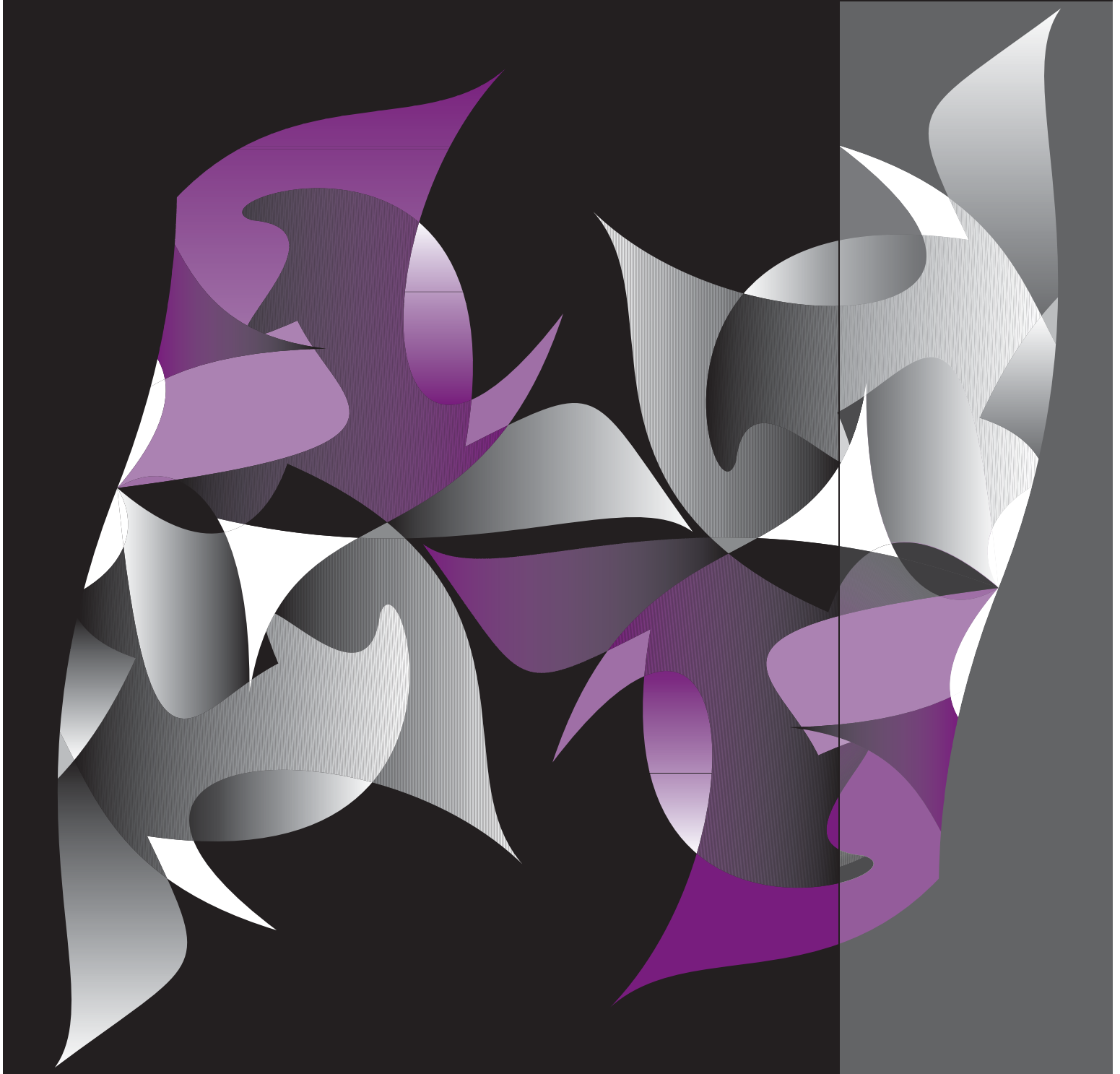


# The American Community— Blacks: 2004

*American Community Survey Reports*

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ACS-04



**U S C E N S U S B U R E A U**

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# The American Community— Blacks: 2004

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents a portrait of the Black or African-American population in the United States.<sup>1</sup> It is part of the American Community Survey (ACS) report series. Information on demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics in the tables and figures are based on data from the 2004 ACS Selected Population Profiles and Detailed Tables.<sup>2</sup> The data for the Black population are based on responses to the 2004 ACS question on race, which asked all respondents to report one or more races.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In the federal government, the category “Black or African American” refers to people having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. It includes people who indicated their race or races as “Black, African Am., or Negro,” or wrote in entries such as African American, Afro American, Nigerian, or Haitian. The terms “Black” and “African American” are used by the U.S. Census Bureau; hereinafter in this report, the term “Black” is used to refer to all individuals who reported they were Black or African American.

<sup>2</sup> The 2004 ACS datasets, including Selected Population Profiles and Detailed Tables, are available online in the American FactFinder at <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>.

<sup>3</sup> For further information on the content and format of the questionnaire, see <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/SQuest03.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/SQuest03.pdf)>.

Table 1.  
**Population by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2004**

(Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))

Race and Hispanic origin	Population	Percent of U.S. population	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>285,691,501</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
White alone, not Hispanic .....	192,362,875	67.3	0.01
Black alone .....	34,772,381	12.2	0.03
Not Hispanic .....	34,142,554	12.0	0.03
Hispanic .....	629,827	0.2	0.02
Black alone or in combination .....	36,597,015	12.8	0.02
Not Hispanic .....	35,630,167	12.5	0.02
Hispanic .....	966,848	0.3	0.01
Black in combination .....	1,824,634	0.6	0.01
Not Hispanic .....	1,487,613	0.5	0.01
Hispanic .....	337,021	0.1	0.01
Black <b>and</b> White .....	1,141,232	0.4	0.02

(X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, produces the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

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The 2004 ACS estimated the number of Blacks to be 36.6 million, or 12.8 percent of the U.S. household population (Table 1).<sup>4</sup> The number of individuals who reported Black as their only race was 34.8 million, or 12.2 percent of the population. About another 1.8 million reported their race as Black and one or more other races, including 1.1 million people who reported their race as Black **and** White.<sup>5</sup> The Black-alone-or-in-combination population included 967,000 Hispanics, and the Black-alone population included 630,000 Hispanics.<sup>6</sup>

Data are reported for both the Black-alone and the Black-alone-or-in-combination populations. In this report, respondents who reported Black and no other race are included in the single-race or Black-alone population. Respondents who reported Black either alone or with one or more other race categories are included in the Black-alone-or-in-combination population. The report

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<sup>4</sup> This report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia; it does not include data for Puerto Rico.

<sup>5</sup> The race-in-combination categories use the conjunction **and** in bold and italicized print to link the race groups that compose the combination.

<sup>6</sup> The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of households. Estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling error and other factors. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

also includes data for the non-Hispanic segments of these populations. Data on individuals who reported that they were Black **and** White, a part of the in-combination population, are shown separately in this report in the Black **and** White category.

The term “Black” is used to refer to the Black-alone population and the term “non-Hispanic White” is used to refer to the White-alone, not Hispanic population.

## HIGHLIGHTS

While Blacks resided in every state in 2004, about 1 of every 4 Blacks lived in three states (New York, Florida, and Georgia). Blacks represented about one-third or more of the population in the District of Columbia, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Blacks represented less than 5 percent of the population in 20 states.

Compared with the non-Hispanic White population, the Black population had a larger proportion of younger people and a smaller proportion of elderly people in 2004. Blacks were also less likely to be married than non-Hispanic Whites, and a larger proportion of their households were maintained by women. Compared with non-Hispanic White women, Black women were more likely to have given birth in the past 12 months. Black grandparents who lived with

their grandchildren were more likely to be responsible for their care.<sup>7</sup>

Most Blacks were high school graduates and more than 1 of every 6 had a bachelor's degree or more education. Compared with non-Hispanic White workers, Black workers were less likely to be employed in management, professional, and related occupations. Black workers and non-Hispanic White workers were employed in sales and office occupations at a similar rate. About 1 of every 4 Blacks lived below the poverty level, compared with about 1 of every 10 non-Hispanic Whites. Blacks had a lower median income and were more likely to rent their homes.

