

# **Washington State Commission on African American Affairs**



## **Year in Review Report**

**October 2011 – December 2012**

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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS**  
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To our Community Stakeholders,

**Commissioner Oscar Eason, Jr., Chair**  
Representing King County

**Commissioner Franklin Donahoe**  
Representing Snohomish County

**Commissioner Tutrecia Giles**  
Representing Pierce County

**Commissioner Winona Hollins-Hauge**  
Representing King County

**Commissioner Rashad Norris**  
Representing South King County

**Commissioner Deena Pierott**  
Representing Southwest Washington

**Commissioner Sheila Reed Trahan**  
Representing Tri-Cities

**Commissioner Michael Tate**  
Representing Eastern Washington

**Edward O. Prince, Executive Director**

This past year has been a very busy but rewarding time serving the African American community across the great State of Washington. We have visited every corner of the state and have criss-crossed it several times throughout the year. We have heard from constituents in Clallam and constituents in Spokane – their message is loud and clear. They want living wage jobs, their children to have a quality education and disparities in our healthcare system reduced.

We have listened and have made significant strides to make life a little better for African Americans across Washington. This report contains highlights of some of our key work in education, commerce and economic development, healthcare and criminal justice. In addition you will see some of the partnerships we have developed with other agencies as well as regional partners and legislators. Also you will find attached an exciting new jobs initiative we are launching for 2013.

Our agency has the unique opportunity to not only deal directly with constituents but also has the ability to advise the Governor, Legislature and other agencies on policy relating to our community. This is a challenging but rewarding opportunity to have such a wide variety of work. We have enjoyed our working relationship with the past legislature and administration and we truly look forward to serving the new legislature and administration. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve you and our community in this capacity. I truly believe we are doing meaningful and important work that will benefit our community and the entire State of Washington.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

In Your Service,

**Edward O. Prince, Executive Director**

CC: Honorable Washington State Governor  
Honorable Washington State Governor-elect  
Honorable Washington State Legislature

## Chairman Oscar Eason Jr.



Mr. Oscar Eason, Jr., a licensed professional engineer, is Assistant to the Chief, Engineering Division, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle, Washington. He is an Army veteran who served in both Korea and Vietnam. As a civilian, he served in Operations Desert Shield and Storm assisting the Kuwaiti government in making the country habitable for its citizens. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical engineering at Prairie View A&M University, and a Master of Science degree in engineering from St. Mary's University.

Mr. Eason is currently the State Conference President of the NAACP Alaska/Oregon/Washington, member of the Seattle-King County Dispute Resolution Center Board, member of the University of Washington Minority Community Advisory Committee, member of the Highline YMCA Board, past National President of Blacks In Government (BIG) and former President of the Seattle Branch NAACP.

In 1995, he planned and conducted a hearing on affirmative action in Washington, D. C. where over 100 organizations shared their views for the record. From that hearing, a report, *Affirmative Action and Beyond*, was produced, which represents one of the most current comprehensive documents addressing the educational, social, and economical implications of affirmative action.

Mr. Eason also coordinated the Equal Opportunity Summit that was held at the Brookings Institution in Washington D.C. in May of 1997. The Summit brought testimonies from individuals who have been personally harmed by discriminatory policies and practices. The report from the Summit, *Report on Racism and Disparate Treatment in the Public Sector*, offers recommendations to help alleviate the many problems associated with discrimination.

Mr. Eason is the 1996 recipient of the Black Engineer of the Year Award for Affirmative Action, selected by the Council of Engineering Deans of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He was also awarded the NAACP Benjamin L. Hooks Keeper of the Flame National Award in 1998 for "significant contributions to promoting civil rights, and continuing commitment and work in the area of equal opportunity."

## Commissioner Franklin Donahoe



Franklin Donahoe is the Director of Information Security at Costco Wholesale. Costco Wholesale is the largest membership "warehouse club" chain in the United States. It is a global company with warehouses located in Taiwan, South Korea, Australia, UK, Japan, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Mexico.

Franklin manages the policy and standards, vulnerability scanning, cyber incident response, security engineering, information security vulnerability assessment, security awareness and training and security assessment and engineering functions. Franklin is the former

Director of Information Security Architecture and Design and Risk Management at T-Mobile USA and manager with Deloitte and Touche and Protiviti consulting firms.

He is also former United States Marine. He has a BA degree from the University of Washington and two MS degrees from Carnegie Mellon University.

### **Commissioner Tutrecia Giles**



Tutrecia Giles has been a resident of Tacoma, Washington for over twenty years. She is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Inc., Tacoma Urban league, and volunteers with various community based organizations in Pierce County. Ms. Giles previously worked at the Tacoma Urban League as a program manager of educational and health related programs and is currently working at the Tacoma –Pierce County Health Department in the Prevention Department. Her current position focuses on tobacco, cancer, and chronic disease education.

Ms. Giles graduated from the University of Memphis with a BA in Communications and Fine Arts and has a Master’s degree in Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University. She also holds certifications in Public and Non Profit Management and Management Model-Netics.

### **Commissioner Winona Hollins-Hauge**



Winona Hollins-Hauge, MSW, LICSW, holds a Master’s Degree from the University of Washington, where she has served as a practicum instructor for the School of Social Work.

She is currently devoting her time in numerous volunteer roles to assist in teaching and researching for non-profit organizations and committees, as well as working on community advocacy and service projects.

She was formerly a United States Public Health Service officer, outreach manager for the Fred Hutchinson Center, program manager and director of Social Work for the Odessa Brown Children’s Clinic and senior clinical social worker for the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance.

Winona Hollins-Hauge was also the founder and past president of the Association of Women Contractors and Suppliers and represented Central Washington at the Business Roundtable during that tenure. She was on the founding committee to start the Women and Minorities Business Enterprise office for the state of Washington and was featured in the Daily Journal of Commerce for her success as the Owner and founder of Winona Corporation.

