

RACE RELATIONS **PROGRESS REPORT**



2006 EDITION



JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL INC.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Beyond the Talk: Improving Race Relations* study in 2002 called for “a vision for Jacksonville of racial justice and inclusion, in which all residents feel free to, and actually do, participate fully in public life, unimpeded by race-based disparities or discrimination.” The study called for annually convening community-wide accountability sessions, using a race relations report card to document Jacksonville’s progress toward resolving race-based disparities and improving race relations in Jacksonville.

This is JCCI’s second annual *Race Relations Progress Report*, documenting progress and highlighting concerns as Jacksonville seeks to implement that vision.

The results are mixed:

- In some areas, substantial progress is being made, and the gap in quality-of-life measures between white and black residents is closing. For example, the rate of deaths due to stroke – the third leading cause of death in Jacksonville – is declining, and the gap between white and black stroke death rates is closing.
- In other areas, while improvements are happening, the rate of improvement for white residents is faster than that of black residents, increasing the gap. For example, unemployment rates fell for both white and black workers, but the gap widened due to the comparative rates of decline.
- In yet other areas, Jacksonville is slipping backwards. Infant death rates for white and black infants increased in 2005, continuing a discouraging trend.

The report measures racial disparities in six areas: education, employment and income, neighborhoods and housing, health, justice and the legal system, and politics and civic engagement.

Education: Progress is being made in closing the gap in student reading scores, but the gaps are growing wider in graduation rates and college continuation rates.

Employment and income: Unemployment rates and rates of children living in low-income households are more than double for black households than for white, while their median income is 61 percent that of white households.

Neighborhoods and housing: Home ownership is increasing in the black community, but the rise in the use of subprime lending to purchase a home suggest concerns with the current and future foreclosure rates in Jacksonville and the impact on new home owners.

Health: Progress in heart disease, cancer, and stroke death rates is offset by concern with rising infant death rates. The declining rate in new HIV cases is good news, though the gap is still wide – the rate of new HIV cases among the black population is seven times as high as the rate in the white population.

Justice and the legal system: Gaps are closing in inmate admissions, juvenile delinquency referral rates, and satisfaction with public safety services. However, for those youth committed as delinquents, the gap is widening.

Politics and civic engagement: The long-term gains in voter registration through 2004 slipped in 2006, and perceptions of influence on local government decision-making continued a downward trend.

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The 2006 *Race Relations Progress Report* Review Committee was chaired by
Betty S. Carley

Committee members included:

Jim Crooks	Kaye Schmitz
Helen Jackson	Rashad Shahid
Josephine Jackson	Henry B. Thomas
Edward Johnson	Alvin G. White
Cheryl Murphy	Dottie Wilson

JCCI extends a special thanks to the following business and community leaders for supporting JCCI and endorsing our efforts to track Jacksonville's progress in addressing race relations and racial disparities.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida
CSX Corporation
City of Jacksonville
United Way of Northeast Florida

INTRODUCTION

In 2002, JCCI released a citizen-led study, *Beyond the Talk: Improving Race Relations*. The study documented that racial disparities were prevalent locally in six areas: education, income and employment, housing, health, criminal justice, and the political process. *Beyond the Talk* concluded that quality of life disparities are caused by multiple factors: individual racism, individual behavior, and the practices of public and private institutions.

Beyond the Talk presented a set of 27 recommendations to improve race relations in Jacksonville and to eliminate racial disparities. A primary recommendation stated that JCCI should convene citizens to create and distribute an annual report card on race relations in Jacksonville, modeled after JCCI's Quality of Life Progress Report. The report card should measure race-based disparities as well as perceptions of racism and discrimination in the community.

In 2005, JCCI released its first *Race Relations Progress Report*, using survey data and community data to measure racial disparities. Many people in the community were involved in helping identify indicators, conduct surveys, participate in focus groups, and understand the results. Others met after the release of the initial report to help guide the creation of follow-up reports, based on lessons learned from the first report. Their efforts on launching this ground-breaking undertaking were and are much appreciated.

This is the 2006 update of the *Race Relations Progress Report*. Volunteer committees determined that the in-depth survey information from the first report should be repeated on a regular basis to update the community's perceptions of race relations, every three to five years. In the interim, a clear report card, with concise information on each of the areas covered, should be presented annually to help guide policy decisions and community work, identify priority areas of concern for further investigation and effort, and measure progress toward an inclusive community, free of race-based disparities or discrimination.

Committee members have been concerned that the *Progress Report* show as much information as possible about the various racial and ethnic populations in Jacksonville. In all cases where the data were available, this report shows trends among white, black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American residents of Jacksonville. In some cases, accurate data were simply not available. Caution should be taken in interpreting trendlines when the base population is below 50,000, as small movements tend to create large fluctuations in the graphs. Also, because "Hispanic" refers to ethnicity and not race, care should be taken with population estimates.

The 2000 U. S. Census provided the following information about Duval County's population:

	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native American	Other
2000	65.8%	27.8%	4.1%	2.7%	0.3%	3.4%

The University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business Research provided these detailed estimates and projections of Jacksonville's population (non-Hispanic white and black populations represented):

	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total Population
2000	64.5%	28.0%	4.1%	3.4%	778,879
2005	60.8%	30.1%	5.4%	3.7%	861,150
2010	58.0%	31.5%	6.3%	4.2%	939,784
2020	53.0%	34.3%	7.7%	5.0%	1,077,456
2030	50.1%	35.6%	8.7%	5.6%	1,191,480

1946 - 2006: A LOOK BACK

In May 1946, The Council of Social Agencies in Jacksonville issued a report on race relations and racial disparities. After 60 years, reviewing the report provides an opportunity to see what progress Jacksonville has made, and where the issues are still unresolved.

