# COMMUNITIES COUNT 2002: Social and Health Indicators Across King County

## Social determinants of health in community health assessment

Population Association of America (PROPOSAL)
Philadelphia, PA March 31, 2005

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# 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.

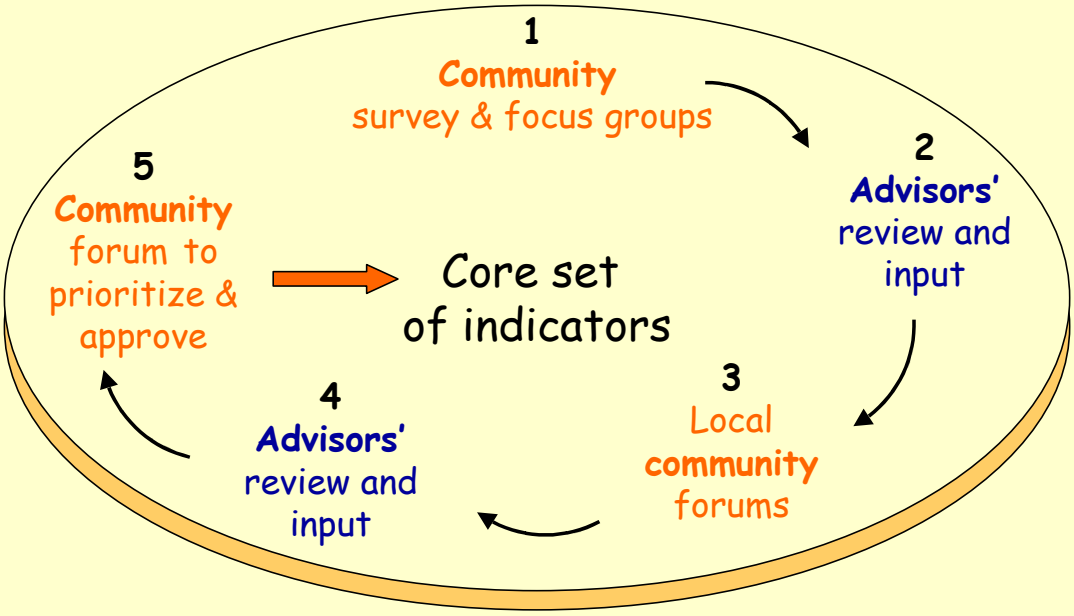
# Partners

- 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

# Participation to select indicators

- Over 1,500 King County residents participated in process
- Random-digit dial telephone survey
- Focus groups with 13 different groups
- 2 Civic Forums
- 5 Public Forums (held across county)

