

# We the People: Hispanics in the United States

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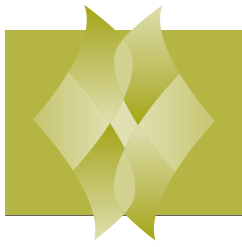
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# We the People: Hispanics in the United States

This report provides a portrait of the Hispanic-origin population in the United States and discusses some of the Hispanic or Latino groups within this population at the national level.<sup>1</sup> It is part of the Census 2000 Special Reports series that presents several demographic, social, and economic characteristics collected from Census 2000.

Census 2000 measured 35.2 million Hispanics who accounted for 12.5 percent of the total population. This group experienced a 61 percent increase since 1990, when the Hispanic population stood at 21.9 million. During the same time period, the total population of the United States grew by 13 percent, from 248.7 million in 1990 to 281.4 million in 2000. Among Hispanic or Latino groups, Mexicans were the largest with 20.9 million, while Other Hispanics (5.5 million) and Puerto Ricans (3.4 million) were second and third largest, respectively.<sup>2</sup>

The federal government defines Hispanic or Latino as a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or

<sup>1</sup> The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

<sup>2</sup> The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All statements made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

Table 1.  
**Hispanic Population by Origin: 2000**

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))

Type of origin	Number	Percent of U.S. population
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>35,238,481</b>	<b>12.5</b>
Mexican .....	20,900,102	7.4
Puerto Rican .....	3,403,510	1.2
Cuban .....	1,249,820	0.4
Central American <sup>1</sup> .....	1,811,676	0.6
South American <sup>2</sup> .....	1,419,979	0.5
Dominican .....	799,768	0.3
Spaniard .....	112,999	-
Other Hispanic <sup>3</sup> .....	5,540,627	2.0

- Rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup>People who responded Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Honduran, Nicaraguan, Panamanian, Salvadoran, and other Central American were grouped under this heading.

<sup>2</sup>People who responded Argentinean, Bolivian, Colombian, Ecuadorian, Paraguayan, Peruvian, Uruguayan, Venezuelan, and other South American were grouped under this heading.

<sup>3</sup>This group included all other general Hispanic-origin responses such as "Hispanic," "Spanish," and "Latino."

Note: Confidence intervals are not displayed because they round to the percentages shown in the table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. Thus, Hispanics may be any race.

In Census 2000, Hispanics were asked to mark one of four categories: Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino. The last category had a write-in option by which a person could provide a specific Hispanic-origin group such as Dominican or Spaniard. In order to be comparable with the earlier U.S. Census Bureau report *We the American... Hispanics*, the following specific Hispanic groups are included:

Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central American, South American, Dominican, Spaniard, and Other Hispanic.<sup>3</sup> For information regarding detailed Hispanic groups, such as Colombian and Uruguayan, refer to the technical documentation for Summary File 4 at [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 1993, *We the American...Hispanics*, WE-2. This report is available on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at [www.census.gov/apsd/wepeople/we-2r.pdf](http://www.census.gov/apsd/wepeople/we-2r.pdf).

## Understanding Data On Race and Hispanic Origin From Census 2000

Census 2000 incorporated the federal standards for collecting and presenting data on race and Hispanic origin established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in October 1997, considering race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. For Census 2000, the questions on race and Hispanic origin were asked of every individual living in the United States. The question on Hispanic origin asked respondents if they were Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino (the terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably in this report). The question on race asked respondents to report the race or races they considered themselves to be. Data from both questions are based on self-identification.

The question on Hispanic origin for Census 2000 was similar to the 1990 census question,

except for its placement on the questionnaire and a few wording changes. For Census 2000, the question on Hispanic origin was asked directly before the question on race. For the 1990 census, the order was reversed—the question on race preceded questions on age and marital status, which were then followed by the question on Hispanic origin.\*

Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Based on Census 2000 sample data, the proportion Hispanic among respondents who reported only one race was 8.0 percent for Whites,

\* For a more detailed discussion of these changes, see Elizabeth M. Grieco and Rachel C. Cassidy, 2001, *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000*, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-1. This report is available on the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at <[www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-1.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-1.pdf)>.

1.9 percent for Blacks or African Americans, 14.6 percent for American Indians and Alaska Natives, 1.0 percent for Asians, 9.5 percent for Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and 97.1 percent for those reporting Some Other Race. Among respondents who reported Two or More Races, the proportion was 31.1 percent.

The question on race in Census 2000 was different from that in 1990 in several ways. Most significantly, respondents were asked to select one or more race categories to indicate their racial identities. Because of the changes, the Census 2000 data on race are not directly comparable to data from the 1990 or earlier censuses. Caution must be used when interpreting changes in the racial composition of the U.S. population over time.

For this report, people who responded to the question on Hispanic origin by indicating either Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, or Spaniard were categorized as such. People who responded Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Honduran, Nicaraguan, Panamanian, Salvadoran, and Other Central American were grouped under Central American. Similarly, people who responded Argentinean, Bolivian, Colombian, Ecuadorian, Paraguayan, Peruvian, Uruguayan, Venezuelan, and Other South American were categorized under South American. Other Hispanic

includes all general Hispanic-origin responses, such as "Hispanic," "Spanish," and "Latino."<sup>4</sup>

Two companion reports provide more information on the Hispanic population. The Census 2000 Brief, *The Hispanic Population: 2000*, analyzes Hispanic population data collected from the short form questions for Census 2000.<sup>5</sup> It describes the distribution at both the national and subnational levels

of specific subgroups as well as the total Hispanic population. In addition, the Census 2000 Brief *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2000* (Grieco and Cassidy, 2001) provides a complete explanation of the race categories used in Census 2000 and information on each of the six major race groups and the Hispanic-origin population at the national level.

<sup>4</sup> For complete details, see the Hispanic origin code list in the technical documentation for Summary File 4 available at <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)>.

<sup>5</sup> Betsy Guzman, 2001, *The Hispanic*

*Population: 2000*, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Brief, C2KBR/01-3. This report is available on the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at <[www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-3.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-3.pdf)>.

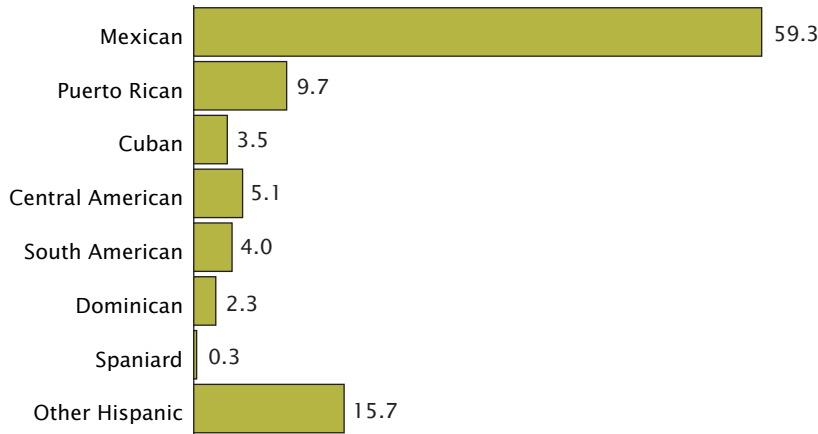
## Mexicans were the largest Hispanic group.

