

# HISPANIC FAMILY PROFILE

## FY 2005

### **I. Overview of this Profile**

The Hispanic Family Conference was initiated as a forum to present topics relevant to child welfare and the Latino<sup>1</sup> population in the State of Illinois. The Hispanic Family Profile was created as a companion resource to the conference.

Each year the Hispanic Family Profile is designed to focus on a topic area related to the Conference theme. In 1998, the Hispanic Family Profile identified the following four practice areas in need of further examination: 1) Education; 2) Resources; 3) Planning and Allocation of funding; and 4) Clinical Services.

The two previous published editions of the Hispanic Family Profile have focused on Education (1999) and Resources (2000). The 2003 Hispanic Family Profile began the discussion of Planning and Allocation of Funding by examining the 2000 Census data and the current Comprehensive Youth and Child Information System (CYSIS) data, and the implications they could have on the child welfare services in the State of Illinois. The 2005 Profile focuses on updating Latino data with known updates by the US Bureau of the Census and other sources; it also examines current status and trends of Latinos in Illinois' child welfare system, and ends with recommendations for improvement.

### **II. Purpose of the Hispanic Family Profile**

At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, U.S. Census figures have confirmed the tremendous growth of the Latino population across the nation and the state of Illinois. The Hispanic Family Profile focuses on the recent information regarding Latino population as reported by U.S. Census reports.

The information provided in this report is intended to assist in understanding current patterns and recent shifts in the general Latino population. Moreover, Latino data for the IDCFS and implications of population shifts for child welfare in Illinois are discussed. It is hoped the profile can be used as a tool for planning and building the capacity of child welfare services to better serve Latino families and children in Illinois.

### **III. Methodology**

The DCFS data presented in this profile was generated from the CYSIS database. This database is a compilation of case registration, Administrative Cases Review, Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System and payment data. The data provides only a "snapshot" in time and should be used only as a general guideline. Census data was compiled from the Chicago Tribune and U.S. Bureau of the Census reports. We are appreciative of the efforts made by

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<sup>1</sup> Latino refers to individuals from or with ties to Mexico, Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands, Central America and South America. Hispanic, a term used as the official classification by the United States, denotes members of this group as well as Spaniards. Both terms are used interchangeably throughout the text.

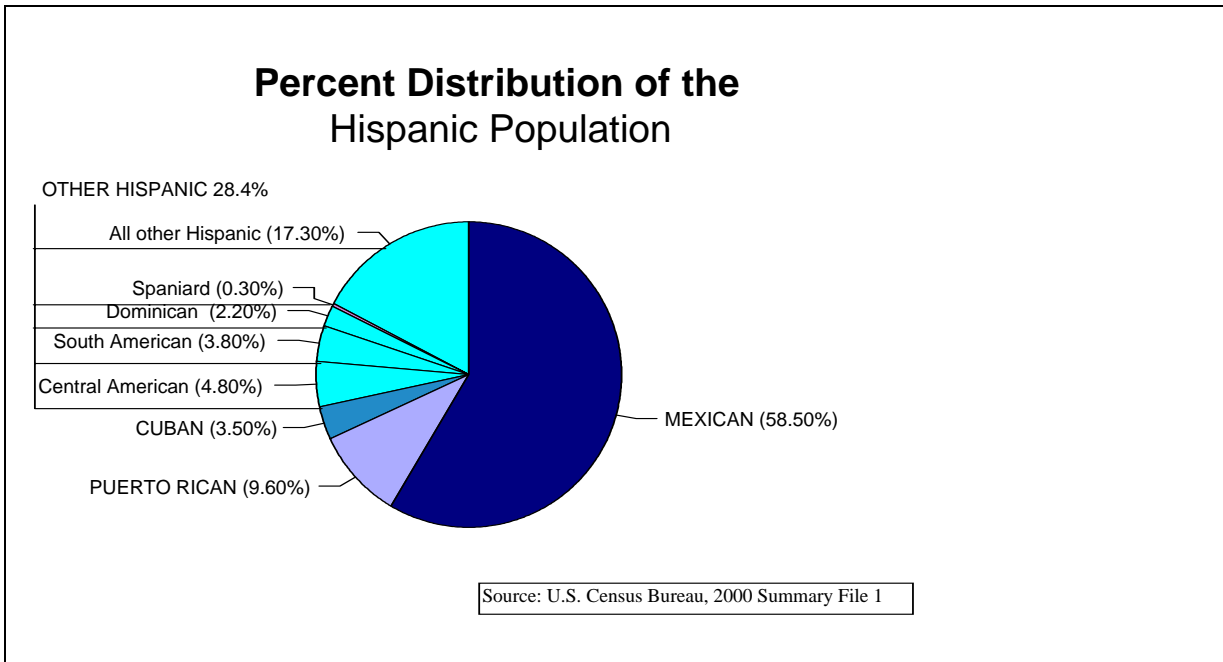
the Office of Quality Assurance and the Office of Latino Services for providing the IDCFS data.

#### IV. Latinos in the National Landscape

Statistics from the 2004 United States Census Bureau Community update, highlight the dramatic growth experienced across the nation by the Latino population in the last decade. According to the 2004 Update, approximately one in eight people or 14% of the total U.S. Population is of Latinos origin.<sup>2</sup> There were a total of 40.5 million Latinos in the United States, an estimate that represents a 81.6% increase from the 22.3 million Latinos reported in the 1990 Census. An additional 3.8 million Latinos live in Puerto Rico. Latinos, who can be of any race, enter the new millennium positioned as the largest ethnic group in the nation.

As shown on the figure below, the majority of Latinos, an estimated 58%, are of Mexican origin (25.6 million). Puerto Ricans (3.9 million) are the second largest group, representing about 9.6% of the total Latino population. About 1.4 million (3.4%) are Cuban, 1.7 million (4.8%) are Central American, and 1.4 million (3.8%) are South American. According to Census figures, 17.30% of all Latinos reported being from other Latino backgrounds.

**Figure IV-1. Percent Distribution of the Latino Population in the United States**



Almost half or 50% of the U.S. Latino population reported living in California and Texas. In terms of the regional distribution of the Latino population we find that about forty-three percent (43%) live in the Western part of the country, thirty-eight percent (38%) live in the

<sup>2</sup> Guzman, Betsy, 2000, *The Hispanic Population: May 2001*, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington DC