

Memorandum



Date: August 30, 2007

To: Victor M. Diaz, Chairman
Charter Review Task Force

From: Susanne M. Torriente
Assistant County Manager

Subject: Information on Persons of Haitian Ancestry or Ethnic Origin in Miami-Dade County –
US Census 2000

Attached is information gathered by staff regarding persons of Haitian Ancestry or Ethnic Origin in Miami-Dade County who were counted in the US Census 2000.

C: Charter Review Task Force Members and Staff

**Persons Of Haitian Ancestry Or Ethnic Origin
Who were counted in Census 2000
In
Miami-Dade County, 2000**

Persons of Haitian ancestry in Miami-Dade County numbered 95,669 persons, according to Census 2000 results recently released by the Census Bureau. This number was based on persons who indicated *Haitian ancestry* as their first or second choice in responding to the census ancestry/ethnic origin question. This question was asked in the census sample questionnaire, the long form that went to about one in six households.¹ Since this information was obtained from a sample there was a margin of error associated with the estimate (roughly +/- 1,000 at the 90 percent confidence level). The Census 2000 figure was lower than expected. Informal estimates made by the Miami-Dade County Planning and Zoning Department put the number of Haitians at over 100,000.

In 1990, ten years earlier, the Census reported that there were 57,579 persons in Miami-Dade who reported Haitian ancestry as their first or second choice in responding to the ancestry question. This figure was obtained from a small (5 percent) sample reported in the Public Use Microdata Sample file for Miami-Dade. It was possible with this file to add another 6,633 persons who reported that they were born in Haiti, although they did not respond to the ancestry question. The 1990 census figure then was 64,212 persons of Haitian ancestry or birth. A similar adjustment may be possible when the 2000 Microdata Sample file is released.

The Census 2000 figure for Haitians appears to be a low estimate because local administrative indicators suggest continued growth of this community. *Births to mothers of Haitian origin* averaged more than 1,900 a year during the 1990s. In each of the past five years, 1998 to 2002, more than 1,000 *new Haitian-born students* entered the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. All Haitian-born students in June 2001 numbered 6,480, about 1,100 higher than the comparable figure for February 1990. These figures suggest a steady increase in the Haitian population of Miami-Dade in the 1990s.

Haitians may have had some difficulty responding to the long-form questions because of language differences and the lack of census forms in Creole or French. Apart from these difficulties, it is clear that the country-of-origin responses in Summary File 3 were low for all countries. Answers to this question on the short form were consistently higher than the equivalent responses on the long form.

- *Cubans*, for example, numbered 525,841 in the long-form ancestry response, 19 percent fewer than the 650,601 counted in short form.

¹ There were two lines available to respond to the question: What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?

- *Colombians* numbered 81,377 in the long-form ancestry response, 29 percent less than the 114,577 estimated in the short form.²
- A similar pattern was evident for *Nicaraguans*. They numbered 86,108 in the long-form ancestry response, 24 percent fewer than the 113,234 counted in the short form.

There was no check-off box on the short form for Haitians. If there had been and if the short form/long form population ratios that characterized Cubans, Colombians, and Nicaraguans were applied to Haitian ancestry estimate, then the number of Haitians that might have been counted would have been 126,283 persons.³

The Public Use Microdata Sample will be released in few months. At that time it will be possible to review weighted individual person and household records of Haitians in Miami-Dade with all identifiers removed. This file will provide additional data on the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the Haitian population in Miami-Dade. It may also help with the development of a better estimate of this population.

² The 114,577 Colombians included a prorated share of the 203,000 who checked the "Other" Hispanic box but did not write in a group, or whose writing could not be read by the Census. This was done for all Hispanic groups except Cubans, Mexicans, and Puerto Ricans for whom separate response boxes were provided on the questionnaire. It assumes that the blank or illegible entries here were distributed across ancestry or ethnic origin groups in the same way as those entries that were read.

³ 126,283=95,669*1.32.

