

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JESSE H. JONES, Secretary

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

J. C. CAPT, Director (Appointed May 22, 1941)

WILLIAM LANE AUSTIN, Director (Retired January 31, 1941)

PHILIP M. HAUSER, Assistant Director



SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES : 1940

POPULATION

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NONWHITE POPULATION BY RACE

Prepared under the supervision of
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SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES : 1940

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- II Characteristics of the Population, by States
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- IV Characteristics by Age—Marital Status, Relationship, Education, and Citizenship, by States.

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,
Washington, D. C., June 10, 1943.

SIR:

I transmit herewith a report on the characteristics of the nonwhite population by race, based on data from the Sixteenth Decennial Census of Population. This census was taken as of April 1, 1940, under the act providing for the Fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses, approved June 18, 1929.

Statistics for Negroes (with separate figures for foreign-born Negroes), Indians, Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, Hindus, and "All other" nonwhites are presented in this report. The subjects included are sex, nativity, age, marital status, relationship to head of household, highest grade of school completed, employment status, and major occupation group. Data are shown for each nonwhite race for the United States by regions, urban and rural. Figures for individual nonwhite races also are shown for those States, their urban and rural parts, and cities of 100,000 or more in which there were substantial numbers of these persons. This report supplements Volumes II and IV of the Population reports.

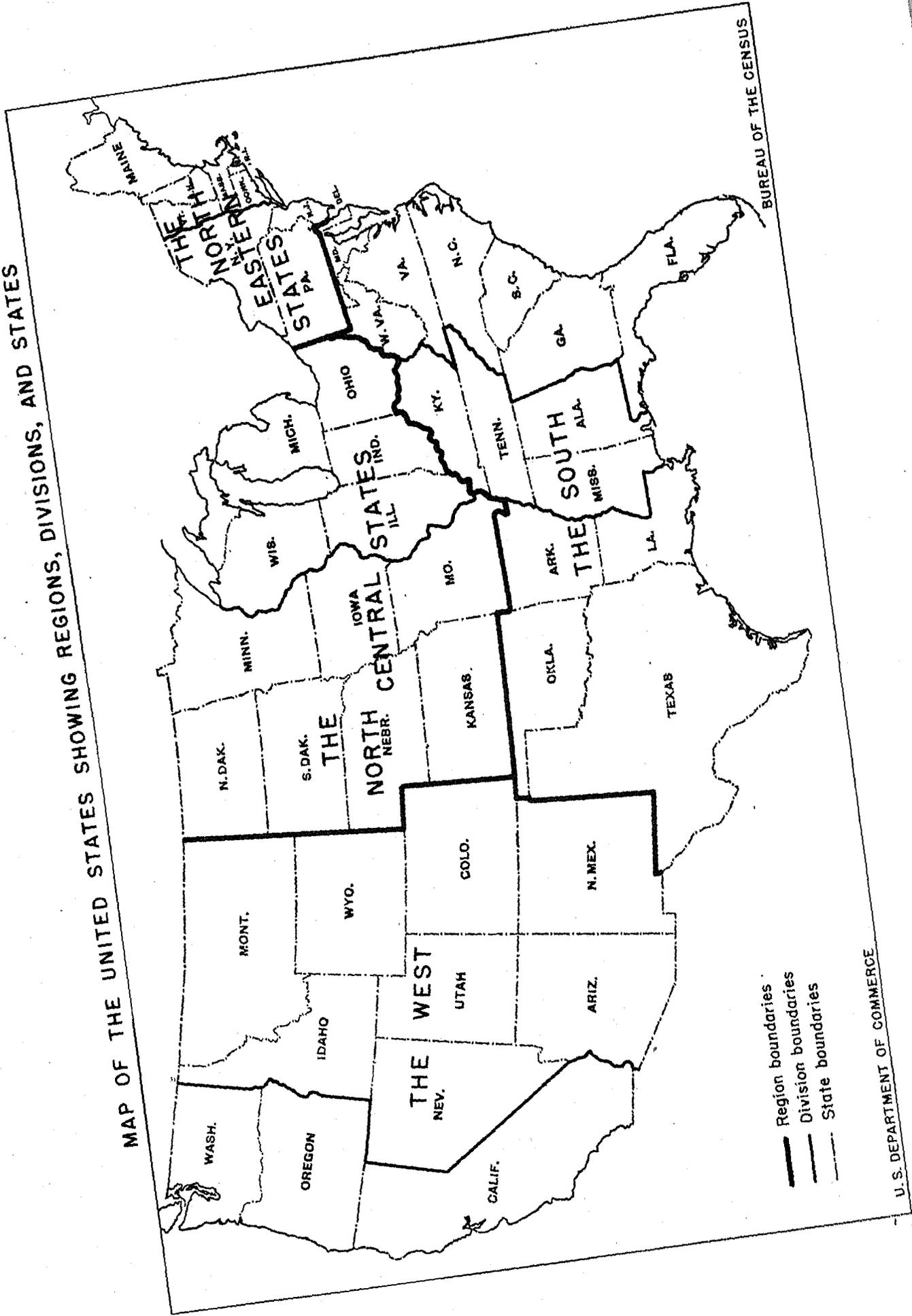
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Respectfully,

J. C. CAPT,
Director of the Census.

HON. JESSE H. JONES,
Secretary of Commerce.

MAP OF THE UNITED STATES SHOWING REGIONS, DIVISIONS, AND STATES



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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NONWHITE POPULATION BY RACE

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL

This report presents for the United States as a whole and for selected States and cities, data on a number of characteristics of the nonwhite population, by race. These statistics are based on the returns of the Sixteenth Decennial Census of Population, taken as of April 1, 1940. The races for which figures are shown are Negro (with separate figures for foreign-born Negroes), Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Hindu, and "All other." The subjects included are sex, nativity, age, marital status, relationship to head of household, highest grade of school completed, employment status, and major occupation group. Detailed statistics on these subjects are presented for each nonwhite race for the United States by regions, urban and rural. The presentation of data for individual nonwhite races for other areas is restricted to those States, their urban and rural parts, and cities of 100,000 or more in which there were substantial numbers of these persons.

Related reports.—The more important additional statistics on the nonwhite population given in other publications of the 1940 census are described below:

a. Data on individual nonwhite races for small areas are given in Volume II of the Population Reports, entitled "Characteristics of the Population" and comprising the second series of Population bulletins for States. Statistics are shown on sex, nativity, and citizenship for States, urban and rural, cities of 100,000 or more, and principal metropolitan districts. Less detailed statistics are also presented for Indians, Chinese, and Japanese for all counties and cities of 10,000 to 100,000 containing 10 or more persons of any one of these races.

b. Data for the two-fold classification, Negroes and nonwhite persons of "Other races," are also presented for small areas in Volume II of the Population Reports. For this less detailed sub-classification of the nonwhite population, statistics are presented for additional subjects, including age, school attendance, highest grade of school completed, employment status, class of worker, major occupation group, and industry group. Areas for which statistics are presented include States, urban and rural, counties, urban places, rural incorporated places of 1,000 to 2,500, minor civil divisions (townships, etc.), wards of cities of 50,000 or more, and metropolitan districts. Not all subjects are presented by race, however, for all these areas.

Additional labor force statistics for Negroes and "Other races" are presented in Volume III of the Population Reports, entitled "The Labor Force--Occupation, Industry, Employment, and Income" and comprising the third series of Population bulletins for States. Statistics are presented on employment status and occupation for States and cities of 100,000 or more, and on employment status and industry for States.

c. Data for all nonwhite races combined are presented in Volume IV of the Population Reports, entitled "Characteristics by Age--Marital Status, Relationship, Education, and Citizenship" and comprising the fourth series of Population bulletins for States. Statistics are presented for selected large areas where the nonwhite population is numerically important, including States, their urban and rural parts, and urban places of 50,000 inhabitants or more.

