



THE STATE OF BLACK LIFE IN AMERICA

DECEMBER 2024

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT: HAS 60
YEARS OF PROGRESSIVE POLICY HELPED OR HURT?

WWW.EVERYBLM.COM/IFCA

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

© 2024 Every Black Life Matters and the Institute for Family and Community Advancement. All rights reserved.

No part of this report may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright holders, except as permitted by law for educational or research purposes.

Acknowledgments

This report was made possible through the dedicated contributions of our team:

Kevin McGary – Thought leadership and advocacy.

Neil Mammen – Research and analytical expertise.

Lonnie Poindexter – Strategic insights on the Black Church

Regina Roundtree-Wekesa – Report organization and design.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the entire Every Black Life Matters and IFCA community for their support and commitment to advancing the mission of family stability, educational freedom, and community empowerment.

For more information, visit www.EveryBLM.com/IFCA or email us at Info@EveryBLM.com

MEET OUR KEY CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS REPORT

KEVIN MCGARY



Kevin McGary is an entrepreneur, author, and public speaker. In the arena of civic engagement, he serves as Chairman of the Frederick Douglass Foundation of California and is an executive with the Douglass Leadership Institute and the Northstar Leadership PAC.

Over his 35-year career in Information Technology, Kevin has been recognized as a “Top Performer” in Cybersecurity, Enterprise Applications, and Application Development Automation. In addition to his corporate achievements, Kevin has entrepreneurial skills and has started several successful ventures. He leads a proactive group dedicated to innovative approaches to socio-political issues, collaborating with elected officials and community activists to provide lectures and workshops on resolving today’s challenges.

Kevin is also a prolific author. His books include:

- “REVEALED: The Archetypes of American Politics: Overlords, ‘House Negroes,’ ‘Field Negroes’ ...Which One Are You?” (2024), which explores the dynamics of American politics through historical and contemporary archetypes.
- “DEI in 3D: Deciphering Designs, Demands, and Dilemmas of DEI” (2023), critically examining Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives.
- “WOKEd UP!: Finally Putting an Ax to the Taproot of White Supremacy and Racism in America” (2022), exploring modern social justice movements.
- “The War on Women From ‘The Root’ to ‘The Fruit!’” (2020), discussing societal issues related to women’s rights.
- “Instanity!” (2010), addressing perceived irrationalities in U.S. political leadership.
- “Lifestyle of the Rich in Kingdom” (2004), offering principles of spiritual prosperity.
- “Freed To Be Servant and Slave: Finally Breaking Free of ALL Bondage as a ‘New Creation’... IN CHRIST!” (2024, forthcoming), focusing on spiritual liberation.

In 2020, Kevin co-founded Every Black Life Matters (EBLM), a moral and faith-based alternative to Black Lives Matter, addressing violence and systemic poverty in underserved Black communities.

NEIL MAMMEN



Neil Mammen, a first-generation immigrant, is an engineer by day and a Christian apologist by night. Born in Ghana, Neil grew up across various countries, including Jamaica, Sudan, Ethiopia, and India. Despite his Christian upbringing, Neil's extended family includes Marxists and social justice activists, shaping his unique perspective on faith and socio-political engagement.

Neil has over 16 patents and has co-founded four start-ups, raising over \$88 million in venture funding. He is the founder of NoBlindFaith.com, an apologetics and evangelization ministry, and serves as the President of the Values Advocacy Council in Silicon Valley, hosting events with prominent speakers like Charlie Kirk and Robert Kennedy Jr.

Neil's books reflect his commitment to integrating faith and logic:

- "Who Is Agent X?: Proving that Science and Logic Show it is More Rational to Think God Exists", a rational defense of faith using science and logic.
- "Jesus Is Involved in Politics!: Why Aren't You? Why Isn't Your Church?", urging Christians to engage politically.
- "40 Days Towards a More Godly Nation", a devotional encouraging societal transformation through faith.
- "Daily Apologetics for Kids: Volume 1", co-written to instill logical foundations of faith in children.
- "How to Stop Racism in America: A Real Solution for African American Plight" (2024), proposing biblically grounded solutions to racial issues.

Neil co-founded Every Black Life Matters with Kevin McGary to address the Black plight in America, providing a pro-life, faith-based response to societal challenges. He actively contributes to radio and TV discussions, including appearances on Newsmax and Breitbart News.

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
INTRODUCTION	9
THE FAMILY EQUALITY INDEX	10
EDUCATION AND SCHOOL CHOICE INDEX.....	12
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE INDEX	14
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY	17
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND REPRESENTATION	19
THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS INDEX	21
THE BLACK CHURCH	25
COMPREHENSIVE ACTION STEPS	29
CLOSING THOUGHTS	32
APPENDIX ONE	34
APPENDIX TWO - ENDNOTES	36



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As we reflect on 2024, we are humbled by the work we've accomplished together and energized by the opportunities ahead. EBLM was founded to promote the advancement of Black families and communities by championing core values: family stability, educational excellence, and entrepreneurial empowerment. These principles stand in stark contrast to the divisive ideologies of traditional activist organizations.

Every Black Life Matters was founded with a core mission and certain values that wholly reject the Marxism of BLM. Instead, we encourage family stability via pro-life and fatherhood initiatives, encourage advancement toward excellence in education via education choice/parental choice initiatives, and community empowerment through embracing of entrepreneurship via free-markets and capitalism.

OUR MISSION IN ACTION

This year, through workshops, publications, and advocacy initiatives, EBLM reinforced the importance

of fatherhood, unapologetic pro-life values, parental choice in education, and free-market entrepreneurship. These efforts bore fruit as we witnessed a resurgence of American traditions centered on family and faith. The recent elections reflected a groundswell of support for these ideals, marking a cultural shift away from policies that undermine these principles. We stood firm on these tenets and are proud to see the fruits of our commitment to morals, faith, and family advancement accelerate going into 2025.

The communities made a firm statement in our recent election cycle, demonstrating a clear demand for change driven by the significant angst and suffering—most notably in Black communities—experienced in recent years. Rampant inflation, the growth of criminal gangs, and assaults on religious liberties have intensified the urgent call for reform. Black families have faced severe hardships due to massive job losses, largely exacerbated by the influx of illegal immigrants impacting local job markets in metropolitan areas. Over the past four years, these economic setbacks have resulted in disproportionate poverty and challenges, particularly affecting ethnic communities. In response to this adversity, these communities voted decisively for a new government leadership. Ultimately, the outcome of this past election marks a triumph not only for all Americans but especially for ethnic communities that have endured significant hardships.

Over the past several years, ethnic communities have been neglected and abused. The Biden/Harris administration has ignored the extremely disproportionate hardships faced by vulnerable communities, which have experienced accelerated poverty and a diminished ability to empower and support their children. This is partly due to the power given to public schools to manipulate and influence students. EBLM has written several articles and publications rebuking the Biden/Harris administration for its grotesque disregard for the poor and for the government's "heavy hand" in forcing public school systems to comply with educational standards that are not approved by parents or guardians, such as aggressive transgender and sex education policies.

Unlike the NAACP, the Urban League, and other civil rights organizations that have been quiet and complicit over the past four years—likely due to the donations received from the Biden Administration—Every Black Life Matters (EBLM) has consistently advocated for the advancement of Black and ethnic communities by viewing America through an apolitical lens that demands righteous accountability. These traditional organizations have often been neglectful and dismissive of the challenges faced by the communities they claim to serve. Sincere civil rights organizations must not bow to favored political parties or agendas; if they do, they become political activist organizations rather than groups committed to genuine advancement and empowerment. Unfortunately, many of these historical organizations have become mere political entities, straying from their original mission of civil rights and empowerment.

A CALL TO ACCOUNTABILITY

While we celebrate progress, we remain vigilant. The Biden administration's policies inflicted disproportionate harm on ethnic communities through rampant inflation, job losses, and eroded religious liberties. We held them accountable through research and advocacy, exposing how their heavy-handed education mandates and lax border policies jeopardized vulnerable families. EBLM

stands uniquely positioned to hold all administrations accountable, ensuring they prioritize policies that empower rather than oppress.

EBLM is uniquely positioned to hold all administrations accountable, ensuring they prioritize policies that empower rather than oppress. As we approach 2025, with a new administration on the horizon, we see a tremendous opportunity to accelerate success for all communities throughout America. EBLM will hold the new Administration accountable for championing school choice and parental choice programs in education. We will demand an end to the indoctrination of children regarding “trans” issues and aggressively explicit sex education standards.

Additionally, EBLM will push for economic growth and opportunities for ethnic communities disproportionately harmed by Biden/Harris policies. We will also advocate for further criminal justice reforms to address the long sentences many received due to Joe Biden’s 1994 crime bill. Finally, we will hold the Administration accountable for securing borders and repatriating those who entered America during the Biden/Harris administration’s border lapses.

