

RACE RELATIONS PROGRESS REPORT



2007 EDITION



JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL INC.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 16, 1963, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote the following in his *Letter from the Birmingham Jail*: “In any nonviolent campaign there are four basic steps: 1) collection of the facts to determine whether injustices exist; 2) negotiation; 3) self-purification; and 4) direct action.”

In 2002, a collection of citizens, who had just spent nine months meeting weekly to address race relations in Jacksonville, published a landmark study. JCCI's *Beyond the Talk: Improving Race Relations* study 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.” In order to achieve that vision, the city needed to assess the facts, and use those facts annually for self-evaluation and accountability. The city needed an annual race relations progress report to document progress toward resolving race-based disparities and improving race relations in Jacksonville.

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

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. **All indicators demonstrate unacceptable disparities between white and black residents.** Since JCCI began examining these disparities in 2002, some disparities have decreased, while in other cases the disparities have grown. If the national economy continues to slow, concern over racial disparities in Jacksonville should increase, as a tighter economy historically has worsened racial disparities in the community. Jacksonville should pay particular attention to the potential increases in racial disparities in employment, income and housing as a result of a slowing economy and a struggling housing market. Cuts in public funding may also worsen these disparities.

This report should be seen as much more than just information. It is a call to action to the community to work together to address these disparities.

In particular, the report found:

Education: The achievement gap worsens as children age. We have not made sufficient progress in closing racial disparities in education, particular in student reading and high school graduation rates.

Employment and income: Racial disparities in poverty and unemployment continue, and may be linked to the violence being experienced in the community. Jacksonville needs to make more progress in strengthening minority-owned businesses in the community.

Neighborhoods and housing: Access to conventional mortgage lending remains a concern. Neighborhood segregation, as seen by school enrollment patterns, and perceptions of neighborhood safety call attention to two separated communities within Jacksonville.

Health: While progress is being made in public health issues, with lower heart disease and cancer death rates, racial disparities in health outcomes are still unacceptably high, particularly in infant mortality rates.

Justice and the legal system: New indicators on inmate admission rates and homicide rates reflect disproportionate minority involvement with the justice system and significant concerns for the community.

Politics and civic engagement: Citizen engagement in politics is of concern, especially when perceptions of influence on government decision making are falling. And while significant improvements in the election process have been put in place, close attention must be paid to the 2008 Presidential election in Jacksonville.

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The 2007 *Race Relations Progress Report*
Review Committee was chaired by

William B. Bond



Committee members included:

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
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JCCI extends a special thanks to the City of Jacksonville, the Human Rights Commission, United Way of Northeast Florida and CSX Corporation for supporting JCCI and endorsing our efforts to track Jacksonville's progress in addressing race relations and racial disparities.

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 2007 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 and 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 2006 American Community Survey provided the following information about Duval County's population:

| | White | Black | Hispanic | Asian | Native American | Other |
|------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 2006 | 59.6% | 29.6% | 5.7% | 3.3% | 0.3% | 1.5% |

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 |

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 question asks, *In your opinion during the last year, do you feel that racism is a problem in Jacksonville?*

“Yes” responses (racism is a problem):

| | 2006 | 2007 | Difference |
|-------|------|------|------------|
| White | 55% | 62% | + 7% |
| Black | 78% | 74% | - 4% |

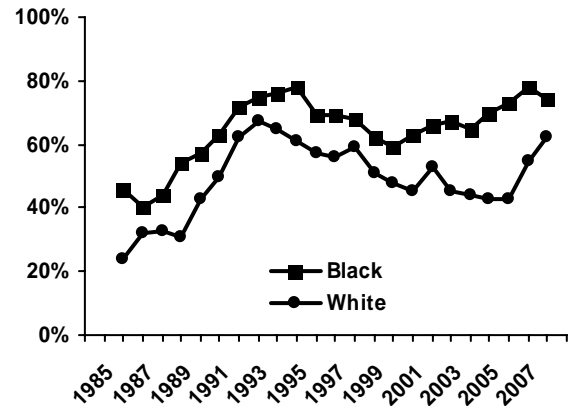
Note: The surveys in this report were conducted by American Public Dialogue for the JCCI Quality of Life Progress Report. The survey was designed to provide a representative sampling of the Jacksonville population as a whole, and is less reliable statistically when looking at sub-population responses.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

2007 “Yes” responses (personally experienced racism):

| | Work | Shopping | Housing |
|-------|------|----------|---------|
| White | 6% | 10% | 1% |
| Black | 21% | 30% | 12% |

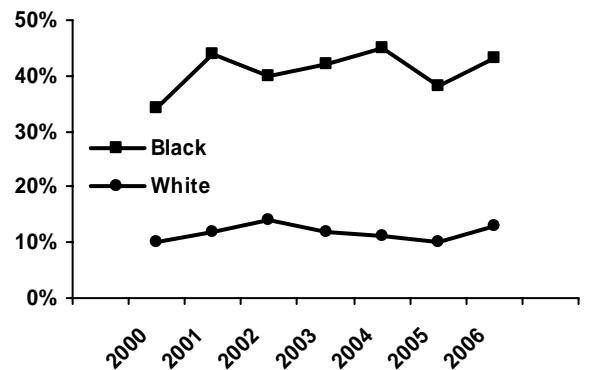
Is Racism a Problem in Jacksonville?