Additional data for all nonwhite races combined are given in the reports on internal migration. In these publications statistics are available on the nonwhite population by sex, age, place of residence in 1935, and place of residence in 1940.

d. Additional statistics on the nonwhite population are presented in varying detail in publications based upon tabulations of samples of the census returns. These publications

present supplementary information on general population characteristics and characteristics of the labor force as well as statistics on families and fertility, for regions, divisions, States, and large cities.

Areas for which data are presented.—Statistics are presented in this report for the United States as a whole, for four regions (the Northeastern States, the North Central States, the South, and the West), for States, and for their urban, rural-nonfarm and rural-farm parts, and for cities of 100,000 or more. Data for the total nonwhite population and for each individual race are presented for the United States and regions, urban and rural. Statistics for States, urban and rural, and for cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more are presented in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Figures are presented for the total Negro population of a State or urban-rural part thereof when such population amounted to as much as 2,000 and was less than 95 percent of the total nonwhite population of the area. In addition, whenever the urban, rural-nonfarm, or rural-farm part of a State qualifies, the State total is also shown. For a city of 100,000 or more, figures are presented when the Negro population amounted to as much as 1,000 and was less than 95 percent of the total nonwhite population of the city. Where Negroes constituted 95 percent or more of the nonwhite population, it is felt that the data on the total nonwhite population published in the reports described above portray fairly adequately the characteristics of the Negroes in the area.

2. For the individual minor races--Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, and Hindu (and also for foreign-born Negroes)--figures are presented for any State or urban-rural part thereof in which the specific racial group amounted to as much as 2,000. For a city of 100,000 or more, figures are presented when the group amounted to as much as 1,000.

Arrangement of tables.—The first 8 tables in this report are summary tables. Tables 1 and 2 present the number of persons of each race, for the United States by States and for cities of 100,000 or more, respectively. Tables 3 to 8 present for the United States and regions, urban and rural, figures on the following characteristics of the individual nonwhite races: Age, marital status, relationship to head of household, highest grade of school completed, employment status, and major occupation group. The remaining tables, in sets of 6, present data on these same characteristics for each of the individual nonwhite races for the selected States and cities. Tables 9 to 14 are for all Negroes, tables 15 to 20 for foreign-born Negroes, tables 21 to 26 for Indians, tables 27 to 32 for Chinese, tables 33 to 38 for Japanese, and tables 39 to 44 for Filipinos.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND EXPLANATIONS

The statistics on each subject are explained, and the terms used in the tables are defined, in the paragraphs which follow. In some cases the definitions of terms and explanations given below are abridged from the fuller explanations appearing in Volumes II, III, and IV of the Reports on Population.

Urban and rural areas.—Urban population, as defined by the Bureau of the Census, is in general that residing in cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more. The remainder of the population is classified as rural and is subdivided into the rural-farm population, which comprises all rural residents living on farms, without regard to occupation, and the rural-nonfarm population, which comprises the remaining rural population. (For further details for each State, see Volume I of the Reports on Population.)

NONWHITE POPULATION BY RACE

Sex.— Because of the importance of the classification of the population by sex, the data are presented separately for males and females in all of the tables except tables 1 and 2.

Nativity.— In the classification by nativity, a person born in the United States or in any of its territories or possessions is counted as native. Likewise included as native is the small group of persons who, although born in a foreign country or at sea, were American citizens by birth because their parents were American citizens. The remainder of the population is classified as foreign born.

The classification by nativity in this report is limited to Negroes, Chinese, and Japanese. These are the nonwhite races with substantial numbers of foreign born, as may be seen from the following table, which presents a detailed classification of the nonwhite population of the United States, by race and nativity, for 1940 and 1930.