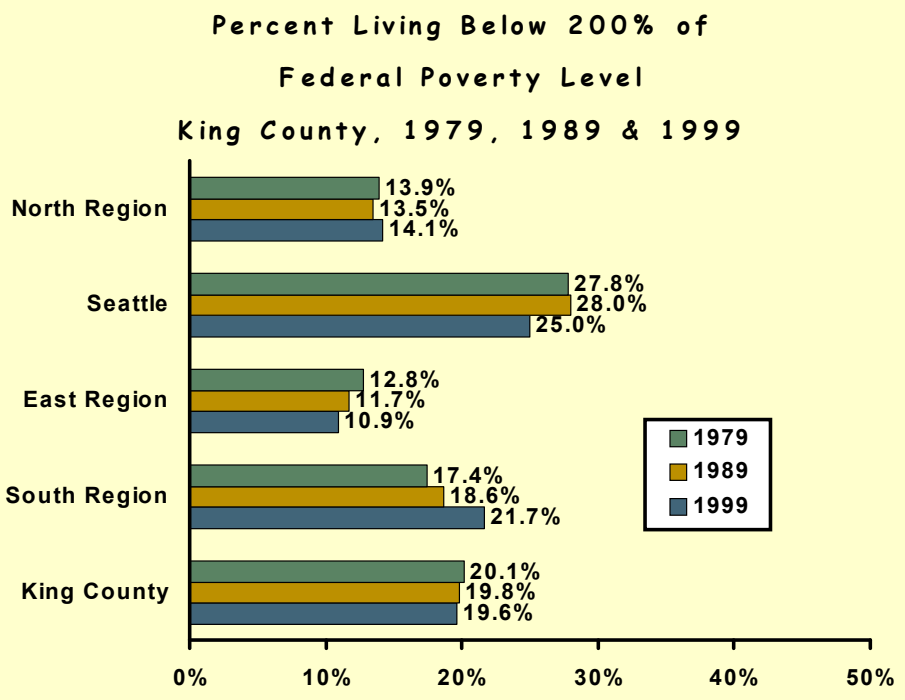
# Indicator development



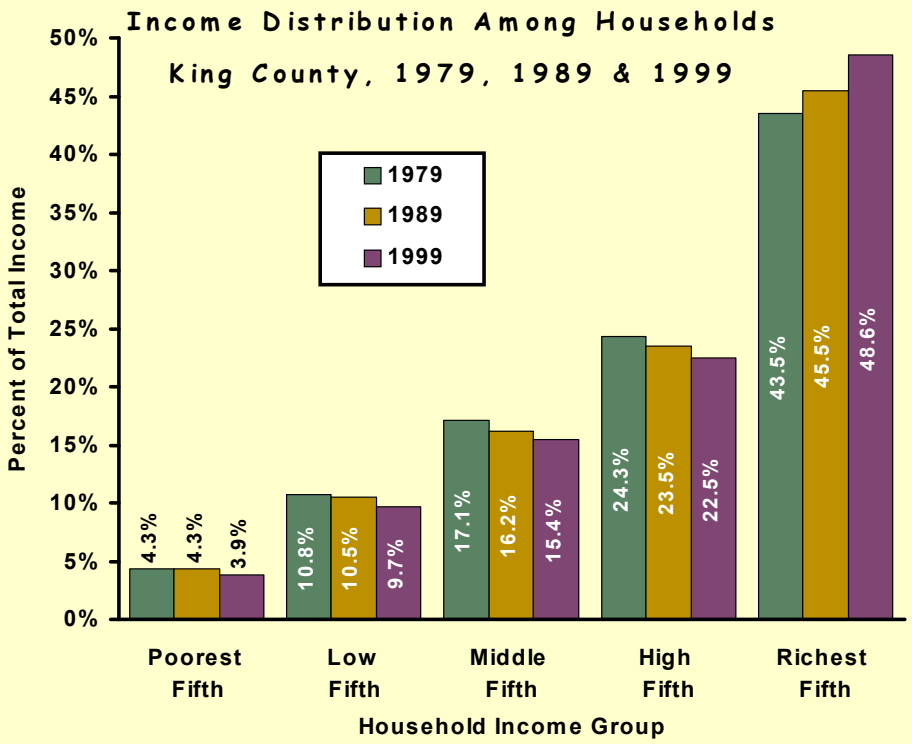
# Basic Needs and Social Well-Being

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

# Living Wage Income



# Income Distribution



# Positive Development through Life Stages

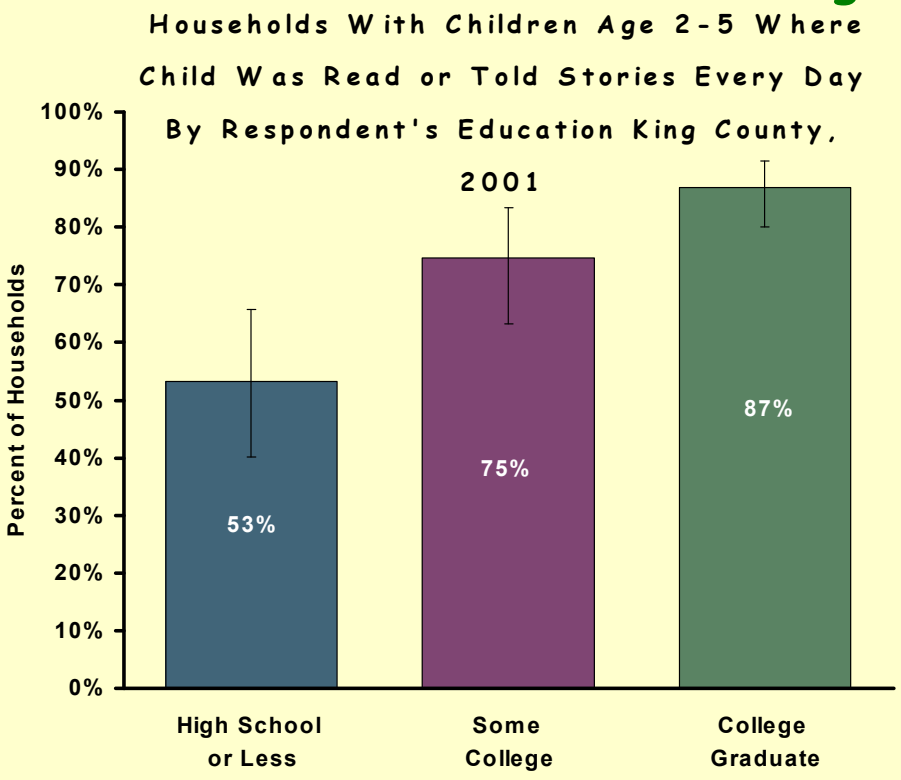
- Family friendly employment
- Parent/guardian involvement in child's learning
