



The Annual Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative



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Visiting a barbershop in one of the following fifteen Indiana cities on a Saturday in April could mean more than just getting a haircut; it might save your life! The Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) in conjunction with local commissions, Telamon Medical Solutions, and community partners will be providing free health screenings and education at more than 50 barbershops from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.

The Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative seeks to enlighten African American men to better understand their health through free screenings and education. The Initiative chose to provide health information and free screenings in an environment African American men are comfortable with, black-owned barbershops, which represent a cultural institution of familiarity and trust.

Chairman Kenneth Allen stated, "Our eating habits and lack of trust in the medical industry has caused us to dig our graves with knives and forks. Heart disease, stroke and hypertension are the leading causes of death for black men. The Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative allows especially black men, to get checked out early increasing longevity while saving lives. The ICSSBM is truly thankful for all our partners, sponsors, and participating barbershops in Indiana".

The free health screenings are conducted using Telamon's statwatch™, the Population Health Screening Solution, which is a 4G enabled tablet, mobile application, and medical device toolkit. The Initiative uses statwatch™ to collect vital sign readings including BMI (measured weight with self-reported height), blood pressure, and blood glucose as well as responses to health risk assessment and social data surveys.

This is the seventh year for the annual Initiative. In 2016, the initiative expanded from one Saturday in April to utilizing all Saturdays in April. To learn more about Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative, to view a complete list of participating barbershops, or to become a medical or non-medical volunteer, please go to www.in.gov/icssbm.

Participating cities include: Bloomington, East Chicago, Elkhart, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Gary, Hammond, Indianapolis, Jeffersonville, Kokomo, Merrillville, Michigan City, New Albany, South Bend, and Terre Haute.

The Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males was legislatively established in 1993, to identify and recommend public and legislative remedies to improve the economic, educational, health, criminal justice, and social status of Black males in Indiana. The mission of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males is to study the social conditions of the state's Black male population, seek to develop strategies to remedy or assist in remedying serious adversities, and make recommendations to improve the educational, social, economic, employment, and other circumstances for Hoosiers.

