

The Population With Haitian Ancestry in the United States: 2009

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INTRODUCTION

This report describes the population with Haitian ancestry living in the United States based on the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). It also presents the distribution of people with Haitian ancestry across the United States.

Haitian is a relatively small, yet growing, ancestry group in the United States, increasing from 290,000 people with Haitian ancestry (0.1 percent of the total population) in 1990 to 548,000 (0.2 percent) in 2000.¹ By 2009, an estimated 830,000 people with Haitian ancestry were living in the United States, or 0.3 percent of the total population.²

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION WITH HAITIAN ANCESTRY

Of the estimated 830,000 people in the United States in 2009 with Haitian ancestry, about two-thirds lived in two states: Florida, with around 376,000, and New York, with 191,000. Five states had a higher percentage of Haitians than the national percentage of 0.3 percent (Florida, with 2.0 percent; New York, with 1.0 percent; Massachusetts, with

How Is Haitian Ancestry Determined?

The ACS asks each person to write in his or her "ancestry or ethnic origin." From the responses collected, the U.S. Census Bureau considers anyone who wrote in "Haitian" or "Haiti" to be of Haitian ancestry.

Ancestry is a broad concept. The Census Bureau defines ancestry as the ethnic origin, descent, roots, heritage, or place of birth of the person or of the person's ancestors. The question was not intended to measure the degree of attachment to a group, but simply to establish the ethnic group(s) with which the respondent self-identifies.

0.9 percent; New Jersey, with 0.7 percent; and Connecticut, with 0.5 percent).^{3, 4, 5}

CHARACTERISTICS OF HAITIANS IN THE UNITED STATES

In 2009, people with Haitian ancestry were, on average, younger than the total U.S. population. Specifically, the median age of the Haitian population was 30, compared with 37 for the total population.

³ The terms "Haitians" and "Haitian population" are used in this report to refer to people who reported Haitian ancestry.

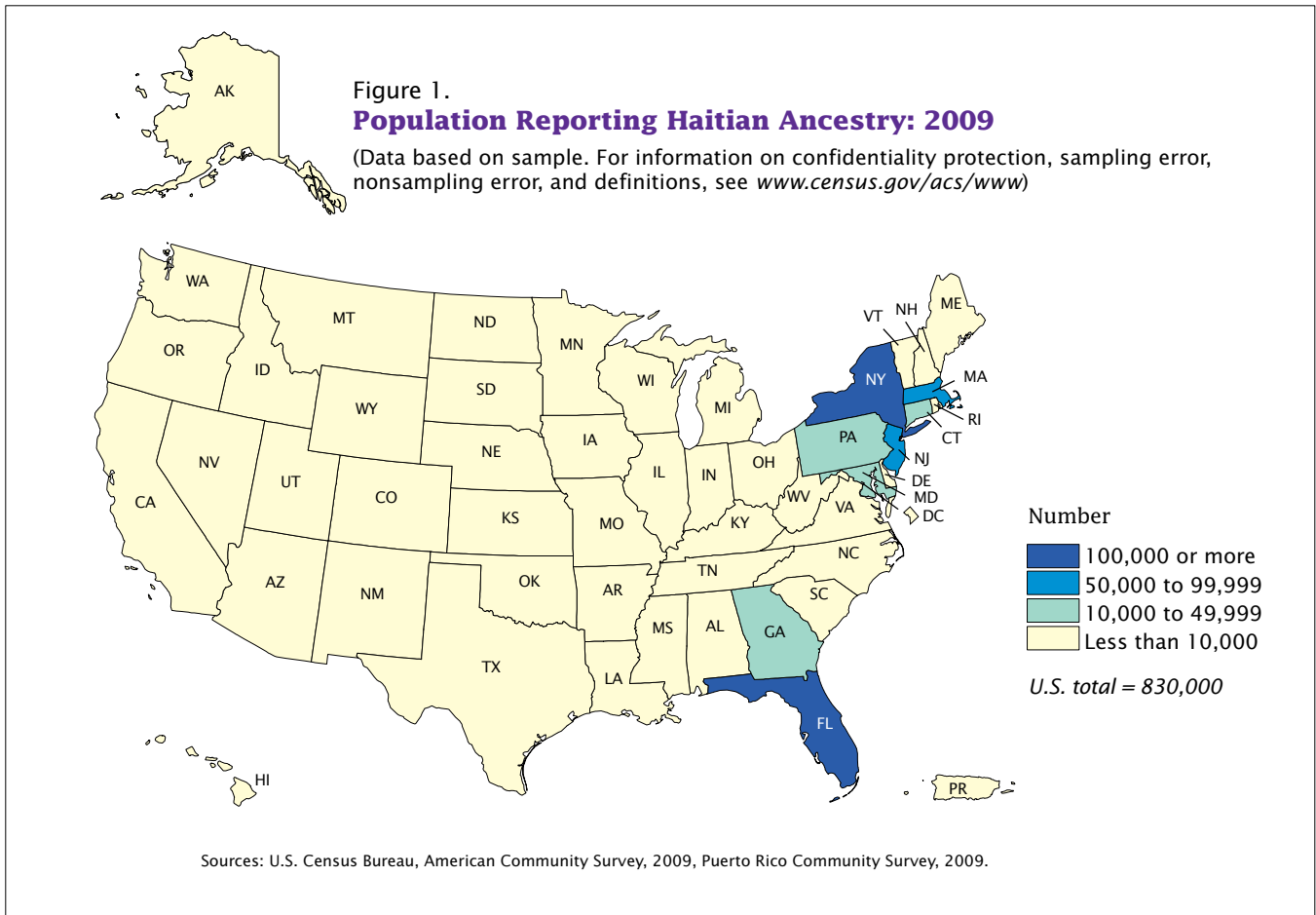
⁴ Although the estimates of the percentage of the population who were Haitian in Delaware and Georgia appear higher than the U.S. percentage, they were not statistically different from the national percentage.