Population by Race and Haitian Ancestry, 2000

Miami-Dade County by Municipality

Municipality	Total Persons	Black Only	Total Haitian	Percent Haitian (of Blacks)
Avventura	25267	430	98	22.79%
Bal Harbour	3,305	54	0	0.00%
Bay Harbor Island	5,146	92	0	0.00%
Biscayne Park	3,269	605	340	56.20%
Coral Gables	42,249	1,394	163	11.69%
El Portal	2,505	1,537	556	36.17%
Florida City	7,843	4,445	468	10.53%
Golden Beach	919	3	0	0.00%
Hialeah	226,419	5,453	423	7.76%
Hialeah Gardens	19,297	348	11	3.16%
Homestead	31,909	7,194	1,531	21.28%
Indian Creek Village	33	0	0	0.00%
Islandia	6	0	0	0.00%
Key Biscayne	10,507	48	0	0.00%
Medley	1,098	80	0	0.00%
Miami	362,470	80,858	18,309	22.64%
Miami Beach	87,933	3,548	422	11.89%
Miami Lakes*	22,676	635	9	1.42%
Miami Shores	10,380	2,541	969	38.13%
Miami Springs	13,712	280	19	6.79%
North Bay Village	6,733	344	65	18.90%
North Miami	59,880	32,867	18,656	56.76%
North Miami Beach	40,786	15,895	7,864	49.47%
Opa-Locka	14,951	10,412	364	3.50%
Pinecrest	19,055	327	116	35.47%
South Miami	10,741	2,653	67	2.53%
Sunny Isles Beach	15,315	311	92	29.58%
Surfside	4,909	63	0	0.00%
Sweetwater	14,226	126	14	11.11%
Virginia Gardens	2,348	53	0	0.00%
West Miami	5,863	48	24	50.00%
Unincorporated	1,071,750	172,644	44,819	25.96%
County Total	2,253,362	457,214	95,669	20.92%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3.

Miami-Dade County Department of Planning and Zoning, 2002.

Miami Lakes incorporated in December, 2000.

Note: Percent Haitian is the percentage of the Black population that is Haitian.

Haitian ancestry was cited as first or second ancestry.

**Selected Characteristics
Haitian and Total Population
Miami-Dade County, FL 2005**

Subject	Total population	Haitian Population
Total population	2,329,187	109,160
SEX AND AGE		
Male	48.1%	47.3%
Female	51.9%	52.7%
HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY SIZE		
Average household size	2.79	3.81
Average family size	3.41	4.35
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Population 25 years and over	1,527,842	59,864
Less than high school diploma	23.6%	33.3%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	27.0%	26.0%
Some college or associate's degree	24.2%	31.4%
Bachelor's degree	15.8%	6.6%
Graduate or professional degree	9.4%	2.8%
High school graduate or higher	76.4%	66.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	25.2%	9.4%
PLACE OF BIRTH, CITIZENSHIP STATUS AND YEAR OF ENTRY		
Native	1,158,590	41,913
Foreign born	1,170,597	67,247
Naturalized U.S. citizen	570,849	30,490
Not a U.S. citizen	599,748	36,757
Entered 2000 or later	18.3%	17.5%
Entered 1990 to 1999	28.2%	30.0%
Entered before 1990	53.6%	52.5%
EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND INCOME		
Population 16 years and over	1,810,470	77,209
In labor force	62.4%	71.5%
Civilian labor force	62.3%	71.5%
Employed	57.4%	64.2%
Unemployed	4.9%	7.3%
Percent of civilian labor force	7.9%	10.2%
Armed Forces	0.1%	0.0%
Not in labor force	37.6%	28.5%
Median household income (dollars)	\$37,148	\$28,171
Median family income (dollars)	\$42,499	\$31,459
Per capita income (dollars)	\$20,916	\$10,906

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey

Prepared by Miami-Dade County's Department of Planning and Zoning, Research Section 2007.

Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability.

Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters.