

THE CENTER  
FOR RESEARCH



## Latino Socio-Economic Study

Prepared for:

# The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

Prepared by:

The Center for Research and Public Policy

September 2000

## **Statement of Confidentiality and Ownership**

---

All of the analyses, findings, and data contained within this report are the exclusive property of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission with offices located in Hartford, Connecticut.

As required by the Code of Ethics of the National Council on Public Polls and the United States Privacy Act of 1974, The Center for Research and Public Policy maintains the anonymity of respondents to surveys the firm conducts. No information will be released that might, in any way, reveal the identity of the respondent.

Moreover, no information regarding these findings will be released without the express written consent of an authorized representative of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

## SECTION 1

Introduction .....Page 3

## SECTION 2

Methodology .....Page 4

## SECTION 3

Highlights.....Page 5

## SECTION 4

Summary of Findings ..... Page 11

*Quality of Life* ..... 12

*Issues* ..... 12

*Health Status*..... 14

*Housing*..... 17

*Economic / Employment*..... 18

*Needs*..... 19

*Culture* ..... 20

*Judicial / Courts*..... 20

*Participation*..... 21

*Population*..... 21

*Demographics*..... 22

## SECTION 5

Appendix..... Page 24

*Survey Instrument*

*Crosstabulation Table*

*Composite Aggregate Data*

*Focus Group Guidebook*

# INTRODUCTION

---

The Center for Research & Public Policy (CRPP) is pleased to present the results of a Socio-Economic Study conducted among Hispanics throughout the State of Connecticut.

The Latino Socio-Economic Study was commissioned by the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission. The Study was designed to track a similar Study conducted by The Center for Research & Public Policy in 1997. Both studies were used to measure the current social and economic status of Hispanics living in Connecticut. The studies will assist the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission understand needs, concerns, and issues held by Hispanics in the State.

The comprehensive study included a survey among 1001 resident Hispanics statewide, 389 Hispanic leaders throughout the State, two focus groups held with Hispanic residents and one focus group held among Hispanic leaders.

Residents qualified to participate in the survey and focus groups if they were Hispanic and eighteen years of age or older. Leaders were identified, for the leader survey and the focus group, from lists provided by the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.

The survey instrument employed in the Study included the following areas for investigation:

- Quality of Life;
- Issues of Concern;
- Current Health Status;
- Views on Housing;
- Current Employment and Economic Status;
- Current Needs;
- Views on Hispanic Culture;
- Opinions of the Judicial Court System;
- Participation in Community Organizations;
- Population Observations;
- Demographics.

This report summarizes statistics collected from a telephone survey of residents conducted in April 2000. The Hispanic Leader Survey and all three focus groups were conducted in September, 2000.

Following this Introduction, a Methodology Section explains the methodologies employed, margins for error and the confidence level for the statistics collected. Section III contains Highlights while Section IV holds a Summary of Findings – a narrative account of the data. The Appendix to the report contains a copy of the survey instrument, the composite aggregate data, a crosstabulation table and the focus group guidebook.

## METHODOLOGY

---

The Center for Research & Public Policy utilized both a qualitative and quantitative research design to collect current views on a wide range of issues. CRPP staff completed 1001 surveys with Hispanic individuals living in Connecticut. In addition, staff interviewed 400 Hispanic Leaders using a list provided by the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.

Further, one focus group was held among Hispanic Leaders in Hartford on September 26, 2000 while focus groups were also held with Hispanic residents in New Haven and Trumbull on September 18 and 19<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

Hispanic residents were interviewed between 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. weekdays and 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekends. Hispanic Leaders were interviewed during normal business hours, Monday through Friday in September, 2000. Residential focus group participants were provided with \$50.00 each as a “small token of appreciation for their time”.

Completion rates are a critical aspect of any telephone survey research. Efforts were made to call sample members back up to eight times to ensure inclusion in the survey. Call backs were arranged when a respondent suggested a more convenient time to call.

A high completion rate means that a high percent of the residents within the original sample were actually contacted and the resulting sample is not biased toward on potential audience. CRPP maintained an 84% completion rate on all calls made during the Latino Socio-Economic Study.

CRPP utilized a super random digit sampling procedure, for the residential surveys, allowing the inclusion of unlisted households within the sample.