The foreign-born Black population was about 2.6 million, or 8 percent of the total Black population, in 2004. About 66 percent of foreign-born Blacks were born in Latin America and about 30 percent were born in Africa. About one-half of foreign-born Blacks entered the United States in 1990 or later, and almost 1 of every 2 foreign-born Blacks was a naturalized citizen.

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<sup>7</sup> The summary statistics mentioned in these highlights often refer to different segments of the Black-alone population. For example, birth rates are estimated for women 15 to 50 years old and educational attainment refers to the population aged 25 and older. The figures in the report contain information on the universe for each statistic.

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## What Is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a new nationwide survey designed to provide reliable, timely information for local communities on how they are changing. This survey is a critical element in the Census Bureau's 2010 Decennial Census Program. The ACS collects detailed information on the characteristics of the population and housing on an ongoing sample basis. These data previously were collected in census years in conjunction with the decennial census. Since the ACS is conducted every year, rather than once every 10 years, it will provide more current data throughout the decade.

Fully implemented in 2005, the ACS is the largest household survey in the United States, with an annual sample size of about 3 million housing unit addresses throughout the country. Release of annual estimates from the ACS began in 2006 for all geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more; 3-year period estimates will begin in 2008 for areas and populations as small as 20,000; and 5-year period estimates will start in 2010 for census tracts, block groups, and small populations. All estimates, including the 3-year and 5-year period estimates, are planned to be updated every year.

During the testing program (2000 to 2004), the ACS sampled approximately 800,000 addresses per year and produced estimates for the United States, states, and essentially all places, counties, and metropolitan areas with at least 250,000 people.

The data contained in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed in 2004. The population represented (the population universe) is limited to the household population and excludes the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on the ACS sample design and other ACS topics, visit [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html).

The Census Bureau's population estimates program releases official population estimates of the U.S. resident population by sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin. For information on the Census Bureau's population estimates program, visit [www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php](http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php). The ACS estimates in this report pertain to the household population only (i.e., the total population, excluding the group quarters population). Therefore, the ACS estimate of the Black population shown in this report should not be viewed as the official measure of this population.

## Understanding Data on Race and Hispanic Origin From the 2004 American Community Survey

The 2004 American Community Survey (ACS) followed the federal standards for collecting and presenting data on race and Hispanic origin established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 1997. In accordance with these standards, which mandate that race and Hispanic origin are two separate and distinct concepts, the ACS asked both a Hispanic-origin question and a race question.\* The first question asked respondents if they were Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino. The next question asked respondents to indicate the race or races they considered themselves to be.\*\*

The questions about race and Hispanic origin on the 2004 ACS are comparable with those on Census 2000. In both, the Hispanic-origin question preceded the race question and respondents were asked to select one or more race categories. The 2004 ACS question on race included 15 separate response categories and two areas where respondents could write in a more specific race group. In addition to White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Some Other Race, 7 of the 15 response categories are Asian and 4 are Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. OMB recognizes five standard race categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. The response categories and write-in answers can be combined to create the five OMB race categories plus Some Other Race, as well as all combinations of two or more races. The “Some Other Race” category was included in

Census 2000 and also in the 2004 ACS for respondents who were unable to identify with 1 of the 5 OMB race categories.

Because the 2004 ACS allowed respondents to report more than one race, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as Black may be defined as those who reported Black and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported Black regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept).

Because race and Hispanic origin are treated as separate concepts in the federal statistical system, people in each race group may be either Hispanic or not Hispanic, and Hispanics may be any race. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches for showing data on race and ethnicity. The text of this report compares the population and housing characteristics for the single-race Black population with those of the White-alone, not Hispanic population. However, this does not imply that this approach is the Census Bureau’s preferred method for analyzing data on race. In the graphics and tables of this report, several approaches for measuring race are shown. These approaches illustrate the overlapping concepts for measuring race. The specific measures shown are: 1) the single-race Black population; 2) the single-race Black, not Hispanic population; 3) the Black-alone-or-in-combination population; 4) the Black-alone-or-in-combination, not Hispanic population; and 5) the Black *and* White population (the largest race combination involving Black).

Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Blacks overlap slightly with data for Hispanics. Data from the ACS show that, in 2004, Hispanic Blacks composed approximately 2 percent of the single-race Black population.

\* For further information, see <[www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/1997standards.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/1997standards.html)>.

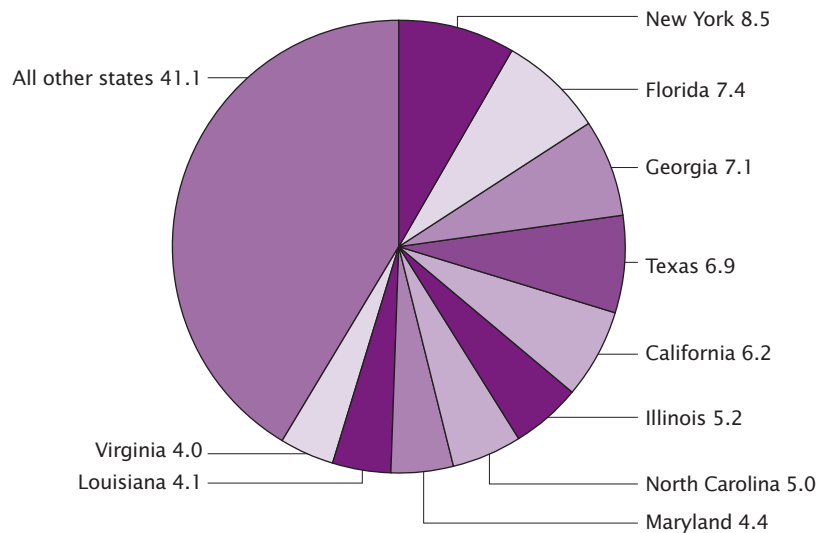
\*\* Race and Hispanic origin, as used by the Census Bureau, reflect self-identification by individuals according to the group or groups with which they most closely identify. The categories are sociopolitical constructs that include racial, ethnic, and national-origin groups. For more details, see <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/2004/usedata/Subject\\_Definitions.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/2004/usedata/Subject_Definitions.pdf)>.

## A majority of Blacks lived in ten states.

Figure 1.

### Black Household Population by State: 2004

(Percent distribution of Black-alone population. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



