

## Social Determinants of Health

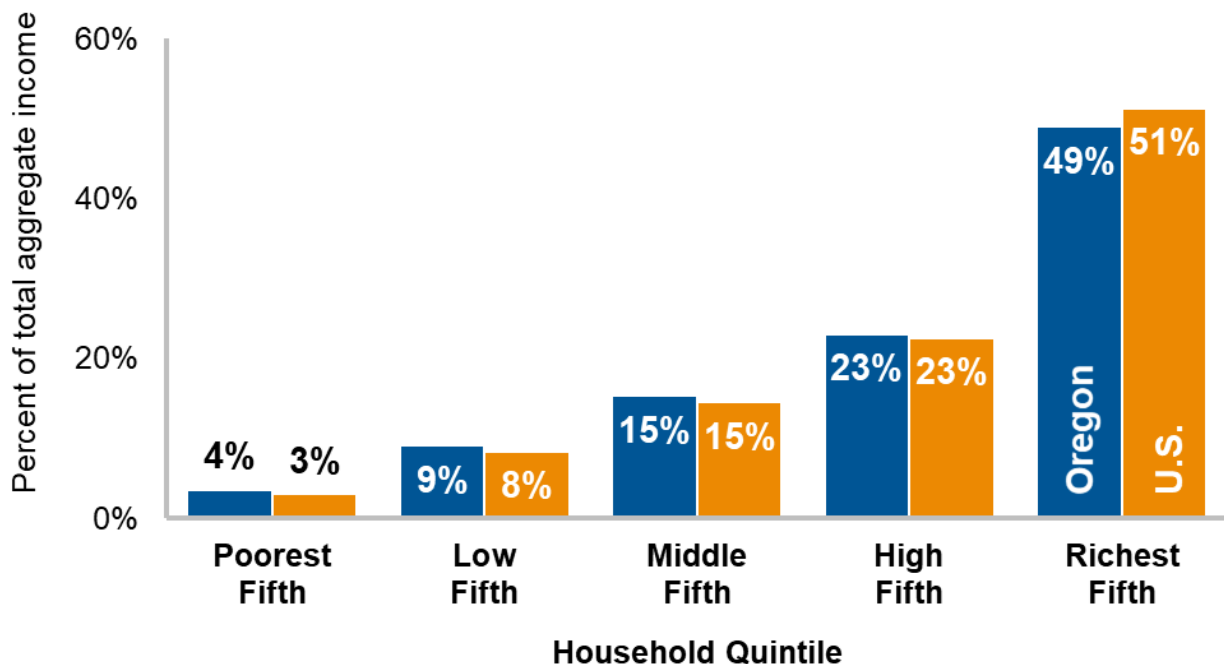
# Income inequality

Income inequality within communities can have broad health impacts, including increased risk of mortality, poor health, and increased cardiovascular disease risks. Inequalities in a community can accentuate differences in social class and status and serve as a social stressor. Communities with greater income inequality can experience a loss of social connectedness, as well as decreases in trust, social support, and a sense of community for all residents.

Each quintile in Figure 1 represents a fifth of the total households in Oregon and the U.S. ranked from lowest to highest income along with the share of total aggregate income that each group earned in 2018. While the poorest fifth of households in Oregon earned just 4% of total income, the richest fifth earned 49%. This income distribution is similar to the U.S. as a whole.

