

# Ohio African Americans



Ohio's African American community is comprised of nearly 1.7 million people, accounting for 14.2 percent of the state's total population. According to the 2017 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, Ohio's African American population has increased 21 percent since 2000. For the United States, the African American population is nearly 46.8 million, accounting for 14.1 percent of the nation's total population. Since 2000, the African American community in the U.S. has experienced an increase of more than 9.3 million persons, or 25.7 percent.

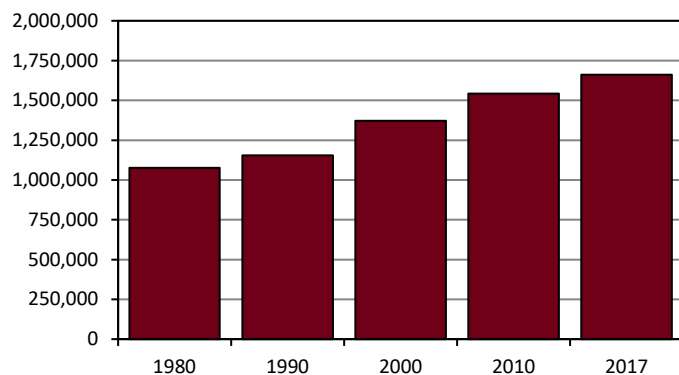
## OVERVIEW

- 1,661,333 people - 14.2 percent of Ohio's total population
- 21 percent increase in population since 2000
- 74,000 were born outside the U.S.
- Median age of 33.8 years compared to 39.3 years for all Ohioans
- 281,000 enrolled in elementary and secondary schools
- Median household income: \$32,163
- 81,000+ African American-owned businesses with \$9.1 billion in receipts

Note: African American refers to a person reporting their race as African American alone or in combination with one or more other race for total population counts only. A person reporting their race as African American alone is used for the other population characteristics. The recording of specific, multiple races was not done prior to 2000.

**Ohio's African American Population: 1,661,000**

The African American community accounts for 14.2 percent of Ohio's population with steady growth occurring in recent years. Since 2000 the number of African Americans has increased by 21 percent. In 1980 there were more than 1,000,000 African Americans, comprising 10 percent of Ohio's total population.

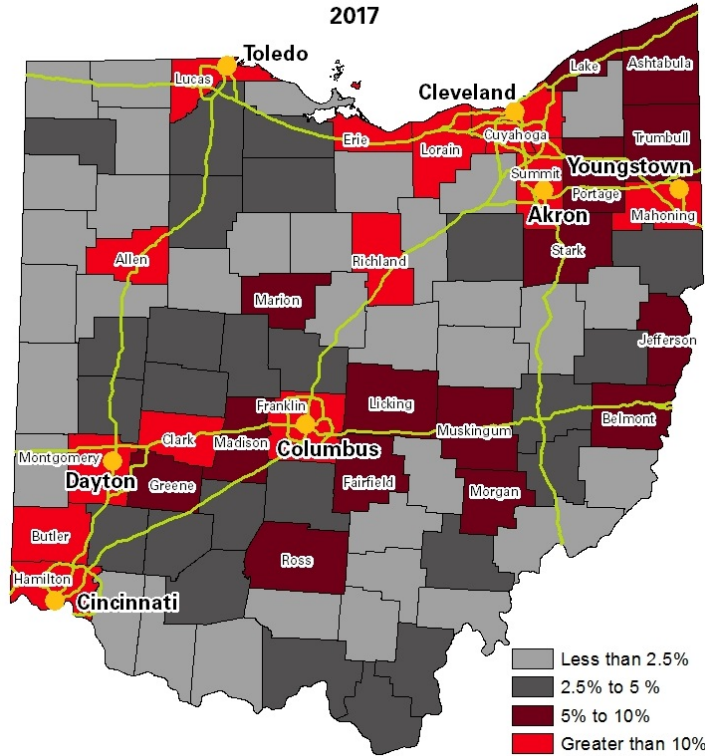


African American Population

| African American Population by County: 2017 |         |                              |       |
|---|---------|------------------------------|-------|
| Total African American Population           |         | Percent of County Population |       |
| Cuyahoga                                    | 398,771 | Cuyahoga                     | 31.9% |
| Franklin                                    | 327,884 | Hamilton                     | 28.2% |
| Hamilton                                    | 229,440 | Franklin                     | 25.4% |
| Montgomery                                  | 122,829 | Montgomery                   | 23.1% |
| Lucas                                       | 96,136  | Lucas                        | 22.3% |
| Summit                                      | 89,587  | Mahoning                     | 17.5% |
| Mahoning                                    | 40,242  | Summit                       | 16.6% |
| Butler                                      | 38,759  | Allen                        | 14.9% |
| Stark                                       | 36,296  | Erie                         | 11.1% |
| Lorain                                      | 33,664  | Clark                        | 11.0% |
| Trumbull                                    | 19,863  | Lorain                       | 10.9% |
| Allen                                       | 15,380  | Richland                     | 10.8% |

Most African Americans in Ohio live in urban areas. Nearly four out of every ten African Americans in the state live in the cities of Cincinnati, Cleveland, or Columbus. In Columbus, there are 277,000 African American residents; in Cleveland, there are 203,000; and in Cincinnati there are 135,000 African American residents. The five-county Cleveland metropolitan area alone is home to more than one-quarter of Ohio's African American population.