The report, *Jacksonville Looks At Its Negro Community*, can be found at the State of Florida's library archives or directly linked through JCCI's website at www.jcci.org. The study "had its origin in the disruption of the normal community pattern by the war," its foreword begins. The influx of population after World War II exceeded the capacity of the services, facilities, and infrastructure available, especially among the black population. The study set out to search the issue broadly. "Every effort has been made," the foreword continues, "to keep the Study to the essential outlines of a truthful picture of existing conditions, ruling out emotional bias." Its sections were: population trends, health and medical care, sanitation and safety, housing, transportation facilities, education, recreation, industry and employment, delinquency and law enforcement, and community welfare services.

Many of the concerns expressed in the report, before *Brown v. Board of Education* and federal civil rights legislation, were about infrastructure and separate-but-equal facilities. However, many of the concerns and measures used in that report were independently selected by volunteer committees for this report. For example:

Neighborhoods and housing: Homeownership was a concern in 1946, with 24.7 percent of black families owning their own homes. In 2000, homeownership rates had grown to 51 percent, but still lagged behind white home ownership. Page 11 of this report looks at recent growth in home purchase rates.

Health access and outcomes: The gap in heart disease rates in 1940 between black and white residents was seven points. In 2005, it was 20 points. In 1943, infant death rates for black infants were 87 percent higher than for white infants in Duval County. In 2005, they were 122 percent higher. See pages 12-13 for the data.

Justice and the legal system: Disproportionate minority representation in jails and prisons was a concern in 1946, where black inmates comprised 60 percent of the population of Duval County jails. In 2005, 52 percent of inmate admissions were black prisoners. See page 14 of this report for more information.

The study looks at some trend lines, finding some positive notes in reductions of some health-related and other disparities from 1920 through 1945. But it also finds significant areas of concern, including an examination of a then-growing homicide problem in the community.

The 1946 report set out a series of recommendations for action. This 2006 report does not, but it does encourage all those reading this report to use the information provided within to work to end racial disparities and to improve race relations. Jacksonville has come a long way since 1946. But the report will remind all readers how many unresolved issues remain.

Additional copies of this report are available online at www.jcci.org or at JCCI's office at 2434 Atlantic Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32207, or call JCCI at (904) 396-3052. For questions or comments about the progress report, please e-mail mail@jcci.org.

PERCEPTIONS OF RACE RELATIONS TODAY

The *Beyond the Talk* study concluded, “The wide range of perceptions among Jacksonville’s citizens about past and current racial disparities impedes resolution of all problems in race relations.” Shared understanding of the extent of the problem is often a prerequisite to reaching agreement on how to solve that problem.

JCCI has been tracking perceptions of racism in Jacksonville since 1985. The survey questions asks, *In your opinion during the last year, do you feel that racism is a problem in Jacksonville?*

“Yes” responses (racism is a problem):

	2005	2006	Change
White	43%	55%	+ 12%
Black	73%	78%	+ 5%

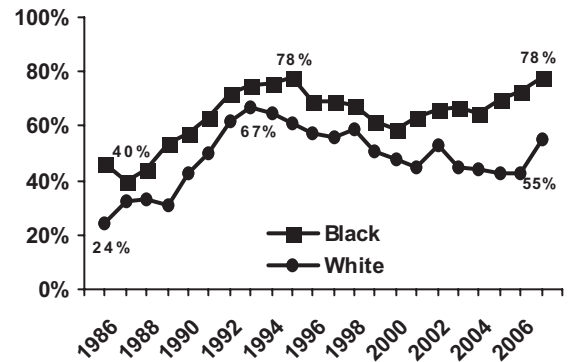
Note: The surveys in this report were conducted by American Public Dialogue for the JCCI Quality of Life Progress Report. The survey was designed to provide a representative sampling of the Jacksonville population as a whole, and is less reliable statistically when looking at sub-population responses. Standard deviations are +/- 5.5% for white responses and +/- 9.1% for black responses.

The *Beyond the Talk* study also found that differing perceptions about race relations are related to differences in experiences and perceptions of discrimination. Since 2000, JCCI has been tracking how people respond to the question, *Thinking about your own possible experience with racism, do you believe that you have personally experienced racism during the past year while shopping, while at work, or while renting or buying housing in Jacksonville?* “Yes” responses to shopping, the highest responses, are represented in the graph.

2006 “Yes” responses (personally experienced racism):

	Work	Shopping	Housing
White	9%	13%	4%
Black	30%	43%	19%

Is Racism a Problem in Jacksonville?

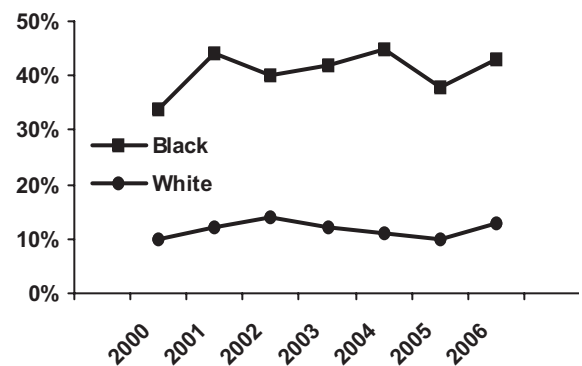


Source: American Public Dialogue

Gap is closing:

In 2005, 30 percentage points separated white and black perceptions that racism was a community problem; in 2006, the gap had closed to 23 points, still wider than any time before 2004.

Have you experienced racism?



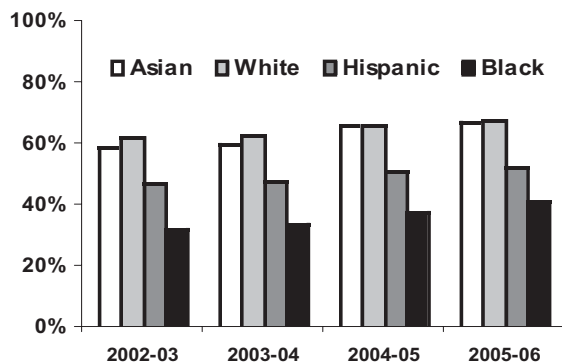
Source: American Public Dialogue

Gap is widening:

In 2000, 34 percent of black respondents said that they had personally experienced racism while shopping; in 2006, responses had risen to 43 percent.