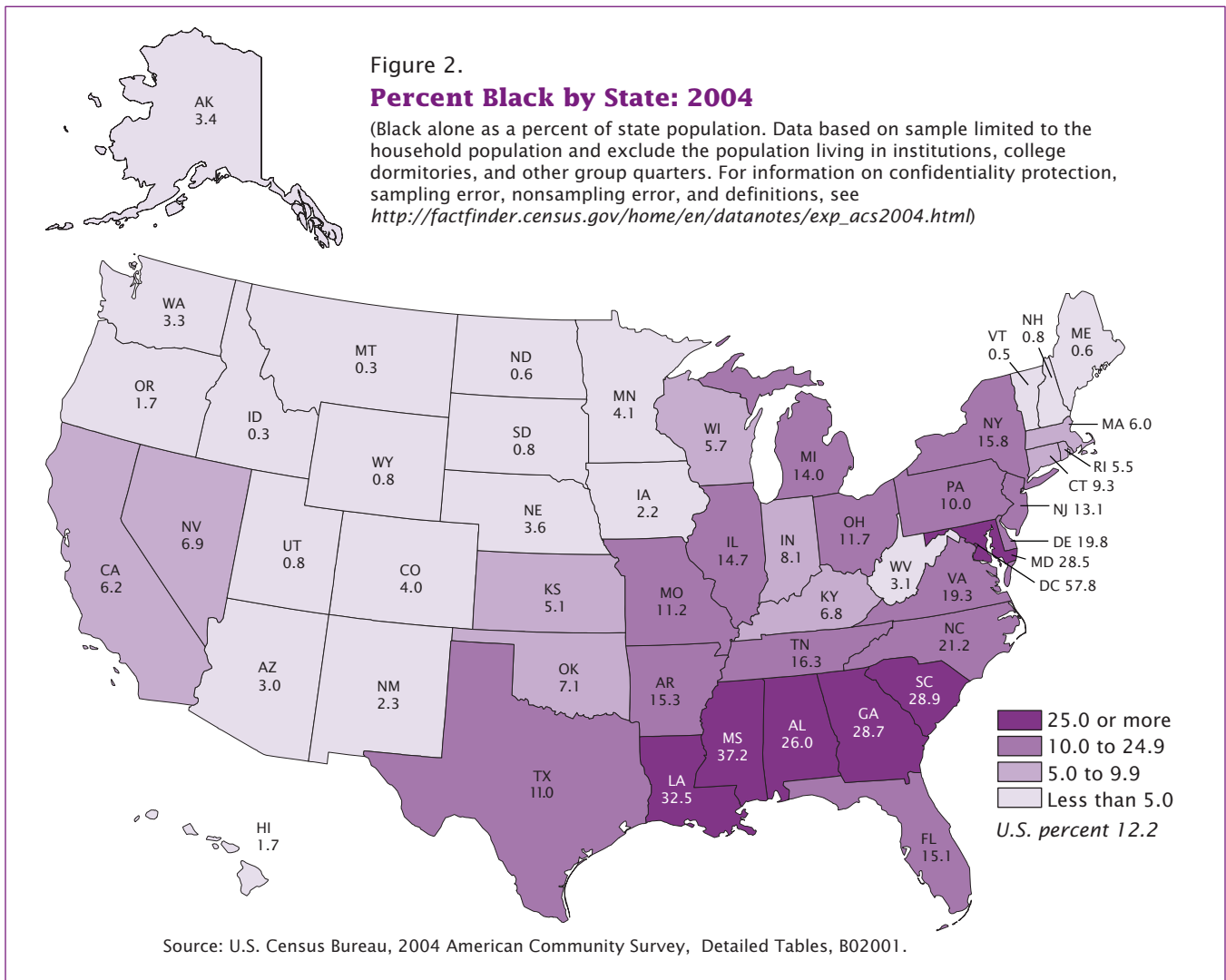
Note: Percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

- In 2004, nearly 60 percent of all Blacks in the United States lived in ten states (New York, Florida, Georgia, Texas, California, Illinois, North Carolina, Maryland, Louisiana, and Virginia).
- Combined, the states of New York, Florida, and Georgia represented about one-fourth of the total Black population.
- Five of the ten most populous states had Black populations larger than 2 million (New York, Florida, Georgia, Texas, and California).

**Blacks represented over one-fourth of the total household population in six states and a majority of the household population in the District of Columbia.**

- Blacks represented about 12 percent of the U.S. household population. The majority of the household population in the District of Columbia was Black (58 percent).
- In six southern states (Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina, Georgia, Maryland, and Alabama), more than 1 in 4 people were Black.
- States in the West tended to have relatively low proportions of Blacks in their populations. Blacks represented less than 5 percent of the population in most Western states, including less than 1 percent in Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana.
- States in New England also tended to have relatively low proportions of Blacks in their populations, including Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, where less than 1 percent of the population was Black.





**The median age of the Black population was about 9 years younger than that of the non-Hispanic White population.**

- In 2004, Blacks had a median age of 31.2 years, about 9 years younger than the median age of the non-Hispanic White population, 40.1 years.
- The Black population had a larger proportion of young people and a smaller proportion of older people than the non-Hispanic White population. About 31 percent of Blacks were children (under 18 years old), compared with 22 percent of non-Hispanic Whites. About 8 percent of Blacks were 65 and older, compared with about 15 percent of non-Hispanic Whites.

Figure 3.  
**Selected Age Groups and Median Age: 2004**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

## More than 40 percent of Blacks were never married.

- In 2004, about 34 percent of Blacks aged 15 and older were married, while about 43 percent were never married. Non-Hispanic Whites aged 15 and older were more likely to be married (about 57 percent) and

less likely never to have married (about 24 percent).<sup>8</sup>

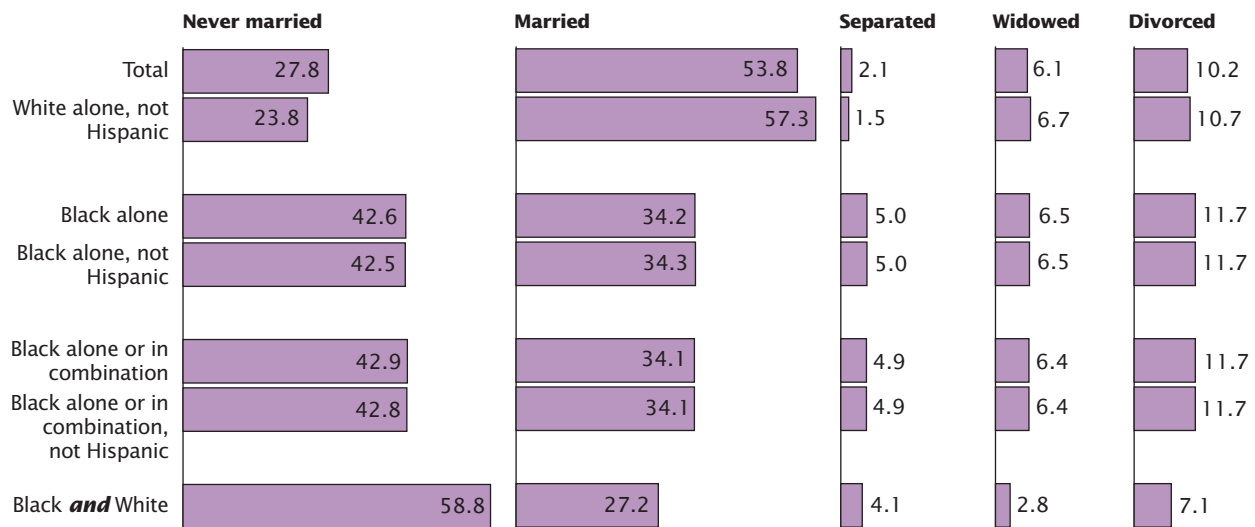
<sup>8</sup> Differences between the age distributions of Blacks and non-Hispanic Whites may affect marital status patterns.

- About 1 in 6 Blacks was either separated (5 percent) or divorced (12 percent). In comparison, about 1 in 8 non-Hispanic Whites was either separated (2 percent) or divorced (11 percent).

Figure 4.

