

Recent Trends In

SOCIAL

and ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

of NEGROES in the UNITED STATES

July 1968

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

PREFACE

This report is the joint work of the Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Labor Statistics staff. Herman P. Miller of the Bureau of the Census and Dorothy K. Newman of the Bureau of Labor Statistics directed the project and prepared the text.

We wish to acknowledge especially the contributions of Mrs. Nampeo D. R. McKenney of the Census Bureau and Mrs. Sylvia S. Small of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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Ben Burdetsky, Acting Commissioner
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NOTE

In this report data are shown for both the "Negro" population and for the "nonwhite" population as a whole. In both text and tables the term "Negro" is used only when the relevant data are available exclusively for Negroes. The term "nonwhite" is used whenever data for Negroes alone are not available or not available over the period of time shown. Generally, statistics for the national nonwhite population reflect the condition of Negroes, since about 92 percent of the nonwhite population is Negro.

The figures based on the March 1968 Current Population Survey are preliminary and, as customary, may be revised in later reports.

Recent Trends in Social and Economic Conditions of Negroes in the United States

INTRODUCTION

Last year following the summer civil disturbances, the President asked the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of the Census to prepare a statistical report on the social and economic conditions of Negroes in the United States. That comprehensive report, which involved 78 separate statistical tables, was published in October 1967.

The present, shorter, publication shows the most important new data which have become available during the intervening months. The most significant of these new figures involve year-end totals for 1967 or mid-year 1968 data, which, of course, were unavailable when the first document appeared.

In most instances the new data show important gains in the level of living for Negroes in the United States.

Typically, Negroes are more likely than ever before to be earning decent incomes, holding good jobs, living in better neighborhoods, and completing their education. In many cases not only have Negro achievements reached all-time highs, but the relative gap between whites and Negroes has also diminished. In one important area--the Negro population in the central city--a new and positive trend is discernible (see item 2).

Despite these gains, in some instances striking gains, it should be noted--and stressed--that Negroes generally remain very far behind whites in most social and economic categories. Compared to whites, Negroes still are more than three times as likely to be in poverty, twice as likely to be unemployed, and three times as likely to die in infancy or childbirth. In large cities, more than half of all Negroes live in poor neighborhoods.

Among the most noteworthy developments revealed in the new data are these:

(1) **POVERTY AND INCOME**--About one million nonwhites rose above poverty levels last year according to the poverty standard of the Federal Government. This sharp reduction in poverty and the reduction of a similar magnitude in 1966 constitute the largest annual movement above poverty levels during the period for which these

data have been published. In the past two years the percentage of nonwhites in poverty has declined from 46 percent to 35 percent, while the rate for whites has declined from 13 percent to 10 percent.

Negroes are also proportionately less likely to live in "poverty areas" of large cities than before. In 1960, 77 percent of all nonwhite families living in large cities resided in the "poverty areas" of these cities. In 1966, the percent was 62. In 1968, this proportion was down to 56 percent.

The data on income for 1967 confirm the sharp increase in the ratio of Negro median family income to white family income first seen last year. It was 59 percent in 1967 and 58 percent in 1966--constituting all-time highs--compared to 54 percent in 1965 and 1964.

Negro median family income is about half the white level in the South, about two-thirds the white level in the Northeast, and about three-fourths of the white level in the North Central and Western States.

Last year, 27 percent of the nonwhite families had incomes over \$8,000 (approximately the national median income) up from the 23 percent figure for 1966 and 19 percent for 1965, after adjusting for changes in the cost-of-living. Outside the South, 37 percent of the nonwhite families made over \$8,000.

(2) **RESIDENCE AND MIGRATION**--The number of Negroes living in the central cities of metropolitan areas had grown steadily and sharply until very recently--an increase of 5 1/2 million occurred between 1950 and 1966. However, between 1966 and 1968 the increase stopped, and there is some evidence to indicate an actual decline--constituting a sharp change in recent trends. To some extent, this change may be accounted for by a sharply decreasing number of Negroes leaving the South. There is also some evidence that the number of Negroes living in the suburbs has increased during the past two years, although the proportion in the suburbs has remained constant at 5 percent.