EDUCATION

Reading at Grade Level



Source: Duval County Public Schools

Gap is closing:

In 2002-03, 30 percentage points separated white and black student scores; in 2005-06, all scores had improved, and the gap was 27 percentage points.

The *Beyond the Talk: Improving Race Relations* study found that “eliminating disparities in school performance is critical to ensuring a high quality of life for all Jacksonville citizens.” The following year, the *Public Education Reform* study called the achievement gap as the “primary challenge facing the public education system,” and launched a further study on how to eliminate the achievement gap.

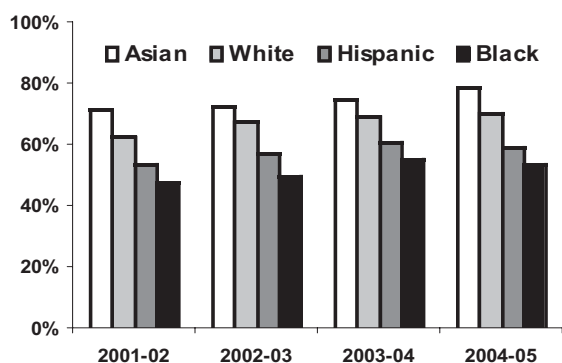
In 2006, the Duval County Public Schools made eliminating the achievement gap part of the performance benchmarks of the Superintendent. Reading scores (measured by the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test [FCAT] and alternative assessments) are a key measure of this gap.

Percentage of students reading at grade level:

	2004-05	2005-06	Change
White	66%	68%	+ 2%
Black	38%	41%	+ 3%
Hispanic	51%	52%	+ 1%
Asian	66%	67%	+ 1%
Native American	53%	65%	+12%

Note: Caution should be taken in interpreting data from movement in smaller population sizes. For this reason, while the data is provided for Native American students, the trend line is not graphed.

High School Graduation Rates



Source: Duval County Public Schools

Gap is widening:

In 2001-02, 15 percentage points separated white and black student graduation rates; in 2004-05, all rates had improved, but the gap had grown to 17 percentage points.

Graduating from high school is usually a prerequisite to good employment and to furthering one’s education. In this area, the difference between the four-year graduation rates of black and white students is growing.

Graduation rates:

	2003-04	2004-05	Change
White	70%	71%	+ 1%
Black	56%	54%	- 2%
Hispanic	61%	59%	- 2%
Asian	75%	79%	+ 4%
Native American	75%	64%	-11%

EDUCATION

After graduating from high school, many students continue on to college. High-paying jobs generally require education beyond high school. While a higher percentage of students in Duval County are choosing to continue their education, the gap in college continuation rates is growing. Combined with the gap in high school graduation rates, the two trend lines suggest increased disparities in earning power and household income as these youths become adults.

College continuation rates:

	2003-04	2004-05	Change
White	63%	65%	+ 2%
Black	53%	51%	- 2%
Hispanic	62%	53%	- 9%
Asian	75%	81%	+ 6%

Success in college often requires being ready for college-level work. In this area, the achievement gap is closing, but for negative reasons: scores for all groups declined in 2004-05.

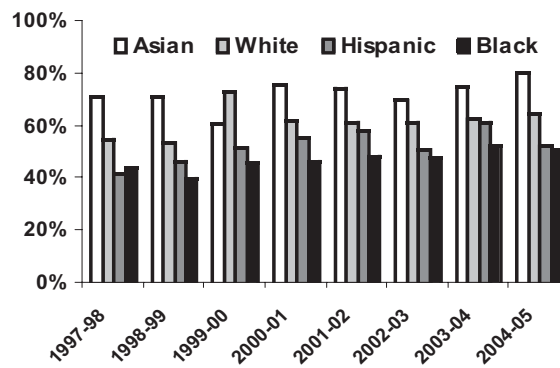
Reading is a useful measure for readiness for college, since success in all courses largely depends on being able to read at a college level.

College readiness rates in reading:

	2003-04	2004-05	Change
White	96%	94%	- 4%
Black	82%	75%	- 7%
Hispanic	NA	95%	NA
Asian	99%	97%	- 2%

Note: Hispanic student data was not available for 2003-04.

College Continuation Rates

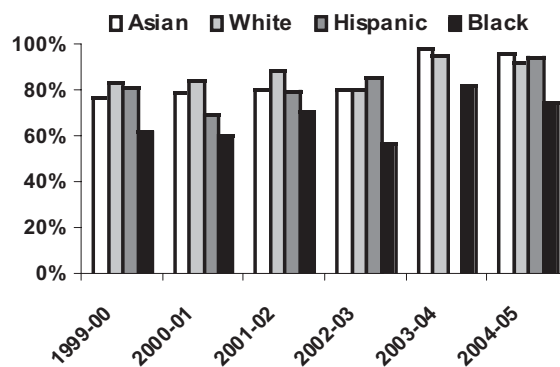


Source: Florida Department of Education

Gap is widening:

In 1997-98, 11 percentage points separated white and black student college continuation rates; in 2004-05, the gap had grown to 14 percentage points.

