

# DEMOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY IN THE GTA

## Overview

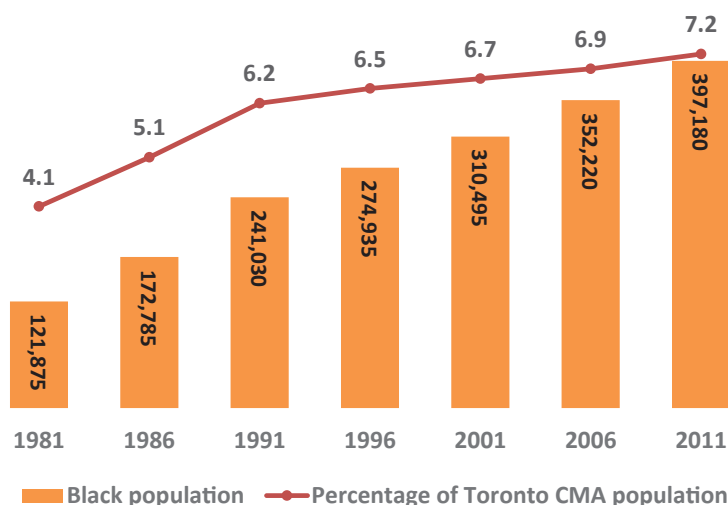
Before presenting the results of the survey, it is important to establish the demographic composition of the Black population in the GTA. Statistical information about the size and growth of the Black population and its demographic characteristics provides background and context to the rich information collected through the BEP survey.

This Chapter provides an introductory portrait of the Black population in the Greater Toronto Area, through a review of data collected by Statistics Canada through the 2011 National Household Survey (the most current population statistics available). It should be noted that the scope of the BEP was the Greater Toronto Area, but most of the population statistics presented in this chapter cover the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), which has a slightly different geography and slightly smaller percentage of the Black population size.

## Population Profile

The Black population in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is growing in size and diversity. Close to 400,000 self-identified Black individuals currently live in the Toronto CMA, representing a little over 7 percent of the area's population. The population has been growing, and has more than tripled in number over the past 30 years (see Figure 1).

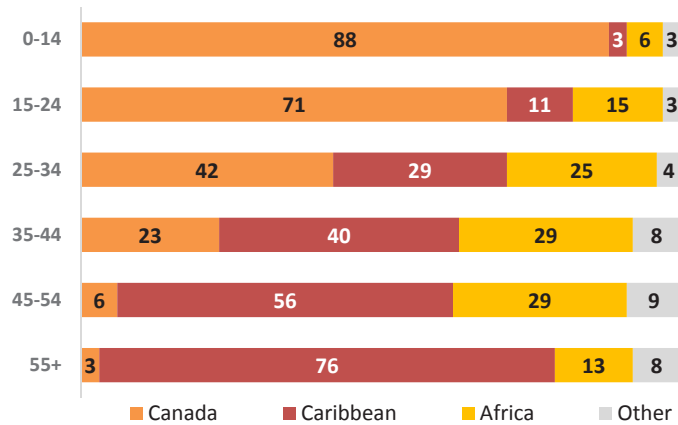
(1) Black population in Toronto CMA



Over time, there has been a dramatic generational shift in the origins of the area's Black population over time. Overall, the proportion of the population born in the Caribbean has been decreasing, while the proportion born in Africa and (especially) in Canada has been growing. While the older population is overwhelmingly Caribbean-born, younger generations have a greater mix of Caribbean, African and Canadian origins (see Figure 2).



## (2) Black population (by place of birth)



As recently as 1996, young Black adults (those aged 18 to 34) living in the GTA were much more likely to be born in the Caribbean than in Canada, but this is no longer the case. In 2011, Black people in this age cohort were twice as likely to be born in Canada as in the Caribbean. The 2011 National Household survey reported that, for the first time, young Black adults in the GTA were in majority Canadian-born.

In socio-economic terms, the situation of Black individuals is not on par with the rest of the Toronto CMA's population. Compared with the non-Black population, the Black population in the Toronto CMA has lower incomes. Black individuals are also slightly less likely to be employed and a bit less likely to be in the labour force (which includes those currently categorized as unemployed) (see Figure 3).

