

FACT SHEET ON BLACK AND HISPANIC WORKERS

***BULLETS**

***TABLES**

***CHARTS**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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OVERVIEW

Blacks and Hispanics continue to lag considerably behind whites according to nearly every measure of labor market success. Blacks comprise this country's largest minority group -- 23 million persons of working age (16 years and over) in 1995, of whom 14.8 million were in the labor force. Despite recent labor market improvements, blacks continue to hold proportionately fewer jobs than whites and have much higher rates of unemployment. This problem is compounded by the fact that, once unemployed, blacks tend to remain jobless longer than whites. Among those who are employed, blacks are more likely than whites to be working part time involuntarily and to hold lower-skilled, lower-paying jobs. Blacks also comprise a disproportionate number of discouraged workers -- persons outside the labor force who want a job but aren't looking for work because they believe their job search would be in vain.

Hispanic workers -- persons who identify themselves as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or of other Hispanic origin or descent -- comprise one of the Nation's fastest-growing minority groups, with a working-age population of 18.6 million and a labor force of 12.3 million in 1995. Over the past decade, their labor force has nearly doubled. While some indicators show that Hispanic workers tend to be somewhat more successful in the labor market than blacks, they still lag behind white workers in most labor market performance categories.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND RELATED LABOR MARKET PROBLEMS

- * Blacks are still more than twice as likely as whites to be unemployed, a situation that has persisted for several decades. In 1995, the unemployment rate for black workers was 10.4 percent, compared to 4.9 percent for whites. In the past, the unemployment rate for Hispanics hovered roughly midway between that for whites and blacks. Recently, however, the gap between the Hispanic and black jobless rates has narrowed; in 1995, the unemployment rate for Hispanics was 9.3 percent. (See table 1.)

- * The higher unemployment rates for blacks and Hispanics occur across all major age-sex groups. In 1995, the rates for black adult men and adult women were 8.8 and 8.6 percent, respectively, compared to 7.7 and 8.9 percent for Hispanics and 4.3 for white adult men and adult women. Black teenagers, a group especially vulnerable to joblessness, had an unemployment rate of 35.7 percent in 1995, compared with 24.4 percent for Hispanic teens and 14.5 percent for white teenagers. (See table 1.)

- * Not only are blacks more likely to be unemployed than whites, but they also spend more time looking for work. In 1995, the average duration of unemployment for blacks was 19.6 weeks, compared to 15.7 weeks for whites. The average duration of unemployment for Hispanics was 16.6 weeks.

- * The historically higher jobless rates for minority workers are associated with many factors, not all of which are measurable. These include their somewhat younger age profile; lower levels of schooling; their tendency to be employed in occupations that are more subject to unemployment; their greater concentration in the central cities of our urban areas, where job opportunities may be more limited; and the likelihood that they are subject to a greater degree of discrimination in the workplace.

- * Minorities are more likely than whites to be reported as discouraged workers -- persons who indicate that they want a job but are *not currently looking for work* (and hence are not classified as unemployed) because they believe their search would be in vain. The existence of a sizable number of people who do not participate in the job market because of their discouragement over job prospects is a serious labor market problem, since these people represent additional labor resources that are not being utilized.

- * The majority of persons who work part time (less than 35 hours a week) do so by choice. However, some would prefer and are available for full-time work but must settle for part time employment because their workweek has been cut back or they could only find part-time jobs. In 1995, minority workers were more likely than whites to be working part time for these "economic reasons."

EMPLOYMENT

- * Blacks and Hispanics hold proportionately fewer jobs than whites. In 1995, the percent of the black working-age population that was employed (the employment-population ratio) was less than that for whites. Black and Hispanic teenagers are particularly disadvantaged in this area. (See table 1.)

- * Although there has been occupational upgrading among minorities over the past decade, they continued to be concentrated in less-skilled, lower-paying occupations. In 1995, black and Hispanic men were about half as likely as white men to be employed as managers or professionals and much more likely to be employed as operators, fabricators, and laborers. Black and Hispanic women were much more likely than white women to be employed in generally lower-paid service occupations. (See table 2.)

- * The earnings levels of blacks and Hispanics are much lower than that of whites. In 1995, the median weekly earnings of black men and Hispanic men working at full-time jobs (\$411, and \$350, respectively) were well below the figure for white men (\$566). The earnings of minority women were also below that of their white counterparts. (See table 3.)

- * For men, the earnings disparity between minority and white workers occurs across all major occupational groupings. For example, the 1995 median weekly earnings of white men working full time in the high-paying managerial and professional specialty category -- \$844 -- were well above the figures for Hispanic men (\$666) and black men (\$641). Among women, the earnings gap between minority workers and whites is, in general, smaller, and in some major occupational categories the earnings levels are quite close. For example, the median weekly earnings of black and Hispanic women working full time in technical, sales, and administrative support positions, at \$367 and \$343, respectively, were only slightly below the \$385 figure for white women. (See table 4.)

- * In 1995, Hispanic workers were more likely than blacks or whites to have hourly earnings at or below the minimum wage -- \$4.25 an hour. (See table 5.)

EDUCATION

- * With regard to level of schooling, in 1995, 87 percent of black adult workers (25 years and over) and only 64 percent of Hispanic workers had completed at least a high school education, compared to 90 percent of white workers. Data for November 1989 show that among Hispanics who had not completed high school, two-thirds were foreign born. For both blacks and Hispanics, the proportion of workers who were college graduates was well below that of whites. (See table 6.)

- * Among minorities as well as whites, there is a clear relationship between years of schooling completed and labor market success. For each group, the higher the level of educational attainment, the greater the likelihood of being employed, and correspondingly, the less likelihood of being unemployed. (See table 6.)

- * Minorities earn less than whites regardless of educational level. Among persons who have not completed high school, Hispanics usually working full time earned \$265 per week in 1995 and blacks made \$277, below the median weekly earnings for whites with similar years of schooling (\$298). Among those who have obtained at least a bachelor's degree, blacks' and Hispanics' weekly earnings were each \$620, compared with \$739 for whites. (See table 7.)

- * Among minority youth (16 to 24 years of age), 19 percent of black and 21 percent of Hispanic high school students were employed in October 1994, a much lower proportion than for white students--39 percent. (See table 8.)

- * Unemployment rates were higher for minorities regardless of school enrollment. Of those enrolled in school, the largest differences in the unemployment rates were among those attending high school. Jobless rates for black and Hispanic students enrolled in high school, at 38.2 and 27.9 percent, respectively, were about twice that for their white counterparts (15.1 percent). Unemployment rates for black and Hispanic high school graduates (with no college education), at 22.9 and 14.5 percent, respectively, were much higher than that for their white counterparts (9.2 percent). (See table 8.)

FAMILY

- * In 1994, higher proportions of both black (60 percent) and Hispanic (65 percent) families had children under 18 years old, compared with white families (48 percent). These proportions have changed little over the past decade. (See table 9.)
- * The majority of both white and Hispanic families with children are two-parent families. By contrast, two-parent black families comprise only 40 percent of all black families with children. (See table 9.)
- * About 53 percent of the Hispanic and 66 percent of black single mothers (never-married, divorced, widowed, or separated) were labor force participants, smaller proportions than for white mothers. By contrast, there was relatively little difference in the proportions of single fathers who were in the labor force. (See table 9.)
- * Black and Hispanic families generally earn much less than white families. In 1993, the median weekly earnings for black families were \$490, not much different from \$505 for Hispanic families, but well below the \$739 figure for white families. (See table 10.)

Table 1. Employment status of major age-sex groups by race and Hispanic origin, 1985 and 1995 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Employment status, sex and age	Black		Hispanic origin		White	
	1985	1995	1985	1995	1985	1995
TOTAL						
Civilian noninstitutional population....	19,664	23,246	11,528	18,629	153,679	166,914
Civilian labor force.....	12,364	14,817	7,448	12,267	99,926	111,950
Percent of population.....	62.9	63.7	64.6	65.8	65.0	67.1
Employed.....	10,501	13,279	6,664	11,127	93,736	106,490
Percent of population.....	53.4	57.1	57.8	59.7	61.0	63.8
Unemployed.....	1,864	1,538	785	1,140	6,191	5,459
Unemployment rate.....	15.1	10.4	10.5	9.3	6.2	4.9
Men, 20 years and over						
Civilian noninstitutional population....	7,731	9,280	5,036	8,375	67,386	74,879
Civilian labor force.....	5,749	6,730	4,232	6,898	52,895	57,719
Percent of population.....	74.4	72.5	84.0	82.4	78.5	77.1
Employed.....	4,992	6,137	3,845	6,367	50,061	55,254
Percent of population.....	64.6	66.1	76.4	76.0	74.3	73.8
Unemployed.....	757	593	387	530	2,834	2,465
Unemployment rate.....	13.2	8.8	9.1	7.7	5.4	4.3
Women, 20 years and over						
Civilian noninstitutional population....	9,773	11,682	5,258	8,382	74,394	80,567
Civilian labor force.....	5,727	7,175	2,667	4,520	40,190	47,686
Percent of population.....	58.6	61.4	50.7	53.9	54.0	59.2
Employed.....	4,977	6,556	2,403	4,116	37,907	45,643
Percent of population.....	50.9	56.1	45.7	49.1	51.0	56.7
Unemployed.....	750	620	264	404	2,283	2,042
Unemployment rate.....	13.1	8.6	9.9	8.9	5.7	4.3
Both sexes, 16 to 19 years						
Civilian noninstitutional population....	2,160	2,284	1,234	1,872	11,900	11,468
Civilian labor force.....	889	911	549	850	6,841	6,545
Percent of population.....	41.2	39.9	44.5	45.4	57.5	57.1
Employed.....	532	586	416	645	5,768	5,593
Percent of population.....	24.6	25.7	33.7	34.5	48.5	48.8
Unemployed.....	357	325	134	205	1,074	952
Unemployment rate.....	40.2	35.7	24.3	24.4	15.7	14.5

Table 2. Employed persons by occupation, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, 1995 annual averages