All telephone interviews were conducted from CRPP headquarters in New Haven, Connecticut. All facets of the study were completed by CRPP's senior staff and researchers. These aspects include: survey design, sample design, pre-test, fielding, coding, editing, data entry, verification, validation, computer analysis, analysis, and report writing.

Statistically, a sample of 1001 survey respondents represents a margin for error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. In theory, this sample of people with disabilities will differ no more than +/-3% than if all Hispanic residents in Connecticut were interviewed and included in the Study. The margin for error for the Hispanic Leader survey (389 surveys) is +/-5% at a 95% confidence level.

# HIGHLIGHTS

---

## On Quality of Life...

---

- Overall quality of life in Connecticut, according to Hispanic survey respondents, is improving. In 2000, 59.7% report their quality of life is improving -- up from 47.0% in 1997.
- Further, 79.4% note they are better off financially today than they were three years ago. In 1997, 62.9% reported the same.

## On Issues...

---

- The issues, in an open-end format question, Hispanic residents feel most concerned about include:
  - Crime (26.4%)
  - Unemployment/Better jobs (25.0%)
  - Education (21.3%)
  - Drugs and alcohol (21.2%)
  - Taxes (15.3%)
- And, again in a close-end format question, Hispanic respondents reported being most concerned about drugs on the streets, low wages, taxes, and poor education for youth.
- As incomes have increased among Hispanics, concern over taxes has risen.
- Another “sleeper” issue is strong concern expressed by those surveyed about “road rage”.

## On Health Status...

---

- Hispanics reporting their health was excellent, very good, or good rose to 81.9% in 2000 from 75.8% in 1997. Among the general population in Connecticut, 88.3% suggest their health is excellent, very good, or good.
- Health insurance coverage declined to 75.9% in 2000 from 87.0% in 1997 among Hispanics surveyed. Nationally, the U.S. Census Bureau reported 33.4% of Hispanics lacked health insurance in 1999.

- Medicaid plan participation, among Hispanics surveyed, declined from 18.2% in 1997 to 13.8% in 2000. Among those participating in Connecticut's HUSKY Medicaid Plans (13.8%), 81.1% reported being very or somewhat satisfied. Those dissatisfied reported "physicians rejecting patients", "the need for more dental care", and "problems with social workers" as reasons.
- While 7.7% of the general population in Connecticut report there was a time over the past year they could not see a physician because of cost, the percent (24.6%) is significantly higher for Hispanics.
- Increasing numbers of Hispanics are reporting they are not smoking – 83.2% in 2000. This percent is up from 79.7% in 1997.
- Growing percentages of Hispanics surveyed report having blood cholesterol checked – up to 76.5% in 2000 from 65.3% in 1997.
- And, 87.6% report having blood pressure checked over the past year – up from 82.9% in 1997.
- Among female Hispanics, 49.6% report having a mammogram over the past two years – down from 56.9% in 1997. Among the general population of Connecticut females the percent is 63.2% who report having a mammogram over the past two years.

#### On Housing...

---

- One third of all Hispanic respondents (34.8%) report owning their own home – up from 21.4% in 1997. Census reports that approximated 66.0% of the general Connecticut population owns their own home.
- Three quarters of Hispanic residents surveyed, 72.2%, report their current housing – renting or owning – as very or somewhat affordable.

#### On Economics/Employment...

---

- Two-thirds of residential survey respondents, 63.7%, reported working full-time while 11.5% report working part-time.
- Among those working part-time, 41.0% would prefer a full-time job.
- While the majority of working Hispanics, 83.7%, report holding one job, another 12.4% currently hold two jobs and 2.3% report holding three jobs.
- Incomes, among Hispanics, are significantly lower than the general population in Connecticut.

- A majority of Hispanics surveyed, 54.1%, say they wish to own their own business someday. However, of this group, only 29.2% say they would know where to go or where to get advice or financial help in a new business effort.
- Internet access among Hispanic (43.4%) is significantly lower than the general population (60.0%) in Connecticut.

