

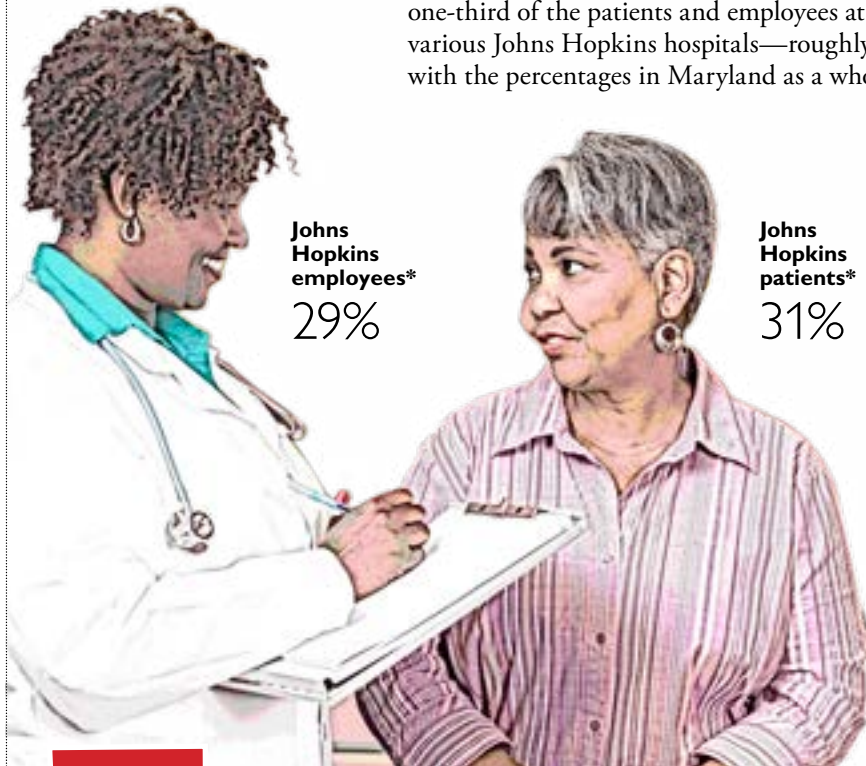
# National Black History Month

## History

Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, first proposed a Negro History Week in 1925, seeking to increase awareness of African American contributions throughout American history. Woodson chose the week in February between Abraham Lincoln's and Frederick Douglass' birthdays as the time of celebration. Fifty years after the first such week, President Gerald Ford took the opportunity of the United States bicentennial in 1976 to officially proclaim the month of February as Black History Month, calling on all Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Every president since has continued to proclaim February as Black History Month or, more recently, National African American History Month.

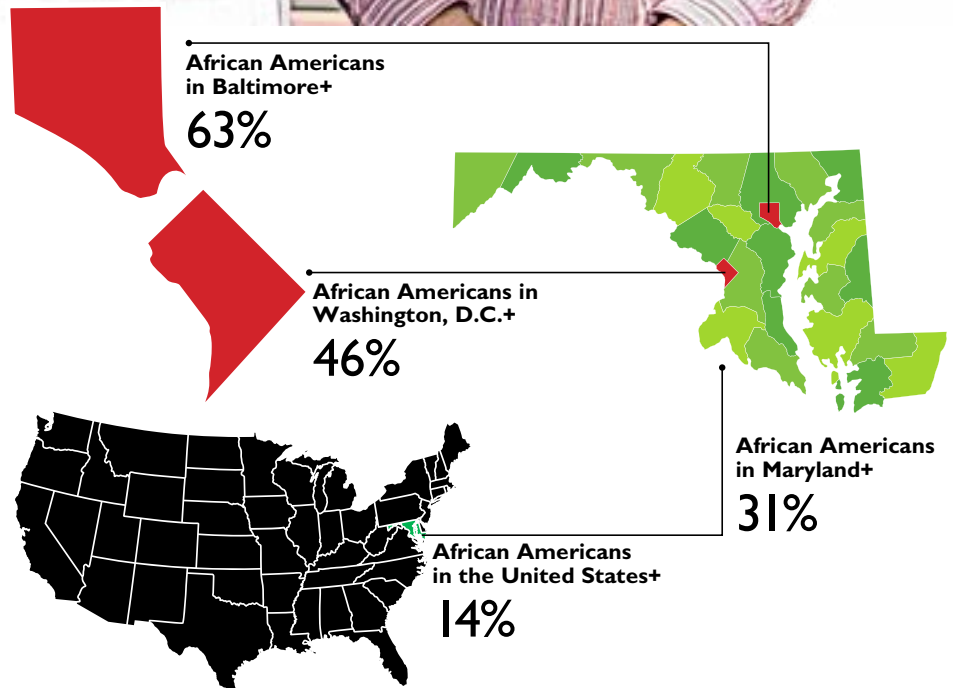
### African Americans Locally and Nationally

African Americans make up approximately one-third of the patients and employees at the various Johns Hopkins hospitals—roughly on par with the percentages in Maryland as a whole.



