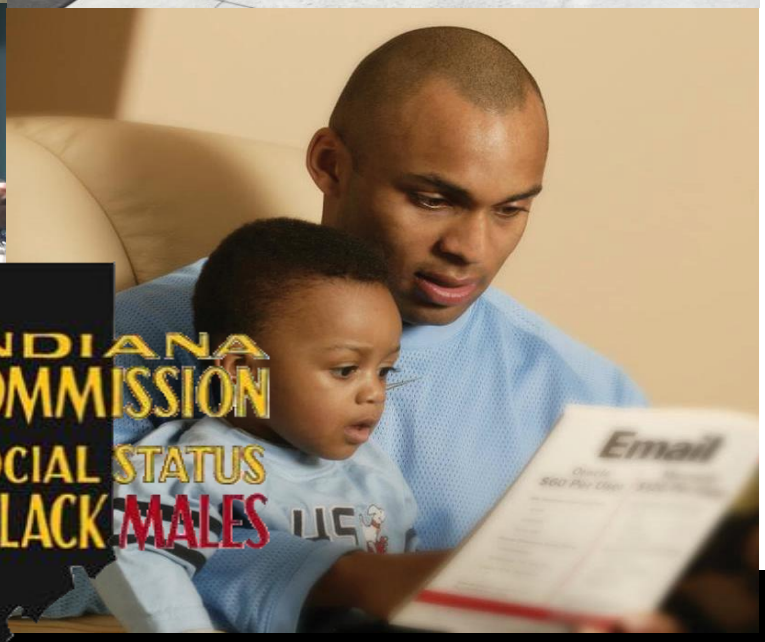
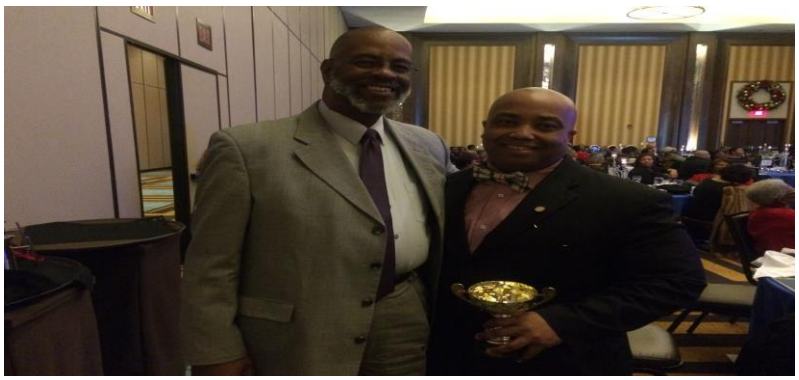


INDIANA COMMISSION SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MALES

2017 Annual Report

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males



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Introduction

The Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) has been committed to helping improve the quality of life for Black males throughout the state since its inception in 1993. The role of the Commission is to convene partnerships and serve as a collaborator in assisting Black males in Indiana.

Through a bipartisan effort, ICSSBM was formally established by Public Law 143-1993 to study and recommend legislative remedies to address the critical social problems facing the Black male population in Indiana.

This report highlights the disparities and challenges facing Indiana's Black males. The report examines the five focus areas and highlights statistical data surrounding **Criminal Justice, Education, Employment, Health,** and **Social Factors**. ICSSBM, local commissions, and community partners seek to help provide recommendations for community and legislative decisions while serving as a catalyst in facilitating a common foundation upon which a viable course of action can be initiated. It is important to note that these five focus areas are interrelated, often impacting and affecting Black males in Indiana. The report also seeks to identify recommendations for Commission action in an effort to engage and stimulate local initiatives that serve Black males.

Black males experience disparities compared to the majority population and other ethnic groups. In order to positively change these disparate statistics, government, educators, the faith based community, grassroots organizations, parents, and concerned citizens will need to work collectively as well as independently to enhance and improve the status of Black males in Indiana.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males is to study the social conditions and status of the state's Black male population. The Commission is to develop strategies to remedy or assist in remedying serious adversities and make appropriate recommendations to improve the educational, social, economic, employment, health and other material conditions and circumstances for Indiana Black males. The Commission may receive suggestions or comments pertinent to the issues that the Commission studies from members of the general assembly, governmental agencies, public and private organizations and private citizens.

The Commission shall make systematic studies and propose measures to alleviate the underlying causes and conditions described in **Indiana Code 4-23-31-1.**

Vision

The Commission has been in partnership with elected officials, community leaders, policy makers and the faith-based community to serve Black males and resolve issues in the five focus areas.

The Commission has been instrumental in helping address crucial issues that negatively affect Black males in Indiana. Specifically, the Commission has sponsored state and/or regional conferences and symposiums on these vital concerns along with the annual Young Black Males Matter event, statewide Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative, Indiana Dad's Expo and Annual Black Males Conference.

Executive Summary

The Commission partners with the local commissions and community organizations to improve the lives of Black males. The Commission seeks to be more engaging while stimulating local initiatives that serve Black males. Through such partnerships, the ICSSBM has identified pressing issues and attempts to help provide recommendations for community and possible legislative decisions. The ICSSBM ultimately desires Black males to be equipped to prosper and provide for themselves while seeking to improve their quality of life and excel as students, fathers, husbands, and leaders within their family and community.

The challenges that face Black males in Indiana are numerous and can be detrimental not only individually but to their family and community. However, this report was drafted to serve as a reference guide and to identify suggestions or recommendations in order to improve the quality of life of Black males. This report is structured in a way to provide some important national and state level data related to Black males. This information should help to engage discussion and should serve as a reference guide on such topics as (1) the importance of education and its effects on labor force participation, (2) the effects of chronic unemployment of Black males on traditional family structures and our community, (3) how Black male education attainment rates are connected to participating in the criminal justice system and (4) what are the leading health factors that are detrimental to Black males and their life expectancy.

The ICSSBM strives to build community and interagency partnerships to bring about an environment that promotes the values of learning, family, prosperity, unity, and self-worth. Commission members commit to their statewide leadership role to identify, plan, and serve as a catalyst for addressing issues, trends, and disparities that may affect Black men and boys. As directed by statute. ICSSBM gladly upholds the responsibility, as assigned by the Indiana Legislature, to lead vigorous investigations that seek to reveal and convey greater understanding about the current status of Black men and boys; and, more importantly, the means by which Indiana lawmakers can reduce the disparities in the areas of: **Criminal Justice**, **Education**, **Employment**, **Health**, and **Social Factors.**

The Commission also strives to provide not just data or information, but rather knowledge and researched-based linkages to various social indicators so as to prompt and encourage problem solving and wisdom sharing for social change and the betterment of Black males in the State of Indiana. This report is not designed to be an exhaustive examination of the Social Status of Black Males in Indiana; rather a survey of key issues and information that will encourage healthy discourse and dialog with key stakeholders from all walks of life.

Criminal Justice

Black males in Indiana are admitted into the criminal justice systems at disproportionate rates and are sentenced and imprisoned longer compared to their White male counterparts. They are sentenced and incarcerated longer than any other ethnic group. Although White males comprise fifty-nine percent (59%) of the inmate population, Black males, while representing less than five percent (5%) of the total state population, represent thirty-five point six percent (35.6%) of the incarcerated offenders. The juvenile figures are slightly lower but substantially greater than their population percentage. White male juveniles, fifty point five percent (50.5%) to Black males thirty-three point five percent (33.5%).

The high rates of recidivism and incarceration among Black males in Indiana are in part due to the lack of education and employment opportunities. The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) defines recidivism as a return to incarceration within three years of the offenders release

from a state correctional institution. The recidivism rate for Black males has decreased from the peak level over thirty-eight percent (38%) in 2015. In an effort to assist Black males the Commission seeks to support and identify best practices in reentry and helping Black males with records concealment or expungement, through the Second Chance Law. The Commission also seeks to identify programs or training initiatives to help rehabilitate Black males for reintegration into society, community and their family.

Education

In Indiana, Black males continue to face issues that affect their educational achievement and success. The lack of quality education affects many other facets of one's life: employment, health, criminal justice, and other communal and cultural factors like family structure. Black males in Indiana continue to have low secondary and post-secondary retention and graduation rates and disproportional suspension and expulsion rates compared to their White male counterparts. Black males consistently graduate from secondary and post-secondary education institutions at lower rates than the majority population in Indiana. In an effort to address these issues the Commission plans, sponsors and helps facilitate youth empowerment summits, an annual Young Black Males Matter conference and coordinate with other organizations hosting conferences, symposiums or workshops.

Employment

In general, Black males continue to have high rates of unemployment and underemployment compared to the population at large. For the purposes of this report, underemployment occurs when a worker is employed, but not in the capacity they desire or that is commensurate with their training or experience. In an effort to assist Black males in the Employment focus area the Commission will work with the Indiana Workforce Development agency (IWD) and employers to create employment programs specifically targeted to increase the employment rates of Black males in Indiana. ICSSBM also plans to coordinate and partner with Work One offices of IWD and organizations hosting job fairs or employment forums, such as the Urban League to serve Black males.

Health

Many Black males in Indiana fail to participate in any form of preventable health maintenance. Black males maintain the highest rate of death from preventable diseases of all ethnic groups. Black males have the highest death rate, and die of preventable diseases like heart disease, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS. ICSSBM believes that Black males' health is within their control; the health initiative, Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative is designed to change the paradigm from health crisis to health prevention. In an effort to assist Black males in exercising health prevention, the Commission through collaborations with barbershops and local health providers facilitate the annual initiative. The initiative has expanded from a one-day event to the entire month of April utilizing every Saturday for screenings in barbershops and a few beauty salons for blood pressure, blood glucose, body mass index and prostate health information along with additional health information and locations of local health resources.

Social Factors (principally the family structure)

Many social factors affect the social status of Black males in Indiana. Those factors principally impact the family structure and social poverty. For instance, marriage as identified in the American Community Survey Census Report (ACS), leads to better overall health outcomes and fewer instances of children living in poverty. Negative factors for Black males in Indiana impact their success on many levels and social factors. In order to address the negative impact on the family the Commission co-sponsors the annual Dad's Expo in conjunction with the Indiana Fatherhood Coalition, to strengthen the family and celebrate importance of dads. ICSSBM is closely involved with the Dad's Expo and the Indiana Fatherhood Coalition which increases public

awareness on the importance of fathers within the family, helps fathers be more effective and better parents, and identifies and catalogs resources locally and statewide to assist dads. The Commission also celebrates dads in the annual Million Father Marches across the state for back to school. Continual reinforcement of the importance of Black males within their family, their community, and in themselves through the events, conferences, symposiums and initiatives of the Commission, all serve to positively benefit Black males and improve their quality of life.

Local Commissions Strategy

An objective of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) has been the re-launch and re-engagement of local commissions. The Commission understands that in order to meet our mission, and initiatives, there must be strong local support. The Commission seeks establishing and expanding local presence in targeted communities throughout the state.

Initially, ICSSBM had successfully encouraged 9 Indiana cities to establish a local commission. The degree to which these local commissions are involved and engaged in the initiatives and programs set forth by the ICSSBM varies dramatically. ICSSBM will focus not only on the development of new commission, but to enhance the work and capacity of current commissions.

The Commission attempts to work with the local commissions and help them to determine and assess their capacity and activities. The Commission assesses the local commissions on their calendar of activities, meeting regularity, and engagement in the community. Another assessment measurement of local commissions is their engagement with ICSSBM's statewide initiatives.