As we publish research and articles highlighting America’s progress, EBLM will hold ourselves and all of America accountable for seizing new and emerging opportunities that promote advancement and empowerment. This level of accountability should not be unique to EBLM. However, since many civil rights organizations of the past have evolved into political activist groups that simply echo leftist policies, EBLM finds itself in a distinctive position to lead the way.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

The incoming administration presents a pivotal opportunity. EBLM will demand action on key priorities:

1. Parental Choice in Education: Protecting children from harmful ideologies and returning decision-making power to families.
2. Economic Growth: Promoting small business incentives and reducing regulatory burdens to revitalize communities.
3. Criminal Justice Reform: Building on the success of the First Step Act to restore justice and reunite families.
4. Border Security: Advocating for community safety through responsible immigration policies.

Based on the outcome of our recent election, these are also your priorities, and this is why your continued support is vital.

INTRODUCTION

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES: WHAT IT USED TO BE

Historically, Black communities in America demonstrated resilience and ingenuity in the face of actual systemic oppression. The legacy of slavery and Jim Crow created substantial barriers, yet these communities thrived by fostering robust family structures, a strong sense of faith, and a commitment to education. During the 1930s, families were the cornerstone of Black society. Marriage provided stability, and cooperative parenting enabled children to thrive. Fathers played a pivotal role as breadwinners, disciplinarians, and mentors, cultivating discipline, emotional security, and a sense of purpose within the home. Faith-based institutions like churches and mutual aid societies provided essential services, reinforcing values of responsibility and mutual support.¹

Education was held in high regard as a pathway to opportunity. Despite those systemic barriers, Black literacy rates soared to nearly 70% by the 1930s.² This achievement reflected the collective efforts of families and communities who invested in schools and tutors despite limited resources. In particular, private and community-funded schools emphasized rigorous academics and moral development, fostering a generation of well-educated individuals who valued self-reliance. Economically, communities like Tulsa's Black Wall Street exemplified entrepreneurial excellence, creating wealth and opportunity in the face of pervasive racism. Businesses in these communities not only provided employment but also built financial networks that enabled generational mobility.³

WHAT IT HAS BECOME

Over time, the landscape of Black family and community life changed significantly. Government policies enacted during the "Great Society" era unintentionally undermined family cohesion. Welfare programs, while designed to alleviate poverty, penalized marriage by offering greater financial benefits to single-parent households⁴. These policies disproportionately targeted Black mothers, discouraging them from including fathers in the home and creating a cycle of dependency on government assistance⁵. The role of fathers within families was marginalized, weakening the family unit and eroding the foundational structures that had sustained communities for generations.

Economically, systemic discrimination persisted. Redlining practices instituted by FDR and minimum wage laws excluded Black workers and entrepreneurs from opportunities, further entrenching poverty. Urban renewal programs under LBJ's programs destroyed thriving Black neighborhoods, forcing residents into segregated public housing and isolating them from economic opportunities⁶. Today, these structural inequities manifest in concentrated poverty, limited access to quality education, and reduced economic mobility.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER REPORTS

Unlike many traditional civil rights organizations, which advocate for reparations and expanded government programs, Every Black Life Matters (EBLM) emphasizes self-reliance and community-driven solutions. The organization proposes actionable strategies to restore family structures, improve education, and promote economic independence.⁷



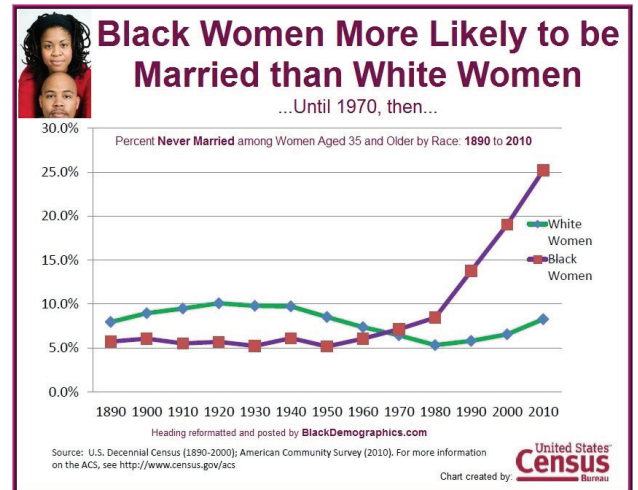
THE FAMILY EQUALITY INDEX

PURPOSE AND INDICATORS

The Family Equality Index aims to evaluate the health of family structures within Black communities, emphasizing the pivotal role of stable family units in reducing poverty, improving educational outcomes, and fostering community resilience. By analyzing marriage rates and fatherhood engagement, the index provides a framework to identify systemic issues and propose targeted solutions that strengthen family dynamics and community well-being.⁸

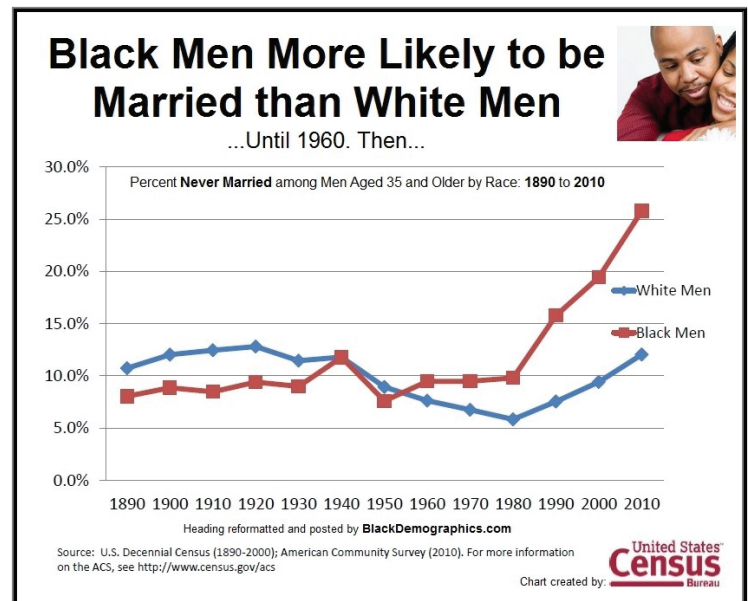
MARRIAGE RATES: WHAT IT USED TO BE

Historically, marriage served as the foundation of Black communities. In the 1960s, over 60% of Black adults were married, creating stable family units that prioritized the welfare of children and the collective community.⁹ Married couples often pooled their resources to achieve financial security, with fathers providing a steady income and mothers often managing households or contributing to family businesses.¹⁰ This structure fostered intergenerational stability, allowing children to thrive in supportive and disciplined environments. Community norms upheld the value of marriage, viewing it as a partnership critical to both personal and communal success.



WHAT IT HAS BECOME

Today, only 32% of Black adults are married, while single-parent households dominate.¹¹ Welfare policies implemented during the mid-20th century inadvertently penalized marriage by offering higher financial benefits to single-parent households.¹² This created a disincentive for families to remain intact, as single mothers were often forced to exclude fathers from the home to access necessary government assistance. The erosion of marriage within the community has had profound consequences, contributing to financial instability, reduced parental supervision, and weaker family networks.¹³



WHY GOVERNMENT IS THE PROBLEM

Government welfare programs have fundamentally undermined the stability of marriage in Black communities. By incentivizing single-parent households and penalizing married ones, these policies replaced the role of fathers with financial aid, fostering dependency and discouraging self-reliance.¹⁴ Family courts further marginalize fathers through biased custody decisions and child support frameworks that discourage active paternal involvement.¹⁵ The absence of fathers in the home correlates with poorer outcomes for children, including higher rates of academic failure, delinquency, and emotional distress.

FATHERHOOD ENGAGEMENT: WHAT IT USED TO BE

In the mid-20th century, fathers were central figures in Black families, serving as providers, protectors, and role models. Their presence ensured emotional security and discipline for children, promoting



resilience and ambition. Fathers were seen as anchors of the family, offering guidance and instilling values essential for success.¹⁶ Communities often celebrated fatherhood, recognizing its critical role in shaping future generations.

WHAT IT HAS BECOME

Over 70% of Black children now grow up in homes without their fathers.¹⁷ This alarming trend correlates with higher rates of gang involvement, criminal behavior, and academic underachievement.¹⁸ The absence of fathers leaves a void in emotional support and discipline, making children more susceptible to negative influences. Generations of

fatherlessness perpetuate cycles of poverty and instability, weakening the community as a whole.