NONWHITE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES, BY RACE AND NATIVITY:
1940 AND 1930
(Percent not shown where less than 0.1)

RACE AND CENSUS YEAR	Total	Native	Foreign born	PERCENT BY RACE			PERCENT BY NATIVITY	
				Total	Native	Foreign born	Native	Foreign born
1940								
Total.....	13,454,408	12,278,647	1,175,758	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.7	1.3
Negro.....	12,858,518	12,781,577	77,941	95.6	96.3	47.8	99.3	0.7
Indian.....	332,969	328,473	4,496	2.5	2.5	2.6	98.7	1.3
Chinese.....	77,504	40,822	36,682	0.6	0.3	21.2	51.9	48.1
Japanese.....	128,947	79,842	49,105	0.9	0.6	26.9	62.7	37.3
Filipino.....	45,563	45,132	431	0.3	0.3	0.2	99.1	0.9
Hindu.....	2,408	210	1,198	-	-	0.9	37.8	62.2
Korean.....	1,711	962	749	-	-	0.4	56.2	43.8
Polynesian.....	657	645	12	-	-	-	98.6	1.4
Other Asian.....	131	56	75	-	-	0.1	27.5	72.5
1930								
Total.....	12,488,306	12,267,562	220,744	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.2	1.8
Negro.....	11,891,148	11,792,528	98,620	95.2	96.1	44.7	99.2	0.8
Indian.....	332,397	328,945	3,452	2.7	2.7	1.6	98.9	1.1
Chinese.....	74,954	30,868	44,086	0.6	0.3	20.0	41.2	58.8
Japanese.....	136,834	68,357	68,477	1.1	0.6	31.9	49.2	50.8
Filipino.....	45,206	45,026	180	0.4	0.4	0.1	99.6	0.4
Hindu.....	3,130	412	2,718	-	-	1.2	13.2	86.8
Korean.....	1,860	816	1,044	-	-	0.5	43.9	56.1
Polynesian.....	666	660	6	-	-	-	99.1	0.9
Other Asian.....	114	55	59	-	-	-	48.2	51.8

sharing the same living accommodations as "partners" is also counted as a private household. A family residing permanently or for an indefinite period in an apartment hotel is counted as a private household.

Quasi household; persons not in private household.— A quasi household is a group of persons not living in private households, such as those living in a boarding or lodging house, an institution, a school, a labor camp, or a military or naval post, or the transient population of a hotel, or the crew of a vessel. If a household reports 11 or more lodgers, it is classified as a quasi household (specifically, as a lodging house) rather than as a private household.

Relationship to head of household.— The 1940 census was the first from which tabulations were made of the relationship of each person to the head of his household. The tables on this subject in the present report show three categories of persons in private households: "Head of household," "Relative of head," and "Not relative of head." The following sections present a description of these categories. (In some census publications, for example, Volume IV of the Reports on Population, the categories of relationship are more detailed than those presented herein, comprising head, wife, child, grandchild, parent, other relative, lodger, and servant or hired hand.)

Head of private household.— One person in each private household was designated as the household head, being usually the person regarded as the head by the members of the household. The number of heads of private households is, therefore, equal to the number of private households. The head of a private household is usually a married man and the chief breadwinner of the family. In some cases, however, the head is a parent of the chief earner or is the only adult member of the household.

Relative of head.— This category includes wives, children, grandchildren, parents, and other relatives of the head.

Not relative of head. This category includes all lodgers, resident servants or hired hands, and other persons not related to the head who usually reside in the household.

Highest grade of school completed.— In 1940 the census schedule asked for the last full grade that the person had completed in the regular school system—public, private, or parochial school, college, or university. The statistics on highest grade of school completed which are presented in this report are restricted to persons 25 years old and over, practically all of whom have completed their formal education.

All tables presenting data on education include the median year of school completed. The median year of school completed may be defined as the year which divides the population group into equal parts—one-half having completed more schooling and one-half having completed less schooling than the median. These medians are expressed in terms of a continuous series of numbers representing years of school completed. For example, the completion of the first year of high school is indicated by 9 and of the last year of college by 16. For the sake of comparability, the first year of high school is uniformly represented by 9, although there are some areas with only 7 years of elementary school.