#### On Needs...

---

- Hispanics surveyed report the greatest community needs as (in declining order)...
  - Solving drug problems
  - Adding after school programs
  - Better education
  - Reducing crime
  - Adding police and security
  - More youth recreation
  - More child care
  - Lack of affordable housing
  - Jobs/better jobs
  - Fighting racial discrimination

#### On Culture...

---

- More than half of all residents Hispanics surveyed, 53.4%, report being equally comfortable speaking both English and Spanish. Another 29.0% were most comfortable speaking in Spanish and 17.1% were most comfortable in English.
- Very large majorities of Hispanic residents, 97.1%, agreed that “preserving Spanish/Hispanic culture in communities is important”. Another 94.1% agreed that “multi-lingual education for Hispanic children is important”.
- And, a large majority, 86.0% agreed that “employment and continuing education opportunities are available to Hispanics”.
- Three quarters of Hispanic residents, 73.1%, agreed there are a growing number of Hispanics in government and 76.2% agreed that there are a growing number of Hispanics in the education profession.

#### On the Connecticut Court System...

---

- Only 34.2% of Hispanics provided a positive rating of the Connecticut Court System on “trust”.

### On Participation...

---

- Nearly three quarters of registered voters, 70.9%, noted they voted in the November 1998 election. Further, 93.9% say they will vote in November 2000.
- Nearly two thirds, 60.3% have a local place of worship.
- Participation in local, community organizations appears low – ranging from 13.4% in social organizations to 10.3% in parent/teacher organizations to 2.2% in tenant or homeowner groups.

### On Population...

---

- Recent Census estimates for 1999 indicate that the Hispanic population of Connecticut is just 3700 short of becoming the largest minority population in the State.
- And, while 2000 Census data is not yet available, a number of current surveys, estimates and population projections indicate that Hispanics will soon become the largest minority population in the State of Connecticut.
- Recent Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey results released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control collected 6.5% Hispanics in Connecticut and 6.3% African-Americans.
- Further, Census projects that in 2015, there will be 447,000 Hispanics and 419,000 African-Americans in Connecticut within a total population of 3.5 million people.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

### On Quality of Life...

---

- Generally, focus group resident participants report an improving quality of life.
- Barriers to continued improvements in quality of life included:
  - Debt is closing the door on opportunity
  - Rent is high
  - Cost of living is high
  - Hispanics don't speak out enough
  - Anxiety on roadways
  - Hispanics not taking advantage of education
- Hispanic leaders suggest there are more opportunities available today than before. They also noted quality of life is best for Hispanic baby boomers and those "who can dodge discrimination".

- Other Hispanic leaders noted quality of life is growing fast for “those on top” but becoming much worse for “those on the bottom”.
- And, Hispanic leaders report that quality of life will improve as people get involved, the Hispanic leadership base increases and Hispanics involve themselves in policy making.

#### On Issues...

---

- Residential participants reported many issues of concern including:
  - Drugs
  - High rent
  - Poor education
  - Lack of youth programs
  - Ratio of teacher to students
  - Lack of adult education
  - Taxes are too high
  - Immigrants are treated unfairly
  - Parents aren’t involved
  - Teacher salaries
  - Guns/crime
- Among Hispanic leaders, issues included:
  - Poor education
  - Housing
  - Lack of participation in decision making
  - Elderly are misinformed
  - Political leaders fail to communicate

#### On Health Care...

---

- Most residential focus group participants reported having some form of health care coverage. Several complained about being excluded from Connecticut’s HUSKY Program based on a very low income level requirement.
- Hispanic leaders suggested that health care for Hispanics was not working and that language barriers exist. Several suggested that hospitals lack interpreters.
- Other leaders suggest care deserved is not being provided and Hispanics lack information.

#### On Employment...

---

- Resident participants expressed concern over lack of benefits, low pay levels, the need for more job and life skill training, and the lack of retirement plans, childcare, flex-time, and health care coverage.

- Hispanic leaders reported that while jobs are available, pay is insufficient and jobs that do not require higher education are frequently temporary or fragmented jobs.

#### On Needs...

---

- Residential focus group participants reported the need for Hispanics to become active, “to get out and do more”. They reported a need for more Hispanics in politics and more Hispanic role models. No participant considered themselves “well represented” in business or government.
- Few participants could name any Hispanic elected officials and considered communication from current Hispanic officials poor.
- Leaders cited family needs and more family time required, but also supported residents in calling for more Hispanic elected officials and more representation.