- Quality, affordable child care
- Academic achievement
- Developmental assets/ Risk and protective factors in youth
- Positive social beliefs & behavior in youth
- Participation in life-enriching activities

# Family Friendly Employment Benefits

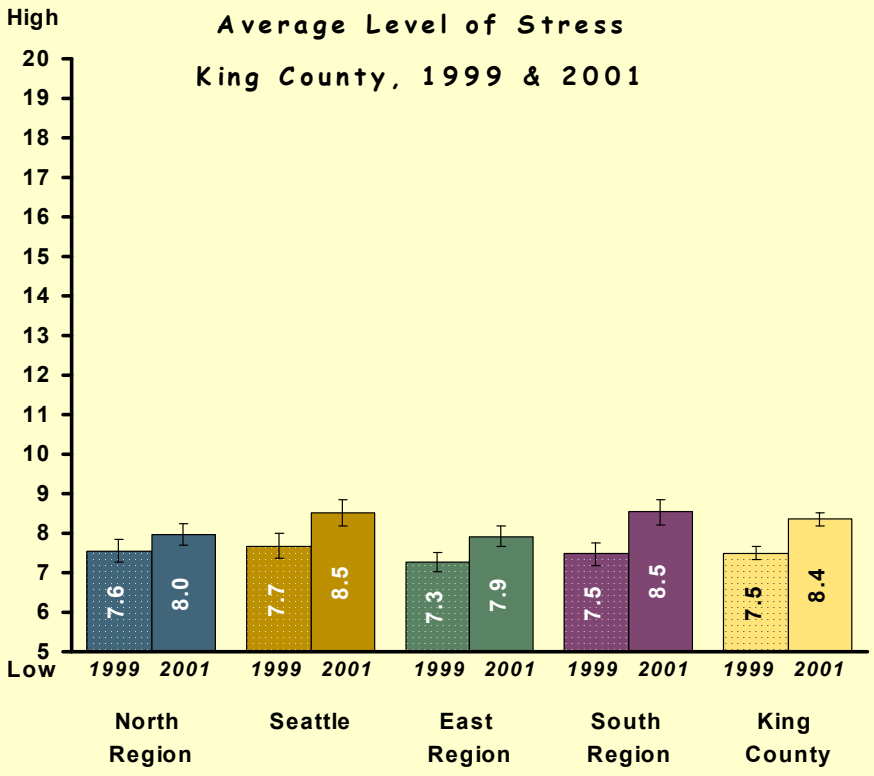
## Percent of King County Employers Who Offer Family, Medical and Personal Leave Benefits, 2002

