

# The Black Population: 2010

Issued September 2011

## 2010 Census Briefs

C2010BR-06

### INTRODUCTION

This report provides a portrait of the Black population in the United States and discusses its distribution at the national level and at lower levels of geography.<sup>1, 2</sup> It is part of a series that analyzes population and housing data collected from the 2010 Census. The data for this report are based on the *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, which was the first 2010 Census data product released with data on race and Hispanic origin and was provided to each state for use in drawing boundaries for legislative districts.<sup>3</sup>

### UNDERSTANDING RACE DATA FROM THE 2010 CENSUS

#### The 2010 Census used established federal standards to collect and present data on race.

For the 2010 Census, the question on race was asked of individuals living in the United States (see Figure 1). An individual's response to the race question was based upon self-identification. The U.S. Census Bureau collects information on race following the guidance of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's

<sup>1</sup> The terms "Black" and "Black or African American" are used interchangeably in this report.

<sup>2</sup> This report discusses data for the 50 states and the District of Columbia, but not Puerto Rico.

<sup>3</sup> Information on the *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File* is available online at <<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/redistricting-data.php>>.

Figure 1.

### Reproduction of the Question on Race From the 2010 Census

6. What is this person's race? Mark  one or more boxes.

White  
 Black, African Am., or Negro  
 American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe. ↴

Asian Indian     Japanese     Native Hawaiian  
 Chinese     Korean     Guamanian or Chamorro  
 Filipino     Vietnamese     Samoan  
 Other Asian — Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on. ↴     Other Pacific Islander — Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on. ↴

Some other race — Print race. ↴

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census questionnaire.

(OMB) 1997 *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity*.<sup>4</sup> These federal standards mandate that race and Hispanic origin (ethnicity) are separate and distinct concepts and that when collecting these data via self-identification, two different questions must be used.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The 1997 *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity*, issued by OMB, is available at <[www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/1997standards.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/1997standards.html)>.

<sup>5</sup> The OMB requires federal agencies to use a minimum of two ethnicities: Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino. Hispanic origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race. "Hispanic or Latino" refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.

By  
Sonya Rastogi,  
Tallese D. Johnson,  
Elizabeth M. Hoeffel,  
and  
Malcolm P. Drewery, Jr.

Starting in 1997, OMB required federal agencies to use a minimum of five race categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. For respondents unable to identify with any of these five race categories, OMB approved the Census Bureau's inclusion of a sixth category—Some Other Race—on the Census 2000 and 2010 Census questionnaires. The 1997 OMB standards also allowed for respondents to identify with more than one race. The definition of the Black or African American racial category used in the 2010 Census is presented in the text box on this page.

Data on race have been collected since the first U.S. decennial census in 1790.<sup>6</sup> For the first time in Census 2000, individuals were presented with the option to self-identify with more than one race and this continued with the 2010 Census, as prescribed by OMB. There are 57 possible multiple race combinations involving the five OMB race categories and Some Other Race.<sup>7</sup>

The 2010 Census question on race included 15 separate response categories and three areas where respondents could write in detailed information about their race (see

<sup>6</sup> For information about comparability of 2010 Census data on race and Hispanic origin to data collected in previous censuses, see the *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File—Technical Documentation* at <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf)>.

<sup>7</sup> The 2010 Census provides data on the total population reporting more than one race, as well as detailed race combinations (e.g., Black or African American **and** White; Black or African American **and** Asian **and** American Indian and Alaska Native). In this report, the multiple-race categories are denoted with the conjunction **and** in bold and italicized print to indicate the separate race groups that comprise the particular combination.

## DEFINITION OF BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN USED IN THE 2010 CENSUS

According to OMB, “Black or African American” refers to a person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

The Black racial category includes people who marked the “Black, African Am., or Negro” checkbox. It also includes respondents who reported entries such as African American; Sub-Saharan African entries, such as Kenyan and Nigerian; and Afro-Caribbean entries, such as Haitian and Jamaican.\*

\*Sub-Saharan African entries are classified as Black or African American with the exception of Sudanese and Cape Verdean because of their complex, historical heritage. North African entries are classified as White, as OMB defines White as a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

Figure 1).<sup>8</sup> The response categories and write-in answers can be combined to create the five minimum OMB race categories plus Some Other Race. In addition to White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Some Other Race, 7 of the 15 response categories are Asian groups and 4 are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander groups.<sup>9</sup>

For a complete explanation of the race categories used in the 2010 Census, see the 2010 Census Brief, *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2010*.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>8</sup> There were two changes to the question on race for the 2010 Census. First, the wording of the race question was changed from “What is this person’s race? Mark  one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be” in 2000 to “What is this person’s race? Mark  one or more boxes” for 2010. Second, in 2010, examples were added to the “Other Asian” response category (Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on) and the “Other Pacific Islander” response category (Fijian, Tongan, and so on). In 2000, no examples were given in the race question.

<sup>9</sup> The race categories included in the census questionnaire generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in this country and are not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically. In addition, it is recognized that the categories of the race question include race and national origin or sociocultural groups.

<sup>10</sup> Humes, K., N. Jones, and R. Ramirez. 2011. *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2010*, U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Briefs, C2010BR-02, available at <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf)>.

## RACE ALONE, RACE IN COMBINATION, AND RACE ALONE-OR-IN-COMBINATION CONCEPTS

This report presents data for the Black population and focuses on results for three major conceptual groups.

People who responded to the question on race by indicating only one race are referred to as the *race alone* population, or the group who reported *only one* race. For example, respondents who marked only the “Black, African Am., or Negro” category on the census questionnaire would be included in the *Black alone* population. This population can be viewed as the minimum number of people reporting Black.

Individuals who chose more than one of the six race categories are referred to as the *race in combination* population, or as the group who reported *more than one race*. For example, respondents who reported they were Black or African American **and** White or Black or African American **and** Asian **and** American Indian and Alaska Native would be included in the *Black in combination* population. This population is also referred to as the *multiple-race Black* population.

Table 1.

**Black or African American Population: 2000 and 2010**(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Race	2000		2010		Change, 2000 to 2010	
	Number	Percent of total population	Number	Percent of total population	Number	Percent
<b>Total population</b> .....	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>308,745,538</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27,323,632</b>	<b>9.7</b>
Black or African American alone or in combination .....	36,419,434	12.9	42,020,743	13.6	5,601,309	15.4
Black or African American alone .....	34,658,190	12.3	38,929,319	12.6	4,271,129	12.3
Black or African American in combination .....	1,761,244	0.6	3,091,424	1.0	1,330,180	75.5
Black or African American; White .....	784,764	0.3	1,834,212	0.6	1,049,448	133.7
Black or African American; Some Other Race .....	417,249	0.1	314,571	0.1	-102,678	-24.6
Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native ..	182,494	0.1	269,421	0.1	86,927	47.6
Black or African American; White; American Indian and Alaska Native .....	112,207	—	230,848	0.1	118,641	105.7
Black or African American; Asian .....	106,782	—	185,595	0.1	78,813	73.8
All other combinations including Black or African American .....	157,748	0.1	256,777	0.1	99,029	62.8
Not Black or African American alone or in combination .....	245,002,472	87.1	266,724,795	86.4	21,722,323	8.9

— Percentage rounds to 0.0.

Note: In Census 2000, an error in data processing resulted in an overstatement of the Two or More Races population by about 1 million people (about 15 percent) nationally, which almost entirely affected race combinations involving Some Other Race. Therefore, data users should assess observed changes in the Two or More Races population and race combinations involving Some Other Race between Census 2000 and the 2010 Census with caution. Changes in specific race combinations not involving Some Other Race, such as Black or African American **and** White or Black or African American **and** Asian, generally should be more comparable.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table PL1; and *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

The maximum number of people reporting Black is reflected in the *Black alone-or-in-combination* population. One way to define the Black population is to combine those respondents who reported Black alone with those who reported Black in combination with one or more other races. This creates the *Black alone-or-in-combination* population. Another way to think of the *Black alone-or-in-combination* population is the total number of people who reported Black, whether or not they reported any other races.

Throughout the report, the discussion of the Black population compares results for each of these groups and highlights the diversity within the entire Black population.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> As a matter of policy, the Census Bureau does not advocate the use of the *alone* population over the *alone-or-in-combination* population or vice versa. The use of the *alone* population in sections of this report does not imply that it is a preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The same is true for sections of this report that focus on the *alone-or-in-combination* population. Data on race from the 2010 Census can be presented and discussed in a variety of ways.

**THE BLACK POPULATION: A SNAPSHOT**

The 2010 Census showed that the United States population on April 1, 2010, was 308.7 million. Out of the total population, 38.9 million people, or 13 percent, identified as Black alone (see Table 1).<sup>12, 13</sup> In addition, 3.1 million people, or 1 percent, reported Black in combination with one or more other races.

Together, these two groups totaled 42.0 million people. Thus, 14 percent of all people in the United States identified as Black, either

<sup>12</sup> Percentages shown in text generally are rounded to the nearest integer, while those shown in tables and figures are shown with decimals. All rounding is based on unrounded calculations. Thus, due to rounding, some percentages shown in tables and figures ending in "5" may round either up or down. For example, unrounded numbers of 14.49 and 14.51 would both be shown as 14.5 in a table, but would be cited in the text as 14 and 15, respectively.

<sup>13</sup> For the purposes of this report, the terms "reported," "identified," and "classified" are used interchangeably to refer to the response provided by respondents as well as responses assigned during the editing and imputation process.

alone, or in combination with one or more other races.

**The Black population increased at a faster rate than the total population.**

The total U.S. population grew by 9.7 percent, from 281.4 million in 2000 to 308.7 million in 2010 (see Table 1). In comparison, the Black alone population grew by 12 percent from 34.7 million to 38.9 million.<sup>14</sup>

The Black alone-or-in-combination population experienced more growth than the total population and the Black alone population, growing by 15 percent. However, both groups grew at a slower rate

<sup>14</sup> The observed changes in the race counts between Census 2000 and the 2010 Census could be attributed to a number of factors. Demographic change since 2000, which includes births and deaths in a geographic area and migration in and out of a geographic area, will have an impact on the resulting 2010 Census counts. Additionally, some changes in the race question's wording and format since Census 2000 could have influenced reporting patterns in the 2010 Census.

Table 2.