⁵ The percentage of the population in Massachusetts with Haitian ancestry was not statistically different from the percentage in New York.

¹ Brittingham, Angela, and G. Patricia de la Cruz. *Ancestry: 2000*. U.S. Census Bureau. Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR-35, issued June 2004.

² Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability; see Table 1 for margins of error.

By
Angela B. Buchanan
Nora G. Albert
Daniel Beaulieu



Haitian households were more likely to be family households and to be larger, on average, than households in the total population.⁶ Around 79 percent of Haitian households were family households, compared with 67 percent of households in the total population. The average household size where there was a Haitian householder was 3.7 people, compared with 2.6 people for the total population.

Approximately 59 percent of the population with Haitian ancestry was foreign born, compared with 13 percent of the total U.S. population. This is reflected in the high proportion of Haitians aged 5 and over who speak a language other than English at home (81 percent, compared with 20 percent in the total population).

⁶ Based on the ancestry of the householder.

Also, among Haitians 25 years and over, 18 percent of both males and females had a bachelor's degree or more, compared with 28 percent of males and 27 percent of females in the total population.

In 2009, Haitians were involved in the U.S. labor market at a higher rate than the total population. Seventy-one percent of those aged 16 and over were in the civilian labor force, compared with 65 percent of the total population. However, the median earnings of full-time, year-round workers were lower for both Haitian males and females—\$33,000 for men and \$29,000 for women, compared with \$45,000 for men and \$36,000 for women in the total population. Median Haitian family income was also lower than for the total population, at \$46,000 compared with \$61,000. Around 14 percent of

Haitians were unemployed, compared with 10 percent in the total population.

One in 5 Haitians in the United States was living in poverty (20 percent) compared with 1 in 7 in the total population (14 percent).⁷ Homeownership was lower for Haitian households; less than half (47 percent) were owner-occupied, compared with 66 percent of total U.S. households.

SOURCE AND ACCURACY

Data presented in this report are based on people and households that responded to the ACS in 2009. The resulting estimates are representative of the entire population. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error

⁷ For more information, see "How Poverty Is Calculated in the American Community Survey" at www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/definitions.html.

Table 1.

Demographic, Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics for the Population Who Reported Haitian Ancestry: 2009

(In percent. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Characteristic	Total population	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Haitian population	Margin of error ¹ (±)
Total Population (in thousands)	307,007	(X)	830	30
Median age	36.8	0.1	29.7	0.5
Sex				
Male	49.3	0.1	48.9	0.9
Female	50.7	0.1	51.1	0.9
Households by Type²				
Family households	66.5	0.1	78.8	1.7
Nonfamily households	33.5	0.1	21.2	1.7
Average household size	2.63	0.01	3.69	0.07
Educational Attainment (25 years and over)				
Males with a bachelor's degree or higher	28.4	0.1	18.3	1.6
Females with a bachelor's degree or higher	27.4	0.1	18.2	1.5
Nativity and Language Spoken at Home				
Foreign born	12.5	0.1	59.0	0.5
Population 5 years and over who spoke a language other than English at home	20.0	0.1	81.2	1.1
Civilian Labor Force Participation and Unemployment				
Population 16 years and over in civilian labor force	64.7	0.1	70.9	1.1
Civilian labor force unemployed	9.9	0.1	14.2	1.1
Earnings and Income (dollars)				
Median earnings for males ³	45,485	128	32,650	1,250
Median earnings for females ³	35,549	79	28,937	974
Median family income ²	61,082	109	45,626	2,040
Poverty				
Individuals below poverty for whom poverty was determined	14.3	0.1	19.6	1.5
Housing Tenure²				
Owner-occupied housing units	65.9	0.1	46.5	2.0
Renter-occupied housing units	34.1	0.1	53.5	2.0

(X) Not applicable.

¹Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

²Based on the ancestry of the householder.

³Based on full-time, year-round workers.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009, Selected Population Profile, S0201.

into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. Due to rounding, some details may not sum to totals. For information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the "ACS Accuracy of the Data (2009)" document located at www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data for the nation, states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters (e.g., nursing facilities and prisons). The ACS is conducted in every county throughout the nation, and every municipio in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey. Beginning in 2006, ACS data for 2005 were released for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 and greater. For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit www.census.gov/acs/www.