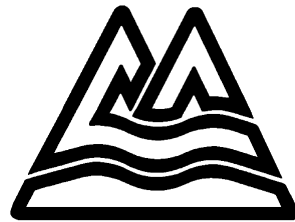


Multnomah County Benchmark Analysis

Social Trends Analysis
Multnomah County, Oregon



Department of Support Services

MARCH 1999

www.co.multnomah.or.us/budget/eru/index.html

Multnomah County Benchmark Analysis



Prepared for Multnomah County
Department of Support Services
Evaluation/Research Unit

by Karmen Fore
Jerry Kissler

Evaluation/Research Unit, Multnomah County Oregon March 1999

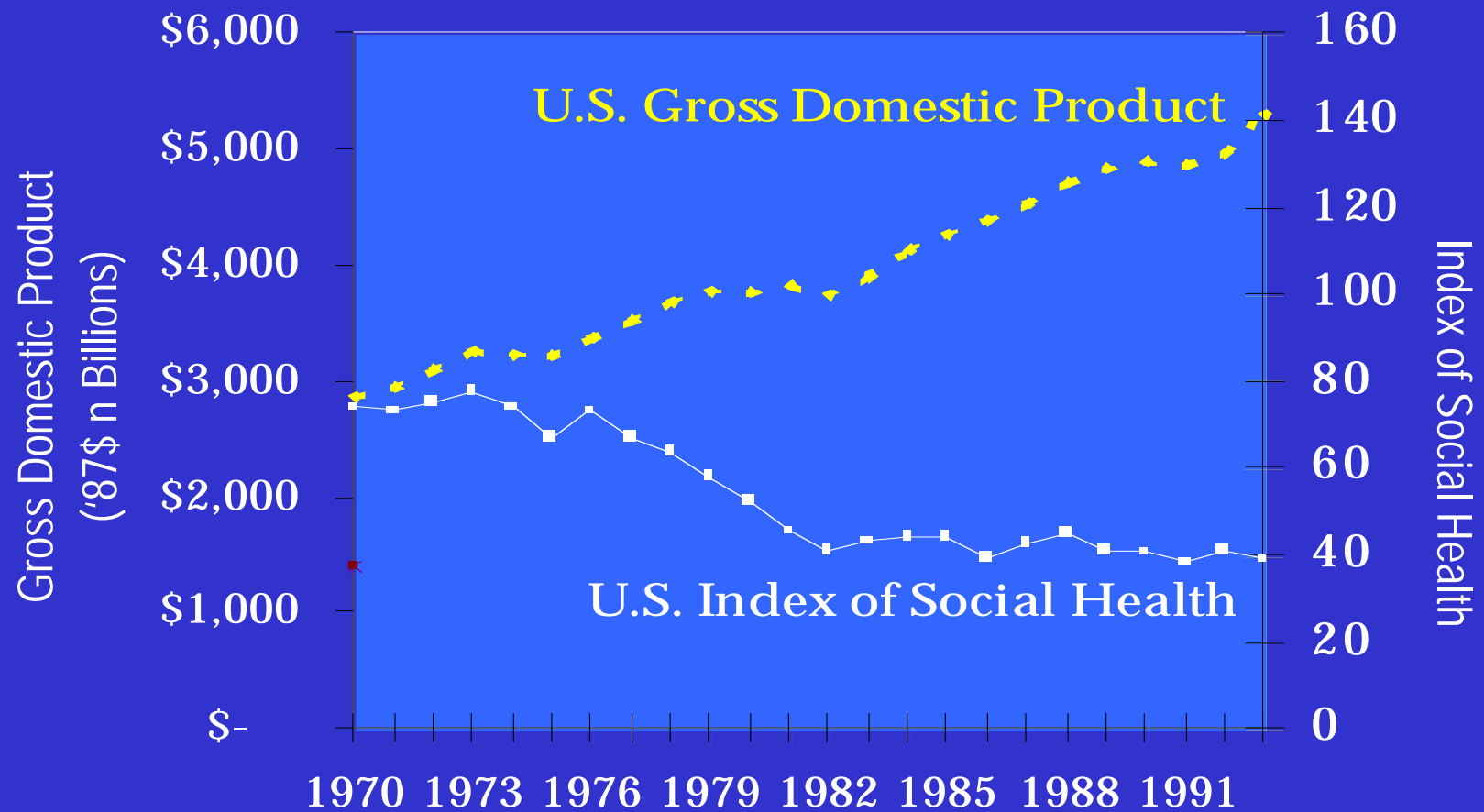
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WHAT'S CAUSING THE DIVERGENCE BETWEEN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND OUR SOCIAL CONDITIONS?

If this is one of our longest periods of
economic expansion on record, why don't
we feel better about it?

