

State of Black Women in California: Unapologetically Focused On Us

Sistallect, Inc. in partnership with Sierra Health Foundation and with a coalition of Black Women leaders took on the task to look at equity for Black Women and Girls in California. This effort represents the first time this type of collective, conscious effort has been done in the state. Although Women of Color are progressing as a whole, Black Women in California are more likely to be single breadwinners, live in poverty and face significant barriers in regards to pathways to success economically, socially and professionally.

There are 1.1 million Black Females in California, which is the third largest population in the country, and makes up 52% of the Black population. However, there are more than 75% of Black households headed by single Black mothers and 80% of Black households have Black Women breadwinners.

The State of Black Women in California report out explores the way in which we can collectively work on addressing these issues and the impact that Black Women can have when there is an investment of time and resources.

The strategic platform and action plan is based on the data analysis and the outcomes identified at the forum.

Important Data Points

- The Black female population in California is the third largest in the country with 1.1 million residents.
- Los Angeles has 39% of the Black Female population in the state.
- Although we only represent approximately 6% of Women in the state, our impact on social and political issues have lead the way to remove barriers that have helped our counterparts thrive.
- According to statewide data, more than a third of Black females live in poverty, which is the largest percent among all Women.
- In addition, 75% of Black households are headed by single mothers along with 80% of the household have Black Women breadwinners compared to 41% for White, 56.4% for Hispanic, 24.9% Asian Pacific Islander (API) and 66.3% Native American Women.
- Similarly to their white counterparts, Black Women make far less than white males at \$.63 to every dollar, which is \$.12 lower than White Women.
- On average, Black Women in California spend 50% on housing and 20% on childcare, higher than any other group.
- Nearly 60% of Black Women, which is the highest among Women, are in the workplace with median earnings of \$43K compared to White Women's \$52K and API Women's \$50K.

- Hispanic and Native American Women earn less at \$30K and \$38K respectively.
- However, Black Women have the highest unemployment rate between the age of 16-64 at 17%, which is more than double Asian and White Women.
- 48% of low and moderate income Black Women 18 years and older are food insecure.
- One out of four Black Women working are in service occupations. Nearly 40% are in managerial or professional occupations compared to more than 50% for White and Asian Women.
- Black Women only represent 7.7% of Women on businesses in California. White Women owned businesses are 62.3%, Hispanic Women owned businesses are 27.7%, API Women owned businesses are 14.3%, Native American Women owned businesses are 16.9 and other and Other Women owned businesses are 13.2% of all Women owned businesses.
- In addition, the bulk of Black Women owned businesses are micro-enterprises.
- 23% of Black Women in California have a Bachelor Degree or higher compared to 39.3% of White, 47.3% of API, 12.1% Hispanic, 14.3% Native American and 38.1% other Women.
- Black Women take on more debt than any other group and repaying loans impede their ability to pay other essential expenses.
- Black Women are 5.7% more likely to receive subprime mortgage and 8.5% more likely to receive a high cost subprime mortgage than Black Men and 256% more likely than White Men.
- Black Women vote at comparatively high rates and had a higher voting rate than all other group of men and Women during the last two presidential elections but remain underrepresented at every level of federal and state political office.
- California has only four Black Women in Congress, which is the largest contingency than any other state.
- At the state level, there are three Black Women with all being from Southern California and no Black Woman serving in a statewide office.
- However, there are more than 100 Black Women serving in local offices including city Mayors, Board of Supervisors, School Boards, Health Districts, Utility Boards, Community College Boards, Clerks and Treasurers.

- In Riverside, there is a Black Woman who was elected to Superintendent of the School District, which is a unique model.
- Even though approximately 80% of Black Women have some form of health insurance, they still have a higher Percentage of chronic diseases including diabetes and cardiovascular disease as well as the highest mortality rates from chronic disease.
- Although Black Women are least likely to get breast cancer but most likely to die from it when diagnosed.
- 1 out of 3 Black Women delay care due to copays, deductibles and financial issues.
- 11.4% of Black Babies born with low birth rates nearly double any other race.
- 41% of Black Women are obese in the state.
- Sexually transmitted infections disproportionately impact Black Women and Teens.
- Black Women and teens rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea are approximately 5 times as higher than White Women. It's even higher for HIV and syphilis.
- The average annual hospital encounters for Black Women due to assault is 1,000 per 100,000 in California compared to White Women at 225.4, Hispanic Women at 236.4, Native American Women 379.3 and API Women at 60.6.
- Black Women life expectancy in California is 78.5 years of age, more than 5 years less than the average woman in California. White Women life expectancy is 83.5 years of age.
- Black Girls and Foster Youth are the most trafficked victims in the state.
- Black Women are three times more likely to be incarcerated than White Women.
- Black Girls and young Women make up one-third of all girls and young Women in the juvenile justice system but only make up 14% of the general youth population.
- Black Women make up 32% of incarcerated Women in state facilities even though they only make up 6% of the population.
- Black Women are impacted by domestic violence 35% higher than White Women.

- These among other disturbing data points have ignited this effort to develop this effort to focus on Black Women and girls.

Data sources were used including the *Status of Black Women in the United States* by the National Domestic Workers Alliance; Women's Well-Being Index by California Budget and Policy Center; *Black Minds Matter* by The Ed Trust West; *Black Women Deserve Better* by Black Women for Wellness; *Black Women in the US 2017: Moving Our Agenda Forward in a Post-Obama Era* by Black Women Roundtable; *California Children's Report Card* by Children's Now; *The Chisholm Effect: Black Women in American Politics* by Higher Heights; and a host of articles.