**Johns Hopkins employees\***  
 29%

**Johns Hopkins patients\***  
 31%



+ (2016, estimated)  
 \* (Collectively, at the six Johns Hopkins hospitals, Fiscal Year 2017)

# National Black History Month

## Health Disparities

African Americans compared to Non-Hispanic Whites

### BREAST CANCER

**40%**  
 more likely to die from breast cancer

### ASTHMA

**20%**  
 more likely to die from asthma

### MATERNAL MORTALITY

**3x**  
 as likely to die from a pregnancy-related complication

### INFANT MORTALITY

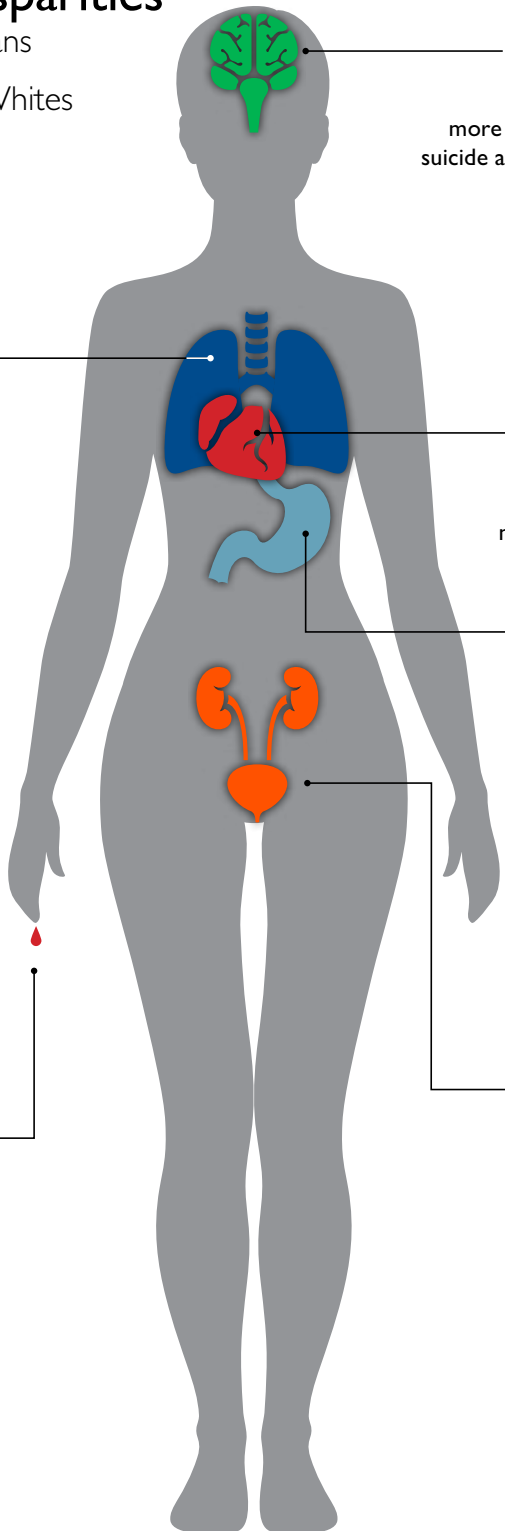
**2.5x**  
 as likely to die as infants

### OBESITY

**23%**  
 more likely to be obese

### DIABETES

**72%**  
 more likely to be diabetic



### DEPRESSION

**61%**  
 more likely to attempt suicide as a high-schooler

### STROKE

**44%**  
 more likely to die from stroke

### HEART DISEASE

**25%**  
 more likely to die of heart disease

### STOMACH CANCER

**2x**  
 more likely to die of stomach cancer

### PROSTATE CANCER

**2x**  
 more likely to die from prostate cancer

### CERVICAL CANCER

**52%**  
 more likely to die from cervical cancer

### HIV

**9x**  
 more likely to die from HIV

## Resources

**African American History Month**  
[africanamericanhistorymonth.gov](http://africanamericanhistorymonth.gov)

**National Park Service: African American Heritage**  
[nps.gov/aahistory](http://nps.gov/aahistory)

**EDSITEment's Guide to Black History Month Teaching Resources**  
[edsitement.neh.gov/feature/edsitements-guide-black-history-month-teaching-resources](http://edsitement.neh.gov/feature/edsitements-guide-black-history-month-teaching-resources)

