

# Puerto Ricans in the United States: Past, Present and Future



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# **Puerto Ricans in the United States: Past, Present and Future**

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**AN OVERVIEW OF THE PUERTO RICAN  
POPULATION IN CONNECTICUT, DELAWARE,  
MAINE, MARYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS,  
NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK,  
PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND,  
AND VERMONT**

**PRESENTED AT THE 53<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING &  
REGIONAL POLICY FORUM OF THE EASTERN  
REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL  
OF STATE GOVERNMENTS**

# Part I: Early Migration Trends and Context

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**PUERTO RICANS IN THE UNITED STATES**  
**1900-1970**

# Puerto Rican Migration to the US

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Time Period	Puerto Rican Emigration to U.S.
1900-1910	2,000
1910-1920	11,000
1920-1930	42,000
1930-1940	18,000
1940-1950	151,000
1950-1960	470,000
1960-1970	214,000
1970-1980	65,817
1980-1990	116,571
1990-2000	96,327
2000-2010	244,000

# Forces driving migration (1900-1940s)

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-- COMMERCIAL AND MARITIME TIES BETWEEN EASTERN  
US COASTAL CITIES AND THE ISLAND

-- GRANTING US CITIZENSHIP IN 1917

-- LABOR NEEDS IN EASTERN US COASTAL CITIES

-- LACK OF GROWTH OF PUERTO RICAN ECONOMY –  
“THE BROKEN PLEDGE”

# Stateside Puerto Rican Population 1940-1970

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- In 1940, only about 70,000 Puerto Ricans lived in the United States, with nine-tenths of them clustered in New York City.
- By 1950, there were approximately 40,000 Puerto Ricans migrating to the mainland United States per year.
- By 1960, the U.S.-based Puerto Rican population had increased to 887,000 (of which 615,000 were born in Puerto Rico and 272,000 in the United States) and had already begun to disperse throughout the country, although the largest group remained in New York City.

# Stateside Puerto Rican Population 1940-1970

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- By 1970, 810,000 Puerto Rican migrants and another 581,000 mainland-born Puerto Ricans lived in the U.S.
- More than 60 percent of Puerto Ricans lived in New York, still the largest community.
  - Chicago became the **second** largest, with more than 79,000 Puerto Rican residents.
  - Philadelphia was **third** with more than 14,000 Puerto Ricans.
- Communities of more than 10,000 had also emerged:
  - Newark; Jersey City; Paterson; and Hoboken, New Jersey
  - Bridgeport, Connecticut
  - Los Angeles, California

# Puerto Ricans in the Northeast Region

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- From 1950 to 1977, 350,000 Puerto Rican contract workers were employed in the harvests of 22 states.
  - Peaches in South Carolina
  - Apples in Vermont
  - Shade tobacco in Connecticut
  - Vegetables in New Jersey
  - And so on.
- Although the trend has declined since then, Puerto Rican communities established outside of New York City were largely formed by these workers and their families.

# What brought Puerto Ricans to the U.S between 1940s-1970s?

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- Puerto Ricans were first “airborne migrants”
- Agricultural economy declined
- Labor-intensive industries failed to generate sufficient employment (industrialization)
- Increased labor demand in the US cities and farms areas
- Public policy facilitating migration
- “Community” infrastructure in cities and social/family networks
- U.S. citizenship avoided immigration issues

# What brought Puerto Ricans to the U.S between 1940s and 1970s? (Cont.)

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- During World War II, the U.S. War Manpower Commission recruited approximately 2,000 Puerto Ricans, mostly to work in the canneries in southern New Jersey and on the railroads.
- After the war, a short-lived contract labor program to bring women to work as domestics was replaced by a program to bring men to work in agriculture.

# What brought Puerto Ricans to the U.S between 1940s-1970s? (Cont.)

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- During the 1950s and the 1960s, 10,000 - 17,000 agricultural laborers were contracted annually; some returned to Puerto Rico at the end of the season, others settled permanently.
- Puerto Ricans also came without labor contracts, relying on social networks of family and friends.
- Urban economies provided jobs for women in manufacturing, especially in the garment industry, and for men, in light manufacturing and the services sector, especially in hotels and restaurants.

# Part II:

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## **Puerto Rican Migration 1970s-present**

# Demographic/Migration Trends

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- For a brief period in the early 1970s, there was some return migration of Puerto Ricans from the United States to the island.
- The 1970 stateside Puerto Rican population was about 1.5 million and grew to slightly more than 2 million in 1980, and to more than 2.5 million in 1990.

# Demographic/Migration Trends (Cont.)

- The 1990 Census counted 2.7 million Puerto Ricans in the States, and another 3.5 million on the island.
- Puerto Ricans accounted for 1.1 percent of the United States population (when Puerto Rico is included, this increases to 2.5 percent).
- Between 1980 and 1990, the Puerto Rican population outside Puerto Rico grew by 35 percent, while on the island only by 7 percent.
- During this period the total combined Stateside and Island populations grew close to 18 percent.