Source: American Public Dialogue

In 2006, 23 percentage points separated white and black perceptions that racism was a community problem; in 2007, the gap had closed to 12 points. Perceptions reflect only what’s on people’s minds, and may not accurately portray the extent of racism in the community.

Experiences of Racism when Shopping

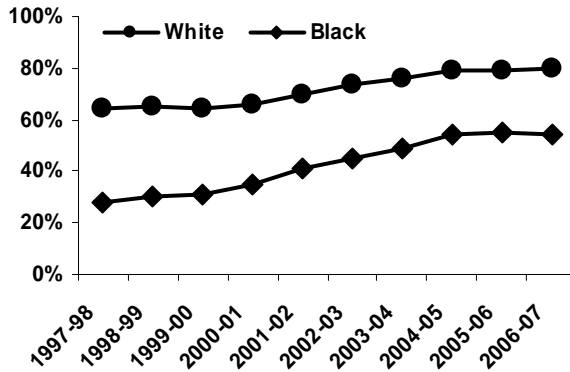


Source: American Public Dialogue

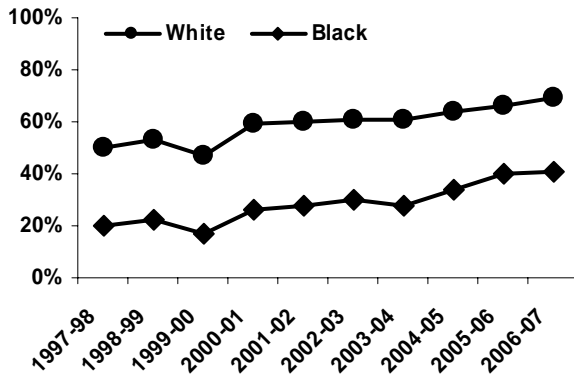
In 2006, 43 percent of black respondents said that they had personally experienced racism while shopping; in 2007, responses had declined to 30 percent. Of the three survey questions, shopping reflects a more universal and constant activity, compared to work or buying or renting housing.

EDUCATION

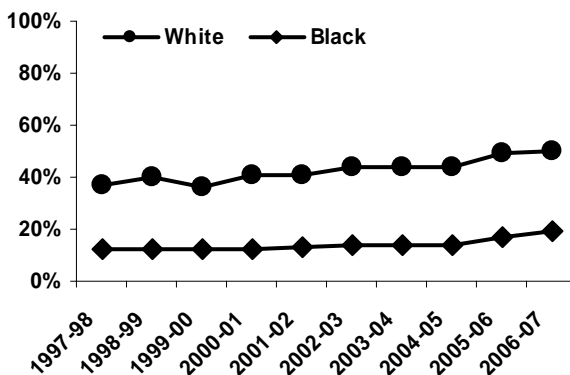
FCAT Reading Proficiency: Elementary School



Middle School



High School



Source: Duval County Public Schools

In 2005-06, between 24 and 32 percentage points separated white and black student scores; in 2006-07, the differences were between 26 and 31 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] Sunshine State Standards [SSS] and alternative assessments) are a key measure of this gap.

This indicator measures performance in reading by race and by age group, separated by elementary, middle, and high school students. Beginning in 2000-01, this included all grade levels 3-10. Prior to 2000-01, only selected grade levels were tested.

Percentage of public school students reading at grade level (FCAT SSS):

Elementary Schools

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | Difference |
|-------|---------|---------|------------|
| White | 79% | 80% | + 1% |
| Black | 55% | 54% | - 1% |

Middle Schools

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | Difference |
|-------|---------|---------|------------|
| White | 66% | 69% | + 3% |
| Black | 40% | 41% | + 1% |

High Schools

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | Difference |
|-------|---------|---------|------------|
| White | 49% | 50% | + 1% |
| Black | 17% | 19% | + 2% |

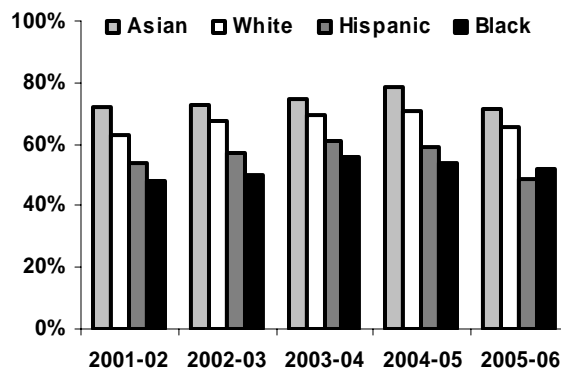
EDUCATION

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

Graduation rates:

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | Difference |
|-----------------|---------|---------|------------|
| White | 71% | 66% | - 5% |
| Black | 54% | 52% | - 2% |
| Hispanic | 59% | 49% | - 10% |
| Asian | 79% | 71% | - 8% |
| Native American | 64% | 56% | - 8% |

High School Graduation Rates



Source: Duval County Public Schools

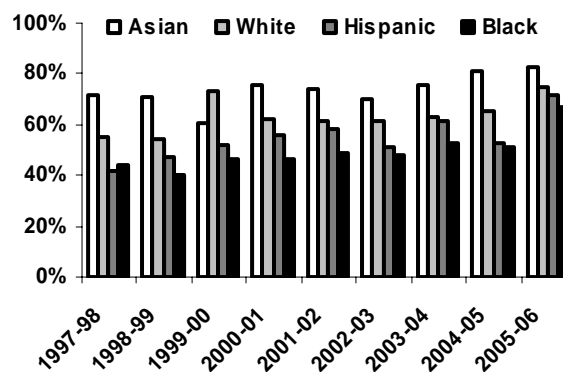
In 2004-05, 17 percentage points separated white and black student graduation rates; in 2005-06, all rates had declined, but the gap had decreased to 14 percentage points.

