

Table 1.

Black or African American Population: 2000 and 2010(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf)

Race	2000		2010		Change, 2000 to 2010	
	Number	Percent of total population	Number	Percent of total population	Number	Percent
Total population	281,421,906	100.0	308,745,538	100.0	27,323,632	9.7
Black or African American alone or in combination	36,419,434	12.9	42,020,743	13.6	5,601,309	15.4
Black or African American alone	34,658,190	12.3	38,929,319	12.6	4,271,129	12.3
Black or African American in combination	1,761,244	0.6	3,091,424	1.0	1,330,180	75.5
Black or African American; White	784,764	0.3	1,834,212	0.6	1,049,448	133.7
Black or African American; Some Other Race	417,249	0.1	314,571	0.1	-102,678	-24.6
Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native ..	182,494	0.1	269,421	0.1	86,927	47.6
Black or African American; White; American Indian and Alaska Native	112,207	—	230,848	0.1	118,641	105.7
Black or African American; Asian	106,782	—	185,595	0.1	78,813	73.8
All other combinations including Black or African American	157,748	0.1	256,777	0.1	99,029	62.8
Not Black or African American alone or in combination	245,002,472	87.1	266,724,795	86.4	21,722,323	8.9

— Percentage rounds to 0.0.

Note: In Census 2000, an error in data processing resulted in an overstatement of the Two or More Races population by about 1 million people (about 15 percent) nationally, which almost entirely affected race combinations involving Some Other Race. Therefore, data users should assess observed changes in the Two or More Races population and race combinations involving Some Other Race between Census 2000 and the 2010 Census with caution. Changes in specific race combinations not involving Some Other Race, such as Black or African American *and* White or Black or African American *and* Asian, generally should be more comparable.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table PL1; and *2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File*, Table P1.

The maximum number of people reporting Black is reflected in the *Black alone-or-in-combination* population. One way to define the Black population is to combine those respondents who reported Black alone with those who reported Black in combination with one or more other races. This creates the *Black alone-or-in-combination* population. Another way to think of the *Black alone-or-in-combination* population is the total number of people who reported Black, whether or not they reported any other races.

Throughout the report, the discussion of the Black population compares results for each of these groups and highlights the diversity within the entire Black population.¹¹

¹¹ As a matter of policy, the Census Bureau does not advocate the use of the *alone* population over the *alone-or-in-combination* population or vice versa. The use of the *alone* population in sections of this report does not imply that it is a preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The same is true for sections of this report that focus on the *alone-or-in-combination* population. Data on race from the 2010 Census can be presented and discussed in a variety of ways.

**THE BLACK POPULATION:
A SNAPSHOT**

The 2010 Census showed that the United States population on April 1, 2010, was 308.7 million. Out of the total population, 38.9 million people, or 13 percent, identified as Black alone (see Table 1).^{12, 13} In addition, 3.1 million people, or 1 percent, reported Black in combination with one or more other races.

Together, these two groups totaled 42.0 million people. Thus, 14 percent of all people in the United States identified as Black, either

¹² Percentages shown in text generally are rounded to the nearest integer, while those shown in tables and figures are shown with decimals. All rounding is based on unrounded calculations. Thus, due to rounding, some percentages shown in tables and figures ending in "5" may round either up or down. For example, unrounded numbers of 14.49 and 14.51 would both be shown as 14.5 in a table, but would be cited in the text as 14 and 15, respectively.

¹³ For the purposes of this report, the terms "reported," "identified," and "classified" are used interchangeably to refer to the response provided by respondents as well as responses assigned during the editing and imputation process.

alone, or in combination with one or more other races.

**The Black population
increased at a faster rate
than the total population.**

The total U.S. population grew by 9.7 percent, from 281.4 million in 2000 to 308.7 million in 2010 (see Table 1). In comparison, the Black alone population grew by 12 percent from 34.7 million to 38.9 million.¹⁴

The Black alone-or-in-combination population experienced more growth than the total population and the Black alone population, growing by 15 percent. However, both groups grew at a slower rate

¹⁴ The observed changes in the race counts between Census 2000 and the 2010 Census could be attributed to a number of factors. Demographic change since 2000, which includes births and deaths in a geographic area and migration in and out of a geographic area, will have an impact on the resulting 2010 Census counts. Additionally, some changes in the race question's wording and format since Census 2000 could have influenced reporting patterns in the 2010 Census.