

THE STATE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES IN NEW YORK CITY

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This “Fact Sheet” on Black males in New York City is a brief and selected compilation of relevant data compiled by the Women of Color Policy Network and the Roundtable of Institutions of People of Color at the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service for the State of African American Males (SAAM) Conference sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus. The data illuminate the exclusion and under-representation of Black men from jobs and other social institutions and some of the consequences of their exclusion, including their high rates of incarceration and their shorter life spans.

Demographic Characteristics

In 2000, slightly over 8 million people resided in New York City; slightly more than a third were African Americans. Hispanics have replaced Blacks as the largest minority group in the city.

- ◆ There were 874,265 Black males in New York City. They were 11 percent of the total population and 23 percent of all the men in the city.
- ◆ One-third (33 percent) of Black males were under 18 years of age, 30 percent were 25-44, 19 percent were 45-64, and 7 percent were 65 and older (See Table 1).
- ◆ The high proportion of Black men 44 and younger was similar to Asians and Hispanics, but distinct from whites, who were considerably older.

Table 1. Percent of the Population by Age Cohort by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, 2002

Age Cohort	Citywide Total	Males				
		All	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White
18 and under	25.5	27.5	23.9	34.5	34.2	18.5
19 to 24	8.7	9.0	9.0	8.8	11.1	7.3
25 to 44	32.9	33.6	39.0	30.2	33.4	34.1
45 to 64	21.2	20.4	21.3	19.2	16.4	24.4
65 and over	11.7	9.5	6.8	7.3	4.9	15.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: 2000 Census, SF3

There are wide imbalances between the number of Black males and Black females. This imbalance is partly shaped by the high death rates of Black males, which in turn shapes Black social life.

- ◆ Of the 1,962,154 Blacks in New York City in 2000, 55 percent were females, and 45 percent were males. The balance of Black women to men was higher in every age group when compared to female-male ratios for the city (See Table 2).
- ◆ While the ratio was fairly even among Blacks under 18 years of age (49.5 percent were females and 50.5 percent were males), it widened as they aged. Among Black 25 and 44 year olds, 57 percent were females compared to 43 percent males; for 45-64 year olds, 62 percent were females and 38 percent males; and for those 65 and over 66 percent were females and 34 percent were males.

Table 2. Percent of the Population by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, 2000

Age Cohort	Total		Asian		Black		Hispanic		White	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
All	52.6	47.4	50.3	49.7	55.4	44.6	51.8	48.2	52.2	47.8
18 and under	48.9	51.1	48.1	51.9	49.6	50.4	49.0	51.0	49.9	50.1
20 to 24	51.3	48.7	51.6	48.4	53.8	46.2	49.1	50.9	54.1	45.9
25 to 44	51.6	48.4	50.1	49.9	56.6	43.4	51.4	48.6	48.9	51.1
45 to 64	54.3	45.7	50.5	49.5	58.5	41.5	55.3	44.7	51.8	48.2
65 and over	61.6	38.4	55.3	44.7	65.5	34.5	63.1	36.9	59.6	40.4

Source: 2000 Census, SF3

Household arrangements

A household includes one or more people living in the same unit. The householder is designated as one of the people who owns or the rents the residence. For purposes of examining household composition, there are two types of households: family, where at least two members are related by blood, marriage, or adoption; and non-family.

- ◆ Seventy (70) percent of all Blacks were in family households, a proportion higher than the city average. However, only 28 percent of Blacks were in married-couple families, compared to 40 percent for the city and 43 percent for whites. Hispanics and Asians have the highest rates of married-couple families.
- ◆ Slightly more than one-third of Black households (36 percent) were headed by a female.
- ◆ Six (6) percent of the households were headed by males without a wife. Half of these male-headed households had children under 18.

