

Social and Economic Trends in Iowa

Iowa's Hispanic Population, 2000

INTRODUCTION

Special points of interest:

- The Hispanic population in Iowa was more than 80,000 in 2000.
- Iowa's Hispanic population is not a homogeneous population.
- The Hispanic population is younger than the white non-Hispanic population in the state.
- Hispanics tend to have lower education levels which in turn affects their income and poverty levels.

Based on the counts from Census 2000, the Hispanic population was the fastest growing "minority" population in Iowa. This report profiles Iowa's Hispanic population highlighting demographic and socioeconomic characteristics such as age, educational attainment, employment status, and income.

Throughout the report, characteristics of the His-

panic population are compared with those of the white non-Hispanic population (i.e., the "majority" population) in the state. Variability within the Hispanic population is also discussed.

In 2000, Hispanics were able to report their origin as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "other" (including Dominican, Central American, South American and Spaniard). According to the

Census Bureau, origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race. Findings in this report are based on data from Census 2000, Summary File 4.

POPULATION SIZE AND COMPOSITION

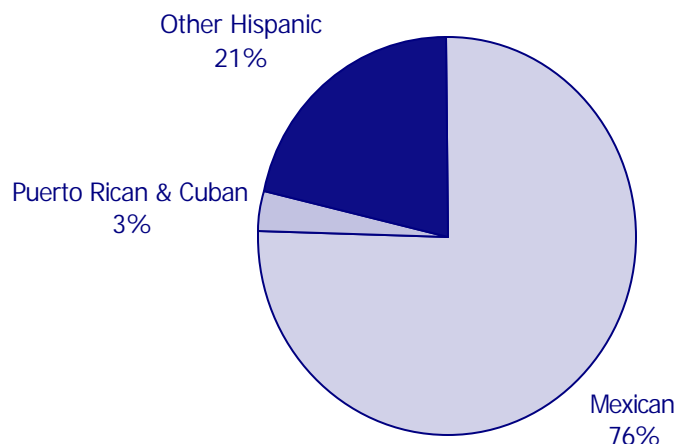
In 2000, there were 82,473 Hispanics living in Iowa representing 2.8 percent of the state's total population. This is an increase of more than 150 percent (+49,826) since 1990 when Hispanics constituted only 1.2 percent of the state's population. The white non-Hispanic population (2.7 million) in the state accounted for 92.6 percent of the state's population in 2000, a decline from 95.9 percent in 1990.

Among Iowa's Hispanic population, more than three of every four were of Mexican origin, 3 percent were

Puerto Rican or Cuban, and the remaining 21 percent were South American, Central American or Dominican (referred to throughout this report as "other Hispanic") (Figure 1).

Iowa's Hispanic population was relatively concentrated in urban areas of the state with more than 80 percent (83.5%) classified as urban residents in 2000. This figure did not vary noticeably based on origin. In contrast, 60 percent of non-Hispanic whites lived in urban areas that year.

Figure 1. Iowa's Hispanics by Origin, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Census 2000, Summary File 4.

