

# The American Community— Hispanics: 2004

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## Acknowledgments

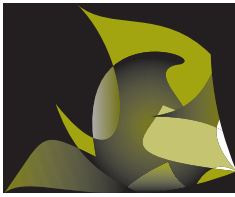
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# The American Community— Hispanics: 2004

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents a portrait of the Hispanic or Latino population in the United States.<sup>1</sup> It is part of the American Community Survey (ACS) report series. Information on demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics in the tables and figures are based on data from the 2004 ACS Selected Population Profiles and Detailed Tables.<sup>2</sup> The data for the Hispanic population are based on responses to the 2004 ACS question on Hispanic origin, which asked all respondents to report whether or not they were Hispanic.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The federal government defines Hispanic or Latino as a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. Thus, Hispanics may be any race. The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are used by the U.S. Census Bureau; hereinafter in this report, the term “Hispanic” is used to refer to all individuals who reported they were Hispanic or Latino.

<sup>2</sup> The 2004 ACS datasets, including Selected Population Profiles and Detailed Tables, are available online in the American FactFinder at <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>.

<sup>3</sup> For further information on the content and format of the questionnaire, see <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/SQuest03.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/SQuest03.pdf)>.

Table 1.  
**Household Population by Hispanic Origin and Race: 2004**

(Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))

Hispanic origin or race	Population	Percent of total population	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>285,691,501</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
White alone, not Hispanic .....	192,362,875	67.3	0.01
Hispanic or Latino .....	40,459,196	14.2	0.01
Mexican .....	25,894,763	9.1	0.06
Caribbean <sup>2</sup> .....	6,363,182	2.2	0.04
Puerto Rican .....	3,874,322	1.4	0.03
Cuban .....	1,437,828	0.5	0.02
Dominican .....	1,051,032	0.4	0.02
Central American .....	2,901,679	1.0	0.04
Salvadoran .....	1,201,002	0.4	0.02
South American .....	2,215,503	0.8	0.03
European (Spaniard) .....	358,570	0.1	0.01
All other Hispanic or Latino .....	2,725,499	1.0	0.04
Not Hispanic or Latino .....	245,232,305	85.8	0.01

(X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, produces the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

<sup>2</sup> The Caribbean group represents the sum of Puerto Rican, Cuban, and Dominican responses. Respondents who responded “Caribbean” are included in the “All other Hispanic or Latino” group.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles and Detailed Tables, B03001 and B03002.

The 2004 ACS estimated the number of Hispanics to be 40.5 million, or 14.2 percent of the U.S. household population (Table 1).<sup>4</sup> Hispanics of Mexican origin, with a population of 25.9 million in the United States, were the largest Hispanic group.

Mexicans accounted for 64 percent of the Hispanic population (Table 2). Puerto Ricans (3.9 million) were the second-largest group and made up nearly 10 percent of the Hispanic population. The third-largest Hispanic group, Other Hispanic or Latino, numbered 2.7 million and accounted for nearly 7 percent of the Hispanic population.<sup>5</sup>

Other sizable Hispanic populations included 1.4 million Hispanics of Cuban origin and 1.1 million Hispanics of Dominican origin. The 2.9 million Hispanics of Central American origin included 1.2 million Salvadorans, the largest group from that region. Of the 2.2 million people of South American origin, Colombians, with a population of 686,000 were the largest.<sup>6</sup>

Because Hispanics are a heterogeneous group, variation within the Hispanic population is also discussed in this report. Central Americans are a group that includes Costa Ricans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, Nicaraguans,

<sup>4</sup> This report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia; it does not include data for Puerto Rico.

<sup>5</sup> The term "Other Hispanic" includes general Hispanic-origin responses, such as "Hispanic," "Spanish," and "Latino."

<sup>6</sup> The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of households. Estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling error and other factors. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

Table 2.  
**Hispanic Household Population by Type of Origin: 2004**

(Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))

Type of origin	Population	Percent of Hispanic population	Margin of error <sup>1</sup> (±)
<b>Hispanic or Latino.....</b>	<b>40,459,196</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(X)</b>
Mexican .....	25,894,763	64.0	0.39
Puerto Rican .....	3,874,322	9.6	0.22
Cuban .....	1,437,828	3.6	0.13
Dominican .....	1,051,032	2.6	0.15
Spaniard .....	358,570	0.9	0.09
Central American .....	2,901,679	7.2	0.29
Costa Rican .....	120,316	0.3	0.05
Guatemalan .....	698,745	1.7	0.14
Honduran .....	407,994	1.0	0.10
Nicaraguan .....	248,725	0.6	0.08
Panamanian .....	113,053	0.3	0.04
Salvadoran .....	1,201,002	3.0	0.16
Other Central American .....	111,844	0.3	0.06
South American .....	2,215,503	5.5	0.19
Argentinean .....	189,190	0.5	0.06
Bolivian .....	90,401	0.2	0.04
Chilean .....	106,458	0.3	0.03
Colombian .....	686,185	1.7	0.11
Ecuadorian .....	453,360	1.1	0.11
Paraguayan .....	14,123	—	0.02
Peruvian .....	399,240	1.0	0.10
Uruguayan .....	41,577	0.1	0.03
Venezuelan .....	164,699	0.4	0.05
Other South American .....	70,270	0.2	0.03
All other Hispanic or Latino .....	2,725,499	6.7	0.26

(X) Not applicable.  
— Rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup> This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, produces the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles and Detailed Tables, B03001.

Panamanians, Salvadorans, and Other Central Americans. South Americans include those who indicated that they were Argentinean, Bolivian, Chilean, Colombian, Ecuadorian, Paraguayan, Peruvian, Uruguayan, Venezuelan, and Other South American.

In addition to the broader Central and South American origin categories, this report includes data for the following selected groups that each had populations of 250,000 or

more: Guatemalans, Hondurans, Salvadorans, Colombians, Ecuadorians, and Peruvians.<sup>7</sup> In the future, as the ACS goes to full implementation and multiple-year estimates are produced, more information about additional groups may be available.

<sup>7</sup> These origins represent the largest groups reporting Caribbean, Mexican, Central American, or South American Hispanic origins.

## What Is the American Community Survey?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a new nationwide survey designed to provide reliable, timely information for local communities on how they are changing. This survey is a critical element in the Census Bureau's 2010 Decennial Census Program. The ACS collects detailed information on the characteristics of the population and housing on an ongoing sample basis. These data previously were collected in census years in conjunction with the decennial census. Since the ACS is conducted every year, rather than once every 10 years, it will provide more current data throughout the decade.

Fully implemented in 2005, the ACS is the largest household survey in the United States, with an annual sample size of about 3 million housing unit addresses throughout the country. Release of annual estimates from the ACS began in 2006 for all geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more; 3-year period estimates will begin in 2008 for areas and populations as small as 20,000; and 5-year period estimates will start in 2010 for census tracts, block groups, and small populations. All estimates, including the 3-year and 5-year period estimates, are planned to be updated every year.

During the testing program (2000 to 2004), the ACS sampled approximately 800,000 addresses per year and produced estimates for the United States, states, and essentially all places, counties, and metropolitan areas with at least 250,000 people.

The data contained in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed in 2004. The population represented (the population universe) is limited to the household population and excludes the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on the ACS sample design and other ACS topics, visit [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html).

The Census Bureau's population estimates program releases official population estimates of the U.S. resident population by sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin. For information on the Census Bureau's population estimates program, visit [www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php](http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php). The ACS estimates in this report pertain to the household population only (i.e., the total population, excluding the group quarters population). Therefore, the ACS estimate of the Hispanic population shown in this report should not be viewed as the official measure of this population.

## HIGHLIGHTS

While Hispanics resided in every state in 2004, most lived in just a handful of states. Nearly two-thirds of Hispanics, or more than 26 million, lived in California, Texas, Florida, and New York.

Compared with the non-Hispanic White population, Hispanics had a larger proportion of young people and a smaller proportion of older people.<sup>8</sup> They were also somewhat less likely than non-Hispanic Whites to be divorced. Compared with non-Hispanic White women,

<sup>8</sup> In this report, the term "non-Hispanic White" refers to individuals who reported they were the single-race White and not Hispanic.

Hispanic women were more likely to have given birth in the past 12 months. Hispanics had a lower median income level and a larger proportion of their households were maintained by women. A larger proportion of Hispanics lived in poverty and Hispanics were more likely to rent their homes.<sup>9</sup>

Most Hispanics were born in the United States and most spoke only English at home or spoke English

<sup>9</sup> The summary statistics mentioned in these highlights often refer to different segments of the Hispanic population. For example, birth rates are estimated for women 15 to 50 years old and educational attainment refers to the population aged 25 and older. The figures in the report contain information on the universe for each statistic.

very well. Most Hispanics were high school graduates and more than half were married. Most foreign-born Hispanics entered the United States in 1990 or later.

Among the Hispanic-origin groups analyzed in this report, Mexicans and Puerto Ricans had the highest proportions who spoke only English at home. Colombians and Peruvians had the highest proportions with a bachelor's degree or more education. Ecuadorians and Peruvians had the highest median household incomes; Dominicans and Hondurans the lowest.

## Understanding Data on Hispanic Origin and Race From the 2004 American Community Survey

The 2004 American Community Survey (ACS) followed the federal standards for collecting and presenting data on race and Hispanic origin established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 1997. In accordance with these standards, which mandate that race and Hispanic origin are two separate and distinct concepts, the ACS asked both a Hispanic-origin question and a race question.\*

The first question asked respondents if they were Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino. The next question asked respondents to indicate the race or races they considered themselves to be.\*\*

The questions about Hispanic origin and race on the 2004 ACS are comparable with those on Census 2000. In both, the Hispanic-origin question preceded the race question and respondents were asked to select one or more race categories. The

2004 ACS question on Hispanic origin included four response categories where Hispanics could indicate their origin (Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or Other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino). The last category “Other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino” had a write-in option for respondents to provide a specific Hispanic-origin group, such as Dominican or Salvadoran.

