

The Hispanic Population

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In Census 2000, 281.4 million residents were counted in the United States (excluding the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Island Areas¹), of which 35.3 million (or 12.5 percent) were Hispanic. Mexicans represented 7.3 percent, Puerto Ricans 1.2 percent, Cubans 0.4 percent, and other Hispanics 3.6 percent of the total population.² An additional 3.8 million Hispanics were enumerated in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. This report, part of a series that analyzes population and housing data collected by Census 2000, provides a profile of the Hispanic population in the United States.

The concept and measurement of Hispanic origin have evolved across several censuses.³

In Census 2000, people of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin could identify as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.⁴ The term “Latino” appeared on the census form for

Figure 1.

Reproduction of the Question on Hispanic Origin From Census 2000

5. Is this person Spanish/Hispanic/Latino? Mark ☒ the "No" box if not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.

☐ No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	☐ Yes, Puerto Rican
☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano	☐ Yes, Cuban
☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — Print group. 	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 questionnaire.

the first time in 2000 (see Figure 1). People who marked “other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino” had additional space to write Hispanic origins, such as Salvadoran or Dominican, a practice started in the 1990 census. The 1990 and 1980 censuses asked people if they were of “Spanish/Hispanic origin or descent” and if so, to choose Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Spanish/Hispanic.

The census in 1970 was the first to include a separate question specifically on Hispanic origin, although it was only asked of a 5-percent sample of households. In 1970, respondents were asked to choose whether their origin or descent was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish. Prior to 1970, Hispanic origin was determined only indirectly; for example, the 1960 and 1950 censuses collected and published data for “persons of Spanish surname” in five southwestern states,⁵ whereas the 1940 census identified

¹ The U.S. Island Areas include U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

² The population universe for the size and distribution of the Hispanic population does not include data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Data for Puerto Rico are shown and discussed separately.

³ People of Hispanic origin, in particular, were those who indicated that their origin was Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or some other Hispanic origin. For example, people who indicate that they are of Mexican origin may be either born in Mexico or of Mexican heritage. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁴ The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” may be used interchangeably to reflect the new terminology in the standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget in 1997 that are to be implemented by January 1, 2003.

⁵ These states included Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.

people who reported Spanish as their “mother tongue.” Mexican was included as a category within the race question only in the 1930 census.⁶

The Hispanic population increased by more than 50 percent since 1990.

The Hispanic population increased by 57.9 percent, from 22.4 million in 1990 to 35.3 million in 2000, compared with an increase of 13.2 percent for the total U.S. population. Population growth varied by group. Mexicans increased by 52.9 percent, from 13.5 million to 20.6 million. Puerto Ricans increased by 24.9 percent, from 2.7 million to 3.4 million. Cubans increased by 18.9 percent, from 1.0 million to 1.2 million. Hispanics who reported other origins increased by 96.9 percent, from 5.1 million to 10.0 million.⁷

As a result of these different growth rates, the proportionate distribution of Hispanics by type changed between 1990 and 2000. In 2000, Mexicans were 58.5 percent of all Hispanics (down from 60.4 percent in 1990), Puerto Ricans were 9.6 percent (down from 12.2 percent), Cubans were 3.5 percent (down from 4.7 percent), and the remaining 28.4 percent were of other Hispanic origins (up from 22.8 percent) as shown in Figure 2.

Other Hispanic origins refer to a variety of identifications.