# Demographic/Migration Trends (Cont.)

- In recent decades, Puerto Ricans have been moving out of New York City or moving directly from the island to smaller U.S. cities and suburban areas in the Northeast, the South, and the West Coast.
- In 2010, the states with the largest numbers of Puerto Ricans (a population of more than 100,000) were New York, Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, California, Illinois, Ohio and Texas. Migration of Puerto Ricans to the United States continues to increase, as well as the percentage of Puerto Ricans who are U.S. born.

# States with Largest Puerto Rican Community

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- The top 10 destination states of Puerto Ricans between 2007 and 2009 were Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Ohio, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland.
- New York remains a major destination for Puerto Rican migrants, though only a third of recent Puerto Rican arrivals went to New York.
- Between the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census, the stateside Puerto Rican population soared from 3,406,178 to 4,623,716. Two thirds of this population in 2010 was U.S. born and only about one third was born in Puerto Rico.

# Stateside Puerto Rican Population

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- By 2010, 70 percent of the 1.2 million new Puerto Rican origin persons in the United States resided in those states with the largest Puerto Rican origin populations.
- Six of the top 10 states with the highest percentage of Puerto Rican origin population growth are in the U.S. Southern Region. Those states are: Florida, Texas, Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, and Maryland.
- The Puerto Rican origin population in Springfield, MA and Hartford, CT makes up approximately one third of their cities' populations.
- One fourth of the population of Allentown, PA is Puerto Rican.

# Communities with Highest Percentage of Puerto Ricans 2010

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Holyoke, MA	44.70%
Buenaventura Lakes, FL	44.55%
Azalea Park, FL	36.50%
Poinciana, FL	35.82%
Meadow Woods, FL	35.11%
Hartford, CT	33.66%
Springfield, MA	33.19%
Kissimmee, FL	33.06%
Reading, PA	31.97%
Camden, NJ	30.72%
New Britain, CT	29.93%
Lancaster, PA	29.23%
Vineland, NJ	26.74%

Union Park, FL	25.81%
Allentown, PA	25.11%
Windham, CT	23.99%
Lebanon, PA	23.87%
Perth Amboy, NJ	23.79%
Southbridge, MA	23.08%
Amsterdam, NY	22.80%
Harlem Heights, FL	22.63%
Waterbury, CT	22.60%
Lawrence, MA	22.20%
Dunkirk, NY	22.14%
Bridgeport, CT	22.10%

# Cities with Largest Puerto Rican Community 2010

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<b>New York City, NY*</b>	<b>723,621</b>
Philadelphia, PA	121,643
Chicago, IL	102,703
Springfield, MA	50,798
Hartford, CT	41,995
Newark, NJ	35,993
Bridgeport, CT	31,881
Orlando, FL	31,201
Boston, MA	30,506
Allentown, PA	29,640

*\* Census estimate for the city proper. It has increased to 730,848 in 2012.*

# States with Largest Puerto Rican Community

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## Puerto Rican Population

New York	1,070,558
Florida	847,550
New Jersey	434,092
Pennsylvania	366,082
Massachusetts	266,125
Connecticut	252,972
California	189,945
Illinois	182,989
Texas	130,576
Ohio	94,965

## Percentage of Total State Population

Connecticut	7.1%
New York	5.5%
New Jersey	4.9%
Florida	4.5%
Massachusetts	4.1%
Rhode Island	3.3%
Hawaii	3.2%
Pennsylvania	2.9%
Delaware	2.5%
Illinois	1.4%

*Data as of 2010*

# Part III:

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## **SOCIOECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND LABOR TRENDS FOR PUERTO RICANS IN THE US 1970s-PRESENT**

# Labor Force Participation

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- In the 1980s and early 1990s, Puerto Ricans continued to have the lowest labor force participation rates among Latinos, Whites, and Blacks.
- In 1990, only 57.1 percent of Puerto Ricans age 16 years and older were in the labor force, compared to 66.1 percent of Latinos as a whole, 66.6 percent of Whites, and 62.6 percent of Blacks.
- In 1990, the Puerto Rican median family income was \$18,008, compared to \$23,431 for all Latinos, \$36,915 for Whites, and \$21,423 for Blacks.

# Poverty

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- In 1990, the rate of single female-headed households among Puerto Ricans is comparable to that of Blacks, 43.3 percent, and 45.9 percent, respectively.
- The rate for all Latinos was only 23.8 percent and for Whites it was only 13.2 percent. This is highly correlated with poverty rates, but in this respect, Puerto Rican poverty rates exceed those of Blacks.
- The poverty rate for Puerto Ricans was 40.6 percent, compared with 31.9 percent for Blacks, 28.1 percent for all Latinos, and 10.7 percent for Whites.

