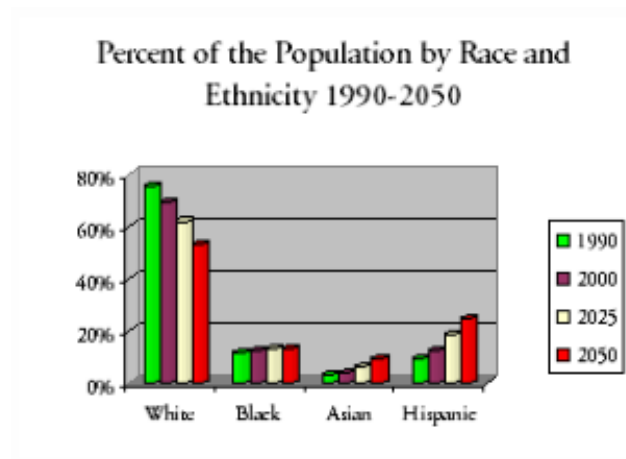
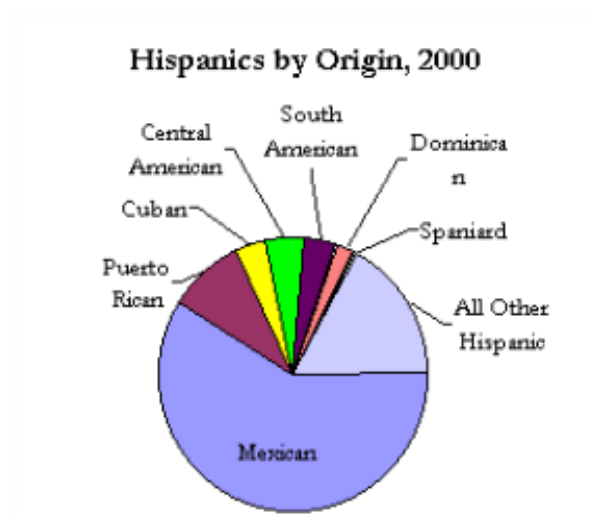


Executive Summary: A Demographic Profile of Hispanics in the U.S.



- Hispanic Americans are the fastest growing demographic group in the United States. According to Census 2000, their number increased by 58 percent since 1990—a gain of about 13 million people. Hispanics made up 12.5 percent of the population in 2000. Large numbers of Latin American immigrants and robust fertility rates have caused this growth.
- In 2000, Hispanics were the largest minority group, numbering 35.3 million individuals, slightly larger than the African American population (34.7 million). By the year 2025, Hispanic Americans will account for 18 percent of the U.S. population. If current demographic trends continue, the Hispanic population will almost triple by 2050; one out of every four Americans will be Hispanic.
- Unlike other minority classifications in the United States, Hispanics do not belong to a specific racial category. A separate question on Hispanic origin first appeared in the census questionnaire in 1970.
- The term "Hispanic" designates a person from a Spanish-speaking country or their descendants. Yet 48 percent of Hispanics marked White alone, while 42 percent marked Some other race. Less than four percent reported Black or African American, and about six percent marked More than one race.

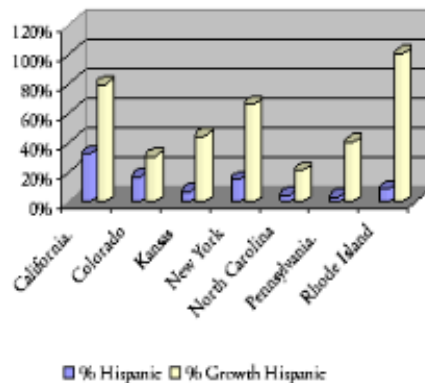


- Hispanic Americans are from a wide range of countries. In 2000, the largest Hispanic group was Mexicans with a population of 20.6 million, 58.5 percent of the Hispanic population. Puerto Ricans and Cubans made up 9.6 and 3.5 percent respectively, while 28.4 percent of Hispanics marked Other Hispanic. Over 60 percent of those who marked Other Hispanic did not provide further ethnic or racial information.
- Spanish is the second most common language in the United States. In 2000, about 27.8 million people (or 10.5% of the population) over the age of five spoke Spanish at home, and just under half could not speak English very well. Spanish speakers make up about 63 percent of people in the U.S. who do not speak English very well.