In 2005, she received the Lena Hubbard Guild of Children’s Hospitals award for community service and advocacy in health issues for the African American community. She is currently a member of the Greater Seattle Chapter of Links, the Alliance for Healthy Communities of Color, The Washington State Association for Black Professionals in Health Care, and serves as the Washington State representative for the Intercultural Cancer Council. She is a committee member of the Mt. Zion Health Ministry, the

Washington Health Foundations Eliminating Disparities Committee, the local Comp Cancer team, and the Northwest Kidney Center's Kidney Fest Community team.

### **Commissioner Rashad Norris**



Rashad Norris was born in Tampa, Florida. His father was in the US Military, so he had the opportunity to live in the Netherlands, and from there his family became stationed in Tacoma, Washington in 1983. He received his education through the Bethel School District, where he attended Spanaway Lake High School, 1992. He acquired his BA in Communication and a minor in English while being a student athlete from the University of Puget Sound in 1999. Upon completion, he worked in the Banking/Mortgage industry for 3 years before starting the journey to become involved with youth at the Boys and Girls Club of South Puget Sound as an Athletic Director. He then pursued a Masters in Public Administration at the Evergreen State College, which he finished in 2006. Rashad resides in Fredrickson, WA where he is happily married and has three children. Rashad currently devotes the majority of his time as the

Director of Outreach Services at Highline Community College. He also mentors young men in the local high schools and middle schools and is also a mentor for the Heritage Leadership Camp, which mentors 60 young men of color from various middle schools in the Federal Way School District. In addition, Rashad has found his passion in public speaking, as he travels locally as a Motivational/Educational speaker.

Rashad believes that, "our young students of color are at a pivotal stage in our society that requires other men of color to learn and act upon the obligations bestowed on them".

Rashad is currently enrolled into the Doctoral Program at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in South Africa, in the Developmental Studies program. Rashad considers working with all youth especially young men of color a critical role in building strong communities. As one of the founders of Positive Prescription Consultants and the HERO (Honoring Education & Respecting Others) Life Preparation Academy & Golf Learning Center, Rashad seeks to provide essential life preparation tools and resources to youth through seminars, workshops, conferences, and golf.

### **Commissioner Deena Pierott**



Deena Pierott has served on various boards and committees throughout her career. Currently, she is President of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators Oregon Chapter, NW EEO Board member, Civic Leaders, Next Generation of Leaders, United Way Vision Council, Chess for Success, and has recently been appointed to the Commission on African American Affairs for the State of Washington.

Ms. Pierott holds certifications in Human Resource Management, Conflict Management and Advanced Strategic Project Management.

Deena Pierott has served various administrative roles for the City of Portland for the past 15 years. She has been, and continues to be, a champion for diversity at the City and across the country. Ms. Pierott is also a business

owner; her firm specializes in sourcing executive level opportunities for professionals of color, and provides executive coaching and diversity training.

While working for the City, she conceptualized and created the City's Human Relations Commission, Diverse and Empowered Employees of Portland (DEEP), the Environmental Services Inspector Training Program, and created Diversity in Mentoring, which the City will launch in the summer of 2007. Prior to her role in public administration, Ms. Pierott worked in the private sector for such companies as Hughes Aircraft, Mattel, Boise Cascade and Ogden Allied Services.

### **Commissioner Sheila Reed Trahan**



Shelia Reed Trahan grew up in Duarte, California and moved to the Tri-Cities in 1976. Her three children attended and graduated from Richland schools and have now moved on to pursue their passions and raise their families. Through her involvement in her children's education and activities, Mrs. Reed Trahan developed a passion for helping young people and founded the "Mama Reed Education/Resource Program". The non-profit organization seeks to assist young, disadvantaged mothers in the area, as well as assisting with the educational needs of their young children.

Mrs. Reed Trahan is employed by Lockheed Martin as a Records Specialist II on the DOE's Hanford Site. She holds a certification in National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and serves as her division's Diversity Council Representative. Mrs. Reed Trahan has volunteered to chair various company events including United Way and March of Dimes campaigns.

### **Commissioner Michael Tate**



Michael J. Tate is the Washington State University interim vice president for equity and diversity. Prior to this position he was Dean and Director of WSU Extension. In October 2002, he began a two-year, part-time appointment with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC. In addition to serving as a member on the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs, he is serving as chief education advisor in the Division of Competitive Programs in the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service.

Dr. Tate came to WSU from Michigan State University where he was Assistant Director of Extension. He has more than 30 years experience as an extension educator and administrator. He served on the board of the Michigan Nonprofit Association, a member organization of more than 400 statewide and community-based associations and organizations; he was a member of the Michigan Community Service Commission, and a delegate to the President's Summit for America's Future, in 1996.

Dr. Tate's education includes three degrees from Michigan State University: a Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Human Nutrition, a Master's in Adult and Continuing Education, and a Doctorate in Extension Education and Administration. His awards include a U.S. Department of Agriculture Superior Service award, an Epsilon Sigma Phi Certificate of Meritorious Service, and a National 4-H Distinguished Service Award.



## **Executive Director Ed Prince**

Ed Prince brings a strong background in public service to the Commission. He has held various roles in government and in the non-profit sector. In addition to serving the Commission Ed is also a member of the Renton City Council. In that capacity Ed has worked on local and regional issues and delivered results for residents in South King County. This is Ed's third term of service with the Commission. In the early 2000's he served as the Executive Assistant, Legislative & Community Liaison and as the Acting Director.

