

May 26, 2011

Statistical Profile

Hispanics of Colombian Origin in the United States, 2009

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An estimated 917,000 Hispanics of Colombian origin resided in the United States in 2009, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Colombians in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Colombian origin; this means either they themselves are Colombian immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Colombia. Colombians are the seventh-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 1.9% 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 Colombian 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.** Two-thirds of Colombians (66%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 37% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. Most immigrants from Colombia (61%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later. Less than half of Colombian immigrants (47%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** A majority (57%) of Colombians speak English proficiently.³ The other 43% of Colombians ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 37% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Colombians are younger than U.S. population and older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Colombians is 34; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 36 and 27, respectively.
- **Marital status.** Colombians are more likely than Hispanics overall to be married—49% versus 45%.
- **Fertility.** One-in-five (21%) Colombian women ages 15 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the survey were unmarried. That was less 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 Colombians ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Regional dispersion.** Colombians are concentrated in the South (49%), mostly in Florida (32%), and in the Northeast (37%), mostly in New York (19%) and New Jersey (10%).
- **Educational attainment.** Colombians have higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Some 29% of Colombians 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 Colombians 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 Colombians who live in poverty, 12%, is similar to the rate for the general U.S. population (14%) and lower than the rate for Hispanics overall (23%).
- **Health Insurance.** One-quarter of Colombians (26%) do not have health insurance compared with 31% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 14% of Colombians younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Colombian homeownership (51%) 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 Colombian 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>).

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Table 1
U.S. Population, by Ethnicity and Colombian Origin, 2009
(thousands, unless otherwise noted)

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Colombian Origin
Total	307,007	48,348	917
Gender			
Male	151,373	24,980	433
Female	155,633	23,368	483
Nativity			
Native Born	268,554	30,279	311
Foreign Born	38,453	18,069	605
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	34
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	21,172	5,436	66
5-17	53,300	11,258	160
18-29	51,995	9,640	160
30-39	40,338	7,786	145
40-49	44,163	6,269	169
50-64	56,546	5,242	142
65 and older	39,492	2,716	75
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,802	15,492	360
Never married	77,957	13,449	225
Divorced/separated/widowed	46,391	5,109	146
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,090	10,784	225
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,271	935	14
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,500	372	3
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,293	10,964	157
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	29,790	10,205	94
High school diploma or equivalent	57,515	6,801	162
Some college	58,319	5,801	168
Bachelor's degree or more	56,375	3,309	176
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	\$32,000
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	14,516	5,019	31
18-64	24,347	5,515	63
65 and older	3,560	495	13
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	47,378	15,145	242
Uninsured, younger than 18	6,336	2,638	31
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	250,360	43,137	789
In married-couple households	182,921	27,922	552
In non-family households	48,370	4,295	112
Citizenship			
Citizen	285,366	35,541	598
Non-citizen	21,641	12,807	319
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	228,797	10,260	114
Does not speak only English at home	57,037	32,652	737
Speaks English very well	32,487	16,964	374
Speaks English less than very well	24,550	15,688	363
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,577	6,746	237
1990 to 1999	10,723	5,381	164
2000 or later	12,153	5,943	205
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	55,284	6,578	336
New York	19,541	3,275	172
New Jersey	8,708	1,454	95
Midwest	66,837	4,358	45
South	113,318	17,210	445
Florida	18,538	3,987	295
Texas	24,782	9,151	52
West	71,568	20,203	90
California	36,962	13,682	61

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?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. 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 Colombian Origin in the United States, 2009

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Colombian Origin
Total (in thousands)			
	113,616	12,728	284
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	74,929	6,127	145
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	38,687	6,601	139
Homeownership rate (%)	65.9	48.1	51.1
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,800	\$40,200	\$50,000
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.6	3.1

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 Colombian Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	140,638	20,041	466
Unemployed	15,476	2,726	53
Not in labor force	83,600	10,334	196
Unemployment rate (%)	9.9	12.0	10.2
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	12,082	2,900	33
Manufacturing	14,783	2,183	42
Trade and transportation	26,147	3,738	91
Information, finance and other services	87,626	11,220	300
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	53,576	4,200	147
Services	21,662	4,799	105
Sales and office support	35,421	4,394	117
Construction, extraction and farming	8,580	2,564	25
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	21,398	4,082	72

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/.