



# Snapshot of the State of Black Women & Girls

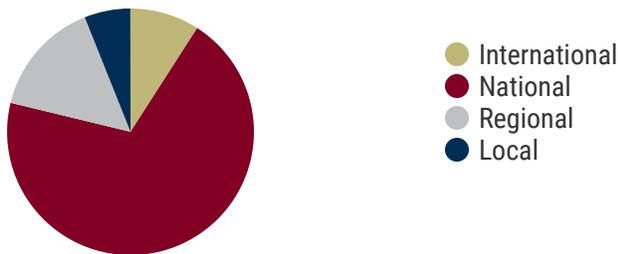
The mission of the Sojourner Truth Legacy Project (STLP) is to recognize women leaders making a positive difference in the lives of the communities they serve in the spirit of Sojourner Truth's fearless, courageous, visionary spirit for freedom, justice, and equality. STLP aims to 1) spread awareness of the issues affecting African American women and the community; 2) mobilize women committed to engaging in these issues and creating positive change, and 3) build a community of women through the #SoTru network. Through a series of programs, STLP continues to build a dynamic, national, intergenerational network of African American and multicultural women committed to harnessing the power of women around issues important to their lives. The project is presently chaired by Rep. Yvette Clarke.

## Results from Preliminary Survey

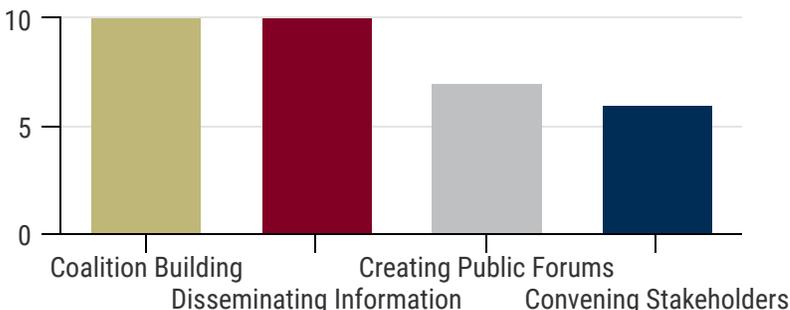
The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Inc. launched a national database of organizations in order to mobilize resources and strategic efforts aimed at improving policy outcomes for Black women and girls. Below are preliminary findings from approximately 30 organizations serving Black women and girls that were surveyed with questions on policy priorities in advancing the interests and concerns affecting Black women and girls.

- Based on approximately 30 survey respondents, the preliminary results from the Sojourner Truth Legacy Project Survey, our respondents identified **Health Care**, **Economic Development** and **Education** as major policy issues facing Black women and girls today.
- Our respondents identified **Education**, **Health Care** and **Economic Development** as top policy issues Congress should address.
- Respondents also found **Criminal Justice Reform**, **Voting**, and **Housing** as important policy issues facing Black women and girls.

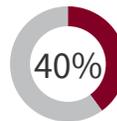
## Mapping of Outreach Efforts of Organizations in Survey



## Ways for Organizations to Serve as a Resource

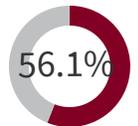


## Health Care



Breast cancer is the most common cancer among Black women. Black women are 40 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than White women.

56.1% of Black women aged 20 and older are obese.

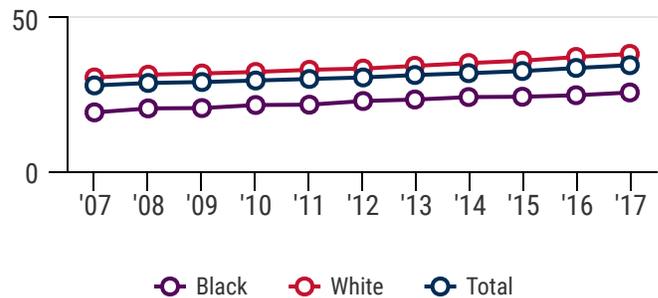


Black women are three to four times more likely to experience a pregnancy-related death than White women.

Source: Susan G. Komen, CDC, National Partnership for Women & Families

## Education

### Percentage of Bachelor's Degrees or Higher attained by Black and White Women from 2007-2017



Source: National Center for Education Statistics

## Economic Development

- In 2017, Black women earned only 60.8 cents for every \$1 earned by White men. This is a decrease from the 62.5 cents earned by Black women in 2016.
- The number of businesses owned by Black women increased 164 percent from 2007 to 2018, approximating 541 new businesses that were created each day for the past 11 years.
- The number of businesses owned by Black women increased faster than other businesses from 2002-12, making Black women the fastest-growing business owners in the nation during this period.

Source: AAUW, 2018 State of Women-Owned Businesses Report, Commissioned By American Express, Forbes



# Snapshot of State of Black Women & Girls

## Criminal Justice

- The imprisonment rate for Black women in 2016 was 96 out of every 100,000 which was twice the rate of their White counterparts (49 in every 100,000).
- The rate of imprisonment for Black women has been declining since 2000, while the rate of imprisonment for White and Hispanic women continues to rise.

Source: *The Sentencing Project, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Rights 4 Girls*

## Vote Share

- 90% of Black women voted for Democrats in the 2018 midterm election.
- In 2016, Black women comprised 6.1% of the general population & 6.6% of the voting age population.
- Black women played a significant role in the 2008 and 2012 general elections, accounting for 68% of the vote in 2008 and 70% in 2012.

Source: *Brookings, Higher Heights, CAWP*

## Representation in Government

- 25 of the 127 women in Congress are Black compared to the 115th Congress where 21 Black women served.
- 4 of the 86 women serving in statewide elected executive offices are Black.
- As of December 2018, 275 of the 1,875 women state legislators serving nationwide are Black.
- 7 of the 100 largest U.S. cities have a Black woman as their mayor.



Source: *Rutgers CAWP, CBC*

## Trafficking

- According to the FBI, 57.5% of all juvenile prostitution arrests involve African Americans.
- California is ranked as having the highest number of reported cases of human trafficking in the U.S. The largest county in California, Los Angeles County, reported 92% of girls in the juvenile justice system identified as victims of sex trafficking and are Black.
- In an interview with the Urban Institute, traffickers admittedly believe if caught, trafficking Black women would land them less jail time than trafficking White women.

Source: *Rights4Girls, Polaris, The Urban Institute*

## Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls

In 2016, Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, Rep. Robin Kelly, and Rep. Yvette D. Clarke founded the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls. The caucus serves as a champion for public policies that will improve the lives of Black women and girls across the nation. The five pillars of the organization's focus are:

- Safety**
- Opportunities**
- Criminal Justice**
- Health Concerns**
- Growing Electorate**

