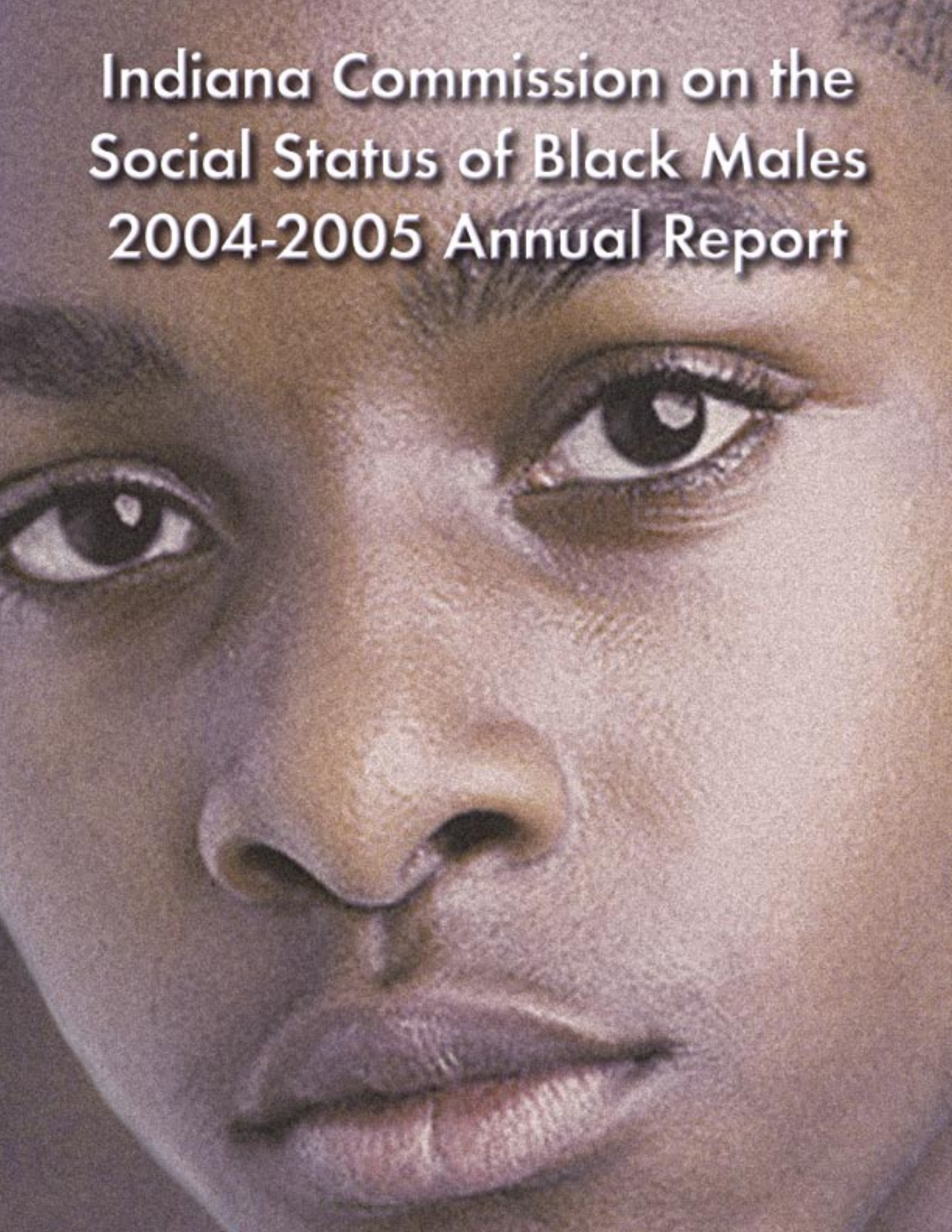


**Indiana Commission on the
Social Status of Black Males
2004-2005 Annual Report**





Greetings,

As Governor of Indiana, I am pleased to recognize the work of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males, as detailed in this annual report.

This Commission of community and business leaders, educators and legislators serves as a testament to what can be accomplished when we work together to better Indiana. Since its establishment in 1993, the Commission has focused attention on the economic, educational, health, criminal justice and social status of Black males in our state. This report offers detailed information on trends in these areas and makes recommendations for improvement. I commend the Commission for addressing these continuing challenges and for seeking to enhance the quality of life for African-American men and their families.

Thanks to all those involved in creating this report. I urge Hoosiers to closely study its content and consider the recommendations it sets forth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in gold ink that reads "Mitch Daniels". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mitch Daniels
Governor



Greetings,

I am pleased to recognize the diligent work of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males. This Commission has always put forth an aggressive effort toward positive change in Indiana. Since its creation in 1993, the commission has been dedicated to its mission of reversing trends that negatively affect African-American males in the State of Indiana.

The distinguished community and business leaders, educators and state legislators who comprise this Commission play a vital role in improving the quality of life within African-American families and our communities. This report addresses continued challenges faced in the community and is a great blueprint for making a positive difference.

We are fortunate to be Hoosiers. We have charged our state to “Aim Higher” and move in a bold new direction. Therefore, I commend the Commission for working to ensure we are building a solid foundation for all communities.

I extend a sincere thank you to the Commission members for their commitment, devotion and progressive efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in gold ink that reads "Becky Skillman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Becky Skillman
Lieutenant Governor



This year marks the 12th year the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males has been a champion in the fight for Black male Hoosiers in the areas of education, employment, social factors, criminal justice, and health. Since the commission's creation in 1993 by the General Assembly, the staff and the board of commissioners have worked diligently to thoroughly study all aspects of our five major focus areas with a goal of reversing trends that adversely affect Black males in the state of Indiana.

