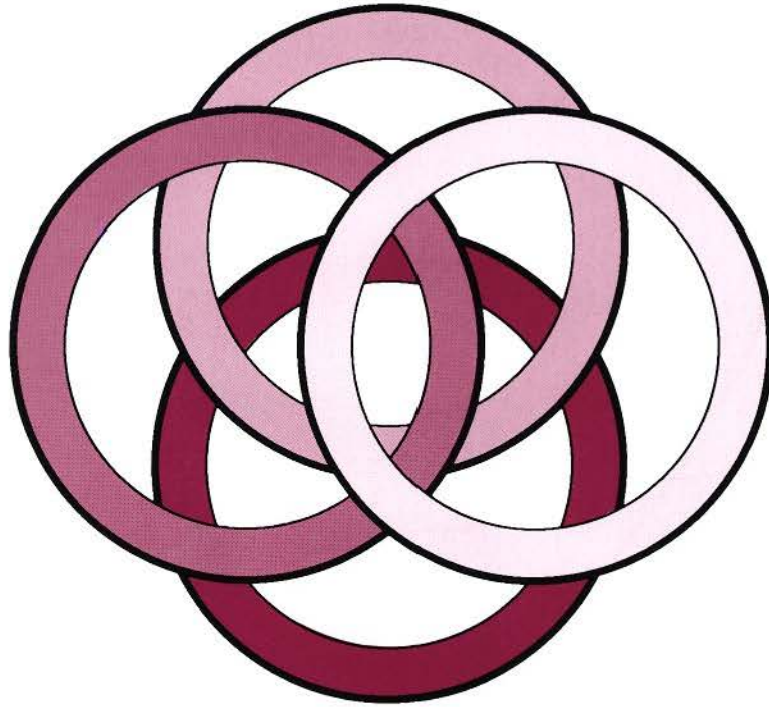


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The Black Population in the United States: A Chartbook



U.S. Department of Commerce
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Acknowledgments

This chartbook was prepared in the Racial Statistics Branch, Population Division. The principal staff members responsible for the content of the chart book were **Claudette Bennett** assisted by **June Cowles**. Overall direction was provided by **Nampeo McKenney**, Assistant Division Chief, Special Population Statistics, Population Division.

Statistical data are subject to sampling variability and certain errors, such as data collection design flaws, respondent classification and reporting errors, and data processing mistakes. The Bureau has taken quality control measures to reduce reported data errors, and data in this chart book have been tested and are in accord with applicable standards. However, caution should be used when comparing these and other data sets. Sampling review was provided by **Wendy Scholetzky**, Statistical Methods Division.

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For further information on Black Statistics, contact **Claudette Bennett**, (301) 763-2607.

Introduction

These charts are from ***The Black Population in the United States: March 1988*** (*Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 442* released January 1990). The report focuses on changes that have occurred in the Black population nationally and regionally since 1980. The data in the charts are from the March 1988 Current Population Survey, the 1980 decennial census, and other sources.

This chartbook includes a facsimile of the race item that will be included on the 1990 census questionnaire. The 1990 census information on Blacks or African Americans will be obtained from this item. The concept of race as used by the Census Bureau reflects self-identification by respondents; it does not denote any clear-cut scientific definition of biological stock. The data on race from the 1990 census will represent self-classification by people according to the race with which they most closely identify. The Black civilian noninstitutional population numbered 29.3 million in March 1988, an increase of 13.6 percent since 1980.