#### On Connecticut’s Court System...

---

- Leaders perceived the Connecticut Court System as unfair to Hispanics, a big problem, biased, and negative. They cited studies as proving the unfair nature of the courts.

#### On Raising Hispanic Children...

---

- Residential focus group participants called for more discipline, removal of drugs from the streets, and more activities, on all levels, for children.
- Leaders cited peer pressure impacting youth. They called for more work on “values”. They called for a quality education for all children to enhance job and life opportunities.
- Residential participants also encouraged Hispanic parents to encourage their children, encourage more scholarships, finding teachers who will understand and guide children better, more after school programs, and more role models for parents and children.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The following section presents results to surveys conducted on behalf of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.

Throughout the Summary of Findings, readers may see up to five results columns in many of the tables presented. These column headings will appear as follows:

<b>Residents 1997</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>	<b>Leaders 2000</b>	<b>BRFSS</b>	<b>Census</b>
-----------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------	--------------	---------------

When “like” or similar questions were presented in both 1997 and 2000 among Hispanic residents, a column for Residents 1997 will appear to the left of year 2000 residential results.

Hispanic leaders (389) were also asked many of the same questions presented to residents. When this occurs, a column for Leaders 2000 will appear. In nearly all instances, Hispanic leaders were speaking about all Hispanics in general and not themselves.

The Centers for Disease Control conducts a Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) in all fifty states. The survey is conducted among the general population monthly and viewed on an annual basis. When “like” questions are presented in both survey instruments, results will be presented under the BRFSS column. The latest available data year, either 1998 or 1997, will also appear in the column heading.

Finally, in some instances, survey results will be compared to known U.S. Census Data under the column “Census”.

Readers are reminded the following narrative is a summary of the statistics collected from a residential survey conducted in March 2000 and a Hispanic Leader survey conducted in September 2000. Text throughout the report refers to composite residential respondents.

## Quality of Life

---

All respondents were asked if, overall, their quality of life was better, the same or worse than it was three years ago. A growing number of Hispanics are reporting their quality of life is better as depicted in the following table.

Quality of Life	Residents 1997	Residents 2000	Leaders 2000
Better	47.0%	59.7%	36.2%
The Same	34.4	31.2	38.3
Worse	17.9	8.2	21.6

Hispanic residents in Connecticut are also reporting they are better off financially today than three years ago. Results are presented in the following table.

Better off Financially?	Residents 1997	Residents 2000	Leaders 2000
Yes	62.9%	79.4%	46.3%
No	35.9	19.6	40.4

## Issues

---

In an open end format question, all residents were asked to name the problems or issues they feel most concerned about.

A total of 53 different issues were named 2164 times. The following table presents the percent of cases for the top ten issues named by respondents.

Top Ten Issues	Residents 2000	Leaders 2000
Crime	26.4%	5.4%
Unemployment / Need Better Jobs	25.0	40.4
Education	21.3	63.5
Drugs and Alcohol	21.2	9.0
Taxes	15.3	--
Lack of Affordable Housing	10.6	34.2
Health Care	9.8	21.9
Racial Discrimination	8.6	22.9
Cost of Utilities	8.0	--
Health Insurance	7.0	--

Other issues named with less frequency included: bilingual services, income / wages, gasoline prices, gun rights, more police and security, high food prices, social services, environmental hazards, parking, high cost of college, abuse within a family, childcare, bad water, job training needed, Hispanics learning English, abuse of welfare, health services for elderly, costly medications, transportation, deterioration of life quality, speeding by drivers, need youth programs, recreation needed for families, difficulties with immigration, corruption of police, help for elderly, sexual assaults, need better hospitals and homeless.

In a closed end question, all respondents were read a list of issues and asked how concerned they were about each. Respondents were asked to use a scale of one to ten where one was very concerned and ten was not at all concerned.

The following table presents the cumulative totals for ratings of one through three representing “very concerned”. Results for 1997 are also presented.

