

Snapshot of Black America

The purpose of the Snapshot is to give you a quick feel for the overwhelming problems Black Americans face, and in particular Black youth. So, go ahead and do just that – read *The Snapshot* and get that ‘feel’ for our problems. However, I implore you to download and read *The Destroyer* to get a more thorough understanding for the many death traps that lie in waiting for us. You’ll be glad you read it.

The Numbers

The Black Population

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Black Census Population	18,871,800	22,580,300	26,495,000	29,986,100	34,658,190	38,929,310
Caribbean Immigrants	- 194,000	- 675,100	- 1,258,400	- 1,938,400	- 3,000,000	- 3,731,000
African Immigrants	- 35,400	- 80,100	- 199,700	- 363,800	- 800,000	- 1,607,000
Black American Born Pop	=18,642,400	= 21,825,100	= 25,036,900	= 27,683,900	= 30,858,190	= 33,592,300
- Previous Decade = Black Population		- 18,642,400 = 3,182,700	- 21,825,100 = 3,211,800	- 25,036,900 = 2,674,000	- 27,683,900 = 3,174,290	- 30,858,190 = 2,734,110
Black Population - Mortality Metrics = Net Black Pop Increase		3,182,700 - 2,505,260 = 677,440	3,211,800 – 2,505,260 = 706,540	2,674,000 - 2,505,260 = 168,740	3,174,290 - 2,505,260 = 669,030	2,734,110 – 2,505,260 = 228,850

Schools

This is their linchpin. An uneducated people are a people in danger. There has been a major dis-Investment in our schools, in terms of resources, vision and especially our children. We lead the nation in suspensions, expulsions, special education diagnosis, dropouts, subject matter non-proficiencies, adult/police physical assaults on our kids, and alleged brain development/activity diagnosis’.

Redlining

It is still very hard to get a business loan and sometimes harder than it should be to get a home loan.

Mis-Representation in Hollywood

The demonizing of our youth, of our people, helps to cause American and world citizens to be anesthetized to our American discriminatory condition. Only our athletes are tolerated & treated in a more acceptable television image.

The Marriage of Corporation and State, a.k.a., Corporate Fascism

The rise of Corporate Power was the fall of democracy. Over the long haul, US politics has revolved around a deep tension between democracy and an unrelenting drive for plunder, power and empire. Since the mid-1970s, when the corporations fused with the state, a new imperial order emerged that killed what remained of representative democracy. Not only would corporations exercise public authority as only government once had, but government would coordinate and serve corporate activity. Power and profits became one and the same. Corporate power has replaced democracy with oligarchy and justice with a vast militarized penal system. Instead of innovative production, they plunder people and planet. To achieve this new order, elections and the economy had to be drained of any remaining democratic content. Both Democrats and Republicans were eager to have at it.

Our Children & Suicide

The rates of suicide among African-American children have doubled in the last two decades, surpassing the rates among White children, which dropped over the same time period. This was the first known study in which the suicide rate of Black youths actually surpassed that of their White counterparts. The rates among Black boys rose from 1.78 to 3.47 per 1 million. In just the 5-year period between 2008 and 2012 there were 41 suicide deaths among Black boys, and 73 among White boys. The National Center for Health Statistics also found that the suicide rate among Black girls, although about five times lower than those for boys, had tripled.

GMO Foods

10 Reasons to Avoid GMOs

1. GMOs are unhealthy.
2. GMOs contaminate—forever.
3. GMOs increase herbicide use.
4. Genetic engineering creates dangerous side effects.
5. Government oversight is dangerously lax.
6. The biotech industry uses “tobacco science” to claim product safety.
7. Independent research and reporting is attacked and suppressed.
8. GMOs harm the environment.
9. GMOs do not increase yields, and work against feeding a hungry world.
10. By avoiding GMOs, you contribute to the coming tipping point of consumer rejection, forcing them out of our food supply.

