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Statistical Profile

A Demographic Portrait of Puerto Ricans, 2009

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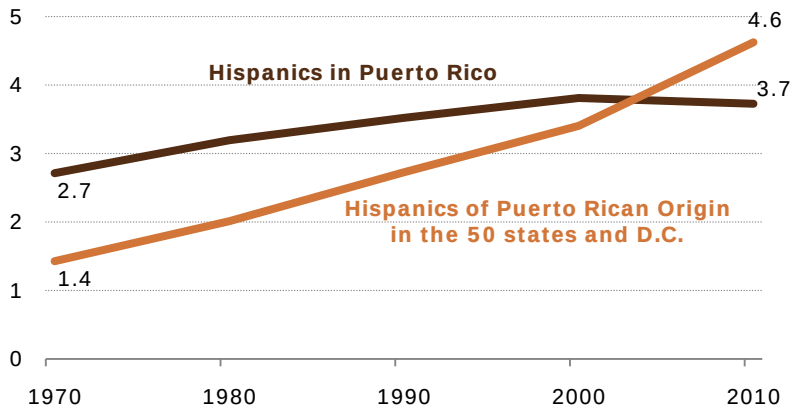
A Demographic Portrait of Puerto Ricans, 2009[1]

The 2010 U.S. Census counted 3.7 million people living in Puerto Rico, a territory of the United States.[2] This was down from 3.8 million in 2000.

The population of Puerto Rico is almost entirely of Hispanic origin. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the population of Puerto Rico included 3,688,455 Hispanics and 37,334 non-Hispanics. Hispanic origin is based on self-identification by respondents to Census Bureau questionnaires.[3] This report focuses on the characteristics of the Hispanic-origin population in Puerto Rico and Hispanics of Puerto Rican-origin living in the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (D.C.).

Puerto Rican Population Trends, 1970 to 2010

In millions



Sources:

Population of Hispanics in Puerto Rico 1970 -1990
http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/phc-3-53-eng.pdf

Population of Puerto Rican origin-Hispanics in 50 states and D.C., 1970-1990
http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0056/twps0056.pdf

Population of Hispanics in Puerto Rico and population of Puerto Rican-origin Hispanics in the 50 states and D.C. in 2000 and 2010
http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/2010_census/cb11-cn146.html

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The Hispanic population of Puerto Rican origin in the 50 states and D.C. increased from 3.4 million in 2000 to 4.6 million in 2010. It now surpasses Puerto Rico's population. Nearly a third of Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin in the 50 states and D.C. were born in Puerto Rico, according an analysis of 2009 American Community Survey data by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center.

1 The authors thank Paul Taylor for editorial guidance. Paul Taylor, Rakesh Kochhar, Russ Oates and Michael Remez provided comments. Daniel Dockterman checked numbers in the profile.

[2] See the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 Census Brief (C2010BR-04) *The Hispanic Population: 2010* by Sharon R. Ennis, Merarys Rios-Vargas, and Nora G. Albert.

[3] For more on Hispanic identity, see the Pew Hispanic Center report, *Who's Hispanic?*

People born in Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens by birth. But because Puerto Rico, like Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands, is not part of the 50 states or D.C., those who reside in Puerto Rico are not allowed to vote for President or to elect a voting member of the U.S. Congress[4]. Those who move from Puerto Rico to live in the 50 states and the District of Columbia can vote in federal elections.

This profile compares the demographic, income, and economic characteristics of Hispanics living in Puerto Rico with the characteristics of Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin living in the 50 states and D.C. as well as with all Hispanics living in the 50 states and D.C. These profiles are based on tabulations of the 2009 Puerto Rico Community Survey and the 2009 American Community Survey by the Pew Hispanic Center. Both surveys provide detailed demographic and economic characteristics that are not available in the 2010 Census. This includes place of birth.

For a statistical profile focused on Puerto Rican-origin Hispanics living in the 50 states and D.C., see the Pew Hispanic Center factsheet Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin in the United States, 2009.

