

THE STATE OF **BLACK** PENNSYLVANIA

2010-2021

INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the changing position of Black Pennsylvanians from 2010 to 2021 in the areas of population, income, housing, education, health, and incarceration.

Pennsylvania, as does the nation, continues to become more racially diverse. Despite this trend, the data shows a decline in Pennsylvanians identifying solely as Black or African American over the past decade. During this same period, the median income of Black households increased by over \$10,000, and the number of Black households earning \$100,000 or more climbed from 38,626 to 92,576. While more Black Pennsylvanians have acquired healthcare insurance since 2010, comorbidities have become a growing challenge, as diabetes is on the rise. Simultaneously, the number of Black incarcerated individuals in state correctional facilities has fallen by 32%.

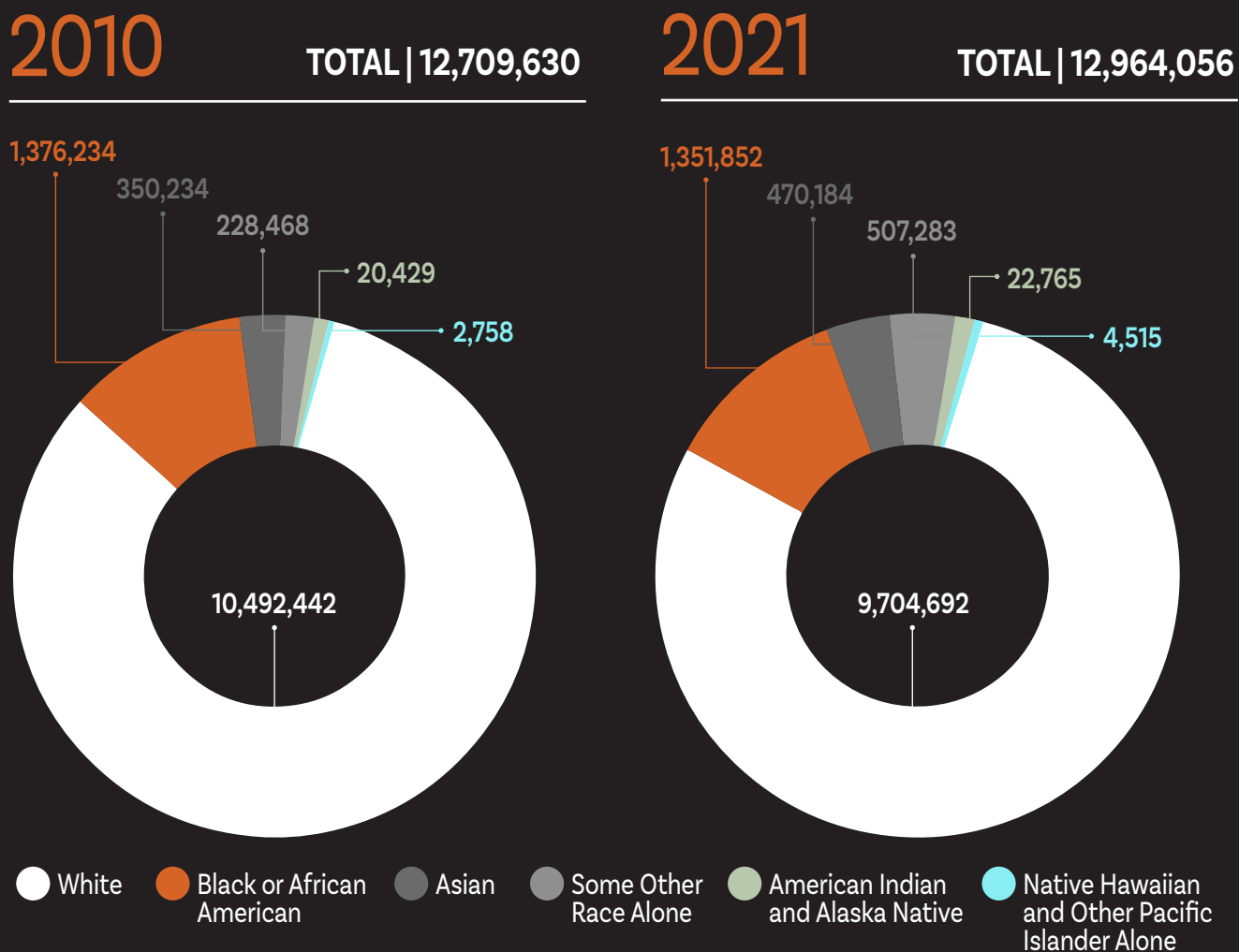
Black History Month traditionally focuses on the contributions of African Americans throughout U.S. history. Once a year, the National Urban League issues the State of Black America, their signature report, which covers racial equality across economics, employment, education, health, housing, criminal justice, and civic participation across the country. However, no organization has published the change of status for the Black population specifically in Pennsylvania. This report will address this issue and fill the void.

