

FOR RELEASE MARCH 25, 2021

The Growing Diversity of Black America

46.8 million people in the U.S. identify as Black

BY *Christine Tamir*

FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:

Mark Hugo Lopez, Director, Global Migration and Demography Research
Neil Ruiz, Associate Director, Global Migration and Demography Research
Tanya Arditi, Communications Manager

202.419.4372

www.pewresearch.org

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Pew Research Center, March, 2021

“The Growing Diversity of Black America”

About Pew Research Center

Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world. It does not take policy positions. The Center conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, content analysis and other data-driven social science research. It studies U.S. politics and policy; journalism and media; internet, science and technology; religion and public life; Hispanic trends; global attitudes and trends; and U.S. social and demographic trends. All of the Center's reports are available at www.pewresearch.org. Pew Research Center is a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder.

© Pew Research Center 2023

How we did this

The analysis presented in this report and the [accompanying fact sheet](#) about the Black population of the United States combines the latest data available from multiple data sources. It is mainly based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2006-2019 American Community Surveys (ACS) and the following U.S. decennial censuses provided through the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) from the University of Minnesota: 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970 (form 2), 1980, 1990 and 2000. The ACS is used to present demographic and economic characteristics for each group.

This data was collected before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table of Contents

About Pew Research Center	1
How we did this	2
Table of Contents	3
Terminology	4
The Growing Diversity of Black America	6
One-in-four Black people are members of Gen Z	9
Over half of the Black population lives in the South	11
A growing share of Black adults have a college degree	16
The Black immigrant population has grown in number and share	18
Black household incomes since 2000	19
Acknowledgments	21
Methodology	22
Detailed demographic and geographic data	22
Appendix: Additional table	23

Terminology

This report relies on self-identification of race and ethnicity in U.S. Census Bureau products (decennial censuses and iterations of the American Community Survey) to identify the nation's Black population. However, an individual's racial and ethnic self-identification may not be fixed and instead can [change over time](#). In addition, the racial and ethnic categories used by the U.S. Census Bureau [can change](#) as the way the nation sees itself changes (see the "Measuring ethnic and racial identity" section of this report for more details on census years). These changes may impact how many people identify as Black (or any other race).

Unless otherwise noted, **adults** are those who are ages 18 and older.

U.S. Black population or **total Black population** refers to all people who self-identify as Black in the United States. This includes those who say their race is only Black; those who say Black is one of two or more races in their background; and those who say their race is Black, or that one of their races is Black but also indicate they are of Hispanic or Latino or Black origin. The terms Black population and Black people are used interchangeably in this report.

The terms **single-race Black** and **Black alone** are used interchangeably throughout the report to refer to the same population. This population is made up of individuals who self-identify only as Black and do not identify as Hispanic or Latino.

The term **multiracial Black** is used to refer to people who self-identify as two or more races and do not identify as Hispanic or Latino.

The term **Black Hispanic** is used to refer to those who self-identify as Black and Hispanic or Latino, as well as those who self-identify as multiracial Black and Hispanic or Latino.

The terms **Hispanic** or **Latino** are used interchangeably throughout this report.

White refers to people who self-identify as White only (single race) and do not identify as Hispanic or Latino.

Asian refers to people who self-identify as Asian only (single race) and do not identify as Hispanic or Latino.

U.S. born refers to people who are U.S. citizens at birth, including those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, U.S. territories and those born in other countries to parents at least one of whom was a U.S. citizen.

Foreign born refers to people born outside of the United States to parents neither of whom was a U.S. citizen. The terms **foreign born** and **immigrant** are used interchangeably in this report.

In this report, we refer to several **generations**. These are defined by their birth years and ages in 2019 as follows:

Generation	Birth years	Age in 2019
6 and under	2013-present	0-6
Generation Z (Gen Z)*	1997-2012	7-22
Millennial	1981-1996	23-38
Generation X (Gen X)	1965-1980	39-54
Baby Boomer (Boomer)	1946-1964	55-73
Silent	1928-1945	74-91
Greatest	Before 1928	92 and older

*No chronological endpoint has been set for this group. For this analysis, Generation Z is defined as those ages 7 to 22 in 2019.