- In 2000, people of Mexican origin were the largest Hispanic group in the United States, representing 59 percent of the country's total Hispanic population.

Figure 1.

### Hispanic Population by Origin: 2000

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

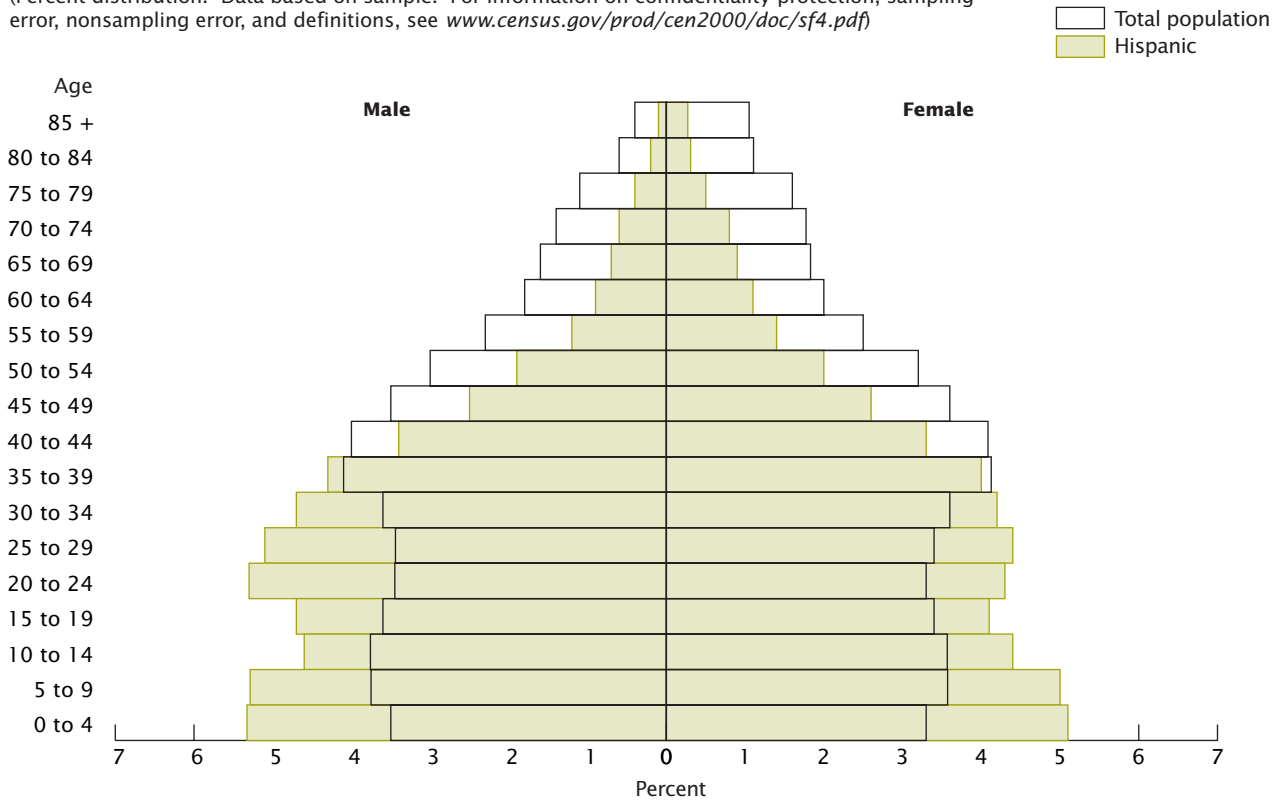
- Other Hispanics were the second largest group, comprising 16 percent of the Hispanic population, followed by Puerto Ricans at 9.7 percent.
- Central Americans composed 5.1 percent of the Hispanic population. Among Central Americans, Salvadorans were the largest group, with 39 percent of this population, followed by Guatemalans (22 percent) and Hondurans (13 percent).
- People with origins from South America represented 4.0 percent of the Hispanic population. Of the South American population, 35 percent were Colombian, 19 percent were Ecuadorian, and 17 percent were Peruvian.
- Cubans represented 3.5 percent of the Hispanic population, Dominicans 2.3 percent, and Spaniards 0.3 percent.

## The Hispanic population was younger than the total population.

- The proportions of male and female Hispanics exceeded the corresponding proportions in the total population for every 5-year age group under 35.
- On the other hand, in every group from ages 40 to 44 through ages 85 and older, larger proportions of both men and women were found in the total population than in the Hispanic population.
- Among Hispanics in 2000, the male population exceeded the female population, while for the total population the opposite was true—females outnumbered males.

Figure 2.  
**Age and Sex: 2000**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



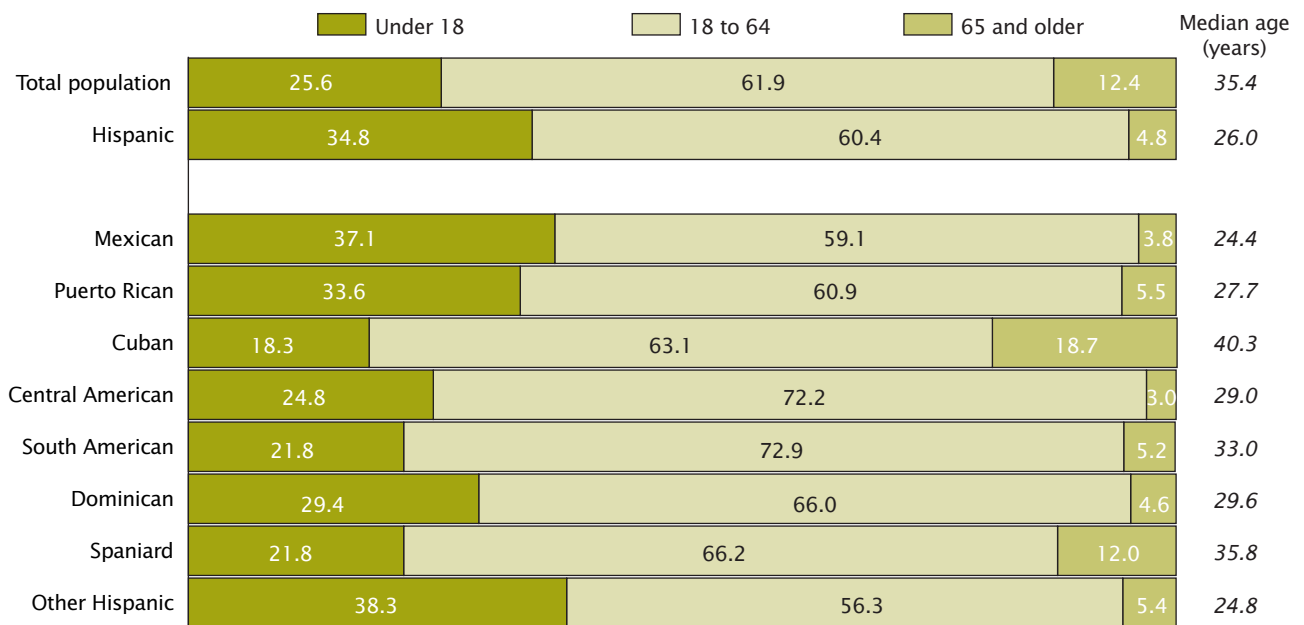
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

**The median age for Hispanics was about 9 years less than that of the total population.**

- In 2000, the median age for Hispanics was 26.0 years, compared with 35.4 years for the total population.
- Over one-third of the Hispanic population was younger than 18, compared with approximately one-fourth of the total population. Additionally, 4.8 percent of the Hispanic population was 65 and older, compared with 12 percent of the total population.
- Among Hispanic groups, people of Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Other Hispanic origin were the most likely to be younger than 18, while Cubans were the most likely to be 65 and older.