## Most Frequent Combinations of Black or African American Population With One or More Other Races by Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000 and 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Black or African American in combination	2000		2010		Change, 2000 to 2010	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total number reporting Black or African American and one or more other races</b>	<b>1,761,244</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,091,424</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,330,180</b>	<b>75.5</b>
Black or African American; White	784,764	44.6	1,834,212	59.3	1,049,448	133.7
Black or African American; Some Other Race	417,249	23.7	314,571	10.2	-102,678	-24.6
Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native	182,494	10.4	269,421	8.7	86,927	47.6
Black or African American; White; American Indian and Alaska Native	112,207	6.4	230,848	7.5	118,641	105.7
Black or African American; Asian	106,782	6.1	185,595	6.0	78,813	73.8
Black or African American; White; Some Other Race	43,172	2.5	46,641	1.5	3,469	8.0
All other combinations including Black or African American	114,576	6.5	210,136	6.8	95,560	83.4
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>						
Black or African American in combination	325,330	100.0	653,747	100.0	328,417	100.9
Black or African American; White	87,687	27.0	245,850	37.6	158,163	180.4
Black or African American; Some Other Race	161,283	49.6	227,648	34.8	66,365	41.1
Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native	14,472	4.4	31,571	4.8	17,099	118.2
Black or African American; White; American Indian and Alaska Native	18,046	5.5	50,000	7.6	31,954	177.1
Black or African American; Asian	7,269	2.2	15,451	2.4	8,182	112.6
Black or African American; White; Some Other Race	15,481	4.8	33,554	5.1	18,073	116.7
All other combinations including Black or African American	21,092	6.5	49,673	7.6	28,581	135.5
<b>Not Hispanic or Latino</b>						
Black or African American in combination	1,435,914	100.0	2,437,677	100.0	1,001,763	69.8
Black or African American; White	697,077	48.5	1,588,362	65.2	891,285	127.9
Black or African American; Some Other Race	255,966	17.8	86,923	3.6	-169,043	-66.0
Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native	168,022	11.7	237,850	9.8	69,828	41.6
Black or African American; White; American Indian and Alaska Native	94,161	6.6	180,848	7.4	86,687	92.1
Black or African American; Asian	99,513	6.9	170,144	7.0	70,631	71.0
Black or African American; White; Some Other Race	27,691	1.9	13,087	0.5	-14,604	-52.7
All other combinations including Black or African American	93,484	6.5	160,463	6.6	66,979	71.6

Note: In Census 2000, an error in data processing resulted in an overstatement of the Two or More Races population by about 1 million people (about 15 percent) nationally, which almost entirely affected race combinations involving Some Other Race. Therefore, data users should assess observed changes in the Two or More Races population and race combinations involving Some Other Race between Census 2000 and the 2010 Census with caution. Changes in specific race combinations not involving Some Other Race, such as Black or African American **and** White or Black or African American **and** Asian, generally should be more comparable.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Tables PL1 and PL2; and *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Tables P1 and P2.

than most other major race and ethnic groups in the country.<sup>15</sup>

### MULTIPLE-RACE REPORTING AMONG THE BLACK POPULATION

**Blacks who reported more than one race grew at a much faster rate than the Black alone population.**

In the 2010 Census, 3.1 million people reported Black in

combination with one or more additional races (see Table 2). The multiple-race Black population grew at a considerably faster rate than the Black alone population, growing by more than three-fourths in size since 2000.

<sup>15</sup> Humes, K., N. Jones, and R. Ramirez. 2011. *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2010*. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Briefs, C2010BR-02, available at <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf)>.



### The largest multiple-race combination was Black and White.

Among people who reported they were Black and one or more additional races, the majority identified as Black and White (59 percent) (see Table 2). This was followed by Black and Some Other Race (10 percent), Black and American Indian and Alaska Native (9 percent), and Black and White and American Indian and Alaska Native (7 percent). Together, these four combinations comprised over 85 percent of all Blacks who reported multiple races.

### The Black and White population contributed to most of the growth among Blacks who reported multiple races.

Among people who reported their race as Black and one or more additional races, those who reported Black and White more than doubled in size from about 785,000 in 2000 to 1.8 million in 2010. This combination constituted the greatest increase in the multiple-race Black population. The Black and White population's share of all multiple-race Blacks also increased substantially, from 45 percent in 2000 to 59 percent in 2010, about a 15 percentage-point difference.

The Black and Some Other Race population decreased between 2000 to 2010. This decrease was likely due to a data processing error in the Two or More Races population, which largely affected the combinations that included Some Other Race, overstating the

Black and Some Other Race population in 2000.<sup>16</sup>

The Black and American Indian and Alaska Native population grew by nearly one-half its size, increasing from 182,000 in 2000 to 269,000 in 2010. However, the Black and American Indian and Alaska Native population decreased as a proportion of the Black in combination population, from 10 percent to 9 percent.

The Black and White and American Indian and Alaska Native population increased both numerically and as a proportion of the Black in combination population. This population more than doubled in size from 112,000 in 2000 to 231,000 in 2010.

The Black and Asian population increased numerically from 107,000 in 2000 to 186,000 in 2010, an increase of 74 percent or nearly three-fourths in size. However, the Black and Asian population as a proportion of Blacks who reported multiple races remained at about 6 percent.

### PATTERNS AMONG THE NON-HISPANIC BLACK POPULATION AND THE HISPANIC BLACK POPULATION

According to the 1997 OMB standards, Hispanics may be of any race. The 2010 Census results reflect this, demonstrating that

<sup>16</sup> In Census 2000, an error in data processing resulted in an overstatement of the Two or More Races population by about 1 million people (about 15 percent) nationally, which almost entirely affected race combinations involving Some Other Race. Therefore, data users should assess observed changes in the Two or More Races population and race combinations involving Some Other Race between Census 2000 and the 2010 Census with caution. Changes in specific race combinations not involving Some Other Race, such as Black or African American and White or Black or African American and Asian, generally should be more comparable.

Hispanics report a diversity of races (White, Black, American Indian or Alaska Native, etc.), or may also report that they are "Some Other Race" (self-identifying their race as "Latino," "Mexican," "Puerto Rican," "Salvadoran," or other national origins or ethnicities), or identify with various combinations of races. For more details on the race reporting patterns of Hispanics, see the 2010 Census Brief, *The Hispanic Population: 2010*.<sup>17</sup>

This section presents data for the Black population, highlighting patterns for Blacks who reported a Hispanic origin and Blacks who did not report a Hispanic origin.

### About 97 percent of the Black alone population reported that they were non-Hispanic.

In 2010, the overwhelming majority of the Black alone population was non-Hispanic—about 97 percent of the Black alone population reported as non-Hispanic and 3 percent as Hispanic (see Table 3). Similarly, 95 percent of the Black alone-or-in-combination population reported as non-Hispanic and about 5 percent reported as Hispanic. However, a much lower proportion (79 percent) of people who reported Black in combination with one or more additional races were non-Hispanic.

### Both non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanic Blacks contributed to the growth of the multiple-race Black population.

Nationwide, the total multiple-race population grew from 6.8 million in 2000 to 9.0 million in 2010 (see Tables 3 and 4). Both non-Hispanic

<sup>17</sup> Ennis, S., M. Rios-Vargas, and N. Albert. 2011. *The Hispanic Population: 2010*, U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Briefs, C2010BR-04, available at <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-04.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-04.pdf)>.

Table 3.

**Black or African American Population by Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2010**(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Race and Hispanic or Latino origin	Alone or in combination			Alone			In combination		
	Number	Percent of total population	Percent of Black or African American population	Number	Percent of total population	Percent of Black or African American population	Number	Percent of total population	Percent of Black or African American population
<b>Total population . . .</b>	<b>308,745,538</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>299,736,465</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>9,009,073</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Black or African American . . .	42,020,743	13.6	100.0	38,929,319	13.0	100.0	3,091,424	34.3	100.0
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	1,897,218	0.6	4.5	1,243,471	0.4	3.2	653,747	7.3	21.1
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	40,123,525	13.0	95.5	37,685,848	12.6	96.8	2,437,677	27.1	78.9

(X) Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Tables P1 and P2.

Blacks and Hispanic Blacks contributed to this growth. In 2000, non-Hispanic Blacks accounted for 21 percent of all people who reported multiple races, compared with 27 percent in 2010. Hispanic Blacks accounted for 5 percent of all people who reported multiple races in 2000 and increased to 7 percent in 2010.

Over the last 10 years there has been a large increase in the

non-Hispanic Black in combination population who reported Black **and** White (see Table 2). In the 2010 Census, 65 percent of non-Hispanic Blacks who reported multiple races were Black **and** White, compared with 49 percent in 2000. Black **and** American Indian and Alaska Native accounted for 10 percent, and Black **and** White **and** American Indian and Alaska Native, and Black **and** Asian accounted for 7 percent each.

In 2010, among Hispanics who identified as Black and one or more additional races, 38 percent reported Black **and** White, compared with 27 percent in 2000. Black **and** Some Other Race accounted for 35 percent, Black **and** White **and** American Indian and Alaska Native accounted for 8 percent, and Black **and** White **and** Some Other Race accounted for 5 percent.

Table 4.

**Black or African American Population by Hispanic or Latino Origin: 2000**(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Race and Hispanic or Latino origin	Alone or in combination			Alone			In combination		
	Number	Percent of total population	Percent of Black or African American population	Number	Percent of total population	Percent of Black or African American population	Number	Percent of total population	Percent of Black or African American population
<b>Total population . . .</b>	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>274,595,678</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>	<b>6,826,228</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Black or African American . . .	36,419,434	12.9	100.0	34,658,190	12.6	100.0	1,761,244	25.8	100.0
Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	1,035,683	0.4	2.8	710,353	0.3	2.0	325,330	4.8	18.5
Not Hispanic or Latino . . . . .	35,383,751	12.6	97.2	33,947,837	12.4	98.0	1,435,914	21.0	81.5

(X) Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2000 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Tables PL1 and PL2.

## THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE BLACK POPULATION

**The South was the region where Blacks comprised the greatest proportion of the total population.**

The South was the region where the Black alone-or-in-combination population comprised the greatest proportion of the total population, at 20 percent (see Table 5).<sup>18</sup> In other regions, the Black alone-or-in-combination population was much smaller in proportion—13 percent in the Northeast, 11 percent in the Midwest, and 6 percent in the West. These results were similar for the Black alone population.