### Marital Status: 2004

(Percent distribution of population 15 and older. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



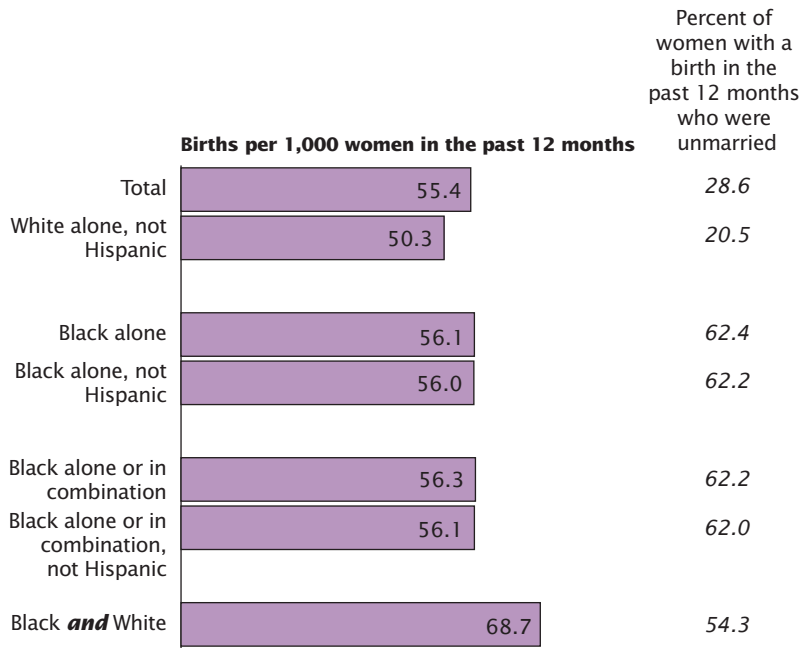
Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

**Black women were more likely to have given birth in the past 12 months than non-Hispanic White women.**

Figure 5.  
**Fertility: 2004**

(Of every 1,000 women aged 15 to 50, the number who had given birth in the 12 months preceding the survey, based on the race and Hispanic origin of the mother. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

- Black women had a slightly higher fertility rate than non-Hispanic White women.<sup>9</sup>
- About 56 of every 1,000 Black women aged 15 to 50 had given birth in the 12 months prior to being surveyed, compared with about 50 of every 1,000 non-Hispanic White women aged 15 to 50.
- About 60 percent of Black mothers who had given birth were unmarried, compared with about 20 percent of non-Hispanic White mothers who had given birth.

<sup>9</sup> Of every 1,000 women aged 15 to 50, the number who had given birth in the 12 months preceding the date of the survey, whether in 2003 or 2004.

**About two-thirds of Black households and non-Hispanic White households were family households.**

- About 65 percent of Black households and about 66 percent of non-Hispanic White households were family households.<sup>10</sup>
- About 30 percent of Black households were families maintained by a woman with no husband present, compared with about 9 percent of non-Hispanic White households.
- Black households (29 percent) were less likely than non-Hispanic White households (54 percent) to be married-couple households.
- Black households consisted of 2.7 people on average, compared with 2.5 people on average for non-Hispanic White households.

<sup>10</sup> A household is a person or a group of people who occupy a housing unit as their current residence. A family household consists of a householder and one or more people living together in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. It may also include people

unrelated to the householder. There are three types of family households in the survey data: married couple, female householders with no husband present, and male householders with no wife present. In addition, there are non-family households, such as a person living alone or with unrelated individuals.

Figure 6.  
**Household Type: 2004**

(Percent distribution. Household type is shown by the race and Hispanic origin of the householder. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



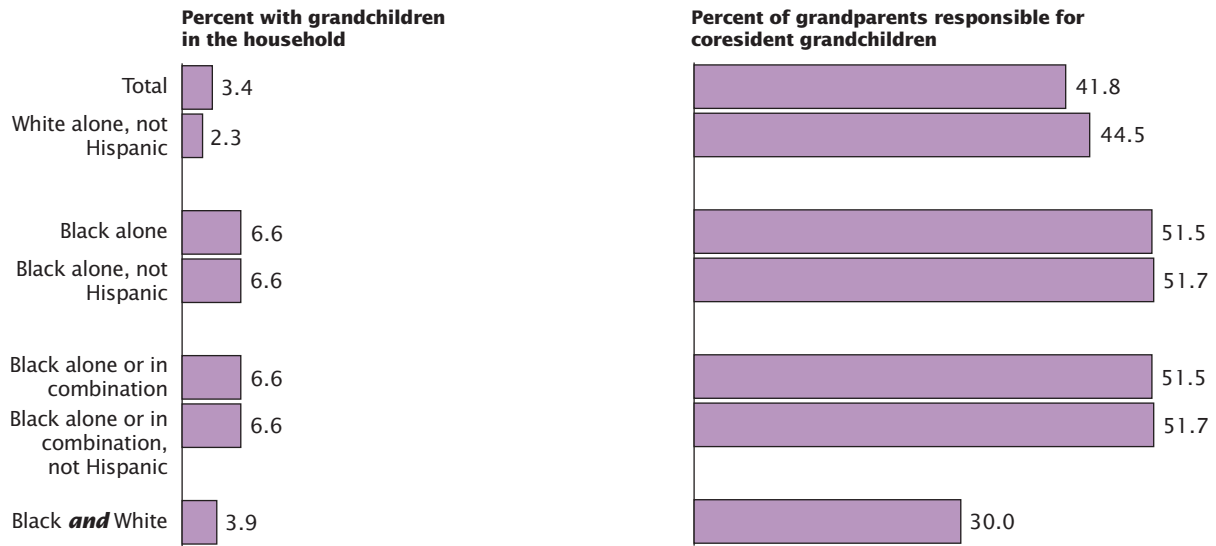
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201, and Detailed Tables, B11001.

**Blacks were more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to live with and care for grandchildren.**

- About 7 percent of Blacks aged 30 and older were grandparents living in the same household with their coresident grandchildren younger than 18. In comparison, about 2 percent of non-Hispanic Whites aged 30 and older were grandparents living in the same household with their coresident grandchildren younger than 18.
- About 52 percent of Black grandparents who lived with their coresident grandchildren were also responsible for their care, compared with about 45 percent of non-Hispanic White grandparents who lived with their coresident grandchildren.

Figure 7.  
**Responsibility for Grandchildren Under 18 Years: 2004**

(Percent of people 30 and older. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

**About 9 of every 10 Blacks and non-Hispanic Whites were native.<sup>11</sup>**

- Approximately 92 percent of Blacks were native, compared

with 96 percent of non-Hispanic Whites.

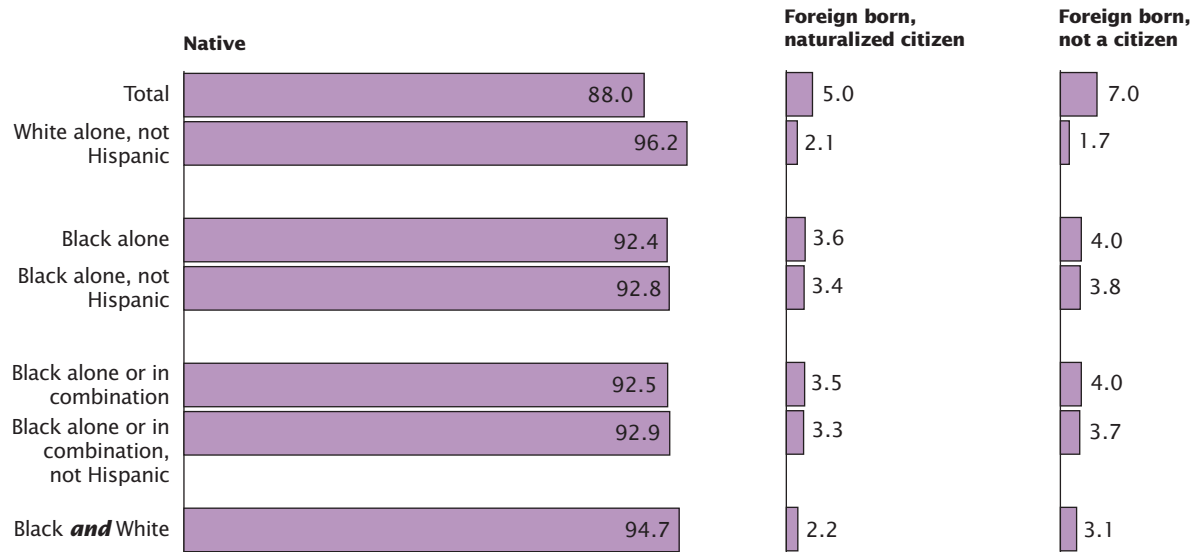
- In addition, about 4 percent of Blacks were U.S. citizens through naturalization, compared with about 2 percent of non-Hispanic Whites.

