



Department of
Development

The Office of Research,
A State Affiliate of the U.S. Census Bureau

Ohio African Americans

Snapshot from the 2021 American Community Survey



Ohio African Americans



Ohio's African American community is comprised of nearly 1.7 million people that claim at least partial African American heritage, accounting for 14.3 percent of the state's total population. According to the 2021 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, Ohio's African American population has increased 23 percent since 2000. For the United States, the African American population is more than 47.2 million, accounting for 14.2 percent of the nation's total population. Since 2000, the African American community in the U.S. has experienced an increase of nearly 10.8 million persons, or 29.7 percent.

OVERVIEW

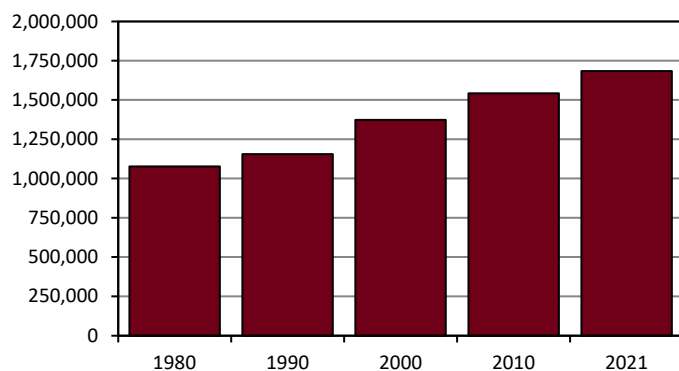
- 1,683,000 people - 14.3 percent of Ohio's total population
- 23 percent increase in population since 2000
- 103,000 were born outside the U.S.
- Median age of 33.7 years compared to 39.6 years for all Ohioans
- 266,000 enrolled in elementary and secondary schools
- Median household income: \$37,900
- 4,000 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 African American Population: 1,683,000

The African American community accounts for 14.3 percent of Ohio's population with steady growth occurring in recent years. Since 2000, the

number of African Americans has increased by 23 percent. In 1980 there were more than 1 million African Americans, comprising 10 percent of Ohio's total population.

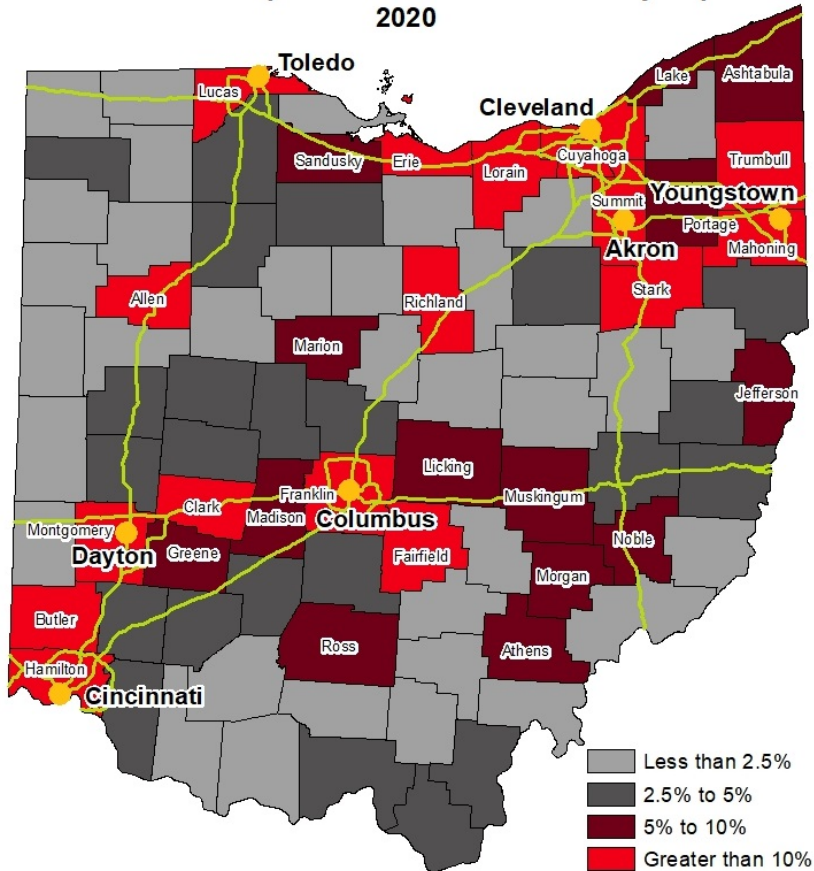


African American Population

Total African American Population		Percent of County Population	
Cuyahoga	399,022	Cuyahoga	31.5%
Franklin	336,958	Hamilton	27.4%
Hamilton	227,978	Franklin	25.4%
Montgomery	126,783	Montgomery	23.6%
Lucas	97,930	Lucas	22.7%
Summit	90,795	Mahoning	17.3%
Butler	42,486	Summit	16.8%
Mahoning	39,607	Allen	15.3%
Stark	38,180	Erie	11.9%
Lorain	32,544	Clark	11.6%
Trumbull	20,709	Richland	11.0%
Fairfield	16,136	Butler	10.9%

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 294,000 African American residents; in Cleveland, there are 194,000; and in Cincinnati there are 130,000 African American residents. The five-county Cleveland metropolitan area alone is home to more than one-quarter of Ohio's African American population.

