



An E-newsletter from the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center and the Office of Diversity and Equity

September 15 - October 15 *National Hispanic Heritage Month*

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Aretha Jones-Cook and Carson C. Cook, Jr.

¡Bienvenidos a *Diversity Matters!* In this issue we focus on celebrating and paying tribute to the traditions, ancestry and achievements of the diverse peoples of Spanish-speaking backgrounds who have come to the United States from more than 20 different countries.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated between September 15 and October 15 and is intended to create an awareness, understanding, and appreciation for Hispanic culture, inasmuch as Hispanic Americans have played an integral role in our country's exceptional story of success.

Initiated by the U.S. Congress as Hispanic Heritage Week more than 20 years ago, the observance was expanded in 1988 to a month-long celebration to honor the vibrant Hispanic American heritage that influences our Nation's art, music, food, and faiths.

September 15th was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico achieved independence on September 16th and Chile on September 18th.

The term Hispanic, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau refers to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race. On the 2000 Census form, people of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "other Spanish Hispanic Latino."

Today, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 37 million people in the United States are of Hispanic origin. That's about ten percent of us!

Since our Nation's founding, many Hispanics have greatly influenced America's artistic, legal, and political communities. Today, Hispanic culture continues to shape the American experience while simultaneously preserving its unique customs and traditions.

The strong ties that Hispanic Americans maintain with their ancestral homeland remind us that the United States must pursue robust relations with its neighbors in Latin America and the Caribbean. The future of our hemisphere is closely tied to these relationships, and improving trade will play a vital role in building important links with our Hispanic neighbors. By working together, we can achieve a fully democratic hemisphere, bound together by good will, cultural understanding, and free trade.

"Hispanic Americans: Strong and Colorful Threads in the American Fabric"

Population

41.3 million

The estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2004, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest race or ethnic minority. Hispanics constituted 14 percent of the nation's total population. (This estimate does not include the 3.9 million residents of Puerto Rico.)

1

Of every two people added to the nation's population between July 1, 2003, and July 1, 2004, was Hispanic.

102.6 million

The projected Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2050. According to this projection, Hispanics will constitute 24 percent of the nation's total population on that date.

64%

The proportion of Hispanic-origin people who are of Mexican background. Of the remainder, approximately 10 percent are of Puerto Rican background, with about 3 percent each of Cuban, Salvadoran and Dominican origins. The rest are of some other Central American, South American or other Hispanic or Latino origins.

[Roughly half of the nation's Dominicans live in New York City, with about half of the nation's Cubans residing in Miami-Dade County, Fla.](#)

49%

The percentage of the Hispanic-origin population that lives in California and Texas. California is home to 12.4 million Hispanics and Texas is home to 7.8 million. More than 3-in-4 Hispanics live in seven states, which have Hispanic populations of 1 million or more. They are California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois, Arizona, and New Jersey.

43%

The proportion of New Mexico's population that is Hispanic, highest of any state. California and Texas were next, at 35% each.

4.6 million

The Hispanic population of Los Angeles County, California—the largest of any county in the nation.



Education

18%

Percentage of the nation's elementary and high school students who are Hispanic, triple the proportion in 1970, when the crest of the baby boom was enrolled at this level of school.

58%

The percentage of Hispanics age 25 and older who had at least a high school education in 2004.

12%

The percentage of Hispanics age 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher in 2004.

10%

The percentage of college students in 2003 who were Hispanic, up from 4 percent two decades earlier.

2.7 million

The number of Hispanics age 18 and older who had at least a bachelor's degree in 2004. This figure was about double the number only a decade ago (1.3 million).

714,000

Number of Hispanics 25 years and older with advanced degrees in 2004. (e.g., master's, professional, doctorate).

Do Hispanic, Latino and Chicano Mean the Same Thing? [Click here...](#)

Families and Children

9.3 million

The number of Hispanic families who reside in the United States. Of these families, 63 percent include their own children under 18 years old.

67%

The percentage of Hispanic families consisting of a married couple.

44%

The percentage of Hispanic families consisting of a married couple with children under 18.

65%

Percentage of Hispanic children who live with both parents.

11%

Percentage of Hispanic population under age 5, as of July 1, 2004. Hispanics had a higher concentration of preschoolers among their population than any other race or ethnic group.

