



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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Hispanic Heritage Month

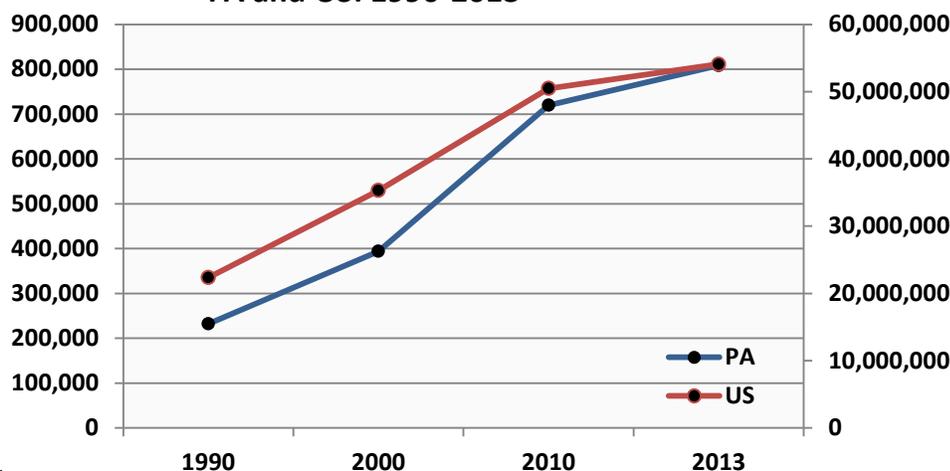
PENN STATE HARRISBURG – Each year, the United States observes National Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize the important contributions made by Hispanic and Latino Americans to our country. Originally National Hispanic Heritage Week, Congress expanded the observance in 1989 to a month-long celebration (September 15 – October 15) of the culture and traditions of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. September 15 was chosen for the commencement of the observance because it coincides exactly or closely with the independence anniversaries of several Latin American countries.

One of the largest celebrations of Hispanic culture in the Keystone State occurs annually in Philadelphia. Thousands of people take to Benjamin Franklin Parkway to admire floats, enjoy festive dances and listen to upbeat music for the Puerto Rican Day Parade, the city's largest and oldest outdoor event celebrating Latino and Puerto Rican heritage.

Hispanic Population Growth

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the rich and diverse culture of the commonwealth's fastest growing minority group. Between the last Decennial Census in 2010 and the one prior in 2000, the state's Hispanic population increased from 394,088 to 719,660; a growth rate of 82.6 percent. No other race or ethnic group in the state grew as rapidly over this ten year time period. The growth in those reporting Hispanic or Latino ethnicity has continued since 2010: according to the 2013 Population Estimates, the number of Hispanics in Pennsylvania had reached 808,318 people. This equates to a 12.3 percent population gain (see Figure 1.).

Figure 1. Hispanic Population Change, PA and US: 1990-2013



Nearly 89,000 Hispanics have been added to the state's population between 2010 and 2013. This figure is greater than the total population growth of approximately 72,000 for Pennsylvania over the time period. If the current growth trend holds true throughout the next decade, Pennsylvania will join eight other states that already have Hispanic populations that exceed one million. The number of Hispanics added to the nation's population since 2010 was nearly 3.6 million, which was close to half of the approximately 7.4 million people added to the U.S. population.

Hispanic Population in the Nation

As of July 1, 2013 Hispanics represented approximately 6.3 percent of Pennsylvania's population, making individuals of Hispanic ethnicity the second largest minority group in the state behind only the Black Alone race group (10.6 percent). Nationally, people of Hispanic origin are the largest ethnic or racial minority. In 2013, Hispanics constituted 17 percent of the nation's total population. The Keystone State ranked 13th among states with 808,318 Pennsylvanians reporting Hispanic ethnicity, but ranked 33rd in terms of the percentage of Hispanics to the total population. New Mexico led all states in the proportion of Hispanics in 2013 with nearly half (47.3 percent) its population reporting Hispanic ethnicity. The remaining states in the top five were also in the South and Western United States: California and Texas (each at 38.4 percent) Arizona (30.3 percent) and Nevada (27.5 percent). States with the lowest percent of residents of Hispanic origin in 2013 were West Virginia and Maine (each at 1.4 percent), Vermont (1.7 percent), North Dakota and Mississippi (each at 2.9 percent).

Age Structure of Hispanic Population

Hispanics in Pennsylvania are younger than the overall population. The median age for Pennsylvania's Hispanic population was 26.0 years, according to the 2013 Population Estimates. Overall, the median age of Pennsylvania's population was 40.7 years. The Hispanic ethnic group had the lowest median age of any Pennsylvania minority group, not including those reporting multiple races (see Table 1.).

