



District of Columbia

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These indicators were derived from data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau and may differ from data produced by other entities.

Black or African American Population in the United States, the Washington Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA), and the District of Columbia from 1950 to 2010

Introduction

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines “Black or African American” as a person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. Black or African American also includes Sub-Saharan African entries, such as Kenyan and Nigerian; and Afro-Caribbean entries, such as Haitian and Jamaican. North African entries are classified as White, as OMB defines White as a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

This report provides an overview of the geographic distribution of Black or African American population at the national level, in the Washington Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA), and in the District of Columbia for years 1950 to 2010.

Figure 1: Question on Race from the 2010 Census

What is this person's race? Mark one or more boxes.

White

Black, African Am., or Negro

American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe

Asian Indian Japanese Native Hawaiian

Chinese Korean Guamanian or Chamorro

Filipino Vietnamese Samoan

Other Asian – Print race: for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.

Other Pacific Islander – Print race: for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.

Some other race – Print race.

Black or African American Population in the United States in 1950

According to the 1950 Census, the population of the United States was 150,697,361. Of this total, 15,042,286, or 10 percent, identified as Black or African American alone. In 1950, half or 51.2 percent of Blacks or African Americans in the United States lived in eight states (Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, New York, Louisiana, and South Carolina). Georgia had the largest Black or African American population (1,062,762) followed by North Carolina (1,047,353), representing 7.1 percent and 7 percent of the nation's total Black or African American population, respectively. Georgia and North Carolina were the only states with Black or African American populations of at least 1 million (Table 1).

In 1950, thirteen states and the District of Columbia had proportions of Black or African American population higher than the national average of 10 percent. Mississippi had the highest Black or African American population share of its total population (45.3 percent), followed by South Carolina at 38.8 percent, and the District of Columbia at 35 percent (Table 1 & Map 1).

Table 1: Black or African American Population for the United States and States: 1950

