

Prison

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times longer," said White.

"Kids are usually kept in isolation for 23 hours a day, and which for the time when they are not kept in their cell — which can be a horrifying experience in and of itself — they're out and exposed to the adult prison population, which is just not a safe place for kids to be," she said.

White says the Partnership is looking for community testimony about the conditions for juveniles at Coffee Creek, whether directly from the youth, from the parents or other family members.

"So we're gathering stories now from

daughter, or a family member or friend who went to Coffee Creek to learn more about what that experience was like.

"We're right now in the research phase of this work and one of the things we want to do is hear from our members and others about what their experiences are at Coffee Creek," White said.

She invites calls to her office at 503-335-8449 ext. 210, or emails to Shannon@safetyandjustice.org.

Some key facts about youth in adult prisons:

Youth who are held in adult facilities are at an increased risk of physical and sexual victimization. The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission found that "more than any other group of incarcerated persons, youth incarcerated with adults are probably at the highest risk for sexual abuse."

Many children are often placed in isolation for 23 hours a day. These conditions can cause anxiety, paranoia, and exacerbate existing mental disorders.

Youth are 36 times more likely to commit suicide in an adult prison or jail than a juvenile detention facility.

The consequences of juveniles in adult prisons are very serious and that's why we at Partnership for Safety and Justice are working to address that issue

—Shannon White

people who have either themselves been through Coffee Creek as a 16 or 17 year old, or maybe it was a family member a son or a

Jobs

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the same period, Black unemployment increased from 15.4 to 16.3 percent.

Oregon and the Portland Metro Region's most recent figures from 2009 show that white unemployment is at 11 percent while Black unemployment is 18 percent.

Statistics show the impact of joblessness is most visible for youth and children.

In fact, US Census Bureau figures say that one in two Black children in Oregon live in poverty.

"Black people are two percent of Oregon's population but make up seven percent of those on child welfare," says Purcell.

2010 US Department of Labor statistics show that unemployment amongst Black youth is at 33.4 percent, which is twice as high as white youth unemployment and over 11 percent higher than the next highest group, Latino youth.

"When the economy is bad for everyone it takes attention away from our community," says Purcell. "(Black) unemployment has been at 15 percent or more since 1970."

She says a number of factors, such as housing stability, gentrification and policy decisions cause long term unemployment.

Purcell also says there has been a general disinvestment in the Black community.

She says the city can do a better job of focusing where it invests its money. According to her and the Urban League, the initiatives of attracting more companies to Oregon and hiring a local and diverse workforce don't have to be mutually exclusive.

The Urban League has worked with the National Association of Minority

Oregon and the Portland Metro Region's most recent figures from 2009 show that white unemployment is at 11 percent while Black unemployment is 18 percent

Contractors of Oregon (NAMCO) to advocate for fairer access to contracting and public procurement.

Purcell says this has made the Urban League a partner in making local companies more socially responsible.

Holiday Gifts

PHOTO BY HELEN SILVUS

Shamika Bishop checks out necklaces at the African American Holiday Marketplace at Talking Drum Café and Books, (also known as Reflections) 446 N.E. Killingsworth Street. Owner Gloria McMurtry is inviting vendors to set up kiosks in her store during the holiday period. S. Renee Mitchell took the opportunity to showcase her African-inspired art and jewelry, which is pictured here with a interested shopper.

"These companies should reach into communities that are more than prepared to meet the needs of an emerging job market," she says.

The National Urban League has a 12 Point Jobs Plan that includes funding to restore the Summer Youth Jobs Program as a stand-alone that will employ five million teens.

The plan also calls for a national public private jobs initiative to create jobs and train urban residents in such fields as technology and

broadband, health care, manufacturing, urban transportation/water and community facilities infrastructure, and clean energy.

Purcell says the American Jobs Act, President Obama's jobs bill, which has been stifled in Congress, contains a number of

important elements that coincide with the National Urban League's goals.

The American Jobs Act includes a \$50 billion immediate investment in infrastructure, an expansion of unemployment insurance and specific job training to help the long term unemployed, a \$5 billion investment in youth and young adult employment and a tax cut for American workers.

In addition to these measures, the act also contains specific language to prevent discrimination against the unemployed in the hiring process.

Purcell says the Urban League is working to make the community aware of the importance of these policies and how they can be implemented at the state and city level.

She says it's also important to make policymakers aware of the impact of long term unemployment on the Black community.

"We want to make sure Black unemployment doesn't fall off the radar," says Purcell. "When the Oregon unemployment rate is 9.5 percent for the general population and 18 percent in our community, it calls for a targeted approach."

Just One in Four With HIV Have Infection Under Control

Mike Stobbe AP Medical Writer

Only about 1 in 4 Americans with the AIDS virus have the infection under control with medications, federal health officials said Tuesday.

Part of the reason is that about 20 percent of those infected with HIV don't know it. People can have an infection for years without developing symptoms.

CDC also announced Tuesday a \$2.4 million campaign to encourage HIV testing. It's the government's first campaign aimed specifically at black gay and bisexual men, who account for nearly a quarter

of all new HIV infections in the country.

An infection was once a death sentence, but medications that have been available for 15 years can turn it into a manageable condition, allowing those infected to live longer and healthier lives.

However, in its first study of the issue, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found only a small fraction of people are being successfully treated.

"The big picture is we could do a lot better than we're doing today," said Dr. Thomas Frieden, the CDC's director.

Of the nearly 1.2 million people with HIV, only about 40 percent are getting

HIV-fighting medications regularly. Worse, only 28 percent have gotten the virus to low levels in their blood.

That translates to roughly 850,000 Americans who don't have the virus controlled, Frieden said.

Success rates were lowest in blacks and women, the CDC found.

There are various reasons why more people aren't doing better, health officials said. Some were still early in their treatment, when the virus hadn't been beaten down to low levels yet. Some dropped routine care because of money or other obstacles. Some didn't stick with it for

other, more personal reasons. And, in a small percentage of cases, the medicine may not have worked.

The HIV virus can cause AIDS, an illness that destroys the body's immune system and causes about 16,000 deaths annually. In the , the number of new infections each year has held steady in recent years, at about 50,000.

The good news is that once HIV-infected people get plugged into medical care, the drugs bring the virus under control nearly 80 percent of the time, health officials said.