Among the 10.0 million other Hispanics in 2000, 1.7 million were

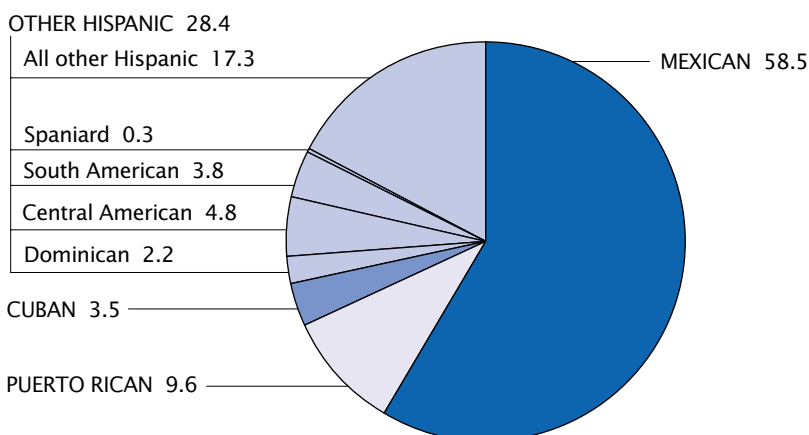
⁶ For further information on the history of Hispanic origin in the census, see Chapa, Jorge, 2000, “Hispanic/Latino ethnicity and identifiers,” in *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Census*, editor Margo J. Anderson, Congressional Quarterly Press, Washington, DC.

⁷ This increase may be caused by a change in census coverage, as well as by a change in the question format (the question on Hispanic origin in 2000 did not include examples for the “Other Hispanic” category while the 1990 question did), or by a change in identification among Hispanics and non-Hispanics.

Figure 2.

Percent Distribution of the Hispanic Population by Type: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Central American, 1.4 million were South American, and 765,000 were Dominican.

Most other Hispanics did not specify a detailed Hispanic origin, but either checked the Spanish/Hispanic/Latino box without providing any additional information or wrote in answers such as “Hispanic” or “Latino” or “Spanish” (see Table 1). At 17.3 percent (6.1 million) of the total Hispanic population, Hispanic respondents who did not give a detailed origin answer were second in size only to the Mexican origin group.

Salvadorans were the largest Central American group.

Central Americans represented 4.8 percent of the total Hispanic population. There were 655,000 Salvadorans (1.9 percent of the total Hispanic population), 372,000 Guatemalans (1.1 percent), and 218,000 Hondurans (0.6 percent).

South Americans represented 3.8 percent of the total Hispanic population. There were 471,000

Colombians (1.3 percent of the total Hispanic population), 261,000 Ecuadorians (0.7 percent), and 234,000 Peruvians (0.7 percent).

More than three-quarters of Hispanics lived in the West or South.⁸

In 2000, 43.5 percent of Hispanics lived in the West and 32.8 percent lived in the South. The Northeast and Midwest accounted for 14.9 percent and 8.9 percent, respectively, of the Hispanic population.

Hispanics accounted for 24.3 percent of the population in the West,

⁸ The Northeast region includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest region includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The West region includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Table 1.
Hispanic Population by Type: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

Subject	Number	Percent
HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN		
Total population	281,421,906	100.0
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	35,305,818	12.5
Not Hispanic or Latino	246,116,088	87.5
HISPANIC OR LATINO BY TYPE		
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	35,305,818	100.0
Mexican	20,640,711	58.5
Puerto Rican	3,406,178	9.6
Cuban	1,241,685	3.5
Other Hispanic or Latino	10,017,244	28.4
Dominican (Dominican Republic)	764,945	2.2
Central American (excludes Mexican)	1,686,937	4.8
Costa Rican	68,588	0.2
Guatemalan	372,487	1.1
Honduran	217,569	0.6
Nicaraguan	177,684	0.5
Panamanian	91,723	0.3
Salvadoran	655,165	1.9
Other Central American	103,721	0.3
South American	1,353,562	3.8
Argentinean	100,864	0.3
Bolivian	42,068	0.1
Chilean	68,849	0.2
Colombian	470,684	1.3
Ecuadorian	260,559	0.7
Paraguayan	8,769	0.0
Peruvian	233,926	0.7
Uruguayan	18,804	0.1
Venezuelan	91,507	0.3
Other South American	57,532	0.2
Spaniard	100,135	0.3
All other Hispanic or Latino	6,111,665	17.3
Checkbox only, other Hispanic	1,733,274	4.9
Write-in Spanish	686,004	1.9
Write-in Hispanic	2,454,529	7.0
Write-in Latino	450,769	1.3
Not elsewhere classified	787,089	2.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

the only region in which Hispanics exceeded the national level of 12.5 percent (see Table 2). Hispanics accounted for 11.6 percent of the population in the South, 9.8 percent in the Northeast, and 4.9 percent in the Midwest.

Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans were concentrated in different regions. Among Mexicans, 55.3 percent lived in the West, 31.7 percent in the South, 10.7 percent in the Midwest, and 2.3 percent in the

Northeast. Among Puerto Ricans, 60.9 percent lived in the Northeast, 22.3 percent in the South, 9.6 percent in the Midwest, and 7.2 percent in the West. Among Cubans, 74.2 percent lived in the South, 13.6 percent in the Northeast, 8.5 percent in the West, and 3.6 percent in the Midwest.

Half of all Hispanics lived in just two states: California and Texas.

In 2000, 27.1 million, or 76.8 percent, of Hispanics lived in the seven

states with Hispanic populations of 1.0 million or more (California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, Arizona, and New Jersey). Hispanics in California accounted for 11.0 million (31.1 percent) of the total Hispanic population, while the Hispanic population in Texas accounted for 6.7 million (18.9 percent). Hispanics numbered between 500,000 and 999,999 in only two states (Colorado and New Mexico). Hispanics in 22 states were between 100,000 and 499,999. Hispanics were less than 100,000 in 19 states and the District of Columbia.

Hispanics in New Mexico were 42.1 percent of the total state population, the highest proportion for any state. Hispanics were 12.5 percent (the national level) or more of the state population in eight other states (California, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, Florida, New York, and New Jersey). Mexicans were the largest Hispanic group in five of these states (California, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, and Colorado), while Hispanics of other Hispanic origins were the largest group in the remaining states (New Mexico, Florida, New York, and New Jersey). Hispanics accounted for less than 12.5 percent of the population in 41 states and the District of Columbia.

Hispanic origin groups were concentrated in different states. The largest Mexican populations (more than a million) were in California, Texas, Illinois and Arizona, mostly southwestern states. The largest Puerto Rican populations (more than 250,000) were in New York, Florida, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, mostly northeastern states. About two-thirds of all Cubans were in Florida.

Table 2.
Hispanic Population by Type for Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: 1990 and 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

