

Negroes
City of
1969

WE THE BLACK PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

U.S. Bureau of the Census



WE ARE BLACK

We are the black people of the United States. The 1960 census counted 18.8 million of us and the current estimate is 22 million: 10.7 million males and 11.6 million females. We make up 11 percent of the total population and that percentage should continue to increase because 15 percent of the children under five are black. Birthrates have been declining for both races since 1957; however, while the birthrate was 16.7 babies per thousand population for whites in 1967, it was 25.4 for blacks.

When the country was smaller, early in its history, we represented a bigger chunk of the population than the present 11 percent. The first census in 1790 counted nearly 700,000 black people, about one in every five Americans. In 1860 we were about one in seven.

When America stopped importing slaves, births became the basis of our population growth. Africans didn't voluntarily rush to America's shores as the white European immigrants did. So the white population grew much faster than the black, forcing our earlier high percentage to decline.

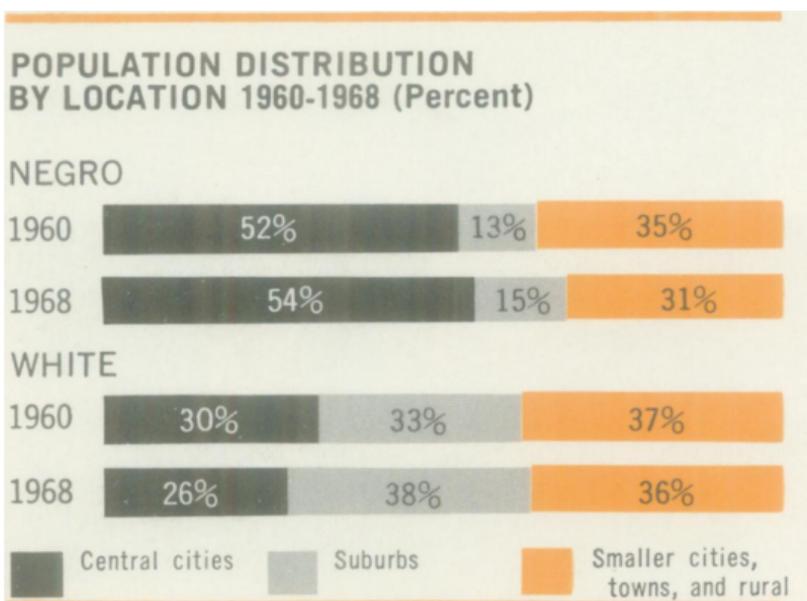


WHERE WE LIVE

In the days of slavery and for many years afterward, most of us lived on farms. At the turn of the century 80 percent of our people still were in the rural areas. But farming changed. Machines began to replace people on the farms. We had to move to new places, to new kinds of work. By 1940 only about a third of us lived on farms; by 1960 the proportion was down to 8 percent. Now it is about 7 percent, about the same percentage as for the white population.

Where did we go? Most of us, perhaps after several moves, wound up in the cities—in the big cities. From 1950 to 1968, the total black population increased by 7 million, and 5 million of the increase was in the central cities of our metropolitan areas. More than half (54 percent) of us now live inside the central cities. So, starting out as “farm” people, we have now become “big-city” people.

The whites, too, moved from farms to the cities, and then on to the suburbs. Considering only the metropolitan areas, most of the blacks are in the central cities and most of the whites are in the suburbs. The most recent figures indicate an increase in the number of Negroes in the central cities and a slight increase in our suburban population since 1960.



