

5 Hispanics

A People in Motion

The Hispanic* population of the United States is growing fast and changing fast. The places Latinos live, the jobs they hold, the schooling they complete, the languages they speak, even their attitudes on key political and social issues, are all in flux. They now constitute this country's largest minority, but they are not an easily identified racial or ethnic group. Rather, they are defined by shared elements of Latin American ancestry and culture. In this chapter, we examine Hispanic demographic trends and labor market and educational outcomes; we also analyze the diverse attitudes, values, beliefs and language patterns of the Latino population.

* This chapter uses the words Latino and Hispanic interchangeably. The terms white and black refer to non-Hispanics.

INTRODUCTION

Population and Demography

The 2000 census marked the Hispanic population at 35.3 million people, an increase of 58% over 1990. Since then, growth has continued at a brisk pace. The total Hispanic population in 2004 was 40.4 million. That is a jump of more than 14% in just four years; meanwhile, the non-Hispanic population was up by barely 2%. The impact of Latino population growth is magnified by the fact that the white and African-American populations are not only stable in size but also aging. As the huge baby boom generation moves toward retirement, young Latinos are filling in behind them.

Large-scale immigration from Latin America, especially Mexico, developed in the 1970s, gathered momentum in the 1980s and surged after the mid-1990s. As a result, immigration drove most of the Latino population growth over this period. A substantial share of the growth, particularly in the past decade, has come through illegal immigration. Although there are no exact numbers, demographers who specialize in immigration estimate that the total undocumented population in this country is currently 10 million. Roughly 60% are believed to come from Mexico and another 20% from the rest of Latin America, bringing the Hispanic share of that total to 80%, or 8 million.

Latino immigrants, most of them young adults in their prime child-bearing years, have proved highly fertile, with birth rates twice as high as those of non-Hispanics. Consequently, Latino population growth in the next few decades will be driven primarily by increases in the second generation. These native-born, English-

A U.S. Snapshot: Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2004

	POPULATION	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION
Hispanic	40,424,528	14%
Native born	22,381,207	7.7%
Foreign born	18,043,321	6.2%
Non-Hispanic white	194,876,871	68%
Non-Hispanic black	34,919,473	12%
Non-Hispanic Asian	12,342,486	4%
Non-Hispanic other	5,717,108	2%
Total population	288,280,465	100%

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Current Population Survey, March 2004

speaking, U.S.-educated Hispanics will have a very different impact on the country than their immigrant parents had. That impact is still to be fully felt, as half of the offspring of Latino immigrants are 11 or younger. Their youth, coupled with the expected increase in their numbers, signals a growing presence of Latinos in the school-age population and in the pool of new entrants to the labor force.

As the Hispanic population grows and shows signs of becoming less immigrant-based, it is also starting to spread out. Although Hispanics are still concentrated geographically in California, Texas and other states that have had large Latino communities for decades, this population has begun to disperse across the country, with very fast growth in states as scattered as Georgia, Nebraska and Washington.

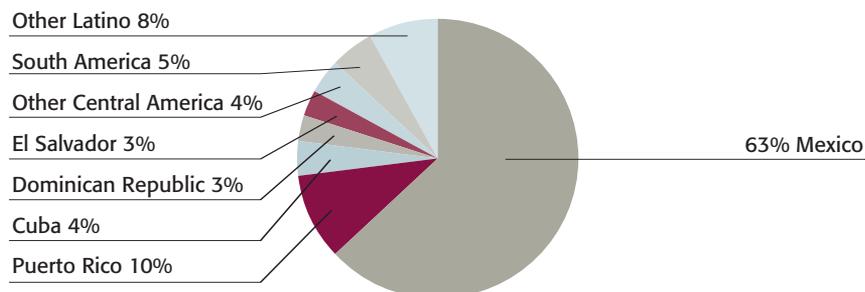
The Hispanic Labor Force

The rapid increase in the Hispanic population has made it the second-largest ethnic or racial group in the labor force behind whites. Latinos now make up 13% of the U.S. labor force, but they are expected to account for about one half of the growth in the labor force between now and 2020. Not surprisingly, Hispanics also account for a disproportionate share of new jobs. Despite their success in finding employment, Latino workers, especially recent immigrants, are less educated and less experienced than other workers. As a result, they are concentrated in relatively low-skill occupations, have a higher unemployment rate and earn less than the average for all workers. Poverty is also high among Latino households and wealth accumulation is low; Hispanic households own less than 10 cents for every dollar in wealth owned by white households. Meanwhile, Latino immigrants retain strong economic ties to their countries of origin and many of them regularly send money home. According to the Inter-American Development Bank, more than \$30 billion was remitted to Latin American and Caribbean countries in 2003.

Schooling

Fast growth in the number of Hispanic children has also led to increases in U.S. school enrollments since 1980. This trend will continue at least through the next two decades. As their numbers have increased, Hispanic youths have been doing better in school: A rising proportion of U.S.-educated Hispanic children finish high school and more are going on to college. Yet even though Latino youths have narrowed some important educational gaps, Latinos continue to lag behind white students at all key milestones of their educational journey. In high school, Hispanic youths complete a less rigorous curriculum and, on average, score lower on national assessments and college entrance examinations. Although college entry has significantly expanded among Hispanic youths, they remain much less likely to finish college than their white peers.

Latino Population of the United States by Place of Origin



Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2000 Census

Hispanic Identity

The Hispanic population is not a racial group, nor does it share a common language or culture. The single overarching trait that all Hispanics share in common is a connection by ancestry to Latin America. This population, in fact, traces its origins to many countries with varied cultures, and while some Latinos have family histories in the United States that date back centuries, others are recent arrivals. Some speak only English, others only Spanish, and many are bilingual. Given this diversity, it is not easy to define an identity, belief system and set of values that all Hispanics share. Moreover, this is a population that is changing the way it thinks. Immigrants are a people in motion who are learning about a new land – even as their children are drawing from both their parents' culture and powerful American influences to shape their attitudes. Research shows that the process of change is widespread and powerful, and that language plays a central role. Latinos who speak only Spanish, almost all of them immigrants, share a set of views on a variety of issues that distinguish them from native-born Americans. Meanwhile, those who speak English express attitudes more similar to those of the U.S. population in general. The evidence shows that English, and the views that come with it, gains ground in the first generation – among the foreign-born – and becomes dominant among their children in the second generation.

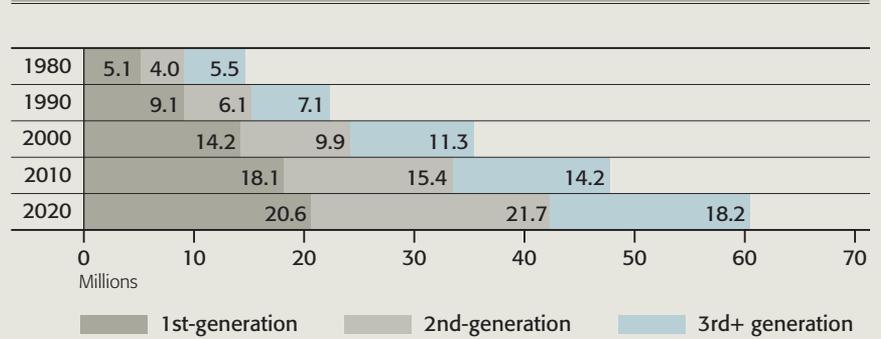
DEMOGRAPHICS

The Hispanic population of the United States more than doubled between 1980 and 2000, increasing from 14.6 million to 35.3 million. The Pew Hispanic Center projects that the Hispanic population will reach 47.7 million by the end of this decade, and 60.4 million by 2020.

As the Latino population grows, its composition is undergoing a fundamental change. Births to Hispanic immigrants, rather than immigration itself, will be the key source of population growth in the near future. By 2020, second-generation Hispanics are projected to reach 21.7 million in number, representing 36% of the overall Hispanic population, up from 9.9 million in 2000, when they represented 28%. Latino immigrants will increase in number to 20.6 million from 14.2 million by 2020 but their share will diminish to 34%, from 40%. The remaining 18.2 million Hispanics are expected to be third- or higher-generation Hispanics — those who were born in this country and whose parents were born here as well.