# Poverty (Cont.)

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- In 1990, Non-Latino Blacks and Puerto Ricans had the highest levels of individual poverty at 28.1 and 27.4 percent, respectively.
- In 2010, the share of Puerto Ricans living in poverty was still 27 percent – higher than the rate for both the general U.S. population (15 percent) and Latinos overall (25 percent).

# Political Participation

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- The Puerto Rican community has organized itself to represent its interests in stateside political institutions for nearly a century.
- Puerto Ricans have often faced “invisibility” under larger pan-ethnic categories such as “Spanish” prior to the 1960s and later “Latino or Hispanic” after the 1980s.

# Voter Participation Among U.S. Puerto Ricans

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- In New York City, Puerto Ricans first began running for public office in the 1920s, with the first government representative (Oscar García Rivera) elected to the New York State Assembly in 1937.
- In Massachusetts, Puerto Rican Nelson Merced became the first Latino elected to the state House of Representatives, and the first Latino to hold statewide office in the Commonwealth in 1989.

## Voter Participation Among U.S. Puerto Ricans (Cont.)

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- Stateside Puerto Ricans have had persistently low voter registration and turnout rates, despite the relative success they have had in electing their own to significant public offices throughout the United States.
- By the 1990s, Puerto Ricans and Latinos successfully used the Voting Rights Act during redistricting processes helping to elect the largest cadre of Puerto Rican elected officials to date at the local, state, and federal levels of government.

## Voter Participation Among U.S. Puerto Ricans (Cont.)

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- To address this problem, in the late 1980s, the government of Puerto Rico launched two major voter registration campaigns.
- The government of Puerto Rico has sought to fill this vacuum to insure that Puerto Rican interests are well-represented in the stateside electoral process, recognizing that the increased political influence of stateside Puerto Ricans also benefits the island.

## Voter Participation Among U.S. Puerto Ricans (Cont.)

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- In 2008, about 64 percent of the adult citizen population reported that they had voted for President of the United States.
- Only 50 percent of Puerto Ricans voted in that election.
- Puerto Ricans turned out to vote at lower levels than other Latino groups in the U.S.; 69 percent of Cubans, and 61 percent of Central and South Americans voted.

## Voter Participation Among U.S. Puerto Ricans (Cont.)

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- In Florida, however, Puerto Ricans may have played a decisive role during the 2012 presidential election.
- Puerto Ricans represented 4.5 percent of voters who turned out to the polls in Florida, and contributed 3.8 percent of the votes Barack Obama received in the state.
- President Obama won the state by less than 1 percent.
- As Puerto Ricans disperse throughout the country, they are contributing to the electoral reconfiguration taking place nationally.

# Voter Participation Among U.S. Puerto Ricans (Cont.)

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- There are four Puerto Rican members of Congress.
  - Luis V. Gutiérrez (D – Illinois)
  - José Serrano (D – New York)
  - Nydia Velázquez (D – New York)
  - Raúl Labrador (R – Idaho)
- Puerto Ricans have also been elected as mayors in the three major cities of Miami, Hartford, and Camden.
- Last month Puerto Rican Luis Quintana was sworn in as the first Latino mayor of Newark, New Jersey, taking over the unexpired term of Cory Booker (who vacated the position to become a U.S. Senator from New Jersey).

# Part IV: Educational and Health Trends

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**PUERTO RICANS IN THE UNITED STATES**  
**1970-2010**

# Education

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- When we turn to the socioeconomic profile of Puerto Ricans in the United States that emerges from the 1980s until today, there is cause for both concern and optimism.
- Puerto Ricans in the United States are a young population.
- In 1990, 31 percent were under age 15, while only 4.7 percent were more than 64 years of age. This continues to make education an important issue for Puerto Ricans.

# Education (Cont.)

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- For Puerto Ricans 25 years of age and older, 24.3 percent had less than a high school education, and 25.0 percent had attended college (10.1 percent were college graduates).
- The youthfulness of this community has also been one of its strengths in the energy and potential it represents.
- Low educational attainment (including a persistently high dropout rate), high rates of teen pregnancies, high youth unemployment rates, AIDS, and other factors remain troubling.

# Educational Trends for Puerto Ricans

Year	Puerto Ricans <i>without</i> High School Degree	Puerto Ricans <i>with</i> College Degree
1970	More than 75%	2%
1980	Almost 60%	5.5%
1990	44%	10%
2000	37%	12.5%

# Educational Trends for Puerto Ricans (Cont.)

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- The picture for college education is improving but not at a significant rate for the Puerto Rican community.
- In 2011, Puerto Ricans continue to show substantial educational attainment disparities: while nearly 20 percent of whites completed a bachelor's degree and 12 percent of graduate or professional degrees, only 10.7 percent of Puerto Ricans completed a bachelor's degree and 5.4 percent a graduate or professional degree.

