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ABSTRACT

This advance report based on the March 1988 supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS) presents preliminary data on selected demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the Hispanic population of the United States. The Hispanic civilian noninstitutional population in March 1988 totaled about 19.4 million, a 34% increase since 1980; the non-Hispanic population increased 7% in that period. About half of Hispanic growth resulted from net migration and half from natural increase. The proportions of Hispanics completing 4 years of high school or more, and completing 4 or more years of college reached 51% and 10%, respectively, both records. About 55% of Hispanics resided in California and Texas. Married couple families decreased by 1988 to 70% from 74% in 1982. The unemployment rate among Hispanics 16 and over was 8.5%, its lowest level since the survey of March 1983, shortly after the end of the last recession. The poverty rate was 25.8%, little changed since 1982. The origins of Hispanic Americans were 62% Mexican, 13% Puerto Rican, 5% Cuban, and 12% Central or South American. These subgroups varied considerably in educational attainment, family composition, employment, and median family income. The report includes five graphs and four tables of selected social and economic characteristics, by type of Hispanic origin and by year from 1982 to 1988. Appendices discuss CPS data source, estimation procedure, and reliability of estimates, and they contain facsimiles of March 1988 CPS questionnaires. (SV)

Acknowledgments

Carmen DeNavas, with the valuable assistance of **Mary Ann Hall**, prepared this report in Population Division, under the general supervision of **Jorge del Pinal**, Chief, Ethnic and Hispanic Statistics Branch. Overall direction was provided by **Nampeo R. McKenney**, Assistant Division Chief for Special Population Statistics. **Regina C. Burnette** provided statistical assistance, and **Linda P. Chase** provided typing assistance. **Lloyd Hicks**, Statistical Methods Division, conducted the sampling review. Bureau of the Census interviewers conducted data collection under the overall direction of **Stanley D. Matchett**, Field Division.

The staff of Publication Services Division, **Walter C. Odom**, Chief, provided publication planning, design, composition, editorial review, and printing planning and procurement. **Paula Coupe** edited and coordinated the publication.

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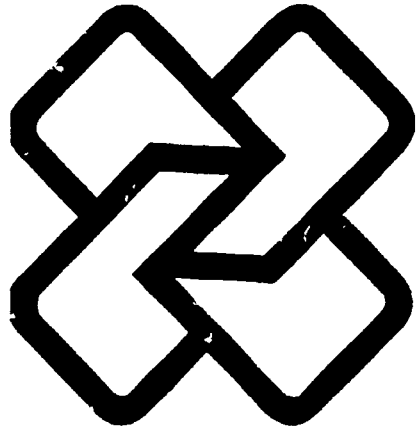
The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 1988

(Advance Report)



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Contents

The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 1988 (Advance Report)

INTRODUCTION

This report presents advance data on selected demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the Hispanic population of the United States. The Bureau of the Census collected this information in the March 1988 supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS).[1] Additional information on the characteristics of the Hispanic population and a more thorough explanation of the source and reliability of the estimates will appear in a forthcoming final report.

HIGHLIGHTS

- From 1980 to 1988, the Hispanic civilian noninstitutional population increased by 34 percent, or about 5 million persons.
- Fifty-five percent (±1.7 percentage points)[2] of all Hispanics in the Nation resided in two States—California and Texas—in 1988.
- In 1988, the proportion of Hispanics, 25 years old and over, who had completed 4 or more years of college was 10 percent (±0.8), compared with 5 percent (±0.3) reported in the 1970 census (the first census to use a self-identification Spanish origin question).
- The proportion of Hispanic families maintained by married couples decreased between 1982 and 1988, from 74 percent (± 1.5) to 70 percent (±1.4). At the same time, the proportion of families maintained by women or men with no spouse present increased from 26 percent (±1.5) to 30 percent (± 1.4).
- The unemployment rate in March 1988 among Hispanics 16 years old and over was 8.5 percent (± 0.5), the lowest it had been since the relatively high unemployment rates observed in March 1983, shortly after the end of the last economic recession.[3] The same situation was true for non-Hispanics, who had an unemployment rate of 5.8 percent (± 0.2) in March 1988.
- The poverty rate of Hispanic families in 1987 was 25.8 percent (±1.5) and has not changed significantly since 1982, the bottom of the last economic recession.

POPULATION CHANGE AND COMPOSITION

In March 1988, the Hispanic civilian noninstitutional population numbered 19.4 million and represented 8.1 percent of the total United States civilian noninstitutional population. In 1980, the Hispanic population represented 6.5 percent of the total population. Since the 1980 census, the Hispanic population has increased by 34 percent or about 4.8 million persons. The comparable increase for the non-Hispanic population was only 7 percent (table A). About half of the population growth of the Hispanic population resulted from net migration and half from natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths).

The Hispanic population of the United States in March 1988 included the following subgroups:

Mexican origin—12.1 million or 62.3 percent
Puerto Rican origin—2.5 million or 12.7 percent
Cuban origin—1.0 million or 5.3 percent
Central and South American origin—2.2 million or 11.5 percent
Other Hispanic origin[4]—1.6 million or 8.1 percent

Geographic distribution. The Hispanic population was concentrated in the five Southwestern States in March 1988 (figure 1); 55 percent of all Hispanics in the Nation resided in California and Texas. These two States, along with Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado, held 63 percent of the total Hispanic population (table B).

[1]The population universe in the March 1988 CPS is the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States and members of the Armed Forces in the United States living off post or with their families on post, but excludes all other members of the Armed Forces.

[2]The number in parenthesis is equal to 1.6 times the standard error of the estimate. This gives the 90-percent confidence interval when added to and subtracted from the estimate. A complete discussion of confidence intervals and standard errors is given in Appendix A, Source and Reliability of the Estimates.

[3]Comparisons and trends in unemployment rates shown in this report are restricted to data obtained from the March supplement of the CPS and may not necessarily reflect trends observed when comparing other survey months or annual average rates.

[4]Unless otherwise noted, persons reporting "Other Hispanic" origin are those whose origins are from Spain, or they are Hispanic persons identifying themselves generally as Hispanic, Spanish, Spanish-American, Hispano, Latino, etc.

Table A. Change in the Total and Hispanic Populations, by Type of Origin: April 1980 to March 1988

(For the United States. Numbers in thousands)

Origin	March 1988 CPS (civilian noninstitutional population)	1980 census[1]		Percent change, 1980-88 (civilian noninstitutional population)
		Civilian noninstitutional population	Resident population	
Total population	241,155	222,461	226,546	8.4
Hispanic origin	19,431	14,458	14,609	34.4
Mexican	12,110	8,654	8,740	39.9
Puerto Rican	2,471	1,983	2,014	24.6
Cuban	1,035	799	803	29.5
Central and South American	2,242	([2])	([2])	(NA)
Other Hispanic	1,573	2/ 3,022	3,051	26.2
Not of Hispanic origin	221,724	208,003	211,937	6.6

NA Not available.
[1]Data as of April 1, 1980.
[2]In the 1980 census, the "Other Spanish" category included persons from Spain, the Spanish-speaking countries of Central and South America, and Hispanic persons who identified themselves generally as Latino, Spanish-American, Spanish, etc. In the CPS, the category "Central and South American" is listed as a separate origin.

Four States outside the Southwest accounted for 26 percent of the Hispanic population: New York (11 percent), Florida (8 percent), Illinois (4 percent), and New Jersey (3 percent). The remainder of the country accounted for only 11 percent of the Hispanic population.

Figure 1. **Geographic Distribution of the Hispanic Population: March 1988**

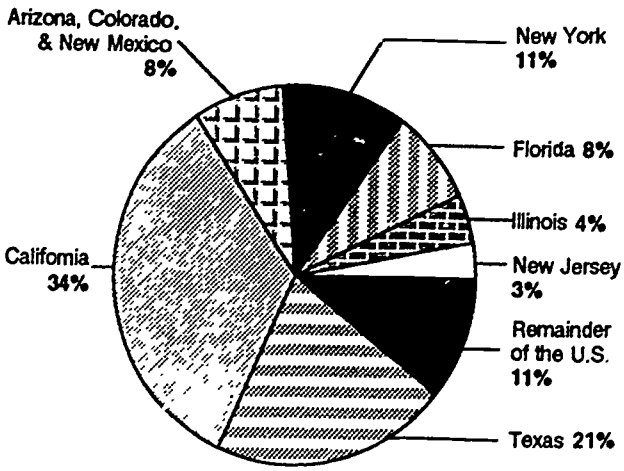


Table B. Hispanic Population for Selected States: March 1988

(Numbers in thousands)

State	Hispanic population	Confidence interval[1] (1.6 standard error level)	Percent of total Hispanic population
United States	19,431	(X)	100.0
California	6,589	6,265 to 6,913	33.9
Texas	4,134	3,874 to 4,394	21.3
New York	2,122	1,961 to 2,283	10.9
Florida	1,473	1,337 to 1,609	7.6
Illinois	801	693 to 909	4.1
Arizona	648	545 to 751	3.3
New Jersey	646	567 to 725	3.3
New Mexico	543	496 to 590	2.8
Colorado	368	286 to 450	1.9

X Not applicable because number is controlled to an independent estimate and, thus, is not subject to sampling variability.
[1]90-percent confidence level.

