



## DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 107 411

RC 008 539

TITLE A Study of Selected Socio-Economic Characteristics of Ethnic Minorities Based on the 1970 Census. Volume I: Americans of Spanish Origin.

INSTITUTION RJ Associates, Inc., Arlington, Va.

SPONS AGENCY Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

REPORT NO HEW-Pub-(OS)-75-120

PUB DATE Jul 74

NOTE 148p.

EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.76 HC-\$6.97 PLUS POSTAGE

DESCRIPTORS Academic Achievement; Age; \*Census Figures; Cubans; \*Demography; Employment Patterns; Family Structure; Income; Mexican Americans; \*Population Trends; Puerto Ricans; \*Socioeconomic Background; \*Spanish Culture; Statistical Data

## ABSTRACT

Persons of Spanish Origin are the second largest minority group in the United States. In 1970, they numbered 9.1 million people; 2.4 million of whom were in poverty. These 9.1 million persons are a diverse group of people, from divergent areas of the world, and of different national backgrounds. The separate Spanish groups were designated by the 1970 Census as the: Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans, Central and South Americans, and Other Spanish (those persons whose families originated directly from Spain or were living in this country prior to 1848). Selected data from the 1970 U.S. Census on persons of Spanish Origin was analyzed in this report. Detailed socioeconomic information on the 3 largest Spanish subgroups in the U.S.--Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cuban Americans--was obtained from U.S. Census Bureau publications based on tabulations from the 1970 Census. The analysis of national and local data focused on such characteristics as immigration and in-migration, geographic and age distributions, nativity, family structure, education, employment, income, and poverty. Data from selected local areas was analyzed to highlight only those situations where local data varied markedly from or were otherwise notable in comparison to the national picture. (NQ)

ED107411



# A STUDY OF SELECTED SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ETHNIC MINORITIES BASED ON THE 1970 CENSUS

## Volume I: Americans of Spanish Origin



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,  
EDUCATION & WELFARE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
EDUCATION  
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

**OFFICE OF SPECIAL CONCERNS**  
**Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE**

RC008539



0002

ED107411

July, 1974

A STUDY OF SELECTED  
SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS  
OF ETHNIC MINORITIES BASED ON  
THE 1970 CENSUS

Volume I: Americans of Spanish Origin

— Principals of URBAN ASSOCIATES —  
— are now operating as RJ ASSOCIATES —  
— —

Prepared for: Department of Health, Education  
and Welfare  
Office of the Secretary  
330 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Prepared by: Urban Associates, Inc. \*  
1018 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, Va. 22209  
  
(703) 524-3360

The work upon which this publication is based  
was performed pursuant to Contract HEW-OS-72-209  
with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Highlights . . . . .	i
	Preface . . . . .	xx
I.	Introduction . . . . .	1
	A. Differences Between the 1970 Census and Past Census . . . . .	1
	B. Methods Used to Collect Data . . . . .	3
	C. Undercount of Persons of Spanish Origin . . . . .	7
II.	Methodology and Selection of Local Data . . . . .	13
III.	National and Local Analyses of Persons of Spanish Origin . . . . .	16
	A. Immigration and In-migration . . . . .	16
	B. Population Characteristics . . . . .	21
	C. Family Characteristics . . . . .	35
	D. Education Characteristics . . . . .	47
	E. Employment Characteristics . . . . .	62
	F. Income Characteristics . . . . .	76
	G. Poverty Characteristics . . . . .	83
	H. Cuban Americans . . . . .	93
IV.	Glossary . . . . .	108
	Sources . . . . .	117

## TABLES

TITLE	PAGE
<u>Introduction</u>	
I-1 Spanish Origin Subgroups According to the 1970 Census	2
I-2 Spanish American and Mexican American Population of Five Southwestern States as Variouslly Identified in Censuses of 1930 thru 1970	4
I-3 Number of Persons of Spanish Origin 1970 Census and March 1973	9
<u>Immigration and In-migration</u>	
A-1 Immigration of Persons of Spanish Origin, 1960-1973	18
A-2 Persons of Puerto Rican Birth and Parentage in the United States: 1910-1973	20
<u>Population Characteristics</u>	
B-1 Population Characteristics of the U.S. Total and Mexican and Puerto Rican Origin Populations, 1970	22
B-2 Urban/Rural Shift of Spanish Population in 5 Southwestern States: 1940-1970	25
B-3 Destination of Puerto Rican Migrants to the United States: 1965-1970	26
B-4 Age Distribution of Puerto Ricans, 14 Years Old and Over, Who Came to the U.S. between 1965-1970	31
B-5 Sex Ratios of Mexican Americans by Age and Residence	33
<u>Family Characteristics</u>	
C-1 Family Characteristics of the U.S. Total and Mexican and Puerto Rican Origin Populations, 1970	36
C-2 Age Distribution of Female Family Heads: 1970	41
C-3 Family Composition: Summary 1970	42
C-4 Marriage Within Own Subgroup	45
C-5 Ethnic Origin of Spouse for Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans	46

TABLES

TITLE	PAGE
<u>Education Characteristics</u>	
D-1 Education Characteristics of the U.S. Total and Mexican and Puerto Rican Origin Populations, 1970	48
D-2 Vocational Training Completed by Persons 16-64 Years Old with Less Than 3 Years College	53
D-3 Language Usage and Mother Tongue of Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans: 1969	59
D-4 Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans Reporting Spanish Currently Spoken at Home, by Age: 1971	60
D-5 Years of School Completed by Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans 14 Years Old and Over and Language Spoken at Home: 1971	61
<u>Employment Characteristics</u>	
E-1 Employment Characteristics of the U.S. Total and Mexican American and Puerto Rican Origin Populations, 1970	63
E-2 Labor Force Participation of Spanish Origin Wives and Female Heads	65
E-3 Number of Earners Per Family: by Selected Groups, 1969	66
E-4 Puerto Rican Women in Labor Force, by Nativity and Age 1960-1970	68
E-5 Percent Puerto Rican Women in Labor Force, by Nativity and Age, for Selected States: 1960-1970	69
E-6 Mexican American Women in Operative and Service Occupations, by State: 1970	73
<u>Income Characteristics</u>	
I-1 Income Characteristics of the U.S. Total and Mexican American and Puerto Rican Populations, 1970	77

0006

## TABLES

TITLE	PAGE
<u>Poverty Characteristics and Sources of Income</u>	
G-1 Poverty Characteristics and Sources of Incomes of the U.S. Total and Mexican and Puerto Rican Origin Populations, 1970	84
G-2 Ratio of Family Income to Poverty Level as a Percent of All Families	85
G-3 Percent of All Families in Poverty by Education of of Family Head	87
G-4 Families with Incomes Near and Below Poverty	88
<u>Cuban Americans</u>	
H-1 Population and Family Characteristics of the U.S. Total and Cuban American Populations, 1970	94
H-2 Sex of Cuban Immigrants, 1960-1973	97
H-3 Sex of Cuban American Population, by Age: 1970	97
H-4 Socio-Economic Characteristics of the U.S. Total and Cuban American Population, 1970	101
H-5 Vocational Training Completed	102
H-6 Distribution of Occupations of Cuban Immigrants	103
H-7 Occupations of Cuban Americans: 1970	104



## CHARTS

TITLE	PAGE
<u>Introduction</u>	
I-a Population in the five Southwestern States of Spanish Persons, According to Census Classifications 1930-1970.	5
<u>Immigration and In-migration</u>	
A-a Year of Immigration of Spanish Origin Foreign Born population	17
<u>Population Characteristics</u>	
B-a % of the Spanish Population of The 5 Southwestern States: % Urban-Rural 1940-1970	24
B-b Nativity of Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans, by Age	28
B-c Nativity and State of Birth: Mexican Americans	29
<u>Family Characteristics</u>	
C-a Family Structure Among Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans	37
C-b Mexican American and Puerto Ricans Families with Children under 18 Years Old	39
<u>Education Characteristics</u>	
D-a Schooling Completed by Persons 16 Years of Age and Over, in Selected Groups: 1970	49
D-b Persons enrolled in School, 14-17 and 18-24 Years of Age, by Sex, for Selected Groups	56
<u>Employment Characteristics</u>	
E-a Labor Force and Unemployment Rates for Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans: 16 Years of Age and Over	67
E-b Types of Occupations of Mexican American and Puerto Rican Males 1970	71
E-c Types of Occupations of Mexican American and Puerto Rican Females: 1970	74
<u>Income Characteristics</u>	
F-a Income of Mexican American and Puerto Rican Families by Sex of Head: 1970	81

CHARTS

TITLE	PAGE
<u>Cuban Americans</u>	
H-a Nativity of Cubans: 1970	95
H-b Age Distribution of Cuban Immigrants at Time of Entry	

## HIGHLIGHTS

The highlights of our Study of the Socio-Economic Characteristics of Americans of Spanish Origin are presented below. The full text of the report, including substantiating data, follows. The highlights are organized according to the primary subgroups in the Spanish Origin population: Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cuban Americans.

## Mexican Americans

### Population Characteristics

- Mexican Americans constitute some 2.2% of the total population of the United States.
- Of all Mexican Americans in the United States, 87% live in the five southwestern states: California (41%), Texas (36%), Arizona (5%), New Mexico (3%), and Colorado (2%).
- Four out of every five Mexican Americans were born in the United States. More than half (57%) had parents who were also born in this country.
- Mexican Americans, commonly stereotyped as being farm workers, are more concentrated in the cities than is the total U.S. population. They live mainly in the central cities or large metropolitan area. Nearly half of the Mexican Americans (46%) live in central cities, while 32% are found in suburban areas surrounding these cities. 11% are reported living in smaller urban areas and only 15% live in rural areas.

### Census Undercount

- The Census Bureau admits to some degree of undercount for the Spanish Speaking, and recent Census estimates of the number of persons of Spanish Origin in the United States have been revised upward. The greatest change occurred in estimates of the Mexican American population with a nearly 40% rise projected in 1973 over 1970.

### Immigration

- The Mexican Americans constitute the largest Spanish Speaking population group both among native born and among foreign born. Between 1960 and 1973, over 660,000 legal Mexican immigrants entered the United States, an average of 47,000 each year.

### Age Distribution

- About one-third of the total population in the United States is under 18 years of age. However, families of Spanish Origin tend to be larger and include more children. Almost half (47%) of the Mexican Americans are under 18 years of age.

- Fewer Mexican Americans are elderly. Only 4% of all the Mexican Americans in this country are 65 or over, compared to 10% of all persons in this country. Several factors may be responsible for this low proportion of older persons: (a) most recent Mexican American immigrants in the U.S. are young, (b) some Mexican Americans choose to return to Mexico when they become older; and (c) the poverty conditions that characterize the Mexican American population in this country, coupled with inadequate medical care, generally yield ill health, and hence shorter lives.

### Family Characteristics

- Few Mexican American family units contain dissolved marriages, although the percentage of husband/wife families in the Mexican American population (82%) is still somewhat lower than in the total U.S. population (86%). Of all Mexican American families, 13% have a woman as the head compared to 11% in the total population.
- Of all the children in the total population under 18 years of age, 85% live with both their parents. In the Mexican American population, 4 out of every 5 children (80%) live with both their parents, a proportion only slightly under that for the total population.
- Just over half of all husband/wife families in the United States (56%) have children, but fully three-quarters (76%) of all the Mexican American husband/wife families have.
- Approximately one-quarter (27%) of all husband/wife families in the country have young children 6 years old or less, but almost half (46%) of all Mexican American families have children in this age group.
- Among all families with children 18 years old or less in the total U.S. population, 36% have three or more. The percentage is a very high 52% for Mexicans.
- While 55% of all female-headed families in the United States have children under 18, 68% of Mexican American female-headed families do.
- About one out of every six married persons of Mexican American origin is married to spouse of a different subgroup compared to 1% in the total U.S. population. The rate of intermarriage among younger Mexican Americans has been increasing steadily.

### Education Characteristics

- The education system has served as a major barrier to economic success for persons of Spanish Origin. In 1970, about one-quarter (27%) of Mexican Americans 16 years of age and over had graduated from high school. This is seriously below the 55% of the U. S. population who had graduated from high school.
- Magnifying the problem even further, almost half (47%) of all Mexican American males 16 and over have not progressed beyond the eighth grade, while only 27% of all U.S. males, 16 and over, have had so little education.
- In 1970, Mexican Americans still had few college graduates. Of those 16 years old and over, only 2.5% and 1.4% of the males and females; respectively were college graduates, compared to 12.6% of the males and 7.8% of the females in the total U.S. population with this much education.
- Only 25% of Mexican American men 18-24 are enrolled in schools and colleges, which is 13% lower than the average for all men in the U.S. Mexican American females fall well below that rate with only 18% of that age enrolled in school, compared to 27% of the females in the total population who are enrolled.
- In 1969, 72% of all Mexican Americans reported that they spoke Spanish in their homes when they were children (mother tongue). The majority of these persons continued to use Spanish in the home; 47% of Mexican Americans reported speaking Spanish at home. In 1971, some 90% of the Mexican Americans who did not complete elementary school spoke English in their homes.

### Employment Characteristics

- 77% of all the Mexican American men are in the labor force--the same as for the total male population in the U.S.; nonetheless, a much larger proportion of Mexican American men are unemployed (6.1%) compared to the national rate of 3.9%. A most important factor related to the relatively high unemployment rates is the lower levels of education experienced by Mexican Americans.

- The labor force participation rate for Mexican American women at (36%) is below the national rate for all women in the United States (41%). The employment status of Mexican American women is made worse by the fact that 8.9% are unemployed. Thus, the actual number of Mexican American women is even smaller than their labor force participation rates indicate; only 33% of all Mexican American women are employed, while 39% of all women in the U.S. are employed.
- Over half (51%) of all families in the United States are supported by more than one earner. Mexican American families are at about the same level, yet only 29% of all Mexican American wives in husband/wife families are employed, compared to 39% of all such wives in the country. This suggests that more Mexican American young people are employed in order to supplement the family income.
- Close to one-third of all Mexican American women are employed in low-skilled, white-collar occupations. Nationally, over 40% of the total female population are employed in such positions.
- About a quarter (26%) of all employed Mexican American women are in semi-skilled, blue-collar jobs, and another quarter (26%) are in low-skilled service jobs, compared to 14% and 20% respectively of women in the total U.S. population who hold these jobs.
- The proportion of Mexican American men employed in high status, professional and managerial occupations is extremely low. In the total population, 25% of all males are employed in such occupations; only one of every eleven Mexican American males (9%) is employed in these high status positions.
- While the proportion of Mexican American men who are in the skilled, blue-collar occupations (21%) equals the national figures for the U.S. male population, the proportion of Mexican American men who are employed in the low-skilled, labor occupations is extremely high (23%), in comparison to the national figure of 11%.
- Although the Mexican American is stereotyped as a farm worker, only one of every ten Mexican American men is employed as a farm manager or farm laborer.

0014

### Income Characteristics

- Of all Mexican American males 16 and over, 43% have an annual income of less than \$4,000--compared to 31% of all males in the country earning such low incomes.
- While a quarter (25%) of all men in the United States have an income of \$10,000 a year or more, only 10% of the Mexican American men have such incomes. A clear relationship exists between the low percentage of Mexican American men in professional and managerial occupations and the similarly low percentage of men with earnings over \$10,000 a year.
- With such low incomes, the income of a second breadwinner is a vital factor for Mexican Americans in the support of their large families. Yet the proportion of Mexican American wives in the labor force is 10% lower than for the country as a whole.
- Of all women nationally, 68% make under \$4,000 and barely 3% earn \$10,000 a year or more. Of all Mexican American women, 79% earn \$4,000 or less; and only 1% has an income of \$10,000 and above.
- A quarter of Mexican American families exist on an income of less than \$4,000 a year. This is 10% greater than the proportion of low income families found in the total population. However, these figures do not reflect the impact that the large number of persons per family has on the income of the Mexican Americans. Mexican Americans have a family income of \$6,962 and a per capita income of \$1,716, far below that of the total U.S. population, where family income is \$9,590 and per capita income is \$3,139.
- Just over a quarter (27%) of Mexican American families nationally have an annual income of \$10,000 or more. This is 20% less than the proportion earning this much in the total population.
- Mexican American female-headed families are far worse off than the general population of female-headed families. Of all female-headed families, 41% have an income under \$4,000, while 57% of Mexican American families in this category earn such low incomes. While 18% of all female heads support their families on \$10,000 or more per year, half as many Mexican American female heads do.



## Poverty Characteristics

- Close to one-quarter (24%) of all Mexican American families in this country are in poverty, a proportion twice as great as in the total population (11%). The poverty status is exacerbated by the fact that the Mexican American family is among the largest in the United States.
- Levels of poverty are highest among the uneducated in the Mexican American population. At every level of education completed by family heads, there is greater poverty in the Mexican American population than in the total population. For example, the rate of poverty among Mexican American families whose heads are college educated (about 4%) is twice as great as the rate of poverty among all families with a college-educated head (about 2%).
- Over half of the Mexican American female-headed families are in poverty, while less than one-third of such families in the total population are poor.
- Of all elderly Mexican Americans, 37% are poor, a proportion 11% above the national rate. 44% of all Mexican Americans who live alone (unrelated individuals) are in poverty, compared to a national rate of 37%.

## Sources of Income

### Social Security

- The Mexican Americans are not receiving Social Security benefits at a rate comparable to the rest of the population. One in every five families in the total population receives this type of income, but only 14% of Mexican Americans do.
- Although Social Security benefits are received primarily by the elderly, and the proportion of elderly in the Mexican American population is much less than in the total U.S. population, the proportion of Mexican Americans receiving Social Security is less comparatively than their proportion of elderly. Of all U.S. families with family heads who are 65 years old or over, 84% receive Social Security, but only 72% of Mexican Americans in this category do. The proportion of poverty families with an elderly head of household receiving Social Security is lower still (69%).

Public Assistance

- With their high rate of poverty, a very large proportion of Mexican American families, close to one out of eight (12%), are on public assistance--more than twice the rate for all U.S. families (5%). One-half the number of Mexican American families with inadequate incomes are receiving public assistance.

Population Characteristics

- The 1.4 million Puerto Ricans in the United States represent 0.7% of the country's total population. More than three-quarters of all Puerto Ricans live in the tri-state area of New York (64%), New Jersey (10%) and Connecticut (3%).
- In 1910, about 1,500 persons born in Puerto Rico were reported in the United States. In each decade since that time (with the exception of the 1940's) the Census has recorded a substantial growth in this population. However, between 1960 and 1970 the rate of growth appears once more to have decreased. In terms of actual numbers, the number of persons of Puerto Rican birth recorded in the 1970 Census increased only a third over the number reported in the 1960 Census, whereas the number of persons of Puerto Rican birth in the 1960 Census had been a one-and-three-quarter increase over the 1950 Census.
- A majority of the Spanish American populations in the United States are urban dwellers; this is particularly true of the Puerto Ricans of whom 98% are urban. A large majority of those Puerto Ricans who entered the United States following World War II settled in New York City; since then, however, younger Puerto Ricans are settling in other metropolitan areas. In 1940, 88% of all Puerto Ricans in the United States lived in New York City, but by 1970, only 59% lived there.
- Over half of all Puerto Ricans in this country were born in Puerto Rico. Of those Puerto Ricans 20 years of age and above, only 15% were born in the United States. The proportion who were born on the Island remains about the same in all the states where Puerto Ricans are now concentrated. Among the elderly, who represent a very small percentage of the Puerto Rican population, only 9% are of U.S. birth.
- About one-third of the total population in the United States is under 18 years of age. However, families of Spanish Origin tend to be larger and include more children; almost half (47%) of the Puerto Rican population is under 18 years of age.

Family Characteristics

- In the United States, 86% of all families consist of a husband, wife, and their children, if they have any. Among Puerto Ricans in the U.S., however, only 72% of the families contain both husbands and wives.

- Over half (56%) of all husband/wife families in the United States have children under 18, but fully three-quarters (75%) of all Puerto Rican families do.
- Approximately one-quarter (27%) of all husband/wife families in the country have young children, 6 years old or less, but almost half (45%) of all Puerto Rican families have children in this age group.
- In the total U.S. population, of those families with children 18 years old or under, 36% have three or more children. The percentage is considerably higher for Puerto Ricans at 44%.
- Of all the children in the total population under 18 years of age, 85% live with both their parents. Less than two-thirds of all Puerto Rican children live with both their parents.
- Almost a quarter (24%) of all Puerto Rican families in the United States have a female head, compared to 11% in the total U.S. population; furthermore, 82% of the Puerto Rican female-headed families have children under 18, while only 55% of female-headed families in the total population have children under 18.
- About one out of every six married persons of Puerto Rican origin is married to a spouse of a different subgroup, compared to a 1% intermarriage rate for the total population. The rate of intermarriage among Puerto Ricans varies little on the basis of age and, in the case of women, has actually decreased.

### Educational Characteristics

- Only 72% of all Puerto Rican males and 70% of Puerto Rican females 14-17 years old are enrolled in school, over 20% below the average for the total population. No other population group has as serious a school drop-out rate. The economic disadvantage which the drop-out rate reveals is made clearer by the fact that 45% of all Puerto Rican male youths 16-24 years of age, who left high school prior to graduation, are without a job.
- Only 13% of Puerto Rican males 18-24 years of age are enrolled in school, a rate nearly two-thirds less than that of the total population. The enrollment rate of the

Puerto Rican females is the lowest of all. Only 10% of the female Puerto Rican population of this age are enrolled in any kind of postsecondary educational program, the lowest rate for any population subgroup.

- The educational attainment of Puerto Rican men is very low with only 9.7 median years of schooling, compared to 12.1 years for total U.S. men. The percentage of poorly educated men (with eight or fewer years of school) is 43%, 16% higher than that of the total population; only 27% of Puerto Rican men have completed high school in contrast to 54% of the total male population.
- The Puerto Rican population is basically an urban population whose various social (including educational) characteristics are affected little by the rural variances. Despite this, educational achievement for Puerto Rican women is extremely low compared to that of the women in the total U.S. population. The median years of schooling attained by Puerto Rican women is only 9.3 years, in contrast to 12.1 years for the total female population.
- Of all Puerto Rican women, 48% have not attended school beyond the elementary level. Unusually, the proportion of Puerto Rican women completing no more than eight or fewer years of school is 5% greater than the rate among Puerto Rican men.
- Only one-quarter (26%) of Puerto Rican women are high school graduates and only 1.7% are college graduates. In contrast, 55% of women in the total U.S. population have graduated from high school, and 7.8% are college graduates.
- With the low level of education attained by Puerto Ricans a major increase in educational opportunities, including opportunities for vocational training, is clearly an important need. However, the proportion of Puerto Ricans who currently have completed a vocational training program (16% of all persons 16-64 years of age with less than 3 years of college education) falls far short of persons of that age with less than 3 years of college who have completed such training in the total population (25%).
- In 1969, 83% of all Puerto Ricans reported that they spoke Spanish in their home when they were children (mother tongue). The majority of these persons continued to use Spanish in the home; 72% of Puerto Ricans reported speaking Spanish at home. In 1971, some 90% of the Puerto Ricans who did not complete elementary school reported speaking Spanish in their home.

### Employment Characteristics

- The 1970 Census clearly indicates that the Puerto Ricans are a hard-working people. 76% of the Puerto Rican men are in the labor force--virtually the same as the total male population in the U.S.
- Nonetheless, a much larger proportion of Puerto Rican men are unemployed (5.6%) than men in the total population (3.9%). A most important factor related to the relatively high unemployment rates is the lower rates of education experienced by Puerto Ricans.
- The labor force participation rate for Puerto Rican women at 32% is far below the 41% national rate for all women in the United States.
- The employment status of Puerto Rican women is made worse by the fact that 8.7% are unemployed; thus, the actual number of Puerto Rican women who are employed is even smaller than their low labor force participation rates indicate. Only 29% of all Puerto Rican women are in fact employed.
- Over half (51%) of all families in the United States are supported by more than one earner. Puerto Rican families have a much smaller proportion of their families with two or more earners (36%). Only 28% of all Puerto Rican wives in husband/wife families are in the labor force compared to 39% of all such wives in the country.
- Among Puerto Ricans, fewer female heads of families (24%) than wives (28%) are in the work force. This presents an opposite picture from the total U.S. population where 56% of all female heads work, but only 39% of wives in husband/wife families do.
- The rate of labor force participation of Puerto Rican women has actually declined for virtually all age levels over the past 10 years. This pattern is contrary to the trend for women in every other population group, whose participation in the work force has increased during the past decade. The decline in labor force participation has been among Puerto Rican women born on the Island rather than among those born in the United States. Labor force participation among the latter has remained constant and even gained among mature women, 45-64 years old.

- The proportion of employed Puerto Rican men in higher status professional and managerial occupations, is one in ten, compared to one in four for all males in the total population.
- Just over half of all Puerto Rican males are employed in skilled and semi-skilled, blue-collar occupations with twice as many in the semi-skilled occupations (34%) as in the skilled ones (17%). In contrast, 21% of the men in the total population are employed in the skilled, blue-collar jobs and 20% are in the semi-skilled ones.
- A quarter (26%) of all Puerto Rican men are employed in the primarily low-skilled occupations as laborers and service workers. This is 8% greater than the proportion of the total U.S. male population employed in the same occupational categories.
- As it is for Puerto Rican males, the largest single employment category for Puerto Rican females in the United States is as semi-skilled operatives. Two in five (40%) Puerto Rican women work in this occupation; only 14% of all women in the U.S. are employed in this occupational area.
- Another 34% of Puerto Rican women are employed as white-collar, clerical and sales workers. This is 8% less than the proportion among women in the total population, but close enough to national levels to indicate some economic mobility from blue-collar to white-collar jobs on the part of the Puerto Rican female.
- Only about 9% of all Puerto Rican women are in professional and managerial occupations. This is the same percentage as among Puerto Rican men and one-half the percentage found among all women in the population.
- Despite low educational attainments, only 14% of Puerto Rican women are employed in the low-skilled service occupations--6% less than the proportion among all women in the United States. Puerto Rican women who are unable to obtain employment in more skilled occupations, by virtue of their poor educational backgrounds and language difficulties, apparently stay out of the labor force entirely.

#### Income Characteristics

- The proportion of Puerto Rican males 16 years and over with a low income less than \$4,000 (34%) is only slightly greater than the average for the total country (31%), in part a product of Puerto Rican concentration in the Northeast where the cost of living and incomes are higher than in many other parts of the U.S.

- The proportion of Puerto Rican males earning \$10,000 or more (8%) is one-third of that for the nation as a whole (25%). Although the proportion in very low income brackets among the men is not high, the proportion earning moderate or higher incomes is very low indeed. The lower income ranges of Puerto Rican males highlight the fact that the additional income from a second earner is of great importance to the economic sufficiency of the family, yet the labor force participation rate of Puerto Rican women is extremely low.
- Nationally, the percentage of Puerto Rican women with an income less than \$4,000 is close to the average for the country; 70% compared to 68% for the nation as a whole; but only 1% are earning over \$10,000 a year compared to 3% of women nationally. This small percentage of higher income earners among women all but cancels any indication of economic progress that the smaller proportion in the lowest wage bracket might suggest.
- The fewer earners and the higher proportion of female-headed families produce the great proportion of low income levels in Puerto Rican families. Almost three in ten (28%) of all Puerto Rican families have an annual income of less than \$4,000, and only 22% earn \$10,000 or more.
- Among Puerto Ricans the head of one of every four families is a young woman who has the sole responsibility for supporting her children. It is these family heads who have the greatest difficulty earning an income sufficient to support the other members. Of all Puerto Rican female heads of families, 65% support their families on incomes under \$4,000--24% more than families with female heads nationally.

#### Poverty Characteristics

- Of all Puerto Rican families, 27% are in poverty, 16% more than the percentage of poverty among all U.S. families.
- Over half (53%) of all Puerto Rican families in poverty are female headed compared to the total U.S. rate of 33%.
- The incidence of poverty among elderly persons (29%) and persons who live alone (33%) is not markedly higher in the Puerto Rican population than among the total U.S. population. 26% of the total U.S. elderly population are poor and 37% of persons living alone in the total U.S. are poor. Thus the problem of poverty among the Puerto Ricans is acute, but characteristically found among young families, particularly female-headed families, rather than among single or elderly persons.



## Sources of Income

### Social Security

- The Puerto Ricans are not receiving Social Security benefits at a rate comparable to the rest of the population. One in every five families in the total population receives this type of income, but the proportion is less than one in ten for Puerto Rican families.
- Although Social Security benefits are received primarily by the elderly, and the proportion of elderly in the Puerto Rican population is much less than in the total U.S. population, the proportion of Puerto Ricans receiving Social Security is smaller than their numbers appear to warrant.

### Public Assistance

- With their very high rate of poverty and accessibility to urban social service agencies, the proportion of Puerto Rican families receiving public assistance (24%) is higher than the proportion of the national population receiving public assistance.

## Cuban Americans

### Immigration

Only about 5,000 Cubans were reported as immigrants to the United States prior to 1925. It was not until the advent of Fidel Castro in Cuba that the major flow of Cuban refugees to the United States ensued. Between 1960 and 1970, over a quarter of a million (265,000) Cubans immigrated legally to this country. The rate of immigration reached its height in 1968, when 99,000 Cubans entered the United States. Since 1968, the rate of immigration has greatly decreased, because of restrictions on emigration imposed by the Cuban government. Since 1970, an average of 22,000 Cubans have immigrated to the U.S. each year. There are now over 600,000 Cuban Americans in the United States.

### Population Characteristics

- The main destination for the Cuban refugee population during the 1960-1970 decade was Florida; 45% of the Cuban immigrants listed that state as their U.S. destination. More Cuban Americans have moved to Florida from other states than have left Florida. 46% of all Cuban Americans live in the state.
- The Cuban Americans are almost entirely urban dwellers. Of all Cuban Americans, 98% live in cities.
- Barely 18% of the Cuban American population were born in the U.S. The majority of native-born Cuban Americans are still young children, and 93% of all Cuban Americans who are 18 years old or over are foreign born.
- Throughout most of the recent decade of Cuban immigration, more Cuban females than Cuban males have come to the U.S. Recently almost half the Cuban immigrants have been middle-aged or elderly.
- Unlike the other Spanish Origin groups, the median age of the Cuban American population (about 32 years for both men and women) is among the highest of any population. Young Cuban Americans (18 years old and under) comprise less than one-third of the total Cuban American population.
- Of the total Cuban American population, 6% are 65 years old or older, a proportion smaller than for elderly in the total U.S. population, but larger than in the other Spanish Origin populations.

