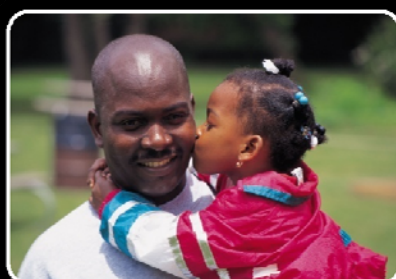


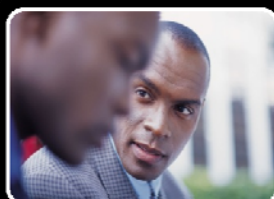
Kentucky Commission on Human Rights



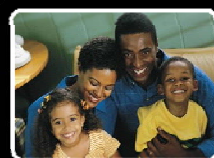
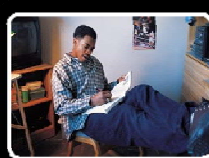
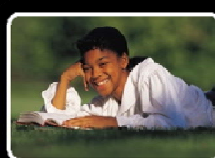
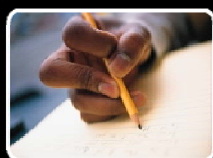
THE STATE OF



AFRICAN AMERICANS



IN KENTUCKY



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Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

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Introduction

It has been said that African American Heritage Month is not only a time for celebration, but also a time for reflection and change. It is a period to recall the stony road African Americans have trod; it is a period to assess the state of current affairs and to plot a course to make positive changes.

Black History Month began in 1926 as Negro History Week by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, as a way to bring attention to the positive contributions of black people in American history. Woodson's achievements alone are of great historical value. The son of former slaves, Woodson worked in the Kentucky coal mines to put himself through high school. He graduated from Berea College in Kentucky in 1903 and then went on to Harvard for his Ph.D. In 1926, Woodson began promoting the second week of February as Negro History Week. In 1976, it became the United States Black History Month. Woodson selected February because it coincided with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas.

A century later, the struggle for fairness and equality still exists at all levels of our society despite the great progress and achievements our state and nation have made.

While African Americans remain the largest minority in Kentucky, they also remain the people with some of the greatest disadvantages in the socio-economic structure. They still linger in educational attainments; have inordinate and high poverty levels; face racial disparity in the criminal justice system; and are underrepresented in many elected and appointed positions. Our state and national communities need improvements in policies and practices in ways that will result in a more equal society in the areas of business and employment, education, housing, financial transactions, healthcare and help-related funding.

The effects of long institutional racism may seem almost as great as the achievement of the Civil Rights Movement, but we can continue to help wipe out remaining vestiges of the past practices of segregation and the double standards of discrimination.

Kentucky strives to be a state where equality and equal opportunity are not just ideas, but are way of life. We agree with Governor Steve Beshear's statement, "It is time that racism in Kentucky be relegated to where it belongs; as a sad footnote in Kentucky history."

African American Demographics in Kentucky

Population, Sex and Age

According to 2005-2007 American Community Survey (Census Bureau), the population of Kentucky is **4,206,074**.¹

Minorities consist of **11.7%** of Kentucky's total population

- ✓ African American **7.5%**
- ✓ American Indians/Alaskans **0.2%**
- ✓ Asian **1%**
- ✓ Two races **1%**
- ✓ Hispanic **2%**

African Americans are the largest minority in Kentucky.

There are 317,653 African Americans in Kentucky:

- ✓ Female: 163,033 or 51.3%
- ✓ Male: 154,620 or 48.7%

- ✓ Female between 18 and 34 years: **40,515** or **24.8%**
- ✓ Female between 35 and 64 years: **60,595** or **37.1%**
- ✓ Male between 18 and 34 years: **40,992** or **26.5%**
- ✓ Male between 35 and 64 years: **55,676** or **36%**

Nearly **60%** of African Americans are concentrated in Jefferson and Fayette Counties:

- ✓ Jefferson County: **145,179** or **46.1%**
- ✓ Fayette County: **40,140** or **12.8%**
- ✓ Christian County: **18,426** or **5.89%**
- ✓ Hardin County: **11,860** or **3.79%**
- ✓ Warren County: **9,405** or **3.01%**
- ✓ Kenton County: **8,133** or **2.6%**
- ✓ McCracken County: **7,511** or **2.4%**
- ✓ Franklin County: **5,356** or **1.71%**
- ✓ Daviess County: **4,985** or **1.59%**

¹ 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates. [Hhttp://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/21000.html](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/21000.html)

Nativity and Geographic Mobility

- ✓ **73.8%** of African Americans are born in the state of Kentucky
- ✓ **23.2%** of African Americans are born in a state other than Kentucky
- ✓ **2.16%** of African Americans are foreign born

- ✓ **76.2%** of African Americans lived in the same house 1 year ago
- ✓ **15.25%** of African Americans moved within the same county
- ✓ **3.72%** of African Americans moved from different county within the same state
- ✓ **4.32%** of African Americans moved from a different state

Education

Number of Students

During the 2006-07-school year, there were 668,337 students in all Kentucky's public schools, according to the Kentucky Department of Education.

- ✓ White – 84.2%
- ✓ African American – **10.6%**
- ✓ Hispanic – 2%
- ✓ Asian – less than 1%
- ✓ Native American – less than 1%
- ✓ Other – 1.7%

Student's Level of Education

For the same school year, there were **100,752** African Americans enrolled in all education institutions in Kentucky, according to the Census Bureau data.

- ✓ Enrolled in nursery and kindergarten: **11,864** or **11.7%**
- ✓ Enrolled in grade 1 to grade 8: **41,186** or **40.8%**
- ✓ Enrolled in grade 9 to grade 12: **23,619** or **23.4%**
- ✓ Enrolled in college or graduate school: **24,083** or **24%**

Student's Educational Attainment

Out of the 186,256 African Americans who were 25 years of age and over (2007 Census data):

- ✓ Educational attainment less than 9th grade: **5%** (46.4% male, 53.6% female)
- ✓ 9th to 12th grade with no diploma: **16%** (48.3% male, 51.7% female)
- ✓ High school graduate (including equivalency): **36%** (48.4% male, 51.6% female)
- ✓ Some college and no degree: **23.6%** (44% male, 56% female)
- ✓ Associate's degree: **7%** (42% male, 58% female)
- ✓ Bachelor's degree: **8.5%** (47% male, 53% female); the percentage for the White population is 12%
- ✓ Graduate degree: **4%** (42% male, 58% female); the percentage for the White population is 8%

Dropout Rate

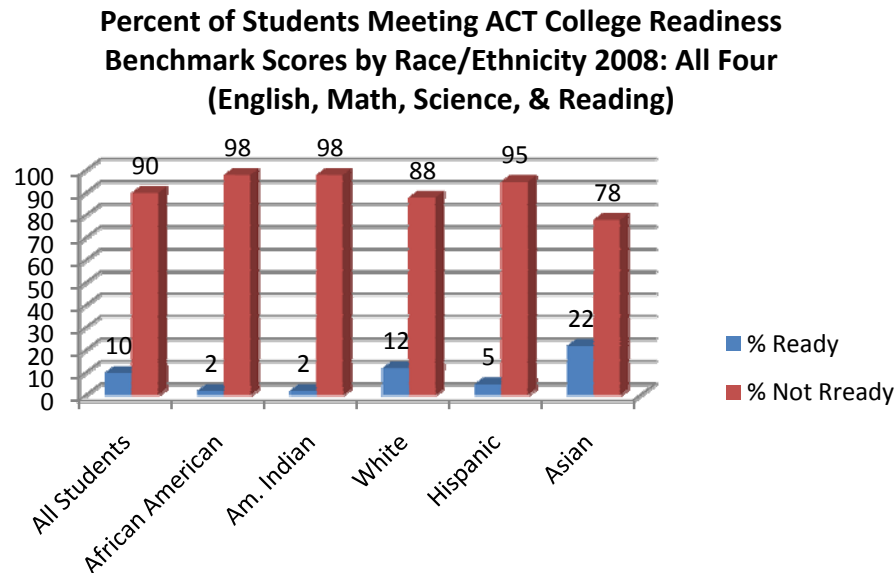
- ✓ The state dropout rate for academic year 2006-2007 is 3.17%.
- ✓ The African American dropout rate continues to be greater than that of the White dropout rate.
- ✓ The White dropout rate slightly decreased from 3.22% in 2004 to 3.21% in 2005.
- ✓ The African American dropout rate increased from 4.56% in 2004 to 5.92% in 2005.

Kentucky Dropout Rate By Race
1999-2005 - Grades 7-12

Year	African American	White
1999	7.00%	4.81%
2000	7.81%	4.84%
2001	6.95%	4.53%
2002	5.61%	3.81%
2003	4.45%	3.23%
2004	4.56%	3.22%
2005	5.92%	3.21%

ACT Preparedness

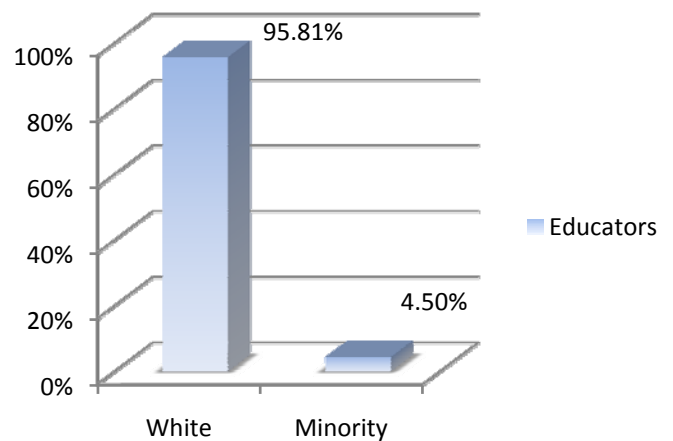
According to the ACT State Test Profile Report² prepared by the Kentucky Department of Education, which provides information about the performance of public high school students who took the ACT as juniors in Spring 2008, only 10% met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores (English, Reading, Math, and Science). However, breaking this percentage along the racial/ethnic line, African Americans ranked the lowest, with only 2% who met the ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores.



African American Teachers

There is a severe shortage of minority teachers in Kentucky's public schools. Kentucky has only 4.5% of minority teachers in proportion to 13% of minority students. Furthermore, in the 1953-54-school year, 6.8% of the teachers were African American, and in the 2007-08 school year, that percentage dropped to 3.7%.³ In other words, there were more African American teachers in the 1950s than in 2007 in proportion to White teachers.

Educators in Kentucky's Public Schools for 2007-08



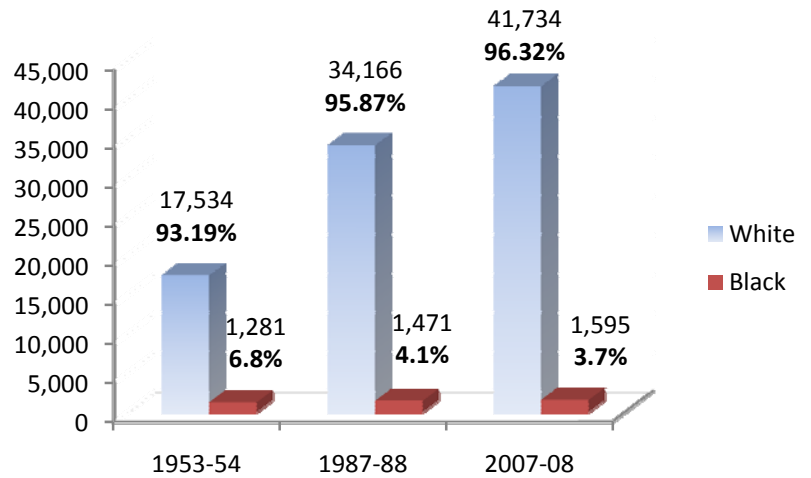
² <http://www.kde.state.ky.us/KDE/Administrative+Resources/Testing+and+Reporting+/Reports/H>

