

We asked... You told us Hispanic Origin

The Census Bureau conducts a census of population and housing every 10 years. This bulletin is one of a series that shows the questions asked in the 1990 census and the answers that you, the American people, gave. Each bulletin focuses on a question or group of questions appearing on the 1990 census questionnaires.

In question 7 on the 1990 census forms, **we asked** people if they were of Hispanic origin. About 1 of every 11 persons in the United States (50 States and the District of Columbia) said they were Hispanic, and about 10 of every 11 persons reported they were not Hispanic.

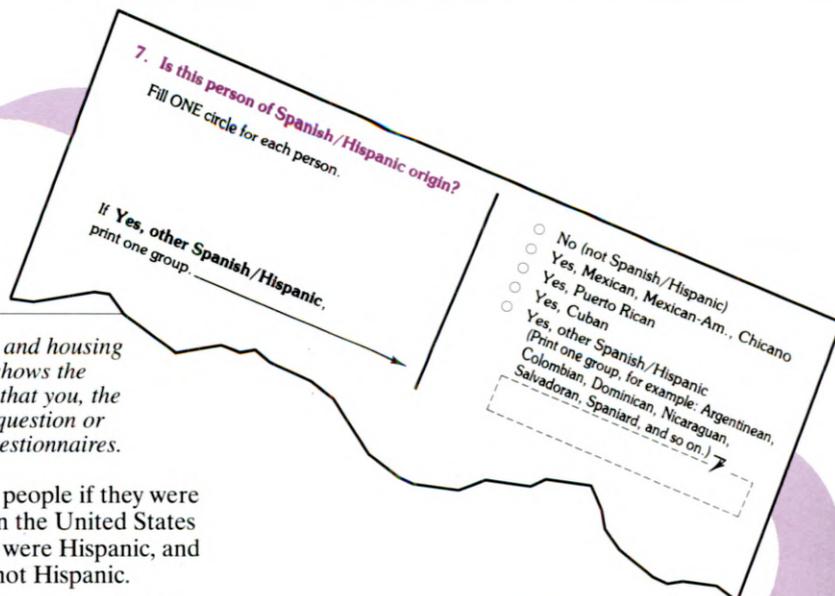
We asked those who were Hispanic to classify themselves in one of the specific Hispanic origin categories listed in the item—Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Cuban—or to mark that they were of any other Spanish/Hispanic origin and to write in their specific group. The pie chart shows what **you told us** in replying to this question.

- In 1990, 6 of every 10 Hispanics said they were of Mexican origin, making them the largest Hispanic group in the United States. This group totaled 13.5 million persons and rose 54 percent between 1980 and 1990.
- Persons of Puerto Rican origin were the next largest U.S. Hispanic group (2.7 million), constituting 12 percent of all U.S. Hispanics. This group had a 35-percent increase since 1980.
- Persons of Cuban origin accounted for 5 percent of all U.S. Hispanics. They grew by 30 percent and surpassed the million mark during the last decade.
- About 5.1 million persons (or 23 percent of all Hispanics) reported themselves as “other Spanish/Hispanic” in question 7. This was a diverse, rapidly-growing group that increased 67 percent over the decade.

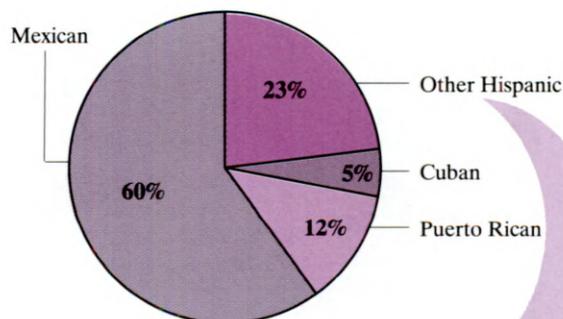
Persons with a write-in entry of a Central American origin were the largest segment of the “other Hispanic” category and made up 6 percent of all U.S. Hispanics. Persons writing in a South American origin claimed a 5-percent share. Roughly 7 percent of all Hispanics wrote in other responses such as Spanish-American, Hispano, Hispano, Latino, etc.

Altogether, the Hispanic population numbered 22.4 million in 1990, an increase of 53 percent over the 1980 figure of 14.6 million. This growth rate was far higher than the rate for the non-Hispanic population (7 percent). As a result, the proportion of Hispanics in the total population rose from 6 percent in 1980 to 9 percent in 1990. The rapid increase of the Hispanic population resulted, in part, from high natural increase (births minus deaths) and substantial immigration from Mexico and the Spanish-speaking countries of Central and South America and the Caribbean.

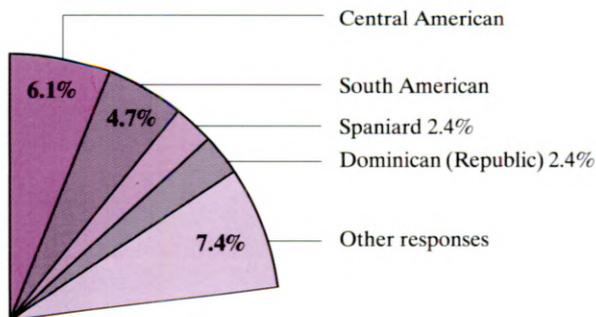
Census Trivia: According to the 1990 census, which State had the highest numerical gain in its Hispanic population between 1980 and 1990? Which had the highest percentage gain? (Answer on reverse.)