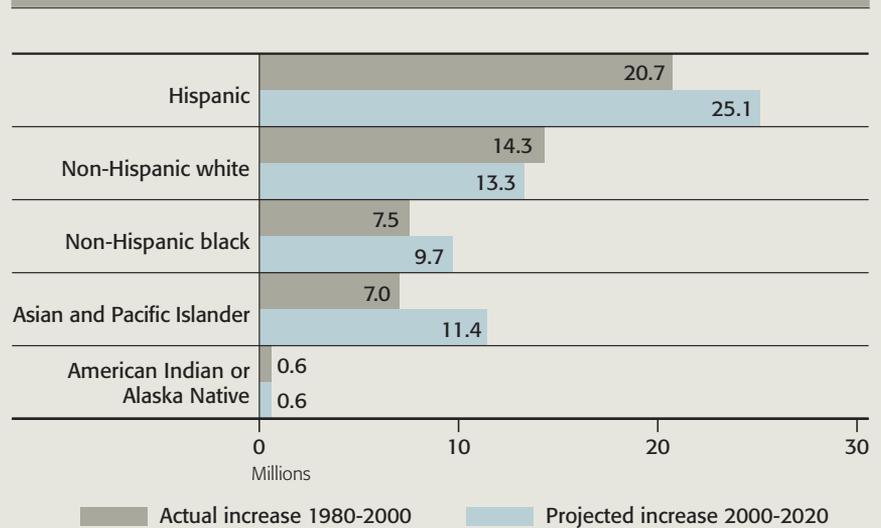
Growth of the Hispanic population accounts for a disproportionate share of total population growth in the United States. Between 1980 and 2000, the increase of 20.7 million in the Hispanic population accounted for 38% of the nation's total population growth. The white population increased by 14.3 million and accounted for 26% of the growth. Between 2000 and 2020 the Hispanic population is projected to grow by 25.1 million and the white population by 13.3 million. In other words, Hispanics should account for 46% and whites 24% of total population growth in the next two decades.

Hispanic Population, Actual and Projected, 1980-2020, in millions



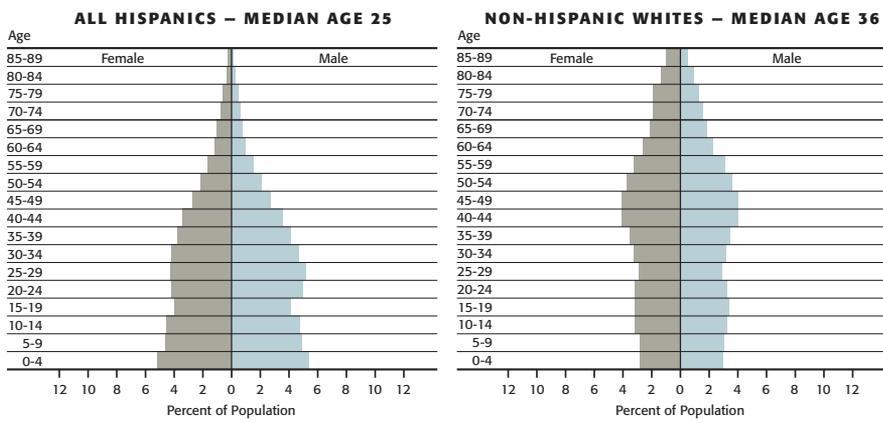
Source: U.S. Census Bureau for 1980 to 2000; Pew Hispanic Center and Urban Institute for projections for 2010 and 2020

Change in U.S. Population by Race and Ethnicity, Actual and Projected, 1980-2020, in millions



Source: U.S. Census Bureau for 1980 to 2000; Pew Hispanic Center and Urban Institute for projections for 2000 and 2020

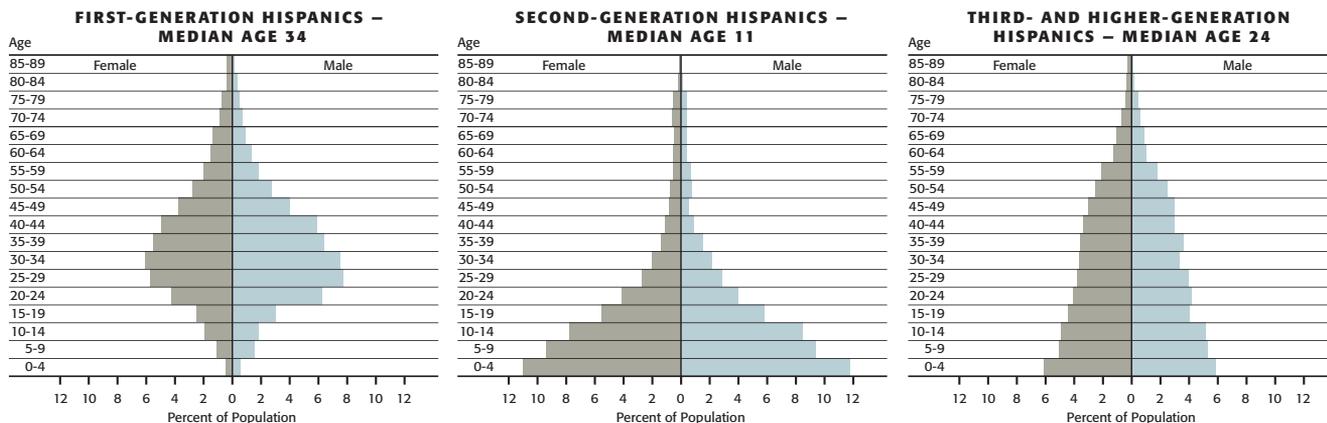
Age and Gender Distribution of Hispanics and Non-Hispanic Whites



Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Current Population Survey, March 2004

The rapid growth of the Hispanic population is partly a function of its youth. Compared with whites, a greater share of the Hispanic population is concentrated in childbearing years. Their relative youth is evident in age and gender distributions. The white age structure is relatively top heavy, with many older members at the top and fewer younger members at the base. In contrast, the Hispanic population has a broader base and narrows toward the top. This shape is characteristic of younger populations with high fertility levels.

Age and Gender Distribution of First-, Second-, Third- and Higher-Generation Hispanics



Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Current Population Survey, March 2004

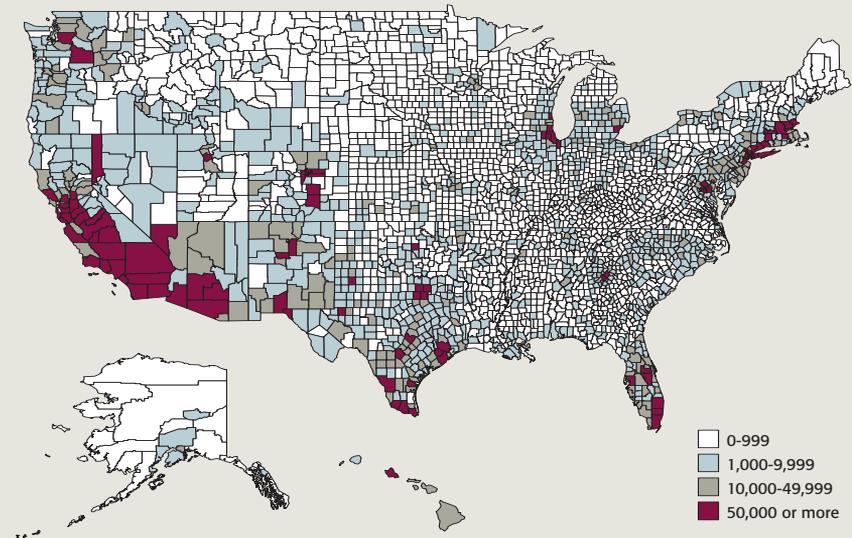
Within the Hispanic population, the age and gender structures of first, second, and third and higher generations differ markedly. The Latino immigrant population is dominated by working-age adults and men: There are 116 male immigrants for every 100 female immigrants. In contrast, second-generation Hispanics are nearly equally divided between males

and females, and the bulk of this generation is of school age. Half of second-generation Hispanics are currently 11 years old or younger. Half of third- and higher-generation Hispanics are 24 or younger, which gives this group an age structure similar to that of the overall Latino population.

Hispanics are relatively concentrated geographically. Nearly 80% live in California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, Arizona, New Jersey, New Mexico or Colorado. But as the Hispanic population grew between 1980 and 2000, it also dispersed somewhat. Tracking that movement requires examining both the speed and the size of growth in new areas. In addition to Florida, seven states — Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia and Massachusetts — saw growth that was both fast (increases of more than 200%) and sizable (more than 200,000 additional Hispanics per state). States with established Hispanic populations, such as California, also saw their numbers grow substantially, but because they started with a large base, the rate of growth was slower. States with an emerging Hispanic population, such as Nebraska and Kansas, produced smaller absolute numbers (increases of fewer than 200,000 Hispanics between 1980 and 2000) but very high rates of growth (more than 200%).

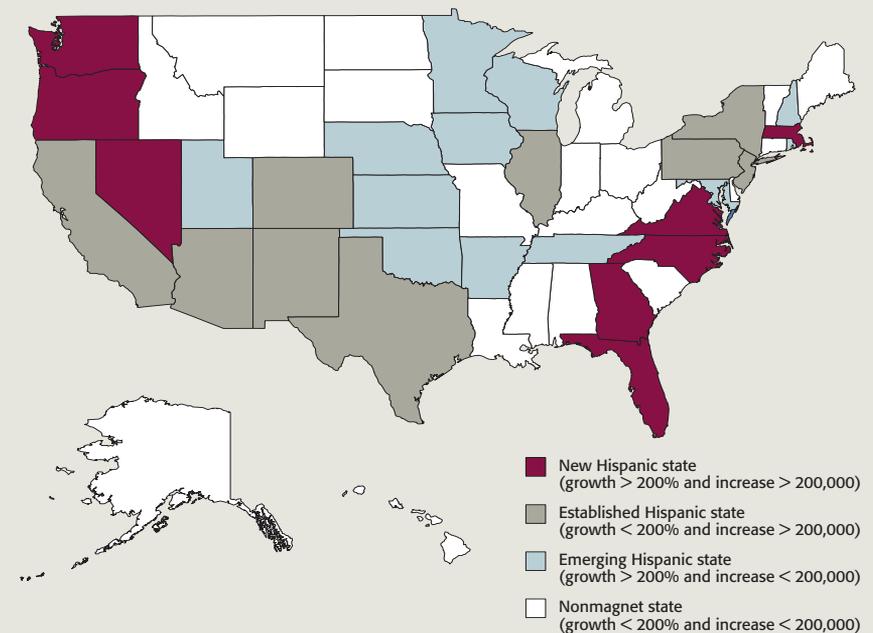
Despite their geographic concentration, most Latinos live scattered through neighborhoods where they are a small share of the population. Some 20 million Hispanics — 57% of the total — lived in neighborhoods in which they made up less than half the population at the time of the 2000 census. These Latinos lived in census tracts where, on average, only 7% of residents were Hispanics. This pattern of dispersal even holds for Latino immigrants and for low-income Hispanics, although to a lesser degree.

Number of Hispanics by County, 2000



Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 2000 Census

Hispanic Population Growth by State, 1980–2000



Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the 1980 and 2000 Censuses

Distribution of Hispanics by Neighborhood Ethnicity, 1990 and 2000

	HISPANIC POPULATION (MILLIONS)		DISTRIBUTION	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Hispanic-minority neighborhoods	13.4	20.2	61%	57%
Hispanic-majority neighborhoods	8.5	15.0	39%	43%
All neighborhoods	21.9	35.2	100%	100%

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from 2000 Census Summary File 3 and Geolytics for 1990 data converted to 2000 census tract boundaries

Note: A Hispanic-majority neighborhood is a census tract in which 50% or more of the population is Latino.

“As of 2000, 57% of all Hispanics were dispersed, while 43% were living in Latino-majority neighborhoods. By this measure, the Hispanic population is somewhat less concentrated than the African-American population.”

The remainder of the Hispanic population in 2000 — 15 million — lived in neighborhoods where Latinos are a majority. These communities are large, and the Hispanic population that lives in such neighborhoods has been growing faster than the Hispanic population that lives dispersed among non-Hispanics. A comparison of data from the 1990 and 2000 census counts shows that as the size of the Hispanic population increased in big cities with already large Hispanic populations, such as New York and Los Angeles, these majority-Latino neighborhoods spread across the urban landscape. Although such neighborhoods where Latinos dominate can be highly visible and sometimes controversial, they are not the norm for the Latino population.

Thus, the recent growth of the Hispanic population has produced two countervailing trends in residential settlement: dispersal and concentration. The increase of the Hispanic population between 1990 and 2000 was almost equally shared between neighborhoods where Latinos are a majority of residents (6.5 million) and neighborhoods where they are a minority (6.9 million). As of 2000, 57% of all Hispanics were dispersed, while 43% were living in Latino-majority neighborhoods. By this measure, the Hispanic population is somewhat less concentrated than the African-American population. In 2000, some 48% of the black population lived in census tracts with a majority-black population. Predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods are also diverse in their own way, as they are home to a variety of Latinos — immigrant and native born, Spanish speakers and English speakers, the poor and the middle class.

The U.S. Labor Force: A Racial and Ethnic Breakdown

	ALL WORKERS	HISPANICS	WHITE	NON-HISPANICS BLACK	OTHER
Population (age 16+)	223,653,344	28,240,747	156,614,899	25,254,576	13,543,122
Labor force	148,612,727	19,501,923	103,790,890	16,382,681	8,937,233
Employment	140,554,632	18,169,653	99,324,876	14,598,564	8,461,539
Unemployment	8,058,095	1,332,270	4,466,014	1,784,117	475,694
Labor force participation rate (%)	66.4	69.1	66.3	64.9	66.0
Employment-to-population ratio (%)	62.8	64.3	63.4	57.8	62.5
Unemployment rate (%)	5.4	6.8	4.3	10.9	5.3

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data, third quarter 2004

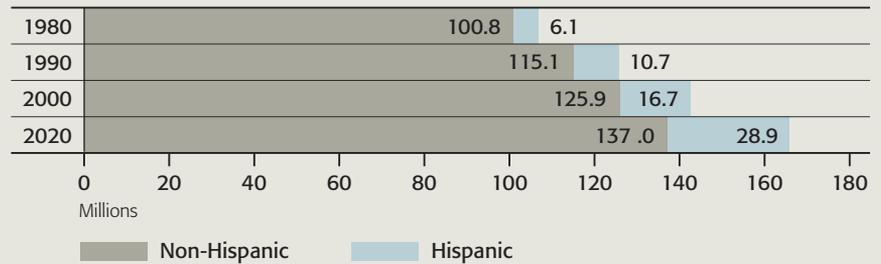
Note: Data are non-seasonally adjusted.

HISPANICS IN THE LABOR FORCE

Hispanics are the second-largest group of workers in the labor force behind whites. In the third quarter of 2004, there were 28 million Latinos of working age (16 or older). The number of working-age Latinos is nearly 3 million greater than the number of blacks and more than double the number of other minority groups.

Latinos are the most likely of all racial or ethnic groups to seek work. In the third quarter of 2004, 69.1% of Hispanics were either at work or actively seeking work. That is about 3 percentage points higher than the rate for whites and blacks. Of the Latinos in the labor market, 18.2 million are employed and the remaining 1.3 million are unemployed. That translates into an unemployment rate of 6.8% in the third quarter of 2004, which is higher than the unemployment rate of 4.3% among whites but lower than the 10.9% rate among blacks. Despite a relatively high unemployment rate, the employment-to-population ratio shows that 64.3% of the Latino working-age population is gainfully employed. That is higher than the proportion for any other racial or ethnic group.

Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Labor Forces, Actual and Projected



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics for data through 2000. Estimate for 2020 is the mid-range of projections by Pew Hispanic Center and Urban Institute

Nativity of the Hispanic Labor Force, Current and Projected (in thousands)

	2004	2020	CHANGE
First generation	10,648	13,397	2,749
Second generation	2,856	8,044	5,188
Third and higher generations	5,762	7,462	1,700
All Hispanics	19,266	28,903	9,637

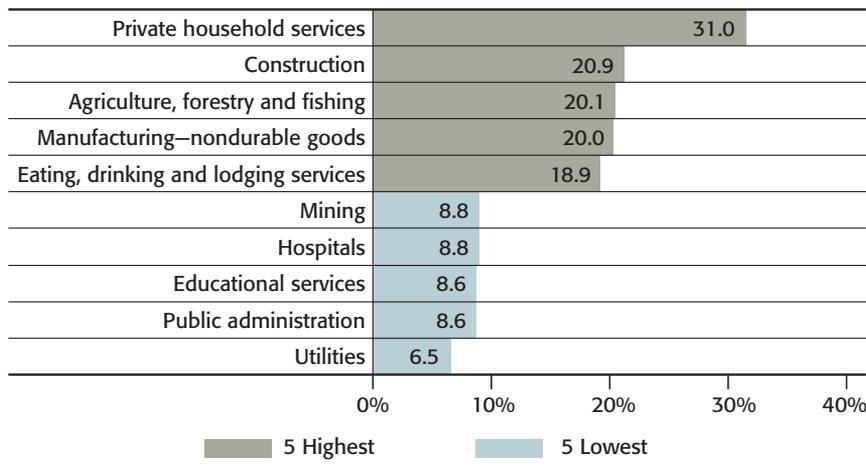
Sources: For 2004 estimates: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data. Estimates for 2020 are the mid-range of projections by Pew Hispanic Center and Urban Institute
Note: Data for 2004 represent the average of the first three quarters.

Distribution of the Labor Force by Age and Education

	HISPANIC	NON-HISPANIC
AGE		
16-24	19.9%	15.1%
25-34	30.6%	20.3%
35-44	25.3%	24.1%
45 and older	24.2%	40.5%
EDUCATION		
Less than high school	36.1%	8.7%
High school	30.5%	30.6%
Some college	20.8%	29.8%
College degree	12.5%	30.9%

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data
Note: Data are for third quarter 2004 and are non-seasonally adjusted.

Hispanic Share of Employment in Selected Industries: 5 Highest and 5 Lowest



Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data
Note: Data are for third quarter 2004 and are non-seasonally adjusted.

The prominence of Latinos in the labor market is relatively new. As recently as 1980, there were only 6.1 million Hispanics in the labor force. Their rapid growth saw them overtake the black labor force in the late 1990s. This growth was driven by immigration, as more than one half of the Latino labor force is foreign born. The Hispanic labor force is expected to continue growing at a fast pace and to expand by nearly 10 million workers between now and 2020.

Assuming that current trends persist, future growth of the Hispanic labor force will be driven less by immigration and more by the children of immigrants. Between 2004 and 2020, immigration is expected to add 2.7 million Hispanic workers, but the second generation of Latinos is projected to contribute almost double that number. The overall increase in the Latino work force will constitute about one half of the total increase in the U.S. labor force.

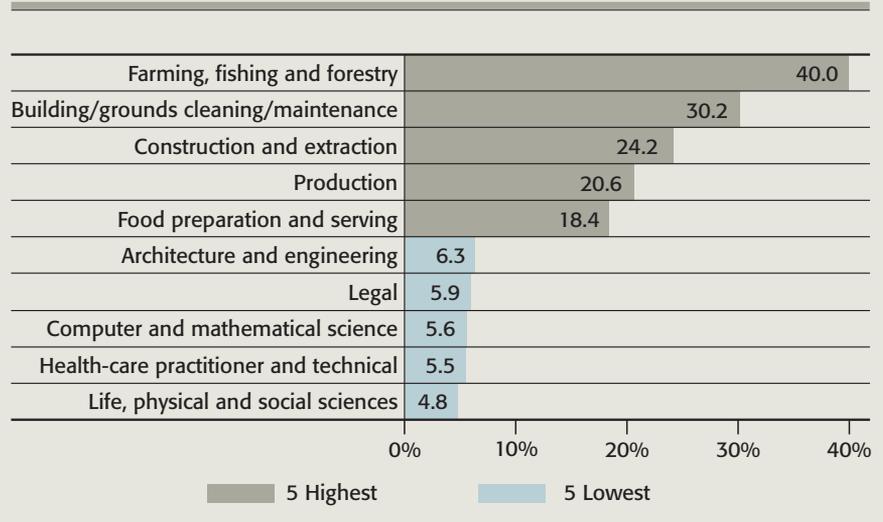
These trends have kept the Hispanic labor force relatively young. One half of the Hispanic labor force is under 35 years old, compared with just over one third of the non-Hispanic labor force. Latino workers also lag in education. Thirty six percent of Hispanic workers lack a high school degree compared with fewer than 9% of non-Hispanic workers. At the other end of the educational spectrum, non-Hispanic workers are nearly three times as likely to have a college degree.

The youth and education level of Hispanic workers translates into a concentration in relatively low-skill jobs. Latinos account for more than 30% of workers in private household services and about 20% of workers in construction, agriculture, forestry and fishing, nondurable manufacturing, and eating, drinking and lodging services.

Looking at occupations, Latinos have very low representation in high-skill occupations such as architecture and engineering, legal, computer and mathematical science, health care, and life, physical and social sciences. Hispanic representation in these occupations hovers in the range of 5%. On the other hand, Latinos make up 40% of employment in farming, fishing and forestry.

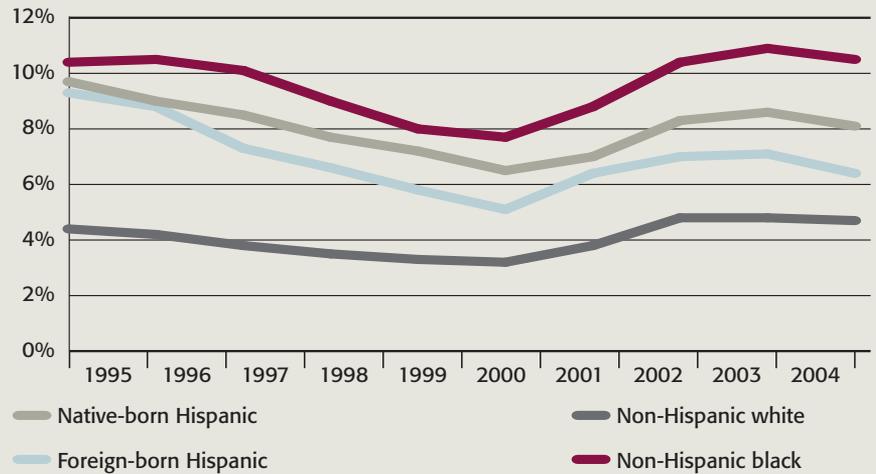
The unemployment rate — a key indicator of labor market outcomes — reveals that Latinos have fared better than blacks but not as well as whites. The record economic expansion of the 1990s was especially beneficial to foreign-born Hispanics, whose unemployment rate fell to 5.1% in 2000 from 9.3% in 1995. Other groups also benefited during this time but not by as much. The 2001 recession rolled back the gains for all workers, and more than 2 million workers in all, including 300,000 Hispanic workers, joined the ranks of the unemployed that year. Signs of a recovery in the job market first appeared in mid-2003. Among Latinos, immigrants again led the way, gaining more than 630,000 jobs in 2003, compared with a gain of less than 75,000 by the native-born. The unemployment rate for foreign-born Hispanics is now at 6.4%, while for native-born Hispanics it remains above 8%.