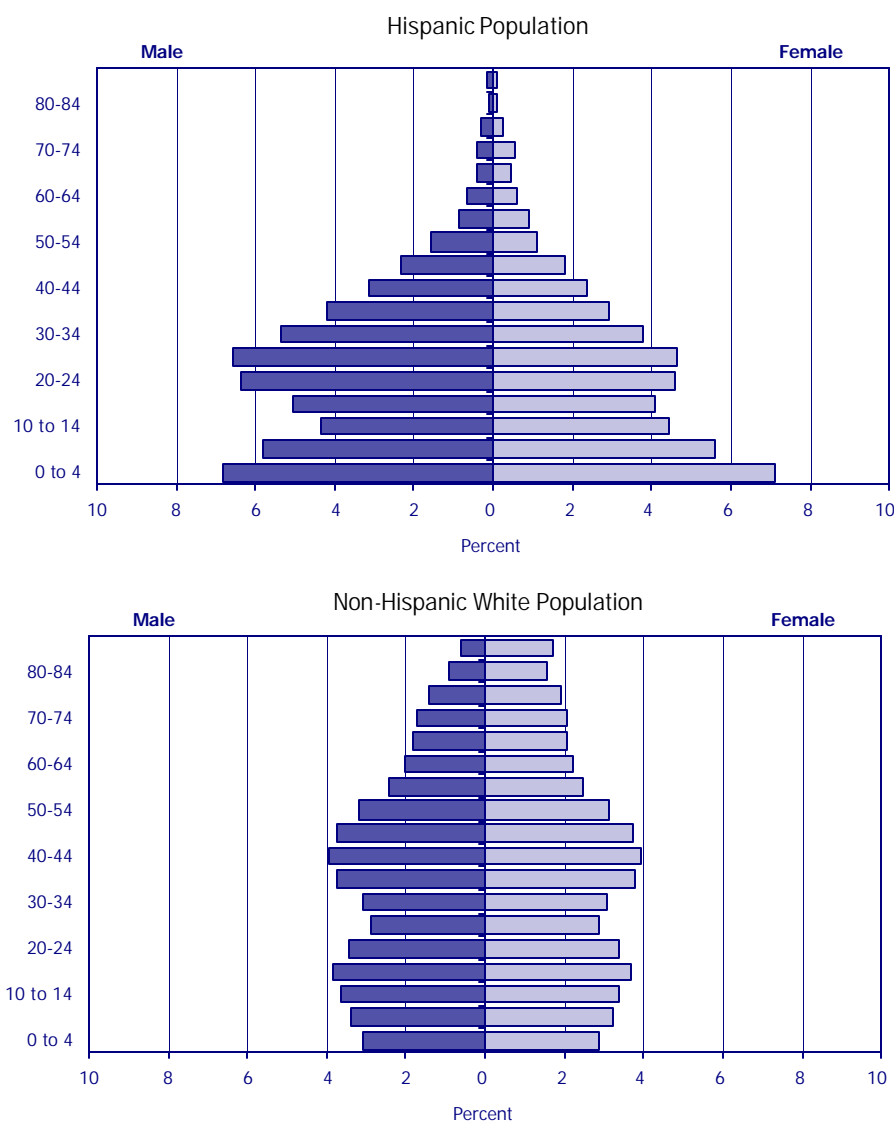
Age

Iowa's Hispanic population was younger than the white non-Hispanic population in the state. Forty-three percent of the Hispanic population in Iowa was 19 years of age or younger compared to 27 percent of the white non-Hispanic population. Conversely,

relatively few Hispanics were 65 years or older (approximately 3 percent), while 15 percent of Iowa's "majority" population were in this age group (Figure 2). As a result, the median age of Hispanics (23.0 years) in Iowa was 14 years younger than the median

age of white non-Hispanics (37.9 years). Within the Hispanic population, Mexicans reported the lowest median age (22.6 years), Cubans reported the highest (27.6 years). Median age reflects the point at which half of the population is younger and half is older.

Figure 2. Iowa's Population by Age and Sex*, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Census 2000, Summary File 4.

* Each bar represents the percent of the Hispanic (non-Hispanic white) population who were within the specified age group and of the specified sex.

Migration and Language

The majority of Hispanics in Iowa (60.9%) were native to the United States. Naturally, Hispanics of Puerto Rican origin had the highest nativity (98.0%), followed by Cubans (65.6%), and Mexicans (60.6%). Among the 32,000 foreign-born Hispanics in the state, 20 percent were naturalized citizens.

Three of every 10 Hispanics age 5 or older in Iowa reported having the same residence in 2000 as they had in 1995. More than three-fourths (79.0%) of the 49,000 Hispanics reporting a different residence in 2000, moved to Iowa from elsewhere in the United States, while 20 percent moved from a U.S. Island area or from another country.

Fewer than 15,000 Hispanics in Iowa (23.2%) reported speaking English "not well" or "not at all". Of these, 90 percent were foreign-born Hispanics. Only 4 percent of the native Hispanic population reported limited English speaking skills.

FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

There were 20,900 Hispanic households in Iowa in 2000. More than half of these (53.3%) were made up of married-couple families, 23 percent were single parent families, and 15 percent were single person households. Among white non-Hispanics the percentages were 56.5, 10.6 and 27.4, respectively. The remainder of households in both cases were accounted for by non-family households.

