Half of African American men of prime working age (30-44 yr.) in Milwaukee County have been incarcerated in the Wisconsin Department of Corrections system.

Aiding ex-offender workers with prison records is one of the greatest employment challenges facing the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board for 2013. Wisconsin Department of Corrections records show incarceration rates at epidemic levels for African American males from Milwaukee County.

- At least 27,060 black males ages 20 through 64 with a Milwaukee County address (as the last found home address) have been incarcerated in the state DOC system. These included 5,571 men currently incarcerated (as of 2012) and another 21,489 previously incarcerated. The totals do not include those incarcerated in federal prisons, state juvenile correctional facilities, or county and city jails.

- The estimated incarceration rate for African American males has reached 58% for men in their early 30s from the county.

Est. percentage of African American males from Milwaukee County currently or previously incarcerated by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Wisconsin incarceration rates for black males are among the highest in the nation. Mass incarceration practices (including three-strike rules, mandatory sentencing, life without parole, and stricter drug laws) are under re-examination nationally and in many states.

Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County

Unemployment insurance: 25,901 workers were on lay-off and receiving unemployment compensation in the week before Christmas.

Unemployment rate: Unemployment was estimated at 7.9% in November, up from 7.4% in Milwaukee County in October.

BadgerCare Plus: 204,685 county residents were covered in November. The number of single adults covered by the Core Plan is now at 6,420, down from 22,963 enrolled in January 2010.

FoodShare: 285,012 residents of Milwaukee County received federal assistance with their food costs in November.

“W-2”/TANF Income Support: 8,916 families received “W-2” cash assistance payments in November, down 14% from the start of 2012. Most single parents with current or recent employment are ineligible for “W-2” income assistance.

Data sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Corrections, Health Services, and Workforce Development (12/31/2012). Black male resident population counts are from the 2010 U.S. Census; ages of men in the DOC system are as of 1/1/2012.