

## **Facts and Sources**

### **Current Plight of Black Men & Boys in America**

Only 41% of Black men graduate from high school in the United States.

*Schott Foundation for Public Education*

Just 22 % of Black males who began at a four-year college graduated within six years.

*National Student Clearinghouse/Study by Consortium on Chicago School Research at U of Chicago*

In Chicago, only 30% of Black males graduate from high school, of these only 3% of them obtain a bachelor's degree by the time they're 25.

*Schott Foundation for Public Education/National Student Clearinghouse/Study by Consortium on Chicago School Research at U of Chicago*

69% of Black children in America cannot read at grade level in the 4th grade, compared with 29% among White children.

*National Association of Educational Progress*

1.46 million Black men out of a total voting population of 10.4 million have lost their right to vote due to felony convictions.

*Source: Thomas, P., "Study Suggests Black Male Prison Rate Impinges on Political Process," The Washington Post (January 30, 1997), p. A3.*

One in three Black men between the ages of 20 and 29 years old is under correctional supervision or control.

*Source: Mauer, M. & Huling, T., Young Black Americans and the Criminal Justice System: Five Years Later (Washington DC: The Sentencing Project, 1995).*

"In 2001, the chances of going to prison were highest among Black males (32.2%) and Hispanic males (17.2%) and lowest among White males (5.9%). The lifetime chances of going to prison among Black females (5.6%) were nearly as high as for White males. Hispanic females (2.2%) and White females (0.9%) had much lower chances of going to prison."

*Source: Bonczar, Thomas P., US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Prevalence of Imprisonment in the US Population, 1974-2001," NCJ 197976 (Washington DC: US Department of Justice, August 2003), p. 8.*

In 1986, before mandatory minimums for crack offenses became effective, the average federal drug offense sentence for Black was 11% higher than for Whites. Four years later, following the implementation of harsher drug sentencing laws, the average federal drug offense sentence was 49% higher for Blacks.

*Source: Meierhoefer, B. S., The General Effect of Mandatory Minimum Prison Terms: A Longitudinal Study of Federal Sentences Imposed (Washington DC: Federal Judicial Center, 1992), p. 20.*

Regardless of similar or equal levels of illicit drug use during pregnancy, Black women are 10 times more likely than White women to be reported to child welfare agencies for prenatal drug use.

*Source: Neuspiel, D.R., "Racism and Perinatal Addiction," Ethnicity and Disease, 6: 47-55 (1996); Chasnoff, I.J., Landress, H.J., & Barrett, M.E., "The Prevalence of Illicit-Drug or Alcohol Use during Pregnancy and Discrepancies in Mandatory Reporting in Pinellas County, Florida," New England Journal of Medicine, 322: 1202-1206 (1990).*

Due to harsh new sentencing guidelines, such as "two-strikes, you're out", (Georgia) a disproportionate number of young Black and Hispanic men are likely to be imprisoned for life under scenarios in which they are guilty of little more than a history of untreated addiction and several prior drug-related offenses... States will absorb the staggering cost of not only constructing additional prisons to accommodate increasing numbers of prisoners who will never be released but will also be warehoused into old age."

*Source: Craig Haney, Ph.D., and Philip Zimbardo, Ph.D., "The Past and Future of U.S. Prison Policy: Twenty-five Years After the Stanford Prison Experiment," American Psychologist, Vol. 53, No. 7 (July 1998), p. 718.*

Black college men end up just a few dollars ahead of Whites who went no further than high school.

*Two Nations by Andrew Hacker*

45% of Black children live below the poverty line, compared with 16% of White youngsters  
*Two Nations by Andrew Hacker*

Blacks account for only 12% of the U.S. population but 44% of all prisoners in the United States are Black.  
*Human Rights Watch*

In 2000, 65% of Black male high-school dropouts in their 20's were jobless — that is, unable to find work, not seeking it or incarcerated. By 2004, the share had grown to 72%, compared with 34% of White and 19% of Hispanic dropouts. Even when high-school graduates were included, half of Black men in their 20's were jobless in 2004, up from 46% in 2000.  
*2000 Census data by Steven Raphael*

*Mark Levitan, the report's author, found that just 51.8 percent of Black men and boys ages 16 to 64 held jobs in New York City in 2003. The rate for White men and boys was 75.7%; for Hispanic men and boys, 65.7%; and for Black women and girls, 57.1%. The employment-population ratio of Black men and boys was the lowest for the period.*  
*Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics*

Net worth of Black families \$6,100 – Net worth of White families \$67,000.  
*Report from National Urban League, 2006*