When Ed left the Commission he took on several roles in non-profit management. Immediately prior to his appointment to the Commission, Ed served as a Program Coordinator with the Seattle Neighborhood Group. In previous roles he has served as the Director of Client Services for the Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP) and as the Director of Civic Engagement and Philanthropic programs for Seattle Works.

Ed is a former chair of the City of Renton Planning Commission, past chair of the Renton Schools Bond and Levy Campaign and a founding director of the Renton Community Foundation's "The Next Curve". He also is Chair of the City of Renton Planning & Development Committee and Vice Chair of the City of Renton Community Services Committee.



## **Executive Assistant Bailey Stober**

Bailey Stober has an extensive background in policy and public relations. Before his appointment to the Commission, Bailey served as a Community & External Affairs Director in the healthcare sector. In that capacity he represented healthcare interests to community groups, elected officials and stakeholders.

In previous roles he has worked with a wide range of elected officials on public policy and legislative initiatives both locally and statewide. In addition to public policy his professional background includes experience in Corporate Loss Prevention & Investigations. He has worked with law enforcement agencies and prosecutors on internal investigations, organized retail crime investigations and complex fraud cases. He is a member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners as well as holds an advanced certificate in the Reid Institute's Interview and Interrogation technique. Bailey studied at Green River Community College where he majored in Political Science with a minor in Economics.

## Purpose

*The Commission examines and defines issues pertaining to the rights and needs of African-Americans, and make recommendations to the Governor and state agencies for changes in programs and laws. They advise the Governor and state agencies on the development and implementation of policies, plans, and programs that relate to the needs of African-Americans. Acting in concert with the governor, they advise the Legislature on issues of concern to the African-American community. They establish relationships with state agencies, local governments, and private sector organizations that promote equal opportunity and benefits for African-Americans.*

## Priorities

*Civil Rights Economic Development Education Healthcare Youth & Families*

## Legislative Agenda

### **Education – Closing the Achievement Gap**

- ❖ Continue to support the recommendations made in the Study of the Achievement Gap for African American Students
- ❖ Encourage the recruitment, training and hiring of African American teachers
- ❖ Support the statewide program for comprehensive dropout prevention, intervention and retrieval
- ❖ Support programs to encourage middle and high school students to attend college or higher education

### **Healthcare**

- ❖ Encourage programs that will address the disparity gap in health care for communities of color
- ❖ Support culturally competent and culturally appropriate service delivery to communities of color, as well as the use of culturally competent literature
- ❖ Support programs and medical services for the elderly and low income

### **Economic Development**

- ❖ Support the community outreach efforts of the Office of Minority Women Business Enterprise in increasing certification of minority and women owned businesses
- ❖ Support increasing minority contracting and procurement opportunities for small businesses
- ❖ Support legislation that would provide a stable funding source for existing and new transportation and infrastructure in addition to encouraging more local transit funding options
- ❖ Support and encourage transportation expansion statewide, regionally and locally

### **Criminal Justice**

- ❖ Support Programs with funding for intervention and job readiness

## Facts and Figures

The **total population** of African Americans in Washington State according to the US Census is **259,542**. Below is the breakdown of African Americans by County.

By County	
Adams	49
Asotin	92
Benton	2383
Chelan	283
Clallam	690
Clark	8219
Columbia	9
Cowlitz	480
Douglas	168
Ferry	25
Franklin	1584
Garfield	0
Grant	1011
Grays Harbor	816
Island	1397
Jefferson	309
King	116033
Kitsap	6880
Kittitas	225
Klickitat	19
Lewis	375
Lincoln	68
Mason	692
Okanogan	246
Pacific	108
Pend Oreille	21
Pierce	53629
San Juan	95
Skagit	870
Skamania	10
Snohomish	15740
Spokane	8030
Stevens	198

<b>Thurston</b>	<b>6796</b>
<b>Wahkiakum</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Walla Walla</b>	<b>1093</b>
<b>Whatcom</b>	<b>2055</b>
<b>Whitman</b>	<b>898</b>
<b>Yakima</b>	<b>1942</b>
<b>Unknown County</b>	<b>25993</b>
<b>Over 10,000</b>	<b>Over 50,000</b>
<b>Under 10,000</b>	<b>Under 5,000</b>

### Poverty Status in Washington amongst African Americans

54,590 African Americans in Washington receive income under the poverty line. This includes 25,937 males and 28,659 females. 167,942 African Americans receive income at or above the poverty line. This includes 91,885 males and 76,057 females.

In 2010 African American children in Washington between the ages of 0 and 17 faced a rate of poverty equal to 36.9%.

### Income among African Americans

The average individual income for an African American is \$21,438 per person. A sample was taken of average household incomes among the sample 87,384 households were surveyed and the results are below:

