While Rhode Island has made progress in the areas of human rights and equality, far too many African heritage people in Rhode Island are still confined to segregated and substandard neighborhoods, and have limited access to employment, education and affordable healthcare opportunities.

**Population and Geography**

68,243
Black Rhode Islanders call the Ocean State home; 6.5 percent of the overall population.

**Population Growth**

RHODE ISLAND’S BLACK POPULATION GREW 45% BETWEEN 2000 AND 2015

46,908
46,908

68,243
68,243

Forty-one percent of the growth was due to an increase in the Black foreign-born population.

**Income Inequality**

For every dollar of income in the median White household, the median Black household realizes just fifty-seven cents.

To access the full report, including sources, visit: www.economicprogressri.org/blackrhodeislanders
Unemployment & Underemployment

BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT CONSISTENTLY EXCEEDS WHITE UNEMPLOYMENT

BLACK UNDEREMPLOYMENT* RATE 1.7 TIMES GREATER THAN WHITE UNDEREMPLOYMENT

*The underemployment rate includes those who are unemployed, those working part time for economic reasons, and marginally-attached workers.

Education

LARGER SHARE OF BLACK RHODE ISLANDERS LACK HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA & SMALLER SHARE HAVE BACHELOR’S DEGREE OR HIGHER COMPARED TO WHITE RHODE ISLANDERS

Criminal Justice

LARGE DISPARITIES IN ARREST RATES FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE RESIDENTS OF MA, RI, CT, AND U.S.

*Based on share of Population 25 years and older at each level of educational attainment

Black Rhode Island students consistently trail their White counterparts in National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) testing in both 4th and 8th grade reading and mathematics.

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