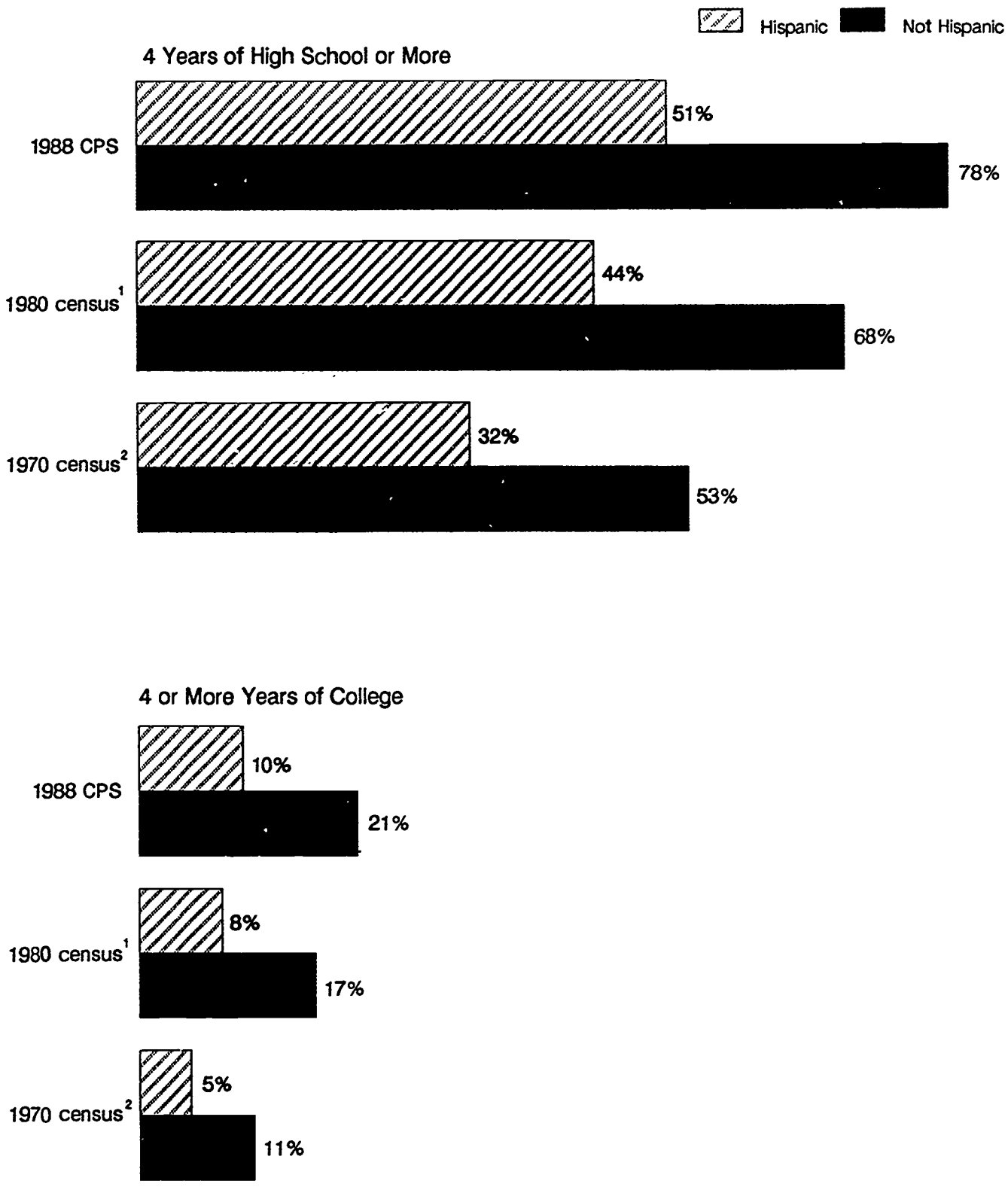
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Educational attainment. The educational attainment level of Hispanics has improved, but remains below the level of their non-Hispanic counterparts (figure 2). The proportion of Hispanics 25 years old and over who had completed 4 or more years of college in 1988 (10 percent) was substantially higher than the 5 percent recorded in 1970 (the first census to use a self-identification Spanish-origin question). The proportion of non-Hispanics who had completed 4 or more years of college (21 percent in 1988 and 11 percent in 1970) was twice as high as that of Hispanics in both years.

There also have been improvements in the educational attainment of Hispanics at the secondary level. Although the proportion of Hispanics 25 years and over with 4 years of high school or more did not change between 1988 and 1987 (51 percent), this was the highest percentage ever recorded since the Census Bureau began to collect data on Hispanics in the 1970 census using a self-identification question. Despite this improvement, the proportion of Hispanics who had completed 4 years of high school or more remained lower than that for non-Hispanics (51 percent and 78 percent, respectively). (See figure 2 and table 1.)

The educational attainment of young Hispanic adults (25 to 34 years old) portends a more educated Hispanic population in the future. In 1988, the proportion

Figure 2.
Years of School Completed by Persons 25 Years Old and Over: March 1988 CPS and 1970 and 1980 Censuses



[1] U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980 Census of Population, Vol. 1, Chapter C (PC80-1-C1).
[2] U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Vol. 1, Chapter C and Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)1C, "Persons of Spanish Origin."

of younger Hispanics who had completed at least 4 years of high school was 62 percent, compared with 44 percent among older Hispanics (35 years and over). Similarly, the proportion of younger Hispanics who had completed 4 years or more of college was 12 percent, compared with 9 percent among older Hispanics. Improvement for younger Hispanics also was evident at lower grade levels: only 6 percent of the younger Hispanics had completed less than 5 years of school, compared with 16 percent of their older counterparts.

Type of family. The composition of Hispanic families is changing (table 3). The proportion of Hispanic families maintained by married-couples decreased between 1982 and 1988 (from 74 percent to 70 percent), while the proportion of families maintained by men and women with no spouse present increased (from 26 percent to 30 percent). A similar pattern was evident for non-Hispanic families.

Family type varies among the Hispanic subgroups. Cuban and Mexican origin families had the highest proportion maintained by married-couples. Puerto Rican families had the highest proportion maintained by a woman with no husband present (table 1).

Labor force participation. The civilian labor force participation rate of both Hispanic and non-Hispanic women 16 years old and over (52 percent and 56 percent, respectively), was lower than that of their male counterparts. However, substantial increases in the labor force participation rates of women are evident since 1982. The participation rates of Hispanic women increased from 48 percent in 1982 to 52 percent in 1988. For non-Hispanic women, the comparable rates were 52 percent and 56 percent, respectively (table 4).

The gap in labor force participation among the sexes is narrowing. In March 1988, the labor force participation rate of Hispanic males was 79 percent, a 2 percentage-point decline from their comparable rate for March 1982—81 percent. As noted above, the change in the participation rate for Hispanic women was an increase of 4 percentage points. For non-Hispanics, the labor force participation rate of males decreased from 75 percent to 74 percent between 1982 and 1988—a 1 percentage-point decline. The change in the participation rate for non-Hispanic women was an increase of 4 percentage points.

Unemployment. The unemployment rates in March 1988 for both Hispanics and non-Hispanics 16 years old and over were the lowest they have been since the relatively high unemployment rates observed in March 1983, shortly after the end of the last economic recession (figure 3 and table 4).[5] Despite this improvement, the unemployment rate of Hispanics in March 1988 (8.5 percent) remained higher than that for non-Hispanics (5.8 percent). Among the Hispanic subgroups, Cubans and Central and South Americans had the lowest unemployment rates, 3.1 percent and 4.8 percent, respectively. (The unemployment rates of Cubans and Central and South Americans are not statistically different at the 90-percent level of confidence.) The unemployment rate of Cubans was also much lower than that for non-Hispanics (5.8 percent).

Family income. After adjusting for the 3.7-percent increase in consumer prices between 1986 and 1987, there was no significant change in the money income of Hispanic families (figure 4 and table 4). The real median income of non-Hispanic families, however, increased by about 1 percent.[6] (The change in the real median income of non-Hispanic families between 1986 and 1987 is not statistically significant from the apparent change in income experienced by Hispanic families.) Since 1982, the bottom of the last economic recession, the real median family income of Hispanic families has risen by 6.9 percent, compared with a 12.3-percent increase for non-Hispanic families. Among the Hispanic subgroups, Puerto Ricans continued to have the lowest median family income.

Poverty.[7] About 1.2 million of the 4.6 million Hispanic families (or 25.8 percent) were living below the poverty level in 1987 (figure 5 and table 2). Their poverty rate was about 2 1/2 times as high as that for non-Hispanic families. There has been no significant change in the poverty rate of Hispanic families between 1982 and 1987; however, between 1985 and 1987, the poverty rate of non-Hispanic families dropped from 10.4 percent to 9.7 percent.

[5]Comparisons and trends in unemployment rates shown in this report are restricted to data obtained from the March supplement of the CPS and may not necessarily reflect trends observed when comparing other survey months or annual average rates.

[6]Changes in real income refer to comparisons after adjusting for inflation. The percentage change in prices between 1986 and 1987 was computed by dividing the annual average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 1987 by the annual average value of the CPI for 1986. For a more detailed discussion, see Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 161, *Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1987 (Advance Data From the March 1988 Current Population Survey).*

[7]The poverty definition used here is that adopted for official government use by the Office of Management and Budget and consists of a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition. Families or individuals with income below their appropriate thresholds are classified as below the poverty level. The poverty thresholds are updated every year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. The estimates of poverty in this report are based solely on money income and do not include the value of noncash benefits such as food stamps, Medicaid, and public housing. For a further discussion of poverty and valuing noncash benefits, see Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 161.

Figure 3.
Unemployment Rates for the Population 16 Years Old and Over: March 1982 - March 1988

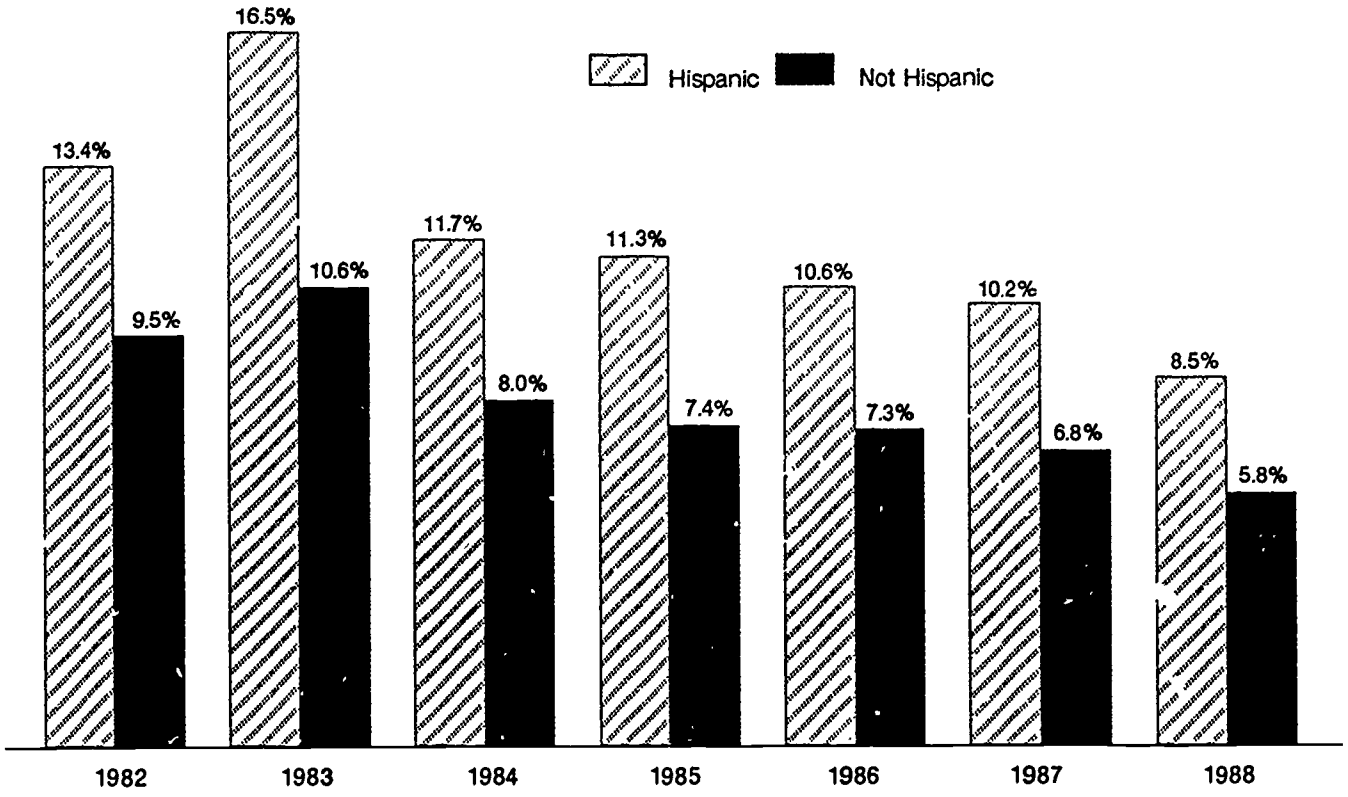


Figure 4.
Median Family Money Income: 1981 to 1987 (In 1987 dollars)

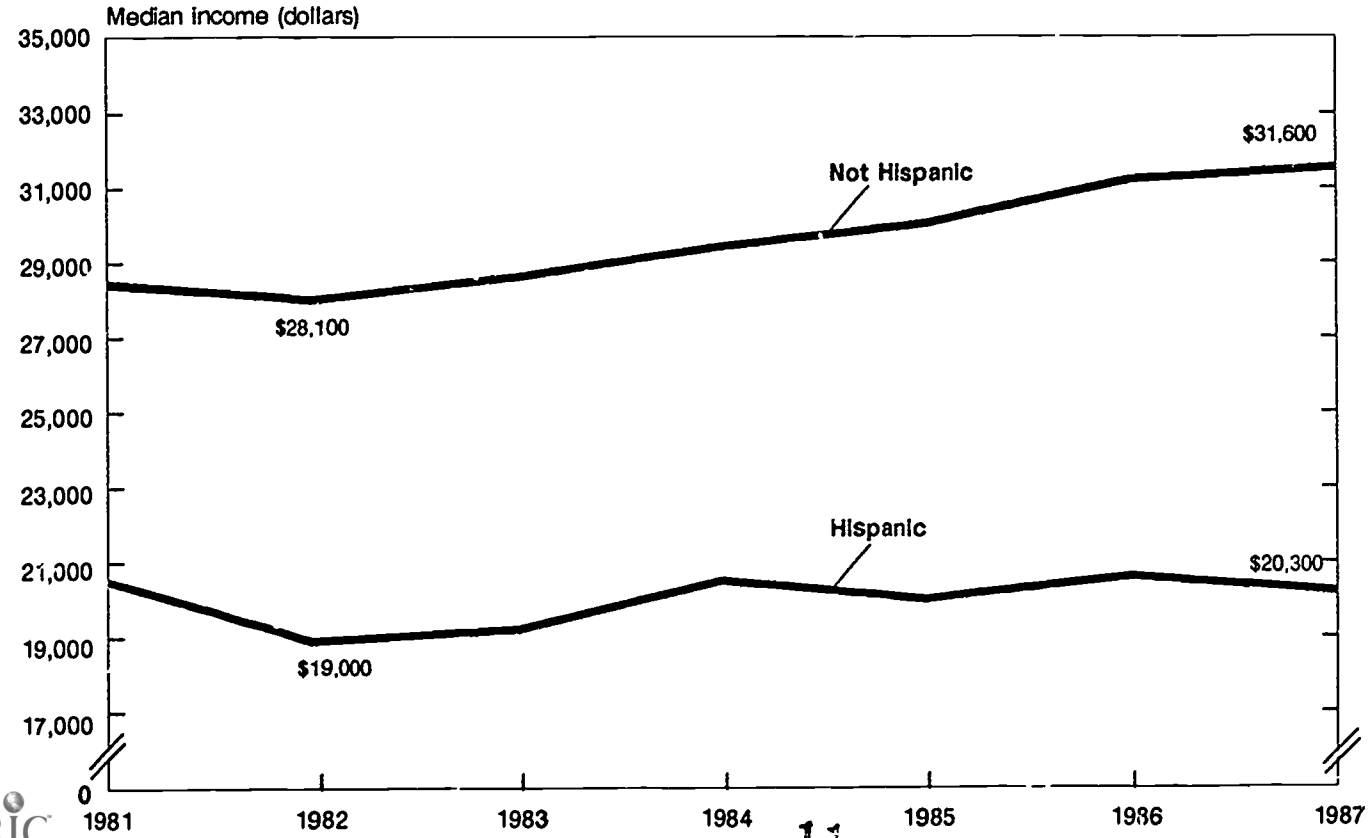
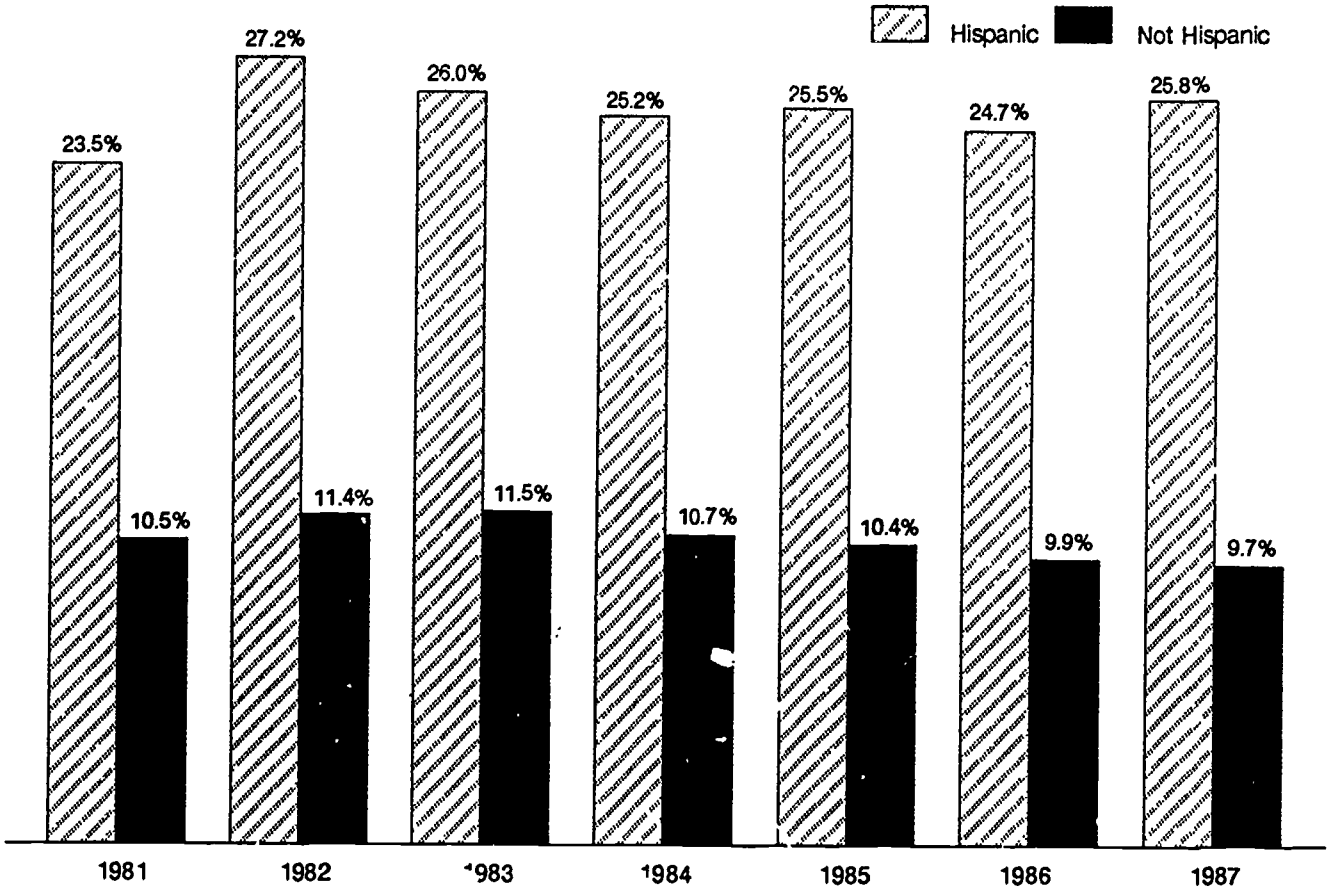


Figure 5.
Proportion of Families With Income Below the Poverty Level: 1981 to 1987



The poverty rate varied among Hispanic subgroups: Puerto Rican families had the highest poverty rate in 1987 with 38 percent. Cuban and Central and South American families had the lowest rates, 13.8 percent and 18.9 percent,[8] respectively (table 2).

