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## ABSTRACT

The report presents advance data on selected social, economic, and demographic characteristics of persons of Spanish origin in the U.S. collected in the March 1976 Current Population Survey. The text, tables, and graphs cover size, composition, age, sex, residence, marital status, educational attainment, employment and occupation, income, and family characteristics. In March 1976, there were about 11 million persons of Spanish origin in the U.S.: an estimated 6.6 million of Mexican origin, 1.8 million of Puerto Rican origin, about 700,000 of Cuban origin, 800,000 of Central or South American origin, and 1.3 million of other Spanish origin. Of the 2.5 million families, 2.1 million were living in metropolitan areas. The median age was 20.9 years; about 13% were under 5 years of age. The proportion of single men was higher than that of single women. Women were more likely to be divorced or widowed than were men. Only 39% of the persons 25 years and over were high school graduates; about 19% of all persons of Spanish origin had completed less than 5 years of school. The labor force participation rate was 77% for men and 43% for women. About 2.2 million of the men were employed compared to 1.3 million of the women. The most prevalent occupation for men was that of operative including transportation. The median income was \$6,800 for men and \$3,200 for women. One of every four families were below the low-income level. (NQ)

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CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

# Population Characteristics

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## PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN IN THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1976

(Advance Report)

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## PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN IN THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1976

This report presents advance data on selected social, economic, and demographic characteristics of persons of Spanish origin in the United States; the data were collected in the March 1976 Current Population Survey. The tables in this report present data for some or all of the subcategories of persons of Spanish origin, that is, persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin. A more detailed report on the characteristics of these persons is forthcoming.

There were about 11 million persons of Spanish origin in the United States in March 1976, with an estimated 6.6 million of them reporting Mexican origin and 1.8 million reporting Puerto Rican origin. The total number of persons of Cuban origin was estimated at about 700,000, and persons of Central or South American origin at 800,000. Also, an additional 1.3 million persons reported they were of some other Spanish origin.

Inasmuch as the estimates in this report are based on a sample survey, they are subject to sampling error. The sampling error is mainly a measure of the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than a complete census enumeration is used to survey the population. Thus, because of sampling error, the estimate of the number of persons of Spanish origin presented in this report determines an interval of confidence. For example, if a complete census instead of a sample survey had been taken in March 1976, there are 68 chances out of 100 (one standard error) that the census would show a total number of persons of Spanish origin within the range of 10.8 to 11.4 million persons (table 1), and 95 chances out of 100 (two standard errors) that the census total would be between 10.5 and 11.7 million persons.

In this report all statements of comparison between estimates are statistically significant at the two standard error level; this means that there are 95 chances out of 100 (19 out of 20) that a difference specified in the text indicates a true difference in the population.

According to the March 1976 CPS there were 2.5 million families of Spanish origin in the United States. Most of these families were living in metropolitan areas with the majority residing in the central cities of these areas; thus, about 2.1 million families of Spanish origin—84 percent of all Spanish origin families—were living in metropolitan areas. Moreover, there was marked residential preference among the categories of Spanish origin families. For instance, families of Mexican origin, the majority of whom were in the Southwest of the United States particularly in the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas, were more partial to residence outside of metropolitan areas than were families of Puerto Rican

origin. About 23 percent of all Mexican families in the United States lived in a nonmetropolitan area compared to only 3 percent of all Puerto Rican families (table 2).

The Spanish origin population is a young population relative to the overall population; for example, the median age of persons of Spanish origin in March 1976 was 20.9 years compared to a median of 28.9 years for the overall population. Furthermore, about 13 percent of all persons of Spanish origin were under 5 years of age, but only about 7 percent of the total United States population was under 5 years of age (table 3).

The March 1976 survey indicated that the proportion of single men of Spanish origin is higher than the proportion of single women of Spanish origin—this may be because men, in general, usually marry at a later age than women. Furthermore, women of Spanish origin were much more likely to be divorced or widowed than were men of Spanish origin; one reason for this is that men are more likely to remarry than women (table 4).