The Growing Diversity of Black America

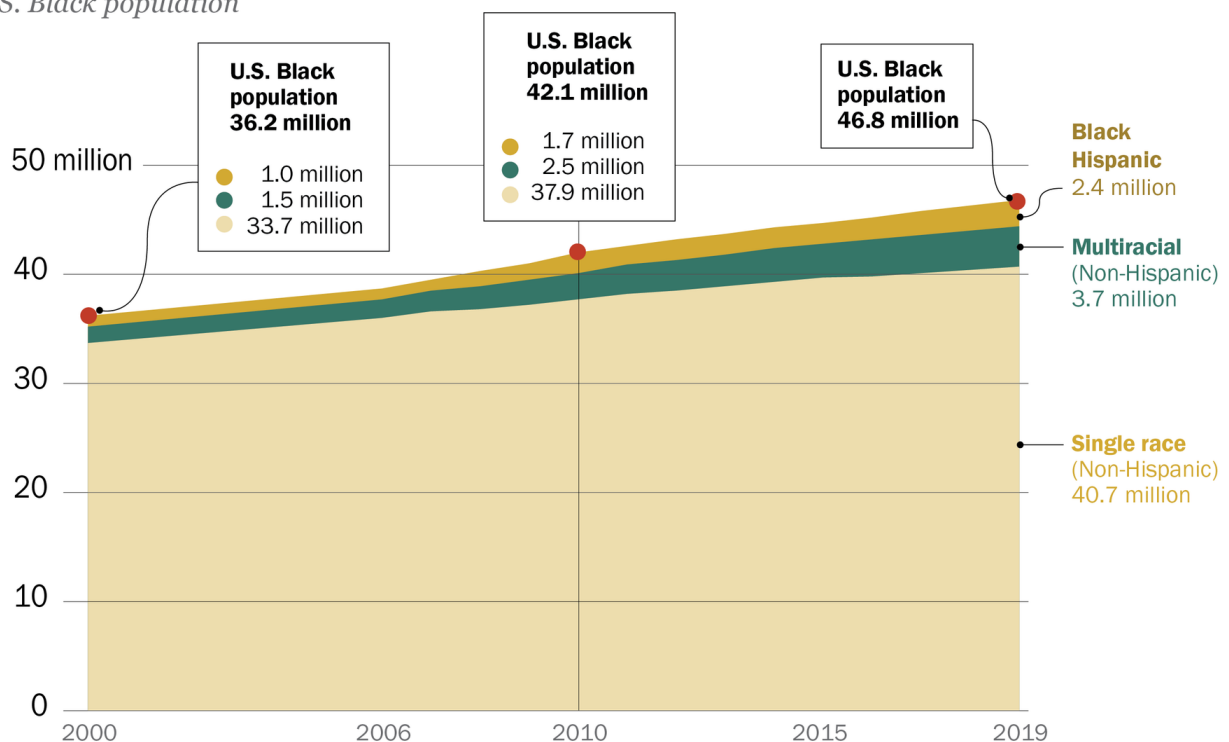
46.8 million people in the U.S. identify as Black

BY Christine Tamir

The Black population of the United States is diverse. Its members have varied histories in the nation – many are descendants of enslaved people, while others are recently arrived immigrants. The Black population also has nuanced ethnic and racial identities reflecting [intermarriage](#) and international migration. As a result, there are key distinctions in demographic and economic

Among the U.S. Black population, both multiracial and Hispanic numbers have grown sharply since 2000

U.S. Black population



Note: Populations rounded to nearest 100,000. Populations may not sum to total for a given year due to rounding. “U.S. Black population” refers to all people who self-identify as Black, inclusive of single-race Black, multiracial Black and Black Hispanic people. “Single race” refers to people who self-identify as Black alone and do not identify as Hispanic or Latino. “Multiracial” refers to people who self-identify as Black and one or more races in combination, but do not identify as Hispanic or Latino. “Black Hispanic” refers to people who self-identify as Hispanic or Latino and as Black (multiracial or otherwise).
Sources: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2000 decennial census (5% IPUMS) and 2006-2019 American Community Surveys (IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

characteristics between different parts of the national Black population, highlighting its diverse multitude of backgrounds.

The U.S. Black population is also growing. In 2019, 46.8 million people in the U.S. identified their race as Black, either alone or as part of a multiracial or ethnic background. That is up from 36.2 million in 2000.¹ The Black share of the U.S. population is higher today than in 2000 as well. About 14% of the national population said they were Black in 2019, up from 13% who did so in 2000.

At the same time, the Black population's racial self-identification is changing. Among those who self-identify as "Black or African American," the share who say it is their only racial or ethnic identification has declined over the past two decades. In 2019, 40.7 million, or 87%, identified their race as Black alone and their ethnicity as non-Hispanic, while around 3.7 million, or 8%, indicated their race was Black and another race (most often White) and not Hispanic. Another 2.4 million, or 5%, self-identified as both Black and Hispanic, or Black Hispanic.² But these shares have changed since 2000. Then, 93% identified their race and ethnicity as Black alone.

