

## **Profile of the Puerto Rican Population in United States and Puerto Rico: 2008**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The Puerto Rican population in the United States reached 4.2 million according to the 2008 American Community Survey, surpassing the 3.8 million in Puerto Rico. Despite the fact they represent the second largest Hispanic population in the U.S., recent literature lacks a comprehensive picture of characteristics of this population compared to other Hispanic groups. The main objective of this paper is to present an up-to-date profile of the Puerto Ricans living in the U.S. and in the island of Puerto Rico. We will use the 2008 American Community Survey and the Puerto Rico Community Survey. The paper will address three main issues.

What are the basic characteristics of the populations such as educational attainment, language and other characteristics over time?

How do the two populations compare with other groups like Hispanic groups, Blacks and Whites?

What geographic and migration factors influence the difference between Puerto Ricans compared to other groups?

*This report is released to inform interested parties of research and to encourage discussion. The views expressed on statistical and technical issues are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.*

## Introduction

The Puerto Rican population is one of the largest distinct ethnic groups in the United States, and the second largest subgroup of the Hispanic population (after Mexican-Americans). The 4.2 million Puerto Ricans living in the mainland U.S. have come to surpass those on the island of Puerto Rico, which until this decade had the majority of the Puerto Rican population. Despite the group's size, there have been few recent attempts to summarize trends and characteristics of this population (for exceptions, see Acosta-Belen and Santiago 2006). For the purposes of this presentation, the 50 states and District of Columbia will be referred to as the "mainland" US, and Puerto Rico will be referred as the "island." Due to the lack of data on population characteristics by detailed Hispanic origin for the island of Puerto Rico, statistics on Puerto Rico will be based on the total population of the island (4.0 million) rather than the subset who list themselves as Puerto Rican (3.8 million).

Summarizing the situation in the mid-1980s, Sandefur and Tienda (1988) noted that, of all Hispanic origin groups, Puerto Ricans had the lowest labor force participation rates, the highest unemployment levels, the highest incidence of poverty and of welfare utilization, and the lowest average levels of education of Hispanic groups in the 1980 Census. How this comparison may have changed since that time has not been documented.

The Puerto Rican population is characterized by high levels of migration in both directions between Puerto Rico and the mainland U.S., implying that conditions on the island of Puerto Rico influence the characteristics of mainland-based Puerto Ricans, and vice-versa. Therefore, it is of interest to compare Puerto Ricans and other groups across locations in the mainland U.S. as well as between the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

The main objective of this paper is to present an up-to-date profile of Puerto Ricans living in the U.S. and the population of the island of Puerto Rico. Using data from the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS) and the 2008 Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS), this paper will address the basic characteristics of the Puerto Rican population, compare them with other groups like Mexicans, Cubans, Black non-Hispanics, White non-Hispanics, and other Hispanic groups, and examine the geographic and migration factors that influence the standing of Puerto Ricans today.

### History and background

Puerto Rico was annexed to the United States in the wake of the Spanish-American War in 1898. Puerto Ricans are citizens by birth, and there are no legal barriers to their entry to the U.S. The Puerto Rican population in the mainland U.S. was relatively small, however, until large-scale Puerto Rican migration to the U.S. began after World War II. The primary destination for migrants at that time was the New York metropolitan area. Beginning in the 1960s, the rate of migration fell as job opportunities in the Northeastern U.S. began to decline (Sandefur and Tienda 1988).

By 1960, the Puerto Rican population in the U.S. had grown to almost 900 thousand (Bean and Tienda 1987). Relative to Whites, Puerto Ricans had lower incomes. However, Puerto Rican income was not that different from other Hispanic groups. Mexican family income was higher, that of the residual "other Hispanics" was lower.

By 1980, a different pattern had emerged. Puerto Rican income did not keep pace with that of other groups, including Non-Hispanic Whites. Puerto Rican median family income was

90 percent of that of Mexicans in 1959, but only 72 percent in 1979. Black median family income surpassed that of Puerto Ricans during the same time period. Puerto Rican poverty climbed to 35 percent – nine points higher than the next group (Sandefur and Tienda 1988).

### What happened between 1960 and 1980?

The situation of Puerto Ricans in the 1980s gave rise to serious concern and debate. Social scientists at that time were considering the concept of the "underclass," and the Puerto Rican population seemed to fit the mold. While incomes declined relative to other groups, Puerto Ricans also emerged as having the highest poverty, highest unemployment, and highest welfare use among minority groups at that time, including African Americans (Sandefur and Tienda 1988). The rate of female headship in Puerto Rican families more than doubled from 1960 to 1980 to 34 percent.

Several factors may have contributed to the poor condition of the Puerto Rican population at that time. According to theories of the underclass, behaviors of the poor tended to perpetuate poverty by de-emphasizing work as a means to getting ahead in life. The Puerto Rican population was concentrated in the New York area, where unskilled jobs were increasingly difficult to find. Because of their mixed-race heritage, many Puerto Ricans may have faced discrimination in jobs and housing that made it difficult for them to advance. Finally, the economy of the island of Puerto Rico had an impact on the population living on the mainland as well, and the period was one of rapid decline in agricultural employment, even as industrial development was slowly taking hold (Sandefur and Tienda 1988, Tienda 1989).

To understand the current situation of Puerto Ricans it is helpful to examine various

factors, including unemployment, family structure, and economic conditions, both in the mainland and on the island of Puerto Rico.

### Trends from 1990 in the U.S

Table 1 shows conditions of the Puerto Rican population and several comparison groups in 1990, 2000 and 2008. In 1990 the relative condition of Puerto Ricans had improved somewhat, but they still had the highest poverty rate of any group on the mainland, and an unemployment rate higher than that of Mexicans, Cubans, and other Hispanics, though not quite as high as that of Blacks. Island-based Puerto-Ricans were worse off than mainland groups by every measure.

Figure 1 shows the progress of Puerto Ricans and other groups in terms of median household income. Some degree of convergence has taken place. In 1990, mainland Puerto Rican income was 66 percent the level observed among non-Hispanic Whites, but by 2008 had risen to 69 percent. Relative to Cubans, the highest-income Hispanic group, mainland Puerto Rican incomes rose from 75 percent to 91 percent. During this period, poverty also fell considerably for mainland Puerto Ricans, though they still had one of the highest rates among groups examined here.

Unemployment fell for mainland Puerto Ricans from 1990 to 2008, both absolutely and relative to non-Hispanic Whites. However, the decrease in unemployment was not as dramatic as that for some other groups, such as Mexicans, whose rate dropped 2 percentage points from 7 percent to 5 percent.

During this same period, education levels and English language ability were also

improving for mainland Puerto Ricans. Where only 53 percent of mainland Puerto Ricans had a high school diploma or equivalent in 1990, it was 73 percent in 2008 (Figure 2). Bachelor's degree attainment also increased (Figure 3). The percentage speaking only English at home among mainland Puerto Ricans went from 19 percent to 34 percent from 1990 to 2008, putting them ahead of other Hispanic groups in the United States.

### Trends from 1990 in Puerto Rico

As with mainland Puerto Ricans, those living on the island of Puerto Rico experienced gains in income, employment and other measures. Median household income climbed to 32 percent of the income level of mainland non-Hispanic Whites in 2008 from 28 percent in 1990, and more than kept pace with mainland Puerto Ricans as well. Unemployment and poverty fell, although the latter, at 45 percent, was still 5 times the rate of mainland non-Hispanic Whites in 2008.

The absolute and relative gains in economic well being was accompanied by improvements in education, with 67 percent of island-based Puerto Ricans having a high school diploma or higher, and 21 percent having a bachelor's or higher degree in 2008. In 1990, only 50 percent had a high school diploma or higher, while 14 percent had a bachelor's or higher degree. Changes in the pattern of adoption of the English language are a little less clear. From 1990 to 2008, the percentage of island-based Puerto Ricans speaking only English at home increased marginally from 2 percent to 5 percent. On the other hand, among the large majority speaking Spanish at home, English ability has declined.

### Geography of the Puerto Rican population in the U.S.

In the mainland U.S., the Puerto Rican population in 2008 was concentrated in two areas: the New York metropolitan area<sup>1</sup> and the state of Florida (Map 2). There were 4.0 million people living in Puerto Rico, 1.2 million Puerto Ricans in the New York metropolitan area and 744 thousand in Florida. The 2.3 million Puerto Ricans not living in these areas were scattered broadly, with only five states having as many as 100 thousand Puerto Rican residents (California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Texas).