Key facts include:

- ***Population.*** According to the 2009 American Community Survey, there were a total of 8.3 million Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin living in Puerto Rico, the 50 states and D.C. Among those, fewer than half (47%) lived in Puerto Rico.
- ***Age.*** The median age of Hispanics in Puerto Rico is 36, higher than it is for all Hispanics (27) in the 50 states and D.C. and higher than it is for Puerto Rican-origin Hispanics (28) in the 50 states and D.C.
- ***Marital status.*** Some 37% of Hispanics in Puerto Rico are married, a share equal to that among Puerto Rican-origin Hispanics in the 50 states and D.C. However, both groups are less likely to be married than all Hispanics in the 50 states and D.C. Among them, 45% are married.
- ***Educational attainment.*** More than one-in-five (22%) Hispanics in Puerto Rico have a bachelor's degree. In contrast, 16% of Puerto Rican-origin Hispanics in the 50 states and D.C. have a college degree. Among all Hispanics in the 50 states and D.C. just 13% have a bachelor's degree.
- ***Income.*** The median annual personal earnings for Hispanics in Puerto Rico ages 16 and older was $14,400; median earnings for Puerto Rican-origin

[4] Residents of Puerto Rico, however, nominate delegates to the Democratic and Republican presidential conventions.

Hispanics in the 50 states and D.C. was $25,000 and among all Hispanics in the 50 states and D.C. it was $20,000.

- ***Poverty status.*** More than four-in-ten (44%) Hispanics in Puerto Rico live in poverty, a share higher than that among Puerto Rican-origin Hispanics in the 50 states and D.C. who live in poverty (24%) or all Hispanics in the 50 states and D.C. (23%).
- ***Health Insurance.*** Fewer than one-in-ten (8%) Hispanics in Puerto Rico do not have health insurance, a share lower than among Puerto Rican-origin Hispanics living in the 50 states and D.C. (15%) or among all Hispanics living in the 50 states and D.C. (32%).
- ***Homeownership.*** The rate of homeownership (72%) in Puerto Rico is higher than the rate among Puerto Rican-origin Hispanics in the 50 states and D.C. (39%), or all Hispanics in the 50 states and D.C. (48%). The homeownership rate in Puerto Rico is also higher than it is among all Americans (66%).

About the Data

This Demographic Portrait of Puerto Ricans is based on the Census Bureau's 2009 Puerto Rican Community Survey (PRCS) and American Community Survey (ACS). The data used for this statistical profile come from the 2009 PRCS Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), representing a 1% sample of the Puerto Rican population, and the 2009 ACS Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), representing a 1% sample of the U.S. population.

Like any survey, estimates from the PRCS and ACS are subject to sampling error and (potentially) measurement error. Information on the PRCS and ACS sampling strategies and associated error is available at http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/methodology_main/. An example of measurement error is that citizenship rates for the foreign born are estimated to be overstated in the Decennial Census and other official surveys, such as the ACS (see Jeffrey Passel. "Growing Share of Immigrants Choosing Naturalization," Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, D.C. (March 28, 2009)). Finally, estimates from the PRCS and the ACS may differ from the Decennial Census or other Census Bureau surveys due to differences in methodology and data collection procedures (see, for example, http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/methodology/ASA_nelson.pdf, http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/laborfor/laborfactsheet092209.html and http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/datasources/factsheet.html).

Table 1

Hispanics in Puerto Rico and the 50 U.S. States and the District of Columbia, 2009

