

A Message from the Chairman and the President

The year 2004 was a year of growth and transition for the Joint Center. We said a grateful and admiring farewell to the Joint Center's long time President — and now President Emeritus — Eddie N. Williams and entered a new era in the life of the Joint Center.



Elliott S. Hall
Chairman of the Board

Our new Health Policy Institute released a series of health publications that drew a sharp focus on the ways community environments must be changed — by community action and broader policy reforms — so that the gap in health status between people of color and the rest of America can begin to be closed. The Health Policy Institute will continue to tackle unaddressed policy needs so as to bring about the greatest change on the ground, measured in the improved lives of communities of color.

Achieving progress at the community level was a theme in much of our work throughout the year. We succeeded in multiplying the value of DataBank, our online statistical warehouse, so that citizen web users can draw from it a stream of information about their geographic communities. And in the area of racial justice and race relations, we completed an innovative project that pulled together hundreds of community-based racial justice organizations and enabled them, in many cases for the first time, to talk to one another about ways of working interdependently, building on their diverse strengths.

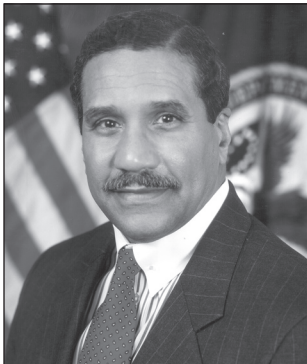
In this presidential election year the Joint Center continued its tradition of casting a spotlight on the issues and platform positions of greatest moment to the minority electorate. We surveyed both the major party presidential candidates as well as incumbent black elected officials at all levels to ascertain their views on such topics as Medicaid reform, and reported the results widely. We sustained our quadrennial practice of tracking African American convention delegates to both major party conventions, making that information as well as daily reports from the convention floor readily available to our expanding audience of web readers. And, our traditional pre Presidential election national opinion poll accurately forecasted the marked increase in support for the President among African Americans that was ultimately reflected in the election night results.

Throughout the year, we have been deeply grateful to the many donors and foundations, corporations, individuals, and government agencies for their financial support of our endeavors and for their counsel and encouragement. We are also grateful to our Board of Governors, which not only sets policy for the institution but helps us think substantively and creatively about problem solving.

As we close out one chapter in the 35-year history of the Joint Center, we begin another. In this next installment we will, of course, emphasize the continuing nature of the Joint Center's commitment of support to black elected officials, regular polling on issues of concern to African Americans and examination of the impact of national policies on the ability of individuals and communities to participate in the national economic life.

At the same time, we can be expected to review our programs and activities to understand where adjustments can be made and new and valuable initiatives undertaken. Some are already underway: we are reinvigorating our international activities and will determine where additional investment in effort and funding may yield beneficial results; we are concerned that better advantage for the public good be taken of the experience and expertise acquired by our former members of Congress and other elected officials once they leave office; we are examining the efficacy of a potential new public policy institute within the Joint Center; and there is much more.

This is an ambitious agenda, but the Joint Center has always insisted that to achieve worthwhile objectives an organization — or a nation — must extend its reach beyond normal expectations. In all this we at the Joint Center know that we will need and can count upon your support.



Togo D. West, Jr.
President and
Chief Executive Officer

A stylized, handwritten signature of Elliott S. Hall in dark ink.

Elliott S. Hall
Chairman, Board of Governors

A stylized, handwritten signature of Togo D. West, Jr. in dark ink.

Togo D. West, Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Our Programs

2004

Informing the Electorate; Counting the Vote

Since 2004 was a Presidential election year, a significant proportion of the Joint Center's work focused on informing the public on the issues and documenting African Americans' participation in the election, as candidates, party delegates, or voters. In addition to producing the Democratic and Republican convention guides as has been done in the past, the Joint Center introduced several new products during the year.

For the first time, the Joint Center surveyed the two major Presidential candidates on issues of special concern to African American voters. A 46-question survey was sent to President Bush and Senator Kerry during the summer. Both candidates' responses were compiled and a report summarizing their answers was distributed at a special forum held during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference. It was also posted on our website, along with the full sets of responses from the candidates.