Local Commissions

The ICSSBM has local Commissions addressing concerns of Black males across the state. There are now 9 Indiana cities with local Commissions:

Anderson (inactive)
Human Relations Department
P.O. Box 2100
120 E. 8th Street
Anderson, IN 46018
765-648-6135 phone

Bloomington (active)
Commission on the Social Status of Black Males
P.O. Box 100
Bloomington, IN 47402
812-349-3471 phone
812-334-2344 fax

Evansville (active)
Human Relations Commission
1 Northwest MLK Blvd., Room 209
Evansville, IN 47708
812-436-4927 phone
812-436-4929 fax

Fort Wayne (active)
Commission on African American Male
McMillen Park Community Center
3901 Abbott Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46806
260-427-5965 phone

Gary (active)
Gary Commission on Black Males
839 Broadway, 2nd Floor SW
Gary, IN 46402
219-880-2284 phone

Indianapolis (inactive)
Office of the Mayor
200 E. Washington Street, Room 2501
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-327-4346 phone
317 327-3980 fax

Jeffersonville (inactive)
Community Action Center
1613 E. 8th Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
812-288-6451 phone
812-284-8314 fax

Michigan City (active)
M C Commission on Social Status of Black Males
100 E. Michigan Blvd.
Michigan City, IN 46360
219-874-9165 phone
219-873-1451 fax

Muncie (inactive)
City of Muncie
Third Floor, 300 N. High Street
Muncie, IN 47305
765-747-4845 phone

One local Commission update; the Indianapolis Commission through Mayor Joe Hogsett was scheduled to relaunch in the fall of 2017. Under the previous administration of Mayor Greg Ballard the Front Porch Alliance (FPA) performed some of the functions associated with a local commission. Principally, the Front Porch Alliance connected community organizations, resources and initiatives. The FPA served as a convener and bridge for the community. One important initiative credited to the FPA was the Indianapolis Food Resource Network that connects organizations that procure and distribute food to citizens in need.

The City of Indianapolis continued their engagement in economic development. Thousands of jobs were attributed to technology, service sector and information technology. Unemployment for the metro area continues to trend downward below the state and national unemployment levels.

Information technology continues to lead the way in new job creation, headlined by major investments like Salesforce, Knowledge Services, Octiv, and Scale Computing. Employers are taking notice of the momentum in the community and are seeing the competitive advantage for their business in central Indiana. An off-shoot from Develop Indy is Employ Indy aligning workforce program with real-world employer needs, and moving forward aggressively to build safer, stronger neighborhoods and communities.

The Commission realizes the importance of partnerships and the support of the Indianapolis local commission. Partners in Indianapolis and Marion County include: Indiana Black Expo, Indianapolis 10 Point Coalition, Indianapolis Congregation Action Network, Race and Cultural Relations Leadership Network, Martin Luther King Community Center, Peace Learning Center, Shepherd Community Inc., Stop the Violence Indianapolis Inc., The Ross Foundation, Brothers United, Horizon House and OpportunINDY to name just a few.

Criminal Justice

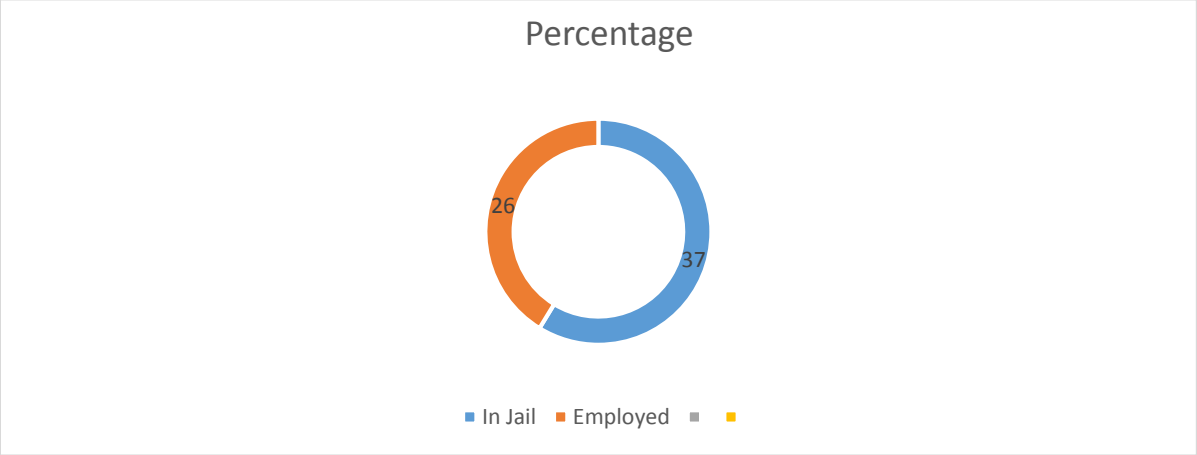
Black males in Indiana are admitted into the criminal justice systems at disproportionate rates and are sentenced and imprisoned longer compared to their white male counterparts. They are sentenced and incarcerated longer than any other ethnic group. Although White males comprise fifty-nine percent (59%) of the inmate population, Black males, while representing less than five percent (5%) of the total state population, represent thirty-five point six percent (35.6%) of the incarcerated offenders. The juvenile figures are slightly lower but substantially greater than their population percentage. White male juveniles, fifty point five percent (50.5%) to Black males thirty-three point five percent (33.5%).

The high rates of recidivism and incarceration among Black males in Indiana may in part be due to the lack of education and employment opportunities. In an effort to assist Black males the ICSSBM seeks to support and identify best practices in reentry and helping Black males with records concealment or expungement. The ICSSBM also seeks to identify programs and training to help rehabilitate Black males for reintegration into society, community and their family. The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) defines recidivism as a return to incarceration within three years of the offenders release from a state correctional institution.

Criminal Justice advocates and the Commission note social justice changes are needed relating to mass and high numbers of Black males incarcerated. A shift needs to occur from the punishment model to one that models holistic approaches that strive to end recidivism, and promotes employment, family and positive community engagement.

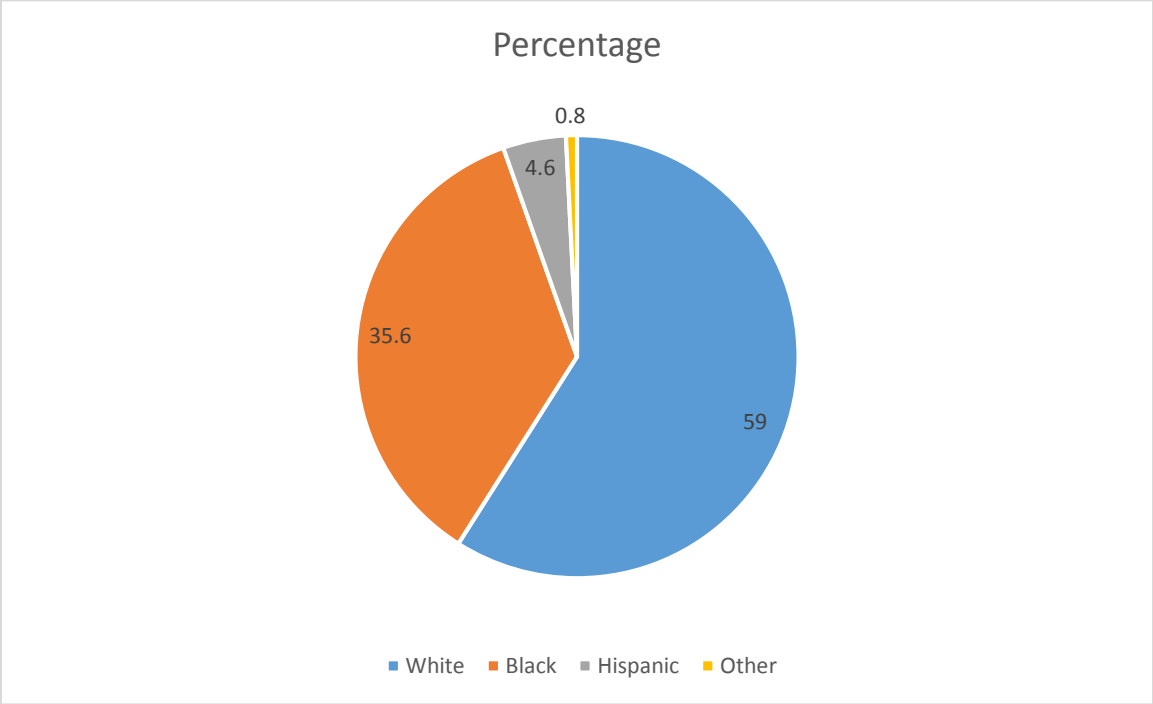
The Second Chance Law is an opportunity for Black males to seal and or expunge certain conviction records. ICSSBM continues to partner with local commissions, service providers and ministerial groups to host Second Chance Expungement Forums throughout the state. The principal purpose of the forums is to clarify the Second Chance law and the process by which to initiate a petition for expungement.

Nearly one in three Black males aged 20-29 are under some form of criminal justice supervision whether imprisoned, jailed, on parole or probation. These same young people will struggle to find work because of their criminal history. Across the state organizations and local commissions have partnered to provide Second Chance Law forums to educate and promote expungement petitions. The ICSSBM continues to identify efforts and programs as well as work with local commissions and other community organizations on the development of Second Chance Law forums in targeted communities where they don't currently exist. The challenge and success of the Second Chance Expungement Forums Initiative is the number of petitions initiated.

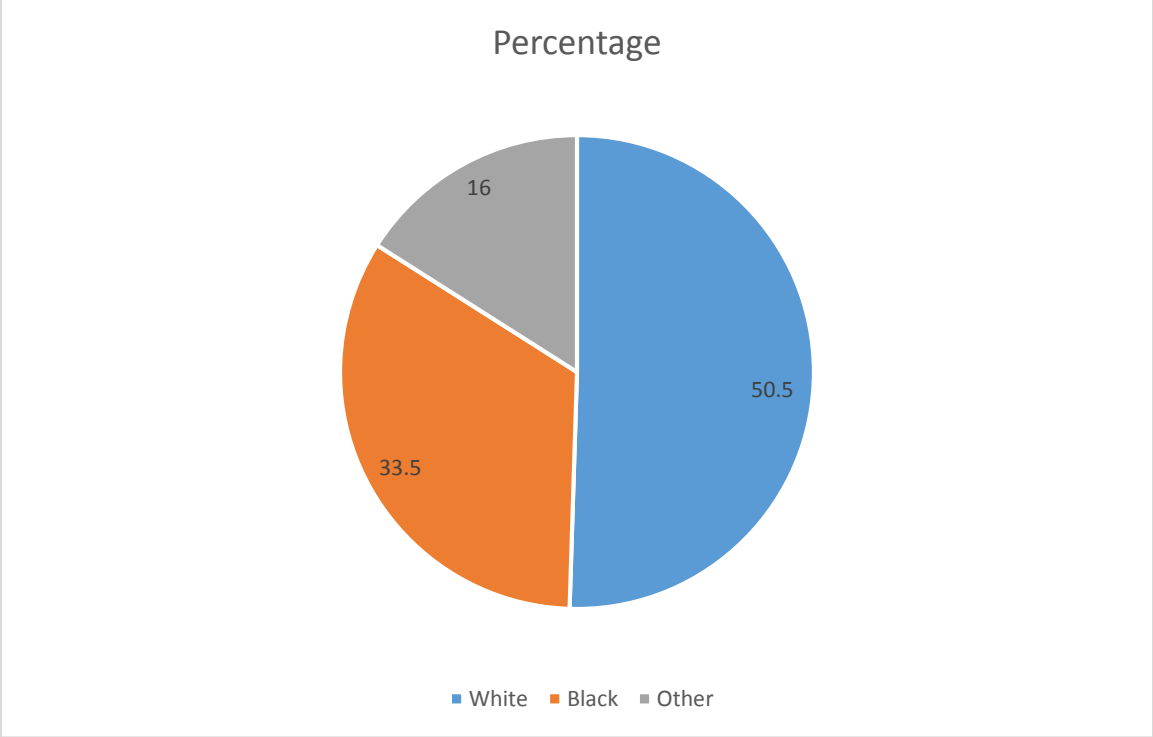


Black men between the ages of 20 and 34 who dropout of high school are more likely to be currently behind bars that to be currently employed.