### Family Characteristics

- The Cuban American family is one of the most stable, with a high proportion of husband/wife families and high proportion of children, 18 and under, living with both their parents. The proportion of families headed by a female (12%) is only 1% above the national average.
- As Cuban refugees immigrate to this country, they are apparently moving in with relatives who are already established. This is indicated by the fact that while Cuban American families have fewer young children than any other population group, a large proportion of the families (27%) have five or more members, indicating a high number of extended families.

### Education Characteristics

- The Cuban American population has just as high a percentage of persons without much education as other Spanish Origin populations. 45% of all adult Cuban Americans have eight or fewer years of education.
- The proportion of Cuban Americans who are high school graduates is high compared to other Spanish Origin groups, but still 11% below the average for the total U.S. population.
- Of the total Cuban American population in 1970, 96% reported Spanish as their mother tongue; this is not unexpected, given the very large proportion of Cuban Americans who are foreign born.

### Employment Characteristics

- In 1970, 84% of Cuban American males were in the labor force, the highest rate of participation by any group in the country. The labor force participation rate of Cuban American women is also among the highest at 51%.
- Unemployment among Cuban American males is close to the U.S. average. While the unemployment rate among Cuban American women, at 7.3%, is slightly higher than the U.S. average, it is lower than that reported for other Spanish American women.

- A quarter of all the Cubans immigrating between 1960 and 1973 who had an occupation when they immigrated were in professional and managerial occupations. Another 15% were white-collar clerical workers. However, the proportion of immigrants who are white-collar workers has decreased steadily since the mid-sixties. More recent immigrants are largely from blue-collar, semi-skilled and unskilled occupations. Since 1970, half of all immigrants with occupations were operatives, service workers, and laborers.
- The contrast in jobs held by the Cuban American women and women in the total population is marked. While a fifth of all women in the United States are in the professional and managerial occupations, less than half the proportion of Cuban American women (10%) are in these higher status occupations. Over half the Cuban American women are employed in semi-skilled and unskilled occupations, compared to 36% of all women.

#### Income Characteristics

- With the high proportion of persons in the work force, the average Cuban American family is able to generate a greater family income. Three out of five of all Cuban American families have two or more earners.
- Although higher than for other Spanish American populations, the income level of Cuban American families is still not up to the average for the total population, despite the contribution of more earners. Of all Cuban American families, 17% are living on an income of less than \$4,000 a year, compared to 15% of all families in the U.S. Of all Cuban American families, 39% have an annual income of \$10,000 or more, whereas the proportion for families in the total population is 47%.

#### Poverty Characteristics

- Currently, the rate of poverty among Cuban American families, 13%, is just over the average for the country (11%). The poverty rate among Cuban families who immigrated to the U.S. between 1955 and 1965 is only 8%, but among families who have immigrated since 1965, it is twice the U.S. average (22%).

- Poverty among female-headed Cuban American families and elderly Cuban Americans is somewhat lower than among the country as a whole, possibly because of the extended family structure, within which family members with limited means are assisted by relatives.
- Under the Cuban Refugee Program, public assistance for the Cuban American population has not been based solely on poverty status and the percentage of Cuban American families receiving public assistance (17%) is greater than the percentage of families in poverty (13%).

## PREFACE

This report is one of a series being developed by Urban Associates, Inc. (UAI), under Contract No. HEW OS-72-209 with the Office of Special Concerns, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Office of the Secretary, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The basic purpose of the contract was to conduct a two-phase, comprehensive study of major barriers to culturally-relevant delivery of DHEW services to three major ethnic minority groups in America today: Americans of Spanish Origin, Asian Americans, and American Indians. Under Phase I of the contract, UAI undertook to:

- Survey the parameters of the problem
- Identify major problem areas
- Make an overall assessment of the degree to which ethnic minorities obtain their fair share of culturally-relevant services
- Identify the major barriers involved

Three major conclusions were drawn from the Phase I study concerning the ethnic minorities:

1. All of the ethnic minority groups have serious deficiencies in the areas of health, education, and welfare; deficiencies which flow from impoverishment, cultural differences or, most often, a combination of both; and thus have substantial need for the services DHEW is committed to provide for all Americans.
2. Each ethnic group is unique, having a different language (or languages), life style, world view, and differing kinds and degrees of need for various services, such that, for each group separate, individualized, and culturally-sensitive planning and delivery vehicles are necessary if their needs are to be adequately met.

3. Contact with community agencies by the ethnic consultants during Phase I indicated that each of the ethnic communities complained about serious problems in the availability, method of delivery, cultural sensitivity, and presence of ethnic minority staff in DHEW-funded programs at the local level.

Based upon the results of Phase I, the Office of Special Concerns selected a number of issues for in-depth review by Urban Associates in Phase II.

In addition to this analysis of 1970 Census data pertaining to the three ethnic minorities, the other components of the Phase II study are:

- An Evaluation of the Indian Health Service
- A Study of Ethnic Minorities in the Health Occupations
- A Study of the Impact of DHEW Decentralization on the Ethnic Minorities
- A Field Study to determine the extent to which DHEW services are responsive to the needs of the Asian Americans

## I. INTRODUCTION

This volume, analyzing selected data from the U. S. Census of 1970 on persons of Spanish Origin, represents one of three such volumes on three major ethnic minority groups in America today (the other two groups being Asian Americans and American Indians). The development of this report stemmed from the finding in Phase I of the contract that there was a considerable absence of data on the numbers and characteristics of ethnic minority consumers, the service needs of ethnic individuals, beneficiary data by ethnic group, and other key indicators of the ethnic minorities' needs for services. Such information is indispensable to effective program planning by HEW. Therefore, this study focuses on generating specific data on the characteristics of ethnic minority individuals who are potential consumers of HEW services.

Our primary objective was to develop a report that would be useful to the different audiences within HEW, as well as to the state agencies dispensing HEW funds.

In conducting our analysis, we have given special attention to the stereotypes of ethnic minorities held by many persons. The reader will find that most of these stereotypes cannot, in fact, be maintained. We have also endeavored to look beyond the national data on each of the groups, to local data, in order to determine whether characteristics as reflected in national data were also reflected in the data from particular localities. Our study results have shown that national data on the ethnic minorities do frequently obscure, rather than reveal, the varying facts about many of the ethnic minority groups. We have presented our findings with the intention of highlighting these distinctions.

### A. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE 1970 CENSUS AND PAST CENSUSES

In 1970, the U. S. Bureau of the Census for the first time reported on persons of Spanish Origin as a major ethnic group, warranting national attention. Persons of Spanish Origin are the second largest minority group in the United States. In all, they numbered 9.1 million people in 1970, 1/ 2.4 million of whom were in poverty.

1/ According to Census 1973 Current Population Survey, there are 10.6 million persons of Spanish Origin. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Characteristics, Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1973 (Advance Report), Series P-20, No. 259, January, 1974 (Reprint). Also see Section on Census Undercount.



The 9.1 million persons of Spanish Origin are a diverse group of people, from divergent areas of the world, and of different national backgrounds as indicated below.

Table I-1  
Spanish Origin Subgroups According to the  
1970 Census

	All Spanish Origin	Mexican American	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central & South American	Other Spanish
Total Population (000s)	9,072.6	4,532.4	1,429.4	545.6	1,508.9	1,057.3
% of U. S. Population	4.5%*	2.2%	0.7%	0.3%	0.7%	0.5%
% of Spanish Origin Nationally	100.0%	50.0%	15.8%	6.0%	16.6%	11.6%

\* Individual percentages in this and other tables may not add up to the totals due to rounding.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population, Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C

The Census taken in 1970 was the first one in which persons of Spanish Origin were asked to identify themselves. Up to that time, Censuses taken on Spanish Surnamed and Puerto Rican persons were accumulated haphazardly, according to such characteristics as surname, speech or through visual identification. Other persons were identified by their place of birth or their parents' place of birth. Through this procedure, those Spanish persons whose families had been living for over 400 years in what is now the United States were overlooked.

In 1970, the separate Spanish groups designated by the Census were: the Mexican Americans, the Puerto Ricans, the Cuban Americans, Central and South Americans, and Other Spanish. The latter group includes those persons whose families originated directly from Spain or had been living in this country prior to 1848, when the U. S. took the Southwest from Mexico. In New Mexico, 60% of the Spanish identify themselves as "Other Spanish" and only 40% as "Mexican Americans." The "Other Spanish" who were original settlers differ markedly from those "Other

Spanish" who immigrated from Spain and have been living in this country for varying lengths of time.

The varying terms, such as Spanish Origin, Spanish Heritage, Spanish Surname, Spanish Speaking, etc. that are used to designate Spanish Americans, often cause confusion. Puerto Ricans, whether born in Puerto Rico or in the United States, are listed as "native born;" yet for all practical purposes, those born in Puerto Rico have as many and as complex difficulties as those "foreign born" persons from Mexico, South America, or Central America.

Because of the variation in methods utilized to collect data on the Spanish, some discrepancies may exist among Census data collected over the decades. However, there is adequate comparability of data on Spanish Origin population reported in the 1970 Subject Reports: Spanish Origin or in the General Social and Economic Characteristics, on "Spanish Language" or "Surname" or "Spanish Heritage." Data for the five southwestern states are compared with data available for those five states in previous decades (see Table I-2 and Chart I-a).

The difficulties experienced by the Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans--the two largest groups and those having the greatest problems of economic and social adjustment into U. S. society--have been obscured within the total Spanish data. "Other Spanish" (except for those who are long-time inhabitants of the Southwest) and "Central and South Americans," because of their income, education, and integration into the society, apparently have had fewer socio-economic problems. Additionally, "Other Spanish" have been the only group whose members have intermarried in large numbers <sup>1/</sup> with non-Spanish, which has tended to reduce language barriers for the children and ease their integration into the general society.

The entry adjustment problems of newly arrived Cuban immigrants have been mitigated by major infusions of federal money through the Cuban Refugee Act, which has provided funds to meet their economic and social needs.

## B. METHODS USED TO COLLECT DATA

In terms of completeness and accuracy of data obtained and published, this Census was much improved over previous counts. Special emphasis was placed on ethnic/racial minority groups, in response to increased interest expressed by government and private agencies, ethnic/racial and community organizations,

1/ Only 40% of "Other Spanish" husbands are married to women of Spanish Origin, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States November 1969, Series P-20, No. 213

Spanish American and Mexican American Population of  
Five Southwestern States as Variouslly Identified  
in Censuses of 1930 thru 1970

(Statistics for 1960 based on 25-percent sample; for 1940, 5-percent sample)

State	All Classes	Native		Foreign or Mixed Parentage	Foreign Born
		Total	Native Parentage		
<b>Total, all States:</b>					
Spanish Origin, 1970	5,008,556	4,124,777	—	—	883,771
Spanish Surname, 1970	—	—	2,514,478	1,303,258	—
Spanish Surname, 1960	3,464,999	2,930,185	1,899,402	1,030,783	534,814
Spanish Surname, 1950	2,281,710	1,889,210	1,113,680	775,530	392,506
Spanish Mother Tongue, 1940	1,570,740	1,247,300	628,000	619,300	323,440
Mexicans, 1930	1,282,833	752,211	253,441	498,770	530,672
<b>Arizona:</b>					
Spanish Origin, 1970	264,770	237,603	—	—	37,167
Spanish Surname, 1970	—	—	133,136	71,684	—
Spanish Surname, 1960	194,356	160,106	95,825	64,281	34,250
Spanish Surname, 1950	128,560	105,345	53,380	51,965	23,235
Spanish Mother Tongue, 1940	101,880	77,740	27,600	50,140	24,140
Mexicans, 1930	114,173	66,318	18,955	47,363	47,855
<b>California:</b>					
Spanish Origin, 1970	2,369,292	1,777,667	—	—	591,625
Spanish Surname, 1970	—	—	952,181	702,080	—
Spanish Surname, 1960	1,426,538	1,141,207	656,674	484,533	85,331
Spanish Surname, 1950	758,400	591,540	266,835	324,700	166,860
Spanish Mother Tongue, 1940	416,140	279,440	63,700	215,740	136,700
Mexicans, 1930	368,013	176,667	29,138	147,529	191,346
<b>Colorado:</b>					
Spanish Origin, 1970	225,506	216,849	—	—	8,657
Spanish Surname, 1970	—	—	180,380	21,859	—
Spanish Surname, 1960	157,173	151,692	135,277	16,415	5,481
Spanish Surname, 1950	118,715	113,750	98,750	15,000	4,965
Spanish Mother Tongue, 1940	92,540	85,900	71,800	14,100	6,640
Mexicans, 1930	57,676	44,860	32,956	11,904	12,816
<b>New Mexico:</b>					
Spanish Origin, 1970	308,340	296,473	—	—	11,367
Spanish Surname, 1970	—	—	267,960	28,060	—
Spanish Surname, 1960	269,122	258,500	236,342	23,167	10,613
Spanish Surname, 1950	248,560	238,040	216,805	21,235	10,520
Spanish Mother Tongue, 1940	211,740	213,920	192,820	21,100	7,320
Mexicans, 1930	59,340	43,357	25,586	17,771	15,983
<b>Texas:</b>					
Spanish Origin, 1970	1,840,648	1,606,185	—	—	234,463
Spanish Surname, 1970	—	—	930,821	479,575	—
Spanish Surname, 1960	1,417,810	1,218,671	776,284	442,387	199,139
Spanish Surname, 1950	1,027,455	840,535	477,910	362,625	186,020
Spanish Mother Tongue, 1940	738,440	590,300	273,080	318,220	140,140
Mexicans, 1930	638,681	421,009	146,806	274,203	262,672

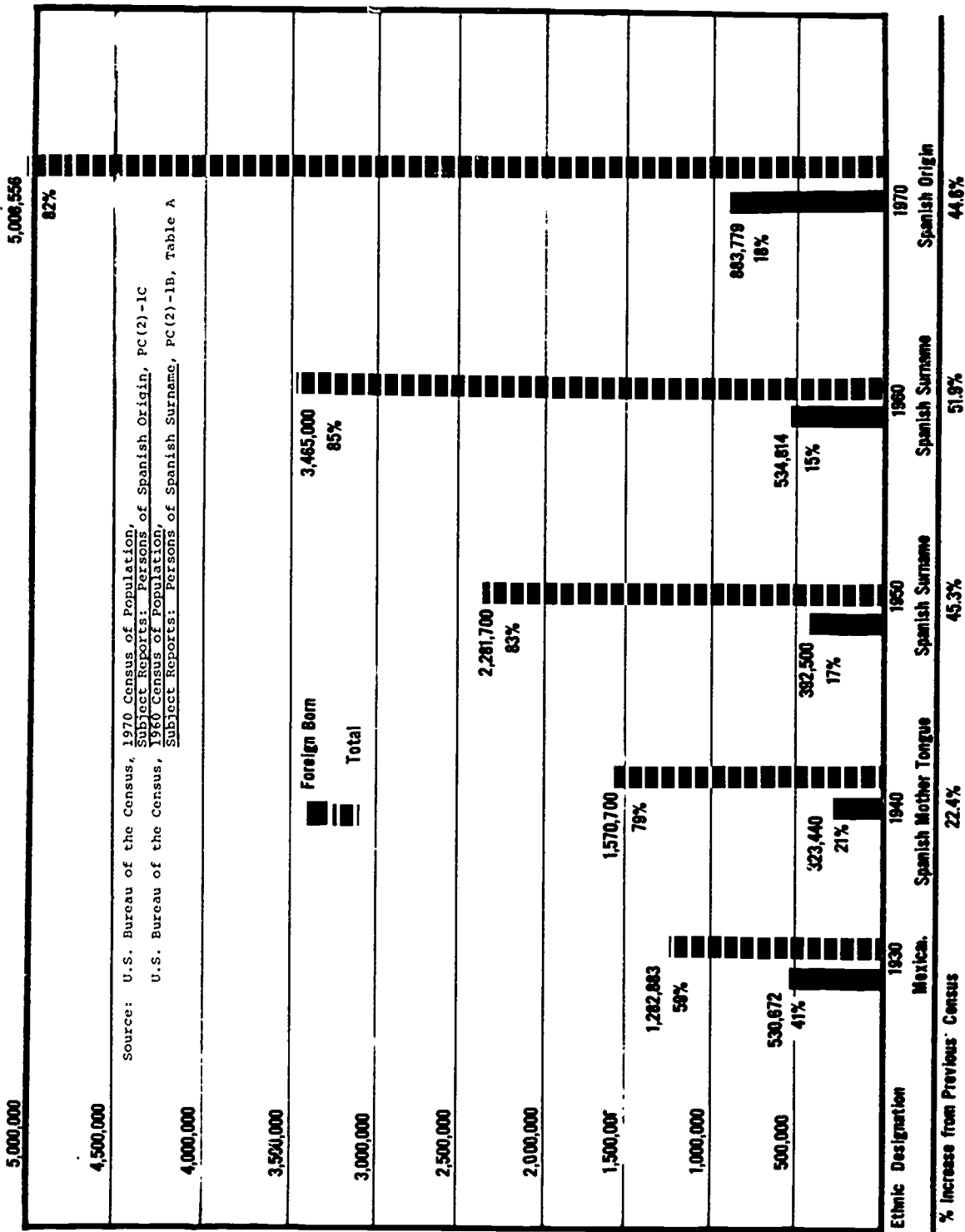
Sources: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1960  
Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Surname,  
Final Report PC(2)-1B Table A, p. ix.

U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970  
Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, Final Report PC(2)-1C  
Persons of Spanish Surname, Final Report PC(2)-1D

0034

Chart 1-a

POPULATION IN THE FIVE SOUTHWESTERN STATES OF SPANISH PERSONS, ACCORDING TO CENSUS CLASSIFICATIONS 1830 - 1970



and researchers. For the first time, the U. S. Bureau of the Census launched an extensive program to improve minority coverage, including a pre-Census campaign to contact major minority groups and gain their cooperation in the count. Special brochures and posters were printed for Spanish Speaking groups and community educators were employed in major cities to explain the Census, assure groups of the confidentiality of individual Census returns, and show how Census data is used to benefit citizens (for example, in planning and funding government programs). Community groups were asked to help the Bureau locate indigenous persons to be employed as enumerators and supervisors, and to help with special problems (for example, to contact and assist persons who spoke no English and who mistakenly threw away Census questionnaires received by mail).

Special procedures and funds were used during the Census enumeration to reduce the "undercount" of ethnic minority groups. Enumerators in some areas were paid more for more difficult tasks, enumeration teams were used and enumerators speaking the native language were used whenever possible, particularly in barrios, etc.

In 60 cities in the country (principally in metropolitan areas), the Census Bureau, with the cooperation of the U. S. Post Office, used mail-out/mail-back forms based on address registers. This is in contrast to previous Censuses whereby enumerators called personally on each household. In the 1970 Census, such enumerators were used primarily in rural areas and when it was necessary to contact households that did not respond to the initial mail survey.

The Census forms were designed to maximize the count and accuracy of data with respect to ethnic minorities. On a 20% sample nationally (i. e. every fifth person or household) respondents were asked to enumerate themselves by race and ethnic origin, for example, persons were asked to state whether or not they were of Spanish Speaking origin. Also persons who identified Spanish as their "mother tongue" (language spoken in their households when they were children) were designated as Spanish Speaking. Finally, if the father in a household was determined to be Spanish Speaking by such criteria, the entire household was counted as Spanish Speaking.

Therefore, the data on the Spanish populations as reflected in this report are based primarily on persons of Spanish Origin 1/ in preference to persons of Spanish Surname. 2/ The latter includes persons with Spanish last names whether or not they were of Spanish Speaking background (for example, Pilipinos), and excludes those persons whose surnames may not reflect their Spanish Origins (e.g. Pedro O'Brian).

1/ U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970  
Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin Vol. PC(2)-1C.

2/ U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970  
Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Surname, Vol. PC(2)-1D.

Publications from the U. S. Census Bureau based on tabulations from the 1970 Census provided the detailed socio-economic information on the three largest Spanish subgroups in the United States--the Mexican Americans, the Puerto Ricans and the Cuban American. In addition, information on all persons of Spanish Origin was provided.

Except where indicated, the source of all data in this volume is the 1970 Census of Population, as published by the U. S. Bureau of the Census, specifically in the following publications:<sup>1/</sup>

General Population Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-B1

General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1

Detailed Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-D1

Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C  
Puerto Ricans in the United States, PC(2)-1E

Results from subsequent surveys and tabulations of persons of Spanish Origin have been issued by the Census Bureau and where these are the source of data, they are cited as footnotes.

#### C. UNDERCOUNT OF SPANISH IN THE 1970 CENSUS

Since the publication of the 1970 Census, the validity of the 9.1 million population count of persons of Spanish Origin in the United States has been questioned. It has been charged that the number of Spanish persons has been seriously underestimated, due to inaccurate Census designations and inaccurate methods of gathering data.

The U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, in its report on the Spanish Speaking undercount, <sup>2/</sup> stated that insufficient attention was given to the necessary methodology for collecting data on the Spanish Speaking.

<sup>1/</sup> A detailed list of Census publications with data on persons of Spanish Origin is contained at the end of this report.

<sup>2/</sup> U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Counting the Forgotten, U. S. Government Printing Office, April, 1974.

The report goes on to point out that the mailing lists used to send out Census questionnaires were commercial mailing lists (such as lists of property tax payers) which were not representative of the Spanish Speaking population. Also, none of the actual forms used to enumerate the population were translated into Spanish. Only instructional materials (including samples of the Questionnaire forms) had been translated.

As a result of the report on the Spanish Speaking undercount, there appears to be no doubt but that there was an undercount; rather the question is to what degree the Spanish Speaking were undercounted.

The Census Bureau itself admits to some degree of undercount 1/ and recent Census estimates of the number of persons of Spanish Origin in the United States have recently been revised upward, 2/ so that the figure for people of Spanish Origin in the United States in 1973, 10.6 million people, represents an increase of 1.5 million people over the 1970 figure. The more recent figures represent a 16.6% increase over figures for 1970 (see Table I-3). The greatest change occurred in estimates of the Mexican American population--a nearly 40% rise over 1970 totals. While persons of Spanish Origin were estimated to be 4.5% of the total U. S. population in 1970, in 1973, this proportion increased to 5.1%.

Since the 1970 Census data are the basis for program decisions for the allocation of funds under formula grants, resource allocation in general and special revenue sharing, Congressional apportionment, etc., the impact of the population revisions would be substantial. With more than \$70 billion in the U.S. domestic budget, the difference in numbers of Spanish Origin people in the United States represents at a minimum, \$350 million of funding allocation. Yet, at present, it is the 1970 Census figures and not the updated figures that will be the base upon which allocations are made. Clearly, serious attention should be given to the implications of the new Census figures.

The Census Bureau cites several factors as being responsible for the marked increase in population from 1970 to 1973 including reclassification of the origin of children under 14 living in households with a head or wife of head of Spanish Origin; new terms used to identify persons of Mexican origin; direct

1/ See, for example, U. S. Bureau of the Census, Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Surname, Vol. PC(2)-1D and "Estimates of Coverage of the Population by Sex, Race and Age in the 1970 Census" (paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, New Orleans, La. April 26, 1973) by Jacob S. Siegel of the U. S. Bureau of the Census.

2/ U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States (Advance Report) March 1973. P-20, No. 259

Table I-3

Number of Persons of Spanish Origin  
1970 Census and March 1973

Type of Spanish Origin	1970 Census	1973	
		Number	Percent Change
Total, Spanish Origin	9,072,602	10,577,000	16.6%
Mexican Origin	4,532,435	6,293,000	38.8
Puerto Rican Origin	1,429,395	1,548,000	8.3
Cuban Origin	544,600	733,000	34.6
Central or South American Origin*	1,508,866	597,000	-60.4
Other Spanish Origin	1,057,305	1,406,000	33.0

\* The decrease in the total number of persons designated as of Central or South American origin between 1970 and 1973 may have occurred because of: (1) a shift to one of four new terms used to designate persons of Mexican origin in the 1973 Survey and (2) the replacement of self-reporting with direct interview as the primary method of gathering data.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Population Characteristics, Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March, 1973, (Advance Report), Series P-20, No. 259, January, 1974 (Reprint).



interviewing instead of self-enumeration; a revised sample design reflecting results obtained from the 1970 Census; and actual increase due to new births and immigration.

(1) Racial/Ethnic Classification of Children

As of 1973, all children under 14 in families where the wife of head was Spanish, were counted as being of Spanish Origin. Prior to this, children under 14 living in families with a wife of head of Spanish Origin but a household head of origin other than Spanish were classified according to the race of the head.

(2) Additional Self-Designation Categories

In 1970, only one category "Mexican" was given to persons for self-designation as far as persons of Mexican origin were concerned. By 1973, however, three other categories--"Mexicano," "Chicano," and "Mexican American" were added. These new designations apparently increased both the Mexican count and the total Spanish Origin count.

(3) Use of Direct Interviewing

While the 1970 Census used both self-enumeration and direct interview to collect data on Spanish Origin, the 1973 Survey was done entirely by interviewing, much of it by telephone.

(4) Sample Design

Since the estimates of the total number of persons of Spanish Origin in 1973 were based on a sample and not on a total Census, estimates were subject to some degree of error. However, the sampling was changed to reflect new information available from the 1970 Census rendering it probably more accurate than past estimates.

(5) Actual Increase

The Census Bureau estimates that the rate of natural increase due to births for persons of Spanish Origin in the United States is about 1.8% per year. Between 1970 and 1973 this would amount to a 5.5% increase or about 506,000 persons.

Net immigration to this country has also contributed significant numbers of additional persons. Between April 1970 and June 1973, the following immigrants were reported: 1/

Mexicans	191,596
Cubans	68,525
Central Americans	33,862
South Americans	51,818 <u>2/</u>
Spaniards	<u>13,335</u>

Total 359,136

Also it is probable that some 48,000 3/ Puerto Ricans migrated from Puerto Rico to the United States during this same period of time.

Due to births, immigration, and migration, then, it is likely that some 900,000 persons of Spanish Origin were added to the U. S. population between 1970 and 1973. This accounts for almost two-third of the difference in population between 1970 and 1973 according to the Census Bureau. The balance can probably be accounted for by the factors described above.

However, these increases still do not address the Census undercount issues that have been raised by the Spanish community. For example, city school systems in New York, California and Texas report many more Spanish school children registered than are reported in Census for children of that age group. Furthermore, this does not take into consideration the number of Spanish children registered in parochial schools. More babies have been designated Spanish Origin at birth, according to those local districts that report Spanish Origin data, than are apparently reflected in Census for children 0-5 or 5-9 years old for those local communities. Keeping track of the discrepancies is particularly difficult for the Spanish, since many agencies ( U. S. Vital Statistics, for example) do not make separate identification of persons of Spanish Origin.

1/ U. S. Immigration & Naturalization Service Annual Reports, Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1970-1973. These figures were obtained by taking one-sixth (two months) of the figures for 1970, plus totals for 1971, 1972 and 1973, from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service data.

2/ Excluding Brazilians and Guyanians.

3/ Estimate is arrived at by taking 31.7% of the 152,000 who entered from Puerto Rico between 1960 and 1970.

0041

While the total numbers of Spanish persons recorded in 1970 is low, the sample that the Census represents is infinitely larger than any other data source. Thus, the profile of the characteristics of each ethnic minority group is likely to be more accurate. The emphasis in this report, then, has been placed on the characteristics of the groups as revealed by Census rather than on the actual numbers of people in each of these groups.

## II. METHODOLOGY AND SELECTION OF LOCAL DATA

The analysis of national and local data on persons of Spanish Origin focuses on the basic characteristics generally employed when examining a given population group including: population characteristics, family structure, education, employment, income and poverty. The nature of the analysis by subsection is described briefly below.

- Section A. Immigration and In-migration: Discusses the recent immigration and in-migration trends of the Spanish Origin groups studied.
- Section B. Population Characteristics: Covers general population characteristics including geographic distribution, age distribution, and nativity.
- Section C. Family Characteristics: Topics include inter-marriage, size of families, family stability, children living with parents by age and type of family, and female heads of households.
- Section D. Education Characteristics: Rates of schooling completed by populations 16 years old and over and the present enrollment rates of children and young adults are discussed. Where the data were available, an analysis was made of the mother tongue of members of the ethnic populations and the language spoken in their homes. This is treated under Education because of its impact on an ethnic group's ability to obtain a good education. Conversely, it is mainly through education that linguistic barriers will be removed.
- Section E. Employment Characteristics: This section focuses on labor participation rates, unemployment rates, and the distribution of ethnic minorities, both male and female, in the major occupational classifications.
- Section F. Income Characteristics: This section analyzes income ranges for individual males and females, families, and families with female heads.
- Section G. Poverty Characteristics and Sources of Income: This section discusses the proportion of families in each ethnic minority group receiving Social Security and Public Assistance, compares rates of poverty for all persons, for elderly persons, for families, for female-head families, and for persons living alone (unrelated individuals).

Section H. Cuban Americans: This section is a separate analysis of the Cuban population in the United States which includes the topics listed above in sections A thru G.

Accompanying most sections is a table summarizing the basic state and local data for Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans. In addition to this major table, supporting charts and other tabular data have been included for the purpose of emphasizing or clarifying special issues. <sup>1/</sup>

Most data analyzed in the text appear in either a table or chart within the report. Reference is made to other data contained in the Census publications. Where occasional use has been made of non-Census data, or Census data from sources not previously cited, the source is indicated as a footnote.

All data are examined primarily on the basis of national data for each subgroup. It was not considered necessary, under a given topic, to discuss local statistics which mirrored the national data for any particular subgroup. Our emphasis in analyzing data from selected local areas was to highlight only those situations where local data vary markedly from or are otherwise notable in comparison to the national picture.