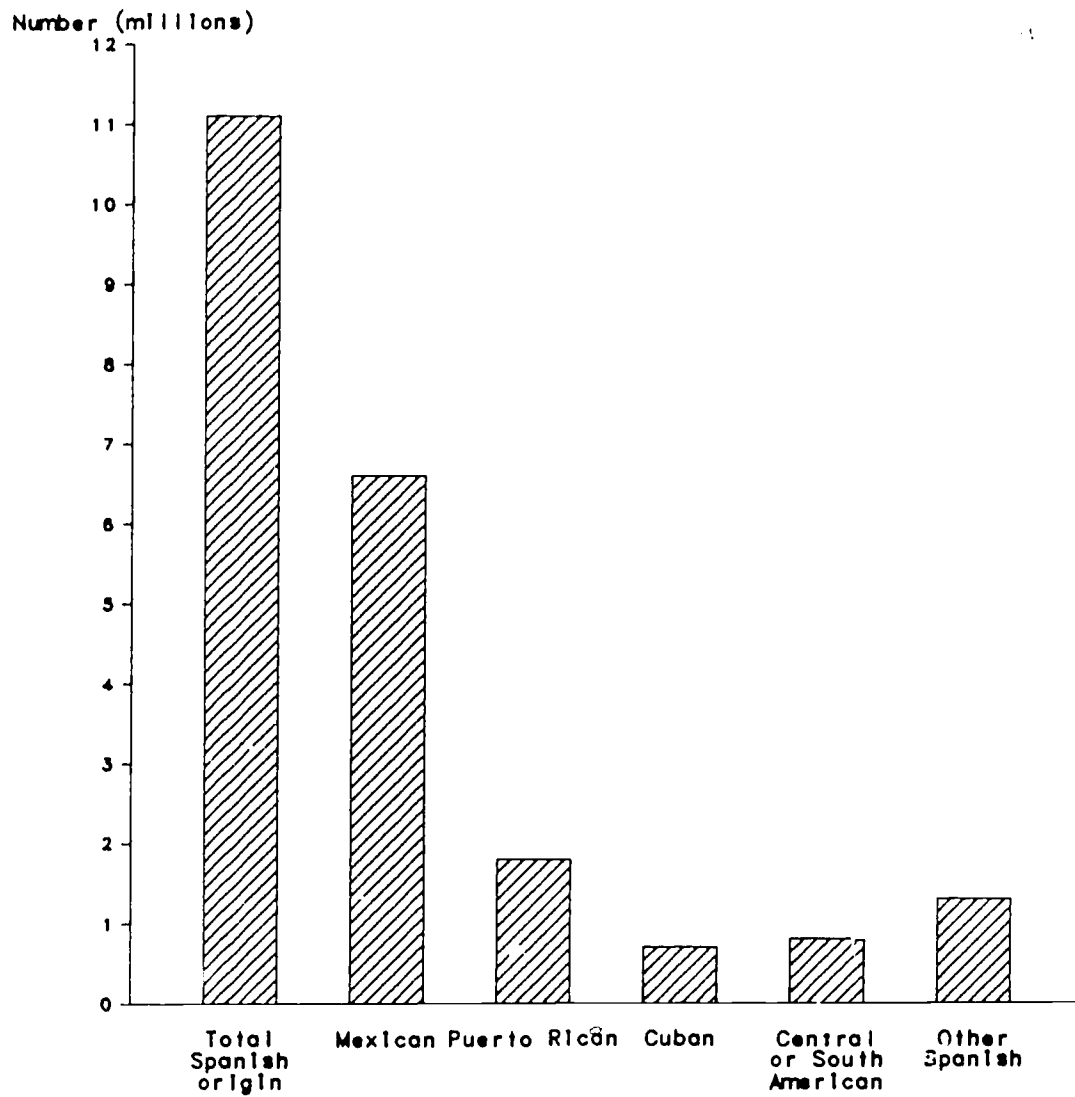
The overall population was ahead of the Spanish origin population in educational attainment. About 64 percent of all persons 25 years old and over were high school graduates; 39 percent of Spanish origin persons 25 years old and over had achieved that level of education. Furthermore, although only about 4 percent of all persons 25 years old and over in the United States had completed less than 5 years of school, about 19 percent of all persons of Spanish origin had completed less than 5 years of school.

