

People Who Spoke a Language Other Than English at Home by Hispanic Origin and Race: 2009

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents data on the proportion of people aged 5 and over who spoke a language other than English at home, based on the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS). Data are presented at the national and state levels. Data in the state maps are reported for Hispanic origin and racial groups with a population of at least 65,000.

These data come from a three-part question. Part one asks, "Does this person speak a language other than English at home?" Part two asks, "What is this language?" Part three asks, "How well does this person speak English (very well; well; not well; not at all)?" The information presented in this report utilizes data from part one of the language question.

Data on language ability has become increasingly important as the U.S. population has become more ethnically diverse. Government and private sector service providers use data on language ability to help meet the communication needs of different communities by tailoring services to schools, hospitals, and other providers. These data are also used to monitor and enforce the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

This report highlights information about language for selected Hispanic origin and race groups. The U.S. Census Bureau collects race and ethnicity data in accordance with guidelines provided by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). These data are based on self-identification. The question on Hispanic origin asks respondents if they are of

Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. The question on race asks respondents to report the race or races they consider themselves to be. People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race.

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH SPOKEN AT HOME FOR THE UNITED STATES

Table 1 shows that among the major racial categories in the United States, those only choosing the Some Other Race category had the highest proportion of individuals who spoke a language other than English at home (83 percent).¹ Asian alone (77 percent) had the next highest proportion, followed by Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone (43 percent), American Indian and Alaska Native alone (29 percent), White alone (15 percent), and Black alone (8 percent).²

People who reported Some Other Race alone were more likely to speak a language other than English at home (83 percent) compared with people who reported Some Other Race as well as one or more additional race groups

¹ The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches for showing data for race groups. In this report, a series of maps compares data for single-race populations (e.g., Asian alone) and the Two or More Races population. However, this does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. Table 1 also presents data for the major race groups "alone," "in combination," and "alone or in combination." For example, the data for Asians summarizes characteristics for single-race Asians, for Asians who reported two or more races, and people who reported they were Asian regardless of whether they also reported another race.

² See the Race section of the 2009 ACS Subject Definitions Guide for detailed definitions of the racial categories used in this report <www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Def.htm>.

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U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

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Table 1.

Population 5 Years and Older Who Spoke a Language Other Than English at Home by Race: 2009

(In percent. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Race	Alone	Margin of error ¹ (±)	In combination	Margin of error ¹ (±)	Alone or in combination	Margin of error ¹ (±)
White	14.5	0.1	18.9	0.4	14.6	0.1
Black or African American	7.9	0.1	15.7	0.6	8.3	0.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	29.0	0.7	12.3	0.6	20.7	0.5
Asian	77.1	0.3	17.9	0.6	70.6	0.3
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	42.5	1.8	11.6	1.2	28.2	1.1
Some Other Race	82.9	0.3	46.4	1.0	79.9	0.3

¹Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009, Selected Population Profile, S0201.

(46 percent).³ The difference between single-race Asians and Asians who reported multiple races was even larger (77 percent versus 18 percent).

The patterns differed for Whites and Blacks. The White alone population and the Black alone population had a lower proportion of people who spoke a language other than English at home (15 percent and 8 percent, respectively) compared with the White in combination population and the Black in combination population (19 percent and 16 percent, respectively).

Table 2 presents data on detailed Hispanic origin and racial groups in the United States. Overall, among the major race groups and Hispanic origin, Non-Hispanic Whites had the lowest proportion (6 percent) of people who spoke a language other than English at home and Asians alone and Hispanics had the highest proportion (77 percent and 76 percent, respectively).

Hispanics were much more likely to speak a language other than English at home (76 percent) compared with non-Hispanics (10 percent). Among the selected Hispanic

³ Individuals who chose more than one of the six race categories are referred to as the race *in combination* population, or as the group who reported *more than one* race.

detailed groups, Dominicans (92 percent), Salvadorans (92 percent), and Guatemalans (91 percent) were among the top three groups with the highest percent who spoke a language other than English at home.⁴ This was followed by Colombians (87 percent), Cubans (82 percent), Mexicans (76 percent), and Puerto Ricans (66 percent).

Among the selected American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, Navajos had the highest proportion of people who spoke a language other than English at home (60 percent), while Cherokees had the lowest (7 percent).⁵

Vietnamese (89 percent) had the highest proportion of people who spoke a language other than English at home, among the

⁴ The percentages speaking a language other than English at home for Dominicans, Salvadorans, and Guatemalans were not statistically different from each other.

⁵ In the text and figures of this report, data for detailed race groups (e.g., Cherokee, Japanese, Samoan) are shown for people who reported only a single group. However, this does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data on race; the Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. Additional ACS data are available online in American FactFinder for a number of race groups "alone," "in combination," and "alone or in combination." For example, data are available for people who reported they were Japanese; for people who reported they were Japanese and White; and for people who reported they were Japanese, regardless of whether they also reported another race.

selected Asian detailed groups; Japanese had the lowest (46 percent).

Among the selected Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander detailed groups, Samoans had a higher proportion of people who spoke a language other than English at home (56 percent); Native Hawaiians had a lower proportion (12 percent).

Within the selected Two or More Races category, White **and** Some Other Race had the highest proportion of people who spoke a language other than English at home (50 percent), while White **and** American Indian and Alaska Native had the lowest proportion (11 percent).⁶

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH SPOKEN AT HOME BY STATE

California had the largest percent of the total population who spoke a language other than English at home (43 percent), followed by New Mexico (36 percent) and Texas (34 percent).

Rhode Island (87 percent) and Florida (86 percent) had the highest

⁶ The race-in-combination categories use the conjunction **and** in bold and italicized print to link the race groups that compose the combination.

Table 2.

Population 5 Years and Older Who Spoke a Language Other Than English at Home by Selected Hispanic Origin and Race Group: 2009

(In percent. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Hispanic origin and race ¹	Percent	Margin of error ² (±)
Total population 5 years and older	20.0	0.1
Not Hispanic or Latino	10.0	0.1
Hispanic or Latino	76.2	0.2
Colombian	86.9	0.8
Cuban	82.3	0.7
Dominican	91.9	0.6
Guatemalan	91.0	0.7
Mexican	76.1	0.2
Puerto Rican	66.2	0.6
Salvadoran	91.5	0.6
White Alone	14.5	0.1
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	5.8	0.1
Black or African American Alone	7.9	0.1
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	29.0	0.7
Alaska Native alone ³	29.3	2.3
Cherokee alone	6.5	1.0
Chippewa alone	8.4	1.5
Choctaw alone	13.8	1.8
Navajo alone	60.0	2.4
Sioux alone	12.2	1.7
Asian Alone	77.1	0.3
Asian Indian alone	79.6	0.5
Chinese alone	82.9	0.4
Filipino alone	67.4	0.6
Japanese alone	45.8	1.1
Korean alone	79.0	0.7
Vietnamese alone	89.1	0.6
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	42.5	1.8
Native Hawaiian alone	12.3	1.9
Samoan alone	55.6	4.2
Two or More Races	19.6	0.4
White; American Indian and Alaska Native	11.1	0.6
White; Asian	15.7	0.7
White; Black or African American	14.7	0.7
White; Some Other Race	50.4	1.1

¹The American Indian and Alaska Native groups and the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander groups included in this table have estimated populations of at least 65,000 at the national level. The Hispanic, Asian, and Two or More Races groups included in this table have estimated populations of at least 750,000 at the national level.

²Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

³This category represents the population who specified any Alaska Native group(s) alone.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009, Selected Population Profile, S0201.

proportion of Hispanics who spoke a language other than English at home; Hawaii had the lowest (23 percent).⁷ For non-Hispanics who spoke a language other than English at home, Hawaii (25 percent) and California (24 percent) were the states with the highest proportion, followed by New York (19 percent) and New Jersey (18 percent).⁸

New York had the highest proportion of non-Hispanic Whites who spoke a language other than English at home (13 percent).