The poverty rate among unrelated individuals (persons 15 years old and over who are not living with any relatives) was higher among Hispanics than among non-Hispanics. In 1987, 30 percent of Hispanic unrelated individuals were living below the poverty level, compared with 20 percent of non-Hispanic unrelated individuals (table 2).

USER COMMENTS

We are interested in your reaction to the usefulness of the information presented here and to the content of the questions used to provide these results. (There are facsimiles of the CPS control card and the origin or descent flash card in appendix B). We welcome your recommendations for improving our survey work. If you have suggestions or comments, please send them to:

Current Survey Comments
Population Division
U.S. Bureau of the Census
Washington, D.C. 20233

[8]The poverty rates of Cuban and Central and South American families are not statistically different at the 90-percent confidence level.

Table 1. Selected Social Characteristics of All Persons and Persons of Hispanic Origin, by Type of Origin: March 1988

(For the United States. Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total population	Total Hispanic	Not of Hispanic origin	Hispanic subgroups				
				Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other Hispanic
AGE								
Total	241,155	19,431	221,724	12,110	2,471	1,035	2,242	1,573
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years	7.6	10.7	7.3	11.8	10.6	4.7	8.5	9.8
5 to 9 years	7.4	10.2	7.1	11.1	11.3	4.8	8.0	8.6
10 to 14 years	6.8	9.1	6.6	10.0	10.0	5.3	6.3	6.7
15 to 19 years	7.5	8.7	7.3	9.2	8.6	5.8	8.8	6.5
20 to 24 years	7.8	10.1	7.6	10.5	9.6	8.4	11.4	8.1
25 to 29 years	8.9	10.5	8.8	10.0	10.7	9.7	13.0	10.8
30 to 34 years	8.9	9.0	8.9	9.0	7.5	6.5	10.6	10.5
35 to 39 years	7.8	8.0	7.8	7.8	8.7	5.5	9.5	8.2
40 to 44 years	6.5	5.5	6.7	5.0	5.7	7.4	7.1	5.7
45 to 49 years	5.2	4.1	5.4	3.7	3.6	7.2	5.2	4.1
50 to 54 years	4.6	3.7	4.7	3.0	3.7	6.9	3.8	4.9
55 to 59 years	4.5	3.1	4.6	2.8	3.7	6.	3.0	3.9
60 to 64 years	4.4	2.7	4.7	2.3	2.3	8.4	2.2	3.2
65 to 69 years	4.1	1.7	4.2	1.5	1.7	3.3	1.1	3.5
70 to 74 years	3.1	1.2	3.4	1.0	1.0	3.7	0.4	2.3
75 to 79 years	2.4	0.9	2.4	0.7	0.9	3.4	0.6	1.7
80 to 84 years	1.4	0.5	1.4	0.5	0.2	1.1	0.1	0.6
85 years and over	1.0	0.4	1.0	0.3	0.2	1.3	0.2	1.1
16 years and over	76.7	68.3	77.5	65.2	66.3	84.0	75.3	73.8
18 years and over	73.7	64.9	74.4	61.7	62.7	81.9	71.9	71.2
21 years and over	69.2	59.5	70.1	56.1	57.7	77.8	66.4	66.9
Median age (years)	32.2	25.5	32.9	23.9	24.9	38.7	27.6	29.7
SEX								
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male	48.6	50.2	48.5	51.5	46.7	50.9	47.3	48.7
Female	51.4	49.8	51.5	48.5	53.3	49.1	52.7	51.4
MARITAL STATUS								
Total, 15 years and over	188,452	13,606	174,845	8,134	1,683	882	1,728	1,179
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Never married	26.3	32.1	25.8	31.9	34.7	24.8	34.3	31.9
Married	59.1	57.1	59.3	58.0	52.5	58.5	57.9	55.1
Widowed	7.2	3.9	7.4	3.5	4.3	7.6	2.9	5.0
Divorced	7.4	6.9	7.5	6.6	8.4	9.1	4.8	7.9
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT								
Total, 25 years and over	151,616	9,940	141,676	5,752	1,231	735	1,275	948
Percent completed--								
Less than 5 years of school	2.4	12.3	1.7	15.9	9.6	5.5	6.7	5.6
4 years of high school or more	76.2	51.0	77.9	44.6	50.7	60.5	63.8	65.2
4 or more years of college	20.3	10.0	21.0	7.1	9.6	17.2	16.5	14.0
Median school years completed	12.7	12.0	12.7	10.8	12.0	12.4	12.4	12.4
Total, 25 to 34 years	42,970	3,785	39,185	2,301	450	168	530	337
Percent completed-								
Less than 5 years of school	1.0	6.3	0.5	8.3	2.2	1.8	4.7	2.4
4 years of high school or more	86.4	61.7	88.8	54.4	67.3	83.3	69.8	80.7
4 or more years of college	23.7	11	24.8	8.4	11.3	23.8	21.1	16.0
Median school years completed	12.9	12.	12.9	12.1	12.5	13.4	12.7	12.7
TYPE OF FAMILY								
All families	65,133	4,588	60,545	2,671	668	311	544	395
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married-couple families	79.5	69.8	80.3	74.4	51.6	78.1	65.8	67.8
Female householder, no husband present	16.3	23.4	15.8	18.5	44.0	16.1	24.4	26.1
Male householder, no wife present	4.2	6.8	4.0	7.1	4.3	5.8	9.6	6.1
SIZE OF FAMILY								
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Two persons	41.3	25.5	42.4	21.9	30.6	32.8	25.4	35.2
Three persons	23.7	24.3	23.6	21.7	28.7	32.8	24.6	27.6
Four persons	21.1	24.5	20.8	24.7	24.3	24.1	24.4	23.5
Five persons	9.0	13.6	8.6	15.1	10.6	7.1	15.8	10.4
Six persons	3.2	6.9	2.9	8.6	3.8	3.2	7.7	2.8
Seven or more persons	1.9	5.2	1.6	7.9	2.0	-	2.0	0.5
Mean number of persons	3.17	3.79	3.13	4.06	3.39	3.16	3.68	3.27

- Represents zero or rounds to zero.

Table 2. Selected Economic Characteristics of All Persons and Persons of Hispanic Origin, by Type of Origin: March 1988

(For the United States. Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total population	Total Hispanic	Not of Hispanic origin	Hispanic subgroups				
				Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central and South American	Other Hispanic
LABOR FORCE STATUS[1]								
Total, 16 years and over	185,069	13,264	171,804	7,902	1,646	868	1,687	1,161
In civilian labor force	119,725	8,682	111,043	5,292	875	567	1,221	727
Percent in civilian labor force	64.7	65.5	64.6	67.0	53.2	65.3	72.4	62.6
Percent unemployed	6.0	8.5	5.8	9.8	9.2	3.1	4.8	9.2
Males, 16 years and over	88,522	6,608	81,944	4,112	728	431	779	558
In civilian labor force	65,738	5,216	60,522	3,308	499	333	661	416
Percent in civilian labor force	74.2	78.9	73.9	80.4	68.6	77.2	84.8	74.5
Percent unemployed	6.4	9.5	6.1	11.0	8.2	4.1	5.6	10.2
Females, 16 years and over	96,616	6,656	89,960	3,790	918	437	908	603
In civilian labor force	53,987	3,466	50,521	1,985	376	234	560	311
Percent in civilian labor force	55.9	52.1	56.2	52.4	40.9	53.6	61.7	51.6
Percent unemployed	5.5	7.0	5.4	7.7	10.5	1.7	3.9	7.7
OCCUPATION[1]								
Employed males, 16 years and over	61,538	4,719	56,819	2,946	458	319	624	373
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Managerial and professional specialty	26.2	13.0	27.3	10.3	15.1	23.7	12.1	23.5
Technical, sales, and administrative support	19.9	15.4	20.3	12.3	16.6	27.8	20.5	18.9
Service occupations	9.4	14.8	9.0	13.3	19.0	10.7	21.8	13.6
Farming, forestry, and fishing	4.1	8.2	3.7	11.5	1.8	1.6	4.1	2.0
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.5	20.5	19.4	22.1	17.5	15.0	19.7	17.8
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	20.9	28.1	20.3	30.4	30.0	21.1	21.9	24.2
Employed females, 16 years and over	51,027	3,224	47,803	1,831	337	230	538	287
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Managerial and professional specialty	25.3	15.7	25.9	12.6	20.5	27.3	14.1	23.2
Technical, sales, and administrative support	45.1	41.1	45.3	41.7	44.7	41.8	37.9	37.8
Service occupations	17.7	21.7	17.4	21.9	15.3	13.0	28.4	22.5
Farming, forestry, and fishing	0.9	1.5	0.9	2.1	-	-	0.2	2.6
Precision production, craft, and repair	2.3	3.5	2.2	3.6	3.6	3.2	3.4	2.9
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	8.8	16.6	8.3	18.0	15.8	14.7	16.0	11.0
MEDIAN EARNINGS OF PERSONS IN 1987[2]								
Males with earnings (dollars)	19,878	12,527	20,496	11,791	15,672	16,634	13,105	15,574
Females with earnings (dollars)	10,618	8,554	10,745	7,912	11,327	11,364	8,056	11,239
FAMILY INCOME IN 1987								
Total families	65,133	4,588	60,545	2,671	668	311	544	395
Percent with income	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than $25,000	39.5	59.5	38.1	60.4	68.3	46.2	53.0	57.2
$25,000 or more	60.4	40.6	62.1	39.5	31.8	53.9	47.0	42.8
Median income (dollars)	30,853	20,306	31,610	19,968	15,185	27,294	22,939	21,196
Mean income (dollars)	36,568	25,736	37,388	25,010	20,553	36,572	28,266	27,392
BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN 1987								
Families	7,059	1,183	5,876	680	253	43	103	103
Percent below poverty level[3]	10.8	25.8	9.7	25.5	37.9	13.8	18.9	26.1
Family householder[4] -- 65 years old and over:								
Number	751	70	682	38	12	11	2	7
Percent	7.2	21.7	6.7	20.4	(B)	(B)	(B)	(B)
Not a high school graduate:[5]								
Number	3,165	768	2,398	468	159	70	58	55
Percent	21.1	36.4	18.6	34.6	52.1	24.6	30.9	37.7
Female, husband absent:								
Number	3,636	555	3,081	232	192	19	51	61
Percent	34.3	51.8	32.3	47.1	65.3	(B)	38.3	59.2
Unrelated individuals:[6]								
Number	6,843	589	6,254	305	98	49	77	59
Percent	20.8	30.5	20.2	28.2	39.7	33.8	33.2	26.0

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. B Base too small to show derived measures.