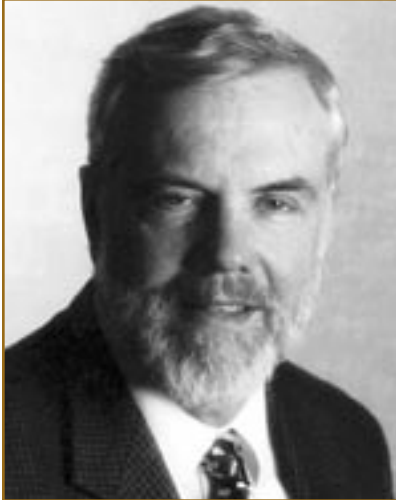
As 2005 came to a close, we eagerly began 2006 with a renewed sense of commitment and purpose, as each year brings forth new challenges and obstacles to overcome. As commission chairperson, it is my goal to ensure that the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males continues to meet the charges given by the State Legislators. It should be dully noted that the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males has become the role model, or example for Black male commissions' nation wide. As a result of our hard work and dedication, we were chosen by the African-American Male National Council (AAMNC) and National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) to serve as the host site for the African-American Male National Conference and on October 27 – 28, 2005, we did just that. Education vs. Incarceration was the theme of the 7th National and the 12th Annual Black Male State Conference. Nearly 600 men, women, and children packed the Downtown Hilton Hotel for what is sure to be remembered as one of the most educational/inspirational conferences in years. We are eagerly looking forward to next year.

The past twelve years have been both exciting and challenging as we have been instrumental in the passage of several pieces of legislation, and a total of twelve conferences. We are truly honored to serve the state of Indiana as a conduit of hope and change. We look forward to the challenges of the future and accept our mission to make the State of Indiana a better place to live, learn, work, and grow for all Hoosiers.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Vernon".


Dr. Vernon G. Smith
State Representative
House District 14



In 1993, the Commission on the Social Status of Black Males was established by the General Assembly to consider strategies for the improvement of life for Black Males in Indiana. Five focus areas involving Black males were considered: education, employment, criminal justice, health, and social factors. The Commission is committed to actively explore and diligently study all aspects of the focus areas in order to reverse the trends that adversely affect our state's African-American male population.

The past eleven years have been both productive and successful for the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males. We have been instrumental in the passage of several pieces of legislation and brought an increased awareness to the disproportionate numbers of African-American males dying with AIDS and gun violence. The Commission has successfully hosted twelve consecutive State and National Conferences. And we are still committed to publishing our annual report to give everyone a chance to read, study, and bring to light the increasing negative disparities between Black male Hoosiers and other Indiana males.

On behalf of the Commission, I would like to deeply thank everyone that has committed time and efforts to make the work of the Commission a success. The past staff, David Coatee, Darren Washington, Stephen Jackson, José Evans, Clary Butler, Demetrius Minor, and Tamara Jury, and our past commissioners and governors have done a tremendous job paving the way for current staff James Garrett, Steven Ingram, and Malika Mays and our future endeavors. Our work continues as we expand our efforts to overcome the challenges facing Black males in our state. We are pleased with our efforts thus far; however, our work is still not done. The Commission remains committed to seeking innovative and workable solutions that will contribute to the overall social enhancement of Black males in Indiana.


Gary P. "Doc" Dillon
State Senator

Executive Summary

Cancer and heart disease occur disproportionately in African-Americans. Black students continue to lag behind in academic achievement. Far too many black men engage in mindless destruction and wind up in prison.

This Annual Report shows the disparities and challenges facing Black males. It will take a group effort from government, non-government services, the faith based community and grass roots organizations to ensure Black males are not left behind socially, economically, and educationally.

Critical topics covered in the report show a lack of self-esteem and self-respect, personal success, historical data and access to information and opportunities. Self-esteem and respect come from Black males understanding their own value. Success means having a sense of achievement, which is important in the early formative years. Finally, information and access to opportunities must be provided and accessed. Black males must identify their gifts and talents, define their values and priorities, identify their goals and create a plan to accomplish them.

Black male students lag behind other groups, and graduate at a much lower rate. A diploma, and the type of diploma, directly impacts continuing education and employment options. Educational achievement must be the goal for Black males, who are underserved in the current education process. Education is the best way to help Black males achieve their potential and improve their lives and the lives of their families.

Employment for Black males remains a challenge, which helps foster survival instincts that lead to high risk or illegal behavior. Black males' inability to garner suitable employment affects their self worth and diminishes their responsibility to provide for their family.

Too many Black males engage in high risk, destructive behavior and wind up dead or in prison. Black males are less than five percent of the population in Indiana, but over 35 percent of the incarcerated population. We must assess the education and skills of the incarcerated individuals in order to rehabilitate and prepare Black males for reintegration into society.

The gap between affluence and poverty is widening for Black males in Indiana. Black males as a population group face too many problems and challenges to allow a moment of distraction from the issues negatively impacting them.

