Liberty University

How Church Commitment to At-Risk Black Male Youth Helps Prevent
Them from Being Incarcerated at Percentage Rates Higher Than Other Races

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By

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Dedication

This is dedicated to my children, Pastor Melvin, and Sister Claire Parker who encouraged me to continue when I felt like giving up, and in loving memory of my son, Donald Anthony Clark, and my daughter, Tanya Elaine Clark, December 24, 1964 - July 25, 1983. Tanya loved her little Smurfs. Just like the Smurfs, I am blue without her. The following is a poem I wrote in memory of my son, Donald Anthony Clark, October 30, 1960 – January 29, 1961:

Did you know that little angels can be naughty as can be?
Well, let me tell you of a trick an angel pulled on me.
He was happy high in heaven when he thought he'd like to go
To a place that God called earth, which was not too far below.

The angel got his chance one day; the good Lord turned His head.
Tony jumped right out of heaven and he landed in my bed.
A naughty little angel but to me a son most dear,
And I called him Cootchen Ootchen, when nobody else could hear.

A second passed in heaven, but three months passed here below,
When the Lord turned back around and said, "Now where did Tony go?"
God called him back to heaven, and my son had to obey.
Next time we'll met at his place, where all tears are wiped away.

Acknowledgements

Above all, I glorify God for leading me and guiding me, for without Him, I could do nothing. Thanks be to Him for the wonderful people He put in my life to help me accomplish His purpose. One of those wonderful people has been Dr. Deborah Dennis, who inspired me and assisted me, especially in helping me understand the thesis statement. Her love, prayers, encouragement, and answers to my numerous questions were all needed through some difficult times. In addition to her mentoring, she has been a friend, a sister, and although considerably younger than me, has also been like a mother, scolding lovingly with her suggestions of common sense that I needed frequently to follow.

My son, David Clark, also spent many hours advising me and sharing various protocols as far as the State of Ohio is concerned since he has worked there for almost twenty-five years. He also has two Master's Degrees, as well as Certifications, and helped me understand the thesis process and formatting. I truly appreciated his assistance.

Dr. Philip McFarland gave valuable advice that aided me in incorporating the information I received from Dr. Dennis and my son. He also contributed his suggestions and ideas regarding finalizing the paper. Without his mentoring, I would not have been able to give a proper defense to allow me to fulfill the final course that I needed to complete my Master's Degree in Christian Ministry, Global Studies. Dr. Fred H. Smith fine-tuned the completed document, and ensured that every "t" was crossed and every "i" was dotted to render an impeccable paper.

Abstract

Between the years 2006 and 2014, the percentage of young Black men between the ages of 13 and 21 in Ohio prisons increased more than any other race according to statistics given by the Department of Youth Services (DYS) located in the city of Columbus, Ohio. While the entire Black race only consisted of 12.5% of the population in Ohio, 56.7% of Black males were imprisoned as opposed to 43% of White males, and 3% of all other races that were incarcerated during the same time period. Young people are more involved with the justice system which allows a greater degree of documentation in combination with age rather than by racial or ethnic group alone. By the time these youth are in the 30 to 39 age group, 1 in 13 Black males will be in a state or federal prison, with an additional number being incarcerated in local jails (West & Sabol, 2010).

Contents

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem

Between the years 2006 and 2014, the percentage of young Black men between the ages of 13 and 21 in Ohio prisons increased more than any other race according to statistics given by the Department of Youth Services (DYS) located in the city of Columbus, Ohio.[1] While the entire Black race only consisted of 12.5% of the population in Ohio, 56.7% of Black males were imprisoned as opposed to 43% of White males, and 3% of all other races that were incarcerated during the same time period.[2] On June 30, 2001, in the age group of 25 to 29, out of 1.96 million offenders in United States (U.S.) prisons, an estimated 601,800 of them were Black males.[3] The percentages were 13.4% Black males while only 4.1% were Hispanic males, and 1.8% were White males.[4] Incarceration rates decrease with age; however, in the same year in the age group of 45 to 54, the percentage of Black males in prison was still twice as high at 3.4%, compared to 1.9% for White males.[5] The United States had an unprecedented escalation in the jail population since the early 1970s, with a 500% rise to 2.2 million people.[6] The disproportionate racial composition exploded along with this upsurge, especially for African Americans, whose numbers grew to 900,000 of that total, which also indicates that one in six Black men had been

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[1] Ohio Department of Youth Services, "Ohio Department of Youth Services Statistics," accessed July 17, 2015.

[2] Ibid.

[3] A. J. Beck and J. C. Karberg, "Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2001," *Bureau of Justice Statistics*, (Midyear 2001), accessed July 7, 2015.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Ibid.

[6] Ibid.

incarcerated by 2001.[7]   Although public security was moderately augmented, African American communities suffered immensely from disruptions in their families and weakened informal social controls. Furthermore, if this trend continues, of Black men born today, one in three can anticipate being imprisoned sometime in their life.[8]

Statistics reveal the depth of inequities in the United States. African Americans are imprisoned at almost six times (5.6) the rate of Whites; and Hispanics almost double (1.8) the rate of Whites.[9] A considerable deviation is exhibited by states in the proportion of Black-to-White incarceration, with a high range of 13.6-to-1 in Iowa to a low of 1.9-to-1 in Hawaii.[10] The Northeast and Midwest have states with the highest disproportionate Black-to-White ratio, with the leading states being Iowa, Vermont, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Wisconsin. For Hispanic-to-White ratio, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire, and New Jersey are the most disproportionate states.[11] The national rate of incarceration for Whites is 412 per 100,000 residents, (0.4%), but 2,290 for African Americans (2.3% of all Blacks), and 742 for Hispanics (0.7%).[12]

These rates are extremely high, but they do not detail the brunt impact this incarceration has on young African American males who may well have lived in destitute neighborhoods. The effect will be felt not only where they lived, but will spread to the broader community. "For

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[7] Beck and Karberg, "Prison."

[8] M. Mauer, *Uneven Justice: State Rates of Incarceration by Race and Ethnicity: Sentencing Project*, (2007), accessed July 7, 2015.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Ibid.

[11] Ibid.

[12] Ibid.

example, criminologists James Lynch and William Sabol found that three percent of a single Ohio county's census block groups comprised 20% of the state prison population. This concentration among young males presents profound long-term consequences for employment prospects, family formation, and general quality of life."[13]

Throughout all of the states, young people are more involved with the justice system, which allows a greater degree of documentation in combination with age rather than by racial or ethnic group alone. By the time these youth are in the 30 to 39 age group, 1 in 13 African American males will be in a state or federal prison, with an additional number being incarcerated in local jails (West & Sabol, 2010).

Very few studies have been devoted to examining the changes in inequality in prisons despite the fact that the continuing increase in the prison population of the United States throughout the last twenty-five years has been extensively discussed. This inequality is studied by approximating the lifetime threat of incarceration for Blacks and Caucasians at various stages of education. An estimate was given after administrative, survey, and census data was combined that considered three percent of Whites and twenty percent of Blacks will have served time in prison by their early thirties. During this period of time, of the Black men that were born, 30 percent of those who did not attend college, and almost 60 percent of those who dropped out from high school had been incarcerated by 1999. "The novel pervasiveness of imprisonment indicates the emergence of incarceration as a new stage in the life course of young low-skill Black men."[14]

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[13] Mauer, *Uneven Justice.*

[14] Becky Pettit and Bruce Western, "Mass Imprisonment and the Life Course: Race and Class Inequality in U.S. Incarceration," *American Sociological Review* 69, no.2 (April 2004): 151-169, accessed May 29, 2015.

Studies have been conducted by some of the nation's leading criminologists who endeavored to perform an overall investigation of the rates of incarceration to measure the level of disparity in imprisonment which reflects involvement in crime, as measured by arrest rates. Blumstein (1993) conducted a study by examining the 1979 prison population, followed by a 1991 study of the inmate population, using the same methodology. Michael Tonry and Matthew Melewski studied the 2004 prison population to analyze the same issues (Tonry & Melewski, 2008). Blumstein's 1979 study determined that 80% of racial disparity was caused by a greater participation in crime, as measured by arrest rates. The 1991 population showed a reduction to 76%, and a further decline to 61% in the study by Tonry and Melewski. The majority of these changes seem to be the result of the growing proportion of criminals jailed for drug violations since the 1970s and, thus produces the "disproportionate law enforcement and sentencing practices that adversely affect African Americans. While these national studies are instructive, they nevertheless represent the cumulative experience of 50 states and the District of Columbia."[15] Such research has revealed crimes are arraigned in various ways in different jurisdictions, which will influence the degree of racial disparity.[16]

In the New World, one of the first public buildings to be erected was a prison.[17] They were initially sponsored in the United States as a more Christian alternative and a more humane form of punishment compared to the corporal punishment administered in Europe. The history of U.S. prisons has been filled with sporadic eras filled with corruption, immorality, and

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[15] Marc Mauer, "Addressing Racial Disparities in Incarceration," *The Prison Journal* 91, no. 3 (September 2011).

[16] Ibid.

[17] Jack Lynch, "Cruel and Unusual: Prisons and Prison Reform," *Colonial Williamsburg Journal*, (Summer 2011).

overcapacity in living conditions, which usually resulted in some type of reform efforts. This past is inextricably linked to slavery's history, which occurred predominantly in the south where prisoners were leased to private contractors after a brutal post-emancipation system was established until the twentieth century.[18]

Statement of the Purpose

Black males are being imprisoned at a rate higher than any other race. Government groups and private organizations have produced programs not only for the Black population but for all youth as well. Many of these establishments have generated procedures that have been successful to some extent; however, a highly visible Christian involvement is not being seen. When God is not in the picture, the majority of efforts will be unproductive. Christian men and women must be involved in finding a solution to this condition, and in having a significant impact in decreasing these numbers. The Christian laity must be concerned, trained in proper methods that will help achieve the desired goals, and become immersed in creating a viable solution to reduce the high percentage of young Black men that are being incarcerated.

Some of the purposes will be to discover how some Black males escape these statistics. Is a Christian influence responsible for the successful lives of a percentage of Black young men? Will it be possible to incorporate their reasons for success into a beneficial program for at-risk youth and those with delinquent behaviors? Will the Christian laity be able to implement such favorable advantages?

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[18] Winnifred Fallers Sullivan*, Prison Religion: Faith Based Reform and the Constitution* (Princeton University Press, 2009), 3.

Statement of the Importance

When the results of this objectionable criminal behavior are deliberated upon, the social impact which has been imposed upon Black communities is divulged and incorporates the following: (1) the Black community is distressed because families are agitated and worried about the Black sons, father, and brothers going to jail in unequal ways; (2) the Black race becomes the victim of stereotyping; (3) innocent children become casualties in dysfunctional families; and (4) the imprisoned Black male becomes emasculated and may also become the object of recidivism. None of these situations is acceptable to Black families.

All other communities are affected as well because: (1) White people and other races become unduly stressed because they needlessly develop an inordinate fear of Black males. (2) The media accelerates this fear through unfair treatment of the news article. White offenders are shown in business attire, well-dressed, school photographs, and in socially acceptable behavior. Blacks are photographed in line-ups, unkempt, t-shirts, prison garb, handcuffed, or at the time of their arrest, on the ground, or some type of criminal scenario. This type of treatment perpetuates the fear of Whites toward Blacks and contributes to stereotyping. This paper reviews the current situation of prisons and their inmates, especially as these penitentiaries involve the lives of slavery's victims, with the young Black man in particular.

Statement of the Position on the Problem

A sea of Black faces and a sparse sprinkling of White faces dotted the playground of the Training Center for Youth (TCY) where I worked starting in October 1990 as executive secretary for the Superintendent of the institution. This scenario was very disturbing to me because I could not understand the obvious inequity playing out before me. TCY housed all youth between the ages of 13 and 21 who had mental issues, and shared the grounds with the medium

security institution, Buckeye Youth Center (BYC), for normal youth of the same age. The

Training Institution of Central Ohio (TICO) was a maximum security prison for the worse

juvenile offenders in that age group, a few blocks away from BYC and TCY. What was most

disturbing to me is the same inequity existed in each of these prisons.

 In 1993, these facilities were closed, and this writer was transferred to the administrative

office in downtown Columbus, to work as executive secretary for the Chief Inspector's office.

While there, I was privileged to see all disciplinary actions that took place in all of the detention

centers in Ohio. Frequently, I was infuriated to see the disciplines imposed on young men with

dark complexions; however, they were never privileged to receive benefits issued to their pale

comrades. Two Caucasian inmates were escorted off grounds to attend college with no regard to

the fact that one had murdered his stepmother, and the other had killed his mother and a

neighbor. They were left at the school for the duration of their courses without a guard, and had

ample opportunity to have sexual affairs, smoke, drink, and use drugs (one of them was

reprimanded for these offenses when the events were revealed). Since they were allowed to wear

civilian clothes, they were allowed separate cells to protect their clothing and personal

computers. I would not have been surprised if more youth committed murder to acquire these

types of accommodations. During the six years that I worked for DYS, I never observed such

advantages given to a Black person. The entire situation has disturbed me for the past twenty-

five years. This thesis has given me the opportunity to research and state the problem, determine

the impact a higher percentage has had on the Black community and the families of the offender,

and define why a solution must be found. While researching this topic, I found information on

young Black men over 21 in prisons from New York to California, and from 1890 to present day,

but none on the same problem, ages 13-21, DYS, Columbus, OH, in the year 2013.