**Figure 3.**  
**Selected Age Groups and Median Age: 2000**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



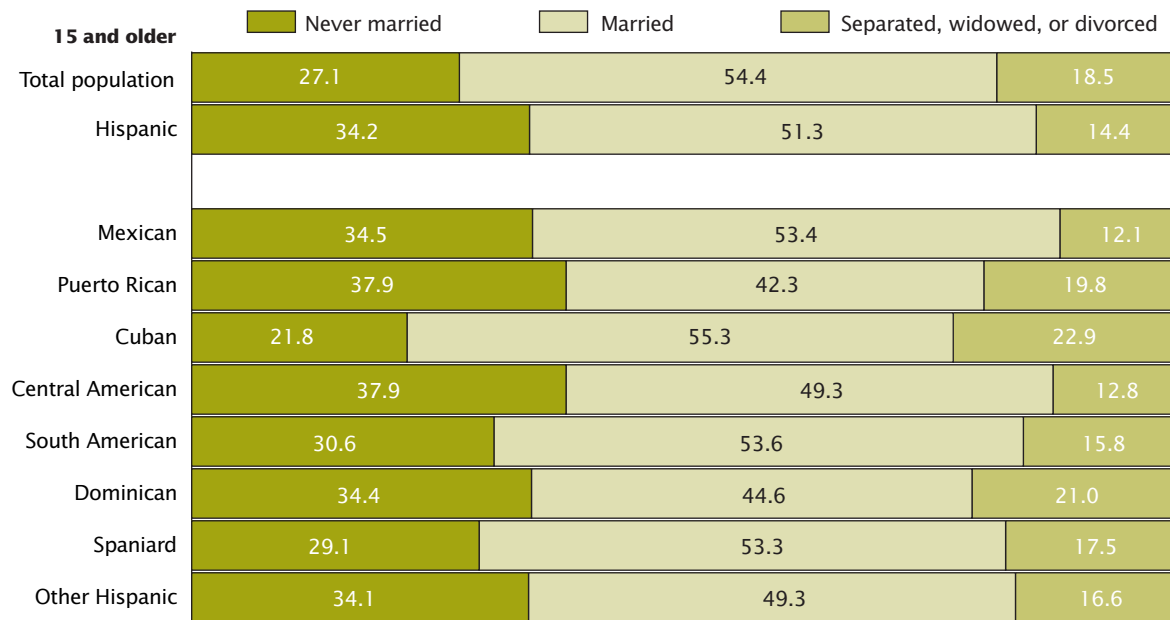
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

## More than half of the Hispanic population was married.

- Over half of both the Hispanic population and the total population 15 and older were married in 2000. In contrast, 34 percent of Hispanics 15 and older were never married, compared with 27 percent of the total population.
- Approximately 14 percent of Hispanics and 19 percent of the total population were separated, widowed, or divorced in 2000.
- Among the Hispanic groups, Cubans were the most likely to be married, followed by South Americans, Mexicans, and Spaniards. Cubans were also more likely to be separated, widowed, or divorced than any other Hispanic group.
- In 2000, over one-third of Puerto Ricans and Central Americans were never married (38 percent each).

Figure 4.  
**Marital Status: 2000**

(Percent distribution of population 15 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.



## More than half of Hispanics lived in family households.

▪ The composition of Hispanic households by type differed from that of all households. For example, 81 percent of Hispanic households, but 68 percent of all households were family households.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> A family household consists of a householder and one or more people living together in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. It may also include people unrelated to the householder.

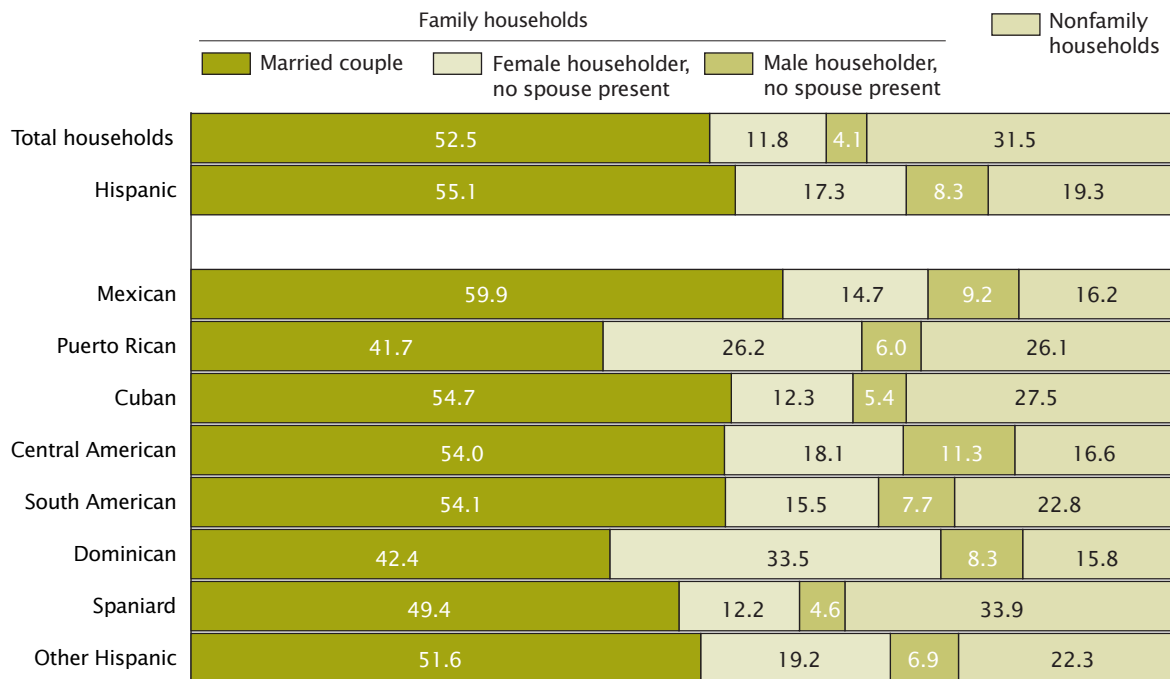
- Over half of both all households and Hispanic households were composed of married-couple families.
- Households maintained by a female householder with no spouse present represented 17 percent of Hispanic households, compared with 12 percent of all households.
- Over one-half of Mexican, Cuban, Central American, South American, and Other Hispanic households, but about

42 percent of Puerto Rican and Dominican households, were maintained by married-couple families.

