

# The Black Population: 2000

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## Census 2000 Brief

C2KBR/01-5

By  
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Census 2000 showed that the United States population on April 1, 2000 was 281.4 million. Of the total, 36.4 million, or 12.9 percent, reported Black or African American. This number includes 34.7 million people, or 12.3 percent, who reported only Black in addition to 1.8 million people, or 0.6 percent, who reported Black as well as one or more other races. The term Black is used in the text of this report to refer to the Black or African American population, while Black or African American is used in the text tables and graphs. Census 2000 asked separate questions on race and Hispanic or Latino origin. Hispanics who reported their race as Black, either alone or in combination with one or more other races, are included in the numbers for Blacks.

This report, part of a series that analyzes population and housing data collected from Census 2000, provides a portrait of the Black population in the United States and discusses its distribution at both the national and subnational levels. It is based on the Census 2000 Redistricting Data

<sup>1</sup> In this report, the term "reported" is used to refer to the answers provided by respondents, as well as responses assigned during the editing and imputation processes.

Figure 1.

### Reproduction of the Question on Race From Census 2000

6. What is this person's race? Mark  one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.

White

Black, African Am., or Negro

American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe. ↗

\_\_\_\_\_

Asian Indian     Japanese     Native Hawaiian

Chinese     Korean     Guamanian or Chamorro

Filipino     Vietnamese     Samoan

Other Asian — Print race. ↗     Other Pacific Islander — Print race. ↗

\_\_\_\_\_

Some other race — Print race. ↗

\_\_\_\_\_

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 questionnaire.

(Public Law 94-171) Summary File, which was among the first Census 2000 data products to be released and is used by each state to draw boundaries for legislative districts.<sup>2</sup>

The term "Black or African American" refers to people having origins in any of the Black race groups of Africa. It includes people who reported "Black, African Am., or Negro" or wrote in entries such as African American, Afro American, Nigerian, or Haitian.

Data on race has been collected since the first U.S. decennial census in 1790.

<sup>2</sup> This report discusses data for 50 states and the District of Columbia, but not Puerto Rico. The Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File was released on a state-by-state basis in March 2001.

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Blacks have been enumerated in every census.

### The question on race was changed for Census 2000.

For Census 2000, the question on race was asked of every individual living in the United States and responses reflect self-identification. Respondents were asked to report the race or races they considered themselves and other members of their households to be.

The question on race for Census 2000 was different from the one for the 1990 census in several ways. Most significantly, respondents were given the option of selecting one or more race categories to indicate their racial identities.<sup>3</sup>

Because of these changes, the Census 2000 data on race are not directly comparable with data from the 1990 census or earlier censuses. Caution must be used when interpreting changes in the racial composition of the United States population over time.

The Census 2000 question on race included 15 separate response categories and 3 areas where respondents could write in a more specific race (see Figure 1). The response categories and write-in answers were combined to create the five standard Office of Management and Budget race categories plus the Census Bureau category of “Some

other race.” The six race categories include:

- White;
- Black or African American;
- American Indian and Alaska Native;
- Asian;
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; and
- Some other race.

For a complete explanation of the race categories used in Census 2000, see the Census 2000 Brief, *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin*.<sup>4</sup>

### The data collected by Census 2000 on race can be divided into two broad categories: the race alone population and the race in combination population.

People who responded to the question on race by indicating only one race are referred to as the race *alone* population, or the group who reported *only one* race. For example, respondents who marked only the Black, African American, or Negro category on the census questionnaire would be included in the Black *alone* population.

Individuals who chose more than one of the six race categories are referred to as the race *in combination* population, or as the group who reported *more than one* race. For example, respondents who reported they were “Black or African American **and** White” or “Black or African American **and** Asian **and** American Indian and Alaska Native”<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000*, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-1, March 2001, is available on the U.S. Census Bureau’s Internet site at [www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html).

<sup>5</sup> The race in combination categories are denoted by quotations around the combinations with the conjunction **and** in bold and italicized print to indicate the separate races that comprise the combination.

would be included in the Black *in combination* population.

### The maximum number of people reporting Black is reflected in the Black alone or in combination category.

One way to define the Black population is to combine those respondents who reported only Black with those who reported Black as well as one or more other races. This creates the Black *alone or in combination* population. Another way to think of the Black *alone or in combination* population is the total number of people who identified entirely or partially as Black. This group is also described as people who reported Black, whether or not they reported any other races.

### The Black population: a snapshot.

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of respondents to Census 2000 who reported Black alone as well as those who reported Black and at least one other race.

In the total population, 34.7 million people, or 12.3 percent, reported only Black. An additional 1.8 million people reported Black and at least one other race. Within this group, the most common combinations were “Black **and** White” (45 percent), followed by “Black **and** Some other race” (24 percent), “Black **and** American Indian and Alaska Native” (10 percent), and “Black **and** White **and** American Indian and Alaska Native” (6 percent). These four combination categories accounted for 85 percent of all Blacks who reported two or more races. Thus, 36.4 million, or 12.9 percent of the total population, reported Black alone or in combination with one or more other races.