College Readiness Rates - Reading



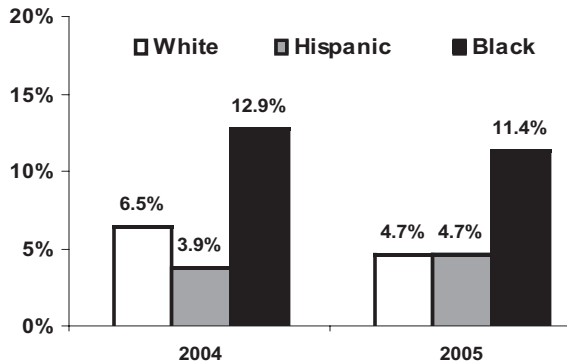
Source: Florida Department of Education

Gap is closing:

In 1999-00, 22 percentage points separated white and black college readiness rates; by 2004-05, the gap had narrowed to 18 percentage points.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Unemployment Rates



Source: American Community Survey

Gap is widening:

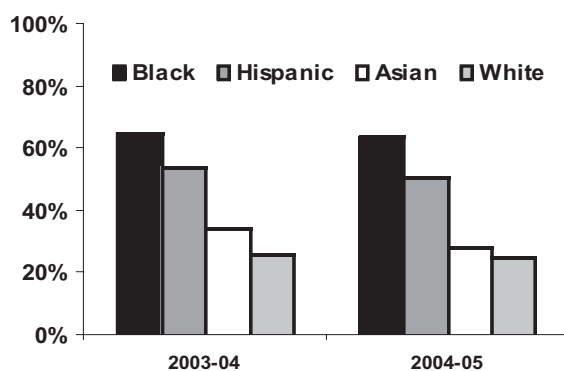
In 2004, 6.4 percentage points separated white and black unemployment rates; in 2005, the gap was 6.7 percentage points.

In 2004, the American Community Survey, a program of the U.S. Census, began calculating unemployment rates by race at the county level. While unemployment fell from 2004 to 2005, white unemployment declined at a faster rate, which meant that the gap in unemployment rates between white and black workers increased.

In 2005, the U.S. Census began estimating median household income by race. In Jacksonville, median incomes were:

	2005
White	\$61,168
Black	\$37,103
Hispanic	\$41,073
Asian	\$63,787
Native American	\$56,498

Children in Low Income Households



Source: Duval County Public Schools

Gap is unchanged:

In 2003-04, 65 percent of black students received free or reduced-price lunches, compared to 26 percent of white students. In 2004-05, the gap was unchanged, though the rates had declined to 64 and 25 percent, respectively.

The United States official poverty line in 2005 was \$19,350 for a family of four. Children in families with a household income of less than 130 percent of the poverty line (\$25,155) are eligible for the free lunch program at school, and children in families with a household income of less than 185 percent of the poverty line (\$35,798) are eligible for reduced-price lunches. Black schoolchildren in Duval County participate in this program at more than twice the rate as white schoolchildren, suggesting much higher rates of children in low-income households.

Free and reduced-price lunch participation rates:

	2003-04	2004-05	Change
White	26%	25%	- 1%
Black	65%	64%	- 1%
Hispanic	54%	51%	- 3%
Asian	35%	28%	- 7%
Native American	31%	38%	+7%

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

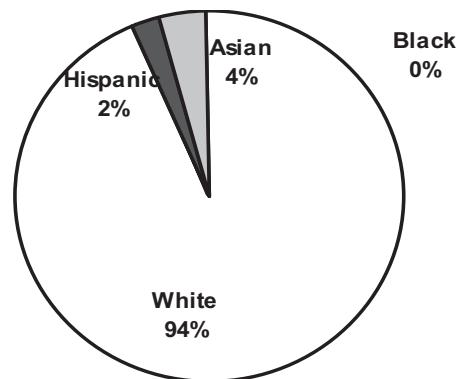
Eighty-eight percent of Jacksonville businesses are owned by white businesspeople, according to an analysis of U.S. Census data performed by Anderson & Associates, PA, for the City of Jacksonville.

Black-owned businesses make up about 6.6 percent of the total, with Asian-American businesses at 2.9 percent, Hispanic businesses at 2 percent, and Native American businesses at 0.6 percent.

Each year, *The Business Journal of Jacksonville* identifies the fastest-growing private companies in Jacksonville. Again in 2006, none of the businesses who made the list were headed by black leadership.

In 2004, the City of Jacksonville began a new Jacksonville Small & Emerging Businesses program (JSEB) as a replacement for its previous Minority Business Enterprise and Equal Business Opportunity programs. In the first year of implementation, certified black-owned businesses received 4.4 percent (by dollar value) of City contracts, Hispanic-owned businesses received 0.8 percent, Asian-American owned businesses received 0.5 percent, and Native American-owned businesses 0.7 percent.

50 Fastest Growing Businesses

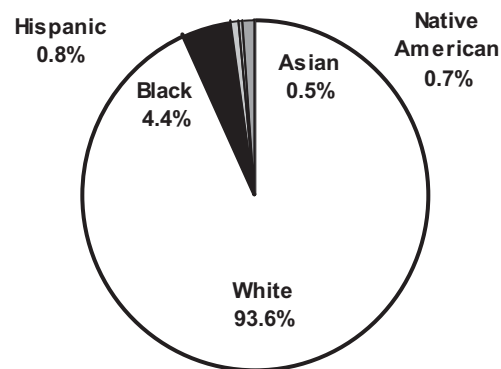


Source: *The Business Journal of Jacksonville*

Gap is unchanged:

In 2006, 94 percent of the 50 fastest growing private businesses in Jacksonville had white leadership, unchanged from 2004, and again no black-led businesses made the list.

City Contracts



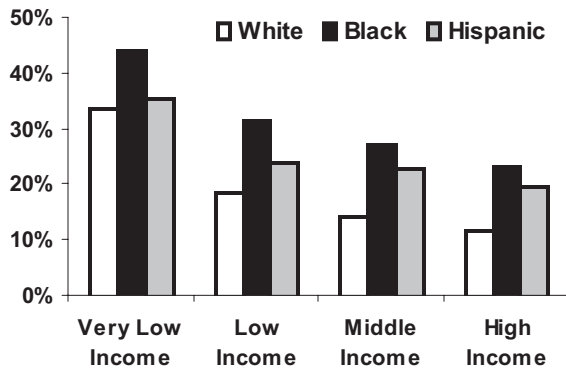
Source: *City of Jacksonville*

Baseline data:

The first full year of implementation of the Jacksonville Small & Emerging Businesses Program provides a baseline measure of city contracts to minority-owned businesses.