- Over one-fourth of Puerto Rican households and about one-third of Dominican households were maintained by a female householder with no spouse present. About 11 percent of Central American households and 9 percent of Mexican households were maintained by a male householder with no spouse present.

Figure 5.  
**Household Type: 2000**

(Percent distribution based on the Hispanic origin of the householder. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

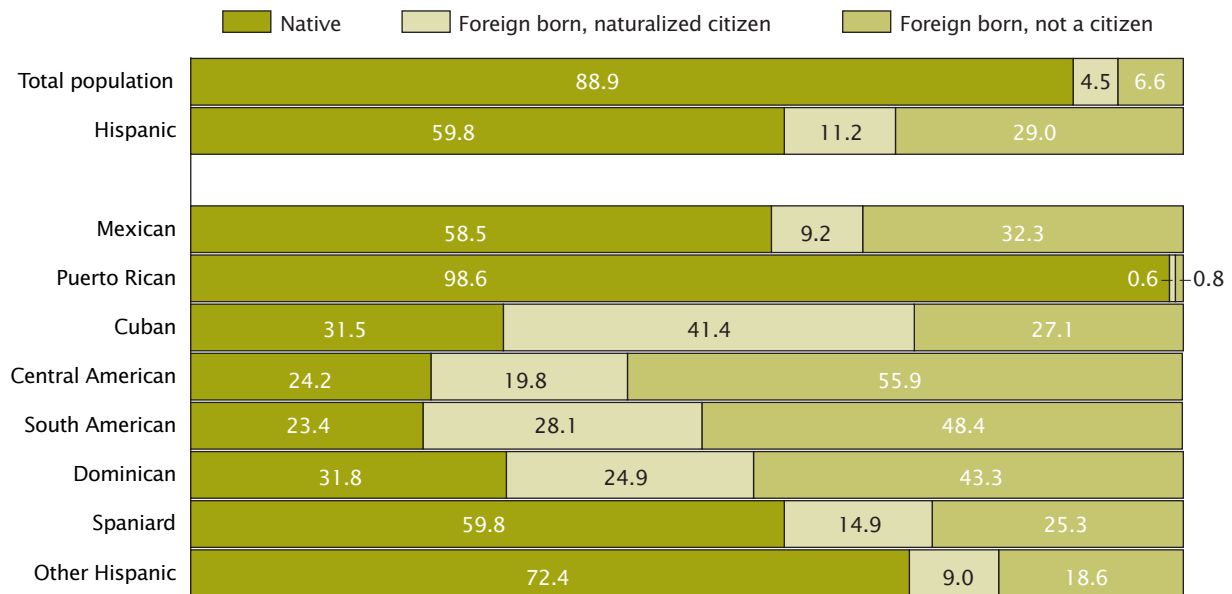
## About 60 percent of Hispanics were born in the United States.

- In 2000, 40 percent of Hispanics were foreign born. About 7 out of every 10 Hispanics residing in the United States were either native or naturalized citizens, compared with over 9 out of every 10 people in the total population.
- Among Hispanic groups, 98.6 percent of Puerto Ricans were native.<sup>7</sup> In contrast, about one-quarter of Central Americans and South Americans were native in 2000 (24 percent and 23 percent, respectively).
- Cubans had the highest proportion (41 percent) of naturalized citizens of all the Hispanic groups, while Central Americans had the highest proportion (56 percent) of noncitizens in 2000.

<sup>7</sup> Nearly all Puerto Ricans are born either in the United States or Puerto Rico. People born in Puerto Rico are automatically U.S. citizens at birth.

Figure 6.  
**Nativity and Citizenship Status: 2000**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



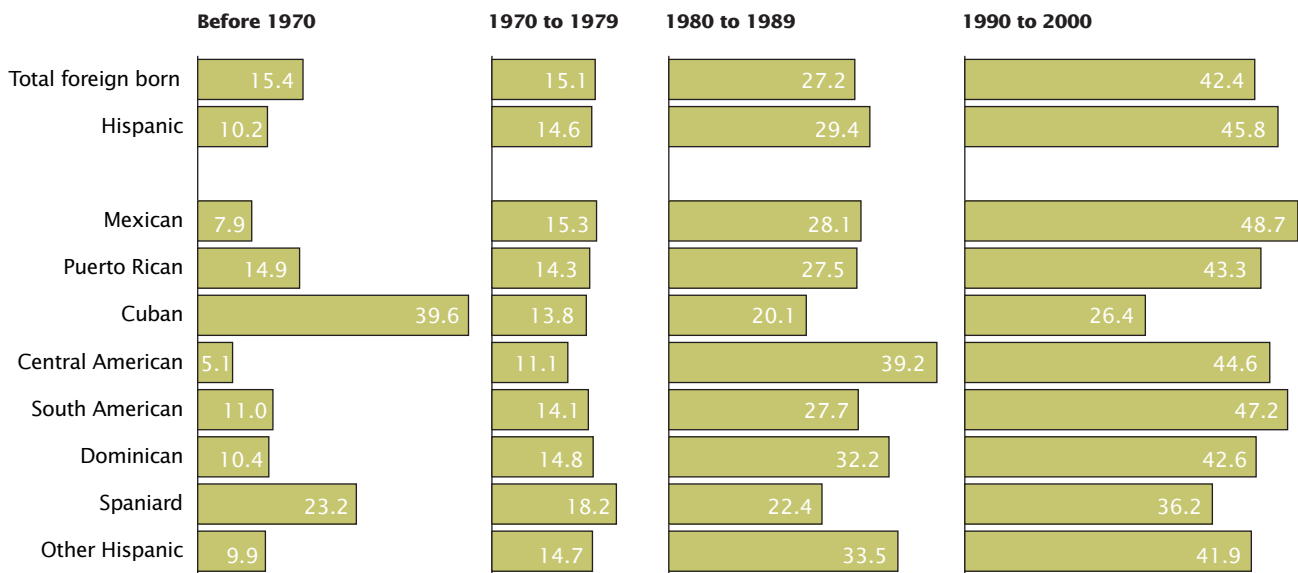
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

**More than 2 in 5 of the Hispanic foreign born arrived during the 1990s.**

- About 46 percent of foreign-born Hispanics entered the United States between 1990 and 2000. About 29 percent arrived between 1980 and 1989, 15 percent between 1970 and 1979, and 10 percent before 1970.
- Nearly half of foreign-born Mexicans and South Americans entered the United States between 1990 and 2000 (49 percent and 47 percent, respectively), representing the largest proportions of newly arrived Hispanic immigrants during the 1990s. The smallest proportion was foreign-born Cubans, 26 percent of whom entered the United States during the same time period.
- About 40 percent of the Cuban foreign born arrived before 1970, more than any other Hispanic group.

