

Ohio African Americans

Snapshot from the 2023 American
Community Survey

Office of Research
Feb. 2025



*Adrian Jones of Kennedy's Kakes
in Columbus.*



**Department of
Development**

Black Ohioans

Ohio’s Black community is comprised of more than 1.7 million people that claim at least partial African heritage, accounting for 14.5 percent of the state’s total population. According to the 2023 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, Ohio’s Black population has increased 25 percent since 2000. For the United States, the Black population is more than 48.2 million, accounting for 14.4 percent of the nation’s total population. Since 2000, the Black community in the U.S. has experienced an increase of nearly 11.8 million persons, or 32.4 percent.

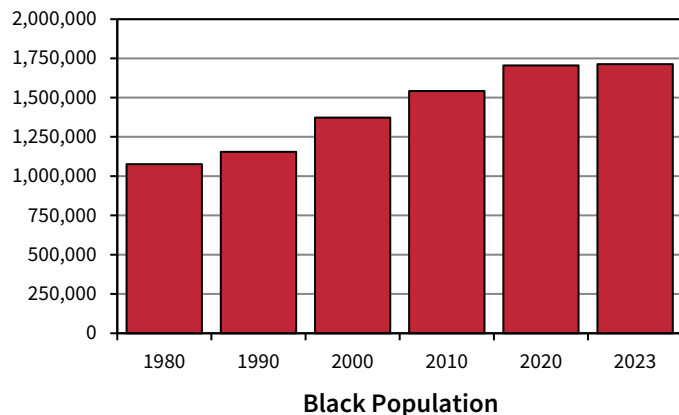
Overview

- 1,712,000 people - 14.5 percent of Ohio’s total population.
- 25 percent increase in population since 2000.
- 97,800 were born outside the U.S.
- Median age of 34.7 years compared to 39.9 years for all Ohioans.
- 276,700 enrolled in elementary and secondary schools.
- Median household income: \$43,800.
- 5,600 Black-owned businesses with paid employees.

Note: Black refers to a person reporting their race as Black alone or in combination with one or more other race for total population counts only. A person reporting their race as Black alone is used for the other population characteristics. The recording of specific, multiple races was not done prior to 2000.

Population Distribution

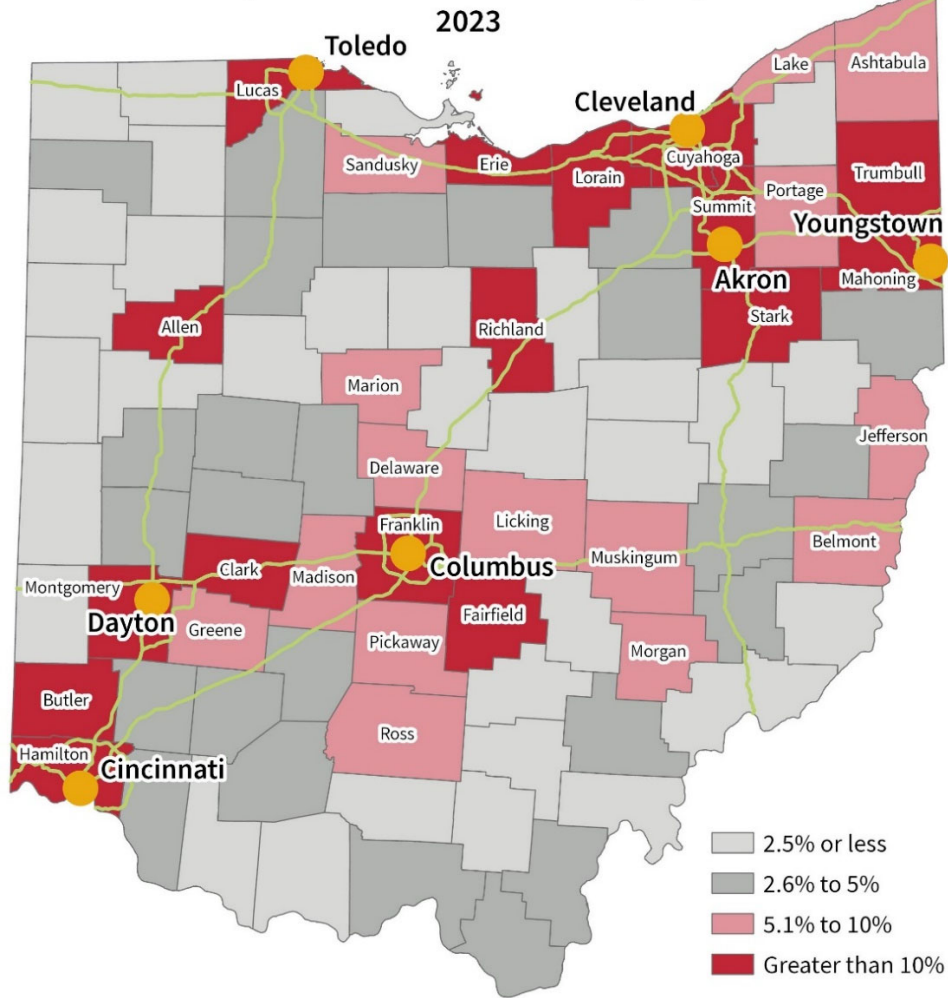
The Black community accounts for 14.5 percent of Ohio’s population. After steady growth from 1990 to 2020, the rate of growth has slowed since then. Since 2000, the number of Black Ohioans has increased by 25 percent. In 1980 there were more than 1 million Black people, comprising 10 percent of Ohio’s total population.