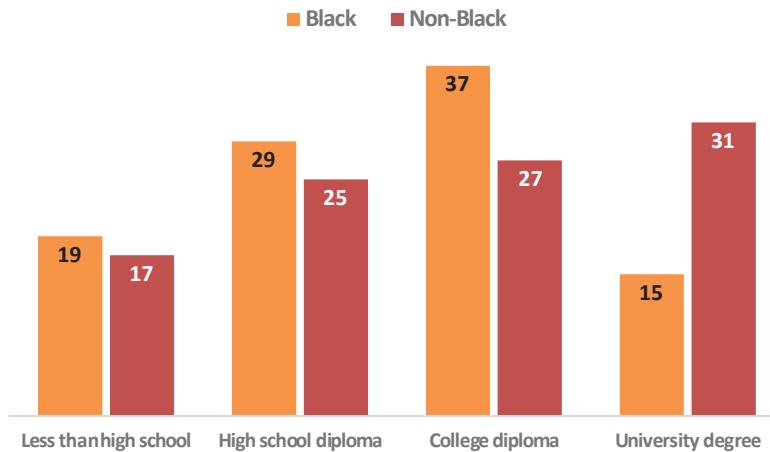
| (3) Individual Income - 2011 - Toronto CMA (by ethnic/racial groups) |          |                |          |                 |            |          |                      |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------|----------|-----------------|------------|----------|----------------------|------------------|
| Individual Income                                                    | Black    | Latin American | Arab     | Southeast Asian | West Asian | Korean   | Non-Visible Minority | TOTAL POPULATION |
| Median Employment Income                                             | \$43,090 | \$41,299       | \$46,897 | \$ 41,105       | \$ 44,015  | \$40,170 | \$ 56,543            | \$ 50,787        |
| Median Income                                                        | \$25,718 | \$23,913       | \$20,706 | \$ 23,050       | \$ 17,704  | \$17,374 | \$ 35,588            | \$ 29,593        |
| Median After-Tax Income                                              | \$24,422 | \$22,805       | \$20,068 | \$ 21,925       | \$ 17,383  | \$17,814 | \$ 32,111            | \$ 27,390        |
| Prevalance of low Income                                             | 25%      | 21%            | 28%      | 18%             | 33%        | 33%      | 11%                  | 15%              |

*\*Source: Statistics Canada: 2011 National Household Survey*

In comparison with the non-Black population, the Black population in the region is just as likely to have completed high school. The Black population is also almost as likely as the non-Black population to have a postsecondary education, but this is more likely to be at the trades or college level and less likely to be at the university level. This may confirm recently published research that has suggested a tendency to “stream” Black students into non-academic programs that limit future opportunities for education and career advancement (see Figure 4).<sup>21</sup>

Moreover, the extent of this gap in educational attainment at the university level between the Black and the non-Black population in the Toronto CMA is growing. The university attainment of non-Blacks is improving at a faster rate than that of Blacks, which is a cause for concern.

#### (4) Educational attainment: Black and non-Black



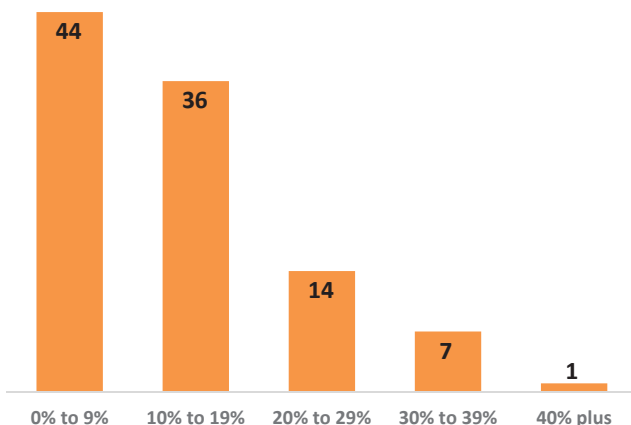
Overall, within the Black population, men are more likely to have a university degree than women. This situation, however, appears to be changing. Among those 35 and older, men are somewhat more likely than women to hold a university degree (19% for men, versus 16% for women), but the pattern is reversed for those younger than age 35 (35% among women versus 27% among men).<sup>22</sup>

Finally, the majority of Black individuals in the Toronto CMA live in neighbourhoods where Black people are in the minority. According to the 2006 census, 18 percent of the Black population in the GTA lives within census tracts where the Black population is less than five percent of the total population, and 44 percent live in tracts where less than 10 percent of households are Black. Only eight percent live within census tracts where the Black population is more than 30 percent or more of the total, and in no census tract within the GTA does the proportion of the population that is Black surpass 44 percent (see Figure 5).

This pattern varies substantially across the GTA. Almost all Black people in York and Halton Regions live within census tracts where the Black population is less than ten percent of the total population. This compares with 45 percent of the Black population in both Peel and Durham Regions, and with 36 percent of the Black population in the City of Toronto. In the City of Toronto, close to one in three Black persons live in census tracts that are between 20 and 40 percent Black.

The distribution of the Black population living in the GTA has also changed over time. Whereas in 1981 the City of Toronto included 78 percent of the GTA's total Black population, this proportion had fallen to 57 percent by 2011.<sup>24</sup> This change reflects a shift in the settlement patterns of the Black residents over time. With the exception of Halton, the Black population in the other four GTA regions has been growing at a faster pace than in the City of Toronto (see Figure 6).

#### (5) Distribution of Black population by proportion in census tract that is Black GTA



#### (6) 1981 - 2006 Regional share of GTA Black population

