THE PROPORTION OF BLACK WORKERS IN UNIONS EXCEEDS THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

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Berkeley ---- A new report released today by the University of California, Berkeley’s Center for Labor Research and Education finds that Black union density --- the proportion of Black workers that belong to unions --- exceeds the non-Black union density. In 2012, 13.1% of Black workers were in unions; for non-Black workers, the figure was 11.0%.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNION DENSITY</th>
<th>Proportion of Workforce in Unions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Black</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
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Source: CPS

“Black workers are more highly unionized compared to their white and Latino counterparts. In addition, the proportion of union members that are Black exceeds the proportion of the workforce that is Black. These patterns are accentuated when examining the ten most populous metropolitan areas in the country,” said Steven Pitts, labor policy specialist at the center and author of the report. Pitts added, “These numbers point to a potential area of strength for unions as they attempt to defend their gains and expand into new sectors.”

Key findings in this brief include:

- A greater proportion of Black workers were union members compared to the proportion of non-Black workers who were union members. In 2012, 13.1% of all Black workers in the United States...
were union members; 11.0% of non-Black workers in the United States were union members.

- Black workers were disproportionately in unions relative to their share in the overall workforce. In 2012, 13.3% of all union members in the United States were Black; Blacks comprised 11.4% of the overall workforce in the United States.

- These differences were magnified when limiting the analysis to the ten most populous metropolitan areas in the United States. Among U. S. workers, Blacks were 19% more likely to belong to unions than non-Blacks; however, among workers in the largest metropolitan areas, Blacks were 42% more likely to belong to unions compared to non-Blacks.

The report can be found online.

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