This report does not compare Pennsylvania's Black and white populations, but rather shows changes over time for the Black population in Pennsylvania.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The overall Black or African American population in Pennsylvania totaled 1,351,852 in 2021, declining by more than 24,000 people since 2010, according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey One-Year Estimates. During this time, the number of Black male residents grew by over 8,000 people, while the Black female population experienced a loss of approximately 32,000 individuals.

Population By Race



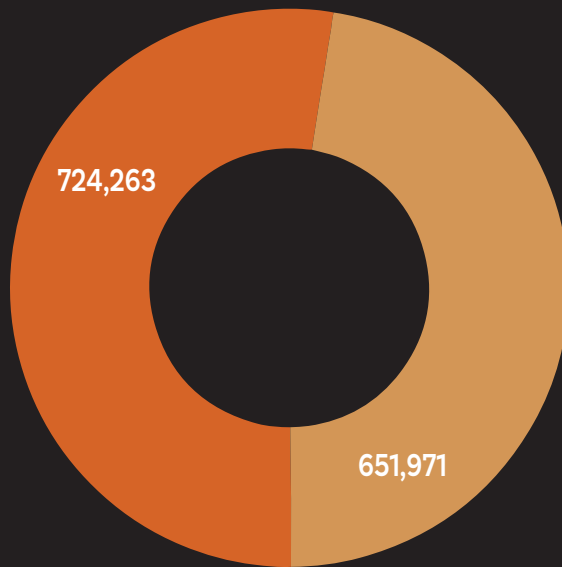
All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data ^{1,2}

United States Census Bureau ^{1,2}

DEMOGRAPHICS

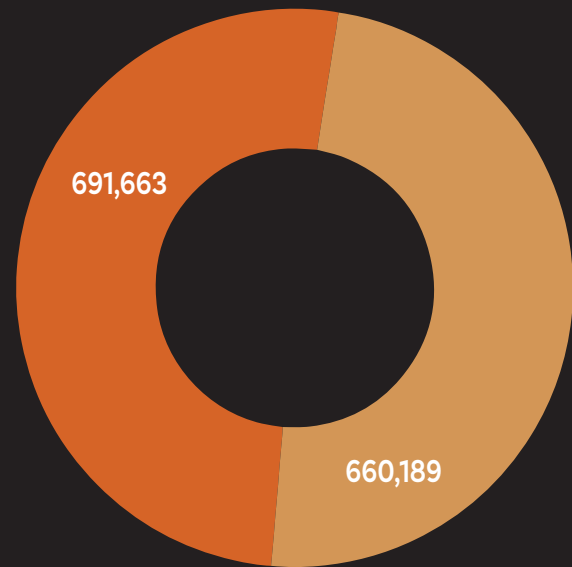
Black or African American Population 2010-2021

2010



● Female ● Male

2021



All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

United States Census Bureau ^{1,2}

SOCIOECONOMIC

Black Pennsylvanians experienced slow, steady growth in their earnings between 2010 and 2021. Income gains occurred among low- to middle-income earners, with the most impressive increases occurring among Black households earning \$100,000 or more, or approximately 54,000 additional Black households in 2021 as compared to a decade earlier. More Black workers are earning wages above poverty level than in previous years, with 55,591 households elevating out of poverty. Despite this progress, the poverty rate among the state's Black community remains at nearly 25% of Black individuals in 2021.

With earnings on the rise, an additional 40,286 Black Pennsylvanians secured housing within the past decade, from over 484,000 residents in 2010 to 524,637 in 2021. The number of owner-occupied housing units declined from 47.2% to 44.7% between 2010 and 2021, while renter-occupied units increased from 52.8% to 55.3%.