Because race and Hispanic origin are treated as separate concepts in the federal statistical system, people in each race group may be either Hispanic or not Hispanic, and Hispanics may be any race. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches for showing data on race and ethnicity.

Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for race groups. Data from the ACS show that in 2004 among Hispanics, 58.5 percent indicated that their race was White alone, 35.2 percent indicated Some Other Race alone, and 1.6 percent indicated Black or African American alone. In addition, 3.6 percent indicated that they were Two or More Races and 1.2 percent indicated that they were either American Indian and Alaska Native alone, Asian alone, or Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone.

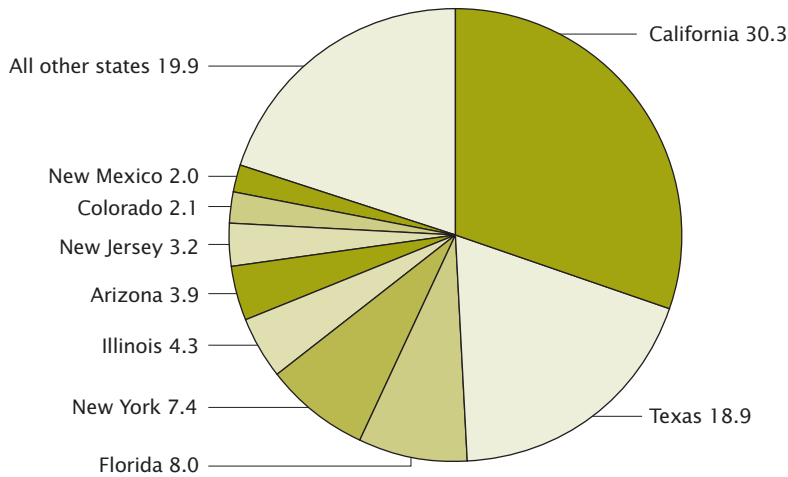
\* For further information see: <[www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/1997standards.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/1997standards.html)>.

\*\* Race and Hispanic origin, as used by the Census Bureau, reflect self-identification by individuals according to the group or groups with which they most closely identify. The categories are sociopolitical constructs that include racial, ethnic, and national-origin groups. For more details, see <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/2004/usedata/Subject\\_Definitions.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/2004/usedata/Subject_Definitions.pdf)>.

**About 4 of every 5 Hispanics lived in nine states.**

Figure 1.  
**Hispanic Household Population by State: 2004**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Note: Percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

- In 2004, about 80 percent of all Hispanics in the United States lived in nine states.
- About 1 of every 2 Hispanics lived in two states: California, with 30 percent of the Hispanic population, and Texas, with 19 percent.
- Florida (8 percent) and New York (7 percent) accounted for another 15 percent of the Hispanic population. Combined, those four states were home to about two-thirds of all Hispanics.
- The other states with relatively large numbers of Hispanics were Illinois, Arizona, New Jersey, Colorado, and New Mexico. These states accounted for another 15 percent of all Hispanics.

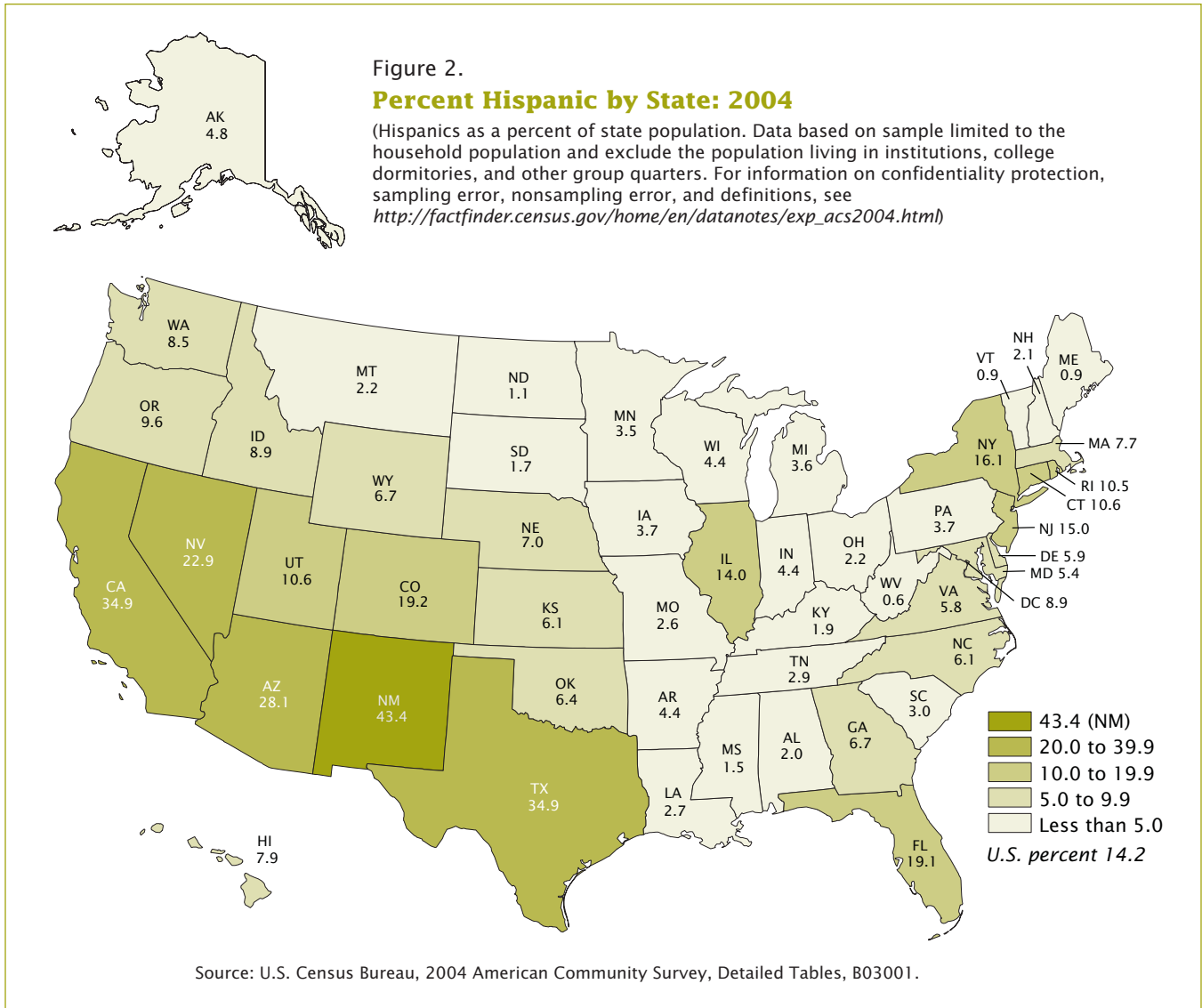
**Hispanics accounted for more than one-fourth of the total household population in four border states.**

- Hispanics represented about 14 percent of the U.S. household population. The four states bordering Mexico had the highest percentages of Hispanics in their population—Arizona

(28 percent), California (35 percent), Texas (35 percent), and New Mexico (43 percent).

- In addition to these states, the proportion of Hispanics was

higher than the U.S. level of 14 percent in five other states (Nevada, Colorado, Florida, New York, and New Jersey).



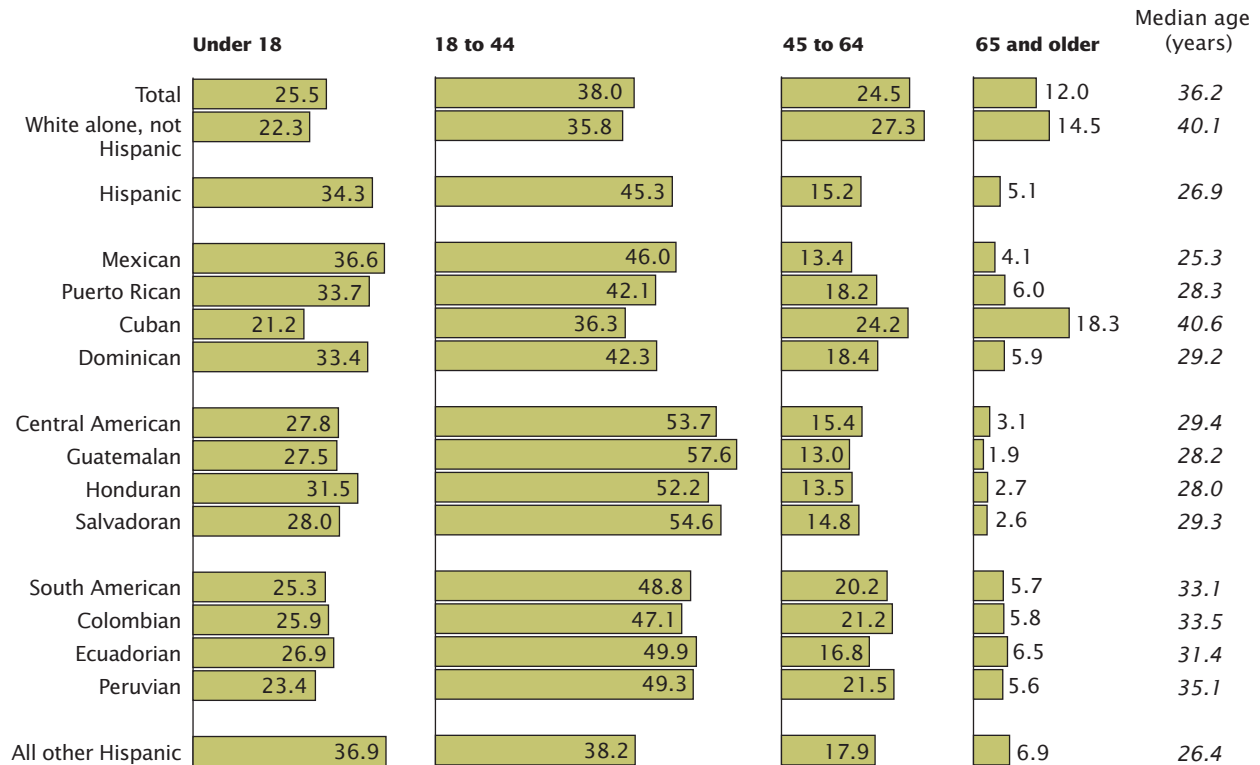


**The median age of the Hispanic population was about 13 years younger than that of the non-Hispanic White population.**

- In 2004, Hispanics had a median age of 26.9 years, about 13 years younger than the median age of the non-Hispanic White population, 40.1 years.
- The Hispanic population had a larger proportion of young people and a smaller proportion of older people than the non-Hispanic White population. About 1 in 3 Hispanics was a child (under 18 years), compared with 1 in 5 non-Hispanic Whites. About 5 percent of Hispanics were 65 and older, compared with about 15 percent of non-Hispanic Whites.
- Among the Hispanic-origin groups shown in this report, Mexicans had the lowest median age, 25.3 years, and Cubans had the highest, 40.6 years.
- About one-third of Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Hondurans were children.
- A larger proportion of Cubans were aged 65 and older (18 percent) than any other Hispanic-origin group. For the remaining specific Hispanic groups, the proportion of the population that was 65 and older was about 7 percent or less.