New York has long been the main base for mainland Puerto Ricans. However this has been changing. From 1990 to 2008, the Puerto Rican population in the New York metropolitan area remained close to 1.2 million, while it grew in most other locations – tripling in Florida and growing by 1 million across the rest of the country (Maps 1, 2).

Population of Puerto Rico and Puerto Rican Population in the United States by Geographic Location		
Location	1990	2008
Puerto Rico	3,522	3,954
Mainland U.S.	2,652	4,217
New York	1,185	1,210
Florida	241	744
Other U.S	1,226	2,262

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<sup>1</sup> "New York metropolitan area" as used in this paper refers to the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA Metropolitan Statistical Area, which contains the following counties: in New York – Bronx, Kings, New York, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Westchester; in New Jersey – Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, Ocean, Somerset, Sussex, Union; in Pennsylvania – Pike.

Within the New York metropolitan area, the Puerto Rican population has also redistributed (Maps 3, 4, 5). In 1990, 63 percent of the Puerto Rican population in the NYMSA was found in the central boroughs of Bronx, Manhattan and Brooklyn. All three boroughs had absolute declines in Puerto Rican population from 1990 to 2008 (totaling 119 thousand) as other areas grew – especially Suffolk County, Long Island, Queens, and Staten Island. While this does not represent a wholesale suburbanization of the Puerto Rican population, it represents a move to a more balanced spread across the metropolitan region. The percentage in Bronx, Manhattan and Brooklyn is 52 percent in 2008.

There has also been a shift of population in Florida. In 1990 a large concentration of Florida-based Puerto Ricans was found in the Miami metropolitan area,<sup>2</sup> where 44 percent resided (Map 6, 7, 8). By 2008, the number of Florida Puerto Ricans living in the Miami metropolitan area had grown from 107 thousand to 201 thousand. However, due to rapid growth in other areas of the state, its share of the state's Puerto Rican population had fallen to 27 percent.

The Orlando metropolitan area<sup>3</sup> contained 222 thousand Puerto Ricans in 2008, up from 53 thousand in 1990. The Tampa-St. Petersburg metropolitan area<sup>4</sup> also grew – from 34 thousand in 1990 to 123 thousand in 2008. Including those who live in the Lakeland-Winter

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<sup>2</sup> The Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metropolitan Statistical Area contains the following counties: Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach.

<sup>3</sup> The Orlando-Kissimmee, FL Metropolitan Statistical Area contains the following counties: Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole.

<sup>4</sup> The Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metropolitan Statistical Area contains the following counties: Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas.



Haven metropolitan area<sup>5</sup> (28 thousand), one-half the Puerto-Rican population of Florida currently lives in the central Florida zone running from Orlando to Tampa.

### Florida, New York and Puerto Rico

The 744 thousand Puerto Ricans living in Florida still represent a smaller community than the 1.2 million in the New York metropolitan area; the 374 thousand in central Florida is smaller still. But the burgeoning growth of the Puerto Rican population in those areas bears examination. One fact to note is their large presence in the area. In Orlando, Puerto Ricans are 49 percent of the Hispanic population and 11 percent of the population overall.

Growth is occurring nearly everywhere in Florida, and it is of interest to see how this population compares to those in other Puerto Rican centers of concentration. One aspect is the strong presence of native Puerto Ricans, which indicates that Florida may be serving as gateway for Puerto Rican migration to the mainland. Of Puerto Ricans in Florida, 43 percent were born on the island of Puerto Rico. Nationally, 32 percent of Puerto Ricans were born on the island. In the New York metropolitan area, only 28 percent were born in Puerto Rico (Figure 4).

Puerto Ricans in Florida have higher household income and lower poverty than Puerto Ricans elsewhere (Table 2). Median household income for Florida Puerto Ricans was 42 thousand dollars per year, above the level of 39 thousand dollars for Puerto Ricans in the nation as a whole, and 36 thousand dollars for Puerto Ricans in the New York metropolitan area. The Puerto Rican rate of poverty was 17.5 percent in Florida, 24.8 percent in New York, and 24.0

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<sup>5</sup> The Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL Metropolitan Statistical Area contains the following counties: Polk.

percent in the nation as a whole.

Job opportunities may explain part of the reason for Puerto Rican migration to Florida. Sixty percent of the Florida Puerto Rican population is employed in the civilian labor force compared with 57 percent nationally and 53 percent in the New York metropolitan area. On the other hand, unemployment is no lower in Florida than in New York.

Florida-based Puerto Ricans have higher education than other mainland Puerto Ricans. However they do not necessarily have better English skills. Seventy-seven percent speak English at home or speak English "very well," while this percentage is 80 percent in the New York metropolitan area and nationally.

Another aspect of the situation for Puerto Ricans in Florida is that more households contain families with children (40 percent) than in the New York metropolitan area (34 percent). The national average for Puerto Ricans is also 40 percent. Few of these Florida households consist of a single mother with children (13 percent) than in New York (17 percent) or nationally (17 percent).

Income is lower and poverty higher on the island of Puerto Rico than in the United States. The island household median income of 18 thousand dollars per year is less than half the income of Florida Puerto Ricans, and also well below that of mainland Puerto Ricans as a whole. Close to 45 percent of the population of the island lives in poverty.

A curious aspect of the island population is that it contains more people at the extremes of the educational distribution than the mainland Puerto Rican population. Around one-third (33 percent) of island-based Puerto Ricans have less than a high school diploma or equivalent, compared with 27 percent of those on the mainland. At the same time, 21 percent of island-

based Puerto Ricans have less than a bachelors degree or higher, compared with 16 percent of those on the mainland.

Well-educated Puerto Ricans are probably not remaining on the island due to economic opportunity. The mean earnings of people with bachelor's degrees in Puerto Rico is 24 thousand dollars per year, while the U.S. mean is 47 thousand dollars per year. That leads to suspicion that cost of living, language barriers, or other factors may impede them from migrating to the mainland. That language barriers are an important aspect of the situation is evident from the lack of English language skills of those who remain on the island. Only 5 percent of island-based Puerto Ricans speak English at home, and 80 percent report that they speak English less than "very well." This lack of language ability might also contribute to the fact that many people with lower education remain on the island, despite low income and high unemployment.

### Conclusions

The Puerto Rican population of the U.S. seems to have recovered from the economic difficulties observed in the 1980s. Although median household income of Puerto Ricans remains lower than that of other Hispanic groups in the U.S., the difference is not as large as it once was. Poverty rates have fallen.

Earlier, there were four hypotheses stated about the relatively poor economic position of the mainland Puerto Rican population in the 1980s. The first was that Puerto Ricans were victims of discrimination. The second hypothesis was that they were limited by economic opportunities in the regions they found themselves. The third hypothesis was that mainland Puerto Ricans were victimized by "underclass" behaviors. The fourth hypothesis was that

mainland Puerto Rican poverty was tied to conditions in Puerto Rico.

The evidence here does not help determine which of these hypotheses held the most sway. What is clear, however, is that Puerto Rican's rise compared other groups has gone along with improvements to more than one of these possible factors. In particular, there has been notable growth in the Florida Puerto Rican population, and improvement in conditions on the island of Puerto Rico.

### References

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Bean, Frank D, and Marta Tienda. 1987. *The Hispanic Population of the United States*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Sandefur, Gary and Marta Tienda. 1988. *Divided Opportunities: Minorities, Poverty and Social Policy*. New York: Plenum Press.