NEIGHBORHOODS AND HOUSING

Mortgage Denial Rates, 2005



Source: Home Mortgage Disclosure Act

Gap is widening:

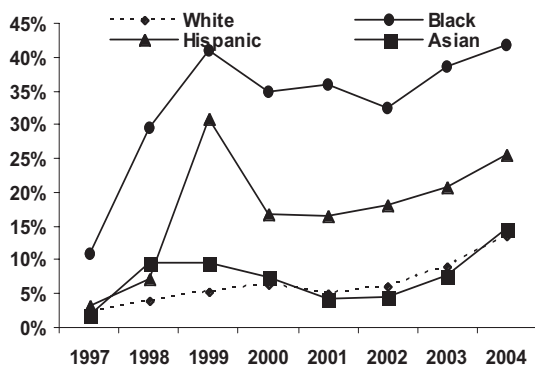
In 2005, the difference by race between conventional mortgage denial rates, within income categories, grew between 0.1 and 5.9 percentage points over 2004.

Purchasing a home is often the largest investment a person will make. In Jacksonville, applications for conventional home mortgage loans are denied twice as often for black applicants than they are for white applicants, and this pattern is consistent within household income categories, based on a median family income of \$57,850 in 2005.

Conventional mortgage denial rates in 2005 were:

	White	Black	Hispanic
Very Low Income (under \$28,975)	33.8%	44.3%	35.5%
Low Income (\$28,975-\$46,280)	18.8%	31.5%	24.1%
Middle income (\$46,280-\$69,420)	14.3%	27.5%	22.9%
High income (over \$69,420)	11.7%	23.3%	19.7%

Subprime Lending Rates



Source: Home Mortgage Disclosure Act

Gap is closing:

In 2003, 30 percentage points separated white and black subprime lending rates; in 2004, the gap had shrunk to 28 percentage points, but for negative reasons.

Subprime loans are those with higher-than-average interest rates. Use of subprime lending for home purchases may increase the risk of foreclosure. While not all subprime loans represent predatory lending, nearly all predatory lending involves subprime loans.

In Jacksonville, the percentage of home purchases made using subprime lending is increasing. The gap between black and white subprime lending rates is closing, because the growth in white borrowers using subprime lending is faster than the growth rate for black borrowers.

	2003	2004	Change
White	9.0%	13.7%	+ 4.7%
Black	38.6%	41.9%	+ 3.3%
Hispanic	20.7%	25.5%	+ 4.8%
Asian	7.6%	14.6%	+ 7.0%
Native American	21.6%	18.4%	- 3.2%

NEIGHBORHOODS AND HOUSING

In 2000, 73 percent of white households in Jacksonville owned their own homes, compared to 51 percent of black households and 53 percent of Hispanic households.

Since 2001, however, there has been a sharp increase in the rate of owner-occupied home purchase mortgage loans across the community. While the data do not provide sufficient information to calculate updated homeownership rates, they do suggest improvements in those rates.

New owner-occupied home purchase loans:

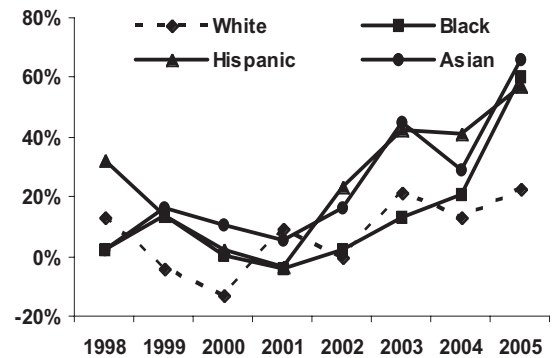
	2004	2005	Change
White	11,210	13,772	+ 23%
Black	2,482	3,978	+ 60%
Hispanic	993	1,560	+ 57%
Asian	687	1,142	+ 66%
Native American	41	48	+ 17%

In surveys, Jacksonville residents report different feelings of safety about the neighborhoods they live in. In response to the question, *Do you feel safe walking alone in your neighborhood at night?*

“Yes” responses (feeling safe):

	2005	2006	Change
White	68%	63%	- 5%
Black	46%	42%	- 4%

Increase in Home Purchases

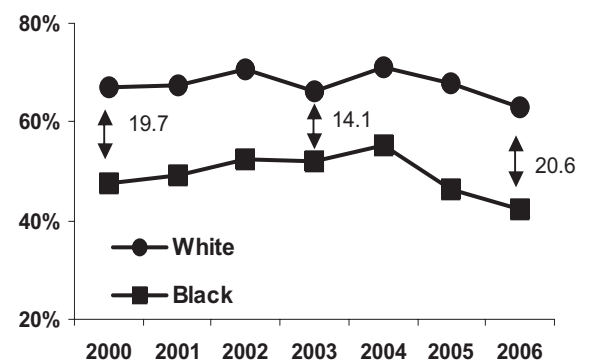


Source: Home Mortgage Disclosure Act

Gap is closing:

In 2005, the growth in home purchases among black, Hispanic, and Asian families averaged 60 percent over 2004, compared to 23 percent growth for white home buyers.

Perceptions of Neighborhood Safety



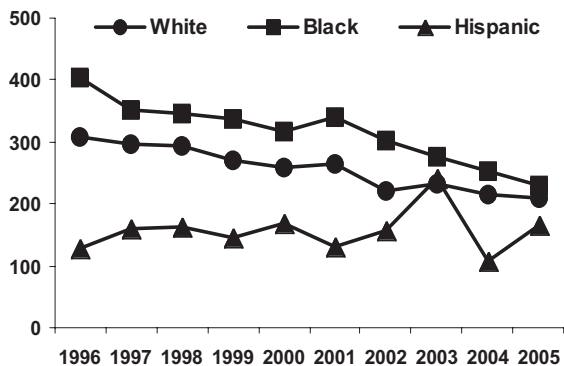
Source: American Public Dialogue

Gap is widening:

In 2003, the gap had closed to 14 percentage points; by 2006, the gap between those who felt safe walking around their neighborhoods at night had grown to nearly 21 points.

