

## Education

- More than 80 percent of blacks aged 25 or older are high school graduates, a share not far below the 85 percent of all Americans with a high school diploma.
- By state, the percentage of blacks with a college degree is highest, at 29 percent, in Maryland and lowest, at 12 percent, in Indiana.
- Of the nation's 76 million students, more than 12 million—or 16 percent—are black. In some states, blacks are the majority or near majority of public school students.
- Among the nation's 17 million college students, 14 percent are black. Fifty-six percent of black college students are enrolled in four-year colleges, 30 percent in two-year schools, and 14 percent in graduate school.
- Of the 1.4 million bachelor's degrees awarded in 2004–05, blacks earned 9 percent. In that school year, blacks earned a larger 12 percent of associate's degrees, 9 percent of master's degrees, 6 percent of doctoral degrees, and 7 percent of first-professional degrees.
- Nearly half of the nation's 23 million blacks aged 16 or older participated in adult education programs during the 2004–05 academic year.

# Black Educational Attainment Has Grown Rapidly

**Blacks are almost as likely as the average American to be high school graduates.**

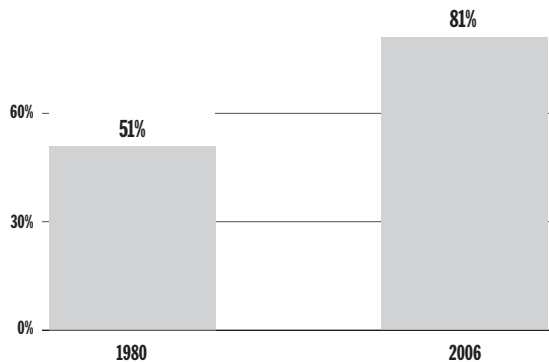
More than 80 percent of blacks aged 25 or older are high school graduates, a share not far below the 85 percent of all Americans with a high school diploma. Blacks still lag in college experience. Only 19 percent of blacks have a college degree compared with 28 percent for the population as a whole.

The educational attainment of blacks varies greatly by age. Among blacks under age 55, at least 85 percent have graduated from high school. Among those aged 65 or older, the proportion is just 55 percent. Among blacks under age 45, at least one in five has a college degree compared with only about one in ten blacks aged 65 or older. The greater opportunity available to younger generations of blacks is clearly evident in these statistics.

■ The proportion of blacks with a college education will continue to climb, but only if college remains affordable for the middle class.

## Many more blacks are high school graduates

*(percent of blacks aged 25 or older with a high school diploma, 1980 and 2006)*



**Table 1.1 Total and Black Educational Attainment, 1980 to 2006**

(percent of total people and blacks aged 25 or older completing high school or college, 1980 to 2006; percentage point change, 1980–2006)

	high school graduates		college graduates	
	total	black	total	black
2006	85.5%	80.7%	28.0%	18.5%
2005	85.2	81.1	27.7	17.6
2004	85.2	80.6	27.7	17.6
2003	84.6	80.0	27.2	17.3
2002	84.1	78.7	26.7	17.0
2001	84.1	78.8	26.2	15.7
2000	84.1	78.5	25.6	16.5
1999	83.4	77.0	25.2	15.4
1998	82.8	76.0	24.4	14.7
1997	82.1	74.9	23.9	13.3
1996	81.7	74.3	23.6	13.6
1995	81.7	73.8	23.0	13.2
1994	80.9	72.9	22.2	12.9
1993	80.2	70.4	21.9	12.2
1992	79.4	67.7	21.4	11.9
1991	78.4	66.7	21.4	11.5
1990	77.6	66.2	21.3	11.3
1989	76.9	64.6	21.1	11.8
1988	76.2	63.5	20.3	11.2
1987	75.6	63.4	19.9	10.7
1986	74.7	62.3	19.4	10.9
1985	73.9	59.8	19.4	11.1
1984	73.3	58.5	19.1	10.4
1983	72.1	56.8	18.8	9.5
1982	71.0	54.9	17.7	8.8
1981	69.7	52.9	17.1	8.2
1980	68.6	51.2	17.0	7.9
<b>Percentage point change</b>				
2000 to 2006	1.4	2.2	2.5	2.2
1980 to 2006	16.9	29.5	11.0	10.6

Note: From 2003 through 2006, blacks are those who identify themselves as being of the race alone.