<sup>11</sup> Nativity is determined by U.S. citizenship status and place of birth. Natives are those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or a U.S. island area (the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or born abroad of a U.S. citizen parent. All other individuals are considered foreign born.

Figure 8.  
**Nativity and Citizenship Status: 2004**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))

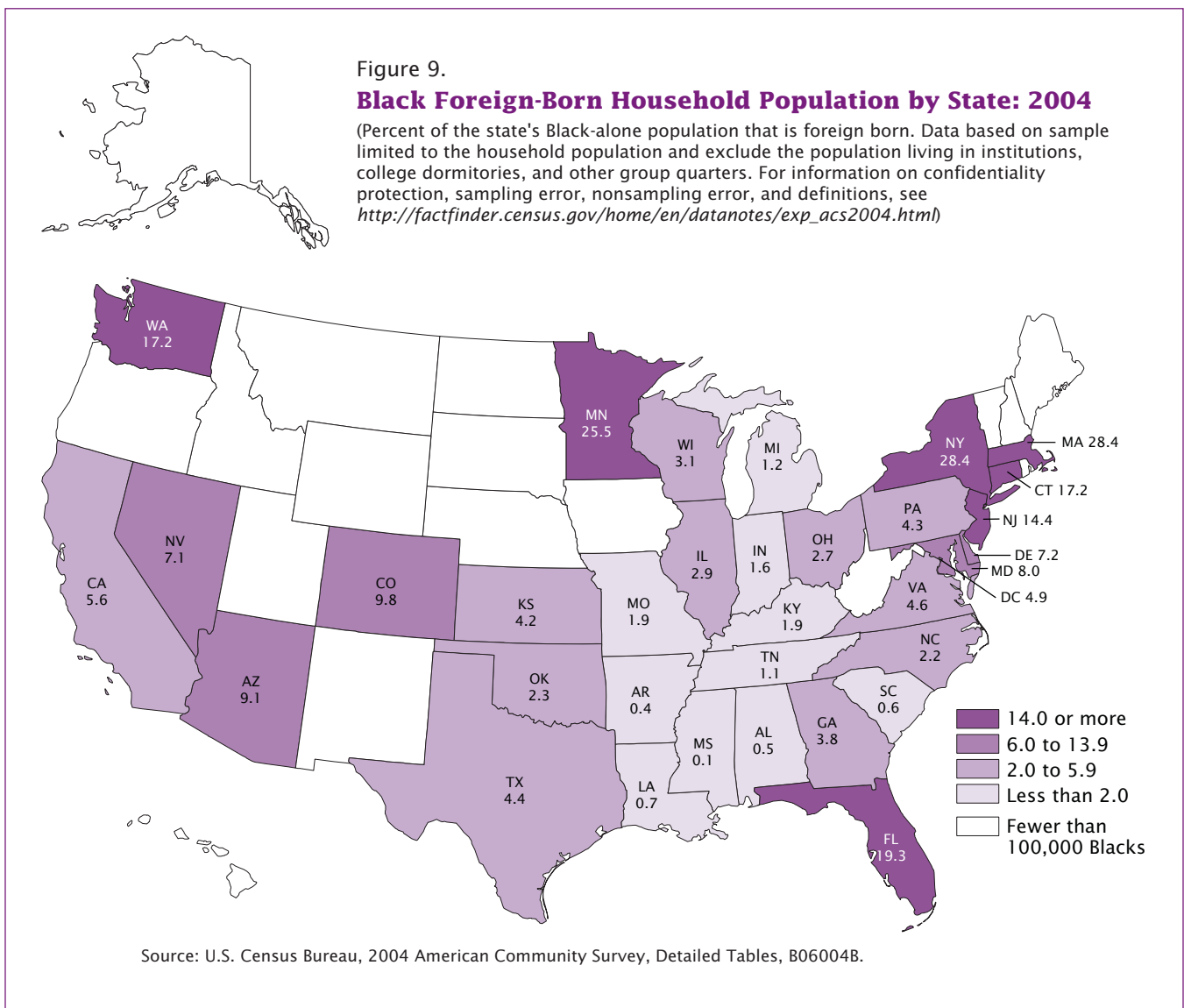


Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

**About 1 in 4 Blacks in New York, Massachusetts, and Minnesota was foreign born.**

- In the United States, six states (California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Texas) had total foreign-born populations of 1 million or more. Of these states, three had relatively higher percentages of foreign-born Blacks (New Jersey, New York, and Florida, with percentages of about 14 percent to about 28 percent), while the other three had lower percentages (about 6 percent or less).
- Among states with at least 100,000 Blacks, about one-fourth or more of the Black population was foreign born in New York, Massachusetts, and Minnesota. Four of the seven states with about 14 percent or more foreign-born Blacks were in the Northeast (New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey).
- States with Black populations of 100,000 or more and relatively low percentages of foreign-born Blacks in their population (about 2 percent or less) were in the South and the Midwest.

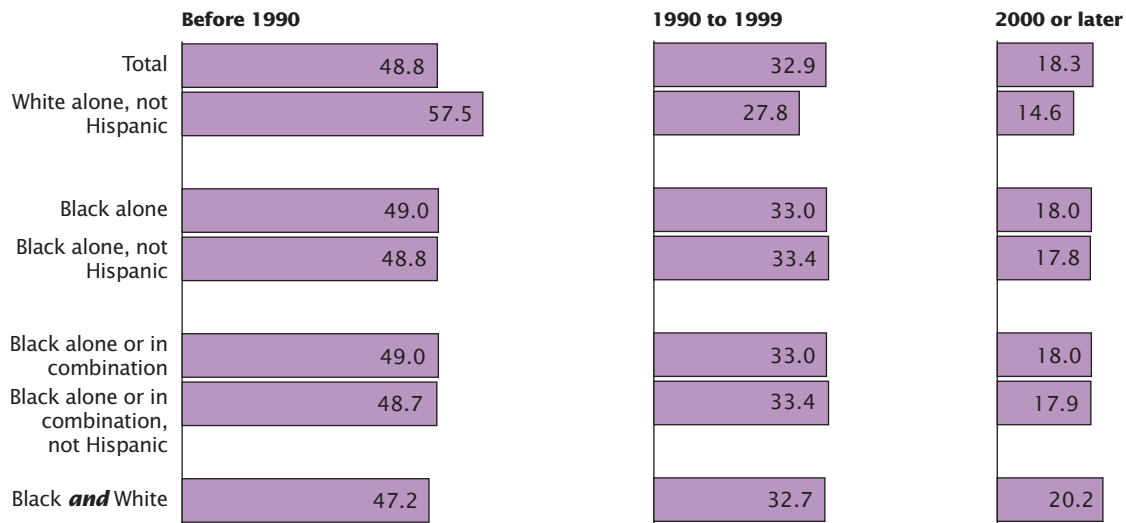


**About half of foreign-born Blacks arrived in the United States since 1990.**

- About 33 percent of foreign-born Blacks entered the United States during the 1990s and about 18 percent arrived in 2000 or later.
- The majority of foreign-born non-Hispanic Whites entered the United States prior to 1990.

Figure 10.  
**Foreign Born by Year of Entry: 2004**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.