SOCIOECONOMIC

INCOME

Black or African American Household Income

2010-2021

	2010	2021
Total Households	484,351	524,637
Less than \$10,000	89,780	67,280
\$10,000 to \$29,999	142,723	126,893
\$30,000 to \$59,999	137,922	141,732
\$60,000 to \$99,999	75,300	96,156
\$100,000 to \$124,999	18,818	34,178
\$125,000 to \$149,999	8,074	20,514
\$150,000 to \$199,999	8,419	20,135
\$200,000 or more	3,315	17,749

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

United States Census Bureau ^{3,4,7}

SOCIOECONOMIC

INCOME

Black or African American Median Household Income

2010-2021

	2010	2021
Annual Median Household Income	\$31,000	\$42,000
Per Capita Income (PCI)	\$16,429	\$25,096

Per capita income (PCI) is the average income computed for every man, woman, and child in a particular group. The Census Bureau derived per capita income by dividing the total income of a particular group by the total population in that group (excluding patients or inmates in institutional quarters)

United States Census Bureau ^{3,4,7}

SOCIOECONOMIC

INCOME

Poverty Rates for Black or African American People For Whom Poverty Status is Determined

2010-2021

	2010	2021
Total population	1,376,234	1,351,852
All people	28.4%	24.8%
Under 18 years	37.6%	35.4%
Related children under 18 years	37.2%	35.1%
Related children under 5 years	42.0%	38.7%
Related children 5 to 17 years	35.4%	33.9%
18 years and over	24.6%	21.4%
18 to 64 years	25.9%	21.9%
65 years and over	16.8%	18.9%
People in families	26.4%	22.2%
Unrelated individuals 15 years and over	35.6%	33.0%

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data.

Measure of Poverty - The U.S. Census Bureau releases two poverty measures every year that describe who is poor in the United States. The first is the nation's official poverty measure based on cash resources. The second is the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) that includes both cash resources and noncash benefits from government programs aimed at low-income families and subtracts taxes and necessary expenses.

United States Census Bureau ^{3,4,5,11}

SOCIOECONOMIC

HOUSING

Housing Tenure of Black or African American Population

2010-2021

HOUSING TENURE	2010	2021
Occupied housing units	484,351	524,637
Owner-occupied housing units	47.2%	44.7%
Renter-occupied housing units	52.8%	55.3%
Average household size of owner-occupied unit	2.82	2.63
Average household size of renter-occupied unit	2.44	2.19

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

United States Census Bureau ^{6,7,8,9,10}

EDUCATION

The number of Black students enrolled in school declined across the commonwealth from a total of 436,990 students in 2010 to 353,490 in 2021, according to U.S. Census Bureau data. Despite a shrinking number of Black or African American students on schools' rosters, Black Pennsylvanians were more likely to have attained some college education in 2021. Approximately 14,000 fewer males and 22,000 fewer females earned less than a high school diploma during 2021 in comparison with 2010. Simultaneously, in a side-by-side measure of educational attainment data from 2010 and 2021, an additional 7,000 males attained a high school diploma by 2021, and an estimated 22,000 more males and 16,000 more females attended college or attained an associate degree in 2021 than in 2010. The marked rise in Black bachelor's degree holders over the past decade can be seen in the increase of more than 34,000 male and 38,000 female students in year-to-year comparisons.

Educational Attainment of Black or African American Population, Age 25 Years and Over 2010-2021

Level of Education	2010	2021
Total	818,226	891,751
Male	371,647	421,317
Less than high school diploma	69,839	56,340
High school graduate, GED	161,789	168,784
Some college or associate degree	94,054	115,791
Bachelor's degree or higher	45,965	80,402
Female	446,579	470,434
Less than high school diploma	73,547	51,072
High school graduate, GED	165,889	158,094
Some college or associate degree	130,377	146,383
Bachelor's degree or higher	76,766	114,885

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

United States Census Bureau ¹²

EDUCATION

Black or African American Educational Enrollment 2010-2021

	2010	2021
Enrolled in school	436,990	353,490
Enrolled in nursery school, preschool	27,855	15,666
Enrolled in kindergarten through grade 5	18,919	17,465
Enrolled in grades 6 through 8	64,200	54,474
Enrolled in grades 9 through 12	103,097	77,407
Enrolled in college, undergraduate years	101,749	80,866
Graduate or professional school	15,992	18,695
Not enrolled in school	880,385	952,204

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

United States Census Bureau ¹²

HEALTH

Since 2010, an increasing number of Black Pennsylvanians gained access to both public and private health insurance coverage, with 6.6% more individuals insured privately and an added 6.7% insured through public benefits in 2021. Black Pennsylvanians reporting not having a personal doctor fell by 11%, and Black adults receiving necessary care without concern for cost during the past 12 months fell by 6.9% in 2021, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Further, Black medical school graduates rose from 48 to 75 people between 2010 and 2021.