Figure 7.  
**Foreign Born by Year of Entry: 2000**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



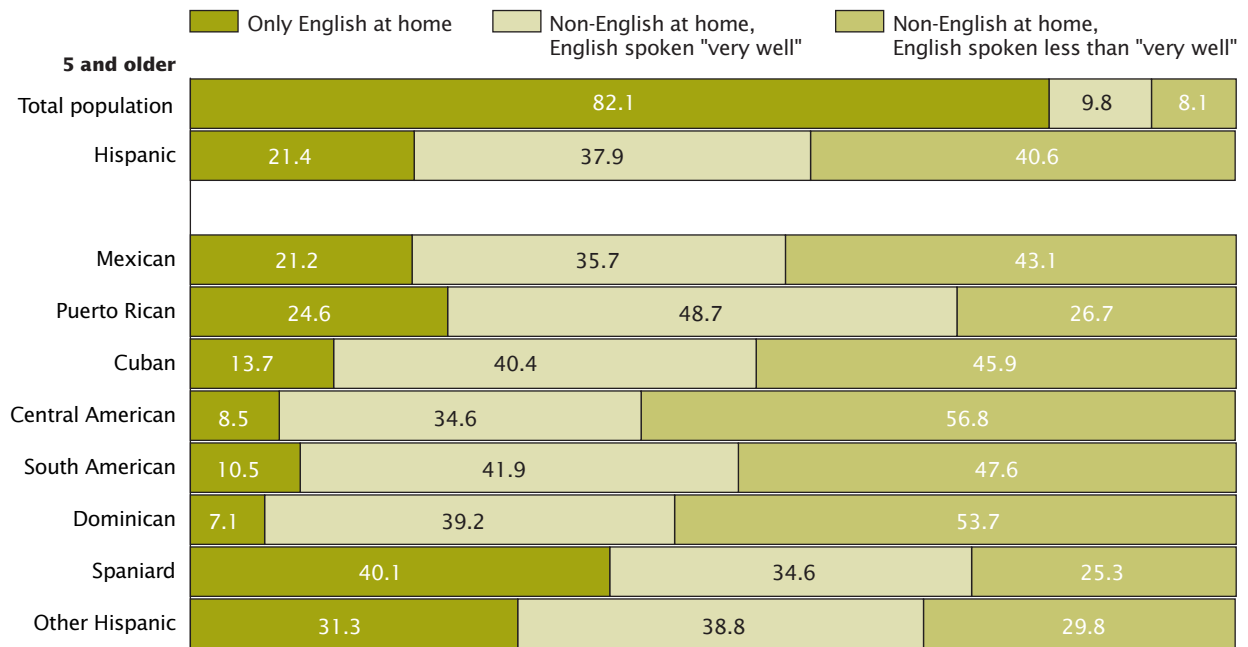
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

**Over three-fourths of Hispanics spoke a language other than English at home.**

- In 2000, 18 percent of the country's population aged 5 and over spoke a language other than English at home, and the majority (60 percent) of them spoke Spanish at home.
- Over 75 percent of Hispanics spoke a language other than English at home. Nearly all (99 percent) of them spoke Spanish at home.
- Over 9 of every 10 Dominicans and Central Americans spoke a language other than English at home, the highest rate among Hispanic groups.
- Among Hispanics, approximately 2 in 5 spoke English less than "very well." Additionally, the proportion who spoke English less than "very well" varied from a high of 57 percent for Central Americans to a low of about 26 percent for Puerto Ricans and Spaniards.

Figure 8.  
**Language Spoken at Home and English-Speaking Ability: 2000**

(Percent distribution of population 5 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))

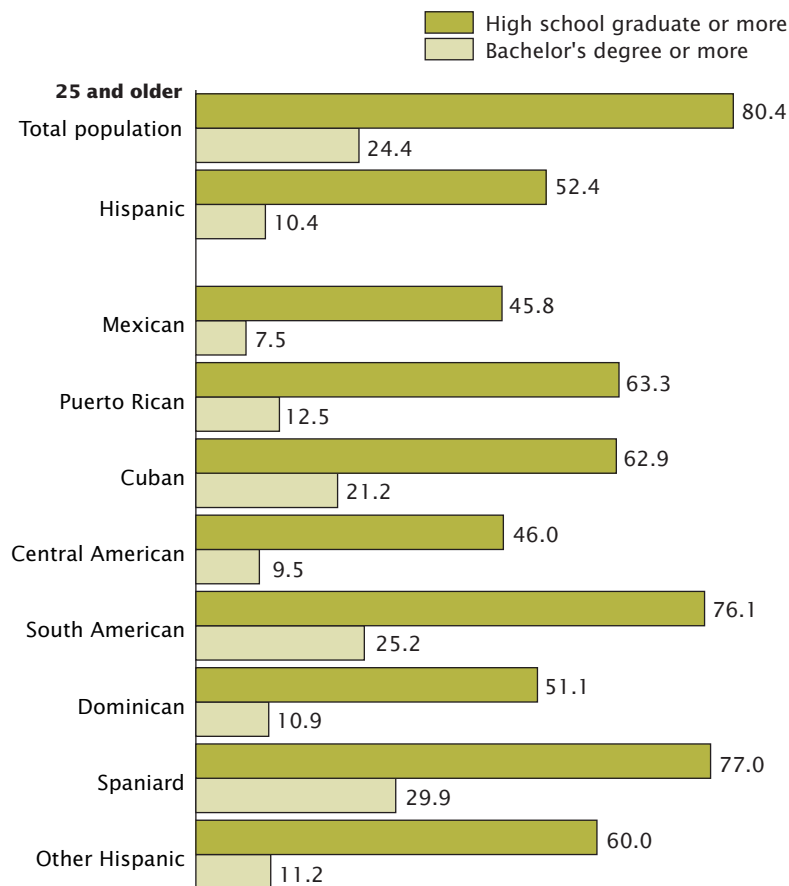


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

Figure 9.

**Educational Attainment: 2000**

(Percent of population 25 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

**The educational attainment of Hispanics varied by group.**

- In 2000, over half of the Hispanic population aged 25 and over (52 percent) had at least a high school diploma, and approximately 1 in 10 had earned a bachelor's or higher degree (10 percent). Compared with the total population, Hispanics were less likely to have completed at least high school or college.
- Among Hispanic groups, Spaniards and South Americans had the highest proportions with at least a high school diploma (77 percent and 76 percent, respectively), while Mexicans and Central Americans had the lowest (about 46 percent each).<sup>8</sup>
- The proportion who had attained at least a bachelor's degree varied considerably: 30 percent of Spaniards, 25 percent of South Americans, 21 percent of Cubans, 12 percent of Puerto Ricans, 11 percent of both Other Hispanics and Dominicans, 10 percent of Central Americans, and 7 percent of Mexicans.

<sup>8</sup> The difference between Spaniards and South Americans is not statistically significant.