The nation's Black population is changing in other ways too. A growing share are foreign born, the population is aging (though some segments are significantly younger), and a growing share are college graduates. These trends and more are explored in this report. Accompanying it is a [fact sheet](#) showing the demographic and economic characteristics of the nation's Black population in 2019, based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey. Findings for all Black people, non-Hispanic single-race Black people, non-Hispanic multiracial Black people and Black Hispanics are shown separately. A [downloadable spreadsheet of findings](#) is also available.

CORRECTION (March 02, 2023): A previous version of the chart "Among the U.S. Black population, both multiracial and Hispanic numbers have grown since 2000" displayed incorrect estimates for the total Black and multiracial Black populations in the U.S. for 2010. None of the study findings or conclusions are affected.

¹ The 2000 decennial census is the first to allow Americans to select more than once race when asked about their racial background (for more, see "[Race and Multiracial Americans in the U.S. Census](#)"). Prior to 2000, decennial censuses allowed for only one race selection.

² The terms "Black Hispanic" and "Black Latino" are used interchangeably in this report to refer to all people who self-identify as Black and Hispanic or Latino, or as Black and another race as well as Hispanic or Latino, on U.S. Census Bureau surveys. Not all Black Hispanics identify as Afro-Latino. For more, read "[Afro-Latino: A deeply rooted identity among U.S. Hispanics.](#)"

Measuring racial and ethnic identity

Racial identity – as measured by the U.S. decennial census – has changed over time. The census has drastically changed since its first administration in 1790. Then, only two racial categories were included: free (which mostly included White people) and slaves (who were mostly enslaved Black people). The Census Bureau has modified terms used to refer to people of non-White racial identities throughout the years, in accordance with the politics and sensibilities of the times. For example, in the 2020 census, those who selected “Black or African American” as their race were asked to write more about their origins, reflecting a more nuanced understanding of Black racial identity. (For more about how racial and ethnic categories have changed over time, see [“What Census Calls Us.”](#))

Today, decennial census and American Community Survey data is collected in a different manner than for most of the nation’s history. Respondents choose their racial response categories themselves. This was not true for over a century of censuses. Prior to 1960, one’s racial identification was selected by a census-taker – a Census Bureau employee who administered the survey on paper and chose a racial category on a person’s behalf. However, starting that year, some respondents could self-identify, or chose their own racial category. Self-identification was expanded in subsequent censuses to include virtually all respondents. Additionally, starting in 1980, census data included information from the entire population on [Hispanic or Latino ethnic identity](#) in addition to their racial identification. And the 2000 census marked the first time respondents were able to include themselves in more than one racial category; prior to that year, multiracial respondents could select only one racial category.

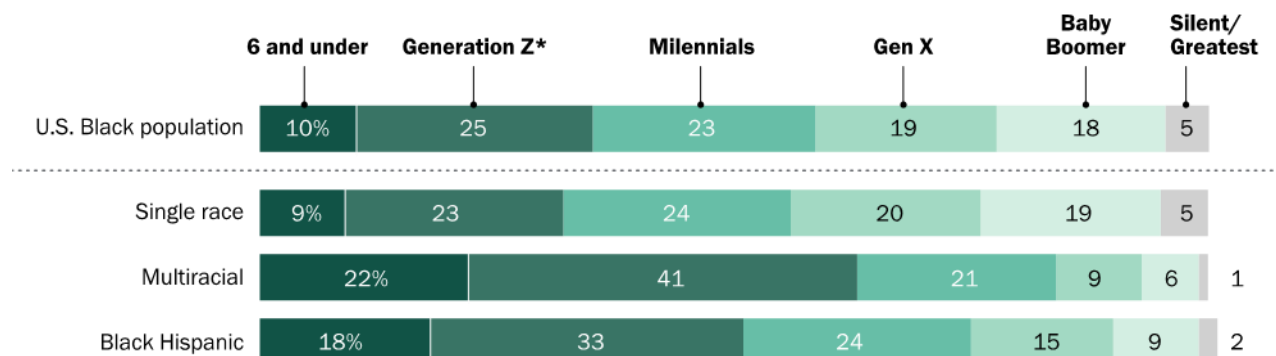
It’s important to note that racial and ethnic self-identification is highly personal and can change as one’s relationship with their identity changes. For example, an analysis of 168 million Americans’ census forms linked between 2000 and 2010 indicated that [10 million people identified their racial and/or ethnic background](#) differently between the two census forms. Multiracial Americans were one of the population groups that were more likely to change their racial identification between the two decennial census years.

One-in-four Black people are members of Gen Z

The age structure of the Black population has also changed since 2000. As of 2019, the median age of single-race, non-Hispanic Black people is 35, compared with 30 in 2000. This makes the nation's Black population younger than the nation's single-race, non-Hispanic White population (with a median age of 43) and the single-race, non-Hispanic Asian population (38), and slightly older than the nation's Hispanic population (29).