Limitations

Black males are the focus of this analysis, although the same racial disparities are present for Black women who are more apt to be sent to prison than White women; however, they will not be discussed. Although disparities exist in the juvenile criminal justice system, it should be noted that similar, and often more extreme, ethnic disparities pertain to the adult justice system as well.[19] An additional limitation is the concentration on delinquent young Black men in the Ohio Department of Youth Services although some details and statistics apply to Black youth in any State, and to Black adult males anywhere in the United States. A study of the problem in the State of Ohio and DYS will allow the readers to understand the depth of the problem and realize that this problem is not an enigma peculiar to the state of Ohio but is a problem common to every state in the union. Neither does the dilemma focus solely on the youth of America but extends to every male of color in the entire United States; however, details are limited in this study.

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[19] Mauer, "Addressing."

CHAPTER 2 METHODOLOGY

Research methods and strategies were discussed in a class of the same name during the fall semester of 2014 at Liberty University. For this thesis, some personal observations have been utilized as well as statistical information, reports, books, and theses written by other students on these topics and other subjects. A descriptive study of existing data, supplemented by subsequent analyzed results of previous research and literature-based data already available for secondary analysis, and empirical study were utilized. The purposes of previous researchers may differ from mine, but their methods may justify my use of their material. Qualitative data is used to discover why people have engaged in behavior that causes them to be incarcerated. This data will also determine if there are outside influences that affect those being arrested and imprisoned such as the justice system, environment, friends, family, or other risk factors. This data will be combined with quantitative information to determine how those influences affect the behavior of young Black males in the criminal justice system.

Various datasets describing prevention methods used by social and Christian organizations will be analyzed to determine the effectiveness in dealing with at-risk youth of African American descent. Descriptive material, statistics, reports, personal observation, and conversations in natural occurring settings will be utilized, and a determination made regarding how each contributes to the overall picture and the applicability to resolving the situation. The objectivity of the media will also be researched, along with current trends and social changes.

One study was utilized to better apprehend inconsistencies in the arrest rates between Black and White male juveniles by investigating the function of individual and contextual risk factors which, to name a few, included hyperactivity, conduct problems, anxiety problems, low academic achievement for the former, and physical punishment, peer delinquency, neighborhood

problems, and peer rejection as samples for the latter. Two theories that were evaluated were:

"(a) a differential exposure to early risk factors accounts for differences in arrest rates between

Black and White male juveniles, and (b) a differential sensitivity to early risk factors accounts

for the discrepancy in arrest rates among male juveniles." To scrutinize the questions, risk

factors were used:

> … That had been measured in children in the second grade to predict juvenile arrest when
> they were 10 –17 years old. The current study examined any juvenile arrest, along with
> domain-specific arrests (i.e., violence-related, theft related, and drug-related), given that
> different types of delinquency may be influenced by divergent causal mechanisms
> (Loeber, Farrington, Stouthamer-Loeber, & White, 2008). In this study, we extend
> previous research by prospectively predicting arrest throughout adolescence, including
> risk factors across multiple domains, examining multiple types of offenses, and
> comparing differential sensitivity and differential risk explanations. Associations were
> examined in a community-recruited sample of boys with an oversampling of high-risk
> boys in order to ensure variability in study constructs.[20]

One study consisted of juveniles in the Pittsburgh Youth Study's (PYS) youngest cohorts

(Loeber, Farrington, Stouthamer-Loeber, & Van Kammen, 1998), which was a community

sample of inner-city boys. The participants were first graders recruited from Pittsburgh public

schools in 1987-1988. Race, age, family composition, and parental education level were some of

the screening measures of antisocial behavior. The boys and their primary caretakers were

interviewed in their homes to configure statistics for study predictors based on their race and risk

status. When the participants entered the second grade, an assessment was made concerning

their risk factors. When these young men were between the age of 10 and 17 years old, they

were again assessed to determine the arrest outcomes.[21]

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[20] P. J. Fite, P. Wynn, D. A. Pardini, "Explaining Discrepancies in Arrest Rates between Black and White Male Juveniles," *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, no. 77 (May 2009), 916-927, accessed May 29, 2015.

[21] Ibid.

DYS is one government office that has submitted statistics and various reports that declare outright that disparities exist within their system. Links to these reports and other information reflecting actual numbers and percentages for the prisons in Ohio exhibiting the disparity between races are provided in this paper. Datasets from 40 urban counties will be used to describe the characteristics of more than 7,000 juveniles charged with felonies in State courts. DYS statistics and facts contain Recidivism Reports, Community Corrections Facilities Recidivism Fact Sheets, Adjudications and Commitments, Youth Ages at Admission, and Monthly Fact Sheets. There are also statewide reports maintained by DYS and statewide adjudication. The annual Profile of Youth Adjudicated or Committed for Felony Offenses reports on the youth adjudicated delinquent of a felony offense in Ohio's juvenile courts, and of those adjudicated, the number committed to the Department of Youth Services. The report was created with data submitted to the Department of Youth Services by the 88 county juvenile courts. The annual Profile of Youth Transferred to Adult Court reports on the number of youth, by county, who were transferred from a juvenile court to an adult court to be tried as an adult. This report was created with data submitted to the Department of Youth Services by the 88 county juvenile courts.[22]

Offender-level administrative data is gathered annually from the Departments of Corrections and Parole in a varying number of states on prisoners entering and leaving prison custody or community supervision. Since 1983, states have provided data for prisoners who were admitted to prison (Part A), released from prison (Part B), or released from parole (Part C). In 1999, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) began requesting data on the custody population for each state at year-end (Part D). In 2012, BJS requested that states submit data on persons entering

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[22] Ohio Department of Youth Services, "Ohio Department of Youth Services Statistics," accessed July 17, 2015.

parole programs (Part E). Variables include dates and types of prison admission and release,

parole program entry and exit, prior jail or prison time served, current offenses, and sentencing

information. Background data on individuals includes year of birth, sex, race, Hispanic origin,

veteran status, and educational attainment.[23]

My arguments will address the fact that statistics show that between the years 2006 and

2011 young Black males were sent to prison because of criminal behavior that involved property,

persons, homicide, drugs, and sex. Some hypotheses have been made to discover how to

effectively address the problem so that the number of Black men going to jail will decrease.

Perhaps the solution will be valuable for all other races as well. DYS has performed numerous

studies and acquired an abundance of statistics to ascertain what tactics must be utilized and how

to direct their focus.

This situation has been addressed numerous times. This paper has cited some of the

research and a few of the proposals, which have been presented by various scholars and officials

who have attempted to promote resolution to this conundrum. Some of these efforts have been

sabotaged by the opposition, and others have been ignored.

This problem will be addressed by reviewing statistics issued by federal, state, and local

government describing the high percentages of incarceration of young Black males. The crimes

committed by all races, by type, and the sentences imposed upon the youth are observed through

various reports. Declarations and personal experiences of young Black men subjected to the

criminal justice system are studied. The history of the Black male is reviewed beginning with

the lifestyle they were accustomed to prior to being kidnapped from their native homes, and

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[23] Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics (August 2015), accessed July 7, 2015.

abducted from their homeland to discover whether or not a difference in their behavior occurred after they arrived in America.

Investigations from the Reconstruction era (1865-77) through the 1960s civil rights movement will determine what opportunities were available to the Black people as far as education, religion, jobs, plus "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" as mentioned in the Declaration of Independence. After consideration has been given to these topics, probable causes will be discussed regarding some of the reasons Black men turned to a life of crime. Who or what contributes to this problem?

CHAPTER 3 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE THESIS

Proposed Summary of Each Chapter

Chapter 1 addresses the problem that exists not only in the State of Ohio, but also throughout the United States of America. Blacks are being incarcerated at a percentage rate higher than any other race in the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems. The effect of this discrimination not only distresses the Black males and Black communities, but all of society suffers one type of anguish or another. The purpose and importance of a decisive resolution for the problem are detailed, with some confines that have been considered. The author's reaction to this condition is encapsulated from the day of her initiation to the incongruities in the juvenile prison system.

Chapter 2 describes the methods utilized to provide the information discussed in this paper. Qualitative and quantitative data are essential for researchers seeking material for their dissertations or thesis, and this document is not an exception. Various studies have been analyzed, along with statistics, reports, journal articles, and several other types of information have been utilized. Effective methods that are currently being implemented by social organizations are evaluated to determine their applicability for Christian organizations to employ in working with young Black youth.

Chapter 3 is the proposed development of the thesis. Where did the problem start? Was it in Africa? This chapter examines probable causes of how and why young Black men became criminals and perpetrated crimes that caused them to be incarcerated at a higher rate than any other race. Their experiences have been documented from the time they were forcefully extracted from their native land to their present day treatment and situations. A history of the Black man and the history of slavery with its cruelty, degradation, and hatred are explored.

Chapter 4 contains the Literature Reviews of books written by Black authors who have lived through the experiences that are written about in this thesis. Other books and articles are written by scholars and researchers who are concerned about this challenge that has caused significant problems in Ohio and the remaining forty-nine states. The problem is not only confined to the past but is also a current crisis.

Chapter 5 discusses the results and reveals the impact that incarceration has placed on the young Black male, his family, community, and his future. This chapter discusses a contemporary type of slavery, which has been called a new kind of Jim Crow. This conspiracy theory has involved government agencies from the president of the nation to the police officer on the streets. Concerns regarding the war on drugs, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and the judicial system and their relation to the problem are investigated. A review of the deterrents for those who have escaped all of these traps and systems brings a glimmer of hope for upcoming generations. The chapter then discusses and investigates the solutions possible to resolve the problem. The Christian laity, government, and society all need to become involved. Many agencies have attempted to overcome the problem, but Christ must be included in any solution. Individuals like Madalyn Murray O'Hair and organizations like LGBT are minorities who have distorted religious freedoms rights by removing and disqualifying the religious rites of the majority. With the election year on the horizon, politicians have elected to address the problem of mass incarceration, inequities in the criminal justice system, poverty, and most of the problems cited in this thesis that are peculiar to the Black community.

CHAPTER 4 LITERATURE REVIEW

Why Are So Many Black Men in Prison

Why Are So Many Black Men in Prison is a book written by Demico Boothe and first published in 2007 by Full Service Publishing.[24] This book relates that young Black men are incarcerated at an unprecedented rate, plus it further correlates that Black males make up almost 75% of the total prison population, and is the most "socially disenfranchised group of American citizens in the country today." The author is the primary source because he reveals his own experience with the justice system; his background in a poor community; his personal encounter with criminal activity, drugs, jail, release; and the problems he combated which resulted from being an ex-felon. Boothe then attempts to discover why so many Black men are in prison. He believes there are three primary dilemmas that are the most problematic behind this mass criminalization and incarceration of African American males to which he provides irrefutable facts that support his allegations and also provides statistics to validate these identifications.

He reveals that: (1) African Americans have been rash, immature, and negligent in their behavior in the past and the present, as individuals and collectively. (2) He exposes a criminal justice system that maintains a "highly visible permanent criminal class within the United States Citizenry." (3) He presents facts about racism and a method of criminal justice that neutralizes a large portion of the Black population by drug propagation, poverty, miseducation, unjust social order through hidden agendas, and incarceration. Boothe bares evidence regarding Black disenfranchisement and criminalization, tells how it distresses all other areas of growth and

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[24] Demico Boothe, *Why Are So Many Black Men in Prison? A Comprehensive Account Of How And Why The Prison Industry Has Become A Predatory Entity In The Lives Of African-American Men, and How Mass Targeting, Criminalization, and Incarceration of Black Male Youth Has Gone Toward Creating The Largest Prison System In The World.* N.p. Full Service Publishing, 2007.

expansion for young Black men, and what can be done to overcome this situation. These first-hand details contain evidence essential for proving that a problem does exist, and how that predicament refers to one race instead of involving all races.

"Disproportionate Minority Confinement of Juveniles"

Jaya Davis and Jon R. Sorensen wrote the article, "Disproportionate Minority Confinement of Juveniles: A National Examination of Black–White Disparity in Placements" in Journal no. 49 of *Crime & Delinquency* which was published on March 4, 2010.[25] This Journal addresses a concern that has been escalating since 1960, which is the disproportionate minority confinement (DMC) in the juvenile justice system. While Whites accounted for a reduction of 75% in incarcerated offenders, this rate started intensifying again in the 1980s, with 93% of the increase being attributed to minority youth. Ira Schwartz of the Center for the Study of Youth Policy made the first legislative reference to DMC in June 1986 before the House Subcommittee on Human Resources. He testified that minority youth accounted for more than 50% of the juveniles who were in custody although research showed that they did not commit crimes disproportionately.

Any explanations for this overrepresentation of Blacks in the justice system have been engrossed with the gap in minorities' participation in criminal activities, or the justice system's selection bias, or the unfair use of confinement according to a study by Leiber in 2002. National studies, investigations, and reports were required to determine if DMC existed in the juvenile justice system of Ohio as a requirement for the state to obtain Federal Formula Grants. If DMC existed, it was obligatory for the state to elaborate on why this occurred, develop a plan to

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[25] Jaya Davis and Jon R. Sorensen, "Disproportionate Minority Confinement of Juveniles: A National Examination of Black–White Disparity in Placements 1997-2006," Crime *& Delinquency* 2013, no. 59 (March 4, 2010): 115-139. Accessed July 28, 2014.

eradicate the condition and implement the remedial tactics. Research exploded with a number of varying results acquired by many different, inconsistent methods that considered the seriousness of the crime, the household and average income for the neighborhood, and the youth's criminal history, which definitely may have modified minority overrepresentation.