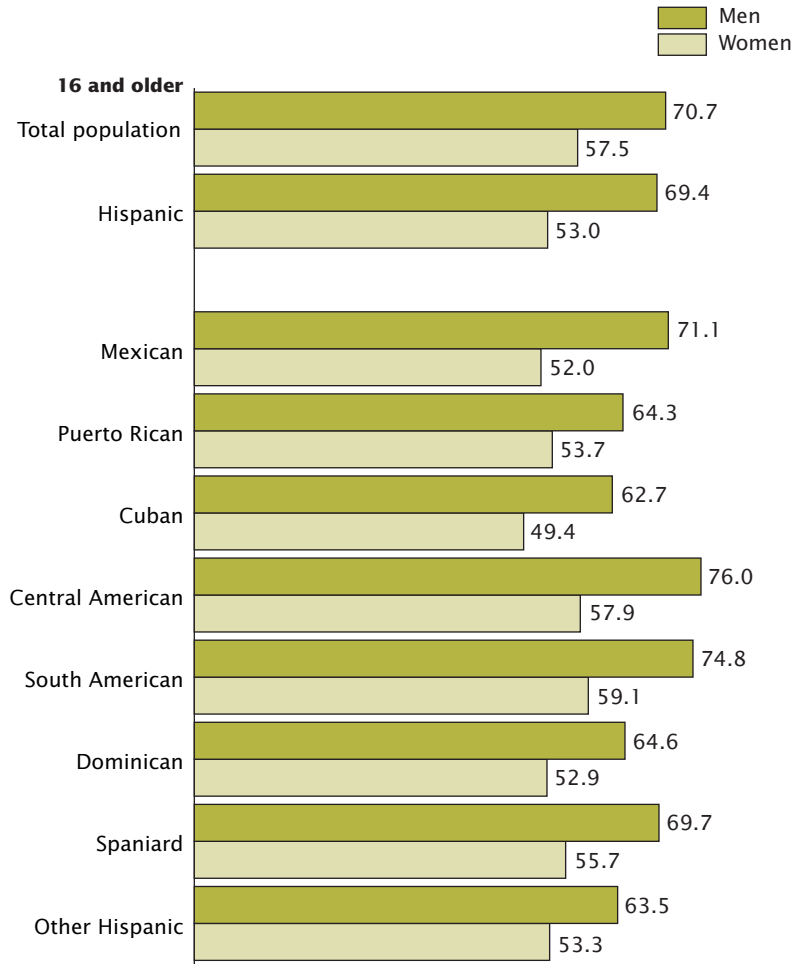
**Hispanics were slightly less likely to be in the labor force than the total population.**

- Over two-thirds of Hispanic men (69 percent) and all men (71 percent) participated in the labor force in 2000. Over half of Hispanic women (53 percent) and all women (58 percent) participated in the labor force in the same year.
- Among Latino groups, the labor force participation rate of men was highest among Central American and South American men (76 percent and 75 percent, respectively) and lowest for Cuban and Other Hispanic men (about 63 percent each). South American women had the highest participation rate among all the Latino groups (59 percent), while Cuban women had the lowest (49 percent).
- The gender gap in labor force participation rates was larger in the Hispanic population than in the total population (a 16 percentage-point difference compared with a 13 percentage-point difference). The largest gender gaps were observed for Mexicans and Central Americans (a 19 percentage-point and an 18 percentage-point difference, respectively), while Other Hispanics, Puerto Ricans, and Dominicans had the smallest gap (about 11 percentage points each).<sup>9</sup>

Figure 10.

**Labor Force Participation Rate by Sex: 2000**

(Percent of population 16 and older in the labor force. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))

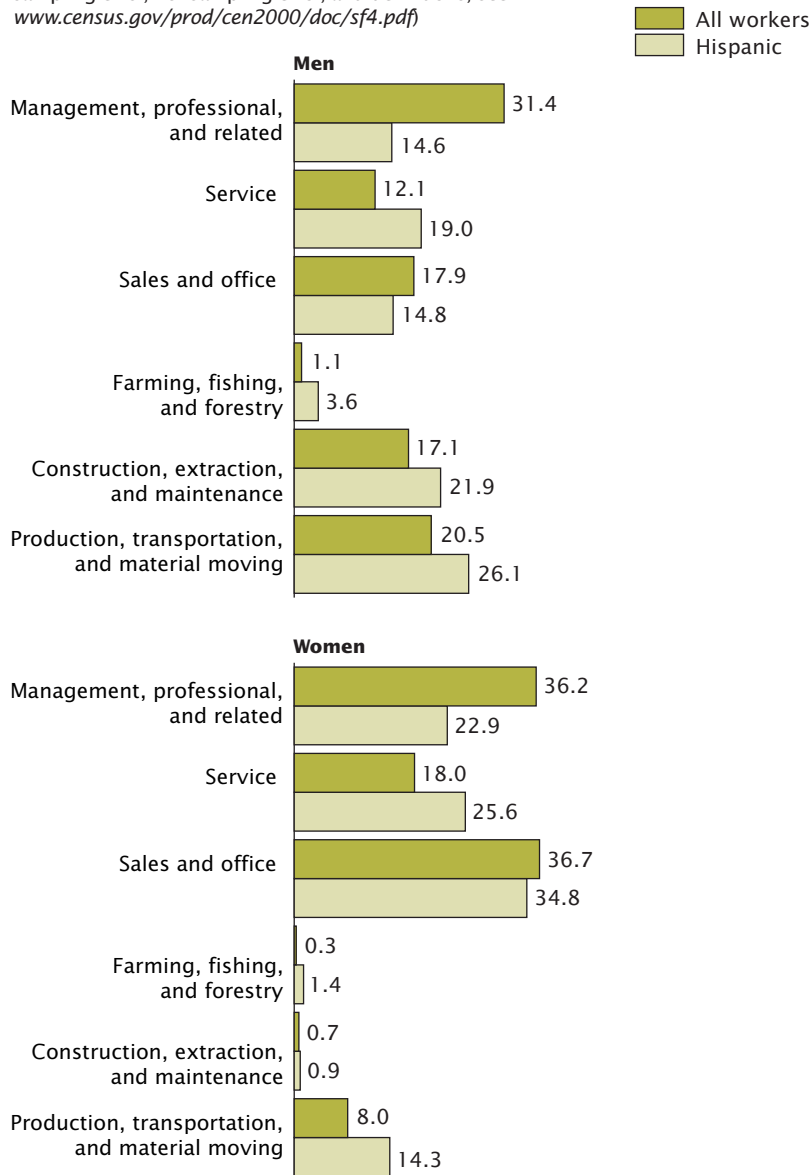


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

<sup>9</sup> The gender gap for Spaniards (14 percentage points) is not statistically different from the gender gap for Puerto Ricans and Dominicans. The gender gap for Cubans (13 percentage points) is not statistically different from the gender gap for Dominicans.

