

1990 CENSUS FOR THE UNITED STATES IS 249,632,692; REAPPORTIONMENT WILL SHIFT 19 SEATS IN THE HOUSE

The population of the United States counted in the 1990 census is 249,632,692, an increase of 10.21 percent since the 1980 census of 226,504,825.

The figures were transmitted to the President by Commerce Secretary Robert A. Mosbacher upon their receipt from Commerce Under Secretary for Economic Affairs Michael R. Darby and Census Director Barbara Everitt Bryant. Figures also were provided on final population counts for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The secretary also transmitted the official apportionment of

the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives among the 50 states. The apportionment population includes the population of the 50 states plus the overseas military and other overseas federal workers and dependents not in the United States on April 1, 1990. The population of the District of Columbia is not included in the apportionment population.

A total of 19 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives will be shifted as a result of the 1990 census. Eight states will increase their representation in the 103rd Congress, which will convene in January 1993. California will gain

seven seats for a total of 52, Florida will gain four seats to 23, and Texas will gain three seats for a total of 30. Arizona (6), Georgia (11), North Carolina (12), Virginia (11), and Washington (9) each gain one seat.

Thirteen states will have less representation in the 103rd

Congress. New York (31) will lose three seats, Illinois (20), Michigan (16), Ohio (19), and Pennsylvania (21) will each lose two seats. Iowa (5), Kansas (4), Kentucky (6), Louisiana (7), Massachusetts (10), Montana (1), New Jersey (13), and West Virginia (3) each will lose one

seat.

An attached table lists the official 1990 census population for the United States and the number of representatives each state will be entitled to elect to the 103rd Congress, which is scheduled to commence in January 1993.

The population counts set forth herein are subject to possible correction for undercount and overcount. The United States Department of Commerce is considering whether to correct these counts and will publish corrected counts, if any, not later than July 15, 1991.

EMERGE MAGAZINE NAMES ITS TEN EMERGING PERSONS OF THE YEAR

In the Emerge December/January 1991 issue, the magazine names its ten emerging persons of the year. Heading the list is General Colin L. Powell. As contributing editor Joel Dreyfuss observes, Powell has become the most visible black man in recent history who is neither an entertainer nor a civil rights leader. Powell, launched by his distinguished military career, could end up as Vice President Dan Quayle's replacement in 1992. Or like Dwight D. Eisenhower, Powell could ride his success into the Oval Office.

The other emerging persons are: Keenen Ivory Wayans, TV

Comedy Innovator; Zina Garrison, Wimbledon Finalist; Condoleezza Rice, Foreign Policy Strategist; Randall Robinson, Pan-African Power Broker; "Mandrake," Guerrilla Activist; Erroll McDonald, Literary Publishing Executive; Bill T. Jones, Dancer/Choreographer; Loran Simpson, Conceptual Artist; and Lisa D. Delpit, Educator.

"These individuals were chosen, not because they are new to the scene, but because they have in the last year come into their own as leaders in their

respective fields and promise to remain in the forefront for many years to come," says Editor-in-

Chief Wilmer C. Ames, Jr. "They have also set new standards for effectiveness and excellence."

MONEY

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Because our past methods evidently are not working toward our collective financial interests, Blacks may wish to initiate alternate methods of economic development. Each time we buy we must take responsibility for our own actions. Each time we deposit money we should take note of where our money goes and who does it help. And those who live in Black-run cities must make sure that city grants and contracts go back into our communities in proportion to our population.

"Where is the money?" It is up to you and me to find out. But if you often find yourself as "the only black" in your neighborhood, supermarket, dry cleaners, restaurant or cocktail lounge, you probably will never know.

Racial Health

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While the statistics may show some correlation between substance abuse, drinking, and smoking and serious illness, they certainly don't tell the whole story.

Nor do they explain why behavior-related diseases are more often fatal or more severe among blacks than among whites. Or why African-Americans are statistically more likely to suffer from illness related to stress such as high blood pressure and asthma, among others.

It just won't do to be told that if African-Americans stop smoking or drinking, we'll live longer. Of course people ought to engage in practices that are healthy and avoid those that aren't.

But this business of blaming individual lifestyle preferences for the wide health gap between the races looks like an evasion of the real issues that lie behind the health gap — poverty and the unavailability of quality health care for the poor.

There's a strong link between

poverty and health.

One government study found that people earning less than \$10,000 a year reported getting sick four-and-a-half times more often than people in the \$35,000 bracket.

Another study found that blue-collar workers are more than twice as likely to get heart disease than managers and professionals.

African-Americans are disproportionately poor and more likely to be in marginal jobs.

They are more likely to live in neighborhoods underserved by doctors and medical facilities.

And they are more likely to be uninsured and without the funds to buy quality health care.

African-American women are less likely to get medical attention during pregnancy, especially in the crucial early months.

For many poor African-Americans the family doctor is the local hospital emergency room. They have no money available for regular checkups and no facilities in which to get them.

And although African-Ameri-

cans are only about 12 percent of the population, they account for 80 percent of premature deaths — deaths among people aged 15 to 44 from a dozen diseases that are normally not fatal when they are treated early.

Without access to routine health care services, people often postpone seeking treatment until it's too late. And without treatment and close monitoring for chronic diseases such as asthma, from which blacks die at twice the white rate, the racial health gap will grow.


Most important, African-Americans in our society are subjected to societal pressures such as discrimination that often show up in adverse health conditions.

So race and poverty combine to exact a severe health penalty on African-Americans and to make America's racial health gap a national scandal.

We need to stop trying to explain it away and start making quality health care available to all, and most especially to the millions denied it due to race and poverty.

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