Today, in particular, no child should be raised on regular and/or GMO food, and all people need to avoid consuming GMO food as well. It is up to you to take the initiative to learn all you can about GMO foods.

Biological Warfare

Cocaine Trafficking by CIA

Gary Webb stunned the world with his “Dark Alliance” newspaper series investigating the connections between the CIA, a crack cocaine explosion in the predominantly African-American neighborhoods of South Los Angeles, and the Nicaraguan Contra fighters — scandalous implications that outraged LA’s Black community, severely damaged the intelligence agency’s reputation and launched a number of federal investigations.

On April 17, 1986, the Reagan administration released a three-page report stating that there were some Cocaine connections in 1984 and 1985, and that these connections occurred at a time when the rebels were “particularly hard pressed for financial support” because aid from the United States had been cut off.^[4] The report stated: “We have evidence of a limited number of incidents in which known drug traffickers have tried to establish connections with Nicaraguan resistance groups” and that the drug activity took place “without the authorization of resistance leaders.”

Nationwide, some of the most egregious racial disparities can be seen in the case of African Americans and Latinos.

Higher arrest and incarceration rates for these communities are not reflective of increased prevalence of drug use, but rather of law enforcement’s focus on urban areas, lower income communities and communities of color.

Disparities in arrests and incarceration are seen for both drug possession law violations as well as low-level sales. Those selling small amounts of drugs to support their own drug use may go to jail for decades. This unequal enforcement ignores the universality of drug dependency, as well as the universal appeal of drugs themselves.

One in 13 black people of voting age are denied the right to vote because of laws that disenfranchise people with felony convictions. One in nine Black children have an incarcerated parent, compared to one in 28 Latino children and one in 57 White children.

Flint Water

A government-appointed civil rights commission in Michigan says systemic racism helped to cause the Flint water crisis, according to a report released Friday. The 129-page report does not claim there were any specific violations

of state civil rights laws, but says "historical, structural and systemic racism combined with implicit bias" played a role in the problems, which still linger in the city's drinking water almost three years later.

An outbreak of Legionnaires' disease that killed 12 people and sickened at least 87 in Flint, Mich., in 2014 and 2015 was caused by low chlorine levels in the municipal water system, scientists have confirmed. It's the most detailed evidence yet linking the bacterial disease to the city's broader water crisis.

In April 2014, Flint's water source switched from Lake Huron to the Flint River. Almost immediately, residents noticed tap water was discolored and acrid-smelling. By 2015, scientists uncovered that the water was contaminated with lead and other heavy metals.

Washington, D.C. Water Crisis.

"Washington, D.C.'s, water crisis started innocently enough," he told the audience. "In 2001, the city's water authorities switched their treatment chemical from chlorine to chloramine. That created a chemical reaction that caused corrosion and allowed lead to leach from the city's older pipes into the water supply."

Edwards said an investigation later found the utility, then known as the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority, avoided sounding the alarm. "And this was even after federal law required the authority to issue warnings to the public about health dangers caused by rising lead levels," he said.

"From 2001 to 2004, the three years when lead levels in D.C. water were very high, 2,000 children were not born, which can be attributed to high miscarriage rates. An additional 200 fetal deaths, we believe, were associated with this.

"Six Congressional investigations were held to look into this. But nothing came of it after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) wrote up a report that — I kid you not — found that no one in Washington, D.C., not a single man, woman or child, was hurt by these three years of unprecedented lead exposure." Edwards said the CDC had not tested residents who drank the city's water every day. "Instead, they tested the blood lead levels of individuals who had not consumed D.C. tap water for a year, then passed those results as the worst cases."

Edwards called the study scientific misconduct but said the damage it caused went beyond misrepresenting data. "The CDC falsified this report. Then, the lies from their study started to spread around the world and I began reading about this stuff not only in our country, but in cases in Europe and Canada — people and governments saying, 'We don't have to worry about lead in water.'