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Residents 1997</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>	<b>Leaders 2000</b>
Drugs on our streets	92.6%	83.9%	85.3%
Taxes	84.7	78.2	37.5
Poor education for our youth	86.0	75.6	87.9
Crime	91.7	75.0	81.0
Lack of health insurance	81.3	75.0	90.2
Lack of affordable housing	69.5	73.7	94.1
Violence	90.0	73.5	87.9
Lack of health care	77.6	72.2	89.7
Lack of computer training for Hispanic children	N/A	72.2	66.3
Lack of youth programs	N/A	71.9	76.3
Low wages	71.4	82.3	92.8
Language discrimination	80.6	69.0	79.7
Lack of childcare	N/A	68.2	80.5
Immigration problems	65.2	57.6	61.2
Unemployment	86.7	57.6	79.9

## Health Status

---

All respondents were asked if, in general, their health was excellent, very good, good, fair or poor. The following table presents the results as collected.

Those reporting their health as excellent, very good, or good moved to 81.9% in 2000 from 75.8% in 1997. Among BRFSS respondents, the percent is 88.3%.

Health Status	Residents 1997	Residents 2000	BRFSS 1998
Excellent	28.5%	23.3%	27.8%
Very Good	25.5	35.0	33.5
Good	21.8	23.7	27.0
Fair	18.5	14.6	8.0
Poor	5.8	3.5	2.9

Researchers asked all respondents if they had any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, pre-paid plans such as HMO's or government plans such as Medicare.

The following results were collected.

Health Care Coverage	Residents 1997	Residents 2000	BRFSS 1998
Yes	87.0%	75.9%	91.2%
No	13.0	23.0	8.8

Those with insurance were asked to report the source of the coverage. The following table presents the results.

Source of Insurance Coverage	Residents 1997	Residents 2000
Employer	39.1%	46.8%
Someone else's employer	7.6	11.6
A self paid plan	4.8	3.6
Medicare	10.8	10.9
The Husky / Medicaid Plan	18.2	13.8
Military Plan	.8	N/A
Other source	N/A	9.2

Those respondents participating in the HUSKY Plan (13.8%) were asked if how satisfied they were with the insurance program.

A large majority, 81.1%, suggested they were very or somewhat satisfied. Hispanic leaders surveyed believed only 38.6% were very or somewhat satisfied. Another 18.8% of residents mentioned they were somewhat dissatisfied or not at all satisfied.

Among those dissatisfied, the largest reason cited was “Doctors rejecting people on Medicaid (73.9%). Another 21.7% mentioned the need for more dental care and 4.3% noted a problem with social workers.

A growing number of Hispanics are reporting they have a primary care physician, family doctor or provider they see for regular medical care. Nearly three quarters of all respondents, 73.9%, suggested they have such a practitioner – up from 56.6% in 1997.

All respondents were asked how long it had been since they last visited a doctor or medical care provider for a routine check-up.

The following table presents the results as collected.

<b>Last Routine Check Up</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>	<b>BRFSS 1998</b>
Within the past year	81.0%	75.9%
Within the past two years	10.5	11.5
Within the past five years	4.1	6.5
Five or more years	3.5	5.4
Never	1.3	0.6

One quarter, 24.6%, of all Hispanic respondents said there was a time over the last twelve months when they needed to see a doctor but could not because of cost.

<b>A Time Could Not See Physician Due to Cost?</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>	<b>BRFSS 1998</b>
Yes	24.6%	7.7%

Researchers asked respondents if they smoke cigarettes every day, some days or not at all. Increasing numbers of Hispanics (83.2%) are suggesting they are not smoking -- up from 79.7% in 1997. Results are presented in the following table.

<b>Smoke?</b>	<b>Residents 1997</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>	<b>BRFSS 1998</b>
Every Day	12.7%	11.7%	N/A
Some Days	7.6	5.1	N/A
Not at all	79.7	83.2	78.8

Researchers asked respondents if they have had their blood cholesterol checked within the past five years.

The following table displays the results.

<b>Blood Cholesterol Checked?</b>	<b>Residents 1997</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>	<b>BRFSS 1998</b>
Yes	65.3%	76.5%	77.9%

A similar question was presented regarding a test of blood pressure. Results are presented within the following table.

<b>Blood Pressure Checked?</b>	<b>Residents 1997</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>	<b>BRFSS 1998</b>
Yes	82.9%	87.6%	99.4%

Researchers asked respondents how often they wear seat belts when driving in a car. A growing number of Hispanics are wearing their seatbelts always or nearly always – up to 83.2% from 68.6% in 1997. Results are presented here.