(3) **JOBS AND UNEMPLOYMENT**--In 1967, for the first time, substantially more than half of all nonwhite workers had white-collar, craftsman, and semi-skilled jobs. Last year there was a net gain of about one-quarter of a million nonwhite workers in these jobs that tend to have good pay or status.

Nonetheless, unemployment and low-paying jobs are still far more prevalent among nonwhites than among whites. While the nonwhite unemployment rates in 1968 are at the lowest levels in 15 years, they continue to be double the white rates.

The unemployment rate for nonwhite married men is down to 3.3 percent. However, nonwhite teenage unemployment remains very high at 24.7 percent.

The subemployment rate--that is, the proportion of persons who have experienced extended periods of unemployment or who worked year-round full-time at low wages--is down for both whites and nonwhites, according to the indicators for 1967. One out of every five nonwhite men in the labor force in 1966 was subemployed. The comparable ratio for white men was 1 out of every 13.

(4) **EDUCATION**--The education gap between young whites and nonwhites has been reduced to about one-half year--12.2 years of schooling for nonwhites compared to 12.6 years for whites. In 1960, the nonwhite median was only 10.8 years compared to 12.3 for whites--a gap of one and one-half years.

Today, 58 percent of the young nonwhite adults are high school graduates as compared with only 50 percent two years ago and 39 percent in 1960.

(5) **FAMILY COMPOSITION**--There is some evidence that the proportion of nonwhite families headed by women rose last year to about 26 percent as compared with 24 percent in 1967 and 22 percent in 1960.

The percent of Negroes in the total population has remained about the same since the turn of the century.

Total and Negro Population, 1900, 1940, 1950,
1960, and 1966-1968

	Population (in millions)		Percent Negro
	Total	Negro	
1900*	76.0	8.8	12
1940*	131.7	12.9	10
1950*	150.7	15.0	10
1960	179.3	18.8	11
1966	194.0	21.5	11
1967	195.8	21.6	11
1968	198.1	22.0	11

* Data exclude Alaska and Hawaii.

NOTE.--Data exclude Armed Forces overseas. Data for 1966-1968 also exclude Armed Forces in the United States living in barracks.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Nonwhites continue to leave the South, but in decreasing numbers. New data show that average annual out-migration in recent years is about half of what it was in the forties. Despite migration, the number of Negroes in the South has increased.

Negro Population and Estimated Net Out-Migration of Nonwhites
from the South,* 1940-1968

(In thousands)

	1940	1950	1960	1965	1968
Negro population in the South	9,905	10,222	11,312	11,233**	11,573**
	1940-50	1950-60	1960-65	1965-68	
Nonwhite, average annual net out-migration from the South	159.7	145.7	94.6	80.3	

* The South includes the States of the Old Confederacy as well as Delaware, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, Oklahoma, and West Virginia.

** Excludes Armed Forces living in barracks.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

More than half of all Negroes still live in the South although the proportion is declining.

Percent Distribution of the Negro Population, by Region,*
1940, 1950, 1960, 1966, and 1968

	Negro				
	1940**	1950**	1960	1966	1968
United States	100	100	100	100	100
South	77	68	60	55	53
North	22	28	34	37	40
Northeast	11	13	15	17	18
North Central	11	15	18	20	22
West	1	4	6	8	8

* Except where noted, when data for regions are shown in this and succeeding tables, the standard Census definition for each region is used. In that definition, the South includes the States of the Old Confederacy as well as Delaware, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, Oklahoma, and West Virginia.

** Data exclude Alaska and Hawaii.

NOTE.--In this report, numbers or percentages may not always add to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

During the past two years, the Negro population in central cities leveled off, a change of past trends. The number of Negroes in the suburbs continued to increase. However, since 1950, generally, most Negro population increase has occurred in central cities and most of the white increase has been in the suburbs of metropolitan areas.