[1]Data on labor force status and occupation groups shown in this report reflect characteristics of the population for March of the respective survey year and are not adjusted for seasonal change. Data released by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, may not agree entirely with data shown in this report due to differences in methodological procedures and seasonal adjustment of the data.

[2]For civilian persons 15 years old and over.

[3]Percent of all families of specified origin.

[4]Percents based on householders with specified characteristics and of specified origin.

[5]Householders 25 years old and over.

[6]Persons 15 years old and over.

Table 3. Selected Social Characteristics of the Hispanic Population: March 1982 to 1988

(For the United States. Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Hispanic origin							Not of Hispanic origin						
	1988	1987	1986[1]	1985	1984	1983[2]	1982[3]	1988	1987	1986[1]	1985	1984	1983[2]	1982[3]
AGE														
Total	19,431	18,790	18,091	16,640	16,553	16,028	15,364	221,724	219,999	218,658	217,126	215,385	213,553	212,014
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years	10.7	10.6	10.9	10.7	11.3	11.1	11.1	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.3
5 to 9 years	10.2	10.5	10.0	10.1	9.5	10.3	10.5	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8
10 to 14 years	9.1	9.1	9.5	9.7	10.2	9.7	9.8	6.6	6.7	6.8	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.8
15 to 19 years	8.7	8.8	9.0	9.2	9.3	9.7	10.2	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.9	8.2	8.5
20 to 24 years	10.1	10.6	10.7	10.4	10.7	10.6	10.6	7.6	7.9	8.2	8.6	8.8	9.1	9.2
25 to 29 years	10.5	10.3	10.4	10.0	9.9	10.0	9.7	8.8	9.0	9.0	8.9	9.0	8.9	8.8
30 to 34 years	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.2	8.5	8.6	8.2	8.9	8.8	8.6	8.5	8.3	8.1	8.1
35 to 39 years	8.0	7.4	7.1	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.3	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.4	7.1	7.0	6.7
40 to 44 years	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.8	4.9	4.8	5.0	6.7	6.4	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.6	5.4
45 to 49 years	4.1	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.2	4.3	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
50 to 54 years	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.7	4.2	3.8	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.1
55 to 59 years	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.3	4.6	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.1	5.2
60 to 64 years	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.4	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.7
65 to 69 years	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0
70 to 74 years	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2
75 to 79 years	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2
80 to 84 years	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3
85 years and over	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
16 years and over	68.3	68.0	67.8	67..	67.2	67.0	66.8	77.5	77.4	77.2	77.0	76.9	76.7	76.5
18 years and over	64.9	64.5	64.1	64.0	63.3	63.1	62.6	74.4	74.3	74.1	73.9	73.8	73.5	73.2
21 years and over	59.5	58.9	58.5	58.3	57.5	57.0	56.1	70.1	69.9	69.7	69.2	68.8	68.3	67.9
Median age (years)	25.5	25.1	25.0	25.0	24.5	24.3	23.9	32.9	32.6	32.3	31.9	31.6	31.3	31.0
SEX														
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male	50.2	50.1	49.9	49.8	49.8	49.8	49.7	48.5	48.5	48.5	48.4	48.4	48.4	48.3
Female	49.8	49.9	50.1	50.2	50.2	50.2	50.3	51.5	51.5	51.5	51.6	51.6	51.6	51.7
MARITAL STATUS														
Total, 15 years and over	13,606	13,104	12,597	11,776	11,423	11,030	10,542	174,845	173,584	172,230	170,540	168,860	167,065	165,646
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Never married	32.1	31.5	31.8	31.2	32.0	32.1	29.6	25.8	26.0	25.8	25.8	26.0	25.9	25.7
Married	57.1	57.5	57.0	57.9	57.3	57.2	60.1	59.3	59.4	59.3	59.3	59.7	60.2	60.4
Widowed	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.7	4.3	4.1	4.1	7.4	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.4
Divorced	6.9	7.1	6.9	6.2	6.3	6.6	6.3	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.2	6.9	6.5	6.5
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT														
Total, 25 years and over	9,940	9,449	9,030	8,455	8,112	7,778	7,337	141,676	139,694	137,576	135,070	132,809	130,263	128,190
Percent completed--														
Less than 5 years of school	12.3	11.9	12.9	13.5	14.4	15.6	15.3	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4
4 years of high school or more	51.0	50.9	48.5	47.9	46.5	45.7	45.4	77.9	77.3	76.5	75.5	74.7	73.4	72.3
4 or more years of college	10.0	8.6	8.4	8.5	8.1	8.0	7.7	21.0	20.6	20.2	20.1	19.6	19.3	18.3
Median school years completed	12.0	12.0	11.7	11.5	11.1	10.9	10.8	12.7	12.7	12.7	12.7	12.6	12.6	12.6
Total, 25 to 34 years	3,785	3,613	3,476	3,090	3,056	2,968	2,747	39,185	39,023	38,577	37,767	37,126	36,385	35,957
Percent completed--														
Less than 5 years of school	6.3	5.6	6.0	6.9	7.5	7.3	7.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4
4 years of high school or more	61.7	60.3	58.6	58.5	57.7	57.8	58.5	88.8	89.0	89.4	89.1	88.6	88.4	88.3
4 or more years of college	11.9	9.8	9.9	10.5	10.1	10.4	9.7	24.8	25.2	25.3	24.9	25.4	25.4	24.8
Median school years completed	12.4	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9
TYPE OF FAMILY														
All families	4,588	4,403	4,206	3,939	3,788	3,628	3,730	60,545	60,088	59,352	58,767	58,226	57,797	57,319
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married-couple families	69.8	70.8	70.4	71.7	72.7	72.2	74.1	80.3	80.6	80.8	80.9	81.3	81.8	81.8
Female householder, no husband present	23.4	23.4	23.3	23.0	22.7	22.8	21.5	15.8	15.7	15.6	15.7	15.5	15.0	15.0
Male householder, no wife present	6.8	5.7	6.3	5.3	4.7	5.0	4.4	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2

Table 3. Selected Social Characteristics of the Hispanic Population: March 1982 to 1988—Continued

(For the United States. Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Hispanic origin							Not of Hispanic origin						
	1988	1987	1986[1]	1985	1984	1983[2]	1982[3]	1988	1987	1986[1]	1985	1984	1983[2]	1982[3]
SIZE OF FAMILY														
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Two persons	25.5	25.3	25.2	24.4	24.7	23.6	23.7	42.4	42.0	41.1	41.5	40.9	40.6	41.0
Three persons	24.3	22.8	23.3	24.1	23.1	23.3	23.5	23.6	23.9	24.3	23.6	23.3	23.1	23.0
Four persons	24.5	25.0	24.9	23.7	24.0	24.3	22.9	20.8	20.8	20.7	21.0	21.2	21.1	20.5
Five persons	13.6	14.9	14.2	14.0	14.6	14.2	15.2	8.6	8.7	9.3	9.1	9.2	9.5	9.5
Six persons	6.9	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.3	7.8	7.2	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.8
Seven or more persons	5.2	5.3	5.6	6.7	6.4	6.8	7.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.2
Mean number of persons	3.79	3.83	3.87	3.88	3.97	3.97	3.74	3.13	3.14	3.16	3.18	3.20	3.22	3.22

[1]Beginning with population estimates and CPS controls for January 1986, the Census Bureau made two major modifications in the method used to produce national estimates for the population by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. The first change was an allowance for net undocumented immigration into the United States that had occurred since the 1980 census. The second change was an increase in the estimate of migration out of the United States by legal residents. See U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 416, *The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 1986 and 1987 (Advance Report)*, for a detailed explanation of the methodology used beginning in 1986.

[2]The methodology used to develop the independent estimates of Hispanics for March 1982 was preliminary. Beginning in March 1983, a refined methodology was used to produce the independent estimates of the Hispanic population used as control totals for the CPS estimates of Hispanics by sex and detailed age. See U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 422, *The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 1985*, for a detailed discussion of the refined metholodogy.

[3]The use of independent estimates of the Hispanic population as control totals for CPS estimates of the total Hispanic population by sex and detailed age was first implemented for the March 1982 CPS. The use of independently derived estimates of the Hispanic population as control totals was implemented to eliminate random annual fluctuations in the CPS estimates for the total Hispanic population and to establish a post-census time series of Hispanic estimates more comparable to the 1980 census count of Hispanics. See U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 396, *Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1982*, for a detailed explanation of the methodology used.