Race/Ethnic Group	Total Population	Under 18 years	18 to 64 years	65 years and over	Median Age
Total Population	12,773,801	21.3%	62.4%	16.4%	40.7
White Alone	10,010,815	18.9%	62.5%	18.7%	44.0
Minority	2,762,986	30.0%	62.0%	8.0%	N/A
Black Alone	1,357,150	26.0%	63.6%	10.5%	33.0
Asian Alone	389,561	23.2%	68.6%	8.2%	33.2
Hispanic (of any race)	808,318	35.1%	60.1%	4.8%	26.0

Thirty-five percent of the commonwealth's Hispanic population was under 18 years of age, compared to 21.3 percent of the total population. On the other end of the age spectrum, only 4.8 percent of Hispanic Pennsylvanians were age 65 years and over. This percentage is much lower than that of the total population, which had 16.4 percent of the population reach age 65 years or older in 2013.

Hispanics in Pennsylvania Counties

Philadelphia County had the largest number of residents with Hispanic origin in 2013 with 206,033. The counties of Berks (74,683), Lehigh (73,556), Lancaster (50,465), Montgomery (37,788) Chester (35,448) Northampton (35,021) and Bucks (29,713) in the Southeastern part of the state followed.

Lehigh County had the largest percentage (20.7 percent) of its total population reporting Hispanic ethnicity in 2013. Berks County followed with 18.1 percent. Since 2010, these two counties gained 7,941

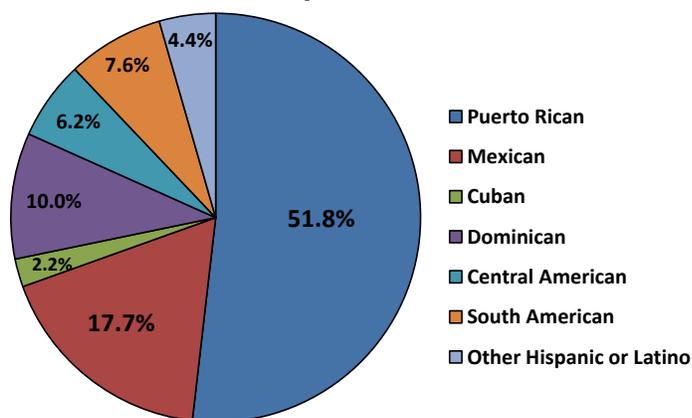
and 7,328 Hispanic residents, respectively. The Hispanic population has increased in every Pennsylvania county since 2010. In twenty Pennsylvania counties the Hispanic population is growing by more than 20.0 percent. Among counties with at least one-thousand Hispanics, Luzerne (27.2 percent), Fayette (27.0 percent), Schuylkill (23.2 percent), Washington (23.1 percent) and Columbia (23.1 percent) had the largest percent increases.

Hispanic Ethnic Groups

The American Community Survey (ACS) provides data for specific Hispanic ethnic groups. According to 2013 ACS 1-Year File, Puerto Rican was the largest of all Hispanic ethnic groups in Pennsylvania. In 2013, a total of 418,792 Puerto Ricans lived in Pennsylvania, representing just over half (51.8 percent) of all Hispanics. Mexicans were the next largest Hispanic group (143,038, or 17.7 percent), followed by Dominican (80,514 or 10.0 percent) and Cuban (17,995 or 2.2 percent) (see Figure 2.). The remainder was of some other Central American, South American or other Hispanic/Latino origin.

Nearly two-thirds (64.1 percent) of those of Hispanic origin in the United States were of Mexican background in 2013. Other large Hispanic ethnic groups nationally were Puerto Rican background (9.5 percent), Salvadoran and Cuban (each at 3.7 percent), 3.3 percent Dominican and 2.3 percent Guatemalan.

Figure 2. Hispanic Ethnic Groups, Pennsylvania: 2013



Other Interesting Facts about Pennsylvania's Hispanic Population

- The size of the U.S. Hispanic population ranked second worldwide in 2010. Only Mexico (120 million) had a larger Hispanic population than the United States (54 million).
- According to U.S. Census Bureau Population Projections, the Hispanic population is expected to reach 128.8 million by the year 2060. Based on this projection, those reporting Hispanic ethnicity will constitute 31.0 percent of the nation's population by that date.
- More than half (55.0 percent) of all Hispanics in the United States lived in California, Florida and Texas as of July 1, 2013.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source for population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census 1990, 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census; 2013 Population Estimates; 2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Editors: For additional data; contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic; contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.