

C3.205/8:

4-90

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Statistical Brief

Hispanics in the United States

America's Hispanic population is a diverse, rapidly-growing group of persons whose origins are Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Central or South America, or Spain. Between 1980 and 1989, when the non-Hispanic population increased by less than 8 percent, the Hispanic population grew by 39 percent. Immigration accounted for about one-half of the Hispanic increase. This short profile describes the social and economic characteristics of Hispanics in the United States and of the groups that together form the Hispanic population.

Origin

By 1989, the Hispanic population exceeded 20 million persons. Six of 10 Hispanics or 12.6 million were of Mexican origin, 2.3 million were of Puerto Rican origin, 1.1 million were of Cuban origin, 2.5 million were of Central or South American origin, and 1.6 million reported other Hispanic origins. Two-thirds of all Hispanic Americans lived in just three States — California, Texas, and New York.

The Hispanic Family

Hispanics were more likely to live in families than were non-Hispanics: 8 of 10 Hispanic households, compared with 7 of 10 non-Hispanic

households were families. But Hispanic families were less likely to be maintained by a married couple (70 percent) than were non-Hispanic families (80 percent) and were more likely to be maintained by a man or woman with no spouse present. Despite proportionately fewer married-couple families, Hispanic families tended to be larger than non-Hispanic families. About half of Hispanic families had four or more members, compared with one-third of non-Hispanic families.

Education

Although Hispanics have made progress, they still lag behind non-Hispanics in education. About 60 percent of Hispanic young adults (25-34 years old) had completed 4 years of high school or more, compared with

89 percent of non-Hispanic young adults. Eleven percent of Hispanic young adults and 26 percent of non-Hispanic young adults had completed 4 years or more of college.

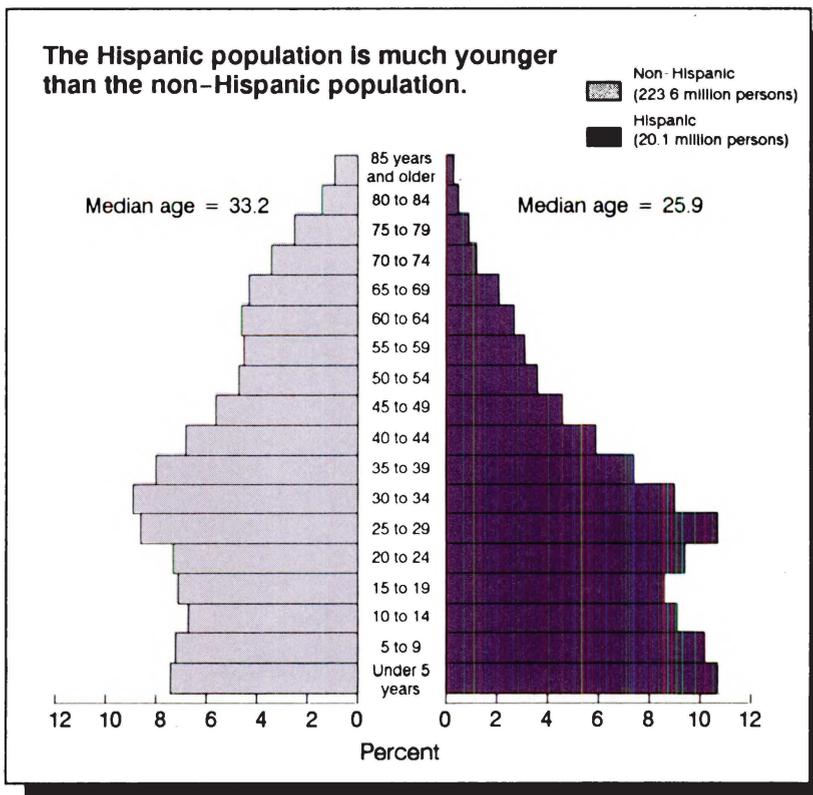
Jobs

Unemployment was 50 percent higher among Hispanics than among non-Hispanics. In March of 1989, when non-Hispanic adults experienced unemployment rates of 5.2 percent, unemployment among Hispanic adults was 7.8 percent. Among Hispanics with jobs, a higher proportion worked in lower paying jobs, which may also be less stable, than did non-Hispanics. Over half of employed Hispanic men and one-third of non-Hispanic men were employed in service occupations: farming, forestry, and fishing, or as operators, fabricators, and laborers.