| | Small Employers | | Medium Employers | | Large Employers | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Offered | Paid At Least 1 Day | Offered | Paid At Least 1 Day | Offered | Paid At Least 1 Day |
| Maternity | 36.6% | 15.4% | 62.1% | 17.4% | 90.4% | 11.5% |
| Paternity | 20.0% | 7.4% | 36.4% | 9.8% | 65.4% | 11.5% |
| Sick Adult | 28.0% | 17.7% | 37.9% | 25.0% | 65.4% | 34.6% |
| Sick Child | 32.6% | 21.1% | 44.7% | 31.8% | 75.0% | 50.0% |
| School Visit | 22.9% | 10.3% | 25.0% | 12.9% | 32.7% | 21.2% |
| Death in Family | 64.0% | 49.7% | 83.3% | 72.0% | 94.2% | 80.8% |

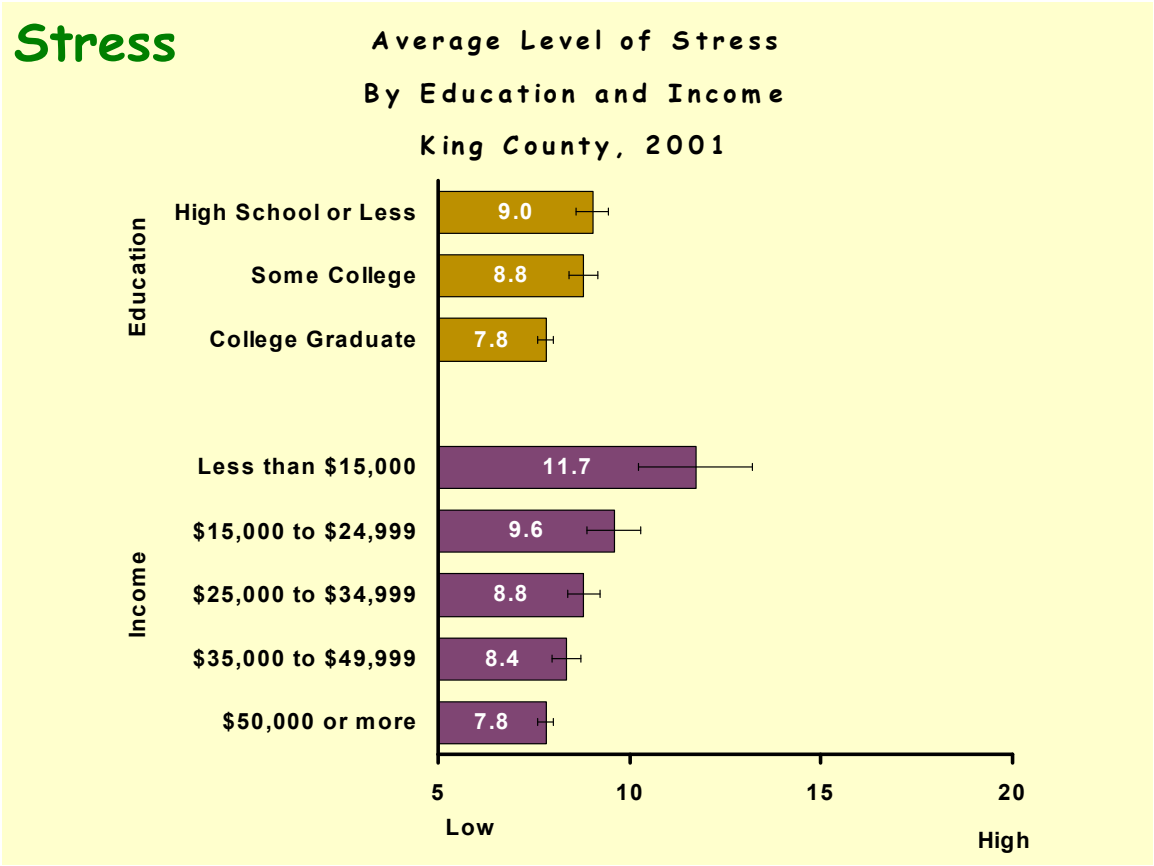
# Parent Involvement in Child's Learning