Geographic Concentration

- Hispanics are concentrated largely in the South and West, and in a few large metropolitan regions (especially New York and Chicago). Over half live in just two states, California (11.0 million) and Texas (6.7 million). Five more states have Hispanic populations of one million or more: New York (2.9 million), Florida (2.7 million), Illinois (1.5 million), Arizona (1.3 million) and New Jersey (1.1 million).
- New Mexico had the highest percentage of Hispanics (42%) followed by California (32%) and Texas (32%). Hispanics comprise over half the population in 50 counties in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Colorado and Florida. Starr County, in Texas' Rio Grande Valley, has the highest percentage of Hispanics with 97.5 percent. The largest Hispanic population in any county is in Los Angeles County, CA (4.1 million). Miami-Dade, Harris (Houston) and Cook (Chicago) counties also boasted Hispanic populations of over one million.
- Hispanics are more likely to live in metropolitan areas than the general population. In 2000, 91 percent of Hispanics lived in metropolitan areas, compared with 78 percent of non-Hispanic whites; 46 percent of Hispanics lived in central cities, compared with 22 percent of non-Hispanic whites. Of the ten largest cities in the U.S. in 2000, only two (Detroit and Philadelphia) were less than one-quarter Hispanic.

Hispanic Contribution to Population Growth
(Selected States, 1990-2000)



- The various Hispanic groups tend to be regionally concentrated. Mexican populations tend to be concentrated in the Southwest and Illinois, substantial

Puerto Rican populations are found in New York and Chicago, while most Cubans reside in Florida.

Population Growth

- The Hispanic population grew much faster than the national average; 40 percent of nationwide growth between 1990 and 2000 was due to Hispanics. The Hispanic population grew by over 100 percent in 22 states, including North Carolina (394%), Arkansas (337%), Georgia (300%), Tennessee (278%) and Nevada (217%); these large percentage increases, however, represent only modest numerical gains, as the Hispanic populations in these areas had been marginal. The largest numerical increases in Hispanics were in California, Texas and Florida, which gained 3.3 million, 2.3 million and 1.1 million Hispanics respectively.
- Of the 72 cities with populations over 100,000 that grew by at least two percent between 1990 and 2000, 19 would have lost population were it not for Hispanic growth, including Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, Miami and Boston. Similarly, Rhode Island, which added 44,855 people (an increase of 4.6%) between 1990 and 2000, gained 45,752 Hispanics.

Immigration and the Foreign Born

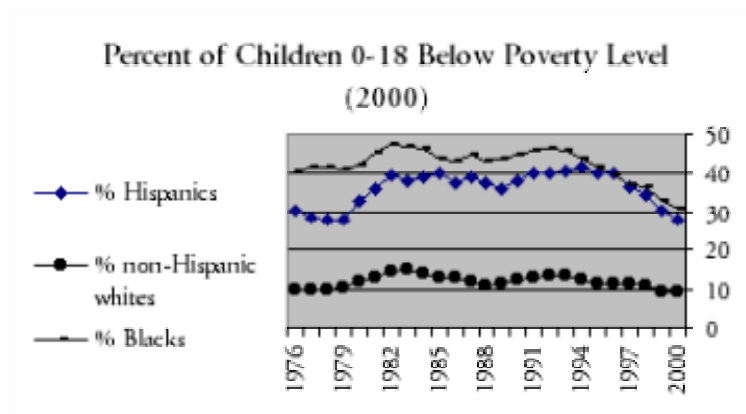
- Between 1991 and 1998, 7.6 million immigrants were admitted to the United States. Of those, 3.1 million (about 40 percent) came from Latin America. According to Immigration and Naturalization Services, Mexico is the single largest supplier of immigrants to the United States; 1.9 million Mexicans immigrated between 1991 and 1998.
- Of the 28.4 million foreign-born residents in the United States, 51 percent were born in Latin America. Recent reports released by the National Population Council (Mexico) show that in 2000, between 8.2 and 8.5 million Mexican-born individuals lived in the US.
- The Census Bureau estimates that of 8.7 million unauthorized migrants living in the U.S. in 2000, 5.4 million (62%) were Hispanic, and 3.9 million (45%) were from Mexico.

Health and Fertility

- Of the almost 4.1 million births in 2000, 20 percent (800,000) were to Hispanic women. In 2000, Hispanics had a total fertility rate of 3.1. In contrast, the national TFR was 2.1. Fertility rates also vary among Hispanic groups, ranging from 1.6 for Cuban women to 3.2 for Mexican women (1999). Because of such high fertility rates, a higher percentage of Hispanics were under age 18 (35%) than in the overall U.S. population (26%). Age structure varied substantially between Hispanic groups. The median age was 24 years for Mexicans and 41 for Cubans.
- Hispanics have the highest teenage pregnancy rate of any racial or ethnic group. Although the birth rate for Hispanic teens fell 12 percent between 1991 and 2000, they had a fertility rate of 94 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19, almost twice as high as the national average of 50 births per 1,000 teens.
- In 2000, 42 percent of live births to Hispanic women were to unwed mothers, compared with 69 percent for Blacks and 22 percent for non-Hispanic whites.