Offender Population Males

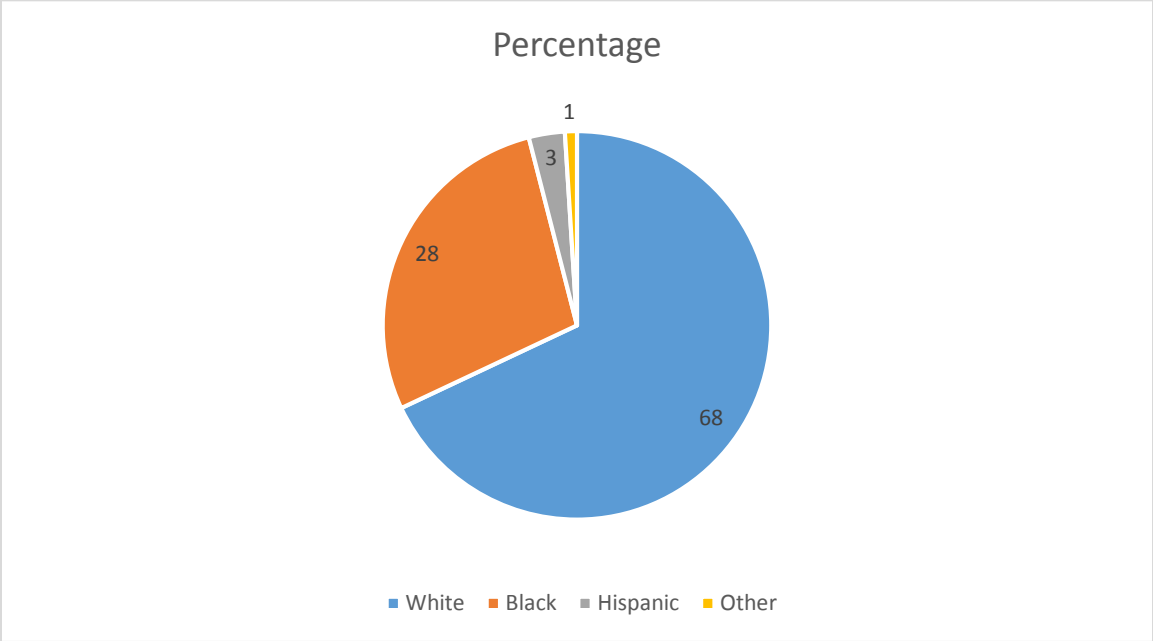


Offender Population Juvenile Males



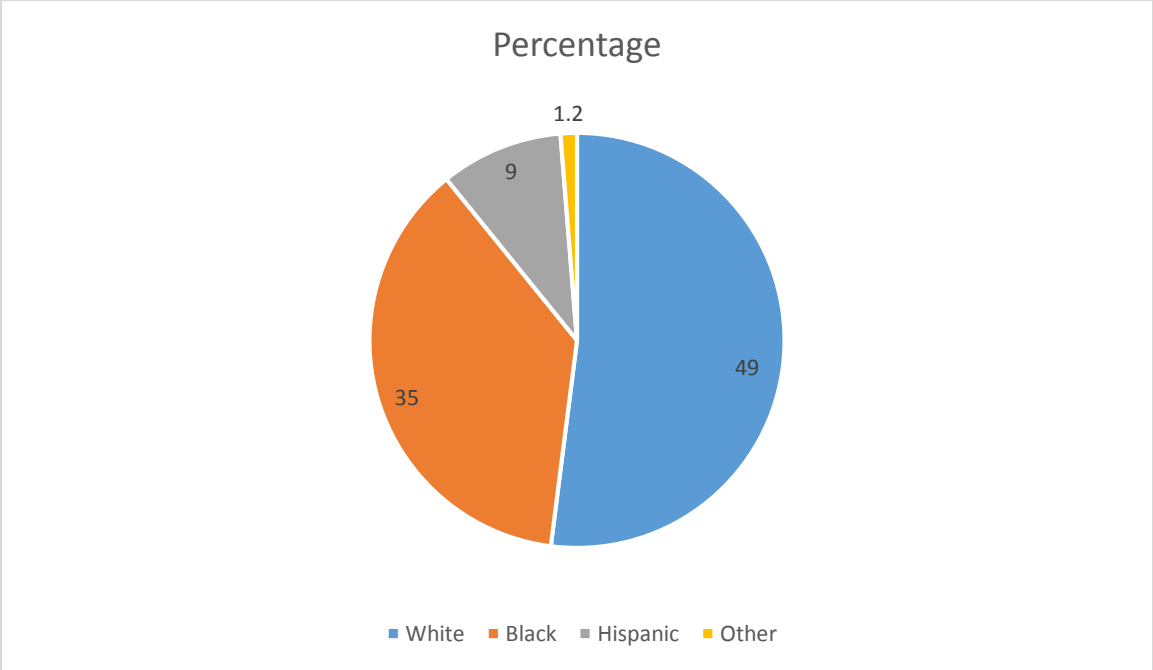
Offender Population Males

New Admissions by Race



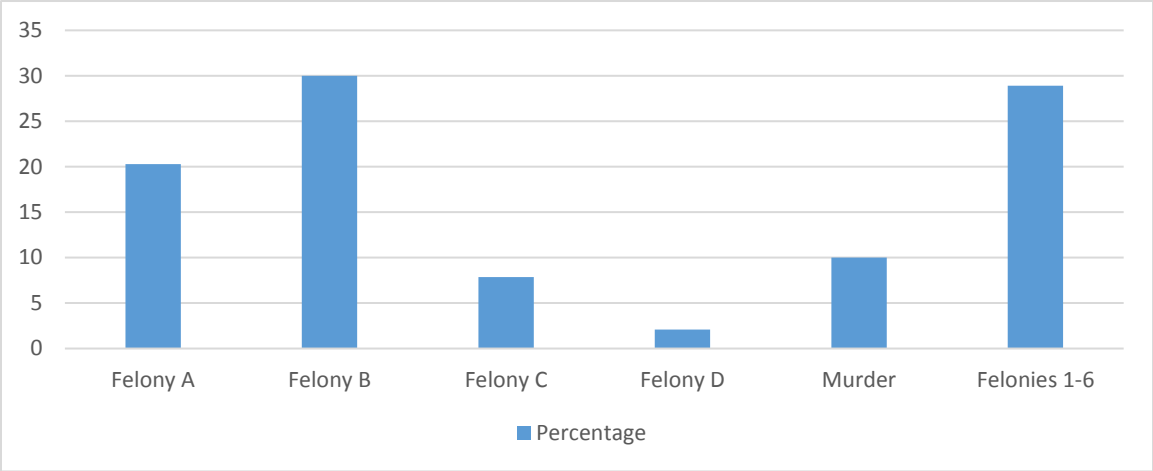
Offender Population Juvenile Males

New Admissions by Race



Indiana Department of Correction

Male Population by Most Serious Offense Felony Level*



* Includes Offenders held in County Jails and Contracted Beds

Class A Felony – An offense whereby a person convicted of this felony shall be imprisoned for a fixed term of thirty years, with not more than twenty years added for aggravating circumstances, or not more than ten years subtracted for mitigating circumstances.
Class B Felony – An offense whereby a person convicted of this felony shall be imprisoned for a fixed term of ten years, with not more than ten years added for aggravating circumstances, or not more than four years subtracted for mitigating circumstances.
Class C Felony – An offense whereby a person convicted of this felony shall be imprisoned for a fixed term of four years, with not more than four years added for aggravating circumstances, or not more than two years subtracted for mitigating circumstances.
Class D Felony – An offense whereby a person convicted of this felony shall be imprisoned for a fixed term of one and one-half years, with not more than one and one-half years added for aggravating circumstances, or not more than one year subtracted for mitigating circumstances.
Class 1 Felony – An offense whereby a person convicted of this felony shall be imprisoned with a sentence range of 20-40 years, with not more than twenty years added as a habitual offender enhancement.
Class 2 Felony – An offense whereby a person convicted of this felony shall be imprisoned with a sentence range of 10-30 years, with not more than twenty years added as a habitual offender enhancement.
Class 3 Felony – An offense whereby a person convicted of this felony shall be imprisoned with a sentence range of 3-16 years, with not more than twenty years added as a habitual offender enhancement.
Class 4 Felony – An offense whereby a person convicted of this felony shall be imprisoned with a sentence range of 2-12 years, with not more than twenty years added as a habitual offender enhancement.
Class 5 Felony – An offense whereby a person convicted of this felony shall be imprisoned with a sentence range of 1-6 years, with not more than six years added as a habitual offender enhancement.
Class 6 Felony – An offense whereby a person convicted of this felony shall be imprisoned with a sentence range of 0.5-2.5 years, with not more than six years added as a habitual offender enhancement.
Contracted Beds - Those offenders who have been committed to the Indiana Department of Correction, but are housed in a local work release facility under contract of a 3rd party provider.

Education

The educational disparities experienced by Black males in the public school system across Indiana is alarming given the role that education plays in the quality of life for Black males, employment opportunities, general health wellness, and providing for their families. According to data from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) fifty one percent (51%) of Black males graduate high in four years. Indiana ranks as one of the top ten worst states for Black male graduation rates.

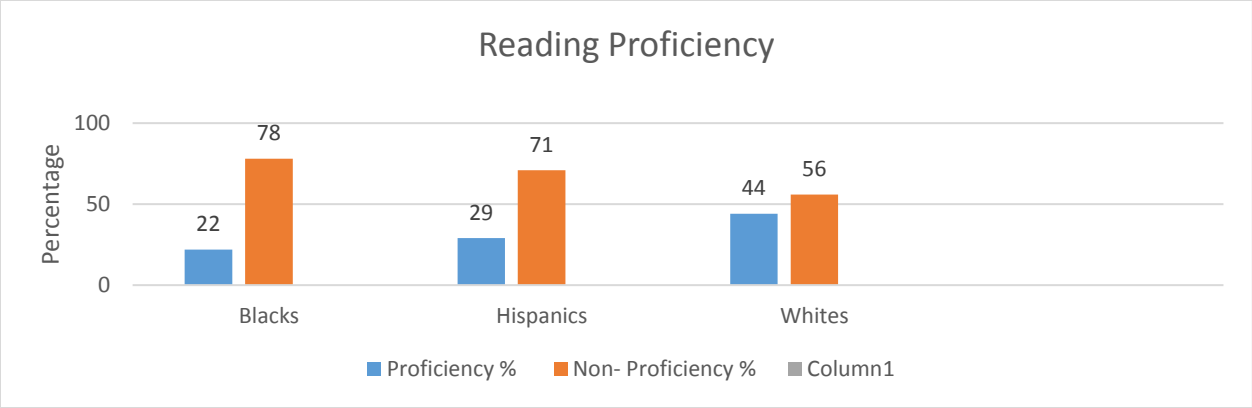
Children of color fall behind in the education "race for results" according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation report. Children of color in Indiana are being left behind, according to the 2017 Race for Results report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a private philanthropy based in Baltimore that works to promote well-being of at-risk children.

This report highlights the fact that Indiana must work harder to improve outcomes for African-American and Hispanic youth to ensure a successful future for the state and all Hoosiers. Breaking down the data reveals startling gaps between individual racial and ethnic groups. In particular, there are significant disparities in nearly every category when comparing African-American and Hispanic children to other racial groups.

According to the report, about seventy eight percent (78%) of African-American and seventy one percent (71%) of Hispanic/Latino fourth-graders are not proficient in reading, compared to fifty six percent (56%) of white fourth-graders. IDOE data highlights eighty three percent (83%) of Black male fourth graders scored below grade reading proficiency. Ninety percent (90%) of Indiana's African-American eighth-graders and eighty five percent (85%) of the state's English Language Learners are not proficient at math, compared to fifty five percent (55%) of white eighth graders and sixty percent (60%) of those who are not English Language Learners (ELL).

