Black Population
in Montgomery County

This publication highlights key demographic, household, and economic statistics for the Black or African American population in Montgomery County from U.S. Census data. The American Community Survey (ACS) helps local officials, community leaders, and businesses understand the changes taking place in their communities. It is the premier source for detailed population and housing information about our nation. The data in this profile are from the 2022 American Community Survey, 1-year sample, unless otherwise noted.
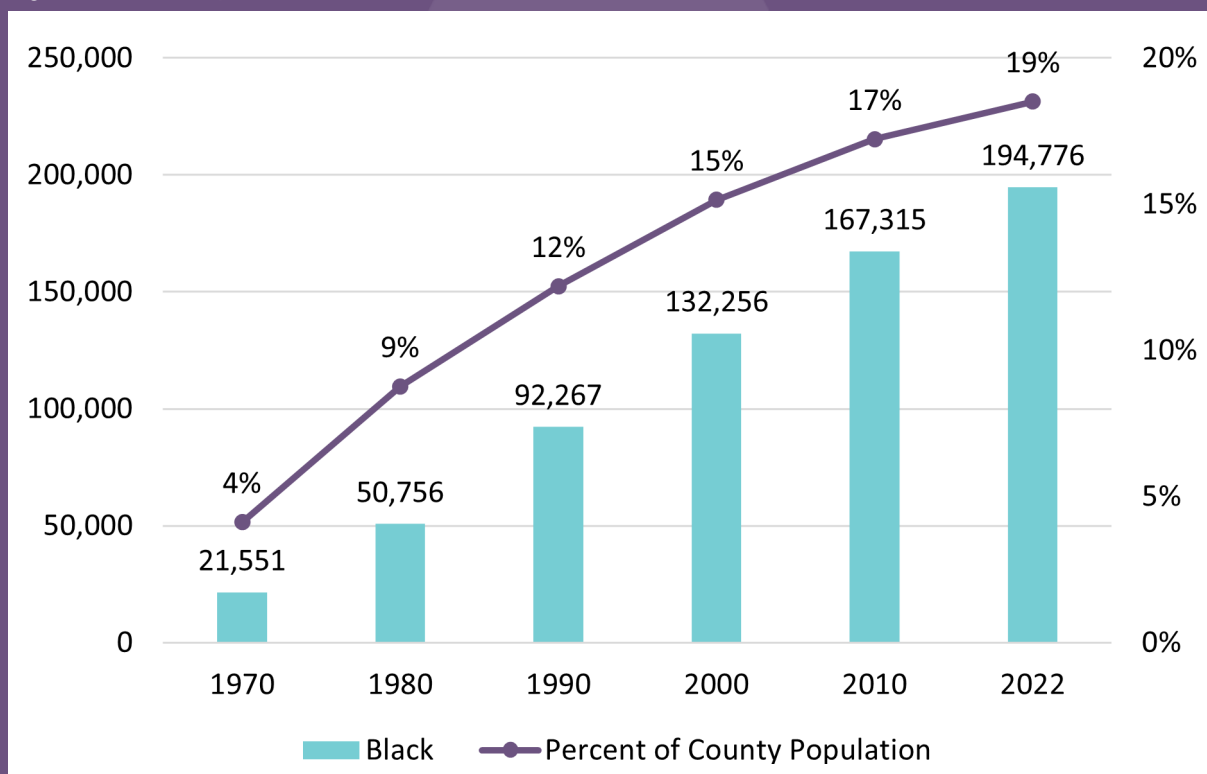
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THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS 👥

The Black or African American population[1] comprised 19% of Montgomery County's population in 2022—a marked change from 4% in 1970. The growth rate of this group was consistently higher than the county's overall growth rate.

Since 1970, the Black population has increased **804%**, while the county population overall has increased 101%. Growth in population has been slowing for both Black residents and the county since 1980.[2]

Figure 1: Black Population Growth (1970 - 2022)

Legend: Black (bar) · Percent of County Population (line)