Hispanic America: Geography Quiz

1. Tenochtitlán was the ancient Aztec name for what city?
2. What is the largest island in the Caribbean?
3. ¿Donde en la tierra está Puerto Rico?
4. Where is the Caribbean National Forest (known as El Yunque)?
5. Where is the ancient Mayan Temple of the Jaguar?
6. What is South America's smallest Hispanic country?
7. ¿Donde en la tierra está Venezuela?
8. Which line is north of the equator . . .the Tropic of Capricorn or the Tropic of Cancer?
9. In what city is "Calle Ocho" the heart of Little Havana?
10. In what country is the ancient Inca fortress city of Machu Picchu?

HBO FILMS

REAL WOMEN HAVE CURVES

Debuting on HBO during National Hispanic Heritage Month, *Real Women Have Curves* premieres simultaneously on HBO and HBO Latino (English-language version with Spanish subtitles) on Saturday, October 4 at 8 p.m. with encore performances on Tuesday, October 7 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, October 12 at 10:30 p.m. Times are ET/PT.

Winner of the Dramatic Audience Award at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival, this HBO Films comedy/drama tells the story of 18-year-old Ana (America Ferrera), a first-generation Mexican-American from East Los Angeles, who struggles to strike a balance between her mainstream ambitions and her more traditional cultural heritage as she attempts to forge her own path in life.

Income and Poverty

\$34,241

The real median income of Hispanic households in 2004, unchanged from the previous year.

21.9%

The poverty rate among Hispanics in 2004, unchanged from 2003.

The Latino Vote

7.6 million

The number of Hispanic citizens who reported voting in the 2004 presidential election, up from 5.9 million four years earlier. The percentage of Hispanic citizens voting — about 47 percent — did not change.

Cesar Estrada Chavez

An American agrarian labor leader

Cesar Estrada Chavez, 1927–93, was an American agrarian labor leader, born near Yuma, Ariz. A migrant worker, he became involved (1952) in the self-help Community Service Organization (CSO) in California, working among Mexicans and Mexican Americans; from 1958 to 1962 he was its general director.

In 1962, he left the CSO to organize wine grape pickers in California and formed the National Farm Workers Association. Using strikes, fasts, picketing, and marches, he was able to obtain contracts from a number of major growers. In 1966 his organization merged with the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee of the AFL-CIO to form the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee of the AFL-CIO.

Chavez also launched (1968) a boycott against the table grape growers, mobilizing consumer support throughout the United States. In 1972 the United Farm Workers (UFW), with Chavez as president, became a member union of the AFL-CIO. Chavez expanded its efforts to include all California vegetable pickers and launched a lettuce boycott, as well as extending his organizational efforts to Florida citrus workers.

His successes in California were sharply diminished, however, as the result of a jurisdictional dispute with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters over the organization of field workers. In 1973 the Teamsters cut heavily into UFW membership by signing contracts with former UFW grape growers, but Chavez renewed the grape workers' strike. In 1977, the two unions signed a pact defining the types of workers each could organize. Membership in the UFW later fell, in part due to disputes between Chavez and his followers, some of whom accused him of nepotism.

See J. E. Levy, *Cesar Chavez: Autobiography of La Causa* (1975); R. Franchere, *Cesar Chavez* (1988).

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Businesses

1.6 million

The number of Hispanic-owned businesses in 2002, up 31 percent from 1997. Their receipts were \$226.5 billion, up 22 percent from 1997. A total of 199,725 such firms had paid employees, with receipts of \$184 billion, or about \$921,090 per firm.

About 40 percent of Hispanic-owned firms were in administrative support and waste management; health-care; and other services industries; with another 13 percent in construction.

Hispanic-owned firms claimed between 15 and 22 percent of businesses in New Mexico, Texas, Florida and California.

4%

Among business owners in 2002 with paid employees, the percentage who were Hispanic. There were approximately 7.7 million owners of employer businesses in the United States.

Serving our Country

1.1 million

The number of Latino veterans of the U.S. armed forces. About 53,000 Hispanic-origin people were on active duty in 2003 in the United States.

JOBS

38,500

The number of Hispanic physician and surgeons.

Latinos are represented among a variety of occupations. For instance, there are about 50,400 Hispanic postsecondary teachers; 53,400 chief executives of businesses; 38,100 lawyers; and 5,000 news analyst, reporters and correspondents.

18%

The percentage of Hispanics who work in managerial, professional and related occupations. Approximately 24 percent work in service occupations, 22 percent in sales and office jobs, 15 percent in production, transportation and material moving occupations.

Hispanics - Katrina's hidden victims

By Ana Radelat
Hattiesburg American

Francisca Lourdes Lopez is one of Hurricane Katrina's hidden victims.

She's a member of south Mississippi's growing Hispanic population, spawned by the growth of the state's poultry industry and a pre-storm building boom on the Gulf Coast. Lopez said she and most of the people living in her apartment complex did not know Katrina was heading her way until it was too late.