<sup>3</sup> Other changes included terminology and formatting changes, such as spelling out “American” instead of “Amer.” for the American Indian and Alaska Native category and adding “Native” to the Hawaiian response category. In the layout of the Census 2000 questionnaire, the seven Asian response categories were alphabetized and grouped together, as were the four Pacific Islander categories after the Native Hawaiian category. The three separate American Indian and Alaska Native identifiers in the 1990 census (i.e., Indian (Amer.), Eskimo, and Aleut) were combined into a single identifier in Census 2000. Also, American Indians and Alaska Natives could report more than one tribe.

Table 1.  
**Black or African American Population: 2000**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

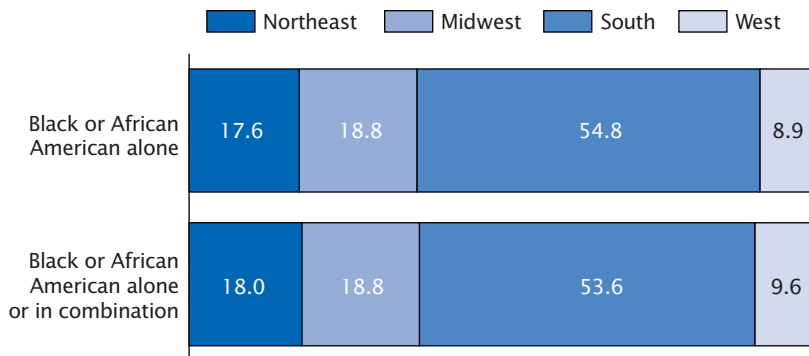
Race	Number	Percent of total population
<b>Total population</b> .....	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Black or African American alone or in combination with one or more other races .....	36,419,434	12.9
Black or African American alone .....	34,658,190	12.3
Black or African American in combination with one or more other races .....	1,761,244	0.6
Black or African American; White .....	784,764	0.3
Black or African American; Some other race .....	417,249	0.1
Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native .....	182,494	0.1
Black or African American; White; American Indian and Alaska Native .....	112,207	-
All other combinations including Black or African American .....	264,530	0.1
Not Black or African American alone or in combination with one or more other races .....	245,002,472	87.1

- Percentage rounds to 0.0.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1.

Figure 2.  
**Percent Distribution of the Black or African American Population by Region: 2000**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1.

**The Black population increased faster than the total population between 1990 and 2000.**

Because of the changes made to the question on race for Census 2000, there are at least two ways to present the change in the total number of Blacks in the United States. The difference in the Black population between 1990 and 2000 using the

race alone concept for 2000 and the difference in the Black population between 1990 and 2000 using the race alone or in combination concept for 2000 provides a “minimum-maximum” range for the change in the Black population between 1990 and 2000.

The 1990 census showed there were 30.0 million Blacks. Using the Black

alone population in 2000 shows an increase of 4.7 million, or 15.6 percent, in the total Black population between 1990 and 2000. If the Black alone or in combination population is used, an increase of 6.4 million, or 21.5 percent, results. Thus, from 1990 to 2000, the minimum-maximum range for the increase in the Black population was 15.6 percent to 21.5 percent. In comparison, the total population grew by 13.2 percent, from 248.7 million in 1990 to 281.4 million in 2000.

**THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE BLACK POPULATION**

The following discussion of the geographic distribution of the Black population focuses on the Black alone or in combination population. As the upper bound of the Black population, this group includes all respondents who reported Black, whether or not they reported any other race.<sup>6</sup> Hereafter in the text of this section, the term “Black” will be used to refer to those who reported Black, whether or not they reported any other race. However, in the tables and graphs, data for both the Black alone and the Black alone or in combination populations are shown.

**The majority of the Black population lived in the South.**

According to Census 2000, of all respondents who reported Black, 54 percent lived in the South (see Figure 2), 19 percent lived in the Midwest, 18 percent lived in the

<sup>6</sup> As a matter of policy, the Census Bureau does not advocate the use of the *alone or in combination* population over the *alone* population. The use of the *alone or in combination* population in this section does not imply that it is a preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. It is only one of many ways that the data on race from Census 2000 can be presented and discussed.

