

The Hispanic Century Is Here: Results and Implications of the 2010 Census

An Overview White Paper Prepared By:



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On March 24, 2011, the U.S. Bureau of the Census finished releasing a series of data tables from the 2010 Census for the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The data cover the basic enumeration statistics for the country and are primarily provided for legislative redistricting. The 2010 Census provided only an enumeration of the population, with what is essentially equivalent to the Short Form previously used by the Census Bureau. Thus, the data allow us only to classify the U.S. population by racial and ethnic groups and by age and gender. For redistricting, the data are limited to race, Hispanic origin, and two levels of age (under 18 and 18 and over). However, the data are geographically rich and cover all levels of geography from the country, to states, counties and municipalities, census tracts, and blocks.

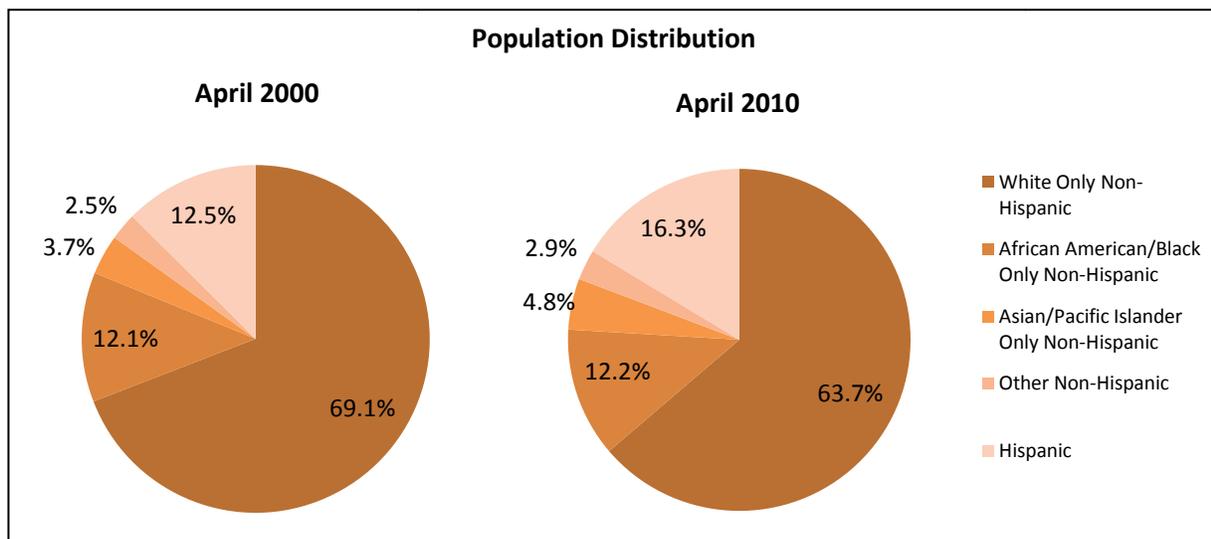
This analysis from EthniFacts is focused on one of the major headlines of this initial demographic profile of our country in 2010 – the continuing and extraordinary growth of the Hispanic population. Additional reports from EthniFacts are planned.

Overall Profile

The Hispanic population of the United States officially crossed the milestone of 50 million persons in late 2009. There were 50,477,594 Hispanics as of April 1, 2010, accounting for 16.3% of the U.S. population of 308,745,538.

Surpassing the 50 million and 16% thresholds is significant because previously available data and estimates did not quite anticipate the magnitude of these numbers. American Community Survey estimates pegged Hispanics in 2009 at 48.4 million; projections from the Census Bureau for 2010 estimated 49.9 million. It is not surprising because historically virtually all projections and estimates of the Hispanic populations have ended up underestimating the actual numbers from enumerations and surveys.

The racial/ethnic distribution of the U.S. population continues to shift. As shown in the figure below, Hispanics and the other non-White groups have increased their proportion of the population, with Hispanics adding nearly 4 percentage points and Whites decreasing by nearly 6 percentage points.