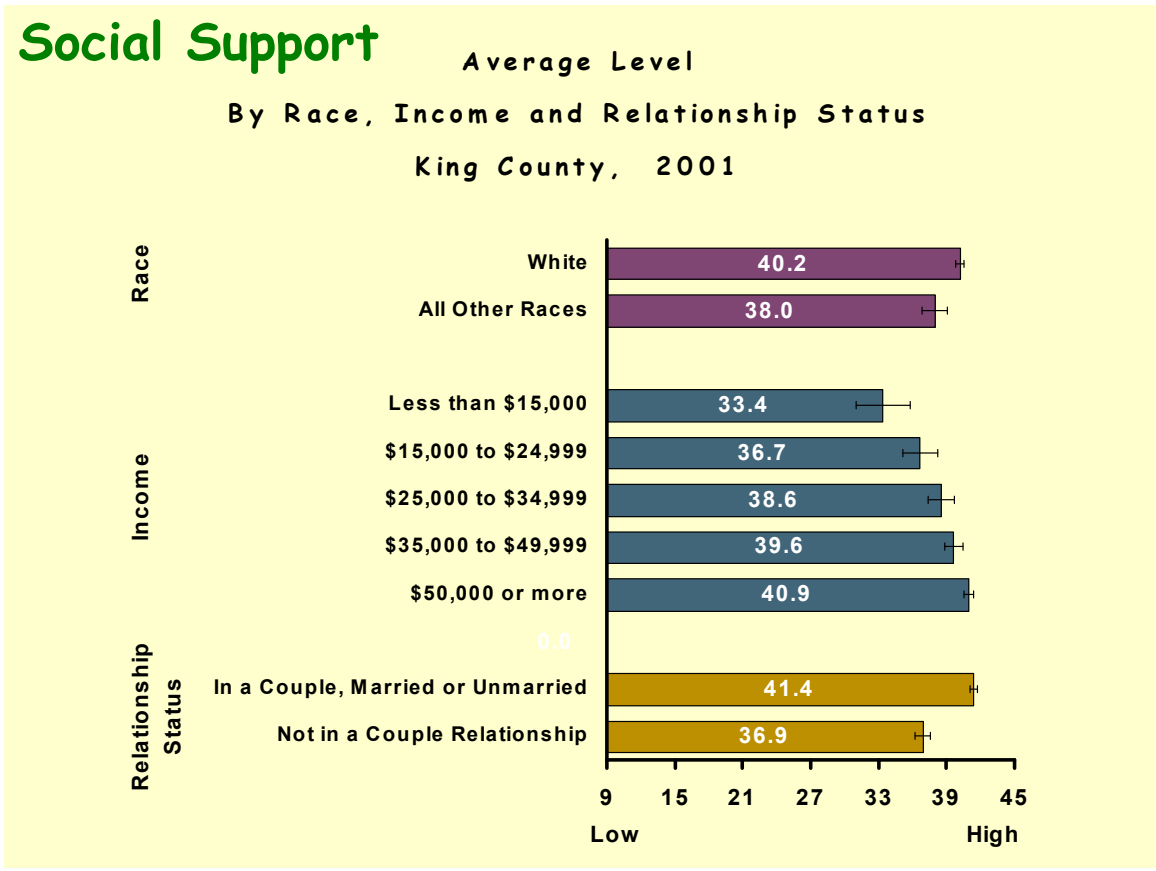
# Stress


Average Level of Stress
King County, 1999 & 2001
High
20
19
18
17
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
Low
7.6
8.0
7.7
8.5
7.3
7.9
7.5
8.5
7.5
8.4
1999 2001
1999 2001
1999 2001
1999 2001
1999 2001
North Region
Seattle
East Region
South Region
King County