"There is no disputing the damage that lead does to children," Edwards told the UB audience. "So, what was happening was this: leaving children in harm's way." Edwards said the CDC and other agencies refused to provide him with data, so he could do an independent study of lead levels in D.C. children's blood samples.

But in 2008, he finally persuaded the Children's National Medical Center to share its data with him. "Within 10 minutes I had it figured out. Thousands of children were being poisoned by lead by drinking D.C.'s tap water. "And it had gone on for six years."

In 2004, Washington, DC, faced a public health crisis when reports emerged that lead levels in drinking water from lead-based utility lines servicing approximately 11.5 million people were very high. Most of the affected residents lived in Washington's impoverished southeast quadrant.

HIV/AIDS

If you grew up in the 1990s, you practically absorbed a degree in AIDS studies just by existing—or at least that's what it felt like. The years since then have brought better tests and treatments, and we now know more about the virus, but that information isn't common knowledge. HIV and AIDS have fallen off our radar.

Of course, it pops up every now and then, but not everybody has the luxury of forgetting about HIV and AIDS. In Africa, nearly 25 million people are living with the virus. In Asia, teenagers' AIDS-related deaths are actually on the rise. And it's a known issue in the gay dating scene: Gawker's own Rich Juzwiak has written about his experience here.

"There is still an HIV epidemic, and it remains a major health issue for the United States."

Black Americans such as Davis “face the most severe burden of HIV of all racial/ethnic groups in the United States,” according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Although Blacks make up roughly 14 percent of the U.S. population, in 2009, they accounted for a disproportional 44 percent of new HIV infections, CDC data published in August 2011 shows. One in 16 Black men today will be diagnosed with HIV at some point in their life. Two-thirds of new HIV cases in women are in black women. Among adolescents, blacks account for 70 percent of new cases.

The numbers are indeed staggering - and even more so when you consider that HIV-AIDS is an almost entirely preventable disease.

The Ebola Virus. Ebola Never Spread to this Many Countries Before

Before 2014, Ebola was a disease that was mostly confined to remote African villages. Health officials didn't worry about it reaching epidemic proportions. And then Ebola went global.

The Current Ebola Epidemic is Outrunning Our Ability to Stop It.

Ebola first appeared in 1976 during twin outbreaks in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and South Sudan, likely spread by bats from nearby jungles. Since then, there have been **20 other outbreaks**, but they have usually occurred in isolated rural areas and died out quickly. The countries involved — DRC, Gabon, Sudan — have experience in stamping out the virus before it spreads.

This year has, in many ways, changed people's notions of how Ebola can move through populations. In December, the virus is believed to have first turned up in the body of a 2-year-old boy in Guéckédou, a rainforest region in southeastern Guinea. (Specifically, **researchers** now contend that he might have played in a tree filled with fruit bats and contracted Ebola that way.) The geography was unfortunate: Guéckédou happens to share a very porous border with Sierra Leone and Liberia, where people travel in and out every day to go to the market or conduct business. By the time the Ebola outbreak was identified in March, it had already spread to all three countries along the border.

And it kept spreading: in July, a Liberian American got on a plane bound for Nigeria, bringing the virus with him and spurring 20 cases and eight deaths in Africa's most populous country. Soon, another case turned up in Senegal. The US faced its first-ever cases and transmissions of Ebola in Dallas and New York City. In **Spain**, a nurse who had been caring for a repatriated priest got the virus in Madrid.

Mali confirmed an Ebola case last October: a 2-year-old girl who had recently returned from neighboring Guinea who has since died, leading to the discovery of several **other cases and deaths**. In December 2014, a health worker returning from Sierra Leone to Glasgow, **Scotland**, was diagnosed with the virus. That's nine countries hit with Ebola in one year. There's never been an Ebola outbreak like this before.

The Epidemic Drags on in West Africa.

On May 9, 2015, **Liberia was finally declared virus-free**, but there are still cases in Guinea and Sierra Leone, "creating a high risk that infected people may cross into Liberia over the region's exceptionally porous borders," the WHO warned.

