

Crisis to Connection: The Imperative Need for Community Action

Presented by Kelvin Brown and Aubrey Gilliland, LMSW



CRISIS TO CONNECTION:
**AN IMPERATIVE FOR
OUR BLACK BOYS**

[THECHILDRENSCENTER.COM/CRISISTOCONNECTION](https://thechildrenscenter.com/crisistoconnection)

This Morning's Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- History and context to the Crisis to Connection Imperative
- The Crisis to Connection approach and framework
- Moderated conversation with Kevin Fischer, Chief Robert Dunlap, George Winn and Kelvin Brown
- Q&A

The Birth of the Imperative

At The Children's Center, we believe that every child deserves to dream and become the amazing person they were born to be.

But for far too many Greater Detroit children, their life's possibility is eclipsed by the color of their skin, their gender identity and the zip code they were born into. Many Detroit children are in crisis.

“*It's easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.*”

– Frederick Douglass

Self-Reflection and Discovery Research

To further our mission of “helping children and families shape their own futures”, we asked ourselves:

- What barriers are there to achieving our mission?
- What opportunities are there for innovation in service delivery?
- What are the most pressing needs of our client population?

These questions led us to spend two years in an iterative process, reflecting and diving into the data.

Social Determinants of Health

**As defined by the CDC,
“social determinants of
health (SDOH) are
conditions in the places
where people live,
learn, work, and play
that affect a wide range
of health risks and
outcomes.”**



The Impact of Trauma on Life Outcomes

Research indicates that the more ACE's a child experiences, the higher risk they are for:

- Developing depression and/or other mental health conditions
- Developing chronic health conditions including heart disease, obesity, diabetes and cancer
- Engaging in risky behaviors
- Poorer social and economic outcomes

Children of color are at a higher risk of experiencing ACE's and trauma than white children.

The Current Situation

Racial disparities create unimaginable challenges that keep Black boys from living their dreams and becoming the amazing people they were born to be.

Black Youth

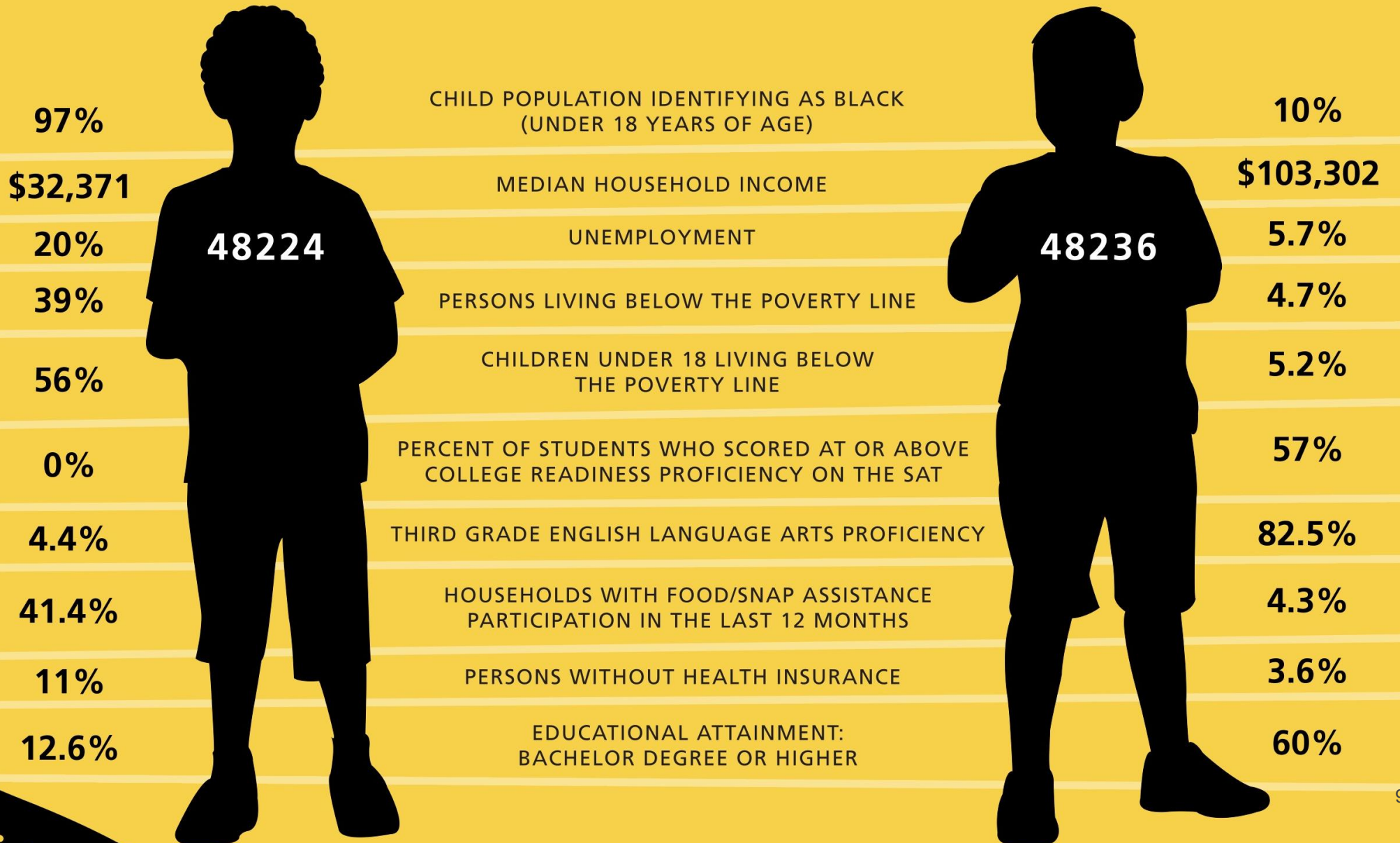
- 1 in 3 Black boys can expect to be sentenced to prison, compared to 1 out of 17 white boys
- Black students are suspended or expelled 3 times more frequently than white students
- Black males graduate at a rate of 59% compared to 80% for white males