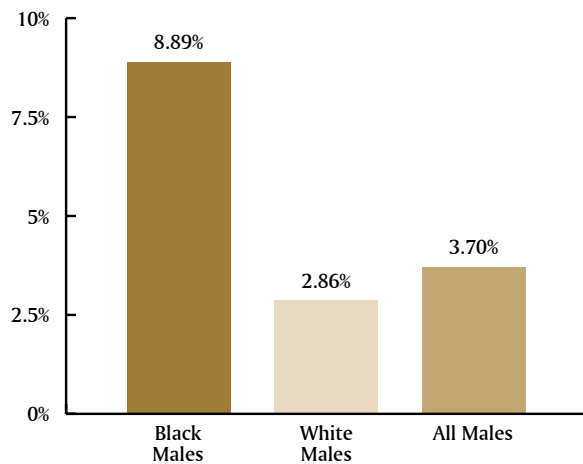
Black males need to take responsibility for their health. A blueprint should be developed to address the health disparity, inform Black males, and provide preventative screenings. Cancer and major organ diseases kill Black males in greater numbers than other groups. Between the ages of 25 and 44, Black males are 20 times more likely to develop kidney failure than White males. Prostate cancer kills Black males nearly three times more than White males. Lack of money, insurance, transportation, access to doctors, and health education are major obstacles in this area.

These issues are all very important to Black males. This Annual Report seeks to call decision makers, policy makers and governmental leaders to action. These issues will require engagement and attention from all aspects of society to improve the quality of life for Black males.

Education

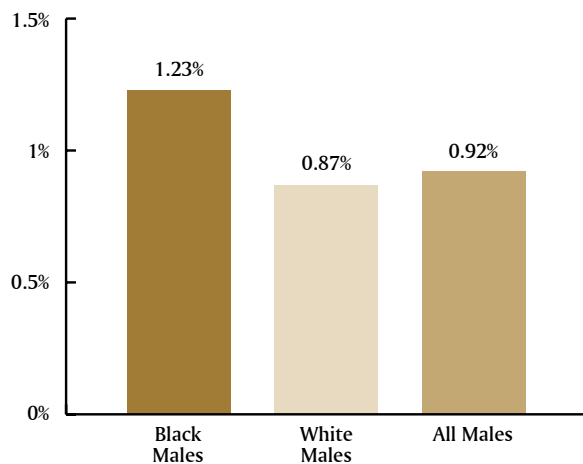
Problem Statement: Through testimonies at hearings held throughout the state, it is felt that disproportionate retention and dropout rates are a direct consequence of the majority population of teachers' inability to relate to Black male students, which is also a major contributor to low graduation rates.

Percentage of Enrolled Students who were Retained in 2004



Source: Indiana Department of Education

Percentage of Enrolled Students who Dropped Out in 2004



Source: Indiana Department of Education

Facts:

Black male students are three times more likely to be retained than white males.

Black male students are 35% more likely to dropout than white males.

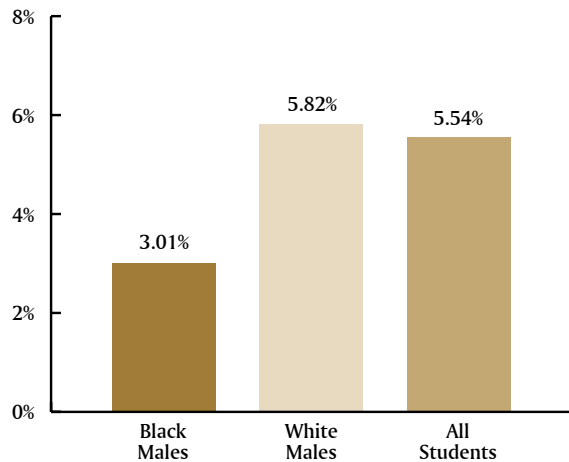
Black male students are 51% less likely to graduate than white males.

Community Action: All public school personnel should be required to participate in human relations/cultural sensitivity trainings annually.

School corporations should conduct a thorough review of their policies and procedures to determine if they are contributing to high retention and dropout rates for Black male students and make appropriate changes. Members of the Black community should be involved in the review.

School corporations should explore alternative school opportunities and reserve out-of-school suspensions for dire cases only. Institute more structured in-school suspension programs and possibly Saturday school. Also, make counseling and support services available to meet the needs of those students.

Percentage of Enrolled Students who Graduated in 2004



Source: Indiana Department of Education

Note regarding graduation statistics:

This chart does not reflect the percentage of high school seniors who graduated in 2004. It shows high school graduates as a percentage of students in all grades. This is important because it reflects the fact that many Black male students never reach their senior year at all.

Legislation: The Indiana General Assembly should consider legislation that would require the mandatory certification of all teachers. Legislation should also include State-wide cultural and diversity training.

The Indiana General Assembly should consider legislation that would require school corporations to graduate a percentage of minority students based upon the number minority students enrolled in accordance with the “No Child Left Behind” initiative. Legislation should include grants, scholarships, and other incentives for Black male students interested in pursuing a career in education.

Education Definitions

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:

A **regular diploma** meets the minimum standards required for graduation.

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

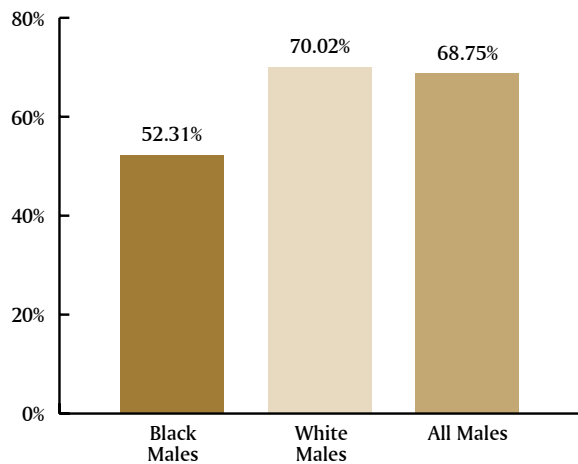
An **Academic Honors diploma** requires additional credits and a higher grade point average. This is the most prestigious diploma.