Researchers also found that inconsistencies communicated in the system at a later time were the result of decisions determined much earlier in administering the case. Race affected the probability of confinement and a difference in the processing of minority youth. David and Sorensen also discovered that little racial differences in decision-making could amass anywhere throughout the process, and satisfactorily authenticated the snowballing consequence of racial disparities building up because of verdicts pronounced all through the time the case was processed. Juveniles who were detained were 50% more likely to be judged delinquent as compared to those youth who were adjudicated without being detained. As a result, Bishop and Frazier (1996) determined a cumulative effect of decisions and bias in processing cases caused minorities to make up 29% of cases submitted to delinquency intake, but made up 44% of incarcerated or transferred youth.

Davis and Sorensen cite a study by M. J. Leiber in 2002 that minority youth overrepresentation was unmistakably manifested in every state reviewed, which necessarily included the State of Ohio, and existed at all decision-making points, and was even greater in states that had smaller minority populations. Leiber determined that African American youths in every state were the most disproportionately represented minority group. "Leiber also had 'overwhelming evidence to support the presence of race effects in juvenile justice decision making' with 32 states unable to account for racial disproportionality by minority youths' differential involvement in crime."

The information in this article is necessary to show that knowledge of a problem regarding disproportionate minority incarceration was apparent in every state in the United States, which means that the juvenile justice system in the state of Ohio was included and affected. The statewide organization for Ohio was the Department of Youth Services stationed in Franklin County, in Columbus, Ohio. The major conclusion for these national investigations, hearings, and reports revealed that throughout the juvenile justice system nationwide consistent, steady discrimination was present without exception; therefore, the Department of Youth Services embraced the same prejudice.

Invisible Men: Mass Incarceration and the Myth of Black Progress

Becky Pettit is professor of sociology at the University of Washington who wrote the article "Invisible Men: Mass Incarceration and the Myth of Black Progress."[26] She relates that The United States has approximately 2.3 million people in jail at any given time and holds the highest incarceration rate of any wealthy nation. As an example, the U.S. has 730 out of 100,000 incarcerated versus 154 for England and Wales. There are fewer people in active duty military service than in U.S. prisons. People are not aware that prisoners are excluded from most U.S. statistical agencies' surveys. As a result, young Black men are unduly apt to be in jail because excluding those in penal institutions allows the job situations of young Black men to appear much better than it is.

In 2009, when Barack Obama was inaugurated, Pettit said, "there was hope that perhaps the U.S. was becoming a post-racial society . . . But it wasn't true then, and it's not true now." The gap between Blacks and Whites remains wide in employment, income, wealth, and health.

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[26] Becky Pettit, *Invisible Men: Mass Incarceration and the Myth of Black Progress*, N.p. Russell Sage Foundation, 2012.

Most estimates of employment and wages are similarly skewed. Wages of young Black men

have seen little improvement relative to the wages of White Americans since the mid-1980s. The

economic boom of the 1990s did not trickle down to high school dropouts as some pundits and

scholars imagine. In 2008, when 19 percent of young Black men did not finish high school,

Black male dropouts were more likely to be in prison or jail than to be employed. Young Black

men have lost ground in the areas of employment and education, but their voices are also being

obliterated in the political arena.

   This article gives a more accurate picture of the difficulties many young Black men face

that contribute to a dismal outlook for their future and show the lack of good opportunities to

achieve in society. These statistics further probable causes for a percentage of Black youth

turning to illegal activities to support themselves and their families. Studies by Simons and Gray

in 1989 established that lack of employment opportunities, low income, and the view of crime as

a means of overcoming poverty were reasons for Black youth to commit crimes involving theft

and drugs.[27]

<div align="center">

"Black Males Left Behind 2007"

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   This article by Carl C. Bell, M.D. appeared in the *International Journal of Men's*

Health 6 in the summer addition of 2007.[28] Bell discusses the lower paying jobs Black men

believe are available to them are caused by stereotyping, location of the best paying positions

and the transportation issues associated with getting there, and the lack of the necessary social

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[27] Kevin L. Jackson, "Differences in the Background and Criminal Justice Characteristics of Young Black, White, and Hispanic Male Federal Prison Inmates," *Journal of Black Studies* 27, no. 4 (May 1997): 494-509, accessed July 6, 2014.

[28] Carl C. Bell, "Black Males Left Behind 2007." *International Journal of Men's Health* 6, no. 2 (2007): 167-8, accessed March 23, 2015.

ties as a few of the constraints for gainful employment. Education is a double handicap for

young Black men since they are not enrolled in college as frequently as other races and do not

receive a quality education in lower schools. High child support payments hamper a young

man's efforts to maintain a job that will allow him to support himself and his children.

The author suggests several methods of decreasing hindrances young Black fathers

endure because of lack of profitable education and employment and disproportionate

incarceration. An overhaul of the child support system might allow tax benefits to a

noncustodial parent and a method of remaining involved with their children. Training could be

given so fatherhood outside of marriage would be reduced. The author gives constructive advice

regarding resolving these problems, primarily by providing a means of achieving a college

education or training beyond high school, followed by adequate employment services. If this

situation is not rectified, and:

> Accordingly, if Black males are left to poverty, unemployment, and felony incarceration for non-violent drug offenses while White males are charged with misdemeanors for the same crimes, all men's health is threatened. Health, mental health, and substance abuse epidemics migrate across cultural, racial, and ethnic groups in America. Excluding Black males from resources that would enable them to be physically and mentally healthy will threaten the well-being of all men.[29]

Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man in America

The Library Congress of Cataloguing-in-Publication Data contains *Makes Me Wanna

Holler: A Young Black Man in America* written by Nathan McCall (2011).[30] McCall, another

prison victim, reveals the tragic circumstances that caused him to wind up incarcerated, and how

he was able to reverse his life to become a productive member of society and his community.

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[29] Bell, "Black Males," 128.

[30] Library Congress of Cataloguing-in-Publication Data, *Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man in America* by Nathan McCall, Random House LLC, 2011. 486.

CHAPTER 5 RESULTS

His Story

An examination of the history of Black men in general and the effects of slavery shows some of the probable causes for hatred and resentment young Black men feel towards society today.   The citizens of any culture living in any state or city cannot be excluded from this history, or the effects that have been caused by that account. This history affects an unknown percentage of African American males who blame White people for their status in America today wherever they may live, including Columbus, Ohio. The imprisoned Black male becomes emasculated or the object of recidivism.

"Chattel slavery, institutional racism, and poverty are the three most salient and pervasive features of the African experience in the United States."[31] Prior to the Atlantic slave trade, African males did not indulge in violent behaviors according to various research (Bohannan, 1960; Brearley, 1932; Curtis, 1975, Jackson, 1990, Silberman, 1978). To answer why this happened, the author examines several areas and determined that no other group in the United States was subjugated to slavery for 225 years, denied all of their rights for almost 325 years, and experienced the poverty and deficits like African Americans. Discriminatory practices and policies are both rampant and subtle even today primarily because of a person's skin color.[32]

The United States has a history of violence which began with the malevolent theft of land from Native Americans, followed by the cruel and inhumane enslaving estimates of up to 150 million Africans, utilized for inexpensive labor to build an empire for European colonial powers.

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[31] Anthony E. King, "Understanding Violence among Young African American Males: An Afrocentric Perspective," Journal *of Black Studies,* Vol. 28, no. 1 (Sep., 1997), 79-96, accessed March 25, 2015.

[32] Ibid.

The mortality rate during this time from raids, forced marches, and trips at sea are estimated at

100 million men, women, and children, and considered "the single most violent and brutal act

ever committed against any group of people in the history of the world."[33]   During this era,

Black families were not permitted to exist by slave masters. They were determined to annihilate

any relationship that seemed to promote any type of unity between any two slaves; therefore, the

family unit was obliterated by chattel slavery.[34]

The slave system that developed in the United States was equally deadly and violent.

The people were even denied their humanity and simply treated as property; furthermore, every

effort was made to degrade and dehumanize them under the most horrible conditions one can

imagine for more than 225 years. These acts were performed to transform these humans into

docile child-like creatures who could be worked like farm animals, and even disciplined the

same as beasts (Huggins, 1990; Lester, 1968). The African males were treated considerably

worse than the women and children.[35]

The reason and manner in which this damage and humiliation took place is revealed in

the following two paragraphs. The horror may only be expressed by the author's own words:

> Because they represented a direct challenge to the supremacy and hegemony of the
> European American male (Hall, 1981). No form of physical punishment was spared or
> considered too savage if it was effective in controlling the enslaved African male
> (Huggins, 1990). As a consequence, unmerciful beatings, lynchings, and the mutilation
> of various body parts, particularly the male genitalia, were all routine disciplinary
> measures used to punish enslaved African males. To enhance the psychological effects
> of these cruel and inhumane disciplinary methods, European Americans would castrate or
> lynch enslaved African males and then publicly burn their semilifeless bodies for
> everyone to see (Mellon, 1988). Enslaved African boys, as well as their mothers and

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[33] King, "Understanding," 79-96.

[34] Johnny Spain, "The Black Family and the Prisons," *The Black Scholar* 4, no. 2 (October 1972): 18-31, accessed July 27, 2014.

[35] King, "Understanding," 79-96.

sisters, were frequently forced to watch their brothers, uncles, fathers, and grandfathers tortured to death by mobs of bloodthirsty men, women, and children (Huggins, 1990; Lester, 1968; Mellon, 1988).[36]

These public events were also designed to influence the behavior of the European American community. For the most part, they served to reinforce the widely held belief among all European Americans that African people had no basic human rights that "White" people had to respect (Scott v. Samford, Russell, and Emerson, 1857). Moreover, these sadistic sideshows contributed to the legitimization of physical violence as an acceptable means for controlling African males in the United States. It is important to point out that the barbarous assault on the humanity of African males did not stop when slavery ended in 1865.[37]

Suffer the Little Children

Little changed after slavery ended, and European Americans continued to oppose the

African American through whatever means necessary. The government, at all levels, used any

means necessary to confront these males, including law enforcement, mobs, or both. As a result

of their demands to be treated equally on a social, civil, and political basis, thousands of Black

males were murdered, beaten, disfigured, and crippled during the late 19th century and through

the first three decades of the 20th century (Fishel & Quarles, 1970; Myrdal, 1944; Williams &

Williams, 1972; Wintersmith, 1974). Of 4,096 lynchings that took place between 1885 and

1921, about 80% were African American males, an average of 9.5 per month for 36 years (Fishel

& Quarles, 1970). Of these, most were accused, but not proven to have raped a White female.

According to statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice in 1989 and 1990, even though more

than half of individuals arrested for rape are White males, 89% or 405 out of 455 that were

executed for the crime were African American males. Most victims of crime were burned by

mobs, which even included six children. These were festive occasions for European-Americans,

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[36] King, "Understanding," 79-96.

[37] Ibid.

especially in the south. Newspapers "usually reported lynchings in detail, including how long it took the victim to lose consciousness, how the spectators scrambled to view the charred remains, and how the women and children enjoyed it" (Wintersmith, 1974, p. 38).[38]

African American males have dealt with police brutality for many years, with more than half of 479 Blacks who were killed by Whites, being police officers, during 1920-1932 in the south. A study by the Police Foundation discovered that "75 percent of the civilians killed by police in seven cities between 1973-74 were Black males" (p.44). The study also established that the shootings did not appear to be justified or have served any purpose. Every day, as recent as yesterday, African Americans are being shot, beaten, and murdered while they are in custody or confronted by those who are entrusted with upholding the law. "As in the past, their deaths are rarely the unfortunate outcome of sane nondiscriminatory policing."[39] In the first four months of 2015, the news media has reported the deaths of 109 Males Black, 150 White Males, 64 Latinos, and 78 unlisted male gender, for a total of 396 males killed by police; however, the table does not include women and other races. Figures are also not included for the month of May.[40]

Table 1 - Displays the 109 Males Black killed by police throughout the U.S. in 2015.

Present - January 1st, 2015

# since Jan 1st '15	St.	g/r	Name, Age
(404, 403) May 6, 2015	NJ	F/B M/B	Nuwnah Laroche, 34 Jason Champion, 41
(402) May 6, 2015	CA	M/B	Brendon Glenn, 29
(396, 395) May 3, 2015	TX	M/B M/PK	Elton Simpson, 30 Nadir Soofi, 34

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[38] King, "Understanding," 79-96.

[39] Ibid.

[40] Corporate News, "Killed by Police 2015."