#### SELECTING LOCAL AREAS OF ANALYSIS

The selection of those local areas whose data were most appropriate for use in our analysis was made individually by ethnic minority group. For the Spanish Speaking, subgroups to be utilized in the study were selected on the basis of the concentration of each subgroup in a particular area of the nation. Mexican Americans were viewed according to their characteristics in the five southwestern states (California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Texas) where 87% of that population reside. Of all Puerto Ricans, 83% are concentrated in the northeastern states of Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York; therefore, these states formed the basis of our analysis.

Both Mexican American and Puerto Rican populations in Illinois were analyzed, because that is the one state where there are sufficient numbers of both subgroups to permit a comparative analysis within the same geographic area. The groups

---

<sup>1/</sup> Unless they are very small, all percentages used in this report have been rounded to their nearest whole number. Sums of percentages may not equal 100 because of rounding.

lend themselves to cross-analysis, since 99% of the Puerto Ricans and 76% of the Mexican Americans in Illinois reside in urban areas. Such a comparison makes for a more accurate study of the socio-economic conditions of each group, irrespective of the differing social and economic climates indigenous to different parts of the country.

In addition to the two major groups, the Cuban Americans have been analyzed separately. Data on the Cubans are taken from Florida (where 46% of all Cubans live), New York-New Jersey where 29% of all Cubans live, and from the entire U. S.

### III. NATIONAL AND LOCAL ANALYSES OF PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN

#### A. IMMIGRATION AND IN-MIGRATION

##### Immigration

The 1970 Census recorded the presence of over 2.5 million foreign-born persons of Spanish Origin. The majority of these persons had arrived in the United States recently (see Chart A-a), the rate of immigration by persons from Western Hemisphere Spanish Speaking countries having risen steadily since the end of World War II.

The Mexican Americans constitute the largest Spanish Speaking population group both among native born and among the foreign born. Over 140,000 foreign-born Mexican Americans were reported to have immigrated to the United States prior to 1925. Immigration to the United States from Mexico decreased considerably around World War II, averaging just over 2,000 persons per year. Since then, however, the rate has been much higher. More recently, between 1960 and 1973, over 660,000 legal Mexican immigrants entered the United States (see Table A-1), an average of 47,000 each year. 1/

Until recently, the immigration by persons of other Spanish Origins has proceeded at a much lower rate compared to the Mexican nationals. Less than 5,000 Cubans and only about 12,000 persons from other Central and South American countries were reported as immigrants to the United States prior to 1925. It was not until after 1945 that the immigration rates for these groups began to accelerate. In the most recent period, between 1960 and 1973, yearly immigration from Cuba has averaged 23,600 persons per year 2/ and from other parts of Central and South America, an average of 28,700 persons per year.

As American citizens, Puerto Ricans have not entered the United States under immigration quotas. Lacking also is any clear record of the numbers of Puerto Ricans entering and leaving the United States. In 1910, about 1,500 persons born in Puerto Rico were reported in the United States. In each decade since that time (with the exception of the 1940's) the Census has recorded a substantial growth in this population. However, between 1960 and 1970 (see Table A-2) the rate of growth appears once more to have decreased.

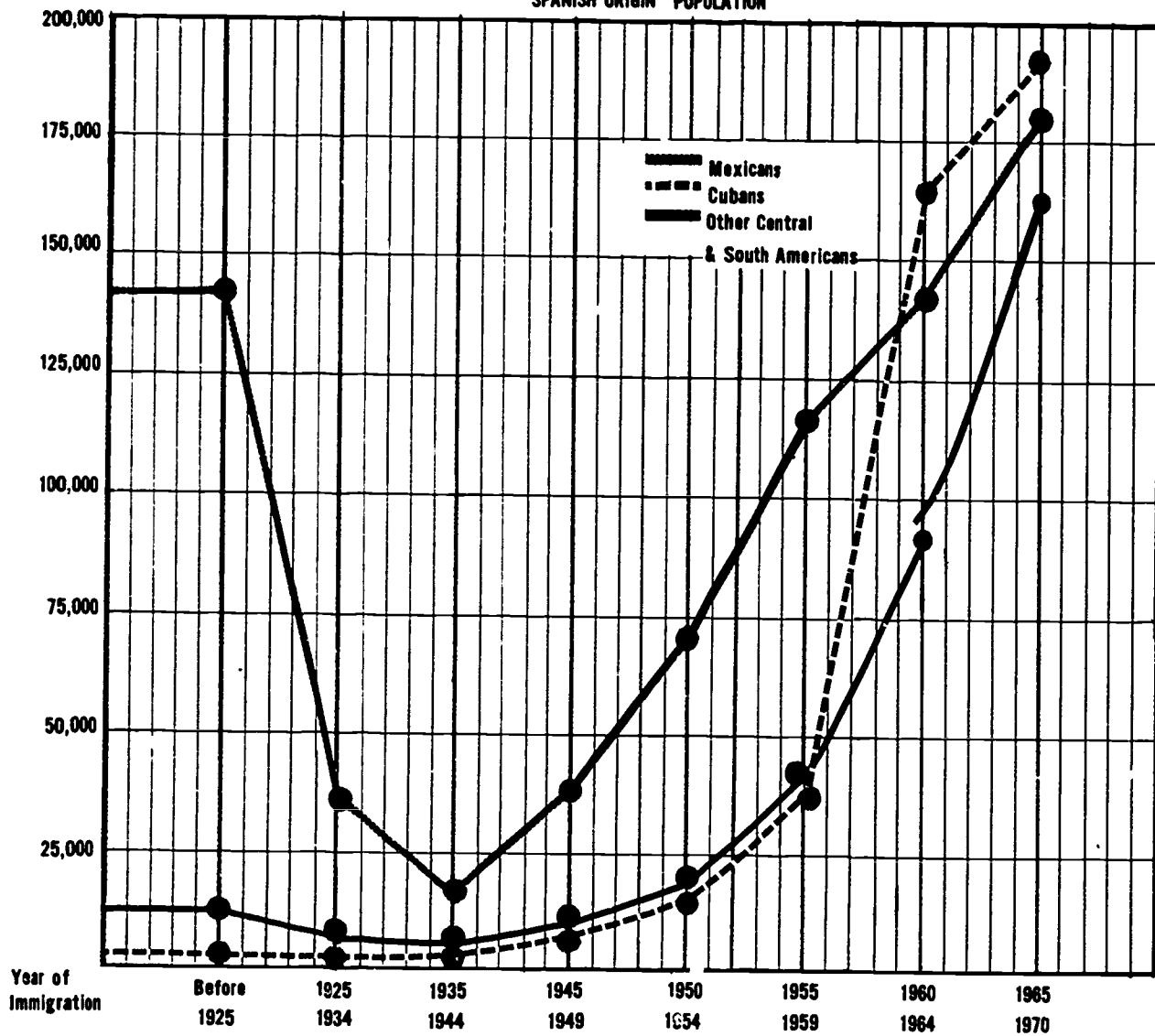
1/ Census figures and INS figures on Mexican Americans are not comparable since the former records the presence of all persons and the latter indicates only persons granted an immigrant visa. "Temporary" workers, illegal immigrants, persons not holding immigrant visas but intending to remain in the United States would not be recorded.

2/ A more detailed discussion of Cuban immigration occurs in Section H. Cuban Americans.

CHART A-a

YEAR OF IMMIGRATION OF FOREIGN BORN  
SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION

Number of  
Persons



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population,  
Subject Reports: National Origin and Language, PC(2)-1A

0047



Table A-1  
Immigration of Persons of Spanish Origin:  
1960-1973

Year of Immigration	Place of Origin				
	Mexico	Cuba	Central America	South* America	Spain
1960	32,689	8,283	6,661	11,649	1,737
1961	41,632	14,287	6,817	14,027	1,812
1962	55,291	16,254	8,405	16,032	2,148
1963	55,253	10,587	10,275	20,946	2,187
1964	32,967	15,808	11,500	28,686	2,252
1965	37,969	19,760	12,423	28,093	2,200
1966	45,163	17,357	9,658	23,439	2,954
1967	42,371	33,321	8,551	14,841	3,620
1968	43,563	99,312	10,675	19,451	5,260
1969	44,623	13,751	9,692	20,600	3,916
1970	44,469	16,334	9,343	11,291	4,139
1971	50,103	21,611	8,626	17,172	4,125
1972	64,040	20,045	11,283	15,444	4,386
1973	70,141	24,147	12,396	16,153	4,134
	660,274	330,855	136,305	264,824	44,870

Source: U. S. Dept. of Justice, U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Annual Reports, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1960-1973.

\* Without Brazil or Guyana

Table A-2  
Persons of Puerto Rican Birth and Parentage  
in the United States: 1910-1973

<u>Nativity</u>	<u>Year of Census</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>
Born in Puerto Rico:	1910	1,500	-
	1920	11,811	680.6%
	1930	52,774	346.8
	1940	69,967	32.6
	1950	226,110	223.2
	1960	617,056	172.9
	1970	810,087	31.3
Born in the United States of Puerto Rican Born Parents:	1950	75,265	-
	1960	275,457	266.0%
	1970	581,376	111.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of Population, Subject Reports: Puerto Ricans in the United States PC(2)-1D; 1970 Census of Population, Subject Reports: Puerto Ricans in the United States PC(2)-1E.

In terms of actual numbers, the net increase 1/ of persons of Puerto Rican birth recorded between the 1960 and 1970 Censuses (193,000 persons) was only half of the net increase reported between the 1950 and 1960 Censuses (391,000 persons). Perhaps the deprived status of the Puerto Ricans currently living in the United States has made others living on the Island reluctant to move to the United States.

The Puerto Rican population can be divided into those born on the Island and those born in the United States. Data on Puerto Ricans of second or succeeding generations were not collected prior to the 1950 Census although the 1970 Census shows that there are some 42,000 second generation Puerto Ricans (born outside of Puerto Rico with Puerto Rican-born parents) who would have been born before the 1940 Census.

In 1970, there was a difference of 64,700 in the number of U.S.-born Puerto Ricans shown in Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C (which included Puerto Ricans of third and subsequent generations in the United States) and Subject Reports: Puerto Ricans in the United States, PC(2)-1E (which included only persons of first and second generations in the United States). There are, therefore, at least this many Puerto Ricans in the United States of third and subsequent generations.

---

1/ It is known that Puerto Rican families migrate freely between Puerto Rico and the United States. There is no accurate data, however, on the number arriving or leaving the United States from year to year.

### III. B. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

This section discusses such population characteristics as geographic distribution, mobility within the United States and the age distributions of persons of Mexican and Puerto Rican origin.

#### Distribution

In 1970, the Bureau of the Census counted over 9 million persons of Spanish Origin in this country <sup>1/</sup> (see Table B-1). Half of these (4.5 million) are Mexican Americans. Of all Mexican Americans in the United States, 87% live in the five southwestern states: Arizona (with 5% of all Mexican Americans), California (41%), Texas (36%), New Mexico (3%) and Colorado (2%). Sizeable Mexican American populations are also found in the Midwest. In Illinois alone, there are some 160,000 Mexican Americans. In all, the Mexican Americans constitute some 2.2% of the total population of the United States.

There are 1.4 million Puerto Ricans in the United States.<sup>2/</sup> About three-quarters of all Puerto Ricans live in the tri-state area of New York (64%), New Jersey (10%) and Connecticut (3%). Another 6% of the Puerto Rican population lives in Illinois, where they number about 87,000.

<sup>1/</sup> In March 1973, the Bureau of the Census completed a recount of the Spanish Speaking population. As a result of reclassifications and natural population increase, Census placed the latest figures for Spanish Speaking in the U.S. at 10.5 million, an increase of 17% over the 1970 figure. The biggest increase was for Mexican Americans, up 39% to 6.3 million. Puerto Ricans increased 8% to 1.6 million (see Section I. B. Census Undercount).

<sup>2/</sup> There are also 1.5 million Central and South Americans in the U.S. and over half a million Cuban Americans.

Table B-1

Population Characteristics of the U.S. Total and Mexican and Puerto Rican Origin Populations, 1970

	U.S. Total		Mexican Americans										Puerto Ricans			
	Total	% of Total	Rural	Ariz.	Calif.	Colo.	Ill.	N.M.	Texas	Total	Conn.	Ill.	N.J.	N.Y.		
<b>Total Population of Subgroup (000's)</b>	203,212	4,532	656	240	1,857	104	160	119	1,619	1,429	38	87	139	917		
<b>% of Total Subgroup Population</b>		100%	15%	5%	41%	2%	4%	3%	36%	100%	3%	6%	10%	64%		
<b>Urban/Rural Distribution:</b>																
% Urban	73	85	0	82	91	79	96	63	83	98	99	99	96	99		
% Rural	27	15	100	18	9	21	4	37	17	2	1	4	4	1		
<b>Native- and Foreign-Born:*</b>																
% Native Born	95	82	85	85	77	94	68	91	87	39	32	37	36	40		
% Born in Different State	23	18	20	18	23	24	33	15	6	9	22	10	20	2		
% Foreign-Born	5	18	15	15	23	6	32	9	13	58	65	61	61	58		
<b>Age Distribution:</b>																
% Under 18 Years	34	47	50	49	47	47	45	47	48	47	50	49	50	46		
% 65 Years & Over	10	4	4	4	4	6	3	5	5	2	2	1	1	3		
% 65 Years & Over of Pop. 18 & Over	15	8	8	8	7	11	5	10	9	5	3	3	3	5		
<b>Median Age:</b>																
Male (years)	26.8	19.0	18.8	17.7	19.5	20.0	21.4	19.5	18.2	18.9	16.9	18.7	18.4	17.7		
Female (years)	29.3	19.6	18.1	19.4	19.8	19.2	19.6	19.6	19.7	20.7	19.0	18.2	18.7	21.6		

\*For Puerto Ricans, U.S.-born and Puerto Rican-born are substituted for native born and foreign born respectively. Remaining percentages are born elsewhere or not reported.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1  
 General Population Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-B1  
 Detailed Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-D1  
 Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C  
 Puerto Ricans in the United States, PC(2)-1E

### Urban/Rural Residence

A majority of the Spanish populations in the United States are urban dwellers, for example, the Puerto Ricans (98% urban), who have settled in the major cities in the East. In contrast, only 73% of the total U. S. population live in urban areas.

Even the Mexican Americans, commonly stereotyped as being farm workers, are more concentrated in the cities than is the total U.S. population. Some 85% of all the Mexican Americans in this country live in cities.

Programs for Mexican Americans still have their major focus on the rural migrant. Indeed, until recently, many federal agencies equated rural programs for the migrant with programs for all Mexican Americans in the United States. In fact, not since 1940 has a major proportion of Mexican Americans lived in rural areas (see Chart B-a) <sup>1</sup>/<sub>.</sub> In 1970, even 56% of Mexican Americans employed in farm-related occupations had residences in urban areas.

### Population Mobility

Table B-2 illustrates the rural to urban shift by the Mexican American population in recent decades. In every state except California, there has been a decrease between 1940 and 1970 not only in the percentage of the population that is rural, but in actual numbers as well. In California there has been an overall increase of 65,000 Spanish persons in rural areas since 1940.

The data suggest that there has been some movement by the population from other southwestern states to California as well as overall movement from rural areas to urban areas.

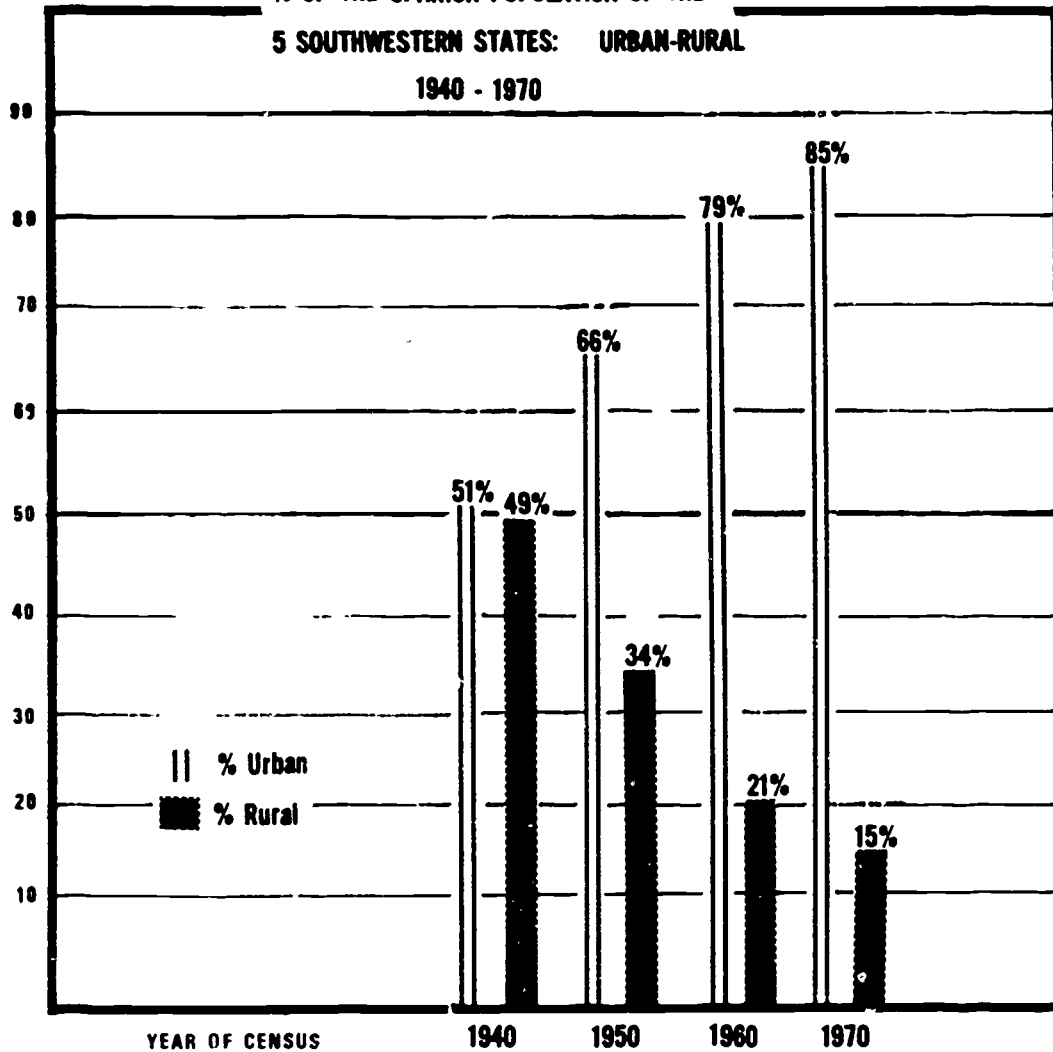
By 1970 the Mexican Americans lived mainly in the central cities of large metropolitan areas. Of all Mexican American families in 1972, 78% lived in major SMSA's and 69% lived in SMSA's with total populations numbering a quarter of a million or above. Nearly half of the Mexican Americans (46%) live in central cities while 32% are found in suburban areas surround-

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>.</sub> Data on Mexican Americans taken prior to 1970 Census are limited to the five southwestern states, as Mexican Americans were not identified separately in any other states until 1970; see Introduction of this report.

CHART B-a

PERCENT OF TOTAL

% OF THE SPANISH POPULATION OF THE  
5 SOUTHWESTERN STATES: URBAN-RURAL  
1940 - 1970



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1940 Census of the Population, Nativity and Parentage of the White Population, "Mother Tongue"  
 U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1950 Census of the Population, Persons of Spanish Surname, Vol. IV, part 3C  
 U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of the Population, Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Surname, PC(2)-1B  
 U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population, Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C

Table B-2

Urban/Rural Shift of Spanish Population

in 5 Southwestern States: 1940-1970

	1940			1950			1960			1970		
	% of SW	Rural		% of SW	Rural		% of SW	Rural		% of SW	Rural	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Total	100%	766,860	49%	100%	769,738	34%	100%	724,049	21%	100%	692,211	15%
Arizona	7	58,880	58	6	49,595	39	6	48,818	25	5	46,148	18
California	27	131,460	32	33	184,119	24	41	208,423	15	47	195,960	9
Colorado	6	60,120	65	5	59,427	50	5	49,148	31	5	44,218	21
New Mexico	14	165,780	75	11	146,941	59	8	113,900	42	6	98,233	37
Texas	47	350,620	45	45	329,656	32	41	303,760	21	37	307,652	17

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1940 Census of the Population, Nativity and Parentage of the White Population, "Mother Tongue"

U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1950 Census of the Population: Persons of Spanish Surname, Vol. IV, Part 3c.

U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of the Population, Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Surname, PC(2)-1B.

U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population, Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C.



ing these cities. 11% are reported living in smaller urban areas and only 15% live in rural areas. 1/

The Puerto Rican population in the United States has shifted increasingly away from New York City and the Northeast. The major portion of those Puerto Ricans who entered the United States following World War II settled in New York, but since then, younger Puerto Ricans are settling in other metropolitan areas as well. In 1940, 88% of all Puerto Ricans in the United States lived in New York City; in 1950, the percentage decreased to 83%; in 1960, to 69%; and by 1970, to 59%.

62% of the Puerto Ricans born outside the United States are living in New York State. However, proportionally fewer of the more recent migrants from Puerto Rico appear to be settling in that city. Of all Puerto Ricans who reported coming to the United States between 1965 and 1970, less than half were found in New York State (see Table B-3).

Table B-3

Destination of Puerto Rican Migrants  
to the United States: 1965-1970\*

Total	100.0%
New York State	48.6
New Jersey	15.2
Illinois	9.5
Connecticut	5.0
Massachusetts	4.7
Pennsylvania	4.2
Florida	2.4
California	2.0
Ohio	1.4
All Other States	26.0

\* Puerto Ricans (16 years old and over) in the U.S. in 1970 who reported their 1965 residence as Puerto Rico.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population  
Subject Reports: Puerto Ricans in the United States  
PC(2)-1E.

1/ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports,  
Population Characteristics, Series P-20, No. 238, July 1972.  
Data are based on a 1972 sample population and differ with 1970 data as shown in Tables B-1 and B-2.

0050

## Nativity

Four out of every five Mexican Americans were born in the United States. More than half (57%) had parents who were also born in this country (natives of native-born parents), indicating that most Mexican American families have been in residence in this country over a span of several generations. Chart B-b demonstrates the distribution of Mexican Americans by age, according to nativity.

Among children 19 years of age and under, fully 92% were born in the U.S. Among adults of middle age, 45-64 years old, two-thirds (65%) are native to the United States. Only in the elderly population, 65 years old or over, are there more foreign born (59%) than there are U.S. born.

Most of the more recent Mexican American immigrants now live in cities. Almost 90% of all first-generation Mexican American immigrants live in urban areas, while a somewhat lower, 85% of U.S.-born Mexican Americans do. The immigrants have tended to settle in the Far West and the Midwest. States like California and Illinois have higher percentages of foreign born among their total Mexican American populations (23% and 32% respectively). But in Colorado and New Mexico, well over 90% of all the Mexican American population were born in the U.S. Even in Texas, a major point of entry from Mexico, a very large 87% of the Mexican American population was born on U.S. soil (see Chart B-c).

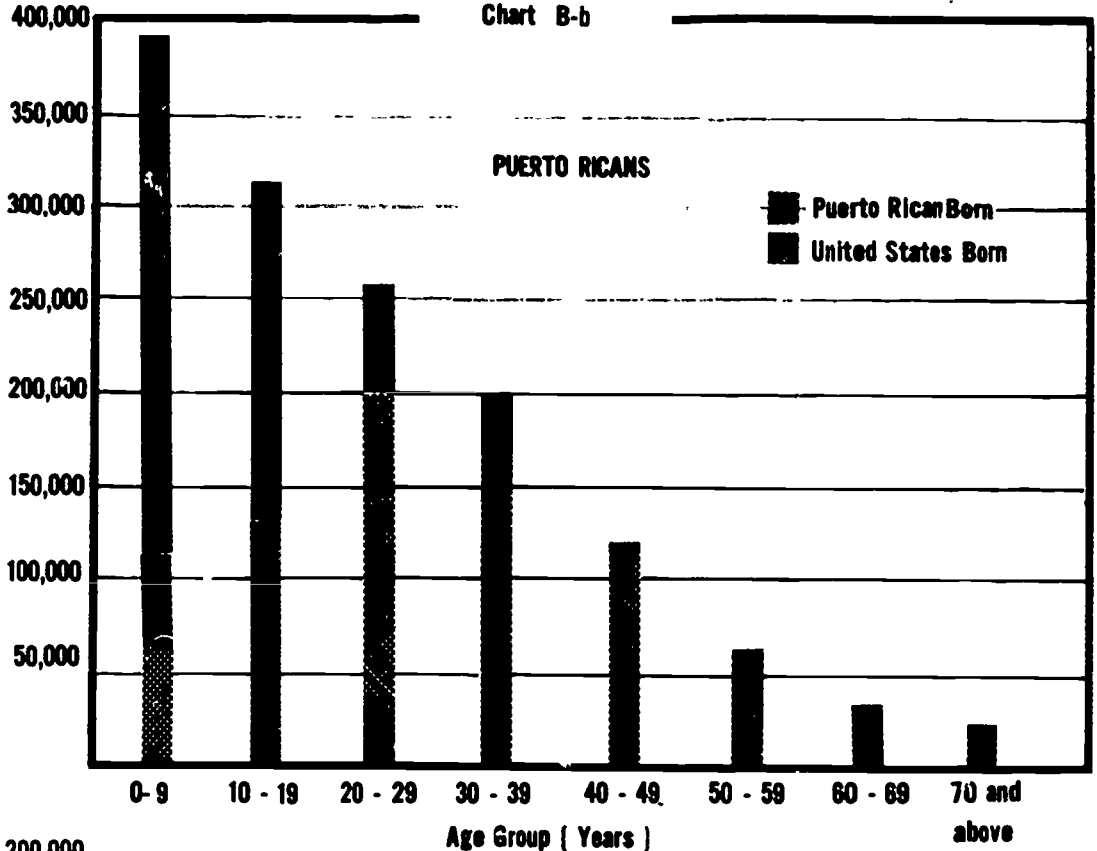
Among U.S.-born Mexican Americans, there has also been a movement of population. Many Mexican American migratory workers have settled in the Far West and the Midwest. In states like California, Colorado, and Illinois, from nearly a quarter to a third of the U.S.-born Mexican Americans moved to their present states of residence from elsewhere. In Texas, almost all the U.S.-born Mexican Americans now living in that state were born there (94%) (see Table B-1). 1/

1/ Note that percentages of Mexican Americans born in a different state as indicated on Table B-1 and Chart B-c do not totally agree. The former is calculated on a base of all persons who are U.S.-born while the latter is calculated on a base of the total Mexican American population.

