

# STATE OF OUR BLACK YOUTH 2007 AT A GLANCE

Commissioned by Indiana Black Expo, Inc. and conducted by the Indiana Youth Institute (IYI), “State of Our Black Youth Report, 2007 Biennial Edition” presents statewide statistics on the health and well-being of Black youth, as well as local data for 16 communities: Anderson, East Chicago, Elkhart, Evansville, Ft. Wayne, Gary, Hammond, Indianapolis, Jeffersonville, Kokomo, Lafayette, Marion, Michigan City, Muncie, South Bend and Terre Haute. The 2007 Report, second in the series, provides updates for data contained in the 2005 report, as well as data for new indicators. Additionally, the report offers promising and proven practices to address challenges and enhance strengths identified by the data.

The data contained in this report can be used for local, state and federal public policy efforts, needs assessments, program planning, fund raising, and public relations.

## **FINDINGS INCLUDE:**

- Almost two-thirds of Black Hoosier families are headed by a single parent, more than three-quarters of births were to unmarried parents, and the Indiana teen birth rate for Black girls ages 15-19 exceeded the national average.
- Twenty-five percent fewer Black Hoosier children lived in poverty in 2005 than the rate for Black children nationally. However, child poverty among Black Hoosiers increased more than 30% between 2000 and 2005.
- While fewer than half of Black ninth graders graduate four years later during their senior year of high school, this rate increased more than 5% between 2000 and 2006.
- The rate of Black students intending to enroll in vocational/technical school or two and four-year colleges increased between 2003 and 2006.
- Hoosier Black children have higher rates of sexual abuse, neglect, and physical abuse than Black children in the United States.

## **PROPOSED SOLUTIONS INCLUDE:**

- Improving chances for positive child outcomes through the provision of increased resources for teen pregnancy prevention programs with proven track records, and public education campaigns that use research-based methods to promote and support healthy marriages.
- Improving economic opportunity by increasing investments in worker training, devoting significant resources to training workers with low skill levels, customizing and targeting training for “hard-to-employ,” entry-level, and low-wage individuals who may be unemployed or employed in low skill, low wage jobs.
- Improving student achievement by providing programs for Black students with demanding curricula and strong social support systems, as well as increasing teacher qualifications, offering financial incentives to qualified teachers, reducing class sizes, and providing school choice for students in low-performing schools.
- Improving family relationships through the provision of increased resources for family-centered, community-based approaches to child protection and respite care services.