Population Change by Location,
Inside and Outside Metropolitan Areas, 1950-1968
(Numbers in millions)

	Total population					
	Negro			White		
	1960	1966	1968	1960	1966	1968
United States.....	18.8	21.5	21.9	158.1	170.9	173.7
Metropolitan areas.....	12.2	14.8	15.0	99.2	109.3	110.7
Central cities.....	9.7	12.1	11.8	47.5	46.6	45.8
Suburbs*.....	2.5	2.7	3.2	51.7	62.7	64.9
Smaller cities, towns, and rural.....	6.7	6.7	7.0	58.9	61.6	63.0
	Population change, 1950-1968					
	Negro			White		
	1950- 1960	1960- 1966	1966- 1968	1950- 1960	1960- 1966	1966- 1968
United States.....	+3.8	+2.6	+.4	+23.7	+12.8	+2.8
Metropolitan areas.....	+3.8	+2.6	+.2	+19.3	+10.2	+1.3
Central cities.....	+3.2	+2.4	-.2	+2.2	-.8	-.8
Suburbs*.....	+.6	+.2	+.4	+17.2	+11.0	+2.2
Smaller cities, towns, and rural.....	(Z)	(Z)	+.2	+4.3	+2.7	+1.5

* Comprises the part of metropolitan area outside central cities.
Z Less than 50,000.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

In the central cities of metropolitan areas, Negroes today are 20 percent of the total population, compared to 12 percent in 1950. In the cities of the largest areas with 1,000,000 or more people, they are a fourth of the total, compared to 13 percent in 1950. Since 1960, the percent of Negroes in metropolitan areas, as a whole, has leveled off. Negroes have remained about 5 percent of the suburban population since 1950.

Negroes as a Percent of Total Population by Location, Inside and Outside Metropolitan Areas, and by Size of Metropolitan Areas, 1950, 1960, 1966, and 1968

	Percent Negro			
	1950	1960	1966	1968
United States	10	11	11	11
Metropolitan areas	9	11	12	12
Central cities	12	17	20	20
Central cities in metropolitan areas* of--				
1,000,000 or more	13	19	26**	25
250,000 to 1,000,000	12	15	20**	18
Under 250,000	12	12	12**	12
Suburbs	5	5	4	5
Smaller cities, towns, and rural	11	10	10	10

* In metropolitan areas of population shown as of 1960.

** Percent nonwhite; data for Negroes are not available.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

The rise in the ratio of nonwhite to white family income has increased sharply during the past two years. The ratio is still only 62 percent for all nonwhite families, and 59 percent for Negro families separately.

Median Income of Nonwhite Families as a Percent of
White Family Income, 1950-1967

	All nonwhite	Negro*
1950	54	*
1951	53	*
1952	57	*
1953	56	*
1954	56	*
1955	55	*
1956	53	*
1957	54	*
1958	51	*
1959	52	*
1960	55	*
1961	53	*
1962	53	*
1963	53	*
1964	56	54
1965	55	54
1966	60	58
1967	62	59

* The annual figures shown are based on the Current Population Survey. The percent of Negro to white median family income (instead of the percent of nonwhite to white as shown) is available from this survey only from 1964.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

The greatest disparity between Negro and white family income is in the South. In recent years, Negro median family income has ranged from about one-half of the white median in the South to about three-fourths of the white median in the North Central and West.

Family Income in 1967, and Comparison of Negro and White Family Income, 1965, 1966, and 1967, by Region

	Median family income, 1967		Negro income as a percent of white		
	Negro	White	1965	1966	1967
United States	\$4,939	\$8,318	54	58	59
Northeast	5,764	8,746	64	68	66
North Central	6,540	8,414	74	74	78
South	3,992	7,448	49	50	54
West	6,590	8,901	69	72	74

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Latest data show that nonwhite families continue to move into the middle-income groups in large numbers. The proportion of nonwhite families with incomes of \$8,000 or more was 3 times greater in 1967 than a decade ago. Outside of the South, 37 percent of nonwhite families had \$8,000 income or more in 1967, compared to 33 percent in 1966.