Greater health insurance coverage likely led to overall improvements in the health of Black Pennsylvanians between 2013 and 2021. During this time period, smoking decreased by 11% and reported cardiovascular disease dropped from 6.6% to 5.9%. The number of individuals reporting mental health concerns fell from 5.1% to 4.9%, and 3.7% fewer people reported poor health in 2021 in comparison with 2010. Further, in accordance with general population trends, there was a noticeable decline in childbirths among Black females between the ages of 15 and 50 years old, falling by more than 31,000 births between 2010 and 2021. There was a rise of nearly 14,000 persons with disabilities aged 18 and older during the same period.

HEALTH

ACCESS TO CARE

Insurance Coverage of Black or African American Population

2010-2021

	2010	2021
Civilian non-institutionalized population	1,318,767	1,294,909
With private health insurance	50.9%	57.5%
With public coverage	44.3%	51.0%
No health insurance coverage	14.6%	6.1%

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

The Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population is the civilian population excluding persons residing in institutions. Such institutions consist primarily of nursing homes, prisons, jails, mental hospitals, and juvenile correctional facilities.

Kaiser Family Foundation ¹³

Distribution of Medicare Beneficiaries Among Black or African American Population

2010-2021

2010	2021
7.60%	7.80%

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

Kaiser Family Foundation

Medicaid Coverage Rates for Non-Elderly Black or African American Population

2010-2021

2010	2021
36.80%	41.30%

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

Kaiser Family Foundation ¹³

HEALTH

ACCESS TO CARE

Black or African American Adult Population Reporting Not Having a Personal Doctor

2010-2021

2010	2021
19.50%	8.50%

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

Kaiser Family Foundation

Black or African American Adult Population Reporting Not Seeing a Doctor in the Past 12 Months Because of Cost

2010-2021

2010	2021
18.20%	11.30%

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

Kaiser Family Foundation

Distribution of Black or African American Medical School Graduate Population

2010-2021

2010	2021
48	75

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

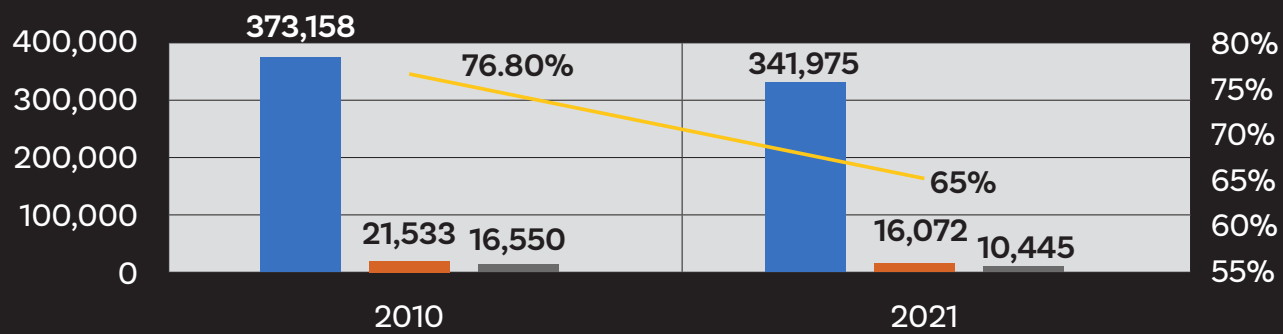
Kaiser Family Foundation

HEALTH

STATUS

Fertility Rate of Black or African American Female Population

2010-2021



- Women 15 to 50 years
- Women 15 to 50 years who had a birth in the past 12 months
- Unmarried women 15 to 50 years who had a birth in the past 12 months
- As a percent of all women with a birth in the past 12 months