Table 4. Selected Economic Characteristics of the Hispanic Population: March 1982 to 1988

(For the United States. Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Hispanic origin							Not of Hispanic origin						
	1988	1987	1986[1]	1985	1984	1983[2]	1982[3]	1988	1987	1986[1]	1985	1984	1983[2]	1982[3]
LABOR FORCE STATUS[4]														
Total, 16 years and over	13,264	12,772	12,273	11,466	11,121	10,734	10,268	171,804	170,320	168,762	167,121	165,638	163,803	162,273
In civilian labor force	8,682	8,302	7,837	7,362	7,059	6,734	6,567	111,043	109,832	108,250	106,894	104,767	103,041	102,179
Percent in civilian labor force	65.5	65.0	63.9	64.2	63.5	62.7	64.0	64.6	64.5	64.1	64.0	63.3	62.9	63.0
Percent unemployed	8.5	10.2	10.6	11.3	11.7	16.5	13.4	5.8	6.8	7.3	7.4	8.0	10.6	9.5
Males, 16 years and over	6,608	6,343	6,095	5,643	5,463	5,283	5,040	81,944	81,181	80,450	79,489	78,699	77,860	77,063
In civilian labor force	5,216	5,030	4,814	4,427	4,275	4,156	4,058	60,522	60,145	59,541	58,938	58,312	57,893	57,624
Percent in civilian labor force	78.9	79.3	79.0	78.5	78.2	78.7	80.5	73.9	74.1	74.0	74.1	74.1	74.4	74.8
Percent unemployed	9.5	10.6	11.3	11.8	11.8	16.6	13.2	6.1	7.1	7.5	7.5	8.4	11.6	10.1
Females, 16 years and over	6,656	6,430	6,178	5,823	5,657	5,451	5,228	89,860	89,139	88,312	87,632	86,939	85,943	85,210
In civilian labor force	3,466	3,272	3,023	2,935	2,785	2,578	2,509	50,521	49,688	48,710	47,956	46,455	45,148	44,555
Percent in civilian labor force	52.1	50.9	48.9	50.4	49.2	47.3	48.0	56.2	55.7	55.2	54.7	53.4	52.5	52.3
Percent unemployed	7.0	9.5	9.5	10.5	11.5	16.3	13.6	5.4	6.4	7.0	7.2	7.5	9.3	8.7
OCCUPATION[4]														
Employed males, 16 years and over	4,719	4,497	4,271	3,906	3,769	3,466	3,522	56,819	55,871	55,081	54,524	53,410	51,158	51,796
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(NA)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(NA)
Managerial and professional specialty	13.0	10.8	11.2	11.6	11.5	11.6	(NA)	27.3	26.5	25.9	26.2	26.1	26.3	(NA)
Technical, sales, and administrative support	15.4	15.6	15.9	14.6	14.9	14.3	(NA)	20.3	20.3	20.6	20.2	20.2	20.0	(NA)
Service occupations	14.8	14.3	16.0	14.9	15.4	15.5	(NA)	9.0	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.4	(NA)
Farming, forestry, and fishing	8.2	10.1	6.2	6.0	7.6	7.3	(NA)	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.8	(NA)
Precision production, craft, and repair	20.5	21.1	20.1	23.3	20.4	19.5	(NA)	19.4	19.9	20.1	20.1	19.8	19.7	(NA)
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	28.1	28.0	30.7	29.6	30.2	31.7	(NA)	20.3	19.9	19.8	19.8	20.2	19.8	(NA)
Employed females, 16 years and over	3,224	2,960	2,736	2,625	2,463	2,157	2,167	47,803	46,526	45,293	44,495	42,971	40,946	40,692
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(NA)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(NA)
Managerial and professional specialty	15.7	14.6	13.7	12.6	12.8	12.4	(NA)	25.9	25.5	24.6	24.4	23.9	22.9	(NA)
Technical, sales, and administrative support	41.1	41.3	40.8	42.7	40.1	42.0	(NA)	45.3	45.5	46.1	45.9	45.1	46.0	(NA)
Service occupations	21.7	23.5	23.6	22.3	22.7	22.9	(NA)	17.4	17.6	18.0	17.9	18.4	18.6	(NA)
Farming, forestry, and fishing	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.1	(NA)	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	(NA)
Precision production, craft, and repair	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.1	3.4	(NA)	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	1.9	(NA)
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	16.6	15.5	16.9	17.7	19.9	18.2	(NA)	8.3	8.4	8.1	8.6	9.4	9.5	(NA)
MEDIAN EARNINGS OF PERSONS IN PREVIOUS YEAR[5]														
Current dollars:														
Males with earnings (dollars)	12,527	11,958	12,035	11,857	11,396	10,553	10,650	20,496	19,588	18,457	17,451	16,459	15,743	15,359
Females with earnings (dollars)	8,554	8,258	7,919	7,669	7,275	7,061	6,597	10,745	10,110	9,452	8,776	8,288	7,726	7,264
In 1987 dollars:														
Males with earnings (dollars)	12,527	12,394	12,715	12,974	13,001	12,425	13,558	20,496	20,303	19,500	19,095	18,776	18,536	19,193
Females with earnings (dollars)	8,554	8,559	8,366	8,391	8,299	8,314	8,244	10,745	10,479	9,986	9,603	9,455	9,097	9,077
FAMILY INCOME IN PREVIOUS YEAR														
Total families	4,588	4,403	4,206	3,939	3,788	3,628	3,730	60,545	60,088	59,352	58,767	58,226	57,796	57,319
Percent with income:														
Less than $25,000	59.5	60.8	63.5	64.2	70.7	72.2	72.4	38.1	40.3	43.0	45.6	49.7	52.5	55.0
$25,000 or more	40.6	39.2	36.5	35.7	29.3	27.8	27.6	62.1	59.7	57.0	54.4	50.3	47.5	45.0
Current dollars:														
Median income (dollars)	20,306	19,995	19,027	18,833	16,907	16,129	16,510	31,610	30,231	28,473	26,951	25,142	23,900	22,794
Mean income (dollars)	25,736	24,439	23,152	22,568	20,374	19,625	19,481	37,388	35,693	33,638	31,620	29,144	27,819	26,204
In 1987 dollars:														
Median income (dollars)	20,306	20,725	20,102	20,607	19,288	18,990	20,631	31,610	31,334	30,062	29,490	28,682	28,140	28,483
Mean income (dollars)	25,736	25,331	24,460	24,694	23,243	23,106	24,343	37,388	36,996	35,539	34,599	33,247	32,754	32,745

Table 4. Selected Economic Characteristics of the Hispanic Population: March 1982 to 1988—Continued

(For the United States. Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Hispanic origin							Not of Hispanic origin						
	1988	1987	1986[1]	1985	1984	1983[2]	1982[3]	1988	1987	1986[1]	1985	1984	1983[2]	1982[3]
BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN PREVIOUS YEAR														
Families (thous.)	1,183	1,085	1,074	991	985	986	875	5,876	5,938	6,149	6,286	6,696	6,577	6,022
Percent below poverty level[4]	25.8	24.7	25.5	25.2	26.0	27.2	23.5	9.7	9.9	10.4	10.7	11.5	11.4	10.5
Family householder[7]— 65 years old and over:														
Number	70	58	54	58	50	60	72	682	659	653	655	794	843	788
Percent	21.7	17.4	16.6	19.4	18.5	22.8	25.2	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.9	8.5	9.0	8.6
Not a high school graduate:[8]														
Number	768	678	698	633	611	693	575	2,398	2,330	2,485	2,596	2,869	2,898	2,728
Percent	36.4	33.6	34.0	32.5	32.0	37.4	31.2	18.6	17.8	18.6	18.9	20.3	19.6	18.1
Female, husband absent:														
Number	555	528	521	483	455	457	426	3,081	3,085	2,953	3,014	3,117	3,002	2,843
Percent	51.8	51.2	53.1	53.4	52.9	55.3	53.1	32.3	32.8	32.0	32.7	34.5	34.6	33.0
Unrelated individuals:[9]														
Number	589	553	532	545	458	439	356	6,254	6,293	6,193	6,065	6,403	6,034	6,134
Percent	30.5	32.8	33.2	36.8	33.6	34.6	31.1	20.2	21.0	20.8	21.1	23.0	22.7	23.1

NA Not available.

[1]Beginning with population estimates and CPS controls for January 1986, the Census Bureau made two major modifications in the method used to produce national estimates for the population by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. The first change was an allowance for net undocumented immigration into the United States that had occurred since the 1980 census. The second change was an increase in the estimate of migration out of the United States by legal residents. See U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 416, *The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 1986 and 1987 (Advance Report)*, for a detailed explanation of the methodology used beginning in 1986.

[2]The methodology used to develop the independent estimates of Hispanics for March 1982 was preliminary. Beginning in March 1983, a refined methodology was used to produce the independent estimates of the Hispanic population used as control totals for the CPS estimates of Hispanics by sex and detailed age. See U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 422, *The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 1985*, for a detailed discussion of the refined methodology.

[3]The use of independent estimates of the Hispanic population as control totals for CPS estimates of the total Hispanic population by sex and detailed age was first implemented for the March 1982 CPS. The use of independently derived estimates of the Hispanic population as control totals was implemented to eliminate random annual fluctuations in the CPS estimates for the total Hispanic population and to establish a post-census time series of Hispanic estimates more comparable to the 1980 census count of Hispanics. See U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 396, *Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1982*, for a detailed explanation of the methodology used.

[4]Data on labor force status and occupation groups shown in this report reflect characteristics of the population for March of the respective survey year and are not adjusted for seasonal change. Data released by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, may not agree entirely with data shown in this report due to differences in methodological procedures and seasonal adjustment of the data.

[5]For civilian persons 15 years old and over.

[6]Percent of all families of specified origin.

[7]Percents based on householders with specified characteristics and of specified origin.

[8]Householders 25 years old and over.

[9]Persons 15 years old and over.