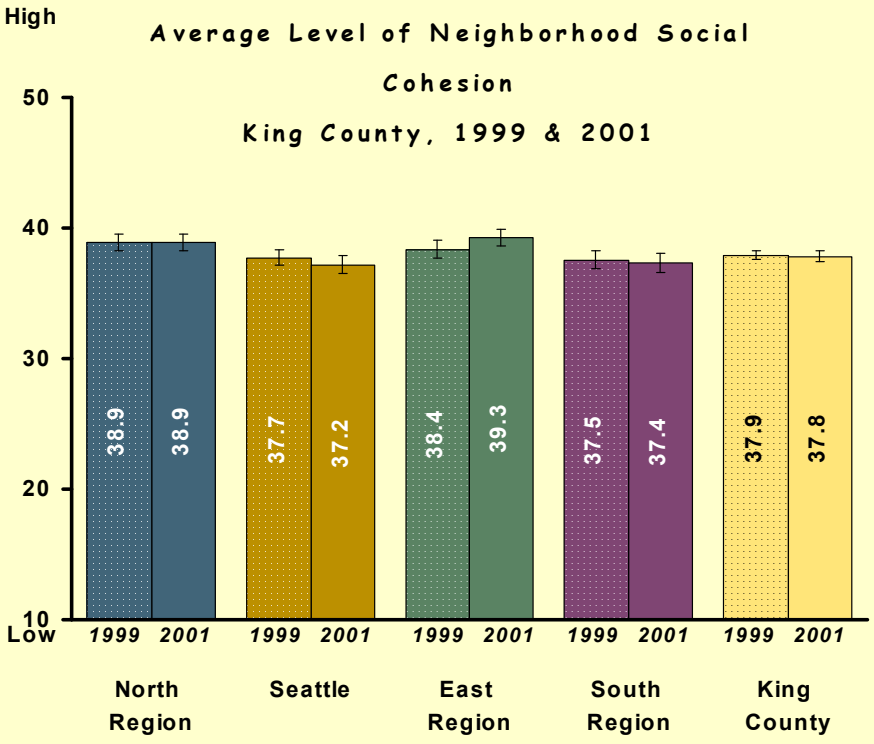
# Stress


Average Level of Stress
By Education and Income
King County, 2001
Education
High School or Less
9.0
Some College
8.8
College Graduate
7.8
Income
Less than $15,000
11.7
$15,000 to $24,999
9.6
$25,000 to $34,999
8.8
$35,000 to $49,999
8.4
$50,000 or more
7.8
5
10
15
20
Low
High