Occupation	Men			Women		
	Black	Hispanic origin	White	Black	Hispanic origin	White
Total employed (thousands).....	6,422	6,725	58,146	6,857	4,403	48,344
Managerial and professional specialty.....	1,139	805	16,515	1,512	744	14,808
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	589	451	8,947	644	370	6,452
Professional specialty.....	550	354	7,568	868	373	8,356
Technical, sales, and administrative support.....	1,135	1,024	11,615	2,673	1,695	20,569
Technicians and related support.....	148	128	1,663	230	112	1,698
Sales occupations.....	451	509	6,905	732	539	6,461
Administrative support, including clerical.....	537	387	3,047	1,711	1,045	12,410
Service occupations.....	1,142	1,067	5,240	1,739	1,128	7,968
Private household.....	7	7	28	130	196	610
Protective service.....	305	144	1,527	101	22	244
Service, except private household and protective.....	830	916	3,685	1,508	909	7,114
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	918	1,285	10,985	155	145	965
Mechanics and repairers.....	349	352	3,779	19	13	150
Construction trades.....	350	573	4,479	12	7	105
Other precision production, craft, and repair.....	220	360	2,727	124	125	710
Operators, fabricators, and laborers.....	1,949	1,973	11,147	763	604	3,349
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	668	790	4,041	551	459	2,180
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	677	478	3,858	82	33	396
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers...	604	704	3,248	130	112	774
Farming, forestry, and fishing.....	139	571	2,646	15	87	684

Table 2. Employed persons by occupation, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, 1995 annual averages

Occupation	Men			Women		
	Black	Hispanic origin	White	Black	Hispanic origin	White
Total employed (thousands).....	6,241	6,530	57,452	6,595	4,258	47,738
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Managerial and professional specialty.....	17.7	12.0	28.4	22.1	16.9	30.6
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	9.2	6.7	15.4	9.4	8.4	13.3
Professional specialty.....	8.6	5.3	13.0	12.7	8.5	17.3
Technical, sales, and administrative support.....	17.7	15.2	20.0	39.0	38.5	42.5
Technicians and related support.....	2.3	1.9	2.9	3.4	2.5	3.5
Sales occupations.....	7.0	7.6	11.9	10.7	12.2	13.4
Administrative support, including clerical.....	8.4	5.8	5.2	25.0	23.7	25.7
Service occupations.....	17.8	15.9	9.0	25.4	25.6	16.5
Private household.....	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	1.9	4.5	1.3
Protective service.....	4.7	2.1	2.6	1.5	.5	.5
Service, except private household and protective.....	12.9	13.6	6.3	22.0	20.6	14.7
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	14.3	19.1	18.9	2.3	3.3	2.0
Mechanics and repairers.....	5.4	5.2	6.5	.3	.3	.3
Construction trades.....	5.5	8.5	7.7	.2	.2	.2
Other precision production, craft, and repair.....	3.4	5.4	4.7	1.8	2.8	1.5
Operators, fabricators, and laborers.....	30.3	29.3	19.2	11.1	13.7	6.9
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	10.4	11.7	6.9	8.0	10.4	4.5
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	10.5	7.1	6.6	1.2	.7	.8
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	9.4	10.5	5.6	1.9	2.5	1.6
Farming, forestry, and fishing.....	2.2	8.5	4.6	.2	2.0	1.4

¹Data not shown where base is less than 50,000.

Table 3. Median usual weekly earnings of full- or part-time wage and salary workers by race, sex, and Hispanic origin, 1985 and 1995 annual averages

Full- or part-time status, race, sex, and Hispanic origin	Number of workers (in thousands)		Median weekly earnings	
	1985	1995	1985	1995
Full-time workers				
Black	8,393	10,596	\$277	\$383
Men	4,367	5,279	304	411
Women	4,026	5,317	252	355
Hispanic origin	5,285	8,719	269	329
Men	3,391	5,597	295	350
Women	1,893	3,122	229	305
White	66,481	74,874	355	494
Men	40,030	43,747	417	566
Women	26,452	31,127	281	415
Part-time workers¹				
Black	1,680	2,035	89	135
Men	600	718	87	133
Women	1,080	1,317	90	135
Hispanic origin	933	1,668	97	139
Men	366	616	96	144
Women	567	1,052	97	136
White	15,380	17,702	95	141
Men	4,650	5,312	88	128
Women	10,731	12,390	98	146

¹Earnings data for part-time workers are not strictly comparable.

Table 4. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by occupation, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, 1995 annual averages

Occupation	Men			Women		
	Black	Hispanic origin	White	Black	Hispanic origin	White
Managerial and professional specialty.....	\$641	\$666	\$844	\$566	\$513	\$608
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	607	636	854	563	498	570
Professional specialty.....	678	707	835	568	544	637
Technical, sales, and administrative support.....	421	432	579	367	343	385
Technicians and related support.....	602	550	644	462	441	479
Sales occupations.....	378	412	594	260	277	347
Administrative support, including clerical.....	410	412	503	383	358	384
Service occupations.....	307	284	377	263	230	264
Private household.....	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	216	182	186
Protective service.....	411	519	585	408	(¹)	453
Service, except private household and protective.....	270	268	306	258	238	264
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	483	405	546	340	306	384
Mechanics and repairers.....	501	428	546	(¹)	(¹)	564
Construction trades.....	445	381	515	(¹)	(¹)	387
Other precision production, craft, and repair.....	486	415	586	316	303	360
Operators, fabricators, and laborers.....	368	313	425	288	244	302
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	391	309	433	291	238	299
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	390	395	496	309	(¹)	363
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	317	284	332	252	256	292
Farming, forestry, and fishing.....	268	266	298	(¹)	221	247

¹Data not shown where base is less than 50,000.

Table 5. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by race, sex, and Hispanic origin, 1995 annual averages

Sex, race, and Hispanic origin	Number of workers (in thousands)				Percent of all workers paid hourly rates		
	Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$4.25			At or below \$4.25		
		Total	At \$4.25	Below \$4.25	Total	At \$4.25	Below \$4.25
Black	8,957	498	314	184	5.6	3.5	2.1
Men	4,281	191	120	71	4.5	2.8	1.7
Women	4,676	308	194	114	6.6	4.1	2.4
Hispanic origin	7,624	566	363	203	7.4	4.8	2.7
Men	4,637	289	179	110	6.2	3.9	2.4
Women	2,987	277	184	93	9.3	6.2	3.1
White	56,475	2,995	1,549	1,446	5.3	2.7	2.6
Men	28,609	1,078	637	441	3.8	2.2	1.5
Women	27,866	1,916	911	1,005	6.9	3.3	3.6

Table 6. Employment status of persons 25 years and over by educational attainment, race, and Hispanic origin, 1995 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Educational attainment, race, and Hispanic origin	Civilian noninsti- tutional population	Civilian labor force					
		Total	Percent of population	Employed		Unemployed	
				Total	Percent of population	Total	Percent of labor force
Black							
Total, 25 years and over.....	18,409	12,152	66.0	11,249	61.1	902	7.4
Less than a high school diploma.....	4,667	1,691	36.2	1,482	31.7	209	12.4
High school graduates, no college.....	6,477	4,513	69.7	4,142	64.0	371	8.2
Some college, no degree.....	3,470	2,722	78.4	2,517	72.5	205	7.5
Associate degree.....	1,200	1,006	83.8	960	80.0	46	4.6
College graduates.....	2,594	2,220	85.6	2,149	82.8	71	3.2
Hispanic origin							
Total, 25 years and over.....	14,229	9,599	67.5	8,873	62.4	725	7.6
Less than a high school diploma.....	6,469	3,574	55.3	3,204	49.5	370	10.4
High school graduates, no college.....	3,792	2,817	74.3	2,624	69.2	193	6.8
Some college, no degree.....	1,923	1,519	79.0	1,427	74.2	92	6.1
Associate degree.....	693	565	81.5	534	77.1	31	5.5
College graduates.....	1,352	1,124	83.1	1,084	80.2	40	3.5
White							
Total, 25 years and over.....	141,133	94,139	66.7	90,498	64.1	3,641	3.9
Less than a high school diploma.....	23,695	9,473	40.0	8,690	36.7	783	8.3
High school graduates, no college.....	47,954	31,071	64.8	29,776	62.1	1,295	4.2
Some college, no degree.....	25,004	17,933	71.7	17,265	69.0	667	3.7
Associate degree.....	10,442	8,224	78.8	7,970	76.3	253	3.1
College graduates.....	34,038	27,438	80.6	26,796	78.7	642	2.3

Table 7. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by educational attainment, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, 1995 annual averages

Educational attainment, race, and Hispanic origin	Both sexes	Men	Women
Black			
Total, 16 years and over.....	\$383	\$411	\$355
Less than a high school diploma.....	277	301	246
High school graduates, no college.....	336	377	305
Some college, no degree.....	381	412	358
Associate degree.....	438	494	405
College graduates.....	620	655	600
Hispanic origin			
Total, 16 years and over.....	329	350	305
Less than a high school diploma.....	265	282	225
High school graduates, no college.....	346	382	305
Some college, no degree.....	404	454	365
Associate degree.....	462	527	388
College graduates.....	620	663	574
White			
Total, 16 years and over.....	494	566	415
Less than a high school diploma.....	298	321	251
High school graduates, no college.....	420	493	349
Some college, no degree.....	466	550	390
Associate degree.....	528	607	456
College graduates.....	739	842	629

Table 8. Employment status of persons 16 to 24 years old by school enrollment, educational attainment, race, and Hispanic origin, October 1994