³ Minority Educators in Kentucky's Public Schools, KCHR Publication. Report can be found at: <http://kchr.ky.gov/reports/reports.htm>

The 4.5% of minority educators is composed of:

- 3.7% African American
- 0.4% Asian
- 0.2% American Indian
- 0.03% Hispanic
- 0.1% Other

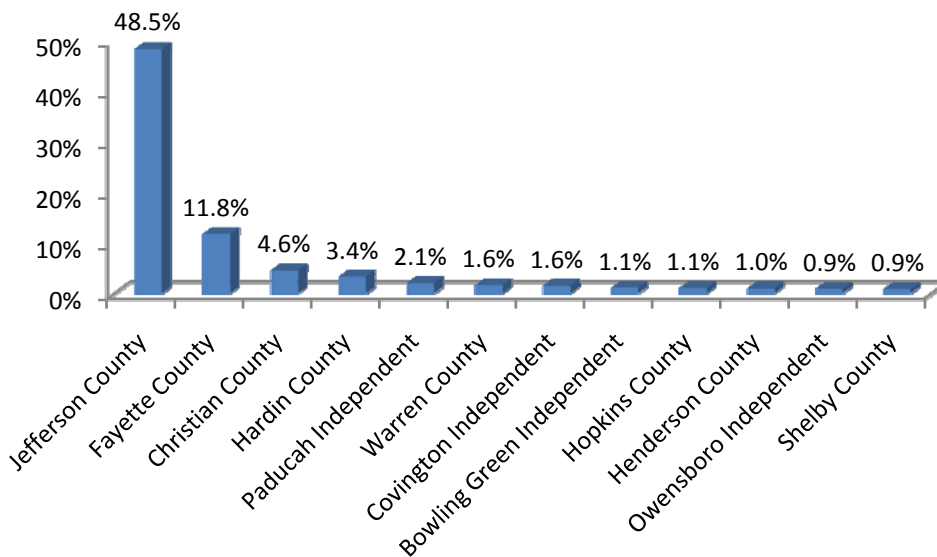
Number of Black and White Teachers Employed by Kentucky Public Schools 1953-54 Through 2007-08



Geographical Concentration of African American Students

Nearly 80% of all African American students enrolled in Kentucky’s public schools are concentrated in just 12 of the state’s 174 school districts. The twelve school districts with the largest number of African American students were, in order of total enrollment: Jefferson, Fayette, Christian, Hardin, Paducah, Warren, Covington, Bowling Green, Hopkins, Henderson, Owensboro, and Shelby.

Percentage of African American Students by Total Enrollment 2006-2007-School Year



African Americans and Educational Representation

There are 174 school districts in Kentucky run by 33 female superintendents and 141 male superintendents; there is only one minority superintendent.

The Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) is a nonprofit corporation of school boards from each public school district in Kentucky. It is governed by a 27-member board of directors made up of representatives elected as regional chairpersons or as directors-at-large.⁴ There are three African Americans serving in the board of directors. With nearly 900 members, KSBA is the largest organization of elected officials in Kentucky. There are 810 White (93%), 35 minorities (4%) and 28 not reported (3%).⁵

Case Study of Jefferson County District

In a 2008 study conducted by Richard G. Innes, “*How Whites and African Americans Perform In Jefferson County Public Schools*,”⁶ he concludes that during the 18 years since KERA’s (Kentucky Education Reform Act) enactment, serious questions have arisen regarding the performance of Kentucky’s public schools in meeting that goal for all children, especially African American students. The Jefferson County district holds the state’s largest number of African American students, that is, 48.5%.

The study shows:

- African Americans remain well behind academically in the key subjects of reading and mathematics. In a significant number of Jefferson County schools – 47 out of the 120 schools with usable data on reading and 44 out of 120 for math – the gap between White and African American students is widening.
- Graduation rates remain extremely low for significant numbers of African Americans – especially African American males – in the majority of Louisville’s public high schools. African American males in only three of the 19 high schools in the study had graduation rates equal to or greater than the statewide graduation rate for all students. The graduation rate also is low for African American females and even for White students in these 19 schools. Two of these schools reported abysmal graduation rates of less than 60%.

Efforts to improve education, especially for African American students, have failed to produce anything close to acceptable results in Jefferson County. The continued poor performance discussed in the report shows the need for aggressive action.⁷

Achievement Gap

In 2006, the Kentucky Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in its report, “Equal Education Opportunity: An Analysis of the Racial Achievement Gap in Kentucky Urban Schools,” indicated that “a large and persistent achievement gap between African American students and their peers is a national phenomenon, and such a phenomenon is also present in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This situation has been part of the education landscape for decades, and no real headway has been made to close this gap despite legislation at both state and federal levels. Though most likely the interplay of a number of factors, the Kentucky

⁴ <http://www.ksba.org/bodH>

⁵ <http://www.kde.state.ky.us/News+Room/Kentucky+Education+Facts.htm>

⁶ <http://bipps.org/pubs/2008/policypoint102008.pdf>

⁷ ibi

Advisory Committee finds that regardless of other factors such as teacher quality, family structure, class size, or racial isolation, poverty matters and acts to impede academic achievement. This is not to say that “poor” children cannot learn, but rather that they are not learning at a satisfactory level in schools with high numbers of low-income children”.⁸