Data shown: 1970: 21,551 (4%); 1980: 50,756 (9%); 1990: 92,267 (12%); 2000: 132,256 (15%); 2010: 167,315 (17%); 2022: 194,776 (19%)
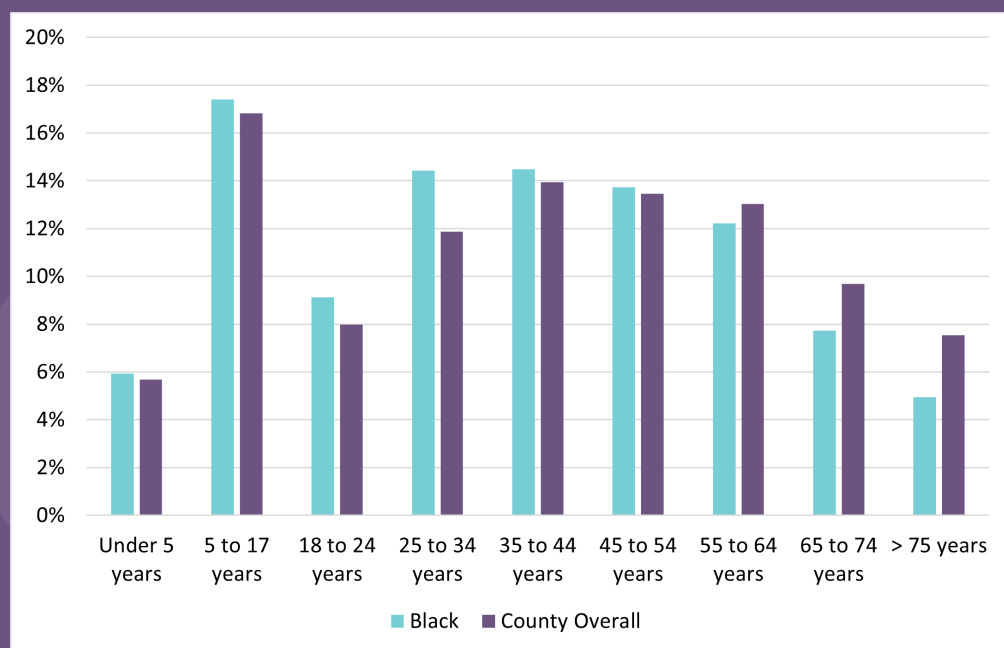
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[1] *Respondents to the American Community Survey self-identify their race. This profile includes Montgomery County residents who chose the "Black or African American" category (referred to as "Black" in this profile) for their race. It also includes people who identify as Black and Hispanic because the latter is an ethnicity rather than a race. People who identify with two races are not included due to data limitations.*

[2] *1970–2020 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau*

AGE

The Black population is slightly younger; 47% of Black people in the county were under 35 years of age, compared with 42% in the county overall. The group also had a lower proportion of people over 55 years old (25% versus 30% in the county overall).

Figure 2: Age Distribution (2022)

NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP STATUS

The share of Black residents who were foreign-born was slightly higher than for the county population overall. Sixty-four percent of those who identify as Black were born in the United States (native), and **36% were foreign-born**, which includes persons who are naturalized U.S. citizens and persons who are not U.S. citizens. In Montgomery County overall, 66% of residents were born in the United States and 34% were foreign-born.

Figure 3: Nativity and Citizenship Status, Black residents (2022)
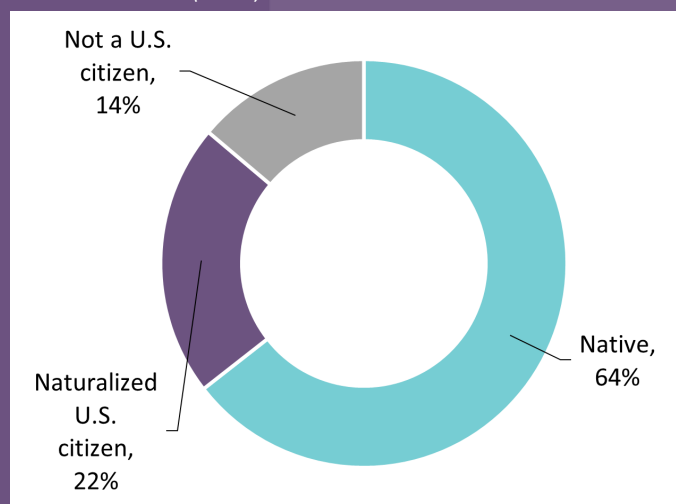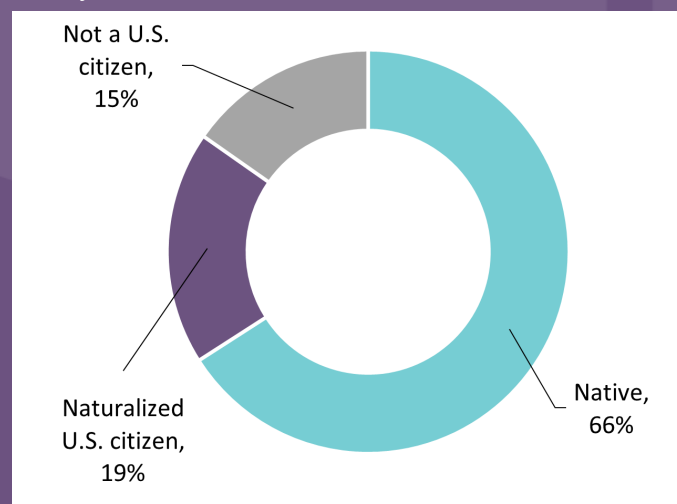