The data also shows gaps in higher education. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of Hoosier African-Americans, ages 25 to 29, and eighty four percent (84%) of Hispanic young adults have not completed at least an associate degree, compared to sixty one percent (61%) of their white counterparts. Minority Hoosier children are also more likely to live in high-poverty areas. This contributes to the cycle of poverty and puts these children at greater risk for negative outcomes. In Indiana, seventy two percent (72%) of African-American and sixty seven percent (67%) of Hispanic youth live in low-income households, defined as having a household income of less than $49,200 a year for a family of four. Less than forty percent (40%) of white and Asian children live in similar situations.

Children of color fall behind in 'Race for Results' as reported by Abby Westcott of the Indianapolis Recorder newspaper. Reading at grade level is an important measure of student achievement. Below is a chart of proficiency for Blacks, Hispanics and whites.



The ICSSBM recognizes the importance of reading proficiecy and the impact on youth development in Black males. Students, especially Black males who are not able to read before they enter the fourth grade at grade level are more likely to drop out of high school, be unemployed, be unqualified for the military service and live in poverty. Indiana's Reading Evaluation and Determination (IREAD-3) tests the reading levels of students in the spring of third grade. Students who do not passs the test cannot be promoted to the fourth grade without a Good Cause Exemption. In 2015, more than ninety two percent (92%)of third graders passed IREAD-3, however 4,567 third grade students, many of whom are Black males or five point three percent (5.3%) received a Good Cause Exemption.

In an attempt to remedy the literacy proficiency issue the ICSSBM in partnership with local commissions, Indiana Black Expo (IBE), Bloom Project, Urban Leagues, 100 Black Men and other community partners collaborated and facilitated Youth Empowerment Summits and Conferences for young Black men. The goal of these events was to enhance and encourage education, provide peer networking, share educational resources and programs such as the 21st Century Scholars Program, incorporate mentoring or more adult engagement and to motivate the youth with a dynamic positive model presenter. The most successful of these efforts was the Kings Feast 2K17 event where more than 125 youth and nearly 60 professional male mentors empowered and educated young males between the ages of twelve and eighteen.

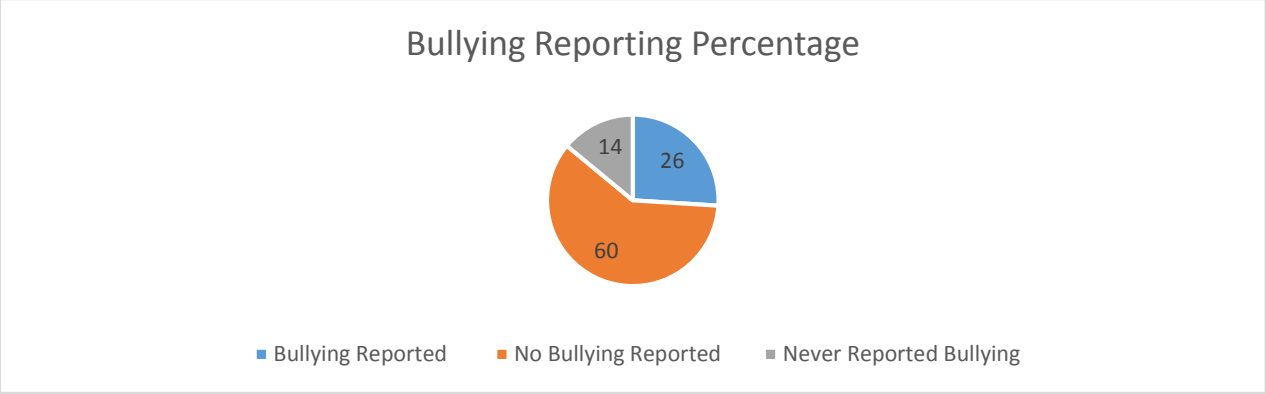
The Commission continues to explore opportunities to connect and work with organizations to serve Black males. One such opportunity may be to re-connect with the Lumina Foundation. Lumina reported in the study, "Stronger Nation" that only forty one percent (41%) of Indiana students completed a degree, ranking the state forty second (42nd) in the nation for degree attainment. The success of any college readiness and success program is to equip the students with the tools, mindset, support and financial resources to obtain degrees or certificates.

One of the challenges with education achievement today is the issue of bullying. The Indiana Department of Education is changing its process for how schools report bullying. The change was brought about by an Indianapolis, Call Six investigation that found widespread inconsistencies in the data, including many schools that never reported a single incident of bullying.

Now, by July of 2018, Indiana schools are required to report bullying incidents to the State Department of Education including physical, verbal, social and electronic bullying. The issue of bullying has been on the Commission's radar well ahead of the Department of Education's

engagement. Bullying has been a breakout topic at the Indiana Dad's Expo, Kings Feast conference and the Black Male Annual Conference.

Now school hallways and district websites are covered with materials encouraging students to report and prevent bullying, and students and staff are trained on this issue. Bullying is a repeated incident upon a student and not just a one-time incident. Going forward it is imperative upon building principals to implement the policies in the law accordingly and investigate those things and situations that meets the definition of bullying in order for a useful report for the state.



The State of Indiana's definition for bullying states, it has to be repeated, with the intent to harass, ridicule, harass, humiliate, intimidate or harm the targeted student and create a hostile school environment. The Indiana Department of Education uses the schools' bullying numbers to track what's happening and to look for red flags. The state also shares the bullying data with the legislative council and the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

National studies show seventeen percent (17%) of American students report being bullied at least twice a month, and seventy percent (70%) of students have witnessed bullying in their schools. Bullying data is difficult to track because rarely is it a clean break on the student being the bully and the student being the victim of bullying. Therefore, schools will have to follow the state's definition of bullying and be consistent and diligent in their reporting.

In the Indiana Youth Institute KIDS COUNT Data Book, Indiana youth are more likely to be exposed to violence in their homes, schools, and communities than adults.
In the past year:

- **18.7% of Indiana high school students were bullied on school property.**
- **15.7% of Indiana high school students experienced being bullied electronically.**
- **6.6% of high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**
- **5.5% of Indiana high school students were in a physical fight on school property**.

The ICSSBM will share information on bullying as it does with other related information and work to get the information out through hosting events and conferences for young Black males. The ICSSBM will be involved with current programs as well as work with local commissions and other community organizations on the development of Youth Empowerment Summits and Conferences in targeted communities where they don't currently exist.

Education is the gateway to personal success, employment access, better overall health, and an improved quality of life. The lower percentage of Indiana Black males graduating high school dictates that the Commission work and partner with agencies and organizations that have a proven success rate. Because so many Black males are at risk of not graduating high school it is imperative that the summits and conferences or educational events reach as many students as possible.

The Statewide Young Black Males Matter Day is designed to provide middle and high school students a better understanding of the workings of the three branches of government and state agencies. Ensuring that Black male students have a full appreciation for the roles played by lawmakers and agency personnel is an important component to ensure full civic participation and greater appreciation for the governmental process. The success of this event is incumbent on partnering with local commissions to identify and select Black males for this opportunity. Along with civic engagement the day stresses the importance on advocacy and networking. ICSSBM also made sure that African American affairs and concerns were shared and presented at the state level and build upon a long-term investment in developing a sense of leadership and civic duty.

The 2017 event reached the high-water mark of 293 youth participants. To ensure Black male students gain a full appreciation for the roles played by lawmakers and state agencies they were able to hear from multiple legislators and a state agency director.

Employment

Throughout the country and in Indiana, Black males continue to have high rates of unemployment and underemployment compared to the majority population at large. For the purposes of this report, underemployment occurs when a worker is employed, but not in the capacity they desire or that is commensurate with their training or experience. (Indiana Department of Workforce Development). In an effort to assist Black males, the Commission reached out to employers to have access to services and training necessary to secure gainful employment at a livable wage and career growth to meet future employer demand. The Commission also seeks to create programs specifically targeted to increase the employment rates of Black males in Indiana. ICSSBM continues to coordinate and partner with Work One offices, EmployIndy, Indianapolis Urban League and organizations hosting job fairs and employment forums.

Two most pressing concerns confronting Black males in urban communities are the high unemployment rate and the lack of job readiness and education. The ICSSBM in an effort to resolve these concerns works with local commissions, Ivy Tech Community Colleges, Work One Offices, EmployIndy, and the Indianapolis Urban League along with other employment and training community partners to develop employment fairs and skill and resume building workshops to address these concerns affecting Black males.

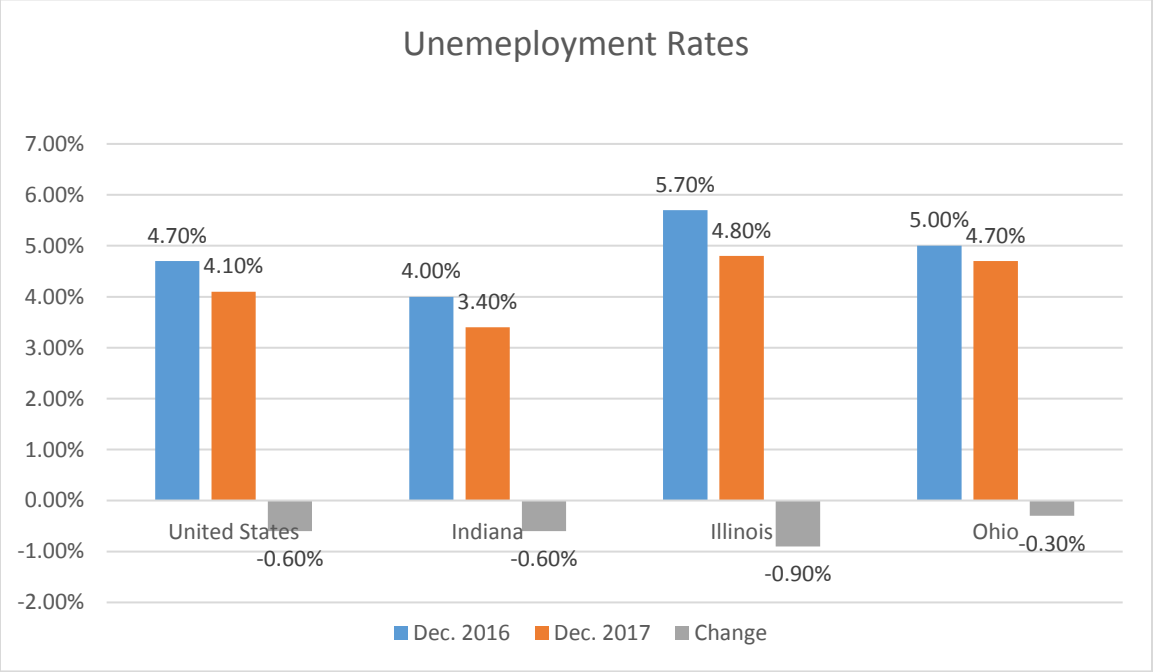
The ICSSBM is involved with employment fairs as well as working with local commissions and other community organizations on the development of employment fairs in targeted communities where they are non-existent. Where the role of the ICSSBM, and partner organizations, such as the Indiana Fatherhood Coalition, becomes crucial, is in the outreach and marketing of these events to Black males.

In Indiana Black male unemployment is double the rate compared to white males. Good news is that the percentage of Black males unemployed or who have dropped out of participating in the workforce is trending in the right direction has dropped below forty four percent (44%) level from the previous year report.

Working closely with Ivy Tech campuses, Work One offices and other groups that offer employment training throughout the state, ICSSBM will help to facilitate Skill and Resume Building Workshops for Black males. One of the pressing concerns facing Black males is a lack of job readiness. Workshops are crucial in not only addressing the lack of job readiness but the high unemployment rate faced by Black males.