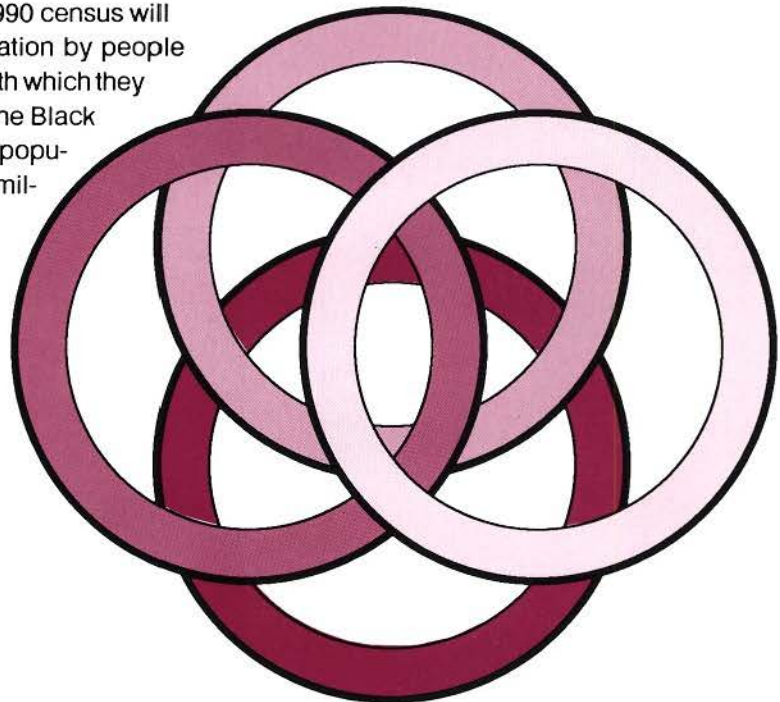


Figure 1.
**Black Population,
 by Region: 1988**

The 1980's was the first period in this century to show an increase in the proportion of Blacks living in the South. In March 1988, 56 percent of all Blacks lived in the South, up from 52 percent in 1980. Forty-four percent of all Blacks lived in the North and West (17 percent in the Northeast, 19 percent in the Midwest, and 8 percent in the West) in 1988.

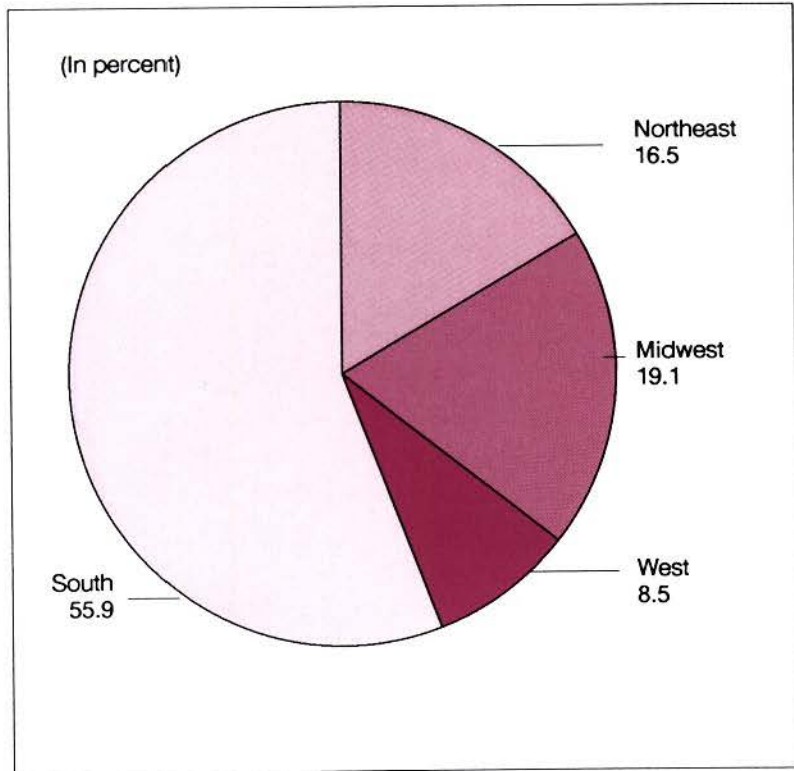
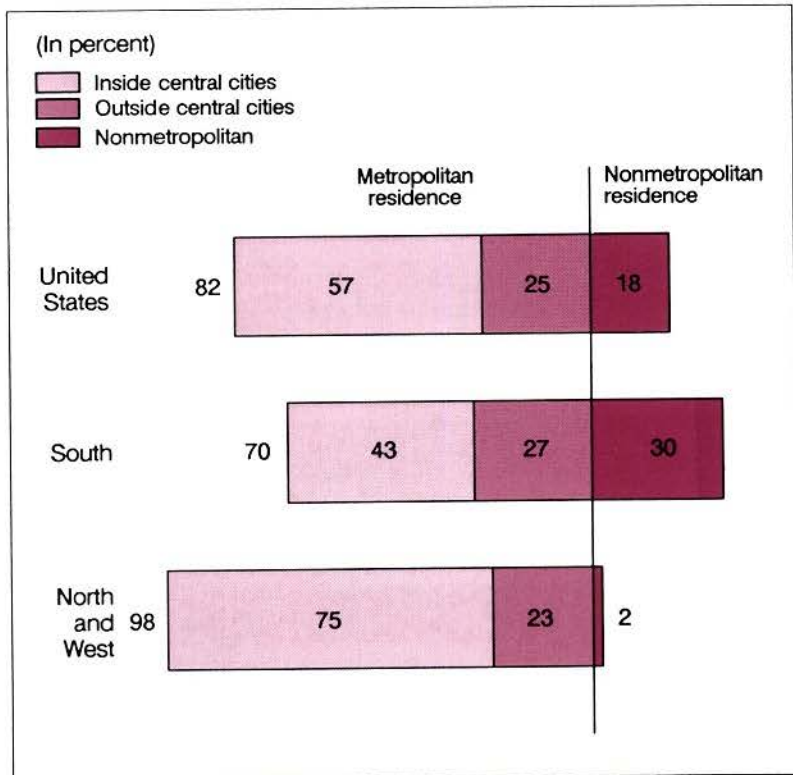


Figure 2.
**Black Population,
 by Region and Metropolitan/
 Nonmetropolitan
 Residence: 1988**

Eighty-two percent of all Blacks lived in metropolitan areas in 1988. Blacks living in metropolitan areas tended to be heavily concentrated in the central cities.