The median age for the entire Black population is 32, though it varies across the differing identities among the Black population. Among Black Hispanic people, it is 22 years. Meanwhile, multiracial Black people are the youngest group, with a median age of 16.

In 2019, most multiracial Black people in U.S. were members of Gen Z or younger, reflecting their youth



*No chronological endpoint has been set for this group. For this analysis, Generation Z is defined as those ages 7 to 22 in 2019. Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. "U.S. Black population" refers to all people who self-identify as Black, inclusive of single-race Black, multiracial Black and Black Hispanic people. "Single race" refers to people who self-identify as Black alone and do not identify as Hispanic or Latino. "Multiracial" refers to people who self-identify as Black and one or more races in combination, but do not identify as Hispanic or Latino. "Black Hispanic" refers to people who self-identify as Hispanic or Latino and as Black (multiracial or otherwise). Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2019 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

A quarter (25%) of those in the U.S. Black population are members of Generation Z – born between 1997 and 2012 and ages 7 to 22 in 2019. A further one-in-ten were under the age of 7 that year. Together, 35% of the U.S. Black population is age 22 or younger. Another 23% are Millennials, meaning that over half (59%) of the nation's Black population were Millennials or younger (under age 38) in 2019.

The majority (63%) of multiracial Black people were age 22 or younger in 2019, reflecting the youth of this demographic subgroup. Roughly half (51%) of Black Hispanics were 22 or younger as well.

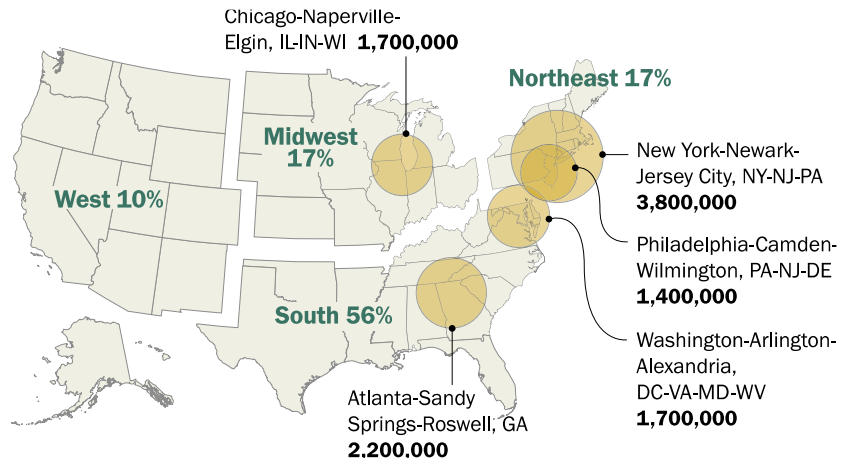
Over half of the Black population lives in the South

In 2019, the South was the region with the highest share of the country's Black population, with 56% of this population living there. The Midwest and Northeast each held 17% of this population, while the West was home to one-tenth of the Black population.

Regionally, the share of the national Black population living in the South has grown. In 2000, over half (54%) of Black people in the U.S. lived in the South, a very similar share to 2019 (56%). Meanwhile, somewhat higher shares lived in the Midwest and Northeast in 2000 than in 2019. Back then, 19% of the national Black population lived in the Midwest and 18% in the Northeast. Over the past two decades, the share of Black people living in Western states was unchanged, at 10%.

In 2019, Black people mostly lived in the South

% of U.S. Black population



Note: Top five metro areas for the U.S. Black population displayed. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100,000. "U.S. Black population" refers to all people who self-identify as Black, inclusive of single-race Black, multiracial Black and Black Hispanic people.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2019 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).

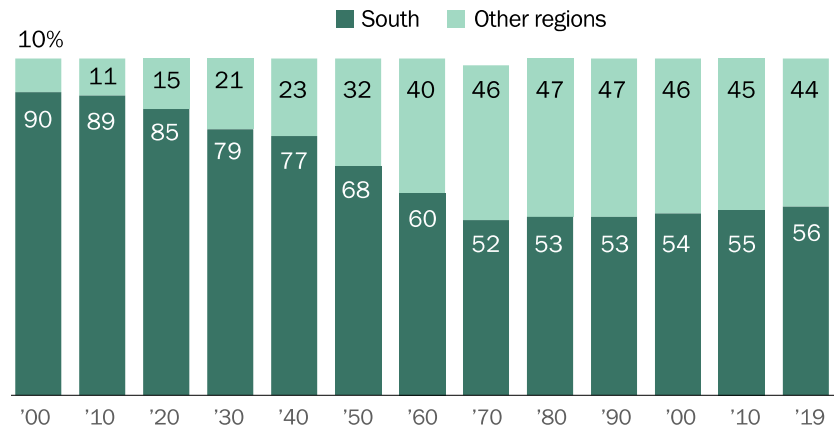
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The growth of the Black population in the South suggests a departure from previous Black migration patterns. The first half of the 20th century featured increasing shares of the population residing in regions of the U.S. outside of the South, primarily after the start of the [Great Migration](#) in the late 1910s. Consequently, each decade featured decreasing shares of the Black population living in the South.