Table 2.  
**Black or African American Population for the United States, Regions, and States, and for Puerto Rico: 1990 and 2000**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Area	1990			2000					
	Total population	Black or African American population		Total population	Black or African American alone population		Black or African American alone or in combination population		Black or African American in combination population only as a percent of Black or African American alone or in combination population
		Number	Percent of total population		Number	Percent of total population	Number	Percent of total population	
<b>United States . . . .</b>	<b>248,709,873</b>	<b>29,980,996</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>34,658,190</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>36,419,434</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>Region</b>									
Northeast . . . . .	50,809,229	5,613,222	11.0	53,594,378	6,099,881	11.4	6,556,909	12.2	7.0
Midwest . . . . .	59,668,632	5,715,940	9.6	64,392,776	6,499,733	10.1	6,838,669	10.6	5.0
South . . . . .	85,445,930	15,828,888	18.5	100,236,820	18,981,692	18.9	19,528,231	19.5	2.8
West . . . . .	52,786,082	2,828,010	5.4	63,197,932	3,076,884	4.9	3,495,625	5.5	12.0
<b>State</b>									
Alabama . . . . .	4,040,587	1,020,705	25.3	4,447,100	1,155,930	26.0	1,168,998	26.3	1.1
Alaska . . . . .	550,043	22,451	4.1	626,932	21,787	3.5	27,147	4.3	19.7
Arizona . . . . .	3,665,228	110,524	3.0	5,130,632	158,873	3.1	185,599	3.6	14.4
Arkansas . . . . .	2,350,725	373,912	15.9	2,673,400	418,950	15.7	427,152	16.0	1.9
California . . . . .	29,760,021	2,208,801	7.4	33,871,648	2,263,882	6.7	2,513,041	7.4	9.9
Colorado . . . . .	3,294,394	133,146	4.0	4,301,261	165,063	3.8	190,717	4.4	13.5
Connecticut . . . . .	3,287,116	274,269	8.3	3,405,565	309,843	9.1	339,078	10.0	8.6
Delaware . . . . .	666,168	112,460	16.9	783,600	150,666	19.2	157,152	20.1	4.1
District of Columbia . . . . .	606,900	399,604	65.8	572,059	343,312	60.0	350,455	61.3	2.0
Florida . . . . .	12,937,926	1,759,534	13.6	15,982,378	2,335,505	14.6	2,471,730	15.5	5.5
Georgia . . . . .	6,478,216	1,746,565	27.0	8,186,453	2,349,542	28.7	2,393,425	29.2	1.8
Hawai . . . . .	1,108,229	27,195	2.5	1,211,537	22,003	1.8	33,343	2.8	34.0
Idaho . . . . .	1,006,749	3,370	0.3	1,293,953	5,456	0.4	8,127	0.6	32.9
Illinois . . . . .	11,430,602	1,694,273	14.8	12,419,293	1,876,875	15.1	1,937,671	15.6	3.1
Indiana . . . . .	5,544,159	432,092	7.8	6,080,485	510,034	8.4	538,015	8.8	5.2
Iowa . . . . .	2,776,755	48,090	1.7	2,926,324	61,853	2.1	72,512	2.5	14.7
Kansas . . . . .	2,477,574	143,076	5.8	2,688,418	154,198	5.7	170,610	6.3	9.6
Kentucky . . . . .	3,685,296	262,907	7.1	4,041,769	295,994	7.3	311,878	7.7	5.1
Louisiana . . . . .	4,219,973	1,299,281	30.8	4,468,976	1,451,944	32.5	1,468,317	32.9	1.1
Maine . . . . .	1,227,928	5,138	0.4	1,274,923	6760	0.5	9,553	0.7	29.2
Maryland . . . . .	4,781,468	1,189,899	24.9	5,296,486	1,477,411	27.9	1,525,036	28.8	3.1
Massachusetts . . . . .	6,016,425	300,130	5.0	6,349,097	343,454	5.4	398,479	6.3	13.8
Michigan . . . . .	9,295,297	1,291,706	13.9	9,938,444	1,412,742	14.2	1,474,613	14.8	4.2
Minnesota . . . . .	4,375,099	94,944	2.2	4,919,479	171,731	3.5	202,972	4.1	15.4
Mississippi . . . . .	2,573,216	915,057	35.6	2,844,658	1,033,809	36.3	1,041,708	36.6	0.8
Missouri . . . . .	5,117,073	548,208	10.7	5,595,211	629,391	11.2	655,377	11.7	4.0
Montana . . . . .	799,065	2,381	0.3	902,195	2,692	0.3	4,441	0.5	39.4
Nebraska . . . . .	1,578,385	57,404	3.6	1,711,263	68,541	4.0	75,833	4.4	9.6
Nevada . . . . .	1,201,833	78,771	6.6	1,998,257	135,477	6.8	150,508	7.5	10.0
New Hampshire . . . . .	1,109,252	7,198	0.6	1,235,786	9,035	0.7	12,218	1.0	26.1
New Jersey . . . . .	7,730,188	1,036,825	13.4	8,414,350	1,141,821	13.6	1,211,750	14.4	5.8
New Mexico . . . . .	1,515,069	30,210	2.0	1,819,046	34,343	1.9	42,412	2.3	19.0
New York . . . . .	17,990,455	2,859,055	15.9	18,976,457	3,014,385	15.9	3,234,165	17.0	6.8
North Carolina . . . . .	6,628,637	1,456,323	22.0	8,049,313	1,737,545	21.6	1,776,283	22.1	2.2
North Dakota . . . . .	638,800	3,524	0.6	642,200	3,916	0.6	5,372	0.8	27.1
Ohio . . . . .	10,847,115	1,154,826	10.6	11,353,140	1,301,307	11.5	1,372,501	12.1	5.2
Oklahoma . . . . .	3,145,585	233,801	7.4	3,450,654	260,968	7.6	284,766	8.3	8.4
Oregon . . . . .	2,842,321	46,178	1.6	3,421,399	55,662	1.6	72,647	2.1	23.4
Pennsylvania . . . . .	11,881,643	1,089,795	9.2	12,281,054	1,224,612	10.0	1,289,123	10.5	5.0
Rhode Island . . . . .	1,003,464	38,861	3.9	1,048,319	46,908	4.5	58,051	5.5	19.2
South Carolina . . . . .	3,486,703	1,039,884	29.8	4,012,012	1,185,216	29.5	1,200,901	29.9	1.3
South Dakota . . . . .	696,004	3,258	0.5	754,844	4,685	0.6	6,687	0.9	29.9
Tennessee . . . . .	4,877,185	778,035	16.0	5,689,283	932,809	16.4	953,349	16.8	2.2
Texas . . . . .	16,986,510	2,021,632	11.9	20,851,820	2,404,566	11.5	2,493,057	12.0	3.5
Utah . . . . .	1,722,850	11,576	0.7	2,233,169	17,657	0.8	24,382	1.1	27.6
Vermont . . . . .	562,758	1,951	0.3	608,827	3,063	0.5	4,492	0.7	31.8
Virginia . . . . .	6,187,358	1,162,994	18.8	7,078,515	1,390,293	19.6	1,441,207	20.4	3.5
Washington . . . . .	4,866,692	149,801	3.1	5,894,121	190,267	3.2	238,398	4.0	20.2
West Virginia . . . . .	1,793,477	56,295	3.1	1,808,344	57,232	3.2	62,817	3.5	8.9
Wisconsin . . . . .	4,891,769	244,539	5.0	5,363,675	304,460	5.7	326,506	6.1	6.8
Wyoming . . . . .	453,588	3,606	0.8	493,782	3,722	0.8	4,863	1.0	23.5
<b>Puerto Rico . . . . .</b>	<b>3,522,037</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>3,808,610</b>	<b>302,933</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>416,296</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>27.2</b>

X Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1; 1990 Census of Population, *General Population Characteristics* (1990 CP-1).

Northeast, and 10 percent lived in the West.<sup>7</sup>

The South had the largest Black population, as well as the highest proportion of Blacks in its total population: 20 percent of all respondents in the South reported Black compared with 12 percent in the Northeast, 11 percent in the Midwest, and 6 percent in the West.

### **About three-fifths of all people who reported Black lived in ten states.**

The ten states with the largest Black populations in 2000 were New York, California, Texas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, North Carolina, Maryland, Michigan, and Louisiana (see Table 2). Combined, these states represented 58 percent of the total Black population, but only 49 percent of the total population. Five of these ten states had Black populations greater than 2 million: New York (3.2 million); California, Texas, and Florida (about 2.5 million each); and Georgia (2.4 million).

In the South, ten states (Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Maryland, Louisiana, Virginia, South Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi) had Black populations over one million and, when combined, they represented 47 percent of the Black population in the country.

<sup>7</sup> The South region includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The Midwest region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The Northeast region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The West region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

In six states, Blacks represented over 25 percent of the total population, and all of them were located in the South — Mississippi (37 percent); Louisiana (33 percent); South Carolina (30 percent); Georgia and Maryland (29 percent) each; and Alabama (26 percent). The District of Columbia, a state equivalent, had the highest proportion of Blacks with 61 percent.

In 13 states, Blacks represented less than 3 percent of the total population. Seven of those states were located in the West — Hawaii, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana; three in the Midwest — Iowa, South Dakota, and North Dakota; and three in the Northeast — New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont.

### **The Black population was concentrated in counties in the South.**

The Black population is still highly concentrated — 64 percent of all counties (3,141 counties) in the United States had fewer than 6 percent Black, but in 96 counties, Blacks comprised 50 percent or more of the total county population (see Figure 3). Ninety-five of those counties were located in the South and were distributed across the Coastal and Lowland South in a loose arc. With the notable exceptions of Baltimore city (a county equivalent) and Prince George's County, in Maryland, generally these counties were nonmetropolitan. St. Louis City, Missouri in the Midwest was the only county equivalent outside the South where Blacks exceeded 50 percent of the total population.

Concentrations of Blacks in the Midwest and West tended to be either in counties located within metropolitan areas or in counties containing universities or military bases or both. Metropolitan

concentrations tended to be in central counties containing older central cities.

Although Blacks were not as concentrated in Midwestern counties, in some metropolitan counties, such as around Chicago, Illinois; Gary, Indiana; and Detroit, Michigan, Blacks comprised a sizeable proportion of the population. In the Northeast, Blacks were concentrated in a band of counties extending from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Providence, Rhode Island and along the Hudson Valley northward from New York. Western counties with large concentrations of Blacks were located in Southern California, the San Francisco and Sacramento areas, around Denver and Colorado Springs, and in the Seattle and Tacoma area in Washington. Clark County, Nevada (Las Vegas area) also stood out distinctly from surrounding counties in Nevada, Utah, and Arizona.