CITIES RANKED BY NEGRO POPULATION

City	Negro Population 1960	National Rank, 1960		Percent Negro	
		Negro	Total	1960	1965*
New York	1,087,931	1	1	14%	18%
Chicago	812,637	2	2	23	28
Philadelphia	529,240	3	4	26	31
Detroit	482,223	4	5	29	34
Washington, D.C.	411,737	5	9	54	66
Los Angeles	334,916	6	3	14	17
Baltimore	325,589	7	6	35	38
Cleveland	250,818	8	8	29	34
New Orleans	233,514	9	15	37	41
Houston	215,037	10	7	23	23
St. Louis	214,377	11	10	29	36
Atlanta	186,464	12	24	38	44
Memphis	184,320	13	22	37	40
Newark	138,035	14	30	34	47
Birmingham	135,113	15	36	40	x
Dallas	129,242	16	14	19	21
Cincinnati	108,754	17	21	22	24
Pittsburgh	100,692	18	16	17	20
Indianapolis	98,049	19	26	21	23
Richmond	91,972	20	52	42	x
Oakland	83,618	21	33	23	x
Kansas City, Mo.	83,146	22	27	18	22
Jacksonville	82,525	23	61	41	x
Norfolk	78,806	24	41	26	x
Columbus	77,140	25	28	16	18
San Francisco	74,383	26	12	10	12
Buffalo	70,904	27	20	13	17
Louisville	70,075	28	31	18	x
Gary	69,123	29	70	39	x
Mobile	65,619	30	58	32	x
Miami	65,213	31	44	22	x
Nashville	64,570	32	73	38	x
Boston	63,165	33	13	9	13
Milwaukee	62,458	34	11	8	11

*(x indicates no estimate was made for 1965)
* Census Bureau estimate*

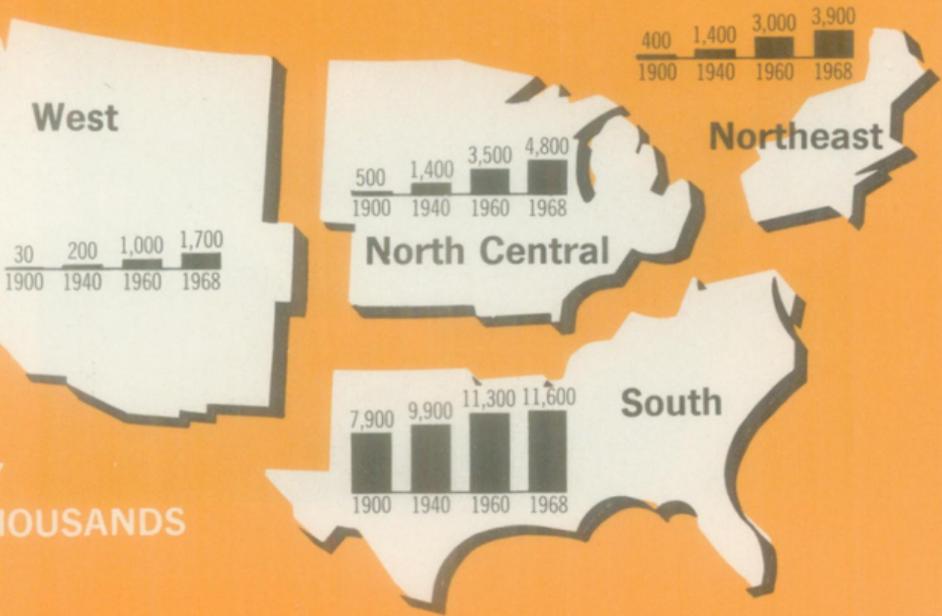
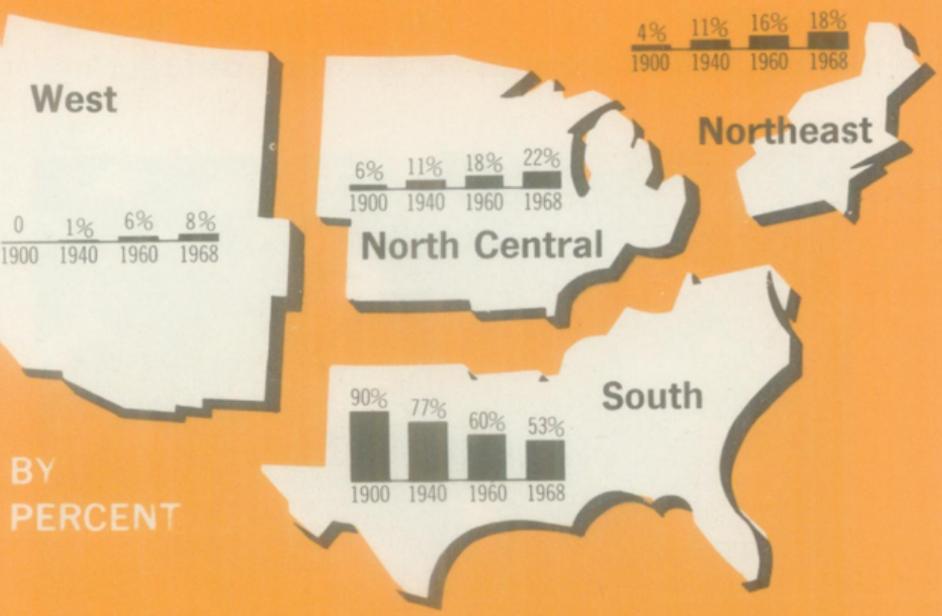
OUR MIGRATION PATTERNS