Figure 3.  
**Selected Age Groups and Median Age: 2004**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

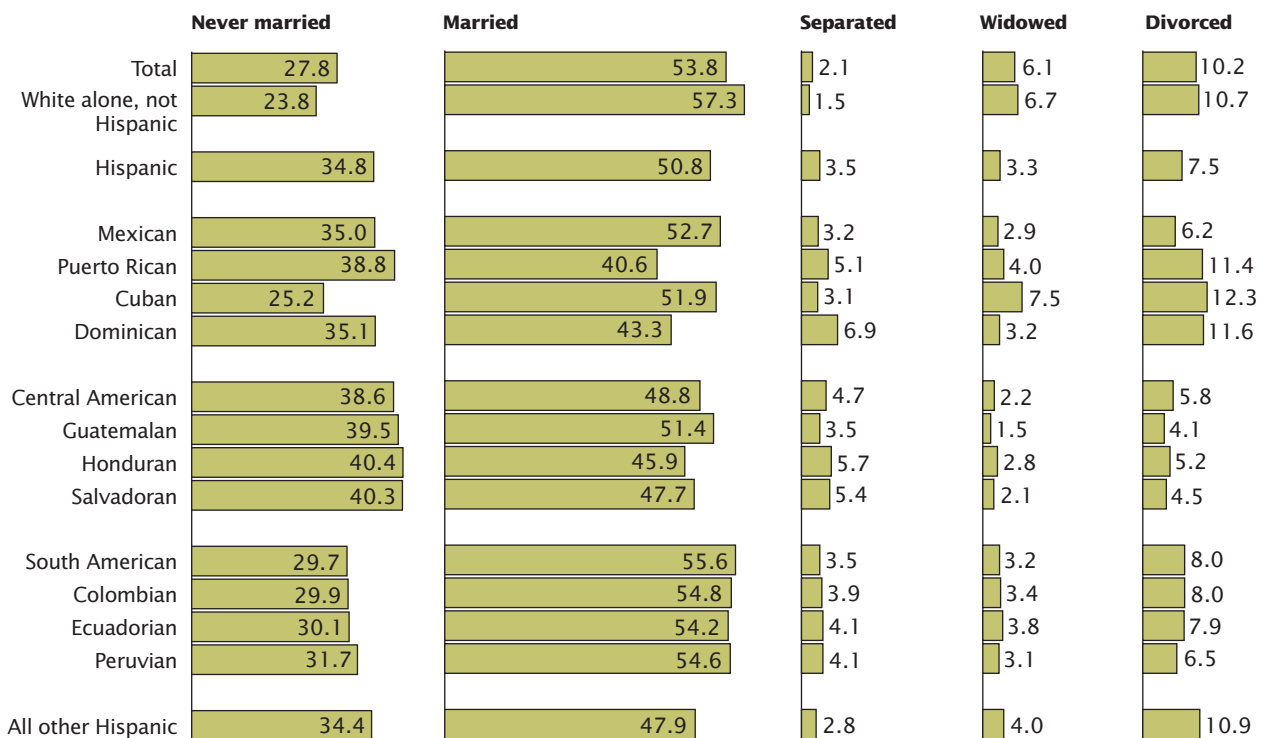
## About one-half of Hispanics were married.

- In 2004, about one-half of Hispanics aged 15 and older were married, while about 35 percent were never married. Non-Hispanic Whites aged 15 and older were more likely to be married (about 57 percent) and less likely never to have married (about 24 percent).<sup>10</sup>
- A smaller proportion of the Hispanics (about 8 percent) than non-Hispanic Whites (about 11 percent) were divorced. Cubans, Dominicans, and Puerto Ricans had among the highest proportions of divorced individuals. Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Salvadorans had among the lowest, at about 5 percent.
- Among Hispanic-origin groups, about 50 percent or more of Mexicans, Cubans, Guatemalans, Colombians, Ecuadorians, and Peruvians aged 15 and older were married. Puerto Ricans, at 41 percent, were the least likely to be married.
- The likelihood of having never married was about 40 percent among Puerto Ricans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Salvadorans. Cubans were the least likely among Hispanics never to have married (about 25 percent).

<sup>10</sup> Differences between the age distributions of Hispanics and non-Hispanic Whites may affect marital status patterns.

Figure 4.  
**Marital Status: 2004**

(Percent distribution of population 15 and older. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))

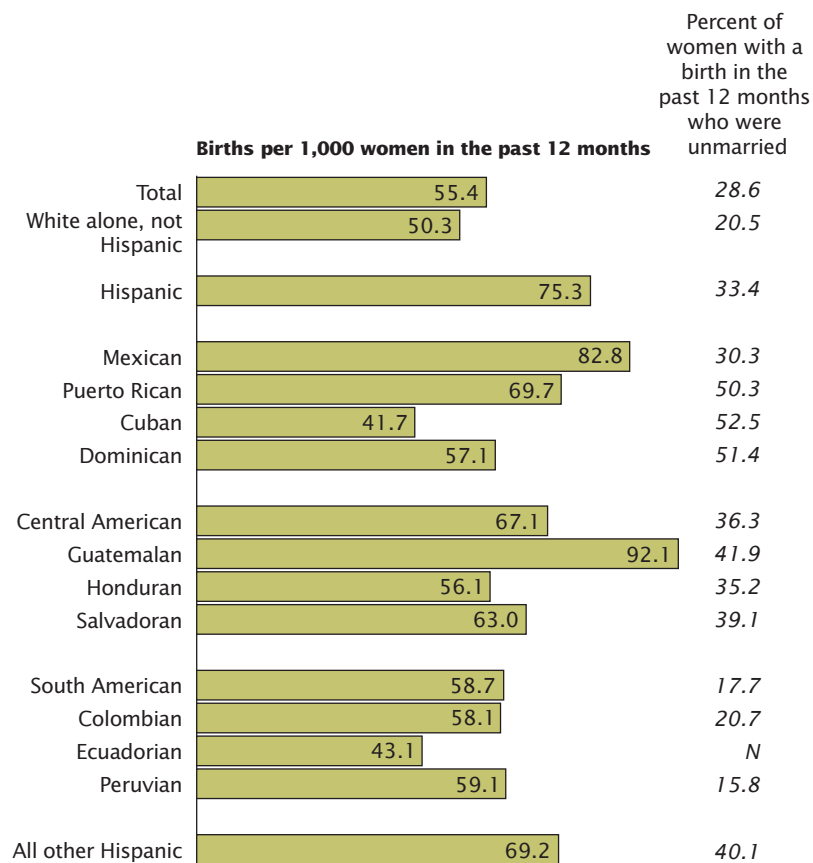


Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

**Hispanic women were more likely to have given birth in the past 12 months than non-Hispanic White women.**

Figure 5.  
**Fertility: 2004**

(Of every 1,000 women aged 15 to 50 years, the number who had given birth in the 12 months preceding the survey, based on the Hispanic origin and race of the mother. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Note: An 'N' entry indicates that data cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

- Hispanic women had a higher fertility rate than non-Hispanic White women.<sup>11</sup> About 75 of every 1,000 Hispanic women aged 15 to 50 had given birth in the 12 months prior to being surveyed in 2004, compared with about 50 of every 1,000 non-Hispanic White women aged 15 to 50.
- About 33 percent of Hispanic mothers who had given birth were unmarried, compared with about 20 percent of non-Hispanic White mothers.
- Guatemalan women and Mexican women had among the highest fertility rates of the specific Hispanic-origin groups.

<sup>11</sup> Of every 1,000 women aged 15 to 50, the number who had given birth in the 12 months preceding the date of the survey, whether in 2003 or 2004.

## Hispanic households were more likely than non-Hispanic White households to be family households.

- More than three-fourths (77 percent) of Hispanic households and about two-thirds (66 percent) of non-Hispanic White households were family households.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> A household is a person or a group of people who occupy a housing unit as their current residence. 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. There are three types of family households in the survey data: married couple, female householders with no husband present, and male householders with no wife present. In addition, there are nonfamily households, such as a person living alone or with unrelated individuals.