### **The places with the largest Black populations were New York and Chicago.**

Census 2000 showed that, of all places<sup>8</sup> in the United States with populations of 100,000 or more, New York had the largest Black population with 2.3 million, followed by Chicago (1.1 million) as shown in Table 3. Three other places — Detroit, Philadelphia, and Houston — had Black populations between 500,000 and 1 million. Five of the ten places with the largest Black population — Baltimore, Houston, Memphis, Washington, DC, and New Orleans — were in the South.

<sup>8</sup> Census 2000 showed 245 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 238 incorporated places (including four city-county consolidations) and seven census designated places that were not legally incorporated. For a list of these places by state, see [www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html).



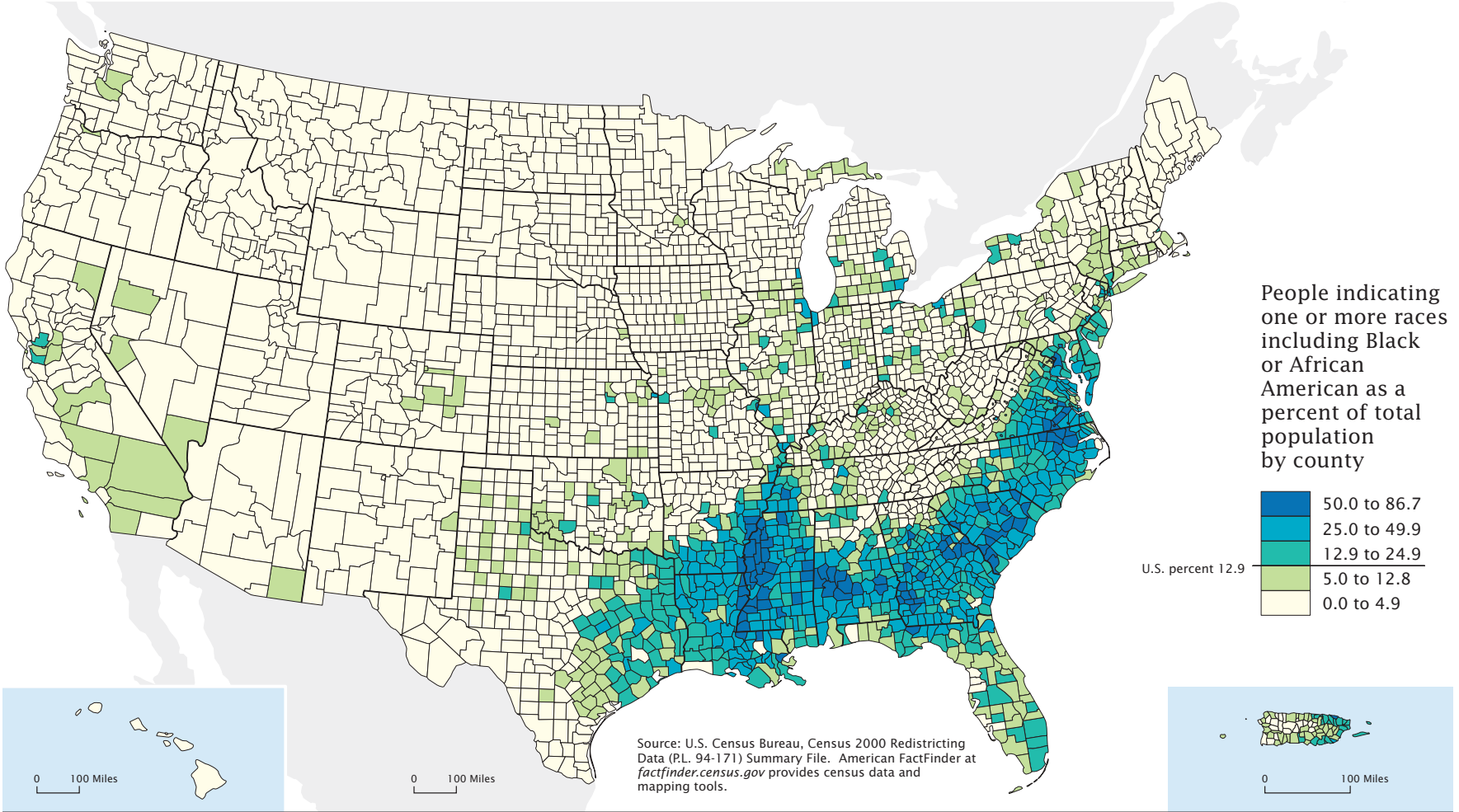
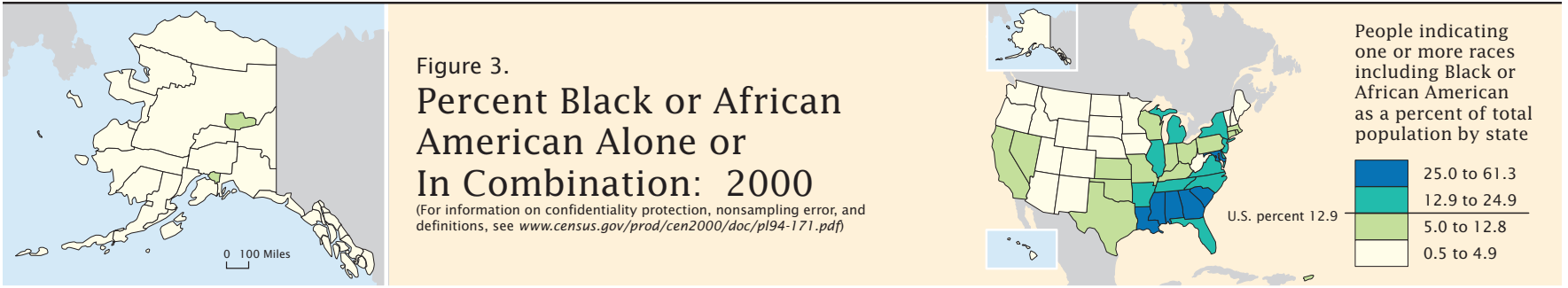