The epidemic has dragged on in West Africa, in part because the usual methods for containing Ebola — like tracing patients' contacts — don't scale to outbreaks of the size that Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone had to battle.

In the past, public health officials had a playbook for stamping out Ebola. Because the disease isn't very contagious and spreads slowly, they just needed to find all those infected, quarantine them, and identify everyone they'd been in contact with. This could be done in sparsely populated rural areas or places with only a few cases.

But an epidemic is much harder to contain when suddenly many countries are dealing with hundreds or thousands of cases. Since West Africa had never seen Ebola, the virus had a three-month head start before health officials in the countries involved even realized they were harboring an outbreak. It didn't help that the international community was very slow to bring aid to the region, only declaring a public health emergency in August, five months after the first international spread.

For these and other reasons, the current Ebola epidemic in West Africa continues to burn. "It's like a forest fire," **Ron Klain**, the US's Ebola czar said recently. "A few embers burning, and the thing can reignite at any time." Where did the match come from and where is the American national reporting on this situation?

Legal Marijuana: Marijuana Devastated Colorado, don't Legalize It Nationally:
Arrests are up. We still have a black market. And people are in danger.

Last week, Senator Cory Booker introduced the Marijuana Justice Act in an effort to legalize marijuana across the nation and penalize local communities that want nothing to do with this dangerous drug. This is the furthest reaching marijuana legalization effort to date and marks another sad moment in our nation's embrace of a drug that will have generational consequences.

Our country is facing a drug epidemic. Legalizing recreational marijuana will do nothing that Senator Booker expects. We heard many of these same promises in 2012 when Colorado legalized recreational marijuana.

In the years since, Colorado has seen an increase in marijuana related traffic deaths, poison control calls, and emergency room visits. The marijuana black market has increased in Colorado, not decreased. And, numerous Colorado marijuana regulators have been indicted for corruption.

In 2012, we were promised funds from marijuana taxes would benefit our communities, particularly schools. Dr. Harry Bull, the Superintendent of Cherry Creek Schools, one of the largest school districts in the state, said, "So far, the only thing that the legalization of marijuana has brought to our schools has been marijuana."

In fiscal year 2016, marijuana tax revenue resulted in \$156,701,018. The total tax revenue for Colorado was \$13,327,123,798, making marijuana only 1.18% of the state's total tax revenue. The cost of marijuana legalization in public awareness campaigns, law enforcement, healthcare treatment, addiction recovery, and preventative work is an unknown cost to date.

Senator Booker stated his reasons for legalizing marijuana is to reduce "marijuana arrests happening so much in our country, targeting certain communities - poor communities, minority communities." It's a noble cause to seek to reduce incarceration rates among these communities but legalizing marijuana has had the opposite effect.

According to the Colorado Department of Public Safety, arrests in Colorado of Black and Latino youth for marijuana possession have increased 58% and 29% respectively after legalization. This means that Black and Latino youth are being arrested more for marijuana possession after it became legal. Furthermore, a vast majority of Colorado's marijuana businesses are concentrated in neighborhoods of color. Leaders from these communities, many of whom initially voted to legalize recreational marijuana, often speak out about the negative impacts of these businesses.

Short Term Effects:

Short-term memory problems, severe anxiety, including fear that one is being watched or followed (paranoia), very strange behavior, seeing, hearing or smelling things that aren't there, not being able to tell imagination from reality (psychosis), panic, hallucinations, loss of sense of personal identity, lowered reaction time, increased heart rate (risk of heart attack), increased risk of stroke, problems with coordination (impairing safe driving or playing sports), sexual problems (for males), up to seven times more likely to contract sexually transmitted infections than non-users (for females).

