OFFICIAL COMMISSIONERS BRIEFING

ANNUAL EQUITY REPORT

State of **Black Miami** 2026

Equity Gaps, the **Black Disparity Index** & the Policy Agenda — Briefing for Miami-Dade County Commissioners

COMPOSITE BDI SCORE

65

/100

Black Disparity Index 2026

DOMAINS ANALYZED

7

+ 25 Policy Recommendations

October 2026

Miami-Dade County BLACK AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD,

WHY THIS REPORT MATTERS

> Black residents make up **18.5%** of Miami-Dade's population — yet represent **43%** of the jail population, **41%** of those experiencing homelessness, and earn just **72 cents** for every dollar earned by white residents.

1 **Systemic Disparities Documented**
This report examines inequities across **7 life domains** — from economic opportunity to criminal justice and environmental health.

2 **The Black Disparity Index**
The **BDI** is a composite accountability metric updated **annually** — scoring Black outcomes relative to the county baseline.

3 **A Call to Action**
Commissioners are called to act on **25 targeted policy recommendations** to close equity gaps and drive measurable change.

WHO IS BLACK MIAMI

Black Miami by the Numbers

500,000

Black residents call Miami-Dade County home

18.5%

of Miami-Dade's **total county population**

Most Diverse

Black community in the U.S.

- African American
- Haitian
- Caribbean
- Afro-Latino
- African Immigrant

5 Key Neighborhoods

Concentrated heart of Black Miami

- Liberty City
- Overtown
- Opa-locka
- Carol City
- Richmond Heights
- Coconut Grove

32 years

Median age — a young, dynamic, growing community

140+ years

Deep roots — from **Bahamian founders** through the civil rights era to today

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2024 estimates); Miami-Dade Office of Equity and Inclusion

ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

Introducing the **Black Disparity Index (BDI)**

A composite equity score measuring Black resident outcomes relative to the Miami-Dade county baseline across **7 life domains**.

SCORE KEY

- = 100 → Full parity achieved
- 70 – 79 → Moderate disparity
- 60 – 69 → Significant disparity
- < 60 → Critical disparity

OVERALL COMPOSITE BDI — 2026

65 / 100

0 — 65 ▲ — 100 = Parity

7 DOMAIN SCORES

ECONOMIC EQUITY
BDI SCORE **68**

HOUSING EQUITY
BDI SCORE **61**

HEALTH EQUITY
BDI SCORE **71**

EDUCATION EQUITY
BDI SCORE **64**

⚠ CRITICAL
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
BDI SCORE **45**

CIVIC POWER
BDI SCORE **73**

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
BDI SCORE **67**

100
= FULL PARITY

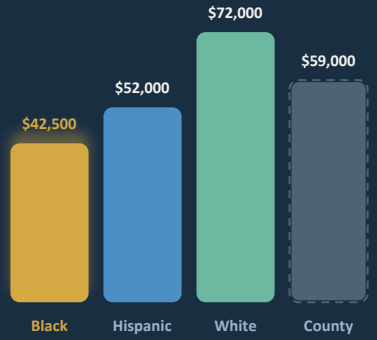
A BDI of 65 means Black residents experience outcomes **35% below the county average** across all domains combined — a gap requiring immediate, sustained policy intervention.

ECONOMIC REALITY

Economic Disparities: Income, Homeownership & Poverty

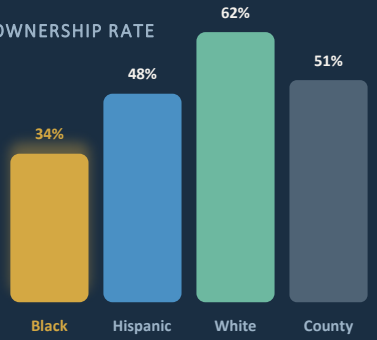
ECONOMIC BDI
68
/ 100 Parity

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME



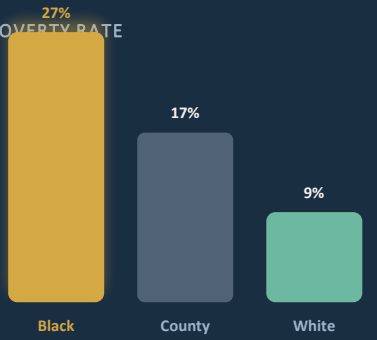
Black earns
59%
of white median income

HOMEOWNERSHIP RATE



Rate unchanged
for a decade

POVERTY RATE



3×
higher rate vs. white residents

Black Residents · Hispanic Residents · White Residents · County Average

Black-owned businesses represent just **6.2%** of all businesses — despite Black residents being **18.5%** of the population