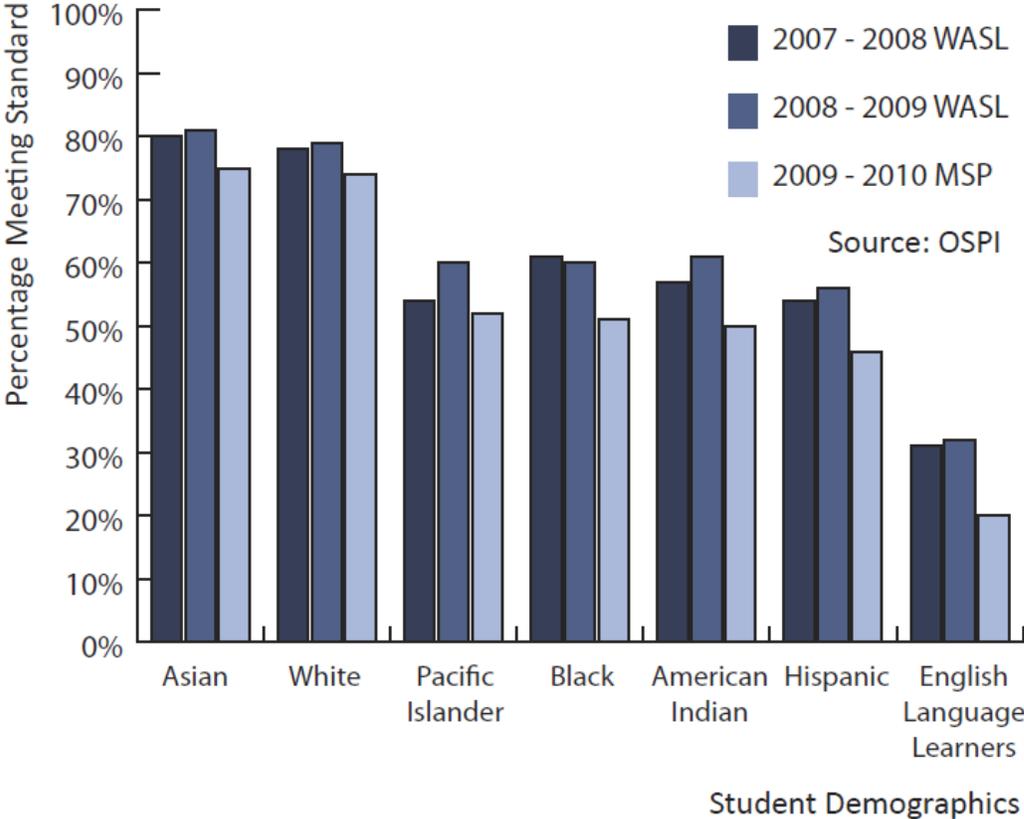
Income Level	# of Households
<b>Less than \$10,000</b>	<b>10575</b>
<b>\$10,000 to \$14,999</b>	<b>6489</b>
<b>\$15,000 to \$19,999</b>	<b>5538</b>
<b>\$20,000 to \$24,999</b>	<b>5863</b>
<b>\$25,000 to \$29,999</b>	<b>4951</b>
<b>\$30,000 to \$34,999</b>	<b>5452</b>
<b>\$35,000 to \$39,999</b>	<b>4330</b>
<b>\$40,000 to \$44,999</b>	<b>4593</b>
<b>\$45,000 to \$49,999</b>	<b>4170</b>
<b>\$50,000 to \$59,999</b>	<b>6466</b>
<b>\$60,000 to \$74,999</b>	<b>7689</b>
<b>\$75,000 to \$99,999</b>	<b>9363</b>
<b>\$100,000 to \$124,999</b>	<b>5322</b>
<b>\$125,000 to \$149,999</b>	<b>3064</b>
<b>\$150,000 to \$199,999</b>	<b>2232</b>

\$200,000 or more	1287
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**Education in the African American Community**

<b>Education Level</b>	<b>142,237 total</b>
<b>Males</b>	
Less than High School	9158
High School Graduate / GED	20153
Some College or AA	31,923
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	16,869
<b>Females</b>	
Less than High School	9444
High School Graduate / GED	15440
Some College or AA	26884
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	12366