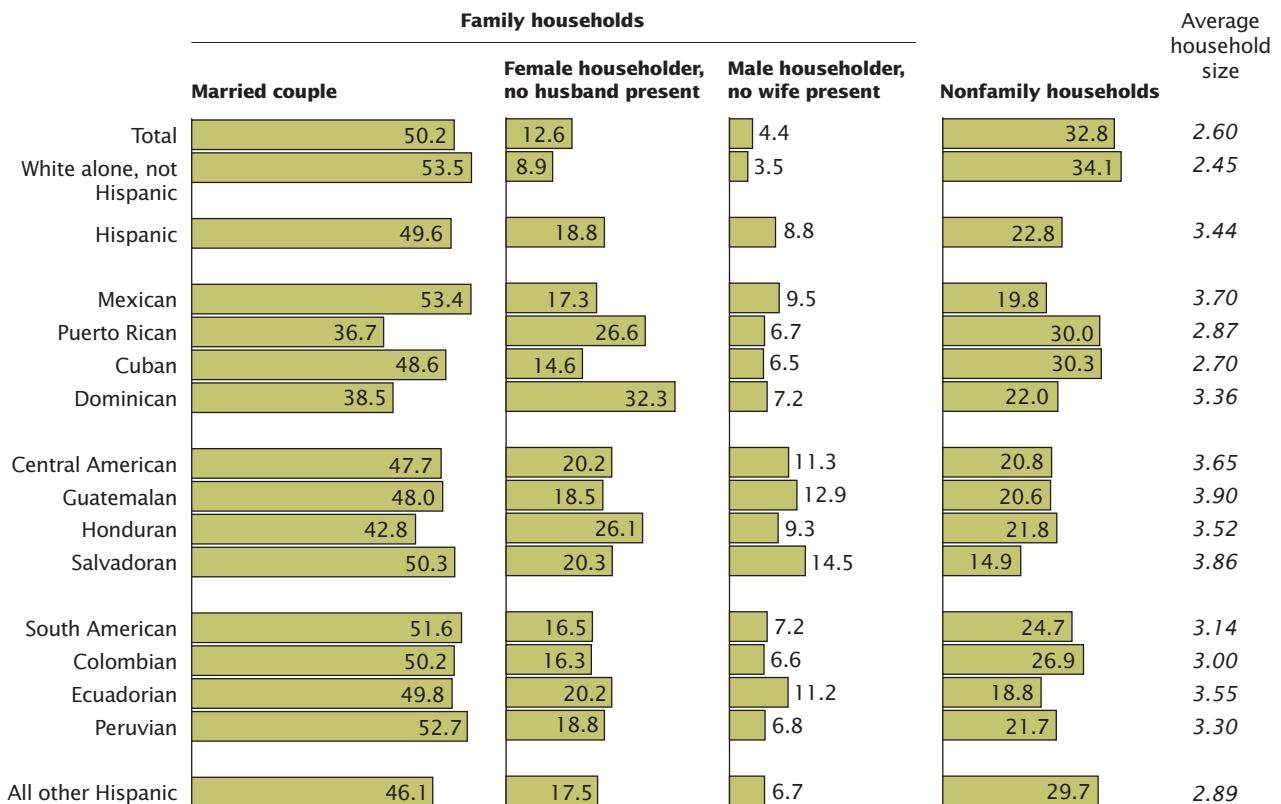
- A lower proportion of Hispanic households (50 percent) than non-Hispanic White households (54 percent) were maintained by a married couple. About 19 percent of Hispanic households were families maintained by a woman with no husband present, compared with about 9 percent of non-Hispanic White households.
- About one-half of the households of most Hispanic-origin groups were married-couple family households. Puerto Rican households, Dominican households, and Honduran households had

among the lowest percentages of married-couple households. About 25 percent or more of Dominican households, Puerto Rican households, and Honduran households were families maintained by a woman with no husband present.

- Hispanic households consisted of 3.4 people on average, compared with 2.5 people in non-Hispanic White households. Guatemalan households and Salvadoran households, with 3.9 people on average, were the largest Hispanic households.

Figure 6.  
**Household Type: 2004**

(Percent distribution. Household type is shown by the Hispanic origin and race of the householder. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201, and Detailed Tables, B11001.

## About 60 percent of Hispanics were native.<sup>13</sup>

- Nearly three-quarters of Hispanics were U.S. citizens, either through birth (about 61 percent) or naturalization (about 11 percent). About 28 percent of Hispanics were foreign born and had not become U.S. citizens. Among non-Hispanic Whites, 96 percent

<sup>13</sup> Nativity is determined by U.S. citizenship status and place of birth. Natives are those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or a U.S. island area (the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), or born abroad of a U.S. citizen parent. All other individuals are considered foreign born.

were native, 2 percent were U.S. citizens through naturalization, and the remaining 2 percent were born abroad and not U.S. citizens.

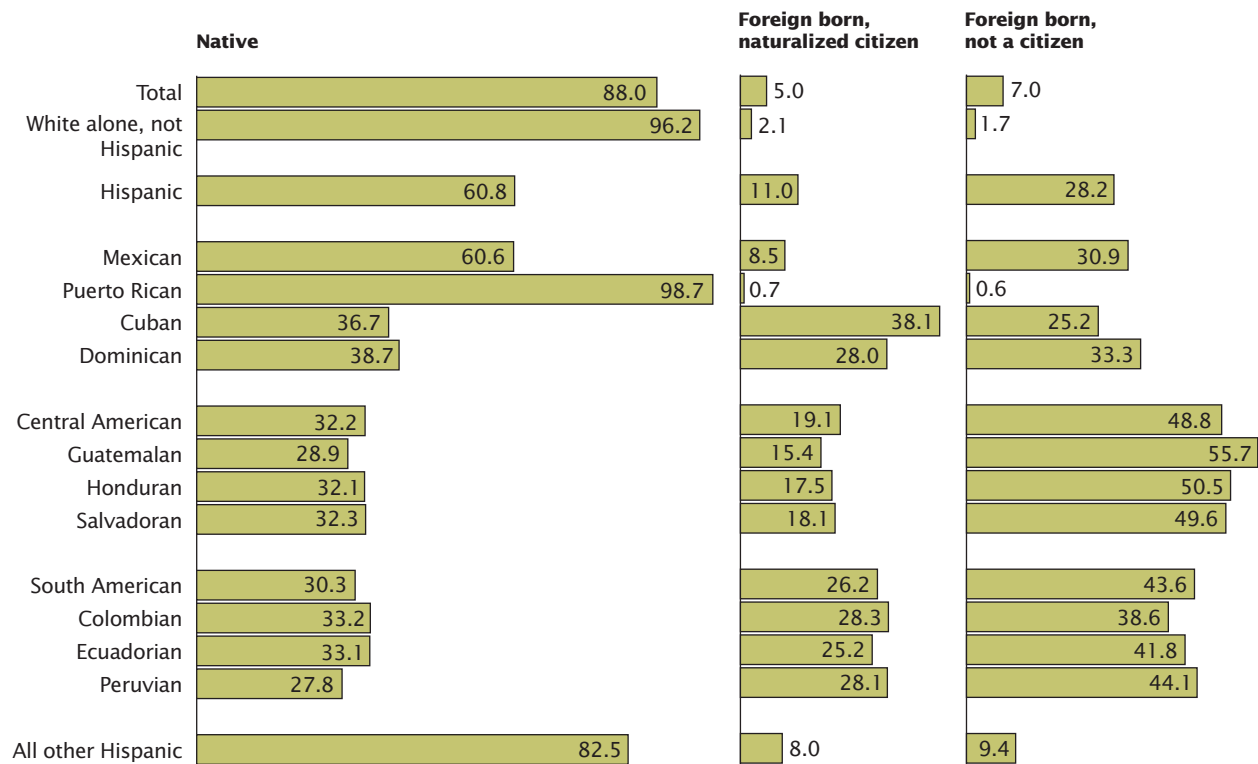
- The majority of Mexicans and Puerto Ricans were native. About 61 percent of Hispanics of Mexican origin were native and 9 percent more were foreign born and had become U.S. citizens through naturalization.
- Although people born in Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens by birth, about 1 percent of people who

identified themselves as being of Puerto Rican origin were foreign born, meaning they were born outside of the United States and Puerto Rico and did not have a parent who was a U.S. citizen.

- About 38 percent of Cubans were naturalized citizens, the highest proportion of any Hispanic-origin group. About half of Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Salvadorans were foreign born and not U.S. citizens.

Figure 7.  
**Nativity and Citizenship Status: 2004**

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

**Hispanics in southern states were more likely to be foreign born.**

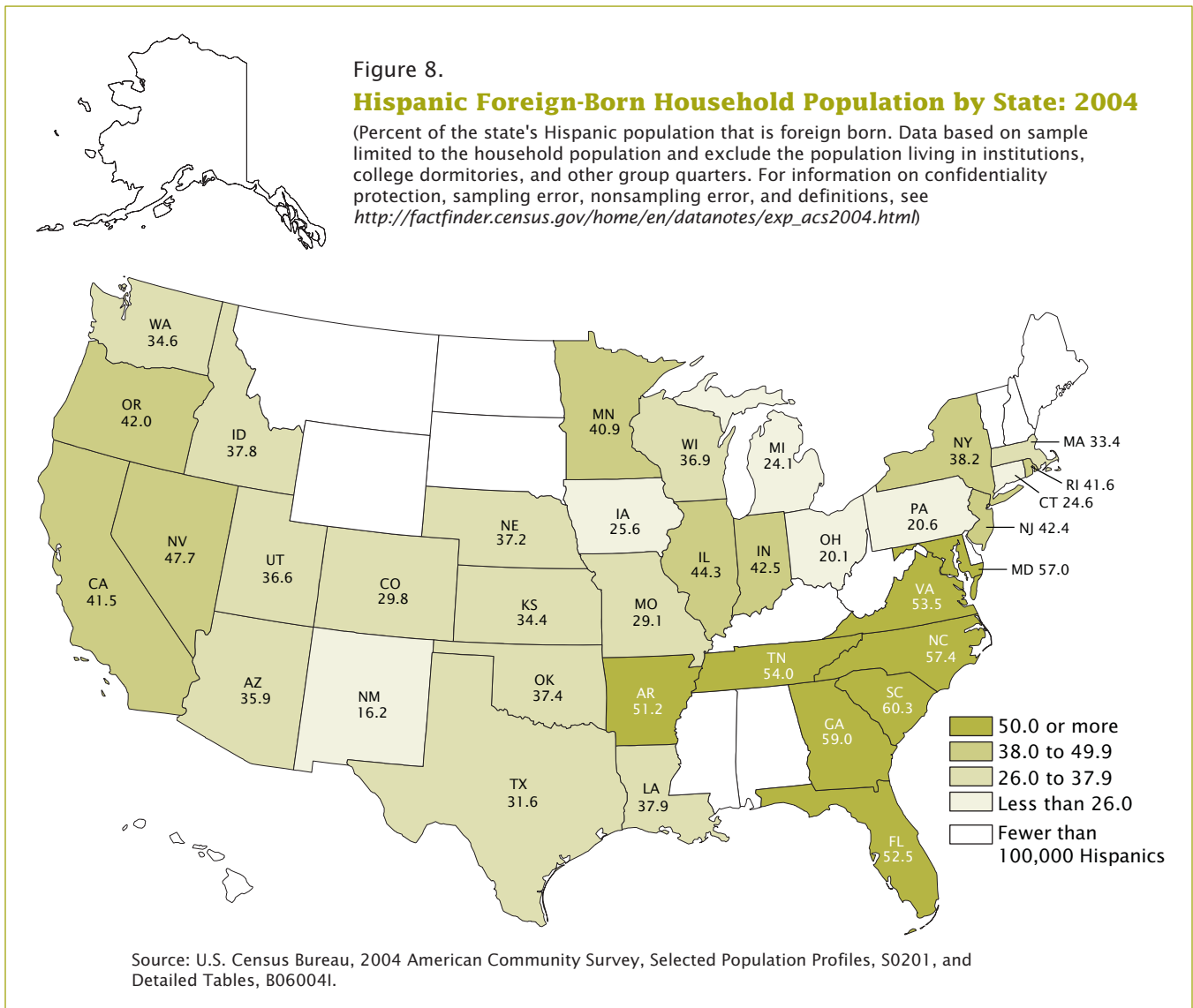
- In the United States, six states (California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Texas) had total foreign-born populations of 1 million or more. In these states, the proportion of the Hispanic population that was foreign born ranged from about one-third in Texas to more than one-half in Florida.
- Among states with at least 100,000 Hispanics, all those