Hispanic households were much more likely than “majority” households to have children under 18

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

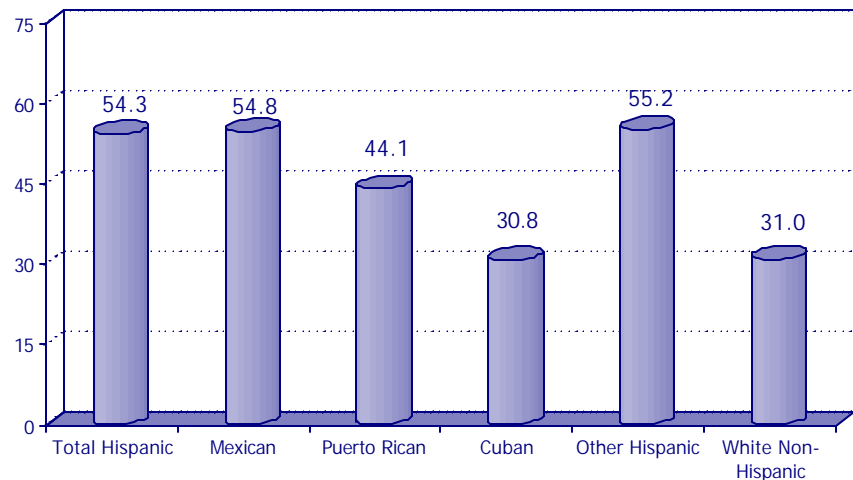
Overall, Hispanics tended to have lower educational levels than non-Hispanic whites. Slightly more than half of the Hispanic population aged 25 or older (52.3%) had graduated from high school in 2000, compared to 87.2 percent of white non-Hispanics. The percentage with at least a bachelor’s degree was much lower for Hispanics (10.9%) than for non-Hispanic whites (21.3%) (Figure 4).

Among Hispanics 25 years or older in Iowa, Puerto Ricans, Cubans and Other Hispanics were more likely to have at least graduated from high school (78.4%, 70.6%, and 60.8%, respectively) than were Mexicans (48.6%) (Figure 5). Similarly, the proportion that had attained at least a Bachelor’s Degree ranged from 34.6 percent for Cubans, 31.2 percent for Puerto Ricans, 16.1 percent for Central and South Americans, to 8.3 percent for Mexicans.

years of age present (54.2% and 31.0%, respectively) (Figure 3). Within the Hispanic population, Central and South Americans (“other Hispanics”) had the highest percentage of households with children present (55.1%), followed by Mexicans (54.8%). Only the Cubans had a lower percentage

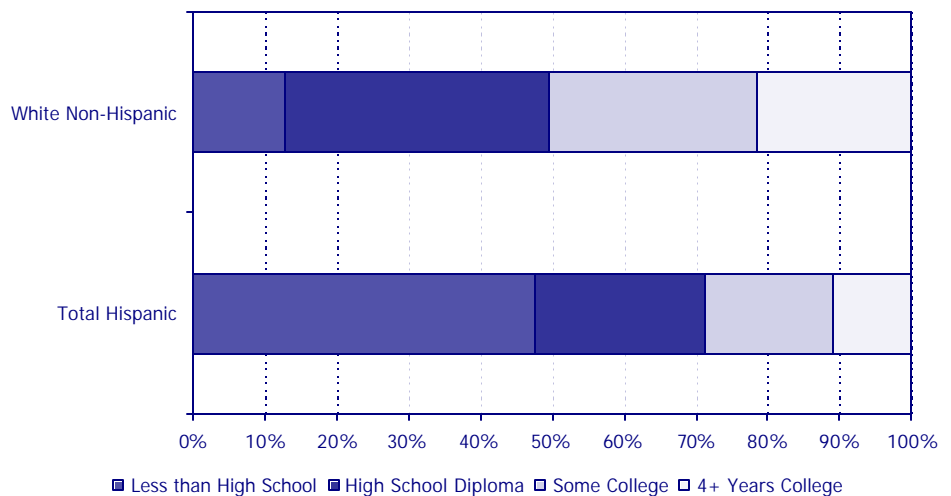
(30.8%) than the white non-Hispanics. As a result, Hispanic households in Iowa had, on average, one more person than white non-Hispanic households (3.4 and 2.4 persons per household, respectively).

Figure 3. Percent of Households with Children Present, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Census 2000, Summary File 4.