The ICSSBM continues to work closely with local commissions, community organizations and media, to achieve strong community participation relating to employment throughout the state. Overall, the unemployment rate in Indiana is trending in the right direction as the statewide unemployment rate dropped to below four percent (4%) in December. Private sector employment has grown by more than twenty four thousand (24,000) jobs over the year.

Midwest Unemployment Rates



Governor Holcomb in his 2018 State of the State speech introduced his five pillars to take Indiana to the next level and two of those pillars are to develop a twenty-first century skilled and ready workforce and cultivate a strong and diverse economy to ensure that Indiana remains a magnet for jobs.

Health

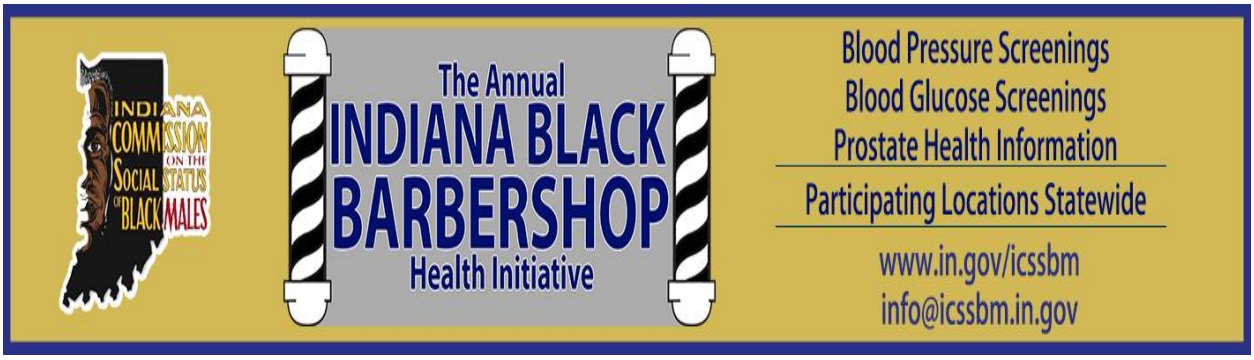
Historically, Black men suffer far worse health disparities than any other racial or ethnic groups in the State of Indiana. These disparities includes racial discrimination, a lack of affordable healthcare, poor health education, cultural barriers, poverty, lack of employer-carried insurance, and social services catering to Black men. Many Black males in Indiana fail to participate in any form of preventable health maintenance. In fact, Black males have the

highest mortality rate, and die of preventable diseases like heart disease diabetes, and HIV/AIDS at a greater rate than any other ethnic group (Indiana State Department of Health). The Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative is the principal initiative of the Commission to address this serious health concern. ICSSBM believes that Black males' health is within their control.

The Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative (IBBHI) is modeled from the Black Barbershop Outreach Program of Dr. William Releford, to address the at-risk African American male population throughout the country for cardiovascular disease. The Indiana Black Barbershop Heath Initiative seeks to enlighten African American men to better understand their health through free screenings and education. The Initiative chose to provide health information and free screenings in an environment African American men are comfortable with, Black-owned barbershops, which represent a cultural institution of familiarity and trust. Black-owned barbershops represent a cultural institution that regularly attracts large numbers of Black men and provides an environment of trust and an avenue to disseminate health education information. The Indiana Black Barbershop health initiative provides free health screenings to patrons of barbershops and beauty salons across the State of Indiana on hypertension by having their blood pressure check and diabetes by having their blood glucose levels checked.

Males experience approximately a five-year shorter life expectancy than females. The disparities in life expectancy are more pronounced among men of color and economically disadvantaged males. For example, the life expectancy for White males is 76.7 years while for African American males it is 72.5 years. The leading causes of death in males as heart disease, cancer, unintentional injuries, chronic lower respiratory disease, stroke, diabetes, suicide, influenza and pneumonia, Alzheimer's disease, and chronic liver disease. Mortality rates from these causes of death are higher for minority males because their diseases are at a more advanced stage at diagnosis and are often complicated by co-existing conditions.

Many of the disparities in health status noted among racially and ethnically diverse male populations are related to lifestyle and are either preventable or amenable to early detection or intervention. The IBBHI works closely with local commissions and other community partners, to continue to expand the initiative and recruit new shops to participate. The initiative occurs during the entire month of April, Minority Health Month, on every Saturday in the participating communities. The IBBHI event in participating barbershops is supported with volunteer local medical volunteers and non-medical volunteers who conduct free blood pressure and blood glucose screenings. In 2017, IBBHI expanded again to include in select communities, a quarterly screening event with continued health education and focus on linkage to care in the local communities.



2017 Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative (IBBHI) Re-Cap Fact Sheet

			Volunteers		
City	# Of Shops	# Of Barbers	Medical	Non-Medical	# Screened
Bloomington	1	3	2	3	25
East Chicago	2	4	4	4	48
Elkhart	8	30	24	28	101
Evansville	5	24	18	30	116
Ft. Wayne	10	48	32	36	120
Gary	5	38	22	28	141
Hammond	1	6	4	6	15
Indy	8	42	20	22	34
Kokomo	2	8	10	8	14
Jeffersonville*	2	12	10	12	28
Merrillville	2	6	8	8	25
Michigan City	4	16	12	15	48
New Albany	2	6	4	5	23
South Bend	6	36	32	30	158
Terre Haute	2	0	0	0	0
Totals:	60	279	202	235	896

*City that hosted the kickoff event on April 6, 2017 and provided screenings at the event.

In addition to adding a barbershop in the city of East Chicago and New Albany, again the initiative utilized four of the five Saturdays in the month of April, conducting the initiative regionally each weekend. More shops participating, more barbers and additional medical and non-medical volunteers equated to more participants screened. Unfortunately, the city of Terre Haute pulled out of the initiative for unknown reasons. Going forward the initiative may even incorporate Friday evenings on their respective weekend.

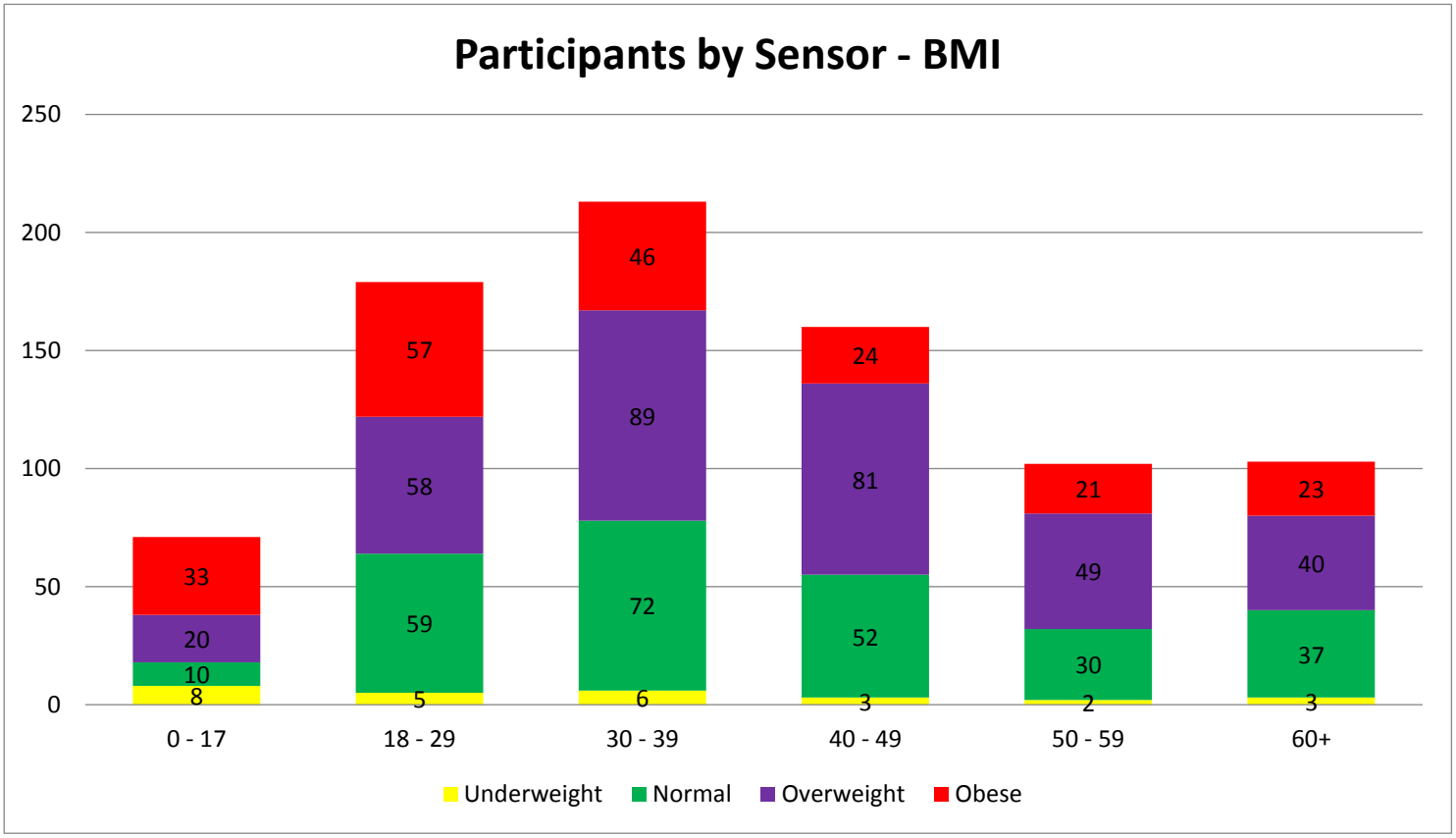
IBBHI conclusions and takeaways; Thirty three percent (33%) of survey respondents smoke, while sixty seven percent (67%) are non-smokers, but of those who smoke only eleven percent (11%) desire to quit. Nearly forty percent (40%) of the survey participants reside in the top ten zip codes across the state identified in the survey. The importance and significance of this information helps the initiative recognize interventions and programs that are working and where, along with identifying where needed programing or interventions should be considered.

The majority of the participants in the initiative were between the ages of 30 and 39, followed closely by ages 18 to 29. The initiative has shown positive trending towards younger age groups over the years and the importance of early health management. The numbers bear out that

fifty six percent (56%) of the participants were below the age of 40 and seventy six percent (76%) were below the age of 50. Again, this is important because earlier health education can result in establishing healthier behaviors, disease prevention, and overall more awareness of health risks.

