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Statistical Profile

Hispanics of Cuban Origin in the United States, 2009

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An estimated 1.7 million Hispanics of Cuban origin resided in the United States in 2009, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Cubans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Cuban origin; this means either they themselves are Cuban immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Cuba. Cubans are the fourth-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 3.5% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2009. Mexicans, the nation's largest Hispanic origin group, constituted 31.7 million, or 65.5%, of the Hispanic population in 2009.¹

This statistical profile compares the demographic, income and economic characteristics of the Cuban population with the characteristics of all Hispanics and the U.S. population overall. It is based on tabulations from the 2009 American Community Survey by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center.² Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** Six-in-ten Cubans (59%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 37% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. Most immigrants from Cuba (53%) arrived in the U.S. before 1990. Six-in-ten Cuban immigrants (58%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** A majority of Cubans (58%) speak English proficiently.³ Some 42% of Cubans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 37% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Cubans are older than the U.S. population and Hispanics overall. The median age of Cubans is 40; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 36 and 27, respectively.
- **Marital status.** Cubans are more likely than Hispanics overall to be married—49% versus 45%.
- **Fertility.** Four-in-ten (38%) of Cuban women ages 15 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the survey were unmarried. That was similar to the rate for all Hispanic women—40%—and the rate for U.S. women—35%.
- **Regional dispersion.** Cubans are the most geographically concentrated Hispanic origin group. Nearly seven-in-ten (68%) live in Florida.

¹ Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

² The 2010 Census did not collect data on most of the characteristics tabulated in this profile.

³ This includes Cubans ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Educational attainment.** Cubans have higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Twenty-four percent of Cubans ages 25 and older—compared with 13% of all U.S. Hispanics—have obtained at least a bachelor’s degree.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Cubans ages 16 and older were \$25,000 in 2009; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics were \$20,000.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Cubans who live in poverty, 15%, is similar to that of the general U.S. population (14%) and below the 23% share among all Hispanics.
- **Health Insurance.** Nearly one-quarter of Cubans (24%) do not have health insurance compared with 31% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 11% of Cubans younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Cuban homeownership (59%) is higher than the rate for all Hispanics (48%) but lower than the 66% rate for the U.S. population as a whole.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Cuban origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2009 [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 2009 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 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 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>).