WHY GOVERNMENT IS THE PROBLEM

Policies and systems, such as welfare and family courts, have systematically marginalized fathers. Welfare benefits disincentivize cohabitation or marriage, and legal systems often default to awarding custody to mothers, sidelining fathers from their children’s lives.¹⁹ As a result, children miss out on the essential guidance and stability that engaged fathers provide. Breaking this cycle requires reforming welfare policies, addressing systemic biases in family courts, and fostering private initiatives that support fatherhood engagement.²⁰



EDUCATION AND SCHOOL CHOICE INDEX

PURPOSE AND INDICATORS

The Education and School Choice Index evaluates the quality and accessibility of educational opportunities for Black families, emphasizing the importance of choice and competition in driving improved outcomes.²¹ It focuses on key factors such as access to charter, private, and homeschooling options and the persistent achievement gaps that hinder many Black students from reaching their full potential. By advocating for greater school choice, the index seeks to empower families to break free from failing public schools and ensure every child has access to quality education.²²

ACCESS TO CHARTER, PRIVATE, AND HOMESCHOOLING OPTIONS: WHAT IT USED TO BE

Historically, education was a cornerstone of Black progress. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries,

many Black communities invested heavily in private and community-supported schools despite systemic barriers.²³ These schools often emphasized rigorous academics, moral development, and the value of hard work. Black literacy rates, which had been close to zero during slavery, rose rapidly to nearly 70% by the 1930s.²⁴ Education was seen not only as a path to personal freedom but also as a collective tool for uplifting entire communities. Faith-based schools, in particular, provided a foundation of discipline and learning, equipping students to succeed in higher education and professional fields despite the challenges of segregation and racial discrimination.

WHAT IT HAS BECOME

Today, educational opportunities for Black families are heavily constrained by failing public schools and limited access to affordable alternatives. Literacy rates among Black students have plummeted to approximately 17%, a dramatic decline that reflects the systemic failures of public education.²⁵ Many Black families are trapped in underperforming schools due to residential zoning policies, leaving them without viable options for better education.²⁶ Charter schools, private schools, and homeschooling offer alternatives, but these opportunities remain out of reach for many families due to financial barriers or restrictive regulations.²⁷

WHY GOVERNMENT IS THE PROBLEM

Government policies and entrenched interests hinder educational choice. Teachers' unions often oppose reforms like school vouchers, fearing competition that could reduce their influence.²⁸ Zoning laws and bureaucratic obstacles prevent families from enrolling their children in schools outside their assigned districts.²⁹ Moreover, public funding for education is overwhelmingly directed toward traditional schools, leaving alternative options underfunded and inaccessible. Without systemic change, Black families will continue to face limited choices and declining outcomes.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT GAPS: WHAT IT USED TO BE

In earlier decades, Black students achieved significant academic success despite systemic barriers³⁰. Community involvement and family support played critical roles in driving student achievement, as families and communities prioritized education as a means of collective advancement. Schools often served as community hubs, fostering an environment of discipline and high expectations.

WHAT IT HAS BECOME

Today, Black students face some of the largest achievement gaps in the country. Standardized test scores reveal persistent disparities, with many Black students scoring significantly below their peers in reading, math, and science.³¹ Graduation rates also lag behind those of other racial groups, limiting opportunities for higher education and well-paying careers.³² These gaps reflect deeper systemic issues, including underfunded schools, outdated curricula, and a lack of accountability within public education systems.

WHY GOVERNMENT IS THE PROBLEM

Public education systems fail to address the specific needs of Black students. Outdated teaching

methods, misaligned curricula, and bureaucratic inefficiencies perpetuate the disparities.³³ Policies often prioritize maintaining the status quo rather than innovating to meet the needs of diverse communities. Teachers' unions and other entrenched interests resist reforms that could introduce competition and accountability, leaving Black families with few options for quality education.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE INDEX

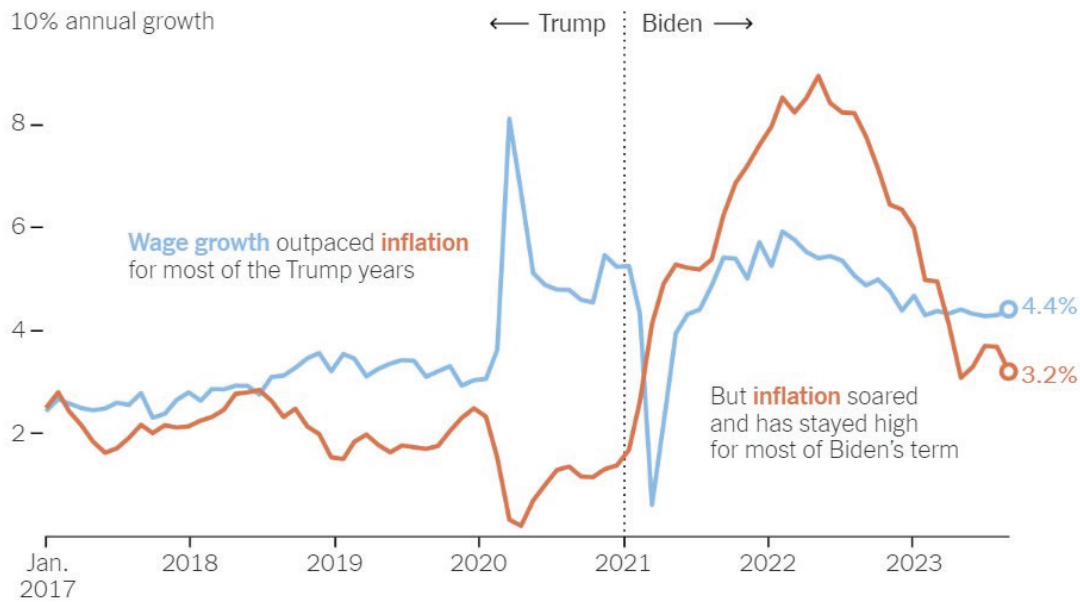
We believe true empowerment lies in fostering entrepreneurship and reducing dependence on government. Trump's previous term as President delivered policies that fostered record-breaking Black-owned business growth ([USAFacts.org](https://www.usafacts.org)), and we are committed to ensuring these trends continue.

Generational wealth begins with ownership, innovation, and self-reliance—a vision we will continue to champion tirelessly. First, however, we must overcome the malaise created by the burdensome Biden economy and the results that undermined economic empowerment over the past four years.

Regardless of media narratives and political talking points designed to support Democrats and leftist agendas, the harsh realities confirm that ethnic communities have been disproportionately harmed by inflation and the recession cycle under the Biden administration. Small businesses in these communities were growing under the previous Administration but suffered significant setbacks due to the impacts of COVID-19. When the Biden administration took office, the challenges faced by small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) intensified due to increased regulations and tax policies. Consequently, SMBs experienced a decline in growth and optimism compared to previous years, with ethnic entrepreneurs particularly affected by the downward trends in small business performance over the past four years.

With the current election outcomes, there is renewed optimism for a return to pre-COVID levels of SMB

Wage growth vs. inflation during the Trump and Biden presidencies



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

growth and general entrepreneurial activity. EBLM is committed to remaining accountable and will advocate for all notable policies and initiatives aimed at supporting SMB growth. We encourage families and communities, especially Black and ethnic families, to take full advantage of the new tax incentives and business loan opportunities provided by the new Administration.

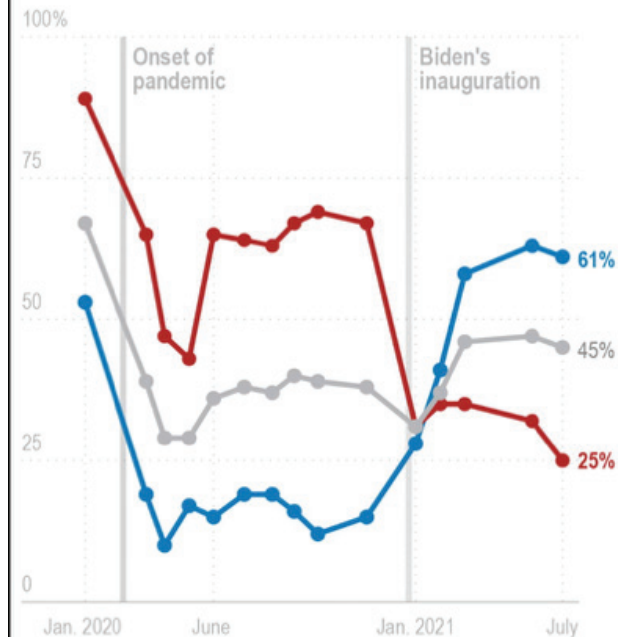
We envision additional business incentives because the previous Trump administration broadly supported SMBs through tax cuts and deregulation, significantly reducing the burdens of tax compliance, which are a substantial cost for small business owners. The Administration fostered a pro-business climate, benefiting growth-oriented enterprises and those in traditional sectors. When evaluating broad-based support for SMBs and deregulation

Fewer than half of Americans say the country's economy is in good shape

A new AP-NORC poll finds Americans continue to have middling views of the U.S. economy. About 6 in 10 Democrats say economic conditions are good, compared with just a quarter of Republicans.