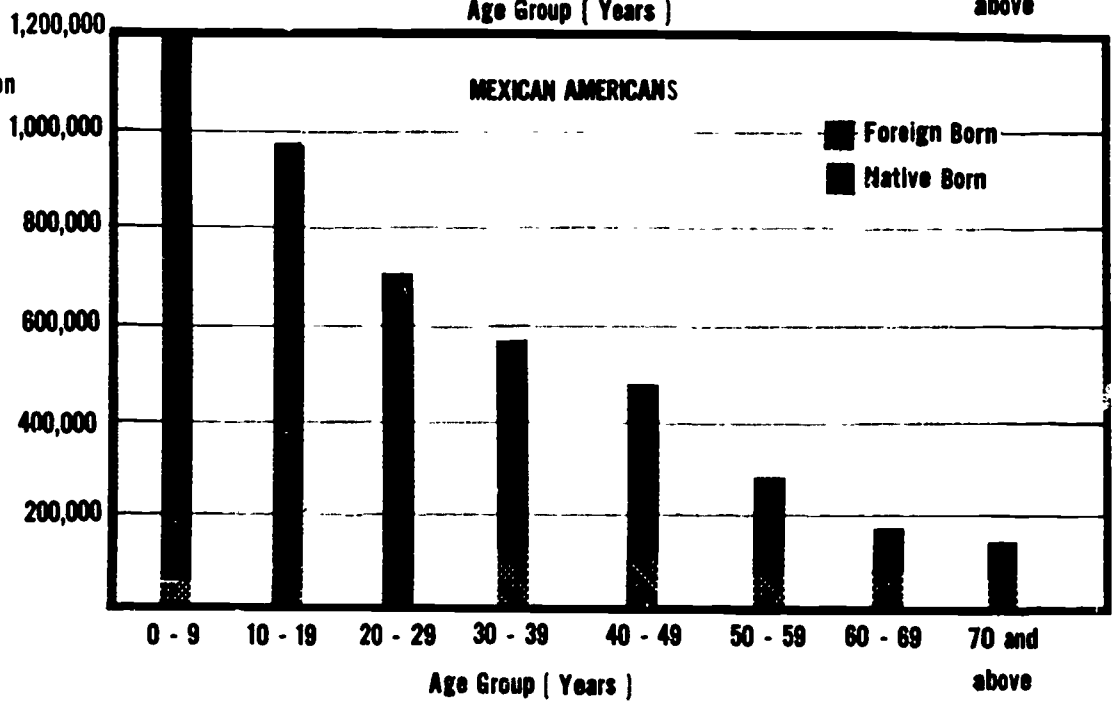
NATIVITY OF MEXICAN AMERICANS AND PUERTO RICANS, BY AGE

Total in Population

Chart B-b



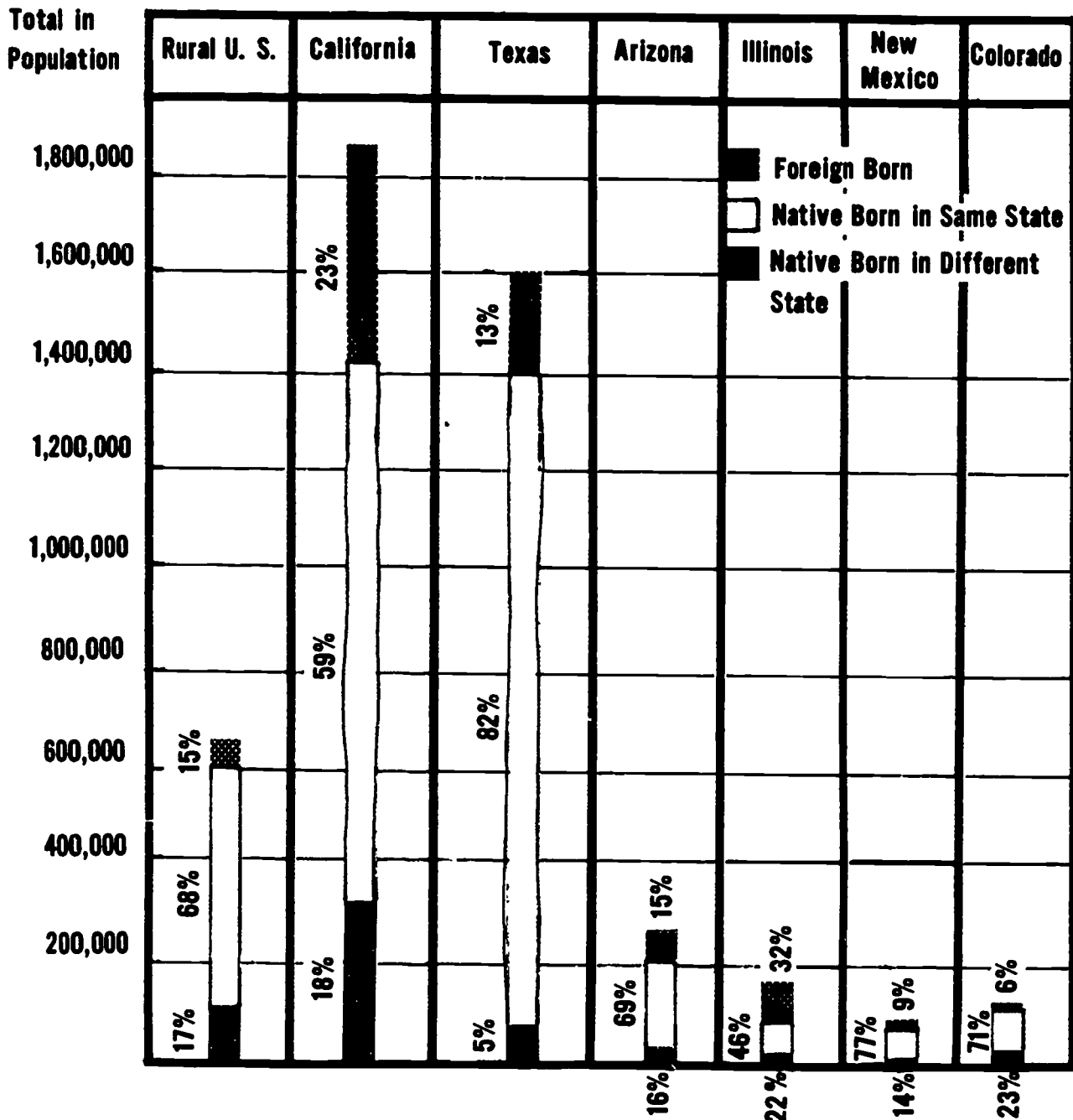
Total in Population



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Subject Reports: National Origin and Language, PC(2)-1A  
 Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C  
 Puerto Ricans in the United States, PC(2)-1E

Chart B-c

**NATIVITY AND STATE OF BIRTH : MEXICAN AMERICANS**



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C

In California and Illinois most of the U.S.-born Mexican residents who came from out of state had their origin in the southern part of the country (presumably Texas). The newer arrivals in Colorado, however, came from other western states and settled in the urban areas.

In contrast to Mexican Americans, the Puerto Ricans are relative new-comers to the U.S. <sup>1/</sup> Over half of all Puerto Ricans in this country were born in Puerto Rico. Of those born within the United States, 84% are still 19 years old and under (see Chart B-b). Of those Puerto Ricans 20 years old or older, only 15% were born in the United States. Among the elderly, only 9% are of U.S. birth. The proportion who were born on the Island remains about the same in all the states where Puerto Ricans are now concentrated.

The data (see Table B-1) show that, in all states other than New York, some proportion of the young, U.S.-born Puerto Ricans (ranging from 10% in Illinois to 22% in Connecticut) were born in a state in the Northeast other than that of their residence. From this, one can infer that some of the Puerto Rican families now living outside New York State started their families in New York and subsequently moved to other states, but that this represents less than 25% of all Puerto Ricans in all states of high concentration.

Chart B-b illustrates the differing concentrations of U.S. born and non-U.S. born in the Mexican American and Puerto Rican populations by age group.

#### Age Distribution

About one-third of the total population in the United States is under 18 years of age. However, families of Spanish Origin tend to be larger and include more children (see Section C. Family Characteristics) and thus almost half (47%) of the people in both the Mexican American and Puerto Rican population are under 18 years of age. 50% of the Puerto Rican population outside of New York are under 18 years of age; this is equaled only by the rural Mexican population.

<sup>1/</sup> Data on the nativity of Puerto Ricans in two separate Census publications are not comparable. Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C, includes those who are of third and subsequent generation in the United States, while Subject Reports: Puerto Ricans in the United States, PC(2)-1E, includes only Puerto Ricans in the United States for one or two generations. The number of J.S.-born Puerto Ricans shown in the first publication is 64,700 greater than in the second one--an 11% difference. Data in this section are taken from Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C.

For Mexican Americans, the proportion of young people is greater in rural areas--a full 50%. The proportion of children in the population is slightly lower among the heavily urban Mexican American population, particularly in Illinois, where 45% are under 18 years of age.

Among Puerto Ricans, the relatively high proportion of young people is affected somewhat by the lack of elderly. Few of the younger Puerto Ricans who migrate to the U.S. bring their elderly relatives with them. As Table B-4 illustrates, of those Puerto Ricans 14 years old and over who reportedly came to the United States between 1965 and 1970, only 2% were elderly.

Table B-4

Age Distribution of Puerto Ricans, 14 Years Old and Over,  
Who Came to the U.S. Between 1965-1970\*

<u>Age Group</u>	
14-19	21%
20-24	29%
25-34	26%
35-44	12%
45-64	10%
65 and Over	2%

\*Data computed on Puerto Ricans in the U.S. in 1970 who reported their 1965 residence as Puerto Rico.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Subject Reports: Puerto Ricans in the United States PC(2)-E.

Another reason for the low proportion of elderly is that some may tend to return to the Island to spend their old age. While nationally, about one-tenth of the entire population is 65 years old or over, only 2% of the Puerto Ricans in this country are. While 15% of the U.S. adult population (18 years old and over) is elderly (an age adjustment to statistically eliminate the factor of differing proportions of children in each population), only 5% of all Puerto Ricans, 18 and over, are elderly.

Of those elderly Puerto Ricans who are living in the U.S. more are concentrated in the State of New York. (There, the elderly are about 5% of the total Puerto Rican population.) The proportion of elderly in other states like Connecticut, Illinois, and New Jersey is smaller (around 3%). At the same time, Puerto Rican families in these other states have somewhat larger proportions of children under 18 (50%). This difference may be due to the fact that earlier migrating Puerto Rican families tended to stay in New York State. However, more recently some of the younger Puerto Rican families have settled in the other states.

As with the Puerto Ricans, fewer Mexican Americans are elderly. Only 4% of all the Mexican Americans in this country are 65 or over, compared to 10% of all persons in this country. Taken as a proportion of the adult population (18 years old and over), there are still only half as many elderly in the Mexican population (8%) as in the total population (15%).

Several factors may be responsible for this low proportion of older persons: most recent Mexican Americans immigrating into the U.S. are young, few are elderly; 1/ some Mexican Americans choose to return to Mexican soil when they become older. Finally, the poverty conditions that characterize the Mexican American population in this country promote ill health and inadequate medical care. It is possible that, as a result, Mexican Americans have a shorter life span with fewer persons surviving into old age.

Slightly greater concentrations of elderly Mexican Americans are to be found in Texas (9% of the adult population), New Mexico (10%), and Colorado (11%). California and Illinois, with the highest proportions of recently immigrant Mexicans, have the lowest proportions of elderly (7% and 5% respectively of the adult Mexican Americans).

Given a greater proportion of young persons, the median age of Spanish speaking populations in this country is younger than the total U.S. population. The median age of both Mexican American and Puerto Rican males is about 19 years, compared to 26.8 for the entire population. Among Mexican Americans, Illinois males have the highest median age, 21.4 years, and Arizona males have the lowest, 17.7 years, compared to the national median of 19.0 years for Mexican American males.

---

1/ The median age of the 186,000 Mexicans reported in the 1970 Census as having immigrated to the United States between 1965 and 1970 was 22.5 years.

For Mexican American women in this country the median age is 19.6, while Puerto Rican women are slightly older (20.7 years). Again, the women of both Spanish subgroups are ten years younger than women nationally (29.3 years).

At 18.1 years, the median age of rural Mexican American women is 1.5 years younger than the national median age of Mexican American women; while at 18.8 years, the median age of rural Mexican men is only 0.2 years younger than the national median age of Mexican American men. The relative youth of the rural Mexican American population can be attributed to the high proportion of young people in these areas (see Population Distribution). The relatively greater youth of the rural Mexican American women compared to the rural Mexican American men can be attributed to a number of factors. Of those older Mexican Americans who follow the migrant streams, more are male than female. In some cases, the wives and families of these migrants remain in urban barrios or even in Mexico. The harshness of rural life has resulted in relatively fewer rural Mexican American women surviving to advanced years. (Under such conditions, more women may die due to complications during pregnancy than in urban areas.) The sex ratio of the Mexican American urban and rural populations, by age, is outlined below in Table B-5.

Table B-5

Sex Ratios of Mexican Americans by Age and Residence

Age (Years)	Urban		Rural	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-9	50%	50%	49%	51%
10-19	50	50	51	49
20-29	48	52	49	51
30-39	48	52	50	50
40-49	50	50	53	47
50-59	48	52	52	48
60-69	49	51	55	45
70-79	47	53	54	46
80 or more	45	55	59	41

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population  
Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1c.



As the percentages indicate, the proportions of males and females in both urban and rural areas are about the same among children and younger adults. In the population of persons who are middle-aged, however, women outnumber men in urban areas while men outnumber women in rural areas.

The median age of the Puerto Rican males does not deviate greatly from state to state except in Connecticut where the median age is 16.9 years, 2 years younger than the median for all Puerto Rican men nationally. The median ages of the Puerto Rican women living in Connecticut, Illinois and New Jersey are about three years under the median for Puerto Rican women in New York (21.6 years). 1/

1/ For Puerto Ricans, median ages nationally vary according to Census data source. For example, according to Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C, the median age of Puerto Rican males is 18.9 and for females, 20.7. According to Subject Reports: Puerto Ricans in the United States, PC(2)-1E, however, median ages for men and women are 19.4 and 21.2, respectively. The former source includes all persons of Puerto Rican origin while the latter only includes those Puerto Ricans in the U.S. for one or two generations (Puerto Rican birth or parentage).

### III. C. FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

The Mexican American and Puerto Rican families share certain distinguishing characteristics from the general population of the United States, such as higher percentages of large families, greater numbers of children in the families and comparatively fewer numbers of primary individuals. The Mexican American families are particularly large, with many children. The Puerto Rican families, on the other hand, appear to have a relatively high rate of disintegration of marriages. These and other characteristics of the Mexican American and the Puerto Rican families are detailed in this section. The data from which the discussion is drawn appear in Table C-1.

#### Family Structure

In the United States, 86% of all families consist of a husband, wife, and their children, if they have any. Among Puerto Ricans in the U.S., however, only 72% of the families contain both parents, 10% below the proportion for Mexican Americans. The proportion is lower still in New York where only 68% of Puerto Rican families are husband/wife. Almost a quarter (24%) of all Puerto Rican families in the United States have a female head, while 4% are headed by a male without a wife. In New York, 28% of all Puerto Rican families are female headed.

Compared to Puerto Rican families, fewer Mexican American family units contain dissolved marriages, although the percentage of husband/wife families in the Mexican American population (82%) is still somewhat lower than in the total U.S. population. Of all Mexican American families, 13% have a woman as the head compared to 11% in the total population (see Chart C-a).

For economic reasons, the presence of both parents in the family unit is an advantage. Proportionally, more rural than urban Mexican American husband/wife families are living together, possibly because traditions binding families together are stronger in rural areas. In rural areas, 87% of all Mexican American families are in the husband/wife mode and only 9% have a female head.

Table C-1

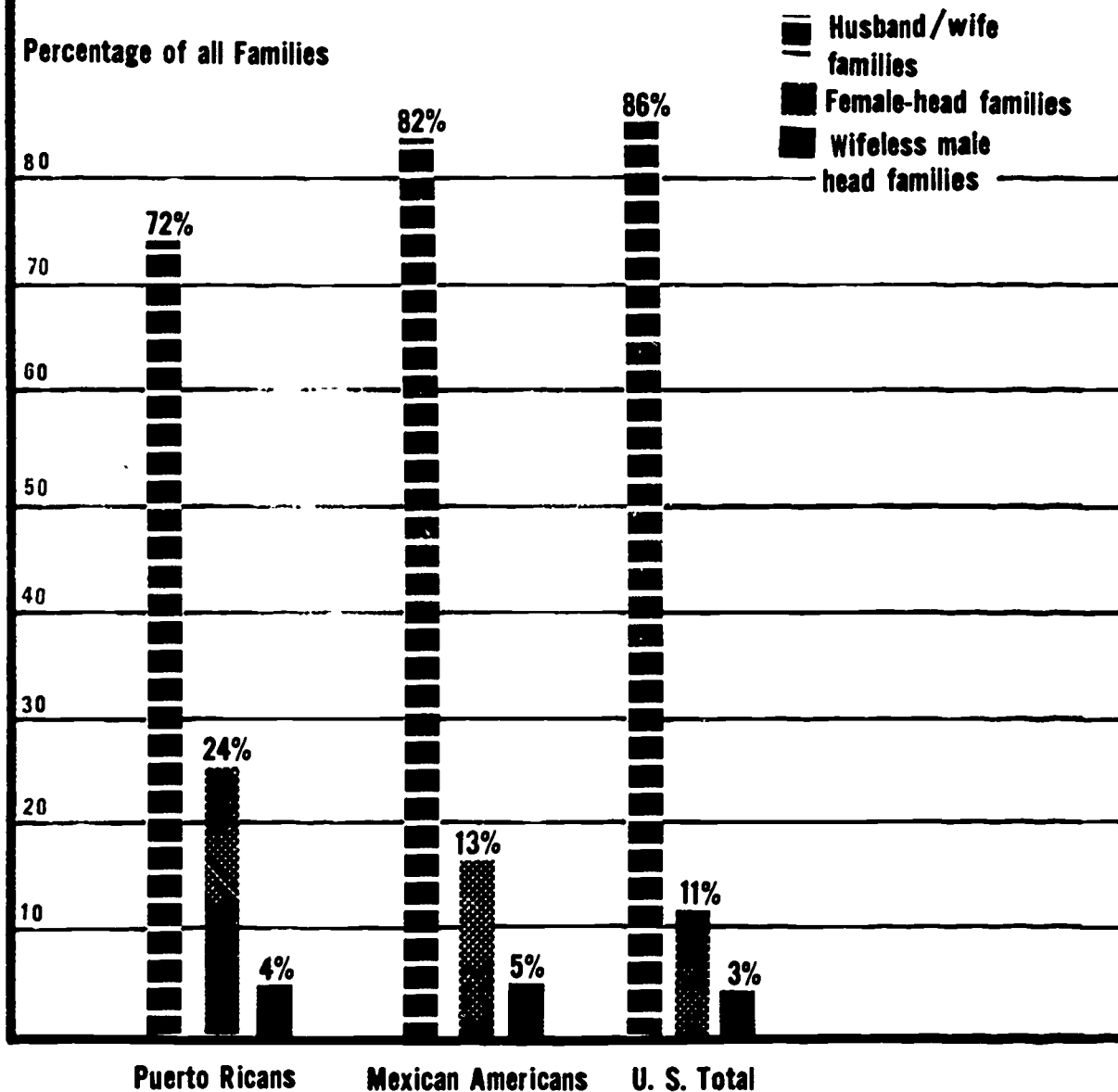
Family Characteristics of the U.S. Total and Mexican and Puerto Rican Origin Populations, 1970

	U.S. Total	Mexican Americans							Puerto Ricans				
		Total	Rural	Ariz.	Calif.	Colo.	Ill.	N.Mex.	Texas	Total	Conn.	Ill.	N.J.
‡ Husband/wife Families	86%	82%	87%	82%	82%	84%	81%	81%	72%	76%	78%	74%	68%
‡ With Children Under 18	56	76	78	76	73	76	73	76	75	81	77	79	74
‡ With Children Under 6	27	46	48	47	44	46	45	46	45	55	49	51	44
‡ Persons Under 18 Living with Both Parents	85	80	79	80	77	83	78	50	65	70	73	69	61
‡ Female-Headed Families	11	13	9	13	14	10	14	14	24	21	16	21	28
‡ With Children Under 18	55	68	63	64	72	76	64	62	82	88	77	87	81
‡ With Children Under 6	21	31	30	24	33	34	25	27	46	52	49	47	45
‡ Primary Individuals	20	12	9	11	14	13	12	9	12	9	10	9	12
‡ Male	37	55	64	50	58	66	49	45	58	75	76	72	54
‡ Female	63	45	36	50	42	34	51	55	42	25	24	28	46
‡ Families with 3 or More Own Children Under 18	20	38	44	41	37	37	37	39	33	41	36	38	32
‡ Families with 5 or More Persons	25	46	53	49	44	45	43	49	36	44	40	40	34

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1  
 Detailed Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-D1  
 Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C  
 Puerto Ricans in the United States, PC(2)-1E

Chart C-a

## FAMILY STRUCTURE AMONG MEXICAN AMERICANS AND PUERTO RICANS



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1 Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C

Proportionally, more Mexican American and Puerto Rican families in Illinois are in the husband/wife mode compared to other states in the country. For example, 84% of all Mexican American families in Illinois contain both parents while nationally 82% of all Mexican American families do. Among Puerto Ricans in Illinois, 78% are two-parent families while nationally only 72% of all Puerto Rican families are. The better economic conditions among the Spanish Origin population in that state may be a factor. Also, because families tend to be younger, fewer persons have become widowed. While 9.6% of all Mexican Americans in the United States ever married have been widowed, only 7.6% in Illinois have been. 7.2% of the Puerto Ricans in the United States have been widowed, but only 5.1% in Illinois have been.

#### Children in Families

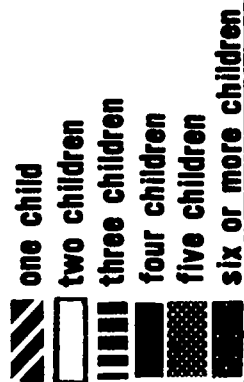
Mexican American and Puerto Rican families are similar in that most of them contain children under 18 years of age. Just over half of all husband/wife families in the United States (56%) have children, but fully three-quarters of all the Mexican American and Puerto Rican families do.

Approximately one-quarter (27%) of all husband/wife families in the country have young children, 6 years old or less, but almost half of all Mexican American and Puerto Rican families have children in this age group.

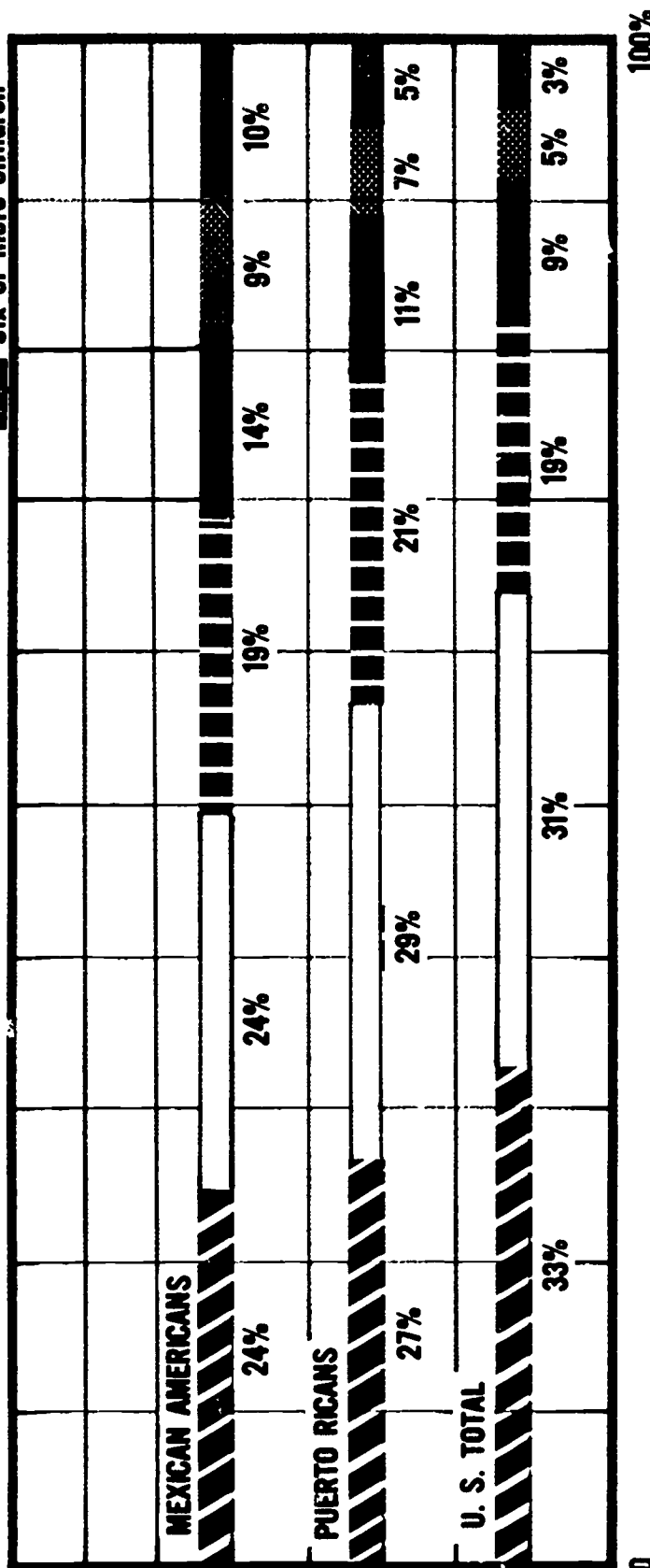
Whereas both Mexican American and Puerto Rican families have young children, Mexican Americans have many more and both Spanish Speaking subgroups have more young children in their families than the total population of the country has. Chart C-b illustrates the percentage of families with children in the total population, as well as in Mexican American and Puerto Rican populations, by the number of children in the family. In the total U.S. population, among all families with children 18 years old or less, 36% have three or more. The percentage is considerably higher among the Spanish Speaking: 44% for Puerto Ricans and a high 52% for Mexican Americans. Only 3% of all families in the U.S. with children contain six or more children under 18. 5% of Puerto Rican families with children and 10% of Mexican American families with children have at least this many.

Chart C b

MEXICAN AMERICAN AND PUERTO RICAN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OLD



Percent of all Families with children under 18.



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C Detailed Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-D1

The rural Mexican American family is larger still. Of all rural Mexican American families with children, 11% have six or more. Nationally, 38% of all Mexican American families (including those with no children at all) have three or more children; in rural areas, 44% do.

With so many children in the home, it is advantageous for both husband and wife to be able to care for them. Of all the children in the total population under 18 years of age, 85% live with both their parents. In the Mexican American population, 4 out of every 5 children live with both their parents, a proportion slightly under that for the total population. However, less than two-thirds of all Puerto Rican children live with both their parents.

It is particularly difficult for the female head of a large family to support many children. Disadvantaged by a smaller income, the female is often the sole earner, particularly when the children are not yet old enough to contribute to the family income. While 55% of all the female-headed families in the United States have children under 18, 68% of Mexican American female-head families and a very high 82% of the Puerto Rican female-head families do.

The female head who has younger, preschool age children to support is further burdened economically by the need to provide child care while she is at work. Only one-fifth of all female-headed families in the United States have such young children, but among the Spanish Speaking, 31% of the Mexican American female-headed families, and a very high 46% of Puerto Rican female-headed families have young children for whom child care must be provided if the woman is to work.

Because Spanish female heads of families are younger, they are more likely to have young children. But a clear difference exists between Mexican American and Puerto Rican families in this regard. While the Mexican American, female-headed family is likely to have more children than any other subgroup, more Puerto Rican families have young children. This is because most Puerto Rican female heads are at the height of child-bearing age; quite likely they had just started their families when left with the responsibility for their households. The Mexican American female head is likely to have been married longer and thus have produced more children. The age distribution of female heads in selected population groups is shown in Table C-2.

Table C-2

## Age Distribution of Female Family Heads: 1970

	Age Group (Years)				
	Total	16-24	25-34	35-44	45 and Over
U.S. Total	100%	7%	18%	21%	52%
Mexican Americans	100%	9%	21%	26%	44%
Puerto Ricans	100%	15%	37%	25%	23%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population, Detailed Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-D1 Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C

As the data show, over half of all the Puerto Rican female family heads are still between the ages of 16 and 34 years of age. No other population has so high a proportion of younger female heads. (Only 25% of the total population and 30% of Mexican American female heads of household are this young.)

The highest rates of broken families among Puerto Ricans are in New York State. There, Puerto Rican families have been established longer and, over time, more marriages have dissolved. The families living outside New York are younger and more of them have young children. In Connecticut and New Jersey, over half of Puerto Rican husband/wife families have children under six years of age. The proportion is nearly as high among the Puerto Rican female-headed families in Connecticut and Illinois (52% and 49%, respectively).

#### Extended Families

Traditionally, families in Spanish Speaking cultures retain the extended family (containing more than just the immediate family and including other relatives, such as grandparents, aunts, or uncles). In the country as a whole, 88% of all families are nuclear families (containing just parents and, where present, children). Among the Spanish Speaking populations, the proportion is slightly less (85% for the Puerto Ricans and 84% for other Spanish Speaking populations, such as Mexican Americans, Cuban Americans, Central and South Americans, etc. (see Table C-3).



Table C-3

Family Composition: Summary 1970

Ethnicity of Head	Nuclear Families		Extended Families		
	Without Children	With Children	Total	3-4 generation linear family, including grandchildren or parents of head	Families with only relatives other than grandchildren or parents of head (brothers, sisters, etc)
U.S. Totals	29%	59%	12%	7%	5%
Puerto Ricans	12	73	15	7	8
Other Spanish Speaking *	15	69	16	9	7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Subject Reports: Family Composition, PC (2)-4A. Table 32.

\*Includes Mexican Americans, Cuban Americans and persons of other Spanish Origins. Data pertain only to those families with a family head who is foreign born or whose parents are foreign born.

Local data on extended families among Spanish Speaking populations are not available in the above form. But by subtracting the percentage of all families with three or more children under 18 years of age from families with five or more members of any age or relationship, one is able to determine the degree to which extended family relationships exist in a particular population group (e.g. by the presence of persons over 18 years of age other than the parents). 1/

Among Mexican Americans, the differential between the percentage of families with three or more children and the percentage of families with five or more persons, nationally, is 8%. (The differential among all families in the total population is 5%.) The differential among Mexican Americans is higher in rural areas (9%), as well as in the State of Texas (10%), suggesting a greater tendency for extended families among Mexican Americans in these areas.

#### Primary Individuals

A fifth of all households in the United States are single-person households (primary individuals). Persons in this category include elderly persons, widowed and alone, as well as young, single persons who have yet to establish their own families. Among primary individuals in the United States, the ratio of women to men is a high 63% to 37%, because women outlive men and hence outnumber men as they become elderly.

1/ Among Puerto Ricans, the differential between the percentage of families with three or more children and the percentage of families with five or more persons is, nationally, 3% (see Table C-1). The differential is lower than that of the total U.S. population (5%) although data on Table C-3 indicate that there are proportionally more extended families in the Puerto Rican population than in the total population. The apparent contradiction might be due to the high proportion of Puerto Rican families containing only one parent (28% of all Puerto Rican families) whereas the analysis of the differentials of the percent of families with 5 or more members and 3 or more members as an index of the presence of extended families is based on a two parent family norm. Because of the discrepancy, no attempt is made to analyze the data on Puerto Ricans locally.

Among the Spanish Speaking populations, the proportion of persons living alone without relatives (12% for both Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans) is lower than in the total population (20%). Possible reasons may be that Spanish young people tend to stay with their families until they marry, and that the elderly live with relatives or return to their native homes to spend their old age. In particular, it appears that the women tend to stay with their families, for male primary individuals greatly outnumber females in both Spanish Speaking populations.

In some states, the sex ratio for Spanish Speaking primary individuals is a complete reversal of the ratio in the total U.S. population. In Illinois, for example, males constitute 66% of the Mexican American and 76% of the Puerto Rican primary individual populations. Similar ratios exist among Puerto Ricans in states outside of New York, and for Mexican Americans in rural areas (see Table C-1).

### Intermarriage

The pattern for intermarrying outside the subgroup differs greatly for Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans in the United States, although the total figures on intermarriage within the population are very close. About one out of every six married persons of Mexican American and Puerto Rican origin is married to a spouse of a different subgroup (see Table C-4).

Table C-4

Marriage Within Own Subgroup

		Spanish Speaking		
		U.S. Total	Mexican Americans	Puerto Ricans
<u>Married to Spouse of Same Ethnic/Racial Group</u>				
Total 16 & Over:	% Male	99%	84%	81%
	% Female	99	83	83
16-24 Yrs:	% Male	NA	77	79
	% Female	NA	79	84
25-44 Yrs:	% Male	NA	83	81
	% Female	NA	83	82
45 Years & Over:	% Male	NA	88	81
	% Female	NA	87	79

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population: Detailed Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-D1 Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C

0070

While the rate of intermarriage among younger Mexican Americans has been increasing steadily, the rate of intermarriage among Puerto Ricans has hardly changed at all and, in the case of women, has actually decreased.