Hispanic Share of Employment in Selected Occupations: 5 Highest and 5 Lowest



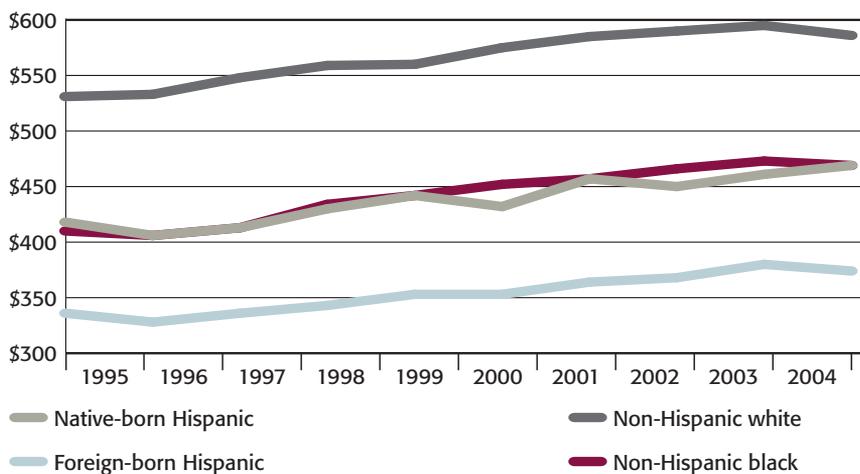
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data
Note: Data are for third quarter 2004 and are non-seasonally adjusted.

Unemployment Rates by Race and Ethnicity, 1995 to 2004



Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data
Note: Revisions in the Current Population Survey slightly affect the comparability of the unemployment rate over time. Data for 2004 represent the average of the first three quarters.

Median Weekly Earnings by Race and Ethnicity (Full-Time and Part-Time Workers Combined)



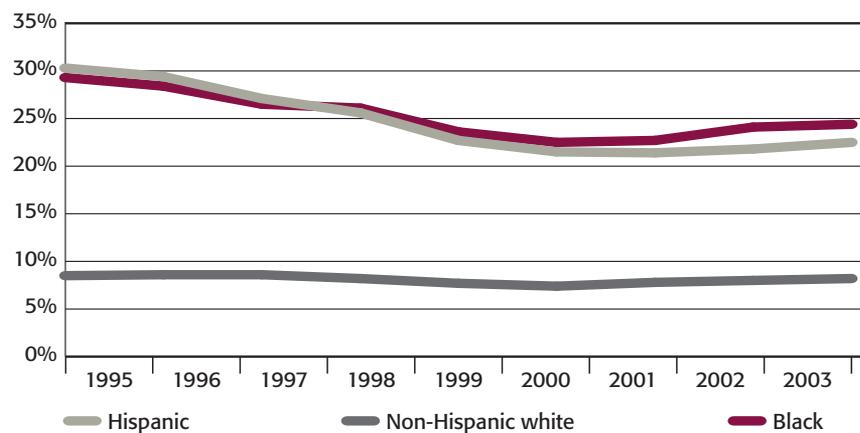
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Current Population Survey data

Note: The data represent annual averages in 2003 dollars, except for 2004 data, which represent the average of the first three quarters.

Another important indicator — the median weekly wage — shows that foreign-born Latinos earn the least of all workers in the labor force. Reflecting, among other things, their lower level of education, lack of labor-market experience and immigration status, foreign-born Latinos earn about \$200 per week less than whites. The median earnings of native-born Hispanics and blacks are virtually identical and fall in the middle of the wage spectrum, roughly \$125 per week less than the earnings of whites. Earning growth has been slow for all groups, especially since the recession, and the earning gaps have not narrowed since 1995.

The poverty rate fell steadily between 1995 and 2001, but it increased for all groups following the 2001 recession. Currently, 22.5% of Latinos are living below the poverty line, compared with 24.4% of blacks and only 8.2% of whites.

Poverty Rates by Race and Ethnicity



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

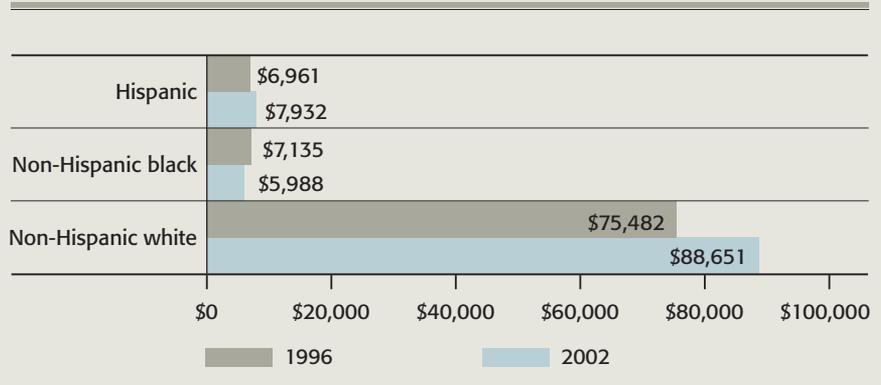
Note: Blacks include some Hispanics, and changes in the race question affect data from 2002 on.

Low wealth is characteristic of minority communities. In 2002, Hispanic households had a slightly higher median level of wealth than black households, but less than 10 cents for every dollar in wealth owned by white households.

Notwithstanding their low earnings and wealth, foreign-born Latinos remit income to their countries of origin with great frequency. A Pew Hispanic Center and Inter-American Development Bank study shows that over 40% of adult, foreign-born Hispanics — about 6 million people — sent remittances on a regular basis in 2003. Two thirds of those remitted money at least one a month.

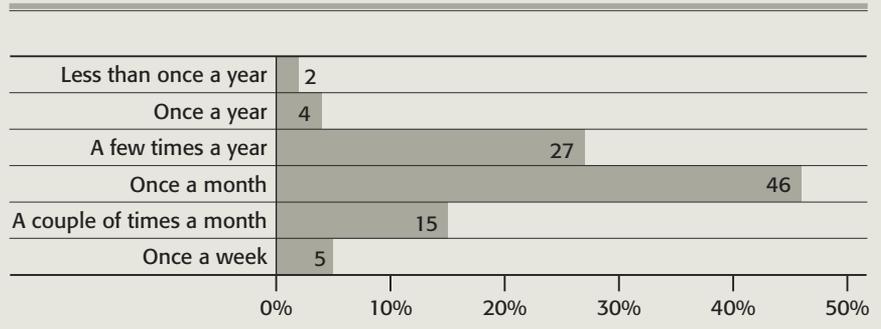
The remittances benefit significant shares of the adult populations in the receiving countries. In the five countries studied, anywhere from 14% of the adult population (in Ecuador) to 28% of the adult population (in El Salvador) received remittances in 2003.

Median Net Worth of Households by Race and Ethnicity in 1996 and 2002



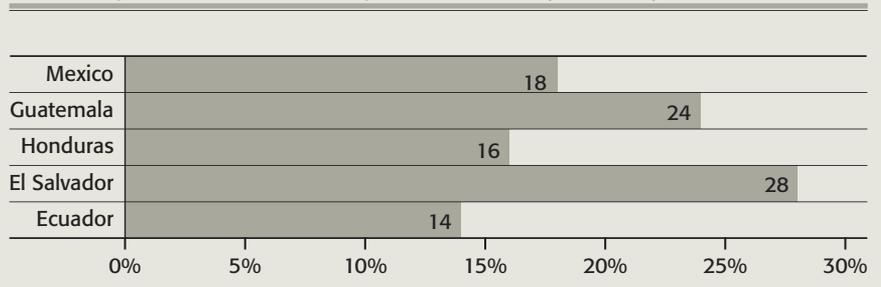
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of Survey of Income and Program Participation data
Note: Data are in 2003 dollars.