Between 2000 and 2010, the country’s population grew by 27.3 million and Hispanics grew by 15.2 million, thus taking credit for 56% of the total population growth.

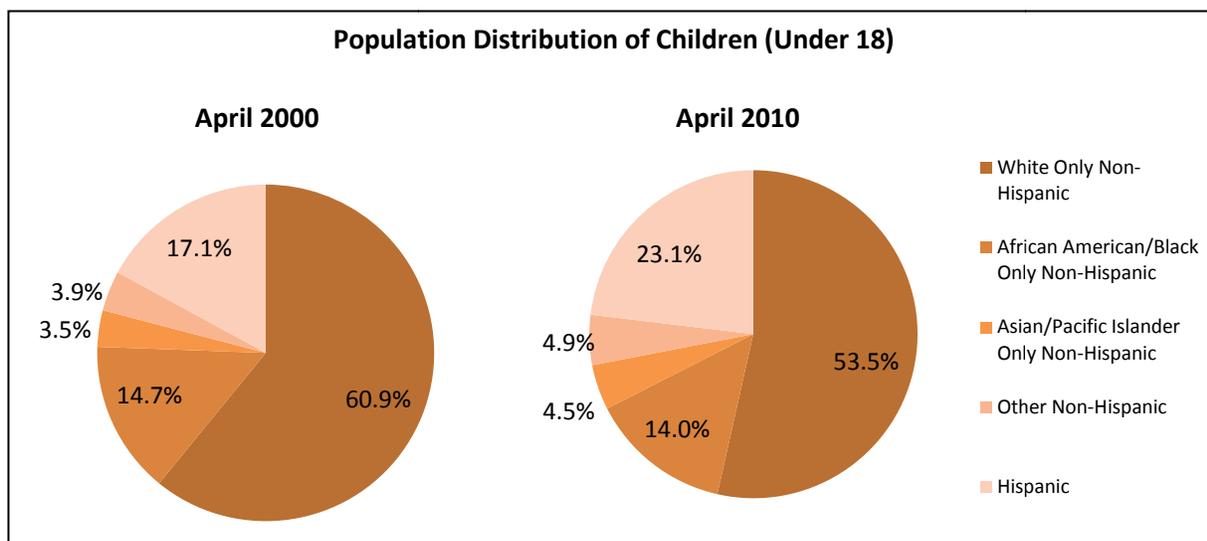
If the Hispanic population of Puerto Rico is included with that of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the total U.S. Hispanic community was 54.1 million in 2010 and is approaching the 55.8 million mark as of one year after the Census.

Growth Rates

The ten-year growth rate for Hispanics was 43%, compared to less than 5% for non-Hispanics. The Asian-origin (non-Hispanic) population also grew substantially, by almost 43%, but from a smaller base. African American (non-Hispanic) population grew by 11% and White (non-Hispanic) population by just over 1%.

Anticipating the Future

The key leading indicator of future patterns – the existing population of children (under age 18) – portends a dramatic trend. Of the 74.2 million U.S. children, 23.1 million or 23.1% are Hispanics. The number of children in the U.S. grew by less than 1.9 million in this first decade of the Century. A closer look shows that Hispanic children grew by 4.8 million, and non-White non-Hispanic children grew by just 1.4 million. Meanwhile, the number of non-Hispanic White children shrank by 4.3 million.