Starting in 1970, shares of the Black population who live in the South have grown. There has been a 4 percentage point increase in the shares of the Black population who live in the South between 1970 (52%) and 2019 (56%).

Slight increases in the shares of the Black population living in the South since the 1970s

% of U.S. Black population that lives in the South



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. "U.S. Black population" refers to all people who self-identify as Black, inclusive of single-race Black, multiracial Black and Black Hispanic people.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the following decennial censuses: 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970 (form 2), 1980, 1990 and 2000. Tabulations from the 2010 and 2019 American Community Surveys were also used, with all data accessed through IPUMS.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Texas has the largest Black state population

With more than 3.9 million Black people in 2019, Texas is home to the largest Black population in the U.S. Florida has the second largest population at 3.8 million, and Georgia is home to 3.6 million Black people. Other top states of residence include New York (3.4 million) and California (2.8 million). Together, these five states hold 37% of the national Black population.

Although the top five states of residence have remained the same for Black people as in 2000, the order shifted substantially, with New York and California dropping from the two largest to fourth and fifth in 2019. In 2000, New York (3.2 million), California, Texas, Florida (each 2.5 million) and Georgia (2.4 million) rounded out the top five, together holding 36% of the total Black population.

Top states of residence differ by racial subgroup. Among non-Hispanic single-race Black people, Texas has the largest population, followed by Georgia, Florida, New York and North Carolina. But among non-Hispanic multiracial Black people, the state with the largest population is California, followed by Texas, Florida, Ohio and New York. Among Black Hispanics, meanwhile, New York has the largest population, followed by Florida, California, Texas and New Jersey. Notably, Texas, New York and Florida make the top five for all subgroups.

Top five states of residence for the U.S. Black population in 2019

U.S. Black population

	All		Single race		Multiracial		Black Hispanic	
	State	Population	State	Population	State	Population	State	Population
1	Texas	3,900,000	Texas	3,400,000	California	350,000	New York	450,000
2	Florida	3,800,000	Georgia	3,300,000	Texas	250,000	Florida	260,000
3	Georgia	3,600,000	Florida	3,300,000	Florida	245,000	California	240,000
4	New York	3,400,000	New York	2,800,000	Ohio	208,000	Texas	210,000
5	California	2,800,000	North Carolina	2,200,000	New York	206,000	New Jersey	130,000

Note: Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100,000 if over 1 million and to the nearest 10,000 if below 1 million. “U.S. Black population” refers to all people who self-identify as Black, inclusive of single-race Black, multiracial Black and Black Hispanic people. “Single race” refers to people who self-identify only as Black and do not identify as Hispanic or Latino. “Multiracial” refers to people who self-identify as Black and one or more races in combination, but do not identify as Hispanic or Latino. “Black Hispanic” refers to people who self-identify as Hispanic or Latino and as Black (multiracial or otherwise).

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2019 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The New York metropolitan area has the largest Black metropolitan population

The metropolitan area with greatest number of Black people is the New York metropolitan area, with roughly 3.8 million in 2019. The New York City area has been the top urban center since at least 2000 for Black people, though other metro areas are on the rise. In 2019, the Atlanta metropolitan area came in a distant second, with 2.2 million Black people, and the Washington, D.C., area was next, with 1.7 million. By comparison, in 2000, the Chicago metropolitan area had the second largest Black metro population and Atlanta had the fourth largest.

Largest metropolitan areas by Black population, 2019

U.S. Black population

Black Americans				
Non-Hispanic				
All	Single race	Multiracial	Black Hispanic	
1 New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA 3,800,000	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA 3,100,000	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA 160,000	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA 510,000	
2 Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA 2,200,000	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA 2,100,000	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV 100,000	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL 100,000	
3 Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV 1,700,000	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV 1,600,000	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA 100,000	Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH 100,000	
4 Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI 1,700,000	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI 1,500,000	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE 100,000	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA 70,000	
5 Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE 1,400,000	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE 1,200,000	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI 90,000	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE 70,000	

Note: Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100,000 if over 1 million and over and to the nearest 10,000 if below 1 million. "U.S. Black population" refers to all people who self-identify as Black, inclusive of single-race Black, multiracial Black and Black Hispanic people. "Single race" refers to people who self-identify only as Black and do not identify as Hispanic or Latino. "Multiracial" refers to people who self-identify as Black and one or more races in combination, but do not identify as Hispanic or Latino. "Black Hispanic" refers to people who self-identify as both Hispanic or Latino and as Black (multiracial or otherwise).

