

**MILWAUKEE TODAY:  
AN OCCASIONAL REPORT OF THE NAACP**  
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Milwaukee's single African American females, especially those with children, will need either to get married to a person with promising employment prospects, get a mate with promising employment opportunities, or get a college education in order to escape poverty and enhance prospects for their children to enjoy a reasonable standard of living.
- Single-mother African American families, every year, can expect to earn less than one-third (32.2%) of what married-couple African American families earn.
- Despite the efforts of very dedicated public school teachers, many African Americans enrolled in Milwaukee Public Schools appear to be on a fast track for unemployment or incarceration.
- The estimated graduation rate for African American males enrolled in Milwaukee Public Schools is only forty (40%) percent.
- Students enrolled in Milwaukee's public schools outperform, in both mathematics and reading, students enrolled in voucher schools.
- Prospects for educational achievement are brightest for Milwaukee Public School students who are enrolled in Montessori Schools.
- Milwaukee remains one of the most segregated large cities in the nation.
- More than half of all African American males in Milwaukee between the ages of 16 and 64 are unemployed.
- High school dropouts in Milwaukee earn only half as much as those with technical college, community college, or junior college associate degrees.
- In 2009, there were more than 70,000 job seekers in Milwaukee, but fewer than 10,000 job vacancies.
- Employment opportunities available in 21<sup>st</sup> century Milwaukee will be in health care and other service industries that require more than unskilled or semi-skilled backgrounds. For most individuals with children, completion of, at least, an associate's degree, will be required for a reasonable standard of living.
- In the year 2000, only twenty-eight (28.2%) percent, fewer than three out of ten, of Milwaukee County's African American families were married-couple families. This compares to 1970, when 64.2% of all African American families in Milwaukee County were husband-wife families, and to 1980, when 44.3 % of African American families in the County of Milwaukee were husband-wife families.

- Since 1985, the City of Milwaukee has lost nearly forty (38.4%) percent of its European American population.
- Hmong single-mother families with children have the highest rate of poverty of all single-mother families in Milwaukee County.
- Milwaukee's 2009 Black male population, within the ages of 20 – 54 years, the prime age interval for child-bearing and child-rearing, would have had to be increased by nearly forty (37.8%) percent to match the number of Black females of equivalent age.
- Milwaukee's African American married-couple family is an endangered institution.
- Population discrepancies between the genders among Black Milwaukeeans is a problem that has been taking a toll on the formation of Black two-parent families for several decades.
- Disparate treatment of African American males by the criminal justice system is helping to destroy African American families and communities.
- More African American men in the nation are in prison, in jail, on parole, or on probation than were enslaved in 1850.
- Two out of three young African American men without a high school diploma will spend time in prison.
- If present trends continue, one in three Black males, born today, regardless of educational background, can expect to spend time in prison during his lifetime.
- Wisconsin incarcerates Blacks at nearly eleven (11) times the rate at which it incarcerates Whites.
- All credentials being equal, a Black male seeking employment in Milwaukee, who does not have a criminal record, has less of a chance to get a callback from a potential employer than a White male with a criminal record.
- Wisconsin has the second highest rate of Black incarceration in the nation.
- Wisconsin spends \$716,589,920 per year to operate its adult correctional facilities.
- Milwaukee ranks last among 52 major cities in forecasted minority entrepreneurial growth.
- Ex-offenders who make more than \$10.00 per hour are half as likely to return to prison as those making \$7.00 or less per hour.
- During the decade of the nineties, Milwaukee's Black per capita business ownership was among the lowest in the nation.
- Nearly ninety (85.9%) percent of Black-owned firms in metro Milwaukee are located in central city Milwaukee.
- Entrepreneurial activity as a rehabilitative tool appears to be worth testing as a possible way, for some, out of the unemployment morass.
- Improving the representation of African Americans and members of other minority racial groups on Milwaukee County jury pools should be a future initiative of the NAACP.