The Civil Rights Project Research

At the request of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, the Civil Rights Project, a leading organization devoted to civil rights research, conducted a research to assess what has been accomplished in successfully diversifying and desegregating historically segregated and unequal higher educational institutions across Kentucky. In September 2008, the research delivered the findings and asserted that “at the postsecondary level, affirmative admissions policy is a very important issue but there are many other dimensions that are involved in truly opening up a higher education system to all. There is strong research showing that students and families across the country from all racial and ethnic groups share high aspirations for college education, but that the pipelines carrying students from one level of education to another are dangerously leaky, especially for African American and Latino students, and for students living in long-term poverty. The Kentucky data show a massive loss of students before high school graduation, a relatively low enrollment in four-year colleges, a poor transfer rate from the community and technical colleges to the four-year campuses, and very serious loss of students who come to college but fail to graduate. In other words, the opportunity pipeline has gigantic holes and Kentucky is losing much of its talent at a number of key transition points. The leaks tend to be more serious for African American students, which compounds the inequalities. It is essential to understand where students are lost as they pass through the system and to consider strategies to repair the severe leakage.”⁹

⁸ “Equal Education Opportunity: An Analysis of the Racial Achievement Gap In Kentucky Urban Schools,” The Kentucky Advisory Committee To the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. 2006. [Hhttp://www.law.umaryland.edu/marshall/usccr/documents/cr1200613.pdf](http://www.law.umaryland.edu/marshall/usccr/documents/cr1200613.pdf)H

⁹ “Building on Success: Educational Diversity and Equity in Kentucky Higher Education,” The Civil Rights Project. September 2008. [Hhttp://www.civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/diversity/building_on_success_kt.pdf](http://www.civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/diversity/building_on_success_kt.pdf)H

African American Socio-economic Status

Per Capita Income

In the past 12 months (in 2007 inflation-adjusted dollars), Kentucky’s per capita income¹⁰ (PCI) was \$21,618; White PCI was \$22,323 while the African American PCI was 46% less (\$15,287), American Indian PCI was 27% less (17,599), and the Hispanic PCI was 57% less (\$14,238).

The following counties represent more than 80% of the African American population in Kentucky.

- ✓ Jefferson County: **\$15,703** for African American and **\$28,654** for White
- ✓ Fayette County: **\$16,088** for African American and **\$30,377** for White
- ✓ Christian County: **\$12,815** for African American and **\$19,371** for White
- ✓ Hardin County: **\$20,083** for African American and **\$23,007** for White
- ✓ Warren County: **\$14,086** for African American and **\$24,629** for White
- ✓ Kenton County: **\$16,644** for African American and **\$26,924** for White
- ✓ McCracken County: **\$13,392** for African American and **\$24,828** for White
- ✓ Franklin County: **\$15,796** for African American and **\$27,489** for White
- ✓ Daviess County: **\$12,559** for African American and **\$22,665** for White

Per Capita Income in the Past 12 Months
(in 2007 inflation-adjusted dollars)

State	White	African American
Indiana	\$24,855	\$16,131
Ohio	\$25,746	\$15,862
Tennessee	\$24,904	\$15,240
West Virginia	\$20,321	\$14,335

¹⁰ **Per capita income** means how much each individual receives, in monetary terms, of the yearly income generated in the country. This is what each citizen is to receive if the yearly national income is divided equally among everyone.

Poverty Level

The percentage of the population with income below the poverty level in the past 12 months of 2007 in Kentucky was 17%. This percentage is almost twice among minorities. The number of African Americans with income below the poverty level is **30%** while the number of Whites with income below the poverty level is 15%.

2005-2007 American Community Survey (Census Bureau)

County	White Income Below Poverty Level	White Income Above Poverty Level	African American Income Below Poverty Level	African American Income Above Poverty Level
Christian County	13.9%	86.1%	26.0%	74.0%
Fayette County	12.7%	87.3%	30.4%	69.6%
Franklin County	12.9%	87.1%	N/A	N/A
Hardin County	11.0%	89.0%	N/A	N/A
Jefferson County	9.7%	90.3%	30.5%	69.5%
Kenton County	9.3%	90.7%	37.0%	63.0%
McCracken County	13.3%	86.7%	38.1%	61.9%
Warren County	14.8%	85.2%	36.3%	63.7%
Daviess	13.5%	86.5%	N/A	N/A

In 2005, Laura Ungar in her article, “Poverty fuels medical crisis,” noticed that “poverty is the single biggest reason Kentucky is one of America’s sickest states. Although cities fare better overall than poor rural areas, poverty takes its toll there too, and minority residents bear the brunt. In Jefferson County and throughout the state, a far greater percentage of African American residents than White residents live in poverty — almost 30%. The figures for Whites are 15% in the state and 8% in Jefferson County. African Americans in Louisville also die 66% more often than Whites from stroke, 29% more often from heart disease and 25% more often from cancer. These numbers reflect a national trend. Throughout the country, African Americans suffer from a greater burden of disease, from cardiovascular disease to cancer to diabetes to infant mortality, said Stephen Thomas, director of the Center for Minority Health at the University of Pittsburgh.”¹¹

Furthermore, unequal economic opportunities among races become evident in poverty rates by racial group. In 2005, child poverty rates in Kentucky were higher among groups that have experienced systemic lack of access to opportunities, at 30% for Hispanic/Latino children and **32%** for African American children, compared to 21% for non-Hispanic White children.¹²

¹¹ “Poverty fuels medical crisis” by Laura Ungar, Courier-Journal, September 25, 2005

¹² Data obtained from Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children, July 2008, processed by Kentucky Population Research at the University of Louisville Urban Studies Institute.

Housing

The average percentage of householders who own a home in Kentucky is 70.83%. This percentage drops sharply among minorities; only **43.16%** of African Americans own a home, 38% of Hispanics, and 58% of American Indians, compared to 73.67% of Whites who own homes.

The Metropolitan Housing Coalition in Jefferson County in its 2008 Metropolitan Housing Report indicated that the White population, which is 80% of Jefferson County, represents 86.8 % of all owner-occupied households. African Americans who represent 17% of the county’s total population account for only 11% of all owner-occupied housing units.