The 2004 National Opinion Poll was fielded in September and initial findings were released at a press briefing on October 19, 2004. The report received a great deal of attention due to findings concerning increased support for President Bush and African Americans' attitudes on campaign issues such as gay marriage. The Joint Center subsequently documented the election outcomes, including the election of an African American state auditor in Vermont, a new African American Senator in Illinois, and the increase in the number of African Americans in the U.S. House of Representatives from 39 to 43.

A special website section on Election 2004, featured prominently on the Joint Center's homepage enabled the Joint Center's audiences to access a variety of information, including reports and analyses discussed above.

In addition to election-focused work, the Joint Center worked with the New York Academy of Medicine to host a forum and release a report on *Redefining Readiness: Terrorism Planning Through the Eyes of the Public*. The study findings identified the public's perceptions and likely reactions to government plans for responding to terrorist events such as a dirty bomb or the release of smallpox at a major airport. Joint Center staff had contributed to the study through survey design and interpretation of the African American population's concerns and views.

Financial Supporters: W. K. Kellogg Foundation, General support donors.

Promoting Economic Advancement

Gainful employment is an important factor in the economic well-being of African Americans. The Joint Center completed several studies in 2004 related to improving employment opportunity for members of the African American community. The second volume on the Black Worker in the 21st Century, *Building Skills for Black Workers: Preparing for the Future Labor Market*, was released in May. Given the likelihood that workers will face several career changes over their work lives, a substantial portion of the labor force will need access to different types of training. This volume explores the extent to which African Americans have access to quality in-school education, government training programs, and employer-provided opportunities. The authors of the various chapters also identify strategies that will improve access to the training African Americans will need to advance their careers.

Employment opportunities in specific occupations and industries were also explored through various studies conducted in 2004. *Meeting the Workforce Development Needs of Community-Based*

Health Facilities: A Toolkit, identified strategies that health centers can use to attract, hire and retain competent staff. This document builds on earlier work around the nexus of health care and economic development. Work also continued on the implications of industrial change on black workers with analysis of the job gains and losses experienced by African Americans in the high-tech sectors of 25 large metropolitan areas. An article in the November/December issue of FOCUS summarized some of this work and identified several programs that assist in skill development for these important job opportunities.

Financial Supporters: Alcoa Foundation, Annie E. Casey Foundation, General support donors.

Assessing Knowledge, Informing Policy

The Joint Center addressed two important issues by surveying special groups and using the findings to identify issues on which policymakers could be better informed. Analysis was completed on the findings of a survey of minority business owners on their willingness to employ ex-felons. The findings from the study were summarized in a special issue of FOCUS on criminal justice issues (May/June) and highlighted at a June forum held on Capitol Hill.

The second area in which a special survey was a critical element of our work was Medicaid. In 2004, the Joint Center conducted a sample survey of black elected officials on their knowledge and perceptions about access to pharmaceuticals among their constituents who are eligible to be Medicaid beneficiaries. A particular focus was the perception of barriers to the receipt of appropriate medications, an important issue with the increased use of formulary lists by states. A summary of the study appeared in the November/December issue of FOCUS.



2004 Louis E. Martin Award Recipient Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Eddie N. Williams, and Alan J. Lacy, CEO of Sears, Roebuck and Co.

A longer report will appear on the Joint Center's website.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also play an important role in community life. This is particularly true in the area of race relations. The Joint Center built on prior work around racial reconciliation and racial justice through a series of forums held in four communities around the country. The purpose of the forums was to advance a process by which groups using different race relations and racial justice approaches can understand each other's work, discuss ways to leverage their different approaches, and promote accountability in order to increase their effectiveness in bridging racial and ethnic divisions and dismantling structural racism. The information for replicating this process in other communities was compiled and the resulting publication set for release in early 2005.

The Joint Center's assessment and information activities during 2004 were not confined to the United States. Our multi-year project done in partnership with Schools Health and Population Education (SHAPE), an NGO based in Swaziland, was completed. Working in collaboration with the Swazi Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and other stakeholders, SHAPE had formulated a four-point strategy for bringing about positive sexual behavior change

among in-school youth between the ages of 10 and 19. The Joint Center provided research design and evaluation support for the project, as well as capacity-building activities. A final assessment report on the activities and their impact on student behavior was completed in December and is available on the Joint Center's website.