(2263) Moved to June 10, 2013	NJ	M/B	Peter Lee Williams, 51 died June 10, 2013
(2261) Moved to May 1, 2013	MI	M/B	Jordan West-Morson, 26 died May 1, 2013
(390) April 30, 2015	VA	M/B	Jeffery O. Adkins, 53
(381) April 27, 2015	MI	M/B	Terrance Kellom, 20
(375) April 25, 2015	NY	M/B	David Felix, 24
(371) April 24, 2015	CO	M/B	Todd Jamal Dye, 20
(368) April 23, 2015	NY	M/B	Samuel Harrell, 30
(2231) Moved to September 13, 2014	UT	M/B	Christopher Lee Lucas, 25 died September 13, 2014
(360) April 22, 2015	VA	M/B	William L. Chapman II, 18
(355) April 21, 2015	NJ	M/B	Daniel Wolfe, 35
(350) April 19, 2015	TX	M/B	Norman Cooper, 33
(349) April 19, 2015	MD	M/B	Freddie Gray, 25
(345) April 18, 2015	MO	M/B	Thaddeus McCarroll, 23
(342) April 17, 2015	MD	M/B	Darrell Lawrence Brown, 31
(335) April 15, 2015	FL	M/B	Tevin Barkley, 22
(334) April 15, 2015	SC	M/B	Donte Adaryll Noble, 41
(333) April 15, 2015	TX	M/B	Frank Ernest Shephard, III, 41
(330) April 14, 2015	NY	M/B	Karl Taylor, 52
(329) April 14, 2015	TX	M/B	Colby Robinson, 26
(324) April 12, 2015	IN	M/B	Mack Long, 36
(319) April 9, 2015	IN	M/B	Don Oneal Smith Jr., 29
(314) April 8, 2015	GA	M/B	Dexter Bethea, 42
(307) April 6, 2015	LA	M/B	Desmond Willis, 25
(2170) Moved to December 19, 2014	MO	M/B	Terrell Beasley, 28 died December 19, 2014
(303) April 4, 2015	IL	M/B	Justus Howell, 17
(302) April 4, 2015	CA	M/B	Paul Anthony Anderson, 31
(300) April 4, 2015	SC	M/B	Walter Scott, 50
(297) April 3, 2015	IL	M/B	Darrin A. Langford, 32
(294) April 2, 2015	OK	M/B	Eric Courtney Harris, 44
(293) April 2, 2015	NY	M/B	Donald "Dontay" Ivy, 39
(292) April 1, 2015	CA	M/B	Robert Washington, 37
(290) March 31, 2015	NJ	M/B	Phillip White, 32
(286) March 30, 2015	VA	M/B	Dominick R. Wise, 30
(285) March 30, 2015	KY	M/B	Byron Herbert, 29
(284) March 30, 2015	MD	M/B	Ricky Shawatza Hall, 27
(282) March 30, 2015	CA	M/B	Jason Moland, 29
(277) March 27, 2015	MA	M/B	Angelo West, 41
(275) March 27, 2015	AL	M/B	Douglas Harris, 77

(273) March 27, 2015	FL	M/B	Jamalis Hall, 39
(268) March 25, 2015	SC	M/B	Jeremy Lorenza Kelly, 27
(263) March 24, 2015	GA	M/B	Nicholas Thomas, 23
(262) March 24, 2015	VA	M/B	Walter Brown III, 29
(260) March 23, 2015	NY	M/B	Denzel Brown, 21
(250) March 20, 2015	LA	M/B	Richard White, 63
(244) March 19, 2015	FL	M/B	Kendre Omari Alston, 16
(243) March 19, 2015	OH	M/B	Brandon Jones, 18
(238) March 18, 2015	GA	M/B	Askari Roberts, 35
(217) March 12, 2015	TX	M/B	Jonathan Ryan Paul, 42
(212) March 11, 2015	LA	M/B	Jamie Croom, 31
(211) March 11, 2015	MD	M/B	Terry Garnett Jr., 37
(208) March 11, 2015	OH	M/B	Terrance Moxley, 29
(206) March 11, 2015	OH	M/B	Theodore Johnson, 64
(204) March 10, 2015	FL	M/B	Cedrick Lamont Bishop, 30
(200) March 9, 2015	GA	M/B	Anthony Hill, 27
(195) March 6, 2015	FL	M/B	Andrew Anthony Williams, 48
(193) March 6, 2015	GA	M/B	Bernard Moore, 62
(192) March 6, 2015	WI	M/B	Tony Terrell Robinson Jr., 19
(191) March 6, 2015	CO	M/B	Naeschylus Vinzant, 37
(190) March 6, 2015	WI	M/B	Tyrone Ryerson Lawrence, 45
(186) March 3, 2015	IL	M/B	Shaquille C. Barrow, 20
(184) March 3, 2015	MD	M/B	Fednel Rhinvil, 25
(183) March 1, 2015	OK	M/B	Darrell "Hubbard" Gatewood, 47
(179) March 1, 2015	CA	M/B	Charley Leundeu Keunang, 43, "Africa"
(178) March 1, 2015	MO	M/B	Thomas Allen Jr., 34
(175) February 28, 2015	NC	M/B	Ian Sherrod, 40
(174) February 28, 2015	MO	M/B	Cornelius J. Parker, 28
(164) February 25, 2015	OK	M/B	Glenn C. Lewis, 37
(163) February 24, 2015	FL	M/B	Calvon A. Reid, 39
(160) February 23, 2015	AL	M/B	A'Donte Washington, 16
(154) February 21, 2015	OK	M/B	Terry Price, 41
(149) February 20, 2015	AL	M/B	Stanley Lamar Grant, 38
(134) February 15, 2015	FL	M/B	Lavall Hall, 25
(126) February 11, 2015	CA	M/B	Phillip Watkins, 23
(123) February 10, 2015	TN	M/B	Anthony Bess, 49
(117) February 9, 2015	TX	M/B	Desmond Luster, Sr., 45
(112) February 8, 2015	NC	M/B	James Howard Allen, 74
(110) February 6, 2015	OK	M/B	Herbert Hill, 26
(107) February 5, 2015	FL	M/B	Jeremy Lett, 28
(104) February 4, 2015	TN	M/B	Markell Atkins, 36

(103) February 4, 2015	TX	M/B	Jimmy Ray Robinson Jr., 51
(100) February 4, 2015	IL	M/B	Kevin Demetrius Garrett, 60
(99) February 3, 2015	CA	M/B	Dewayne Deshawn Ward Jr., 29
(97) February 3, 2015	MO	M/B	Ledarius Williams, 23
(90) January 31, 2015	MD	M/B	Edward Donnell Bright, Sr., 56
(1956) Moved to December 31, 2014	GA	M/B	Kevin Davis, 44 died December 31, 2014
(79) January 27, 2015	OH	M/B	Jermonte Fletcher, 33
(70) January 24, 2015	MD	M/B	Darin Hutchins, 26
(69) January 24, 2015	TX	M/B	Tiano Meton, 25
(66) January 23, 2015	FL	M/B	Demaris Turner, 29
(60) January 22, 2015	MO	M/B	Isaac Holmes, 19
(58) January 20, 2015	AZ	M/B	Dewayne Carr, 42
(52) January 17, 2015	OK	M/B	Terence D. Walker, 21
(50) January 16, 2015	OK	M/B	Rodney Walker, 23
(1912) moved to May 19, 2014	FL	M/B	Howard Wallace Bowe Jr., 34 died May 19, 2014
(43) January 16, 2015	CO	M/B	Kavonda Earl Payton, 39
(41) January 15, 2015	IN	M/B	Donte Sowell, 27
(38) January 15, 2015	VA	M/B	Mario A. Jordan, 34
(34) January 14, 2015	MN	M/B	Marcus Ryan Golden, 24
(24) January 8, 2015	AR	M/B	Artago Damon Howard, 36
(21) January 8, 2014	LA	M/B	, 37
(19) January 7, 2015	NE	M/B	Andre Larone Murphy Sr., 42
(18) January 7, 2015	CA	M/B	Brian Pickett, 26
(17) January 7, 2015	TX	M/B	Ronald Sneed, 31
(16) January 7, 2015	OH	M/B	Hashim Hanif Ibn Abdul-Rasheed, 41
(11) January 6, 2015	PA	M/B	Leslie Sapp III, 47
(3) January 2, 2015	GA	M/B	Matthew Ajibade, 22

Justice for All?

When one scenario fails to cripple the Black male, the judiciary system accommodates the balance. Death row seems to consist primarily of African American males who have killed Whites (Staples, 1982). In the U.S., as of May 30, 1990, 40% of the prisoners who were scheduled to die were African American males.[41]

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[41] King, "Understanding," 79-96.

One study shows that 17 percent of Black men who murdered Whites were sentenced to death, compared to 3 percent of the Whites killing Blacks. In addition, Whites were acquitted more often than Blacks, being found incompetent to stand trial, or having their cases dismissed. Black men are not usually given the death penalty for killing other Blacks, although 87% of the victims were Black (U.S. Department of Justice, 1990). Nevertheless, although 6 percent killed Whites, 40 percent are on death row for that crime (Staples, 1982, p. 49).[42]

This history, along with current oppression on all fronts, violence by and against Black males, racism and discrimination, hopelessness, and low self-esteem all contribute to the psychosocial and psychological state of mind for the young Black male. They view the oppressive statistics and high mortality rates and live through the unemployment, poverty, and probable causes. These problems have also left a shortage of role models, or fathers in the home to deliver the leadership, supervision, love, and control necessary to assist these young Black men. They are constantly exposed to drugs, media glorifying imprudent sexual behavior, alcohol, and materialism. Violence and war are considered entertainment, as well as sports that inflict pain, like boxing, wrestling, roller derby, hockey, and football. Considering all of these circumstances, coupled with the past, African American males of today are challenged in the quest for identification like no other time in history. All of the negative and self-destructive values and ideals must be dealt with.[43]

Christian activities are at a minimum that could contend with these social conditions and the difficulty of growing up as an African American male in a bigoted, prosperous world. Life in Christ will assist the individual in maturing under these circumstances, offer hope, and overcome

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[42] King, "Understanding," 79-96

[43] Ibid.

the confusion, personal frustration, and emotional pain that help destroy the moral character and ethics of so many young Black boys and men. Rather, Christ offers the ability to respect oneself, obtain a personal value, and overcome so many debilitating surroundings.

Evidence is seen regarding the way the African American community has been damaged by abnormally high percentages of incarceration, and to the young Black man in particular; however, social impacts affecting the men and their families need to be elaborated upon. These topics will also be useful to our understanding of the problem. The effect on the relationships and the lives of the children is also considerably important.[44]

Quantitative reports reveal that, nationally, African American students are disciplined, suspended, and reprimanded more than children of any other race, even when the other children have committed the same unauthorized actions (Johnson 2000; McCadden 1998; Skiba et al.'s 2000). These Blacks receive worse punishment, with boys receiving the harsher punishment.[45] In addition, an examination of the lack of education determines the effect of school quality and the school dropout rate. A lack of education greatly affected young Black men from the late 1970s and continued even after the 1990s economic boom. Poor, less-educated women, Whites, and Hispanic young men saw improved increases in employment rates; however, the opposite occurred for less-educated young Black males with a decline in employment and the ability to participate in the labor market. This time period displayed a dramatic decrease in crime rates; although the rates of incarceration continued to radically increase.[46]

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[44] Othello Harris and R. Robin Miller, "Impacts of Incarceration on the African American Family," Journal of African American Men 16, no. 1: 3-12, accessed July 28, 2014.

[45] Carla R. Monroe, "Why are 'Bad Boys' always Black? Causes of Disproportionality in School Discipline and Recommendations for Change," *The Clearing House* 79, no. 1 (Sep/Oct, 2005): 45-50, accessed July 6, 2014.

[46] Carl Bell, "Black Males Left Behind 2007." *International Journal of Men's Health* 6, no. 2 (Summer, 2007): 167-8, accessed March 23, 2015.

When scrutinizing dysfunctional families, the effect of parents being incarcerated are revealed along with the influence imposed upon the children, and the distress this causes upon the entire family. The Black community is distraught because families are disturbed about the possibilities of their sons, fathers, brothers, and other family members being unequally imprisoned. Innocent children become casualties in dysfunctional families.

When young Black men are sent to prison, the women suffer significant monetary losses and emotional support, in addition to being confronted with new circumstances regarding the challenges of coping with a prison system, and raising children alone. They may not be able to offer the necessary encouragement to the imprisoned son, boyfriend, or husband to prevent his re-entry into the prison system, or help when he returns to the community.[47] Wives and girlfriends may replace the boyfriend or husband not only in her life but in the lives of children they may have. This may have been caused by sexual frustration of either partner. Other stressors may also be introduced.[48]

During adolescence, parents, friends, and romantic partners have all been shown to affect deviant behavior; however, these factors are infrequently studied together. Parents and friends have been the usual influence according to a study by Sutherland in 1947. Deviant behavior is a learned process that must be perceived as a better option to predefined social conduct. Alternatives may be selected and different priorities given by not only parents and friends but also by an individual's romantic interests.[49]

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[47] S. H. Fishman, "Losing a Loved One to Incarceration: The Effect of Imprisonment on Family Members." *The Personnel and Guidance Journal*, no. 59 (December 2011): 372-375, accessed August 17, 2014.

[48] Harris and Miller, "Impacts," 5.

[49] Robert A. Lonardo, Peggy C. Giordano, Monica A. Longmore, and Wendy D. Manning, "Parents, Friends, and Romantic Partners: Enmeshment in Deviant Networks and Adolescent Delinquency Involvement," *PMC*, no. 38 (March 2009): 367-383, accessed August 17, 2014.

Equal Opportunity?

Poverty and unemployment are probable causes of crimes committed by Black youth to obtain money and resulted in these young men becoming involved with gangs. Peer pressure and gang attitudes may then also become a problem. Deindustrialization and globalization have caused recessions and the loss of relatively high paying and low-skilled jobs that were the mainstays for the Black man. Social programs are constantly being reduced, and immigrants compete in these areas with the young Black man for the remaining manufacturing jobs.[50]

The penal system conceals great inequities in employment because men who earn low incomes have been removed from the labor market; therefore, an analysis will only present a partial depiction of the economic factors involved with high rates of incarceration. Sample selectivity is also affected through the penal system that influences the inability of numerous ex-offenders to obtain employment and may directly affect the amount of earnings that individual may be able to earn (Western 2002; Nagin and Waldfogel 1998).[51]

Many benefitted from the economic boom of the 1990s with the exception of young less-educated Black men. No adequate evidence has been presented to explain why this tendency continued in the 1990s although better education was available, and criminal trends decreased for this category. The fact remains that in spite of these improved statistics, there was a greater decline for Blacks in the age group 16- to 24-years olds in the 1990s than there had been in the 1980s.[52] Another problem concerns young men rejecting employment since crime is more

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[50] Bruce Western and Becky Pettit, "Incarceration and Racial Inequality in Men's Employment," *Industrial and Labor Relations Review* 54, no. 1 (March 2000): 3-16, accessed July 5, 2014.