Differences in educational level were also apparent among categories of Spanish origin persons. For example, the Mexican origin category had the highest proportion with less than 5 years of school completed; in contrast, a greater proportion of Cuban origin persons, 52 percent, had completed 4 years of high school or more than had Mexican or Puerto Rican origin persons, 33 percent and 30 percent, respectively (table 5).

The labor force participation rate (the percent of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years old and over that is in the labor force) was 77 percent for Spanish origin men. The rate varied, however, between men of certain Spanish origin groups; for example, Puerto Rican men had a lower labor force participation rate (67 percent) than did men of Mexican origin (79 percent).

Approximately 43 percent of Spanish origin women 16 years old and over were in the labor force as of March 1976, and, like Puerto Rican men relative to Mexican men, Puerto Rican women had a lower labor force participation rate—31 percent—than did women of Mexican origin, 44 percent.

**Figure 1. Number of Persons of Spanish Origin by Type of Spanish Origin: March 1976**



In March 1976, there were substantially more employed Spanish origin men than employed Spanish origin women; about 2.2 million men of Spanish origin were employed compared to about 1.3 million Spanish origin women. The unemployment rate for men of Spanish origin at 11 percent, however, was not statistically significant from that of Spanish origin women, 13 percent.

Among all employed Spanish origin men, the most prevalent occupation was that of operative, including transportation. But among selected categories of Spanish origin men, occupational differences occurred; for example: a substantially greater proportion of Mexican origin men were employed as farm workers--8 percent-- than were Puerto Rican men--3 percent--or men of other Spanish origin combined, 1 percent (tables 6 and 7).

In 1975, median income<sup>1</sup> of men of Spanish origin was \$6,800, about double the median income of Spanish origin women, at \$3,200. Although only 37 percent of Spanish origin men had income of less than \$5,000 in 1975, about 71 percent of women of Spanish origin had income of less than \$5,000 (table 8).

The median income in 1975 of all families in the United States was considerably higher, at \$13,700, than the median income of families with the head of Spanish origin, at \$9,600. Moreover, differences in family income also existed between types of Spanish origin families. For example, the median income of families with the head of Mexican origin was higher than that for families with the head of Puerto Rican origin, and families of other Spanish origin combined had a substantially higher income than either Mexican or Puerto Rican origin families (table 9).

About 630 thousand families with the head of Spanish origin, one of every four Spanish-headed families, were below the low-income level in 1975. However, there were differences in the proportions of low-income families of Spanish origin by type of Spanish origin: although only one of every six families of Cuban origin were of low-income status in 1975, one of every four families of Mexican origin, and one of every three families of Puerto Rican origin were below the low-income level in that year (table 10).

<sup>1</sup>In processing the data collected in the March 1976 Current Population Survey, the Bureau of the Census utilized a new computer processing system designed to take maximum advantage of the Bureau's expanded computer capabilities. The revised system also incorporates many improvements in the procedures used to process the data. For a detailed discussion of these improvements regarding the processing of income data see the report: U.S. Bureau of the Census, **Current Population Reports**, Series P-60, No. 103, "Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1975 and 1974 Revisions," (Advance Report) U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1976.