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Civilian noninstitutional population	Civilian labor force					
		Total	Percent of population	Employed		Unemployed	
				Total	Percent of population	Number	Percent of labor force
Black							
Total 16 to 24 years.....	4,868	2,707	55.6	2,058	42.3	649	24.0
Enrolled in school.....	2,427	933	38.5	690	28.4	243	26.0
High school.....	1,390	430	31.0	266	19.1	165	38.2
College.....	1,037	503	48.5	425	40.9	78	15.6
Full-time students.....	869	360	41.4	290	33.4	69	19.3
Part-time students.....	168	143	85.4	134	80.1	9	6.2
Not enrolled in school.....	2,441	1,773	72.7	1,367	56.0	406	22.9
Less than a high school diploma.....	618	338	54.6	224	36.2	114	33.7
High school graduates, no college...	1,154	856	74.2	660	57.2	196	22.9
Less than a bachelor's degree.....	548	469	85.6	378	69.0	91	19.4
College graduates.....	121	110	91.2	105	86.9	5	4.7
Hispanic origin							
Total 16 to 24 years.....	4,411	2,678	60.7	2,309	52.3	369	13.8
Enrolled in school.....	1,750	747	42.7	632	36.1	115	15.4
High school.....	1,080	318	29.4	229	21.2	89	27.9
College.....	671	429	64.0	403	60.1	26	6.1
Full-time students.....	436	234	53.8	219	50.2	16	6.7
Part-time students.....	235	195	82.9	184	78.4	10	5.3
Not enrolled in school.....	2,661	1,932	72.6	1,677	63.0	255	13.2
Less than a high school diploma.....	1,322	838	63.4	717	54.2	121	14.5
High school graduates, no college...	913	719	78.8	615	67.4	104	14.5
Less than a bachelor's degree.....	358	313	87.4	289	80.7	24	9.0
College graduates.....	68	62	(')	57	(')	5	(')
White							
Total 16 to 24 years.....	25,918	17,687	68.2	16,027	61.8	1,660	9.4
Enrolled in school.....	13,488	7,357	54.5	6,682	49.5	674	9.2
High school.....	6,270	2,902	46.3	2,465	39.3	437	15.1
College.....	7,218	4,454	61.7	4,217	58.4	237	5.3
Full-time students.....	5,909	3,270	55.3	3,073	52.0	198	6.0
Part-time students.....	1,309	1,184	90.4	1,144	87.4	40	3.4
Not enrolled in school.....	12,431	10,330	83.1	9,345	75.2	985	9.5
Less than a high school diploma.....	2,835	1,840	64.9	1,504	53.0	337	18.3
High school graduates, no college...	5,422	4,621	85.2	4,195	77.4	425	9.2
Less than a bachelor's degree.....	2,816	2,584	91.8	2,424	86.1	158	6.1
College graduates.....	1,359	1,286	94.7	1,222	89.9	64	5.0

'Data not shown where base is less than 75,000.

Table 9. Selected characteristics of families by race and Hispanic origin, March 1984 and 1994

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Black		Hispanic origin		White	
	1984	1994	1984	1994	1984	1994
Total families.....	6,779	8,116	3,837	6,075	54,263	58,428
With children under 18 ¹	3,985	4,901	2,551	3,916	26,525	28,163
Percent of all families.....	58.8	60.4	66.5	64.5	48.9	48.2
Married-couple families.....	1,873	1,950	1,866	2,628	21,743	21,876
Percent of all families with children.....	47.0	39.8	73.1	67.1	82.0	77.7
Father in labor force, only ²	471	394	872	1,064	8,674	6,294
Both parents in labor force ²	1,278	1,347	893	1,351	12,199	14,524
Maintained by women ³	1,976	2,705	621	1,102	4,108	5,213
Mother in labor force.....	1,223	1,781	298	582	2,969	3,649
Maintained by men.....	136	247	65	187	675	1,074
Father in labor force.....	102	211	52	164	616	962
With no children under 18.....	2,794	3,215	1,286	2,159	27,738	30,265
Married-couple families.....	1,586	1,801	900	1,425	23,765	25,587
Percent of all families with no children.....	56.8	56.0	70.0	66.0	85.7	84.5
Husband in labor force, only ²	295	266	273	347	5,598	4,252
Husband and wife in labor force ²	691	763	353	612	9,562	11,558
Maintained by women ³	979	1,196	269	496	2,976	3,383
Householder in labor force.....	463	665	148	296	1,462	1,833
Maintained by men ³	230	212	117	235	996	1,289
Householder in labor force.....	147	135	95	195	689	865

¹Children are own children and include sons, daughters, and adopted or step-children. Excluded are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related or unrelated children.

²Includes men in the Armed Forces living with their families on or off post.

³Refers to families maintained by never married, widowed, divorced, or separated persons.

Table 10. Median weekly wage and salary earnings of families by presence of children, number of earners, race, and Hispanic origin, 1993 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Presence of children and number of earners	Black		Hispanic origin		White	
	Number	Median weekly earnings	Number	Median weekly earnings	Number	Median weekly earnings
Families with wage and salary earnings ¹	5,268	\$490	3,879	\$505	37,458	\$739
WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18						
Total.....	3,050	464	2,518	483	20,277	734
Married-couple families.....	1,551	688	1,916	552	16,386	822
One earner.....	460	372	834	339	5,771	549
Father.....	328	379	697	361	4,935	598
Two or more earners.....	1,091	820	1,083	717	10,615	957
Father and mother.....	1,024	836	887	744	9,842	974
Families maintained by women ²	1,329	304	461	309	3,019	355
One earner.....	1,169	283	367	269	2,487	317
Mother.....	1,106	287	329	287	2,372	324
Two or more earners.....	160	552	95	483	532	569
Mother and other relative in family.....	150	553	83	481	509	578
Families maintained by men ²	171	377	141	368	872	506
One earner.....	154	349	115	313	749	478
Father.....	151	553	113	315	731	483
Two or more earners.....	17	(³)	26	(³)	124	759
Father and other relative in family.....	16	(³)	25	(³)	122	761
WITH NO CHILDREN UNDER 18						
Total.....	2,218	524	1,360	545	17,181	745
Married-couple families.....	1,147	647	884	607	13,901	806
One earner.....	449	321	344	323	5,019	424
Husband.....	211	383	215	381	2,820	538
Two or more earners.....	698	892	540	799	8,882	1,018
Husband and wife.....	567	949	393	850	7,730	1,047
Families maintained by women ²	839	426	288	451	2,336	513
One earner.....	484	277	139	269	1,145	336
Householder.....	289	305	66	280	506	358
Two or more earners.....	355	637	148	649	1,191	716
Householder and other relative in family.....	302	655	115	619	1,047	718
Families maintained by men ²	232	464	189	484	943	598
One earner.....	118	277	66	302	449	445
Householder.....	55	352	41	(³)	266	512
Two or more earners.....	114	703	123	610	494	774
Householder and other relative in family.....	103	709	112	619	458	777

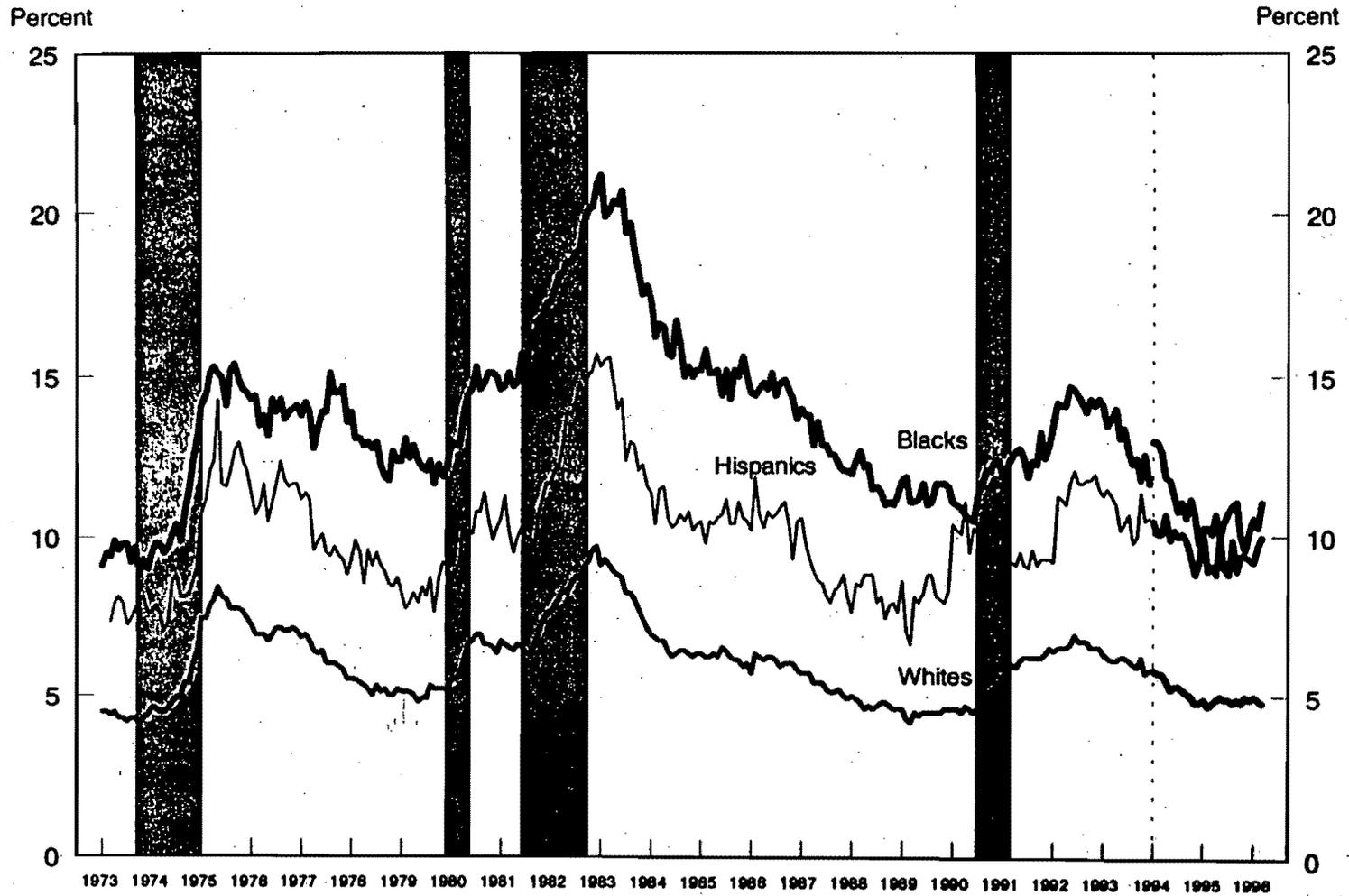
¹Data exclude families in which the husband, wife, or person maintaining the family is either self-employed or in Armed Forces.