**4th Grade Reading State Test Scores in Washington**

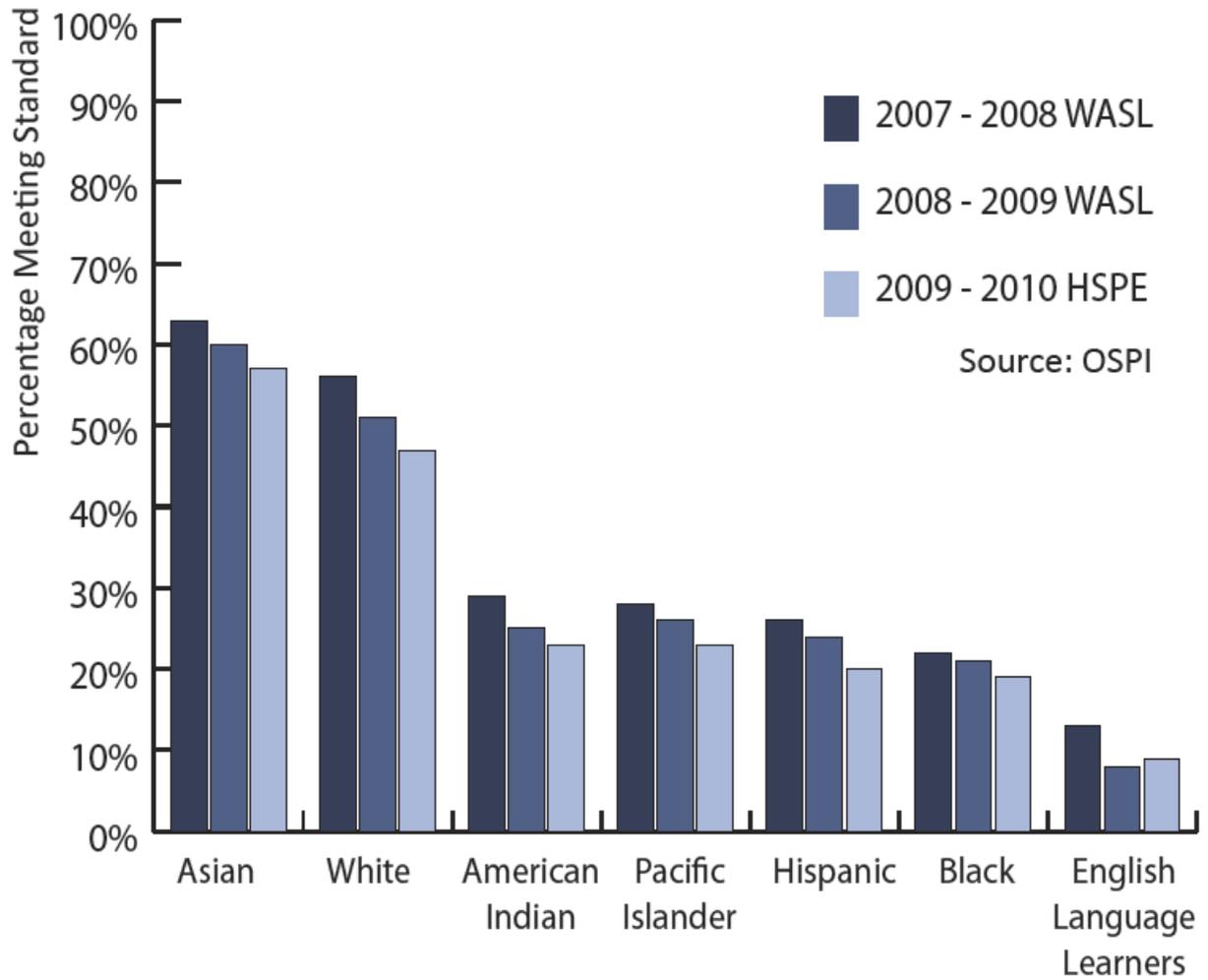


**4th Grade National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)  
Reading Test Scores 2008-2009 in Washington**

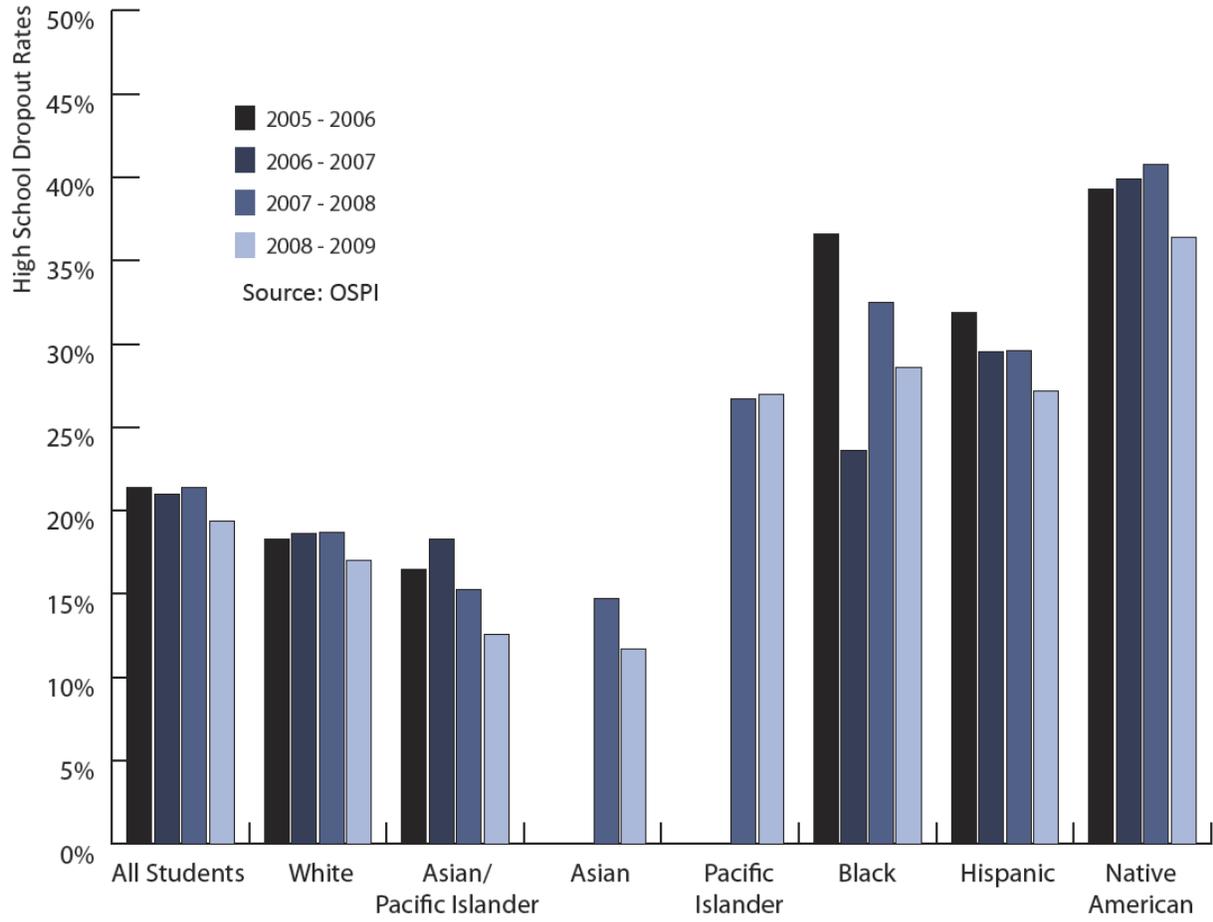
	<b>American Indian</b>	<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Limited English</b>
<b>Advanced</b>	7%	10%	2%	2%	10%	0%
<b>Proficient</b>	20%	26%	19%	12%	30%	3%
<b>At Basic</b>	33%	32%	32%	31%	36%	16%
<b>Below Basic</b>	40%	33%	46%	55%	24%	80%

Source: OSPI <a href="http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us">http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us</a> January 21, 2011	Number of Students in 1999-2000	Number of Students in 2009-2010	Percentage of increase or decrease in population
American Indian/Alaskan Native	27,100	25,874	-4.5%
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander*</b>	<b>72,266</b>	<b>90,670</b>	<b>25.5%</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>52,192</b>	<b>57,952</b>	<b>11.0%</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>96,355</b>	<b>166,518</b>	<b>72.8%</b>
White	755,787	660,333	-12.6%
<b>Transitional Bilingual</b>	<b>55,204</b>	<b>84,105</b>	<b>52.4%</b>