For middle-aged or older Puerto Rican men, 19% have non-Puerto Rican wives, but the figure increases only slightly, to 21%, for younger men 16-24 years of age. Among women, the rate of intermarriage has actually decreased. Of Puerto Rican women 45 years old and over, 21% have married a person who is not Puerto Rican, but only 16% of the younger 16-24 year old Puerto Rican women have.

Of those married to persons of a different subgroup, the majority have married persons who are not Spanish Speaking, as Table C-5 below illustrates:

Table C-5

Ethnic Origin of Spouse for Mexican  
Americans and Puerto Ricans

Ethnic Origin	Same Subgroup	Other Spanish	Non-Spanish
<u>Husband</u>			
Mexican American	84%	2%	14%
Puerto Rican	81	5	14
<u>Wife</u>			
Mexican American	83	3	14
Puerto Rican	83	5	12

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population, Subject Reports: Marital Status, PC(2)-4C.

### III. D. EDUCATION CHARACTERISTICS

The education system has served as a major barrier to economic success for persons of Spanish Origin. It has been and remains a major problem for the Mexican Americans and the Puerto Ricans. Nationally, the education levels attained by both the Mexican Americans and the Puerto Ricans are far lower than those attained by the general population in the United States. In 1970 almost half of all persons of Spanish Origin 16 years old and over have not had more than an elementary education. In 1960, 18% of Mexican Americans 1/ and 16% of Puerto Ricans, 2/ 14 years old and over had completed high school. In 1970, about one-quarter (24%) of both Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans of this age group 3/ had graduated from high school. The gain over the decade, however, is a very small one when one considers that 41% of the U.S. population, 14 and over had graduated from high school in 1960 and by 1970, 52% had.

#### Schooling Completed

##### Mexican American Males

Magnifying the situation even further, almost half of all Mexican American males 16 and over have not progressed beyond the eighth grade; while 27% of all U.S. males, 16 and over, have had so little education (see Table D-1).

Only 2.3% of all Mexican American males 14 and over have graduated from college, less than one-fifth of the proportion for the entire U.S. male population. And this situation has not been improving either. There has been only the slightest indication of a gain in Mexican American college graduates, from 1.2% in 1960 to 2.3% in 1970.

Few male populations are as poorly educated as the Mexican American. Rural Mexican Americans are even less educated. 62% of all rural Mexican American males 16 years old and over have not gone beyond the eighth grade and a very small 18% have completed high school (see Chart D-a).

---

1/ U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of the Population, Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Surname, PC(2)-1B. Data reflect the five southwestern states only.

2/ U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of the Population, Subject Reports: Puerto Ricans in the United States: PC(2)-1D.

3/ These data differ slightly from the national data on Table D-1 which reflect schooling completed by persons 16 years old and over in 1970. The adjustment was necessary to make the 1970 data comparable to the 1960 data which are only available for persons 14 and over.

Table D-1

Education Characteristics of the U.S. Total and Mexican and Puerto Rican Origin Populations, 1970





	U.S. Total	Mexican Americans										Puerto Ricans						
		Total	Rural	Ariz.	Calif.	Colo.	Ill.	N.Mex.	Texas	Total	Conn.	Ill.	N.J.	N.Y.				
Schooling Completed (16 Yrs of Age or Older)																		
Males: % 8 Yrs. Schooling or Less	27%	47%	62%	47%	40%	41%	52%	44%	58%	43%	54%	52%	43%					
% High School Graduates	54	28	18	28	32	32	23	32	21	27	20	22	25					
% 4 Yrs. College or More	12.6	2.5	1.4	2.3	2.3	2.7	1.7	3.9	2.1	2.2	1.6	2.1	1.8					
Median Schooling (yrs)	12.1	9.4	7.6	9.3	10.0	10.0	8.8	9.8	8.1	9.7	8.7	8.7	8.8					
Females: % 8 Yrs. Schooling or Less	25%	49%	61%	50%	42%	42%	50%	46%	61%	48%	52%	55%	48%					
% High School Graduates	55	26	18	26	30	27	26	27	20	26	21	22	24					
% 4 Yrs. College or More	7.8	1.4	1.0	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.9	1.9	1.4	1.7	2.1	1.6	1.3					
Median Schooling (yrs)	12.1	9.1	7.9	9.0	9.8	9.8	9.0	9.4	7.7	9.3	8.8	8.7	8.6					
Enrollment in School																		
% 3-4 Yrs. Old	14	14%	12%	12%	17%	22%	12%	11%	11%	14%	12%	12%	15%					
% 18-24 Yrs. Old:	38	25	23	25	23	22	19	31	30	13	16	9	14					
Male																		
Female	27	18	17	17	17	15	12	22	19	10	12	10	7					

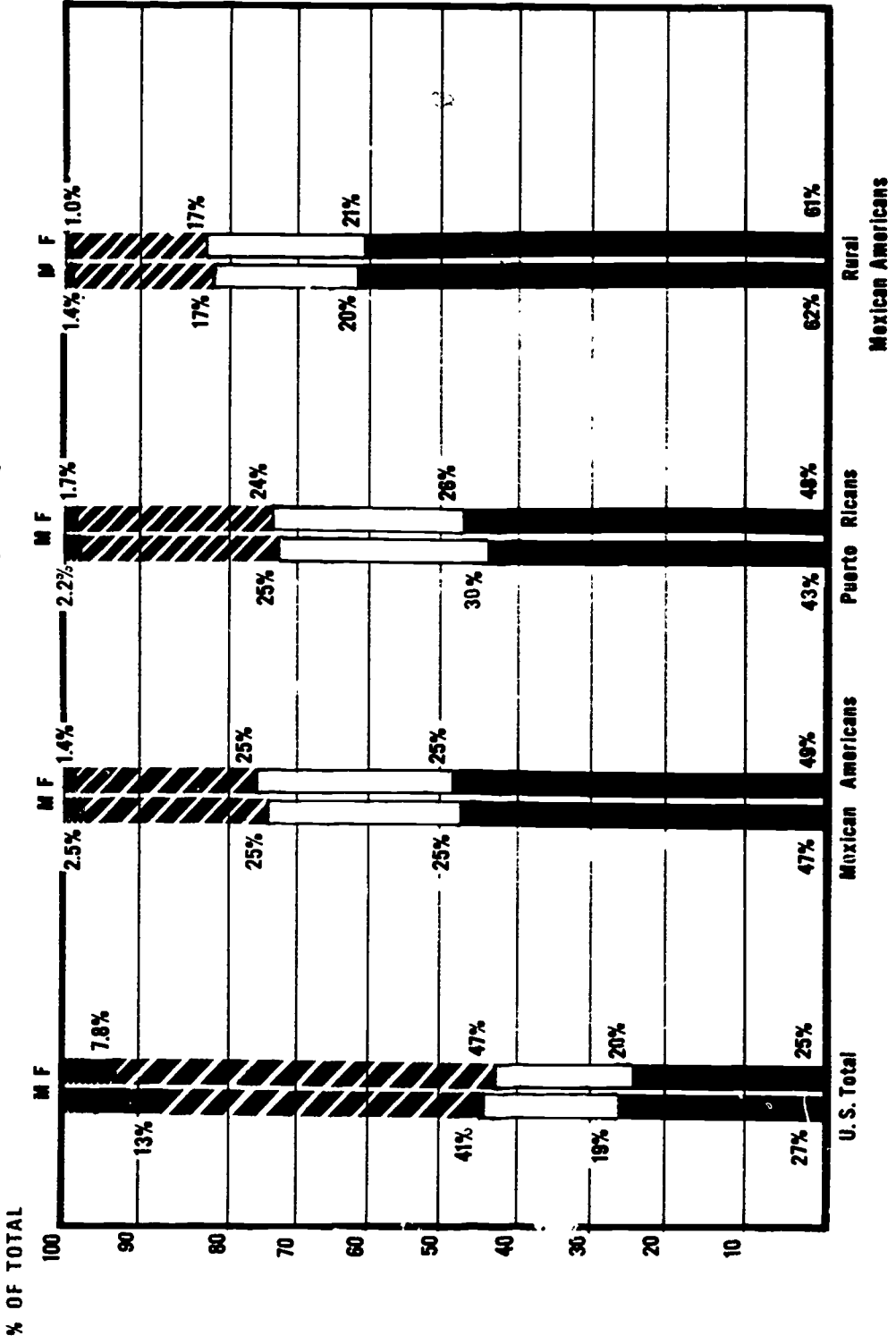
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population  
 General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1  
 Detailed Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-D1  
 Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C  
 Puerto Ricans in the United States, PC(2)-1E

0570

Chart D-2

SCHOOLING COMPLETED BY PERSONS 16 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER IN SELECTED GROUPS: 1970

 % 4 years college or more  
 % more than 8 years school without graduating from high school  
 % H.S. graduates without 4 year college  
 % 8 years school or less.



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1  
 Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin: PC(2)-1C



0075



A large proportion of the Mexican American population in Texas is poorly educated. Among the Mexican American men in that state, 58% have had eight or less years of schooling. The education levels attained by Mexican American men in Illinois are also low, which is surprising because the income level for Mexican Americans residing in that state is among the highest for Mexican Americans in the entire country. Such relatively high incomes in Illinois population were achieved despite the fact that 52% of the males have been in school eight years or less and fewer than a quarter have graduated from high school.

Mexican American men living in Colorado and California are somewhat better educated. In these two states, median schooling is up to a full ten years and almost a third have graduated from high school. The proportion of college graduates, however, is still at the level for all Mexican American men nationally (2.3% for California and 2.7% for Colorado, compared to 2.5% for Mexican American men nationally).

#### Puerto Rican Males

The educational attainments of Puerto Rican men are scarcely better than the levels reached by Mexican American men. The median schooling of the Puerto Rican male population, 9.7 years, is only 0.3 years higher than the median for the Mexican American males--hardly a significant difference. Although the percentage of poorly educated men (with eight or fewer years of school) is 4% smaller than among Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans have proportionately fewer high school graduates (27% compared to 28% among Mexican Americans) and fewer college graduates (2.2% compared to 2.5%).

In states outside of New York, Puerto Rican men are even less well educated. In Connecticut, Illinois, and New Jersey, median schooling for Puerto Rican men is less than nine years. Over half the men have not gone beyond the eighth grade, and the proportion of high school graduates ranges from 18% (Illinois) to 22% (New Jersey).

The proportion of Puerto Rican male college graduates is miniscule in all the states. It is lowest in New York (1.4% of all men) and highest in Illinois (2.1%).

### Mexican American Females

Educational accomplishments of the Mexican American female population are even lower than for the men. However, the Mexican American males are doing so poorly that the levels reached by the females are only slightly lower than those reached by the men.

The median educational attainment of the Mexican American female (9.1 years) is three years behind that for the entire female population (12.1), but only 0.3 years behind that for the Mexican American male. Almost half of all Mexican American women 16 years old and over did not go beyond the eighth grade. In comparison, only a quarter of all women in the United States have not gone beyond the eighth grade.

The proportion of women in the total population who have graduated from high school (55%) is greater than the proportion of men who have. But the proportion of Mexican American women who have graduated from high school, at 26%, is 2% less than the proportion of Mexican American men who have graduated from high school. The proportion of female Mexican Americans who have graduated from college is even less. Of all Mexican American women, only 1.4% are college graduates. In the total population, the proportion of female college graduates is 5.5 times greater.

Mexican American women living in rural areas are far less educated than their urban counterparts. Rural Mexican American women have a higher median schooling, however, than males living in rural areas (7.9 years compared to 7.6 years). Of Mexican American women living in rural areas, 61% have had eight or fewer years of school. In contrast, 49% of the total female Mexican American population and only a quarter of the nation's total female population have had so little education.

The educational levels attained by the Mexican American women living in Texas are equally low. There, the median years of schooling is only 7.7.

### Puerto Rican Females

The Puerto Rican population is basically an urban population whose various social (including educational) characteristics are affected little by the rural variances which affect the Mexican American population. Despite this difference, however,

the educational profile of the Puerto Rican women is almost identical to that of the Mexican American female. Educational achievement is extremely low compared to that of the women in the total U.S. population. For example, the median years of schooling attained by the Puerto Rican women is only 9.3 years, 0.2 years more than that attained by the Mexican American women and 0.4 years less than the median for the Puerto Rican men.

Of all Puerto Rican women, 48% have not attended school beyond the elementary level. The Mexican American women have an equally large share of poorly educated women (49%). The proportion of Mexican American women with little schooling is 2% greater than among Mexican American men while the proportion of Puerto Rican women completing eight or less years of school is 5% greater than the rate among Puerto Rican men.

Mexican American and Puerto Rican women share the same proportion of high school graduates (26%) and nearly the same proportion of college graduates, 1.4% and 1.7% respectively. In contrast, 55% of women in total population have graduated from high school, and 7.8% of all women are college graduates.

As in the case of Puerto Rican men, Puerto Rican women are even less well educated in states outside of New York. The median years of schooling achieved by women as well as by men in Connecticut, Illinois, and New Jersey is less than nine years, and only a fifth of the population in these states (both male and female) have completed high school.

### Vocational Training

With the low level of education attained by many in the Spanish populations, a major increase in educational opportunities, including opportunities for vocational training, is clearly an important need. The provision of such training probably would make a major difference in the eventual earning capacity of Spanish Origin peoples. Without such training, they are likely to be relegated to employment only in jobs requiring the lowest of skills. At a further disadvantage due to language barriers, training that would include English language instruction would be essential for many.

The proportion of Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans who currently have completed a vocational training program (16% of all persons 16-64 years of age with less than 3 years of college education) falls far short of the proportion who have completed such training in the total population (25%) (see Table D-2).

Table D-2

Vocational Training Completed by  
Persons 16-64 Years Old with  
Less Than 3 Years College

U.S. Total:\* 25%

<u>Mexican Americans*</u>		<u>Puerto Ricans*</u>	
Total:	16%	Total:	16%
Rural:	10%	Illinois:	15%
California:	18%	New York:	15%
Colorado:	17%	New Jersey:	13%
Arizona:	16%		
Illinois:	16%		
New Mexico:	14%		
Texas:	14%		

\* Males and Females Combined

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population,  
Subject Reports: Vocational Training, PC(2)-5C  
Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C

The rates are lower still in certain local areas. For Mexican Americans in rural areas, for example, only 10% of all adults without a college education have had any vocational training. Such programs simply are not accessible to the rural populations. In the states of New Mexico and Texas, only 14% of the Mexican American population have completed such programs.

Among Puerto Ricans, New Jersey has the lowest percentage of persons without a college education who have completed vocational training (13%).

### Enrollment in School

#### 3-4 Years Olds

Currently, the national rate of preschool enrollment by Mexican American and Puerto Rican 3-4 year olds is up to the rate of the rest of the U.S. population (14%) (see Table D-1). However, the need for preschool services for young children in both Spanish Origin subgroups is greater than that of the total population. In a preschool program, the young Spanish Origin child begins adjusting to the bicultural and bilingual world in which he/she is likely to live throughout his/her life. In preschool, the Mexican American and Puerto Rican child who, until then, may have known only Spanish, can more easily master the English language.

Currently, the proportion of Mexican American and Puerto Rican women who are in the work force is among the lowest of all ethnic groups. To give more of these women, particularly those who are mothers of young children, the opportunity to work outside of their homes and thus contribute to their family incomes, more Mexican American and Puerto Rican preschoolers should have the chance to enroll in preschool programs. Children who are less than six years old are found in 43% of all Mexican American families and 45% of all Puerto Rican families.

The rate of preschool enrollment by Mexican American 3-4 year olds in most states is lower than the national average of 14%. In Texas and New Mexico, only 11% of the Mexican American 3-4 year olds are in any type of preschool program, 3% lower than the national average both for the total population and for Mexican Americans. The enrollment rates of young Mexican American children in Arizona, Illinois, and all rural areas is only 12%. Indeed, only in California (17%) and Colorado (a very high 22%) are the children enrolled at rates higher than the U.S. national average.

For Puerto Ricans, the need for preschool services for 3-4 year old children is also acute. Most Puerto Rican families have arrived on the mainland only recently and appear to use Spanish in the homes to a greater extent than do Mexican Americans. Nearly half of Puerto Rican families have children who are less than six years of age. A quarter of all Puerto Rican families are female-headed and half of these also contain children under six.

Yet, outside of New York State, the enrollment rates of 3-4 year old Puerto Rican children fall below the national average. In Connecticut and Illinois, only 12% of the children are in a preschool program, and in New Jersey, only 13% are. Although the rate of enrollment in New York (15%) is above the national rate, given the high proportion of female-headed families (where the female head of family and mother has major responsibility to support her family), Puerto Ricans are still underserved.

### Elementary and High School Enrollment

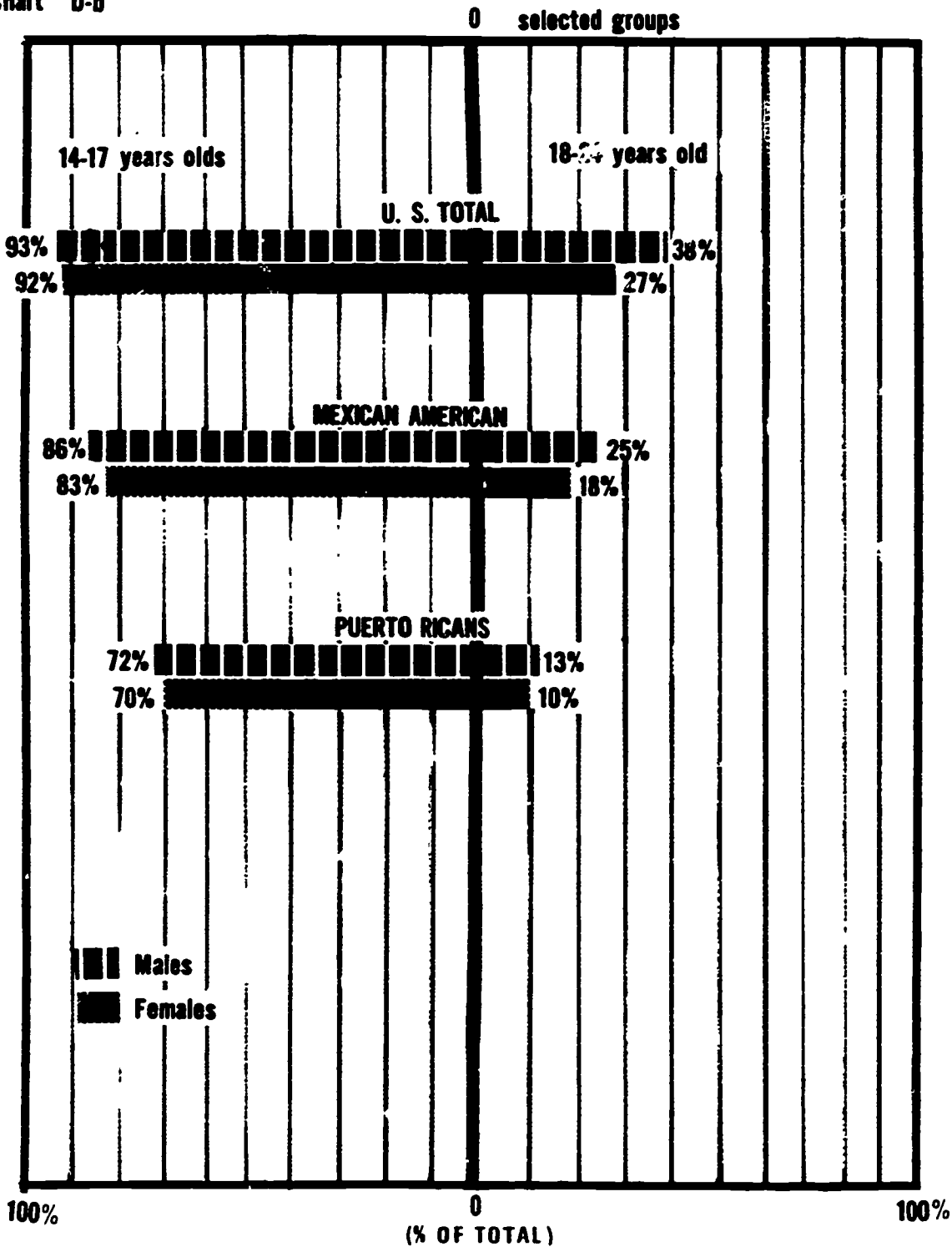
#### 14-17 Year Olds

While in most states education is not compulsory beyond 16 years of age, the majority of young people remain in school to complete their high school education. In the total U.S. population, 93% of all males and 92% of all females between 14 and 17 years old are enrolled in school. Among the Spanish, however, the rate of high school enrollment lags (see Chart D-b). Fewer young people are staying in school to complete high school, indicating that the spiral of poverty that results from an inadequate education, low job skills, and resultant low incomes promises to continue.

In the Mexican American population, 86% of 14-17 year old males and 83% of 14-17 year old females are in school, rates that are 7% and 9% below the national average. The fact that the differential is greater for females indicates that, not only are Mexican Americans dropping out of high school at a greater rate than is the rest of the population, but also that girls are leaving school at a greater rate than are boys.

Persons enrolled in school, 14-17 and 18-24 years of age, by sex, for selected groups

Chart D-b



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1  
Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C

0086

The enrollment rate of Puerto Rican teenagers is much lower. Only 72% of all Puerto Rican males and 70% of Puerto Rican females 14-17 years old are still enrolled in school, 21% and 22% below the averages for the total population. No other population group has as serious a drop-out rate. The economic disadvantage which the drop-out faces is made more clear by figures showing that 45% of all Puerto Rican male youths 16-24 years old in this country who left high school prior to graduation are without a job.

Such data suggest that greater efforts must be made to encourage Spanish Origin youths to remain in school or, if they leave, to provide them with sufficient supportive training and services to enable them to prepare for employment.

### 18-24 Year Olds

With high school enrollment by Spanish Origin youths lagging behind the rate of enrollment by young people in the total population, rates of college and other postsecondary school enrollment fall behind total population rates even further.

Nationally, 38% of all men 18-24 years old are enrolled in school. A quarter of Mexican American men are enrolled; this is 13% lower. In the Puerto Rican population, the rates are lower still. Only 13% of the males are enrolled, a rate nearly two-thirds less than that of the total population. Such a low rate promises to prevent any significant proportion of the Puerto Rican population from obtaining advanced professional education leading to higher status professional careers essential in providing service to Puerto Rican communities.

Of all 18-24 year old women in the United States, 27% are enrolled in school--most of them in college. The Mexican American females fall well below that rate with only 18% enrolled in school.

The enrollment rate of the Puerto Rican females is the lowest of all. Only 10% of the female Puerto Rican population who are 18-24 years old are enrolled in any kind of postsecondary educational program.



## Mother Tongue and Language Usually Spoken at Home

The greatest disadvantage suffered by a large portion of the Spanish Origin populations is their inability to use English. Because of this, many young people are unable to remain in school and obtain an education. In the labor force, the inability to use English restricts persons to low-skilled menial occupations.

In 1969, 72% of all Mexican Americans and 83% of all Puerto Ricans reported that they spoke Spanish in their homes when they were children (mother tongue). The majority of these persons continue to use Spanish in the home; 47% of Mexican Americans and 72% of Puerto Ricans reported speaking Spanish at home (see Table D-3). Among those born in the country of origin, the use of Spanish, expectedly, is much higher. Among Mexican Americans who were born in Mexico, 75% still speak Spanish in their homes and of Puerto Ricans born in Puerto Rico, 82% speak Spanish in their homes

The proportion of Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans speaking Spanish, by age, for the year 1971 <sup>1/</sup> is reported in Table D-4. In both populations, the percentage still using Spanish in the home is highest among older persons 55 years old and over. Young adults in their twenties use Spanish the least.

Among both Mexican American and Puerto Rican children and teenagers, the proportion using Spanish is considerably higher. Although many of these young people were born in the United States they are still speaking Spanish with their parents and their peers. At the critical ages, 14 to 19 years old, the proportions of young persons speaking Spanish in both the Mexican American (75%) and the Puerto Rican (91%) groups are highest, except for the elderly. This has important implications because, for part of this age group, education is no longer mandatory and unless educational programs are responsive to the difficulties that the young persons in this age group have with the English language, they are likely to drop out of school at this juncture.

Currently, the educational levels attained by Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans who speak Spanish in their homes are far lower than the educational levels attained by the more assimilated who speak English (see Table D-5). Some 90% of both the Mexican Americans and the Puerto Ricans who did not complete elementary school speak Spanish in their homes. If more educational programs could be developed bilingually, and if more supplementary English language instruction programs could be provided, it would probably reduce the barriers that currently exist for these populations and enable more persons of Spanish Origin to achieve a level of education comparable to the rest of the population in this country.

<sup>1/</sup> There is considerable discrepancy between 1969 and 1971 data. In 1969, 47% of Mexican Americans reported speaking Spanish at home while in 1971, 71% did. In 1969, 72% of the Puerto Ricans reported speaking Spanish, while in 1971, 85% did.

Table D-3

Language Usage and Mother Tongue of  
Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans: 1969

	<u>% With Spanish as Mother Tongue</u>	<u>% With Spanish as Language Usually Spoken at Home</u>
<u>Mexican Americans</u>	72%	47%
Born in Mexico	94	75
<u>Puerto Ricans</u>	83%	72%
Born in Puerto Rico	96	82

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports,  
Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States:  
November 1969, Series P-20, No. 213.

Table D-4

Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans  
Reporting Spanish Currently Spoken  
at Home, by Age: 1971

<u>Age Group</u> <u>(Years)</u>	<u>Mexican</u> <u>Americans</u>	<u>Puerto</u> <u>Ricans</u>
	<u>% Reporting</u> <u>Spanish Cur-</u> <u>rently Spoken</u> <u>at Home</u>	<u>% Reporting</u> <u>Spanish Cur-</u> <u>rently Spoken</u> <u>at Home</u>
<u>Total</u>	71%	85%
Under 5	67	85
5-9	70	87
10-13	74	86
14-19	75	91
20-24	62	76
25-34	64	82
35-44	69	87
45-54	75	85
55-64	95	} 92
65 and Over	88	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports,  
Population Characteristics, Persons of Spanish Origin  
in the United States: March, 1972 and 1971, Series  
P-20, No.250

Table D-5

Years of School Completed by Mexican Americans  
and Puerto Ricans 14 Years Old and Over and Language

'Spoken at Home: 1971

Years of School Completed	Mexican Americans	Puerto Ricans
	& Reporting Spanish Currently Spoken at Home	& Reporting Spanish Currently Spoken at Home
<u>Elementary School</u>		
0-4 years	93%	93%
5-7 years	89	93
8 years	73	89
<u>High School</u>		
1-3 years	64	78
4 years	50	73
<u>College</u>		
1-3 years	47	74
4 or more years	48	64

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1972 and 1971, Series P-20, No. 250, April 1973.

### III. E. EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS

Statistics on employment status and occupations of Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans are presented in Table E-1.

#### Employment Status - Males

The 1970 Census clearly indicates that, contrary to stereotype, the Spanish Speaking are a hard-working people. 77% of the Mexican American and 76% of the Puerto Rican men are in the labor force--virtually the same as for the total male population in the U.S. The labor force participation rate for men has remained consistently high over the years, as indicated in previous Census reports.

Rates vary by locale. For example, the labor force participation rate for rural Mexican American males drops 4% from total figures. Migrant workers are frequently out of the labor force during the off-season when the Census is taken. A comparison of weeks worked by Mexican American males shows that, nationally, the proportion of men who worked a full year (50-52 weeks) is 4% higher among all Mexican American men than among the rural Mexican American men. The 4% differential is probably composed of those Mexican American farm workers who, because of the seasonal nature of their jobs, worked less than full-time.

The lowest rates of labor force participation are found in Colorado and New Mexico, states which have the largest proportions of rural populations (37% and 21% respectively), while the highest rates for the Mexican Americans are in Arizona (78%), California (79%), and Illinois (85%).

For Puerto Ricans, labor force participation rates also vary considerably by local area. Their lowest participation is found in New York State (72%), and the highest in Illinois and New Jersey (84% in both states, far surpassing the rate for Puerto Ricans nationally).

Although the labor force participation rates of Mexican American and Puerto Rican men are close to that for all men in the country, their rate of unemployment is far higher. About 6% of all Mexican American men and 5.6% of all Puerto Rican men in the labor force are unemployed, compared to only 3.9% for all men.

The unemployment rates, however, vary according to geographic area. For example, in California and Colorado, unemployment for the Mexican Americans is at 7.1% and 8.0% respectively. Among Puerto Ricans, unemployment is particularly high in the State of Connecticut (7.3%).