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2019 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The New York City metropolitan area has the largest Black population across the three Black racial and ethnic subgroups, but the other top large metropolitan areas differ across categories. The list of top five metropolitan areas for those who say their racial identity is only Black is the same as it is for the Black population overall, reflecting their majority (87%) share of the population. However, the top metropolitan areas for multiracial Black people and Black Hispanics differ.

Besides New York City, the top urban centers for those identifying as multiracial Black are the Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Chicago metropolitan areas. By contrast, for Black Hispanics, Miami is second, followed by the Boston, Los Angeles and Philadelphia metro areas.

A growing share of Black adults have a college degree

The number of Black adults with a college degree or more education has more than doubled since 2000. That year, roughly 3 million Black adults ages 25 and older, or 15%, had earned at least a bachelor's degree. That number grew to 6.7 million (23%) in 2019.

Notably, the share of the Black population with at least a college degree has risen at a similar rate to that of the general population. In 2000, roughly a quarter (24%) of the entire U.S. population ages 25 and older had a bachelor's degree or higher. In 2019, that share rose to 33%, an increase of 9 percentage points. The share of Black adults who earned a bachelor's degree or higher also grew nearly 9 points over the same time period, from 15% to 23%.

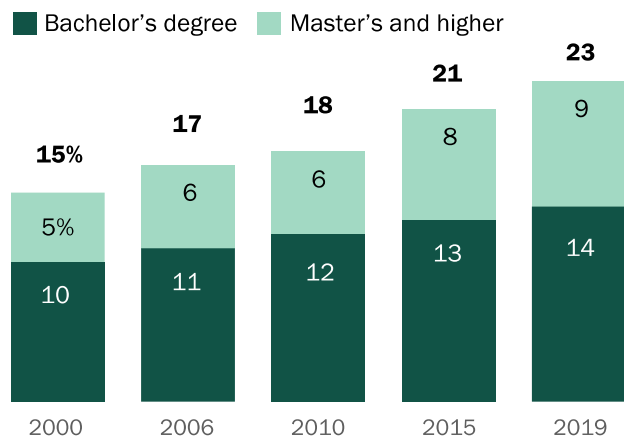
There has been a similar upward trend specifically among Black adults with a master's degree or higher. While roughly 1 million Black adults in 2000 (5% of the population over 25) had an advanced degree, that number rose to almost 2.6 million, or 9% in 2019.

There were differences in educational attainment in 2019 among different subgroups of the Black population. Among these groups, the multiracial Black population has the highest shares of adults 25 and older with a bachelor's degree (20%) and advanced degree (12%). Single-race Black adults and Black Hispanics 25 and older have similar, but lower, shares with a bachelor's degree (14% and 15%, respectively) as well as an advanced degree (9% and 8%).

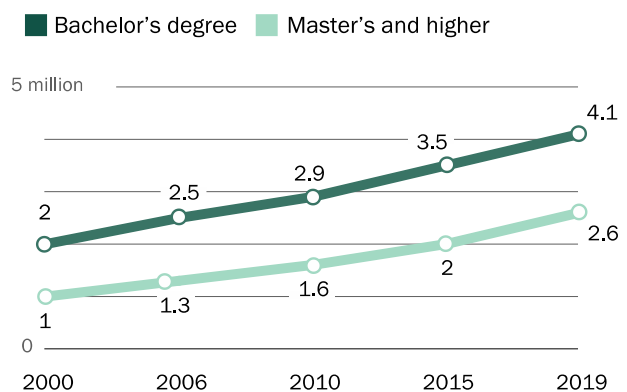
The share of Black adults 25 and older without a high school diploma (or its equivalent, such as a GED certificate) has dropped substantially – by more than half – since 2000. Then, roughly

Black bachelor's degree holders more than doubled since 2000

% of Black U.S. adults ages 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher



In millions



Note: Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100,000. "U.S. Black population" refers to all people who self-identify as Black, inclusive of single-race Black, multiracial Black and Black Hispanic people. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2000 decennial census (5% IPUMS) and American Community Survey data for 2006-2019 (IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

three-in-ten adults in that age range (28%) had not earned a high school diploma. In 2019, that share had dropped to 13%, signifying a 15 percentage point drop over almost two decades.