## 10th Grade Math State Test Scores in Washington

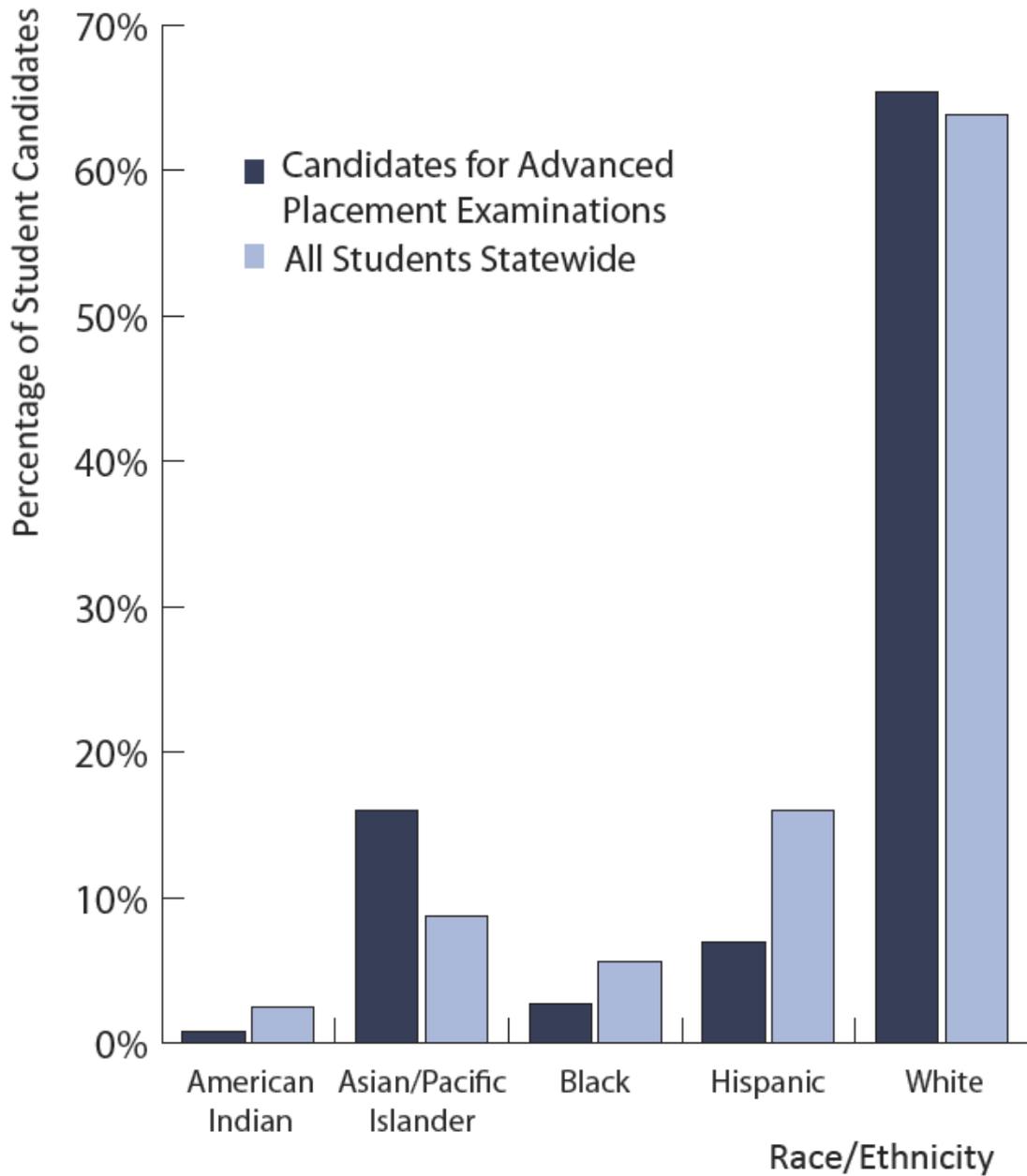


### Estimated Four-Year Cohort Dropout



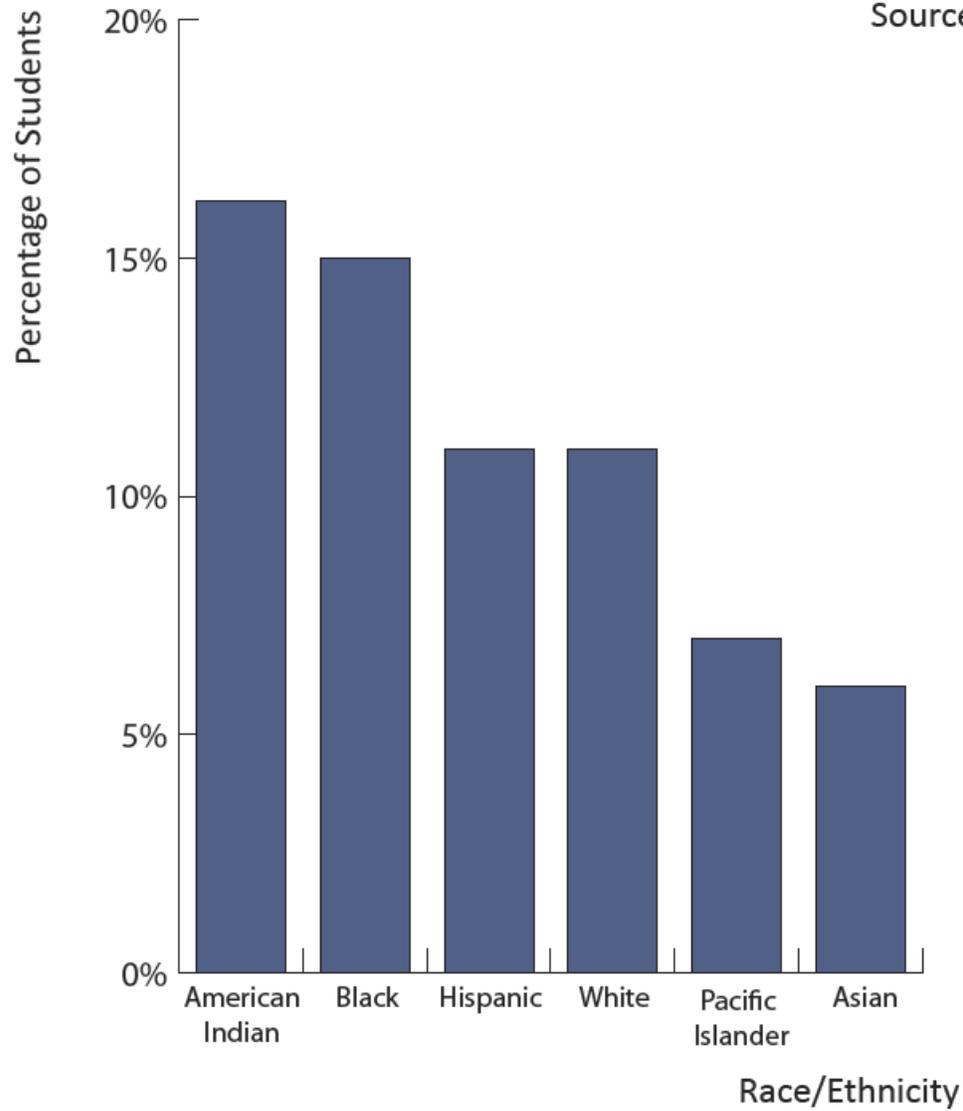
# Candidates for Advanced Placement Examinations by Ethnicity, 2010

Source: OSPI



## Percentage of Student Population Receiving Special Education Services, 2009

Source: OSPI



## Health among African Americans

Racial discrimination. “Race” often serves as a rough proxy for social, economic, cultural, and biological factors. In a race-conscious society such as the United States, race classifications might most precisely reflect social classification and capture impacts of racism. A number of recent studies show that those who say they have experienced racism are more likely to have poor mental health and unhealthy lifestyles; they are also somewhat more likely to report poor health status.

Racial discrimination contributes to many factors affecting health including uneven distribution of income, education, neighborhood poverty, and access to health care. Racial discrimination also constitutes a chronic stressor that contributes to poor health independently of these factors. Distinguishing among personally mediated racism, institutionalized racism, and internalized racism might clarify the relationships between racial discrimination and health and help tailor interventions to counteract the impacts these different forms of racism have on health.

While Washington’s rates of low birth weight, infant mortality, and teen pregnancy compare favorably to national rates, the persistence of disparities indicates we have more work to do. Most commonly, adverse maternal and infant health outcomes are more prevalent among those of lower socioeconomic status and among some race and ethnic groups. Similar to long-standing national data, black infants in Washington are more than twice as likely to be born low birth weight and twice as likely to die in their first year as white infants.

Coronary heart disease is the second leading cause of death in Washington. Non-Hispanic American Indians and Alaska Natives and blacks have the highest coronary heart disease death rates (186 and 163 per 100,000, respectively).

From 1994 to 2006, the age-adjusted percent of Washington adults with diabetes steadily increased from 4% ( $\pm 1\%$ ) to 7% ( $\pm 1\%$ ). In 2005, diabetes prevalence among non Hispanic American Indians and Alaskan Natives and non-Hispanic blacks was 12% ( $\pm 2\%$ ) and 14% ( $\pm 2\%$ ), respectively.

