

Office of Research

A State Affiliate of the
U.S. Census Bureau

Ohio County Indicators

Ohio African Americans

Snapshot from the 2024
American Community Survey



**Department of
Development**

Black Ohioans

Ohio's Black community is comprised of nearly 1.8 million people that claim at least partial African heritage, accounting for 14.9 percent of the state's total population. According to the 2024 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, Ohio's Black population has increased 29 percent since 2000. For the United States, the Black population is more than 49.2 million, accounting for 14.5 percent of the nation's total population. Since 2000, the Black community in the U.S. has experienced an increase of nearly 12.8 million persons, or 35.1 percent.

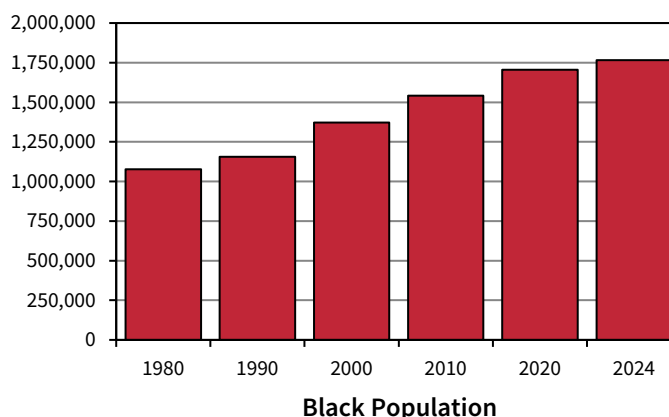
Overview

- 1.8 million people - 14.9 percent of Ohio's total population.
- 29 percent increase in population since 2000.
- 111,700 were born outside the U.S.
- Median age of 34.9 years compared to 39.8 years for all Ohioans.
- 281,900 enrolled in elementary and secondary schools.
- Median household income: \$45,800.
- 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

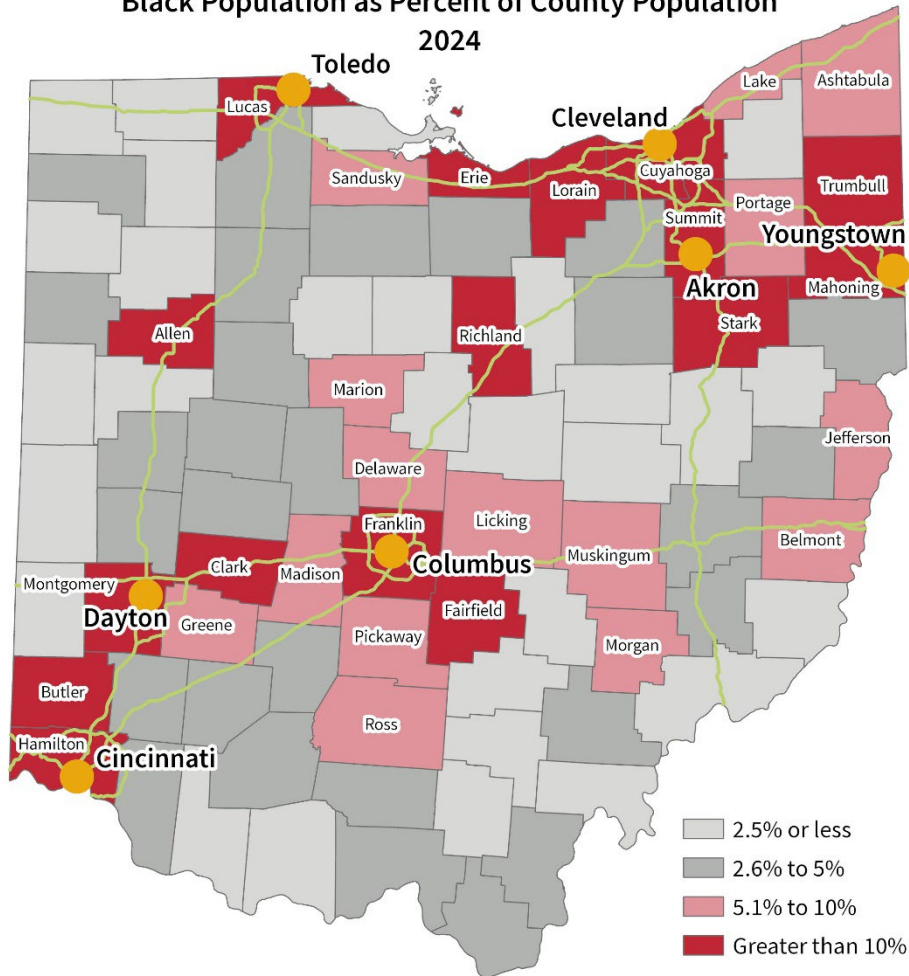
The Black community accounts for 14.9 percent of Ohio's population. After steady growth from 1990 to 2020, the rate of growth has slowed since then. Since 2000, the number of Black Ohioans has increased by 29 percent. In 1980 there were more than 1 million Black people, comprising 10 percent of Ohio's total population.