[51] Western and Pettit, "Incarceration."

[52] Harry J. Holzer, Paul Offner, and Elaine Sorensen, "Declining Employment among Young Black Less-Educated Men: The Role of Incarceration and Child Support," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 24, no. 2. (July 2005): 329-350, accessed July 6, 2014.

profitable while others have difficulty obtaining a job because of their criminal record. This

event lowers employment opportunities in the long and short term.[53] The inability of Blacks to

obtain higher wages has also been considered a probable cause for the higher rate of recidivism

for young Black offenders.[54]

For centuries, Americans have stereotyped criminals racially; however, immediately after

the civil rights movement began, the association with Blacks and crime was electrified to the

extent that the term "criminal predator" is now used synonymously with "young Black male."

This has, therefore, provided a basis for racial profiling by those in the criminal justice system.[55]

The enraged Black male appeared to be more mysterious, dangerous, and feared. A great

number of Whites have been unable to distinguish between different classes of Black people, and

stereotypes have spread. The Black race became the victim of discrimination and stereotyping.

Although Blacks have separated themselves from some other classes of Blacks, this has gone

unnoticed even though this separation is not unusual, because America is developing a new caste

system, similar to that in India, where the rich become richer, and the poor become poorer. The

elite remain aloof from the poor, whether they are Black or White. Many White people have

moved to put as much distance as possible between themselves and the Black race. As a

consequence, young Black men have been unable to effectively adjust to new economic realities

and have become lost in poverty.

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[53] National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc. (NBER). *Crime and the Employment of Disadvantaged Youths*, by Richard B. Freeman. NBER Working Papers Document with number 3875, Cambridge, 1991, 10.

[54] Karen Elizabeth Needels, "Go Directly to Jail and do Not Collect? A Long-Term Study of Recidivism and Employment Patterns among Prison Releasees," Order No. 9509555, Princeton University, 1994. In PROQUESTMS ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global, accessed July 6, 2014.

[55] Kelly Welch, "Black Criminal Stereotypes and Racial Profiling," *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* 23, no. 3 (August 2007): 276-288, accessed August 16, 2014.

To survive, young Black men have engaged in illegal activities such as stealing and burglary. They have also discovered the crack cocaine trade offered a livelihood although it was a risky business and a death threat for the seller and the client. The violent crimes committed by addicts and the greedy dealers serve to reinforce negative images for young Black men. As a result of these bad images, anyone who resembles him becomes stereotyped, and thus feared and avoided.[56] Some innocent young Black men become the Trevon Martins of the world.

The economy of the inner-city community usually exists because of low-wage jobs that offer few benefits, if any, various welfare programs, such as food stamps, bartering, semi-legal activities from the house – fixing hair, babysitting, mechanical work, and illegal pursuits such as prostitution, drug dealing, and street crimes. When legal endeavors fail, the other unlawful activities become essential for survival, which causes a young man to rationalize pursing illegal actions.[57]

The New Jim Crow

 Numerous Americans consider an exceptional predicament exists within Black America, and trust Black families are facing crises that will result in their obliteration because ethics and morality are not being taught. Many other White respondents also suggest that Blacks are lazy by nature since they are derived from a culture in which this is so deep-seated and imbedded in its history. As a result, many Caucasians believe this laziness cannot be changed easily, and is embraced by each and every generation in a manner that is virtually irreversible.[58]

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[56] Elijah Anderson, *Against the Wall: Poor, Young, Black, and Male*. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008), 6.

[57] Anderson, *Against the Wall,* 19.

[58] Angela Davis, *Race and Criminalization: Black Americans and the Punishment Industry. Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Selected Readings*. (Lewisburg, Pa: Bertrand Library Instructional Media Services, 2007), 388.

Those who have spent an average of eighteen to thirty or forty months in juvenile prison have their life cycles drastically altered. As we have discussed, the young Black males without any type of prison record finds life difficult enough. The newly released convict will find that weak opportunities become weaker, and family relationships may have become even more difficult, and all aspects vary from what other young adults might follow. Delays are experienced in starting a career, marriage, and parenthood. Military service becomes an impossibility, although the military previously offered an option for redirecting the life of disadvantaged young Black males (Hogan 1981; Elder 1986; Xie 1992; Elder 1987:543). Prison is a negative experience that increases chances for lower wages or unemployment; however, a person may re-evaluate their life and attempt to change the direction in which they were headed.[59]

Additional studies have divulged that these offenders are less prone to marry or live with their children and the mothers (Hagan and Dinovitzer 1999; Western and McLanahan 2000). This scenario may cause hopelessness and cause the individual to revert to a life of crime with its everlasting stigma (Sampson and Laub 1993; Warr 1998). Thus, the entire life of a young Black man becomes a mass of confusion and frustration from his life as a juvenile to the grave.[60]

A conspiracy theory has developed regarding incarceration of young Black males, which is called the New Jim Crow. Segregation and discrimination of races are no longer acceptable legally or socially in the United States; however, one group is an exception to that rule – convicts. A person with a felony conviction may be denied employment, housing, voting privileges, public benefits, exclusion from jury service, and education. Just three or four

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[59] Pettit and Bruce Western. "Mass Imprisonment," 151-169.

[60] Ibid.

generations ago, these restrictions, and more, were not permitted for the ancestors of modern

Black families. In the year 2015, every advantage and remuneration that was legitimately denied

to African Americans less than one hundred years ago may again be legally enforced against a

convicted offender who has acquired the title of felon.[61] In prison a young man constantly

battles to survive not just mentally, but physically as well. If he ever relents, rests, or lets down

his guard, he becomes susceptible to forfeiting his manhood.[62] All too many of those confined in

minimum or maximum quarters are suffering from injustices in the current system. In all

actuality, the current regime is like a bandage or plaster of paris smeared over "the ills of society

at large."[63] After surviving institutional life, the felon must struggle hundreds of times harder

and attain intelligence a hundred times smarter to endure the hardships they will face when they

are released.[64]

Some proponents (e.g. Davis, 1998) avow the policy of mass incarceration is caused by a

prison industrial complex; however, a carceral-assistential complex actually completes its

mission which is to keep individuals under surveillance, train them, and nullify the unruly

inhabitants and those who are unnecessary to the new economic and racial administration

corresponding to an innovative separation of labor. The prison system copes with the males in

the corrective department and governs the women and children and families of these young men

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[61] Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.* (New York: New Press, 2012), 2.

[62] Ahmad Al Aswadu, "The Black Prisoner," The *Black Scholar* 2, no. 8/9 (April-May 1971): 29, accessed July 27, 2014.

[63] Joe Black, "Prison Works?" *Criminal Justice Matters* 74, no. 1 (December 2008): 7, *Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text*, EBSCO*host*, accessed July 6, 2014.

[64] Demico Boothe, *Getting Out & Staying Out: A Black Man's Guide to Success after Prison.* (N.p. Full Service Publishing, 2012), 67.

by an overhauled welfare-workfare scheme, which is calculated to support informal or unskilled

employment needs. Prisons, therefore, assist in the control of the class and caste structure, the

treatment of poverty through the penal system, and "subsequent to the denunciation of the

Fordist-Keynesian social contract, that has brought the prison back to the societal center, counter

to the optimistic forecasts of its impending demise by analysts of the criminal justice scene in the

early 1970s'."[65]

The War on Drugs

In the 1980's and 1990's one theory that ran rampant concerned the War on Drugs. This

war was presumed to have been inaugurated because of the disaster that crack cocaine had

produced in neighborhoods in the inner-city.   The people holding this opinion consider the racial

inequities in drug convictions as well as the consequent sentences and the prompt eruption in the

populations of prisons was an indication of the government's successful campaign to quell the

drug trafficking offenses in the poor inner-city communities. The media displayed such startling

coverage of crack cocaine that this attitude was plausible; however, it was absolutely wrong.

The president of that time, Ronald Regan, declared the war on drugs prior to crack becoming a

problem; however, the mass advertising and attention given to the issue allowed a spectacular

growth in the financial support for the drug war. At the same time, sentencing policies "greatly

exacerbated racial disparities in incarceration rates."[66]

After the drug war began, crack quickly became a problem especially in poor Black

neighborhoods across the country, including Columbus, Ohio. After the Reagan administration

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[65] Loic Wacquant, "Deadly Symbiosis When Ghetto and Prison Meet and Mesh," *Punishment & Society* 3, no. 1 (January, 2001): 95-133, accessed July 6, 2014.

[66] Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*, 5.

hired others to broadcast news regarding the appearance of crack cocaine in 1985, the media

inundated the news with devastating stories about the demon drug. This strategy successfully

strengthened public and legislative approval and support for the war, which then became an

actual war. Rumors persisted in poor Black neighborhoods that the CIA was the culprit that

supplied crack and other drugs to Black areas as a genocide plan and a means of destroying

Black people in the United States. The genocide idea was dismissed; however, in 1990, even the

urban league declared the drug problem presented an insidious danger and a toxic hazard for the

African American community.[67]

The CIA admitted in 1998 that guerrilla armies it actively supported in Nicaragua were

smuggling illegal drugs into the United States— drugs that were making their way onto the

streets of inner-city Black neighborhoods in the form of crack cocaine. The CIA also admitted

that in the midst of the war on drugs, it blocked law enforcement efforts to investigate illegal

drug networks that were helping to fund its covert war in Nicaragua. The drug war was

proclaimed which produced a crisis in the Black community that did not previously exist, which

also began when illegal drug use was declining. After the war on drugs was announced, drug-

related arrests and convictions escalated rapidly especially for African Americans. The penal

system population went ballistic in less than thirty years, climbing speedily from approximately

300,000 to more than 2 million while also becoming a system of social control that is

incomparable in the world's history. Also, drug convictions accounted for the majority of this

increase. The levels of imprisonment for African Americans are unprecedented, and one in three

young African American men will be in jail if these unequal rates continue.[68] The Department of

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[67] Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*, 6.

[68] Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*, 8-9.

Justice states that African Americans do not indulge in drug usage any more than Caucasians;

however, as far as crimes involving drugs, African Americans make up 33% of those arrested,

50% of those who are prosecuted, and over 70% of those jailed in these cases.[69]

Stereotypes in Living Color

Do stereotypes affect the Justice System? The best interest of the child has been set aside

in recent years so that punishment could be unified with rehabilitation. This situation has had the

most serious effect on violent, chronic offenders, by restricting the authority of the juvenile

justice system and remands them to criminal jurisdiction where they receive extensive prison

sentences. The primary recipients are inexplicably male, minority adolescents. A study has not

yet been performed to determine whether or not race is an issue; however, minority youth were

reassigned more frequently.[70]

When criminal and juvenile justice is administered, an important consideration to be

determined is the reaction of Whites to minority offenders, and the racial and ethnic stereotyping

that takes place. The Black man is frequently categorized as being exceptionally rapacious and a

chronic lawless lawbreaker, and since they are perceived as being more depraved and maleficent,

they are therefore deserving of more severe penalties.[71] These stereotypes are consequently

converted into "officially recognized offenders" by the court system, which is then able to

explain the differences in criminal penalties. Court officials have been given a mental image of

offenders that allows them to deal legally with them and dispose of these criminal cases and

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[69] Paul Butler, "Starr is to Clinton as Regular Prosecutors are to Blacks." *BCL Rev.* 40 (1998): 714.

[70] J. Fagan, M. Forst, and T. Vivona, "Racial Determinants of the Judicial Transfer Decision: Prosecuting Violent Youth in Criminal Court," Crime *& Delinquency* 1987. No. 33: 259-286, accessed August 17, 2014.

[71] George S. Bridges and Sara Steen, "Racial Disparities in Official Assessments of Juvenile Offenders: Attributional Stereotypes as Mediating Mechanisms," *American Sociological Review* 63, no. 4 (August 1998): 554-70, accessed July 27, 2014.

similar ones based on superficial social and characteristic personalities with which they have

previously associated with.[72]

To determine this issue, questions that must be addressed involve race, the definition of

the concerned youth, and how these criminal cases are handled. The main question relates to

whether court officials view minority offenders differently than White offenders. Race is

considered a social status in the court room, and that has the possibility of affecting the character

evaluation of youth by the courts. These authorities may also find the minorities are more

disrespectful than Whites. Recent reports by Bridges and Conley in 1995 and Tonry in 1995

discovered that minorities often are perceived as being more dangerous and presenting a more

threatening demeanor than Whites with similar offense histories. These same authorities may,

therefore, believe the minorities are more apt to reoffend. Probation officers have been found to

regularly write disparaging reports about Black youth compared to those written regarding White

youth. As a consequence, courts and legal institutions identify minorities more deserving of

reprimands and may inflict greater sentences, punishment, and control on minorities than on

Whites.[73] The United States must face the fact that America's "economic and political systems

have contributed to the construction of deadly marginal environments," and that violence will not

be reduced by "focusing on stereotypical views of its main victims."[74]

An update by Mauer indicates that over the last twenty years, percentages involving

violent crimes ascribed to African Americans have only changed within a few degrees ranging

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[72] Bridges and Steen, "Racial Disparities."

[73] Ibid.