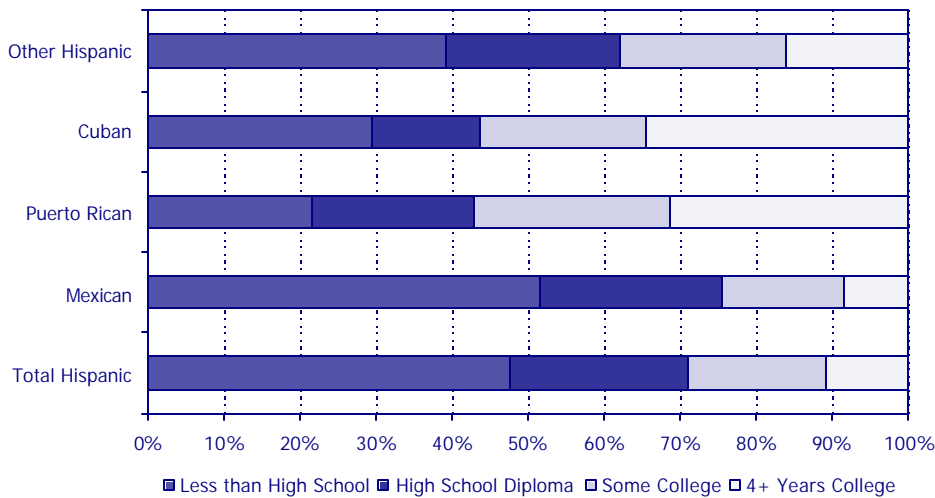
Figure 4. Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years or Older, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Census 2000, Summary File 4.

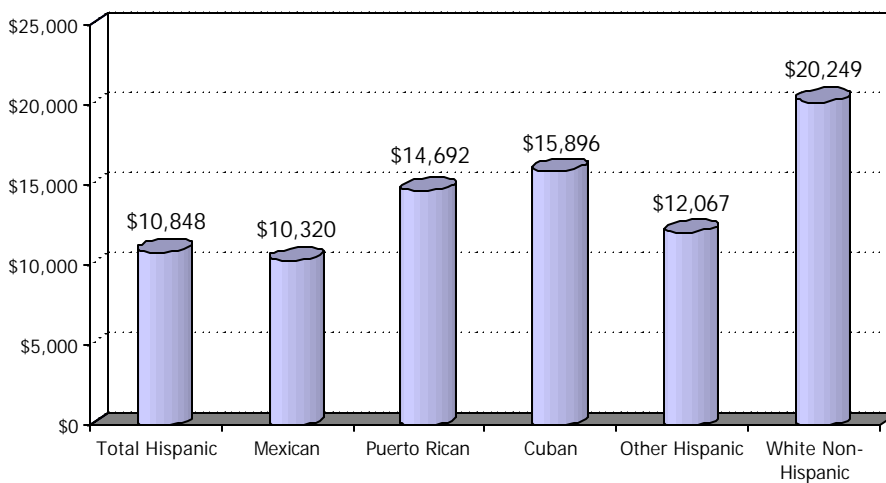
Educational Attainment, cont.

Figure 5. Educational Attainment by Hispanic Origin, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Census 2000, Summary File 4.

Figure 6. Per Capita Income, 1999



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Census 2000, Summary File 4.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Unemployment rates among Hispanics of working age (ages 16 to 64) (9.3%) were nearly three times higher than among white non-Hispanics of the same age (3.8%). Within the Hispanic population, 10.9 percent of Puerto Ricans, 9.4 percent of Mexicans, 8.8 percent of Cubans, and 8.5 percent of "other Hispanics" were unemployed.

The median income for Hispanic males aged 15 or older working full-time, year-round in 1999 was \$23,913 compared to \$34,923 for white non-Hispanic males. Medians for the female counterparts were \$21,061 and \$25,113, respectively. Overall, per capita income of Iowa's white non-Hispanic population (\$20,249) was nearly twice that of the Hispanic population (\$10,848) in 1999. Cubans (\$15,896) reported the highest per capita income among Hispanics, Mexicans (\$10,320) reported the lowest (Figure 6).

Poverty Status

As a result of the relatively low incomes among the Hispanic population in Iowa, 1 of every 5 Hispanic persons was living below the poverty line in 1999. Puerto Ricans and Cubans, the two Hispanic groups reporting the lowest levels of poverty, each had approximately 16 percent of their populations in poverty that year. White non-Hispanics reported 8.1 percent of their population in poverty in 1999.

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Support for SETA provided by Iowa State University, the Agriculture Experiment Station, ISU Extension to Communities, College of Agriculture, Departments of Economics and Sociology.

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Stanley R. Johnson, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.