**The majority of Blacks in the United States lived in the South.**

According to the 2010 Census, of all respondents who reported Black alone-or-in-combination, 55 percent lived in the South, 18 percent in the Midwest, 17 percent in the Northeast, and 10 percent in the West (see Figure 2). This pattern was similar for the Black alone population.

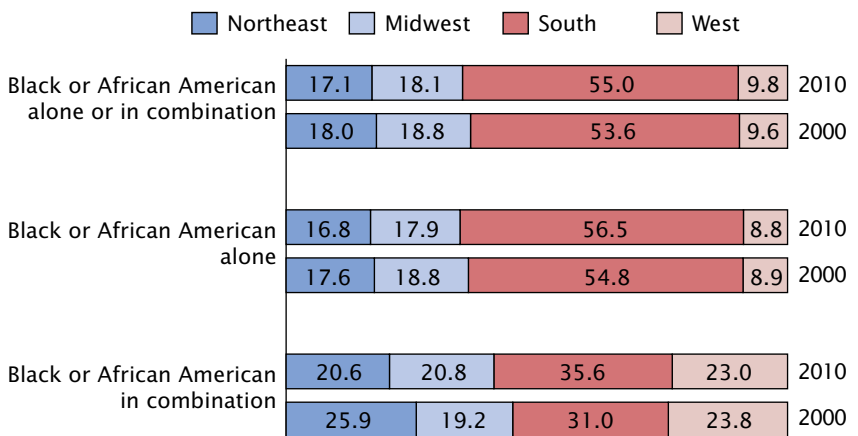
Compared to 2000, the proportions of the Black alone-or-in-combination population for the West stayed about the same, while the proportions increased

<sup>18</sup> The Northeast census region includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest census region includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South census region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The West census region includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Figure 2.

### Percentage Distribution of the Black or African American Population by Region: 2000 and 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL1*; and *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1*.

in the South and decreased in the Northeast and the Midwest. The proportion of the Black alone population also increased in the South, from 55 percent in 2000 to 57 percent in 2010, whereas the Northeast and the Midwest experienced decreases in their share of the Black alone population.

**The multiple-race Black population was more geographically dispersed than the Black alone population.**

The Black in combination population had a different regional pattern compared to the Black alone population (see Figure 2). A considerably higher proportion of the multiple-race Black population lived in the West (23 percent), relative to the Black alone population (9 percent). While a large proportion of the multiple-race Black population lived in the South (36 percent), this was much lower than the Black alone population (57 percent).

**The Black population grew in every region between 2000 and 2010 with the Black in combination population contributing to this growth, particularly in the South.**

The Black alone-or-in-combination population grew in every region between 2000 and 2010, led by 18 percent growth in both the South and the West (see Table 5). The Black alone population also increased in every region, but at a slower rate than the Black alone-or-in-combination population. The Black alone population grew the most in the South, increasing by 16 percent.

The Black in combination population contributed to population growth in every region, particularly the South. In the South, the Black in combination population doubled from 547,000 to 1.1 million, growing 101 percent over the decade. The Midwest also experienced

Table 5.

## Black or African American Population for the United States, Regions, and States, and for Puerto Rico: 2000 and 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Area	Black or African American alone or in combination				Black or African American alone				Black or African American in combination			
	2000	2010	Percent of total population, 2010 <sup>1</sup>	Percent change, 2000 to 2010	2000	2010	Percent of total population, 2010 <sup>1</sup>	Percent change, 2000 to 2010	2000	2010	Percent of total population, 2010 <sup>1</sup>	Percent change, 2000 to 2010
<b>United States</b> . . . . .	<b>36,419,434</b>	<b>42,020,743</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>34,658,190</b>	<b>38,929,319</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>1,761,244</b>	<b>3,091,424</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>75.5</b>
<b>REGION</b>												
Northeast . . . . .	6,556,909	7,187,488	13.0	9.6	6,099,881	6,550,217	11.8	7.4	457,028	637,271	1.2	39.4
Midwest . . . . .	6,838,669	7,594,486	11.3	11.1	6,499,733	6,950,869	10.4	6.9	338,936	643,617	1.0	89.9
South . . . . .	19,528,231	23,105,082	20.2	18.3	18,981,692	22,005,433	19.2	15.9	546,539	1,099,649	1.0	101.2
West . . . . .	3,495,625	4,133,687	5.7	18.3	3,076,884	3,422,800	4.8	11.2	418,741	710,887	1.0	69.8
<b>STATE</b>												
Alabama . . . . .	1,168,998	1,281,118	26.8	9.6	1,155,930	1,251,311	26.2	8.3	13,068	29,807	0.6	128.1
Alaska . . . . .	27,147	33,150	4.7	22.1	21,787	23,263	3.3	6.8	5,360	9,887	1.4	84.5
Arizona . . . . .	185,599	318,665	5.0	71.7	158,873	259,008	4.1	63.0	26,726	59,657	0.9	123.2
Arkansas . . . . .	427,152	468,710	16.1	9.7	418,950	449,895	15.4	7.4	8,202	18,815	0.6	129.4
California . . . . .	2,513,041	2,683,914	7.2	6.8	2,263,882	2,299,072	6.2	1.6	249,159	384,842	1.0	57.5
Colorado . . . . .	190,717	249,812	5.0	31.0	165,063	201,737	4.0	22.2	25,654	48,075	1.0	84.4
Connecticut . . . . .	339,078	405,600	11.3	19.6	309,843	362,296	10.1	16.9	29,235	43,304	1.2	48.1
Delaware . . . . .	157,152	205,923	22.9	31.0	150,666	191,814	21.4	27.3	6,486	14,109	1.6	117.5
District of Columbia . . . . .	350,455	314,352	52.2	-10.3	343,312	305,125	50.7	-11.1	7,143	9,227	1.5	29.2
Florida . . . . .	2,471,730	3,200,663	17.0	29.5	2,335,505	2,999,862	16.0	28.4	136,225	200,801	1.1	47.4
Georgia . . . . .	2,393,425	3,054,098	31.5	27.6	2,349,542	2,950,435	30.5	25.6	43,883	103,663	1.1	136.2
Hawaii . . . . .	33,343	38,820	2.9	16.4	22,003	21,424	1.6	-2.6	11,340	17,396	1.3	53.4
Idaho . . . . .	8,127	15,940	1.0	96.1	5,456	9,810	0.6	79.8	2,671	6,130	0.4	129.5
Illinois . . . . .	1,937,671	1,974,113	15.4	1.9	1,876,875	1,866,414	14.5	-0.6	60,796	107,699	0.8	77.1
Indiana . . . . .	538,015	654,415	10.1	21.6	510,034	591,397	9.1	16.0	27,981	63,018	1.0	125.2
Iowa . . . . .	72,512	113,225	3.7	56.1	61,853	89,148	2.9	44.1	10,659	24,077	0.8	125.9
Kansas . . . . .	170,610	202,149	7.1	18.5	154,198	167,864	5.9	8.9	16,412	34,285	1.2	108.9
Kentucky . . . . .	311,878	376,213	8.7	20.6	295,994	337,520	7.8	14.0	15,884	38,693	0.9	143.6
Louisiana . . . . .	1,468,317	1,486,885	32.8	1.3	1,451,944	1,452,396	32.0	-	16,373	34,489	0.8	110.6
Maine . . . . .	9,553	21,764	1.6	127.8	6,760	15,707	1.2	132.4	2,793	6,057	0.5	116.9
Maryland . . . . .	1,525,036	1,783,899	30.9	17.0	1,477,411	1,700,298	29.4	15.1	47,625	83,601	1.4	75.5
Massachusetts . . . . .	398,479	508,413	7.8	27.6	343,454	434,398	6.6	26.5	55,025	74,015	1.1	34.5
Michigan . . . . .	1,474,613	1,505,514	15.2	2.1	1,412,742	1,400,362	14.2	-0.9	61,871	105,152	1.1	70.0
Minnesota . . . . .	202,972	327,548	6.2	61.4	171,731	274,412	5.2	59.8	31,241	53,136	1.0	70.1
Mississippi . . . . .	1,041,708	1,115,801	37.6	7.1	1,033,809	1,098,385	37.0	6.2	7,899	17,416	0.6	120.5
Missouri . . . . .	655,377	747,474	12.5	14.1	629,391	693,391	11.6	10.2	25,986	54,083	0.9	108.1
Montana . . . . .	4,441	7,917	0.8	78.3	2,692	4,027	0.4	49.6	1,749	3,890	0.4	122.4
Nebraska . . . . .	75,833	98,959	5.4	30.5	68,541	82,885	4.5	20.9	7,292	16,074	0.9	120.4
Nevada . . . . .	150,508	254,452	9.4	69.1	135,477	218,626	8.1	61.4	15,031	35,826	1.3	138.3
New Hampshire . . . . .	12,218	21,736	1.7	77.9	9,035	15,035	1.1	66.4	3,183	6,701	0.5	110.5
New Jersey . . . . .	1,211,750	1,300,363	14.8	7.3	1,141,821	1,204,826	13.7	5.5	69,929	95,537	1.1	36.6
New Mexico . . . . .	42,412	57,040	2.8	34.5	34,343	42,550	2.1	23.9	8,069	14,490	0.7	79.6
New York . . . . .	3,234,165	3,334,550	17.2	3.1	3,014,385	3,073,800	15.9	2.0	219,780	260,750	1.3	18.6
North Carolina . . . . .	1,776,283	2,151,456	22.6	21.1	1,737,545	2,048,628	21.5	17.9	38,738	102,828	1.1	165.4
North Dakota . . . . .	5,372	11,086	1.6	106.4	3,916	7,960	1.2	103.3	1,456	3,126	0.5	114.7
Ohio . . . . .	1,372,501	1,541,771	13.4	12.3	1,301,307	1,407,681	12.2	8.2	71,194	134,090	1.2	88.3
Oklahoma . . . . .	284,766	327,621	8.7	15.0	260,968	277,644	7.4	6.4	23,798	49,977	1.3	110.0
Oregon . . . . .	72,647	98,479	2.6	35.6	55,662	69,206	1.8	24.3	16,985	29,273	0.8	72.3
Pennsylvania . . . . .	1,289,123	1,507,965	11.9	17.0	1,224,612	1,377,689	10.8	12.5	64,511	130,276	1.0	101.9
Rhode Island . . . . .	58,051	77,754	7.4	33.9	46,908	60,189	5.7	28.3	11,143	17,565	1.7	57.6
South Carolina . . . . .	1,200,901	1,332,188	28.8	10.9	1,185,216	1,290,684	27.9	8.9	15,685	41,504	0.9	164.6
South Dakota . . . . .	6,687	14,705	1.8	119.9	4,685	10,207	1.3	117.9	2,002	4,498	0.6	124.7
Tennessee . . . . .	953,349	1,107,178	17.4	16.1	932,809	1,057,315	16.7	13.3	20,540	49,863	0.8	142.8
Texas . . . . .	2,493,057	3,168,469	12.6	27.1	2,404,566	2,979,598	11.8	23.9	88,491	188,871	0.8	113.4
Utah . . . . .	24,382	43,209	1.6	77.2	17,657	29,287	1.1	65.9	6,725	13,922	0.5	107.0
Vermont . . . . .	4,492	9,343	1.5	108.0	3,063	6,277	1.0	104.9	1,429	3,066	0.5	114.6
Virginia . . . . .	1,441,207	1,653,563	20.7	14.7	1,390,293	1,551,399	19.4	11.6	50,914	102,164	1.3	100.7
Washington . . . . .	238,398	325,004	4.8	36.3	190,267	240,042	3.6	26.2	48,131	84,962	1.3	76.5
West Virginia . . . . .	62,817	76,945	4.2	22.5	57,232	63,124	3.4	10.3	5,585	13,821	0.7	147.5
Wisconsin . . . . .	326,506	403,527	7.1	23.6	304,460	359,148	6.3	18.0	22,046	44,379	0.8	101.3
Wyoming . . . . .	4,863	7,285	1.3	49.8	3,722	4,748	0.8	27.6	1,141	2,537	0.5	122.3
<b>Puerto Rico</b> . . . . .	<b>416,296</b>	<b>550,259</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>302,933</b>	<b>461,498</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>113,363</b>	<b>88,761</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>-21.7</b>