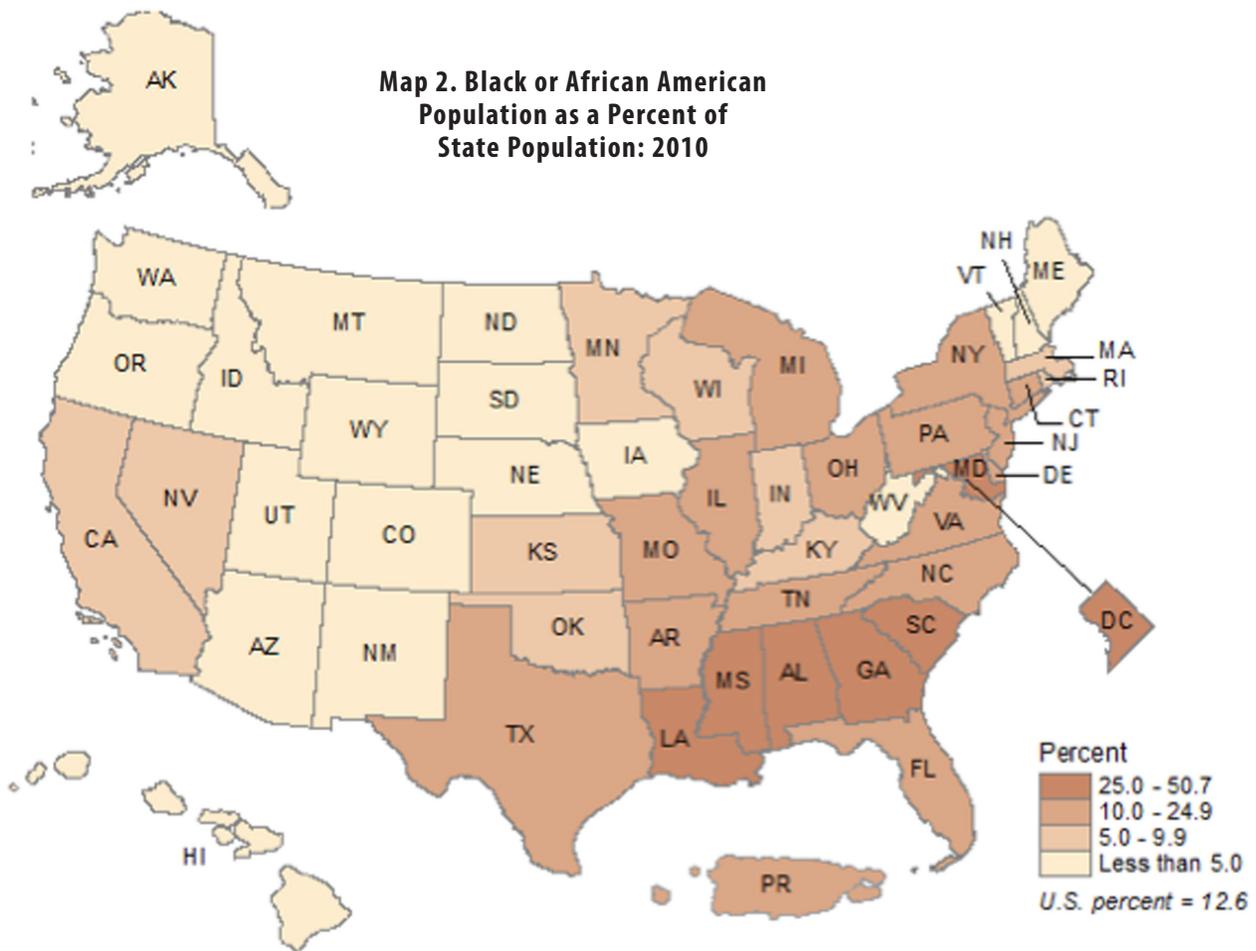
State	Total	Black or African American		
		Number	Percent of State Total	% of total Black or African American population in the U.S.
U.S. Total	150,697,361	15,042,286	10.0	100.0
Alabama	3,061,743	979,617	32.0	6.5
Arizona	749,587	25,974	3.5	0.2
Arkansas	1,909,511	426,639	22.3	2.8
California	10,586,223	462,172	4.4	3.1
Colorado	1,325,089	20,177	1.5	0.1
Connecticut	2,007,280	53,472	2.7	0.4
Delaware	318,085	43,598	13.7	0.3
District of Columbia	802,178	280,803	35.0	1.9
Florida	2,771,305	603,101	21.8	4.0
Georgia	3,444,578	1,062,762	30.9	7.1
Idaho	588,637	1,050	0.2	0.0
Illinois	8,712,176	645,980	7.4	4.3
Indiana	3,934,224	174,168	4.4	1.2
Iowa	2,621,073	19,692	0.8	0.1
Kansas	1,905,299	73,158	3.8	0.5
Kentucky	2,944,806	201,921	6.9	1.3
Louisiana	2,683,516	882,428	32.9	5.9
Maine	913,774	1,221	0.1	0.0
Maryland	2,343,001	385,972	16.5	2.6
Massachusetts	4,690,514	73,171	1.6	0.5
Michigan	6,371,766	442,296	6.9	2.9
Minnesota	2,982,483	14,022	0.5	0.1
Mississippi	2,178,914	986,494	45.3	6.6
Missouri	3,954,653	297,088	7.5	2.0
Montana	591,024	1,232	0.2	0.0
Nebraska	1,325,510	19,234	1.5	0.1
Nevada	160,083	4,302	2.7	0.0
New Hampshire	533,242	731	0.1	0.0
New Jersey	4,835,329	318,565	6.6	2.1
New Mexico	681,187	8,408	1.2	0.1
New York	14,830,192	918,191	6.2	6.1
North Carolina	4,061,929	1,047,353	25.8	7.0
North Dakota	619,636	257	0.0	0.0
Ohio	7,946,627	513,072	6.5	3.4
Oklahoma	2,233,351	145,503	6.5	1.0
Oregon	1,521,341	11,529	0.8	0.1
Pennsylvania	10,498,012	638,485	6.1	4.2
Rhode Island	791,896	13,903	1.8	0.1
South Carolina	2,117,027	822,077	38.8	5.5
South Dakota	652,740	727	0.1	0.0
Tennessee	3,291,718	530,603	16.1	3.5
Texas	7,711,194	977,458	12.7	6.5
Utah	688,862	2,729	0.4	0.0
Vermont	377,747	443	0.1	0.0
Virginia	3,318,680	734,211	22.1	4.9
Washington	2,378,963	30,691	1.3	0.2
West Virginia	2,005,552	114,867	5.7	0.8
Wisconsin	3,434,575	28,182	0.8	0.2
Wyoming	290,529	2,557	0.9	0.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1950 Census