## Nearly all foreign-born Blacks were born in Africa or Latin America.

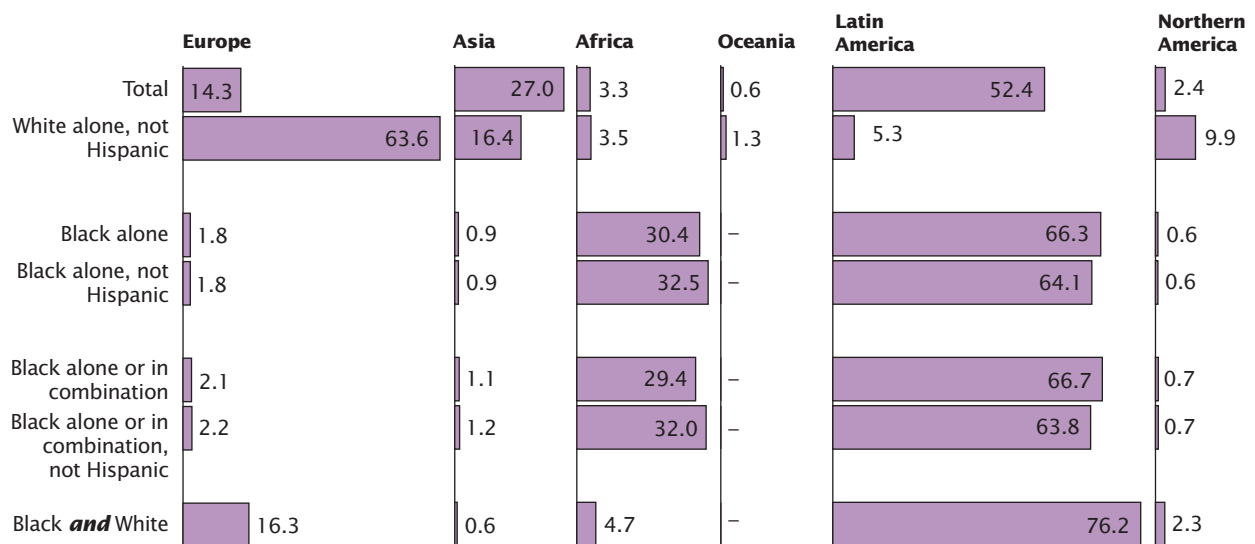
- In 2004, nearly all foreign-born Blacks were from 1 of 2 world regions—Africa or Latin America. About 66 percent of foreign-born Blacks living in the United States were born in Latin America; another 30 percent of foreign-born Blacks were born in Africa.
- Most foreign-born non-Hispanic Whites were born in Europe (64 percent), Asia (16 percent), and Northern America (10 percent). Less than 5 percent of foreign-born Blacks were born in these regions.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> The world regions referenced above generally reflect those defined by the United Nations. For a list of detailed countries, see <<http://factfinder.census.gov/metadoc/birthplace.pdf>>.

Figure 11.

### World Region of Birth of Foreign-Born Household Population: 2004

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



— Rounds to zero.

Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

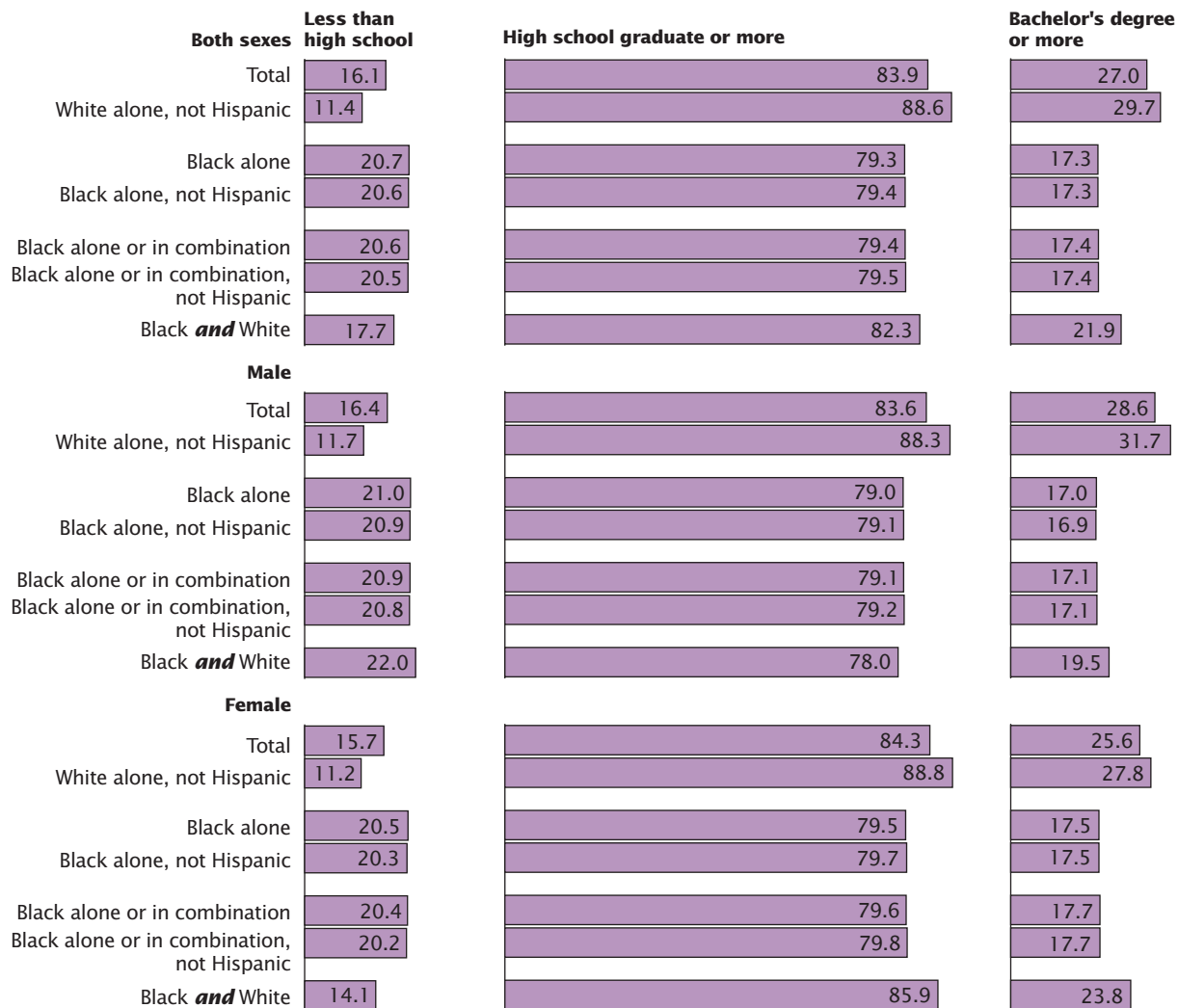
## About four-fifths of Blacks were high school graduates.

- About 80 percent of Blacks aged 25 and older were high school graduates and about 17 percent had a bachelor's degree or more education. Among non-Hispanic Whites aged 25 and older, about 89 percent were high school graduates and about 30 percent had a bachelor's degree or more education, compared with about 32 percent of non-Hispanic White men and about 28 percent of non-Hispanic White women.
- About 17 percent each of Black men and Black women had a bachelor's degree or more

Figure 12.

### Educational Attainment by Sex: 2004

(Percent of population 25 and older. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

**Similar proportions of Blacks were employed in managerial, professional, and related occupations and sales and office occupations.**

- Similar proportions of civilian employed Blacks aged 16 and older and civilian employed non-Hispanic Whites aged 16 and older worked in sales and office occupations (about 27 percent). About 27 percent of Blacks and about 38 percent of non-Hispanic Whites worked in managerial, professional, and related occupations.
- About 24 percent of Black workers were in service occupations and about 17 percent were employed in production, transportation, and material moving occupations.
- In comparison, the proportion of non-Hispanic White workers aged 16 and older in these occupations was about 14 percent in service occupations and about 12 percent in production, transportation, and material moving occupations.