[74] Michael Greenberg and Dona Schneider, "Violence in American Cities: Young Black Males in the Answer, But What Was the Question?" *Social Science & Medicine* 39, no. 2 (July 1994), 186, accessed July 27, 2014.

from 44-47%; however, the age composition has transformed, especially for young Black males

involved in committing murder since the mid-1980s. The number rose from 32 per 100,000 in

1984 to 111.8 per 100,000 in 1991 for murders committed by 14-17 year old Black males.[75]

A Report Card for Evaluating Juvenile Justice in Ohio

> In 2005, the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Ohio, the Children's
> Law Center and the Ohio Public Defender began an investigation into the extraordinarily
> high rates at which Ohio juveniles waived their right to counsel in delinquency
> proceedings. In the course of that investigation, the groups uncovered numerous areas
> within Ohio's juvenile justice system that fail the state's children. As the most recent
> edition, the 2011 report card analyzes six aspects of Ohio's juvenile justice system and
> grades them on how well they are doing in light of national and international standards.[76]

This report card indicated Waiver of Counsel was incomplete for both 2011 and 2008.

Rates of Juvenile Detention and Commitment received an increase from C in 2008 to a B in

2011. Disproportionate Minority Confinement was incomplete in 2008 and receive a grade of D

in 2011. Transparency showed incomplete in 2011, and N/A in 2008. Shackling of Juveniles

received an F in both years, and Juvenile Transfers were graded with a C- in 2008 and C+ in

2011.[77]

Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC)

The United States Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment and the international human

rights standards decree that all state juvenile justice systems treat children equally who are

similarly situated, regardless of their race or national origin. "Discrimination on the basis of

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[75] Sentencing Project, *Young Black Americans and the Criminal Justice System: Five Years Later* by Marc Mauer and Tracy Huling. Sentencing Project: 1995, 9, accessed July 27, 2014.

[76] American Civil Liberties of Ohio (ACLU), "Pri$ons for Profit," accessed July 7, 2015.

[77] American Civil Liberties of Ohio (ACLU), "Evaluating Juvenile Justice in Ohio: A Report Card," (2011), accessed July 7, 2015.

race, color, language, religion, national or social origin or other status is strictly prohibited."[78]

Anytime statistics show that a particular color or race is overrepresented usually means that

system is unsuccessful in obeying the mandates. This situation is apparent in the Ohio juvenile

detention and correctional facilities. In 2009, youth of color only accounted for approximately

24% of Ohio's delinquent population; however, in 2010, they made up 54.5% "of juveniles

adjudicated delinquent for felony offenses and 66.7% of juveniles committed to DYS.

An agency exists in every state that is designed to deal with the criminal activities of

delinquent juveniles; therefore, a definition of the Ohio Department of Youth Services will serve

as the model for the agency in any of the remaining forty-nine states. This examination has been

determined according to a website the agency maintains.[79] Some of the information they provide

regards safety concerns the public may need to report, in addition to the following headlines:

agency information, inside DYS, youth safety, re-entry, family, community, and contact

information. Federal links dealing with reporting a safety concern, the path to safer facilities,

budget information, an assessment system registration, and resources for families.

This site maintains that "DYS is the juvenile corrections system for the state of Ohio."

They also confess that "DYS is statutorily mandated to confine felony offenders, ages 10 to 21,

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[78] U.S. Constitution, 14th Amend.; CRC, supra n.1, Art.2 ("States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status."); Beijing Rules, supra n.1, Rule 2.1 ("The following Standard Minimum Rules shall be applied to juvenile offenders impartially, without distinction of any kind, for example as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."); United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, supra n.10, Rule 6(1) ("There shall be no discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.").

[79] Ohio Department of Youth Services, accessed July 7, 2015.

who have been adjudicated and committed by one of Ohio's 88 county juvenile courts."[80] DYS

states that they attempt to involve the youth in programming which addresses their criminal and

behavioral needs, requires them to attend school year round, and trains them for a vocation.

They claim to support 600 or more community programs throughout the entire state which

provides 80,000 youth options that will positively affect their lives. These programs offer

courses dedicated to prevention and diversion through residential or community treatment in

various areas that assist those in need of mental health agendas, sex offenders, and drug and

alcohol treatment. DYS declares their mission is to "improve Ohio's future by habilitating youth

and empowering families and communities."[81] They further state that their vision is to make

Ohio a safer place: "one youth, one family and one community at a time."[82]

DYS indicates that they operate eight correctional and rehabilitation facilities, and fund

almost 100% to maintain twelve different Community Correctional Facilities (CCFs). These

accommodations are operated by various counties that deal with lower-level delinquent juveniles

who have committed felonies who would have been sent to a DYS prison otherwise.[83] Counties,

the number of institutions and CCFs, will vary by state. Each state has an agency for handling

youthful offenders; however, the department may be under the Department of Corrections,

Juvenile Services, or a variety of different names.

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[80] Ohio Department of Youth Services, "Ohio Department of Youth Services Statistics," accessed July 17, 2015.

[81] Ibid.

[82] Ibid.

[83] Opening Doors of Ohio: A Prison Ministry, "Real Freedom Through Lasting Change, accessed July 7, 2015.

The Ohio Children's Defense Fund (CDF) issued a report in 2006 that offers statistics for

each county in Ohio. Their mission is: "To Leave No Child Behind® and to ensure every child

a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful

passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities."[84] The agency imparts a

voice to those children "who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves."[85] This report includes

letters from a juvenile judge and the director of the Department of Youth Services for 2006,

along with an excellent flowchart for a youth entering the juvenile system, and other statistics.

One of the most important documents is a statement of guilt regarding violations of the

Disproportionate Minority Contact which reads:

> For over a decade, the Justice Department has been working to reduce the racial disparity
> that exists in juvenile arrests and juvenile incarceration, which underscores the existence
> of racially disparate arrests and sentences. Since 1992, when the Juvenile Justice and
> Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) was amended, the federal government has
> acknowledged that youth of different races and ethnicities are treated differently by the
> justice system. African American youth arrest rates for drug violations, assaults and
> weapon offenses are higher than arrest rates for White youth, even though both report
> similar rates of delinquency. As a result, the federal government has promoted policies to
> address the disparities. The JJDPA was reauthorized in 2003.[86]

Although faced with the same challenges that confront young Black men that have been

imprisoned, there are others who have succeeded in overcoming the same obstacles and have

become successful entrepreneurs, government officials, educators, white and blue collar workers,

ministers, and more. Some of the deterrents and incentives for their accomplishments include

moving from unacceptable environments, a strong matriarch, a religious family life, and

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[84] Children's Defense Fund-Ohio, *Status of Ohio's Children: Juvenile Justice for Ohio's Children? 2006 Ohio KIDS COUNT Data Book.*

[85] Ibid.

[86] Ibid.

ascending from a family line that was never exposed to the problems of separation in the days of slavery. Of the conversations that I personally conducted of young men age fifteen or older, including men up to the age of 75, the primary reason given for their success was the man's personal desire to achieve and triumph over their circumstances.

The Department of Youth Services

A study of solutions has taken place in the last several years. In the fall of 1999, DYS presented a new Plan for Juvenile Sentencing in Ohio. This plan was intended to correct certain procedures that were being enforced that should be eliminated from the system or changed for various reasons.[87] DYS also implemented various programs to prevent youth from entering the justice system and to prevent their return if they have been in the system. One method DYS tried consisted of consolidating the prisons, and decreasing the number to three prisons. This made it possible to put more programs in place and serve more inmates. Other solutions were enforced; however, the percentage of young Black males being incarcerated has not declined.

One proposed solution is to have DYS unite with effective programs that society has in place so that a united effort will arrive at an effective program that will cause a decrease not only in the rate of imprisonment and recidivism in the Black race, but in the rate of incarceration for youth of all races. One law, 2151.73 Delinquency Prevention, authorizes juvenile courts to participate with others in delinquency prevention programs.[88] This stipulation would allow the participation of Christian laity in the prison system. A study should be implemented to evaluate the success of this combination program. The program with the most successful percentage rate of decline should be subjected to additional scrutiny.

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[87] Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission, *A Plan for Juvenile Sentencing in Ohio*, by David J. Diroll, ed., Fall 1999, accessed August 17, 2014, 12-149.

[88] Ibid.

Prevention Methods Hoping for a Pound of Cure

Society has programs for all youth, whether at risk or not. Christian laity may profit from a study of programs already in place, like *As One We Can Foundation*, which makes geography unimportant. These programs may not exist in Columbus; however, part of the solution would be investigating the effectiveness in other communities (dependent variables), compared with independent variables, to determine whether or not the program would be beneficial in Columbus. A second option is to remain local and utilize programs from below that seem to be doing well in Columbus and make that the dependent variable, and compare that program to another independent group in Columbus.

- Prevention programs including curfews, and other *Crime Prevention Programs*.[89]

- *At-Risk Youth*.

- Local programs started in society – *YMCA, Big Brothers*, Urban Leagues, and Teen Centers.

- School programs – tutoring, counseling, *No Child Left Behind*, summer jobs.

- Other organizations such as Job Corps, no cost military schools.

- Boot camps – wilderness programs, residential programs, jail boot camps.

- *My Brother's Keeper*.

- Counseling for Parents.

- Government programs that offer apprenticeships.

- *National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program*, Scared Straight Programs,

- If necessary, medications and therapy alternatives should be considered.

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[89] MRSC Local Government Success, "Youth and Youth-At-Risk Programs, accessed July 7, 2015.

- Specific programs for Black youth such as *One We Can Foundation*.

A discussion of the background of young Black men is appropriate, as well as statistics regarding incarceration of the races, and the effectiveness of these specialized programs. Geography is irrelevant because these programs may be implemented any place. These programs have been successful; however, the statistics are not great. Could one of the reasons be because God is left out of the equation? Leaving God out is like the result of taking prayer out of the schools. One of the greatest options would be mentoring programs started by Christian laity.

Although there are only a few mentoring programs for African American males placed on a published list of evidence-based practices and demanding scientific evaluation, evidence is manifest that those young men who participated have achieved greater education success. These youth have validated that they are prone to stay in school, and avoid any gang activity. Also, they are apt to refrain from alcohol or drug abuse, any type of delinquency, and evade activities that would place them in the juvenile justice system.[90]

Some of the successful, effective strategies explicitly designed for mentoring African American youth are listed below. Although they are in various areas of the country, they may be used as models of programs that Christian laity could establish in Ohio.

- *A Cut Above* assigns a mentor (who is called a Student Advocate) to students. These advocates help prepare these young scholars for high school and college, and advocate for them with their teachers, parents, and school administrators. Their goal is to develop leadership in the student, prevent any type of substance abuse, school violence, or gang involvement.[91]

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[90] G. Roger Jarjoura, *Effective Strategies for Mentoring African American Boys.* (Washington: American Institutes for Research, 2013), 1-9.

[91] Harlem Children's Zone, "A National Model for Breaking the Cycle of Poverty," accessed July 7, 2015.

- *House of Umoja* has operated in Philadelphia for almost 40 years. Although it was originally established to prevent gang involvement, it expanded to on-the-job training, employment, and entrepreneurial programs for youth.[92]

- *The Mentoring Center* is based in Oakland, California, and offers a long-term mentoring program that promotes good character development, life skills training, employment skills, and anger management for high at-risk Black males. This program is one of the few that also works on the youth's spiritual development. The Center has intervened for youth who are already involved with the juvenile justice system, most especially those who have been to prison and returned to their communities[93].

- The *O.K.* mentoring program utilizes police officers as mentors for at-risk African American boys who have been unsuccessful in school. Originally, it was designed to help resolve the high rate of Blacks who were involved in the criminal justice system.[94]

- The *100 Black Men* organization is international and helps prepare young Black youth through their one-on-one mentoring program with the hope of training them to become productive citizens in society when they become adults. The primary intent is to provide holistic development of these individuals so they will successfully complete their education, become proficient in exploring a viable career, and develop excellent leadership skills.[95]

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[92] House of Uojma, accessed July 7, 2015.

[93] The Mentoring Center, accessed July 7, 2015.

[94] Empowering Black Men to Improve Their Community, accessed July 7, 2015.

[95] 100 Black Men of America, Inc., accessed July 7, 2015.

- *The Ten Point Coalition* utilizes an ecumenical group of Christian clergy as well as laity Christian leaders who work with the community on issues that affect young Black Men. This group was established in 1990 in Boston to battle the extremely high rate of homicides committed by Black youth on other Black youth. This program has been reproduced in a number of cities in the United States; therefore, this would be an excellent model to observe and establish in Ohio. Christian laity collaborates with government, community, and private sector institutions to address the violence perpetrated by high-risk African American males and help restore the families and communities affected by this violence. On weekend nights, adults patrol these neighborhoods, and also act as advocates on behalf of youth who are already involved with the criminal justice systems for juveniles.[96]

Train Them in the Way They Should Go

To have a productive program, some principles should be employed. A huge goal should be established for the eventual objectives, or little influence will be observed. Mentors should be able to evolve their students into dynamic, law-abiding adults, who are industrious, and involved in healthy relationships. Research has verified that when properly performed, mentoring can alter behaviors significantly. Mentors must be adequately trained so they can develop relationships full of trust, empathy, and mutuality that will promote the youth's social-emotional, cognitive, and identity development. Relationships are key. Mentors should not be assigned to a youth merely because the two have similar interest or characteristics. Programs frequently pair boys with adult male mentors or to a male of the same race; however, pairing should be

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[96]The Ten Point Coalition, accessed July 7, 2015.

accomplished by whether the outcome will be positive. "Research shows that it is more important to consider the racial identity of the youth and the cultural competency of the mentor (Sanchez, 2011).[97]

Minority youth who acquire positive ethnic identities are more prone to establish a sense of belonging to a cultural group that will allow them to achieve more academically, psychologically, and socially (Wakefield & Hudley, 2007). This strongly suggests that expanding the ethnic identity of a minority youth should be encouraged by the mentor. The *Mentoring Center* and *House of Umoja* utilize this principle in their mentoring programs by constructing a curriculum which commemorates African American culture and successful functions for young men within the perspective of such an ethnic culture.[98]

Another principle is to remember that African American boys have usually been exposed to many violence, victimization, and trauma experiences in neighborhoods where poverty prevailed which adversely affects their development (Griffin et al., 2009). As a result, they are inclined to have greater rates of learning disabilities, be more impulsive than the average youth, have more behavior problems, and struggle with problem solving, decision making, and forming personal relationships. Effective strength-based mentoring programs address these areas and are helpful in building skills of these youth. When Christian laity work with these boys, the youth have a chance to discuss their experiences so they may heal and grow. "The extent to which mentors can be trained in or know the features of trauma-informed care can be an asset to healing and secondary prevention.[99]

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[97] Jarjoura, *Effective Strategies*, 1-9.