Area	1990			2000						
	Total population	Hispanic population		Total population	Hispanic population		Hispanic type			
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Hispanic
United States	248,709,873	22,354,059	9.0	281,421,906	35,305,818	12.5	20,640,711	3,406,178	1,241,685	10,017,244
Region										
Northeast	50,809,229	3,754,389	7.4	53,594,378	5,254,087	9.8	479,169	2,074,574	168,959	2,531,385
Midwest	59,668,632	1,726,509	2.9	64,392,776	3,124,532	4.9	2,200,196	325,363	45,305	553,668
South	85,445,930	6,767,021	7.9	100,236,820	11,586,696	11.6	6,548,081	759,305	921,427	3,357,883
West	52,786,082	10,106,140	19.1	63,197,932	15,340,503	24.3	11,413,265	246,936	105,994	3,574,308
State										
Alabama	4,040,587	24,629	0.6	4,447,100	75,830	1.7	44,522	6,322	2,354	22,632
Alaska	550,043	17,803	3.2	626,932	25,852	4.1	13,334	2,649	553	9,316
Arizona	3,665,228	688,338	18.8	5,130,632	1,295,617	25.3	1,065,578	17,587	5,272	207,180
Arkansas	2,350,725	19,876	0.8	2,673,400	86,866	3.2	61,204	2,473	950	22,239
California	29,760,021	7,687,938	25.8	33,871,648	10,966,556	32.4	8,455,926	140,570	72,286	2,297,774
Colorado	3,294,394	424,302	12.9	4,301,261	735,601	17.1	450,760	12,993	3,701	268,147
Connecticut	3,287,116	213,116	6.5	3,405,565	320,323	9.4	23,484	194,443	7,101	95,295
Delaware	666,168	15,820	2.4	783,600	37,277	4.8	12,986	14,005	932	9,354
District of Columbia	606,900	32,710	5.4	572,059	44,953	7.9	5,098	2,328	1,101	36,426
Florida	12,937,926	1,574,143	12.2	15,982,378	2,682,715	16.8	363,925	482,027	833,120	1,003,643
Georgia	6,478,216	108,922	1.7	8,186,453	435,227	5.3	275,288	35,532	12,536	111,871
Hawaii	1,108,229	81,390	7.3	1,211,537	87,699	7.2	19,820	30,005	711	37,163
Idaho	1,006,749	52,927	5.3	1,293,953	101,690	7.9	79,324	1,509	408	20,449
Illinois	11,430,602	904,446	7.9	12,419,293	1,530,262	12.3	1,144,390	157,851	18,438	209,583
Indiana	5,544,159	98,788	1.8	6,080,485	214,536	3.5	153,042	19,678	2,754	39,062
Iowa	2,776,755	32,647	1.2	2,926,324	82,473	2.8	61,154	2,690	750	17,879
Kansas	2,477,574	93,670	3.8	2,688,418	188,252	7.0	148,270	5,237	1,680	33,065
Kentucky	3,685,296	21,984	0.6	4,041,769	59,939	1.5	31,385	6,469	3,516	18,569
Louisiana	4,219,973	93,044	2.2	4,468,976	107,738	2.4	32,267	7,670	8,448	59,353
Maine	1,227,928	6,829	0.6	1,274,923	9,360	0.7	2,756	2,275	478	3,851
Maryland	4,781,468	125,102	2.6	5,296,486	227,916	4.3	39,900	25,570	6,754	155,692
Massachusetts	6,016,425	287,549	4.8	6,349,097	428,729	6.8	22,288	199,207	8,867	198,367
Michigan	9,295,297	201,596	2.2	9,938,444	323,877	3.3	220,769	26,941	7,219	68,948
Minnesota	4,375,099	53,884	1.2	4,919,479	143,382	2.9	95,613	6,616	2,527	38,626
Mississippi	2,573,216	15,931	0.6	2,844,658	39,569	1.4	21,616	2,881	1,508	13,564
Missouri	5,117,073	61,702	1.2	5,595,211	118,592	2.1	77,887	6,677	3,022	31,006
Montana	799,065	12,174	1.5	902,195	18,081	2.0	11,735	931	285	5,130
Nebraska	1,578,385	36,969	2.3	1,711,263	94,425	5.5	71,030	1,993	859	20,543
Nevada	1,201,833	124,419	10.4	1,998,257	393,970	19.7	285,764	10,420	11,498	86,288
New Hampshire	1,109,252	11,333	1.0	1,235,786	20,489	1.7	4,590	6,215	785	8,899
New Jersey	7,730,188	739,861	9.6	8,414,350	1,117,191	13.3	102,929	366,788	77,337	570,137
New Mexico	1,515,069	579,224	38.2	1,819,046	765,386	42.1	330,049	4,488	2,588	428,261
New York	17,990,455	2,214,026	12.3	18,976,457	2,867,583	15.1	260,889	1,050,293	62,590	1,493,811
North Carolina	6,628,637	76,726	1.2	8,049,313	378,963	4.7	246,545	31,117	7,389	93,912
North Dakota	638,800	4,665	0.7	642,200	7,786	1.2	4,295	507	250	2,734
Ohio	10,847,115	139,696	1.3	11,353,140	217,123	1.9	90,663	66,269	5,152	55,039
Oklahoma	3,145,585	86,160	2.7	3,450,654	179,304	5.2	132,813	8,153	1,759	36,579
Oregon	2,842,321	112,707	4.0	3,421,399	275,314	8.0	214,662	5,092	3,091	52,469
Pennsylvania	11,881,643	232,262	2.0	12,281,054	394,088	3.2	55,178	228,557	10,363	99,990
Rhode Island	1,003,464	45,752	4.6	1,048,319	90,820	8.7	5,881	25,422	1,128	58,389
South Carolina	3,486,703	30,551	0.9	4,012,012	95,076	2.4	52,871	12,211	2,875	27,119
South Dakota	696,004	5,252	0.8	754,844	10,903	1.4	6,364	637	163	3,739
Tennessee	4,877,185	32,741	0.7	5,689,283	123,838	2.2	77,372	10,303	3,695	32,468
Texas	16,986,510	4,339,905	25.5	20,851,820	6,669,666	32.0	5,071,963	69,504	25,705	1,502,494
Utah	1,722,850	84,597	4.9	2,233,169	201,559	9.0	136,416	3,977	940	60,226
Vermont	562,758	3,661	0.7	608,827	5,504	0.9	1,174	1,374	310	2,646
Virginia	6,187,358	160,288	2.6	7,078,515	329,540	4.7	73,979	41,131	8,332	206,098
Washington	4,866,692	214,570	4.4	5,894,121	441,509	7.5	329,934	16,140	4,501	90,934
West Virginia	1,793,477	8,489	0.5	1,808,344	12,279	0.7	4,347	1,609	453	5,870
Wisconsin	4,891,769	93,194	1.9	5,363,675	192,921	3.6	126,719	30,267	2,491	33,444
Wyoming	453,588	25,751	5.7	493,782	31,669	6.4	19,963	575	160	10,971
Puerto Rico¹	3,522,037	(NA)	(NA)	3,808,610	3,762,746	98.8	11,546	3,623,392	19,973	107,835