Table 3. Household Type for Householders 16 to 64 years old by Race/Ethnicity, 2000

Type of Household	All Households	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White
Family households:	65.5	74.5	69.9	78.1	52.9
Married-couple family:	39.9	60.3	28.1	38.9	42.7
With own children under 18 years	22.9	37.2	16.5	25.4	21.5
No own children under 18 years	17.0	23.1	11.6	13.4	21.1
Other family:	25.6	14.2	41.8	39.3	10.3
Male householder, no wife present:	5.4	5.7	6.3	8.2	2.9
With own children under 18 years	2.2	1.3	3.0	3.8	0.9
No own children under 18 years	3.2	4.4	3.3	4.4	2.1
Female householder, no husband present:	20.2	8.5	35.5	31.1	7.3
With own children under 18 years	12.8	3.5	23.1	21.7	3.6
No own children under 18 years	7.4	5.1	12.3	9.4	3.7
Nonfamily households:	34.5	25.5	30.1	21.9	47.1
Householder living alone	27.2	18.5	25.7	16.7	36.8
Householder not living alone	7.3	7.0	4.4	5.2	10.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: 2000 Census, SF3

Employment by Industry and Occupation

- ◆ Although Black men were 14 percent of the males in private industries with 100 or more employees, they were 15 percent of the low-wage industries, and only 6 percent of the high wage industries.¹
- ◆ White males, who were 32 percent of the labor force, constituted 39 percent of the high wage industries (Source: Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, 2000).
- ◆ Only 28 percent of Black males in the private sector were employed in high wage industries in 2000, compared to 55 percent of white males and 45 percent of white females.
- ◆ Eighteen (18) percent of Black males worked in low wage industries, but only 6 percent of white males did (Source: Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, 2000).

Mirroring their high concentration in low wage industries, Black men were also concentrated in a narrow group of occupations.

- ◆ According to the 2000 census, only 9 percent of Black males were in management, business and financial jobs, compared to 20 percent of white males and 14 percent of the total labor force.

¹ Low wage industries: Annual average earnings below \$30,000; median wage industries: Annual average earnings between \$30,00 and \$59,999; High wage industries: Annual average earnings of \$60,000 or more. (Source: New York State Dept. of Labor)

- ◆ Black males also lagged behind city-wide trends for professionals. Fifteen (15) percent of Black males worked as professionals, compared to 23 percent of workers citywide and 29 percent of white males. Most of the Black male professional jobs were in education and social service activities.
- ◆ In contrast to the managerial and professional jobs, Black males had a higher proportion in service occupations: 22 percent compared to 19 percent for the city. The men were largely concentrated in protective service jobs, food preparation and maintenance (Source: 2000 Census, SF3).
- ◆ The proportion of Black males was also higher among production workers. Eighteen (18) percent were employed in these jobs, notably in transportation and moving occupations, the highest proportion for any group. The proportion of Black males in production jobs was twice that of white males in these jobs and higher than the 11 percent for the city (Source: 2000 Census, SF3).

In New York City, employment in the public sector continues to illustrate the lack of diversity among groups of color, in particular Black males.

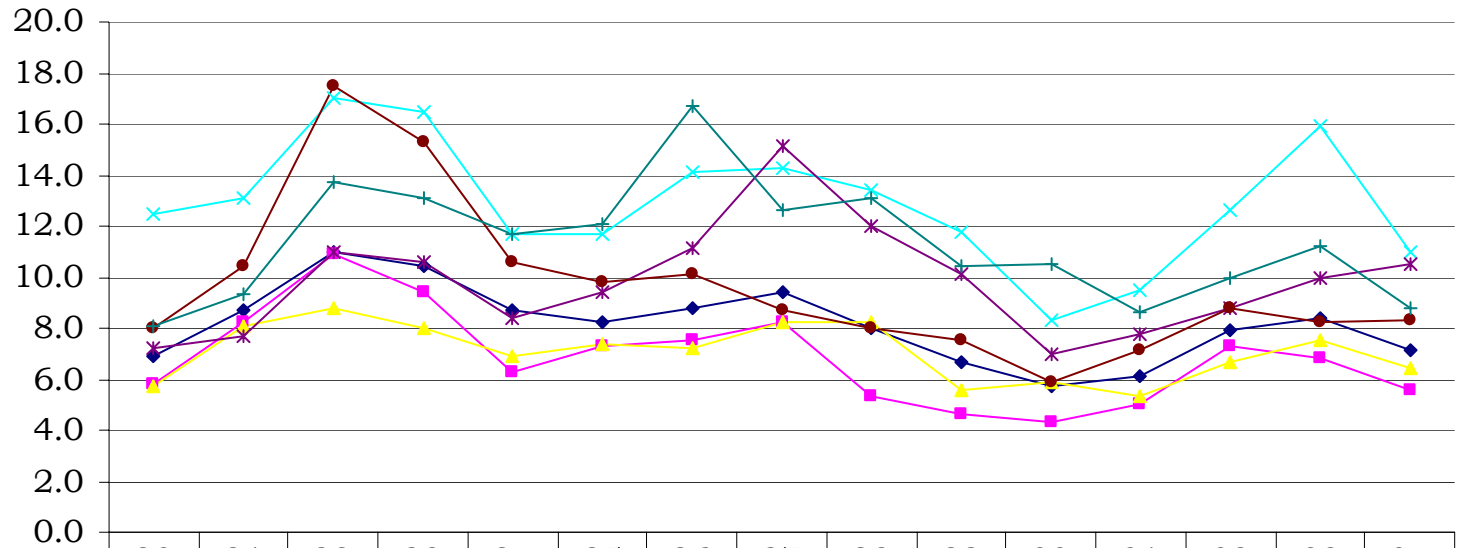
- ◆ In 2003, 50 percent of the Black male employees worked in three agencies: the Police Department (25 percent), Corrections (15 percent) and the Department of Social Services (11 percent).
- ◆ The proportion of Black males employed in Corrections was significantly higher than white or Hispanic males (Source: Equal Employment Practices Commission, Annual Report, 2003).
- ◆ By contrast, the proportion of Black males employed in the Police Department was considerably lower. In 2003, 42 percent of all white males were employed in the Police Department and 47 percent of all Hispanic males.
- ◆ Occupationally within city government, Black males were 9 percent of the top managers but 16 percent of the laborers. By contrast, white males made up 57 percent of the top managers and 11 percent of the laborers (Source: Equal Employment Practices Commission, Annual Report, 2003).