Let's take another look at our long-term movement. As we moved from the farm to the city, we also moved from the South to the North and West. In 1860, our population was 4½ million including 4 million slaves. At that time 92 percent of all black Americans lived in the South. In 1900, 90 percent of us were still there. But then we began to spread out. By 1940 the census showed just 77 percent of us in the South. By 1960 this figure was down to 60 percent and the 1968 estimate is 53 percent. The Census Bureau counts Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky, Oklahoma, West Virginia and the District of Columbia as "South," along with the States of the old Confederacy.



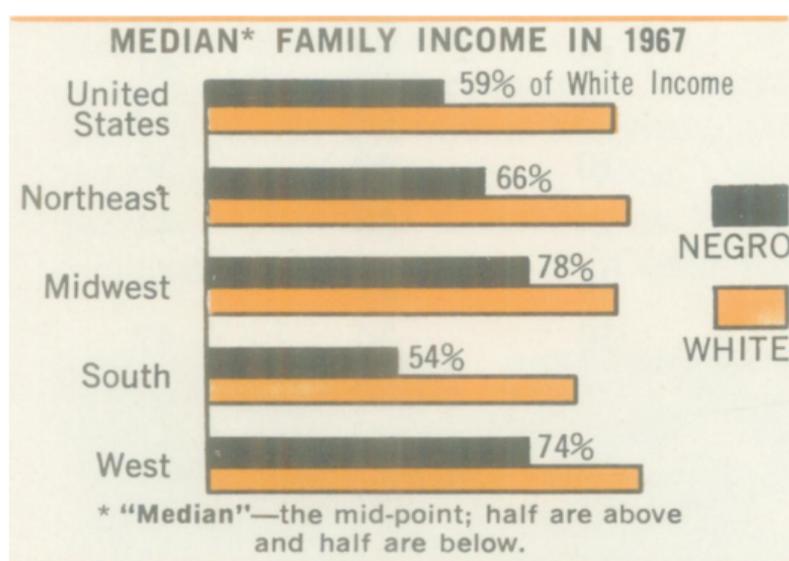
Our percentage in the South is dropping and the black population there would also show a decline in actual numbers if it were not for new babies, fewer infant deaths, and better care for the aged. Millions of our people have left the South for new homes in the North and West. The South lost about 4 million between 1940 and 1966.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BLACK POPULATION BY REGION

