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 21st 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.