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Statistical Profile

Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin in the United States, 2009

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An estimated 4.4 million Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin resided in the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia in 2009, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. That is a slightly greater number than the population of Puerto Rico itself in 2009, which was 4.0 million. Puerto Ricans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin; this means either they themselves were born in Puerto Rico 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

Puerto Ricans are the second-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 9.1% 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 2009.² This profile compares the demographic, income and economic characteristics of Puerto Ricans 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.³ Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** Most Puerto Ricans in the United States—2.9 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 people of Puerto Rican origin—43,000—were born outside of the U.S. or Puerto Rico and were not U.S. citizens by birth. They are considered foreign born.
- **Language.** Eight-in-ten Puerto Ricans (81%) speak English proficiently.⁴ Some 19% of Puerto Ricans ages 5 and older report speaking English less than very well, compared with 37% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Puerto Ricans are younger than the U.S. population and similar in age to Hispanics overall. The median age of Puerto Ricans is 28; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 36 and 27, respectively.

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.

² Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

³ The 2010 Census did not collect data on most of the characteristics tabulated in this profile.

⁴ This includes Puerto Ricans ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Marital status.** Puerto Ricans are less likely than Hispanics overall to be married—37% versus 45%.
- **Fertility.** A majority (56%) of Puerto Rican women ages 15 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the survey were unmarried. That was greater than the rate for all Hispanic women—40%—and the rate for U.S. women—35%.
- **Regional dispersion.** A majority of Puerto Ricans (54%) live in the Northeast, mostly in the New York (24%). Three-in-ten (30%) Puerto Ricans live in the South, mostly in Florida (19%).
- **Educational attainment.** Puerto Ricans have higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Twenty-seven percent of Puerto Ricans 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 Puerto Ricans 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 Puerto Ricans who live in poverty, 24%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (14%) and similar to the 23% share among all Hispanics.
- **Health Insurance.** Nearly one-in-six Puerto Ricans (15%) do not have health insurance compared with 32% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 7% of Puerto Ricans younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Puerto Rican homeownership (39%) 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 Puerto Rican 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 Puerto Rican Origin in the United States, 2009

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin
Total	307,007	48,348	4,412
Gender			
Male	151,373	24,980	2,181
Female	155,633	23,368	2,231
Nativity			
Native Born	268,554	30,279	4,368
Born in Puerto Rico	1,498	1,452	1399 ²
Foreign Born	38,453	18,069	43 ²
Age			
Median (in years)	36	27	28
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	21,172	5,436	456
5-17	53,300	11,258	1,029
18-29	51,995	9,640	807
30-39	40,338	7,786	643
40-49	44,163	6,269	594
50-64	56,546	5,242	570
65 and older	39,492	2,716	312
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,802	15,492	1,152
Never married	77,957	13,449	1,375
Divorced/separated/widowed	46,391	5,109	629
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,090	10,784	995
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,271	935	75
Unmarried women ³ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,500	372	42
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,293	10,964	1,002
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	29,790	10,205	662
High school diploma or equivalent	57,515	6,801	703
Some college	58,319	5,801	688
Bachelor's degree or more	56,375	3,309	380
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	\$35,000
Persons in Poverty⁴			
Younger than 18	14,516	5,019	470
18-64	24,347	5,515	538
65 and older	3,560	495	66
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	47,378	15,145	678
Uninsured, younger than 18	6,336	2,638	103
Persons in Households by Type of Household⁵			
In family households	250,360	43,137	3,734
In married-couple households	182,921	27,922	1,963
In non-family households	48,370	4,295	540
Citizenship			
Citizen	285,366	35,541	4,390
Non-citizen	21,641	12,807	22
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	228,797	10,260	1,347
Does not speak only English at home	57,037	32,652	2,608
Speaks English very well	32,487	16,964	1,849
Speaks English less than very well	24,550	15,688	759
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	55,284	6,578	2,397
New York	19,541	3,275	1,081
New Jersey	8,708	1,454	425
Pennsylvania	12,605	644	357
Massachusetts	6,594	582	250
Midwest	66,837	4,358	399
South	113,318	17,210	1,301
Florida	18,538	3,987	817
West	71,568	20,203	314

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.

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 Puerto Rican Origin in the United States, 2009

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin
Total (in thousands)			
	113,616	12,728	1,361
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	74,929	6,127	528
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	38,687	6,601	834
Homeownership rate (%)	65.9	48.1	38.8
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,800	\$40,200	\$38,010
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 Puerto Rican Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	140,638	20,041	1,631
Unemployed	15,476	2,726	288
Not in labor force	83,600	10,334	1,130
Unemployment rate (%)	9.9	12.0	15.0
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	12,082	2,900	79
Manufacturing	14,783	2,183	143
Trade and transportation	26,147	3,738	349
Information, finance and other services	87,626	11,220	1,059
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	53,576	4,200	500
Services	21,662	4,799	311
Sales and office support	35,421	4,394	469
Construction, extraction and farming	8,580	2,564	65
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	21,398	4,082	285

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/.