Not a U.S. citizen, 14%
Naturalized U.S. citizen, 22%
Native, 64%

Figure 4: Nativity and Citizenship Status, County Overall (2022)

Not a U.S. citizen, 15%
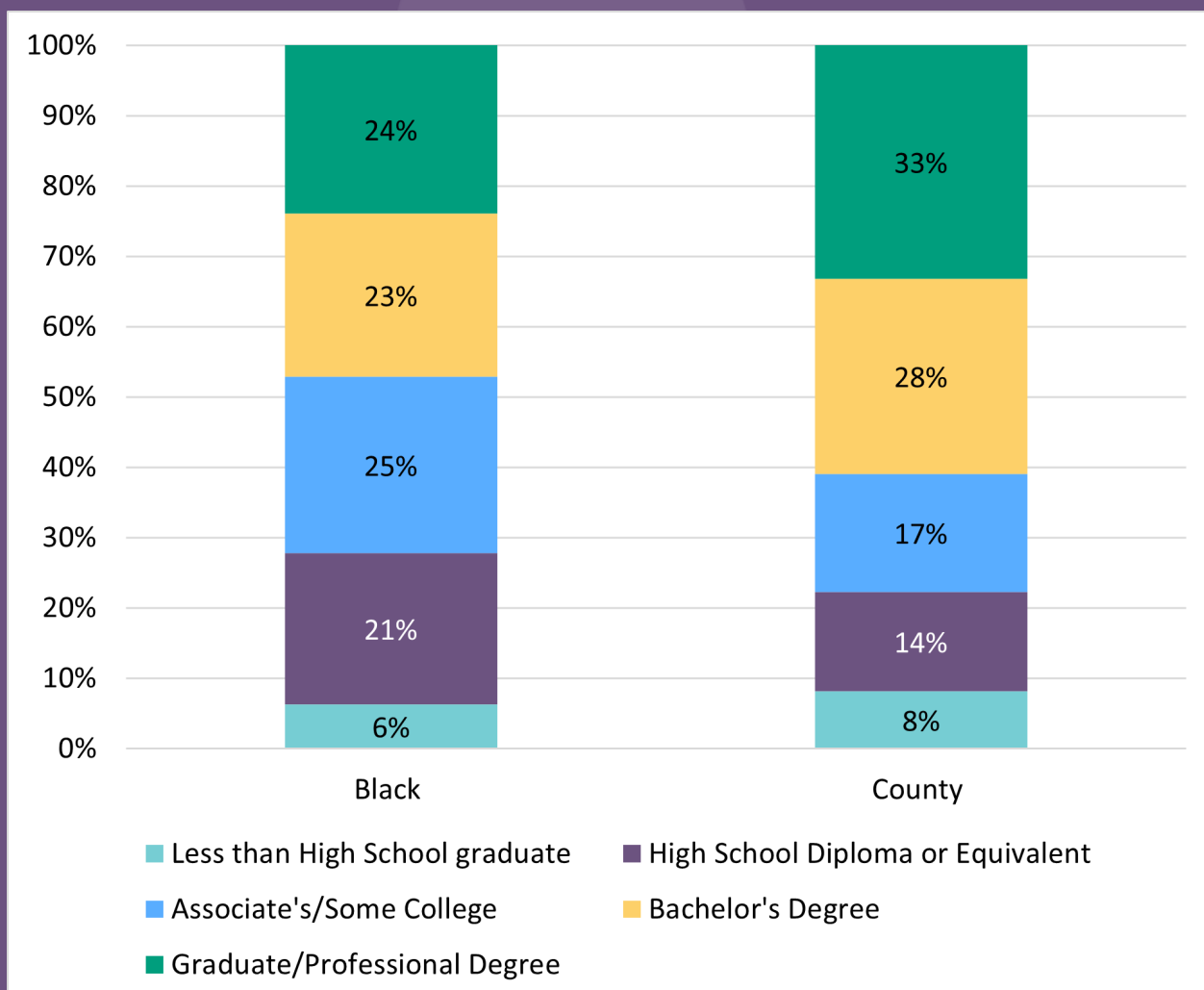Naturalized U.S. citizen, 19%
Native, 66%

EDUCATION

Forty-seven percent of Black residents aged 25 years or older held a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 61% for Montgomery County residents overall.