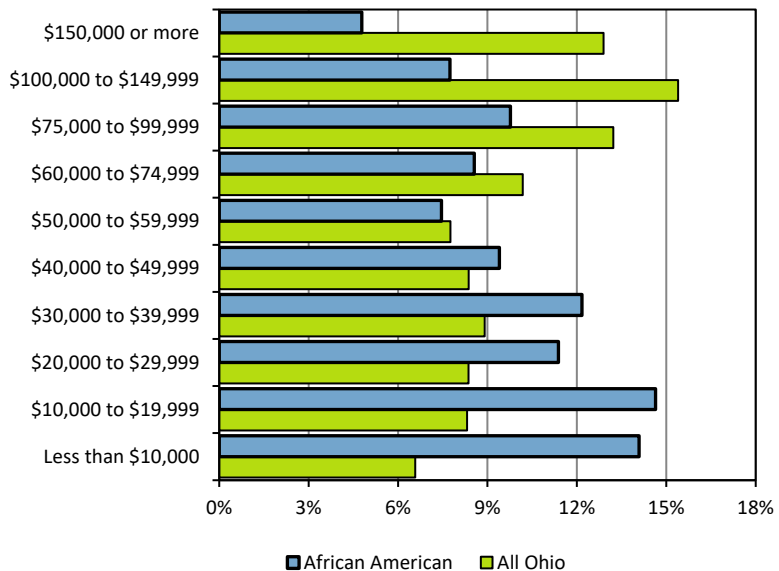
African American Population as Percent of County Population: 2020



Median Household Income: \$37,900

The income of African American Ohioans tends to be lower than

that of all Ohioans. The median household income for African Americans is \$37,900. For Ohio households overall, the median household income is nearly \$62,300. A lack of full-time, year-round employment is one factor accounting for the lower income. Just over 37 percent of African American Ohioans aged 16 and older worked full-time over the previous year compared to 42 percent of all Ohioans. The median earnings for African American Ohioans working less than full-time is \$11,000 compared to approximately \$40,000 for African American workers employed full-time year-round.



Household Income Distribution

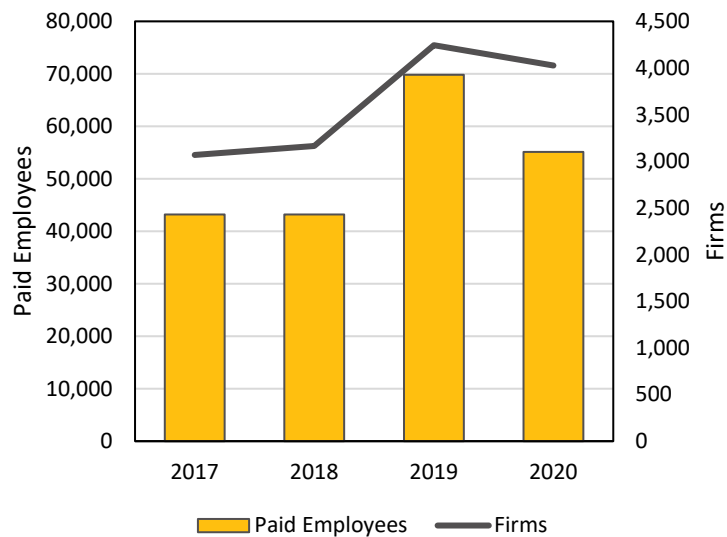
Twenty-seven percent of African Americans in Ohio live below the poverty line. Of Ohio's 314,000 African American family households, 24 percent live below the poverty line. Approximately 38 percent of these households have children younger than 5 years of age. Thirty-one percent of African American households received food stamps within the last 12 months.

**Businesses With
Paid Employees:
4,000**

There are 4,000 African American-owned businesses with paid employees in Ohio, according to the 2020 Annual Business Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. These businesses employ more than 55,100 with an annual payroll of \$1.5 billion. Thirty-six percent of the businesses with a payroll are in the health care and social assistance sector and these businesses account for 36 percent of the payroll

employees. For the state, this sector accounts for 11 percent of the businesses and 17 percent of payroll employees.