<b>Seat Belt Wearing</b>	<b>Residents 1997</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>
Always	54.3%	75.2%
Nearly Always	14.3	8.0
Sometimes	9.1	11.7
Seldom	2.5	2.1
Never	9.1	2.1

Two thirds of respondents, 68.4%, report they did participate in physical activities or exercises such as running, walking, working out or biking.

Among female Hispanics, 49.6% report having a mammogram over the past two years – down from 56.9% in 1997. Among BRFSS respondents, 63.2% said yes.

Respondents remain very aware of HIV/AIDS. Each was asked if they were very aware, somewhat aware, somewhat unaware or not at all aware of HIV/AIDS. Results are presented here.

<b>Awareness of HIV/AIDS</b>	<b>Residents 1997</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>	<b>Leaders 2000</b>
Very aware	75.8%	75.6%	33.9%
Somewhat aware	18.0	20.6	58.1
Somewhat unaware	3.2	1.6	7.2
Not at all aware	2.4	2.5	0.3

A large majority of respondents, 85.8%, report being very or somewhat aware of the health problems caused by lead poisoning. Hispanic leaders surveyed believed 51.9% of Hispanics were very or somewhat aware of lead poisoning dangers.

And, a growing number of respondents report receiving a brochure or materials concerning the dangers of lead poisoning – up to 39.5% from 32.1% in 1997.

While 81.1% of respondents suggested there was no member of their household with a disability, another 18.4% did report they or a household member had a disability.

Of this group, 74.5% suggested that services for disabled people were very or somewhat accessible. Hispanic leaders believed that 44.2% of disabled Hispanics would consider services very or somewhat accessible. Another 21.2% reported services are not accessible.

And, 9.9% of all respondents report they have been at risk of being, have been or currently are homeless.

## **Housing**

---

All respondents were asked to describe the type of current home they live in. The following table presents the results as collected.

<b>Type of Housing</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>
Single family	32.5%
Multiple family	26.1
Apartment complex	33.0
Condo	7.4
Mobile home	0.0
Home shelter	.8

One third of respondents, 34.8%, report owning their own home – up from 21.4% in 1997.

Further, 72.2% report their current housing is very (26.5%) or somewhat (45.5%) affordable. Only 20.3% of Hispanic leaders believe housing is very or somewhat affordable for Hispanics.

## Economic / Employment

---

Nearly two thirds of all respondents, 63.7%, report working full-time – up from 55.1% in 1997.

Other employment situations were described by respondents as follows:

<b>Current Employment Status</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>	<b>BRFSS 1998</b>
Working full-time	63.7%	66.9%
Working part-time	11.5	N/A
Unemployed, looking for work	5.8	3.1
Unemployed, not looking	2.6	N/A
Retired	7.8	18.6
Homemaker	4.7	5.4
Disabled / Unable to work	3.1	1.8
Student	.5	4.2

Those working part-time were asked if they would prefer to be working full-time. While nearly half of these respondents, 47.5%, reported they did not prefer full-time work 41.0% did.

The large majority of working respondents, 83.7%, hold one job while 12.4% report holding two jobs and 2.3% say they work three jobs.

The following are they types of work currently held by respondents.

<b>Types of Work</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>
Professional	11.7%
Manager / Official / Administration	9.4
Protective services	.1
Office work	15.0
Sales	6.2
Service / Maintenance	10.9
Skilled craftsman / technical	17.8
Unskilled labor	9.3

Two thirds of respondents in 2000, 64.7% indicate that their salary or income has increased while 6.8% noted a decline. Among Hispanic leaders, only 17.2% believe salaries have increased for Hispanics. Another 26.3% report their income has remained the same over the past year.

A declining number of Hispanic respondents report owning their own business (7.2%) – down from 12.1% in 1997. However, 54.1% say they “wish to own their own business someday”.

However, of this group, only 29.2% say they would know where to go or where to get advice or financial help in a new business effort.

Two thirds of all respondents, 62.5%, say they are very (27.7%) or somewhat (34.9%) familiar in the use of computers.