# Social Support



# Neighborhood Social Cohesion

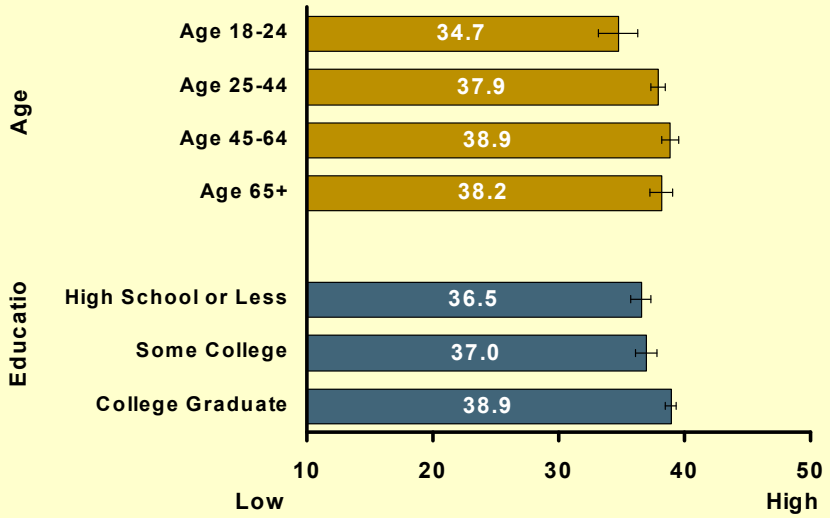


# Neighborhood Social Cohesion

Average Level

By Age and Education

King County, 2001



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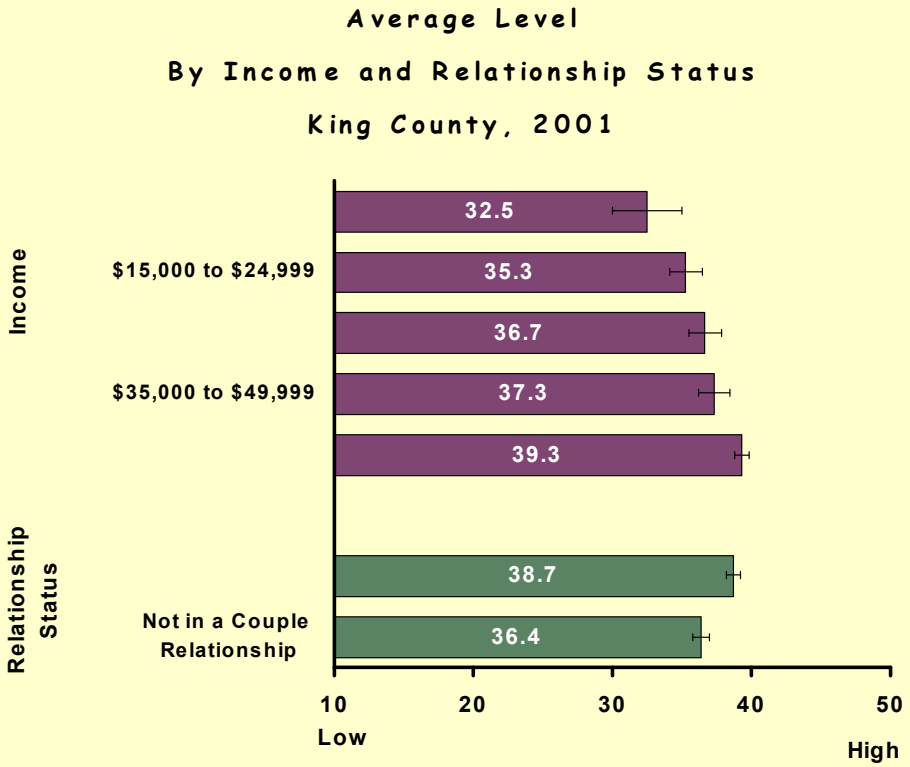

## Rationale for Data Collection Partnerships

- CONTEXT: Exploration of concepts across multiple groups
- COMPLEMENTARITY:

  Focus group data complement survey data
- COMMITMENT: An inclusive process

# Data Collection Partnerships

**29 focus groups in five languages with 255 participants**

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

# Data Collection Partnerships approach

- Bilingual, bicultural staff from partner agencies
- Training and on-going technical support from Public Health
- Spirit of problem-solving and mutual respect for partners' expertise and skills

# Social support themes

- Where do people find social support?
- "Socializing is a beautiful thing"
- Isolation, lack of support, and stress
- Immigrants' experiences of support

# Neighborhood Social Cohesion themes

- What is it like to live in your neighborhood?
- "People of many origins": Shared neighborhoods
- "Nobody knows anybody": What keeps neighbors apart?
- "A smile is worth a thousand words": Developing a sense of community

# Data Collection Partnerships: Summary

- Qualitative methods as complementary
  - Inclusion of perspectives otherwise missed
  - Quotations add words to the numbers
- Findings can inform the next phase of data collection

# 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 2 years to follow our communities' progress over time

# Accomplishments

- Examples of actions in response to *Communities Count 2000* Report
  - Budget decision in response to findings
  - Program developed in response to a region concern
  - Indicators used to guide allocation and contracting