Black Population by County: 2023			
Largest Total Black Population		Largest Percent of County Population	
Cuyahoga	398,062	Cuyahoga	32.3%
Franklin	369,467	Hamilton	28.7%
Hamilton	237,288	Franklin	27.9%
Montgomery	129,475	Montgomery	24.3%
Lucas	100,344	Lucas	23.6%
Summit	93,247	Mahoning	17.7%
Butler	48,056	Summit	17.4%
Mahoning	39,990	Allen	15.0%
Stark	39,398	Fairfield	12.4%
Lorain	36,499	Butler	12.2%
Trumbull	21,263	Clark	11.9%
Fairfield	20,441	Erie	11.9%

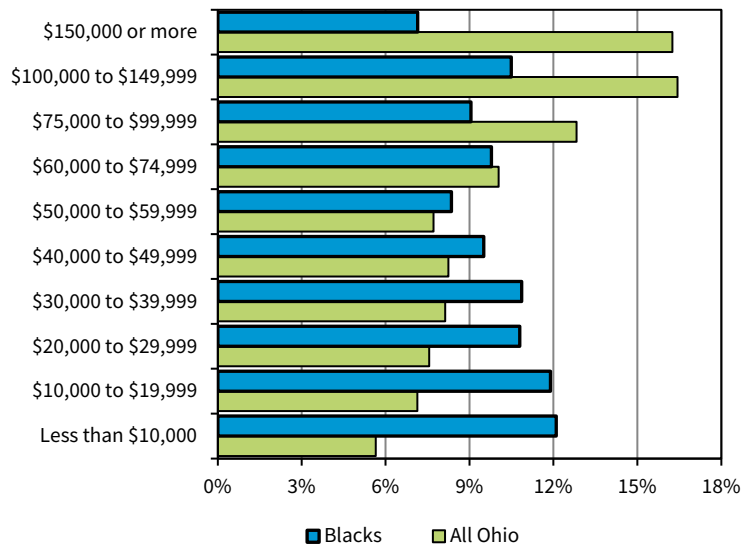
Most Black people in Ohio live in urban areas. More than one of three Black Ohioans in the state live in the cities of Cincinnati, Cleveland, or Columbus. In Columbus, there are 305,000 Black residents; in Cleveland, there are 187,000; and in Cincinnati there are 123,000 Black residents. The six-county Cleveland metropolitan area alone is home to more than one-quarter of Ohio’s Black population.