Figure 13.  
**Occupation: 2004**

(Percent distribution of civilian employed population 16 and older. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

**The median income of Black households was less than that of non-Hispanic White households.<sup>13</sup>**

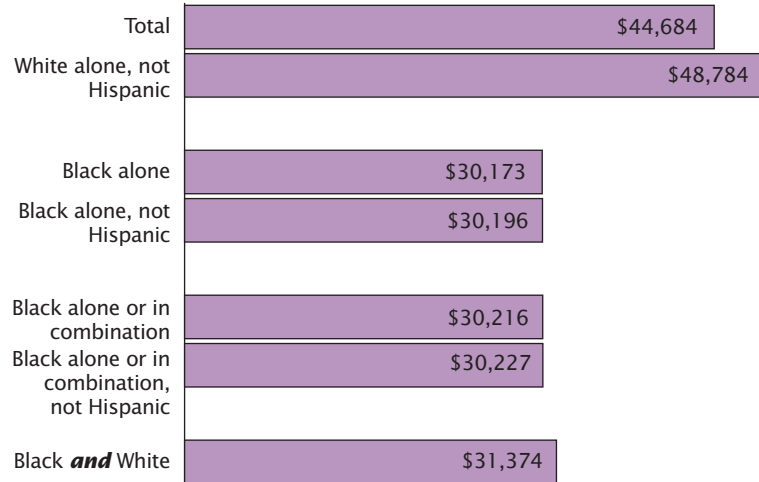
- The median income of Black households in the 12 months prior to being surveyed was about \$30,200. This was less than two-thirds of the median income of non-Hispanic White households, which was about \$48,800.

<sup>13</sup> Data reflect the median income of households in the 12 months prior to being surveyed. Income is expressed in 2004 inflation-adjusted dollars. It is based on the distribution of the total number of households and includes those with no income. Households are classified by the race and Hispanic origin of the householder.

Figure 14.

**Median Household Income: 2004**

(Household income in the past 12 months in 2004 inflation-adjusted dollars. Housing units are classified by the race and Hispanic origin of the householder. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

## The poverty rate was higher for Blacks than for non-Hispanic Whites.<sup>14</sup>

- About 26 percent of Blacks were living below the poverty level in the 12 months prior to being

surveyed, compared with about 9 percent of non-Hispanic Whites.

- The poverty rate was generally higher for children (under age 18). About 36 percent of Black children and about 11 percent of non-Hispanic White children lived in poverty.

<sup>14</sup> In accordance with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the threshold for the family, then that family and every individual in it are considered to be in poverty. For example, the poverty threshold for a family of three with one child under 18 for the 1-year period

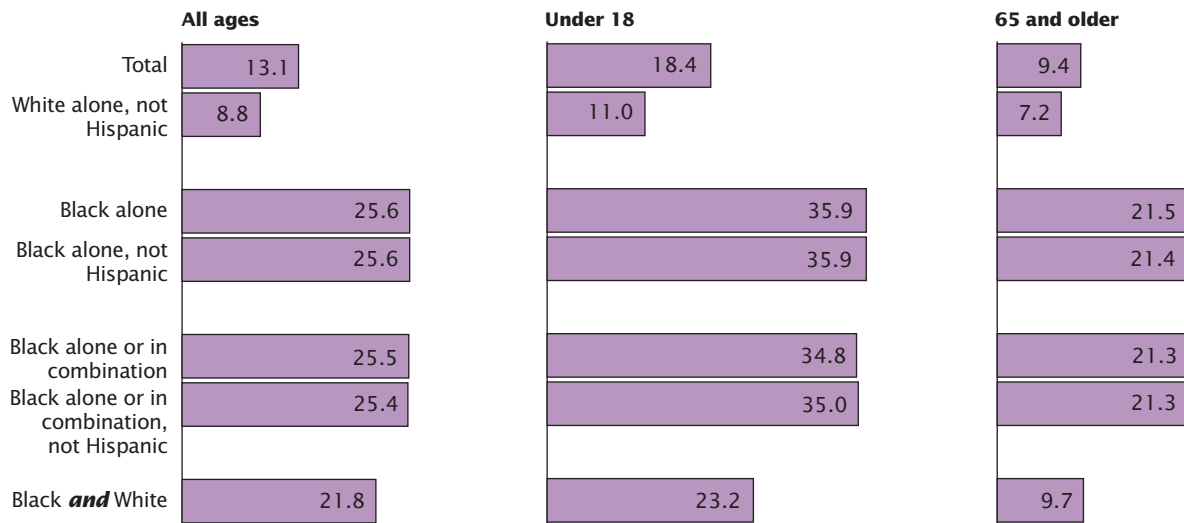
preceding the ACS interview was \$14,974. Poverty status was determined for all individuals except for unrelated individuals under 15 years old. The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits. For more information on poverty in the ACS, see <[www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/acs-01.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/acs-01.pdf)> and <[www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Def/Poverty.htm](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Def/Poverty.htm)>.

- Among those aged 65 and older, Blacks had a poverty rate of about 22 percent, compared with about 7 percent for non-Hispanic Whites.

Figure 15.

### Poverty Rate by Age Group: 2004

(Percent of specific group in poverty in the past 12 months. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

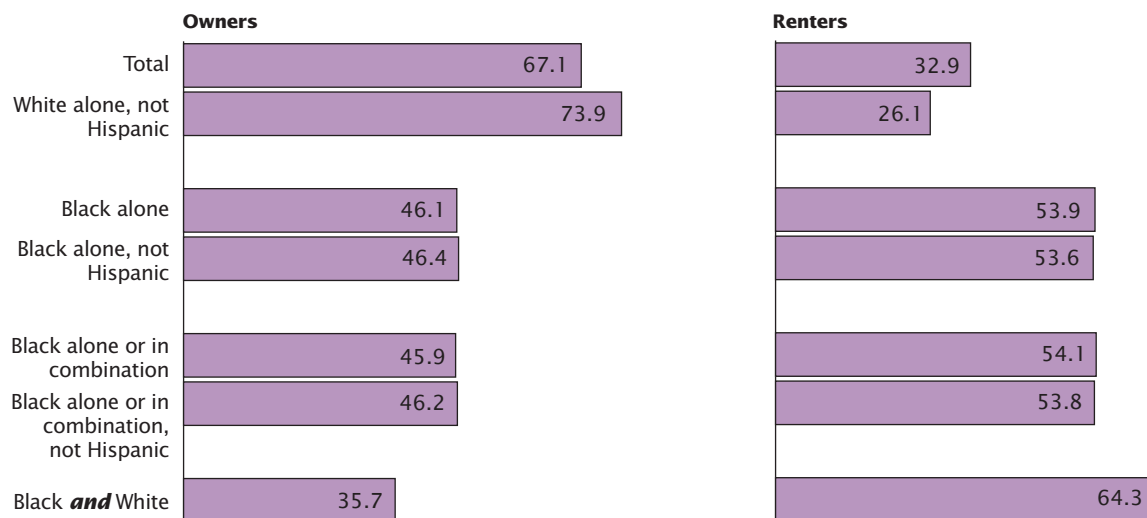
**Nearly one-half of Black households lived in owner-occupied homes.**

- A majority of Black households, about 54 percent, lived in renter-occupied homes and about 46 percent lived in owner-occupied homes.
- In comparison, about 74 percent of non-Hispanic White households lived in owner-occupied homes.

Figure 16.