²Families maintained by never married, widowed, divorced, or separated persons.

³Median not shown where base is less than 50,000.

NOTE: Children are own children and include sons, daughters, and adopted or step-children. Excluded are nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other related or unrelated children.

Chart 1. Unemployment rates for whites, blacks, and persons of Hispanic origin, seasonally adjusted, 1973-96



NOTE: Shaded areas represent recessions. Beginning in 1994, household data reflect the introduction of a major redesign of the Current Population Survey questionnaire and collection methodology and are not directly comparable with data for prior years. Beginning in 1990, these data incorporate 1990 Census-based population controls, adjusted for the estimated undercount.

Chart 2. Unemployment rates for major age-sex groups by race and Hispanic origin, 1995 annual averages

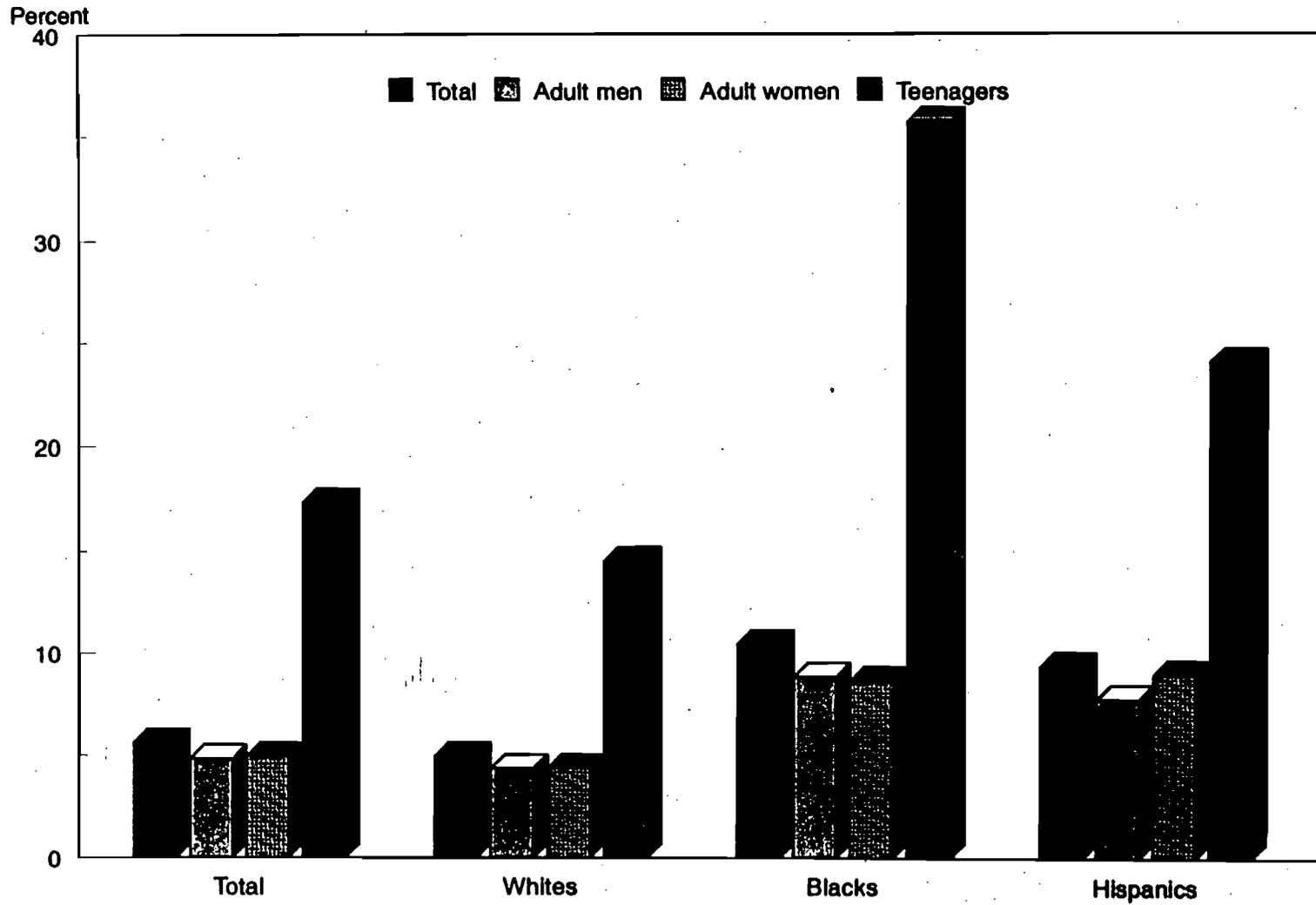
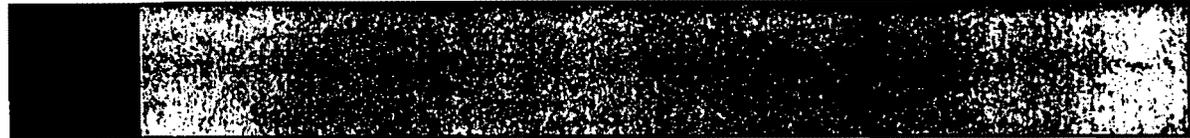


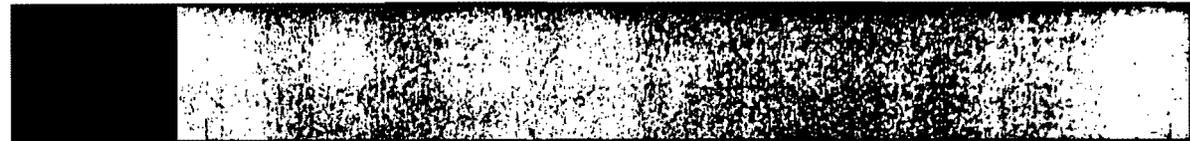
Chart 3. Selected labor force characteristics of black workers, 1995 annual averages

Blacks comprise:

**11 percent of the
labor force**



**14 percent of those
working part time for
economic reasons**



**21 percent of the
unemployed**



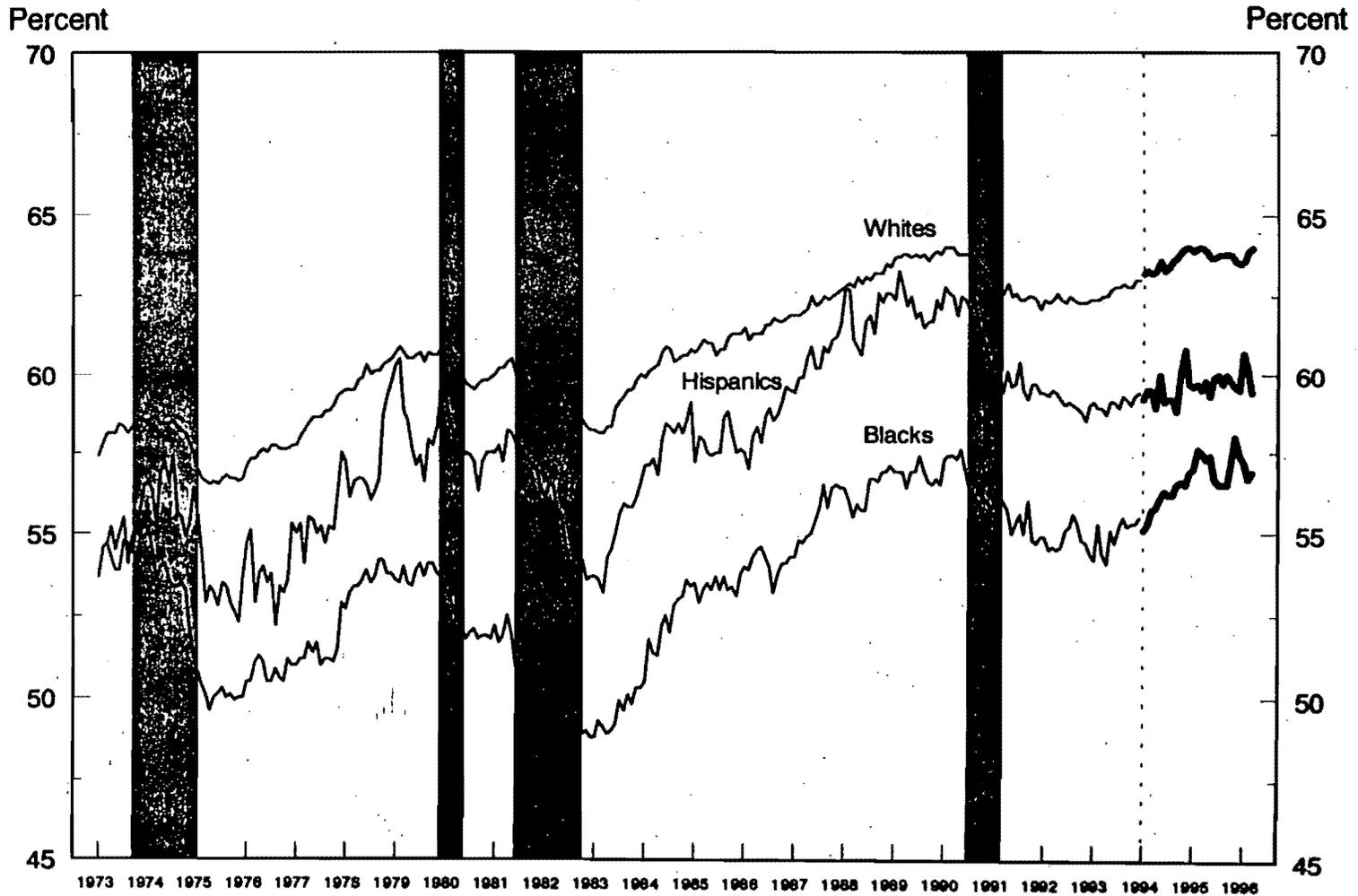
**25 percent of the
long-term unemployed**



**31 percent of
discouraged workers**



Chart 4. Civilian employment-population ratios for whites, blacks, and persons of Hispanic origin, seasonally adjusted, 1973-96



NOTE: Shaded areas represent recessions. Beginning in 1994, household data reflect the introduction of a major redesign of the Current Population Survey questionnaire and collection methodology and are not directly comparable with data for prior years. Beginning in 1990, these data incorporate 1990 Census-based population controls, adjusted for the estimated undercount.