# Educational Trends for Puerto Ricans (Cont.)

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- In 2011, the U.S. was home to 6.7 million people who were 16 to 24 years old who are not in school or at work — also known as “disconnected youth.”
- Among this group, there are nearly 200,000 disconnected Puerto Rican youth.
- Twenty-three percent of Puerto Rican and Black youths are disconnected compared with 19 percent for Latinos and 12 percent for Whites.
- One of the main consequences of a broken educational pipeline and significant educational disparities is that Puerto Ricans are concentrated in low-wage jobs and experience higher rates of unemployment and poverty than other Latino subgroups.

# Health of Puerto Ricans in the U.S.

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- As of 2008, Puerto Ricans had the highest infant mortality rate of any Latino subgroup, at 7.3 per 1,000 live births.
- The average infant mortality rate among non-Hispanic Blacks and non-Hispanic Whites was 6.6 per 1,000 live births.

# Health of Puerto Ricans in the U.S. (Cont.)

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- In 2010, Puerto Ricans had higher rates of heart disease, heart attacks, cancer, arthritis and diabetes than all other Latino subgroups.
- However, compared with non-Hispanic whites, Puerto Ricans had relatively equal rates of heart disease and lower rates of cancer.
- Puerto Ricans had the highest rate of alcohol consumption of all Latino subgroups, consuming about 13.2 drinks per week compared with 9.45 drinks for Mexicans and 5.9 drinks for Cubans.

## Health of Puerto Ricans in the U.S. (Cont.)

40

- Puerto Ricans have the highest prevalence of asthma among all population groups in the United States and among Latino-only groups.
- The average rate of asthma diagnosis from 2008-2010 was 113 percent higher than non-Hispanic whites, and 50 percent higher than non-Hispanic blacks.

# Health of Puerto Ricans in the U.S. (Cont.)

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- As of 2011, Puerto Ricans in the U.S. had the highest rate of both private and public health insurance coverage of all the Latino subgroups, non-Hispanic black and Asian populations.
- About 16 percent of Puerto Ricans lacked health insurance compared with 31 percent of all Latinos and 17 percent of the general U.S. population.

# Health of Puerto Ricans in the U.S. (Cont.)

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- Despite the discouraging health figures for Puerto Ricans in the U.S., Boricuas have a better life expectancy than the U.S. population as a whole.
- They also outlive non-Hispanic whites and non-Hispanic blacks.
- Compared with all Latinos (79.6 years) Puerto Ricans have only a slightly lower life expectancy (78.3 years).

# Part V: The Future

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## **PUERTO RICANS IN THE UNITED STATES TRENDS FOR THE NEXT DECADE**

# Puerto Ricans Will Keep Leaving the Island

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- According to Carlos Vargas-Ramos, a senior researcher at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies in New York City, Puerto Ricans will continue to leave the island if current economic trends and quality of life issues continue.

# Where Will They Go?

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- Puerto Ricans will continue to settle throughout the United States and they will become less concentrated in a small number of states.
- In addition to Florida, they will also head for Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and Texas if present economic conditions persist.

# Diversification of U.S. Puerto Ricans

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- One can argue there is a “tale of two cities” among Puerto Ricans. At the lower end, when compared with other racial and ethnic groups, Puerto Ricans continue to have lower economic indicators.
- There is a segment of the Puerto Rican community so affected by poverty that it diminishes collectively some of the advances of the middle class and upper middle class segments.

# Part VI:

## Puerto Ricans in the Northeast

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**A SNAPSHOT OF BORICUAS IN CONNECTICUT,  
DELAWARE, MAINE, MARYLAND,  
MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE,  
NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA,  
RHODE ISLAND, AND VERMONT**

# Connecticut

## 2010 Demographics

County	Puerto Rican Population Range
Litchfield, Tolland and Middlesex	2,910 - 3,826
Windham	7,451
New London	11,611
Fairfield	50,511
New Haven and Hartford	77,578 - 95,964

Puerto Ricans make up a large percentage of Connecticut's population. In 2010, within Hartford alone, nearly 34 percent of the population was of Puerto Rican descent. They are currently the largest single minority group in the state.

# Connecticut

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- The Puerto Rican population of Connecticut started to grow roots in the 1950s. The city of Meriden saw the election of the first Puerto Rican city council member, as well as the first Puerto Rican police officer.
- Puerto Ricans worked both in agricultural fields (like tobacco near Hartford) and in manufacturing plants.

# Connecticut (Cont.)

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- By 1970, there were 37,000 Puerto Ricans in Connecticut. Economic troubles caused many companies that were steadfast employers of Puerto Rican workers, such as American Thread in Willimantic, to begin cutting back their workforce.
- Urban renewal projects of the 1970s began to replace Puerto Rican housing within the cities.
- This and other factors caused the development of the Young Lords and other militant Puerto Rican groups that held rallies protesting labor and housing issues as well as advocacy of Puerto Rican independence.