Unemployment and Employment to Population Ratios

The unemployment rates measure the population 16 years and older actively seeking employment. The employment to population ratio (E/P ratio) is an important complement to the unemployment rates, providing a general measurement of the population 16 and older actually and productively working. In 2004, the Community Service Society of New York flagged the declining E/P ratio for Black males, showing that in 2003 less than half of the city's Black males were employed. The data for that year also showed that less than half of the Black and Hispanic females in New York City were employed.

- ◆ With few exceptions, Black male unemployment rates have been higher than any group in the city from 1995-2004 – the rates for Hispanic females was higher in 1996 and virtually the same as Black males in 1998, and Black females had a higher rate in 1997 (See Figure 1).
- ◆ After declining to 8.3 percent in 2000, the unemployment rate nearly doubled by 2003 to 15.9 and then dropped to 11 in 2004 (New York State Department of Labor, 2004).
- ◆ During the 1990's the average E/P ratio of Black males was 55 percent, while the proportion for Black and Hispanic females was less than 50 percent (See Figure 2).
- ◆ In 2004, the proportion of Black males employed jumped to 56 percent. The contrast with white males is instructive. Annually, since 1990, more than 60 percent of all white males were employed each year.

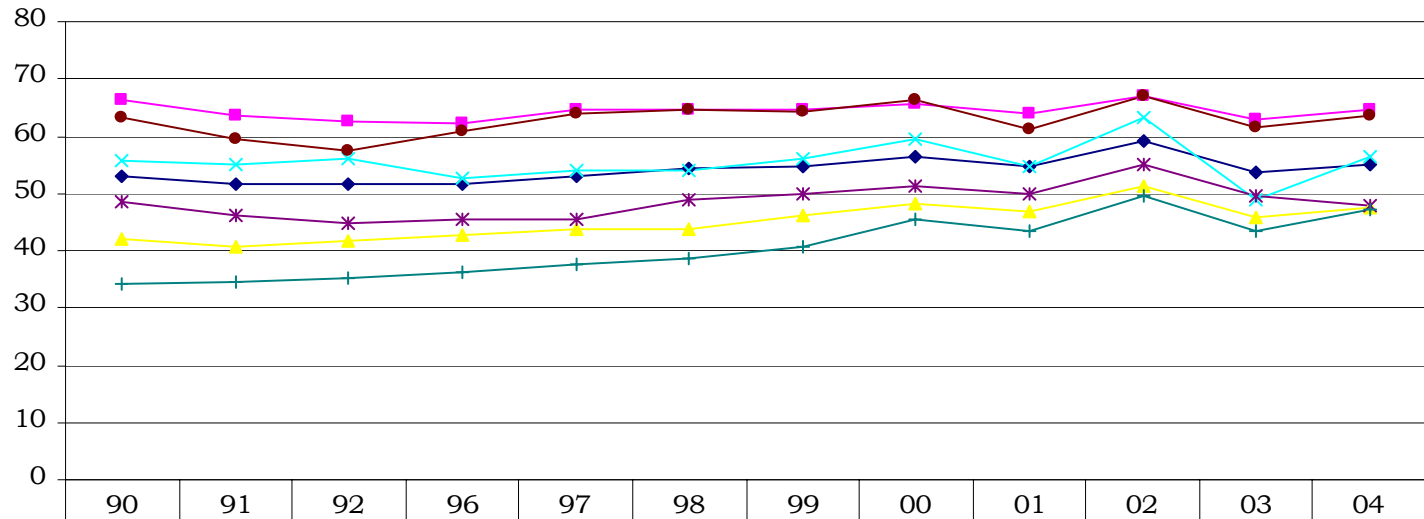
**Figure 1. Unemployment Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Gender,
New York City: 1990 to 2004
(Unadjusted)**



