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Statistical Profile

Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin in the United States, 2010

Seth Motel, 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 4.7 million Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin resided in the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia in 2010, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. That is a slightly greater number than the population of Puerto Rico itself in 2010, which was 3.7 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 9.2% of the U.S. Hispanic population in 2010. Mexicans, the nation's largest Hispanic origin group, constituted 32.9 million, or 64.9%, of the Hispanic population in 2010.² 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 2010 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—3.2 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—57,000—were born outside of the U.S. or Puerto Rico and were not U.S. citizens by birth. They are considered foreign born.
- **Language.** More than eight-in-ten (82%) Puerto Ricans ages 5 and older speak English proficiently.⁴ The other 18% of Puerto Ricans report speaking English less than very well, compared with 35% of all Hispanics.
- **Age.** Puerto Ricans are younger than the U.S. population but the same median age as Hispanics overall. The median age of Puerto Ricans is 27; the

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.

median ages of the U.S. population and all Hispanics are 37 and 27, respectively.

- **Marital status.** Puerto Ricans are less likely than Hispanics overall to be married—36% versus 44%.
- **Fertility.** Nearly two-thirds (64%) 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—45%—and the overall rate for U.S. women—38%.
- **Regional dispersion.** Puerto Ricans are concentrated in the Northeast (52%), mostly in New York (23%), and in the South (30%), mostly in Florida (18%).
- **Educational attainment.** Puerto Ricans have higher levels of education than the Hispanic population overall. Some 16% of Puerto Ricans ages 25 and older—compared with 13% of all U.S. Hispanics—have obtained at least a bachelor’s degree.
- **Income.** The median annual personal earnings for Puerto Ricans ages 16 and older were \$25,000 in 2010; the median earnings for all U.S. Hispanics were \$20,000.
- **Poverty status.** The share of Puerto Ricans who live in poverty, 27%, is higher than the rate both for the general U.S. population (15%) and for Hispanics overall (25%).
- **Health Insurance.** Fully 15% of Puerto Ricans do not have health insurance compared with 31% of all Hispanics and 16% of the general U.S. population. Additionally, 5% of Puerto Ricans younger than 18 are uninsured.
- **Homeownership.** The rate of Puerto Rican homeownership (38%) is lower than the rate for all Hispanics (47%) and lower than the 65% rate for the U.S. population as a whole.

About the Data

This statistical profile of Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin is based on the Census Bureau's 2010 [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 2010 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>).

Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin in the United States, 2010

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin
Total	309,350	50,730	4,683
Gender			
Male	152,055	25,723	2,295
Female	157,294	25,007	2,387
Nativity			
Native Born	269,433	31,912	4,626
Born in Puerto Rico	1,510	1,464	1,400 ¹
Foreign Born	39,917	18,817	57 ²
Age			
Median (in years)	37	27	27
Age Groups			
Younger than 5	20,095	5,089	453
5-17	54,037	12,093	1,111
18-29	51,776	10,471	941
30-39	40,245	8,060	662
40-49	43,723	6,526	614
50-64	59,025	5,681	593
65 and older	40,449	2,810	310
Marital Status (ages 15 and older)			
Married	120,934	16,067	1,199
Never married	79,570	14,749	1,537
Divorced/separated/widowed	47,550	5,411	639
Fertility (women ages 15 to 44)			
Total number of women	62,479	11,856	1,108
Women who had a birth in the past 12 months	4,078	963	79
Unmarried women ³ who had a birth in the past 12 months	1,557	434	50
School Enrollment (ages 5 to 18)			
K-12	52,994	11,824	1,087
Educational Attainment (ages 25 and older)			
Less than high school diploma	29,433	10,306	648
High school diploma or equivalent	58,212	7,216	757
Some college	59,030	6,226	722
Bachelor's degree or more	57,672	3,589	414
Median Annual Personal Earnings (in dollars)			
All (ages 16 and older with earnings)	\$28,500	\$20,000	\$25,000
Full-time, year-round workers	\$40,000	\$29,000	\$35,100
Persons in Poverty⁴			
Younger than 18	15,916	5,518	526
18-64	26,671	6,268	615
65 and older	3,535	513	64
Health Insurance			
Uninsured, all ages	48,794	15,828	714
Uninsured, younger than 18	5,971	2,446	83
Persons in Households by Type of Household⁵			
In family households	252,342	45,437	3,972
In married-couple households	182,448	28,957	2,084
In non-family households	49,021	4,360	561
Citizenship			
Citizen	286,889	37,457	4,653
Non-citizen	22,461	13,272	29
Language (ages 5 and older)			
Speaks only English at home	229,736	11,203	1,532
Does not speak only English at home	59,519	34,438	2,698
Speaks English very well	34,308	18,356	1,934
Speaks English less than very well	25,211	16,082	764
Year of Entry (foreign-born only)			
Before 1990	15,233	6,689	27
1990-1999	10,827	5,403	13
2000 or later	13,857	6,726	17
Regional Dispersion			
Northeast	55,361	7,022	2,443
New York	19,392	3,434	1,074
New Jersey	8,802	1,564	417
Pennsylvania	12,710	719	374
Connecticut	3,577	482	266
Midwest	66,976	4,671	448
South	114,866	18,315	1,399
Florida	18,843	4,253	859
West	72,147	20,721	392

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, separated or widowed. ⁴For detailed information on how poverty status is determined, see <http://usa.ipeds.org/usa-action/variableDescription.do?mnemonic=POVERTY>. Due to the way in which the IPEDS 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 group quarters.
Note: Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all 3,061,692; Hispanics 416,860; Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin 37,626. The symbol *** indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 ACS (1% IPEDS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipeds.org/usa/design.shtml> and http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2010.pdf.

Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin in the United States, 2010

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin
Total (in thousands)	114,567	13,269	1,434
Homeownership (household heads)			
In owner-occupied homes (in thousands)	74,948	6,278	543
In renter-occupied homes (in thousands)	39,620	6,991	891
Homeownership rate (%)	65.4	47.3	37.9
Household Annual Income (in dollars)			
Median	\$49,800	\$40,000	\$36,000
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. Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all 1,203,777; Hispanics 115,695; Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin 11,993. The symbol *** indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate. Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 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://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml>

	All	Hispanics	Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin
Employment Status (civilians ages 16 and older)			
Employed	139,103	20,739	1,691
Unemployed	16,870	3,070	323
Not in labor force	86,814	11,412	1,244
Unemployment rate (%)	10.8	12.9	16.0
Industries¹			
Construction, agriculture and mining	11,305	2,789	72
Manufacturing	14,432	2,183	149
Trade and transportation	25,761	3,872	364
Information, finance and other services	87,605	11,895	1,107
Occupations¹			
Management, professional and related occupations	53,511	4,480	523
Services	21,578	4,984	328
Sales and office support	34,768	4,628	493
Construction, extraction and farming	8,075	2,495	60
Maintenance, production, transportation and material moving	21,170	4,154	287

¹Currently employed civilians ages 16 and older.
Note: Analysis is based on the following number of observations: all 2,443,926; Hispanics 291,505; Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin 26,446. The symbol *** indicates insufficient number of observations to provide a reliable estimate. Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2010 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://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml>