

Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin in the United States, 2007

Some 4.1 million Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin resided in the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia in 2007, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. That is a slightly greater number than the population of Puerto Rico itself in 2007, which was 3.9 million. Puerto Ricans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin; this means either they themselves are Puerto Rican immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Puerto Rico. This statistical profile focuses on the characteristics of Puerto Ricans residing in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, henceforth the United States.¹

Most Puerto Ricans in the United States — 2.7 million in all — were born in the 50 states or the District of Columbia. Additionally, one-third of the Puerto Rican population in the U.S. — 1.4 million — was born in Puerto Rico. People born in Puerto Rico are also considered native born because they are U.S. citizens by birth. A small number of Puerto Ricans — 48,000 — were born outside of the U.S. or Puerto Rico and were not U.S. citizens by birth. They are considered foreign born.

Puerto Ricans are the second-largest population of Hispanic origin residing in the United States, accounting for 9.1% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2007. Mexicans constituted 29.2 million, or 64.3%, of the Hispanic population.

As a group, Puerto Ricans are older than Hispanics on average but they are younger than the U.S. population. They are less likely to be married than either Hispanics overall or the U.S. population overall. The majority (55.9%) of Puerto Rican women ages 15 to 44 who had a birth in the 12 months prior to the survey

¹ Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States, but all references to the United States in this profile refer to the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

were unmarried. The comparable share for all Hispanic women was 38.1% and the figure for all U.S. women was 33.4%.

Among Puerto Ricans ages 5 and older living in the U.S., most do not speak only English at home. Some 20.5% of Puerto Ricans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 38.8% of all Hispanics. Puerto Ricans are concentrated in the Northeast, mostly in New York, and in the South, mostly in Florida.

Puerto Ricans have lower levels of education and lower incomes than average for the U.S. population. They are less likely to be in the labor force, and among those in the labor force they have a higher rate of unemployment than either all Hispanics or the overall population. The rate of homeownership among Puerto Ricans is lower than the rate for Hispanics overall and the U.S. population overall.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2007 [American Community Survey](#) (ACS). The ACS is the largest household survey in the United States, with a sample of about 3 million addresses. The data used for this statistical profile come from 2007 ACS Integrated Public Use Microdata Series ([IPUMS](#)), representing a 1% sample of the U.S. population.

Like any survey, estimates from the ACS are subject to sampling error and (potentially) measurement error. Information on the ACS sampling strategy and associated error is available at www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf. 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, 2007)). Finally, estimates from 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/Report10.pdf> and http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS/ASA_nelson.pdf).