Table 2. Black or African American Population for the United States and States: 2010

State	Total	Black or African American		
		Number	Percent of State Total	% of total Black or African American population in the U.S.
U.S. Total	308,745,538	38,929,319	12.6	100
Alabama	4,779,736	1,251,311	26.2	3.2
Alaska	710,231	23,263	3.3	0.1
Arizona	6,392,017	259,008	4.1	0.7
Arkansas	2,915,918	449,895	15.4	1.2
California	37,253,956	2,299,072	6.2	5.9
Colorado	5,029,196	201,737	4.0	0.5
Connecticut	3,574,097	362,296	10.1	0.9
Delaware	897,934	191,814	21.4	0.5
District of Columbia	601,723	305,125	50.7	0.8
Florida	18,801,310	2,999,862	16.0	7.7
Georgia	9,687,653	2,950,435	30.5	7.6
Hawaii	1,360,301	21,424	1.6	0.1
Idaho	1,567,582	9,810	0.6	0.0
Illinois	12,830,632	1,866,414	14.5	4.8
Indiana	6,483,802	591,397	9.1	1.5
Iowa	3,046,355	89,148	2.9	0.2
Kansas	2,853,118	167,864	5.9	0.4
Kentucky	4,339,367	337,520	7.8	0.9
Louisiana	4,533,372	1,452,396	32	3.7
Maine	1,328,361	15,707	1.2	0.0
Maryland	5,773,552	1,700,298	29.4	4.4
Massachusetts	6,547,629	434,398	6.6	1.1
Michigan	9,883,640	1,400,362	14.2	3.6
Minnesota	5,303,925	274,412	5.2	0.7
Mississippi	2,967,297	1,098,385	37	2.8
Missouri	5,988,927	693,391	11.6	1.8
Montana	989,415	4,027	0.4	0.0
Nebraska	1,826,341	82,885	4.5	0.2
Nevada	2,700,551	218,626	8.1	0.6
New Hampshire	1,316,470	15,035	1.1	0.0
New Jersey	8,791,894	1,204,826	13.7	3.1
New Mexico	2,059,179	42,550	2.1	0.1
New York	19,378,102	3,073,800	15.9	7.9
North Carolina	9,535,483	2,048,628	21.5	5.3
North Dakota	672,591	7,960	1.2	0.0
Ohio	11,536,504	1,407,681	12.2	3.6
Oklahoma	3,751,351	277,644	7.4	0.7
Oregon	3,831,074	69,206	1.8	0.2
Pennsylvania	12,702,379	1,377,689	10.8	3.5
Rhode Island	1,052,567	60,189	5.7	0.2
South Carolina	4,625,364	1,290,684	27.9	3.3
South Dakota	814,180	10,207	1.3	0.0
Tennessee	6,346,105	1,057,315	16.7	2.7
Texas	25,145,561	2,979,598	11.8	7.7
Utah	2,763,885	29,287	1.1	0.1
Vermont	625,741	6,277	1.0	0.0
Virginia	8,001,024	1,551,399	19.4	4.0
Washington	6,724,540	240,042	3.6	0.6
West Virginia	1,852,994	63,124	3.4	0.2
Wisconsin	5,686,986	359,148	6.3	0.9
Wyoming	563,626	4,748	0.8	0.0
Puerto Rico	3,725,789	461,498	12.4	1.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census



