OVERVIEW

- The Hispanic population totals 22.4 million people or 9.0% of the country’s population. The Hispanic population is composed of Mexicans (63.6%), Puerto Ricans (10.6%), Cubans (4.7%), Central and South Americans (14.0%), and Other Hispanic (7.0%).

- By the year 2010, the Hispanic population is expected to become the second-largest racial/ethnic group. After 1996, the Hispanic population is projected to add 870,000 people to the population each year.

- Hispanics are a young population. The median age of Hispanics is 26.4 years is about eight years younger than the median age of the non-Hispanic population (34.1 years).

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

- Hispanic households are more likely to contain families than non-Hispanic households. Eight in ten Hispanic households (81.2%) were family households, compared with less than seven in ten (69.5%) non-Hispanic households.

- Hispanic families are less likely to be two parent families than non-Hispanic families. About seven in ten Hispanic families (68.2%) were maintained by married couples, compared with about eight in ten non-Hispanic families (78.9%). Among Hispanic subgroups, Mexicans and Cubans had the largest proportion of families maintained by married couples (71.2% and 74.4%, respectively).

- Hispanic families are more likely than non-Hispanic families to be headed by a woman. In 1992, almost one-quarter of all Hispanic families were maintained by a woman (24.4%), compared to more than one-sixth of Non-Hispanic families (16.8%).
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- Hispanics made modest gains in educational attainment over the last decade. In March 1983, the proportion of Hispanics who had completed four years of high school or more was almost 46.0%; by 1992, it was 52.6%. In 1983, 8.0% of Hispanics had completed college, compared with 9.3% currently.

- Hispanics are among the most undereducated racial/ethnic groups. A little more than half of all Hispanics 25 years old and over (52.6%) compared to four-fifths of non-Hispanics 25 years old and over (81.5%) have completed four years of high school or more. Almost one in ten of all Hispanics (9.3%), compared to more than one in five non-Hispanics (22.3%), have completed four years of college.

- Hispanic educational attainment rates differ by subgroup. Less than half of Mexican Americans 25 and over (45.2%) had completed high school in 1992, compared to three-fifths of Puerto Ricans (60.5%), Cubans (62.0%), and Central and South Americans (61.7%).

SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

- Labor Force Participation. Hispanic men have higher labor force participation rates than non-Hispanic men, and Hispanic women have a slightly lower labor force participation rate than non-Hispanic women. In 1992, 79.6% of Hispanic men were working or looking for work, compared to 74.3% of non-Hispanic men. In 1992, 52.2% of Hispanic women were working or looking for work, compared to 57.8% of non-Hispanic women.

- Earnings. Hispanics tend to have lower median earnings than non-Hispanics. In 1991, the median earnings of Hispanic men were less than two-thirds the median earnings of non-Hispanic men in the U.S. ($14,503 vs. $22,628). The median earnings of Hispanic women were $10,399 compared to $13,216 for non-Hispanic women.

- Unemployment. In 1992, unemployment was higher among Hispanics than among non-Hispanics. Among Hispanic males, 12.2% of those 16 years old and over were unemployed compared to 8.5% of non-Hispanic males; 9.8% of Hispanic women were unemployed compared to 6.2% of non-Hispanic women.
POVERTY

- Hispanics are more than twice as likely as non-Hispanics to be poor. In 1992, 29.3% of all Hispanics were poor compared to 11.6% of Whites and 33.3% of Blacks.

- Hispanic families are especially likely to be poor. In 1992, more than one in four Hispanic families (28.1%) lived below the federal poverty level, compared to one in ten White families (9.8%) and 32.7% of Black families.

- Hispanic children are more likely than White children and less likely than Black children to live in poverty. In 1992, 39.9% of Hispanic children were living below the poverty level, compared to 16.9% of White children and 46.6% of Black children.