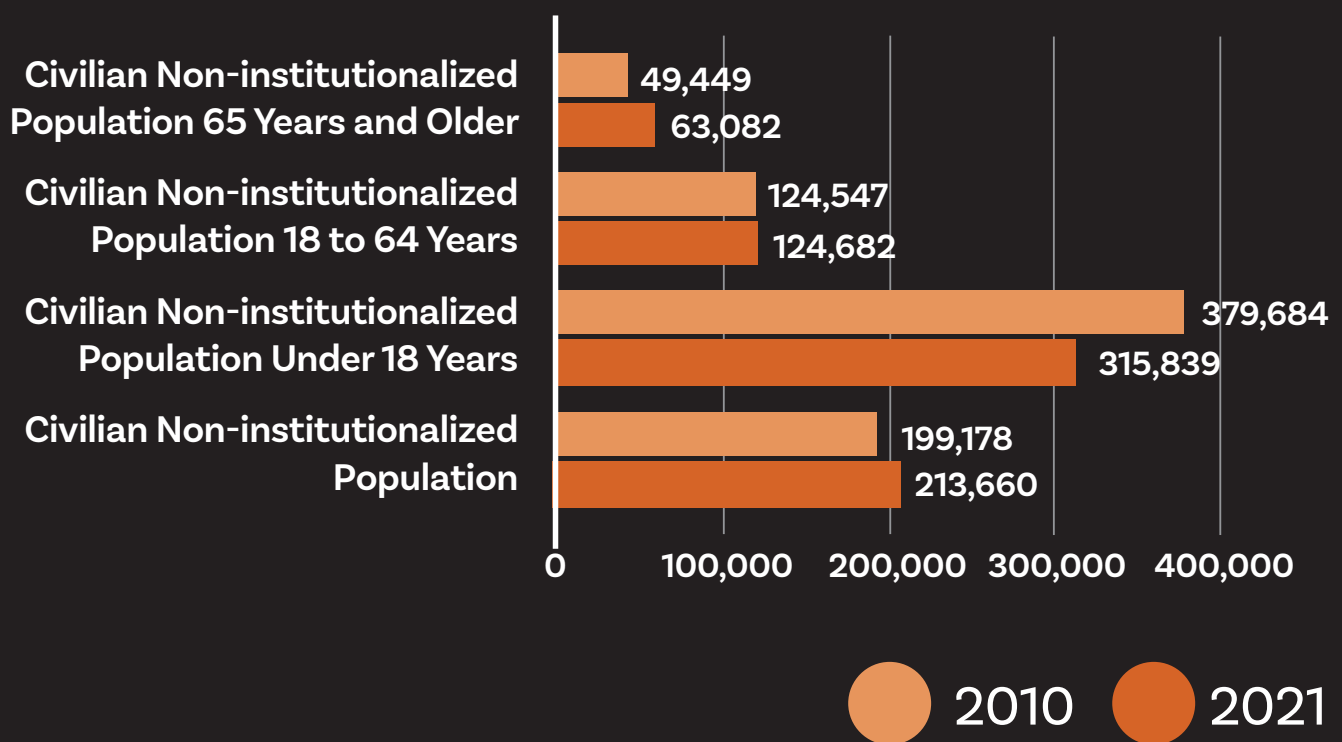
All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

United States Census Bureau

HEALTH STATUS

Black or African American Population with Disabilities

2010-2021



All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

The Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population is the civilian population excluding persons residing in institutions. Such institutions consist primarily of nursing homes, prisons, jails, mental hospitals, and juvenile correctional facilities.

United States Census Bureau

HEALTH

STATUS

Black or African American Adult Population Reporting Fair or Poor Health Status

2013-2021

2013	2021
24.70%	21%

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

Kaiser Family Foundation

Black or African American Adult Population Reporting Smoking

2013-2021

2013	2021
28%	17%

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

Kaiser Family Foundation

Average Number of Poor Mental Health Days Reported in the Last 30 Days Among Black or African American Adult Population

2013-2021

2013	2021
5.1	4.9

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

Kaiser Family Foundation

HEALTH

COMORBIDITIES

Black or African American Adult Population Reporting Ever Being Told by a Doctor that They Have Diabetes

2013-2021

2013	2021
13.10%	16.10%

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

Kaiser Family Foundation

Black or African American Adult Population Reporting Being Told by a Doctor that They Have Cardiovascular Disease

2013-2021

2013	2021
6.60%	5.90%

All numbers are estimates based on U.S. Census Bureau data

Kaiser Family Foundation

INCARCERATION & HATE CRIMES

The number of Black incarcerated individuals fell from 25,357 inmates in 2010 to 17,173 inmates in 2021, according to data from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. This shows a dramatic drop of 32% in the number of Black incarcerated individuals in State Correctional Institutions (SCIs). As Pennsylvania reduced its overall rate of incarceration from 2010 through 2021, the proportion of the Black population residing within SCIs fell slightly as well, from roughly 49.4% of the total inmate population in 2010 to approximately 46% in 2021. This was likely in part the result of initiatives aimed at investing in communities and supportive services, bolstering sentencing alternatives and reducing mandatory minimum sentences.