Black Population as Percent of County Population



Income

The income of Black Ohioans tends to be lower than that of all Ohioans. The median household income for Black residents is \$43,800. For Ohio households overall, the median household income is nearly \$67,800. A lack of full-time, year-round employment is one factor accounting for the lower income. Just over 40 percent of Black Ohioans aged 16 and older worked full-time over the previous year compared to 44 percent of all Ohioans. The median earnings for Black Ohioans working less than full-time is \$12,000 compared to approximately \$45,000 for Black workers employed full-time year-round.



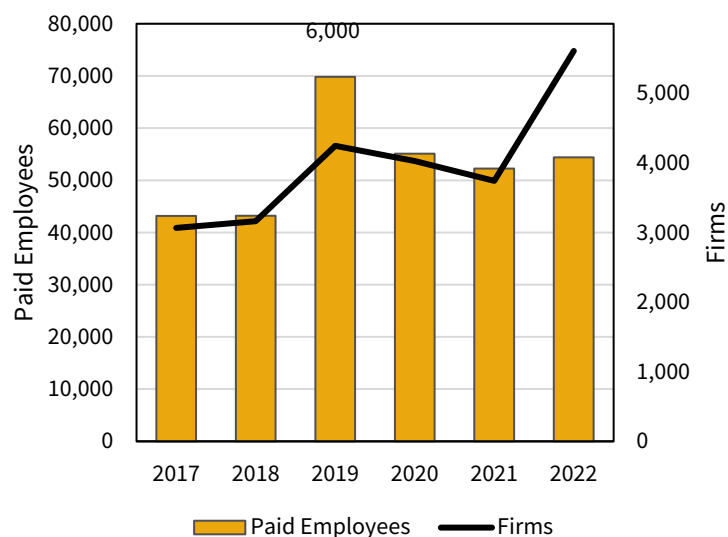
Household Income Distribution

Twenty-six percent of Black people in Ohio live below the poverty line. Of Ohio’s 306,400 Black family households, 22 percent live below the poverty line. Approximately 34 percent of these households have children younger than five years of age. Twenty-nine percent of Black households received food stamps within the last 12 months.

Businesses

There are 5,600 Black-owned businesses with paid employees in Ohio, according to the 2022 Annual Business Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. These businesses employ more than 54,400 with an annual payroll of \$1.8 billion. Thirty-four percent of the businesses with a payroll are in the health care and social assistance sector and these businesses account for 48 percent of the payroll employees. For the state, this sector accounts for 11 percent of the businesses and 16 percent of payroll employees.

Nearly 900 Black-owned businesses with payrolls have existed for 16 or more years. This accounts for 16 percent of Black businesses. For the state, 43 percent of the businesses have been around 16 or more years. Eighteen percent have \$1 million or more in sales or revenues compared to 36 percent for all of Ohio. Forty-nine percent of Black-owned businesses with a payroll have less than five employees. The states’ comparable figure is 44 percent.



In addition to businesses with payrolls, there were approximately 125,000 non employer Black-owned businesses according to the 2021 Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics of the Annual Business Survey. Twenty-six percent of these businesses are in the transportation and warehousing sector.