# of Participants by Sensor - BMI

	Underweight	Normal	Overweight	Obese
0 - 17	8	10	20	33
18 - 29	5	59	58	57
30 - 39	6	72	89	46
40 - 49	3	52	81	24
50 - 59	2	30	49	21
60+	3	37	40	23

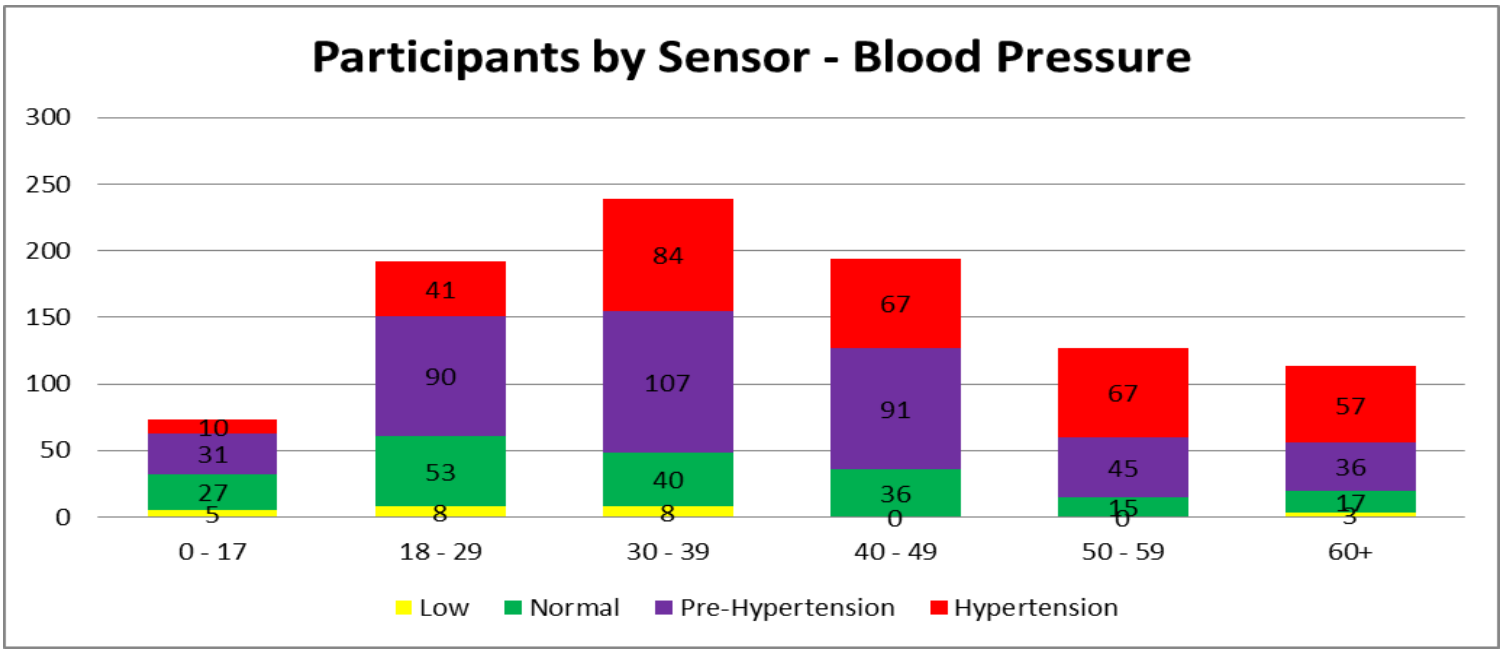


# of Participants by Sensor - BMI

	Underweight	Normal	Overweight	Obese
FEMALE	7	40	51	90
MALE	20	164	209	247

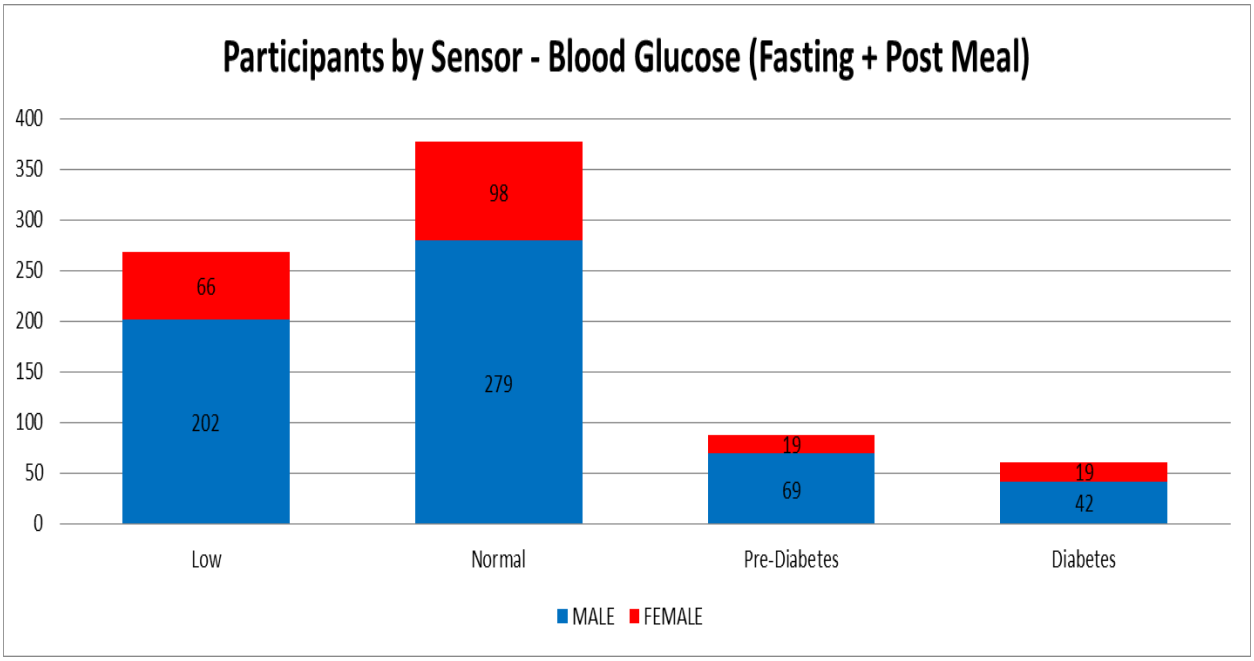
# of Participants by Sensor - Blood Pressure

	Low	Normal	Pre-Hypertension	Hypertension
0 - 17	5	27	31	10
18 - 29	8	53	90	41
30 - 39	8	40	107	84
40 - 49	0	36	91	67
50 - 59	0	15	45	67
60+	3	17	36	57



# of Participants by Sensor - Blood Pressure

	Low	Normal	Pre-Hypertension	Hypertension
FEMALE	6	63	87	57
MALE	19	25	313	269



# of Participants by Sensor - Blood Glucose (fasting)

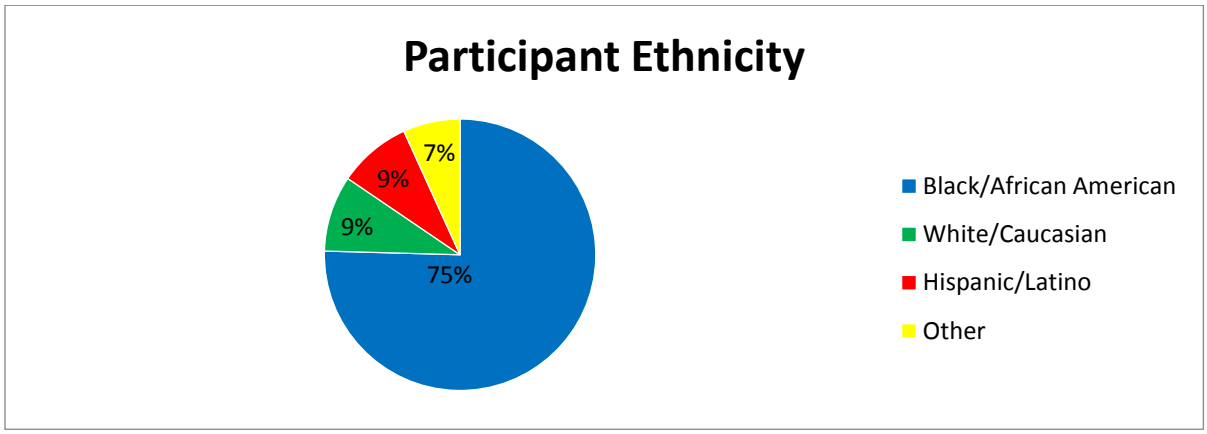
	Low	Normal	Pre-Diabetes	Diabetes
FEMALE	3	30	9	8
MALE	4	132	45	20

# of Participants by Sensor - Blood Glucose (Post-meal)

	Low	Normal	Pre-Diabetes	Total Diabetes
FEMALE	66	98	19	19
MALE	202	279	69	42

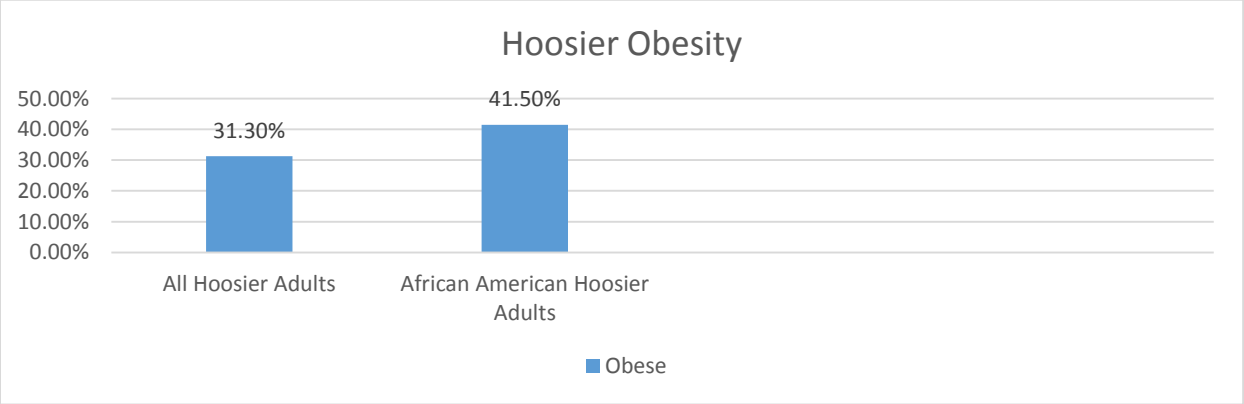
By far the most common health issue across the board was high Body Mass Index (BMI) figures. Based on the figures, weight management, exercise and health eating programs would be worth implementing and promoting. Elevated blood pressure was another health issue rampant across the board for all age groups. The vast majority fell under the categories of having either prehypertension or hypertension. Blood pressure control programs with focuses on diet and stress levels could prove to be beneficial based on the statistics gathered. Overall, the number of participants continues to increase and the goal for the initiative is to screen one thousand (1000) participants during Minority Health Month.

Survey Participant Ethnicity	
Black/African American	433
White/Caucasian	52
Hispanic/Latino	50
Other	39



Food Access and Health Disparities

Low access to healthy foods increases the likelihood of developing chronic disease. Research examining neighborhood disparities in food access found that residents with better access to supermarkets and limited access to convenience stores tended to have healthier diets and reduces risk for obesity. Also low-income adults suffer from food insecurity that can contribute to the prevalence of diabetes and hypertension. The research suggests without access to healthy foods, a nutritious diet and some form of exercise good health is difficult to obtain. In Indiana one in seven African Americans have diabetes. Obesity also disproportionately affects minority populations. Compared to primarily white residents, African Americans are half as likely to have access to chain supermarkets. Because of this situation, African Americans living in low-income neighborhoods are more vulnerable to obesity, heart disease, hypertension and all chronic illnesses related to a poor diet.