| | U.S. Population | All Hispanics | Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin |
|--|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Total | 301,621 | 45,379 | 4,115 |
| Gender | | | |
| Male | 148,639 | 23,455 | 2,016 |
| Female | 152,982 | 21,924 | 2,099 |
| Nativity | | | |
| Native Born | 263,573 | 27,329 | 4,067 |
| Born in Puerto Rico | 1,470 | 1,420 | 1,373 ¹ |
| Foreign Born | 38,048 | 18,050 | 48 ² |
| Age | | | |
| Median (in years) | 36 | 27 | 29 |
| Age Groups | | | |
| Younger than 5 | 20,696 | 4,894 | 388 |
| 5-17 | 53,217 | 10,438 | 946 |
| 18-29 | 50,386 | 9,328 | 767 |
| 30-39 | 40,623 | 7,629 | 622 |
| 40-49 | 45,132 | 5,871 | 562 |
| 50-64 | 53,769 | 4,737 | 538 |
| 65 and older | 37,798 | 2,481 | 292 |
| Marital Status (ages 15 and older) | | | |
| Married | 120,941 | 15,299 | 1,143 |
| Never married | 74,061 | 12,199 | 1,269 |
| Divorced/separated/widowed | 45,704 | 4,853 | 597 |
| Fertility (women ages 15 to 44) | | | |
| Total number of women | 62,106 | 10,403 | 969 |
| Women who had a birth in the past 12 months | 4,137 | 898 | 68 |
| Unmarried women ³ who had a birth in the past 12 months | 1,382 | 342 | 38 |
| School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18) | | | |
| K-12 | 52,022 | 10,130 | 921 |
| Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older) | | | |
| Less than high school diploma | 30,594 | 9,768 | 641 |
| High school diploma or equivalent | 59,707 | 6,985 | 720 |
| Some college | 53,251 | 4,931 | 606 |
| Bachelor's degree or more | 54,382 | 3,116 | 365 |
| Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars) | | | |
| All (ages 16 and older with earnings) | \$28,333 | \$21,048 | \$25,298 |
| Full-time, year-round workers | \$39,464 | \$27,321 | \$34,405 |
| Persons in Poverty⁴ | | | |
| Younger than 18 | 12,809 | 4,045 | 403 |
| 18-64 | 19,856 | 4,362 | 457 |
| 65 and older | 3,248 | 428 | 62 |
| Persons in Households by Type of Household⁵ | | | |
| In family households | 246,339 | 40,369 | 3,454 |
| In married-couple households | 181,733 | 26,497 | 1,859 |
| In non-family households | 47,161 | 4,144 | 525 |
| Citizenship | | | |
| Citizen | 279,778 | 32,444 | 4,090 ¹ |
| Non-citizen | 21,844 | 12,934 | 24 |
| Language (ages 5 and older) | | | |
| Speaks only English at home | 225,588 | 8,931 | 1,201 |
| Does not speak only English at home | 55,338 | 31,553 | 2,525 |
| Speaks English very well | 30,891 | 15,838 | 1,762 |
| Speaks English less than very well | 24,446 | 15,715 | 763 |
| Regional Dispersion | | | |
| Northeast (%) | 18.1 | 13.7 | 55.6 |
| New York | 6.4 | 6.9 | 26.1 |
| New Jersey | 2.9 | 3.0 | 9.7 |
| Pennsylvania | 4.1 | 1.2 | 7.6 |
| Midwest (%) | 22.0 | 9.0 | 9.4 |
| Illinois | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.3 |
| South (%) | 36.6 | 34.9 | 27.2 |
| Florida | 6.1 | 8.3 | 17.8 |
| West (%) | 23.2 | 42.4 | 7.8 |
| California | 12.1 | 29.1 | 4.1 |

¹Persons born in Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens by birth. ²Persons who indicated they were not born in the U.S. or Puerto Rico and were not U.S. citizens by birth.
³Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced or widowed. ⁴For 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. ⁵The household population excludes persons living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2007 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/Downloads/ACS/accuracy2007.pdf>.

| | U.S. Population | All Hispanics | Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin |
|---|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Total (in thousands) | | | |
| | 112,386 | 12,296 | 1,329 |
| Homeownership (household heads) | | | |
| In owner-occupied homes (in thousands) | 75,523 | 6,135 | 541 |
| In renter-occupied homes (in thousands) | 36,863 | 6,161 | 789 |
| Homeownership rate (%) | 67.2 | 49.9 | 40.7 |
| Household Annual Income (in dollars) | | | |
| Median | \$50,595 | \$40,476 | \$38,452 |
| Household Size | | | |
| Average number of persons | 2.6 | 3.5 | 2.8 |

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.

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| | U.S. Population | All Hispanics | Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin |
|---|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older) | | | |
| Employed | 142,634 | 19,739 | 1,605 |
| Unemployed | 9,624 | 1,554 | 178 |
| Not in labor force | 83,170 | 10,163 | 1,130 |
| Unemployment rate (%) | 6.3 | 7.3 | 10.0 |
| Industries¹ | | | |
| Construction, agriculture and mining | 13,701 | 3,299 | 89 |
| Manufacturing | 16,097 | 2,381 | 160 |
| Trade and transportation | 27,055 | 3,624 | 344 |
| Information, finance and other services | 85,781 | 10,435 | 1,012 |
| Occupations¹ | | | |
| Management, professional and related occupations | 52,452 | 3,900 | 468 |
| Services | 20,728 | 4,391 | 311 |
| Sales and office support | 36,491 | 4,239 | 455 |
| Construction, extraction and farming | 9,867 | 2,958 | 76 |
| Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving | 23,096 | 4,252 | 295 |

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.

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