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### Black-immigrant population growing

May 09, 2003

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - A cultural division is emerging between American-born blacks and a fast-growing population of black immigrants, civil-rights advocates said yesterday.

The black population grew 31 percent between 1980 and 2000, from 26 million to 34 million. But the population of blacks from Africa and the Caribbean grew roughly seven times as fast, according to an analysis of Census Bureau data by the Lewis Mumford Center at the State University of New York at Albany.

The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation held a conference to discuss ways to bridge the gaps between the groups.

"There is a cultural ignorance we have about each other," said Clayola Brown, civil-rights director for the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees. "The only way we can overcome that is to educate both immigrants and the native-born."

For example, Brown and other participants said many American blacks do not realize that those born overseas must overcome the same disparities in housing, education and health care that they do in America.

The number of blacks who arrived from or claimed ancestry to the Caribbean or West Indies, such as Jamaica or Haiti, more than tripled between 1980 and 2000 to 1.5 million, the study found.

The 537,000 blacks who came from or had ties to sub-Saharan African countries such as Nigeria or Ghana is six times the number from two decades earlier. The Washington, New York and Atlanta metropolitan areas have the largest concentrations of African-born residents.

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