Percentage who say the economy is good:

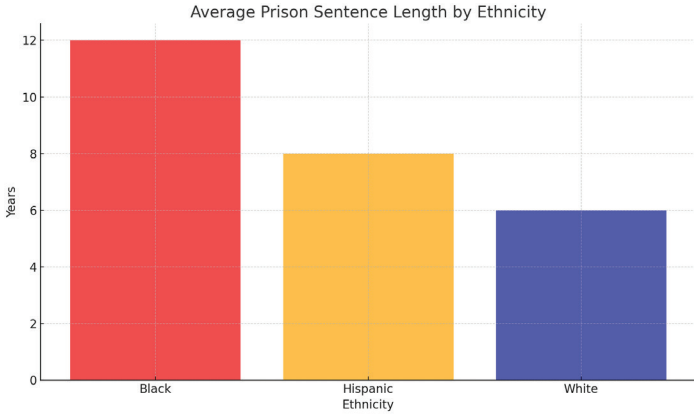
— Democrats — Republicans — All adults



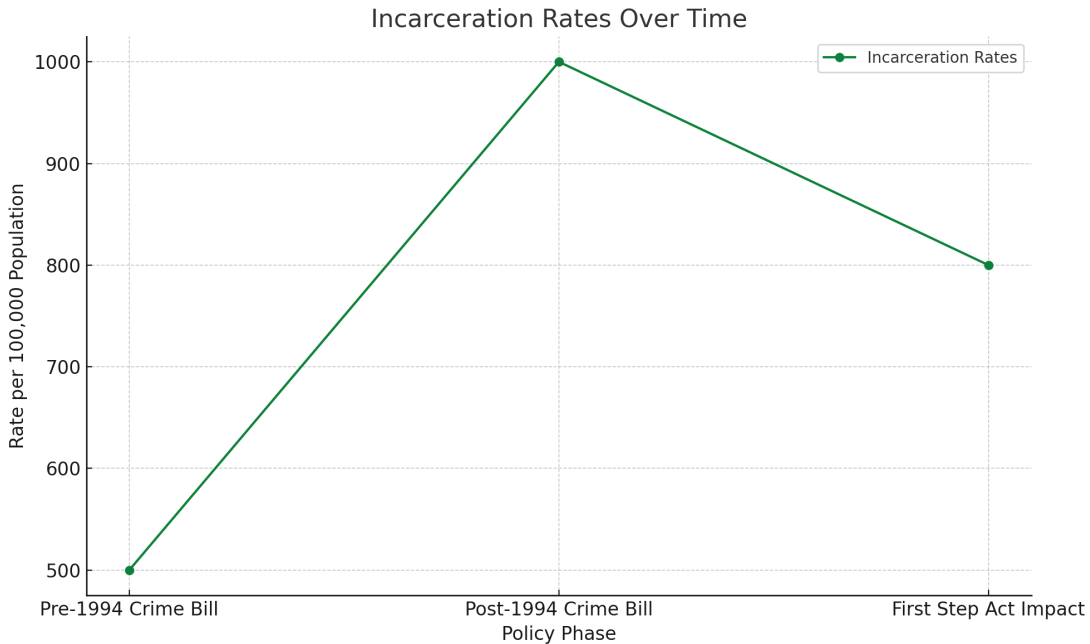
These questions have not appeared in every month's AP-NORC survey. Results based on interviews with 1,308 U.S. adults conducted July 15-19. The margin of error is ± 3.7 percentage points for the full sample.

against previous administrations, it is clear that the Trump administration created a more favorable environment for the majority of SMBs, setting records for small business ownership and entrepreneurship among Black and minority-owned businesses.

EBLM believes it is essential to encourage and foster strategies for building wealth and self-sufficiency through entrepreneurship. This approach contributes to the longevity of generational wealth in Black communities, thereby reducing reliance on government support. When communities become overly dependent on government assistance, they risk becoming subservient to that government. Strong, empowered communities committed to progress must reject dependence on government for their daily needs. We must embrace the understanding that we are free from reliance on any government or institution; every individual in America is free!



Average Prison Sentence Length by Ethnicity: This bar chart highlights disparities in sentencing, with Black individuals experiencing significantly longer average sentences compared to Hispanic and White individuals.



Incarceration Rates Over Time: This line chart tracks changes in incarceration rates across three policy phases: before the 1994 Crime Bill, after its implementation, and during the reforms of the First Step Act. The data suggests that while incarceration rates spiked post-Crime Bill, reforms like the First Step Act helped reduce them.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

All communities are still grappling with the impact of Joe Biden's 1994 Crime Bill. This legislation was designed to have a direct and disproportionate impact on the Black community, and to this day, many Black individuals are serving lengthy prison sentences that are clearly disproportionate compared to other ethnicities. Criminal justice reforms are vital because the crime bill was built on a foundation of racial discrimination and targeted bias. Therefore, reforms that ensure equal justice for all are necessary.

While Biden proposed the 1994 Crime Bill and could have continued the criminal justice reforms initiated by the previous Administration (Trump), he took no action during his presidency to address the suffering experienced by communities and families as a result of his harmful legislation. Thousands of individuals qualified for early release and were set free during President Trump's first term thanks to the First Step Act. However, there are still many thousands more who, based on the parameters of the First Step Act, should reasonably be released from the damaging effects of Joe Biden's 1994 Crime Bill. (SEE APPENDIX ONE)

Every Black Life Matters played a significant role in championing and supporting the First Step Act. As Trump enters his second term, we will continue to support this crucial initiative because we have witnessed families being reunited, restored, and on the path to health as a result of this reform. While the First Step Act helps to rebuild healthy families and communities, other factors, such as illegal migration, undermine these efforts.

The massive influx of unaccounted migrants necessitates that now is the time for a change in direction in the arena of criminal justice and community safety standards. The Biden administration

has ushered in over 10 million unvetted and unaccountable people from around the world. Since these people are largely unknown, they pose a significant threat to community safety. Criminal gangs, terrorists/terrorist organizations, and unscrupulous individuals now roam American streets. Families and communities in urban areas have been threatened, endured personal assaults, and have had an escalation of robberies and burglaries as a result of Biden's open border policies.

Sincere efforts to help reduce crime and assaults will require mass deportation of those who have come to America over the past 4 years. When criminals are deported, communities will be able to begin rebuilding in ways that encourage safety and security. Communities under the control of criminal gangs and escalating crime are oppressed. When criminals flee (or are deported), those communities can thrive. EBLM is committed to a thriving and healthy America, so the downstream effect will impact thriving and healthy families.

Efforts to ensure community safety must also address the harmful rhetoric and policies surrounding the "defund the police" movement. Calls to defund law enforcement have disproportionately harmed vulnerable Black communities, where the need for safety and security is often most acute. Reducing police funding has led to fewer resources for crime prevention, slower response times, and an increased sense of lawlessness in already struggling neighborhoods. Every Black Life Matters believes that thriving communities require effective and equitable policing, not the dismantling of law enforcement. Instead of defunding, we advocate for reforms that increase accountability, improve community relations, and ensure that law enforcement is empowered to serve and protect all citizens equally. Strong and responsible policing is a critical foundation for restoring justice and ensuring the safety of families and neighborhoods.

EBLM looks forward to a more equitable commitment to equal justice for all American citizens. We will hold the incoming Administration accountable for immediate positive changes in this regard.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND REPRESENTATION

During the Biden administration, Black civic engagement and representation faced a series of challenges that have drawn sharp criticism. Black enthusiasm and desire to civically engage waned under the weight of insufferable economic chaos due to inflation and job loss. Despite campaign promises aimed at addressing systemic issues within Black and ethnic communities, many of these pledges fell short. Key economic equity measures failed to materialize at the scale promised, leaving many voters and advocates feeling disillusioned and ignored.

Compounding these frustrations, the administration prioritized spending on housing and welfare for an unprecedented influx of over 10 million illegal migrants crossing U.S. borders. Resources originally earmarked for Black community development—such as funding for housing, education, and business opportunities—were diverted to address the needs of newly arrived individuals. This redirection of funds was a betrayal of trust and left many of the longstanding economic disparities and community advancement initiatives unaddressed.

Further undermining civic engagement was purposeful voter disenfranchisement caused by illegal ballots in local/state and even Federal elections. This issue disproportionately impacted Black and ethnic communities, as their voices were drowned out in favor of policies that did not reflect their priorities. When communities are unable to influence outcomes through legitimate voting processes, their needs and aspirations are marginalized, further stifling progress and representation. This is the epitome of voter disenfranchisement and the Biden/Harris penchant for allowing non-citizens to vote exacerbated overall disenfranchisement.

By contrast, we will see that the Trump administration has adopted a staunchly pro-legal voting stance, which emphasizes safeguarding the integrity of elections and amplifying the voices of American citizens. Policies aimed at fostering economic mobility, entrepreneurship, and school choice, alongside criminal justice reform efforts such as the bipartisan First Step



Act, are aligned more closely with the priorities of Black communities. These initiatives address systemic barriers to success, providing tangible opportunities for economic advancement and self-sufficiency.