**Housing Tenure: 2004**

(Percent of occupied housing units. Housing tenure is shown by the race and Hispanic origin of the householder. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

**The median value of owner-occupied homes for Black households was \$104,000.**

▪ The median value of Black owner-occupied homes was about \$104,000. This was about \$50,000 less than the median value of non-Hispanic White

owner-occupied homes (about \$154,000).<sup>15</sup>

▪ The median monthly rent payment of Black households in renter-occupied homes was

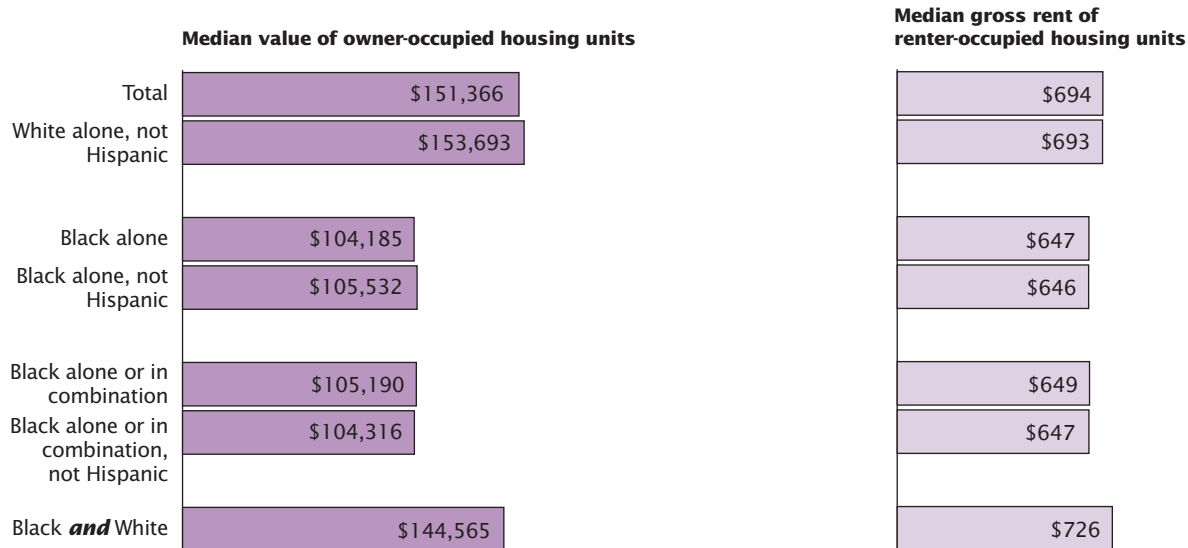
about \$647. This was about \$50 less than the median monthly rental payment made by non-Hispanic White households (about \$693).<sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Differences between the geographic distribution of Blacks and non-Hispanic Whites may affect home values and rental costs.

<sup>16</sup> The monthly rental payment represents gross rent (i.e., the amount of the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities and fuels).

Figure 17.  
**Selected Housing Characteristics: 2004**

(Housing units are classified by the race and Hispanic origin of the householder. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

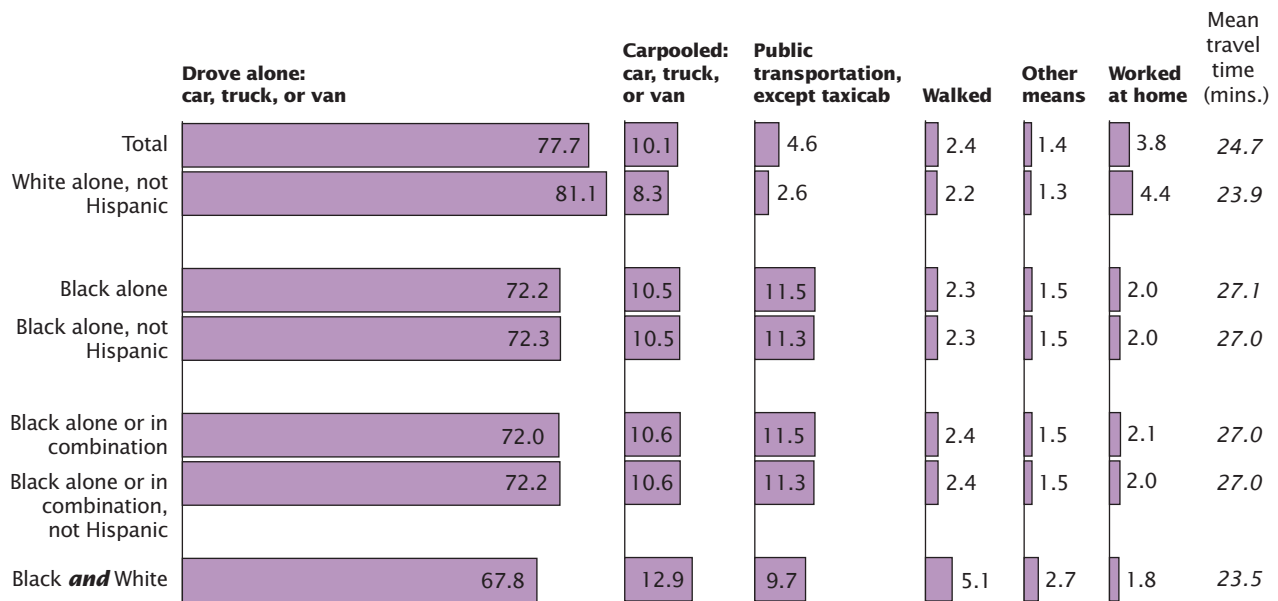
**Black workers were more likely than non-Hispanic White workers to use public transportation or to carpool to work.**

- In 2004, about 72 percent of Black workers aged 16 and older drove alone and about 11 percent carpooled to work. Among non-Hispanic White workers aged 16 and older, about 81 percent drove alone and about 8 percent carpooled to work.<sup>17</sup>
- Public transportation was used to commute by a higher proportion of Black workers (about 12 percent) than non-Hispanic White workers (about 3 percent).
- Non-Hispanic White workers (about 4 percent) were more likely than Black workers (about 2 percent) to work at home.
- The mean travel time to work for Black workers was 27 minutes, compared with a mean travel time of 24 minutes for non-Hispanic White workers.

<sup>17</sup> Differences between the geographic distribution of Blacks and non-Hispanic Whites may affect commuting patterns.

Figure 18.  
**Commuting to Work: 2004**

(Percent of workers 16 and older. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.



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## **SOURCE OF THE DATA AND ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES**

The findings presented in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed in 2004. The data in this report are based on the population living in households that were included in the ACS sample. The 2004 ACS did not collect information from people living in group quarters, which include correctional facilities, hospitals, college dormitories, group homes, and overnight shelters.

The 2004 ACS used a two-stage stratified sample of approximately 838,000 housing units and the occupants of these units. ACS figures are estimates based on this sample and approximate the actual figures that would have been obtained by interviewing the entire household population using the same methodology. The estimates from the 2004 ACS sample may differ from other samples of housing units and people within those housing units. The process of sampling ensures the integrity and the representativeness of sample survey results but also results in sampling error. Sampling error is the deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples.

In addition to sampling error, other types of errors, specifically, nonsampling errors, may be introduced during any of the operations used to collect and process survey data. For example, operations such as editing, reviewing, or keying data from questionnaires may introduce error into the estimates. Nonsampling errors may affect the data in two ways. Errors that are introduced randomly increase the variability of the data. Systematic errors that are consistent in one direction introduce bias into the results of a sample survey. The Census Bureau protects against the effect of systematic errors on survey estimates by conducting extensive research and evaluation programs on sampling techniques, questionnaire design, and data collection and processing procedures. The primary sources of error and the processes instituted to control error in the 2004 ACS are described in further detail in the Accuracy of the Data (2004) explanation located at <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2004.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2004.pdf)>.

Sampling errors and some types of nonsampling errors are estimated by the measure of standard error. The sample estimate and its estimated standard error permit the

construction of interval estimates with a prescribed confidence that the interval includes the average result of all possible samples. All comparative statements in this ACS 2004 report have undergone statistical testing and comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Further information from the 2004 ACS is available from the American FactFinder on the Census Bureau's Web site. More than 1,000 tables are available, including population profiles for race, Hispanic-origin, and ancestry groups.

The Internet address is <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>. For information on confidentiality protection, also see <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2004.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2004.pdf)>.

For more information on the Black population, visit <[www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race/black.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race/black.html)>.

## **CONTACT**

For additional information, contact the Racial Statistics Branch at 301-763-2402 or via e-mail <[pop@census.gov](mailto:pop@census.gov)>.