Table 3.  
**Ten Largest Places in Total Population and in Black or African American Population: 2000**

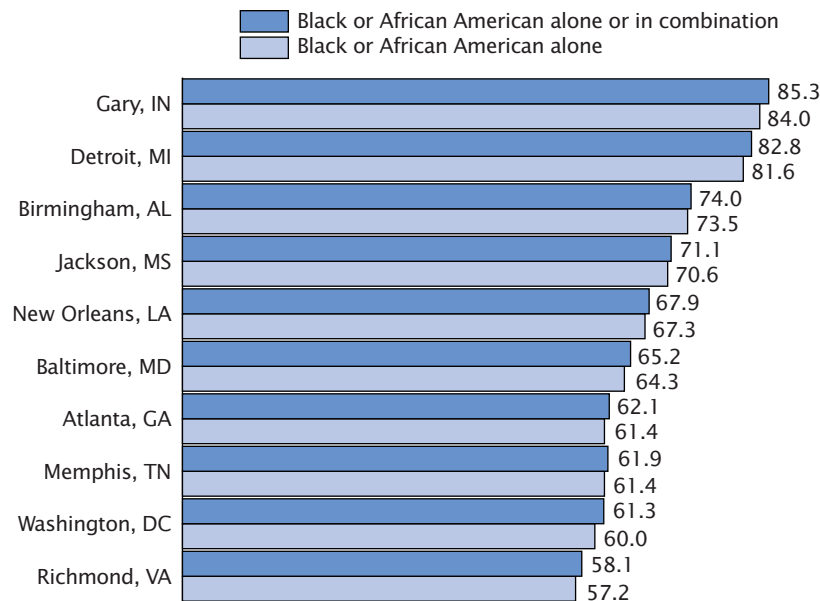
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Place	Total population		Black or African American alone		Black or African American alone or in combination		Percent of total population	
	Rank	Number	Rank	Number	Rank	Number	Black or African American alone	Black or African American alone or in combination
New York, NY.....	1	8,008,278	1	2,129,762	1	2,274,049	26.6	28.4
Los Angeles, CA.....	2	3,694,820	7	415,195	6	444,635	11.2	12.0
Chicago, IL.....	3	2,896,016	2	1,065,009	2	1,084,221	36.8	37.4
Houston, TX.....	4	1,953,631	5	494,496	5	505,101	25.3	25.9
Philadelphia, PA.....	5	1,517,550	4	655,824	4	672,162	43.2	44.3
Phoenix, AZ.....	6	1,321,045	60	67,416	53	76,065	5.1	5.8
San Diego, CA.....	7	1,223,400	36	96,216	32	109,470	7.9	8.9
Dallas, TX.....	8	1,188,580	11	307,957	11	314,678	25.9	26.5
San Antonio, TX.....	9	1,144,646	48	78,120	45	84,250	6.8	7.4
Detroit, MI.....	10	951,270	3	775,772	3	787,687	81.6	82.8
Baltimore, MD.....	17	651,154	6	418,951	7	424,449	64.3	65.2
Memphis, TN.....	18	650,100	8	399,208	8	402,367	61.4	61.9
Washington, DC.....	21	572,059	9	343,312	9	350,455	60.0	61.3
New Orleans, LA.....	31	484,674	10	325,947	10	329,171	67.3	67.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1.

Figure 4.  
**Ten Places of 100,000 or More Population With the Highest Percentage of Blacks or African Americans: 2000**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1.

Of the ten largest places in the United States, Detroit had the largest proportion of Blacks, 83 percent, followed by Philadelphia (44 percent), and Chicago (38 percent). Blacks represented less than 10 percent of the population in Phoenix (6 percent), San Antonio (7 percent), and San Diego (9 percent).

Two places — New York and Chicago — together accounted for 9 percent of the total Black population. The ten largest places for Blacks accounted for 20 percent of the total Black population.