	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04
◆ NYC Average	6.9	8.7	11.0	10.4	8.7	8.2	8.8	9.4	8.0	6.7	5.7	6.1	7.9	8.4	7.1
■ White Male	5.8	8.2	10.9	9.4	6.3	7.3	7.5	8.2	5.3	4.6	4.3	5.0	7.3	6.8	5.6
▲ White Female	5.7	8.1	8.8	8.0	6.9	7.4	7.2	8.2	8.2	5.6	5.9	5.3	6.7	7.5	6.4
✕ Black Male	12.5	13.1	17.0	16.5	11.7	11.7	14.1	14.3	13.4	11.8	8.3	9.5	12.6	15.9	11.0
✱ Black Female	7.2	7.7	11.0	10.6	8.4	9.4	11.1	15.1	12.0	10.1	7.0	7.8	8.8	10.0	10.5
● Hispanic Male	8.0	10.4	17.5	15.3	10.6	9.8	10.1	8.7	8.0	7.5	5.9	7.1	8.8	8.2	8.3
+ Hispanic Female	8.1	9.3	13.7	13.1	11.7	12.1	16.7	12.6	13.1	10.4	10.5	8.6	10.0	11.2	8.8

Source: New York State Department of Labor, 2005

**Figure 2. Employment to Population Ratios by Race/Ethnicity and Gender,
New York City : 1990-2004***



	90	91	92	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04
◆ All	53.1	51.5	51.6	51.7	53.0	54.2	54.6	56.3	54.6	59.1	53.5	55.1
■ White Male	66.3	63.6	62.6	62.2	64.6	64.7	64.7	65.7	64.1	66.9	62.8	64.6
▲ White Female	41.9	40.7	41.8	42.6	43.7	43.9	46.2	48.2	47.0	51.3	45.9	47.6
✕ Black Male	55.7	55.0	56.0	52.5	53.9	53.9	56.1	59.4	54.8	63.3	49.0	56.4
✱ Black Female	48.7	46.0	44.9	45.5	45.5	48.8	49.9	51.3	50.0	55.1	49.6	47.9
● Hispanic Male	63.4	59.6	57.3	60.7	63.8	64.7	64.2	66.3	61.2	67.0	61.7	63.5
+ Hispanic Female	34.2	34.7	35.3	36.2	37.6	38.8	40.6	45.4	43.5	49.6	43.3	47.1

Source: New York State Department of Labor, 2005

* 1993-1995 were unavailable

Educational Attainment

In a labor market in which a college degree is nearly mandatory for a good job:

- ◆ Only 15 percent of the city’s Black males 25 and older had a bachelor’s or graduate degree in 2000 compared to roughly 47 percent of the city’s white males and 28 percent of the total population 25 and older (See Table 4).
- ◆ Thirty (30) percent of the city’s Black males had completed high school and an equal percent had not. The proportion of Black men who completed high school, including equivalency, is higher than the city-wide average of 24 percent.