Information in this report on persons of Spanish origin was obtained from response to the following question:

What is your origin or descent?	
01 German	10 Mexican-American
02 Italian	11 Chicano
03 Irish	12 Mexican
04 French	13 Mexicano
05 Polish	14 Puerto Rican
06 Russian	15 Cuban
07 English	16 Central or South American
08 Scottish	17 Other Spanish
09 Welsh	20 Negro
	21 Black
OR	
30 Another group not listed	

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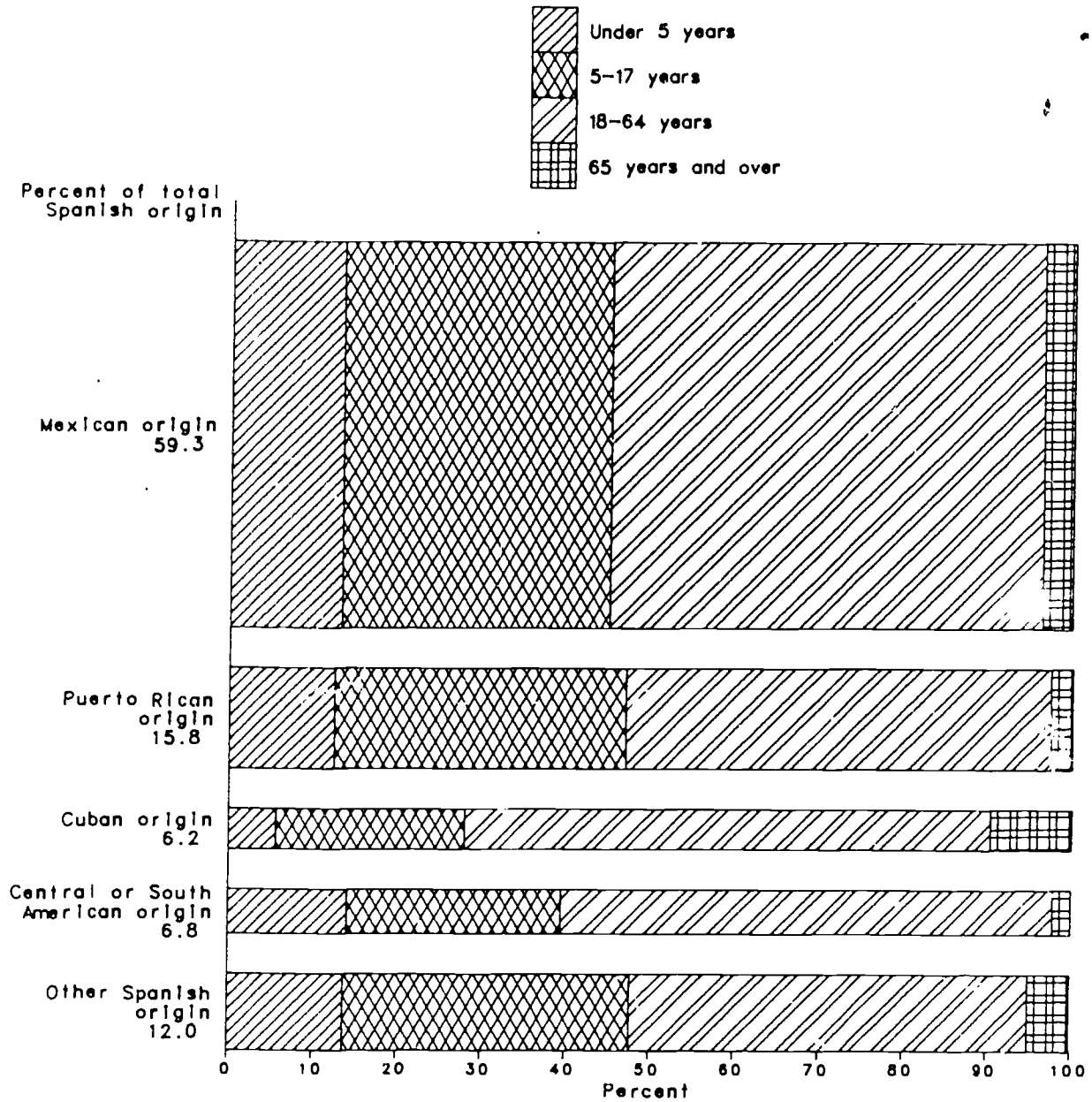
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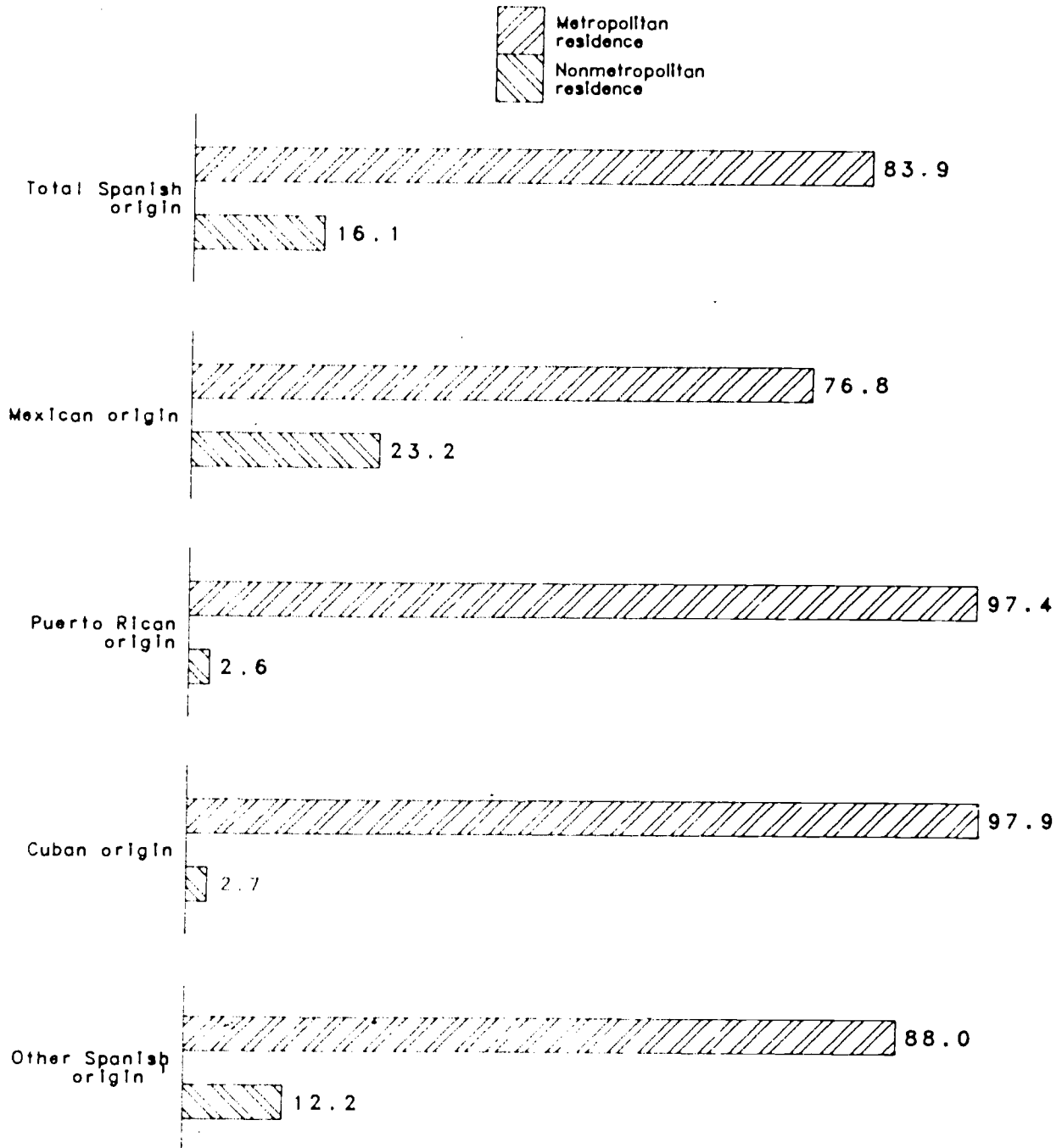
Persons of Spanish origin were persons who reported themselves as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish origin. Persons who reported themselves specifically as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, or Mexicano were consolidated into the one category, Mexican.