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.

Employment

Problem Statement: Disproportionate unemployment rates for Black males are a result of the lack of employment opportunities being made available for those without a high school diploma, with prior convictions, or without experience in a skilled trade.

Percentage of Male Population who were Employed in 2004



Sources:

Employment - Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Population - U.S. Census Estimate for July 2004

All populations are ages 16 and older.

Fact:

The employment rate for White males is 1.34 times the employment rate for Black males. That means that White males are 34% more likely to be employed than Black males.

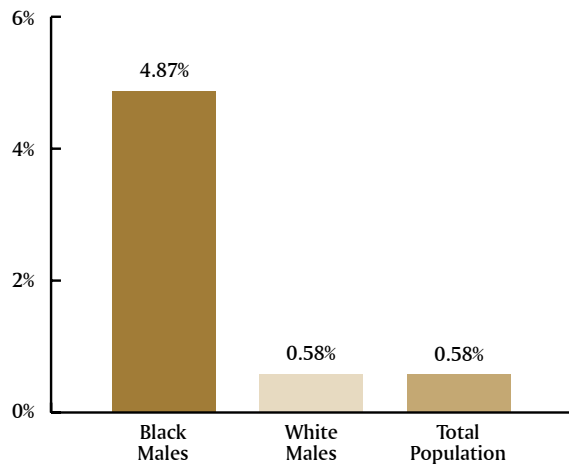
Community Action: Community organizations, churches, and youth oriented coalitions in conjunction with the business community and local government should develop outreach programs to promote employment options for Black males as well as create a database/network of potential employers and employment opportunities.

Legislation: The Indiana General Assembly should consider legislation that would offer grants to organizations that would assist high school dropouts in obtaining their GED, job training, and placement. Legislation would include incentives for businesses that participate in, and hire graduates of the programs.

Criminal Justice

Problem Statement: Black males make up only 4% of the State’s population, yet they make up 35% of the incarcerated population in Indiana.

Percentage of Population who were Incarcerated in 2004



Sources:
 Incarceration Data - Indiana Department of Correction
 Population - U.S. Census Estimate for July 2004
 All populations are ages 18 and older.

Facts:

Black males age 18 and over are 8½ times as likely as white males to be incarcerated in Indiana.

Nearly 75% of incarcerated adult Black males do not have a high school diploma.

Community Action: Civil liberties groups, such as the NAACP, and social service agencies should determine whether Black male offenders are appropriately represented.

Offices of prosecuting attorneys should develop diversion/restitution programs for nonviolent offenders as an alternative to incarceration.

Legislation: The Indiana General Assembly should consider legislation that would support a commission or board whose sole purpose is to examine and make recommendations on mandatory sentencing disparities, reintegration, and post-incarceration services.

6 Indiana Counties with the Most Incarcerated Black Males

County	Incarcerated Black Males
Marion	3,689
Lake	766
Allen	755
St. Joseph	493
Elkhart	486
Vanderburgh	371

Source: Indiana Department of Correction

5 Most Serious Criminal Offenses

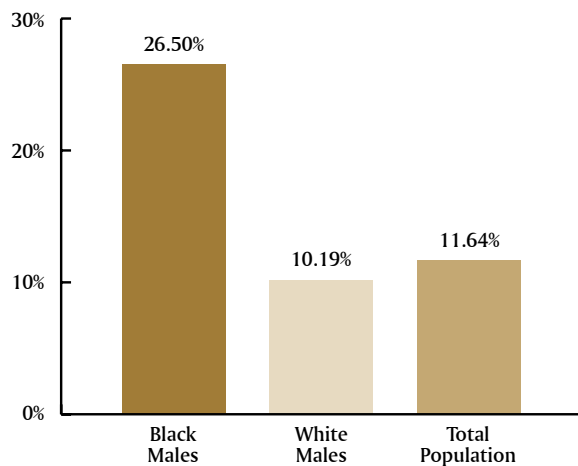
Category	White	Black
Crimes Against Person	4,622	3,374
Controlled Substance	2,026	2,400
Property	2,617	1,144
Substantive Criminal*	753	654
Weapons	359	178

*Substantive Criminal = attempt, conspiracy, aiding
 Source: Indiana Department of Correction

Social Factors

Problem Statement: One tragic symptom to the plight of the Black male is the disintegration of the Black family. The current impoverished social realities faced by Black families are a direct consequence of non-traditionalism, or single-parent households. Unfortunately, in most cases, the single parent is a woman.

Percentage of Population who were Living in Poverty in 2004



Source:

U.S. Census Bureau
Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2005

NOTE: The Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement is an annual survey of approximately 78,000 households nationwide. Therefore, use extreme caution when making inferences when the cell sizes are small.

Fact:

Black people in Indiana are more than 2½ times as likely as White people to be living in poverty.

Community Action: The Black community in cooperation with faith-based organizations, school corporations, and social service agencies should:

1. Develop after-school programs for latchkey Black males.
2. Encourage parents to be proactive in seeking information and be more active in their children's education, and activities.
3. Form family mentoring partnerships and programs.
4. Establish a community network for Black single parents.
5. Work together on creating community family resources centers.
6. Consider partnering with the Department of Corrections to develop family counseling, and home re-entry programs for the families affected by incarceration.
7. Get back to the understanding that it takes a village to raise a child, and that working together really works.