After graduating from high school, many students continue on to college. High-paying jobs generally require education beyond high school. A higher percentage of students in Duval County public schools are choosing to continue their education, and the gap in college continuation rates is closing.

College continuation rates:

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | Difference |
|----------|---------|---------|------------|
| White | 65% | 75% | + 10% |
| Black | 51% | 67% | + 16% |
| Hispanic | 53% | 72% | + 19% |
| Asian | 81% | 83% | + 2% |

College Continuation Rates

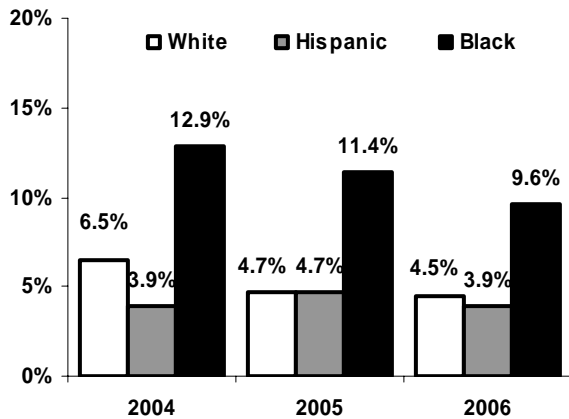


Source: Florida Department of Education

In 2004-05, 14 percentage points separated white and black student college continuation rates; in 2005-06, the gap had closed to 8 percentage points.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Unemployment Rates



Source: American Community Survey

In 2005, 6.7 percentage points separated white and black unemployment rates; in 2006, the gap was 5.1 percentage points.

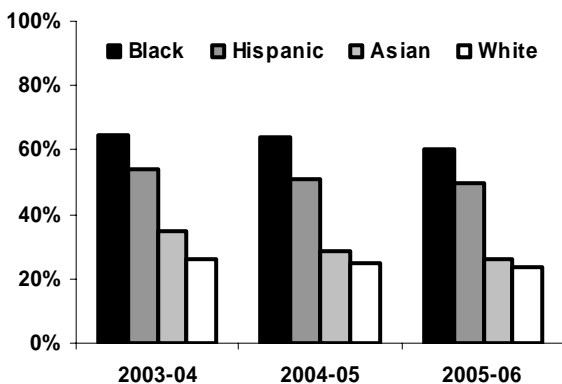
In 2004, the American Community Survey, a program of the U.S. Census, began calculating unemployment rates by race at the county level. While unemployment declined from 2005 to 2006, black unemployment declined at a faster rate, which meant that the gap in unemployment rates between white and black workers decreased.

Median family income, as measured by the American Community Survey and adjusted for inflation, grew in 2006, and the gap closed slightly:

| | 2005 | 2006 | Difference |
|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| White | \$63,892 | \$67,574 | + \$3,682 |
| Black | \$38,121 | \$41,082 | + \$2,961 |
| Hispanic | \$42,200 | \$47,659 | + \$5,459 |

This meant that in 2006, black median family income was 60.8 percent of white median family income, up from 59.7 percent in 2005, while Hispanic median family income grew from 66 to 70.5 percent of white non-Hispanic family income.

Children in Low Income Households



Source: Duval County Public Schools

In 2004-05, 64 percent of black students received free or reduced-price lunches, compared to 25 percent of white students. In 2005-06, the gap closed by one point, as the rates declined to 61 and 23 percent, respectively.

The official United States poverty line in 2006 was \$20,444 for a family of four. Children in families with a household income of less than 130 percent of the poverty line (\$26,577) 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 (\$37,821) 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:

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | Difference |
|----------|---------|---------|------------|
| White | 25% | 23% | - 2% |
| Black | 64% | 61% | - 3% |
| Hispanic | 51% | 49% | - 2% |
| Asian | 28% | 26% | - 2% |

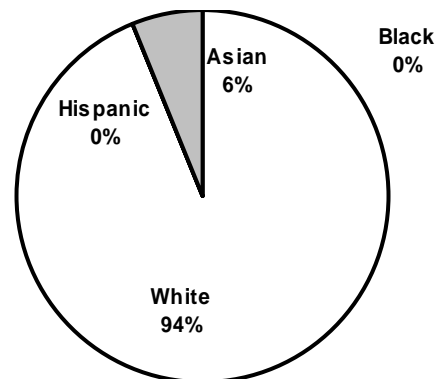
EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Seventy-eight percent of Jacksonville businesses are owned by white business people, according to a new analysis performed by Anderson & Associates, PA, for the City of Jacksonville.