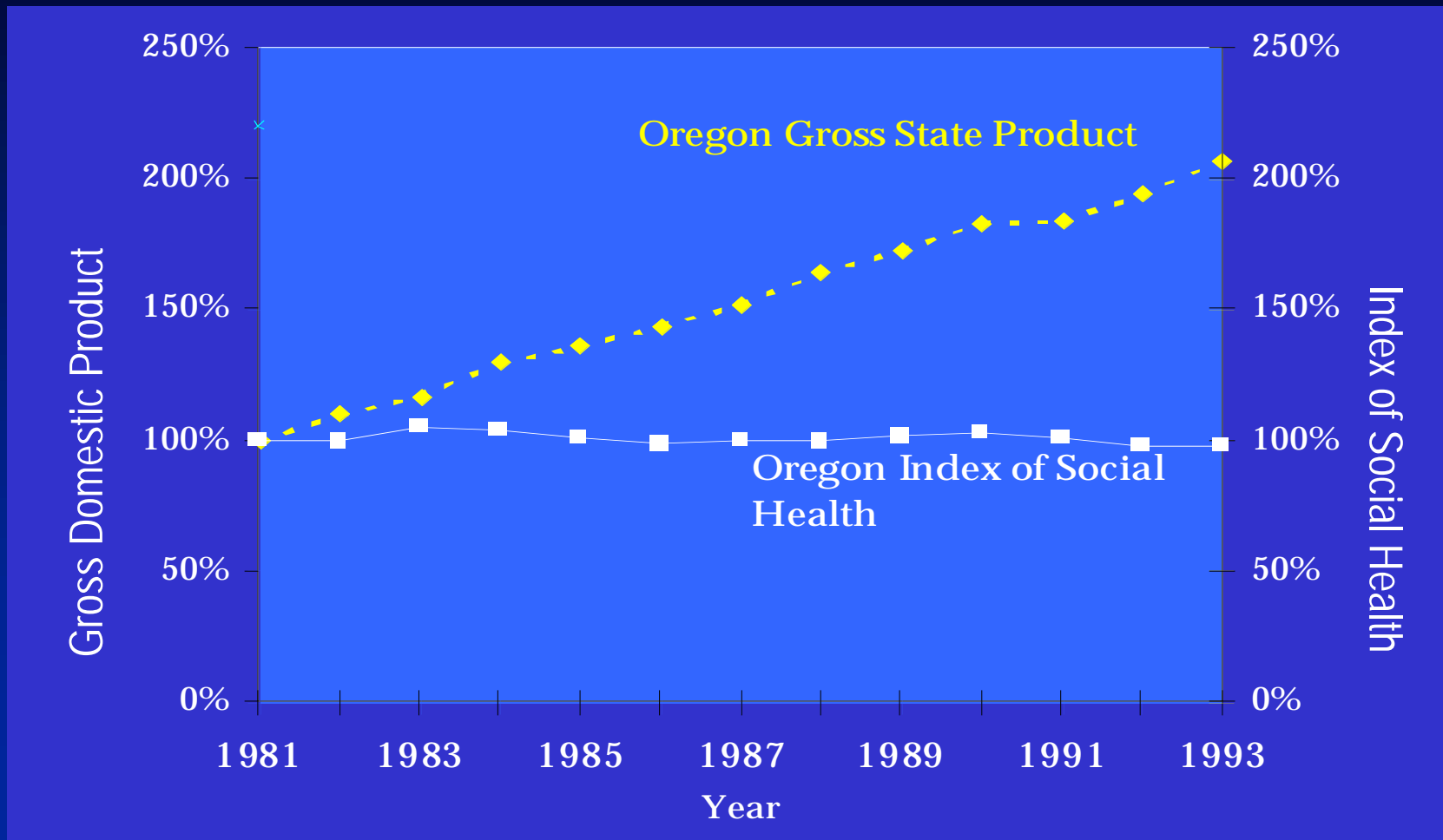
FORDHAM STUDY

U.S. DECLINE IN SOCIAL HEALTH



Source: Institute for Innovation in Social Policy

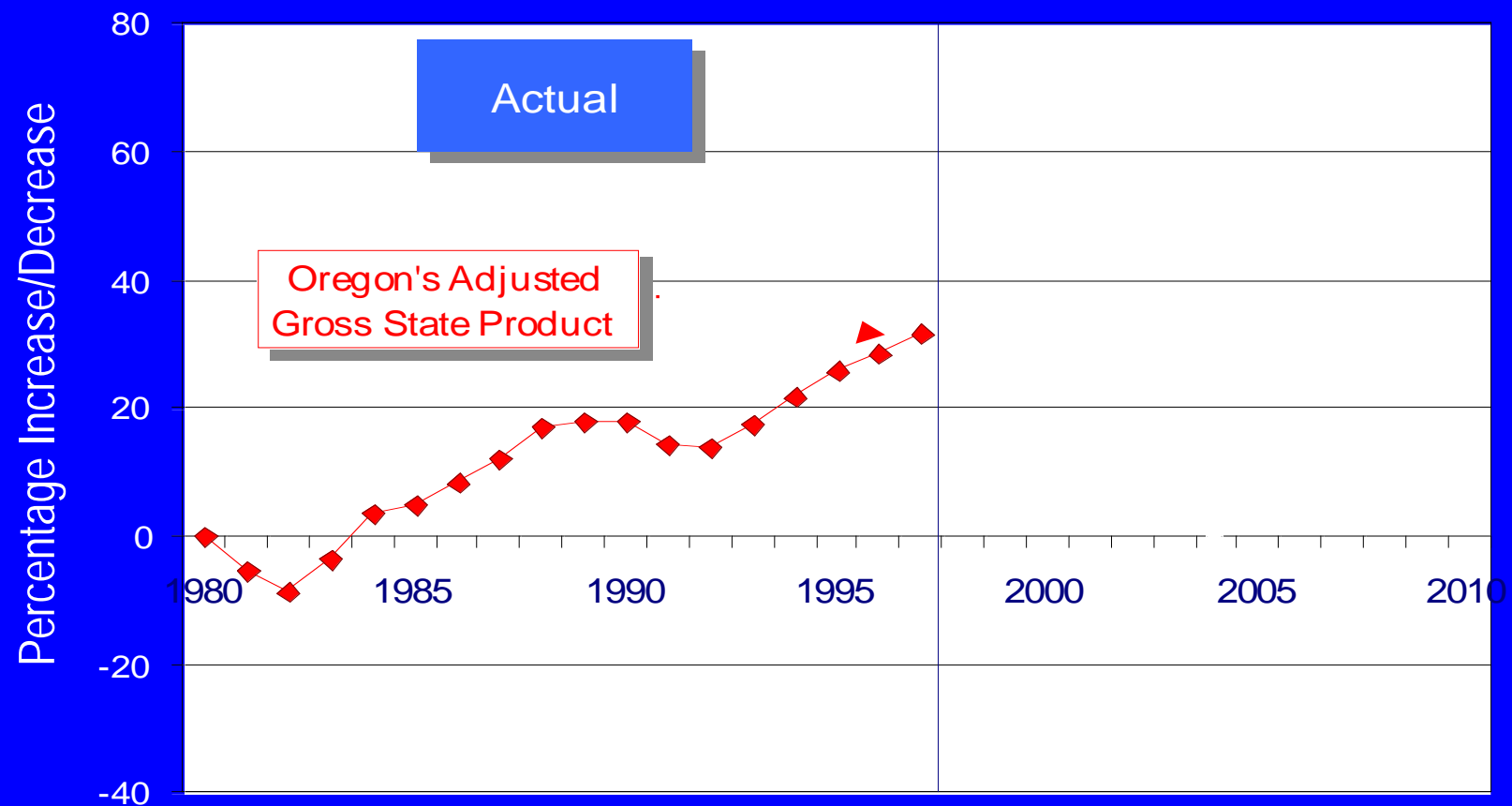
OREGON'S SOCIAL HEALTH ALSO STAGNATED



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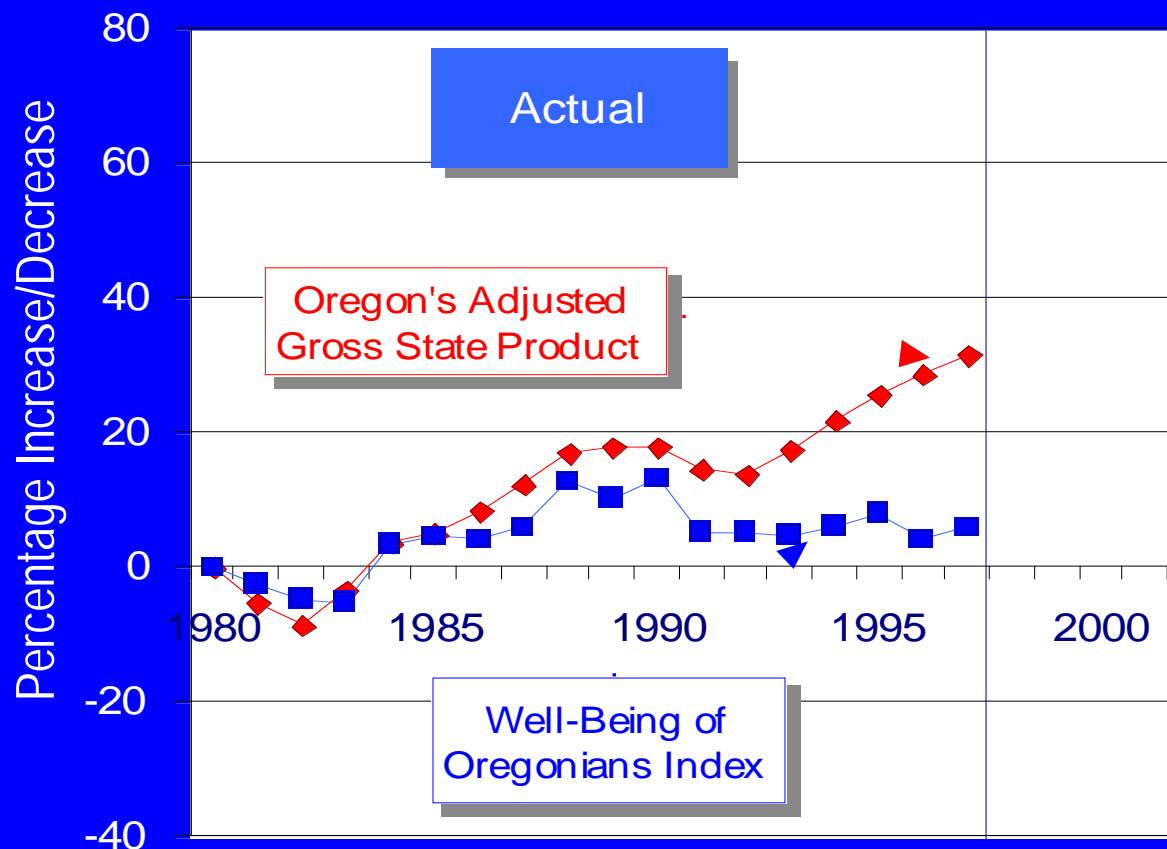
A REMARKABLE TURNAROUND IN OREGON'S ECONOMY



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BUT OUR WELL-BEING HAS STAGNATED



Factors in the Well-Being Index

● Economic Factors

- » Unemployment Rate
- » Average Earnings
- » Poverty Rate

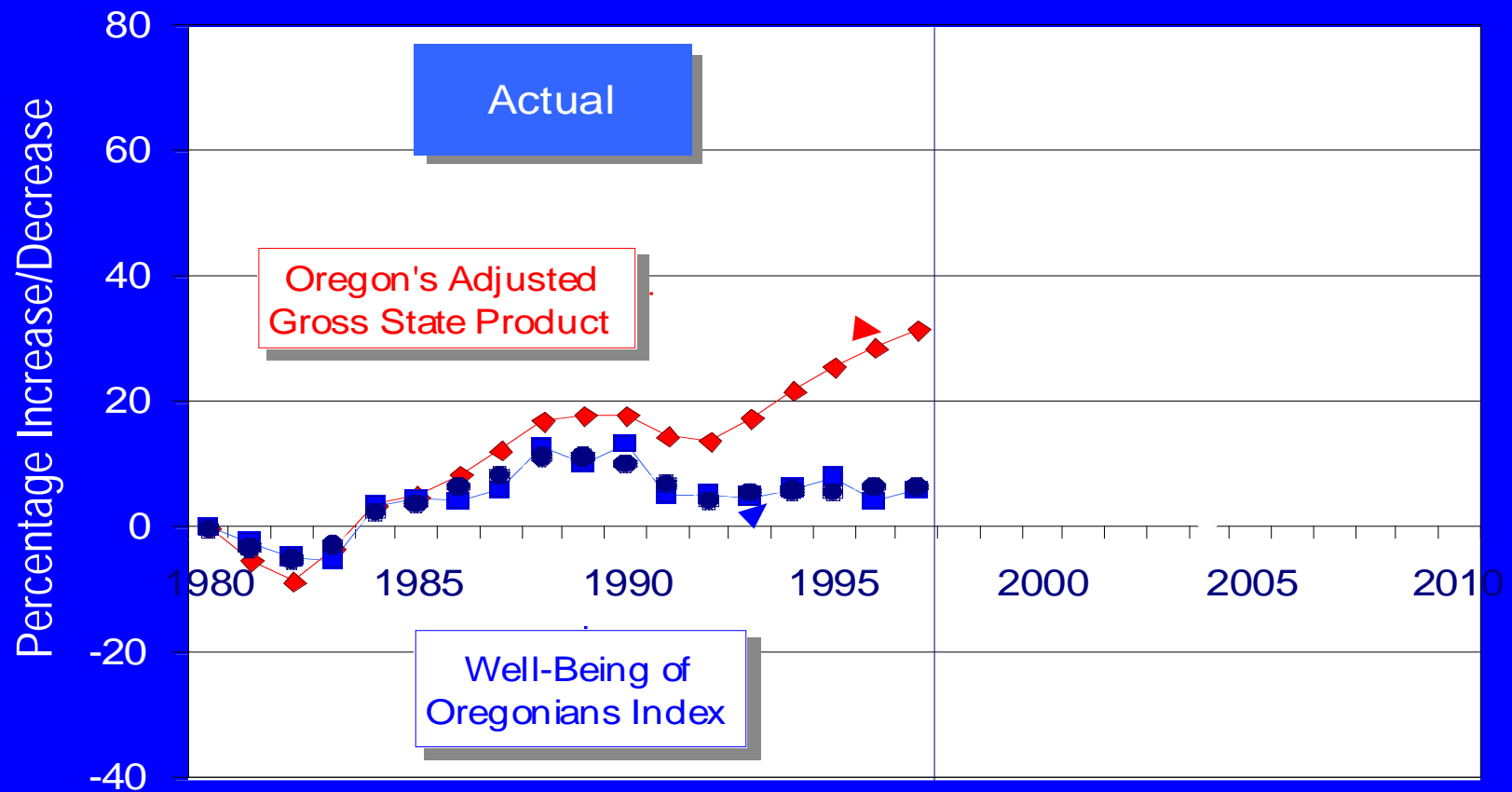
● Social Factors

- » Juvenile Arrest Rate
- » Teen Pregnancy Rate
- » Overall Crime Rate

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WE CAN ACCURATELY ESTIMATE INDEX VALUES



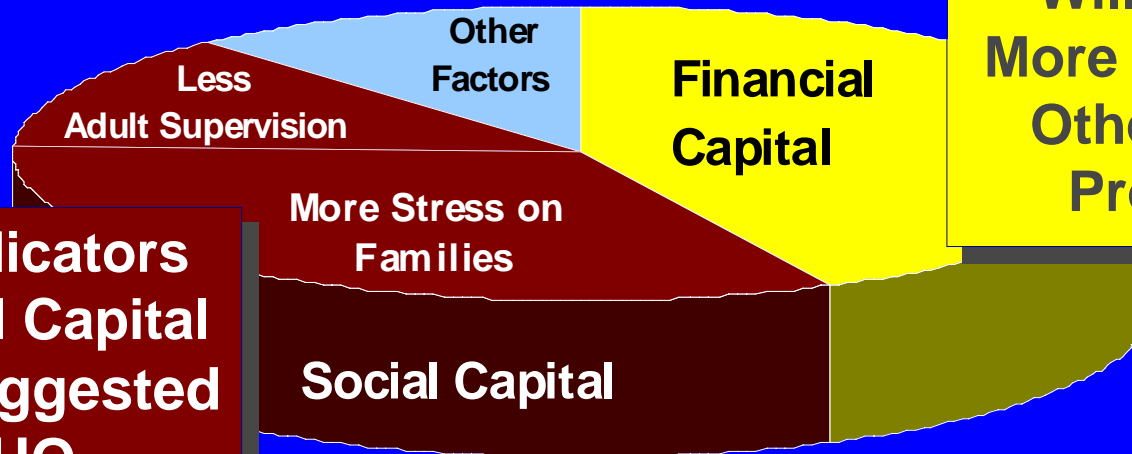
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THREE FACTORS EXPLAIN CHANGES IN THE WELL-BEING INDEX

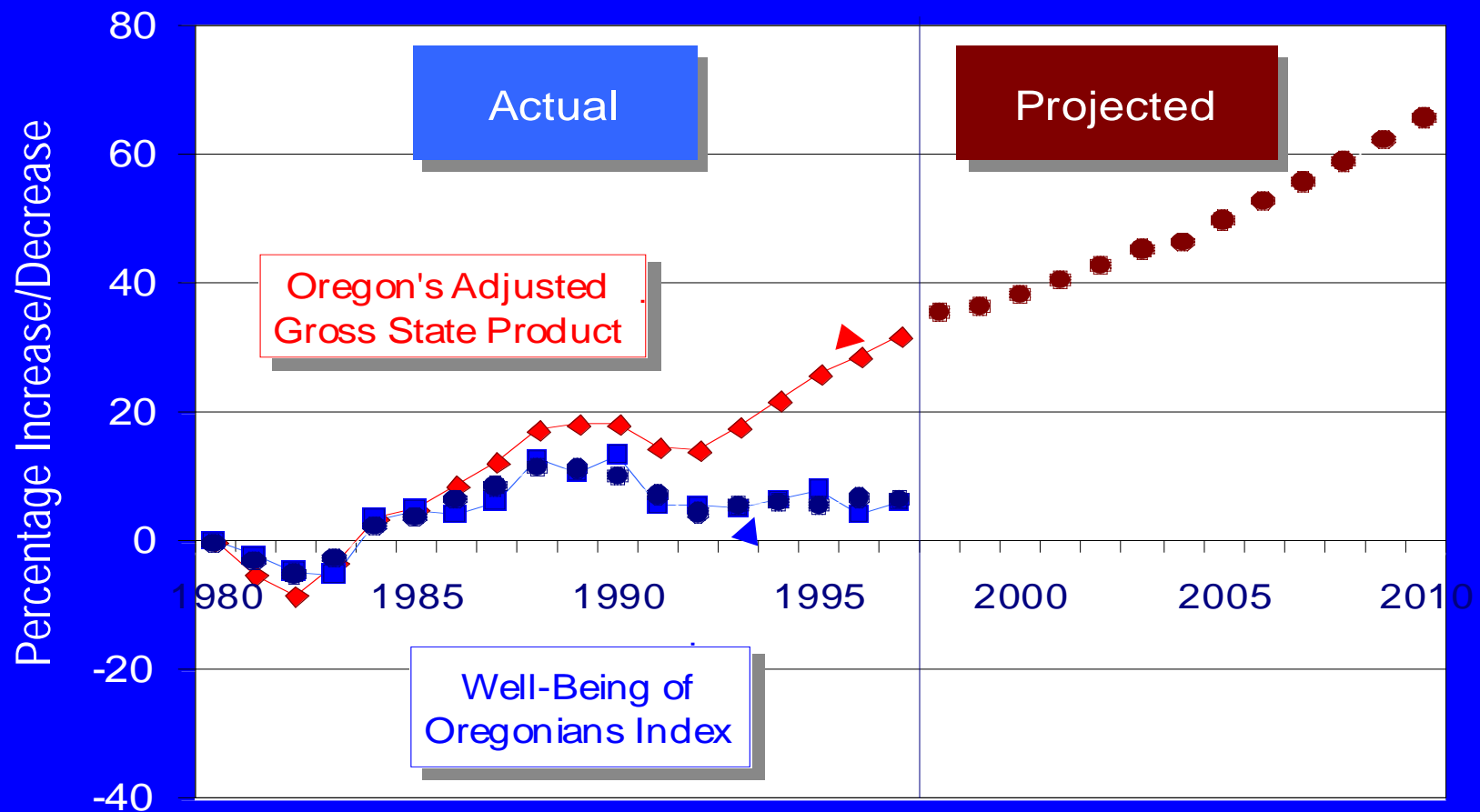
(State of Oregon Data)