MEMORANDUM FOR

Michelle Cavataio
The President's Initiative on Race

From: Courtland Cox *MAC Jr*
Lee Price
Department of Commerce

Date: September 4, 1997

Subject: Information on the Social and Economic
Status of Racial and Ethnic Populations
of the United States

In response to your request for information on race in the United States, we have gathered data from Department of Commerce sources covering the following areas: demographic, economic status including wealth and assistance program information, poverty, health insurance status, civic behavior and attitudes, kinship relationships, and housing and residential patterns. The information in this package is a preliminary overview. The Census Bureau has hundreds of publications with separate information on racial and ethnic groups as part of larger tables, including annual reports on the state of Black Americans and Hispanic Americans. Please get back to us on specific issues for which you would like additional information.

Following are brief descriptions of our findings in each area; more detailed summaries follow this memo. We also have included the supporting data from which these findings were drawn.

A. Demographic Data. Generally speaking, the ethnic diversity of the U.S. population is increasing because the minority racial and ethnic groups are growing faster than the majority population. Rapid population growth is due to a combination of generally higher birth rates and in some cases higher immigration rates. Infant mortality rates (deaths/1,000 live births) vary significantly by race: Whites 7.1; Blacks 16.6; American Indians 11.3; Asian and Pacific Islanders 5.8; Hispanics 7.1; and White non-Hispanics 7.0. Information on recent immigrants should be obtained from the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The minority racial and ethnic groups including the foreign-born are more likely to be concentrated in selected states and are also more likely to live in urban areas, with the exception of American Indians, particularly in the central cities.

B. Economic Status. The minority racial and ethnic groups and the foreign-born have, for the most part, lower income and higher

poverty rates than the majority population. Similarly, they have less wealth and tend to be more likely to receive government assistance than the majority population.

In 1995, median household income was \$40,604 for Asian and Pacific Islanders, \$35,766 for Whites, \$22,860 for Hispanic households, and \$22,393 for Blacks. There was similar disparity in per capita income between these racial groups.

C. Poverty. There is marked disparity in the poverty rate across racial groups. For Whites, the poverty rate in 1995 was 11.2% compared with 14.6% for Asians and Pacific Islanders, 29.3% for Blacks, and 30.3% for Hispanics.

This disparity is particularly pointed with regard to children: for White children, the rate in 1995 was 16.2% compared with 41.9% of Black children, 40% for children of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race), and 19.5% for Asian and Pacific Islander.

D. Health Insurance. Hispanics and Blacks generally are less likely to have access to health insurance than Whites, but poor Whites also do not have good access to health insurance.

E. Civic Behavior and Attitudes.

Political Behavior: Voting. Generally speaking, voter turn-out increases with age. Hispanics and Blacks are less likely to vote than are Whites.

Social Behavior: Computer Use. Hispanics and Blacks generally are less likely to have access to, or own, computers than Whites. The Census Bureau collects data on computers as a tool in education and work environments. These data focus on access to -- not attitudes about -- computers.

F. Kinship Relationships.

Two parent versus single parent: Black and Hispanic families with children under 18 years of age are more likely to be single-parent families and less likely to be married couple households than comparable White families.

Female-headed households: Black, and to a lesser extent Hispanic, households are more likely to be maintained by a woman alone than are White households.

G. Housing and Residential Patterns.

Home ownership: The minority racial and ethnic groups are less likely to own their home than the majority group. The home ownership rate among naturalized citizens, however, is about the

same as for native-born citizens, but much lower for non-citizens.

Residential Stability: Black and Hispanic households are more likely to have moved recently than are White households.

Quality of Housing: The quality of housing, in general, for Black and Hispanic households is lower than for White households.

H. Other Racial/Ethnic Data from non-Census Bureau sources: 1. The Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Consumer Finances. Wealth data by race -- a comprehensive survey that includes a complete breakdown by asset and liability type; 2. Mel Oliver and Tom Shapiro's book, "Black Wealth/White Wealth", published by Rutledge, 1997; 3. "Top Heavy", by Dr. Ed Wolff. Includes some racial breakdowns for home ownership. Dr. Wolff also can be reached directly at New York University's Department of Economics; 4. "State of Working America", a biennial publication of the Economic Policy Institute that includes tables by race, income, wages, employment, and poverty.

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DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

The Bureau of the Census collects data on race and ethnicity in compliance with Statistical Policy Directive No.15, issued by the Office of Management and Budget. Directive No.15 requires the collection of information on at least four race groups--White, Black, Asian and Pacific Islander, American Indian and Alaska Native -- and one ethnic group-- Spanish/Hispanic origin. We provided a vast amount of data to Federal and state agencies for implementing programs, policies, and legislation relating to redistricting, affirmative action and voting rights.

The Census Bureau has traditionally treated race and ethnicity as two separate concepts. This approach has provided the most complete set of data to meet a wide diversity of data needs. The Bureau does recognize, however, that concepts are not mutually exclusive and do overlap. The race question is used to divide the population into the following categories--White, Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian and Pacific Islander, and "Other race." The Hispanic origin and ancestry questions, considered as the primary "ethnic" inquiries, provide information on groups with Spanish/Hispanic ancestry and on an extensive array of groups such as English, Polish, Lebanese, and Jamaican, respectively.

The Census Bureau collects race and ethnic data using three questions -- the race and Hispanic origin questions appeared on both the short and long forms of the 1990 census and provided information needed by Federal and state governments for very small geographic areas, for example, city blocks. The 1990 census long form included an ancestry question. The responses to the ancestry question have been weighted to reflect national totals, which gives us a portrait of the many ethnic groups in our country.

A. Racial and Ethnic Composition of the U.S. Population:

In 1990, about 250 million persons were counted, of those 12.1 percent were Black; 0.8 percent American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut; 2.9 percent Asian and Pacific Islander; 3.9 percent "Other race;" and 80.3 percent White. Persons of Hispanic origin, may be of any race. They made 9.0 percent of the total population. Non-Hispanic White were 75.6 percent of the total population.

Based on *estimates* produced by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, in 1997 the U.S. population was 12.7 percent Black; 0.9 percent American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut; 3.7 percent Asian and Pacific Islander; and 82.8 percent were White. Persons of Hispanic origin were 10.8 percent of the population, and non-Hispanic White made up 72.9 percent of the population.

Foreign-born persons were 7.9 percent of the total U.S. population in 1990. About 40 percent of the foreign-born were naturalized U.S. citizens and about 60 percent were not. In 1990, the 10 top countries of birth for the foreign-born population were Mexico, Philippines, Canada, Cuba, Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, Korea, Vietnam, and China.

Sources:

U. S. Bureau of the Census, General Population Characteristics: United States (1990 CP-1-1), pp. 3, Table 3, (table attached).

U. S. Bureau of the Census, U. S. Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin: 1990 to 1996, (1990 PPL-57 Rev.), pp. 29, Table 3

U. S. Bureau of the Census, The Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 1990 (1990 CPH-L-98), pp. 100, Table 16

B. Geographic Distribution of Racial and Ethnic Groups:

Among the most important and immediately visible of the trends reflected in both the 1990 and 1980 censuses has been the increasing racial and ethnic diversity of the nation's population. This diversity is due in part to younger age structures and higher fertility rates, but most strikingly to increased immigration of Asian and Pacific Islanders and Hispanics.

Blacks:

In both 1990 and 1994, the top ten states with the largest number of Blacks were New York, California, Texas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, North Carolina, Louisiana, Michigan, and Maryland. In 1990, nearly 58 percent of Blacks lived in large cities (central places), 21 percent in the suburbs (urban fringe), 9 percent in smaller urban areas, and 13 percent in rural areas.

American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut:

In both 1990 and 1994, the top ten states with the most American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts were California, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, Washington, Alaska, North Carolina, Texas, New York, and Michigan. In 1990, 24 percent lived in large cities, 15 percent in the suburbs, 17 percent in smaller urban areas, and 44 percent in rural areas.

Asian and Pacific Islanders:

In both 1990 and 1994, the top ten states with the most Asian and Pacific Islanders were California, New York, Hawaii, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Washington, Florida, Virginia, and Massachusetts. In 1990, 47 percent lived in large cities, 42 percent in the suburbs, 6 percent in smaller urban areas, and 5 percent in rural areas.

Hispanics:

In both 1990 and 1994, the top ten states with the most Hispanics were California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Massachusetts. In 1990, 52 percent of Hispanics lived in large cities, 30 percent in the suburbs, 9 percent in smaller urban areas, and 9 percent in rural areas.

Sources:

U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census Profile, Race and Hispanic Origin, Number 2 - June 1991.

The racial and ethnic groups are concentrated regionally— the majority of the Black population continue to reside in the South, while the majority of the American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Hispanic populations are concentrated within the West region. The West region is the most racially diverse of all regions.

All of the major race and ethnic groups meet in substantial numbers in California, Texas, Florida, New York, New Jersey, and Illinois. American Indians combine with Blacks in Oklahoma and with Hispanics in Arizona and New Mexico to create a distinct diversity. Asian and Pacific islanders give Hawaii, and American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts give Alaska a bi-racial comparable to that of Blacks and Whites in several Southern and industrial Midwestern states.

Source:

Racial and Ethnic Diversity, in **State of the Union: America in the 1990s**, Volume 2: Social Trends, pages 141-210.

Foreign-born:

The ten states with the most foreign-born in 1990 were California, New York, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Washington. About 50 percent of the foreign born lived in large cities, 39 percent in the suburbs, 5 percent in smaller urban areas, and 6 percent in rural areas.