Table E-1

Employment Characteristics of the U.S. Total and Mexican American and Puerto Rican Origin Populations, 1970

Puerto Rican Origin Populations, 1970

Employment Status (16 years old and over)	U.S. Total	Mexican Americans										Puerto Ricans							
		Total					Rural					Total				Comm.			
		Ariz.	Calif.	Colo.	Ill.	N.Mex.	Texas	Ariz.	Calif.	Colo.	Ill.	N.Mex.	Texas	Ill.	N.J.	N.Y.			
% in Labor Force	77% 41	73% 28	78% 34	79% 38	72% 32	85% 45	72% 30	75% 34	76% 32	81% 35	84% 36	72% 29							
% Unemployed	3.9 5.1	6.1 8.9	6.4 9.8	5.7 10.7	7.1 9.7	8.0 7.2	4.1 9.8	5.1 6.8	5.6 8.7	7.3 9.4	4.9 11.1	5.7 7.9							
Major Occupations																			
Professional & Tech. Workers	14.3 16	5.3 6.4	3.0 7.0	5.0 6.3	5.1 5.5	6.7 4.4	3.8 7.4	4.6 6.8	4.7 7.1	4.2 4.3	2.2 5.5	4.5 4.4	4.1 6.4						
Managers & Administrators	11.2 3.6	4.0 1.9	2.6 1.9	4.0 1.7	3.5 1.6	3.8 2.0	5.3 2.0	4.8 2.2	4.2 1.5	2.5 1.5	2.4 1.3	2.6 1.0	4.6 1.4						
Sales Workers	6.9 7.4	3.2 5.7	1.6 4.4	3.4 6.0	2.8 4.9	3.6 5.6	2.0 4.8	4.0 7.3	3.8 3.9	2.3 3.2	2.0 3.0	2.8 3.8	4.6 4.1						
Clerical Workers	7.6 35	5.8 26	2.2 17	4.6 27	6.0 27	5.4 27	6.9 27	5.6 24	10.3 30	4.8 22	7.5 16	6.8 23	12.4 34						
Craftsmen, Foremen & Kindred Workers	21 1.8	14 2.3	20 1.5	21 1.4	21 2.2	18 1.9	19 2.7	23 0.9	17 2.5	18 2.2	15 2.1	17 2.6	17 2.6						
Operatives	20 14	27 26	20 18	25 22	29 31	26 16	41 44	24 20	34 40	46 52	51 51	44 55	31 37						
Laborers, Except Farm	6.6 1.0	13 1.7	11 1.9	17 1.1	13 1.4	16 2.3	15 2.0	14 1.6	8 1.0	9 1.0	7 1.9	10 1.4	6 1.0						
Farm Managers and Laborers	4.5 0.8	9.8 4.0	40.6 14.5	11.0 4.1	10.5 5.5	7.2 0.9	10.4 0.2	10.0 3.0	1.5 0.3	2.6 1.0	0.3 1.0	3.3 0.2	0.3 0						
Service Workers	8 20	11 26	6 34	10 31	10 20	13 40	10 44	11 32	17 14	11 13	12 10	11 10	20 14						

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population

General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1

Detailed Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-D1

Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C Puerto Ricans in the United States, PC(2)-1E

The data indicate that, although proportionately there are just as many Spanish Origin men in the labor force as in the total population, a much larger proportion of them are unable to find work. A most important factor related to the relatively high unemployment rates is the lower rates of education experienced by persons of Spanish Origin. There is no way that the Spanish population will be able to experience employment rates equal to those of the general population unless a major effort is extended to assure that Spanish Speaking individuals obtain the same education all others in the nation's population have at their disposal. Until the Mexican Americans and the Puerto Ricans are able to increase their education, the majority of them will continue to find themselves locked into the low paying occupational categories--those occupied by the low-status, blue-collar workers.

#### Employment Status - Females

The labor force participation rates for both Mexican American and Puerto Rican women (36% and 32% respectively) are below the national rate for all women (41%) in the United States.

As previously stated, 1/ the Spanish Speaking have large families with many children. 38% of the Mexican American and 33% of the Puerto Rican families have three or more children under 18 years of age

However, 29% of all Mexican American wives and 28% of all Puerto Rican wives in husband/wife families were employed compared to 39% of all such wives in the country. These figures for the Mexican American and Puerto Rican working wives represent exceptionally low labor force participation rates for mothers (see Table E-2).

Over half (51%) of all families in the United States are supported by more than one earner. Mexican American families are at about the same level, but Puerto Rican families have a much smaller proportion of their families with two or more earners (36%) (see Table E-3).

1/ See Section C. Family Characteristics.

Table E-2

Labor Force Participation of Spanish OriginWives and Female Heads

	U.S. Total	All Spanish Origin *	Mexican American	Puerto Rican
<u>Wives in Husband- Wife Families</u>				
% in Labor Force	39%	35%	29%	28%
% with Children Under 6	27	41	46	45
% with Children Under 6 in Labor Force	28	27	24	20
<u>Female Heads of Families</u>				
% in Labor Force	56	44	43	24
% with Children Under 6	21	33	30	46
% with Children Under 6 in Labor Force	51	34	NA	NA

\* Includes Cuban Americans, Central and South Americans, and persons of other Spanish Origin.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1.  
Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C.



Table E-3

Number of Earners Per Family:  
by Selected Groups, 1969

Racial/ Ethnic Group	Number of Earners Per Family		
	0	1	2 or More
U.S. Total	9%	40%	51%
Mexican American	8	42	50
Puerto Rican	21	44	36

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, General Social and Economic: United States Summary PC(1)-C1; Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin PC(2)-1C.

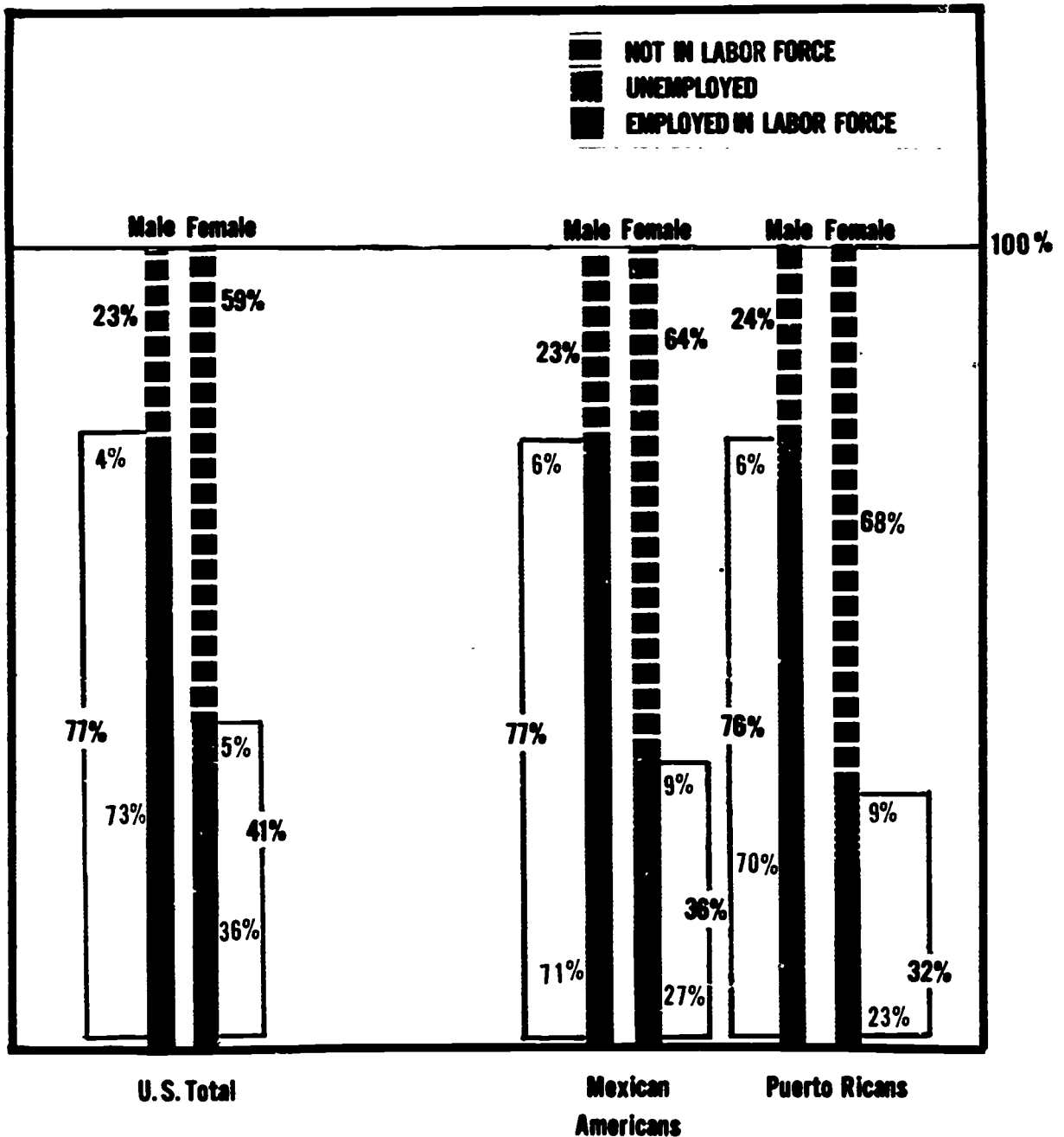
The employment status of Mexican American and Puerto Rican women is made worse by the fact that 9% of both the Mexican American and Puerto Rican women are unemployed; unemployment for both groups of females is higher than for all women in the United States. Thus, the actual number of Spanish women who are employed is even smaller than their lower labor force participation rates indicate; only 29% of all Puerto Rican women and 33% of all Mexican American women are working, while 39% of all women in the U.S. are employed. The fact that such a high percentage of Mexican American and Puerto Rican women are seeking employment implies that, if additional jobs were available and if more Puerto Rican women were better trained for local job market conditions, more women would participate in the work force (see Chart E-a).

In most population groups, women who are heads of their families are in the labor force in greater proportions than those who are not. In the country as a whole, 39% of the wives in husband/wife families work, while 56% of all female heads work. Among Mexican Americans, a similar relationship exists: 29%



Chart E-a

**LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR MEXICAN AMERICANS  
AND PUERTO RICANS, 16 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER**



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1

of wives in husband/wife families are in the labor force, while 43% of women who are the heads of their families are. But among Puerto Ricans, fewer female heads (24%) are in the work force than are wives (28%) (see Table E-2).

An analysis of the rate of labor force participation by Puerto Rican women by age in 1970 and in 1960 (see Table E-4) reveals that the rate has actually declined at virtually all age levels over the past 10 years. This pattern is contrary to the trend by women in every other population group, where participation in the work force has increased during the past ten years. The decline in labor force participation has been among Puerto Rican women born on the Island rather than among those born in the United States. Labor force participation among the latter has remained constant and even gained among mature women, 45-64 years old. Handicapped by language barriers and inadequate job training, the Island-born Puerto Ricans have had to compete for jobs with other populations who, in many cases, are better trained for the types of work available.

Table E-4

Puerto Rican Women in Labor Force, by Nativity and Age:

1960-1970

Age Group (Years of Age)	Puerto Rican Women					
	Total		Born in Puerto Rico		Born in U.S.	
	1960	1970	1960	1970	1960	1970
20-24	45%	39%	44%	36%	50%	50%
25-34	39	29	39	27	39	37
35-44	44	36	44	35	44	45
45-64	33	33	33	32	34	46

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population, Subject Reports: Puerto Ricans in the United States, PC(2)-1E.

This employment profile is most evident in the State of New York (see Table E-5). In other states, there are apparently more employment opportunities for Puerto Rican women since their participation in the labor force has generally increased over the past decade, regardless of where they were born. The variation of the employment patterns of Puerto Rican women from that of other women warrants further study.

Table E-5  
Percent Puerto Rican Women in Labor Force,  
By Nativity and Age, for  
Selected States: 1960-1970

Age Group (Years of Age)	New York			Illinois			New Jersey		
	1960	1970		1960	1970		1960	1970	
		Total	% of all Women Born in U.S.		Total	% of all Women Born in U.S.		Total	% of all Women Born in U.S.
20-24	48%	36%	24%	40%	48%	7%	42%	43%	12%
25-34	41	25	12	37	38	5	39	34	8
35-44	46	33	10	38	46	4	43	45	10
45-64	34	32	4	21	31	3	30	35	7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of the Population, Special Reports: Puerto Ricans in the United States, PC(2)-1D.

U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population, Special Reports: Puerto Ricans in the United States PC(2)-1E.

In local areas, variations in rates of labor participation and unemployment by women parallel those of Spanish Origin males. As with males, the rates of labor force participation are highest for both Mexican American and Puerto Rican women in the State of Illinois (45% and 43% respectively). Among Mexican Americans, the rate in California (38%) is high also, as is the rate of unemployment (almost 11%). Mexican American women in rural areas and Puerto Rican women in New York State have the lowest proportion in the work force.

Besides a high near 11% in California, unemployment for Mexican American women is at a high level, near 10%, in rural areas as well as in the States of Colorado and New Mexico. It is over 11% for Puerto Rican women in Illinois and New Jersey.

## Occupations

### Mexican American Males

The proportion of Mexican American men employed in high status, professional and managerial occupations is extremely low. In the total population, one of every four or just over 25% of all males are employed in such occupations; only one of every eleven Mexican American males (9%) is employed in high status positions (see Chart E-b). These figures reflect the educational disadvantage with which the Mexican American men enter the labor force.

While the proportion of Mexican American men who are in the skilled blue-collar occupations (21%), equals the national figures for the U.S. male population, the proportion of Mexican American men who are employed in the low-skilled, labor occupations is extremely high (23%), in comparison to the national figure of 11%.

Although the Mexican American is stereotyped as a farm worker, only one of every ten Mexican American men is employed as a farm manager or farm laborer.

The percentage distribution of Mexican American men in the various broad occupational categories varies with local labor market conditions. Of Mexican Americans living in rural areas, 41% are employed in farm-related work.

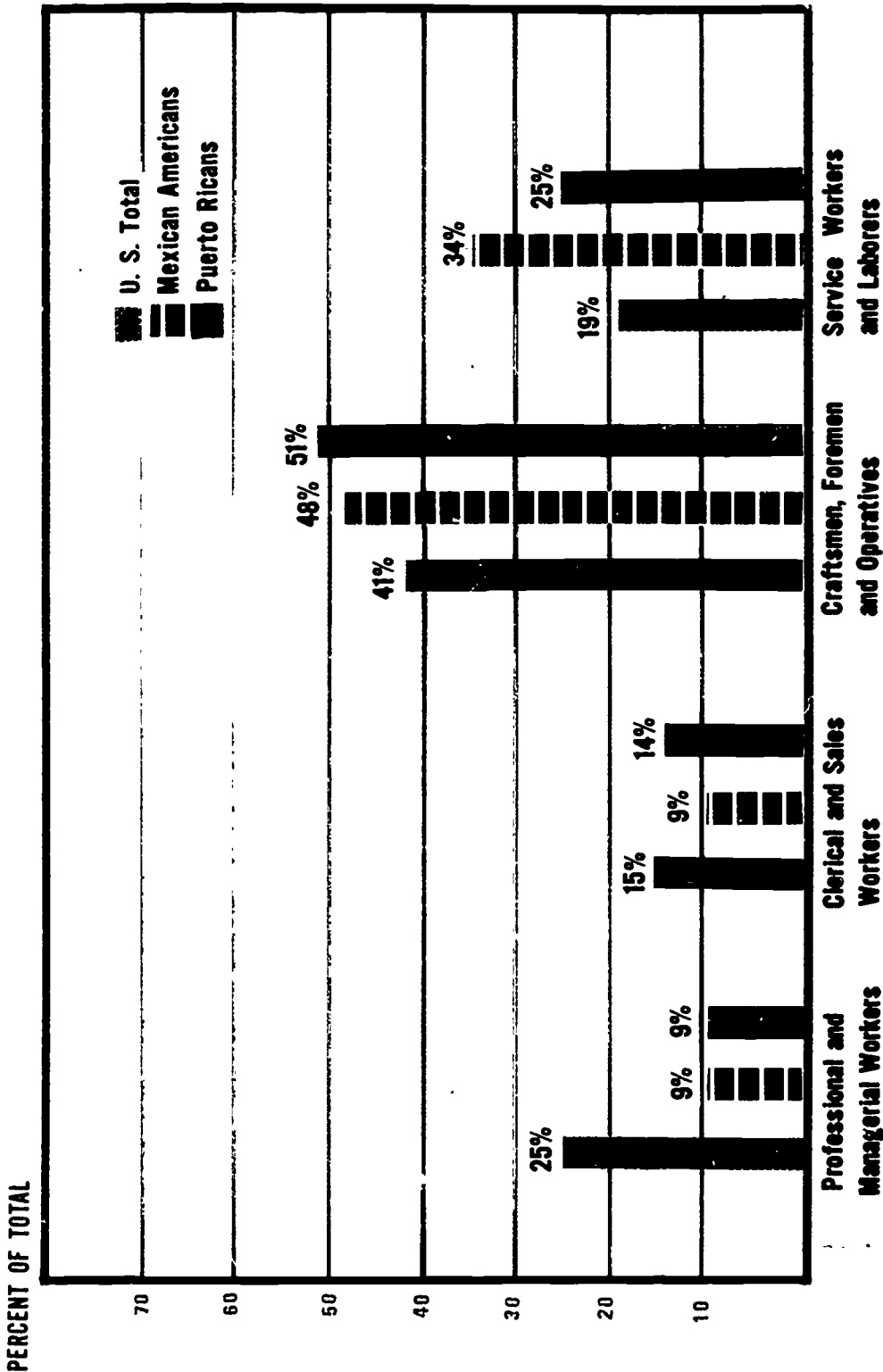
In Texas, the ratio of Mexican American semi-skilled, blue-collar workers (24%) and skilled ones (23%) is virtually one-to-one, while a very sharp difference occurs among Mexican American working men in Illinois, where 18% are in the higher skilled trades and a very high, 41%, are in the semi-skilled trades, a ratio of 1:2.3.

### Puerto Rican Males

The proportion of Puerto Rican men employed in higher status professional and managerial occupations is the same as among Mexican American men, one in ten, compared to one in four for all males in the total population. As with Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans are burdened by serious educational deprivation and language barriers that prevent a significant proportion of their population from achieving the education necessary for higher status white-collar employment.

Chart E-b

TYPES OF OCCUPATIONS OF MEXICAN AMERICAN AND PUERTO RICAN MALES 1970



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1  
 Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin: PC(2)-1C

0101

However, the percentage of Puerto Rican men in lower status, white-collar employment (sales and clerical workers) is only 1% less than for all working men in the country (15%), while only 9% of all Mexican American men are employed in these occupations. The higher proportion of Puerto Rican men so employed is in part a reflection of the labor market in the Northeast, where most of the Puerto Rican population is located.

Just over half of all Puerto Rican males are employed in skilled and semi-skilled, blue-collar occupations, with twice as many in the semi-skilled occupations (34%) as in the skilled ones (17%). In contrast, there are the same number of men in the total population employed in the skilled, blue-collar jobs (21%) as in the semi-skilled ones (20%). More vocational training is clearly needed to enable greater numbers of Puerto Ricans to enter the more skilled jobs.

A quarter of all Puerto Rican men are employed in the primarily low-skilled occupations as laborers and service workers. This is 8% greater than the proportion in the total U.S. male population employed in the same occupational categories.

Locally, the proportions of Puerto Ricans in professional and managerial occupations is particularly low in Illinois (4.6%), as it is for Mexican American males (5.9%). In New York State, over 17% of all male Puerto Rican workers are in low-skilled, white-collar occupations, while in nearby Connecticut, only 7% are so employed.

The imbalance of skilled and semi-skilled, blue-collar workers among Puerto Ricans is particularly marked in Illinois and New Jersey. In both these states, there are three times as many Puerto Rican males working in semi-skilled occupations as there are working in skilled occupation (51% to 16% in Illinois and 44% to 15% in New Jersey). There are twice as many Puerto Rican service workers, proportionally, in New York State as there are in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Illinois.

#### Mexican American Females

The low education rates of the Mexican American females are further reflected in their employment status by occupational category. The proportion of the total U.S. female population employed in professional and managerial occupations (20%) is two and one-half times greater than the proportion of Mexican American women so employed. Without improving her educational status, the Mexican American female cannot hope to lift herself from the low status occupations.



Close to one-third of all Mexican American women are employed in low-skilled, white-collar occupations. Nationally, over 40% of the total female population are employed in such positions.

Only 4% of all Mexican American women are in farm-related occupations. This is the highest proportion for women in any group nationally, but far less a proportion than the stereotype. In rural areas, just under 15% of the female working population are employed in farm-related occupations.

Nationally, about a quarter of all employed Mexican American women are in semi-skilled, blue-collar jobs, and another quarter are in generally low-skilled service jobs (see Chart E-c). The proportion of Mexican American women in these two lower skilled occupational categories varies considerably, according to local labor market conditions, as Table E-6 illustrates.

Table E-6

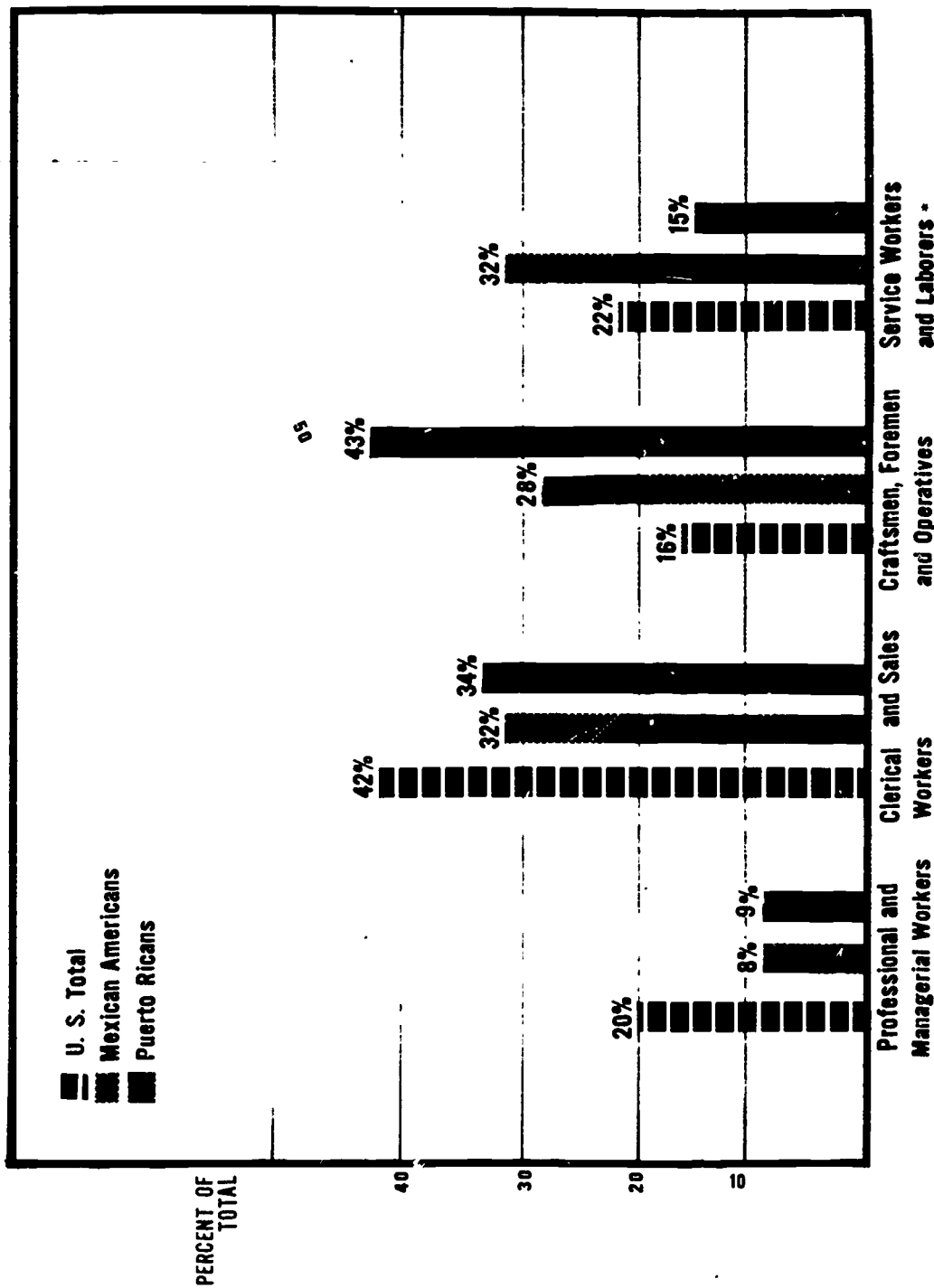
Mexican American Women in Operative and Service Occupations, by State: 1970

	Total U.S.	Ariz.	Calif.	Colo.	Ill.	N.M.	Texas
<u>% of all Employed</u>							
Operatives	26%	22%	31%	16%	44%	12%	20%
Service Workers	26	31	20	40	15	44	32
<u>Total</u>	<u>52%</u>	<u>53%</u>	<u>51%</u>	<u>56%</u>	<u>59%</u>	<u>56%</u>	<u>52%</u>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population, Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C.

There is considerable industry in such states as California and Illinois, hence, the proportion of Mexican Americans in semi-skilled, industry-related occupations is higher. In less industrialized states, the number of Mexican American women employed in service occupations is proportionally greater.

Chart E-c  
 TYPES OF OCCUPATIONS OF MEXICAN AMERICAN AND PUERTO RICAN FEMALES: 1970



\*Includes farm-related occupations.  
 Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1  
 Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1G

### Puerto Rican Females

As it is for Puerto Rican males, the largest single employment category for Puerto Rican females in the United States is as semi-skilled operatives. Two out of every five Puerto Rican women work in this occupation. The high concentration is related to the highly industrialized nature of the Northeast and the Midwest, where Puerto Ricans are primarily concentrated. Only 14% of all women in the U.S. are employed in this occupational area.

Another 34% of Puerto Rican women are employed as white-collar, clerical and sales workers. This is less than the proportion among women in the total population, but close enough to national levels to indicate that economic mobility from blue-collar to white-collar jobs on the part of the Puerto Rican female population is influenced by the concentration of Puerto Ricans in the Northeast which, as the business and commercial center of the country, offers an abundance of clerical jobs.

Only about 9% of all Puerto Rican women are in professional and managerial occupations. This is the same percentage as among Puerto Rican men and one-half the percentage found among all women in the population.

Despite low educational attainments, only 14% of Puerto Rican women are employed in the low-skilled service occupations-- 6% less than the proportion among all women in the United States and half the proportion in the Mexican American female population. As noted earlier, in areas where other minorities predominate in the service occupations, the proportion of Spanish so employed decreases. Women who are unable to obtain employment in more skilled occupations, by virtue of their poor educational backgrounds and language difficulties, stay out of the labor force entirely.

In local areas, the high concentration of commercial and business-related jobs in New York is evident, as 38% of all Puerto Rican women in that state are employed in sales and clerical occupations, compared to 32% of Puerto Rican women nationally.

In other states, well over half of the Puerto Rican women are employed as operatives (52% in Connecticut, 55% in New Jersey, and a very high 61% in Illinois).

### III. F. INCOME CHARACTERISTICS.

The data on levels of income of Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans in this section appears in Table F-1.

#### Individual Incomes

##### Mexican American Males

Of all Mexican American males, 16 and over, 43% earn an annual income of less than \$4,000--compared to 31% of all males in the country earning such low incomes.

While a quarter of all men in the United States earn \$10,000 a year or more, only 10% of the Mexican American men have such incomes. A clear relationship exists between the low percentage of Mexican American men in professional and managerial occupations and the similarly low percentage of men with earnings over \$10,000 a year. While a quarter of all employed men in the country are employed in professional and managerial occupations, and the same percentage earn \$10,000 a year or more, only 9% of Mexican American men are employed in high status white-collar occupations and only 10% earn \$10,000 or more.

In some local areas, incomes are even lower. Among Mexican American men living in rural areas, for example, a very large, 57%, earn under \$4,000, indicating the poor work opportunities for Mexican Americans living in those areas. Less than 5% of these men earn more than \$10,000. Incomes are also low in Texas and New Mexico, where over half the men contribute less than \$4,000 year to the support of their families. Only 5% of Mexican American men in Texas and 6% in New Mexico make \$10,000 or more.

In only two states, California and Illinois, are the earnings of Mexican American men above what they are for Mexican American men nationally. In California, 37% of Mexican American males earn less than \$4,000 a year, and 14% make \$10,000 and over. In Illinois, the proportion of Mexican American men making less than \$4,000 (26%) is 5% less than the proportion of all men in the United States with such a low income. The proportion of Mexican American men in that state earning incomes of \$10,000 a year or more (16%), however, is still very much smaller than among all men in the United States (25%).

Table F-1

Income Characteristics of the U.S. Total and Mexican American and Puerto Rican Populations, 1970

	U.S. Total		Mexican Americans							Puerto Ricans				
	Total	Rural	Ariz.	Calif.	Colo.	Ill.	N.Mex.	Texas	Total	Conn.	Ill.	N.J.	N.Y.	
Income of Persons 16 and Over														
% Under \$4,000	31%	57%	41%	37%	45%	26%	50%	54%	34%	30%	29%	33%	33%	
Male														
Female	68	89	84	75	84	62	87	86	70	71	40	73	69	
% \$10,000 & Over	25.2	10.1	7.8	13.6	6.5	15.8	5.9	4.7	7.6	6.9	7.0	7.8	6.7	
Male														
Female	3.2	1.0	0.7	1.3	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.5	1.3	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.1	
Income of Families														
% Under \$4,000	15	25	23	18	26	11	35	35	28	24	20	25	31	
% \$10,000 & Over	47	27	25	34	22	45	16	16	22	23	27	22	19	
Median Income (dollars)	9,590	6,962	5,174	7,082	8,050	6,518	9,301	5,582	6,165	6,773	7,275	6,265	5,825	
Income of Families with Female Heads														
% Under \$4,000	41%	57%	61%	50%	68%	31%	72%	66%	65%	65%	61%	66%	65%	
% \$10,000 & Over	18.0	9.8	7.9	10.3	5.5	18.1	6.1	6.3	5.9	5.1	13.2	5.0	5.4	
Median Income (dollars)	4,962	3,483	3,771	3,104	3,989	2,877	5,575	2,781	3,229	3,035	3,438	3,115	3,266	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1 Detailed Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-F1 Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C Puerto Ricans in the United States, PC(2)-1E

### Mexican American Females

With such low incomes, the income of a second breadwinner becomes a vital factor for Mexican Americans in the support of their large families. As we have already seen, the proportion of Mexican American women in the labor force is lower than for the country as a whole, and fewer wives work (see Section E. Employment). Of all women, nationally, 68% make under \$4,000 and barely 3% earn \$10,000 a year or more. Of all Mexican American women, 79% earn \$4,000 or less; the proportion for rural Mexican American women earning low incomes, at 89%, is greater still.

The proportion of the total U.S. female population who earn \$10,000 or more is miniscule, but the percentage among Mexican American women, nationally, is considerably smaller with only 1% reaching that level. The Mexican American women's generally low income is a consequence of their high concentration in low-paying operative and service occupations (52%).