SB-4-90
Issued March 1990

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



Income

The lower educational levels and the concentration of Hispanics in lower-paying occupations both contribute to a disparity in income and earnings between Hispanics and non-Hispanics. Median family income for Hispanics was two-thirds that of non-Hispanics. Among men with earnings in 1988, 35 percent of Hispanics and 25 percent of non-Hispanics earned less than \$10,000, and 22 percent of Hispanics and 43 percent of non-Hispanics earned \$25,000 or more. A similar pattern exists among women. Among the Hispanic groups, Mexican-origin women earned the least.

Poverty

In 1988, 27 percent, or 5.4 million persons of Hispanic origin, were living in poverty. In contrast, the poverty rate for non-Hispanics was 12 percent. About 1 of every 6 persons living in poverty was Hispanic. One-half of all Hispanics living in poverty were under 18 years old. Hispanic children represented 11 percent of all children in the United States but constituted 21 percent of all children living in poverty.

Consequently, Hispanics were twice as likely as non-Hispanics to receive government assistance (Aid to Families with Dependent Children, General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, food stamps, or housing assistance). One-third of Hispanics had some type of benefits between 1984 and mid-1986 and 15 percent received assistance each month. If the value of food stamps is added to money income, then 1 out of 5 Hispanics experienced 1 or more months when at least half of their income came from cash assistance and/or food stamps.

The data shown here are primarily estimates from the Current Population Survey for March 1989 and earlier years. Information on participation in government assistance programs is from the 1984 panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation.

For information on this topic:

See

Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 166, *Money Income and Poverty Status in the United States: 1988* (Stock number 803-005-30013-7. \$9.50); and Current Population Reports, Series P-70, No. 14, *Characteristics of Persons Receiving*

Benefits From Major Assistance Programs (Stock number 803-044-00002-3. \$1.75). Both publications are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. For telephone orders, call (202) 783-3238.

Contact
Carmen DeNavas
(301) 763-7955

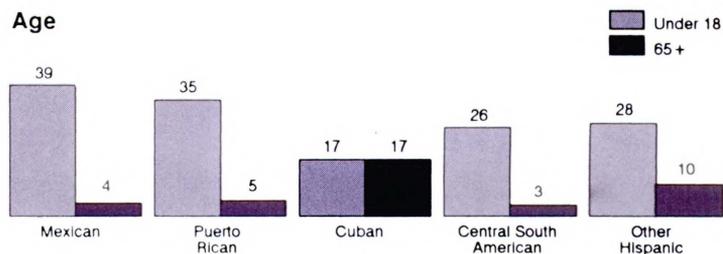
For information on Statistical Briefs:

Contact
Jennifer Marks
(301) 763-8337

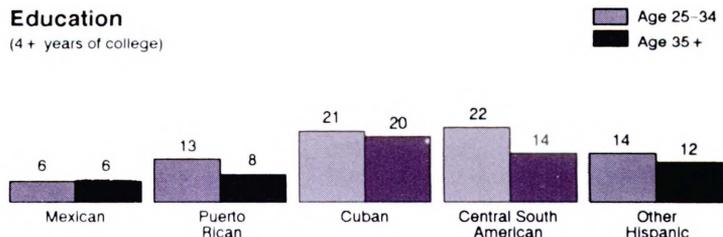
This Brief is one of a series that presents information of current policy interest. It may include data from businesses, households, or other sources. All statistics are subject to sampling variability as well as survey design flaws, respondent classification and reporting errors, and data processing mistakes. The Census Bureau has taken steps to minimize errors, and analytical statements have been tested and meet statistical standards. However, because of methodological differences, caution should be exercised when comparing these data with data from other sources.

Sharp differences exist among the Hispanic subgroups in age, education, and economic status.

Age



Education



Economic Status