— Percentage rounds to 0.0.

<sup>1</sup> The percent of the total population is calculated by using the total population of all races. The totals for each geography can be found in Table 11, page 18 of the 2010 Census Brief, *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2010* available at <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf)>.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table PL1; and *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

considerable growth in the Black in combination population, increasing 90 percent, followed by increases of 70 percent in the West and 39 percent in the Northeast.

This growth contributed to shifting patterns of the Black in combination population by region. The proportion of the Black in combination population residing in the South increased from 31 percent to 36 percent, and decreased in the Northeast (from 26 percent to 21 percent) (see Figure 2).

**The Black population represented over 50 percent of the total population in the District of Columbia and over 25 percent of the total population in six states, all located in the South.**

The Black alone-or-in-combination population represented 38 percent of the total population in Mississippi (see Table 5). This was followed by Louisiana (33 percent), Georgia (32 percent), Maryland (31 percent), South Carolina (29 percent), and Alabama (27 percent). These same six states had the highest proportion of the Black alone population and the proportions were similar to the Black alone-or-in-combination population. The Black alone-or-in-combination population represented 52 percent of the total population in the District of Columbia.<sup>19</sup>

The Black alone-or-in-combination population represented less than 3 percent of the total population in 12 states, all located outside of the South. More than half of the states in the West had a Black alone-or-in-combination population of less than 3 percent—Hawaii, New Mexico, and Oregon (about 3 percent each); Utah (about 2 percent); and Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana (about 1 percent each).

<sup>19</sup> For this report, the District of Columbia is treated as a state equivalent.

The Black alone-or-in-combination population represented less than 3 percent of the total population in two states in the Midwest—South Dakota and North Dakota (about 2 percent each), and three states in the Northeast—New Hampshire, Maine, (about 2 percent each) and Vermont (1 percent). These same 12 states also had less than 3 percent of the Black alone population and the percentages tended to be slightly lower than the Black alone-or-in-combination population. One additional state (Iowa) had a Black alone population of less than 3 percent, and thus 13 states had Black alone populations of less than 3 percent.

**Nearly 60 percent of all people who reported Black lived in ten states.**

The ten states with the largest Black alone-or-in-combination populations in 2010 were New York (3.3 million), Florida (3.2 million), Texas (3.2 million), Georgia (3.1 million), California (2.7 million), North Carolina (2.2 million), Illinois (2.0 million), Maryland (1.8 million), Virginia (1.7 million), and Ohio (1.5 million) (see Table 5). Among these states, four experienced substantial growth between 2000 and 2010. The Black alone-or-in-combination population grew by 29 percent in Florida, 28 percent in Georgia, 27 percent in Texas, and 21 percent in North Carolina.

Out of the ten states above, nine of them also had the largest Black alone populations. The state with the tenth largest Black alone population was Louisiana (1.5 million). In a similar fashion to the Black alone-or-in-combination population, the Black alone population also experienced considerable growth in Florida, Georgia, Texas, and North Carolina.

**The Black population grew in every state between 2000 and 2010, but declined in the District of Columbia.**

Among all states, the states with small Black alone-or-in-combination populations (2 percent or less) in 2010 tended to experience the largest percentage growth. Maine experienced the largest percentage growth in the Black alone-or-in-combination population, increasing by 128 percent between 2000 and 2010. This was followed by South Dakota (120 percent), Vermont (108 percent), North Dakota (106 percent), and Idaho (96 percent).

At the other end of the spectrum, the Black population in the District of Columbia decreased by 10 percent between 2000 and 2010. As discussed earlier, the District of Columbia still had the highest proportion reporting Black among states, with 52 percent in 2010. The same patterns were observed for the Black alone population by state.

The Black in combination population showed even more substantial growth, as it more than doubled in more than half of all states. The states that experienced the most growth were in the South: North Carolina and South Carolina both grew by 165 percent, followed by West Virginia (147 percent), Kentucky (144 percent), and Tennessee (143 percent).

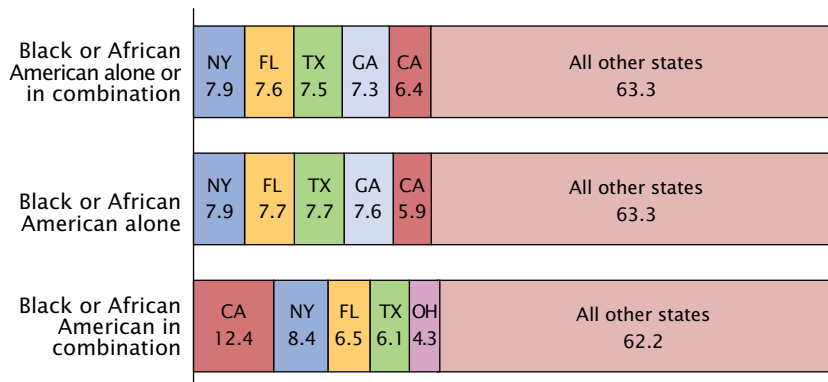
**Of the population who identified as Black, people who reported multiple races were more likely to live in California.**

Of all respondents who reported as Black alone-or-in-combination, about 8 percent lived in each of these states—New York, Florida, and Texas. Another 7 percent lived in Georgia and 6 percent lived in



Figure 3.  
**Percentage Distribution of the Black or African American Population by State: 2010**

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



Note: Percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

California (see Figure 3). The pattern for the Black alone population was similar, where 8 percent of the Black alone population lived in New York, Florida, Texas, and Georgia and 6 percent lived in California.

The pattern was slightly different for respondents who identified as Black in combination with one or more additional races. Among multiple-race Blacks, 12 percent lived in California, 8 percent in New York, 6 percent lived in both Florida and Texas, and 4 percent in Ohio.

**The Black population was highly concentrated in counties in the South.**

The Black alone-or-in-combination population was highly concentrated in 2010: 62 percent (1,941 counties) of all counties in the United States had less than 5 percent of the population identified as Black alone-or-in-combination, but in 106 counties, the Black alone-or-in-combination population comprised 50 percent or more of the total county population. All of these counties were located in the South except for the city of St. Louis, MO, which

is considered a county equivalent (see Figure 4). These patterns were similar for the Black alone population.

Concentrations of Blacks outside of the South tended to be in counties located within metropolitan statistical areas. There were 317 counties where the Black alone-or-in-combination population was 25.0 to 49.9 percent of the county population, and only 17 of these counties were not in the South. Of these 17 counties, 15 were in metro areas. This pattern was similar for the Black alone population.

Although the Black alone-or-in-combination population and the Black alone population were not as concentrated in counties in midwestern states, in some metro areas, such as around Chicago, IL, and Detroit, MI, the proportion Black was much higher than the national average of 13 percent. Also, in some metro areas in the West, such as around San Francisco, CA, and Sacramento, CA, the proportion Black was above the national average.

**The Black population in the South experienced mixed growth—some counties experienced an increase, while others experienced a decline.**

Among the 1,558 counties with a Black alone-or-in-combination population of over 1,000 people, over one-third (536 counties) had an increase of 25 percent or more from 2000 to 2010 (see Figure 5). On the other hand, 100 counties had a decrease of over 10 percent. The Black alone-or-in-combination population in counties located in northeastern states such as Maine and Pennsylvania grew significantly, as well as counties in the South, specifically Florida, which had a number of counties that grew by 25 percent or more.

Large growth in the Black alone-or-in-combination population also occurred in the West and sections of the Midwest. Counties in Arizona, Nevada, California, Oregon, and Washington grew substantially between 2000 and 2010. The Midwest had pockets of high growth in states such as Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

The Black alone-or-in-combination population in the South experienced the largest percentage declines between 2000 and 2010. Counties located in southern states such as Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia experienced greater declines in the Black alone-or-in-combination population compared to the rest of the nation. The Black alone population had similar results.

