

Ohio African Americans

Snapshot from the 2022 American
Community Survey

Office of Research
Dec. 2023



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**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 2022 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, Ohio’s African American population has increased 24 percent since 2000. For the United States, the African American population is more than 47.9 million, accounting for 14.4 percent of the nation’s total population. Since 2000, the African American community in the U.S. has experienced an increase of nearly 11.4 million persons, or 31.4 percent.

Overview

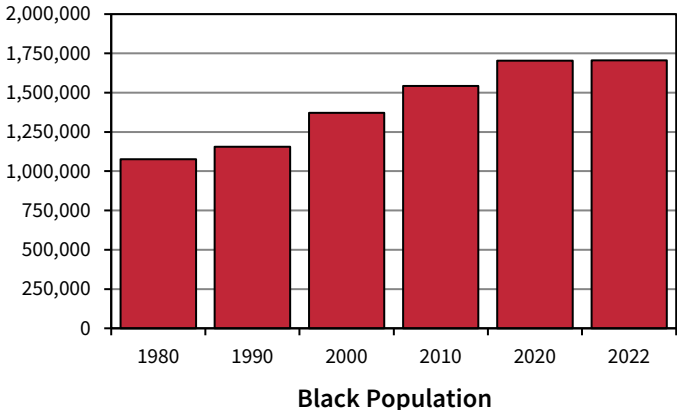
- 1,705,000 people - 14.5 percent of Ohio’s total population.
- 24 percent increase in population since 2000.
- 104,000 were born outside the U.S.
- Median age of 34.4 years compared to 39.9 years for all Ohioans.
- 269,400 enrolled in elementary and secondary schools.
- Median household income: \$42,100.
- 3,700 African American-owned businesses with paid employees.

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

Ohio’s Black Population: 1,705,000

The Black community accounts for 14.5 percent of Ohio’s population with steady growth occurring in recent years. Since

2000, the number of African Americans has increased by 24 percent. In 1980 there were more than 1 million African Americans, comprising 10 percent of Ohio’s total population.



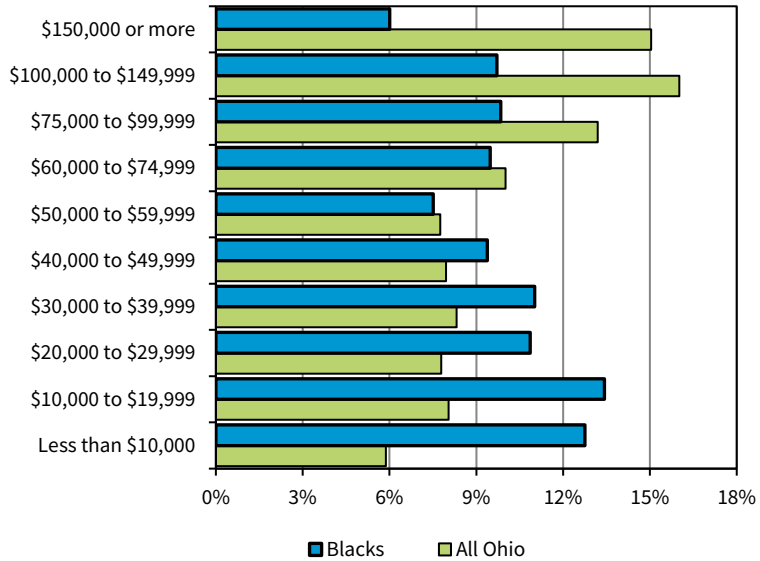
Black Population by County: 2022			
Largest Total Black Population		Largest Percent of County Population	
Cuyahoga	398,702	Cuyahoga	32.3%
Franklin	361,981	Hamilton	28.6%
Hamilton	235,830	Franklin	27.4%
Montgomery	128,089	Montgomery	24.0%
Lucas	99,521	Lucas	23.3%
Summit	92,282	Mahoning	17.7%
Butler	46,685	Summit	17.2%
Mahoning	39,891	Allen	14.9%
Stark	38,895	Butler	12.0%
Lorain	35,892	Erie	11.8%
Trumbull	21,133	Fairfield	11.7%
Fairfield	19,075	Clark	11.6%