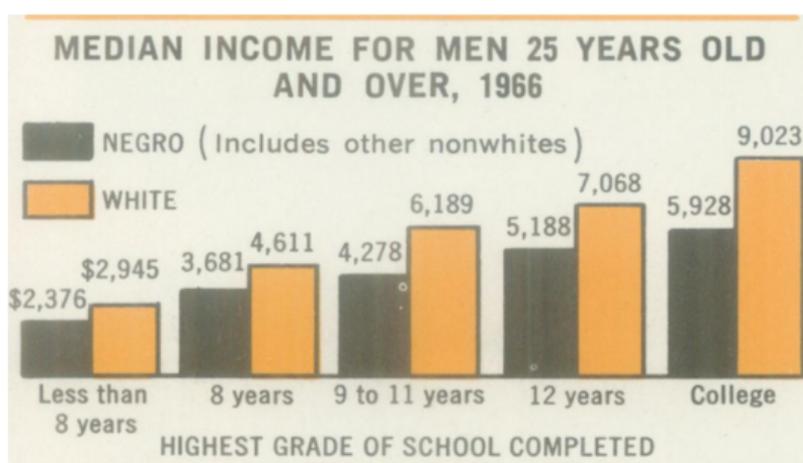


WHAT WE EARN

The average black family earns less money than the average white family, although the average black family is larger. Nine percent of the families in the United States are black, but we receive only 5 percent of the national income. Our pay is lowest in the South and highest in the West and Midwest. The income gap between whites and blacks follows the same pattern . . . widest in the South and narrower in the West and the Midwest.



Negro median income was 59 percent of the median income for white families in 1967, the highest percentage ever. One reason our incomes are low is that black families are 3 times as likely to be headed by a woman as white families. The earning power of the black worker is lower than that of the white even when they have both had the same amount of schooling.



OUR JOBS

Finally, our low income level is caused by our having so many low-paying jobs. About two of every five black men and more than half of all black women who work are service workers, laborers, or farm workers.

But we are growing away from these low-paying jobs. A comparison of 1960 and 1967 employment figures shows that 169,000 fewer Negroes worked in household service, 70,000 fewer were laborers, and 453,000 fewer worked on farms in 1967. At the same time, the number of black professional, technical, and crafts workers increased by about 1.4 million.

Still, black representation in the professions and in some skill areas remains proportionately small. Black men represent 10 percent of the employed males in this country, but only 2 percent of the doctors, 2.5 percent of the dentists, 1.5 percent of the insurance brokers, 3.3 percent of the plumbers, 1.5 percent of the electricians, and 0.5 percent of the engineers. Black women represent 13 percent of the em-

ployed women but only 2.4 percent of the lawyers, 5.6 percent of the professional nurses, 6.5 percent of the medical technicians, 2.4 percent of the telephone operators, 1.5 percent of the secretaries, and 8.8 percent of elementary school teachers.

We have our full share of some jobs including clergymen, social workers, cosmetologists, and dietitians. And we have more than our share of mail carriers, masons, metal workers, plasterers, service station attendants, furnace men, laundry workers, packers, taxi-drivers, elevator operators, and practical nurses.

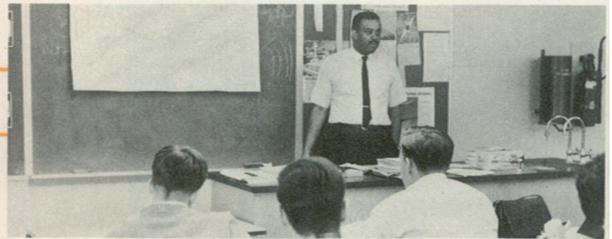
Some of us are self-employed: 178,000 with farms, 1,200 with clothing stores, 400 with furniture stores, 300 with household appliance stores, 2,600 with gasoline and service stations, over 8,000 with trucking services, 4,000 in wholesale trade, 13,000 with food and dairy stores, 15,000 with eating and drinking places, and 1,700 with other retail stores of various kinds.

There is some black ownership of almost every conceivable kind of enterprise from hotels and radio stations to banks, management consultant firms, and super markets.

EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION AND SEX, 1967
Percent of Employed Labor Force*

	MALE		FEMALE	
	Black	White	Black	White
Professional, managerial, technical, clerical, sales workers.	18%	41%	30%	63%
Skilled blue-collar. (Carpenters, construction craftsmen, mechanics, factory workers, drivers, etc.)	41	41	17	16
Service, labor, farm.	41	18	53	21