The rate of drug admissions to state prison for Black men is thirteen times greater than the rate for White men. A recent report by Human Rights Watch found that while drug use is consistent across all racial groups, Blacks and Latinos are far more likely to be arrested and prosecuted and given long sentences for drug offenses. Blacks constitute 13% of all drug users, but 35% of those arrested for drug possession, 55% of persons convicted, and 74% of people sent to prison.  
<http://www.drugpolicy.org/communities/race/criminaljust/> \ “note1#note1”  
1) Nationally, Latinos comprise almost half of those arrested for marijuana offenses <http://www.drugpolicy.org/communities/race/criminaljust/> \ “note2#note2”  
2) and Native Americans comprise almost two-thirds of those prosecuted for criminal offenses in federal courts <http://www.drugpolicy.org/communities/race/criminaljust/> \ “note3#note3”  
*Human Rights Watch*

Of Black males born this year, 29% can expect to spend some time behind bars. One in 14 Black children has a parent in jail or prison. One in 20 Black men is incarcerated, compared with one in 155 White men. For every three Black men in college, four are in prison.  
*Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2002,” April 6, 2003.*

In at least fifteen states, Black men were sent to prison on drug charges at rates ranging from twenty to fifty-seven times those of White men.  
Blacks, who comprise only 13% of the population and account for about 13% of drug users, constitute 35% of all arrests for drug possession, 55% of all convictions on those charges, and 74% of all those sentenced to prison for possession. Blacks are incarcerated at a rate that is more than six times that of Whites.  
The Black male homicide rate is seven times the White male rate.  
Black women are 18 times more likely to be raped than White women.

*The Justice Department estimates that one out of every 21 Black men can expect to be murdered, a death rate double that of U. S. soldiers in World War II.*

A young Black male in America is more likely to die from gun fire than was any soldier in Vietnam.  
While constituting roughly 13% of the total population, Black America represents nearly 30% of America's poor.  
Two-thirds of “minorities” in public school fail to reach basic levels of national tests. There continues to be marked disparities between Black and White students in the national SAT scores. 32% of all suspended students are Black. Black students are twice as likely as Whites to be suspended or expelled.  
67% of Black children (up from 17% in 1967) are born out of wedlock.  
Black men earn 67% of what white men earn.  
53% of Black men aged 25-34 are either unemployed or earn too little to lift a family of four from poverty.

Blacks comprise only 3.2% of lawyers, 3% of doctors, and less than 1% of architects.

White males with a high-school diploma are just as likely to have a job, and tend to earn just as much as Black males with college degrees.

Light-skinned Blacks have a 50% better chance of getting a job than dark-skinned Blacks.

Blacks are rejected twice as often for small business loans than Whites of comparable credit.

69% of Black children cannot read in the 4th grade, compared with 29% among White children.

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*The American Directory of Certified Uncle Toms (Chicago: Lushena, 2002).*

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*Human Rights Watch.*

The share of young Black men without jobs has climbed relentlessly, with only a slight pause during the economic peak of the late 1990's. In 2000, 65% of Black male high-school dropouts in their 20's were jobless — that is, unable to find work, not seeking it or incarcerated. By 2004, the share had grown to 72%, compared with 34% of White and 19% of Hispanic dropouts. Even when high-school graduates were included, half of Black men in their 20's were jobless in 2004, up from 46% in 2000.

Incarceration rates climbed in the 1990's and reached historic highs in the past few years. In 1995, 16% of Black men in their 20's who did not attend college were in jail or prison; by 2004, 21% were incarcerated. By their mid-30's, 6 in 10 Black men who had dropped out of school had spent time in prison. In the inner cities, more than half of all Black men do not finish high school.

More young Black men in the United States have done time than have served in the military or earned a college degree, according to a new study.

The paper, appearing in the American Sociological Review, estimates that 20% of all Black men born from 1965 through 1969 had served time in prison by the time they reached their early 30s. By comparison, less than 3% of White males born in the same time period had been in prison.

*The New York Times*, [http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/20/national/20blackmen.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin%20](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/20/national/20blackmen.html?_r=1&oref=slogin%20) “Plight Deepens for Black Men, Studies Warn.”, March 20, 2006

Three states with the highest percentage of Black inmates greater than 63% are Maryland (77%), Louisiana (74%), and Mississippi (70%) followed by Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina.

*Report from National Urban League, 2006*

## **Black Male Community Empowerment Forum**

An Atlanta-based clearinghouse for the empowerment of African American men and boys

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