Table 1: Population Profile for different groups by Hispanic Origin in the United States and Puerto Rico: 1990 to 2008

Subject	1990 <sup>(1)</sup>						
	United States Puerto Rican <sup>(3)</sup>	Islander Puerto Rican <sup>(4)</sup>	Mexican	Cuban	Other Hispanic or Latino	White, not Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American, not Hispanic or Latino
<b>Total population</b>	<b>2,651,815</b>	<b>3,522,037</b>	<b>13,393,208</b>	<b>1,053,197</b>	<b>4,801,869</b>	<b>188,424,773</b>	<b>29,284,596</b>
<b>INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)</b>							
Households	797,809	1,188,985	3,302,126	392,200	1,379,905	73,747,747	9,767,383
Median household income (dollars)	21,056	8,895	23,694	27,741	26,067	31,672	19,766
<b>POVERTY LEVEL</b>							
Population Below Poverty level	812,798	2,057,377	3,447,149	149,825	993,720	16,518,669	8,244,529
Percent below Poverty Level	31.7%	58.9%	26.3%	14.6%	21.2%	9.0%	29.4%
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>							
Population 16 years and over	1,796,295	2,497,078	8,807,842	883,416	3,538,349	149,164,557	20,953,608
In labor force	60.4%	47.3%	68.3%	65.0%	69.6%	65.3%	62.7%
Civilian Labor force	58.9%	47.0%	67.6%	64.6%	68.8%	64.5%	61.3%
Employed	51.5%	37.4%	60.4%	60.1%	62.2%	61.3%	53.4%
Unemployed	7.3%	9.6%	7.2%	6.9%	6.6%	3.2%	7.9%
Percent of Civilian Labor Force	12.4%	20.4%	10.7%	6.9%	9.6%	5.0%	12.9%
Armed Forces	1.6%	0.2%	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%	0.8%	2.4%
Not in Labor force	39.6%	52.7%	31.7%	35.0%	30.4%	34.7%	37.3%
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>							
Male	49.0%	48.4%	51.9%	49.2%	49.2%	48.7%	47.1%
Female	51.0%	51.6%	48.1%	50.8%	50.8%	51.3%	52.9%
Median age (years)	25.5	28.5	23.8	38.9	28.2	34.9	28.4
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>							
Population 25 years and over	1,353,376	1,952,297	6,362,441	768,229	2,742,747	125,898,648	16,432,555
Percent high school graduate or higher	53.4%	49.7%	44.2%	56.6%	59.2%	79.1%	63.3%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	9.5%	14.3%	6.3%	16.5%	13.7%	22.0%	11.4%
<b>LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH</b>							
Population 5 years and over	2,370,798	3,219,765	11,826,999	995,348	4,376,592	175,934,346	26,609,376
Speak English only	19.0%	1.8%	23.4%	10.6%	23.4%	94.3%	95.0%
Speaks English only or Speaks another language but speaks English "very well" <sup>(5)</sup>	66.5%	23.6%	61.1%	51.4%	58.1%	98.2%	98.3%

**Table 1: Population Profile for different groups by Hispanic Origin in the United States and Puerto Rico: 1990 to 2008  
(Continuation)**

Subject	2000 <sup>(1)</sup>						
	United States Puerto Rican <sup>(3)</sup>	Islander Puerto Rican <sup>(4)</sup>	Mexican	Cuban	Other Hispanic or Latino	White, not Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American, not Hispanic or Latino
<b>Total population</b>	<b>3,406,178</b>	<b>3,808,610</b>	<b>20,640,711</b>	<b>1,241,685</b>	<b>10,017,244</b>	<b>194,552,774</b>	<b>33,947,837</b>
<b>INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)</b>							
<b>Households</b>	<b>1,091,402</b>	<b>1,261,816</b>	<b>5,051,374</b>	<b>480,518</b>	<b>2,649,316</b>	<b>78,983,497</b>	<b>11,839,171</b>
Median household income (dollars)	30,644	14,412	33,621	36,671	34,651	45,367	29,445
<b>POVERTY LEVEL</b>							
<b>Population Below Poverty level</b>	<b>853,443</b>	<b>1,818,687</b>	<b>4,814,500</b>	<b>177,935</b>	<b>1,951,996</b>	<b>15,414,119</b>	<b>7,970,165</b>
Percent below Poverty Level	25.8	48.2	23.5	14.6	20.7	8.1	24.8
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>							
<b>Population 16 years and over</b>	<b>2,373,500</b>	<b>2,842,876</b>	<b>13,889,410</b>	<b>1,048,289</b>	<b>6,858,547</b>	<b>155,509,898</b>	<b>24,313,733</b>
In labor force	58.8%	40.7%	62.2%	56.0%	61.5%	64.9%	60.3%
Civilian Labor force	57.7%	40.5%	61.8%	55.7%	61.1%	64.4%	59.4%
Employed	51.4%	32.7%	56.1%	51.8%	55.4%	61.6%	52.6%
Unemployed	6.3%	7.8%	5.7%	4.0%	5.6%	2.8%	6.9%
Percent of Civilian Labor Force	10.9%	19.2%	9.3%	7.1%	9.2%	4.3%	11.5%
Armed Forces	1.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.8%
Not in Labor force	41.2%	59.3%	37.8%	44.0%	38.5%	35.1%	39.7%
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>							
Male	48.7%	48.1%	53.0%	49.9%	49.4%	48.9%	47.5%
Female	51.3%	51.9%	47.0%	50.1%	50.6%	51.1%	52.5%
Median age (years)	27.4	32.1	24.3	40.1	27.4	38.6	30.3
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>							
<b>Population 25 years and over</b>	<b>1,842,900</b>	<b>2,288,326</b>	<b>10,178,093</b>	<b>934,544</b>	<b>5,314,840</b>	<b>133,786,263</b>	<b>19,533,062</b>
Percent high school graduate or higher	63.3%	60.0%	45.8%	62.9%	59.5%	85.5%	72.4%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	12.5%	18.3%	7.5%	21.2%	13.6%	27.0%	14.3%
<b>LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH</b>							
<b>Population 5 years and over</b>	<b>3,091,161</b>	<b>3,515,228</b>	<b>18,513,696</b>	<b>1,189,479</b>	<b>8,775,240</b>	<b>183,342,983</b>	<b>31,037,419</b>
Speak English only	24.6%	14.4%	21.2%	13.7%	21.8%	94.0%	94.0%
Speaks English only or Speaks another language but speaks English "very well" <sup>(5)</sup>	73.3%	28.1%	56.9%	54.1%	60.3%	98.1%	98.0%

**Table 1: Population Profile for different groups by Hispanic Origin in the United States and Puerto Rico: 1990 to 2008**  
(Continuation)

Subject	2008 <sup>(2)</sup>						
	United States Puerto Rican <sup>(3)</sup>	Islander Puerto Rican <sup>(4)</sup>	Mexican	Cuban	Other Hispanic or Latino	White, not Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American, not Hispanic or Latino
<b>Total population</b>	<b>4,216,533</b>	<b>3,954,037</b>	<b>30,738,559</b>	<b>1,617,010</b>	<b>10,319,354</b>	<b>198,942,886</b>	<b>36,701,103</b>
<b>INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)</b>							
Households	1,347,080	1,186,497	7,639,880	582,520	3,057,865	80,953,272	13,110,447
Median household income (dollars)	39,039	18,401	40,647	42,724	44,861	56,826	35,435
<b>POVERTY LEVEL</b>							
Population Below Poverty level	978,911	1,750,559	6,903,039	42,724	44,861	18,027,678	8,445,618
Percent below Poverty Level	24.0%	44.8%	22.90%	14.2%	16.7%	9.3%	24.1%
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>							
Population 16 years and over	2,973,757	3,089,254	20,446,025	1,316,054	7,666,011	162,673,898	27,776,954
In labor force	64.0%	47.4%	69.7%	61.9%	72.2%	65.5%	64.2%
Civilian Labor force	62.9%	47.3%	69.3%	61.6%	71.7%	65.0%	63.5%
Employed	56.6%	40.3%	64.2%	57.4%	66.6%	61.6%	56.1%
Unemployed	6.3%	7.0%	5.1%	4.2%	5.1%	3.4%	7.4%
Percent of Civilian Labor Force	10.0%	14.8%	7.4%	6.9%	7.2%	5.2%	11.7%
Armed Forces	1.1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.7%
Not in Labor force	36.0%	52.6%	30.3%	38.1%	27.8%	34.5%	35.8%
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>							
Male	50.0%	48.0%	52.4%	50.2%	50.2%	49.1%	47.6%
Female	50.0%	52.0%	47.6%	49.8%	49.8%	50.9%	52.4%
Median age (years)	29.0	35.9	25.7	41.4	30.9	41.1	32.3
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>							
Population 25 years and over	2,375,539	2,571,234	15,816,915	1,139,940	6,225,113	139,289,828	22,162,799
Percent high school graduate or higher	72.9%	67.0%	54.8%	75.6%	68.6%	90.1%	80.8%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	15.8%	21.2%	9.0%	25.4%	19.4%	30.7%	17.5%
<b>LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH</b>							
Population 5 years and over	3,788,020	3,718,494	26,990,822	1,513,610	9,346,083	187,941,160	33,970,480
Speak English only	33.6%	4.8%	23.8%	16.6%	20.5%	94.2%	93.3%
Speaks English only or Speaks another language but speaks English "very well" <sup>(5)</sup>	80.3%	18.9%	61.6%	58.3%	59.4%	98.3%	97.7%

Notes:

- (1) Data from U.S and P.R. Decennial Census.
- (2) Data from American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey
- (3) Include Puerto Ricans in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- (4) Include the total population living in Puerto Rico.
- (5) The denominator for this measure is the the Total Population 5 years and over.