**Black or African American Population in Washington Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) in 1990
(Data not available for 1950)**

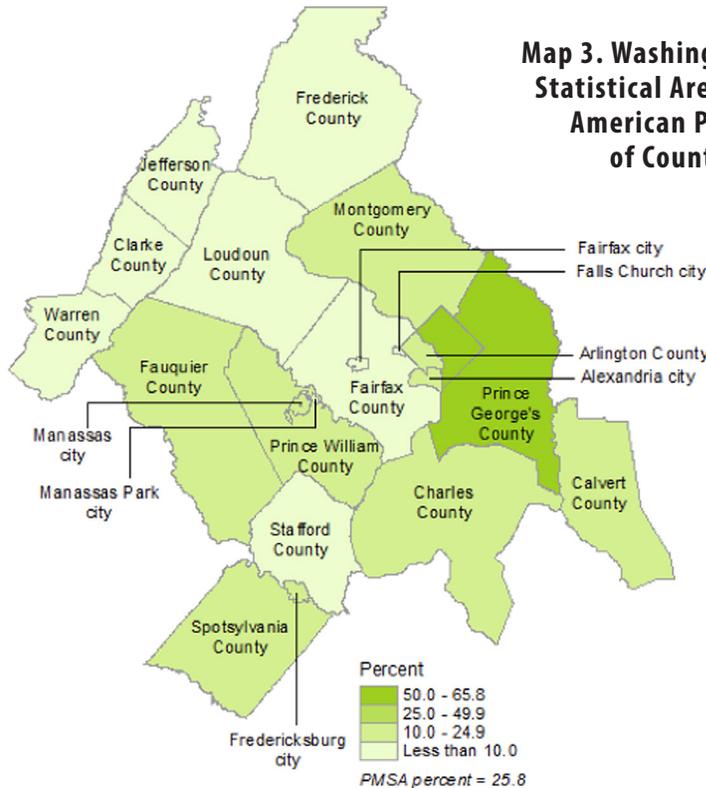
The Washington Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) includes 22 jurisdictions, with the District of Columbia at the hub of the region, joined by Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, and Frederick counties in Maryland; Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Fauquier, Clarke, and Warren counties, and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Fredericksburg in Virginia; and Jefferson County in West Virginia.

According to the 1990 Census, the Washington Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area had a total population of 4,122,914. Of the total, 1,062,696 or 25.8 percent were Blacks or African Americans. In 1990, more than two-thirds or 72.4 percent of Blacks or African Americans in the Washington Primary Metropolitan area lived in the District of Columbia and Prince George's County. The District of Columbia had the largest Black or African American population (399,604), accounting for 37.6 percent and Prince George's County had the second largest (369,791), representing 34.8 percent of the Washington Metropolitan Area's total Black or African American population (Table 3). The District of Columbia and Prince George's County also had the highest proportions of Black or African American population share of their total population (65.8 percent and 50.7 percent, respectively) in the Washington Metropolitan Area (Table 3 and Map 3).