* Does not include the armed forces



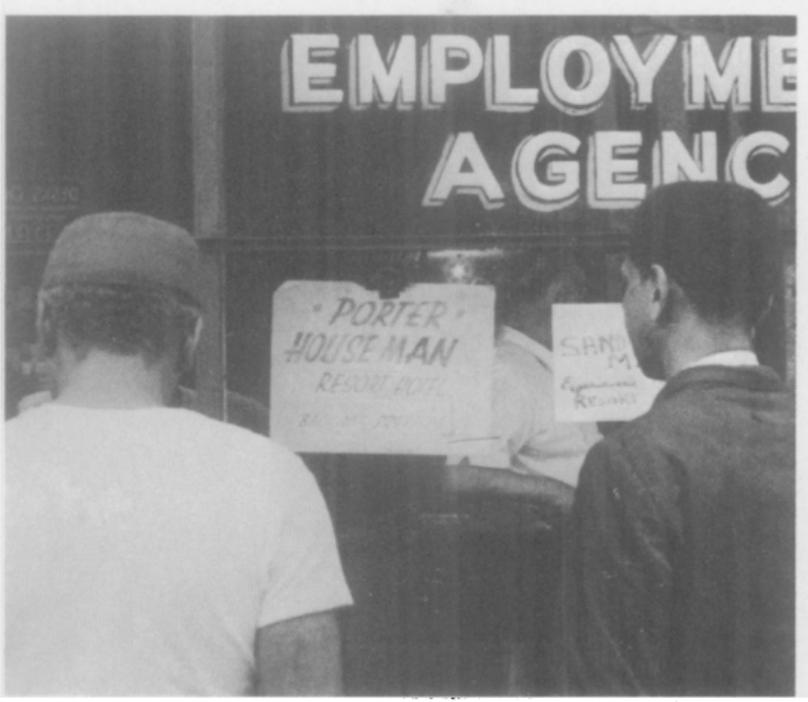
PEOPLE WITHOUT JOBS

Although the employment statistics are more encouraging now than in earlier years, unemployment is still a major problem for Negro Americans. An estimated 638 thousand blacks were unemployed in 1967. This included more than 101 thousand married men. Compared with white workers, we are twice as likely to be out of work.

Our total unemployment rate declined slightly from 7.4 in 1967 to 6.8 for the first 6 months of 1968.

In ghetto areas the problem is much worse, with one out of every three available black workers either unemployed or seriously underemployed, that is, working for substandard pay or working only part-time. Nationally, 14 percent of our people are on welfare, compared with 3 percent of the whites.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES 1967		
Percent of available workers who are without jobs		
	NEGRO	WHITE
Total	7.3%	3.3%
Adult men	4.5	2.1
Adult women	6.9	3.7
Teenagers (16-19)	26.4	10.2



HOW WE LIVE



About 38 percent of our families own their homes—an increase from 24 percent in 1940. However, much of the housing we live in is substandard. Three of every ten dwellings occupied by black families are dilapidated or lack hot water, toilet, tub or shower.

Almost half (46 percent) of the black people in the South and 16 percent of those in the North and West live in such housing. Slowly these substandard housing units are disappearing. The number of black-occupied housing units described as dilapidated or lacking basic plumbing declined from 2.2 million in 1960 to 1.7 million in 1966. (For whites the decline was from 6.2 million to 4 million.)

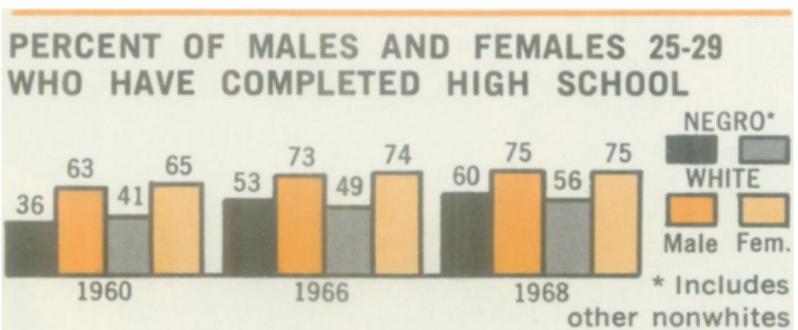
Using the yardstick of one person per room, one fourth of our housing in the cities is overcrowded; in rural areas, two fifths.