Table 2: Population Profile of the Total Population and the Puerto Rican Population for Selected Geographies: 2008 Collazo, Ryan and Bauman - Page 16

Subject	United States	United States	Florida	NY MSA	Islander Puerto
	Total Population	Puerto Rican <sup>(1)</sup>	Puerto Rican	Puerto Rican	Rican <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>Total population</b>	<b>304,059,728</b>	<b>4,216,533</b>	<b>744,473</b>	<b>1,209,884</b>	<b>3,954,037</b>
<b>INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)</b>					
<b>Households</b>	<b>113,101,329</b>	<b>1,347,080</b>	<b>242,063</b>	<b>406,109</b>	<b>1,186,497</b>
Median household income (dollars)	52,029	39,039	41,892	36,452	18,401
<b>POVERTY LEVEL</b>	<b>39,108,422</b>	<b>978,911</b>	<b>127,515</b>	<b>293,984</b>	<b>1,750,559</b>
Percent below Poverty Level	13.2%	24.0%	17.5%	24.8%	44.8%
<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>					
<b>Population 16 years and over</b>	<b>238,764,455</b>	<b>2,973,757</b>	<b>550,590</b>	<b>892,362</b>	<b>3,089,254</b>
In labor force	65.9%	64.0%	67.1%	58.5%	47.4%
Civilian Labor force	65.4%	62.9%	66.5%	58.5%	47.3%
Employed	61.3%	56.6%	60.3%	53.2%	40.3%
Unemployed	4.2%	6.3%	6.2%	5.3%	7.0%
Percent of Civilian Labor Force	6.4%	10.0%	9.3%	9.1%	14.8%
Armed Forces	0.5%	1.1%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%
Not in Labor force	34.1%	36.0%	32.9%	41.5%	52.6%
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>					
Male	49.3%	50.0%	50.8%	47.7%	48.0%
Female	50.7%	50.0%	49.2%	52.3%	52.0%
Median age (years)	36.9	29.0	31.7	31.9	35.9
<b>HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE</b>					
<b>Households</b>	<b>113,101,329</b>	<b>1,347,080</b>	<b>242,063</b>	<b>406,109</b>	<b>1,186,497</b>
Family households with own children under 18 years	30.7%	40.1%	40.4%	34.1%	30.4%
Female householder, no husband present, family with own children under 18 years	7.4%	17.2%	12.8%	17.3%	12.2%
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>					
<b>Population 25 years and over</b>	<b>200,030,018</b>	<b>2,375,539</b>	<b>457,074</b>	<b>725,146</b>	<b>2,571,234</b>
Less than high school diploma	15.0%	27.1%	21.7%	31.5%	33.0%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	28.5%	28.9%	28.9%	29.2%	24.2%
Some college or associate's degree	28.8%	28.2%	31.9%	25.1%	21.6%
Bachelor's degree	17.5%	10.7%	12.6%	9.3%	15.5%
Graduate or professional degree	10.2%	5.1%	4.9%	4.9%	5.6%
Percent high school graduate or higher	85.0%	72.9%	78.3%	68.5%	67.0%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	27.7%	15.8%	17.5%	14.2%	21.2%
<b>LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH</b>					
<b>Population 5 years and over</b>	<b>283,149,507</b>	<b>3,788,020</b>	<b>678,363</b>	<b>1,106,084</b>	<b>3,718,494</b>
Speak English only	80.3%	33.6%	24.5%	29.4%	4.8%
Speaks English only or Speaks another language but speaks English "very well" <sup>(3)</sup>	91.4%	80.3%	77.3%	79.6%	18.9%
<b>PLACE OF BIRTH</b>					
<b>Total population</b>	<b>304,059,728</b>	<b>4,216,533</b>	<b>744,473</b>	<b>1,209,884</b>	<b>3,954,037</b>
Population born in Puerto Rico	1,441,567	1,339,465	322,837	339,089	3,638,484
Percent born in Puerto Rico	0.5%	31.8%	43.4%	28.0%	92.0%
Percent born somewhere else	99.5%	68.2%	56.6%	72.0%	8.0%
<b>FERTILITY</b>					
<b>Women 15 to 50 years</b>	<b>75,960,920</b>	<b>1,111,407</b>	<b>192,944</b>	<b>323,971</b>	<b>1,011,080</b>
Women 15 to 50 years who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,436,577	69,325	9,982	19,974	45,597
Unmarried women 15 to 50 years who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,521,094	39,034	4,287	10,957	22,494
As a percent of all women with a birth in the past 12 months	34.3%	56.3%	42.9%	54.9%	49.3%

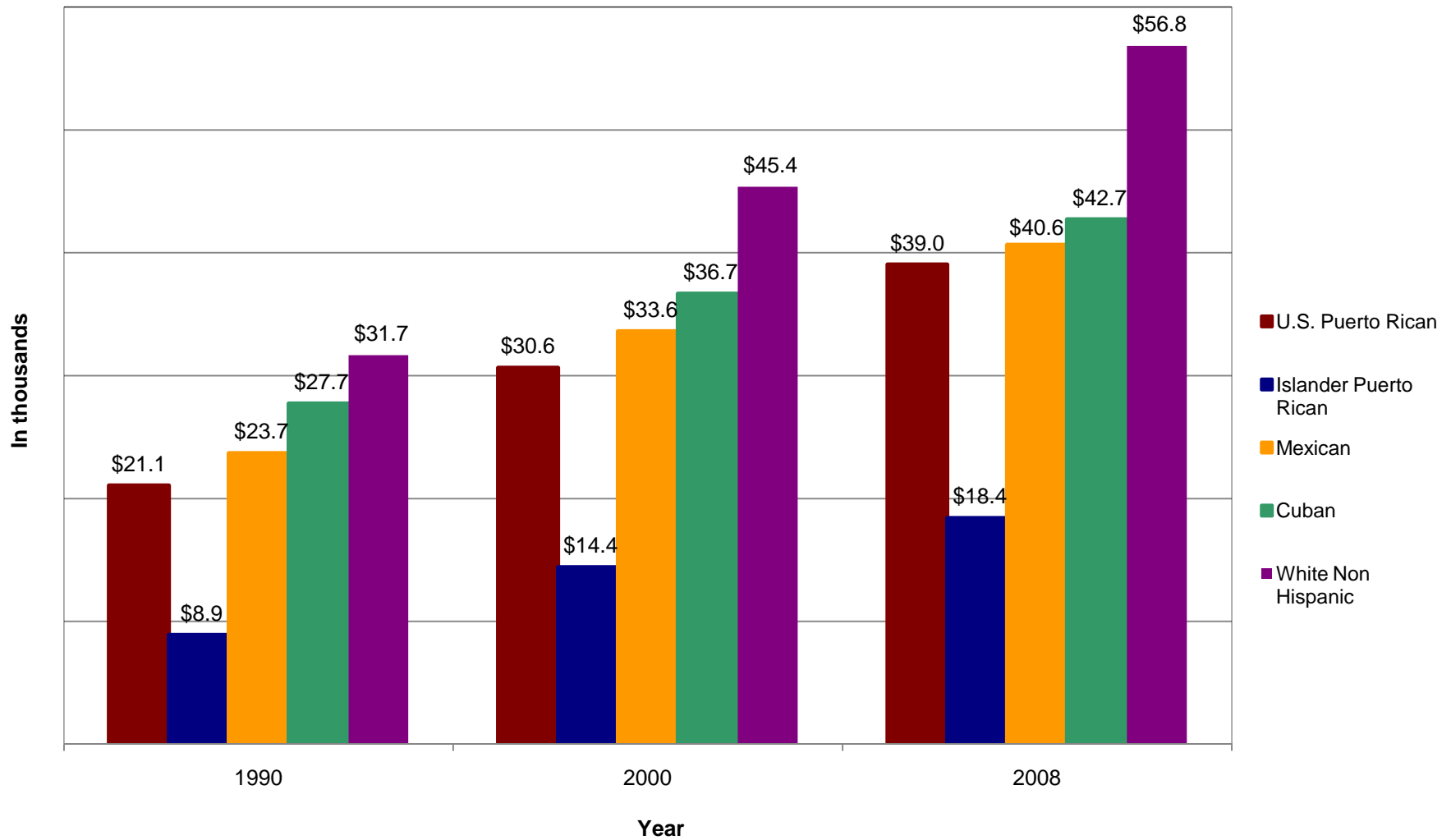
Sources: 2008 American Community Survey, 2008 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

Notes:

- (1) Include Puerto Ricans in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- (2) Include the total population living in Puerto Rico.
- (3) The denominator for this measure is the the Total Population 5 years and over.