Black residents earn **$0.71** per $1 earned by white residents in the finance sector — a structural wage gap, not an individual one

DOMAIN 2 · HOUSING EQUITY — BDI 61

Housing Instability & Displacement

57%

78 per 1,000

41 countywide

41%

Gentrification displacing long-term Black residents from **Overtown, Liberty City, Coconut Grove & Little Haiti** — communities built over generations.

34%

Housing BDI: 61 / 100

Sources: Miami-Dade County Housing Dept., Princeton Eviction Lab, HUD Point-in-Time Count 2025, HMDA data

HOUSING EQUITY SCORE

61 /100

0 (worst) 100 (parity)

Target: **71 by 2030** — requires sustained anti-displacement policy.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The construction of **I-95 through Overtown** in the 1960s destroyed what was known as the **"Harlem of the South"** — a thriving Black cultural and economic hub — and **displaced over 10,000 Black residents.**

This was not an accident. It was policy. Its consequences echo through every housing statistic on this slide today.

PATTERN CONTINUES

Modern highway decisions, zoning laws, and tax incentives continue to shape who can afford to stay in Miami.

HEALTH EQUITY

Health Outcomes: The Gap Cannot Be **Explained by Biology**

BDI HEALTH 71

BLACK RESIDENTS — MIAMI-DADE			COUNTY AVERAGE — MIAMI-DADE
Life Expectancy	−3.9 yrs	73.2 yrs	77.1 yrs
Infant Mortality	1.9× higher	11.2 / 1K	5.9 / 1K
Maternal Mortality	2.1× higher	38.4 / 100K	18.7 / 100K
Hypertension Prevalence	+21 pts	52%	31%
Uninsured Rate	−2 pts	19%	21%
Mental Health Provider Access	58% fewer	1 per 890	1 per 560



Black babies in Miami-Dade are nearly 2× more likely to die in their first year of life.

- *These disparities are driven by systemic barriers — not individual behavior.*

EDUCATION EQUITY · BDI 64

Disparities Accumulate Across the Education Pipeline

BLACK STUDENTS

WHITE / COUNTY COMPARISON

STAGE 1

Pre-K Access

Black children face lower pre-K enrollment driven by proximity gaps and cost barriers in Black-majority zip codes.

⚠ Gap begins before school starts

1

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEFICIT

Cost of pre-K averages **$12,000/yr** — prohibitive without subsidy. Access to quality programs is 40% lower within 1 mile of Black-majority neighborhoods.

STAGE 2 — 3RD GRADE READING



– 34 pts proficiency gap

2–3

STAGE 3 — MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH



– 40 pts proficiency gap

STAGE 4 — HS DISCIPLINE

3.5× suspension rate vs. white students

High Black rate → **Baseline** White rate

4–6

STAGE 5 — HS GRADUATION

81% Black vs **91%** White

– 10 pts graduation gap

STAGE 6 — COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

54% Black grads vs **72%** White grads

– 18 pts enrollment gap

Criminal Justice Disparities in Miami-Dade

Criminal Justice · Black Disparity Index: **45 / 100**

SYSTEMIC OVERREPRESENTATION

43%

of jail population

Is **Black** — yet Black residents are just **18.5%** of the total county popula

Black pop.	43%
Pop. share	18.5%

2.9×

Black residents stopped by police at **2.9× the rate** of white residents

Black rate	2.9×
White rate	1.0×

24%

vs. White9%

Search rate after traffic stop — Black residents searched at over **2.6× the rate**

Black	24%
White	9%

4.4×

Black youth arrested at **4.4× the rate** of white youth — the highest dis

Black youth	4.4×
White youth	1.0×

62%

vs. White 41%

Black felony defendants held in **pretrial detention** vs. 41% of white defe

Black	62%
White	41%

2.6×

Use-of-force incidents per stop are **2.6× higher** for Black residents than for wh

Black	2.6×
White	1.0×

These disparities represent ***systemic failures*** in policing, prosecution, and sentencing — not differences in criminal behavior.