Sources:

U. S. Bureau of the Census, **The Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 1990** (1990 CPH-L-98), pp. 15, Table 10.

C. Components of Change:

Births: Based on estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, the birth rate of the Hispanic population was 24.4 births per 1,000 population, compared with 18.1 for Blacks, 16.5 for American Indians, Eskimo, and Aleuts, 16.8 for Asian and Pacific Islanders, and 12.4 for non-Hispanic Whites. Blacks had 15.7 percent of the births, American Indians, Eskimo and Aleuts had 1.0 percent, Asian and Pacific Islander had 4.3 percent, Hispanics had 17.9 percent, and non-Hispanic Whites 79.0 percent.

Net international migration: The rate for Asian and Pacific Islanders was 21.8 per 1,000 population compared with 13.9 for Hispanics, 3.1 for Blacks, and 0.7 for non-Hispanic Whites.

Deaths: The rate for non-Hispanic Whites was 9.9 per 1,000 population compared with 8.6 for Blacks, 4.2 for American Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts, 3.7 for Hispanics, and 2.9 for Asian and Pacific Islanders.

Source:

U. S. Bureau of the Census, U. S. Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin: 1990 to 1996, (1990 PPL-57 Rev.), pp. 29, Table 3.

D. Population Projections:

The non-Hispanic White share of the U.S. population is projected to fall steadily from 74 percent in 1995 to 72 percent in 2000, and to 64 percent in 2020.

The race-ethnic groups with the highest rates of increase would be the Hispanic and Asian and Pacific Islander populations with annual growth rates exceeding 2 percent per year through 2030.

According to the middle series projections the Black population may be nearly 35.5 million by 2000 and 45.1 million by 2020. The American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut population may reach 2.4 million in 2000 and 3.1 million by 2020. The Asian and Pacific Islander population may number 11.2 million by 2000 and 19.7 million by 2020. The Hispanic population may reach 31.4 by 2000 and 52.7 million by 2020. The non-Hispanic White population may reach 197.1 million by 2000 and 207.4 by 2020. The middle series projections assume that 820,000 net immigrants will be added to population each year.

Source:

U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey: Population Projections of the United States by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1995 to 2050, (P-25-1130), pp. 13, J; pp.1; pp. 12, I; pp. 2, A.

1. Economic status

c. Wealth/credit

Wealth

In 1993, households with White householders had a median measured net worth of \$45,740, while households with Black householders had a median measured net worth of \$4,418, and households with Hispanic-origin householders had a median measured net worth of \$4,656, which was not significantly different from that of Black households.

Data Source: Eller, T. J. and Fraser, W. 1995. "Asset Ownership of Householders: 1993" Current Population Reports, Household Economic Studies, Series P70-47, Bureau of the Census.

AFDC/food stamps/other forms of assistance

In 1993, over one-third of Blacks (35.5 percent) participated in major means-tested assistance programs, compared with 10.6 percent of Whites. The proportion of Hispanics receiving this assistance was 28.9 percent.

The proportion of Blacks participating in AFDC or General Assistance in 1993 was 16.4 percent, significantly higher than the proportions of 3.2 percent and 10.9 percent for Whites and Hispanics, respectively.

Likewise, Blacks were more likely to receive food stamps than Whites in 1993. About a quarter (25.4 percent) of Blacks received food stamps, compared with only 6.2 percent of Whites. The corresponding proportion for Hispanics was 18.9 percent.

Data Source: Tin, Jan. 1995. "Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Program Participation, 1992-1993, Who Gets Assistance," Current Population Reports, Household Economic Studies, Series P70-58, Bureau of the Census.

POVERTY

In 1995, 13.8 percent of the population was poor, a rate that was significantly lower than the 14.5 percent poverty rate in 1994.”^a

“Even though the poverty rate for Whites (11.2 percent) was lower than that of any other racial or ethnic group, the majority of the poor in 1995 were White (67 percent).”^a

“Between 1994 and 1995, the poverty rate decreased significantly for Whites and Blacks. There was no significant change for people of Hispanic origin or Asians and Pacific Islanders.”^a

- The poverty rate for Whites decreased by 0.5 percentage points, from 11.7 percent in 1994 to 11.2 percent in 1995.^a
- The poverty rate for Blacks decreased by 1.3 percentage points, from 30.6 in 1994 to 29.3 in 1995.^a
- The poverty rate for Asians and Pacific Islanders was 14.6 percent in 1995, showing no change from 1994.
- The poverty rate for persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) was 30.3 percent in 1995, showing no significant change from 1994.^a

The poverty rate for foreign-born persons was 22.2 percent in 1995, while for natives it was 13.0 percent. (“Natives” are defined as people born in the U.S., Puerto Rico, or an outlying area of the U.S., and those born in a foreign country who had at least one parent who was a U.S. citizen.) The 24.5 million foreign-born individuals represented only 9 percent of the total population but comprised 15 percent of the poor.^a

The overall poverty rate for children in 1995 was 20.8 percent.^b

- For White children, it was 16.2 percent.
- For Black children, it was 41.9 percent.
- For Asian and Pacific Islander children, it was 19.5 percent.^c
- For children of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race), it was 40.0 percent.

INCOME BY RACE/HISPANIC ORIGIN BY FAMILY TYPE

Black married couple families are doing much better in terms of their median family incomes relative to Whites than are similar families of Hispanic origin, or families with a female householder, no spouse present. The median family income of black married couple families is 87% that of similar white households, while the median family income of Hispanic married couple families is but 63%. For families headed by a female householder, no spouse present, the comparison to similar White families shows much less of a difference between Blacks and Hispanics, at 68 and 61 percent, respectively (note: this has not been tested statistically). [See Table 4.]

INCOME INEQUALITY BY RACE/HISPANIC ORIGIN

The incomes of Black and Hispanic origin households are more unequally distributed within their racial/ethnic group than those for White households. One measure of income inequality, the Gini coefficient, shows that the incomes of Black households were the most unequally distributed -- at 0.468 in 1995 (the index ranges from 0 to 1), with Hispanics close though 3% lower (0.455) and Whites 6% lower (0.422). [Table B-3.]

INCOME DEFICIT BY RACE/HISPANIC ORIGIN

The income deficit for families in poverty (the difference in dollars between a family's income and its poverty threshold) averaged \$6,038 in 1995. This amounts to a deficit per family member of \$1,654. For Whites, the family deficit was \$5,650 or \$1,593 per family member; for Blacks, \$6,852 or \$1,794 per family member, and for Hispanics, \$6,468 or \$1,500 per family member.

For unrelated individuals, the average income deficit was \$3,762 in 1995. For Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics, this was \$3,674, \$3,814, and \$4,329, respectively.

POVERTY AREAS

In 1989, of all persons for whom poverty status is determined, 21.5 percent lived in census tracts with poverty rates of 20 percent or more. The corresponding figures for Whites, Blacks, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) are 14.9 percent, 55.2 percent, 18.8 percent, and 45.2 percent, respectively. °

SOURCES

- a. Baugher, Eleanor and Leatha Lamison-White, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P60-194, *Poverty in the United States: 1995*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1996.
- b. Ibid., Table 2
- c. Ibid., Table C-2
- d. Bennefield, Robert L., U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P60-195, *Health Insurance Coverage: 1995*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1996.
- e. Census of Population and Housing, 1990: Summary Tape File (SSTF) 17 on CD-ROM, Poverty Areas of the United States [machine-readable data files] / prepared by the Bureau of the Census. -- Washington: The Bureau [producer and distributor], 1994.
Percentages calculated using poverty universes from: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population, CP-2-1, *Social and Economic Characteristics: United States*. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1993. Table 49.

VOTER TURNOUT

Regardless of race or Spanish Origin, voter turnout peaks around age 65. Voter turnout can be significantly influenced by the proportion of the population who are not US citizens, reaching a high of 40 percent for Hispanics. Taking this into consideration, overall turnout in the 1992 election for the population of voting was highest for Whites (67 percent), followed by Blacks (57 percent) and then Hispanics (48 percent). Voter turnout for young persons was reported by less than 4 out of every 10 persons 18 to 20 years old.

Source: "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1992" CPR P20-466, table 2.

Computer Access and Use of People 18 Years and Older by Race and Ethnicity (1993)

Access at Home

- White adults (26.9 percent) were more likely to have a computer at home than were Black adults (13.8 percent).
- Hispanic adults were less likely to have a computer at home than non-Hispanic adults (12.9 vs. 26.7 percent).

Computer Use at Home, School, or Work

- Whites adults (37.5 percent) were more likely than Black adults (25.0) to use a computer in the home, school, or workplace.
- Hispanic adults (22.0 percent) were less likely to use a computer anywhere than non-Hispanic adults (37.2).

TWO-PARENT VS. SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS

About one-half of the 70 million family households in the United States in 1996 had children under 18 present. Over one-quarter of these families with children under 18 were single-parent households. For White families with children under 18, 78 percent were married couples and 22 percent were single parents, compared to 41 percent and 59 percent for Black families and 67 percent and 33 percent for Hispanic families, respectively.

Source: "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1996 (Update)" CPR P20-495, table 1.

FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

There were 54 million married-couple households in 1996 where spouses shared the responsibility for maintaining the household. There were 30 million households where the woman either maintained a family household (13 million) or maintained a household alone or with nonrelatives only (17 million). These non-married couple households maintained by women were more prevalent among Blacks, accounting for 50 percent of all their households, than by either Whites (27 percent) or Hispanics (30 percent).

Source: "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1996 (Update)" CPR P20-495, table A.

MULTI-GENERATIONAL HOUSEHOLDS

The proportion of children living in a multigenerational household, usually with their parents and grandparents, differs by race and Hispanic origin. About one out of every 10 Black children or Hispanic children live in a multigenerational household compared with 5 percent of White children.

Source: "The Diverse Living Arrangements of Children: Summer 1991" CPR P70-38, table 11.

