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# Hispanics of Cuban Origin in the United States, 2013

*Statistical Profile*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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# Hispanics of Cuban Origin in the United States, 2013

BY *Gustavo López*

An estimated 2 million Hispanics of Cuban origin resided in the United States in 2013, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

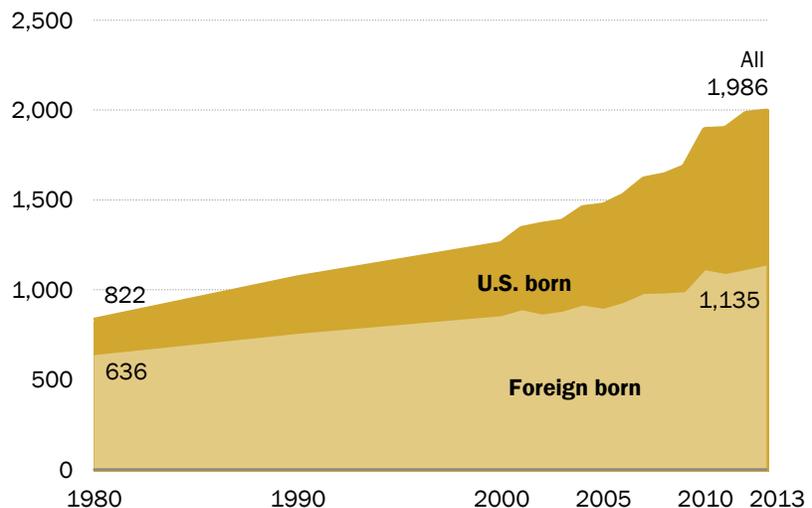
Cubans in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Cuban origin; this means either they themselves are Cuban immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Cuba. Cubans are the third-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 3.7% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2013.

Since 1980, the Cuban-origin population in the U.S. has more than doubled, growing from 822,000 to 2 million over the period. At the same time, the foreign-born population of Cuban origin living in the U.S. grew by 78%, up from 636,000 in 1980 to 1.1 million in 2013. In comparison, Mexicans, the nation's largest Hispanic origin group, constituted 34.6 million, or 64.1%, of the Hispanic population in 2013.<sup>1</sup>

FIGURE 1

## Cuban-Origin Population in the U.S., 1980-2013

In thousands



Note: People in group quarters such as college dormitories or institutions are not included in figures for 2001 to 2005. Changes in the wording of the Hispanic origin question in the 2000 decennial census may have led to an undercount of some Hispanic origin groups in that year. For more, see <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2002/05/09/counting-the-other-hispanics/>

The 1980 Cuban-origin population estimate does not include Cuban immigrants who arrived in the U.S. as part of the 1980 Mariel Boatlift, which occurred after 1980's April 1 Census Day. For more on Cuban immigration waves, see <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/12/23/as-cuban-american-demographics-change-so-do-views-of-cuba/>

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 1980, 1990 and 2000 censuses (5% IPUMS) and 2001-2013 American Community Surveys (1% IPUMS)

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<sup>1</sup> Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

## About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Cuban origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2013 [American Community Survey](#) (ACS) and a nationally representative [Pew Research Center survey](#) of 5,103 Hispanic adults conducted May 24-July 28, 2013. The survey was conducted in both English and Spanish on cellular as well as landline telephones and has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.1 percentage points. For a complete methodology, see: <http://www.pewforum.org/2014/05/07/appendix-a-survey-methodology-2/>

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/](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 S. Passel. 2007. "[Growing Share of Immigrants Choosing Naturalization](#)." Washington, D.C.: Pew Research Center, March). 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/hhes/www/laborfor/laborfactsheet092209.html> and <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/datasources/factsheet.html>).

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, and includes public opinion data of Cubans and Hispanic adults. It is based on Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2013 American Community Survey and Pew Research Center's 2013 National Survey of Latinos. Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** Nearly six-in-ten Cubans (57%) in the United States are foreign born, compared with 35% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. Almost half of immigrants from Cuba (47%) have been in the U.S. for over 20 years. About six-in-ten Cuban immigrants (59%) are U.S. citizens.
- **English proficiency and speaking Spanish at home.** According to the ACS, a majority (60%) of Cubans ages 5 and older speak English proficiently.<sup>2</sup> The other 40% of Cubans report speaking English less than very well, compared with 32% of all Hispanics. Overall, some 79% of Cubans speak Spanish at home, higher than the share (73%) of all Hispanics ages 5 and older who speak Spanish at home.

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<sup>2</sup> This includes Cubans ages 5 and older who speak only English at home or, if they speak a non-English language at home, indicate they can speak English "very well."