Long Term Effects:

Decline in IQ (up to 8 points if prolonged use started in adolescent age), poor school performance and higher chance of dropping out, impaired thinking and ability to learn and perform complex tasks, lower life satisfaction, addiction (about 9% of adults and 17% of people who started smoking as teens), potential development of opiate abuse, relationship problems, intimate partner violence, antisocial behavior including stealing money or lying, financial difficulties, increased welfare dependence, greater chances of being unemployed or not getting good jobs.

Oregon Wants to De-Criminalize Heroin, Cocaine and Crystal Meth.

Oregon may be changing its policies on drugs, and supporters hope it marks a step toward ending practices that disproportionately affect people of color in the state. State lawmakers on Thursday approved a bill that would decriminalize possession of small amounts of drugs like cocaine and heroin, the *Washington Post* reported on Tuesday. The move would reclassify possession of the drugs as a misdemeanor rather than a felony.

In an emailed statement to *Mic*, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown called it “an important step towards creating a more equitable justice system to better serve all Oregonians.” Proponents of the bill hope it will help people with addiction issues get medical help and address drug policies that research has shown inordinately target people of color.

A 2015 study by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission found that African-Americans in the state were convicted on felony drug possession charges at more than twice the rate as Whites — despite national data showing similar rates of drug use across all races, the *Associated Press* reported at the time.

The Tuskegee Experiment.

In 1932, the Public Health Service, working with the Tuskegee Institute, began a study to record the natural history of syphilis in hopes of justifying treatment programs for Blacks. It was called the “Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male.”

The study initially involved 600 Black men – 399 with syphilis, 201 who did not have the disease. The study was conducted without the benefit of patients’ informed consent. Researchers told the men they were being treated for “bad blood,” a local term used to describe several ailments, including syphilis, anemia, and fatigue. In truth, they did not receive the proper treatment needed to cure their illness. In exchange for taking part in the study, the men received free medical exams, free meals, and burial insurance. Although originally projected to last 6 months, the study actually went on for 40 years.

What Happened?

In July 1972, an *Associated Press* story about the Tuskegee Study caused a public outcry that led the Assistant Secretary for Health and Scientific Affairs to appoint an Ad Hoc Advisory Panel to review the study. The panel had nine members from the fields of medicine, law, religion, labor, education, health administration, and public affairs. The panel found that the men had agreed freely to be examined and treated. However, there was no evidence that researchers had informed them of the study or its real purpose. In fact, the men had been misled and had not been given all the facts required to provide informed consent. The men were never given adequate treatment for their disease. Even when penicillin became the drug of choice for syphilis in 1947, researchers did not offer it to the subjects. The advisory panel found nothing to show that subjects were ever given the choice of quitting the study, even when this new, highly effective treatment became widely used.

Problems Specific to Our Daughters

- Abortion rates are much higher for Black teens than for White and Hispanic teens. In 2010, there were 34.5 abortions per 1,000 Black females ages 15-19, compared with 8.5 per 1,000 white adolescent females, and 15.3 per 1,000 Hispanic adolescent females.
- Nearly half (48%) of Black teen girls get pregnant at least once before age 20—nearly twice the national average. Pregnancy is the #1 reason girls drop out of school. Many girls who are expecting, and those who are already mothers face discrimination by school administrators, teachers, and students.
- Black teens have the highest teen pregnancy rate, and for young women age 15-19.
- The latest study, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shows that an alarming 48% of African-American girls ages 14-19 have a sexually transmitted disease, while **88 percent of girls with HIV are Black**. HIV infection is the leading cause of death for African American women aged 25–34 years, the third leading cause of death for African American women aged 35–44 years and the 4th leading cause of death for African American men.
- One in Five Kids Has Been Propositioned for Cybersex. 21% of teens say they have looked at something on the Internet that they wouldn’t want their parents to know. 20% of youths received sexual solicitations. For every 10 men in church, 5 are struggling with pornography. 47.78% of families said pornography is a problem in their home.
- According to recent national research conducted by the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, 60% percent of Black girls have experienced sexual abuse by Black men before reaching the age of 18.