NA Not available.

¹Census 2000 was the first to ask a separate question on Hispanic origin in Puerto Rico.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1; 1990 Census of Population, *General Population Characteristics* (CP-1-1).

Counties with the highest proportions of Hispanics were along the southwestern border of the United States.

In 2000, the proportion of Hispanics within a county exceeded the national level (12.5 percent) most often in the counties of the South and West, especially in counties along the border with Mexico (see Figure 3).

Hispanics were the majority of the population in 50 counties, accounting for 13.5 percent of the total Hispanic population. Of these counties, 35 are in the South and 15 are in the West. In the South, Hispanics were the majority in 34 counties in Texas and one in Florida. In the West, Hispanics were the majority in nine counties in New Mexico, and two counties in each of the following states: Arizona, California, and Colorado.

Hispanics also were concentrated in groupings of counties outside of the four states bordering Mexico. In particular, Hispanic concentrations occurred in counties within central Washington, in counties within the mountain states of Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado, in counties around Chicago, New York, and the District of Columbia, and in counties within southern Florida.

Hispanics represented more than one-quarter but less than half of the county population in 152 counties. The percent Hispanic exceeded the national level of 12.5 percent but was less than 25.0 percent of the population in 181 counties. The percent Hispanic ranged from 6.0 percent to just under the national level in 311 counties. Hispanics represented less than 6.0 percent of the county's

population in 2,447 counties. Furthermore, Hispanics represented less than 1.0 percent of a county's population in 899 counties.

Hispanics were also present in some counties within nontraditional states.

While most Hispanics lived in the South or West, some counties in nontraditional Hispanic states such as Georgia and North Carolina had sizable proportions of Hispanic populations.⁹ Hispanics within some counties in North Carolina, Georgia, Iowa, Arkansas, Minnesota, and Nebraska represented between 6.0 percent and 24.9 percent of the county's total population. The percent Hispanic within these counties exceeded the percent Hispanic (less than 6.0 percent) for these states.

More than 4 million Hispanics lived in Los Angeles County, California.

In 2000, Hispanics in four counties accounted for 21.9 percent of the total Hispanic population. There were 4.2 million Hispanics in Los Angeles County, California, 1.3 million in Miami-Dade County, Florida, 1.1 million in Harris County, Texas, and 1.1 million in Cook County, Illinois.