Percent of Families with Income of \$8,000 or More,* 1947-1967
(Adjusted for price changes, in 1967 dollars)

	Nonwhite	White		Nonwhite	White
1947	5	18	1961	14	38
1948	3	16	1962	13	39
1949	3	16	1963	15	42
1950	4	17	1964	18	44
1951	3	18	1965	19	47
1952	4	20	1966:		
1953	7	23	United States	23	50
1954	6	23	South	13	42
1955	6	27	Other regions	33	54
1956	8	31	1967:		
1957	9	29	United States	27	53
1958	8	30	South	15	45
1959	11	34	Other regions	37	56
1960	13	36			

* A \$8,000 income today was equivalent in purchasing power to about \$5,400 in 1947. The proportion of families with incomes of \$8,000 and over in 1947 was 1 percent for nonwhite families and 6 percent for white.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

The number and percent of nonwhites in poverty dropped sharply last year. However, 8 million nonwhites and 17 1/2 million whites were still poor in 1967.

Persons Below the Poverty Level,* 1959-1967

	Percent		Number (in millions)	
	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White
1959	55	18	10.7	28.2
1960	55	18	11.4	28.7
1961	55	17	11.6	26.5
1962	54	16	11.6	25.4
1963	51	15	11.2	24.1
1964	49	14	10.9	23.4
1965	46	13	10.5	21.4
1966	41	12	9.6	20.1
Based on revised methodology:**				
1966	40	12	9.3	19.5
1967	35	10	8.3	17.6

* The poverty definition (as developed by the Social Security Administration) is based on the minimum food and other needs of families, taking account of family size, number of children and farm-nonfarm residence. As applied to 1967 incomes, the poverty threshold for a nonfarm family of four was \$3,335.

** Reflects improvements in statistical procedures used in processing the income data.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, and U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Social Security Administration.

Welfare recipients have increased over the past year among both nonwhites and whites, but their percent in the total population has remained about the same.

Number and Percent of Persons Below the Poverty Level and of
Persons Receiving Welfare, 1967 and 1968

(Numbers in millions)

	Nonwhite		White	
	1967	1968	1967	1968
Total population	23.2	23.7	170.2	172.0
Below poverty level*	9.3	8.3	19.5	17.6
Percent of total population	40	35	12	10
Receiving welfare	3.2	3.4	4.5	5.0
Percent of total population	14	14	3	3

* Based on revised methodology, see notes on page 9. The poverty level refers to the previous year.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, and U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Both white and nonwhite unemployment rates have been decreasing steadily since 1961. The rate of nonwhite unemployment continues to be double the white rate.

Unemployment Rates,* 1948-1967, and
1968 (First 6 Months)

	Nonwhite	White	Ratio: nonwhite to white
1948	5.2	3.2	1.6
1949	8.9	5.6	1.6
1950	9.0	4.9	1.8
1951	5.3	3.1	1.7
1952	5.4	2.8	1.9
1953	4.5	2.7	1.7
1954	9.9	5.0	2.0
1955	8.7	3.9	2.2
1956	8.3	3.6	2.3
1957	7.9	3.8	2.1
1958	12.6	6.1	2.1
1959	10.7	4.8	2.2
1960	10.2	4.9	2.1
1961	12.4	6.0	2.1
1962	10.9	4.9	2.2
1963	10.8	5.0	2.2
1964	9.6	4.6	2.1
1965	8.1	4.1	2.0
1966	7.3	3.3	2.2
1967	7.4	3.4	2.2
1968 (First 6 months, seasonally adjusted)	6.8	3.2	2.1

* The unemployment rate is the percent unemployed in the civilian labor force.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Married men--the largest component of both the nonwhite and white labor force--have the lowest unemployment rates. Unemployment rates for nonwhite married men have been declining more rapidly than those for white married men. However, the nonwhite rate is still double the white rate.