And, one quarter of all respondents, 25.0%, say they are currently or have been on State or City Welfare over the past five year period.

## Needs

---

In an open end format questions, all respondents were asked the following: “Please think generally and tell me about social, family or economic needs in your community that are not being met or are not adequately met?”

A total of 57 different needs were collected. The following table presents the top ten based on percent of 1166 cases.

<b>Top Ten Community Needs</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>	<b>Leaders 2000</b>
Solve drug problems	17.5%	3.3%
After school youth programs	16.1	--
Better education	14.5	15.9
Reduce crime	8.6	1.5
More police and security	8.3	--
More recreation for kids	7.5	--
Child care	7.5	3.9
Lack of affordable housing	6.4	4.9
Jobs / better jobs	6.4	4.4
Fight racial discrimination	5.7	--

Other community needs mentioned with less frequency included:

Better housing conditions, less expensive recreation, transportation, keep children off the streets, health care, more help for the elderly, bilingual services, community centers, financial aid, landscaping, job training, lower taxes, clean up neighborhoods, welfare, more churches, special education, fix the buildings, teen pregnancy, more entertainment town-wide, reckless driving, social services, health insurance, opportunities for young people, better hospitals, better quality of life, car theft, more and better teachers, more English classes, gun rights, recycling, help with lawyers, access to computers and help with gas prices.

## Culture

---

All respondents were asked if they were most comfortable speaking English, Spanish or equally comfortable in both languages.

Over half of all respondents, 53.4%, suggested they were equally comfortable in both languages while 29.0% noted they were most comfortable in Spanish while 17.1% suggested they were most comfortable in English.

Researchers read eight statements to respondents and asked each if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed with each statement. The following table presents the cumulative totals for those strongly and somewhat agreeing with each of the eight statements.

Statements	Residents 2000	Leaders 2000
When I see my family physician or go to my usual health care facility – Spanish speaking professionals are available as needed.	68.6%	N/A
Preserving Spanish/Hispanic culture in communities is important.	97.1	99.5
There are a growing number of Hispanics in government.	73.1	52.2
There are a growing number of Hispanics in the education profession.	76.2	69.4
Employment and continuing education opportunities are available to Hispanics.	86.0	59.6
Multi-lingual education for Hispanic children is important.	94.5	89.5
Employment training and continuing education opportunities are affordable for Hispanics.	70.1	38.3
Computer training is available to Hispanic children.	76.8	49.4

## Judicial

---

Researchers read the following question: “Please think about the Connecticut Court System for a moment. Please tell me how much trust you have that the Connecticut Court System is delivering justice in a fair manner. Please use a scale of one to ten where one means a great amount of trust and ten means no trust at all.”

One third of all respondents, 34.2%, provided a cumulative positive trust rating of one through four. Hispanic leaders believed 8.7% would suggest they have strong trust in the Court System.

## Participation

---

Over half of all respondents, 60.7%, report being registered to vote in Connecticut. Of this group 16.9% report being registered Republican, 51.7% as Democrats and 22.5% as unaffiliated.

Nearly three quarters, of voters, 70.9%, noted they had voted in the November 1998 elections and 93.9% say they will vote in November 2000.

Among the registered voters, 24.2% report being liberal while 26.1% note that they are conservative and 38.8% report being moderate in political philosophy.

Nearly two thirds, 60.3%, have a local place of worship.

Researchers asked respondents if they were members of seven different types of organizations. The results are presented here.

<b>Organizations</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>
Social organizations	13.4%
Men's and Women's groups	8.1
Tenant or homeowner groups	2.2
Parents / teacher organizations	10.3
Political clubs	2.7
Community improvement groups	6.4
Charity committees	10.5

## Population

---

Recent Census estimates for 1999 indicate that the Hispanic population of Connecticut is just 3700 short of becoming the largest minority population in the State.

And, while 2000 Census data is not yet available, a number of current surveys, estimates and population projections indicate that Hispanics will soon become the largest minority population in the State of Connecticut.

Recent Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey results released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control collected 6.5% Hispanics in Connecticut and 6.3% African-Americans.

Further, Census projects that in 2015, there will be 447,000 Hispanics and 419,000 African-Americans in Connecticut with a total population of 3.5 million people.