Hispanic origin groups were concentrated in different counties. The largest Mexican populations lived in counties that had large Hispanic populations, including Los Angeles County, California (3.0 million), Harris County, Texas (815,000), and Cook County, Illinois (786,000). The two largest Puerto

Rican populations lived in two New York counties: Bronx County (319,000), and Kings County (213,000). More than half (651,000 or 52.4 percent) of all Cubans lived in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico was 98.8 percent Hispanic.¹⁰

Of all Hispanics in Puerto Rico, 96.3 percent were of Puerto Rican origin. The second largest Hispanic population in Puerto Rico was Dominican, accounting for 1.5 percent of all Hispanics there.

The proportion Hispanic ranges from 97 percent to 99 percent in the four places¹¹ in Puerto Rico with 100,000 or more population (Ponce, Bayamón, Carolina, and San Juan).

In 2000, more than a million Hispanics lived in New York and in Los Angeles.¹²

More than 500,000 Hispanics resided in Chicago, Houston, and San Antonio (see Table 3). Among the ten places¹³ with the largest Hispanic populations, Puerto Ricans represented the largest

¹⁰ Census 2000 was the first to ask a separate question on Hispanic origin in Puerto Rico.

¹¹ For further explanation of geographic entities in Puerto Rico, see Appendix A in U.S. Census Bureau, 1993, *Population and Housing Unit Counts: Puerto Rico*, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, CPH-2-53, Washington, DC.

¹² Three in four (75.3 percent) Hispanics in the state of New York resided in the five boroughs that make up New York City: 645,000 in the Bronx, 557,000 in Queens, 488,000 in Brooklyn, 418,000 in Manhattan, and 54,000 in Staten Island.

¹³ In Census 2000, there were 245 places in the United States (excluding the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) with 100,000 or more population. These included 238 incorporated places (including 4 city-county consolidations) and included 7 census designated places (CDPs) that were not legally incorporated. For a list of places by state, see Table 4 or Table 5 in www.census.gov/population/www.cen2000phc-t6.html.

⁹ For further discussion of change in the Hispanic population between 1990 and 2000, see Brewer, Cynthia A., and Trudy A. Suchan, 2001, *Mapping Census 2000: The Geography of U.S. Diversity*, Census 2000 Special Reports, CENSR/01-1, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC.