Unemployment Rates for Married Men, 1962-1967, and 1968 (First 6 Months)
(20 years old and over)

	Nonwhite	White	Ratio: Nonwhite to white
1962	7.9	3.1	2.5
1963	6.8	3.0	2.3
1964	5.3	2.5	2.1
1965	4.3	2.1	2.0
1966	3.6	1.7	2.1
1967	3.2	1.6	2.0
First 6 months:			
1967*	3.6	1.8	2.0
1968*	3.3	1.7	1.9

* Average, not seasonally adjusted.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Nonwhite teenagers have the highest unemployment rates in the labor force. The total unemployment rate among nonwhite teenagers was 24.7 percent in 1968, about double the white teenage rate.

Unemployment Rates by Sex and Age, 1967
and 1968 (First 6 months)*

	Nonwhite		White	
	1967	1968	1967	1968
Total	7.3	6.8	3.3	3.2
Adult men	4.5	4.0	2.1	2.0
Adult women	6.9	6.4	3.7	3.4
Teenagers**	26.4	24.7	10.2	10.9

* Average, seasonally adjusted.

** "Teenagers" include those 16-19 years old.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The unemployment rate in the 20 largest metropolitan areas is much higher for nonwhite than for white persons in both the central cities and the suburban areas. Nonwhite-white unemployment rate differences are greatest among teenagers in the central cities.

Unemployment in Central Cities and Suburbs of the
20 Largest Metropolitan Areas,* 1967

	Unemployment rate			Number unemployed (in thousands)	
	Nonwhite	White	Ratio: Nonwhite to white	Nonwhite	White
Central cities	7.6	3.7	2.1	222	332
Adult men	4.9	2.8	1.8	75	148
Adult women	6.6	3.5	1.8	76	109
Teenagers	31.6	11.5	2.4	71	73
Suburbs	7.0	3.1	2.3	53	407

* In the 20 largest metropolitan areas in 1960.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In 1967, for the first time, substantially more than half of all non-white workers held white-collar, craftsmen, or operative jobs. Employment of nonwhites in these occupations increased 47 percent between 1960 and 1967, compared with 16 percent for whites.

Employment by Broad Occupational Groups,
1960, 1966, and 1967*

	White-collar workers, craftsmen and operatives		All other workers	
	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White
Number* (in millions):				
1960	3.0	46.3	4.1	13.3
1966	4.0	52.4	3.9	12.6
1967	4.3	53.6	3.7	12.7
Change, 1960-1967*:				
Number (in millions)	1.4	7.3	-.4	-.6
Percent	47	16	-10	-4

* The 1966 and 1967 data pertain to persons 16 years of age and over, while in 1960 the age cutoff was 14 years. Since 14-15 year-olds make up less than 2 percent of total nonwhite employment, it can be assumed that they have almost no effect on the 1960-67 occupational change.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The number and percent of nonwhite workers in most high skill and well-paying occupation groups increased sharply from 1960 to 1967.

Employment by Occupation,* 1967, and Change, 1960-1967
(Numbers in thousands)

	Employed, 1967		Change, 1960-1967*			
	Non- white	White	Non- white	White	Non- white	White
Total	8,011	66,361	970	6,721	14	11
Professional and technical	592	9,287	263	2,141	80	30
Managers, officials, etc.	209	7,286	31	396	17	6
Clerical	899	11,434	391	2,158	77	23
Sales	138	4,387	25	99	22	2
Craftsmen and foremen	617	9,228	203	1,083	49	13
Operatives	1,882	12,002	465	1,434	33	14
Service workers, except private household	1,519	6,037	287	1,136	23	23
Private household workers	835	934	-169	-278	-17	-23
Nonfarm laborers	899	2,634	-70	-61	-7	-2
Farmers and farm workers	423	3,131	-453	-1,389	-52	-31

* The 1967 data pertain to persons 16 years of age and over, while in 1960 the age cutoff was 14 years. Since 14-15 year-olds make up less than 2 percent of total nonwhite employment, it can be assumed that they have almost no effect on the 1960-1967 occupational change.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

There were three times as many nonwhite as white men who were subemployed in 1966. Preliminary 1967 data indicate an improvement in both groups. The subemployed include those who had worked a full-year full-time for low earnings or who had been unemployed for at least 15 weeks during the year.