Youth Opioid Use and Overall Health

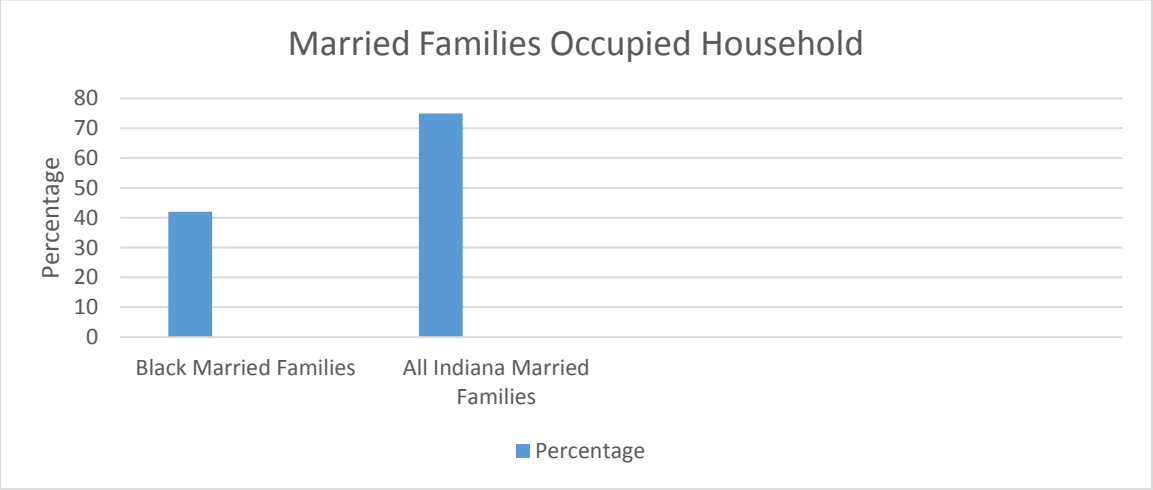
Children of all ages are impacted, both directly and indirectly, by opioid use. Hoosier children whose parents abuse opioids are more likely to experience abuse or neglect than other children. In cases where a child was removed from their home, parental substance abuse was a primary factor in more than half (52.2%) of removals in 2016. In 2016 there were 1,271 deaths from opioid drug overdoses. Drug overdoses have risen so sharply in Indiana they now kill more Hoosiers than car crashes and gun homicides combined.

Indiana teens may also struggle with opioid addiction themselves. In 2015, 2.4 percent of Indiana high school students had ever used heroin, and 16.8 percent had abused prescription drugs, including prescription opioids. On average, Indiana high school seniors who use heroin first started at age 14.

According to the 2017 America's Health Rankings report, Indiana is one of the unhealthiest states in the union. Indiana ranks 38th in overall health of its residents. Of major concern for Indiana is the number of residents who smoke. Indiana's current smoking rate is 21.1% up from 20.6% and trending in the wrong direction. In 2017, Indiana is ranked 41st worst state for percentage of resident smokers. Smoking is a leading cause of preventable death and the Commission highlights this fact during the Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative and partners with the Indiana Tobacco Cessation folks and 1-800-Quit Now.

Social Factors

Many social factors affect the social status of Black males in Indiana. Social factors not only impact the Black males but also are detrimental to the family structure and social poverty. The Commission identified and importance of stable households, two parent families and extended family and community assistance to ensure better overall outcomes and fewer instances of children living in poverty or crisis. The importance of the family structure cannot be discounted or denied.

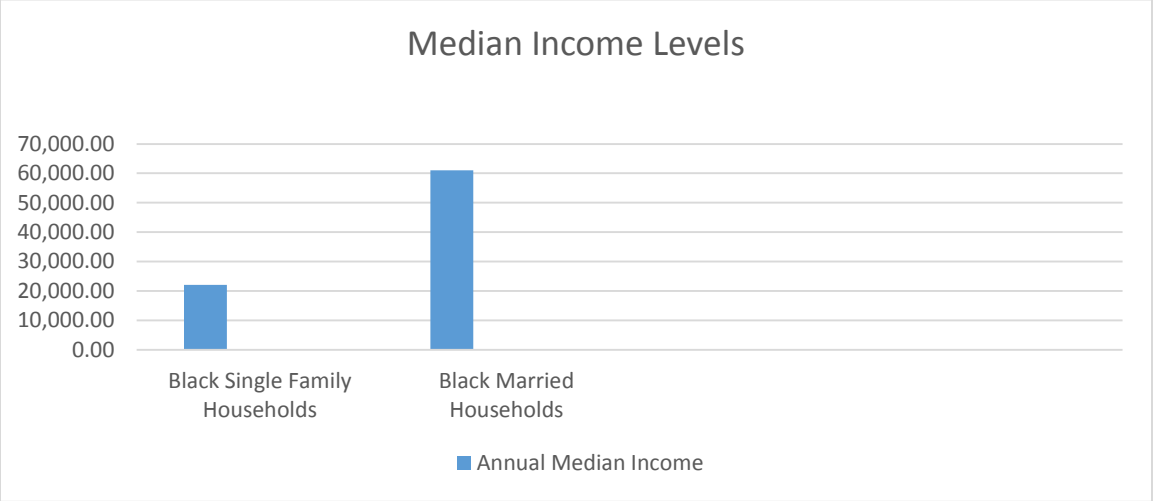


Annually, the Commission co-sponsors with the Indiana Fatherhood Coalition, the Statewide Dad's Expo to highlight the importance of dad's in the lives of their children and family. The Dad's Expo focuses on the importance of fathers and works to increase the ability of Black men to be effective parents through education and bonding opportunities. ICSSBM also partners with the Indiana Child Care Answers, Indiana Kid's Voice, Indiana Division of Child Services, and Family and Community Partners, a group of local and statewide organizations that seek to connect dads, grandfathers, uncles and mentors as family leaders. In 2017 the Dad's Expo purposely invited social and dad related services organizations. The expo challenged Black males, dad, grandfathers, uncles and community mentors to be involved in youth school activities, helping men understand and curb social media "sexting", gang and violence prevention, greater youth mentoring, and court related custodial parenting and child support issues.

Another Black male or Dad focused initiative that the Commission annually supports and co-sponsors is the Million Father March back-to-school. The Million Father March encourages fathers to take their children to school on the first day. The Million Father March also encourages Black men to make a yearlong commitment to:

- **Improve their work and life skills**
- **Acquire more education for themselves and become lifelong learning role models**
- **Support their children academically, spiritually, emotionally and financially**
- **Dedicate themselves to their family**
- **Build, clean and maintain their community**

The ICSSBM, along with support from local commissions and community partners, worked to encourage as many Black men in Indiana as possible to participate in the Million Father March. The participating communities for 2017 were: Bloomington, East Chicago, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and Shelbyville.



The overlap within the five focus areas is undeniable. In 2017, again at the Black Male Annual Conference, "Black Males: Dare to Lead", keynote speaker Minister Nuri Muhammad provided a stirring message of empowerment, encouragement and enlightenment to the men in attendance. The annual conference highlighted four leadership topics;

Educating Black Males
Black Males and Civic Engagement
Creating a Trauma Informed Community
Black Males in Poverty

All of these topics were presented to provide best practices and recommendations to reduce the statistical disparity Black males' experience.

ICSSBM is committed to helping improve the quality of life for Black males throughout the state. In 2017, ICSSBM continued its statewide presence through partnerships with the other cultural commissions, video and public service announcement and local commissions and community partners. Young people who experience foster care — especially those of color — often are denied the opportunities to stretch, grow and gain skills that can equip them for success as adults.

The Commission and many community partners realize the need to serve varied constituencies. One such partner, Volunteers of America increased their level of service by seven percent to a total number of 3,300 Hoosiers served. Principal Service areas were: housing, reentry assistance, employment and veterans' assistance, and mental health referrals. Another partner resource is the Centers for Working Families (CWF) supported by the United Way of Central Indiana. CWF helps Hoosiers obtain health insurance, food stamps, and arranges payment plans with utilities. CWF also assists with employment coaching, resume building and soft skill job training.

Another example of a successful program is the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative designed to better support the Black male population. The Youth Opportunities Initiative targets youth in the foster care system.

Youth Opportunities Initiative program, ***The Road to Adulthood: Aligning Child Welfare Practice With Adolescent Brain Development*** expresses the conviction necessary in order to thoroughly understand the neurological development in adolescences. Young people transitioning from teens in the foster care to adult life post care need to learn how to develop healthy relationships, take risks, make important decisions and accept responsibility.

Youth Development

The Commission also was enlightened and informed on the prevalence of human trafficking and the National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention effort. Human trafficking is the fastest growing and second largest criminal enterprise in the world, generating an estimated $150 billion annually. Trafficking and exploitation can be found in communities of all kinds. In 2015 alone, the Indiana State Police investigated more than 60 incidents of trafficked or exploited youth.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, twenty percent (20%) of human trafficking victim are children. In the past decade, human trafficking has been identified as a major criminal justice problem in the United States. And while most of the attention has focused on international trafficking, domestic sex trafficking of minors is not only prevalent, but a strong nexus also exists between sex trafficking and race.

Indiana Law: Human and Sexual Trafficking

(b) **A person who knowingly or intentionally recruits, harbors, or transports a child less than**:
(1) eighteen (18) years of age with the intent of:
(A) engaging the child in:
(i) forced labor; or
(ii) involuntary servitude; or
(B) inducing or causing the child to:
(i) engage in prostitution; or

(ii) engage in a performance or incident that includes sexual conduct in violation of IC 35-42-4-4(b) or IC 35-42-4-4(c) (child exploitation)
commits promotion of human trafficking of a minor, a Level 3 felony.
*…it is **not a defense**…that the child 'consented' to engage in prostitution or to participate in sexual conduct.*
Any minor engaged in commercial sexual conduct in Indiana is a victim of sex trafficking.

IN Code 35-42-3.5-1, Promotion of Human Trafficking of a Minor
Kate Kimmer, MA Regional Coalition Coordinator, IN Trafficking Victims Assistance Program (ITVAP), IYSA Co-chair, IPATH, Labor Trafficking Committee

Another community partner is the effort to serve Black males is the NAACP. The NAACP recently released "Fumes Across The Fence-Line," a report that explores the ways in which airborne pollutants from oil and gas facilities disproportionately impact minority and low-income communities. The report shows that while air itself cannot discriminate, African-Americans are 75 percent more likely than the average American to live in "fence-line" communities near oil and gas facilities.

Denise Abdul-Rahman, environmental and climate justice chair with the Indiana NAACP, said Indiana is greatly impacted by the problem due to the high number of petroleum, oil and natural gas facilities located throughout our state. One local example is East Chicago, Indiana, a community that has suffered decades of environmental injustice due to lead contamination. Even after the Indiana Department of Environmental Management found toxic levels of lead and arsenic in the soil in 1985, there have continued to be hundreds of air pollution standards violations at nearby Indiana Harbor Coke Co., located just 5 miles from the city's population. The majority of East Chicago's residents are Black or Latino.

Conclusion

The Strategic Plan provided a focus and working plan for ICSSBM. ICSSBM has realized through recognition and coordinated events that a systematic yet innovative approach is needed to address the challenges faced by Black males in the State of Indiana. The model for Collective Impact and extensive collaborations can help the Commission in its mission to Black males go from improbable to possible in the five focus areas. The challenge will be to keep the momentum going to ensure continuous improvement. Policy makers and planners need to continue the dialogue begun with service providers and stakeholders, in order to ensure that needs and concerns are being addressed. The annual conference theme from October was, "Black Males: Dare to Lead", the challenges of Black males requires dedication, perseverance, and holistic strategies to positively impact their lives.