Most African Americans in Ohio live in urban areas. More than one out of three African Americans in the state live in the cities of Cincinnati, Cleveland, or Columbus. In Columbus, there are 288,000 African American residents; in Cleveland, there are 184,000; and in Cincinnati there are 129,000 African American residents. The five-county Cleveland metropolitan area alone is home to more than one-quarter of Ohio’s African American population.

Median Household Income: \$42,100

The income of Black Ohioans tends to be lower than that of all Ohioans. The median household income for African Americans is \$42,100. For Ohio households overall, the median household income is nearly \$65,700. A lack of full-time, year-round employment is one factor accounting for the lower income. Just over 39 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 \$43,000 for Black workers employed full-time year-round.

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Household Income Distribution

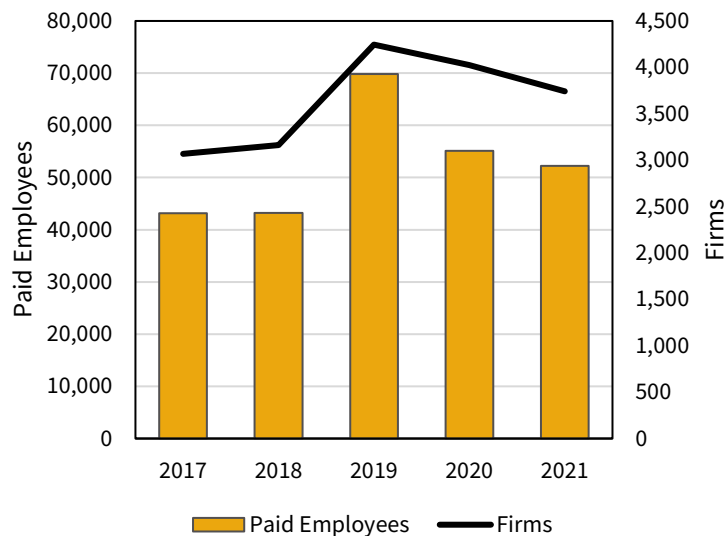
Twenty-six percent of Blacks in Ohio live below the poverty line. Of Ohio's 315,400 African

American family households, 22 percent live below the poverty line. Approximately 40 percent of these households have children younger than 5 years of age. Twenty-nine percent of Black households received food stamps within the last 12 months.

Businesses With Paid Employees: 3,700

There are 3,700 Black-owned businesses with paid employees in Ohio, according to the 2021 Annual Business Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. These businesses employ more than 52,300 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 50 percent of the payroll employees. For the state, this sector accounts for 11 percent of the businesses and 16 percent of payroll employees.

More than 700 Black-owned businesses with payrolls have existed for 16 or more years. This accounts for 20 percent of Black businesses. For the state, 43 percent of the businesses have been around 16 or more years. Twenty percent have \$1 million or more in sales or revenues compared to 34 percent for all of Ohio. Fifty-five percent of Black-owned businesses with a payroll have less than five employees. The states' comparable figure is 55 percent.



In addition to businesses with payrolls, there were approximately 98,500 non employer Black-owned businesses according to the 2019 Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics of the Annual Business Survey. Twenty-three percent of these businesses are in the transportation and warehousing sector.