# Delaware

2010 Demographics

County	Puerto Rican Population Range
Sussex	2,073
Kent	4,134
New Castle	16,326

# Delaware

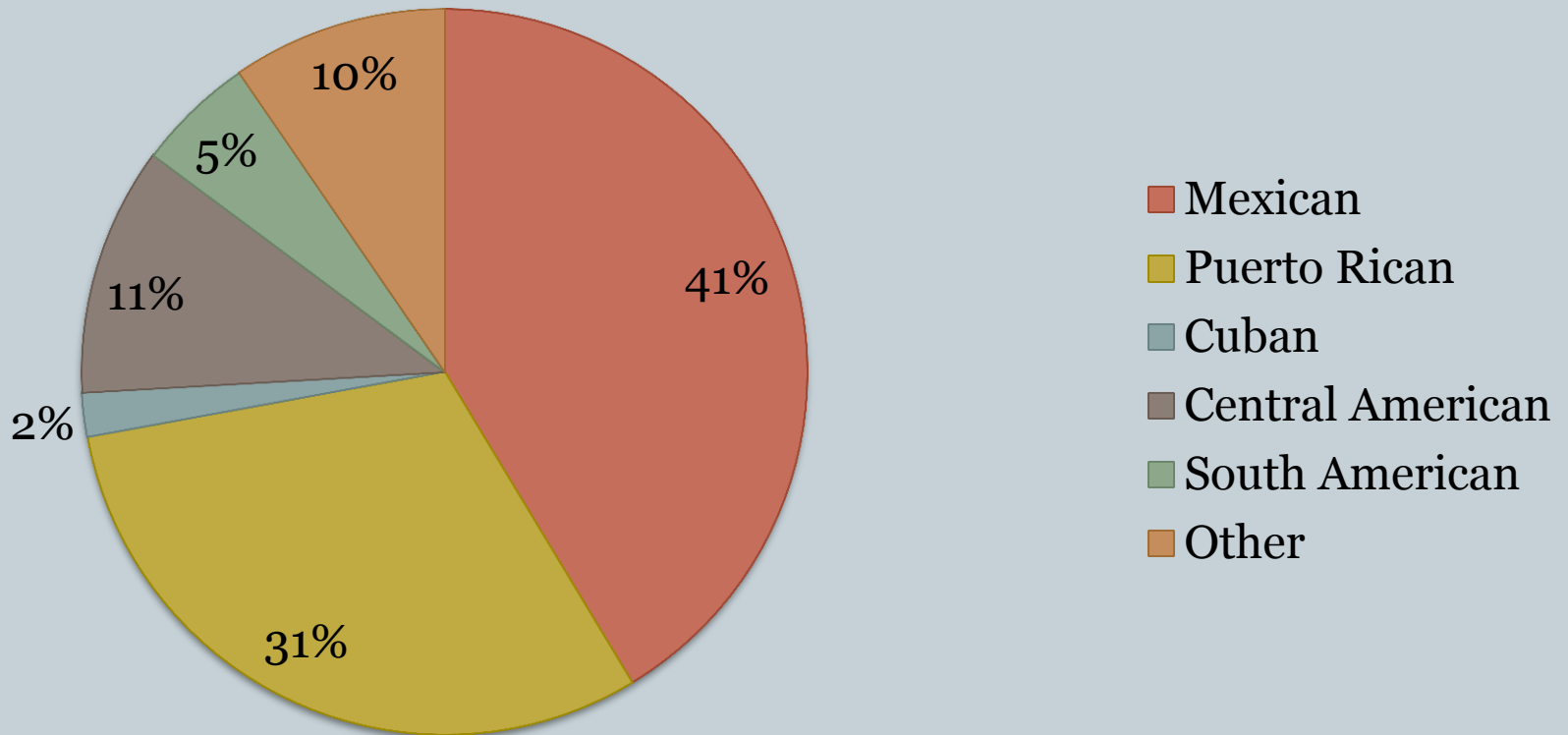
52

- Delaware's Latino population grew by a substantial 136 percent during the decade of the 1990s, increasing from 15,820 people in 1990 to 37,277 in 2000.
- By the end of the decade, the Latino population constituted 4.8 percent of the state's total population, with the largest group being Puerto Ricans (37 percent), followed by Mexicans (35 percent) and Cubans (3 percent).
- The remaining 25 percent of the state's Latinos were members of other subgroups, with Dominicans and Guatemalans having the largest numbers.

# Delaware (Cont.)

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## Comparison of Latino Population, 2010



# Maine

## 2010 Demographics

County	Puerto Rican Population Range
Aroostook, Hancock, Oxford, Somerset, Waldo	119 - 237
Androscoggin, Cumberland, Kennebec, Penobscot, York	466 - 1,020

Puerto Ricans living in Maine earned a median household income of \$46,993.

