

1837

Statistics on Black Deaf

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Book on the Education of the deaf,
(ca. 1836)

Statistics of the Deaf and Dumb.

11

In the "Fourth Circular of the Royal Institute of the deaf and dumb at Paris," published in 1836, a table is given, founded on one originally prepared by Mr. Burnet, a mute, to show the relative proportion of the deaf and dumb in the white and colored population of the United States. I add some of the abstracts.

Black Deaf - Statistics

		White popula- tion.	White deaf and dumb.	Proportion.	Colored population.	Col'd deaf & dumb.	Proportion.	Total deaf & dumb.	Proportion to the whole population.
<i>Northern States, including</i>									
Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Isl- and, Connecticut, Vermont, New- York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware,		5,474,763	2916	1 in 1877	144,361	144	1 in 1002	3060	1 in 1836
<i>Southern States.</i>									
Maryland, District of Columbia, Vir- ginia, North Carolina, South Car- olina, Georgia,		2,040,483	1115	1 in 1830	1493,791	439	1 in 3402	1554	1 in 2274
<i>South-western States.</i>									
Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas, Florida.		1,562,674	684	1 in 2281	674,607	148	1 in 4,558	832	1 in 2689
<i>North-western States.</i>									
Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan,		1,451,135	648	1 in 2241	15,883	12	1 in 1323	660	1 in 2227
Total,		10,532,060	5363	1 in 1964	2323,642	743	1 in 3131	6106	1 in 2106

There is one comment made by the editor of the work from which I have taken this abstract, to which I cannot too pointedly call the attention of my readers. It is the fact of the far greater prevalence of this infirmity among the free blacks than among the slave population. Thus in the ten northern States, as enumerated, the proportion is 1 in 1002, although there is scarcely a slave in these States. So also in the north-western district, the proportion is 1 in 1323. While in the southern States, where all are slaves, the proportion is 1 in 3402, and in the south-western 1 in 4558. If physical causes have the slightest effect in producing this malady, does not the above statement prove that the condition of our free blacks is infinitely worse than that of their brethren at the south?

I now proceed to state such European results as I have been enabled to procure.

KINGDOM OF PRUSSIA.

The number of deaf and dumb, according to a census taken in 1825, was 6786; in 1827, 6764; in 1828, 8223, in a population of 12,726,823, making a proportion of one mute to every 1548 inhabitants. A diversity similar to that which I have already stated, exists as to the numbers in the respective provinces of this kingdom. Thus, East Prussia has one deaf and dumb to every 1078 inhabitants, while Cleves-Berg has only one to every 2844. The writer who notices these facts, observes that the only circumstances which seem to have any influence in producing this diversity, are that those provinces in which knowledge is most extensively diffused and which enjoy most completely the conveniences of life, have a smaller number of deaf and dumb.*

The following table exhibits the age of the above individuals.

* *Troisième Circulaire de L'Institut Royal des Sourd—Muets de Paris a toutes les Institutions de Sourd—Muets de L'Europe, de l'Amerique et De l'Asie*, 8. vo. Paris, 1832. I am indebted for this and the other circulars, published respectively in 1827, 1829, 1832 and 1836, to the kindness of John A. Dix. Esq. Secretary of State.