Figure 11.  
**Occupation by Sex: 2000**

(Percent distribution of employed civilian population 16 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

**Proportionately more Hispanic women than Hispanic men held managerial or professional jobs.**

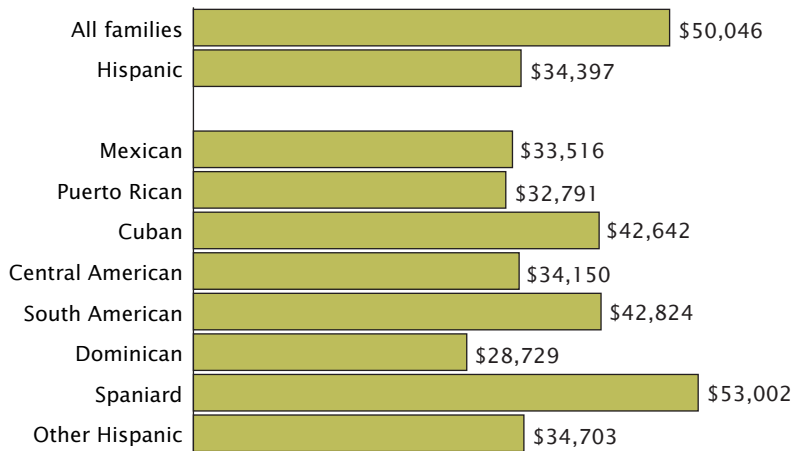
- The percentage of Hispanic women employed in management and professional occupations (23 percent) was lower than that of all women (36 percent). Among Hispanic men, 15 percent held management and professional occupations, compared with 31 percent of all men.
- In 2000, 26 percent of Hispanic men 16 years and over worked in production, transportation, and material moving occupations, compared with 20 percent of all men in the country.
- Sales and office occupations provided employment for 35 percent of Hispanic women and 37 percent of all women.
- Service occupations employed 26 percent of Hispanic women and 18 percent of all women.

**In 1999, Spaniard, South American, and Cuban families had higher median family incomes than other Hispanic groups.**

- In 1999, the median family income for Hispanics was \$34,400, lower than the median family income of \$50,000 for all families.
- Median family income among Hispanic groups varied from a high of \$53,000 for Spaniards to a low of \$28,700 for Dominicans.

Figure 12.  
**Median Family Income: 1999**

(Families classified by Hispanic origin of householder. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))

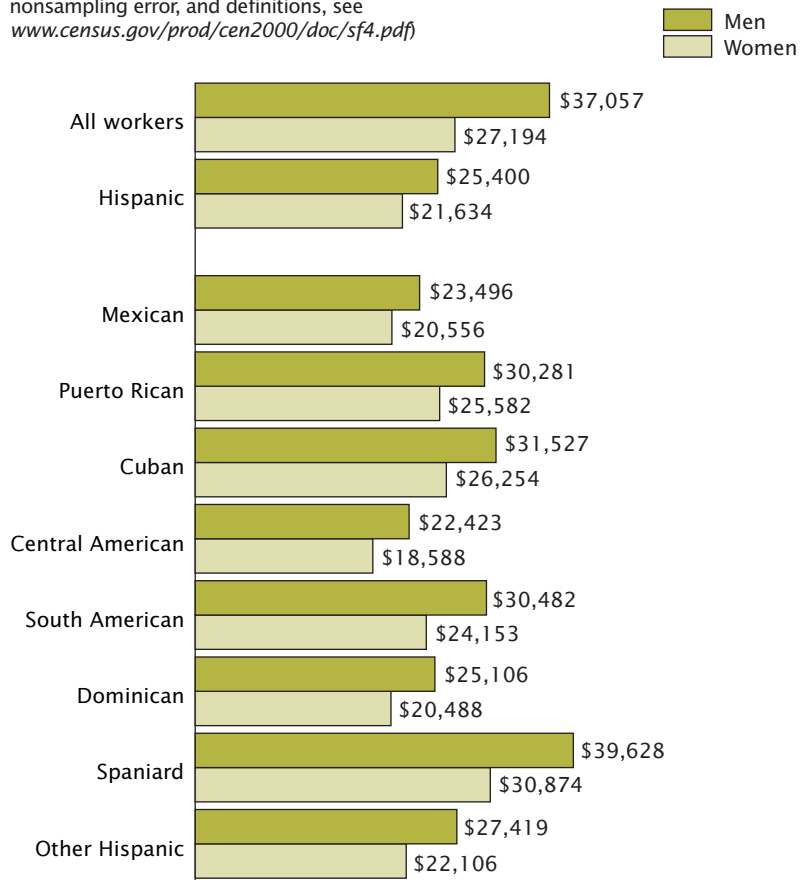


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.



Figure 13.  
**Median Earnings by Sex: 1999**

(For employed, full-time, year-round workers 16 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

**The median earnings of Hispanic men and women in 1999 varied.**

- Median earnings of full-time, year-round Hispanic male workers in 1999 were \$25,400, compared with \$37,100 for all male workers. The corresponding median earnings of full-time, year-round female workers were \$21,600 for Hispanics and \$27,200 for all women.
- Among Hispanic groups, Spaniard men and women had the highest median earnings (\$39,600 and \$30,900, respectively), while Central American men and women had the lowest (\$22,400 and \$18,600, respectively).

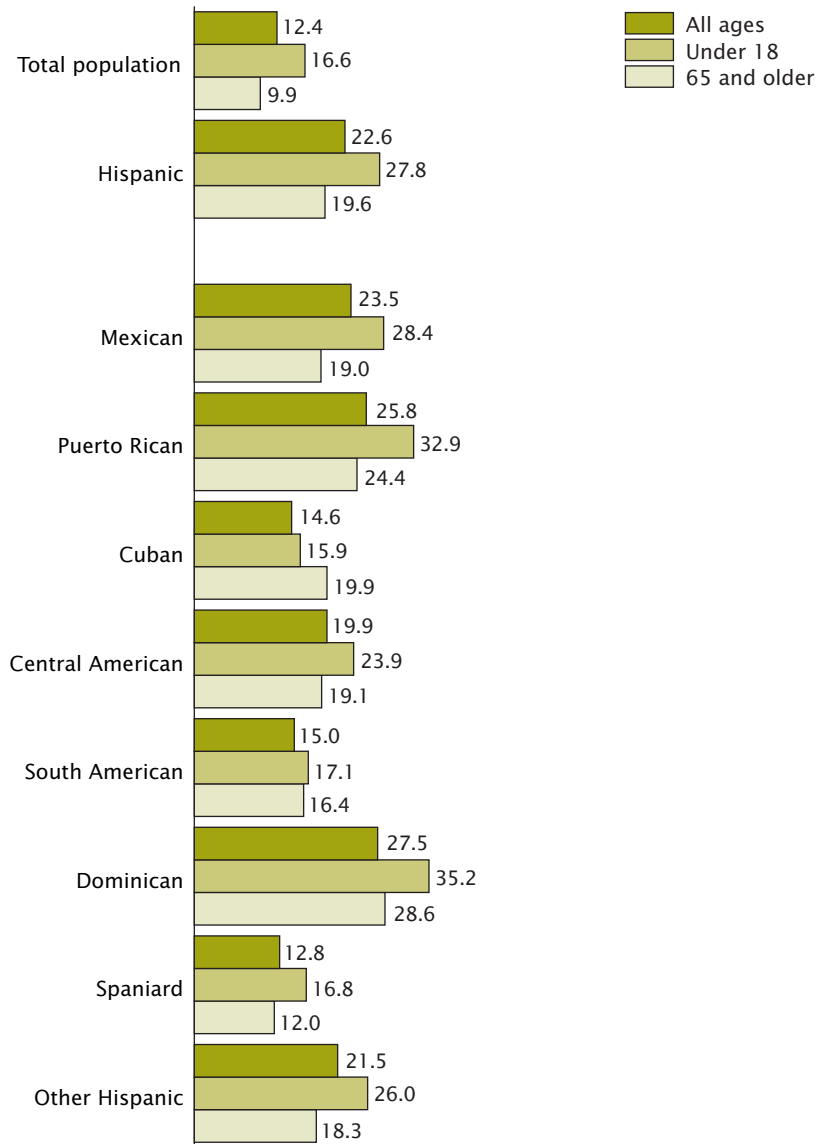
**Poverty rates varied among the Hispanic groups.**