with a majority foreign born among their Hispanic population were in the South (South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, Maryland, Tennessee, Virginia, Florida, and Arkansas).<sup>14</sup> In contrast, 5 of the 6 states with relatively lower proportions of foreign-born

<sup>14</sup> The proportion of foreign-born Hispanics in Arkansas is not significantly greater than 50 percent.

Hispanics (about one-fourth or less) were in either the Midwest (Iowa, Michigan, and Ohio) or the Northeast (Pennsylvania and Connecticut).

- Although New Mexico had the highest percentage of Hispanics in its state population (43 percent), the percentage of its Hispanic population that was foreign born (16 percent) was one of the lowest in the country.



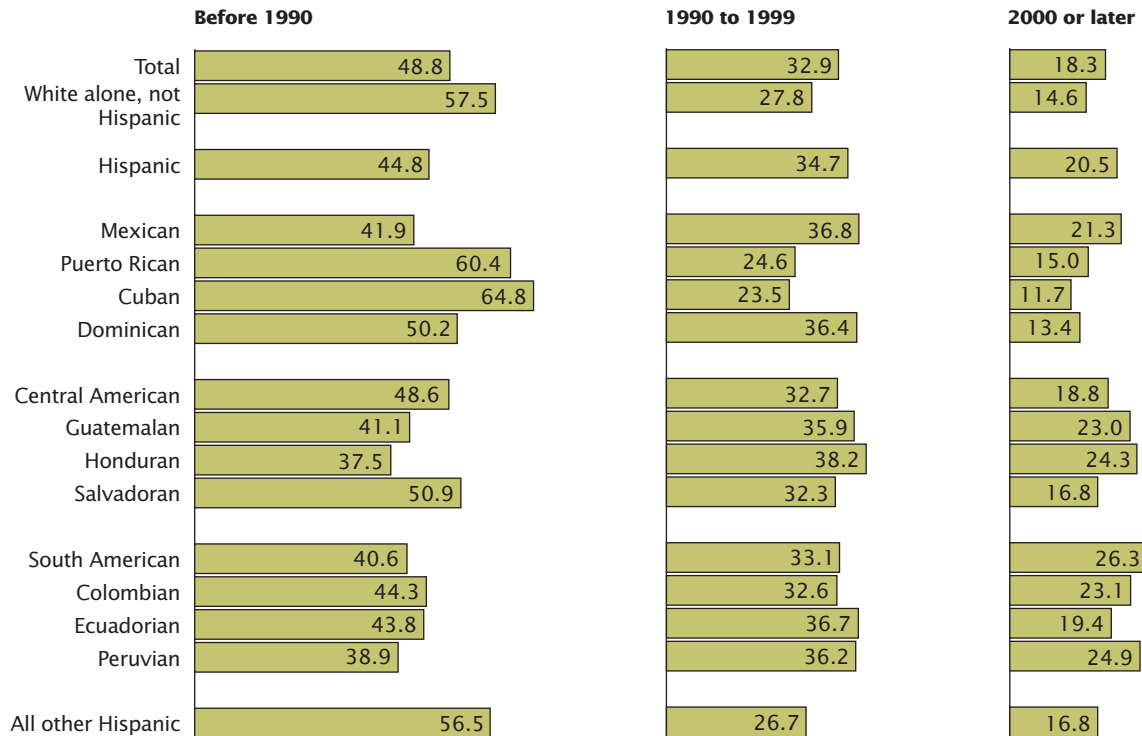
## The majority of foreign-born Hispanics arrived since 1990.

- About 1 in 5 foreign-born Hispanics entered the United States in 2000 or later. More than one-third entered between 1990 and 1999 and less than one-half arrived before 1990. In comparison, the majority of foreign-born non-Hispanic Whites (about 58 percent) entered the United States prior to 1990.
- For most of the Hispanic-origin groups shown, a majority of the foreign born entered in the 1990s or later. For example, about 58 percent of foreign-born Mexicans entered the United States in 1990 or later, including about 37 percent between 1990 and 1999.
- Cubans had one of the highest proportions of the foreign born who entered earlier (about two-thirds entered the United States before 1990).

Figure 9.

### Foreign Born by Year of Entry: 2004

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

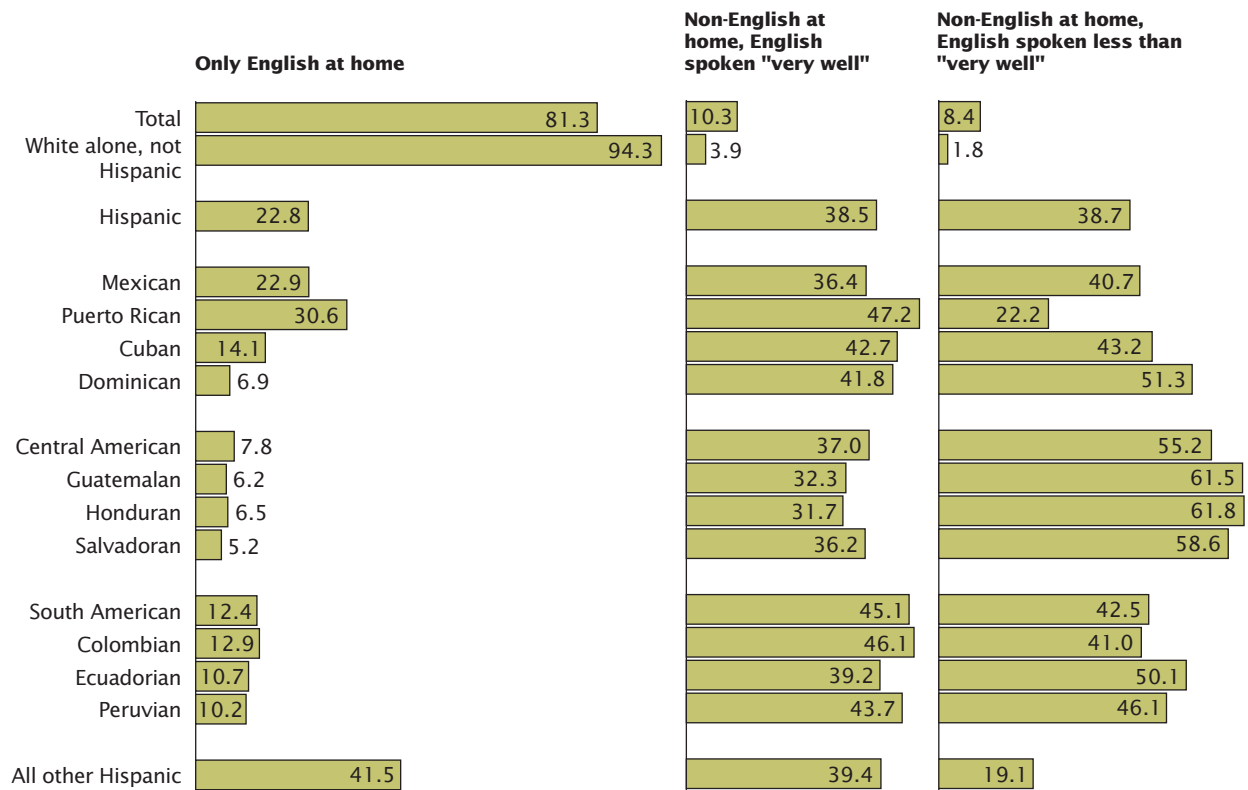
**More than three-fourths of Hispanics spoke a language other than English at home.**

- Among Hispanics aged 5 and older, more than three-fourths spoke a language other than English at home. This included about 39 percent of Hispanics who spoke a language other than English at home and also spoke English very well. In comparison, about 6 percent of non-Hispanic Whites aged 5 and older spoke a language other than English at home.
- Puerto Ricans and Mexicans had among the largest proportions of Hispanics who spoke only English at home; Dominicans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Salvadorans had among the smallest proportions.
- About 40 percent or more of Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Dominicans, Colombians, Ecuadorians, and Peruvians spoke English very well and also spoke a language other than English at home.

Figure 10.