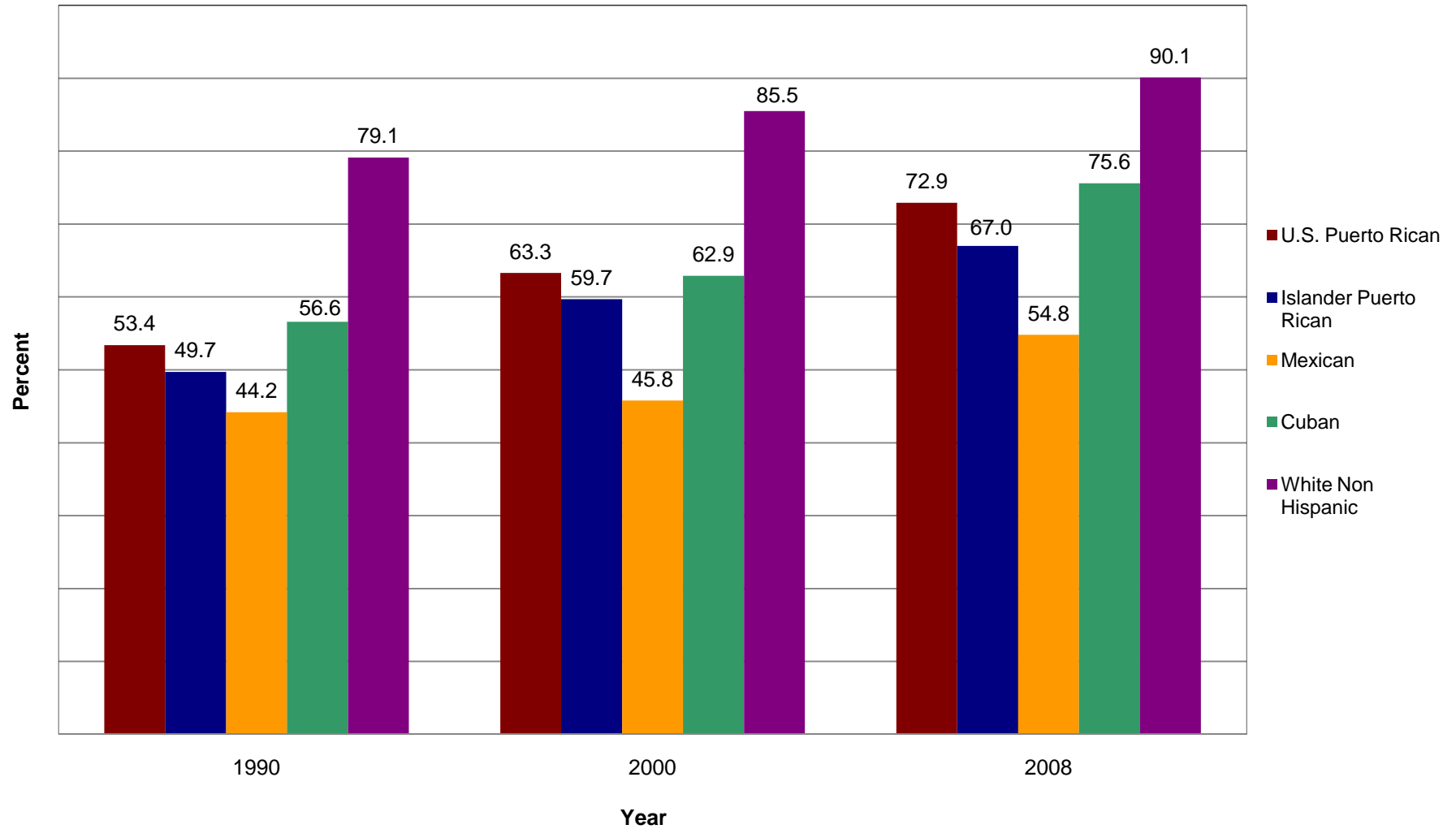


**Figure 1: Median Household Income for the Hispanic Population in United States and the Population in Puerto Rico: 1990, 2000 and 2008**



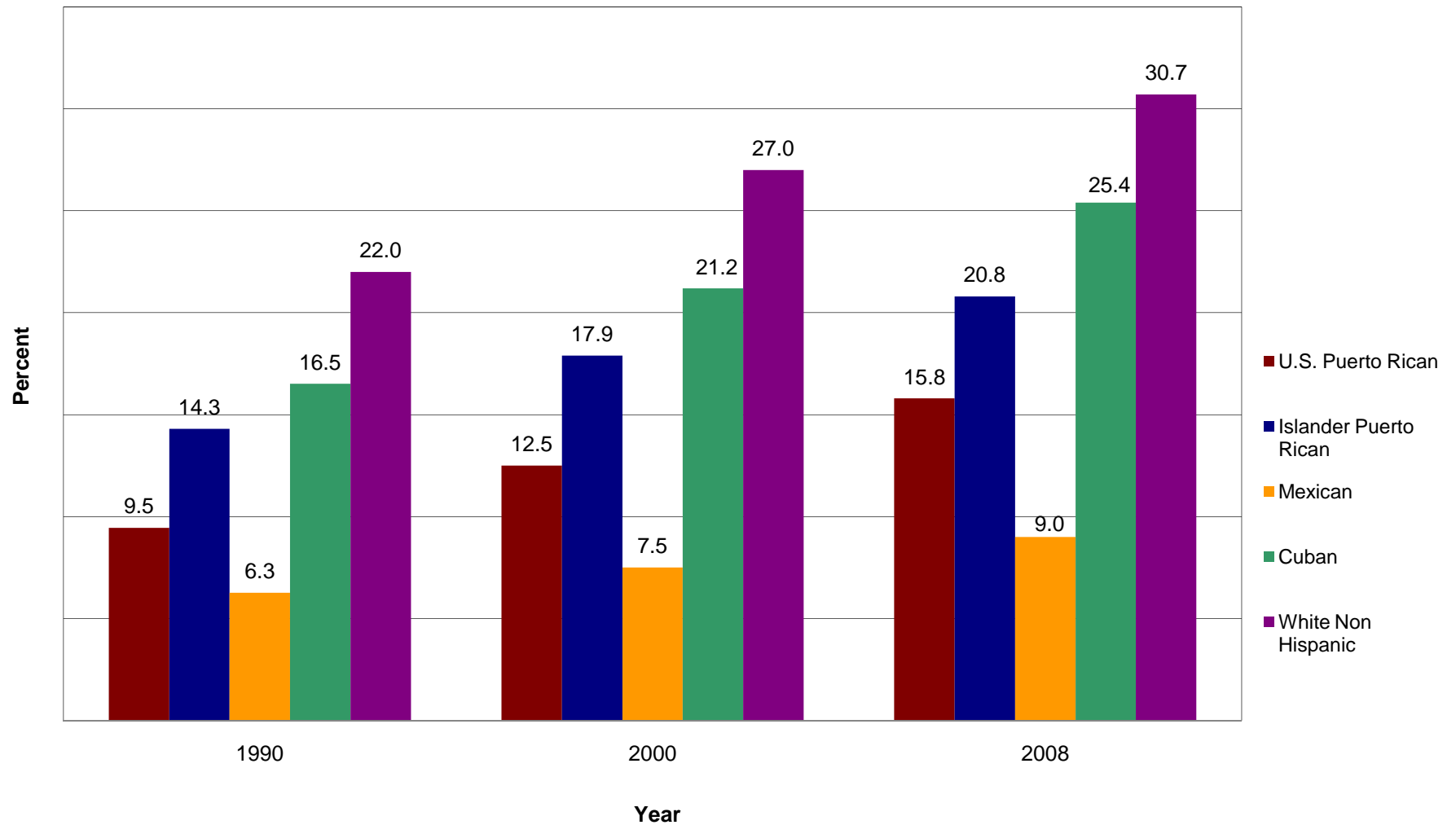
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census of Population. Census 2000. 2008 American Community Survey. 2008 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