During roughly this same period, the number of hate groups fell slightly in Pennsylvania from 36 hate groups to 30 hate groups, according to information from the Southern Poverty Law Center. However, the number of hate crimes motivated by anti-Black biases went up a staggering 323% when comparing 2010 and 2021 data available through the Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.

INCARCERATION & HATE CRIMES

INCARCERATED POPULATION IN STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Black Prison Population In Pennsylvania 2010-2021

	2010	Percent	2021	Percent
Total Inmates in State Correctional Facilities	51,321	100%	37,303	100%
Total Black Inmates in State Correctional Facilities	25,357	49.4%	17,173	46%
Black Males	24,502	47.7%	16,715	44.8%
Black Females	855	1.7%	458	1.2%

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, 2023

INCARCERATION & HATE CRIMES

HATE CRIMES

Hate Groups 2010-2021

	2010	2021
Number of Hate Groups	36	30

Southern Poverty Law Center, 2021

Hate Crime Offenses 2010-2021

Bias Motivation	2010	2021
Anti-Black	35 (44.87%)	148 (42.77%)
Total Among all Bias Motivation Categories	78	346

Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting Program

The Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System is the state repository for the collection of crime statistics, according to the Crime in Pennsylvania Online Dashboard. Participation in the program by law enforcement agencies is voluntary and includes more than 1,000 agencies reporting data according to established standards of reporting

APPENDIX

The definitions and explanations found in the Current Population Reports series issued by the Census Bureau are largely drawn from various technical and procedural materials used in the collection of data in the Current Population Survey (CPS). The concepts defined below generally refer to current definitions (United States Census Bureau).

¹ **Population:**

The universe for the CPS includes the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States and members of the Armed Forces in the United States living off post or with their families on post, but excludes all other members of the Armed Forces. The information on the Hispanic population from the CPS was collected in the 50 States and the District of Columbia and, therefore, does not include residents of outlying areas or U.S. territories such as Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

² **Race:**

The race of individuals was identified by a question that asked for self-identification of the person's race. The population is divided into five groups on the basis of race: White; Black; American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut; Asian or Pacific Islander; and Other races.

³ **Earning (income):**

The Census Bureau classifies earnings from longest job (or self-employment) and other employment earnings into three types:

- Money wage or salary income is the total income people receive for work performed as an employee during the income year.
- Net income from nonfarm self-employment is the net money income (gross receipts minus expenses) from one's own business, professional enterprise, or partnership. Gross receipts include the value of all goods sold and services rendered.
- Net income from farm self-employment is the net money income (gross receipts minus operating expenses) from the operation of a farm by a person on their own account, as an owner, renter, or sharecropper. Gross receipts include the value of all products sold, payments from government farm programs, money received from the rental of farm equipment to others, rent received from farm property if payment is made based on a percent of crops produced, and incidental receipts from the sale of items such as wood, sand, and gravel.

⁴ **Income Measurement**

For each person in the sample 15 years old and over, the CPS asks questions on the amount of money income received in the preceding calendar year from each of the following sources:

1. Earnings
2. Unemployment compensation
3. Workers' compensation
4. Social security
5. Supplemental security income

6. Public assistance
7. Veterans' payments
8. Survivor benefits
9. Disability benefits
10. Pension or retirement income
11. Interest
12. Dividends
13. Rents, royalties, and estates and trusts
14. Educational assistance
15. Alimony
16. Child support
17. Financial assistance from outside of the household
18. Other income

It should be noted that although the income statistics refer to receipts during the preceding calendar year, the demographic characteristics, such as age, labor force status, and family or household composition, are as of the survey date. The income of the family/household does not include amounts received by people who were members during all or part of the income year if these people no longer resided in the family/household at the time of interview. However, the CPS collects income data for people who are current residents but did not reside in the household during the income year.