BDI Criminal Justice: 45 / 100

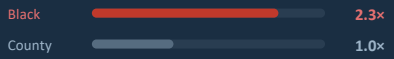
Black Neighborhoods Bear a Disproportionate Environmental Burden

Five documented disparities compounding climate vulnerability in Miami-Dade's Black communities

INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION

2.3× more facilities

Industrial facilities within 1 mile of Black neighborhoods vs. county norm



TREE CANOPY

12% vs. 31%

Canopy coverage in Black neighborhoods — less than half of white neighborhoods (31%)



HEAT ISLAND EFFECT

+3.2°F hotter

Black neighborhoods are 3.2°F above county average — worsening with climate change



Climate change will hit Black Miami the hardest — unless targeted resilience investment addresses these structural vulnerabilities now.

Black residents face compounding exposures: more pollution, less green space, more heat, higher flood risk — with fewer resources to adapt.

FLOOD ZONE RISK

38% Black HHs
+58% above avg

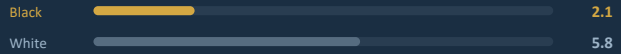
24%
County avg

High-risk flood zone households — a critical climate vulnerability gap

PARK SPACE ACCESS

2.1 ac/1,000
Black neighborhoods

5.8
White neighborhoods



ENVIRONMENTAL BDI SCORE

67 / 100

0 — Deep Disparity
100 — Parity

Target: 75 by 2030

Sources: Miami-Dade Environmental Equity Study 2025; EPA EJScreen; FEMA NFIP; Miami-Dade Parks Dept. Heat island data: NOAA Urban Heat Analysis 2025.

POLICY AGENDA · 2026

25 Recommendations Across 7 Domains — **5 Immediate Priorities**

1 — ECONOMIC

IMMEDIATE PRIORITY

Establish a **$50M Black Business Development Fund** with non-predatory capital access and technical assistance for Black entrepreneurs across Miami-Dade.

2 — HOUSING

IMMEDIATE PRIORITY

Pass an **anti-displacement ordinance** with right-of-first-refusal for Black residents in gentrifying zones + expand **community land trusts** in Liberty City, Overtown & Little Haiti.

3 — HEALTH

IMMEDIATE PRIORITY

Launch a **Black Maternal Health Initiative** with navigators at all county-funded hospitals + fund **100 community health workers** in Black zip codes.

4 — EDUCATION

IMMEDIATE PRIORITY

Mandate **restorative justice discipline** practices in all MDCPS schools + **triple Black enrollment** in gifted and AP programs by 2030.

5 — CRIM. JUSTICE

IMMEDIATE PRIORITY

End **cash bail for non-violent offenses** + fund a **Cure Violence** violence interruption program in the 10 highest-impact zip codes.