The numbers in this report are in thousands and were rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals; hence, the sum of the parts may not exactly equal the total shown. Also, because of rounding, the figures may differ slightly from table to table, and individual percentages may not always add to 100 percent.

**Figure 2. Spanish Origin Population by Age and Type of Spanish Origin, for the United States: March 1976**



**Figure 3. Metropolitan—Nonmetropolitan Residence of Families With Head of Spanish Origin by Type of Spanish Origin of the Head: March 1976**



<sup>1</sup>Includes Central or South American and other Spanish origin.



**Table 1. POPULATION OF SPANISH ORIGIN BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1976**

(Numbers in thousands)

Type of Spanish origin	Number	Percent	Confidence interval <sup>1</sup> One standard error	
			Number	Percent
Total, Spanish origin.....	11,117	100.0	10,811 to 11,423	X
Mexican.....	6,590	59.3	6,352 to 6,828	57.9 to 60.7
Puerto Rican.....	1,753	15.8	1,629 to 1,877	11.8 to 16.8
Cuban.....	687	6.2	609 to 765	5.5 to 6.9
Central or South American.....	752	6.8	670 to 834	6.1 to 7.5
Other Spanish.....	1,335	12.0	1,226 to 1,444	11.1 to 12.9

X Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Estimates in this table (as well as in the rest of this report) are based on sample data and hence are subject to sampling error. If a census were conducted, the chances are about 68 out of 100 that the census result would be contained in the one-standard error interval given in this table.

**Table 2. RESIDENCE OF FAMILIES WITH HEAD OF SPANISH ORIGIN BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN OF THE HEAD, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1976**

(Numbers in thousands)

Residence	Total, Spanish origin	Mexican origin	Puerto Rican origin	Cuban origin	Other Spanish origin <sup>1</sup>
Total families.....	2,499	1,442	436	187	434
Metropolitan.....	2,096	1,107	424	183	382
Central cities.....	1,292	621	357	92	221
Balance.....	804	486	67	91	161
Nonmetropolitan.....	403	335	11	5	53
PERCENT BY METROPOLITAN RESIDENCE					
Total families.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Metropolitan.....	83.9	76.8	97.4	97.9	88.0
Central cities.....	51.7	43.1	82.0	49.2	50.9
Balance.....	32.2	33.7	15.4	48.7	37.1
Nonmetropolitan.....	16.1	23.2	2.6	2.7	12.2
PERCENT BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN					
Total families.....	100.0	57.7	17.4	7.5	17.4
Metropolitan.....	100.0	52.8	20.2	8.7	18.2
Central cities.....	100.0	48.1	27.6	7.1	17.1
Balance.....	100.0	60.4	8.3	11.3	20.0
Nonmetropolitan.....	100.0	83.1	2.7	1.2	13.2

<sup>1</sup>Includes Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

**Table 3. TOTAL AND SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION BY AGE AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1976**