In 1988, 98 percent of all Blacks in the North and West lived in metropolitan areas in contrast to only 70 percent in the South.



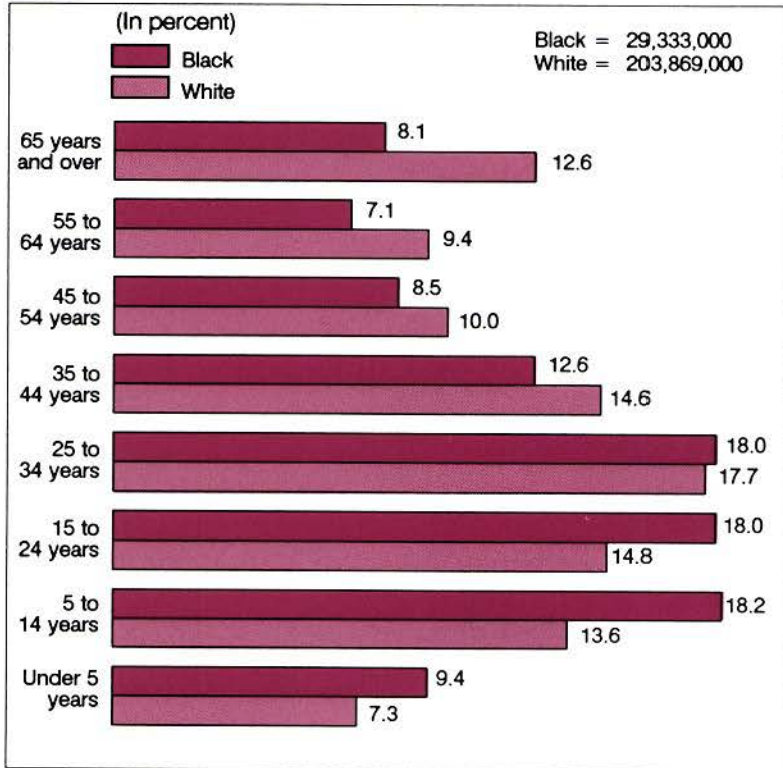


Figure 3.

U.S. Population, by Age and Race: 1988

The Black population has a higher proportion under 18 years old and a lower proportion 65 years old and over than does the White population. In 1988, 33 percent of Blacks were under 18 years of age, compared with 25 percent of Whites. Among the population 65 years old and over, the proportions were 8 and 13 percent, respectively. As of March 1988, the median age for Blacks was 27.3 years, up from 24.8 years in 1980.

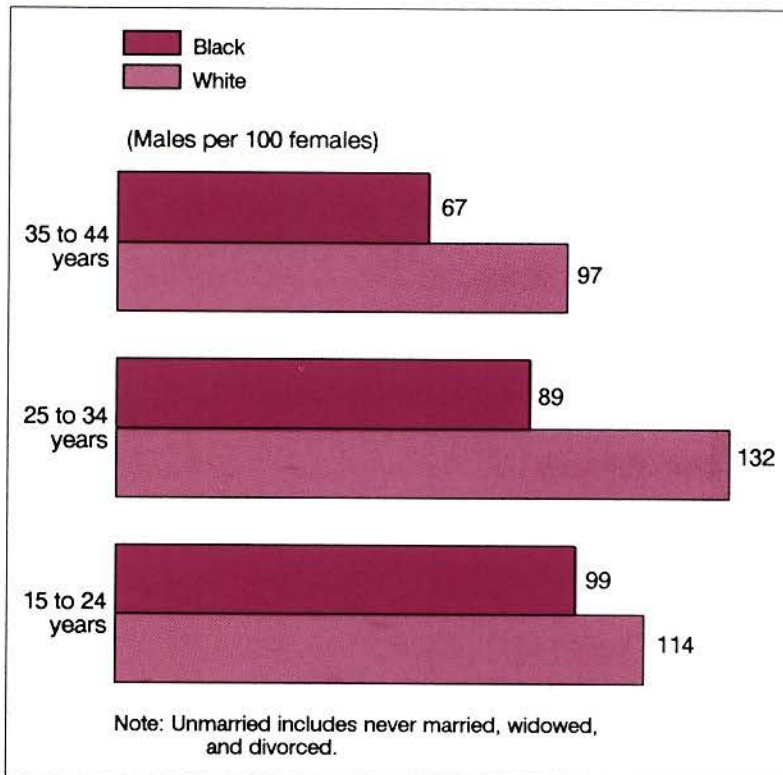


Figure 4.

Ratio of Unmarried Men to Unmarried Women, by Selected Ages: 1988

Figure 4 shows the ratio of unmarried men to unmarried women for Blacks and Whites 15 to 44 years old in 1988. The number of unmarried Black men and unmarried Black women reached parity (99 males per 100 females) for only the 15-24 age group. For the 25-34 age group, there were 89 unmarried Black men for every 100 unmarried Black women; the number drops even further to 67 for the 35-44 age group. The comparable ratios were larger for the White population.

Figure 5.

High School Graduation Rates for Blacks 25 to 34 Years Old, by Region: 1980 and 1988

The progress that Black young adults have made in attaining a high school diploma continues to be impressive in the 1980's. In 1980, 75 percent of Blacks 24 to 34 years old had completed at least 4 years of high school; by 1988, this proportion had increased to 80 percent.

Historically, Blacks in the North and West have had higher educational attainment levels than Blacks living in the South. In 1988, the proportion of Black young adults who completed high school in the South (79 percent) was not significantly different from that in the North and West (82 percent).

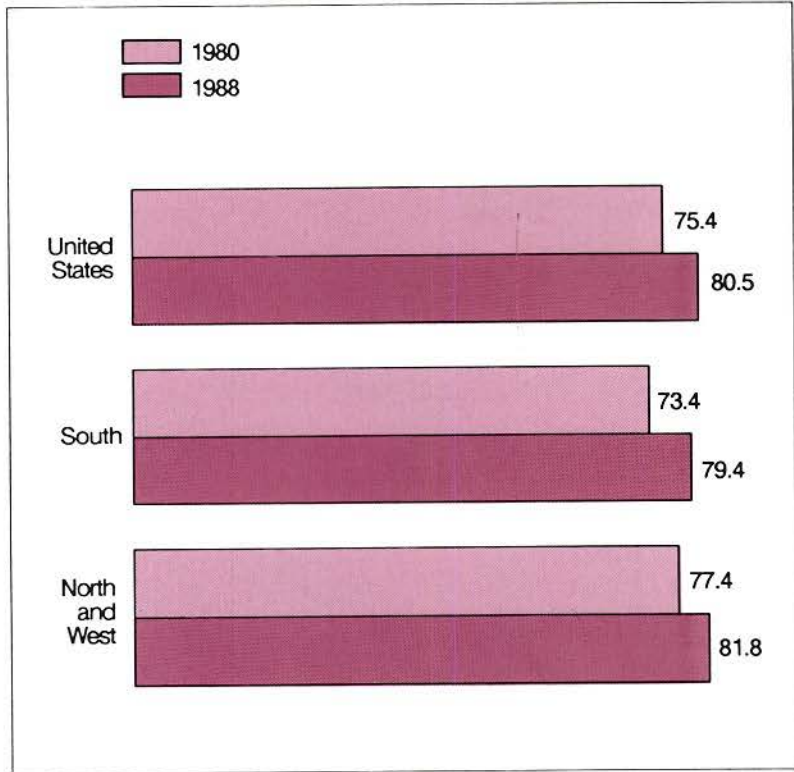
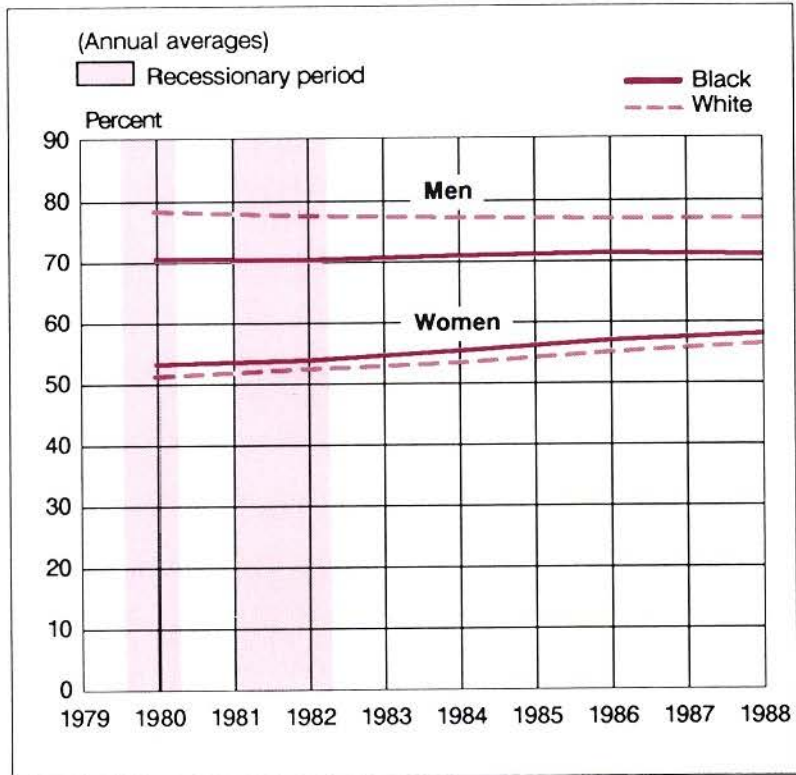


Figure 6.

Civilian Labor Force Participation Rates, by Sex and Race: 1980 to 1988

The 1988 civilian labor force participation rate for Black women (58 percent) was slightly higher than the 56 percent for White women. In spite of the 1980 and 1981-82 recessions, civilian labor force participation rates for both Black and White women increased during the 1980-88 period.

The labor force participation rate for Black men in 1988 was not significantly different from the 1980 rate.



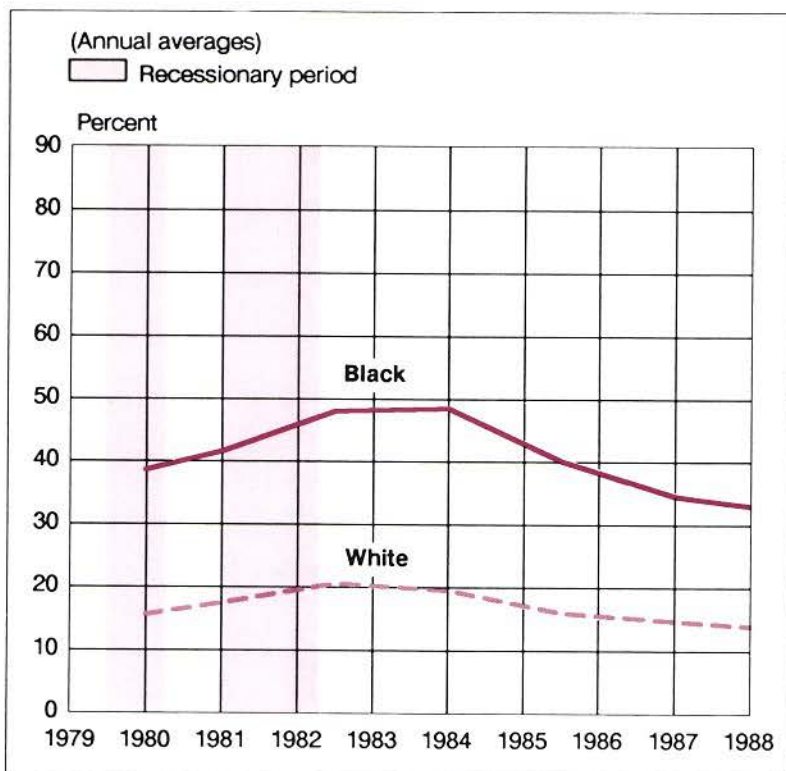


Figure 7.

Unemployment Rates for Teenagers, by Race: 1980 to 1988

The unemployment rate for Black teenagers (16 to 19 years) is of considerable concern since it generally has been the highest of all components of the Black and White populations. In the post-recession period of 1983, Black teen unemployment reached 48.5 percent – much higher than that for White teenagers (19.3 percent). By 1988, the rate for Black teenagers had declined to 32.4 percent – but still 2 1/2 times that for White teenagers (13.1 percent).