Statistical information is often a critical ingredient in developing policy and assessing its effectiveness. The Joint

Center's DataBank was designed to provide data and statistical information for national and community audiences. During 2004, DataBank reached a milestone in the development of community level statistics with the creation of its first "hot reports"-interactive web pages that will allow users to replicate reports on an issue for their own localities and neighborhoods. When the hot report library is fully launched, organizations and individuals will be able to build community indicator systems for their cities and neighborhoods, allowing them to assess their community's social and economic status and determine its progress over time. DataBank also completed work on the accessibility and usability of Census data for community-based organizations, assessing the use of Census data by these groups and making recommendations to both data providers and users.

Financial Supporters: Annie E. Casey Foundation, Bristol Myers Squibb, Ford Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Open Society Institute, Pfizer, Inc, W. K. Kellogg Foundation, General support donors.



Martha's Vineyard event hosted by Board member Jacquelyn Shropshire, September 2, 2004, sponsored by Merrill Lynch. (L-R): President-elect Togo D. West, Jr. and Gail Berry West; Chairman Elliott S. Hall and Shirley Hall; President Eddie N. Williams and Jearline Williams.

Our Programs

2004

The Joint Center Health Policy Institute (HPI) was established in 2002 by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, with a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. Its mission:

To ignite a "Fair Health" movement that gives people of color the inalienable right to equal opportunity for healthy lives.

Why "Fair Health" as a movement?

By framing HPI's mission in terms of a Fair Health movement, we acknowledge the legacy of activism and coalition that underpin racial, political, and economic progress. Doing so also shifts the focus away from the list of health disparities to the desired outcome and implied action strategies.

Focus Areas

The goal of HPI is to help communities of color identify short- and long-term policy objectives and related activities in the following key areas:

- Identifying and addressing the economic, social, environmental and behavioral determinants that can lead to improved health outcomes.
- Increasing resource allocations for prevention, wellness and health promotion, as well as effective management of chronic illness.
- Informing the policy and practice of reducing infant mortality and improving child and maternal health.
- Reducing risk factors and supporting healthy behaviors among children and youth.
- Improving mental health and reducing factors that promote violence.
- Optimizing healthcare access and quality.
- Creating conditions for healthy aging and improving the quality of life for seniors.



Dr. Gail C. Christopher, Vice President for Health, Women and Families, and Dr. Margaret C. Simms, Vice President for Governance and Economic Analysis, welcome U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona.

Joint Center HPI's research, publications, activities, and projects are designed to accelerate our progress beyond listing and analyzing the litany of health disparities, toward collective strategies that produce real change.

Projects and Activities

Access to Pharmaceuticals *(in partnership with the Pfizer Corporation)*

The purpose of this project was to assess the knowledge of black elected officials (BEOs) about the impact of Medicaid regulations on the access to pharmaceuticals by program beneficiaries. A survey of a sample of 976 BEOs was conducted to assess their knowledge about state regulation of pharmaceutical access in the Medicaid program. Findings are to be disseminated to BEOs and other interested persons via the Joint Center's monthly magazine Focus and via the Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy Council (PEPC) of the Pfizer Corporation.

Community-based Approaches to Reducing Health Disparities *(in partnership with PolicyLink)*

This project was designed to develop a series of policy documents that would describe pressing health problems facing communities of color and identify solutions that could be pursued at the local level. Based on prior work completed, PolicyLink identified a preliminary set of health issues. Community leaders, elected officials and health professionals in communities with large ethnic populations were interviewed to determine which of the issues were of great concern in their communities. Four policy documents were developed for discussion at a spring forum that included state and local elected officials, federal government officials, community leaders, policy analysts, and health professionals. Based on the feedback from the conference, a refined set of policy recommendations was developed for inclusion in the final published documents.

Informing Policy

(in collaboration with Families USA and others)

The purpose of this initiative was to analyze existing and proposed federal health policies in terms of their likely impact on African Americans and other underserved communities, both in terms of health outcomes and racial disparities in health. Staff reviewed legislation and proposed policies, prior analyses of program or policy impact, and made independent assessment of outcomes. Two issue briefs were completed in this program year, one for distribution at the annual meeting of an influential black fraternity and the other, joint with Families, that was distributed widely among black elected officials.