HEALTH

Heart Disease Death Rate



Source: Florida Department of Health

Gap is closing:

In 2005, 20 points separated white and black age-adjusted heart disease death rates, down from 38 points in 2004.

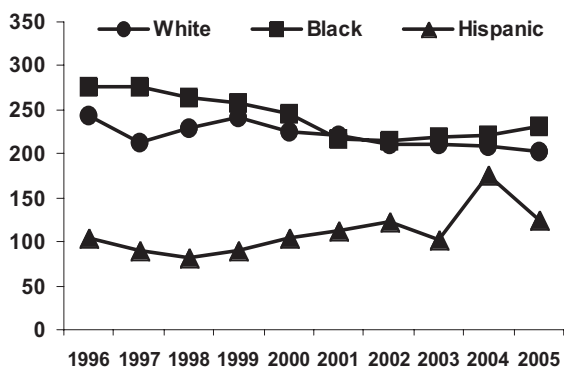
Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Duval County. In the last ten years, the disparity in age-adjusted heart disease death rates between white and black residents has shrunk from 95 points to 20 points, while overall death rates due to heart disease have been falling. In other words, ten years ago black residents had a 30 percent greater chance of dying from heart disease in Duval County than white residents, while in 2005 the difference was less than ten percent.

Age-adjusted death rates per 100,000 residents:

	2004	2005	Change
White	215.7	209.9	- 5.8
Black	254.0	230.2	- 23.8
Hispanic	106.8	166.5	+ 59.7

Similarly, the racial gap in deaths related to stroke (the third leading cause of death in Duval County) has closed from 49 to seven points in the last ten years.

Cancer Death Rate



Source: Florida Department of Health

Gap is widening:

In 2005, 29 points separated white and black age-adjusted cancer death rates, up from 12 points in 2004.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Duval County. The disparity in overall cancer death rates had disappeared in 2001. However, the disparity has been growing since then.

Age-adjusted death rates per 100,000 residents:

	2004	2005	Change
White	207.9	202.3	- 5.6
Black	220.1	231.1	+ 11.0
Hispanic	175.5	125.5	- 50.0

HEALTH

The infant mortality rate (the number of infants that die before reaching one year of age per 1,000 infants born) is often a sentinel indicator, pointing out a number of potential health-related problems and other risk factors faced by the mother. In Jacksonville, the chances of a black infant dying before reaching the first birthday are more than twice as high as that of a white infant.

Infant death rates per 1,000 infants born:

	2004	2005	Change
White	7.5	7.9	+ 0.4
Black	17.3	17.5	+ 0.2
Hispanic	6.6	9.6	+ 3.0

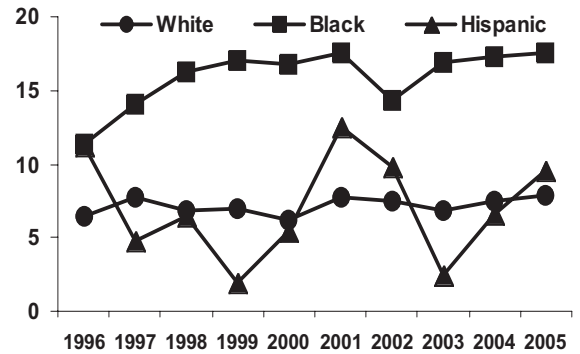
The Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or HIV, is a sexually-transmitted disease which may lead to serious health consequences. People who test positive for HIV may or may not contract Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, or AIDS, a debilitating and often fatal disease.

In Jacksonville, the rate of new HIV cases in the black population is seven times as high as the rate in the white population.

New HIV cases per 100,000 population:

	2004	2005	Change
White	17.7	11.3	- 6.4
Black	93.0	77.3	- 15.7
Other	25.7	21.5	- 4.2

Infant Death Rate

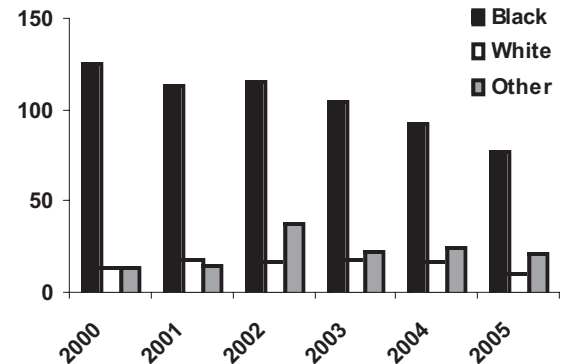


Source: Florida Department of Health

Gap is closing:

In 2005, the gap between black and white infant death rates closed slightly, from 9.8 to 9.6 points. However, both white and black infant death rates rose.

Rate of New HIV Cases



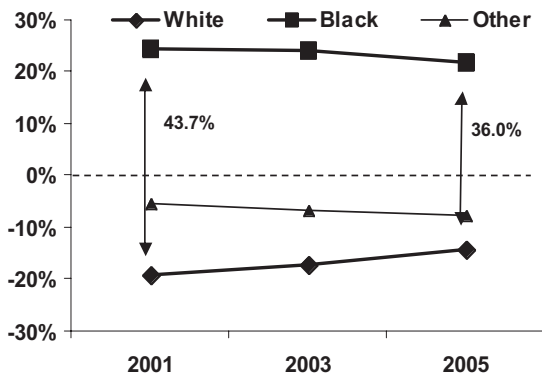
Source: Duval County Health Department

Gap is closing:

In 2000, 112 points separated white and black rates per 100,000 for new HIV cases; in 2005, all rates had improved, and the gap was down to 66 points.

JUSTICE AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Inmate Admissions



Source: Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

Gap is closing:

In 2001, black and white inmate admissions were disproportionate to the population by 43.7 percentage points; by 2005, the gap had decreased to 36 points.

