

The Silent Genocide - Facts about the Deepening Plight of Black Men in America

In Education/Family

- Only 45% of Black men graduate from high school in the United States.
- Just 22 % of Black males who began at a four-year college graduated within six years.
- 69% of Black children in America cannot read at grade level in the 4th grade, compared with 29% among White children.
- 7% of Black 8th-graders perform math at grade level.
- 32% of all suspended students are Black. Black students (mostly Black males) are twice as likely as Whites to be suspended or expelled.
- 67% of Black children are born out of wedlock.

In Employment/Economics

- At comparable educational levels, Black men earn 67% of what White men make.
- 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.
- Blacks make up only 3.2% of lawyers, 3% of doctors, and less than 1% of architects in America. Many of these are Black women.
- 53% of Black men aged 25-34 are either unemployed or earn too little to lift a family of four from poverty.
- Light-skinned Blacks have a 50% better chance of getting a job than dark-skinned Blacks.
- While constituting roughly 12% of the total population, Black America represents nearly 30% of America's poor.
- 45% of Black children live below the poverty line, compared with 16% of White children.
- The net worth of a Black family in America is \$6,100 versus \$67,000 for a White family.
- In New York City in 2003 only 51.8% of Black men ages 16 to 64 were employed vs. 75.7% for White men and 65.7% for Latino men.
- White men with prison records receive far more offers for entry-level jobs in New York City than black men with identical records, and are offered jobs just as often - if not more so - than black men who have never been arrested.

In Incarceration/Crime:

- 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%).
- Blacks account for only 12% of the U.S. population, but 44 % of all prisoners in the United States are Black.
- Blacks, who comprise only 12% 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.
- 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.
- In 1986, before mandatory minimums for crack offenses became effective, the average federal drug offense sentence for Blacks 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.
- 1,172 Black children and teenagers in the United States died from gunfire in 2003.
- A young Black male in America is more likely to die from gunfire than was any soldier in Vietnam.
- 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.
- 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.

These statistics were compiled from various sources by The Black Star Project. You may email us to request sources at blackstar1000@ameritech.net. To join the movement to save young Black men and to educate Black children, call us at 312/842-3527, email us at blackstar1000@ameritech.net or visit our website at www.blackstarproject.org.