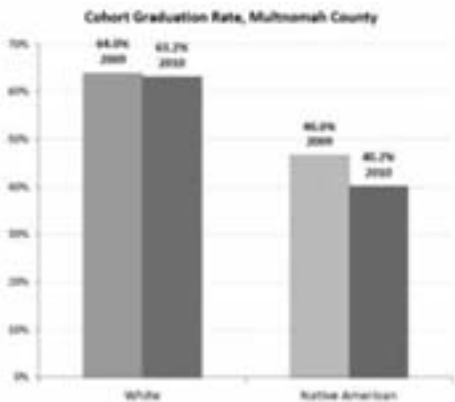


Report

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ate from high school. Those who do are less likely to pursue higher education and find well paid jobs.

At least 9 percent of Portland’s homeless people are Native Americans, far higher than their numbers warrant.

In healthcare, 24 percent of Native Americans lack health insurance compared to 15 percent of Whites.

Racism takes a tremendous toll on health,

the report notes.

“We are becoming aware that the physical toll of living with racism and its daily indignities harms several essential bodily functions such as blood pressure, maternal health, hormonal balance (with high rates of the stress hormone, cortisol, understood to be pronounced among communities of color), and mental health. Nowhere is the toll of racism higher than the experience of Native American youth who are likely to commit suicide at levels that are 70 percent higher than among the general population.”

Yet despite the statistics, Native Americans hope for a better future.

“We seek equity, fairness, and a set of reforms that are entrenched in policy commitments that move the Native American community towards a brighter future,” the report says. “Now is the time for change.”

Next: Communities of Color Report Finds Native Americans Still Losing Ground Part Two: Empowered and seeking justice

"Overhead power lines are closer than you think."

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Let's turn the answers on.

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Foster

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custody. Briggs was placed in home after home, but did not attach to her foster families and often ran away.

Angry and depressed, at age 13 she tried methamphetamine, which eventually turned into a 17-year habit. She says she did better for a while in high school, but eventually ran from that foster home too. When she did form an attachment it was to a boyfriend who also had substance abuse problems. She managed to stay clean through her pregnancy, but soon relapsed.



As a parent mentor for Morrison Child and Family program, Marvin Barber helps men working to become good parents. Resources for fathers need to be stepped up, he says.

“I had basically turned into my mom,” she said.

When her own child was taken into foster care two years later, however, Briggs chose a different path. She quit drugs for good. After 30 days clean she was given a second chance to be a good parent. But it wasn’t easy, she says. Her child was angry – a result of the neglect suffered when Briggs was using meth. And she didn’t know how to cope, let alone do it without the crutch of drugs.

“I thought about putting her back in foster care,” Briggs admits. “I asked myself, ‘Do I have the ability to handle this?’”

She managed to get housing and enough resources to care for her daughter. And Parents Anonymous helped, she says. Today, Briggs is raising a bright, happy five-year-old who loves reading and math. Yet her story shows how easily foster children repeat patterns that keep families in the system.

A Foster Mom Fights to Keep Birth Families Together

Medina’s story also spanned generations – three generations of one family. A foster mom for more than 20 years, Medina has fought to keep her foster kids connected to their birth families. She has fostered nine who are now adults, all working and contributing. But she also has seen how foster care fails children.

Medina saw three generations of the same family repeat patterns of abuse, addiction and neglect. She was fostering a girl and the mother, who knew DSH was not going to return her daughter, asked

See CARE on page 11

We honor the many accomplishments of African Americans.



It is our primary goal as a labor union to better the lives of all people working in the building trades through advocacy, civil demonstration, and the long-held belief that workers deserve a "family wage" - fair pay for an honest day's work.

A family wage, and the benefits that go with it, not only strengthens families, but also allows our communities to become stronger, more cohesive, and more responsive to their citizens' needs.

Our family wage agenda reflects our commitment to people working in the building trades, and to workers everywhere. In this small way, we are doing our part to help people achieve the American Dream. This dream that workers can hold dear regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, creed, or religious beliefs.

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