Massachusetts (35 percent), Minnesota (28 percent), and Washington (21 percent) had the highest proportions of Blacks who spoke a language other than English at home.

New Mexico (59 percent) and Arizona (51 percent) had the highest proportion of American Indians and Alaska Natives who spoke a language other than English at home.

In nearly all states with at least 65,000 or more Asians, at least 50 percent of Asians spoke a language other than English at home. The exception was Hawaii, where 43 percent spoke a language other than English at home.

Two states had Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander populations of 65,000 or more—California and Hawaii. Among Pacific Islanders in California, about half spoke a language other than English at home (52 percent), compared with one-third of Pacific Islanders in Hawaii (33 percent).

New Jersey (41 percent) and Massachusetts (38 percent) had the highest proportion of people reporting multiple races who spoke a language other than English at home.⁹

⁷ The percentages for Rhode Island and Florida were not statistically different from each other.

⁸ The percentages for Hawaii and California were not statistically different from each other.

⁹ The percentages for New Jersey and Massachusetts were not statistically different from each other.

SOURCE AND ACCURACY

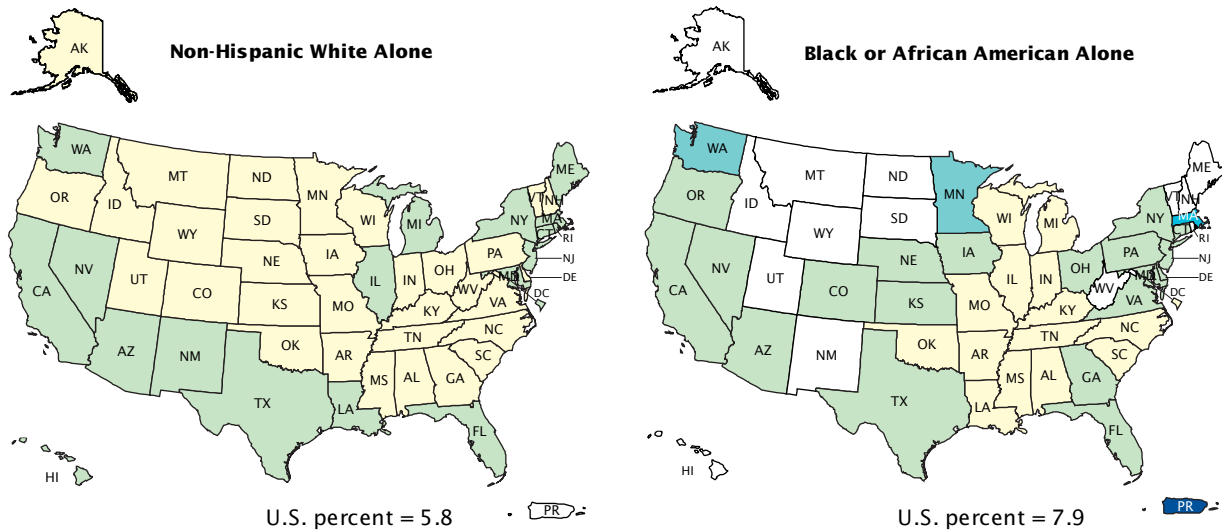
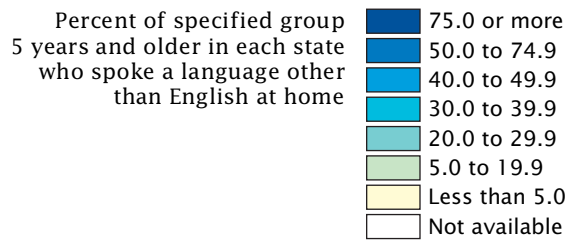
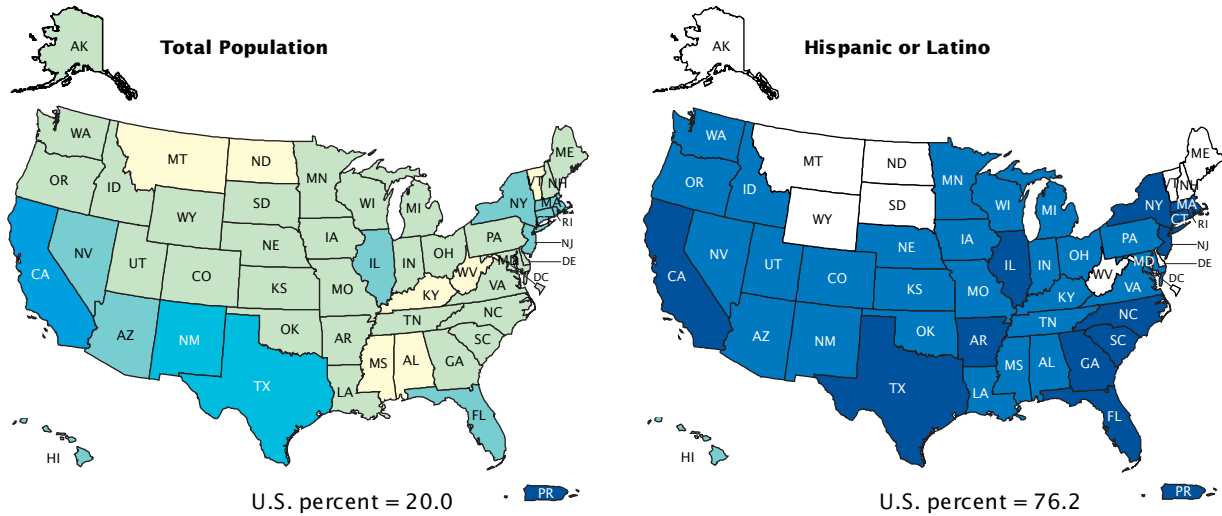
Data presented in this report are based on people and households that responded to the ACS in 2009. The resulting estimates are representative of the entire population. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level unless otherwise noted. Due to rounding, some details may not sum to totals. For information on sampling and estimation methods, confidentiality protection, and sampling and nonsampling errors, please see the “ACS Accuracy of the Data (2009)” document located at www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data for the nation, states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters (e.g., nursing facilities and prisons). The ACS is conducted in every county throughout the nation, and every municipio in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey. Beginning in 2006, ACS data for 2005 were released for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 and greater. For information on the ACS sample design and other topics, visit www.census.gov/acs/www.

Figure 1.
Population 5 Years and Older Who Spoke a Language Other Than English at Home by Hispanic Origin and Race: 2009

