Latino Child Poverty Overview
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Latinos* compose a growing share of all poor children in the U.S. In 2011, there were 15.5 million poor children in the U.S. and 5.8 million (37.5%) were Hispanic. The projection is that this share will continue to grow.

**Poor Latino Children as Percent of All Poor Children, 1974–2011**

![Graph showing the percentage of poor Latino children from 1974 to 2011.](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/historical/people.html)

The recent recession drove the Latino child poverty rate up to its highest level in 14 years. Between 2010 and 2011, as the economy improved, the Latino child poverty rate fell for the first time since 2006.

Hispanic and Black households are more likely to be in the bottom two income quintiles compared to White households. Median household income for Hispanics was $38,624 in 2011.

Percentage of Households in Each Income Category by Race/Ethnicity, 2011

Poor Latinos are more likely than other groups to be working full-time year-round.

The percent of poor Latino families who are headed by female householders has remained fairly constant since 1974.

Percent of Poor Families Headed by a Female Householder by Race/Ethnicity, 1959–2011

There are 17.6 million Hispanic children as of 2011. In 2008, 89% were native-born and 10% were foreign-born. Second-generation children outnumber third-generation children in 2008.

Of the 1.7 million immigrant Latino children, two-thirds (one million) were undocumented in 2008. Of the 8.2 million second-generation Latino children, 3.3 million (40%) have at least one undocumented parent. For five million (60%), both parents are legally present (documented) immigrants.

First Generation

- Undocumented: 1 million
- Documented: 700,000

Second Generation

- At Least One Undocumented Parent: 3.3 million (40%)
- Both Parents Legally Present: 5 million (60%)

In 2010, there were 50 million Hispanics in the U.S. Two out of every three Hispanics are of Mexican descent. The next largest Hispanic subgroups are Puerto Rican, Cuban and Salvadoran.

Certain regions in the United States have a larger share of the population that is of Hispanic origin than other regions.

Thank you for your interest

* The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout this document to refer to persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, Spanish, and other Hispanic descent; they may be of any race.