Table 3. Washington Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) Black or African American Population by County: 1990

Geography	Total Population	Black or African American Population		
		Number	Percent	% of total Black or African American
Total Washington Metro Area	4,122,914	1,062,696	25.8	100.0
District of Columbia,	606,900	399,604	65.8	37.6
Calvert County, Maryland	51,372	8,046	15.7	0.8
Charles County, Maryland	101,154	18,419	18.2	1.7
Frederick County, Maryland	150,208	8,010	5.3	0.8
Montgomery County, Maryland	757,027	92,267	12.2	8.7
Prince George's County, Maryland	729,268	369,791	50.7	34.8
Arlington County, Virginia	170,936	17,940	10.5	1.7
Clarke County, Virginia	12,101	1,054	8.7	0.1
Fairfax County, Virginia	818,584	63,325	7.7	6.0
Fauquier County, Virginia	48,741	5,462	11.2	0.5
Loudoun County, Virginia	86,129	6,168	7.2	0.6
Prince William County, Virginia	215,686	25,078	11.6	2.4
Spotsylvania County, Virginia	57,403	6,178	10.8	0.6
Stafford County, Virginia	61,236	4,304	7.0	0.4
Warren County, Virginia	26,142	1,292	4.9	0.1
Alexandria city, Virginia	111,183	24,339	21.9	2.3
Fairfax city, Virginia	19,622	966	4.9	0.1
Falls Church city, Virginia	9,578	298	3.1	0.0
Fredericksburg city, Virginia	19,027	4,115	21.6	0.4
Manassas city, Virginia	27,957	2,889	10.3	0.3
Manassas Park city, Virginia	6,734	490	7.3	0.0
Jefferson County, West Virginia	35,926	2,661	7.4	0.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census



Black or African American Population in Washington Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) in 2010

According to the 2010 Census, the total population of the Washington Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) was 5,582,170, of which 1,438,436 or 25.8 percent were Blacks or African Americans (no change in percent from 1990).

In 2010, more than half or 59.9 percent of Blacks or African Americans in the Washington Primary Metropolitan Area lived in Prince George’s County and the District of Columbia. Prince George’s County had the largest Black or African American population (556,620), accounting for 38.7 percent and the District of Columbia had the second largest (305,125), representing 21.2 percent of the Washington Primary Metropolitan Area’s total Black or African American population (Table 4). The Black population in Prince George’s County, MD increased over 185,000 in 20 years since 1990 while the Black population in the District of Columbia decreased by 94,000, in the same period.