The Black immigrant population has grown in number and share

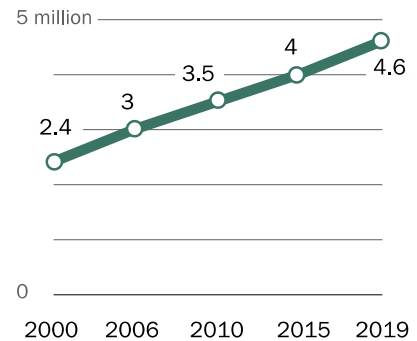
Immigrants are a part of the nation's Black population that has grown over time. The foreign-born Black population has nearly doubled since 2000, rising from 7% then to 10% in 2019. In numbers, 2.4 million Black people were born in another country in 2000, and by 2019, that had risen to 4.6 million.

Black immigrants are mostly from just two regions of the world. Almost nine-in-ten (88%) were born in African or Caribbean countries. Of that group, a little less than half (46%) were born in Caribbean nations, while a slightly lower share (42%) are from African countries. The remaining 12% of Black immigrants are from other parts of the world, with Guyana, Mexico and Honduras as the top three countries of origin.

The majority of Black immigrants identify as single-race Black (87%) and non-Hispanic, while 10% identify as Black and Hispanic and 3% say their racial background is multiracial.

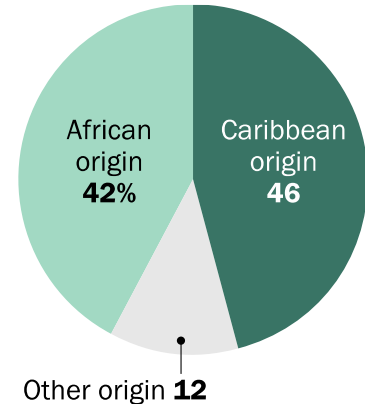
Number of Black immigrants has almost doubled since 2000 ...

Black immigrant population of U.S. in millions, 2000-2019



... and most are from Caribbean, Africa

% among Black U.S. immigrants, 2019



Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2000 decennial census (5% IPUMS) and 2006, 2010, 2015 and 2019 American Community Surveys (IPUMS).

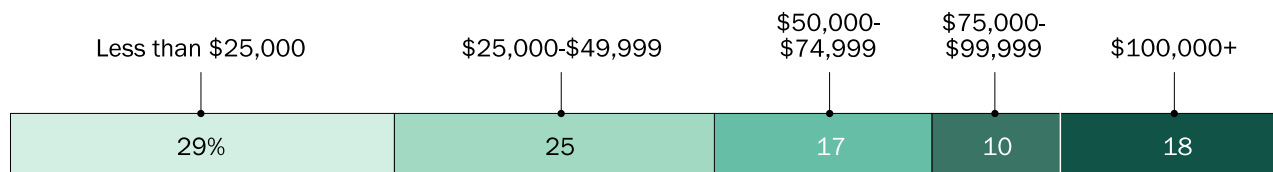
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Black household incomes since 2000

Since 2000, the U.S. Black population has not seen significant increases in median household income. The median income for households headed by a Black person was \$44,000 in 2019 (before the [COVID-19](#) pandemic-induced recession). But household income of Black households varies. Roughly three-in-ten Black households (29%) made less than \$25,000 in 2019, while a quarter earned between \$25,000 and \$49,999 – which means that more than half (54%) of Black households made less than \$50,000 in 2019. About one-in-six Black households (17%) made \$50,000 but below \$75,000, 10% earned at least \$75,000 but less than \$100,000, and 18% earned \$100,000 or more in 2019.

Nearly half of Black households in U.S. earned \$50,000 or more in 2019

% of Black households who earn ...



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. The household population excludes people living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters. “Black households” are those headed by a household head who identifies as Black, inclusive of single-race Black, multiracial Black and Black Hispanic people.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2019 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The 2019 shares represent an improvement over the distribution of Black household income in 2000. In 2000, roughly three-in-ten (31%) Black-headed households made \$25,000 or less (in 2019 U.S. dollar adjusted value), and a quarter (25%) made between \$25,000 and \$49,999, meaning that 56% of Black households earned less than \$50,000 in 2000. In that same year, roughly three-in-ten Black households (28%) made at least \$50,000 but less than \$100,000, and 16% made \$100,000 or more.

The median income among Black households in 2019 was roughly \$44,000, representing a slight inflation-adjusted increase over the median household income for Black people in 2000 (\$43,581 after adjusting for inflation).

Income inequality within the Black population remains [one of the widest](#) within a major racial or ethnic group. In 2019, Black-headed households with income in the 90th percentile among the population of Black households earned 14 times that of Black households with income in the 10th percentile. The 90th percentile of households in the *overall* 2019 population, by contrast, earned 12 times that of households with incomes in the 10th percentile.

CORRECTION (August 4, 2021): The “Black household incomes” section has been updated to reflect the 2019 inflation-adjusted distribution of Black household incomes in 2000, which was mischaracterized in a previous version. Related changes have been made to any references in the text of the report. These changes do not substantively affect the report’s findings.

