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From today's Advance.

# Report: Even in good times, black New Yorkers still trail whites

by Associated Press  
Thursday November 29, 2007, 6:22 PM

Like most New Yorkers, blacks have benefited from the city's economic recovery, but the boom times haven't helped close the gap with whites, according to a report published today.

The Black Equity Alliance and New York Urban League analyzed 11 categories of urban life in their annual study of the state of black New York, and said they found relatively little to celebrate in terms of advancement for blacks over the past few years.

"The thing that jumps out is the lack of significant progress in equity, in every area," said Dr. Billy Jones, chairman of the Black Equity Alliance. "It is impossible to have worked on this without arriving at the conclusion that not enough ground has been made up."

The unemployment rate for blacks last year was more than double what it was for non-Hispanic whites, at a ratio virtually unchanged in the past six years, the report said.

Whites continue to dominate better-paying jobs in the construction trades and fill the overwhelming majority of seats on the boards that oversee the city's top employers and most important institutions.

Black homeowners, on average, continued to pay higher interest rates on their mortgages, while poor black renters spent a higher percentage of their income on housing than poor whites.

Blacks also suffered disproportionately from heart attacks, strokes,

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diabetes, asthma, HIV and a long list of other illnesses, the report said.

The groups offered a range of proposals to attack the gap, ranging from encouraging the city's construction unions to recruit more black apprentices, to easing the transition for black ex-cons being released from prison.

"When you limit where someone can live, and you severely limit where they can work, its just a boomerang back to the prison system," said New York Urban League President Darwin Davis.

The League and the Alliance prepared the report using data collected from a variety of sources, including government agencies, nonprofit groups and various research entities.

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