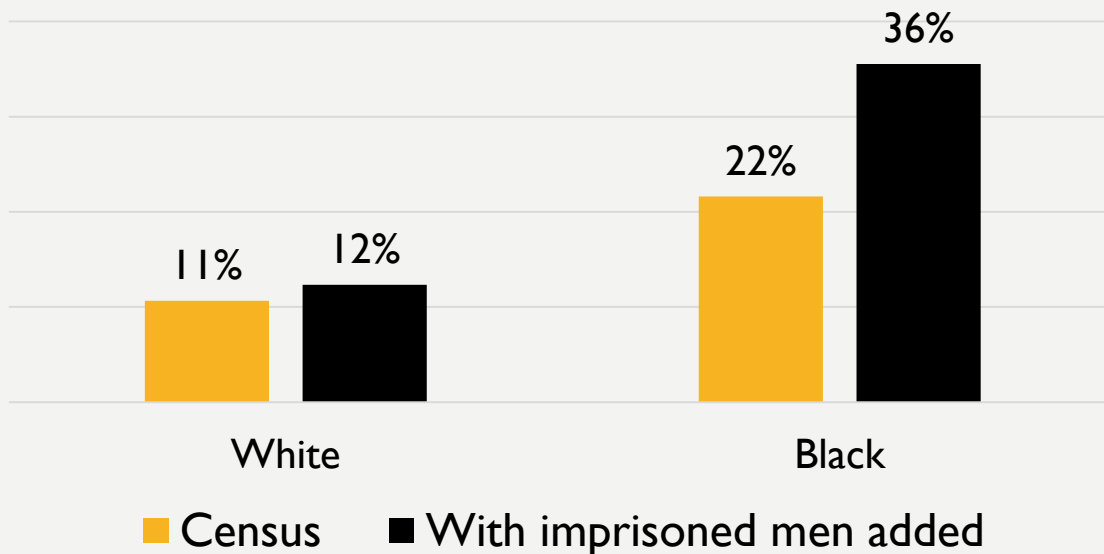
#13

# SOLVING BLACK POVERTY WILL REQUIRE MORE \$ IN EX-OFFENDER RE-ENTRY SERVICES

## PRISON ADJUSTED POVERTY RATE

Incarceration creates a shadow poverty population not counted by the Census. When imprisoned men are counted as poor\*, St. Petersburg's black men have a poverty rate of 36%.

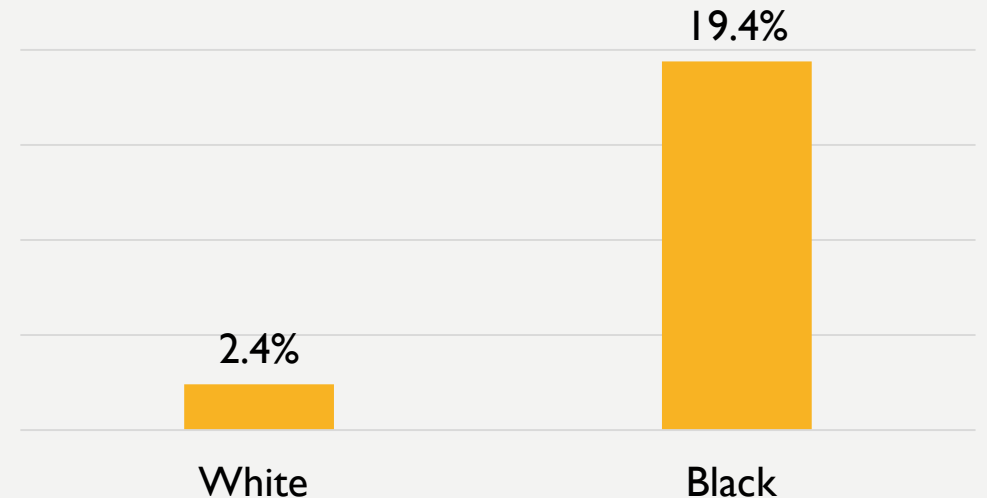
Poverty rates for St. Petersburg men 2013




## FATHERS IN PRISON

19% of black children have a father in prison, vs 2% of white children; and some 30% of black children in poverty are in this position vs 9% of white children in poverty.

Children with a father in prison or under state prison system supervision



\*Poor = income below 100% of federal poverty level



**FOR MORE DETAILS ON  
THIS RESEARCH,  
INCLUDING DEFINITIONS &  
DATA SOURCES:**

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