We are buying more and more automobiles and appliances. About 52 percent of our families have at least one car; 10 percent own two or more. Eighty-three percent own black-and-white television sets, and 6 percent have color sets. (Percentages for whites are 86 for black-and-white sets and 17 for color.) Seventy-six percent of us have refrigerators or freezers, 4 percent have dishwashers, and 8 percent own room air conditioners.

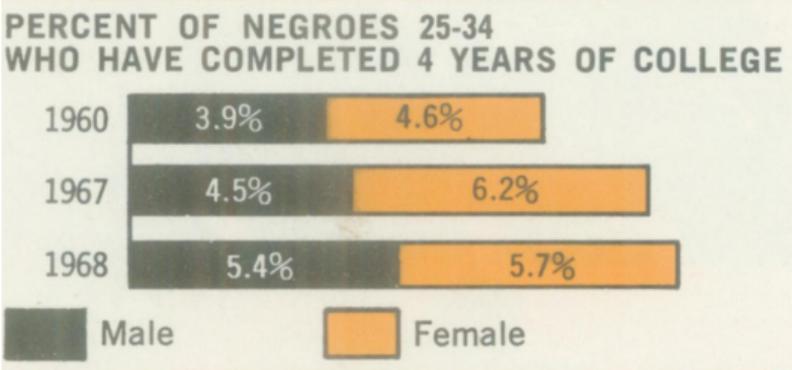
OUR SCHOOLING IS IMPROVING

Our educational record looks better every year, with fewer “drop-outs” and more high school graduates and college students. Only 77 percent of our young men and women aged 16 and 17 were enrolled in school in 1960. In 1966 that figure had risen to 83 percent.

The proportion of young adults who have completed high school continues to rise for both races, although there is still a gap between black and white.



These tables also compare male and female graduates, with our young men showing the larger percentage gains.



OUR MILITARY RECORD

There are 303,000 blacks in the Armed Forces, 9 percent of the total. This includes 10 percent of the troops in Southeast Asia.

Although we make up 9 percent of the armed forces, only 2 percent of all officers are black. On Dec. 31, 1967 there were 8,000 black officers including 1,000 in Viet-Nam. Of the 295,000 Negro enlisted men, 55 thousand were in Viet-Nam.

OUR VOTING RECORD

Fifty-eight percent of our voting age population voted in the 1968 Presidential election. For whites, 69 percent voted. A higher percentage of Negroes in the North and West voted than in the South.

In the 1964 Presidential election, 59 percent of the eligible black voters cast ballots, compared with 71 percent of the whites. In the 1966 Congressional election, the comparison was 42 percent to 57 percent.

Most, but not all of those who did not vote were not registered. Registration in the South still lags behind the North and West.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION VOTERS, 1968

	BLACK	WHITE
Number of voting age	10,935,000	104,521,000
Percent who voted: U.S.	58%	69%
North and West	65	72
South	52	62



PERCENT OF NEGROES OF VOTING AGE WHO WERE REGISTERED

	1968	1966
North and West	72	69
South	62	53

Seventy-one percent of the whites in the South and 77 percent in the North and West were registered in 1968.

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking to the future, the Census Bureau says that there probably will be about 28 million black Americans by 1980 and more than 35 million by 1990. We will account for 12.4 percent of the total population in 1980 and 13.6 percent by 1990.

The black labor force is expected to increase by almost 4 million from 1965 to 1980 while the total labor force will be adding 23 million. The nation will need to find an additional 4 jobs for every 10 held by blacks in 1965.

NEXT, THE 1970 CENSUS

We, the Black People of the United States, know these things about ourselves because the Census Bureau has asked us questions and totaled up the answers. However, this is not the full story. The Census Bureau believes that in the 1960 census about 10 percent of us failed to get counted. For this reason our communities have been seriously shortchanged because the distribution of money and services to communities is affected by the official Census Bureau figures; the larger the community the more it receives in services, money, and representation in government. We need a full count in the census to measure our progress towards a full share in our Nation's prosperity and to pinpoint our needs in jobs, education, welfare, and housing.

The next census of the United States will come on April 1, 1970. This time we can achieve full official recognition. The Nation needs a full count of all its people in the 1970 census.

We, the Black People,
need it most of all.

~~U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE~~
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