**Figure 2: Percent of Hispanic Population in United States and Population in Puerto Rico with High School Diploma and higher: 1990, 2000 and 2008**



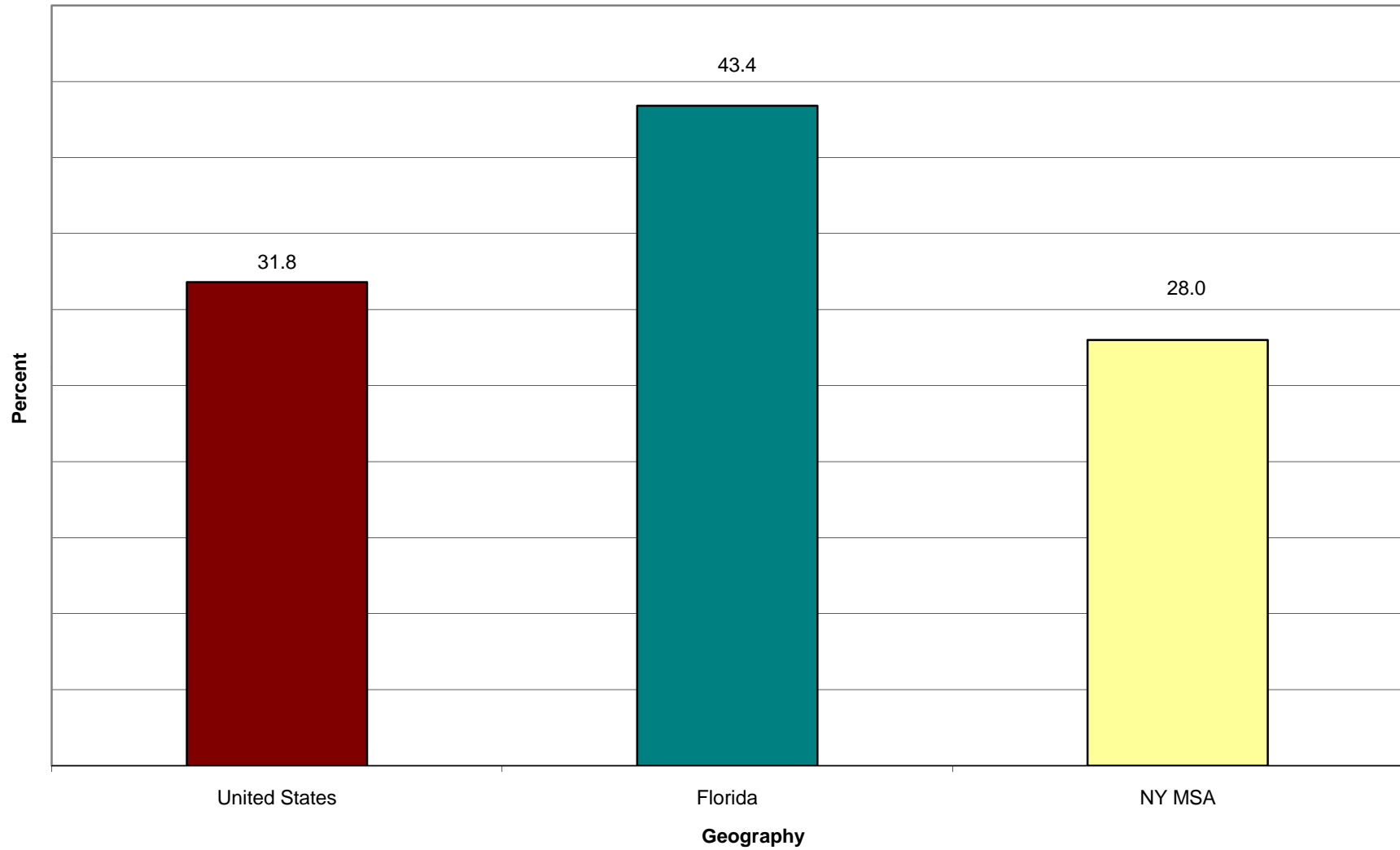
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census of Population. Census 2000. 2008 American Community Survey. 2008 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

**Figure 3: Percent of Hispanic Population in United States and the Population in Puerto Rico with a Bachelor's Degree and higher: 1990, 2000 and 2008**



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census of Population. Census 2000. 2008 American Community Survey. 2008 Puerto Rico Community Survey.

**Figure 4: Percentage of the Puerto Rican Population who were born in Puerto Rico by Selected Geographies: 2008**



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey.

# Map 1: Distribution of the Puerto Rican Population in United States: 1990



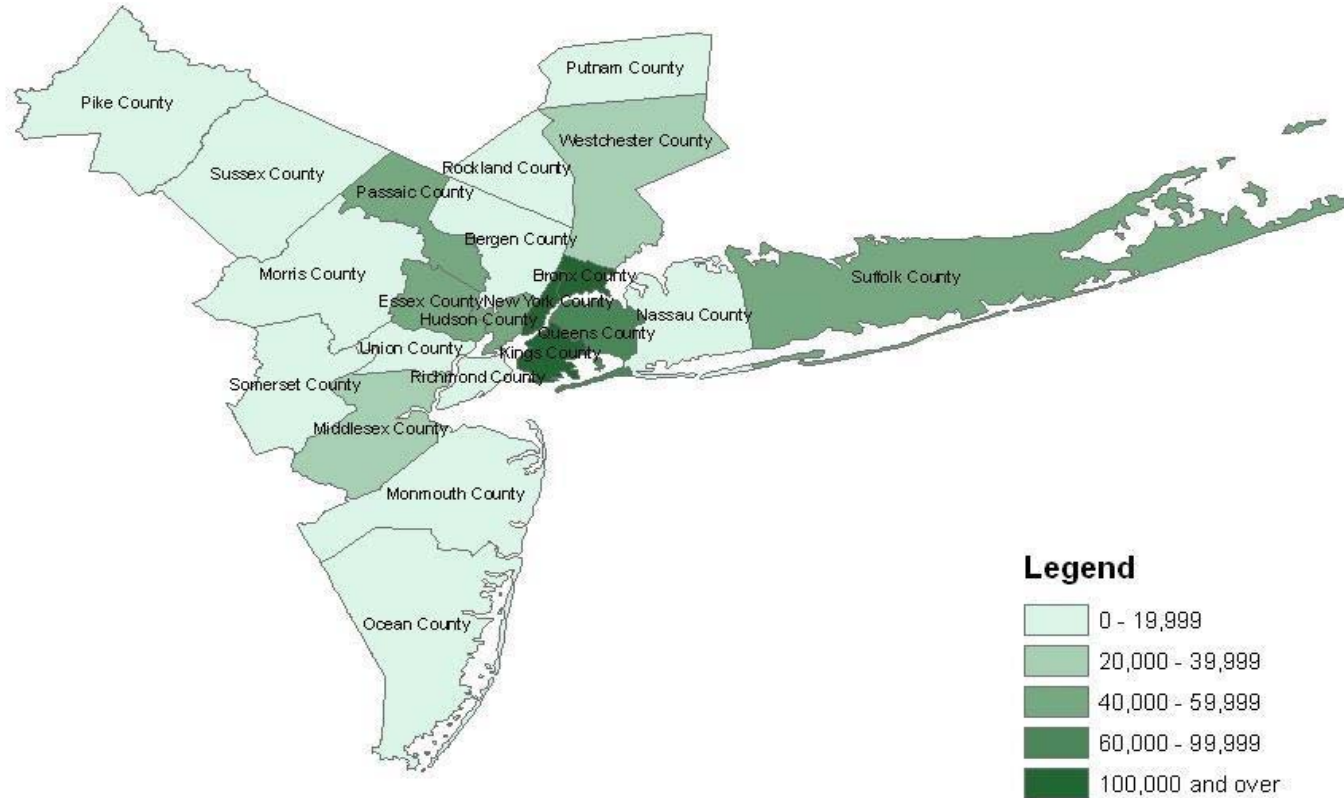
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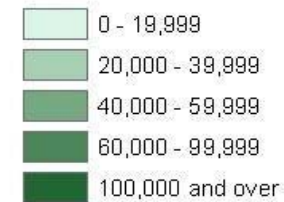
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey.