Subemployment Indicators* for Men, 1966 and 1967
(Numbers in thousands)

	Nonwhite	White
Subemployment rate:*		
1966	21.6	7.6
1967**	***	***
Indicators of subemployment:**		
Number of low earners:		
1966	635	1,417
1967	505	1,176
Percent change	-31	-17
Monthly average number unemployed 15 weeks or more:**		
1966	69	255
1967	53	202
Percent change	-23	-21

* The Manpower Report of the President, issued April 1968, published a new national subemployment measure for 1966 (pp. 34-36). This measure includes (1) workers unemployed 15 weeks or more and (2) workers who made less than \$3,000 in 1966 for year-round full-time work (taken as a proportion of the entire labor force with a week or more of work experience during the year). This indicator is, therefore, on an annual basis and considerably different from the subemployment rate in a specific week, arrived at last year for workers in urban slums (See page 97 in Social and Economic Conditions of Negroes in the United States, October 1967, BLS Report No. 332 and Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 24.)

** Annual data for those unemployed 15 weeks or more in 1967 are not yet available; therefore, a rate is not computed but two subemployment indicators are presented. These are not precisely the same as those required for the national subemployment rate published for 1966.

*** Data not available.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

During the past two years the proportion of nonwhites completing high school has increased sharply; the white rate has remained about the same. In 1960, the education gap between nonwhite and white young men was 2 years of school experience. Today the gap is less than one-half year of school experience.

Educational Attainment of Persons 25 to 29 Years Old,
by Sex, 1960, 1966, and 1968

	Nonwhite			White		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Median years of school completed:						
1960	10.8	10.5	11.1	12.3	12.4	12.3
1966	12.0	12.1	11.9	12.5	12.6	12.5
1968	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.6	12.6	12.5
Percent completing 4 years of high school or more:						
1960	39	36	41	64	63	65
1966	50	53	49	74	73	74
1968	58	60	56	75	75	75

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

The proportion of nonwhite households living in housing that either is dilapidated or lacks basic plumbing facilities decreased sharply since 1960 in all areas, especially large cities. Yet about 3 in 10 nonwhite households still live in such dwellings, compared to less than 1 in 10 of the whites.

Percent of Occupied Housing Not Meeting Specified Criteria,*
by Location, 1960 and 1966

	Nonwhite		White	
	1960	1966	1960	1966
United States	44	29	13	8
Large cities**	25	16	8	5
Suburbs	43	29	7	4
Smaller cities, towns, and rural	77	64	23	14

* Housing is classified as "not meeting specified criteria" if it either is dilapidated or lacks one or more of the following basic plumbing facilities: hot running water in the structure, flush toilet for private use of members of the household, and bathtub or shower for private use of members of the household.

Housing is reported as "dilapidated" if defects are so critical or so widespread that the structure would require extensive repairs, rebuilding, razing, or was of inadequate original construction. Information is collected also on housing condition rated as "deteriorating," that is, having one or more defects of an intermediate nature that require correction if the unit is to continue to provide safe and adequate shelter.

Based on these classifications, deteriorating and dilapidated housing for nonwhite households in the Nation as a whole was 45 percent in 1960 and 39 percent in 1966.

** Of 50,000 population or more in metropolitan areas.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Data for 1966 are preliminary.

Life expectancy of nonwhite persons in 1966 was lower than for whites in all age groups in the prime working years. The differences were slightly greater than in 1960.

Life Expectancy* in Prime Working Years, 1960 and 1966

	1960			1966		
	Non- white	White (Years)	Differ- ence	Non- white	White (Years)	Differ- ence
At age--						
25	43.1	48.3	-5.2	43.1	48.6	-5.5
35	34.3	38.8	-4.5	34.4	39.1	-4.7
45	26.2	29.7	-3.5	26.4	30.0	-3.6
55	19.3	21.5	-2.2	19.4	21.8	-2.4

* Additional years of life expected.

Source: U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Mortality rates have dropped sharply during the past 2-1/2 decades among both nonwhite and white mothers and infants. However, the nonwhite maternal mortality rate was over 3 times the white rate in 1966. Nonwhite infant mortality rates are also much higher than for whites.

Maternal and Infant Mortality Rates, 1940, 1950, and 1960-1966

	Maternal (Per 1,000 live births)		Infant Less than 1 month old 1 month to 1 year old (Per 1,000 live births)			
	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White
1940	7.7	3.2	39.7	27.2	34.1	16.0
1950	2.2	0.6	27.5	19.4	17.0	7.4
1960	1.0	0.3	26.9	17.2	16.4	5.7
1961	1.0	0.2	26.2	16.9	14.5	5.5
1962	1.0	0.2	26.1	16.9	15.3	5.5
1963	1.0	0.2	26.1	16.7	15.4	5.5
1964	0.9	0.2	26.5	16.2	14.6	5.4
1965	0.8	0.2	25.4	16.1	14.9	5.4
1966	0.7	0.2	24.8	15.6	14.0	5.0

Source: U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The proportion of nonwhite families headed by a female has increased since 1960, continuing the trend observed during the fifties. About 70 percent of all nonwhite families are headed by a man with a wife present, compared to 90 percent of white families.

Composition of Families, 1950, 1955, 1960, and 1966-1968
(Percent)

	Husband-wife		Other male head		Female head*	
	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White
1950	77.7	88.0	4.7	3.5	17.6	8.5
1955	75.3	87.9	4.0	3.0	20.7	9.0
1960	73.6	88.7	4.0	2.6	22.4	8.7
1966	72.7	88.8	3.7	2.3	23.7	8.9
1967	72.6	88.7	3.9	2.1	23.6	9.1
1968	69.1	88.9	4.5	2.2	26.4	8.9

* Female heads of families include widowed and single women, women whose husbands are in the armed services or otherwise away from home involuntarily, as well as those separated from their husbands through divorce or marital discord. In 1968, divorce and separation accounted for 47 percent of the nonwhite female family heads and 34 percent of the white.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Estimates show that a much larger proportion of nonwhite than white babies are illegitimate--28 percent compared to 4 percent. The latest data show that the percent of estimated illegitimate births has been increasing among both groups.

Illegitimate Births,* 1940-1966

	Number (thousands)		Percent illegitimate of all live births	
	Nonwhite	White	Nonwhite	White
1940	49	40	16.8	2.0
1945	61	56	17.9	2.4
1950	88	54	18.0	1.8
1955	119	64	20.2	1.9
1960	142	83	21.6	2.3
1965	168	124	26.3	4.0
1966	170	133	27.7	4.4

* As stated in the source cited, "No estimates are included for misstatements on the birth record or for failure to register births. . . The decision to conceal the illegitimacy of births is likely conditioned by attitudes in the mother's social group towards her and towards children born out of wedlock. Also, the ability (economic or otherwise) to leave a community before the birth of the child is an important consideration. These factors probably result in proportionately greater understatement of illegitimacy in the white group than in the nonwhite. . ."

34 States and the District of Columbia report legitimacy status on birth certificates. For the remaining States the illegitimacy ratio is estimated from the reporting States in each of the 9 geographic divisions. The following States do not report legitimacy: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Vermont, Georgia, and Montana. The last 2 States reported before 1957.

Source: U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Birth rates are higher among nonwhite than among white women. In recent years both nonwhite and white birth rates have dropped sharply.

Fertility Rates, 1955-1966*
(Births per 1,000 women age 15-44)

	Nonwhite	White
1955	155	114
1956	161	116
1957	163	118
1958	161	115
1959	162	114
1960	154	113
1961	154	112
1962**	149	108
1963**	145	104
1964	142	100
1965	134	91
1966	126	86

* Births 1955-59 adjusted for underregistration.

