

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

CENSUS INFORMATION CENTER

THE HISPANIC POPULATION FACTSHEET

NOVEMBER 1993

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.

Sources: *The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 1992*, Bureau of the Census; *Poverty in the United States: 1992*, Bureau of the Census.