# Maryland

## 2010 Demographics

County	Puerto Rican Population Range
Allegany, Caroline, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot	102 - 338
Calvert, Cecil, Washington, St. Mary's and Wicomico	622 - 1,107
Charles and Frederick	1,541 - 1,848
Baltimore City, Harford, Howard	2,481 - 3,137
Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's	5,294 - 7,302

# Maryland

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- In Maryland, the Latino community is more diverse with sizeable communities from Central and South America.
- Salvadorans represent the largest segment of the State's Latino community, accounting for 24.3 percent of Latinos in Maryland, followed by Mexicans and Puerto Ricans.
- Puerto Ricans living in Connecticut (\$67,740), New Jersey (\$69,811), and Maryland (\$70,647) have the highest median household incomes, whereas the states with lowest median household incomes are Mississippi (\$37,881), West Virginia (\$38,380), and Arkansas (\$39,267).

# Maryland (Cont.)

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## 2010 Maryland Puerto Rican Population Percentage by County Rank

County	Total Population	Percentage
Harford	244,826	1.1%
Cecil	101,108	1.1%
Charles	146,551	1.1%
Dorchester	32,618	1.0%
Saint Marys	105,151	1.0%
Anne Arundel	537,656	1.0%
Wicomico	98,733	1.0%
Howard	287,085	0.9%
Frederick	233,385	0.8%
Montgomery	971,777	0.8%

## Massachusetts

### 2010 Demographics

County	Puerto Rican Population Range
Barnstable, Berkshire, Franklin and Hampshire	1,284 - 3,714
Norfolk and Plymouth	6,185 - 7,170
Bristol	18,486
Essex, Middlesex, Worcester	29,452 - 44,392
Hampden	82,800

The Census Bureau's 2009 American Community Survey estimated that 45,251 of Springfield's residents are Puerto Rican, while in Holyoke, 16,021 of the city's 40,530 citizens are Puerto Rican.

# Massachusetts (Cont.)

59

- Puerto Rican immigration to Massachusetts began in the 1950s. Today they account for more than half of the state's entire Latino population.

Year	Puerto Rican Population
1970	23,332
1980	76,450
1990	151,193
2000	199,207
2010	266,125

# New Hampshire

2010 Demographics

County	Puerto Rican Population Range
Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Merrimack, Rockingham, Strafford, Sullivan	124 - 1,887
Hillsborough	7,117

# New Hampshire

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## 2010 New Hampshire Puerto Rican Population Percentage by County Rank

County	Total Population	Percentage
Manchester	109,565	3.0%
Nashua	86,494	3.0%
Whitefield	1,142	2.9%
Bethlehem	972	1.4%
Greenville	1,108	1.4%
Derry	22,015	1.3%
Pittsfield	1,576	1.2%
Hudson	7,336	1.2%
Newmarket	5,297	1.2%
Lancaster	1,725	1.2%

# New Jersey

## 2010 Demographics

County	Puerto Rican Population Range
Cape May, Salem and Sussex	1,539 - 3,327
Gloucester, Morris and Somerset	6,514 - 10,731
Atlantic, Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean	14,255 - 18,160
Bergen, Cumberland and Union	23,139 - 27,142
Camden, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Passaic	41,827 - 56,436

# New Jersey

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- Puerto Ricans in New Jersey had significantly lower incomes, were overrepresented among the unemployed, underrepresented among high school and college graduates, had the highest poverty rates, and spent more of the money they made on housing costs compared to the general population in the Garden State.
- The median household income in 2010 in New Jersey was \$67,681, but it was \$41,871 for Puerto Ricans.

## New Jersey (Cont.)

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- This disparity was also reflected in per capita income, with Puerto Ricans reporting 45 percent less income (\$18,378) than the population as a whole (\$33,555). Puerto Ricans are also over-represented among the unemployed.
- In New Jersey, Puerto Ricans reported the largest proportion of families living below the poverty level (22 percent) and the highest rate of poverty among all people (23 percent), compared to the levels reported (8 percent and 10 percent, respectively) for the entire population.

## New Jersey (Cont.)

65

- Poverty was greatest (43 percent) for Puerto Rican female-headed households, especially for those with children under five years old (69 percent).
- The rate of homeownership among Puerto Ricans was almost half of the New Jersey population. Puerto Ricans had the lowest rate when compared with other groups, except for Latinos as a whole.
- The costs of home ownership for Puerto Ricans were lower than for the New Jersey population: \$2,243 for Puerto Ricans and \$2,370 for the population.