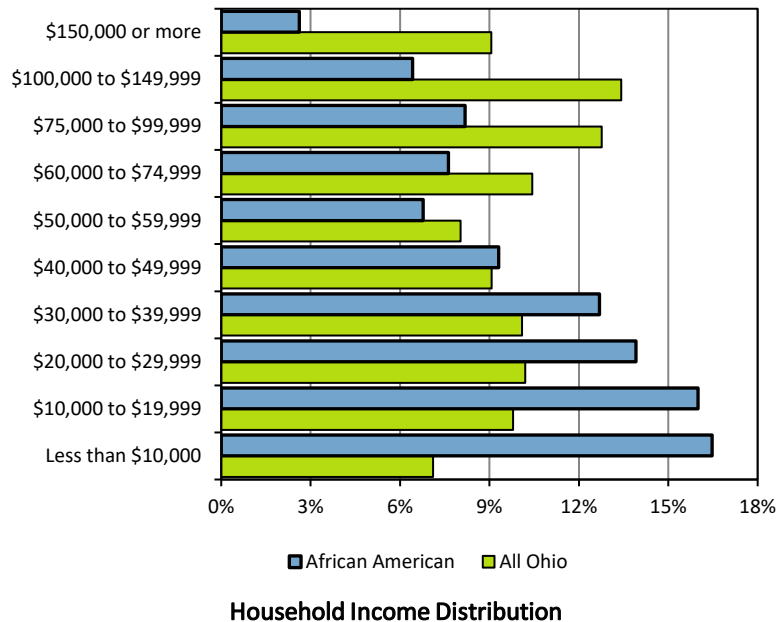
**African American Population as Percent of County Population:  
2017**



**Median Household Income: \$32,163**

The income of African American Ohioans tends to be

lower than that of all Ohioans. The median household income for African Americans is over \$32,000. For Ohio households overall, the median household income is \$54,000. A lack of full-time, year-round employment is one factor accounting for the lower income. Less than 37 percent of African American Ohioans aged 16 and older worked full-time over the previous year compared to 42 percent of all Ohioans. The median earnings for African American Ohioans working less than full time is less than \$9,000 compared to \$35,000 for African American workers employed full-time year-round.



Twenty-nine percent of African Americans in Ohio live below the poverty line. Of Ohio's 320,000 African American family households, 24 percent live below the poverty line. Around 41 percent these households have children younger than 5 years of age. Thirty percent of African American households received Food Stamps within the last 12 months.

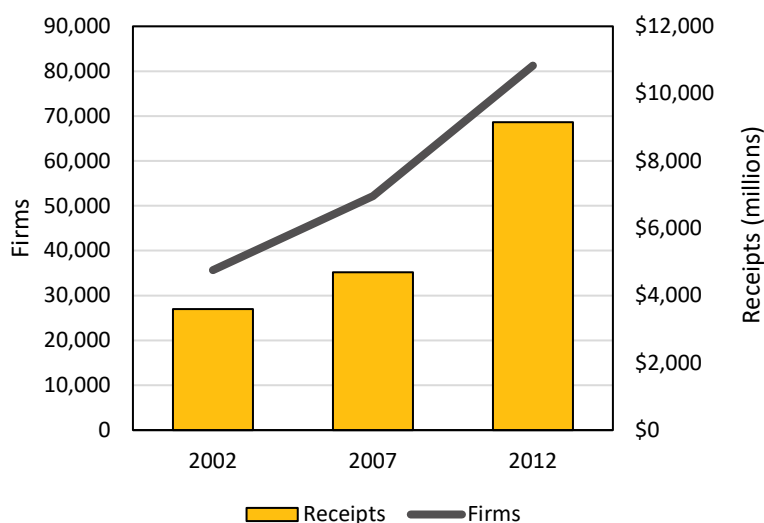
**Receipts:  
\$9.1 billion**

There are over 81,000 African American-owned businesses in Ohio, according to the most recent Survey of Business Owners conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Of that number, businesses with a payroll total more than 3,300 and, combined, employ nearly 44,000 workers

with an annual payroll of more than \$1.2 billion. Receipts for those businesses were more than \$7.6 billion with receipts for all African American-run businesses more than \$9.1 billion.

With respect to business sectors, health care/social assistance businesses represent the largest portion of African American-owned firms at 24 percent. Within the African American business community, this sector is two-and-a-half times larger than the proportion of Ohio businesses taken as a whole.

Administrative/support/waste management services make up a significant proportion of firms accounting for more than 11 percent of all African American-owned businesses.