The administration's emphasis on economic empowerment, particularly through increased Black business ownership and entrepreneurial initiatives, has laid the groundwork for stronger civic engagement going forward. By ensuring that budgets, policies, and redevelopment efforts were guided by the expressed needs of the community, the Trump administration gives optimism to the restoration of faith in governance while creating pathways for human flourishing.

A renewed commitment to these principles—centered on legal voting, equitable resource allocation, and economic opportunity—remains critical to fostering genuine engagement and representation. Addressing these issues with a sense of urgency and purpose will help restore trust and unlock the full potential of Black and ethnic communities across America.

The incoming Trump administration provides the potential for an increase in civic engagement within Black and ethnic communities; this dynamic should provide a promising array of possibilities going forward.

During President Biden's administration, Black civic engagement and representation have been criticized for falling short of campaign promises. Many Black voters and advocates have expressed frustration over unmet commitments in key areas such as voting rights protections, police reform, and economic equity. Despite initial enthusiasm, legislative efforts like the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act failed to pass, leading to diminished trust and enthusiasm among Black communities. Economic policies were also perceived as insufficient in addressing systemic disparities, further dampening civic participation and engagement.

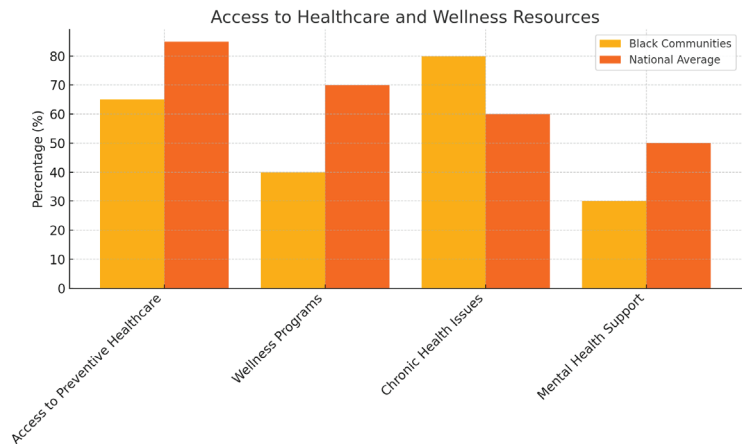
Under a potential Trump administration, proponents argue that a renewed focus on policies emphasizing economic opportunity, entrepreneurship, school choice, and criminal justice reform—building on the bipartisan successes of the First Step Act—could better align with the priorities of Black communities. The Trump administration's prior outreach efforts aimed at increasing Black business ownership and economic mobility could potentially lead to more tangible gains, driving renewed engagement and representation.



THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS INDEX

PURPOSE AND INDICATORS

The Health and Wellness Index evaluates the overall health of Black communities, focusing on preventive care, chronic disease management, and mental health support. Historically, Black communities relied on strong family structures, grassroots efforts, and charitable organizations to address health challenges. However, government policies—such as welfare programs that disincentivize family cohesion, minimum wage laws that exclude workers from jobs, and inefficient public health systems—have disrupted these foundations. This index identifies systemic issues and outlines targeted, voluntary, and market-based solutions to rebuild health, resilience, and self-reliance in Black communities.



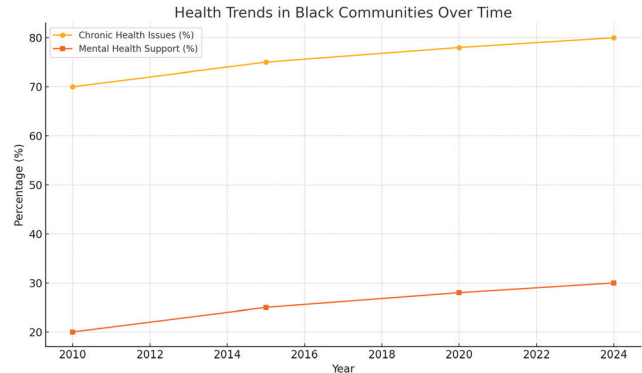
WHAT IT USED TO BE

In the past, health and wellness in Black communities were supported through family-driven care, local charities, and faith-based initiatives. Because of the Jim Crow laws and outright racism, Blacks developed a sense of self-reliance and created their own health clinics and mutual aid

societies. Community health efforts were often spearheaded by churches, providing access to preventive care and fostering healthy lifestyles.³⁴ Young Mutual Society of Augusta, Ga., for instance, offered insurance to members who paid weekly dues. Insurance companies soon grew out of such efforts. In Durham, NC, seven African-American entrepreneurs started North Carolina Mutual and Provident Association. Its name later changed to North Carolina Mutual Life. In 1896, North Carolina African-Americans raised enough money to help start and maintain the Pickford Tuberculosis Sanitarium in Southern Pines.³⁵

Fathers played a pivotal role in maintaining family stability, which promoted emotional security, discipline, and resilience. Local economies supported fresh food markets and fitness activities, reducing rates of chronic illnesses like hypertension and diabetes.

Mental health challenges, while present, were addressed through robust family networks and informal community support systems, which reduced stigma and provided emotional healing.



WHAT IT HAS BECOME

Today, many Black communities are plagued by chronic illnesses, mental health crises, and inadequate healthcare access. Government programs have replaced community initiatives, centralizing control in inefficient systems. Welfare policies have disrupted family structures, penalizing marriage and discouraging father involvement in the home.³⁶ Minimum wage laws have priced many Black workers out of jobs, creating economic instability that fuels poor health outcomes. Chronic conditions like diabetes and heart disease now disproportionately affect Black adults, while 70% of Black children grow up without their fathers, leading to higher rates of delinquency, emotional distress, and poor academic performance. Mental health resources remain scarce, with only 30% of Black individuals accessing consistent care compared to 50% nationally.

WHY GOVERNMENT IS THE PROBLEM

Government inefficiency has compounded these issues. Bureaucratic overhead consumes much of the funding meant for healthcare, leaving clinics under-resourced. Worse, crony corporatist laws like Certificate-of-Need (CON) laws require that healthcare providers receive approval from a state board before offering additional services in a given community. Regulations and government competition discourage private doctors from serving underserved areas. Family courts often marginalize fathers, favoring maternal custody and imposing punitive child support systems. The reliance on centralized programs has created dependency and stifled community-driven initiatives that were once more effective and adaptable.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Government is the very cause of almost all of these problems. Imagining that these problems stem

from not enough government spending is fallacious. When has more government spending helped? Addressing these challenges requires shifting from government dependency to decentralized, voluntary, and market-driven solutions.

Charities must play a central role just like they used to do in Black communities, especially since they are six times more efficient than government programs in delivering impactful services.³⁷ By leveraging private funding, charities can provide free or low-cost clinics, wellness education, and targeted mental health initiatives. When \$100 of tax money taken from citizens is allocated to a government program, it delivers only \$25-\$15 worth of services, wasting \$85-\$75 due to inefficiency. In contrast, if that \$100 came from voluntary private charities, which are five to six times more efficient, it can provide \$600 worth of equivalent services—a 6-fold improvement. Further, if a 2:1 tax deduction incentivizes donors and increases donations by say 100%, contributions may double to \$200 or more, delivering \$1,200 in services. While the government incurs a modest \$132 tax revenue loss, the net result is a 9x return on the tax investment through private charity efficiency.³⁸ Note, however, that this system works only with voluntary donations, as their accountability ensures responsiveness and efficiency, unlike government-funded charities.^{39,40,41}

How do corporations play in the solution? Corporations should redirect their massive virtue-signaling diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) budgets toward tangible health solutions. Instead of funding abstract programs and hiring overpriced executives that only impede their profitability, businesses should sponsor clinics, wellness centers, and mental health hubs in underserved areas. These efforts not only improve community health but also build corporate goodwill and strengthen ties with local consumers. It's the best sort of advertising. For example, grocery chains could establish wellness and healthy clinics in food deserts, integrating nutrition education and preventive care to address chronic health issues. While this may not apply to hospitals and insurance companies, for almost every other corporation, the longer their customers live, the better and longer-lived will their profits be.

Certificate-of-Need laws must be repealed which will go a long way in increasing health provider supply and lowering costs (keeping costs high is one of the reasons why Crony Corporatists passed this law under the guise of “helping the poor”).⁴²

Doctors should be incentivized to volunteer their services through tax credits. A system offering dollar-for-dollar tax credits equivalent to their hourly earnings—and a 2x multiplier for hours served in underserved areas—would encourage professionals to provide care where it is most needed. This approach effectively compensates doctors through tax relief while delivering immediate and sustainable healthcare solutions.

Community-supported initiatives, such as partnerships between local organizations and private businesses, are critical to fostering healthier lifestyles. Programs promoting nutrition, fitness, and mental health should be tailored to the cultural and economic realities of Black communities. Community-supported agriculture (CSA)⁴³ programs can address food deserts by partnering with

local farmers to deliver fresh, affordable produce. Fitness brands could sponsor free classes and incentivize participation through health rewards programs tied to improved outcomes.