FIGURE 1

**Aggregate income by household quintile, Oregon & U.S., 2018**

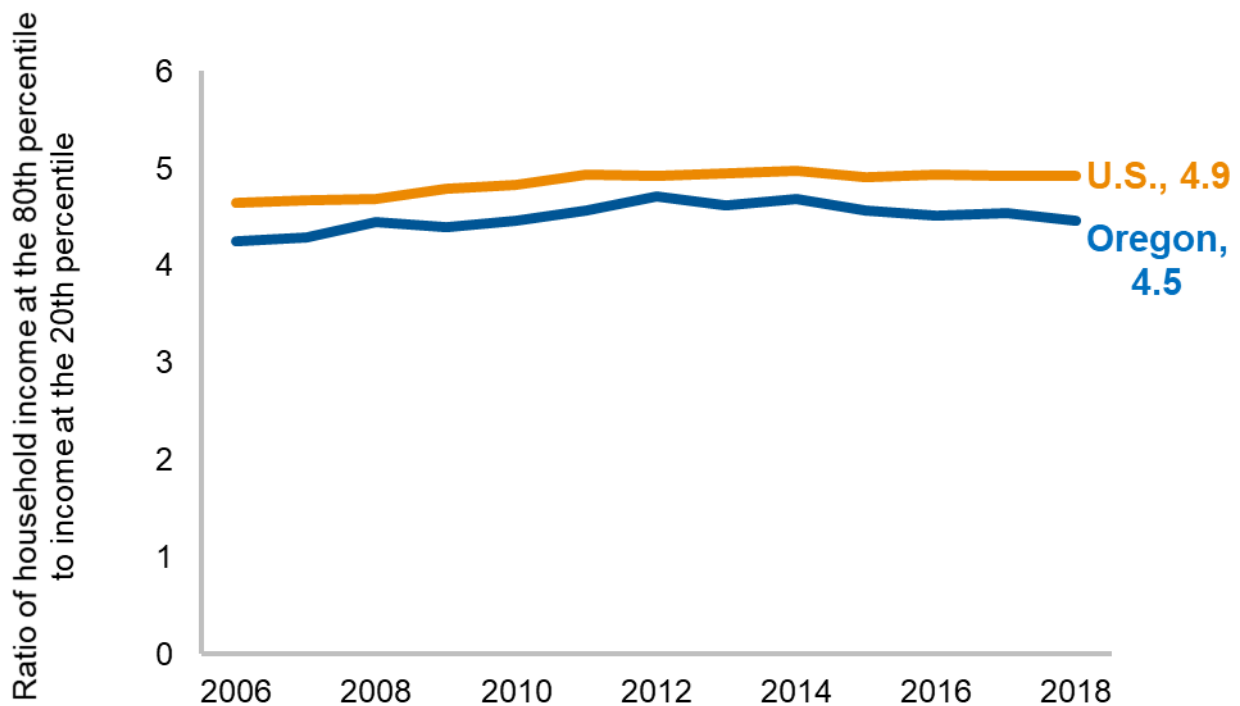


Source: American Community Survey (ACS)

The Income Inequality Ratio compares the lowest income of the richest fifth of households to the highest income of the poorest fifth. A higher inequality ratio indicates greater division between the top and bottom ends of the income spectrum. In 2018, the Income Inequality Ratio in Oregon was 4.5 compared to 4.9 in the U.S. as a whole (Figure 2). Compared to other states in 2017, Oregon is ranked #22 where #1 is most equal and #51 is most unequal.

FIGURE 2

### Income inequality ratio by year, Oregon and U.S.

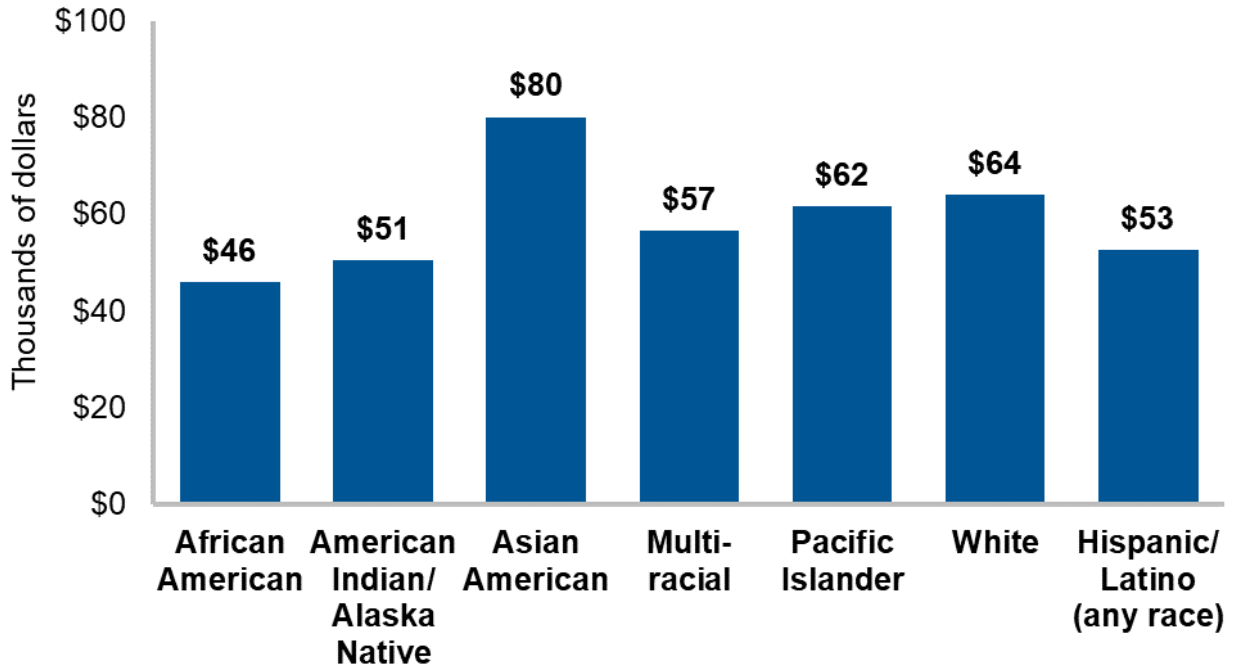


Source: American Community Survey (ACS)

There are disparities in income by race/ethnicity (Figure 3). African Americans in Oregon have the lowest median household income of any group.

FIGURE 3

### Median household income by race/ethnicity, Oregon, 2018



Source: American Community Survey (ACS)

**Additional Resources:** [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

**About the Data:** Data source is the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is an ongoing Census Bureau survey that samples a percentage of the population every year.

**For More Information Contact:** Juanita Heimann, [Juanita.A.Heimann@state.or.us](mailto:Juanita.A.Heimann@state.or.us)

**Date Updated:** October 23, 2019

[Oregon State Health Profile](#)

OHA 9153-D (Rev) 09/13: This document can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request this publication in another format or language, contact the Publications and Design Section at 503-378-3486, 711 for TTY, or email [dhs-oha.publicationrequest@state.or.us](mailto:dhs-oha.publicationrequest@state.or.us).