

As the data below show, Hispanics* are quickly becoming a population with a national presence. The most dramatic Latino population growth has occurred in "nontraditional" states, and Hispanics are now the largest minority in the country. Given that almost half of Hispanics are under 25 years old, they will constitute a large segment of the future U.S. population, workforce, and electorate.

Arkansas Compared to the Nation

- Arkansas is the state with the 36th-largest Latino population.
- Between 1990 and 2000, the growth rate of the Latino population in Arkansas ranked second in the country.¹
- Of all states, Arkansas has the 33rd-largest share of Latinos when compared to the total state population.¹

	Population (2003) ²		Hispanic Percent of Population ²	Growth Rate (1990-2000) ¹		Median Age (2003) ²	
	Total	Hispanic		Total	Hispanic	Total	Hispanic
U.S.	282,909,885	39,194,837	13.9%	13.2%	57.9%	36.0 years	26.7 years
Arkansas	2,650,062	98,628	3.7%	13.7%	337.0%	36.3 years	23.9 years

Economic Well-Being

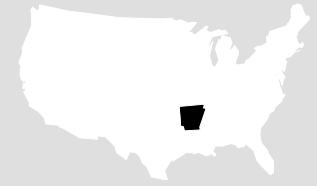
- Latinos represent an increasing share of workers and taxpayers, yet they are overwhelmingly vulnerable to economic downturns and experience high poverty rates, especially among working families with children.

	Total (2003)	Hispanic (2003)	Hispanic Proportion of Total
In Labor Force ³	1,265,000	50,000	4.0%
Participation Rate*	61.1%	72.9%	--
Unemployed	78,000	4,000	5.1%
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	8.0%	--
Population Below Poverty Level ²	420,661	24,582	5.8%
Percent of Population Below Poverty	16.0%	25.3%	--
Population Under 18 (Children) ²	663,425	34,422	5.2%
Children Below Poverty Level	158,552	12,205	7.7%
Percent of Children Below Poverty	23.9%	35.5%	--

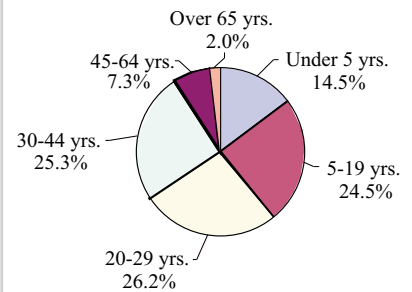
*The labor force participation rate is calculated using the civilian, noninstitutionalized population, not the total population.

Median Household Income (2003):² \$34,246
Hispanic Median Household Income (2003):² \$34,727

† The terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout this document to identify persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, and Spanish descent; they may be of any race.

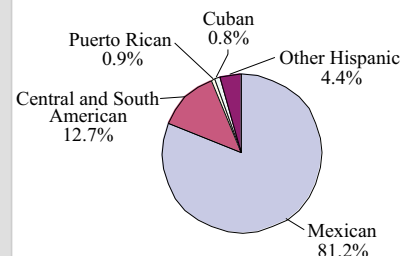


Arkansas Hispanic Population, by Age: 2003



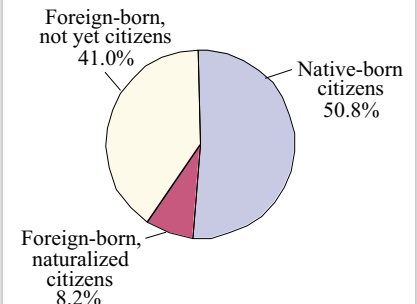
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 American Community Survey

Arkansas Hispanic Population, by Ethnic Subgroup: 2003



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 American Community Survey

Arkansas Hispanic Population, by Citizenship Status: 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Education

- ▼ Hispanic children are a growing segment of the public school population. In particular, the state has experienced dramatic growth in the Hispanic student population over the last decade.

	Total (2000)	Growth Rate 1990-2000 (Total Pop.)	Hispanic (2000)	Growth Rate 1990-2000 (Hispanic Pop.)
Population 0-4 years ¹	181,585	10.3%	11,173	392.2%
School-Age Population 5-18 years ¹	537,193	9.1%	22,147	298.8%

	Total Children Enrolled (2003)	Hispanic Children Enrolled (2003)	Hispanic Proportion of Enrolled Children
Enrollment, Grades 1-12 ²	450,291	17,540	3.9%

Health Insurance

- ▼ Despite high work participation rates, a significant proportion of the Latino population is uninsured and does not benefit from either private or public insurance.

	Total Nonelderly Uninsured		Hispanic Nonelderly Uninsured		Hispanic Proportion of Nonelderly Uninsured
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Nonelderly (0-64 years) Uninsured ⁴	450,370	19.7%	32,910	38.0%	7.3%

Homeownership

- ▼ Although homeownership is at an all-time high, Latinos are still less likely than other Americans to be homeowners.

	Number of Homeowners	Percent of All Householders that are Homeowners	Number of Hispanic Homeowners	Percent of Hispanic Householders that are Homeowners	Hispanic Proportion of Total Homeowners
Owner-Occupied Households ²	729,814	67.8%	10,835	42.0%	1.5%

¹ Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000*. Percentages calculated by the National Council of La Raza.

² Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2003 American Community Survey*. Percentages calculated by the National Council of La Raza.

³ Source: U.S. Department of Labor, *Bureau of Labor Statistics: 2003 Annual Averages*.

⁴ Source: Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, www.statehealthfacts.org: 50 State Comparisons.