The Current Situation

Black Adults

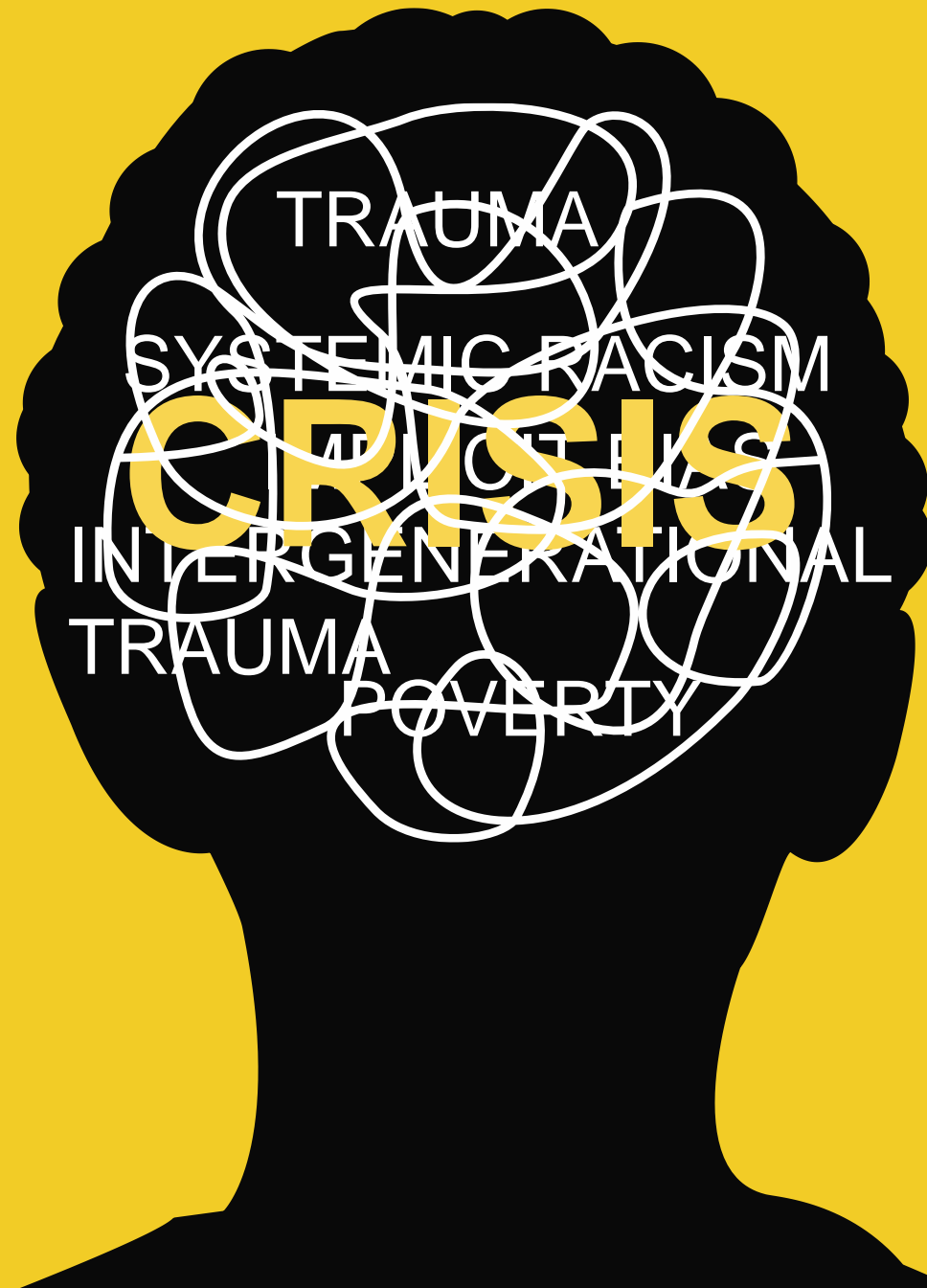
- Black men are incarcerated at more than 6 times the rate of white men
- In 99% of US neighborhoods, Black men earn less than white men who grew up as children in households with similar incomes
- Black men 18 and over have the highest adjusted all-cause mortality rate and worst health status of any sex/ethnic group in the US

THE TALE OF TWO ZIP CODES



What's happening internally at TCC?