Appendix A. Source and Reliability of Estimates

SOURCE OF DATA

The CPS estimates in this report came from the March Current Population Survey (CPS) from 1982 through 1988 and from supplementary questions to the March CPS. The monthly CPS deals mainly with labor force data for the civilian noninstitutional population. Questions relating to Hispanic population are asked about each member in every sample household. In addition, in March, supplementary questions are asked about ethnic origin. To obtain more reliable data for the Hispanic population, the Census Bureau enlarges the March CPS sample to include all households from the previous November with at least one sample person of Hispanic origin. Also, for this report, the Census Bureau interviews Armed Forces members who live with civilian adults.

Current Population Survey (CPS). The present CPS sample was selected from the 1980 census files with coverage in all 50 States and the District of Columbia and is continually updated to reflect new construction. The CPS sample is located in 729 areas comprising 1,973 counties, independent cities, and minor civil divisions in the Nation. Approximately 62,000 occupied households were eligible for interview. About 3,000 of these units were visited, but interviews were not obtained because the occupants were not found at home after repeated calls or were unavailable for some other reason.

CPS estimation procedure. The procedure to calculate estimates from this survey involves the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the total civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. These independent estimates are based on statistics from the decennial censuses of population; statistics on births, deaths, immigration and emigration; and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

Because the CPS estimates come from a sample, they may differ somewhat from figures from a complete census using the same questionnaires, instructions, and enumerators. There are two types of error possible in a sample survey estimate, sampling and nonsampling, and the accuracy of a survey result depends upon both. The full extent of the nonsampling error is unknown, so exercise care when interpreting figures based on a relatively small number of cases or on small differences between estimates.

Nonsampling variability. Nonsampling variability, or nonsampling error, is variation that would occur whether a sample or a complete census was taken. Nonsampling error arises from many sources. For example, respondents may be unable or unwilling to provide correct information, may have trouble recalling information, or may interpret questions or define terms differently from what was intended.

The data are subject to several potential sources of error: collection errors in recording or coding data, processing errors, and errors in estimating values for missing data. Additionally, the Census Bureau may be unable to obtain information about all cases in the sample, or may fail to represent all units with the sample (undercoverage).

Undercoverage in the CPS results from missed housing units and missed persons within sample housing units. Overall undercoverage is about 7 percent, compared with the 1980 decennial census. CPS undercoverage varies with age, race, and sex: generally, undercoverage is larger for males than for females and larger for Blacks and other races combined than for Whites. Ratio estimation to independent age-race-sex-Hispanic population controls, as described earlier, partially corrects for the bias from survey undercoverage. However, biases still exist in the estimates to the extent that missed persons are different from interviewed persons in the same age-race sex-Hispanic group. Also, the independent population controls are not adjusted for 1980 census undercoverage.

For additional information on nonsampling error including the possible effect on CPS data when known, refer to Statistical Policy Working Paper 3, *An Error Profile: Employment as Measured by the Current Population Survey,* Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1978 and Technical Paper 40, *The Current Population Survey: Design and Methodology,* Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Sampling variability. Sampling variability is variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than

the entire population was surveyed. Standard errors calculated using the parameters in table A-1 are primarily measures of sampling variability, although they also include some of the effect of nonsampling error. (See the discussion above.)

Standard errors are used to determine the reliability of survey estimates and to evaluate the statistical validity of conclusions made about the data. For example, a conclusion that the difference between two estimates is statistically significant can be verified using standard errors.

Two procedures, confidence interval estimation and hypothesis testing, are commonly used to test for statistical validity. The confidence interval is a range about the sample estimate constructed so that, if the survey was repeated a large number of times under the same general conditions, the confidence intervals would include the average result of all possible samples with a known probability. For example, approximately 90 percent of intervals with a range of 1.6 standard errors below the estimate to 1.6 standard errors above the estimate include the average result of all possible samples. A particular interval may not contain the average result, but one can be 90 percent confident that it does.

Some statements in the report may contain estimates followed by another number. For such statements, simply add that number to and subtract it from the estimate to calculate the upper and lower bounds of the 90-percent confidence interval. For example, if a statement contains the phrase "grew by 1.7 percent (± 1.0)," then the 90-percent confidence interval for the estimate, 1.7 percent, is from 0.7 to 2.7 percent.

Hypothesis testing uses sample estimates to distinguish between true population values. One common type of hypothesis is that two population values are different. Comparing estimates for the total number of Puerto Ricans for 1987 and 1988 is an example.

Tests may be performed at various levels of significance. The significance level of a test is the probability of concluding that two parameters are different when, in fact, they are not. For example, for a statement of difference to pass at the 0.10 significance level, the absolute value of the difference between the estimates must be greater than 1.6 times the standard error of the difference.

The Census Bureau uses as standard statistical testing criteria 90-percent confidence intervals and 0.10 significance levels. Past reports in this series have used 95-percent confidence intervals and 0.05 significance levels, which require differences of at least 2.0 times the standard error. Consult standard textbooks on statistics for alternative criteria.

Comparability of data. Data obtained from the CPS are not entirely comparable with data from other governmental sources. This is due in large part to differences in interviewer training and experience and in differing survey processes. This is an additional component of error not reflected in standard errors. Use caution when comparing results between these different sources.

Note when using small estimates. Summary measures (such as medians and percent distributions) are shown only when the base is 75,000 or greater. Because of the large standard errors involved, there is little chance that summary measures would reveal useful information when computed on a smaller base. Estimated numbers are shown, however, even though the relative standard errors of these numbers are larger than those for corresponding percentages. These smaller estimates are provided primarily to enable the data user to combine categories as needed.

Take care when interpreting small differences: even a small amount of nonsampling error can distort a seemingly valid hypothesis test if it involves a borderline difference.

Standard errors of estimated numbers and estimated percentages. Two parameters, a and b, are used to calculate standard errors for each type of characteristic. Standard errors of estimated numbers and estimated percentages can be computed directly with formulas (1) and (2), respectively. The formulas are

$$S_x = \sqrt{ax^2 + bx} \qquad (1)$$

and

$$S_{(x,p)} = \sqrt{\frac{b}{x} p\,(100\text{-}p)} \qquad (2)$$

In formula (1), x is the size of the estimated number and a and b are the parameters associated with the characteristic. In formula (2), p is the percentage ($0 < p < 100$), x is the total upon which the percentage is based, and b is the parameter associated with the characteristic.

Table A-1 provides the values of the a and b parameters used in formulas (1) and (2) to create standard errors of estimated numbers and estimated percentages of persons and families. To compute standard errors for State level estimates, multiply the parameters by the State factors given in table A-2. To calculate standard errors for estimates for a group of States, compute a factor as described in section, "Factor for a Group of States," and multiply the parameters by the factor.

Standard error of a difference. The formula for the standard error of the difference between two estimates x and y, is given by

Table A-1. Standard Error Parameters

Characteristic	Parameters[1]	
	a	b
PERSONS		
Hispanic subgroups:		
Both sexes	-0.000126	2,139
Male or female	-0.000250	2,139
Marital status:		
Hispanic	-0.000561	9,475
Total and non-Hispanic	-0.000025	5,444
Educational attainment 25 years and over:		
Hispanic	-0.000253	2,600
Total and non-Hispanic	-0.000016	2,312
Occupation and employed:		
Hispanic	-0.000109	1,241
Total and non-Hispanic	-0.000016	2,327
Unemployed:		
Hispanic	-0.000094	1,075
Total and non-Hispanic	-0.000015	2,206
Income:		
Hispanic	-0.000189	2,374
Total and non-Hispanic	-0.000011	2,077
FAMILIES		
Number, type, and size of families:		
Hispanic	-0.000137	1,606
Total and non-Hispanic	-0.000010	1,778
Income:		
Hispanic	-0.000165	2,067
Total and non-Hispanic	-0.000010	1,896
Poverty Status:		
Hispanic	+0.000084	2,067
Total and non-Hispanic	+0.000084	2,067

[1]To compute standard errors at the State level for a single State, multiply the appropriate parameters by the State factor given in table A-2. For a group of States, compute the factor as described in "Factor for a Group of States" and multiply the appropriate parameters by the factor.

$$S_{(x-y)} = \sqrt{S_x^2 + S_y^2 - 2r\,S_x S_y} \qquad (3)$$

where S_x and S_y are the standard errors of the estimated x and y, and r represents the correlation between the two estimates.

For the year-to-year comparisons of income and poverty estimates the correlation ccefficients, r, are contained in the table A-3. For other comparisons, assume r equals zero. Making this assumption will result in accurate estimates of the difference between two estimates of the same characteristic in two different areas, or for the difference between separate and uncorrelated characteristics in the same area. If, however, there is a high positive (negative) correlation between the two characteristics, the formula will overestimate (underestimate) the true standard error.

