MEN AND BOYS OF COLOR: WHY IT MATTERS IN THE BAY AREA

Over the past year, racial disparities – particularly those affecting young men and boys of color – have been elevated in the national dialogue.

President Obama's launch of My Brother's Keeper, an initiative focused on addressing these disparities, brings additional attention to the challenges these men and boys face. We need to continue to improve opportunities and experiences for men and boys of color as they suffer disparities in reading proficiency, school discipline, unemployment and participation in the criminal justice system. While several statistics have brought to light why this group is a critical population to support in our efforts to reduce poverty, a breakdown of what those statistics mean is below:

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<th>% OF BAY AREA MEN OF COLOR UNABLE TO AFFORD BASIC NEEDS</th>
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<td>Alameda</td>
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<td>31.7%</td>
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The most recent available data on children's healthcare indicates that Latino children are uninsured at twice the rate of their peers. Also, Black children are hospitalized and die from asthma (a leading cause of hospitalizations and absences from school) at three times the rate of Whites.

DECREASED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Bay Area data continue to show an achievement gap in graduation rates of Latino and Black male youth compared to White youth. Third grade reading scores, which serve as an indicator of later academic success, are lower for this group as well. There is a clear connection between education and incarceration rates. Black men without a high school diploma or its equivalent are more likely to be found in prison than working a regular job. In fact, 80% of youth in Alameda County’s Juvenile Hall in 2010 were males, 65% were Black, 23% were Latino, 7% were White, and 1% were Asian.

CAN’T AFFORD BASIC NEEDS

Bay Area statistics show 35.7% of men of color do not make enough to afford basic needs, such as health care, food and transportation (as indicated by the 2010 Self-Sufficiency report). In counties such as Marin, the statistics are even more alarming, with over half of the men of color living below self-sufficiency. These percentages are nearly 5% higher than they were pre-recession and continue to serve as an area of concern.
CREATING A SOCIAL MOVEMENT IN THE BAY AREA

As one of the fastest growing population across California, men and boys of color are facing some of the deepest challenges, which leaves little doubt as to why we need to pay particular attention to our men and boys of color in the Bay Area. While much progress has been made in closing the gaps, ethnic disparities still remain. As a critical population group in our efforts to cut poverty in the Bay Area, (see the Rise Together Initiative), United Way recognizes we need to utilize collective action, inclusive strategies and enhance the scope and success of programs and efforts to ensure men and boys of color have basic needs met, a good education and sufficient employment opportunities.

The San Francisco unemployment rate for Black males averaged 18% in 2009-2012.

FEWER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Young men of color are more likely to be unemployed than any of their counterparts. Overall, men of color of any age in the Bay Area have the highest unemployment rate amongst their counterparts. The San Francisco unemployment rate for Black males averaged 18%, compared to 7.7% of White males (2009-2012). While youth unemployment rates have gone down from last year for females and Whites, rates changed little for young Black and Latino men.

MEN AND BOYS OF COLOR: JUST THE FACTS

Below are some important disparities about men and boys of color in the Bay Area and in California based on several indicators.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND EDUCATION

• Fewer Latino (28%) and Black (24%) male youth have 3rd grade reading proficiency, compared to White male youth (81%) in the Bay Area.

• 1 in 5 Black males (20%) and more than 1 in 10 Black females (11%) receive an out of school suspension, compared to 9% Latino males, 7% White males, 3% Asian males, and 3% of White females in California.

• 55% of Black and 44% of Latino males dropped out of high school, compared to 30% of White males in the Oakland Unified School District.

• Less than half of Black (43.6%) and Latino (48.8%) young men complete their four year degree within 6 years, compared to 70% Asian and 65% White young men in California.

• More Black males receive their GED in prison than graduate from college (Williams, 2010).
INCOME AND FAMILY ECONOMICS

• Amongst men of color, 35.7% do not make enough to afford basic needs such as health care, food and transportation in the Bay Area.

• The Oakland metropolitan area is one of the most economically segregated regions in the US, with 37% of Black residents living in highly concentrated, low-income neighborhoods (Reardon & Bishoff, 2011).

• Latino and Black males have the lowest per capita income ($16,635 and $23,139, respectively) among males in Oakland.