The *Beyond the Talk: Improving Race Relations* study found that "the disproportionate number of blacks who are incarcerated in Jacksonville contributes to the incidence of single-parent families, economic disparities, disproportionate disenfranchisement, and the perception that racial minorities should distrust the criminal-justice system." Since 2001, the relationship of inmate admissions to the racial demographics of the community has been improving.

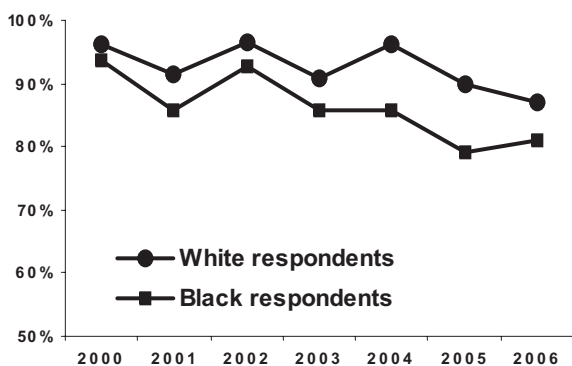
The graph represents the difference between the percent of inmates admitted, by race, and the percentage, by race, of the total community population. The zero line represents the point at which inmate admissions are proportional to community population.

The percentage of inmate admissions, by race, has stayed fairly constant; what has changed has been the racial demographics of the community.

In **2005**, the relationships were as follows:

	Total population	Inmate admissions
White	60.8%	46.7%
Black	30.1%	52.0%
Other	9.1%	1.3%

Public-Safety Services Satisfaction



Source: American Public Dialogue

Gap is closing:

In 2005, 11 percentage points separated black and white positive responses to the survey question. In 2006, the gap decreased to six points.

Perceptions of public safety services are being measured by asking, *As you think about the effectiveness of public services provided by the City of Jacksonville, how satisfied are you with public safety services such as fire, rescue, and police?* In 2006, black positive responses to the survey question improved, while white responses declined, narrowing the perception gap.

Positive responses to the survey question:

	2005	2006	Change
White	90%	87%	- 3%
Black	79%	81%	+ 2%

JUSTICE AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Juvenile delinquency referral rates measure the number of youths referred for delinquency, per 1,000 youths ages 10-17 in the community. These are youths charged to have committed a delinquent act. This is equivalent to an adult being arrested for a criminal offense.

Juvenile delinquency referral rates per 1,000 youth:

	2004-05	2005-06	Change
White	35	30	- 5
Black	84	76	- 8
Hispanic	30	23	- 7

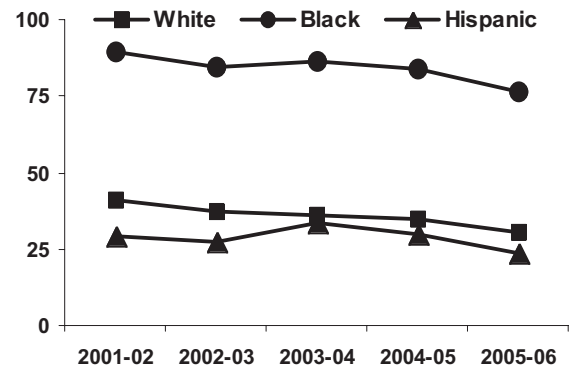
For those youths referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice as delinquents, several options await them. They could be tried as adults; 0.1 percent of white cases, 1.9 percent of black cases, and no Hispanic cases were sent to adult court in 2005-06. They could be placed on probation; 18 percent of white cases, 17 percent of black cases, and 17 percent of Hispanic cases went that route.

They could also be diverted from court in a diversionary program; 62 percent of white cases, 52 percent of black cases, and 64 percent of Hispanic cases were so diverted. They also could be committed for delinquency, which is roughly equivalent to adults being incarcerated.

Delinquency commitments:

	2004-05	2005-06	Change
White	11.5%	12.3%	+ 0.8%
Black	13.4%	18.8%	+ 5.4%
Hispanic	8.3%	12.7%	+ 4.4%

Juvenile Delinquency Referral Rate

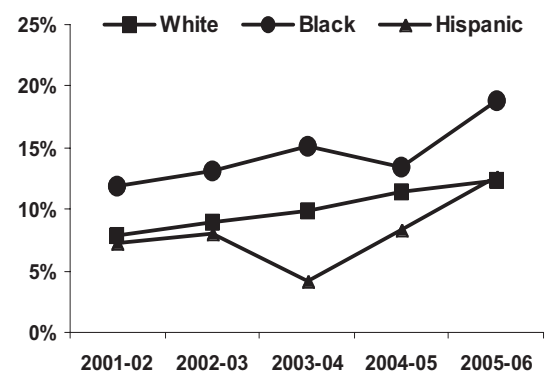


Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Gap is closing:

In 2004-05, 49 points separated white and black juvenile delinquency referral rates; in 2005-06, delinquency declined, and the gap had declined to 46 points.

Youths Committed as Delinquents



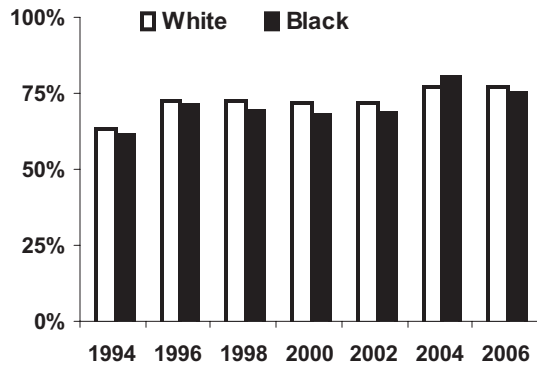
Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Gap is widening:

In 2004-05, 1.9 percentage points separated the rate at which black and white youths referred for delinquency were committed; in 2005-06, the gap rose to 6.5 points.