Frequency of Remittances to Countries of Origin by Hispanic Immigrants



Source: Pew Hispanic Center and Multilateral Investment Fund, Inter-American Development Bank (2003 data)
Note: 42% of adult, foreign-born Latinos in the U.S. regularly send remittances to their country of origin.

Percentage of Adults Receiving Remittances by Country



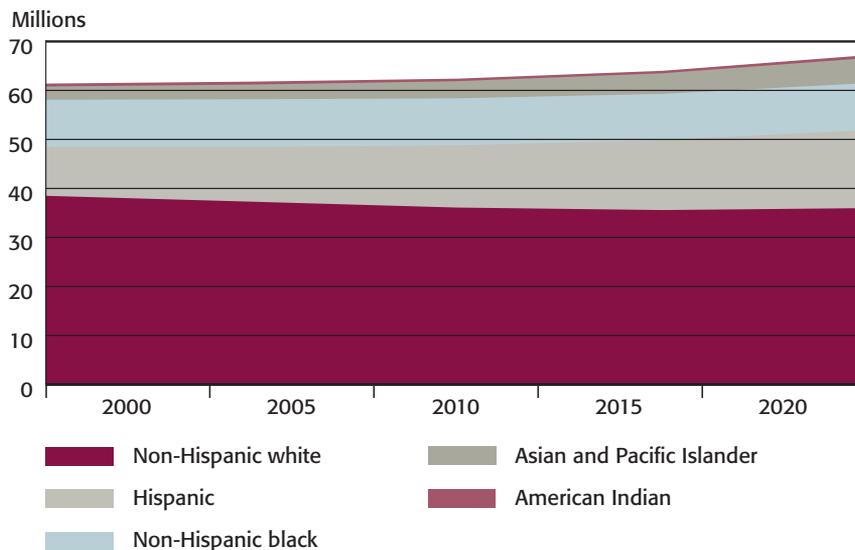
Source: Pew Hispanic Center and Multilateral Investment Fund, Inter-American Development Bank (2003 data)

Who's at School: Enrollment in Grades K-12 (in thousands)

GRADE LEVEL	HISPANIC				NON-HISPANIC			TOTAL
	1ST GENERATION	2ND GENERATION	3RD+ GENERATION	ALL HISPANICS	WHITE	BLACK	OTHER	
Kindergarten	44	431	244	718	2,280	582	208	3,788
Grades 1-4	312	1,588	858	2,758	10,140	2,566	874	16,338
Grades 5-8	484	1,420	808	2,712	10,470	2,649	901	16,732
High school	551	1,048	628	2,227	10,390	2,541	889	16,047
Total	1,391	4,487	2,538	8,416	33,280	8,338	2,873	52,906

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Current Population Survey, October 2001

Projected Size of the 5-to-19-year-old Population



Source: Pew Hispanic Center and Urban Institute

HISPANICS IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Because Hispanics are a relatively young population, they have had a major impact on U.S. school systems. Since 1980 the number of Hispanic children has nearly doubled, and the additional 4.5 million Latino children account for the bulk of the growth in the total number of children in the United States. There were 8.4 million Hispanic children enrolled in grades K-12 in 2001, accounting for 16% of all students. Their share is higher in the lower grades: 19% of students in kindergarten in 2001 were Latinos.

U.S. schools will continue to experience growing Hispanic enrollments for years to come. The Hispanic 5-to-19-year-old population is projected to grow from 11 million in 2005 to 16 million in 2020. By then Hispanics are projected to be 24% of the 5-to-19-year-old population. The second-largest minority group of youth — blacks — are not projected to grow, remaining at 10 million in number. Their share of the 5-to-19-year-old population is projected to fall to 14%.

It is important to distinguish between native-born Hispanics and foreign-born Hispanics when analyzing educational achievement. More than 60% of Hispanic adults immigrated to the United States, and most of them did not attend U.S. schools because they arrived after age 18. But fewer than 20% of Hispanic students in grades K-12 immigrated to the United States, so the educational status of Latino youth is largely determined in U.S. schools. Looking at the whole Latino population, it is the least educated racial or ethnic group, with only American Indians and Alaskan Natives faring as poorly. For example, almost 90% of all young adults in the United States have finished high school, compared with only 62% of Latinos. While this is an important measure of the diminished social and economic prospects facing the Latino population, it is a poor indicator of what is happening in U.S. schools. Instead, that dramatic shortfall reflects the presence of many poorly educated adult immigrants. In contrast, 84% of native-born Hispanic young adults have finished high school, which is a better gauge of how Hispanic children are faring in U.S. schools.

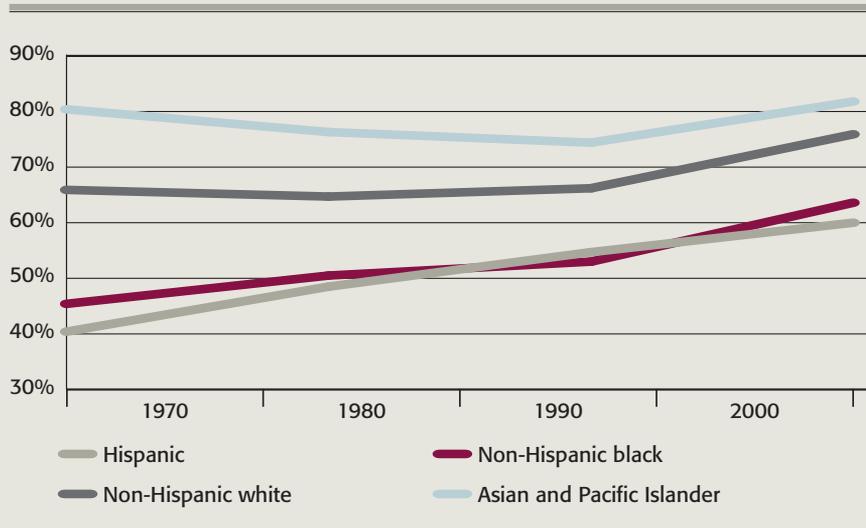
Finishing high school is a basic educational milestone, and here Latino children have made steady progress. In 1970, 40% of native-born Hispanic teens had finished high school. By 2000, the rate had improved significantly to 60% and the gap with white youth had narrowed. Similarly, Hispanic high school graduates go on to college at much higher rates than they did 30 years ago. Seventy percent of Latinos in the high school class of 1992 moved on to college, significantly higher than the 50% in the class of 1972.

Educational Indicators for Native-Born Young Adults

	HISPANIC	NON-HISPANIC	
		WHITE	BLACK
Native-born 25-to-29 year olds completing high school ^a	83.6%	93.6%	88.1%
Native-born 18- to-24-year-old high-school graduates enrolled in college ^b	37.6%	45.0%	39.6%
Native-born 25-to-29 year olds completing a bachelor's degree ^a	15.6%	34.1%	17.5%

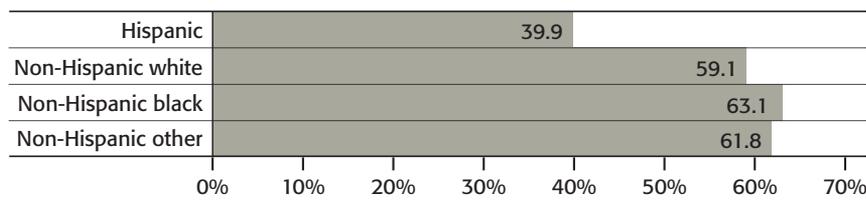
Sources: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from a) Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, March 2004, and b) Current Population Survey, October 2001

High School Completion Rates of U.S.-Born 18-to-19-year-olds



Source: Georges Vernez and Lee Mizell, *Monitoring the Education Progress of Hispanics*, RAND, August 2002

