

Research and Statistics

“The Amazing Vanishing Black Male is Playing at a College Campus Near You”

How Significant is the Need

Bay Ridge Christian College, founded in 1953, is located in Kendleton, Texas. The continually renovated college facility includes residential dormitories and other supporting buildings on an 88-acre campus located in Fort Bend County, the fastest-growing county in the Nation. The campus offers a serene, Christian environment away from the distractions that often derail students in urban cities. This type of educational environment is needed to combat the alarming statistics which reveal:

- Every year, across the country, a dangerously high percentage of students-disproportionately poor and minority-disappear from the educational pipeline before graduating from high school. Nationally, only about 68 percent of all students who enter 9th grade will graduate "on time" with regular diplomas. While the graduation rate for white students is 75 percent, only about 50 percent of Black, Hispanic, and Native-American students earn regular diplomas alongside their classmates. **Graduation rates are even lower for minority males. In some schools, only one-third of African-American males who enter ninth grade will graduate four years later.** Yet, because of misleading and inaccurate reporting of dropout and graduation rates, the public remains largely unaware of this educational and civil rights crisis (**The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University**).
- Serious achievement gaps persist between and among American school students of different ethnic groups. Even when Americans do graduate from high school, their skills often fail to meet even minimal standards of proficiency. The average African-American student who graduates from high school has the same mathematical aptitude as the average Anglo student when he/she graduates from 8th grade (**Covenant with Black America**. Edited by Tavis Smiley).
- The average African American high school graduate has the reading skills of an average white ninth-grade student. ([CNN Black in America](#))
- Nationally, only 66 percent of students who enter postsecondary institutions complete a degree. For students of color, the national postsecondary completion rate is 33 percent. In the State of Texas, the figures are 48 percent for the general population and 33 percent for students of color. (Good Morning America, on U.S. Department of Education report: *College Completion Rates*; September 7, 2006)
- While Black males dominate the commercial and recreational arenas of professional sports, Hip-Hop, Rap, and other forms of entertainment, in some school districts, more than 50 percent of Black males never graduate from high school. In addition, Black people make up miniscule numbers of the Nation's doctors, lawyers, and other professionals: only

3.2 percent of U.S. lawyers are Black, as are 3 percent of U.S. physicians. Just 22 percent of Black males who begin college will have earned a college degree six years later.

- More Black Men in Prison than in College: A study from the Justice Policy Institute (2002). <http://www.justicepolicy.org>; a Washington, DC-based think-tank that advocates for alternatives to prison, has found that after two decades of harsh criminal justice policies, there are more black men in jail or prison than in college. At the end of 2000, 791,600 black men were behind bars and 603,032 were enrolled in colleges or universities. By contrast, in 1980 -- before the prison boom -- black men in college outnumbered black men behind bars by a ratio of more than 3 to 1, the study found. The report, "Cellblocks or Classrooms? The Funding of Higher Education and Corrections and Its Impact on African American Men," also found that spending on education has suffered as a result of the imprisonment binge. Between 1985 and 2000, the increase in state spending on corrections was nearly double that of the increase to higher education (\$20 billion versus \$10.7 billion), and the total increase in spending on higher education by states was 24%, compared with 166% for corrections. The study's findings were significant and tell us there has been a public policy far overemphasizing investment in criminal justice instead of in education for this population. It also tells us that the life chances of a black male going to prison is greater today than the chances of a black male going to college. <http://stopthedrugwar.org/chronicle-old/252/jpistudy.shtml>.
- The number of black men in college dwindled as only 35% graduated within six years from college. The graduation rate of black men is lower than that of any group. Only 35 percent of black males enrollees graduated within six years from N.C.A.A. Division I colleges in 1996, compared with 59 percent of white males, 46 percent of Hispanic men, 41 percent of American Indian males and 45 percent of the black women who entered the same year. (<http://www.bet.com>. (2008)
- The National Urban League in its annual overview on the state of black America issued a *Report on Black America*, and finds that a college gender gap exists. The report said that black men trail black women in educational success and that the gap is widening. The most troubling gaps does not divide black and white: the gulf between black men and black women in educational attainment. "The numerical status of African-American men in higher education is a cause for concern... if few black men enter higher education, they will continue to be rare in corporate boardrooms and other spheres of power," the report says. <HTTP://QUERY.NYTIMES.COM/GST/FULLPAGE.HTML>.

- CNN's Documentary (July, 2008): *Black in America; The Black Man*, reported:
 1. The number of Black men imprisoned is nearly one million.
 2. Black men are six times more likely to go to prison than white men.
 3. Black men who are former convicts have a 0% chance of getting a call back from a job interview.
 4. Black men with a college degree have the same employment opportunities as white men with felony convictions.
 5. White employers indicate they have a concern with how Black men dress; many employers believe that Black men are lazy, have poor work ethics, and are threatening and/or criminals.