Faith-based organizations, which historically served as pillars of community health, must also be reintegrated into the solution. Churches can host wellness education workshops, mental health counseling sessions, and fitness programs, fostering holistic care and restoring the family's role in community health.

CONCLUSION

The health disparities in Black communities are deeply rooted in government policies that undermine family stability, economic independence, and community-driven solutions. Welfare systems have eroded family cohesion, minimum wage laws have fostered economic instability, and inefficient bureaucratic healthcare programs have failed to meet local needs. A renewed focus on voluntary, market-based solutions can reverse these trends. By empowering charities, incentivizing corporate investment, and encouraging professional volunteerism, communities can reclaim control of their health outcomes. These initiatives build resilience, self-reliance, and prosperity, restoring the family and community as the foundation of Black health and well-being.



THE BLACK CHURCH

*"The Black Church.....
If Reformed, Potential
Savior of the Black
Family and the rest of
America."*

**Dr. Patrick F. Fagan of
the Marriage and Religion
Research Institute in
Washington, DC.**

According to Pew Research there are over 25,000 predominantly Protestant Black churches in the US. Historically the Black Church leadership has been highly respected and influential in the Black Community. A sterling example is the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's which was led and driven by the Black Church and it's Leadership.

The question today is how do we solve Black Plight and move the Black Church from overwhelmingly voting for a political party that contributes significantly to the disintegration of the Black Family and implosion of the Black community.

The answer is EBLM and our platform of research, policy and public speaking and lectures that inform, educate and mobilize the Black Christian community with true Black and American history to dispel the propaganda coming from a biased media, radicalized government and academia.

EBLM works with complimentary organizations that provide depth and breadth to its mission of being the aggregation point of addressing

and solving Black Plight in America. In short we feel energizing the Black Church Leadership and community stakeholders with true history from our content and research will cause a sea change and a proper shift in the voting booth. And with that empowerment the Black community can heal itself with minimal help from nanny government the true advisory of the Black community and its success.

THE BLACK FAMILY

At the core of all the malaise and plight we come back to the same theme that echoes throughout this report. The Black family is in crisis. Subsequently the Black community implodes by default because of the family's destruction. As noted, well over 75 percent of Black households are single parent typically female head of household. Where are the fathers? Only 17 percent of Black teenagers reach age 17 in a family with both their biological parents. The entitlement programs of the mid 1960's drove the father and his importance as the paternal leader from the household. And the children especially young boys paid a tremendous price. The culprit? Nanny government and the encroachment of radical liberalism into academia and media via destructive social programs.

Quote from Dr. Patrick F. Fagan:

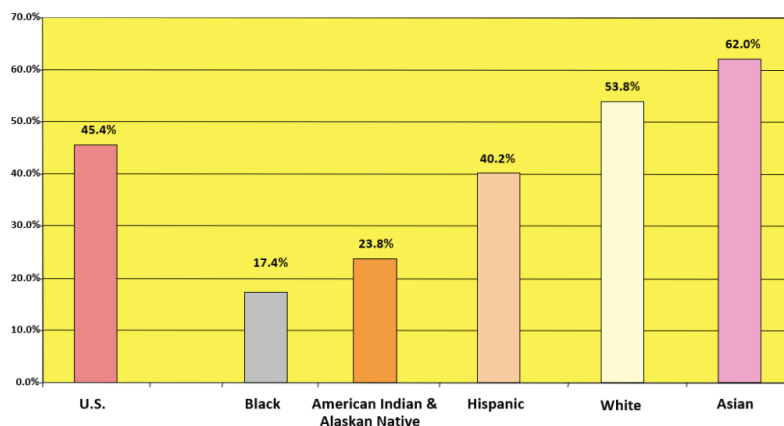
“It is in this context that the Black Church today is called to be as faithful and fruitful as early Christians, and to set about restoring chastity, monogamy and intact marriage as the hallmarks of Christian family life that Christ called all His disciples to. If the Black Church leads, the rest of America will see the difference and may follow its example. If it does not, not only will young Black men continue to suffer, the future will look ever bleaker for all Americans.”

The following charts are from the Marriage and Religion Research Institute and reflect the state of marriage in the Black community. A detailed report and analysis of Black Plight can be found in “The State of the Black Family in America” published February 2015, Marriage and Religion Research Institute.

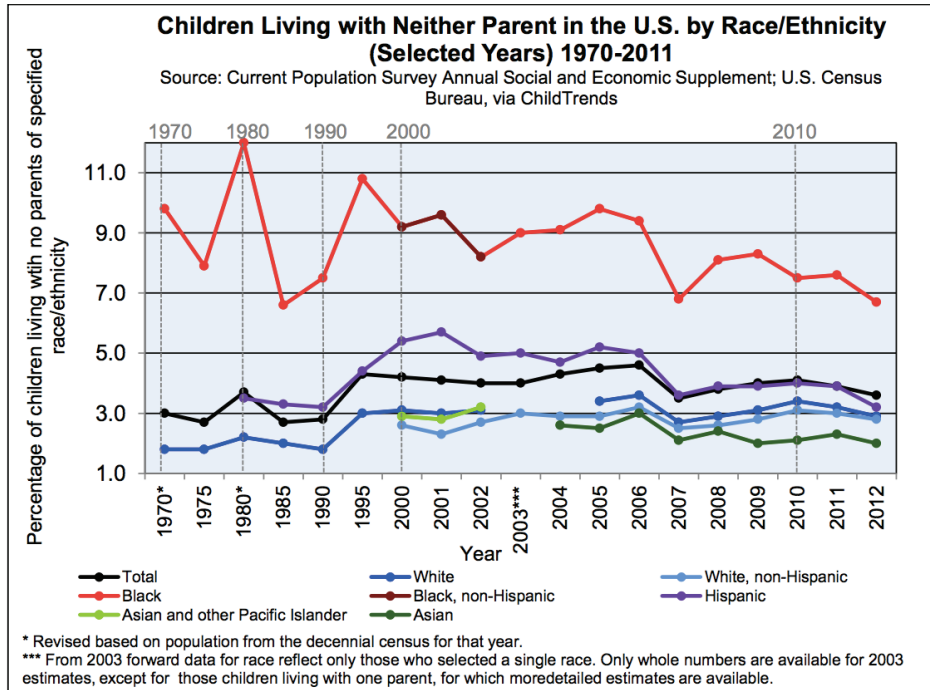
Most Black Americans are less free than their ancestors under Jim Crow laws. They no longer can marry and stay married.

Index of Belonging, Ethnic Groups

Source: American Community Survey 2008



Most Black Americans today grow up in broken families and suffer their parents rejecting each other. (Other ethnic children do also, but less so.) Note:

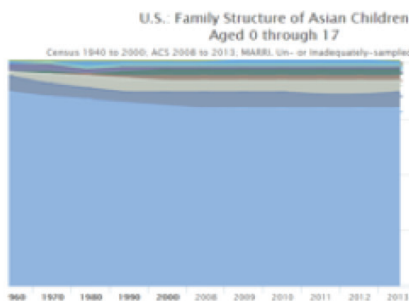


Compare the Black family to the Asian American family over the past decades:

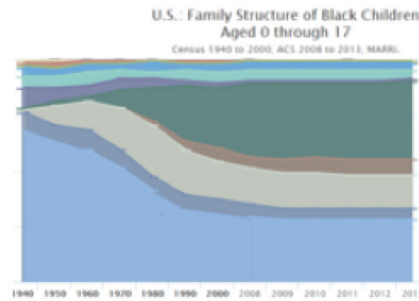
[To explore this further search and study “The Decomposition of the American Family Over Time” by Henry Potrykus, formerly with MARRI.]

Family Structures of Children Aged 0-17 1960/1940 to 2013

Asian American Children



Black American Children



Light Blue is the always intact married family

Asian families have the highest median income in the United States, far higher than ethnically European families. All markers indicate this is directly related to their culture of family. Parents pass on a lot to their children, one of the strongest being social capacity. This learned complementarity between husband and wife is the great strength that keeps on giving across generations. The rejection between husband and wife also keeps on giving — more brokenness across generations. The more splitting in a family's history, the more the children will split.

Where did this loss of freedom come from? Was this something imposed on Black Americans? Imposed on their church-going families? Where did this rejection virus come from? How is it so endemic even among church-goers?

And keep in mind, this is one black parent rejecting the other. It was influenced but not imposed from outside. If black leaders can build unity in the Black family, they can solve, not only their own problems but also white, Hispanic and Native American too. Such leaders will become national heroes.

How is this done? We can put men and women on the moon. But we do not know how build marriage for a lifetime. How do Asian Americans do it? Can they transfer it? Nothing would yield greater dividends to the nation nor restore to Black Americans the freedom most of them have lost.