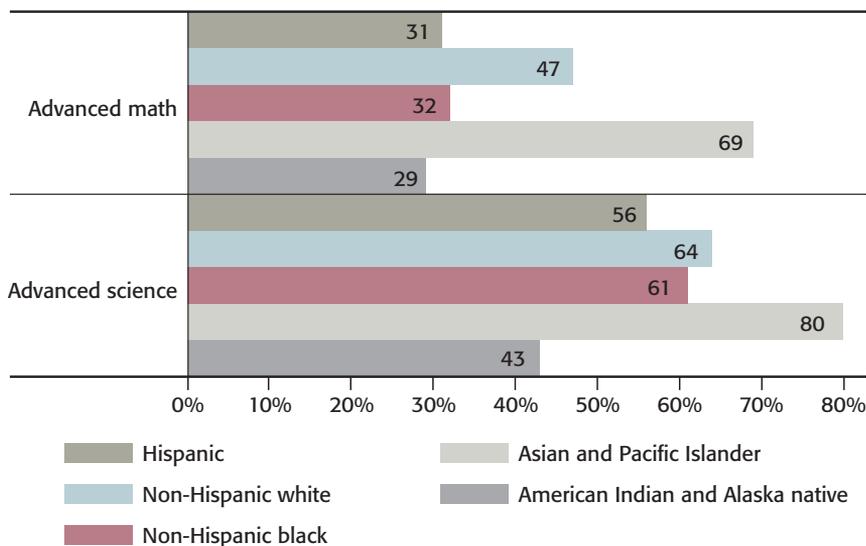
Enrollment of 3-to-5-year-olds in Early Education Programs



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, *The Condition of Education, 2002*. Data are for 2001.

Nonetheless, there are large disparities between Hispanic and white students across the educational spectrum. Differences in early learning set the stage for later problems. Before the onset of formal schooling, Hispanic children are significantly less likely than other children to attend preschool programs. In 2001, 40% of Hispanic children 3 to 5 years old enrolled in early childhood education programs, compared with about 60% of other children.

High School Graduates Completing Advanced Math and Science Courses



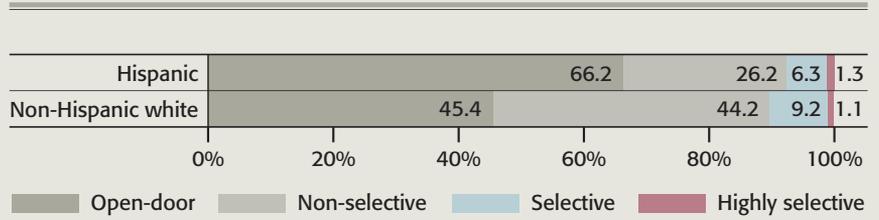
Source: National Center for Education Statistics, *The Condition of Education, 2004*. Data are for 2000.

At the high school level, while many Latino youths graduate, their course work in mathematics, science and English is less advanced than that of their white classmates. For example, 31% of Hispanic high school graduates and 47% of white students complete at least one math course more challenging than Algebra II and Geometry I. This difference in high school learning contributes to the differences in what white and Hispanic youths accomplish when they go on to college.

Latino college students do not attend the same kinds of institutions as do white undergraduates. Latinos are more likely to attend community colleges and the four-year colleges they attend are more likely to be less-selective institutions. This disparity in college outcomes partly reflects differences in high school preparation, but other factors are also involved. Even comparing Hispanic college freshmen with white freshmen who have an average or near-average level of high school preparation in terms of coursework, the Hispanic freshmen tend to attend less selective colleges or universities. One plausible explanation is economic. Tuition is less expensive at community colleges and many less selective public four-year colleges; students can study while living at home; and course schedules accommodate students who must work full time as they go to college.

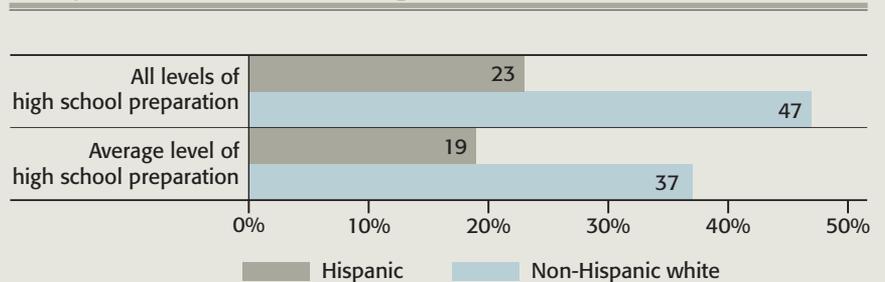
Hispanic undergraduates are much less likely to finish college than white undergraduates. Almost half of all young white postsecondary entrants finish a bachelor's degree, in comparison with fewer than a quarter of all young Hispanic postsecondary entrants. This critical difference can partly be accounted for by high school preparation and college-entry differences. But even similarly prepared Hispanic and white students have very different graduation rates. Looking only at students who left high school with an average level of preparation, whites were twice as likely as Latinos to graduate from college — 37% versus 19%. And these differences persist for similarly prepared entrants within similar colleges. For example, among Hispanic four-year college entrants with an average or near-average level of high school preparation attending nonselective colleges, 43% completed a bachelor's degree. Similarly prepared white entrants at nonselective institutions graduated at a 62% rate.

Where Hispanics and Whites Go to College, by Type of Institution



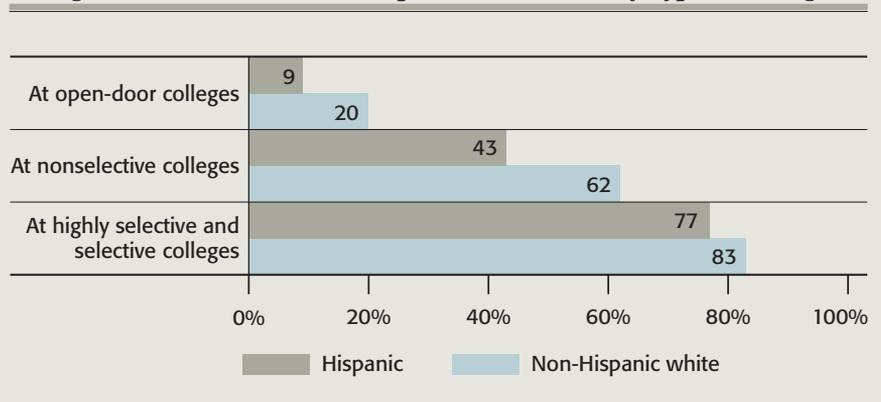
Source: Rick Fry, *Latino Youth Finishing College: The Role of Selective Pathways*, Pew Hispanic Center, 2004
 Note: Data are for Hispanic and white students with average levels of high school preparation.

College Graduation Rates for Hispanics and Whites



Source: Rick Fry, *Latino Youth Finishing College: The Role of Selective Pathways*, Pew Hispanic Center, 2004
 Note: Graduation rates reflect the achievement of eighth-grade students in 1988 who were followed until 2000.

College Graduation Rates for Hispanics and Whites by Type of College



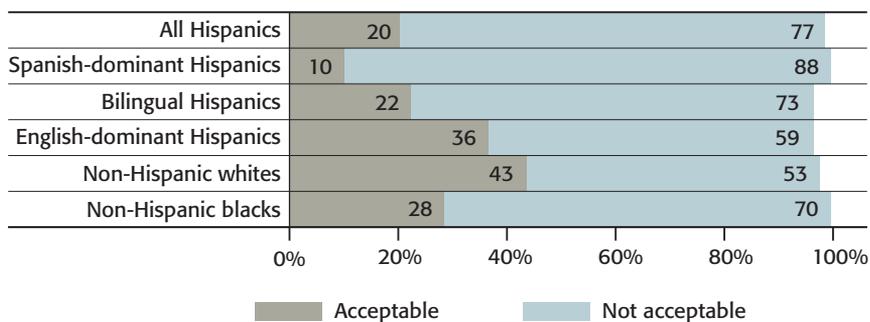
Source: Rick Fry, *Latino Youth Finishing College: The Role of Selective Pathways*, Pew Hispanic Center, 2004
 Note: Data are for Hispanic and white students with average levels of high school preparation. Graduation rates reflect the achievement of eighth-grade students in 1988 who were followed until 2000.