## Demographics

---

<b>Resident of Connecticut</b>	<b>Residents 1997</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>
Permanent	95.7	89.9
Temporary	3.5	8.5

<b>Born in the U.S.</b>	<b>Residents 1997</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>
Yes	29.8	40.9
No	70.2	59.0

<b>Are you a U.S. Citizen</b>	<b>Residents 1997</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>
Yes	78.6	68.1
No	21.4	30.4

<b>Heritage</b>	<b>Residents 1997</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>
Puerto Rican	64.2	59.6
Cuban	5.1	4.0
Latin American	26.2 *	2.1
Mexican	4.7	5.6
Argentinean	-- *	--
Colombian	-- *	8.7
Salvadoran	-- *	1.2
Dominican	-- *	4.8
Nicaraguan	-- *	0.9
Spaniard	-- *	2.1
Other	-- *	11.1

\* In 1997 the Latin American category also included "Others".

<b>Children at home under 18</b>	<b>Residents 1997</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>
None	42.2	37.0
One	-- *	22.9
Two	41.2 (1-2)	26.5
Three	-- *	10.3
Four	15.3 (3-4)	2.6
Five	-- *	0.7
Six	1.4 (5-6)	0.1

\* In 1997 number breakouts were combined.

<b>Education</b>	<b>Residents 1997</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>	<b>BRFSS</b>
Less than high school	--	9.8	8.7
Some high school	21.1	18.6	-- *
High school graduate	27.5	33.5	30.7 *
Some college	20.4	23.3	25.6
College graduate	12.2	8.8	34.9 *
Post-graduate work	4.2	5.0	-- *

<b>Age</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>
18 to 25	14.1
26 to 35	30.6
36 to 45	27.5
46 to 55	11.7
56 to 65	8.4
66 to 75	5.6
75 or older	1.7
Refused	

<b>Access to the Internet</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>
Yes	43.4
No	55.7

<b>Income</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>
Under \$9,999	8.8
\$10,000 to less than \$25,000	25.3
\$25,000 to less than \$40,000	20.0
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	8.9
\$50,000 to less than \$60,000	4.6
\$60,000 to less than \$75,000	2.0
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	2.2
\$100,000 or more	2.7
Don't know	2.5
Refused	23.1

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Residents 1997</b>	<b>Residents 2000</b>
Male	39.1	42.1
Female	60.9	57.9

---

## APPENDIX

---

### INTERPRETATION OF AGGREGATE RESULTS

The computer processed data for this survey is presented in the following frequency distributions. It is important to note that the wordings of the variable labels and value labels in the computer-processed data are largely abbreviated descriptions of the Questionnaire items and available response categories.

The frequency distributions include the category or response for the question items. Responses deemed not appropriate for classification have been grouped together under the “Other” code.

The “NA” category label refers to “No Answer” or “Not Applicable”. This code is also used to classify ambiguous responses. In addition, the “DK/RF” category includes those respondents who did not know their answer to a question or declined to answer it. In many of the tables, a group of responses may be tagged as “Missing” – occasionally, certain individual’s responses may not be required to specific questions and thus are excluded. Although when this category of response is used, the computations of percentages are presented in two (2) ways in the frequency distributions: 1) with their inclusion (as a proportion of the total sample), and 2) their exclusion (as a proportion of a sample sub-group).

Each frequency distribution includes the absolute observed occurrence of each response (i.e. the total number of cases in each category). Immediately adjacent to the right of the column of absolute frequencies is the column of relative frequencies. These are the percentages of cases falling in each category response, including those cases designated as missing data. To the right of the relative frequency column is the adjusted frequency distribution column that contains the relative frequencies based on the legitimate (i.e. non-missing) cases. That is, the total base for the adjusted frequency distribution excludes the missing data. For many Questionnaire items, the relative frequencies and the adjusted frequencies will be nearly the same. However, some items that elicit a sizable number of missing data will produce quite substantial percentage differences between the two columns of frequencies. The careful analyst will cautiously consider both distributions.

The last column of data within the frequency distribution is the cumulative frequency distribution (Cum Freq.). This column is simply an adjusted frequency distribution of the sum of all previous categories of response and the current category of response. Its primary usefulness is to gauge some ordered or ranked meaning.