Households

- While about 81 percent of Hispanics in 2000 lived in family households, 69 percent of non-Hispanics lived in family households. Of Hispanic family households, over half (56%) had four or more people, while less than one-third of non-Hispanic white households (32%) had four or more people.
- In 2000, Hispanics were less likely to have ever been married than non-Hispanic whites. About three fourths of non-Hispanic whites have ever been married, compared with 67 percent of Hispanics.



- About one-third of Hispanic households was headed by a single parent, compared to 18 percent for non-Hispanic whites. Of Hispanic groups, Puerto Rican households were most likely to be single-parent homes (46%) while Cuban households were least likely (23%).

Income and Poverty

- The median household income for Hispanics for a three-year average from 1998-2000 was \$31,703, more than the \$28,679 for blacks but much less than the \$45,514 earned by non-Hispanic whites.
- In 2000, almost one in four working-age employed Hispanics had incomes less than \$15,000, while about 10 percent of non-Hispanic whites fell into this income category. A smaller proportion of Hispanics (3%) made \$75,000 or more than either non-Hispanic whites (11%) or blacks (4%). Of Hispanic groups, Cubans were the most affluent; about eight percent of Cubans had incomes of \$75,000 or more.
- In 2000, Hispanics were more likely than whites but less likely than blacks to be below the poverty line. While only nine percent of non-Hispanic whites were below the poverty line, 22 percent of blacks and 21 percent of Hispanics lived in poverty. Over one-fourth (26%) of Puerto Ricans and 24 percent of Mexicans were below the poverty line, while a substantially lower percentage of Central and South Americans (16.7%) and Cubans (17.3%) lived in poverty.

Employment

- In 2000, Hispanics had the highest labor force participation rates (68% for persons 16 and over). Hispanic women, however, had the lowest labor force participation rates at 57 percent, compared with 61 for non-Hispanic whites and 64 for black women.

- Hispanics were less likely to be employed in 2000 than non-Hispanic whites but more likely to be employed than blacks. Unemployment was higher for Mexicans (7%) and Puerto Ricans (8%) than for Cubans (6%) and Central and South Americans (5%).
- In 2000, employed Hispanics were less likely than either white non-Hispanics or blacks to hold managerial and professional positions. Fourteen percent of Hispanics were employed as managers or professionals compared with 33 percent of non-Hispanic whites and 22 percent of blacks.
- In 2000, just under two-thirds of employed Hispanics worked in service occupations - operators or laborers, or in technical, sales and administrative support—while 53.7 non-Hispanic whites were employed in such occupations.

Education

- Forty-three percent of Hispanics aged 25 or more did not have a high school diploma compared with 22 percent for blacks and 12 percent for non-Hispanic whites in 2000. Among Hispanics, 49 percent of Mexicans did not have a high school diploma, compared with 29 percent of Cubans.
- Bachelor's degrees and advanced degrees were less than half as common among Hispanics aged 25 or more (11%) than non-Hispanics (28%).

Politics

- Although Hispanics were estimated to account for ten percent of the voting-age population in 2000, they accounted for only seven percent of the vote. Decreased voter participation among Hispanics may be due in part to the greater likelihood that a Hispanic resident of the U.S. is not a citizen. Only 24 percent of foreign-born Hispanics who entered the U.S. between 1980 and 1989 are U.S. citizens; less than half of those who entered between 1970 and 1979 have become citizens.
- According to the Census Bureau, the number of voting Hispanics increased "sharply" between the 1994 and 1998 congressional elections, from 3.5 million to 4.1 million voters. The percentage of eligible Hispanics who voted slightly decreased, however, from 34 to 33 percent. Hispanics were much less likely to vote than the national average of 45 percent.
- Historically, Latinos are more likely to vote for Democratic candidates. Since 1976, Republican presidential candidates have won no more than 37 percent of the Hispanic vote, when Ronald Reagan ran in 1980 and 1984. George W. Bush won 35 percent of the Hispanic vote compared with 62 percent for Al Gore.
- Although Hispanics overwhelmingly backed Gore in the 2000 election, had they not voted, George W. Bush would have won the popular vote and lost the electoral vote. Florida was the only state in which the Hispanic vote would have changed the electoral outcome, where the majority Cuban population voted slightly in favor of Bush.