COMPREHENSIVE ACTION STEPS

The challenges faced by Black communities require actionable solutions rooted in self-reliance, family stability, educational opportunity, economic empowerment, and public safety. The following steps align with Every Black Life Matters' mission to foster empowerment, reduce reliance on government systems, and restore prosperity through practical, community-driven strategies.

FAMILY STABILITY

1. **Reform Welfare Policies:** Welfare systems must be restructured to eliminate marriage penalties and instead reward family cohesion. Families where fathers marry and live within the household should receive more financial incentives than single-parent households.⁴⁴ These reforms, tied to sunset clauses, ensure long-term effectiveness while avoiding dependency.
2. **Promote Fatherhood Engagement:** Fathers are essential to family stability. Mentorship programs must connect fathers with resources like legal aid, parenting skills, and financial support.⁴⁵ Churches and nonprofits should lead efforts to reclaim fatherhood's role as a cornerstone of strong families.
3. **Leverage Faith-Based Organizations:** Faith-based institutions have been pillars of Black communities. Expanding counseling services, parenting workshops, and youth mentorship programs through these organizations can foster resilience and stability.⁴⁶ Partnerships with businesses and philanthropists can fund these initiatives to ensure wide availability.
4. **Address Immigration's Impact on Family Dynamics:** Mitigate the economic strain illegal immigration places on Black families by ensuring immigration policies prioritize legal, orderly processes that do not reduce job opportunities or access to resources for Black families.⁴⁷

EDUCATION REFORM

1. **Expand School Vouchers and Parental Choice:** Empower families to choose the best educational environment for their children through school vouchers. These programs enable access to private, charter, or homeschool options, especially for families trapped in failing public schools.⁴⁸
2. **Ban the Dumbing Down of Education for Black Students:** Establish a federal mandate that prohibits the lowering of educational standards for Black students in an effort to achieve equity. Instead, schools should focus on providing high-quality, rigorous instruction to ensure all students are challenged and prepared for success.⁴⁹
3. **Support Charter Schools and Technical Education:** Invest in charter schools in underserved communities and incentivize corporations to fund trade schools offering practical, marketable skills.⁵⁰ Trade education ensures students graduate prepared for in-demand careers.
4. **Restrict Federal Overreach in Curricula:** End federal mandates that impose controversial curricula without parental consent. Public schools must respect parental authority in shaping their children's education, particularly in areas like sex education and gender ideology.⁵¹

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

1. **Eliminate the Minimum Wage for Young Black Workers:** Remove minimum wage requirements for Black youth with low literacy levels, allowing them to enter the workforce at wages reflective of their skills while gaining experience and training.⁵² This will create pathways for them to grow into higher-paying roles through performance and development.
2. **Simplify Licensing and Regulatory Burdens:** Reduce licensing requirements and regulations that disproportionately hinder Black entrepreneurs.⁵³ Simplified processes will encourage innovation and enable more individuals to start and grow businesses.
3. **Expand Access to Capital:** Partner with banks and private lenders to provide microloans and grants tailored to Black-owned small businesses. Tax incentives can further encourage corporate investments in underserved communities.⁵⁴
4. **Promote Financial Literacy:** Community organizations must offer financial literacy workshops on budgeting, investing, and debt management.⁵⁵ Equipping families with these skills will foster generational wealth and self-reliance.

JUSTICE AND SAFETY

1. **Expand First Step Act Reforms:** Build on the bipartisan successes of the First Step Act by advocating for additional sentencing reforms, including retroactive adjustments for non-violent offenders disproportionately impacted by the 1994 Crime Bill.⁵⁶
2. **Reform Laws Shielding Bad Police Officers:** Advocate for legal reforms that increase accountability for law enforcement officers involved in misconduct, while ensuring protections for the majority of police officers who serve their communities with integrity.⁵⁷ These changes will rebuild trust in the justice system and create safer neighborhoods.
3. **Develop Community Safety Initiatives:** Partner with local law enforcement, churches, and community leaders to reduce gang violence through mentorship programs, vocational training, and recreational opportunities for at-risk youth.⁵⁸



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

1. **Expand Preventive and Holistic Healthcare Access:** Advocate for mobile health clinics and partnerships with local organizations to provide preventive care, screenings for chronic illnesses, and mental health counseling.⁵⁹
2. **Promote Mental Health Awareness:** Community organizations must lead initiatives to destigmatize mental health issues and provide accessible counseling services for trauma, depression, and anxiety.⁶⁰
3. **Integrate Wellness Programs into Schools:** Schools should incorporate wellness programs that teach nutrition, physical fitness, and stress management, fostering lifelong healthy habits.⁶¹

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND REPRESENTATION

1. **Strengthen Election Integrity:** Advocate for voter ID requirements and restrict voting to U.S. citizens to safeguard the integrity of elections and amplify Black community voices.⁶²
2. **Address Voter Disenfranchisement:** Investigate and rectify illegal voting practices that dilute Black voices. Community education efforts should empower voters to participate in elections fully informed of their rights.⁶³
3. **Develop Leadership Training Programs:** Civic leadership academies must train and inspire the next generation of Black leaders to increase political engagement and representation.⁶⁴

A VISION FOR 2025 AND BEYOND

By focusing on these comprehensive steps, Every Black Life Matters will advance its mission of empowering families, protecting children, and promoting economic and social stability. These measures, rooted in self-reliance and community-driven solutions, will create a future where every individual and community thrives.



CLOSING THOUGHTS

Over the past year, Black communities in America have faced profound challenges rooted in systemic barriers, inefficient policies, and societal shifts that have undermined traditional sources of strength like family cohesion, economic independence, and community self-reliance. As outlined in this report, the path forward demands a return to foundational principles: empowering families, promoting education choice, encouraging entrepreneurship, reforming justice systems, addressing health disparities, and fostering civic engagement. Together, these initiatives provide a holistic and actionable framework for restoring stability, prosperity, and dignity to Black communities.

FAMILY STABILITY

- Welfare policies must be reformed to eliminate marriage penalties and incentivize family cohesion.
- Mentorship programs should be expanded to engage fathers and support their role in family life.
- Faith-based organizations must be mobilized to provide counseling, parenting workshops, and other resources to strengthen families.

EDUCATION REFORM

- Expand school choice through vouchers, charter schools, and technical education opportunities.
- Empower parents by ensuring they have a decisive role in shaping their children's education.
- End federal overreach and controversial mandates that undermine trust in the education system.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- Reduce licensing requirements and simplify tax codes to remove barriers for Black entrepreneurs.

- Expand microloan programs tailored to Black-owned businesses to increase access to capital.
- Promote financial literacy programs and mentorship opportunities to prepare young entrepreneurs for success.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

- Build on the success of the First Step Act to advocate for additional sentencing reforms and rehabilitation programs.
- Address the legacy of the 1994 Crime Bill by ensuring equitable policing and community-led safety initiatives.
- Partner with community leaders to reduce gang violence through mentorship and vocational training.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Address health disparities with voluntary, market-based initiatives such as private charities and corporate investments in wellness programs.
- Incentivize professional volunteerism through tax credits for doctors and other healthcare providers.
- Partner with faith-based organizations and local farms to restore holistic health networks and address food deserts.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND REPRESENTATION

- Strengthen election integrity by implementing voter ID laws and addressing illegal voting practices.
- Inspire future civic leaders through leadership training programs that reflect community values.
- Ensure resources are allocated equitably to Black communities to foster trust and participation in governance.

A Unified Vision for 2025 and Beyond

This report underscores the interconnectedness of family, education, economy, health, justice, and civic engagement in building a brighter future for Black communities. Every Black Life Matters remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering empowerment through practical, community-driven strategies rooted in self-reliance, accountability, and opportunity. By holding administrations accountable and advancing actionable solutions, we can ensure that every family, individual, and community has the resources and support needed to thrive.

As we look ahead, the lessons of the past must inform our path forward. Together, we can rebuild the foundational pillars of Black life in America, creating a legacy of resilience, hope, and prosperity for generations to come.

APPENDIX ONE

CRIME BILL VS FIRST STEP

The juxtaposition of Joe Biden’s 1994 Crime Bill and Donald Trump’s First Step Act reveals stark contrasts in their impacts on Black families and communities. The 1994 Crime Bill, designed to curb crime, instead entrenched systemic inequities, disproportionately targeting Black communities. Conversely, the First Step Act, a bipartisan achievement of the Trump administration, sought to rectify some of these injustices by prioritizing rehabilitation and family reunification.

THE 1994 CRIME BILL: A LEGACY OF HARM

The 1994 Crime Bill, authored by Joe Biden, introduced measures that exacerbated the mass incarceration crisis. Its emphasis on “tough on crime” policies led to mandatory minimum sentences and three-strike laws, which disproportionately impacted Black Americans. The over-policing of urban neighborhoods, combined with these draconian sentencing laws, led to the incarceration of thousands of Black men, often for nonviolent offenses. The repercussions extended beyond the incarcerated individuals; families were shattered, with children growing up in fatherless homes, creating a cycle of poverty and instability that persists today.