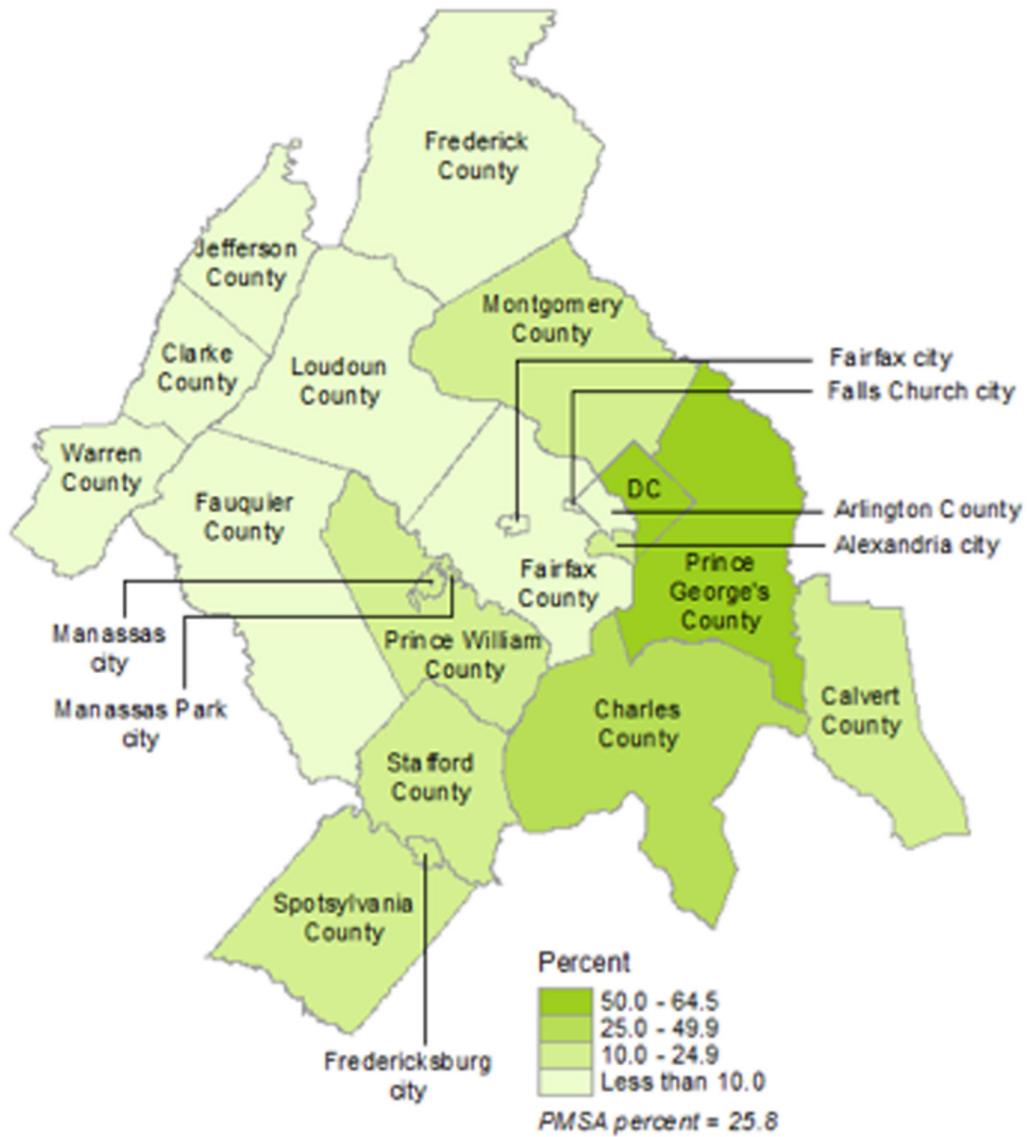
By 2010, Prince George’s County had the highest Black of African American share of its total population (64.5 percent), followed by the District of Columbia at 50.7 percent, and Charles County at 41 percent (Table 4 and Map 4).

Table 4. Washington Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) Black or African American Population by County: 2010

Geography	Total Population	Black or African American Population alone		
		Number	Percent	% of total Black or African American
Total Washington Metro Area	5,582,170	1,438,436	25.8	100.0
District of Columbia,	601,723	305,125	50.7	21.2
Calvert County, Maryland	88,737	11,930	13.4	0.8
Charles County, Maryland	146,551	60,031	41.0	4.2
Frederick County, Maryland	233,385	20,148	8.6	1.4
Montgomery County, Maryland	971,777	167,315	17.2	11.6
Prince George's County, Maryland	863,420	556,620	64.5	38.7
Arlington County, Virginia	207,627	17,632	8.5	1.2
Clarke County, Virginia	14,034	746	5.3	0.1
Fairfax County, Virginia	1,081,726	99,218	9.2	6.9
Fauquier County, Virginia	65,203	5,321	8.2	0.4
Loudoun County, Virginia	312,311	22,710	7.3	1.6
Prince William County, Virginia	402,002	81,196	20.2	5.6
Spotsylvania County, Virginia	122,397	18,671	15.3	1.3
Stafford County, Virginia	128,961	21,881	17.0	1.5
Warren County, Virginia	37,575	1,736	4.6	0.1
Alexandria city, Virginia	139,966	30,491	21.8	2.1
Fairfax city, Virginia	22,565	1,071	4.7	0.1
Falls Church city, Virginia	12,332	532	4.3	0.0
Fredericksburg city, Virginia	24,286	5,498	22.6	0.4
Manassas city, Virginia	37,821	5,188	13.7	0.4
Manassas Park city, Virginia	14,273	1,852	13.0	0.1
Jefferson County, West Virginia	53,498	3,524	6.6	0.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Map 4. Washington Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) Black or African American Population as a Percent of County Population: 2010



Black or African American Population in the District of Columbia in 1950

Census 1950 counted 802,178 residents in the District of Columbia, of which 280,803 or 35 percent were Blacks of African Americans. Blacks or African Americans lived in all wards across the District, however, the highest concentrations were in Wards 1, 2, 6, and 7 (Map 5).