Black-owned businesses make up about 11 percent of the total, with Hispanic businesses at 4 percent, with Asian-American businesses at 3 percent, and Native American businesses at 4 percent.

Each year, *The Business Journal of Jacksonville* identifies the fastest-growing private companies in Jacksonville. Again in 2007, none of the businesses who made the list were headed by black leadership.

50 Fastest Growing Businesses



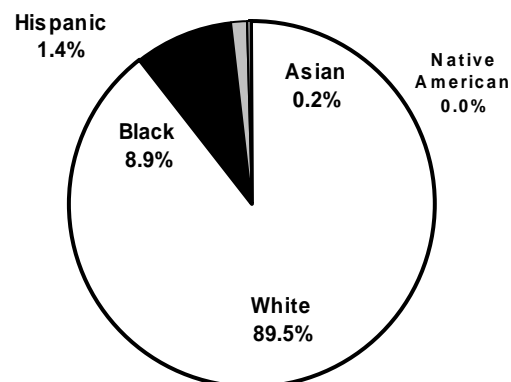
Source: *The Business Journal of Jacksonville*

In 2007, 94 percent of the 50 fastest growing private businesses in Jacksonville had white leadership, unchanged from 2006, and again no black-led businesses made the list.

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. By percentage of total dollar value (\$215,584,367), the contracts awarded through the program went to the following certified JSEBs:

| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | Difference |
|-----------------|---------|---------|------------|
| White | 93.6% | 89.5% | - 4.1% |
| Black | 4.4% | 8.9% | + 4.5% |
| Hispanic | 0.8% | 1.4% | + 0.6% |
| Asian | 0.5% | 0.2% | - 0.3% |
| Native American | 0.7% | 0.0% | - 0.7% |

City Contracts

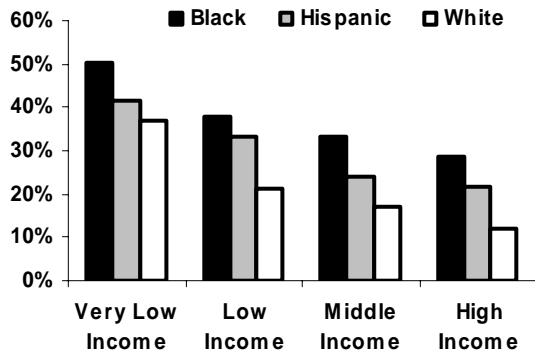


Source: *City of Jacksonville*

In the second year of the Jacksonville Small & Emerging Businesses Program, city contracts to minority-owned businesses increased from 6.4 to 10.5 percent.

NEIGHBORHOODS AND HOUSING

Mortgage Denial Rates, 2006



Source: Home Mortgage Disclosure Act

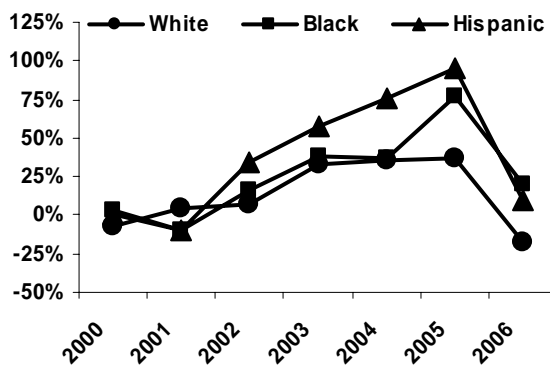
In 2006, the difference by race between conventional mortgage denial rates, within income categories, grew between 2.1 and 4.7 percentage points over 2005.

Purchasing a home is often the largest investment a person will make. In the Jacksonville metro area, 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 \$60,300 in 2006.

Conventional mortgage denial rates in 2006 were:

| | White | Black | Hispanic |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|----------|
| Very Low Income (under \$30,150) | 36.9% | 50.2% | 41.4% |
| Low Income (\$30,150-\$47,637) | 21.1% | 37.7% | 33.2% |
| Middle income (\$47,638-72,359) | 17.1% | 33.0% | 24.2% |
| High income (over \$72,359) | 12.2% | 28.8% | 21.5% |

Home Purchases



Source: Home Mortgage Disclosure Act

In 2006, new home purchases among black and Hispanic families increased, while the number of new home purchases among white families declined. The rate of increase slowed, however, as shown in the graph above.

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, there has been a sharp increase in the rate of owner-occupied home purchase mortgage loans across the community, with a sharp decrease in 2006. While the data do not provide sufficient information to calculate updated homeownership rates, they do suggest some information about changes in homeownership in the area.

Home purchase loans:

| | 2005 | 2006 | Difference |
|----------|--------|--------|------------|
| White | 33,997 | 27,938 | - 17.8% |
| Black | 4,649 | 5,558 | + 19.6% |
| Hispanic | 2,632 | 2,873 | + 9.2% |

NEIGHBORHOODS AND HOUSING

In 2000, the U.S. Census identified a significant proportion of neighborhoods that were racially identifiable with 75 to 100 percent of the population belonging to one racial group, showing that half the population would have to move in order to make each neighborhood racially balanced in ways that reflected the overall county population.