When considering homeownership in terms of race, minorities are at a much higher risk of receiving a poorly underwritten high-cost home loan. In addition, racial differences in lending increase as income levels increase. In the Louisville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), low and moderate-income (LMI) African Americans are almost twice as likely to have sub-prime mortgages (51.4%) as LMI Whites (27.1%). Shockingly, when considering middle and upper-income (MUI) African Americans compared to Whites, the discrepancy is even more pronounced. For MUI African Americans in the Louisville MSA, 41.6 percent of mortgages are sub-prime compared to 17.5 percent for MUI Whites (National Community Reinvestment Coalition, 2008). High-cost loans are intended to compensate for additional risk to lenders when the borrower has credit imperfections. This results in a loss of home equity because of higher payments made to lenders, as well as exposure to imprudent types of loans that are more likely to result in default and foreclosure.¹³

2005-2007 American Community Survey (Census Bureau)

County	White Owner	White Renter	African American Owner	African American Renter
Christian County	66.7%	33.3%	35.1%	64.9%
Fayette County	63.5%	36.5%	41.9%	58.1%
Franklin County	69.8%	30.2%	43.4%	56.6%
Hardin County	70.5%	29.5%	49.0%	51.0%
Jefferson County	74.0%	26.0%	40.0%	60.0%
Kenton County	72.5%	27.5%	28.2%	71.8%
McCracken County	73.4%	26.6%	37.9%	62.1%
Warren County	66.7%	33.3%	38.1%	61.9%
Daviess County	72.1%	27.9%	35.7%	64.3%

¹³ Metropolitan Housing Coalition, “State of Metropolitan Housing Report 2008”. H<http://www.metropolitanhousing.org>H

Children's Welfare

Nationally, African American children are overrepresented in child protective services from referral to placement in foster care. African American children and families are also treated differently; reports of abuse are more often substantiated and children spend longer times in foster care, for example.

Kentucky collaborated with the Annie E. Casey Foundation in August 2005 to understand and address this overrepresentation and disparate treatment. According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services¹⁴:

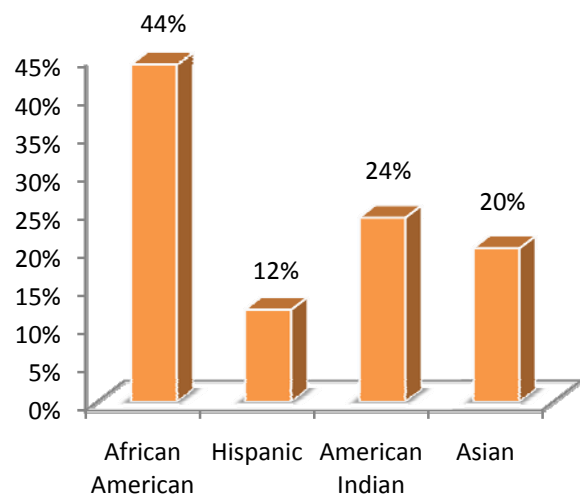
- African American children and families are referred by the community for child abuse and neglect at twice the rates that would be expected based on census data.
- Abuse is substantiated at higher rates (28%) for African American families compared to 24% for White families.
- African American children are in foster care at 2.5 times the rates expected based on census data.
- African American children spend more time in foster care, have more moves in foster care and are 20% less likely to be reunified with their parents.

Furthermore, when looking at figures from the Child Welfare System, African American children make up 43% of the total amount of children in out-of-home-care (datasource: TWS 058 - January, 2007). African American children in Jefferson County are over-represented in out-of-home care at a rate 2.8 times what is expected based on their representation in the census population.

African American-Owned Businesses

According to the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development 2006 Kentucky Minority-Owned Businesses report: Of the minority groups, there were more firms owned by African Americans than any other minority group. There were 5,629 firms owned by African Americans. These firms employed over 7,700 people, and they had over \$650 million in sales and receipts. A majority of the firms owned by African Americans were in the Services industry. Even though Asian & Pacific Islander-owned firms accounted for only 20% of the minority-owned firms in Kentucky, sales receipts from Asian and Pacific Islander-owned firms accounted for over half of all the sales and receipts from minority-owned businesses. Sales and receipts from these firms totaled \$1.29 billion, and they employed 11,843 people. Most of the firms owned by Asian and Pacific Islanders were in the Services industry.

Distribution of Minority-Owned Firms by the Number of Firms

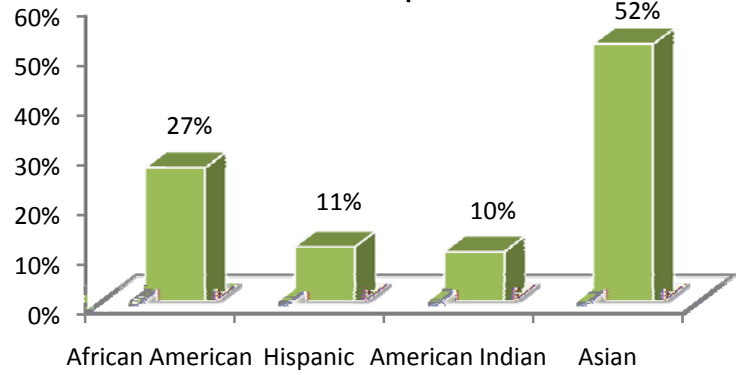


¹⁴ <http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/raceandcommunity.htm>