Missing

A total of 265,683 minorities were reported missing in the United States (out of 661,593 for all races). Black Americans accounted for nearly 226,000 — or 34% — of all missing persons reported in 2012, according to the FBI's National Crime Information Center. Black and Missing reports that 37% of missing minors and 28.2% of missing adults in 2013 were Black. No fewer than 270,000 minorities have gone missing since 2010, 135,000 of whom were Black and 64,000 were Black women, according to the Atlanta Black Star.

The Devastating Effects of the Prison-Industrial Complex

At the beginning of the 1980s there were no privately-operated adult correctional facilities in the United States. As of 2009, more than 129,300 state and federal prisoners were housed in for-profit lock-ups. Prison privatization has become an acceptable practice and the private prison industry is now a multi-billion-dollar business. How did this drastic expansion of incarceration-for-profit occur, and more importantly how has it rearranged the criminal justice landscape?

The prison and jail population in the United States has increased exponentially over the past several decades, from 648,000 in 1983 to more than 2.3 million as of 2010. That doesn't include another 5 million people on parole and probation, plus millions more who were formerly incarcerated and are no longer under correctional supervision. Spending on prisons has outstripped expenditures on higher education in at least five states, including Michigan, Connecticut and California, as lawmakers engage in one-upmanship to prove who's tougher on crime.

Why has our nation's prison population grown to epic proportions, until the U.S. — with only 5 percent of the world's population — now has 25 percent of the world's prisoners, with 60% of them being people of color. The short answer is because imprisonment has become enormously profitable as a result of politically-influenced decisions as to who should be locked up and for how long, and is enormously racist as well.

If we look at the history of prison labor in the United States, it becomes immediately apparent that the entire system is birthed out of racism. After the civil wars of the mid-to-late 18th century, the system of hiring prisoners was established in order to continue the slavery that had dominated previous years. This was, of course, a time when racial segregation was legal across the United States:

Prison labor has its roots in slavery. After the 1861-1865 Civil War, a system of "hiring out prisoners" was introduced in order to continue the slavery tradition. Freed slaves were charged with not carrying out their sharecropping commitments (cultivating someone else's land in exchange for part of the harvest) or petty thievery — which were almost never proven — and were then "hired out" for cotton picking, working in mines and building railroads. From 1870 until 1910 in the state of Georgia, 88% of hired-out convicts were Black. In Alabama, 93% of "hired-out" miners were Black. In Mississippi, a huge prison farm similar to the old slave plantations replaced the system of hiring out convicts. The notorious Parchman plantation existed until 1972.

Criminal Justice System Debt.

The American criminal justice system is replete with fees that attempt to shift costs from the government to those accused and convicted of breaking the law. Courts impose monetary sanctions on a "substantial majority of the millions of U.S. residents convicted of felony and misdemeanor crimes each year." Every aspect of the criminal justice process has become ripe for charging a fee. In fact, an estimated 10 million people owe more than \$50 billion in debt resulting from their involvement in the criminal justice system. In the last few decades, additional fees have proliferated, such as charges for police transport, case filing, felony surcharges, electronic monitoring, drug testing, and sex offender registration. These fees are a main reason that some people have very extended stays in jails.

And there is a tremendous effect on families. The difficulty of scrubbing the stains handcuffs can leave long after they've been removed. Being incarcerated breaks families. It breaks homes. It breaks communities, especially mothers and fathers. Because our young men need a father figure in their life.

Bad Cops. The American Police Force.

Wonder why we have so many problems with police officers. Probably because they are a reflection of society.

The Alcoholic Police Officer. Research suggests that officers consume alcohol at greater rates than the general population.

The Drug Addicted Police Officer. Statistics show that 20% to 25% of working police officers are chemically dependent on either alcohol or drugs.

The Domestically Violent Police Officer. Two studies have found that at least 40% of police officer families experience domestic violence, in contrast to 10% of families in the general population.

The Mentally Ill Police Officer. According to one licensed police psychologist, the psychological makeup of police applicants is not very different from that of the general population - 3 to 5% percent.