Unemployment Rate:
8.5%

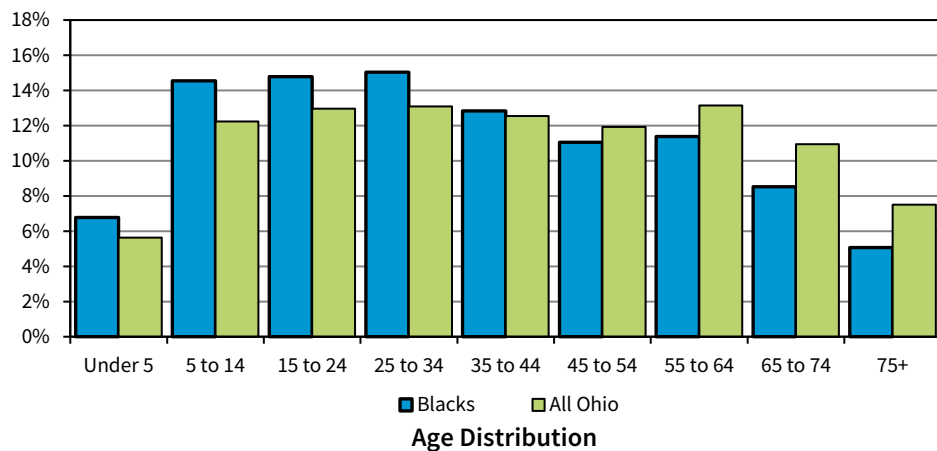
The number of Black Ohioans in the civilian labor force is nearly 685,000; the unemployment rate for Black Ohioans is 8.5 percent. Blacks in the labor force between the ages of 20 and 24 have an unemployment rate of 15.9 percent. For Ohio, the same age group has an unemployment rate of 6.8 percent.

Employed Blacks are heavily represented in service occupations compared to all of Ohio. Of the nearly 627,000 employed Blacks in Ohio, 23 percent are in service occupations with 47,000 in healthcare support and 39,000 in food service occupations. By comparison, 16 percent of all Ohioans are in service occupations. Production, transportation, and material moving occupations account for 23 percent with 61,000 Black Ohioans involved in material moving occupations alone.

Median Age:
34.4 years

The median age of Blacks in Ohio is 34.4 years. For comparison, the median age of all Ohioans is 39.9 years.

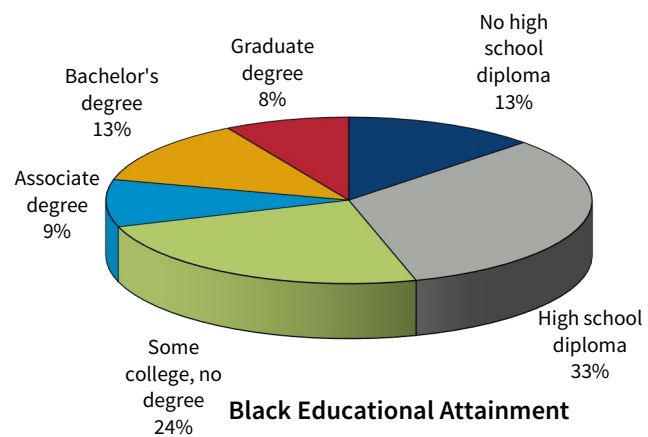
In Ohio, there are 124,000 marriages that include at least one Black spouse. Forty-one percent of these couples have children living at home. For all married couples in Ohio, thirty-eight percent have children at home. Sixty-two percent of Black families with children younger than 18 living with them consist of single mothers.



School Enrollment:
269,400

There are 269,400 Black students enrolled in Ohio's elementary and secondary schools, making up 14 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, almost 13 percent of Black Ohioans do not have a high school diploma or equivalency compared to 8 percent for the state overall. Nonetheless, more than 101,000 Black Ohioans are enrolled in college or graduate school.



**Foreign Born:
104,000**

There are approximately 104,000 foreign-born Black people living in Ohio. This constitutes 18 percent of all foreign-born residents. This percentage increased slightly over the past several years. Most of foreign-born Black people emigrated from Africa.

Approximately one-third of the African migration came from Eastern Africa, mainly Somalia and Ethiopia. Nigeria and Ghana, in west Africa, are also a strong source of immigrants. Of foreign-born Black people, sixty-nine 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 2022 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates. Business data came from the Census Bureau’s 2021 Annual Business Survey and the 2019 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.