**The Black in combination population had large concentrations in northeastern states and counties near metro areas in the West, Midwest, and South.**

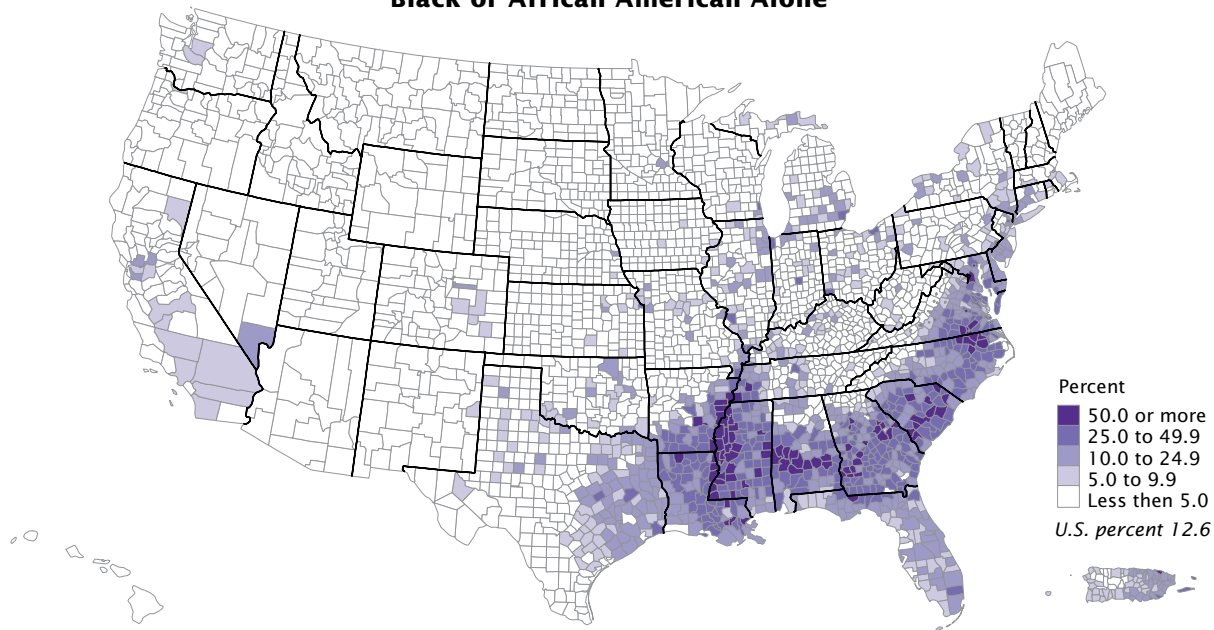
In 2010, large proportions of the Black in combination population were located in counties

Figure 4.  
**Black or African American Population as a Percent of County Population: 2010**

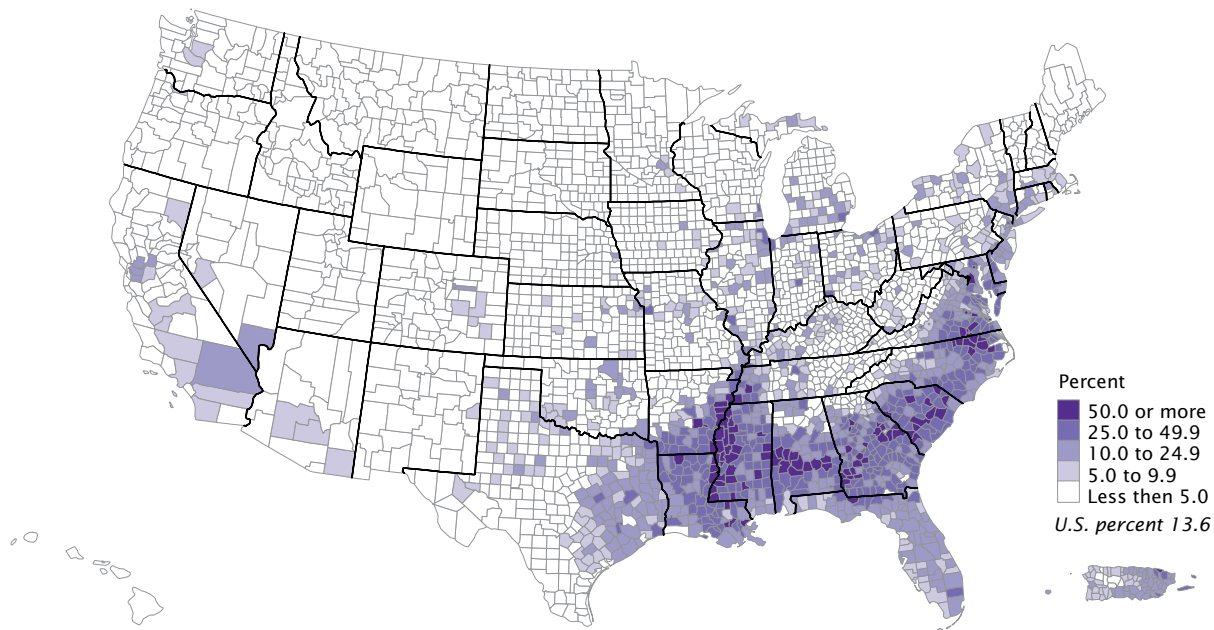
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



**Black or African American Alone**



**Black or African American Alone or in Combination**

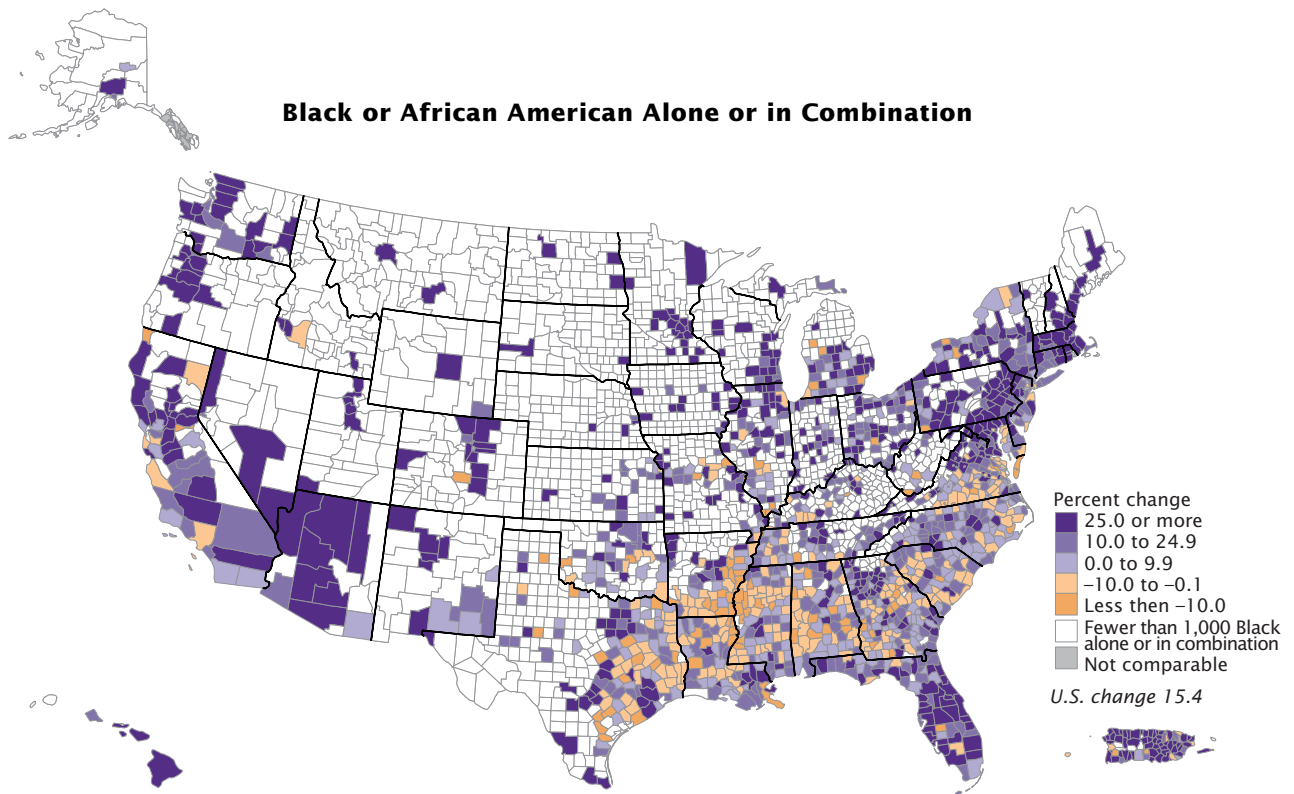
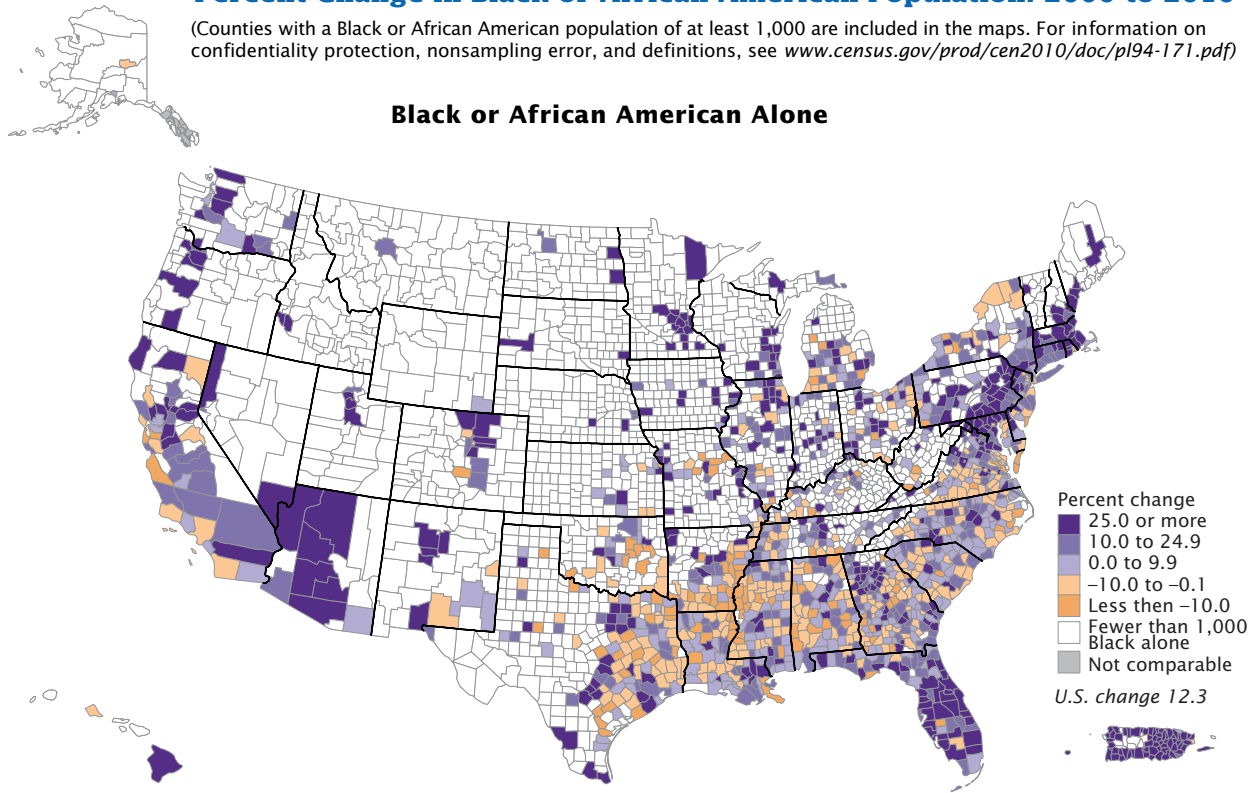


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

Figure 5.