**Two Indicators
of Social Capital
Were Suggested
by UO
Professors
O'Brien and
Stockard**



**Classical Theory
Suggests A
Weak Economy
Will Lead to
More Crime and
Other Social
Problems**

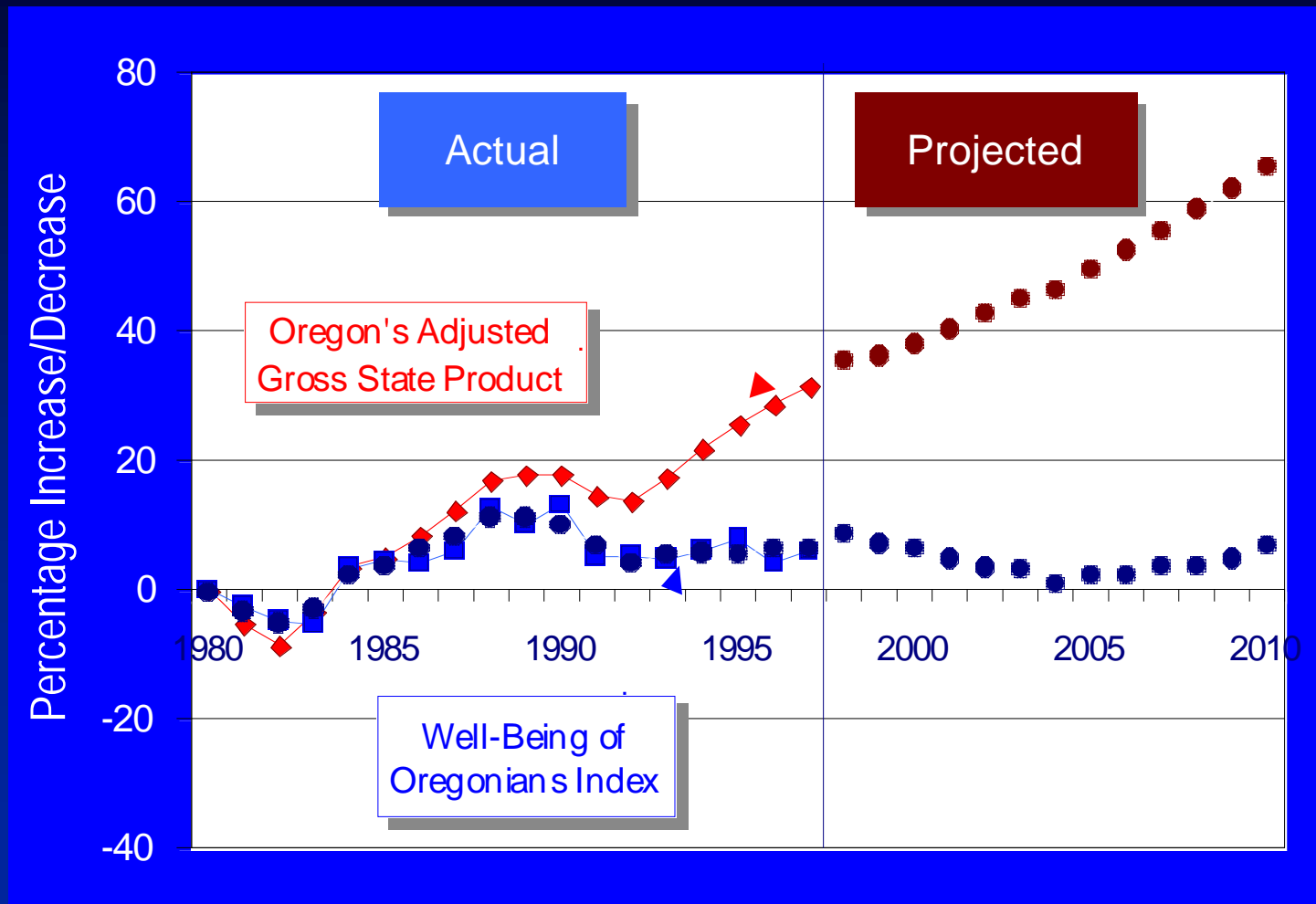
ECONOMISTS PREDICT FURTHER ECONOMIC GROWTH



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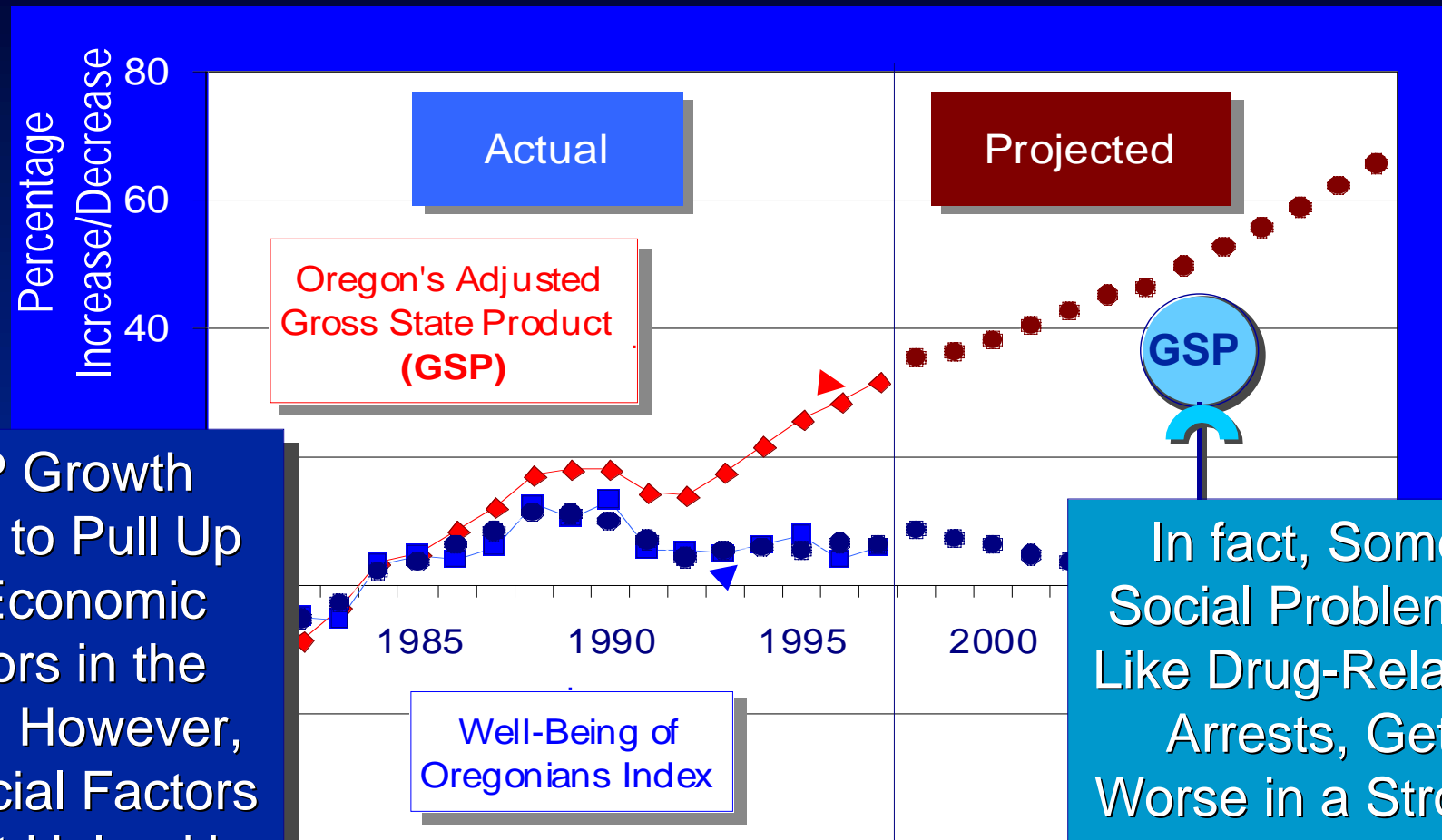
WE PREDICT NO IMPROVEMENT IN WELL-BEING



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ECONOMIC GROWTH TENDS TO RAISE THE WELL-BEING INDEX



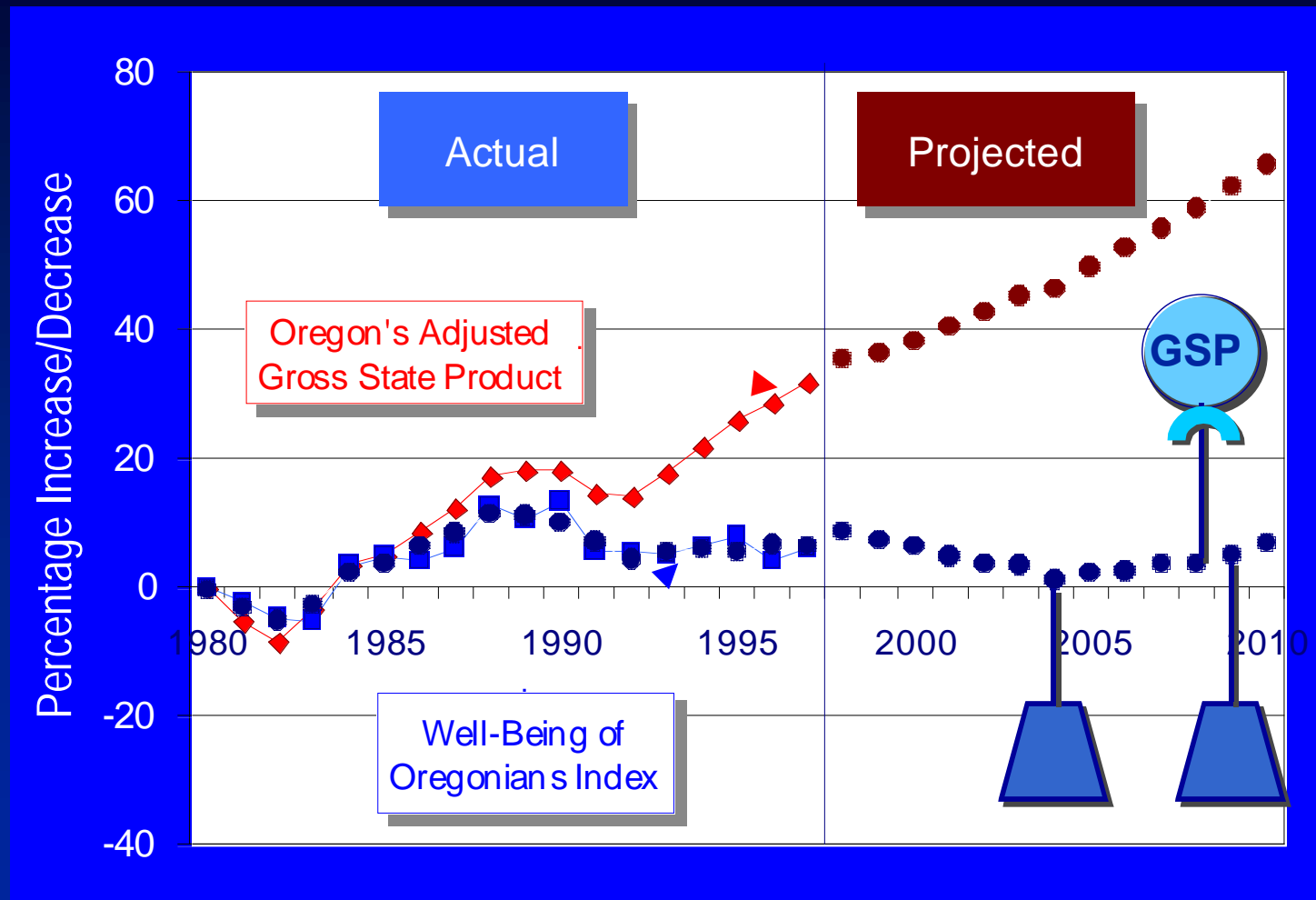
GSP Growth Tends to Pull Up the Economic Factors in the Index. However, the Social Factors Are **Not** Helped by a Strong Economy