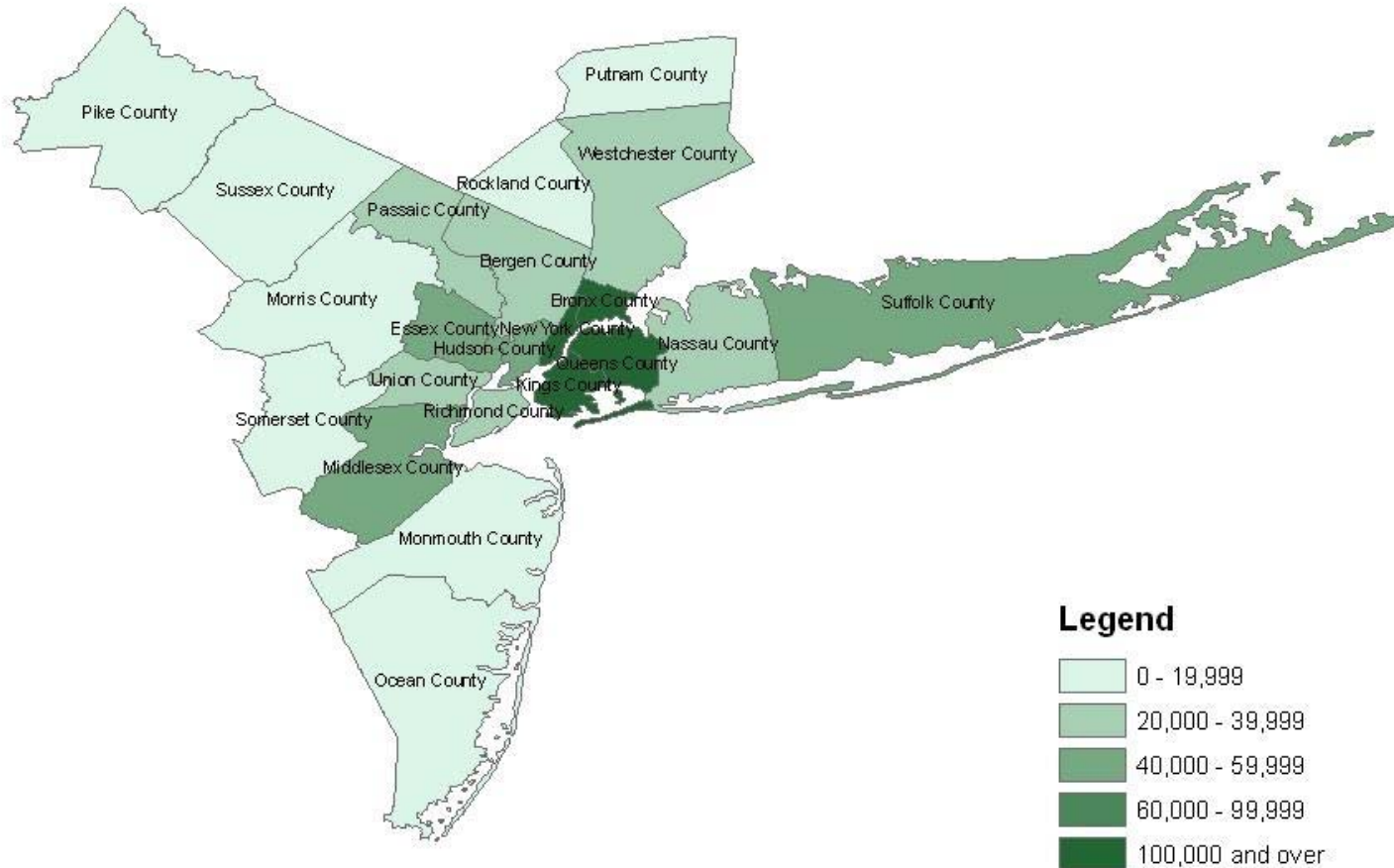
# Map 3: Distribution of the Puerto Rican Population in the NY Metropolitan Statistical Area, United States: 1990