**Language Spoken at Home and English-Speaking Ability: 2004**

(Percent distribution of population 5 and older. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

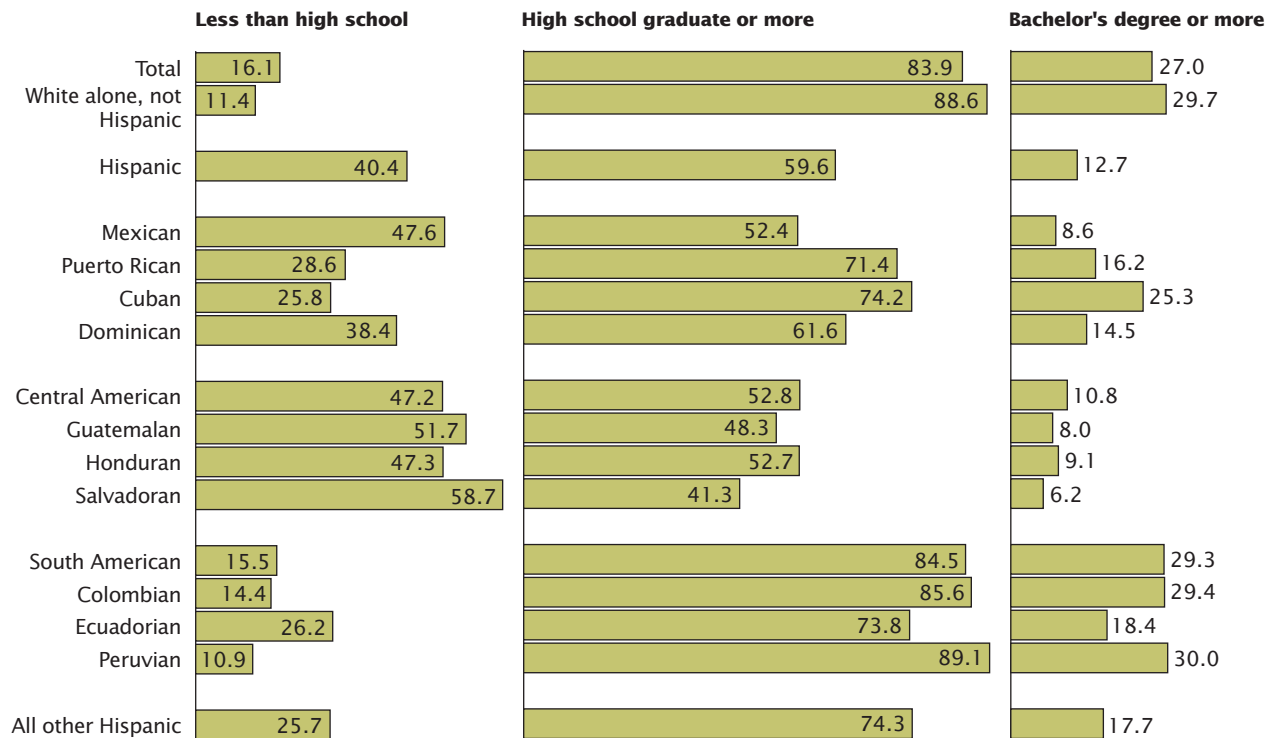


**About 60 percent of Hispanics were high school graduates.**

- About 60 percent of Hispanics aged 25 and older were high school graduates and about 13 percent had a bachelor's degree or more education. Among non-Hispanic Whites aged 25 and older, about 89 percent were high school graduates and about 30 percent had a bachelor's degree or more education.
- The proportion of Hispanics who were high school graduates was about 85 percent or higher for Colombians and Peruvians; between 70 percent and 80 percent for Puerto Ricans, Cubans, and Ecuadorians; about 60 percent for Dominicans; about 50 percent for Mexicans, Guatemalans, and Hondurans; and about 40 percent for Salvadorans.
- About 25 percent or more of Cubans, Colombians, and Peruvians had a bachelor's degree or more education. In contrast, the proportion of Mexicans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Salvadorans who had a bachelor's degree or more education was about 10 percent or less.

Figure 11.  
**Educational Attainment: 2004**

(Percent of population 25 and older. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



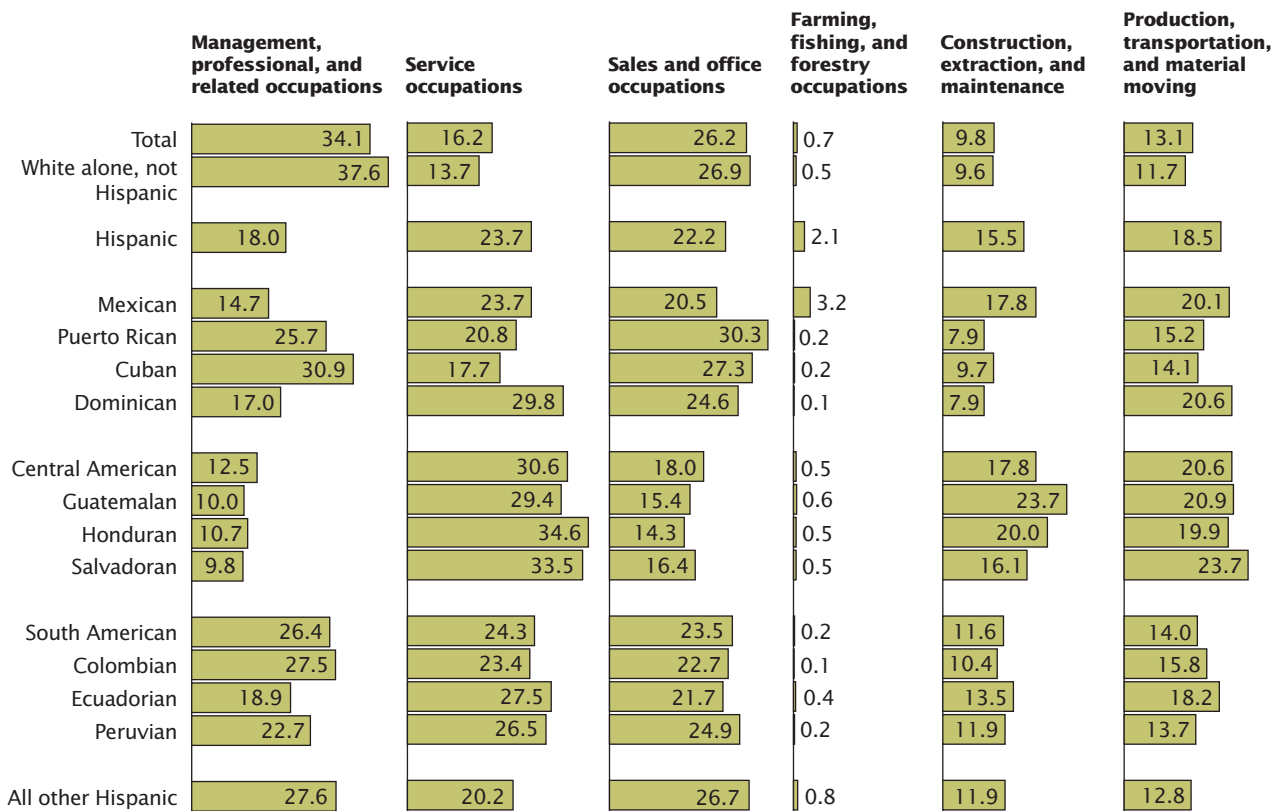
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

**Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to work in service, construction, and production jobs.**

- About 24 percent of civilian employed Hispanics aged 16 and older worked in service occupations; 16 percent were in construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations; and approximately 19 percent were employed in production, transportation, and material moving occupations.
- In comparison, among civilian employed non-Hispanic Whites aged 16 and older, about 14 percent worked in service occupations; about 10 percent worked in construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations; and about 12 percent worked in production, transportation, and material moving occupations.
- About 38 percent of non-Hispanic Whites worked in managerial, professional, and related occupations; and about 27 percent worked in sales and office occupations. Hispanics were less likely to work in these occupations, with about 18 percent in managerial, professional, and related occupations; and about 22 percent worked in sales and office occupations.
- Among Hispanics, more than one-fourth of Cuban workers worked in managerial, professional, and related occupations. In contrast, about 10 percent of Guatemalan, Honduran, and Salvadoran workers were in managerial, professional, and related occupations.

Figure 12.  
**Occupation: 2004**

(Percent distribution of civilian employed population 16 and older. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))

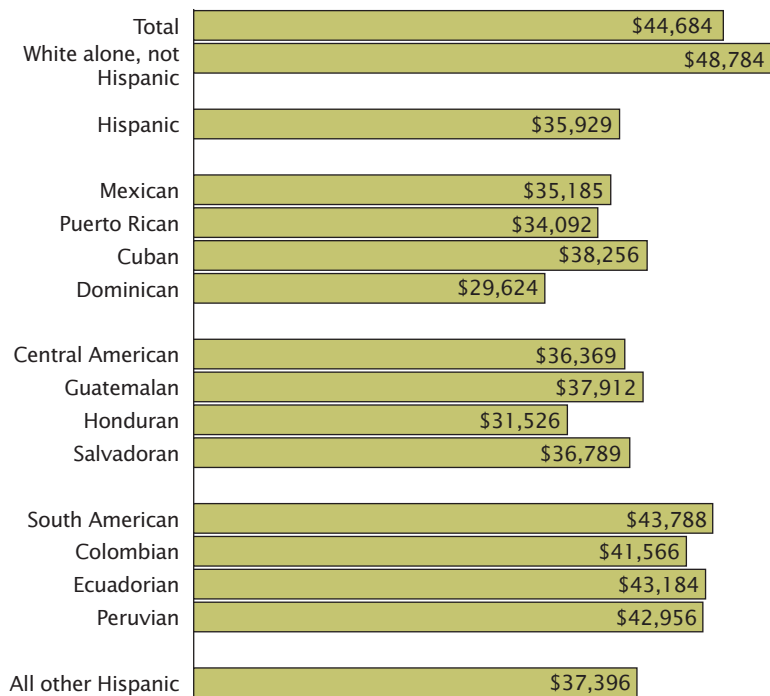


Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

**The median income of Hispanic households was less than that of non-Hispanic White households.<sup>15</sup>**

Figure 13.  
**Median Household Income: 2004**

(Household income in the past 12 months in 2004 inflation-adjusted dollars. Housing units are classified by the Hispanic origin and race of the householder. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

- The median income of Hispanic households in the 12 months prior to being surveyed was about \$36,000. This was less than three-quarters of the median income of non-Hispanic White households, which was about \$48,800.
- Median household incomes were about \$40,000 or more for Colombians, Ecuadorians, and Peruvians. Among the lowest-income Hispanic households, with median incomes of about \$30,000, were Dominican households and Honduran households.