Blacks or African Americans in Ward 6 constituted 29.7 percent of the District’s total Black or African American population, while Blacks or African Americans in Ward 3 accounted for only 0.5 percent. Ward 6 also had the highest Black or African American share of its total population (57.8 percent), followed by Ward 1 at 47.7 percent, Ward 7 at 43.8 percent and Ward 2 at 39.1 percent (Table 5).

Map 5. District of Columbia Black or African American Population as a Percent of Census Tract Population: 1950

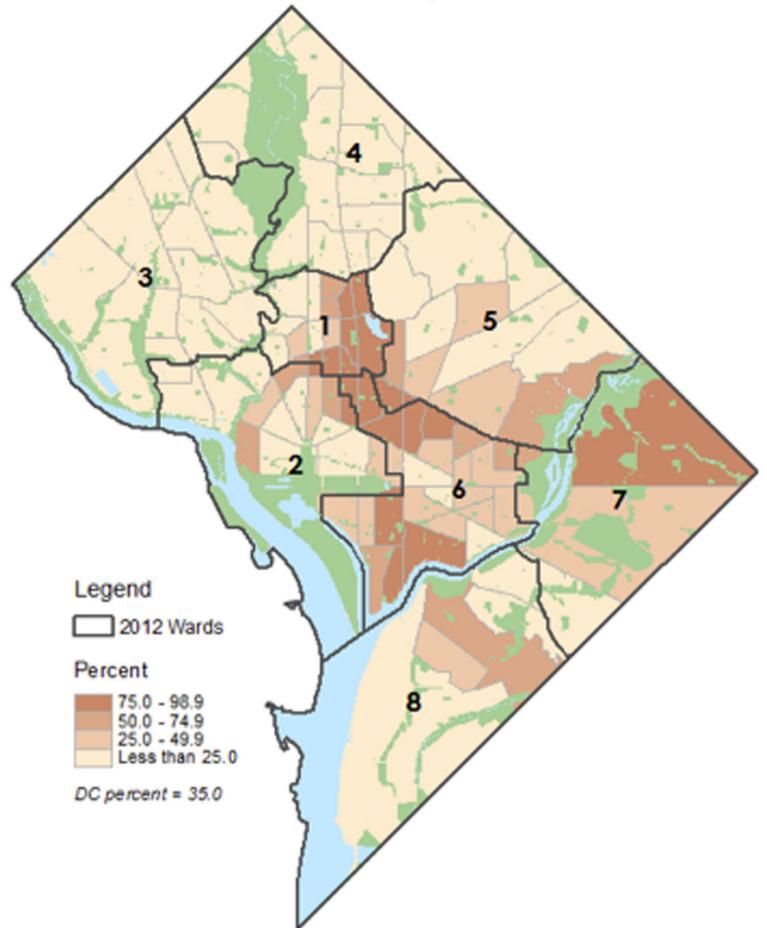


Table 5. District of Columbia Black or African American Population by Ward: 1950

Ward*	Total Population	Black		
		Number	Percent of Ward Total	% of total Black or African American in the District
District total	802,178	280,803	35.0	100.0
Ward 1	96,910	46,214	47.7	16.5
Ward 2	127,298	49,828	39.1	17.7
Ward 3	65,607	1,438	2.2	0.5
Ward 4	86,930	2,313	2.7	0.8
Ward 5	107,365	34,857	32.5	12.4
Ward 6	144,200	83,366	57.8	29.7
Ward 7	106,529	46,631	43.8	16.6
Ward 8	67,339	16,156	24.0	5.8

*1950 data by 2012 Ward Boundaries

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1950 Census

Black or African American Population in the District of Columbia in 2010

In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau counted 601,723 residents in the District of Columbia, of which, 305,125 or 50.7 percent were Blacks or African Americans. Blacks or African Americans lived in all Wards across the District, however, highest concentrations were in Wards 4, 5, 7, and 8 (Map 6) – the eastern half of the city.