Age	Total population	Spanish origin					
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central or South American	Other Spanish
Total (thousands)	11,140	11,117	6,590	1,753	687	752	1,335
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years	7.4	12.8	13.3	12.5	5.6	14.1	13.7
5 to 9 years	8.2	12.5	12.8	13.4	6.0	11.0	14.1
10 to 17 years	15.3	19.0	19.0	21.2	16.4	14.4	19.9
18 to 20 years	5.7	6.1	6.4	6.0	5.5	3.7	5.8
21 to 25 years	7.0	6.8	7.5	6.7	5.5	5.6	5.7
26 to 34 years	14.8	14.7	14.9	14.4	8.0	23.1	12.6
35 to 44 years	10.8	11.4	10.5	12.3	16.6	15.5	9.4
45 to 54 years	11.1	8.1	7.8	6.6	16.9	6.8	7.5
55 to 64 years	9.4	4.9	4.3	4.5	10.0	3.7	6.3
65 years and over	10.3	4.8	3.5	2.5	9.6	2.1	4.9
18 years and over	69.0	55.7	54.9	53.0	72.0	60.6	52.2
14 years and over	63.3	49.6	48.4	46.9	66.5	56.9	46.4
Median age (years)	28.9	20.9	20.3	19.6	36.8	25.5	19.1

**Table 4. MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1976**

(Numbers in thousands)

Marital status	Total		Mexican		Puerto Rican		Cuban		Other Spanish <sup>1</sup>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total persons, 14 years and over	3,415	3,777	2,067	2,147	502	599	251	302	596	728
Single	1,197	1,006	714	574	198	152	79	81	206	199
Married	2,065	2,293	1,259	1,321	287	378	157	165	362	430
Widowed	55	242	36	131	4	28	6	33	9	49
Divorced	99	236	58	121	13	43	10	22	19	49
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	35.0	26.6	34.5	26.7	39.5	25.3	31.4	26.8	34.6	27.3
Married	60.5	60.7	60.9	61.5	57.1	62.7	62.6	54.7	60.7	59.1
Widowed	1.6	6.4	1.8	6.1	0.8	4.7	2.2	11.1	1.5	6.7
Divorced	2.9	6.3	2.8	5.7	2.6	7.3	3.8	7.4	3.2	6.7

<sup>1</sup>Includes Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

**Table 5. PERCENT OF TOTAL AND SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED, AND AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1976**

Years of school completed and age	Total population	Spanish origin				
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish <sup>1</sup>
<b>PERCENT OF PERSONS WHO COMPLETED AT LEAST 12 YEARS OF SCHOOL</b>						
Under 25 years and over...	3.8	18.7	24.2	18.7	9.5	7.0
25 to 34 years.....	0.8	5.3	6.0	9.5	B	1.6
35 to 44 years.....	0.8	8.4	12.0	4.9	B	3.2
45 to 54 years.....	2.1	14.8	19.7	16.1	5.3	4.5
55 to 64 years.....	3.8	26.3	34.7	27.5	11.8	9.9
65 years and over.....	10.2	41.1	67.5	B	B	26.8
<b>PERCENT OF PERSONS WHO COMPLETED 4 YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL OR MORE</b>						
Under 25 years and over...	61.1	39.2	39.5	29.8	51.5	60.3
25 to 34 years.....	84.7	68.1	53.7	48.7	B	73.4
35 to 44 years.....	80.3	60.2	43.0	38.3	B	76.4
45 to 54 years.....	72.5	40.3	32.2	27.5	60.1	65.4
55 to 64 years.....	59.8	28.3	20.5	17.9	45.3	47.7
65 years and over.....	36.8	13.8	4.4	B	B	25.7

B Represents zero or rounds to zero. <sup>1</sup> Includes Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

**Table 6. BROAD OCCUPATION GROUP OF EMPLOYED PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 16 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY SEX AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN: MARCH 1976**

Broad occupation group	Total, Spanish origin	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish origin <sup>1</sup>
<b>MALE</b>					
Total employed persons... (thousands)...	2,160	1,358	259	160	384
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White-collar workers.....	33.8	18.2	32.1	34.2	40.4
Blue-collar workers.....	67.5	62.5	51.2	47.2	47.7
Service workers.....	13.1	10.9	24.0	18.6	11.5
Farm workers.....	5.7	8.5	2.7	-	0.8
<b>FEMALE</b>					
Total employed persons... (thousands)...	1,325	753	148	122	303
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White-collar workers.....	46.1	44.0	42.9	45.8	54.5
Blue-collar workers.....	29.9	27.1	38.9	45.9	26.4
Service workers.....	22.1	26.3	18.2	8.3	19.1
Farm workers.....	1.5	2.6	-	-	0.3

B Represents zero or rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup> Includes Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

**Table 7. EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP OF THE SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION 16 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY SEX AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1976**

Employment status and occupation	Male				Female		
	Total population	Hispanic or Latin	Spanish American	Other Spanish or Latin	Total population	Hispanic or Latin	Other Spanish or Latin
Unemployed (16 years old and over)	11,207	11,077	1,134	1,943	11,994	11,994	1,134
Employed (16 years old and over)	14,316	14,316	1,134	1,134	14,316	14,316	1,134
Employed in agriculture, forestry, and fishing	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134
Employed in manufacturing and construction	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134
Employed in transportation and communication	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134
Employed in retail trade, food service, and drinking places	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134
Employed in health care and social assistance	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134
Employed in education	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134
Employed in professional, technical, and kindred occupations	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134
Employed in management, business, and financial occupations	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134
Employed in sales and office occupations	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134
Employed in service occupations	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134
Employed in community and public administration	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134
Employed in other occupations	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134	1,134

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Economic Research, and Bureau of Labor Statistics, "The Hispanic Population in the United States, 1976," and "Other Spanish or Latin."

**Table 8. INCOME IN 1975 OF PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1976**

Income	Total population	Percent with income below \$7,000	Percent with income of \$25,000 or more
Total population	14,316	31.2	11.5
Hispanic or Latin	14,316	31.2	11.5
Spanish American	1,134	31.2	11.5
Other Spanish or Latin	1,134	31.2	11.5
Male	14,316	31.2	11.5
Female	14,316	31.2	11.5

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Economic Research, and Bureau of Labor Statistics, "The Hispanic Population in the United States, 1976," and "Other Spanish or Latin."



**Table 9. INCOME IN 1975 OF ALL FAMILIES AND OF FAMILIES WITH HEAD OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1976**

Family income	Total families	Families with head of Spanish origin				
		Total	Mexican origin	Puerto Rican origin	Cuban origin	Other Spanish origin <sup>1</sup>
Total families..... (thousands) ..	56,245	2,499	1,442	436	187	434
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than \$4,000.....	8.0	15.5	15.8	20.1	14.0	10.4
\$4,000 to \$6,999.....	12.4	19.8	19.2	27.8	13.6	17.1
\$7,000 to \$9,999.....	12.8	17.0	17.6	18.1	11.4	16.6
\$10,000 to \$14,999.....	22.3	22.6	22.2	20.4	26.5	24.9
\$15,000 to \$19,999.....	18.7	14.2	15.1	7.2	17.6	16.6
\$20,000 to \$24,999.....	11.6	5.8	5.4	3.6	9.7	7.8
\$25,000 or more.....	14.1	4.9	4.5	2.8	7.1	7.6
Median income.....	\$13,719	\$9,551	\$9,546	\$7,291	\$11,772	\$11,067

<sup>1</sup>Includes Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

**Table 10. LOW-INCOME STATUS IN 1975 OF ALL FAMILIES AND FAMILIES WITH HEAD OF SPANISH ORIGIN BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1976**

(Numbers in thousands)

Origin	Total population	Below the low-income level	
		Number	Percent
Total families.....	56,245	5,450	9.7
Families with head of Spanish origin.....	2,499	627	25.1
Mexican.....	1,442	381	26.4
Puerto Rican.....	436	146	33.5
Cuban.....	187	32	17.1
Central or South American.....	181	33	18.2
Other Spanish.....	253	35	13.8
Families with head not of Spanish origin...	53,745	4,823	9.0