- Our most frequent clients are Black boys between the ages of 7-12.
- Primary diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder with a secondary diagnosis of Oppositional Defiant Disorder.
- **The majority of TCC clients have experienced some form of adverse childhood experiences or trauma that is not being formally addressed in service delivery. This is also true nationally.**
- At the same time, we've observed little improvement in life outcomes for Black men.



Christopher Jaco's Story





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Crisis to Connection Framework

Crisis to Connection is a philosophy that aligns beliefs, values, and actions using a trauma-informed and anti-racist framework. The ***Crisis to Connection*** philosophy transforms systems to improve the life outcomes for Black boys.

Crisis to Connection IS:

- Focused on transforming organizations and systems
- An intentional alignment of beliefs, perspectives, actions, and culture
- A framework for collaboration between The Children's Center, external organizations, and the Wayne County community

Our Three Phased Approach

Phase I: Capacity Building

Building the infrastructure to be premier provider and expert resource in the community focused on a trauma-informed and anti-racist workforce and provision of behavioral health and child welfare services.

Phase II: Designing Systems Change

Convening community partners and systems to develop a comprehensive, community-wide strategic plan to address systemic racism and individual and community level trauma.

Phase III: Strategic Plan Implementation and Systems Transformation

Roll-out, implementation and on-going refinement of the strategic plan across Greater Detroit and Wayne County. Development of a replicable model for communities across the nation.

System Partners

- Advocacy
- Behavioral Health/Substance Use
- Child Welfare
- Community Organizations
- Corporate
- Education/Research
- Faith-based
- Government
- Health Provider/Public Health
- Judicial/Courts
- Law Enforcement
- Philanthropy/Foundations

Crisis To Connection Imperative Advisory Council

ANDREA COLE
ETHEL AND JAMES FLINN FOUNDATION,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

CHIEF ROBERT DUNLAP
WAYNE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT

CHRISTOPHER RUTH
KEY BANK, SENIOR PORTFOLIO
MANAGER

CHUI KAREGA
TCC BOD, PRESIDENT

DAVEDA J. COLBERT, PH.D.
WAYNE CO. RESA, ASSOCIATE
SUPERINTENDENT

DR. CARMEN MCINTYRE
WSU, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DR. TERESA HOLTROP
KIDS HEALTH CONNECTION, PCP

The goal of the Advisory Council is to develop and provide strategic guidance to a community wide strategy to ***help Black boys live their dreams.***



GEORGE WINN
TCC, COO



KEVIN FISCHER
NAMI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EDWARD JOSEPH
3RD CIRCUIT JUDICIAL COURT, JUDGE

ERIC DOEH
DWIHN, CEO

LYNNETTE WRIGHT
MDHHS, WAYNE COUNTY CHILD & FAMILY
SERVICES DIRECTOR

MATTHEW HOERAUF
SKILLMAN FOUNDATION

RAYMOND J. SOLOMON II
DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOOD, CITY OF DETROIT

REGINA D. JEMISON
COUNSELOR OF LAW

REPRESENTATIVE STEPHANIE YOUNG
MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
DISTRICT 8

Short and Intermediate Outcomes

- Stakeholders will be engaged in strategic policy and practice changes to address childhood trauma and racism.
- Increase in trauma informed practices within stakeholder organizations, constituencies and/or servicing communities.
- Development of a culture of collaboration among Crisis to Connection stakeholders.
- Increase in the number of initiatives around implicit bias and systemic racism in Wayne County.

Long Term Outcomes for Black Boys

- Improved Mental and Physical Health
- Improved Economic Opportunities
- Improved Educational Opportunities
- Positive shift in the individual and societal perception of Black boys
- Reduction of the impact of intergenerational trauma

The background of the slide features a solid yellow color. Overlaid on this background are numerous silhouettes of Black boys in various poses, some standing and some in motion, creating a sense of a diverse group of children.

The **Vision** of the Crisis to Connection Imperative is...

***To see Black boys living their
dreams!***

How can YOU get involved?

- Attend an upcoming Information Session
 - [1st Wednesday](#) of every even month from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
 - [3rd Tuesday](#) of every odd month from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- [Sign up](#) to receive Crisis to Connection email communications
- Participate in the Crisis to Connection [Quarterly Change Champion Meetings](#)
- Become an Imperative Ambassador
- [Donate!](#)

Contact Information

- Questions and inquiries can be directed to CrisisToConnection@thechildrenscenter.com
- Contact us at 313-379-0998
- Stay up to date on activities of Crisis to Connection at www.thechildrenscenter.com/crisistoconnection



QUESTIONS?



References

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THANK YOU!