In fact, Some Social Problems, Like Drug-Related Arrests, Get Worse in a Strong Economy

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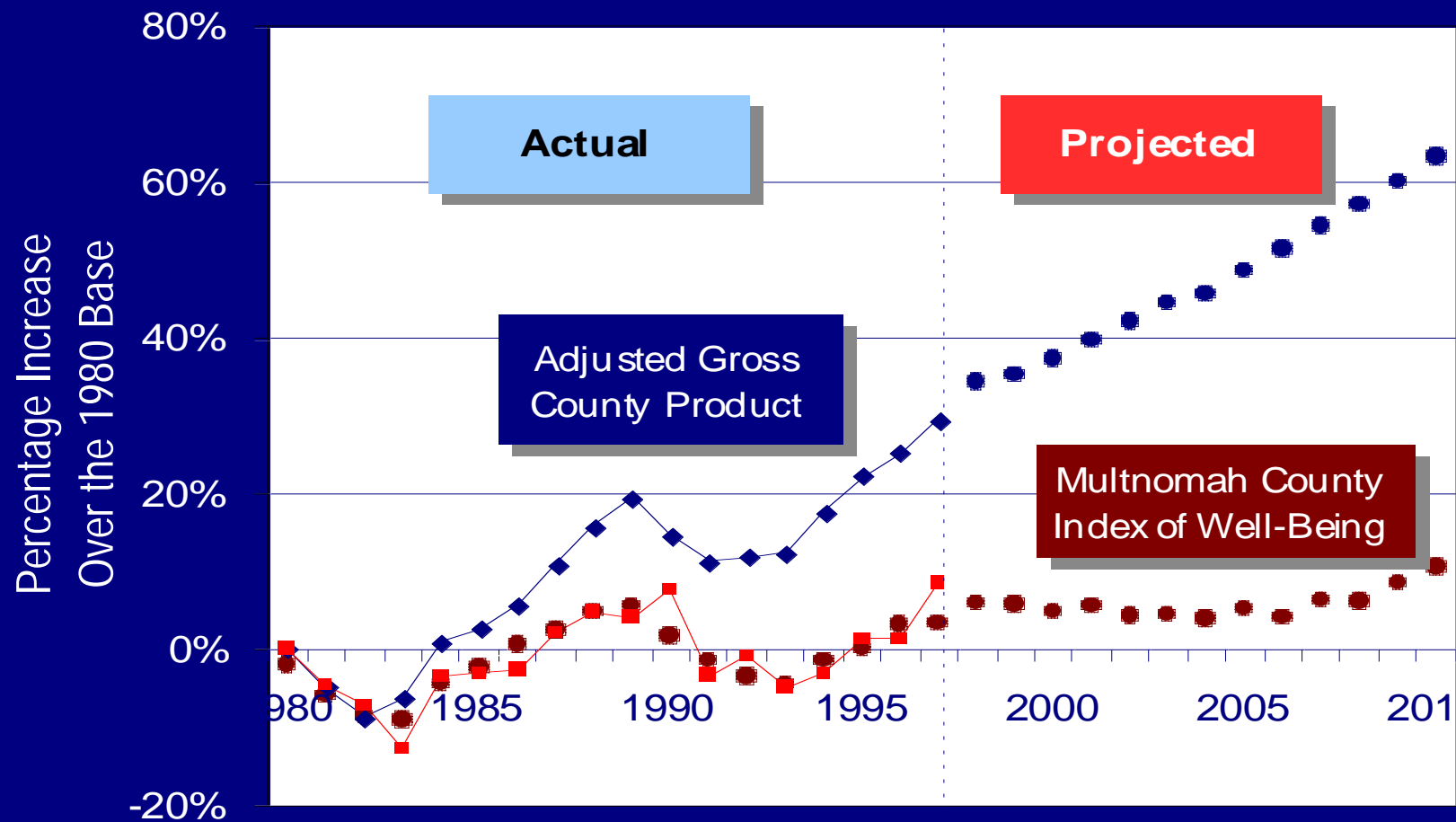
LOSS OF COMMUNITY AND STRESS ON FAMILIES LOWER THE INDEX



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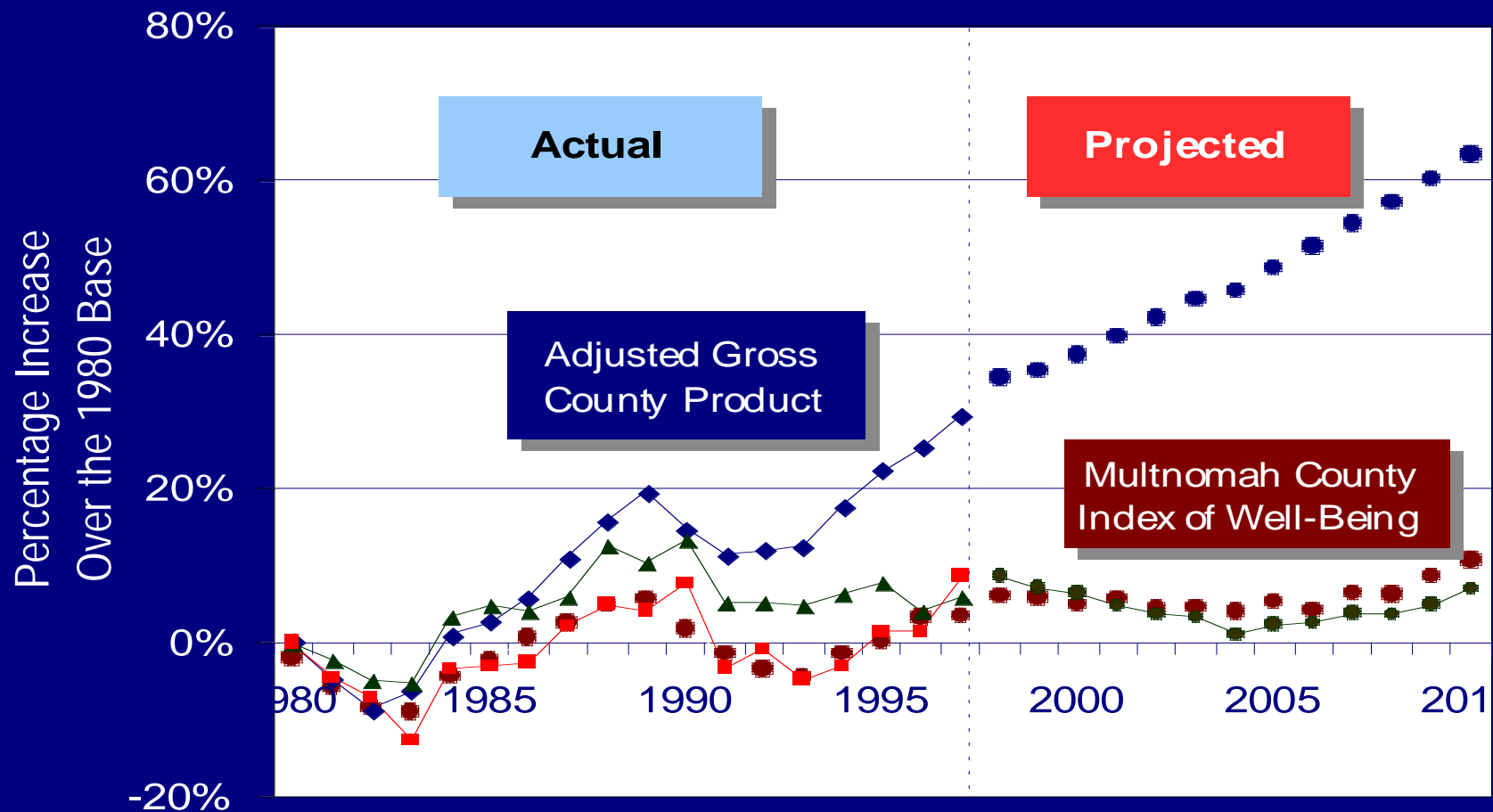
A SIMILAR INDEX FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY HAS ALSO STAGNATED



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OUR FORECAST FOR MULTNOMAH IS SLIGHTLY ABOVE STATE AVERAGE



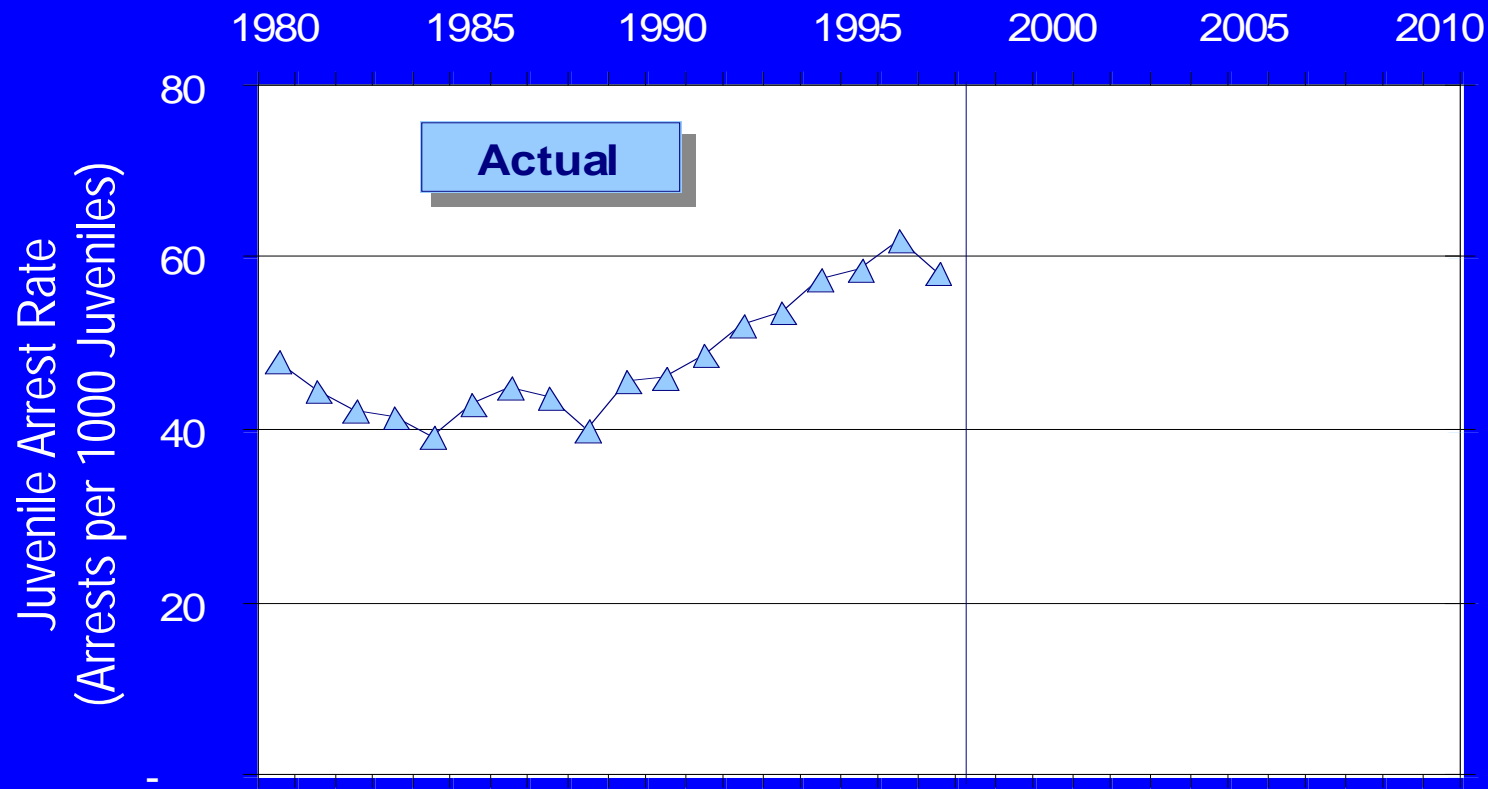
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FOCUS ON TWO SOCIAL FACTORS RELATED TO WELL-BEING