Source: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Surveys, Internet site <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/educ-attn.html>; calculations by New Strategist

# Ten Percent of Blacks Have Diabetes

**Blacks account for a disproportionate share of Americans experiencing a number of chronic conditions.**

Blacks aged 18 or older suffer from a variety of health conditions at a higher than average rate. Twenty-nine percent of black adults have high blood pressure, 25 percent have chronic lower back pain, and 19 percent have arthritis. Blacks account for 11 percent of the population, but are an even larger share of those with hypertension, stroke, asthma, prostate cancer, diabetes, and kidney disease.

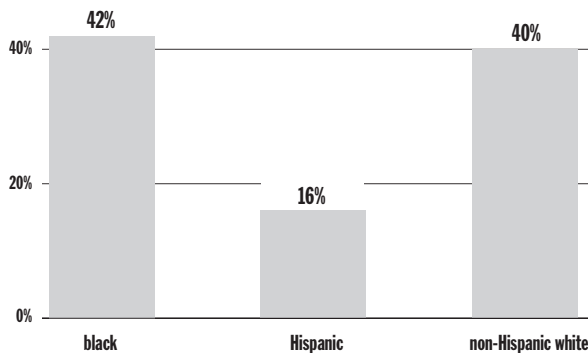
Black children are also more likely than average to experience a variety of health conditions. Seventeen percent have been diagnosed with asthma, and blacks account for more than one in five children with asthma in the United States. Black children account for 18 percent of those with a learning disability, although only 7 percent of black children have been diagnosed with the problem. Fourteen percent of black children have allergies, and 13 percent have taken prescription medicine regularly for at least three months.

Sixteen percent of blacks aged 18 or older have difficulties in physical functioning. A substantial 9 percent find it difficult or impossible to walk a quarter mile, and 10 percent have trouble standing for two hours. Blacks make up the largest share of cumulative AIDS cases, at 42 percent. Non-Hispanic whites account for a smaller 40 percent of the nation's total AIDS cases.

■ The poorer health of the black population is due in part to their lower socioeconomic status and lesser access to health care services.

### Among AIDS cases, blacks outnumber non-Hispanic whites

*(percent distribution of cumulative AIDS cases by race and Hispanic origin, through 2005)*



**Table 2.15 Health Conditions among Total and Black Adults, 2005**

(number of total people and blacks aged 18 or older with selected health conditions, percent of blacks with condition, and black share of total with condition, 2005; numbers in thousands)

	total	blacks		
		number	percent with condition	share of total
<b>Total people</b>	<b>217,774</b>	<b>24,817</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>11.4%</b>
<b>Selected circulatory diseases</b>				
Heart disease, all types	25,583	2,258	9.1	8.8
Coronary	14,088	1,311	5.3	9.3
Hypertension	48,759	7,097	28.6	14.6
Stroke	5,166	706	2.8	13.7
<b>Selected respiratory conditions</b>				
Emphysema	3,791	180	0.7	4.7
Asthma				
Ever had	23,334	2,899	11.7	12.4
Still have	15,697	2,048	8.3	13.0
Hay fever	18,651	1,502	6.1	8.1
Sinusitis	29,517	3,292	13.3	11.2
Chronic bronchitis	8,912	1,063	4.3	11.9
<b>Cancer</b>				
Any cancer	15,995	816	3.3	5.1
Breast cancer (all adults)	2,623	169	0.7	6.4
Cervical cancer (women only)	1,215	67	0.3	5.5
Prostate cancer (men only)	1,830	244	1.0	13.3
<b>Other selected diseases and conditions</b>				
Diabetes	16,186	2,513	10.1	15.5
Ulcers	15,104	1,327	5.3	8.8
Kidney disease	3,791	570	2.3	15.0
Liver disease	2,965	314	1.3	10.6
Arthritis	46,941	4,718	19.0	10.1
Chronic joint symptoms	58,863	5,593	22.5	9.5
Migraines or severe headaches	32,826	3,621	14.6	11.0
Pain in neck	32,294	2,954	11.9	9.1
Pain in lower back	61,965	6,303	25.4	10.2
Pain in face or jaw	9,639	964	3.9	10.0
<b>Selected sensory problems</b>				
Hearing	36,454	2,155	8.7	5.9
Vision	20,255	2,538	10.2	12.5
Absence of all natural teeth	16,310	2,014	8.1	12.3

Note: The conditions shown are those that have ever been diagnosed by a doctor, except as noted. Hay fever, sinusitis, and chronic bronchitis have been diagnosed in the past 12 months. Kidney and liver disease have been diagnosed in the past 12 months and exclude kidney stones, bladder infections, and incontinence. Chronic joint symptoms are shown if respondent had pain, aching, or stiffness in or around a joint (excluding back and neck) and the condition began more than three months ago. Migraines, pain in neck, lower back, face, or jaw are shown only if pain lasted a whole day or more.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2005, Series 10, No. 232, 2007, Internet site <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>

**Table 4.12 Median Income of Total and Black Women Who Work Full-Time, 1990 to 2005**

(median income of total and black women who work full-time, year-round, and index of black to total, 1990 to 2005; percent change in income for selected years; in 2005 dollars)

	median income of full-time workers		index, black to total
	total women	black women	
2005	\$33,256	\$30,366	91
2004	33,190	30,169	91
2003	33,591	29,369	87
2002	33,619	30,072	89
2001	33,547	30,103	90
2000	33,013	29,189	88
1999	32,057	29,450	92
1998	32,120	28,542	89
1997	31,570	27,610	87
1996	30,889	27,241	88
1995	30,245	26,813	89
1994	30,313	26,877	89
1993	29,892	27,026	90
1992	30,125	27,623	92
1991	29,695	26,744	90
1990	29,822	26,857	90
<b>Percent change</b>			
2000 to 2005	0.7%	4.0%	—
1990 to 2005	11.5	13.1	—

Note: Beginning in 2002, data for blacks are for those who identify themselves as being of the race alone or as being of the race in combination with other races. The black/total indexes are calculated by dividing the median income of black women by the median income of total women and multiplying by 100. "—" means not applicable.

Source: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Surveys, Historical Income Tables—People, Internet site <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/histinc/incpertoc.html>; calculations by New Strategist

**Table 9.9 Indexed Participation in Primary Activities: Black Men, 2005**

(percent of black men and total men aged 15 or older participating in primary activities on an average day, and index of participation by black men to total men, 2005)

	percent participating		index, black men to total men
	black men	total men	
<b>Total, all activities</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100</b>
Personal care	100.0	100.0	100
Sleeping	99.8	99.9	100
Grooming	76.6	75.1	102
Eating and drinking	94.5	97.4	97
Household activities	58.3	64.5	90
Housework	20.9	19.4	108
Food preparation and cleanup	38.0	37.1	102
Lawn, garden, and houseplants	—	11.8	—
Household management	14.3	15.1	94
Consumer purchases (store, telephone, Internet)	40.8	40.0	102
Consumer goods purchases	36.5	36.0	101
Professional and personal care	—	6.7	—
Caring for and helping household members	18.6	20.5	91
Caring for and helping household children	15.0	16.4	92
Caring for and helping people in other households	12.8	12.1	106
Caring for and helping adults in other households	9.3	8.6	108
Work and work-related activities	44.7	52.6	85
Working	41.7	50.9	82
Education	—	8.3	—
Attending class	—	6.1	—
Research, homework	—	5.1	—
Organizational, civic, and religious activities	16.9	11.7	144
Religious and spiritual activities	10.8	5.6	193
Volunteer activities	—	7.0	—
Leisure and sports	97.6	96.7	101
Socializing and communicating	42.1	37.6	112
Watching television	80.6	80.7	100
Participating in sports, exercise, or recreation	18.9	19.4	98
Telephone calls, mail, and email	21.6	18.0	120

Note: The index is calculated by dividing percent of black men doing primary activity by percent of total men doing primary activity and multiplying by 100. Primary activities are those respondents identified as their main activity. Other activities done simultaneously, such as eating while watching TV, are not included. “—” means sample is too small to make a reliable estimate.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, unpublished tables from the 2005 American Time Use Survey, Internet site <http://www.bls.gov/tus/home.htm>; calculations by New Strategist