



**YOUNG MEN'S  
INITIATIVE**

**Opportunity, Achievement, Success**

**Presented to the Mental Health Committee of Community  
Engagement and Population Health Research Core of the  
NYU-HHC Clinical and Translational Science Institute**

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# The Crisis & Call to Action

“How do we connect Black and Hispanic young people – especially young men – to the opportunities and support that can lead them to success and allow them to participate in our recovery?”

- Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg

State of the City Address, January 2010

# The State of Black & Latino Youth

## Progress

- The Citywide graduation rate is 68%, which marks a 17% increase since 2002
- The City's probationers who were rearrested for a felony within a year dropped by 27% from 1999 to 2009
- New York City's unemployment rate is 8.7%, less than the nation's
- The Citywide teen pregnancy rate has declined by 20% since 2000

## Challenge

- The 2009 four-year graduation rates for Black and Latino males was 46.5% and 45.3% and of young men of color who did graduate, only 13% were college and career ready
- 84% of admissions to detention facilities are Black and Latino males
- Of those young Black males (16-24) who are out of school, 60% are not working (unemployed and not in the labor force). And of those young Latino males (16-24) who are out of school, 48% are not working (unemployed and not in the labor force).
- Black and Latina teens, ages 18-19, have the highest pregnancy rate in New York City at 200 and 165 per 1,000 teens, respectively

# Young Men's Initiative

- The YMI action plan will invest \$43 million annually to support programs and policies designed to breakdown barriers to success. For three years, almost half of the funds come from philanthropic contributions. The remainder is tax levy, which continues beyond three years.
- The plan advances four areas where the disparities are greatest and the consequences most harmful:
  - Education
  - Justice
  - Employment
  - Health

# Accountability and Management

## Management Delivery Team

- Family Services Coordinator, Office of the Mayor
- Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO), Office of the Mayor
- Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence (CIDI), Office of the Mayor

## Management Delivery Process

- Monthly meetings with the Mayor on the four areas of YMI: health, education, justice and employment
- CEO and its external evaluators will be overseeing the implementation and evaluation of the majority of programs

## Advisory Board

- 32 member board that will provide input and guidance on the YMI Action Plan

## Mayor's Youth Leadership Council

- Twenty 11<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade public high school students that will provide youth voice in city policy-making

# Education

## GOAL

- ✓ **Reduce the achievement gap in schools** through targeted strategies that improve outcomes for young men of color

## POLICY/PRACTICE CHANGES

- **Measure the performance of Black and Latino young men** against that of their peers on all school progress reports
- **Reform the special education** referral and placement process
- Implement strategies to successfully **transition suspended students back to school and reduce multiple suspensions**

## PROGRAMS/INTERVENTIONS

- **Expanded Success Initiative** will increase the number of Black and Latino young men who graduate high school ready to success in college and careers
- **Mentoring opportunities** for middle school youth participating in after school programs
- **Peer mentoring in young adult GED programs** at CUNY campuses
- Continued support for the **Young Adult Literacy Program**

# Justice

## GOAL

- ✓ **Reform the juvenile and criminal justice systems** to ensure interventions produce young people prepared for second chances

## POLICY/PRACTICE CHANGES

- **Reduce barriers to City employment and licensing (Executive Order 151) and voting for people with criminal records**
- **Ensure information on RAP sheet is accurate**
- **New York City will advocate for State Juvenile Justice Reforms** to allow young people to remain in community-based alternatives to incarceration in NYC

## PROGRAM/INTERVENTION

- **Justice Scholars and Justice Community programs** to help court-involved youth explore career and education options
- **Advocate, Intervene, Mentor (AIM)**, an intensive advocacy program for high risk teenagers on juvenile probation in targeted neighborhoods
- **Arches**, a curriculum based group mentoring program targeted to high risk young adults under direct probation supervision
- **Community Education Pathways to Success (CEPS)** literacy services for pre-GED youth in targeted neighborhoods
- Expansion of **NYC Justice Corps**, a six month program that includes community service, internships, and education.

# Employment

## GOAL

- ✓ **Connect more young men to employment and reduce barriers they may experience in obtaining work**

## POLICY/PRACTICE CHANGES

- Connect young people to official IDs to ease the process of applying for employment (Executive Order 150)
- Expand public private partnerships to sustain and expand the **Summer Youth Employment Program**

## PROGRAMS/INTERVENTIONS

- Add up to seven new **Jobs Plus** sites, which removes barriers to work for **residents in public housing** and helps connect them to jobs
- **Expand training opportunities and paid internships** through several existing employment programs
- Expansion of the **Young Adult Internship Program** that provides education and training while youth are employed



# Health

## GOAL

- Improve the **health of young men and their families**, encouraging more fathers to be involved in the lives of their children, and breaking the cycle of premature fathering

## POLICY/PRACTICE CHANGES

- Comprehensive **sex education for all middle and high schools** as part of the mandated health curriculum
- Launched the **Fatherhood Initiative** and hired first Citywide Fatherhood Services Coordinator
- Establish criteria **for teen-friendly clinics** and create incentives for participation so more youth will have access to care
- Ease the process for young people to connect to the Family Planning Benefit Program and create other policies that **increase access to confidential reproductive health services**

## PROGRAMS/INTERVENTIONS

- **Project Ceasefire**, a public health violence prevention model that focuses on the highest-risk communities and youth
- **CUNY Fatherhood Academy**, a new program that provides young fathers with parenting skills programming, employment and training, as well as access to higher education
- Creation of a **training program** through City Health and Hospitals Corporation to better prepare physicians, nurses, and other providers to work with adolescents

# Mental health

## Suicide and Depression among Latino adolescents

- Suicide is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death among 15-24 year old young adults in NYC
- 9.5% of Latino high school students attempted suicide in the past year
- 24% of Latino males felt sadness or hopelessness that lasted more than 2 weeks and impaired their usual activities

## NYC Juvenile Justice Detention

- In FY 2011, 48% of youth in detention received mental health services.

# Mental Health Impact on Academic Success

- Mental health and emotional issues directly correlate to school absenteeism, suspensions and drop-out
- Mental health and emotional issues are contributing factors to low grades/test scores

# School Based Mental Health Programs

- 300 schools have enhanced mental health services collaborating with CBOs and State Office of Mental Health
  - 220 offer on site treatment
- STARS - Nurse Mental Health Pilot
  - Program to identify students with previously undiagnosed depression (or existing depression) who are at risk for suicide or other harmful behaviors
- AT-Risk Training for Teachers
  - Partnership between Office of School Health and State Office of Mental Health to offer suicide/crisis intervention program
- Mobil Response Team (MRT) Model
  - Serves a cluster of 5 middle schools to provide training, assessments, consultations, and recommend treatment for mental health services. MRT spends one day a week in each school

# Mental Health and YMI

- Recently conducted a survey of school based mental health services
- Meetings with mental health services providers to learn about best practices and challenges
- Roundtable discussions with principals and YMI advisory board- mental health is a constant theme