FAMILY SIZE

The average family size in the U.S. in 1996 was 3.20. For White families, the average size was 3.13 compared to 3.56 for Black and 3.95 for Hispanic families. The average number of children in married-couple families who have children under 18 living with them in 1996 was 1.89 for White families, 1.96 for Black families and 2.26 for Hispanic families.

Source: "Household and Family Characteristics: March 1996 (Update)" CPR P20-495, tables B and 1.

ADOPTED CHILDREN

An estimated 1.1 million children lived with at least one adoptive parent in 1991. One half of all adopted children lived with two adoptive parents, and one-third lived with one biological and one adoptive parent. Another 12 percent of all adopted children lived with single parents.

Caution: We do not recommend the use of SIPP data to study adopted children because of small sample size.

Source: "The Diverse Living Arrangements of Children: Summer 1991" CPR P70-38, table 6.

CHILD CARE PATTERNS

About one-third of White and Black preschoolers whose mothers were employed in 1993 were using organized child care facilities compared to 21 percent of Hispanic preschoolers as the single most often used type of child care arrangement. Both Hispanic and Black families tend to use grandparents as the next more frequently mentioned type of care arrangement for preschoolers (about 20 percent each) compared to White families (15 percent).

Source: "Who's Minding Our Preschoolers?" CPR P70-53, table 2.

- The homeownership rate in 1996 was about the same for native-born citizens (67.4 percent +/-0.2) and foreign-born citizens (66.9 percent +/-1.0). The homeownership rate for non-citizens in 1996 was only 33.1 (+/-0.8) percent.
- Foreign-born citizens who entered this country before 1970 had a higher rate of homeownership, 77.1 percent (+/- 1.1), compared with foreign-born citizens who entered in 1970 or later, 56.9 percent (+/- 1.3).
- Among non-citizens, those who entered this country before 1970 also had a higher rate of homeownership 61.1 percent (+/- 2.4), compared with non-citizens who entered in 1970 or later, 29.4 percent (+/- 0.8).
- Native-born White citizens had a higher homeownership rate than foreign-born White citizens (70.9 percent +/- 0.2 versus 68.8 percent +/- 1.1).
- Foreign-born Hispanic citizens were more likely to own a home than native-born Hispanic citizens (57.1 percent +/- 1.9 versus 48.1 percent +/- 1.0).
- For Black citizens, there was no significant difference between native-born (44.9 percent +/-0.5) and foreign-born citizens (47.7 percent +/-3.0). However, both rates were higher than the rate for Black non-citizens (24.8 percent +/-2.1).

Source: Current Population Survey, Bureau of the Census,
H121/97-2, Moving to America--Moving to Homeownership
(to be issued in late September)

Table 1. Homeownership Rates by Citizenship Status of Householder, for the United States and Regions: 1994 to 1996

Region	Citizenship Status of Householder											
	All householders			Native-born citizen\1			Foreign-born, naturalized citizen			Non-citizen		
	1996	1995	1994	1996	1995	1994	1996	1995	1994	1996	1995	1994
United States, total.....	65.4	64.7	64.0	67.4	66.6	65.7	66.9	67.6	66.8	33.1	33.2	32.9
Northeast.....	62.2	62.0	61.5	65.2	64.6	64.2	60.4	62.3	61.9	26.2	25.7	25.2
Midwest.....	70.6	69.2	67.7	71.1	69.5	68.1	76.8	77.8	74.6	42.0	43.9	42.7
South.....	67.5	66.7	65.6	68.7	67.7	66.7	70.2	72.5	69.1	37.7	39.5	37.3
West.....	59.2	59.2	59.4	62.4	62.6	62.5	66.6	65.1	66.7	32.1	31.2	32.4

\1 Includes those born in Puerto Rico or outlying areas and those born abroad to American parents.

Table 2 . Homeownership Rates by Citizenship Status of Householder and Year of Entry into the United States: 1994 to 1996

Immigrants Year of Entry ¹	Citizenship Status of Householder					
	Foreign-born naturalized citizen			Non-citizen		
	1996	1995	1994	1996	1995	1994
Total.....	66.9	67.6	66.8	33.1	33.2	32.9
1990 or later.....	36.1	36.8	34.2	14.7	12.3	11.1
1985 to 1989.....	46.3	43.1	40.1	27.0	23.2	21.8
1980 to 1984.....	53.1	54.0	50.7	36.7	34.0	31.2
1970 to 1979.....	63.8	63.4	63.8	47.2	47.4	45.0
1960 to 1969.....	75.4	74.1	70.2	58.7	58.7	60.0
1950 to 1959.....	80.0	78.8	80.0	67.9	63.1	68.6
1949 or earlier.....	76.6	73.8	72.6	60.3	68.9	69.6
1970 or later.....	56.9	57.4	57.3	29.4	28.6	27.6
1969 or earlier.....	77.1	75.3	73.8	61.1	61.2	63.4

¹Data reflects latest year of entry in the United States.

Table 3. Homeownership Rates by Citizenship Status of Householder and Family Type, for the United States: 1994-1996

Family type	Citizenship Status of Householder											
	All householders			Native-born citizen\1			Foreign-born, naturalized citizen			Non-citizen		
	1996	1995	1994	1996	1995	1994	1996	1995	1994	1996	1995	1994
United States, total.....	65.4	64.7	64.0	67.4	66.6	65.7	66.9	67.6	66.8	33.1	33.2	32.9
Family Households.....	72.9	72.3	71.4	75.5	74.6	73.7	72.7	74.8	73.4	37.0	36.9	37.0
Married-couple families.....	80.2	79.6	78.8	83.0	82.1	81.2	78.3	78.6	77.4	41.9	42.4	42.7
Other families-no spouse present...	48.3	47.3	46.0	50.3	49.0	47.6	50.8	59.6	57.7	23.5	21.3	22.0
Nonfamily households.....	48.6	47.7	47.0	49.9	48.9	48.2	50.0	47.9	48.4	18.8	20.3	18.1
One-person households.....	51.4	50.5	49.8	52.6	51.6	50.8	51.3	49.4	50.5	19.8	22.6	21.2
Two-or-more person households....	35.6	33.8	33.9	36.9	35.2	35.5	39.8	34.3	32.1	16.0	14.2	10.2

\1 Includes those born in Puerto Rico or outlying areas and those born abroad to American parents.

Table 4. Homeownership Rates by Citizenship Status and Age of Householder, for the United States: 1994-1996

Age of Householder	Citizenship Status of Householder											
	All householders			Native-born citizen\1			Foreign-born, naturalized citizen			Non-citizen		
	1996	1995	1994	1996	1995	1994	1996	1995	1994	1996	1995	1994
United States, total.....	65.4	64.7	64.0	67.4	66.6	65.7	66.9	67.6	66.8	33.1	33.2	32.9
Less than 35 years old.....	39.1	38.6	37.3	41.1	40.5	39.1	38.5	40.8	42.2	19.8	18.8	17.6
35 to 44 years.....	65.5	65.2	64.5	67.9	67.3	66.6	64.1	67.2	65.2	35.6	35.4	35.9
45 to 54 years.....	75.6	75.2	75.2	77.1	76.6	76.6	75.4	76.0	75.1	48.3	48.4	48.8
55 to 64 years.....	80.0	79.5	79.3	81.5	81.0	80.6	78.5	77.6	78.3	49.3	49.1	48.7
65 years and over.....	78.9	78.1	77.4	80.2	79.3	78.5	72.3	69.9	68.8	43.5	47.0	47.8

\1 Includes those born in Puerto Rico or outlying areas and those born abroad to American parents.

Table 5. Homeownership Rates by Citizenship Status and Race and Ethnicity of Householder, for the United States: 1994 to 1996

Race and Ethnicity of Householder	Citizenship Status of Householder											
	All householders			Native-born citizen\1			Foreign-born, naturalized citizen			Non-citizen		
	1996	1995	1994	1996	1995	1994	1996	1995	1994	1996	1995	1994
United States, total.....	65.4	64.7	64.0	67.4	66.6	65.7	66.9	67.6	66.8	33.1	33.2	32.9
White.....	69.1	68.7	67.7	70.9	70.3	69.3	68.8	69.9	68.3	34.3	35.7	35.0
Black.....	44.1	42.7	42.3	44.9	43.2	42.9	47.7	51.7	50.8	24.8	25.1	23.2
Other Race.....	51.0	47.2	47.7	55.4	52.8	51.8	67.8	65.5	67.0	32.1	28.5	30.0
Hispanic Origin\2.....	42.8	42.0	41.2	48.1	47.0	46.3	57.1	58.4	55.8	30.2	30.1	29.4
Not of Hispanic Origin\2.....	67.4	66.7	65.9	68.4	67.5	66.6	70.3	70.9	70.7	36.0	36.7	36.6

\1 Includes those born in Puerto Rico or outlying areas and those born abroad to American parents.

\2 Hispanics can be of any race.

Homeownership Rates by Race and Ethnicity of Householder: 1996

Race	1996
U.S. total.....	65.4
White, total.....	69.1
White, nonhispanic.....	71.7
Black, total.....	44.1
Other race, total.....	51.0
American Indian, Aleut, Eskimo.....	51.6
Asian or Pacific Islander.....	50.8
Hispanic.....	42.8
Non-Hispanic.....	67.4

Residential Stability

In 1995:

- 18 percent of all householders had moved into their current home during the last 12 months; 25 percent had moved in before 1980.
- 22 percent of Black householders had moved into their current home during the last 12 months; 23 percent had moved in before 1980. (22 and 23 percent are not statistically different.)
- 26 percent of Hispanic householders had moved into their current home during the last 12 months; 14 percent had moved in before 1980.

Quality of Housing

In 1995:

- 3 percent of all households had more than one person per room.
- 4 percent of Black households had more than one person per room.
- 14 percent of Hispanic households had more than one person per room.
- 45 percent of all households live in homes with one or fewer complete bathrooms.
- 61 percent of Black households live in homes with one or fewer complete bathrooms.
- 61 percent of Hispanic households live in homes with one or fewer complete bathrooms.
- 1 percent of all households live in homes that lack complete kitchen facilities.
- 2 percent of Black households live in homes that lack complete kitchen facilities.
- 2 percent of Hispanic households live in homes that lack complete kitchen facilities.
- 85 percent of all households live in homes with central heating.
- 80 percent of Black households live in homes with central heating.
- 67 percent of Hispanic households live in homes with central heating.