Earnings of Mexican American women tend to be lower than their national average in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. In California, the earnings are slightly above the national average for all Mexican American women, while only in Illinois is the proportion of Mexican American women with low earnings (62%) significantly less than among Mexican American women nationally (79%).

### Puerto Rican Males

The proportion of Puerto Rican males 16 years and over earning under \$4,000 (34%) is only slightly greater than the average for the total country (31%). This is, in part, a reflection of the higher salaries and wages to be earned by all workers in the Northeast as a result of the relatively higher cost of living in that part of the country.

The proportion of Puerto Rican males earning \$10,000 or more (8%) is one-third of that for the nation as a whole (25%), and even less than among Mexican American males (10%). Again, a clear relationship exists between the few Puerto Rican males in professional and managerial occupations (9%) and the few Puerto Ricans (8%) earning \$10,000 or more.

The earnings of Puerto Rican males are similar in all states in the Northeast. In Illinois, slightly fewer males make under \$4,000 (29%), but fewer also make over \$10,000; 7% compared to 8% for Puerto Ricans nationally.

#### Puerto Rican Females

As with Mexican Americans, the lower income ranges of Puerto Rican males highlight the fact that the additional income from a second earner is of great importance to the economic survival of the family. Nationally, the percentage of Puerto Rican women earning less than \$4,000 is close to the average for the country, 70% compared to 68% for the nation as a whole; but only 1% are earning over \$10,000 a year compared to 3% of women nationally. This small percentage of higher income earners among women all but cancels any indication of economic progress that the smaller proportion in the lowest wage bracket might suggest.

#### Income of Families

A quarter of all Mexican American families exist on an income of less than \$4,000 a year. This is 10% greater than the proportion of low income families found in the total population, although fewer than in Puerto Rican families where 28% have an annual income under \$4,000. However, these figures do not reflect the impact that the large number of persons per family has on the income of the Mexican Americans. Although Mexican Americans have a slightly higher family median income (\$6,962) than Puerto Ricans (\$6,615), the per capita income of Mexican Americans (\$1,716) is slightly lower than for Puerto Ricans (\$1,794). The per capita income for the total U.S. population is much higher at \$3,139, and the median family income is \$9,590. The median income of the Mexican American family is \$2,628 less than the median income of all families in the United States, and \$797 higher than for Puerto Rican families.

Mexican American families are poorest in rural areas and in the states of New Mexico and Texas. In these areas, over a third (35%) of the Mexican American families survive on less than \$4,000 a year.

Just over a quarter (27%) of Mexican American families nationally earn an annual income of \$10,000 or more. This is 20% less than the proportion found in the total population.

In local areas, there are considerable variations in income level. A third of the Mexican American families in California earn over \$10,000 a year, and their median income is up to \$8,050 a year. Incomes are higher still in Illinois, where 45% of all families have incomes of \$10,000 and above, and the median income is \$9,301, compared to only 27% of Puerto Rican families in Illinois earning \$10,000 and above, with a median income of \$7,275. Although the median income for Puerto Ricans in Illinois is higher than for Puerto Ricans nationally, the difference is not so great as for Mexican Americans in Illinois compared with Mexican Americans nationally.

With fewer earners and a high proportion of female-headed families, the income levels of Puerto Rican families are lower than those for Mexican Americans. As noted, 28% of all Puerto Rican families have an annual income of less than \$4,000, and only 22% earn \$10,000 or more. Family incomes are lowest in New York State, where almost a third of the families earn \$4,000 a year or less and the median income is only \$5,825.

As noted in Section E, Puerto Ricans have markedly fewer earners per family than do other groups. Only 36% of Puerto Rican families have more than one earner, 15% less than for the country as a whole. Only 28% of Puerto Rican wives in husband/wife families and only 24% of female heads of households are employed. Many Puerto Rican women who are employed are young women heads of households who have the sole responsibility for supporting their children. In light of the lower income levels of the Puerto Rican women, this is particularly disturbing.

The incomes of Puerto Rican families are highest in Illinois, but in this state their income level is still not as high as for Mexican Americans. In Illinois, only 11% of Mexican American families earn under \$4,000; almost twice as large a proportion (20%) of Puerto Rican families do, and the median income of Mexican American families is more than \$2,000 higher than that of Puerto Rican families.

#### Female-Headed Families

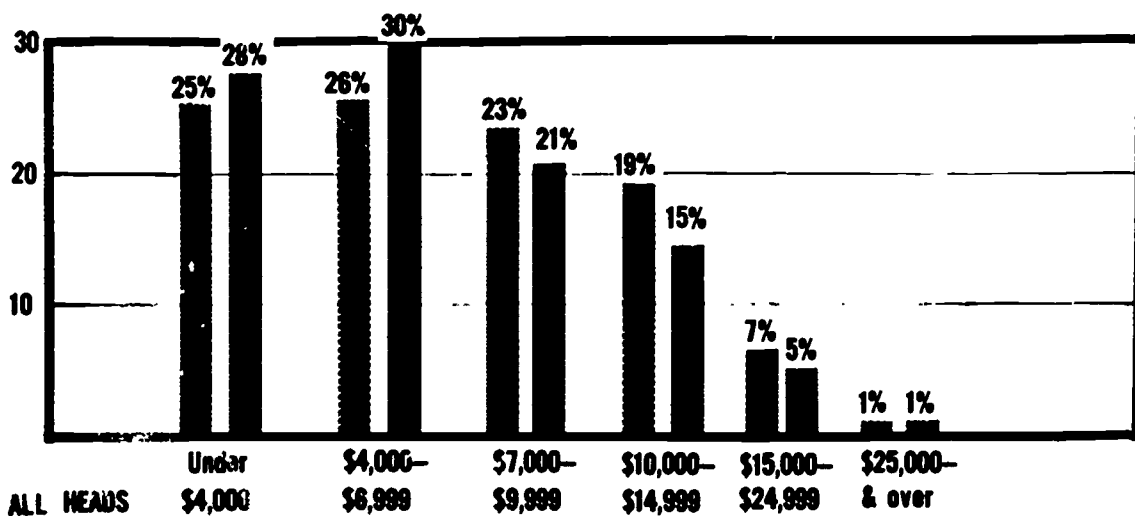
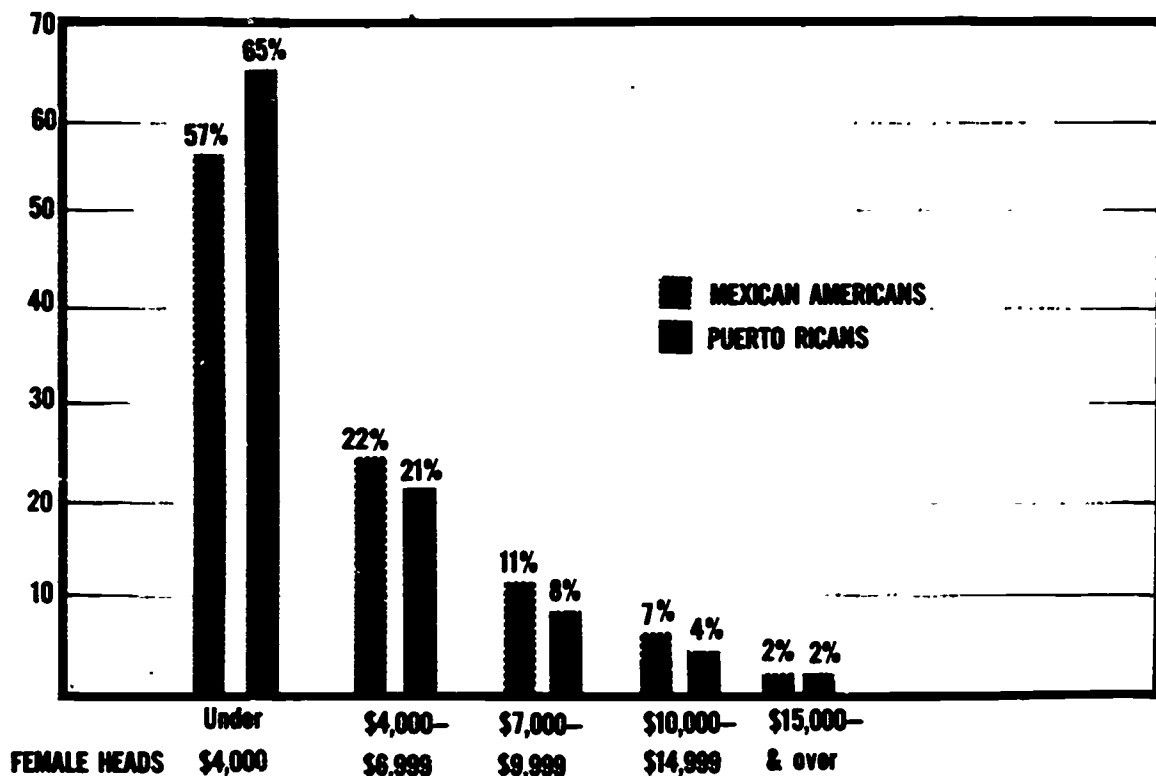
For Puerto Ricans, one of every four families is female-headed, and it is these family heads who have the greatest difficulty earning an income sufficient to support the other members. Of all Puerto Rican female heads, 65% must support their families on incomes under \$4,000--24% more than families with female heads nationally.



Chart F-a

Income of Mexican American and Puerto Rican Families by Sex of Head: 1970

PERCENT OF TOTAL



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C

0111

The median income of Puerto Rican female-headed families is only \$3,229; this is \$254 less than that of Mexican American female-headed families, and \$1,733 less than all female-headed families nationally, which in turn is 48% less than all families nationally. With almost one-quarter of all Puerto Rican families female-headed, this serious lag of Puerto Rican female-headed families has important implications for Puerto Rican children. Of the 28% of the families in New York State that are female headed, 81% have children under 18; with a median income of \$3,266, a critical situation for Puerto Rican women and children is produced.

Only 6% of female-headed Puerto Rican families have incomes of \$10,000 or more. Nationally three times more women have an income over \$10,000.

Mexican American female-headed families are far worse off than the general population of female-headed families. Of all female-headed families, 41% have an income under \$4,000, while 57% of Mexican American families in this category earn such low incomes. While 18% of all female heads support their families on \$10,000 a year or more, half as many Mexican American female heads do.

In Illinois, where the rate of labor force participation by Mexican American women is greater than the rate for all women in the country, only 31% of female-headed families have incomes under \$4,000. The median incomes of female-headed families in that state, unlike any other state, are up to the median incomes of all Mexican American families in poorer states like Texas and New Mexico. Female-headed families are worst off in states like Colorado, Texas, and New Mexico, where their median incomes fall below \$3,000 a year.

### III. G. POVERTY CHARACTERISTICS AND SOURCES OF INCOME

#### Poverty

##### All Persons of Spanish Origin

Despite the many programs which have been developed in the United States to combat poverty, large segments of the country's population--particularly large segments of its minority populations--are poor and continue to have to struggle with the basic problems of day-to-day survival. The Spanish populations in the United States are among the groups with the highest rates of poverty. In 1970, close to a quarter of all persons of Spanish Origin (close to 2.2 million people) were in poverty. On the other hand, the rate of poverty for the total population was only 14% (see Table G-1). 11% of all families in the United States have incomes less than poverty level, but in the Spanish population, the proportion is twice as high (21%).

These poverty figures are the manifestation of deeply rooted socio-economic problems faced by the Spanish Speaking in the United States today. As noted in Section F. Income Characteristics, the overall income levels of the Spanish population in the United States are far lower than in the total population. An analysis of the ratio of family income to poverty levels further illustrates the plight of Spanish families (see Table G-2). There are proportionally nearly twice as many Spanish families at the lowest levels of poverty as there are in the total population. Almost 8% of all Spanish Origin families have incomes that are only 50% of poverty level. Comparatively, only 4.4% of all families in the country have such a low income. More than three-fourths (78%) of all U.S. families have incomes which are at least one and a half times the poverty level. The proportion in Spanish Origin families, however, is less than 60% (see Table G-2).

The lack of education is a critical factor preventing Spanish Speaking persons from advancing into secure and well-paying employment. As has been noted in Section D. Education, the amount of education that has been completed by the Spanish populations in the United States ranks far below that completed by the total population. Levels of poverty are highest among the uneducated in the Spanish populations.

Table G-1

Poverty Characteristics and Sources of Incomes of the U.S. Total and Mexican and Puerto Rican Origin Populations, 1970

Type of Income	U.S. Total	Mexican Americans										Puerto Ricans				
		Total	Rural	Arizona	Calif.	Colo.	Ill.	N.Mex.	Texas	Total	Conn.	Ill.	N.J.	N.Y.		
% of Families Receiving Social Security	20%	14%	13%	14%	13%	16%	10%	14%	15%	8%	6%	6%	6%	8%		
% of Families Receiving Public Assistance	5	12	12	9	16	18	4	11	9	24	18	14	22	28		
<u>Incidence of Poverty*</u>																
% of All Families	11	24	38	24	18	24	10	33	36	27	26	21	26	29		
% Female Headed Families	33	28	13	32	36	37	26	27	22	53	53	43	50	56		
% Female Headed Families in Poverty	32	51	58	57	45	64	26	64	58	58	66	57	62	57		
% of All Persons	14	28	42	27	20	28	13	38	40	30	29	23	29	31		
% Who are 65 & Over	19	6	5	7	5	9	6	8	6	2	1	2	1	3		
% of 65 & Over in Poverty	26	37	21	45	24	44	25	53	49	29	26	27	30	30		
% Unrelated Individuals in Poverty	37	44	54	55	35	52	33	65	60	33	36	30	29	32		

\*Per definition used by U.S. Census

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-1C Detailed Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-D1 Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C Puerto Ricans in the United States, PC(2)-1E

Table G-2  
Ratio of Family Income to Poverty Level as a  
Percent of All Families

<u>Income Level</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>Spanish Origin</u>
Less than .50	4.4%	7.9%
.50 - .74	3.3	6.7
.75 - .99	4.0	8.1
1.00 to 1.24	4.8	9.1
1.25 to 1.49	5.3	8.9
1.50 and Over	78.3	59.6

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Detailed Characteristics, U. S. Summary, PC(1)-D1

As Table G-3 illustrates, nearly a third (31%) of all Spanish Origin families with family heads who have had 8 years or less education are in poverty. Nearly a fifth (19%) of those who went to high school, but did not graduate (1-3 years of high school), are in poverty. 10% of all Spanish families with family heads who completed high school but did not attend college and 6% of families with family heads who had at least some college are in poverty.

A comparison of the Spanish data with poverty levels in the total population, by education completed, reveals that for every level of education completed by family heads, at a comparable level, there is greater poverty in the Spanish population. For example, the rate of poverty among Spanish families whose heads are college educated (about 4%) is twice as great as the rate of poverty among all families with a college educated head (about 2%).

The lack of education is clearly a major factor leading to the very high poverty rates of the Spanish Speaking residing in the United States. But the disproportionate poverty rates--even for the more educated Spanish Speaking--suggests that education is not the sole factor creating the adverse socio-economic conditions under which this group lives.

### Mexican Americans

Close to one-quarter (24%) of all Mexican American families in this country are in poverty, a proportion twice as great as in the total population; additionally the Mexican American family is among the largest in the United States (see Section C. Family Characteristics).

Because of the high rate of poverty, the family is unable to educate the children adequately. Lack of income forces children to end their education early in order to enter the labor market and assist in the support of the family. Lacking an adequate education, the child enters the labor force at the lowest of employment levels, with a minimum of skills, thereby earning a low income. This perpetuates the cycle of poverty.

Not only do Mexican Americans have a high percentage of families in poverty, but they also have a higher percentage of families who are near poor (incomes less than 125% of poverty level) than does the total population. An additional 9% of Mexican American families are at this income level, compared to only 4% of families nationally. Combined with those families whose incomes are below poverty, fully one-third of all Mexican American families in the United States are living under economically precarious conditions (see Table G-4).

Table G-3

Percent of All Families in Poverty  
by Education of Family Head

<u>Years of Schooling Completed</u>	<u>Total U.S. Population</u>	<u>Persons of Spanish Origin</u>
Total	11%	20%
8 Years or Less	20	31
1-3 Years High School	12	19
4 Years High School	7	10
Some College and College Graduates	4	6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Detailed Characteristics, U.S. Summary, PC(1)-D1

Table G-4  
Families With Incomes Near and Below Poverty

	U.S. Total	Mexican Americans							Puerto Ricans					
		Total	Ariz.	Calif.	Colo.	Ill.	N. M.	Texas	Total	Conn.	New York	New Jersey	Ill.	
Families with Incomes Below Poverty	11%	24%	38%	23%	18%	22%	10%	30%	36%	27%	26%	29%	26%	21%
Families with Incomes Near Poverty (1.00-1.24% of Poverty)	4	9	12	9	8	9	7	10	12	10	9	11	11	8
Total	15	33	50	32	26	31	17	40	48	37	35	40	37	29

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1 Detailed Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-D1 Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C Puerto Ricans in the United States, PC(2)-1E



The degree to which such conditions exist in the Mexican American community varies according to geographic location. The highest rates of family poverty are found in the rural areas, where 38% of the Mexican Americans are in poverty. The variance from the national rate is quite substantial (nationally 24% of the Mexican American population are in poverty) and reflects the low income rates for the Mexican American rural dweller. Adding the proportion of families with incomes under 125% of poverty level, half of all the Mexican American families in rural areas are poor or near poor.

By state, the poverty rates run highest in Texas where 36% of all the Mexican American families are in poverty and 12% are near poverty. Characteristically, the rural areas in Texas and in other states offer little in terms of employment. Income levels are significantly lower in such locations, and the already difficult task of educating the young is much more difficult in rural areas than in urban areas.

Over half of the Mexican American female-headed families are in poverty, while less than one-third of such families in the total population are poor.

As it is for families, the rate of poverty among persons is twice as high in the Mexican American population (28%) as in the total population (14%). Of all elderly Mexican Americans, 37% are poor, a proportion 11% above the national rate. 44% of all Mexican Americans who live alone (unrelated individuals) are in poverty.

### Puerto Ricans

Of all Puerto Rican families, 27% are in poverty. This is 16% greater than the percentage among all U. S. families and 3% higher than the rate for Mexican Americans.

Two-thirds of all Puerto Ricans reside in the State of New York, where the rates of poverty are even higher (29%). With the addition of families whose incomes are near the poverty level, 37% of all Puerto Rican families and 40% of Puerto Rican families in New York have incomes at or near poverty.

Over half (53%) of all Puerto Rican families in poverty are female headed. Close to three out of every five Puerto

Rican female-headed families are in poverty (58%); the highest rate of any subgroup. The rate of poverty for female-headed families in the total population is 32%. The instability that characterizes poor families leads to a multitude of problems for the Puerto Ricans; therefore, efforts to assist Puerto Rican female family heads adequately to support their young families should be given priority.

In all local areas, female-headed families comprise a very large share of Puerto Rican poverty families. The rates of poverty among female-headed families are particularly high in the State of Connecticut, where two out of every three Puerto Rican female-headed families are poor.

As with the families, the 30% rate of poverty among Puerto Rican individuals is considerably higher than for the total population. However, the incidence of poverty among elderly persons and persons who live alone is not markedly higher in the Puerto Rican population. While 26% of all elderly persons in the United States are poor, 29% of Puerto Rican elderly are. While 37% of all persons in the total population who live alone are poor, only 33% of the Puerto Ricans who live alone are poor--this is lower than the national average. The problem of poverty among the Puerto Rican, then, is acute, but characteristically found among young families, particularly female-headed families rather than among elderly persons.

Puerto Ricans are a highly urbanized population with a minimal percentage of rural dwellers. This factor is important because vastly different socio-economic circumstances characterize rural and urban populations of the United States. Employment, education, and income are less accessible in rural areas, so that, as this report illustrates, in some ethnic populations like the Mexican Americans, rural dwellers tend to be poorer than urban dwellers. The urban population, being closer to schools and to medical and social service centers and greater employment possibilities, is usually better off economically. Yet the Puerto Rican, despite being almost entirely an urban dweller, is among the poorest of ethnic subgroups.

## Source of Income

### Social Security

The Spanish Speaking are not receiving Social Security benefits at a rate comparable to the rest of the population. One in every five families in the total population receives this type of income, but the proportion is only 14% for Mexican American and 8% for Puerto Rican families.

Although Social Security benefits are received primarily by the elderly, and the proportions of elderly in the Mexican American and Puerto Rican populations are much less than in the total U.S. population, a comparison of the proportions of elderly persons receiving Social Security reveals that a much smaller percentage of the Mexican American and Puerto Rican elderly are receiving an income from Social Security than in the total population of elderly in the country. Of all U.S. families with family heads who are 65 years old or over, 84% receive Social Security, but only 72% of Spanish Speaking in this category do. The percentage of Spanish Speaking poverty families with an elderly head of household receiving Social Security is lower still (59%).

Fewer elderly Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans have been able to utilize Social Security as an income source; whether this is because of an inability to qualify or because those who might qualify have been unable to negotiate the system, warrants further investigation.

## Public Assistance

### Mexican Americans

With their high rate of poverty, a very large proportion of Mexican American families, close to one out of eight (12%), are on public assistance--more than twice the rate for all U.S. families. One-half the number of Mexican American families with inadequate incomes are receiving public assistance (24% have inadequate incomes; 12% of them are receiving public assistance).

The percentage of families getting welfare payments varies considerably from state to state. One in five Mexican American families in Colorado (18%) and one in six in California (16%) are on welfare. But in Texas and New Mexico

(the two states with the highest proportion of poor Mexican American families) the proportion of families on welfare is much lower (9% and 11% respectively).

### Puerto Ricans

With their very high rate of poverty and accessibility to urban social service agencies, the proportion of Puerto Rican families receiving public assistance (24%) is higher than the proportion of the national population receiving public assistance. Locally, Puerto Ricans are receiving public assistance at rates varying from a low of 14% in Illinois (where the rate of poverty also is lowest, 21%), to a high of 28% in New York (where the rate of poverty is 29%).

### III. H. CUBAN AMERICANS

#### Immigration

Fidel Castro's ascendancy to power in Cuba was accompanied by a massive flow of Cuban refugees to the United States, particularly during the latter part of the decade. Between 1960 and 1970, over a quarter of a million (265,000) Cubans immigrated legally to this country. The rate of immigration reached its apex in 1968, when some 99,000 Cubans entered the United States (see Table A-1 in Section A. Immigration and In-Migration). Since 1968, the rate of immigration has greatly decreased, because of restrictions on emigration imposed by the Castro government, although it is still larger than the rate prior to the Cuban Revolution. Since 1970, an average of 22,000 Cubans have immigrated to the U.S. each year.

#### Population Distribution

The main destination for the Cuban refugee population during the 1960-1970 decade was Florida; 45% of the Cuban immigrants listed that state as their U.S. destination. However, sizeable proportions of the Cuban population also settled elsewhere; 28% went to the New York-New Jersey area, while other major destinations included Illinois, California, and Puerto Rico. By 1970, a quarter of a million Cuban Americans (46% of all the Cuban Americans in the United States) resided in Florida, with 40% of all Cuban Americans living in Greater Miami alone. Another 29% of all Cuban Americans live in New York and New Jersey (see Table H-1).

The Cuban Americans are almost entirely urban dwellers. Of all Cuban Americans, 98% live in cities, while only 73% of the entire U.S. population does.

#### Nativity

Barely 18% of the Cuban American population were born on U.S. soil. The proportion of U.S.-born Cuban Americans is even smaller in Florida (16%), where the more recent arrivals are concentrated. The majority of native-born Cuban Americans are still young children (see Chart H-a), and 93% of all Cuban Americans who are 18 years old or over are foreign born. Of these, over three-quarters were still aliens in 1970.

Table H-1  
Population and Family Characteristics of the U.S. Total  
and Cuban American Populations, 1970

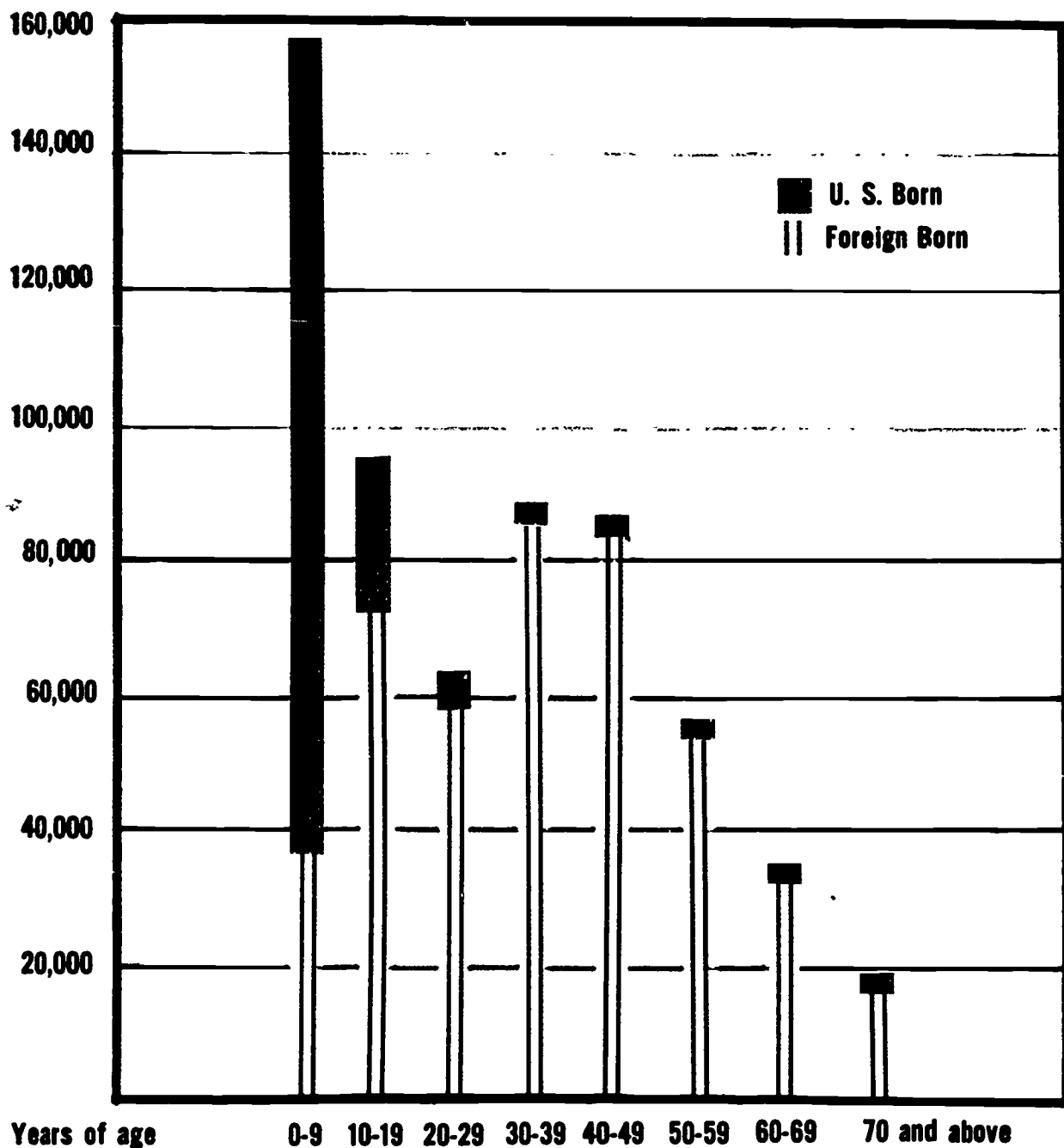
Population Distribution	U.S. Total	Cuban Americans		
		U. S.	Florida	New York & New Jersey
Total Population (in 000s)	203,200	544.6	250.4	157.6
% of All Subgroup Nationally	100%	100%	46%	29%
% of Group with Mother Tongue Other Than English	21	96%	NA	NA
% Urban	73	98	99	99
Nativity				
% Native Born	95	18	16	19
% Natives Born in Different State	32	22	19	12
Age Distribution				
% Under 18	34	32	31	32
% 65 and Over	9.9	6.4	8.0	5.3
Median Age: Male	26.8	30.8	31.8	31.8
Female (Years)	29.3	32.5	34.6	32.0
Family Characteristics				
% Husband/Wife Families	86	84	84	81
% Persons Under 18 Living w/Both Parents	85	84	83	84
% Female-Headed Families	11	12	12	14
% Primary Individuals	20	11	10	14
% Families with 3 or More Own Children Under 18	20	14	12	14
% Families with 5 or More Persons	25	27	28	24

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1  
 Detailed Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-D1  
 Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C

Chart H-a

**NATIVITY OF CUBANS: 1970**

Numbers of  
Persons



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1c

The proportion of adult U.S.-born Cuban Americans is fairly constant in all age groups, as Chart H-a illustrates. These persons represent earlier Cuban immigrants and their descendants who came to the U.S. in the decades prior to the Cuban Revolution.

### Mobility Within the U.S.

A comparison of the state of birth of the native-born Cuban American population reveals that much of the movement by Cuban Americans has been toward Florida and not away from it. Despite efforts under the U.S. Government's Cuban Refugee Program to relocate the Cuban population to other states, Cubans have apparently been moving to Florida, in closer proximity to relatives and fellow Cuban Americans. Of all native-born Cuban Americans in Florida, 19% were born in a different state, three-quarters of these in the northeastern part of the U.S. In contrast, in New York and New Jersey, 12% of all the native-born Cuban Americans came from another state, only one-third of them from the South (presumably Florida). The data indicate more Cuban Americans have moved to Florida from the Northeast than have moved in the opposite direction.

### Sex and Age Distribution

Throughout most of the recent decade of Cuban immigration, more Cuban females than Cuban males have come to the U.S. (see Table H-2). Because women were seen as of less immediate value to the Cuban government in terms of labor and military service, it was easier for them to obtain permission to leave the Island. As a result, 47% of today's Cuban American population is male and 53% is female. As seen in Table H-3, women outnumber men, particularly in the 20-29 year old age group (where they are 56% of the Cuban American population) and among the elderly 60 years old and over (where they are 57% of the 60-69 year old age group and 63% of those 70 years old and above).