Higher percentages of Black residents had an associate's degree or some college than the county overall, 25% versus 17%. Only 6% of Black residents had less than a high school diploma, compared with 8% overall.

Figure 5: Educational Attainment (Population 25 Years and Older, 2022)

Legend:
- ■ Less than High School graduate
- ■ High School Diploma or Equivalent
- ■ Associate's/Some College
- ■ Bachelor's Degree
- ■ Graduate/Professional Degree

Black: Less than High School graduate 6%, High School Diploma or Equivalent 21%, Associate's/Some College 25%, Bachelor's Degree 23%, Graduate/Professional Degree 24%

County: Less than High School graduate 8%, High School Diploma or Equivalent 14%, Associate's/Some College 17%, Bachelor's Degree 28%, Graduate/Professional Degree 33%

HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS 🏠

There were noteworthy differences in the housing and household characteristics of Black residents compared with those of county residents as a whole. Black residents were far less likely to live as married couples without children (14% vs. 28% for county residents overall) and were single parents at nearly double the rate of the broader county (11% vs. 6%). In addition, Black residents live alone more frequently (37% of households vs. 28% in the county overall). Due to these factors, Black residents had smaller household sizes (2.58 people per household vs. 2.67 in the county overall).

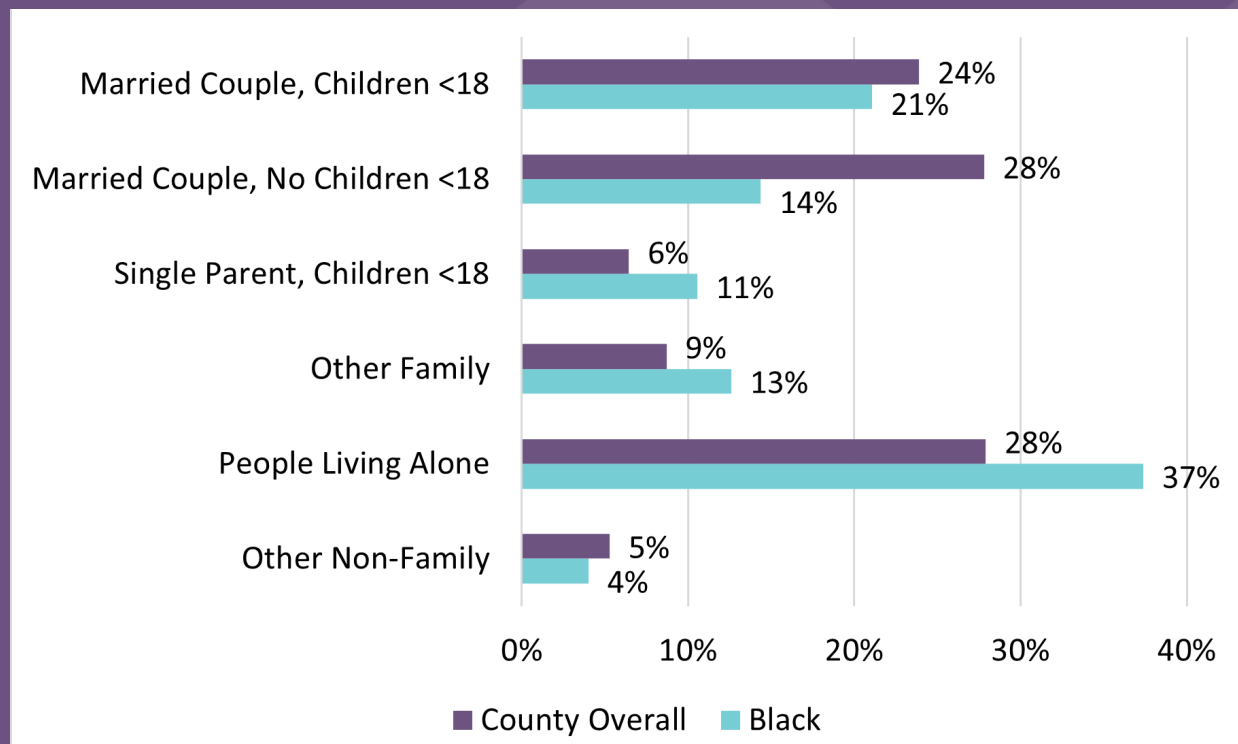*Figure 6: Distribution of Household Types (2022)*

	Black	County Overall
Average Household Size	2.58	2.67
Average Family Size (Number of Family Members)	3.49	3.27

Table 1: Average Household and Family Size (2022)

HOUSING TYPE

Black residents are less likely to be homeowners than county residents overall; only 46% of people in Black households reported owning their home, compared with 66% of those in the county overall. As a result, a majority of Black householders rent (54%) compared with only 34% in the county overall.