<sup>15</sup> Data reflect the median income of households in the 12 months prior to being surveyed. Income is expressed in 2004 inflation-adjusted dollars. It is based on the distribution of the total number of households and includes those with no income. Households are classified by the race and Hispanic origin of the householder.

**The poverty rate was higher for Hispanics than for non-Hispanic Whites.<sup>16</sup>**

- About 22 percent of Hispanics were living below the poverty level in the 12 months prior to being surveyed, compared with about 9 percent of non-Hispanic Whites.
- Among Hispanics, the poverty rate was about 15 percent or

less for Cubans, Salvadorans, Colombians, and Peruvians. The poverty rate for Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Hondurans was about 24 percent or higher.

- The poverty rate was generally higher for Hispanic children

(under age 18). About 29 percent of Hispanic children and 11 percent of non-Hispanic White children lived in poverty. The poverty rate for children was about 30 percent or higher for Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Hondurans.<sup>17</sup>

- Among those 65 and older, Hispanics had a poverty rate of about 20 percent, compared with about 7 percent for non-Hispanic Whites.

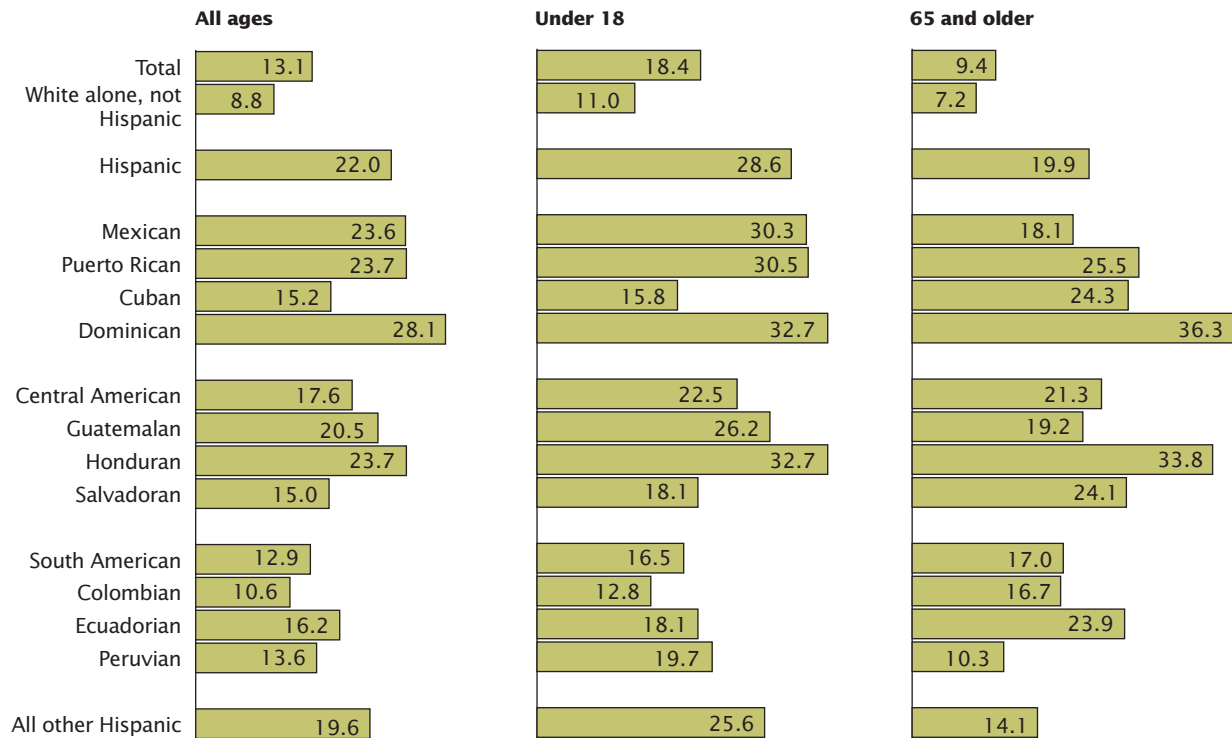
<sup>16</sup> In accordance with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the threshold for the family, then that family and every individual in it are considered in poverty. For example, the poverty threshold for a family of three with one child under 18 for the 1-year period

preceding the ACS interview was \$14,974. Poverty status was determined for all individuals except for unrelated individuals under 15 years old. The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits. For more information on poverty in the ACS, see <[www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/acs-01.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/acs-01.pdf)> and <[www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Def/Poverty.htm](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Def/Poverty.htm)>.

<sup>17</sup> The child poverty rates for Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Hondurans are not significantly different from the rate for all Hispanics.

**Figure 14.**  
**Poverty Rate by Age Group: 2004**

(Percent of specific group in poverty in the past 12 months. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



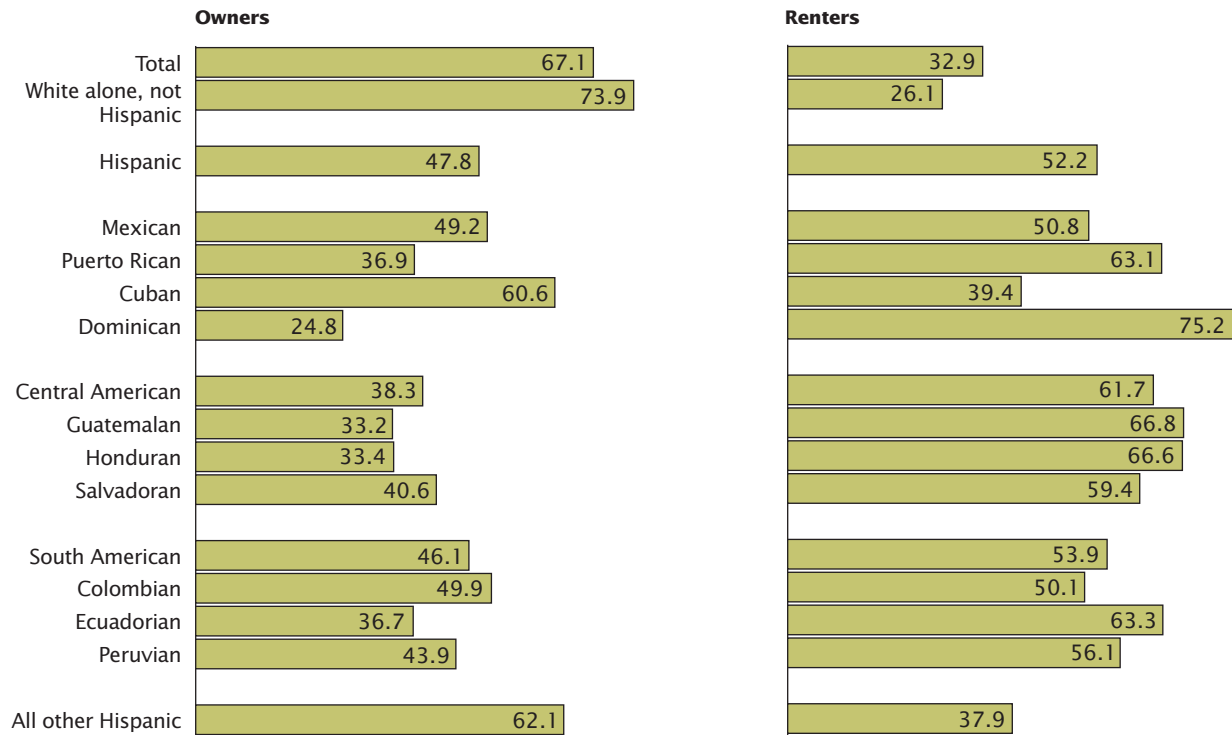
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

**More than one-half of Hispanic households lived in renter-occupied homes.**

- A majority of Hispanic households, about 52 percent, lived in renter-occupied homes and about 48 percent lived in owner-occupied homes. In comparison, about 74 percent of non-Hispanic White households lived in owner-occupied homes.
- Among the specific Hispanic household groups, the likelihood of living in owner-occupied homes varied from a low of 25 percent for Dominicans to a high of 61 percent for Cubans. Additionally, about half of Mexican and Colombian homes were owner occupied.