** Excludes data for New Jersey.

Source: U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The proportion of nonwhite families in large cities living in "poverty areas" has declined during the past two years. Although the total number of nonwhite families in large cities has increased since 1960, there is some evidence that the number living in poverty areas has declined. The proportion of nonwhite families living in poverty areas is lowest for the cities within the largest metropolitan areas.

Percent of Nonwhite Families in Poverty Areas* of Large Cities, 1960
1966, and 1968

(Numbers in thousands)

	Nonwhite families			Families in poverty areas* as a percent of nonwhite families		
	1960	1966	1968	1960	1966	1968
All large cities**	2,024	2,558	2,543	77	62	56
Central cities in metropolitan areas of--						
1,000,000 or more	1,392	1,770	1,816	76	59	53
250,000 to 1,000,000	633	788	728	79	69	63
New York City	260	388	406	77	62	59
Chicago	187	239	247	80	54	48
Los Angeles	100	128	150	61	47	40

* Poverty Areas were determined by ranking census tracts in metropolitan areas of 250,000 or more in 1960, according to the relative presence of each of the following equally weighted poverty-linked characteristics: (1) family income below \$3,000, (2) children in broken homes, (3) persons with low educational attainment, (4) males in unskilled jobs, (5) sub-standard housing. It includes an adjustment for changes brought about since 1960 by urban renewal. In general, the lowest 25 percent of census tracts are included.

** In metropolitan areas of 250,000 or more in 1960.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Most nonwhite families in poverty areas of large cities are not poor. In 1968, roughly 1/3 of the nonwhite families living in poverty areas had incomes below the poverty level.

Percent of Nonwhite Families Living in the Poverty Areas of Large Cities With Incomes Below the Poverty Level*, 1960, 1966, and 1968

	1960	1966	1968**
All large cities***	38	36	30
Central cities in metropolitan areas of--			
1,000,000 or more	34	34	30
250,000 to 1,000,000	45	40	30
New York City	28	35	31
Chicago	33	37	35
Los Angeles	32	29	33

* The poverty level relates to the previous year. The poverty definition (as developed by the Social Security Administration) is based on the minimum food and other needs of families, taking account of family size, number of children and farm-nonfarm residence. As applied to 1967 incomes, the poverty threshold for a nonfarm family of four was \$3,335.

** Based on revised methodology, see notes on page 9.

*** In metropolitan areas of 250,000 or more in 1960.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Nonwhite unemployment rates are much higher than the white rates both inside and outside urban poverty areas.

Labor Force and Unemployment In and Outside the Poverty Areas
in Large Metropolitan Areas,* 1967 and 1968 (First 6 Months)

(Numbers in thousands)

	Nonwhite		White	
	1967	1968	1967	1968
In poverty areas:				
Civilian labor force	2,747	2,713	3,856	3,831
Unemployed	241	217	212	199
Unemployment rate	8.8	8.0	5.5	5.2
Outside poverty areas:				
Civilian labor force	2,691	2,951	33,688	34,324
Unemployed	167	172	1,110	1,053
Unemployment rate	6.2	5.8	3.3	3.1

* In the 100 largest metropolitan areas in 1960.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Negroes make up 9 percent of the Armed Forces in 1968, 10 percent of those serving in Southeast Asia and 14 percent of those who have died in Southeast Asia.

Men in the Armed Forces, 1968*
(Numbers in thousands)

	Total	Negro	Percent Negro
Total	3,459	312	9
Outside Southeast Asia	2,863	253	9
In Southeast Asia	596	59	10
Deaths in Southeast Asia	22	3	14

* As of March 31, 1968, for Armed Forces and through April 30, 1968, for deaths. Data are preliminary, subject to revision when final reports are received from the various Armed Services.

Source: U.S. Department of Defense.

In the past four years, Negro voter registration in the South has increased by almost 1 million.

Negro Voter Registration in the South*
March 1964, June 1967, and May 1968
(Numbers in thousands)

March 1964	2,164
June 1967	2,819
May 1968	3,072

* In Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Source: Southern Regional Council.