Among places of 100,000 or more population, the highest proportion of Blacks was in Gary, Indiana, with 85 percent, followed by Detroit, Michigan with 83 percent (see Figure 4). The next eight places with the highest proportion of Blacks had populations over 58 percent Black. Of these 10 places,

Table 4.  
**Black or African American Population by Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Race and Hispanic or Latino origin	Alone			In combination with one or more other races			Alone or in combination with one or more other races		
	Number	Percent of total	Percent of Black or African American population	Number	Percent of total	Percent of Black or African American population	Number	Percent of total	Percent of Black or African American population
<b>Total population ..</b>	<b>274,595,678</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>6,826,228</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Black or African American .....	34,658,190	12.6	100.0	1,761,244	25.8	100.0	36,419,434	12.9	100.0
Hispanic or Latino .....	710,353	0.3	2.0	325,330	4.8	18.5	1,035,683	0.4	2.8
Not Hispanic or Latino ..	33,947,837	12.4	98.0	1,435,914	21.0	81.5	35,383,751	12.6	97.2

X Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Tables PL1 and PL2.

Table 5.  
**Most Frequent Combinations of Black or African American With One or More Other Races by Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Black or African American in combination	Total		Hispanic or Latino		Not Hispanic or Latino	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total number reporting Black or African American and one or more other races .....</b>	<b>1,761,244</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>325,330</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,435,914</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Black or African American; White .....	784,764	44.6	87,687	27.0	697,077	48.5
Black or African American; Some other race .....	417,249	23.7	161,283	49.6	255,966	17.8
Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native .....	182,494	10.4	14,472	4.4	168,022	11.7
Black or African American; White; American Indian and Alaska Native .....	112,207	6.4	18,046	5.5	94,161	6.6
Black or African American; Asian .....	106,782	6.1	7,269	2.2	99,513	6.9
Black or African American; White; Some other race ..	43,172	2.5	15,481	4.8	27,691	1.9
All other combinations including Black or African American .....	114,576	6.5	21,092	6.5	93,484	6.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Tables PL1 and PL2.

eight were in the South, and two were in the Midwest.

## ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ON THE BLACK POPULATION

### What proportion of respondents reporting Black also reported a Hispanic origin?

The Office of Management and Budget defines Hispanic or Latino as “a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.” In

data collection and presentation, federal agencies use two ethnicities: “Hispanic or Latino” and “Not Hispanic or Latino.” Race and ethnicity are considered two separate and distinct concepts by the federal system. Hispanics may be of any race, and Blacks can be Hispanic or not Hispanic.

According to Census 2000, the overwhelming majority of the Black population was non-Hispanic: 98 percent of those who reported only Black and 97 percent of those who reported Black and at least one

other race (see Table 4). However, only 82 percent of all respondents who reported Black in combination with one or more other races were non-Hispanic.

The Black non-Hispanic population represented 12.4 percent of people who reported exactly one race and about 12.6 percent of the total population. Of the 6.8 million people who reported two or more races, 21 percent were non-Hispanics who included Black as one of the races reported.



Table 6.  
**People Who Reported Black or African American by Age and Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Age and Hispanic or Latino origin	Black or African American alone or in combination with one or more races		Black or African American alone		Black or African American in combination with one or more races	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total . . . . .	36,419,434	100.0	34,658,190	95.2	1,761,244	4.8
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	1,035,683	100.0	710,353	68.6	325,330	31.4
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	35,383,751	100.0	33,947,837	95.9	1,435,914	4.1
Under 18 . . . . .	11,845,257	100.0	10,885,696	91.9	959,561	8.1
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	442,970	100.0	275,432	62.2	167,538	37.8
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	11,402,287	100.0	10,610,264	93.1	792,023	6.9
18 and over . . . . .	24,574,177	100.0	23,772,494	96.7	801,683	3.3
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	592,713	100.0	434,921	73.4	157,792	26.6
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	23,981,464	100.0	23,337,573	97.3	643,891	2.7

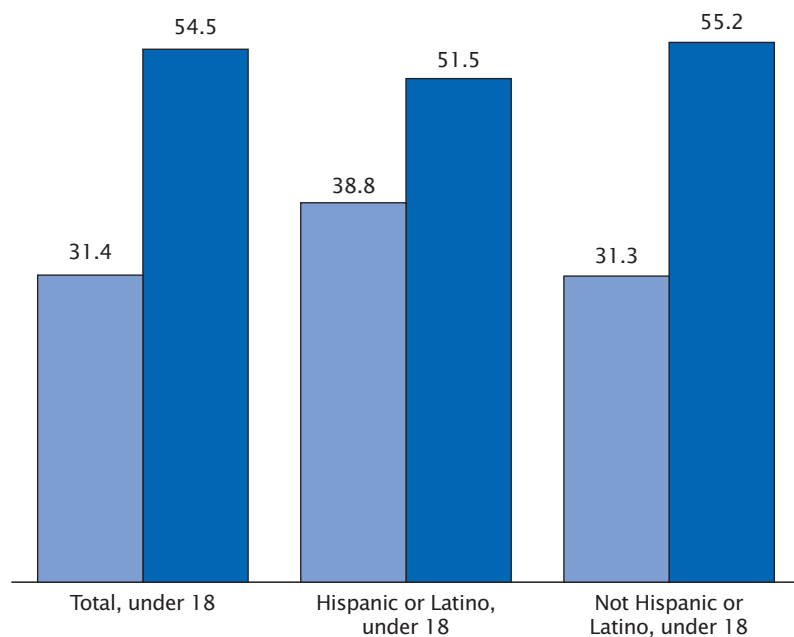
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Tables PL1, PL2, PL3, and PL4.