The Psychopathic Police Officer

Just 1 percent of the overall population qualifies as psychopaths; in prison, that number skyrockets to 25 percent. Contrary to popular notions, lots of psychopaths aren't raging lunatics or violent criminals; in fact, most of them get along perfectly well in society. In keeping with one study's findings, here's a list of the Top 10 careers with the most psychopaths working in them. There are some surprises—the biggest of which is that politician isn't number one.

1. CEO 2. Lawyer 3. Media 4. Salesperson 5. Surgeon 6. Journalist 7. Police Officer 8. Clergy 9. Chef 10. Civil Servants

The Klan Kops

A 2006 FBI Report: "White Supremacist Infiltration of Law Enforcement" is in full force. American law enforcement seems to have no problem unleashing deadly force on Black children and Black people. As recently as 2006, The FBI issued a warning that White supremacist groups like the Ku Klux Klan were increasingly seeking to "infiltrate" law enforcement

The 'Roid Kops

In 2004, the growing menace of steroid abuse by American police officers prompted the federal Drug Enforcement Administration to warn of the "possible psychological disturbances" of juiced-up cops. The DEA said symptoms included: Mood swings (including manic-like symptoms leading to violence), Impaired judgment (stemming from feelings of invincibility), Depression, Nervousness, Extreme irritability, Delusions, Hostility and aggression.

The Asshole Kop

Why Are Cops Assholes? They are legally sanctioned thugs and bullies. They tend to be control freak assholes, and they rarely seem to take into account the intent of the law or how they could have better impact with less draconian measures.

DWB

Driving While Black. • One of the best documented forms of on-going discrimination is traffic stops police for the "offense" that is ironically called DWB - Driving While Black. A Report by the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights provides systematic evidence that this practice is widespread - under a federal court consent decree, traffic stops by Maryland Police on Interstate 95 were monitored. In the two-year period from January 1995 to December 1997, 70 percent of the drivers stopped and search by the police were Black, while only 17.5 percent of overall drivers - as well as speeders - were Black. • In Volusia County, Florida, in 1992, nearly 70 percent of those stopped on a particular interstate highway in Central Florida were Black or Hispanic, although only 5 percent of the drivers on that highway were Black or Hispanic. Moreover, minorities were detailed for longer periods of time per stop than Whites and were 80% of the cars that were searched after being stopped.

Bicycle Tickets! Yes, Bicycle Tickets.

For years, the Tampa Police Department wrote thousands of tickets to Black bicyclists and stopped countless more in the name of fighting crime. The tactic didn't work. It didn't reduce crime. It didn't stop bicycle crashes or curb bicycle theft. All it did was "burden" Black bicyclists.

New Report Finds Civil Asset Forfeiture Most Heavily Burdens Minorities and Low-Income Communities.

Last Wednesday, the Justice Department announced the resumption of the controversial equitable sharing program, which had been on hold for the past four months. The program allows police departments to seize and retain citizens' personal property without charging them with a crime; and, if one is charged with a crime, the

police can retain possession of the seized property even when charges are dropped, or the accused is found innocent. The police must only suspect that the property was somehow linked to a crime. The threat of abuse is obvious, and not merely hypothetical.

Of course, the inequalities that pervade the criminal justice system are present in the execution of the program. Indeed, the Center for American Progress recently released this report finding that the program most dramatically, and unsurprisingly, affects minorities and those living in low-income communities.

Remember, this is not all-encompassing. We encourage you to go to our website, www.theurbanblueprint.life, and read *A Snapshot of Black America*, *The Kerner Report*, and *Destroyer*. All three are must-reads! Going forward, understand that the Destroyer's penchant for violence is unsurpassed, its thirst for blood is insatiable, and its respect for life other than its collective own is non-existent. So be immemorial of our ancestors and the past, vigilant of the present and proactive of the future. The End of Discrimination is something that must come into being.