At least 11,000 people live with HIV/AIDS in Washington, 64% of whom reside in King County. In 2005, there were 575 newly diagnosed cases of HIV infection in Washington. The HIV/AIDS epidemic has been stable here in recent years. Groups such as black people, people of Hispanic origin, and American Indians and Alaska Natives continue to have rates of HIV/AIDS diagnosis that are higher than those of non Hispanic whites. These disparities have not changed since 2001.

## What We Are Working On

### ● Education –

In November of 2011, the commission started partnering with the African American Leadership Forum (AALF) to look at issues surrounding the opportunity gap and the disproportionality in discipline among African American students. Our representative on the legislative opportunity gap working group Wanda Billingsly is our point person with AALF.

In August of 2012 a cross cultural coalition representing all four ethnic groups, the tribes and immigrant/refugee populations came together to start working on a plan to ensure that communities of color had their voices heard on education funding in light of the McCleary decision. This group has outlined five "buckets" in which we would like to see funding go:

- Extended day kindergarten
- Transitional bilingual programs
- Wrap around services
- Extended day learning and summer school
- Early learning

This group has met with several legislators and policy staff members from the House and Governor's staff. Director Prince is the commission liaison with this group.

Director Prince has continued to be active on the early learning front. Serving on Thrive by Five's Advancing Racial Equity working group and their Love, Talk, Play working group.

### ● Commerce / Economic Development –

- In the spring of 2012 the commission started working with a group of African American business owners and the Secretary of Commerce to discuss how the state could help support/bolster small African American businesses. One of the outcomes from this meeting was Commerce placing language in their strategic plan stating that support for small minority business is a priority.
- In early summer 2012 the commission started partnering with Craft 3 to find a way to increase the numbers of African American businesses that could receive financing for their projects. Craft 3 is a CDFI firm that has a stellar record of helping minority businesses receive financing and through our partnership we are looking at ways to bolster and spark African American entrepreneurship and innovation.