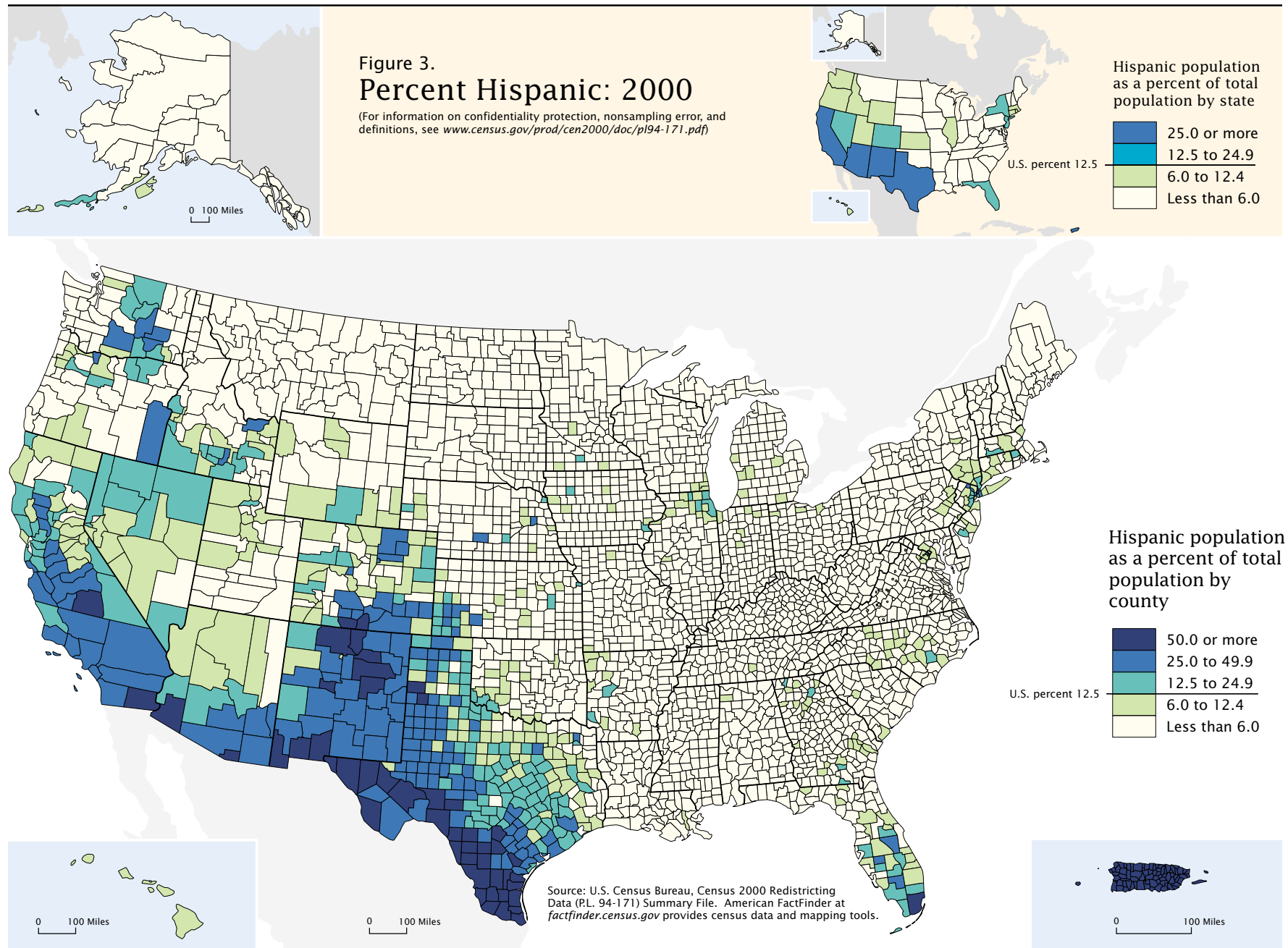


Table 3.
Ten Largest Places in Total Population and in Hispanic Population: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

Place and state	Total population		Hispanic population		Percent Hispanic of total population
	Number	Rank	Number	Rank	
New York, NY.....	8,008,278	1	2,160,554	1	27.0
Los Angeles, CA.....	3,694,820	2	1,719,073	2	46.5
Chicago, IL.....	2,896,016	3	753,644	3	26.0
Houston, TX.....	1,953,631	4	730,865	4	37.4
Philadelphia, PA.....	1,517,550	5	128,928	24	8.5
Phoenix, AZ.....	1,321,045	6	449,972	6	34.1
San Diego, CA.....	1,223,400	7	310,752	9	25.4
Dallas, TX.....	1,188,580	8	422,587	8	35.6
San Antonio, TX.....	1,144,646	9	671,394	5	58.7
Detroit, MI.....	951,270	10	47,167	72	5.0
El Paso, TX.....	563,662	23	431,875	7	76.6
San Jose, CA.....	894,943	11	269,989	10	30.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Table 4.
Ten Places of 100,000 or More Population With the Highest Percent Hispanic: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

Place and state	Total population	Hispanic population	Percent Hispanic of total population
East Los Angeles, CA*.....	124,283	120,307	96.8
Laredo, TX.....	176,576	166,216	94.1
Brownsville, TX.....	139,722	127,535	91.3
Hialeah, FL.....	226,419	204,543	90.3
McAllen, TX.....	106,414	85,427	80.3
El Paso, TX.....	563,662	431,875	76.6
Santa Ana, CA.....	337,977	257,097	76.1
El Monte, CA.....	115,965	83,945	72.4
Oxnard, CA.....	170,358	112,807	66.2
Miami, FL.....	362,470	238,351	65.8

*East Los Angeles, California is a census designated place and is not legally incorporated.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

share (36.5 percent) of all Hispanics in New York, while Mexicans represented the largest share (varying from 63.5 percent in Los Angeles to 83.4 percent in San Diego) of all Hispanics in the nine other places.¹⁴

¹⁴ Mexicans accounted for the majority of Hispanics in the remaining seven places (see Table 3): Phoenix (83.4 percent), El Paso (83.3 percent), Dallas (82.9 percent), San Jose (81.9 percent), Houston (72.2 percent), San Antonio (70.5 percent), and Chicago (70.4 percent).