Unlike the other Spanish Origin groups, the median age of the Cuban American population (about 32 years for both men and women) is among the highest of any population. The median age of Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans in this country is less than 20 years. Indeed, young Cuban



Table H-2

Sex of Cuban Immigrants, 1960-1973

<u>Year of Immigration</u>	<u>Total Number</u>	<u>% Male</u>	<u>% Female</u>
1960	8,283	45%	55%
1961	14,287	49	51
1962	16,254	54	46
1963	10,587	53	47
1964	15,808	49	51
1965	19,760	48	52
1966	17,355	46	54
1967	33,321	46	54
1968	99,312	45	55
1969	13,751	47	53
1970	16,334	47	53
1971	21,611	45	55
1972	20,045	46	54
1973	24,147	45	55

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Annual Reports, 1960-1973.

Table H-3

Sex of Cuban American Population, By Age: 1970

<u>Age</u>	<u>Total Number</u>	<u>% Male</u>	<u>% Female</u>
0-9	97,392	51%	49%
10-19	95,769	50	50
20-29	64,205	44	56
30-39	88,952	47	53
40-49	85,911	49	51
50-59	57,027	46	54
60-69	36,242	43	57
70 and over	19,102	36	63

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C.

Americans (18 years old and under) comprise less than one-third of the total Cuban American population. This is slightly less than the proportion of young people in the total U.S. population and a far different profile than that found among Puerto Ricans and Mexican Americans in this country, 47% of whose populations are under 18.

The median age of the Cuban immigrant has been getting progressively higher (see Chart H-b). In the late fifties and early sixties, young adults between 20 and 40 years old were just under half the total immigrant population, but more recently almost half the Cuban immigrants are middle-aged or elderly.

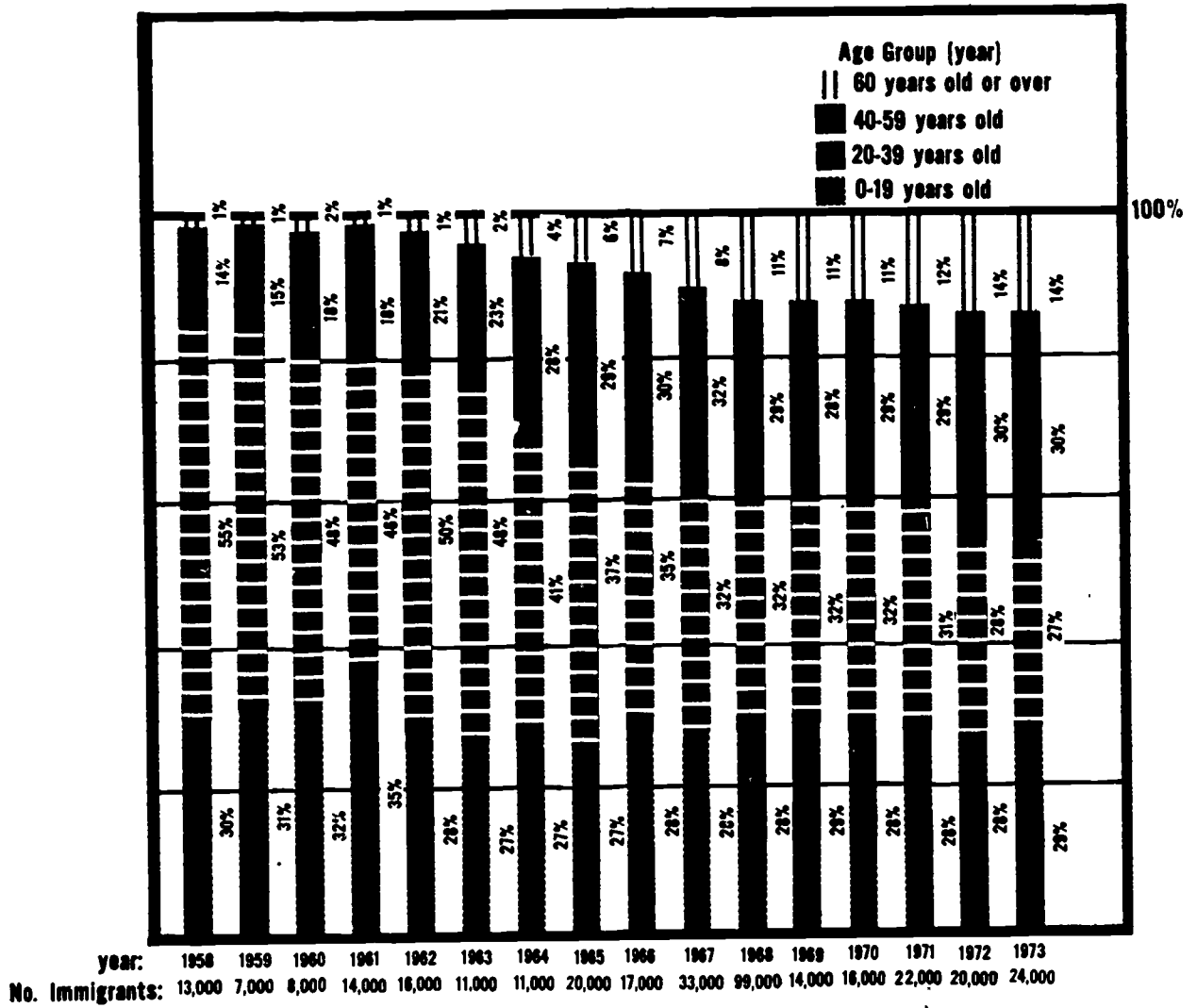
Of the total Cuban American population, 6% are 65 years old or older, a proportion smaller than for elderly in the total U.S. population (almost 10%), but larger than in the other Spanish Speaking populations (4% in the Mexican American population and 2% among Puerto Ricans). With the increasing rate of older Cubans immigrating, the proportion of the Cuban American population that is elderly is likely to increase, requiring more attention to programs for the Cuban American elderly. The proportion of elderly (8%) is somewhat higher among Cuban Americans in Florida.

### Family Characteristics

The Cuban American family is one of the most stable. At 84%, the proportion of families that includes both husband and wife is just under the average for the entire country (86%). Of all Cuban American children 18 years old and under, 84% live with both their parents, which is just under the rate for the U.S. as a whole. The proportion of families headed by a female (12%) is only 1% above the national average.

There are only half as many Cuban Americans who live alone (primary individuals) (11%) as in the U.S. population as a whole (20%). As Cuban refugees immigrate to this country, they are apparently moving in with relatives who are already established. As a result, Cuban Americans have a very high incidence of extended families. Cuban American families have fewer young children than any other population group. While one-fifth of all families in the U.S. have three or more children under 18, only 14% of the Cuban American families do. On the other hand, while a quarter of all families nationally contain five or more members, a larger proportion of Cuban American families (27%) have that many members. The differential between the proportion

Chart H-b  
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CUBAN IMMIGRANTS AT TIME OF ENTRY



Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Annual Reports (for 1958-1973), Table 9

of families with three or more children and five or more members of any age is an indication of the degree to which families contain other adult relatives (e.g., siblings and parents of the family head). In the Cuban American population, the differential between these two measures is 13%. In contrast, in the total population the differential is only 5% and the Mexican American families' differential is 8%; suggesting a far greater tendency toward extended families among the Cuban Americans.

### Education

The Cuban American population has just as high a percentage of persons without much education as other Spanish Speaking populations. While 44% of all Puerto Ricans and 47% of all Mexican Americans have not gone beyond elementary school, 45% of all adult Cuban Americans have eight or fewer years of education.

The percentage of Cuban Americans who have graduated from high school (44%) is higher than among Puerto Ricans and Mexican Americans (about 27% for both). However, the proportion of Cuban Americans who are high school graduates is still 11% below the average for the total U.S. population. Cuban Americans in the New York/New Jersey area are particularly undereducated. In those two states, only 38% of the adult Cuban American population has a high school diploma (see Table H-4).

Whereas 35% of all 18-24 year old Cuban Americans in Florida are enrolled in school, only 28% of 18-24 year old Cuban Americans in New York and New Jersey are enrolled. The average for the total U.S. population is 32%.

Two major components of the Cuban Refugee Program have been to provide the new arrivals with English language and vocational training, which would not necessarily be reflected in either the school enrolled or school completed figures.

Of the total Cuban American population in 1970, 96% reported Spanish as their mother tongue--an expectedly high percentage, given the very large proportion of Cuban Americans who are foreign born. The need for English language instruction has obviously been critical.

At the same time, the efforts made to provide vocational training to Cuban Americans have had an impact. Table H-5 illustrates the percentages of Cuban Americans and others, without college degrees, who have completed a vocational training program.

Table H-4  
Socio-Economic Characteristics of the U.S. Total  
and Cuban American Population, 1970

	U.S. Total	Cuban Americans		
		U.S.	Florida	New York & New Jersey
<u>Education</u>				
‡ 8 or Fewer Years School Completed (25 Yrs. & Over)	26%	45%	48%	49%
‡ H.S. Grads (25 Yrs. & Over)	55	44	42	38
‡ 3-4-Year Olds in School	13	22	28	17
‡ 18-24 Year Olds in School	32	34	35	28
<u>Labor Force</u>				
‡ in Labor Force: Male	77	84	83	86
(16 Yrs. or Over)Female	41	51	51	53
‡ Unemployed: Male	3.9	4.3	4.1	3.6
Female	5.1	7.3	6.4	8.2
<u>Income</u>				
‡ Families with Incomes Under \$4,000	15	17	19	14
‡ Families with Incomes \$10,000 and Over	47	39	34	41
Median Income	\$9,590	\$8,529	\$7,833	\$8,745
<u>Poverty and Source of Income</u>				
‡ Families in Poverty	11	13	15	12
‡ Female-Head Families in Poverty	32	31	32	25
‡ of 65 and Over in Poverty	26	24	28	19
‡ Families on Public Assistance	5	17	18	15
‡ Families on Social Security	20	10	12	9

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1  
 Detailed Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-D1  
 Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C

Table H-5

Vocational Training Completed\*

U.S. Total Population	25%
Cuban Americans	23
Mexican Americans	16
Puerto Ricans	16

\* By persons 16-64 years old with less than 3 years of college education.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1  
Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C

As the data show, the rate of training completed by the Cuban American population is second only to the rate of training completed by the total population and far exceeds that of persons in other Spanish Speaking subgroups.

Positive efforts have also been made to establish preschool programs for 3-4 year old Cuban Americans. With the high proportion of women in the work force, <sup>1/</sup> as well as the language difficulties that the younger Cuban American children encounter as they enter the U.S. school system, such programs obviously fulfill a valuable need. The current enrollment rate for Cuban American preschoolers (22%) far exceeds the average enrollment rate for all 3-4 year olds in the country (13%). In Florida, the rate of preschool Cuban American enrollment (28%) is twice as high as the U.S. average.

Employment

In 1970, 84% of Cuban American males were in the labor force, the highest rate of participation by any group in the country. (For all men in the U.S., the rate is only 77%.) The labor force participation rate of Cuban American women is also among the highest (51%). The average for all women in the country is only 41%.) The rates for Cuban Americans are even higher in the Northeast, where 86% of the men and 53% of the women are in the work force.

Unemployment among Cuban American males (4.3%) is just over the U.S. average for men (3.9%), while the rate of unemployment among Cuban American women (7.3%) is 2% higher than the rate for all women in the country, though lower than

<sup>1/</sup> See E. Employment Section.

the rates for both Mexican American and Puerto Rican women (close to 9%).

A quarter of all the Cubans immigrating between 1960 and 1973 who had an occupation when they immigrated were in professional and managerial occupations. Another 15% were white-collar clerical workers (see Table H-6). Persons in these predominantly middle-class, white-collar professions represented a large portion of the refugee population. However, as Table H-6 illustrates, the proportion of immigrants who are white-collar workers has decreased steadily since the mid-sixties. More recent immigrants are largely from blue-collar, semi-skilled and unskilled occupations. Since 1970, for example, half of all immigrants with occupations were operatives, service workers, and laborers. This trend toward increased proportions of lower-status, blue-collar workers suggests that the need for vocational training programs among the Cuban refugee populations will be a continuing one, as long as new immigrants continue to arrive.

Table H-7 provides a comparison of the current occupational distribution of employed Cuban Americans with employed males and females in the total population. As the table illustrates, the distribution of jobs among the Cuban Americans in the United States is more weighted toward the lower skilled and unskilled occupations than in the total population. While 35% of all men in the U.S. are employed as semi-skilled operatives, low-skilled service workers and laborers, 45% of the Cuban American males are.

The contrast in jobs between the Cuban American women and women in the total population is even more marked. While a fifth of all women in the United States are in the professional and managerial occupations, less than half that proportion of Cuban American women (10%) are in these higher status occupations. While over one-third of all females are employed in the semi-skilled and unskilled occupations (as operatives and service workers largely) well over half the Cuban American women in the country (55%) are so employed.

### Income

With the high proportion of persons in the work force, the average Cuban American family is able to generate a greater

Table H-6

Distribution of Occupations of Cuban Immigrants

<u>Year of Immig- ration</u>	<u>Total Number Reporting Occupation</u>	<u>% Professional, Technical, Managerial, Workers</u>	<u>% Clerical Workers</u>	<u>% Craftsmen &amp; Foremen</u>	<u>% Oper- atives</u>	<u>% Service Workers &amp; Laborers</u>	<u>% Other</u>
1960	3,404	31%	16%	11%	18%	15%	9%
1961	5,676	37	19	8	15	12	9
1962	8,045	42	18	7	11	12	10
1963	5,328	35	18	8	17	15	7
1964	7,408	41	16	7	14	14	8
1965	8,381	39	16	8	16	13	8
1966	7,111	40	16	8	15	13	8
1967	15,233	33	18	9	18	14	8
1968	45,299	19	16	11	28	18	8
1969	6,031	24	17	17	22	15	5
1970	8,336	15	12	15	33	16	9
1971	10,229	14	13	12	33	22	6
1972	9,388	13	12	13	36	20	6
1973	11,074	13	12	12	37	21	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>150,943</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>7%</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Annual Reports: 1960-1973, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.



Table H-7

Occupations of Cuban Americans: 1970

Occupation Category (Persons 16 & Over)	Cuban Americans		Total U.S.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Professional & Managerial Workers	20%	10%	26%	20%
Clerical Workers	10	26	8	35
Craftsmen & Foremen	18	3	21	2
Operatives	25	43	20	14
Service Workers & Laborers	20	12	15	22
Other	7	5	11	7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary, PC(1)-C1  
 Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C

family income. Indeed, 60% of all Cuban American families have two or more earners, while only 51% of all U.S. families do. With 6% elderly and 32% under 18, the high proportion of workers among the Cuban Americans is evident. Although higher than for other populations, the income level of Cuban American families is still not up to the average for the total population, despite the contribution of more earners. Of all Cuban American families, 17% are living on an income of less than \$4,000 a year, compared to 15% of all families in the U.S. Of all Cuban American families, 39% have an annual income of \$10,000 or more, whereas the proportion is 47% for families in the total population. The median income of the U.S. Cuban American family (\$8,529) is about \$1,000 less than the median for all families in the country. The median income of those families who immigrated to the U.S. between 1960 and 1964 is up to \$9,813, while for families entering between 1965 and 1970, it is only \$7,047. 1/

### Poverty Status

Currently, the rate of poverty among Cuban American families, 13%, is just over the average for the country (11%). At 15%, it is higher among Cuban Americans in Florida. The poverty rate among Cuban families who immigrated to the U.S. between 1955 and 1965 is only 8%, but among families who have immigrated since 1965, it is, at 22%, twice the U.S. average. 2/

Poverty among female-headed Cuban American families and elderly Cuban Americans is somewhat lower than for the country as a whole, possibly because of the extended family structure, within which family members with limited means are assisted by relatives. However, if more elderly Cubans continue to immigrate, it will be less likely that family members will be able to support them adequately. In Florida, 28% of all Cuban American elderly are poor, 2% above the U.S. average for poverty among the elderly.

Under the Cuban Refugee Program, public assistance for the Cuban American population has not been based solely on poverty status and the percentage of Cuban American families receiving public assistance (17%) is greater than the percentage of families in poverty (13%).

1/ U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Subject Reports: National Origin and Language, PC(2)-1A.

2/ Ibid.

The Cuban American elderly, however, are not receiving Social Security benefits at a rate comparable to elderly in the rest of the population, probably because of their short period of residence in the U.S. Only one-tenth of all Cuban American families are receiving Social Security benefits, half the proportion in the total U.S. population. In the total U.S. population, two families receive Social Security for each elderly person in the population, but only 1.6 Cuban American families are receiving Social Security for each elderly Cuban American.

SPANISH ORIGIN GLOSSARY

Born in a Different State - see Nativity

Born in the United States - see Nativity

Employment - see Labor Force Participation

Ethnicity/Race: In 1970, Census obtained information on ethnicity/race primarily through self-classification by people according to the ethnicity/race with which they identified themselves. For persons of mixed parentage who were in doubt as to their classification, the ethnicity/race of the person's father was used.

Group - In most cases, a term used to identify broader categories of ethnic minority populations, including Persons of Spanish Origin. Persons of different cultural and national origins are grouped into these broader categories because they share certain common traits in terms of language, continent of origin, community, history, and/or interests.

Subgroup - Term used to identify persons of specific cultural, national, or tribal origins under each of the above groups. Examples include Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans.

To some extent the terms "group" and "subgroup" have been used interchangeably in the text.

Extended Family - see Family

Family - Consists of a household with a household head and one or more other persons living in the same household who are related. (cf. Household)

Female-Headed Family - A family in which a female is reported as head by its members. (However, if the husband is present, he is considered the head by Census.)

Note: Except where noted, these definitions are based on those used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in its various documents of the 1970 Census.

Nuclear Family - A family group containing no more than a father, mother, and one or more children.

Extended Family- A family group that contains relatives beyond the nuclear family unit, such as parents, grandchildren, or siblings of the family head, etc.

Subfamily - A married couple with or without children, or one parent with one or more single children under 18 years old, living in a household and related to, but not including, the head of the household or his wife. Members of a subfamily are also included among the members of a family. The number of subfamilies, therefore, is not included in the number of families.

Female-Headed Family - see Family

Foreign Born - see Nativity

Group - see Ethnicity/Race

Household - One or more persons who occupy a group of rooms or a single room that constitutes a housing unit. (cf. Family)

Head of Household - One person in each household is designated as the head. (cf. Family (Female-Headed Family))

Primary Individual - A household head living alone or with nonrelatives only.

Unrelated Individual - One of the following: a household head living alone or with nonrelatives only; a household member who is not related to the head; or a person living in a group situation who is not an inmate of an institution. (Unrelated Individuals who are household heads are Primary Individuals.)

Income - The sum of amounts received as wages or salary before deductions; self-employment income (gross receipts minus operating expenses) from business, farm or professional enterprises and income other than earnings (interest, dividends, pensions, Social Security, public assistance, etc).

Intermarriage - Marriage between persons of different ethnic/racial groups.

Labor Force Participation - Labor force participants are those persons, 16 years old and over, who reported that during the week prior to the Census count they were employed or were not employed but were seeking employment (also includes members of the Armed Forces).

Employed - Employed persons comprise all civilians, 16 years old or over: who have paid jobs, who have their own business, profession, or farm, or who have a job working 15 or more hours as unpaid workers in a family farm or business. Excluded from the employed are persons whose only activity consists of work around the house or volunteer work.

Unemployed - Persons are classified as unemployed if they are civilians, 16 years old and over, and are without a job during the reference week, but have been looking for work in the past four weeks and are available to accept a job.

Not in Labor Force - All persons 16 years old and over who are not classified as members of the labor force (employed or seeking employment) are defined as "not in labor force." Examples include students, housewives, retired workers, seasonal workers enumerated in an "off" season who are not looking for work, inmates of institutions, and disabled persons.

Mean - see Median

Median - The middle value in a distribution, i.e., the median divides the distribution into two equal parts. One-half of the cases falls below the median and one-half exceeds the median. Where possible, we analyzed the median in preference to mean value (average of a set of values), because the latter is strongly influenced by extremes in the distribution. The median which is not affected by extreme values is, therefore, a better measure than the mean when the population base is small.

Mother Tongue - Defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census as the language spoken in the person's home when he was a child. Obviously, this is not necessarily the tongue of the mother country, but rather the language an individual spoke to his parents. The mother tongue is not necessarily the language spoken in the home now.

Native Born - see Nativity

Nativity - Various identifiers used by U.S. Bureau of the Census to categorize relevant circumstances of an individual's birth are:

Native Born - Persons born in the United States or its outlying areas, or born in foreign countries or at sea to parents of U.S. citizenship.

Foreign Born - Persons born in a country other than the U.S.

Born in a Different State - Persons born in the U.S. (Native Born) are classified according to their state of birth (based on mother's state of residence, rather than location of actual birth, e.g., hospital). If the person now resides in a different state than that of his birth (residence implying where he lives most of the time), he is designated as Born in a Different State. Data on persons Born in a Different State are taken as a percentage of the sum of all persons who reported they were born in the same state and those who reported they were born in a different state; but not as a percentage of all Native-Born persons, because the latter include persons who either did not report the state of their birth or were born at sea.

Born in the United States - Used for persons born in the United States proper only. Puerto Ricans who were born in Puerto Rico were not born in the United States although they are considered Native Born by Census.

Nuclear Family - see Family

Occupations - The system of classification of occupations developed for the 1970 Census consists of 441 specific occupational groups. For purposes of the present analysis, the groups were reduced to nine (Transportation Operatives" was combined with "Other Operatives," "Farm Laborers" was combined with "Farmers and Farm Managers," and "Private Household Workers" was combined with "Other Service Workers") and these nine were arranged into two major categories, "White-Collar Occupations" and "Blue-Collar Occupations." In the case of blue-collar occupations, the Census classification system differs from the U.S. Department of Labor's Dictionary of Occupational Titles. Examples of specific occupations under each of the nine categories listed in this report are:

1. White-Collar Occupations:

a. High Status

- Professional & Technical Workers: Engineers, Lawyers, Scientists, Physicians, Teachers, Journalists, Writers, Health Technicians, Registered Nurses, Social Workers, etc.
- Managers and Administrators: Buyers, Sales Managers, Public Administrators, Health Administrators, Restaurant Managers, Office Managers, School Administrators, persons self-employed in own incorporated businesses, etc.

b. Low Status

- Sales Workers: Salesmen, Sales Clerks, Brokers, etc.
- Clerical Workers: Bookkeepers, Cashiers, Secretaries, Bank Tellers, Key Punch Operators, Telephone Operators, Teacher's Aides, Mail Carriers, Library Attendants, etc.

2. Blue Collar Occupations:

a. High Status

- Craftsmen, Foremen and Kindred Workers: Carpenters, Plumbers, Electricians, Mechanics, Machinists, Construction Workers, Printers, Repairmen, etc.

b. Low Status

- Operatives: Assemblers, Filers, Polishers, Sanders and Buffers, Dressmakers and Seamstresses, Packers and Wrappers, Sewers and Stitchers, Graders and Sorters, Deliverymen, Bus Drivers, Truck Drivers.
- Laborers, Except Farm: Construction Laborers; Freight, Stock, and Material Handlers; Fishermen; Gardeners; Longshoremen.
- Service Workers: Maids, Janitors, Waiters, Dishwashers, Nursing Aides, Porters, Hairdressers, Porters, Policemen, etc.
- Farm-Related Occupations: Farmers and Farm Managers, Farm Workers, etc.



Poverty - Families and unrelated individuals are classified as being above or below the poverty level according to a poverty index adopted by a Federal Interagency Committee in 1969. This index provides a range of income cutoffs or "poverty thresholds," adjusted to take into account such factors as family size, sex and age of the family head, number of children, and farm/non-farm residence. These income cutoffs are updated every year to reflect the changes in the Consumer Price Index. In 1969, the average poverty threshold for a nonfarm family of four was \$3,743. The population covered in the poverty statistics excludes inmates of institutions, members of the Armed Forces living in barracks, college students living in dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 14 years old. In the tables that accompany this report, the following subheads are used under the poverty reading:

% Female-Headed Families in Poverty - Of all families with female heads, the percent whose total family income fell below the poverty level in 1969.

Poverty Families, % Female Headed - Of all the families whose incomes fell below the poverty level in 1969, the percent which had a woman as its head.

Primary Individual - see Household.

### Puerto Ricans

Puerto Rican Birth or Parentage (Subject of PC(2)-1E, Puerto Ricans in the United States) includes persons who were born in Puerto Rico; whose parents were born in Puerto Rico; who had one parent born in Puerto Rico and one parent born in the United States; or whose father was born in Puerto Rico and mother born in an outlying area. However, a native of the United States who had one parent born in Puerto Rico and the other in a foreign country was not classified as being of Puerto Rican origin.

Puerto Rican Origin (Included in PC(2)-1C, Persons of Spanish Origin) Data for persons who identified themselves as of Puerto Rican origin are not comparable with data for persons of Puerto Rican birth or parentage. The former includes those who are of third and subsequent generations in the United States.

Race - see Ethnicity/Race.

Region - The term, as used in this report, may have one of two meanings: (1) The ten Standard Federal Regions of the United States, as recognized by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and certain other federal agencies; and (2) The four Census Regions into which the U.S. Bureau of the Census divides the country--West, South, North Central, and Northeast.

Rural- The population not classified as urban constitutes the rural population. (cf. Urban)

Sample Size - The Census statistics presented in this report are based on a sample of the population. The sizes of the samples vary: data from the PC(1)-C series, General Social and Economic Characteristics, and the PC(1)-D series, Detailed Characteristics, were derived from 20%, 15%, and 5% samples depending on subject area; data on persons of Spanish Heritage were based on a 20% sample. Most data on Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans were based on a 5% sample. Certain pieces of data on Puerto Ricans were based on a 15% sample. Persons are advised to refer to individual Census publications for details.

Schooling - The following terms are used:

Years of School Completed - Except for high school graduates, based on the highest grade of school completed. Persons who attended a foreign school system or were tutored are asked to report the approximate equivalent grade in a standard U.S. school system.

High School Graduates - Includes all persons who have completed high school whether or not they have had additional schooling.

School Enrollment - Persons were included as enrolled in school for the 1970 Census if they reported attending a "regular" school or college at any time between February 1, 1970 and the time of enumeration. Regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary school certificate, or high school diploma, or college, university, or professional degree. Persons were included as enrolled in nursery school only if the school included instruction as an important and integral phase of its program. Schooling generally regarded as not regular includes that given in nursery schools that simply provide custodial care; specialized vocational, trade and business schools; on-the-job training; and correspondence courses.

SMSA - see Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Spanish Speaking: Used in this report to designate persons, families, or groups falling into any one of four categories used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census:

- (1) Spanish Origin (over 9 million persons in 1970 Census) Persons were counted in this category by Census if they answered affirmatively when asked if they considered themselves to be of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central, South American, or other Spanish origin (cf. Self-Designation).
- (2) Persons of Spanish Language (9.6 million in the 1970 Census) - Persons were asked by Census what language was spoken at home in childhood (cf. mother tongue). Nearly 8 million persons reported Spanish as mother tongue. For purpose of Census, all other persons living in families in which head or wife reported Spanish as mother tongue were also counted under this designation.
- (3) Spanish Birth/Parentage (about 5.2 million persons in the 1970 Census) - The oldest identifier, asks for the birthplace of the individual and his parents. From these questions, information is obtained on the number of first- and second-generation immigrants from such countries as Mexico and Cuba, as well as from Puerto Rico.
- (4) Spanish Surname - Special means of designation for persons in five Southwestern States (Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas) bearing surnames included in a list of over 8,000 Spanish names. (About 4.7 million persons in those five states.)

Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) - A county or group of counties (towns and cities in New England) containing at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or "twin cities" with a combined population of at least 50,000 and the labor market area surrounding that city or cities. In 1970, the Bureau of the Census recognized 243 SMSA's in the United States. (For a detailed description of the criteria used to define SMSA's, see U.S. Bureau of the Budget, Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas: 1967, GPO, Washington, D.C.)

Subfamily - see Family.

Subgroup - see Ethnicity/Race.

Unemployed -see Labor Force Participation.

Unrelated Individual - see Household.

Urban - Designates all persons living in incorporated or unincorporated areas of 2,500 inhabitants or more, excluding persons living in the rural portions of extended cities. Also designates other territories included in urbanized areas. (A fuller definition appears in the Census PC(1)-A reports.)

SOURCES ON PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN

U. S. Bureau of the Census,  
1970 Census of Population:

Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Origin, PC(2)-1C

Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Surname,  
PC(2)-1D

Subject Reports: Puerto Ricans in the United States,  
PC(2)-1E

Subject Reports: National Origin and Language,  
PC(2)-1A

Additionally, many Census publications based on the 1970 Census provide separate columns of data on all persons of Spanish Heritage, Spanish Language, or Spanish Surname. These include:

Detailed Characteristics PC(1)-D Series, U.S.  
Summary and by individual states

General Social and Economic Characteristics PC(1)-C  
Series, U.S. Summary and by individual states

Census Tracts PHC(1), Socio-economic and housing  
characteristics by Census Tracts for 241 SMSA's

Subject Reports: Low-Income Areas in Large Cities  
PC(2)-9B

Subject Reports: Family Composition, PC(2)-4A

Subject Reports: Marital Status, PC(2)-4C

Subject Reports: Vocational Training, PC(2)-5C

1960 Census of Population:

Subject Reports: Persons of Spanish Surname, PC(2)-1B

Subject Reports: Puerto Ricans in the United States, PC(2)-1D

Other Census Reports:

P-20, No. 250 Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1972 and 1971

P-20, No. 264 Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1973

P-20, No. 259 Advance Reports, Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: 1973

P-20, No. 238 Selected Characteristics of Persons of Mexican American, Puerto Rican and Other Spanish Origin: March 1972

P-20, No. 195 Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: November 1969

PC(SI)-30, Persons of Spanish Ancestry

U.S. Department of Justice,  
Immigration and Naturalization Service:

Annual Reports (by year) 1960-1973.