**National Museum of African American History and Culture**  
<https://nmaahc.si.edu/>

**Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture**  
<https://lewismuseum.org/>

## Johns Hopkins Resources

**Johns Hopkins University Black Faculty and Staff Association**  
[bfsa.jhu.edu/](http://bfsa.jhu.edu/)

**Black Graduate Student Association (BGS)**  
[jhsphe.edu/offices-and-services/office-of-student-life/minority-student-groups](http://jhsphe.edu/offices-and-services/office-of-student-life/minority-student-groups)

**The Student National Medical Association (SNMA)/JHU Chapter**  
[hopkinsmedicine.org/som/students/diversity/snma](http://hopkinsmedicine.org/som/students/diversity/snma)

**African Public Health Network**  
[jhsphe.edu/offices-and-services/student-assembly/student-groups/african-public-health-network](http://jhsphe.edu/offices-and-services/student-assembly/student-groups/african-public-health-network)

**Johns Hopkins University Black Student Union**  
[facebook.com/jhubsu](https://facebook.com/jhubsu)

**The Indispensable Role of Blacks Project**  
[bfsa.jhu.edu/exhibits/exhibit-list](http://bfsa.jhu.edu/exhibits/exhibit-list)

**Hopkins Diaspora Employee Resource Group (ERG) Chairs**  
 Tia Hooks-Jorge [thooks1@jhmi.edu](mailto:thooks1@jhmi.edu)  
 Selwyn Ray [sray22@jhmi.edu](mailto:sray22@jhmi.edu)

# National Black History Month

## The Divine Nine: The History of Black Greek Organizations

The five black fraternities and four black sororities that comprise the “Divine Nine” were established in the early 20th century as a response to white Greek-letter organizations that denied black students entry. Amid racial oppression and segregation, these organizations assumed the charge of activism, scholarship, social uplift and service.<sup>1</sup> Today, they play a significant role in the lives of young African Americans in higher education. Greek life influences campus life, social life, surrounding communities, networking and friendships.<sup>2</sup> Vice President Kamala Harris is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the first black greek sorority that was founded on the campus of Howard University.

Learn more about the Divine Nine: [blackgreek.com/divinenine](http://blackgreek.com/divinenine)



## Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

The term historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) refers to institutions of higher education in the United States founded prior to 1964 for African American students.<sup>3</sup> In Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965, Congress officially defined an HBCU as “a school of higher learning that was accredited and established before 1964, and whose principal mission was the education of African Americans.”

The first HBCUs were founded in Pennsylvania and Ohio before the American Civil War (1861–65) with the purpose of providing black youths — who were largely prevented, due to racial discrimination, from attending established colleges and universities — with a basic education and training to become teachers or tradesmen.

Today, HBCUs produce 24% of African American STEM graduates and confer almost 35% of all bachelor’s degrees earned by African American graduates in astronomy, biology, chemistry, math and physics. According to a report from the National Science Foundation, eight of the top 10 institutions producing African American undergraduates who went on to earn science and engineering doctorates were HBCUs.<sup>4</sup> Many prominent figures attended HBCUs, including Vice President Harris and the late Chadwick Boseman are graduates of Howard University, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Senator Raphael Warnock are graduates of Morehouse College.

Learn more about HBCUs: [thehundred-seven.org/hbculist.html](http://thehundred-seven.org/hbculist.html)

### Sources

**Black Greeks: A Legacy in Peril?**

[diverseeducation.com/article/10154/](http://diverseeducation.com/article/10154/)

**The Importance Of Black Greek-Letter Organizations**

[theodysseyonline.com/the-importance-of-black-greek-letter-organizations](http://theodysseyonline.com/the-importance-of-black-greek-letter-organizations)

**Historically black colleges and universities**

[britannica.com/topic/historically-black-colleges-and-universities](http://britannica.com/topic/historically-black-colleges-and-universities)

**The history of HBCUs in America**

[americanradioworks.org/segments/hbcu-history/](http://americanradioworks.org/segments/hbcu-history/)