While current residential segregation data are not available between census years, public elementary school children generally attend neighborhood schools, though some attend magnet programs designed to provide racial balance in the schools. In 1990, the NAACP and Duval County Public Schools agreed on a definition of “desegregated school” as one in which the student body was at least 20 percent black and at least 45 percent white. While the schools were declared “unitary” in 1999, ending court-ordered desegregation activities, the definition is a useful proxy for understanding neighborhood segregation in Jacksonville.

In 2007-08, less than half (49.1 percent) of elementary school children attended a “desegregated” school, using this definition.

Percent of public elementary school children attending desegregated schools:

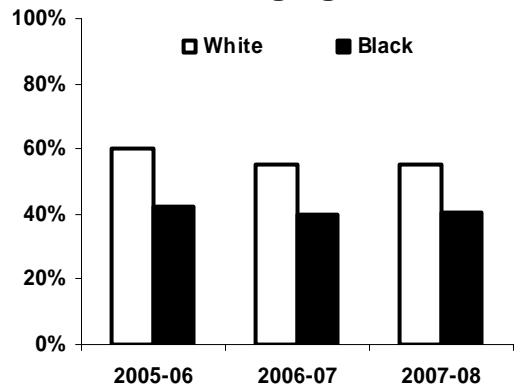
| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | Difference |
|-------|---------|---------|------------|
| White | 55.2% | 55.5% | + 0.3% |
| Black | 39.8% | 40.7% | + 0.9% |

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):

| | 2006 | 2007 | Difference |
|-------|------|------|------------|
| White | 63% | 63% | 0% |
| Black | 42% | 36% | - 6% |

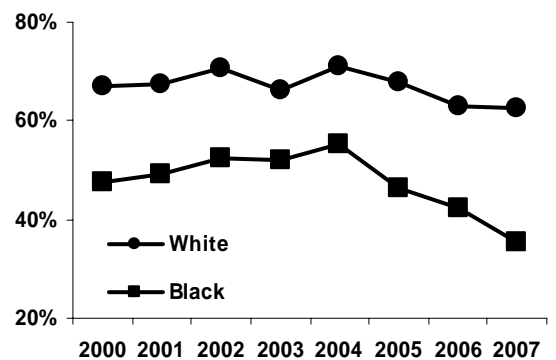
Children in Desegregated Schools



Source: Duval County Public Schools

In 2006-07, 40 percent of black elementary school children attended a “desegregated” school, compared to 55 percent of white children. The gap closed slightly in 2007-08.

Perceptions of Neighborhood Safety

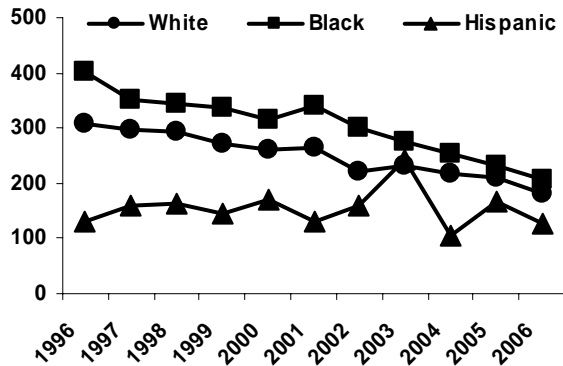


Source: American Public Dialogue

In 2003, the gap had closed to 14 percentage points; by 2007, the gap between those who felt safe walking around their neighborhoods at night had grown to 27 points.

HEALTH

Heart Disease Death Rate



Source: Florida Department of Health

In 2006, 25 points separated white and black age-adjusted heart disease death rates, up from 20 points in 2005.

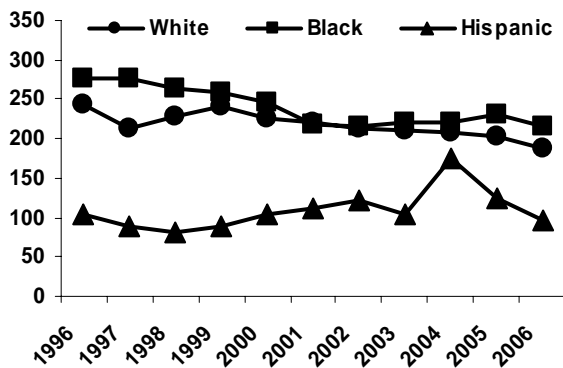
Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Duval County. Between 1996 at 2005, the disparity in age-adjusted heart disease death rates between white and black residents shrunk from 95 points to 20 points, while overall death rates due to heart disease have been falling. In 2006, heart disease death rates fell again, but the gap increased slightly as white death rates fell faster than black death rates.

Age-adjusted death rates per 100,000 residents:

| | 2005 | 2006 | Difference |
|----------|-------|-------|------------|
| White | 209.9 | 182.3 | - 27.6 |
| Black | 230.2 | 207.7 | - 22.5 |
| Hispanic | 166.5 | 125.7 | - 40.8 |

However, the racial gap in deaths related to stroke (the third leading cause of death in Duval County) increased from seven to 21 points from 2005 to 2006, as white stroke deaths fell but black stroke deaths rose.

Cancer Death Rate



Source: Florida Department of Health

In 2006, 27 points separated white and black age-adjusted cancer death rates, down from 29 points in 2005.

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 grown since then.

Age-adjusted death rates per 100,000 residents:

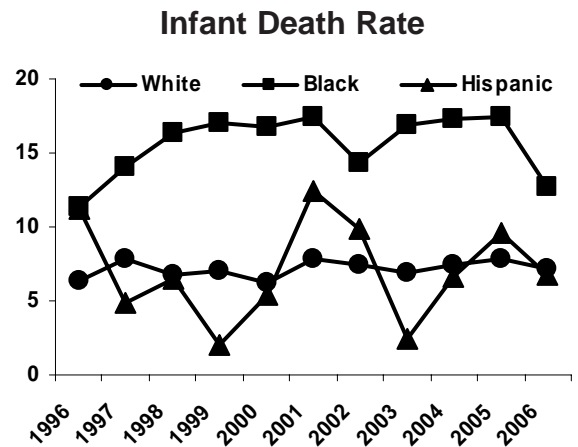
| | 2005 | 2006 | Difference |
|----------|-------|-------|------------|
| White | 202.3 | 188.0 | - 14.3 |
| Black | 231.1 | 214.8 | - 16.3 |
| Hispanic | 125.5 | 97.0 | - 28.5 |

HEALTH

The infant mortality rate (the number of infants that die before reaching one year of age per 1,000 infants born) is a sentinel indicator used to evaluate a population's overall health and access to health care.

Infant death rates per 1,000 infants born:

| | 2005 | 2006 | Difference |
|----------|------|------|------------|
| White | 7.9 | 7.2 | - 0.7 |
| Black | 17.5 | 12.7 | - 4.8 |
| Hispanic | 9.6 | 6.8 | - 2.8 |



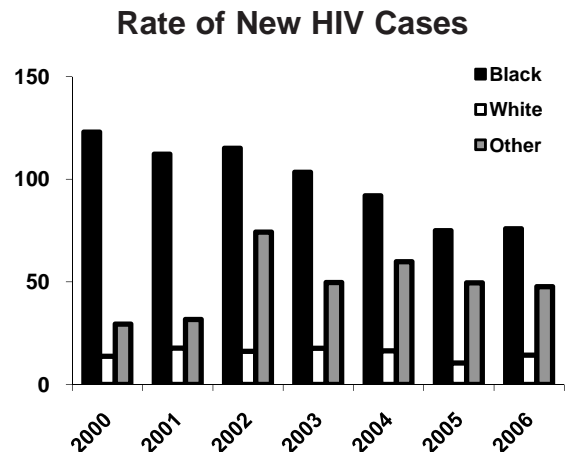
Source: Florida Department of Health

In 2006, the gap between black and white infant death rates closed from 9.6 to 5.5 points as infant death rates fell.

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or HIV, is a 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.

New HIV cases per 100,000 population:

| | 2005 | 2006 | Difference |
|-------|------|------|------------|
| White | 10.5 | 14.3 | + 3.8 |
| Black | 74.9 | 75.9 | + 1.0 |
| Other | 49.5 | 47.6 | - 1.9 |

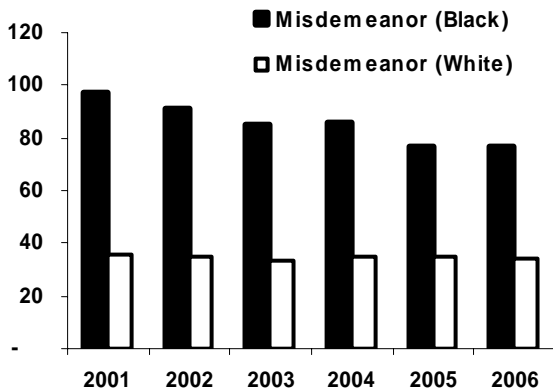


Source: Duval County Health Department

In 2005, 64 points separated white and black rates per 100,000 for new HIV cases; in 2006, the gap was down to 62 points, as both white and black rates increased.

JUSTICE AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM

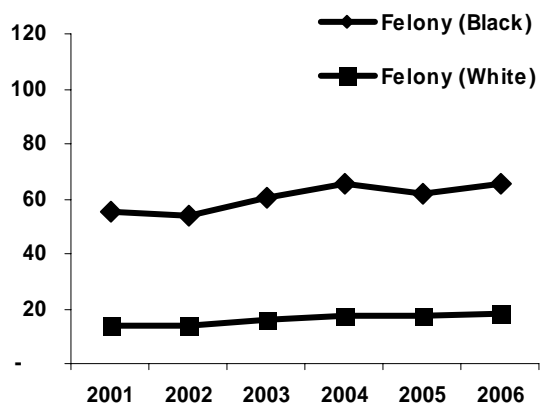
Inmate Admissions per 1,000 Population for Misdemeanors



Source: Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

In 2006, while more white offenders were incarcerated for misdemeanors, incarceration rates for black offenders as a proportion to the general population were more than double that of the white rate, unchanged from 2005.

Inmate Admissions per 1,000 Population for Felonies



Source: Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

In 2006, 50 percent more black offenders were incarcerated for felony offenses than white offenders. The incarceration rate per 1,000 population was 2 1/2 times that of white offenders, and had increased from 2005.