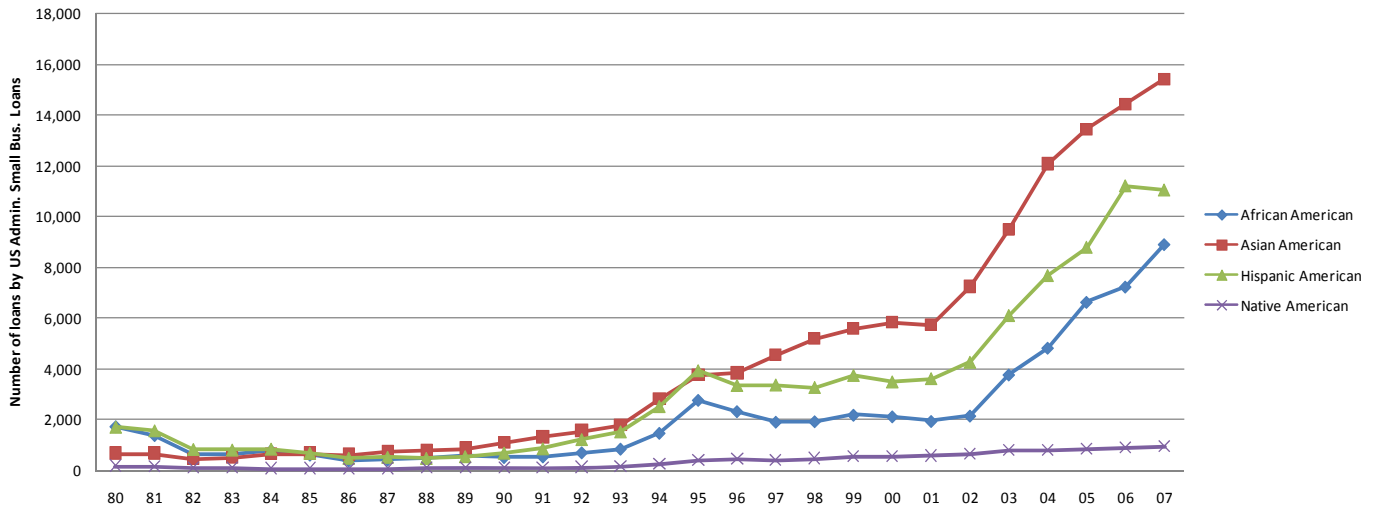
At the national level, the U.S. Small Business Administration number of loans given to minorities from 1980 to 2007 followed a similar pattern of growth, except for the Native American number, which remained flat.

The same pattern held in Kentucky for 2008; Native Indians received only 4 loans.

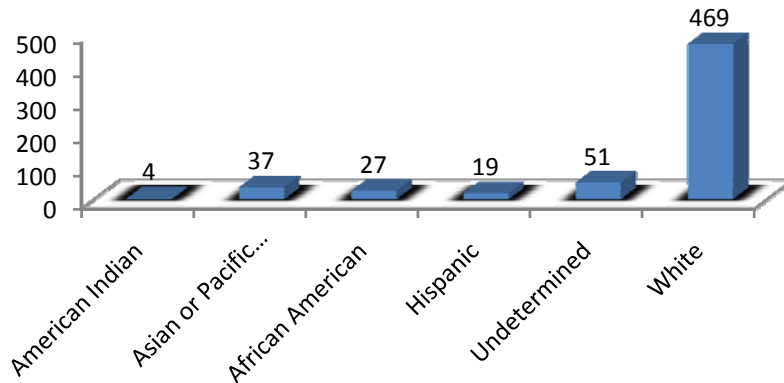
Distribution of Minority-Owned Firms by Sales and Receipts



US Small Business Administration Number of Loans to Minority-Owned Small Businesses 1980-2007

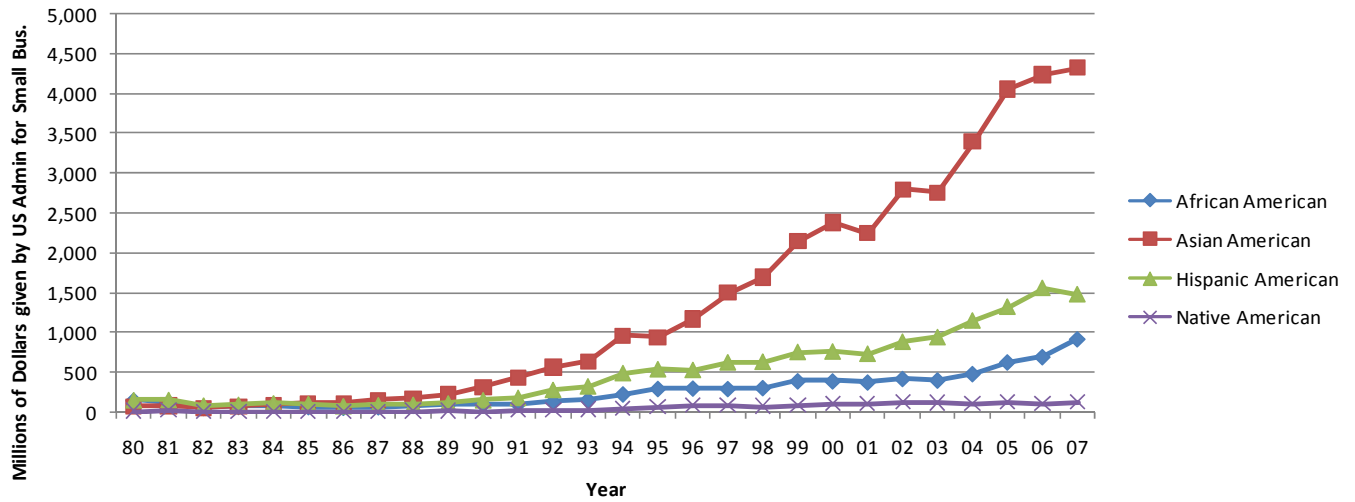


US Small Business Administration Number of Loans to Minority-Owned Small Businesses in Kentucky 2008