- **Bilingualism and language dominance.** [According to the 2013 Pew Research Center survey](#), some 13% of Cubans are English-dominant, lower than the share of Hispanics overall (25%).<sup>3</sup> About half of Cuban adults (51%) are Spanish-dominant, and roughly one-third (36%) are bilingual. The share of Cuban adults who are Spanish-dominant is higher than the overall Hispanic population (38%) and the share of bilingual speakers is equal to the overall Hispanic population (36%). For Cuban immigrants, about six-in-ten (61%) are Spanish-dominant, while about one-third (35%) are bilingual. Only 4% of Cuban immigrants are English-dominant.
- **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 37 and 28, respectively. Among Cubans, the median age of immigrants is 51 years, while it's only 22 years among the U.S. born.
- **Marital status.** Cubans ages 18 and older are just as likely to be married as Hispanics overall (46% of each)—while half of the U.S. population is married. Among Cubans ages 18 and older, the foreign born have higher rates of marriage than those who are U.S. born—50% vs. 36%.
- **Fertility.** Some 5% of Cuban women ages 15 to 44 gave birth in the 12 months prior to this survey. That was slightly less than the rate for all Hispanic women (7%) and the overall rate for U.S. women (6%).
- **Regional dispersion.** Cubans are the most geographically concentrated of the 14 largest Hispanic origin groups—78% live in the South, and 68% live in Florida.
- **Educational attainment.** Cubans have higher levels of education than the U.S. Hispanic population and somewhat lower levels than the U.S. population overall. One quarter of Cubans ages 25 and older—compared with 14% of all U.S. Hispanics and 30% among the U.S. population—have obtained at least a bachelor's degree. Among Cubans ages 25 and older, the U.S. born are more likely to have earned a bachelor's degree or more than foreign-born Cubans—36% vs. 21%.

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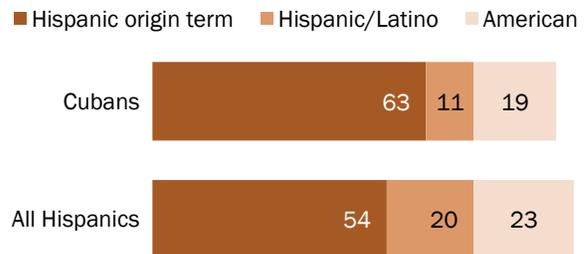
<sup>3</sup> Language dominance, or primary language, is a composite measure based on self-described assessments of speaking and reading abilities. "Spanish-dominant" persons are more proficient in Spanish than in English, i.e., they speak and read Spanish "very well" or "pretty well" but rate their English-speaking and -reading ability lower. "Bilingual" refers to persons who are proficient in both English and Spanish. "English-dominant" persons are more proficient in English than in Spanish.

- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Cubans ages 16 and older was \$25,000 in the year prior to the survey—greater than the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics (\$21,900) but lower than the median earnings for the U.S. population (\$30,000).
- **Poverty status.** The share of Cubans who live in poverty, 20%, is higher than the rate for the general U.S. population (16%) but lower than the rate for Hispanics overall (25%).
- **Health insurance.** One-quarter of Cubans do not have health insurance, compared with 29% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Some 10% of Cubans younger than 18 are uninsured. (These data reflect insurance rates prior to the implementation of the individual insurance mandate of the Affordable Care Act.)
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Cuban homeownership (55%) is higher than the rate for all Hispanics (45%) but lower than the 64% rate for the U.S. population as a whole.
- **“Cuban” is the identity term used most often.** When asked in a [2013 Pew Research Center survey](#) what term they use to describe themselves most often, a majority of Cuban adults (63%) say they most often use term “Cuban.” About two-in-ten (19%) say they describe themselves most often as “American.” Only about one-in-ten (11%) most often use the pan-ethnic terms of “Hispanic” or “Latino” to describe their identity. By comparison,

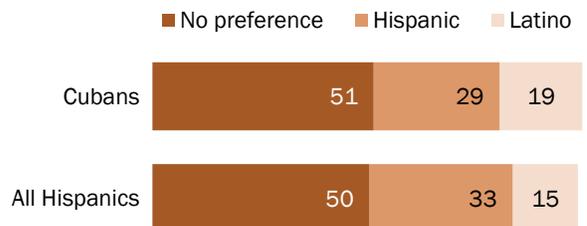
FIGURE 2

### Cuban Views of Identity

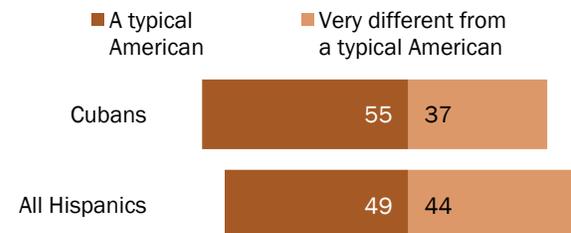
% saying they most often describe themselves as ...