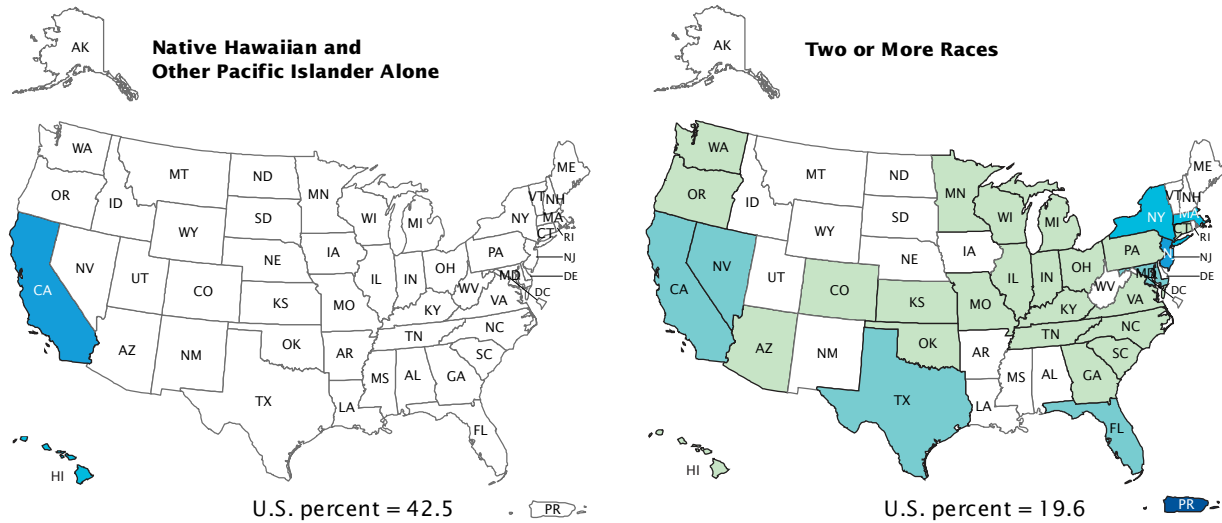
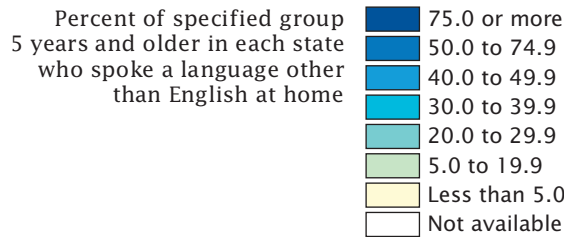
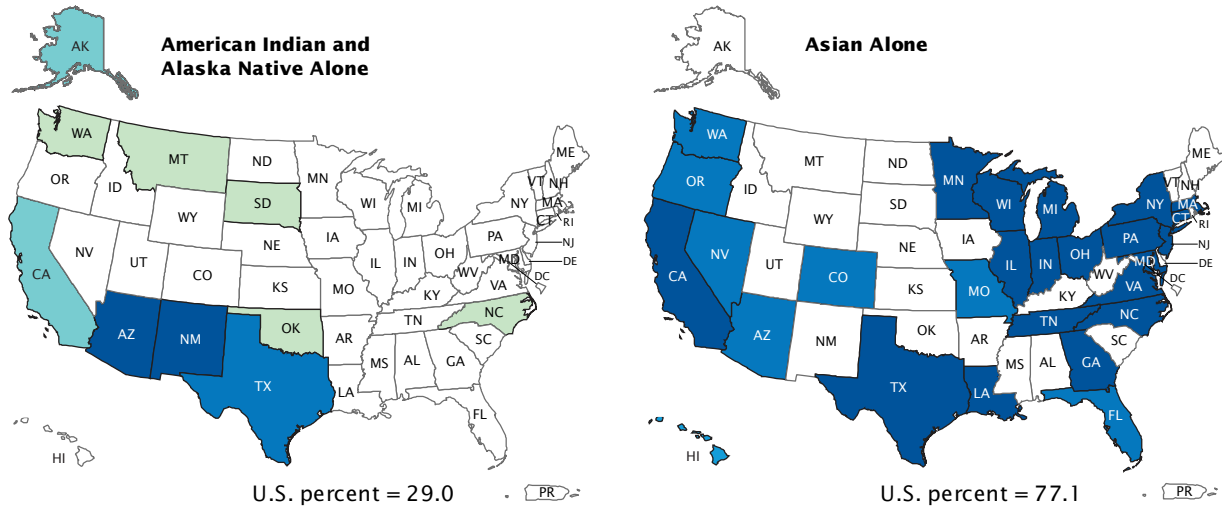
(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)



See note and source at the end of figure.

Figure 1.
Population 5 Years and Older Who Spoke a Language Other Than English at Home by Hispanic Origin and Race: 2009—Con.

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)



Note: Data classes based on unrounded percentages. "Not available" indicates population of specified group in state was less than 65,000.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009, Puerto Rico Community Survey, 2009.