POLITICS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Voter Registration



Source: Florida Division of Elections

Gap is closing:

In 2004, black voter registration rates exceeded white voter registration rates by 3.2 points. In 2006, white rates exceeded black rates by 1.2 points.

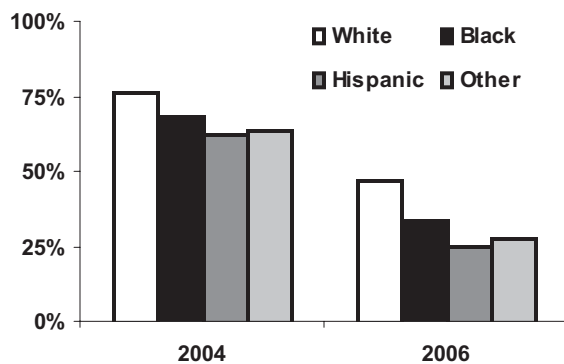
Engagement in the political process often begins with registering to vote. In 1994, 64 percent of the white population over 18 was registered to vote, compared to 62 percent of the black population over 18. In 2004, black voter registration rates reached 81 percent of the adult black population, exceeding white voter registration rates. In 2006, white rates increased slightly, while black rates declined.

Because reliable population estimates between Census years by age for Hispanic, Asian, and Native American populations are not available, rates were not able to be calculated.

Voter registration rates in 2006:

	Registered	Percent	Change from 2004
White	346,400	78%	+ 0%
Black	143,909	76%	- 5%
Hispanic	15,180	NA	
Asian	10,396	NA	
Native Am.	1,655	NA	
Unknown	19,922	NA	

Voter Turnout



Source: Duval County Supervisor of Elections

Gap is widening:

In 2004, the gap between white voter turnout (at 77 percent) and black voter turnout (at 68 percent) was nine points; in 2006, the gap had grown to 13 points.

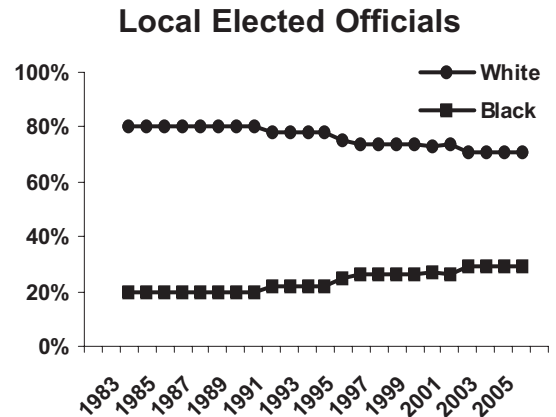
Registering to vote is one step. Exercising the right to vote is the next step. Voter turnout rates in presidential election years, such as 2004, are traditionally higher than in state/congressional election years, such as 2006. The gap in turnout rates between white and black registered voters rose from nine to 13 points between 2004 and 2006.

Voter turnout rates:

	2004	2006	Change
White	77%	47%	- 30%
Black	68%	34%	- 34%
Hispanic	63%	25%	- 38%
Other	64%	28%	- 36%

POLITICS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Elected officials in Jacksonville tend to reflect the demographics of the community, in terms of black and white residents, in part resulting from designated minority-access districts.



Source: City of Jacksonville

Gap is closing:

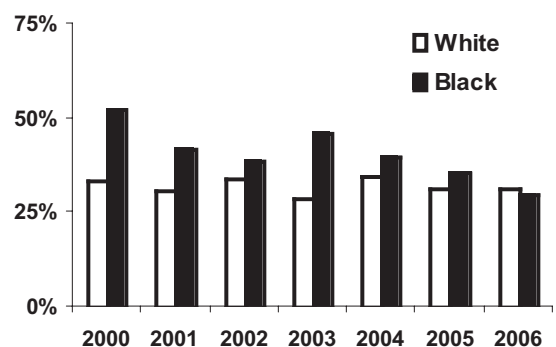
In 1991, 20 percent of local elected officials were black; in 2005, 29 percent were black.

One key measure of civic engagement is the perception of one's ability to influence government. Positive responses declined in response to the question, *As a citizen of Jacksonville, how would you describe your ability to influence local government decision making? Would you say that you have great influence, moderate influence, a little influence, or no influence at all?*

Great/Moderate survey responses:

	2005	2006	Change
White	31.3%	31.6%	+ 0.3%
Black	35.8%	30.0%	- 5.8%

Perceived Influence on Government



Source: American Public Dialogue

Gap is closing:

In 2006, 1.6 percentage points separated white and black positive responses to the survey question, compared to 4.5 points in 2005.

ABOUT JCCI

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Jacksonville Community Council Inc. (JCCI) was created in 1975 with the goal of improving the quality of life in Jacksonville through informed citizen participation in public affairs. JCCI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, broad-based civic organization. It involves citizens in community issues through open dialogue, impartial research, consensus building, and leadership development.

Each year, JCCI produces an annual report on the quality of life in Jacksonville. It also selects issues for in-depth community study. Diverse study committees meet weekly for about six months, gaining a thorough understanding of the problem and reaching consensus on key findings as well as recommended solutions. Following completion of the study and publication of a report, an implementation task force of citizens takes the report to the community and seeks to place the issues on the community agenda. The goal is to seek further deliberation, increased public awareness, and finally, action by appropriate officials.

In addition to its annual studies and the *Quality of Life Progress Report*, JCCI plans and coordinates services for United Way of Northeast Florida and the Human Services Council (HSC), a coalition of local funders of human services. JCCI *Forward*, an initiative that seeks to involve community-minded people with important issues facing the community, provides the venue for up-and-coming leadership to be involved, engaged and connected with government and business leaders. Upon request, JCCI provides a variety of planning, research, consultation and facilitation services under contract.

JCCI receives funding from United Way of Northeast Florida, the City of Jacksonville, the Duval County Public Schools, Jacksonville Children's Commission, corporations, and individual members. JCCI membership is open to all interested in building a better community.

More information about JCCI and its projects is available at www.jcci.org.



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