The bill also incentivized states to build more prisons and adopt harsher sentencing guidelines. This punitive approach ignored the underlying socio-economic issues fueling crime, such as unemployment, lack of educational opportunities, and systemic racism. Instead of addressing these root causes, the legislation criminalized poverty and entrenched racial disparities within the justice system. Over time, the burden of these policies became evident as communities saw increased poverty, generational trauma, and limited pathways to economic mobility.

THE FIRST STEP ACT: A BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE

The Trump administration’s First Step Act marked a significant departure from the punitive measures of the 1994 Crime Bill. Passed in 2018 with bipartisan support, it focused on criminal justice reform, rehabilitation, and reducing recidivism. Key provisions included retroactive sentence reductions for nonviolent drug offenses, increased opportunities for inmates to earn early release through good behavior, and investment in programs aimed at preparing individuals for reentry into society.

For Black families, the First Step Act provided a lifeline. Thousands of individuals were released from federal prisons, many of whom had been serving disproportionately long sentences for minor offenses. The law emphasized restoring families and communities by enabling incarcerated individuals to reintegrate into society as contributing members. It recognized that healthy communities are built on strong family units and that criminal justice policies must support, not undermine, these foundations.

Unlike the Crime Bill's focus on punishment, the First Step Act championed rehabilitation. Programs aimed at addressing substance abuse, mental health, and vocational training were prioritized, reflecting a commitment to tackling the socio-economic factors driving criminal behavior. This approach not only reduced prison populations but also offered a path to redemption and self-sufficiency for individuals.

LESSONS AND THE WAY FORWARD

The contrasting impacts of these two policies highlight the need for justice systems that prioritize equity and community well-being. The 1994 Crime Bill serves as a cautionary tale of how overreach in policy can devastate entire communities, particularly those already marginalized. Meanwhile, the First Step Act demonstrates the power of reform-oriented policies that address systemic inequalities and aim to rebuild rather than punish.

Every Black Life Matters (EBLM) has consistently advocated for justice reforms that focus on restoring families and communities. By exposing the failures of the Crime Bill and championing the successes of the First Step Act, EBLM underscores the importance of policies rooted in accountability, rehabilitation, and empowerment. These principles are not only essential for achieving justice but are also fundamental to creating thriving communities and strong families.

As we look to the future, the lessons of these two pieces of legislation must inform our approach to criminal justice reform. Policies must aim to repair the harm caused by past injustices, dismantle systemic racism, and prioritize the well-being of families. In doing so, we can ensure a legacy of hope, resilience, and opportunity for generations to come.

APPENDIX TWO - ENDNOTES

- 1 How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, p. 12.
- 2 Ibid., pp. 22–25.
- 3 Ibid., pp. 28–30
- 4 Pew Research Center, “Black Marriage and Family Life Trends,” accessed November 2024, <https://www.pewresearch.org/marriage-family-trends>
- 5 How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 35–40.
- 6 National Housing Alliance, “Impact of Redlining and Urban Renewal Policies,” accessed November 2024, <https://housingalliance.org/redlining-impact>.
- 7 How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 42–45.
- 8 How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 50–55.
- 9 U.S. Census Bureau, “Black Marriage Rates: 1960,” accessed November 2024, <https://www.census.gov/marriage-rates>.
- 10 How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 60–62.
- 11 Pew Research Center, “Family Life Trends,” accessed November 2024, <https://pewresearch.org/family-life-trends>.
- 12 How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5 pp. 65–70.
- 13 Ibid., pp. 72–75.
- 14 How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 75–78.
- 15 U.S. Department of Justice, “Father Absence and Youth Outcomes,” accessed November 2024, <https://justice.gov/father-absence-outcomes>.
- 16 How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 80–85
- 17 Ibid., pp. 85–90.
- 18 Ibid., pp. 90–95.
- 19 National Center for Family Policy, “Biases in Family Court Systems,” accessed November 2024, <https://family-policy.org/court-biases>.
- 20 How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 125–128.
- 21 How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 90–92.
- 22 National Center for Education Statistics, “Charter School Access,” accessed November 2024, <https://nces.ed.gov/charter-schools>.
- 23 How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 95–100.
- 24 Ibid., pp. 100–105.
- 25 National Literacy Initiative, “Decline in Black Literacy Rates,” accessed November 2024, <https://literacyinitiative.org>.
- 26 How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 110–112.
- 27 Ibid., pp. 115–118

- 28** National Voucher Advocacy Group, “Policy Recommendations for School Choice,” accessed November 2024, <https://voucheradvocacy.org>.
- 29** How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 118–120
- 30** Ibid., pp. 125–130.
- 31** Ibid., pp. 135–140.
- 32** National Center for Education Statistics, “Graduation Rate Trends,” accessed November 2024, <https://nces.ed.gov/graduation-rates>
- 33** How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 140–145.
- 34** Black Churches, Community, and Development – Shelterforce, shelterforce.org/2001/01/01/black-churches-community-and-development
- 35** <https://northcarolinahistory.org/commentary/segregation-did-not-stifle-self-help-efforts-in-black-communities/>
- 36** Private Charities vs. Welfare State: Which Is More Effective – American Private Charities Association, ampamerica.com/private-charities-vs-welfare-state-which-is-more-effective
- 37** Do Government Grants to Charities Crowd Out Private Donations? – National Bureau of Economic Research, nber.org/reporter/2019number1/do-government-grants-charities-crowd-private-donations-out
- 38** How Does Government Welfare Stack Up Against Private Charity? It’s No Contest – Foundation for Economic Education, fee.org/articles/how-does-government-welfare-stack-up-against-private-charity-it-s-no-contest
- 39** Charitable Deduction: Tax Incentives & Charitable Giving, taxfoundation.org/blog/charitable-deduction-tax-incentives
- 40** Empowering Healthcare Choice: The Triumphs of Deregulation – Goldwater Institute, goldwaterinstitute.org/empowering-healthcare-choice-the-triumphs-of-deregulation
- 41** Do Government Grants to Charities Crowd Out Private Donations? – National Bureau of Economic Research, nber.org/reporter/2019number1/do-government-grants-charities-crowd-private-donations-out
- 42** Empowering Healthcare Choice: The Triumphs of Deregulation – Goldwater Institute, goldwaterinstitute.org/empowering-healthcare-choice-the-triumphs-of-deregulation
- 43** Community-Supported Agriculture and Nutrition Programs, csa.org/resources/nutrition-solutions
- 44** How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 150–155
- 45** Ibid., pp. 155–160.
- 46** National Faith-Based Partnerships, “Engaging Communities for Change,” accessed November 2024, <https://faithpartnerships.org>.
- 47** National Policy Institute, “Immigration’s Economic Impact,” accessed November 2024, <https://policyinstitute.org>.
- 48** National Voucher Advocacy Group, “Policy Recommendations for School Choice,” accessed November 2024, <https://voucheradvocacy.org>.
- 49** Public Charter Alliance, “Charter School Expansion Barriers,” accessed November 2024, <https://publiccharterschools.org>
- 50** How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5 pp. 175–180
- 51** How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 180–185.
- 52** National Black Youth Opportunity Initiative, “Removing Barriers to Workforce Entry,” accessed November 2024, <https://youthopportunity.org>.
- 53** Small Business Administration, “Microloan and Capital Access Trends,” accessed November 2024, <https://sba.gov/microloan-access>.
- 54** National Black Business Report, “Access to Capital in Minority Communities,” accessed November 2024, <https://blackbusinessreport.org>.

- 55** Digital Entrepreneurship Initiative, “Empowering Black Entrepreneurs,” accessed November 2024, <https://dei.org>
- 56** U.S. Department of Justice, “First Step Act Updates,” accessed November 2024, <https://justice.gov/first-step-act>
- 57** National Policing Reform Initiative, “Rebuilding Trust in Law Enforcement,” accessed November 2024, <https://policereform.org>.
- 58** National Gang Intervention Network, “Breaking the Cycle of Violence,” accessed November 2024, <https://gangintervention.org>.
- 59** How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 205–210.
- 60** How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 210–215
- 61** Ibid., pp. 215–220
- 62** National Election Integrity Project, “Strengthening U.S. Democracy,” accessed November 2024, <https://electionintegrity.org>.
- 63** How to Stop Racism in America, Rational Free Press, 2024, Edition 1.5, pp. 220–225
- 64** Civic Engagement Leadership Academy, “Building Black Leaders,” accessed November 2024, <https://civicleadership.org>

EVERY BLACK LIFE MATTERS &
INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT
SAYS...

THANK YOU!

Every Black Life
Matters is a 501c3
non-profit agency.

WEBSITE

www.EveryBLM.com/ifca

ADDRESS

539 W Commerce St.#2451
Dallas, Texas 75208

EMAIL

Info@EveryBLM.com



EBLM CONTACT: