

A 100-Year Review of Research on Black Families

Volume II Appendices

Appendix A. Literature on Black Families 1970 – 2010

To identify publications for the review, we began with an initial search of the literature on Black families using Google Scholar, a web search engine that indexes academic literature across multiple disciplines. We used the search terms "Negro family," "Black family," and "African American family" to identify publications for the decades 1920 to 2019. To supplement the initial list of publications and fill potential gaps, we applied the same search terms using JSTOR, a digital library of academic sources. Based on publication abstracts and summaries, we omitted publications that did not have Black families as their primary focus. Given resource limitations, we also omitted dissertations and books—although we included book reviews, when available, in our analyses. Volume II shares insights from a total of 505 research articles, reports, and essays on Black families that were published between 1970 and 2019. In the table below, we provide information on the methods used in these publications.

Table A1. Total Number of Publications and Methodological Approaches

Decade	Total Number of Publications	Empirical Quantitative Studies (% of total)	Empirical Qualitative Studies (% of total)	Mixed-Methods Studies (% of total)	Non-Empirical Publications (% of total)
1970s	89	36%	7%	---	57%
1980s	90	50%	10%	---	40%
1990s	123	42%	22%	4%	32%
2000s	108	38%	27%	----	35%
2010s	95	47%	32%	4%	17%
Total number of publications = 505					

Appendix B. Demographic Characteristics of Black People and Families from 1970–2010

The following demographic data are reported using data from the U.S. Census Bureau (Census) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) available at the start of each decade. That is, data reported for 1970 include census data collected from 1969–1970. For more information on how Census data were collected and on sources and full references for the demographic data, please see the **Technical Appendices** and the **Data on Black Families** section in each decade chapter.

Data on the demographic characteristics of Black people and families were pulled primarily from the U.S. Census and the CDC National Vital Statistics System. All data come from publicly available tables or documents. While the U.S. Census Bureau publishes data tables at data.census.gov, data are not available in these searchable tables prior to 2000. For data prior to 2000, information was pulled from summary reports or research briefs as part of the Census Bureau Library. Summary reports typically provide detailed data tables and descriptive information, while research briefs offer a broader picture of a particular topic. Whenever possible, we either use data tables published on data.census.gov or summary reports from the Census Bureau Library, although in some instances we do reference research briefs published by the Census. Specific data sources and links to the original documentation are included in each decade. Below, we provide a few additional notes on the availability and limitations of these data.

Defining Black families. The Census has not always captured information on Black families in the same way. Prior to the 1970s, for example, the Census tended to bifurcate the population into “White” and “nonwhite” or “all other.” Additionally, as noted in each decade, before 1980, enumerators were instructed to determine the race of individuals based on their own “observations” when this item was left blank by respondents. While this limits our ability to fully capture changing demographics for Black Americans over time, there are some cases where the Census published special reports on “Nonwhite” populations. When possible, we looked to these reports for statistics specific to Black families. In many cases, special reports were not available, and the “nonwhite” or “all other” data were used. However, it should be noted that these data are inclusive of any American who identified as or was deemed to be any race other than White. Please see the write-up for each decade for additional details on shifts in the ways the Census collected information on families’ race and ethnicity over time.

Changes in terminology. As noted throughout the reports, we rely on the terminology, specifically for race, of the original data source in each decade—which changed over time.

Shifts in the availability of metrics and measures. As noted in tables B1 to B9, the definitions of measures shifted slightly over time for some metrics. For example, in 1970, marriage rates are calculated for all individuals over age 14, and in other decades for all individuals over age 15. The availability and definition of measures for the focal metrics are detailed in each decade.

Given data limitations, readers should use caution when interpreting changes in these metrics across time.

Table B1. Marriage Rates for Black Men and Women and the Total Population of Men and Women from 1970 to 2010

Decade	Black Men	Black Women	Total Pop. of Men	Total Pop. of Women
1970*	56.9%	53.0%	65.7%	61.2%
1980†	49.5%	44.9%	63.4%	59.0%
1990†	45.1%	40.2%	60.7%	56.8%
2000†	41.5%	31.2%	56.8%	52.2%
2010†	35.7%	28.7%	58.0%	55.2%

*Marriage rates for the decade indicated are provided for those ages 14 and older.

†Marriage rates for the decade indicated are provided for people ages 15 and older.

Table B2. National Unemployment Rates for Black People and the Total Population from 1970 to 2010

Decade	National Unemployment Rates for Black People	National Unemployment Rates for the Total Population
1970	7.0%	4.6%
1980	11.8%	7.1%
1990	11.4%	5.6%
2000	7.6%	4.0%
2010	16.1%	9.6%

Table B3. National Unemployment Rates for Black Men and Women and the Total Population from 1970 to 2010

Decade	National Unemployment Rates for Black People	Black Men	Black Women	National Unemployment Rates for the Total Population	Total Pop. of Men	Total Pop. of Women
1970	7.0%	6.3%	7.7%	4.6%	3.8%	5.3%
1980	11.8%	12.3%	11.3%	7.1%	6.9%	7.4%
1990	11.4%	11.9%	10.9%	5.6%	5.5%	5.7%
2000	7.6%	8.0%	7.1%	4.0%	3.9%	4.1%

Decade	National Unemployment Rates for Black People	Black Men	Black Women	National Unemployment Rates for the Total Population	Total Pop. of Men	Total Pop. of Women
2010	16.0%	18.4%	13.8%	9.6%	10.5%	8.6%

Table B4. National Employment Rates for Black Men and Women and the Total Population of Men and Women from 1970 to 2010

Decade	Black Men	Black Women	Total Pop. Of Men	Total Pop. Of Women
1970 [†]	62.8%	43.9%	70.8%	39.2%
1980 [*]	55.8%	47.0%	68.5%	46.5%
1990 [*]	62.6%	51.9%	72.0%	54.3%
2000 [*]	63.6%	58.6%	71.9%	57.5%
2010 [*]	53.1%	51.7%	63.7%	53.6%

^{*}Employment rates for the decade indicated are provided for those ages 16 and older.

[†]Employment rates for the decade indicated are provided for “Black and other races.”

Table B5. National Poverty Rates for Black Families and the Total Population of Families from 1970 to 2010

Decade	Percentage of Black Families at or Below the National Poverty Threshold	Percentage of the Total Population of Families at or Below the National Poverty Threshold
1970 [*]	34.9%	11.6%
1980 [*]	42.1%	17.9%
1990 [*]	37.2%	16.4%
2000 [*]	25.3%	12.7%
2010 [†]	33.6%	18.5%

^{*}Poverty rates for the decade indicated are provided for families with children under age 18.

[†]Poverty rates for the decade indicated are provided for individuals who indicated their race as “Black or African American” alone or in combination with other races.

Table B6. Median Income for Black Households and the Total Population from 1970 to 2010

Decade	Median Income of Black Households	Median Income of the Total Population
1970	\$5,538	\$8,734
1980	\$10,674	\$17,710
1990	\$18,676	\$29,943
2000	\$30,439	\$42,148
2010	\$35,341	\$51,914

Table B7. Home Ownership Rates for Black People and the Total Population from 1970 to 2010

Decade	Percentage of Black People Who Owned Their Homes	Percentage the Total Pop. Who Owned Their Homes
1970	41.6%	62.9%
1980	44.1%	65.6%
1990	43.4%	64.2%
2000	46.0%	66.2%
2010	45.6%	65.1%

Table B8. Fertility Rates for Black Women and the Total Population of Women from 1970 to 2010

Decade	Births per 1,000 Black Women, Ages 15-44	Births per 1,000 Women in the Total Pop., Ages 15-44
1970	115.4	87.9
1980	84.7	68.4
1990	86.8	70.9
2000	70.0	65.9
2010	66.3	64.1

Table B9. Life Expectancy for Black Men and Women and the Total Population of Men and Women from 1970 to 2010

Decade	Black Men	Black Women	Total Pop. of Men	Total Pop. of Women
1970*	61.3	69.4	67.1	74.8
1980	63.7	72.3	70.0	77.5
1990	64.5	73.6	71.8	78.8
2000	68.2	74.9	74.1	79.5
2010	71.8	78.0	76.2	81.0

*In 1970, the CDC Life Tables used the broad racial categories of “White” and “all other,” so the life expectancy provided for Black men and women include those reported as “all other.”

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