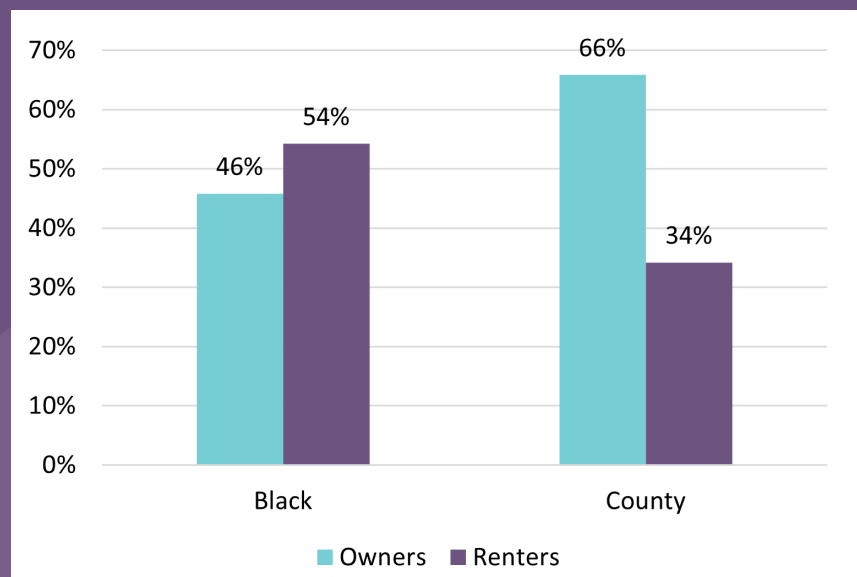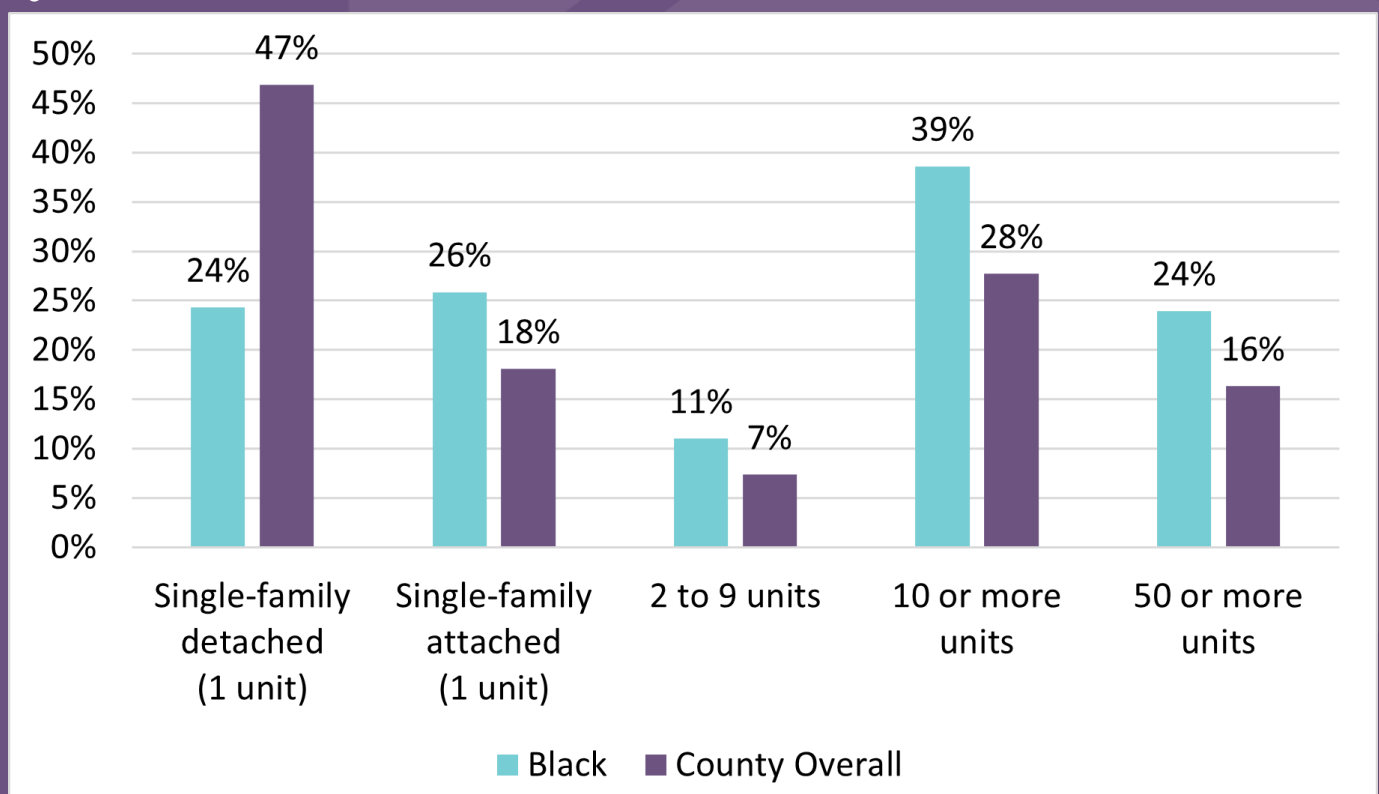*Figure 7: Housing Tenure (2022)*