### Percent Change in Black or African American Population: 2000 to 2010

(Counties with a Black or African American population of at least 1,000 are included in the maps. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

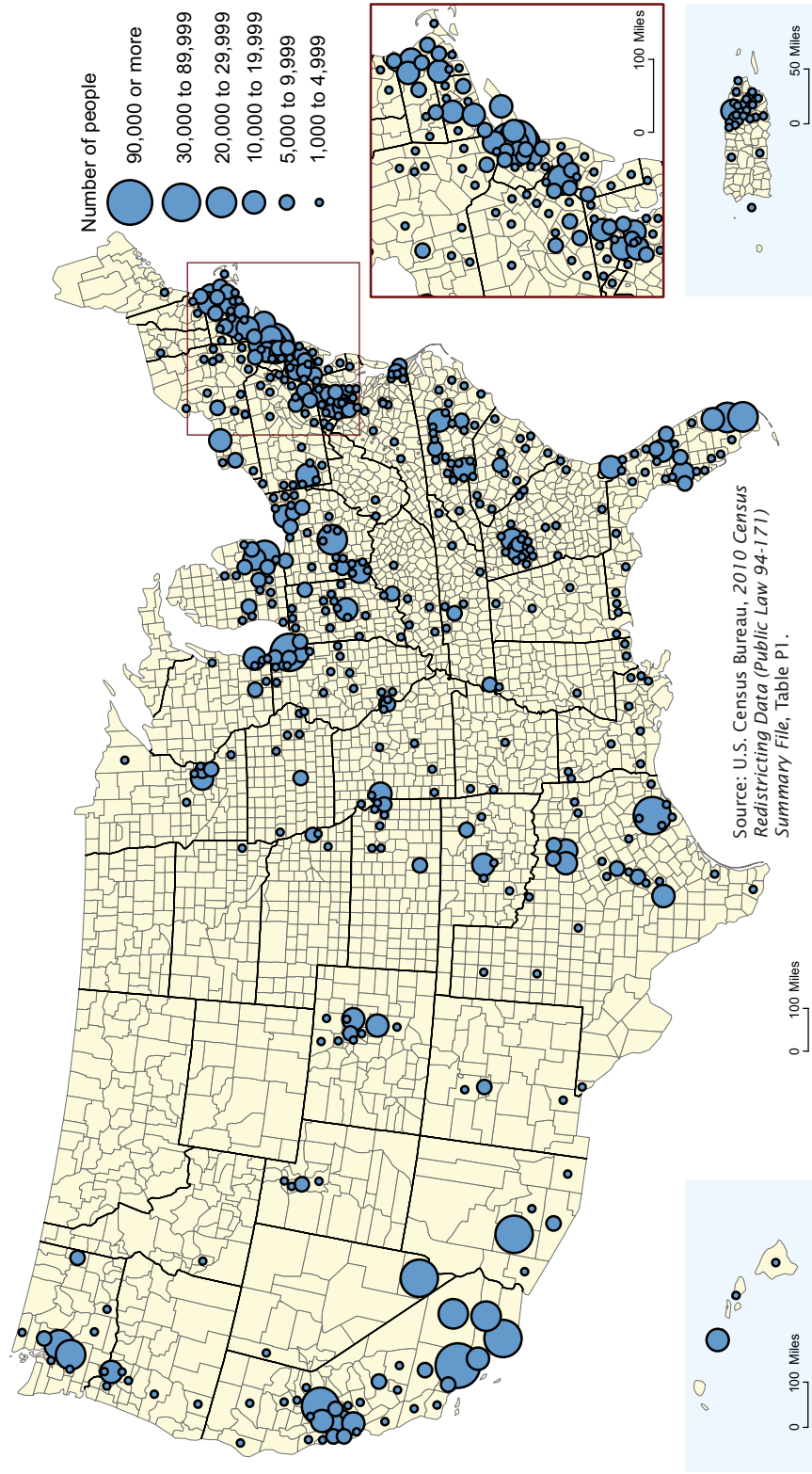


Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table PL1; and *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.



**Figure 6.**  
**Black in Combination Population Distribution by County: 2010**

(Counties with a Black or African American in combination population of at least 1,000 are included in the map. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.



Table 6.

**Ten Places With the Largest Number of Blacks or African Americans: 2010**(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Place <sup>1</sup>	Total population	Black or African American alone or in combination		Black or African American alone		Black or African American in combination	
		Rank	Number	Rank	Number	Rank	Number
New York, NY . . . . .	8,175,133	1	2,228,145	1	2,088,510	1	139,635
Chicago, IL . . . . .	2,695,598	2	913,009	2	887,608	3	25,401
Philadelphia, PA . . . . .	1,526,006	3	686,870	3	661,839	4	25,031
Detroit, MI . . . . .	713,777	4	601,988	4	590,226	13	11,762
Houston, TX . . . . .	2,099,451	5	514,217	5	498,466	8	15,751
Memphis, TN . . . . .	646,889	6	414,928	6	409,687	58	5,241
Baltimore, MD . . . . .	620,961	7	403,998	7	395,781	29	8,217
Los Angeles, CA . . . . .	3,792,621	8	402,448	8	365,118	2	37,330
Washington, DC . . . . .	601,723	9	314,352	9	305,125	22	9,227
Dallas, TX . . . . .	1,197,816	10	308,087	10	298,993	23	9,094
Columbus, OH . . . . .	787,033	15	237,077	16	220,241	5	16,836
San Diego, CA . . . . .	1,307,402	40	104,374	43	87,949	6	16,425
Phoenix, AZ . . . . .	1,445,632	37	109,544	40	93,608	7	15,936
Indianapolis, IN . . . . .	829,718	14	240,789	15	226,671	9	14,118
Boston, MA . . . . .	617,594	21	163,629	23	150,437	10	13,192

<sup>1</sup> Places of 100,000 or more total population. The 2010 Census showed 282 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 273 incorporated places (including 5 city-county consolidations) and 9 census designated places (CDPs) that were not legally incorporated.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

in northeastern states such as Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts (see Figure 6). The Black in combination population was also concentrated in counties in midwestern states such as Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, as well as in counties in southern states such as Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida.

Counties near metro areas in the Midwest such as Chicago, IL; Detroit, MI; and Minneapolis, MN, also had large concentrations of the Black in combination population. There were also large concentrations of the Black in combination population in the West in counties near metro areas such as Los Angeles, CA; San Francisco, CA; and Seattle, WA.

### **The places with the largest Black population were New York and Chicago.**

Among the places with populations of 100,000 or more, the 2010 Census showed that New York, NY, had the largest Black

alone-or-in-combination population with 2.2 million, followed by Chicago, IL (913,000) (see Table 6). Three other places had Black alone-or-in-combination populations of over 500,000 people (Philadelphia, PA; Detroit, MI; and Houston, TX).

Five of the ten places with the largest Black alone-or-in-combination populations—Houston, TX; Memphis, TN; Baltimore, MD; Washington, DC; and Dallas, TX—were in the South. These rankings were identical for the Black alone population.

### **The places with the largest Black in combination populations were New York and Los Angeles.**

Among the places with populations of 100,000 or more, New York, NY, had the largest Black in combination population (140,000), followed by Los Angeles, CA (37,000) (see Table 6). Two other places, Chicago, IL, and Philadelphia, PA, had populations over 25,000.

In contrast to the patterns observed for the Black alone-or-in-combination population, only one out of the ten places with the largest Black in combination population was in the South and there was more representation of places in the Midwest and the West.

### **The place with the greatest proportion Black was Detroit.**

Among the places with populations of 100,000 or more, the places with the greatest proportion Black alone-or-in-combination were Detroit, MI (84 percent); followed by Jackson, MS (80 percent); Miami Gardens, FL (78 percent); and Birmingham, AL (74 percent) (see Table 7). Of the top ten places shown, all were majority Black.

Of these places, eight were in the South, and two were in the Midwest, specifically Michigan. These patterns were the same for the Black alone population and the proportions were similar to the Black alone-or-in-combination population.



Table 7.

**Ten Places With the Highest Percentage of Blacks or African Americans: 2010**(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf))

Place <sup>1</sup>	Total population	Black or African American alone or in combination		Black or African American alone		Black or African American in combination	
		Rank	Percent of total population	Rank	Percent of total population	Rank	Percent of total population
Detroit, MI . . . . .	713,777	1	84.3	1	82.7	83	1.6
Jackson, MS . . . . .	173,514	2	80.1	2	79.4	242	0.7
Miami Gardens, FL . . . . .	107,167	3	77.9	3	76.3	91	1.6
Birmingham, AL . . . . .	212,237	4	74.0	4	73.4	257	0.6
Baltimore, MD . . . . .	620,961	5	65.1	5	63.7	134	1.3
Memphis, TN . . . . .	646,889	6	64.1	6	63.3	225	0.8
New Orleans, LA . . . . .	343,829	7	61.2	7	60.2	184	1.0
Flint, MI . . . . .	102,434	8	59.5	9	56.6	9	2.9
Montgomery, AL . . . . .	205,764	9	57.4	8	56.6	231	0.8
Savannah, GA . . . . .	136,286	10	56.7	10	55.4	139	1.3
Lansing, MI . . . . .	114,297	69	27.8	78	23.7	1	4.1
Tacoma, WA . . . . .	198,397	132	15.0	145	11.2	2	3.8
Killeen, TX . . . . .	127,921	40	37.9	46	34.1	3	3.8
Syracuse, NY . . . . .	145,170	51	33.1	57	29.5	4	3.6
Providence, RI . . . . .	178,042	109	19.4	114	16.0	5	3.3
Fairfield, CA . . . . .	105,321	111	19.0	118	15.7	6	3.3
Rochester, NY . . . . .	210,565	29	44.9	33	41.7	7	3.2
Fayetteville, NC . . . . .	200,564	31	44.8	32	41.9	8	2.9
Vallejo, CA . . . . .	115,942	81	24.9	83	22.1	10	2.9

<sup>1</sup> Places of 100,000 or more total population. The 2010 Census showed 282 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 273 incorporated places (including 5 city-county consolidations) and 9 census designated places (CDPs) that were not legally incorporated.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

### The place with the highest proportion of people who identified as multiple-race Black was Lansing, MI.

Among the places with populations of 100,000 or more, the places with the highest proportion of people who identified as Black and one or more other races were Lansing, MI; Tacoma, WA; Killeen, TX; and Syracuse, NY (about 4 percent each) (see Table 7). Of these ten places, three were in the Northeast, three were in the West, two in the Midwest, and two in the South.