- 6 percent of all households were uncomfortably cold for 24 hours or more last winter.
- 10 percent of Black households were uncomfortably cold for 24 hours or more last winter.
- 8 percent of Hispanic households were uncomfortably cold for 24 hours or more last winter.

- 2 percent of all households lived in homes that had severe physical problems; 4 percent lived in homes with moderate physical problems. These terms are defined by HUD.
- 4 percent of Black households lived in homes that had severe physical problems; 10 percent lived in homes with moderate physical problems.
- 3 percent of Hispanic households lived in homes that had severe physical problems; 8 percent lived in homes with moderate physical problems.

- On a scale of 1 (worst) to 10 (best), 75 percent of all households gave a rating of 8, 9, or 10 for their house or apartment as a place to live.
- On a scale of 1 (worst) to 10 (best), 66 percent of Black households gave a rating of 8, 9, or 10 for their house or apartment as a place to live.
- On a scale of 1 (worst) to 10 (best), 68 percent of Hispanic households gave a rating of 8, 9, or 10 for their house or apartment as a place to live. (68 percent for Hispanic households is not statistically different than 66 percent for Black households.)

- On a scale of 1 (worst) to 10 (best), 71 percent of all households gave a rating of 8, 9, or 10 for their neighborhoods.
- On a scale of 1 (worst) to 10 (best), 60 percent of Black households gave a rating of 8, 9, or 10 for their neighborhoods.
- On a scale of 1 (worst) to 10 (best), 64 percent of Hispanic households gave a rating of 8, 9, or 10 for their neighborhoods.

Data are not available separately for White, American Indian, or Asian and Pacific Islander households.

Source: American Housing Survey for the United States in 1995 (H150/95RV)

HEALTH INSURANCE

Eleven million poor persons, or 30.2 percent of the poor population, did not have health insurance of any kind during 1995.

- 33.3 percent of poor Whites did not have health insurance.
- 23.5 percent of poor Blacks did not have health insurance.
- 40.8 of all poor persons of Hispanic origin (who may be of any race) did not have health insurance.

The comparable figures for all races, Whites, Blacks, and persons of Hispanic origin for all income levels were 15.4 percent, 14.2 percent, 21.0 percent, and 33.3 percent respectively. ⁴



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC POLICY
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

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NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 5

FAX TO: Michele Cavataio

Race Initiative

ADDRESSEE'S FAX NUMBER: 395-1020

ADDRESSEE'S CONFIRMATION NUMBER: 395-1010

FROM: Valerie Personick

SENDER'S FAX NUMBER: (202) 622-2563

SENDER'S CONFIRMATION NUMBER: (202) 622-1686

COMMENTS/SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Department of the Treasury

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy

Office of Financial Analysis

Date: September 3, 1997

To: Michele Cavataio

Room: New EOB

Subject: Race Initiative

Attached are data for nonwhite and white families on income, net worth, financial and nonfinancial assets, and debt from the Fed's Survey of Consumer Finances. The data were published in the January 1997 issue of the Federal Reserve Bulletin.

Please note that the income measures from the Fed survey differ in both level and in some cases trend from the more well-known annual family income figures based on the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, which Census should be providing to you. Coverage and methodological differences account for most of the discrepancies.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Valerie Personick

Valerie A. Personick

Economist

Room 4409, MTB

Ph: 202-622-1686

INCOME AND NET WORTH

Thousands of 1995 Dollars

	Family income		Family net worth	
	(for prior year, before taxes)		Median	Mean
	Median	Mean	Median	Mean
<u>1989</u>				
White non-Hispanic	37.3	56.9	84.7	261.4
Nonwhite or Hispanic	18.0	28.5	6.8	82.1
Ratio, Nonwhite or Hispanic to White non-Hispanic	48.3	50.1	8.0	31.4
<u>1992</u>				
White non-Hispanic	33.4	47.8	71.7	237.8
Nonwhite or Hispanic	20.1	30.3	16.9	87.9
Ratio, Nonwhite or Hispanic to White non-Hispanic	60.2	63.4	23.6	37.0
<u>1995</u>				
White non-Hispanic	33.3	48.6	73.9	244.0
Nonwhite or Hispanic	21.0	29.5	16.5	74.4
Ratio, Nonwhite or Hispanic to White non-Hispanic	63.1	60.7	22.3	30.5

Source: Federal Reserve Board, *Survey of Consumer Finances*

- **The financial condition of nonwhites and Hispanics improved relative to white non-Hispanics between the 1989 and 1992 *Surveys of Consumer Finances*, then held about steady through the 1995 survey.** These surveys are conducted by the Federal Reserve Board every three years to provide information on changes in the income, net worth, assets, and liabilities of U.S. families.
- **Between the 1989 and 1992 surveys, measures of income and net worth (adjusted for inflation) declined for white non-Hispanic families, as finances were affected by the economic recession as well as by longer-term trends. Income and net worth for non-white and Hispanic families, in contrast, improved slightly over that period, resulting in sharp increases in the ratios between non-white and white income and net worth. Despite the relative improvement, both income and net worth of non-whites and Hispanics remained appreciably below those of other families.**
- **The 1995 survey indicated that the median and mean income and median net worth of nonwhite and Hispanic families changed little from 1992, while mean net worth fell below the level of 1989. For other families, income was also little changed between 1992 and 1995 while net worth increased but remained below the 1989 level.**

Office of Economic Policy
Department of the Treasury
September 3, 1997

FAMILY HOLDINGS OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

	Percentage of families holding asset				Median value of holdings for families with asset (1995 dollars)					
	1992		1995		1992			1995		
	White non-Hispanic	Nonwhite or Hispanic	White non-Hispanic	Nonwhite or Hispanic	White non-Hispanic	Nonwhite or Hispanic	Ratio*	White non-Hispanic	Nonwhite or Hispanic	Ratio*
Any financial asset	95.4	74.8	94.7	77.4	\$16,300	\$3,400	20.9	\$16,900	\$5,200	30.8
Transactions accounts	92.9	69.1	92.4	69.1	3,000	1,100	36.7	2,500	1,500	60.0
CDs	19.6	7.8	16.5	5.9	11,900	8,700	73.1	10,000	10,000	100.0
Savings bonds	25.8	11.7	26.2	11.3	700	600	85.7	1,000	500	50.0
Bonds	5.2	1.3	3.7	0.6	32,600	32,000	98.2	26,200	27,000	103.1
Stocks	20.4	6.3	18.2	5.5	8,700	6,500	74.7	8,600	5,000	58.1
Mutual funds	12.7	3.4	14.5	3.5	17,400	18,400	105.7	20,000	7,800	39.0
Retirement accounts	43.3	21.6	47.0	29.2	16,300	10,900	66.9	17,500	9,600	54.9
Life insurance	38.3	24.3	33.5	24.4	3,300	3,500	106.1	5,000	5,000	100.0
Other managed	4.9	1.2	4.7	1.0	24,100	9,800	40.7	30,000	1,800	6.0
Other financial	11.8	7.8	11.7	8.5	3,100	1,400	45.2	4,000	1,500	37.5

*Ratio of non-white or Hispanic to white non-Hispanic.

Source: Federal Reserve Board, Survey of Consumer Finances

FAMILY HOLDINGS OF NONFINANCIAL ASSETS

	Percentage of families holding asset				Median value of holdings for families with asset (1995 dollars)					
	1992		1995		1992			1995		
	White non-Hispanic	Nonwhite or Hispanic	White non-Hispanic	Nonwhite or Hispanic	White non-Hispanic	Nonwhite or Hispanic	Ratio*	White non-Hispanic	Nonwhite or Hispanic	Ratio*
Any nonfinancial asset	94.8	79.7	94.9	78.1	\$85,500	\$40,400	47.3	\$93,000	\$42,100	45.3
Vehicles	90.7	72.7	88.1	71.1	7,800	5,300	67.9	10,800	7,700	71.3
Primary residence	68.9	48.8	69.4	48.2	92,200	54,200	58.8	92,000	70,000	76.1
Investment real estate	21.9	11.2	19.7	10.2	48,800	48,800	100.0	50,000	33,500	67.0
Business	13.5	7.1	12.6	5.4	70,500	48,800	69.2	45,000	26,300	58.4
Other nonfinancial	9.7	4.2	10.5	3.5	7,600	9,200	121.1	10,000	8,000	80.0

*Ratio of non-white or Hispanic to white non-Hispanic.

Source: Federal Reserve Board, Survey of Consumer Finances

FAMILY HOLDINGS OF DEBT

	Percentage of families holding debt				Median value of holdings for families with debt (1995 dollars)					
	1992		1995		1992			1995		
	White non-Hispanic	Nonwhite or Hispanic	White non-Hispanic	Nonwhite or Hispanic	White non-Hispanic	Nonwhite or Hispanic	Ratio*	White non-Hispanic	Nonwhite or Hispanic	Ratio*
Any debt	74.4	71.4	75.8	73.1	\$23,900	\$9,700	40.6	\$27,200	\$12,200	44.9
Mortgage and home equity	41.9	30.6	43.5	32.7	48,800	33,800	69.3	54,000	36,500	67.6
Installment	46.4	45.5	46.4	46.9	5,500	3,500	63.6	6,400	5,000	78.1
Other lines of credit	2.7	1.6	2.1	1.3	2,200	2,400	109.1	3,500	800	22.9
Credit card	44.1	42.9	47.5	48.8	1,100	900	81.8	1,500	1,200	80.0
Investment real estate	8.9	4.3	6.9	4.4	26,600	19,500	73.3	29,000	25,000	86.2
Other debt	8.4	9.8	9.1	8.5	3,300	2,200	66.7	2,000	1,500	75.0

*Ratio of non-white or Hispanic to white non-Hispanic.

Source: Federal Reserve Board, Survey of Consumer Finances