Juvenile Arrests &
Drug-Related Arrests

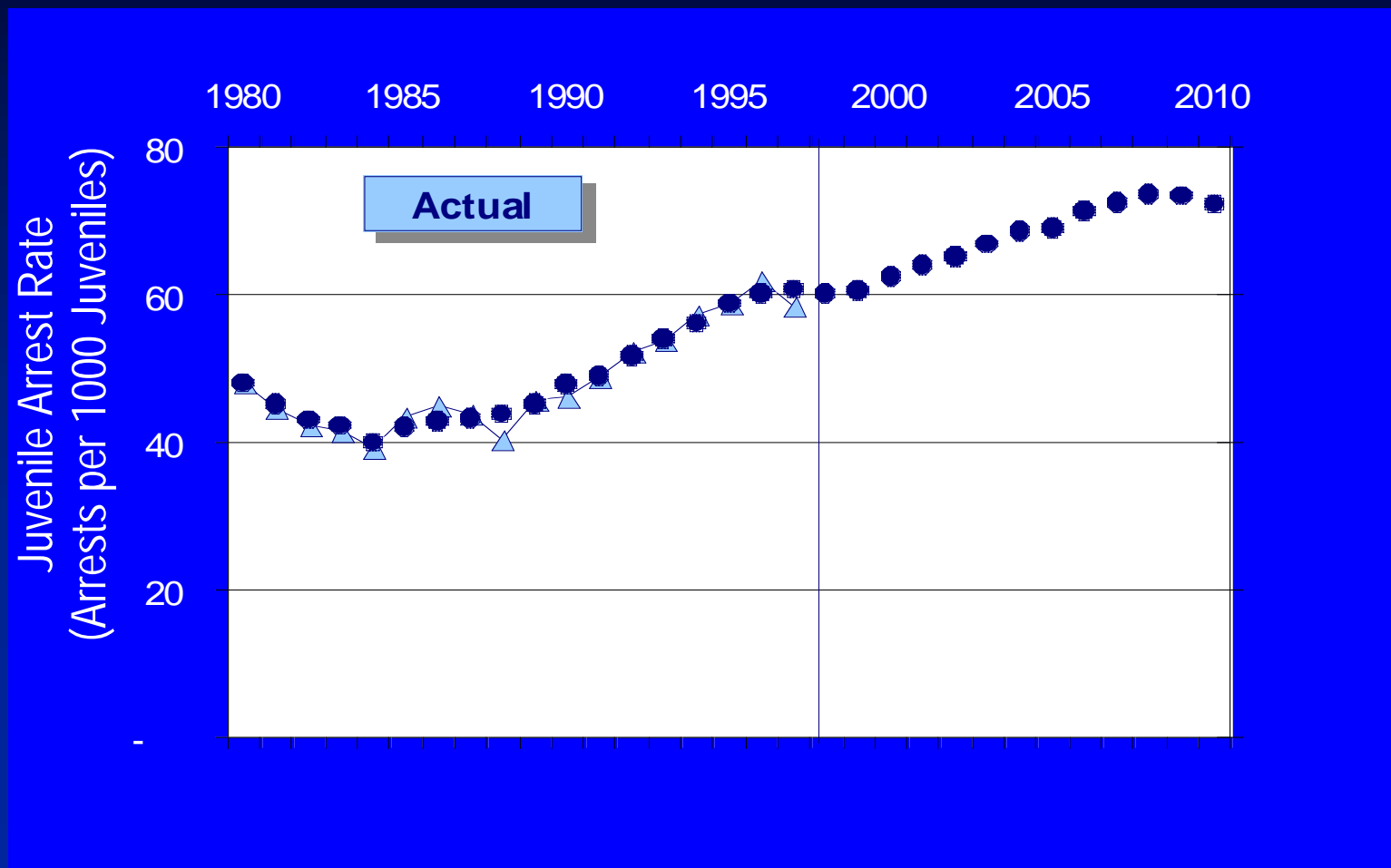
OREGON'S JUVENILE ARREST RATE HAS BEEN RISING



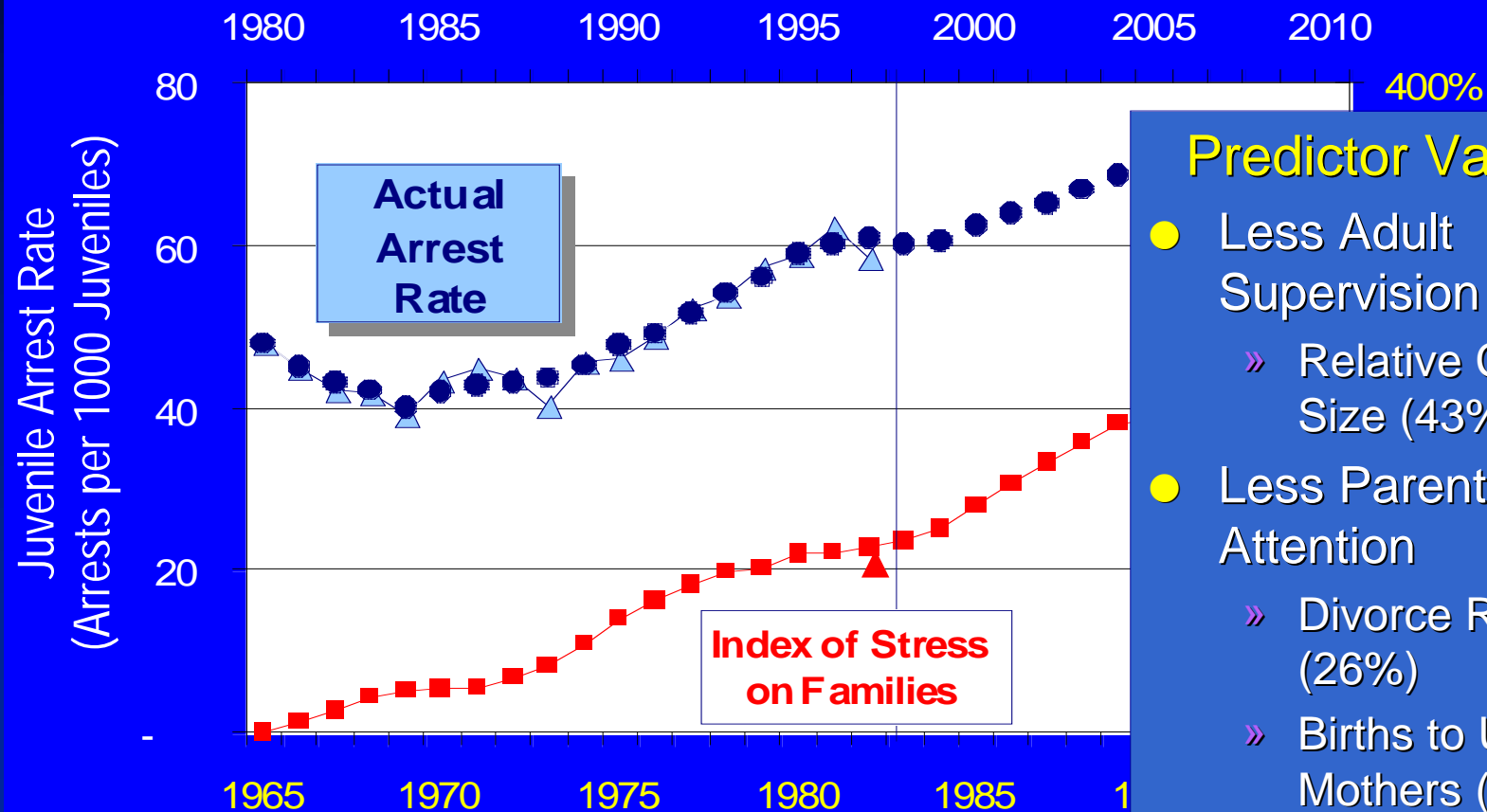
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OUR MODEL PROJECTS AN INCREASE IN STATEWIDE JUVENILE ARRESTS



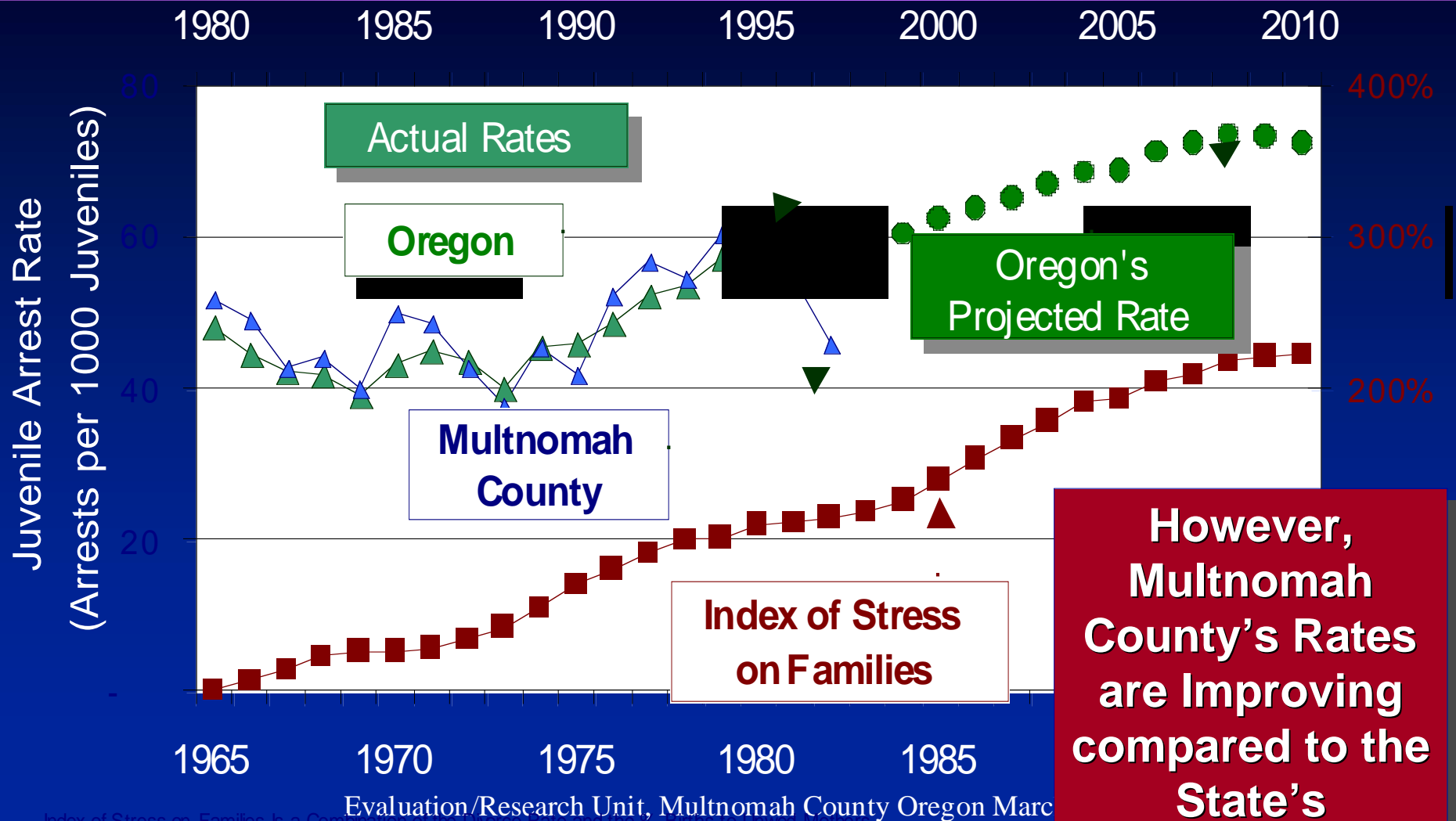
THE PREDICTORS OCCURRED 15 YEARS EARLIER



Predictor Variables

- Less Adult Supervision
 - » Relative Cohort Size (43%)
- Less Parental Attention
 - » Divorce Rate (26%)
 - » Births to Unwed Mothers (25%)
- Others Factors (6%)