Figure 5.

**Percent Under Age 18 of People Who Reported Black or African American by Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

■ Black or African American alone  
 ■ Black or African American in combination with one or more other races



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Tables PL3 and PL4.

**Which other races were Black non-Hispanics most likely to report?**

Among Black non-Hispanics who reported more than one race, most indicated they were “Black or African American *and* White” (49 percent), followed by “Black or African American *and* Some other race” (18 percent), “Black or African American *and* American Indian and Alaska Native” (12 percent), and “Black or African American *and* Asian” (7 percent) as shown in Table 5. These four combination categories accounted for about 85 percent of all Black non-Hispanics who reported two or more races.

**Which other races were Black Hispanics most likely to report?**

Among Black Hispanics who reported more than one race, one-half indicated they were “Black or African American *and* Some other race,” followed by “Black or African American *and* White” (27 percent), “Black or African American *and*

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White **and** American Indian and Alaska Native” (6 percent), and “Black or African American **and** White **and** Some other race” (5 percent) as shown in Table 5.

### **Which group was more likely to report more than one race, Black non-Hispanics or Black Hispanics?**

Black Hispanics were more likely than Black non-Hispanics to report two or more races. According to Census 2000, 1.0 million people reported Black and Hispanic. Of those, 31 percent reported Black with one or more other races (see Table 6). In contrast, of the 35.4 million Blacks who reported as not Hispanic, only 4.1 percent reported at least one other race.

### **Were there differences in the age distribution between people who reported only Black or African American and people who reported Black or African American and one or more other races?**

People who reported Black as well as one or more other races were more likely to be under 18 than those reporting only Black (see Figure 5). Of the 1.8 million people who reported Black with at least one other race, 54 percent were under 18. This proportion is higher than the Black alone population. Of the 34.7 million people who reported only Black, 31 percent were under 18.

When the Black population is cross-tabulated by Hispanic origin, this pattern persists. For both Black non-Hispanics and Black Hispanics, a higher proportion of those reporting more than one race was under 18 when compared with those reporting Black alone. Among the 1.4 million Black non-Hispanics who reported more than one race, 55 percent were under 18. Of the 33.9 million people who reported

Black alone and not Hispanic, 31 percent were under 18. Similarly, among the 325,000 Black Hispanics who reported two or more races, 51 percent were under 18. Of the 710,000 Black Hispanics who reported one race, 39 percent were under 18.

## **ABOUT CENSUS 2000**

### **Why did Census 2000 ask the question on race?**

The Census Bureau collects data on race to fulfill a variety of legislative and program requirements. Data on race are used in the legislative redistricting process carried out by the States and in monitoring local jurisdictions’ compliance with the Voting Rights Act. These data are also essential for evaluating Federal programs that promote equal access to employment, education, and housing and for assessing racial disparities in health and exposure to environmental risks. More broadly, data on race are critical for research that underlies many policy decisions at all levels of government.

### **How do data from the question on race benefit me, my family, and my community?**

All levels of government need information on race to implement and evaluate programs, or enforce laws. Examples include: the Native American Programs Act, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Public Health Act, the Healthcare Improvement Act, the Job Partnership Training Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Census Redistricting Data Program.

Both public and private organizations use race information to find areas where groups may need special services and to plan and

implement education, housing, health, and other programs that address these needs. For example, a school system might use this information to design cultural activities that reflect the diversity in their community. Or a business could use it to select the mix of merchandise it will sell in a new store. Census information also helps identify areas where residents might need services of particular importance to certain racial or ethnic groups, such as screening for hypertension or diabetes.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information on race in the United States, visit the U.S. Census Bureau’s Internet site at [www.census.gov/population/www.socdemo/race.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www.socdemo/race.html).

Race data from the Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File were released on a state-by-state basis during March 2001. The Census 2000 Redistricting data are available on the Internet via [factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov) and for purchase on CD-ROM and later on DVD.

For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, also see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf) or contact our Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

For more information on specific races in the United States, go to [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) and click on “Minority Links.” This Web page includes information about Census 2000 and provides links to reports based on past censuses and surveys focusing on the social and economic characteristics of the Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander populations.

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Information on other population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Brief series, located on the U.S. Census Bureau's

Web site at [www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html). This series presents information about race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and other social, economic, and housing characteristics.

For more information about Census 2000, including data products, call our Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636), or e-mail [webmaster@census.gov](mailto:webmaster@census.gov).

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