### Among the 20 largest metropolitan statistical areas, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA, had the highest proportion of the non-Hispanic Black alone population living inside the largest principal city.

The remaining sections discuss geographic patterns for the non-Hispanic Black alone population

and make comparisons to other race and ethnic groups.

Figure 7 shows the proportion of selected race and Hispanic origin groups who lived inside the largest principal city of the 20 largest metro areas in the country versus those who lived outside of that largest principal city.<sup>20</sup> The red bars represent the non-Hispanic Black alone population, the blue bars represent the non-Hispanic White alone population, the green bars represent the Hispanic population, and the orange bars represent other race groups.<sup>21</sup> For example, the red bar denotes the proportion of the

<sup>20</sup> For the remainder of this section, when metro areas are discussed, the report will refer to the largest 20 metropolitan statistical areas.

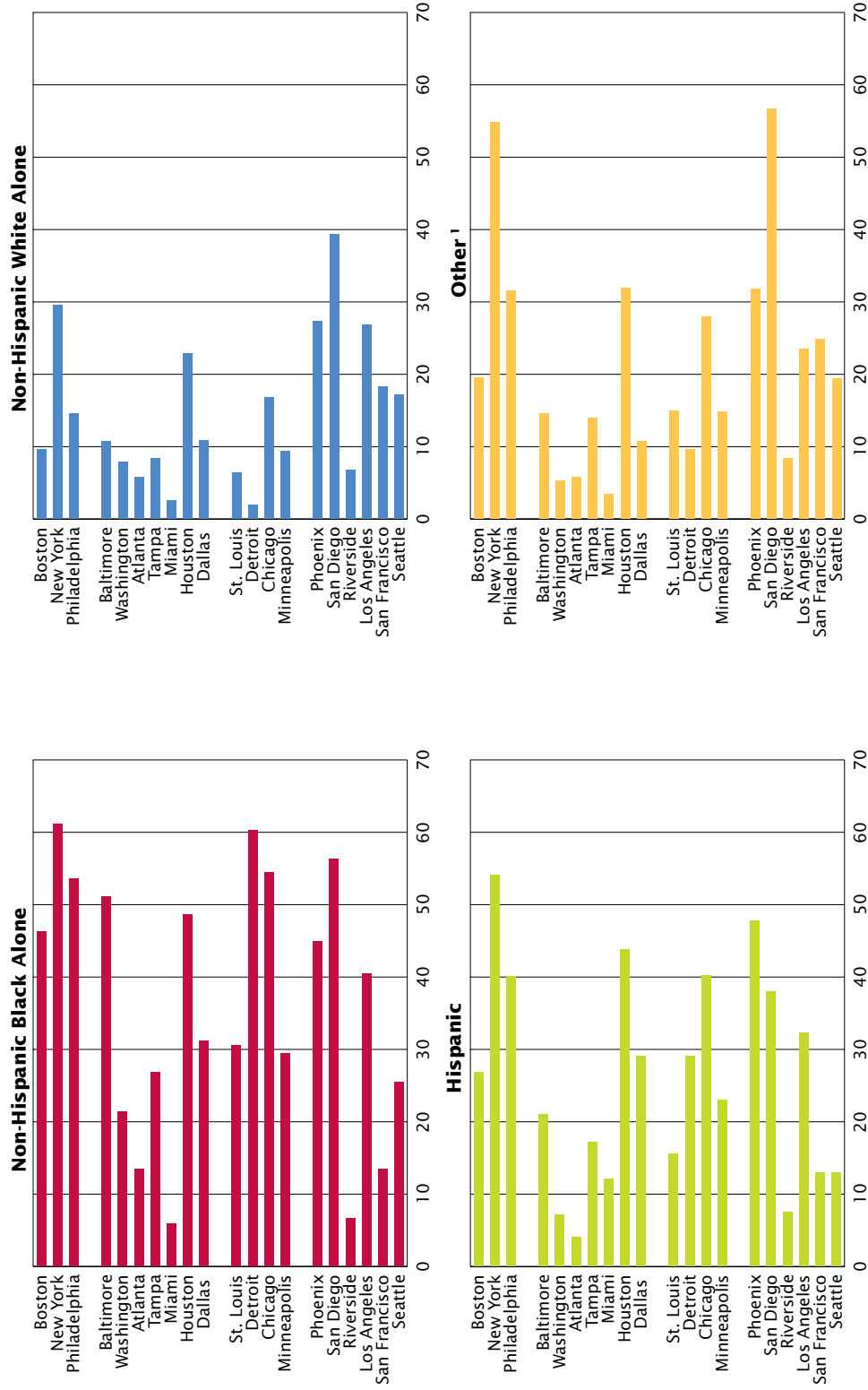
<sup>21</sup> For this report, the "other" race group refers to the non-Hispanic Asian alone, non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native alone, non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, and non-Hispanic Some Other Race alone populations, as well as non-Hispanics who reported multiple races.

non-Hispanic Black alone population that lived inside the largest principal city of Boston (46 percent), out of the total non-Hispanic Black alone population in the entire Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH metro area.

The top 5 metro areas that had the highest proportion of the non-Hispanic Black alone population living inside their respective largest principal cities were New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA (61 percent); Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI (60 percent); San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA (56 percent); Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI (54 percent); and Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD (53 percent).

The 5 metro areas with the lowest proportion of the non-Hispanic Black alone population living inside their respective largest principal cities were Miami-Fort

Figure 7. **Proportion of Race and Ethnic Groups Living Inside the Largest Principal City of the 20 Largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas: 2010**  
 (For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/p194-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/p194-171.pdf))



<sup>1</sup> For this figure, the "other" race category refers to the non-Hispanic Asian alone, non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native alone, non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, and non-Hispanic Some Other Race alone populations, as well as non-Hispanics who reported multiple races.  
 Note: Principal cities within regions are organized based on proximity to each other: Boston, New York, and Philadelphia are located in the Northeast census region; Baltimore, Washington, Atlanta, Tampa, Miami, Houston, and Dallas are located in the South census region; St. Louis, Detroit, Chicago, and Minneapolis are located in the Midwest census region; Phoenix, San Diego, Riverside, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle are located in the West census region.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census special tabulation.

Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL (6 percent); Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA (7 percent); Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA (13 percent); San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA (13 percent); and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV (21 percent).

**The proportion of the non-Hispanic Black alone population living inside the largest principal city surpassed 40 percent in all of the northeastern metro areas shown.**

Across the northeastern metro areas shown, at least 40 percent of the non-Hispanic Black alone population lived inside their respective largest principal city—New York (61 percent), Philadelphia (53 percent), and Boston (46 percent) (see Figure 7).<sup>22</sup>

In the South, 2 out of the 7 metro areas shown had at least 40 percent of the non-Hispanic Black alone population living inside their respective largest principal city—Baltimore (51 percent) and Houston (49 percent). In the Midwest, this was the case for 2 out of the 4 metro areas shown—Chicago (54 percent) and Detroit (60 percent). In the West, half of the metro areas shown had at least 40 percent of the non-Hispanic Black alone population living inside their largest respective principal city—San Diego (56 percent), Phoenix (45 percent), and Los Angeles (40 percent).

<sup>22</sup> The Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD metro area contains counties that are also part of the South region as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

**The non-Hispanic Black alone population was more likely to live inside the largest principal cities compared with non-Hispanic White alone, Hispanic, and other race populations.**

A higher proportion of the non-Hispanic Black alone population lived inside the largest principal cities in 15 out of the 20 largest metro areas, relative to the non-Hispanic White alone, Hispanic, and other race populations (see Figure 7). This was most pronounced in the metro areas of Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI, and Baltimore-Towson, MD, where the proportion of the non-Hispanic Black alone population living in the largest principal city surpassed the second largest group, Hispanics, by 30 percentage points.

Metro areas that had a lower proportion of the non-Hispanic Black alone population living inside their largest principal city, relative to the Hispanic and other race group populations, were primarily located in the West—the metro areas of Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, AZ; Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA; San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA; and San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA. However, the metro area with the lowest proportion was Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL, located in the South.

In the metro areas of Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL, and Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, AZ, a higher proportion of the Hispanic population lived inside the largest principal cities of Miami and Phoenix, relative to the non-Hispanic Black alone population. In the metro area of Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA, the non-Hispanic Black alone population had the lowest proportion living

inside the city of Riverside, relative to the other groups shown.

In the metro area of San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA, the other race category had a slightly higher proportion living in the city of San Diego relative to the non-Hispanic Black alone population. In the metro area of San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA, both the other race category and the non-Hispanic White alone population had a higher proportion living in the city of San Francisco relative to the non-Hispanic Black alone population.

**The proportion of the non-Hispanic Black alone population living inside the largest principal cities within the 20 largest metro areas decreased over the last decade.**

Figure 8 shows the percentage-point difference of a race or Hispanic origin group living inside the largest principal city in a metro area, from 2000 to 2010.<sup>23</sup> The red bars represent the non-Hispanic Black alone population, the blue bars represent the non-Hispanic White alone population, the green bars represent the Hispanic population, and the orange bars represent other race groups. For example, in the Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH metro area, 57 percent of the non-Hispanic Black alone population lived in the largest principal city, Boston, in 2000. This figure decreased to 46 percent in 2010, representing a decline of 11 percentage points, which is denoted by the red bar.