(thousands, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanics in Puerto Rico	Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin in the 50 States and D.C.	All Hispanics in the 50 States and D.C.
Total			
	3,919	4,412	48,348
Gender			
Male	1,879	2,181	24,980
Female	2,040	2,231	23,368
Nativity			
Native Born	3,819	4,368	30,279
Born in Puerto Rico	3,628	1399[1]	1,452
Foreign Born	99	43[2]	18,069
Age			
Median (in years)	36	28	27
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	232	456	5,436
5-17	720	1,029	11,258
18-29	674	807	9,640
30-39	524	643	7,786
40-49	522	594	6,269
50-64	694	570	5,242
65 and older	554	312	2,716
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	1,174	1,152	15,492
Never married	1,242	1,375	13,449
Divorced/separated/widowed	727	629	5,109
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	831	995	10,784
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	42	75	935
Unmarried women[3] who had a birth in the past 12 months	24	42	372
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	706	1,002	10,964
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	810	662	10,205
High school diploma or equivalent	653	703	6,801
Some college	544	688	5,801
Bachelor's degree or more	557	380	3,309
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	$14,400	$25,000	$20,000
Full-time, year-round workers	$20,000	$35,000	$29,000
Persons in Poverty[4]			
Younger than 18	540	470	5,019
18-64	986	538	5,515
65 and older	218	66	495
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	328	678	15,145
Uninsured, younger than 18	39	103	2,638
Persons in Households by Type of Household[5]			
In family households	3,520	3,734	43,137
In married-couple households	1,980	1,963	27,922
In non-family households	355	540	4,295
Citizenship			
Citizen	3,856	4,390	35,541
Non-citizen	63	22	12,807
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	166	1,347	10,260
Does not speak only English at home	1,675	2,608	32,652
Speaks English very well	509	1,849	16,964
Speaks English less than very well	3,012	759	15,688

[1]Persons born in Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens by birth. [2]Persons who indicated they were not born in the U.S. or Puerto Rico and were not U.S. citizens by birth. [3]Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced or widowed. [4]For detailed information on how poverty status is determined, see http://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variableDescription.do?mnemonic=POVERTY. Due to the way in which the IPUMS assigns poverty values, these data will differ from those that might be provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. [5]The household population excludes persons living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters.

Note: Numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding. Data for 'Hispanics in Puerto Rico' are based on the Puerto Rican Community Survey. Data for 'Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin in the 50 states and D.C.' and 'All Hispanics in the 50 States and D.C.' come from the American Community Survey.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2009 PRCS and 2009 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml and http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/methodology_main/.

Table 2
Household Characteristics, Hispanics in Puerto Rico
and the 50 U.S. States and the District of Columbia, 2009

	Hispanics in Puerto Rico	Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin in the 50 States and D.C.	All Hispanics in the 50 States and D.C.
Total *(in thousands)*			
	1,168	1,361	12,728
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes *(in thousands)*	836	528	6,127
In renter-occupied homes *(in thousands)*	333	834	6,601
Homeownership rate (%)	71.5	38.8	48.1
Household Annual Income (*in dollars*)			
Median	$19,800	$38,010	$40,200
Household Size			
Average number of persons	3.3	2.9	3.6

Note: The household population excludes persons living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters. Households are classified by the ethnicity of the household head. Numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding. Data for 'Hispanics in Puerto Rico' are based on the Puerto Rican Community Survey. Data for 'Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin in the 50 states and D.C.' and 'All Hispanics in the 50 States and D.C.' come from the American Community Survey. Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2009 PRCS and 2009 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml and http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/methodology_main/.

Table 3
Employment Characteristics, Hispanics in Puerto Rico
and the 50 U.S. States and the District of Columbia, 2009
(thousands, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanics in Puerto Rico	Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin in the 50 States and D.C.	All Hispanics in the 50 States and D.C.
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	1,194	1,631	20,041
Unemployed	279	288	2,726
Not in labor force	1,613	1,130	10,334
Unemployment rate (%)	18.9	15.0	12.0
Industries[1]			
Construction, agriculture and mining	97	79	2,900
Manufacturing	118	143	2,183
Trade and transportation	215	349	3,738
Information, finance and other services	764	1,059	11,220
Occupations[1]			
Management, professional and related occupations	370	500	4,200
Services	226	311	4,799
Sales and office support	332	469	4,394
Construction, extraction and farming	78	65	2,564
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	189	285	4,082

[1]Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.

Note: Numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding. Data for 'Hispanics in Puerto Rico' are based on the Puerto Rican Community Survey. Data for 'Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin in the 50 states and D.C.' and 'All Hispanics in the 50 States and D.C.' come from the American Community Survey. Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2009 PRCS and 2009 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml and http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/methodology_main/.