Men of Color

(in collaboration with AHRQ)

The purpose of this project was to develop materials for policy influentials about the health of men of color. Men of color (men who are African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian American, Hispanic, and Native



Joint Center Senior Research Associate, Dr. David A. Bositis

Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander) are a population grouping whose health often is less robust than that of white men but whose health concerns do not necessarily receive the attention warranted to help improve it. Using data tabulations generated for the Congressionally mandated annual National Health Disparities Report prepared by the Agency for Healthcare Research and

Quality (AHRQ) and other source materials, the Joint Center prepared both an issue brief and a report about the health of men of color. These materials were produced as part of a collaboration between AHRQ and the Joint Center, and, after this research was completed, Joint Center staff attended and participated in a roundtable about the health of men of color at the Department of Health and Human Services. Both documents have been disseminated via targeted mailings and at numerous events organized by the Joint Center's Health Policy Institute.

Christine Naylor, Joint Center Vice President and Elliott S. Hall, Chairman, Board of Governors



Oral Health

This project was designed to be responsive to the Surgeon General's Call to Action on Oral Health by developing a case statement and a set of recommendations directed toward improving the oral health of a group that ranks at the bottom on measures of oral health-African American males. An expert advisory committee including dental practitioners, government officials, academics, policy analysts, and others was identified and convened to develop a statement. Consultants gathered information on problems and proposed solutions to reducing disparities between African American males and others.

2004 Finances

JOINT CENTER FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES, INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2004 (WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2003)				
	GENERAL OPERATING FUNDS	ENDOWMENT FUNDS	TOTAL 2004	2003
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 249,644	\$828,559	\$1,078,203	\$1,103,622
Investments	3,942,498	5,066,875	9,009,373	9,147,997
Grants receivable	359,135	-	359,135	611,108
Other receivables	-	-	-	79,930
Pledges receivable	9,750	-	9,750	34,100
Accrued interest receivable	-	22,212	22,212	22,286
Prepaid expenses and advances	39,382	-	39,382	55,155
Total assets	\$4,600,409	\$5,917,646	\$10,518,055	\$11,054,198
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
LIABILITIES:				
Accounts payable	\$236,157	-	\$236,157	\$1,056,846
Accrued salaries, benefits, and taxes	718,527	-	718,527	242,081
Other accrued liabilities	26,201	-	26,201	17,052
Unearned grant revenue	27,743	-	27,743	145,930
Total liabilities	\$1,008,628	-	\$1,008,628	\$1,461,909
NET ASSETS:				
Unrestricted	(1,827,382)	1,683,132	(144,250)	(749,659)
Temporarily restricted	5,419,163	-	5,419,163	5,107,434
Permanently restricted	-	4,234,514	4,234,514	5,234,514
Total net assets	3,591,781	5,917,646	9,509,427	9,592,289
Total liabilities and net assets	\$4,600,409	\$5,917,646	\$10,518,055	\$11,054,198

The balance sheets and statements of activities for 2004 and 2003 are summarized on these pages. At the end of each year, the auditors present to the board the audited financial statements and an evaluation of our internal financial controls.

Copies of the complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

Finances

JOINT CENTER FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES, INC.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004
(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2003)

	UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	TOTAL 2004	2003
Revenue, Gains and Support					
Grants and contributions	\$ 481,770	\$2,268,248	\$	\$2,750,018	\$6,572,884
Fundraising	1,554,418	-	-	1,554,418	853,964
Investment income	708,633	-	-	708,633	591,918
Gain on foreign currency translation	6,558	-	-	6,558	25,150
Dues, fees and other income	139,143	-	-	139,143	64,830
Subtotal	2,890,522	2,268,248	-	5,158,770	8,108,746
Net assets released from restriction	2,956,519	(1,956,519)	(1,000,000)	-	-
Total revenue, gains and support	5,847,041	311,729	(1,000,000)	5,158,770	8,108,746
Expenses					
Program services					
Research Programs:					
Economic Advancement	395,901	-	-	395,901	539,405
Health Policy Institute	1,590,171	-	-	1,590,171	532,199
Data Bank	397,514	-	-	397,514	454,584
Political Participation Studies	407,400	-	-	407,400	486,909
Network of Alliance Bridging Race and Ethnicity	-	-	-	-	365,466
International Affairs	225,837	-	-	225,837	1,380,455
Communications and Marketing	955,872	-	-	955,872	648,660
Total program services	3,972,695	-	-	3,972,695	4,407,678
Supporting Services					
Management and administration, net	700,941	-	-	700,941	577,966
Fundraising	896,206	-	-	896,206	799,760
Total supporting services	1,597,147	-	-	1,597,147	1,377,726
Total expenses	5,569,842	-	-	5,569,842	5,785,404
Change in net assets	277,199	311,729	(1,000,000)	(411,072)	2,323,342
Net assets, beginning of year	(749,659)	5,107,434	5,234,514	9,592,289	7,268,947
Prior period adjustment	328,210	-	-	328,210	-
Net assets, end of year	\$(144,250)	\$5,419,163	\$4,234,514	\$9,509,427	\$9,592,289

2004 Publications & Events

African Americans and the Democratic National Convention
David A. Bositis

African Americans and the Republican National Convention
David A. Bositis

*Building Skills for Black Workers: Preparing for the Future Labor Market
(The Black Worker in the 21st Century, Volume II)*
Cecilia Conrad, editor

*Comparison of the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act
and Closing the Health Care Gap Act of 2004*
Joint Center Health Policy Institute

Cultivating Interdependence
Maggie Potapchuk

Evaluation Report on the Swaziland In-School Youth HIV and AIDS Prevention Programme
Copublished by the Joint Center and The Schools Health and Population Education (SHAPE)

Factors Affecting the Health of Men of Color in the United States
Wilhelmina A. Leigh

Factors Affecting the Health of Men of Color in the United States: An Overview (Issue Brief)
Wilhelmina A. Leigh

Meeting the Workforce Development Needs of Community-Based Health Facilities: A Toolkit
Wilhelmina A. Leigh, Kelley D. Coleman, and Julia L. Andrews

Visible Differences: Improving the Oral Health of African American Males
Joint Center Health Policy Institute

Copublished by the Joint Center Health Policy Institute and Families USA
Presidential Candidates' Health Initiative: Implications for African Americans

Copublished by the Joint Center Health Policy Institute and PolicyLink:
Building Stronger Communities for Better Health
Breathing Easier: Community-Based Strategies to Prevent Asthma
A Place for Healthier Living: Improving Access to Physical Activity and Healthy Food
Community-Based Strategies for Improving Latino Health

Internet

National Opinion Poll: Politics and the 2004 Election
David A. Bositis

DataBank Fact Sheet Updates:
“Children’s Living Arrangements and Characteristics”
“Consumer Expenditures”
“Educational Attainment”
“Family and Household Structure”
“Health”
“Social Security”
“Voting and Registration”

Roderick Harrison and Cassandra Cantave
On the Issues: Where Do the Presidential Candidates Stand?
Michael R. Wenger

Events

Joint Center Annual Dinner and “Louis E. Martin Great American” Award * Washington, D.C., April

Community-Based Approaches to Reducing Health Disparities * Forum, Washington, D.C., May

“Visible Differences: Improving the Oral Health of African American Males” * Press conference, Washington, D.C., June

“Ex-Offenders in the Workplace” * Forum, Washington, D.C., June

Martha’s Vineyard Reception * September

“On the Issues: Where Do the Presidential Candidates Stand?” * Forum, Washington, D.C., September

“Preparing Today’s Youth for Tomorrow’s World” * Forum, Washington, D.C., September

Joint Center/New York Academy of Medicine, “Redefining Readiness: Terrorism Planning Through the Eyes of the Public” * Forum, Washington, D.C., September

Joint Center 2004 National Opinion Poll * Press conference, Washington, D.C., October

Second Annual Joint Center & Harrah’s Celebrity Charity Golf Classic * Las Vegas, NV., October 29-November

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Empowering People

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The work of the Joint Center is made possible by support from foundations, corporations, individuals, labor unions, and other organizations. We would like to extend our thanks to the following 2004 contributors for their confidence as well as their generosity.

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