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."

In 2006, total inmate admissions, compared to the general community population, were as follows:

| | Total population | Inmate admissions |
|-------|------------------|-------------------|
| White | 59.6% | 45.8% |
| Black | 29.6% | 53.0% |
| Other | 10.8% | 1.2% |

The rates of inmate admissions differed by type of offense, misdemeanors vs. felony offenses.

Total inmate admissions, 2006:

| | Black | White |
|-------------|--------|--------|
| Misdemeanor | 14,463 | 15,289 |
| Felony | 12,321 | 8,044 |

Inmate admissions per 1,000 population, 2006:

| | Black | White |
|-------------|-------|-------|
| Misdemeanor | 76.8 | 34.1 |
| Felony | 65.5 | 17.9 |

JUSTICE AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM

In 2006, the Florida Office of Vital Statistics recorded 121 homicides, up from 105 in 2005. A homicide is one person killing another person, no matter the reason. A homicide is counted as a murder when the killing is determined to be criminal. Homicides also include justifiable, excusable or accidental killings, which are not included in the murder rate.

Total homicides:

| | 2005 | 2006 | Difference |
|-------|------|------|------------|
| White | 32 | 31 | - 1 |
| Black | 67 | 90 | + 23 |
| Other | 6 | 0 | - 6 |

Homicide rate:

| | 2005 | 2006 | Difference |
|-------|------|------|------------|
| White | 5.7 | 5.4 | - 0.3 |
| Black | 25.1 | 32.8 | + 7.7 |
| Other | 17.5 | 0.0 | - 17.7 |

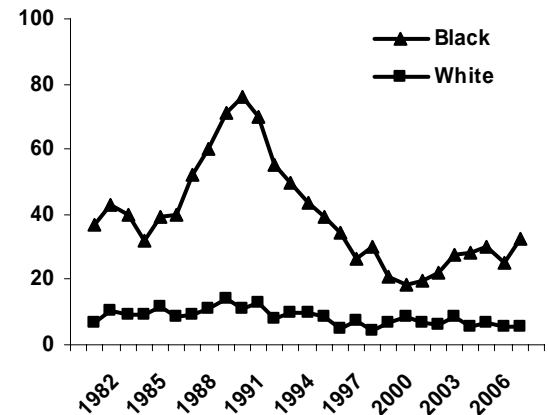
For those youths referred to the Department of Juvenile Justice as delinquents, several options await them. They could be tried as adults; 1.1 percent of white cases, 2.0 percent of black cases, and 1.8 percent of Hispanic cases were sent to adult court in 2006-07. They could be placed on probation; 19 percent of white cases, 20 percent of black cases, and 28 percent of Hispanic cases went that route.

They could also be diverted from court in a diversionary program; 65 percent of white cases, 56 percent of black cases, and 39 percent of Hispanic cases were so diverted. They also could be committed for delinquency, which is roughly equivalent to adults being incarcerated.

Delinquency commitments:

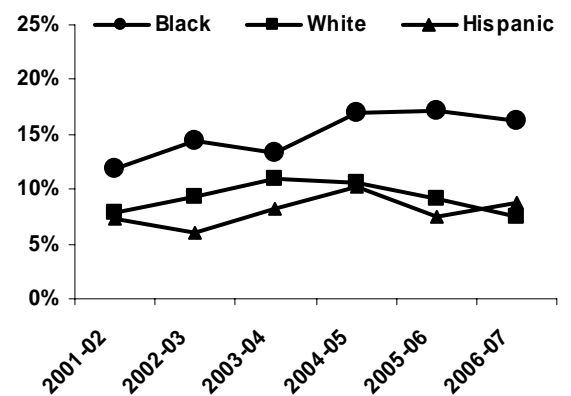
| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | Difference |
|----------|---------|---------|------------|
| White | 9.1% | 7.6% | - 1.5% |
| Black | 17.2% | 16.2% | - 1.0% |
| Hispanic | 7.5% | 8.8% | + 1.3% |

Homicide Rates per 1,000 Population



Source: Florida Office of Vital Statistics

Youths Committed as Delinquents

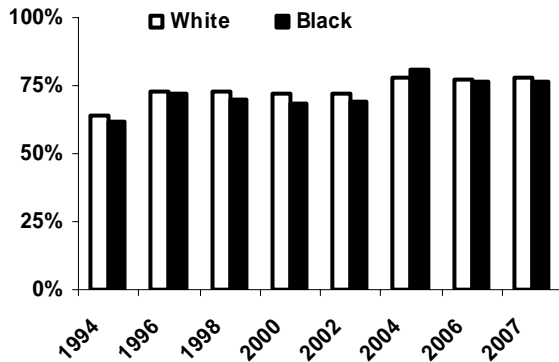


Source: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

In 2005-06, 8.1 percentage points separated the rate at which black and white youths referred for delinquency were committed; in 2006-07, the gap rose to 8.6 points.

POLITICS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Voter Registration



Source: Florida Division of Elections

In 2006, white voter registration rates exceeded black voter registration rates by one point; the same was true in 2007.