State-Level Patterns for Children

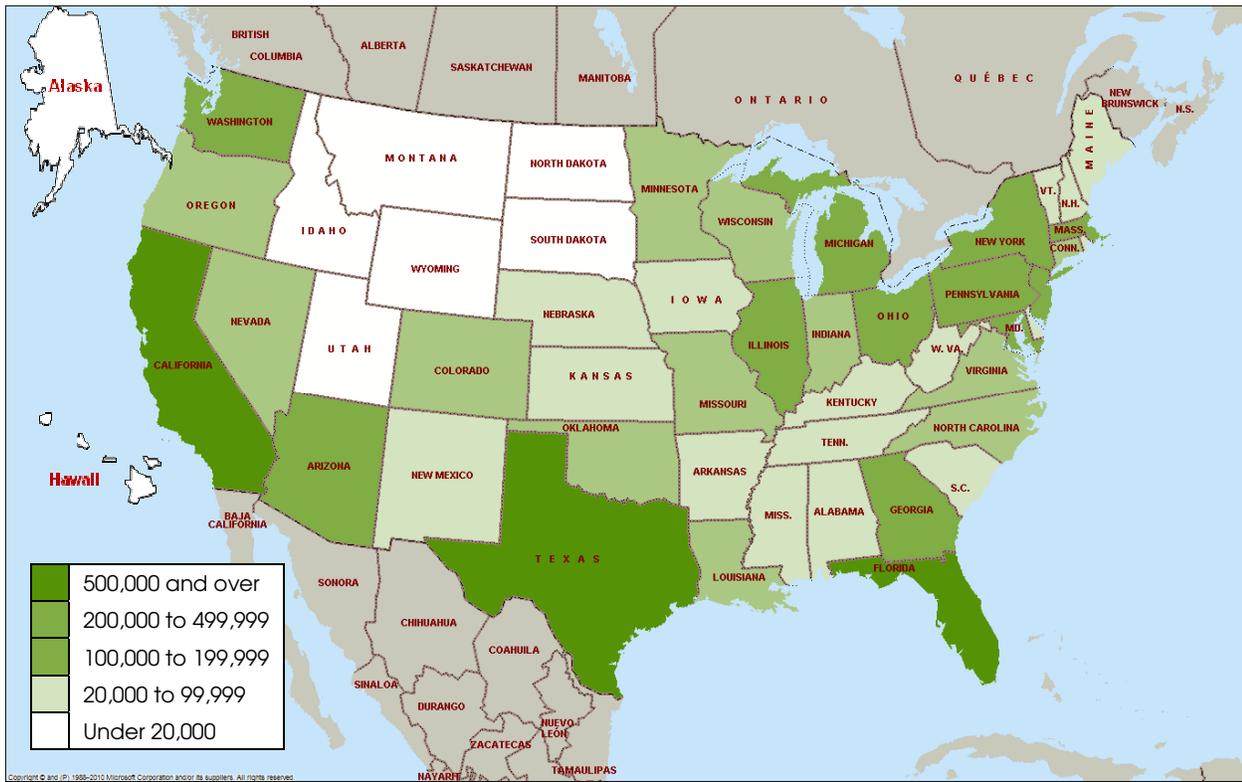
The maps on the following page show the distribution of Hispanic children by state. Two states (California and New Mexico) already have a Hispanic majority in their population of children and a large and growing number are above 20%. Only five states have than 4% Hispanics in their population of children.

The dramatic difference between the national increase by 4.8 million Hispanics and decrease of 4.3 million White, non-Hispanic children is best captured by the relative differential in growth, shown in the second map.

Population of Hispanic Children (Under 18) as a Percent of Total Children, April 2010



Net Difference in Change of Numbers of Hispanic and Non-Hispanic White Children (Under 18), April 2000 to April 2010



Implications for Now and the Future

The implications of these findings are numerous and EthniFacts will cover them in more detail as part of a series of Insights for Action in the coming months. Among the most significant effects is a future reliance on the Hispanic population for:

- The creation and replacement of new households who will purchase homes and other goods and services;
- Fulfilling future labor force demands in most industries and as primary source of future contributions to the Social Security and Medicare systems;
- The pipeline of educated talent from enrollments in technical training and higher educational institutions to the public and private professionals;
- Adding to the voter rolls and as civic participants in American society, particularly since a very large majority of Hispanic children will be voter eligible when they reach adulthood.

Future Reports from EthniFacts

Over the next weeks and months, EthniFacts will be releasing further analysis of population patterns and implications for key states and major metropolitan areas. As additional data from the 2010 Census become available, other reports will focus on households and families of Hispanics and other groups.