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ON THE HISPANIC POPULATION

Was the Hispanic population younger than the U.S. population?

The relative youthfulness of the Hispanic population is reflected in its population under age 18 and in its median age. While 25.7 percent of the U.S. population was under 18 years of age in 2000, 35.0 percent of Hispanics were less than

age 18. The median age for Hispanics was 25.9 years while the median age for the entire U.S. population was 35.3 years. Mexicans had a median age of 24.2 years, Puerto Ricans 27.3 years, Central Americans 29.2 years, Dominicans 29.5 years, South Americans 33.1 years, Spaniards 36.4 years, Cubans 40.7 years, and all other Hispanics had a median age of 24.7 years.

In what places were Hispanics the majority?

Hispanics in East Los Angeles¹⁵ were 96.8 percent (120,000) of the population, the highest for any place outside the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico with 100,000 or more total population (see Table 4). Hispanics were the majority of the population in eighteen other places.¹⁶ Two of the top ten places in terms of numbers of Hispanics, El Paso and San Antonio, also had a majority who were Hispanic (76.6 percent and 58.7 percent, respectively).

What were the top places for different Hispanic groups, by size?

Most, but not all, of the places with the largest specific Hispanic group populations were among the ten places with the largest Hispanic populations. The largest Mexican populations lived in Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, San Antonio, and Phoenix. The largest Puerto Rican populations lived in New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia. The largest

¹⁵ East Los Angeles, California is a census designated place and is not legally incorporated.

¹⁶ Hispanics were the majority of the population in the ten places shown in Table 4 as well as in these nine additional places: Pomona, California (64.5), Salinas, California (64.1 percent), Norwalk, California (62.9 percent), Ontario, California (59.9 percent), San Antonio, Texas (58.7 percent), Downey, California (57.9 percent), Fontana, California (57.7 percent), Corpus Christi, Texas (54.3 percent), and Paterson, New Jersey (50.1 percent).

Cuban populations lived in Hialeah, Miami, New York, Tampa, and Los Angeles.

The largest Central American populations lived in the following places: Los Angeles, New York, Houston, Miami, and San Francisco, while the largest South American populations lived in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Miami.

ABOUT CENSUS 2000

The Census Bureau is required by federal directive to collect data on Hispanic origin. For additional information on the legal basis for the question on Hispanic origin included in Census 2000, see *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity*, Federal Register Notice, October 30, 1997, Volume 62, Number 210. This document is available on the Census Internet site at: www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race/Ombdir15.html.

All levels of government need information on Hispanic origin to implement and evaluate programs, such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act, Public Health Act, Healthcare Improvement Act, Job Partnership Training Act, Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Fair Housing Act, Census Redistricting Data Program, and others.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Hispanic origin in the United States, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hispanic.html.

Data on Hispanic origin from the Census 2000 Summary File 1 are planned for release on a state-by-state basis during June and July of 2001. The Census 2000 Redistricting data are available on the Internet via factfinder.census.gov and for purchase on CD-ROM and later on DVD.

For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, also see

www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf or contact our Customer Services Center at 301-457-4100.

For more information on specific ethnic and race groups in the United States, go to www.census.gov and click on "Minority Links." This Web page includes information about Census 2000 and provides links to reports based on past censuses and surveys focusing on social and economic characteristics.

Information on other population and housing topics will be presented in the Census 2000 Brief series, located on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html. This series will present information about race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and other social, economic, and housing characteristics.

For more information about Census 2000, including data products, call our Customer Services Center at 301-457-4100 or e-mail webmaster@census.gov.

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