Figure 15.  
**Housing Tenure: 2004**

(Percent of occupied housing units. Housing tenure is shown by the Hispanic origin and race of the householder. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

**The median value of owner-occupied homes was similar for Hispanic households and non-Hispanic White households.**

- For Hispanic households, the median value of owner-occupied homes was \$152,000, similar to the median value (\$154,000) of owner-occupied homes for non-Hispanic White households.<sup>18</sup>
- Among the specific Hispanic groups, median values of owner-occupied homes ranged from just below \$300,000 for Ecuadorians and Peruvians to about \$130,000 for Mexicans.
- The median monthly rental payment by Hispanic households in renter-occupied homes was about \$713, compared with about \$693 for non-Hispanic

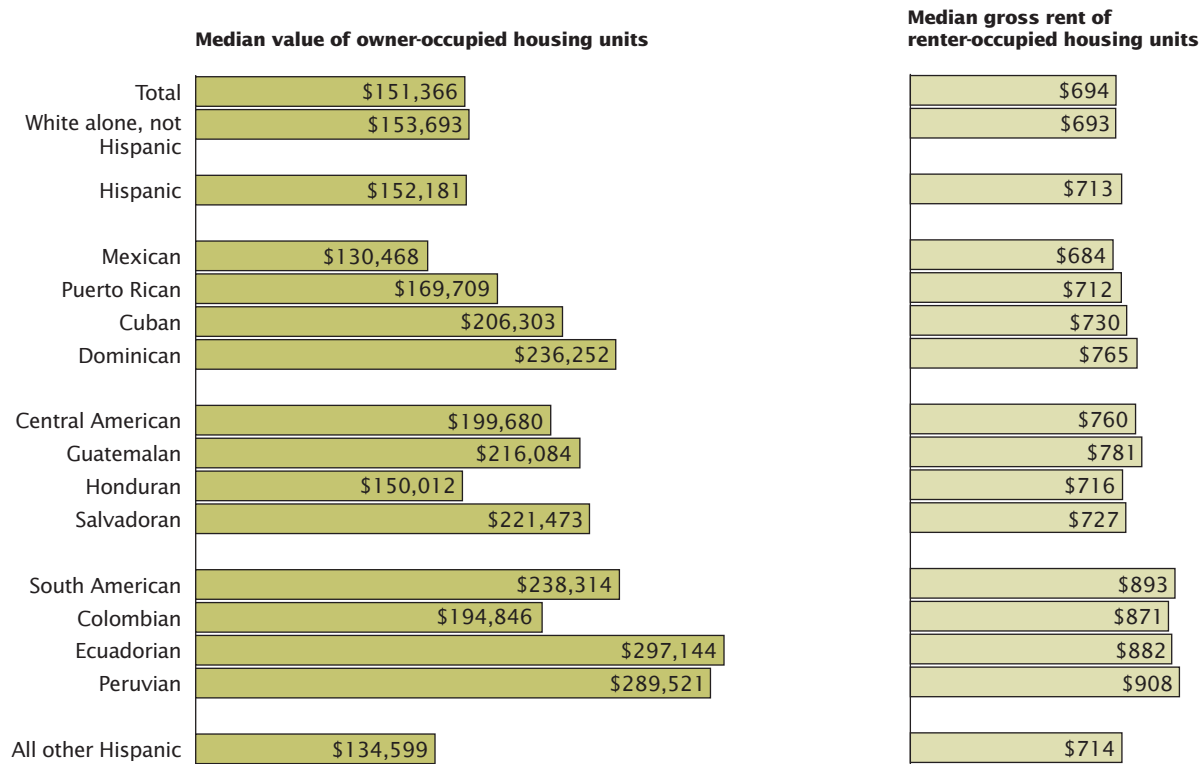
White households. While the median monthly rental payment made by most Hispanic households was less than about \$800, it was about \$875 for Colombian, Ecuadorian, and Peruvian households.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Differences between the geographic distribution of Hispanics and non-Hispanic Whites may affect home values and rental costs.

<sup>19</sup> The monthly rental payment represents gross rent (i.e., the amount of the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities and fuels).

Figure 16.  
**Selected Housing Characteristics: 2004**

(Housing units are classified by the Hispanic origin and race of the householder. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

**Hispanic workers were more likely than non-Hispanic White workers to carpool and to use public transportation.**

- In 2004, about two-thirds of Hispanic workers aged 16 and older drove alone and about 18 percent carpooled to work. Among non-Hispanic White workers aged 16 and older, about 81 percent drove alone and about 8 percent carpooled to work. Public transportation was used to commute by a higher proportion of Hispanic workers (about 8 percent) than non-Hispanic White workers (about 3 percent). Hispanic workers were more likely than non-Hispanic White workers to walk

to work or take other means of transportation. Non-Hispanic Whites were more likely to work at home than were Hispanics.<sup>20</sup>

- Among the specific Hispanic groups, Dominicans and Ecuadorians were among the most likely to use public transportation. Dominican workers and Ecuadorian workers were also among the least likely to drive alone to work. Cubans were the most likely to drive

alone to work. About 20 percent of Mexicans, Guatemalans, and Salvadorans carpooled to work.

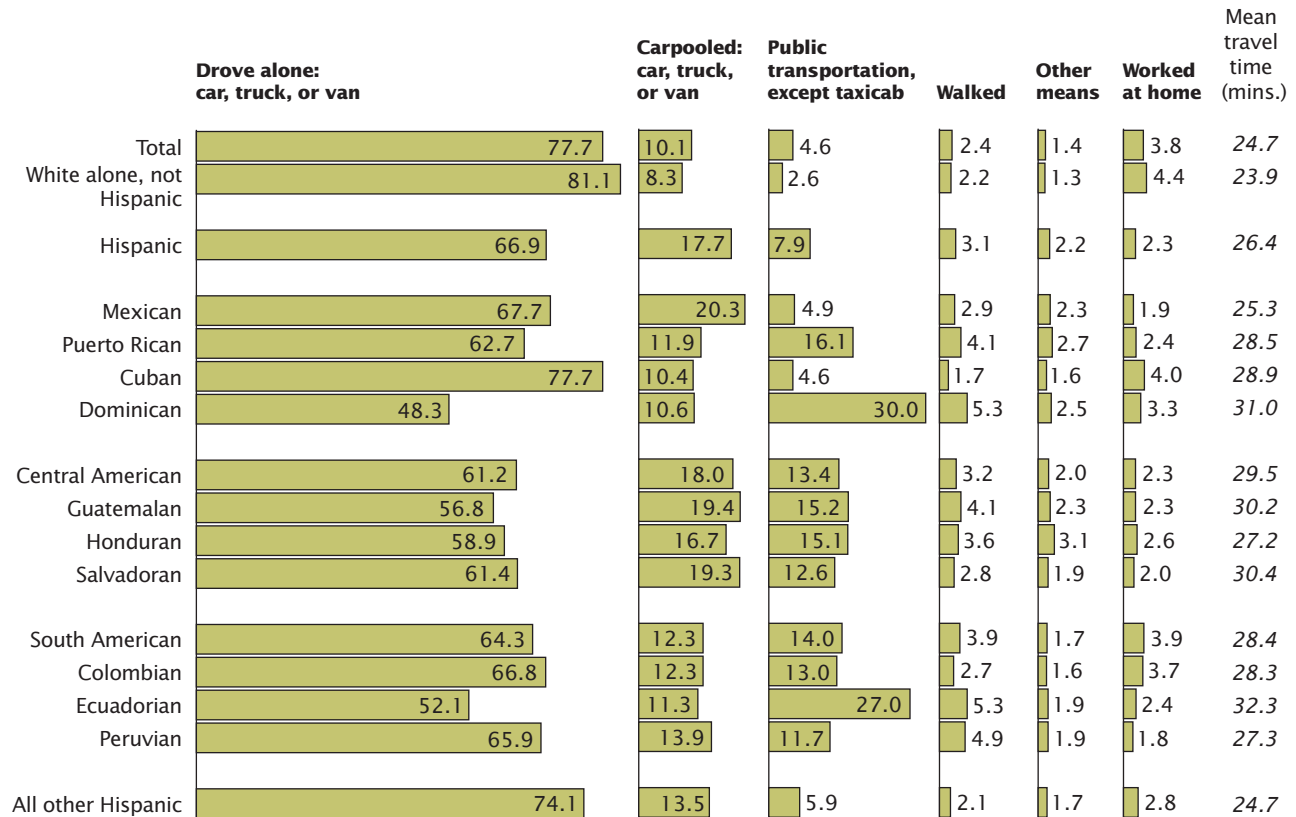
- The mean travel time to work for Hispanic workers was about 26 minutes, compared with about 24 minutes for non-Hispanic White workers. Dominican, Guatemalan, Salvadoran, and Ecuadorian workers traveled for about 30 minutes or more to work. The mean travel time to work for other Hispanic groups fell between about 25 minutes to about 30 minutes.

<sup>20</sup> Differences between the geographic distribution of Hispanics and non-Hispanic Whites may affect commuting patterns.

Figure 17.

**Commuting to Work: 2004**

(Percent of workers 16 and older. Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp\\_acs2004.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html))



Note: Some percentages do not sum to 100.0 due to rounding.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Selected Population Profiles, S0201.

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## **SOURCE OF THE DATA AND ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES**

The findings presented in this report are based on the ACS sample interviewed in 2004. The data in this report are based on the population living in households that were included in the ACS sample. The 2004 ACS did not collect information from people living in group quarters, which include correctional facilities, hospitals, college dormitories, group homes, and overnight shelters.

The 2004 ACS used a two-stage stratified sample of approximately 838,000 housing units and the occupants of these units. ACS figures are estimates based on this sample and approximate the actual figures that would have been obtained by interviewing the entire household population using the same methodology. The estimates from the 2004 ACS sample may differ from other samples of housing units and people within those housing units. The process of sampling ensures the integrity and the representativeness of sample survey results but also results in sampling error. Sampling error is the deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples.

In addition to sampling error, other types of errors, specifically nonsampling errors, may be introduced during any of the operations used to collect and process survey data. For example, operations such as editing, reviewing, or keying data from questionnaires may introduce error into the estimates. Nonsampling errors may affect the data in two ways. Errors that are introduced randomly increase the variability of the data. Systematic errors that are consistent in one direction introduce bias into the results of a sample survey. The Census Bureau protects against the effect of systematic errors on survey estimates by conducting extensive research and evaluation programs on sampling techniques, questionnaire design, and data collection and processing procedures. The primary sources of error and the processes instituted to control error in the 2004 ACS are described in further detail in the Accuracy of the Data (2004) explanation located at <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2004.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2004.pdf)>.

Sampling errors and some types of nonsampling errors are estimated by the measure of standard error. The sample estimate and its estimated standard error permit the

construction of interval estimates with a prescribed confidence that the interval includes the average result of all possible samples. All comparison statements in this ACS 2004 report have undergone statistical testing, and comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Further information from the 2004 ACS is available from the American FactFinder on the Census Bureau's Web site. More than 1,000 tables are available, including population profiles for race, Hispanic-origin, and ancestry groups.

The Internet address is <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>. For information on confidentiality protection, also see <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2004.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2004.pdf)>.

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

## **CONTACT**

For additional information, contact the Ethnicity and Ancestry Branch at 301-763-2403 or via e-mail <[pop@census.gov](mailto:pop@census.gov)>.





