



NBCDI
National Black Child
Development Institute

STATE OF THE BLACK CHILD REPORT CARD

OHIO

What's in this Report Card?

The policy recommendations in the 2019 State of the Black Child Report Card for Ohio highlight the racial disparities that affect learning outcomes for Black children and families. The Report Card provides parents, caregivers, advocates, community leaders and policymakers with high-priority policy recommendations to improve education, health and family support systems for Black children and families.



OVERALL RECOMMENDATION

DECLARE SYSTEMIC RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

As this report demonstrates, Ohio must recognize racial bias and racism as a public health issue that negatively impacts the health and educational outcomes for Black children.

**ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION'S 2017
"RACE FOR RESULTS" RANKED OHIO THE**

**SECOND WORST
STATE IN THE COUNTRY
FOR BLACK CHILDREN, STATING THAT
IMPROVEMENTS "WILL REQUIRE PUBLIC
WILL AND GREATER INVESTMENTS
TO OVERCOME THE VESTIGES OF**

**INSTITUTIONAL
DISCRIMINATION
IN THIS
REGION."**



National Black
Child Development
Institute

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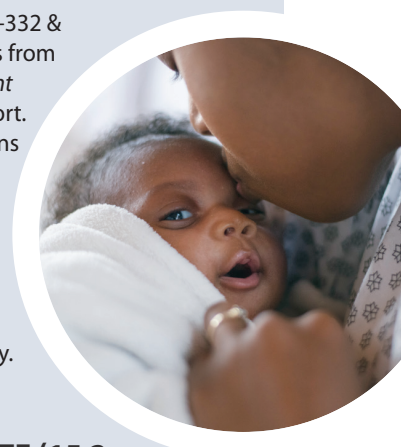
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RECOMMENDATION

1 ADDRESS HIGH RATES OF INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY

Follow-through on Senate Bill 17-332 & implementing recommendations from the *New Approach to Reduce Infant Mortality and Achieve Equity*¹ report. NBCDI supports recommendations to improve cultural competency and the quality of pre-conception, prenatal and postnatal care for Black infants and mothers. To truly transform infant health outcomes, leaders must prioritize maternal mortality.



**IN 2016, OHIO'S BLACK
INFANT MORTALITY RATE (15.2
PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS) WAS ALMOST**

**3X AS HIGH AS THE
WHITE RATE (5.8).²**

**MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES FOR
OHIO'S BLACK WOMEN ARE**

2-3X GREATER

**COMPARED TO THEIR WHITE
COUNTERPARTS.**

^{1,2} Ohio Department of Health 2017 Ohio Infant Mortality



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RECOMMENDATION

2

PROTECT BLACK CHILDREN FROM LEAD-EXPOSURE

Investigate lead levels across Ohio and fully fund new infrastructure to improve dilapidated housing. Black communities have the highest lead poisoning rates due to the history of segregation and discriminatory housing laws.³ NBCDI recommends state/local lead-poisoning prevention advocates demand funding for affected schools and education programs to educate Black parents on the adverse effects of lead-exposure and the importance of child lead testing during health checks.

IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY, NEIGHBORHOODS WITH MAJORITY BLACK POPULATIONS HAVE THE HIGHEST RATES OF LEAD POISONING.⁴

^{3,4} https://www.cleveland.com/healthfit/2015/10/race_racism_and_lead_poisoning.html

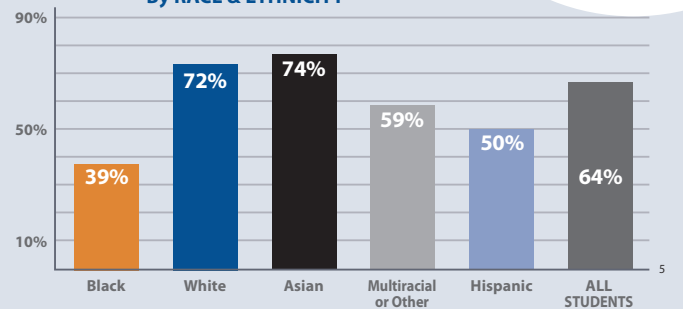
RECOMMENDATION

3

SUPPORT AND EQUIP EDUCATORS TO EFFECTIVELY RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF BLACK CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Create and implement annual professional development for educators from early childhood education through high school on racial equity, social-emotional development and effective parent engagement. With most school systems failing to effectively educate Black children, the state's Local Professional Development Committees should require and increase representation of Black educators, parents, advocates and community leaders.

OPPORTUNITY GAP DATA Percentage of Students Testing Proficient & Above By RACE & ETHNICITY



⁵ <https://www.groundworkohio.org/equityreport>

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RECOMMENDATION

4

END SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSION FOR ALL YOUNG CHILDREN IN OHIO

Effectively implement House Bill 318 that limits suspensions and expulsions in early childhood and elementary education. Policymakers fund professional development and supports educators to change classroom management practices and provide mental health and crisis-level intervention services to families when children are displaying behavior that prevents learning.

BLACK CHILDREN WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED THAN WHITE CHILDREN.

7 times in Kindergarten⁶
8.6 times in 1st Grade
9.4 times in 2nd Grade
8.8 times in 3rd Grade

⁶ Ohio Department of Education, FY17

NBCDI is grateful for support from the Alliance for Early Success. This Report Card was developed by Cemeré James, Senior Vice President, Policy; William Dunbar, Vice President, Policy; and Christopher Rountree, Policy Analyst; in partnership with Gloria Blevins, President, Black Child Development Institute-Cleveland Affiliate.