Figure 8: Units in Structure (2022)

People in Black households are less likely to live in single-family houses than residents of the county overall (50% vs. 65%). The rate of Black households in single-family detached units was just about half the rate of the county overall, **24% vs. 47%**. In contrast, people in Black households are more likely to live in single-family attached units (townhouses) (26% vs. 18%). Black households were much more likely than county residents overall to live in multi-family apartment buildings with a medium (10 or more) number of units (39% vs. 28%) or a large (50 or more) number of units (24% vs. 16%).
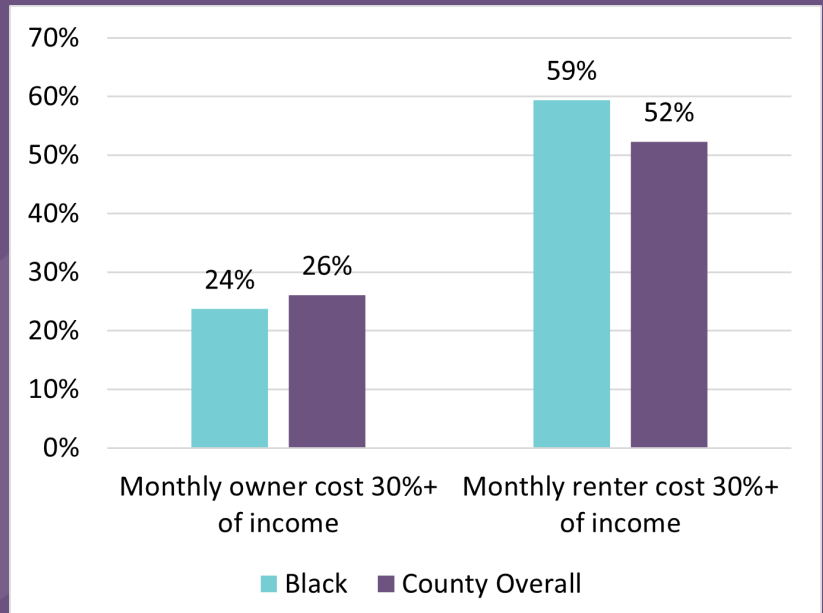
HOUSING COSTS

The median monthly housing cost for Black homeowners with a mortgage was $2,350, while the median rent and associated costs for renters were $1,694 in 2022. In the county overall, the median cost of housing to homeowners was $2,571, and the median rent and associated costs were $1,852.

The percentage of Black homeowners who were cost-burdened (paying more than 30% of their income on housing) was slightly lower than for county residents overall (24% versus 26%). However, 59% of Black renters were burdened by housing costs, compared with 52% of county residents.

