

FACTS & FEATURES



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★ Special Edition ★

Civil Rights Act of 1964: 40th Anniversary

On July 2, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law. This landmark law prohibits racial discrimination in public accommodations, publicly owned or operated facilities, employment and union membership, and voter registration. To mark the anniversary, the Census Bureau has culled statistics from its reports that depict the progress African-Americans have made since then. Because of the limited historical data for other racial and ethnic groups, the analysis is limited to African-Americans.



20.7 million

The estimated black population in the United States in 1964. On July 1, 2002, blacks numbered an estimated 38.3 million. <<http://www.census.gov/statab/hist/HS-02.pdf>>
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/hispanic_origin_popul

ation/
001130.html>



Income and Poverty

\$18,859

Median family income of blacks in 1964 (in inflation-adjusted 2002 dollars). In 2002, the black median family income was \$33,634.

<<http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/dinctabs.html>>

\$20,805 and \$13,085

Median income of black men and black women who worked full time year-round in 1964 (in inflation-adjusted 2002 dollars). In 2002, the corresponding income levels were \$31,966 and \$27,703.

<<http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/dinctabs.html>>

(more)

41.8%

Poverty rate for blacks in 1966 — two years after passage of the Civil Rights Act. In 2002, the poverty rate for blacks was 23.9 percent. <<http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/histinc/histpovtb.html>>



Elected Officials

1,469

Number of black elected officials in 1970, the first year this kind of information was collected. By 2001, the number had reached a high of 9,101. (Data courtesy of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.)

<<http://www.jointcenter.org/>>

892

Number of black elected officials in Mississippi in 2001, which had a higher total than any other state. Two other states in the deep South, Alabama and Louisiana, were next, with 756 and 705 black elected officials, respectively. (Data courtesy of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.)

<<http://www.jointcenter.org/>>



High School Graduates

26%

Percentage of blacks age 25 and over in 1964 who had at least a high school diploma. By 2003, this rate had risen to 80 percent.

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/educ-attn.html>>

2.4 million

Number of blacks 25 years old and over with at least a high school diploma in 1964. This number had risen to 16.4 million in 2003.

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education/p20-138.html>> and

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/educ-attn.html>>



College Students and Graduates

306,000

Number of black college students in 1964. By 2002, this number had risen to 2.3 million. <<http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/school/tabA-1.pdf>>

(more)

4%

Percentage of blacks age 25 and over in 1964 who were college graduates. By 2003, this rate had risen to 17 percent. <<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/educ-attn.html>>

365,000

Number of blacks who had at least a bachelor's degree in 1964. In 2003, 10 times as many, 3.6 million, had achieved this level of education.

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education/p20-138.html>> and

<<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/educ-attn.html>>

On an occasional basis, the U.S. Census Bureau issues special editions of *Facts for Features* to commemorate special anniversaries or observances or to provide background information for topics in the news. Below is a listing of previous such editions:

U.S. Armed Forces and Veterans (April 10, 2003)

Tax Time (April 11, 2003)

Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial (May 12, 2003)

Dialing for Dollars (Sept. 24, 2003)

First Flight Centennial (Dec. 3, 2003)

Social Security COLA (Dec. 11, 2003)

The 2004 Presidential Election (Jan. 6, 2004)

Brown v. Board of Education: 50th Anniversary (Feb. 2, 2004)

Lewis & Clark Bicentennial (March 10, 2004)

50th Anniversary of 'Wonderful World of Color' TV (March 11, 2004)

Cinco de Mayo (April 21, 2004)

Teacher Appreciation Week (April 22, 2004)

Dedication of National World War II Memorial (May 3, 2004)

53rd Anniversary of the UNIVAC Computer (May 3, 2004)

Editor's note: Some of the preceding data were collected in surveys and, therefore, are subject to sampling error. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: (301) 763-3030; fax: (301) 457-3670; or e-mail: <pio@census.gov>.