[98] Ibid.

[99] Ibid.

These model mentoring programs are not like *Big Brothers Big Sisters* because they are not usually one-on-one, or some type of buddy program. The goal is intended to cause the boys to select a constructive and beneficial future; therefore, the mentors are trained to be more culturally competent. Christian laity could be trained in groups, and then one of these adults or a few of them could work together with a small group of the African American young men. The primary focus is to provide significant relationships with Christian adults who attempt to reduce the disturbing conduct and activities of these boys, and establish high standards and prospects for those they are helping. While working on these programs, teaching ethnic identity, cultural tenets, and gender roles in our society should be a priority. Participation in programs that celebrate African American culture would also be beneficial.[100]

Involvement with Christian laity will also give these young men hope for the future. Positive role models are usually difficult to find in the environment these at risk youth came from; therefore, they are at risk for involvement in gangs, school failure or dropout, drugs, and crime. They may have observed one or both parents or siblings go to jail, friends be killed at an early age, and have little or no access to good employment opportunities or spiritual guidance. A Black male who experienced these challenges, but survived and overcame the obstacles to become successful, would be extremely inspirational to a young man's dream for the future. It is crucial that Christian laity from various churches and denominations work together to establish these types of mentoring programs so they will be available on a large scale.[101]

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[100] Jarjoura, *Effective Strategies*, 1-9.

[101] Ibid.

Opinions and Recommendations of Two Christians

Black churches do have groups who are involved in prison ministry. Evangelizing is certainly a necessity; however, these youth should also be prepared for the world they will encounter when they are released. Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio, distributes literature to every person in the congregation regarding their behavior when stopped by a police officer for a traffic offense. The legal rights of the person are also detailed. Young peers frequently address young people to address issues such as sagging pants, drugs, respect, and self-esteem. This church also offers a Christian Academy to educate the children and train them in the way they should go.

The internet features individuals who write blogs, or presents organizations like the *Red Letter Christians* who interview individuals currently working to change racism, or those who have suggestions regarding the challenges Black males face, or those who are working with Black youth to prevent their incarceration, or change the direction of those who have been released from the prison system.

One young woman, Elizabeth Rawlings,[102] expressed her feelings in a blog about the racism in the world today, entitled, "White Christians Sleep While Young Black Men Die."[103] Her intended audience is her "white brothers and sisters, particularly those in the church." Elizabeth indicated she is White, raised in a town that was almost all White, and has spent the majority of her life in White faith communities. She expounded on her belief that White people do not like to talk about racism, and they often pretend it does not exist, and they do not benefit

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[102] Elizabeth is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran Seminary in Berkeley, California, who writes blogs about seminary, Christian leadership, and emergent things in her blog, "Feet In, Arms Out."

[103] Elizabeth Rawlings, "White Christians Sleep While Young Black Men Die," Sojourners, March 26, 2012, accessed August 9, 2015.

from it. She emphatically states, "This has got to stop."[104] Elizabeth suggested that White folks

feel that when Barack Obama became president, racism died, and they could sleep peacefully

with that knowledge. If that is true, she asks, why do so many of us hold our purses tighter when

approaching Black men, check the door locks when driving through minority neighborhoods,

cross the street to avoid walking too close to a group of dark-skinned men, and other actions of

this type. She did not exclude herself. "Then, in the middle of our nice black-man-is-president,

post-racial dream, a young Black man is killed for walking through a neighborhood in a hoodie

carrying some Skittles, an iced tea, and talking to his girl on the phone."[105]

She suggested that everyone wake up from their dream world, stay awake, and be aware.

Christian pastors and churches need to stop catering to people in an attempt to make them

comfortable. Some churches endeavor to keep people awake and aware, but this attempt should

not be just for a few churches "well-suited to social justice work." These efforts should be the

work of all of us. Elizabeth blames many incidents and events on Christian people sitting idly by

and watching so many transgressions and inequities such as the disparity in young Black men

being imprisoned. This lady then advocates the following:

- Admit that we are afraid of people of color. Admit we concede that some stereotypes of
  people are true.

- Realize we have privileges others do not have. We are not afraid of the police unless we
  have committed some crime or done something illegal or are paranoid. White people do
  still retain the hierarchy of power for many things like "wealth, education, gender, sexual

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[104] Rawlings, "White Christians."

[105] Ibid.

orientation, nation of origin, immigration status, and color." Ask yourself why the police

drove right past you without even looking your way.

- This situation will only get better when White people begin to talk about racism.

- Admit that you may have been racist when you clutched your bag or wallet, or when you

  crossed the street. Admitting you have a problem will be your first step in recovery.

- Admit that you have power when your credit check is waived.

- "Wake up the people around you. Wake up your churches. Talk about race. Deliver

  sermons about race. Have workshops about race."[106]

The suggestions Elizabeth Rawlings made are a big part of the solution. Black people

cannot reverse the problems discussed in this document by themselves. White churches must

become involved and work with Black communities and churches. Since the White race has the

power, they will be most influential in developing changes. Each culture must be determined to

overcome their own personal prejudices. Some people in the Black race are just as guilty of

prejudice, not only against the White race, but also other Black people and of the same

discriminatory behavior Elizabeth alludes to above.

Jonathan Brooks, Senior Pastor at Canaan Community Church in Chicago's Englewood

neighborhood, is another individual concerned about the juvenile justice system in America. In

his interview by Red Carpet, he shared the problem and noted that if the church becomes active,

he will also be addressing the solution. Jonathan's sentiments echo the problem statement in this

thesis regarding a broken family structure and a broken education system. He questions how

society can demand the same success and prosperity from children in this reality as they do from

those in an affluent structure. In an attempt to achieve the same successes, young Black males

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[106] Rawlings, "White Christians."

use alternative methods which are illegal. As a result, many are caught in their illicit deeds, are

arrested, and then, according to Michelle Alexander, are "shuttled from their decrepit,

underfunded inner city schools to brand-new, high-tech prisons."[107] After they are released, they

are returned to the same broken systems that initially failed them, although they are mandated to

undergo different results or return to prison. Many of these youth are tracked for prison by the

time they enter the third grade and are branded as criminals by the time they are teenagers.[108]

The current criminal justice system declares that a person who chooses to commit a crime

deserves punishment because they are responsible for their decisions and should be locked up.

Parents are made to believe that as long as their children are on their best behavior, that they will

not become a victim of the system; however, even those children who try to stay on their best

behavior are still harassed, searched without proper cause, labeled, and convicted. Another

problem with that statement is that no person is constantly on their best behavior. The Bible

states in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Every

individual has done or will do something for which they could be arrested. The White majority

must be made to realize that the current system makes criminals out of children who have made

mistakes, some more serious than others, but they are still mistakes.[109]

At Canaan Community Church, the congregation shares and shows love to those who are

incarcerated and their families. The church utilizes different partnerships to use their facilities to

house two alternative mentoring programs for young men and women who are in the juvenile

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[107] Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness.* (New York: New Press, 2012).

[108] Jonathan Brooks, *Red Letter Christians*.

[109] Ibid.

system. They also work with other ministries to assist those with incarcerated family members by visiting them weekly. The goal is to listen, talk, laugh, cry, pray, and make them aware that the Christian laity is aware of the crises they are experiencing and to let them know the church is concerned and wants to help in any way they care. When Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts are delivered to the families, they are made aware that all of the items are from the imprisoned family member. The laity states they are only the delivery people.[110]

The church attempts to follow Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." Those with criminal records are allowed to work with or for the church with some even acting as mentors for their program. Programming includes art, sports, music lessons, college scholarships, and different activities designed to assist the children in making better decisions and, for those at-risk youth, to prayerfully never wind up in jail in the first place. Jonathan reveals that for things to change at a national level, Christian laity who are concerned with justice must lead the battle to re-humanize those who are considered criminal. Instead of considering them the unwanted other, the laity will learn their stories and treat them like people again. An alternate to prison must be assertively sought to eliminate imprisonment of young Black males and other young people by providing services that will assist them in overcoming the inadequacies of their environment.[111]

Private corporations operating prisons were outlawed at the beginning of the twentieth century; however, once again, prisons may be owned and operated for profit. These adult

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[110] Jonathan Brooks, *Red Letter Christians.*

[111] Ibid.

prisons are being fed by the juvenile justice system. These for-profit jails must be eliminated if

the injustice is to be eradicated. Will these private-owned prisons tolerate actions to prevent

young Black men, or any other youth for that matter, from entering their facilities? These

corporations will have a great deal of influence on lawmakers. The church and all Christian laity

must become involved instead of sitting silent like they did when prayer was taken out of schools

and legislation issued to remove the ten commandments from government buildings and all of

the other atrocities that have removed the rights of Christians. Jonathan referred to Michelle

Alexander's note that, "The fate of millions of people—indeed the future of the black

community itself—may depend on the willingness of those who care about racial justice to re-

examine their basic assumptions about the role of the criminal justice system in our society," and

to the *Alternatives to Incarceration Report*.[112]

A Light on the Horizon?

New hope comes to remedy some of these problems listed in this thesis as elaborated

upon by the news media. With the recent unrest in Baltimore over the death of Freddie Grey

(April 19, 2015), presidential candidate Hillary Clinton received attention from the media when

she indicated an end should come to the "era of mass incarceration." All candidates for the 2016

presidency are considering the wisdom of long prison terms. Hillary has proposed that every

police department be provided with body cameras. Her position on prisons condemns Bill

Clinton's presidency and his policy failure. During his presidency, Bill promoted a crime bill

which placed 100,000 additional police on the streets, authorized billions of dollars for the

construction of more prisons, banned assault weapons for ten years, deprived inmates' access to

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[112] Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*.

college courses, and also "forced the states to impose harsher sentences on violent offenders to be eligible for prison-construction grants."[113] Clinton aggressively campaigned on the crime bill two years later, which minorities in particular, and liberal Democrats warned him that the law would have negative, unintended consequences. In 1996, the Democrats lauded Clinton for his tough position on sentencing when they stated, "We believe that people who break the law should be punished, and people who commit violent crimes should be punished severely. President Clinton made three-strikes-you're-out the law of the land, to ensure that the most dangerous criminals go to jail for life, with no chance of parole."[114]

"In the 1980s and 1990s, state and federal legislators passed and governors and presidents signed laws intended to ensure that more of those convicted would be imprisoned and that prison terms for many offenses would be longer than in earlier periods. No other inference can be drawn from the enactment of hundreds of laws mandating lengthier prison terms."[115] The body cameras may well be the headline, but the 180-degree turn in the politics of mass incarceration, and in the Clintons' approach to criminal justice is the story which was updated by Jonathan Allen on April 29, 2015.[116]

CNN Politics offered the following remarks from Hillary when she addressed an audience at Columbia University, and stated, "It is time for the United States to come to terms with unmistakable and undeniable racial patterns in policing. As a citizen, a human being, my

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[113] Jonathan Allen, "Prison Sentences," *Vox*, accessed July 27, 2015.

[114] Ibid.

[115] Ibid.

[116] Ibid.

heart breaks for these young men and their families."[117] She cited a few incidents that have

occurred in the past year that involved Black men being killed by police, and also indicated, "We

have allowed our criminal justice system to get out of balance and these recent tragedies should

galvanize us to come together as a nation to find out balance against."[118] Clinton referred to

some reforms she felt were needed, "on our streets, in our courthouses, in our jails and prisons, in

communities too long neglected."[119] She spoke about inequities in unemployment and poverty

that also need to be corrected for good policing to be effective. When speaking about ending

policies of mass incarceration, she noted that, "missing husbands, missing fathers, missing

brothers" level "profound consequences" on families.[120] She further remarked about low-level

offenders, "Keeping them behind bars does little to reduce crimes but it does a lot to tear apart

families and communities. We need to start understanding how important it is to care for every

single child as though that child was our own."[121] Clinton also said, "It is time to change our

approach. It is time to end the era of mass incarceration. We need a true national debate about

how to reduce our prison population while keeping our communities safe."[122]

Additional proposals from Clinton include treatment for drug addiction and

decriminalizing certain drugs which a number of advocates applaud because it would relieve

prison crowding in the U.S. She proposed alternatives for those who committed lesser offenses,

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[117] Brianna Keilar and Dan Merica, "Hillary Clinton Calls for Mandatory Police Body Cameras, End 'Era of Mass Incarceration,' *CNN Politics*, (April 2015), accessed July 27, 2015.

[118] Ibid.

[119] Ibid.

[120] Ibid.

[121] Ibid.