Table 4. Educational Attainment for the Population 25 years and older by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, 2000

Educational Attainment	Citywide Total	Males				
		All	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White
Less than 9th grade	12.0	11.3	14.8	8.3	23.4	5.5
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	15.7	16.0	13.8	22.2	23.6	9.2
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	24.4	23.7	18.4	29.5	24.4	21.3
Some college, no degree	15.2	15.4	11.0	19.1	14.7	14.9
Associate degree	5.2	4.7	4.5	6.0	3.8	4.4
Bachelor's degree	15.8	16.5	22.6	9.8	6.1	24.1
Graduate or professional degree	11.6	12.4	14.8	5.0	4.0	20.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

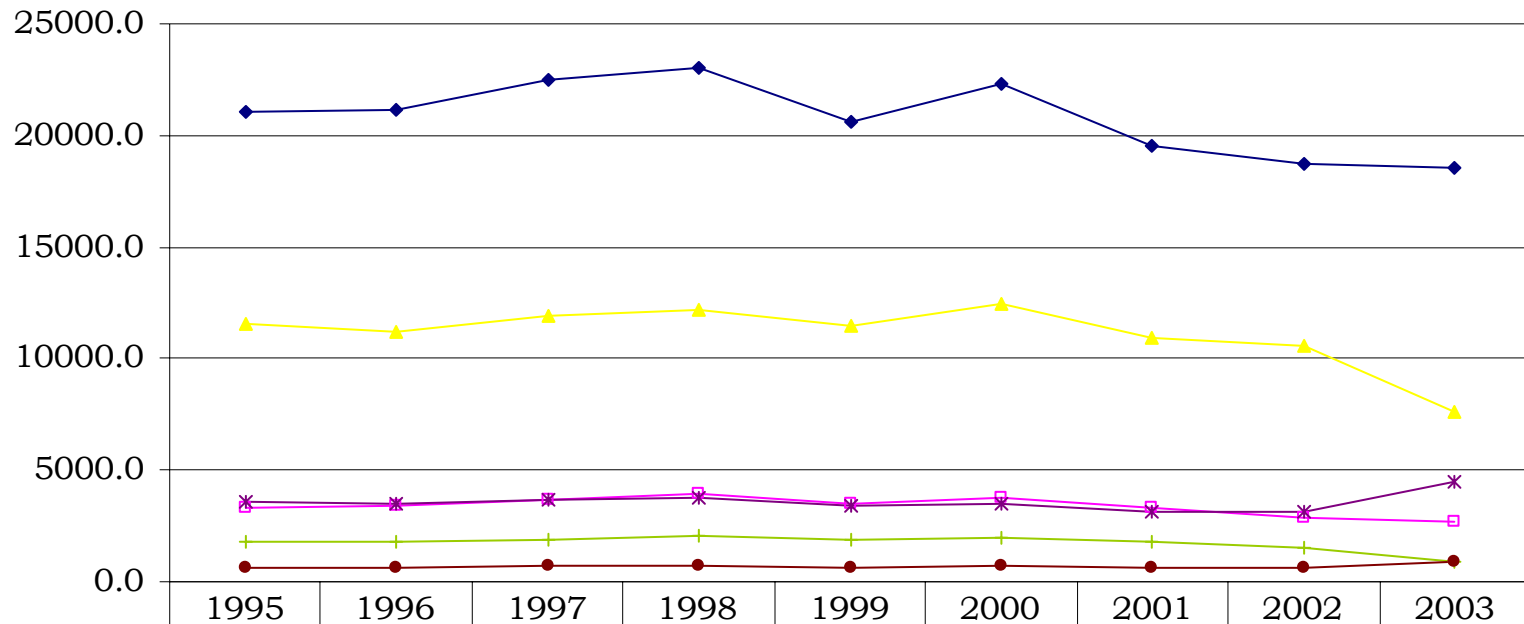
Source: 2000 Census, SF3

Arrest and Incarceration

Arrest and incarceration remain two of the leading issues facing Black men.

- ◆ For every 100,000 Black males 16 years and older in the city, 18,576 were arrested in 2003 (includes multiple arrests). This rate is more than four times the rate of white males (4,480) and 20 times higher than that of white females (Figure3).
- ◆ The leading reason for the arrest of Black males was drugs. Marijuana and other controlled substances accounted for 39 percent of the arrests. Assaults accounted for roughly 14 percent. The proportion of white males arrested for drugs was similar, 32 percent.
- ◆ The incarceration rate for Black males in 2003 was equally as staggering. For every 100,000 Black males in the city, 5,109 were in state prisons. This rate is 10 times that for white males (538) and more than 50 times that of white females.
- ◆ In 2003, the leading offense for incarceration of Black males was controlled substances, accounting for 28 percent of the offenses.
- ◆ Two-thirds of all Black males in New York State prisons are from New York City, compared to 25 percent of the incarcerated white males.

