



RESEARCH NOTE

Research Services

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Dr. Terry Froman, Supervisor

Topic: Graduation and Dropout Rates by Ethnicity and Gender

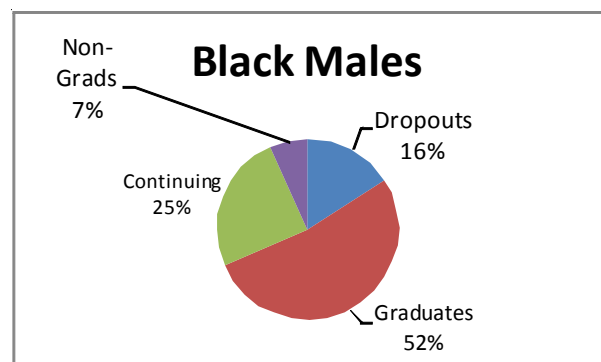
Focus: The Shott Foundation for Public Education recently reported an exceedingly low graduation rate for Black males enrolled in schools around the nation. According to the report, the graduation rate for Black males in Miami-Dade County (M-DCPS) was 27 percent.

Finding: A cohort analysis for M-DCPS students whose graduation status was tracked longitudinally from entering ninth grade in October 2005 to graduating four years later, found a four-year graduation rate of 52 percent for Black male students.

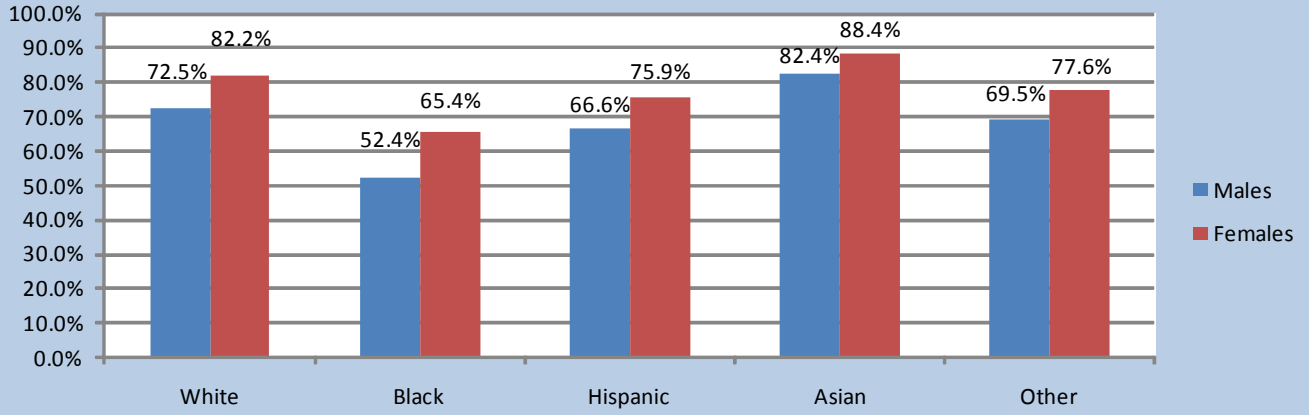
The Shott Foundation for Public Education recently published “Yes We Can: The Schott 50 State Report on Public Education and Black Males.” This report focused on the exceedingly low graduation rate for Black males enrolled in schools around the nation. According to the report, the graduation rate for Black males in Miami-Dade County (M-DCPS) was 27 percent. This reflected a 29 percent achievement gap with the reported graduation rate for white males in the district.

The researchers for the Shott Foundation, trying to generalize across all states, had to rely on readily available summary data. Unfortunately, their procedures resulted in highly inaccurate estimates of the true graduation rates. Attached is a cohort analysis for M-DCPS students whose graduation status was tracked longitudinally from entering ninth grade in October 2005 to graduating four years later in June 2009. This analysis includes breakdowns by gender for each of the major Race/Ethnic categories. The study found a four-year graduation rate of 52 percent for Black male students with a 20 percent achievement gap with white males.

It should go without saying that graduating only 52 percent of Black males is unacceptable and indicative of the work that needs to be done in M-DCPS. However, the more accurate graduation rates presented in the attached report should help put the discussion on a more realistic footing.



Graduation Rate



Dropout Rate