The distribution of receipts for African American-owned firms by sector is like Ohio firms overall. At the top of the list are wholesale trade and manufacturing accounting for 19 percent and 18 percent of receipts, respectively. Construction and health care/social assistance are also major contributors at 11 percent. For Ohio businesses overall, manufacturing brings in more than one-fourth of receipts and wholesale trade accounts for only 21 percent.

**Unemployment  
Rate: 10.2%**

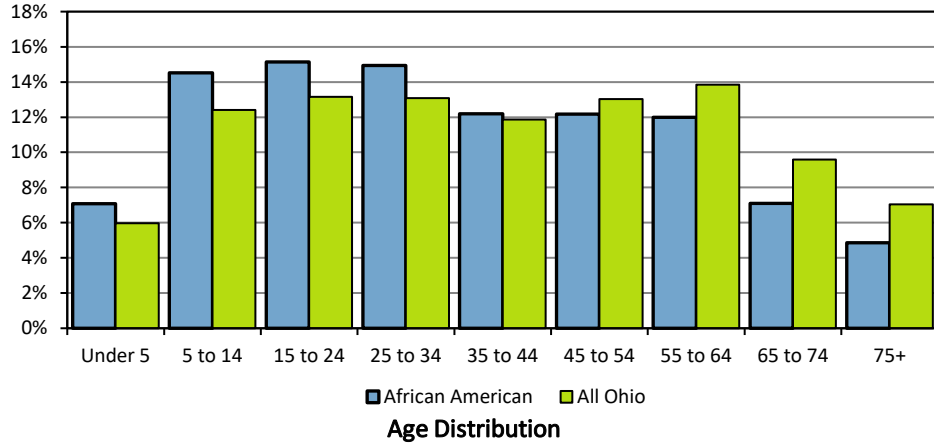
The number of African American Ohioans in the civilian labor force is nearly 687,000; the unemployment rate for African American Ohioans is 10.2 percent. African Americans in the labor force between the ages of 20 and 24 have an unemployment rate of 14.3 percent. For

Ohio, the same age group has an unemployment rate of 8.0 percent.

Employed African Americans are heavily represented in service occupations compared to all of Ohio. Of the more than 616,000 employed African Americans in Ohio, 27 percent are in service occupations with 45,000 in food service and 36,000 in healthcare support occupations. By comparison, 17 percent of all Ohioans are in service occupations. Production/ transportation/ material moving occupations account for 20 percent with 53,000 African American Ohioans involved in production occupations alone.

**Median Age:  
33.8 years**

The median age of African Americans in Ohio is 33.8 years. For comparison, the median age of all Ohioans is 39.3 years.

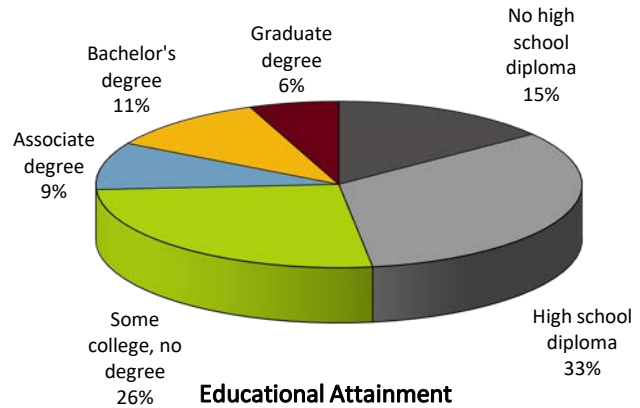


In Ohio, there are 121,000 marriages that include at least one African American spouse. Forty-one percent of these couples have children living at home. For all married couples in Ohio, thirty-eight percent have children at home. Sixty-two percent of African American families with children younger than 18 living with them consist of single mothers.

**School Enrollment:  
281,000**

There are nearly 281,000 African American students enrolled in Ohio's elementary schools, making up 14.7 percent of Ohio's total student body.

The educational attainment level of the African American community lags the total state population. Twenty-six percent of African American Ohioans have obtained a post-secondary degree compared to 37 percent for all Ohioans. Correspondingly, almost 15 percent of African Americans do not have a high school diploma or equivalency compared to 10 percent for the state overall. Nonetheless, over 106,000 African American Ohioans are enrolled in college or graduate school.



**Foreign Born:  
74,000**

There are more than 74,000 foreign-born African Americans living in Ohio. This constitutes 14 percent of all foreign-born residents. This percentage has held steady over the past few years. Most of foreign-born African Americans emigrated from Africa. Over one-third of the African migration came from Eastern Africa, mainly Somalia, with a similar figure coming from Western Africa. Of foreign-born African Americans, sixty-eight percent report speaking only English or English “very well”.

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The statistical source of this profile is the 2010 Census of Population and Housing and the Census Bureau’s 2017 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates. Business data came from the Census Bureau’s 2012 Survey of Business Owners. Although the census is the most comprehensive set of socio-economic data available, the estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling error that may result in some over- or under-estimation of actual population characteristics.