

# Current Population Reports

Population Characteristics

## The Black Population in the United States: March 1996 (Update)

By Claudette Bennett

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

P20-498  
Issue June 1997

### NOTICE TO USERS

Last year, the Census Bureau announced its intention to offer more information in electronic format while reducing the number of printed reports. This change is now being implemented for the P20 Current Population Report series. Many P20 reports, such as the Black Population in the United States report, will now be printed less frequently.

Instead, to keep you informed of the major findings from the Current Population Survey, short data updates will be produced periodically. These will be available in both printed and electronic forms. Additionally, the detailed tabulations that have been part of the printed reports will be updated annually in electronic form on the Internet. If you wish to obtain the new tabulations, updating The Black Population in the United States: March 1996 (Update) (Current Population Report, P20-498), please see the "Detailed Tabulations" section at the end of this update.

Our decision to modify the format of the P20 series is based on a variety of factors. Ultimately, we hope this decision will provide users with more timely data on a wider variety of topics. If you have comments about this change or the P20 series in general, please contact us on the Internet at: [pop@census.gov](mailto:pop@census.gov), or write to: Chief, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Detailed tabulations are now available which provide statistics on the civilian noninstitutional Black population of the United States, based on the March 1996 Current Population Survey. These tables provide information such as:

- In 1996, the Black population was estimated at 33.9 million persons and represented 12.8 percent of the total population.
- There were 8.1 million Black families in 1996; of these 3.7 million or 46 percent were married-couple families.
- In 1996, about three-fourths (74 percent) of all Black persons 25 years of age and older had at least a high school education; about 14 percent had at least a bachelor's degree.
- Black families had a real median income of \$25,970 in 1995.

- In 1995, the median earnings of Black women and men working year-round, full-time were \$20,670 and \$24,430, respectively, for a female-to-male earnings ratio of 0.85.
- In 1995, 2.1 million, or 26 percent, of Black families had income below the poverty level.

### DETAILED TABULATIONS

A paper version of these tables is available as PPL-70 for \$28.40. The previous tabulation package entitled, "The Black Population in the United States: March 1995" is available as PPL-45 for \$26.50. To receive a paper copy of one or both of these tabulations, please send your request along with a check or money order in the amount of \$28.40 for PPL-70 or \$26.50 for PPL-45, or \$54.90 for both tabulations, payable to Commerce-Census-88-00-9010, to U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA 30384-7943, or call our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422. Please be certain to specify which PPL you are requesting. A copy of these tabulations will be made available to any existing CPR P20 subscriber without charge, provided that the request is made within 3 months of the issue date of this report. Contact our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422.

The electronic version of these tables is available on the Internet, at the Census Bureau's World-Wide Web site (<http://www.census.gov>). Once on the site, click on Subjects A-Z, "Race" "Persons." "The Black Population in the United States: March 1996 (Update)" is listed under Current Population Survey heading.

For additional information on this topic, contact Claudette Bennett or Barbara Martin, Racial Statistics Branch, on (301-457-2402 or via Internet e-mail ([cbennett@census.gov](mailto:cbennett@census.gov) or [bmmartin@census.gov](mailto:bmmartin@census.gov)).

*The data in the detailed tables are estimates based on a sample survey (the Current Population Survey). All survey data are subject to sampling variability as well as survey design flaws, respondent classification errors, and data processing mistakes. The Census Bureau has taken steps to minimize errors, and analytical statements have been tested and meet statistical standards. However, because of methodological differences, use caution when comparing these data with data from other sources. For information on the source of data and the accuracy of estimates, including the use and computation of standard errors, contact Donald Keathley, Demographic Statistical Methods Division (301-457-4214) or via Internet e-mail ([Dkeathley@ccmail.census.gov](mailto:Dkeathley@ccmail.census.gov)).*