% saying they prefer the term ...



% saying they think of themselves as ...



Note: “Don’t know/Refused” responses not shown. For top chart, volunteered responses of “Depends” not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of Hispanic adults, May 24-July 28, 2013 (N=5,103 including 349 Cuban adults)

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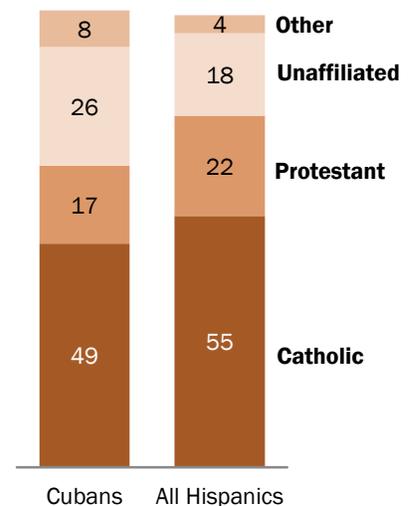
54% of all U.S. Hispanics say they prefer their ancestor's Hispanic origin term to describe their identity, 23% say they describe themselves most often as "American" and two-in-ten use the pan-ethnic terms of "Hispanic" or "Latino" to describe their identity.

- Preference for Hispanic or Latino.** In regard to the pan-ethnic terms of "Hispanic" or "Latino," about half of Cuban adults (51%) have no preference for either term. Among those who have a preference, more prefer the term "Hispanic" (29% of all Cubans), while some 19% prefer the term "Latino." By comparison, half of all Hispanic adults have no preference for either term; among those who do have a preference, Hispanic is favored over Latino 2-to-1.
- Typical American or not.** When asked in the 2013 Pew Research survey whether they thought of themselves as a typical American or very different from a typical American, 55% of Cuban adults see themselves as a typical American, while about four-in-ten (37%) think of themselves as very different from a typical American. By comparison, Hispanic adults overall are less likely to think of themselves as typical Americans (49%) compared with Cubans, and on balance Hispanic adults are more likely to see themselves as a typical American (49%) than very different from a typical American (44%).
- Religious affiliation.** A [2013 Pew Research Center survey](#) of Hispanic adults finds that about half of Cuban adults (49%) identify themselves as Catholic. Roughly two-in-ten (17%) Cubans are Protestant, and among all Cubans, 8% are mainline Protestants and 8% are evangelical Protestants. About one-quarter (26%) of Cuban adults are religiously unaffiliated. In contrast, among all Hispanics 55% identify as Catholic, 22% identify as Protestant, and about two-in-ten (18%) are unaffiliated.

FIGURE 3

### Cuban Religious Affiliation

% of adults who belong to each religious group



Note: "Don't know" responses not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of Hispanic adults, May 24-July 28, 2013 (n=4,080 including 287 Cuban adults)

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Table 1  
**U.S. Population, by Ethnicity and Cuban Origin, 2013**

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Cuban Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>316,129</b>	<b>53,964</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>1,135</b>
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	155,592	27,377	988	431	556
Female	160,537	26,587	998	420	578
<b>Nativity</b>					
U.S. Born	274,788	34,981	851	851	---
Foreign Born	41,341	18,983	1,135	---	1,135
<b>Age</b>					
Median (in years)	37	28	40	22	51
<b>Age Groups</b>					
Younger than 5	19,682	5,053	116	112	3
5-17	53,820	12,635	280	234	46
18-29	53,007	10,923	327	211	117
30-39	40,997	8,454	249	118	131
40-49	42,158	7,039	321	96	225
50-64	61,801	6,560	363	55	308
65 and older	44,663	3,301	329	25	305
<b>Marital Status</b> (ages 18 and older)					
Married	122,043	16,750	724	180	544
Never married	71,957	13,603	478	251	227
Divorced/separated/widowed	48,628	5,924	389	74	315
<b>Fertility</b> (women ages 15 to 44)					
Total number of women	63,071	12,411	390	217	174
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	3,893	873	20	11	9
Unmarried women <sup>1</sup> who had a birth in the past 12 mo	1,478	393	***	***	***
<b>School Enrollment</b> (ages 5 to 18)					
K-12	52,794	12,383	275	230	46
<b>Educational Attainment</b> (ages 25 and older)					
Less than high school graduate	28,268	10,491	295	31	264
High school graduate <sup>2</sup>	58,768	8,037	417	79	338
Two-year degree/Some college	61,501	6,988	336	126	211
Bachelor's degree or more	62,454	4,169	348	134	213
<b>Median Annual Personal Earnings</b> (in dollars)					
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$30,000	\$21,900	\$25,000	\$28,000	\$23,000
Full-time, year-round workers	\$42,000	\$30,000	\$32,600	\$40,000	\$29,000
<b>Persons in Poverty</b> <sup>3</sup>					
Younger than 18	16,224	5,739	92	72	20
18-64	28,336	6,693	219	63	155
65 and older	4,155	631	75	4	71
<b>Health Insurance</b> <sup>4</sup>					
Uninsured, all ages	46,654	15,411	494	128	366
Uninsured, younger than 18	5,245	2,033	38	27	11
<b>Persons in Households by Type of Household</b> <sup>5</sup>					
In family households	257,066	48,026	1,659	729	930
In married-couple households	183,952	30,351	1,105	482	623
In non-family households	51,033	4,944	282	98	184
<b>Citizenship</b>					
Citizen	294,112	41,173	1,517	851	666
Non-citizen	22,016	12,791	469	---	469
<b>Language</b> (ages 5 and older)					
Speaks only English at home	234,715	12,893	386	315	71
Does not speak only English at home	61,732	36,019	1,485	424	1,061
Speaks English very well	36,673	20,287	746	377	369
Speaks English less than very well	25,059	15,732	739	47	692
<b>Years in the U.S.</b> (foreign-born only)					
0 to 5 years	5,959	1,960	187	---	187
6 to 10 years	5,791	2,926	149	---	149
11 to 15 years	7,012	3,811	148	---	148
16 to 20 years	4,915	2,456	113	---	113
Over 20 years	17,664	7,830	538	---	538
<b>Regional Dispersion</b>					
Northeast	55,943	7,537	199	118	81
New Jersey	8,899	1,685	86	43	43
New York	19,651	3,609	66	43	23
Midwest	67,548	4,953	76	49	27
South	118,384	19,724	1,544	580	964
Florida	19,553	4,620	1,345	465	880
Texas	26,448	10,155	55	27	28
West	74,254	21,749	167	105	63
California	38,333	14,716	93	59	34

<sup>1</sup>Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced, separated or widowed. <sup>2</sup>"High school graduate" includes those who have attained a high school diploma or its equivalent, such as a General Education Development (GED) certificate. <sup>3</sup>For detailed information on how poverty status is determined, see <http://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variables/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. <sup>4</sup>These data reflect insurance coverage prior to the implementation of the individual insurance mandate of the Affordable Care Act. <sup>5</sup>The household population excludes persons living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters.

Note: Numbers may not sum to the total due to rounding. Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all, 3,132,795; Hispanics, 435,427; Hispanics of Cuban origin, 17,355; U.S.-born Cubans, 7,499; foreign-born Cubans, 9,856. The symbol \*\*\* indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2013 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS). 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/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2013.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2013.pdf).

Table 2

**Household Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Cuban Origin, 2013**

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Cuban Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
<b>Total</b> (in thousands)	<b>116,291</b>	<b>14,246</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>471</b>
<b>Homeownership</b> (household heads)					
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	73,933	6,452	366	103	263
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	42,358	7,794	294	87	207
Homeownership rate (%)	63.6	45.3	55.5	54.2	56.0
<b>Household Annual Income</b> (in dollars)					
Median	\$52,000	\$41,000	\$40,500	\$57,000	\$35,200
<b>Household Size</b>					
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	2.9	3.0	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. Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all, 1,211,264; Hispanics, 121,664; Hispanics of Cuban origin, 6,398; U.S.-born Cubans, 1,801; foreign-born Cubans, 4,597.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2013 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS). 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/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2013.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2013.pdf).

Table 3

**Employment Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Cuban Origin, 2013**

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Cuban Origin		
			All	U.S. born	Foreign born
<b>Employment Status</b> (civilians ages 16 and older)					
Employed	145,238	22,948	914	341	573
Unemployed	13,365	2,535	97	39	58
Not in labor force	91,321	12,437	620	156	464
Unemployment rate (%)	8.4	9.9	9.6	10.3	9.2
<b>Industries<sup>1</sup></b>					
Construction, agriculture and mining	11,827	3,116	73	16	57
Manufacturing	15,283	2,383	66	15	51
Trade and transportation	26,636	4,322	197	68	129
Information, finance and other services	91,492	13,127	579	242	337
<b>Occupations</b>					
Management, professional and related occupations	56,566	5,087	303	143	161
Services	22,944	5,522	161	50	111
Sales and office support	35,127	5,037	237	107	131
Construction, extraction and farming	8,287	2,724	56	10	46
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	22,314	4,577	156	31	126

<sup>1</sup>Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.

Note: Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all, 2,530,954; Hispanics, 311,328; Hispanics of Cuban origin, 14,351; U.S.-born Cubans, 4,802; foreign-born Cubans, 9,549.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 2013 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS). 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/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2013.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2013.pdf).