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Statistical Profile

Hispanics of Salvadoran Origin in the United States, 2009

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An estimated 1.7 million Hispanics of Salvadoran origin resided in the United States in 2009, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Salvadorans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Salvadoran origin; this means either they themselves are Salvadoran immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to El Salvador. Salvadorans are the third-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 3.6% 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 Salvadoran 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.** Nearly two-thirds of Salvadorans (63%) in the United States are foreign born, compared with 37% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. Most immigrants from El Salvador (62%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Three-in-ten of Salvadoran immigrants (28%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** Less than half of Salvadorans (45%) speak English proficiently.³ Some 55% of Salvadorans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 37% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Salvadorans are younger than the U.S. population and older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Salvadorans is 29; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 36 and 27, respectively.
- **Marital status.** Less than half of Salvadorans (45%) and Hispanics overall (45%) are married.
- **Fertility.** More than four-in-ten (44%) of Salvadoran women ages 15 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the survey were unmarried. That was higher than the rate for all Hispanic women—40%—and the rate for U.S. women—35%.

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 Salvadorans ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Regional dispersion.** Two-thirds of Salvadorans (35%) live in California, and one-in-seven (15%) live in Texas.
- **Educational attainment.** Salvadorans have lower levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Fifty-three percent of Salvadorans ages 25 and older—compared with 39% of all U.S. Hispanics—have not obtained at least a high school diploma.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Salvadorans ages 16 and older were \$20,000 in 2009; the median earnings for the U.S. population were \$28,900.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Salvadorans who live in poverty, 19%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (14%) and below the 23% share among all Hispanics.
- **Health Insurance.** Four-in-ten Salvadorans (41%) do not have health insurance compared with 31% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 20% of Salvadorans younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Salvadoran homeownership (45%) is lower than the rate for all Hispanics (48%) and the U.S. population (66%) as a whole.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Salvadoran 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 Salvadoran Origin in the United States, 2009

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Salvadoran Origin
Total	307,007	48,348	1,736
Gender			
Male	151,373	24,980	914
Female	155,633	23,368	822
Nativity			
Native Born	268,554	30,279	647
Foreign Born	38,453	18,069	1,089
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	29
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	21,172	5,436	185
5-17	53,300	11,258	343
18-29	51,995	9,640	367
30-39	40,338	7,786	342
40-49	44,163	6,269	254
50-64	56,546	5,242	187
65 and older	39,492	2,716	58
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,802	15,492	574
Never married	77,957	13,449	556
Divorced/separated/widowed	46,391	5,109	154
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,090	10,784	418
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,271	935	40
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,500	372	18
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,293	10,964	335
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	29,790	10,205	538
High school diploma or equivalent	57,515	6,801	239
Some college	58,319	5,801	160
Bachelor's degree or more	56,375	3,309	73
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$28,900	\$20,000	\$20,000
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,000	\$29,000	\$25,000
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	14,516	5,019	132
18-64	24,347	5,515	190
65 and older	3,560	495	8
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	47,378	15,145	716
Uninsured, younger than 18	6,336	2,638	103
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	250,360	43,137	1,603
In married-couple households	182,921	27,922	999
In non-family households	48,370	4,295	118
Citizenship			
Citizen	285,366	35,541	948
Non-citizen	21,641	12,807	789
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	228,797	10,260	123
Does not speak only English at home	57,037	32,652	1,428
Speaks English very well	32,487	16,964	575
Speaks English less than very well	24,550	15,688	853
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,577	6,746	414
1990 to 1999	10,723	5,381	320
2000 or later	12,153	5,943	355
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	55,284	6,578	265
New York	19,541	3,275	144
Midwest	66,837	4,358	62
South	113,318	17,210	704
Texas	24,782	9,151	255
Maryland	5,699	412	124
Virginia	7,883	564	122
West	71,568	20,203	706
California	36,962	13,682	614

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 Salvadoran Origin in the United States, 2009

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Salvadoran Origin
Total (in thousands)			
	113,616	12,728	439
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	74,929	6,127	196
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	38,687	6,601	242
Homeownership rate (%)	65.9	48.1	44.8
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,800	\$40,200	\$42,000
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.6	4.2

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 Salvadoran Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	140,638	20,041	862
Unemployed	15,476	2,726	110
Not in labor force	83,600	10,334	285
Unemployment rate (%)	9.9	12.0	11.3
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	12,082	2,900	133
Manufacturing	14,783	2,183	95
Trade and transportation	26,147	3,738	158
Information, finance and other services	87,626	11,220	476
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	53,576	4,200	107
Services	21,662	4,799	285
Sales and office support	35,421	4,394	144
Construction, extraction and farming	8,580	2,564	122
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	21,398	4,082	203

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/.