



# How The Church Can Help Our Black Young Men

By

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# Background

- o Education Specialist
- o Former Youth Development Specialist SCUSD
- o Founder of Men's Leadership Academy
- o Member of My Brother's Keeper Sacramento
- o Former Youth President for CHSC

# Where are our Young Men?



# The Problem Facing our Young Men

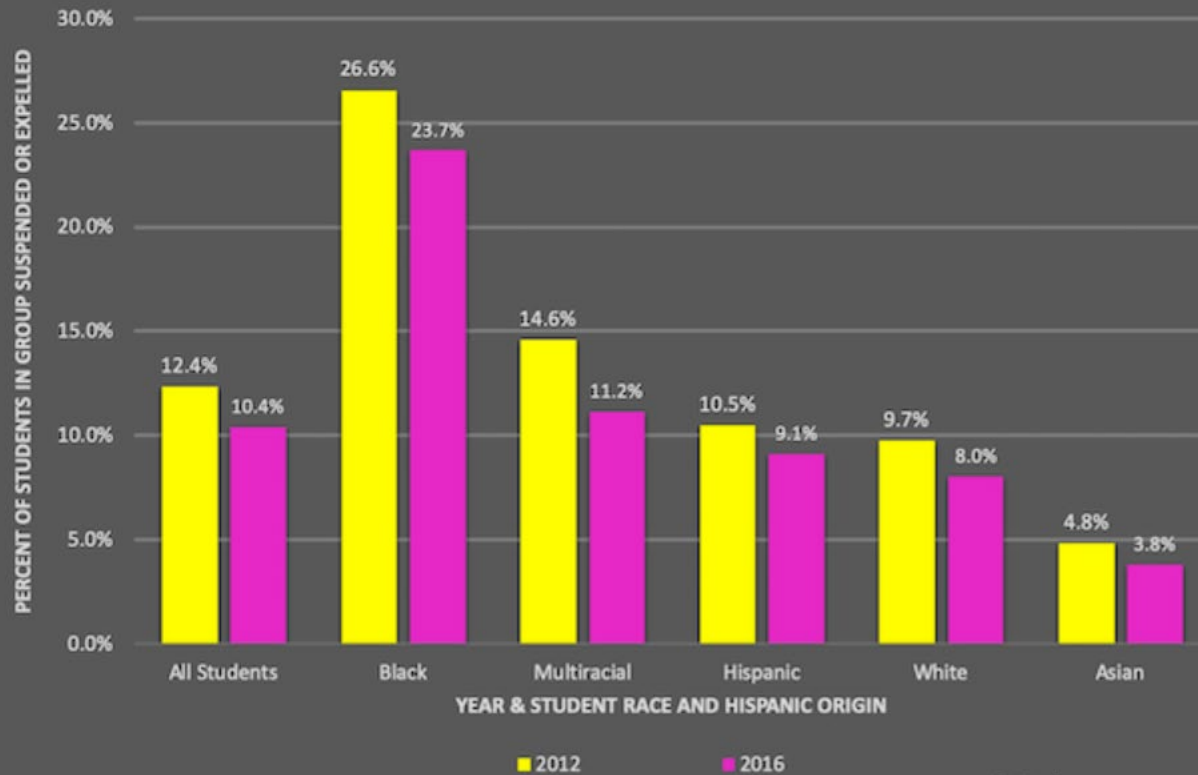
- o High Suspension Rates
- o Trauma – PTSD
- o Depression
- o High Arrest Rates
- o Prison

# Suspension Rates

- Abnormally Higher Rate of suspension for Black Students
- Rates are linked to prison
- Percentage doubled over the last 35 years



**Figure 1: Students Ever Suspended or Expelled From School:  
U.S., 2012-2016, By Race and Hispanic Origin**



Source: National Household Education Survey

Institute for  
**Family Studies**

# Trauma – PTSD

- o Inner City Youth at greater risk of PTSD than Combat Veterans
- o Some of our Children are living in “Combat Zones”
- o Major Trauma can shorten a life span by 7 – 10 years

# Depression

- o Known as clinical Depression
- o Should be treated
- o 28% of adolescent's will experience a depression episode
- o 7% of adolescent's who develop major depressive disorder may commit suicide



# Risk Factors of Depression

- Previous Depressive episodes
- Anxiety Disorders
- Family Conflict
- Uncertainty of Sexual Orientation
- Poor Academic Performance
- Substance Abuse disorders
- Loss of parent or loved one
- Break up of romantic relationship
- Chronic Illness
- Abuse or Neglect
- Other Traumas
- Natural Disasters