- Staff is working with Sen-Elect Hasegawa who is looking at legislative language for the 2013 legislative session. This language would amend the responsible bidder law and would allow for municipalities to have small discretion when awarding contracts. It would allow municipalities to focus on local business and minority businesses in their own communities rather than sending dollars and resources out of their communities.

- **Healthcare -**

The Commission has a long standing relationship with the Governor's Interagency Task force on Health Disparities. In the summer of 2011 we partnered with them to hold three obesity summits in different geographic areas across the state. These summits taught attendees how to read food labels, how to cook culturally appropriate foods in a healthier way and how they could take small steps to start a fitness plan. 85 percent of the attendees found the forums to be informative and what they needed to start a healthier lifestyle.

In the summer and fall of 2012 the Commission again partnered with the interagency task force on health disparities to hold forums on sugar and if it was toxic. These forums were lead by a medical professional and discussed the impact the sugar has on our bodies.

Health and healthcare is important to the commission because of the high rate of diabetes and heart disease in our community. These ailments run up health care costs and if you aren't insured the costs are passed on to other taxpayers. We feel it is our duty to make sure that community members have information on living a healthier lifestyle.

- **Criminal Justice –**

- Staff at the Commission has been taking an in depth look at the criminal and juvenile justice systems. This has included touring the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission law enforcement academy. It has also included touring the juvenile prison system and juvenile group homes for offenders rehabilitating into the community. Lastly, it includes participating in the School to Prison Pipeline symposium.
- We have found significant flaws in the system leading to roughly 20% of African American juveniles being incarcerated. We discovered that Washington State is one of only 6 states in the nation that sells juvenile criminal records for a profit. These records are sold and distributed to private background check companies and are used against you for the rest of your life. It is near impossible for a juvenile offender to enter a higher education institution, gain housing or gain employment once the State has sold their record.

- We are going to work with the legislature during the 2013 legislative session to support legislation that prohibits the sale and distribution of juvenile criminal records. In addition the Commission has launched the “Second Chance Jobs Initiative.” This initiative is collaboration between the Department of Corrections and the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration. It is aimed to target Washington based businesses and encourage them to hire ex-offenders. The ambitious goal is to create or secure 5,000 private sector jobs within the first 5 years of the initiative.

- **Agency Relations -**

Staff has been busy meeting with other agencies sharing our legislative priorities and looking at ways we can work together and collaborate. We have met and/or with the:

Department of Commerce  
Department of Early Learning  
Employment Security Department  
Department of Social and Health Services  
Department of Corrections  
Department of Enterprise Services  
Office of Financial Management  
Office of the State Human Resources Director  
Office of Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises

In the coming months we will be meeting with addition State, County and local agencies.

- **Regional Relations -**

This past year we have visited:

Vancouver  
Pullman  
Tri Cities  
Tacoma  
Olympia  
Spokane  
Federal Way  
Kent  
Renton  
Auburn  
Everett  
Seattle

And many others in between, we have met as a Commission, participated in community town halls and constituent or organization meetings across the state.

## • **Elected Official Relations –**

- Met with Rep. Hasegawa on Minority contracting issues, state bank and other priority legislation
- Met with Rep. Kenney on Higher Education issues and priority legislation
- Met with Rep. Pettigrew on Budget, education, and priority legislation
- Met with Councilmember Harrell on Criminal Justice, employment issues, and youth violence
- Met with Rep. Santos on Education and priority legislation
- Met with Councilmember Tim Burgess on Criminal Justice issues and SPD
- Met with Seattle Deputy Mayor Smith on Minority contracting issues
- Met with Councilmember Larry Gossett on employment issues
- Met with Rep. Maxwell on Education issues
- Met with Rep. Roberts on Juvenile Justice and foster care issues
- Met with Rep. Orwall on Juvenile Justice issues and priority legislation
- Met with Sen. Harper on Juvenile Justice issues
- Met with Assessor Hara on Senior property tax exemptions
- Met with Rep. Hudgins on budget and priority legislation
- Met with Sen. Prentice on priority legislation
- Met with Sherriff Urquhart on criminal justice issues
- Met with Rep. Darneille on criminal and juvenile justice issues

- **Constituent Relations –**

We have received hundreds of calls from constituents over this past year. Normally they need a referral to a state agency or community resource. However there are two recently that needed significant casework in order to resolve their problems.

1. A local Pastor called the Commission to talk about the Department of Corrections. This Pastor provides rehabilitation services to offenders who are exiting custody and returning to their communities. He submitted a proposal to the Department of Corrections to provide services to their offenders as they exit. However, Department of Corrections issues the contract to the same service provider they have used for a number of years. The Pastor felt his proposal wasn't even evaluated or considered. Staff made contact with the Department of Corrections and requested his proposal, the winning proposal and the scoring criteria. The Department of Corrections responded by saying they had overlooked some details and would be awarding the Pastor a contract.
2. A constituent called because they had left their employer last year and received unemployment compensation. Their employer agreed not to contest their unemployment. Several months after receiving unemployment they received a letter from the Employment Security Department stating they had been found guilty of fraud and they now owed the state \$5,000. The constituent was confused of what fraud he had committed but every time he called ESD he was either put on hold or given the run around. Commission staff contacted ESD to request further information. ESD provided us with their investigation which had concluded the constituent worked for his previous employer during the time in which he received benefits. Commission staff contacted his previous employer and obtained his employment records which clearly show the constituent did not work during the time ESD claims he did. The Commission provided ESD with those records, the fraud finding was reversed, the \$5,000 was credited to his account and ESD sent the constituent a check for one year of back pay equaling over \$12,000.

These are just two of the many constituent situations we deal with and resolve on behalf of the Commission. We received hundreds of calls per year from constituents needing staff help or resources to resolve their particular situation.