Employment & Occupation

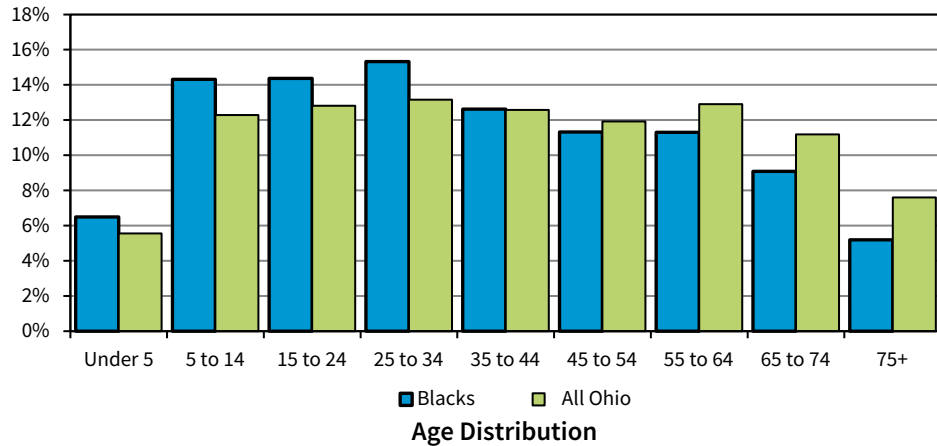
The number of Black Ohioans in the civilian labor force is 692,500. The unemployment rate for Black Ohioans is 8.8 percent. Black people in the labor force between the ages of 20 and 24 have an unemployment rate of 16.8 percent. For Ohio, the same age group has an unemployment rate of 8.2 percent.

Employed Black people are heavily represented in service occupations compared to all of Ohio. Of the nearly 632,000 employed Black people in Ohio, 23 percent are in service occupations with 46,400 in healthcare support and 39,800 in food service occupations. By comparison, 16 percent of all Ohioans are in service occupations. Production, transportation, and material moving occupations account for 22 percent with 55,900 Black Ohioans involved in production occupations alone.

Age and Household Structure

The median age of Black people in Ohio is 34.7 years. For comparison, the median age of all Ohioans is 39.9 years.

In Ohio, there are 123,000 marriages that include at least one Black spouse. Forty percent of these couples have children living at home. For all married couples in

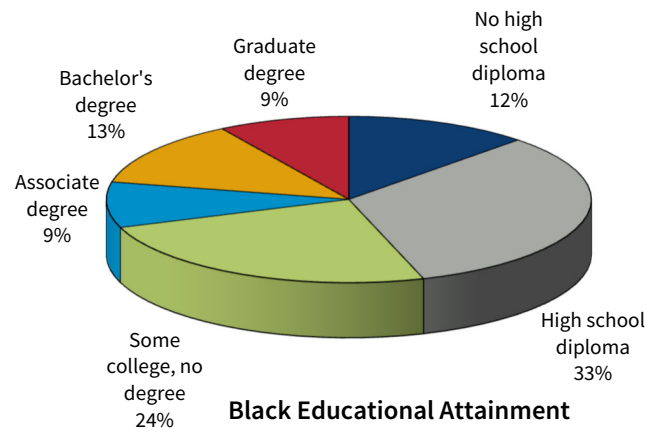


Ohio, thirty-eight percent have children at home. Sixty-one percent of Black families with children younger than 18 living with them consist of single mothers.

Education

There are 276,700 Black students enrolled in Ohio’s elementary and secondary schools, making up 15 percent of Ohio’s total student body.

The educational attainment level of the Black community lags the total state population. Thirty percent of Black Ohioans have obtained a post-secondary degree compared to 41 percent for all Ohioans. Correspondingly, just over 12 percent of Black Ohioans do not have a high school diploma or equivalency compared to 8 percent for the state overall. Nonetheless, more than 92,000 Black Ohioans are enrolled in college or graduate school.



Place of Birth

There are approximately 97,800 foreign-born Black people living in Ohio. This constitutes 16 percent of all foreign-born residents. Most of foreign-born Black people emigrated from Africa. More than one-third of the African migration came from western Africa specifically Ghana and Nigeria. Just under one-third of the African migration came from Eastern Africa, mainly Somalia and Ethiopia. Of foreign-born Black people, sixty-six percent report speaking only English or English “very well”.

The statistical source of this profile is the 2020 Census of Population and Housing and the Census Bureau’s 2023 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates. Business data came from the Census Bureau’s 2022 Annual Business Survey and the 2021 Nonemployers Statistics by Demographics. Although the census is the most comprehensive set of socio-economic data available, the estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling error that may result in some over- or under-estimation of actual population characteristics.