Employment status.— In the 1940 Census of Population, persons 14 years old and over were classified on the basis of their activity during the census week of March 24 to 30, 1940, into two major groups: (a) Persons in the labor force, including those at work for pay or profit or at unpaid family work; those with a job or business from which they were temporarily absent; those on public emergency work; and those seeking work; and (b) persons not in the labor force. The latter group includes persons reported as engaged in own home housework, in school, or unable to work; seasonal workers for whom the census week fell in an off-season, and who were not seeking work; others not employed, nor on public emergency work, nor seeking work; all inmates of penal and mental institutions and homes for the aged, infirm, and needy, regardless of their activity during the census week; and persons for whom employment status was not reported.

The employment status categories of persons in the labor force which are shown in this report are described below:

Employed (except on public emergency work).— The group classified as employed includes (a) persons who worked for pay or profit at any time during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, in private work or nonemergency Federal, State, or local government work, or who assisted without pay on a family farm or in a family business; and (b) persons not actu-

As mentioned previously, data are presented separately for the foreign-born Negroes. In the other census reports, only limited data have been presented on the characteristics of Negroes (or of all nonwhites) by nativity. Although foreign-born Negroes constituted only a small percentage—0.7 percent—of all Negroes in 1940, this group outnumbered most of the individual minor races.

Age.— The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday before the date of the census, that is, the age of the person in completed years.

There are some irregularities in the age distribution which are due to inaccuracies in the census returns. In the 1940 census, as in previous censuses, some ages were misstated, either intentionally or through ignorance of the true age on the part of the person giving the information. In general, the degree of inaccuracy in reported ages is greater for adults than for children, for foreign born than for native, and for the nonwhite population than for the white. It is hoped that more definite conclusions may be reached after further study of the age data now available from the 1940 census.

Marital status.— In the classification by marital status, four major groups are shown: Single, married, widowed, and divorced. These terms refer to marital status at the time the census was taken. The presentation of data on marital status in the present report is limited to the population 15 years old and over, as practically all persons younger than 15 years are single.

Private household.— The term "private household," as used in the 1940 census, includes the related family members and the unrelated lodgers and servants or hired hands who live in the same dwelling unit and share common housekeeping arrangements. A person living alone or a small group of unrelated persons

Handwritten notes:
1940, 1930
8.2
0.6
3.4
-12.7
-1.0
1930, 1940
8.2%

ally at work and not seeking work during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, but with jobs, businesses, or professional enterprises from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or layoff not exceeding four weeks with definite instructions to return to work on a specific date. The group "Employed (except on public emergency work)" includes not only employees but also proprietors, farmers, other self-employed persons, and unpaid family workers.

On public emergency work.—This category includes persons who, during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, were at work on, or assigned to, public emergency work projects conducted by the Work Projects Administration (WPA), the National Youth Administration (NYA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), or State or local work relief agencies.

Seeking work.—This category represents persons without work of any sort in the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, who were actively seeking work during that week.

In the interpretation of the data on employment status, allowance must be made for the fact that considerable numbers

of persons actually on public emergency work were returned in the census as employed on private or nonemergency government work, seeking work, or not in the labor force.¹

Major occupation group.—The statistics on major occupation group presented in this report are limited to persons who were employed (except on public emergency work) during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940. Occupation statistics for other persons in the labor force (persons "On public emergency work" and persons "Seeking work") are not presented here. The 12 major occupation groups shown here are principal subdivisions of the detailed occupational classification, comprising 451 specific occupation titles, which was used in the 1940 census. The specific occupations in each of the major groups are shown in the tables in Volume III of the Reports on Population.

¹ See the introductory section in Part 1 of Volume III of the Reports on Population for a discussion of the misclassification of public emergency workers.