Standard error of an estimated mean for grouped data. Use the formula

$$S_x = \sqrt{\frac{b}{y} S^2} \qquad (4)$$

to approximate the standard error of a mean, where y is the size of the base and b is the appropriate b parameter for the characteristic from table A-1. The variance, S^2, is equal to

$$S^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{c} p_i \bar{x}_i^2 - \bar{x}^2 \qquad (5)$$

Table A-2. Hispanic State Factors

State	Factors	Population
Alabama	0.96	3,893,978
Alaska	0.09	401,851
Arizona	0.88	2,718,425
Arkansas	0.45	2,286,419
California	0.91	23,667,826
Colorado	0.86	2,889,735
Connecticut	0.65	3,107,576
Delaware	0.15	594,338
District of Columbia	0.15	638,432
Florida	0.61	9,746,421
Georgia	1.02	5,463,087
Hawaii	0.24	964,691
Idaho	0.22	935,058
Illinois	0.65	11,427,414
Indiana	0.79	5,490,260
Iowa	0.54	2,913,808
Kansas	0.49	2,364,236
Kentucky	0.74	3,660,257
Louisiana	0.84	4,206,098
Maine	0.26	1,125,030
Maryland	0.70	4,216,941
Massachusetts	0.35	5,737,081
Michigan	0.52	9,262,070
Minnesota	0.92	4,075,970
Mississippi	0.43	2,520,631
Missouri	0.79	4,916,759
Montana	0.05	786,690
Nebraska	0.33	1,569,825
Nevada	0.27	800,493
New Hampshire	0.28	920,610
New Jersey	0.44	7,365,011
New Mexico	0.29	1,303,445
New York	0.57	17,558,072
North Carolina	0.36	5,881,813
North Dakota	0.12	652,717
Ohio	0.62	10,797,624
Oklahoma	0.89	3,025,495
Oregon	0.75	2,633,149
Pennsylvania	0.64	11,864,751
Rhode Island	0.26	947,154
South Carolina	0.56	3,122,814
South Dakota	0.11	690,768
Tennessee	0.90	4,591,120
Texas	0.95	14,227,574
Utah	0.35	1,461,037
Vermont	0.14	511,456
Virginia	0.96	5,346,797
Washington	1.01	4,132,204
West Virginia	0.35	1,950,258
Wisconsin	0.88	4,705,642
Wyoming	0.15	469,557

Table A-3. Year-to-Year Correlation Coefficients for Income and Poverty Characteristics

Characteristic	Households, families, or unrelated individuals		Persons	
	Income	Poverty	Income	Poverty
Total or Non-Hispanic	0.35	0.35	0.30	0.45
Hispanic	0.55	0.55	0.45	0.65

where

$\bar{x}$ = the mean of the distribution, defined by

$$\sum_{i=1}^{c} p_i \bar{x}_i$$

c = the number of groups: i indicates a specific group, taking on values 1 through c;

p_i = the estimated proportion of households, families or persons whose values for the characteristic (x-values) fall in group i; and

$\bar{x}_i = (A_{i-1} + A_i)/2$, where A_{i-1} and A_i are the lower and upper interval boundaries, respectively, for group i.

The value x_i is assumed to be the most representative value of the characteristic for households, families or persons in group i. Group c is open-ended, i.e., no upper interval boundary exists. For this group an approximate average value is

$$\bar{x}_c = (3/2)\, A_{c-1} \qquad (6)$$

Contact Statistical Methods Division of the Census Bureau for the method to compute the standard error of a mean for two or more combined distributions.

Standard error of a median. The sampling variability of an estimated median depends upon the form of the distribution as well as the size of its base. One way to approximate the standard error of an estimated median is to determine a 68-percent confidence interval around the median and then compute the standard error from the confidence interval. (See the section on sampling variability for a general discussion of confidence intervals.) The steps below describe this method.

1. Determine the standard error on 50 percent using either formula (2).
2. Add to and subtract from 50 percent the standard error determined in step 1.
3. Using the distribution of the characteristic, estimate the 68-percent confidence interval for the median by calculating the values corresponding to the two points computed in step 2. Call these values U and L, for the upper and lower limits of the interval, respectively.

The lower and upper limits are calculated using linear interpolation. Use the following formula along with a cumulative percentage distribution of the characteristic to calculate these limits.

$$x_{pN} = \frac{pN - N_1}{N_2 - N_1}(A_2 - A_1) + A_1 \qquad (7)$$

where

x_{pN} = estimated value (e.g., age) for which the number of households, families, or persons, pN ($0 \leq p \leq 1$), in the distribution has larger or equal values. When calculating the confidence interval, x_{pN} is equal to U and L for the upper and lower limits, respectively.

p = the values obtained in step 2. Note that x_{pN} estimates the median when p = 0.50.

N = total number of households, families, or persons in the distribution.

A_1 and A_2 = the endpoints of the interval containing x_{pN} (note that $A_1 > A_2$).

N_1 and N_2 = the estimated number of households, families, or persons with values of the characteristic greater than or equal to A_1 and A_2, respectively (note that $N_1 < N_2$ here).

4. After the limits of the 68-percent confidence interval are computed, compute the standard error with the formula

$$S_{median} = \frac{U-L}{2} \qquad (8)$$

Factor for a group of States. The factor for a group of States may be obtained by computing a weighted sum of the factors for the individual States in the group; depending on the combination of States, the resulting figures can be an overestimate. The factor for a group of n States is given by

$$f = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (\text{1980 census population of state } i)\, f_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \text{1980 census population of state } i}$$

where f_i is the factor for State i obtained from table A-2; the State census populations are also provided in table A-2.

Appendix B. Facsimiles of March 1988 CPS Questionnaires

FACSIMILE I. FORM CPS-260 CONTROL CARD

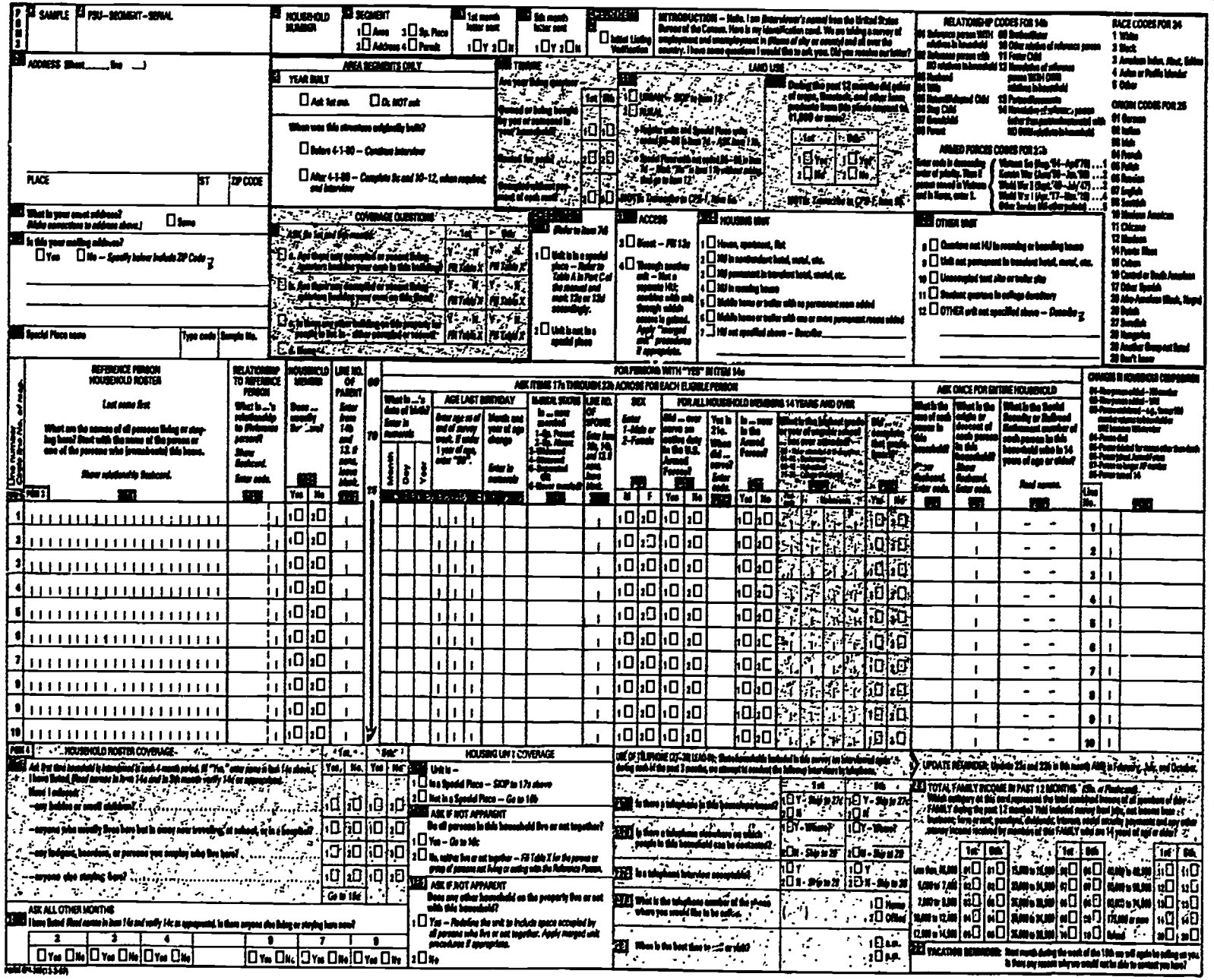
At the time of the first CPS interview, the interviewer prepares a list of all persons who are staying in the selected sample unit. The roster is constructed using the field control card, form CPS-260. (See the facsimile on page 18.) The roster and questions on the control card are used to identify the living space constituting the sample unit.

A control card is prepared for each housing unit. It provides for recording the personal characteristics of each person who is determined to be a member of a sample household, i.e., a persons for whom the sample unit is the usual place of residence. This record of members is brought up to date at each subsequent interview to take account of new or departed residents, changes in age, marital status, etc., constitutes the complete sample of persons from which subsamples, having specified characteristics, are selected for specific studies.

FACSIMILE II. ORIGIN OR DESCENT FLASHCARD

Hispanic persons were identified by a question that asked for self-identification of the person's origin or descent. Respondents were asked to select their origin (and the origin of other household members) from the flashcard shown on page 19. Hispanic persons were those who indicated that their origin was Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American (Spanish countries), or other Spanish origin.

FACSIMILE I. FORM CPS-260—CONTROL CARD



FACSIMILE II. ORIGIN OR DESCENT FLASHCARD

ORIGIN OR DESCENT

What is the origin or descent of each person in this household?

01 German

02 Italian

03 Irish

04 French

05 Polish

06 Russian

07 English

08 Scottish

10 Mexican–American

11 Chicano

12 Mexican

14 Puerto Rican

15 Cuban

16 Central or South American (Spanish Countries)

17 Other Spanish

20 Afro-American (Black, Negro)

26 Dutch

27 Swedish

28 Hungarian

OR

30 Another group not listed

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