Hispanics, by Type of Origin: 1990



Other Hispanic Origin¹—23%



¹Figures on “other Hispanic” groups are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability.

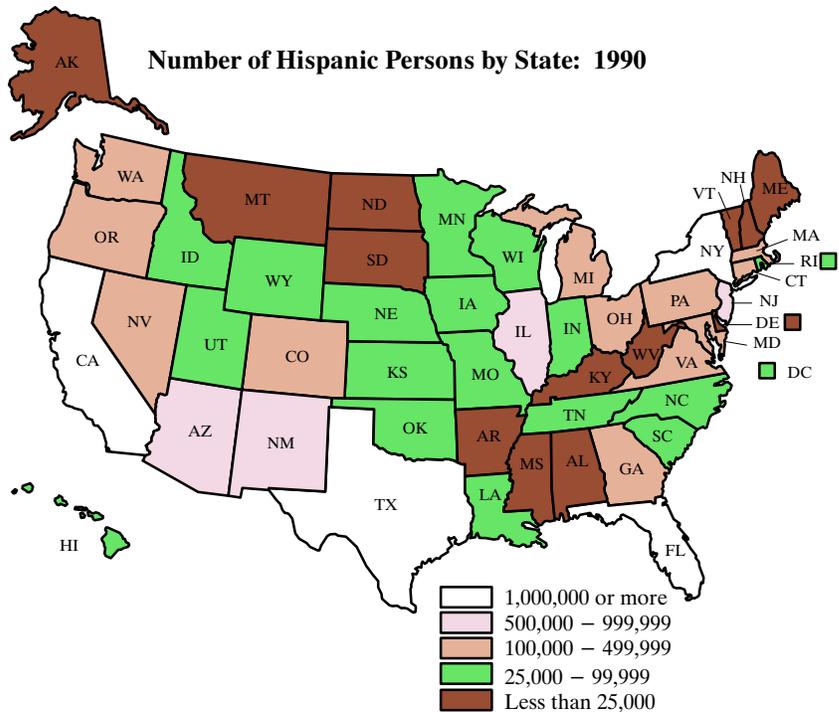
Where Do Hispanics Live?

Which States? . . .

- Four States had over a million Hispanic residents in 1990: California, 7.7 million; Texas, 4.3 million; New York, 2.2 million; and Florida, 1.6 million.
- Over half (54 percent) of the Hispanic population lived in just two States: California and Texas.
- In three States, Hispanics made up one-fourth or more of the State's total population: New Mexico, 38 percent; and California and Texas, each 26 percent.

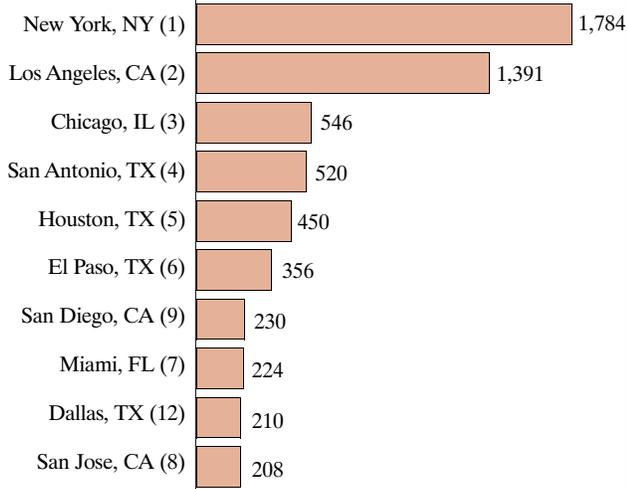
Which Cities? . . .

- New York City had the largest Hispanic population of any city in 1990, with 1.8 million Hispanic residents. The other city with more than a million Hispanics was Los Angeles.
- The 10 cities with the largest Hispanic populations changed slightly from 1980 to 1990. Phoenix, AZ, dropped out of the top 10 and was replaced by Dallas, which rose from 12th to 9th. There were a few shifts in the rankings for positions 7 through 10.



Ten Cities With the Largest Hispanic Populations: 1990

(In thousands. 1980 rank in parentheses)



Who Uses This Information?

Just a few examples:

- Federal agencies to monitor compliance with the Voting Rights Act and Civil Rights Act.
- State governments to determine Congressional, State, and local voting district boundaries.
- Private community organizations to set up child and elderly assistance programs, teach English, and conduct voter registration drives.

Trivia Answer: California recorded the highest numerical gain (3.1 million) in its Hispanic population over the 1980-90 decade; Rhode Island, the highest percentage gain (132 percent).

Want to Know More?

Consult the series of 1990 census reports, CPH-1, *Summary Population and Housing Characteristics*; CP-1, *General Population Characteristics*; and CP-2, *Social and Economic Characteristics* at a large public or university library. Also for sale by Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. For ordering information, call Customer Services at the Census Bureau, 301-763-4100.

For copies of CQC bulletins, call Customer Services. For more information on CQC bulletins, contact Karen Mills, 301-763-4263. For further information on Hispanic data, contact the Population Division, 301-763-7955.



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