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**Overview**

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In 1997, the Hispanic male population totaled 15.0 million, accounting for 51.4% of the total Hispanic population and 5.6% of the U.S. population. The number of Hispanic men has increased by about 3.5 million, or 30.7%, since 1990, and is projected to increase 8.1% to 16.2 million by the year 2001, surpassing that of Black men at 16.1 million. In 1994, Mexican males represented the largest share of Hispanic men at 8.8 million (65.5% of the total Hispanic male population), with Central and South American, Puerto Rican, and Cuban males following at 1.9 million (14.1%), 1.3 million (9.6%), and 0.5 million (3.9%), respectively. Overall, Hispanic males tend to live within families, be younger, and be in the labor force, often working in less lucrative jobs than non-Hispanic males. In addition, Hispanic men have lower educational levels and are less likely to be covered by health insurance than non-Hispanic men, and the percent of Hispanic men in prisons has been steadily increasing over the past decade.

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**Family Characteristics**

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- ❖ **Hispanic males are generally younger than White and Black males.** In 1997, the median age for Hispanic males was 26 years, compared to 35 years for White males and 28 years for Black males. In addition, 35.2% of the Hispanic male population was under 18 years old that same year, compared to 25.9% of the White male population and 34.0% of the Black male population.
- ❖ **Hispanic men help head most Hispanic families.** In 1996, 67.6% of Hispanic families were headed by married couples, compared to 46.1% of Black families and 81.3% of White families.

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**Education**

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- ❖ **Hispanic men are less likely than White or Black men, and as likely as Hispanic women, to graduate from high school or college.** In 1996, 53.0% of Hispanic men 25 years old and over had completed high school and 10.3% had completed four or more years of college. In comparison, 82.7% of White men, 74.3% of Black men, and 53.3% of Hispanic women had graduated from high school, and 26.9% of White men, 12.4% of Black men, and 8.3% of Hispanic women had graduated from college.
- ❖ **Hispanic males are more likely than White or Black males, but less likely than Hispanic females, to drop out of high school.** In 1994, 8.4% of Hispanic males in grades 10-12 dropped out of high school. In contrast, the high school dropout rate was 4.6% for White males, 6.5% for Black males, and 10.1% for Hispanic females.

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**Labor Force Status**

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- ❖ **A higher percentage of Hispanic males are in the labor force and working than either White or Black males or Hispanic females.** In 1996, the labor force participation rate for Hispanic males 16 years old and over was 79.6%, and the employment-to-population ratio was 73.3%. In comparison, 75.8% of White males and 68.7% of Black males were working or looking for work; their employment-to-population ratios were 72.3% and 61.0%, respectively. By contrast, more than one-half (53.4%) of Hispanic women had a job or were trying to find one that same year; their employment-to-population ratio was 47.9%.
- ❖ **Among Hispanic subgroups, Mexican males have the highest labor force participation rate and employment-to-population ratio.** In 1996, 81.4% of Mexican males participated in the labor force and 74.8% were working. In comparison, the labor force participation rate was 74.8% for Cuban and 69.2% for Puerto Rican males; the employment-to-population ratios were 70.0% and 63.2%, respectively.

# HISPANIC MALE FACT SHEET

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- ❖ **The unemployment rate for Hispanic men is higher than that for White men, but lower than that for Black men, while Mexican males have the highest unemployment rate among Hispanic subgroups.** In 1996, the unemployment rate for Hispanic men 16 years old and over was 7.9%, compared to 4.7% for White men and 11.1% for Black men. The unemployment rate for Mexican males was 8.2% that same year, compared to 8.6% for Puerto Rican males and 6.4% for Cuban males.
- ❖ **Employed Hispanic males are more likely to work in labor-intensive, and less lucrative, occupations than non-Hispanic males.** In 1996, 27.7% of Hispanic males worked as operators, fabricators, or laborers and only 12.1% worked in the high-paying managerial and professional specialty occupations. In comparison, 28.4% of White males and 16.9% of Black males worked in the managerial and professional specialty occupations, and 19.2% and 31.1%, respectively, in operator, fabricator, or laborer occupations.

## Income and Poverty

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- ❖ **Hispanic male workers have lower median earnings than their non-Hispanic counterparts, and among Hispanic subgroups, Puerto Rican males have the highest median earnings.** In 1996, the median earnings for Hispanic male year-round, full-time workers was \$21,056, compared to \$32,966 for comparable White workers and \$26,404 for comparable Black workers. In 1993, the most recent subgroup data available showed that Puerto Rican men working year-round and full-time had median earnings of \$23,792, while comparable Cuban men had median earnings of \$23,749, Mexican men \$18,917, and Central and South American men \$18,147.
- ❖ **Hispanic males are more likely to be poor than non-Hispanic males, while Puerto Rican males are the poorest of all Hispanic subgroups.** In 1996, 26.8% of Hispanic males were poor, compared to 9.8% of White males and 24.7% of Black males. Furthermore, 33.0% of Puerto Rican males lived below the poverty level that same year, compared to 28.4% of Mexican males. (No such data exist for Cuban and Central and South American males.)

## Health Status

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- ❖ **Hispanic males are less likely to have private or government health insurance than White or Black males, but more likely to be covered by Medicaid than White males.** In 1996, 36.6% of Hispanic males lacked health coverage, while 17.7% were covered by Medicaid. In comparison, 15.8% of White males and 24.4% of Black males had no health insurance and 8.3% of White males and 21.7% of Black males were covered by Medicaid.
- ❖ **Hispanic men are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.** In 1997, 11.5% of the total U.S. male population was Hispanic, and 83.1% and 12.3% was White and Black, respectively. However, Hispanic men accounted for 17.3% of all adolescent and adult male AIDS cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1997, while White and Black males accounted for 50.1% and 31.4%, respectively.

## Crime

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- ❖ **The proportion of Hispanic male prisoners has been steadily increasing over the past decade.** From 1985 to 1995, the percentage Hispanics comprise of all prisoners under Federal or State jurisdiction increased from 10.9% to 15.5%. Although these data were not disaggregated by gender, given that men constitute the majority of all prisoners (92.6% in 1995), it appears likely that the increase in the proportion of all Hispanic prisoners has been fueled by growth in the incarceration of Hispanic men.

## Sources

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*Bureau of the Census; Bureau of Labor Statistics; U.S. Department of Education; U.S. Department of Commerce; U.S. Department of Justice; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*