Data on consumer income collected in the CPS by the Census Bureau cover money income received (exclusive of certain money receipts such as capital gains) before payments for personal income taxes, social security, union dues, medicare deductions, etc. Therefore, money income does not reflect the fact that some families receive part of their income in the form of noncash benefits, such as food stamps, health benefits, rent-free housing, and goods produced and consumed on the farm. In addition, money income does not reflect the fact that noncash benefits are also received by some nonfarm residents which often take the form of the use of business transportation and facilities, full or partial payments by business for retirement programs, medical and educational expenses, etc. Data users should consider these elements when comparing income levels. Moreover, readers should be aware that for many different reasons there is a tendency in household surveys for respondents to underreport their income. Based on an analysis of independently derived income estimates, the Census Bureau determined that respondents report income earned from wages or salaries much better than other sources of income and that the reported wage and salary income is nearly equal to independent estimates of aggregate income.

For more information and the definitions of the source incomes, please refer to Appendix A, Definitions and Explanations, from the Current Population Reports, Consumer Income, P60-200 [PDF - 30K].

⁵ **Poverty:**

Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If a family's total income is less than that family's threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered poor.

⁶ **Tenure:**

A housing unit is "owned" if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit, even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. A cooperative or condominium unit is "owned" only if the owner or co-owner lives in it. All other occupied units are classified as "rented," including units rented for cash rent and those occupied without payment.

⁷ **Household:**

A household consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit. A house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room, is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live with any other persons in the structure and there is direct access from the outside or through a common hall.

A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated people, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the housing unit. A person living alone in a housing unit, or a group of unrelated people sharing a housing unit such as partners or roomers, is also counted as a household. The count of households excludes group quarters. There are two major categories of households, "family" and "nonfamily". (See definitions of Family household and Nonfamily household).

⁸ **Household, family, or subfamily:**

The term "size of household" includes all the people occupying a housing unit. "Size of family" includes the family householder and all other people in the living quarters who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. "Size of related subfamily" includes the husband and wife or the lone parent and their never-married sons and daughters under 18 years of age.

⁹ **Household, nonfamily:**

A nonfamily household consists of a householder living alone (a one-person household) or where the householder shares the home exclusively with people to whom he/she is not related.

¹⁰ **Householder**

The householder refers to the person (or one of the people) in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented (maintained) or, if there is no such person, any adult member, excluding roomers, boarders, or paid employees. If the house is owned or rented jointly by a married couple, the householder may be either the husband or the wife. The person designated as the householder is the "reference person" to whom the relationship of all other household members, if any, is recorded.

The number of householders is equal to the number of households. Also, the number of family householders is equal to the number of families.

Head versus householder. Beginning with the 1980 CPS, the Bureau of the Census discontinued the use of the terms "head of household" and "head of family." Instead, the terms "householder" and "family householder" are used. Recent social changes have resulted in greater sharing of household responsibilities among the adult members and, therefore, have made the term "head" increasingly inappropriate in the analysis of household and family

data. Specifically, beginning in 1980, the Census Bureau discontinued its longtime practice of always classifying the husband as the reference person (head) when he and his wife are living together.

¹¹ **Income-to-poverty ratios:**

Income-to-poverty ratios represent the ratio of family or unrelated individual income to their appropriate poverty threshold.

¹² **Educational attainment**

Data on educational attainment are derived from a single question that asks, “What is the highest grade of school...has completed, or the highest degree...has received?”

The single educational attainment question now in use was introduced in the CPS beginning January 1992, and is similar to that used in the 1990 Decennial Census of Population and Housing. Consequently, data on educational attainment from the 1992 CPS are not directly comparable to CPS data from earlier years. The new question replaces the previous two-part question used in the CPS that asked respondents to report the highest grade they had attended, and whether or not they had completed that grade.

The questions on educational attainment apply only to progress in “regular” schools. Such schools include graded public, private, and parochial elementary and high schools (both junior and senior high schools), colleges, universities, and professional schools, whether day schools or night schools. Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary school certificate or high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Schooling in other than regular schools was counted only if the credits obtained are regarded as transferable to a school in the regular school system.

¹³ **Health insurance coverage:**

A person was considered covered by health insurance at some time during the year if he or she was covered by at least one of the following types of coverages:

- Employer-based
- Own Employment-based
- Direct purchase (through private company or exchange)
- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Military health care (TRICARE, CHAMPVA, VA)
- CHIP, the Children’s Health Insurance Program
- State-specific
- Other

An individual can have more than one type of coverage during the year.

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