Legislation: The Indiana General Assembly should consider legislation that will:

1. Educate, train, and transition Black women off Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Legislation should include a gradual reduction of benefits based on earned income, not the immediate elimination of benefits.
2. Create grants that will assist faith-based organizations, school corporations, and civic groups in creating after-school programs and services for Black children and families.
3. Make home transition therapy an option for inmates and their families, so that they are prepared to move forward together following incarceration.

Health

Problem Statement: There are many contributing factors to the overall health concerns faced by Black males. Some of those factors are stress, uncertainty, a lack of medical insurance or adequate insurance, poor diet, being uninformed, sexual promiscuity, and genetics.

Community Action: Community organizations in cooperation with health care professionals should:

1. Conduct quarterly health screenings and wellness seminars.
2. Create health support and counseling networks.
3. Develop “warning signs” reference materials.

Legislation: The Indiana General Assembly should consider legislation that:

1. Would offer funding to organizations and agencies to conduct community screenings, seminars, conferences, support services, counseling, and literature campaigns.
2. Increase State funding for care coordination services to accommodate the increasing number of Black males living with HIV/AIDS.

Age Adjusted Death Rate

The simplest form of death rate is the crude death rate, which is the number of deaths divided by the population. Although this gives us a general estimate of mortality, it is not useful for comparing populations because it does not account for different population compositions.

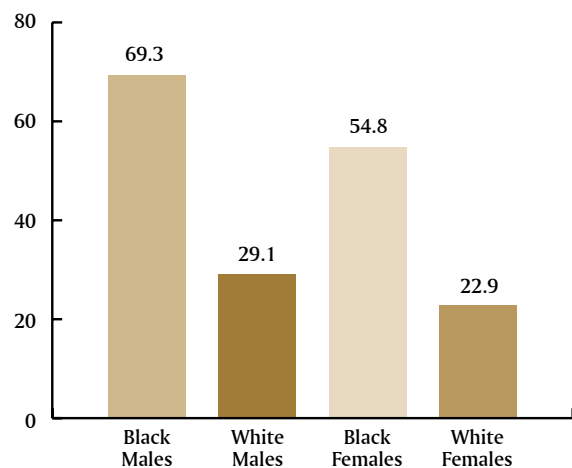
A population with an older age distribution will have more deaths from a given disease, so we compensate with the **age adjusted death rate**. This is determined by dividing a population into small age groups, calculating the mortality rate for each group, and applying these rates to a standard population. The age adjusted death rate allows us to compare death rates of different populations as though they had the same age structure. This is important when comparing death rates from specific health causes.

The rates seen on the following charts are number of deaths per 100,000 people.

Fact:

Black males are 138% more likely to die from diabetes than White males.

Diabetes



Source: Indiana State Department of Health

Facts:

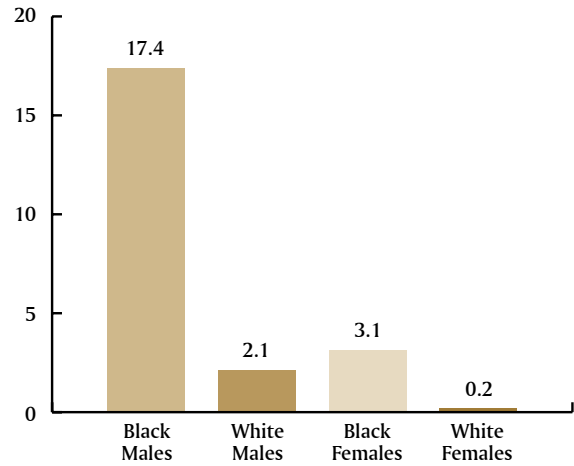
Black males are over eight times as likely as White males to die from AIDS.

Black males are 42% more likely to die from cancer, or stroke than White males.

The Indiana age adjusted death rate is higher for Black males than for any other group, and over 37% higher than the rate for White males.

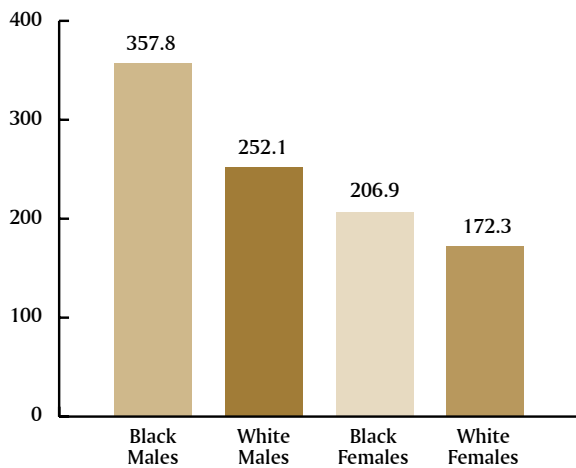
According to the age adjusted death rate, Black males are 21% more likely to die from heart disease than White males.