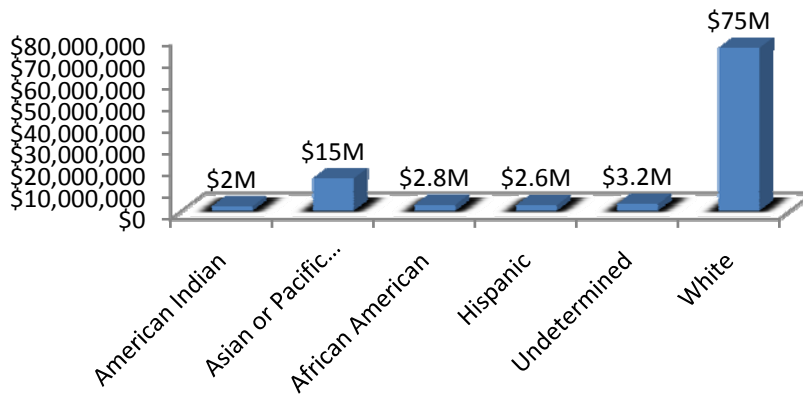


However, the amounts of loans given to minorities by the U.S. Small Business Administration were not at the same rate. For the last decade, from 1997 to 2007, African Americans received an average of 53.6% less than Asians did, and 11.5% less than Hispanics. For 2008 in Kentucky, African Americans received 12% less than Asians did, American Indians received the lowest amount totaling to 2 million-dollars.

Small Business Administration Amount of Loans to Minority-Owned Small Businesses Nationally 1980 - 2007



US Small Business Administration Amount of Loans to Minority-Owned Small Businesses in Kentucky 2008



Hate Incidents

- ❖ In November 2006, for Joshua Watkins, and Ronald Harrison, racism on the University of Kentucky campus extended beyond isolated incidents — it is an ongoing problem at the school, they said. Watkins returned to his UK residence hall room last year and found “Die” and a racial epithet scrawled across his door. During the 2007-08-school year, Harrison noticed a racial slur written on the wall of the bathroom in his residence hall. In the same month, an effigy of President-Elect Barack Obama hung by a noose from a tree on UK’s campus.
- ❖ The Ku Klux Klan, composed of 34 named groups with 164 chapters, was down by 15 chapters in 2006 according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. However, that dip came after years of growth, from 110 chapters in 2000 to 179 in 2005. Still, of that steep five-year rise, some 63%, apparently came more in the number of chapters than in actual Klansmen. There are likely between 6,000 and 8,000 Klansmen in all 34 Klan groups combined. The Dawson Springs Kentucky-based Imperial Klans of America (IKA), the largest Klan group in 2005, dropped by almost half to 23 chapters to become the second largest KKK membership. It fell behind the Illinois-based Brotherhood of Klans (BOK), which had 30 chapters in 2006. Imperial Wizard Dale Fox died in November, but was quickly replaced by Jeremy Parker.¹⁵
- ❖ Boone County's top prosecutor called for a tougher hate-crimes law in Kentucky after a cross was burned in an African American family’s yard in 2004. “There is no meat to Kentucky’s hate-crimes law,” said Boone County Commonwealth Attorney Linda Tally Smith. “The cross-burning just illustrates that hole in our statutes.” Smith is not alone in her view. The Anti-Defamation League says Kentucky is one of only five states that doesn’t increase the penalty if a crime is committed out of bias-based hate. Ohio included harsher punishments for such crimes. “It is unfortunate the cross-burning had to occur to bring to attention that Kentucky’s hate-crimes law is weak,” said Bettysue Feuer, a regional director for the Anti-Defamation League. “The incident should be used as an opportunity to put some teeth in the hate-crimes law.”¹⁶ The Kenton Circuit Court Fourth Division of Kentucky ruled in favor Friday, Feb. 1, 2008, of plaintiffs in a civil case the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights filed against convicted felons of the cross-burning and vandalism that took place in Northern Kentucky in 2004. Judge Summe said: “The actions of the defendants were motivated by racial animus, and were intended to and did, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with the Mahone family (African American) with regard to their enjoyment of their home. The actions of the defendants caused the Mahone family to suffer severe emotional distress, embarrassment, and humiliation, as well as caused the family to move out of their home.”¹⁷

The Southern Poverty Law Center in 2009 lists the following as hate groups in Kentucky:

Name	Type	City
American National Socialist Workers' Party	Neo-Nazi	Baxter
Imperial Klans of America	Ku Klux Klan	Brandenburg

¹⁵ Beirich, Bramblett, Freeman, Griggs, Smith and Wood, “The Year in Hate, Intelligence Report. Spring 2007.

¹⁶ Jim Hannah, Cincinnati Enquirer, July 2004.

¹⁷ KCHR 2008 Annual Report.

American National Socialist Workers' Party	Neo-Nazi	Brooks
Fellowship of God's Covenant People	Christian Identity	Burlington
Appalachian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan	Ku Klux Klan	Caneyville
Master Klans of America	Ku Klux Klan	Corbin
Imperial Klans of America	Ku Klux Klan	Dawson Springs
League of the South	Neo-Confederate	Lexington
National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan	Ku Klux Klan	Lexington
Nation of Islam	African American Separatist	Louisville
United Northern and Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan	Ku Klux Klan	Newport
Appalachian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan	Ku Klux Klan	Pikeville
North American White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan	Ku Klux Klan	Tollesboro

African Americans and the Criminal Justice System

- ❖ Few criminal justice issues are more troubling than the prevalence of racial disparity within the criminal justice system. At all stages of the system – beginning with arrest and proceeding through imprisonment and parole – substantial racial and ethnic disparities are found in virtually all jurisdictions in the United States. While these disparities have persisted for years, in many respects they have been exacerbated in recent years despite considerable social and economic progress in many areas of American life.¹⁸
- ❖ Racist statutes within the legal code have been in existence in this country since its earliest foundation. For many African Americans who enter the criminal justice system, discriminatory sentencing patterns are often an unavoidable reality. Although African Americans account for only 12% of the U.S. population, they comprise about 50% of the total adult prison population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000; US Bureau of Justice, 2000). African Americans convicted of killing Whites are more likely than any other racial or ethnic group to receive a death sentence, while Whites have rarely been sentenced to death for killing African Americans, a trend seen in both Kentucky and across the nation.¹⁹
- ❖ African American youth are formally charged and incarcerated at rates notably higher than for White youth.²⁰ Kentucky data reflect these disparities, with African American youth less likely to be diverted and more likely to be petitioned and detained than White youth. When comparing rates of detention between African American youth and White youth, Kentucky shows greater racial disparity than the nation as a whole.²¹