# Symptoms of Depression

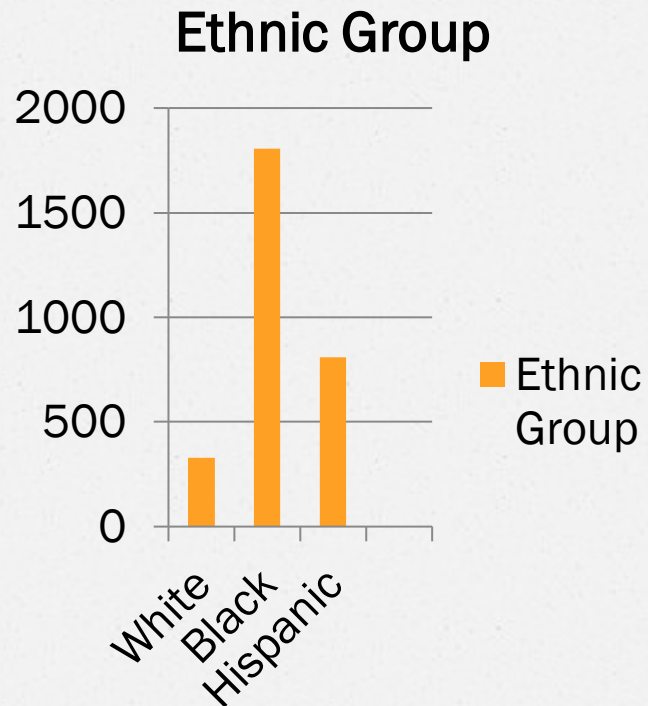
- o Persistent, sad, and irritable mood
- o Loss of interest in activities once enjoyed
- o Significant change in appetite and body weight
- o Difficulty sleeping or oversleeping
- o Physical signs of agitation, and loss of energy
- o Feelings of worthlessness or inappropriate guilt
- o Difficulty concentrating
- o Recurrent thoughts of death or suicide

# Arrest Statistics – National & CHSC States

<i>o</i> United States of America	12.5%
<i>o</i> California	13.2%
<i>o</i> Louisiana	N/A
<i>o</i> Nevada	13.9%
<i>o</i> Oklahoma	11.9%
<i>o</i> Texas	13.9%