AIDS



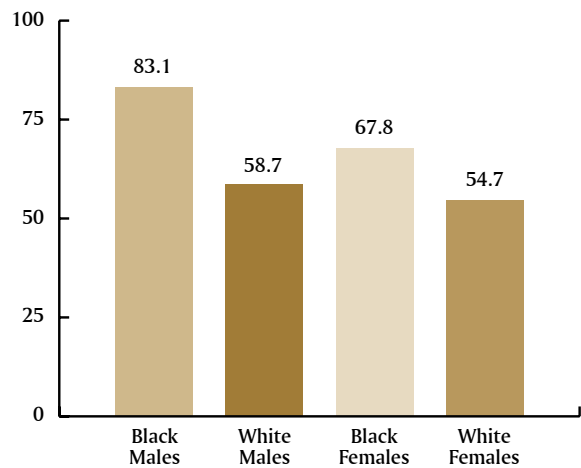
Source: Indiana State Department of Health

Cancer



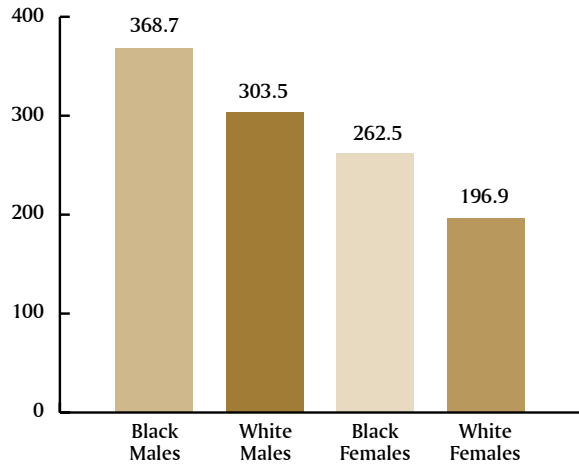
Source: Indiana State Department of Health

Stroke



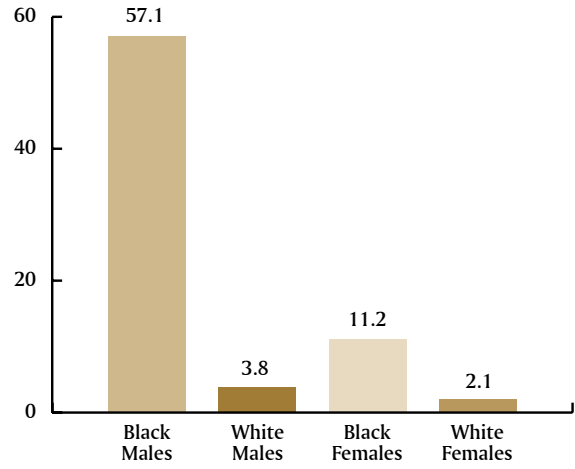
Source: Indiana State Department of Health

Heart Disease



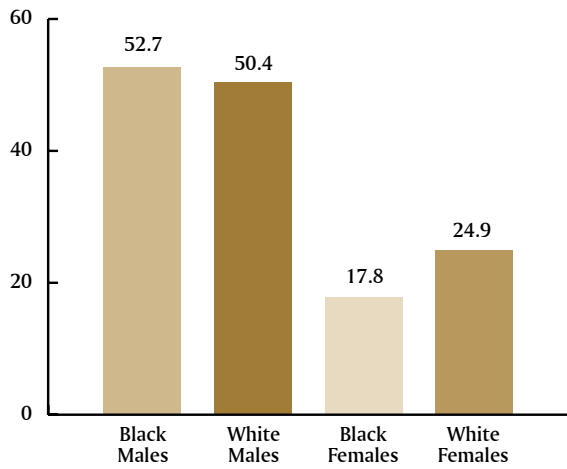
Source: Indiana State Department of Health

Homicide



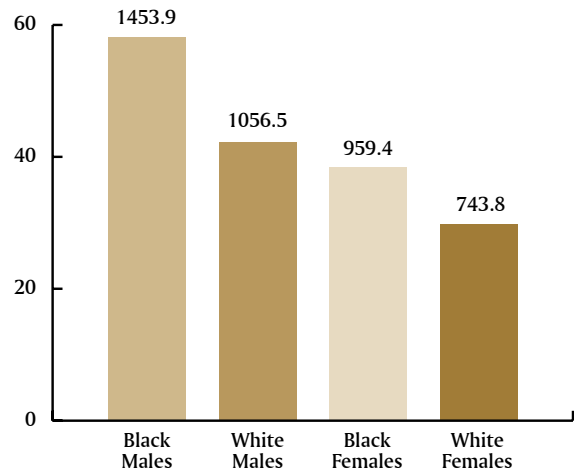
Source: Indiana State Department of Health

Accidents



Source: Indiana State Department of Health

All Causes of Death



Source: Indiana State Department of Health

More Commission Recommendations

These Commission Recommendations are part of the original Five Year Plan.

EDUCATION

Problem Statement

There is a lack of incentives within the public school system to retain and graduate Black male students. Low graduation rates for Black males are alarming.

Black male students drop out of the educational system at a much higher rate than White students. A major contributor to the Black male dropout rate is the frequency of Black male suspensions, retentions, and expulsions. Many Black male students are forced out of school. Their failure in school also contributes to absenteeism, thus leading to dropping out.

Community Action

- School corporations should expand the role and level of activities of parent/teacher organizations. The PTO's activities should include:
 1. Ensuring that self-esteem, language, and math skills are taught effectively;
 2. Ensuring that college options are accessible and encouraged;
 3. Assisting in identifying Black male teachers for their local school corporations;
 4. Providing tutoring and support for Black male students; and
 5. Assisting in identifying after-school and summer job opportunities for Black male students.

Legislation

- Legislation should provide grants available to Black male students interested in teaching.