Figure 9: Housing Cost Burden (2022)

Black Median Homeowner Cost
$2,350

County Overall Median Homeowner Cost
$2,571

Black Median Renter Cost
$1,694

County Overall Median Renter Cost
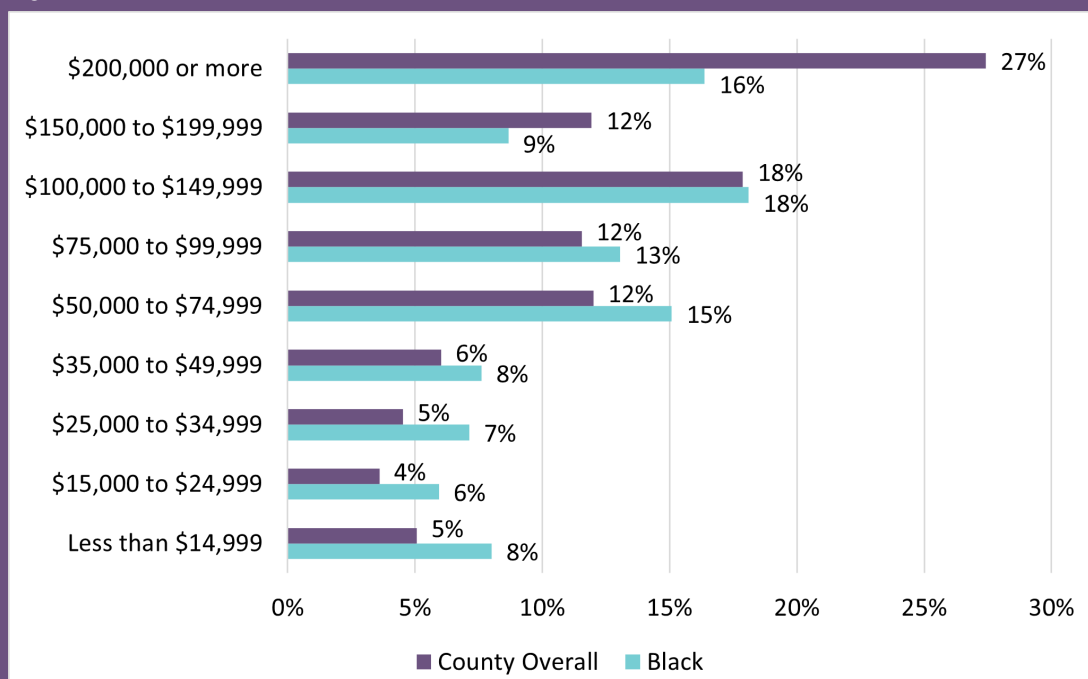## $1,852

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS 💰

INCOME AND POVERTY

In 2022, the median Black household income was $86,954, relative to $118,323 for the county overall.

Unemployment among those aged 16 and older was 6% for the Black population in 2022 and 4% for the county population as a whole.

The largest category of Black households (18%) had incomes in the range of $100,000 to $150,000, nearly matching the County exactly. However, a smaller share of Black households earned over $150,000 annually (25%) than households in the entire county (39%). Further, a larger share of Black households earned between $50,000 and $100,000 than county households overall (28% vs. 24%), and a larger share of Black households earned less than $50,000 (29% vs. 20%).

African American Median Household Income is
73%
of the County figure

Figure 10: Household Income (2022)

Income Range	County Overall	Black
$200,000 or more	27%	16%
$150,000 to $199,999	12%	9%
$100,000 to $149,999	18%	18%
$75,000 to $99,999	12%	13%
$50,000 to $74,999	12%	15%
$35,000 to $49,999	6%	8%
$25,000 to $34,999	5%	7%
$15,000 to $24,999	4%	6%
Less than $14,999	5%	8%

This disparity in income is also reflected in the share of Black residents who lived below the poverty line (14%) in 2022, which was nearly double the rate of the overall population (8%).

Table 2: Poverty Rate (2022)

	Black	County Overall
Individuals with incomes below the Federal Poverty Level	14%	8%
Individuals with incomes less than 2x the Federal Poverty Level [3,4]	25%	18%

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[3] *Data on poverty in the United States often includes this metric, as it helps more accurately capture the rate of individuals who struggle to make ends meet. For example, as of 2022 two times the Federal Poverty Level was an annual income of $27,180 for a one-person household and $46,060 for a family of three.*

[4] *United States Department of Health and Human Services. Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines. Federal Register, Vol. 87, No. 14, January 21, 2022, p. 3316.*

EMPLOYMENT 💼

The largest category of occupations held by the Black population was in "Management, business, and financial" industries (20%). "Education, legal, community service, arts, and media" and "Computer, engineering, and science" followed at 12% each. "Sales and related" and "Office and administrative support" were also top occupations for Black residents.

