

The Nation's Hispanic Population — 1994

The Nation's Hispanic¹ population continues to grow faster than the rest of its population.

The Nation's Hispanic population totaled 27 million in 1994, an increase of 28 percent since 1990. The total United States population grew much slower, increasing by only 6 percent during the 4-year period. As a result, about 1 in 10 Americans today are Hispanic. The rapid growth of the Hispanic population in the early 1990's was a continuation of the trends of the previous 20 years.

Among the reasons for the rapid increase in the Hispanic population were —

- A higher birth rate for Hispanics than for non-Hispanics; and

¹Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. These data do not include the population of Puerto Rico.

- High levels of immigration (about 2 million Hispanic immigrants entered the United States between 1990 and 1994).

Hispanics are projected to number 31 million in 2000, 63 million in 2030, and 88 million in 2050. By then, nearly 1 in 4 Americans may be Hispanic.

Hispanics are younger

Their median age was 26 years in 1994 — 10 years less than non-Hispanic Whites. Among Hispanic groups, the median age ranged from 24 years for persons of Mexican origin to 43 years for those of Cuban descent.

.... and more likely to be foreign-born.

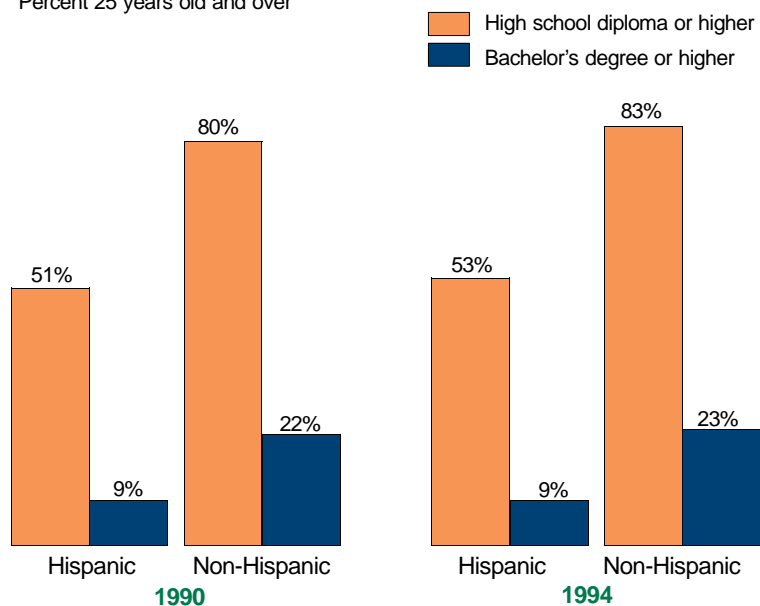
Over one-third (39 percent) of Hispanics were born outside the United States, compared with 3 percent of non-Hispanic Whites.

Not all Hispanic persons have health insurance.

During a 32-month period between 1990 and 1992, 10 percent of Hispanics were not covered by health insurance, compared to only 3 percent of non-Hispanic Whites. Only about 5 of every 10 Hispanics had coverage for the full 32 months compared to about 8 of every 10 non-Hispanic Whites.

Educational Attainment: March 1990 and 1994

Percent 25 years old and over



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More than half of Hispanics have a high school diploma.

Hispanics have made gains in recent decades in their high school completion rates. Slightly over 5 in 10 Hispanics aged 25 and over were high school graduates in 1994, compared to more than 4 in 10 in 1980. A similar proportion of Hispanics held bachelor's degrees in both 1980 and 1994 (about 9 percent).

Most Hispanic families are married couples.

Sixty-eight percent of Hispanic families were married couples in 1994; another 25 percent were maintained by a woman with no husband present. For non-Hispanic families, the corresponding figures were 79 and 17 percent, respectively.

Hispanic unemployment rate varies by group.

Among Hispanic groups, the March 1994 unemployment rate ranged from 7 percent for Cubans to an apparent high of 14 percent for Puerto Ricans. Overall, 11 percent of Hispanics and 6 percent of non-Hispanic Whites were unemployed.

The gender gap in earnings is smaller among Hispanics than non-Hispanics.

Hispanic women who worked year round, full time in 1993 had median earnings of \$16,760 — 83 percent of what their male counterparts earned (\$20,150). Comparable non-Hispanic White women had median earnings of \$22,380, or 70 percent that of their male counterparts (\$31,970).

Puerto Rican families have the lowest income.

Among Hispanic groups, Puerto Rican families had a lower median income in 1993 (about \$20,000) than Mexican, Cuban, and Central and South American families (about \$25,000 each).

Median income stood at \$23,670 for Hispanic families overall and \$41,110 for non-Hispanic White families.

Poverty rates for Hispanic families are more than twice as high as for non-Hispanic families.

In 1993, about 27 percent of Hispanic families compared to about 11 percent of non-Hispanic families were poor. Among Hispanic groups, poverty rates ranged from an apparent low of 17 percent for Cuban families to 35 percent for Puerto Rican families.

Hispanic persons also were at least twice as likely to be poor (31 percent) as non-Hispanic persons (13 percent). This was true of those under 18 years (41 percent versus 20 percent) and among 18- to 64-year-olds (25 and 11 percent, respectively) as well. Elderly Hispanic and non-Hispanic

persons (65 years and older) had poverty rates similar to their 18- to 64-year-old counterparts.

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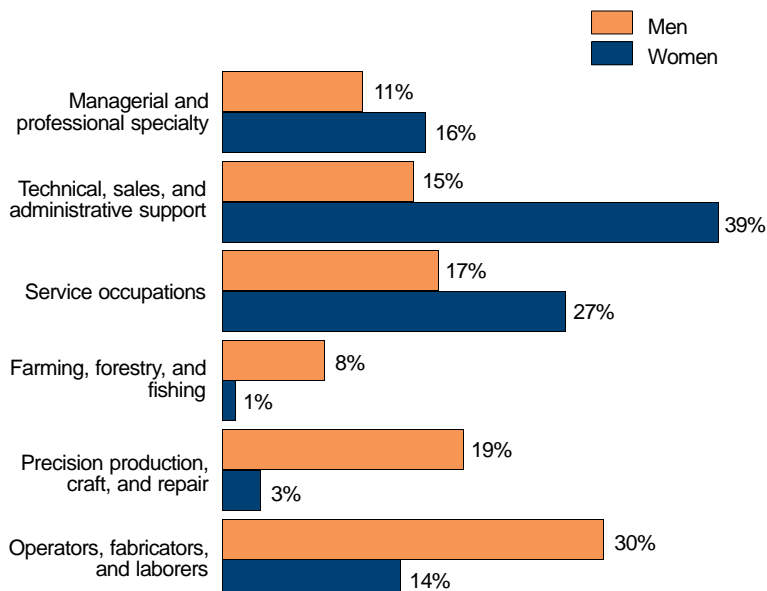
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This Brief is one of a series that presents information of current policy interest. All statistics are subject to sampling variability, as well as survey design flaws, respondent classification errors, and data processing mistakes. The Census Bureau has taken steps to minimize errors, and analytical statements have been tested and meet statistical standards. However, because of methodological differences, use caution when comparing these data with data from other sources.

Occupational Distributions of Hispanic Men and Women Differ: March 1994

Percent distribution of employed Hispanics 16 years old and over



Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

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