## New Jersey (Cont.)

66

- While Puerto Ricans generally made less in income, they tended to pay more on housing costs. More than 54 percent of Puerto Rican homeowners spent 30 percent or more of their income on housing costs, a figure higher than for the New Jersey population overall (47 percent).
- Puerto Ricans were at parity with the total New Jersey population among those who have earned an associate's degree. But Puerto Ricans were over-represented among those without a high school diploma and under-represented among those with a bachelor's degree.

# New York

## 2010 Demographics

County	Puerto Rican Population Range
Broome, Chenango, Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Putnam	159 - 4,330
Albany, Chautauqua, Dutchess, Oneida, Onondaga, Rockland, Schenectady, Sullivan, Ulster	5,309 - 12,650
Erie, Monroe, Nassau, Orange, Richmond, Suffolk, Westchester	29,210 - 58,549
Kings, Manhattan, Queens	102,881 - 176,528
Bronx	298,921

# New York

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- In 1937, Oscar García Rivera, Sr. (1900–1969), a native of Mayagüez and resident of East Harlem, became the first Puerto Rican to be elected to public office in the continental United States as a member of the New York State Assembly.
- Rivera created the “Unemployment Insurance Bill,” which paved the way for the passage of bills which established minimum hours and wages for working people, the creation of a Wage Board within the Labor Department, and the right of employees to organize and negotiate grievances.

## New York (Cont.)

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- The third great wave of domestic migration from Puerto Rico came after World War II. Nearly 40,000 Puerto Ricans settled in New York City in 1946, and 58,500 in 1952–53.
- Many soldiers who returned after World War II made use of the GI Bill and went to college.
- Puerto Rican women left their homes for the factories in record numbers. By 1953, Puerto Rican migration to New York reached its peak when 75,000 people left the island.

## New York (Cont.)

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- Puerto Rican writer Jesús Colón founded an intellectual movement involving poets, writers, musicians and artists who are Puerto Rican or of Puerto Rican descent and who live in or near New York City which became known as the Nuyorican Movement.
- In 1980, Puerto Rican poets Miguel Algarín, Miguel Piñero and Pedro Pietri established the “Nuyorican Poets Café” on Manhattan’s Lower East Side (236 E 3rd Street, between Avenues B and C) which is now considered a New York landmark.

## New York (Cont.)

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- Puerto Ricans in New York have preserved their cultural heritage in a variety of ways.
- They founded *Aspira*, a leader in the field of education, in 1961. *Aspira* is now one of the largest national Latino nonprofit organizations in the United States.

# New York (Cont.)

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- Other educational and social organizations founded by Puerto Ricans in New York and elsewhere include:
  - National Puerto Rican Coalition
  - The National Puerto Rican Forum
  - The Puerto Rican Family Institute
  - Boricua College
  - The Center for Puerto Rican Studies of The City University of New York at Hunter College
  - The Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund
  - The National Conference of Puerto Rican Women

# Pennsylvania

## 2010 Demographics

County	Puerto Rican Population Range
Carbon, Pike, Schuylkill	108 - 2,918
Chester, Erie, Allegheny, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Lebanon	3,880 - 9,356
Dauphin, York, Bucks, Monroe, Northampton	10,397 - 18,805
Berks, Lancaster, Lehigh	30,403 - 37,980
Philadelphia	121,643

Overall, Puerto Ricans comprised more than half of the Hispanic population in 15 Pennsylvania counties in 2010.

Lehigh County had the second largest Puerto Rican population in Pennsylvania (37,980), followed by Berks (36,333) and Lancaster (30,403).

# Pennsylvania

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- In 2010, Puerto Ricans were the largest of all Latino ethnic groups in Pennsylvania.
- A total of 366,082 Puerto Ricans lived in the state, representing just over half (50.9 percent) of all Latinos. Mexicans were the next largest Latino group (129,568, or 18.0 percent), followed by Dominicans (62,348 or 8.7 percent) and Cubans (17,930 or 2.5 percent).
- Puerto Ricans had a much lower median age than the state's total population (23.8 years compared to 40.1 years) in 2010.

# Pennsylvania (Cont.)

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- Puerto Ricans had a larger percent of single female-headed households with their own children (23.5 percent) than both the total for all Hispanics (19.1 percent) and the state overall (6.5 percent).
- Only 40.3 percent of Puerto Ricans occupied housing units were owner occupied in 2010. This figure is much lower than the homeownership rate of the total population (69.6 percent).

# Pennsylvania (Cont.)

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- Philadelphia County has the greatest number of Puerto Ricans in Pennsylvania with a total of 121,643 in 2010. This represented slightly more than a third (33.2 percent) of the Commonwealth's total Puerto Rican population.
- Puerto Ricans in Philadelphia County were also the largest Hispanic group, accounting for nearly two-thirds (64.8 percent) of all Hispanics in the county.