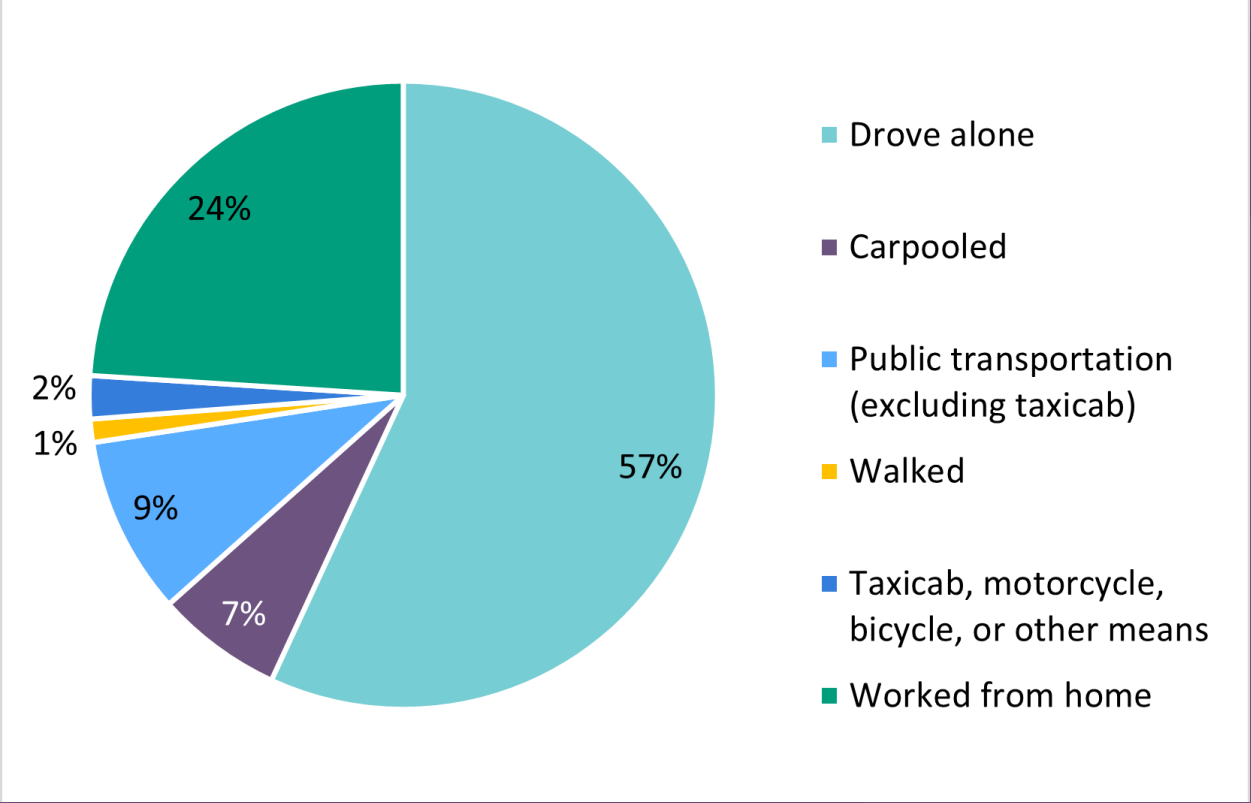*Table 3: Occupations of Black Residents (2022)*

	Estimate	Percent
Management, business, and financial	21,117	20%
Education, legal, community service, arts, and media	12,881	12%
Computer, engineering, and science	12,624	12%
Sales and related	10,028	9%
Office and administrative support	7,819	7%
Healthcare practitioners and technical	7,417	7%
Transportation	6,525	6%
Healthcare support	5,495	5%
Food preparation and serving related	4,019	4%
Protective service	3,908	4%
Personal care and service	3,821	4%
Production	3,338	3%
Installation, maintenance, and repair	2,569	2%
Construction and extraction	1,708	2%
Material moving	1,666	2%
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	1,506	1%

COMMUTE TO WORK

In 2022, 64% of the working Black population drove either alone or with someone else to work (compared with 61% in the county as a whole). Another 24% worked from home, a share that was influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. The corresponding county figure was 28% of residents.

Black and county residents' commute times were similar at 34 and 32 minutes, respectively.

Figure 11: Commuting Mode, Black Residents (Workers Aged 16 and Older, 2022)

Legend:
- Drove alone
- Carpooled
- Public transportation (excluding taxicab)
- Walked
- Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means
- Worked from home

Pie chart values: 57%, 7%, 9%, 1%, 2%, 24%

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For more information on demographic trends in Montgomery County, please visit:
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