• For Black men who begin life in the bottom quintile of US income, 40% will remain there, compared to 18% of White men and 33.5% of White women (Mazumder, 2014).

HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

• An estimated 22.8% of Latino male children are uninsured, compared to 5.1% of White children and 5.8% of Black children.

• Black children are hospitalized and die from asthma at three times the rate of White children.

• Blacks had the highest mortality rate in Alameda County, exceeding all other racial groups and the countywide rate of 630 deaths per 100,000 from 2006-08.

• Men of color accounted for 73% of all homicides in 2010; Black males are most likely to be victims of homicides, alone accounting for 61% of all Oakland homicides.

• Black youth (just 29.3% of Oakland’s population) made up, on average, 73.5% of juvenile arrests in Oakland each year between 2006-2012.

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE

• In the state of California, 36.9% of young Black men and 24.8% of young Latino men, ages 16-24, are unemployed (compared to 22.4% of White men).

• Among young males (ages 16-24) of color not in school, less than half are working, and one third are in prison, jail or parole (Williams, 2010).

• High school-aged males of color have limited exposure to career opportunities through work experiences, internships, apprenticeships, and other work-oriented activities (CLASP, 2013).

References

BARRIERS FACING MEN AND BOYS OF COLOR

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE TRAINING

Men and boys of color are disproportionately undereducated and receive lower quality employment. Workforce development is limited, and immigrant Latino males are often disenfranchised and forced to take lower paying jobs.

GANG VIOLENCE AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Men and boys of color are often victims of more strict anti-gang ordinances that undermine them. For example, in 2006 the Fruitvale neighborhood had the highest juvenile arrests in Oakland and also contains the highest number of Latino youth. In addition, non-violent offenders are often incarcerated and treated as violent offenders.

SCHOOL CLIMATE

Systemic factors in schools disengage and push children out of school. A growing number of public schools are suspending and expelling school children, leaving these youth more likely to be in prison. Harsh school disciplinary measures are imposed on children of color at highly disproportionate rates.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY

Black youth live in some of the most racially and economically segregated neighborhoods with inadequate housing conditions in dangerous environments. Men and boys face greater instances of single parent households, which leads to a greater risk of growing up poor, dropping out of high school, unemployment, having juvenile delinquency and participating in violent crimes.

HEALTH INDICATORS

Research shows the absence of a healthy home and/or usual source of primary care is associated with less accurate diagnoses, increased emergency room visits and hospitalizations. Boys and young men of color currently have limited access to either healthy homes or any usual source of care.

Men and boys of color face a greater risk of dropping out of high school.
EXAMPLES OF GROUPS ADDRESSING BARRIERS FACING MEN AND BOYS OF COLOR IN THE BAY AREA

SYSTEMS LEADERS
- Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
- Alameda County Probation Department
- Alameda County Social Services Agency
- Oakland Unified School District (OUSD)
- Oakland Human Services Department
- Oakland Police Department
- Oakland Office of Economic and Workforce Development
- Assembly Select Committee on the Status of Boys and Men of Color

COMMUNITY AGENCIES AND PROGRAM
- Allen Temple Baptist Church
- East Bay Asian Youth Center
- East Oakland Building Health Communities
- Black Organizing Project
- Ella Baker Center
- Intertribal Friendship House
- Oakland Community Organizations
- Street Level Health Project
- The Unity Council
- The Mentoring Center
- Youth UpRising
- Youth Alive
- La Clínica de la Raza, Oakland
- Elev8
- Opportunity Youth
- ACLU of Northern California
- UC Berkeley Warren Institute
- Youth Radio
- SGB Consulting Group
- Solutions 4 Communities
- Community Development Associates
- Alameda County Foster Youth Alliance
- Community College Pathways for Foster Youth (CCP)
- Fenton Communications
- The Warren Institute - UC Berkeley

REGIONAL CONVENERS
- Urban Strategies Council
- Oakland-Alameda Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
- Movement Strategy Center
- PolicyLink

STATEWIDE AND LOCAL FOUNDATIONS
- California Endowment
- The Kapor Center for Social Impact
- East Bay Community Foundation

For more information about My Brother’s Keeper initiative, visit the White House page at http://www.whitehouse.gov/my-brothers-keeper

For questions or comments about the information in this brief, contact India Swearingen, iswearingen@uwba.org.