THE COUNTY'S RATES ARE ALSO RELATED TO STRESS ON FAMILIES



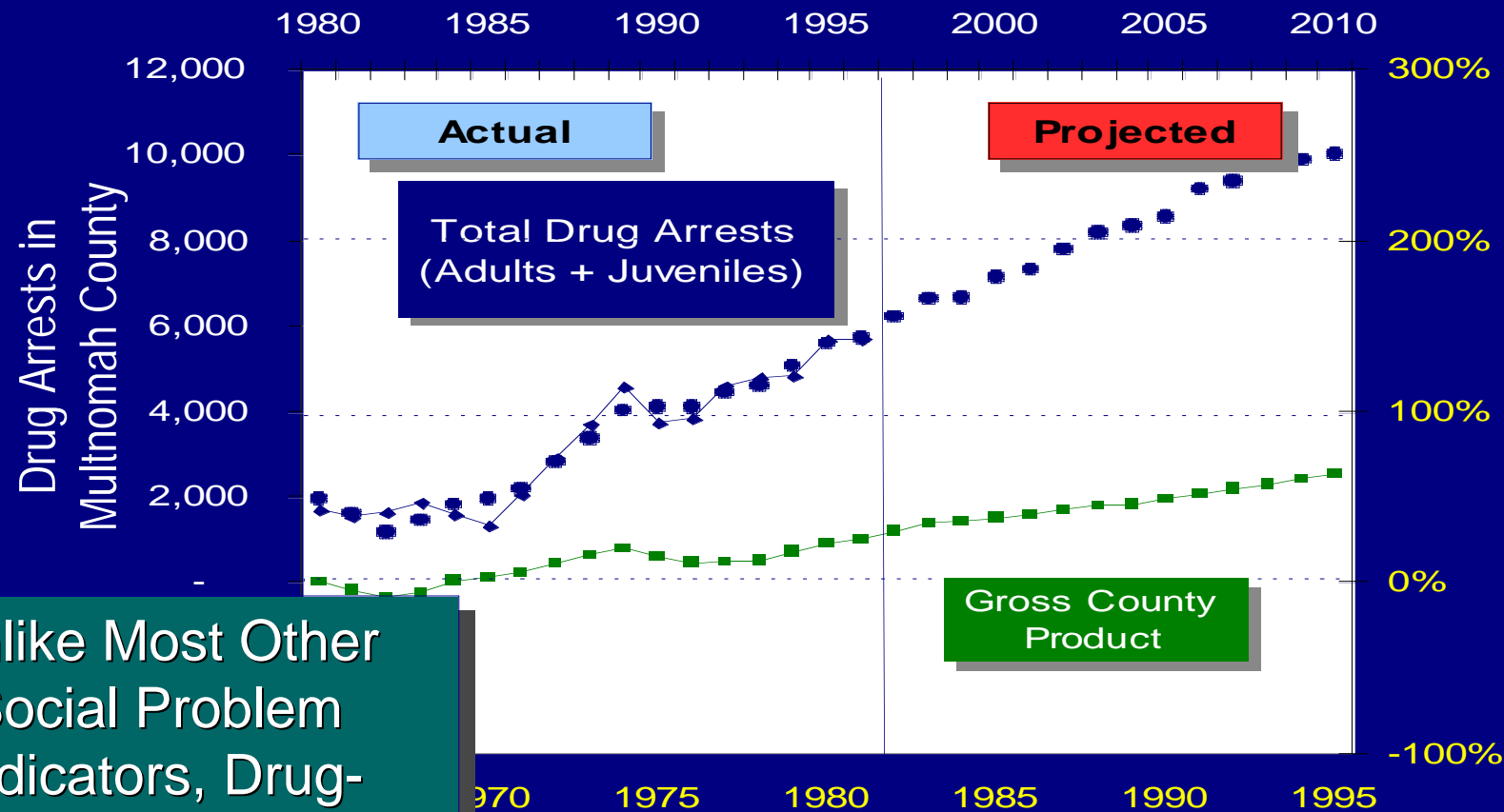
DRUG-RELATED ARRESTS

On the Rise in Multnomah County

Evaluation/Research Unit, Multnomah County Oregon March 1999

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MORE DRUG ARRESTS WITH A STRONG ECONOMY

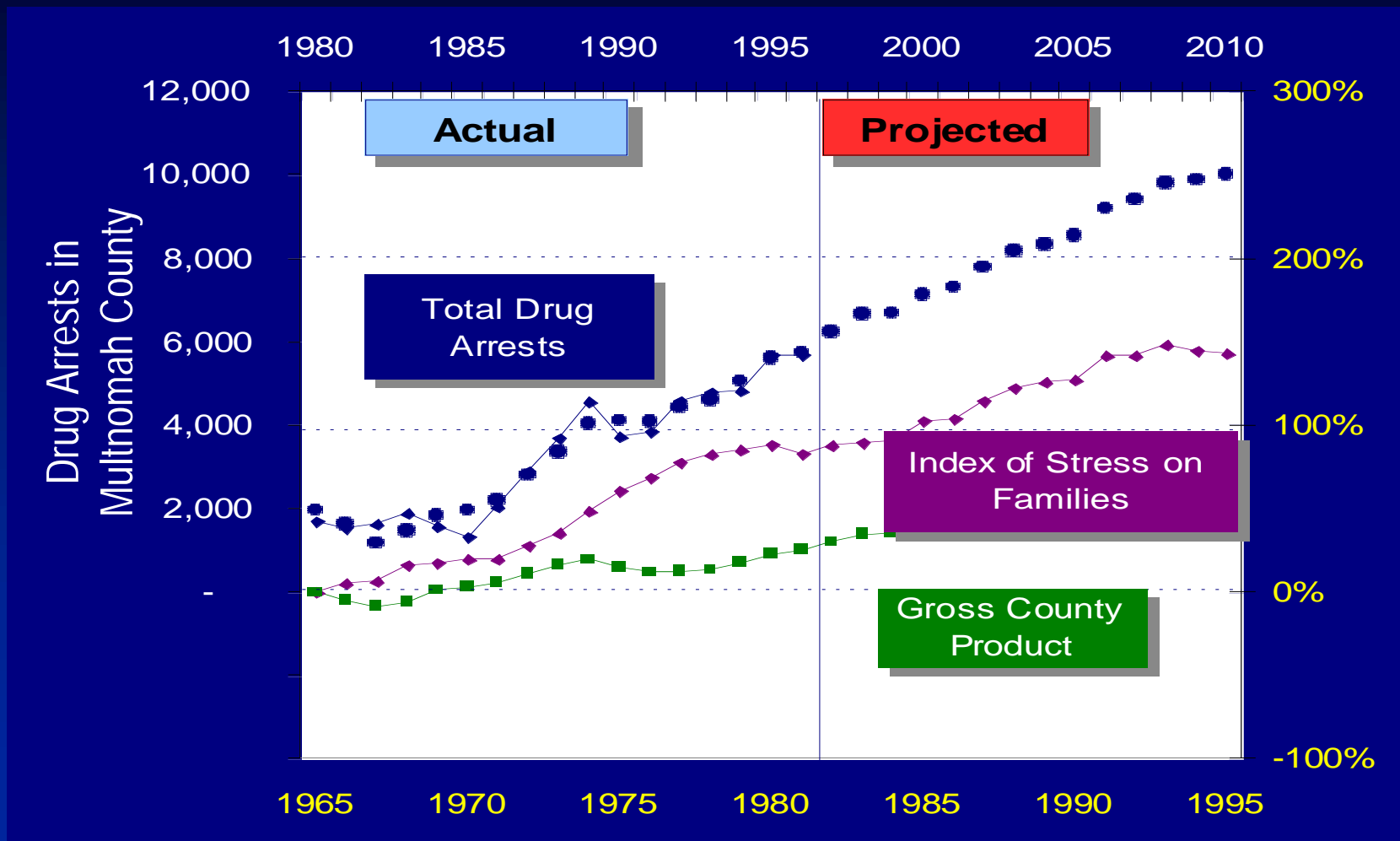


Unlike Most Other Social Problem Indicators, Drug-Related Arrests Are Associated with the Economy

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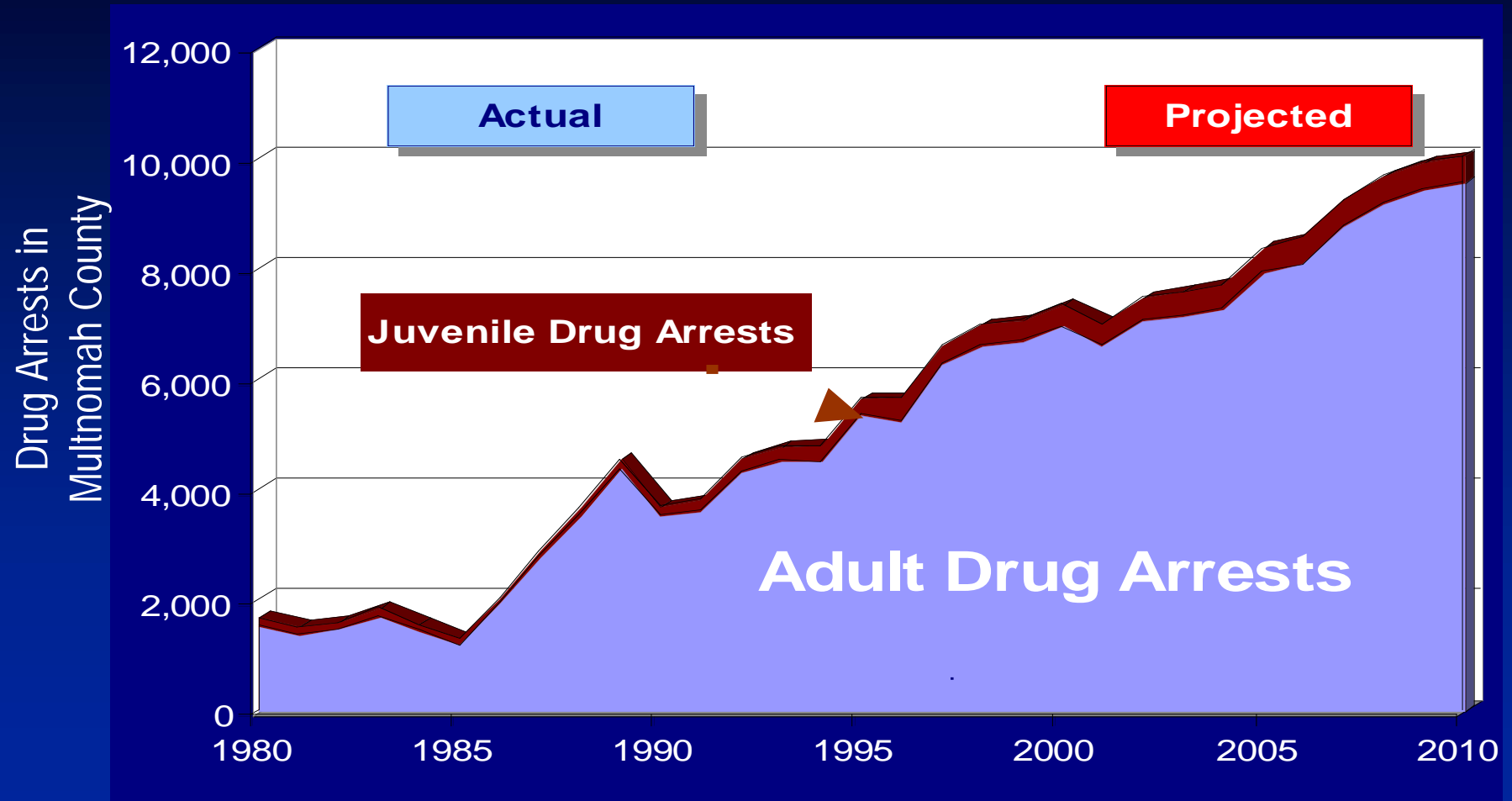
ONCE AGAIN, MORE STRESS ON FAMILIES IS A FACTOR



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MULTNOMAH COUNTY TOTAL DRUG ARRESTS COULD REACH 10,000



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DIVORCES & BIRTHS TO UNWED PARENTS ARE IMPORTANT INDICATORS

- There Is A Strong Statistical Relationship Between Divorce, Births to Unwed Parents, And Some Social Problems
- Indicators Point To Something. In This Case They Point To A Higher Risk Of Less Parental Attention And Adult Supervision For Children