Acknowledgments

This report was written by Christine Tamir, Research Analyst.

Editorial guidance was provided by Mark Hugo Lopez, Director of Global Migration and Demography Research; Neil G. Ruiz, Associate Director of Global Migration and Demography Research; D’Vera Cohn, Senior Writer and Editor; Jeffrey S. Passel, Senior Demographer; Tanya Ardit, Communications Manager; Julia O’Hanlon, Communications Associate; and James Bell, Vice President of Global Strategy.

This report was number-checked by Abby Budiman, Research Analyst. Shannon Greenwood, Digital Producer, produced the report. David Kent, Senior Copy Editor, copy edited the report. Charts were designed by Michael Keegan, Senior Information Graphics Designer.

Find related reports online at <https://www.pewresearch.org/topics/race-and-ethnicity/>.

Methodology

In this report, we analyzed the detailed demographics and geographic distribution of Black people in the United States. The term “Black” refers to all people who self-identify as Black or African American on census surveys. This report’s analysis is based on Pew Research Center tabulations derived from the following U.S. Census Bureau data: the American Community Survey (2006-2019) and the 2000 U.S. decennial census.

Detailed demographic and geographic data

Analysis of the detailed demographic and geographic distribution of the Black population in 2019 is based on data from the [American Community Survey](#) (ACS), the largest household survey in the United States, with a sample of more than [3 million addresses](#). It covers the topics previously covered in the long form of the decennial census. The ACS is designed to provide estimates of the size and characteristics of the nation’s resident population, which includes persons living in households and group quarters. For details about the ACS, including its sampling strategy and associated error, see the yearly ACS [Accuracy Statement](#) provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

This report employs public use samples of the U.S. population in the 50 states and Washington D.C. – 1% samples from the 2019, 2015, 2010 and 2006 ACS and samples of the following censuses, all provided through Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) from the University of Minnesota:

- 1900 census (5% sample)
- 1910 census (1% sample)
- 1920 census (1% sample)
- 1930 census (5% sample)
- 1940 census (1% sample)
- 1950 census (1% sample)
- 1960 census (5% sample)
- 1970 census, form 2 (1% sample)
- 1980 census (5% sample)
- 1990 census (5% sample)
- 2000 census (5% sample)

IPUMS assigns uniform codes, to the extent possible, to data collected by the decennial census and the ACS from 1850 to 2019. For more information about IPUMS, including variable definition and sampling error, please visit the [“IPUMS Documentation and User Guide.”](#)

Appendix: Additional table

U.S. Black population, 2000 to 2019

	All	Single race	%	Multiracial	%	Black Hispanic	%
2000	36,200,000	33,700,000	93%	1,500,000	4%	1,000,000	3%
2006	39,200,000	36,400,000	93%	1,700,000	4%	1,000,000	3%
2007	39,600,000	36,600,000	92%	1,900,000	5%	1,100,000	3%
2008	40,300,000	36,800,000	91%	2,100,000	5%	1,400,000	3%
2009	41,000,000	37,200,000	91%	2,300,000	6%	1,500,000	4%
2010	42,100,000	37,900,000	90%	2,500,000	6%	1,700,000	5%
2011	42,600,000	38,200,000	90%	2,700,000	6%	1,700,000	4%
2012	43,200,000	38,500,000	89%	2,800,000	6%	1,900,000	4%
2013	43,700,000	38,900,000	89%	2,900,000	7%	1,900,000	4%
2014	44,300,000	39,300,000	89%	3,100,000	7%	1,900,000	4%
2015	44,700,000	39,700,000	89%	3,100,000	7%	1,900,000	4%
2016	45,200,000	39,800,000	88%	3,400,000	7%	2,000,000	4%
2017	45,900,000	40,100,000	88%	3,500,000	8%	2,200,000	5%
2018	46,300,000	40,400,000	87%	3,600,000	8%	2,300,000	5%
2019	46,800,000	40,700,000	87%	3,700,000	8%	2,400,000	5%

Note: Populations rounded to the nearest 100,000. Population numbers may not sum to total for a given year due to rounding. "All" refers to all people who self-identify as Black, inclusive of single-race Black, multiracial Black and Black Hispanic people. "Single race" refers to people who self-identify as Black alone and do not identify as Hispanic or Latino. "Multiracial" refers to people who self-identify as Black and one or more races in combination, but do not identify as Hispanic or Latino. "Black Hispanic" refers to people who self-identify as Hispanic or Latino and as Black (multiracial or otherwise).

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2000 decennial census (5% IPUMS) and 2006-2019 American Community Surveys (IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER