



Mexicans comprise the largest proportion of the Hispanic population (63.6%).

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- **Mexicans are one of the most undereducated racial/ethnic groups in the country and the least educated of all Hispanic subgroups.** Of all Mexicans 25 years old and over, less than half completed high school (45.2%) compared to 81.5% of non-Hispanics, 60.5% of Puerto Ricans, 62.0% of Cubans, and 61.7% of Central and South Americans.
- **Young adult Mexicans are especially undereducated.** The proportion of young adult Mexicans (25 to 34 years old) who have completed four years of high school or more (51.7%) is smaller than any other Hispanic subgroups; seven in ten young Puerto Ricans (70.2%), almost four-fifths of young Cubans (78.4%), and almost two-thirds of young Central and South Americans (63.3%) have completed high school.
- **The gap between college completion rates of Mexicans and non-Hispanics is especially large.** Approximately one in 14 Mexicans (7.4%) has completed four years of college or more, compared to one in four non-Hispanics (22.3%) and almost one in ten Hispanics (9.3%).

LABOR FORCE STATUS

- **Mexican men have among the highest labor force participation rates of all Hispanic subgroups; the labor force participation rate of Mexican men is higher than that of non-Hispanic men.** Four of every five Mexican men is participating in the labor force (80.5%) – a proportion higher than that of all Hispanic men (79.6%) and of non-Hispanic men (74.3%). Among Hispanic subgroups, Central and South American men have a higher labor force participation rate than Mexican men (86.0%).
- **The labor force participation rate of Mexican women is slightly lower than that of all Hispanic women and of non-Hispanic women.** In 1992, 51.6% of Mexican women were in the paid labor force, compared to 52.2% of all Hispanic women and 57.8% of non-Hispanic women. Among subgroups, Central and South American and Cuban women have a higher labor force participation rate than Mexican women (57.1% and 51.7%, respectively).

- **Both Mexican men and Mexican women have the lowest median earnings of any Hispanic subgroup.** The median earnings of Mexican men were \$12,959 compared to \$14,503 for all Hispanic men and \$22,628 for non-Hispanic men. The median earnings of Mexican women were \$9,260 compared to \$10,399 for all Hispanic women and \$13,216 for non-Hispanic women.
- **Mexican men comprise the largest proportion of men earning less than \$10,000.** More than one-third of Mexican men earned less than \$10,000 (35.3%) compared to about one-quarter each of Puerto Rican and Cuban men (23.6% and 24.9%, respectively) and less than one-quarter of non-Hispanic men (23.6%).

UNEMPLOYMENT

- **Both Mexican men and Mexican women experience higher unemployment rates than their non-Hispanic counterparts.** The unemployment rate for Mexican men in March 1992 was almost one-and-one-half times that of non-Hispanic men (12.4% vs. 8.5%). Similarly, Mexican women had a higher unemployment rate than that of non-Hispanic women (10.5% vs. 6.2%).

POVERTY

- **Mexican families are almost three times as likely as non-Hispanic families to be poor.** One in four Mexican families (27.4%) compared to one in ten non-Hispanic families (10.2%) lived below the poverty level in 1991.
- **Mexican families maintained by a woman were especially likely to be poor.** Almost half of all Mexican female-headed families were poor (47.7%) compared to one-third of non-Hispanic female-headed families (33.9%).
- **The poverty rate of Mexican children is more than twice that of non-Hispanic children.** In 1991, two-fifths of all Mexican children were poor (39.7%) compared to more than one-fifth of non-Hispanic children (19.3%).

Source: *The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 1992*, Bureau of the Census.