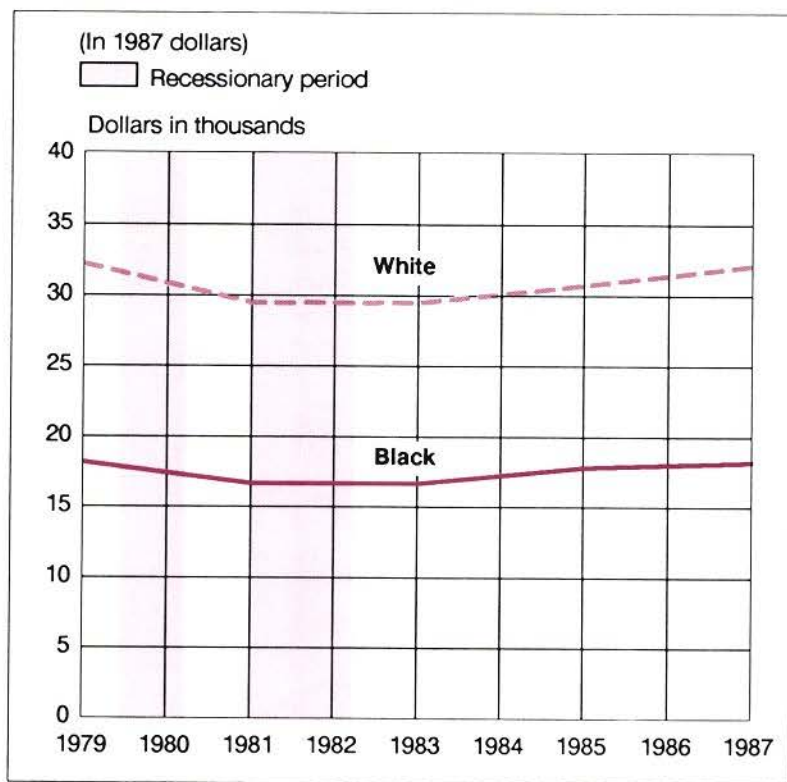


Figure 8.

Median Family Income, by Race of Householder: 1979 to 1987

The Black median family income was \$18,100 in 1987, 56 percent of that for White families (\$32,270). After adjusting for inflation, the median family income for both Black and White families in 1987 was not significantly different from their 1979 levels (\$18,220 and \$32,090, respectively). However, income levels were not stagnant during the entire period, but fluctuated in line with the economic conditions of the Nation.

Figure 9.

**Median Family Income,
by Type of Family and Race
of Householder: 1979 and 1987**

The real median money income of Black, married-couple families in 1979 (\$26,300) was not statistically different from that in 1987 (\$27,180). In 1987, the median income of Black, married-couple families was about 77 percent of White, married-couple families.

In 1987, the median income of Black, female-householder families with no husbands present was only \$9,710.

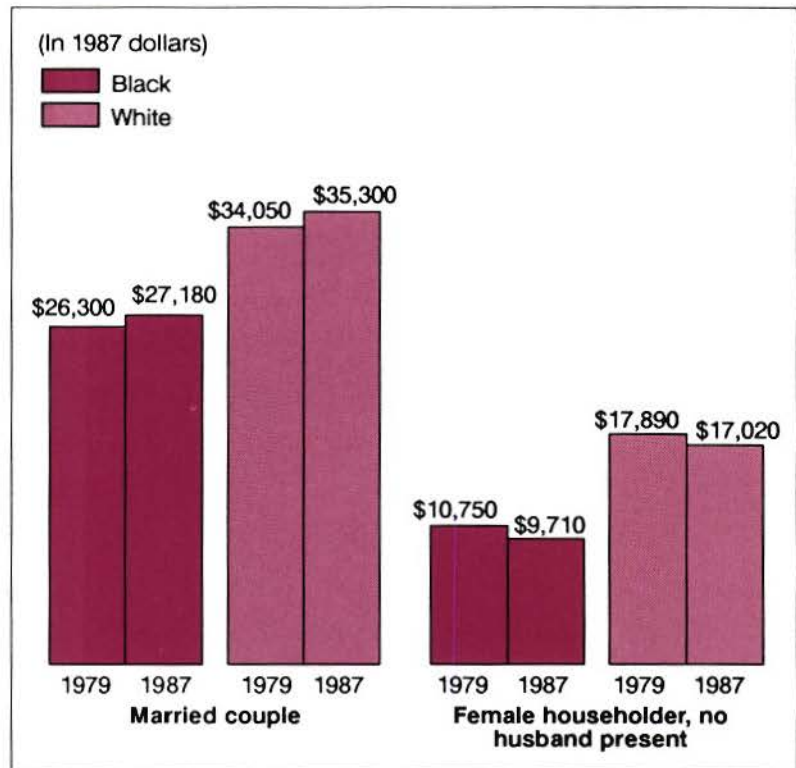
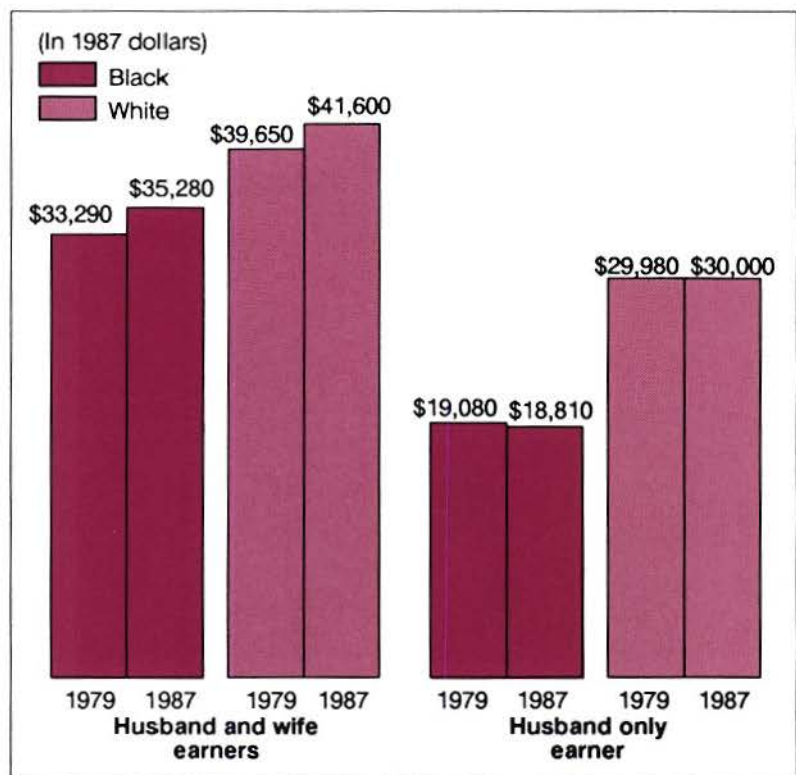


Figure 10.

**Median Income of
Married-Couple Families,
by Earner Status:
1979 and 1987**

In 1987, about 60 percent of Black, married-couple families had both husband and wife with earnings. The median income of these Black families with both husband and wife working was \$35,280, about 87 percent above that for families where the husband was the only earner.

The median income ratio of Black to White was 0.85 for families with both husband and wife as earners, much higher than 0.63 for families with only the husband as an earner.



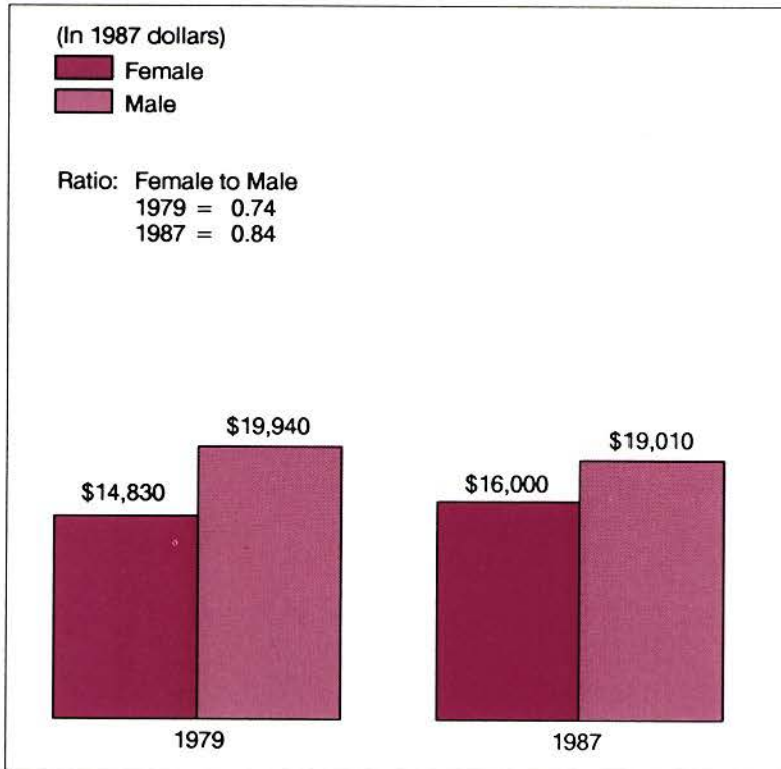


Figure 11.

**Median Earnings of
Year-Round, Full-Time,
Black Workers, by Sex:
1979 and 1987**

The median earnings in 1987 of Black men who were year-round, full-time workers were \$19,010. The apparent decline in the median earnings of Black men between 1987 and 1979 (\$19,940) was not statistically significant. However, the median earnings of Black women who were year-round, full-time workers increased from \$14,830 in 1979 to \$16,000 in 1987. As a result, the median earnings ratio of Black women to Black men increased from 0.74 in 1979 to 0.84 in 1987.

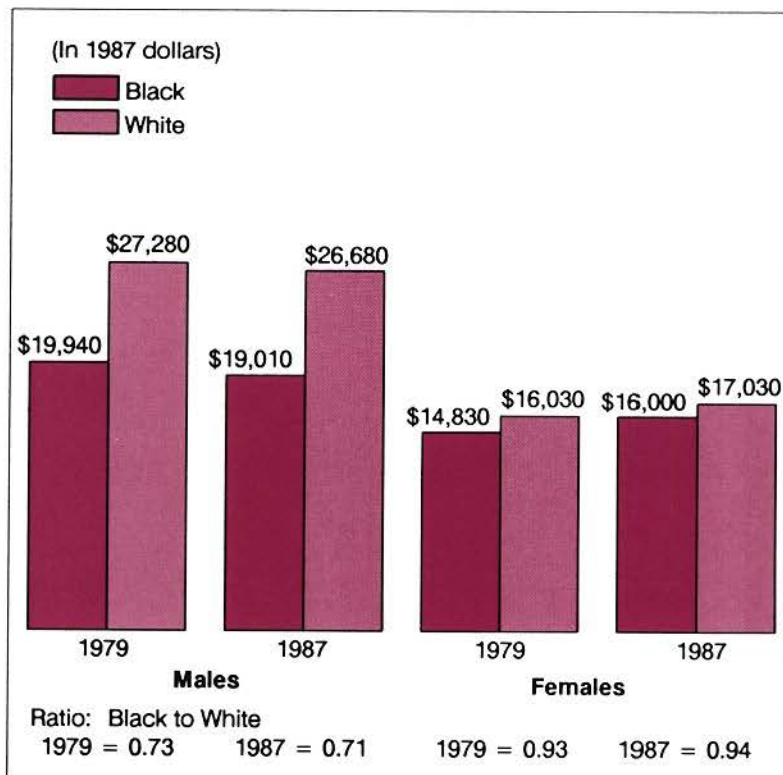


Figure 12.

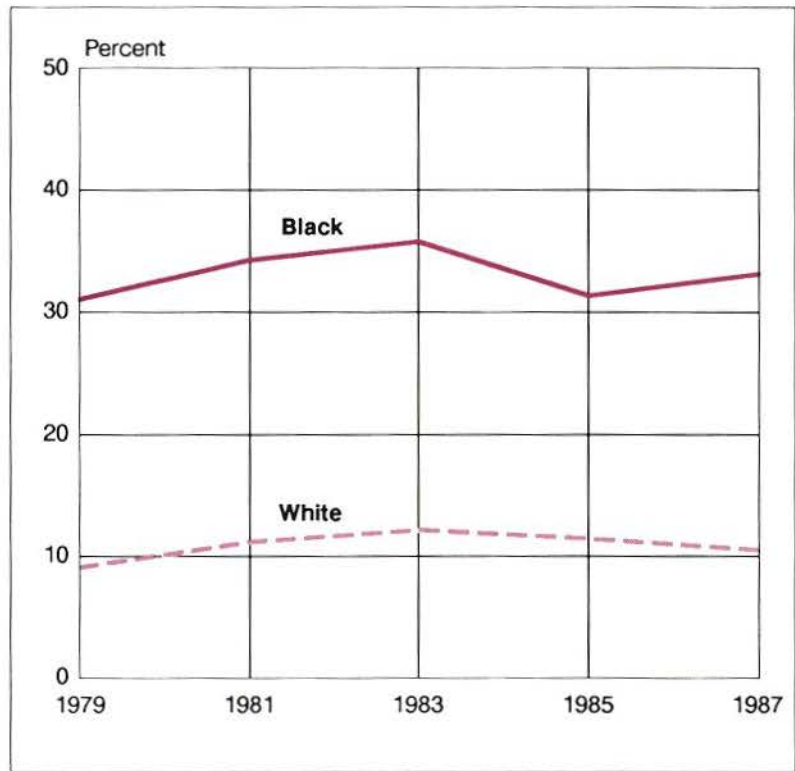
**Median Earnings of
Year-Round, Full-Time
Workers, by Sex and Race:
1979 and 1987**

The median earnings ratio of White women to White men increased from 0.59 in 1979 to 0.64 in 1987. Among year-round, full-time workers, the 1987 median earnings ratio of Black women to Black men was higher (0.84) than that for White women to White men (0.64). White men had the highest median earnings in 1987 (\$26,680) of any of the groups.

Figure 13.

Poverty Rates of Persons, by Race: 1979 to 1987

Thirty-three percent, or 9.7 million, of all Black persons were poor in 1987, an increase over the 31 percent in 1979. The 1987 poverty rate for Blacks (33 percent) was three times that of Whites (11 percent).



Facsimile of the 1990 Race Item.

4. Race
 Fill ONE circle for the race that the person considers himself/herself to be.

If **Indian (Amer.)**, print the name of the enrolled or principal tribe. _____

If **Other Asian or Pacific Islander (API)**, print one group, for example: Hmong, Fijian, Laotian, Thai, Tongan, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on. _____

If **Other race**, print race. _____

- White
- Black or Negro
- Indian (Amer.) (Print the name of the enrolled or principal tribe.) _____
- Eskimo
- Aleut
- Asian or Pacific Islander (API)**
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Hawaiian
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- Japanese
- Asian Indian
- Samoan
- Guamanian
- Other API _____
- Other race (Print race) _____

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about the 1990 Census**

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