Problem Statement

Teachers have low academic expectations of Black male students. Black males are systematically placed in remedial or special education classes that stifle their progress throughout their educational lifetimes.

Community Action

- School corporations should redefine and expand the duties of the counselor to include counseling time not directed toward scheduling and attendance.

EMPLOYMENT

Problem Statement

There is not enough community support for Black businesses.

Community Action

- Black business support groups should develop marketing promotions to increase the visibility of Black businesses to the general consumer market.
- Black business support groups and the general business community should promote introductory training programs and workshops regarding entrepreneurship, with a special emphasis on Black males.
- Black businesses and the public and private sectors should continue efforts to develop economic partnerships.

Legislation

The Indiana General Assembly should pass legislation for development funding of Black businesses.

Problem Statement

There is a lack of available funding for start-ups and continued operation of Black businesses.

Community Action

- Black business support groups and the public and private sectors should encourage banks to increase credit and capital start-ups for Black businesses.
- Black business support groups should encourage existing Black businesses to develop self-help programs such as a development fund to provide loans, credit, resources, training, and mentor networks for new Black businesses.

Legislation

- The Indiana General Assembly should pass legislation for subsidized start-up loans to aid Black businesses.
- The Indiana General Assembly should pass legislation to invest larger portions of tax revenues in urban growth programs and Black business development.

Problem Statement

Most Black males are unaware of employment options and opportunities.

Community Action

- Local businesses should develop internships for at-risk Black male students.

Legislation

- The Indiana General Assembly should pass legislation to incorporate vocational education and job training partnerships in the academic curriculum.
- The Indiana General Assembly should pass legislation to incorporate employment-related, vocational-based courses in the academic curriculum.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Problem Statement

Many young Black males lack the skills to handle conflict constructively.

Community Action

Community organizations, local school corporations, churches, law enforcement agencies, and youth-oriented groups should offer programs on conflict resolution skills for young Black males.

Community organizations, social services, youth-oriented agencies, and school corporations should offer after-school programs promoting self-awareness through socially acceptable behaviors.

Legislation

The Indiana General Assembly should support legislation to incorporate conflict resolution courses in the educational curriculum.

Problem Statement

Black males lack access for alternative programs for the male juvenile incarcerated and released offenders.

Legislation

The Indiana General Assembly should restore judicial discretion so that mandatory sentencing guidelines do not impact the Black male juvenile offender in a disproportionate manner.

Problem Statement

Black males' lack of involvement of adult male role models in their lives, leading to a violent street culture, gang activities, and drug trafficking.

Community Action

Community organizations, school corporations, churches, and the private and public sectors should:

1. Advocate for volunteer participation of Black male adults in programs targeting young Black males;
2. Aggressively promote community programs targeting Black male youths;

3. Develop role modeling programs which target preschool Black males, ages one through five;
4. Create more school/community partnerships that target Black male children, ages one through five;
5. Create more programs for unattended, or latchkey, Black male youths; and
6. Create more recreational activities and programs for Black male youths.

SOCIAL FACTORS

Problem Statement

One tragic symptom of the plight of the Black male is the disintegration of the Black family. Currently, the structure of most Black families is nontraditional or single-parent households.

Community Action

- Churches, in conjunction with social service and family support agencies, should:
 1. Encourage the development of effective parenting programs for Black parents, and
 2. Encourage the Black community to become actively involved in the lives of Black male children.

Examples of such efforts include: Light of the World Christian Churches; the Brotherhood International, Indianapolis; 100 Black Men Coalition of Indianapolis; and the African-American Achievers Corporation, Inc., Gary.
- Community organizations should:
 1. Develop, in conjunction with social service and family support agencies, constructive Afrocentric family crisis support programs, and
 2. Pool their talents and resources to raise the substantial resources needed to

fund male self-development programs.

- Private and Public community entities should:
 1. Aggressively promote the spirit of volunteerism and giving back,
 2. Develop and fund community support programs to reclaim the virtues of the extended family, and
 3. Increase informational and promotional efforts targeting the Black community, highlighting the high number of Black male children who are in need of adoption.

Examples of such efforts include: the Indiana One Church - One Child Program and Homes for Black Children of Indianapolis.

- Neighborhood associations should establish partnerships with churches and family and youth oriented agencies to develop programs such as For Parents Only.

Legislation

The Indiana General Assembly should:

1. Mandate the appointments of more Black and ethnic minority judges who are sensitive to the cultural realities of the Black family,
2. Require all judges in the state to take racial/cultural sensitivity training,
3. Pass legislation affirming that parents are presumed innocent, until proven otherwise, in cases alleging child abuse resulting from discipline imposed by parents or guardians,
4. Pass legislation to revise the definition of family to recognize the historical realities of extended families (not limited to custodial, biological parents or guardians, but also inclusive of the persons providing financial, emotional, and other necessary support),

5. Mandate culturally competent and sensitivity training for juvenile/family judges, caseworkers, prosecutors and all persons involved in decision making regarding the investigation and filing of child abuse allegations resulting from discipline imposed by parents, and
6. Pass legislation to provide ample funding of major state initiatives and efforts that address the social inequities of the Black male.

Problem Statement

There is a lack of adult Black male participation in the lives of young Black males.