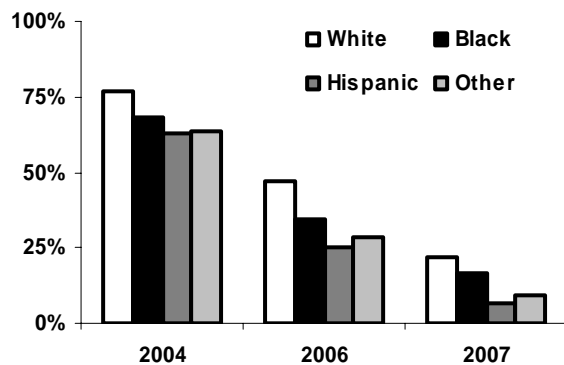
Engagement in the political process often begins with registering to vote. In 1994, 64 percent of the white population over 18 was registered to vote, compared to 62 percent of the black population over 18. In 2004, black voter registration rates reached 81 percent of the adult black population, exceeding white voter registration rates. In 2007, white rates increased slightly, while black voter registration rates maintained.

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

Voter registration rates in 2007:

| | Registered | Percent | Difference (2006) |
|------------|------------|---------|-------------------|
| White | 355,241 | 78% | + 1% |
| Black | 149,127 | 77% | 0% |
| Hispanic | 16,608 | NA | |
| Asian | 11,319 | NA | |
| Native Am. | 1,763 | NA | |

Voter Turnout



Source: Duval County Supervisor of Elections

In 2006, the gap between white voter turnout (at 47 percent) and black voter turnout (at 34 percent) was 13 points; in 2007, the gap had closed to five 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, or state/congressional election years, such as 2006, are traditionally higher than in local election years, such as 2007. The gap in turnout rates between white and black registered voters declined from 13 points to five points between 2006 and 2007.

Voter turnout rates:

| | 2006 | 2007 | Difference |
|----------|------|------|------------|
| White | 47% | 22% | - 25% |
| Black | 34% | 17% | - 17% |
| Hispanic | 25% | 7% | - 18% |
| Other | 28% | 9% | - 19% |

POLITICS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Elected officials in Jacksonville tend to reflect the black and white demographics used in developing designated minority-access districts. In 2007, 71 percent of elected officials were white, 29 percent black, and the proportions remain unchanged since 2002.

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 influence survey responses:

| | 2006 | 2007 | Difference |
|-------|------|------|------------|
| White | 32% | 27% | - 5% |
| Black | 30% | 30% | 0% |

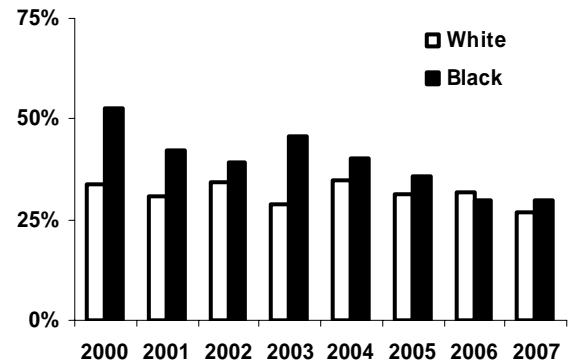
Also of interest are the trends in those who feel that they have little or no influence in local government decision making. The survey responses were as follows:

Little or No influence survey responses:

| | 2006 | 2007 | Difference |
|-------|------|------|------------|
| White | 68% | 73% | + 5% |
| Black | 69% | 70% | + 1% |

Totals may not add up to 100, as some respondents refuse to answer the question.

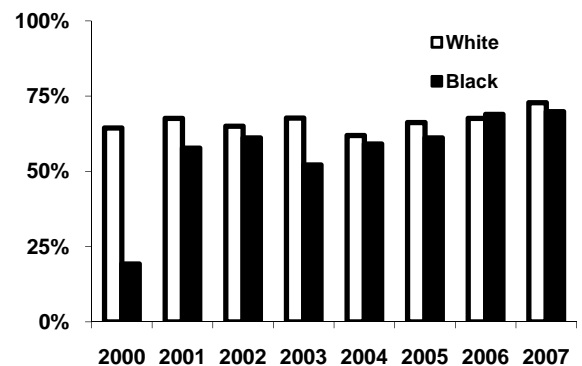
Perceived Influence on Government



Source: American Public Dialogue

In 2006, 2 percentage points separated white and black positive responses to the survey question, compared to 5 points in 2007.

Perceived Lack of Influence



Source: American Public Dialogue

Between 2000 and 2007, the percentage of black respondents who reported having little to no influence in local government decision making rose from 19 to 69 percent.

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ABOUT JCCI

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 provides research services for United Way of Northeast Florida. JCCI *Forward*, an initiative that seeks to involve community-minded people with important issues facing the community, provides a 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, 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.

TO SUPPORT JCCI AND BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION SEND IN THE FORM BELOW OR JOIN ONLINE.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please select a membership category from the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Member: \$50 | Receives bimonthly newsletter, annual report, and invitations to JCCI and JCCI Forward events. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$75 | Two family members receive basic member benefits. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron: \$150 | Receive basic member benefits plus the Quality of Life Report, a JCCI study, and a sponsored membership. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visionary: \$225 | Receive patron benefits, a second sponsored membership and a VIP Reception invitation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate/Business: \$250 | Receive visionary benefits plus a third sponsored membership. |



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