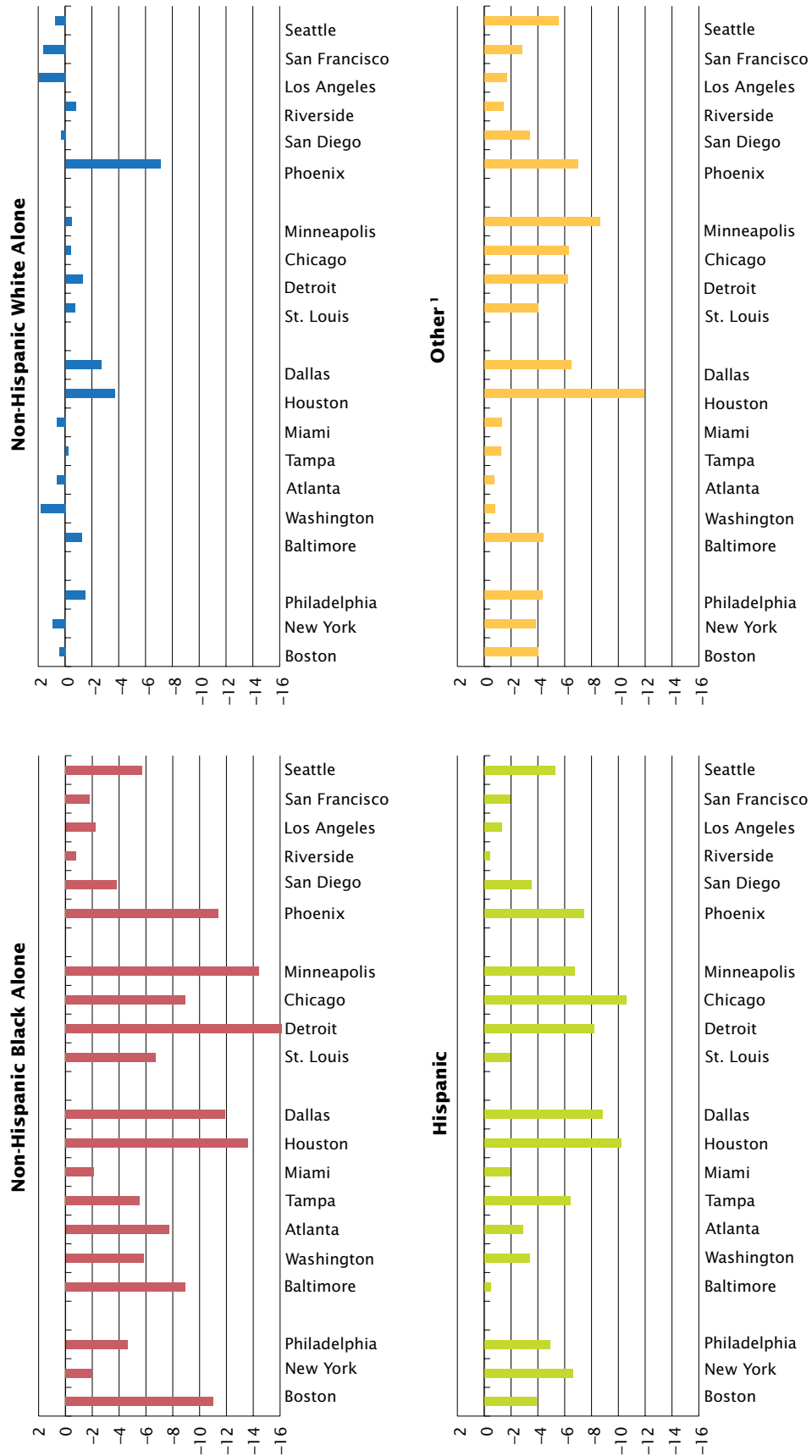
Across the 20 largest metro areas in the United States, the non-Hispanic Black alone population declined in the largest principal

<sup>23</sup> Data for the metro areas are based on the 2010 Census boundaries.

Figure 8.

### Percentage-Point Difference of Race and Ethnic Groups Living Inside the Largest Principal City of the 20 Largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas: 2000 to 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/p194-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/p194-171.pdf))



<sup>1</sup> For this figure, the "other" race category refers to the non-Hispanic Asian alone, non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native alone, non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, and non-Hispanic Some Other Race alone populations, as well as non-Hispanics who reported multiple races.

Note: Principal cities within regions are organized based on proximity to each other. Boston, New York, and Philadelphia are located in the Northeast census region. Baltimore, Washington, Atlanta, Tampa, Miami, Houston, and Dallas are located in the South census region. St. Louis, Detroit, Chicago, and Minneapolis are located in the Midwest census region. Phoenix, San Diego, Riverside, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle are located in the West census region.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census special tabulation.

---

cities and increased outside of these cities from 2000 to 2010. This largely follows the trend of the total population in these metro areas, where the proportion of the total population living inside the largest principal city within a metro area declined in 19 out of the 20 largest metro areas and increased as a proportion outside the largest principal cities from 2000 to 2010. The metro area of Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH, was the only metro area that experienced an increase in the proportion of the total population living inside the city of Boston.

The proportion of the non-Hispanic Black alone population in the largest principal cities decreased by at least 10 percentage points in six metro areas from 2000 to 2010, Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI (16 percentage points); Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI (14 percentage points); Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX (14 percentage points); Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX (12 percentage points); Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, AZ (11 percentage points); and Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH (11 percentage points).

**Among the 20 largest metro areas, the proportion of the non-Hispanic Black alone population living inside the largest principal cities declined by at least 7 percentage points across all midwestern metro areas.**

The proportion of the non-Hispanic Black alone population living inside the largest principal cities across midwestern metro areas declined by at least 7 percentage points from 2000 to 2010. The largest change was in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI metro area, where the proportion of the non-Hispanic Black alone population living inside the city of Detroit versus outside

the city decreased by 16 percentage points. This was followed by Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI (14 percentage points); Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI (9 percentage points); and St. Louis, MO-IL (7 percentage points).

In the Northeast, the proportion of the non-Hispanic Black alone population living inside the largest principal city declined by at least 7 percentage points in 1 out of the 3 metro areas, Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH (11 percentage points). In the South, 4 of the 7 metro areas experienced a decline of at least 7 percentage points—Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX (14 percentage points); Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX (12 percentage points); Baltimore-Towson, MD (9 percentage points); and Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA (8 percentage points).

**The non-Hispanic Black alone population experienced the greatest decline in the proportion living inside the largest principal city for 14 of the 20 largest metro areas.**

The proportion of the non-Hispanic Black alone population living inside the largest principal city declined more than the proportion of other race and ethnic groups that also experienced decreases in the largest principal cities in 14 out of the 20 metro areas. In the metro areas of New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA; Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD; Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL; and Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI; the Hispanic population experienced the greatest declines compared to all groups shown. In the metro areas of Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA, and San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA, the other race category experienced the greatest declines relative to all groups shown.

Although not as sweeping as the decline in the proportion of the non-Hispanic Black alone population living inside the largest principal cities of most major metro areas, the proportion of the Hispanic population and other race group populations living inside the largest principal city also declined in all of the 20 largest metro areas (see Figure 8). On the other hand, in about half of the largest metro areas, the proportion of the non-Hispanic White alone population living inside the largest principal city increased.

**SUMMARY**

This report provided a portrait of the Black population in the United States and contributes to our understanding of the nation's changing racial and ethnic diversity.

While both the Black alone population and the Black alone-or-in-combination population grew from 2000 to 2010 (by 12 percent and 15 percent, respectively), the Black in combination population experienced the most growth, increasing by 76 percent. Within this population, the Black *and* White population more than doubled.

Additional notable trends were presented in this report. The Black population continued to be concentrated in the South and the proportion increased from 2000 to 2010. Additionally, the Black population that lived outside of the South tended to be more concentrated in metro areas.

Other interesting geographic patterns include, for the largest 20 metro areas, the non-Hispanic Black alone population was more likely to live in a largest principal city relative to the non-Hispanic White alone, Hispanic, and other race group populations in 2010. The



---

non-Hispanic Black alone population also experienced the greatest declines in the proportion living in a largest principal city from 2000 to 2010.

Throughout the decade, the Census Bureau will release additional information on the Black population, including characteristics such as age, sex, and family type, which will provide greater insights into the demographic characteristics of this population at various geographic levels.

## **ABOUT THE 2010 CENSUS**

### **Why was the 2010 Census conducted?**

The U.S. Constitution mandates that a census be taken in the United States every 10 years. This is required in order to determine the number of seats each state is to receive in the U.S. House of Representatives.

### **Why did the 2010 Census ask the question on race?**

The Census Bureau collects data on race to fulfill a variety of legislative and program requirements. Data on race are used in the legislative redistricting process carried out by the states and in monitoring local jurisdictions' compliance with the Voting Rights Act. More broadly, data on race are critical for research that underlies many policy decisions at all levels of government.

### **How do data from the question on race benefit me, my family, and my community?**

All levels of government need information on race to implement and evaluate programs, or enforce laws, such as the Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act, Fair Housing Act, Equal Employment Opportunity Act, and the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program.

Both public and private organizations use race information to find areas where groups may need special services and to plan and implement education, housing, health, and other programs that address these needs. For example, a school system might use this information to design cultural activities that reflect the diversity in their community, or a business could use it to select the mix of merchandise it will sell in a new store. Census information also helps identify areas where residents might need services of particular importance to certain racial groups, such as screening for hypertension or diabetes.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information on race in the United States, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at [www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race/race.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race/race.html).

Information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf).

Data on race from the *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File* were released on a state-by-state basis. The 2010 Census redistricting data are available on the Internet at <http://factfinder2.census.gov/main.html> and on DVD.

For more information on specific race groups in the United States, go to [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) and search for "Minority Links." This Web page includes information about the 2010 Census and provides links to reports based on past censuses and surveys focusing on the social and economic characteristics of the Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander populations.

Information on other population and housing topics is presented in the 2010 Census Briefs series, located on the Census Bureau's Web site at [www.census.gov/prod/cen2010](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010). This series presents information about race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and people who reside in group quarters.

For more information about the 2010 Census, including data products, call the Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282. You can also visit the Census Bureau's Question and Answer Center at [ask.census.gov](http://ask.census.gov) to submit your questions online.