More than 800 African American-owned businesses with payrolls have existed 16 or more years. This accounts for 21 percent of African American businesses. For the state, 44 percent of the businesses have been around 16 or more years. Twenty-one percent have \$1 million or more in sales or revenues compared to 32 percent for all of Ohio. Fifty-two percent of African American-owned businesses with a payroll have less than five employees. The states comparable figure is 54 percent.



In addition to businesses with payrolls, there were approximately 86,500 non employer African American-owned businesses according to the 2018 Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics of the Annual Business Survey. Twenty percent of these businesses are in the transportation and warehousing sector.

**Unemployment Rate:
10.8%**

The number of African American Ohioans in the civilian labor force is nearly 659,000; the unemployment rate for African American Ohioans is 10.8 percent. African Americans in the labor force between the ages of 20 and 24 have an unemployment rate of 14.4 percent. For Ohio, the same age group has an

unemployment rate of 8.5 percent.

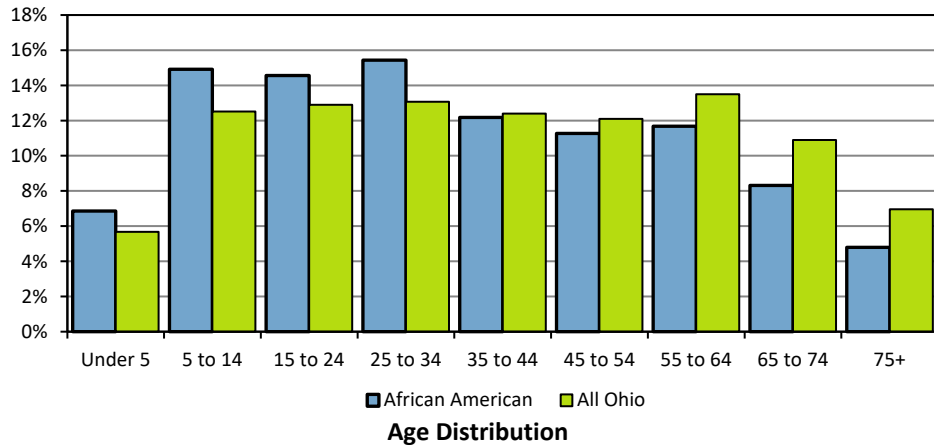
Employed African Americans are heavily represented in service occupations compared to all of Ohio. Of the nearly 588,000 employed African Americans in Ohio, 24 percent are in service occupations with 48,000 in healthcare support and 33,000 in food service occupations. By comparison, 16 percent of all Ohioans are in service occupations. Production, transportation, and material moving occupations account for 22 percent with 54,000 African American Ohioans involved in material moving occupations alone.

**Median Age:
33.7 years**

The median age of African Americans in Ohio is 33.7 years. For comparison, the median age of all Ohioans is 39.6 years.

In Ohio, there are 120,000 marriages that include at least one African American spouse. Forty-five

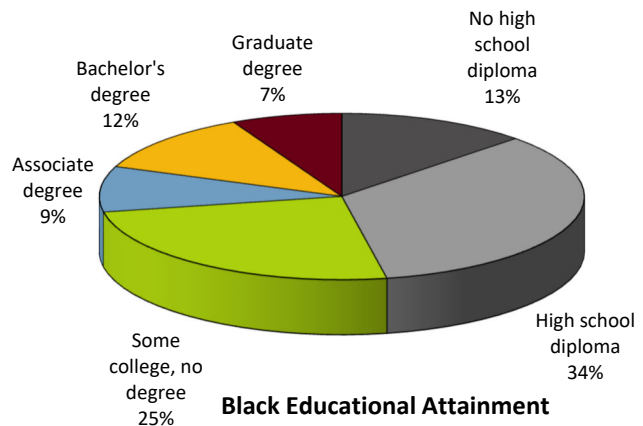
percent of these couples have children living at home. For all married couples in Ohio, thirty-eight percent have children at home. Sixty-two percent of African American families with children younger than 18 living with them consist of single mothers.



**School Enrollment:
266,000**

There are 266,000 African American students enrolled in Ohio's elementary schools, making up 14 percent of Ohio's total student body.

The educational attainment level of the African American community lags the total state population. Twenty-eight percent of African American Ohioans have obtained a post-secondary degree compared to 40 percent for all Ohioans. Correspondingly, almost 13 percent of African Americans do not have a high school diploma or equivalency compared to 8 percent for the state overall. Nonetheless, more than 89,000 African American Ohioans are enrolled in college or graduate school.



**Foreign Born:
103,000**

There are approximately 103,000 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. Ghana, in west Africa, is also a strong source of immigrants. Of foreign-born Black people, sixty-five percent report speaking only English or English "very well".

The statistical source of this profile is the 2010 Census of Population and Housing and the Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates. Business data came from the Census Bureau's 2020 Annual Business Survey and the 2018 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.