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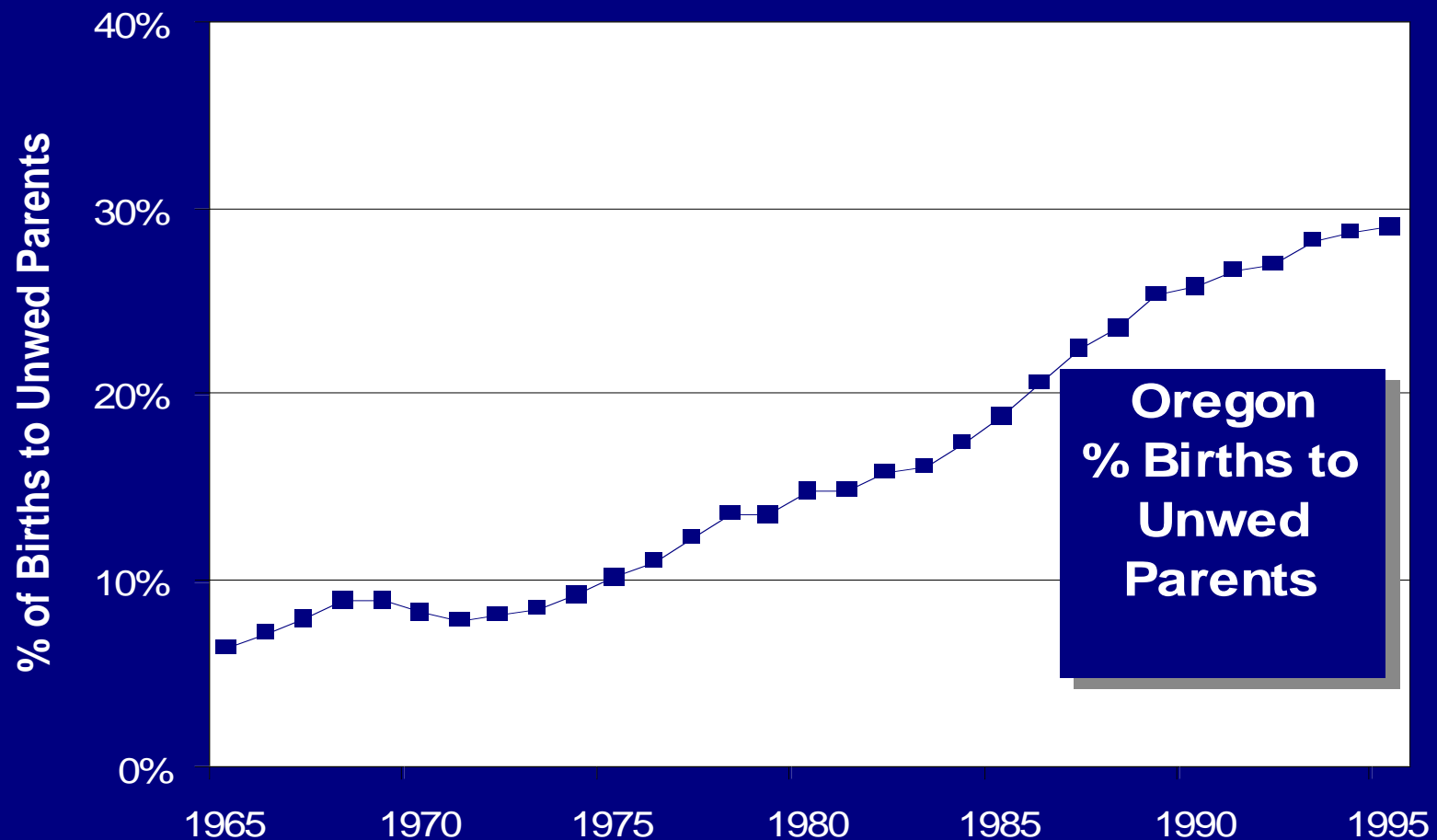
WHY ARE DIVORCE & BIRTHS TO UNWEDS IMPORTANT INDICATORS?

- Single Parents Can Be Good Parents
- But It Is Harder for Single Parents to Provide as Much Supervision, Consistent Discipline, and Parental Attention as Two Parents Can Provide
- The Critical Factor Is Not Absence of a Wedding Certificate But Less Parental Attention and Adult Supervision

POSITIVE PARENTAL & ADULT ATTENTION NEEDED IN ALL FAMILIES

- Parental Attention Is Important in Two-Parent Families as Well
- Multnomah County Youth Assets Survey 1997 Snapshot Shows Youths Need More Support:
 - » 68% of youths report high levels of love and support from their family life
 - » 41% report support from three or more non-parent adults
 - » Only 8% report the recommended number of assets

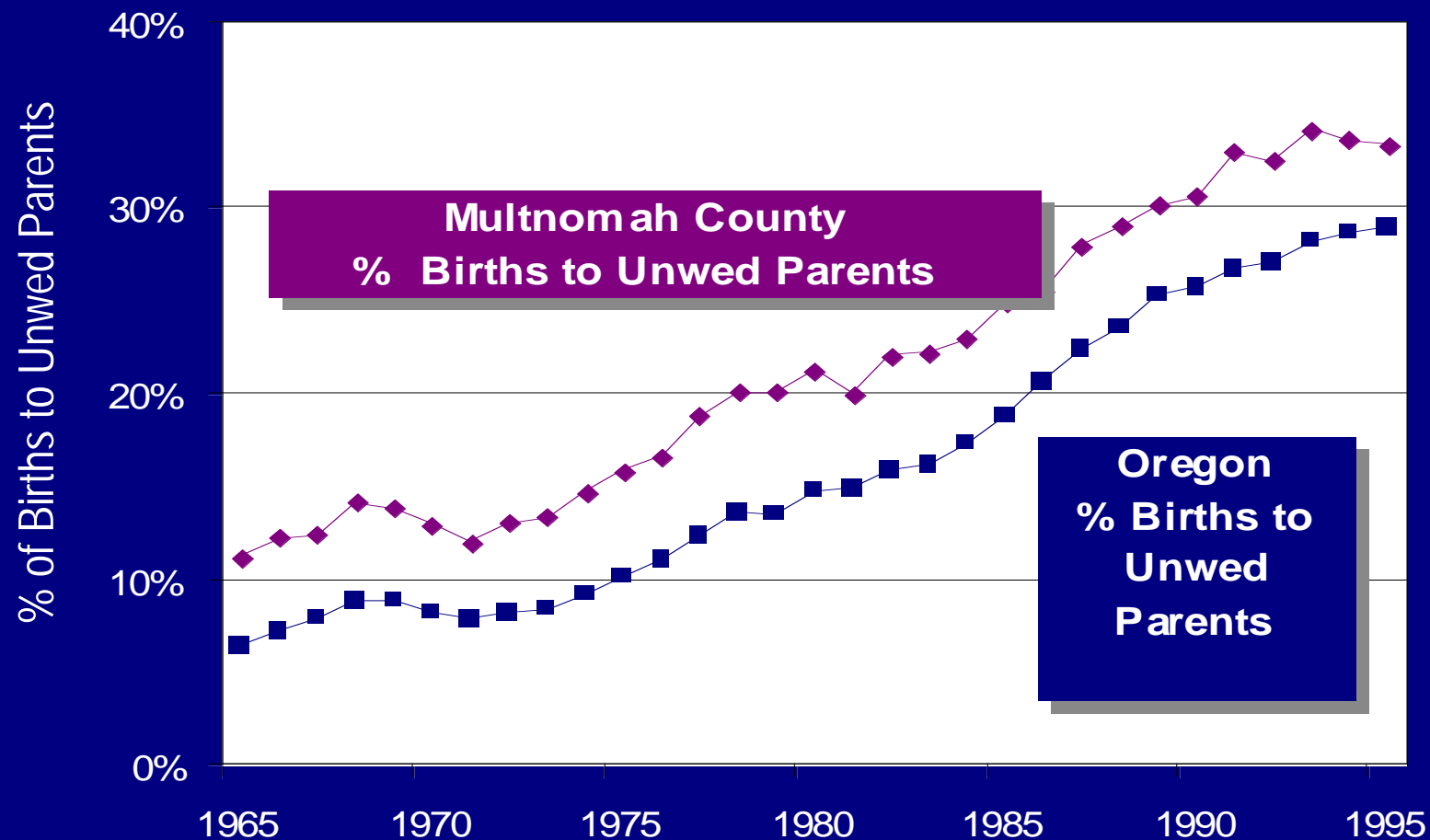
SHARP INCREASE IN THE % BIRTHS TO UNWED PARENTS



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MULTNOMAH COUNTY HAS A HIGHER % OF BIRTHS TO UNWED PARENTS



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WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT UNWED MOTHERS?

- Multnomah Moms Are Older Than State Average
27% Are < 20; 36% Are 20 to 24; 37% > 24
- There Has Been a Slight Drop in Teen Births
Statewide but Sharp Rise in Two Older Age
Groups
- 29% of Multnomah County Unwed Moms >19
Already Had a Child; 29% Were Having their 3rd,
4th or Higher Child

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT UNWED MOTHERS?

- 26% of Older Multnomah Unwed Mothers Had Not Completed High School. In comparison, 12% of the married mothers had not completed high school.
- Only 7% Finished College. While 33% of the Married Mothers Had a College Degree or Higher.
- 59% of the Births to Unwed Moms Were Covered by Public Assistance. In Comparison, 18% of the Married Moms Births Were Covered by Public Assistance.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT UNWED FATHERS?

- Very Little
- 36% of Unwed Mothers Refused to Provide Information about the Biological Fathers
- 24% of Unwed Fathers Have Not Completed High School. In comparison, 9% of all men and women have not completed high school.
- The Unmarried Fathers Are 2.8 Years Older Than Unmarried Mothers. In comparison, the Average Married Father in Multnomah County is 2.6 Older Than the Mother.

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COHORT STUDIES OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

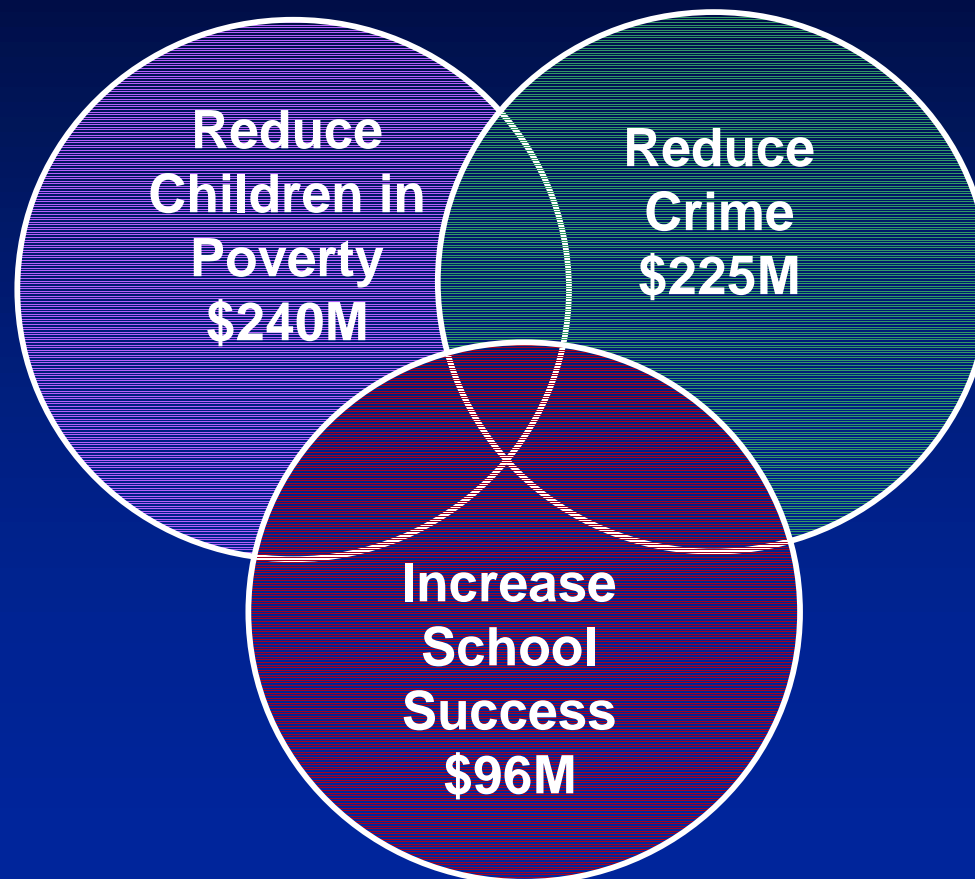
Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect Are More Complex Today

- Half Born to Woman Who First Started Having Children as Unwed Teenager
- Half in Families with Domestic Violence
- Two-Thirds of Their Parents Were Involved with Drugs and Alcohol
- More Than One-Third of Abusing Parents Were Abused as a Child

Source: Child Welfare Evaluation/Research Unit, Multnomah County Oregon March 1999
Partnership, Portland State University