Black Population by County: 2024			
Largest Total Black Population		Largest Percent of County Population	
Cuyahoga	399,902	Cuyahoga	32.2%
Franklin	383,380	Hamilton	28.7%
Hamilton	240,653	Franklin	28.3%
Montgomery	130,912	Montgomery	24.4%
Lucas	100,860	Lucas	23.7%
Summit	94,278	Mahoning	17.8%
Butler	50,569	Summit	17.5%
Stark	40,116	Allen	15.1%
Mahoning	40,107	Fairfield	12.9%
Lorain	37,354	Butler	12.7%
Fairfield	21,694	Clark	12.6%
Trumbull	21,627	Erie	12.1%

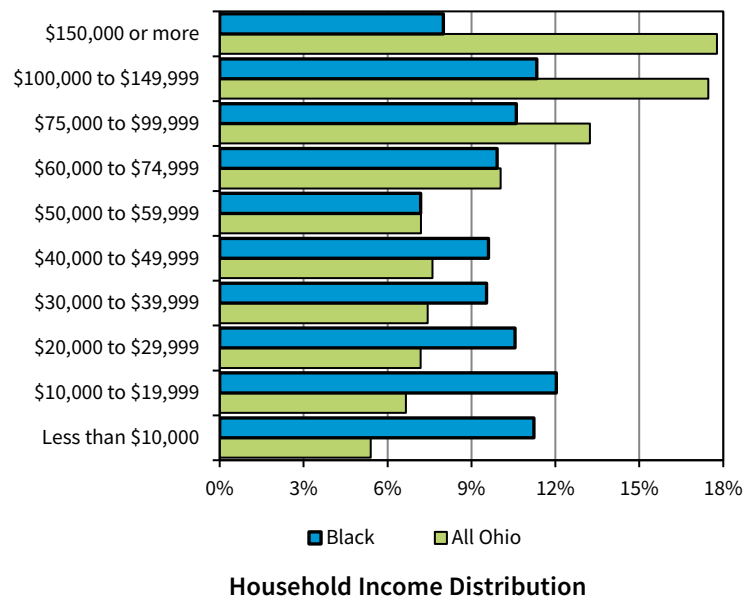
Most Black people in Ohio live in urban areas. More than one of three Black Ohioans in the state live in the cities of Cincinnati, Cleveland, or Columbus. In Columbus, there are 294,000 Black residents; in Cleveland, there are 188,000; and in Cincinnati there are 128,000. The six-county Cleveland metropolitan area alone is home to more than one-quarter of Ohio's Black population.

Black Population as Percent of County Population 2024



Income

The income of Black Ohioans tends to be lower than that of all Ohioans. The median household income for Black residents is \$45,800. For Ohio households overall, the median household income is nearly \$72,200. A lower proportion of full-time, year-round employment is one factor accounting for the lower income. Just under 41 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 \$47,000 for Black workers employed full-time year-round.

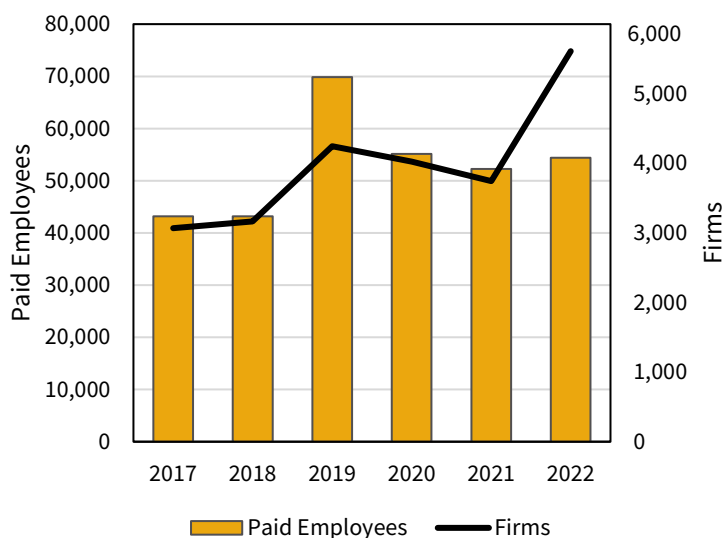


Twenty-four percent of Black people in Ohio live below the poverty line. Of Ohio's 316,400 Black family households, 20 percent live below the poverty line. Approximately 35 percent of these households have children younger than 5 years of age. Twenty-five percent of Black households received food stamps 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 and Occupation