- Among the Hispanic population in the United States, 22.6 percent were in poverty, compared with 12.4 percent for the total population. Among Latino groups, the poverty rate ranged from a high of 27.5 percent among Dominicans to lows of 14.6 percent for Cubans and 12.8 percent for Spaniards.
- Hispanics under 18 years of age were more likely to live in poverty in 1999 than all people under age 18 in the United States—over 1 in 4 compared with 1 in 6. About 1 in 3 Dominicans and Puerto Ricans under 18 lived below the poverty level in 1999.
- In addition, 19.6 percent of the Hispanic older population (65 years and over) was in poverty, compared with 9.9 percent of the total older population. Among the Hispanic groups, the older population living in poverty ranged from a high of 28.6 percent for Dominicans to lows of 16.4 percent for South Americans and 12.0 percent for Spaniards.

Figure 14.

**Poverty Rate by Broad Age Group: 1999**

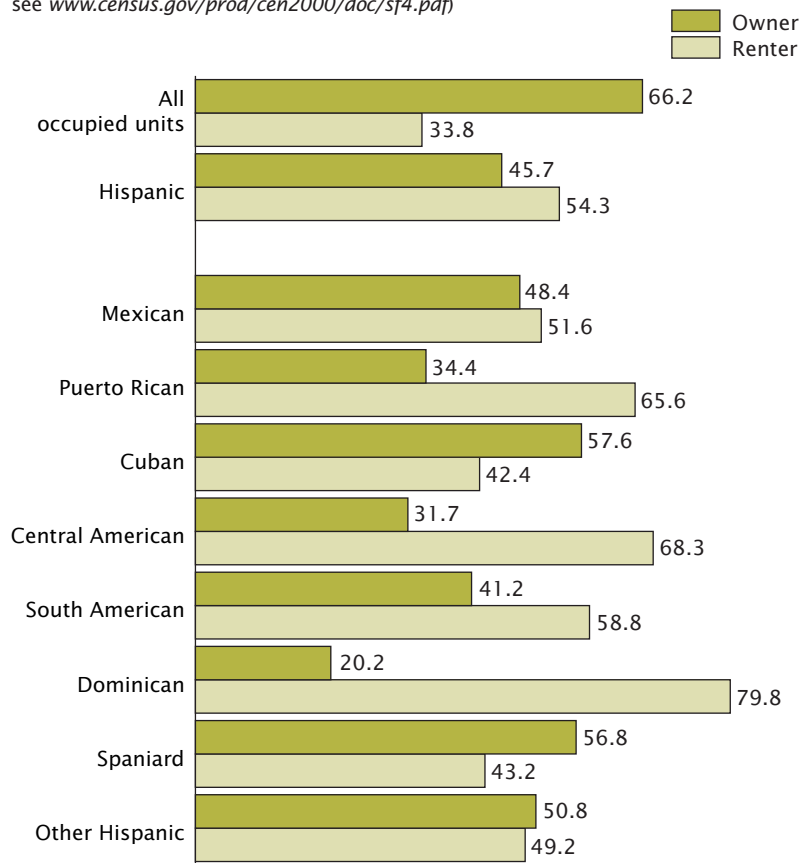
(Percent in poverty. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Note: Poverty status was determined for everyone except those in institutions, military group quarters, or college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

Figure 15.  
**Housing Tenure: 2000**

(Percent distribution of occupied housing units. Housing tenure of the detailed group is shown by the origin of the householder. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

**Over half of all Hispanic households lived in renter-occupied housing units.**

- In 2000, Hispanic householders were more likely than all householders to rent rather than own a home. Among all Hispanic households, 54 percent lived in renter-occupied housing units, compared with 34 percent of all households.
- Among Latino groups, Cuban and Spaniard households were more likely to live in owner-occupied housing units than any other group (about 57 percent each). Dominicans (80 percent), Central Americans (68 percent), and Puerto Ricans (66 percent) were more likely to live in renter-occupied housing units than other groups.

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## ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

The data contained in this report are based on the sample of households that responded to the Census 2000 long form.

Nationally, approximately 1 out of every 6 housing units was included in this sample. As a result, the sample estimates may differ somewhat from the 100-percent figures that would have been obtained if all housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters had been enumerated using the same questionnaires, instructions, enumerators, and so forth. The sample estimates also differ from the values that would have been obtained from different samples of housing units, and hence of people living in those housing units, and people living in group quarters. The deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples is called the sampling error.

In addition to the variability that arises from sampling, both sample data and 100-percent data, are subject to nonsampling error. Nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the various complex operations used to collect and process data. Such errors may include not enumerating every household or every person in the population, failing to obtain all required information from the respondents, obtaining incorrect or inconsistent information, and recording information incorrectly. In addition, errors can occur during the field review of the enumerators' work, during clerical handling of the census questionnaires, or during the electronic processing of the questionnaires.

While it is impossible to completely eliminate error from an operation as large and complex as the decennial census, the Census Bureau attempts to control the sources of such error during the data collection and processing operations. The primary sources of error and the programs instituted to control error in Census 2000 are described in detail in *Summary File 4 Technical Documentation* under Chapter 8, Accuracy of the Data, located at <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)>.

Nonsampling error may affect the data in two ways: first, errors that are introduced randomly will increase the variability of the data and, therefore, should be reflected in the standard errors; and second, errors that tend to be consistent in one direction will bias both sample and 100-percent data in that direction. For example, if respondents consistently tend to underreport their incomes, then the resulting estimates of households or families by income category will tend to be understated for the higher-income categories and overstated for the lower-income categories. Such biases are not reflected in the standard errors.

All statements in this Census 2000 Special Report have undergone statistical testing and all comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. The estimates in the table and figures may vary from actual values due to sampling and nonsampling errors. As a result, the estimates used to summarize statistics for one population group may not be statistically different from estimates for another population group. Further information on

the accuracy of the data is located at <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)>. For further information on the computation and use of standard errors, contact the Decennial Statistical Studies Division at 301-763-4242.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Census 2000 Summary File 3 and Summary File 4 data are available from the American FactFinder on the Census Bureau's Web site <[factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov)>. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, also see <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)> or contact the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

Information on population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Brief series and the Census 2000 Special Report series, located on the Census Bureau's Web site at <[www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html)>. These series present information on race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and social, economic, and housing characteristics such as ancestry, income, and housing costs.

For more information on Hispanic origin, visit <[www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hispanic.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hispanic.html)>.

To find information about the availability of data products, including reports, CD-ROMs, and DVDs, call the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).