



Slave Population of Colonial Connecticut, 1690-1774

Compiled by Peter Hinks

This table shows the estimated enslaved black population in the colony of Connecticut between 1690 and 1774. The data are derived from the United States Bureau of the Census, Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1957 (Washington, 1961).

African Slave Population of Colonial Connecticut, 1690-1774

Year	Number of slaves (estimate)
1690	200
1700	450
1710	750
1720	1100
1730	1490
1740	2600
1750	3000
1756	3700 (approx.)
1761	4590
1774	5100

Estimated enslaved black population statistics from 1690 through 1750 are derived from the United States Bureau of the Census, Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1957 (Washington, 1961).

The figures for 1756, 1761, and 1774 are derived from censuses undertaken by colonial Connecticut officials for the British Board of Trade. While they afford useful statistical information, problems of enumeration did exist, especially for the 1756 census which failed to include altogether the slave population for Greenwich, New Haven, New London, Milford, and numerous other smaller towns. The 1756 census concluded that the colony had 3019 slaves, an unquestionable undercount. Lacking precise figures, this table conservatively estimates the total slave population in 1756 at about 3700, probably an undercount as well, but certainly more accurate than the figure submitted originally to the Board of Trade. The figures for 1761 and 1774 are more accurate than for 1756.

Estimated figures for 1760 and 1770 are not provided because 1760 was calculated on the basis of the flawed 1756 numbers, and the 1770 census included Native American populations along with those for enslaved Africans. No population figures specifically for 1775 exist.