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Statistical Profile

Hispanics of Spanish Origin in the United States, 2011

Anna Brown, Research Assistant

Eileen Patten, Research Assistant

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel (202) 419-3600

Fax (202) 419-3608

info@pewhispanic.org

www.pewhispanic.org

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An estimated 707,000 Hispanics of Spanish origin resided in the United States in 2011, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Spaniards in this statistical profile are people who self-identified as Hispanics of Spanish origin; this means either they themselves are Spanish immigrants or they trace their family ancestry to Spain. Spaniards are the eighth-largest population of Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 1.4% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2011. Mexicans, the nation's largest Hispanic origin group, constituted 33.5 million, or 64.6%, of the Hispanic population in 2011.¹

This statistical profile compares the demographic, income and economic characteristics of the Spanish population with the characteristics of all Hispanics and the U.S. population overall. It is based on tabulations from the 2011 American Community Survey by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. Key facts include:

- **Immigration status.** About one-in-ten Spaniards (13%) in the United States are foreign born compared with 36% of Hispanics and 13% of the U.S. population overall. About half of immigrants from Spain (48%) arrived in the U.S. in 1990 or later and about half (47%) are U.S. citizens.
- **Language.** About nine-in-ten (93%) Spaniards ages 5 and older speak English proficiently.² The other 7% of Spaniards report speaking English less than very well, compared with 34% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Spaniards are younger than the U.S. population but older than Hispanics overall. The median age of Spaniards is 34; the median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 37 and 27, respectively.
- **Marital status.** Spaniards ages 15 and older are about as likely to be married (42%) as Hispanics overall (43%) and less likely than the U.S. population overall (48%).
- **Fertility.** About one-in-twenty (6%) Spanish women ages 15 to 44 gave birth in the 12 months prior to this survey. That was somewhat lower than the rate for all Hispanic women—8%—and the same as the overall rate for U.S. women—6%.

¹ Percentages are computed before numbers are rounded.

² This includes Spaniards ages 5 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- **Regional dispersion.** Spaniards are concentrated in the West (51%), mostly in California (23%), and in the South (28%), mostly in Texas (11%) and in Florida (7%).
- **Educational attainment.** Spaniards have higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall and the U.S. population overall. About a third (32%) of Spaniards ages 25 and older—compared with 13% of all U.S. Hispanics and 29% among the U.S. population—have obtained at least a bachelor’s degree.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Spaniards ages 16 and older were \$29,300 in the year prior to the survey, higher than the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics (\$20,000); the median earnings for the U.S. population were \$29,000.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Spaniards who live in poverty, 14%, is lower than the rate for the general U.S. population (16%) and the rate for Hispanics overall (26%).
- **Health Insurance.** Some 15% of Spaniards do not have health insurance compared with 30% of all Hispanics and 15% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 7% of Spaniards younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Spanish homeownership (59%) is higher than the rate for all Hispanics (46%) and lower than the 65% rate for the U.S. population as a whole.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Spanish origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2011 [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 2011 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, 2007)). 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 Spanish Origin, 2011

Thousands, unless otherwise noted			
	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Spanish Origin
TOTAL	311,592	51,927	707
Gender			
Male	153,248	26,336	354
Female	158,344	25,591	353
Nativity			
Native Born	271,210	33,139	612
Foreign Born	40,382	18,788	95
Age			
Median (in years)	37	27	34
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,024	5,141	48
5-17	53,826	12,245	127
18-29	52,253	10,665	136
30-39	40,205	8,160	93
40-49	43,344	6,762	103
50-64	60,552	6,013	123
65 and older	41,388	2,940	77
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,912	16,154	237
Never married	81,300	15,417	209
Divorced/separated/widowed	48,223	5,671	116
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,611	12,050	153
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,031	932	9
Unmarried women ¹ who had a birth in the past 12 mo	1,544	435	***
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,875	12,015	125
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	29,077	10,383	49
High school diploma or equivalent	58,586	7,581	107
Some college	59,874	6,424	152
Bachelor's degree or more	58,996	3,759	143
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$29,000	\$20,000	\$29,300
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$44,500
Persons in Poverty²			
Younger than 18	16,493	5,894	31
18-64	28,212	6,755	58
65 and older	3,737	556	7
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	47,903	15,572	105
Uninsured, younger than 18	5,540	2,232	12
Persons in Households by Type of Household³			
In family households	254,071	46,317	566
In married-couple households	182,097	29,159	385
In non-family households	49,515	4,649	117
Citizenship			
Citizen	289,366	38,905	657
Non-citizen	22,226	13,022	50
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	230,923	11,827	446
Does not speak only English at home	60,644	34,959	213
Speaks English very well	35,389	19,051	165
Speaks English less than very well	25,255	15,908	48
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,208	6,658	49
1990-1999	10,759	5,399	15
2000-2005	8,093	4,340	15
2006 or later	6,321	2,391	16
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	55,522	7,186	94
Midwest	67,159	4,772	51
South	116,047	18,820	200
Texas	25,675	9,794	76
Florida	19,058	4,354	47
West	72,865	21,149	362
California	37,692	14,358	166
New Mexico	2,082	972	54
Colorado	5,117	1,071	46

¹Unmarried women includes those who were never married, divorced, separated or widowed. ²For 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. 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. Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all 3,112,017; Hispanics 427,432; Hispanics of Spanish origin 6,736. The symbol *** indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2011 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/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf.

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Table 2

Household Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Spanish Origin, 2011

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Spanish Origin
Total (in thousands)	114,992	13,668	257
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	74,376	6,351	153
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	40,615	7,317	105
Homeownership rate (%)	64.7	46.5	59.3
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$50,000	\$39,000	\$53,000
Household Size			
Average number of persons	2.6	3.5	2.6

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 1,204,830; Hispanics 118,668; Hispanics of Spanish origin 2,548. The symbol *** indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2011 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/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf.

Table 3

Employment Characteristics, by Ethnicity and Spanish Origin, 2011

Thousands, unless otherwise noted

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Spanish Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	140,458	21,368	317
Unemployed	16,037	3,014	44
Not in labor force	88,723	11,847	189
Unemployment rate (%)	10.2	12.4	12.2
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	11,261	2,799	19
Manufacturing	14,700	2,303	21
Trade and transportation	25,998	4,032	62
Information, finance and other services	88,499	12,233	214
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	54,208	4,658	131
Services	22,055	5,138	51
Sales and office support	34,521	4,755	86
Construction, extraction and farming	8,019	2,485	12
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	21,656	4,332	36

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.

Note: Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all 2,509,144; Hispanics 303,057; Hispanics of Spanish origin 5,345. The symbol *** indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2011 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/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2011.pdf.