## Rhode Island

### 2010 Demographics

County	Puerto Rican Population Range
Bristol	289
Washington	1,047
Newport	1,292
Kent	1,414
Providence	30,937

Puerto Ricans make up a remarkably large portion of the Latino community in Rhode Island. According to the 2010 Census, there is a Latino population of 130,655 (12.4%) including 34,979 Puerto Rican residents.

# Rhode Island

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- Extensive research by the Latino Oral History Project of Rhode Island reveals that the Puerto Rican presence there began in the 1920s. Dozens of migrant workers came to work on farms located in Providence's Elmwood neighborhood; others found their way to Newport, Bristol, and places in South County to work in plant nurseries.
- In 1994, then-attorney Roberto González was sworn in as Associate Justice of the Providence Housing Court making him the first Hispanic Judge in the history of Rhode Island (of Puerto Rican descent).

# Vermont

## 2010 Demographics

County	Puerto Rican Population Range
Addison, Caledonia, Franklin, Bennington, Windsor	104-171
Rutland, Washington, Windham	225-245
Chittenden	619

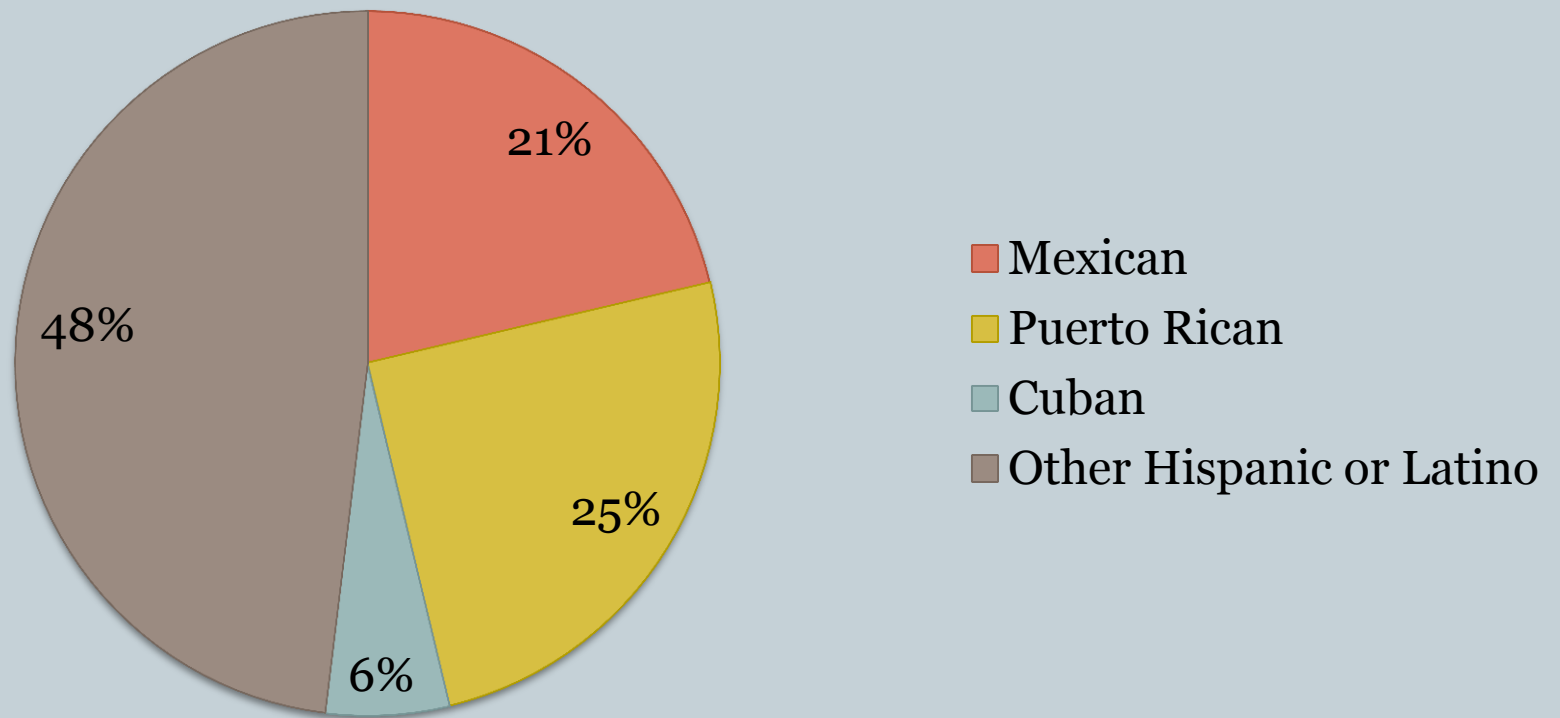


Actor Luis Guzmán, the self-proclaimed “Puerto Rican Land Baron of Vermont”

# Vermont

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## Comparison of Latino Population, 2010



# Resources & Bibliography

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