[122] Ibid.

particularly ones that young people commit. During his second term, President Barack Obama has supported changing mandatory minimum prison terms for specific crimes. Bill Clinton tried to defend building up the police forces throughout the country, funding prisons so their capacity could be increased, and tougher sentences that included some youth by indicating "being tough on crime was popular" at the time.[123] He concluded by saying, "Our nation has too many people in prison and for too long - we have overshot the mark."[124]

When the Saints Go Marching In

African American male teenagers and young adults are inclined to participate in brutal exploits more frequently than other races because of their history, economic conditions, social dynamics, and a number of private qualities. The Black community seems unable to shelter their families from poverty, guns, drugs, and the effect it has most especially on the young males and adults who find themselves objects of long-standing racism, violence, and stereotyping. These situations demoralize them and hinder their ethical, social, and religious progress and ability to advance adequately in the world. They observe a nation that promotes physical aggression, hostility, and cruelty which causes attitudes of low self-esteem, self-destruction, false assessments, and even psychosocial states. A prime concern would also be the absence of a worthy worldview or belief system to help them alleviate their despair and frustrations. The young African American male sends a distress signal by his violent actions and seeks some purpose, along with the aptitude to obtain that goal, in order to accomplish more than a lowly survival in the midst of chaos.[125]

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[123] Keilar and Merica, "Hillary Clinton."

[124] Ibid.

[125] King, "Understanding", 92.

To combat these situations, Christian laity is needed to participate in crime prevention programs, health programs that address the psychosocial problems, social work, and other professions who will "develop Afrocentric programs and services" designed to direct the lifestyles of African American boys and young Black males to a healthy existence. A concerted effort should also address the imprisoned young Black males who currently dwell in DYS juvenile facilities. The possibility exists that this group will be most influential on those at risk youth or teens who have not yet become involved in the criminal scenario. If Christian professionals along with trained Christian laity workers can potentially foster hope, self-worth, and provide these individuals with the expertise to contend with their environment, and overcome the challenges presented to them on a daily basis, a desired change should be observed. These programs, augmented by an overhaul in the criminal justice system, instructional programs to non-African American communities regarding stereotyping, and other myths regarding the Black man, will affect the percentage rate of young Black men being incarcerated. Failure is not an option because "If we fail, then we fail all Americans of African descent."[126]

Another program intended to help improve the self-esteem of Black juvenile delinquent males is the *Structured Group Counseling Program*. The curriculum required group discussions and recorded tape presentations from a series of tapes entitled "Teens to the Top," in addition to group discussions involving relationships with peers, family, and teachers. The program also involved four professional speakers who would provide various material regarding math, reading skills, consumer skills, juvenile crime, and job readiness, augmented by cassette recordings.

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[126] King, "Understanding", 92.

These cassettes contained role-playing exercises, problem solving exercises, and questions that were also intended to raise the self-esteem of the participants.[127] These types of programs and material may be useful to Christian laity in helping young Black males in their quest to prevent incarcerations of at-risk youth.

This paper has discussed some of the probable causes that have caused numerous problems for the young Black male such as poverty, lack of education and employment opportunities, and mostly incarceration at an early age which has been established as being at a higher rate than any other race. Efforts to deter the challenges confronting young Blacks must start early in their lives before they become at risk youth. Christian soldiers must take up the banner, and tackle the problem by forming organizations that lay the foundation for children from the moment they enter the church. Young minds are susceptible to learning and imitation at very young ages. Whenever possible, these young lives should be followed throughout the school years, to assist in proper socialization, ethics, and attitudes.[128]

Livingston ascertains that much concern has been given to whether or not public school systems have the ability to properly educate Black male children so that may become outstanding citizens. Apprehension is qualified by the fact that 72% of Black students graduate from high school; however, in many major cities, 45% of the Black males drop out of high school in urban school districts, in addition to one in four being expelled in the same year. An unbalanced number of Black males are being placed in special education classes and programs to assist in remedial reading. Instead of properly addressing and correcting the situation, teachers and

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[127] Fite, Explaining Discrepancies," 916-927.

[128] Jonathan N. Livingston and Cinawendela Nahimana, "Problem Child or Problem Context: An Ecological Approach to Young Black Males," *Reclaiming Children and Youth* 14, no. 4 (December 2006): 209, accessed August 16, 2014.

administrators are being threatened and fired when their students do not perform adequately on

testing. This has only served to provoke even more distressing news according to current

newscasts by the media.[129]

More Ginn Needed

One example that has been extremely effective is Ginn Academy, which was started by

Ted Ginn, a former security guard, and football coach at Glenville High School in Ohio. He

observed students not only failing in school and dropping out, but also giving up on themselves.

This succession of events occurred because of escalating pressure to succeed on various tests and

exams that were required by the states. He was prompted to obtain permission from the school

board and superintendent to begin a public academy for at-risk young boys that was approved in

2006. The school appealed to more than 300 students in its first three years with a 0% dropout

rate compared to Glenville city's rate of 54%. Young men who decided they were headed for

trouble after a difficult time in life, and who wanted a chance to live a better life headed for Ginn

Academy.[130]

The success of the school is based upon intensive interviews and background checks that

allow them to hire only the most qualified teachers and life coaches who conduct one-on-one

mentoring for the students. These caring individuals are available 24/7 to give advice, or just be

there for a young man who needs help with any school or life problem. The Academy

concentrates on math and science which are two of the most demanding subjects on the state

graduation exams, and Ginn wants to be certain the young men will be as proficient as possible

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[129] Livingston and Nahimana, "Problem Child," 206.

[130] Krystie Crossman, "All Boys School in Ohio Has a 0% Dropout Rate and Here Is the Reason Why," *The Black Home School*, accessed July 27, 2015.

and capable of passing the tests. Ginn has an open door policy and contributes to the success of

the school by being personally involved and extremely aware of each student's name and

circumstances internal and external to the school. Ginn, the educators, and students build

relationships that provide the necessary atmosphere for learning that is demonstrated by the

success of the school.[131]

Just the Facts

Previous research by Steffensmeier et al. (1998) has shown that race, gender, and age,

have a direct bearing on the possibility of being jailed and the sentence length.[132] The scale

consists of Blacks being sentenced more severely than Whites, the young delinquents more

harshly than the older lawbreakers, and men more austerely than women. The most punitive

actions were taken against young, Black males than for any combination of the factors above

which the authors state demonstrates the "high cost of being Black, young, and male"

(Steffensmeier et al., 1998:789).[133]

From the statistics and reports given in this paper, any person may observe that racial

inconsistencies that occur in the juvenile justice system are intense and extremely well

authenticated by the media, authors, scholars, and the criminal system itself. Race and class

must be examined, as well as the drug policies, which are important as far as enforcing the law,

prosecution of the offender, and their sentences. It must also be determined when the crime is

allegedly a "Black problem" and the means by which the problem is addressed and the resulting

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[131] Crossman, "All Boys School."

[132] D. Steffensmeier, J. Ulmer, and J. Kramer, "The Interaction of Race, Gender, and Age in Criminal Sentencing: The Punishment Cost of Being Young, Black, and Male," Criminology 36, no. 4 (March 2006): 763-798, accessed August 17, 2015.

[133] Cassia Spohn and David Holleran, "The Imprisonment Penalty Paid by Young, Unemployed Black and Hispanic Male Offenders," *Criminology* 38, no. 1 (02, 2000): 281-306, accessed July 6, 2014.

punitiveness of the approach serve to exacerbate societal inequalities.[134] The question to ask is

whether African Americans are committing more crimes or is the justice system making more

biased decisions regarding them. Courtroom decisions have become more subtle than blatant

inequities in the past. Evidence shows that not only the race of the offender is considered, but

also that of the victim, with the U.S. General Accounting Office indicating in 1992 that more

Blacks were sentenced to death for murdering a White person than another Black person.[135]

Scholars have noted social issues and policies being addressed mainly during political

campaigns, civil rights efforts, or, as Beckett stated in 1997, "beliefs concerning urban unrest,

race, and crime had an unmistakable relationship to the vote."[136] Another study by David

Greenberg and Valerie West determined the prison population was established by the size of the

Black population of the state, rather than the rate of violent crime.

When Blacks and Mexicans were considered primary marijuana users, two laws,

Marijuana Tax Act of 1937 and the Boggs Act of 1951, were adopted sentencing marijuana first

time users with two to five years sentences in prison. When White middle-class college students

began using marijuana in the 1960s, possession of small amounts was decriminalized by the

1970s. The same scenario is now being repeated with crack cocaine, with the media again

naming the culprit as low-income inner-city dwellers. By 1988, legislation confirmed exacting,

compulsory punishment for selling or possessing even small crack amounts—five years in

federal prison for an amount as small as five grams. Studies show that African Americans

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[134] M. Mauer, (2004), Race, Class, and the Development of Criminal Justice Policy. Review of Policy Research, 21: 79–92, accessed March 23, 2015.

[135] Ibid, 79-92.

[136] Ibid.

constitute 85% of these defendants. Cocaine possession is five hundred grams for that penalty,

even though a little baking soda mixture is the only difference in the two, and the race of the

users. The school zone laws show that two consenting adults near a school can become victims

of this law although they are not selling to school children. Of 393 cases, 390 were African

American and Latino teenagers, or 99%.[137]

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[137] Marc Mauer, "The Fragility of Criminal Justice Reform, 1994," Social *Justice* 21, no. 3 (57), Vol. 21, no. 3 (57), Crime and Justice in the Clinton Era (Fall 1994): 14-29, accessed March 23, 2015.

Recommendations

The Department of Youth Service must continue to evaluate the success of their programs and improve their connection with the best programs in progress with society. This relationship will continue to investigate new and better programs that lead to a decrease in recidivism and new offenders entering the criminal justice system. DYS and the Christian laity should also consider another valuable resource, the community college that can assist youth who are unable to attend four-year colleges by supporting, teaching, and reinforcing their skills and presenting new opportunities for them. These institutions are also able to maintain better communication in the workplace database. Service learning programs provided by the schools and various workplaces aid young people by allowing them to investigate their identity, learn new skills, identify with their culture, and acquire hope and a reason to persevere in life.

AmeriCorps slots were increased by the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act and added several new corps and fellowships. It also directs attention to low-income communities by concentrating on including marginalized youth. The military is a first choice that is beneficial to many young people, providing a connection from high school to a work environment while furnishing a place to live, and the necessities of life. These options are not for everyone, but they can deal with a certain percentage and give them opportunities not available elsewhere.[138]

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[138] Richard A. Settersten Jr., and Barbara Ray, "What's Going On With Young People Today? The Long and Twisting Path to Adulthood," *The Future of Children* 20, no. 1 (July 2010): 19-41, accessed July 6, 2014.

Conclusion

Coleen Birchett has an excellent format for Christian laity to follow in ministering to young Black males who are at risk in her book *"Biblical Strategies for a Community in Crisis: What African Americans Can Do."* Christian laity needs to assist these young Black men to be confident regarding their natural intellectual abilities, as well as valuing their fellow African American students' educational accomplishments. Students should be prepared to deal with racism, discrimination, and barriers imposed on them to allow them to react in a flexible, elastic manner, while allowing them to continue indulging their racial-ethnic identities that includes style of dress, way of walking, and language. They should not be required to "act White," but learn they have the ability to maintain their cool while succeeding in their educational efforts. A healthy racial-ethnic identity may be another one of the reasons why a number of African American males have successfully avoided the criminal justice system and achieved in overcoming the challenges presented to them on all fronts. In one study presented by this author, the young African American men were able to observe "the attitudes, beliefs, and practices associated with school achievement as part of racial-ethnic identity" and, thereby, promote their own school success.[139]

Whenever people are classified as criminals, they are perceived as a different breed and are generally denied compassion, especially in the prison system. If the statistics for young Black men became those of young White men, the national effort would be involved to change the cycle; however, the reverse takes place as far as the African-American male. A great deal of information, organization, and community development must take place to reverse these trends.

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[139] Brian L. Wright, "I Know Who I Am, Do You? Identity and Academic Achievement of Successful African American Male Adolescents in an Urban Pilot High School in the United States," *Sage Journals. Urban Education*, 631, accessed March 23, 2015.

"As long as prisoners are viewed as another class of human beings, ones who willfully flout responsibility and convention, then punishment will appear to be a logical response. Only if we can develop an alternative vision and sense of mission among the public can we begin to approach the problem of crime from a more constructive direction."[140]

As long as the American public is content to blame individuals of color for the crime rate, the ability to change will be unsuccessful. Graham Greene observed after speaking to a French conference after Nazism had died three years earlier stated:

> My conviction that the Christian conscience is the only satisfactory sign of a Christian civilization is reinforced by the fact that this trait was completely lacking in the pagan powers that so recently reigned over the world….The totalitarian state contrives, by educating its citizens, to suppress all sense of guilt, all indecision of mind.[141]

If the programs in this paper are successfully implemented by Christian laity, the percentage rate for young Black men should be reduced. Hillary Clinton has proposed some serious changes to the criminal justice system, which would affect the juvenile justice system as well. If the next president acts upon altering mass incarceration, investigating the inequitable employment situation, body cameras for police, and totally revises the criminal justice system, the percentage rate for young Black men should be reduced. If the two are effectively fulfilled, or combined, the high percentage rate for young African Americans should plunge drastically.

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[140] Mauer, Race, 79-92.

[141] Jerome G. Miller, *Search and Destroy: African-American Males in the Criminal Justice* (N.p. Cambridge University Press. 2011), 177.

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And Why The Prison Industry Has Become A Predatory Entity In The Lives Of African-
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