# Prison Rates for BMoC

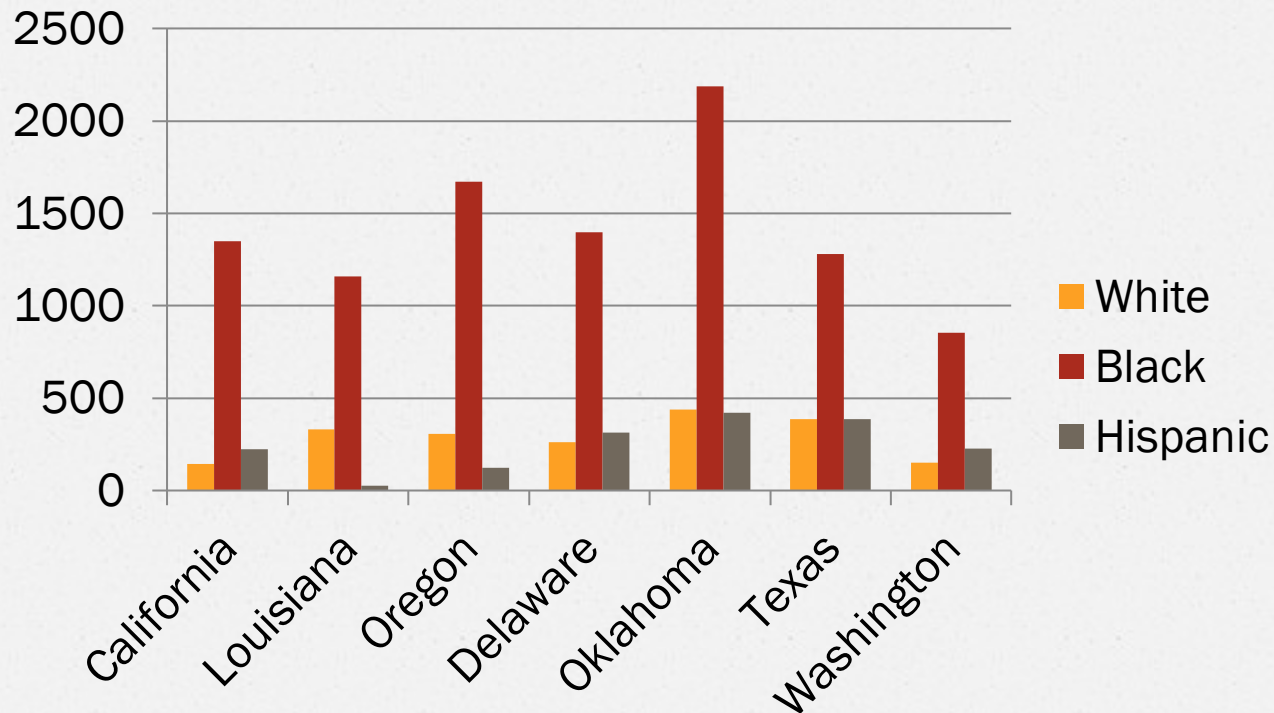
National rates per 100,000 people



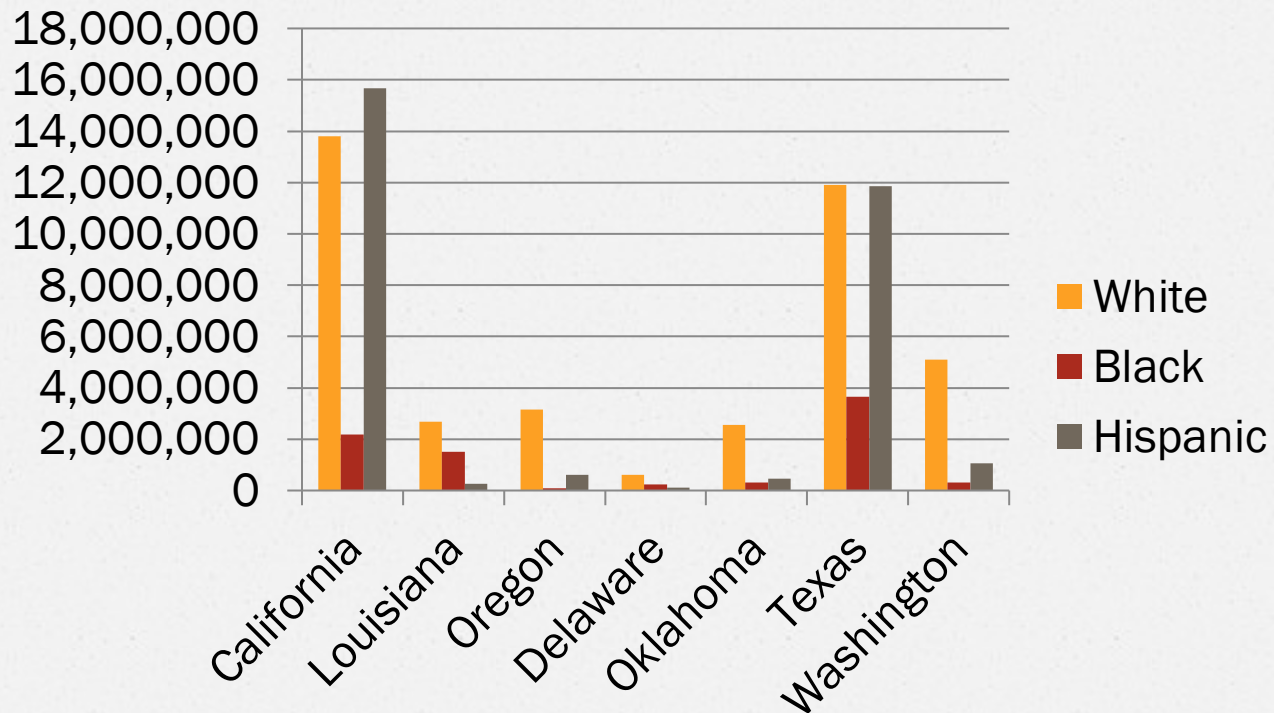
Eric Rivera 17    Venjah Hunte 20    Jason Mitchell 19    Charles Wardlow 18

# Prison Rates by CHSC States

Rates per 100,000 people



# Population rates by CHSC States



# What Can We Do?

- o Pray, Pray, and Pray some more
  - o They need to daily be on your prayer list
- o Take time with our young people
  - o They don't deal with things like we do
  - o All of them are not saved
  - o Know what's around your young people
- o 'Catch them before you cook them'
- o Build a relationship with them

# What can we do cont....

- o Get involved in your schools and community
  - o With Law enforcement
  - o With the school as mentors
  - o With other non-profits as mentors
- o Work with Juvenile corrections and parole
  - o Youth will need somewhere to go
  - o Youth are looking for help when in trouble



# What I have done in Sacramento

- o Joined with My Brother's Keeper Sacramento
- o Partnered with Improve Your Tomorrow
- o Men's Leadership Academy
- o Conducted a study on Faith-Based Mentors working with Black male youth from low socioeconomic communities

# What Young Men Have Said

- o “And so I think having a mentor who was able to instill that in us that we were able to research identity and learn about identity. And commune together about it was instrumental to just not only us as a person, but our education in school or outside of school”
- o “And having a mentor who essentially could guide you through making those changes at such a young age, or also having someone who understood your frustrations with microaggressions with racism, just with daily experiences, it was beneficial to me”

# What Young Men Have Said

- o “I can recall pretty vividly in middle school and in high school, where my mentor would often talk about like decision making, and how like, if how, when you consider certain values and your decision making, how it gives you opportunities to do different things”
- o “He always made it like clear to me like who I was and like, what my values are and what I was able to do. So like, I never had a point in my life where it was like, I shouldn't go be a part of this or I shouldn't go reach for that opportunity”

Lets go from this....



.....To this



# References:

- o Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program
- o Census Bureau
- o National Association of School Psychologists
- o USA Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- o New York Times
- o US Department of Justice