25

TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

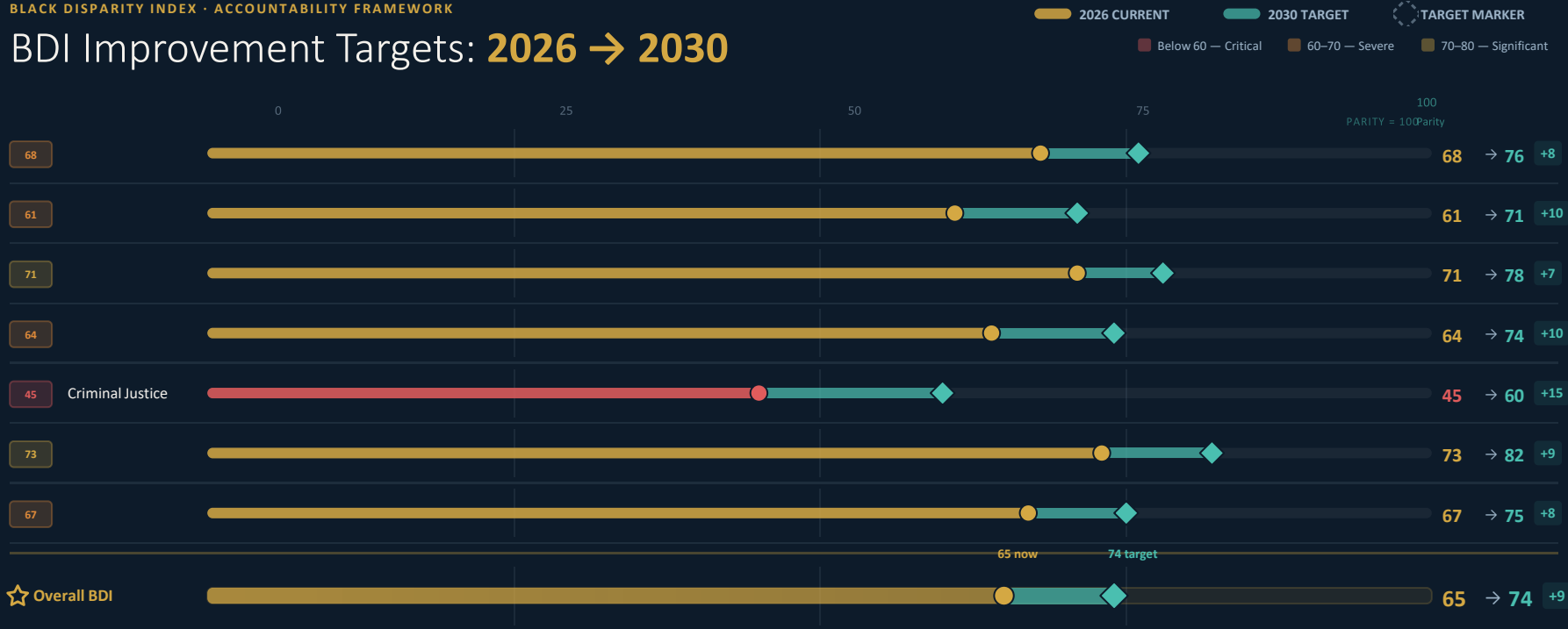
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POLICY DOMAINS

- ECONOMIC
- HOUSING
- HEALTH
- EDUCATION
- CRIM. JUSTICE
- CIVIC POWER
- ENVIRONMENT

BLACK DISPARITY INDEX · ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

BDI Improvement Targets: 2026 → 2030



Reaching an overall BDI of 74 by 2030 requires sustained policy action, dedicated funding, and multi-agency accountability across all 7 equity domains.

Annual BDI reports will track progress against these targets. **Commissioners will receive quarterly dashboards** with domain-level performance and leading indicators.

Criminal Justice (45 → 60) requires the largest absolute gain — **+15 points** — and is the most urgent domain for immediate structural reform.

COMMISSIONER ACTION REQUIRED

SLIDE 13 — THE CALL TO ACTION

The Ask.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ARE ASKED TO:

01 Adopt the Black Disparity Index as the official county equity metric

02 Allocate funding for the 5 immediate priority recommendations

03 Establish a Black Equity Standing Committee with quarterly accountability reviews

04 Direct all county departments to conduct equity impact assessments using BDI data

05 Commission the 2027 State of Black Miami update with expanded community input

"

Black Miami has carried inequity for **generations.**

The time for comprehensive action is **now** —

not incremental, not performative, but *structural* and *sustained.*

COMPOSITE BDI 2026

Target 2030: 74

65 / 100 current score

+9 pts needed by 2030

STATE OF BLACK MIAMI REPORT · 2026

For Miami to Thrive, Black Miami Must Thrive.

Full Report, Data Dashboard & BDI Methodology available at
miamidade.gov/equity · Office of Equity and Inclusion

Office of Equity and Inclusion · Miami-Dade County
equity@miamidade.gov

- *Questions? We welcome dialogue, partnership, and accountability.*

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BLACK AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD

October 2026 ·

Miami Community · Culture & Resilience