"By the time we realized what was happening, we didn't have time to buy extra food or go somewhere else," she said.

She said a couple of city workers came by the James Street Apartments, where she and about 350 other Latinos live, Sunday afternoon, the day before the storm. They distributed fliers in Spanish warning of the storm and advising of the precautions residents should take.

"That was it, and we haven't seen anyone else come by since," she said Saturday.

Since the storm hit, Lopez and thousands of other Hispanics with limited English skills have struggled to understand what is happening around them.

Lopez can't understand the public-service announcements and steady stream of advisories on the radio telling storm victims where to get ice, water, generators and other necessities.

Since most are undocumented workers from Mexico, local Hispanics are loath to ask city officials or the police for help, even when the trash Dumpster in the apartment building is overflowing with reeking garbage and a band of youths threatens to siphon gasoline out of their cars.

"We don't want to buy any more trouble," said Marco Antonio Alvarado. "We'd rather take care of things ourselves." Alvarado said James Street Apartment residents cleared their fallen trees themselves and sawed them into pieces to burn in hibachis. "The only thing we need is help with more food for the children," he said.

Adding to the desperation, most of the local Latinos are out of work, with 10 out of Mississippi's 14 poultry processing centers shut down and construction at a standstill.

"We send most our money home to family members who depend on it and now we don't know when we'll be able to do it again," Alvarado said.

In Laurel, a houseful of about 18 Mexican immigrants watched in horror Monday as Katrina almost destroyed a grove of trees across the street.

"We didn't know anything about this until Sunday, when they told us a bad storm was coming," said Pedro Ramos. "And nobody told us it would be this bad."

Ramos said Laurel's Latinos have survived thanks largely to a couple of "bodegas," or Hispanic stores, in town - "La Veracruzana" and "Michoacan" - that supplied them with food.

Sometimes they get tips where they can buy other needed supplies.

Elvira Maldonado said she raced to the store to buy disposable diapers for her 3-month-old daughter after a friend told her the Wal-Mart in Hattiesburg was open.

"It really hurts not to know English," she said.

U.S. Census figures from 2000 showed about 40,000 Hispanics in Mississippi.

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Spanish Language

31 million

The number of U.S. residents age 5 and older who speak Spanish at home. Spanish speakers constitute a ratio of more than 1-in-10 U.S. households. Among all those who speak Spanish at home, more than one-half say they speak English "very well."

Coming to America


53%









Percentage of the foreign-born population from Latin America. This amounts to 18.3 million people.

10 million

The number of foreign-born people in the U.S. who were born in Mexico. Other countries of birth that contribute large numbers of Hispanics are El Salvador (937,000), Cuba (925,000), the Dominican Republic (688,000), Guatemala (590,000) and Colombia (500,000).

Internet Resources on Hispanic Culture

In order to view links, click on  symbol

- Association of Hispanic Arts ()
- El Museo del Barrio ()
- Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center ()
- Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, Chicago ()
- Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives ()
- National Hispanic Cultural Center Foundation ()
- National Council of La Raza ()
- National Latino Children's Institute ()

Answers to Geography Quiz: 1 - Mexico City; 2 - Cuba; 3 - The Caribbean; 4 - Puerto Rico; 5 - Guatemala; 6 - Uruguay; 7 - South America; 8 - The Tropic of Cancer; 9 - Miami; 10 - Peru.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

To recognize the contributions of Americans with disabilities and to encourage all citizens to help ensure their full inclusion in the workforce, the Congress, by joint resolution approved August 11, 1945, as amended (36 U.S.C. 121), has designated October of each year as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

For Americans with disabilities, employment is vital to independence, empowerment, and quality of life. During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we recognize the many contributions citizens with disabilities make to our society, and we reaffirm our commitment to helping them achieve their full inclusion in our workforce.

Today, Americans with disabilities enjoy improved access to education, government services, public accommodations, transportation, telecommunications, and employment opportunities. The landmark Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) removed barriers and enabled many individuals with disabilities to find more opportunities to use their gifts and talents in the workplace. This progress has made our Nation stronger, more productive, and more just. People with disabilities still encounter challenges, however, to their full participation in American society.

Editor's note: The statistical information cited in this newsletter was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau's demographic and economic subject areas intended to commemorate anniversaries and observances or to provide background information for topics in the news. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: (301) 763-3030; fax: (301) 457-3670; or e-mail: pio@census.gov Contributions to *Diversity Matters*, preferably via e-mail, are welcome at any time.