The number of Black Ohioans in the civilian labor force is 704,500. The unemployment rate for Black Ohioans is 7.9 percent. Black people in the labor force between the ages of 20 and 24 have an unemployment rate of 11.9 percent. For Ohio, the same age group has an unemployment rate of 6.8 percent.

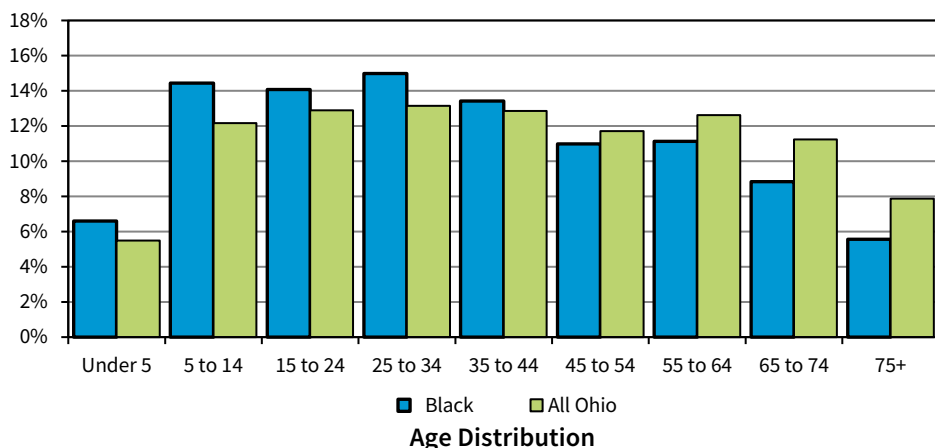
Employed Black people are heavily represented in service occupations compared to all of Ohio. Of the nearly 649,000 employed Black people in Ohio, 23 percent are in service occupations with 54,000 in healthcare support and 37,000 in food service occupations. By comparison, 16 percent of all Ohioans are in service occupations. Production, transportation, and material moving occupations account for 22 percent with 51,400 Black Ohioans involved in production occupations alone.

Age and Household Structure

The median age of Black people in Ohio is 34.9 years. For comparison, the median age of all Ohioans is 39.8 years.

In Ohio, there are 130,300 marriages that include at least one Black spouse. Forty-two percent of these couples have children living at home. For all married couples in

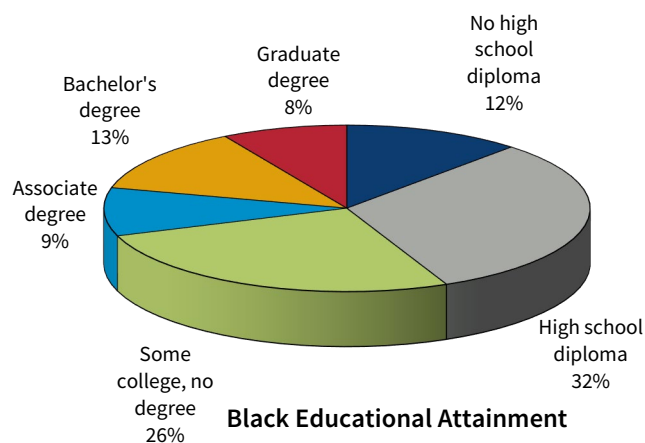
Ohio, thirty-eight percent have children at home. Fifty-seven percent of Black families with children younger than 18 living with them consist of single mothers.



Education

There are 281,900 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, nearly 12 percent of Black Ohioans do not have a high school diploma or equivalency compared to eight percent for the state overall. Nonetheless, more than 96,000 Black Ohioans are enrolled in college or graduate school.



Place of Birth

There are approximately 111,700 foreign-born Black people living in Ohio. This constitutes 17 percent of all foreign-born residents. Most of foreign-born Black people emigrated from Africa. About one-third of the African migration came from western Africa specifically Ghana and Nigeria. Slightly less of the African migration came from Eastern Africa, mainly Somalia and Kenya. Of foreign-born Black people, 65 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.