¹⁸ Racial Disparities in Criminal justice System. <http://www.sentencing.nj.gov/downloads/pdf/articles/racial1.pdf>

¹⁹ Janet E. Powell, "The Kentucky Racial Justice Act: A Policy Analysis". 2001.

²⁰ National Council on Crime and Delinquency (2007). And Justice for Some: Differential Treatment of Youth of Color in the Justice System. Available at <http://www.nccd.crc.org>. Accessed October 2008.

²¹ Data obtained from Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, September 2008, and Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice, November 2008.

- ❖ Kentucky is one of just two permanent disenfranchisement states (along with Virginia) that bar all persons with felony convictions, with no exception, from voting even after they have completed their full sentences. Kentucky has the highest African American disenfranchisement rate in the country with nearly one of every 4 African Americans ineligible to vote. This rate is nearly triple the national African American disenfranchisement rate²². In addition to having one of the highest overall disenfranchisement rates in the nation, Kentucky possesses the highest African American disenfranchisement rate in the country. While Whites comprise 88.3% of the state’s population and African Americans make up 7.5%, about 31% of the total Kentucky prison population is African American. Furthermore, Kentucky’s combined prison and jail incarceration rate for African Americans is 2,793 per 100,000 residents – a rate that is nearly five times the incarceration rate for Whites (561 per 100,000 residents).
- ❖ Kentucky’s high rate of incarceration of African Americans, in turn, results in its high rate of disenfranchisement. Consequently, one of every 4 African American adults in Kentucky cannot vote. This rate (23.7%) is nearly triple the national African American disenfranchisement rate of 8.25% – or one of every 12 African Americans.
- ❖ At the time of the writing of this report, a bill to restore voting rights to felons is moving through the state legislature with yet undetermined results.

African American and Elected Positions

The 2008 update of the report released by Secretary of State Trey Grayson, *United We Stand: Encouraging Diversity in Kentucky’s Leaders* looked at racial diversity in Kentucky’s political leadership. It stated that Kentucky has lost ground since 2006 in the number of racially diverse elected and appointed officials in the Commonwealth. “*These statistics are a sobering reminder that our leadership in this state does not represent the diversity of our population,*” said Secretary Grayson.

- Kentucky saw a slight decrease in diversity at the Supreme Court, Circuit Court, and Mayoral levels by one elected official. There was an unfortunate drop of 18 racially diverse members of Kentucky school boards after the 2006 elections, where most of Kentucky’s racial diversity was lost. There was no change in the number of State Senators, District Court Judges, and County Magistrates and Commissioners.
- The report did include some encouraging statistics. Non-whites increased their representation on the Court of Appeals and House of Representatives by one member each. There was also a six member gain at the City Councilmember and Commissioner level.
- Unfortunately, there is still a large dearth of diverse elected officials even at the local level. Overall, Kentucky saw a decrease from 139 racially diverse leaders in 2006 to 126 in 2007. At the federal level, Kentucky is represented by diverse leaders in Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, non-Whites make up nearly 10% of Kentucky’s population, but they are not similarly represented in elected offices. African Americans make up a large portion of the diversity of Kentucky leadership. Only a few other minority racial categorizations are represented in Kentucky leadership.

²² http://www.lwvky.org/Felony_Dis_Report.pdf

There was no change in the number of State Senators, District Court Judges, and County Magistrates and Commissioners. “There are a number of potential great leaders in Kentucky who would diversify the leadership of our state in both elected and appointed positions.” Trey Grayson continued.

As of January 1st, 2009, the Kentucky State Senate has 37 members (21 Republicans, 15 Democrats, and 1 Independent); there is only one African American, Senator Gerald A. Neal (D) representing senate district 33 (Jefferson County).

There are 100 State House members (65 Democrats and 25 Republicans); there are 6 African Americans members:

- Representative Arnold Simpson (D), House District 65; Kenton County (part)
- Representative Darryl T. Owens (D), House District 43; Jefferson County (part)
- Representative Reginald Meeks (D), House District 42; Jefferson County (part)
- Representative Derrick Graham (D), House District 57; Franklin County (part)
- Representative Jim Glenn (D), House District 13; Daviess County (part)
- Representative Jesse Crenshaw (D), House District 77; Fayette County (part)

There are currently no African Americans from Kentucky in the US House of Representatives or Senate.

Conclusion

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights has collected the data in this report from a variety of census statistics, research data and articles in order to shine a light on areas where our state desperately needs change. Some of the statistics we found are shocking and may strike the reader as facts representing some yesteryear, but this report provides snapshots of the state of Kentucky African Americans, today.

In Kentucky, the struggle continues for better and equal access to education for African Americans, for fighting lingering poverty and creating opportunities for success, for combating predatory lending and unfair practices in housing, for ensuring fair access to the healthcare system, for guaranteeing fair treatment in the justice system, and for practicing a genuine equality that helps diminish racial discrimination. Armed with facts such as the ones contained in this report, citizens can determine to build a rational springboard to success.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights continues to fight discrimination. We will continue to lead and support all efforts that increase fairness and equality to African Americans and all minorities and citizens of Kentucky.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is the state government agency that enforces the Kentucky Civil Rights Act and the policies of federal civil rights laws, all of which make discrimination illegal.



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