CREED

I AM YOUNG GIFTED AND BLACK

I AM A STRONG BLACK MALE

ALWAYS CONSDIERATE OF MY ELDERS

WOMEN, SMALL CHILDREN AND OTHERS

I AM YOUNG GIFTED AND BLACK

I AM A PROTECTOR OF MY COMMUNITY

ESPECIALLY MY HOME AND MY FAMILY

I AM YOUNG GIFTED AND BLACK

I CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY EDUCATION

AND MY OWN ACTIONS

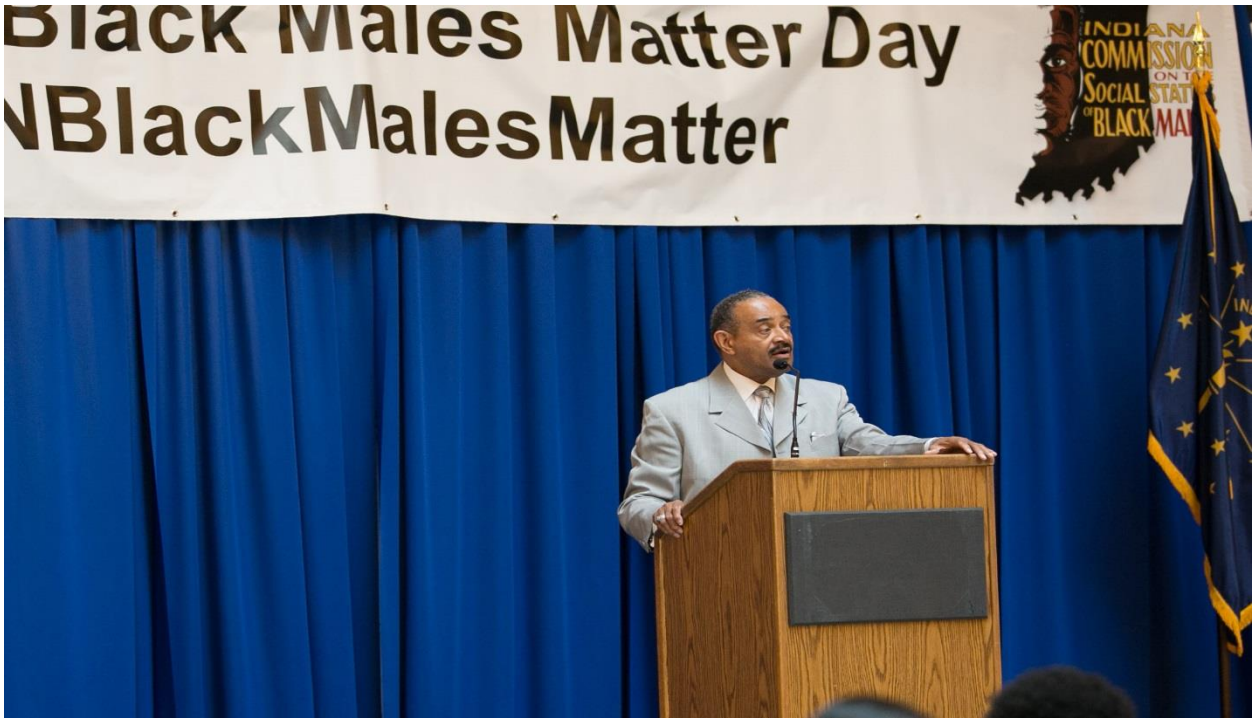
NEVER BLAMING OTHERS FOR MY DECISIONS

I AM YOUNG GIFTED AND BLACK

I AM A STRONG YOUNG LEADER

I AM THE FUTURE

The Commission endeavors to encourage black males to achieve their full potential and through partnering with government, law enforcement, the judiciary, community agencies and private business communities to bring together resources to meet these strategic goals.


Black Males Matter Day
#INBlackMalesMatter

Young Black Males Matter Day
#INBlackMalesMatter
INDIANA COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MALES

IUPUI

Young Black Males Matter Day
#INBlackMalesMatter

Indiana House
of
Representatives
Wednesday, April 12, 2017
EXIT
1816

EXIT
1816

Commissioners

The ICSSBM consists of nineteen (19) members appointed as follows:

(1) Two (2) members of the senate, who are not members of the same political party, appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate with the advice of the minority leader of the senate.

(2) Two (2) members of the house of representatives who are not members of the same political party, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives with the advice from the minority leader of the house of representatives.

(3) The director of the division of family resources or the director's designee.

(4) The director of the division of mental health and addiction or the director's designee.

(5) The commissioner of the state department of health or the commissioner's designee.

(6) The superintendent of public instruction or the superintendent's designee.

(7) The commissioner of the department of correction or the commissioner's designee.

(8) The director of the civil rights commission or the director's designee.

(9) The commissioner of the Indiana department of administration or the commissioner's designee.

(10) The lieutenant governor or the lieutenant governor's designee.

(11) A minority business person, appointed by the governor.

(12) Three (3) persons appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate who are not members of the general assembly. Not more than two (2) persons appointed under this subdivision may be members of the same political party.

(13) Three (3) persons appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives who are not members of the general assembly. Not more than two (2) persons appointed under this subdivision may be members of the same political party.

Kenneth Allen, Chairman
Indianapolis, Indiana

Superintendent Dr. Jennifer McCormick
Mark Keen, proxy
Indiana Department of Education

Kevin Moore, Director
Eric Heeter, proxy
Division of Mental Health

Elijah Neal, Vice Chair
Indianapolis, Indiana

Rep. Cindy Kirchhofer (District 089)
Beech Grove, Indiana

Adrienne Shields, Director
Division of Family Resources

Dr. Kristina Box, Commissioner
Laura Heinrich, proxy
Indiana Department of Health

Robert E. Carter Jr., Commissioner
Isaac Randolph, proxy

Eddie Pillow
Indianapolis, Indiana

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch
Virgil Madden, proxy
Lt. Governor's Office

Greg Wilson
Indiana Civil Rights Commission

Rep. Vernon G. Smith (Dist. 014)
Gary, Indiana

Andre Patterson
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Shanel Poole
Indianapolis, Indiana

Sen. Ron Alting (Dist. 022)
Indianapolis, Indiana

Jessica Robertson, Commissioner
Indiana Department of Administration

Glenn Hines
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Sen. Greg Taylor (Dist. 033)
Indianapolis, Indiana

James E. Garrett Jr., Executive Director
Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males

Glossary

Criminal Justice

Admission: The means by which an offender enters the custody or jurisdiction on the Indiana Department of Correction.

Felon: A person convicted in any jurisdiction who might have been imprisoned for more than one year.

Recidivism: Definition by the Indiana Department of Correction is based off of a three year release. Those individuals who have returned to the IDOC from a violation or new criminal felony within three years counts against the recidivism rate, while those who never return or return to state incarceration after three years are not counted against IDOC's recidivism rate.

Education

Retention: A retained pupil is one who is assigned to the same grade as the prior year. This does not include students who were promoted but who are repeating particular subjects.

Graduation: A high school graduate is a student who received a Regular Diploma, a Core 40 Diploma, or an Academic Honors Diploma. This does not include students who receive Certificates of Achievement or Course Completion. To earn a diploma, students must pass a Graduation Qualifying Exam, or GQE. A student who does not pass the GQE can still receive a diploma through the GQE appeals process, or with a Core 40 Waiver.

Types of Diploma
Regular diploma: meets the minimum standards required for graduation.

Core 40: diploma reflects 40 credits of basic college prep courses. Most colleges expect incoming students to have completed the Core 40.

Academic Honors: requires additional credits and a higher grade point average. This is the most prestigious diploma.

Core 40 Waiver: A student who does not pass the GQE may be eligible for a diploma with a Core 40 Waiver. The waiver requires a grade of at least "C" in all required and directed elective courses. [IDOE, 2010]

What constitutes an in-school suspension?
An in-school suspension occurs when a student is removed from an assigned class or activity to another setting for any length of time, in order to maintain an orderly and effective educational system. During this removal to another setting, activities that occur during the suspension must meet the definition of "instructional time," pursuant to IC 20-30-2-1. Instructional time is time in which students are participating in an approved course, curriculum, or educationally related activity under the direction of a teacher. The suspension should be counted as an in-school suspension and the student should be counted in attendance.

What constitutes an out-of-school suspension?
An out-of-school suspension occurs when instruction is not provided to a student or when instruction in the general education curriculum does NOT meet the definition of "instructional time," pursuant to IC-20-30-2-1, during a student's removal to another setting (even if that setting is located within the school building or corporation). Even if the student is still located in a school corporation building, but the school or corporation determines that the suspension did not meet the definition of instructional time, the suspension is an out-of-school suspension and the student should not be counted in attendance.

What is the difference between a detention and suspension?
A detention is when a student experiences a disciplinary action at a time other than during instructional time (e.g., before school, after school, and weekends) in order to maintain an orderly and effective educational system whereas a suspension (either in-school or out-of-school) occurs during the regular school day. Because detentions do not occur during instructional time, they are not counted in reports to the state.

Expulsion IC 20-33-8-3: A disciplinary or other action whereby a student:
(1) is separated from school attendance for a period exceeding ten (10) school days; (2) is separated from school attendance for the balance of the current semester or current year unless a student is permitted to complete required examinations in order to receive credit for courses taken in the current semester or current year; or (3) is separated from school attendance for the period prescribed; which may include an assignment to attend an alternative school, an alternative educational program, or a homebound educational program.

Underachievement: To perform worse or achieve less success than expected.

Employment
Civilian Non-institutional Population: excludes persons residing in institutions like prisons, jails, juvenile correction facilities, nursing homes, and mental hospitals.

Underemployment: occurs when a worker is employed, but not in the capacity they desire whether in terms of compensation, skill level, hours and experience.

Health

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS): is an infectious disease caused by HIV. According to the CDC, AIDS is **s**tage 3 HIV infection (AIDS), based on the 2008 CDC case definition.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV): is a laboratory confirmed case of virus infection, regardless of the stage of disease at diagnosis (e.g., if they have progressed to AIDS) http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/basic.htm#def

Death or Mortality Rate: is a measure of the frequency of occurrence of death among a defined population during a specified time interval. The mortality rate is calculated by dividing the number of deaths per year by the population. It is usually expressed as the number of deaths per 100,000 populations. The rate may refer to deaths in a specific group or to deaths from a specific cause, or to all deaths in the entire population. The rate may be adjusted for the age composition of the group (see "Age-adjusted Rate," below) or it may be the observed (or "crude") rate.

Age-adjusted Death Rate: is a good way to compare death rates between counties, states and the U.S. The Indiana State Department of Health uses the direct method to age-adjust. In this method, the age-specific rates are first calculated for the various age groups (e.g. <1, 1-4, 5-14, 15-24, etc.). The age-specific rates are then weighted according to the U.S. standard million. The standard million is the proportion of the total U.S. population for the same age groups used to determine the age-specific death rates. The year 2000 standard million is used for calculating rates in the Indiana State Department of Health's mortality reports for 1999 forward.

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS): is an annual random digit-dial telephone survey of adults aged 18 years and older. The survey is conducted through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). All 50 states and the District of Columbia participate. The BRFSS relies on self-reported data. This type of survey has certain limitations that should be understood when interpreting the data. Many times, respondents have the tendency to underreport behaviors that may be considered socially unacceptable (e.g., smoking, heavy alcohol use). Conversely, respondents may over report behaviors that are desirable (e.g., physical activity, nutrition).

Incidence Rate: is the number of new cases of disease in a given (exposed) population in a given time.

Rate: is a measure of the frequency of an event per population unit.

Statistically Insignificant or Unstable Rate: The Epidemiology Resource Center (ERC) at the Indiana State Department of Health follows the "Rule of Twenty" when producing and examining rates. There should be at least twenty events in the numerator in order to produce a stable rate. While the ERC uses the rule for vital statistics events, it is also recommended for calculating rates for other areas of interest, such as traffic accidents or playground injuries. In order to protect personal privacy, and to prevent revealing information that may identify specific individuals, small data values are not available in some circumstances. Incidence counts and corresponding rates and other measures are not revealed when the count falls below a ratio of the representative demographic population.

When the numerator is less than 20, the rate is unstable, meaning that a small change in the numerator can lead to a large change in the rate from one year to the next. Unstable rates do not lend themselves to being used to make decisions.

Social Factors

Collective Impact Model: Collective impact is a framework for progress in specific social problems. It is the organized commitment of a group of people and institutions to a common agenda. Collective impact requires collective actions and collective principals, assessing risk and protective factors.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families or TANF: is a welfare program that provides limited income support and access to Medicaid for low income adults with children.

Medicaid: is a program that offers health insurance to certain low-income families, individuals with disabilities, and elderly individuals with limited financial resources. Medicaid is jointly funded by the federal and state government. Medicaid programs vary from state to state though there are some services that are required by the federal government. Optional services can be offered by each state.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP: is a federal-assistance program that provides assistance to low- and no-income people and families. Food-stamp benefits are distributed using cards, to be used to purchase any prepackaged edible foods.

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