Hispanics of Cuban Origin in the United States, 2009

| | All | Hispanics | Hispanics of Cuban Origin |
|--|----------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Total | 307,007 | 48,348 | 1,677 |
| Gender | | | |
| Male | 151,373 | 24,980 | 850 |
| Female | 155,633 | 23,368 | 827 |
| Nativity | | | |
| Native Born | 268,554 | 30,279 | 691 |
| Foreign Born | 38,453 | 18,069 | 986 |
| Age | | | |
| Median (in years) | 36 | 27 | 40 |
| Age Groups | | | |
| Younger than 5 | 21,172 | 5,436 | 107 |
| 5-17 | 53,300 | 11,258 | 254 |
| 18-29 | 51,995 | 9,640 | 235 |
| 30-39 | 40,338 | 7,786 | 215 |
| 40-49 | 44,163 | 6,269 | 290 |
| 50-64 | 56,546 | 5,242 | 279 |
| 65 and older | 39,492 | 2,716 | 297 |
| Marital Status (ages 15 and older) | | | |
| Married | 120,802 | 15,492 | 668 |
| Never married | 77,957 | 13,449 | 397 |
| Divorced/separated/widowed | 46,391 | 5,109 | 308 |
| Fertility (women ages 15 to 44) | | | |
| Total number of women | 62,090 | 10,784 | 303 |
| Women who had a birth in the past 12 months | 4,271 | 935 | 18 |
| Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months | 1,500 | 372 | 7 |
| School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18) | | | |
| K-12 | 52,293 | 10,964 | 248 |
| Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older) | | | |
| Less than high school diploma | 29,790 | 10,205 | 286 |
| High school diploma or equivalent | 57,515 | 6,801 | 321 |
| Some college | 58,319 | 5,801 | 285 |
| Bachelor's degree or more | 56,375 | 3,309 | 278 |
| Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars) | | | |
| All (ages 16 and older with earnings) | \$28,900 | \$20,000 | \$25,000 |
| Full-time, year-round workers | \$40,000 | \$29,000 | \$33,300 |
| Persons in Poverty² | | | |
| Younger than 18 | 14,516 | 5,019 | 57 |
| 18-64 | 24,347 | 5,515 | 136 |
| 65 and older | 3,560 | 495 | 62 |
| Health Insurance | | | |
| Uninsured, all ages | 47,378 | 15,145 | 395 |
| Uninsured, younger than 18 | 6,336 | 2,638 | 39 |
| Persons in Households by Type of Household³ | | | |
| In family households | 250,360 | 43,137 | 1,417 |
| In married-couple households | 182,921 | 27,922 | 1,012 |
| In non-family households | 48,370 | 4,295 | 221 |
| Citizenship | | | |
| Citizen | 285,366 | 35,541 | 1,262 |
| Non-citizen | 21,641 | 12,807 | 416 |
| Language (ages 5 and older) | | | |
| Speaks only English at home | 228,797 | 10,260 | 278 |
| Does not speak only English at home | 57,037 | 32,652 | 1,293 |
| Speaks English very well | 32,487 | 16,964 | 640 |
| Speaks English less than very well | 24,550 | 15,688 | 653 |
| Year of Entry (foreign-born only) | | | |
| Before 1990 | 15,577 | 6,746 | 520 |
| 1990 to 1999 | 10,723 | 5,381 | 199 |
| 2000 or later | 12,153 | 5,943 | 267 |
| Regional Dispersion | | | |
| Northeast | 55,284 | 6,578 | 200 |
| New Jersey | 8,708 | 1,454 | 87 |
| New York | 19,541 | 3,275 | 71 |
| Midwest | 66,837 | 4,358 | 61 |
| South | 113,318 | 17,210 | 1,281 |
| Florida | 18,538 | 3,987 | 1,142 |
| Texas | 24,782 | 9,151 | 34 |
| West | 71,568 | 20,203 | 135 |
| California | 36,962 | 13,682 | 77 |

¹Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced or widowed. ²For detailed information on how poverty status is determined, see <http://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variableDescription.do?memonic=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. ³The household population excludes persons living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters.

Note: Numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 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/.

Hispanics of Cuban Origin in the United States, 2009

| | All | Hispanics | Hispanics of Cuban Origin |
|---|----------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Total (in thousands) | | | |
| | 113,616 | 12,728 | 591 |
| Homeownership (household heads) | | | |
| In owner-occupied homes (in thousands) | 74,929 | 6,127 | 347 |
| In renter-occupied homes (in thousands) | 38,687 | 6,601 | 244 |
| Homeownership rate (%) | 65.9 | 48.1 | 58.7 |
| Household Annual Income (in dollars) | | | |
| Median | \$50,800 | \$40,200 | \$42,000 |
| Household Size | | | |
| Average number of persons | 2.6 | 3.6 | 2.9 |

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.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 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/.

| | All | Hispanics | Hispanics of Cuban Origin |
|---|---------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older) | | | |
| Employed | 140,638 | 20,041 | 756 |
| Unemployed | 15,476 | 2,726 | 99 |
| Not in labor force | 83,600 | 10,334 | 496 |
| Unemployment rate (%) | 9.9 | 12.0 | 11.5 |
| Industries¹ | | | |
| Construction, agriculture and mining | 12,082 | 2,900 | 70 |
| Manufacturing | 14,783 | 2,183 | 64 |
| Trade and transportation | 26,147 | 3,738 | 161 |
| Information, finance and other services | 87,626 | 11,220 | 461 |
| Occupations¹ | | | |
| Management, professional and related occupations | 53,576 | 4,200 | 256 |
| Services | 21,662 | 4,799 | 119 |
| Sales and office support | 35,421 | 4,394 | 200 |
| Construction, extraction and farming | 8,580 | 2,564 | 57 |
| Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving | 21,398 | 4,082 | 125 |

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.
Note: Numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 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/.