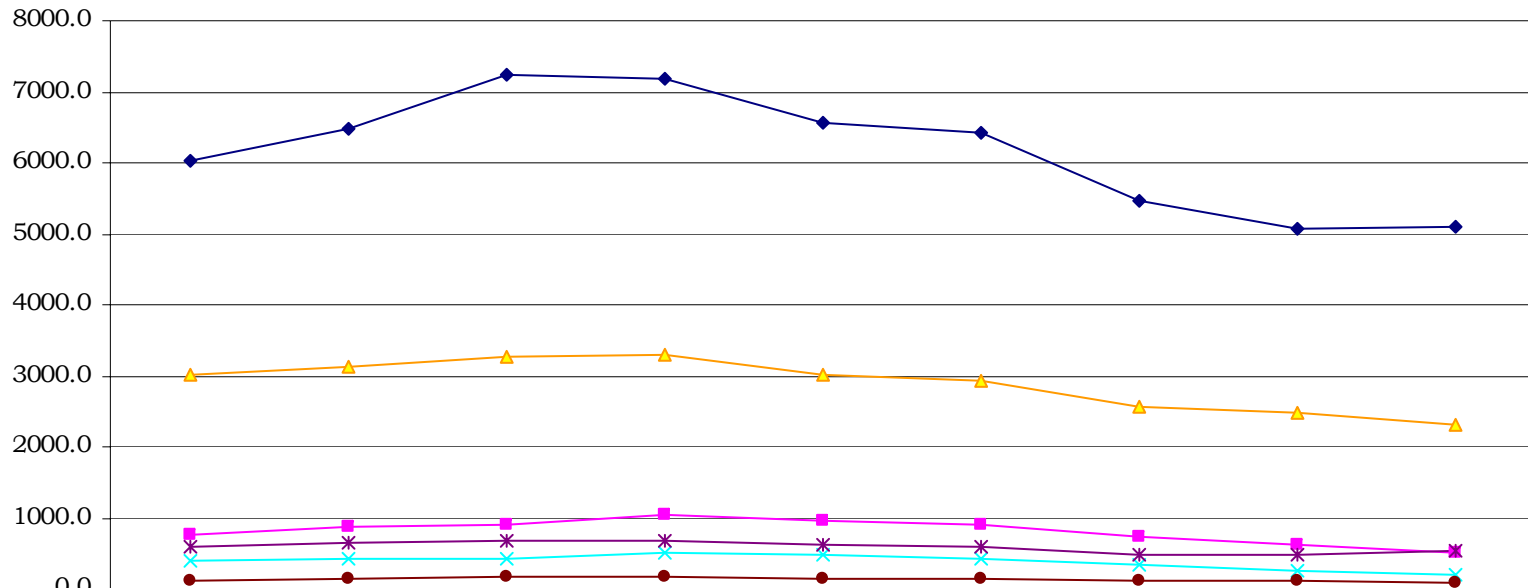
**Figure 3. Arrests Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Gender,
New York City: 1995 to 2003**
(rates calculated per 100,000 in specified group aged 16 and over)



	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
◆ Black Male	21047.3	21114.9	22512.7	23024.5	20624.5	22347.4	19565.3	18727.0	18575.7
□ Black Female	3325.2	3385.1	3660.6	3928.1	3530.3	3726.3	3344.9	2876.9	2686.6
▲ Hispanic Male	11576.7	11219.2	11927.4	12181.9	11443.5	12488.7	10958.1	10581.4	7607.8
+ Hispanic female	1789.4	1770.8	1897.0	2054.6	1889.0	1988.1	1787.0	1517.2	923.3
* White Male	3559.3	3469.7	3715.6	3768.8	3374.8	3520.0	3127.0	3140.0	4480.5
● White female	618.8	645.0	698.1	733.1	667.8	701.4	610.6	587.6	851.4

Source: New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services, 2004

**Figure 4. Incarceration Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Gender,
New York City: 1995 to 2001**
(rates calculated per 100,000 in specified group aged 16 and over)