Language Use Among Latino Adults

	SPANISH DOMINANT	BILINGUAL	ENGLISH DOMINANT
First generation	72%	24%	4%
Second generation	7%	47%	46%
Third and higher generations	0%	22%	78%
All Latinos	47%	28%	25%

Source: Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey of Latinos, December 2002

Abortion: Acceptable or Not Acceptable?



Source: Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey of Latinos, December 2002
Note: "Don't know" responses not shown.

ASSIMILATION AND ATTITUDES

Assimilation is the process by which immigrants and their offspring adopt some values, beliefs and behaviors more characteristic of the U.S. culture than the culture of the countries from which they or their ancestors originate. This is neither a complete nor a uniform process, as some individuals change more than others and some attitudes change more than others.

Results from a series of national surveys conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center in partnership with the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation from 2002 to 2004 show clearly that the acquisition of English plays a central role in assimilation. In general, the attitudes of English-dominant Hispanics are much more similar to those held by non-Latinos than are the attitudes of Spanish-dominant Latinos. The correlation extends across a wide range of topics, ranging from attitudes on the acceptability of abortion to beliefs about an individual's ability to control his or her own destiny. Language is found to contribute substantially to differences in attitudes even after controlling for many other factors, such as age, gender, education, income and country of origin.

Spanish is the dominant language of the Hispanic adult population because of the presence of immigrants. Even so, more than a quarter of the foreign-born population speaks some English. The language profile is very different among native-born Latinos. Nearly half of the second generation only speaks English and the other half is almost all bilingual, meaning they can speak and read both languages. Virtually all Latinos whose parents were born in the United States speak English and none are Spanish dominant.

The Pew/Kaiser surveys have found that Spanish-dominant Latinos — those who have little or no mastery of English and who primarily rely on Spanish in their home and work lives — have strikingly different opinions about controversial social issues such as abortion, divorce and homosexuality. For example, only 10% of Spanish-dominant Latinos say they find abortion acceptable, compared with 36% of English-dominant Hispanics. On this issue, as on questions about divorce and homosexuality, the English-dominant Latinos have views that are closer to those of whites than to those of Spanish-dominant Latinos.

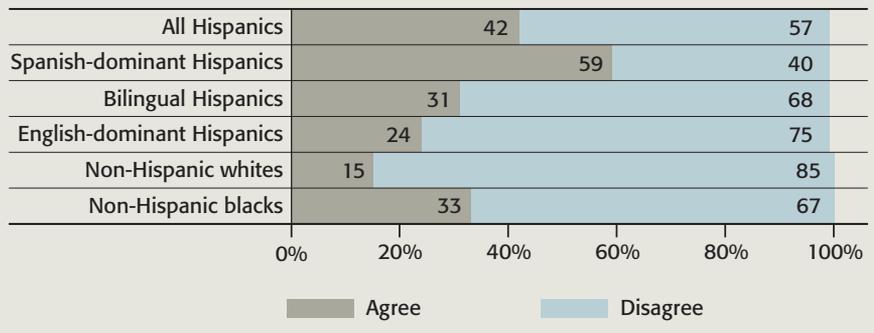
Fatalism, or the belief that it does not do any good to plan for the future because you do not have any control over your fate, is widespread in Latin America, particularly among the poor. A majority of Spanish-dominant Latinos, overwhelmingly an immigrant population, espouse this view, but its prevalence is lower among Hispanics who are bilingual, and lower still among those who are English dominant. These two categories of Latinos, primarily a native-born population, have views on this topic similar to non-Hispanics.

Assimilation involves not only personal beliefs but also perceptions of the host society. Asked whether discrimination is a problem that is preventing Latinos from getting ahead in the United States, only a small minority responds that it is not a problem at all. However, there is wide variation according to language use in the share of Latinos who say it is a major problem. The Spanish dominant are almost twice as likely as the English dominant to say discrimination is a major problem.

Aside from suggesting a process of changing attitudes, the survey responses on fatalism and discrimination also probably reflect real experiences. It seems safe to say that the greater pessimism of the Spanish dominant is partially a product of their lower socio-economic status and the fact that many are undocumented immigrants.

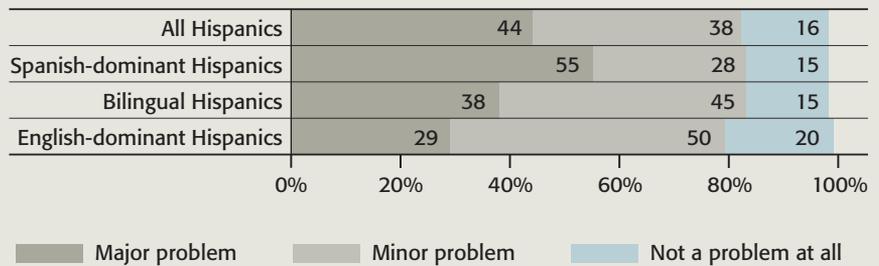
All categories of Latinos take a more positive view of illegal or undocumented immigrants than do non-Hispanic whites or blacks. But the bilingual are about twice as likely as the Spanish dominant to say that illegal immigrants hurt the economy. English-dominant Latinos are four times as likely to say that illegal immigrants hurt the economy.

Fatalism: Do you agree or disagree that it doesn't do any good to plan for the future because you don't have any control over it?



Source: Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey of Latinos, December 2002
Note: "Don't know" responses not shown.

Is Discrimination Preventing Hispanics from Succeeding in the U.S.?



Source: Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey of Latinos, December 2002
Note: "Don't know" responses not shown.

Do illegal immigrants help the economy by providing low cost labor or do they hurt it by driving down wages?

	HISPANICS			NON-HISPANICS	
	SPANISH DOMINANT	BILINGUAL	ENGLISH DOMINANT	WHITES	BLACKS
Help	85%	66%	51%	26%	26%
Hurt	10%	23%	43%	68%	66%

Source: Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey of Latinos, December 2002
Note: "Don't know" responses not shown.

How Latinos Identify Themselves

	BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	AS LATINO OR HISPANIC	AS AMERICAN
Spanish dominant	68%	27%	3%
Bilingual	52%	24%	22%
English dominant	29%	17%	51%
First generation	68%	24%	6%
Second generation	38%	24%	35%
Third and higher generations	21%	20%	57%

Source: Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation National Survey of Latinos, December 2002

Note: This table refers to either the first or the only term used by Latino respondents to the survey to identify themselves.

“That link to a country of origin never fades entirely, even among Hispanics who have to look back at least to a grandparent to find immigrant ancestry. However, there is a clear trend in which “American” becomes a more favored identity among Latinos who speak more English and less Spanish and who trace their roots in the United States back a generation or more.”

Some of the most perplexing — and most hotly debated — questions about the Latino population involve group identity. Will immigrants and their offspring hold their allegiance to their country of origin? Will Latinos come together as an ethnic group with a common sense of identity, political purpose and culture that is shared across nationalities and generations? Will they eventually become like the many descendants of European immigrants who shed national and ethnic identities in favor of seeing themselves as Americans?

The survey data suggest that the answers will come in a gradual process that plays itself out across generations and that language again is a central factor. In the Spanish-dominant, immigrant segment of the Latino population about two thirds of respondents identify themselves with their native lands. That link to a country of origin never fades entirely, even among Hispanics who have to look back at least to a grandparent to find immigrant ancestry. However, there is a clear trend in which “American” becomes a more favored identity among Latinos who speak more English and less Spanish and who trace their roots in the United States back a generation or more. Meanwhile, “Latino” and “Hispanic” are not the most favored terms in any segment of the population, although a significant share across the board chooses them. How these varied strands of identity affect the ways Latinos relate to each other and to the nation as a whole is still very much an open question.