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MULTNOMAH COUNTY INVESTS HEAVILY TO REDUCE SOCIAL PROBLEMS

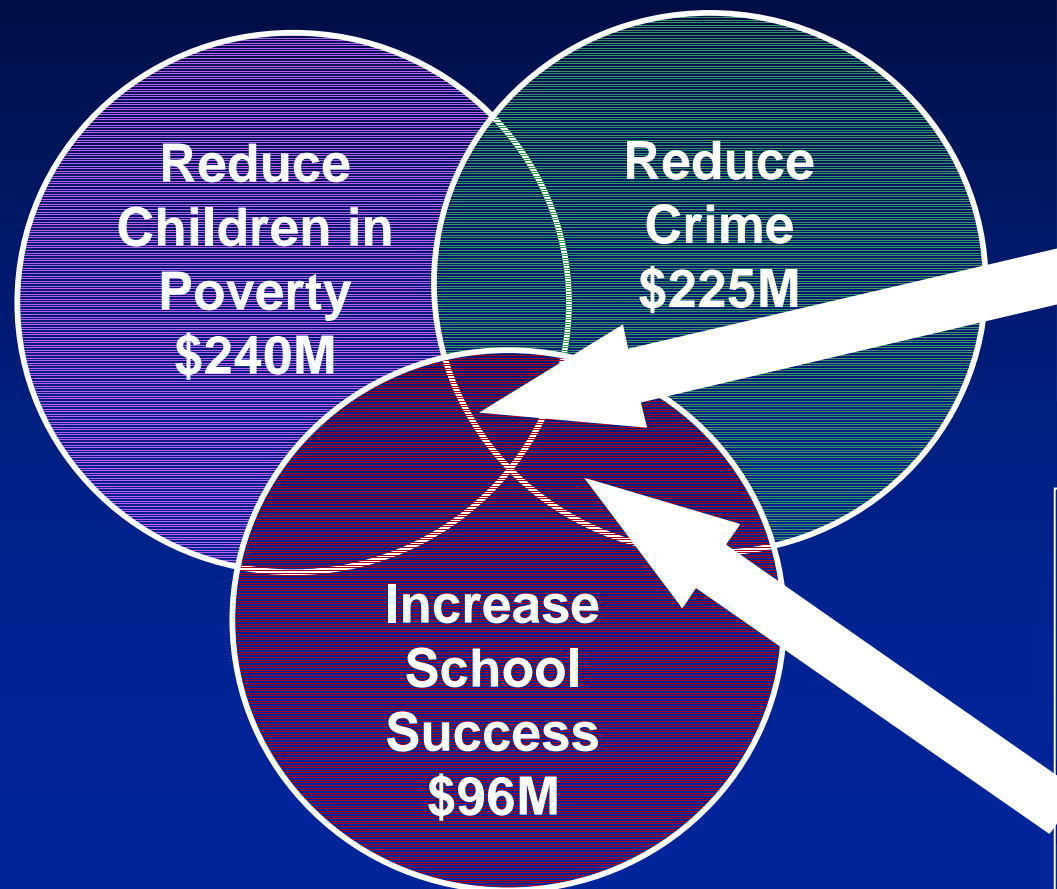


**50% of the County's
Total Budget and 75%
of its General Fund
are Spent on the
Three Long-Term
Benchmarks**

Source: Multnomah County Budget & Quality Division
Evaluation/Research Unit, Multnomah County Oregon March 1999

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PROGRAMS REINFORCE EACH OTHER AT KEY POINTS



- Early Childhood Development
- Family Centers
- Teen pregnancy
- Homeless Youth
- Juvenile Justice Programs Serving the Poor

- Delinquency Prevention
- Juvenile Justice Programs Serving All Youth
- Domestic Violence
- School Attendance Initiative

Source: Multnomah County Budget & Quality Division
Evaluation/Research Unit, Multnomah County Oregon - March 1999

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WHAT ARE KEY LEVERS FOR ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT?

- Financial Capital

- » Positioned for 21st
Century
Competitiveness

WHAT ARE KEY LEVERS FOR ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT?

- Financial Capital

- » Positioned for 21st Century Competitiveness
- » Education

Earnings and Unemployment Are Linked to Education



WHAT ARE KEY LEVERS FOR ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT?

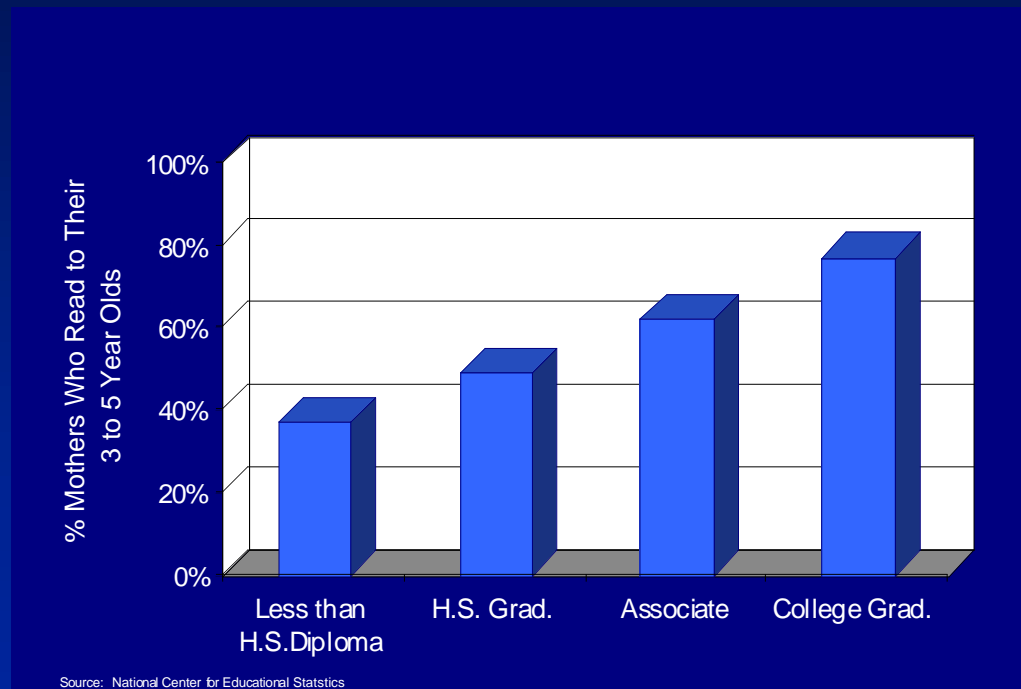
● Financial Capital

- » Positioned for 21st Century Competitiveness
- » Education

● Social Capital

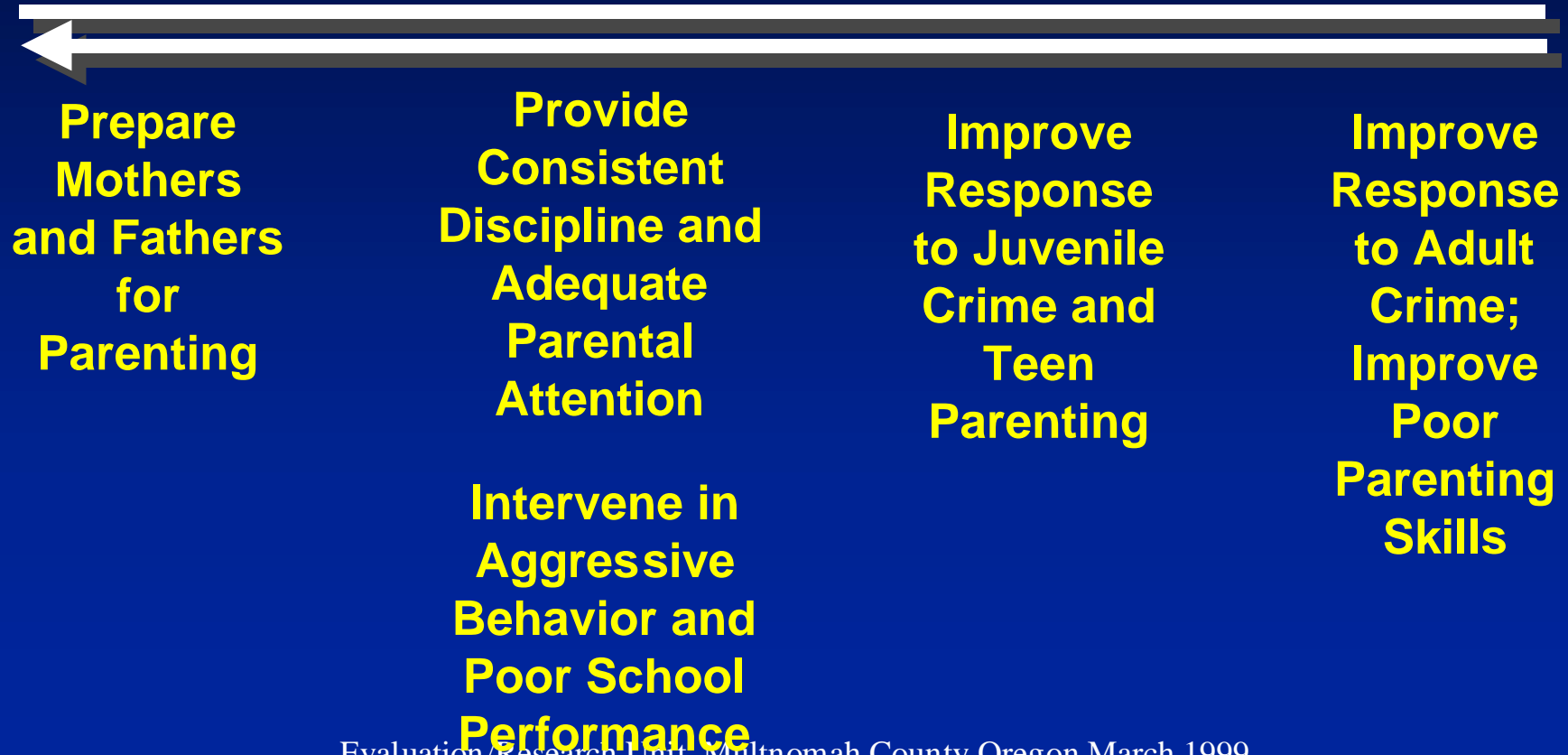
- » Increase Parental Attention
- » Increase Adult Supervision

Parental Attention Is Linked to Parents' Education



CAN OUR EFFORTS BEAT THE BASELINE FORECAST?

The Full Continuum



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CAN OUR EFFORTS BEAT THE BASELINE FORECAST?

The Full Continuum

Break the Cycle

- Should the County Increase Efforts to Reduce the Number of Births to Unwed Teen Mothers and Increase Father's Responsibilities?
- First Impact Would Be on Child Abuse and School Success But No Impact on Crime Until After 2015

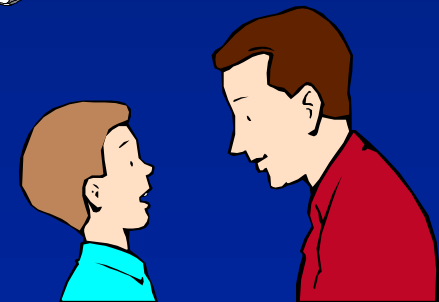


CAN OUR EFFORTS BEAT THE BASELINE FORECAST?

The Full Continuum

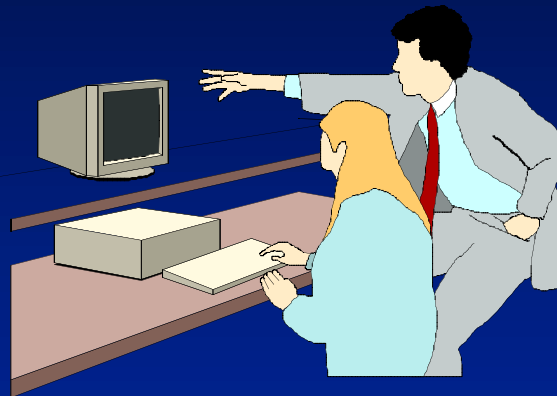
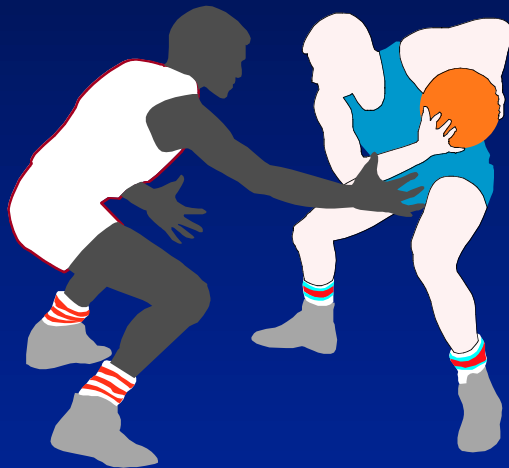
Break the Cycle

- Should the County Expand its Efforts to Improve the Quality of Parenting and Increase School Success for all Children?
- First Impact Would Be on Child Abuse and School Success But No Impact on Crime Until After 2015



CAN OUR EFFORTS BEAT THE BASELINE FORECAST?

The Full Continuum



Short-Term Impact

- Increase Adult Supervision by Expanding Programs that Target At-Risk Juveniles
- Could Have an Immediate Impact on Juvenile Crime



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