Community Action

- Public and private community entities should:
 1. Actively encourage Black male adults to participate in intervention and prevention programs for at-risk young Black males, and
 2. Develop community-based mentoring programs targeting young Black males.
- School corporations, in conjunction with public and private community entities, should:
 1. Establish tutoring and mentoring programs linking Black male adults with Black male students,
 2. Develop role modeling programs targeting Black male children ages one through five, and
 3. Develop programs teaching the cultural experiences and role of the Black family.
- Churches, in conjunction with public and private community entities, should establish Rites of Passage programs for young Black males.
- Social service agencies and Health coalitions should establish community

outreach programs to teach young Black fathers effective parenting skills and responsibility.

HEALTH

Problem Statement

The prevalence of HIV/AIDS among Indiana's Black males is on the rise.

Community Action

- Promote Indiana's "Get Tested" for HIV campaign and other HIV prevention interventions and other public awareness campaigns to the top 11 populated cities of Indiana where HIV rates are the highest and where the percentages of Black male residents are the greatest. (Indianapolis, Gary, South Bend, Fort Wayne, Evansville, Terre Haute, Anderson, Jeffersonville, Muncie, Kokomo, and Richmond)
- Expand opportunities and venues to educate unmarried Black males on the necessity of practicing safe sex, including the importance of condom use and the consequences of using illicit drugs and other STDs.

Problem Statement

There is a lack of emphasis on the special needs of mental health and developmental disabilities in the Black community.

Community Action

- Local mental health centers should conduct campaigns regarding mental health and physical and developmental disabilities within the Black community.
- Local health care providers should promote treatment and assessment services to the Black male population.
- Local mental health centers should consistently provide services to low income persons and their families.

Local Commission Spotlight

Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males

The City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males was established by city ordinance in 2001 to address the problems faced by Black males in the areas of education, health, criminal justice, and employment.

Late in 2004, the Commission sponsored a Town Hall Meeting on the topic, "Race, School Discipline, and Criminal Justice." The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the community to discuss issues related to Black males involved in the school discipline and criminal justice systems and to assist the commission in crafting recommendations for positive action. Panelists reviewed and commented on reports prepared by the Monroe County Racial Justice Task Force and the Commission on the Status of Black Males. The first report, "Race and Criminal Justice in Monroe County, Indiana: 2003 Report from the Monroe County Racial Justice Task Force," discusses its study of racial disparities in the criminal justice system, from arrest through sentencing; the American Bar Association Justice Kennedy Commission recognized the task force and its study as a "model project implemented by a community that made a commitment to the elimination of racial disparity in its criminal justice system." This report can be viewed online at: www.bloomington.in.us/~mcbnaacp/assets/2003_Racial_Justice_Task_Force_Report.pdf. The Commission's report, "Summary of Data on Disproportionality

in the Expulsion of Black male Students in Monroe County Community School Corporation High Schools," consists of data provided by the MCCSC and analyzed by Dr. Genevieve Williamson, Associate Professor of Special Education at Indiana University, and a member of the Commission. The report summarizes expulsion data for the two high schools in the school corporation which suggests that Black students in MCCSC high schools were more likely to be expelled, and were expelled for more days on average, than their White peers. Following the presentations by panelists, community members addressed the panel with questions and comments.

During all of 2005, the school corporation met with members of the commission and of the public in a task force, to address the concerns expressed by the reports and by people at the town hall meeting. As a result, the task force recently presented recommendations to the school corporation on the prevention and alternatives to suspension and expulsion. The recommendations resulted because of good faith efforts and successful collaboration between members of the school administration, commission, and general public, and they are one highlight of a successful 2005 enjoyed by the City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males. For additional information about the activities and successes of the commission, visit www.bloomington.in.gov/cfrd.

Commission Membership

Elected Officials



Representative
Dr. Vernon G. Smith



Senator
Gary Dillon



Senator
Samuel Smith



Representative
Jeff Thompson



Superintendent
Dr. Suellen Reed

Rep. Dr. Vernon G. Smith
Chairperson
Gary, Indiana

Senator Gary Dillon
Vice Chairperson
Columbia City, Indiana

Senator Samuel Smith
East Chicago, Indiana

Rep. Jeff Thompson
Danville, Indiana

Dr. Suellen Reed
Superintendent, Indiana
Department of Education
Proxy: Dallas Daniels

Jim Robertson
Director, Division of Family
Resources
Proxy: Jackie Cissell

Cathy Boggs
Director, Division of Mental
Health
Proxy: Lynn Smith

Judith A. Monroe, M.D.
Commissioner, Indiana
Department of Health

Judge Gregory Scott
Director, Indiana Civil
Rights Commission

Earle Goode
Commissioner,
Indiana Department of
Administration
Proxy: Claudia Cummings

Pat Miller
Director, The Economic
Development Corp.
Proxy: Quentin Harris

J. David Donahue
Commissioner, Indiana
Department of Correction
Proxy: Tim Brown

Mindy M. Lewis
Director, Cummins
Foundation
Columbus, Indiana

Mark Ferguson
Dean of Students,
Vincennes University

Reppard M. Horne III
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Michael Cunegin Jr.
President, Allen County
Council

Tony Kirkland
Executive Assistant,
Office of the Governor

Rudy Hightower
Chairman/CEO,
Christ Community
Development Corp.
Greenfield, Indiana

Nycletha Byrd
Lake County Sheriff's Dept.
Gary, Indiana

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

Steven L. Ingram
Deputy Director, Indiana
Commission on the Social
Status of Black Males

Malika Y. Mays
Administrative Assistant,
Indiana Commission on the
Social Status of Black Males



The Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males

**2004-2005 Annual Report is submitted to the
Indiana General Assembly and the Governor
pursuant to P.L. 143-1993.**

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