## Legend

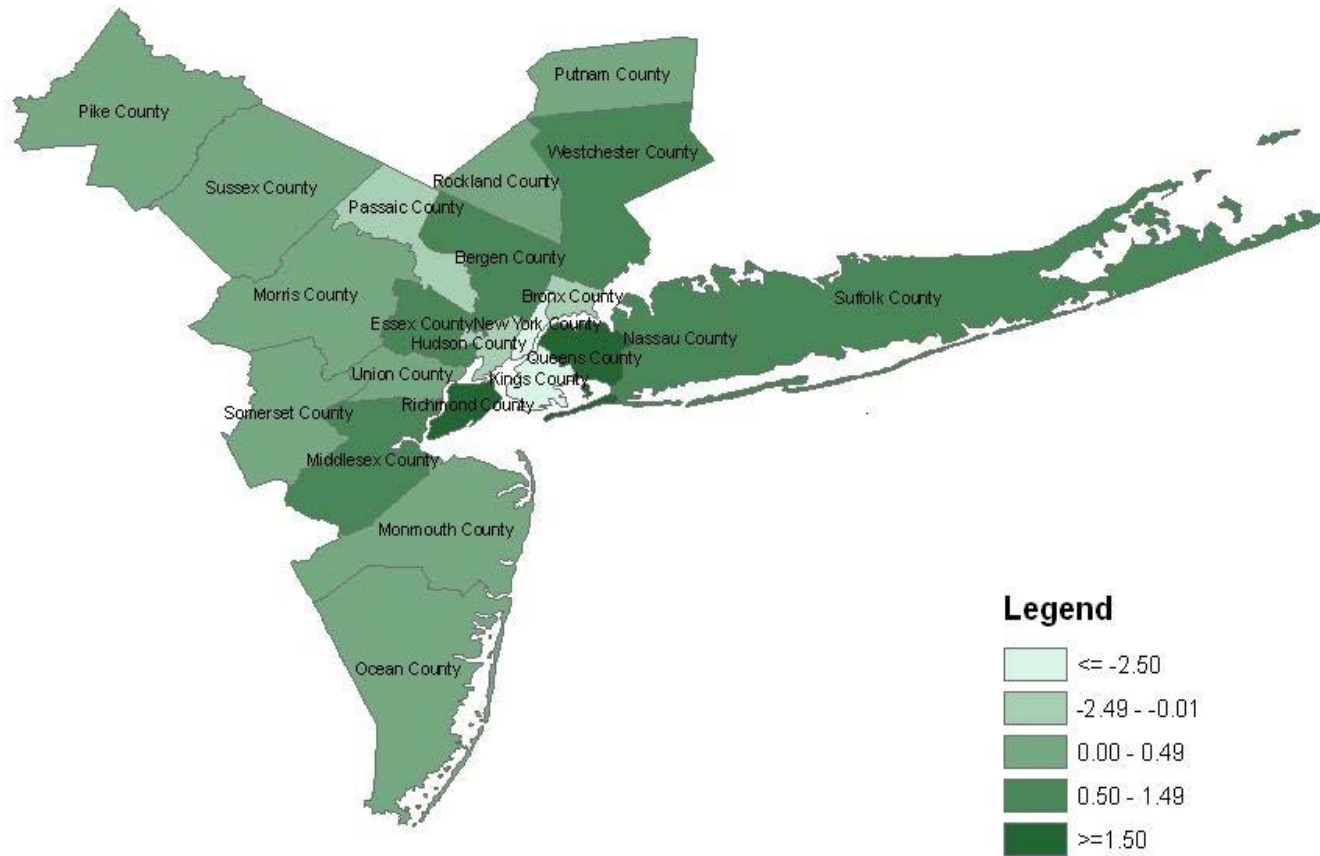


# Map 4: Distribution of the Puerto Rican Population in the NY Metropolitan Statistical Area, United States: 2008

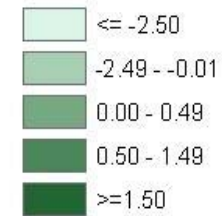




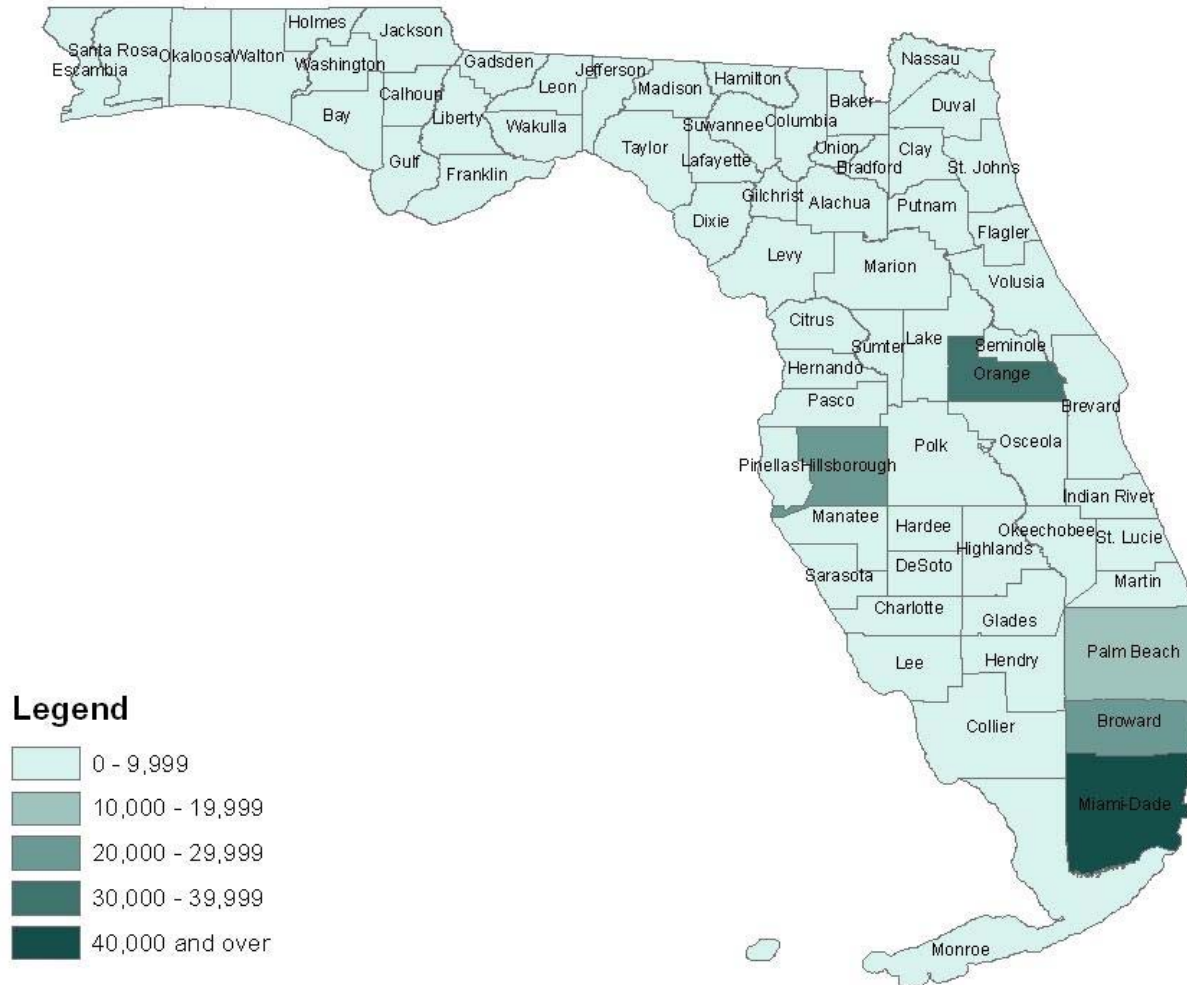
# Map 5: Percent Point Difference of the Puerto Rican Population in the NY Metropolitan Statistical Area, United States: 1990 - 2008



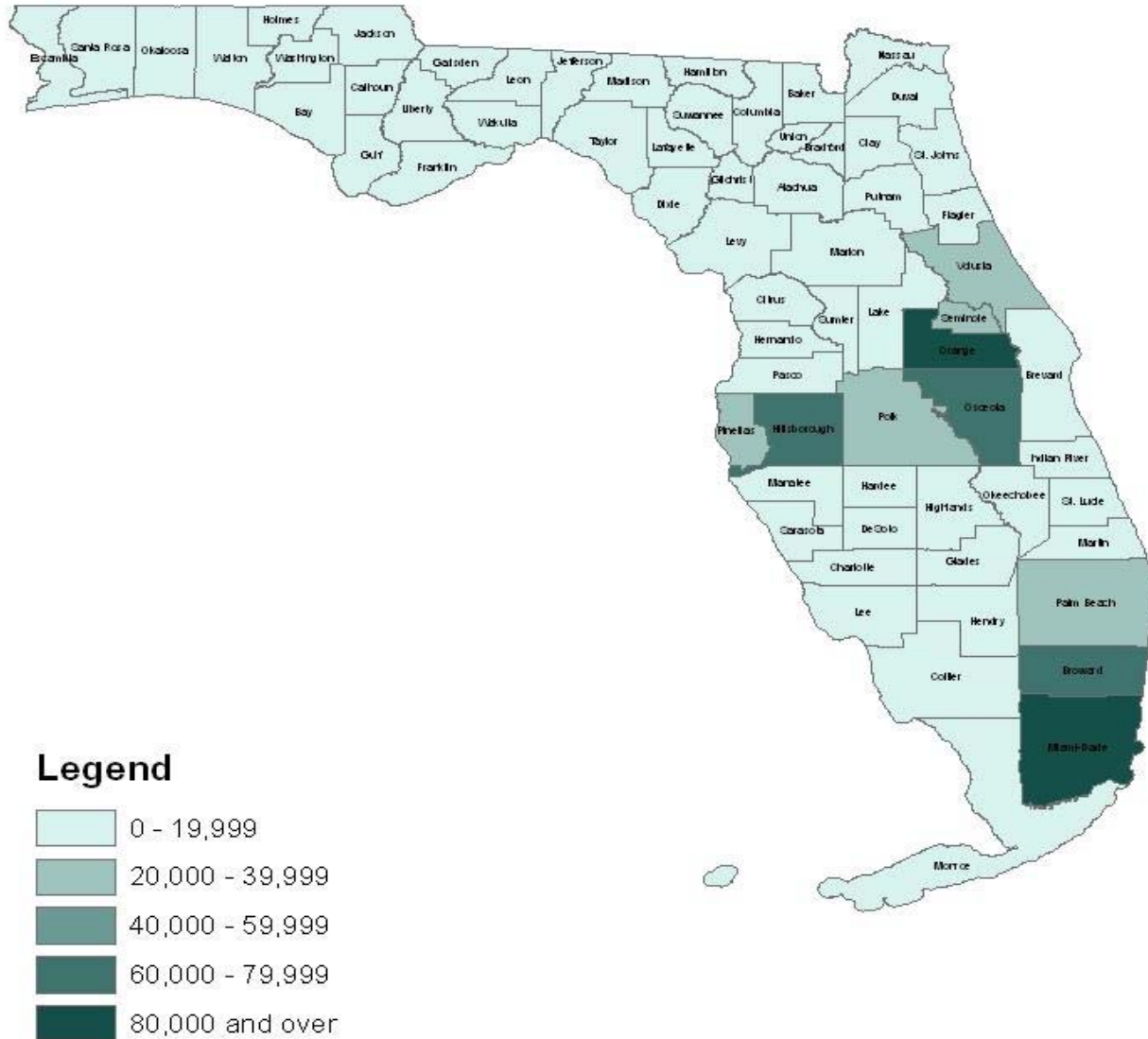
## Legend



# Map 6: Distribution of the Puerto Rican Population in Florida, United States: 1990



# Map 7: Distribution of the Puerto Rican Population in the Florida, United States: 2008



# Map 8: Percent Point Difference of the Puerto Rican Population in Florida, United States: 1990 - 2008