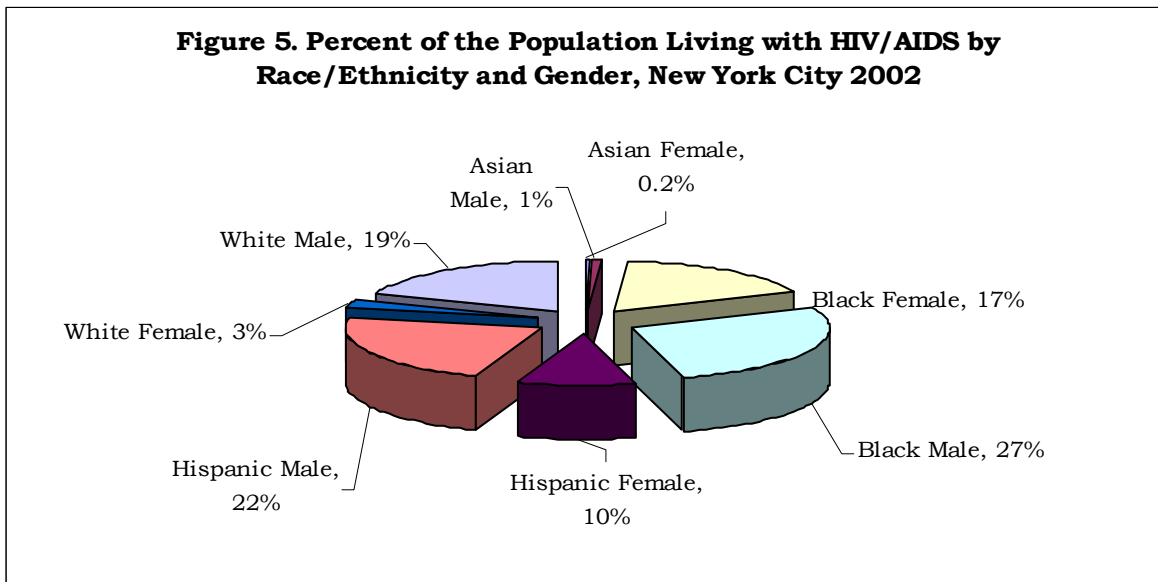
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
◆ Black Male	6029.5	6491.4	7251.0	7188.6	6562.2	6431.6	5468.3	5067.3	5109.2
■ Black Female	769.1	876.2	911.7	1037.9	967.2	910.5	730.7	609.2	498.8
▲ Hispanic Male	3017.8	3121.9	3278.7	3309.0	3001.6	2926.2	2551.1	2481.3	2301.4
✕ Hispanic Female	393.7	429.8	433.4	497.5	474.8	427.4	341.8	255.1	210.2
✱ White Male	597.7	646.3	669.2	677.2	620.8	590.3	488.3	481.8	538.0
● White Female	118.3	141.2	161.3	159.1	143.0	141.1	114.9	99.2	96.2

Source: New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services, 2004

Health

Racial health disparities continue to affect the quality of life of Black men and shorten their life span.

- ◆ The mean age of death of Black males was 61, lower than any group except Hispanic males, and 10 years lower than the mean age of 71 for the city. The mean age of death for white men was 72.
- ◆ Black males had the highest death rates in the city in 2003, 11.9 per 1,000 Black men, compared to 7.8 for the city and 8.9 for white males.
- ◆ The five leading causes of death of Black men under 65 in 2003 were: Heart Disease (19 percent), Malignant Neoplasm (18 percent), HIV Disease (14 percent), Homicide (8 percent) and Psychoactive Substances (5 percent).
- ◆ While their deaths from heart disease and malignant neoplasm’s are consistent with other groups, Black males had the highest proportion of deaths from HIV disease and homicides. They were one-third of all of the persons under 65 who died from HIV disease and nearly half (48 percent) of all of the homicide deaths.
- ◆ Black males had the largest share of any group living with HIV/AIDS in 2002. Among persons living with HIV/AIDS, 27 percent were Black males, 22 percent were Hispanic males, 19 percent were white males and Black females were 17 percent (See Figure 5).
- ◆ In 2002, of the 22,265 Black men living with HIV/AIDS, 29 percent contracted the virus primarily through drug use and 25 percent through having sex with other men. Two-thirds of white men contracted the virus primarily through sex with men.
- ◆ Roughly 70 percent of the Black men living with HIV/AIDS had AIDS (69 percent) compared to 63 percent of white males.



Source: New York City Department of Health, 2002.