According to the 2010 Census, using the 2012 Ward boundaries, more than three-fourths or 77.9 percent of Blacks or African Americans in the District lived in four Wards (Ward 4, 5, 7, and 8). Ward 8 had the largest Black or African American population (68,944), representing 22.6 percent of the District’s total Black or African American population, while Ward 3 accounted for only 1.3 percent. In 2010, Ward 7 had the highest Black or African American population share of its total population (94.6 percent), followed by Ward 8 at 93.6 percent, Ward 5 at 76 percent and Ward 4 at 58.7 percent (Table 6).

Map 6. District of Columbia Black or African American Population as a Percent of Census Tract Population: 2010

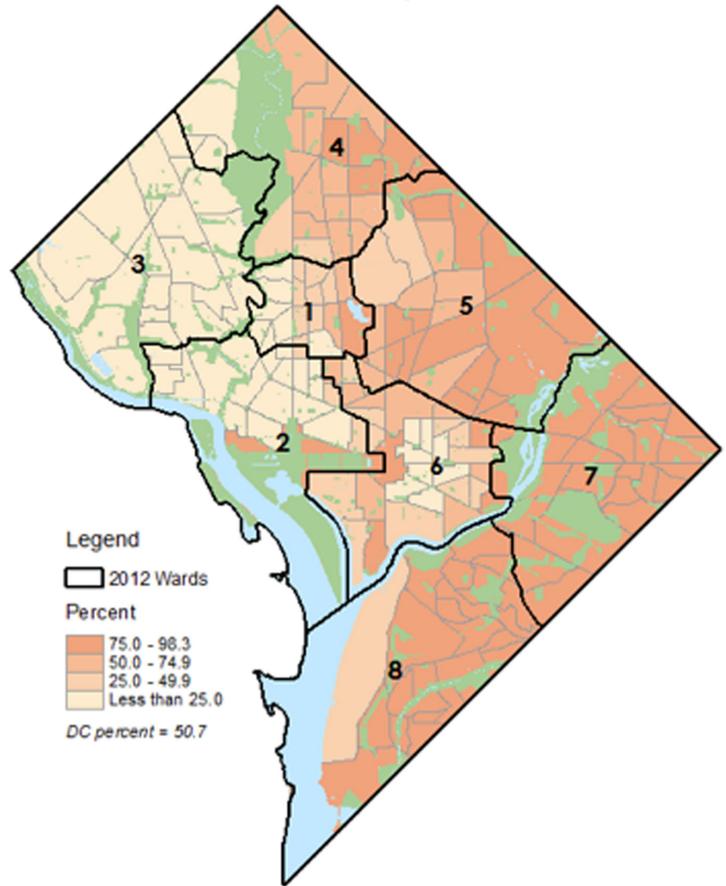


Table 6. District of Columbia Black or African American Population by Ward: 2010

Ward*	Total Population	Black		
		Number	Percent of Ward Total	% of total Black or African American in the District
District total	601,723	305,125	50.7	100.0
Ward 1	74,462	24,709	33.2	8.1
Ward 2	76,645	6,760	8.8	2.2
Ward 3	78,887	3,945	5.0	1.3
Ward 4	75,773	44,459	58.7	14.6
Ward 5	74,308	56,489	76.0	18.5
Ward 6	76,238	31,969	41.9	10.5
Ward 7	71,748	67,850	94.6	22.2
Ward 8	73,662	68,944	93.6	22.6

*2010 data by 2012 Ward boundaries
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

For more information contact:

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